

# ISCHUA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## THE MAPLE AVENUE SCHOOL

The old Maple Avenue School was a one story building that resembled a barn. It dated back to the 1850s. In 1868 one student remembered that there were two rooms with only one being occupied. A woodshed stood at the front of the building. As years went by more rooms were added to accommodate the growing student population. The building stretched about 400 feet along present Maple Avenue. There were no sidewalks and in bad weather students found themselves wading through mud or snow in order to attend classes.

Student desks were constructed of wooden boards by a local carpenter and painted red. The teacher's desk stood on an elevated platform. The blackboards were the wall boards themselves and painted black. The teacher and students used chalk to do the writing. A big cast-iron box stove heated the building and was fed by four foot slabs of wood.

Some of the teachers who taught there through the years were Alice Raub, James Waring, Belle Burlingame, Alfred Spring, Marvin Older, Squire Hayden, Grace and Hattie Simonds, and Hattie Lane. Many other teachers from prominent area families also taught there.

Eventually the school consisted of five rooms. When it was demolished, the wood was used to build five family homes on Maple Avenue that are still standing. Information on Maple Avenue School was obtained from the memories of Hattie Chapman Adams and Charles Perley.

Submitted by Maggie Fredrickson, Village of Franklinville Historian

