



The Slate

Summer 2023 Edition

Friends of the One-Room Schoolhouse, Inc.

P.O. Box 431, Port Republic, MD 20676-0431 · www.calvertoneroomschool.org



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SEVEN BRIDGES TRAIL

After a two-year hiatus due to Covid, the trail needed quite a bit of work before the fall trail walks could begin. In early September John Yoe, Shannon Campbell, and Dave Campbell attacked the vines, brambles, and fallen trees with chain saws, loppers, bow saws, weed whackers, and machetes. The trail was eventually made passable with only a few minor detours around fallen trees that were best left in place. During the fall session our wonderful



trail guides pointed out (sometimes involuntarily) some of the bridges that needed attention. John Yoe and Dave Campbell replaced the rope handrail on the “Boy Scout” bridge with a sturdy wooden handrail and placed non-skid treads in a few areas where guides noticed students had trouble keeping their footing. Future work will include more handrails and the replacement of rotting floorboards.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Evening weather in the summer can be oh so unpredictable! So with thunderstorms and rain showing up last year for our Annual Ice Cream Social, we made the decision to move indoors to the Parish Hall. And, what a party we had on Wednesday, August 10th!

With that toe-tapping, get up and dance music provided by the Calvert Dance Band, folks did indeed get up and dance. The band has been most generous with their time and talent over the years, play-

ing for almost all of the 20 years the Ice Cream Social has been held.

Although there were no hula-hoops and jump ropes, Bingo with prizes engaged and delighted children. The Artifact Trunk was pulled out and Peter Cochran captivated young and old with stories and information.

And what is summer without ice cream? Once again, guests were treated to the delicious local homemade ice cream from Mrs. Moo at Spider Hall Farm. Members

of the Schoolhouse Board showed their baking talents with a wide variety of tasty homemade cookies.

This annual event has become a favorite with many as a way to relax on a summer’s evening, visit with one another, and perhaps even reminisce about their school days.

So, please mark your calendars for the next Ice Cream Social on Wednesday, August 9th.



CLASS RESUMES AT THE ONE ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE

In the fall our Fourth-grade Program was fully restored to pre-Covid status and made available to every fourth grader enrolled in Calvert County Public Schools, plus all home schoolers and private schools upon request. The yellow school buses unload, and the step-back-in-time experience begins with no modern-day distractions like cell phones, just the ringing of the old brass bell. Students either walk a mile through the woods with a trail guide to simulate walking to school or gather around the flagpole and enter the polished schoolhouse for class. The teacher is dressed of the period and may ask who collected eggs from the chickens or milked a cow that morning, then lessons in arithmetic and reading commence with



slates and slate pencils and primer books - not even electric lighting. Lunch is outside picnic style, a special treat to children accustomed to lunchrooms, and is followed by the Farm Life Presentation which always brings a lot of interest. A little fun and a dosido, the school day ends with students learning a dance, traditional games, or an old-fashioned show and tell. Appreciation from the children, parent chaperons, and school personnel resounds with enthusiastic thanks to our volunteers. Rest assured safety along with learning and fun is a top priority. How gratifying it is to hear many of the students wish they could return tomorrow to the Schoolhouse.

A CHRISTMAS RECIPE



Begin with a One-Room Schoolhouse that's spic and span clean, note that it's filled with light, laughter, and good cheer. Place live greenery and red ribbons at

each window, both inside and out. Gather enough adults to fill every corner.

Add two outdoor tables, under a tent, laden with dozens of cookies, homemade and delicious. Place two pumper dispensers, one with hot cider and



one with hot chocolate, add marshmallows, too.

Spread each schoolhouse desk with paper bags, pom-pom balls, stickers, colorful markers, and glue. Then watch the magic of decorating as only children can do.



Thread a needle to make popcorn and cranberry garlands for the live Christmas tree at the front of the room, then add St. Nickolas himself! Have children tell their wishes to the kindly old gentleman dressed all in red, receive old fashioned gifts, a candy cane and an orange.

Turn on Christmas music, listen to talented

young people read 'Twas The Night Before Christmas. Feel the buzz of excited children and watch parents enjoy camaraderie, we've all had enough of staying at home.



Hang newly made ornaments high on the tree.

Some children need lifting, fathers are on hand to help!

Smile at the totally awesome day at the Port Republic School #7! Then plan to come back next year, too!



HISTORY AND RESTORATION OF

A fort needed for cover from marauders, a fortress for

Stories From the Past

From interviews for Christ Church 350th Anniversary, we learned that our little One-room Schoolhouse captured the imagination of Parish children during the 1960's era after the Schoolhouse was closed and abandoned in 1932.

The history of this country schoolhouse and the restoration of it is truly a story worth telling.

From near the end of the Civil War until well into the 20th Century, one-room schools were situated around Calvert County so that students need not walk more than three miles to attend school. Maryland law, at the time, dictated separate schools for the African American and



The Superintendent visited the One-Room Schools during the school year. This particular picture was taken at the Adelina School.

Port Republic School #7 was built on its present site around 1876 and remained in continuous use until it was closed in 1932. This school served to educate children in grades 1 through 7 in the same classroom, usually with only one teacher providing instruction in all subjects.

Attendance rose and fell with the requirements of the farm – primarily the tending of the tobacco crop. In winter attendance was at its highest and young students had to sit along the edge of the teacher's platform and even in the aisles. It was not until 1911 that school attendance became compulsory.

So many memories have been shared about those one-room schoolhouse days.... walking down to the nearby stream to get water in the water bucket for the day's water supply; mak-

ing soup on the stove, whose primary function was to heat the school; playing a fun game of "fox and hounds", where the children ran through the woods during their lunch hour to catch the "fox"; riding a horse to school, if it meant you might be late to school from doing all the chores required in the morning at home, and then giving the horse a pat on the backside to send it home; and of course using the out-house. Quite a different experience than students have in our present school system!

In 1932 the old school was closed and forgotten until 1976. For a short time, it served as a home for tenant farmers, and then stood totally abandoned before ownership of the land and property was transferred from Thomas and Leta Williams to



The Schoolhouse was deserted and collapsing when the Retired Teachers Association took on the restoration of the Schoolhouse as their Bicentennial project in 1976.



Ice Cream was a favorite treat on a warm day near the end of the school year.

White students, so there were often two schools near each other.



Pt. Republic May Day
Former students fondly remember May Day Celebrations.

Former Students Celebrate!



*(1st Row) Bob Hance, Bea Hance, Ollie Bowen, Roberta Rawlings, Gladys Arnold, Ethel Marshall, Marie Dietrich, (former) Leila J. Hance, Jane Hardisty
(2nd Row) Lloyd Hance, Elvin Howard, Leroy Hardisty, Mabel Hall, Earl Fowler, Evelyn Hardisty, Alvin Cole*

THE ONE-ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE

a castle from invading armies, or just a haunted house!

Bringing It Back to Life



Elaine Cochran Dunkle made the award speech at the Dedication of the Port Republic School #7 on July 24, 1977.

It took a teacher's vision to see the potential hidden in the remaining shell. After the school closed in 1932, it didn't take long before it stood without windows or doors, smothered in vines and undergrowth, prey to termites, damaged by moisture, inhabited by honeybees – not ghosts of previous students, and nearly invisible in

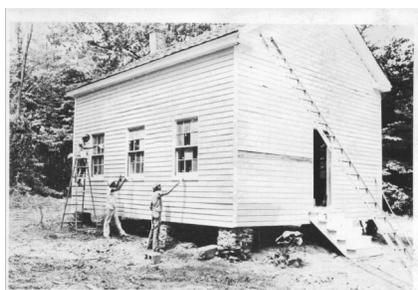
the woods.

As their Bicentennial project in 1976 the Calvert Retired Teachers Association took the lead and worked with other local groups to make the memory of this one-room schoolhouse come to life.

Organizations, individuals, and fundraising activities by the retired teachers generated the monies to pay as you go for the restoration process. Volunteers cleared the



Thomas Lloyd Hance, Sr. of Hance Construction was a former student at the Port Republic One-Room Schoolhouse. He was very generous with his time and machinery to help get the Schoolhouse back to its former glory. He is pictured here with his son Tommy Hance and an employee, M. Quesenberry, both of whom worked many hours at the Schoolhouse.



Painters spent many hours caulking and painting the outside of the Schoolhouse.

woods, removed insect infestations, painted, and re-roofed the building. Windows and a door were installed.



The building truly came alive once it was furnished with many donations and memorabilia. Former students and teachers came to celebrate and commemorate the completion of this historic and special project on July 24th, 1977.

Return of Vestibule and Dedication of ADA Ramp

July 27th, 2006, marked the return of the vestibule with the help of funds contributed by friends and families and monies raised by the Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage. Students now had an authentic coat room



Thomas L. Hance, Sr., Bob Pfeiffer, and Judge Perry Bowen raise the American flag for the Dedication of the Port Republic #7 Schoolhouse on July 24th, 1977.

upon their entry. At the time of the 1976 restoration many former teachers and students lamented that there was no vestibule and eagerly awaited its return. On June 12th, 2019, the

ADA-Ramp was dedicated making the schoolhouse more accessible to everyone.

After a three

year hiatus due to the Pandemic, the old schoolhouse is once again alive with laughter and learning as we welcomed back Calvert County Fourth Grade students this past fall. Each student visits for the day to experience a "Day in History". At the end of the day, we often hear many students share, "I wish I could have gone to this school."

Bowen Brothers Return to Old No. 7



Ollie and Jimmie came to see the work being done on their old school. They both went there in the late 1900's as well as five brothers and sisters.



ONE ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE -- Elaine Cochran and Keith Witheridge, of the Calvert Retired Teachers Association sit in the old school desks that have been donated in the restoration of a one-room schoolhouse at Port Republic. The retired teachers are heading the restoration project. The school was open for tours briefly Sunday, to show the progress, with many former students and teachers on hand. (Staff Photo by Veria Neslund)

MEET JACKIE GRAY

NEW ONE-ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE TEACHER



The One-Room Schoolhouse Team is excited Jackie Gray accepted the invitation to be one of the Schoolhouse teachers in our Fourth Grade Program.

She is a retired educator who has worked in several fields of education. Jackie served as a 4-H Extension Agent with the youth in Calvert and St. Mary's Counties, taught Family and Consumer Sciences to middle school students, and conducted a nutrition educa-

tion program for young families in Calvert.

Jackie and her husband, Brooke, live in Huntingtown, and she enjoys gardening and antiquing.

Jackie shared, "I am very excited to become part of this program at the Schoolhouse and look forward to getting 'back in the classroom'."

PRESERVING HISTORY

WITH ARCHIVAL PHOTOS

A picture is worth a thousand words, and how we wish the individuals in photos of forgotten one-room schoolhouses could share their stories. Can you imagine what tales would accompany intriguing photos like groups of students seated in front of schoolhouses, children engaged in learning activities, students eating ice cream on a beach?

Carol Khalili, Peter Cochran, and Chloe Ewalt spent several mornings pouring over archival photos and newspaper articles not only about the Port Republic #7 Schoolhouse, but other schoolhouses and groups



of children as well. We are grateful Elaine Dunkle realized the importance of collecting and preserving this history of one-room schoolhouses throughout Calvert County and keeping a record of the restoration of the Port Republic One-room Schoolhouse.

The goal is to digitize all these photos, record them, then put the originals in archival sleeves and boxes to be stored in the vaults at the Calvert County Historical Society at Linden in Prince Frederick.

THANK YOU FRAN DUNKLE POLING

Once in a lifetime everyone needs a 'fairy godmother', and the One-Room Schoolhouse was lucky enough to have Fran Dunkle Poling as ours!

Over a twenty-year period she expanded our two-page Newsletter into the stunning, full-color eight-page Newsletter you are holding in your hands. We thank her for her support, her creativi-

ty, and commitment to produce such a professional product.

Fran's name has been placed on the Honor Roll plaque with other recipients who have made "multi-faceted and sustained contributions in support of the ORS and its mission".

Thank you, Fran!



SHOUT OUT

ONE-ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE VOLUNTEERS



In the fall and spring, every County fourth grade student has the opportunity to spend the day at the One-Room Schoolhouse. This Program would not be possible without the wonderful volunteers who work together to offer to the students a “Day in History”. We would like to give a round of applause and THANKS to this year’s roster of our incredible staff. “It takes a village” is true every day that school visits take place. We recognize those to whom we are indebted.

Those who serve as Trail Guides recreate

a walk to school through the woods surrounding Christ Church. Dave Campbell is in charge of coordinating, making sure a trail guide/s are present for each visiting group. More than just guides, volunteers are knowledgeable and share a love of history and nature.

Trail Guides:

Ann Bowie Briscoe
Shannon Campbell
Trish David
Carol Dunlap
Bob Graham

Bernadette Hager
Charity Humm
Clark Jones
Ruth Mora
Bob Ricardo
Allyson Sigler
Anne Sledge

After a lunch on the lawn, students return to the schoolhouse to hear about life at home on the farm. This topic is especially pertinent as the majority of students who attended one-room schoolhouses lived on farms.

Farm Life Presenters:

Jack Fringer
Debbie Hance
Pam Mackall

The One-Room Schoolhouse teachers for the day present instruction, share stories, and involve students as they participate in writing on slates and classroom activities.

Teachers:

Chloe Ewalt
Jackie Gray
Carole Wagner

Program Coordinators:

Peter Cochran
Pam Mackall

We are extremely grateful to all of these volunteers.

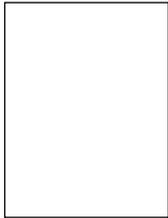
THANK YOU SUSAN ALLEN

Thanks to our Treasurer, Nancy Zinn, and accountant, Susan Allen, for helping the One-Room Schoolhouse maintain legal non-profit status in Maryland. Susan took time to keep us in good standing even through her busy tax season. We are grateful and

think she must have a sweet spot in her heart for the One-Room Schoolhouse. Thank you, Susan and staff.

Susan has an office at 3695 Hallowing Point Road, Prince Frederick, Maryland.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Co-Presidents

Chloe Ewalt and Carol Khalili

Secretary.....Beverly Lusby

Treasurer.....Nancy Zinn

DIRECTORS

Peter Cochran, Pam Mackall, John Yoe,
David Campbell, Karen Williams

2023's Ice Cream Social

Wednesday, August 9, 2023, 6-8 P.M. Rain-or-Shine

Enjoy an old-fashioned summer evening with friends, ice cream, and live music.
The One-Room Schoolhouse will be open. · Bring your lawn chair and come to enjoy.

First Cone or Dish of Mrs. Moo's Ice Cream is FREE!

Families will find period games and activities for young children to enjoy.

Hosted by Friends of the One-Room Schoolhouse

The One-Room Schoolhouse is in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

It is now easier for all to access with a ramp and level flooring

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

by Co-Presidents Carol Khalili and Chloe Ewalt

Our current Port Republic School #7 was resurrected on the foundation of the original PRS #7 with a double mission: to bring history to life and to share the story of early education in Calvert County.

Accomplishing this mission requires a "village" and we are privileged to have many who share their time, talents, and

energy, all while finding fulfillment and having fun!

Please take a look at the photo of our Friends Board of Directors, evidence of fun with the task at hand, preparing the Schoolhouse for the Christmas Open House on December 18, 2022. Our thanks to them and all members of our village!

