

In Our Own Back Yard

A Look at Beltrami,
Cass and Itasca
Counties at the
Turn of the Century

By Carol Russell



SCHOOL DAYS, SCHOOL DAYS . . .



Schools were some of the first, and most important, buildings constructed in early northern Minnesota. Above is the first high school football team in Grand Rapids, 1904. Below is shown a 1905 Grand Rapids classroom; F.L. Spring was the instructor.



Photos Courtesy of Itasca County Historical Society

A vintage black and white photograph of a football team. In the foreground, several players are in a three-point stance, ready for the play. They are wearing dark jerseys and light-colored pants. Behind them, more players stand, some in similar uniforms and others in civilian clothes. On the far right, a man in a dark suit and tie stands with his hands on his hips, looking towards the team. The background features a line of trees and a building, suggesting an outdoor field setting. The overall tone is historical and formal.

A black and white photograph of a classroom from 1905. A teacher stands at the front near a large chalkboard filled with writing and drawings. Students are seated at wooden desks, some reading books. A bookshelf is visible on the right. The date '5-4-1905' and 'COMP. OF YOUR TEACHER F.L. SPRING.' are written on the front of a desk in the foreground.

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Officers

[illegible]

DONALD FRASER
LESTER LOFBERG
EMMA FREDERICK
HAROLD LUTHER

WM. McALPINE
* IRENE McGEE
ALBERT TUEL
HERBERT GROVE

WALTER REUSSWIG
RAYMOND SISLER
CORRIE MCGEE
JEROME H. MEYERS

One, Two, Three, Four, Five, Six, Seven,
All good Seniors go to Heaven;
Then they'll holler, all in a line,
Hurrah for the Seniors of 19-9.

Class flower: American Beauty Rose.

“Mehr Licht.” “Mehr Licht.”

So long, Grand Rapids High School,
Our home of the past four years,
So long, you dear old High School,
We leave with flowing tears.

Good-bye, our Superintendent,
You have been our leading light;
Thru all our troubles, trials and woes,
You have shown us the right.

Au Revoir, our Principal,
 Au Revoir, our teachers fine;
 You have certainly done your share
 For the class '09.

Ta Ta, our friends and schoolmates,
Underclassmen, line after line,
With heavy hearts we are leaving,
So, Adieux, from the class '09.

J. H. M.

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