

*A*  
**Centennial History**  
*of the*  
*Manitowoc County School Districts*  
*and its*  
*Public School System*

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**1848 - 1948**  
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Edited by - Jos. J. Rappel, County Superintendent of Schools



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## MISHICOT

Mishicot township was not a part of the original Manitowoc county territory as organized in 1848. It was not until 1850 that the northern tier of townships (Cooperstown, Gibson, Mishicot, and Two Creeks) was detached from Brown county. The original Mishicott township as organized in 1850 was a part of the Two Rivers township and remained so until 1852. It was not until that date that the township of Mishicott consisting of the present Gibson and Mishicot area was organized. Gibson became a township by itself in 1858.

While the Mishicot area was still a part of Two Rivers, a school district was organized in the area of Mishicott village. There is some indication that the present Mishicot Jt. 1 district was then known as Two Rivers No. 2 school district, but there are no official records to confirm this fact. When Mishicot was organized in 1852, the area now made up of Gibson and Mishicot was divided into school districts and the districts numbered without regard to the boundary line between the present Gibson and Mishicot townships. Thus the present Mishicot township in 1852 had school district numbers 1-3-4-5. School districts numbers 2 and 6 were in the present Gibson area.

By 1857, the Mishicot-Gibson area was becoming quite well settled and the entire area re-districted into 13 school districts. The present Mishicot township then had school districts number Jt. 1, 3, 4, 5, 11, 12, and 13. In 1858, when Mishicot was separated from Gibson, the school districts were re-numbered as they are today. The changes from one district number to another are recorded in each individual school history as given in the following articles.

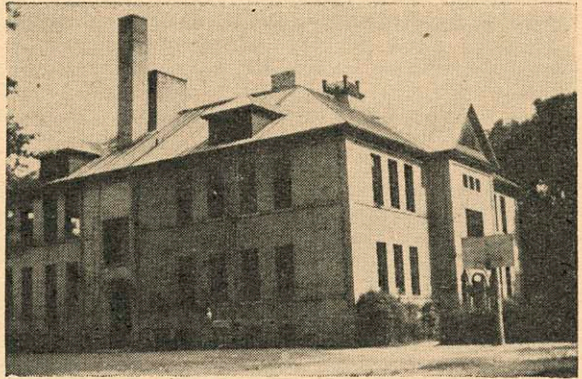
### MISHICOT JT. 1 — MISHICOT

Reuben Harpt

Mishicot Jt. 1 school district began its school system in the later 1840's. It is claimed that the Mishicot school was among the first four schools set up in Manitowoc county. Since it was always located in or near the village of Mishicot, it was officially designated by that name in 1918.

The Mishicot school district was set up when Mishicot was a part of Two Rivers township. In 1852, when Mishicot was organized and included the present Gibson township, the district consisted of almost all of the northern part of the present township of Mishicot plus several sections in the present township of Gibson.

(See Mishicot Assessment Rolls of 1856). By 1858 the combined townships of Mishicot and Gibson had 13 school districts. Then Mishicot Jt. 1 consisted of the west  $\frac{1}{2}$  of section 30; all of section 31, T. 21 N., R. 24E, and W $\frac{1}{2}$  of section 4, and all of section 5, T. 20N., R. 24 E; and sections 25, 35, and 36 in Gibson. After Mishicot and Gibson separated and became separate townships, Mishicot Jt. 1 kept its school district number. Since its organization and up to the present, the district has always been joint with Gibson and now contains about the same area as in 1858.



The first school for this locality was one shared with the Jambo Creek district in Gibson. It was located about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles northwest of Mishicot village and near the present site of the Jambo Creek school. Because of the distance to that school for the boys and girls in the Mishicot area, the voters decided to erect a school in Mishicot. Accordingly, a frame building was erected about 1845 to 1849 on a site just north of the gristmill near the cemetery. This was one of the first frame school buildings of the county and was of frame construction because Mishicot was a pioneer sawmill town. There are no written records of the size nor cost of this building. Because many of the English settlers were without a church building, this school served as their meeting house on Sundays.



In 1873, this pioneer schoolhouse was abandoned and a new two-room frame building was built on the site of the present school. What was done with the old schoolhouse is not recorded.

Daniel Smith, a generous "lumber king" and sawmill operator of this community plotted the village of Mishicot and donated the site for the present school property. By a vote of 18 to 16, the citizens in 1873 voted at a special school meeting to build a two room frame schoolhouse. They also decided to raise \$500 by direct taxation and to borrow an additional \$500 at 7% interest for four years to cover the cost of the new structure. The building committee had John Mayer of Manitowoc draw plans for a schoolhouse 56 x 36 x 14 feet. Bids were advertised in the Manitowoc Pilot with the result that F. Quisdorf, the lowest bidder, was awarded the contract to build the structure. This school served the district for 32 years or until 1905. It was then sold to the township of Mishicot for a town hall and moved across the road to the east where it still stands and is still used as a town hall. The old bell tower housed the school bell that had a unique history. It is recorded that Daniel Smith "salvaged" the bell from the railroad wreck which occurred near his home in New York state. When Smith moved west to Mishicot, he brought the engine bell along with him and donated it to the school.

In 1905, by a vote of 50 to 28, the old two-room frame schoolhouse was to be replaced by a two-room brick structure. Evidently there was enough sentiment in the district at that time for a four room brick building, for at another meeting it was voted to change plans and build a four room, two story brick schoolhouse at a cost of \$6,000, with the upper rooms not finished. The following year, though, these upper rooms were completed and ready to accommodate the ninth grade students. By 1915, the four rooms were used when the tenth grade was added.

The demand for a four year high school course made necessary an addition to the four room building. Accordingly, in 1920, the voters favored the addition of a large auditorium and three class rooms which was built on to the north of the brick school and was of the same design as the structure to which it was attached. The cost of this addition was about \$37,000. Today the Mishicot high school and grade building consists of a large auditorium, a library room, seven classrooms for high school students, two classrooms for the grammar and primary grades, and spacious halls and cloakrooms. The basement has several spare classrooms, a small kitchen in which noon lunches are prepared by two cooks, the lavatories, and fuel and furnace rooms. The large high school enrollment is now more than taxing the capacity of the building. The structure has no gymnasium, so the Levenhagen hall is used for basketball games and the social affairs of the school.

Mishicot Jt. 1 has within a century become the educational center for northern Manitowoc county. Its school has grown from a little one-room rural building to one of the largest rural high schools of the county. The first graded school for the district was set up in 1881 when two teachers were employed. The first teachers of the two-room school were Prin. John A. Hussey and primary teacher Martha McMillan. In 1904, the school became a first class state graded school when three teachers were employed and the ninth grade work was begun. The teachers then were Prin. F. J. Sievers, A. L. Stengel, and Stasia Kenny. By 1915, the schoolboard employed four teachers when the 10th grade was added. The teachers at that time were Prin. Elmer Koch, Laura B. Smith, Amanda Heyroth, and Jennie Stoneman. Three district owned buses transport the rural high school pupils to this school from the surrounding areas.

Summer and winter terms of school were held until about 1876 according to county records. The winter session of five or six months began in September and closed about March 1st. The summer session began in April and continued to about the first week in August. The monthly salary has always been above that of other teachers nearby. The county record shows that in 1872 R. C. McLeod was paid \$60 monthly for a six month term. Because the summer session was not as strenuous, Mr. McLeod was paid \$50 per month in 1873. No record of the names of teachers prior to 1872 was given, but those teaching after that year up to 1906 were: R. C. McLeod 1872-75, both winter and summer sessions; Anton Braasch 1876; Chas. Tift 1877; E. A. Benedict 1878; M. Hale Smith for the first 10 month term in 1879; John A. Hussey and Martha McMillan 1880-83; John O'Hara and Ella Scott 1884; no records from 1885-1890; Floyd Westgate and C. Thompson 1890-91; Wm. O'Hara and Carretta Thompson 1892; Wm. O'Hara and Josie Thompson 1893; Walter Stoker and Hilda Thompson 1894-97; Otto Zander and Dora Halverson 1898; Walter Runge and Dora Halverson 1899; Walter Runge and Leona Wagner 1900-1902; E. S. Crowe and Leona Wagner 1902-03; F. J. Sievers, Stasia Kenny, and A. L. Stengel 1904; and A. L. Stengel, Stasia Kenny, and T. Tollefson in 1905.



Daniel Smith, an early settler owned and operated the sawmill which was located on the site of the present Lambert garage. Across the river opposite the Smith sawmill, Peter Rau operated the first gristmill. Christ Selk conducted a store at the site of the present Opera House. M. Damsen was one of the pioneer postmasters. Other early residents, according to the 1858 assessment roll, were Ole Olson, Mathias Mathison, F. Dunker, H. Beyer, Gottlieb Bigalky, Fred Meyer, Niels Sorenson, A. K. Westgate, Jacob Trossen, Tim Thomas, T. Blank, August Lemkuhl, Jos. Young, and Ben Birdsell. Later residents of note were the Terens families who conducted the hardware store, Isaac Craite, who later became an attorney and judge at Manitowoc, and Julius Lindstedt who founded the Lindstedt-Hoffman real estate business in Manitowoc.

Lillian L. Chloupek, a graduate of this school, became county supervising teacher and superintendent of schools. From among the hundreds of graduates who lived in Mishicot Jt. 1, many have become successful in the professions, in business, and in other fields of endeavor. It is impossible in this article to cite the success of all of them.

There is no record of the names of school officers before 1872. The county record books show that Louis Koehnke served as clerk from 1872 to 1875. John T. Terens served in the same capacity from 1876 to 1880; Jule Lindstedt 1880-; Isaac Craite 1894; Bruno Mueller 1895-98, and C. Ploeckelman from 1904 to 1918. Others who served on the board before 1906 were Albert Wehausen, Peter Rau, Jacob Trossen, Ira Beyer, and Jacob Roemer.

Since its inception as a sawmill town in the early 1840's, the village of Mishicot has grown and prospered. Although not on a rail line, the village has its share of industries. Its principal function is to serve as a trading, religious, educational, and social center for the surrounding communities. Eastwin river which flows through the district generates power and served as a favorite recreation and fishing area for district residents as well as for residents throughout the county. The citizens have realized the importance of the school to the welfare of the community. The voters and the schoolboard members were among the first in the county to set up courses of particular value to the farm boys and girls attending their high school. Their fore-sightedness in this regard has paid rich dividends and puts the district in a position to meet modern trends in rural education.

## MISHICOT 2 — JEFFERSON

Lucille Daley

It was no easy task to trace the history of a school which is almost a century old. None of the first settlers and few of the second generation are alive today, but nearly all of the pupils now enrolled are of the third or fourth generation of the first settlers who attended school in this very school house used by their descendants. Written records are limited to a treasurer's book dating back to 1867 and preserved by the Schetter family, and to old school registers resurrected from the school attic.



To supplement the information obtainable from these few written records, a community get-together was sponsored by the school on October 24, 1945. Invitations were sent to old residents living in this and other communities. The invitations were enthusiastically accepted and a goodly number of old-timers attended. After a short program, the teacher and wives of the schoolboard members served a light lunch. Then over their coffee cups, the older residents began to reminisce. The interesting facts that they recalled about their school days and about what they had heard from their parents helped fill in the records of this school. Old-timers present and the years in which they attended this school were: Emma Schmidt Schroeder 1875-1882;



Henry Eller 1881-1888; George Barthels 1880-1890; Helen Wilke Schwake 1888-1895; Laura Petri Leist 1895-1904; Mayme Schuerer Peterick and Clara Schmidt Liese 1898-1906.

Mishicot district No. 2 was named the Jefferson school in 1918, probably because there were so many Democrats in the district, but most likely so named in honor of Thos. Jefferson, the third president of the United States. Older residents remember this as the Altmeyer school because Johann Altmeyer was the original owner of the land on which the school house is built. It is also known as the School Section school as it is located adjacent to section 16 of T. 20 N., R. 24 E.

County records show that the United States government in 1850 conveyed to Johann Altmeyer the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 17, T. 20 N., R. 24 E. In 1866, Mr. Altmeyer sold this property to Louis Barthels and Geo. Kahrs. In 1869, Geo. Kahrs conveyed a portion of his farm to district No. 2 Mishicot for a school site.

Mishicot No. 2 was organized as Mishicot joint 3 in the early 1850's, being joint with the town of Two Rivers. At first the district consisted of sections 17 and 18 in the present town of Mishicot and sections 20, 21, and 22 in the town of Two Rivers. In 1863, Two Rivers district No. 3 was organized, detaching all of the land in Two Rivers township. Then this district became Mishicot No. 2. Today the district is made up of section 17, nearly all of section 16, and the S $\frac{1}{2}$  of section 8, T. 20 N., R. 24E.

The first school for the old Mishicot Jt. 3 was a log building located where the present Wm. Michel home now stands, to the south of the present schoolyard. It cost about \$25 and was a crude unplastered building. The equipment consisted of room furniture common to pioneer schools. There is no record of just when this school began to operate, but according to other districts nearby this school was organized in the early 1850's.

The second school was built in 1869, for it was at that date that the district purchased the present school site. It too was a log building which has since been covered with siding and is the structure in use today. The school has a little shed entry which leads directly into the schoolroom. The clothes and the lunch pails are stored in the schoolroom since there is no cloakroom. The schoolroom is about 20 feet wide, 26 feet long, and about 9 feet high. Two windows for each of the long sides and two for the entrance side supply the natural lighting.

At first the equipment was very meager consisting of the usual pail and dipper, a hand bell, and long home-made tables and benches costing about \$35. In 1887, a real blackboard valued at \$2 was purchased. Patented double desks were purchased in 1880. At the turn of the century some textbooks were purchased, as well as a book-case, a blackboard, and a map of Wisconsin. Up to 1901 a small hand bell was used, but that year Henry Barthels was paid \$9.75 for building the belfry. The materials cost \$7, and the big school bell cost \$19. An old fashioned box stove heated the school until in 1908 when a Wernecke furnace for \$90 was installed. The present floor furnace and ventilating system were installed in 1933.

Although this is one of the oldest school buildings in our county, the district through its officers has maintained a well-equipped school. Individual desks and seats of the latest type were purchased in 1931 at a total cost of \$270.75. In 1934, electric lights were installed. Modern reference books were purchased as early as 1927 and again in 1942. Today, the school is as well equipped as most modern school buildings are.

The schoolyard was added to in 1928 when Harold Eis sold a triangular strip along the western schoolyard boundary for \$25. The strip was 13 feet wide on the north, 26 feet wide on the south, and 110 feet long. In 1939, the road past the school was relocated, adding about 11 feet to the southern boundary of the schoolyard. This strip was donated to the district by the owner, Wm. Michels. Well-built, home-made playground equipment as well as a modern merry-go-round care for the recreational needs of the pupils. The usual outbuildings are located to the rear of the schoolyard.

The highest enrollment for this school occurred before Two Rivers No. 3 district was set up. Even after that date, large enrollments were common up to 1880. From 1885 on, the average yearly attendance has been between 20 and 25, while the census listed between 40 and 60 children yearly. Today the census is still near the 40 mark, but the number of pupils enrolled has dropped to between 10 and 15.



The 1858 Mishicot assessment roll recorded these early settlers living in the present school district: Wm. Barthel, Carl Schmidt, Jacob Christoffel, John Altmeyer, Louis Barthel, Theo. Wiemann, and Martin Bonfigt. The descendants of these and later settlers served for long periods on the local schoolboard. Some of these early board members were Henry Althen, Christ Wullner, Geo. Kahrs, Carl Meissner, John Eller, Adolph Zeddies, and B. Wilke. In more recent years Henry Eller served as treasurer for 25 years, and Geo. Schmidt clerk for 22 years.

The number of graduates has not been as large as for some other county districts. The hundreds of former pupils have gone forth to become substantial citizens of other communities. Many of them have remained as residents of this community and are recognized as the leading farmers in the county. Two former students, Hernard and Helen Schwake, were well-known county teachers.

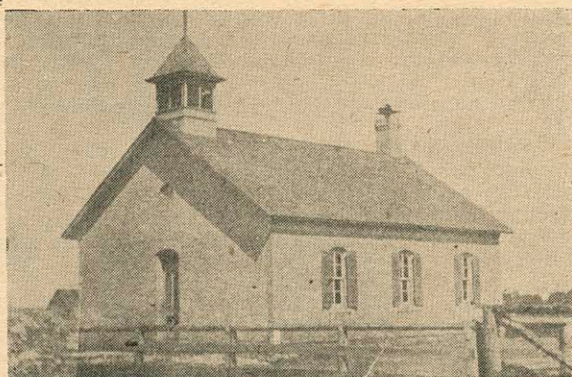
The names of teachers teaching this school are recorded as follows: Melora Shove 1871, Lizzie Hayes 1872, Mary Walsh 1873, Pauline Stoll 1874-5, Mary Honey 1876, Aug. J. Schmitz 1877-8, Frank Blesch 1879, Isaac Craite 1880, Minnie Torrison 1881, John Hoffmann 1882, Martha McGee 1883-4, Louise Koehler 1885, Lizzie Jahnke 1886, Tina Arneman 1887-8, Katie Sechrist 1889-90, Isabel Trossen 1891, Rose Mueller 1892-3, Emil Thiel 1894, Peter Federspiel 1895-6, Otto Boettcher and P. Mitnacht 1897, Melvin Halverson 1898, Alice Thompson 1899-1900, Viola Westgate 1901-3, Alma Hanson 1904, and Josephine Peterson 1905-6. Those teaching after that date are listed in the county annuals.

Today Mishicot No. 2 is a progressive farming community faced with the problem of providing the best educational opportunities for the small enrollment common to their little district school. To erect a modern building seems out of the question because of the limited enrollment. The first step to solve this problem was taken on Tuesday evening, March 4th, when a special school meeting was held to vote on the question of continued maintenance of their little district schoolhouse erected in the 1860's. The vote was 16 to 13 to suspend operations for the school year 1947-48 and to transport the pupils to a nearby district. This action was rescinded at the annual July school meeting and school was ordered kept in operation because the tuition and transportation costs were higher than actual operation costs.

## MISHICOT JT. 2 — KETTLE RANGE

Evangeline Klein

The Kettle Range School got its name through the fact that it is located in the Kettle Range area. The Kettle Range hills can be seen as one travels Highway 163 between Mishicot and Tisch Mills. The school district lies in the townships of Mishicot and Gibson. The school house is located on the town line between these two townships. The older residents of this and surrounding communities identify Mishicot Jt. 2 school as the Tetzlaff School because it is located on the former Otto Tetzlaff farm.



The town supervisors of the townships of Mishicot and Gibson, on August 31, 1865, notified August Wilkonsky that Jt. District No. 2 Mishicot had been formed. The supervisors who had signed the notice were Louis Kahnke and Helmuth Zander of Gibson and John Sourasch and Thomas Wagner of Mishicot. The district in 1865 consisted of the W $\frac{1}{2}$  of Section 18, the W $\frac{1}{2}$  of Section 19, and the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 30 in the township of Mishicot, and the E $\frac{1}{2}$  of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 25, all of Section 24, and the E $\frac{1}{2}$  of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , the N $\frac{1}{2}$  of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 13, all in the township of Gibson. In 1910 the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 7, in the township of



Mishicot was added to this district. The last described piece of property had belonged to Mishicot No. 6 school district.

The first school meeting for the newly organized district was held in the house of Louis Kahnke on December 9, 1865, at one o'clock P. M. The records show that the following voters of the district were notified of the first meeting: Gottlieb Bigalke, August Stehn, Henry Kippel, Wm. Koelsch, Etrieme Mirit, Carl Schmidt, Fred Krueger, Carl Pries, Ole Olsen, Fred Quistorff, Carl Schramm, Henry Ploeckelmann, John Quistorff, Tuliex Olsen, Jos. Mathey, Ferd. Albrecht, Ole Tidemann, Frank Lousier, Peter Ploeckelmann, Louis Kahnke, Matthias Mathieson, and Mathias Legro.

Louis Kahnke acted as chairman of the first meeting. Clerk Louis Kahnke, treasurer August Stehn, and Director Frank Lousier were chosen as the first school officers. The minutes of the first meeting were recorded by Henry Tisch who acted as clerk of the meeting. At this first meeting it was voted to purchase one-quarter acre of land from Tuliex Olsen for five dollars for a school site. The description of this site as recorded by Henry Tisch was as follows: "to commence at a certain post, 70 rds. due south from the NW corner of the NW¼ of Section 19 in Town 21, Range 24 East, and from fence to run eight rods due east from fence, seven rods due south from fence, and eight rods due west from fence to the center of the Kewaunee-Mishicot road."

The first school house built on the site was of hewn logs. It was 22 feet wide and 26 feet long. John Langhoff built the school at a cost of \$173.92. The buildings consisted of the school, a wood shed and outdoor toilets. The records reveal the fact that the logs and lumber costs were \$41.90. The furnishings of the school, consisting of twelve benches, tables, a book chest, two blackboards, and a chimney box cost \$36.50. This log building was abandoned in 1887 and sold to Fred Jenkins for ten dollars. He used it for a residence for many years.

A new school house was built in 1887 and is still being used as the center of learning today by the children of the district. This building is of brick, 26 x 36 feet. The cost of the new school was \$790, and Carl Pries, Robert Guse, and August Stehn were members of the building committee.

The first teacher in the first log school house was Henry Tisch who received \$30 per month for his four months of winter and three months of summer teaching. Casper Braasch taught in 1867 for the same wages. His term consisted of 154 days. Mathey Smith taught the winter term in 1868, while Ella Sachetl taught the summer term. Henry Sibree was the teacher during the winter of 1869. Other early teachers were Charles and Melora Shove, Annie Burnett, Maggie Kelly, Oscar Stockmeyer, Joseph Wojta, Casper Ploeckelmann, Walter Runge, Lizzie Hayes, Ernest Pries, C. F. Canright, D. R. Soler, Nancy Quistorf, J. A. Miller and Melvin Halverson. The first teacher in the present school was Maggie Kelly.

Some of the texts used by the first teachers were Sander's Readers, Sander's Speller, Ray's Arithmetic, McNally's Geography, Winston's History of the United States, Montheith's Geography, and the Phinneas Grammar.

The enrollment in 1871 was seventy. The average enrollment during the 1800's was between fifty and seventy-five. At present the enrollment has dwindled down to fourteen. Various factors pertinent to rural areas have had its effect in reducing the attendance in this school.

By 1874, the district voted to have a seven month school term instead of a winter and a summer term. In 1887, the district began maintaining an eight month school year. At present the term of nine months, required by law, is being maintained. This school has always been a one room rural school.

During its eighty years of existence, many of the qualified patrons of the district served as school officers. A few of the earliest officers in addition to the first board members were Carl Pries, August Wilkowsky, C. Wullner, H. Stehn, and Geo. Kahrs. Those patrons serving from 1906 to 1945 are listed in the County School Annals.

Hundreds of boys and girls have attended this school since its organization. Many of the graduates became community leaders. Among the more recent graduates who



attained prominence were the Benesch girls who became leading county teachers; Albert W. Tetzlaff, a county teacher and later our well known and popular County Clerk; Glynden Tetzlaff who is teaching in Milwaukee at present; L. O. Tetzlaff, the principal of Sheboygan County Normal; Earl Tetzlaff, a teacher in Manitowoc; Robert Guse, a formerly county supervising teacher; Randolph Stehn, cashier of Mishicot State Bank; Hugo Ploeckelmann, town clerk of Mishicot; Ernest Wilsmann, a former teacher and now with the Manitowoc Post Office.

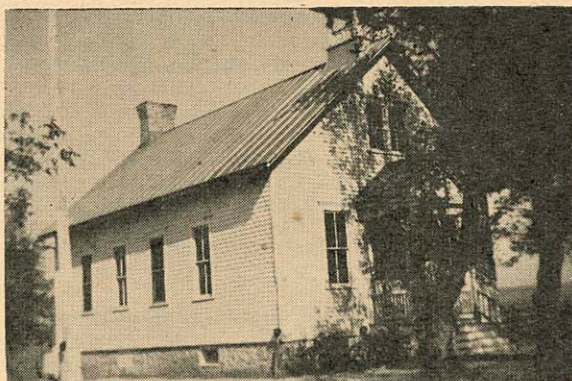
The district has no recorded places of historical or scenic interest.

### MISHICOT 3 — SAXONBURG

Hazel P. Eisenmann

Mishicot school district No. 3 is known as the Saxonburg district because the early settlers of this community came from Saxony, Germany. They named this area Saxonburg in memory of their German state. At one time, in 1853, the entire township consisting of what is now Gibson and Mishicot was called Saxonburg by order of the County Board.

The first settlers in this community settled here about 1845. The school district was organized in the early 1850's and was then known as Mishicot No. 4. After Mishicot became a township by itself in 1858, the school districts were re-numbered and this area became district No. 3. The extent of the present district coincides remarkably well with the old district No. 4 of the 1850's.



After Mishicot became a township by itself in 1858, the school districts were re-numbered and this area became district No. 3. The extent of the present district coincides remarkably well with the old district No. 4 of the 1850's.

The first school, a semi-log frame structure, was erected about 1850 and was located a half mile south of the present school, on what is now the Adolph Eisenmann farm. The exact location was just north of the present Eisenmann barn. It was a small building about 20 x 24 feet with two windows on each long side. The school equipment consisted of crude desks and seats, a drinking pail and dipper, and a stove in one corner of the room. There were no cloakrooms and cupboards so the children's wraps and lunch pails were stored in the schoolroom. During the cold winter days, the lunches froze despite the roaring fire in the stove. After nearly 50 years of service, the building was sold to August Schroeder for \$11, and is still standing and used for a granary on the present Roedger homestead.

The second and present schoolhouse was erected in 1899 on the present site. It is a frame structure planned by C. H. Tegen. The building was framed by August Schroeder for which services he received \$155. The total cost of the new school was \$1,128 according to county records.

The building is about 28 x 38 with four windows on each of the long sides and two on the entrance side. An open porch leads into an entry through double doors. On each side of the entry is a cloakroom. The schoolroom now has well-built open library shelving along the south wall between the two doors leading from the cloakrooms into the classroom. The front of the schoolroom still has a teacher's platform. The walls and ceiling are covered with tin. Modern schoolroom equipment and conveniences, such as electric lights, single-adjustable seats and desks, radio, electric plate, bulletin boards, a steel file, chairs and worktables, a sandtable, maps, and reference books have been added from year to year. A door in the northeast corner of the schoolroom leads to an attached basement entry. The basement houses a modern heating and ventilating system. The full basement, poorly lighted, is a combination fuel, furnace, and playroom. The building also has a large attic, well-lighted by two windows on the entrance side. The schoolyard has more than the average number of pieces of playground equipment. The well-kept building and playground



as well as the excellent equipment supplied indicate that the district is deeply interested in the education of the children enrolled.

Mishicot No. 3 had summer and winter sessions up to about 1875. The three month summer session began in April and ended in July, while the winter term extended from October to March. The residents of this district saw to it that their children took advantage of the schooling offered, for the county records show that about two-thirds of the children of school age attended school each year. The highest enrollment occurred in 1870 when for the two sessions a total of 75 pupils was enrolled. For the rest of the years between 1870 and 1905, the yearly attendance averaged between 40 and 65. Even in the 1900's, Saxonburg was considered one of the larger county schools. In recent years the enrollment has averaged 25 pupils out of a school census of about 70 children of school age residing in the district. It was interesting to note that the present school census lists about as many children as the census lists of the later 1800's did. The decrease in attendance is due to earlier graduation and parochial school attendance.

The Mishicot assessment roll of 1856 lists these as settlers in this area: John Brodkorb, Gottfried Mueller, Carl and Fred Brockmann, Carl Pfening, Chas. LeClair, John Reif, Fred Jonas, Joachim Meyer, Carl Fleischer, Fred and Albert Voight, John Schroeder, Fred Witte, John Stelzer, Heinrich Assmann, and John Huss. Some pupils who attended the first school were Ella and Fred Witte, Chas. Mueller, Edw. and Jos. Puta, John Benzinger, Sr., Wm. and Clara Lensing, Pauline Benzinger, Emil Bernhardt, Arthur Stelzer, Louis Heyroth, Hugo Roedger, Wilbert Mueller, and Wm. Brodkorb.

Former pupils of Mishicot No. 3 have added many names to the list of prominent Manitowoc county citizens. Among those entering the teaching profession were Edgar, Clara, Rose, Lillian, Fred, and Esther Jonas; Edna and Edward Wentker; Esther, Elsie, and Myrtle Schroeder; Amanda and Melvin Heyroth; Anna, Amanda, and Alma Halberg; Ella Witte; Chester Mueller; Milton and Roland Stelzer; Ellen Lensing; Leon Strouf; Earl and Jennie Stoneman; Carrie Schmidt, and Hazel Puta. Earl Stoneman became a professor at Whitewater; Anna Halberg is supervisor of schools in Washington, D. C.; Fred Jonas became an attorney; Edgar Jonas became a prominent judge in Chicago; and Edna Wentker and Amanda Heyroth became a county supervising teachers. In addition to these teachers, Otto and Hugo Bernhardt became ministers, and Hazel Mueller entered the nursing field. Many of the more prominent and progressive farmers of Manitowoc county are graduates of the Saxonburg school.

Members of the first schoolboard were Fred Mueller and Fred Witte, Sr. Others who served on the board prior to 1906 were Henry Mueller 1872-74; Fred Halberg 1874-80; Fred Witte 1890-96; Louis Heyroth 1896-1906, and Gustave Brodkorb, John Schroeder, John Benzinger, Otto Bernhardt, and Adolph Seidl.

During the early years of the school, the majority of the teachers stayed only for one term. The county records show that the salary paid these early teachers was low or below the average paid in Mishicot township. It was not until the 1900's that higher than average salaries were paid to the best teachers obtainable. The names of teachers on record in the superintendent's office for the years prior to 1906 were: Henry Cuff 1872 S, Mary Cuff 1872 W, Louise Hockmeyer 1873 S, and 1874 W, Henry Braasch 1873 W, Wm. Ross 1876, E. A. Benedict 1877, Floyd Benedict 1878, Mary Packard 1879, Ida Klingholz 1880, Robert Shambeau 189-, Dora Halverson 1894-5, Henry Behlow 1896, Walter Runge 1897-9, John Shambeau 1899-1903, and Hermus Besau 1904-05. Teachers after 1906 who became well known were Earl Stoneman, professor of agriculture; Anna Halberg, who became a leader in the Washington, D. C. schools; Henry J. Antholz, Supt. of Schools at Spooner and once president of the Wisconsin Education Association; John E. Teporten with the Wisconsin Vocational Dept. at Madison; Bert Vogel, a leader in rural education in Wisconsin; Ladimir Hrudka, superintendent of schools at Cicero, Illinois; and Edna Wentker, a county supervising teacher.

The residents of the Saxonburg district have always made use of the school's facilities. In addition to the usual basket socials, seasonal programs, and card parties, the school has served as a meeting place for 4-H clubs, farm organizations, and literary societies. The Saxonburg Dramatic Club in existence in the early 1900's sponsored yearly plays which gave that community an enviable reputation.

Saxonburg today is a community of progressive and prosperous farmers. Many of the pioneer family names are still common to the district. The Saxonburg cemetery, a few rods east of the public school site, is the final resting place of many of the pioneer settlers of the Mishicot area.



## MISHICOT JT. 4 — LA SALLE

Norma Schmit

Mishicot Joint District No. 4 was given the name La Salle school in memory of a fellow-countryman of the early French settlers of this district. It was and still is referred to commonly as the French Settlement school. Some of the early settlers of French extraction were Dolphis Niquette, Joseph Dionne, Anton Cayo, Fred Baugniet, Eli Peltier, and Joseph Belrose.

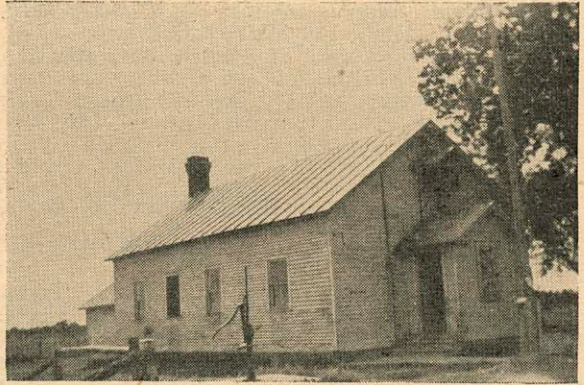
The assessment roll of Mishicot for 1856, when Mishicot township included Gibson, indicates that the present Mishicot Jt. district 4 was then known as Mishicot No. 5, made up of sections 6, 7, and 8, township 20 N. After Mishicot became a township by itself in 1858, the districts were renumbered and this area then became Mishicot No. 4. In 1875 or 1876, according to the town clerk's report to the county superintendent, a small area in section 35, Gibson was added, making this Mishicot Jt. 3 with Gibson. Since Gibson No. 7 became joint with Mishicot about that time and called itself Gibson Jt. 3, it was decided in 1878 to change the designation to Mishicot Jt. 4, since it was originally district 4 when Mishicot became a township. Later a small farm was annexed in Kossuth, making the Mishicot school district joint 4 with Gibson and Kossuth. At present the district consists of not quite three sections of land, one of the smallest school districts in the county.

There are no school records before 1863, but when the district purchased the first site from Dolphis Niquette for \$30 in 1863, there was already a school building on it. The first site was at the N.W. corner of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 7, T. 20 N., Range 24E which is about one-eighth mile west of the present school site. No one seems to remember when this school was built nor the type of structure. It very likely was erected in the early 1850's and may have been a log building of the type common at that time.

The first frame school of which there are written records was built between the years 1869-1871 at a cost of \$168. It was a frame building about 24 x 28 feet without a basement and with windows on three sides. The entrance door led directly into the schoolroom. The pupils' wraps and dinner pails were stored near the boxstove to keep them warm. The furniture consisted of double seats and desks and wooden blackboards. Because there were no seats, some church pews were purchased. These were called "lazy benches", for it was the pupils who were lazy or mis-behaving who were made to sit on the lazy bench. The church pews served also as recitation benches. This building was moved to the present site after occupying the first site for some years. The present location is the N.E. corner of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 7, T. 20 N., R. 23 E.

The frame building erected in 1869 is still used as the district school today. In the year 1903 an eight-foot addition costing \$450 was added to the front of the building to serve as an entrance and cloakroom. At about the same time a woodshed was attached to the rear of the school and a door cut into the schoolhouse so that the fuel could be easily obtained. The building was originally heated by the usual boxstove without a ventilation system. During the 1920-30's, a floor furnace with a ventilation system was installed. Electric lights were also installed in the 1930's. Today the school building consists of a medium-sized classroom, fuel shed, one large cloakroom, and an entrance shed. The old-time teacher platform in the front of the room is still in use. The interior schoolroom walls are covered with boards. A well-built library cupboard houses the text and library books. Single, adjustable desks and seats have replaced the double ones, although a few double seats are still used for recitation benches.

Since there is no basement, outdoor toilets are used. The district and board members have tried to keep up with the best in school equipment by purchasing those recommended by school authorities, but the great need is to provide a modern building. With the continued decrease in enrollment other means of meeting modern rural educational trends may be the solution.





Mishicot Jt. 4 is adjacent to the village of Mishicot and is affected by parochial school attendance of the district children. The smallness of the district has affected the size of the school ever since its organization. The highest enrollment occurred in 1890 when 80 pupils were attending school. The average from 1870 to 1905 was between 40 and 60 pupils yearly. In 1901 the enrollment was made up of 8 Baugniet, 5 Bartelme, 4 Bodwin, 2 Cherney, 3 Chaloupka, 2 Etetsky, 3 Fries, 3 Jost, 5 Jindra, 4 Koch, 1 Niquette, 1 Meissner, 3 Peltier, 3 Rhein, 2 Samz, 2 Reinholdt, and 4 Westgate children. In 1948 the enrollment totaled only 13 pupils.

Former pupils of this school who have become well-known throughout the state are: Atty. Clarence Roullier of Milwaukee; banker Math. Bartelme of Oconomowoc; Olive Peltier, Milwaukee city nurse; banker F. C. Baugniet of Francis Creek; Dr. Hugh Westgate of Milwaukee; and Archie Baugniet, a rural mail carrier. Graduates who entered the teaching profession were the Baugniet, Kochs, Jindras, Fries, Niquettes, and Westgates. Adolph Cherney became owner of the Cherney Construction Co. Other former pupils also became prominent in the fields of agriculture, business, and industry.

One of the first school clerks was Joseph Dionne who served from 1869-72 and from 1874 to 1878. Others who served as clerks were Joseph Belrose 1872-74; Peter Kaufmann 1878-95; and Eli Peltier 1895-1906. Other board members from 1872 to 1906 were Fred Fries, August Terens, Ed. Samz, Dolphis and Carlisle Niquette, Frank Krueger, Peter Harris, Fred Westgate, John Reynolds, Chas. Rezba, B. Bartelme, and M. Hoffmann. Mich. Koch served as clerk for 17 years in the 1900's.

During the early years of the school, the voters decided whether a male or female teacher was to be hired, the length of the school term, and when school was to start, the vacation periods, and that school was to be closed when the roads were impassable. The salary of the teacher was also voted upon at the meeting for in 1872 it was voted to pay the teacher only \$150 for the term of 9 months. They also reserved the right to call a special meeting if more than \$10 was to be spent for any article. In March 1878, a special meeting was called to adopt the following text books: Sanders New Series Readers, Swinton's spellers, geographies, and histories, Robinson's arithmetic, Kerl's grammar, and Spencerian Copy Books.

Summer and winter sessions of school were held some years during the 1870's. A nine month term, one of the few in the county for 1872, was voted for the district. One of the first teachers was Adelia C. Osulson in 1869-70. From 1870 to 1873 the district paid the board of the teachers. Teachers' names officially on record in the county office are Annie Sullivan 1872-3; Jonas Gagnon 1873W; Nancy Darling 1874; Peter Garrigan 1876; Mary Cody 1877; Emma Gibson 1878; Jos. Rick 1879; M. H. Smith 1880; Herman Besau 1894; Floyd Westgate 1895-96; Jerome Craite 1897; John Shambeau 1898; Ella Weinfurther 1904; and Geo. Eigenberger 1905. Others who have taught this school previous to 1906 were Libbie Puffer, Maggie LaPlant, Isabel Trossen, Josie Thompson, Christ Wuellner, J. A. Miller, Alma Halberg, Louis Trossen, and Alice M. Thompson.

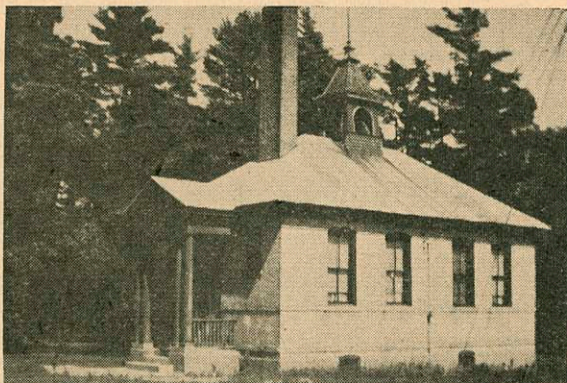
Mishicot Jt. 4 has always been a farming community. The district has about 20 farms but no village within its boundaries. A very few of the old French family names are now remaining in the district. The community has no places of historic or scenic interest.

## MISHICOT 5 — PINE GROVE

Shirley E. Schroeder

Mishicot District No. 5 is officially designated as the Pine Grove School because it is situated near a grove of pine trees. The school is located near the junction of Highway 163 and County Trunk B in section 9, township 20 N, and Range 24E. To many residents of this section of the county the school is now known as the Steiner's Corner school.

While the township of Mishicot embraced the townships of Gibson and Mishicot up to 1858, the present Mishicot District No. 5 was Mishicot District No. 11. At that time the





district included sections 9, 10, 15, and the E½ of section 16 all in township 20N, range 24E. After Mishicot township separated from Gibson the school districts were renumbered and this district became District No. 5, Mishicot. Today this district is made up of sections 9, 10, 15, and very small parts of sections 4 and 16 in township 20N, range 24E.

There are no official records of the school prior to 1904 in the hands of the present school officers. The facts given in this history are those obtained from county records and from personal comments of old timers in the district. The first log schoolhouse was built about 1860 on the site of the present school and stood there until 1908. In later years the logs were covered with boards. The old building had a lean-to woodshed and the school itself had two windows on both of the long sides. These windows had shutters customary to buildings of that time. These shutters swung on hinges and were used to board up the windows during the nights and during the summer. A fine picture of the old school is to be found in the 1909 Manitowoc County School Annual. Henry Thielbar, a former pupil, reported that the furniture consisted of six wooden seats about 8 feet long, a teacher's desk, library cupboards, and chairs. A wooden blackboard about 4 by 8 feet was used. There are no records of the cost of this building nor who built it. When this old school was abandoned in 1908, it was moved to the corner of Highway 163 where it is still used as a garage.

The second and present brick veneered schoolhouse was erected in 1908 at a cost of \$1,694. The building is 36 x 22 feet with a schoolroom 26 x 20 feet. It has a large cloakroom, a library room 7½ x 5 feet, and a full-sized basement. A basement furnace provides heating and ventilation. During the 1940's electric lights were installed. The school is modern in every respect except that outdoor toilets are still used.

Enrollment records dating back to 1870 were found in the annual reports of the township clerks to the county superintendent of schools on file in the latter's office. In 1870, the enrollment in this school was 44. In 1880 it was down to 28. By 1895 the attendance was thirteen, but by 1905 it had gone up to 29 pupils again. The average enrollment for the last thirty years has been between 10 and 20 pupils. At present there are nine children enrolled. The enrollment in the school has been affected by the rise of the parochial school system and by other factors common to rural areas.

According to the Mishicot assessment roll of 1858 the following settlers lived or owned land in this district at that time: Lorenz Schuler, Mathias Scheuer, Mathias Hoffmann, Nicolaus Scheuer, Henry Mueller, John Breider, Albert Wittenberg, and Casimer Young. Some of the family names are still common to the district. Families who settled in the district at a later period were the Thielbars, Redekers, Benzingers, and Wilsmans. This district, too, has produced prominent leaders in business and agriculture. There seems to be no record of graduates who became well-known in the professions and in politics.

The earliest record of school officers found in the teachers' record book in the county superintendent's office lists these district settlers who served as clerk with the dates of their tenure: Anton Palzer 1872-78; Bruno Mueller 1878-90; Nic Schroeder 1895-98; Winar Bedbur 1903-05.

The county records show that this district had no summer and winter terms at least after 1872. By that date school was in session for six months of the year. The teachers' salaries up to 1900 averaged about \$28 per month. Some teachers who taught in this district were: Mary Ross 1872; Julia E. Ricker 1873; Mary Walsh 1874; Sarah Henry 1875-79; Mary Taugher 1894-95; Dora Clausen 1896; Mary Redeker 1897-98; and Mary Redeker again in 1905-06. The district has consistently shown a preference for women teachers.

The texts used during the latter part of the 1800's were the Sanders and the American spellers and readers, Ray's arithmetic, the Montheith's and the Mitchell's geographies, the Phinneas and the Smith grammars, and the Guffey and the Swinton's histories. Emphasis was placed on the three R's and many of the subjects now a part of the school curriculum were unheard of in the early days of this school. During the 1900's school fairs, contests, and spelling matches were popular.

The Pine Grove district is and always has been a pure farming community. Many of the farms are in the hands of descendants of the original owners. Although



it is one of the smaller districts of the township, its assessed valuation indicates that it is one of the more prosperous districts. Scenic East Twin River which forms the eastern boundary of the school site winds its way through and bisects the district. The river provides residents with fishing and picnic spots. During the spring the river is the center for sucker fishers for residents from near and far.

## MISHICOT 6 — TISCH MILLS

Clare J. Panoch

Mishicot district number 6 is now and has always been called the Tisch Mills school. It is sometimes referred to as the Stangel school because of the many Stangels who live in the district. Tisch Mills is located about a mile west and one mile north of the school site, but since it is the only village in the district, the school was so named.

Mishicot No. 6 was at one time set up as Mishicot No. 12 when Gibson and Mishicot were one township. The district was organized for school purposes in 1857 according to an old clerk's record book written in German and Bohemian. Prior to 1856 this district was a part of Mishicot district No. 1 which consisted of sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, and 21. By 1858, while Mishicot and Gibson were still one township, the districts were re-numbered and the present Mishicot 6 became Mishicot district No. 12 which then consisted of sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9, T. 21 N., R. 24 E. When Mishicot township separated from Gibson, the districts were again re-numbered and this area became district No. 6, Mishicot. Since its organization in 1857 various pieces of land have been detached and added to Mishicot No. 7 and Jt. 2.



The first schoolhouse was built about 1857. It was said to have been a log building with a lean-to added. The records of the clerk state that \$2.25 was paid out in 1868 to "point" out the old building to fit it for another year or two of service. The site was the same as the present location of the school. The land on which the school was located was a part of the 160 acre tract given by the U. S. of America to Jewett Wiggin, a private in Captain Smith's company of the New Hampshire militia. The deed to him was signed Dec. 1, 1857, by Pres. James Buchanan. Jewett Wiggin assigned the land to Thos. Wacadlo. On Sept. 27, 1858, Thos. Wacadlo and Catherine, his wife, sold to district No. 6 Mishicot, the following described property: To commence at the S.E. corner of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 5, T. 21 N., R. 24 E. a piece of land to run 9 rods north, thence 9 rods west, thence 9 rods south, thence 9 rods east to the place of commencement, containing one-half acre for the sum of \$5.00.

In 1868 the log school was replaced by a frame structure. Building operations were begun the first of May. The sum of \$600 was raised to pay for the new school. The school, now 80 years old, still stands and serves the community. Continued improvements have been made and new and modern equipment added. The building is 24 x 36 feet in size, has one large classroom with windows on the long sides and two in the entrance side, has a large cloakroom, built in library shelves, floor furnace, and large areas of blackboard space. Electric lights were installed in 1945. The teaching equipment compares quite favorably with the better schools in the county. The school has no basement and so the usual outbuildings are found.

The Tisch Mills school began as, and has continued to remain, a one room school. As early as 1861, there were 86 children of school age residing in the district, but not all of them attended school. The census reports as given in the town clerk's reports to the county superintendent show that the school never had the large enrollments found in some of the early schools. The highest attendance was 87 pupils in the year 1870. An examination of the town clerk's reports for five year periods from



1870 to 1910 show that about 50 to 70 pupils attended each year. During all of the 1900's up to 1946, the enrollment has remained constant at about 25 to 40 enrolled children.

The records of district No. 6, town of Mishicot, are not without omissions. On the page one of the minute book, the following sentences appear: "Keep this book for future purpose. Take care of it. Year 1859". On the following page there is written in German script: "The third annual meeting was held Sept. 24, 1860. Wenzel Dvorak was elected treasurer for a period of 3 years. It was agreed at this meeting to limit the school to a four month term from Nov. 1, 1860 to March 1, 1861. The teacher was voted a salary of \$20 per month." Several other needs were stipulated, and the proceedings were countersigned by Clerk Christ Bukousky and director Charles Eggert. On Sept. 30, 1861, Wenzel Swoboda was accepted as financial security for Wenzel Dvorak. The total expenses for the school year were \$142. At that meeting, too, Thos. Rezach was elected director for 3 years to succeed Wenzel Sinkula. Up to 1867 the minutes were written in German with the following holding office: Christ Bukousky, Wenzel Dvorak, Albert Holub, Christian Fick, Chas. Maak, Thos. Rezach, and John Schultz. After 1867 the records were for some time written in Bohemian. "It is easy to account for the languages used in conducting business", states C. G. Stangel, a former pupil. "The southern area of the district was settled by Germans, while the northern area was settled by Bohemians. It was not until 1875 that English began to be used exclusively at school meetings."

Mishicot No. 6 was the home district of many prominent citizens. Frank W. Stangel became a teacher and later built and operated a general store at Tisch Mills. Frank J. Stangel became a teacher, an attorney, and later an Episcopal priest. Jacob J. Stangel founded the J. J. Stangel Hardware at Manitowoc. C. G. Stangel was one of the first rural students to receive a county rural school diploma, became a county teacher, and principal of Lincoln High at Manitowoc, and served one year as president of the Wisconsin Education Association. Dan Stangel was a county teacher and later practiced dentistry in Milwaukee. Otto Stangel became superintendent of agricultural schools in Dakota and in Pennsylvania. Adolph Stangel is head of the Badger Specialty Company of Manitowoc. John Murdrock was a teacher, dentist, physician, and city treasurer of Milwaukee. Jos. Murdrock is a prominent physician at Columbus, Wisconsin. Gust Eggert became a prominent farmer, abstractor, and register of deeds. A. G. Schauer became a teacher and later a banker in Kewaunee. Another graduate was Father Kerch, a Catholic priest. Some other outstanding graduates were: Dr. Frank Kozelka, Madison; Dr. Adolph Kozelka, Two Rivers; Frank and Otto Jansky; Sister Wencelaus, for years supervisor at the Holy Family Hospital; Arthur Koehler, the famous wood expert of the Lindberg case; and Joseph Fronk, a teacher near Madison, Wisconsin. There are many more who became prominent but this list must suffice and give an indication of the prominence of its graduates.

Sam Roullier was the first teacher mentioned and he taught for two years. He was succeeded by Rudolph Tisch for two years, and then Sam Roullier again for one year. Charles Eggert taught from 1868 to 1876. Others who taught the school were: Floyd Benedict 1876; John O'Hara 1877-80; F. W. Stangel 1880-82; F. J. Stangel 1882-86; Spencer Lovedale 1886; F. J. Stangel 1887; Arthur Zander 1888 from April to May 15; C. G. Stangel 1888-91; Fred Hammond (now Dr. Hammond) 1891. Others from 1891 to 1906 were Chas. F. Schimmel, Adolph Kazda, Jos. F. Wojta, Chas. Schlundt, Jos. Stangel, John Gruber, and John Murdrock.

Citizens who have served on the school board in addition to those named for the 1860's were: Geo. Schulz, Frank Schauer, John Stangel, Louis Koehler, Jos. Klenarst, Albert Kaiser, Jos. Stangel, Gust. Eggert, and Frank Stangel. Records show that the school board members have always tried to get the best teachers possible by paying a much higher salary than surrounding districts did.

This school always took an active part in town and county contests. Many prizes were captured by the pupils of this school. An interesting fact discovered in looking over the old school registers was that in the years 1906-09 there were 23 Stangels enrolled out of a total enrollment of 40 pupils! One of the oldest residents of the district is "Grandma" Stangel who not only raised a large family but found time to board the teachers and to cheer them on their way. The school yard, on the east and west sides, has rows of evergreens and maples, planted one each year on Arbor Day.

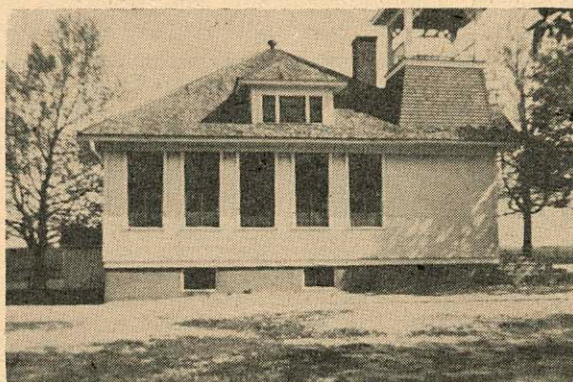
The district has no places of great scenic or historical interest. Tisch Mills, a village in this district, was begun by the two Tisch brothers who operated a grist mill. Since that time the hamlet has become an important trading and business center for the surrounding communities.



## MISHICOT 7—PLEASANT VIEW SCHOOL

Lorraine Kracht

Mishicot district No. 7 was given the name of Pleasant View because of the pleasant view of rolling hills and wooded tracts which can be obtained from the school site. Residents from the surrounding communities refer to this as the Skubal school because it is located at Skubal's Corner. All early records of the district kept by the school clerks were destroyed by fire when the home of the former school clerk, Anton Skubal, burnt to the ground in recent years.



In 1858, when Mishicot and Gibson townships were one, the land in this district was known as Mishicot district 13 made up of sections 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, and 21. After the two towns separated, this area became Mishicot No. 7 according to the Mishicot assessment roll of 1859 on file in the county treasurer's office. In 1865 when Mishicot Jt. 2 was organized, this district lost the west one-half of sections 18 and 19, but it has had added a tier of farms along the northern edge of sections 28, 29, and 30.

The first log schoolhouse was built shortly after the district organized. The cost of the structure is unknown. It served the community until 1871 when a frame structure costing \$412 was erected. A picture of this school taken in 1899 at some community affair is in the hands of a district resident. It shows the school with the exterior improvements made since its erection. The building seemed to be about 24 feet wide and 30 feet long with four windows on the long sides. Each window had 12 panes. Older residents recall that the original plank floor was removed and regular flooring laid. The interior of the building had one large cloakroom across the entrance side and a classroom for the rest of the structure. The classroom had a high teacher's desk with a high stool behind it on which the teachers sat. This teacher's desk is now used as a business desk in a cheese factory a quarter mile south of the school. The desks and seats were home-made, large enough to seat six to eight sturdy youngsters. The seats had no backs and were high enough off the floor to care for all sizes of pupils! A big woodstove in the middle of the room was the heating plant, while the wood was piled conveniently in the rear of the room. Standing on a small bench near the piled wood was a water pail with the drinking dipper hanging on a nail nearby. Maps, a globe, a large dictionary, and "black" boards completed the equipment. About 1900, new, patented double desks were purchased.

In 1916, the voters decided that a new and modern building was in order. Louis Skubal, who owned the tavern across the road, was planning to enlarge his dance hall about the same time, so he purchased the old school for the addition to his hall. The old school building still stands as the western part of the hall. All that was necessary to add it to the hall was to remove one end and attach it to the Skubal property.

Building operations for the new and present school began in 1916, but it was not completed until the summer of 1917. The contract was let out on bids and the lowest bidder, Matt Zima, built the school for about \$4,000. The building is modern in all respects, having a full basement housing indoor toilets, and rooms for the heating and ventilating system, for fuel, and for play. The first floor has a large entry, a cloakroom, built-in library, and a large correctly lighted classroom. Electric lights were installed in the early 1940's. The school has a large bell-tower with bell which can be heard in all parts of the district. The building is equipped with the best in modern teaching and learning aids. Single, chair-type desks replaced the old double desks. This school is one of the most modern in Mishicot township.

Mishicot No. 7 was thickly settled as early as 1870, consequently the school enrollment even at that time was higher than average. For the summer and winter terms of school for 1870, there was a total enrollment of 87 pupils as shown in the



town clerk's report to the county superintendent. After the two term school year was given up about 1874, the yearly attendance averaged between 50 and 70 pupils. During the early 1900's, there were from 35 to 50 children attending. The present enrollment averages about 25. There are about as many families residing in the district but fewer children in a family, older residents, and high school attendance by those over fourteen years of age has decreased the enrollment.

The 1859 Mishicot assessment roll lists these as settlers or land owners in the district: Christ Nagel, H. Kracht, Mathias Gloyda, John Mach, John and Jos. Mali, Jos. and Wenzel Bardosh, Paul and Wm. Krueger, Geo. Eggert, Andrew Smith, Ferdinand Dankier, Hy. Burmeister, Wm. Fink, Heinrich Wolf, Albert Voight, Etienne Miret, Hosea Allen, and Christ Bean. The Benesch, Yences, Jockam, Schroeder, Kakes, Hanek, and Voelker families were later residents. Edward Kracht was the first boy from the district to get a common school diploma. He is now the principal of Eagle River high school. This is the home district of town chairman, Anton Skubal, who was also a school board member for many years. The former pupils of this school have become prosperous and successful in their work.

As records for the early years of this school are destroyed, it is possible to list only the names of those school officers remembered by older residents and by using the incomplete office records. It is reported that Charles Yences, John Voelker, and Frank Shebesta were on the first school board. The county records show that the following served as school clerk from 1872 to 1906: Henry Wolf 1872-74; John Gabriel 1874-76; A. Lyon 1877; Henry Engelland 1878-80; Jos. Skubal 1894-98; and Wm. Engelland 1904-05.

The early teachers boarded around at the homes of the nearest families with pupils in school. Some of them who lived in nearby communities walked to and from school each day. Summer and winter terms of school were held up to 1875. Teachers names recorded in the superintendents' books were: 1872(S) Catherine Stitt; 1872(W) Kate E. Robinson; 1873(W) Ernest Pries; 1874(S) Mary Ross; 1874(W) Samuel Stitt; 1880 Wm. Ross; 1894-5 Casper Ploekelman; 1896 W. Tomek; 1897 Lloyd Brown; 1898 Emma Eggert; 1904 Jos. Murock; and 1905 Edw. Gerl. It is reported that P. M. Simms taught this school in 1884. Two others who taught here at some time were Louis Levenhagen and Katie Sechrist. Those after that date are listed in the county school annuals. Isaac Craite, the teacher in 1878-9, became a well-known jurist in Manitowoc. Jos. Murock became a doctor and now practices at Columbus, Wisconsin.

Mishicot district No. 7 has always been a farming community. Francis Kracht built a blacksmith shop in 1855 at the crossroad at which the school is located. Only the foundation remains. A cheese factory, a short distance south of the corner, was built by Henry Engelland. This factory is still in use today. Maack's tavern, now torn down, was located 1½ miles north of the school site. A Lutheran church was situated at the same place, but that too was torn down in 1918 and a new church built at Two Creeks. The Indians used the land on the present Oscar Stueck farm for their camping grounds.



**Metadata**

**A centennial history of the Manitowoc County school districts  
and its public school system, 1848-1948**

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<http://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/WI.manCenten>

*Link to section on Mishicot school district:*

<http://images.library.wisc.edu/WI/EFacs/MTWCImages/manCenten/reference/wi.mancenten.i0027.pdf>