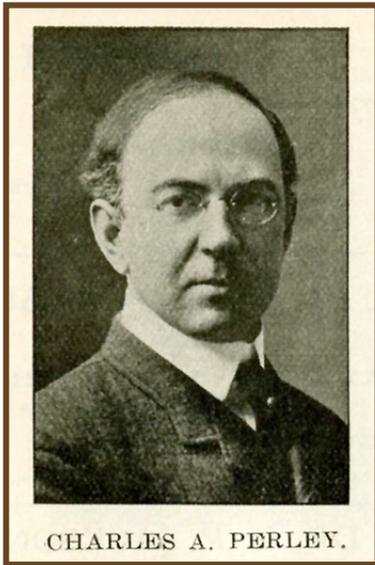


# ISCHUA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## OLD MAPLE AVENUE SCHOOL AS RECALLED BY CHARLES A. PERLEY



In looking over some old copies of the Franklinville papers, [Charles A. Perley](#) recalled his days attending the school. This school I recall very vividly, as in it I had my first introduction to the elements of deportment and training which the youngsters of those days had to go through in gaining the education that was to guide and help them through the intricacies of the life ahead.

The old school on Maple Avenue, just across the street from the home of the present editor of the paper, Mr. Stout, on a roomy lot, probably 400 feet along the street front. The building was a one-story barn-like structure with two rooms, entered by a door on each side of a woodshed at the front. In later years, the building was enlarged by the construction of additional rooms on the front to care for the growing army of youngsters that increased with the growing village population.

The student desks were home-made of quite heavy boards, yet well done by the home carpenter and were painted with dark red paint. The students all faced the teacher, whose desk was somewhat modern and on a platform about six inches above the floor.

The blackboards were the board walls themselves, painted black for the purpose, and at a reasonable height for the standing student to work upon with his or her problems with a piece of chalk.

The building was heated by a big cast-iron "box" stove in each room, into which slabs of four foot wood were occasionally fed by the teacher, or perhaps by one of the "big boy" students when the teacher was busy.

The seemingly large woodshed in the front part of the building was piled full to the roof with these big slabs when school opened in the fall. But I recall that by spring the boys found it a pretty good place to spend recess in play for the wood was by that time pretty well gone.

George E. Towne was the "master" on the main room on the north side, and Miss Belle Robinson was the teacher of the primary students on the south room when I entered this school in 1875 or 1876 when I was nine or ten years old.

From this 1878 published report the student list appealed to me promptly. There is not a name among them that the lapse of time has tarnished. Others, whom I studied under at this primitive old school as the years passed by were: Marvin Older, a well-known citizen of the community; Fred J.

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Blackman, later a prominent lawyer and judge and Squire C. Hayden, who became the school superintendent and served many years as the District Superintendent of all the districts in this part of the county. I also recall Miss M. Franc Little (Postmaster of the Franklinville Post Office for many years) and also Grace and Hattie Simonds, the Laine sisters, Lena Palmer, Miss Saunders and many others who left the impression of good and strong personalities with the students of the school.

In 1878, the school numbered 58 students with Hattie Laine teacher and Fannie Adams, assistant.