

Suggested Steps to Use in Searching for One Room Schoolhouses

By Claudia Throop

Since schoolhouses were an important part of the early settler's community, information can be gleaned from most 1800s records. The following documents can be found in paper form at libraries and historical societies. Additionally, most all of these documents can also be found on-line. The advantage of the latter is the ability to search for specific information by use of the search box.

MIORSA: Always begin your search on the MIORSA site under the heading "Michigan Schoolhouses". Information found includes county, township, name of school, year established, location and current usage. If you discover additional information or corrections, please pass that information back to us.

Plat Maps: Beginning with the 1870s, counties created detailed maps of each of its townships. Information available in Plat Map books includes in part, section numbers, land owners name, rivers, villages and schoolhouses. A small schoolhouse symbol was used to indicate where each schoolhouse stood at that time. Some maps also indicate the school district number. For on-line search's use a simple search such as "Plat Map Ingham County". Large libraries such as the Bentley Historical Library, the State Library in Lansing and the Library of Congress, have Plat Map available on line. For about \$10 you can purchase a flash drive on EBAY which contains 4,200 Michigan Plat maps.

Historical Books: By the mid-1800s, counties went at great length to record their history including early settlers, land owners, villages and information on the establishment of schools, teachers hired and attendance. Again, this information is for each specific township. When searching on-line, use a simple search such as "Pioneer history of Ingham County". Then use the search box to using "school". Additionally, if you do find an early historical book at the library, use its full name and author for your on-line search.

On-line Genealogy Sites: Information can be found about school houses by searching in the following categories: [Newspapers & Periodicals](#) for school house events, teachers hired and more: [City & Area Directories](#) for listing of schools and teachers: [Federal & State Census](#) for teachers and children attending school in certain areas: [School Lists & Yearbooks](#) for pictures, history or the school and more. Sites to use are <https://www.familysearch.org> (free) or <https://www.ancestry.com> (fees).

County Schoolhouse Books: Many individuals and county Historical Societies have gathered extensive records and compiled books that are excellent sources of information for Michigan One-room Schoolhouses. Included are pictures, histories, lists of teachers, memories of former students and much more. Often these books can be found at the local Historical Society, on EBAY or Amazon. These publications are

excellent resources for information and often are fund raisers for libraries and historical societies.