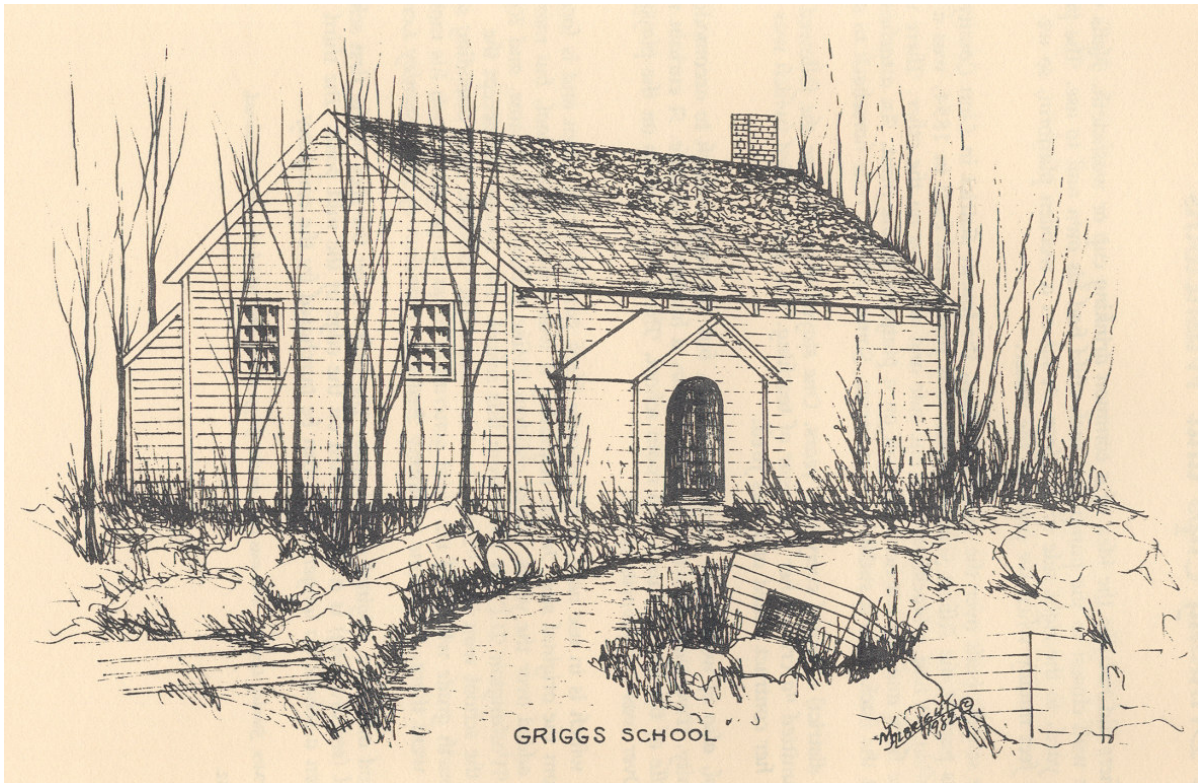


Griggs School



Griggs School

Our Own Drinking Cups and Washcloths

From When the Bells Rang

One of our teachers did not like the idea of a common drinking cup or washcloth. Nails were pounded into the wall closest to the pump and each child had his own nail to use. The pump was in the front yard, to the right side of the door. It sat on a wooden platform, so we wouldn't get our feet muddy when we pumped the water.

There were three schools built over the years at Griggs, the fourth district in Linn County. The land donated was part of the Albert Schuler estate. The first school built in 1854, was a one-room frame building. It had a blackboard on one side and windows on the other. There was a wood stove at the back and the teacher's desk sat on a platform in the front. An attached woodshed was at the back; also a stable for the horses. Some children rode horseback to the school.

Teachers (in this district) changed every two years. One stayed three because she followed a teacher who committed "a crime" her first year of teaching. She got married (which was forbidden) before her contract ended and was fired.

The second school, also of wood, was somewhat larger, but not large enough to accommodate a growing community. Two teachers were hired that year, a husband and wife. A curtain was hung in the middle of the room; thus a two room school. There were swings on the playground and Ante-Ante Over was our favorite game.

The third school, which is in use now, is of concrete block painted a soft green and is located a distance away from the original site. In the beginning it was a two room

school but many rooms have been added over the years. Three children (Mike Baker, Sally Adams, and Kerry Miller), went to Washington D.C. in 1979 from this school. The reason: To accept the National Award the school won in a "Keep America Beautiful" contest. Also attending school is a boy in the fourth grade who is of the third generation to go to Griggs School; his mother and grandmother went there. His name is Jimmy Beavens, grandson of Mrs. Stanley Lennon.

Champion Plywood owns the original school sites. The office is on the spot of the first school. The second school (see drawing) is a storage shed on the edge of the mill pond. The third school's land (when a school no longer exists) can be purchased by the company.

Ref: Ellamae Pitzing, Mrs. Stanley Lennon, who was born on the Griggs place, after which the school is named.

Drawn on location, 1982.