

The Boomer Township School #8

© 2016 by Robert A. "Bob" Christiansen, updated by RAC 7 May '16.

The one-room rural Boomer #8 school, sometimes known as the Mackland School, served the south central portion of Boomer Township in Pottawattamie County, Iowa, north of Council Bluffs. It was located about nine miles west of the town of Neola. The district occupied Sections 27, 28, 33 and 34 of Boomer Township and originally consisted of hilly prairie with some woods, bisected by Pigeon Creek.

I attended Boomer #8 from September 1942 to February 1948.

The Boomer #8 School was probably closed around the mid 1950s.

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For general information about Boomer Township schools, including a diagram of school locations in Boomer Township, see my report *Boomer and Hazel Schools*.

For an 1875 map and a current map of Boomer Township, see my report *Boomer and Hazel Dell Townships Overview*.

I would appreciate hearing from you if you have further photos with identifications. My contact information is in the *Acknowledgments and Sources* section of *Boomer and Hazel Dell Schools*.

Joni (Miner) Eggerss has given me five 1919 Boomer #8 photographs from the collection of her mother, Viola (Price) Miner. Some of these photographs include identifications. They are not yet included herein.

Known Boomer #8 Teachers

contributed by Robert Christiansen, Joan (Miner) Eggerss, Marjorie (Smith) Magnussen

- 1934-35 Miss Adele Anderson, d/o J. D. & Freda Anderson who lived west of the school; m. Michael Murray of Logan.
- 1935-36 Nellie (Voss) Smith, who lived south of the school, widow of Howard Smith.
- 1936-37 Nellie (Voss) Smith
- 1935-38 Nellie (Voss) Smith
- 1938-39 June Powell, d/o the widow Zina (Collins Powell), who lived northeast of the school; m. James Leslie Bayless.
- 1939-40 June Powell
- 1940-41 Viola Korgan & Marjorie Cheney, probably the daughter of David and Sibyl Cheney of Washington Twp.
- 1941-42 Miss Myrtle Ernest or Ernst
- 1942-43 Miss Bernice Benson, d/o Willard Benson & Lila Peterson, m. Reuben Iversen.
- 1943-44 Miss Elvera Magnussen, my second cousin, boarding with her grandmother Winnie Bondo, d/o Carl Magnussen & Esther Bondo, m. Calvin Petersen and Joseph Beam.
- 1944-45 Miss Elvera Magnussen.
- 1945-46 Mrs. Adele (Anderson) Murray and Mrs. Rachel (Shea) Fitzsimmons.
- 1946-47 Mrs. Ethel (Bertelsen) Ward.
- 1947-48 Miss Nancy Skelton, married Marvin Hoyt.
- 1956-57 Mrs. Frances Brown



The 1941-42 Boomer #8 Class Photograph, Miss Ernst teacher
(courtesy of Isobel (Smith) Taylor)

front: Rhoda Joan Miner, Isobel Smith

back: Donna Lee Larson, Marjorie Smith, Ruth Fox, Pauline Fox, Ellen Jager



The 1946-47 Boomer #8 Class Photograph, Mrs. Ward teacher
(courtesy of Patricia Driscoll)

Students on 1946-1947 Boomer #8 Photo
(identification by Robert A. Christiansen, 2008)

Back Row:

Bob Christiansen (5th grade)
Rhoda Joan "Joan" Miner (7th grade)
Delores Jensen (7th grade)
Jane Anderson (5th grade)
Ray Smith (8th grade)
Paul John "P. J." Vorthmann (8th grade)

Front Row:

Jay Anderson (3rd grade?)
Ronald Vorthmann (4th grade)
Patricia Driscoll (1st grade?)
Carol Spencer (4th grade)
Janet Kay "Kay" Spencer (2nd grade)
John Jensen

Students and Their Parents from the 1940s Photographs

Children of Don and Ruth (Darrington) Anderson, who lived 1 3/4 miles west.

- **Jane Ann Anderson** m. William Kerber, divorced.
- **Jay Donald Anderson** m. Gaylee Selstrom, remained in Boomer Township.

Child of Alvin & Leona (Larson) Christiansen, who lived 1 3/4 miles northwest, moving to the Avoca area in 1948:

- **Robert Christiansen** (16 Dec 1935) m. Beth Christensen, divorced; m. Martha (Dennis) Mobley.

Child of Arthur & Florence Nell "Nell" (Skelton) Driscoll, who at the time lived one mile west:

- **Patricia Driscoll**.

Child of Rudolph & Violet (Jensen) Jensen, who lived 3/4 miles east:

- **Delores Darline Jensen**.

Child of Floyd and Irene (Anderson) Larson, who lived one mile east:

- **Donna Lee Larson** (25 Jan 1929 - 18 Dec 2015) m. Junior Marion Rasmussen, divorced.

Foster child of Harold and Emily (Jorgensen) Nelson, who lived 3/4 mile east.

- **John Jensen** may have come from the Woodbine area. He was a little different, and I have always regretted that I and some of my schoolmates were not nice to him. He was not with us the full year.

Child of Frank & Viola (Price) Miner, who lived one mile northwest.

Rhoda Joan "Joni" Miner (16 Oct 1934) m. Ralph Eggerss, deceased.

Children of Langford and Viola (Fulfs) Fox, who may have lived on the Ben Smith farm 1 1/2 miles southeast:

Pauline Marie Fox married Maurice Joseph "Joe" Welbourn.

Ruth L. Fox married Duane Welbourn, Joe's cousin.

Nephew of Ray & Ethel (Olsen) Fulfs, who lived 1/2 miles south.

- **Ray LaFayette Smith** (28 May 1933 – 15 May 2009), s/o Warren Smith and Christena Olsen. Ray's parents were divorced and Ray and his mother lived with the Fulfs family. Ray m. Donna Forney, divorced; m. Sandra.

Child of Elida Benjamin Smith and Glendora Ruth Schreves, who lived one mile east:

- **Isobel M. Smith** m. James Robert Taylor.

Child of Homer and Evelyn (Olsen) Smith, who lived 1 1/2 miles southeast:

- **Marjorie Elaine Smith** m. Robert Pendegraft; m. William Nixon; m. Donald Magnussen.

Children of Russell & Martha (Norgaard) Spencer, who lived a mile northwest.

- **Carol Lavonne Spencer** (30 Dec 1937 - 28 Dec 2015) m. Gerald Oscar Ratashak, deceased.
- **Janet Kay Spencer** m. Robert Walter Otto.

Children of Paul & Hermina (Barta) Vorthmann who lived 1 1/4 miles northwest, moving into the subdistrict in early 1944.

- **Paul John Vorthmann** m. Margaret Brich.

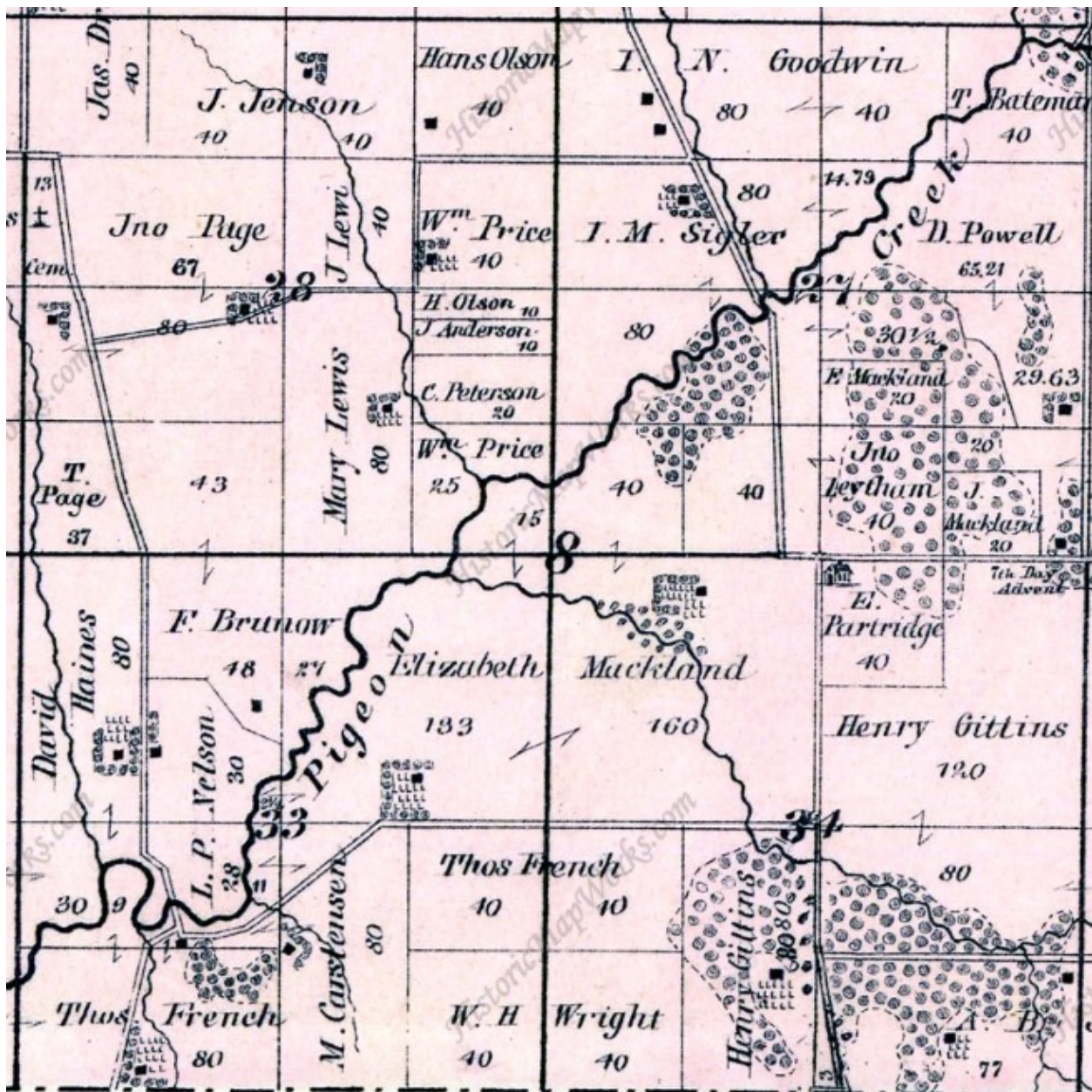
- **Ronald Eugene Vorthmann** (15 Jun 1937 – 6 May 2004) m. Rose Baker.

Child of Carl and Emilie (Romedahl) Yager, who lived 1 1/4 miles northwest, moving to Council Bluffs in early 1944:

- Ellen Yager (9 Aug 1928 - 17 Oct 1997).

Our teacher, **Ethel (Bertelsen) Ward**, was the wife of Don Ward, who at the time farmed the Ward home place a mile north of St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

As of May 2016 Donna Lee Larson, Ray Smith, Carol Spencer, Ronald Vorthmann and Ellen Yager are the only schoolmates from the above list whom I know to be deceased.



The Boomer #8 School Subdistrict in 1885
(courtesy of HistoricMapWorks.com)