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Sycamore School was built as a WPA project in 1940 and after consolidation in the 1950s it was used by an Extension Homemakers Club. But 14 years ago, the school gained new life when a non-profit was established to maintain the school as a rural community center.

According to the building caretaker and former student, Dennis Rodgers, the Sycamore Community Center in Lawrence County is available for special events and meetings at no cost. Donations for using the building are accepted though and used to pay the electric bill.

Currently, a weekly AA meeting is held at Sycamore as well as monthly neighborhood watch meetings and special events. Over the years, the school has also hosted a number of benefit auctions and fish fries.

“We figure our benefit events have raised about $35,000 for other groups and individuals over the years,” said Rodgers.

The school also hosts its own fundraising events, like the 14th annual pie supper being held the evening of the 3rd Saturday in October.

“Pie suppers were the major fundraiser for old schools and that is still the case here. We auction off pieces of pie and have contests just like in the old days,” said Rodgers.

The school still has a playground outside and a modern pavilion. On the inside the old atmosphere has been maintained with original desks and chalkboards. An indoor bathroom and small kitchen as well as modern HVAC have been added to the inside and a handicap ramp was added outside several years thanks to a grant.

“We work hard to take care of things around here but we have lots of funs with it too,” said Rodgers. “When these schools were consolidated the building belonged to the community as long as they were used. There was an even nicer two-room school near Chesaapeake but it was bulldozed down because the community didn’t make use of it. We don’t want that to happen here.”

For more information on the building or to make use of it, contact Dennis Rodgers at (417) 461-8354.
The 1st Ozarks Country School Association "Historic School Summit" will be held Friday, Sept. 16, 2011, and Saturday, Sept. 17, 2011, (with an optional school tour on either Thursday, Sept. 15 or Sunday, Sept. 18.) The event will be held at the Springfield-Greene County Botanical Center, 2400 S. Scenic Ave., Springfield, Mo.

**WANT TO PRESENT?**

This conference is hosted by University of Missouri Extension and Preservation Missouri.

The conference is intended to explore the importance of our historic schoolhouses through preservation, restoration, adaptation, use and interpretation. Proposals are being accepted for presentations, panel discussion, research papers, workshops, dramatic programs or plays, or demonstration on country/one-room schooling. Poster sessions and films/videos are also sought.

Submit proposals to David Burton by e-mail at burtend@missouri.edu or by mail at MU Extension, 2400 S. Scenic Ave., Springfield, Mo. 65810.

Presentations should explore issues related to the economic, social, and educational costs of these schools at their inception, the current investment in historic preservation, research, interpretation and programming as well as the need to develop strategies to continue in the face of the economic realities. Submit abstracts of no more than one double-spaced, printed page. Include a title of the proposal, names and affiliations (if any) of participants, participants backgrounds and contact information.

The following possible topic areas are suggested to spark creativity and are not to be considered as exclusive.

**Preservation:** Envisioning the preservation/restoration of our historic schools including funding, staffing and media promotion of project. Success stories (even how to presentations with photos) regarding preservation and uses in the Ozarks are also needed.

**Management:** Care and collecting of appropriate artifacts, developing a collection policy, storage and exhibition.

**Research:** One-room educational pedagogy, teacher training; unearthing site history, the architectural significance of one-room schools, the consolidation movement, and educational manipulatives in historic setting, etc.

**Programming:** Meeting needs of changing audiences, school, scout & camp group programs, holiday celebrations, music & arts in historic schools, artifact-based programming, living history presentations.

**Administration:** Recruiting and managing staff and volunteers, income streams, grant writing, site maintenance and disaster preparedness.

**AV and room arrangements:** Speakers and chairpersons (if applicable) will need to submit AV and room arrangement requests by Aug. 1.

**Time:** All sessions are from one-hour to one-hour and a half (60-90 minutes). This should include time for questions and answers.

**Registration Fees & Cost:** Chairpersons, speakers and panelists should register for the conference. Sorry, we are not able to pay travel or provide honoraria at this point in the organization’s development.

**Scheduling Your Session:** MU Extension will schedule all session times, rooms and dates. You may request for a specific date or time; however, we cannot guarantee that we can honor all requests.

For additional information on the Ozarks Country School Association, please visit MU Extension’s Greene County website at http://extension.missouri.edu/greene and click on the OCSA links.

**INSURANCE STUDY**

Work continues on the insurance study for one-room schools nationwide. Nearly 70 different owners and organizations answered the survey. Responses are now being tabulated and results will be presented this summer with the goal of developing insurance solutions this fall.

I have learned that at the National Trust Insurance Services (an affiliated entity of National Trust for Historic Preservation) a national policy exists and is actually written by Fireman's Fund Insurance Company. They are specific to Preservation Organizations and Historic Property Owners. (www.nationaltrust-insurance.org).

They offer a broad historic property form as well as fine arts, general liability, auto, workers compensation and umbrella coverage. The Colonial Dames parent organization (NSCDA) agreed to use NTIS & made introductory negotiations on behalf of all the independent Colonial Dames state societies. The National then urged all to use the same insurance which of course nearly all did (the Dames are team players).

Each state society, that bought insurance, negotiated the terms and conditions of their own contract and of course pay their own bills.
Mailbag Memories ...  
Teaching Mother Exposes Girl to Five Different One-Room Schools

I spent all of my elementary schooling attending one room schools. My first year (1937) was in a one room school (Hickory Barren) south of Fair Grove. We had coal oil lamps hanging on the wall.

I also attended Pleasant Valley west of old Hwy. 65. My mother taught there and got permission to bring me along. It was my very worse year because my mother was so afraid she would favor me.

My mother was Hazel Carter Appleby. She was born in 1905, grew up on a farm north of Springfield. She attended SMS (now Missouri State University) for a teaching certificate then went to Nebraska for her asthma and lived in a sod house with parents of her students.

When mother was awarded the teaching position at Pleasant Valley she had to pay the school board $50 to pay for her room and board. One family who had a corner grocery store gave her a hard time for not buying her groceries from them!

My mom had a crush on my dad all through high school. He was a free spirit (his mom died when he was five) and he spent 2 years in Alaska during the early 1920s. I only just found a journal he kept during a trip he and a buddy took down the Yukon River dated Aug. 5, 1927. In the back is a list of supplies and equipment starting with Number 1—boat, 14 feet, $45. The trip cost them $169.90 and they traveled by horse to St. Michaels, 2060 miles.

My parents were married in Reno during August 1931. My mother then drug him back to Missouri but his heart was always in the west.

Submissions welcomed:
Want to submit a letter of memories about an Ozarks one-room school for publication in this newsletter? Just send your text to David Burton via e-mail (burtond@missouri.edu) or mail it to the Greene County Extension center.

For third and fourth grade I went to Pleasant Hill, just across the road from New Salem Church. That was a two room school and mother taught in the big room. This was also by permission of the board that I could attend as I lived in the Grandview District.

Mom drove a Model A and jumped out and a girl (Margie McCurdy Rookstool) reached over from the back seat and guided the car to the side of the road.

Honestly, my mother rarely panicked. I remember one time crossing the railroad tracks on Commercial Street when our car stalled on the tracks. We looked up and a train was slowing bearing down on us. Mom calmly started the car and we drove off the tracks. I remember mom making lessons for her students on a hectograph.

I finished up at Grandview, a two room school with indoor plumbing and a basement where we could roller stake. The school is now a church on the east side of Payne Stewart Golf Course (used to be Grand View).

Those last 3 schools were consolidated as Pleasant View. My mom quit teaching after my brother was born.

Joanna Coonrod
Springfield, Mo.
Mailbag Memories …
Writers Recall Beulah and Bois D’Arc Schools

I began first grade in 1937 and attended all eight grades at Beulah. The school building faced south toward Hwy. M at the corner of Hwy. M and Farm Road 103.

The well was about half way between the building and the road (perhaps 20 yards from the building). A flagpole stood on the left side of the steps. Large windows were on the west side of the building (the left side of the students). Small high windows existed on the east side.

There was a back door on the east side also. Outhouses for the boys and girls were in the back corners of the yard and a wood shed stood behind the school building.

Swings and a teeter-totter stood in the front west yard. A ball diamond was maintained on the east side.

As you entered the building there was a coatroom on the right. Another was added later. A large coal stove on the left, encased in metal, helped keep the school warm. A black board stretched across the front where there was also a small raised stage.

Book shelves were later added on the right side of the room, opposite the large windows where the smaller children were always seated.

Betty Mason
Republic, Mo.
attended Beulah, District #105

I attended Bois D’Arc School and graduated from there in 1935, before the present rock school was constructed. I also went to the Clear Creek school for a few years.

When rural schools were consolidated, Clear Creek was divided. Part of the students went to Ash Grove and part went to Willard. My parents farm went into Ash Grove.

I recall the town of Bois D’Arc from my childhood. There were several stores on Main Street. Saturday night was a big event and band concert. The Orpheum Players came one night each week with a new production.

Main Street was closed to traffic on May Day. We would the May poles—a big deal to us.

We had no gym in the school and basketball games were played at the old community center on Main Street. Bois D’Arc High School was a member of the Greene County League along with Ash Grove, Republic, Walnut Grove, Strafford and Fair Grove.

The year I was a senior, we had 56 in high school. The old brick building that I attended in Bois D’Arc had four rooms for all 12 grades. Leland Mills was our Superintendent and Inez Bean and Lethie Mason were our elementary teachers.

Hazel Redfearn Blackwell
Willard, Mo.

Editor’s Note: Bois D’Arc was founded in 1881 around an already existing post office of the same name. There had been a previous town named Bois D’Arc near the location, and the current town was called New Bois D’Arc, but the “New” was quickly dropped. The town gets its name from the osage-orange (also known as a bois d’arc) tree planted by an early settler. The French pronunciation would be [bwaˈdɑʁk]; locally, however, the name is pronounced /ˈboʊdɑrk/.

Submissions welcomed: Want to submit a letter of memories about an Ozarks one-room school for publication in this newsletter? Just send your text to David Burton via e-mail (burtond@missouri.edu) or mail it to the Greene County Extension center.
The Saving of Cave Springs School in Jasper County, Missouri

By John Hacker
Carthage Press
Apr 17, 2010

In the 1980s, Selma Fieker, the last teacher at the Cave Springs School and the sparkplug behind preserving the building after it closed in 1966, died.

The school she so lovingly worked to save fell into disrepair after she died until 2004 when former Cave Springs students stepped in to save the building.

“We were probably a year or so from losing the building,” said Helen Hunter, a former student and leader in the Eastern Jasper County Historic Sites Association, the group that owns the building.

“Mortar was missing from between the bricks, there was a hole in the roof where the chimney once was, the roof leaked. It was a mess.”

The reconstruction of the school was completed in 2007.

Now the group is looking for a way to keep the cycle from repeating itself when the last generation of former students passes on.

“We’re just looking for something so that we will know it will be looked after in the future,” said Marjorie Bull, former Jasper County Clerk and a student at Cave Springs until 1943.

County ownership

The group approached the Jasper County Commissioners in March to see if they might be interested in taking ownership of the building and property around it.

The County took ownership late last year of land that historians say was the site of a massacre of Union soldiers on May 18, 1863.

In November 2009, the county accepted the donation of the property on the corner of Peace Church Road and Fountain Road where the Rader Farm Massacre happened. More than 30 Union soldiers were killed and mutilated by Confederate guerrillas in an action that changed the tone of the Civil War in Jasper County.

After the massacre, both sides burned most of the communities in Jasper County, including Carthage, and started an escalating series of attacks on individual farms that forced most residents to flee the county.

The only safe place in the county was the southeast corner, near a tiny school built in 1836 that became the headquarters for a unit of Missouri Militia fighting for the Union. That school was the Cave Springs School.

In 2009, the group added a stone memorial to the people from Cave Springs and nearby Bowers Mill who died defending their homes in the Civil War.

“It’s not just a school sitting there, it’s a big part of Jasper County’s history,” Hunter said. “The Union troops that were stationed out there, they protected all this county as best they could. Cave Springs was known as a very safe area to be so people moved into the area. And, of course, it was the courthouse for two years after Carthage was burned.”

Long-term plans for the Rader Farm site call for the creation of a county park on that site.

Hunter and Bull asked that the county consider the same status for the Cave Springs School.

“We still want to do the work on it; we still want to raise money for it as like an advisory committee or whatever,” Hunter said. “We’re just looking for some kind of long-term permanent protection. My concern is that when we get down to one or two members that the building just sits there and falls apart without someone overseeing it.”

Personal memories

Most of the members of the Eastern Jasper County Historic Sites Association are former students at the Cave Springs School, which ceased operation as a school in 1966 when consolidation moved most of the students to the Sarcoxie School District. Paul Palmer graduated from Cave Springs in 1964, two years before the school was closed. His sister was in the last graduating class before the school was consolidated with the
Sarcoxie School District.

“There is the history of Jasper County that was made here,” Palmer said. “As I was growing up, this was a community center for the community of Cave Springs. All my parents and grand parents talked about this building as being the hub of the community, the spring and the school here. It also brings back the memories of our childhood and the children who were our schoolmates. We try to keep up with them and this school gives us something to talk about and come back and bring our young people here.”

Bull said her family history is intertwined with the history of the Cave Springs School.

“From 1880 until 1942, there was always a Dennison in this grade school,” Bull said. “That was my maiden name and all of my family went here. My dad and all of his brothers and sisters went to school here, all of my brothers and sisters went here until 1942 then we moved into the city of Sarcoxie.”

Hunter is one of four Fullerton sisters, including Jan Whitworth, Pat Beasley and Betty Still, who are active in the group working to preserve the school.

“Every time I saw this school, I just thought she was a grand old lady and she was waiting for someone to come and help her,” said Still, who graduated from Cave Springs in 1948. “She looked like she didn’t have very many more years.”

The Cave Springs School (above looking northwest) was many things in between 1838 and 1966, a school, church, polling place, community center, funeral parlor and, during the Civil War, a military outpost, command post and temporary Jasper County Courthouse from the time the Courthouse in Carthage was burned in October 1863 to shortly after the war ended. / Photo by David Burton

The school (above, looking southwest) was named for a spring that runs under the school and emerges from a cave in the side of the hill below the school. An average of 20-25 students in the first through the eighth grade attended the school each year until it closed. / Photo by David Burton

To get to Cave Springs School, take Exit 29 off I-44, go north on Hwy U to Dogwood Road / Boonville Road in Cave Springs area.
Wolf(e) School Still Stands on a Greene County Century Farm

By David L. Burton

The Century Farm Program annually recognizes Missouri farms that are still productive and have been in the same family for 100 years or more. During August of 2010, the University of Missouri Extension Center in Greene County honored five Century Farms.

WOLF FAMILY FARM

The 40 acre Wolf Family Farm is located on Farm Road 219 west of Rogersville. Part of the original 200 acres, it has been in the family since 1849. The first owners were David and Nancy Wolf, the great-grandparents of Mary (Wolf) Woods. The sixth generation, Brian Blount, who still lives in Greene County. The land is currently leased for hay.

The original farm deed applied for in 1849 was signed by President Millard Fillmore in 1852. Martin Van Buren Wolf, the son of David and Nancy Wolf, was born on this property Dec 21, 1840. He was one of the first recorded births in Washington Township.

Both David Wolf and his son Martin Van Buren Wolf fought in the Civil War for the Confederacy. Martin said he joined because he could hear the sounds of the Battle of Wilson's Creek from his front door. “He said it sounded like corn popping and he couldn't let the battle come that close to his home without going to fight,” said Mary (Wolf) Woods.

This farm has always been “home” to the Wolf family. “We never thought of leaving or living any other place. In the past, it supported our family and we were able to make a living from the land,” said Mary.

The biggest change to the family farm came when electricity arrived. “We had lights in the barn and could milk after dark,” said Mary.

“Another big change was when we switched from milk cows to beef and started raising hay and running cattle.”

Mary’s daughter, Rita Litzinger, says the future of the farm is uncertain. “Family farms are fast disappearing as the younger generation has no interest in farming as an occupation. Who can blame them? It’s too hard to make a living from the land these days. Unless you have hundreds of acres it cannot support a family,” said Rita.

WOLFE SCHOOL

The Wolf family also donated the land for one of the first schools in the area and the school still stands, covered in tin, on the Wolf family farm.

Wolfe School #119 stands on the northeast corner of Farm Roads 186 and 219.

The school was established by the pioneer family of David Wolf prior to the Civil War. The school was actually moved twice after its original log-cabin construction. It was finally reorganized as part of Logan-Rogersville School District R-VIII in 1957.

The school was established by the pioneer family of David Wolf prior to the Civil War. The school was actually moved twice after its original log-cabin construction. It was finally reorganized as part of Logan-Rogersville School District R-VIII in 1957.

Family members insist the name of the school is Wolf but photos (like the one at the top of this page) show the use of Wolfe.

MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about the Missouri Century Farm designation, call the Greene County Extension Center at (417) 881-8909 or go online to http://extension.missouri.edu/centuryfarm.
School movable in pieces
By Wally Kennedy, Joplin Globe

GALENA, Kan. — The Union Chapel schoolhouse, north of Galena, could be moved to a new site, but it would have to be taken apart first.

Ron Jones, with JMH Construction, of Joplin, said, “I did an abbreviated inspection of the school, and I think it is movable in pieces. It would be shaky to try to move it all at once.”

Jones said the walls of the 1878 school appear to be in good condition, but the condition of the floor is uncertain since he could not get under the structure.

“Part of the floor has rotted loose from the foundation,” he said. “I don’t know whether that has been caused by water or termites. But a lot of it, including the walls, has held up well.”

Carolyn McLean, who is organizing the effort to save the building, hired Jones to assess the building’s condition and whether it could be moved. She said she is encouraged by Jones’ assessment and will continue her effort to save the school.

“If people don’t help, that school will be destroyed,” she said. “If enough interested people donate money, we could save this historic country school.”

Steve Thompson, whose mother owns the property, gave McLean until Jan. 1 to move the school. “If a plan to save the school is being formulated, I’m not going to pull the plug,” he said.

January 27, 2011
Former pupil continues effort to save historic school building
By Roger McKinney news@joplinglobe.com

GALENA, Kan. — A fundraising effort to save the former Union Chapel School building has raised $500 from sales of prints and other contributions.

There is $5,000 left to raise by March 1, said Carolyn McLean, 67, a former pupil at the school who is leading the effort to save it.

“This is our last chance,” McLean said. “That school’s going to be gone forever.”

An artist with ties to the Union Chapel School north of Galena has joined the campaign to save the building. Doug Hayes, a commercial artist, is selling the above print of the building for $20 with half the proceeds generated going to go to the effort to save the two-room school, which closed in 1966. Only 1,000 limited edition prints of the school are to be offered to the public. For information contact Carolyn McLean by e-mail at grams123@wildblue.net or call her: 417-438-9771.

February 25, 2011
Fundraising effort to save School meets goal
By Roger McKinney news@joplinglobe.com

GALENA, Kan. — Carolyn McClean has collected the $5,500 needed to move the former Union Chapel School in large sections to her property for reassembly. “Thank the Lord, we’ve got the money to save the school,” said McClean, 67, who attended the two-room school as a child.

The project will begin when the ground dries out enough for construction equipment to work on the property, said Joplin contractor Ron Jones. McClean is planning workdays to clear brush from her property to prepare the area for the school.
Fundraising Effort Pushes Liberty School Move Forward

Liberty School served a community north of Springfield, Mo., from the mid-1800’s to the time of its consolidation with the Fair Grove school district in the fall of 1951. The school was located next to Liberty Baptist Church which was organized in 1845. This community needed a school and there is verification of a school board in 1895 that accepted an acre of land deeded for the school next to the church on what is now Farm Road 66. The exact date that the school was first established has not been confirmed but supporters believe it is between 1879-1881.

Supporters of the Gray/Campbell Farmstead — which depicts life in the middle 1800’s with the oldest home built in Greene County and other buildings from that era — are working to move Liberty School to the farmstead at Nathanael Greene Park, 2400 S. Scenic Ave.

The goal is to show the public, especially fifth graders when they visit for historical field trips, what school would be like in a one-room school that their ancestors might have attended. There are many lessons that can be learned from the past.

A committee is working with the Springfield-Greene County Park Board. Members of the project committee are looking for other former students, or their family and friends still living, who would like to support the preservation of the school.

The current owner of the school is willing to donate the building but it has to be moved. Planning and engineering is underway to determine the best way to move the school. Thankfully, the structure appears sound enough to move.

There are certainly plenty of former students who have grand memories of their days at Liberty School.

Take Celia (Miller) Sutherland for example who says, “I have a vague remembrance of at least one pie supper that seemed to my young mind to be a rip-roaring affair, with lots of yelling and laughter; and the smell of potatoes baked in the ashes of the monstrous wood heating stove. Those smells — dry leaves, new leather shoes, #2 lead pencils, potatoes in the fire — always take me back to my four years at Liberty.”

Mary Jo (Vaughn) Schmittou remembers former teachers and recess fun. “I remember heated dodge ball and kick ball games at recess and who could forget the little house out back? I had the same teacher from Grades 1-8: Evelyn Price Putman. She was a super teacher & friend,” said Schmittou.

Mary Frances (Breshears) Freeman says, “Spelling bees & math contests at the chalkboard were some of the learning games I remember. Walking to and from school even on the coldest days and reading library books in the corner behind the big wood stove. Spring graduation for the eighth-graders with daffodils and hyacinths are all memories I cherish.”

Liberty School
Currently located at 3551 E. Farm Road 66 (by Fellows Lake)
Consolidated into Fair Grove School District R-10 1951

The only limitation for this project is a lack of money. A fund has been set up with the Community Foundation of the Ozarks to receive monies to be used toward this project.

A tax deductible gift for the moving and restoration of Liberty School can be made to CFO with Memo to Liberty School Foundation. Mail to Community Foundation of the Ozarks, 425 E. Trafficway, Springfield, MO 65806 or online at www.cfozarks.org.
The "Are you smarter than a 5th grader?" President's Day challenge for the restoration of Liberty School proved to be a fun time to test our knowledge of U. S. Presidents. Organizers had contacts from interested people all over the country about the event itself and many alumni of Liberty showed their support for the event.

Three local VIP's — Roseann Bentley, Greene County Associate Commissioner; Kirk Slater, vice-principal at Hillcrest High School; and David Burton, civic communication specialist for MU Extension — played the game. They had assistance from three 5th graders: Trinity Hardge, Cowden Elementary; Brett Tolbert, Greenwood Elementary; and Natalie Slater, Gloria Deo Academy. Tim Garrison served as Master of Ceremonies and kept the game moving.

The VIP's chose from a board of 1st through 5th grade questions to compete for the highest score. Kirk Slater edged out the others with the help of Brett Tolbert as his 5th grade partner.

With the support of corporate sponsors and donations, $645 was raised to support the move of Liberty School, to the Gray/Campbell Farmstead at Nathanael Greene Park. Funds are still necessary to complete this project which will educate the public about early education in America and preserve history for future generations.
The Whistling Season is set in the past in rural eastern Montana. The novel is narrated by an aging Montana state superintendent of schools, Paul Milliron, who is charged with deciding the fate of the state's last scattered rural schools, and who, in the hours preceding his meeting to determine those schools' fate, recalls the autumn of 1909, when he was 13 and attending his own one-room school in Marias Coulee.

Recently widowed, Paul's father, overwhelmed by the child-rearing duties presented by his three sons, in addition to his challenging farming duties, hires a housekeeper, sight unseen, from a newspaper ad. The housekeeper, Rose, proclaims that she "can't cook but doesn't bite." She turns out to be a beguiling character, and she brings with her a surprise guest—her brother, the scholarly Morris. He is one of the most bookish characters in recent times but also carries brass knuckles and somehow knows how to use them.

The schoolteacher in Marias Coulee runs away to get married, leaving Morris to step up and take over her job. The verve and inspiration that he, an utter novice to the West, to children and to teaching children, brings to the task is told brilliantly and passionately, and is the core of the book's narrative, with its themes of all the different ways of knowing and learning, at any age.

Doig's strengths in this novel are character and language. The Whistling Season is a book to pass on to your favorite readers: a story of lives of active choice, lived actively.

If newsletter readers have a book review they would like to submit, they can do so by sending it to David Burton via e-mail at burtond@missouri.edu.
“Past, Present and Future of One-Room Schools” is Topic of Presentation Available to Groups

A presentation entitled, “The Past, Present and Future of One-Room Schools in the Ozarks” has been given by David Burton, civic communication specialist with MU Extension, throughout southwest Missouri and is made possible by the Ozarks Country School Association.

Since August of 2010, Burton has given this presentation to over 400 people and his online videos have been viewed by over 1,000 people.

Burton uses a photo presentation of one-room schools in Greene County (and now other schools in the region) to detail the qualities that helped country schools fulfill their mission despite limitations and a lack of amenities.

This presentation also explains the new Ozarks Country School Association and what can be done in other counties to save existing one-room school buildings and put them to use.

“My vision for this group started 10 years ago when I finished a book on historic schools in Greene County,” said Burton. “My goal has always been to work with groups and owners to maintain these historic buildings and develop them as rural community centers. That is now the mission of the Ozarks Country School Association.”

To schedule a future program or presentation (at a cost of $25 per session) contact David Burton at the Greene County Extension Center, (417) 862-9284 or via e-mail at burtond@missouri.edu.

The Ozarks Country School Association is a membership organization for people interested in one and two-room schools in southwest Missouri. The goal of the organization is to work with groups and owners to research the history of one-room schools, maintain these historic buildings and develop them as rural community centers.

For more information about OCSA or becoming a member, contact Burton at (417) 881-8909, via e-mail at burtond@missouri.edu or online at http://extension.missouri.edu/greene. The Ozarks Country School Association can also be found on Facebook.
Identification

Only the date "1947" is on this photograph of a group of youngsters on what appears to be the steps of their school. Their ages range from tots to teens, and the woman at rear left appears to be a teacher. Can you identify any of them or where the photo was taken? Know something about this photo? If you do, contact the History Museum for Springfield-Greene County at 864-1976, or send a message at the museum's website, www.springfieldhistorymuseum.org.

“A History of Me” Booklet Helps with Oral Histories

The much publicized passing of our World War II veterans reminds us of the importance of collecting oral histories from elderly family members.

The process doesn’t require a novel, a professional DVD or strange stories. All that is needed is to provide your family with a record of the stories from your childhood to the present.

There is a lot of information on the Internet about developing oral histories. In a practical sense, there are several ways people can give the valuable gift of history to their families.

With the popularity of video cameras, it is convenient to begin a family oral history.

There are several ways to get started with a family oral history. One of the easiest is to take a tape recorder or video recorder to the next family dinner or reunion.

How many times have people visited a cemetery and talked with their children or parents about deceased relatives and some of the memories of them that describe some of their characteristics? Next time, take the recorder and record the conversations.

Another excellent opportunity to develop an oral history is to record conversations while working on a family photo album. If that can’t be done, just start writing on your own history or take really good notes each time you talk to a family member.

"A History of Me" is a 20-page guide developed by David Burton, a civic communication specialist with MU Extension. The booklet is full of questions that will guide a person toward preserving a personal history for future generations. The same questions can be used by an interviewer trying to record another person’s history.

The booklet is available for free online at http://extension.missouri.edu. They can also be purchased from the Greene County Extension Center in person or by mail for a very minimal charge.
Is a Schoolhouse Worth Saving?
By Bill Sherman & Richard Lewis
CSAA Board of Directors

Before restoring any historic building, in this case a schoolhouse, you should determine the condition of the building by inspecting it and determining whether it is "worth it." That is an interesting combination of words "worth it." Let us explore "value" and "worth."

If you look at the National Historic Register and/or National Trust guidelines, they concentrate on determining whether the historic character of a building is preserved during the restoration process. Not too much information is provided on determining "is it worth restoring" or the quality of the building now.

We have to think of these little school buildings as artifacts like you find in a museum or you unearth during an archeological dig. Our artifacts are just found above ground and are a little larger than most.

In the normal real estate process, they basically try to determine the "quality of a building" based on its "resale" value. Is it worth investing money in for resale? This value does not take into account its provenance and intrinsic value, just what it would "sell" for. In other words, what is the intangible value to a community and its people. Historic value is usually well above the calculated real estate value.

Whether or not a schoolhouse can be saved depends on the degree of local support that can be mustered to save it. Some school buildings in terrible condition, that are thought to be not worth saving, have been restored because local leaders determined it was important to save them and got enough people involved to make it happened.

There is no one standard to define "is it worth it?" Also, if you think about the nuts and bolts, there are no more "old growth" trees, to cut lumber from, no more real Cypress, or Redwood to build with today. Today they are "farm grown" trees with nowhere near the structural strength or bug and weather resistance of an original tree so the original structure has added value.

If you accept schoolhouses as artifacts, their historic importance, the intrinsic value of a school, the resilience of original building materials, and you can garner community support...our schoolhouses ARE worth saving....even if the restoration costs more than building it from scratch. Like any artifact, we are not restoring a schoolhouse for resale, we are restoring it to save it for future generations.

Criteria for listing on National Historic Sites Register

For a property to be eligible for the National Register, it must meet at least one of the four National Register key criteria. Information on architectural styles, association with various aspects of social history and commerce, and ownership are all integral parts of the nomination. Each nomination contains a narrative section that provides a detailed physical description of the property and justifies why it is historically significant at either the local, state, or national level.

The National Register of Historic Places criteria fall into four categories.

Criterion A, "Event," the property must make a contribution to the broad patterns of American history.

• Criterion B, "Person," is associated with significant people in the American past.

• Criterion C, "Design/Construction," concerns the distinctive characteristics of the building through its architecture and construction, including having high artistic value or being the work of a master.

• Criterion D, "Information potential," is satisfied if the property has yielded or may be likely to yield information important to prehistory or history.

The criteria are applied differently for different types of properties; for instance, maritime properties have application guidelines different from those of buildings.
One-Room Schools Located on University Campuses in the U.S.


Florida Institute of Technology- Melbourn’s Little Red Schoolhouse, Built: 1883 http://auxservices.fit.edu/events/jungle.html

Lindenwood University- Lippstadt Schoolhouse Built: Unknown (in use as early as mid 1800’s) http://www.lindenwood.edu/boone/


Missouri State University – Replica, Built: 1905 www.missouristate.edu

San Jose State University- Santa Ana One-Room School, Built: 1872 http://www.sjsu.edu/education/alumni/oneroom.html


Plymouth Country Schoolhouse, Fort Hays State University, Kansas, c. 1874-1936 http://www.haysusa.net

Dobbs School at Emporia State U. Kansas, University of Northern Iowa- Marshall Center School, c. 1893

Northern Illinois University- Milan Township School c.1900-1942 (District #83)


Marshall University, c.1889-moved to campus in1994 http://www.marshall.edu


Eastern Washington University, c.1905-1929, http://www.ewu.edu/x7988.xml

University of Southern Mississippi- Roberts Schoolhouse http://www.usm.edu/facts/campusicons.php

Freyberger School (circa 1890) at Kutztown University - Kutztown, PA, c.1870, http://www.kutztown.edu


Little Red Schoolhouse at Peru State College - Peru, Nebraska, http://www.peru.edu/about/campusmap/

Eastern Kentucky University- Granny Richardson Springs School, c.1900-1964.

After being moved from Russell County to Hays for permanent restoration, the Plymouth Schoolhouse is now a major attraction on the Fort Hays State University campus. The Fort Hays State University Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa completed the restoration of the 927 gross square foot building in 1979. The building is located across the street from Tomanek Hall and attracts more than 1,000 visitors each year.
Students at Willey School Got More Than an Education

You can still see Willey School, District 27, standing four miles north of Willard, Mo., at the southeast corner of Farm Road 44 and Hwy. Z.

The school stands as a testament to rural education in the Ozarks which, just like the weathered exterior of the small one-room school, has changed a great deal since the turn of the century.

Willey was originally built in 1894 on two acres of land donated July 20, 1893, by Charles and Luther Willey, brothers who operated a steam-powered mill in Willard on Willey Street.

LIGHTING

The school building itself has a concrete and block mix foundation and compost shingles with wood siding. Light was provided primarily from a large bay of windows running the entire length of the left (or in this case the south) side of the building.

Few changes have been made to the original structure. The three windows on the north side of the building were removed and placed at the east end of the structure, thus allowing better lighting and perhaps making it easier to heat, during the early 1930s.

In a 1929 survey Greene County’s Superintendent of Schools noted that the “lighting in the building is all wrong ... unless you face the seats west.” So apparently that issue was resolved by moving windows.

LUNCHES

Another characteristic in the 1930s was the addition of school kitchens or “hot lunch programs.” Willey School was “ahead of the times” in regards to school lunches. Ed Staley, a former student at Willey, recalled that hot lunches was met with enthusiasm.

“Our local school board asked the teacher to start preparing lunches for us in the late 1920s,” said Staley. “Our teacher cooked the meals using a kerosene stove that sat near the back of the room. We normally had potato soup. One student would bring milk and another potatoes and then we would rotate the responsibility. It worked well for us but the teacher had her hands full cooking for 25 students.”

OUTHOUSES

New out buildings, measuring up to state requirements replaced the first out building at Willey in the early 1930s.

“The plumbing in those school outhouses was terrible,” said Staley. “What struck me as funny was the school board decided maybe it would be more sanitary instead of having board seats in there, they’d use concrete. On a zero degree day, a kid went and sat down, and stuck to it. He couldn’t get loose. It pretty well took the hide off his legs. So, they did away with the concrete plumbing.”

CONSOLIDATION

In the spring of 1943 the operation of the school ceased and students were transported to the Willard School on a tuition basis. The school district was reorganized as part of Willard R-2 in the “state-mandated reorganization” of 1952.

During recent years the building has been used for storage by Staley.
2011 CSAA Conference to be Held in New Jersey

You are cordially invited to attend the 11th Annual Country School Association of America Conference to be held on the campus of Rider University in Lawrenceville, New Jersey from June 13 - June 15, 2011.

Monday and Tuesday, June 13 & 14, 2011 will include programming and presentations.

Wednesday, June 15, 2011 we will offer the popular Bus Tour of the Historic Schoolhouses of Burlington County.

The keynote speaker will be John H. Pollack from the University of Pennsylvania, editor of "The Good Education of Youth" Worlds of Learning in the Age of Franklin.

Rider University is in Lawrenceville, Mercer County, NJ, 60 miles south of New York City and 35 miles north of Philadelphia.

Dorm rooms will be available for $32 per person/per night including linens, but numerous hotels dot the area. Details will follow.

Philadelphia International or Newark Liberty International are best for air travel, as Philadelphia is 50 miles from Rider. It is small and easy to navigate. Delta, United, Southwest, and US Air all fly there.

Newark Liberty is 45 miles north of Rider and a Continental hub, as well as United, American, Midwest, and Frontier.

Rider is about 60 miles from JFK or Laguardia but the traffic from there to Rider is usually an issue unless you plan to tour New York City.

New Jersey is the "Crossroads of the American Revolution." For military historians -- you will be 5 miles south of Princeton and 3 miles north of Trenton (Battleground tours available). Monmouth Battlefield is 25 five miles away.

It is less than an hour to Ocean Grove, the largest assemblage of authentic Victorian architecture in the nation. The town is on the National Register & the New Jersey State Register of Historic Places. Quaint shops, good restaurants and the beach is fabulous.

Hosted this year by Maureen O’Connor Leach of the Colonial Dames of New Jersey and a member of the Board of Directors of the Country School Association of America.

To access updated information as it appears on our website visit: www.countryschoolassociation.org.

Members of the Ozarks Country School Association are encouraged and invited to attend this conference. The CSAA conference moves to Iowa in 2012, and then in 2013, will be back on the east coast followed by a return visit to the Midwest in 2014.
PICTURE ESSAY: Schools in the Snow

Sand Bank School (1855-1952), stands at 11832 Bluff Road, Columbia, Il. Photo by Dennis Patton.

Lonely Forest Grove school in Iowa, photo taken by Kelly Rundle, Fourth Wall Films, Moline, Illinois.

A Wisconsin school, photo taken by Kelly Rundle, Fourth Wall Films, Moline, Illinois.

District #1 Schoolhouse, Nashua, NH. Photo taken by Susan Fineman.

Mt. Gilead School (1879), 21216 Jesse James Farm Road, Kearney, MO. Photo by Emily Doolan, Clay County Historic Sites assistant superintendent.

Schuyler School, north of Springfield, Mo. at 3885 W. Farm Road 94. Photo taken by Danette Proctor.
This painting by Dorothy Hughes of Springfield, Mo., is of the one-room school she attended in Maries County (near the Pulaski County line). Liberty School no longer stands according to Hughes, who attended there just two years: first and eighth grade. She also attended Fox Crossing which is a red brick school still standing in Pulaski County near the Fox Crossing Cemetery (take Hwy 133 out of Dixon toward Crocker to find).

Want to submit a letter of memories about an Ozarks one-room school for publication in this newsletter? How about an article about a school near you, or photos (past or present), or even information about events taking place at an historic school in the Ozarks? Just send your text or digital photos to David Burton via e-mail at burtond@missouri.edu or mail it to David Burton at the Greene County Extension center.