

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP

Education was a concern of the earliest settlers of Newton County. Since the State gave no support for education, they took upon themselves the education of the children. Schoolhouses were built and supported by subscription. Each patron paid in proportion to the number of children.

The schoolhouses were rude log buildings. There was no equipment as we know it today, even books were scarce. The teacher was usually a farmer who consented to teach for two to three months of the year. He received little pay but might be given useful commodities by his patrons. In 1838 there were only 12 families in the whole county, so not many pupils were enrolled in any one area.

The first school in Kentland was a private one with eleven pupils conducted on the second floor of a tinshop. In 1863 a new two-room frame schoolhouse was built on a lot just east of the James Plunkett residence. Mr. and Mrs. Cunningham were the first teachers. Mrs. Cunningham held her position until 1882, struggling along with many inconveniences. She had few books, no equipment, and received very small pay.

In time the State assumed some responsibility for the education of its population. The first schools were of the "box car" type of architecture, costing about \$300. By 1900 Jefferson Township had eleven buildings of this type. By this time more equipment was being bought, the school term was lengthened, lighting, and heating were improved, and teachers were receiving more pay for better qualifications.

Parents began to demand a better education for their children and in 1868 the first high school was opened in a frame building furnished by A.J. Kent. By 1871 enrollment had increased so fast that a movement was started to erect a new brick building, just north of Doremeyer Industries, at a cost of \$23,000. The building was to serve both grade and high school.

The high school was not commissioned until 1895, when much attention had been given to equipment. The library received special attention and by 1902 had a collection of 600 books, a very fine collection for a small school.

The first high school curriculum was arranged to give the pupils one years work in the common branches (grade work) and two years in the higher branches (high school). A pupil who successfully finished these courses was given a diploma. The first report recorded was in 1880-81 in which W.T. McCray graduated. George Ade graduated in 1881.

On the night of January 15, 1902, the first high school was destroyed by fire, thought to have been caused by the explosion of a "base burner".

The following week school was reopened, the grades in the Christian and Methodist churches, and the high school in the Presbyterian Church. The following year from September until the holidays, school was held in rooms over two stores. At the close of the holidays the school moved into the new building on the site of the old grade school just north of Doremeyer's. This building housed both grade and high school.

In 1904 the enrollment had reached 180 in the grades and 30 in high school. By this time only nine district schools remained with a combined total of 60 pupils. As these were abandoned, pupils came to Kentland.

As the enrollment grew, the community became more concerned about the education program. The curriculum was enlarged to include vocational subjects: domestic science for the girls and shop and agriculture for the boys. Special teachers were employed to teach these subjects, and many were kept in school who would have quit as soon as the law allowed.

Athletics was growing in popularity by this time and a place was needed for larger gatherings in the community and school, so through the efforts of Reverend Elvin Daniels, the Coliseum was built just south of the school on the present site of Doremeyer's. It served as a school gymnasium until the A.J. Kent school was built in 1921. It was then used for the grade athletic program. When the location was sold for a factory, Miss Mary Roc then donated a large Quonset hut to be used as a gymnasium.

By 1920 the grade enrollment was so large that the first grade was moved to the upper room at the Public Library.

Finally the enrollment necessitated larger facilities. A decision was made to use the old building for the first six grades and build a new building to house grades seven to twelve.

The new building, the present grade school, was built in 1921 on a ten-acre tract donated by Alexander J. Kent, the founder of the town of Kentland. The new building opened on September 4, 1922, with 187 pupils enrolled. This was one of the most attractive school buildings in Northwest Indiana. Many visitors came to see the building and its setting. The campus was landscaped at a cost of \$1600. The athletic field to the east of the school was named Dixon Field in memory of Tom H. Dixon who gave the lighting equipment for night football.

In a short time the athletic program had grown until the school gym was too small, so a Community Building was erected south of A.J. Kent High School. This building was used for basketball, proms, band, and plays. This building is in use today by both town and school. Later, a swimming pool was built south of the Community Building. This too is used jointly by the school and community.

The School Corporation owns several acres north of the A.J. Kent School, which is presently being used as a park, but may be converted to school use as the need arises.

The first Catholic school was started in 1872 by Father Messman in a small room inside the church, but it was discontinued. In 1885 Father Miller reopened the school with a staff of lay teachers. In 1887 the Sisters of St. Frances took charge. In 1888 when the new St. Joseph's Church was built, the old church was remodeled into a two-room school house which could accommodate ninety pupils and all eight grades. This building in time became outmoded and overcrowded, so in 1927 a new building was erected with several rooms equipped for modern teaching. Also included was a kitchen and auditorium which could be used for both school and church affairs.

Many innovations in the educational program may be attributed to Kentland school officials at this time; the six-six plan was initiated, the one-room rural schools were abandoned. Playground equipment was installed, and the hot lunch program was instituted; also a kindergarten program was incorporated as a part of the school program.

At first since the first grade teacher taught kindergarten the program was carried on only in the summer. This plan was continued until 1955 when the school officials fitted a room in the basement of the grade building and the kindergarten program became an integral part of the grade school program.

Special education is receiving much attention in recent programs. About 5 years ago a special room was set aside in the grade building in Kentland, but the program now has been expanded to include all the children of the South Newton Corp. At the present time the program being carried on at the South Newton High School building, which houses special students from Brook, Goodland, and Kentland.

Education has always been a chief concern of the people of Jefferson Township, and much money has been spent on the various facilities. The people of this community sponsor many valuable scholarships, thus enabling a large percentage of the graduates to pursue higher education. The hope of the community is to educate young people to their fullest potential.

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP'S TEACHERS

1908 Jefferson Twp.	1910 Kentland Sch.	1913 Jefferson Twp.
Sue Simmons	M. Graves	Clara Gettig
Mabel Meyers	I. Porter	Kathryn Allen
Hettie Mosier	S. Simmons	Ross Plowman
Jennie Bruck	F. Yeoman	R. Dunkleberger
Clara Pfrimmer	C. Vinzant	S. Molter
		Harvey Dickson
Kentland School		
Dwight Worsham	1911 Jefferson Twp.	Kentland Sch.
Ina Hess	Ora Matthews	Cora Sanders
Mildred Graves	Stella Alexander	M. Matthews
Iva Porter	G. Webber	M. Graves
Mary Heath	Sam Molter	M. Simons
J. Dickerson	Alta Grimes	C. Vinzant
Mae Carmody	Bernice Delzell	M. Hewing
Lena Dick		W. Swardner
	Kentland Sch.	Maude Thomas
1909 Jefferson Twp.	F. Yeoman	
Eda Miller	M. Graves	1914 Jefferson Twp.
Hettie Mosier	S. Simmons	Iva McCartney
Madeline McClain	I. Porter	G. Webber
Lenora Winters	C. Vinzant	S. Molter
	C.L. Rudesill	R. Plowman
	H.E. Bash	C. Gettig
Kentland School		Grace Dixon
Mildred Graves	1912 Jefferson Twp.	Kentland Sch.
Dwight Worsham	Clara Gettig	
Iva B. Porter	Anna Gentry	Ora Mathews
Francis Yeoman	Margaret Vinzant	Harriet Brown
Sue Simmons	Russel Dunkleberger	Marjorie McDowell
C.E. Vinzant	Lucile Fenton	Maude Thomas
Wilda Palmer	S. Molter	D.R. Frush
W.F. Kratile	R.A. Plowman	E. Hewing
		Lucille Allen
	Kentland Sch.	
1910 Jefferson Twp.	Gertrude Weishaar	1915 Jefferson Twp.
Hettie Mosier	S. Simmons	R. Plowman
Clara Gettings	C. Vinzant	L. Winters
Ede Miller	M. Mathews	I. McCartney
Henrietta Campbell	Grace Nantz	C. Getting
Katherine Allen	W. Lee Swardoner	G. Webber
Gladys Webber	Edith Hewing	
	E. Riorden	

1915 Kentland Sch. Kentland cont'd 1920 Jefferson

C. Vinzant
D. Frush
E. Hewing
S. Molter
Jeanette Calvin
Ora Mathews
Ora Burton
M. Thomas
Marjorie McDowell

M. Thomas
B. Merry
Katherine O'Conner

Amy Hoggard
Addie Murphy
Ruby Gentry
Florence Cooper
Gladys Hauser

1918 Jefferson

1916 Jefferson Twp.

Nannie Crosson
Carol Nilbenberg
R. Plowman
Rose Molter
G. Webber

Kentland
Mary Maloney
M. Clark
Inez Delcamp
M. Thompson
Mary Ropp

Kentland

A. Reames
B. McCain
Thelma Shaffer
Albert Clark
Oscar Henry
Ron Molter
B. Gridley
G. Webber
M. Thomas
J. McAtee
Audrey Eastwood
Florence Lathrope

Kentland Sch.

Maude Smart
S. Molter
D. Frush
J. Calvin
Blanche Merry
M. Thomas
O. Mathews
R.O. Jackson
Genevieve Briggs
M. McDowell

Kentland
Bernice Gridley
M. Thomas
M. Smart
R. Harper
Martha Bonham
Ruth Nortzel
R. Molter
Mary Reifel
O.B. Carmichael
Willard Johnson

1919 Jefferson

1921 Jefferson

Mary Wray
I. McCartney
F. Cooper
R. Gentry

1917 Jefferson Twp.

Mary Thompson
R. Molter
Marvell Clark
Veda Knight
Jamie Eihler

Kentland
M. Clark
Viola Goodacre
M. Thompson
Florence Cooper
Edith Little

Kentland

Mack Tucker
L.E. Bailey
Mary Alice Roberts
S. Simons
R. Molter
Mary Kitsmiller
G. Webber
M. Thomas
B. Gridley
O. Haney

Kentland Sch.

J. Calvin
S. Molter
Ruth Harper
Ira Matthews
M. Smart
Ruth Higgens
D. Frush

R. Molter
Leivis Pettit
B. Gridley
Mary Rasborough
M. Thomas
Oscar Haney
Beatrice Kerter

1922 Kentland
(Jefferson Twp. closed)

Leonard Loos
G. Webber
Mabel Dickson
Edna Bennett

1922 cont'd

S. Simons
 M. Thomas
 Howard Kauffman
 Ralph Kriebel
 B. Gridley
 M. Roberts
 F. Cooper
 R. Molter
 Leo Chamberlain
 Anne Campbell
 Beulah McComb
 O. Haney

1923

L. Loos
 H. Kauffman
 R. Moltet
 S. Simons
 Eleanor Mead
 M. Dickson
 B. Gridley
 Jessie Martin
 Fanny Emeis
 R. Kriebel
 G. Webber
 L. Chamberlain
 Jennie Stout
 E. Bennett
 Helen Bean
 M. Thomas

1924

Roy Roudebush
 G. Webber
 Sarah Collins
 Robert Records
 Charles Melton
 L. Chamberlain
 E. Bennett
 J. Stout
 L. Loos
 Edna Johnson
 Emma Garis
 R. Molter
 Ruth Lautzenhiser
 Katherine Moore
 Elizabeth Lowe
 L. Winters

1925

R. Roudebush
 G. Webber
 L. Loos
 Sarah Collins
 R. Records
 Edna Johnson
 Alvin Cast
 James Byers
 Irene Pyle
 Esther Debra
 Margaret Glick
 Emma Garis
 R. Molter
 Ethel Arnold
 K. Moore
 E. Lowe
 L. Winters

1926

A. Cast
 M. Kitsmiller
 I. Pyle
 M. Glick
 Florence McGaughey
 Edith Bars
 Frank Collins
 R. Molter
 Bethel Murphy
 E. Arnold
 Lucile Clark
 E. Lowe
 L. Winters
 Fred Hull
 Russel Neugent
 George Current
 Lawrence Hensel

1927

F. Hull
 A. Cast
 M. Kitsmiller
 Avis Rector
 Lucille Sizelove
 Margaret Stevens
 R. Neugent
 George Current
 L. Hensel
 Edith Barr

1927 cont'd

R. Molter
 B. Murphy
 E. Arnold
 L. Clark
 E. Lowe
 L. Winters

1928

F. Hull
 A. Cast
 Emma Clapp
 Gladys Hartman
 M. Kitsmiller
 A. Rector
 Margaret Stevens
 L. Sizelove
 R.T. Webster

R. Molter
 B. Murphy
 E. Arnold
 Helen Johnson
 Ethele Peters
 L. Winters
 G. Current
 Glenna Hubster

1929

A. Cast
 Fred Charnick
 A. Rector
 M. Kitsmiller
 R. Webster
 J. Atkinson
 L. Sizelove
 M. Stevens
 G. Hartman
 Louise Davis
 W.B. Baer
 Lorene Eastburn
 E. Arnold
 H. Johnson
 E. Peters
 L. Winters

1930

A. Cast
 F. Charni
 M. Kitsmiller
 Hilda Lesh
 A. Rector
 M. Stevens
 Willard Hough
 G. Hartman
 L. Sizelove
 Jay Wood
 Louise Davis
 W. Baer
 L. Eastburn
 M. Johnson
 H. Johnson
 E. Peters
 L. Winters

1931-33

A. Cast
 F. Charni
 M. Kitsmiller
 Bethel Wilson
 A. Rector
 M. Stevens
 W. Hough
 G. Hartman
 L. Sizelove
 J. Wood
 L. Davis
 W. Baer
 L. Eastburn
 M. Johnson
 H. Johnson
 E. Peters
 L. Winters

1933-34

A. Cast
 M. Kitsmiller
 Inez Garrison
 A. Rector
 M. Glick
 W. Hough
 G. Hartman
 L. Sizelove

J. Wood
 Jeanne Ross
 W. Baer
 Mary Himelick
 Virginia Dodson
 L. Winters
 Alvin Cast
 James Byers
 Irene Pyle
 Esther Debra
 Margaret Glick
 Emma Garris
 R. Moller
 Ethel Arnold
 K. Moore
 E. Lowe
 L. Winters

1936

A. Cast
 M. Kitsmiller
 I. Pyle
 M. Glick
 Florence McGaughey
 Edith Bars
 Frank Collins
 R. Moller
 Bethel Murphy
 E. Arnold
 Lucile Clark
 E. Lowe
 L. Winters
 Fred Hull
 Russell Neugent
 George Current
 Lawrence Hensel

1937

F. Hull
 A. Cast
 M. Kitsmiller
 Ava Rector
 Lucille Sizelove
 Margaret Stevens
 R. Neugent
 George Current
 L. Hensel
 Edith Barr

1932 cont'd

S. Simons
 M. Thomas
 Howard Kaufman
 Ralph Kriebel
 B. Gridley
 M. Roberts
 F. Cooper
 R. Moller
 Leo Chamberlain
 Anne Campbell
 Beulah McComb
 O. Haney

1933

L. Loos
 H. Kaufman
 R. Moller
 S. Simons
 Eleanor Mead
 M. Dickson
 B. Gridley
 Jessie Martin
 Fanny Emms
 R. Kriebel
 G. Webber
 L. Chamberlain
 Jennie Stout
 E. Bennett
 Helen Bean
 M. Thomas

1934

Roy Foubush
 G. Webber
 Sarah Collins
 Robert Records
 Charles Melton
 L. Chamberlain
 E. Bennett
 J. Stout
 I. Loos
 Edna Johnson
 Emma Garris
 R. Moller
 Ruth Lattsenhiser
 Katherine Moore
 Elizabeth Lowe
 L. Winters

JEFFERSON

County of State Highways
County of Township Roads

1. *John*
2. *Theresa Brown*
3. *Bessie Specta*
4. *Anthe*

No 7 Brees
No. 10. Lane
No. 3 Anderson
No. 11 Ross
No. 8. Ungru
No. 12 Boughton
No. 9. Hoover

