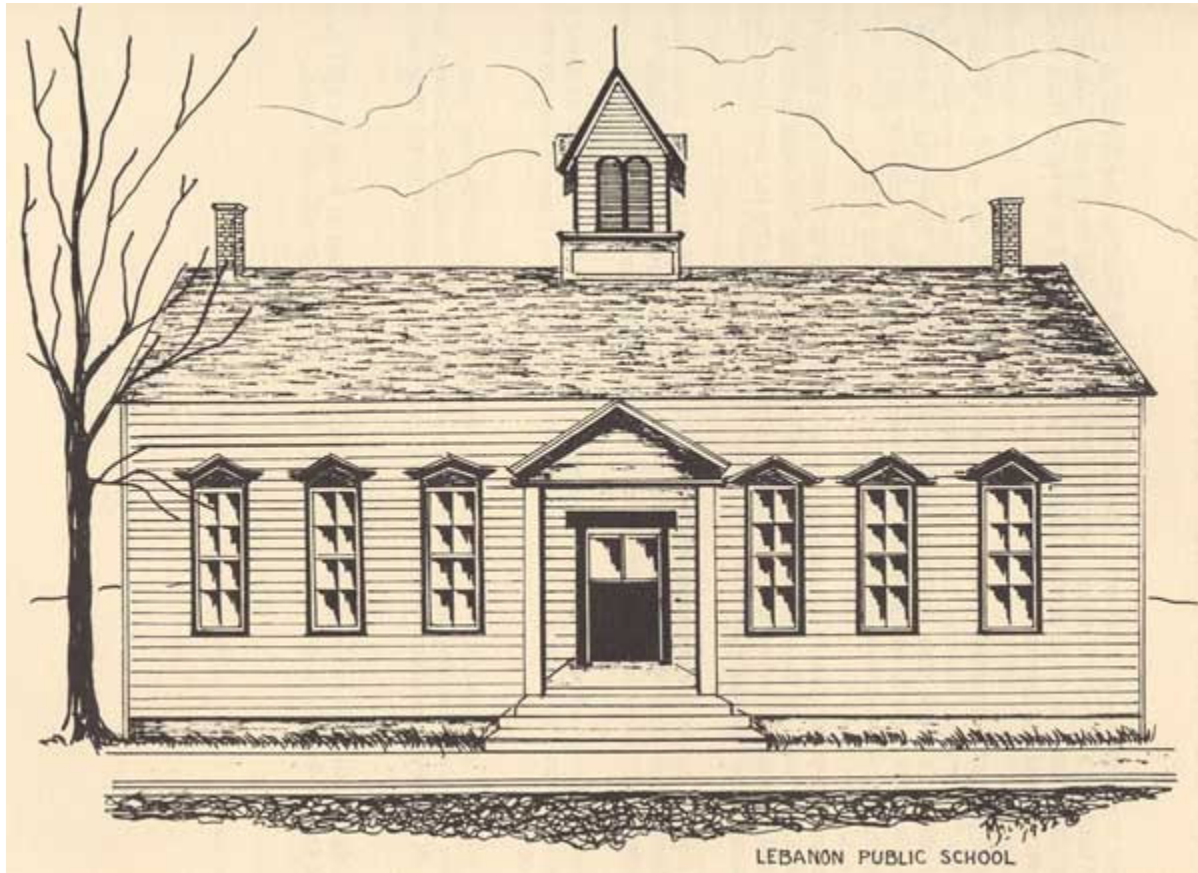


South School

South School

First Public School in Lebanon

Sketch from *When the Bells Rang*



South School South School – the first public school in Lebanon. This building had two rooms, one for elementary students and one for intermediate students. This school operated until it was replaced in 1891.

Lebanon already had a well-established school by 1875 – the town's first school was built in 1852. A log cabin, it was built by the Methodist Church which sponsored the school and held church services in the building as well. There were no school taxes in these early days, and the Methodist Church shouldered the responsibility for the advancement of education. In 1853 a small frame building was erected, and the school was moved there. But the town continued to grow and in 1854-55 two pioneers, Jeremiah Ralston and Morgan Kees each donated five acres of land as a school site. Materials and labor were donated and a two story frame building, incorporated in 1854 as the Santiam Academy, was built.

By 1870 the enrollment in Santiam Academy had grown to 150 students and the need for a public school became evident. In 1875 a public school was built. It had two rooms, one for primary and one for advanced students. It was known as the South School.

From Mary Jo Albright's accurate sketch (above) we see a chimney at each end of the building, indicating the each room had its own heating source. The building served the young people of Lebanon until 1891, when it was replaced by the Second Street School.
Source: *When the Bells Rang*



We are indebted to the Lebanon Express for this news clipping (date unknown) which shows the South School and its students in 1882. Wouldn't it be fun to know their names?