



SandHill Marketing photo

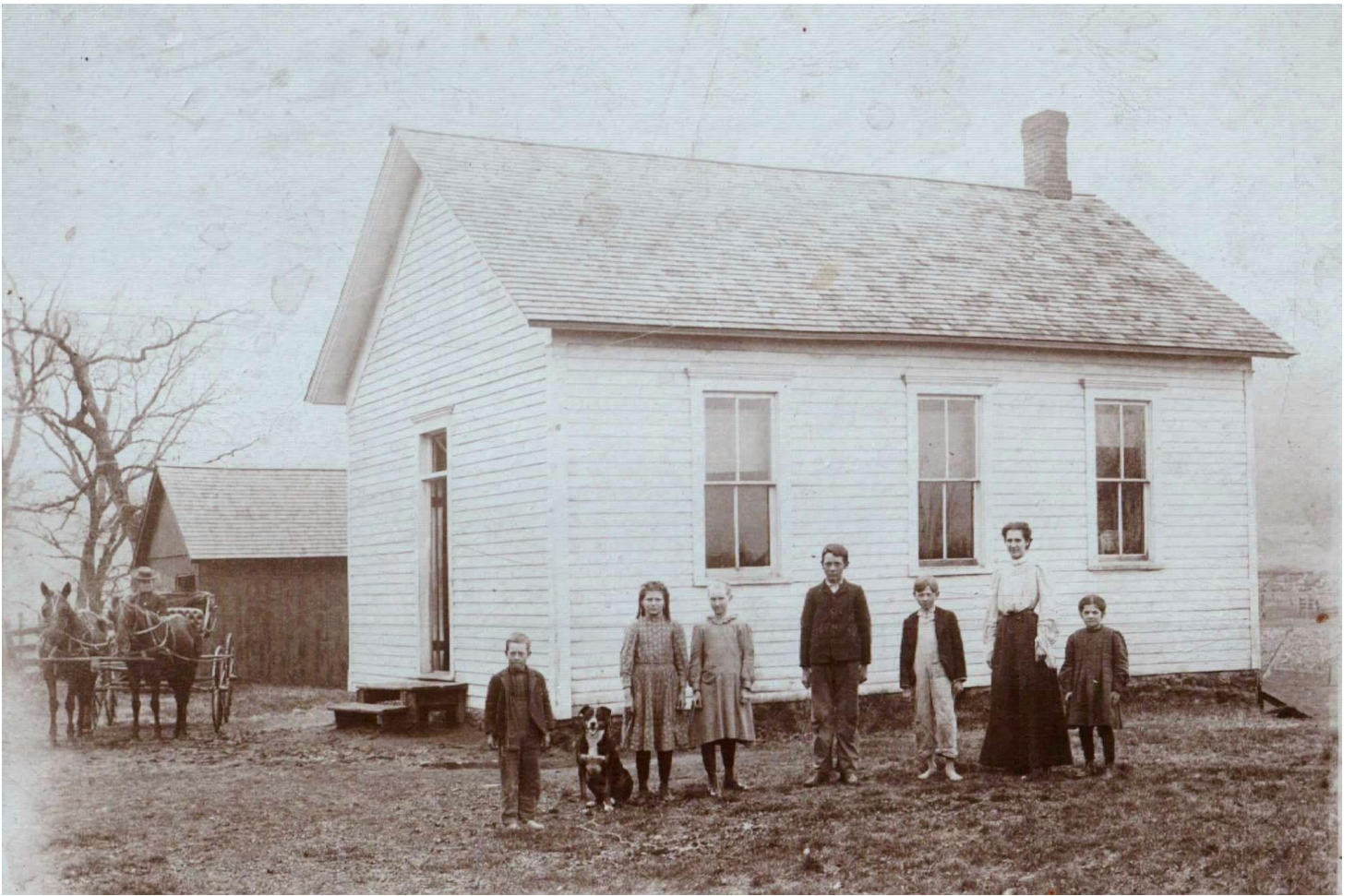
### **Akey School Museum, County TB, Buena Vista Township, Richland County.**

The Akey School Museum is located on County Hwy TB, between Twin Bluffs and Gotham. Come see what the rural one-room school was like; vintage books, maps, globes, desks, and more. The Museum is a restored, fully-equipped one-room rural school house. Sponsored and maintained by the Richland County Historical Society, the Akey School Museum is open Sunday afternoons during June, July and August, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., and by appointment. There is no admission fee but donations are gratefully accepted.

In 1851 the town boards of Buena Vista and Orion established a joint school district to pool the resources of the two townships. The first school house, a log structure was built in 1869. During those intervening years, school sessions were held in a farm house close by the current location of the school. This first building was built on a parcel of land taken from Lemuel Akey's farm and therefore named for him. Akey was also a member of the school board.

In 1894, the school district residents taxed themselves additional funds to construct a modern building, which was still located on the Akey farm. In 1916, the Akey School was moved to its present site and placed on a foundation over a basement.

During the early days of the school, teachers' wages were \$130 for the three month winter and three month summer terms. Before 1889 there was a state law that allowed school districts to require students to furnish their own books. A vote was taken in 1889 which failed and this practice lasted well into the 1920s.



The "modern" Akey School - Richland County History Room photo.



In 1930 Akey School was one of 112 rural schools in the Richland County School System. The schools were not subsidized by the state; each one was supported by the district where it was located. In the late 1950s the school ceased operation. The land is part of the Richland County Park system and has picnic facilities for public use. The Richland County Historical Society invites you to come reminisce about your days spent in a one-room school or see how "it used to be."