

Newfolden Schools to 1950

Time-line to 1950

- Summer 1889 - District 49 built a log school near the center of the nine northwestern sections of New Folden Township
- 1904 - The town of Newfolden was moved from Inland Newfolden because of the railroad.



Newfolden District 49 School under construction in 1908.

- 1908 - Fall classes were held in a new two-room building in Newfolden
- 1916 - A new brick school was built and the 1908 building was moved over to the south to make room for the new structure.
- August 26, 1932 - Enrollment: 60 in high school and 125 in elementary grades for a total of 185 students.
- 1939 - The Works Progress Administration project 8209 and 9036

constructed a new two-story addition that consisted of a gymnasium, stage and corridor with a new entrance, and classrooms and hallways on the second floor. Part of the old building that had been used as a gymnasium was demolished. Additional construction included a school garage.

- 1940 - Construction of Newfolden School was completed. Resumption of classes were delayed eight days due to work that needed to be done in the washrooms on the first floor.
- 1941 - Additional work needed to be done on the old school, and funding to continue the work was received on May 12, 1941.



Newfolden High School Class of 1934. Not in order: Burton Anderson, Phoebe Anderson, Joseph Bauer, Ivy Elseth, Wallace Johnson, Marguerite Lee, Myrtle Lee, Helmer Myhrer, Dorothy Nelson, Clarice Olson, Alice Silverness, Marvin Smeby.

- 1945 - Holt closed their high school (9th, 10th, 11th grades) and students began attending Newfolden.



1935-1936 Basketball Team.
Front (left to right): Ray Tunheim, Marvin Anderson, Glenn Lindahl, Percy Stokke. Back (left to right): Unknown, Reuben Styrund, Myron Anderson, Kenneth Hanson

American laws encouraged public education. In the 1880s a school district could be formed with as few as 12 children aged five to 21. Marshall County had over 160 school districts, and New Folden Township had four school districts.



The First Schools

Education was important to the early New Folden Township residents. The first classes were held in K. M. Gustavson's log home in the fall of 1888. In the summer of 1889, due to an increase in enrollment, District 49 was established and a larger, log schoolhouse was built. Classes resumed in fall of 1889. During the first few years only primary grades were taught. There was a three month fall term and a two month spring term.

"The one-room school was built of logs and later sided. The inside walls were covered by narrow boards. The building was unevenly heated by a wood stove that was located near the front of the room. In cold weather the older students who sat in the back rows often had cold feet while those who sat by the stove were 'warm as toast.'"

Hartvig Ekman and Jennie Lokken Anderson Interview 1974, A Scandinavian Saga by John R. Tunheim

A New Elementary School in Newfolden

Growth in the community supported the construction of a new stucco schoolhouse that awaited the fall class of 1908 in the village of Newfolden. In 1909 the first eighth grade graduation took place and include graduates from the Lincoln District #68 (the Solum School) and Wildwood District #69 (Bjorsness School). To graduate the students needed to pass the State Board examination.



Left : Early construction of a gymnasium in 1940. Right: Completed gymnasium in June 1940. In 1945-1946 a bus garage was built by the Works Progress Administration.