

## Jennie D. Blake at Jennie D. Blake School November 19, 2015

Members of the Hill Historical Society had another opportunity to share some of our town history with the students and staff at our elementary school.

The students were re-introduced to the school's namesake. Hill residents and HHS members, Linda Denningham (great-niece of Jennie Blake) and Carlene Eaton (former student of Mrs. Blake in Old Hill Village) were present to speak.

The students recognized the large photo of Mrs. Blake (*it's posted in the entryway of the school*) and some knew the location of the Dickerson Hill School—the restored one-room schoolhouse up on Murray Hill Road where Jennie Dickerson first attended classes and later began her teaching career. (*see accompanying pages for these photos and information*)



The students heard about life with “Aunt Jennie” from Linda Denningham and about going to classes in the brand-new school in the New Village (*which was originally in the building that is now the town library*). Carlene Eaton talked about being in school in the Old Village and then going to high school in Franklin after the town moved to its present location. It was so fun and interesting to hear those personal recollections and anecdotes about things that we generally read only in our history books.



Students and staff asked lots of questions about school—what the students studied in the different class levels, about recess (and just how far they could play outside the school yard), about the consequences of misbehaving 😊, about going home for lunch or carrying a sandwich, and about homework. Although their first reaction to a shorter school year was excitement... they tempered that reaction when they realized that extra time out of school meant lots of chores around their homes.

Carlene was also able to answer the question about the two doors at the old schoolhouse—one was for boys and one was for girls.

Each student received the photos and information about Jennie Blake and the Dickerson Hill Schoolhouse to put into their notebooks—telling “Our Story”.

We thank Carlene and Linda for sharing their memories and thoughts with all of us.

