

## CHAPTER II

### FROM THE YEAR "ONE" A General History Down Through The Years

Part I Building (Structure) Facts

Part II Teaching and Learning-- Then and Now

#### Part I --Building (Structure) Facts

Let me remind the readers of this history , that Miner School has served the community for six and one-half decades -- 66 years. Of course there have been many structural changes at various intervals during that time. However, it is interesting to note that the original four rooms are still in use. These are the four rooms off the large center hall now occupied by the classes of Miss Moore, Miss Carrell, Miss Myers and the combined Foley Library and kitchen.

The contract for the construction of the original building was awarded to Fred Kraft in June 1886. \*The cost for the Miner School construction was not separated in the records from that of the Nebraska and Holton Avenue Schools, but research provided us with the total sum for all three schools which was fifteen thousand, eight hundred and ninety-seven dollars and forty-one cents. (\$15,897.41). Fred Kraft was the contractor for all three of them.\*

The Miner building was a red brick, single story establishment divided into four rooms. School board members realized that the steady growth of the city might soon require a building of larger proportions to meet the needs of the community. Consequently they agreed to a type of building that could easily have a second story added without the destruction of the room and, then too, at a comparatively small cost. This proved to be very good foresight, for it was less than eight years later that the district population had increased in such proportions that a larger school was most necessary.

In 1893 a second story consisting of four rooms was added. The contract was awarded to Henry B. Walda for \$5,498.00.\* The writer has been somewhat amused at the stories about this addition to the original structure. Those remembering tell it as being such a simple operation that the writer pictures it as being done in Walt Disney fashion i.e., such as you see in comedy films -- with great speed, no difficulties or shortages to endure, no inconsistencies of anykind -- everything comes out just right. You know what I mean I'm sure; Heres the building. It needs to be bigger. Off comes the roof (in one piece) and it is set aside. A floor is nailed to the ceilings of the present rooms; the outside walls are built up; an inside hallway is made; stairs, right inside the Dewald entrance, are set up to the second floor; a center partition is set up to divide the space on each side of the hall; four doorways

\*Facts and figures taken from Journal-Gazette, Sunday October 23, 1921 "History of Ft. Wayne Schools-100 years" by E. Cook