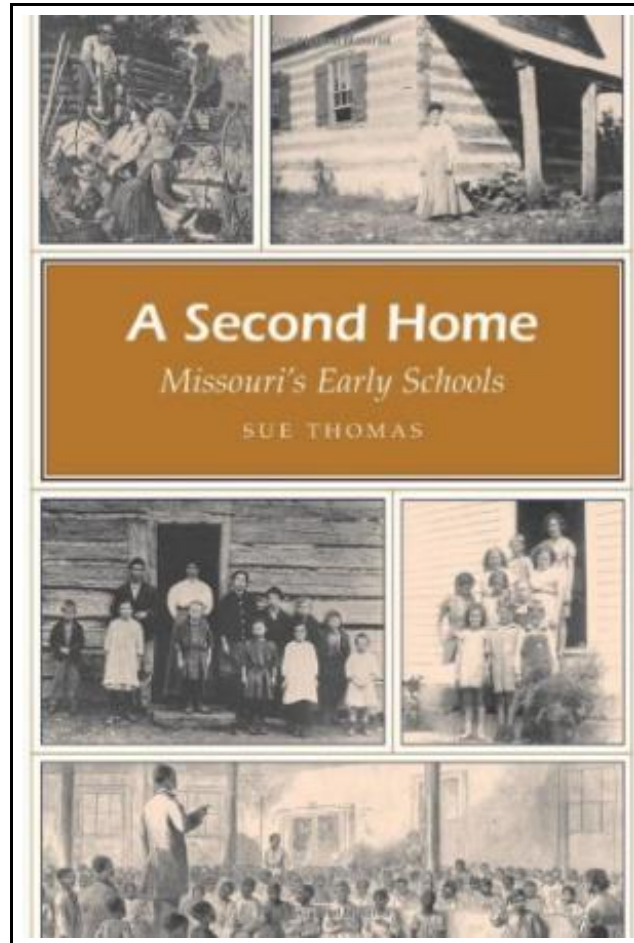# A Second Home: Missouri's Early Schools

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(Dr. Porter Mitchell)

A SECOND HOME: MISSOURI'S EARLY SCHOOLS

University of Missouri Press. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, A Second Home: Missouri's Early Schools, Sue Thomas, The one-room schoolhouse may be a thing of the past, but it is the foundation on which modern education rests. Sue Thomas now traces the progress of early education in Missouri, demonstrating how important early schools were in taming the frontier. "A Second Home" offers an in-depth and entertaining look at education in the days when pioneers had to postpone schooling for their children until they could provide shelter for their families and clear their fields for crops, while well-to-do families employed tutors or sent their children back east. Thomas tells of the earliest known English school at the Ramsay settlement near Cape Girardeau, then of the opening of a handful of schools around the time of the Louisiana Purchase - such as Benjamin Johnson's school on Sandy Creek, Christopher Schewe's boy's school when St. Louis was still a village, and the Ste. Genevieve Academy, where poor and Indian children were to be taught free of charge. She describes how, as communities grew, more private schools opened - including "dame schools," denominational schools, and subscription schools - until public education came into its own in the 1850s. Drawing on oral histories collected throughout the state, as well as private diaries and archival research, the book is full of firsthand accounts of what education once was like - including descriptions of the furnishings, teaching methods, and school-day activities in one-room log schools. It also includes the experiences of former slaves and free blacks following the Civil War when they were newly entitled to public education, with discussions of the contributions of John Berry Meachum, James Milton Turner, and other African American leaders. With its remembrances of simpler times, "A Second Home" tells of...

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