

## TID BITS

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- ◆ One room schools are not that far into our past. There are still many people who either attended or taught or both in one room schools that like to stop in and share their memories.
- ◆ A single teacher taught all of the different age groups in the one room school.
- ◆ The older kids in the school would often help the younger ones with their lessons while the teacher worked with a specific grade.
- ◆ Most one room schools went to the 8th grade. If a young person were to get any more education they would have to attend the high school in town.
- ◆ Sometimes one room schools served as the community meeting house as well—offering a place to gather for business or entertainment.
- ◆ In some locations it was forbidden for a teacher to be married. Once she was married she would go live with her husband and take care of the home and a new teacher was brought in.
- ◆ School years and days were often shorter than they are now since the kids were needed at home to help with the farm work.
- ◆ Rather than pencils and notebooks children used small chalk boards called a slate to practice their math and spelling.
- ◆ Usually children walked or rode a horse to school; rarely was there any other form of transportation available.

### Cedar County Historical Society Museum and Prairie Village

1094 Hwy 38, Tipton, Iowa  
(Just North of Tipton)

PO Box 254, Tipton, Iowa, 52772

#### Museum Hours:

Tuesday 10 AM—4 PM

Thursday 10 AM—4 PM

Saturday 10 AM—2 PM

By Appointment, please call in  
advance: 563.886.2899

### Cedar County Historical Society

TO COLLECT, PRESERVE, AND SHARE  
CEDAR COUNTY HISTORY

## BEDBUG SCHOOL



**TOURS OF THE PRAIRIE VILLAGE ARE  
AVAILABLE BY APPOINTMENT.**

**PLEASE CALL  
563.886.2899**

**B**edbug School or Red Oak #1 is a traditional one room school house built in 1910 to replace an existing failing building. The building was originally located in Red Oak Township and was a state-of-the-art building with all the bells and whistles of the time. It came equipped with a regular furnace that warmed the whole building evenly and kept it much warmer than the old pot-bellied stoves did. When Tipton Schools consolidated in the early 20th century, this school along with several others were moved into town and used as additional classroom space until the new school could be completed. After the completion of the new school in 1925 some of the schools were moved to other locations and repurposed and some, like Bedbug, were used as storage space for the school. In 1989 the school district offered the school to the historical society and we accepted the building and shortly after moved it to the fairgrounds. Since there had not been a lot of maintenance on the structure the members of the historical



society worked to restore and renovate the building. In 1995 it was fully furnished as a turn of the century one room school house and opened to the public. In December of 2009, on the same truck as the blacksmith shop the school made its most recent, and last, move to its location today in the Prairie Village. After the move and 14 years of weather it was time to replace the roof



and it was painted inside and out. A handicap accessible ramp was added, the floors were refinished, and a school bell hung – folks (kids and adults alike) have a lot of fun ringing that old bell. In 2017 the exterior of the building was painted again as was the interior in 2018. We offer the use of the school house to county schools and at home students as a place to conduct classes for all or part of a day. It is furnished with a teacher's desk, a recitation bench, several student desks representing the different styles of student desks available at the turn of the century, a pot-bellied stove (for display only), wood box, water bucket and ladle, lots and lots of books, and

even an outhouse out back (for display only).

A favorite story about the school is how it got its nickname. The story has not been confirmed but goes like this. Apparently, the school was located relatively close to some railroad tracks. When trains stopped near it the tramps who rode the rails back then would disembark and go to the unlocked building to stay out of the elements. They were always gone when the teacher and students arrived in the morning but sometimes, they left behind the little pests known as bedbugs. Whether that story is accurate or not does not matter, it is fun to tell and fun to hear as well as give folks an idea of how life was different a century ago.

