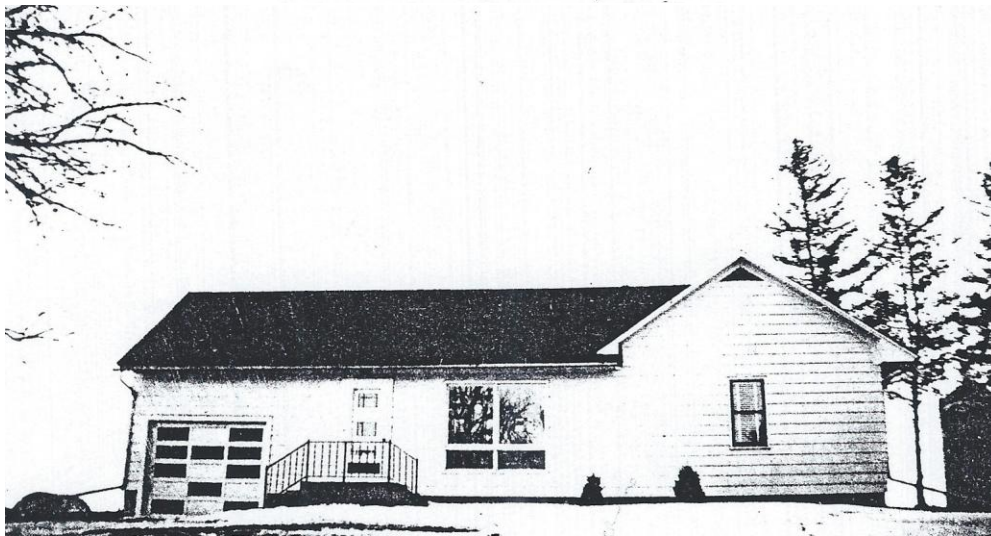
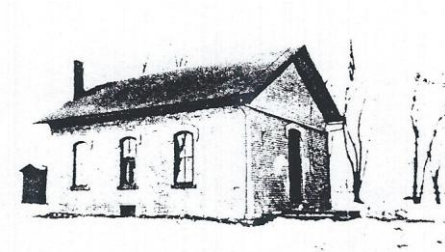


**Brick School
District #4
Bloomfield Township, Winneshiek County
August 28, 1985**



**A Little History of the Brick School, District #4
Bloomfield Township, Winneshiek County, Iowa
Compiled by Sarah Nelson & Emma Benjegerdes**

On May 18, 1883 John S. Mott (John R. Mott's father) leased enough land from his farm for a school and only to continue as Dist. #4 Bloomfield Township until not needed anymore. At that time the land was to be returned to the owner.

On Feb. 26, 1898 the farm was sold to F.W. Benjegerdes and the same rule applied.

On Oct. 16, 1949 F.W. Benjegerdes sold the farm to Henry C. and Emma Benjegerdes and the same rule applied.

In 1953 the school district was reorganized and the school was consolidated with the Postville Public School. It remained open for two years under the supervision of K.T. Cook their superintendent. It was closed in the Fall of 1955.

On Aug. 19, 1956 the ground was returned to its owners Mr. and Mrs. H.C. Benjegerdes. The brick was removed from the building and the frame was moved east of the farm home. Today Emma Benjegerdes has enlarged on the frame and she lives in this beautiful "School House" home.

Bloomfield Township #4 (1946-1950) and Bloomfield Township #7 (1951-1955)
By Sarah Nelson

When I started the enrollment was sixteen and when the school closed, because of consolidation to the Postville Community School there were fourteen. I had all grades—kindergarten through eighth grade.

I lived at home and drove each day. In later years each parent sent a hot dish to eat with our regular lunch pail meal. The pupils two at a time carried our drinking water to school from their farm home in a milk can and poured it in a water cooler. We always said a prayer together before our lunch at noon. Being I had all grades the advanced pupils would work with the pupil who needed extra help.

We began each day with the pledge followed by a short prayer—bringing our needs together. Sometimes I wonder how I did it all.

I always started the fire so it would be warm on Monday morning. We used coal for fuel.

I would say we were pretty well equipped in supplies, however each Fall we would have a program consisting of poems, songs and dialogues for the public followed by a box social or sale of food for some special project we needed. This was fun and also good supervised training.

In the spring we would take our lunch and go on a hike through the field to a creek, talking and discussing nature, birds, flowers, trees, etc. Later doing some penmanship on the trip and signs of nature. We had fun and a learning experience. Outdoor games were ante I over, tag, baseball, hide and seek and pump, pump, pull away.

The last day of school we had a picnic at the schoolhouse.

We all had one serious experience at recess one day in the Fall. It had rained and the ground had frozen rough and when running a child fell hitting his head on the rough ground. He got up, but passed out when he got warm in the schoolhouse. We called (good to have a telephone) the parents, took him to the doctor and as it turned out he had a slight concussion. In a day he was back with us. This made us all feel good.

We had a woodchuck which sat on the platform of the porch each morning and evening as I came and left school.

My first check was \$185 and the last \$279. Henry Benjegerdes was the director of the school. Total years taught: thirty-two.

**Teachers Who Have Taught in "Brick School"
District #4, Bloomfield Township, Winneshiek County, Iowa**

Year	Teacher	Pupils	Monthly Salary
1897-1898	I.B. McMartin	11	
1898 (April 18-July 9)	Joe R. Cornell	15	
1898-1899	I.B. McMartin	15	
1899-1900	M. Lovina Johnson	20-23	
1900-1901	Bessie Rathbun	17-20	
1901-1902	Bessie Rathbun	21-19	
1902 (April 14-July 4)	Bessie G. Darling	11	
1902-1903	Susie Batchelder	19-14	
1903-1904	Susie Batchelder	20	
1904-1905	Louise Meyer	16-20	
1905-1906	Dee McNaul	18	
1906 (April 9-June29)	Florence Miller	15	
1906-1907	Delia C. Schutte	19-23	
1907-1908	Christine M. Sheehy	20	\$36.00 + \$1.00 Janitor Work
1908-1909	Christine M. Sheehy	17	\$36.00 + \$1.00 Janitor Work
1909-1910	Stella E. Sams	12	\$36.00 + \$1.00 Janitor Work
1910-1911	Stella E. Sams	14	\$36.00 + \$1.00 Janitor Work
1911-1912	Hannah Lange	13	\$36.00 + \$1.00 Janitor Work
1912-1913	Malinda Casten	11	
1913 (Sep. 1-Nov. 23)	Florence Schroeder	12	\$45.00
1913-1914	Ethel Clark	12	\$46.20
1914-1915	Maude Harris	12	
1915-1916	Mae Hursh	15	
1916-1917	Clara Muth	10-11	\$41.25
1917-1918	Charlotte Conley	10	\$52.80
1918-1919	Charlotte Conley	9-13	\$58.00
1919-1920	Anna C. Lydon	7	\$65.00-\$80.00
1920-1921	Adelheid Schmidt	7	\$85.00
1921-1922	Angeline Beckman	6	\$80.00-\$95.00
1922-1923	Florence Hoth	5-6	\$80.00
1923-1924	Dorothy Reincke		\$80.00
1924-1925	Dorothy Reincke		\$80.00
1925-1926	Helen Connor		\$90.00
1926-1927	Cleo Hefner		\$75.00
1927-1928	Cleo Hefner		\$80.00
1928-1930	Marie Schutte		\$85.00
1930-1931	Deloras Welzel		\$85.00
1931-1932	Adeline Smith		\$80.00
1932-1933	Ethyl Smith	11	\$70.00

1933-1934	Ethyl Smth	6	\$40.00
1934-1935	Helen M. Schultz	7	\$40.00
1935-1939	SCHOOL CLOSED (see attached petition)		
1939-1940	Jean Moon	8	\$50.00
1940-1941	Jean Moon		\$55.00
1943-1944	Marjorie Noack	8	
1944-1945	Marjorie Noack	11	
1945-1946	Sarah L. Nelson	10	
1946-1947	Sarah L. Nelson	13	
1947-1948	Sarah L. Nelson	14	\$185.00
1948-1949	Sarah L. Nelson	16	\$190.00 + Bonus
1949-1950	Ruth Buddenburg	19	\$190.00 + Bonus
1950-1951	Ruth Buddenburg	14	
1951-1952	Sarah L. Nelson	14	\$210.00 + Bonus
1952-1953	Sarah L. Nelson	12	\$279.00 + Bonus
1953-1955	Sarah L. Nelson	14	\$283.00

Some Interesting Facts Through the Years:

1905

- Pd. \$1.00 to clean the school in the Fall
- Pd. 80¢ for a water pail
- Pd. 10¢ for a dipper
- Pd. 10¢ for each eraser

1906

- Pd. 50¢ for school lawn to be mowed in the Fall
- Pd. 50¢ for a broom

1911

- Pd. 5¢ for a box of matches
- Pd. \$29.00 for a No. 20 round oak stove

1915

- Pd. 35¢ for a washbowl and soap
- Pd. \$22.50 for insurance on schoolhouse for 5 years
- Pd. \$20.00 for four cords of wood

In 1881 a cyclone one day caused the section men who were working on the railroad to run for shelter in the nearby schoolhouse. It was of wood construction. The walls were completely blown off the building and the men were left safe standing on the schoolhouse floor. Later the building was completely reconstructed and the exterior covered with brick which brings us up to the story of the Brick School on the front cover.

PETITION

We the undersigned residents and parents interested in the re-opening of school Dist No 4, hereby petition the School Board of Bloomfield Township for the re-opening of the said school beginning the regular school year of 1938 and 1939.

we petition because of the inconvenience of transportation, dangers of Rail Road crossings, dangerous bridges ^{highway toll} and lack of residence near the road for the convenience & protection of the children while attending other schools.

Clay Woodcock
Lloyd Meyer

Lester F. Willman
Harry Heins
E. J. Heins

Victor Kube
Albert R. Thornton
H. C. Benjegerdes
O. P. Miller

1949 Students & Teacher



Front Row L-R: Juanita Schlee, Ernie Helgerson, Audrey Schlee, Sandra Jarms, Doris Benjegerdes, Lois Schlee

Middle Row L-R: Judy Schlee, David Benjegerdes, Marvin Schroeder, Kathleen Mott, Nancy Helgerson

Back Row L-R: Virgil Noack, Richard Jarms, Ronald Jarms, John Schlee, Ruth Benjegerdes, Sarah Nelson (teacher)