

Student Handout 2-People of One-Room Schoolhouses



Courtesy of the Birchardville School Educational and Historical Association, Birchardville, PA

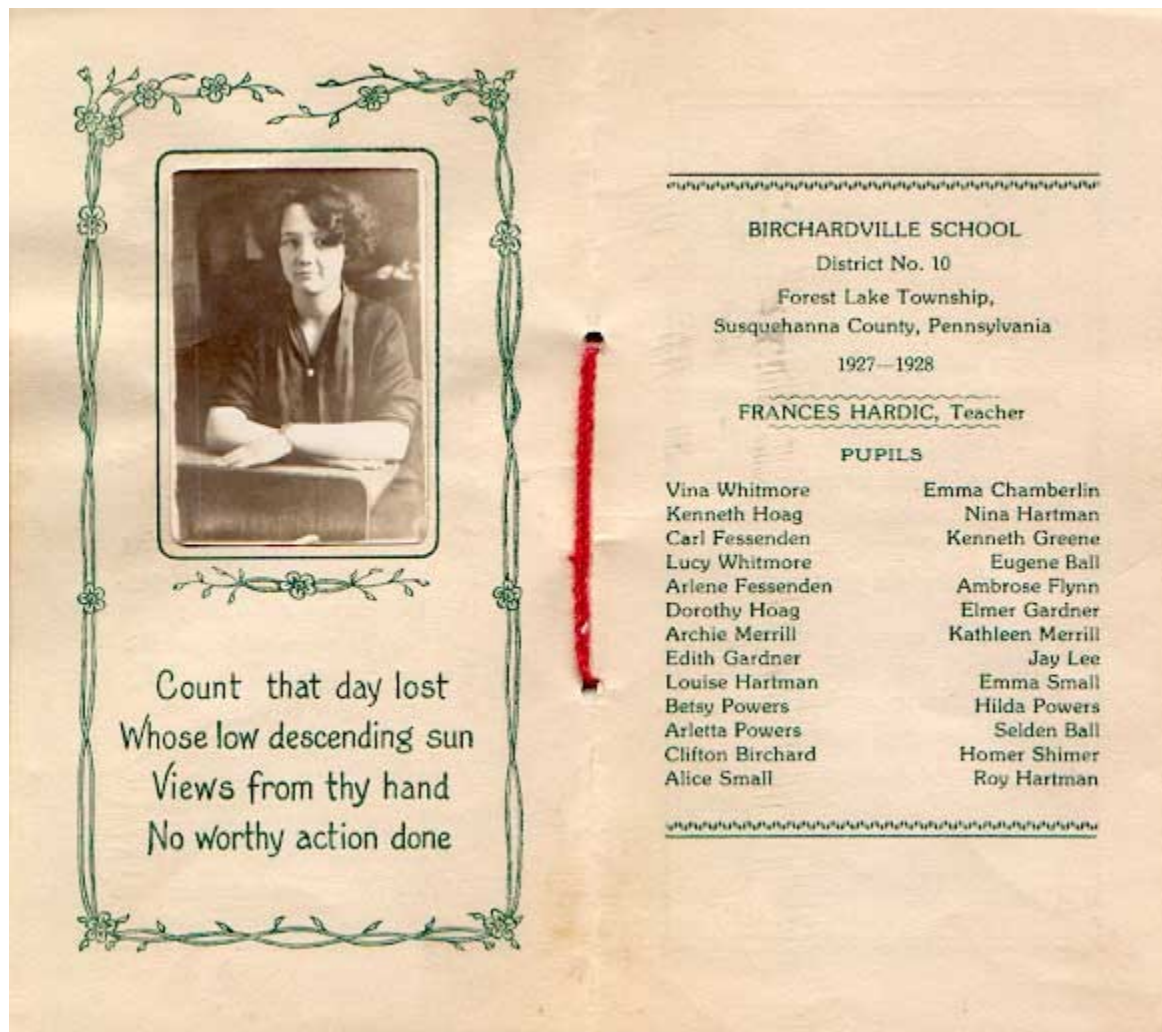
Last Day of School, April 27, 1917

Pictured (left to right) Front row: Mortimer Rhinevault, Harry Maynard, Arthur Brink.

Second row: Paul Brink, Milton Smith, Lelia Smith, Lula Shelp, Mildred Shelp, Ruth Groover, Helen Birchard, Mabel Seiber, Dayton Birchard.

Back row: Richard Seiber, Florence Warner, Mabel Griffis, William Owen, Blanche Maynard, Lena Ball, Beatrice Seiber, William Burr, Leo Flynn, Don Birchard, Dorothy Brink, Kathryn Warner, Guy Canfield, William Seiber, Herman Seiber, Gerald Flynn, Emma Owens, Mrs. Aubrey Brink, Ruth Brink, Carlton Birchard, Pearl Hibbard, Irma Owens, Pauline Seiber.

Behind Flag: Mrs. Edna Birchard, Edna Owens, Louise Owens, Albert O'Brien, Mrs. D. Fred Birchard, Ruth Ella Wilcox, Mrs. Milton Warner, Margaret Maynard, Mrs. Frank Smith.



School Souvenir from Teacher Frances Hardic to her students, Birchardville School

Courtesy of the Birchardville School Educational and Historical Association, Birchardville, PA



Courtesy of the Library of Congress



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Stewart Elliott Speaks about the School Board and Teachers:

"...A local school board ran the system and hired teachers. My father was sometimes a member of the board. That never bought us any favor. Teachers had to be of sterling character, for they were paid \$50 or \$60 per month, or even more. They were not allowed to use tobacco, but we had one male teacher who hid his pipe in the coal house behind the school. Most of our fathers chewed tobacco, and we boys dared each other to try chewing in front of the teacher without getting caught. I hated the taste and never used tobacco, but once got sick from trying to smoke a cigar." (Excerpt taken from Elliott, Stewart. SitNews, "Recalling days in a one-room schoolhouse" April 26, 2005. Online at http://www.sitnews.us/Columns/0405/042605_stewart_elliott.html)

May Clayton Stover Remembers the Discipline of a Small Teacher:

"We usually had three 3-month terms, sometimes a different teacher every three months. When the winter term began on December 1, the big boys in the district came to school. They were really grown men 19 and 20 years old..."

One of the favorite pastimes of the older boys in some communities was to see if they could 'run the teacher out'. They were big and rowdy, wouldn't pay any attention to the teacher, and otherwise cause so much disturbance that she couldn't teach and she would finally quit. One district hired a small middle-aged lady to teach. She probably wouldn't weigh over ninety pounds and the big boys decided they would run her out the first week of school. On the first day of school one of the big boys promptly put his feet on the desk in front of him and the teacher told him to put his feet down and sit up. He said he was comfortable that way and had no intention of putting his feet down. She didn't say anything but went back to the stove and picked up the stove poker and started to stir up the fire. When the poker was red hot she turned around and told him to get his feet down and sit up. He put his feet on the floor and then she asked if anyone else felt like putting their feet on the desk -- of course, no one else did. She taught the rest of the school year and didn't have any more trouble."

[Excerpt taken from Stover, May Clayton. "By-Gone School Days" in *Buffalo Tales*, Buffalo County Historical Society (Vol. 5, No. 6): 1982. Online at http://bchs.kearney.net/BTales_198206.htm]