

# PERM

*Since 1832*

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First settlers were Hugh Gallagher and family. Population: 55 by 1887. Site of 2 schools, blacksmith shop, stores, church and pioneer cemetery.

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*1851*



*2001*

## **PERM**

**This early community was located at the crossroads of the 4th line, east and the 10th sideroad.**

**The first settlers at Perm were the Irish family of Hugh Gallagher in 1832. This family raised 7 children: Robert, William, Phoebe, Thomas, Paul, Hughie and Hannah.**

**William Whilley and Robert Lee followed in 1837 and by 1887 the population had grown to 55.**

**Paul Gallagher was the first storekeeper at Perm and he also had a saw mill at Podey Mills. Paul was succeeded by Mr. J. J. Morrow. There was a blacksmith shop operated by Joseph Donahue on the east side of the church.**

**The Gallagher family thrived and multiplied and spread to other farms throughout the settlement. Many of the descendants of these pioneers are still living and very active in the community.**

**Hugh Gallagher also looked to the religious health of the area and donated \$500.00 to help build the Bethel Methodist Church on the south side of the 10th sideroad. He gave much of his time and energy to the project. When the church was torn down in 1926 some of the materials were used to help build the new church at Mansfield and most of the members moved there. The cemetery connected to this church is still to be found on the 10th sideroad.**

**The church was the focal point for the social life of the village. Choirs, Young People's groups, fowl suppers and strawberry teas, along with many sports and games were actively carried on.**

**Perm also housed an Orange Lodge. This hall served as a community hall for meetings, entertainment and dances. Lively debates were held by opposing candidates for political office. Perm's citizens were well represented on the township council. The farms grew in numbers with the coming of the John Ireland, William Kirkpatrick and William Ferris families.**

**Perm claimed two school sections: Upper Perm (S. S. # 8) and Lower Perm (S. S. # 21). Upper Perm was built about 1860 on**

the 3rd line. This was a 20' x 30' structure with benches. The first teacher was Mr. Black followed by Mr. Burton. In October 1935 this building burnt down and was replaced with a modern brick school. It was slightly west of the original site. This was a good brick structure and is still in use.

Lower Perm was located on Lot 11 on the 10th sideroad. It began as a log building in 1872 and was united with S.S. # 8 until 1917. It still stands and today is a private residence.

The children of the new world were not great writers because using a slate is a very awkward way to learn writing. Also they learned to read by word/object association. The "Phonic Method" and "Word Method" were not in use just yet. Their text books contained many fine pieces of poetry and prose.