

# One Room School

Arkansas established "**subscription**" or tuition schools in 1843. In this area, schools weren't established until around the Civil War. These schools operated **June, July and August**, between planting and harvest time.

In 1875, the new Arkansas constitution mandated a **free public education**. There were 94 schools in IZARD County in the 1880s, but not in Calico Rock. The first school didn't open in Calico Rock until 1903. All of them were one-room schoolhouses.



Students learned from **McGuffey Readers**, **Ray's Arithmetic**, and the **Blue Back Speller**. All the students age 5-20 learned in the same room at their own pace.

Students received an **8<sup>th</sup> grade education**. There was no money for desks. Students sat on **split log benches**. There were no pencils. Students wrote on **slate boards** using small pieces of chalk.



# One Room School



Friday afternoons featured a **spelling bee** that often drew a crowd of spectators. Students stood in a row and took turns spelling. If they missed the word, they sat down. The last speller standing won.

Discipline meant **standing in the corner** or even a whack with a **cane pole** or switch. The infamous **dunce cap** came in handy, too.

Popular **recess games** included tag, wolf over the river, drop the handkerchief, chase the fox, and marbles.



There was no running water. Being selected to fetch a pail of water was an honor. Everyone used an outhouse.

## Calico Rock School



The first school at Calico Rock was built in 1903. The one-room school was called **Cedar Grove School**. The desks were homemade.

In 1905, **Emma Campbell** and **W.M. Gentry** opened a two-room school in Calico Rock. It was a fine building, but the community didn't have the money to buy furnishings. The handmade desks from the Cedar Grove School improvised.

A **box supper** was organized to raise money for desks. Young girls prepared a boxed supper and boys bid on them at auction. The winning bidder got both the meal and the chance to eat it in the company of the girl who made it.

Boys from Pineville, Cresswell and Iuka came to outfox the Calico Rock boys. **Dr. Harlin Smith** recognized what was happening and helped the Calico boys run up the bids and win. The foxes were outfoxed.



By 1909, the Calico Rock School had four teachers and the **first high school** courses in the area. A two-story elementary and high school was built in about 1920.

## Calico Rock School

In 1910, **Professor B. Denton Guthrie** opened a commercial business college on the bluffs at Calico Rock.

Before 1915, a teacher's pay was **\$20-\$40 per month**. Their room and board of **\$1 per month** was deducted.

In the 1930s, **school consolidation** reduced the number of IZARD County schools from 92 to **36 schools**. Another round of closures in the 1940s further reduced the number.

In about 1948, the government sold buildings at **Camp Robinson** at Little Rock to make way for new construction. Two of the Camp Robinson buildings were disassembled and hauled to Calico Rock. **Steve Drown** rebuilt them and rocked them. These buildings cost **\$20,000** and became the elementary school. They were used until the 1990s.

- 1843 State established schools**
- 1875 Adopted state Constitution includes free schools**
- 1903 First Calico Rock school opened**
- 1905 First two-room school opened**
- 1910 Professor Denton Guthrie ran the Calico Rock Commercial College in East Calico**
- 1920 Calico Rock builds 2-story school**
- 1930 State consolidated 92 IZARD County schools**
- 1948 Calico Rock builds elementary buildings**
- 1970s IZARD County has 5 school districts**
- 2000s IZARD County has 3 school districts**