

# Jerome Township

“Honoring the Past”

## *Jerome Township Schools*



Volume 2

# Jerome Township “Honoring the Past”

Volume 2

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Capital Square Printing Co.*

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## *Jerome Township Schools*



*School house paintings by Thomas H. Mallory, M.D. 2007.*

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR...

Jackie Russell, a community historian, is collecting memories, stories and photos of Jerome Township's past to help preserve the heritage and traditions of this wonderful farm community. She is sponsored by Jerome Village Company, LLC, and is working to honor the past as they help the Township build for the future. Born and raised in Columbus, Ohio, her background is in nursing, research and writing. Jackie's passion for local history, warm enthusiasm and the love of a "good story", has helped her connect with many of the Township's residents.

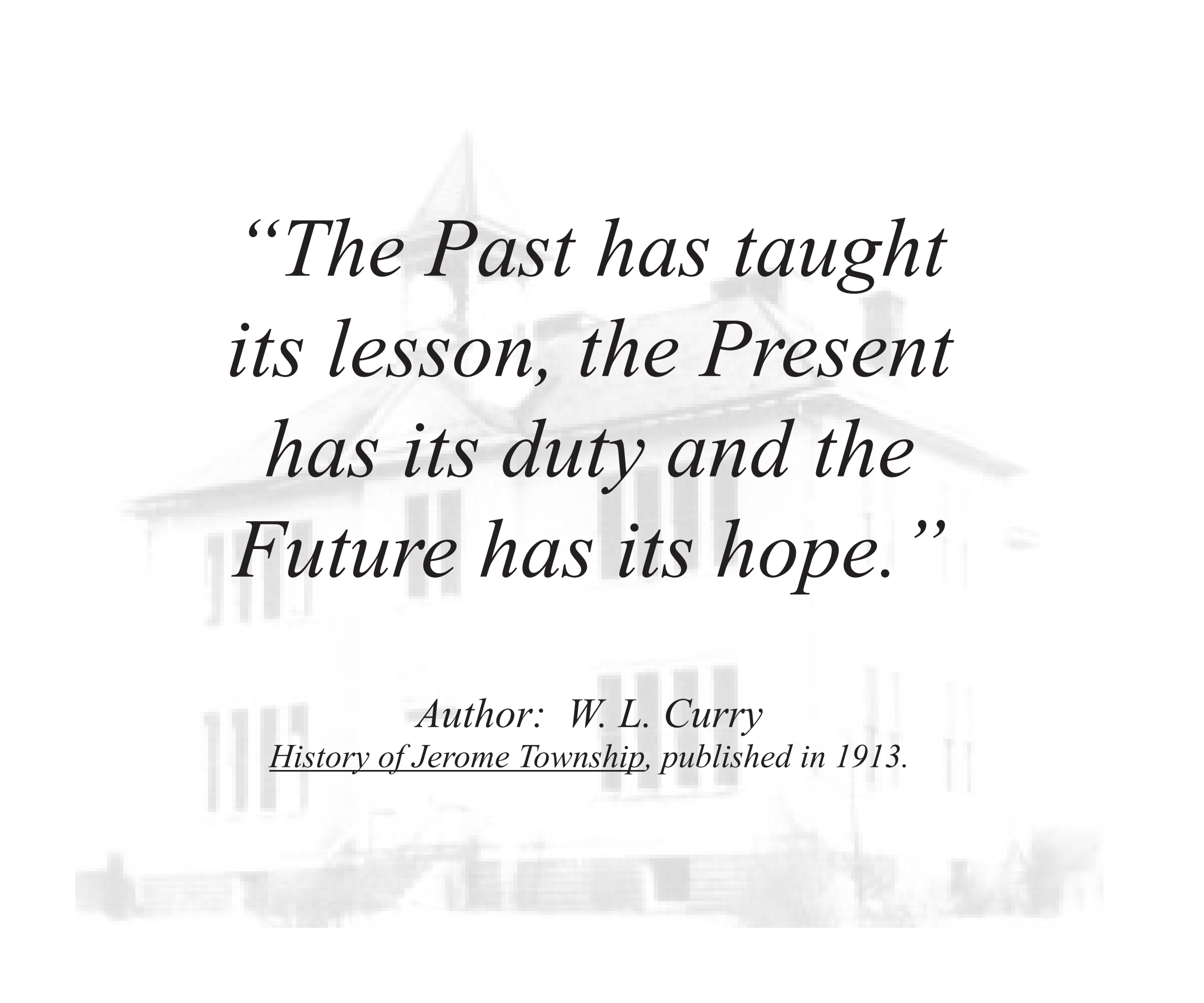
She continues to search for memorabilia. If you find a photo or know a story that would help her, please contact Jackie at [jrussell@gohighland.com](mailto:jrussell@gohighland.com), or call 614-242-4000 x32. Share your treasures with her; help preserve the legacy so that the future generation of Jerome Township residents will respect the traditions, remember the stories, and mimic the values of family, community and friendship.

# INTRODUCTION

For nearly 200 years, a scenic pocket of farmland just northwest of Columbus has served as the home for many hard working, loyal Ohio families. Founded in the early 1800's, the quiet community of Jerome Township boasts a strong heritage, rich with characters and filled with stories that need to be told.

Located in the southeastern corner of Union County and bordered by Delaware, Franklin and Madison counties, the township of Jerome was organized in 1821. The first settlers, Joshua and James Ewing, had discovered an area along the Big Darby Creek in 1798 that they felt was perfect for hunting and farming. They built a log cabin and became permanent residents of this land that would eventually abound with tales of Indian lore, patriotism, churches, business, schools and daily farm life.

Sponsored by the Jerome Village Company, this series of booklets is dedicated to paying tribute to the pioneers, farmers, and families that found a way to live life in harmony with nature while always fostering a strong sense of community. Using first hand stories from the people of Jerome, these booklets aim to depict some of the history and cultural heritage of Jerome Township. Our hope is that in preserving the stories and memories of this extraordinary community, we may keep timeless traditions and the long-standing sense of community alive and well. For in honoring the past, we create a vision for the future.



*“The Past has taught  
its lesson, the Present  
has its duty and the  
Future has its hope.”*

*Author: W. L. Curry*

*History of Jerome Township, published in 1913.*

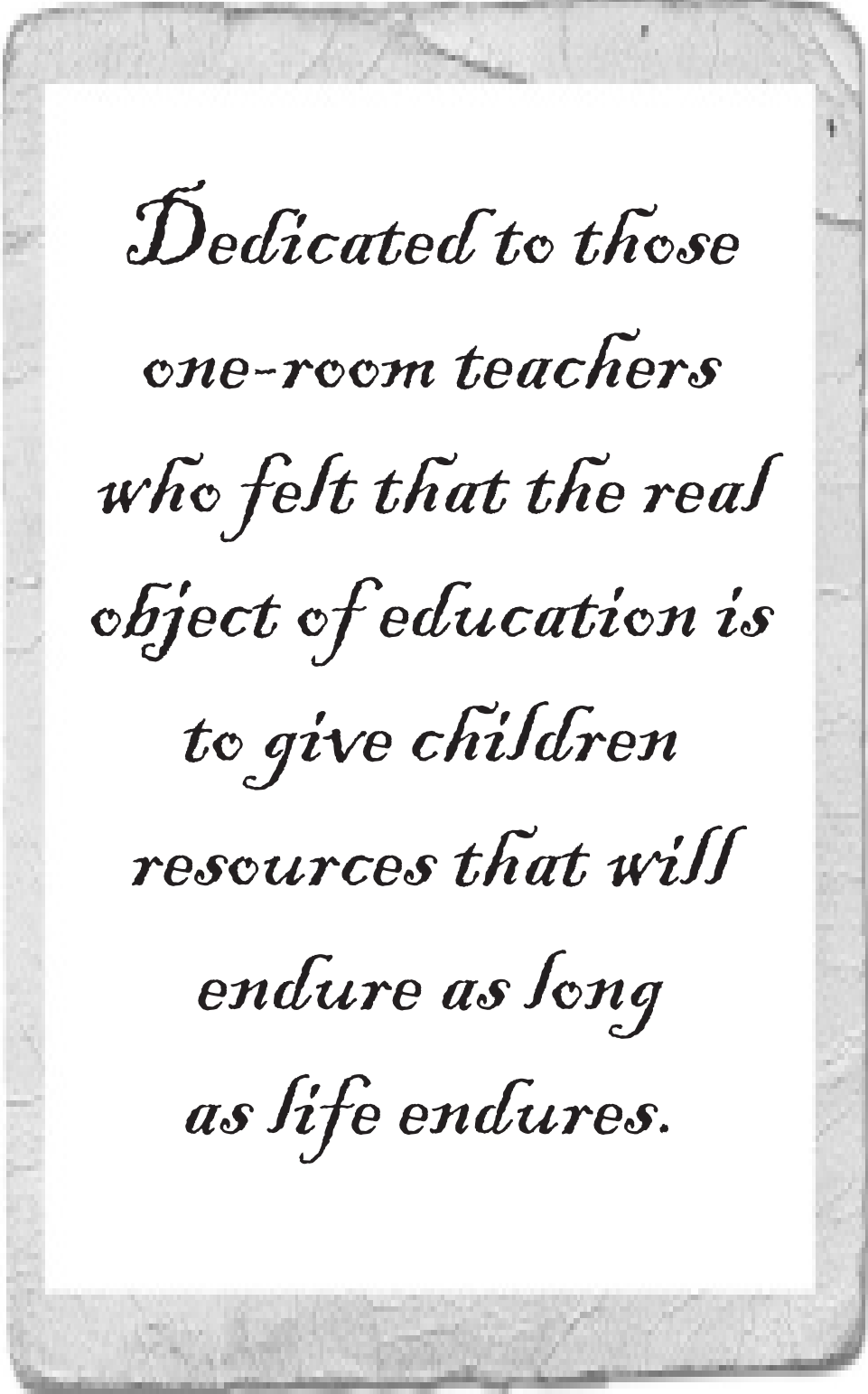
**1802 - 1846**

## **The One-Room Log School House**

The first constitution in the state of Ohio, mandated by the Congress of the United States, was adopted in 1802. It stated that "religion, morality and knowledge were essential to a good government, and furthermore that schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged by legislative provision". Grants of land were made available for public schools and money was directed to be used for educational support. The early school boards were made up from the local pioneer families and oversaw the operation of the school and hiring of the teachers.

Interestingly, teachers for these rural schools were initially selected more on their "unfitness" to perform manual labor rather than intellectual worth. Teachers from this era only completed schooling through the 8th grade. But as tax laws for support of education progressed, funding improved, and qualifications for teachers became stricter. This elevated the social status of the teacher who was soon on equal footing with that of physicians and ministers.

In fact, whenever a teacher visited the farm household of a student, it was quite an event, involving great preparation by the parents. Farm families' interest in their chil-



*Dedicated to those  
one-room teachers  
who felt that the real  
object of education is  
to give children  
resources that will  
endure as long  
as life endures.*



*Examples of typical one-room log school houses.*

dren's education and support for the school system grew accordingly.

The very first school house in Jerome Township was a one-room log house located at the corner of Industrial Parkway and Taylor Road and was on the property of Perry Buck, a local farmer. Reports differ on the exact year that it was built, sometime between 1810 and 1820. Approximately 60 students, all children from farms closest to the school, attended. A school district at the time was defined by a grouping of 20 families from adjacent farms. This "district" of children attended the same one-room school.

Back then, there were no school buses or other means of transportation, so all students walked to school. Actually, this walk was really quite a hike since neither roads nor cleared ground even existed. The path to school was marked on trees through the woods -- making for a rather muddy, treacherous and long journey. In the winter, if a family could not afford warm, heavy clothing, the children skipped school because the walk was too lengthy and cold. A "snow day" didn't mean a break from work for these students as they would help on the farm. Attending school was not yet mandatory; education was viewed more as a privilege.

The log school house was essentially a room of about 30 square feet. The desks were one long board with a narrow bench behind it, without a back. Heating the building was taken care of by a heavy iron box stove. The room was lit primarily by sunlight from the side windows, and a few kerosene lamps. A bucket of water with a dipper served as the "drinking fountain". It seems nearly impossible that 60 children could fit into a room that small and actually learn a lesson. But "reading, writing, and rithmatic" took place despite uncomfortable seats and one overcrowded classroom.

Eventually, 10 one-room log schools were built in the Township in the early 1800's. They were named for the farmer's property or the road of their location. These schools included Jones, McDowell, Ketch, Lamb, Dodge, Mitchell, Mooney, Davis Chapel, Hill, and Kile. This was the beginning of Jerome's reputation for quality education. Unfortunately, none of these log schools remain standing in Jerome today.

Quite a contrast exists when comparing the school day from yesteryear to the classroom of today. The teacher in the class, usually a woman, had to prepare lessons for all levels of students in the room. She was paid roughly \$30 per month at most, and really earned her pay. She started the fire in the stove, made and repaired the quill pens



*Inside the one-room school house; iron box stove functions as a heater.*

## 1872 Rules for Teachers

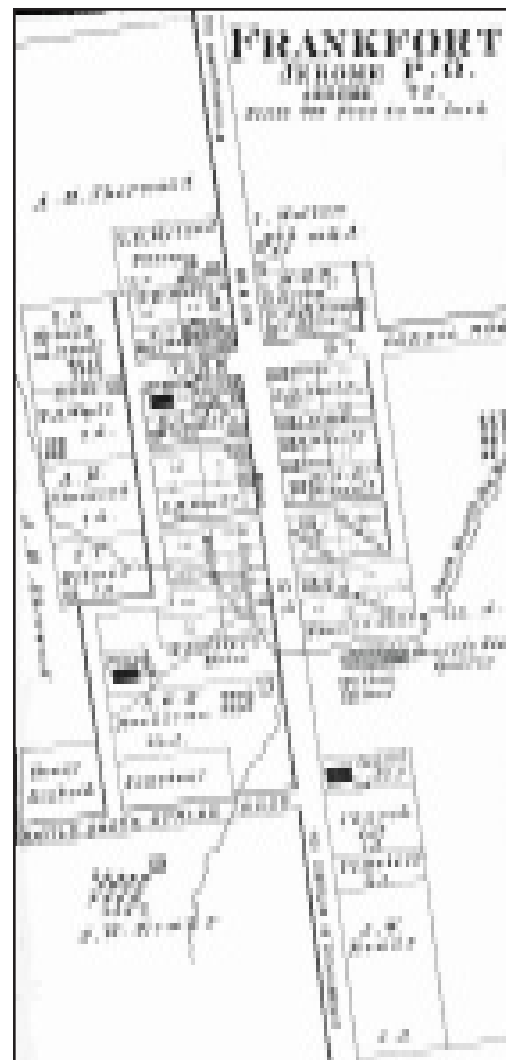
1. Teachers each day will fill lamps, clean chimneys.
2. Each teacher will bring a bucket of water and a scuttle of coal for the day's session.
3. Make your pens carefully. You may whittle nibs to the individual taste of the pupils.
4. Men teachers may take one evening each week for courting purposes, or two evenings a week if they go to church regularly.
5. After ten hours in school, the teachers may spend the remaining time reading the bible or other good books.
6. Women teachers who marry or engage in unseemly conduct will be dismissed.
7. Every teacher should lay aside from each day pay a goodly sum of his earning for his benefit during his declining years to that he will not become a burden on society.
8. Any teacher who smokes, uses liquor in any form, frequents pool or public halls, or gets shaved in a barber shop will give good reason to suspect his worth, intention, integrity and honesty.
9. The teacher who performs his labor faithfully and without fault for five years will be given an increase of twenty-five cents per week in his pay, providing the Board of Education approves.

used for writing, kept progress reports on all students, and taught lessons including spelling, simple arithmetic, grammar rules, and writing. She also was expected to instruct manners, morals, and patriotism and even taught Sunday school. She was usually only a bit older than her oldest student and was a product of the school she taught in. After the Civil War, stricter requirements were created for teachers and certain states began to charter teacher training schools, known as Normal Schools. These schools provided 2 years of educational training to prospective teachers and graduates obtained a teaching certificate. Normal schools eventually evolved into four-year colleges and universities.

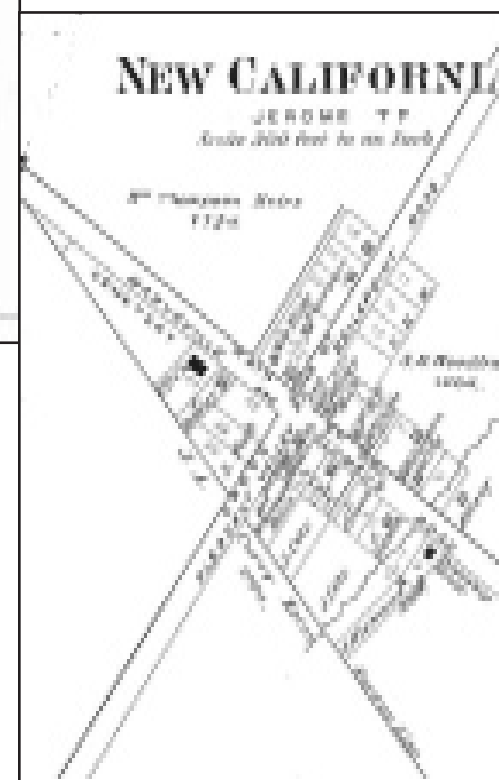
Just like today's students, the children of the early era couldn't wait for recess. Favorite games included racing through the woods, fox and geese and playing "town ball". The ball for this game was made when one student unraveled his sock, then wound the thread around a cork and covered it with sheepskin. There was a pitcher, batter, catcher and outfielders. Marbles was a favorite recess pastime with the boys. But the boys were also known to wrestle and box; gangs existed even back then and a real fist was often thrown at recess.

Unlike today, there was no such thing as a “time-out” corner to punish bad behavior. The switch was used frequently across the backside for any number of offenses. The worst disgrace was being sent out to pick your own switch for the whipping. The story is told of a young boy that tricked another into biting off a piece of Indian turnip root (also known as Jack in the Pulpit). This plant had been used by the Indians to settle the stomach, but the raw root was considered toxic to the mouth. Biting into this plant resulted in a serious burn to the inside of the mouth, and quite a severe use of the switch to the young man that played the trick! However, the teachers frequently rewarded the good students; raisins, nuts and apples were treats that the well-behaved scholars often enjoyed.

Early school houses were not just used for educational purposes. Township meetings and elections were also held there. Since there was no other public hall in the village, it was used for political, religious, and public meetings, as well as Sunday School. To obtain this privilege, the township donated \$50 to the school’s building fund. As Jerome Township flourished and more pioneers settled and farmed, the population grew.



*1877 Map of the village of Frankfort (also called Beachtown), later renamed Jerome.*



*1877 map of the village of New California.*

*Jerome Township maps from the Atlas of Union County, Ohio; published in 1877.*



*Converse one-room school house in Plain City.*

## **1846 - 1887**

### **"Select" Schools Raise the Standard**

Soon more than just one-room log schoolhouses were needed. In 1846, the Township of Jerome began its division into villages. The Village of Jerome was platted in 1846, (also known as Beachtown, Pleasant Hill or Frankfort). New California soon followed in 1853. Businesses prospered, the villages became more populated, and educational needs increased.

*"My great grandmother, Olive Gill Mitchell (1830 - 1912), was a teacher at the New California School. Her contract is framed on my office wall and has been handed down through the Mitchell family; I treasure this document as I am a university teacher myself. It reads:*

*'Fourth District Jerome Township Union County: An article of agreement made and entered into between Olive A. Gill and the directors of said district, Olive A. Gill agrees to teach school in the above named district five days a week and furnish her own board for the term of two months commencing the 30th day of July 1849 for which the above named directors bind themselves to pay one dollar and fifty cents per week'.*

*Olive Ann Gill married my great grandfather, James Robinson [J.R.] Mitchell (1830 - 1905) on April 1, 1858; the community was surprised and thought the marriage was an April fool's joke.*



*Olive Gill Mitchell*



*James Robinson Mitchell*

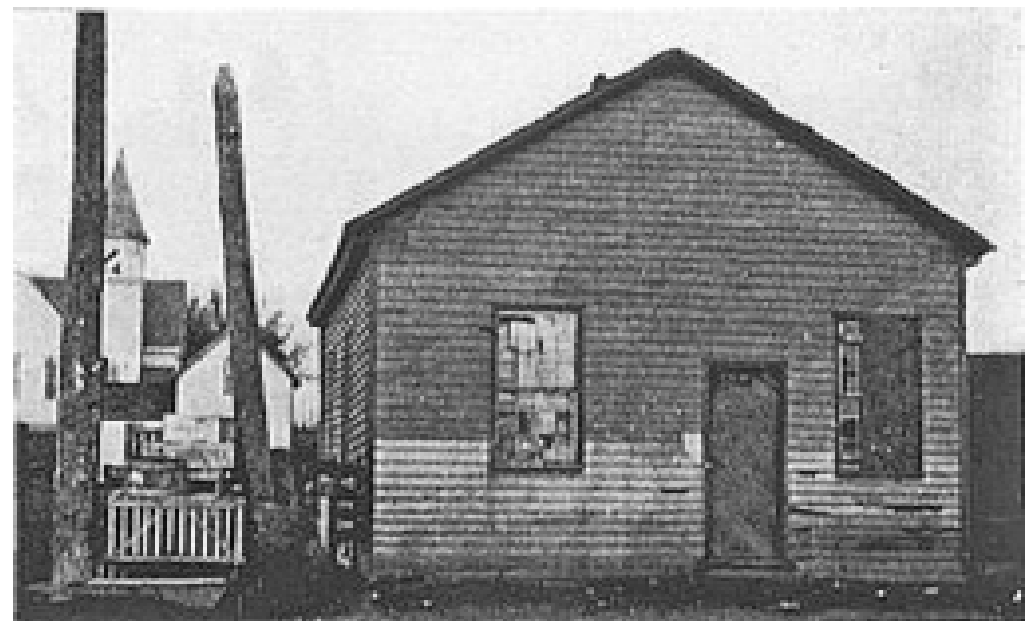
*The reason for the surprise was that my great grandparents did not share a political party - one supported a Republican view point and the other, Democrat! Some of my earliest memories are of my Great Aunt Sarah Mitchell (1859 - 1953, oldest child of Olive Gill and J.R. Mitchell) who was the midwife at my birth and lived with us until her death. Aunt Sarah was a graduate of Ohio Northern University and taught school like her mother. By today's standards, she would have been considered a feminist. When TV was first introduced into our home, Aunt Sarah pulled her skirt hem down almost to her shoes...it was hard for her to imagine the 'people in the box' couldn't see her like she could see them. She was a wonderful woman and role model."*~REGENA MITCHELL

*Regena was born and raised on the Mitchell family homestead on Mitchell-Dewitt Road. In 1987, she completed her PhD at Claremont Graduate University in California. Since 1990, she has directed MBA programs in two major New Zealand universities, teaching organizational behavior and leadership development. She treasures her memories of growing up in Jerome Township.*

In 1852 the first "select" school was erected in the north east corner of New California, initially taught by Llewellyn Curry. "Select" schools were designed to provide an elevated standard of education preparing students for college or teaching careers.



*Sarah Mitchell*



*New California select school house, erected in 1852. School building funded primarily through Jesse Gill, father of Olive Gill Mitchell.*



*Jerome brick school house, built in 1860; located just north of Ryan Memorial school site on Jerome Road.*



*2006 photo of brick school house built in 1889; now the home of Dorothy Andrews Cosgray.*

The curriculum embraced higher levels of math, languages and science. Teachers, for the most part, were college educated. The village of Jerome soon followed New California, building their first “select” school in 1860 on Jerome Road. These buildings were spacious when compared to the log schoolhouse. They had a trademark brick exterior, with a coatroom, an election room, and a schoolroom that could easily hold 75 students.

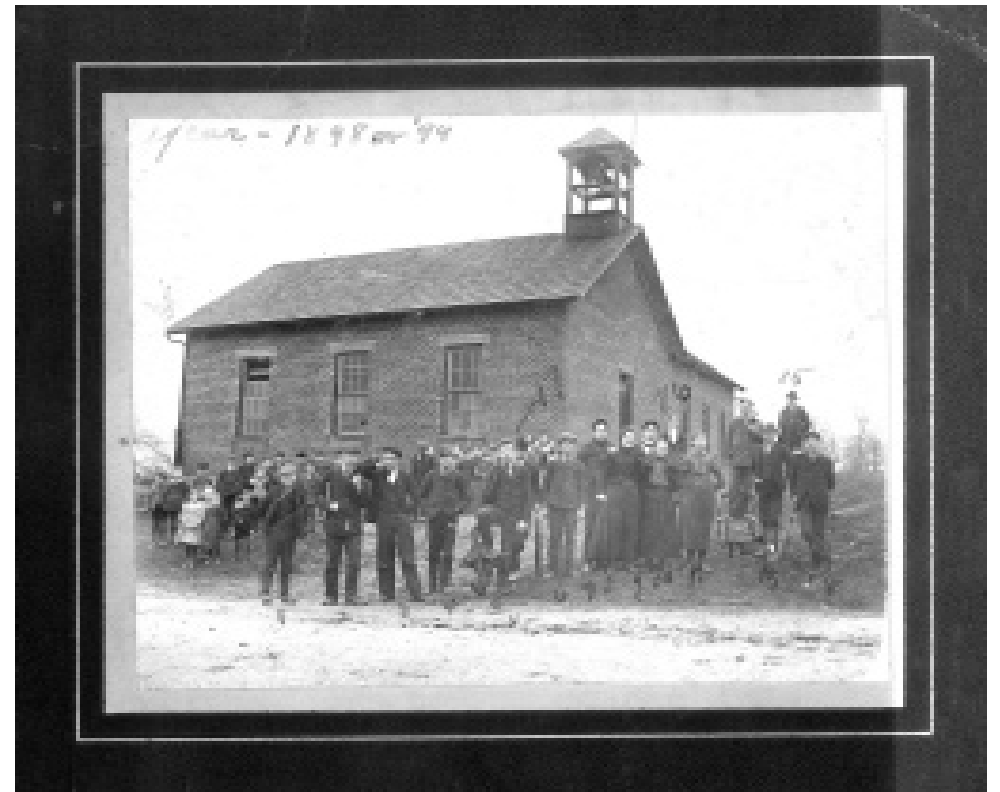
*“My father, Thomas Andrews (1889 - 1956), went to school in this brick one-room school house that I live in now. My grandfather, William Henry Andrews (1855 - 1937), bought the school house and added on to make it our home. We painted it white, and I think it is one of the few one-room brick school houses left in the township.*

*~DOROTHY ANDREWS COSGRAY*

*Dorothy graduated from New California High in 1945. She married high school sweetheart Lloyd Cosgray, senior class president from the class of 1943. She currently lives in the Andrews homestead at 11758 Jerome Road, a one-room school house that was built in 1889.*

The modern day “AP” classes at “select” schools included higher math, chemistry, foreign language, and a literary society. Due to the quality of the faculty, high academic standards, and large student population, Jerome Township ultimately educated

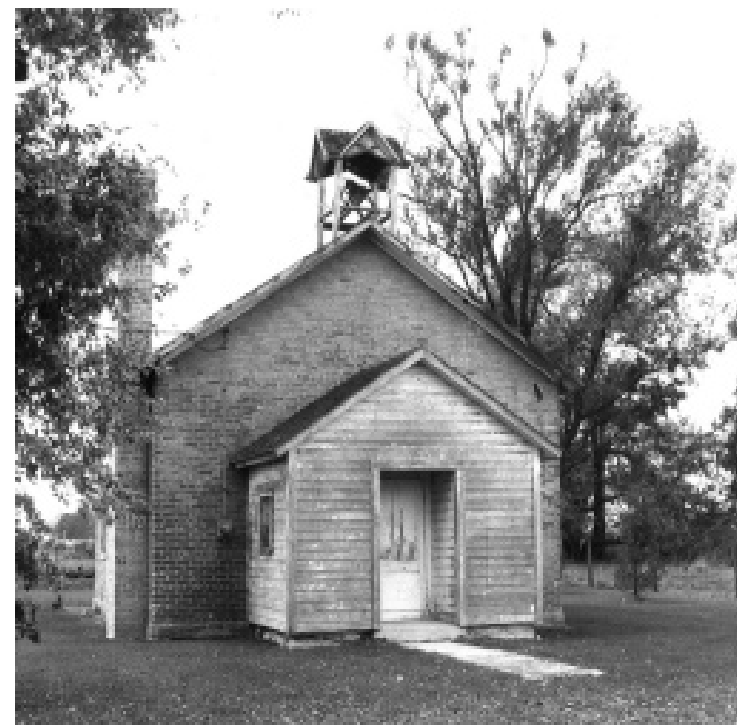
a sufficient number of teachers to supply most of the schools in Union County. Citizens of Jerome valued a good education and were proud to boast the best schools in the county. The schools were supported by generous donations from farmers, and led by an active school board. Some of the well-known contributors were members of the Gill, Liggett, Woodburn, Curry, Mitchell, Buck, Dodge, Ketch, Bishop, Fox, Nonnemaker and Dort families. Unfortunately, the carefree days of education for many farm boys ended in the fall of 1860; the Civil War called and patriotism ran high.



*Students in front of Jerome brick school house, circa 1898.*



*2007 photo of Mitchell school house on Mitchell-Dewitt Road.*



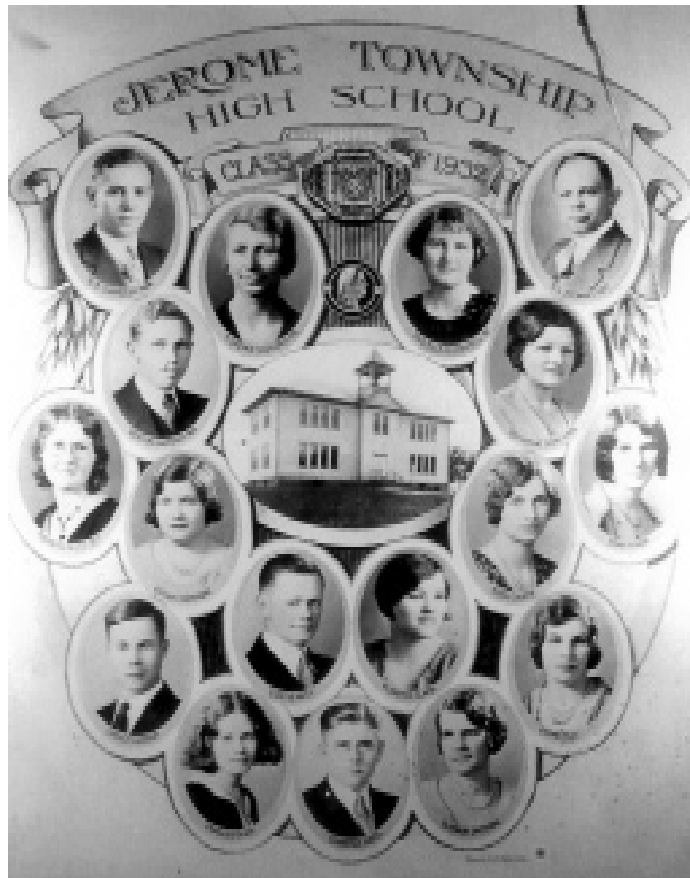
*Converse school house on the corner of Route 42 & Converse Road.*

## 1887 - 1980

### Larger Centralized Schools Grades 1-12



*New California-Jerome High School, circa 1943.*



*The 1932 class of Jerome High School graduates includes Curtis Artz, Jr.*

In 1887 the first centralized school in New California was built on Route 42. This marked the first formal advance into higher education with a large school for the community. It contained grades 1 through 12, and boasted its first graduating class in 1887 (Earl Curry, Cora Gill, and Frank Mitchell were the graduates). This schoolhouse was soon replaced with a more substantial frame building erected in 1909. The graduation class pictures were captioned with New California High School or Jerome High School, depending on the year, as the student population was drawn from both villages. Thanks to the settlers' active support of this advanced educational movement, students were provided their first incentive to pursue college classes. Many entered college, graduated with honors and went on to become successful businessmen, physicians, or professional workers.

An example of one such success story was Curtis Price Artz, Jr. He was born in Jerome in 1915, and was valedictorian of the Jerome High School graduating class of 1932. He went on to receive his bachelors and M.D. degrees from the Ohio State University, completing his surgical residency at OSU in 1950. He had a remarkable career as a surgeon, serving in the Army as a

Commanding Officer and Chief of Research Service. He specialized in the treatment of burns, and in 1965 became the Chairman of the Department of Surgery, Medical College of South Carolina. He authored and edited material in four books about the management of surgical complications and developments in the treatment of burns, and published 144 articles in scientific journals and publications. He died at the age of 62 in 1977.

In 1911, the second centralized school in the community, located at the intersection of Jerome and Brock roads, was built. Ryan Memorial Jerome Special School (also known as Jerome Special) was a beautiful state-of-the-art brick building named for its benefactor and major contributor. Samuel Ryan was a bachelor who died at the age of 60 and had no relatives. He left his estate of 140 acres to the Jerome school district for the "improvement of educational matters". Proceeds from the sale of this land were directed to be applied to a new school building.

Jerome Special initially housed grades 1 through 11, transferring its senior high students to the New California High School to graduate. This building cost \$11,000 to build and contained four rooms. Reports boasted that "nothing had been spared that might add to the comfort of the pupils",



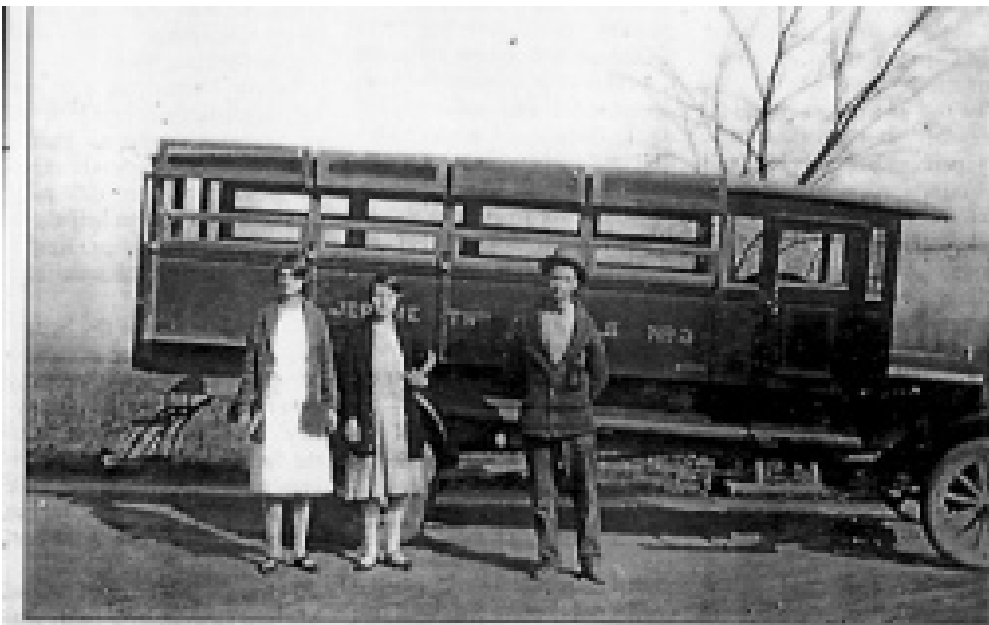
*Ryan Memorial Jerome Special School (Jerome Special), built in 1911.*



*Jerome Special, circa 1946.*



*Horse-drawn school transportation (kid wagon), circa early 1900's.*



*Picture of the Past*

This photo, brought in by Rod Nicol, was taken in 1924 and shows Christine Fisher Rausch, who is 94 years old and lives in Marysville, and the late Frieda Kasper Nicol and Harold Rausch with a Jerome Township school bus. Harold Rausch, one of the older boys at the New California School, drove the bus.

*Jerome Township school bus, circa 1924.*

including a library, an auditorium and science labs. 196 students attended initially, and transportation was provided by the "kid bus".

*"I'll never forget the "kid wagon". It was our school bus pulled by horses. The windows were covered with fabric that we opened in warm weather. But in the winter, the fabric didn't keep much cold out. It was such a long ride to school. I would carry a wrapped, warm brick to keep my hands a little warmer. Mr. Crottinger, our bus driver, was so nice. He would sometimes stop the bus to let us pick flowers or hedge apples. In the winter, he would let the boys attach their sleds to the back of the bus for a special ride."*

*~MARY ALICE PATCH SCHACHERBAUER*

*Mary Alice, Jerome resident and farmer's wife, believes her experience at New California School was "worlds apart" from those of today's students.*

When Jerome Special opened in 1911, there were three main teachers each one in charge of either the primary, intermediate or high school curriculums. Professor Cahall headed the high school department and was a graduate of Miami University, in Oxford, Ohio. Many young men and women who have gone out into the world from Jerome Township attribute their success in life to the superior educational advantages offered by this school.

In 1953, an addition to the Jerome school was constructed adding 4 more classrooms. As the years passed and enrollment declined, it became Jerome Elementary and housed grades one through six, and then only one through four. With the number of new students dwindling due to the growth of surrounding school districts, the school closed its doors in 1980. After a heated community debate about the building, it was finally torn down. Many residents wanted the old building saved, but due to the presence of asbestos, concern over safety and new building codes, it was financially impossible. The wrecking ball struck and now only a small park remains. The headstone that had been originally mounted on the school in 1911 stands at the site as a memorial.

The last class to graduate from New California High School was in 1951. Students were then transferred to Watkins, Plain City and Marysville. The old school building was sold in 1952 to a local resident, Keith Strayer, who used the building as a chicken farm. In 1956, the building burned to the ground in the middle of the night.



*Jerome Special with new addition, circa 1953.*



*And the walls come tumbling down*

*Demolition of Jerome Special, circa 1984.*



*“I remember being awakened by something bright outside my window; it looked like a blazing fire. My dad ran down the road to see what was burning. He grabbed his camera and snapped these incredible pictures of the building going down. The funny thing was, the owner used the building as a ‘fryer chicken farm’!”*

*~MARVIN GAMBLE*

*Marvin lived and farmed land on Route 42, just east of the school building and recalls the night of the fire.*

*New California High School ablaze, circa 1956.*



*Memorial park at the site of Ryan Memorial-Jerome Special School. Headstone was salvaged from the school at the time of demolition.*

## Citizen Memories: Basketball Championships & "Skunk Perfume"

To build for the future it's often important to look back. A wonderful collection of New California - Jerome class graduation photos are preserved in the Dublin Jerome High School library. Several of these graduation photos are displayed in this booklet and give a glimpse of the generations of valuable students that stayed in the community after graduation to support Jerome Township as farmers, teachers and businessmen. But a more colorful illustration of education in Jerome comes from the stories of residents that attended these schools. Jerome Township is fortunate to have many deeply caring and loyal life-long residents to learn from. Many still live in the community today. Their first hand stories depict a heartfelt picture of precious school memories.

Look closely at the graduating class of 1943. In 1943 the school was called Jerome High School and Loran Faulk was a graduating senior. Now look to the class of 1945 and find his wife to be, Marie McCabe. (Note that Jerome High School is now called New California High School.) These two high school sweethearts continue to be very active in the Jerome community and welcome any and all to their home. There were many marriages between classmates, as very few traveled outside Jerome to meet

*The 1943 class of Jerome High School includes Jim McKitrick, Lloyd Cosgray and Loran Faulk.*



*The 1945 class of New California High School includes Dorothy Andrews Cosgray, Marvin Gamble, Kathryn Andrews McKitrick and Marie McCabe Faulk. (Note different names for the same school)*



1942 Basketball Championship team from New California High School.

others. Loran loves to tell the tale of the 1942 basketball championship; their team upset Broadway High School for the big win. One can hardly keep from celebrating with him as he proudly shows the team picture (including cousins Mel and Joe Dodge, Lloyd Cosgray, James McKitrick, Thad Seely Jr., and others) taken after the victory.

*“Broadway High School had won the county championship for many years, and planned another victory. They had already arranged their banquet around this win, they were certain they would beat ‘New Cali’. They had beaten us once that year, but we killed them in the finals. What an upset. Our record was then 16 - 2 for the season. It was the greatest day!” ~LORAN FAULK*

*The Faulks live on Scioto Road, just east of Jerome Road and across from Faulk Street. Loran is 81 years old, Marie is 80, and they have been married almost 60 years. Marie has scrapbooks filled with Jerome memories from long ago and she and her husband love to share their stories.*



1942 Softball (recreation baseball) Championship team.

Many of the same teammates went on that year to also win the softball championship. One of those teammates is Joe Dodge. Joe also has wonderful memories, including the days of going to school “smelling like skunk”, and making the other boys jealous.

*“Back then, we loved to hunt; it was a great way to make a little money by selling the pelts. Some days, I would get up early and hunt skunk before school. Skunk pelt brought big change, especially the star skunk (only a white dot on its head, no white stripe). If I was lucky enough to get one, I went on to school with the smell of skunk all over me. But to the girls, it was a kind of perfume - because that meant that I had a little ‘jingle-jangle’ in my pocket to spend on them. It was a great way to get the girls. Some of my buddies were jealous when I came to school with skunk on me; they tried to rub some of the smell on themselves so they could get the girls too!”~JOE DODGE*

*Joe and his wife Karen still live on the Dodge property that has been in the family for 3 generations.*

Joe had 4 brothers and one sister; they all lived in the old one-room school house on Industrial Parkway that was on the Dodge farm land. Joe’s father, Homer Dodge (1895 - 1987), bought the District No. 6 school house where he attended the first 6 years of his formal education. Homer paid \$380 for the building and with some minor additions, made it their home. Joe recalls sleeping on the floor with his brothers in the main room; the family was large and the house was small. “I never slept in a bed until I entered the military, we



*The 1942 class of Jerome High School includes Joe Dodge.*



*The 1915 class of New California High School includes Frances Mitchell (back row middle) and Homer Dodge to her right.*

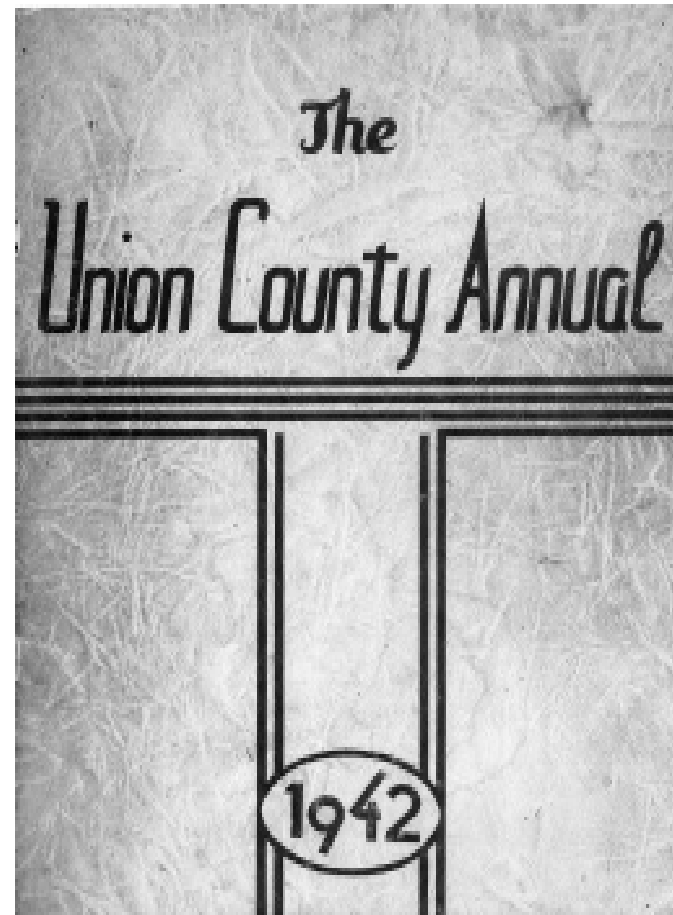


*New California High School students, circa 1906.*



*New California High School students, circa 1921.*

just didn't have the room". As a student at New 'Cali', Joe rarely remembers being disciplined. But he remembers his buddies that were punished at school with the crack of a ruler against their knuckles, or paddled as they leaned over a desk. He earned \$3 per week working on the school bus as the "lookout" for trains. The tracks on Route 42 had a severe curve that made it difficult for the driver to see the trains approaching. So Joe would get out of the bus, stand on the tracks and look both ways to make sure the tracks were clear for the bus to cross.



*Cover of Union County Annual Yearbook, 1942. Contains information and photos from all schools in Union County.*





*The 1946 class of New California High School includes Ruth Andrews Gamble.*

More Jerome Special memories come from Ruth Andrews Gamble; she attended Jerome Special for elementary school but graduated from New California High.

*“I remember the boys at Jerome Special playing marbles at recess; we girls were really a tease. We would run up to their game, grab a marble or two and run to the girls’ outhouse behind the school. It was the only place the boys couldn’t get us!” ~RUTH ANDREWS GAMBLE*

*Ruth’s elementary school memories were filled with fun and games. She and her husband, Marvin, were also high school sweethearts and can be seen in the 1945 and 1946 New California graduation pictures.*

Kathryn Andrews McKitrick started at Jerome Special in 1933 and remembers elementary school grades were grouped together; grades 1, 2, 3, and grades 4, 5, 6 were taught in one class. Each younger child had an older student “buddy”. So the first graders actually had 3 years to learn the lessons from Grades 1, 2, and 3.

*“I played on the girl’s softball team even though I wasn’t a very good player. I just wanted the fun of traveling with the team after school. I loved school, and was quite ‘talkative’ during class. If I missed a lesson, I must admit some days I just sat next to a smart kid on the bus or at school*

*to copy homework.” ~KATHRYN ANDREWS MCKITRICK*

*Kathryn also married a classmate, Jim McKitrick, in 1948. Jim attended OSU on the war bond, and became a teacher. Kathryn’s class photo is seen in the class of 1945, Jim was the class vice president in the class of 1943.*

Esther Nunamaker Paugh, born in 1895, is the oldest living graduate of New California High School. She recalls her New California High School Reunion in 2004. She had graduated in 1924 and at the Reunion, was honored as the last survivor of her class.

*“When I graduated from ‘New Cali’, we wore white linen dresses that hung 8 inches from the floor. I entered every sport, especially loved basketball. I remember that for gym class, we stood beside our desks and performed simple exercises. I always won the high kick contest, and was the fastest runner during our races across the schoolyard.” ~ESTHER NUNAMAKER PAUGH*

*Esther was married to Ivan Paugh for just over 70 years. She sends a picture of her last class potluck held at a nursing home with 5 of her remaining classmates. She currently lives in South Charleston, Ohio and still gets around with a walker.*

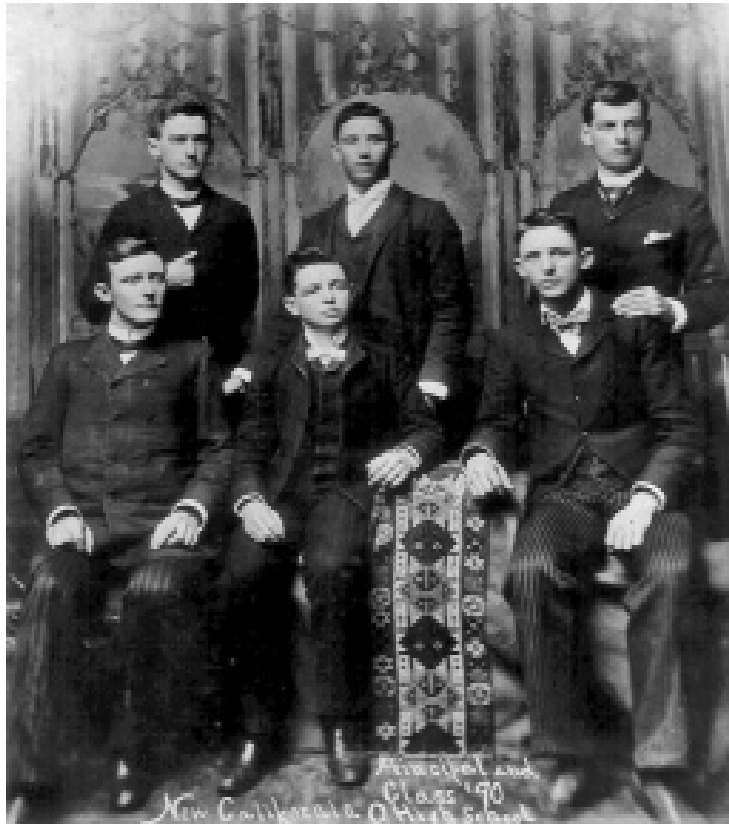


*The 1924 class of Jerome High School includes Esther Nunamaker.*



*Esther Nunamaker Paugh, 2006 at age 102.*





*The 1890 class of New California High School includes Aaron Mitchell, youngest son of Olive Gill & J.R. Mitchell, top row right.*

These are only a handful of the fond school memories that linger on, it would be impossible to list them all. But they help show the significance of the school system, and its impact on the pioneers, farm families, and businesses of Jerome Township. The ongoing support from the Township's residents throughout the years, created a system that provided high quality instruction with an opportunity to pursue a collegiate degree. The schools shaped lasting friendships and produced strong marriages with large families. Educational reputation fueled graduates' plans to continue the heritage of their ancestors and fostered the strong sense of community spirit that continues to make Jerome a wonderful place to live.



*1925 Basketball team, New California High School.*



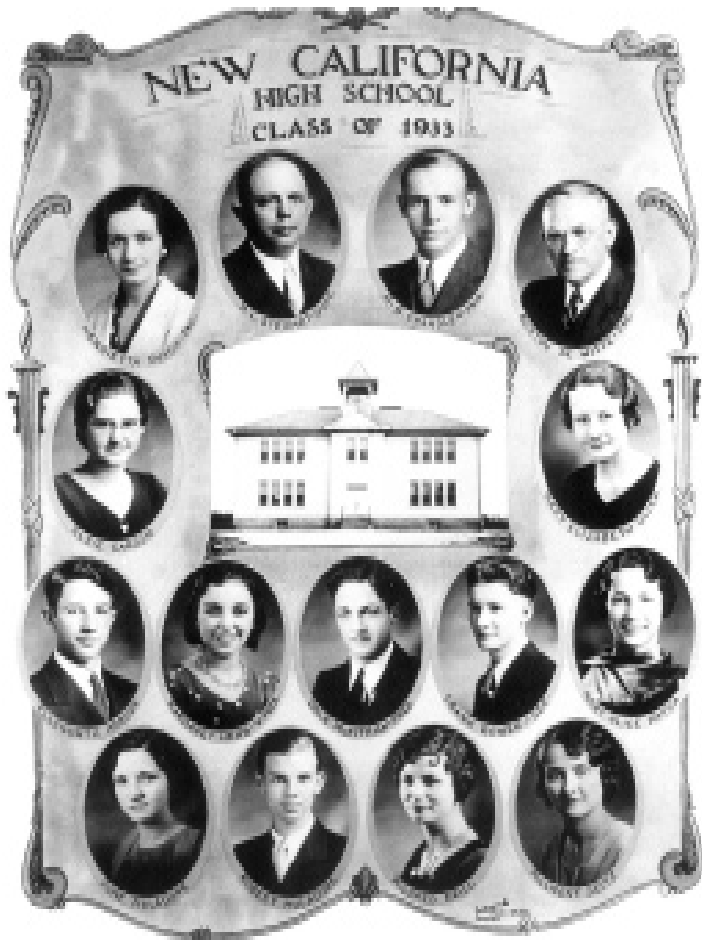
*1923 Union County Basketball Champions from New California High School.*



*Elementary students at New California, circa 1923. Mary Alice Patch Schacherbauer stands in the middle row next to teacher.*



*Students at New California High School, circa 1929.*



*The 1933 class of New California High School includes Mary Alice Patch Schacherbauer.*



*Frances Mitchell Liston  
(1897 - 1980)*

*Granddaughter of Olive Gill Mitchell;  
graduated from New California High  
School in 1915 and went on to pursue  
a teaching career.*



*The 1921 class of New California High School includes Jess Mitchell, grandson of Olive Gill & J.R. Mitchell, top row right.*

## *Memories from Mary Alice Patch Schacherbauer*

*“I started school at the age of six in 1920. There was no kindergarten so we were all 6 years old in the first grade. Very few knew the alphabet, numbers, or could read until we arrived at school in September. We learned quickly, anxious to be able to read and write. There were no library books, no art class - but we had a music teacher one day a week for just one period. We merely learned to sing do-re-mi, and had no idea what that meant!*

*There were 2 grades in each room. First grade quickly learned what second grade learned. Girls wore hand-made dresses and slips, hand-knit hats - clothes were rarely purchased from a store. We all wore long underwear, long stockings, and high laced shoes in the winter.*

*Teachers were very special and often kids planned apple rolls for the teacher. Most families had orchards so apples were plentiful. At a given time we all rolled apples up the aisle for the teacher. I think that's the way “an apple for the teacher” came to be known.*

*Kids brought their lunch to school -the poorer kids had bread and jelly sandwiches, maybe a boiled egg, and an apple - not much. But sometimes we were lucky enough to have a piece of chicken or leftover meat. My mother baked a lot so I had cookies and pie or cake. Poor families rarely had these treats to pack - they had very little.*

*During the noon hour we played games, as it was an hour long break. We had time to run down to Vigor's store to buy penny candy or a penny pencil or eraser. During this break, the teacher had tea on a little sterno stove and it was a big honor to be allowed to go out to the pump for water for her tea.*

*On the last day of school there was always a picnic for the whole school, it was a pot luck. Holidays were special. Classes put on plays, recited poems, or read articles. Don't forget the outhouse! It was so far from the school house. No wonder younger students had accidents before they reached the bathroom.*

*High school was a big step; we thought we were so grown up! Many freshmen had their first date that year. On our dates, we usually went to a wiener roast, ball game or maybe even a movie. There was shop class for the boys and a Home Economics class for the girls. Boys learned wood working while girls learned to cook and sew. One lesson in Home Ec was to learn to build a fire in the cook stove, to set a table, and etiquette. Some of the girls learned to sew so well that they were able to make money by sewing in later life.*

*All 4 high school classes were in one big assembly hall; there were about 40 or 50 of us altogether. Teachers taught several classes. A few of us went on to college, some attended business school.*

*I think we learned so much and valued our education because we had survived the depression years. Kids from those days became lifetime, close friends. I keep in touch with a dear friend from 1926, and still hear from her today!”*



*Jackie Russell*

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

*I owe a debt of gratitude to many people for help in compiling the facts, memories and pictures in this journey through the history of Jerome Township's schools. The staff of the Dublin Jerome High School Library graciously loaned me the use of their scrapbooks containing graduation pictures and other Jerome/New California School photos and information. Articles and pictures from the Columbus Dispatch and Marysville Journal Tribune were used and helped confirm dates and events. Joe Hofbauer and all the folks at the Plain City Historical Society, and the staffs from the Marysville and Plain City Libraries helped guide me through the maze of microfish, catalogs, and indexing. A special thanks goes to Mary Alice Schacherbauer, Marie Faulk, and Ruth Gamble for always answering the phone with a smile when I called with yet another question or request. And for their contributions of stories, photos and moral support, I must thank Joe and Karen Dodge, Teddy Brooks, Dorothy Cosgray, Loran and Marie Faulk, Ralph and Susan Feasal, Deane Bishop, Marvin and Ruth Gamble, Lee and Mary Alice Schacherbauer, Kathryn McKitrick, Regena Mitchell, Carolyn and Jim Mitchell, Kenny Stout, Esther Nunamaker Paugh, Becky Payne, Donnie Rose and Richard Vance.*

*\*\*One of the biggest difficulties in trying to assemble an accurate historical review of an event is that at times there are written statements on some detail which seems to contradict other written statements on the same detail. While historical truths do not change, the knowledge of history expressed in writing or orally may change. Therefore, this is the most precise analysis of historical facts that could be determined from the above sources.*

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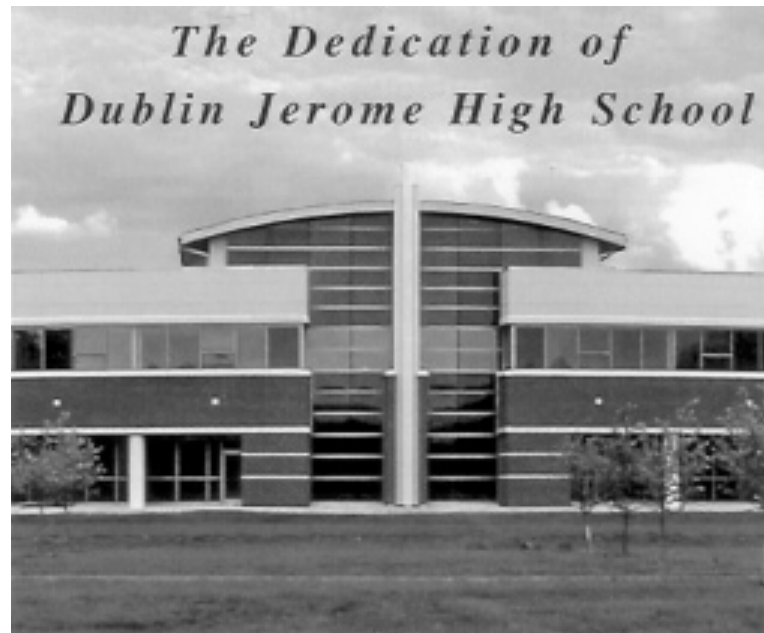
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