

The Pulpit Harbor School

As early as 1809 there was a school house in the old North District, also known as the Pulpit Harbor district. At this time there were four distinct and separate districts established on the island. Over the years, as the population of the island changed, district lines were drawn and re-drawn until a total of seven school districts existed in the 1850's when there were over 1,000 residents on North Haven.

By 1904, the last classes were held at the Pulpit Harbor School and eventually the building was torn down. In the 19th century, the majority of the teachers were young women, probably educated no further than the 8th grade. Some were as young as 14 or 15 years old when they started teaching. By 1890, these teachers received only an average of \$5.00 per week; many continued to live with their parents or relatives while they were teaching.

The course of study was mostly, Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic. In mathematics, the curriculum ended with square and cube root. In teaching writing, penmanship and spelling were emphasized. Essays, poems and letters were used to teach and most of the older students participated in teaching the younger children. Since quite a lot of learning involved recitation, students were often quite familiar with the next level of learning before they began their studies.

The day was spent with students aged 9 up to 25 studying independently at their desks or practicing with a partner in preparation for formal recitations to their teacher. All recitations took place at the front of the room and every Friday of the term there would be a spelling contest. Generally, school was only open for eight to ten weeks a year because pupils were needed on the farm especially at planting and harvest times. The teachers generally provided, at their own cost, teaching aids such as maps or globes, though parents and students also held social events to raise money for such items. Singing schools were often held for residents of the area and public "spelling bees" were a highlight of the week for many. On the last day of the term, mothers were invited to attend exercises and a picnic.

Many teachers at the school were a part of Pulpit Harbor families:

Hannah Dyer	Lucy Beverage	Annie Miller	Edgar Beverage
Mary Thomas	Nellie Brown	Hanson Beverage	Ida Wooster
Marion Thomas	Lulu Coombs	Carrie Webster	Mary Crockett
Elsie Crockett	Etta Witherspoon	Addie Bates	Sarah Alexander



The Pulpit Harbor School House.



**Photograph taken from the front steps of the Pulpit Harbor School House in the early 1900's.
Across the road is John and Sands Witherspoon's home.
Will Sampson is driving and Bessie Waterman (later Grant) is at the head of the group of bicyclists.
The roof of John Witherspoon's fish house can be seen on the shore.**



Mother's Day at Pulpit Harbor School.

Back Row– Nettie Witherspoon, Christie Cooper, Jennie Beverage, Fostie Parsons, Linda Beverage, Leigh Witherspoon, Teacher, Fred Tolman, Grover Babbidge, Lucy Quinn

Middle Row– Elsie Beverage, Orrie Joyce, Mildred Cooper

Front Row– Etta Beverage, Marion Brown, Margaret Brown, Katie Parsons, Walter Joyce, Martin Joyce

PULPIT HARBOR GRAMMAR SCHOOL

JUNE 9, 1921.

: : Program : :

Music

Prayer

Salutatory—Schools of Today and Yesterday.....
EMMA JANE PARSONS

Resources of MaineTHEODORE BEVERAGE

Class WillCLARA LEE WHITMORE

Music

Good Old Times, ALTON SHERMAN CALDERWOOD

Class ProphecyNELLIE AUGUSTA COOPER

Presentation of Gifts....FRANZE BERTRAND MILLS

Valedictory—History of the English Language
OWEN FRANK GRANT

PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMAS

Music

Class Flower :
Pansy.

Class Colors :
Purple and Gold.

Class Motto :
To Be Worthy Americans.

Teacher—Olive M. Stone

Program for Pulpit Harbor Grammar School after it was re-located in Union Hall.