

## **History of Voluntown Schools**

Between 1696 and 1732, there were no formal schools in Voluntown. Though town government was officially organized in 1721, it was several years before a circulating school was organized and a schoolmaster hired at the town's expense. In 1735, it was ordered that the school be kept in four places, three months in a place. The master, John Dunlap, was given thirty pounds (money) and enough meat, drink, washing and lodging for keeping the schools open for eleven months and eighteen days.

The first schoolhouse in town was built in 1737, four rods from the northwest corner of the Line Meeting House. In 1766, there were thirteen official school districts in Voluntown, each under the supervision of a "grand-school committee-man" appointed by the town. Wylie School was one of those small schools. Throughout the years, the small school districts slowly combined and eventually all students came to Center School, which was located on the present school site.

In 1953, the original Voluntown Elementary School was dedicated. Through the years, more rooms were added until the most current renovations were made that brought the school to its present size and Pre-Kindergarten through Eighth grade configuration.