

## **Research Guide Cass County Rural Schools Cass District Library**

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### **Introduction**

The following is a general listing of rural schools in Cass County, Michigan. Most of the school houses are long gone. Many of the schools had different names over the decades during which they served their communities. Also, the location on which the school buildings were located often changed as buildings were replaced, as old buildings wore out, burned, or simply no longer fit the needs of the community. Often a new school building would be built across the road in a different section number than the older structure, complicating matters for historians.

The majority of the school district number and common names of the schools I pulled from Kenneth Hartman's invaluable work on Cass County schools from 2001. Since his book appeared, much additional information has surfaced on our early rural-schools. If new information on a school has surfaced, I have made a note next to the school entry with a reference.

### **Calvin Township**

- District Number 1.   Brownsville School. Section 8.
- District Number 2.   Calvin Hill School. Section 29.
- District Number 3.   Willow Pond School. Section 35.
- District Number 4.   Calvin Center. Section 21.
- District Number 5.   Bulhand School. Section 34.
- District Number 6.   East School. Section 1.
- District Number 7.   James School. Section 14.
- District Number 8.   Long School. Located in Section 3, 1850s-circa 1860. Then section 10, 1872-circa 1930s.
- District Number 9.   Unknown name of school, possibly Mt. Zion. Section 24.

### **Howard Township**

- District Number 1. Yankee Street School. Section 31 on 1860 map; Shown on section line 31-32 on subsequent maps. Closed for two weeks in Feb 1911 because of scarlet fever (South Bend Tribune).
- District Number 3? Oak Grove, aka Bell, aka Sterner School. Section number? Located one half mile west of Thompson Road on Terminal Road (Hartman 2001).
- District Number 2. Thomson School (aka Thompson School, South Bend Tribune). Section 8.
- District Number 4. Coulter School. Section 4. Original building was log, then replaced by a brick which burned, then a frame building (Hartman 2001).
- District Number 7. Allen School. Section 3.
- District Number 8. Dibble Dale School. Section 2. Building burned 1874-1875. New building completed by May 1875. See Cass County Republican, May 13, 1875.
- District Number 9?
- District Number 10. Barron Lake School. Section 21.
- District Number 11. Vaness Dibble School. Section 35.

### **Jefferson Township**

- District Number 1. Brick School. Section 11.
- District Number 2. Daily School. AKA Salisbury School. Section 8.
- District Number 3. Redfield School. Section 26.
- District Number 4. Davis School. Section 34. Records for District Number 4 are found at the Cass District Library's Local History Branch.
- District Number 5. Frog Valley School. Section 5.
- District Number 6. Jefferson Center School. Section 22.

### **LaGrange Township**

- District Number 1. Cassopolis, Cassopolis Graded School. From 1843-1857 located along Rowland Street; 1857-1950s, second & third buildings located corner of Broadway and School Streets. Article by Jonathan Wuepper of Cass District Library in Neighbors, May 2022 deals with history of Rowland Street building which still stands as of this writing.

District Number 2?

- District Number 3. LaGrange School. Section 15.
- District Number 4. Oak Grove School. Section 28. Brick building built before 1848, lasted until 2021, when it burned. Torn down same year.
- District Number 5. Mechanicsburg School. Section 30.
- District Number 6. Cherry Grove School. Section 8.
- District Number 7. Brooklyn/Jones/McIntosh School. Section 2.
- District Number 8? Hartman says District Number 11(?). Beeson School. Section 19.

### **Marcellus Township**

- District Number 1. Bly School. Section Number 14.
- District Number 2. Patrick School. Section 28.
- District Number 3. Sheldon Creek School. Section 12. See Marcellus News, April 18, 1996.
- District Number 4. Globe School. Section 19.
- District Number 5. Batchelor School. Section 9.
- District Number 6. Shannon School. Section 8.
- District Number 7. Bucher School. Section 35.
- District Number 8. Cromley School. Section 28.
- District Number 9. Marcellus Graded School. Section 22.

### **Mason Township**

- District Number 1. Glines School. Section 2.
- District Number 2. Swamp School. Section 9.
- District Number 3? Pullman School. Section 18.
- District Number 4. Five Points School. Section 16.
- District Number 5. Kessington School. Section 14. Now Mason-Union Branch of Cass District Library.
- District Number 6. Star Brick School. Section 18.

## **Milton Township**

District Number 1. ?

District Number 2. Cherry Valley/Bunker Hill School. Section 11.

District Number 3. ?

District Number 4. Biscuit Hill School. Section 23.

District Number 5. Rose Warne School. Section 7. Also spelled Rosewarne.

District Number 6. Winkler School. Section 20.

## **Additional Schools**

“Fruitt School House” is included in advertisement for location of Republican township meetings. (Cass County Republican, October 14, 1858). “Fruitt” was probably a misspelling of Truitt, a local farmer-landowner. Location was probably in Section 9.

## **Newberg Township**

District Number 1. Pemberton School. Section 30. Photo in Ross Beatty Yearbook 1970.

District Number 2. Poe School. Section 21.

District Number 3?

District Number 4. Chapman School. Section 18.

District Number 5. Norton School. Section 2.

District Number 6. Bald Hill School. Section 15.

District Number 6 fractional. Jones School. Section 35.

District Number 7. Corey School. Section 36.

District Number 8. Star School. Section 5.

District Number 9. Dyer #9. Section 33.

## **Ontwa Township**

District Number 1. Edwardsburg Graded School. Section 5.

District Number 1. Redfield aka Starr. Section 23.

District Number 2. Bacon School. Section 18.

District Number 3. ?

District Number 4. Adamsville School. Section 12.

District Number 5?

District Number 6. May School. Section 15.

## **Penn Township**

District Number 1. Geneva School. Section 29.

District Number 2?

District Number 3. White Temple School. Section 14. Article in the Herald-Press, June 5, 1924 states original White Temple log school was built in 1849 and that the frame building was built on the exact site. The pioneer log cabin in Cassopolis supposedly houses a miniature model of the original log White Temple school built in "the 50s" (1850s) by Dee Decou.

District Number 4. Pleasant Hill School. Section 4.

District Number 5. Allegheny School. Section 18.

District Number 6?

District Number 7. Penn School. Section 16. Space Pioneer Ivan Kincheloe attended this school.

District Number 8?

District Number 9. Fish Lake School. Section 1.

## **Pokagon Township**

The Cass County Republican (Dowagiac) newspaper issue of July 5, 1860 published a detailed report of "the Primary Schools of Pokagon Township", commenting on their condition, number of pupils, teachers, etc. The names of some of the schools differed in 1860 from names they would be referred to in the mid-20th Century.

District Number 1. Hampshire Street School. Section 34. While this schoolhouse is shown on the 1860 plat map, it was not, oddly enough, included in the July 5, 1860 report of Pokagon Township schools in the Cass County Republican.

District Number 2. Dewey's School. Section 13.

District Number 3. Mayflower School. Section 3. This was called the Towline school in the 1860 Cass County Republican article.

District Number 4. Champlain School (Hartman 2001), aka Lake Champlain School (Cass County Republican 1860). Nearby Allen Lake must have been called Lake Champlain at one time. Section 21.

District Number 5. Section 15. (In 1860 it was located on the north side of Peavine Road in section 10).

District Number 6. Sumnerville #6. Section 32.

District Number 7. Sumnerville School. Section 31. Cass County Republican lists this school as number seven, but Hartman (2001) does not assign it a school district number. On 1872 atlas the school is located on north side of the road in section 30. Subsequent maps show it in section 31.

District Number 8. Pokagon School. Section 33. Not mentioned in 1860 newspaper article. Pokagon village was not platted until 1858, so the school might not have been built by 1860.

District Number 9. Walnut Grove School. Section 29. Not shown on the 1860 map or mentioned in the Cass County Republican July 5, 1860 article. Moved to Indiana in 1990 (South Bend Tribune. Oct. 30, 1990).

#### **Additional schools:**

Collin's School. Section 10. Not listed in Hartman (2001), but listed in Cass County Republican (1860).

#### **Porter Township**

District Number 1. Maple Grove School. Section 8 South.

District Number 2. Oak Grove School. Section 2 South.

District Number 3. Hebron School. Section 25.

District Number 4. White School. Section 18 North.

District Number 5. Shavehead School. Section 22.

District Number 6?

District Number 7. Unknown. Section 4 North. In 1860 it is shown to the south of Harvey Street in section 9 north.

District Number 8. King School. Section 14.

District Number 9. Union School. Section 9 South.

District Number 10. Unknown. Section 17 South. While Hartman (2001) does not list the name of the school, it is shown on the 1860 map about ¼ mile south of Baldwin's Prairie. It is reasonable to assume that it could have been named Baldwin's Prairie School.

District Number 11. North Porter. Section 11.

District Number 12. Chapel Hill School. Section 5.

District Number 13. Williamsville School. Section 18 North.

### **Silver Creek Township**

District Number 1. Red Mill School. Section 11.

District Number 2. Daly School. Section 10.

District Number 3 fractional. Indian Lake School. Section 29.

District Number 4 fractional. California School. Section 34.

District Number 5. Cullinane School. Section 5.

District Number 6. Hinchman School. Section 22.

District Number 7. Nothing listed in Hartman (2001) for this district, but Cass County Republican of December 27, 1860 has advertisement for bids on brick school house for "Fractional District No. 7, Silver Creek, until January 1, 1861." Location unknown.

District Number 8 fractional. Cushing School. Section 19.

District Number? Town Hall School. Location unknown. "This building was the last to carry the name Cullinane." Hartman (2001).

### **Volinia Township**

District Number 1. Huycktown School. Section 11.

District Number 2 fractional. Bond School. Section 7.

District Number 3. Crane School. Section 18.

District Number 4. Newton School. Section 30.

District Number 5. Goodenough School. Section 21.

District Number 6. Warner School. Section 9.

District Number 7. Thompson School. Section 13.

District Number 8. Briarpatch School. Section 26.

## **Wayne Township**

District Number 1?

District Number 2. Glenwood School. Section?

District Number 3. West School, aka North Wayne School. Section 6.

District Number 4. Gage School. Section 20.

District Number 6. Red School, aka Kirkwood School. Section 13.

District Number 7. White School. Section 27.

District Number 8 fractional. Hardscrabble School. Section 33.

District Number 9. Dutch School, aka Chiverton School. Section 31. Note that during the 1850s-1860s, a schoolhouse was located about ¼ mile to the west of this one, across the road (north) from a "Mrs. Wiggins" (Emily Wiggins 1812-1878) on the 1860 atlas. This school is referred to in the Cass County Republican as the Wiggins School House in 1860, 1863.

## **Additional Schools**

District Number (none). Section 11. Adventist School. Hartman (2001) this two-room school house was built in 1955 and was operating at the time he finished his book.

District Number unknown. Higgins School. Section 24. Reportedly first school built in Wayne Twp. according to Hartman. Not to be confused with Wiggins School.

District Number unknown. Brown School, aka Ellis School. Section 15.

## **Literature Cited.**

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