

Educational Interests in Otsego County

Excerpt from the Otsego County Herald – September 15, 1905

To give a better idea to the residents of the county what is being done educationally and to assure non-residents that if they move to this county the education of their children need not suffer, I give these thoughts on educational interests in Otsego County.

School houses are equipped, as a rule, as well as any in Michigan, with various charts, maps, globes, modern desks, flags, etc. There are few schools that do not have a neat little library of good books to add further interest to the history, geography, reading or language classes.

School houses in Otsego County are better than an outsider might suppose. There is not a log school house in the county. The day of the dingy, dreary affair is past. Practically every building is neatly painted. Many have well graded yards, neatly fenced with woven wire.

The text-books are, in nearly all schools, strictly up-to-date. All schools are graded and taught according to the State Manual and Course of Study. Thus, pupils in a certain grade are doing the same work that is being done in a corresponding grade in Southern Michigan.

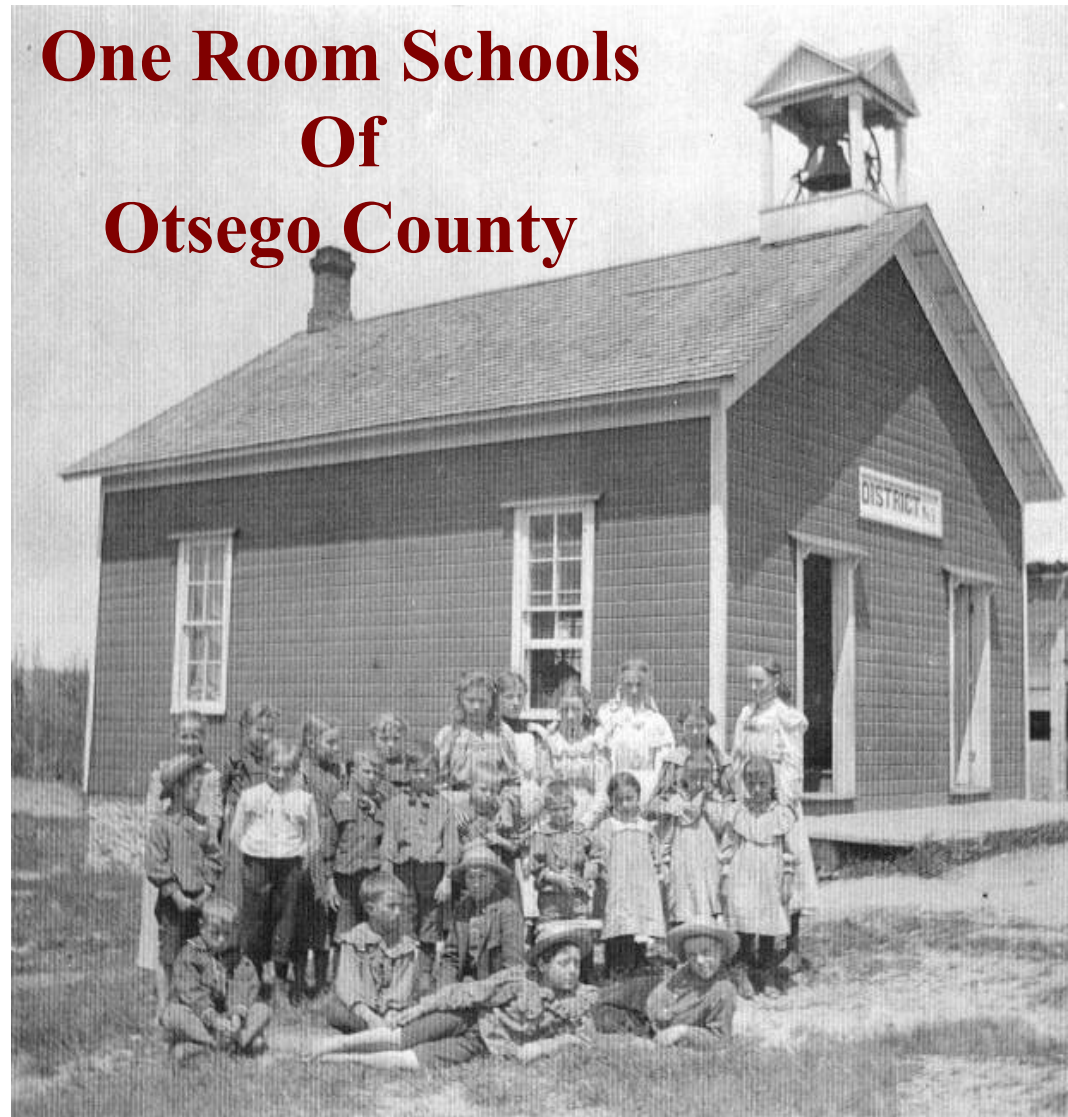
District No. 1, Chester Township, known as the Big Lake district, is building a fine, large school house, using cement blocks. District No. 2, Dover Township, is building a fine new school house. Next year District No. 3, Dover Township, will do the same.

We look with admiring eye upon the neat property of the Weber or Meston school, the Klingensmith school, the Royal Stone or Sturgeon Valley school, the McCoy school, the Rush school, the Ashley school, the Whitmarsh school, the Hallock, the Teeter, the Shaff, the Madison, etc., etc. We point with pride to the windmill with tank in school room and horse tank at roadside at Madison school; to the windmill with tank in well house and horse tank at roadside at Shaff school; to the fine, woven wire fences at the Van Buren, Weber, McCoy, Klingensmith, Rush, Wertman, Ashley, Sturgeon Valley, Whitmarsh, Hallock, Teeter, Hurd, Burr, Van Tyle and Madison schools.

There should go forth from all our schools a stream of well-trained young people.

R. D. BAILEY, County Commissioner of Schools

One Room Schools Of Otsego County



This special exhibit at the Otsego County Historical Museum was made possible in part from generous donations by:



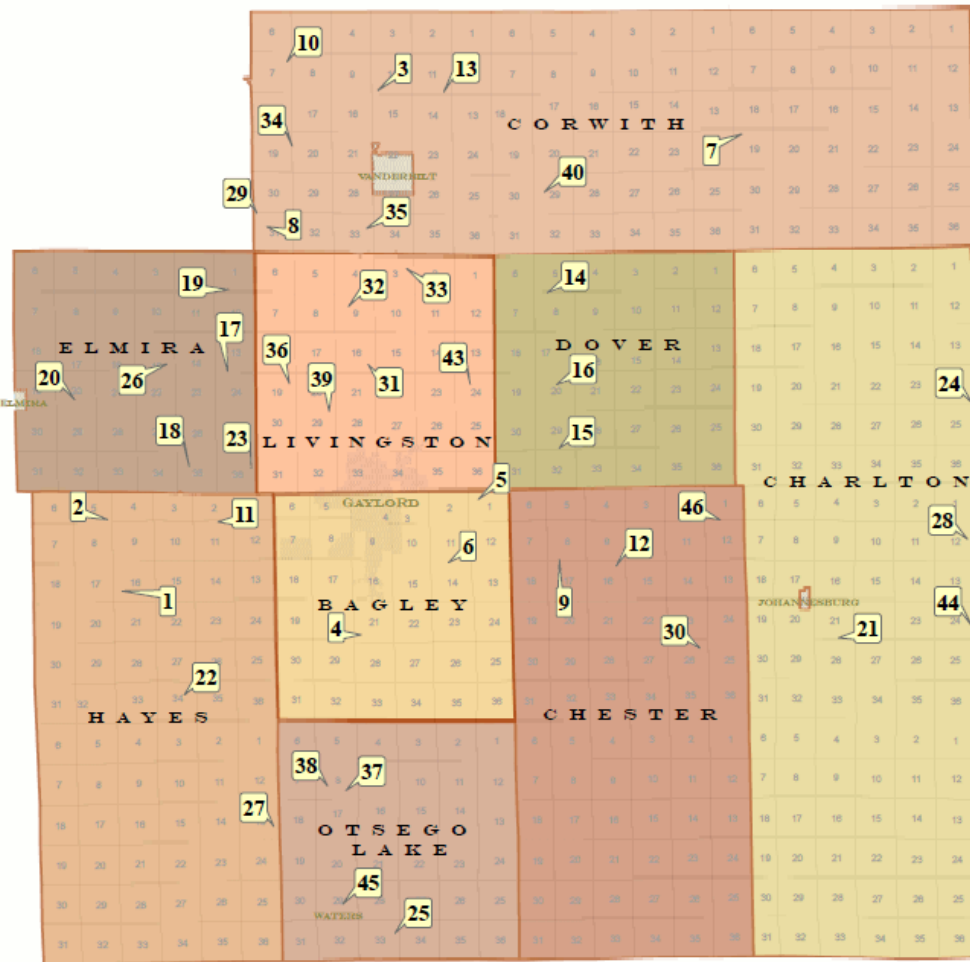
www.otsego.org/ochs

320 W. Main Street
P.O. Box 1223
Gaylord, Michigan

PJA: May 2010



Location by Township



One room schools operated throughout Otsego County from 1873 to 1971. They were located in rural areas and administered by District school boards. Not all 45 schools were operating at the same time. Some schools closed when the number of children decreased, some were destroyed by fire and were not rebuilt, and the rest eventually consolidated with schools in Gaylord, Vanderbilt, Elmira, and Johannesburg.

The above map was designed by Doug Kassuba and is on display at the Otsego County Historical Museum as part of the special exhibit on One Room Schools of Otsego County. The call-out numbers show the approximate location of the schools listed on the following page.

This project is a work in progress—please share photos and information you have with us. See our web site www.otsego.org/ochs for further details and updates.

Corwith Township

3. Ashley
7. Ballenger
8. Berryville
10. Boyle (Reardon?)
13. Corwith District # 8, Cozy Corner
29. Huffman
34. McGregor, Wertman
35. Rush, Menzies
40. Sturgeon Valley, Royal Stone

Elmira Township

17. Porcupine, Green
18. Hallenius, Teeter
19. Shaff
20. District # 4, Rusnell, Camp 10
23. Five Lakes, Fox (Franks?)
26. Hallock, Hilly Row

Livingston Township

31. Red School
32. Martindale, Pyke, Pleasant Hill
33. Logan
36. Murner
39. Poor Farm
43. Shields

Dover Township

14. Whitmarsh
15. Sparr, Wolf
16. Marquardt

Hayes Township

1. 40 House Camp
2. Coppins
11. Brick, Lozen, VanTyle
22. Fisher, Pink
27. Swanson, Anderson

Bagley Township

4. Salling
5. Pulaski, Meston, Weber
6. McCoy

Chester Township

9. Big Lake
12. King
30. Lewis, Palmer
46. Wheeler, Meadsker

Charlton Township

21. Fairgreave, Fairgrieve
24. Gibbs
28. Hetherton
44. Vienna

Otsego Lake Township

25. Marlette, Gilbert
37. Otsego Lake # 1
38. Otsego Lake # 2
45. Waters

Unknown Location

Burr, Dixon, Hurd,
Madison, Mount Jack,
Sawyer, and Will Waters

- Some schools were known by more than one name
- Of the 45 schools listed above, about 10 still exist. Some are now homes, two are township halls, and one has been converted into a church
- Fractional schools (#28, 29, and 34) included students from adjacent counties
- By 1944, only nine of these one room schools were in operation in Otsego County
- The Red School (31) was moved to the fairgrounds and is open to the public during the county fair in August