

LOCUST GROVE ONE-ROOM SCHOOL (Sand Hill District)

Submitted by Donald J. Armstrong

Locust Grove School was located along the Miller Hill Road that led from Big Wheeling Creek up Miller Hill and then wound along the top of Marshall County ridge lines for a number of miles to the Sand Hill Methodist Church. The school was a few miles along the road after reaching the top of Miller Hill. The school was still functioning in 1943-44 when **Wilma Lydick** (shown below) was the teacher, and Don Armstrong was a Second Grade student there.



Remembrances of Don Armstrong:

Like all one-room schools, Locust Grove handled grades 1 through 8. The age range presented a major challenge for any teacher. In 1943-44, the 8th Grade consisted of a couple of boys who were at least 17 or 18 years old and were struggling to complete their final year of schooling. In my Second Grade class, I believe there were 2, or maybe 3, other students of my age (6 or 7).

At recess time or lunch times, some of the older girls would occasionally arrange all grades to play together in games like "Crack-the Whip" (with the smaller and weaker students at the tip of the whip and spinning off quickly) and "Red Rover" which I remember divided the students into two teams, but I don't recall the rules of the game.

In the winter, like all such schools, it was heated by a coal stove in the center of the room. One winter day, someone left open the stove door to add fuel, and one of the girls (probably in the 5th or 6th grade) approached too close. A sudden gust of wind across the chimney outside sent the fire roaring up. Part of the flame caught the edge of the girl's dress, and she was suddenly surrounded in flames. Fortunately, the teacher grabbed her coat, threw it around the girl, and smothered the flames. Thanks to that quick action, the girl escaped serious burns although understandably she was traumatized from the experience, and the image of that incident has been retained in my mind over years..