

**Inventory of books for the 1837 Schoolhouse
Donated by Rural Awareness, Inc.**

The School Reader. Third Book. 1841

The School Reader. Fourth Book. 1842

Weld's English Grammar, 1852

The School Reader. Fourth Book. 1854

A New Graded Series. Third Reader. 1873

Swinton's Second Reader. 1882

Swinton's Fourth Reader, 1883

Algebra. No date

26 Star Official U.S. Flag 1837 to 1845

This became the Official United States Flag on July 4th, 1837 recognizing the admission of Michigan on January 26 of that year. It was in use for eight years until Florida was admitted. By law, a star was added to the Flag on the Fourth of July following the admission of a state to the Union. No U.S. Flag ever becomes obsolete and may be flown at any time.

The four Presidents to serve under this flag were Martin Van Buren (1837-1841), William Henry Harrison (1841), John Tyler (1841-1845), and James Polk (1845-1849). Presidential terms began on March 4 until Franklin D. Roosevelt's second inauguration on January 20, 1937.

Gift of Rural Awareness, Inc.

This teacher's desk is a copy of one in the collection of the Hunterdon County Historical Society that was used by Elmira Stevenson (Mrs. Hiram) Deats when she taught in a Franklin one-room school located at what is now the intersection of Sidney and Sidney School Roads. That school's opening date is unrecorded; its closing was in 1937 shortly after the opening of the current Franklin Township School. The frame building was dismantled in 1937 and the wood used to build a chicken coop. The desk is a gift from Rural Awareness, Inc.

A bell was rung by the teacher at the beginning of daily classes and at the end of recess. As long as students, all of whom walked to school, arrived while the bell was ringing, they would not be charged as tardy. This bell, purchased at a yard sale and donated to the school by Quakertown native Charles Mathews in 2009, was used in another Hunterdon township school.

School Days of Yore

In **1837** when the one-room school was built, students attended school every day but Sunday and holidays. Generally there were two terms of schooling, the summer term from May until August and the winter term from November through April. All children were available to help on the farm in September and October. Older boys who were needed in the fields during the growing and harvesting seasons would attend school only during the winter. After 1900, nine-month school terms were held from September to May. Classes were held from 9am to 4pm with an hour off for lunch and two 15-minute recesses, at 10:30 am and 2:30 pm. Students walked to school and back home, some up to three miles. There were no school buses and no snow days.

Students learned the 3Rs: 'reading, 'riting, and 'rithmetic. All grades were together in the same small one-room building. Older students helped younger ones with their coats and lessons. They also were given responsibility for carrying drinking water from a nearby spring and for hauling in wood or coal to keep the stove going for winter warmth. For personal hygiene, there were outdoor facilities, known as outhouses, one for girls and one for boys.

The **writing slate** was the primary tool for school children around the world in the 1800s. It allowed a student to practice writing and ciphering (arithmetic) and then clean the surface with a piece of cloth. It was not until the 1930s, and later in some areas, that writing slates started being replaced by more modern methods. The design of the iPad is based on the slate.

This example is a 2015 gift from Quakertown resident Lloyd Wismer, who received it from Jean Berger, a long-time Franklin resident.

The **lowest bench** in old one-room schools usually sat by the wood stove and was for the youngest children, who might be just three and a half years old. They were called abecedarians. (as in a, b, c, d). Many young children were sent to school along with other siblings to get them out of their mothers' way.

Abecedarians were drilled in their letters two or three times a day, then spent the rest of the school day on their own trying to recall the names of letters, and probably watching the recitations of older scholars who were called to the middle of the room by their teacher to show what they had learned that day.