

"Our schoolhouses forty years ago did not possess great attractions externally or internally. They were almost invariably small log buildings, cold, and very deficient in regard to windows; a fireplace at one end, a few rough benches without backs or seats, and a board or two which served for writing desks, were the sum total of the internal arrangements of the building. During the winter, those pupils who occupied seats in the back part of the house, would often suffer with the cold while those who were near the fire, would suffer as much from the other extremes. Not unfrequently the smoke would drive both pupils and teacher out of the building for pure air. "

Charles H. Reeve, 1878 Commencement speaker...

"....The rude cabins for schoolhouses; the ruder slabs for seats; the mud fire-place and mud plastered stick chimney for heating purposes; the puncheon floor, split from straight logs; the splint bottomed chair for the teacher; the wild goose quill for pens, the homemade ink, the homespun garments, the few books, and the writing books cross written, the woods around full of choice whips and the teachers making up in muscle what they lacked in learning; the barefooted boys and girls, the bosomless, collarless shirts, the coarse "linsey-woolsey" frocks of the girls, and the bright calicoes on the holidays, with slat sun-bonnets, starched and ruffled, the homemade straw hats, the dinner baskets with the corn-bread and cold, fried meat; the long walk and weary work before and after school; the ague-chilled bodies and fevered heads on every other day, and the snatches of study on the "well" days; the hands hardened by toil and the limbs weary with labor.
.....firelight in the cabin.... path in the forest....tallow candle