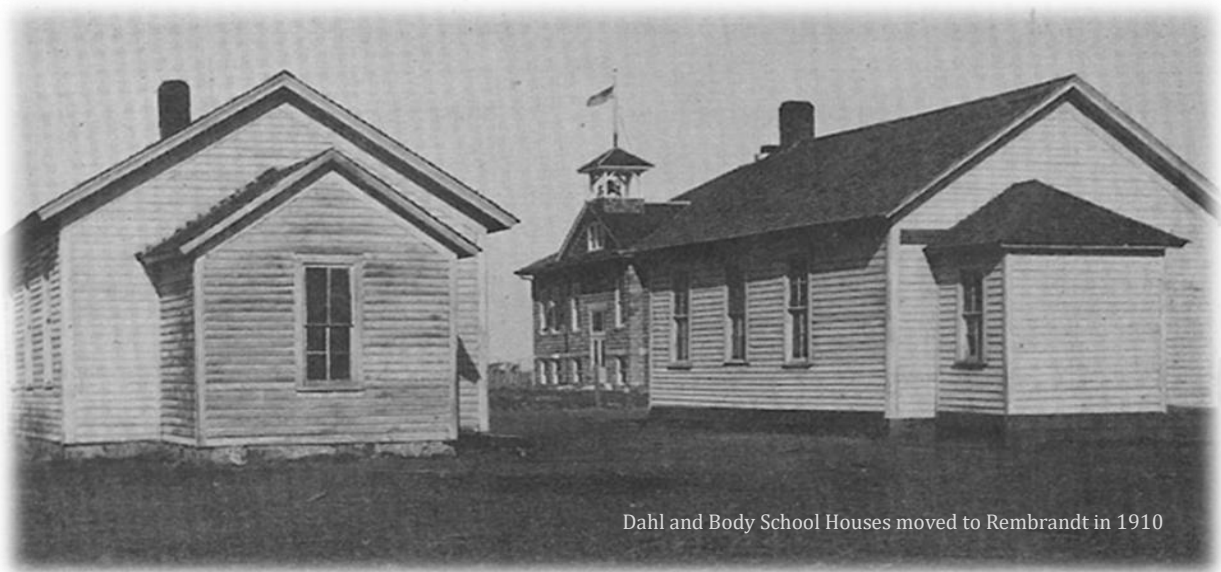


**History  
of  
Rural (one-room) Schools**

**Barnes, Lee, Scott & Lincoln Townships  
of  
Buena Vista County, Iowa  
(1870's to 1940's)**



Dahl and Body School Houses moved to Rembrandt in 1910

**Scrapbook  
of  
Newspaper Articles, Pictures, and Notes**

(Latest Update - 5/24/2017)

Have items added to the Scrapbook - Email them to [rembrandt.school@aol.com](mailto:rembrandt.school@aol.com)

# History of Rural (one-room) Schools

## Barnes, Lee, Scott & Lincoln Townships

### (Buena Vista County, Iowa)

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## Buena Vista County - General

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Storm Lake Pilot (June 28, 1871)

### Schools in the County

There are now **thirty schools opened** for this county, and we are told by the County Superintendent who has been visiting the schools during the last two weeks, that so far, he has found every school doing well and teachers feeling interested in the work.

The school at Sioux Rapids has the largest number of scholars of any school yet visited by him, but he expects to find one in Storm Lake and one in Coon as well attended.

The sub-directors seem to be determined to have good schools in every district, and it is expected that when all the schools shall have been visited, that we shall have such a report, from this Superintendent of all the schools of the county, as will make us all feel proud of Buena Vista. No stronger inducements to people looking for homes in the west to settle among us than good schools.

Storm Lake Pilot (August 16, 1871)

### Buena Vista Schools Not in Use

The schools of this county are generally closed or close soon, the schools in Barnes township taught by Miss Newcomb and Miss Gibbs closed two weeks ago, one in Brookes taught by Miss Flora Wilson, two in Nokomis and one in Storm Lake already closed. From the other townships we have not received word as to whether the schools are closed or not.

Now, it will be a long time from the first of August until the first of December, that will not be occupied by school, unless we have some fall schools. The school directors must wake up to this matter, and have the new school houses used as soon as possible. Any of our working teachers would much rather teach than be idle now for the four coming months. We have not heard of many fall schools but of two or three we understand there will be school in a few weeks.

Storm Lake Pilot (August 16, 1871)

### Sub-Directors' Duties

We would call attention to a duty belonging to the Sub-director which will soon need attention, i. e. Page 40, Section G.G. School Laws of Iowa:

"He shall, between the first and tenth days of September of each year, prepare a list of the named of the heads of families in his sub-district together with the number of children in each family between the ages of five and twenty-one years, distinguishing males from females, and shall record the same in a book kept for that purpose." Also, Page 40, Section G7, "He shall, between the 10th and 15th days of September of each year, report to the Secretary of the District-Township the number of persons in his sub-district between the ages of five and twenty-one years, distinguishing males from females."

Now, the failure of the sub-directors to make the report, as required by this section deprives the District-Township of its proportion of school money. We are confident that our sub-directors are, all of them, live, energetic, earnest men, and will look well to the interests of their respective townships, for we do not want to lose our school money.

Sioux Rapids Press (September 17, 1942)

### Early History of Buena Vista County

**As the first principal settlement in Buena Vista county. Sioux Rapids had a school as early as 1856.** The Independent School District was formed in 1870, an event of which Wegerslev and Walpole's

## Buena Vista County - General

history says: "The district was formerly composed of a part of Lee township, but the independent district included with this also a part of Barnes township. The forming of the district in this way was vigorously opposed by those living across the river who favored a district including the town only. There were several residents across the river who would add materially to the strength of the school, if the district could be made to extend over their territory. The towns people saw this, so they wrote up their proceedings, sent them to the legislators, and had them legalized and published as a law before the residents across the river were scarcely aware of what had occurred. A new and larger building was made necessary in 1882 when the Chicago and North Western Railroad came through. Sessions were held in the Methodist church until the new school could be opened in 1883. A. S. Newcomb was the first teacher in the independent district and when a room had to be added to the school to accommodate the increased number of pupils, his wife took over this class room.

There was a township school building in Linn Grove in 1892, attended by the smaller children of the town, while the older pupils had to go to an older building across the river. C. L. Ward, O. L. Hesla, H. H. Loe and O. A. Mikelson formed the independent school district of Linn Grove in this year, and arranged adequate quarters for all the students. A larger building was put up in 1894. Miss Julia Brown was the first teacher in the new district.

Storm Lake Pilot (October 18, 1871)

### Buena Vista County - School Matters

Buena Vista County.						
TOWNSHIPS	No. of children in 1870.	No. of children in 1871.	Gals to 1 year.	Gals per cent.	No. of school houses in 1870.	No. of school houses in 1871.
Barnes .....	84	73	10	15	1	3
Brookton .....	18	18	10	33	...	2
Coom .....	112	143	194	103	...	13
Lee .....	73	133	57	73	1	4
Nokomis .....	101	123	37	37	...	3
Poland .....	13	21	21	100	...	1
Storm Lake .....	74	120	43	66	1	9
Total .....	468	708	298	...	6	34



## Buena Vista County - General

---

By the above schedule will be seen the state of our county at present, in regard to school matters, as taken from the County Superintendent's report to the State Superintendent.

It will be seen that there is an increase of 298 children in one year, and the greatest number of children in any one township is in Coon, that Coon has the greatest gain, but Poland the greatest gain per cent. Coon has built more school houses than any other township. **One year ago there were only six school houses in the county, now there are thirty-four. One year ago there were four townships without school houses, now there are none without.**

If we can judge from these items of the population of our county, we must have nearly three thousand inhabitants, for the census of last year showed about fourteen hundred and over four hundred and sixty-eight children, to the county.

**Last year we had about sixteen teachers in the county, and now there are thirty-four.** Last year the average price per month was thirty dollars, and now it is under thirty-five dollars.

On the whole I think we may safely congratulate ourselves that we are on the straight road to honor and glory as a county; alive and wide awake to all our best interests.

Truly we live in a fast age and in a fast county.

Storm Lake Pilot (December 27, 1871)

### Schools of Buena Vista County

**There are thirty-seven schools in Buena Vista county this winter.** In Barnes, three; in Brooke, one; in Coon, thirteen; in Lee, six; in Nokomis, six; in Poland, one; and in Storm Lake, seven. There are twenty-six male teachers and eleven female teachers. Wages from \$33 to \$43 a month. The text books in use, in most of these schools, are *Edward's Analytical Readers and Speller; Robinson's Arithmetic, Guyot's Geography; Boltwood's English Grammar; Qusekenboss's History of the United States.*

The largest school so far as heard from is in Newell, forty-two scholars.

**The number of schools this year is twice that of last year, and the number of scholars in attendance equals three times that of last year.**



## **Buena Vista County - General**

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### **PAST AND PRESENT OF Buena Vista County IOWA**

By C..H. WEGERSLEV and THOMAS WALPOLE

Illustrated with Portraits and Views

Also Biographical Sketches of Some Prominent Citizens of the County

CHICAGO  
THE S. J. CLARKE PUBLISHING CO.  
1909

### **1875**

**Schoolhouses were then beginning to dot the landscape, and there were located in the county the following :**

<b>Brooke township,</b>	<b>on sections 6. 12 and 30.</b>
<b>Barnes,</b>	<b>on sections 2, 5. 25 and 28.</b>
<b>Lee,</b>	<b>on sections 8. 14, 30 and 34.</b>
<b>Poland,</b>	<b>on sections 2, 6 and 26.</b>
<b>Elk,</b>	<b>on sections 18 and 24.</b>
<b>Nokomis,</b>	<b>on sections 8. 12. 25 and 29.</b>
<b>Maple Valley,</b>	<b>on sections 2 and 4.</b>
<b>Scott,</b>	<b>on sections 18 and 26.</b>
<b>Storm Lake,</b>	<b>on sections 6, 17 and 23.</b>
<b>Lincoln,</b>	<b>on sections 3, 32 and 35.</b>
<b>Grant,</b>	<b>none.</b>
<b>Providence,</b>	<b>on sections 25 and 28.</b>
<b>Fairfield,</b>	<b>on sections 10 and 24.</b>
<b>Coon,</b>	<b>on sections 1, 8, 27 and 29.</b>
<b>Newell,</b>	<b>on sections 1. 14. 23. 26. 28 and 32.</b>

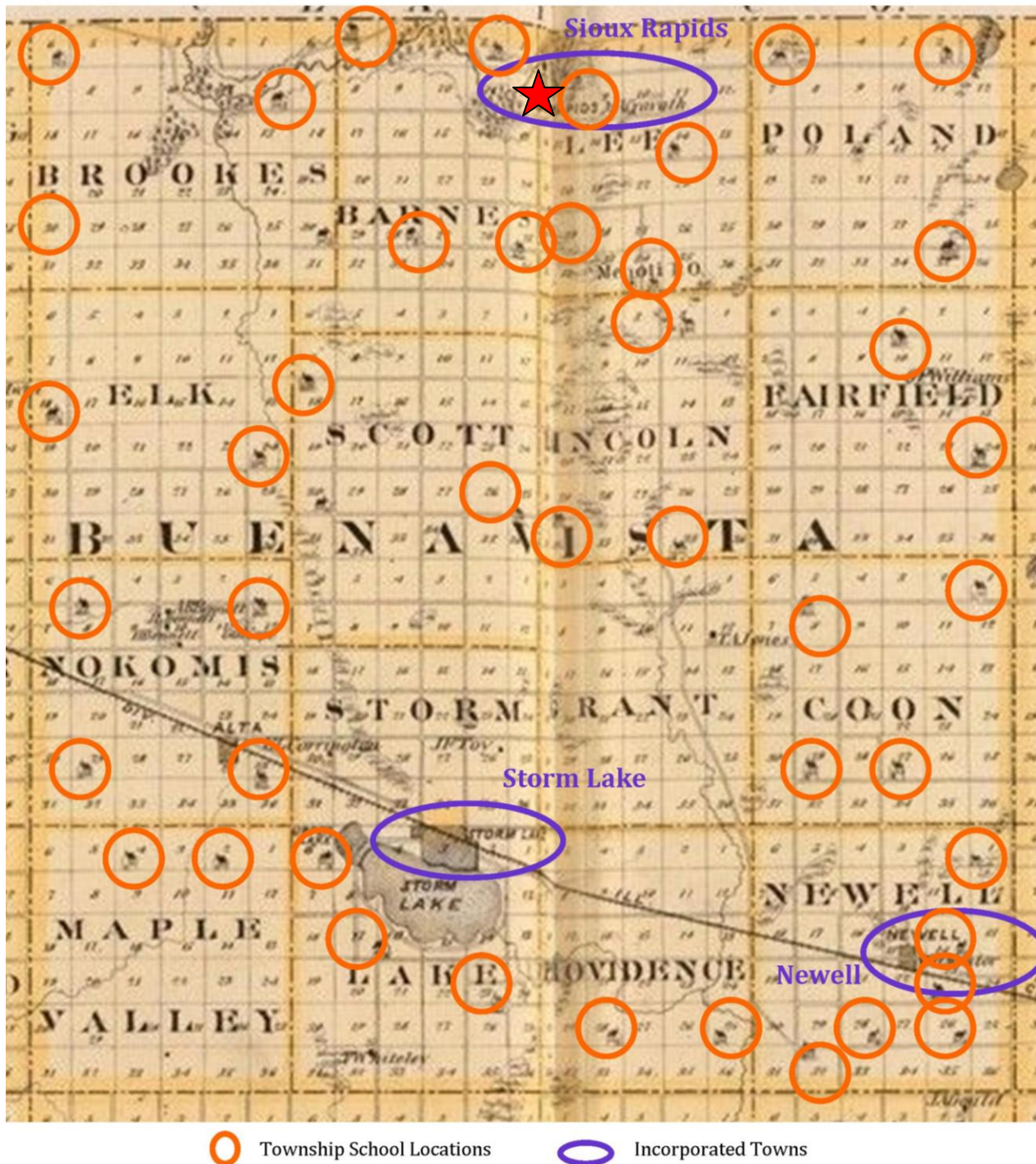


**The first schoolhouse in the county was built on Section 12 in Barnes township.**

### **Location of the 44 School Houses in 1875**

## Buena Vista County - General

1875 Map





## Buena Vista County - General

Sioux Rapids Press (March 29, 1888)

### Shade Trees on School Grounds required by Law

It is to be hoped that our school board will put out a lot of shade trees on the school house grounds this spring. This should have been done several years ago. In fact the law provides that it should be done. The laws of 1882, Chapter 23, Sec. 1, says: That the board of directors of each district township and independent district shall cause to be set out and properly protected, twelve or more shade trees on each school house site belonging to the district, where such number of trees are not now growing, and such expense shall be paid from the contingent fund. The law also makes it the duty of the county superintendent to call the attention of the directors to this requirement. There are but few school grounds in this section that have even the required number of trees, and it is quite apparent that someone has failed in doing their whole duty.

Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune (June 20, 1913)

### MANY GET DIPLOMAS Seventy-five Young People Complete Rural School Work

Seventy-five young people were graduated from the rural schools of Buena Vista county on Wednesday afternoon. The exercises were held in the Methodist Episcopal church and a large audience composed of people from all over the county were present. Miss Mabel McLaughlin played the march after which Rev. T. A. Ambler gave the invocation, and A. C. Fuller sang. The address was given by Superintendent S. T. Neveln of the city schools, and we regret that time and space make it impossible for us to give an extended account of the address of the services. County Superintendent Woodruff presented the diplomas to the class and the exercises were closed by the singing of "America." The list of graduates will be found elsewhere.

(August 14, 1914)

### CONSOLIDATION OF SCHOOLS IN BUENA VISTA COUNTY H.C. MOELLER COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT

Buena Vista county at this time, August 1914 has eight organized consolidated districts. The first one to be organized was the well known **Marathon** district which dates back to 1903 and comprises a little over twenty-four sections in addition to the town of 532 population. **Newell** followed in 1910. Its territory consists of twenty-eight sections and a population of 728 in the town.

### Rural School Graduates

PUPILS	TOWNSHIP	TEACHERS
Aron Barstad	No. 2 Barnes	Florence Rokkan
Ernest Sundberg	No. 2 Barnes	Florence Rokkan
Amelia Hanson	No. 4 Barnes	Grace Anderson
Maratha Anderson	No. 4 Barnes	Grace Anderson
Verna Olson	No. 4 Barnes	Grace Anderson
Pauline O'Banion	No. 3 Brooke	Ruth Baier
Glenn Campbell	No. 5 Coon	Garnet Maulsby
Lilly Nelson	No. 8 Coon	Letta Warren
Alvena Beckfield	No. 8 Coon	Letta Warren
Hiram Hanson	No. 6 Elk	Nettie Reese
Ellen Hanson	No. 6 Elk	Nettie Reese
Opal Kraemer	No. 6 Elk	Nettie Reese
Mathilde Madsen	No. 7 Elk	Olive Anderson
Marvil Reckoff	No. 9 Elk	Florence Scott
Irene Ashbaugh	No. 3 Fairfield	L. M. Parsons
Gertie Montgomery	No. 3 Fairfield	L. M. Parsons
Mina Moline	No. 5 Fairfield	Florence Beckstrom
Ada Anderson	No. 6 Fairfield	Mamie Bergling
Jerson Pearson	No. 7 Fairfield	Stella Chamberlin
Gustaf Olson	No. 7 Fairfield	Stella Chamberlin
Hans Hanson	No. 7 Fairfield	Stella Chamberlin
Arthur Olson	No. 7 Fairfield	Stella Chamberlin
Ferne Hinch	No. 8 Fairfield	Louverne Erickson
Vera Wright	No. 9 Fairfield	Elsie VanCleve
Funie Schultz	No. 7 Grant	Hilda Sundleaf
Ruth Shiefert	No. 7 Grant	Hilda Sundleaf
Allen Higgins	No. 9 Grant	Margaret O'Malley
William Hughes	No. 9 Grant	Margaret O'Malley
Lester Richardson	No. 9 Grant	Margaret O'Malley
Vida Thompson	No. 9 Grant	Margaret O'Malley
Pearl Gaffey	No. 1 Hayes	Lillian Schwarz
Zoe Kinne	No. 1 Hayes	Lillian Schwarz
Anna Schweitzer	No. 2 Hayes	Ida Schweitzer
Herman Monteufel	No. 5 Hayes	Margaret Hill
Leslie Chindlund	No. 5 Hayes	Margaret Hill
Norman Pike	No. 5 Hayes	Margaret Hill
Evelyn Chindlund	No. 6 Hayes	Margaret Hill
Kathryn Leckington	No. 6 Hayes	Hazel Wilde
Ray Ingram	No. 4 Lee	Leah Cate
Letta Fairchild	No. 4 Lee	Leah Cate
Floyd Ingram	No. 4 Lee	Leah Cate
Elmer Benson	No. 1 Lincoln	Cecil Dahlstrom
Ina Scott	No. 2 Lincoln	Bridgie Gavin
Leonora Siekmann	No. 6 Lincoln	Minnie Peterson
William Armstrong	No. 8 Lincoln	Mabel Holderness
Wilbur Patterson	No. 8 Lincoln	Mabel Holderness
James Patterson	No. 8 Lincoln	Mabel Holderness
Wanda Berkler	No. 9 Lincoln	Laura Cottrell
Emanuel Wehking	No. 4 Maple Valley	Mathilde Wehking
Paula Schmidt	No. 4 Maple Valley	Mathilde Wehking
Emma Schmidt	No. 6 Maple Valley	Nettie Reese
Elsie Peterson	No. 1 Nokomis	May Adams
Margaret Hanson	No. 1 Nokomis	May Adams
Clifford Porter	No. 2 Nokomis	Ruth Nelson
Irene Porter	No. 2 Nokomis	Ruth Nelson
Martha Glawe	No. 3 Nokomis	Alma Reese
Clarence Glawe	No. 3 Nokomis	Alma Reese
Garnet Robar	No. 3 Nokomis	Alma Reese
Zoe Scott	No. 3 Nokomis	Alma Reese
Lillian Ankerson	No. 4 Nokomis	Jennie Clark
Millie Jankson	No. 5 Nokomis	Mae Emarine
Helen Peterson	No. 5 Nokomis	Mae Emarine
Marie Schott	No. 5 Nokomis	Mae Emarine
Lily Hensel	Pleasant View Ind.	Ruth Carlson
Lena Hensel	Pleasant View Ind.	Ruth Carlson
Florence Young	Prairie Creek Ind.	Anna Rasmussen
Wayne Corderman	Prairie Creek Ind.	Anna Rasmussen
Larry Johnson	Prairie Creek Ind.	Anna Rasmussen
Jennie Theusen	No. 1 Providence	Laura Grau
Winnie Wright	No. 5 Providence	Anna McKenna
Lawrence McKenna	No. 5 Providence	Anna McKenna
Bessie Cuppey	No. 5 Providence	Anna McKenna
Pauline Mark	No. 5 Washington	R. E. Follette
Bella Whitelitt	No. 6 Washington	Bertha Keith

## Buena Vista County - General

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**Truesdale** also organized in 1910 with a district of sixteen sections.

With the above districts so well established and doing such excellent work it is perhaps not to be wondered at that this year should have witnessed such a remarkable interest in consolidation. Five new districts have been organized and the prospects are very good for more during the coming year.

In March, **Sioux Rapids** with a population of 868 organized a district of twenty-eight sections and **Rembrandt** organized with twenty-four sections. The latter has since added three sections because the people asked to come in.

In June, three strictly rural consolidated districts were organized. The **Lincoln-Lee** with nineteen sections and the **Highview** and **Fairview** districts with sixteen and one-fourth sections each.

Speaking briefly of the work of these schools we might say that Marathon and Newell each have splendid equipped buildings valued at from \$25,000 to \$30,000. Both four years of high school work and are on the state accredited list. Each has a special instructor in agriculture, manual training, and domestic science.

Sioux Rapids have voted bonds for a \$60,000 building and will undoubtedly have one of the best consolidated schools in the state. Their Superintendent has spent a year in special preparation at the Iowa State College at Ames.

Rembrandt has a fine modern \$10,000 building and a superintendent with special training along the industrial lines.

Truesdale has just begun the erection of a new \$11,000 building consisting of four rooms on the main floor and a full basement.

Of the three rural districts, the Lincoln-Lee district has voted \$11,000 for a new building and has adopted its plans. It might be said incidentally that at the organization of this district only two votes were cast against the proposition and that the bond election was unanimous. The Fairview and Highview districts have each voted \$10,000.

One of the special features in the rural and village districts will be the social center work. The buildings are planned so that by means of movable partitions, two rooms can be thrown together for assembly room purposes.

## IOWA STATE TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION - DES MOINES - NOV. 4, 5 & 6, 1920

**Seven years ago Buena Vista county had 120 one-room schools in operation. Five years ago there were 90 and today only 39 are in operation. This shows the rapidity with which consolidation is moving.**

Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune (August 24, 1944)

### **(Ten) Rural Schools Ready to Start**

A. E. Harrison, county superintendent of schools, today announced that the rural school teachers in Buena Vista county were lined up for the forthcoming school years. Some of the schools will open August 28 and some September 4.

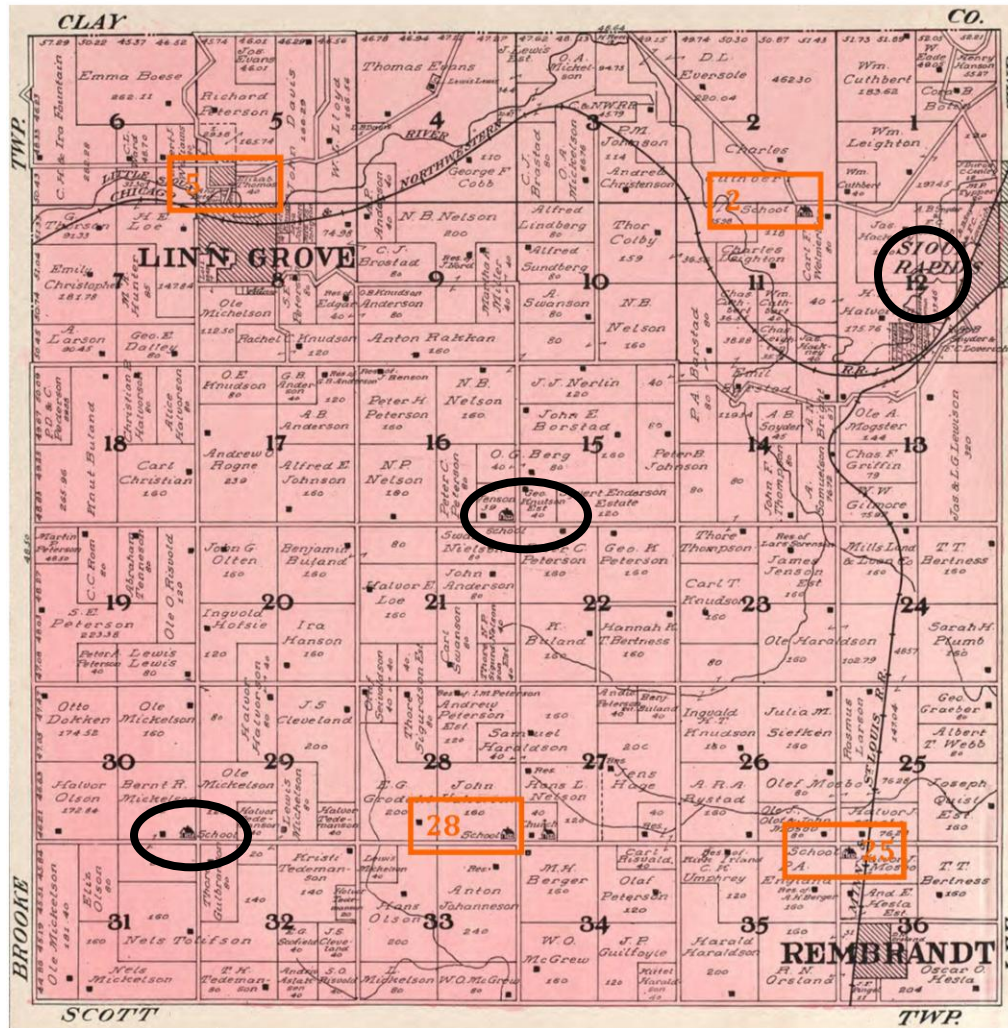
Following is the list of teachers.

- Elk School No. 3 - Gwen Pelton of Aurelia
- Elk School No. 7 - Gwen Pelton Johnson of Sioux Rapids
- Elk School No. 9 - Mrs. Harry Esple of Alta
- Grant School No. 4 - Mrs. Arnold Wunder, Storm Lake
- Grant School No. 5 - Mrs. Wilma Jones, Albert City
- Lincoln School No. 7 - Ardyce Johnson of Sioux Rapids
- Maple Valley School No. 6 - Helen Noehoff of Storm Lake
- Maple Valley School No. 7 - Mrs. Roy Fethkener of Storm Lake
- Maple Valley School No. 8 - Mrs. Henrietta Sorenson of Storm Lake
- Pleasant View Independent School - Mrs. Sadie Adams Baldwin of Lauren



## Barnes Township - General

### Barnes Township - School Houses in the early 1870's - Sections 2, 5, 25, and 28



Source: 1908 Standard Atlas, Buena Vista County, Iowa

- Section 2 - Cuthbert School (District No. ??)
- Section 5 - School (District No. ??)
- Section 16 - Barnes Center School (District No. ??)
- Section 25 - Dahl School (District No. 7)
- Section 28 - Brown School (District No. 6)

#### Other Confirmed School Locations

- Section 12 - First School house in Buena Vista County (Absorbed by Sioux Rapids Independent School)
- Section 30 - Mickelson School

#### Other Unconfirmed Schools and Locations (list is not complete / may be one of above)

- Section ?? - School (District No. 2)
- Section ?? - School (District No. 4)

## Barnes Township - General

Sioux Rapids Bulletin-Press (July 28, 1955)

### School History Based on Pioneers' Recollections

The history of the school is based only on incomplete records and the recollections of the few pioneers still living. The following facts have been gained chiefly from Andreas Atlas, 1876 page 374; Past and Present of Buena Vista County, 1909, pages 67-69; from the County History and from talks with Mrs. Fairchild and Mrs. Stella Torkelson, whose families came to the county in the middle or late sixties. The present school records have also aided considerably, in drawing up this history.

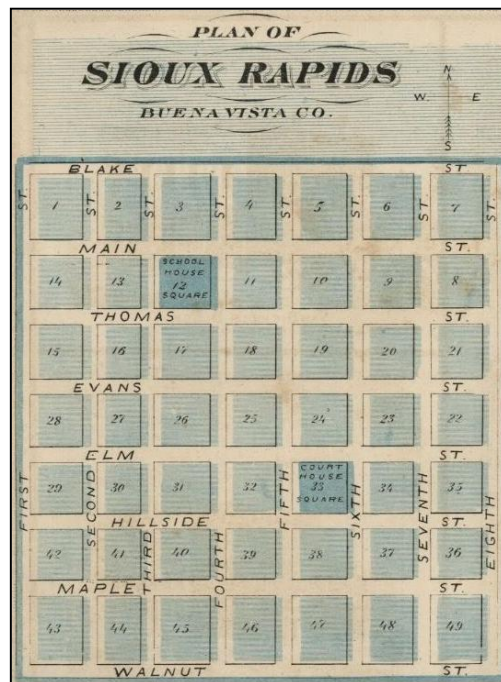
Apparently one of the ideals of the early settlers was to establish schools. The first party of settlers to arrive consisted of Abner Bell, a bachelor, and two other families who came in 1856. **The history states that the first school house was erected in 1856 but it seems more likely it was built a year later. It stood on section twelve near the present location of the Lutheran Church. Some reports state it was moved once to a point further south. This building was used as a school house until the county was divided into townships in 1869.**

Children of the settlers had a long distance to walk in order to go to school. John Clough and Tony Torkelson were two of the pupils there. One woman tells of an exciting experience. She was too young to be a regular pupil but had gone with her brother one day to visit. A band of Indians on horseback suddenly rode up to the building, causing a panic among the pupils. Some boys crawled up among the rafters to hide. The woman teacher and other children ran in all directions. The little Torkelson girl ran to the Storla log cabin a short distance away where she crept under the bed for safety. In a little while the Indians came to the cabin with some demand but after Mr. Storla gave them tobacco they left without causing further trouble. This incident probably occurred in 1865 or 1866.

In 1858, two years after the arrival of the first settlers, the county was organized and an election was held in Sioux Rapids which was the first settlement and so became the county seat. The records show that fifteen votes were cast, and the statement was made that Mordecai S. Jameson received seven votes for the county office of superintendent of common schools. Another statement said that in 1862 George Struble, Oliver Moore and Daniel Farham came from New York. Moore and Farham came to teach school and were connected with the educational progress of the county for a short time, but Farham soon left. Moore and Jameson were involved in political troubles a few years later and disappeared. If they were ever actual teachers, their influence on the morals of their pupils could not have been very good. No one seems to have remember the names of any of the other teachers in this early school.

**About 1870 there was a school house in the woods of Stennerson's grove. It was sometimes called the Clemen's school and was attended by the children of the village.** The teacher stayed at the Struble home. This building was probably there only a short time. When section lines became more distinct, it was moved south of Stennerson's to the section line.

**In 1870 there were 13 schools in the county, two in Barnes township and two in Lee township.** Sara M. Lee, later Mrs. Olney, was an early teacher in one of the Barnes schools. The wages paid were \$30, \$33.50, and \$35 according to the grade of qualifications of the teachers. **In 1870 a school house was erected on block eleven of Sioux Rapids, where the Methodist church now stands.** At first there was only one room with a big entry. It was a Lee township school and apparently only the pupils living on the Lee township side of First street, where highway 71 now is, were permitted to attend. If a dozen other children so unfortunate as to live in houses just across the street on the Barnes side of the boundary were required to attend **the Barnes school on the Cuthbert hill a mile or more northwest of town.** A Miss Banteena Hanson was one teacher in the Cuthbert school.



## Barnes Township - General

---

**In 1878 the one room town school was becoming too crowded for comfort. It was proposed to organize an independent district.** It seems that the town included part of Barnes township laying across the river but the residents there objected. The townspeople determined to have their own way so they sent their proceedings to the Legislature and had them legalized and published as law before the Barnes people knew what was happening. So the independent school district took in a part of Lee and Barnes townships.

Storm Lake Pilot (March 15, 1871)

### **District-Township of Barnes**

#### **DAHL'S SCHOOL HOUSE, March 11, 1871**

The electors of the District-Township of Barnes assembled pursuant to previous notice.

The meeting was called to order by the Secretary.

The President being absent, Gustave Gilbert was appointed President pro tem of the meeting.

O. O. Brown moved that a tax of seven mills on the dollar be levied on the taxable property of the District-Township for school house purposes.

Ole Johnson moved to amend by striking out "seven mills" and inserting "ten mills," which was agreed to and the motion as amended was decided in the affirmative.

On motion of Ole Johnson a tax of three mills on the dollar was levied on the taxable property of the District-Township for library purposes.

On motion of Thomas Evans the Board of Directors of the District-Township was authorized to **sell the school house in Sub-District No. 8** for not less than \$150 cash, and not less than \$300 on time, the purchaser, if the house is sold on time, to give good security.

The District-Township Treasurer presented the following statement of the financial affairs of the District-Township since March 12, 1870. and on motion of Ole Johnson the same was accepted and approved:

Statement of the Treasurer of the District-Township of Barnes, from March 12, 1870, to March 11, 1871.

#### TEACHERS' FUND.

Cash on hand March 12, 1870	\$307.50
Received from County Treasurer	\$80.07
Total	\$387.57
Paid out on orders during the year	\$384.19
Cash on hand March 11, 1871	\$3.38

#### SCHOOL HOUSE FUND.

Cash on hand March 12, 1870	\$142.98
Received from County Treasurer	\$18.33
Total	\$161.31
Paid out on orders during the year	\$122.25
Cash on hand March 11, 1871	\$39.06

#### CONTINGENCY FUND.

Cash on hand March 12, 1870	\$3.02
Received from County Treasurer	\$5.15
Total	\$8.17
Paid out on orders during the year	\$8.17

#### LIBRARY FUND.

Received from County Treasurer	\$3.71
Cash on hand March 11, 1871	\$3.71

G. Gilbert. Treasurer District-Township of Barnes.

On motion of O. O. Brown the minutes were read and approved. On motion of Ole Johnson the meeting adjourned. G. Gilbert, President pro tem., O. H. Dahl, Secretary.



## Barnes Township - General

---

Storm Lake Pilot (March 15, 1871)

### **School Matters in Barnes Township**

Sioux Rapids, Iowa, March 11, 1871.

*Editors Pilot:* According to the request in The PILOT of the 8th ..., I herewith send you a copy of the proceedings of the meeting of the electors of the District-Township of Barnes, held on the second Saturday of March 1871.

Our meeting was poorly attended. Out of thirty-five or forty voters In the Township, only seven attended the meeting. It seems that the people take no interest to school matters. They will stay at home, letting a few voters attend the District meetings, and then after the taxes are levied, they will complain that the taxes are too high. So long as the people neglect to attend important school meetings, just so long will they have poor schools and inferior and badly furnished school houses. Even the President of our Board of Directors failed to put in an appearance, although the meeting was held almost at his own door.

The following gentlemen were elected Sub-Directors of our Township for the ensuing year: Sub-District No. 1, Thomas Evans; No. 2, \_\_\_\_\_ Luther, No. 3, failed to elect a Sub-Director, No. 4, \_\_\_\_\_, No. 5, \_\_\_\_\_.

The following Sub-Districts have levied a special tax for school house purposes: Sub-District No. 1, five mills on the dollar; Sub-District No. 4, five mills on the dollar.

Yours, Respectfully, O. H. Dahl, Secretary, District-Township of Barnes.

Storm Lake Pilot (January 31, 1872)

### **Three Schools in Barnes Township**

From Sioux Rapids

We have now only **three schools in Barnes Township**, and I truly hope they may all prove successful.

How important that we as teachers should faithfully discharge our every duty, and impress upon the minds of the entrusted to our care the great importance of education.

M. F. S.

Storm Lake Pilot (March 27, 1872)

### **School Matters in Barnes Township**

Barnes Twp, Iowa, March 23, 1873

*Editors Pilot:* At a School meeting of the Electors of Barnes township, held on the 9th last, a tax of ten mills on the dollar was voted for school house fund; it was also voted that four school houses be built in the township the ensuing year.

The total indebtedness of Barnes township, is \$1,687.28 which is not so very bad when we are how some other townships are situated. On the 18th last, the newly elected Board of Directors met pursuant to law; the following gentlemen are the officers of the school Board for the ensuing year: President, J . Q. Wilson; Secretary, Q. H. Dent; Treasurer, O. O. Brown.

The Board of Directors levied a tax of six mills on the dollar for teachers fund and five mills for contingent fund. The teachers wages was fixed at \$35 per month for first class, and \$40 for second class, which I am afraid is so low that it will be impossible to get teachers to teach our schools.

As usual, the people of Barnes township would rather stay at home than attend the annual school meeting, and when the business is transacted by the few who attended, they raise a hoe and cry that taxes are too high. Out of 36 voters in the township, only ten or twelve attended the annual township meeting.

This year the cry is that they will build too many school houses in the township, and run the township into the mud. There may be some foundation for this, but those men who are now gambling the most about

## Barnes Township - General

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the building of the school houses, are those who remained at home, so that I cannot see any good reason why they should complain; they might have turned out and prevented the meeting from voting to build so many houses. However, I have confidence in our Board or Directors, that they will look to the best interests of the township, and not suffer it to be run into such a debt as many of the townships of this county are at the present time.

I think that two school houses are all that is necessary to be built this year, as in the other two districts which have asked for school houses, there are only a very few children, and in one of those sub-districts the children can easily attend school in another sub-district in the township; the farthest they would have to go would be between one and two miles.

If we build only two school houses, we can pay for them this year and consequently get them built at low figures, and not have to pay speculators three or four prices, and in the same time we can build just as many school houses as we would if we rushed into a bottomless indebtedness, which would take years to pay off, and in the meantime get our orders so low that they would sell at ten cents on a dollar, as I saw orders of one township sell for last winter.

Yours. respectfully, Common School

Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune (February 12, 1914)

### FROM BARNES TOWNSHIP

#### Meeting Held There January 31 Does Not Favor School Consolidation

A. F. A. Rokkan, one of the well known citizens of Barnes township, was in the city last Friday and handed us the following resolutions which were passed at a meeting held at the Barnes Central school on January 31. There has been some talk of school consolidation up there and it seems from the tenor of the resolutions that at least not all of the citizens of the township favor the idea. This newspaper gives space to the matter, not as its opinion, but at the request of the citizens of Barnes township. The Pilot-Tribune is not prepared to say that consolidation would be the thing for Barnes nor has it the information to say that consolidation would be a good thing, although we believe it has been a good thing at Marathon and Newell. The resolutions follow:

Be it resolved. That the rural school system of Iowa, is the great artery to maintain the rural life and prosperity amongst the people therefore we love and admired the rural school with the legally established school districts with a local self government. Whether the school house is built on the hills or in the valley, it will in the future as it has in the past, inspired the young with intelligence and energy to fight and maintain our existence better than in states where there is no established rural school system.

And, whereas, the rural school house has always been open to farmers' meetings, literary societies and other social gatherings both for social development and pleasure and the rural school houses have at times been the only place for the farmers to come together to hear the gospel for the spiritual uplifting, and all is now again to be laid back into the wilderness.

And whereas, history proves that in states where a proper rural school system exists there the rural population have had intelligence and energy to maintain themselves and homes in panics and droughts, when railroads, banks and business in general have gone into bankruptcy therefore we hold that the rural school on the hills and in the valleys with their local self government have become a necessity to the stability and maintenance of rural life and therefore have also become a necessity to the life of the whole nation.

And whereas, it is a known fact, brother farmer, that when you consolidate the school districts with the incorporated town you will find a floating population in any town with no visible property that willingly will vote a mortgage on your property for fifteen or maybe twenty-five years whether you are willing or not and when you become consolidated to such districts, your requirement will be to pay taxes and vote for the man that is dictated to you by a coterie to manage your affairs so you become merely a voting cattle as the town always has a ring that is well organized and well greased to dictate to you what you must do because brother farmer is always disorganized.

## **Barnes Township - General**

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And whereas, for that reason we are both surprised and indignant to hear that highest officers of the rural school system of the state have seen fit to start a campaign through the state as to our idea will undermine and destroy the rural school districts that the farmers of Iowa inherit with the inheritance of the constitution and to induce the rural people to consolidate with the independent town districts thereby increasing the already overburdened taxation.

And whereas, we will call the attention of the state superintendent to the facts that Russia and Italy have as great institution of learning for the masses as any of the most enlightened countries, but no legally organized school system for the masses and hence ignorance, misery and starvation are the prevailing conditions among the rural population in these countries, we therefore ask the school superintendent of Iowa, has he started to lay that foundation for the same condition in Iowa? We ask the question.

And whereas, we recognize that if the state superintendent wins his campaign for consolidation there will be many hundreds or even thousands of costly school houses immediately to be erected, forcing the people to mortgage the generation that U yet to be born.

And whereas, our national currency is to be reorganized and currency to be issued on other than national bonds, therefore we recognize it will be far more profitable for the national banks to buy forty or fifty million Iowa school house bonds at five per cent interest than to buy national bonds of 3 per cent interest as a currency base; and it is a fact that Iowa school house bonds will be as gilt edge as national bonds.

And whereas, we are greatly surprised that our state superintendent has time to leave his official duties at his office to carry on such a campaign as above referred to, when state. superintendents in the past seldom have had time to deliver a speech of advice and encouragement to the young teachers' assembly at the county institute or at teachers' meetings at other times of the year and where as our state superintendent ought to study article IX, section 12, of the constitution of Iowa, before he goes too far.

And whereas, this meeting takes the opportunity to announce to the prospective candidates representing this county at the capital next winter that if it is agreeable for them to seek our votes they must make the appointment with us at Barnes Center school house not for hand shaking but to express their views on the necessary legislation that will be beneficial to the people of our state and any candidate who don't consider it necessary to make such appointment with us will not be considered.

Adopted at the mass meeting held at Barnes Center January 31, 1914

Sioux Rapids Bulletin-Press (February 11, 1960)

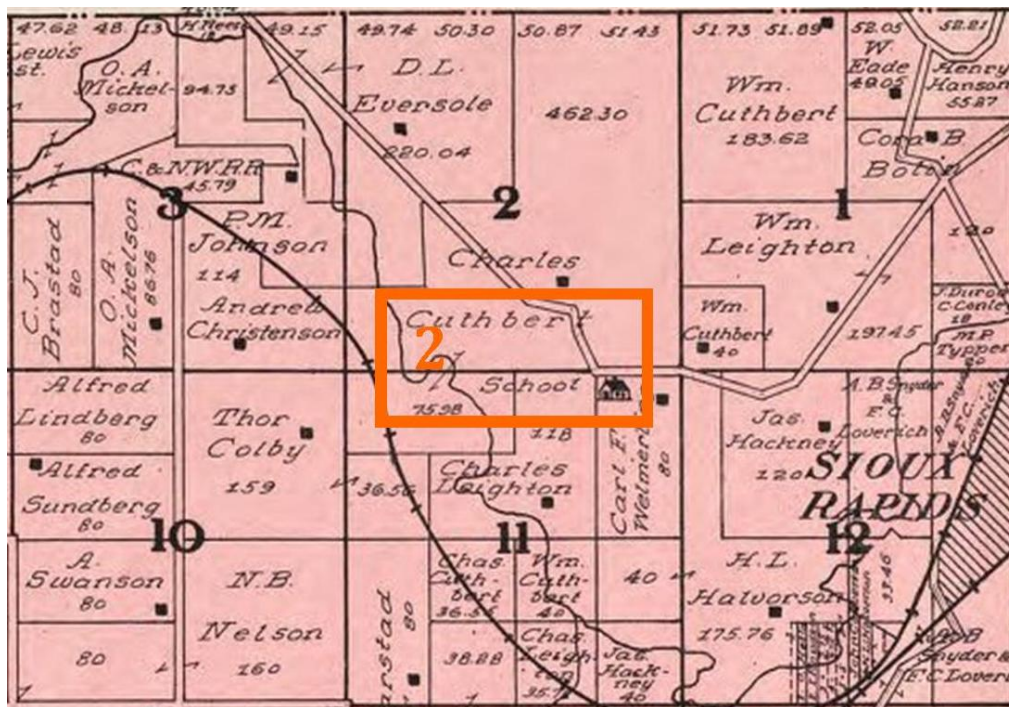
### **HISTORY OF SCHOOLS AT REMBRANDT IS CLUB PROGRAM**

The story of schools in the Rembrandt community was reviewed at the Rembrandt Woman's club Friday afternoon at the home of Miss Hazel Barnes.

The nearest school to what Is now Rembrandt, was built in 1868 half-a-mile north of Rembrandt and was known as the Dahl school. This was the third school in the county. Later, about 30 years, when Rembrandt was started there began to be a need for a school in the town itself, and when there were 25 children in town, action was taken so the children did not need to go to country schools. Two small houses were moved to town to meet this need.

Then came the cement block school house to be replaced in a few years with the present building. Since the establishment of the four year high school in 1918, five hundred young people have received diplomas.

## Barnes Township - Cuthbert School



Sioux Rapids Bulletin-Press (July 28, 1955)

### School History Based on Pioneers' Recollections

In 1870 there were 13 schools in the county, two in Barnes township and two in Lee township. Sara M. Lee, later Mrs. Olney, was an early teacher in one of the Barnes schools. The wages paid were \$30, \$33.50, and \$35 according to the grade of qualifications of the teachers. In 1870 a school house was erected on block eleven of Sioux Rapids, where the Methodist church now stands. At first there was only one room with a big entry. It was a Lee township school and apparently only the pupils living on the Lee township side of First street, where highway 71 now is, were permitted to attend. **If a dozen other children so unfortunate as to live in houses just across the street on the Barnes side of the boundary were required to attend the Barnes school on the Cuthbert hill a mile or more northwest of town. A Miss Banteena Hanson was one teacher in the Cuthbert school.**

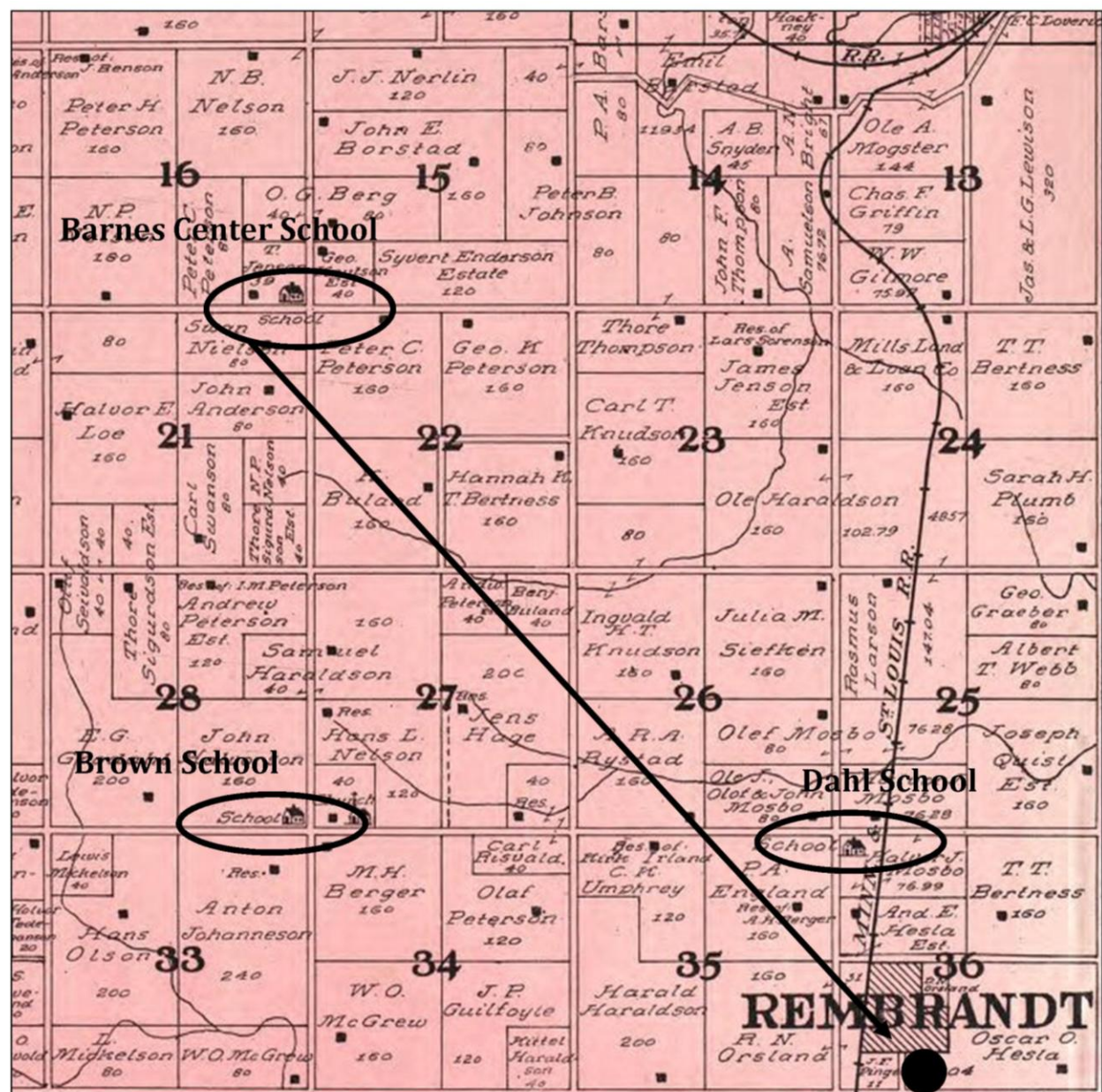


## Barnes Township - Brown School (District No. 6)

Sioux Rapids Republican Press (September 30, 1904)

### Barnes Center School House moved to Rembrandt

The Addymen Bros , of Storm Lake, moved the **Center school house** to Rembrandt last week to be used for the south half of District No. 7.



#### Barnes Center School House - Section 16

- A new Barnes Center school house was built in 1904 to replace the old building. The old school house (known as the Zinser school house) was moved to Rembrandt to serve the south half of school District No. 7.
- In 1910, the Zinser school house was sold and moved to Truesdale. This was done to accommodate the moving of both the Dahl school building and the Body school building to the Rembrandt school site.
- 1910 was the year the Rembrandt Independent School District was established.

## Barnes Township - Brown School (District No. 6)

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Storm Lake Pilot (November 29, 1907)

### Rembrandt News

Miss Maud Lamb began her winter term at school at the Zinser school house south of town.

Storm Lake Pilot (December 27, 1907)

### Rembrandt News

The Zinser school taught by Miss Maud Lamb rendered a very appropriate Christmas program last Monday evening.

The Rembrandt school is enjoying a week's vacation.

Buena Vista Vidette (July 8, 1910)

### Rembrandt News

J. K. Haroldson director of District No. 7 attended a meeting of the school board of Barnes township at the Barnes Center school house Friday afternoon.

Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune - October 7, 1910

### New School South of Town to be Moved to Rembrandt

The new school building one mile south of town is to be moved to where the Zinser school now stands and which will be sold at public auction October 15th. The new outbuildings at district No. 1 will also be included in the sale.

Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune (November 11, 1910)

### Zinser School Building moved to Truesdale

W. L. Wilcox moved the Zinser school building, which he had purchased at the sale, into Truesdale, Saturday.

Sioux Rapids Bulletin-Press (January 20, 1949)

### Rembrandt Pioneer, Oscar O. Hesla, 83, Dies Following Fall

Oscar O. Hesla, 83, one of Rembrandt's oldest residents, died Friday, Jan. 14, at the St. Joseph's hospital in Sioux City, after receiving a broken hip in a fall at his home last week.

.....  
With his marriage and the birth of his children, his interest in the development of the community increased. When the railroad came to Rembrandt, he helped with its building. **When Barnes Center built a new school house, the directors gave the old building to Rembrandt for its first schoolhouse. It was through Mr. Hesla's interest and efforts that the building was accepted and moved. Miss Ada Whitney of Storm Lake was its first teacher.**

## Barnes Township - Brown School (District No. 6)

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Sioux Rapids Bulletin-Press (August 5, 1981)

### Barnes Center Students



The above photo is of students attending the Barnes Center School. It belonged to Hilma Swanson, now deceased, and is presently in the possession of Floyd Mangold. The identification list was lost and Floyd would like to have the names of the above students.

Students of the Barnes Center School have been identified through the efforts of Effie Reng, Nolan Nelson and Carl Johnson.

Front, left to right: Amanda Thompson, Opal Enderson, Agnes Johnson and Tilfred Knudson.

Second row: Carl Enderson, Torris Bertness, Edmond Johnson, Isabelle Knudson, Alma Oquist, Elmer Enderson, Randa Jensen and Emily Swanson.

Third row: Hulda Swanson, Effie Reng, Mina Enderson, Nettie Berg (teacher), L. Olson, Julia Johnson, Millie Knudson and Theodore Jensen.



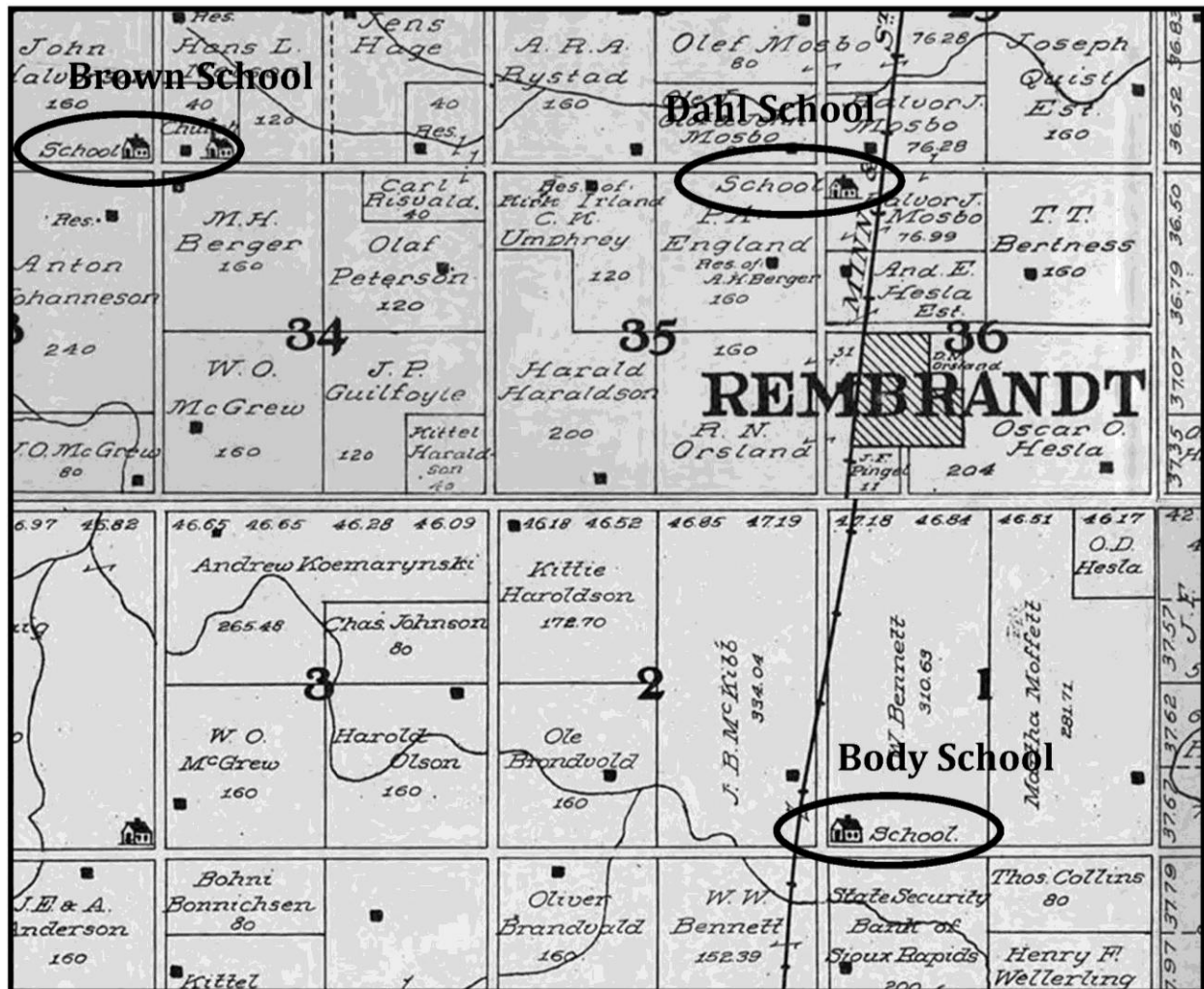
## Barnes Township - Brown School (District No. 6)

Sioux Rapids Press (August 16, 1888)

### Notice to Contractors

Notice is hereby given that proposals for the **erection of a school house and out-houses in Sub-District No. 6, in the district township of Barnes**, in the county of Buena Vista, will be received by the undersigned at his office in Linn Grove, (where plans and specifications may be seen) until 1 o'clock p. m., Sept. 8, 1888, at which time the contract will be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder. The board reserve the right to reject any or all bids.

O. U. JOHNSON, Sec'y of Board of Directors



### Brown School House (Barnes Township Sub-District No. 6 School)

- The original Brown school house pre-dates 1871. A new school building was constructed in about 1903. In 1908, the school was furnished with an organ. In 1913, a bubbling fountain was installed at the school. County Supt. Moeller thought it to be undoubtedly the first sanitary drinking fountain to be installed in any rural school in the country. In 1915, the school house was purchased by Little Sioux Valley Lutheran Church. In 1920, the school building was sold to the highest bidder.



## Barnes Township - Brown School (District No. 6)

### Brown School Teacher Contract - Signed March 29, 1890

**CONTRACT BETWEEN TEACHER AND DIRECTOR.**  
**STATE OF IOWA.**

**Article of Agreement,** Made and entered into between Belle Brown  
a School Teacher, of the County of Buena Vista  
and State of Iowa, and O. E. Hester  
Sub-Director of Sub-District No. 6 of District Township of Barnes  
in the County of Buena Vista and State of Iowa, and his successors in office.

THE SAID Belle Brown hereby agrees to teach the Public School in said Sub-District, for the term of thirteen weeks, commencing on the 14 day of April 1890, and that he will faithfully and impartially govern and instruct the children and youth who may attend the same, that he will refrain from every species of profanity and improper conduct while in their presence, will institute no cruel or unusual mode of punishment in the administration of discipline, and will promptly report to the said O. E. Hester Sub-Director aforesaid, or to his successors in office, the names of all Scholars who shall be guilty of gross immorality or a persistent violation of the regulations of said School.

THE SAID Belle Brown further agrees, that he will strictly conform to the Rules and Regulations established by the Board of Directors, of the District Township aforesaid, for the government of said School, and will faithfully perform all the duties required of him by the provisions of the School Laws of the State of Iowa. The said O. E. Hester Sub-Director, as aforesaid, or his successors in office, in the name and in the behalf of the District Township aforesaid, hereby agrees to keep the School House, in which said School is to be taught, in good repair, and to see that it is furnished with the necessary fuel and appendages for the comfort and convenience of the pupils, and to pay the said Belle Brown for thirty (30) DOLLARS per month of four weeks, of five school days each: PROVIDED, That in case the said Belle Brown should be dismissed from said School by the said O. E. Hester or his successors in office, for gross immorality, or a violation of any of the stipulations of this contract, or in case his Certificate should be revoked by the County Superintendent, he shall not be entitled to compensation from and after such revocation.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, We have hereunto subscribed our names, this 29 day of March 1890

Belle Brown TEACHER.  
O. E. Hester SUB-DIRECTOR.

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED, That the above contract was approved by the Board of Directors, of District Township of Barnes in the County of Buena Vista and State of Iowa, this 29th day of March 1890

ATTEST: W. O. McGraw PRESIDENT.

## Barnes Township - Brown School (District No. 6)

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**BROWN SCHOOL - CLASS OF 1898** — Front Row: Marie Hage, Willie Peterson, Peter Engebretson, Clara Peterson. Second Row: Bennie Peterson, Mary Grodahl, Conrad Peterson. Third Row: Henry Nelson, Magnus Grodahl, Ollie Peterson, Gunnar Grodahl, Sigmund Hage, Christ Engebretson, Lillie Hage, Guncrim Gulbranson, Pete Hage, Einar Engebretson.

Source: Rembrandt Alumni Album, 1919-1979

Sioux Rapids Press (March 8, 1900)

### School Election

Sam Haraldson got all the votes but three for sub-director in district No. 6. He takes interest in the school and is appreciated by all.

Sioux Rapids Press (May 7, 1903)

### New Brown School

The Brown school will close Friday of this week on account of building a new school house in place of the old one.

The Rembrandt News (June 18, 1903)

### New Brown School

The carpenters started work at the Brown school on Monday of this week.

## **Barnes Township - Brown School (District No. 6)**

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Sioux Rapids Republican Press (April 30, 1908)

### **New Organ**

The school organ for the Brown school arrived Saturday. It is an exceptionally good organ. All the parents of the district are invited to visit the school, and we urge them to do so soon as there are only five weeks of this term remaining.

Sioux Rapids Republican Press (September 8, 1911)

### **School Improvements**

New concrete steps and floor on the porch has been added to the improvements this week of the Brown school house.

Sioux Rapids Republican Press (January 12, 1912)

### **New Clock and Maps**

The Brown school is rejoicing over an addition in school fixtures as a new years present consisting of a handsome regular clock and a fine set of school maps.

Sioux Rapids Republican Press (September 4, 1913)

### **Best Rural School Display at Alta Fair**

Word was received here Tuesday from Prof. H. C. Moeller, County Superintendent of Storm Lake to the effect that Miss Sarah K. E. Jeusen received five dollars personally for having won the first premium for the best rural school display entered at the Alta Fair and the school has over twenty dollars coming to them for accredited work. The premium money, with the supervision of the Superintendent, will be properly expended for useful purposes in the school, Barnes District No 6.

Most of the schools in this township opened the fall term Monday, Sept. 8th.

Sioux Rapids Republican Press (November 27, 1913)

### **Bubbling Fountain Installed**

A Waterbury Sanitary bubbling fountain was installed in the Brown school last week, having been purchased with the prize money earned on the various exhibits entered at the Alta Fair last summer. A letter of congratulation was recently received from Prof. Woodruff, State inspector of rural schools in which he states that he is pleased that the money has been expended for a drinking fountain and hopes that it may serve as an educator to neighboring school districts and result in much good in that way. County Supt. Moeller thinks that this is undoubtedly the first Sanitary drinking fountain to be installed in any rural school in the country.

Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune (March 10, 1916)

### **Brown School House Debt Paid In Full**

The L. S. V. (Little Sioux Valley) Ladies' Aid society met on Thursday of last week with Mrs. Sam Enderson residing southwest of Rembrandt. Notwithstanding the cold weather the attendance was very good. The treasurer reported the financial standing to be in very good condition. It was decided that at the next meeting the members should pay one year's dues in advance in order that the debt incurred in buying the Brown school building last year would be paid in full.

## **Barnes Township - Brown School (District No. 6)**

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Sioux Rapids Republican Press (January 15, 1920)

### **School House for Sale**

The school house known as "Brown school house," one mile north and two miles west of Rembrandt, will be sold to the highest bidder for cash. Bids to be received up to Jan. 21, 1920, by A. O. Rystad, Rembrandt, Iowa.

Sioux Rapids Republican Press (December 10, 1925)

### **Brown Rural School History** **FORMER BUENA VISTA COUNTY PIONEER DIES** O. Brown

Father of J. N. Brown, president of Concordia college, Morehead, Minnesota, Ole Brown, was called to his eternal rest, Dec. 1st, 1925. He died at his home in Patterson, Calif.

Mr. Brown was born in Telemarken, Norway, on June 12, 1842. As a young man, he came to America and settled at Decorah, Iowa.

In the year 1869, he took a homestead in Buena Vista county, Iowa, and built his home to which he brought his bride and they were married on July 31, 1871 at the little school house still known as the Brown school house.

Rev. O. A. Sauer, a brother of the bride, performed the marriage ceremony. Their first concern was to get a Lutheran church established in their midst for which they labored faithfully, sparing neither time nor money until this was accomplished. It was with a great deal of satisfaction that the few pioneer settlers could gather together in their own house of worship and Rev. G. Gulbrandson was called as pastor for the congregation, which formerly has been served by Rev. O. A. Sauer, located at Fort Dodge, Iowa.

Many travelers stopped to ask the name of this place where the church parsonage, school house and Mr. Brown's home were so cozily grouped at the crossroads, and really seemed like a village and to the tired wayfarer, who shared the cordial hospitality of this home, it was indeed "The house by the side of the road." A haven of comfort and rest.

In 1881, the family moved to Sioux Rapids, Iowa, where for many years, Mr. Brown was engaged as R. R. contractor and supervised the building of many miles of roadbed on the C. & N. W. R. R. Some years were spent at Linn Grove, Iowa and at Donaldson, Minn.

In 1908, Mr. Brown took a trip to Norway to visit his birthplace and he spent about a year abroad with relatives and friends. On his return he decided that he would like to live in California and moved his family there in 1910. On July 31, 1921, Mr. and Mrs. Brown were privileged to celebrate their golden wedding anniversary at their beautiful home in Patterson, Calif. One hundred guests were present and their grandson, Rev. Anion Johnson officiated at this impressive service.

Mr. Brown leaves to mourn his departure, his wife and three children, Dr. J. N. Brown, president of Concordia college, Mrs. O. P. Olson, Patterson, Calif., and Mrs. H. A. Johnson, Greenbush, Minn., besides other more distant relatives.

Rev. Towe preached the funeral sermon using as his text, Romans V: 1-2 - "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God."

This was a favorite chapter with Mr. Brown and he read it over and over again and died clinging to the faith in the Crucified One.

## Barnes Township - Brown School (District No. 6)

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The old Brown School was located on the corner west of Little Sioux Valley Church and parsonage. Picture taken by C.E. Jacoby, Sioux Rapids, IA.

Source: Rembrandt Alumni Album, 1919-1979

Sioux Rapids Bulletin-Press (September 20, 1956)

### Former Teacher Stella Torkelson Dies

(Brown School Barnes Twp and Bennett School Lee Twp)

Mrs. Stella Torkelson, 86, the first white girl to be born in Sioux Rapids, the second child and the fifth in Buena Vista county died Tuesday morning at her home in Sioux Rapids.

She attended the local public schools at first in the two-room building located on the site of the present Methodist church, and later in the new four-room schoolhouse erected on the hill.

In the years of 1888 and 1889 she was a **teacher for three terms in the Brown school then located just west of where the Little Sioux Valley church was located in Barnes township, and for one term in the Bennett school in Lee township, on the corner where the Whitehead farm now is located.**

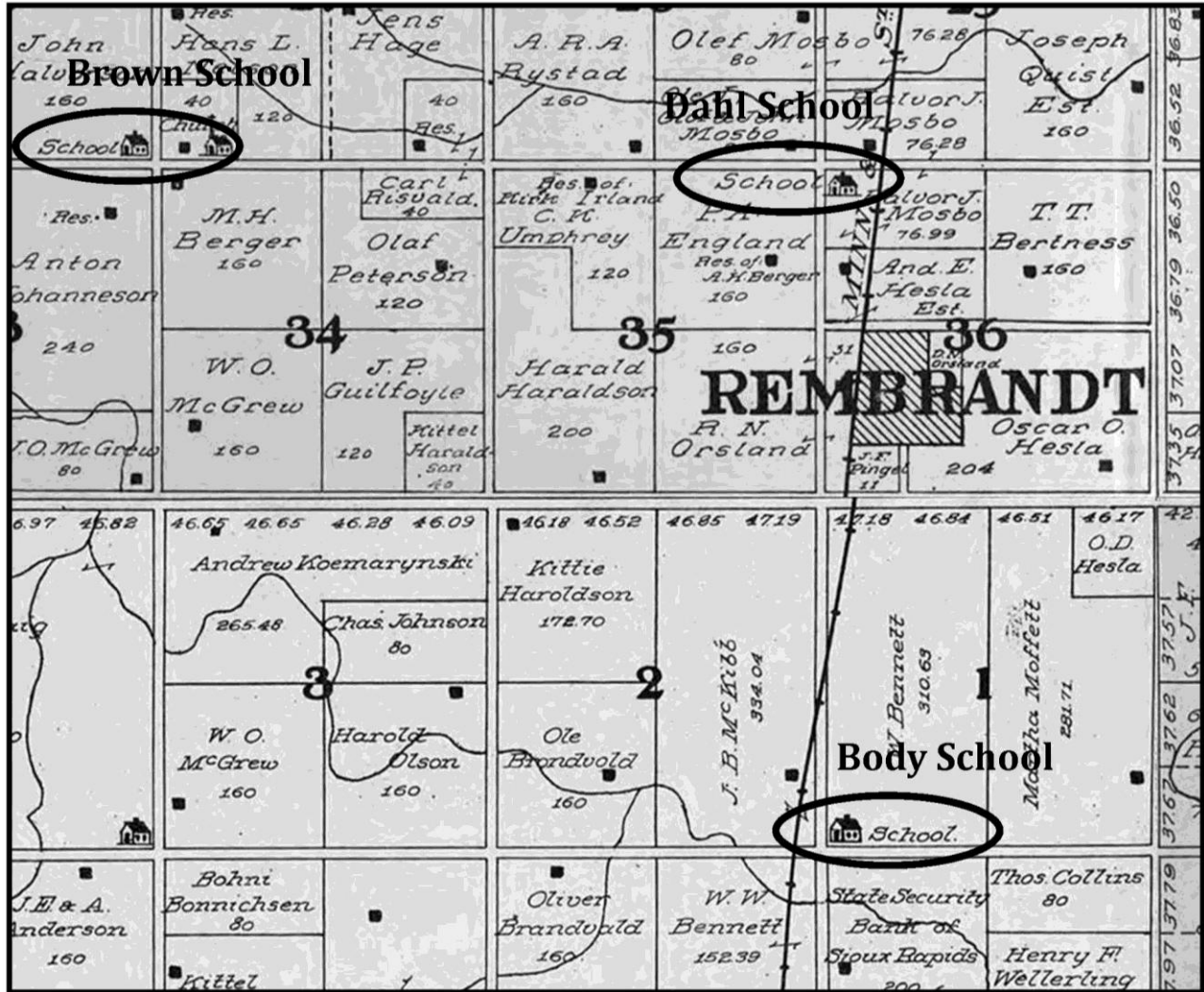


## Barnes Township - Dahl School (District No. 7)

Storm Lake Pilot (December 28, 1870)

### Dahl School Built

The officers for 1869 were: H. Sanderson, Treasurer; Geo. H. Turbett, Auditor; O. H. Storia, Recorder; Ryon Hard, Sheriff; Gardner Clough, Barber Eaton and David Evans, Supervisors. Eaton died in mid-summer and L. F. Clark was appointed to the vacancy. **Two more school houses were built during this year - one at Linn Grove, the other near the residence of O. H. Dahl.**



### Dahl School House (Barnes Township Sub-District No. 7 School)

- The Dahl school building was relocated to the town of Rembrandt in September, 1910, and placed beside the school (Scott No. 1) moved to Rembrandt from south of town.

## Barnes Township - Dahl School (District No. 7)

### Dahl School Teacher Contract - Signed September 30, 1897

**CONTRACT BETWEEN TEACHER AND DIRECTOR.**  
STATE OF IOWA.

Article of Agreement, Made and entered into between Olivia Demundson a School Teacher, of the County of Buena Vista and State of Iowa, and T. J. Newgard

Sub-Director of Sub-District No. 7 of District Township of Barnes in the County of Buena Vista and State of Iowa, and his successors in office.

THE SAID Olivia Demundson hereby agrees to teach the Public School in said Sub-District, for the term of eight weeks, commencing on the 30th day of September, 1897, and that he will faithfully and impartially govern and instruct the children and youth who may attend the same, that he will refrain from every species of profanity and improper conduct while in their presence, will institute no cruel or unusual mode of punishment in the administration of discipline, and will promptly report to the said T. J. Newgard Sub-Director aforesaid, or to his successors in office, the names of all Scholars who shall be guilty of gross immorality or a persistent violation of the regulations of said School.

THE SAID T. J. Newgard further agrees, that he will strictly conform to the Rules and Regulations established by the Board of Directors, of the District Township aforesaid, for the government of said School, and will faithfully perform all the duties required of him by the provisions of the School Laws of the State of Iowa. The said T. J. Newgard Sub-Director, as aforesaid, or his successors in office, in the name and in the behalf of the District Township aforesaid, hereby agrees to keep the School House, in which said School is to be taught, in good repair, and to see that it is furnished with the necessary fuel and appendages for the comfort and convenience of the pupils, and to pay the said Olivia Demundson for her services as Teacher, the sum of Twenty five DOLLARS per month of four weeks, of five school days each: PROVIDED, That in case the said Olivia Demundson should be dismissed from said School by the said T. J. Newgard or his successors in office, for gross immorality, or a violation of any of the stipulations of this contract, or in case his Certificate should be revoked by the County Superintendent, she shall not be entitled to compensation from and after such revocation.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, We have hereunto subscribed our names, this 30th day of September, 1897

Olivia Demundson TEACHER.  
T. J. Newgard SUB-DIRECTOR.

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED, That the above contract was approved by the Board of Directors, of District Township of Barnes in the County of Buena Vista and State of Iowa, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 18\_\_\_\_.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_ PRESIDENT.

Sioux Rapids Press (April 14, 1898)

### Dahl School Spring Term Commences

Miss Sarah Thurgersen commenced teaching the spring term in Dahl school house, last Monday.

Sioux Rapids Press (November 8, 1900)

### Dahl School Library

A basket social was given in Dahl school house for the purpose of organizing a school library.

## Barnes Township - Dahl School (District No. 7)

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Sioux Rapids Press (October 16, 1902)

### Dahl School Session Ending

The Norwegian school, that has been taught by Miss Anna Rystad at the "Dahl school", will close on Friday of this week.

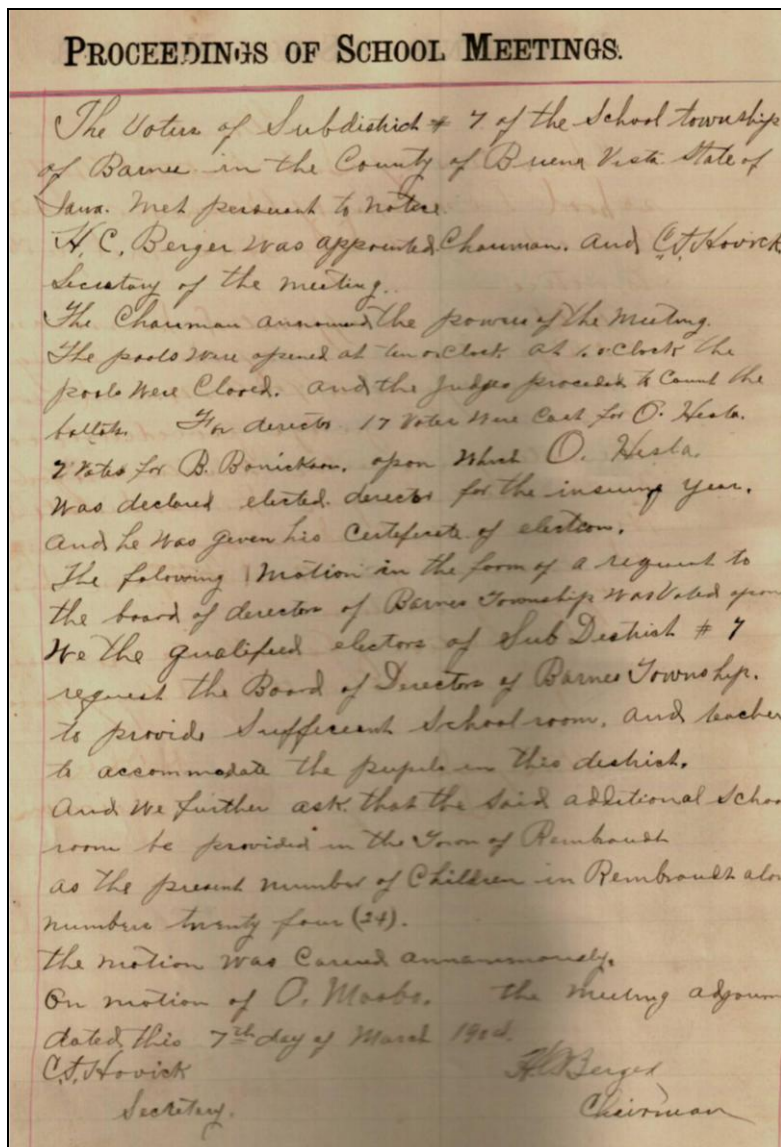
The Rembrandt News (August 27, 1903)

### Norwegian at Dahl School

Norwegian school began on Monday at the Dahl's school with Mr. Hoiriis as teacher.

March 7, 1904

Voters of sub-district No. 7 (Dahl school) of the School township of Barnes requested sufficient school room space in the Rembrandt town school.





## Barnes Township - Dahl School (District No. 7)

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Sioux Rapids Republican Press (April 22, 1904)

### FOUNDING OF SIOUX RAPIDS

Adventures and Personal Experiences of the First Settlers by Nelson Suckow  
(Continued from April 15)

After resting our oxen a day we made a bee line due north. One of the party having a little pocket compass was a great help in finding the right direction. As we had many teams and wagons we made quite a heavy trail over the prairie, which was for a long time afterwards called the "Norwegian Trail." **For many years this trail was the main road to Storm Lake and may still be traced along south of the Dahl school house, leading north and landing at Barnes' grove where Dick Bright now lives.** At the last named point we gazed with eager eyes upon what we had long been looking for, the "promised land", the valley of the Sioux: The first house to be seen was the little log cabin across the river occupied by Jim George, now H. L. Halverson's place. ....

Sioux Rapids Republican Press (November 18, 1904)

### Dahl School Teacher

Miss Martha Batchelor of Storm Lake arrived last Saturday and began teaching at the Dahl school Monday morning.

Storm Lake Paper (September 4, 1906)

### Dahl School Teacher

School opened Monday at the Dahl school house with Miss Celia Hoye as teacher.

Storm Lake Paper (March 15, 1907)

### Dahl School Teacher

Miss Julia Deden closed a very successful term of school Friday. After a week vacation she will commence the spring term at the Dahl school just north of town. We are very pleased to have Miss Deden return to us again.

Storm Lake Paper (March 22, 1907)

### Dahl School Term Ends

Miss Anderson closed a very successful term of school Friday at the Dahl school. She left Friday evening for her home near Sioux Rapids.

Storm Lake Paper (September 4, 1908)

### Dahl Schools Opens for New Term

School opened at the Dahl school house Monday morning with Miss Celia Hoye of Albert City as teacher.

Storm Lake Paper (April 30, 1909)

### Education Facilities could be Improved

School closed in the Dahl school last Friday which is the last until September. The educational facilities in this district could be greatly improved.

## Barnes Township - Dahl School (District No. 7)

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Storm Lake Paper (May 14, 1909)

### Norwegian School opens at Dahl

The Norwegian school of the L. S. V. church opened last Monday in the Dahl school house with Miss Berthilde Berger as teacher.

Storm Lake Paper (June 11, 1909)

### Norwegian School ends at Dahl

Several of the Rembrandt children visited at the Dahl school last Friday it being the last day of a month's session of Norwegian school with Miss Berthilde Berger as teacher.

Storm Lake Paper (October 29, 1909)

### Dahl School Vacation for Three Weeks

The Dahl school closed Friday for a vacation of three weeks after which the Rembrandt school will be opened for a five month's winter term with Miss Gena Refsland of Sioux Rapids as teacher.

Storm Lake Paper (December 3, 1909)

### Dahl School Term Opens

School opened Monday morning at the Dahl school with Mrs. Maynard Olson as teacher.

Storm Lake Paper (April 22, 1910)

### Dahl School Commences Monday

The Dahl school north of town will commence Monday April 25 with Anna Olson as teacher.

Storm Lake Paper (September 10, 1910)

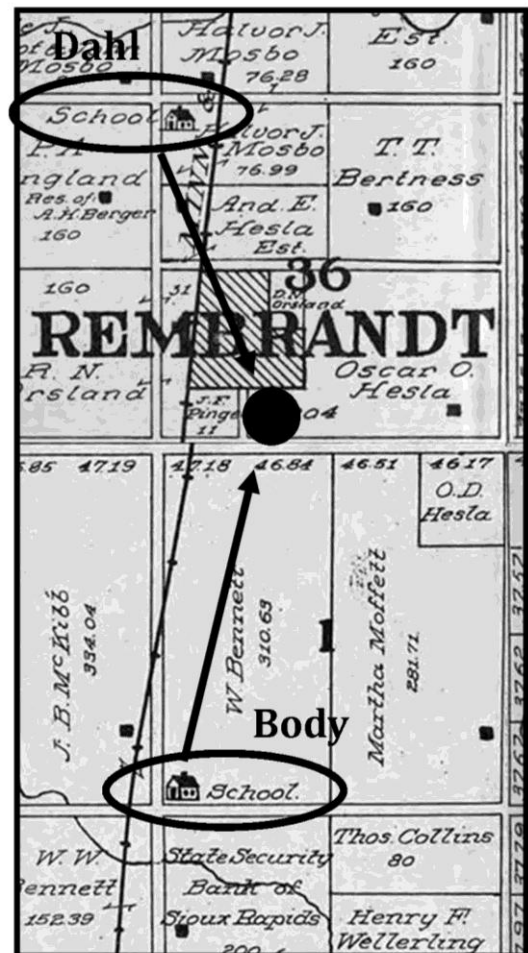
### Dahl School moved to Rembrandt

The Dahl school house was moved into Rembrandt last Wednesday and Thursday, where it will be used for the independent school district of Rembrandt.

Buena Vista Vidette - September 16, 1910

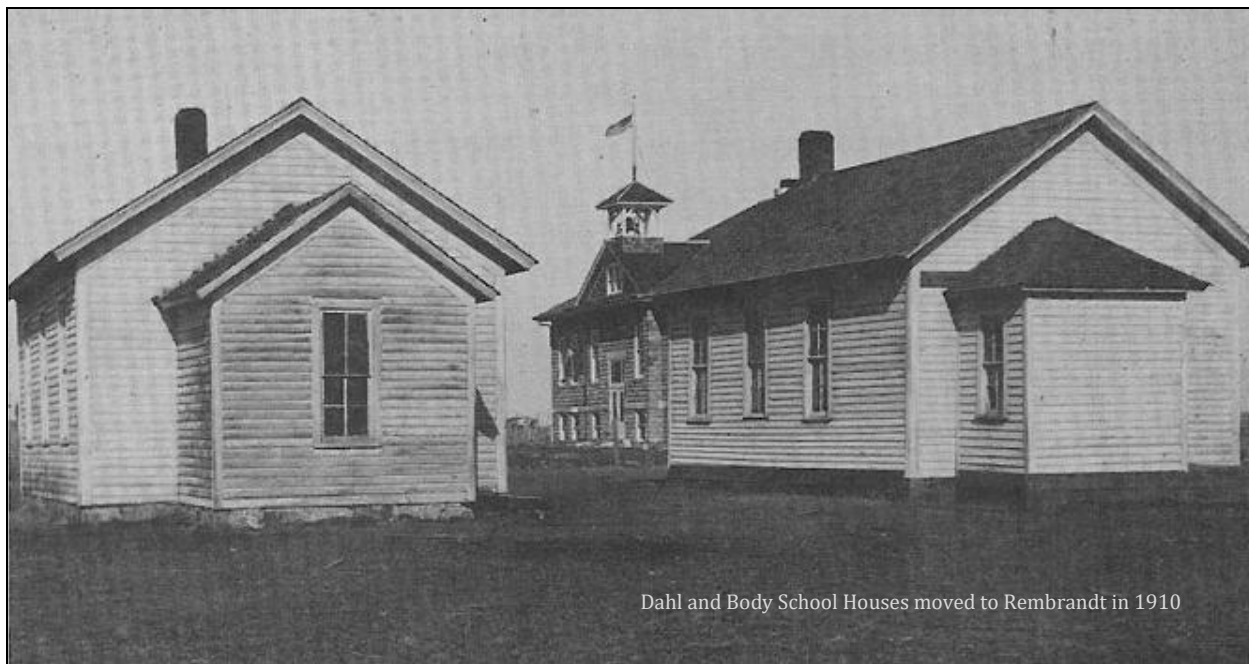
### Dahl Schoolhouse Moved to Rembrandt

The Dahl schoolhouse just north of Rembrandt was moved into town last week and placed beside the one just south of town. The two are being fitted up for school purposes and will accommodate the pupils for the coming year, school opening Monday, September 11 with Miss Laura Beck of Marathon as teacher of the higher grades and Miss Anna Olson of the lower.



## Barnes Township - Dahl School (District No. 7)

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Dahl and Body School Houses moved to Rembrandt in 1910

The Sioux Rapids Bulletin-Press (July 28, 1955)

### **I. B. Christenson Recalls Old Times**

From Bulletin-Press

July 15, 1954

I. B. Christenson, who operated his own store on Main street in Sioux Rapids for 52 years until his retirement in 1937, quietly observed his 94 birthday anniversary at his home here Monday, July 12.

.....

He still recalls the railroad trip on the Illinois Central to Storm Lake from Chicago and then the old stage coach ride from Storm Lake to Sioux Rapids. That was in the year of 1874 and only one home stood between the two towns, at that time called the 8-mile house which of course was made of sod. **The only other building was the Dahl school house which stood close to Rembrandt.**

.....

## Barnes Township - Mickelson School

Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune (February 16, 1906)

### Sociable at Mickelson School

Clara Halverson gave a sociable in the Mickelson school Friday night.

Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune (April 2, 1908)

### Term ends at Mickelson School

Earl Caulkins of Storm Lake closed a successful term of school in the Mickelson school Friday. A short program was rendered by the pupils.

Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune (April 9, 1908)

### Miss Halvorson teaches at Mickelson School

Miss Clara Halvorson commenced her duties in the Mickelson school Monday morning.

Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune (June 3, 1910)

### Norwegian School

Norwegian school opened in the Mickelson school house Monday morning.

Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune (September 9, 1910)

### Fall Term Teachers

The following young ladies have opened their fall term of school. The Risvold school, Miss Clara Olson; Scott Mo. 2, Miss Anna Berger; Brown school, Miss Nora Colby; Mickelson school, Miss Alice Cleaveland; Rokkan school, Miss Hannah Colby; Barnes Center, Miss Grace Anderson.

Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune (July 21, 1911)

### Norwegian School Ends

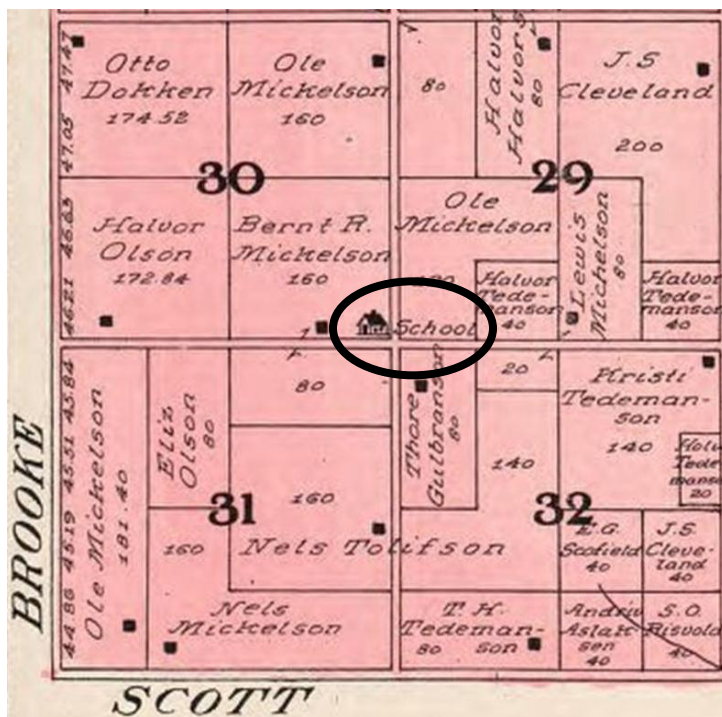
The five weeks session of the Norwegian school at the Mickelson school house closed this week. Next Monday July 21, a new term opens at the Brown school house.

Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune (September 15, 1911)

### Rural Schools Open

Most of the rural schools of the township opened the fall terms September 4 and 11.

Miss Bertha Mickelson, who finished the eighth grade in the Mickelson school last spring, is resuming her studies at the Linn Grove high school this fall. Miss Bertha makes her home with her uncle, Ole Mickelson.





## **Barnes Township - Mickelson School**

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Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune (April 5, 1912)

### **Mickelson School Terms End and Begin**

The Mickelson school will open its spring term of school next Monday morning, April 8, with Miss Clara Halverson of Linn Grove as teacher.

A term of one month of Norwegian school closed last Thursday in the Mickelson school house. Sixteen pupils were in regular attendance.

Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune (June 7, 1912)

### **Teacher Fuller closes School Term**

Miss Viola Fuller closed a successful term of school Friday at the Mickelson school.

Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune (August 16, 1912)

### **Mickelson School House Painted**

The interior of the B. Mickelson school house is being painted and varnished this week. Otto Hauge of Sioux Rapids is having the job.

Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune (October 11, 1912)

### **Miss Nord resumes Teaching**

Miss Viola Nord was able to resume her work as teacher in the Mickelson school after an illness of several weeks.

Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune (December 6, 1912)

### **School Opens**

The Mickelson school opened its winter term of school Monday mornings with Miss Viola Nord as teacher.

Most of the teachers from this vicinity expect to attend the teacher's meeting held in Marathon Friday and Saturday of this week.

Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune (January 31, 1913)

### **Diphtheria closes School**

The Mickelson school opened again last week to resume its work after a short forced vacation owing to diphtheria in the district.

Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune (April 18, 1913)

### **Mickelson School Term Opens**

The Mickelson school opened its spring term of school Monday with Viola Kurd as teacher.

Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune (July 4, 1913)

### **Norwegian Summer School**

The Norwegian summer school in the west district of the L. S. V. congregation opened Monday morning in the Mickelson school house, with Miss Sarah Jensen as teacher.

## **Barnes Township - Mickelson School**

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Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune (July 11, 1913)

### **Norwegian Summer School**

Master Theodore Peterson of West Barnes is spending this month at the home of his uncle Henry Tollifson, while attending Norwegian school in the Mickelson school house.

Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune (May 15, 1914)

### **Brown School Visited**

The Mickelson school visited the Brown school last Friday.

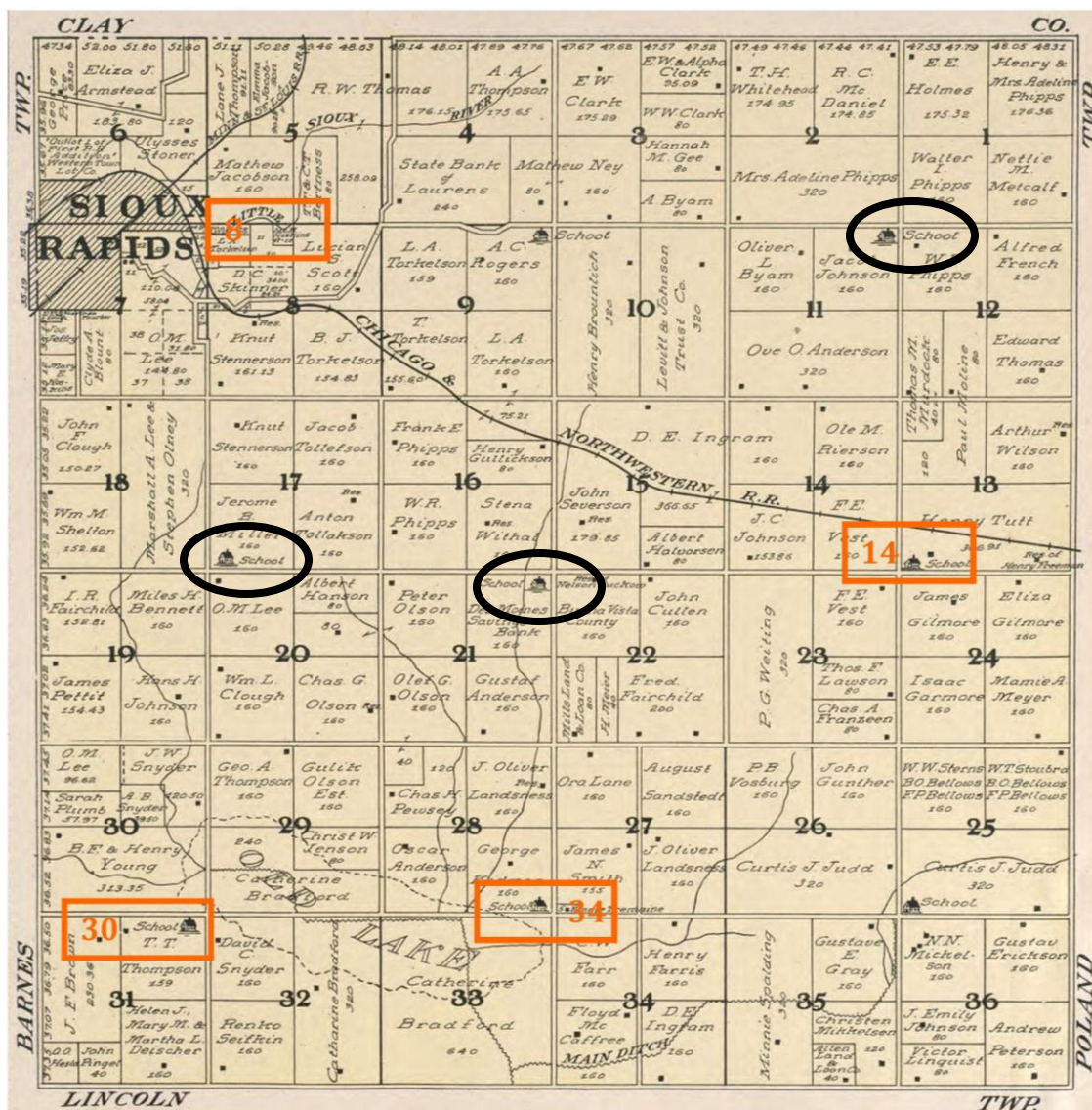
Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune (September 11, 1914)

### **Brandvold teaching at Mickelson School**

Alma Brandvold is teaching the Mickelson school in Barnes this fall.

## Lee Township - General

### Lee Township - School Houses in the early 1870's - Sections 8, 14, 30, and 34



Source: 1908 Standard Atlas, Buena Vista County, Iowa

- Section 8 - School (District No. 3)
- Section 14 - School (District No. ??)
- Section 30 - Grass Lake School (District No. ??)
- Section 34 - Kidman School (District No. ??)

#### Other Confirmed School Locations

- Section 1 - Phipps School (District No. 1)
- Section 17 - Bennett School (District No. 3)
- Section 21 - Lee Center School (District No. 4)

#### Other Unconfirmed Schools and Locations (list is not complete / may be one of above)

- Section ?? - School (District No. ??)

## Lee Township - General

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Storm Lake Pilot (March 29, 1871)

### To Builders - Schools in Lee Township

NOTICE to all concerned: The Board of School Directors of Lee Township, Buena Vista county, Iowa, invite sealed proposals for the building of **two school houses** in accordance with specifications to be found at the office of N. W. Condron, Newell; Chamberlin & Thomas, Storm Lake; and D.C. Thomas, Sioux Rapids. Bids will be received up to Saturday, April 8, 1871, by D. C. Thomas, of Sioux Rapids, Iowa. School houses are to be 26 by 18 feet. Chas. E. Pratt, President, Board of Directors

Storm Lake Pilot (July 12, 1871)

### Notice to Builders - Schools in Lee Township

SEALED proposals will be received by the President or D. C. Thomas up to the 15th day of July, 1871, for furnishing lumber to build **two school houses** in District-Township of Lee, according to plans and specifications to be found at the office of Chamberlin & Thomas of Storm Lake, J. C. Saylor of Newell, and D. C. Thomas of Sioux Rapids. Lumber to be delivered at either Newell or Storm Lake. Also proposals for building, furnishing all materials except lumber and finishing the said school houses. Proposals for furnishing lumber or for building one or both school houses will be received. Parties must be prepared to enter into bond on day of contract. Chas. E. Pratt, President

Sioux Rapids Press (June 23, 1881)

### Lee Township building District No. 2 School House

A school house in Lee township, **district number 2**, is being built by Mr. Ridgway. The building is to be 18x26 when finished.



## Lee Township - Phipps School (District No. 1)

Sioux Rapids Press (February 6, 1890)

### Lyceum at Phipps School House

Quite a number of the neighbors attended the Lyceum at the Phipps school house on Wednesday evening and report an interesting time. They will try to find out at the next meeting who is the happiest, the farmer or the merchant. Guess they are both quite anxious these hard time.

Sioux Rapids Republican (January 20, 1900)

### New Teacher at Phipps School

Miss Alice Skinner is teaching the Phipps school in Lee township. Miss Addle was employed as teacher, but resigned to accept a position in the public school.

Sioux Rapids Press (January 30, 1902)

### Basket Social

There will be a basket social at Phipps school house. District No. 1 Lee Twp.. February 3. Baskets will be sold at auction to the highest bidder. The proceeds will go for library benefits. A program will be rendered by pupils and a free phonograph entertainment will be given. All are cordially invited to attend.

Sioux Rapids Press (June 12, 1902)

### TOE SOCIAL

There will be a Toe Social at the Phipps school house, Lee Twp. Dist. No. 1. Ladies toes will be sold at auction to the highest bidder. A program will be rendered by pupils. Come and enjoy yourselves.

Sioux Rapids Republican (January 22, 1904)

### Shadow Social at Phipps School

A shadow social will be held at the Phipps school house, district No. 1, Lee Twp. on Friday, Jan. 29. A program will be given by the pupils. Ladies please bring baskets. All cordially invited.

Sioux Rapids Republican (October 21, 1904)

### Entertainment at Phipps School

The pupils of District No.1, Lee Township will give an entertainment at the Phipps school house, five miles east of Sioux Rapids, Friday evening Oct. 28. All are cordially invited to attend.

Sioux Rapids Republican (February 17, 1905)

### Basket Social

There will be a basket social at the Phipps school house, district no. 1, Lee township, Wednesday evening Feb. 22, 1905. A program will be given by the pupils. All are cordially invited to attend Edith Byam, Teacher.

47.49 47.46 T. H. Whitehead 174.95	47.44 47.41 R. C. McDaniel 174.85	47.53 47.79 E. E. Holmes 175.32	48.05 48.31 Henry & Mrs. Adeline Phipps 176.36
2		1	
Mrs. Adeline Phipps 320		Walter I. Phipps 160	Nettie M. Metcalf 160
Oliver L. Byam 160	Jacob Johnson 160	School Phipps 160	Alfred French 160
11		12	
Ove O. Anderson 320		Edward Thomas 160	

## Lee Township - Bennett School (District No. 3)

Storm Lake Pilot (April 24, 1878)

### Bennett School Secured

Bautena Hanson has returned from Storm Lake and has secured the Bennett school

Sioux Rapids Press (February 24, 1887)

### District No. 3 School Report

Term report of school district No. 3, Lee township, for winter term, commencing Nov 29, 1886. Whole No. of days taught, 60; Whole No. of pupils enrolled, 20; Total attendance in days. 666, No. days absent, 548; Pupils neither absent nor tardy. Bello Blount, Clyde Blount. Pupils whose average attendance was 75 or more and deportment 90 or more, Willie Clough, Mary Bennett, Alley Bennett, Laura Laudsness, Chas. Spangler, Emma Spangler, Mary Spangler, Oliver Laudsnnss. Prizes awarded to Mary Bennett, Alley Bennett, Belle Blount and Emma Spangler. Average attendance 11.

Term closed Feb. 18, 1887. E. D. Tichenor, Teacher.

Sioux Rapids Press (January 16, 1890)

### Lee Gleanings Congressional Procedure

Those who desire to know something of congressional procedure should attend congress which meets in regular session on Friday evenings at No. 3.

Sioux Rapids Press (April 26, 1900)

### Bennett School Spring Term Opened

Miss Elizabeth Cuthbert opened the spring term of school at the Bennett school Monday.

Sioux Rapids Press (June 6, 1901)

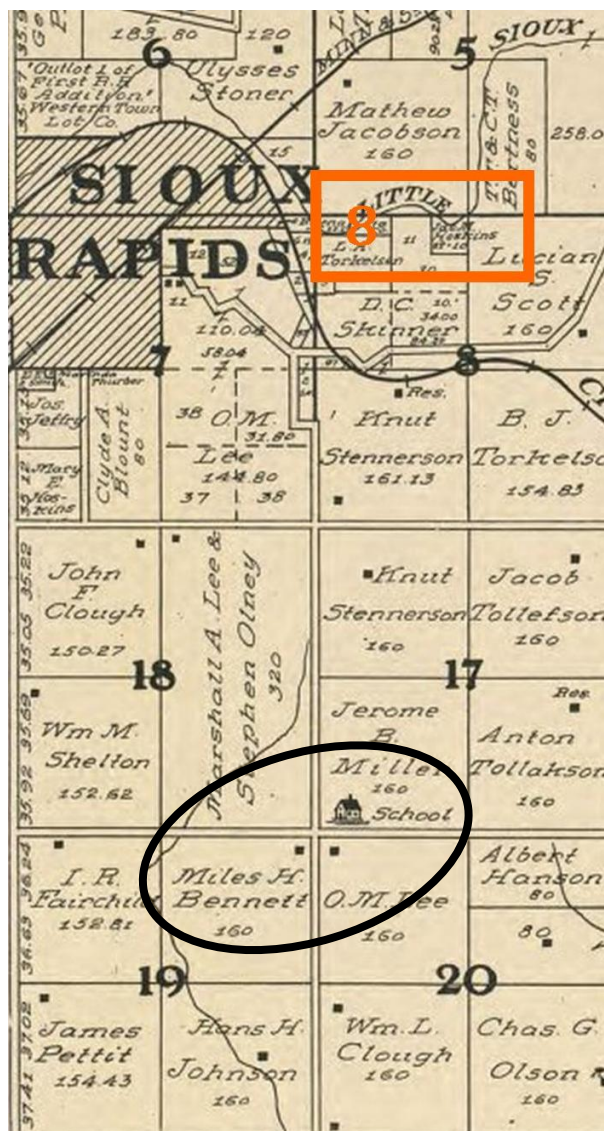
### Bennett School Teacher

Miss Naana Forbes will teach the spring term at the Bennett school.

Sioux Rapids Republican (March 22, 1902)

### Spring Term Teacher at Bennett School

Miss Norma Mackenzie has been engaged to teach the spring term of school at the Bennett school southeast of town.



## Lee Township - Bennett School (District No. 3)

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Sioux Rapids Press (January 1, 1903)

### Basket Social at Bennett School

There will be a basket social at the Bennett school house, No. 3. Lee township, Friday evening, January 9. All are invited. Ladies bring baskets.

Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune (April 2, 1909)

### Lee No. 3 School Opened

School opened in Lee No. 3 last Monday with Miss Mabel Carter of Marathon as teacher.

Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune (April 9, 1909)

### Students Enter Lee No. 3 School

Miss Emma and Anna Johnson entered school in Lee No. 3 last Monday.

Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune (May 31, 1912)

### Lee No. 3 visits Lincoln School No. 5

A large crowd attended the picnic dinner at Lincoln No. 5 and enjoyed the excellent program. The school of Lee No. 3 came down to spend the afternoon and a lunch was served at 3:30.

Sioux Rapids Republican (July 17, 1913)

### Norwegian Summer School at Bennett School

The Norwegian summer school commenced last week at the Bennett school house with Miss Jerpseth as teacher.

Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune (June 26, 1914)

### MANY GRADUATES

#### Large Number of Young People to Receive Diplomas Friday

All preparations for the annual commencement exercises of the Buena Vista county rural schools to be held at the Lakeside church on Friday of this week, are made. The program will include the following numbers:

March, Prof. Fred W. Wimberly.

Invocation, Rev. T. A. Ambler.

Organ solo. Prof. Wimberly.

Vocal solo. Miss Jennie Biddle.

Address. "The Crowning product of the Farm," George M. Allee.

Presentation of diplomas. Superintendent H. C. Moeller.

Following is the list of graduates:

Carrie Barstad

Pauline Barstad

Hulda Sundberg

Oscar Emanuelson

Edna Gaffey

Leroy Dake

Barnes No. 2

Barnes No. 2

Barnes No. 2

Barnes No. 2

Brooke No. 1

Brooke No. 1

Paul Haecker

Vera Haxby

Dwight Haight

Tillie Griffel

Irving Anderson

Donald Johnson

Brooke No. 4

Brooke No. 5

Brooke No. 5

Coon No. 5

Elk No. 1

Elk No. 9

## Lee Township - Bennett School (District No. 3)

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Mamie Nordine	Fairfield No. 2	Zelma Shaffer	Lincoln No. 2
Robert Anderson	Fairfield No. 3	Gleen Caskey	Lincoln No. 2
Lillian Montgomery	Fairfield No. 3	Bessie Fern DeSpain	Lincoln No. 3
Hazel Rutherford	Fairfield No. 3	Edna Siekmann	Lincoln No. 9
Anna Holmen	Fairfield No. 6	Russel Pewsey	Lincoln No. 9
Reinhold Peterson	Fairfield No. 6	Rush Pewsey	Lincoln No. 9
Judith Lundberg	Fairfield No. 7	Louisa Larson	Maple Valley No. 3
Selma Johnston	Grant No. 3	Margaret Schmitt	Maple Valley No. 6
Margaret Gaherty	Grant No. 9	Henrik Matson	Nokomis No. 6
David Hughes	Grant No. 9	Nettie Rees	Nokomis No. 7
Jennie Richardson	Grant No. 9	Fae Cone	Nokomis No. 8
Susie Markley	Hayes No. 6	Ruth Corneliusses	Nokomis No. 9
Carolyn Foell	Hayes No. 2	Edgar Worn	Nokomis No. 9
Edward Schweitzer	Hayes No. 2	Lyle Jeffers	Pickerel Lake Ind.
Irving Phipps	Lee No. 1	Keith Burke	Alice Creek Ind.
Lucile Thornburg	Lee No. 2	Maude Okerberg	Alice Creek Ind.
Frieda Shult	Lee No. 2	Dorothy Bryant	Providence No. 2
Marie Johnson	Lee No. 2	Nellie Hussey	Providence No. 3
George Clough	Lee No. 3	Gerald Whealen	Providence No. 3
Leroy Wills	Lee No. 3	Stella Heath	Providence No. 7
Cleeta Ingram	Lee No. 4	Durward Edwards	Scott No. 4
Helen Tremain	Lee No. 6	Ernest Anderson	Scott No. 4
Eva Snyder	Lee No. 8	Goldia Lanham	Scott No. 6
C. Ien Snyder	Lee No. 8	Mabelle VsnCleve	Washington No. 7
Rose Shaffer	Lincoln No. 2		

Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune (June 26, 1914)

### Lutheran Parochial School at Bennett School House

The Lutheran parochial school commenced last Wednesday at the Bennett school house with Miss Marie Petterson of Lake Mills as teacher.

Sioux Rapids Bulletin-Press (September 20, 1956)

### Stella Torkelson former Bennett School Teacher

Mrs. Stella Torkelson, 86, the first -white girl to be born in Sioux Rapids, the second child and the fifth in Buena Vista county died Tuesday morning at her home in Sioux Rapids.

She attended the local public schools at first in the two-room building located on the site of the present Methodist church, and later in the new four-room schoolhouse erected on the hill.

In the years of 1888 and 1889 she was a teacher for three terms in the Brown school then located just west of where the Little Sioux Valley church was located in Barnes township, and for one term in the Bennett school in Lee township, on the corner where the Whitehead farm now is located.

Sioux Rapids Bulletin-Press (April 8, 1971)

### From the Files - 70 Years Ago

Nellie Cuthbert will teach the spring term at the Grass Lake school and Naana Forbes will teach at the Bennett school.



## Lee Township - Lee Center School (District No. 4)

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Sioux Rapids Press (July 20, 1894)

### Lee Township building School at Center of Township

The Lee township school board let the contract last week to O. A. Osmundson to build a school house at the center of the township.



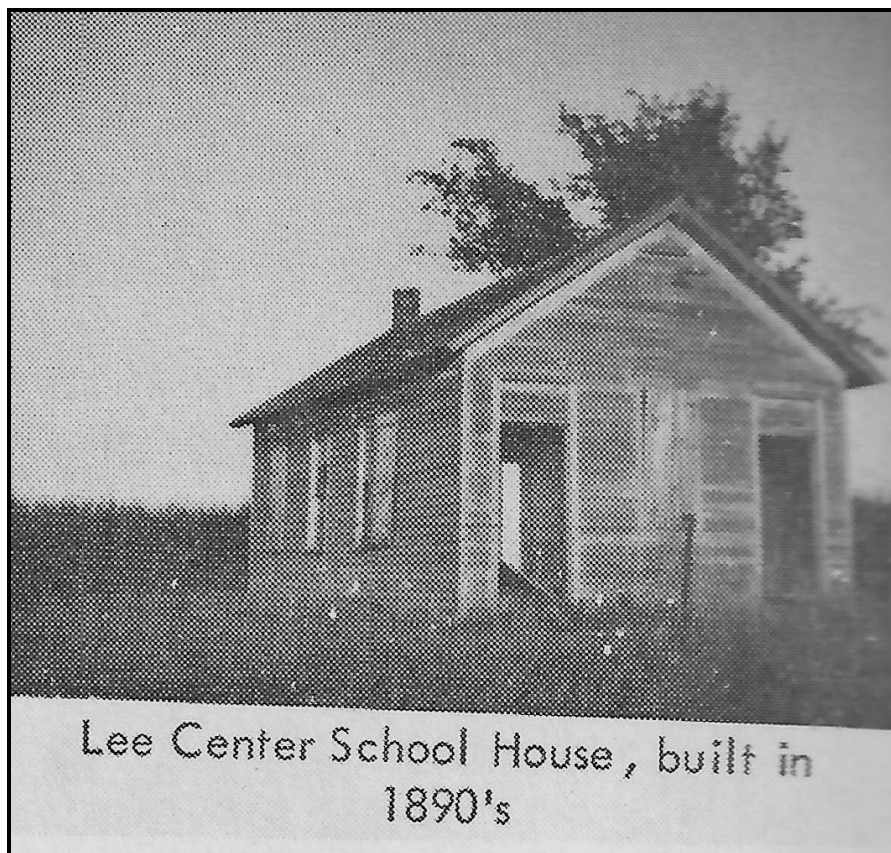
Lee Center School House



Lee Center School District #4

## Lee Township - Lee Center School (District No. 4)

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Sioux Rapids Republican (November 23, 1901)

### **Basket Social.**

A basket social will be held at the Phipps school house, district No. 1, Lee township, on Tuesday evening.

Sioux Rapids Bulletin Board (November 13, 1941)

### **HIGHWAY NO. 10 IS OFFICIALLY CHANGED - Now one mile south of Lee Center**

Markers along highway 10 between Sioux Rapids and Marathon are being changed this week which amounts to the official changing of the route of "old" No. 10 to the new paved route a mile south.

Bui this is not the first time "the road to Marathon" has been changed. The route has been changed, about six times, each time gradually being pushed southward. This road to Marathon was first known as the Fort Dodge-Sioux City trail and came into existence about 1857 one of the very first trails in Northwest Iowa.

According to Nelson Suckow, who came to the Sioux Rapids area in 1866, the first road was built by the regimental soldiers. It ran northeast of Sioux Rapids from the east part of Main Street over toward the feed yards, and then southeastward past the Struble cemetery. It continued southward on the road which now runs past the Oak Logvilion and from there more or less southeastward across the prairie **to the Lee Center school. This school is located on the farm known as the Suckow place, where many travelers of the day stopped.** From there the road went east to Marathon.

In the 1870's the road was shortened and "improved". From the Stennerson farm the road went westward into Sioux Rapids by way of "Tabor Hill". **Nelson Suckow had a prominent part in making a new**

## Lee Township - Lee Center School (District No. 4)

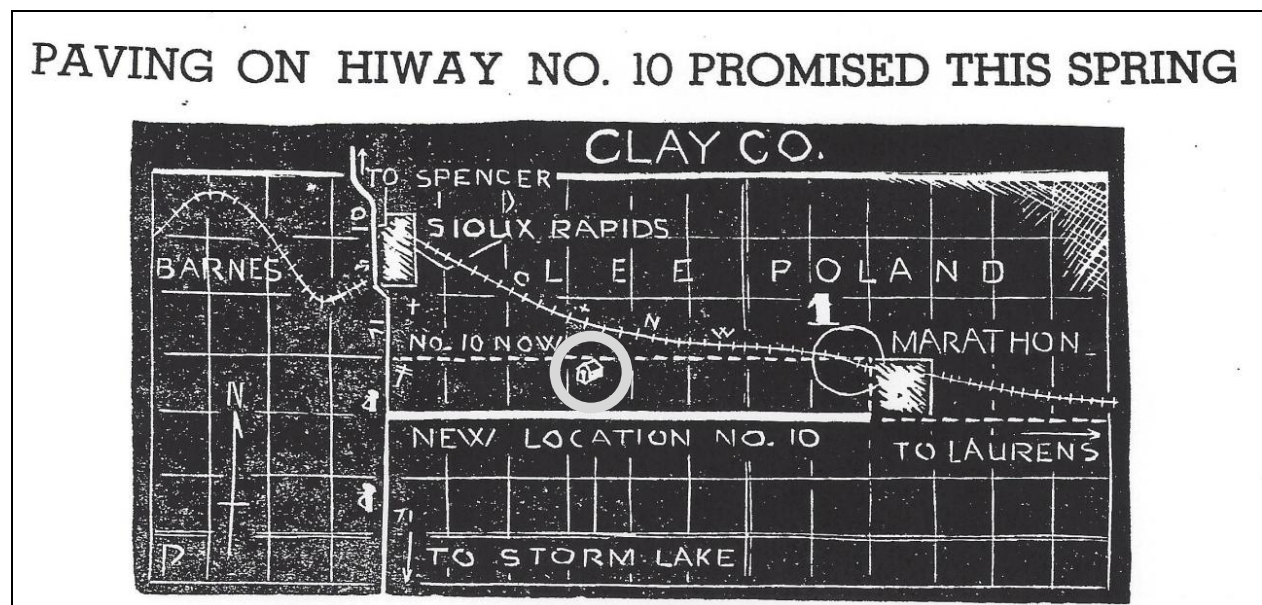
road a few years later to replace the part of the route near the Lee Center school. This new route followed section lines and went northward one mile from the Lee Center school and then directly west, crossing the Northwestern tracks in two places. This road was built shortly after the railroad came in 1882,

Talk about "unproved" roads - part of this road was graveled by gravel donated by supervisor Tony Torkelson - and was the first graveled road in the county. But where it was not graveled, the road was rutty and often so muddy as to be practically impassible. This was big slough country in those days.

Shortly after 1900 the route was changed so that when you took the "route to Marathon" you went east out of Sioux Rapids past the Ol Lee farm, and then east and south, on a road which is still much used.

**During all this time the highway always went past one old landmark - the Lee Center country school. But from now on "the route to Marathon" will be one mile further south on a new paved road - eight miles of modern Iowa Highway, which connects No. 71 to form a high speed paved route between Sioux Rapids and Marathon as well as other points.**

It used to take a full day to go 10 miles and back with ideal conditions - now one can make the trip to Marathon and back in much less than half an hour on the new highway.



This map shows the location of the section of the primary highway number 10 to be paved, was drawn and cut by Ray Pierce, a member of the Bulletin Board staff.

Number 1, circled, indicates two grade crossings which will be eliminated by the new location, both of which have been the cause of many accidents.

A cross indicates the cemetery south of Sioux Rapids, an electric light pole on the Northwestern Light and Power substation gas pumps show the location of gas stations, and a **building (circled) locates the Lee Center school.**



## Lee Township - Grass Lake School

Sioux Rapids Press (May 19, 1898)

### Sunday School at Grass Lake School

A Sunday school was organized in Grass Lake school house recently with Mrs. Preston as Superintendent.

Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune (September 15, 1899)

### Buena Vista College President at Grass Lake School

Pres. Hostetler, of B.V.C., will speak at Grass Lake school house, Lee township, next Sunday p.m.

Sioux Rapids Republican (December 2, 1899)

### Grass Lake Teacher

Harry L. Farmer will teach the Grass Lake school during his vacation.

Sioux Rapids Press (February 22, 1900)

### Grass Lake School is Open

Last week we stated that the Grass Lake school had closed and the teacher, Harry Farmer, had gone away to school. We are informed this week that the school is not closed but that Miss Norma McKenzie has been engaged to finish the term. She has been quite sick the past week and her sister, Miss Jessie, has been teaching in her place.

Sioux Rapids Republican (February 24, 1900)

### Miss Mackenzie elected Teacher

Miss Norma Mackenzie has been elected as teacher at the Grass Lake school to fill the unexpired term of Harry L. Farmer.

Sioux Rapids Press (March 1, 1900)

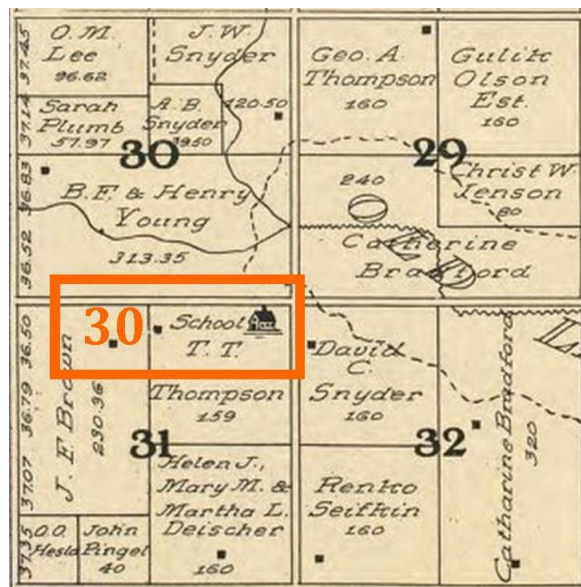
### Miss Mackenzie again Teaching

Miss Norma Mackenzie is again able to teach the Grass Lake school.

Sioux Rapids Press (March 8, 1900)

### Farm near Grass Lake School is Sold

We understand that Toby Thompson has bought Ole Hesla's old place west of the Grass lake school house for \$39 per acre.





## Lee Township - Kidman School

Sioux Rapids Press (March 31, 1887)

### Kidman District Term Closes

W. J. Warwick closed his school in the Kidman district, last Tuesday,

Sioux Rapids Press (April 7, 1887)

### Sunday School in Kidman School

There is some talk of organizing a Sunday school in the Kidman school house.

Sioux Rapids Press (May 19, 1887)

### Sunday School Organized

Quite a number of people met at the Kidman school house last Sunday and organized a Sunday school. Everyone seemed to take quite an interest. Officers, are as follows: Supt. E. M. Aspey, Ass't. Sup't. J. R. Noel, of Lee Twp. Secy. T. Kidman. Treas., Frank Kidman. All are requested to meet promptly at 3 p. m. next Sunday. Do not fail to come and make the school a success.

Sioux Rapids Press (June 30, 1887)

### Camp Meeting at Pickerel Lake

On account of the camp meeting at Pickerel Lake, there will be no Sunday school at the Kidman school house next Sunday. This will give all an opportunity to attend.

Sioux Rapids Press (July 21, 1887)

### School Term Ends

The school in the Kidman school house closed last Friday.

Sioux Rapids Press (August 11, 1887)

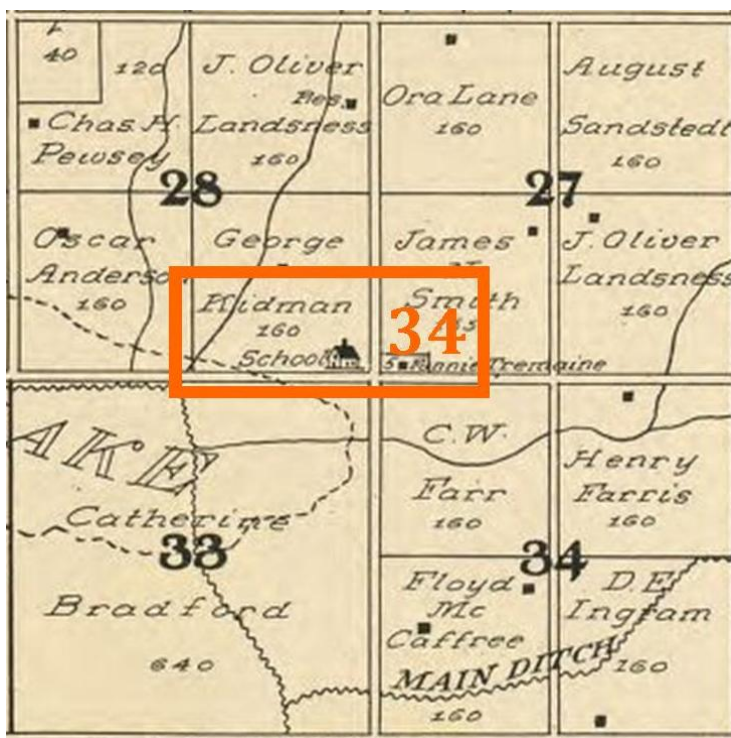
### Camp Meeting at Sioux Rapids

On account of camp meeting at Sioux Rapids there will be no Sunday school at the Kidman school house next Sunday. This will give all an opportunity of attending camp meeting. The Supt. earnestly asks everyone who is interested in the Sunday school to be present August 21 at 2 p. m.

Storm Lake Pilot (April 4, 1888)

### Church Membership

Rev. Hall reports about twenty members at the Kidman school house.



## Lee Township - Kidman School

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Sioux Rapids Press (May 10, 1888)

### Halstead is Kidman Teacher

The Kidman school began last week with Miss Halstead as teacher.

Storm Lake Pilot (November 7, 1888)

### Lyceum at Kidman School

The lyceum at the Kidman school house was in full blast and we have a big time if it is early in the season.

Sioux Rapids Press (December 13, 1888)

### Singing School at Kidman

Singing school was organized here last Thursday night at the Kidman school house, The teacher will be Sam'l Hurlbut. We were to have a singing school a week ago last Thursday and we understand that Mr. Ed. Bowden and Miss Bessie powers, rode around the prairie for pleasure. Was it very pleasant, Ed?

Sioux Rapids Press (February 27, 1889)

### Pound Sociable at Kidman School

A pound sociable, supper and literary exercises will be given at the Kidman school house on March 7th, Thursday evening of next week. Everybody invited to bake for supper, also to bring a pound of something useful; supper 25 cents, children 15 cents, proceeds to go to Bro. Howell. Come every one and enjoy yourself.

Sioux Rapids Press (March 14, 1889)

### Kidman School

School directors are Messrs. Pewsy, Bolt and Thos. Kidman.

The interest in the Kidman Sabbath school is still increasing and so are its numbers.

Quite a number of Leeites attended the supper at the Kidman school house last Thursday evening. A good time was enjoyed by all. The cash receipts were \$11.20, besides several articles were donated. Between forty and fifty partook of supper and all said it was good.

Storm Lake Pilot (November 13, 1889)

### Kidman School House Painted

The Kidman school house is getting a coat of paint inside and out, as well as plastered.

Storm Lake Pilot (December 11, 1889)

### Lyceum at Kidman School

A lyceum at the Kidman school house Wednesday evenings.

Mary Edwards commenced her school last week in the Kidman district.

Storm Lake Pilot (January 1, 1890)

### Christmas Tree and Quarterly Meeting

A Christmas tree at the Kidman school house made glad the hearts of the children and the old folks, too.

## Lee Township - Kidman School

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Quarterly meeting services at the Kidman school house on Sunday, Jan. 5th, at 2:30 p.m. Preaching on Monday at 2 p.m. after which the quarterly board meets. No Sunday School on account of quarterly meeting.

Storm Lake Pilot (January 8, 1890)

### **Kidman Sunday School to Reorganize**

The Kidman Sunday school will be reorganized next Sabbath, the weather permitting.

Storm Lake Pilot (January 29, 1890)

### **Singing School**

Owing to sickness and stormy weather the singing school at the Kidman school house is not as prosperous as it would be otherwise.

Bro. Howell commenced a series of revival meetings at the Kidman school house last Sunday evening. Let everyone come out and help.

Storm Lake Pilot (March 2, 1890)

### **Kidman School Events**

Re-election of officers at the Kidman school house next Sunday.

Miss Mary Edwards closed her school at the Kidman district two weeks ago.

The lyceum at the Kidman school house is not expected to survive very long after their efforts to discuss the question of last week.

Storm Lake Pilot (April 2, 1890)

### **Alliance Formed**

Miss Carrie McKenzie, of Sioux Rapids will teach the Kidman school this summer.

An Alliance was formed at the Kidman school house on Wednesday evening of last week. Mr. Kidman, President, Mr. Johnson, Secretary.

Storm Lake Pilot (April 23, 1890)

### **School commences in Kidman District**

Miss Carrie McKenzie commenced her school in the Kidman district last Monday.

Storm Lake Pilot (May 7, 1890)

### **Services at Kidman School**

Rev. Bloodgood preached at the Kidman school house last Sabbath.

Quite a number out to meeting at the Kidman school house but were disappointed in not hearing Bro. Howell.

We see by the Fort Dodge District Herald that there will be quarterly meeting services at the Kidman school house May 11th. Sermon by Rev. H. L. Smith.

Storm Lake Pilot (June 11, 1890)

### **Science Lecture**

There will be a lecture at the Kidman school house Thursday evening of this week. Subject science.

## Lee Township - Kidman School

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Sunday school at the Kidman school house every Sabbath at 3 p.m. Preaching at 11 a. m. on Sunday, June 22nd.

Storm Lake Pilot (July 2, 1890)

### Quarterly Meeting Services

Quarterly meeting services at the Kidman school house on Sunday, July 6th, at 2 p. m. Bro. Montgomery of Newell will preach instead of Brother Howell. Sunday school at 3 p. m.

Storm Lake Pilot (July 16, 1890)

### School Term Ends

Miss Carrie McKenzie closed her school in the Kidman district last Friday.  
Preaching at Kidman school house next Sunday at 11 a. m.; Sunday School at 3 p. m.

Storm Lake Pilot (September 3, 1890)

### Schedule of Services

No preaching services at the Kidman school house for a few weeks.  
Sunday School at the Kidman school house meets every Sabbath at 1 o'clock.

Sioux Rapids Press (August 10, 1893)

### Buena Vista County - People's Party Convention

A people's party convention will be held at the Kidman school house, Thursday, August 24th, 1893, at 10 a. m. to select a candidate for supervisor in the district composed of Lee, Poland and Lincoln townships; Lee entitled to five delegates, Poland six, Lincoln five and Sioux Rapids three.

F. A. Gossman, Walter Wells, N. C. Welmir, Committee.

Sioux Rapids Republican (September 28, 1893)

### Republican vs. Populist

A meeting will be held at the Kidman school house Saturday evening, October 30th, at 7:30 p. m. Byron Tremaine and another gentleman from Sulphur Springs will speak for the republicans and J. B. Miller, of Storm Lake, and Richard Olney, of Marathon, will defend the populists.

Storm Lake Pilot (November 21, 1895)

### South Lee News

#### Lodge Organized

An I. O. G. T. lodge was organized in the Kidman school house last Friday with about thirty charter members. W. R. Ritchie was chosen C. T.

Storm Lake Pilot (December 12, 1895)

### South Lee

Special Correspondence

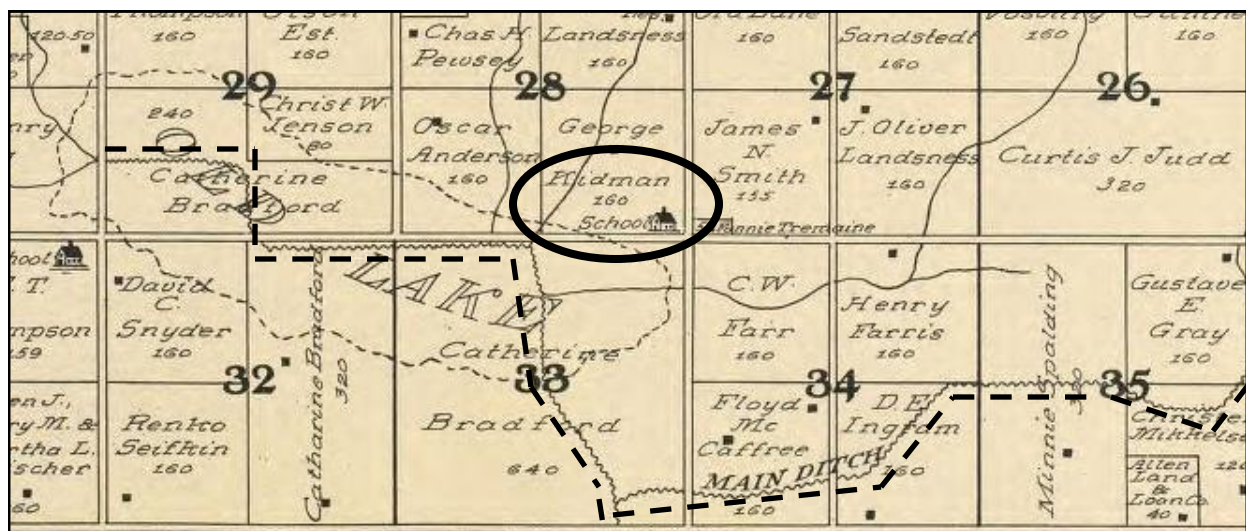
#### Christmas Entertainments at Schools

Christmas entertainments will be held in the South Lee school house, also in the Kidman school house.



## Grass Lake Ditch being Completed

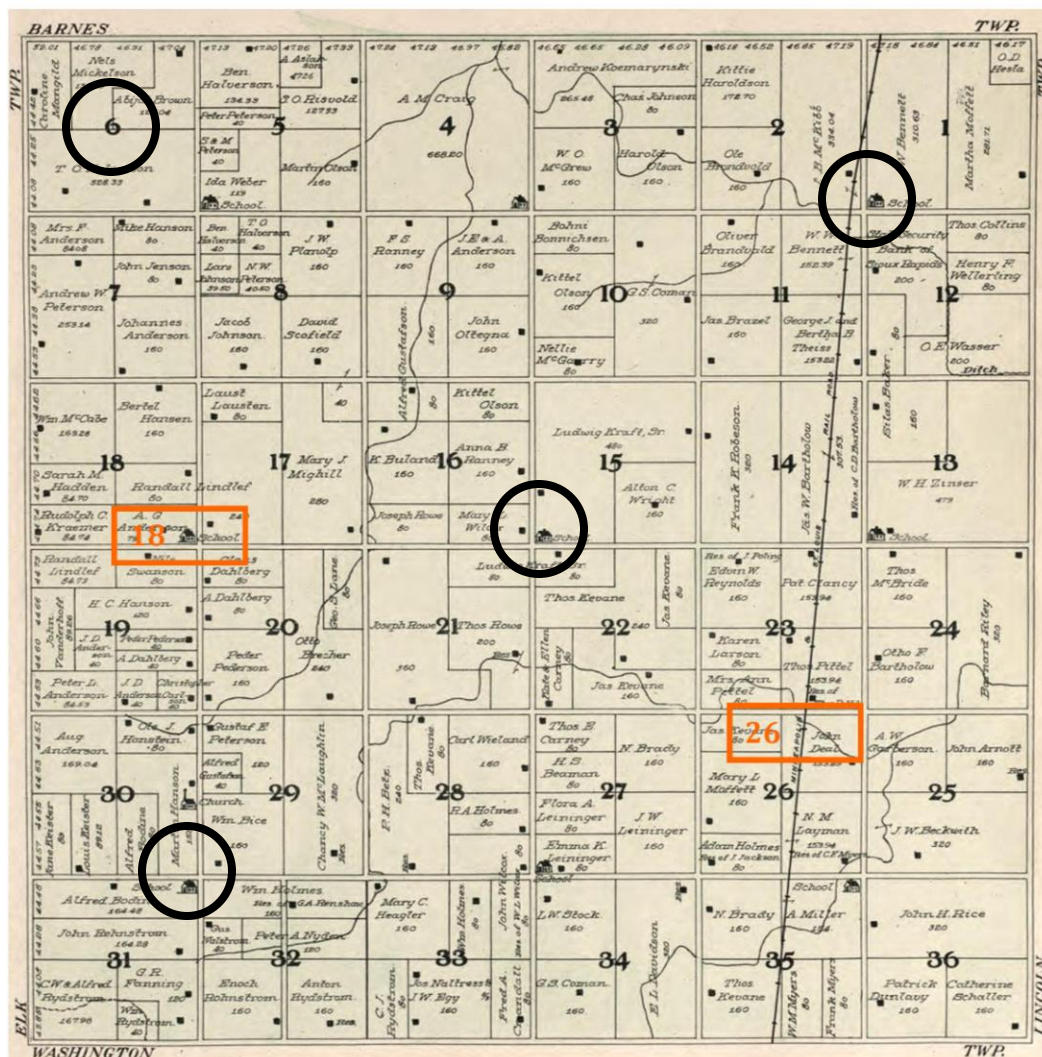
This is a historical plat map of a section of land, likely in Minnesota, showing various landowners and their acreage. The map is divided into 36 numbered sections (30-35). A large black oval is drawn around sections 29, 30, and 31. Section 30 is the largest and contains the names 'B.E. & Henry Young' and 'Catherine Bradford'. Section 29 is 'Christ W. Jensen'. Section 31 is 'David C. Snyder'. Other sections include 'O.M. Lee', 'J.W. Snyder', 'Geo. A. Thompson', 'Gulitz Olson', 'J. Oliver', 'August', 'P.E. Vostburg', 'John Gunther', 'Sarah Plumb', 'A.B. Snyder', 'Chas. H. Landsness', 'Ora Lane', 'Sandsstead', 'James N. Smith', 'J. Oliver Landsness', 'Curtis J. Judd', 'Oscar George', 'George', 'Eldman', 'School', 'Bonnie Tremaine', 'School', 'T.T. Thompson', 'Helen J. Mary M. & Martha L. Detscher', 'Rentko Seifkin', 'Catherine Bradford', 'L.A.KE', 'Catherine Bradford', 'C.W. Farr', 'Henry Farris', 'Gustave E. Gray', 'J.F. Brown', 'John Hesta Angel', 'John', 'Floyd Mc Caffree', 'DE Ingam', 'Christe Mikkelsen', 'Ailen Land & Leona', and 'Minnie Spaulding'. The map also shows 'LAKE' and 'MAIN DITCH'.



**Main Ditch** — — — —

## Scott Township - General

### Scott Township - School Houses in the early 1870's - Sections 18 and 26



Source: 1908 Standard Atlas, Buena Vista County, Iowa

- Section 18 - School (District No. ??)
- Section 26 - School (District No. ??)

#### Other Confirmed School Locations

- Section 1 - George Body School (District No. 1)
- Section 6 - School (District No. ??)
- Section 15 - Scott Center School (District No. ??)
- Section 31 - Liberty School (District No. 9)

#### Other Unconfirmed Schools and Locations (list is not complete / may be one of above)

- Section ?? - No. 8 School (District No. ??)
- Section ?? - School (District No. 4)
- Section ?? - School (District No. 5)

## Scott Township - General

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Storm Lake Pilot - May 23, 1877

### Notice to Contractors

NOTICE is hereby given that on the last Saturday in June 1877, at the hour of one o'clock p.m. and at the Center School House, in the District Township of Scott, Buena Vista county, Iowa, a contract will be let to the lowest responsible bidder, (by open bids), to **build one school house on section (6) Scott Township**, cash ready when contract is finished. Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids. For further particulars and specifications apply at the residence of A. Tone, in above named Township.

By order of Board Directors. Wm. Holmes, Secretary.  
Dated May 12, 1877.

Storm Lake Pilot - April 27, 1900

### Notice to Contractors (District No. 4 School)

Notice is hereby given that the proposals for the **erection of a school house in Dis. No. 4**. Scott township, Buena Vista county, Iowa, will be received by the undersigned at her residence in Scott township, where plans and specifications may be seen until 12 (twelve) o'clock m.. May 12, 1900, at which time the contract will be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder. The board reserves the right to reject any or all bids. The specifications may also be seen at the office of storm Lake Lumber Co.  
M. E. BICE, Secretary.

Storm Lake Pilot-Tribun - September 27, 1901

### School Library Prizes

Following is the report of the committee on the School library prizes for the year ending July 1, 1901:

#### Money Raised

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Scott: No. 2. \$21.30; 3, 7.10; 4, 12.50; 8, 36.00; 9, 16.50  
12.50; 8, 36.00; 9. 16.50.  
-----

The following schools raised amounts ranging from \$37 down to \$27, and received \$10 each: No. 6, Fairfield No. 2, Providence; No. 4, Grant; **No. 8. Scott**; No. 5, Maple Valley; No. Hayes; No. 2, Barnes; No. 7, Maple Valley; No. 6, Brooke; No. 1, Hayes.

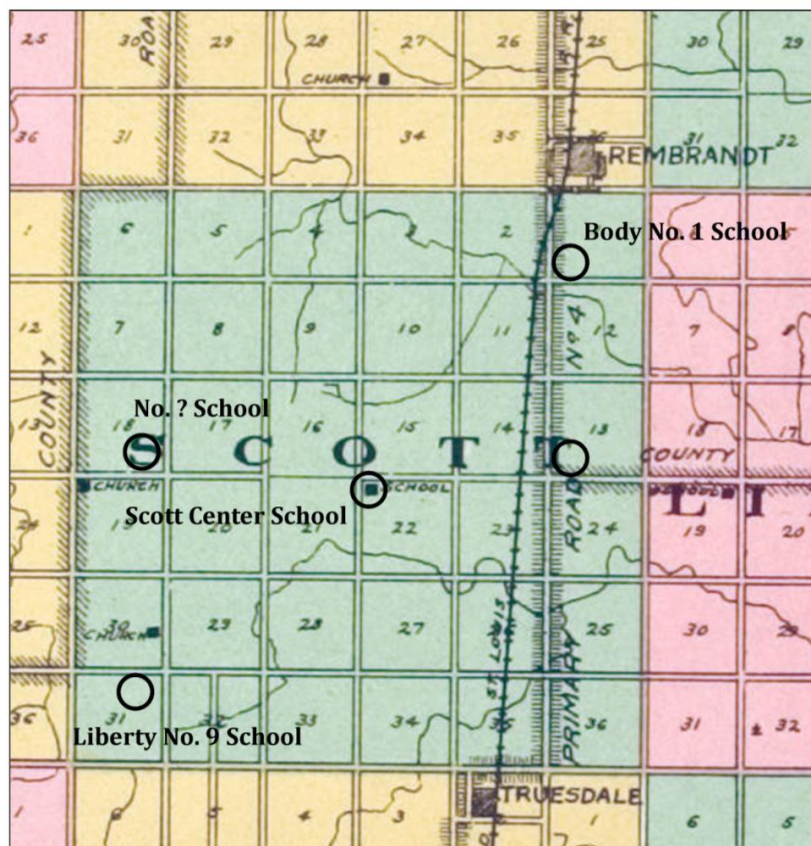
In accordance with the terms Mr. Schee's offer, the committee will purchase the books and deliver them as soon as practicable.

Com. J. H. O'Donogues, J. E. Derkee



## Scott Township - George Body School (District No. 1)

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Sioux Rapids Republican - November 1, 1902

### Body School Term Ends

Miss Dora McGrew closed a very successful term of school last Friday in the Body school house southwest of town (Rembrandt).

Sioux Rapids Republican - December 6, 1902

### Body School Teacher - Miss Batchellor

Miss Eva Batchellor of Hawarden began teaching in the Body school south of town (Rembrandt), Monday.

Storm Lake Pilot - November 20, 1903

### Miss Donahue teaching at Body School

The Body school opened with Miss Donahue as teacher.

Storm Lake Pilot - April 30, 1909

### Body Teacher Miss Berger Sick

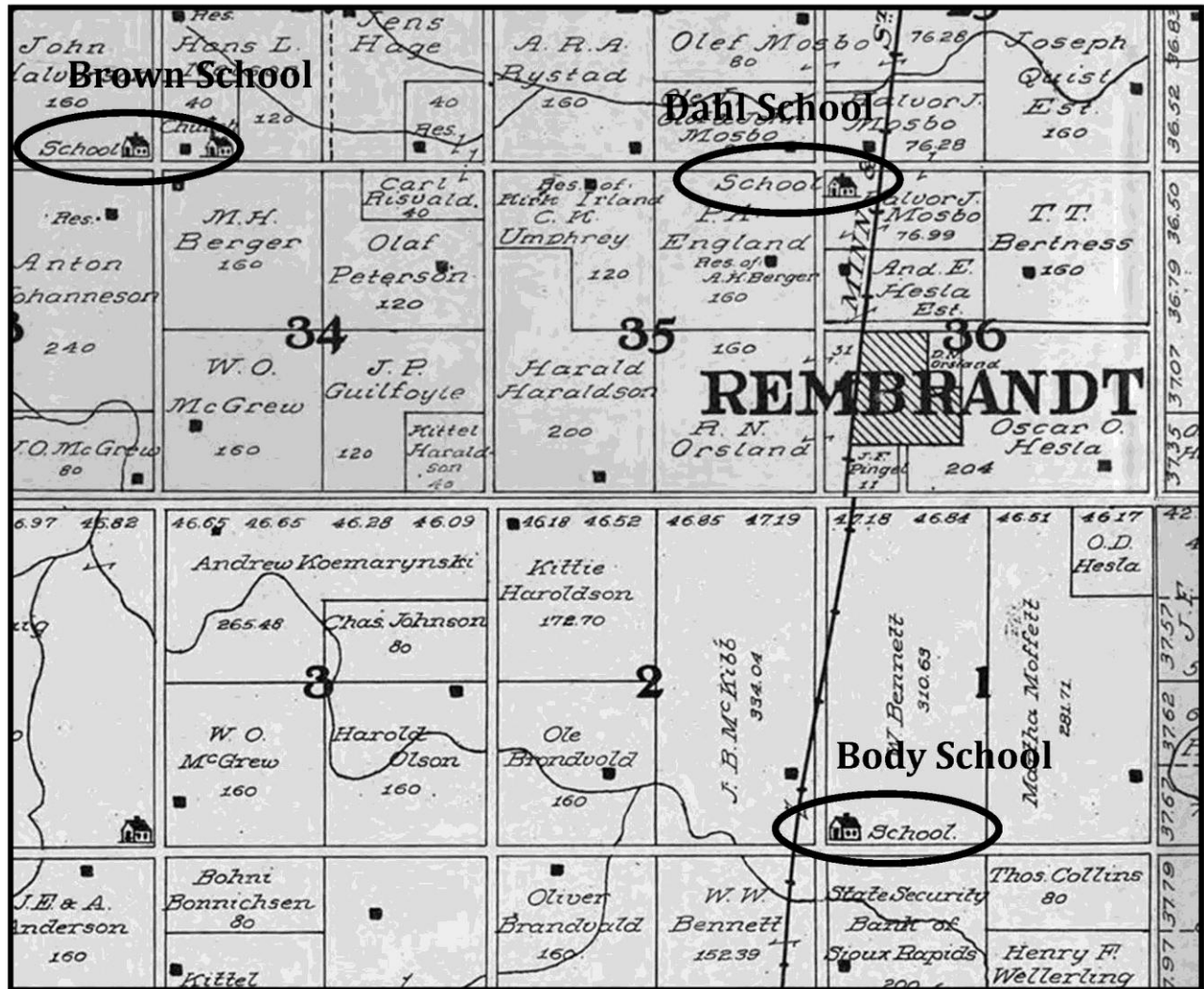
Miss Anna Berger, who teaches at Scott No. 1, was absent from School last Wednesday on account of sickness.

## Scott Township - George Body School (District No. 1)

Storm Lake Pilot - May 7, 1909

### Body School Demolished by Wind

The little green school house at Scott No1, known as the Body school, was totally demolished by the wind storm last week. Miss Anna Berger, who was teaching there, will finish her term at Scott No 2.



### Body School House (Scott Township Sub-District No. 1 School)

- The little green school at Scott No. 1, known as the Body school, was totally demolished by the wind in late April, 1909. A new school building was constructed in its place.
- The new school building (Scott No. 1) one mile south of Rembrandt was moved in September, 1910, to where the Zinser school at Rembrandt stood.



## Scott Township - George Body School (District No. 1)

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Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune - February 11, 1910

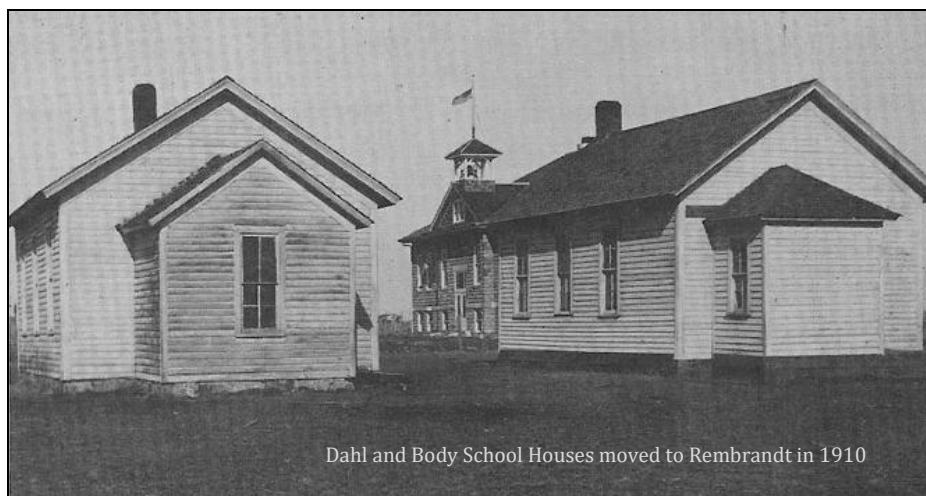
### School Dist. No. 1 Basket Social

School district No 1 Scott township of which Miss Anna Berger is teacher, will hold a basket social and program at the schoolhouse Tuesday evening February 14. All are cordially invited.

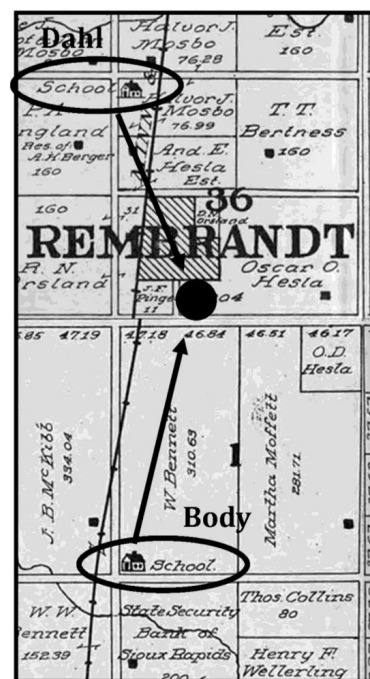
Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune - October 7, 1910

### New School South of Town to be Moved to Rembrandt

The new school building one mile south of town is to be moved to where the Zinser school now stands and which will be sold at public auction October 15th. The new outbuildings at district No. 1 will also be included in the sale.



Dahl and Body School Houses moved to Rembrandt in 1910

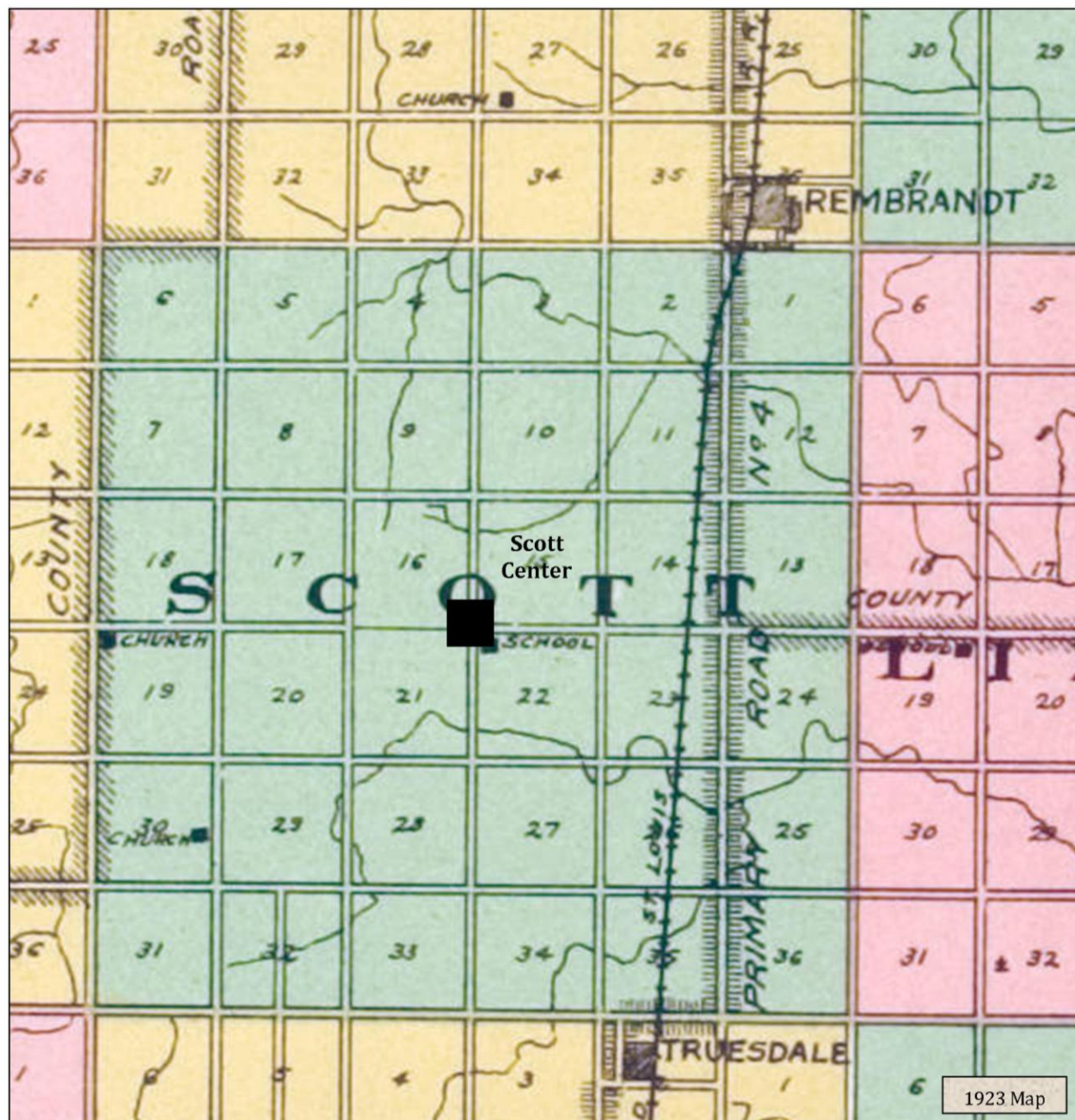


Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune - November 11, 1910

### Zinser School move to Truesdale

W. L. Wilcox moved the Zinser school building, which he had purchased at the sale, into Truesdale Saturday.

## Scott Township - Scott Center School



The school building is centered on a one acre parcel of land in the northeast quadrant at the intersection of County Road M44 and County Road C29 (Section 15) in Scott Township, Buena Vista County, Iowa, about 5 miles southwest of Rembrandt, Iowa.

In 1896, the first one-room rural school was constructed on this site. The current (2016) school building was built in 1925 for \$2,800.

The district boundary for this school was all of Sections 15, 16, 21, and 22 of Scott Township.

The Scott Center school house was one of nine one-room, rural schools built in Scott Township during the peak period of country schools.

## Scott Township - Scott Center School

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Storm Lake Pilot - November 6, 1924

### **NOTICE OF SCHOOL SPECIAL ELECTION - BOND PROPOSITION Construction of New Scott Center School House**

Rural Independent School District of Scott Center, Township of Scott, in the County of Buena Vista, State of Iowa.

Public Notice is hereby given to the voters of the Rural Independent School District of Scott Center, Township of Scott, in the County of Buena Vista, State of Iowa, that a special election of the said School District will be held on the 6th day of December, 1924, within said School District, at the Scott Center School House, Scott Township, Buena Vista County, Iowa, from one o'clock P. M. until four o'clock P.M., and that at said election there will be submitted to the voters of said School District, to be by them voted upon, the following proposition:

Shall the Rural Independent School District of Scott Center, Township of Scott, in the County of Buena Vista, State of Iowa, issue bonds in the sum of Two Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars (\$2.800) for the purpose of constructing and equipping a new school house?

At which time and place all of the voters of said Rural Independent School District are hereby notified to appear.

This Notice is given by order of the Board of Directors of said Rural Independent School District, pursuant to a sufficient petition with the requisite signatures, in accordance with Section 2825 1 et seq. of the Supplement to the Code of Iowa, 1913, as amended.

Dated at Scott Township, Buena Vista County, Iowa, this 3rd day of November. 1924.

Jennie Koone, Secretary. Board of Directors.

Storm Lake Pilot - January 8, 1925

### **NOTICE FOR BIDS**

Sale of School Bonds, Rural Independent School District of Scott Center  
**New Scott Center School House to be Built**

Public Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the Rural Independent School District of Scott Center, in the County of Buena Vista; State of Iowa, will offer for sale School Bonds in the sum of 'Twenty-eight Hundred Dollars (\$2800.00) at the school house of said district at 3:00 o'clock P.M. January 22nd, 1926.

These bonds will bear five (5) per cent interest, dated May 1st, 1925. and payable as follows: \$200 May 1. 1927; \$200 May 1. 1928; \$300 May 1. 1929; \$300 May 1. 1930; \$300 May 1, 1931; \$300 May 1. 1932; \$400 May 1. 1933; \$400 May 1, 1934; \$400 May 1. 1935. Proceeds from the sale of these bonds will be used to erect and equip a new school house within said Rural Independent School District. These bonds were voted by the electors of said district at a special election held December 6, 1924.

Sealed bids will be received up to the time of sale and open bids at the time of sale. The Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids. Further information relative to this issue may be secured from the undersigned or from the office of the County Superintendent of Schools at the Court House, Storm Lake, Buena Vista County, Iowa. The School House of this Scott Center District Is located two miles west and three miles south of the town of Rembrandt, Buena Vista County, Iowa.

This notice is published in compliance with Chapter 63 of the Code of Iowa, 1924.

Mrs. Jennie Koone, Secretary. Rembrandt. Iowa.



## Scott Township - Scott Center School



- One-room schoolhouse.
- One-room apartment for the teacher.
- One class room for 8 grades of students.
- Two outhouses.
- School closed in 1939.

Louise Bork

Scott Center  
School +  
pupils  
Mrs Westman  
Teacher

We lived on a farm  
across from this  
school in the early  
40's until 1947.  
The Shakespeare Books  
on our book shelf came  
from this school. We  
used to play in  
the school.



Scott Center School  
+ Pupils  
Mrs Westman Teacher

School South of Rembrandt,  
Ia - on 100<sup>th</sup> St.

This school is where Louise Bork (Walsh) <sup>1909</sup>  
and all her sisters went to school 1-8<sup>th</sup> grade.  
We lived on a farm across the road from  
school. Mom was responsible for us. We  
went to school in early 40's until we moved 1947 to 5<sup>th</sup> grade  
in Rembrandt.

## Scott Township - Scott Center School

Storm Lake Register - March 1, 1928

### Teacher Falls at Scott Center School

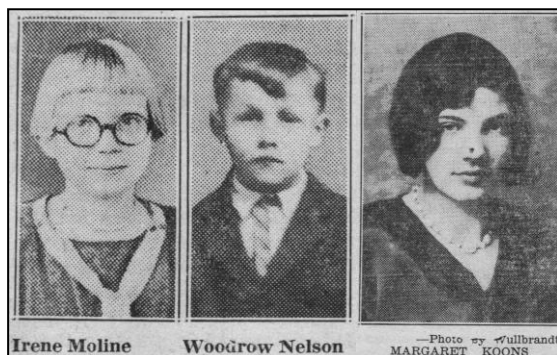
Mrs. Dora Wessman, who teaches at the Scott Center school, fell down the basement stairs at the school last Friday afternoon and was quite badly injured. She was brought to the Swallum hospital for treatment and was later taken to the Deal home on Otsego street where she spent the week end. From here she went to Sac City to spend a few days at the home of her son C. I. Wessman. Mrs. Wessman was considerably cut and bruised but fortunately no bones were broken. Her many friends sincerely hope she may rapidly recover.

Storm Lake Register - April 18, 1929

### First and Second Place Winners in County Spell

Buena Vista county's best spellers as determined in the county contest last week are pictured above. Margaret Koons (center) is the county champion, having won both the oral and written contests. She will go to Des Moines to represent this county in the state spelling contest April 19th. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry E. Koons and will graduate next month from the eighth grade of Scott Center school.

Irene Moline and Woodrow Nelson won the right to represent Buena Vista county in the interstate spelling contest to be held at South Sioux City, Nebraska, on April 26th. Irene placed second in written, and Woodrow in oral, in the county contest.



Irene is the Fairview school champion and is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Moline. Woodrow goes to Highview school and is a son of Mr. and Mrs. N.K. Nelson and a nephew of Morris Nelson of Storm Lake. Woodrow's sister Bernadine was the county spelling champion last year and his younger brother Elwin was second best speller in the Highview school contest this spring. A cousin of theirs was first in the Auburn, Iowa, school spell down this year. Woodrow is about 12 years old and an eighth grader.

Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune - April 3, 1930

### Scott Center Youngster is Champion Speller

Johnny Kevane, 11-year-old student at Scott Center school and a son of Mr. and Mrs. James Kevane, Jr. is the champion speller of Buena Vista county.

The lad won that title Monday, when he spelled down the other 36 boys and girls, ranging in ages from 10 to 15 years, who competed in the county contest held at the court house. He won both the oral and written tests and as a result of victory will represent the county in the State contest to be held at Des Moines April 26. The contest is sponsored by the Des Moines Register.



Second place winners in the contest were Elvira Carlson, 11-year old Pleasant View student, and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Carlson, in the oral test, and Donald Kladstrup, 12-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Kladstrup, in the written test. Elvira misspelled the word "expenditure," which put her in second place in the oral test and Donald misspelled "luminant" and "annihilate" in the written test.

County Supt. A. E. Harrison was in charge of the contest. R. W. Eaton of Omaha, was the conductor; Mrs. Elizabeth Rae, referee; Mrs. Lulu Rose Orr, county superintendent of schools at Cherokee, and Mrs. George Crawford of Storm Lake, Judges. All of the photos here shown are by the Larsen Studio.



## Scott Township - Scott Center School

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Buena Vista County Herald - October 17, 1935

### With the Schools

#### Scott Center

(Murial L. Rehnstrom, teacher)

Friday ended the six weeks period with six out of ten having perfect attendance. They are: Clement Kevane, Charlotte and Alvin Peterson, Variconia and Johnny Kennedy and Raymond Kevane.

This week we observed "Fire Prevention." Talking about the most common causes of fire and what we can do to prevent them.

Our room is decorated with things leading towards Halloween. Each pupil has made his conception of a Halloween night in a free hand drawn poster. Some very good ones have been handed in.

Clement Kevane has had 100 per cent in spelling since school began, and he also wrote a perfect spelling test. Raymond Kevane has missed only two words. We hope to have more perfect records next six weeks.

Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune - June 16, 1938

### School at Scott Center Discontinued

Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Peterson moved their household goods Tuesday from the Fetters apartment to the Scott Center school building located at the south boundary of the Peterson farm. The Scott Center school will be discontinued for lack of the necessary number of pupils.

Storm Lake Register - March 12, 1946

### To Sell Scott Center School

Scott Center school district voted to sell its rural school building at Monday's election. Only a small turnout of voters responded, and the vote in favor of the sale of the school building was unanimous. Built about 20 years ago, the Scott Center school has been inactive for the past-seven years. It is one of the better constructed rural buildings but obsolete in the face of the modern consolidated school.

It will go on sale at public auction on Tuesday, April 9.

Storm Lake Register - April 2, 1946

### SALE OF SCHOOL HOUSE

The Board of Directors of the Rural Independent School District of Scott Center, Buena Vista County, Iowa, will offer for sale at Public Auction the School Building, outbuilding and all equipment at 1:00 o'clock P. M., Tuesday, April 9, 1946, at the School House of this Scott Center District.

The School House is 28x30 feet and is in very good condition. The equipment includes material usually found in a rural school.

The Scott Center School is located 9 miles north of the Storm Lake Canning Company; 2 miles west and 3 miles south of Rembrandt. If interested, be sure to inspect this building. The key may be secured from the Secretary who lives across the road from the school.

Mrs. Walter Bork, Secretary

Gus A. Swenson, Auct.

First National Bank, Rembrandt, Clerk

## Scott Township - Scott Center School

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The Rembrandt Booster - April 4, 1946

### Scott Center School to be Sold April 9th

The Scott Center school house located 2 miles west and 3 miles south of Rembrandt will be sold at public auction next Tuesday, April 9th, beginning at 1:00 o'clock. The sale also includes all school equipment, the building is a 28 x 30 structure and in good condition, a fine building to convert into a residence. For more particulars read ad in this issue of your Booster.

Rembrandt Booster (April 4, 1946)

# SALE OF School Building

The Board of Directors of the Rural Independent School District of Scott Center, Buena Vista county, Iowa will offer for sale at Public Auction the School Building, Outbuilding and all equipment at

**1:00 o'clock p.m.**

**Tuesday, April 9th**

at the school house of this Scott Center District.

The school house is 28 x 30 feet and is in very good condition. The equipment includes material usually found in a rural school.

The School is located 9 miles north of the Storm Lake Canning Company, or 2 miles west and 3 miles south of Rembrandt. If interested, be sure to inspect this building. The key may be secured from the Secretary who lives across the road from the school.

**Mrs. Walter Bork, Secretary**

Gus A. Swenson, Auctioneer.      First National Bank, Clerk

Rembrandt Booster (April 4, 1946)

### NOTICE

The public sale of the Scott Center school house, set for Tuesday, April 9th, has been called off. The school property having been sold at private sale Tuesday. Mrs. Walter Bork, Sec'y

According to a report the Scott Township board bought the school property to maintain a voting and meeting place.

## Scott Township - Scott Center School

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Storm Lake Register - September 17, 1946

### **Proceedings of Buena Vista Board Supervisors Tenth Meeting, June Session, August 26, 1946**

Upon motion by Ingram, seconded by Swenson, it was voted that the Chairman or the Board be authorized to sign an agreement with the Trustees of Scott Township, Buena Vista County, Iowa, the terms of agreement being that the Board of Supervisors shall advance from its General Fund the sum of \$2,475.00 to the Board of Trustees of Scott Township to be used by the second party in the purchase of a school house and a lot of approximately one acre, said school house to be used as a Township hall, and furthermore, the second party to pay back the said sum of \$2,475.00 to Buena Vista County, when they have collected it through taxation.

A vote being taken on the above motion, the chairman declared the motion carried and the County Auditor was instructed to draw a County Warrant in the amount of \$2,475.00. payable to the Township Clerk of Scott Township.

Rembrandt Booster (October 31, 1946)

### **Good Attendance at Project Meeting**

Twenty-five ladies attended the Scott Township Homemaker meeting last Friday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Anna Olson and daughter Mrs. Carl Dorr. A dessert luncheon was served at 1:30 o'clock.

Miss Humphrey led the discussion on "The Legal Status of Women in the United States."

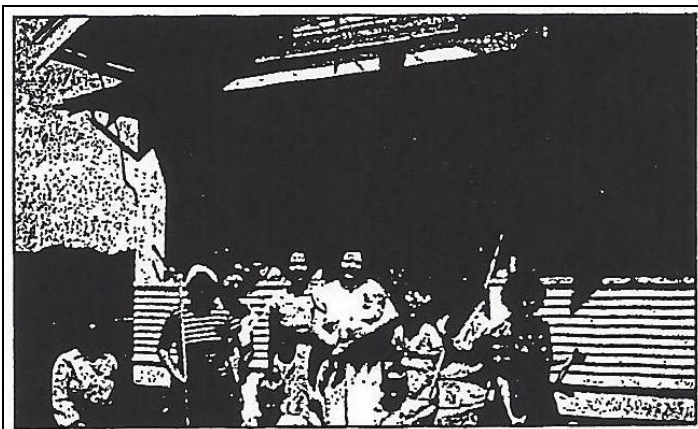
As a project this year the ladies discussed plans for fixing up the Scott Center school for a recreation center.

Storm Lake Register - November 5, 1946

### **School House at Scott Center is given a Cleaning**

A thorough house-cleaning was given Scott Center school house last Wednesday when the homemakers of Scott township took it upon themselves to do the greatly needed task. The building has been closed for several years and unused; except as a polling place on election days. In the morning three ladies the work, but shortly after noon, 10 more arrived with their brooms, mops and pails. They report the building is now clean and fit for 4-H, homemakers or other meetings of a community nature.

Storm Lake Register - 1949



A cleaning crew is shown in July of 1949 at the Scott Schoolhouse. / Contributed by Ardys Pemberton, Storm Lake

## Scott Township - Scott Center School

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Rembrandt Booster (September 15, 1955)

### Paint Up Day at Scott Center

On Friday afternoon, Sept. 16th, beginning at 1:00 p. m. will be paint up day at Scott Center. Please bring your own brush or roller. Tuesday, Sept. 20th will be general cleaning day. Bring sack lunch, coffee will be furnished both days.

Storm Lake Times - September 9, 2009

### Who owns the Scott Twp. School?

*Trustees see building on the move, raise questions*

### Family trust paid taxes on white frame piece of BV history

BYTTNA DONATH

Scott Township officers were appalled last week when they learned that the one-room country schoolhouse that they believe is township property had been sold without their knowledge to an out-of-county buyer.

Township clerk Anna Mae Rotert-Flink says that she first learned that something was going on when she drove past the schoolhouse at about 6:30 p.m. Thursday.

The Scott Twp. schoolhouse about four miles northwest of Truesdale had been removed from its foundation, Rotert-Flink says. Desks in the basement had been destroyed when cement blocks and wood fell in on them, she says. An upright piano was sitting outside.

Rotert-Flink got on the phone the next morning. It was then that she learned that the Bernice Kolb Family Trust had sold the building about a year ago to Randy Weise, of Kingsley.

Township officers knew nothing of the sale, even though they have been maintaining the schoolhouse for years in the belief that it was their property and their responsibility.

Depending on whom you ask, Rotert-Flink says, the Kolb trust owns either the entire section or the section excepting one-acre schoolhouse property. The trust had been paying taxes on the property, Rotert-Flink says. Township trustees were unaware of this, since under township ownership the property would be tax exempt.

Buena Vista County Attorney Dave Patton is looking into the matter. Ownership ultimately goes back to what the land records in the county recorder's office show, he says.

The 38-foot by 38-foot Scott Center one-room school served the surrounding rural community for 40 years, from 1896 to 1936. In the spring of 1936, the pupils were tuitioned to adjoining school districts. In the normal course of events, rural schoolhouse land reverts to the surrounding landowner when it is no longer needed for a school.

According to a document in the township records, Scott Twp. evidently purchased the property from the Kolbs in 1946, for use as a town hall. In subsequent years, the former schoolhouse served as a polling place and was also used for square dances, for anniversaries and for social gatherings.





## Scott Township - Scott Center School

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The building can no longer be used as a voting site, since it is not handicapped accessible. Still, the township trustees have continued to maintain it. The building got a coat of paint about 10 years ago, Rotert-Flink says, and the property gets mowed a couple of times a year.

Scott Center School was one of nearly 100 built in Buena Vista County, including nine in Scott Twp. alone, according to a brochure developed by the county historical society in 1996. As of 1995, there were only four country school buildings remaining in Buena Vista County, including the one in Scott Twp., one at Hanover, one in Lincoln Twp. and the Elk Twp. school that has since been moved to Storm Lake.

Now the Scott Twp. schoolhouse is sitting on a dolly, ready to roll. The buyer has a foundation poured and utilities dug with plans to use building as a playhouse for his grand children Rotert-Flink says. The mover wants a resolution one way or another so he can have his equipment back.

Township officials are upset. "We're just sick about it," says Rotert-Flink. "I want it back, restored to its original position," she says. "I don't want to do away with a piece of our history. We're just flabbergasted that something like this can happen."

Scott Township Trustee Ervln Brake, former Scott Township Clerk Charlotte Binder and present Township Clerk Anna Mae Rotert-Flink stand near the Scott Center School, now separated from its foundation and mounted on wheels.

TIMES photo by TINA DONATH

Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune - September 12, 2009

### **SCHOOL HOUSE LEFT IN LIMBO**

***Sale a 'misunderstanding,' but damages make it impossible to return the 85-year-old school to its foundation***

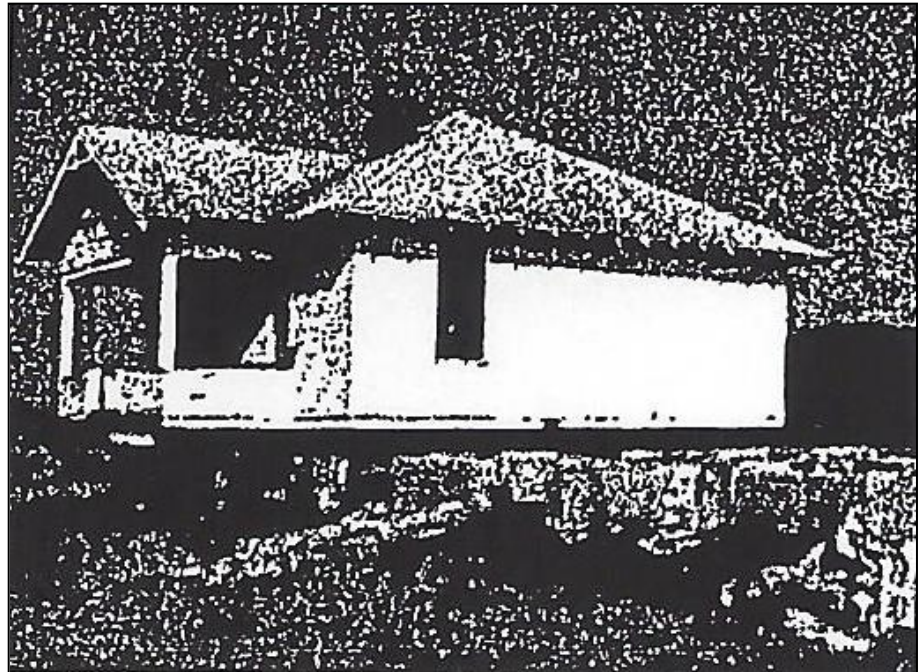
By DANA LARSEN  
Pilot-Tribune Editor

Hold that truck. The fate of the historic Scott Center school is just as up-in-the-air as is the one-room schoolhouse itself.

The school sits jacked up off the ground at its site northwest of Truesdale in rural Buena Vista County, but plans to haul it away to a new out-of-area owner have skidded to a stop after a review of county documentation.

"It seems like all parties now agree that Scott Township owns the building and one acre of land that it sat on," County Attorney Dave Patton said Thursday.

The Kolb Trust, which owns surrounding property and has been paying property taxes on the building for decades, has assumed that it owned the schoolhouse, most recently used as an election polling place until around 1990.





## Scott Township - Scott Center School

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The trust sold the schoolhouse to Randy Weise, Kingsley, and arrangements were made to raise and move the building this season. Weise said he and his wife, a retired teacher, had planned to restore the building and open it as a living museum where children in his area could come to experience what school was like a century ago.

Scott Township Clerk Anna Mae Rotert-Flink was driving past the schoolhouse northwest of Truesdale late last week and was shocked to find it jacked up to pull away. She told the Pilot-Tribune that township officials initially felt the schoolhouse the township had maintained and insured as its property for many years was being stolen.

After learning of the sale, they protested that the Trust had no right to sell the school, and that the township wanted to preserve the historic value of the structure by keeping it on its original site.

Officials in the county auditor's office, searching through all the records they could find Friday, couldn't say for sure who owned it. After researching further, it is clear there was no malicious intent on anyone's part, Rotert-Flink said. "The Kolb Trust acted based on a misunderstanding. Someone was misled - it seems that it was an honest mistake," Patton agreed.

Just one problem - it is impossible to place the school back where it was. The foundation was badly damaged when it was lifted. Old desks stored in the basement were crushed with falling concrete, its coal burner destroyed, the front staircase ripped out and door broken. "It's a mess," Rotert-Flink says.

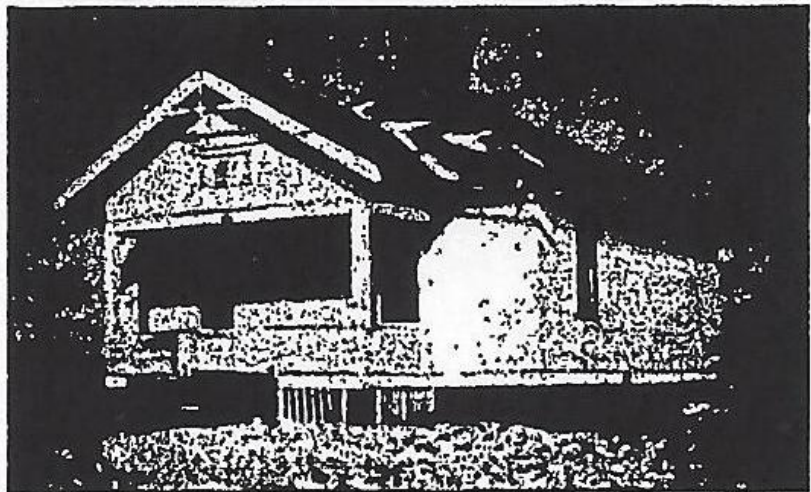
"We also have to be realistic. Financially, the township doesn't have the money to make it useable to the public."

The building itself is solid, and while Rotert-Flink said the township leaders would love to see it restored and maintained as a historic site, they have no funds and no way to meet handicap-accessibility requirements.

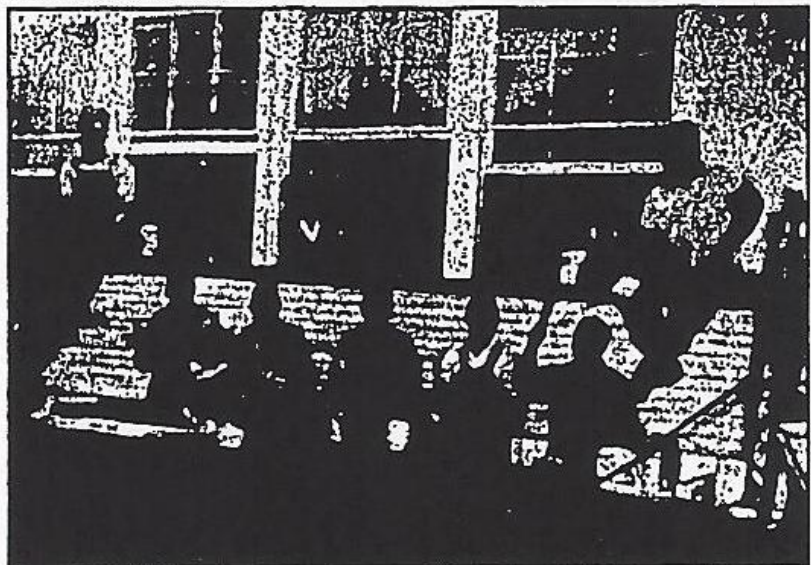
"But if we keep getting rid of our history, what's going to be left."

Here's where the ownership confusion may have begun: In August of 1946, several years after the building had ended use as a school, a quit claim deed was filed by the township transferring ownership to a member of the Kolb family. Just a few months later, the Kolbs transferred ownership back to the township, apparently with some expectations that it could be used as something of a community center.

The county filed its paperwork promptly, but Kolb apparently lagged. Papers on the second deal, the county's purchase, would up



**The schoolhouse as it originally looked. Below, a volunteer renovation in 1952.**



## Scott Township - Scott Center School

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being filed before the first deal, Kolb's purchase. According to Pattern then, if someone didn't look very carefully at the dates the deals took effect, it may appear that Kolb had most recently bought the school from the township, when it was actually the other way around.

Even with ownership cleared up, the situation is complicated. The man who purchased the school from the Trust did so in good faith and planned an extensive project. "He's going to want to see what the trustees do about this. But you can't buy something that the seller has no right to sell," Pattern explains.

There is probably no grounds for the buyer to sue the county or the township, since neither entity agreed to a sale or even knew the sale had taken place.

A trucking company was left on hold with a jacked up school, wanting to get equipment out to other jobs. It would be difficult even to lower the building onto, temporary piers, out of fear of doing permanent damage to the walls, Patton said.

And the Kolb Trust, represented by attorney James Gailey, may consider legal action of its own. "I know if I had been assessed taxes for 30-40 years on something I didn't own, I'd be very interested in finding out if I have a claim," Patton said.

Since the building is owned by the township, a governmental entity, there should have been no property tax assessed for all those years.

Trustees have a school that can't be left where it is, or returned to its foundation. It needs to somehow seal up the building and the gaping basement hole to ensure the site does not become a nuisance.

"It's a real mess," Patton said of the situation. "There are a lot of innocent bystanders here."

Also, the township can't simply decide to sell the school to the buyer to resolve the matter. As a governmental agency, they would have to give notice, schedule a public hearing and open the property up for bidding or public auction. "They cannot just cut a deal here," Patton said.

The township trustees have a couple thousand dollars saved in a budget to maintain the old schoolhouse, but that won't be nearly enough to get the building resituated. Patton suggests the damages would most likely be the responsibility of the trust. "They were the ones who sold what wasn't theirs to sell."

Scott trustees set a public meeting for Sept 16, 6 p.m., at the schoolhouse site, to try to determine what to do. If they were to decide to sell, a public hearing date could be set at that time. In case of bad weather, the meeting will move to the Rembrandt fire department.

Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune - September 12, 2009

### History of Scott Township School

- Background - Scott Township was originally named "Emma," but the name was changed early on to honor General Winfield F. Scott - "Old Fuss and Feathers" - who commanded forces in the War of 1812, Mexican-American War, Indian wars and into the Civil War. He failed in a bid for the presidency in 1852.
- The first one-room school was built in the location in 1896. The current school building, known as Scott Center, was constructed in 1925 for \$2,800.
- In 1936, students were tuitioned to the neighboring school districts and then until 1965, when it consolidated with Alta.
- In 1952 a large group of area residents renovated, painted and cleaned the old school, for use in local gatherings and celebrations. It was last used as a polling place around 1990.

*Source "History of Buena Vista County," 1983, BV  
County Historical Society*

Storm Lake Times - September 19, 2009

### SCOTT TOWNSHIP WANTS TO KEEP SCHOOL Patton, trust lawyer to hash out issues

Township trustees decided at a meeting Wednesday evening that they want to maintain ownership of the Scott Center country school, says township clerk Anna Mae Rotert-Flink. Their next step will be to obtain bids for putting the school building back on its foundation.

## **Scott Township - Scott Center School**

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Attending the meeting at 6 p.m. Wednesday were township trustees Charlotte Binder, Ervin Brake and Gary Small, and roughly 20 township residents. Rotert-Flink says. after hearing from residents, including some with dissenting opinions, the trustees determined that the consensus was to keep the building.

Because of an apparent confusion in the records, the Kolb Family Trust completed documents about a year ago for sale of the building to Randy Weise of Kingsley. The apparent buyer recently had the country schoolhouse removed from its foundation and had planned to restore it on a lot in Schaller.

B.V County Attorney Dave Patton, representing the township, and Jim Gailey, who represents the Bernice Kolb trust, have since agreed that the sale was not valid since the township was the legal owner of the building. They will be speaking with their respective clients about other legal issues involved.

Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune - September 19, 2009

### **Schoolhouse to stay put: Township seeking funds to restore it**

After a decisive meeting of the Scott Township Trustees this week, a decision has been made to return the 85- year-old Scott Center one-room schoolhouse to its original site.

The school was recently sold to a Kingsely man who intended to move and restore it, by the Kolb Trust which mistakenly believed it owned the vacant school building. Township trustees, who own the site, discovered the move in progress and stopped it, pending a board decision.

Township Clerk Anna Mae Rotert-Flink said may of the township residents were at the meeting and trustees polled them as to what they'd like to see done with the building. "They (trustees) voted on what the majority wanted." says Rotert-Flink "They wanted to keep it in that spot."

She says the goal is to restore and maintain it as a one room schoolhouse museum for area children to visit.

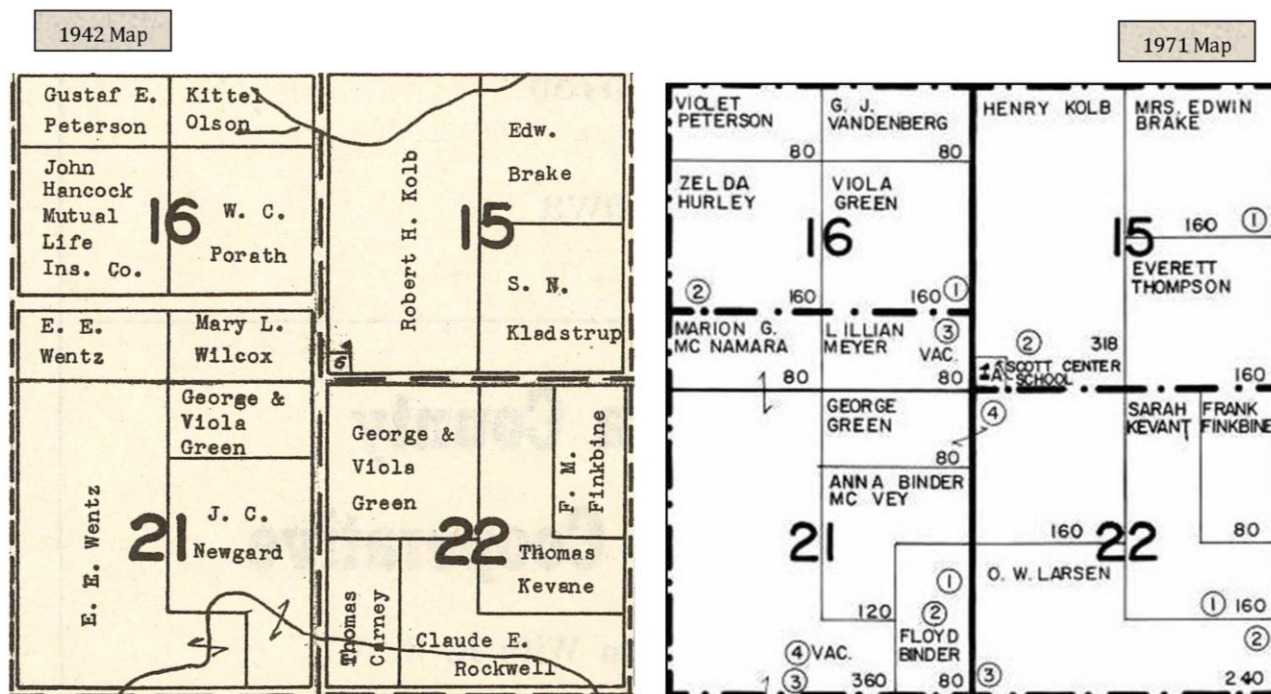
The next challenge the township faces is finding funds. Rotert-Flink says the township doesn't have nearly enough money to restore it so are going to look to see if there is possible grant funding. "If anyone has any suggestion, we would appreciate any and all help." No cost estimate has been made yet.

Rotert-Flink says their original assumption was that the foundation was destroyed when the school was lifted to move. Trustees want to seek an expert opinion to see if the foundation could be salvaged.

The Kolb Trust owns surrounding property and has been paying property taxes on the building for decades, leading it to assume that it owned the schoolhouse. As a government-owned building, there should have been no property tax.

Rotert-Flink says her understanding is that an aerial view of the site was done years ago, and officials noticed a building for which no property taxes were being received, and began assessing taxes to the Kolbs. "Goes to prove once again the old saying "it's never safe to assume."

## Scott Township - Scott Center School



### Written by Dr. Clement Kevane in Rembrandt Remembers

When I look at the picture (of the Scott Center School), it evokes a vision of one of the beautiful grandmothers we see around us: with her white hair, careful grooming and neat dress, an air of calm and peace, and the evidence of pride in a long life well lived.

Look at the School House! She stands there, gazing out over the farms and farm places which sent her her many children. She is proud of the care and shelter she provided for them and of the intellectual growth they achieved while in her care. But that part of her life is over now; the children are all gone, the rooms and playground are silent. She has her memories and works at keeping up her appearance (she still looks wonderful at an age of one hundred years). She still serves her community in less demanding ways.

She is still a great lady: I salute her and feel genuine affection for her.

No doubt, Scott Center School operated below some educational poverty level. But we did not know that and just did what was expected of us: to work hard and learn. Actually, we were eager to learn. Like a blade of grass pushing up through a crack in concrete, we learned in spite of limited educational facilities provided by the school. Overall, Scott Center prepared us for Rembrandt High School at least adequately, I think.

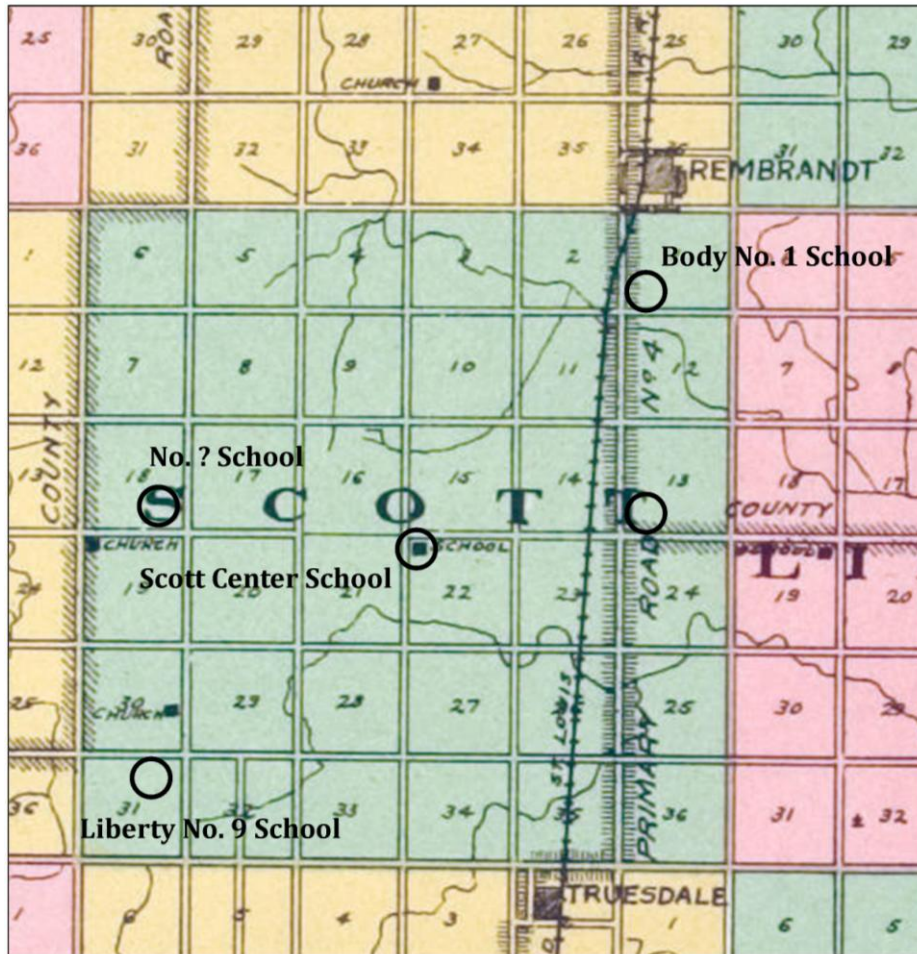
It is noteworthy that at least three children who attended Scott Center in that time period (and then went on to Rembrandt High) later earned doctorates in higher education. That the three I know of were from the same family reinforces my belief that family influence is of paramount importance for success in school.





## Scott Township - Liberty School (District No. 9)

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Storm Lake Pilot (December 23, 1874)

### **Letter from Scott Township Scott Township, Buena Vista Co., Iowa**

December 14, 1874

EDITOR PILOT: Through the neglect of more gifted pens, and with the knowledge that our Township is worthy of representation in the columns of our county piper, we are induced to take up our humble quill and jot down a few items.

We have a population of something over one hundred individuals, all live, energetic citizens, who seem to take a lively interest in public affairs generally. Everybody "takes the papers," which fact alone speaks volumes in their favor. In looking out for their temporal well-being, that of the spiritual seems not to be forgotten. Every two weeks there are religious exercises held at the Liberty School House, in the western part of the township, and conducted by Rev. W. Whitfield, and all who attend go home with the feeling that it was good to have been there. There were four schools, of six months each, taught, during the past summer and fall. In regard to crops, people are much better provided for than ever before since the first settling of the Township, all having enough to winter themselves and stock quite comfortably, and are looking hopefully forward to the return of another seed-time and harvest, which, it is promised, shall never fail. M. A. H.



## **Scott Township - Liberty School (District No. 9)**

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Storm Lake Pilot (March 22, 1876)

### **Items from Scott Township Scott Township, March 20, 1876**

Editors Pilot: As other townships tell you occasionally, what is transpiring in their midst, old Scott falls, dutifully, into line, and proposes to give you a few items.

Mrs. Angie Carter commenced a term of school in our township. Liberty school house, Dec. 2nd, which came to a close last Saturday. Nearly all the patrons of the school were out, with their families to witness "the last day of School." The pupils all spoke pieces, and acquitted themselves creditably. They also had a paper entitled, "The Star of Hope," which was well filled with humorous sketches, and contained, besides, some excellent reading matter. Every pupil contributed something for the paper, which was edited Miss Nettie M. Hadden. Mr. Comstock and others made very appropriate remarks. All present expressed themselves well pleased with the exercises. Mrs. Carter is a first class teacher, and has commanded the respect and esteem of all. She intends to teach next summer, and those engaging her may depend on having a good school. M. A. H.

Storm Lake Pilot (November 13, 1878)

### **West Scott Items - Teachers announced for Five Schools**

School in Dis. No. 1 will be taught by Esther Peterson; Height School by M. H. Rice; Bradfield School by Retta Pontious; Hadden School by Roma Wilson and the Liberty School by Mrs. Clark.

Storm Lake Pilot (July 9, 1879)

### **To Contractors - Bids for Scott Township School House**

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that the Board of Directors of the District Township of Scott, Buena Vista County, Iowa, will meet at the Liberty School House at the hour of one o'clock p.m., July 12, 1879, to entertain open bids for building a School House in the Branvold neighborhood in said Township, County and State. Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids. Specifications can be seen at the office of Robinson & Allchrist, Storm Lake, Iowa

By order of the Board of Directors of Scott Township. Wm. Holmes, Secretary, June 18, 1879.

Storm Lake Pilot (December 6, 1883)

### **Christmas Tree**

The citizens of Scott township, in the neighborhood of the Liberty school house, are the first to announce a Christmas tree. A number are already interesting themselves in the matter and a grand time is expected. All are invited to participate.

Storm Lake Pilot (January 23, 1889)

### **Row at Liberty School House**

A party of young men got into a row at the Liberty school house, Scott, one day last week and were arrested and fined. This is bad and we trust it will not happen again. There has been a good deal of complaint at the preaching services up that way recently but we hope this will end it all,

Storm Lake Pilot (March 2, 1899)

### **Liberty School Basket Social**

## **Scott Township - Liberty School (District No. 9)**

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The basket sociable which was held at the Liberty school house, Wednesday evening, February 28th, was a success in every respect. The scholars and teacher did credit to themselves in carrying out the program and in decorating the school house. The attendance was good and the proceeds were \$5.00, which will be expended by the teacher for the benefit of the library.

Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune (June 3, 1910)

### **Liberty School Term Ends**

Miss Bernice Robinson closed a very successful term of school at Liberty school in West Scott Friday.

Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune (February 26, 1931)

### **Mrs. Wilcox Taught Many Leading Men Started Teaching Duties Way Back in 1872 - Served Many Townships**

Mrs. Sue L. Wilcox of Storm Lake, now advanced in years, is perhaps one of the only school teachers still living who sat at the head of a class room back in the late 70's in Buena Vista county.

There are probably from 50 to 100 or more prominent farmers and business people in Buena Vista county today who can remember when they went to school to Mrs. Wilcox, for she taught in many districts, covering a period of several years.

#### **Got Her Certificate**

It was back in 1873, only two years following the founding of The Storm Lake Pilot, that Mrs. Wilcox went to the home of J. D. Adams, who lived near Alta, to get her first certificate in this county. Mr. Adams was at that time county superintendent of schools.

"I rode horseback," explains Mrs. Wilcox, "and it was a cold and stormy day."

The first school house in which Mrs. Wilcox taught was a temporary building erected at a point where the trustees thought it would accommodate the largest number of pupils. It was a mile from her home to the school building and as she had three children ranging in ages from four to seven years, this pioneer teacher took her children to school with her.

#### **Add New Courses**

In 1875 two new subjects, physiology and history, were added to the studies. It was therefore necessary for Mrs. Wilcox to obtain copies of the book and to study them thoroughly before she endeavored to teach them in classes. She completed the studies and was prepared to take her next examination for a certificate.

The superintendent of schools in that year was Jacob Davis, who lived four miles out of Newell.

"Mrs. William Holmes and I started with team and wagon, each family having offered their best horse to make up the team," Mrs. Wilcox related. "It was a cloudy day and after driving for hours we saw a town and knowing Mr. Jacobs lived four miles in the country, we asked some haymakers working in a field to direct us to his home."

#### **Lost on Prairie**

"We found that in some way we had driven in a circle and that we were nearly back in Storm Lake. You must remember that there were no roads in those days - only trails. We then turned about and proceeded on our way again, finally arriving so late that we had to remain over night," the aged teacher explained.

Mrs. Wilcox taught nine terms in District No. 9, Scott township, in what was called the Liberty school house; many terms in the old home school, District No. 8, in Scott township, which was later absorbed by the consolidation of districts; and also in Districts No. 4, 5 and 7 in Scott. Washington and Elk township schools later came under her regime.

## Scott Township - Liberty School (District No. 9)

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The highest monthly wages I ever received in all the years of my teaching was \$35," this pioneer woman told the newspaper man. "However. I derived much pleasure out of my work and now, this many years later, the one thing that gives me so much pleasure is to have some of my pupils call to see me or to send me greetings."

Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune (September 27, 1956)

### Class of 50 Years Ago Meets with Teacher Joe Gutel



Classmates at the school, shown in the photo by Buntrock-Sallie Studio are: Back row, left to right: Art Rehnstrom, George Peterson, Mrs George Peterson, \_\_\_\_ (Anderson), Ivan Bodine, Ruben Nyden, Elim Rehnstrom, Mrs. Alfred Peterson (Esther Peterson) and Mrs. Nlame Anderson (Nlame Rehnstrom). Front row, left to right: Mrs. Oscar Peterson (Mable Peterson), Miss Elsie Nyden, J. R. Gutel, teacher, Mrs. Rudy Johnson (Carrie Hanson) and Mrs. Maggie Miller (Maggie Hanson).

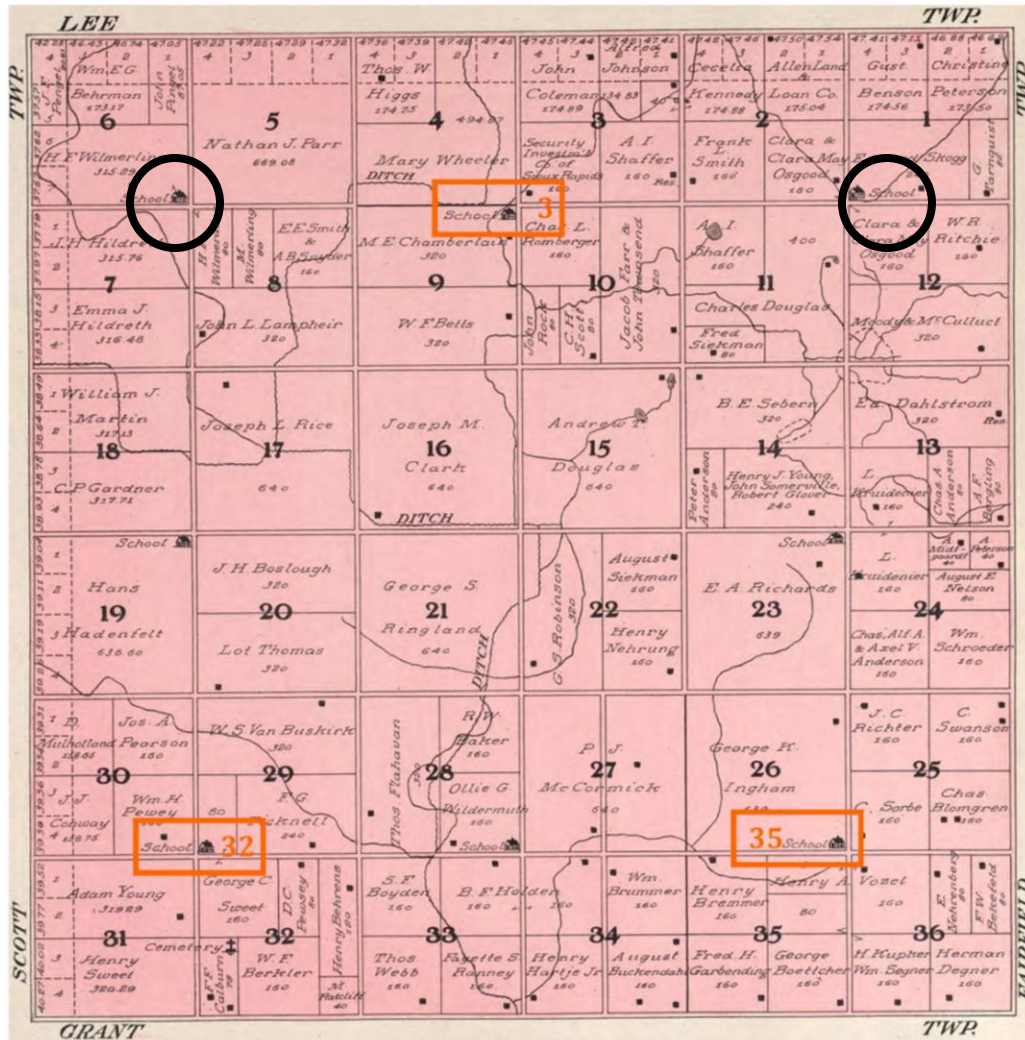
An interesting and unusual event was held at the Steak House Tuesday evening, Sept. 18, when the pupils and teacher, J. R. Gutel, of district No. 9, Scott township of 50 years ago, gathered for a reunion at a 7 o'clock dinner. Twelve of the 19 students who attended school that year were present. With the teacher and classmates' companions, 21 were in the party.

The evening was devoted to visiting and bringing back old, almost forgotten memories of what happened in the old school 50 years ago.

At that time it was customary to name schools. This one was called "Liberty School of Scott Township." It was actually a one-room school, as there was not even a hall attached. When the door was opened you stepped into the main room. Memories of getting water in a bucket from a nearby farm, a basket social held that winter, taking rides with the teachers horse and buggy, and remembrance of other similar happenings added to the enjoyment of the evening. Each one in attendance was called upon for a short speech.

## Lincoln Township - General

Lincoln Township - School Houses in the early 1870's - Sections 3, 32 and 35



Source: 1908 Standard Atlas, Buena Vista County, Iowa

- Section 3 or 9 - School (District No. ??)
- Section 32 - Sweet School (District No. ??)
- Section 35 - School (District No. 7)

### Other Confirmed School Locations

- Section 1 - Miller School (District No. 1)
- Section 6 - Wellmerling School (District No. ??)

### Other Unconfirmed Schools and Locations (list is not complete / may be one of above)

- Section ?? - Medlicott School (District No. ??)
- Section ?? - School (District No. ??)
- Section ?? - School (District No. 4)
- Section ?? - School (District No. 6)
- Section ?? - School (District No. 8)
- Section ?? - School (District No. 9)



## Lincoln Township - General

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Storm Lake Pilot (May 6, 1874)

### NOTICE TO BUILDERS

SEALED proposals will be received up to two o'clock p.m.. Saturday, May 30th, at which time the Board or School Directors of Lincoln township will **meet at the Medicott School House** to the lowest responsible bidder the contract **to build a school house** in said township, reserving the right to reject any and all bids.

Specifications can be seen at THE PILOT office in Storm Lake, and at the Echo office Sioux Rapids, and at the residence of the President of the Board.

By order of the Board, Arthur Medicott, Secretary, May 4, 1874.

Buena Vista County Herald (October 17, 1935)

### Lincoln No. 4

(Wanda Zerbe, teacher)

Last week completed the first six weeks period. Following are the averages of each pupil: Amber Williamson, 84; Marie Ehmen, 85; Billy Hadenfeldt, 87; Opal Williamson, 88; Ruth Williamson, 86; Johnnie Olberding, 79; Raymond Olberding, 83; Bobby Hadenfeldt, 62; Ervin Olberding, 83.

Fire Prevention week was observed by open discussion of methods of preventing fire and by making fire posters.

The pupils enjoyed a treasure hunt last Friday.

Bobby Hadenfeldt has had perfect attendance for the first six weeks.

The Indian village in the sand table was completed this week.

Buena Vista County Herald (October 17, 1935)

### Lincoln No. 8

(Mrs. William Fischer)

The fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grades made diary booklets last week in connection with their language work. They are large enough to keep a daily record for 72 days.

The reading lessons last week in all of the grades were stories of Columbus.

Posters were made Friday for Columbus Day which contained a picture of a ship and a short summary of the life of Columbus.

A diagram of the digestive system was drawn by Bernice Boettcher, seventh grader, in connection with hygiene. It was put on colored construction paper and mounted on the bulletin board in the back of the room.

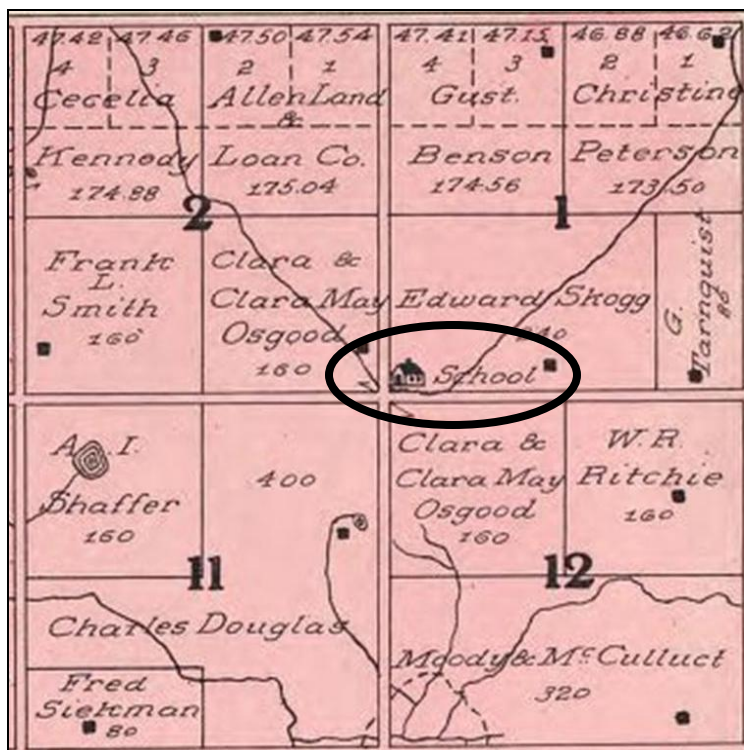
One hundred per cent was received by Jimmie Flanigan, Twyla Roe Johnson, Mary Flanigan, Bernice Boettcher and Jack Flanigan. The attendance was 100 per cent for last week.

The pupils worked on their history scrapbooks Friday morning. They are collecting history stories each day from the daily paper and mounting them in their scrapbooks in their order and borders are put around the topics with their crayons, thus making them very attractive.

Friday afternoon for their vocational work the girls sewed on the doll quilts which they are working on at the present time. Jimmie Flanigan made a letter opener and Jack Flanigan made a miniature sleigh. He has already made a miniature wagon and hay-rack which are attractively painted in red.

## Lincoln Township - Miller School - Section 1

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Sioux Rapids Republican (September 16, 1896)

### Lee, Herdland and Vicinity News

They organized a Sabbath school at the Miller school house a week or two ago. Mrs. Forrest, superintendent.

Sioux Rapids Press (October 29, 1896)

### Notice to Contractors Move School House

We will let contract for moving school house in district No. 1, on Sec. 1, Lincoln township. Apply to H. F. Welmerling, Secretary Lincoln Township.

Sioux Rapids Republican (March 27, 1897)

### Lee, Herdland and Vicinity News

The meetings that were to have commenced on Sunday night, the 14th, at the Miller school house did not begin on account of the sickness of the ministers family.

Sioux Rapids Republican (August 12, 1897)

### Preaching Services - Miller School

There will be preaching services and Sunday school in the J. B. Miller school house on Sec. 1, Lincoln township, at 2:30 next Sunday afternoon, August 15, under the direction of the Buena Vista County Sunday School association. J. B. Crawford the noted Sunday school evangelist will preach and organize a Sunday school. Everybody is cordially invited to attend.

## Lincoln Township - Miller School - Section 1

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Sioux Rapids Republican (September 8, 1898)

### Sunday School Rally - Miller School

The Lord willing a Sunday School Rally will be held in a large tent at the J. B. Miller School House, Lincoln township, Buena Vista Co., Ia., on Sunday Sept. 11, 1898. The readers of this paper are cordially invited to attend the Rally and get all good possible while the following program is being carried out.

PROGRAM.

10:00 a.m.	Song and praise service.
10:30	Address of Welcome, Elder J. B. Miller.
10:45	Response. C.M. Wilcox.
11:00	Sermon.
12:00 p.m.	Mass Sunday school. Study of the lesson for Sept. 11.
1:00 p.m.	Basket dinner.
2:00	Song and praise service.
2:15	Relation of the local work to the state work. J. W. Planalp.
2:30	Qualifications of the Sunday school teacher. Elder J. B. Miller.
2:45	The chief object in studying the lesson. Pastor W. E. Barber.
3:00	Echoes from the field. P. W. Gibson.
3:15	The relation of the Sunday school to good citizenship. F. F. Favilie.
3:30	The byways and hedges. J. Wagner.
3:45	What is the best substitute for preaching, if any, in a country Sunday school.
4:00	The teachers preparation for teaching the lesson. Prof. J. E. Durkee.
4:15	The responsibility of one half hour-before the class. A.B. Parry
4:30	"Evergreens." C.M. Wilcox.
Closing remarks.	C. M. WILCOX, Pres. County S. S. Ass'n.

Sioux Rapids Republican (March 16, 1899)

### North Herdland News

Miss Hattie Sanborn, of Sioux Rapids, is finishing the winter term in the Miller school house for Mrs. Ricker resigned. Miss Nellie Price expects to teach the Hughes school spring term. Miss Clara Hagerty, of Spencer, in Herdland No. 1.

Sioux Rapids Republican (August 18, 1900)

### North Lincoln and South Lee News

Miss Jackson of Lake View Sac county is visiting her sister Mrs. W. R. Ritchie. She will teach the Miller school this year.

Sioux Rapids Republican (February 23, 1901)

### Herdland and Vicinity News

A basket social was held at the Miller school house last Friday evening to add to the library fund. Receipts about \$6.

Sioux Rapids Republican (November 6, 1903)

### Herdland Items

Miss Maggie Nelson closed the Miller school last Friday and T. Johnson closed the Osborn the same day.

## **Lincoln Township - Miller School - Section 1**

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Sioux Rapids Republican (November 27 1903)

### **Herdland Items**

The Miller school commenced today, Monday, with K. McDoan teacher, also the Osborn with T. Johnson teacher.

Sioux Rapids Republican (October 13, 1921)

### **Lincoln News**

#### **Miller School move to Lincoln-Lee School Grounds**

Mr. Rogers of Storm Lake moved the Miller school house to the Lincoln-Lee school grounds the first of the week.



## **Lincoln Township - Welmerling School - Section 6**

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Sioux Rapids Press (December 2, 1886)

### **Miss Evans - Welmerling School Teacher**

Miss Lydia Evans is teaching the Welmerling school this winter.

Storm Lake Pilot (April 23, 1890)

### **New Welmering District School House to be Built**

A new school house is to be built in the Welmering district.

Storm Lake Pilot (July 16, 1890)

### **New Welmering District School House**

The new school house in the Welmering district makes a nice appearance on the prairie.

Sioux Rapids Press (April 7, 1892)

### **Welmerling School Items**

A new school house will be built this season two miles east of the Welmerling school.  
Henry Oelfke closed a winter term of school in the Welmerling district last Friday.  
The Lincoln township school board consists of F . Kidman, Frank Colburn and H. F. Welmerling.

## Lincoln Township - Wellmerling School - Section 6

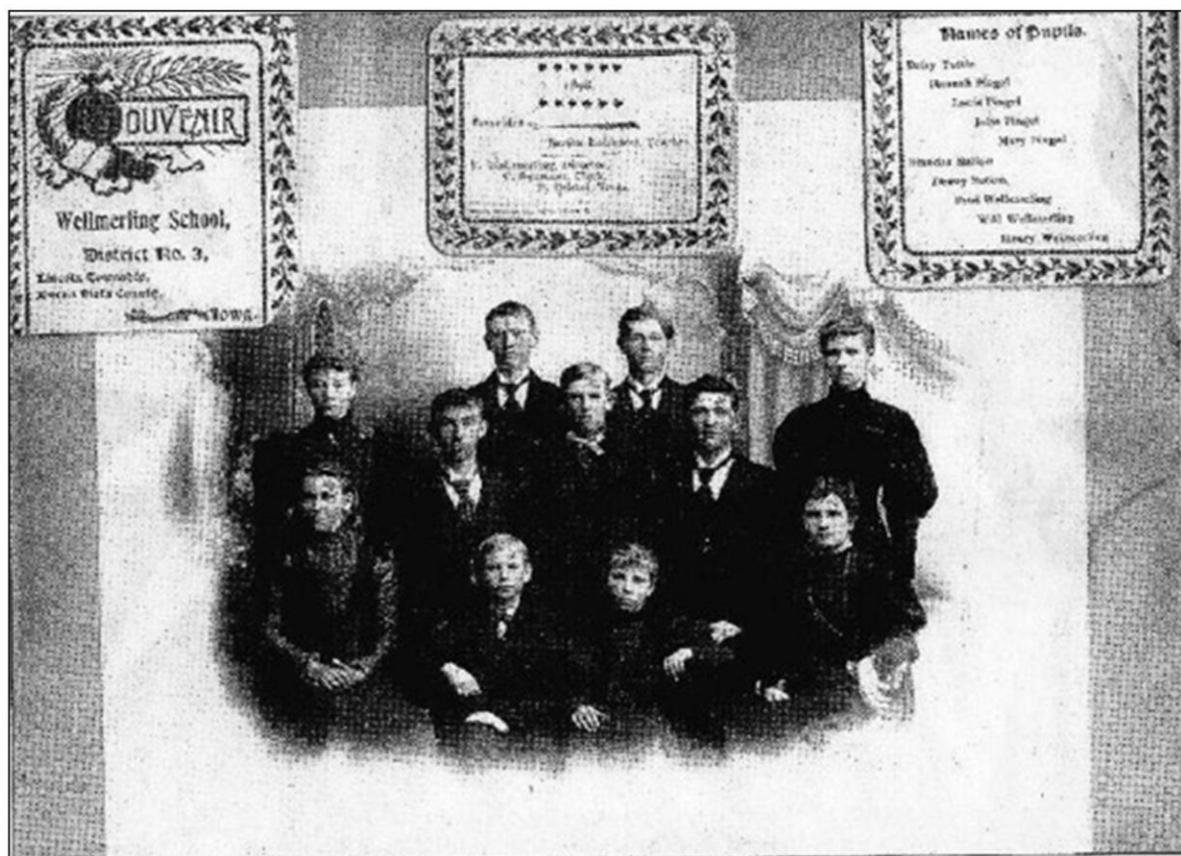


Source: 1908 Standard Atlas, Buena Vista County, Iowa

The Wellmerling school was located at the south-east corner of Section 6 in Lincoln Township on land probably acquired from the Wellmerling family. The school's location was approximately 2 miles east of Rembrandt and 1 mile south.

The school's more formal identification was probably "Lincoln No. 6" because of its location in Section 6. However, it became known as the Wellmerling School because of its proximity to the Wellmerling home.

John Pingel is the grandfather of Eldona (Pingel) Hahm and Ron Pingel. John is standing in the back row center right. Hannah, Louis and Mary are John's siblings.



This photo shows the students of Wellmerling School, District No. 3, in Lincoln Township between Truesdale and Albert City in 1898. The students are Daisy Tuttle, Hannah Pingel, Louis Pingel, John Pingel, Mary Pingel, Blanche Sutton, Dewey Sutton, Fred Wellmerling, Will Wellmerling and Henry Wellmerling. Their teacher was Bertha Robinson.

## Lincoln Township - Sweet School - Section 32

Storm Lake Pilot (March 24, 1887)

### Revival Meetings and Lincoln Library

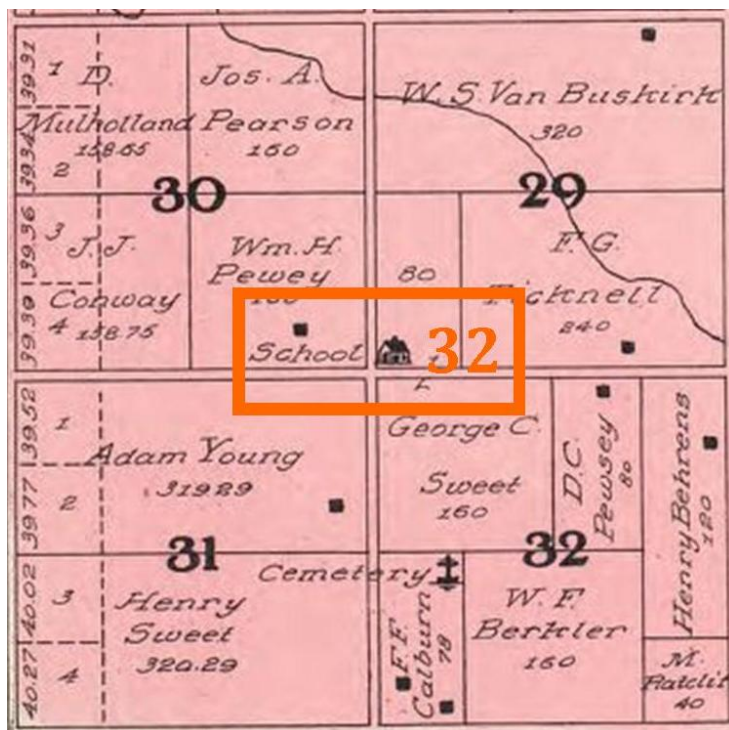
The revival meetings are again being carried on in the Sweet school house.

At election Monday the Lincoln library was brought into our neighborhood; Miss Mary Sweet will probably dish out the books this years, and the voters could not have made a better choice. Guess that is the only thing Seth and Hannar can agree upon.

Storm Lake Buena Vista Vidette (March 25, 1887)

### Revival Meeting at Sweet School

There is another revival being carried on in the Sweet school house. It is to be followed up by a camp meeting which will in all human probability last until snow flies again. The object is to keep the old members together, the new converts were abandoned long ago.



Storm Lake Buena Vista Vidette (April 7, 1887)

### President Hostetler will Preach

Pres. Hostetler will preach at Sulphur Springs, next Sunday morning, at Sweet school house, in southwest Lincoln township, at 3 p. m., and address the young people at Sulphur Springs in the evening.

Storm Lake Pilot (April 14, 1887)

### Miss Moore to Teach

Miss Rosa Moore will teach this summer here in the Sweet school house.

Storm Lake Pilot (May 5, 1887)

### SOUTH LINCOLN NEWS

Special Correspondence

### Sunday School at Sweet School House

Do not forget that we are going to organize a Sunday School at the Sweet school house May 29.

Storm Lake Pilot (May 12, 1887)

### SOUTH LINCOLN NEWS

Special Correspondence

### Sunday School

A Sunday school is now in full blast at the Sweet school house.

## Lincoln Township - Sweet School - Section 32

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Storm Lake Pilot (November 24, 1887)

### **Talk of Another Revival**

Some talk of another revival at the Sweet school house; we need it.

Storm Lake Pilot (February 6, 1889)

### **LINCOLN NEWS**

#### **Funeral held at Sweet School**

Sad news came to us last Wednesday when James Robbins and wife came from Milford bringing the body of their child, two months of age, for interment in the home cemetery. The funeral took place from the Sweet school house, Thursday, conducted by Rev. Howell. Mrs. Robbins' parents went home with them for a few days.

So fades the lovely blooming flower.  
Frail, smiling solace of an hour.  
So soon our transient comforts fly  
And pleasures only bloom to die.

Jesus called our loved one  
To go with him and dwell.  
And tho we sadly miss her,  
Yet He doeth all things well.

Storm Lake Pilot (May 15, 1889)

### **Change in Church Hours**

Brother Howell has changed his time for services at the Sweet school house from ten in the morning to seven and a half in the evening.

Storm Lake Pilot (November 20, 1889)

### **Thanksgiving Services**

Thanksgiving services at the Sweet school house. Lincoln township, Nov. 28, at 2:30 p. m.; sermon by Rev. O. C. Howell.

Storm Lake Pilot (November 27, 1889)

### **Sweet School Starts**

Sweet's school commenced last Monday.

Storm Lake Pilot (March 12, 1890)

### **Spelling School**

The spelling school at the Sweet school house was well attended; also the one at Zinsers.

Storm Lake Pilot (April 23, 1890)

### **Sunday School Organized**

Sunday school was organized at the Sweet school house with S. W. M. Smith, Supt.; Wm. Backer, Asst. Supt.; Ida Sweet, Sec. and Treas.



## Lincoln Township - Sweet School - Section 32

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Storm Lake Pilot (July 2, 1890)

### Quarterly Conference

Quarterly conference at the Sweet school house Saturday, July 5th, at 2:30 p. m.

Sioux Rapids Press (January 19, 1893)

### A Spelling School at Sweet School House

Eli Backer gave a spelling school at the Sweet school house Friday evening. Quite a number present but we did not learn who was the crack speller.

Storm Lake Pilot (July 30, 1896)

### Talk with Union Sunday School

Mr. Swartz talked with the Union Sunday School at the Sweet School house July 26.

Storm Lake Buena Vista Vidette (August 12, 1896)

### Bryan Silver Club

A meeting, will be held at the Sweet school house in Lincoln township on Thursday evening, Aug. 19, to organize a Bryan Silver club. Prof. P. B. S. Peters and F. J. Brown will assist in the organization and probably address the meeting from a free silver standpoint.

Storm Lake Pilot (August 13, 1896)

## LINCOLN NEWS

### Tent Meeting at Sweet School

There will be a tent meeting at the Sweet school ground conducted by the Union Sunday School folks, of Sioux Rapids, commencing August 10th and lasting ten days. The singing will be conducted by a professional singer. A good time is expected. Rev. Schwarz, of Storm Lake, will assist in the preaching. Let everybody come and bring your lunch baskets Sunday, and have a regular camp meeting. Preaching every evening at 8 o'clock.

Storm Lake Buena Vista Vidette (September 10, 1896)

### Not Bead nor Dying

Lincoln Township Sept. 5, '96 - P. B. S. Peters, Storm Lake, Ia.

Dear Sir: The Free Silver meeting at the Sweet school house in Lincoln last Wednesday evening was well attended, and the address by T. C. Walker was so interesting that he was urged to keep on until eleven o'clock. 105 pamphlets on free coinage were subscribed for at the meeting and 45 of them by men who have always voted the republican ticket. Observer

### The Free Silver Forum

P. B. S. Peters, Editor

### Be Consistent

It is indeed a remarkable peculiarity that four years ago when the tariff issue was the question before the people, the republican press and orators were continually harping on the competition of American labor with the "pauper labor of England" but now that the money question is the issue, it is the "pauper labor of Mexico" that is causing them so much worry and loss of sleep, and the "pauper labor" of England is heard of no more.

## **Lincoln Township - Sweet School - Section 32**

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Why this sudden change of front ?

Another one:

The purchase of a grand total of 16,708 tons of silver (these are Pilot-Tribune figures) in the past twenty-three years, and a coinage of more than fifty-three times as many silver dollars in the eight-two years proceeding 1873, are given as arguments (?) against the free coinage of silver by American alone, but with the consent of other nations these prodigious amounts would melt away in insignificance.

"Don't try to fool all the people all the time." You can't do it.

Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune (January 29, 1897)

### **Preaching Services**

Preaching services at Peach and Sweet school houses next sabbath afternoon Jan. 31, at the regular hour.

Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune (February 19, 1897)

### **Literary Meetings**

A literary meeting is held every Monday evening at the Sweet school house, Lincoln township.

Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune (December 9, 1898)

### **President Hostetler Preaches**

Pres. Hostetler will preach at Sulphur Springs next Sunday morning, at Sweet school house, in southwest Lincoln township, at 3 p.m., and address the young people at Sulphur Springs in the evening.

Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune (September 15, 1899)

### **Pres. Hostetler Dedicatory Address**

Pres. Hostetler will give the dedicatory address at the new Sweet school house in Lincoln township, next Sunday a.m. at 10:30. All are invited.

Sioux Rapids Republican (October 21, 1899)

### **New Area Resident and Organizing a Presbyterian Church**

Fan Sutton of Peach will move on a farm one mile south of Sweet school house.

On last Friday evening there was a meeting at the Sweet school house for the purpose of organizing a Presbyterian church. Rev. Williams, Rev. Hostetler, president of Buena Vista college and others were in attendance.

Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune (February 23, 1900)

### **Special Evangelist Meeting**

The special meetings conducted at the Sweet school house are going on finely. Cap. O'Brien the evangelist is an excellent speaker, and Mr. Campbell, his assistant, is excellent support as a singer. The meetings will likely close next Sunday. We look for important and far-reaching work to be done.

Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune (November 29, 1907)

### **Sweet School Teacher**

Miss Nellie Clough is teaching the Sweet school this winter beginning last Monday.

## Lincoln Township - Sweet School - Section 32

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Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune (February 18, 1910)

### Public Sale

I will sell at public auction on Section 32, Lincoln township, ten miles northeast of Storm Lake, 4 3 4 miles northeast of Truesdale, and 3 4 miles east of the Sweet school house on  
**Friday, February 25**  
Commencing at 12 o'clock, the following property:  
**5 HEAD OF HORSES** Consisting of 1 brown mare 7 years old, with foal; 1 bay mare 15 years old; 1 black colt 3 years old; 1 bay colt 2 years old; 1 brown coach stallion 6 years old, weight 1400, owned by Frank Heschke. A good breeder.  
**11 HEAD OF CATTLE** Consisting of 4 cows, all coming in soon, of which one is 7 years old, one 6, one 4, and one 3; one 2 year old heifer coming in soon, 2 yearling heifers, 4 calves.  
**11 HEAD OF POLAND CHINA SHOATS**  
**FARM MACHINERY, ETC.** 2 lumber wagons, single seated buggy, buck rake, hay rake, John Deere mower, riding sulky plow, 6 shovel riding cultivator, 3 section steel harrow, hay rack, corn sheller, grind stone, 14 inch walking plow, set double harness, set single buggy harness, cutter. One crib of corn, large quantity pure Green Russian seed oats, stack of timothy and clover hay, stack of wild hay. About 100 Plymouth Rock Chickens.  
**FREE LUNCH AT NOON**  
**TERMS** All sums of \$10 and under cash, sums over that amount 10 months time will be given on approved notes bearing 8 per cent interest from date of sale. No property to be removed until settled for.  
**D. C. Pewsey**  
**E. P. LAYMAN & SON, Auctioneers. W. E. HARRIS, Clerk**

Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune (May 15, 1930)

### In Days of Yore - Thirty Years Ago

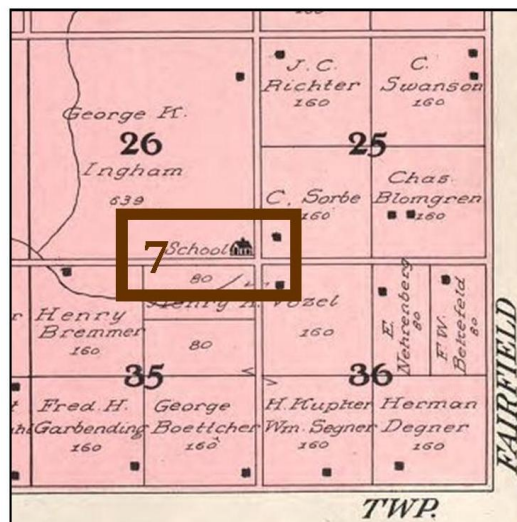
Miss Vina Hoffman is teaching school at the Sweet school north of town.

## Lincoln Township - School (District No. 7) - Section 35

Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune (August 23, 1928)

### NOTICE FOR BIDS - SALE OF SCHOOL HOUSE

Public notice Is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the School Township of Lincoln. Buena Vista County, Iowa, will offer for sale by sealed bids the **temporary school house located on the southeast corner of section twenty-six (26)** in said township. The board will receive bids up to 1:00 P. M. Friday, August 31, 1928. The building will be sold to the highest bidder and the successful bidder will be requested to move the building from the present site before school opens on September 5th, if possible. The building is 10 feet wide, 20 feet long, and 9 feet high. Bids may be sent to the undersigned. F. H. Garberding, Secretary, Albert City. Iowa.



Buena Vista County Herald (October 17, 1935)

### With the Schools

#### Lincoln No. 7

(Gladys Keimer, teacher)

The pupils who have been neither absent nor tardy for six weeks are: Russell Nebring, Audrey Mae Nebring, Eldon Sorbe, Rollie Kruse, Geneva Kruse, Marilyn Sorbe, Jeanette Kruse.

Honor students for the first six weeks are: Yvonne Hedman, 4th grade, 94 per cent; Russell Nebring, 8th grade, 93 per cent; Geneva Kruse, 5th grade, 93 per cent; Marilyn Sorbe, 2nd grade, 90 per cent.

The following have averages above 90 per cent: Audrey Mae Nebring, Eldon Sorbe, Jeanette Kruse, Janice Walstead, William Walstead.

The "School Club" is a new organization formed with Russell Nebring president; Eldon Sorbe, vice president, and Geneva Kruse secretary-treasurer. The club has a meeting every second Friday. It's motto is "For School and Happiness."

On Friday, Oct. 4, the School club had a picnic dinner near the school grounds. Weiners and marshmallows were roasted. After the picnic was a treasure hunt followed by a short game of football. Although the dinner was very late owing to finishing the Friday afternoon classes before dinner, everyone enjoyed the afternoon.

The project now in progress is the building of a miniature airport. Coping saws and various colors of paint help make the building of airplanes, airdrome, searchlights, etc., easy. Everyone is interested in its development.

Barton Nebring was absent last Thursday.

Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune (August 27, 1942)

### County Schools Receive Checks As State Aid

Four standard schools of Buena Vista county have received state aid amounting to \$13,552, reports County Supt. A. E. Harrison. This Is \$1,884 more than the amount received last year when five schools qualified. The lack of an average of 10 students thruout the year made many schools in the county ineligible, Mr. Harrison explained.

Schools that received state old and the amount are: Elk No. 4, taught by Miss Doris Frank, \$3,388; **Lincoln No. 7, of which Miss Beatrice Davidson is teacher**, \$2,662; Maple Valley No. 7, taught by Miss Frances Ladson, \$3,872, and Maple Valley No. 8, of which Miss Audrey Joy Steffen is instructor, \$3,630. State aid is given for certain standards which have been met by the schools, including teacher training, building, improvements and equipment.



## **Lincoln Township - School (District No. 7) - Section 35**

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Storm Lake Register (August 26, 1947)

### **Only Country School in the County Begins**

School got under way in Buena Vista county this week when sessions started in Lincoln rural school No. 7, only rural school in Buena Vista county, according to A. E. Harrison, superintendent of schools.

The 13 consolidated schools of the county, plus the Storm Lake independent schools, are to open next Monday.

Buena Vista county has the lowest number of rural schools in Iowa and has been heralded much in recent years because of its fine showing in this respect.

### **Only Eight Pupils**

Second to Buena Vista county in fewness of rural schools is Story county which has only three such schools. Florence Field is teacher of Lincoln rural school No. 7 and there are eight pupils attending the school which is located eight miles southwest of Albert City.

In other words there are only about a half dozen rural school pupils in the county out of an estimated 4,000 pupils in the schools of Buena Vista which means a minutely low percentage.

Consolidated schools at Alta, Albert City, Brooke township, Linn Grove, Fairview township, Marathon. Hayes township. Newell, Highview township. Providence township, Rembrandt. Truesdale, Sioux Rapids and the Storm Lake Independent district represent the rest of the student population.

### **Have Ample Teachers**

Superintendent Harrison states that the schools of the county are well situated for teaching strength, with only one or two shortages in this respect.

The resumption of school terminates a vacation which began the latter part of May and proceeded thru three months of inactivity. Most of the schools have been cleaned up and fixed up for the opening.

The buildings have been put in good repair and considerable painting has been done to a good many of the buildings.

Storm Lake Register (September 2, 1947)

### **Last Surviving Buena Vista County Rural School Outstanding for Type**

While most school pupils of Buena Vista county looked ahead to this week before entering classes and the opening of the new fall term of school, the pupils of Lincoln school No. 7 are already "seasoned veterans." This school is located in Lincoln township.

That is to say, they have been in school more than a week already this fall, and to think the "first day of school" is now only a memory of the dim and distant past. Already they are looking ahead to the Christmas holidays.

### **List Names of Pupils**

By "they" we mean: Beverly Ann Nehring, 8; Kenneth Braesch, 12; Verna Belle Kruse, 10; Irving Bolte, 13; Marion Bolte, 8; Leonard Brummer, 8; Bruce Nehring, 5; Roger Dean Kruse, 7; and Karen Lee Sorbe, 7.

But, these youngsters have another distinction. They are pupils of the only surviving rural school in Buena Vista county. In the past they have referred to these schools as the "outmoded little one and two room buildings."

### **A Bright, Cheerful Building**

In this instance, however, we will have to change our tune. Lincoln School No. 7 is only a one-room building, all right, and is not a huge structure. But, for its type it is a very attractive building.

It is, nearly all glass on the west side, affording the youngsters with an ideal daylight building in which to attend school.

## Lincoln Township - School (District No. 7) - Section 35

### Fits Its Surroundings

It is an attractive building and its site is "made to order" for the building. The ground lays well and sets the building off to advantage.

Viewed on its elevation, slightly high location, the well painted white structure, with a large American flag unfurled to the breeze presents a striking picture to the eye.

### Miss Field is Teacher

Teacher of the school is Miss Florence Field of Sergeant Bluff. Her curriculum represents all classes, grades 1 to 8, with the exception that there are no 7th grade pupils in the school.

While Lincoln No. 7 will undoubtedly bow to the inroads of the more modern consolidated school plan in which Buena Vista county is the state's leader, until that time comes little old Lincoln No. 7 will continue to be about the best school in its classification.

**Pilot-Tribune** SEPTEMBER 4, 1947

### Youngsters Gather in Last Rural School Building in Buena Vista County



Here's the inside and the outside of the last surviving rural school in Buena Vista county. It is Lincoln No. 7 in Lincoln township, and there are nine pupils, as depicted above.

These youngsters started to school the week of August 25, so have nearly two weeks in on the present term. This last surviving "rural school" is not an unattractive building.

Shadows in the above photo detract from its pleasing modern lines, and the spacious windows in the side permit a volume of sunlight which keeps the school room bright and cheery.

Seated, left to right, are the following pupils: Row closest to the camera: Marion Bolte, 8; Leonard Brummer, 9; Bruce Nehring, 5; Roger Dean Kruse, 7; and Karen Lee Sorbe, 7.

Second row: Beverly Ann Nehring, 8; Kenneth Braesch, 12; Verna Belle Kruse, 10; and Irving Bolte,



13. Shown in the background, left to right, are A. E. Harrison, county superintendent of schools, and Miss Florence Field, teacher of the school.

Miss Field comes from Sergeant Bluff. These nine pupils represent eight grades, including every sub-high school class with the exception of the seventh grade.

## Lincoln Township - School (District No. 7) - Section 35

THE TIMES  
SATURDAY  
8/15/98



Wednesday morning Matt Kesterson walks back to his truck after checking around the flat bed trailer to make sure that Lincoln No. 7 school house has enough room on both sides to cross the bridge. The bridge was at the intersection of 470th and 110th Ave. Photo by KATHY KRAUSE

# End of an era

## The last of the one-room schools hits the road

by TINA DONATH  
Associate Editor

One of Buena Vista County's one-room country schools took to the the road Wednesday morning.

Its closing marked the end of an era for Buena Vista County. The school was the last operating one-room school in the county when it closed.

For over 70 years, Lincoln No. 7 has stood on Route 3, five miles east of the junction of 3 and 71, at the southwest corner of section 26.

Now it will be moving some 14 miles northeast of the original site to become a family room for the Matt Kesterson, his wife Jody, and their two boys, Justin, 14, and Jacob, 9. They'll attach the building to their old farm house south of Laurens.

Lincoln No. 7 closed after the district consolidated with Albert City and Truesdale. The building then served as a nolling place

*Continued on page 8A*



## Lincoln Township - School (District No. 7) - Section 35



The old school house weaved its way through the countryside, down gravel roads, and slowed down for the bridge on 470th and 110th Ave.

Photos by  
KATHY  
KRAUSE  
and TINA  
DONATH

*As a teacher, Ardyce Kruse started the day at 7:30 in the morning by firing up the coal furnace in the school basement. The old furnace was also the basis of the school's hot lunch program.*

### Moving ...

*Continued from page one*

for Lincoln Township until the Scott and Lincoln precincts were combined several years ago.

Neighbor Rollie Kruse and his wife Ardyce have lived across the road from the old school for the past 51 years. Rollie Kruse helped plant the trees around the schoolhouse when he was about 10 years old.

His wife Ardyce, then Ardyce Johnson, started teaching there back in 1943, at the age of 17. She had to get a special certificate to become a teacher at that tender age.

Ardyce Kruse was one of several who have presided over the one-room school over the years, including Jo Nordine, Norma Weber, Gladys Reimers, Beatrice Davidson, Hazel Wunder, Florence Field and Mrs. Neil Walrod.

As a teacher, Kruse started the day at 7:30 in the morning by firing up the coal furnace in the school basement. The old furnace was also the basis of the school's hot lunch program. "Hot lunches consisted of casserole dishes baked on the grate of the furnace or baked potatoes," Kruse notes. "These were enjoyed several times a week as an alternative to cold lunches of sandwiches and fruit and cookies."

When she taught at Lincoln No. 7, back in 1943, Kruse remembers, classes began at 9 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and opening songs. "Recitation was continuous all day," she says. "Older children studied while younger ones had class, and vice versa. The children all learned at their own rates of speed and did much study independently."

Kruse, at the age of 17, taught classes in reading, writing and arithmetic every day for all grades, with geography, history, sciences, art and music classes alternating. Writing, music and art classes were held for all grades at the same time.

The children departed at 4. Afterwards, Kruse cleaned the schoolroom and basement daily and checked papers until 5:30. When her ten-hour day was over, she walked the 1/2 mile to her home. Her salary for the month, including janitorial

duties, was \$85.

BUENA VISTA COUNTY once had over 100 one-room country schools. These were phased out when the county started building consolidated schools from 1903 to 1918. In 1934, there were only 30 one-room schools. By 1946, there was one, Lincoln No. 7.

When its days as a schoolhouse ended in 1949, Lincoln No. 7 was maintained as a polling place for Lincoln township. Now it becomes a family room.

The schoolhouse was well built, Kesterson says. He says it would take \$13,000 in lumber to build a structure that size. He's a contractor, so he should know.

The wood throughout is clear span Douglas fir, Kesterson says. It's all in one piece from one wall to the other of the 24 by 30 foot structure. The floor, ceiling, and rafters, were all single pieces of lumber, Kesterson says. The price of single span, 24-foot, 2 by 6's today would be, Kesterson says, "unspeakable."

The 2-hour, 14-mile journey Wednesday morning didn't seem to do the sturdy little structure much harm. The mover told Kesterson that was one of the smoothest moves he's ever made.

The school will be connected to the back side of the Kesterson's old farm house. The school's porch will remain.

The wainscoting on the walls was intact in the old school. It will become a feature of the new family room.

So was the slate blackboard until Kesterson removed it for safekeeping just before the move. He'll replace part of the blackboard now that the move is done.

The large, white light fixtures are still in place, and they'll be put to use once again.

The basement at the original site will be filled and the land cleared. The site's original use and the family room's original purpose are fast on their way to becoming only a memory.



Rollie and Ardyce (Johnson) Kruse lived directly across from the old Lincoln No. 7 School House for 51 years. The school was moved to the Matt Kesterson farm near Laurens Wednesday morning.



Justin Kesterson, 14, "plays" an old piano at the Lincoln No. 7 one-room country school. The instrument, which has been abandoned at the unheated school for almost 50 years, has seen better days. The room he is in will soon be a part of Justin's family home.



## Lincoln Township - School (District No. 7) - Section 35

THE TIMES  
WEDNESDAY  
9/23/98

### Former teacher recalls the old Lincoln School



Pictured is the entire student body of Lincoln No. 7 in 1938. (back row) Janice Walstead; Dwayne Moline, Jeanette Walstead (deceased), teacher Beatrice Davidson, Geneva (Kruse) Betz, Rollie Kruse, and Barton Nehring (deceased). Students in the front row are Billie Walstead, Jeanette (Kruse) Boese, Lola May (Brummer) Welland, Marilyn (Sorbe) O'Bannon, Lois Ann (Brummer) Trinen, and Joan Walstead.



By 1941 or '42, when this picture was taken, the student body of Lincoln No. 7 had dwindled. Shown in the back row are Billy Walstead, Lois Ann (Brummer) Trinen, Dwayne Moline and Lola Mae (Brummer) Welland. The girl in the front row is Joan Walstead.

A former teacher at the school responded to our August 15 article about the moving of Lincoln Township No. 7 near Albert City. Her niece, Storm Laker Patricia Davidson, sent her a clipping of the story.

Dear Editor:

More nostalgia in the case of Lincoln #7, the school of the one-roomed schools to bite the dust.

I taught at Lincoln #7 for five years, 1938 to 1943, and will say that of my more than 25 years of teaching, they were the happiest. We studied hard and worked hard.

During those years, we raised money to buy the piano, which I was saddened to see, has gone to rack and ruin. I thought it might have been sold or given to someone to enjoy as much as we did.

Also, when the rural electrical program was put into effect, I learned that it would go right past us. So I talked to my director, who was Rollie Kruse's father, about having electricity in the school. He said the REA would bring the wiring up to the building, and we would have to pay for inside wiring and fixtures. So we got busy on another program and raffle and made enough money to get the inside work done. So we got our electric lights, but it wasn't easy.

I was sad when the last day came. After that, I taught in town school, but none measured up to the satisfaction one can get from the one room schools. I have been retired for a number of years, but I often think about all my one-room pupils and wonder where they are and what their life work is. I have many pictures taken at No. 7 and enjoy looking at them.

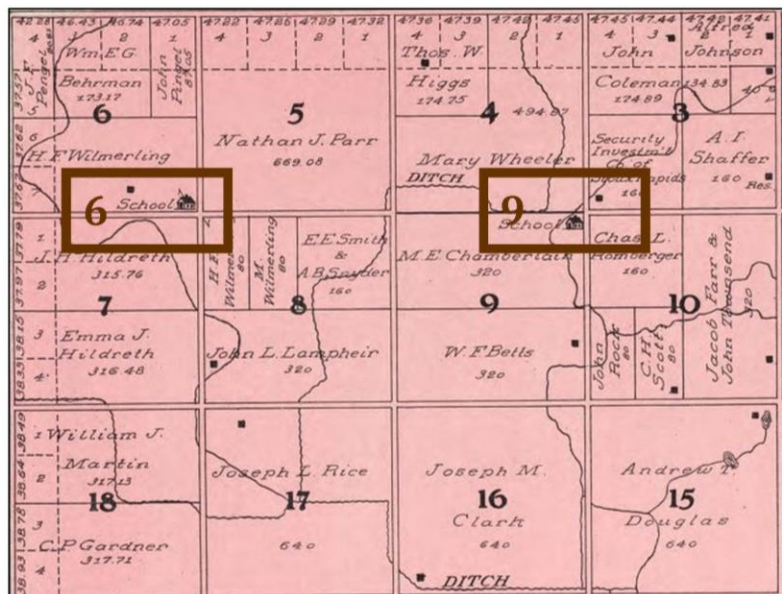
"So long, #7." You served us well, and hope you are happy in your new home.

**BEATRICE DAVIDSON**  
(teacher 1938, 1943)



Teacher Beatrice Davidson, pictured in front of Lincoln No. 7 in 1941.

## Lincoln Township - School - Section 3 or 9



"Lincoln No. 9 school was located at the northeast corner of Section 9 in Lincoln Township. The school's location was approximately 2 miles east of Rembrandt and 1 mile south. The school's identification was probably "Lincoln No. 9" because of its location in Section 9.

Leo Pingel is the father of Eldona (Pingel) Hahm and Ron Pingel. Leo is standing in the front row on the right. Leo's brother Arthur is in the front row third from the left.

Leo began his education at Lincoln #9, then to Zion Lutheran school through 8th grade Confirmation, then to the Lincoln-Lee school, and finally to Rembrandt Consolidated School to graduate in 1926.

