



**GENEALOGISTS OF THE
CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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Clinton County Trails

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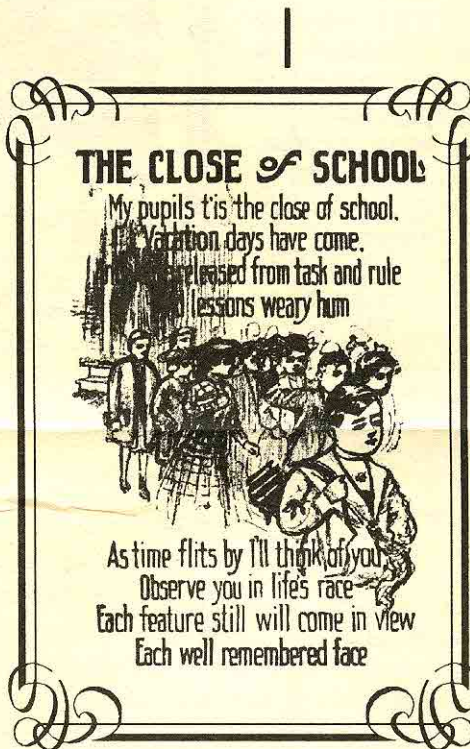
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Way Back To School

A look at the history of Michigan schools provided by the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission of Lansing, Michigan in April 1963.

1705 - Marquette unsuccessfully attempted to establish a seminary for French and Indian children at Fort Pontchartrian in Detroit.

1760 - First private schools for English families appeared. Supported by the parents of the attending pupils, these schools were usually held in a single room where the teacher lived.

1787 - The first hint of a statewide school system was set forth by provision of the ordinance of the Northwest Territory, which states that "schools and means of education shall be forever encouraged."

1809 - The establishment of public free schools on a statewide basis by Act of the Northwest Territory.

1817 - A territorial law provided for the establishment of the University of Michigan. Its main objective-development of a system of primary schools to teach writing, arithmetic, English grammar, and elocution. The districts were random and overlapping. The University was to furnish any secondary training. There efforts were generally unsuccessful.

1826 - Lewis Cass, governor of Michigan Territory, declared that a republican form of government can be maintained only by the Virtue and intelligence of the citizens, and that the diffusion of education among the people will result in an appreciation of the value of governmental institutions.

1827 - Territorial legislature passed a law creating an ambitious and complex school system. It was not put into effect, however, because of administrative and financial problems.

1835 - The proposed state constitution required that the legislature shall provide a system of schools that shall be maintained and operated in each school district for a minimum of three months in each year. The Constitution was voted upon and passed in October.

1836 - John D. Pierce was appointed first Superintendent by territory government. Pierce then drafted plans for the organization of primary schools and a state university. One objective was to provide every child in the state with an elementary education.

1837 - Michigan was admitted to the Union by Act of the U.S. Congress. One section in each township was to provide sites to be used for educational purposes. Where this section had been sold or disposed of, the township was required to supply the equivalent of those lands for the same purpose. The proceeds from the sale of such tracts supplied the "primary interest fund" from which a system to finance schools perpetually was established.

1842 - State authority given to City of Detroit to combine two or more districts and gathering all of the children to be taught under roof. The "union" school then was a large, graded facility which was the predecessor to the present high school. Free

public education was provided for all children between 5 and 17 years of age residing in such districts. This law made a city or town the unit for the local administration of the schools.

1871 - The first Kindergarten was established in Michigan by Public Act 119, although it was not added to the public system until 1891.

1874 - In a national test case, the Michigan Supreme Court upheld a decision by a Chancery

Court confirming the legality of raising taxes to provide free high school education. The case has been referred to as the "Kalamazoo Case" as it occurred in Kalamazoo Township, Michigan.

1914 - First public junior college was opened in Grand Rapids.

1938 - Teachers certificates required four years completion of a satisfactory college course, plus successfully teaching three years during the first five years after graduation from college.



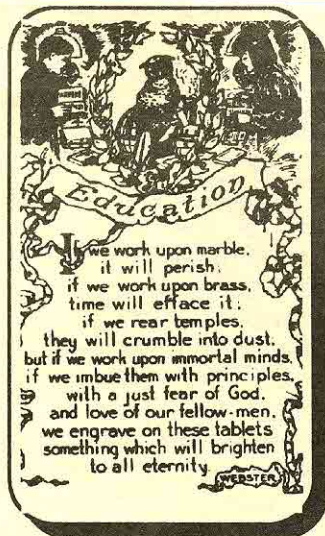
**Round School
1910
Donated by
Gorabelle DeGlerg**



ROUND SCHOOL
District No. 6
Lebanon Township,
Clinton County, Michigan
HELEN McVEIGH, Teacher

PUPILS

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Irish Messer | Regina Jandernoa |
| Martha Duffer | Leo Schafer |
| Geo. Freeman | Eva Jandernoa |
| Helen Freeman | Henry Schafer |
| Alton Messer | Theo. Jandernoa |
| William Freeman | Bernice Salisbury |
| Robbie Skutt | John O'Connor |
| Mildred Freeman | Nina Pfeil |
| Theron Messer | Earl Winans |
| Mary O'Connor | Lee Rogers |
| Willie Schafer | Rose Schafer |



**Commencement Exercises
Of
School Dist. No. 2,
Bengal**

Class of 1900 -- Eight Grade

-
- Nellie M. Travis
Myrtle B. Thurston
Florence E. Scriben
Anna M. Risley
Charlie H. Jury
Ezra C. Sturgis
Milan N. Perry
Frank E. Atkins**
-

**Miss Frances Church,
Teacher
June 15, 1900**

