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Riches Corners School



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BY C.W. LATTIN

Our photo taken in the first decade of the 20th century shows the interior of the Riches Corners schoolhouse. There are 20 students and their teacher shown here, none of which are identified. Being a one-room district school, it's obvious there is an age range of students in the photo.

Younger pupils in the lower grades are up front, while the older students, perhaps in seventh or eighth grade, are in the rear of the room.

Double desks were quite common in 19th century schools. This gave students an

opportunity to work quietly together while their teacher was instructing a specific grade with a lesson. Note the desktops and backs are of one-piece, while the seats are separate for each person

The teacher's desk in the lower left corner contains books, a bell for calling students in from recess and a rather ornamental clock for the teacher's view only. At the time this picture was taken, the interior was wallpapered with a flamboyant pattern. Over the teacher's head are portraits of George and Martha Washington.

Every schoolroom had a picture of George Washington,

it was more unusual to also include Martha.

This particular school was built in 1846 using lake-washed cobbles on the front and field-stone on the other walls. The district voted and raised \$525 for its construction, which was undertaken by Cyrus Witheral of Gaines who laid up the stones in the herringbone pattern on the front.

Once the school was completed in the fall of 1846 district residents voted to raise another \$21 to purchase a new stove and move and repair the privy.