

The Upper Charrette School

- Welcome to the Village of Innsbrook Historical Society's (IHS) School House in the Warren County Woods.
- This school house was established in 1881, rebuilt in 1909 and closed in 1941.
- It was restored in 2000, and moved to its present location in 2018 by the IHS.

What Kind of People Lived Around Here?

- The primary tribes of Native Americans in this area were Sauk, Fox, Osage, Missouri, Kansa & Oto.
- The Sauk & Fox tribes ranged throughout Northern MO and Osage Villages were found in the Southwest MO area.
- Charrette Creek, which runs by the IHS Village, ultimately flows into the Mississippi River. There is evidence of multiple tribes that migrated to MO - many via the Mighty Mississippi!
- Ancient history dates back to the Woodland Period. The Woodland Native Americans scattered around the rivers of MO. They buried their dead in mounds found along the rivers.
- In the 1700's the fur traders and trappers (mainly from France) settled in this area.
- By 1821 MO became a state. The first German migration settled in Marthasville and surrounding areas in 1832. Warren County was formed in 1833.

What Was Daily Life Like for Early Settlers & Their Families?

- Settling the new land was a risky and scary undertaking as it was primarily a frontier of unpopulated territory.
- Schools were built where it was handiest to serve the needs of the people.

- They grew wheat, corn and tobacco mainly in this area depending on the unpredictable weather.
- The settlers experienced many hardships such as climate change, homesickness, epidemics such as smallpox, influenza, typhoid, yellow fever & cholera – sicknesses rarely seen today. This affected the student's attendance in school.
- The farm on which the first Charrette School was built was bought from the Government by the Gerdemann Family in 1839. It was located off highway F and the West IBK Gate. At that time no children were living in the district.
- It is thought that a log school was built in the early 1850's as children attended this school.
- In 1881 Fritz Dieckman (Dickman) purchased the farm and a new log school was built. In 1888 the name of the school was changed to Upper Charrette School since the Charrette Creek ran past the school.
- The Dieckman's (Dickman's) sold the school and the land it was on to the Township of Hickory Grove School District. It was weather-boarded and a new frame school was erected in the early 1900s.
- The Hummel family lived in the log cabin you see out of this window in the 1930/40's, but this school was originally a mile (or so) over the hills near Highway F. The children could walk to the school. According to the family, a teacher lived in this cabin for at least a year.

How does a One Room School House Work?

- A single teacher would typically teach students in first through sixth (sometimes eighth) grades.
- The youngest children would sit in front and the oldest in the back.
- The desks were hand-made and supplied with slates & chalk for the students.
- Most rural one-room schools were built with a cupola for the bell, wooden windows, pine floor boards, bead board paneling, slate chalk boards, a school marm's desk and a pot-bellied stove.

- Horace Mann, Secretary of Education in 1837, set up a system of professional teachers that organized a curriculum of basic content.
- Teachers were paid \$40 - \$90 a month in rural MO and had to complete high school and pass a teacher's test.
- The "Three R's" of education was taught in the schools – Reading, Writing and Arithmetic (Plus a bit of history and geography when there was time.) The older students would help the younger students when needed.
- Most students had a McGuffey Reader, a graded primer for grades 1-6 (sometimes 8) or maybe a Ray's Arithmetic series. Noah Webster's blue-backed speller (with phonics foundations and vocabulary words) was popular as well.
- The readers emphasized moral values and lessons to "...develop students into good citizens".

Not All Work Without Play!

- For outside play the children threw a ball over the school house while others caught it on the other side. **(Related by Eleanor Schnarr, 93 yrs old, a former student, in a 2018 interview.)**

In the snow they would play "catch and goose" in a circle.

- Square dancing and a form of dodge ball was played inside.
- School hours by the 1900's were from 9-4, Sept-April, with an hour for lunch.
- The last one-room school house in the USA was officially closed in 1967.