

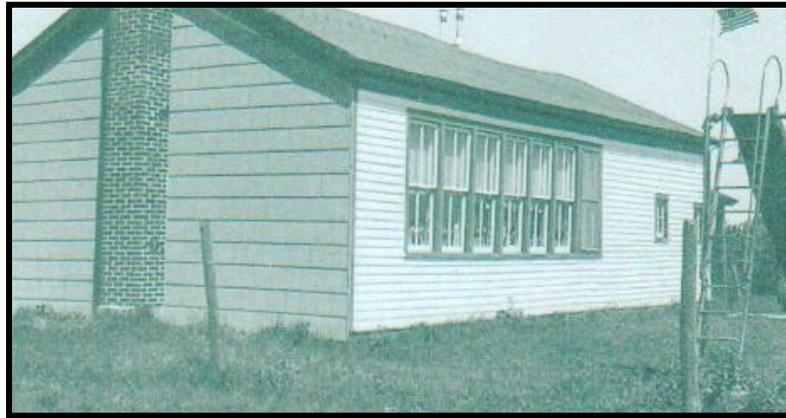
- Hamlet of Beaver Falls
- Hamlet of Belfort
- Hamlet of Indian River
- Hamlet of Naumburg
- Village of Croghan
- Beartown
- Forest city
- French Settlement
- Gooville
- Jerden (Jordan) Falls
- Long Pond
- Prussian Settlement
- Sisterfield

Highlighting Town of Croghan History

Volume 3, Issue 1

January-June 2011

The Riverbank (Squash Hole) School - District #14



Inside this issue:

Jacox Cemetery, Long Pond	2
Volunteers Needed	2
Continuation of The Riverbank (Squash Hole) School - District #14	3
From the Farmhouse Kitchen	4
Can You Help Solve the Mysteries?	4-5
Historical Tidbits	5

⇒On December 15, 1883 it was reported that Croghan town taxes are one-third higher than they were a year ago.

Country schools have played an important part in the history of each community. The school that we will be mentioning in this article was located in the Town of Croghan less than a half mile from the Town of Wilna line. The students who attended here went to the Carthage School district when the school district was centralized.

It was known as the “Squash Hole” School because of its proximity to a small creek which enters the Black River just north of the schoolhouse. The River Road (Route 126) crosses this stream. Many years before the road was improved for automobiles, the spot was a dreaded morass to cross with horses, especially during the wet season.

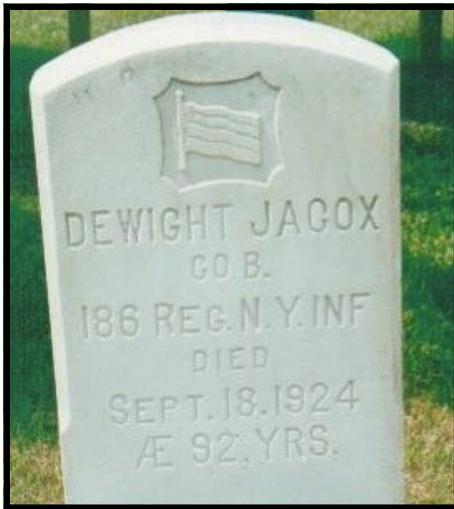
Originally District #14 was known as No. 16 having been erected as such on May 5, 1848 by order of School Commissioner B.R. Ellis. It became No. 14 on October 8, 1864.

On November 2, 1867, District #14 acquired the lot of one quarter of an acre for the sum of \$1 from David W. Ash and Orpha V., his wife. The deed recorded in Book of Deeds, page 88 states that the lot was part of 47.96 acres.

Little is known about the operation of the District #14 until about 1900. A list of teacher and students for 1911-12 was Hattie L. Hughes, teacher and pupils: Ralph F. Meister, Harold J. Towne, Arthur Davis, Harry D. Bingle, Arthur H. Richmire, Henry A. Harper, Maud E. Gates, Florence H. Meister, Pansy E. Meister, Eva B. Meister, Mildred I. Harper. The School Officers were Frank Harper, Trustee, Fred Bingle, clerk and Elon Gates, Collector.

(continued on page 3)

JACOX CEMETERY, LONG POND



The Jacox Cemetery is located on the Long Pond Road in the Town of Croghan. The cemetery contains two tombstones shown above for Dewight Jacox, CO B., 186 Reg. N.Y. INF died Sept. 18, 1924, AE 92 yrs. and Jennie Jacox, his wife, Died 1902 AE 89 yrs. This cemetery is maintained by the Town of Croghan. (The above pictures were taken May 8, 1991)

Volunteers Needed - The Town of Croghan Historian's Office would like to document all the cemeteries located in the township by taking digital images of each headstone and documenting the tombstone's location. This inventory would not begin until the end of May. If anyone would be willing to help with this inventory, please contact Jack and Mary Sweeney at (315) 346-6201 (home phone) or by email - jsweeney@ridgeviewtel.us Thank you.



An old attendance report, dated 1914, lists the school seating capacity as 21. The pupils attending that year were Agnes Fogarty, Mildred Harper, Pansy Meister, Eva Meister, Eber Cheey, Elmer Houghmaster, Henry Harper, Leon Sarvay, Clarence Laribbee, and Clara, Addie, Lillie and Stanley O'Dette. Drinking water was brought from the neighbor's wells. In 1937 it was voted to have a well.

The Clerk's book of 1936 shows that Benjamin F. Ebersol was chairman and officers elected were Mr. Harry Bingle, trustee; Elmer Steiner, collector and Mrs. Gertrude Ebersol, clerk. It was voted to buy "18 cords of wood, 14 inches long of beech, birch and maple at \$3.65 a cord.

At the annual meeting June 8, 1946, a letter was read from District Superintendent Glenn A. Sealy, suggesting that it would be more economical to close the school. His suggestion was not acted upon. The last annual meeting was held in 1953. Those elected were Elmer Steiner, trustee, James Zecher, collector and Mrs. Harry Hall, clerk. Voters attending were plainly not deterred by talk of centralization, for they appropriated funds for upkeep of their schoolhouse.

At a special meeting April 1, 1954 this policy was reinforced by a 12-4 vote to keep the school open. District 14 adhered to this course for two more years, but its strength was waning, and as the spring of 1956 blossomed into summer, the last pupils passed out the door, the teacher gathered up her things, and the door of the Squash Hole school was locked shut, never to be open again. At a special meeting attended by three voters, permission was given for the building to be sold at auction.

The long list of teachers associated with the school includes Mr. Clark, who taught before the Civil War; and Magdelene Lanphear, Bertha and Jennie Hubbard, Sophia Riley, Mabel Wisner, Mary Waite, Ida Slater and sisters Nellie, Agnes and Katherine Shay, all of whom taught there between 1900 and 1914. Thereafter the roster reads as follows: 1914-16, Ruth Zecher; 1916-17, Mrs. Marie Bintz; 1917-18, Ethel H. Clark; 1918-19, Florence M. Brown; 1919-20, Ruth S. Dickson; 1920-22, Mabel Waggoner; 1922-24, Dorothy Reffanacht Bingle; 1925-28, Ruth Zahn; 1928-29, Frances Boursy; 1929-31, Susanne B. Gill; 1931-32, Beulah Perry; 1932-33, Mary L. Zahn; 1933-34, Beulah Perry; 1934-36, Ruth M. Patterson; 1936-38, Beulah L. Perry; 1938-39, Kathleen Bergin; 1939-40, Kathleen Bergin, Mary F. Zehr; 1940-42, Mrs. Mildred P. Goutremont; 1942-43, Mrs. Clara E. Hall; 1943-45, Mrs. Mona L. Tiffany; 1945-46, Mrs. Tiffany and Mrs. Loretta O'Neil; 1946-47, Mrs. O'Neil; 1947-51, Grace E. Sheley; 1951-54, Helen Zecher; 1954-1956, Mrs. Beverly Siedlecki.



Top Row: Miss Sheley, Ann Davis; Second Row: Brenda Walsemann, Mary Harper, Joy Steiner; Bottom Row: Wendall Davis; Ronnie Austin and Harold Hammond

Today there is no sign of the Squash Hole school. A trailer sits on the site near where the schoolhouse stood. The poles that held the swing and slide, which was used by the students during recess and lunch time, is slowly disappearing. One student's memory was saving the wax paper from the sandwich and rubbing the slide, which was suppose to make for a faster trip down the slide.

Each one who attended a country school may have good, bad or a combination of good and bad memories but the good memories are the Christmas plays, visit by Santa Claus; helping younger children, working on the blackboard with our math, hearing the kids reading "See Dick", "See Jane"; playing during recess time or lunchtime --games such as "May, I", tag and "Fox and Geese" in the winter; a trip by train to Watertown; an end of the year picnic.....

Today, all that exists of District #14 are the memories of the teachers who taught there and the students who received part of their education there.

(Source: Thirty-Two into One: The Schools that Became the Carthage Central School District)

From the Farmhouse Kitchen

As spring approaches, the sugar makers get ready to tap the maple trees for the sap that produces maple syrup. Women are busy making sugar cakes, maple sugar and other maple syrup goodies. One treat to make when there is a group of people is wax on snow or jack wax.

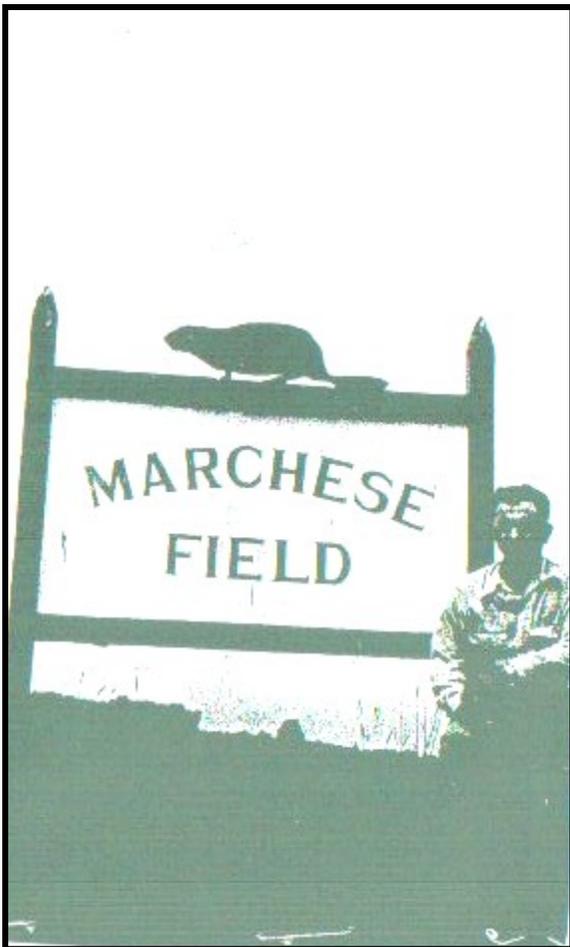
Wax on Snow

Maple syrup

Fresh white snow or cracked ice

Boil the maple syrup to 238 degrees. Pour it at once over fresh white snow or cracked ice. Twirl up a layer of wax with a fork and enjoy. A lot of people take a bite of the wax and then eat a dill pickle to cut the sweetness. Enjoy one of nature's finest products.

Can You Help Solve the Mysteries?



At one time the ball diamond in Beaver Falls was called Marchese Field. Mr. Marchese helped clear the land for the field and a sign was erected with his name on it. The daughter of Mr. Marchese sent an inquiry wanting information on the field and wondered if the sign still existed. The Historian's Office would appreciate information about the Marchese Field and whether the sign still exists. Thank you for any information you can provide as it will be forwarded to his daughter.

On Archives Day 2010, the picture on page 5 was shown to see if anyone can identify the people in this picture and we stated that it would appear in the newsletter. If anyone recognizes these people, would you let us know so that this information can be passed on. Thank you.



Town of Croghan
Historian's Office

Town of Croghan Historian,
Jack Sweeney
Deputy Town of Croghan Historian,
Mary Sweeney

"We are all citizens of history." -
Clifton Fadiman, American
author, editor and radio
personality (1904-1999)

The Town of Croghan Historian 's Office is located at the Town of Croghan Municipal Office, Beaver Falls, New York. If you have any questions or additions to the articles in this newsletter, please feel free to contact us at our home phone: (315) 346-6201 or by email:

jsweeney@ridgeviewtel.us

We do not have regular office hours but we are available by appointment.

The Town of Croghan has a web site. And the newsletters can be downloaded. It is

www.townofcroghan.com

If there is a special topic you would like to see in this newsletter or if we have made an error, please let us know. Thank you.

Historical Tidbits

- ⇒ On March 16, 1884 it was reported that Branaugh's tannery at Belfort has a stock of between five and six thousand cords of bark at hand.
 - ⇒ On March 19, 1884 - T. B. Basselin of Croghan has between seven and eight million feet of logs on the banks of the Beaver River and its tributaries.
 - ⇒ April 16, 1884 - A company has been organized in Croghan with a capital of \$3,000 for the purpose of erecting a cheese factory at the corner of River road and State road, two miles from Carthage.
 - ⇒ December 15, 1888 - The Village of Croghan has eight licensed hotels.
 - ⇒ August 21, 1885 - Monnat's cheese factory at Croghan, which recently was destroyed by fire, has been rebuilt.
 - ⇒ December 18, 1885 - The saw mill owned by Louis V. Bisha, near the Oswegatchie River above Belfort, burned to the ground Tuesday.
 - ⇒ January 18, 1953 - Gerald O'Brien, 84, last stage coach driver between Croghan and Lowville, and first ticket agent at Croghan for the Lowville-Beaver River railroad after its origin in 1905, died in the Lewis County General Hospital at 7:50 today. Mr. O'Brien was a millwright by trade and was employed by Emanuel Virkler at what was then a sash and blind factory, and is now operated by the Lehman-Zehr Lumber Co. of Croghan. (*now known as Croghan Island Mill*)
- (Source: WATERTOWN DAILY TIMES)