

## DAYBURG SCHOOL

### Butler District #4

On March 9, 1860 one-half acre of land located on the Northwest corner of Dayburg and Dean Road in Butler Township, County of Branch, State of Michigan was given to School District #4. This parcel of land was given under the following conditions; that The district build a good and substantial post and board fence, six foot high, the boards put on perpendicular two inches apart. The fence to be built before any school is kept in the house and kept in repair by said school district. A school house was built on the lot and a fence erected.

Three months winter school to be held with a male teacher, and four months summer school with a female teacher.

In 1869 a contract was let for ten (10) cords of beach and hard maple body wood, two (2) feet long, split ready for use @ one dollar and twenty four (\$1.24) cents per cord. Later requirements were sixteen (16) inches long the price being one dollar and twenty-seven (\$1.27) cents a cord, in 1901 the price had gone up to one dollar and forty (\$1.40) a cord. In 1940 two ton of coal was purchased for eighteen dollars and forty-five (\$18.45) cents.

In 1883 a new Round Oak #22 heating stove was purchased and the old stove was sold. The following books were adopted in 1884:

Harper's readers, arithmetic and geography;  
Harrington's spelling and Scott's U. S. History.

In 1887 the board voted to have soft maple trees planted on the school yard at a cost of eighteen (.18) cents per tree. Many of those trees remain standing today. In 1888 it was time to replace the original fence with a slat and wire fence on two sides of the school ground with the posts to be eight feet apart, ten wires or five double wires with good slats with good seasoned swamp oak posts. It was also voted to have hitching posts installed for the horses.

In 1890 twenty-four double seats, teachers desk, and two recitation seats were purchased from Grand Rapids School Furniture for ninety-eight dollars and ninety (\$98.90) cents. The old seats were sold for eight, nine, ten, and eleven cents each to residents in the district. New flooring was also installed at this time.

A contract was awarded in 1894 to build a new outhouse and repair the old one for ten (\$10.00) dollars.

In 1901 a library was established in the school.

Ladies of the district cleaned the school house each fall. New wallpaper was applied, windows puttied and painted. Needed repairs made inside as well as outside.

The district officers salaries were raised in 1937, the director receiving twenty-five (\$25.00) dollars a year; The treasurer receiving twenty (\$20.00) dollars and the moderator receiving ten (\$10.00) dollars..

In July 1939 the board voted NOT to accept help from the Kellogg Foundation in modernizing the schoolhouse. In September that vote was rescinded and the modernization was completed. Electricity was installed, the wiring and fixtures costing fifty-eight dollars and fifteen (\$58.15) cents. The monthly electric bills were very small – seventy-five, ninety-two, ninety-seven cents per month with one for a dollar and fifty-one cents.

The teachers received very meager wages, starting at twenty-six (\$26.00) dollars per month in 1868, by 1938 the salary was eighty-five (\$85.00) dollars a month.

School was held at this location until October 31, 1960. ONE HUNDRED YEARS!

A number of caring teachers molded the lives of many young children who became fine productive citizens scattered across our great nation.

The School District voted on July 14, 1958 to consolidate with Girard, Smith, Hodunk and Gorball School Districts to form a new district, later known as Girard Community School District #5. The newly formed district voted on June 8, 1959 to build a new school house, located in Girard at a cost of two hundred twenty thousand (\$220,000.00) dollars.

The Dayburg schoolhouse was sold, moved from the premises, and the land reverted back to the present owner of the adjoining land.

Lola I have had the privilege of reading many of the historical minutes of Dayburg School and enjoyed every minute of it. My Mother, her brothers and sisters, also our two sons received their early education ~~her~~ under the caring tutors of bygone days.

Sincerely, Marie Daniels