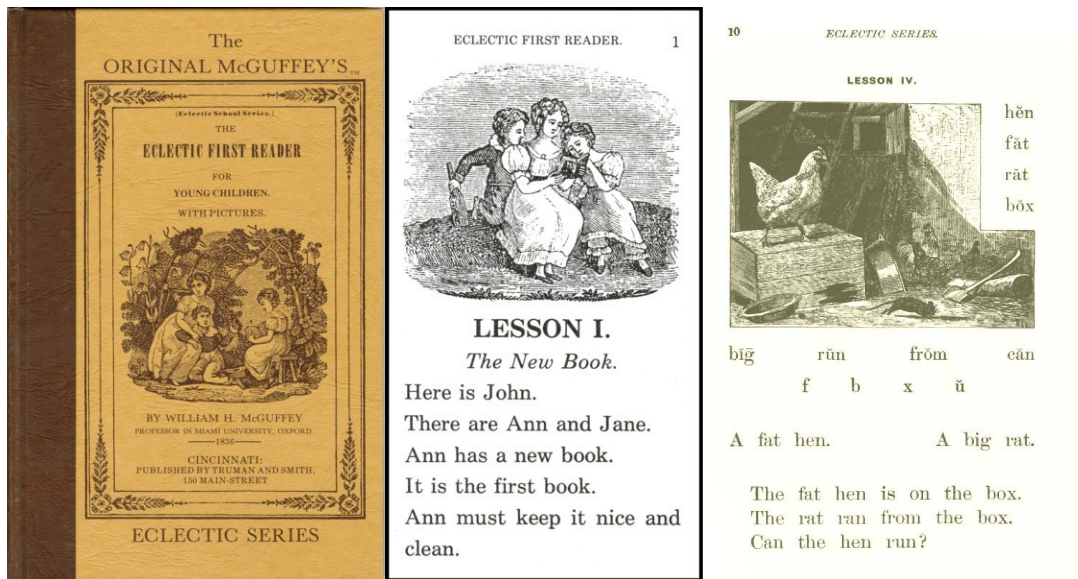


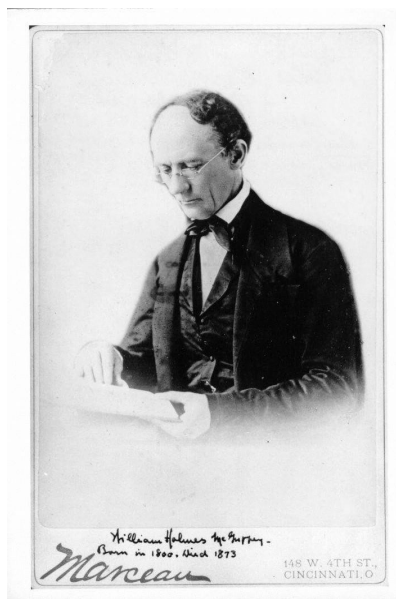
Student Handout 3-Learning at the One-Room Schoolhouse

Use these images to find out about what and how students learned in a one-room schoolhouse.



Courtesy of the William Holmes McGuffey Museum

The McGuffey Reader-Williams Holmes McGuffey was born in Washington County, Pennsylvania in 1800. He was born to Scots-Irish parents who settled on the Pennsylvania frontier and then moved to Ohio. McGuffey grew up to be an educator and is best known for his books called the "McGuffey Reader." These books were extremely popular and educated about five generations of students! There were different editions according to reading levels, and inside the book were stories that often had a moral as well. Below is a photograph of William Holmes McGuffey. Appropriately, he is reading.

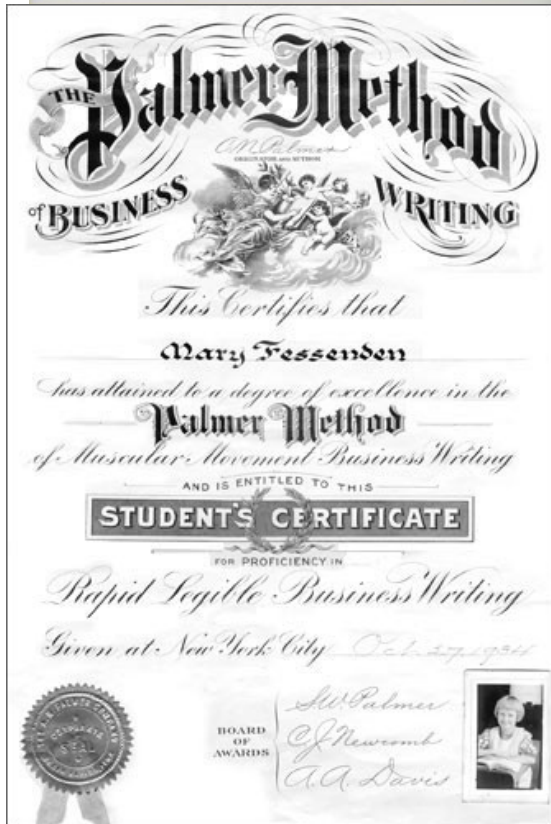


Courtesy of Miami University of Ohio Library

Penmanship—This was considered a very important skill to learn. The slate board below was used by students to practice writing their letters. Students would use slate pencils (chunks of slate) and press them into the board. Often this made quite a racket! (To read about a students' memory of the slate board, see the Student Handout 1.) Slate pencils were eventually replaced by chalk which was much easier to use. And later chalk was replaced with the lead pencil we know today.

The certificate is an example of how students' strived to be good at penmanship. Mary Fessenden

(pictured on the certificate) received a certificate for excelling at quick and readable business writing. The Palmer Method was a type of penmanship developed by Arnold Palmer in the late 1800s and widely used in the early 1900s. The method taught young students to write cursive by copying cursive using rhythmic hand motions. In this method of teaching, children who were left-handed were encouraged to become right-handed. This method of writing was later replaced in schools in favor of teaching students manuscript (block writing) first.

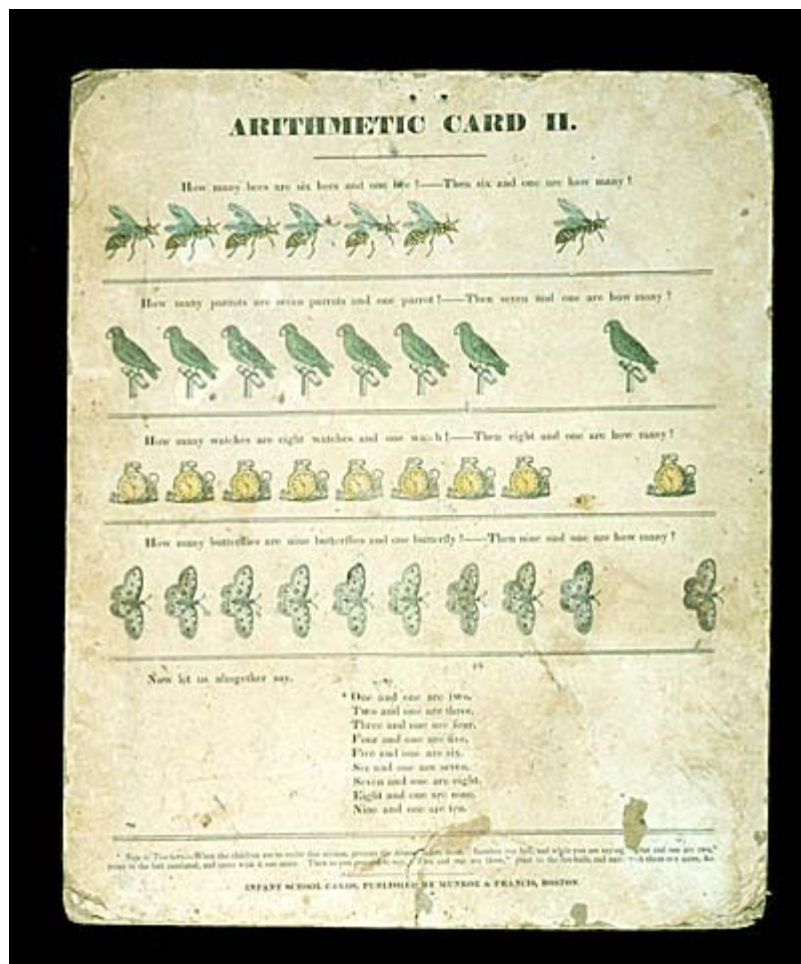


Courtesy of the Birchardville School Educational and Historical Association, Birchardville, PA



Holbrook's Geometrical Forms and Arithmetical Solids
New York and Chicago, Holbrook School Apparatus Manufacturing Company, 1859
Courtesy of the National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution

In the early 1800s the idea was being formed that teaching could be more than just memorizing text. People were considering the idea that you could create tools to help students learn basic concepts. One person who decided to make things to help students learn was Joshua Holbrook. He and his sons started a business called the Holbrook School Apparatus Manufacturing Company. They advertised a collection of school materials called "Holbrook's Common School Apparatus" which they sold to schools. Since schools had to pay for it, poorer schools sometimes went without these teaching aids. The box pictured above is called "Holbrook's Geometrical Forms and Arithmetical Solids." Basically, these are wooden shapes to help students understand shapes they study in a form of math called geometry.



Arithmetic Card

Monroe & Francis, Boston, about 1830

Courtesy of the National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, Gift of Dr. and Mrs. Arthur M. Greenwood

Have you ever used flash cards? In math, flash cards help you learn how to add, subtract, multiply, and divide. This is an example of an early flash card. This uses pictures of animals to help student learn how to add by one. At the bottom of the card students recite to memorize how to add one up to "Nine and one is ten."



Courtesy of the National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution

This is called a numeral frame. You can trace its smaller ancestor, the abacus, way back in time. The abacus has been used by many different cultures to help calculate. This bigger form with its wooden frame can be set in front of the class for every student to see. On it, there are several rows of beads in alternating colors. The beads can be moved to one side of the row of the other. You can use these beads to count “one, two, three...”. If you understand symbols, you can also assign different unit values to different rows. In other words, the bottom row is “ones” unit (1,2,3) , the “second to bottom row” is “tens” unit (10, 20, 30), etc.



Patented Arithmetical Frame

John Gould, New York, New York, about 1890

Courtesy of the National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, Gift of Joel S. and D. Hope Pratt

Check out what The Louisiana Journal of Education said about this object: "We are indeed indebted to Mr. John Gould...for one of the largest of his Arithmetical Frames. It is an invaluable apparatus [tool] for Teachers in that it gives by simple turn of slats, or combination of slats, figures for numerous examples." (p.200, The Louisiana Journal of Education, 1881) The device came with a guide book to help teachers understand how to use it. As the journal mentions, it gave teachers a quick way to calculate numbers if they were giving a math example to the class. Do you see the fractions and decimal points on the board? It also provided answers for fractions, percentages, and decimals.

Report of Work and Attendance FOR		Report of Work and Attendance FOR	
Month Ending <u>Nov.</u> 19 <u>37</u>		Month Ending <u>Dec.</u> 19 <u>37</u>	
PERCENTAGE IN VARIOUS BRANCHES		PERCENTAGE IN VARIOUS BRANCHES	
Reading, - <u>A</u>	Absent (Unexcused), <u>0</u>	Reading, - <u>A</u>	Absent (Unexcused), <u>0</u>
Pennmanship, - <u>A</u>	Tardy (Unexcused), <u>0</u>	Pennmanship, - <u>A</u>	Tardy (Unexcused), <u>0</u>
Spelling, - <u>A</u>	Times Tardy, <u>0</u>	Spelling, - <u>A</u>	Times Tardy, <u>0</u>
Arithmetic, - <u>A</u>	Days Absent, <u>1</u>	Arithmetic, - <u>A</u>	Days Absent, <u>0</u>
Geography, - <u>A</u>	Days Present, <u>20</u>	Geography, - <u>A</u>	Days Present, <u>18</u>
English, - <u>A</u>	Department, <u>A</u>	English, - <u>A</u>	Department, <u>A</u>
History, - <u>A</u>	Effort, <u>A</u>	History, - <u>A</u>	Effort, <u>A</u>
Health, - <u>A</u>	Remarks:—	Health, - <u>A</u>	Remarks:—
Music, - <u>B</u>	<u>Received</u>	Music, - <u>A</u>	<u>Received</u>
Drawing, - <u>A</u>	<u>Gold Atlas</u>	Drawing, - <u>A</u>	<u>Gold Atlas</u>
Other, - <u>A</u>	<u>Roller in</u>	Other, - <u>A</u>	<u>Roller in</u>
	<u>Palmer Method</u>		<u>Palmer Method</u>
Monthly Avg.	Term Average,	Monthly Avg.	Term Average,
<u>Elizabeth D. Fessenden</u> Name of Parent		<u>Elizabeth D. Fessenden</u> Name of Parent	

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

This report card of Elizabeth D. Fessenden shows that she was an excellent student. It also shows what subjects she took at Birchardville One-Room School house in 1937.