

KOSCIUSKO COUNTY SCHOOLS

The first school houses were built in 1835-36, in the northern part of the county. These schools were made of logs, heated with a fireplace, and had greased paper windows. The bigger boys cut the logs and built the fires.

All the schools from 1836-1853 were subscription schools, maintained by people in the community. Teachers pay ranged from \$5-\$15 a month, and they taught spelling, reading, writing and arithmetic.

The first school house of public record was on Section 29 in Van Buren Township southwest of Dewart Lake, about a mile north of Misquabuck's reservation. John G. Woods was the first teacher. Also in 1835 a schoolhouse was erected in what is now Leesburg. The first teacher was William C. Graves. In 1836 a school was built at Syracuse, and the following year Turkey Creek had another school. This was taught in a cabin on Timothy Mote's farm, which had formerly been used as a stable. Prairie Township was next with a log cabin in Section 10. In 1836, a Mr. Moore was teacher.

The first schoolhouse in Harrison Township was built on Section 29, in 1838. Henry Bradley was the first teacher. Thomas K. Warner taught the first school in Tippecanoe Township in 1838-39, in a cabin built by Warren Warner, and subsequently abandoned.

In Clay Township, the first school was in a cabin built

of poles, in the northwest corner of the township, in 1840. In 1841 a log building was erected in Section 8. It was used for school on weekdays and for worship on Sundays. It was called Mount Pleasant. James Martin taught the first Jefferson Township School in 1840, in a log cabin on Section 11. The same year a log building was erected on William Moore's farm in Washington Township for a school.

Two years later schools came to Seward and Franklin Townships. Mark Smith Sr. taught in a school built on the farm of John Robinson and Jeremiah Burns taught the Franklin Township school on Solomon Nichols' land.

The first school in Etna Township was in the village of Etna Green, in 1854, and taught by Miss Stallard.

The free school system was introduced in 1851. Districts were established and new edifices were built. After free schools came, log houses gave way to frame buildings with glass windows, and homemade desks with backs. The buildings were sided on the inside with boards painted black on one side for a blackboard. From 1880-1900, these buildings gave way to brick. Not much better than the frame buildings, but they did have better equipment.

In 1879 Franklin Township had eleven schools and 455 pupils. Harrison Township's 657 pupils attended one of thirteen schools for terms varying from four to six months. Each ^{of these} township had a school called District No. 14, however.

There were a few graded schools in the towns before 1880. About 1906 they started building schools in the villages and towns for more than one teacher.

Examinations were instituted in 1871. Uniform text books began in 1873 and regulation of textbooks in 1875. Regulation of teachers' pay started in 1907.

This information came from the Kingman 1879 Kosciusko County Atlas and the writing of Edison B. Sarber, former Kosciusko County School Superintendent.