

Mrs. Lillian Squires Morton (Mrs. Morton died in 1956 at age 83). "I went to the Upper Parish School on Godfrey Road. It was a wooden one-room schoolhouse. We had to walk three miles. We had both men and lady teachers. We had a man, Ruf Fitch for a good many years. His sister Annie Fitch was my first schoolteacher. There were 25 to 30 children of all sizes and ages. There were long benches on three sides with a wood stove in the middle. I liked to go to school but we couldn't go very much because there were terrible snows in the winter and if they didn't break the roads out, we couldn't get through."

Mrs. Ruth Lockwood. "We all went to the Upper Parish School. I have always heard that this is the second schoolhouse. The first was across the road. My grandfather went to the school on the north side of Godfrey Street before it burned down. When I went to school there were usually 12 to 14 pupils, 18 at the most. It was a very good learning experience as we had a lot of individual attention from the teacher and could hear the other classes recite."

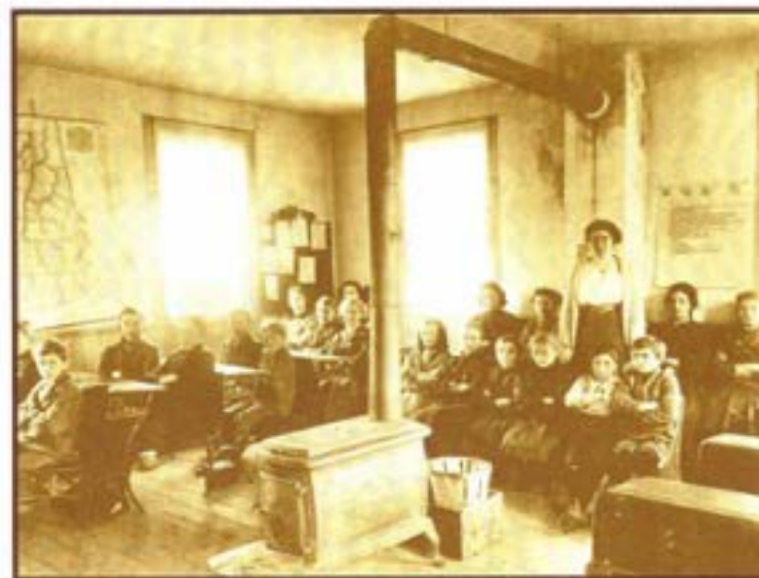
# Raymond Fitch remembers Good Hill School in 1911

"Goodhill School was about twenty feet by twenty feet with wood constructions and a really small entrance. The windows were small and not much light came through. Three of the four walls had benches and desks against them and on the fourth was Mrs. Stillman's desk. All children brought wood which they placed near the

the parents. The fireplace was their only source of heat. The children were often afraid that the huge stove pipe would fall on them.

"Each morning, Mrs. Treadwell, like the other teachers would greet the children by saying, "Good Morning." The children responded with the same greeting. Since it was winter, the children kept their lunches near the stove. If they did not, their lunches would freeze. The children felt that the teachers were very nice. They took out their slates provided by their parents and the teacher would announce the first subject, arithmetic. During the lesson the older children would help the younger children who didn't understand. After arithmetic came reading and spelling. Then they would usually have music. They would sing a song.

"Finally came lunch. The children put on their coats and hats and whatever else they had to keep them warm. Then they took their lunches in tin pails and went outside, even though it was winter, for lunch and recess. Most kids sat with their friends on stones. They would spread out their lunches which would usually consist of a sandwich wrapped in bread wrappings and a piece of fruit. As soon as they finished they had recess. Boys would play tag, hide and go seek, or catch. Girls would play hop scotch, swing on the tire swing or have a snowball fight. When the teacher rang the



*Interior view of an old school house described by Ray Fitch.*

children would return indoors. They would take out their slates and prepare for the next lesson. Usually it was history.

Since it was almost Christmas, Mrs. Treadwell announced they would be having a Christmas party. 'Settle down, settle down Raymond', the teacher said as the other children also quieted down.

They played several games and ate some tasty treats. Soon it was 4 o'clock and time for dismissal.

"The 'delicate' children were picked up by their parents, but most walked home. Many had numb fingers and toes by the time they arrived home.

"The children never went home to soccer or baseball practice. They

they all had several chores waiting for them at home.

"Some kids felt that school was a vacation' says Mr. Fitch. And in those days it was.

Ed, Note: Raymond Fitch was born February 10, 1906 in the Fitch house on Goodhill Rd. (known to many as the Jim Daniel home). He attended the Goodhill Rd. School and then Norwalk High School.

He married Elizabeth Fairchild in 1931 and they lived on White Birch Rd. until 1964 when they moved to a home on Old Farm Road. Daughters, Mary Ellen and Kay lived in the White Birch home until they went off to school.

Ray was very active in Weston as a historian, and in the Norfield



*Good Road School House located near the Fitch family home.*

Grange. At every grange fair for years, Ray could be seen using his one-lung cider press squeezing apples