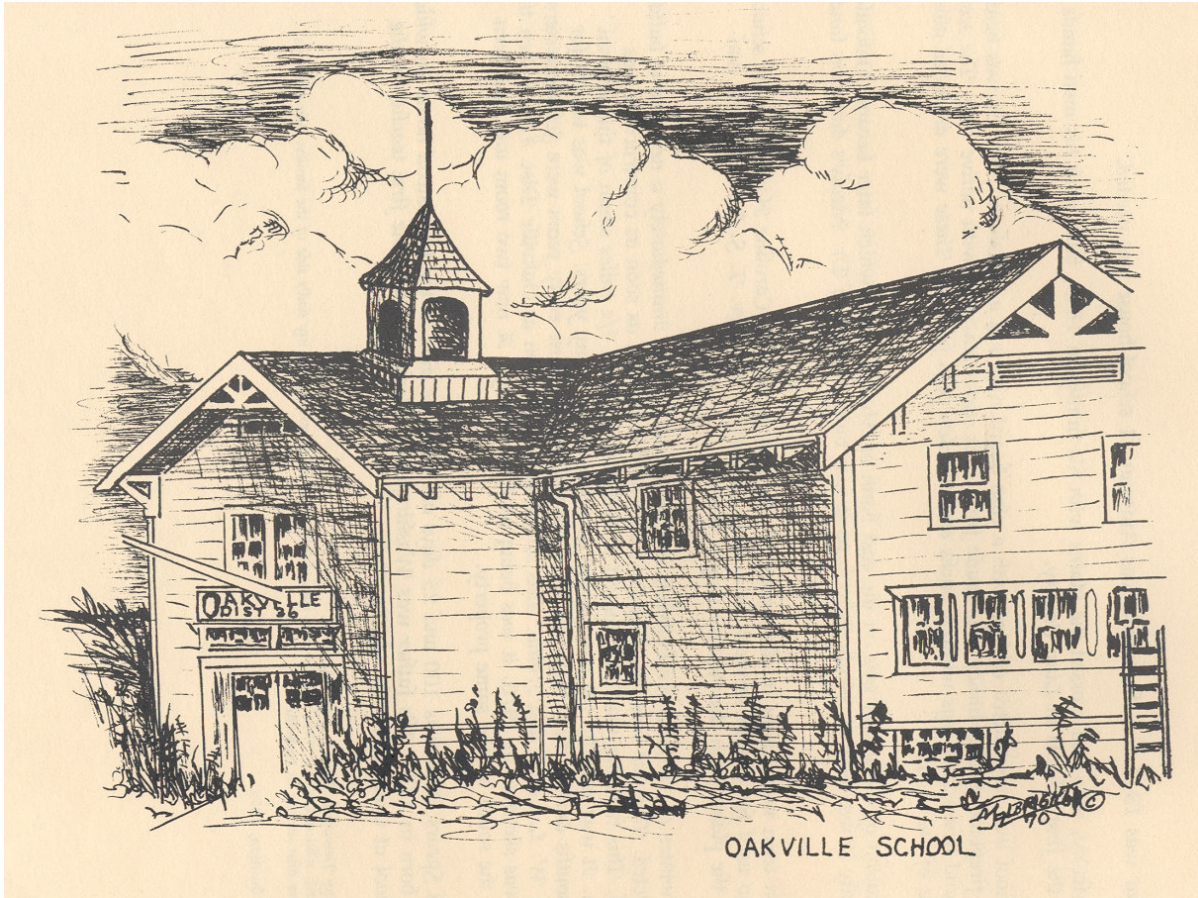


Oakville

Oakville School

Built With His Own Hands

From When the Bells Rang



The year was 1847 and the season was Autumn. A school house was needed.

John McCoy, who had crossed the plains with his family in 1845, built with his own hands one of the first schools in Linn County.

The school was constructed of logs with a clap board roof and a puncheon floor (rough-sawn logs). It was heated with a fireplace. The chimney was made from split sticks plastered with native clay. The seats were hand hewn split logs without backs and wooden pegs for legs. These were arranged along one side of the room.

The location of the school was on the east bank of Muddy Creek which later became Oakville. Originally it was named Mealy School, as it was built on part of Dr. Mealy's donation land claim.

The first term was taught in the winter of 1847-48 by a Mrs. Caroline Hamilton. The school was also used for church services, held every Sunday by the Rev. T. S. Kendall, who had crossed the plains with the McCoy wagon train.

In the winter of 1852-53 the building was destroyed by fire. Immediately a new frame building was erected. This one was much larger and school continued as soon as construction was finished. This building was later moved to Oakville, about 1½ miles

south of the original location. It was used by the community as a school for many years. School was taught for three months during the winter. Some of the teachers in those early years were Schoolmasters Adams, W. L. Coon, and Irvine. This school became known as Oakville Dist. #36. When the school was sketched in 1970, it was being used for storage. A new two room unit had been built to the south on the same property.

Michael Spears Coon was 100 and 25 days old when he died on the homestead home on which he was born in 1877. His father was Washington L. Coon who was the first teacher in the first school at Oakville in the 1800's.

Ref: Albany Democrat Herald, Sept. 19, 1946.

Alice Godard, who states that "Mr. Mealy (also spelled Maley) is an ancestor from my dad's side of the family. My mother's ancestors are also settlers in Oakville."

Drawn on location, 1972.