

## Little River School 1880

Around 1880, the Little River community having arrived at the count of ten families, became eligible for a school. The deed of Isaac Berry's property stated that he must reserve two acres for the building of a school house.

The logs and labor were contributions of the settlers, and the one room building that emerged as a result of those contributions became a focal point of the community. It served as a church as well as a school. The tolling of the bell alerted the community that a fire had broken out on someone's property or someone had died. Every corner of the community sent someone to gather the tidings from Isaac Berry who usually kept charge of the building.

Benches served as the school seats and each student had a slate and slate pencil. A pot-bellied stove stood in the center of the room with the benches arching half way around. Few windows gave light to the somewhat dark interior. The logs were chinked with homemade plaster, and John Berry often recalled that the students would dig out a piece of plaster to use in washing their hands. In the early years, the children passed from reader to reader rather than from grade to grade. Two arithmetic books used in the old school are still in existence.



Mary Clarissa Berry Pointer (1864-1967) was a pioneer of Little River who lived to be 103 years, 7 months and 3 days old.

Over thirty pupils in grades Primer through Eighth attended Little River School in 1921.

