

Betbel School History

(From an address by James F. Callbreth at White Lake, 1897)

The Town of Betbel was divided in districts in 1817; Betbel then included Delaware and Cocbecon; seven districts were located - No. 1, Fulton Settlement; No. 2, Stewart's; 3, Hurd; 4, Betbel; 5, Brown's; 6, White Lake; 7, Mongaup Bridge. The original buildings were all log, except No. 5, a small frame building, erected by and near Wm. Browns. (West Betbel)

The first White Lake school house was built in 1815 and 1816; builder George Ackerman; Mr. Judson furnished some of the lumber. Miss Mary Sherwood taught there in 1816, being the first teacher. Frene Judson attended there from 1819 to 1822. This log school house was on the ground now occupied by the Pinler home, at that time owned by Deekman; it was burned down in the winter of 1822 and 1823.

The stone school house was erected the following year - 1823-1824, 74 years ago; Mr. Dunlap furnished material and did part of the work. Frene Judson attended school there from 1824 to 1829 or 30. The first teacher in the old stone school was Miss Mary Brown; Milton Royce taught there in 1826-27; Ann Gillespie taught there in 1827-1828.

There were then no stoves, no matches, benches or desks, the books were few. The wages of teachers were; women \$2 a week; men \$12 to \$16 per month, the teachers boarding around.

(#4 was N. Betbel, Early Betbel children went to the log-stone school between Betbel Village and White Lake)

B.J. Lemon, 1970

This printed record was pasted on the back of the 12" x 18" painting of the stone school house erected in 1823 - 24 following the burning of the log school house built in 1815-1816.

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