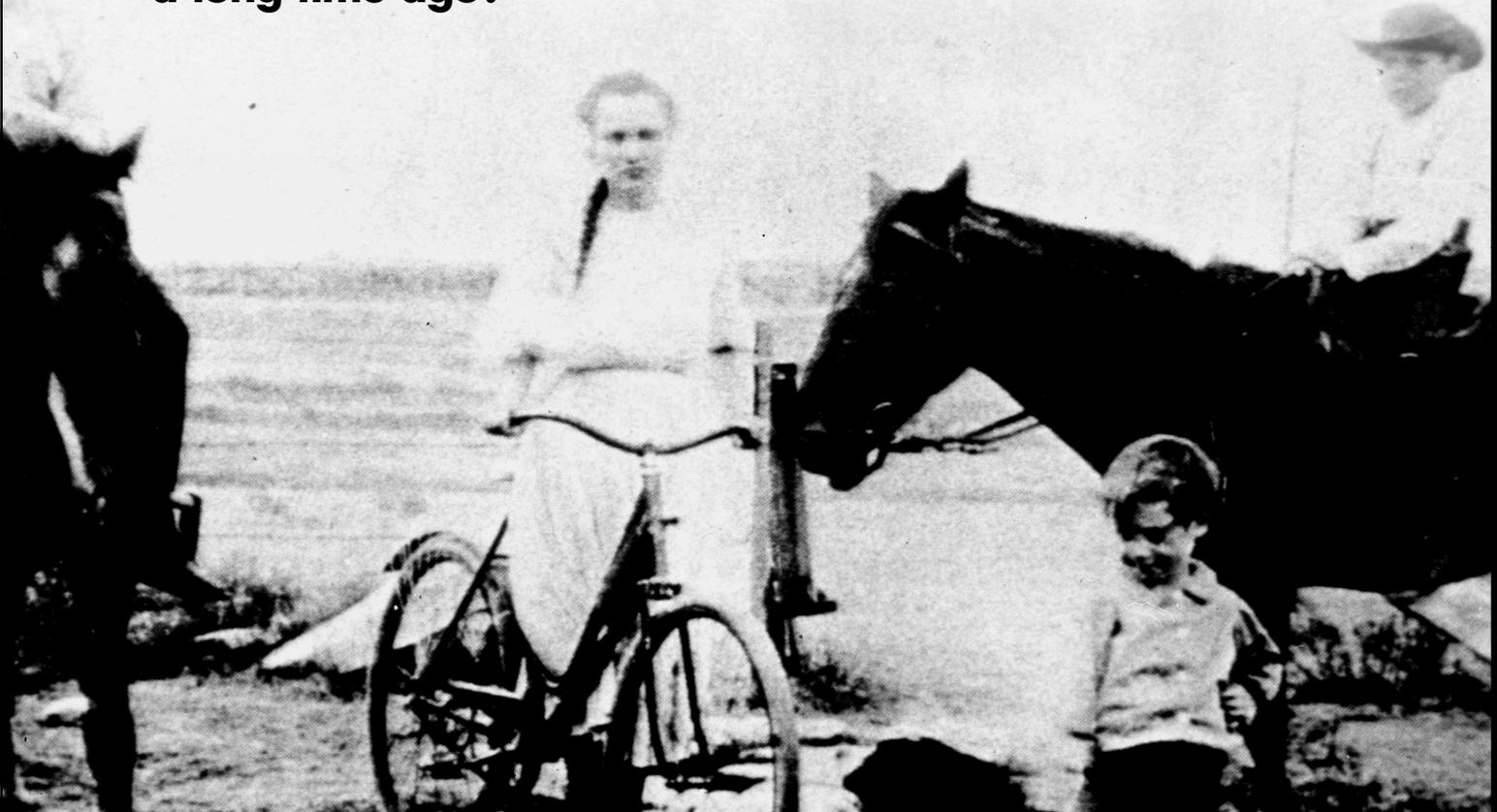


## How Do We Know What It Was Like Long Ago?

### Introduction

How do we know what school was like many years ago? We can learn by studying old photographs. We can read diaries and journals from the past. We also can ask people what they remember. All of these things give us clues of how things used to be. From these clues we can put together a story. The story of the past is our history.

**How do we read the clues to learn what school was like a long time ago?**



### Clue #1

These students lived a long time ago in Kansas. They are going to school. How did they get there?

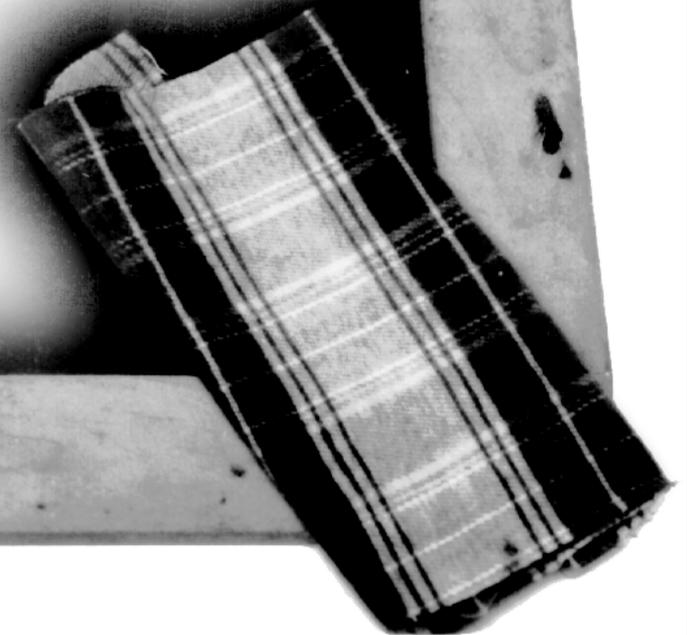
## Clue # 2

When the students got to school, there was a warm cozy fire in the stove. Who made the fire that kept the building warm?

When Irene Henderson was 17 years old, she wanted to be a teacher. She got a job at a rural school in Rawlins County, Kansas. Many years later she was asked how she got the job. She told the following story.



"I was scared speechless. The only question they asked me was 'Can you build a fire?' When I said 'yes' they hired me for a six-month term at \$45 per month. It was a one-room school heated by a big pot-bellied stove. That stove was what I had to conquer."



### Clue # 3

Neighbors who wanted their children to have a good education started the schools. Sometimes the schools started with only a few supplies. What supplies were some schools missing?

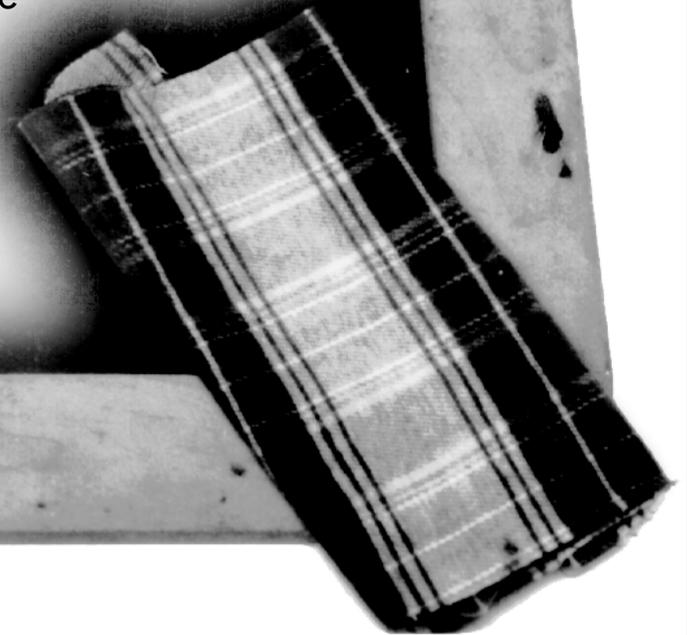
Lulu Craig helped to organize the first school in Nicodemus, Kansas. She told the following story.



"There were not enough seats and a group of small children had to sit on the floor beside the wall.

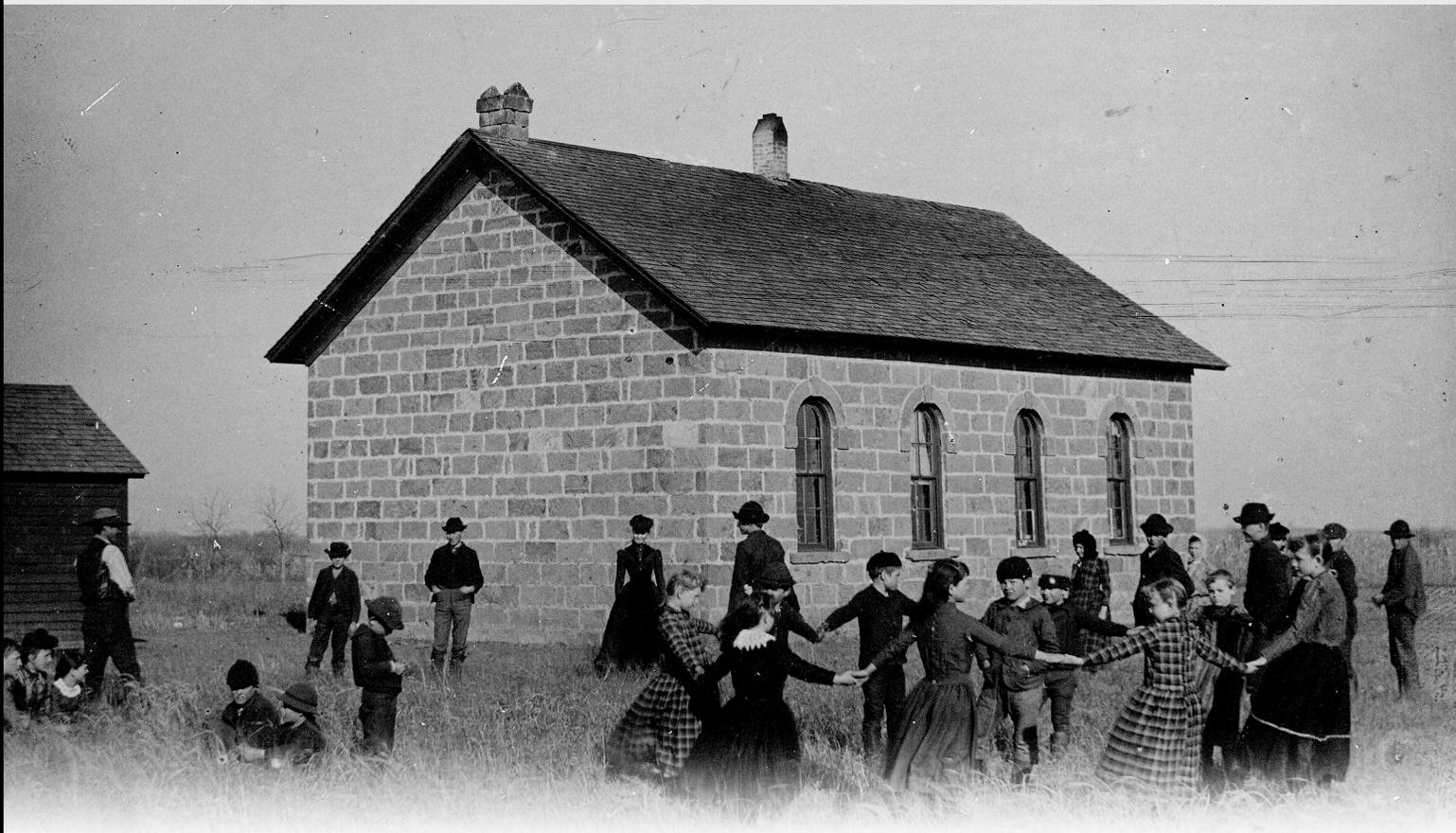
"The teacher got the little squares of cardboard on which she had written the alphabet and passed them to the primary pupils. She turned her attention to others. Some of those had books. Some had none.

"There were not enough books to go around."



## Clue # 4

Students in the past liked to play at recess. What type of playground equipment did they have? What type of games did they play?



## Conclusion

When you put all the clues together, you have a story. The story tells what it would be like to go to school many years ago. This is how the author of *School Days* put these clues together to write the story.