Education in the Rough

With Memoirs of Early Teachers and Schools
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The first session at Thornton was in the Branson home, with Mrs. Branson teaching a 2 mo. term. Then a school was built by the former brick R.R. power house, across from the elevators. Early teachers were J. Smith, Mr. Johns, and Miss Howell. A deed was recorded for a school in 1891. It was a wooden structure with 2 rooms. In 1896 a two story school was built. Later it was moved down off the hill, when the brick school was built in 1916. The 2 story building was used for a lodge hall for many years. In 1917 there were 120 pupils in school. Other early teachers were J. C. Webster in 1898 and Minnie Harris in 1899. The school consolidated with Rosalia in 1966.


District 161  Long Hollow--Hay  Census: 19 pupils, 6 m. term, Teacher Helen Webster, salary $50. Families: J. Sperrey, J. Rothwell, F. Lindsley--clerk, and R. King--director.

District 162  Little Valley School--St. John  Census: 85 pupils at one time, 7 mo. school, salary $50, teachers were Bessie Spitznogle, and India Fisher, Clerk--W. Gosney, Director--Frank Hamilton. Families: H. R. Repp, C. Slocum, B. Smith, and E. Sharp. Location T18, R42, S19.

The school consolidated with St. John on Apr. 30, 1929. At that time there were 22 pupils, and 1 teacher. Little Valley was the first of 13 school to move to St. John, to join with them. Some early teachers were Olive Harper,--1920, Verma Scholtz, Nancy Ledgerwood in 1925, Mabel Denton in 1927. Berneice Gass was the last teacher at the school. Families attending in 1927-28 were Roy Freeman, Van Vooris, Art Reese J. Giles' father had died and children were staying with A.
Gosney), Geo. Repp, C. Bloomenshein, and C. Lust.
An unusual happening at the school was a performance by
a Wrestling Bear. A man came through the area and put on s-
shows at St. John and Little Valley with his bear. Art Reese,
a very large man who had been a former wrestler, wrestled the
bear, which brought out a large crowd. Mr. Reese lived in the
District.
Olive (Harper) Oakshott writes of the literary society
they had. They gave 3 act plays, one of which was quite an
attraction for many came from the other areas as well as L-
ittle Valley. They also gave debates and skits.

District 163 Harlan School at Garfield Census: 8 mo. term,
32 pupils, salary $46, teachers Annie Eveleth, and F. Scott,
was clerk, with Frank Harlan as director. Families: J. Hen-
drix, S. McKenzie, J. Lemon, R. Duncan, B. Haun.
By 1912 Harlan School had 28 pupils, the teacher was Co-
rdie Hall, the clerk was F. M. Scott, and J. T. Lemon director.

District 164 Cox School at Hay Census: Teachers Mr. V. E.
Bascom, and Alice Stone.
By 1912 Cox School had 12 pupils, with Amelia Parkinson
as teacher. The salary was $70 and the term was 6 months. D.
S. Ryan was clerk, and Carl Carlson was director.

District 165 Golding School—Colfax Census: 27 pupils, 9
months term, Salary $50, teachers were Retta Martin, Ida A-
ustin, and J. Guerretay. The Clerk was W. Golding, and di-
rector, was C. O. Bains.
re. After his recovery she accepted a position in Oroville. There she taught and organized a library. Later she was moved from the elementary dept. to the secondary school, where she taught English and was girls counselor and librarian. After 12 years she married and retired from teaching. However later that year, the Okanogan Co. Supt. asked her to substitute in the Chilliwist School until a teacher could be found. Evidently it was impossible to secure a teacher, so she remained there for the entire year. Upon returning to Oroville, she was asked to resume H. S. Teaching and library work.

In the summer of 1946 the U. of W. library school asked her to consider going to the boom town of Richland, to organize libraries in the elementary schools. She continued to serve as an elementary school librarian until her final retirement from teaching in 1958.


I graduated from St. John H.S. in 1919, spent a year at Cheney Normal, and began my first year of teaching at Little Valley school near St. John in 1920. I was 18 years old and had never seen the inside of a rural school, although a course in Rural Sociology, given by Mr. Craig, at Cheney, had given me some idea of how to organize a school program. The schoolhouse was neat one room wooden building painted white, and I think there was a belfry and a bell. I know that water was carried from a well in the school yard, and coal from a shed near by. Of course, there were no inside toilets, they were outside, behind the main building.

Mrs. Jenima McKay was clerk of the board, and I'm sure Fred Kerkman and Jim Freeman were the other directors. They were very understanding and encouraging.

The families represented as I remember were: Appel, Bafus, Blumenshein, Cottrell, Freeman, Hamilton, Kerkman, Mattingly, and Repp. The salary was $135, an excellent salary for the period, due perhaps to the shortage of teachers following World War 1. Of course I did the janitor work, although a kind young man in the neighborhood sometimes oiled the floor, and in extremely cold weather, started the fire. I boarded a short time with the Cottrell family and enjoyed walking back and forth to school (about 2 miles) with the children. Two of them were of Russian parentage, and were just learning to speak English. They would hide in the bushes by the side of the road, then jump out and try to scare me. Later I stayed at the Jim Freeman home, nearer the school. I began the school year with about 20 pupils in 5 or 6 grades, enough to tax the ability of an experienced teacher. One morning I arrived at school to find a family of 6 children to be enrolled. They filled all 8 grades, and also filled all the seats. I remember very little about my teaching methods but I do remember that winter was very long, with 30 children using one room for study and play, and I especially remember the first day of spring. Suddenly the air was full of bluebirds, buttercups bloomed in the sunshine, and the chil-
dren were playing out doors.

I had always been interested in plays and readings, and
was glad when someone suggested we form a literary society.
It was very popular during the winter months when young and
old gathered in the schoolhouse for singing, readings, de-
bates, and skits, followed by refreshments. Finally we de-
cided to go one step further and produce a play, a real 3-
act play! Play practice went on for months. Actors moved
away and others took their places. Finally we decided re-
ady or not—the play must be put on. The schoolhouse was
crowded with people from St. John, as far away too, as Lan-
caster. I'm not sure the most prominent member of the cast
was the prompter, who prompted in a voice clearly audible to
to all the audience. Once the Hero seemed uncertain what to
do next, and the prompter gave the directions "Start to k-
iss her". I wish there had been tape recordings in those d-
ays, and that I had a recording of that reproduction. The
Hero, who by this time was really confused good, repeated—
"Start to kiss her". But it turned out O.K. at the end.

I taught 2 years at Little Valley, and have many memo-
ries of the kind people who lived there, of the children who
grew up to be fine citizens in spite of their teacher's inade-
quacies, and of my first experiences as a teacher of a
Rural School.

Ochs, Leah (Cook) Address: Okanogan, Wn. Certificate: Ch-
eneny Normal, 1922-23-30. Taught: Marlin-1938-40, Anatone,
1923, Roegerburg, 1924, Zaring School-1928-37, Glendive, Mon-
tana in 1925. At every rural school was a cottage for a te-
acher, usually with 1 or 2 rooms. I loved the country and
enjoyed the children and the association with the parents.
The grades were 1 to 8. State exams were given to all
the 8th graders for entrance into High School. My pupils w-
erve excellent, and always did very well in the tests. Disci-
pline was no problem, ever. Children were so anxious to help
me with the janitor work that I made a rule for a neat p-
aper of 100 in spelling or arithmetic, the boys could tend
the stove, and carry wood, coal or water, while the girls h-
had the honor and privilege to wash the blackboards, sweep t-
the hall, or arrange library books. It worked very well. So-
me names I recall from Zaring School were: Gilford, Velda, N-
orma, Howard and Kenneth Wigen, Clarence and Velma Needham,
Albert, Paul, and Oscar Broeckel, Margaret, Elma and Ruby K-
ron, Willene and Norma Horton, John Hayfield, Tom Zarind a-
nd Kenneth Smith.

Teaching has been very interesting to me and I can't t-

Olson, Margaret (Miss) Address: Deary, Idaho. Certificate:
in Idaho, 1943-45 Fairfield, Wn. 1945-50 Colfax, Wn. 1956-5-
to 1972 at Moses Lake.
H. H. Ackerman was clerk, and families were: Dodson, Jacobson Naifziger, Martin Peterman.

In 1912 Hamilton School had 21 pupils, Minnie Dasch was teacher, the salary was $70, Claude Odell was clerk, and H. H. Ackerman was director.

District 167 Lone Star—Kiparia by 1912 this district was in operation. There were 14 pupils, with 8 mo. term, and the salary was $75. Eunice Curnon was the teacher, and the clerk was J. M. Brown, W. E. Baldwin--director.

Hamilton (Saint's Home) School


The first school was in Daisy Hodgen's log cabin, located near the little island on rock creek, by the railroad. Helen Schroeder was a pupil at this first school. The next school was built on the hill. The first teacher here was Mrs Lucy Downen. Mrs. Leslie (Smith) Ferris of Colfax taught her first school here. Helen Schroeder taught in 1921, and also Miss Addie Trull, and Miss Moore.

Around 1905 or 1906 a contractor was hired to build a new school. He bought the materials from the Potlatch Lumber Co. but failed to pay the bill. As a last resort the Co. closed the school and prepared to move the bldg. away. A lawsuit followed, with much excitement. Milan Still a Lawy-
yer represented the district. The outcome of the court case was that the lumber Co. was fined for interfering with the operation of a school, and as far as anyone knows, they were never paid for the building materials. Some early pupils were Wreatha (Turner) Hamilton, Merle Turner Nichols, Emma Bean, and the Brown girls.

The Turner school consolidated with Revere and the land went back to Ben Trull, the original owner.

District 139 Ewan.
The first school was originally at the town of Rock Lake where a postoffice was established in 1907. It was 2½ miles north of Ewan, at the foot of Rock Lake. Mrs. Chester Downen taught there 1 mo. to establish the school district. The town of Ewan was plotted in 1911. A new brick school was built on land given by Marshall Snell. It was opened in 1913. The upper grades were taught by Mrs. Curr, and the lower grades by Miss Lucy Jordan. The first graduation class of 5 pupils was in 1917. In 1942 the district voted against consolidation. They transported the pupils to High School at St. John in 1945, and the grade school consolidated with St. John in 1968. Picture on next page.

District 170 Malden The school was built in 1909. At one time there were said to be 450 students going to school here. The school burned in the early 1920's and a new brick building was ready for use in 1924. They consolidated with Rosalia later. In 1921 these families were listed in the school census: F. Scott, Mrs. Enscore, C. Dewitt, P. Holton, J. Korte J. Crown, O. Moody, P. Nickelson, R. Thompson, E. Pears, F. Hays, J. O'Day, W. B. Curtis, J. Murphy, E. Stedman, E. Gro-
No. 104 Dist. Lamont 1890 W. Berry 1891 J. Holmes 1892
Florence Babcock 1893 J.W. Holmes 1894 Stella Mc Nair 1895 W. Thompson Lulu Mallett 1896 Nellie Kelly Charlotte White 1897 Agnes Geany Charlotte White 1898 Charlotte White 1899 C. Hersey 1900 Clare Allison, Luella Whitaker
No. 106 Dist. Winona 1890 G. E. Boodey Cookie Martgull
No. 108 Dist. Hay 1890 Ada Chandler 1891 Albert DuBois
No. 110 Dist. Grabtree Garfield 1890 B.F. Manning Harvey
Noelser 1891 H. Helser Sara Thompson 1892 same 1893 same 1894 Charlotte Steward S. Manning 1895-96 same 1897 Irma Round 1898 Delma Fonner 1899 Mary Steward 1900 Mary Steward Irma Rounds
No. 113 Dist. Gross (McNabb) Thornton 1890 J. F. James
No. 119 Dist. Thornton 1891 J. Smith 1892 Frank Johnson
Irwin 1892-3 Hattie Whitney 1894 Anna Stinson 1895 J. Hubbard 1896 Nora Maulfair 1897 A. R. Fronek 1898 A. Newton 1899 R. N. Clem 1900 J. Elliot
No. 113 Dist. Thornton 1891 J. Smith 1892 Frank Johnson
Almeda Hall 1893 Almeda Hall 1894 P. Holm 1895 Gertrude
Teachers from 1901 to 1910


Dist. 107 Fairview Winona 1901 T. Wilson 1902 Inez Pitany 1903 H. Fish 1904-5-6 none listed 1907 W.A. King 1908-9 Sophia Miller 1910 Jessie Modesitt


Dist. 110 Crabtree Garfield 1901 none listed 1902 Cora Mansing 1903-4-5 same 1906-7 none 1908 J. Bauer

Dist. 111 Hamilton Endicott 1901 D. Fincher 1902 Daisy Fincher 1903 none listed 1904 Anna Tate. 1905 Anna Tate A. Gustav Bott 1906-7-8 none 1907 A. Bott 1909 James Wiggle 1910 E. Rop


Dist. 114 Hall Unicentown 1901 D. Dowd 1902 D. Dowd 1903 Mrs. Emma Hobson 1904 Frances Norris Emma Hobson 1905 Frances Norris Margaret Bayers Emma Hobson 1906 none listed 1907 Ada Collins 1908 Frances Norris 1909 Mrs. W. Irwin 1910 Hazel Sandstedt

Dist. 115 Staley Pullman 1901-2 Kitty Hooper 1903 Chas. Staley (Also Zillah Hedger in 1902) 1904 Sidney George
Teachers from 1901 to 1910

Dist. 153 La Crosse 1901 L. Devilden Frances Rathbun 1902-1903 none listed 1904 R. Walker Viola Walker 1905 none 1906 A. Smith 1907 J. Lyon Frances Rathbun Avril Lusher 1908 T. C. Mountain Avril Lusher Ruth Sheldon Mrs. Lucena Mountain 1909 Mr and Mrs. T. Mountain Avril Lusher 1910 Mr and Mrs. T. Mountain Rose Shorthill

Dist. 154 Mud Flat La Crosse 1901 Frances Rathbun J. Osmundson 1902 Alice Stone 1903 Lucia May Stone 1904-5-6 no listing 1907 J. Jack L. Daniels Martha Stone Nellie Green 1908-9 none 1910 Alice Stone

Dist. 155 Lindley St. John 1901 George Boyd 1902 J. R. Mulkey 1903 L. Mulkey 1904 G. Briggs 1905 W. King 1906-7 Lilla Snow Anna Hanley 1907 T. C. Mountain 1908-9 none listed 1910 E. Morris


Dist. 157 Rock Lake 1901-2 M. R. Snyder A. Bersil 1903 J. Williams 1904 C. Richardson 1905 Elmina White 1906 S. Cartwright Orton Smith 1907 none 1908 none 1909-10 W. Martin


Dist. 159 Pleasant Grove Oaksdale 1902 Walter Ricks 1903 Mrs. M. S. Oaks Carl Ogle 1904 Mrs. S. Shinkle 1905 W. Ricks 1906 none 1907 Mary Gates 1908 Dorothy Gates 1909 Mrs. B. House 1910 same.

Dist. 160 Canyon 1903 Adelia Riley Minnie Banks 1904 Isabelle Webster 1905 Mary Danford 1906 Maud and Effie Robbins 1907 Dixie Wynne Joseph Goetz 1908-9 none 1910 J. Glowezewsky

Dist. 161 Long Hollow Hay 1903 Maud Sims 1904 Helen Webster 1905 same 1906 Leola King 1907 Edna Ralph 1908 Edna Rinker 1909 Miss R. Irwin 1910 Mamie Broderick


Dist. 163 Garfield 1903 Melva Cave 1904 Cora Manring 1905 Anna Eveleth 1906 G. Kerns Pearl Scott
Teachers from 1900 to 1910

Dist. 163 (continued) 1907 Mary Steward Lillie Laird Belle Fonger 1908 Cordie Hall 1909 none listed 1910 W. McClure

Dist. 164 Cox Hay 1902 V. Vascom Alice Stone 1903 O.D. Stevens 1904-5-6 none listed 1907-8 none 1909 Mary Greer 1910 E. Fenty

Dist. 165 Golding Colfax 1904 Mrs. B. Montieth Mrs. E. Burroughs C. Richardson 1905 Retta Martin John Gurettaz Ida Austin 1906 Mabel Frost Ida Kinball 1907 Alice Stone 1908 Alice Stone V. Bascom 1909 Kate Hill 1910 Rosetta Schuly


Dist. 167 Lone Star Riparia 1906 Eva Perdue 1907 W. Austin G. Potter 1908-9 none listed 1910 Alice Stewart Pearl Est.

Dist. 168 Turner St. John 1907 Frances Boots 1908 Lucy Jordan 1909 none listed 1910 Alice Henderson Margaret Fulkatre

Dist. 169 Ewan 1910 Montie Wright

Dist. 170 Malden 1909 C. Phifer 1910 Alice and Gertrude Shipley Laraine Garety

Dist. 171 Rock Creek Winona 1908 Mrs. Percifull Hall 1910 Mabel McKay

Dist. 172 Revere 1910 Emma Turney