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Holley school 1913

This wonderful interior photo was taken in the Holley Union Free School in 1913.

This school building, built in the 1890s, was located at the intersection of Main and Albion streets in Holley.

By 1930, the building was considered inadequate and torn down. It was replaced with a new high school structure in the colonial style, which has since been sold by the school district.

This classroom seems dark by comparison to a modern school. Note the very dark natural wood wainscot ceiling, which appears to be supported by a cast iron column awkwardly placed in the middle of the room.

The ceiling light fixtures are simply utilitarian with four clear, exposed bulbs. Each are suspended under a flat, opaque white, glass shade.

In the back of the room are three windows fitted up with inside, folding shutters, which are also dark, natural wood.

An eight-day or 30-day school

clock hangs on a side wall.

The two framed pictures probably represent something from the classical world: classical literature or something patriotic in theme.

The blackboard is interesting because it appears to be continuous around the classroom. Blackboards of this nature were sometimes simply painted on the plastered wall, rather than installing slate. Under the blackboard is more dark, natural wood wainscot.

What makes the picture more worthwhile, is the fact that the students wrote their names on the back of the picture by rows. There are five rows of desks in which the students are seated. Perhaps some of these names will be familiar to older readers.

In the first row are: Gertrude Stalkom, Ruth Wilson, Nellie Cook, Edna Vincent, Mary Gavagan, Madeline Wilson, Grace Richey and Violet Kemp.

In the second row are: Nina

Padelford, Erva Merrill, Margaret O'Brien, Gertrude Noon, Edna Skelleton, Dorris Haight, Mae Jackson, Winifred Livingston and Lucretia Robertson.

In the third row are: Harwood Keys, Leland Hurd, Ralph Potter, Sullivan Howard, John Coughlan, Joseph Colluccio and Harry Rogers.

In the fourth row are: Milo Spicer, John Allen, Clayton Sharping, John Youngs, Elbert Fisher, Anthony Barone, Martin Putman and Richard Spurr.

In the fifth row are: Tousley Hooker, Irving Wilson, Oran Boots, William Farrand, Harold McCarthy and William Noon.

The teachers standing in the background are identified as Miss B. Walters and Miss M. Mabie. The 1911 Orleans County Directory lists Martha Mabie as a teacher living on Albion Street in Holley.

Did you notice that the students are seated separately with two rows of girls and three rows of boys?

The picture indicates



discipline in that all the students are seated with their hands in their laps. The boys are wearing suits and ties, and the girls are wearing dresses.

It is my guess that these students would have therefore

been born in the late 1890s or around 1900.

The general appearance is one of great orderliness with the type of seating so typical of long ago.