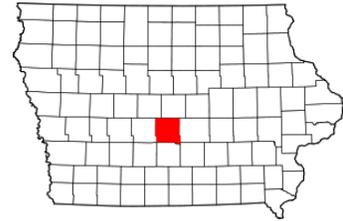


Alleman High School



Mascot: Wildcats

Colors: Maroon and Gold

Year Closed: 1956

Location: Northcentral Polk County

Early history The first land abstract in Lincoln Township of Polk County was on November 5, 1855. The land was sold from the United States to John H. Wise.

Peter Alleman and his three sons George, John, and Daniel arrived in Iowa from Switzerland via Sauk City, Wisconsin in 1865. John was twelve years old at the time. Other farmers that came to the area were predominantly Swiss and German. Some of these Swiss settlers joined the German Reformed Church. Others (the Alleman's, Fausch's, Lehmann's, and Ringgenberg's) formed the Salem Reformed Church. It was organized in 1878. The congregation built a church in Alleman in 1926 to replace an 1885 church in the country.

John Alleman accumulated land and had a Hereford ranch on the land that would become the town of Alleman. In 1910, he donated some land for a new railroad, the Fort Dodge, Des Moines and Southern railroad. The right-of way ran directly through his land. The railroad named the station, Alleman in his honor. John was also involved in establishing a bank, the Farmers Savings Bank, and the Farmer's Elevator Company.

Early schools The first school in Alleman was built in 1914 and occupied in 1915. The grade and high schools were in the same building. This building which had the high school continued for four more years after the closing of the high school in 1956.

The High School at Alleman had many changes from 1946 through 1956

In 1946, the four-year high school was closed. Third generation Alleman area farmer, Willard Lehman gives an account of the transitions during the next ten years, "The high school close in 1946 after my eighth-grade year at Alleman. The high school students then went to Ankeny where I graduated in 1951. The High School in Alleman started education again in 1950 with the junior class being the top class. The White Oak High School had burned down and their students were sent to the restarted Alleman High School. The Alleman seniors received their schooling at Ankeny and graduated in the spring of 1951 from Ankeny. The White Oak seniors graduated from Huxley in the spring of 1951."

The first graduation class from the restarted certified Alleman High School was in May 1952

By 1956 more changes came for the consolidation of High Schools. Polk City and Elkhart High Schools closed and unified with Alleman High School to form the renamed North Polk High School which was held at the Alleman school. In 1957, Sheldahl joined the North Polk school. This newly formed North Polk school would now include the students from five towns; Alleman, White Oak, Elkhart, Polk City, and Sheldahl.

For the next four years the North Polk High School would be held at the Alleman school building. In the fall of 1960, the new North Polk High School would open its new facility on the southwest edge of Alleman

Sports There was no football played at Alleman High School.

The boys played basketball and baseball. There were all-county basketball tournaments played into the 1950s. The 1953 boys team led by Dave Longenecker played in the county finals against West Des Moines Valley High School. Alleman lost the game but won the hearts of all the big Des Moines schools with their run for the title. The West Des Moines star that year was ??? who went on to star at Drake University.

The girls played basketball.

By the 1950s the Sheldahl was a basketball rival. Elkhart was the baseball rival.

With the consolidation of Sheldahl, Elkhart, White Oak, Polk City and Alleman to become North Polk Community Schools, they joined the Suburban Des Moines

Conference with Ankeny, Urbandale, Altoona, Bondurant-Farrar, Saydel, Southeast Polk, and Johnston. Judy Bortz tells, "That fall of 1956 was my freshman year at the new North Polk High School which was being held at the Alleman School Building. We had students from White Oak, Elkhart, Polk City, and Alleman all together in our school. The next year Sheldahl joined our school. Since Sheldahl had the best gymnasium, we played our basketball games on their court until the New North Polk High School was built southwest of town."

Football started for these Alleman boys with the formation of North Polk in the fall of 1956. Within three years in 1959 and 1960, they tied both years for the Suburban League championship with Ankeny and Saydel.

Baseball was played for the next four years in Elkhart, and basketball played in Sheldahl until a new high school gymnasium and sports field could be built in Alleman for the North Polk High School.

Teacherage The Alleman School Board purchased a building for the single teachers to live in the early years of the school. By the 1950s the janitor and his family lived in the teacherage. Bill Haugland tells, "My dad, Carl Haugland moved our family into the teacherage in 1953. I was 9 years old and my mother, Lela was the cook for the Alleman school. Dad was the janitor but following a heart attack in 1956, he was not able to continue with the work. My idol at school was Frank Schill who was the girls basketball coach, baseball coach, and the industrial Arts teacher. He and the industrial arts class constructed an indoor toilet for us in the teacherage. Until that time, all the teacherage had was an outhouse. We still had to pump our own water outside, but at least we had an indoor bathroom."

Notable teachers Dorothy Brazelton was the English and Social studies teacher at Alleman High School. She bridged the gap from the Alleman High School and taught at the new North Polk High School. Judy Bortz remembers, "I had Mrs. Brazelton in junior high and she was so influential in caring and melding all the students from the five towns."

"Mrs. Brazelton instilled my appreciation and love for writing and literature. I think often how she inspired me to my writing career. And how I envied her, because every spring she and her husband would take two weeks off to drive to Florida for baseball spring training," recalls Bill Haglund.

Frank Schill was the baseball coach, girls basketball, and industrial arts teacher. He continued to teach at the new North Polk school for three years. He inspired many a boy with the love for baseball. During this time of semi-pro and town teams in all the towns of the Midwest, Frank had many boys that received his coaching who excelled at baseball.

Closing Alleman High School closed following graduation in May 1956. The school building remained in use for 4 years and was called North Polk Community High School. The first graduation class was in 1957 with 21 graduates of which nine were from the former Alleman school.

