

Badger Valley

Badger Valley has had a school since the early 1850s.

No one says where the first school building was located, but Mr. Walter Mylrea, born in 1863, attended school there, and remembered that his first teacher was Amos Tyler. Another teacher was Johnny Stowell, an Indian half-breed. In those days the enrollment ranged from sixty to ninety. The building had two rows of seats and desks, with five or six pupils in each seat; when the one next to the wall wanted to get out everyone else in the row had to get up. This old school house was moved later to the Norman Jensen farm, where for many years it was used as a barn.

The school house site was donated by Ole Jolson, who gave a deed to one acre of ground. When all was finished, the building was too near the road. A petition was circulated, by means of which the road was set over on Gilbert Larson's land.

Melvin Kingsley is of the third generation in his family to attend the same school, as his grandmother, Mrs. Walter Kingsley (nee Laura Clark) went to school at Badger Valley.

Big Spring

It is difficult to write the history of the Big Spring School District for the school records were carelessly burned many years ago.

The original Big Springs school house was built before Big Springs was even platted, and was located outside the area on what would be part of Sneak Street before the dam was built. Just north of the town hall, marks can be seen where the Pinery Road crossed the creek, went by the site of the old school house and on through the Winchell Place. The school house was, of course, built of logs.

The Big Spring school house stood on the same ground for at least 90 years, and many believe

it is the same building. Of course it has been tinkered up now and then.

When Erwin Crothers went to school, the floor had a depression about 12 feet long and 8 feet wide and 6 inches deep just inside the door. A long box-like stove stood in the center of the depression, and it would take wood about 4 feet long. The stove had raised letters on top, and at recess students burned the letters on our slate frames. There were nothing but homemade wooden desks, and a variety of things was carved on them.

The School District included the following families: Ramsey, Morse; Thrasher; Phillips; Ward; Sweet; Vleit; Powers; Wheeler; Hanson; Armson; Bowen; Stowell; Brown; Campbell; French; and Landt.