

Baxter Mountain School #12



"School time was from 9 to 4 with one hour for lunch, and recesses of 15 minutes each in the morning and afternoon. At these times the girls and boys mingled together and played simple games like Ball, Fox & Geese, Red Rover Come Over etc.

As times changed, there were fewer and fewer children to come to school. It was closed. The Lacey family who lived at the top of the hill on the old Page Gregory place went to Gregorytown School. With the coming of the Corbett Acid Factory, other families also moved down.

The school building finally burned."

The School on Baxter Mountain in the Early 1900's by M. Louisa Baxter, teacher.

"A small wood-colored building was snuggled against a wooded hill about 20 yards from a road. This was travelled by anyone who wished to go to Gregorytown. In the rear were two small buildings, the outhouses. Nearby was a shed, the woodhouse, usually filled with wood.

You entered by stone steps into a hall. On each side of the hall was a door which led into the main room which was lighted by two windows on each side. There was a blackboard on each side between the windows.

Five rows of double seats extended on each side. The right was used by girls and the left by boys. On each desk was a groove for pens and pencils and an inkwell. Steel pens and ink were used at this time.

In the middle of the room was a long black stove. In winter, mittens or wood were dried underneath. In later years the teacher might warm soup or make cocoa on the top.

Between the two doors were wooden boards painted black. This was used in earlier days for a blackboard. The writing on this was never very visible.

When a class was called, the pupils moved and sat on a wooden bench along the wall on the left. On the right was another bench with a water pail and dipper. At first everyone drank from the dipper. However, drinking cups soon appeared. There was always some eager to go to the neighbors for water.

In the corner were two shelves with the library books. From year to year a few new books were added. In the beginning there were no maps but later maps of the Town of Colchester and New York State were bought."