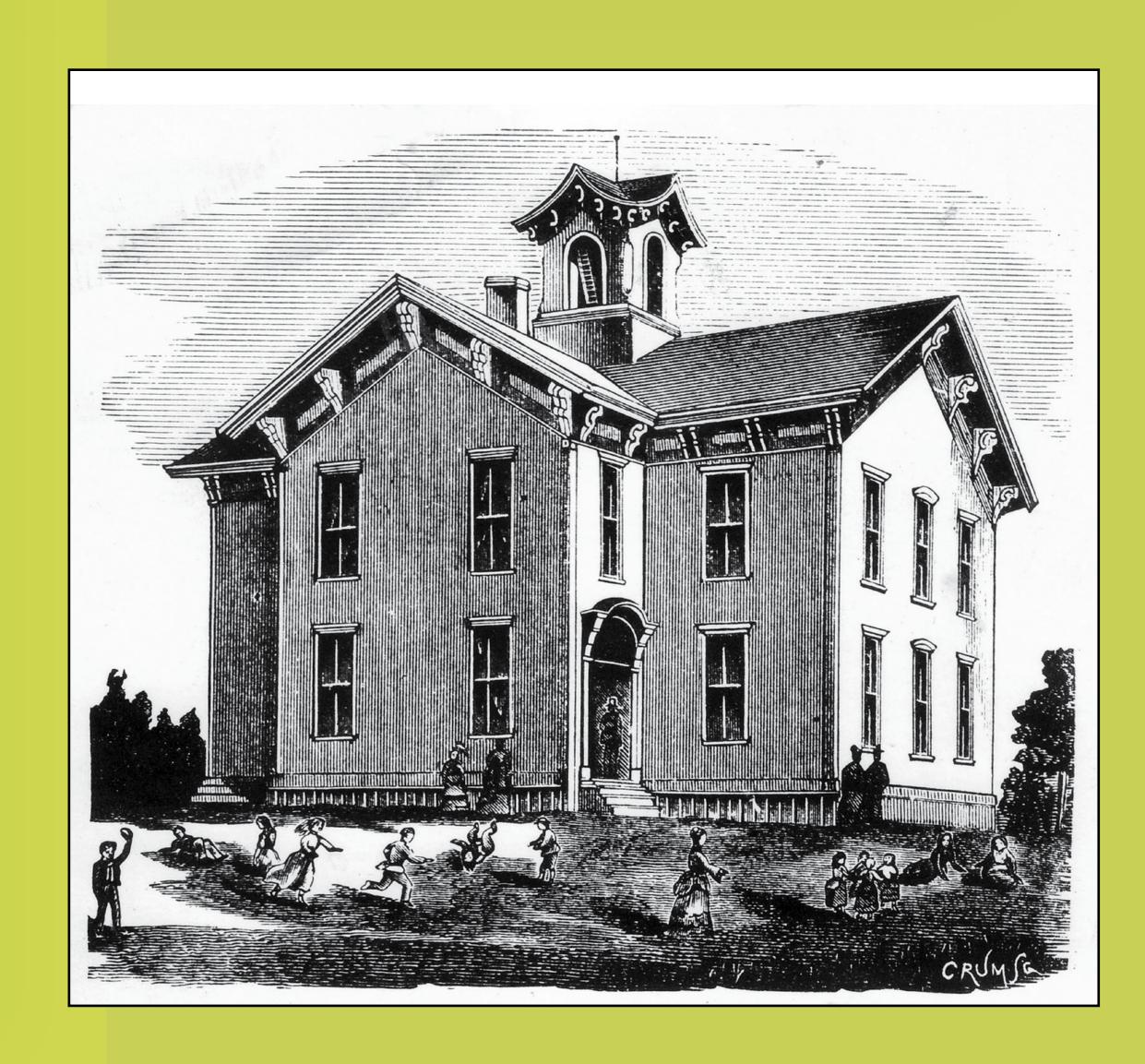


SCHOOL PICNIC in 1912 one building in the village served Saugatuck students at all levels. This picnic was probably at the end of the school year in May.

LEARNING

CONSOLIDATION, EARLY AND LATE

The first public school in Saugatuck Township which opened in 1838 was, in a manner of speaking, a consolidated school. Since none of the three areas where people resided at that time – the community by the lake which would become Saugatuck; Singapore, the sawmill town near the mouth of the river, or the gathering around the Plummer sawmill at the outlet from Goshorn Lake – had enough student-aged children to form a school they consolidated and opened one small school with a single teacher. The first school building, a partially log structure with a dirt floor, was constructed on the old dugout road near the river, equally inconvenient for them all. By the 1850s Saugatuck and Douglas had begun separate school systems which would continue for more than a century before finally consolidating in 1963 with an elementary school on the southern edge of Douglas, and a Junior-Senior High school on the hill in Saugatuck. Efforts by the state to foster consolidation with Fennville were not successful. The first ballot in 1970 lost in Saugatuck, 401-488, but passed in Fennville, 621-323. The second in 1971 was approved in Saugatuck, 524-363 but lost in Fennville. Then both districts gave up on the idea and constructed new high schools.



SAUGATUCK UNION SCHOOL built on Elizabeth Street, 1867, burned in 1896.



SAUGATUCK HIGH SCHOOL BAND, in 1951, poses in the driveway of the high school. In 1950 the older part of the Saugatuck school burned, and a new one-story brick addition was built onto the rescued 1927 gymnasium wing.