

# School at Clover Valley (Barclay), Lincoln County, Nevada

By Kelton Hafen, 18 November 2002

Education for the youth of the small settlement of Clover Valley (now know as Barclay), in Lincoln County, Nevada has always been a priority. The first group to settle there in 1864 to 1866 built a fort for protection from the Indians. One room was used as a school for the children of the approximately 12 families that stayed just 2 years, then left because of trouble with the Natives.

The Valley was re-settled in 1869 by Lyman L. Woods and others. There was a very limited amount of ground for farming. About 300 acres of good meadow for hay and pasture. There was a saw mill on Clover Mountain that employed several people.

In 1885 construction of the railroad began through the Valley, and was completed in 1905. The town flourished during this period.

From 1869 to 1898 regular school was held in the homes of the citizens.

In 1898 Lyman L. Woods who had purchased the sawmill from the Sherwood Brothers, with his son-in-law George Edwards, built the school that is still standing. This school was in use from 1898 to 1953. All 8 grades were taught by one teacher. The number of students varied from 3 to 20.

Most teachers only taught there for 1 to 3 years. When opportunity for employment at a school, not quite so remote, became available they would move on.

The towns people were responsible for getting the firewood to heat the school and provide board & room for the teacher. Lincoln County would pay the teachers salary.

The year 1953 was the last year a family with children lived year round in the Valley.

The two youngest children of Fred Woods, Bruce and Beth were there. It was required that there be at least three students, so George Bowler the teacher brought two grandchildren – Richard and Ann. At the end of that year there was no more school held at the Clover Valley School District of Lincoln County, Nevada.

Although Lincoln County used the school building, it was owned by the Woods family. In 1963 three great-grand children of L. L. Woods purchased the property from their uncle Fred Woods. This was Eldon, Herschel and Kelton Hafen. For nearly 50 years the building was deteriorating. In 1998 all of the descendents of Orilla Woods Hafen began to restore the old school. In July of 2000, over 300 people attended a re-dedication of the old building, and an important part of history has been preserved.

