



Vol. XXV

By C.W. Lattin, Orleans County Historian

No. 48

11/28/03

Bethinking of Old Orleans

District No. 16 Carlton

Today's photo, taken circa 1910, shows the Sawyer School (District No. 16 of Carlton). It depicts a very well-cared-for schoolhouse in the background with 21 pupils and their teacher in front. Unfortunately, no one is identified.

The name "Levere" appears on the back, which might well have referred to Levere Brown, who possibly is one of the boys in the picture.

The belfry is certainly an attractive architectural feature. The entrance to the schoolhouse under a porch roof was through the wing, which served as a woodshed.

It is interesting that this school is almost a mirror image of the Clarendon Historical Society Schoolhouse — no doubt a popular plan for district schools after the mid-19th century.

Recently, Mrs. June Wilson donated an old trustee's book from District No. 16 of Carlton to the Orleans County Department of History. It covers the years 1877 to 1913. She indicates that her father once

served as a trustee, that her mother taught there and she went to school there.

What was paid for goods and services is almost believable as compared to what it costs today. For example, in 1882, when J.H. Clement was Trustee, we find:

"Building New Schoolhouse \$1,203.79

"Indebtedness on Schoolhouse 104.43

"Sale of Old Schoolhouse 50.00"

"Indebtedness of District to J.H.

Clement, Trustee, for advancement money to pay teachers wages \$12700."

It is the building you see in the picture that cost \$1,203.79 in 1882. I find it amazing that the trustee advanced money to pay the teacher when the district came up short. How many Board of Education members could afford to do that today?

Now for a couple years during the time frame of this picture, beginning with 1909 when Nate Wood was trustee:

"James Houghton two cords wood \$4.00

"1 Round Oak Fire Pot 3.80

"1 Grate for Round Oak Stove 1.25

"Gordon Beardesley fixing bell .75"

Florence Clark, later Mrs. Harry Lattin, was the teacher in 1909. She earned a total salary of \$412 from September through May.

For the last year listed in the Trustee's book with C.M. Bird, Trustee, we find:

"T.A. Maginn for coal \$14.44

"Sears Roebuck & Co. 15.04

"Freight on chair, desk, curtains & chalk \$4.21

"G.C. Beardesley for stove pipe and putting up curtains 1.50

"C.A. Clark coal scuttle & shovel \$16.50."

In the same year, Genevieve Smith was the teacher. Her wages for September through May were \$385.42.

The teacher shown in today's picture is probably Florence Clark or Genevieve Smith. Carlton had a total of 17 school districts back before centralization.

District No. 16 Schoolhouse, located on Route 18 just east of Sawyer Road, is presently being used as a residence.