



## **Abigail – The Pine Grove School House Mouse**

Summer 2012

This is the pretend story of Abigail Field mouse. Abigail lived in the historic town of Avon, Connecticut. She was a small brown mouse who wore a sun bonnet, blue calico dress with a white pinafore and black lace up boots as was the style in Civil War days.

Abigail was a very smart mouse because she lived under the floorboards of the Pine Grove School House. Being small, she could hide behind stacks of books or in the cloak room and was never seen. She loved to learn along with the children being taught by Mrs. Case. Back in those days children did not have computers or cell phones. They sat at wooden desks and wrote their lessons on a slate with chalk. They used the Blue Back Speller by Noah Webster to learn their ABC's, spelling and writing.

What fun it was on sunny days when the children were let outside in the schoolyard to play at lunchtime. If Abigail was really lucky-and she often was-a child would accidentally drop a morsel of food from their lunch pail. Sometimes it would be homemade spice cake, a bit of juicy apple, or a chunk of cheese! Remember in those days Avon was a farming community and everything was grown and made on the local farms owned by their parents.

One day a peddler man in a horse-drawn wagon pulled up outside the schoolhouse. All the children ran to the windows to see and Abigail peered out from beneath a small basket. He introduced himself as Mr. Bigelow to the teacher and said he had some books on his wagon she may need for the children. Back then books were very scarce. Mrs. Case purchased three books for the children from the school's operating fund. Abigail loved to listen to the stories Mrs. Case read to the children from the new books. She was so lucky to live in the little white schoolhouse in the beautiful town of Avon. Oh what joy the peddler man brought to the Pine Grove School House that day!