

when it was founded but now part of the United Church of Canada. I expect that this little blanket was in the sleigh that went to Church and kept our horse warm in the sheds, while the family was at worship. Those horse sheds are a unique feature of the church grounds and a fitting backdrop as we occasionally present a live nativity on Christmas Eve.

(Lynn) *Perhaps it was a special quilt that kept our forefathers and mothers warm. Maybe a crazy patchwork created from all the clothes that finally were too frayed to be worn. Oh! If only this quilt could talk about the laughter and tears behind all these pieces of fabric. And I'll bet that the members of a Sunday School class in 1924 didn't realize that they would be creating a piece of history when they arranged to have, for 10 cents each, all these names embroidered and quilted to create a wedding gift for their teacher, my grandmother.* (points to quilts in display)



(Gail) I expect that this blanket also accompanied children in the sleigh on those cold mornings when they went to S.S. number 2 school. But as I just missed out on the opportunity to attend that school I will yield the floor to Lynn.

(Lynn) *There are hundreds of stories about the adventures of those students who attended the old one-room schoolhouse. And we didn't turn out all that badly, did we?*

*In 1967 when the schools were amalgamated into 1 township school, the Balsam Hill W.I. purchased S.S.no2 to be used as an Institute Hall. By 1999, it was showing its age (over 100 years). We were in a quandry. What to do with it? We now had other, much more modern options for meeting places. We held a public meeting and the resounding reply was, "don't tear it down!"*

*With the cooperation and support of the Renfrew County Board of Education and a Trillium grant from the Ontario Government and more than 1000 hours of volunteer labour we refurbished the school and operated it as a living museum in 2000. Grade 3 classes from all over the county are invited to spend a day in the life of a student in 1890. A grade 3 curriculum is taught by a qualified teacher who is a Balsam Hill member. The students have a hands-on opportunity to live and share in our heritage and bring history to life.*