

Letter From George Porter, 1986

October 29th, 1986

Dear Lyle,

In answer to your questions about the early days of our community I will write of a few things that I can remember.

Among the early families in Beaver were the Foland family and the Jones that lived where the milk farm is now. Also the Gilberts who had the general store that stood where the Texaco station is now. Edgar Gilbert homesteaded the farm now owned by Helen Phelps).

My parents bought the farm which I now own in 1929. My brother John and I attended school in a one-room school building located on our farm for one school year before the new school of Hemlock was completed)

Mrs. Edith Creecy was our teacher as I recall. She had a pupil in each of the 8 grades and two taking the first year of high school.

The building was 16 feet X 20 feet with an enclosed porch on the front. Our heat was a wood stove, lights when needed by kerosine lamps, our restrooms were outhouses, one in each corner of the school yard, and we carried our drinking water from a spring on the hillside some 200 years behind the school.

The older boys thought that it was quite an honor to be chosen to fill the water pail. It took two of us to handle the job.

I don't recall that anyone ever had the audacity to waste water by washing their hands or face during the school day.

In spite of the lack of things that children today take for granted we were a healthy and happy lot, and to the best of my knowledge are all alive yet today except for one, a former teacher at Beaver who was killed in an accident.

Our teacher, Mrs. Creecy, passed away a couple of years ago. She was a wonderful woman who worked long hours for very little pay to teach us the three Rs.

I hope this note will help you with your assignment.

Your friend,

Geo. Porter