

One Room Schools in Duanesburg

Before the American Revolution, no general system of education had been established in our state. But once the Revolution had been fought and won, the legislature of New York began recommending a general system of common schools. The children of the state were to be instructed in the English language and mathematics. With the development of Duanesburg, the original German settlers, encouraged by Duane, were followed by Scotch and English families. These children were accustomed to the English system of public school. These schools were supported in part by money from the state, in part by a rate bill collected from the parents of the children attending school, and finally in part by a tax upon the property of the district.

The town of Duanesburg had many schools supported in this manner. They were usually held in private homes. The Quakers of Quaker Street maintained such a school for many years. In time, an act was passed by the state establishing free schools throughout the state.

The first Free Schools in Duanesburg were established sometime before 1842 and school buildings were erected to house the pupils. Each town had a superintendent of education. There is no doubt that the superintendent for the town marked the limits of different school districts to the wishes of the residents. One room school houses were established throughout the area. There were schools in Duanesburg, Delanson, then referred to as Toad Hollow, Mariaville, Eaton's Corners, Braman's Corners and Green's Corners. Additionally there were schools on Weaver Road, Esperance Station, Sheldon Road, Thousand Acre Road, Scotch Ridge Road and Mead School (McGuire) School Road. There were about two dozen of these schools in number that in time consolidated to become Duanesburg Central School District, as well as some that formed Schalmont Central.

In a one room school house, all of the students met in a single room. There, a single teacher taught academic basics to several grade levels of elementary-aged boys and girls.