

Bennington School
By Jo Ann Whitton Gullion

Bennington School was a one-room school house. They divided the room down the middle by a wire with curtains made from a tarp. In the middle of the school was a wood stove. Outside was a wood shed that sometimes we played in. A dinner bell stood outside the door.

Up front of the room was the blackboard. It was a real treat if you got picked to clean the erasers. You cleaned them by beating them on the side of the building.

To use the bathroom you had to go back of the school over one hill and up another. The girl's outhouse was on the left and the boy's was a distance on the right.

We had a library. It consisted of a metal cabinet with books. It was also fun to get to take care of handing out books.

The teachers almost always played games with us. We played ball, red rover, ring-around-the rosie, and dare base.

Lunch consisted of whatever your parents could come up with. I usually had a cold fried egg sandwich wrapped in newspaper and tied together with a rubber band, which Mom brought home from the U. S. Shoe Factory in Vevay. Some kids brought a raw turnip.

My 1st, 2nd and 3rd grade teacher was Gertrude Scott. I always loved her pretty red fingernail polish, which was always perfect. My 4th grade teacher was Hazel Burress. She had long hair and was so very nice. My 5th grade we were sent to Moorefield.

Moorefield School was a two-room school. It set where the Moorefield Fire Department is. Mrs. Elsie Cole was my teacher. We also had a wood shed. There was another building beside the school called the Academy. We used it for our Christmas Plays.

If we had extra money we could go across the street to Gertrude Coleman's store. She would fix hotdogs. It was the first time I ever put ketsup on my hot dogs.

My 6th, 7th and 8th grades were at Pleasant School, which was new and held all 8 grades. I think the teachers were Jeanette Partin, Hazel Burress, Elgin Crandell, and maybe Beryl Christman. Really not sure about that. Elgin Crandell was my 6th, 7th and 8th grade teacher. It was a really nice school with real restrooms. Don't know why they closed it. It's a restaurant now. What a waste of a nice school.

My two brothers and sister attended Aaron School on Aaron Road while I was at Bennington. Then my brother Les went to St. Mary's, which was between Pleasant and Moorefield. My brother Lloyd went to Waterloo one year I think. My mother also attended Waterloo which was located up by the Ripley County and Switzerland County line. I attended Vevay High School and graduated in 1963.