



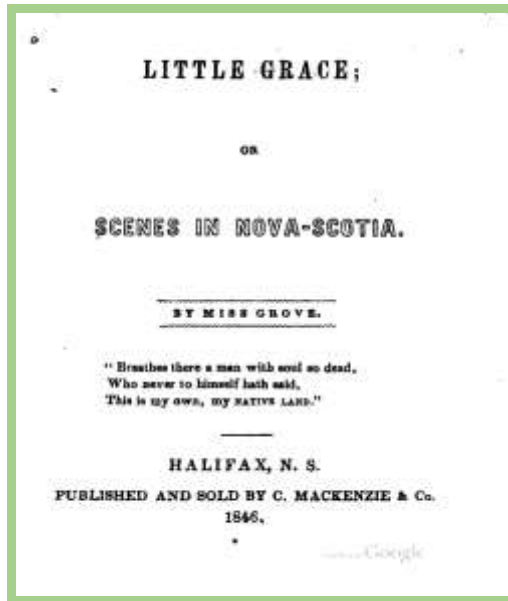
The Story of the Grove School

In addition to the typical grade schools in Sackville, a finishing school (pictured above) was situated in Beaver Bank, and this is its story. A finishing school was a school for young ladies of prominent and well-off families.

John Grove and Penelope Smith Grove had six caring and thoughtful children. They had two boys named William and James. Penelope also gave birth to four daughters. Their names were Anne, Elizabeth, Helen and Penelope. The children were all born in England between 1812 and 1821. By the early 1820's the Grove family relocated to Philadelphia. While living in Philadelphia, John Grove passed away. The Grove children and their mother then moved to Brooklyn. The Grove family then later moved to Halifax.

After the sisters arrived in Halifax, the four sisters established and opened a finishing school.

A "Miss Grove" authored a book of what is thought to be the first piece of children's literature written in Nova Scotia, possibly even in Canada, titled *Little Grace or Scenes in Nova Scotia*. The story was written in the 1840's by one of the Grove sisters to teach young readers about the earlier history of Nova Scotia. It was published by C. Mackenzie and Company in 1846. It is unknown whether the author was a family effort, written by all four sisters or whether it was written by just one sister. This remains a mystery.



**The internal cover page is pictured above from
*Little Grace or Scenes in Nova Scotia.***

The Grove's finishing School operated in Nova Scotia's capital city from 1840 through to 1880. The school operated out of their home at the corner of Hollis and Salter Streets.



**The original finishing school run by the Grove sisters was
located in Halifax (pictured above).**

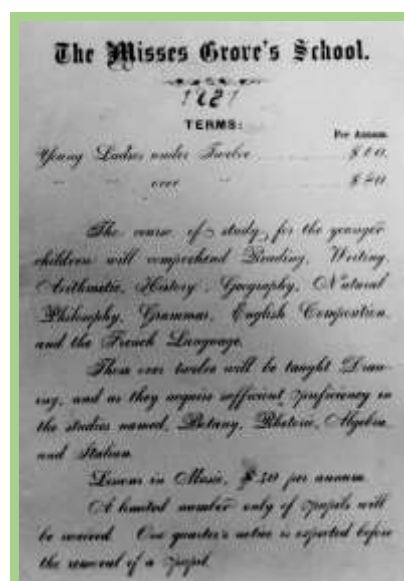
Then, in 1879, the oldest Grove sister, Elizabeth (see picture on next page), died. Shortly thereafter the family run school in Halifax burned to the ground.



***Misses Elizabeth & Anne Grove and
their niece, Elizabeth (Lily)***

Following the devastating fire, the sisters relocated to Beaver Bank and eventually re-established the school, as their brothers lived in Beaver Bank, and resided on the family property, called Woodlands, named after their grandfather's estate.

Many of Nova Scotia's most established and substantial families sent their young daughters to attend, including: Dickey, Keith, Taylor, Tupper and Twining. It was said that the four sisters' ability and character influenced for the good a large number of young women from that generation.



**A prospectus (see above) was updated and written in the
1880's for the finishing school.**

The cost for children under the age of twelve was sixty dollars and included studying in reading, grammar, arithmetic, history, geography, natural philosophy, English composition and French.

For older children to attend the school, parents had to pay eighty dollars. These children ended up taking the same subjects as the younger ones primarily, but also studied such things as drawing, botany, rhetoric (the art of communication in words), algebra and Italian. Music lessons were available for an extra forty dollars a year.

In addition to the guidance and direction the Grove sisters provided to young ladies, a part of their lasting legacy would always be the enjoyment they experienced in teaching children, but also the glee, pride and sophistication acquired by their young charges. Teaching children seemed to be in their blood. It was instinctually a part of who they were.

This school was just one of several schools in the Sackville area by the 1890's. The Grove School, like the Lower Sackville School, was well known in the community.

The Grove School operated sometime into the 1890's as a finishing school.