

Organization of the School District.

The school district number 109, was organized in the year 1860.

As far back as can be traced the first school house was situated opposite of Mr. Bert Easton's ^{farm}. It was built crudely of rough boards. The first "town" school (1870) was what is now the home of Mrs Landau. Conveniences such as we have now were then unknown.

Even the school that was built later at Anderson's corner consisted of one room. It wasn't until the year 1880 that they raised the roof and another room was added.

The school was financed then practically the same as at the present time. Directors were elected, and taxes were made for the support of the school. However some was donated.

The furniture was very poor. For the pupil's desks there were plain board seats and recitation benches. The teachers desk was crude and inconvenient. Boards with sheep skins nailed to them were used for erasers. The blackboards were boards painted black. The pupils in the lower grades used small slates, and the pupils in the higher grades used the blackboards.

The room was heated by a huge stove which occupied a large space in the central part of the room. they were called "box" stoves. One-half cord of wood at a time could be put in this stove about ten cords of wood were used during one term. They paid \$2.50 a cord.

The books used were:-

Appleton's Reader, Robinson's Arithmetic, Montgomery's History, Frey's Geography, Clark's Grammar, and Speller. They used the Spencerian Writing method.

Some of the early teachers who taught were:- Mary Gifford and Emily Millen both whose families came to Deerfield when it was a small settlement, Melvinia Ayres and Eliza Steward. The women usually taught in summer and the men in winter. Some of the men are: Mr L. O. Brockway who received seventy dollars a month. He is now a circuit clerk at Waukegan Illinois, and Mr Howell who held a writing school at evening.

Some of the early pupils are:-
Caldwell Children, Hokum Children,
Tupper Children C. B. Easton Children
Ludlow Children C. Parson's Children

Louise Warren Lyman Wilmoth,
^{who} now lives in Washington. George
Gutzler, John Selig, A. Vedder,
Sydney Hall, T. Dawson, M. Gore,
Mrs. Ender, V. V. Barnes, ^{who} now lives
in Zion City. Indian Clark's
two daughters, Herbert Mellon,
Walter Mellon, Philip Rockenbach,
George Rockenbach, and Mrs C.
Antes.

The schoolhouse was moved
from Anderson's corner between 1903
- 1904 to its present site. This building
burned in 1913 and a new school
was erected.

Some important persons
who have attended in this
district are: Samuel Knecht,
who is now a lawyer in
Chicago; Thomas Mc Craran a
farmer, and James Woodman
editor of the Waukegan Daily
Gazette.

The Methodist students from Evanston, took charge of Sunday School, Church, and prayer meetings, that were held in the school where Landau's house now stands. Rev. Dwight Hillis preached in the Presbyterian Church. He is now a noted minister and preaches in New York City. Mr. Dummer went around and sold Bibles to the different people.

There were lyceums that were given by the Literary Society, which was called O. A. C. or Our Athenian Club. Programs were held every Friday evening in the school. Anyone could join this society except people under fourteen years. At these lyceums there were: letter exchanges, readings, speeches, spelling matches, query boxes and debates.

During the Civil War, Mr. Dukiet gave a lecture. There were no political meetings except when there were presidential campaigns.

Indians.

Many years before white people came to this part of the country the Pottowattomie Indians dwelt around Lake Michigan in the Illini country as they called the territory.

As early as 1836 almost all of the Indians had gone to reservations. However, a few of them would travel in this vicinity, often begging. Some Indians came from Wisconsin once or twice a year to receive payments on the land they had sold to the settlers. Trails were made by tying young saplings to the ground which were left to grow in that manner. Most of the trails led to Fort Dearborn. Often times Indians would walk through fields, gather corn and make huge fires to roast it.

Back of Mr. John Huebel's farm

there was an Indian burying ground. Another was located at Mr. M. Ringdahl's farm, where many arrow heads, triangular in shape and very sharp hatchets have been found. Camping grounds were located where Mr. John Huehl lives and also where Mr. Peter Dawson lives. The Indians fished in the Des Plaines river which is west of this town.

A battlefield was located on Mr. W. F. Plagge's farm. Many arrow heads and tomahawks have been found here. The dishes used by the Indians were very coarse, and most of them were made of wood.

Disasters and Fires.

Although a numerous amount of cyclones and fires have been in Deerfield, none, have been very terrific. One of the first of these events was the burning of Mr Vedder's two story house. The store on the first floor and his home on the second. The building stood where Ross Sherman lives, now.

Several children have met deaths, by the cause of fire. One child, Ada Millen, was playing with fire when her dress was caught by the flames. Ada, in great excitement, started to run around the house, the air, making the fire worse. Soon Mr Hole saw her and taking off his coat, wrapped it around her. Mr White also saw the fire, and with his assistance, carried her into the house. The burn was so

serious that she died in several hours. Also Alma Hoyt while reaching for some snow which was used instead of water, accidentally allowed her dress to catch fire, her burns were also very serious, she died about a week later after the accident.

Mr. Ed. Beimehl's father owned a saloon just west of Mrs. Delige's store which burned down. The cause of which is not known.

The school house burned down in 1913, it was very fortunate that this fire occurred early in the morning before the children were in it. School was then carried on in the best places as convenient until another building was erected.

About seven years ago an explosion of a powder mill in Ohio caused much excitement, but to a greater alarm which happened about three years later was that of a cyclone, destroying many flowers in which was a great loss to Mrs. Kotttrach.

A barn, silo, and several chicken houses were blown over. Many fowls in the chicken houses were killed.

The greatest sorrow was brought to the people of Deerfield the day before Christmas two years ago when two school boys, Kenneth Jarvis, Ward Reichelt and the former's father were coming home from doing some Xmas shopping in Waukegan, when a south bound limited train hit their car in which they were riding, several miles north

of Deerfield. All three were
severely injured, and none
of them survived.

Anti Slavery Activities.

Before, and during the Civil War, the people of this region were not inactive in helping the slaves to gain their freedom by going to Canada.

In 1860, a runaway slave, Andrew Jackson, came thru Deerfield, where he stayed with Mr. Lorenz Ott, who lived where Mr. O. J. Rothenbach now lives. Later he went to Mr. Lyman Wilmot, and lived with him until the war was over. This is the story that he told, upon his arrival;

"My first master was a very kind young man, and I worked hard, pleasing him very much. Soon, tho, he found it necessary to sell me. My second master was a very cruel man. None of the slaves were given an edu-

eration, as our masters thought that we would rebel or out-wit them. But a friend told me that the sun rises in the east and sets in the west, and that, as one goes farther south, it gets warmer, and, going north, it gets colder. With only this information, I decided to run away. My friend encouraged me in my resolution, and therefore, I did attempt it, immediately. I was soon captured again, tho, for my master had discovered my absence soon after I left, and had sent blood-hounds after me. When taking me back to the plantation, my captor tied my arms with a rope, (which was fastened to the horse), and made me walk in front of him, while

he rode. I loosened the rope, and walked along as tho not looking for a means of escape. Soond (noticed) noticed that my master was sleeping. Such a chance was not to be regarded lightly. Therefore I dropped the rope, and jumped into the woods near by. Most of the time I hid during the day-time, and often my pursuers were so close to my hiding-place that I could hear my master giving directions to them. Several times I went without food for many days. Many times did I eat raw corn, taken from a field which I passed thru. One time I fell into a barrel, while I was looking for food, and even tho I hurt my hip severely, I managed to limp back into the woods. One day I came to a

hut, and asked a girl, the only person in the hut, for some bread, which, I could see, was freshly baked. The child refused to give any to me, so I took a few loaves, hastened out of the hut, and, when safely hidden, ate it. These are only a few of the hardships I endured (so you see, I am glad to be among friends again. I am justified in saying that it was in a marvelous way that my life was preserved.--)

Andrew Jackson was soon taught to read and write, and, in return for the many kindnesses shown him, taught the white people how to tie corn shocks with a stalk of corn, and how to make quaint baskets of all sizes and descriptions.

A great many Negroes

passed thru Deerfield, but nobody remembers a direct route which they used when they traveled thru this part of the country.

A group of Abolitionists dwelt in Highland Park, and would often come to Deerfield, especially if they knew that the farmers were bringing their crops to town. Often many hot debates and fights took place on what is now known as "Antes' Corner."



Deerfield Grammar School
Destroyed by fire 1913.



Deerfield Grammar School
Built 1913.