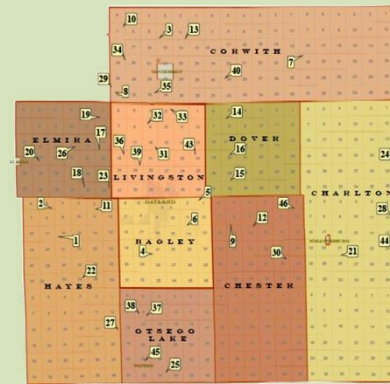


One Room Schools have played an important role in our local history. The first to be established was at Otsego Lake Village in 1873. (The original record book was recently found – See History Matters Update #13). The last school to close was Big Lake – Chester District #1 in 1971. The building is now the Chester Township Hall.

The photo to the left shows the interior of Corwith District #7 – also known as Sturgeon Valley or Royal Stone. Having more than one name can cause confusion. However, the alternative titles often describe location, unique feature, or the name of the person who donated the land.

◆ Discover ◆ Learn ◆ Share

Did you know there were more than 40 rural one room schools scattered throughout Otsego County? The map to the right shows the location of most of our rural schools. Some of buildings are still standing and being used as private residences, a church, and two are township halls. The Red School – Livingston District #5 – has been restored and is open to the public during the Otsego County Fair.



One Room Schools of Otsego County

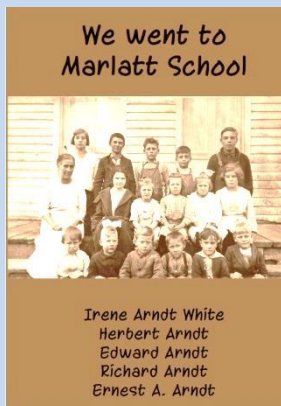
Explore the photos and other information posted on our web site. [Link](#)

You can also see many of the photos and other memorabilia at the Museum. A copy of Mary Jasion’s report card is on display showing the subjects taught in the 1930s.

◆ Discover ◆ Learn ◆ Share

You can read first-hand accounts of students and teachers telling about their experiences of our one room schools. We are fortunate to have several of these tape recorded stories in our archives.

Reminiscences, such as the one by the Arndt family featured to the right, offer personal insights from different perspectives.



Learning about rural schools can be fun and easy. Check out Chapter 17 in “Early Times of Otsego County, Michigan” by Bill Granlund. There are also several stories from students and teachers included in the 3 volumes of “A Step Back In Time” which are for sale in the Museum gift shop.

[Click here](#) for a copy of the pamphlet with a map listing the names and locations of the schools.

◆ Discover ◆ Learn ◆ Share

The main purpose of collecting and learning about our local history is to **share** it with everyone interested – especially kids. They’re the ones who will pass on this knowledge and interest to future generations. Please continue to **share** your stories and photos.

Students – like the ones shown to the left – have visited the one room school exhibit at the museum for many years. This hands on learning opportunity gives them a chance to experience what it was like to go to school in a very different time.

