

Minot's Corner School No. 6



Westford Recollections - This photo features the students of Minot's Corner School No. 6 (Toy Turkey Farm) on Route 110. Taken about 1903. Minnie Whitney Perkins is the young girl directly in front of the large tree trunk. Identification of other pupils would be appreciated. Contact June W. Kennedy, 31 Old Lowell Rd., Westford.



MINOT'S CORNER SCHOOL No. 6 on Littleton Road was for many years the home of Hyman Toy. The school/house was moved to Fieldstone Drive when Toy sold his turkey farm to make way for Westford Valley Marketplace several years ago. (Photo courtesy of June W. Kennedy)

Later to be turkey farm, shopping center

by June W. Kennedy

The following is part of a continuing series on Westford schools.

The only Minot's Corner District Schoolhouse within the memory of the older people of Westford was a part of the Toy Turkey Farm, which until the mid-1980s was located on Route 110.

In 1873, \$2,007.14 was appropriated for this one-room school. Miss Ruth Tuttle spent one of her first teaching years, 1902-1903, here at District No. 6.

She gave the following account: "The building had two small entry halls — the boys entered through one, the girls through the other. The pipe from the pot-bellied stove ran the length of the room. The wood was neatly stacked in the shed; it was the teacher's duty to keep the fire going. Often I would

have my mind so intent on my lessons that I would forget and let the fire go out. The pay was \$8 a week. Grades 1-6 attended here. In 1902-03 there were only 11 pupils."

Minnie Whitney Perkins, one of those 11 pupils, relived her happy childhood hours at this country school: "We all walked to school, sometimes through high snowdrifts. At Christmas we decorated the tree with paper chains, popcorn and cranberries. The teacher gave a box of candy to everyone. We were tickled to death. I remember one time I brought a pretty hanky to the teacher for a gift. At the Christmas party we all had to recite pieces on the platform."

"The old-fashioned desks had a hole cut in the right-hand corner for the ink bottle; the desks were screwed to the floor. One of the teachers we had [not Miss Tuttle] kept a strap in the cloak room; it was used unmercifully

on a truant boy. Teachers were to have authority over behavior on school grounds.

"I remember at recess we used to play games like hopscotch, tag, hide-and-seek. Sometimes we'd play blind-man's bluff or maybe have a game of jackstones."

Minot's Corner School closed in 1908 with the opening of Frost School. Minnie related that in 1915 she and her husband could have bought the old school for \$500. Her name was still on the blackboard. At this time the school was renovated and made into a home.

When the Westford Valley Shopping Center was built, the Minot's Corner Schoolhouse No. 6 was moved across the field to its present location on Fieldstone Drive, where it continues to serve as a home.

June Kennedy is a Westford resident, author of "Westford Recollections", a series of historical vignettes and photos.

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