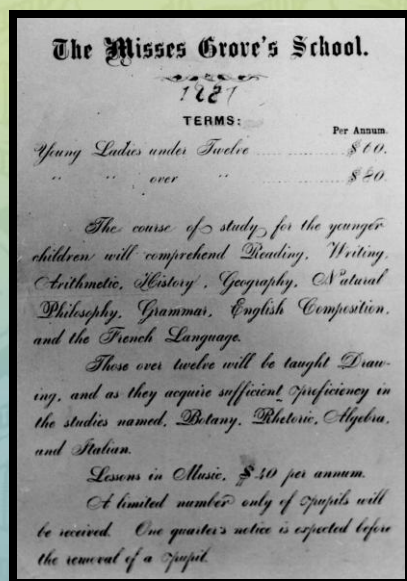


Parents had to pay eighty dollars for older children to attend the school. These children ended up taking the same subjects as the young ones primarily, but also studied such things as algebra and Italian. Music lessons were available for an extra forty dollars a year.

All of the Grove sisters worked as teachers at the finishing school. Then, in 1879, the oldest Grove sister, Elizabeth, died. Shortly thereafter the family run school in Halifax burned to the ground.

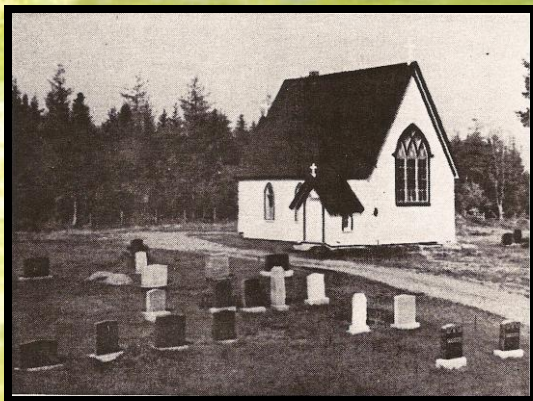
Following the devastating fire, the sisters relocated to Beaver Bank.

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



Before Anne, Helen and Penelope moved to the tranquil community of Beaver Bank, the Grove family was one of the earliest families that settled in the community of Beaver Bank.

## THE GROVE SISTERS & THE ANGLICAN CHURCH



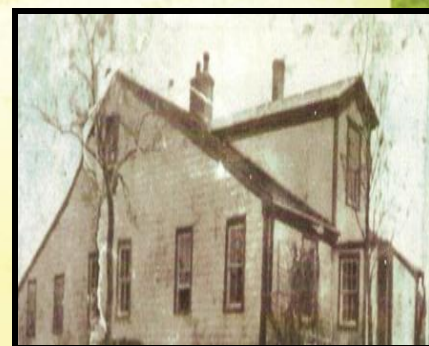
The Grove family also took a great interest in the development of the Anglican church in Beaver Bank, the Church of the Good Shepherd (pictured above), near their house.

Miss Helen Grove was the first treasurer of the church, and the first few church services were held in their drawing room. The construction of a church building was a vision that many of the congregational members dreamed of, and with the help and financial aid of the Grove sisters, a church building was able to be constructed and first opened on October third, 1886.

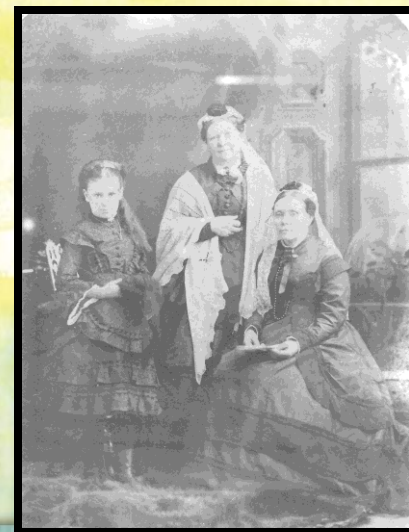
The original church building no longer stands on the property as it was sold and removed from the property in 1998 and has now been relocated to Chester for private use. A new church building stands near where the original building stood in Beaver Bank.

The place that the Grove sisters referred to as home and ran their finishing school from burned to the ground in 1943.

## THE STORY BEHIND THE GROVE FINISHING SCHOOL



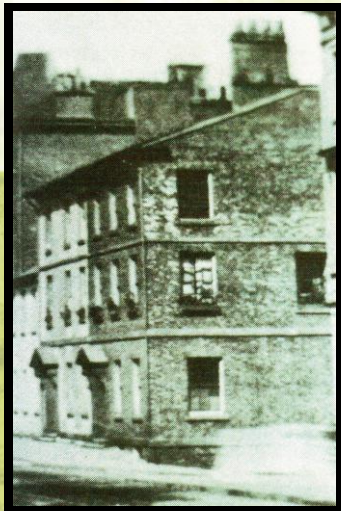
The Grove sisters reopened its doors in 1880 in Beaver Bank, some twenty miles from Halifax, where the school had originated.



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



## THE GROVE FINISHING SCHOOL



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

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. While the Grove women were busy establishing and operating their finishing school, their brothers, William and James, had

bought a large tract of land in 1847 in Beaver Bank. They called their property *Woodlands* after their grandfather's estate. The family home was built in 1847.

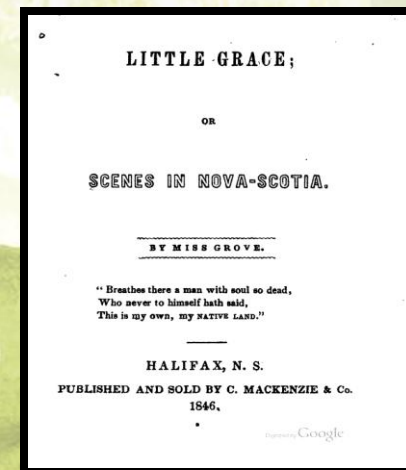
The Grove brothers made their living by being engaged in a variety of tasks, which included: box making, brick making, farming, saw milling. Their four sisters would later settle and join them on the family property.

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.

Many of Nova Scotia's most established and substantial families sent their young daughters to attend, including: Dickey, Esson, 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.

In addition to the guidance and direction the Grove sisters provided to young ladies, a part of their lasting legacy will 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.

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



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

*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.

Many of the most wealthy and prestigious families of Nova Scotia sent their daughters to get educated at the finishing school owned and operated by the Grove's because of their reputation that quickly built.

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