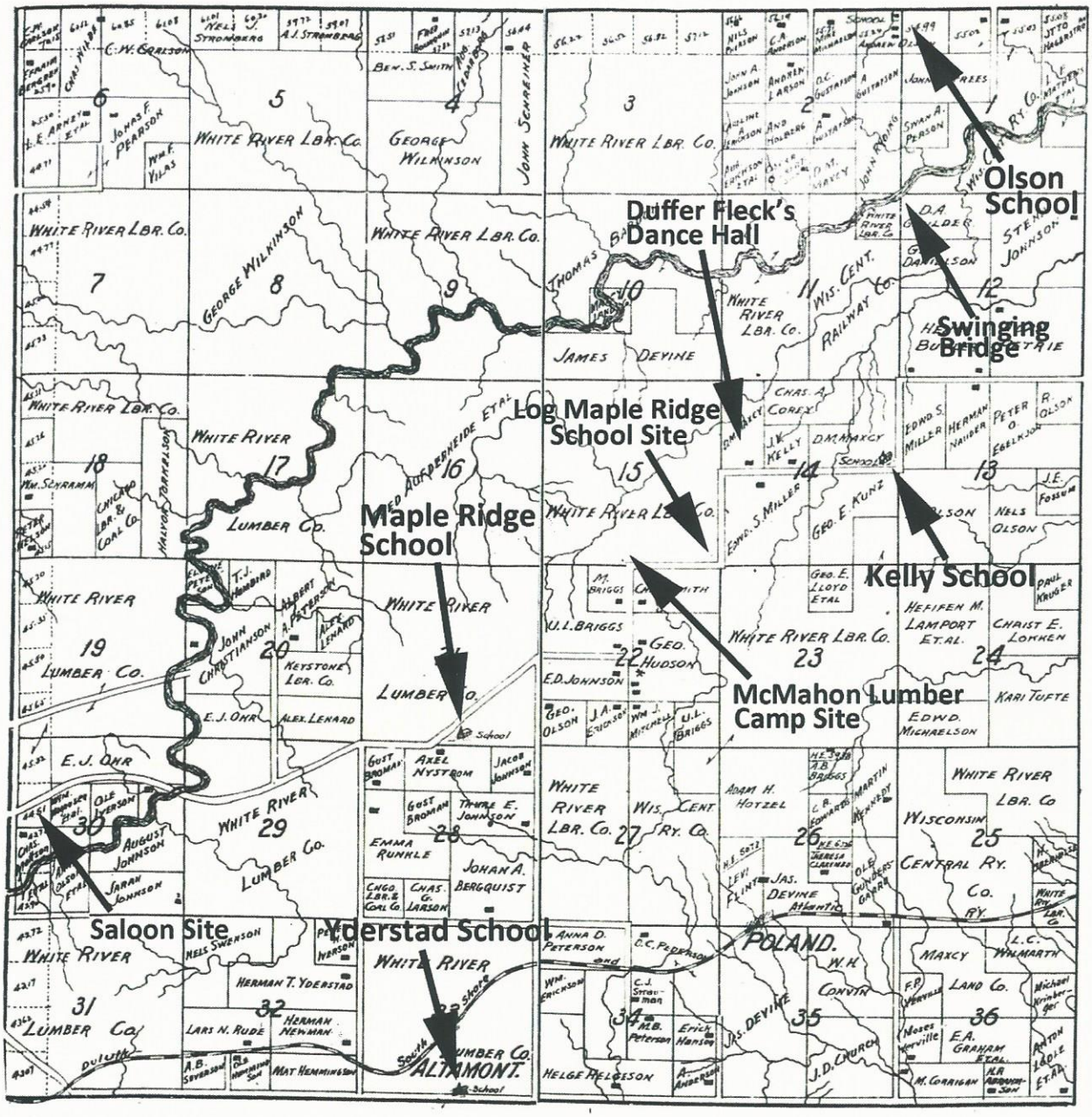
# Town of Kelly
# Centennial Celebration
# 1913 – 2013




**Kelly Town Hall**
**Maple Ridge Road**
**August 10, 2013**

# Future Town of Kelly
## Portion of the Town of Mason
## 1906

**Bayfield Co Plat** **Town 46N Range 5W**



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# Acknowledgements

This document was prepared by the Town of Kelly Centennial Committee to honor all those who came to Township 46N Range 5W to work, settle, and establish homes and businesses in the Town of Kelly.

The accumulation of most of the information and photographs on the following pages was possible through the work of the Mason Area Historical Society. The Mason Area Historical Society was established in 1991 with the mission to "preserve, advance and disseminate knowledge of the Mason, Wisconsin area".

The gathering of local history is a cooperative effort and always a work in progress. We thank everyone for continued support and participation in the effort of this mission.

The majority of the school building pictures and county school records were provided by the Bayfield County Historical Society Inc.

The records of the Town of Kelly and its Lincoln predecessor were provided by the Town of Kelly and Town of Lincoln Boards.

**For information contact:**
**Mason Area Historical Society Inc.**
**63335 Ed Carlson Road**
**Ashland, WI 54806**
**www.masonwisconsinhistory.org**

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# INTRODUCTION

## How Wisconsin Township 46 North Range 5 West came to be the "Town of Kelly"




The Town of Kelly is represented by 36 square miles of territory that is located in east central Bayfield County, Wisconsin. Each mile square is a section with roughly 640 acres in it. While this might seem to be a very small portion of the earth's 57,308,738 sq. miles of land surface, it is for all present and past residents, very important "land".

The present day Town of Kelly is part of the landscape that was molded by the last series of glaciers that covered the current Great Lakes region. When the glaciers retreated about 10,000 years ago they left our sand, gravel, and clay soils. In this glacial overburden, the White and Marengo Rivers carved their way toward the Bad River and then to Lake Superior itself. The two rivers left a high ridge between their valleys. That ridge became known as Maple Ridge. One can imagine that it was a true wilderness for a long time. Recordings of early human habitation are not well documented. What we know is that the Chippewa first migrated to the area around 1500 AD. It was they, or some unknown earlier people, that established a trail up the Mashkigo (White) River that would go through the Bibon Marsh or portage across Maple Ridge to cross the highlands east of the marsh and then proceed to the Hayward area where the Namekagon River would take them to the St Croix River valley.

By 1512 Spain laid claim to this "land" but never explored or occupied it. By 1610 the Chippewa were forced to retreat eastward by the Sioux. In 1618 Champlain traveled Lake Superior and Steven Brule mapped its extent including the Bayfield peninsula. This was two years before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock.

In 1627, France claimed all of what is to become Northern Wisconsin. By 1648 the Dutch equipped Iroquois drove the Hurons and Ottawas west from the New York interior into the Bayfield peninsula. In 1659 French Explorers Radison and Groseilliers landed at the head of Chequamegon Bay and wintered there, meeting the Hurons and Ottawas. Their winter travels included a trip up the White River valley, taking the land route over Maple Ridge and arriving in the vicinity of current day Hayward. In 1665 Father Allouez established his Mission at La Pointe on Madeline Island and along with it the French fur trading post. In 1669 Father Marquette took over the mission. The Sioux invaded again in 1671 and drove out the Hurons and Ottawas but failed to occupy the territory. In 1673 the Chippewa returned and the French turned to them to assist in stabilizing the region to keep the fur trade moving. By 1700 the combined French and Chippewa forces from the area drove the hostile Fox to near extinction and in 1736 the French set the Chippewa upon the Sioux to secure the fur trade routes to the South and West, including the trail across Maple Ridge.

By 1746 the British started to have influence in the area and were competing for furs and the loyalty of the Native Americans. During the French and Indian War, 1756-57, independent groups of Chippewa warriors from the area fought for the British and for the French. By 1763 the British had won the war and were given control of new world French claims, including the territory of what is now Northern Wisconsin including the fur trade rights. The British stamp on

the Town of Kelly was indelible. The Township, Range, Section, Chain and Rod survey process are all British in origin. The Town of Kelly is Township 46 North, Range 5 West.

As a result of the successful American Revolution that concluded in 1783, the British claims to the area of Northern Wisconsin passed to the new United States and become part of the State of Virginia. The Northwest Territories were created by the US Congress in 1787 and the new territory could not be settled until it was surveyed into the township/range system. The land represented by the future Town of Kelly was part of the Northwest Territories. In 1800 it became Indiana Territory, 1805 part of Michigan Territory, 1809 Illinois Territory, 1818 Michilimackinac County of the Michigan Territory, then in 1826, Chippewa County but still Michigan, and finally in 1836 Wisconsin Territory with no county identification. In 1840 Wisconsin established St. Croix County that included current Ashland, Bayfield, and Douglas Counties. This was changed to La Point County in 1845 and the area of current Iron County was added. Finally in 1831, the arduous task of surveying Wisconsin into Townships and Ranges began so that the territory could be opened for settlement. It would not be until the 1850s that the survey in the northern part of the state was completed. The primary government surveyors were George and Albert Stunz.

In 1848 Wisconsin officially became the 30th State in the Union. In 1854 a treaty with the Chippewa settled land disputes over the northern Wisconsin area and the future city of Ashland was established. In 1854 and 1860 respectively, Douglas and Ashland Counties were split off from La Point County. Six years later in 1866, Bayfield County was officially organized from the fractured remains of La Point County.

While all this political gerrymandering was taking place, the business of settling the region began. In 1854 the area's first saw mill on the White River, water wheel powered, was built by a man named Welton to cut lumber for local building needs. It was located just below the current power Dam on Hwy 112. Being that it was immediately downstream from the future Town of Kelly, one would expect that almost all the logs milled were cut on current Town of Kelly properties and floated downstream. The first farm in the area was also built in 1854 six miles south of the Welton saw mill on the Marengo River by a man named Sibley. This would have been very near the 4 Corners area with pasture and grazing certainly in the current Section 36 of the Town of Kelly.

Section 36 was the early hotbed of activity, providing the first Homestead patent to James W Heather in 1872. The same year James W Heather received a Homestead patent in Section 34 and Alexander Agassis received one in Section 32. Each of these families would have been living on the land for 5 years when they received the patent. In 1874 land was granted to the North Wisconsin and the Central Wisconsin Railroads. In checkerboard fashion the future town of Kelly Sections: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 15, 16, 17, 19, 21, 23, 24, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35 and the western half of Section 13 were deeded to the railroads. The construction of the Chicago, St Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha railroad, which passed through Bibon touching the Southwest corner of the future Town of Kelly, and the Duluth South Shore and Atlantic, crossing the southern tier of Sections, were built in 1882 and 1887 respectively.

With the right of way secured for the railroads, most of the railroad sections in Northern Wisconsin were sold to interested lumber companies. John Humbird's White River Lumber Company located in Mason was the only major lumber company that purchased large tracts of railroad company land in the future Town of Kelly. They bought Sections: 3, 7, 9, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 29, 31, and 33 as well as, most of 5, the

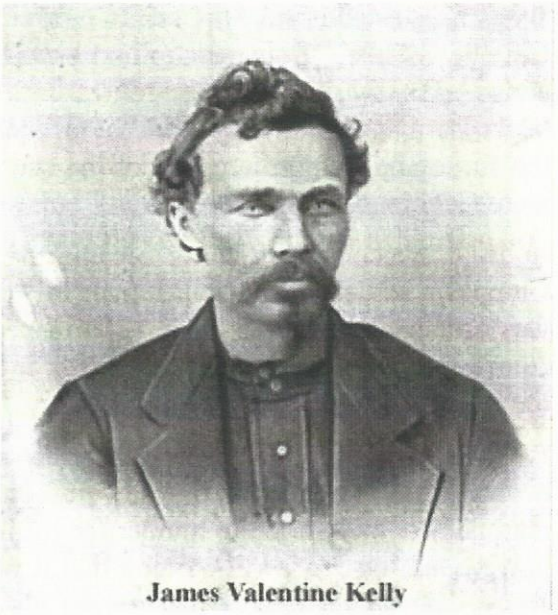
west half of 11, the NE quarter of 25 and the west half of 27 in 1880. The White River Lumber company also out rightly acquired the north half of section 18.

The Humbird Mill was built in Mason in 1882 and logging operations began in and around Mason village in that year. The Town of Mason was establish in 1883 and included 8 and three quarters Townships, one of which was T46N R5W, the future Town of Kelly. The White River Logging Company was running winter logging camps in the area of the Mason cemetery and harvesting trees in western portions of the T46N R5W, Sections 19, 29, and 31. Maple Ridge Road was started. In 1886 there was a record cold winter and the temperature fell to -54 degrees F.

Mason, the village, was a Company town and was declared dry. Saloons were built outside of the village on both on the eastern and western extremities. The eastern one was just inside Section 30 of T46N R5W on Maple Ridge road. There was a board walk built to both the east and west side saloons for the convenience of those walking.

On June 6, 1888, the first major forest fire roared through the area and burned much of Benoit. Mason was spared this time.

In the mid 1880's a log building on what is now the corner of Maple Ridge and Kelly road in section 16 was used for a school. It was called the Maple Ridge School. This building burned down and in 1892 it was replaced by the Kelly School, was built in Section 14 on land that was being homesteaded by James Valentine Kelly, the namesake of the future Town of Kelly. In 1894 J.V. Kelly received a Homestead Patent for this property. J.V. Kelly eventually entered a legal dispute with the Town of Mason over the purchase of the school property when the Town did not pay for two years after it was built.



**James Valentine Kelly**

On July 27, 1894, a second major forest fire came out of the Bibon Marsh and jumped the White River burning the railroad trestle, the mill in Mason and several private houses. The fire continued generally east and entered the Town of Kelly. In September of 1894 the great Hinkley Fire burned into Wisconsin creating a 150 mile swath all the way to Lake Michigan. The northern reaches of this fire also was reported to have reached the Town of Kelly. The big burned out stumps from these two fires could still be found on Maple Ridge as late as the 1970s.

The mill in Mason was rebuilt by 1895 and by that time the Maple Ridge road had been extended to the interior sections as a log sleigh haul route and tote road for logging operation east of Mason. In 1895 there were two White River Lumber camps in the Town of Kelly area. They were known as the McMahon and Lindsey camps. The McMahon Camp was located in Section 15 where Maple Ridge Road turns from a north/south direction to an east/west direction. The Pine and hemlock logs cut on the slopes facing the White River were decked near the river and then floated down stream to the saw mill in Odanah.

With the population on both the North and South side of the White River increasing, the very real problem of communication for local government, voting, and schools needed attention. As a partial solution to this problem, a foot bridge, known as the "Swinging Bridge", was constructed to join the North and South sides of the river. It was built near the intersection of Sections 1, 2, 11 & 12.



Swinging Bridge over the White River

In 1909 the Town of Lincoln split away from the Town of Mason with 2 townships, one of which was T46N R5W, the future Town of Kelly. During 1909 there was a major flood on the White River that destroyed both the old Mill Dam at Mason and the new Power Dam on Hwy 112. Both were rebuilt.

In 1911, the cut over and burned over lumber lands began to be seriously marketed to potential farmers. The earliest Real Estate seller was the Maxi Land Co. This was also the year that the Mason Creamery was started.

In 1912, Theodore Roosevelt stopped at Bibon and gave a speech from his Duluth, South Shore and Atlantic rail car. He would have traveled the length of the Town of Kelly.

In 1913 the Mill at Mason ceased operations. Lumber from the drying yards were sold for a year afterwards but the area's economy was now completely reliant on agriculture as its primary focus.

In 1913 the Town of Kelly, T46N R5W, split away from the Town of Lincoln as a result of a bill that was passed in Madison. The Town of Kelly was born.



This picture is believed to be O.J. Thoen's Father. O.J. was the 1st Town of Kelly Clerk and this picture was taken by Anne Hanson circa 1910.

# TOWN OF KELLY OFFICERS CHAIRMEN AND SUPERVISORS

## SOURCE: TOWN CLERK'S MINUTES

| Election Date | Chairman | Supervisor | Supervisor |
|---|---|---|---|
| 5/13/1913 | Ben Holm | John Siebert | W.J. Mitchell |
| 4/7/1914 | Christ Iverson | John Siebert | James Kelly |
| 4/6/1915 | Christ Iverson | August Anderson | James Kelly |
| 4/4/1916 | Christ Iverson | August Anderson | John Siebert |
| 4/3/1917 | Ben Holm | August Anderson | Swan Anderson |
| 4/2/1918 | Ben Holm (3yr) | August Anderson ( 2yr) | Swan Anderson (1yr) |
| 4/1/1919 | | | Oscar Johnson (3yr) |
| 4/6/1920 | | August Anderson (2yr) | |
| 4/5/1921 | Christ Iverson (1yr) | | |
| 4/4/1922 | | | John Siebert |
| 11/4/1922 | Ben Holm (appointed due to Iverson death) | | |
| 4/3/1923 | S.E. Squires | August Anderson | Herman Johnson |
| 4/14/1923 | (Herman Johnson moved away, Albert Johnson appointed) | | |
| 4/1/1924 | S.E. Squires | Andrew Hallberg | Swan Anderson |
| 4/7/1925 | S.E. Squires | Andrew Hallberg | Henry Kelly |
| 4/6/1926 | S.E. Squires | Andrew Hallberg | Henry Kelly |
| 4/5/1927 | S.E. Squires | Blaz Polich | Henry Kelly |
| 4/3/1928 | S.E. Squires | Oliver Johnson | John Eaton |
| 4/2/1929 | S.E. Squires | Blaz Polich | Carl Peters |
| 4/1/1930 | S.E. Squires | Wm. Hartung | Matt Puskarich |
| 4/7/1931 | S.E. Squires | Wm. Hartung | Victor Blad |
| 4/5/1932 | S.E. Squires | Wm. Hartung | Victor Blad |
| 4/4/1933 | S.E. Squires | Oliver Johnson | Victor Blad |
| 4/3/1934 | S.E. Squires | Henry Kelly | Victor Blad |
| 3/24/1935 | (Victor Blad resigned, Swan Anderson appointed) | | |
| 4/2/1935 | S.E. Squires | John Kurilla | Victor Blad |
| 4/7/1936 | S.E. Squires | John Kurilla | Victor Blad |
| 4/6/1937 | S.E. Squires | John Kurilla | Victor Blad |
| 7/31/1937 | (John Kurilla resigned, Eric S. Johnson appointed) | | |
| 4/5/1938 | S.E. Squires | Eric Johnson | Victor Blad |
| 5/24/1938 | (Victor Blad resigned, John Nelson appointed) | | |
| 4/4/1939 | S.E. Squires | Eric Johnson | George Pfeffer |
| 4/2/1940 | S.E. Squires | Eric Johnson | Charles Polich |
| 4/1/1941 | S.E. Squires | Eric Johnson | Cornelius Seipel |
| 11/3/1941 | (Cornelius Seipel died, vacant) | | |
| 12/2/1941 | (John Nelson appointed) | | |
| 4/7/1942 | S.E. Squires | Eric Johnson | John Nelson |
| 4/6/1943 | S.E. Squires | Eric Johnson | John Nelson |
| 4/4/1944 | S.E. Squires | Eric Johnson | Lester Kelly |
| 4/3/1945 | Thoralf Yderstad | John Nelson | Lester Kelly |
| 4/1/1947 | Charles Squire | John Nelson | Tony Francisco |

| Election Date | Chairman | Supervisor | Supervisor |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4/5/1949 | Charles Squires | Leslie Kelly | Tony Francisco |
| 4/3/1951 | William Stuart | Leslie Kelly | Lew Brown |
| 4/7/1953 | William Stuart | Vernon Johnson | Lew Brown |
| 4/5/1955 | William Stuart | Vernon Johnson | Einar Seim |
| 4/2/1957 | William Stuart | Vernon Johnson | Uuno Lahti |
| 4/7/1959 | William Stuart | Vernon Johnson | Uuno Lahti |
| 4/4/1961 | William Stuart | Vernon Johnson | Uuno Lahti |
| 6/11/1962 | (Uuno Lahti resigned, Einar Seim appointed) | | |
| 4/2/1963 | William Stuart | Vernon Johnson | Einar Seim |
| 4/---/1965 | William Stuart | Vernon Johnson | Julian Johnson |
| 4/--/1967 | Vernon Johnson | Ed Salamon | Ron Hellstrom |
| 4/--/1969 | Tony Fox | Ed Salamon | John Nelson |
| 1/12/1970 | (Ed Salamon resigned) | | |
| 2/919/70 | (Edward Sandor appointed) | | |
| 4/--/1971 | Tony Fox | Edward Sandor | John Nelson |
| 4/--/1973 | Tony Fox | Edward Sandor | John Nelson |
| 4/--/1975 | Charles Polich | Edward Sandor | John Nelson |
| 4/--/1977 | Charles Polich | Don Anderson | John Nelson |
| 4/--/1979 | William Kurilla | Edward Sandor | Earl Johnson |
| 4/--/1981 | William Kurilla | Edward Sandor | Earl Johnson |
| 4/5/1983 | William Kurilla | Edward Sandor | Earl Johnson |
| 10/11/1984 | (Earl Johnson died, Don Anderson appointed) | | |
| 4/2/1985 | Tim Bell | George Kurilla | John Hellstrom |
| 4/9/1987 | John Nelson | George Kurilla | Julian Johnson |
| 4/12/1989 | George Kurilla | Dave Swanson | Julian Johnson |
| 4/2/1991 | George Kurilla | John Nelson | Julian Johnson |
| 4/6/1993 | Ken Lindsey | Ron Hellstrom | Julian Johnson |
| 4/4/1995 | Ken Lindsey | Randy Loppnow | Mark Eder |
| 4/8/1997 | Ron Hellstrom | Dave Oreskovich | Verne Gilles |
| 4/6/1999 | Ron Hellstrom | Dave Oreskovich | Verne Gilles |
| 4/3/2001 | Larry Fox | Dave Oreskovich | Verne Gilles |
| 4/1/2003 | Larry Fox | Dave Oreskovich | Verne Gilles |
| 4/5/2005 | Larry Fox | Dave Oreskovich | Verne Gilles |
| 4/--/2007 | Larry Fox | Chris Duke | Verne Gilles |
| 1/--/2008 | Larry Fox resigned, Verne Gilles appointed | | |
| 4/--/2009 | Verne Gilles | Chris Duke | Gerry Hoffman |
| 4/--/2011 | Verne Gilles | Chris Duke | Gerry Hoffman |
| 4/2/2013 | Verne Gilles | Chris Duke | Gerry Hoffman |

# TOWN OF KELLY OFFICERSCLERK AND TREASURER

## SOURCE: TOWN CLERK'S MINUTES

| Election Date | Clerk | Treasurer |
|---|---|---|
| 5/13/1913 | O.J. Thoen | T.E. Johnson |
| 4/7/1914 | O.J. Thoen | T.E. Johnson |
| 4/6/1915 | O.J. Thoen | T.E. Johnson |
| 4/4/1916 | O.J. Thoen | T.E. Johnson |
| 4/3/1917 | O.J. Thoen | T.E. Johnson |
| 4/2/1918 | O.J. Thoen | T.E. Johnson |
| 4/1/1919 | O.J. Thoen | T.E. Johnson |
| 4/6/1920 | O.J. Thoen | T.E. Johnson |
| 4/5/1921 | O.J. Thoen | T.E. Johnson |
| 4/4/1922 | O.J. Thoen | T.E. Johnson |
| 4/3/1923 | O.J. Thoen | T.E. Johnson |
| 4/1/1924 | O.J. Thoen | Thoralf Yderstad |
| 4/7/1925 | O.J. Thoen | Thoralf Yderstad |
| 4/6/1926 | O.J. Thoen | Thoralf Yderstad |
| 4/5/1927 | O.J. Thoen | Thoralf Yderstad |
| 4/3/1928 | O.J. Thoen | Thoralf Yderstad |
| 4/2/1929 | O.J. Thoen | Thoralf Yderstad |
| 4/1/1930 | O.J. Thoen | Thoralf Yderstad |
| 4/7/1931 | O.J. Thoen | Thoralf Yderstad |
| 4/5/1932 | O.J. Thoen | Martin Johnson |
| 4/4/1933 | O.J. Thoen | Martin Johnson |
| 4/3/1934 | O.J. Thoen | Martin Johnson |
| 4/2/1935 | O.J. Thoen | Martin Johnson |
| 4/7/1936 | O.J. Thoen | Martin Johnson |
| 4/6/1937 | O.J. Thoen | Martin Johnson |
| 4/5/1938 | O.J. Thoen | Martin Johnson |
| 4/4/1939 | O.J. Thoen | Martin Johnson |
| 4/2/1940 | O.J. Thoen | Martin Johnson |
| 4/1/1941 | Caston Johnson | Martin Johnson |
| 4/7/1942 | Caston Johnson | Martin Johnson |
| 4/6/1943 | Caston Johnson | Martin Johnson |
| 4/4/1944 | Caston Johnson | Martin Johnson |
| 4/3/1945 | Caston Johnson | Martin Johnson |
| 4/17/1946 | (Martin Johnson died, Julia Bergman appointed) | |
| 4/1/1947 | John Lobos | Julia Bergman |
| 4/5/1949 | John Lobos | Julia Bergman |
| 4/3/1951 | John Lobos | Julia Bergman |
| 4/7/1953 | John Lobos | Julia Bergman |
| 4/5/1955 | John Lobos | Julia Bergman |
| 4/2/1957 | John Lobos | Julia Bergman |
| 4/7/1959 | John Lobos | Julia Bergman |
| 4/4/1961 | John Lobos | Julia Bergman |

| Election Date | Clerk | Treasurer |
|---|---|---|
| 12/31/1962 | (John Lobos resigned, Caston Johnson appointed) | |
| 4/2/1963 | Caston Johnson | Julia Bergman |
| 4/--/1965 | Caston Johnson | Julia Bergman |
| 4/--/1967 | Aurelia Lobos | Julia Bergman |
| 4/--/1969 | Aurelia Lobos | Julia Bergman |
| 4/--/1971 | Aurelia Lobos | Julia Bergman |
| 4/--/1973 | Aurelia Lobos | Julia Bergman |
| 4/--/1975 | Aurelia Lobos | Julia Bergman |
| 4/--/1977 | Aurelia Lobos | Julia Bergman |
| 4/--/1979 | Aurelia Lobos | Julia Bergman |
| 10/11/1979 | (Julia Bergman resigned, moved out of town) | |
| 12/13/1979 | (Jean Swanson appointed Treasurer) | |
| 4/--/1981 | Aurelia Lobos | Jean Swanson |
| 4/5/1983 | Aurelia Lobos | Jean Swanson |
| 4/2/1985 | Aurelia Lobos | Jean Swanson |
| 5/16/1985 | (Jean Swanson resigned, Peg Kurilla appointed) | |
| 4/9/1987 | Aurelia Lobos | Peg Kurilla |
| 4/12/1989 | Aurelia Lobos | Peg Kurilla |
| 4/2/1991 | Aurelia Lobos | Sandy Swanson |
| 4/6/1993 | Aurelia Lobos | Sandy Swanson |
| 4/4/1995 | Aurelia Lobos | Sandy Swanson |
| 4/8/1997 | Aurelia Lobos | Carol Miller |
| 4/6/1999 | Aurelia Lobos | Carol Miller |
| 8/1/2000 | (Aurelia Lobos resigned, Elizabeth Seefeldt appointed) | |
| 4/3/2001 | Elizabeth Seefeldt | Carol Miller |
| 4/1/2003 | Elizabeth Seefeldt | Carol Miller |
| 4/5/2005 | Elizabeth Seefeldt | Carol Miller |
| 4/--/2007 | Elizabeth Seefeldt | Carol Miller |
| 4/--/2009 | Elizabeth Seefeldt | Carol Miller |
| 4/--/2011 | Elizabeth Seefeldt | Carol Miller |
| 4/2/2013 | Elizabeth Seefeldt | Carol Miller |

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# LINCOLN/KELLY COMBINED TOWN MINUTES RECAP

| | |
|---|---|
| 4/6/1909 | First town meeting of new Town of Lincoln |
| 4/17/1909 | Set salaries – chair $100 and clerk $100. Pay for man with team. For road work - $3.50 per day, without team $1.75 per day. Motion to have all bulls running at large to be impounded. Old M.W. Hall at Bibon rented for use by town at $5.00 per year. |
| 4/19/1909 | Election. Chair – Matt Mattson, Supervisors - Sam Bower and John Siebert, Clerk – Gunnard Johnson, Treasurer – Ben Holm, Assessor – Ole Gundersgaard. |

| | |
|---|---|
| 4/27/1909 | Motion to discontinue school house in (Miller's) district. Petition for new road (road #1) beginning from the north on line between 5 and 6 in 45-5 a highway be laid out running south along said line ¼ mile. Road petition (road #2) ½ mile from NW corner 23 east along section line. Road petition (road #3) from end of old road in NW ¼, NW ¼, 25 and running 139 feet west to section line. |
| 6/11/1909 | Road #1 lowest bidder – Erick Hanson $3.00 per 100 feet<br>Road #3 lowest bidder – Nels Olson $9.80 per 100 feet |
| 6/16/1909 | Final settlement between Towns of Lincoln and Pratt and school district. Mentioned school houses in sections 16, 10, 32, 26, and 14. |
| 6/21/1909 | Road #2 petition not granted |
| 7/30/1909 | Road petition in section 6. Purchased road grader for $250 – $50 down and 2 annual payment of $100 @ 6% interest |
| 9/1/1909 | Motion to rebuild 5 bridges washed away by flood: (1) across the Marengo River at Arrhmins (awarded at $140 on 9/14), (2) across the Marengo River at Anderson (awarded at $235 on 9/14), (3) on the Sanborn road in Section 1 (awarded at $95 on 9/14), and (4) two on the Argo Road (awarded at $75 and $35 on 9/14). |
| 9/21/1909 | Special election to determine whether or not to increase saloon license to $500. Lost 28 to 21. |
| 9/27/1909 | Special meeting to vote on resolution bond – Town of Lincoln for $4,500 to cover school indebtedness of Lincoln and Pratt. Vote no – 13, yes – 8. |
| 3/29/1910 | Annual financial statement. Total revenue and expense $20,705. |
| 4/5/1910 | Annual meeting. Set salaries – Chair $150, Clerk $150.<br>Election. Chair – Ben Holm, Supervisors – Peter Johnson and John Siebert, Clerk – Gunnard Johnson, Treasurer – T.E. Johnson, Assessor – Emil Holm. Total of 138 votes. |
| 6/27/1910 | Compensation of members of board of review set at $3 per day.<br>Bid for ½ mile of road between section 18 and 19 (Kelly) awarded to John Sundeen for $3 per 100 feet to be 22 feet wide. Road between section 14 and 23 (Kelly) awarded for $150, 22 feet wide from outside to outside ditch, ½ mile long. No bid for ¼ mile road between section 5 and 6 (Lincoln). |
| 7/11/1910 | Awarded contract for ¼ mile road between section 5 and 6. |
| 8/9/1910 | Permit given to Maple Ridge Telephone co. to put poles on right of way. |
| 9/20/1910 | Special election to determine amount to be paid for saloon license, in favor of increase to $35 (21), opposed (0) |
| 11/8/1910 | Overseer of roads in district 2 removed from office for neglect of duty. |
| 12/5/1910 | Leonard Berquist's wife recently died – left 5 children age 7 months to 10 years. Asked town to help with funds to pay housekeeper. Board allowed $15 per month for 3 months. |

4/4/1911 Election. Chair – Ben Holm, Supervisors – Eugene Wilhelm and Peter Johnson, Treasurer – T.E. Johnson, Clerk – Gunnard Johnson. Total of 119 votes. Question of saloon license in town of Lincoln. 73 yes, 43 no.

4/29/1911 Henry Newman appointed road superintendent in District 1, John Blaser in District 2. For 3 years.

12/5/1911 Road petition from school house in Section 14, 45, 5 running east on quarter line one mile thru section 13 to town line road. (approved on 1/2/12).

4/16/1912 Annual Meeting. Motion for town to look up suitable piece of ground for town hall and tool shed. Motion to take steps to stop practice of dumping or flushing into White River at Village of Mason sewage or other refuse that contaminates water of river.

5/25/1912 Discussion of plans for placing Town of Lincoln under district system of school government. Set meeting for 7/1 at school house known as Newman school in central part of town.

9/30/1912 Road petition start section corner 18 and 19 45-4 and section 13 and 24 45-5 going south two miles near county line to section corner of 30 and 31 45-4 and 25 and 26 45-5.

3/19/1913 Petition to have electors vote whether or not any person shall be licensed to deal or traffic in any spittoons, malt or intoxicating beverages or liquors in town.

4/1/1913 Elections. Vote on above petition – 60 for and 39 against. Chair – Jacob Yderstad, Supervisors – John Siebert and Peter Johnson, Treasurer – Martin Johnson, Clerk – O.J. Thoen.
Discussion about setting off new town. 19 for, 16 against.

4/26/1913 Telegram read that Kelly bill passed. Election on 5/13. Thus Lincoln needs to elect a clerk, one supervisor and an assessor as those officer resided in 46-5. Conrad Swanson was elected clerk, Charles Lundin was appointed supervisor. Chair salary set at $100, clerk $100, Treasurer $125.

5/10/1913 List of tools held by Town of Kelly filed as follows: 2 wheelers - worn out, 4 good shovels, 3 slushers – good shape, 2 grub hoes, 2 slushers – worn out, 3 old axes and one plow – worn out. Wages set at $2 per day for men and $1.57 per day for boys.

5/20/1913 Purpose to divide tools between Kelly and Lincoln. Town of Lincoln purchased the big road grader for $125 and would rent to Kelly for 1913 at $1 per day. Split on cash was 53.89 % to Kelly and 46.11% to Lincoln. Road repair and maintenance of road between towns – Kelly does west half, Lincoln does east.

# TOWN OF KELLY BOARD MINUTE RECAP

| | |
|---|---|
| 5/13/1913 | First meeting of the Town of Kelly |
| 8/12/1914 | Maple Ridge School destroyed by fire. |
| 4/13/1925 | Discussed rebuilding the Maple Ridge bridge over White River. |
| 11/7/1936 | Ordered another truckload of snowfence. |
| 5/25/1940 | Voted to construct a new bridge over White River. |
| 2/7/1941 | Bids opened on bridge - $1,621 – M. Schraufnagel & Sons. |
| 4/1/1947 | Voted to purchase two medium size graders with rubber tires. |
| 1/3/1949 | Cost of White River bridge was $2,814.50. |
| 4/4/1950 | Voted to purchase a 2-ton truck with snowplow – GMC 450. |
| 11/14/1955 | Town dump established off Ray Anderson Road. |
| 4/3/1962 | Town granted village powers. |
| 4/13/1963 | Maple Ridge School for sale for $800. |
| 10/11/1963 | Deed to Mason Legion House transferred to Town of Kelly. |
| 7/13/1964 | Einar Seim agreed to remove bell tower before shingling hall. |
| 6/10/1965 | Voted to borrow $15,000 to purchase grader and erect garage. |
| 8/9/1965 | Garage nearly complete |
| 1/?/1967 | Voted to purchase heater for town garage. |
| 12/7/1967 | Decided to purchase town hall furnace from Standard Oil. |
| 5/13/1968 | Decided to pay $2.25 per hour to shingle town hall. |
| 1/22/1969 | Voted to buy FWD. Not clear if did or didn't purchase one. |
| 4/3/1973 | Board to look for new grader. |
| 8/12/1975 | Decided to purchase grader for $15,000, also purchase rotary mower. |
| 8/12/1975 | Decided to move large safe from Julia's to garage. |
| 10/14/1976 | Vapor light installed at town hall. |
| 3/16/1977 | Ambulance service set up. |
| 4/24/1978 | Approved addition of Keystone to fire department. |
| 1/?/1979 | Schraufnagel of Marengo to do town hall paneling. |
| 4/7/1979 | Authorized fire department to go ahead with plans to construct a 42'X42 bldg. |
| 6/12/1980 | Purchased a used truck for $7,800. |
| 4/8/1986 | Job of constable abolished. |
| 4/8/1986 | Reroofing of fire hall. |
| 8/14/1986 | Fire department purchased a tanker at $13,000. |
| 9/11/1986 | White River bridge repaired. |
| 9/14/1988 | Insulated town garage. |
| 4/8/1989 | Approved purchase of new ambulance. ($64.582) |
| 11/8/1990 | Selected new grader – Caterpillar. |
| 4/11/1992 | Town supported building new fire hall. |
| 12/11/1995 | Garage addition done but crooked. ($9,400) |

| | |
|---|---|
| 3/10/1997 | Voted to purchase copy machine. |
| 1/12/1998 | Fire department purchases tanker. |
| 1/11/1999 | Voted to purchase 1988 Ford truck with plow, wing and sander for $32,500. |
| 8/30/1999 | Voted to accept Type I ambulance for $24,479 |
| | Reconstruction work was done on ½ mile of Yderstad in 2000 at cost of $33,000 |
| 8/16/2000 | Work on Argo between Kelly and Deer Creek done |
| 10/9/2000 | Town Computer purchased |
| 2/12/2001 | Front plow on grader replaced |
| 4/9/2001 | Purchased Billy Joe's 1989 chevy pickup for town use |
| 3/11/2002 | Town awarded LRIP funding totaling $23,440. |
| 3/11/2002 | Fire Department ordering a new tanker truck for $46,000. |
| 4/8/2002 | Agreed to order liquid calcium chloride |
| 5/13/2002 | Fire Department ordered a new tanker chassis. |
| 6/10/2002 | Work done on Brown Road from Pliss to Bierl. |
| | In 2002 used 5 loads of liquid calcium chloride |
| 6/24/2002 | LRIP contract from Brown Road awarded to Ritola for $29,500 |
| 9/10/2002 | Agreed to purchase used laptop computer from Larry Fox for $700. |
| 11/13/2002 | Increased Clerk's pay by $600 and Chair and Treasurer by $300. |
| 4/14/2003 | Agreed to order six loads of liquid calcium chloride |
| 6/10/2003 | Motion to accept proposal from Ritola for work on one mile of west end of Maple Ridge Road not to exceed $14,999. |
| 10/13/2003 | Lipka to build handicapped ramp. |
| 11/11/2003 | $15,000 in budget for ½ mile of Pupp Road. |
| 4/12/2004 | Rewiring of town hall to be done in few weeks. |
| 4/12/2004 | Lipka bid for bathroom construction accepted at $6,340. |
| 8/9/2004 | Accepted bid of Superior Plumbing & Mechanical for $9,730 for mound system and holding tanks. |
| 12/13/2004 | Town share of new fire truck is $68,100. |
| 2/14/2005 | New furnace installed in town hall. |
| 7/1/2005 | Accepted bid from Ritola for Maple Ridge east from Yderstad for $15,500 and for ditching Holmes Road for $7,500. |
| 8/8/2005 | Heavy rains of 7/24/05 washed out the 8 foot culvert on Maple Ridge Road at Deer Creek. |
| 3/17/2006 | Kurilla Construction bid of $3,900 accepted for town hall roof. |
| 5/8/2006 | Kurilla Construction bid of $5,900 accepted for town hall siding, insulation and windows. |
| 7/10/2006 | D.A.C. Sales (Dalton Collins) bid of $6,200 accepted for drainage work on Holms Road. |
| 8/14/2006 | Chequamegon Bay Engineering proposal of $4,500 accepted for design and construction phases of town garage. |
| 11/920/06 | Approved budget for 2007 which included cost of new garage. |

| | |
|---|---|
| 11/13/2006 | Approved Ritola request for sand pit. |
| 12/11/2006 | Adopted weight limits on all roads. |
| 2/22/2006 | Electors authorized purchase of 3 acres of Rowley land for town garage. |
| 3/12/2007 | Approved reopening a sand pit on Sundeen Road. |
| 3/12/2007 | Authorized purchase of new laptop. |
| 4/16/2007 | Awarded town garage bid to Dykstra for $223,373. |
| 4/28/2007 | Authorized borrowing $225,000 from NSB, 10 yr 5.5% for garage & septic |
| 4/30/2007 | Set mileage at $.485 and follow IRS rate henceforth |
| 5/14/2007 | Awarded gravel contract to Ashland Construction at $12.94/yd. |
| 10/8/2007 | Placed order for crushing 7,000 cubic yds gravel at $4.75/yd |
| 10/8/2007 | LRIP application for Maple Ridge from Hall to Kelly road |
| 1/14/2008 | Resignation of Larry Fox as Chair. |
| 2/5/2008 | Gilles named chair, Gerry Hoffman replaced Gilles as supervisor |
| 7/14/2008 | LRIP Project approved for $45,000, Town pays one half |
| 9/8/2008 | Authorized purchase of one ton truck with plow from Ashland Ford |
| 9/8/2008 | Named Eric Oliphant, Kevin Seefeldt, Jeffrey McCutchen, William A. Franzel and Jay Cablk to Plan Commission. |
| 11/10/2008 | Public Participation Plan adopted for Comprehensive Planning |

# Rural Kelly Schools

## Argo School

The Argo School was built in 1927 on the SW corner of SW ¼, NW ¼, Section 25, 46-5. The new school was dedicated on the evening of October 25, 1927. Students moved from the Kelly School to the Argo School on October 24, 1927.

County school records show the following teachers employed at Argo School:

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1927-28 | Helen Brown | 1935-36 | Pat Gorman | 1943-44 | Gladys Reiten |
| 1928-29 | Rose Dymesich | 1936-37 | Pat Gorman | 1944-45 | Gladys Reiten |
| 1929-30 | Dorothy McNutt | 1937-38 | H. Fern Fye | 1945-46 | Helen McDougall |
| 1930-31 | Blanche Blakeley | 1938-39 | H. Fern Fye | 1946-47 | Mary Sukalich |
| 1931-32 | Blanche Blakeley | 1939-40 | H. Fern Fye | 1947-48 | Helen McDougall |
| 1932-33 | Katherine Pintar | 1940-41 | Tom Anderson | 1948-49 | Donna Hanson |
| 1933-34 | Maryne Buckley | 1941-42 | Josephine Kuchan | 1949-50 | Esther Wilhelm |
| 1934-35 | Vera Von Ende | 1942-43 | Josephine Kuchan | 1950-51 | Constance Hall |



**Helen Devoe, Rose Miller, Jackie Nettleton**

Families that attended the Argo School include: Deidon, DeVoe, Greene, Hartung, Hoaglan, Hoffman, Huusko, Kelly, Kneeland, Kuchan, Lorang, Miller, Nettleton, Polich, Rogich, Shubat, Solberg, Sporer, Swanson, Tadevich and Tody.

### Argo School Memories

**Joan Solberg rembers:**

The Argo School was one of the most up-to-date school buildings in the area. The main floor of the building had indoor bathrooms for boys and girls that contained chemical toilets. Girls and boys also had small cloak rooms on either side of the bathroom. The building had electricity in 1946. In the school yard was a swing set and a merry-go-round for playground equipment. There was one tree in the school yard, but it was "off limits" for playground activities.

The school had a basement. In the basement was a furnace and a wood-fired kitchen stove. During the last 5 years of operation the kitchen stove was used to serve a hot lunch for the students. The students ate in a partitioned off area of the basement. The cooks were Mrs. Hoglund and Mrs. Tadevich. Ada Solberg was the lunch program accountant. The Janitor was a man whose name was Steve Mitchimodus. Steve was also the person who had to bring the water to the school each day. He would take buckets across

the road to the Schubat farm and get the water from the same source that was watering the cattle. We had some interesting floaters in the buckets from time to time, but we all seemed to survive.

The PTA was very active in the Argo School. Monthly meetings were held and some form of entertainment was part of the meeting. The meeting became a social event and was attended by all families. Anne Marty of Sanborn often provided part of the entertainment. She would dress up in costumes and was even Santa Claus one Christmas. Students also played a part in the entertainment activities.

Each year there would be a picnic at the end of the year. The picnic was always held at Prentice Park in Ashland. This was also a family affair with the parents arranging transportation to and from the picnic. Everybody remembers the ice cream treats that came in huge insulated canvas bags. During the school year there were also field trips that would be part of the curriculum, but in reality they were science nature walks that became picnics on a good weather day. The nature walks would usually end up at the Hoglund's farm.

The school had its share of hi-jinks. Some of the teachers were more apt to let those things happen than others. At one time it was fashionable for older boys to drop younger kids out the window. There was only one door back into the school, so the poor ejected kid had to go all the way around the building to get back in.

The Argo School burned in 1951 in the spring of the year. For the remainder of the school year, the students and teacher resumed classes at the school in the Village of Mason. Dale Stuart and Lester Kelly took students to Mason in their personal cars.

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## Kelly School

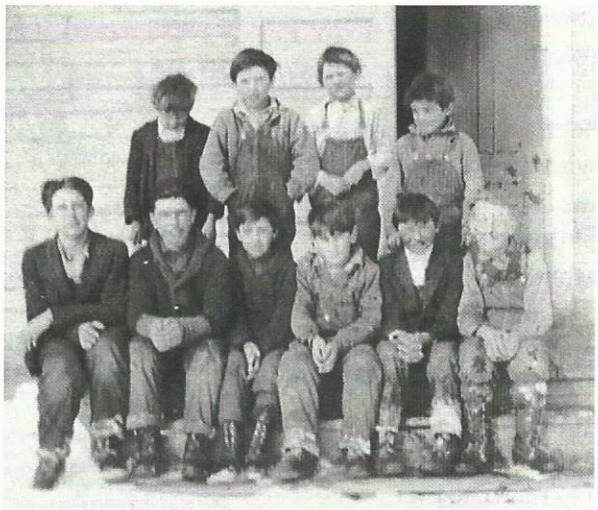


The Kelly School was located at the intersection of Kelly Road and Argo Road in the SE corner SE ¼, NE ¼, Section 14, of T46N R5W. A former student said the school was built in 1892. It is uncertain how long it operated after being built, but was closed for a number of years. It reopened in 1921 and operated until 1927. In the early part of school year 1927-28 the students moved to the new Argo School.

County school records show the following teachers taught at the Kelly School:

| | |
|---|---|
| 1921-22 | Gertrude Westlund |
| 1922-23 | Helen Olson |
| 1923-24 | Irene DeMars |
| 1924-25 | Grace Manning |
| 1925-26 | Dorothy Kelly |
| 1926-27 | Dorothy Kelly |

Student numbers were in the upper 20's and 30's. Families attending the Kelly School included: DeVoe, Duckert, Gundersgaard, Hoffman, Kelly, Klein, Kutchan, Lolitch, Miller, Nelson, Polich, Rewalt, Schultz, Shubert, Sporer, and Tody.



**1922-23 Kelly School Larue Rewalt 3rd from left**

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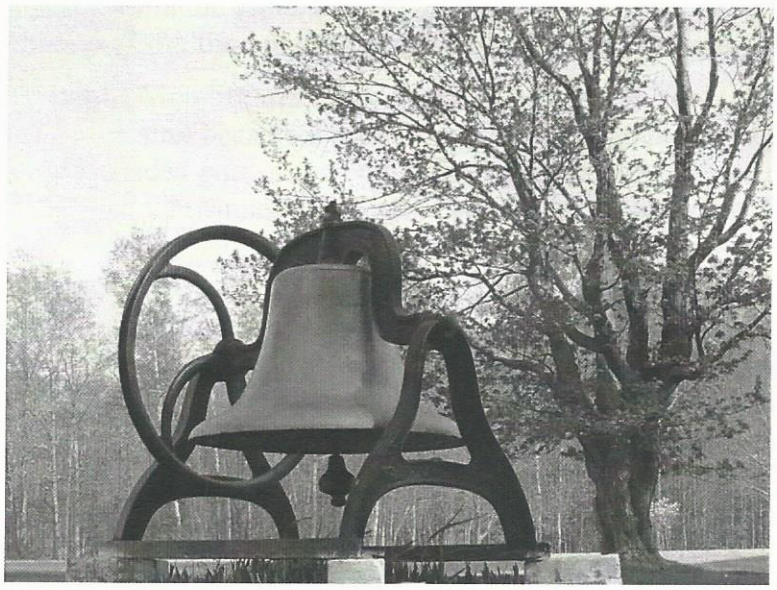
## Maple Ridge (Broman) School



The original Maple Ridge School was a log building that was located at the NW corner of the intersection of Maple Ridge and Kelly Roads. This building was in existence by 1890 and Eva Moore was the teacher there for a couple of years. By 1893 the building had burned down and Eva had married Henry Kelly.

The second Maple Ridge School was located on the site of the current Kelly Town Hall, on the NE corner of SW ¼, SE ¼, Sections 21, 46-5. At the July 5, 1902 School Board meeting a motion was passed to build this school. It was to be a 22' X 34' building. J.W. Peck built the school for $125. A school in this location operated every year from 1902 to 1942. In its first



few years of operation, it was referred to as the Broman School in the board minutes. It may have been named after Gust Broman who lived about ¼ mile west of the school. This second school building burned down in 1914 after a small forest fire came through the area. The school was immediately rebuilt. Just before the fire consumed the 2nd School building, the students and parents had raised money for a bell. There wasn't a bell tower to house it and no funds were available to build one. When the 3rd School was built, a tower was included and the bell installed. The third Maple Ridge School building (on previous page) still stands and is used as the Town of Kelly Town Hall. The bell survives and is mounted in the front yard of Julian and Lucille Johnson.

School records show the following teachers taught at Maple Ridge:

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1902-03 | Jennie Anderson | 1916-17 | Myrtle Haugen | 1930-31 | Marion Culhane |
| 1903-04 | Hermine Viers | 1917-18 | Helga Hanson | 1931-32 | Marion Culhane |
| 1904-05 | Carrie Lord | 1918-19 | Myre Kelly | 1932-33 | Ralph Harrison |
| 1905-06 | Neva Lovell | 1919-20 | Agnes Iverson | 1933-34 | Daisy Holm |
| 1906-07 | Neva Lovell | 1920-21 | Clara Olson | 1934-35 | Margaret Reil |
| 1907-08 | Amanda Lindberg | 1921-22 | Agnes Iverson | 1935-36 | Margaret Reil |
| 1908-09 | Zeita Merrigan | 1922-23 | Gladys Haugen | 1936-37 | Louise Kuchan |
| 1909-10 | Hazel Geisert | 1923-24 | Violet Hoaglund | 1937-38 | Mabel Dahl |
| 1910-11 | Hazel Geisert | 1924-25 | Evelyn Beaulieu | 1938-39 | Ann Tody |
| 1911-12 | Hazel Geisert | 1925-26 | Catherine Janigo | 1939-40 | Eunice Kluge |
| 1912-13 | Mabel Buckley | 1926-27 | Helen Brown | 1940-41 | Aurelia Seipel |
| 1913-14 | Olga Olson | 1927-28 | Frances Habelt | 1941-42 | Aurelia Seipel |
| 1914-15 | Adeline Cooklar | 1928-29 | Margaret Donalds | | |
| 1915-16 | Margaret Olson | 1929-30 | Violet Blaser | | |

Some of the families attending the Maple Ridge School were: Anderson, Beebe, Brown, Duckert, Farley, Greene, Hoffman, Johnson, Kelly, Kinney, Kurilla, Martin, Manson, McKinnon, Murray, Nelson, Olson, Reed, Richardson, Stuart, Thoen, and Wilcox.

While records are incomplete, the records that are available show the number of students in any one year ranged from 5 to 27.



Maple Ridge School 1939

**Back Row: Bud Kinney, Unknown, Betty Kurilla, Judy Hoffman, Dorothy Farley, Ellen Horstman, Beatrice Farley**
**Front Row: Donald Kinney, Bob Bebee, Margaret Kurilla, Marie Farley, Jullian Johnson, Edith Bebee, Fern Farley, Neva Hoffman**



Maple Ridge School - 1938

Back: Bob Kurilla, Dorthy Farley, Judith Hoffman, Betty Kurilla, Dewane Johnson, John Farley, Burt Kenney
Middle: Fern Rarley, Neva Hoffman, Beatrice Farley, Edith Beebe, Maggie Kurilla
Front: Marie Farley, Bob Beebe, Don Kinney

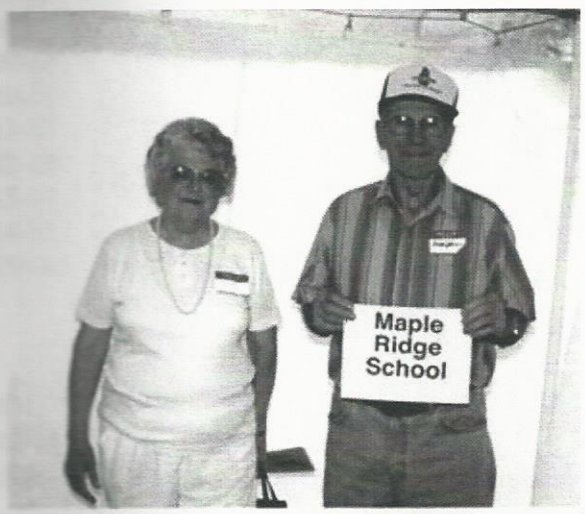



1928 Maple Ridge School

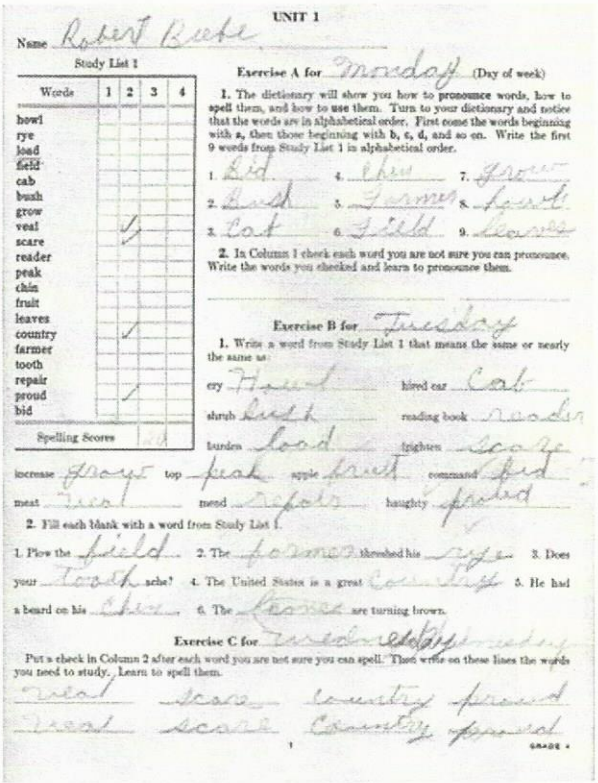
Front Row: Roy Mattson, Alberta Kelly, Roy Johnson
2nd Row: Lorraine Kinney, Leslie Eaton, Marcella Dukert
3rd Row: Milton Johnson, Bernice Johnson, Gale Brown

Supervisor: Zelda Johnson - Back Left
Teacher: Violet Blaser - Back Right

**1934-42 Margaret Kurilla Halbe** was in grades 1-8 at Maple. "Some of my classmates were Harold Anderson, Mildred Anderson, Gladys Nelson, Ellen Spears, Lily Niemi, Elizabeth Zilke and Marion Tutland Ronan. I was happy just being able to go to high school."




**School Reunion 2000: Margret Kurilla Halbe and Milton Johnson**



UNIT 1

Name Robert Beebe

Study List 1

| Words | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| howl | | | | |
| rye | | | | |
| load | | | | |
| field | | | | |
| cab | | | | |
| bush | | | | |
| grow | | | | |
| veal | | ✓ | | |
| scare | | ✓ | | |
| reader | | | | |
| peak | | | | |
| chin | | | | |
| fruit | | | | |
| leaves | | | | |
| country | | ✓ | | |
| farmer | | | | |
| tooth | | | | |
| repair | | | | |
| proud | | ✓ | | |
| bid | | | | |
| Spelling Scores | | | | |

Exercise A for Monday (Day of week)

1. The dictionary will show you how to pronounce words, how to spell them, and how to use them. Turn to your dictionary and notice that the words are in alphabetical order. First come the words beginning with a, then those beginning with b, c, d, and so on. Write the first 9 words from Study List 1 in alphabetical order.

1. Bid 4. chew 7. grow
2. Bush 5. farmer 8. howl
3. Cab 6. field 9. leaves

2. In Column 1 check each word you are not sure you can pronounce. Write the words you checked and learn to pronounce them.

Exercise B for Tuesday

1. Write a word from Study List 1 that means the same or nearly the same as:

cry howl hired car Cab
shrub bush reading book reader
burden load frighten scare
increase grow top peak apple fruit command bid
meat veal mend repair haughty proud

2. Fill each blank with a word from Study List 1.

1. Plow the field 2. The farmer threshed his rye. 3. Does your tooth ache? 4. The United States is a great country. 5. He had a beard on his chin. 6. The leaves are turning brown.

Exercise C for Wednesday

Put a check in Column 2 after each word you are not sure you can spell. Then write on these lines the words you need to study. Learn to spell them.

veal scare country proud
veal scare country proud

GRADE 4

**Robert Beebe's Spelling Lesson**

# Olson School



At the June 11, 1903 School Board meeting, members decided to petition for a school in Section 1 or 2, site to be selected. At the July 3 meeting, the site was selected, the NW corner of NE ¼, NE ¼, Section 2, 46-5. Clearing of the land was to be done by J.W. Olson for $35. At the August 15th meeting Charles Carlson was awarded the bid to build the school at a cost of $135. The land on which the school was built was owned by Andrew Olson after whom the school was named. Because the original site of the school was a low and swampy area, the school was moved one quarter mile west to higher ground in the early teens. This move was accomplished by use of horses and a stump puller. The building was placed on cedar posts at its new location. The new location was the NW corner of NW ¼, NE ¼, Section 2, 46-5.

In the early 1930s, a foundation was placed under the building. This change allowed for the installation of indoor toilets to replace the outhouses which were located south of the school. The change also allowed for the installation of a coal-fired furnace in the basement to replace the stove that formerly was located in the classroom. The old stove was quite large, and some former students confessed to having crawled inside the firepot of the stove.

The school never had a well of its own. Water was carried to the school daily from a neighbor's well and placed into a crock-like drinking fountain. In the early days, students had to carry their lunches. However, around the early 1940s, part of the basement was converted into a kitchen and lunchroom, and hot lunches were served. At least two persons, Myrtle Emerson and Alma Johnson, served as cooks at the school in its remaining years.

The number of students attending varied from year to year depending on who moved into or out of the community. As Gust Hallberg recalls, in 1904 there were so few students (4 or 5) that the teacher asked Gust's mother if Gust could attend even though he was only 5. Therefore, Gust started school a year early. While records are not complete, they indicate that student numbers were as high as 30 in about 1909 and as low as five in 1935-36.

It appears that well over 100 students attended Olson School over the years. Students came from a one mile by three mile area (Sections 1, 2, and 3) bounded by Highway 118 on the north, the Ashland/Bayfield County line on the east and the White River on the south. Some students who

lived in the Town of Eileen, such as the Mathiowetz's, attended the Olson School because they lived within a quarter mile of the school and were closer to the Olson School than the neighboring Woodland School.

Olson School teachers often lived with neighbors because transportation was not readily available. In the 1940s and 1950s, specialized individuals visited the school periodically (usually weekly) to teach subjects such as music and physical education. Two of these individuals were Elfreida Kozar (music) and Norman Dahl (physical education).

The last year the school was in operation was the 1952-53 school year. Students were then transferred to the Benoit School and/or the Ondossagon School. The school building was subsequently converted to a private residence, remaining as such in 2013.

The list of teachers who taught at Olson School follows:

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1904-05 | Ida Rude/Lena Miller | 1921-22 | Emalena Fleck | 1939-40 | Helen Hanson |
| 1905-60 | Lena Miller | 1922-23 | Helen Lumberg | 1940-41 | Ann Hecimovich |
| 1906-07 | Lena Miller | 1923-24 | Alyce Peterson | 1941-42 | Ann Hecimovich/ Freida Cowie |
| 1907-08 | Ethel Lapsley | 1924-25 | Rose Mathiowetz | 1942-43 | Geraldine Bay |
| 1908-09 | Ethel Lapsley | 1925-26 | Rose Mathiowetz | 1943-44 | Fern Johnson |
| 1909-10 | Bessie Alcorn | 1926-27 | Rose Mathiowetz | 1944-45 | Fern Johnson |
| 1910-11 | Bessie Alcorn | 1927-28 | Lillian Anderson | 1945-46 | Sylvia Zar |
| 1911-12 | Ida Rued | 1928-29 | Lillian Anderson | 1946-47 | Madge Houle |
| 1912-13 | Rosamond Holmes | 1929-30 | Ruth Myrben | 1947-48 | Dorothy Frisco |
| 1913-14 | Vivian Brown | 1930-31 | Ruth Myrben | 1948-49 | Harriet McAtee |
| 1914-15 | Vivian Brown Olson | 1931-32 | Ruth Myrben | 1949-50 | Juanita Edwards |
| 1915-16 | Myrtle Haugen | 1932-33 | Marquerite Reil | 1950-51 | Madge Houle |
| 1916-17 | Pearl Strauman | 1933-34 | Marquerite Reil | 1951-52 | Madge Houle |
| 1917-18 | Mayre Buckley | 1934-35 | Daisy Holm | 1952-53 | Florence Chapek/ Lucille Erickson |
| 1918-19 | Ina Welty | 1935-36 | Louise Kuchan | | |
| 1919-20 | Ardena Fleck | 1936-37 | Eva Grubisic | | |
| 1920-21 | Lilly Peterson | 1937-38 | Dorothy Biss Wilcox | | |
| | | 1938-39 | Helen Hanson | | |

Families attending the Olson School included Berquist, Carlson, Dolezol, Emerson, Gilles, Hagstrom, Hallberg, Hecimovich, Johnson, Lindblad, Mathiowetz, Nelson, Olson, Puskarich, Salamon, Stipetich, Stone, Tadevich, Yankovich,



**Olson School 1921**
**John Stipetich, Duane Johnson, Clifford Mathiowetz, Gustave Johnson, Emil Carlson, Edward Salman**



**Olson School 1945**
**Back Row: Donald Carlson, Beverly Emerson**
**Middle Row: Shirley Emerson, Dennis Carlson, Mary Ann Emerson, Donald Hecimovich, Evelyn Johnson, Jennie Hecimovich, Edith Gilles**
**Front Row: Shirley Hecimovich, Betty Hagstrom, Gerald Hagstrom, Verne Gilles, Harley Hagstrom, Marian Hecimovich**



**Olson School 1921**

**Back Row: Emil Carlson, Matthew Stepetich In Window: Gustave Johnson**
**Middle Row: Thelma Hallberg, Alice Berquist, Ellen Carlson, Molly Mathiowetz, Rose Salmon, Katherine Stepetich, Amelia Salamon**
**Front Row: Clifford Mathiowetz On Steps: Hilda Carlson**




**Olson School Reunion 2000**
**Harley Hagstrom, Fern Johnson Anderson, Helen Hanson Schelvan**
**Verne Gilles**

## Unity School



In 1907, classes were taught in the upstairs of a house owned by Mr. Curry which was located across the road from the future site of the Unity School. In 1908, the Unity School was built in the NE corner of NW ¼, NE ¼, Section 5, 46-5. It was a one-room school.

In 1915, a joint school district consisting of parts of the Towns of Kelly and Eileen was established. It included sections 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 and 33 of the Town of Eileen and sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and nine of the Town of Kelly. In that year, because of increased enrollment, another room (26' by 32') was added to the east side of the school. Charles Bloss was awarded the bid for construction of the addition at a price of $1,527. With the added room the school became a State Graded School.



**1915 Unity School with Addition**

For the school year 1915-16, the principal and upper grade teacher (Elvira Lowe) was paid $50 per month. Olive Severson, who taught the primary grades, received $45 per month. Each was also paid $3 per month for janitor work. Contracts for carrying water for the school were let to Edward Curry for the upper grades and Tony Zar for the lower grades at $1 per month each.

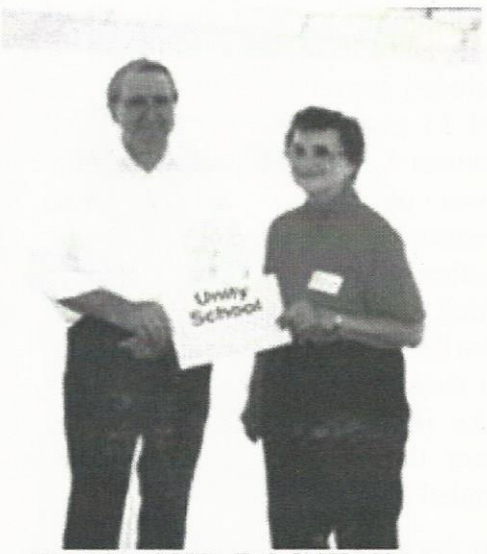
In 1922-23, there was discussion concerning the addition of a third room to the school. However, after further study, it was determined that the number of students would probably decrease so building plans were cancelled. In the fall of 1925, there was discussion whether or not to hire a third teacher. No third teacher was hired. Also in 1925, the teachers and children complained that the janitor would not furnish enough water to the school. The janitor refused to furnish more water, so was fired and a new janitor appointed.

In the year 1938-39, it once again became a one-room school because of low enrollment. Electricity was installed in the school in 1939. The last year of operation was 1943-44.

County school records show the following teachers for the Unity School:

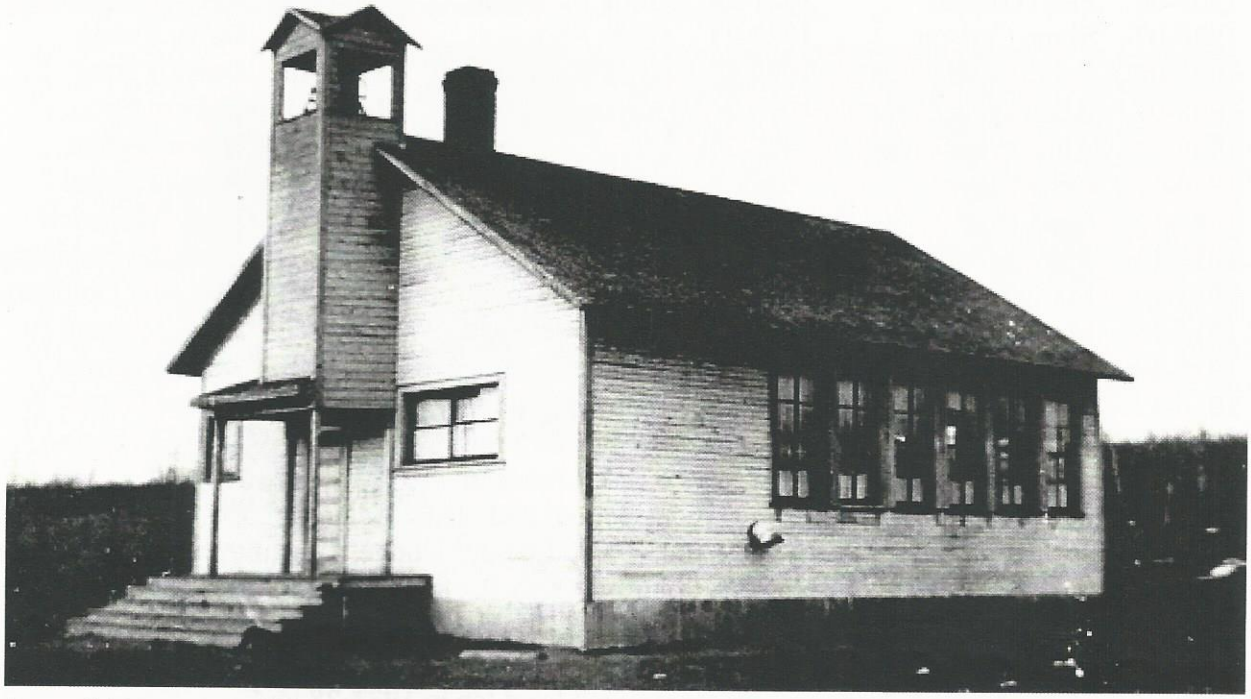
| | |
|---|---|
| 1908-09 | Matilda Ledin |
| 1909-10 | Matilda Ledin |
| 1910-11 | Margaret Caruthers |
| 1911-12 | Ethel Crocker |
| 1912-13 | Matilda Ledin |
| 1913-14 | Alma Anderson |
| 1914-15 | Alma Anderson |
| 1915-16 | Elvira Lowe/Olive Severson |
| 1916-17 | Martha Markee/Vivian Cowie |
| 1917-18 | Martha Markee/Vivian Cowie |
| 1918-19 | Martha Markee/Grace Hull |
| 1919-20 | Anna Peterson/ Mary Howell |
| 1920-21 | Anna Manning/Evadell Snider |
| 1921-22 | Unknown |
| 1922-23 | Hazel Thoreson/ Ora Hanson |
| 1923-24 | Unknown/Agnes Berg |
| 1924-25 | Ruth Cederberg/Mary Lischalk |
| 1925-26 | Ruth Cederberg/Mary Lischalk |
| 1926-27 | Ruth Cederberg/Lena Radosevich |
| 1927-28 | Alty McCulloch/Marjori Kromrey |
| 1928-29 | Alty McCulloch/Olga Iverson |
| 1929-30 | Alty McCulloch/Cora McCulloch |
| 1930-31 | Alty McCulloch/Cora McCulloch |
| 1931-32 | Hazel Castner Mary Dymesich |
| 1932-33 | Mary Radosevich/Mary Dymesich |
| 1933-34 | Francis Dymesich/KatherinePintar |
| 1934-35 | Clarence Bruness/Katherine Pintar |
| 1935-36 | Clarence Bruness/Katherine Pintar |
| 1936-37 | Mary Radosevich/Katherine Pintar |
| 1937-38 | Eva Grubisic/Anna Tody |
| 1938-39 | Eva Grubisic |
| 1939-40 | Eva Grubisic |
| 1940-41 | Eva Grubisic |
| 1941-42 | Eva Grubisic |
| 1942-43 | Helen Sechen |
| 1943-44 | Eva Grubisic |

Families that attended the Unity School: Bailen, Beronich, Blazina, Carlson, Dymesich, Franciskovich, Gilles, Grubisic, Holevatz, Klobucher, Lischalk, Margetta, Marincel, Moonich, Pintar, Roncevich, Sickich, Sommers, Sopoci, Vranes, Wilder, and Zar.




**Reunion 2000: Ralph Wesling**
**Agnes Dymesich**

# Yderstad/Altamont School



Around 1900, a small log building to be used as a school, was built on the south edge of SW ¼, Section 33, 46-5. According to Julia Bergman, the first teacher at the school was Miss Derosiers. The building was abandoned after a few years.

A new school building was built on the SW corner of SW ¼, SE ¼, Section 33, 46-5. This building burned in 1906 during recess time. Classes were conducted in the church until a new school could be built. The new school was built on the same site. It is not clear what the two earlier schools were named, but this school was called the Yderstad School.

Sometime later, a well was drilled so the school had its own water supply. In 1930, a basement was put under the building and a wood furnace was installed. Chemical toilets were installed with a washroom for boys and one for girls. Later these toilets were replaced with modern flush toilets and the wood furnace was converted to oil.

In 1947 the school lunch program started. Mrs. Nels Grande cooked the meals at her home and she and her husband walked to the school pulling a small wagon or sled with the food. The food was served to children at their desks.

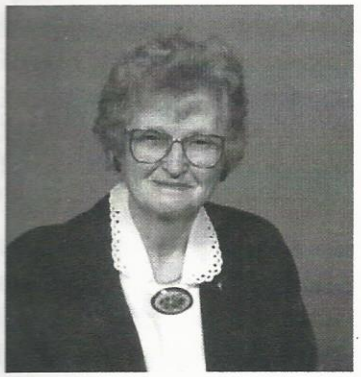
In 1948, the name of the school was changed from Yderstad to Altamont. The name Altamont was derived from the DSS&A railway siding that was directly north of the school. The railroad had long been discontinued, but in the early days the farmers would bring their potatoes and other products to Altamont to be shipped.

A lunchroom was built in the basement in 1948 with kitchen and dining facilities. Mrs. Jane Newman was the cook until the school closed in 1950.

County school records show the following teachers:

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1903-04 | Mattie Canfield | 1919-20 | Alpha Yderstad | 1935-36 | Martha Koleski |
| 1904-05 | Charles McIlraith | 1920-21 | Gilda Anderson | 1936-37 | Martha Koleski |
| 1905-06 | Pearl Gibson | 1921-22 | Gilda Anderson | 1937-38 | Ken Gilstad |
| 1906-07 | Signe Carlson | 1922-23 | Gilda Anderson | 1938-39 | Daisy Young |
| 1907-08 | Jennie Nelson | 1923-24 | Gilda Anderson | 1939-40 | Daisy Young |
| 1908-09 | Alma Weislander | 1924-25 | Astrid Westlund | 1940-41 | H. Fern Fye |
| 1909-10 | Alma Weislander | 1925-26 | Florence Dahl | 1941-42 | Helen Sechen |
| 1910-11 | Gena Rued | 1926-27 | Florence Dahl | 1942-43 | Aurelia Seipel |
| 1911-12 | Gena Rued | 1927-28 | Margaret Doyle | 1943-44 | Mary Klucarich |
| 1912-13 | Margaret Olson | 1928-29 | Margaret Doyle | 1944-45 | Margaret Goldberg |
| 1913-14 | Margaret Olson | 1929-30 | Margaret Doyle | 1945-46 | Margaret Goldberg |
| 1914-15 | Margaret Olson | 1930-31 | Mary Dymesich | 1946-47 | Julia Bergman |
| 1915-16 | Adeline Cooklar | 1931-32 | Pauline Rasqui | 1947-48 | Julia Bergman |
| 1916-17 | Adeline Cooklar | 1932-33 | Libby Novak | 1948-49 | Madge Houle |
| 1917-18 | Alpha Yderstad | 1933-34 | Russell Johnson | 1949-50 | Julia Bergman |
| 1918-19 | Alpha Yderstad | 1934-35 | Russell Johnson | | |

Families that attended the Yderstad/Altamont School included: Adams, Anderson, Bierl, Blad, Blaser, Carlson, Clark, Clementz, Compton, Dahl, Dewey, Dodge, Doucette, Grande, Harley, Hemmingson, Howe, Hurula, Iverson, Johnson, Kabelt, Klein, Leafblad, Lee, McKinnon, Nelson, Newman, Olson, Peters, Peterson, Provost, Reed, Rewalt, Rive, Sandstrom, Schneider, Seim, Strauman, Strom, Swanson, Tody, Veilleaux, Verville, Weiss, Wickman, and Yderstad. Records indicate that the number of students ranged from ten in 1927-28 to 47 in 1932-33.



**Off to School – Memories from Julia Johnson Bergman**

Most of us started school at the Yderstad School, later called Altamont School. This was a one-room school about a quarter mile from our home. All grades were taught by one teacher, usually a single woman. The teacher also did the janitor work for a total salary of about $50 per month. Some of the teachers boarded with families in the area, and would go home to their families only on weekends. Water was carried to school by a student who earned $2 per month. Usually two or three gallons of water were sufficient for the day. If we ran short, someone would go to the nearest neighbor for more. There were no indoor toilet facilities. There were two outdoor biffies, one for the girls and one for the boys.

The three "Rs" were taught - reading, 'riting, and 'rithmetic, along with other subjects. In order to graduate from the eighth grade, the students were required to take the State Test. This test covered all areas of subject matter that had been taught. Not even the local teacher knew the questions to be asked on those examinations. The County School Superintendent gave the tests himself. There was seldom a failing student, which was a testimonial to how well the students were taught.

There was strict discipline in the schoolroom. It was a place for study and learning. If a child misbehaved at school and told about it at home, he or she would get a paddling. You were to have respect for the teacher and obey while in school. There was usually a good relationship between students, with the older ones helping the younger ones.



**Altamont School 1917 - 1920**
**Teacher - Alpha Yderstad, Julie Johnson - middle row 3rd from left, Inez Johnson front row far right.**

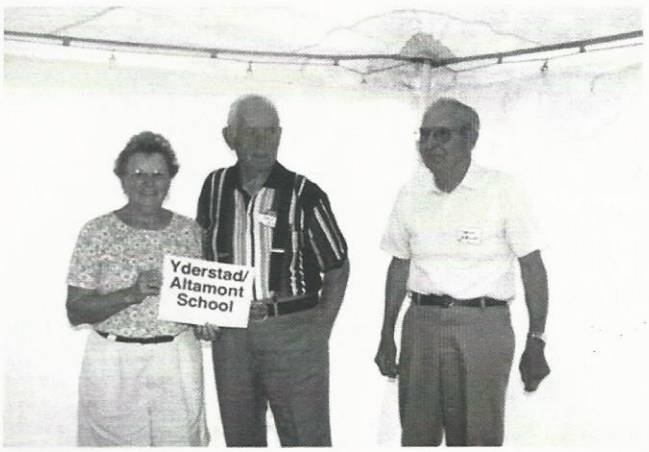
The eighth grade girls had sewing. This happened every Friday afternoon for fifteen minutes. Tote bags, aprons, and lunch cloths were made, among other things. Cooking class was done on a two burner kerosene stove. This had a portable oven that sat over one burner. Usually simple foods were made and shared with everyone at lunch. Good penmanship was stressed. It was a must to be able to write legibly. The Palmer Method was taught, so we all had good handwriting.

We had to walk to school every day. Usually our neighboring friends managed to meet and we would walk to school together. My closest friend throughout all of our early school years was Sigrid Yderstad. Agnes Grande was another close friend. We brought our lunches to school in two quart syrup pails with covers. During the coldest days of winter, our lunches might be frozen by the time we got to school. We would set our pails on the floor near the wood stove to thaw. There was always a good wholesome lunch, sometimes with a surprise treat at the bottom of the pail. The children often traded sandwiches with one another. Peanut butter was not on everyone's kitchen shelves at that time. The peanut butter sandwiches were prized for trading. Dean Havens had this valuable commodity most often and was always ready to trade for my beef sandwiches. Besides beef, we also had egg salad, sausage, or jelly sandwiches.

After lunch there was always time for play. Some of the games we played were Baseball, Last Couple Out, Run Sheep Run, Ante I Over, and others. In winter, we could slide down the steep

hill by the school and play Fox and Geese in the snow.

I remember my first day at Yderstad School. I was five, but allowed to attend because my birthday was in November and I would be six then. The teacher called the first grade class to the front of the room. There were six of us that sat on a long bench and the teacher, Gena Rued, sat on a chair in front of us. She asked us many questions and we answered freely. Then she asked us if anyone could count to ten. I raised my hand, was called on, and stood right up and counted to ten in Norwegian. The rest of the class giggled and embarrassed me to no end. I ran out into the hall and sat behind the door. There I sat until my good friend, Selma Newman, came and rescued me. Selma, our neighbor, was about fourteen and sort of watched over me. Selma comforted me and convinced me to return to my seat, which I did. We spoke Norwegian at home, especially to Pa, who preferred it that way. We spoke English to Ma, however. Pa did become fluent in the spoken and written English language without any formal education.

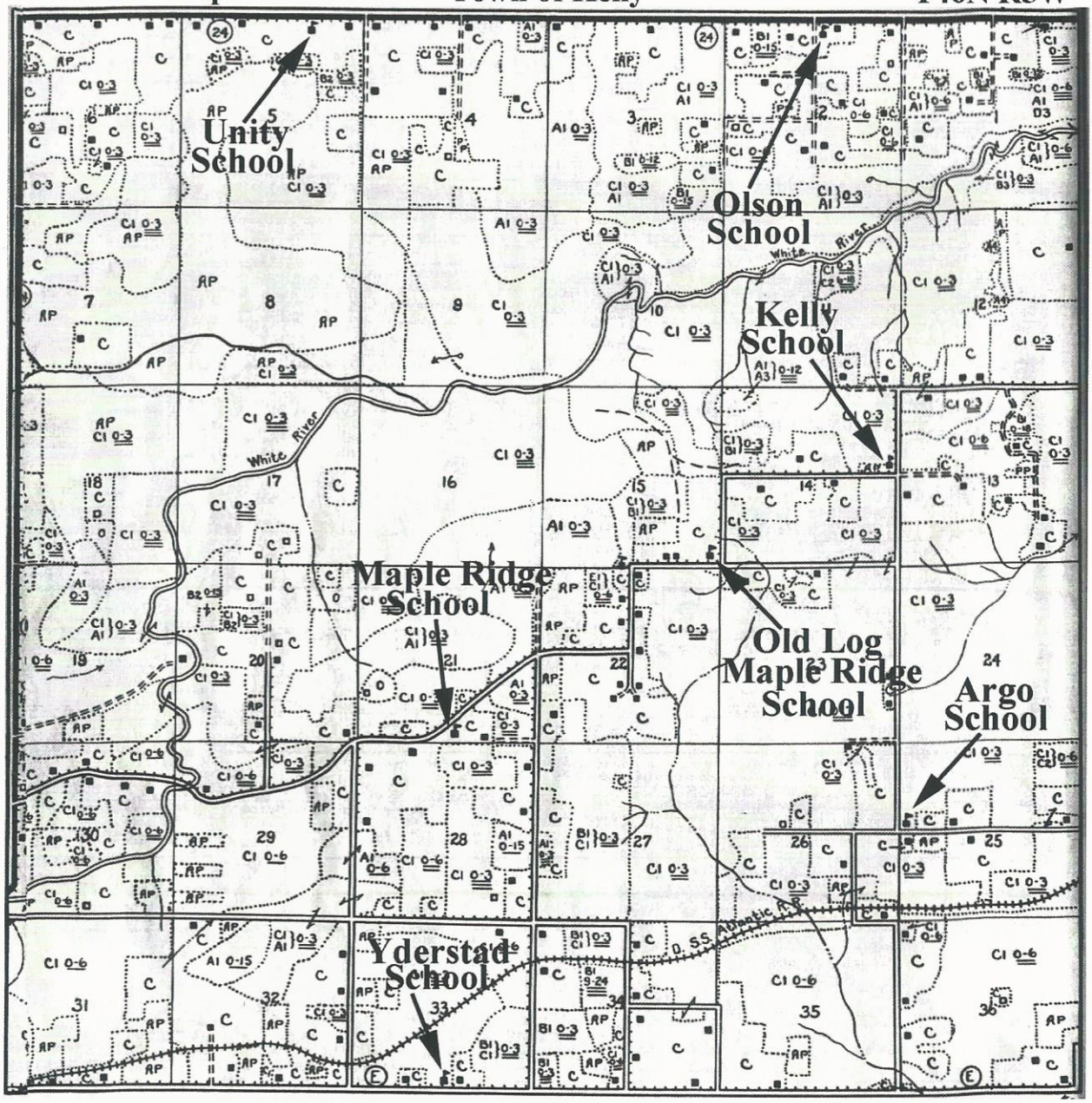



**Yderstad School Reunion 2000, Marie Hurula Martin, Jack Nelson, and Palmer Johnson**

Pa was an excellent penman. He was also very interested in education. He served on the school board of the Mason Free High School from 1921 - 1925. This was a newly established four year high school. It only operated for four years. Pa tried to encourage the continuance of the school, but was voted down. I was fortunate to attend this high school during those four years. I was one of the few in the 1925 graduating class.

1928

**Land Use Map** **Town of Kelly** **T46N R5W**





**Cowslips just off Maple Ridge Road spring 2013**

**Town of Kelly Centennial Booklet 2013**