

1976

District #105 - Staats

Office of the County Superintendent, Saunders County

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District No. 105 was organized on October 5, 1880. It consisted of the North half of Sections 16 and 17, all of Sections 4, 5, 8, 9, Township 16, Range 8. The boundaries have been changed at various times.

When it was first organized the district was known as the Staats School. Some of the early pupils were Minnie, Sadie, Ralph, Clarence, George, Harry and Jennie Scott; Will, Lou, George, Lulu, Anna, Lena, Max and Jake Warner. Also among many others were Emma and Hattie Staats.

The small wooden school was heated in the winter with a huge pot-bellied ^{stove} with high legs. The students kept their lunch pails under the stove to keep them from freezing. Times were hard and some students had only cold pancakes and molasses for their lunches.

Many of the big boys just came to school in the winter after the crops were harvested. They were quite a handful for the teacher.

We had no well at the school so "passing the water" was an important event. One or two of the boys would go to the nearest place and get a pail of water. They would pass it around with a dipper in it. If you didn't drink all the water, it was poured back into the pail. No one worried about germs then. What we didn't know didn't hurt us and we all reached maturity. Many became teachers.

During recess we played various sorts of ball games mainly anti-over. We made our own balls from cloth and string. We also played pump, pump, pull away. If it was raining or snowing we played pussy wants the corner or blind man's bluff in the school house. We always hated to quit when the bell rang.

On Fridays we usually had a Spell Down. Happy indeed was the boy or girl who was last to go down.

Of course boys will be boys and they did dunk the girls' braids in the ink wells and pulled their pig tails too.

We raised our hand when we wanted to ask a question. If we raised our hand with one finger up it meant, "May I leave the room?" The toilets were little wooden houses outside, one for the girls and one for the boys.

In their school work they used slates and wrote with slate pencils.

The pupils attended school until they were practically grown. There was one family of 8 walking up the road carrying their lunch buckets.

While their efforts at higher education seemed rather futile, still some of the pupils from District No. 105 have become preachers, lawyers, doctors, successful farmers and business men.

This information was written by Mrs. Verna McClean who is 91 years old and started to District No. 105 when she was 5 years old.

During the Roosevelt administration a new schoolhouse was built. It was the first WPA school built in the county.

Some of the first teachers were Alice Samison, Grace Peche, Rose Rand, Josie Carey, Marie Mills, Dr. Stuart's wife, Effie and Herman Engle, the only man teacher. One of the first school boards was A.M. Maxwell, George F. Staats and W. J. Harmon.

District No. 105 now employs two teachers.

Section 9, Township 16, Range 8
Pohocco Precinct
3 miles East, 1 mile South of Cedar Bluffs

School Board - Carl Layman
Douglas Ritthaler
Bob Strong

Teachers - Patricia Anderson
Joan Carlson

Pupils

Pam Layman	Cory Mueller
Sean Gentrup	Alan Gentrup
Patricia Phillips	Nancy Phillips
Jo Dee Layman	Kirk Strong
Jeanette Mueller	Mike Giddens
Bryan Ritthaler	Brent Ritthaler
Korina Ashbrook	Jeff Strong
Julie Layman	Lisa Ann Ball
Bryan Mahoney	Curt Phillips
Robyn Ritthaler	Patty Strong
	Nancy Waugh
	George Carroll