

## BURROWS HILL SCHOOL

Very likely the Burrows Hill School is the oldest surviving school building in Hebron.

No doubt the first school in Hebron was located in the center of town somewhere near the Hebron Historical building location. Early records seem to bear out this fact. An old Town Meeting book dated 6-23-1724 voted that Stephen Post, Samuel Caulkins, William Rolls, Joseph Sweetland and Benjamin Skinner be a committee to take care of the school for the coming year.

A plaque on the Burrows Hill School indicates 1725. This is unlikely for two reasons; first the road on Burrows Hill and Jones Street wasn't laid out until 1775. Previously there had been lanes and so-called roads to accommodate the earliest settlers. Secondly, among the early families in the immediate area, Porter, Tillotson, White, Mack and Skinner there were only four children of school age at the time.

Possibly it was built around 1730 or 1735, the latter year most probable since there were at least 20 children in the area at the time.

It has been written that Josephine Griffing (nee Waldo) (1814-1872) was among those who taught at Burrows Hill School. Quite possibly she taught later on at the Hope Valley School, which started in 1834. In that year, John Porter sold 1/16 acre for \$10.00 to Samuel Norton, Treasurer of new Seventh School District. Josephine Griffing, an early woman activist is buried in the Burrows Hill Cemetery.

From 1834 to about 1860 or so there were more children in the Hope Valley section and fewer in the Burrows Hill section. Sometime during this period the Burrows Hill School closed and desks were moved to Hope Valley. Later on, in the 1860's, the desks were returned and the Burrows Hill School reopened. Hope Valley was experiencing a decline in population as the mills ceased running or burned.

Certainly by 1870 Burrows Hill School was flourishing again, and the enrollment gradually declined in the early 1900's.

The Jones Street School had as few as six pupils until 1905, when four were transferred to Burrows Hill. Then, in 1908 it closed for awhile and the pupils attended Jones Street School, which had acquired more pupils at that time.

Burrows Hill School reopened briefly and then closed its doors in 1911. The few remaining pupils all lived on Route 66 and were transferred to the Hebron Center School.