

The History of the Lone Pine School House

by Carol Britton, formerly of the LTSH Board

The Lone Pine schoolhouse was originally constructed by James Kellogg and Gustav Ernst in 1906 or 1907. The exact date is debated, but the first teacher, Miss Husted, was hired in 1906. The school was better known in the area as the Kellogg school. The reason it was called the Kellogg school was not because Mr. Kellogg helped build it but probably because Mr. and Mrs. Kellogg had 17 children and there was always a Kellogg in class during the 30 years the school was open. It was built on donated property that was designated for use only as a school. The school closed in 1936 when the county schools consolidated and buses started to transport the children of Lovells to school in Grayling. For the first time all children in the county had the opportunity to extend their educations higher than 8th grade without boarding with other families in town.

The building located in Lovells is the original log structure measuring 20' x 30' with three log windows on each side. All but one panel of the window glass is original to the building. The floors of the school are original to the last 5 feet. Since the school sat directly on top of the ground the logs around the bottom had to be replaced and the brick chimney was removed. Otherwise the building is very much the way it was when it was in use as a school.

The Slate Chalkboard is original to the school as are the first three school desks present in the school. The desks may not have been in use when the school opened in 1906 but were in the school when it closed in 1936. Each of these items were donated back to the Lovells Township Historical Society to be placed in the schoolhouse.

When the school closed in 1936 it sat empty for several years and then in 1940 Dorothy Schackinberg bought the school and moved into it in 1946 following WWII. Dorothy and her two boys lived in the schoolhouse until she died in 1960. The boys sold the property in 1963. The final owner, Rudolph Pallone, gifted the schoolhouse to the Lovells Township Historical Society in 1991. The historic building was moved to the township property and renovations began that summer.