

Top picture shows the old Craigflower school and lining the rail of the original Craigflower bridge an array of pupils, parents and, one would imagine, a teacher.

The date is 1867, the women wearing hoop skirts and little aware that back east, John A. Macdonald has just girded the eastern provinces into the Dominion of Canada.

The school (and the bridge) was built by Hudsons Bay men in 1855. Though the bridge has gone, the school is still there. Which makes it the oldest school building west of the Great Lakes. One noon hour last week, trying to view the historic structure from the same angle, I met up with John Duncan of the school patrol. Though he attends the latter day school across the road, he seemed to be well up on Craigflower history.

So I thought it natural he should be in the modern view, as part of 119 years of school history.