



*Porter School on Buckley Road. On right is woodshed where first student to arrive each morning went to get wood to start fire in stove to warm the school.*

### 3

## *“We Stayed There, by God, 'Til We Did Know It”*

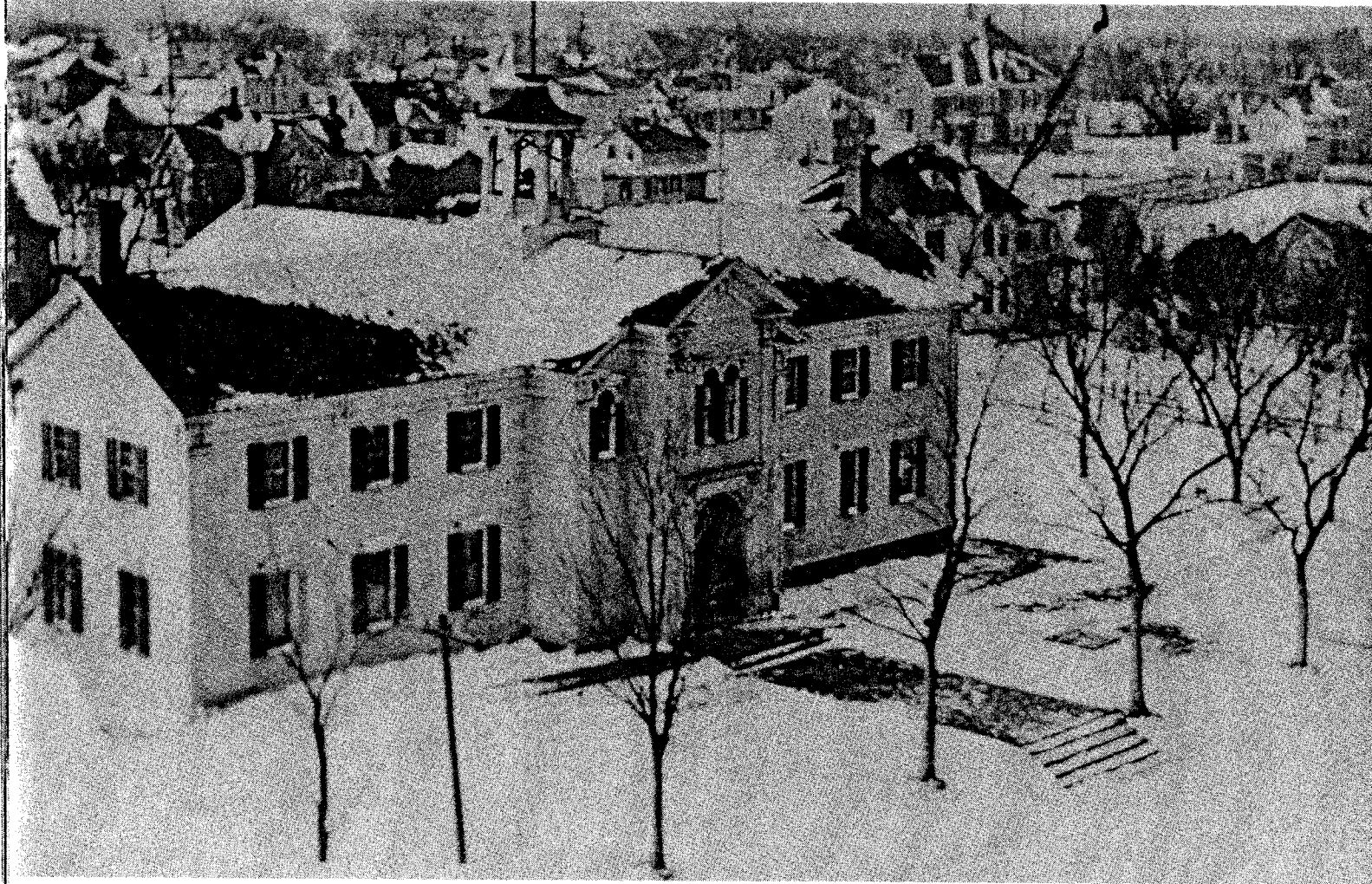
### Schooling in Early Barrington

In 1840, six years after the arrival of the first white settlers in the area, there was a demand for organized school work. On January 1, 1841, a notice was posted stating that on January 9 at the log house of Alvah Miller there would be an election to divide the new township into five school districts and elect school trustees.

The first money in the school treasury was from the sale of the school lands. The early minutes reported, “Interest money was distributed to the five districts as follows: District 1, \$13.15; District 2, \$11.47; District 3, \$9.55; District 4, \$31.40; and District 5, \$8.15.”

Before the advent of the village of Barrington, a country schoolhouse built of logs in 1846 or 1847 stood on West County Line Road, just west of where the Catlow Theater is now. Garret Landwer came to this school before the village was thought of. It was just prairie, groves, one road, and two houses. He walked across the grass prairies from his home at what is now Hillside and Division streets to the log schoolhouse. Mrs. Jane Robinson taught there for \$2 a week and “boarded herself.”

In 1855 a schoolhouse was built on what is now South Hough Street. It was a two-story frame structure with one room upstairs and one room down, and stood in about the center of the present Hough School yard.



In 1866 two lots were bought for \$310 at what is now 320 East Washington Street, and a new frame schoolhouse was built for \$1,569.07. After 1868, the "North Side School" was used as a sort of high school by pupils who had finished the grammar school in the "South Side School." They attended there, learning all the schoolmaster knew, and then just quit without any form of graduation for it was not a complete high school nor accredited.

The two-room schoolhouse on the present Hough Street site was not large enough as the village grew, so in 1883 the new north, south and center wings of the Hough Street School were designed.

\* \* \*

What a memory we have of that old frame schoolhouse on Hough Street with its large dark hallway in the center section, with its winding stairways and the wide, smooth banisters that afforded the boys a hasty

*The old frame schoolhouse, Hough Street School built in 1883.*

*Moving day for Hough Street School in 1905. The frame building was cut into four sections and moved. Two sections became homes on Dundee Avenue, and one later became The Greenery Restaurant on North Avenue.*



*North Side School class of 1883. School was built in 1866 at 320 Washington Street.*



Bennett School built in 1905 after first Bennett School burned. Location at Rand Road and Miller Road.

**PUPIL'S MONTHLY REPORT.**

Report of *Hannah Miller*  
 in *4th Class Reading Room*  
 for term ending *1889*  
*Jessie Wright* Teacher

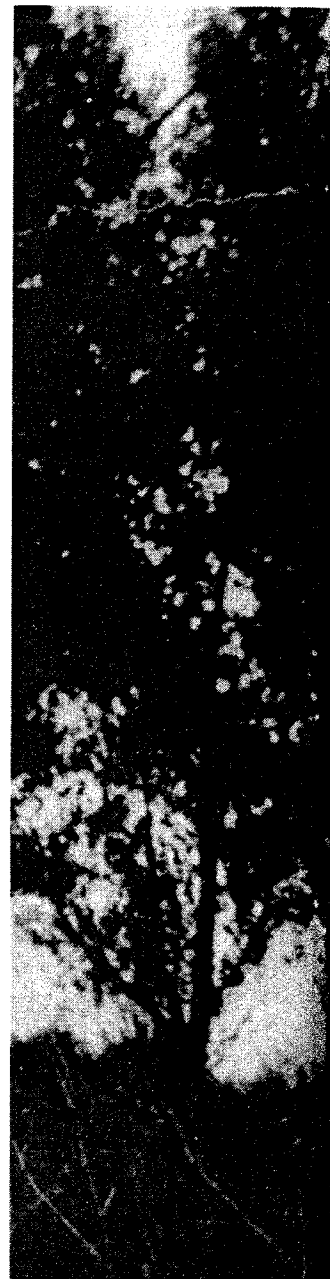
	1st Mo.	2d Mo.	3d Mo.	4th Mo.	Term Results
Reading,	94	95	96		
Spelling,	100	99	100		
Ment. Arith.					
Writ. Arith.	90	93	95		
Geography,	95	96	99		
Grammar,	97	97	97		
History,					
Writing,	90	95	95		
Examination,					
Department,	100	100	100		
Times Tardy,					
Half-days absent,	18	28	4		
Rank in Class,					
No. in Class,					

**THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN**

Is requested to examine and sign this Report each month in the proper space on the reverse of the card. The department is marked in numbers according to the general behavior: 100 indicating the highest degree of excellence; 95, very good; 90 to 95, good; 80 to 90, medium; 70 to 80, poor; less than 70, very poor. The same scale is used for the various studies.

LIST No. 31, RED LINE SERIES.  
 Rand McNally & Humphrey, Chicago.

Report card of 1889 for Hannah Miller at Bennett School at Miller and Rand Roads.



exit when school was out. The original wood chunk stoves (wood piles in the backyard were on their way out) were later replaced by the hard coal base burners seven feet high. Pupils in the rear of the room suffered with the cold, while those in the front of the room roasted until a jacket was put around the stove. We never had a teacher who could not see through that stove and know who was committing the cut-up on the other side of it.

The teacher of St. Paul's Parochial School carried a coiled leather strap in his hip pocket for frequent use, and a principal in the public school kept a tapered rubber hose in the library office. Sometimes he used an inch thick oak slat from a seat; even the drinking dipper was used as a persuader. At one time a husky man was hired for an upper



room as a disciplinarian for a lively group of older boys. His persuader was a broom handle. Parents nearby could hear their children scream, and he hastily left town one night.

We had to buy our own slates, pencils, two kinds of tablets and our books, which were either hand-me-downs or new.

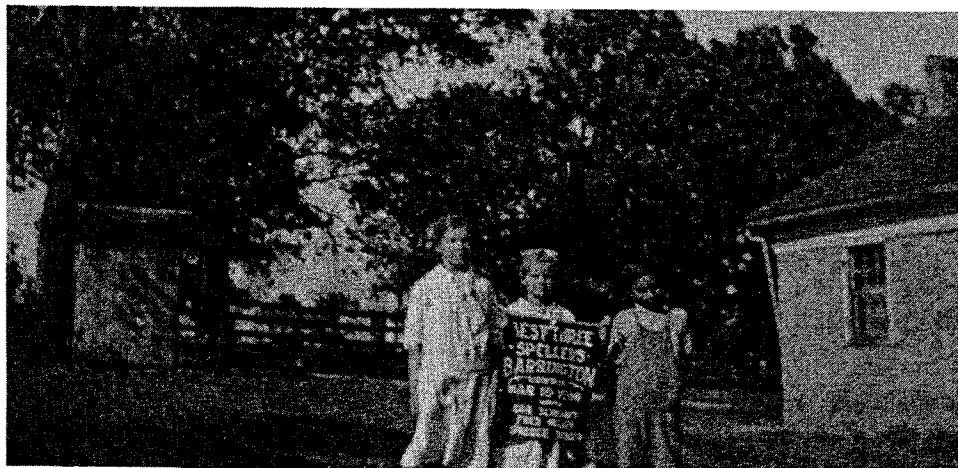
We had two playgrounds, one on the south side for the girls, and one at the west and north for the boys. There was a tight board fence between the two play yards.

The old bellrope was a mixture of joy and sorrow. It hung from the belfry on the roof down through the attic and the upper floor to the first floor, and what a treat and honor it was to be allowed to ring it for the principal if he were busy. One Halloween it was pulled out over the roof and tied to a cow, which kept the bell ringing all night while she grazed on what grass there was on an educated lawn.

Again the school was overcrowded, and classes were meeting across the street in the Zion Church building. The frame schoolhouse was cut into four pieces and sold as residences to be moved to other lots. A new brick building one-hundred-twenty feet by sixty-five feet was erected in 1905 on the same spot for \$35,000. — A. L.

\* \* \*

I went to Barrington High School and graduated in its first class in June, 1888. Professor Dodge was our teacher. In the fall of 1888 Mr. Harrower came to see my father about getting me to teach at the Honey Lake School. There was a little log schoolhouse just at the entrance of the Rainbow Farm. It was very old with four tiny windows. There was a homemade desk for the teacher and twenty, much-carved desks for the



*Three best spellers at Barrington Center School in 1914. This brick building was built about 1900 on the site where previously had stood a wooden school and around 1840 a log schoolhouse.*



*Jackson School on Bateman Road was built around 1856. This photo in 1890's when teacher was Gertrude Meyer.*

pupils. One morning when I came to school, there was a wise old owl sitting on my desk. I considered his being there a symbol of my good teaching. — M. W.

\* \* \*

We walked one-and-one-half miles to Flint Creek School at the intersection of Miller and Kelsey roads. We were joined by children from the Summerfield, Prouty, Colin, and Adams families. My first teacher was Miss Emma Hager of Barrington.

School enrollment was about 25 to 30 pupils. The only source of heat was a long, low, wood-burning stove in the center of the schoolroom. On some cold winter mornings our teacher would march us around the schoolroom to keep warm. We thought it was great fun — better than studying.



Every morning two lucky boys would walk to the McGraw farm for a pail of drinking water. We all drank out of the same tin dipper, and no one ever got sick.

At recess on the noon hour we played anti-Rover, baseball, hide and seek, ducky on the rock, and other simple games. — R. M.

\* \* \*

When I went to school, we walked. We couldn't go on roads, so we had to go all over the fields.

And when we didn't know something, we stayed there, by God, 'til we did know it — if it was six o'clock at night.

The last school I went to was in Deer Grove. Cassie Gainer was my teacher. We had to get down there in the morning. First one there, he knew where the key was; then light that stove, and it was cold. We would face the back to the stove for a little while, turn around and get the front warm, so we were warm on both sides. — E. H.

\* \* \*

When I was six years old, (1910) it was time for me to start school, and I went to the Porter School which was located on what is now Buckley Road. It was the only building on this sod road and located on the east side in an oak woods about halfway between Cuba and Oak Knoll roads. There would only rarely be a buggy or wagon pass this school during a day. The schoolteacher was Annabell Welch, and the class consisted of about thirteen children and covered eight grades. The desks were designed to accommodate two persons. It was good to be able to sit close, especially on cold days.

A dug well with a hand pump was located south of the schoolhouse. The older boys would pump a pail of water and bring it in for drinking. It had a dipper with a long handle on it, and everybody drank out of it, except the teacher, who had a folding-cup. The dipper was never washed, except at the start of the school year. The pail of water had to be emptied every day after school during the winter, or it would be frozen the next day.

All the pupils, regardless of age, would play together at noon or recess. The schoolhouse floor was scrubbed clean once a year at the start of the school year. Thereafter, every Friday noon the teacher, with the help of the students, would sweep the floor and clean the blackboards. — W. H. K.

\* \* \*

My mother went to Deer Grove School, but I went in town and was graduated from Barrington High School in 1913.

I took physics and advanced algebra from Mr. Erman Smith, the principal. He was a strict and excellent teacher. We practiced Palmer Penmanship to get a diploma in penmanship. We tired of making ovals, and because it was so near graduation, we didn't have time nor enthusiasm about finishing them. Nothing was said, so we received our diplomas. When we got home, we opened our scrolls, and all we had were blanks and a note asking us to come Monday to school, finish our exercises, and we would receive our Palmer Penmanship diplomas and our high school diplomas. I remember we went and finished our exercises. — F. E. R.

*Barrington High School class of 1911.*

