

# History of Lake Township Indiana Schools

By Dennis Boyd

Newton County is the youngest of the ninety-two counties in the state of Indiana. It lies almost in the northwest corner of the state, the line dividing the states of Indiana and Illinois forming its western boundary with only one county, Lake county, between it and the northern limit of the state.

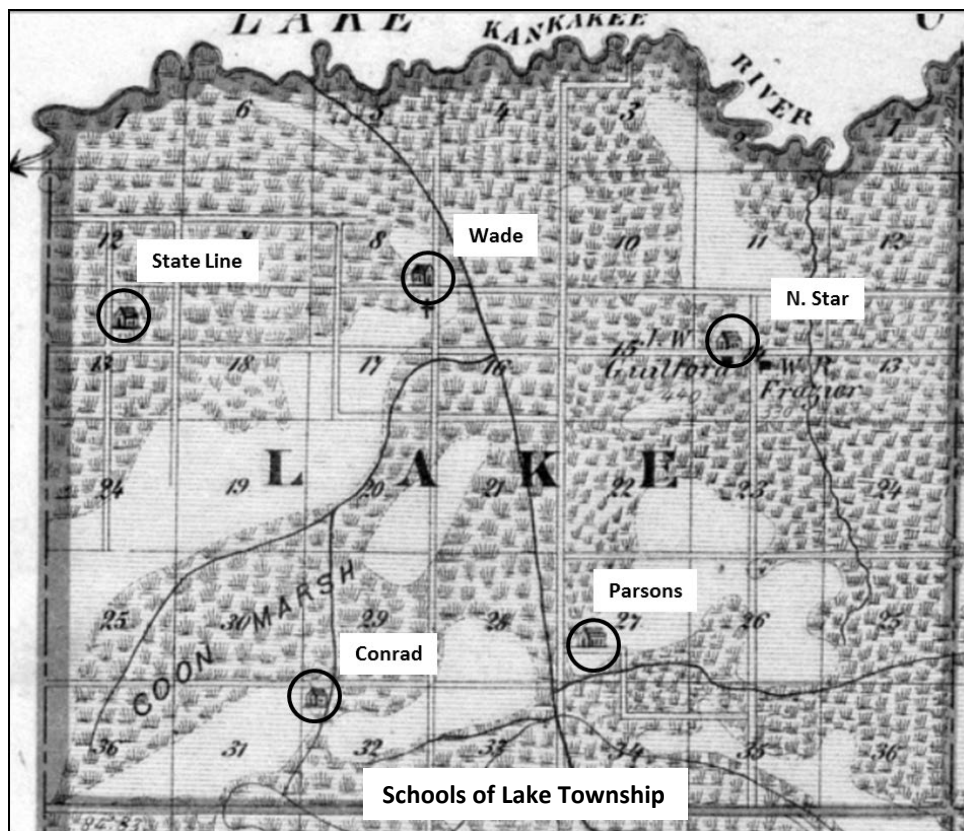
At the time the county of Newton was organized, and while it was a part of Jasper county, it consisted of five townships ... Iroquois, Jackson, Lake, Beaver and Washington. Lake township included all of the town of Lake Village and ranges 9 and 10.

The population of Lake Township grew over the years; in 1860 there were 173 residents, in 1870 there were 378, in 1889 there were 593, in 1890 there were 462, and in 1900 there were 489. At the last census completed in 2010, there were around 2,400 people in the township.

From *"Lake Village, Indiana - Back in Time - A Glance at History"* By Chuck Dellorto. The first settlement that would become Lake Village was near the banks of what was called Beaver Lake. The lake, forest and surrounding countryside drew hunters and fishermen who came from as far away as Europe. In 1876, when drainage of the lake was nearly complete, the town was established. Its name came from a statement commonly made by area farmers who came to the town to trade by "going up the lake to the village."

Lake Village, in Lake Township, was the fifth town to be platted in Newton County. It was laid out by Richard Malone in January, 1876, but little attempt was made to develop it until 1905, when the Chicago, Indiana & Southern Railroad was put through the western part of the county from Danville, Illinois, to Indiana Harbor, Lake Michigan.

The earliest known settlers in Lake Township included the Wades family, who gave an acre of land where the first school was built in 1867. It was located just north of the present Lake Village Cemetery and was called the Wade school. The first teacher of the Wade School was Meriah Jenkins. The length of the school term was one hundred, twenty days with teacher's pay set at two dollars per day. The Wade School was closed around 1908 when a two-story building was erected on a playground just east of the present gymnasium. This building was torn down in 1914 when the "new" 4-room, two story school was built.



## History of Lake Township Indiana Schools

Other schools which came later were the North Star, located two miles east of Lake Village on old Route 10, the Parsons School located two miles west of the old town of Conrad (closed in 1921), and the State Line School located about one-half mile east of the Indiana-Illinois State Line on the road going west out of Lake Village which was closed in 1919. The Graves School was located two miles southeast of the old town of Conrad but was moved to Conrad in 1909. In 1921 a new brick two-room school was built in Conrad at the cost of \$11,861. This school was torn down in 1927 and the brick and furnishings used to build and furnish a two-room addition to the Lake Village School.

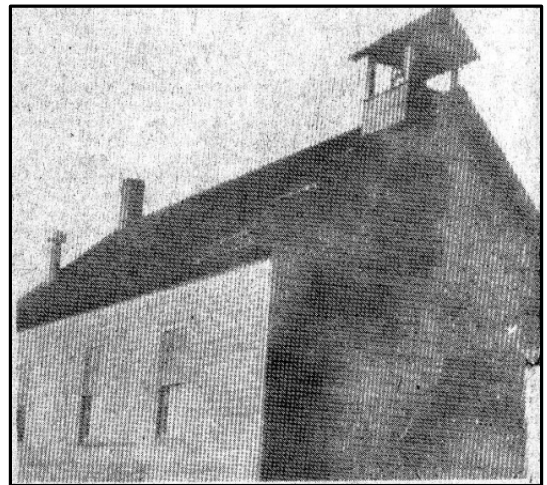
The typical "old" school building was made of rough lumber and had only a few small windows. The seats were wooden with two and sometimes three pupils in one seat. The heat was furnished by a stove burning wood and in cold weather it was said that lunches often froze in the back of the room. There was no lighting of any kind. When a night meeting was held, the parents would bring lanterns.

Children walked as much as 2 ½ miles to get to school. Some of the games played at noon and morning and afternoon recess were "Dare Base", "Stink Base", "Ring around the Rosie", "Drop the Handkerchief" and "Andy Over". Reading, writing, arithmetic along with some spelling, geography and history were the subjects taught at most early schools.

In 1914 a four-room brick building was built at Lake Village, just east of the current gymnasium at a cost of nine thousand dollars and in 1939 the Lake Village gymnasium was built at a cost of \$36,550. It was used for gym classes and school functions as well as other community gatherings. Later an additional two rooms were added from the demolition of the Conrad school. The present Lake Township School was dedicated in 1962.



**Students outside the old State Line School**

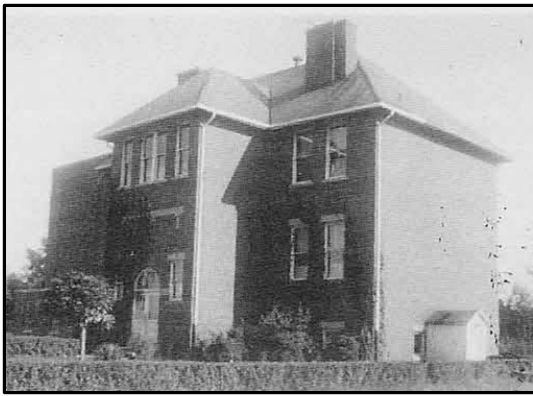


**The old Parson's School No. 4 in 1918-1919**

This new brick school was very modern with individual desks, lighting, a central heat system, individual desks, etc. It served the community of Lake Village and surrounding Lake Twp. well until the new school building was opened in 1963. The grades one through four were on the first floor with grades fifth through eighth on the upper floor. Later, for safety, a tubular fire escape was installed on the second floor.

In 1924 several local Lake Township citizens lobbied with the Township Trustee to purchase a bus to transport pupils to Morocco High School. Up to this time, if students wanted to attend high school, they had to furnish their own transportation and board in Morocco.

## History of Lake Township Indiana Schools



**Lake Village School**



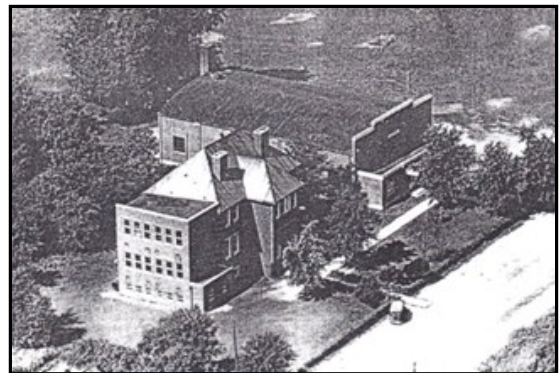
**Glenn  
Arbuckle**

Mr. W. O. Schanlaub served as Superintendent of Newton County schools from 1907 to 1951. Many of the advances in the school system can be credited to his leadership.

Glenn Arbuckle served as principle and teacher for many years beginning in 1939 until his retirement after the current school was built. He served as principle, teacher, sold candy and school supplies during recess, served as a recess teacher, umpired pick-up softball games during recess. In 1962, after the present Lake Township School was dedicated, the old school was sold and torn down in 1963.



**1916 – L.V. School – Beulah Jackson-Teacher**



**Lake Village School (1914-1962)**

In 1900 Lake Township employed six teachers. A two-story frame building containing two rooms was provided for the children in Lake Village while four one-room schools provided education for children who could not attend the town school.

Because of bad roads, consolidation was not even dreamed of at that time. All of the roads were sandy, muddy or snow-covered. About 1920 some of the pupils who lived the farthest distance from the schools were hauled in horse-drawn vehicle called a "hack" which was a wagon with a cover over it and wooden bench-seats along the sides. In 1925 a Model T truck was used when condition of the roads



**Lake Village School – Grade 2 (1950)**

would permit. In 1899 the school term was one hundred forty five days and the average teacher's salary was three hundred, thirty-four dollars for the term.

Henry E. Stoner became trustee in 1931, serving until 1935. He purchased five acres of ground on the west side of the school, providing space for an athletic track and baseball diamond. He added black dirt to the sandy school yard and planted grass and shrubbery. Kenneth Rainford was elected as a trustee in 1934 and he served until 1943. He saw a need for more classrooms and two extra rooms were added, along with a basement room on the east side of the original building. A tubular fire escape installed on the south side of the school building was the first of its type to be used in the county.

# History of Lake Township Indiana Schools



1955-56 Lake Village 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Team



Lake Village Grade School Gymnasium



LAKE VILLAGE SCHOOL GRADES 1-4  
1924 - 25

- |                     |                    |                     |                      |
|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Dan Freeman       | 13 Ray Conklin     | 25 David Monet      | 37 Evelyn Severs     |
| 2 Rex Conklin       | 14 Keith West      | 26 Orville Boyd     | 38 Ella Miller       |
| 3 John Sheppard     | 15 Forrest Parks   | 27 Gaylord Rainford | 39 Wina Monet        |
| 4 Alfred Monet      | 16 Tunis Parks     | 28 ? El is          | 40 ?                 |
| 5 Marshall Hill     | 17 ? Ellis         | 29 Lorainne Denton  | 41 Phyllis Wolgemuth |
| 6 Gale West         | 18 Gorrel Davis    | 30 Dorothy Newell   | 42 Marj Kocoshis     |
| 7 ? Hill            | 19 Edward Williams | 31 ? Ellis          | 43 ? Hill            |
| 8 Russell Graefnitz | 20 Lester Chandler | 32 Delores Cool     | 44 ?                 |
| 9 Lawrence Boyd     | 21 Russell Boseman | 33 Ruth Denton      | 45 Ethel Williams    |
| 10 ?                | 22 Frank McCury    | 34 Lola Lawbaugh    | 46 Doris Christenson |
| 11 Walter Brown     | 23 Lyle Sypult     | 35 Helen Kocoshis   | 47 Esther Severs     |
| 12 Gerald Rainford  | 24 ?               | 36 Leona Chandler   | 48 Lucille Miller    |

## History of Lake Township Indiana Schools



Lake Village Elementary School is a school that now serves grades KG to 6 and is located in the district of "North Newton School Corp" in Lake Village, IN. There are a total of 194 students and 14 teachers at Lake Village Elementary School, for a student to teacher ratio of 14 to 1.

Some information, articles and pictures for The "*Lake Township Indiana Schools*" was arranged from:

- The "*The Brook Reporter*" - March 10, 1939 Edition. From a book by George Ade "*Newton County*"(1853-1911)", Copyright – 1911, Bobbs-Merrill Company Publishing .
- A standard history of Jasper and Newton counties, Indiana : An authentic narrative of the past, with an extended survey of modern developments in the progress of town and country" .
- History of Lake Twp. Schools by Glenn Arbuckle (Newton Co. Historical Society).
- Many pictures were submitted to and copied from the "*Lake Village, Indiana Old Photo Page*" along with "old" photos from the Boyd, Graefnitz, Jackson and Merchant families.

Dennis P. Boyd  
May 2019