

Early Schools: Rural and Urban



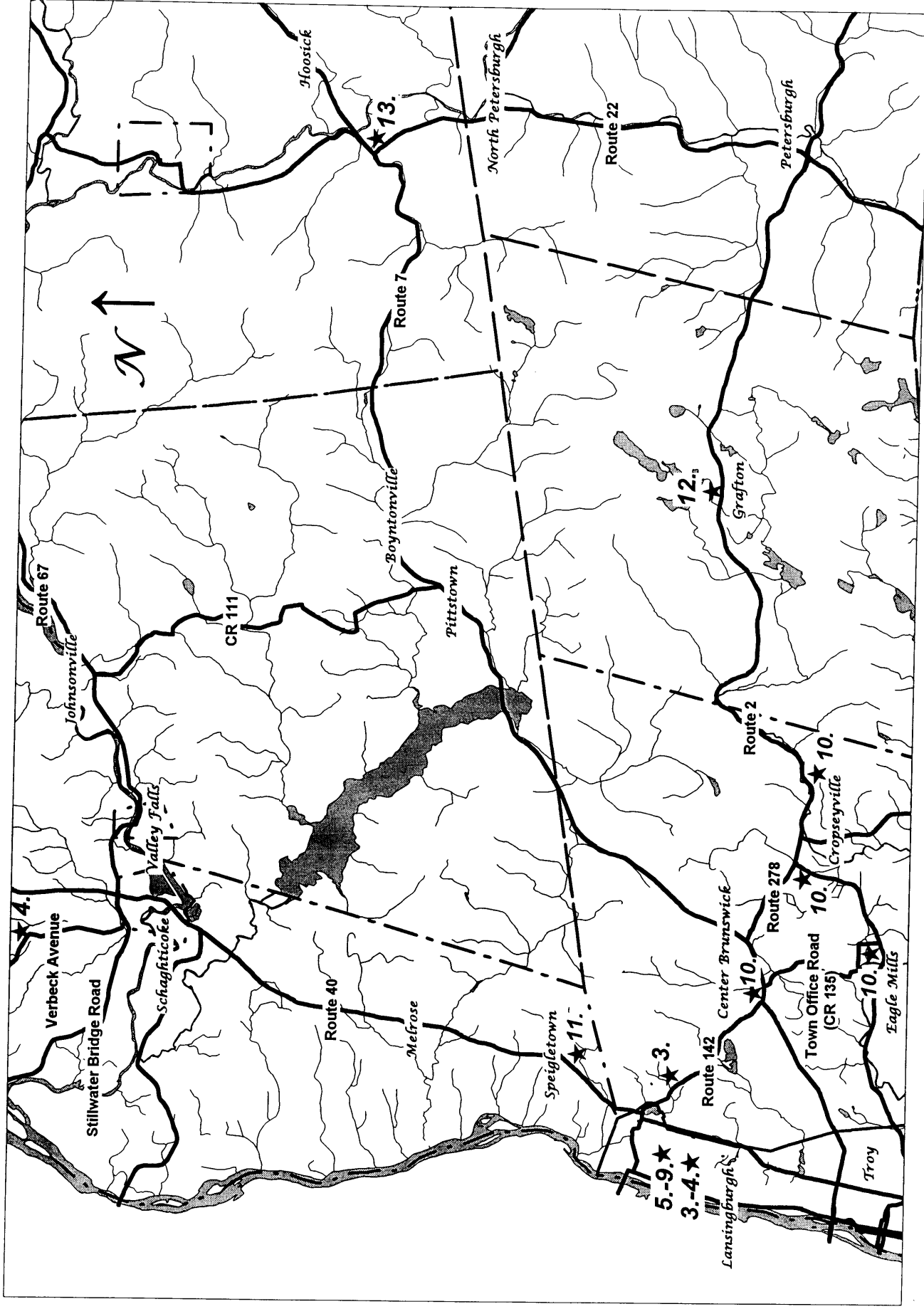
Rensselaer County, N.Y.
May 15, 1999

Rensselaer-Taconic Land Conservancy
Lansingburgh Historical Society
Brunswick Historical Society

Early Schools: Rural and Urban contents of portfolio on early schools

Title Page / Cover Sheet

- 1. computer-generated map showing schools and other sites visited**
- 2. Early Schools: Rural and Urban**
- 3. Herman Melville and Two Rensselaer County Schools**
- 4. Chester Arthur and Two Rensselaer County Schools**
- 5. Chapter 336, Laws of 1847 creates "free" school district in Village of Lansingburgh**
- 6. newspaper article on establishment of "colored" school, 1849**
- 7. teacher's elementary school grade report, Lansingburgh U.F. School District, 1915**
- 8. A Selection of Documents Relating to Public Schools in Lansingburgh, Rensselaer County, N.Y., 1852-1916**
- 9. Whipple School (1865), as photographed ca. 1890 and adapted for use as community day care center, 1988**
- 10. historic school buildings serve various uses today in the Town of Brunswick**
- 11. photograph of students, Speigletown school, ca. 1897**
- 12. Grafton Center school #5 (1878), still located on the "village green," now used as U.S. Post Office, as photographed ca. 1890 by James E. West**
- 13. school #16, Town of Hoosick (1842), construction financed by the Tibbitts family, now owned by and open to the public courtesy of Stewarts**
- 14. map of common school districts in the Town of Brunswick, 1876**



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Rensselaer-Taconic Land Conservancy May 15, 1999

Early Schools: Rural and Urban

A Capsule History

The Regents of the State of New York, as early as their creation in 1784, began calling for the establishment of free public schools. Finally in 1795 the State Legislature established a system to provide state aid for education to towns, to augment monies to be allocated annually in town budgets for the establishment and upkeep of common schools. This funding lapsed, however, by 1800, and the Legislature established a Common School Fund in 1805. During these early years, public schools were scattered throughout the state, but many areas were under-served. In general these schools were unevenly financed, and were not open for consistent periods of time.

The next major step was the passage of the Common School Act by the Legislature in 1812, which established "common schools" in each town in the state. These schools were financed by town budget allocations augmented by annual state aid. Towns were divided into "common school districts" each governed by a board of elected school district trustees, answering to elected town school commissioners. These common school districts constituted the first "school districts" in the state. Common school districts eventually became incorporated into union free, city or central school districts. Only 13 of the thousands of common school districts established in the 19th century remain in the state today, one of them being the North Greenbush Common School District. Another, the Brunswick Common School District, was annexed to the Averill Park Central School District in 1995. The establishment of central school districts, which could operate high schools, was not authorized until 1914, and many of them in the county are fairly modern creations. As late as 1920, there were 10,000 common school districts remaining in the state, 8,000 of them with a single "one room schoolhouse." Only with increased state aid, especially to less affluent areas, were the majority of central school districts established. The Brunswick (Brittonkill) Central School District is of fairly recent creation. Small common school districts operated in the town until the central school district was established in 1958.

While the Common School Act was a landmark statute in establishing public schools throughout the state, it had some significant deficiencies. First of all, these small districts provided only for primary education. Public high schools as we know them today were virtually non-existent, and secondary education could only be obtained at private academies, which were principally located in population centers. In addition, students in all primary grades were

taught in a single class, often in a single room of a small schoolhouse. And in some instances, school districts had to charge students tuition to make up for deficiencies in budget allocations and state aid.

Clearly, the condition of public education still was fairly primitive in the state which would later be known as the "state of learning." As late as 1846, the following statistics collected by the Secretary of State were quite alarming. Of the 9,907 schoolhouses statewide, 575 were built of brick, 604 of stone, 8,231 of framed wood and 598 still constructed of logs. Of the total, 3,809 were said to be in good repair, 3,280 in ordinary repair and 2,883 in bad repair. Only 845 of these buildings had only a single room, and 6,555 of them had no playgrounds. Only 2,206 of them had double privies, 2,254 of them had single privies, and unbelievably, 5,556 of them lacked privies at all! More than half of them, 5,355 were not suitably furnished with seats and desks, and 6,235 did not have proper ventilation. The average monthly compensation paid to female teachers was \$6.69 and to male teachers \$15.42. Life in the "one room schoolhouse" left clearly much to be desired.

It was the cities, villages and populous towns which first felt the need to operate schools far beyond those provided for by the Common School Act of 1812. In New York City, as one might expect, the need for better schools was recognized as early as 1805, when the Free School Society was formed. Later known as the Public School Society, this organization operated schools until the creation of the New York City School District pursuant to an 1842 Act of the State Legislature, and the establishment of free public schools throughout the city. The 1842 Act of the Legislature creating the public school system in New York City provided the impetus for other municipalities to likewise establish schools by special individual enabling legislation. These new school districts could be financed by direct local school taxation and as a result be operational a full nine months each year. Taking advantage of the precedent set by the New York City law, in the 1840's the municipalities of Brooklyn, Buffalo, Rochester, Williamsburg, Poughkeepsie, Syracuse, Lansingburgh, Flushing, Newtown and Bushwick established more sophisticated "free" schools by special legislative acts. Albany, Troy and Utica established quite similar "free" schools, but without the authority of such enabling legislation.

An 1846 law permitted the opening of "colored schools" for black children, and one was established in Lansingburgh in 1849. But it was not until 1873 that the State Civil Rights Act required public schools to accept children of all races. The charge to parents of tuition, known as the infamous

"rate bill," was not finally abolished statewide by the Legislature until 1867. Compulsory attendance, for children between the ages of 8 and 14, wasn't first instituted until 1874, and wasn't universally accepted until passage of a stricter attendance law in 1894. The modern free public school that we are familiar with today did not appear until after the Civil War, and then only in the populous municipalities.

It is noteworthy here that the Town of Lansingburgh was in the company of cities and of large metropolitan towns that would eventually become part of Brooklyn and Queens. The driving force behind the establishment of the "Free School District" in Lansingburgh by Chapter 336 of the Laws of 1847 was one James Comstock, a school principal in Lansingburgh at the time. Comstock was one of a small but dedicated group of educators in the state who saw the need for "graded" schools, where students of all ages were not taught together, for schools "free" of tuition to all, and for secondary schools available to students interested in pursuing their education further. The 1847 Act itself spoke of raising enough funds for "necessary furniture, apparatus and books, and for contingent expenses" through a tax "levied and raised . . . on such district." The eligible voters of the district had the right to vote on the school district budget at an annual meeting. Thus the Lansingburgh school district we know today had been in essence created.

Noting the success of these few "free" urban schools, the Legislature first passed a free school in 1849. This was determined to be unconstitutional, but a similar law was passed again in 1853. This allowed for the establishment of "union free school districts" by the consolidation of common school districts, mostly in urban areas. Most union free school districts at this time were coterminous with cities or villages. These districts were permitted to operate high schools and were truly "free" of tuition by statute. The Lansingburgh School District #1 did not open a high school for a number of years for two reasons. Students could (by paying tuition) attend either Troy High School, which opened in 1854, or receive their secondary education at the Lansingburgh Academy.

These districts were supported by a combination of state aid and direct taxation of property owners in each district, sufficient to properly operate good schools for all pupils wishing to attend. There are still over 170 union free school districts in the state today. The Lansingburgh Central School District became a central school district because the old union free school district consolidated with common school districts in Brunswick and

Schaghticoke in 1962. This is one of only seven school districts in the state where a part of a city is not included in a city school district.

Private academies in the 19th century served as an integral part of the public education system. Chartered by the Regents beginning in 1787 and in some cases directly by the Legislature, over 400 private academies had been established by the early 1800s, largely in population centers. These academies provided most all the secondary schools for a number of years, and many had primary departments as well. Some were opened specifically for boys or girls, as was the case in Albany, while others such as the Lansingburgh Academy were coeducational. While some academies were affiliated with a particular religious denomination, many such as the Lansingburgh Academy, were nonsectarian. While private in operation, these academies were largely community supported, and took the place of the often deficient public schools of the era.

The Lansingburgh Academy, founded in 1796, was one of the first and most prominent in the state. While the Troy Academy was not established until 1834, Emma Willard's renowned Troy Female Seminary dated from 1821. The first principal of the Lansingburgh Academy, Chauncey Lee, was an early proponent of use of the decimal monetary system in schools, and authored the first work where the dollar sign appeared in print. Private academies not only provided classical college entrance courses, but also offered more practical career-oriented courses as well.

As high schools began to open in the mid to late 19th century, many of the private academies went out of existence. Notable exceptions such as the Albany academies for boys and girls, flourish in the modern era. A number of private academies merged with public school districts, the academies becoming tuition-free high schools. In Lansingburgh, the school district assumed use of the Lansingburgh Academy building as its first high school when the Academy was disbanded in 1911.

Warren F. Broderick
Rensselaer-Taconic Land Conservancy
May 1999

Herman Melville and two Rensselaer County schools

Herman Melville (1819-1891) moved to Lansingburgh with his family in May of 1838, renting the house at North and River Streets (the present 114th Street and First Avenue), currently the headquarters of the Lansingburgh Historical Society. In November of that year Herman entered the nearby Lansingburgh Academy at a cost of \$5.25 per term, taking a course in surveying and engineering. He had previously attended the Albany Academy when the family had lived in Albany.

The Lansingburgh Academy, found in 1796, was considered one of the finer private academies in the state. Its 1820 building boasted an extensive library and laboratories for the study of natural philosophy, chemistry and astronomy. Its principal, Ebenezer D. Maltbie (1799-1858), held a particular interest in zoology, later authoring a textbook *Zoological Science, or Nature in Living Forms*. The possibility of Rev. Maltbie's tutoring young Melville on the wonderful variety of the animal kingdom tantalizes the Melville biographer, considering Herman's passionate interest in natural science, manifested in many of his works, including the early chapters of *Moby Dick*.

Herman received his degree in the spring of 1838, and through the efforts of his uncle, Peter Gansevoort, applied for a job as an engineer for the Erie Canal. In his letter of application to Canal Commissioner William Bouck, his uncle enclosed a certificate from Mr. Maltbie, showing the "proficiency" that Herman had made "in those studies" at the Lansingburgh Academy.

Not receiving the engineering job, Herman embarked on his first sea voyage, to England that summer. He also published his first prose and poetry compositions in the local weekly newspaper, the *Democratic Press (and Lansingburgh Advertiser)*. He took a teaching position at the Greenbush and Schodack Academy in the

fall of 1839, but that school closed in a state of bankruptcy that winter, owing Herman part of his teacher's salary.

In the latter part of May, 1840, Melville taught for a brief period of time at the former small one-room wooden schoolhouse School District #7 in the Town of Brunswick. The school was located on Gypsy Lane near the junction of the present State Route 142. The old schoolhouse is long gone, but a state historic marker commemorates the site. Herman would have had an easy walk from his home, east on 114th Street past the Lansingburgh Academy, up Farrell Road to the district schoolhouse.

A receipt in Melville's writing, which he retained, indicated that his salary for this part-time teaching job was \$6.00. It is not known whether this is a copy of a receipt he submitted to the district, or whether he failed to submit his bill for payment. By the summer, Herman has lost interest in teaching and was planning a to take trip to the west accompanied by a good friend. Herman remained as a Lansingburgh resident until his marriage in 1847. He spent the interim time adventuring in the South Seas and engaged in writing his first novels, two of which were published during his Lansingburgh years.

For further reading:

Warren F. Broderick, "Melville's First Five Poems," *Melville Society Extracts*, Number 92, March 1993, pp. 13-15.

Broderick, "Their Snowy Whiteness Dazzled My Eyes," *Hudson Valley Regional Review*, March, 1986, pp. 90-106.

Hershel Parker, *Herman Melville, a Biography*. Vol. 1, 1819-1851. (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996)

Parker, "Herman Melville," *American History*, September/October, 1991, pp. 28-47

Laurie Robertson-Lorant, *Melville: a Biography*. (Potter, 1996)



35 Herman Melville, ca. 1847, oil on canvas by Asa W. Twitchell.
Berkshire Athenaeum.

L. A. M. B.,
ROBRIETOR.

Mosher's buildings, at
the Rensselaer House.

per year, payable half
yearly at reasonable

at common prices,
according to the terms

paper by mail, may
be sent in advance
expiration of the year

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city, for the very
that he has received
business for himself,
the public in general
will endeavor to keep

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Brush, and Napt
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VOL. I.

LAN

Lansingburgh Academy.

THIS Institution will be opened for the
reception of students, under the care
of the Rev. E. D. MALTBIE, as Principal.
The attainments of Mr. Maltbie, as a scholar,
his experience and reputation as an In-
structor of youth, the favorable location of
the Academy in a healthy, and pleasant vil-
lage, invite the attention of parents and
guardians. The Trustees, persuaded that
the arrangements now made will be satisfac-
tory, feel great confidence in commending
the claims of the Institution to the public.

The price of tuition will vary from \$3 to
\$5 per quarter, according to the studies pur-
sued.

Attention will be paid to the branches of
study required for mercantile pursuits, for
the business of Teaching, or for admission
to College, to an advanced standing, when
desired.

A Female Department will be opened un-
der the general supervision of Mr. Malt-
bie, with such assistance as may be required.

A few students can be accommodated
with board in the family of the Prin-
cipal.

PHINEAS L. WHIPPLE, President.
R. HANFORD, Secretary.
Lansingburgh, May 7, 1838.

CATALOGUE OF NEW BOOKS
IN W. FISH'S
Circulating Library.

vols.

P O E

We have rarely met
pass with more exquisi-
fication, more real piet-
in the following stanza

Pilgrim is thy journey

Are its lights exting-
Still suppress the rising

God forsakes the

Storms may gather

All the ties of life

Still amid the fearful

God forsakes the

Pain may rack thy

Health desert thee

Faith still burns with

God forsakes the

A NIGHT AMONG

BY J. G. W.

"Th

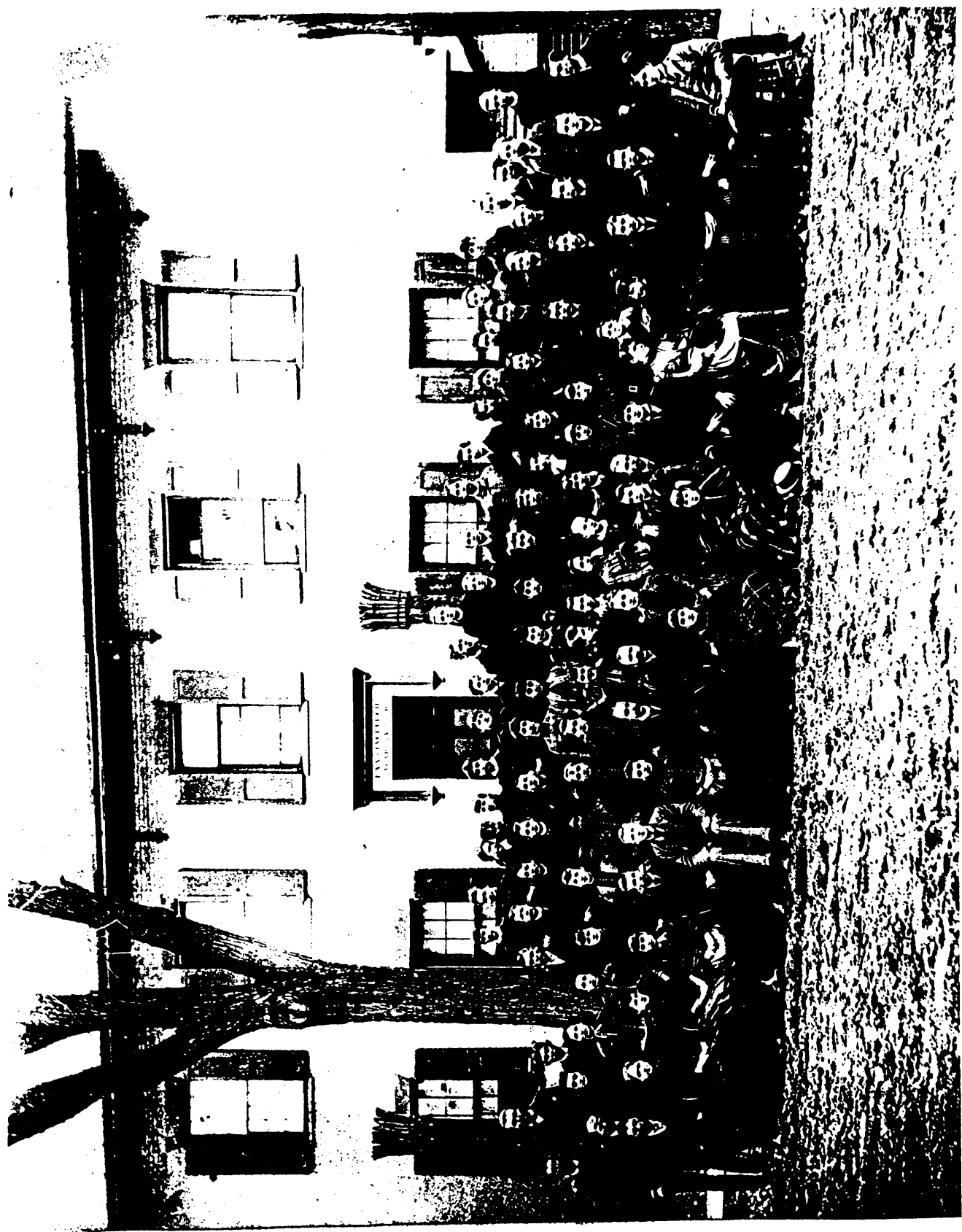
Scenting the place of sl
And most offensive ho

"The wolf!—the
cious wolf!—How
horror are associate
Tales of the desert

advertisement for Lansingburgh Academy, 1838
from *Democratic Press and Lansingburgh Advertiser*
(Troy Public Library)

[illegible]

charter of Lansingburgh Academy granted by the Regents, 1796 (Rensselaer County Historical Society)



Lansingburgh Academy, ca. 1890



One of Brunswick's lesser known one room schoolhouses, the original building of School No. 7, stood at the intersection of Grange Road and Gypsy Lane. The sketch (above) by Douglas Bucher shows the school as it would have appeared in 1840 when author Herman Melville taught here for a short while. Between his first and second sea voyages, Melville walked to teach here from his home in Lansingburgh over Farrell Road, past Diamond Rock — then a main thoroughfare. A receipt in Melville's own handwriting for his services rendered is reproduced below.

Lansingburgh June 5th 1840

\$6.00 Received from the Trustees of the School
 District No 7 Town of Brunswick six Dollars - (pay \$6)
 in full of all demands to this date

Herman Melville

Chester Alan Arthur and two Rensselaer County schools

Chester Alan Arthur (1829-1886), twenty-first President of the United States, was the son of Rev. William Arthur, a scholar and Baptist minister. His father's clerical duties necessitated the family moving from one community in New York and Vermont to another every few years. Rev. Arthur moved to Schenectady in 1844, where Chester entered Union College as a sophomore in 1845, taking a classical curriculum in preparation for a career in law.

In 1846 Rev. William Arthur moved to Lansingburgh, taking charge of the Baptist Church, which was located on the northwest corner of the present Third Avenue and 117th Street. The Arthur family moved into a home, still standing, currently numbered 626 First Avenue.

During his winter vacations from college, Chester earned \$15 a month teaching at the one-room brick schoolhouse of School District #14 in the Town of Schaghticoke, standing today on Verbeck Street, about ten miles north of his home. After graduating from Union College in 1848, Chester again taught for a while at the small brick Schaghticoke schoolhouse.

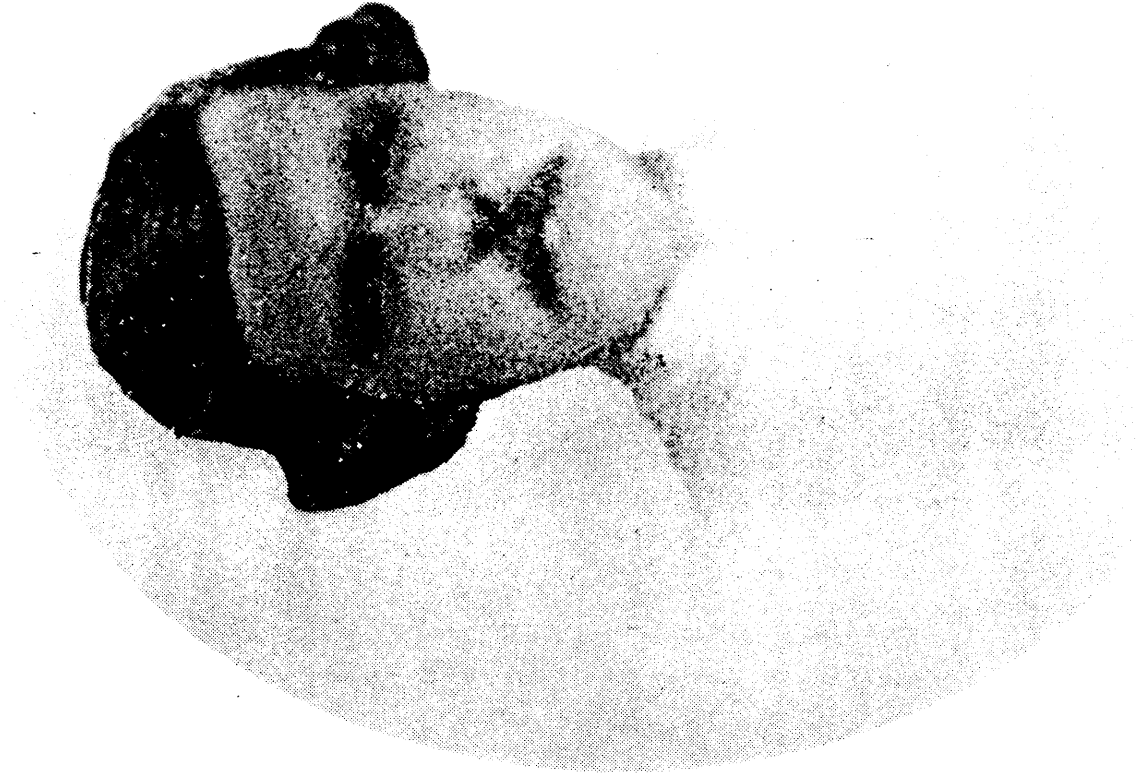
By 1849 Chester was attending law school in Ballston Spa, and during this year the family moved from Lansingburgh to Hoosick Corners. Chester is understood to have taught a course in "Elements of Law" at the Lansingburgh Academy at this time. He also taught school in North Pownal, Vermont, and in Cohoes, before moving to New York City to pursue his legal career which would eventually lead him towards the presidency.

For additional information on Chester Alan Arthur, read the biography *Gentleman Boss*, by Thomas C. Reeves (Knopf: 1975).

Rev. William Arthur



Chester Alan Arthur as a young man



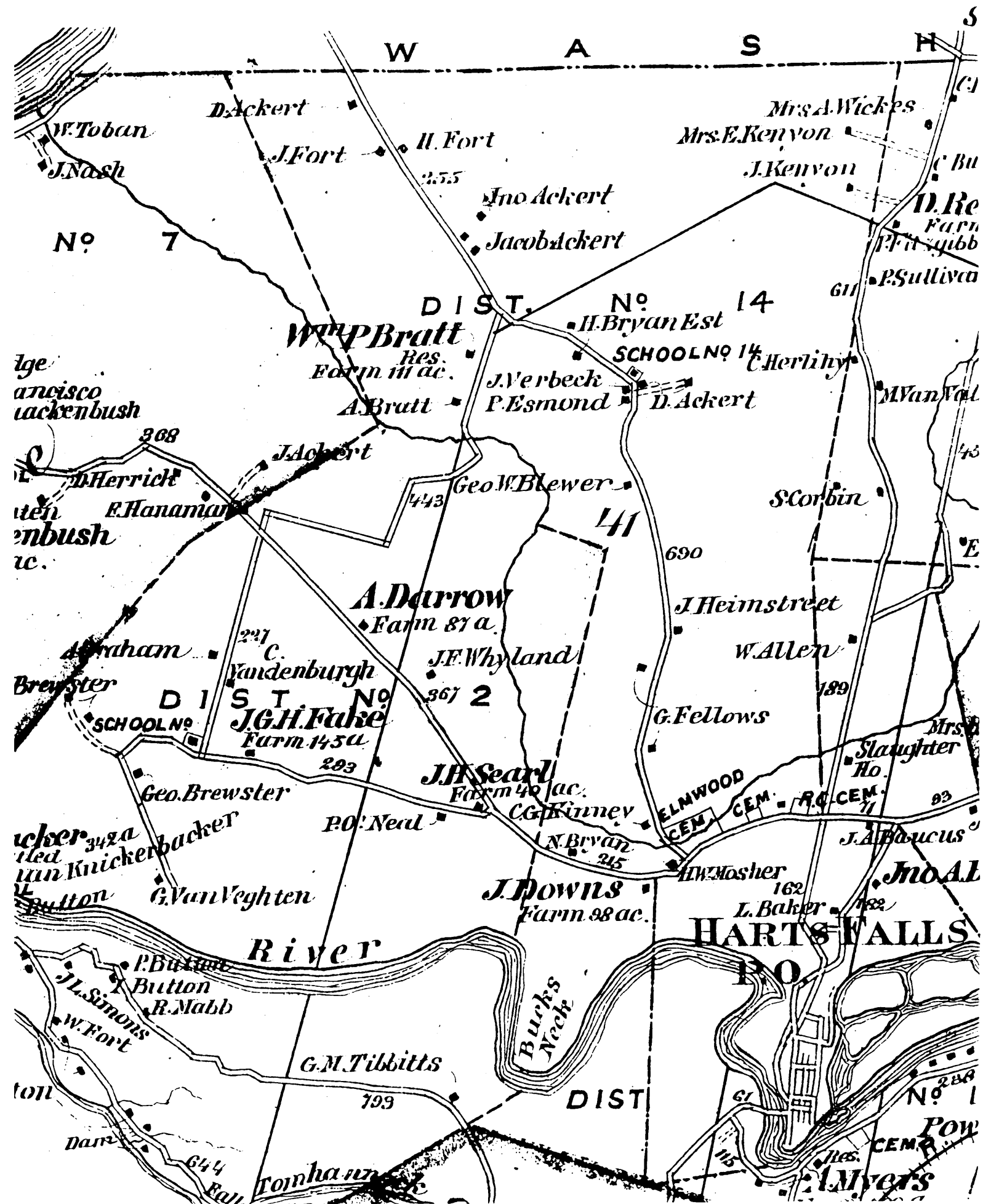


Lansingburgh Academy

Lansingburgh Academy, ca. 1900

School #14, Town of Schaghticoke





Chapter 336, Laws of 1847 creates "free" school district in Village of Lansingburgh

(N.Y. State Archives & Records Administration)

CHAP. 336.

AN ACT to provide for a free school in district number one in the town of Lansingburgh.

Passed October 26, 1847, "three-fifths being present."

The People of the State of New-York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Estimate to
be made.

To be pre-
sented at an-
nual meet-
ing.

Warrant
when to be
issued.

Tax to be a
lien on lands

§ 1. The trustees of school district number one in the town of Lansingburgh, in the county of Rensselaer, shall annually, at least three weeks before their annual meeting, prepare an estimate of the amount which they shall deem necessary to pay the debts of such district, and for the support of common schools therein, for the ensuing year, exclusive of the moneys which they may be entitled to receive from the town superintendent, and including the sums required for the purchase of necessary furniture, apparatus and books, and for contingent expenses, and shall cause printed or written notices thereof to be posted for two weeks thereafter, in five or more of the most public places in said district. They shall present such estimate at such annual meeting, when the inhabitants of such district, entitled to vote at school district meetings, then present, shall vote thereon, and the same having been approved of by a majority of such inhabitants, shall be levied and raised by tax on such district, as now provided by law for raising a district school tax.

§ 2. When the trustees shall have completed the tax list, they shall issue their warrant to the collector of taxes of said district, returnable in thirty days, for the collection of the same, and take from such collector approved security for the performance of his duty; such warrant may be renewed from time to time. The moneys so collected shall be paid to said trustees, and by them appropriated to the purposes for which the same was voted, unless otherwise directed by a vote of the inhabitants, at their annual district school meeting, or a special meeting called for the purpose.

§ 3. The tax hereby imposed shall be a lien upon the lands taxed, to be enforced and collected by sale, in the manner that county taxes are, upon a return to be made by said collector to the treasurer of the county, of all unpaid taxes in said district.

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

*An act to provide for a free school in district
number one in the town of Lansingburgh*

The People of the State of New-York represented in Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

§1. The trustees of school district number one in the town of Lansingburgh in the county of Rensselaer, shall annually, at least three weeks before their annual meeting, prepare an estimate of the amount which they shall deem necessary to pay the debts of such district and for the support of common schools therein, for the ensuing year, exclusive of the monies which they may be entitled to receive from the town superintendent, and including the sums required for the purchase of necessary furniture, apparatus and books, and for contingent expenses, and shall cause printed or written notices thereof to be posted for two weeks, thereafter, in five or more of the most public places in said district. They shall present such estimate at such annual meeting when the inhabitants of such district entitled to vote at school district meetings, then present shall vote thereon, and the same having been approved of by a majority of such inhabitants, shall be laid and voted upon by lay in such district, as now provided by law for raising a district school tax.

§2. When the trustees shall have completed the tax list, they shall issue their warrant to the collector of taxes of said district returnable in thirty days, for the collection of the same, and take from such collector approved security for the performance of his duty, such warrant may be renewed from time to time. The monies so collected shall be paid to said trustees, and by them appropriated to the purposes for which the same was voted, unless otherwise directed by a vote of the inhabitants, at their annual district school meeting, or a special meeting called for the purpose.

§3. The tax hereby imposed shall be a lien upon the lands taxed, to be enforced and collected by sale, in the manner that county taxes are, upon a return to be made by said collector to the treasurer of the county, of all unpaid taxes in said district.

§4. This act shall take effect immediately.

State of New-York
In Senate October 25th 1847.

This bill was read the third time and passed, three fifths of all the members elected to the Senate being present on the final passage thereof.

By order of the Senate,
Albert Lester
Temporary President.

State of New-York
In Assembly October 24th 1847.

This bill was read the third time and passed, three fifths of all the members elected to the Assembly being present on the final passage thereof.

By order of the Assembly,
Wm L. Garrison
Speaker.

Approved 26th October 1847
John Young

336

An act to provide for a free school in
district number one in the town of
Pausaugburgh.

State of New York }
Secretary's office }

This act having been approved
and signed by the Governor on the 26th day
of October 1847 I do hereby Certify that
the same became a law on that day.

R. F. Johnston
Secretary of State

**A Selection of Documents
Relating to Public Schools in
Lansingburgh, Rensselaer
County, N.Y., 1852-1916**

**from the collection of the
Lansingburgh Historical Society**

**Town Supervisor's School District
Account Book, showing monies expended
for school districts, Town of
Lansingburgh, 1852**

**broadside, announcing decision of State
Superintendent for Public Instruction
regarding alleged illegal action by school
district trustees, 1855**

IMPORTANT DECISION!

Below will be found the Decision of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, upon several of the prominent points of Appeal taken from the illegal proceedings of the Trustees, F. B. Leonard and Stephen Heimstreet, at the Annual District School Meeting, held on the 25th day of July last. We have reason to state that the errors of the said Trustees, in their mode of voting the tax, was too palpable to be overlooked, and the collection of the tax would have been strenuously resisted by a number of tax-payers, in case the Trustees had insisted on its collection in the manner in which it had been voted, and the District would have been thereby subjected to great expense and unavoidable delay.

The Decision of the Superintendent will commend itself to the sound judgment of every sensible man, as being an able vindication of the rights of the inhabitants of the District, against the arbitrary exercise of power on the part of the Trustees, who consider themselves above the Law, and infallible in their own conceit.

B. G. HATHAWAY.

Decision of the State Superintendant.

It is a fundamental principle of republican administration, that the tax payers shall be secured, not only in the right to fix the gross amount of their contributions, but to direct specifically the objects to which such contributions, and every part of them, are to be appropriated. This right should be guarded with the most jealous care. It ought not to be a matter of the slightest doubt, that each item of a proposed tax has had the deliberate approval of a majority of those on whom it is imposed. The question is not, whether a majority prefer the tax for the respective items and the several objects proposed by the Trustees rather than the school should go down for the want of any tax. To submit the question in this form, is to put the voter in a dilemma, to which the law does not permit him to be subjected. But what else does it amount to, to ask him to vote "tax" or "no tax." If the question had been asked, "Do you approve of the tax for the sums and the purposes proposed, or do you object to any, and if to any, to what item?" and a majority of the voters had thereupon sanctioned the estimate of the Trustees, it may be conceded that it ought to be held equivalent to the passage of so many distinct resolutions, as their separate heads of expenditure. Even in this case, the advantage of a discussion of each item, and of the opportunity of proposing amendments, enlarging the amount for some purposes, and diminishing it for others, would be lost; and the voters thereby deprived, in a measure, to say the least, of the important right of varying the proposition for the consideration of his fellows, instead of being limited to a yes or no, upon a proposition framed by others, without hearing his objections.

The evidence wholly fails to satisfy the undersigned that there has been such a substantial compliance with the requirements of law in this particular, as to make it prudent to attempt the collection of the tax.

There is another objection, \$50 is alleged to have been voted "for Sexton." The law recognizes no district officer by that name, and the meeting possessed no power to create a new office, especially by the grant of a salary. It is agreed that this was but a short way of appropriating the sum named, for the expense of cleaning the school house, &c. The validity of no tax ought to be suffered to depend upon the local interpretation of a word in a sense different from that generally received and sanctioned by the Lexicographers. Sexton is defined by Webster, "an under officer of the church." He derives it from *Sacristan*, a term still understood to be retained in the Roman church, and designating a person who in a low rank is still regarded as "in holy orders." The term to say the least is ambiguous, when applied to any function connected with a public school. The voters are entirely at liberty to vote such sum as they deem requisite, to defray the expense of cleaning the school house, opening it in the morning and closing it at night, building fires, &c. They are bound however to show a legal object for taxation, upon the face of their resolution, and if they choose to use the word *Sexton*, should define the duties which they expected of him, so that it may be apparent that they mean something which the statute sanctions. It is denied that any salary was voted to the librarian. The law contemplates this officer as acting without pay, like the clerk and trustees. If he has been paid heretofore, it is sufficient for the present purpose to say, (and the same answer applies to some other complaints of the appellants) that it is now too late to bring the act in question by appeal. The appeal is sustained, so far as relates to the proceedings of the 25th July, purporting to authorize a tax of \$1800, and such proceedings are hereby disaffirmed.

The District clerk is directed without delay to give notice of a special meeting, for the purpose of considering the estimate presented by the Trustees, and of providing by the vote of a tax for such items of their estimate, as may be approved by the inhabitants, and for any expenses sanctioned by law, but not sufficiently specified in such estimate.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Department of Public Instruction, at the city of Albany, in the absence of the Superintendent, this second day of October, 1855.

[L. S.]

E. PESHINE SMITH,
Deputy Superintendent.

**broadside, "Rules and Regulations for the
Government of Public School No., 1,
Town of Lansingburgh," 1861**

RULES AND REGULATIONS

For the Government of Public School No. 1. of the Town of Lansingburgh.

Passed by the Board of Trustees, October 9, 1847.

- 1 The Exercises of the School in all the Departments, shall commence, in the Morning at nine o'clock, and in the Afternoon at two o'clock, during the Summer; and in the Morning at nine o'clock, and in the Afternoon at half past one o'clock, during the Winter.
- 2 All the Study Rooms shall be opened for Pupils, at least *half an hour* before the beginning of School Exercises, and one of the Teachers in each of the Departments, shall always be present.
- 3 The Scholars shall be assembled in all the Departments, at *five minutes* before the time above specified for beginning the Exercises.
- 4 All the Teachers shall be present in their respective Departments, at least *five minutes* before the commencement of the Exercises.
- 5 Each Session shall continue *three hours*, except on Friday afternoon, when the Session shall continue but *two hours*. This rule is obligatory except in cases of emergency, and is not to be deviated from, except under the direction of the Principal. Such emergency is in all cases to be immediately reported, by him, to the Trustees.
- 6 The course of Study in the Upper Department is as follows:—*Reading, Writing, Spelling, Geography, Arithmetic, English Grammar, and General Information, Algebra, Book Keeping, Natural Philosophy, Drawing, and Geometry.*
- 7 The course of Study for the Primary Department is as follows:—*Reading, Writing on Slates, Spelling, Mental Arithmetic, Roman Numerals, Punctuation, A breviations, Geography, Arithmetical Tables, and General Information.*
- 8 The course of Study for the Infant Department is as follows:—*Spelling and Reading—Writing on Slates—Oral Geography and Common things.*
- 9 For the Colored Department, the course of Instruction shall consist of the branches of study used in both Higher and Primary Departments.
- 10 The Principal will appoint a suitable person as Sexton, and will observe that the rooms are properly warmed and ventilated. He will also regulate the clocks, taking for a standard, the time generally used by the Inhabitants of the district. He will make suitable rules for the preservation of the public Property, which Rules shall be implicitly followed by all the other Teachers and Pupils. He alone has the power of suspending Scholars from the privileges of the Departments, until the will of the Trustees may be known, which shall be as soon as practicable. He will make weekly Statistical Reports to the Trustees also.
- 11 No corporal punishment shall be inflicted by any Assistant Teacher, the head of the Department being in the building.
- 12 In all cases of absence of the Head of either of the Departments, the special duties of the Department shall devolve upon the First Assistant, and in cases of the absence of the Principal, the general superintendence and duties of his office shall devolve upon the Head of the Primary Department.

F. B. LEONARD,
A. E. POWERS,
B. G. HATHAWAY. } Trustees.

ADDITIONAL RULES.

- 13 The Head of each Department shall keep a Record of the *daily attendance*, the number *admitted and discharged*, also, an Alphabetical list of the Pupils, and shall at the end of each Term, place opposite each name, the number of Days each Pupil may have attended. The Principal will give general directions in regard to the records, and receive each day from the heads of the Departments the daily attendance and record the same with the weekly admissions and discharges in a general Record Book. He will hold himself in readiness to make prompt and accurate reports, whenever called upon by the Trustees, or either of them for that purpose.
- 14 The Trustees, with the Heads of the Departments will make *semi-annual* Examinations and Promotions from the Infant to the Primary, and from the Primary to the Higher. If after promotions have been made, any of the pupils through absence or inattention, fall below the standard of Promotion, the Heads of the Higher, Primary and Infant Departments may form a board to examine such pupil or pupils, and if a majority of said board consider it advisable, such pupil or pupils may be returned to the Department from whence they were promoted. The Principal will keep a record of such examination.
- 15 Applications for supplies must come through the principal.
- 16 It is expected by the Trustees that the Teachers will cultivate and practice a spirit of cordiality among themselves, in all matters relating to the advancement of the interests of the school, and that in their official intercourse among themselves, the utmost courtesy be practiced. Any other course than this must be injurious in its influence upon the pupils.
- 17 The Principal will furnish Monitors for either of the other Departments whenever desired so to do by the Heads. Each department in so far as relates to instruction and discipline is entirely under the control of its own head. Whenever called upon so to do, the principal will aid in maintaining the authority of the Heads of the other Departments.
- 18 No study shall be added to either Department or dropped from the same, neither shall any Text Book be changed, without authority from the Trustees.
- 19 The duty of keeping the School rooms clean, and of opening them for the admission of pupils, shall devolve upon all the Female Teachers equally. The opening of the Higher department shall devolve upon the Principal.

J. E. WHIPPLE,
J. B. LAVENDER. } Trustees.

ADDITIONAL RULES.

20. The semi-annual examinations shall be held by the Trustees, on the first Monday of November and April, unless otherwise directed by resolution of the Board—and an alphabetical catalogue of the pupils promoted, at each examination in the several departments, shall be furnished to the Trustees, by the Principal, to be filed for preservation.
21. It shall be the duty of all the teachers in the District, including the Principal, to meet as a normal class once in each week, during term, under the direction of the Principal.
22. It shall be the duty of the Principal to keep a daily record of the attendance of all the teachers, including himself—and also of attendance at the Normal class; and to make a weekly report thereof to the trustees—and also to report the course of exercises in the normal class, and the apparent proficiency of the Teachers, on the last Friday in each month.
23. It shall be the duty of the Principal in his report to the Trustees, of the daily attendance of the Teachers to state at what time each session of the school opened, and at what time each session closed.
24. The absence of the Principal, or of any teacher from any session of the school, except on account of sickness—shall be deemed sufficient ground of dismission from the school—and in all cases shall subject the teacher to a proportionate reduction of compensation, unless otherwise determined by the Trustees.
25. No assistant shall be temporarily substituted for a teacher employed by the Trustees, without permission of the Principal, who shall immediately report such permitted substitution to the Trustees for their approval.
26. The Principal shall in no case substitute any teacher in his place without permission in writing so to do, previously obtained from the Trustees in full session, and signed by them—which permission or a duplicate thereof also signed by all the Trustees, shall be placed on file with the valuable papers of the District.
- 27 All applications of assistant Teachers for temporary absence from School, shall be made to the Trustees in writing through the Principal.

F. B. LEONARD,
H. W. DAY,
J. B. LAVENDER. } Trustees.

**broadside, prepared for the campaign of
William A. Flack, candidate for Town
Supervisor, n.d. [ca. 1866]**

TAX PAYERS!

Remember that the Supervisor of the Town of Lansingburgh has the handling of from \$6000 to \$8000 every year; School and other monies; *for which he gives no security.*

**VOTE FOR WILLIAM A. FLACK,
a responsible man.**

**broadside, announcing "mass meeting" of
German families of Lansingburgh,
concerning the punishment of a boy at the
public school, 1871**

MASS MEETING.

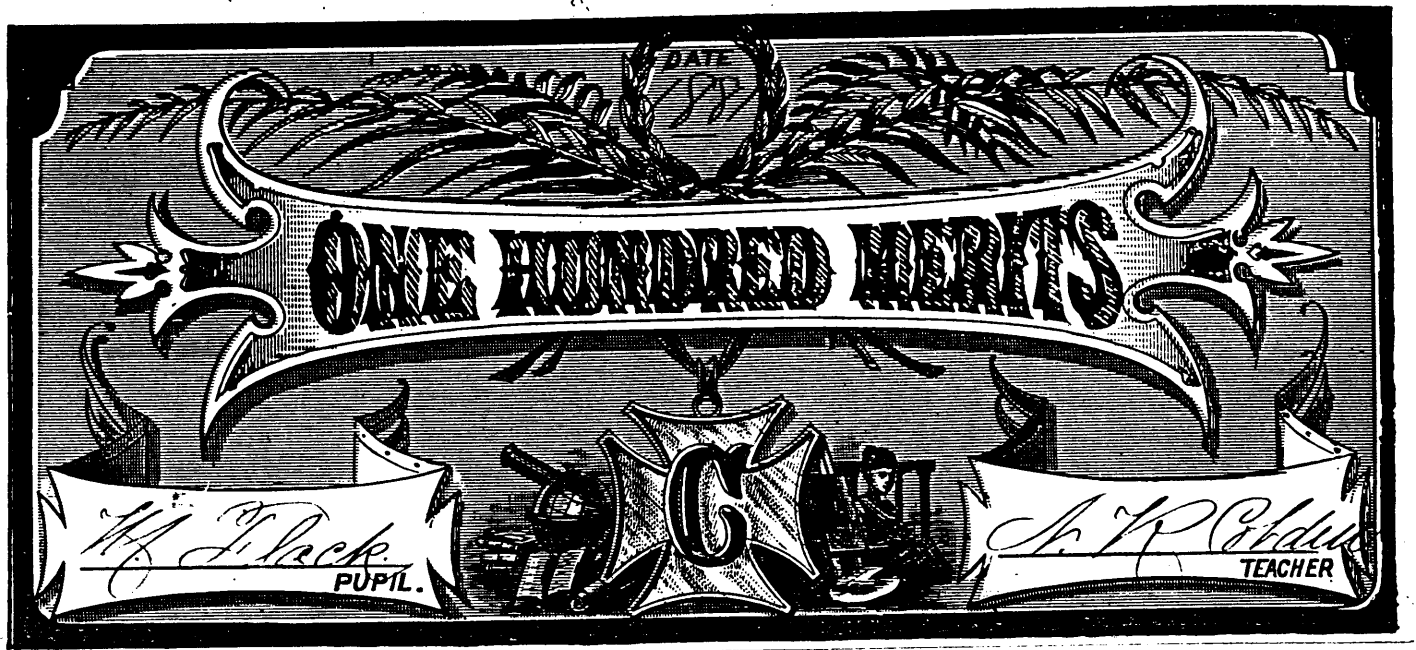
—:O:—

The Germans and their friends, of Lansingburgh are invited to attend a Mass Meeting at the house of John Zahn, ON FRIDAY EVENING OCT. 6, 1871. The object of the meeting is to take action regarding the punishment of the boy Schwartz at the public school. A full attendance is requested.

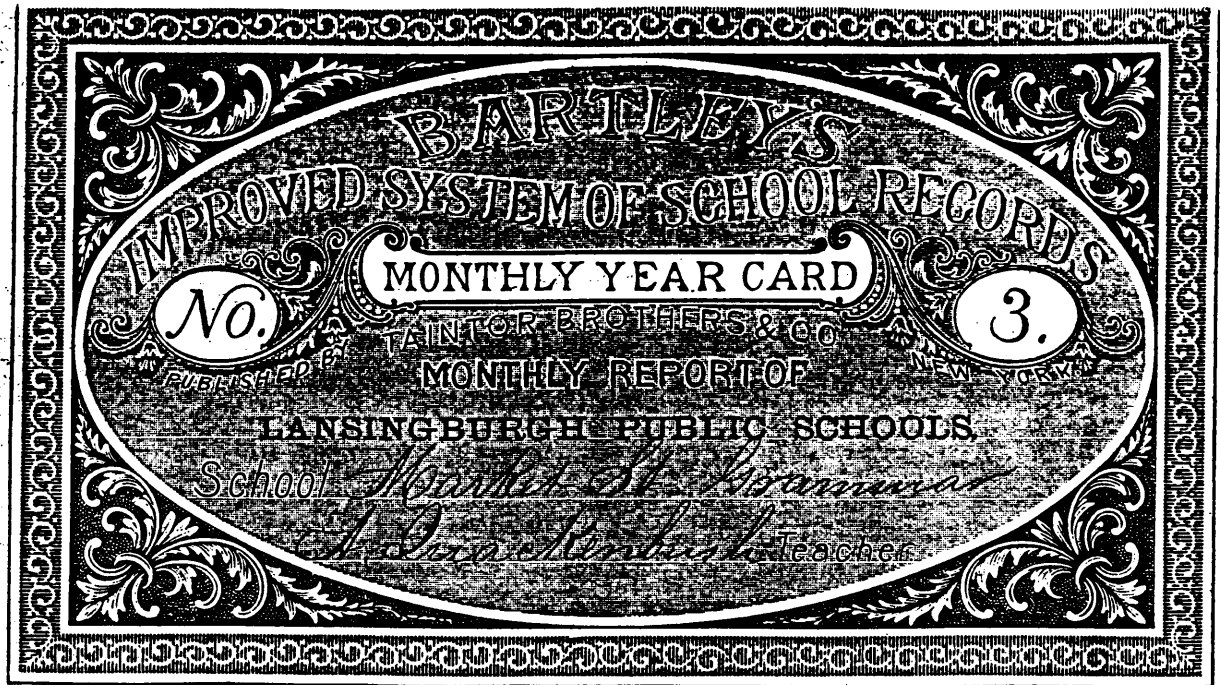
Speakers have been secured for the occasion.

By order of the Committee.

**award of merit, one hundred merits
awarded to M. Flack, 1881**



**report card, issued to Ida J. Munn, a third
grade student at the Market Street
Grammar school, 1881**



Copyright, by TAINTOR BROTHERS & Co., 1876.

Monthly Report of <i>Sda J. Munn</i> , <i>A</i> Class.														
1881 and 1882.	Times Absent.	Times Late.	Times Dismissed.	Department.	Arith.	Grammar.	Spelling.	Writing.	Reading.	As in Scholarship.	Rank in Class.	No. in Class.	NAME OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN	
SEPTEMBER														
OCTOBER			98	95	94	100	92	96		95	1	16	<i>Re. P. Munn</i>	
NOVEMBER	22		99	95	96	99	100	85		95	6	16	<i>Re. P. Munn</i>	
DECEMBER	3		100	95	96	99	100	94		95	5	16	<i>Re. P. Munn</i>	
JANUARY	9	1	96	97	100	92	100	96		96	2	14	<i>Re. P. Munn</i>	
EXAMINATION			96	97	82	94	88	88		87	5	1	<i>Re. P. Munn</i>	
FEBRUARY	3		97	100	100	89	93	92		95	4	14	<i>Re. P. Munn</i>	
MARCH			100	94	94	94	100	90		95	7	14	<i>Re. P. Munn</i>	
APRIL	8		96	100	98	87	100			96	3	15	<i>Re. P. Munn</i>	
MAY			100	100	100	94	100			98	8	13	<i>Re. P. Munn</i>	
JUNE	2		100	100	100	100				100	1	13	<i>Re. P. Munn</i>	
EXAMINATION			88	76	84	76				87				
SUMMARY	47	1		93	87	89	87	93		85	8			

The highest degree of excellence in Department and Scholarship, &c., is marked 100. Lower degrees by lower numbers.

**Catalog of the Books in the Library of
Union Free School District #1, of the
Town of Lansingburgh, 1887**

CATALOGUE

OF THE

BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY

OF

UNION FREE SCHOOL,

DISTRICT No. 4,

OF THE

TOWN OF LANSINGBURGH, N. Y.

TROY, N. Y.
A. KIRKPATRICK, PRINTER.
1887.

CATALOGUE.

Ancient and General History.	
Athens, History of,	165-166
Ancient History, Manual of (Heeren's),	136
Ancient History, Rollin's,	36-40
Ancient History, "	1534
Ancient People, History of,	150
Arts of Design, History of,	28-29
Epitome of History, Payne's,	124
Egypt, Froude's Ancient and Modern,	196
Greece, Thirlwall's History of,	54-55
" History of,	78
" Ancient,	718
Historical Researches, Heeren's,	1-2
Historical Miscellanies, Bancroft,	130
History of Invention,	168-169
History of Fine Arts,	586
History of the Bible,	817-818
Herodotus,	576-578
History of Free Nations,	138-139
Lectures on History,	122-123
Mythology, Grecian and Roman,	407
Ninevah and its Remains,	733-734
Thucydides' History of the Peloponnesian War,	613-614
Universal History,	808-812
World, Alexander's History of the,	82
Asiatic and African History.	
Arabia, History of,	602
China, History of,	191-192
Coomassie and Magdala, H. M. Stanley,	65

entry from elementary school lesson book
belonging to Emma Nielsen, describing
"Blizzard of '88," 1888

A Snow-Storm. 1888

There was a very large snow-storm, which began March 11 at 9 o'clock and lasted until March 13 at 9-30 P. M. It was so deep that some places they had to build tunnels and put lanterns to make it light inside.

There were many sleighs and wagons that were stuck so they could not get out.

I saw a man and as he was riding he broke his sleigh.

The horse cars could not run.

The village sent out snow-ploughs and three of them were stuck down by the ice-houses.

Here in Lansingburgh they had to build a tunnel down by George St. Monday I was to school.

**teacher's certificate, authorizing Anna M.
Chase to teach in the second grade, issued
by the School Commissioners of
Rensselaer County, 1890**

OF THE SECOND GRADE,

School Commissioner.

**program, Music Festival of Lansingburgh
Public School, May 15, 1902**

Musical Festival

LANSINGBURGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

JOHN B. SHIRLEY, MUSICAL DIRECTOR
ASSISTED BY THE EMPIRE MALE QUARTETTE
ACCOMPANIMENTS BY TROY CADET BAND

Thursday evening, May 15, 1902

BOLTON HALL

PART FIRST

OVERTURE—"Martha," Flotow
ORCHESTRA.
CHORUS—"The Star Spangled Banner," Francis Scott Key
650 VOICES.
QUARTETTE—"Hark! The Trumpet Calleth," Buck
EMPIRE MALE QUARTETTE.
TWO PART SONGS—(a) "Once on a time I Visited," German
(b) "When You've Work To Do Boys," Butterfield
100 SELECTED VOICES FROM THE THIRD GRADE CLASSES.
SOLO AND CHORUS—"Before the Throne of Glory," Nevin
J. B. SHIRLEY AND 650 VOICES.
PART SONG—"Richmond Hill," Hook
NINTH GRADE CLASSES.
OLD ENGLISH SONG—"O Dear What Can the Matter Be"
AMERICAN SONG—"Dixie's Land," Arr. by J. B. Shirley
650 VOICES.
QUARTETTE—"Schneider's Band," Schmidt
EMPIRE MALE QUARTETTE.
CHORUS—"Come in the Starry Night,"
From the Opera, "Masaniello," Auber
650 VOICES.

PART SECOND

MEDLEY—Patriotic Airs of Two Continents, Rollinson
ORCHESTRA.
THREE PART SONG—"Remembered,"
Arr. from "Koschat" by J. B. Shirley
650 VOICES.
THREE PART SONG—"It Tinkles So Sweetly,"
From "Magic Flute Opera," Mozart
EIGHTH GRADE CLASSES.
OLD SCOTCH SONG—"Loch Lomond," Arr. by J. B. Shirley
650 VOICES.
PART SONG—"Oh! Tempora, Oh! Mores,"
NINTH GRADE CLASSES.
DRILL—From hand signs, showing method of training the ear
in melody, transition and harmony,
J. B. SHIRLEY.
QUARTETTE—"Annie Laurie," Arr. by Buck
EMPIRE MALE QUARTETTE.
CHORUS—"The Stars and Stripes Forever," Sousa
650 VOICES.
NATIONAL HYMN—"America," Arr. by J. B. Shirley
MARCH—"A Frangesa!" Costa
ORCHESTRA.

**"24 count certificate," awarded Edna
Mabel Rogers, for completion of the tenth
grade at Lansingburgh High School, 1905**

24 Count Certificate

Second Academic or Tenth School Year

No. 57218

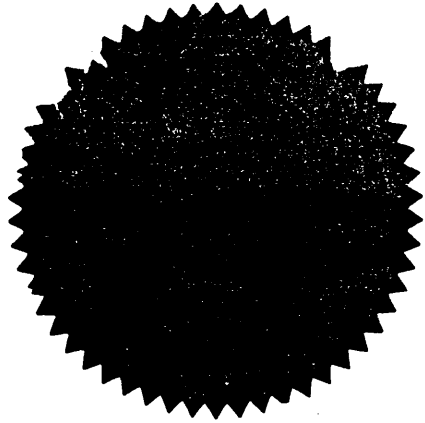
Whereas the Principal of Saratoga Springs High School has certified that Edna Mabel Rogers now holding the preliminary certificate on June 12-16, 1905 completed the examinations required for a 24 count certificate and

Whereas the papers on review at this office show an attainment of 75 per cent in the following subjects, aggregating 30 counts

English, 1st year	Physical geography
English, 2d year	Zoology
Advanced English	Physiology and hygiene
English composition	Elementary U.S. History
German, 1st year	Civics
Algebra	Bookkeeping Drawing

Therefore all institutions of the University are to accept this certificate for the above subjects.

In witness whereof this CERTIFICATE is granted under seal of the University, at the Capitol in Albany.



No. 71 on the school records

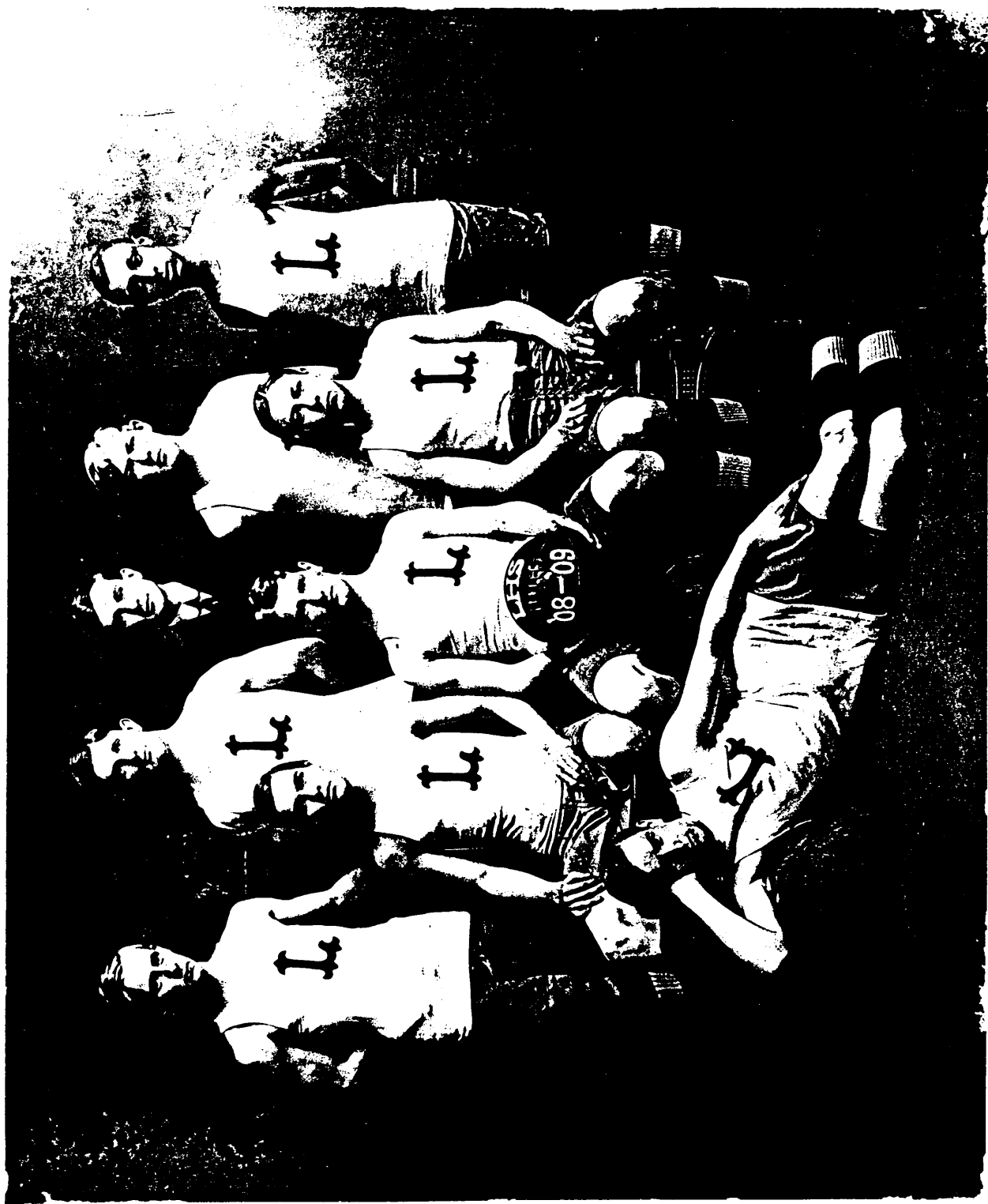
Edward J. Goodwin.

Second Assistant Commissioner of Education

Principal

**photograph, boys varsity basketball team,
Lansingburgh High School, for
the season of 1908-1909**

4-11-40
P. H. H.



**Courses of Study and Requirements for
Graduation, Lansingburgh High School,
n.d. [ca. 1910]**

Requirements for Graduation

To be eligible for graduation and to receive the diploma from the Lansingburgh High School a pupil must have attended high school for at least four years and have completed subjects aggregating seventy-two year-periods. Pupils entering from other high schools must have been in regular attendance at this high school for at least the last semester of the fourth year and have met all other requirements to be eligible to graduate.

To **COMPLETE** a subject a pupil must have studied the subject the required amount of time and have received at least 70 % in class standing.

Previous to the school year of graduation each candidate for the high school diploma must have **completed** and have passed Regents' examinations in subjects aggregating not less than 54 year-periods.

Also such candidate must during the school year of graduation **complete** subjects aggregating at least 18 year-periods, additional to the periods named above, which shall include all the required subjects of the fourth year. Such pupils must try the Regents' examinations in the new subjects of this year at the required time, however, passing the Regents' examinations in these subjects is not mandatory for graduation.

The teacher is final authority in determining class standing.

Membership in a school music club will entitle to one school credit for each club each year, provided the pupil has attended not less than eight-tenths of the sessions of the club and has taken part in the rehearsals. This credit will be given only on recommendation of the teacher of the club.

Pupils expecting to enter a college in New York State should on entering high school begin to direct their courses toward earning a University Certificate. Ten State Scholarships are awarded annually to graduates of high schools in Rensselaer County who have earned the University Certificate. Each of these scholarships is worth \$100 a year for four years, to be applied toward college expenses. For further information regarding these certificates and scholarships pupils should confer with the Superintendent.

Lansingburgh High School COURSES OF STUDY

The following courses of study have been prepared as a guide in choosing a balanced sequence of studies throughout the high school course. These courses are suggestive only. Requirements for graduation are outlined on the fourth page of this leaflet. These requirements include four years of English, civics and history, course C. These subjects are printed in **CAPITALS**.

The diploma given at graduation is named from the course in which the major part of the graduate's subjects have been taken. No diploma is issued for the Classical course unless the pupil has completed at least 30 year-periods in the study of foreign languages, 15 of these year-periods must be in Latin.

The Regents' sequence diploma is awarded to those graduates who complete 72 year-periods in high school subjects and who pass Regents' examinations at an average standing of at least 75% and a minimum standing of 70% in (a) a four year sequence, (b) a three year sequence, (c) a two year sequence, selected from these groups: English, a foreign language, mathematics, science, history, commercial subjects.

These sequences are suggested for our courses:

Course	4 yrs. sequence	3 yrs. sequence	2 yrs. sequence
Classical	English or Latin	Modern language	Mathematics
Technical	English	Mathematics	Science or history
Normal	English	Modern language or history	Mathematics or science
All other courses	English	Commercial	Modern language or history

These sequences are merely suggestive. The underlying principle of the sequence diploma is for all pupils to select subjects that appeal to their ability and also to reduce the number of required examinations.

Physical training two periods a week, vocal music one period a week and attendance and participation in the programs at the school assembly are required of the pupils. Credits toward graduation are not given for these requirements.

The numerals prefixed to the subjects indicate the number of Regents' counts allowed and the number of weekly recitations required in each subject. Each pupil is required to take at least eighteen periods each week of each school year and all pupils are advised not to exceed this number of periods, except in very rare cases. Subjects pursued outside of regular high school classes are not considered in making the eighteen periods.

FIRST YEAR	SECOND YEAR	THIRD YEAR	FOURTH YEAR
ENGLISH I 1 Latin I 5 Biology 2½ CIVICS 5 El. algebra	ENGLISH II 4 Latin II 5 Modern language I 5 History Course A 5 Plane geometry	ENGLISH III 4 Latin III 5 Modern language II 5 Physics 2½ Int. algebra	ENGLISH IV 4 Latin IV 5 Modern language III 5 HISTORY COURSE C 2½ Economics
ENGLISH I 4 El. algebra 5 CIVICS 2½ Coml. geog. 5 Biology	ENGLISH II 4 French I 5 Plane geometry 5 History Course A 2 Mechanical drawing	ENGLISH III 4 French II 5 Solid geometry 2½ Int. algebra 5 Physics 2 Mechanical drawing	ENGLISH IV 4 French III 5 Pl. trigonometry 5 HISTORY COURSE C 5 Chemistry 2½ Economics
ENGLISH I 4 Latin I 5 Biology 5 Drawing 5 El. algebra 2½ CIVICS	ENGLISH II 4 Latin II 5 History Course A 5 Modern language I 5 Plane geometry	ENGLISH III 4 Physics 5 History Course B 5 Modern language II 2½ Int. algebra	ENGLISH IV 4 Chemistry 5 HISTORY COURSE C 5 Modern language III 2½ Economics
ENGLISH I 4 Biology 5 Coml. arithmetic 2½ CIVICS 2 Bus. writing 2½ Coml. geog.	ENGLISH II 4 History Course A 5 Modern language I 5 El. bookkeeping	ENGLISH III 4 History Course B 5 Modern language II 5 Bookkeeping I 5 Stenography I	ENGLISH IV 4 BUS. ENGLISH 5 HISTORY COURSE C 2½ Typewriting 5 Modern language III 5 Stenography II 2½ Economics
ENGLISH I 4 Biology 5 Homemaking 7½ CIVICS 2½ Design	ENGLISH II 4 Modern language I 5 Homemaking 7½ History Course A 2 Advanced design	ENGLISH III 4 Modern language II 5 Stenography I 5 History Course B 4 Representation	ENGLISH IV 4 BUS. ENGLISH 5 Modern language III 5 Stenography II 5 HISTORY COURSE C 2½ Typewriting 2½ Economics
ENGLISH I 4 CIVICS 2½ Indust. Shop I 7½ El. algebra 5 Biology	ENGLISH II 4 History Course A 5 Indust. Shop II 7½ Plane geometry	ENGLISH III 4 History Course B 5 Physics 5 Stenography I 2 Mech. drawing	ENGLISH IV 4 BUS. ENGLISH 5 HISTORY COURSE C 5 Chemistry 5 Stenography II 5 Mech. drawing 2½ Economics

**minutes of monthly meeting, Whipple
School Parent-Teacher Association,
April 25, 1916**

April 25th 1916.

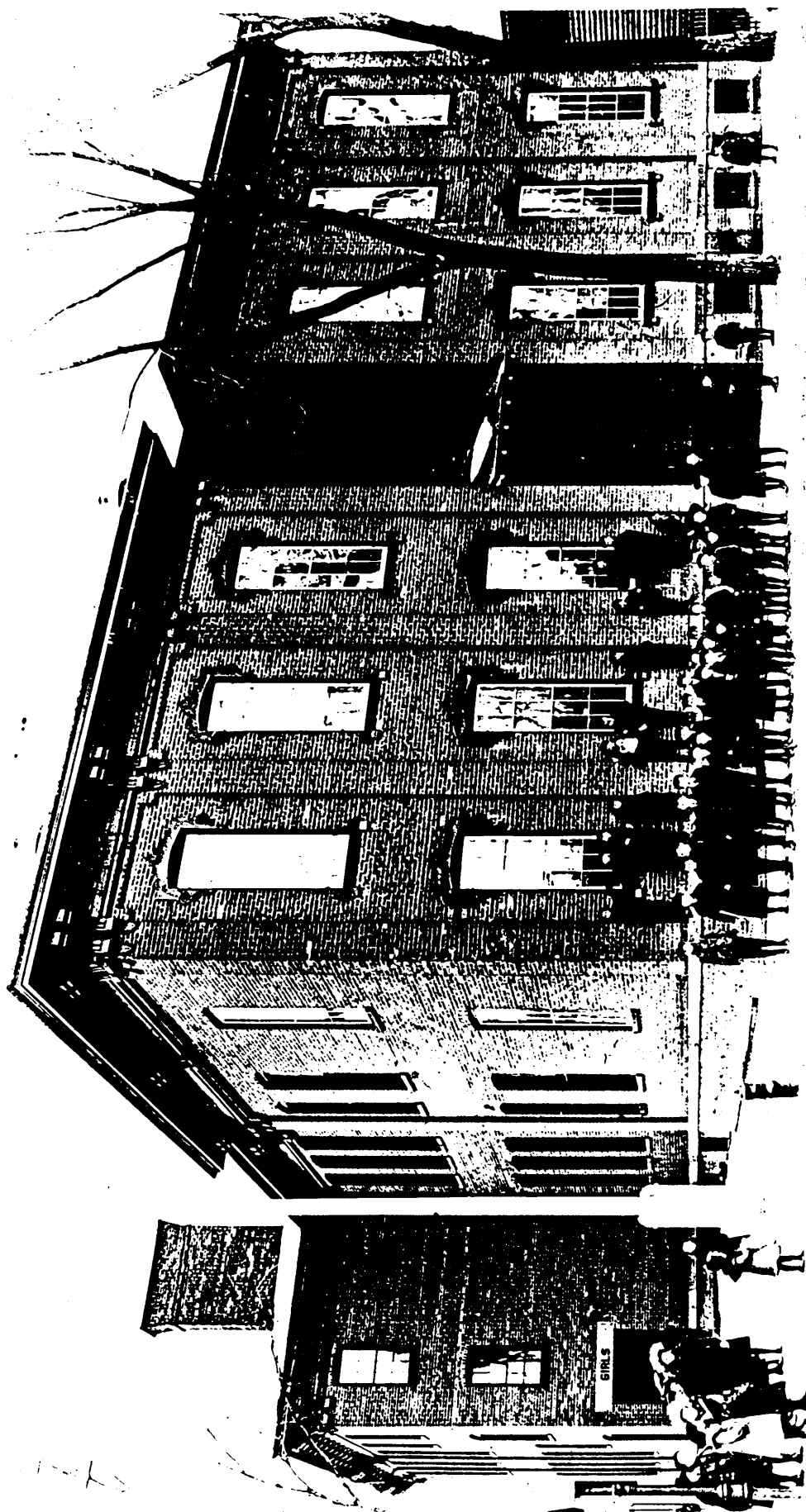
The regular monthly meeting of the Whipple Sch. Parent Teacher Association was held at the school Tuesday evening April 25-26 being present in the absence of the President, who was ill Mrs. E. Hopkins, presided. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. The treasurer reported a balance of \$96.49 in the treasury. The visiting committee reported - fountain call made and two plants sent to the sick also a piece of flowan to Margorie B. Church. Mrs. Green was s.p. taken up and Mrs. Green read a letter from the State Mothers. Assembly. On application a motion was made and carried that we go into the assembly in a body for 5:20 until further orders be given. Miss McC. Chang made a few remarks in contest and a motion was made and carried that it be ~~carried~~ said.

over until the May meeting. The election of officers were next in order and it was moved and carried that the election be done by ballot each officer repeatedly. A motion was made and accepted that the Secretary cast one ballot for the corresponding Secretary also the treasurer and Mrs. C. A. Lashin as corresponding Secretary and Mrs. W. S. Green as treasurer were declared elected. The result of the ballot election resulted as follows: President Mrs. S. H. Van Housen, 1st Vice President Mrs. C. A. Lashin 2nd Vice President Mrs. E. Hopkins Recording Secretary Mrs. John Cornwell Mrs. W. S. Green and Miss Helen McC. Chang acted as tellers for this election meeting then adjourned. Social hour with refreshments followed.

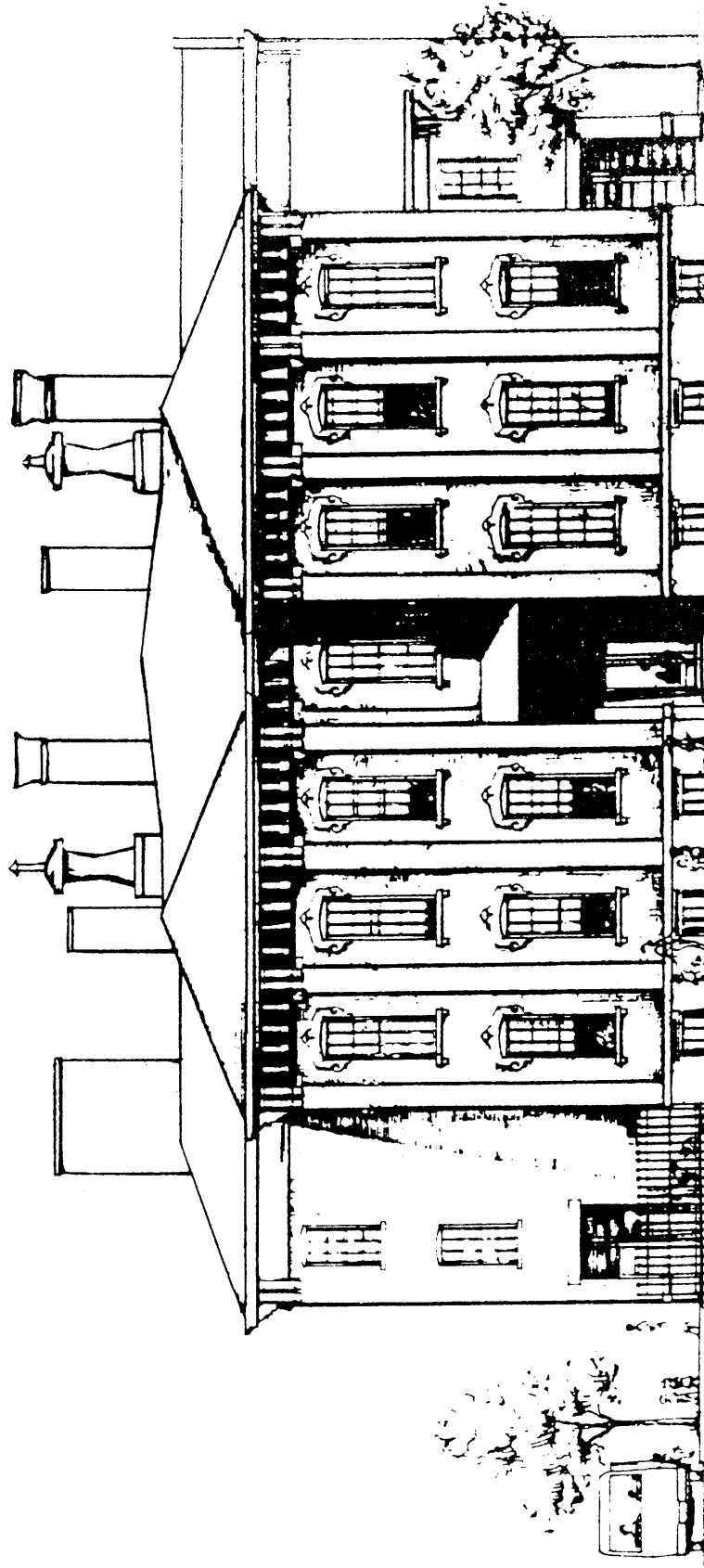
Lorne D Lashin
Mrs J C. K. ... Secy.

**Whipple School (1865), as photographed
ca. 1890 and adapted for use as
community day care center, 1988**

(Lansingburgh Historical Society)



WHIPPLE SCHOOL LANSINGBURGH, N. Y.



Stepping Stones Day Care and Training Center

**historic school buildings serve various
uses today in the Town of Brunswick**

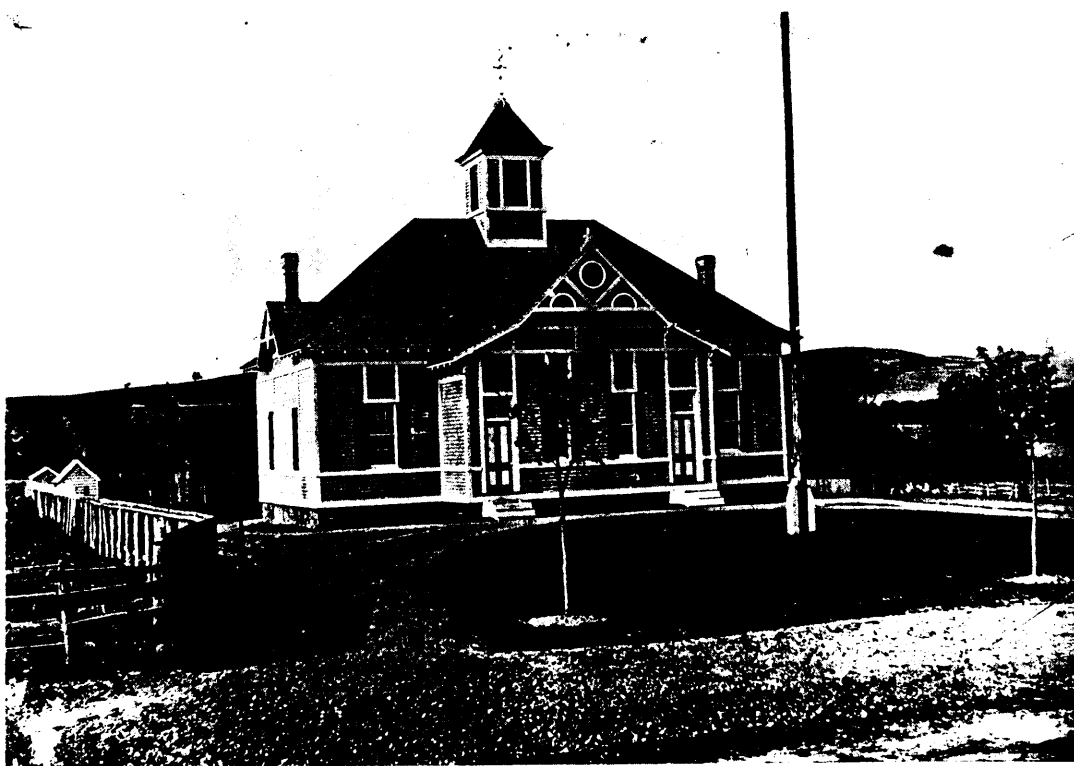


Classes in front of the 1872 vintage schoolhouse in Center Brunswick.





The so-called "Garfield" school in Eagle Mills, built in 1881, retains much the same appearance today; the class below was photographed during the 1890's.





Brunswick's best known schoolhouse, the brick school at Clum's Corners, built about 1830, has recently been restored by the Taconic Kiwanis, aided by the Tamarac Yorkers and the Brunswick Historical Society. Minnie Esther Davis (left) seated on the lawn in front of the schoolhouse, is probably its best remembered teacher. Minnie was so devoted to her profession that she always kissed her pupils on their leaving for home each day, sometimes embarrassing the older boys in her classes.

Restoring history

Volunteers preserve Brunswick's Little Red School House

By John MacDonald

The Record

BRUNSWICK — Many of the sights and sounds have long since vanished.

The teacher's bell to announce the end of recess has stopped ringing long ago.

A lonely pot belly stove now stands where groups of children gathered after a long walk on a winter morning.

These things cannot be replaced, but thanks to the hard work and perseverance of William Engelke and a group of supporters, the Little Red School House on Route 278 in Brunswick looks much the way it did when it was built in 1830.

Engelke, who owns the Brunswick *Want Ad Digest*, recently received the "Friend of Brunswick History Award" for his dedication to the project of restoring the 168-year-old school.

According to Brunswick Town Historian Sharon Zankel, who presented the award, Engelke is an individual who took a rare voluntary initiative to preserve an important piece of history. That piece of history saw its last class in 1958 which was the year the Brittonkill central school system was established.

Zankel made sure that Engelke's award was printed on rose-colored paper in honor of his wife, Rose, who helped her husband with his dream. The Engelkes and their four children

— Paul, Laura, Rose and Carol — along with a handful of supporters pitched in by painting walls, refinishing original desks and laying down a new cedar roof.

According to Engelke, the *Want Ad Digest* alone contributed \$2,290 worth of materials and approximately 400 man hours between October 1996 and February 1997.

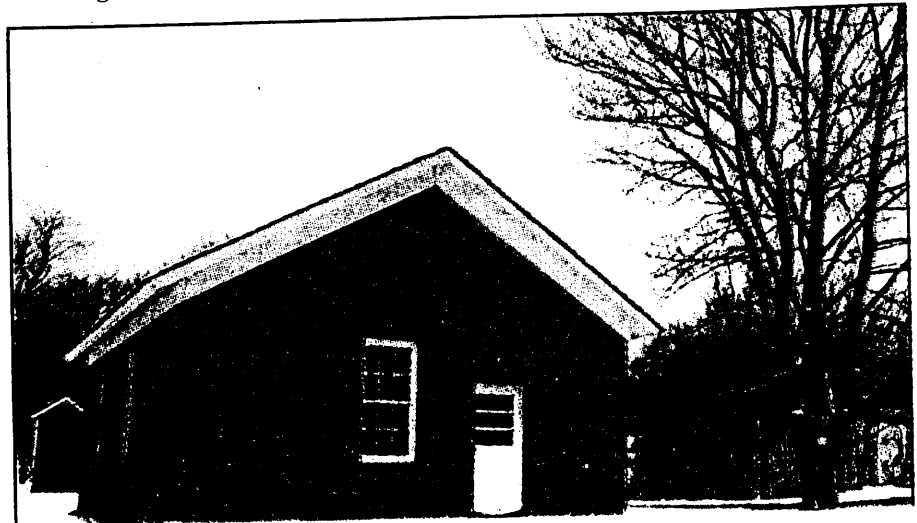
Engelke, a Brooklyn native and World War II veteran, said the most difficult and costly venture was the floor's replacement.

"We found three layers of floor dating through the years, and the top layer from the 1940s could not be saved," he said.

According to Engelke, the weight of all the layers was causing the school to sink onto already decaying beams. After unearthing the first two layers, Engelke discovered the original 1830 layer with burn marks where the pot belly stove once stood. The original floor was constructed of Southern yellow pine, the same type of wood Engelke decided to use for the new floor.

Engelke and his family refuse to take all of the credit for the school's restoration. According to Engelke, he and other members of the Taconic Kiwanis Club began the project in 1971.

See HISTORY, B3 ►



History: Brunswick Little Red

► Continued from B1

John Candrilli, a mason in 1971, repaired the brick wall in the back of the school and was careful to use old brick to match the original as well as simulating the 1830 mortar. The wall had been knocked down to store an old pickup truck filled with boxes of paperwork from the town of Brunswick because, according to Engelke, "the town did not have much room for storage in those days."

Other members of the Taconic Kiwanis pitched in throughout the years. Engelke added, restoring win-

dows and walls and cleaning out debris.

In 1992, interest in the project began to drop off. However, there were still individuals like Zankel and Engelke who would not give up even after the Taconic Kiwanis folded in 1996.

Together with former Kiwanis president Kathleen McGrath and a handful of other supporters, Engelke worked to establish community projects such as cleaning up the highways and establishing nature walks to raise money to keep their hopes alive.

Their efforts eventually paid off, and Engelke can now finally say that

their work is done.

In the 27 years it took to complete the project, Engelke and supporters discovered some rare treasures in and around the school. When working on brick walls, they discovered items such as baseball bats and glass ink wells stuck into vent openings, he said. Under the floor boards a "discipline" paddle was discovered and hangs on the walls of the school as a reminder of just how much times have changed.

Also on the walls hang donations from residents and former classmates of the school like a 1904 map of

B3

MONDAY, MARCH 23, 1998

School House restored

Europe and class pictures like Mrs. Meeson's class of 1957 donated by former pupil Doug Boughton. Also in that class was Jim Bowman, current owner of Brunswick Electronics.

Intact are 37 desks, five of which were able to seat two of the smaller children, who ranged in age from 6 to 10.

Now, Engelke said he would like to see the school used as a historical memorial to the earlier school system. According to a fact sheet in the school, Brunswick had two other one-room brick school houses — one that burned to the ground in 1837 and one

that was remodeled for a home in 1953.

Engelke said he would also like to see today's generation learn more about the earlier school systems. Since Brittonkill Central School currently owns the property, this would seem like a good opportunity for that, but according to Zankel, busy roads around the school and the lack of any restroom facility have been a deterrent for field trips.

Anyone interested in visiting the school can contact him at the Brunswick *Want Ad Digest* or contact Brittonkill Central School.



The photograph (left) was taken about 1893 by Fred Elwell of Lansingburgh. For some unknown reason, the teacher, M. Louise Newbury (right) cut away the portion of the photo showing her face when she gave copies to her students. Daughter of a Cropseyville tanner, Louise Newbury's teaching career spanned half a century at the Cropseyville and White Church schools.



The "commodius and well arranged" schoolhouse No. 4 was dedicated in Cropseyville in 1889 to the music of Springer's orchestra and other "promiscuous exercises," namely the reading of original essays by the pupils. Subjects covered included "Deathbed of Benedict Arnold," "Asleep at the Switch," "The Last Hymn" and "Why Girls Can't Whistle." The building, 40 feet by 24 feet in size, contained 51 iron desks for the pupils and an abundance of blackboards and maps. It was finished in California pine with black walnut trimmings. This modern building replaced two smaller schools, at upper Rock Hollow and on the South Road.

Grafton Center school #5 (1878), still
located on the "village green," now used as
U.S. Post Office, as photographed ca.
1890 by James E. West

(New York State Library)





**newspaper article on establishment of
"colored" school, 1849**

(Troy Public Library)

many tinkers have existence, and its many revisions, and its own good—especially is where no cor Teo n in u is be have

e to keep it alive on eories, without once wear out, or that y needed aliment, as eds food. The fact o grudgingly to keep the first large fire we incredulous that in ve been very much sh."

fact that firemen are ss of men to satisfy the constant turmoil em, one would sup sh backed by this ac- singburgh is concern- on, for the companies orable, high minded, justly consider them- i they make known ys any attention to ing else, will weat en are the best judg- es are needed. For ly begged the powers more efficient appa- ave been held, but it reimen in large num- ompanies are becom- month the Annual takes place, when ortunity of beholding s, if it has not entire- w, this is too serious e do hope our Trase the people which is so fast befalling

ny, would prove no greater a detriment to Troy in proportion to its business, than the Troy bridge was to Lansingburgh and Waterford. As our boatmen have not familiar with the obstructions

Lansingburgh Democrat-July 19, 1849

[school trustees vote to expend the sum of \$350 for a new "school house for the colored population."]

Pop corn is fell. It would completely annihilate their maritime importance.

THE SCHOOL MEETING.—At the public school meeting held on Tuesday evening, it was voted to raise a tax of \$950 for the expenses of the district school for the ensuing year; also, to raise \$350 for the building of a new school house for the colored population, upon a lot owned by the district near Daveport's Oil cloth Factory. It has been suggested to us since the meeting, that the location is bad, owing to the odor emitted by the boiling of oils and manufacture of varnish. We presume the trustees will take this matter into consideration. MARCUS L. FILLEY Esq. was elected Trustee in place of Baily G. Hathaway, and will hold the office for three years.

The meeting was largely attended, and a commendable interest was manifested in the affairs of the school.

We are informed that unless an appropriation is immediately made to repair the dyke below the state dam, our citizens will soon lose all the benefits arising from an expenditure of some 5 or 6 hundred dollars made a few years since. 76 or 100 dollars could be very advantageous expended in that quarter at this time. We would invite the attention of the proper authorities to the subject.

SPORT.—An interesting trot will come off at Bull's head, on the Albany road, on Saturday next. Three of the fast horses that so often are exhibited to our citizens, to the great danger of the life and limbs of pedestrians, will contend for a purse.

A stiff opposition is now raging on the ferry between this place and Waterford. A new

was found.

GREAT CHANGE IN THE WEATHER.—Between Friday night last, and Sunday morning, the change of 36 degrees. many are complaining of igs, while at night, overc le.

ce Cream Saloon is open e g, for the reception of La and gentlemen. We subjected a portion of ice cream to the test of our palate, and the plate marked it as an A. No. 1 article.

Can a man hold the office of Sheriff, Postmaster at the same time? We ask for formation. If a proper discharge of the duties each could not be expected in the same person the same time, which would be most preferal We have a friend who is extremely anxious solve the above problem. He is, "be gracious Keep still, Ishmael.

The Temperance meetings being held Sabbath evenings, on the lots north of the L list church, are generally well attended, and c ducted in a spirited manner. The singing by young friends, Fancher, Colburn, Lawrence Lavender is excellent.

List of articles deposited in the corner st of the New Methodist church, now in progress erection in this village.

Church Records embracing a list of the pres officers, members and Pastor of the Church, v the Building committee, the names of the C tractors the Builder and Mason.

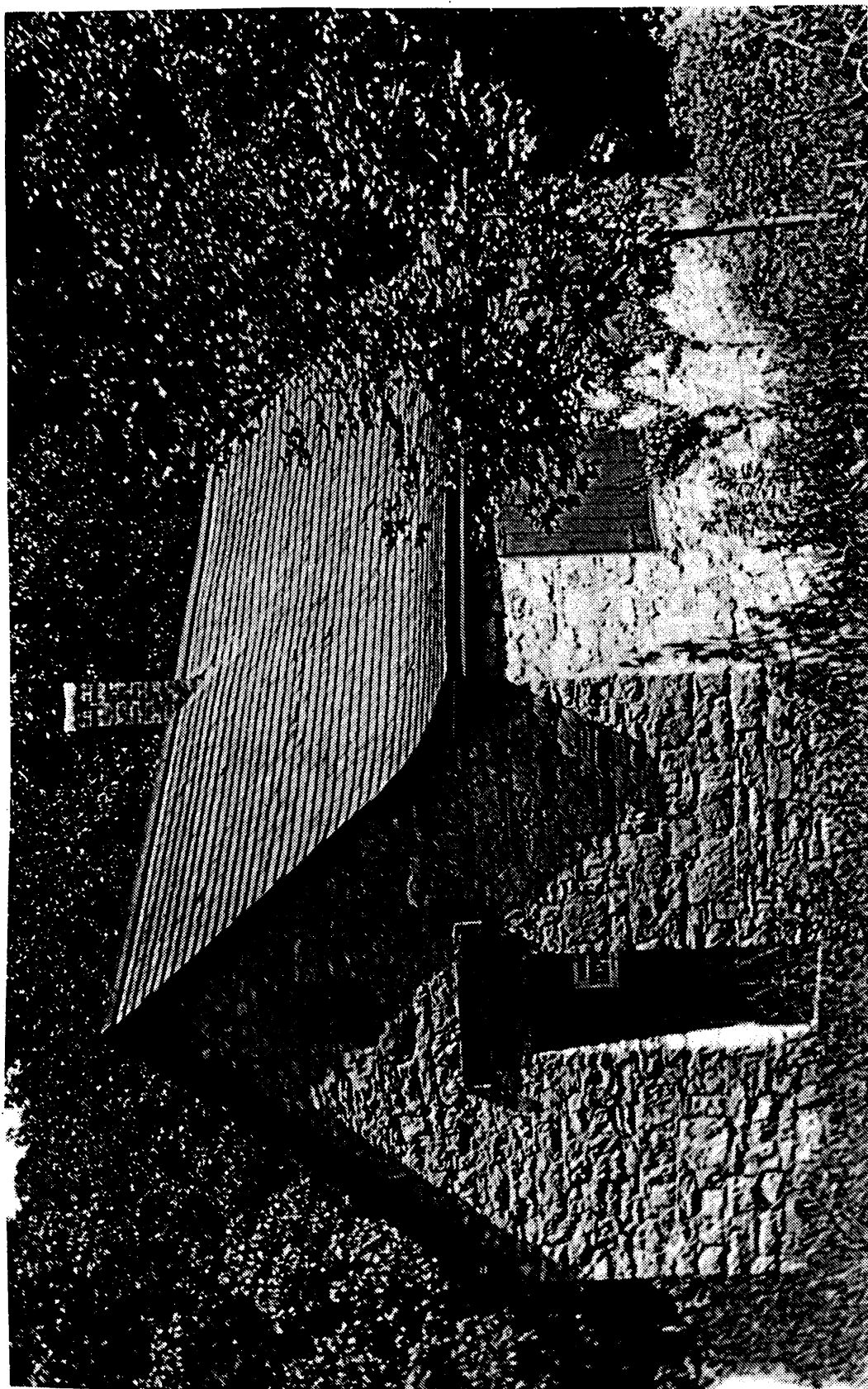
A copy of the Christian Advocate and Jour New York Tribune, and the village papers.

Also, a copy of the Discipline of the Church Minutes of Troy Conference held in May last

Be Quiet.

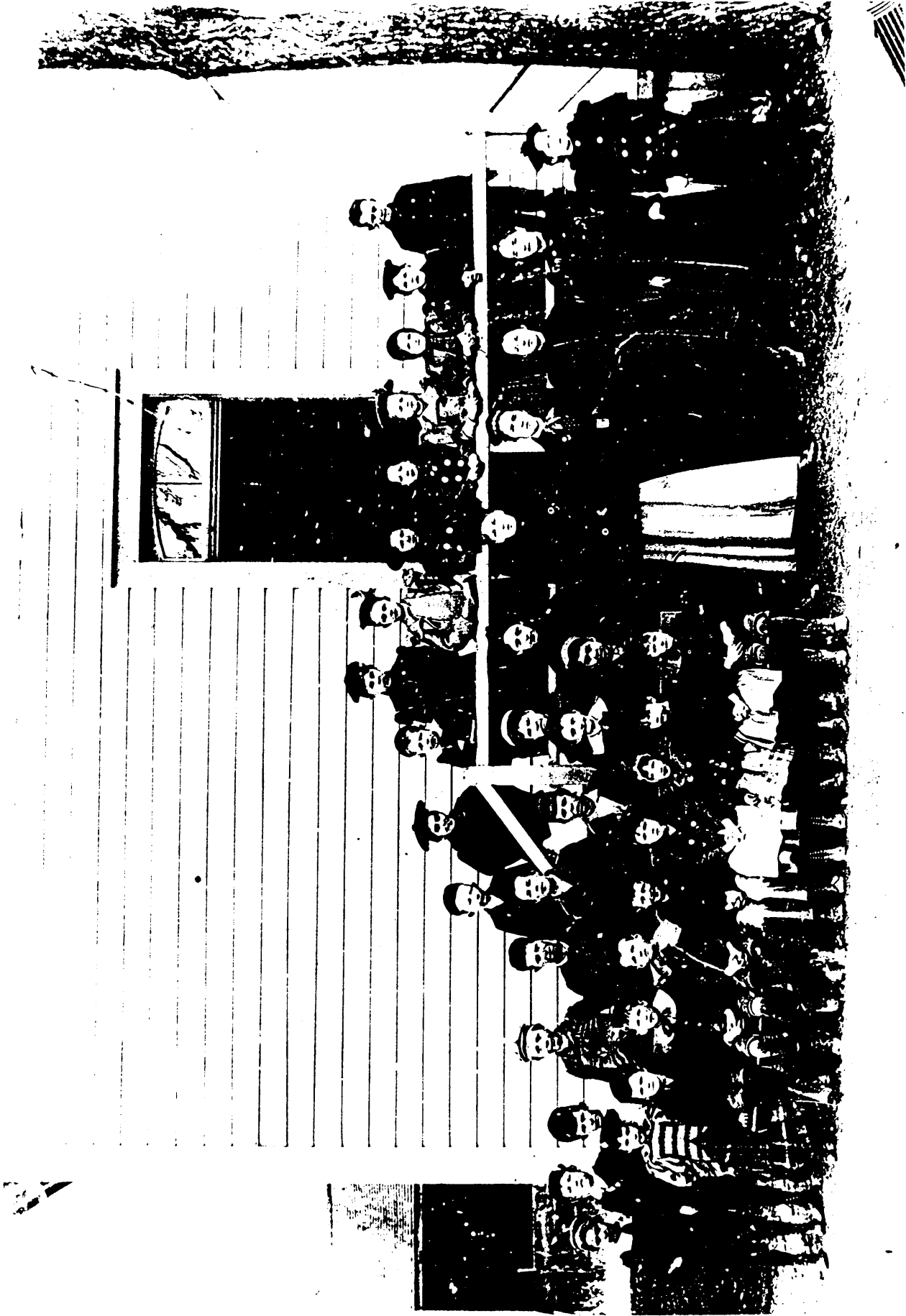
During the present warm weather, we wo say, "be quiet, and if you can't be quiet, be quiet as you can." If things are not just as desire, fretting will not remedy the matter. D scold if any body borrows your Democrat

**school #16, Town of Hoosick, its
construction in 1842 financed by the
Tibbitts family, now restored and open to
the public courtesy of Stewarts**



**photograph of students, Speigletown
school, ca. 1897**

(Lansingburgh Historical Society)



**teacher's elementary school grade report,
Lansingburgh U.F. School District, 1915**

(Lansingburgh Central School District)

34 - January, 1915	App. Critical	Left	Attend. 11 to 12	Class 4	Planting	Reading	Spelling	Writing	Arithmetic	Geography	Language	Physiology	Drawing	Music	Application	Recall	Field
1. Callahan, Frank	12 Sept 9	22	80 1/2	3 1/2	promoted	8	75	80	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
2. Callahan, Lottie	10 Sept 10	19	82	3 1/3		8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
3. Carver, Lillian	12 Sept 10	20	82	3 1/3	Class 6 & 7 B	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
4. Carver, Joseph	9 Oct 27	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
5. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
6. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
7. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
8. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
9. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
10. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
11. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
12. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
13. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
14. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
15. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
16. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
17. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
18. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
19. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
20. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
21. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
22. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
23. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
24. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
25. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
26. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
27. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
28. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
29. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
30. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
31. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
32. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
33. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
34. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
35. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
36. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
37. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
38. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
39. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
40. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
41. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
42. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
43. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
44. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
45. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
46. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
47. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
48. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
49. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
50. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
51. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
52. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
53. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
54. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
55. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
56. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
57. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
58. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
59. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
60. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
61. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
62. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
63. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
64. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
65. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
66. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
67. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
68. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
69. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
70. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
71. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
72. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
73. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
74. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
75. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
76. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
77. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
78. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
79. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
80. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
81. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
82. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
83. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
84. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
85. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
86. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80	80	80	80
87. Carver, Lillian	10 Sept 9	22	82	3 1/3	promoted	8	81	90	85	80	82	78	85	80			