

# *One-Room Schoolhouses*

The Free School Act of 1834 required all townships to provide a free public education for its children. In rural communities like Franklin Township one-room schoolhouses were the best way to accomplish this goal. There were at least five one-room schoolhouses in Franklin Township which include:

- Maple Grove School was located on Schoolhouse Road and built in the 1800s. It is currently a private residence.
- Auburn School was located on Auburn Road. With additions to the original schoolhouse, it now serves as the Auburn Regular Baptist Church.
- Franklin School was located on Route 896, north of Route 841 and built in 1875. Additions were added and it is currently a private residence.
- Kemblesville School was last located on Appleton Road just south of the Chisel Creek Golf Course entrance. It was lost to fire and a residence now sits on the property.
- Mt. Olivet School was located on Walker Road, near what remains of the Baptist cemetery. The building no longer exists.

Franklin Township schools became a part of Avon Grove School District in 1953. In 1956, when Kemblesville Elementary School opened, the one-room schoolhouses were closed.

One FT resident, who wishes to remain anonymous, remembers attending Maple Grove and Auburn schools in the mid-1940s. Students in grades 1-8 attended class together when he was in first grade. Then the students of Maple Grove and Auburn were combined and students in grades 1- 4 went to Auburn School and students in grades 5-8 went to Maple Grove School. He thinks the same arrangements were made at Franklin and Kemblesville schools.

There was no running water at the one-room school houses, but there was electricity. Students would take a bucket to a neighbor's house and fill a crock at the school with the collected water. Each student had his or her own cup that was placed in the inkwell hole on the desk. There were two outhouses, one for boys and the other for girls. The building was heated with a coal burning pot-bellied stove in the middle of the room. Students brought their lunches each day. The only sport played at his one-room schoolhouse was baseball.

Upon graduating eighth grade, students could further their education at Avon Grove High School.