

0816
MAPLE GROVE SCHOOL
DISTRICT #17
PAWNEE COUNTY, NEBRASKA

By: Fifth, Sixth and Eighth Grades

(The authors acknowledge their information about the district history, given us in a talk on the school February 23, 1917 to: Mrs John Hicks for the story of the naming of the school; to Mrs Clyde Wilson for the incident in Miss Scott's experience.)

Note: Picture of school group
at school house 1914-15
with original

HISTORY OF DISTRICT #17

Most of the early settlers in the District settled in the northern part of the District. Most of the first settlers were Linons who lived on the William Binder place. Mumfords took homesteads where Clyde Wilson and Roy Buckles now live. The D B West farm is the one that Guy Howery of Shanadock, Iowas owns. Mr Longfellow settled on the present Sarah Hoig estate. Mr Edgar Wood, one of the first settlers, still lives in the District.

The first school in District #17 was held on the old Laurence Linn place where Mr Binder lives now, probably as early as 1870. It was an old house. It was said that when they had a thunder storm that it thundered and lightened for a week after. Most of the people were young, so there were only three or four children to go to school. No one remembers who the first teacher was.

In 1874, as there were more children to go to school, they now felt they ought to have a new and permanent school. The people in the north part of the district wanted it there, but those in the south wanted it there. So they came together at Mr West's house to decide where it should be put. As there were no telephones then, notices of the meeting had been tacked up at different places in the district. It was decided, finally, that it would be put on Mr West's land. Some of the people in the northern part did not like it and sent their children to Table Rock to school.

The building was made of the best of wood. It is all white pine which was hauled from the Missouri River. They paid about ten dollars a thousand for it. Now the same would cost about eighty dollars per thousand. Mr Edgar Wood and Mr West were on the building committee. MrHare of Pawnee City built the house.

At first the school was called the "Barren School" because there were no trees on the grounds. The people planted a grove of maples and so it got the name of "Maple Grove."

Miss Linn taught the first two terms in the school house. Her father was a doctor and he gave her a human skeleton and every pupil learned to name every bone in it. She only had about six pupils.

The first death in the district so far as we have been able to find out, was the son of Mr Longfellow. He had gone to school only a little while when he died. His name was Willie.

Some of the early teachers between 1876 and 1888 were: Laura Parish, Minnie McCasland, Alice Scott, Pauline Hills, Anna Strock, Alma Hammal, Winthrop Pritchard, Martha McClung and Mary Tracy.

Miss Alice Scott tells the following experience which she had on coming out to the school for the first time. She had been told she was to board at Mumford's just north of the school house and across the road. She got to the top of the hill just south of the school house and could see no house. She thought she must be mistaken as to the place, but went on and found it to be a dug-out. That dug-out is Clyde Willson's cellar.

At first the school house had an ante-room containing a hall and library on the west end but this was torn off and the door put in the south side. Of late years there has been built a hall on the south.

There have been as many as sixty pupils attending school in this school house. There are now only fourteen boys. Isn't it a poor district that cannot afford to have a girl in school? One of the pupils Harold Hicks, started to school in the same school house in which his mother started to school.

Maurice Wilson, scribe
March 2, 1917
Maple Grove School



School in 1914-1915

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Fifth, Sixth, and Eighth Grades,
Maple Grove School,
Pawnee County, Nebraska.

NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEWSPAPER DEPARTMENT

School District No. 17.
Pawnee County.

History of District 17. Paronoe County

Most of the early settlers in this District settled in the northern part of the District. Most of the first settlers were Linons who lived on the Miller land and farther north on the William Binder place. Mumfords took homesteads where Clyde Wilson and Roy Buckles now live. The D. B. West farm is the one that Gury Hawery of Shanabook Iowa owns. Mr. Longfellow settled on the present Sarah Hoig estate. Mr. Edgar Wood, one of the first settlers, still lives in the District.

The first school in district 17 was held on the old Lawrence Linon place where Mr. Binder lives now, probably as early as 1870. It was an old house. It was said that when they had a thunder storm that it thundered and lightened for a week after. Most of the people were young, so there were only three or four children to go to school. No one remembers who the first teacher was.

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The building was made of the best of wood. It is all white pine, which was hauled from the Missouri river. They paid about ten dollars a thousand for it. Now the same would cost about eighty dollars per thousand. Mr. Edgar Wood and Mr. West were on the building committee.

Mr. Hare of Parone City built the house.

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