In the year twenty-three,

From the town by the sea,

There arrived a junior skirt,

Of Thirteen and three

At the fall of the leaves

And possessing a bit of the flirt.

To conduct the school,

In that shack by the road,

Come weal or come woe

Her abode was to be at “Green Hill”

Now after this act,

You may know for a fact,

An admirer was soon to be found,

And Willie Dunbar who lives on a farm

Came forward and captured the crown.

He was sawed off and tough

And in ways hard and rough

With physique of natural delay

Yet this dashing young boy

Grew happier day to day.

He held indisputable right,

And often at night, he asserted his right

By driving on the King’s Highway.

With the nickel so bright and the ribbons so tight

And the buggy, a model by Bayne.

The cold shoulder was turned, by him or by her,

And the form of her beauty remained.

But still in the range, her abode she did change

For reasons I cannot recall,

To a place that before was almost unknown

Is now known as the “Nickel Hall.”

And to this conspicuous place there gathered

The sports of East and North Lake Ainslie.

There was Hughie, and Cecil, Pat and Long John,

John Allan and Archie, who clashed.

Alfred was there with his millionaires

Also “Chaucer” and “Honourable Slash.”

First Archie did start with a right to the heart

And Waters came back with the same.

The referee was there and minutes but flew,

Ashe held the cotton and specks.

The mat was the road, the limit the stand

And the grandstand was the theatre steps.

This poem was composed in 1923. By Kenny (John M.) MacLean and Kenny (Allie Allister) MacLean who were in Irene Macdonald’s one room schoolhouse 1922-1923. The poem was recalled from memory to the best of their ability, by Zena MacQuarrie and Peter MacMillan, who were very young students in the class, but said that the poem was recited in sing-song fashion right up until the 1960’s as young men harvested hay in the fall each year. Only in 1995 was her identity discovered when her daughter, Ainslie Irene Armstrong McLees, visited the Historical Society, inquiring about her mother’s stint at Lake Ainslie. The events recalled in the poem refer to the many young men who were taken with the first female teacher ever to serve at Scottsville School. She started living with the local Presbyterian minister (at Green Hill), but because of all the young men’s attention, was moved to “Nickel Hall”. Following her service at Lake Ainslie, she attended college on a full scholarship and married the Rev. Maurice Whitman Armstrong in 1927. She went on to study British Renaissance Literature at Radcliffe College in Boston and moved with her family to Philadelphia in 1940 where she resided until her death in 1988. Her husband was a renowned historian whose books, *The Great Awakening in Nova Scotia* and *The Presbyterian Enterprise* have kept his name familiar in his homeland.