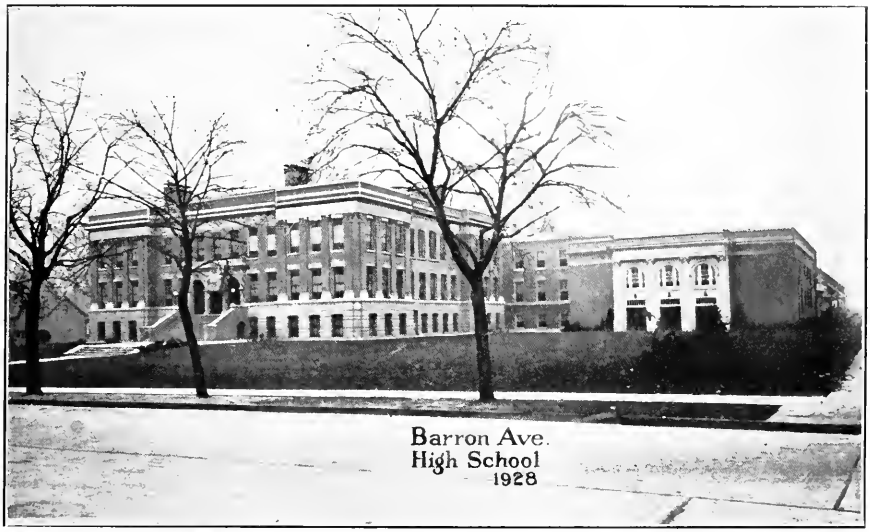
AN EDUCATIONAL HISTORY OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF WOODBRIDGE TOWNSHIP MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

1666 - 1933



Barron Ave. High School.
Facing East. Auditorium on right, balanced
by the Gymnasium on left at rear

AN EDUCATIONAL HISTORY OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF WOODBRIDGE TOWNSHIP, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY 1666-1933

BY

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TOWNSHIP OF WOODBRIDGE, N. J.
1895-1933

"Sadly as some old mediaeval Knight
Gazed at the arms he could no longer wield,
The sword two-handed and the shining shield
Suspended in the hall, and full in sight,
While secret longings for the lost delight
Of tourney or adventure in the field
Came over him, and tears but half concealed
Trembled and fell upon his beard of white,
So I behold these books upon their shelf,
My ornaments and arms of other days;
Not wholly useless, though no longer used,
For they remind me of my other self
Younger and stronger, and the pleasant ways
In which I walked, now clouded and confused."

"My Books",- Henry W. Longfellow

INTRODUCTION

Few communities are as fortunate as Woodbridge in having public records dating back to the days of their foundations.

A visitor to the office of the Township Clerk in the beautiful Memorial Municipal Building located on the Main Street of the town, may have the privilege of inspecting the ancient records and read for himself the miscellany of business that was transacted by the inhabitants who, having received due "warning", had assembled at one of the regular town meetings.

The records appear in several books, one of them dating back to 1668. This volume, however, is in a very dilapidated condition due to age and much handling, but chiefly from despicable vandalism. It was originally bound in pigskin of which only one half of the cover remains. The paper is disintegrating and the writing on many pages is faint and scarcely decipherable, but fortunately, by vote at a town meeting, March 14, 1775, it was ordered that:

> "the town book, or one of them to be copied by Nathaniel Fitz Randolph, and if he couldn't do them by somebody else and have it ready by the next town meeting in 1776 as it is in a Dangerous Situation by reason of its being old and Mutch to Peases."

This authenticated copy was made, is in excellent condition and the original is still extant. Herein one may read lists of births, deaths, and marriages; the recorded earmarks of the settlers' cattle; rewards offered for wolves' heads; controversies over the selection of a town minister; the division and description of lands; the serious business of securing a schoolmaster; the making of highways and bridges; the records of deeds; the building of grist mills; the appointment of Trustees of Free School lands; the erection of a meeting house and the selling of the poor at public vendue by the overseer of the poor to the highest bidder.

As the history unfolds, the evolution of the town itself becomes evident in the events portrayed on the educational screen.

One noticeable feature is the attitude of the voters towards expenditures for school purposes. At one time a budget of a few thousands for education would almost disjoint the community; whereas, a little later, a baker's dozen would turn out to vote for and carry a call for hundreds of thousands without the least ripple of excitement. Then again in more recent years, there came a mighty outpouring at school elections that vied with the Presidential elections in the number of votes cast.

The tremendous change in the type and the size of school-buildings is well brought out by the illustrations interspersed throughout the book as well as in the text itself.

The effect of immigration on the township is indicated by its bonded indebtedness for buildings and equipment, and also by observation of the change in the type of family names appearing in the records. English and Scotch seemed to predominate in the earliest times; then came a leavening of Germans and Irish; of Italians and Hungarians, with a plentiful sprinkling of other nationalities, wave after wave, gradually changing the complexion of the population from a fairly homogeneous one to a heterogeneous community that could scarcely be duplicated anywhere else in the State .

Most of the problems of the present Board of Education can be clearly traced to their sources in the light of this history.

The preparation of this work was undertaken in the belief that it was a worthwhile task to save from oblivion the story of the labors of those patriotic men and women who in every community, as well as in Woodbridge, gave , and still give, so much of their time and labor in the great cause of education, grasping the torch of learning from the hands of those who have gone before and passing it on to those who will never let its flame grow dim.

Grateful acknowledgment is made to Professors Albert E. F. Schaffle and R.B. Cunliffe of the School of Education, Rutgers University, for their personal interest, advice and encouragement; also to Dr. Zora Klain, Professor of Education of the New Jersey College for Women, Rutgers University, for many helpful suggestions.

The writer also takes this opportunity to thank the municipal authorities of Woodbridge for their permission to study the old town records; Miss Louise Brewster of the Barron Free Public Library, Woodbridge; Mr. H. A. Tappen ex-president of the Board of Education, Woodbridge; Mr. E. C. Ensign, Secretary of the Board of Education, Woodbridge; Mr. Thos. Brennan of the "WoodbridgeIndependent"; Mr. Maxwell Logan, publisher of " Woodbridge Independent"; Mrs. Irene Shay, Secretary to the Supervising Principal of Schools, Woodbridge; Mr. Ray Hancock, Woodbridge; Mr. Llewellyn Holden, Head of Art Department, Woodbridge High School; the library officials of Rutgers University; the Newark Public Library; the Metuchen Library; the New Jersey Historical Society; the Rev. Edward Welles, Rector of Trinity Episcopal Church, Woodbridge;Dr. Millard L. Lowery of the County Dept. of Education for assistance given in various ways.

Especially is he grateful to Miss Alice Robinson of the Woodbridge High School Faculty and her able assistant, Miss Marie Baumann, of Woodbridge, for time and labor so freely and generously given in the typing of the manuscript.

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CHAPTER I

BEGINNING OF EDUCATION IN WOODBRIDGE

Woodbridge was one of the townships, the creation of which was contemplated in an agreement entered into by Daniel Pierce and his associates with Carteret, Ogden, and Watson, December 11, 1666.

This agreement was confirmed by a deed dated December 3, 1667, and on the same day, Pierce was commissioned as Deputy-Surveyor to run the boundary lines and lay out the lands to the different associates.

On June 1, 1669,

> "a charter was granted and 'thankfully accepted' which erected the tract, said to contain six miles square, into a township to comprise not less than sixty families, and by the resolution adopted on this day, this number was not to be exceeded unless by special order of the town."--1

In 1682,

> "Woodbridge had several improved plantations in it and the country round; Delaplairs, the surveyor general, was one of the settlers here. This town claimed more privileges than others; was incorporated by charter and had erected a court house and prison. There were here about 120 families; a large quantity of land in the town and for the plantations around many thousand acres."--2

1 Whitehead. Contribution to the Early History of Perth Amboy and Adjoining Country-p355

2 Smith's History of New Jersey (Reprint) Page 158, Chapter IX

"At the time of the transfer of East Jersey to the twenty-four proprietors, March 14, 1682, Woodbridge population was estimated at 600."--1

"The first settlers came to Woodbridge in the latter part of the Summer of 1665, and were a portion of the company of thirty English people who came to New Jersey with Governor Carteret immediately after his commission was given to him by his brother, Sir George Carteret, joint proprietor of the Province with Lord Berkeley. Woodbridge, the name of the village and township...was so called in honor of Reverend John Woodbridge, of Newbury, Mass."--2

The matter of education received very little attention from the early settlers, probably because they were intensely occupied in meeting the physical rigors of their environment.

"What little there was in New Jersey, according to the early records, was largely in the hands of religious sects and therefore was naturally colored by their particular views." --3

We may be sure that Woodbridge was no exception to this condition, particularly as the Quakers in 1672 had established the

"Shrewsbury Quarterly Meeting and in connection with it, "Monthly meetings were held at Shrewsbury, Woodbridge, or Rahway, and Plainfield."--4

"In East New Jersey, during the rule of the twenty-four proprietors, (1682-1702) a law was passed (1693) which showed the in-

1 History of Middlesex County--Wall-Pickersgill and others--p20
2 History of Woodbridge and Vicinity--Dally--p6
3 Woody-Quaker Education in Colony & State of N. J.
4 Ibid

fluence of the New England elements in the population; responsibility for creating schools was placed on the inhabitants of the town."

In 1695, a new act was passed which stated that:

"Whereas there was an act made Anno Domini 1693 for the establishing of schools in each respective town of this Province, by experience it is found inconvenient, by reason of the distance of the neighborhood, the said act directing no suitable way whereby all the inhabitants may have the benefit thereof. Be it therefore enacted by the Governor, Council and Representatives in General Assembly now met and assembled, and by the authority of the same that three men be chosen yearly and every year in each respective town in this Province to appoint and agree with a schoolmaster, and the three men so chosen shall have power to nominate and appoint the most convenient place or places where the school shall be kept from time to time, that as near as may be the whole inhabitants may have the benefits thereof."--1

A number of Quakers were among the early inhabitants of Woodbridge, they appearing in the old town records as objecting to paying any part of the quota assessed on the people for the minister's salary. Several times committees were appointed by the inhabitants in town meeting assembled "to discourse" on this subject with them.

"Public education, as such, received very little encouragement throughout the Colonial Period. From 1702 to 1776, educational legislation was at its lowest ebb."

"By way of entering upon 'proper methods for the erecting and maintaining of schools',

1 "Leaming & Spicer: Original Constitution of New Jersey 358"--(From Woody)

the assembly in 1761 and 1762 authorized lotteries and, during the governorship of William Franklin, incorporated the Trustees of the Free Schools of Woodbridge 1769."

"At a Council Held at Burlington on Tuesday the 21st of February 1769--Present--
His Excellency the Governor
The Honorable-Charles Read)
John Smith) Esquires
Samuel Smith)
His Excellency laid before the Board a Draught of a Charter Incorporating 'The Trustees of the Free Schools at Woodbridge' which had been presented to him for his Approbation, Which was referred for further consideration."--1

"At a Council held at Burlington on Monday the 15th, May 1769--Present--
His Excellency the Governor
The Honorable-David Ogden)
Charles Read)
John Smith) Esquires
Samuel Smith)
Frederick Smith)
The Board resumed the Consideration of the Charter of 'The Trustees of Free Schools of the Township of Woodbridge'. Which being again read Par. by Par. and some amendments made therein The Council advised his Excellency to Cause the Great Seal to be affixed thereto."--2

The minutes of October 10, 1682, in the old Town Record Book, attested by Samuel Moore, Town Clerk, mention among a list of land grants to each individual freeholder within the bounds of the "towne and corporation of Woodbridge" the following:

"towards the maintenance of a free scoole on hundred akers."--3

1 New Jersey Archives-First Series-Volume 18-Page 1
2 Ibid
3 Town Records

Again, at the same meeting Oct. 10th it passed by vote

> "That there should be twelve akers of marsh or meadow to the scoole house land the upland being eighty-eight akers which makes the compliment of one hundred akers."—1

At a town meeting held Feb. 13, 1700, a committee was appointed "to first lay out the land for the parsonage and for the free schools" before any division of land in common was made.

The land was laid out and is now known as the "Poor House Farm." It is located not far from Iselin on the upland, East of the Pennsylvania Railroad.

The survey of the land appears in Randolph's copy of the Town Book.

On June 28, 1713, a committee consisting of John Kinsey, James Clarkson, Henry Rolph and Saml. Ayers was appointed

> "to take special care of the scool Land in that maner as shall to them seem most advantageous for the end it was lay out for and also to agree with those that have gott timber cut uppon it."-2

Eight years afterwards, the town meeting,

> "passed by voat that the inhabitants of the town takeing into there consideration ye great wast yt hath ben made of the timber on the schoole Land and yt as yet it has ben alltogether unprofitable after ye matter had been

1 Town Records
2 Liber A.-Towne Records

> thoroughly debated it was concluded best to hire out the said Land to be improved to the best advantage for ye uye it was designed.

Henry Freeman and Moses Rolfe were appointed to see that there was no further waste and to rent out the land. At the public town meeting, March 11, 1723, a committee was appointed to lease the school lands for a term of ten years

> "for the most advantage to the public as the town charter directs,"--2

and also to see that the survey of the school lands was properly recorded on the county records and to pay the cost out of the rent.

At least £4-10s-0d was received for rent in 1737, because that amount was ordered to be paid "out of ye Rent of ye school Land" to Joseph Congor according to some agreement that had been made.

As the years went by, the old town records show changes in the personnel of the Free School Lands committee, until in 1755, at a public town meeting it

> "Passed by vote that William How Esq., Thomas Gath Esq. and Alexander Edgar be a Cometie to inspect ye accounts of ye formor Cometie for the school Land"--3*

> *"Freeholders Book-Date 1716-1775 a True Copy" gives these names as William Heard, Esq., Thomas Gach, Esq., no doubt the correct forms.

Again, in 1760 a new committee was appointed and instructed to call the old Committee and report at the next meeting.

1 Liber A.-Town Records 2 Ibid
3 Ibid

When the report was received, Mar. 10, 1761, it stated that

> "there is £318-11s-11½d now in the Committys hands belonging to ye town."--1

Another report made Mar. 8, 1763 showed a balance on hand of £361-10s-9d and interest due Mar. 31, amounting to £72-17s-0d.

In 1765 this amount had increased to £465-5s-3d all from the profits of the school land.

A proposition to use a part of the school land money "for ye schooling of our poor peoples children" was defeated by an overwhelming vote, Mar. 11, 1766. At a town meeting held Mar. 14 , 1775 the Trustees of the Free School Lands reported:

	£ s d
"Cash due on bonds	859-5-6
Rents, & int. to 31st.	87-0-0
Int. due on P. bond is	84-18-11
Cash in hand is	62-10-6
Hole amount	£1063-14-11

--2

From such a report, one may infer that this committee had become a very important one, the members of which had to be selected with great care; who must have been outstanding characters in the township and known for their business acumen and integrity.

1 Town Records
2 Ibid

It was ordered at this same town meeting that:

> "The town book or one of them to be copied by Nathaniel Fitz Randolph & if he couldn't do then by somebody else & have it ready by the next town meeting in 1776 as it is in a Dangerous Setuation by reason of its being old and mutch to Peases."--1

This old book, and the copy that was made are still in existence and are the sources from which these interesting items have been extracted.

Nothing regarding schools appears again until the annual town meeting Apr. 28, 1788, when

> "Abrm. Tappen, John Brown, Wm. Martin, Isaac Cotheal, Ezekiel Ayers, Thomas Edgar, Jeremiah Clarkson, Clarkson Edgar, Cornelius Baker, Henry Marsh Esqr., James Bonney Esq., and Ebenezer Ford were chosen Inspectors of the Schools"--2

They seem to have been charged with the duty of seeing that the money raised for schooling poor children was properly administered.

At the Annual Town meeting Apr. 26th, 1789 it was voted

> "that the int. of the School land & Dog Tax be appropriated to the schooling of Poor Children."--3

From Mar. 12, 1776, until Mar. 11, 1783, there are no records of any meetings. In all probability this was due to the confusion of the times caused by the Revolutionary War.

1 Town Record
2 Ibid
3 Ibid

Six separate school districts are mentioned in the records of Apr. 13, 1807, inspectors being appointed as follows:

"Richard Marsh --Bridgetown
William Flatt --South Branch
Ezekiel Ayers --Metuchen
Richard Cutter --Strawberry Hill
Joseph Freeman --New Dover
Randolph Crowell --Dunham Town
and all old inspectors not re-elected this day to hold their office."

It thus seems that a change in public sentiment had taken place regarding the use of the Free School Land Monies since 1766, or perhaps the number of poor people had increased so much that their education was becoming a public problem which the wise town-fathers felt should be met.

In 1831, the school inspectors had increased to twenty-two.

The record book of the Trustees of the Free Schools shows the amounts paid out by them to the inspectors of the different school districts.

In 1836 we find the following items:

"Voted--That it shall be the duty of the inspectors of the schools to report to the School Committee the manner in which they have expended the money paid to them and what number of Poor Children have received the benefit of it in their due."

As foreshadowing the district schools that appeared later, each with its three trustees, the following min-

ute on the town records of May 10, 1843, may be read:

> "Voted that we recommend to our next Legislature the propriety of altering the present law, so as each district shall elect there own Inspectors of Schools....on the first Monday in April, and make there report at the following Town Meeting."

Dennis Mawbey signs the record as Town Clerk.

For many years the Dog Tax money was paid over to the Trustees of the Free School Lands for the education of our children.

In 1809 it was voted by the people:

> "That the Trustees of the school land build a house and Barn and such other improvements as they may think necessary for the good of said land; to be rented as they may think proper with giving the Township the refusal for the poor."

It was voted at a meeting held Apr. 8, 1811:

> "That in future no more than six dollars be applied to each and every school for the schooling of poor children until otherwise ordered."

One might infer from this item of the town minutes that better, or more important uses for the interest on the Free School Land investments were being discovered than applying it to the education of poor children.

In 1821 it was voted:

> "That the Trustees of Free School land be authorized to rent the same to the overseers of the poor for the Annual Rent of $150."

Poor Farm Bldg — Rear view
Erected 1809

Poor Farm Bldg. Front view
Erected 1809

This is the first mention in the town records of the amount of rent from the Free School Land. A few years later it is recorded:

> "that the State School fund be paid to the Trustees of the Free School Land and be paid by them to the Trustees of each district in proportion to the number of poor children in each district."

The balance of monies in the hands of the Trustees of Free School Lands, according to their report April 1855, and invested in bond and mortgage was the goodly sum of $4200.

CHAPTER I

Summary

BEGINNING OF EDUCATION IN WOODBRIDGE

Woodbridge was founded in 1669 and was named after the Reverend John Woodbridge of Newbury, Massachusetts.

Responsibility for creating schools was placed on the inhabitants.

In 1695 an act was passed authorizing the choosing of three men each year in each town in the Province of New Jersey to nominate a schoolmaster and appoint a place for a school. Quakers in the town objected to being assessed to pay the minister's salary.

The Trustees of the Free Schools of Woodbridge were incorporated in 1769 under the Governorship of William Franklin. In 1682 one hundred acres of land were set apart towards the maintenance of a free school. In 1734 the school lands were leased for a term of ten years. March 11, 1766, an attempt was made to divert a part of the school land money to another channel but failed.

The Town Record Book, because of its worn condition, was ordered to be recopied.

In 1788 school inspectors were appointed whose chief duty was to see that the funds assigned to each district school were properly disbursed.

School Districts with three trustees to each district foreshadowed in minutes of town meeting May 10, 1843.

Free School Land property was improved in 1809 and in 1821 was authorized to be rented to the overseers of the poor as the township "Poor Farm."

The Trustees of the Free School Lands were made custodians of the State School Funds and instructed how to distribute them.

CHAPTER II

THE TOWN BOOK OF FREE SCHOOL OF WOODBRIDGE

April 24, 1778

This book, which was commenced in 1778, was in actual use until Feb. 1, 1927. It measures about eight inches by twelve inches by one and a half inches, being strongly bound in pasteboard with pig-skin covering and is in excellent condition. As supplementary to the Olde Towne Records, it is extremely interesting. At the present time, it is in the possession of the secretary of the Free School Lands. Inscribed on the inside of the front cover may be read:

> "The Town Book of Free School of Woodbridge, Apr. 25, 1778. An account of the Money now in Bonds, Bills, Notes & Cash in hand and Rents Due & what the Land Leases for pr yeare and Names of Trustees & when Chosen etc. etc."

On Page One we find in excellent handwriting:

> "Deed of the Free School-land Dec. 11th, 1701. Then laid out by us here under named. One Hundred Acres of upland which was granted to the Town of Woodbridge by the Proprietors of New Jersey for a free School. Beginning at a Maple Tree (etc.).....In the aforesaid land there is allowance for a Highway if there be occasion for it.
> Laid out and ordered to be recorded in the Town Book by us)Samuel Dennis
>)Samuel Hale
>)Jonathan Dunham
>)John Bishop
>)John Bloomfield
>)Thomas Pike

The first records are under date Mar. 13, 1701, but on Mar. 23, 1702, the Trustees met again and the question

was raised as to why no records appeared previous to 1701 "agreeable to the direction of the Charter". Doctor Bloomfield, one of the first Trustees under the charter, then made the statement that although he was not responsible for keeping the records, he had for his own satisfaction made note of the meetings that he had attended, and offered to lay them before the trustees if they wished him to do so.

The Board expressed its willingness to hear the records of transactions and they were ordered to be recorded.

The following is the opening of the good Doctor's notes:

> "Doctor Bloomfield's History of the proceedings of the first incorporated Board of Trustees. Woodbridge July 26th, 1769. The Trustees of the Free School land of Woodbridge met this day at Joseph Shotwell's, present--John Moores and Nathaniel Heard, Esqrs.; Benjamin Thornal, Moses Bloomfield, Joseph Shotwell, Robert Clarkson," etc.

The following interesting items have been selected from the minutes for the reason that they are more closely connected than others with the excerpts from the Towne Records of the Freeholders and Inhabitants of Woodbridge previously given or appearing in following chapters:

> "June 4, 1793. Application was made to the Trustees for permission to take Timber off the School-land for the Frame of an Accadamy to be erected in Woodbridge--it was Granted."

April 22, 1797:

"Agreed not to pay more than $12 per Quarter for schooling poor children."

April 6, 1805:

"Received of Luis Kelley the Dog Tacks $14.25."

"At a meeting of the Trustees of the free School land Apr. 8, 1824 It was unanimously resolved that the Treasurer pay to each school in the Township for the use of the poor children Ten Dollars provided there should be school kept in each house and children of poor persons Schooled to that amount to be certified by the Inspectors and that he shall in no case exceed that sum."

June 22d, 1836 this amount was increased to $20.

"to be paid on the order of the inspectors."

"At a meeting of the Trustees of the Free Schools of the Township of Woodbridge at the house of George Hollister on Thursday the 13th April 1843 it was voted 'That the fifteen dollars appropriated to school district No. 7 may be applied to the payment of the debt for building the schoolhouse in that district.'"

George Hollister kept the town inn and his house was often the meeting place for the Freeholders and Inhabitants at their annual town meetings as well as for the meetings of the Trustees of the Free Schools.

"Rahway, June 8th, 1845 at a Meeting of the board of Trustees at Stewart Crowells at this date--Voted--We appropriate twelve Dollars for the use of each school in this Township for the Present and that we Pay a Like sum to the School of Blacks in District No. 1 if the children belong to this Township."

We have here the first intimation that any attention was being paid to the education of colored children and it is to be noted also that a separate school was maintained for them.

Apr. 9, 1860 it was voted:

> "that each school District must give Instruction Three quarters in a year in order to Receive their full amount of school money from the School Land fund."

Under date Mar. 13, 1882 the following districts are listed on the minutes:

No. 19-Locust Grove.....	one-half	District
20-Washington.....	one	district
21-Rahway Neck.....	"	"
22-Blazing Star.....	"	"
23-Uniontown.....	½	"
24-Woodbridge.....	2	"
26-Fairfield Union.....	1	"
16-Lafayette.....	½	"
12-New Dover.....	⅓	"

Forty dollars was appropriated to each full district--others in proportion.

In 1887, each full district received $100.

March 24, 1894, marked an important change in the distribution of these moneys for it was voted:

> "That the Treasurer of the Board pay all moneys to the Collector of Woodbridge Township, N. J. that are appropriated to schools."

Also at the same meeting:

> "That the Treasurer of the board pay all moneys at present in his hand over One Hundred Dollars to the Township Collector to the credit of the Board of Education."

Here we have a direct result of the School Law of 1894 making the lines of the Townships the school district lines. This is also the first appearance of the term, "Board of Education" in any of the town records.

In 1898-$600 was paid to the schools
1899-$300 was paid
1901-$400 was paid with the recommendation that it be used for transportation purposes.
1902-$400
1903-$300
1905-$400 "to Custodians of School fund"
1907-$1000 to Collector " "
1910-$700 to Custodian " "
1911-$1000 to Custodian " "

The Corporate Seal, at present used, was adopted March 2, 1903 and reads: "The Trustees of the Free Schools of the Town of Woodbridge 1769."

April 16, 1914:

> "Moved & Carried that the Trustees proceed to Purchase five certain lots at Iselin adjoining the school property (No. 6) for the use of the Board of Education."

At the next meeting Sept. 10th same year it was reported that three lots had been purchased. It was also voted to turn over to the Board the large amount of $15000.

At the Meeting of Nov. 11, 1920 it was:

> "Voted to turn over $5000 in cash--$2850 of Liberty Bonds their face value."

At the next meeting of the Trustees held Dec. 27, the last board of male trustees of the Free School Fund passed out of office and a new epoch in the management of the fund

was opened by the induction into office of the group of women who had been elected at the Fall elections in November.

In all probability the Board of Trustees of the Free School Fund in the future will be composed entirely of women. In no way, judging by their able management of the business of the Free Schools up to the present, have they shown themselves in the slightest degree inferior to the sterner sex.

Last Board of Male Trustees 1920	First Board of Women Trustees 1921
Jonas Coddington	Marguerite Fitz Randolph Chm.
E. C. Ensign	M. Frances McCarter, Secy.
John Thompson	Kathryn Flanagen, Treas.
W. A. Gilham	Bertha H. Boynton
P. A. Greiner	Minnie Adams
Wm. Cutter	Mae Greenhalgh

The last recorded meeting in the original minute book is under date, Feb. 1, 1927, and is signed by the Secretary--M. Frances Boos (nee-Deter--McCarter). After this date, a new record book was opened. At the present time, 1933, the School Lands, now known as the "Poor Farm", although housing no poor, they having been transferred to the township "Home for the Aged," are in an unproductive condition. Occasionally the Trustees make donations of money to the several libraries of the Township.

CHAPTER II

Summary

TOWN BOOK OF FREE SCHOOL OF WOOD-BRIDGE

The Town Book of the Free School of Woodbridge was commenced in 1778 and was in use until February 1, 1927. It tells in much detail of the laying out of the Free School Lands, how the property was managed, and what disposition was made of the proceeds from it.

The Trustees met in Rahway at Stewart Crowell's June 8, 1845 and a School for Colored Children is mentioned in the minutes of that meeting.

In 1882 a list of nine school districts is recorded.

Acting under the School Law of 1894, the Trustees divert their payments from each district to the Township Collector.

The term "Board of Education" appears for the first time.

Property was purchased at Iselin by the Trustees for School use and presented to the Township Board in 1914 together with $15,000 accumulated funds. In 1920, cash and liberty bonds were turned over to the Board of Education. The last board of male trustees met December 27, 1920 and a female board went into office.

CHAPTER III

EARLY SCHOOL MASTERS AND SCHOOLS

The earliest mention of a school master for Woodbridge occurs under the date Mar. 4, 1689 in Ye Olde Towne records when:

> "It also passed by vote that they were generally willing that James Fullerton shall be entered in this town as a School Master and to be encouraged by such as see cause to employ him."

In all probability Mr. Fullerton, having been properly "encouraged", conducted his school in the meeting house which had been erected in 1675, a common custom in those early times.

No mention is made of his retirement from the scene of his educational labors, but on the town minutes of Nov. 10, 1691, it is recorded that:

> "it passed by vote that there shall be thirteen pound raised by the town for the incorigement of John Beacher to com and keep a free scoole in this town for six months upon tryall providing he shall be constant and faithfull in that imploy as a scoolmaster ought to be and that he shall be ingaged to attend the scoole this winter time untill nine o'clock at night."

Probably Mr. Beacher met the specifications laid down in the minutes and came to Woodbridge. If this were the case, then no doubt he held the first night school opened in New Jersey.

Whitehead in his "Early History of Perth Amboy and Adjoining Country" gives Beacher's name as Boacker, but this is an error, as a study of towne clerk Dennis' writ-

ing indicates that he, as a rule, made his e's like o's, but occasionally like a's. Also, Fitz Randolph's copy of the old town book gives the name very clearly as Beacher.

Mr. Beacher must have fallen by the wayside for at a General Towne Meeting of the Freeholders and inhabitants at Mr. Boswell's House, Feb. 27, 1693, it passed by vote as followeth--

> "That they were willing to settle a school master in this Towne and to that end the towne By Vote Made Choice of Nathaniel Fitz Randolph & John Bloomfield to Discourse with John Browne of Amboy or any other person that May be Suitable for that employ and to know his terms and make Report thereof to the towne"

The discussion must have been very satisfactory to Mr. Browne for it is recorded a little later that:

> "It passed by vote that John Brown of Amboy should have twenty-four pounds a year allowed him for Keeping a free school in this towne this next yeare."

His ability and personality must have appealed strongly to the visiting committee to raise the offer almost a hundred per cent, but:

> "John Congor protested against the vote in open towne meeting and Desired the same to be entered."

Dally, in his "History of Woodbridge and Vicinity" says of the objector:

> "His views of a liberal educational policy were well illustrated in the signature he attached to an important township paper a

> year after--subscribing his name with the cabalistic X--'his mark'".

How the money was secured for the payment of the schoolmaster's salary appears on the town minutes of June 12, 1695, for it passed by vote:

> "That there should be a Rate forthwith Made to Raise the Money for the School Masters Sallery for the time past."--1

What the time was, the records don't say, but we hope the schoolmaster had not been waiting too long.

"At a publique meeting June ye 24th, 1701"--2

a committee of three; Samuel Hall, Ephraim Andrews, and Gawen Lockhart was appointed by the town to

> "warne all ye freeholders, freemen, inhabitants" etc.

to attend a town meeting

> "to consider of building a school house"--3

and

> "In Dec. 1701, a piece of land, 'about ten rods,' was allowed for a schoolhouse' provided it did not prejudice the highway.' This is presumed to have been the renowned edifice on Strawberry Hill."--4

In 1669 this land was part of a triangular piece of ground set apart for a sheep common, including a hill on the road to Amboy. Speaking of this hill, Whitehead says:

> "The writer remembers it with its naked summit for many years crowned with an old school house which, like Ichabod Crane's, had numerous posts and sticks against doors."

1 Town Records
2 Ibid
3 Ibid
4 Ibid

> and windows impeding egress, but offering no special hindrance to admission."--1

The next teacher after John Browne's departure, the next of whom we have any account, was George Eubanke, a man of some ability. He began teaching in Woodbridge some time during 1711 probably, for in that year we find a grant of ten acres to him on Red Brook (or Reed Brook) for his "encouragement" as school teacher. The land was given, as the deed stipulates, on condition:

> "that the sd. George Eubanke, do remain, abide and teach School in Woodbridge aforesaid. In ye Publick School house now built for yt purpose, during his natural life, or as long as he shall be capable, Provided always yt the Inhabitants of ye sd. Town, satisfying and paying into the said Geo. Eubanke, for his Teaching of their Children, yearly and every year, So Long as he shall be capable of Teaching of School, anything aforesd. to the contrary notwithstanding, that then (the) present release (release) Shall Stand In Full force."--2

Among these early teachers we must not forget William Creamer who taught the school at Uniontown (now Iselin) 1817-19. He was a "learned man and well fitted for teaching."

It seems that the northern end of the town was not forgotten for at a general town meeting December 23, 1702, it passed by vote as follows:

> "Granted by a free vote to ye inhabitants of Rahawak a peice of land containing about

1 Town Records
2 Dally-Op. Cit p. 181

ten rod of ground to build school hous
on lying between John Robinson Tailors
hous and the hous of John Alstone pro-
vided it doth not prejudice ye highway"--1"

"It should be remembered that Wood-
bridge in the early days included
Metuchen, Bonhamtown and the lower
part of Rahway.--Note by J. H. L.

There must have been other schoolmasters, but between the time George Eubanke taught the Strawberry Hill School and 1776, only two names can be found, one on a grave stone in Trinity Episcopal Church yard, Woodbridge, the inscription reading:

William Stuart, School Master--
Died October ye 20th Anno Domini 1758
In the 57th year of his age

and the other appearing in a summary of Schoolmasters in the N. J. items of Philadelphia and New York newspapers between 1730 and 1776:

"Woodbridge--Nugent Kelly--1759"

This Kelly, no doubt, is the one mentioned in the old town records of Births, Deaths, and Marriages:

"Nugient Kelly and Hannah Kelly his wife
the Eldest Daughter of William Ineley Late
of Woodbridge Deceased, was Married on ye
2nd Day of April 1729."

The first Strawberry Hill school stood for many years after it was mentioned by Whitehead in his History of Perth Amboy and Vicinity (published in 1856), but gradually disintegrated under the attacks of the elements and the demands

1 Town Records

of its timbers and clapboards for firewood by local inhabitants. A second school was erected on the west side of the hill at the South Corner of Bunn's Lane and the Amboy Road. Several of the old inhabitants remember this building very well, and one recalls that boards from the original school house materially helped to keep the second school warm in cold weather. A few years ago, the building, being in a dilapidated condition, was torn down, closing its career as a dwelling house. This school will be referred to again in another chapter.

What was taught by these early schoolmasters is not exactly known, but there is no doubt the instruction in the best of these little schools was along the lines followed in New England. Probably George Eubanke in the Strawberry Hill school used the "Horn Book" with which to teach the alphabet.

Quoting from the Foreword of a facsimile reproduction of the Primer, an original now owned by Mr. G. Plimpton of New York:

> "The New England Primer was one of the greatest books ever published. It went through innumerable editions; it reflected in a marvellous way the spirit of the age that produced it, and contributed, perhaps, more than any other book except the Bible, to the moulding of those sturdy generations that gave to America its liberty and its institutions."

Most of the material dealt with Biblical subjects, trite sayings in jingle form and "Mr. Cotton's Catechism." Many crude woodcuts adorn the text. The following quotations will give an idea of the subject matter intended to improve the minds of the young children:

1. Job feels the rod,
   Yet blesses God.

2. Young Obadias,
   David, Josias
   All were pious.

3. The Praises of my Tongue
   I offer to the Lord,
   That I was taught and learnt so young
   To read His holy Word.

4. Who was the first Man? Adam.
   Who was the meekest Man? Moses.

5. A Dog will bite
   A thief at night--1

From "New Jersey, A History"--Vol I--The American Historical Society Incorporated, we quote:

> "The school of the Colonial period was the Latin Grammar School....This type of school had been brought to this country by colonists who had been educated in Europe. In the changed conditions of the new settlements there arose a demand for instruction in English and for the addition of Surveying and Navigation to the Course of Study."

It is quite probable that George Rubanke, at the Strawberry Hill School, made an attempt to teach these branches

1 20th Cent. Reprint of Plimpton's Original 1791 Ed. of N. E. Primer

as a part of the curriculum, but no direct evidence can be found that he did so.

The year 1793 was a memorable one in the history of Ye Olde Towne, for in that year:

> "subscriptions were obtained for money to build the far-famed Woodbridge Academy."--1

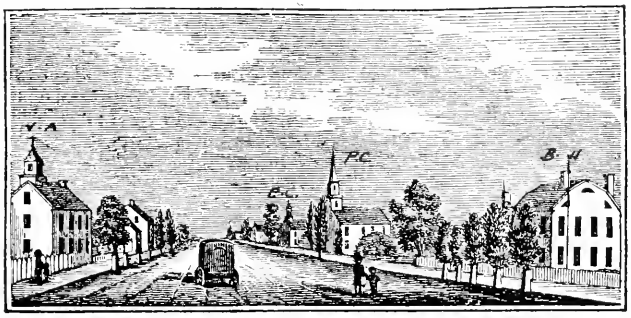
The following list of names is taken from a copy of the original list of the subscribers made by James Paton and attached to the inside cover of "The Trustees Book of the Woodbridge Academy District No. 6, April 30, 1832."

A similar list appeared in the local weekly newspaper "Woodbridge Independent Hour," May 11, 1876:

> "At a meeting of the inhabitants of Woodbridge held May 30, 1793, for the purpose of raising money to procure ground and build an Academy for a public school, the following sums were subscribed and paid in due time:

	£		
John G. Wall	12-0-0	James Jackson	10-0-0
David Edgar, Jr.	12-0-0	Jos. Brown	10-0-0
Jos. Barron	20-0-0	Thos. Edgar	17-0-0
Ralph Marsh	10-0-0	Jonathan Freeman	6-0-0
Christopher Marsh	20-0-0	James Freeman	5-0-0
James Paton	15-0-0	Ellis Barron	20-0-0
John Heard	20-0-0	Israel Thornal	5-0-0
Benj. A. Brown	8-0-0	Campyon Cutter	15-0-0
Wm. Heard	15-0-0	John Manning	8-0-0
Jos. Edgar	15-0-0	Jos. E. Parker	5-0-0
Phil. Brown	5-0-0	Saml. Cutter	10-0-0
John Conway	6-0-0	John Marsh	5-0-0
Icabod Potter	10-0-0	Peter Noe	5-0-0
Timothy Brewster	15-0-0	Henry Osborn	5-0-0
Danl. B. Moores	10-0-0	Jeremiah Clarkson	5-0-0

1 Dally--Op. Cit 124



Woodbridge Academy
1793

W.A. Large building, on left
F.C. Old Episcopal Church
P.C. Presbyterian Church
B.H. House owned by Mrs Bertha Boynton [illegible]

Picture from "Historical Collections of the State of New Jersey,"
by John W. Barber and Henry Howe
Pub. by S. Tuttle, Newark, N.J. 1844

	£		
D. Freeman	5-0-0	Randolph Crowell	5-0-0
Ebenezer Ford	5-0-0	Robt. Moores	5-0-0
Abra'm Tappen	5-0-0	Jarvis Bloomfield	8-0-0
Jonathan Bloomfield Jr.	5-0-0		
Peter Melick	5-0-0		£ 367-10-0"

According to a note made by G. W. D. in 1880 in the old minute book of the Academy District No. 6, the cost of the school lot is given as £12-14s-9d. This was made from a credit to James Paton, July, 1793, and appears in the original book in the hands of A. A. Edgar, August 30, 1872.

At a meeting of the subscribers held June 15, 1793, James Paton, chosen Clerk, John Heard, Christopher Marsh, John G. Wall, Joseph Barron and James Paton were appointed managers to procure a lot, contract for the building, collect and pay the moneys subscribed, having regularly advertised for some time, the same to be completed by Jonathan Freeman by the first day of May 1794 for the sum of £336-15 as per agreement entered into. The Trustees of the Free School Land agreed to furnish the timber for the frame of the said Academy which was done as per agreement as shown by the following credit:

> "September 1793 Trustees of Free School Land Cr.
> By a frame given to the Academy."

At a meeting of the subscribers June 7, 1794, Colonel Conway, Moderator, James Paton, Clerk, the following persons were chosen Trustees and the business transferred to them, viz:

The Rev. Azel Roe
John Y. Wall
Christopher Marsh
John Heard
James Paton
John Conway
Ebenezer Ford--1

The Academy, a two-storyed building, was located on the west side of Rahway Avenue, between the residences of Mr. E. C. Ensign, Clerk of the present Township Board of Education, and Mr. Asher Fitz Randloph. A street now cuts across the old foundations. The story of the old Academy is deserving of a special chapter.

The illustration given on page 28a was taken from "Historical Collection of the State of New Jersey" by John W. Barber and Henry Howe, published by S. Tuttle, Chatham Square, New York 1844, the cut being made and loaned for this history by the publishers of the "Woodbridge Independent." The authors state that the engravings interspersed throughout the history were made from drawings taken by them on the spot.

> "On the left is seen the Academy; on the right the Presbyterian Church, and in the distance Trinity Church."--2

The large dwelling on the right is now the residence of Mrs. Bertha Hinsdale Boynton, widow of the late Mr. Ernest Boynton.

1 Woodbridge "Independent Hour"-Issue May 11, 1876
2 Hist. Coll's B. & H.--p 324

CHAPTER III

SUMMARY

EARLY SCHOOL MASTERS AND SCHOOLS

The first schoolmaster mentioned in the Town Records was James Fullerton. Probably the first night school in New Jersey was taught by John Beacher in Woodbridge.

John Brown of South Amboy engaged to teach in Woodbridge for twenty-four pounds a year. Schoolmaster's salary raised by a "Rate," or tax.

The first Strawberry Hill school erected 1701.

George Eubanke began to teach in Woodbridge 1711. William Creamer teaching at Uniontown (Iselin) 1817-19.

Vote to grant land for a school house at Rahawak 1702.

The Horn Book and the New England Primer probably used at Strawberry Hill by George Eubanke. Quotation from the New England Primer.

In 1793, subscriptions raised for building the Woodbridge Academy. List of subscribers to the Academy with amounts subscribed.

First trustees elected.

CHAPTER IV

JANE STORER'S BOOK AND WOODBRIDGE ACADEMY

Woodbridge Academy
1809-1810

The writer has been fortunate in securing an old "Exercise Book" that was used by a young girl named Jane Storer who attended the Woodbridge Academy during 1809 and 1810. The book measures 8" by 13" and has about seventy-five leaves of a heavy, rough paper, some with a watermark of an oval, surmounted by a crown, containing an inset of the figure of Britannia, and others with the name of Lydig and Mesier as a watermark. The cover is of heavy straw board, finished with a thin brown paper and strengthened by a reinforcement of thin leather at the hinge.

The first page is embellished by the legend:

"Jane Storer's Book
Woodbridge Academy
October 1, 1810"

Some of the letters are in Roman and some in script style with scroll flourishes. A cheap coloring of yellow and green is used to fill in the "hollow" letters.

Judging from Jane's handwriting on different pages of the book, someone else must have done the decorative lettering, or perhaps David Bloomfield, whose name is found here and there carelessly scribbled, was the artist. David married the young lady later on. It may be, also, that Jane

improved so much in her penmanship that she did the work at a more advanced stage of her education.

The book is almost filled with arithmetic examples, or sums, as they were probably called in those days, each of the topics such as addition, compound addition, etc., being written in large-hand,--"Spencerian" style--at the head of a page followed by its definition which, no doubt, had to be accurately memorized and recited to the schoolmaster as he sat at his desk on the platform with the class standing in front of him.

Following the definitions are the sums, four, six, or eight to the page, all carefully worked out and neatly ruled. Wine measure, Winchester measure, English money, Single Rule of Three, Direct Proportion, Inverse Proportion, Practice and many other topics, obsolete today, but which remained in the arithmetic textbooks not so very many years ago, all appear in the old Academy book. Kilderkin, pottle, runlet, firkin, tierce, would have little meaning for the children of today.

The wording of some of the problems is rather peculiar, e. g.:

> "A man borrowed a sum of money and paid in part £12-10s-and the remainder is £17-10s. I demand the sum borrowed."

All the abstract work in long division and multiplication is carefully proved. Some of the pages display the old question-and-answer type of lesson--e. g.:

" Q. How many parts are there in the Rule of Three?
A. Two; Single or Simple and Double or Compound.
Q. By what is the Single Rule of Three known?
A. By three terms which are always given in the question to find a fourth."
etc. etc.

No doubt the answers had to be memorized, perfect recitations being secured very often with the assistance of the master's cane.

A number of the pages at the end of the book have been made the repository of "selected poetry." The taste of the times is probably reflected in their titles:

1. "Death and a Lady."
2. "On the Death of Capt Annanias Valentine, Thommas Pinckne, Isaac Elliot, Jeremiah Cropsy and Leonard Merritt, all respectible Citizens of the town of Marlborough who were unfortunately drowned on the flats in front of the town in attempting to go on share on friday Morning the 12 of December 1800 in a voilent storm of wind and Rain."

Others have the same lugubrious strain. The following is one of the fifteen verses from "Death and a Lady."

DEATH

Fair lady, lay your costly robes aside
No longer may you glory in your pride

Gravestones of David Bloomfield
and wife
Jane Storer-Bloomfield.
Presbyterian Church Yard
Woodbridge, N.J.

Take leave of all your carnal vain delight
I'm come to summon you away tonight.

LADY

What bold attempt is this, pray let me know
From whence you came and whither must I go
Shall I who am a lady, yield or bow
To such a pale-fac'ed visage, who art thou.

From the death of Captain Annanias, et. al., we quote the third of the eighteen verses:

"O Reader these coffins exhibit to you
A striking example that's mournfully true
To show thee that Death will be thy certain doom
That shortly thy body must enter the tomb"

One, Reverend Hall, comments in his opening verses:

"How awful is that solemn word
Which calls our lives away
And bids our breath from us remove
And leaves its heavy clay."

Times were hard in those days and probably the citizens had a morbid enjoyment in contemplating the pictures brought to mind by such verses.

If these are fair examples of the "pieces" memorized in the old Academy, Friday afternoon exercises would have been rather melancholy to the boys and girls of the present age.

This description and the extracts given, indicate at least, a part of the curriculum of Ye Olde Woodbridge Academy offered to some of its students.

Nothing more appears regarding the old Academy, seemingly owing to loss of records, until April 3, 1843, the date of opening a new minute book, when:

> "At a meeting in the Academy, John C. Barron was called to the chair and Jothm Coddington Clerk after which the following Trustees were elected:
>
> Edward Mundy
> William H. Berry
> Jothm Coddington
> Dr. Ellis B. Freeman
> Luther Hampton"--1

At a later meeting the following resolutions, with others, were carried:

> "1. Resolved that Thomas H. Morris is Teacher down stairs.
> 2. Resolved that Anna Mariah Stansbuy Teaches upstairs for Three months subject to with draw at the expectation of that Time if necessary to have a Male Teacher.
> 3. Resolved That the Trustees need to examine the School every six weeks."--2

It might have been that the Trustees were not quite sure that Anna Mariah would be able to discipline the hopefuls entrusted to her charge. However, they were willing to let her try. As her name does not appear again in later records, we may presume that the young lady did not meet the strenuous requirements and so:

> "her contract was not renewed."

1 Trustees' Minute Book
2 Ibid

We are left to wonder regarding the name of the "Male" who succeeded her, and also whether or not he succeeded better than she.

The third resolution was somewhat prophetic of the modern six-weeks' period now in use in so many schools.

On April 20, 1844, it was resolved:

> "That there be an adition of wrighting desks and likewise backs added to several of the benches up and below stairs."--1

The illustrations on page 37a were made from a photograph of one of the original pupils' desks constructed by the carpenters when equipping the old Academy. This piece of school furniture was discovered in the attic of the "Boynton House," shown on the right of the illustration on page 28a and was photographed by the writer with the kind permission of Mrs. Boynton.

The desk is a triple one, of the lifting-lid variety, made of ordinary white pine. The seats are numbered and are attached to a baseboard, being movable as one piece. One may imagine the terrible backaches endured by the children and, therefore, what rejoicing there must have been "up and below stairs" when the order went forth for the addition of backs to several of the benches. Who were the fortunate ones to occupy those with backs is not known, but

1 Trustees' Minute Book. Academy District No. 6.

Three seats business
to a long movable bench.
The No. pressure used
the entrance in the
class room.

Home-made triple desk
used in old Woodbridge Academy.

J. . .

we may be sure they were the envy of their less-favored companions.

Among other items in the cash book, which forms part of the old minute book, we find:

"1845--Nov. 8--2 Dozen Sanders Spelling Books @ $1 per--		$2.00
Apr. 5--Desk and blackboards		3.25
1847--Oct. 21-A. J. Barnes Books and Stationery		9.39"--1

April 6, 1846, at a regular meeting a resolution was passed that:

> "Hereafter all lectures, exhibitious by persons coming in the place and charging for the same shall pay one Dollar for the use of the Academy and Two Dollars for each quarter of Singing School."--2

This resolution gives an insight regarding some of the purposes for which the school was used outside of school hours. It is also evident that great strides had been made in educational matters as the years had passed by. April 3, 1848, Charles B. Read was appointed teacher to take charge Monday, April 10.

At an adjourned meeting of the Trustees of the Academy held April 14 the same year, it was:

> "Resolved: 1st. That the prices of Tuition be classed in Three different sums vz-Two, Two and a half, and Three Dollars and that comprises all that taught in the English Language."

1 Trustees' Minute Book
2 Ibid

Resolved: 2d. That Twelve weeks be one quarter and five and half days make one week Seven hours per day.

Resolved: 3d. That a comittee of Two be appointed to examine the wright and Title of the Academy and the ground it occupies.

Resolved: 4th. That the Trustees adjourn to meet on Friday evening 22d at early Candle light."--1

From the first resolution we may infer that the students of the old Academy were grouped into three classes, first, second, and third; the third being the lowest in grade and tuition. Such grouping was in use in 1889 when the writer taught an ungraded school in South Jersey. The last part of the same resolution may mean that instruction in the classics called for special rates. School must have been held Saturday mornings according to the second resolution, but the seven hours probably ran from nine in the morning until four in the afternoon including recesses, as in some districts today.

Regarding the "wright and title" there had been some controversy over the ownership of the property, the Presbyterian Church claiming it as a part of their holdings and therefore these could not be sold.

1 Trustees' Minute Book

Originally on lot between property of E. C. Ensign property of Asher Ransom, Jr. - Railway Ave.

Academy Dist. Sch.
in process of demolition.

Opposite Municip. Bldg.

Old Woodbridge Sch.
removed from site of
First Nat. Bank & Stacend.

Old Jefferson Sch.

Originally on lot N. end of present Columbus Ave.
later on N.W. Corner of Main and Pearl

The "Woodbridge Independent Hour" in its issue of May 11, 1876 states:

> "The title to the ground upon which the Academy building (the second building, erected on the foundations of the old Academy and now to be discarded) is located, was left in doubt until the discovery of these recorded proceedings (the foregoing old Academy history) by Mr. Alexander A. Edgar of this place. Even now there is nothing giving title to the township of Woodbridge other than these memorable proceedings. However, we suppose that will prove sufficient as the ground was obtained from the first Presbyterian Church and that corporation has no disposition to take advantage of the legal technicality involved."

The above article appeared at the time when the town was erecting a new "Graded School" on School Street and which is in use today.

The Fourth resolution, "To adjourn....and meet at candle light" was prophetic of the fading light of the old Academy, for at the adjourned meeting of the Trustees, held April 2, 1849, the following resolutions were passed:

> "Resolved: That there be a meeting held in the Academy on Monday the 9th at 5 o'clock P. M. for the purpose of taking into consideration the Building of a schoolhouse."--1

This meeting was held in due course and the following resolutions passed:

> "Resolved: That there be a New Building erected for a schoolhouse.

1 Trustees' Minute Book

"Resolved: That a Committee of Three persons Thomas Edgar, James Bloodgood, and Alexander Brown to procure a lot and

Resolved: That the Building stand with the end to the Street.

Resolved: That Four, E. B. Freeman, James Bloodgood, Alexander Brown, Alexander A. Edgar be a committee to superintend the Building of the Same.

Resolved: That the building committee report progress at the next meeting."--1

By April 20 the following year, it had been definitely decided to sell the old school, have it moved away and build the new Academy on its site. This was done, the building being bought by Isaac Inslee for $70.00 on 60 days credit and:

"removed to a lot immediately adjoining Mr. George Lasslett's residence, where it stands to this day."--2

This property is known on the Assessor's map as Lot 30, Block 542A, Main Street, Woodbridge, and is on the opposite side of the street from the new "State Theatre." Many old residents will remember the edifice as "the old Armstrong building." It was torn down a few years ago, being unfit for occupancy as a dwelling, and also a fire menace.

District No. 5 seems to have joined with the Academy district No. 6, for on March 8, 1851, a meeting of the citizens

1 Trustees' Minute Book
2 History of Union and Middlesex County, New Jersey Clayton, p. 567

of "School District No. 6 and 5" was held April 7, the same year:

> "At the annual meeting held this day to elect trustees according to the new school law (etc.) the following persons were then elected trustees for the time as follows:
> Ellis B. Freeman for three years
> Jothm Goddington for two years
> Randolph Goddington for one year."--1
>
> "It was then moved and carried that Ellis B. Freeman be secretary and treasurer."--2

The new academy was erected that fall and became known later as "The downtown school." More will be said about this building in another chapter.

1 Trustees' Minute Book
2 Ibid

CHAPTER IV

SUMMARY

JANE STORER'S BOOK

Jane Storer's Book 1809-1810. General description and detailed description with extracts.

Trustees of the Academy, 1843. Thomas H. Morris and Anna Mariah Stansbury teach at the Academy. Trustees examine the school every six weeks. Improvements in the school furniture are made 1848.

Cash items from the minute book, showing cost of the books and stationery used in the Academy are given. Rates are fixed for renting out the school for special purposes 1846.

Charles B. Read is appointed teacher and tuition charges are fixed, 1848.

The Presbyterian Church authorities claim title to the land on which the Academy was erected.

April 9, 1849, steps were taken to erect a new building to replace the old Academy. The old building is sold to Isaac Inslee and removed to a lot on Main Street.

First Board of three trustees are elected under the new law, April 7, 1851.

CHAPTER V

THE ELM TREE INSTITUTE
or
MORRIS ACADEMY

Second only in importance to the old Woodbridge Academy was the Elm Tree Institute (formerly known as the Elm Tree Inn). In later years it became known as the Morris Academy and enjoyed a wide reputation for efficiency.

The building, on its original site, has been remodelled by changing the old colonial front to a modern style and is used now as a private residence, No. 531 Rahway Avenue.

> "It originally was an 'Inn' but 'was opened as a high school by Professor James Stryker in the year 1822, and for many years was supported by the inhabitants.....After Professor Stryker relinquished it, Mr. Marshall took it in charge, but in a short time it was sold and Mr. George Clinch purchased the property and immediately raised the building and made it more desirable for the purposes of a school. He afterwards sold it to Thomas H. Morris, Esquire, and it was then changed to the name of the Elm Tree Institute."--1

A number of old inhabitants who attended the Morris Academy fifty years ago are still living and are fond of relating many interesting incidents dealing with their boyish escapades. They agree that Schoolmaster Morris was severe, but just; that he was an excellent teacher and demanded their best efforts. One of the most amusing stories is told by

1 History of Union and Middlesex Counties, N. J. p. 567

Mr. Horace Drake of Main Street, Woodbridge, who attended the Morris Academy as a small boy. There was a small hole in the floor near the desk of one of the boys through which, during a propitious moment, a string was passed into the basement having attached to it a piece of metal, the other end being held by the boy who appeared absorbed in the study of his lessons.

When all was quiet and Schoolmaster Morris was seated at his desk on the platform, a gentle tinkle, tinkle, was heard. Master Morris looked up quietly and gave a severe glance around the room over the top of his spectacles. Not a movement could he see. The sound ceased. Could the Master's ears have deceived him? No! Another twitch at the string--a louder tinkle. This time the professor gave a surreptitious look around to locate the sound and catch the culprit causing it. No suspicious movement could be observed. All the boys had their eyes glued to their books. This could not go on. Another pause--tinkle, tinkle, again. From the desk the schoolmaster stepped down and in a nonchalant manner carelessly strolled around the room, hands behind his back, a piece of rawhide gently swaying behind, waiting to be brought into action. It was no use, the small boy's foot was on his end of the string and no incriminating evidence could be found. So it went on for nearly the whole

morning--pause--tinkle, tinkle--pause--tinkle, tinkle.

At last the schoolmaster took off his spectacles, laid them carefully on the desk in front of him, wiped his brow with his handkerchief and then rapped for attention. All heads came up and blank faces waited for what was to come.

"Boys," said the professor, "many times during the morning I have heard a tinkling noise and I have done my best to locate it, but have failed. Now, I know it is caused by someone in this room, but who is the culprit, I do not know. I acknowledge my defeat. If the boy who is the originator of the trick will stand up and confess, I will forgive him and we'll make a fresh start for the rest of the day."

A roar went up from the class as the culprit stood up and explained his little device, the professor laughing with them.

However, he was as good as his word, so with a few words of advice, topped off with a homily, he said, "Now, boys, the fun is over. Let us all get down to work."

The picture of the "Institute" on page 46a was made from a pen-and-ink drawing by Mr. Llewellyn Holden, Art Instructor in Woodbridge High School, and was copied from an old Daguerreotype in the possession at this time

of the DeRussy family, descendants of Mr. Thomas H. Morris, the old schoolmaster.

The upper picture was taken during the summer of 1933, and shows the old "Institute" as it is today--a private residence, apartment style. The building is in an excellent state of preservation and gives every appearance of being useful for many years to come.

The following advertisement, appearing in the New Jersey Advocate and Middlesex and Essex Advertiser, Vol. IV No. 4, published in Rahway, New Jersey, March 28, 1826, gives in prospectus form the curriculum offerings of the Elm Tree Institute, called in the advertisement, Woodbridge Seminary. How many students availed themselves of such a remarkably rich course of study, or whether or not the project definitely materialized, is difficult to say because of lack of corroboratory evidence. However, the ambitious program is worth presenting.

"The New Jersey Advocate and Middlesex
and Essex Advertiser"

Woodbridge Seminary
(Elm Tree Institute)
New Jersey

James Stryker, A. M., Principal of the Woodbridge Academy, and the Rev. John T. Halsey, A. M., of Newbury, propose to open the above-named In-

stitution at Woodbridge, New Jersey on Monday, the 17th day of April next. All the preparatory branches of science necessary to inform the enlightened farmer, mechanic, merchant, lawyer, physician, or divine, will be embraced within the course of instruction, viz: The Latin, Greek, Hebrew, English, French and Spanish Languages; Arithmetic, embracing Bookkeeping; Logarithms and Algebra, Trigonometry and Geometry, with a practical application to Mensuration and Surveying; Navigation, Natural Philosphy and Chemistry, illustrated by experiments for which suitable apparatus is provided; Botany, Mineralogy, and Geology, with the use of a Cabinet; Geography, ancient and modern, including the use of globes and the construction of Maps; History, particularly of the United States; Evidences of Christianity, Biblical Recitations, Constitution of the United States, etc. Besides the apparatus already mentioned, a Library will be attached to the Institution for the use of the Students.

The Principals have been engaged for some time past, at considerable expense, in preparing a building suitable for their purpose, and will have completed the whole by the time proposed.

The Students' Hall is a spacious apartment; the lodging rooms are numerous and admit free circulation of air; and in the rear, ground is assigned for a campus or field for recreation.

Woodbridge is one of the most pleasant and healthy villages in the Union. It is situated midway between New Brunswick and Elizabethtown; and presents a variety of easy and agreeable connections with the cities of New York and Philadelphia.

Terms: Two sessions in a year--the summer session commencing between the middle of April and first of May, and the winter session commencing between the middle of October and the first of November.

Boarding per session	$60.00
Washing	5.00
Tuition for Jr. pupils	10.00
" " Sr. "	14.00

Five per cent deduction upon payments made in advance. The French, Spanish, and Hebrew are extra charges of $5.00 per session. Books, Stationery and Fuel are furnished at the lowest rates. Bed and Bedding are provided by the pupils.

There will be two vacations; the first in April, the last in October, and annually about the first of October, an Examination of the Seminary, a distribution of Premiums, and Public Speaking. A reasonable allowance will be made to those boarders from the vicinity who spend the weekly recess at home.

A good school will also be maintained at the Academy at the present prices, under the daily superintendence of the Principals for the character of which they pledge themselves to the public.

The principals, having the direction of respectable seminaries for several years, are already before the public and hence deem it almost unnecessary to offer any references for character, yet in conformity with established usage, they have selected the following names from among the many they are privileged to use: Reverend William Harris, D. D., President, Columbia College, New York; Reverend James Carnahan, D. D., President, Nassau Hall, New Jersey; Charles Davies, A. M. Professor Mathematics and Natural Philosphy, United

States Military Academy, West Point; Hugh Taylor, Esquire, Georgia; Reverend Luther Halsey, A. M., Professor Nassau Hall, New Jersey; Reverend Thomas McAuley, D. D., L. L. D., New York; William Forest, A. M., New York; F. S. Beattie, M. D., Professor Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia; His Excellency H. Johnson, Governor of Louisianna.

Within the limited compass of an advertisement, the principals cannot enter into all the details of their plan.

It is perfectly obvious that the formation of a Family Circle in which the habits, the pursuits, the recreations of the students will be under direction and constant superintendence must be attended with pre-eminent advantage. Suffice it to say, that the mode of instruction will be of that improved and efficient kind which is calculated to prepare a youth for the important duties of life; and to this end the health of his body, as well as the improvement of his mind, his interests for Eternity, as well as for Time, will be scrupulously regarded."

The date of this advertisement, 1826, does not coincide with the date given in the "History of Union and Middlesex Counties for the opening of the Elm Tree Institute by Mr. James Stryker, which is 1822, and yet the "Seminary" and the "Institute" must have been identical. While Mr. Stryker was still principal of the Woodbridge Academy he must have been preparing for his new venture in partnership with the Reverend Halsey.

No other building in the town at the time could have lent itself to remodelling for school purposes so well as

the old Elm Tree building which:

> "The principals have been engaged for some time past at considerable expense in preparing."

We may feel justified in considering the Seminary advertised in the Rahway newspaper, March 15, 1826, and the Elm Tree Institute--later the Morris Academy--to be one and the same.

The prospectus set forth so alluringly by the projectors of the new educational enterprise left nothing to be desired. Classical, Scientific, and Business courses are suggested therein.

The "Cabinet" of rocks and minerals and the "Library" seemingly were unusual as equipment and were worth special mention.

Public Speaking and the distribution of Premiums (prizes) were part of regular "Closing Exercises" at that period. The last part of the Advertisement must have been very attractive to the youth of the day.

The quality of instruction must have been of the best, for Dally in his "History of Woodbridge" refers to the school as his "Alma Mater."

With such a formidable list of references, from an "Esquire" to a governor of a State, there could be no question regarding the "tone" of the new educational institution.

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY

THE ELM TREE INSTITUTE OR MORRIS ACADEMY

The Elm Tree Institute, later the Morris Academy, had a wide reputation as an educational institution.

Schoolmaster Morris was noted as an excellent teacher, severe but just. Horace Drake tells a story to illustrate the character of Morris.

Llewellyn Holden's pen-and-ink sketch of the Institute made from a Daguerreotype shows the old building in early days.

An extract, copied from the New Jersey Advocate and Middlesex and Essex Advertiser, a newspaper printed in Rahway, 1826, announces the opening of the Institute as a Seminary and gives, in much detail, the educational offerings with rates of tuition.

The author of "History of Woodbridge" (Dally) claims the Institute as his "Alma Mater."

#531 Rahway Ave.
Present aspect of old
Elm Tree Institute.
(1933)

Elm Tree Institute
Built [illegible]
by L. [illegible]

CHAPTER VI

TEXT BOOKS IN COLONIAL TIMES

and

LEGISLATION FOR SCHOOLS

The following extract is taken from Murray's "History of Education in New Jersey." It is quoted by Murray from an account furnished by Mr. George A. Plimpton of New York City whose collection of early textbocks is perhaps unsurpassed.

> "Up to the time of the Revolution the textbooks used in the common schools of New Jersey were very limited.
>
> "It is quite possible that some of the early settlers may have brought with them copies of the horn book--the first things which were put into the hands of children to teach them the alphabet."--1

Dilworth's Spelling Book and the New England Primer seemed to have been used throughout all New Jersey and no doubt copies reached Woodbridge.

> "Dilworth was quite a prolific author and his spelling book and arithmetic were very largely imported before the Revolutionary War.
>
> "In 1783 Noah Webster brought out his spelling book and subsequently other reading books which were for many years widely used, supplementing Dilworth and the primers.

1 History of Education in New Jersey--Murray
Circular of Information, No. 1, 1899
United States Bureau of Education

"In 1840, a series of readers by C. W. Sanders appeared, the first to follow the present system of grading, first, second, third and fourth."--1

These readers were used in the Woodbridge Academy and appear in the "Cash Book" as having been purchased.

"The arithmetic published in this country, however, was by Nicholas Pike and it appeared in 1788."

"Up to the time of the Revolution, Geography was not taught in New Jersey. The first American geography was that of Jedediah Morse which was published in 1791.

"English Grammar was studied very little in the schools of New Jersey before the Revolutionary War. Whatever textbooks were used, were English.....different editions of Lindley Murray's Grammar were published until 1840 or 1850.

"In the early days, no textbooks on Penmanship were used by the pupils; the teacher had a set copy from which the pupils worked.

"Rose's arithmetic, by a teacher of Perth Amboy is interesting, chiefly because he printed the answer in the book in letters instead of figures. The teacher alone was furnished with the following key to the cryptograms:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0
p e r t h a m b o y "--2

The ordinary district school, with extremely few exceptions, in the early colonial period conformed to the following description:

"The log schoolhouse of the time was a building approximately sixteen feet square. At

1 History of Education in New Jersey--Murray
2 Murray--Op. Cit.

one end of the single room was a huge fireplace, the sole source of heat, even in the coldest weather. Windows were made by sawing off an occasional log and covering the aperture with sheepskin or oiled paper. Along one side of the wall, underneath the window, was a rough desk which provided a place for older pupils to write. Other pupils were seated upon rough slab benches. They arose when classes were called, stood facing the master and carefully toeing the mark which he had set for the formation of the line of pupils. To read, and in some cases, to write, and to work arithmetic were the things taught in the schools.

"Discipline was harsh, even cruel. The raw hide and the hickory stick were in constant use.

"The hours were long--from eight in the morning until six in the afternoon, with a recess of two hours for lunch."--1

Legislation for Schools

"Education of Colonial days existed primarily for religious ends. The school was an auxiliary of the Church and the curriculum reflected this religious purpose."--2

In the State Constitution of New Jersey 1776, no provision was made for education. In 1816, an effort to begin a State Fund was made by providing an annual appropriation of $15000 to be invested in six per cent United States Bonds.--3

1 New Jersey, A History--The American Historical Society, Incorporated
2 Woody--Q. E. in New Jersey
3 Laws of New Jersey--1816-1817

In 1820 townships were empowered to levy a tax for educational ends, but excepting in 1830-1831, money so raised was used solely to educate:

> "such poor children as are paupers belonging to said township, and the children of such poor parents resident in said township as are, or shall be, in the judgment of said committee, unable to pay for schooling the same."--1

The law of 1829, authorized an annual appropriation of $20,000 from the income of the school fund, (or, if such source was not sufficient, to draw upon the treasurer to make up the deficiency), and distribute to counties on the basis of tax paid by the county. Townships were authorized to determine:

> "by the vote of the town meeting so assembled, whether or not any additional amount shall be raised by said township by tax or otherwise, for the election of a township school committee and three district trustees to have immediate care of the schools."--2

The first mention of such a committee for Woodbridge appears on the town records under date April 12, 1830.

> "By vote--school committee--Simeon Mundy, Ralph M. Crowell, Peter Edgar, Robert Lee, William F. Manning, Edgar Freeman, Richard Bloomfield.

The law of 1829 also stated that teachers were to be licensed by the township committee. These licenses were

1 Laws of New Jersey, 1820--125--6 1830--120
1831--146

2 Woody. Op. Cit.

good for one year and could be revoked at any time by the Committee.

In 1848:

> "the townships were authorized to appoint a town Superintendent upon whom should devolve all the duties formerly performed by the township Committees."--1

In the appendix will be found a list of these officials who served in Woodbridge Township, beginning with James M. Brewster the first one to be elected.

> "This form of supervision was ineffective. The great number of town superintendents made impossible any uniformity of details. There were two hundred and fifty such officers in the state in 1867."--2

This office was abolished by legislation in 1866-67 --3

At one time denominational and parochial schools received part of the State School Funds but the section of the law permitting this was repealed in 1866.

> "Rivalries and jealousies flamed up and many difficult and embarrassing questions came before the State Superintendent of Schools.
>
> "So difficult was the administration of the law, and especially Section 12, that the Superintendent in 1866 recommended the repeal of the latter, which was accomplished."--4

1 N. J. Laws. 72d Leg., 4th Sec., p. 146 (from New Jersey--A History. American History Soc.
2 New Jersey School Report--1879--p. 55
3 New Jersey Laws 1866--p. 971
4 Woody--Q. E. in New Jersey--p. 377

"After public funds were withdrawn as a means of support, many of the church schools languished or even became defunct. Some became public schools."--1

"The Legislature of 1871 enacted the law which made the schools of New Jersey entirely free. The important provisions of this law were later (1876) included as amendments to the constitution so that the State Legislature could not (1) appropriate or donate any school money for the 'use of any society, association or corporation' or (2) pass any 'private, local or special laws' providing for the management and support of free public schools, but must maintain and 'provide an efficient system of free public schools for the instruction of all children in the State between the ages of five and eighteen years."--2

In 1855 the Trenton Normal School was established and in 1866 The State Board of Education came into being. The year 1867 was marked by legislation recasting the whole school system. The powers and duties of the State Board of Education were clearly defined, as were those of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

The law also specified the manner of appointing County Superintendents, how they should be compensated and also their powers and duties.

The old-time district trustee system, still remembered by many of us, was established. There were to be three members on each board of trustees, one of whom was to be the "District

1 Woody--Q. E. in New Jersey--p. 377
2 New Jersey Laws, 1871, Chap. D, VII (New Jersey, A History--Am. Hist. Soc)

Clerk," and their powers and duties were enumerated.

In 1884 the Compulsory Education law was enacted, and in 1894 the Township Act was passed when all the small school districts within the township became united under one board of education (excepting the Boroughs and Cities.) This year was also the beginning of the era of free text-books and supplies.

It is reasonable to suppose that school legislation has not ceased; that each type of school system is adapted to its own period and that as social and economic changes occur, the forces that have caused educational developments in the past will operate again. What the type of organization of the future will be is hard to conjecture, but of a certainty there can be no reversion to old and worn-out systems, but, rather, to more economical units of administration under whatever name they may appear.

CHAPTER VI

SUMMARY

TEXT BOOKS IN COLONIAL TIMES and LEGISLATION FOR SCHOOLS

Textbooks in Colonial times were very limited. Dilworth's Speller, New England Primer, Dilworth's Arithmetic, Noah Webster's Speller and Readers, Sander's Readers, Nicholas Pike's Arithmetic, Morse's Geography, Murray's Grammar and Rose's Arithmetic were all in use.

The ordinary district school was usually about sixteen feet square, built of logs and furnished with a few rough, home-made desks placed around the walls of the room for writing and rude slab benches, without backs, for other purposes. Discipline was enforced by corporal punishment. School hours were very long. Education in early Colonial times was mainly religious.

In the Constitution of New Jersey, 1776, no provisions were made for education. A state school fund was founded in 1816. In 1820 townships were empowered to levy a tax for educational purposes. Law of 1829 specified an appropriation of $20,000 from income of the school fund for schools, and townships were authorized to raise, by tax, additional amounts required to appoint a Township School Committee and three district trustees. Teachers had to be licensed by the school committee.

In 1848 town superintendents replaced the School Committee. Town superintendents abolished in 1866 and replaced by County Superintendents. Private schools received state aid until 1866. New Jersey schools were made entirely "free" in 1871. New Jersey State Normal School established in 1855. State school system was remodeled in 1867. The "Three Trustee" District Schools, with a District Clerk, were established in 1867. Compulsory Education Act was passed in 1884. Township Act was passed in 1894, making the township the unit of administration and introducing free textbooks and supplies.

CHAPTER VII

OTHER SCHOOLS

The Academy District School--No. 24

This building, a one-room edifice with a very large vestibule, long known as the Downtown School, was erected in the fall of 1851 on the site that had been occupied by the old Woodbridge Academy, and served districts five and six. The first trustees were Ellis S. Freeman, elected for three years; Jotham Coddington for two years; and Randolph Coddington for one year.

The first mention of any teachers appears in the Board cash account when R. C. Cyphors received $62.00 in September, 1851, and in the following February Miss E. Conklin was paid $55.00. Other amounts were paid to them at irregular intervals. Mr. Cyphers left his position in December 1855, and was succeeded by Mr. B. C. Hopkins, who was paid $110 per quarter. Other teachers mentioned in the records are Samuel Moore, Clorinda Bloodgood, Dwight Kegwin, John Kelly, Charles O. Holmes, Harriet Coddington, T. J. Dally, B. B. Yocum, G. G. Hancock and D. Sprague, the last named closing the list in 1874.

At one time the district is referred to in the records as No. 3, and in 1872 it is called District No. 24 for the first time, which number it retained until it merged with

the Strawberry Hill and Jefferson Districts, to erect the new graded school in 1876.

The school, like others at the time, was supported by state funds and surplus revenues, township tax raised at a fixed amount per pupil according to the census annually taken (which in 1863 was $2.00 per head), the free-school-lands' fund, and tuition fees.

The minutes of the school meetings are very meagre, many of them for a number of years simply recording the election of trustees and then adjournment. At the annual meeting of April 2, 1866:

> "It was voted that a tax of fifteen cents per month be levied and collected from each and every scholar per month by the teacher."--1

For many years the township superintendent was Dr. Ellis B. Freeman, one of whose duties was to examine candidates for teaching positions. A young man appeared at his home to apply for a vacancy in the school, but upon being examined, he failed rather miserably, so the old doctor used to tell, and left, very much dejected. However, after an interval of two weeks he appeared again and requested a re-examination, explaining that his previous failure was because he had just been married. Unfortunately, for him, some one else had received the appointment, probably some

1 The District Minute Book.

one who had no such cause for worry and mental confusion. Let us hope the young man was more successful elsewhere.

Near the old school, stood the ancient Presbyterian meeting house. Both of the buildings were eventually sold, Mr. Thomas H. Morris buying the latter and removing it to the rear of his property on Rahway Avenue, where it remained for many years until torn down.

The school building was moved after the merging of districts in 1876, to a lot adjacent to the old "Morris House" on Rahway Avenue, almost directly opposite to the old Pike House or Woodbridge Hotel, where it was used as the headquarters of the "Woodbridge Independent Hour" newspaper which in 1877 carried the following advertisement in its columns:

"Positive Sale

The sale of the Academy and Jefferson School properties stands adjourned to Monday, April 23, at 4 o'clock, P. M. at the new Public School Building, at which time the sale will positively take place.

William H. Berry }
Charles A. Campbell } Trustees
Howard Valentine, Clerk
Woodbridge New Jersey, April 5, 1877."

Later, the old building was used as a Colored Baptist Church; then as Zimmerman and Edgar's Plumbing Shop. It was again sold to Mr. Owen Dunigan, another plumber, who moved it further up the avenue to a site on the banks of

Heard Brook where it soon fell into complete decay and was demolished. The picture page 394 shows the building undergoing the wrecking process.

Strawberry Hill and Jefferson Schools
Districts No. 7 and No. 25

The record book containing the minutes of the meetings of the Strawberry Hill trustees dates from 1841. When the school, the second one on the famous hill, was erected seems not to be known. The condition of the book, because of its fine state of preservation, would suggest that there might have been earlier records. The only entry on the minutes for 1841, records the election of five trustees, viz: Augustus Coddington, David N. Demarest, Peter Melick, Ephraim Cutter, and James M. Tappen.

Nothing of particular interest appears until November 1, 1847, when it was ordered that the school house be whitewashed inside and outside, and that shutters be made for the school house windows.

There was good reason for the shutters, for payments for putty and glass appear very frequently in the Cash Book. An item of interest in this same book shows receipts from a concert amounting to $27.25. This amount may not have been net, for it is recorded that the trustees paid $3.00 "for Passage of 12 Vocalists." It does not state, however, that the concert was held in the school house.

Until 1849, a female had taught the school, but in that year a motion was made and carried that:

> "A male teacher shall be employed for 1 quarter (3 months) and that the said teacher be paid $75.00 to commence April 30, 1849."--1

This fortunate individual was Mr. S. E. Ensign, father of the present E. C. Ensign, Secretary of the Board of Education, who was also one of the Trustees of the school district.

The cash book shows that Mr. Ensign was paid $1.75 by Mr. Jeremiah Dally, the Treasurer, for one-half dozen Sanders 3d Readers, purchased by him at 14s (a shilling was equal to twenty-five cents.) Probably these books were for the use of "Poor Children." He was also paid thirty-one cents for more glass and putty.

Two years afterwards, a spring was ordered to be dug in the hill at the rear of the school house, "for the convenience of the school." No doubt kind neighbors had been supplying drinking water for many years and so must have considered this a progressive movement on the part of the Trustees.

The school was evidently increasing in numbers, for on April 4, 1853, a motion was made and carried at the annual meeting, that:

1 District Minute Book.

> "We have the upper room of our School House lathed and plastered."--1

which was accordingly done under the supervision of Mr. Ensign.

In the following year, a subscription list was opened for the purpose of raising funds to fence in the school property, the list being circulated by Mr. Hampton Cutter and John H. Price.

The following gentlemen gave one dollar each, which appears to have been the maximum amount solicited:

Hampton Cutter	William Cutter
S. E. Ensign	David Demarest
Peter Melick	Henry V. Williams
William E. Cutter	David Ayres
William Harned	John H. Price

William L. Burke--2

The year 1860 saw an important step taken by the Trustees, for at the annual meeting held April 2d that year at the school house, a motion was passed that:

> "The School Superintendent and two Trustees be requested to have this School District incorporated."--3

and a second motion added, that:

> "The Trustees be requested to call a meeting of the legal voters in said District as soon as they incorporate, for the purpose of taking some measures to improve the School in said District."--4

1 District Minute Book.
2 Ibid
3 Ibid
4 Ibid

Two days later it was resolved:

> "to apply to the Town School Superintendent to have the said District incorporated by the name of Franklyn School."--1

Events now began to move rapidly, for at a meeting held in the Strawberry Hill School House:

> "According to notice given by the Trustees of Jefferson, the adjoining district, setting forth the time and place and purpose of said meeting and set up ten days or more in three public places before the meeting on Thursday, May 24, 1860 at 8 o'clock p. m."--2

> "The following votes were passed by a two-thirds vote of the taxable inhabitants so assembled. Voted that the Trustees are authorized to sell at public sale the Strawberry Hill School House and the land attached, belonging to this district, and to appropriate the money received from the sale of said House and land to School purposes in this District, Voted that the Trustees be requested to ascertain and to report at our next meeting what suitable lots can be bought, and the price asked for them, for the purpose of building a School House thereon. Voted that we raise by taxation on all property in Jefferson School District for School purposes, This year the sum of $800 to be raised in addition to the money apportioned to said District by the State and Town."--3

The result of this important meeting was the purchase of three lots of William Harned:

> "situated on the South side of Main road, between the house occupied by Joseph Gilman and property of William Bedman Jr.

1 District Minute Book
2 Ibid
3 Ibid

for the sum of $375."--1

In October the same year, a meeting of the Jefferson School District was held at Valentine's Hall and a building plan presented which had been prepared by a New Brunswick architect. The plan was accepted and the Trustees authorized to erect the new school.

Figures from the cash book of William Inslee, Treasurer, of the Trustees of Jefferson District show:

"July 7-----1860	To Cash paid Alanson Newton for surveying and deed.....	$ 5.00
	To postage.....	.06
June 22---- "	To William Harned for lot of ground 53/100 acre.....	375.00
Dec.------- "	To Cash for plan of School House.....	8.00
April 11---1861	Insurance on School House.....	6.00
" 13--- "	Recording Deed.....	.75
" 13--- "	Carting 1 load of desks from Dock.....	.75
July 7----- "	By Cash received of Hampton Cutter from the sale of old school house and lot (Strawberry Hill).....	503.00"-1

In 1861, Samuel E. Ensign was Treasurer of the Board of Trustees and his records show the following receipts and disbursements on account of the new Jefferson School:

"From Ellis B. Freeman, Town Superintendent for Jefferson School House.....	$ 800.00
" W. H. Berry for Bond and Mortgage.....	1000.00
" William Inslee, April 29, Balance due District from Old School House.....	68.30
" For old posts and rails.....	2.00
Paid William B. Reid--1st payment for building School house.....	500.00
" William B. Reid 2d payment.....	500.00

1 District Minute Book.

Paid William B. Reid 3d and last payment on
School house.....$600.00
" Nathaniel Johnson for Desks, Chairs,
Tables and Blackboards..... 218.00"--1

From this time on, the Strawberry Hill School District No. 7 seems to have been merged with the Jefferson School District, the two thereafter being recorded under the title Jefferson School District.

Decidedly, an advance step had been taken by the two districts since the instructions given to the Town School Superintendent and two Trustees April 2, 1860 to:

> "improve the school in said District. (Strawberry Hill)".

There is no doubt that the conferences they must have held with the Trustees of the Jefferson District led to the union of the two districts and the erection of an "up-to-date" school building such as was built on the Harned lots.

Six years afterwards, May 14, the Trustees were instructed to dig a well and furnish a pump for the school at a cost of $120 and a girder was ordered to be placed under the ceiling "to stay the roof of the school building." It was also ordered "to put a foundation under the chimney."

It did not seem to be the custom in the early days when building a school to supply drinking water facilities for the children. The Strawberry Hill School, and also the

1 District Minute Book.

Academy, No. 24, (Downtown District School) were in this category. Children from the last mentioned building secured their drinking water from the well on the property of Mr. J. H. Thayer Martin, at the corner of Freeman Street and Rahway Avenue. At the present time, this well is covered with a large flagstone and is still to be seen.

On the following September 4, the Trustees met again on a special call for the purpose of electing a District Clerk, and Charles F. Mawbey received a unanimous vote, thereby gaining the distinction of being the first one to hold this new office in his district.

Either the contractor or the architect must have been at fault in the construction of the school to call for strengthening the building with a girder. Calculations must have gone astray.

In 1868, at the April meeting, the Secretary stated that a number of repairs had to be made and "a well had to be dug." Why the well hadn't been dug before this is not stated, but probably the neighbors had reached the breaking point and had protested to the Trustees against the clanking of the pump handle on their premises at all hours of the day by the school children and had forced action. Samuel Dally had the job done for $56.10.

The district is referred to as "School District No. 24, Woodbridge, Middlesex County," in the minutes of the Annual

Meeting held April 21, 1869 and report was made:

> "that the Girder had been put in the school house and the well dug as per order of the last Spring meeting. Also that the School was in full operation with 130 children enrolled under the care of two teachers and that the Trustees believed the school was not to be excelled in the country." 1

What a splendid report, and how proud the community must have felt when they read the statement in the newspapers, for no doubt the meeting was reported. But what of the teachers? How happy they must have felt, and how encouraged, especially the Primary room teacher who probably had a mere bagatelle of 70 or 80 youngsters on the roll.

School matters seem to have run rather smoothly until February 7, 1871, when at a meeting of the Board of Trustees held at the house of C. M. Dally:

> "It was moved and carried Whereas, as Our Funds are not sufficient to carry on the School (Jefferson) for the Coming Year, at the present expenses, Therefore resolved that the Clerk be authorized to notify J. Ward Smith, the Principal, that His Services will not be required after the First of April next as Teacher."--2

A committee was also appointed, consisting of Samuel E. Ensign and Josiah C. Cutter:

> "to procure a Female Teacher, to take Charge of the School the First of April 1871."--3

1 District Minute Book.
2 Ibid.
3 Ibid.

When Mr. Ward Smith was informed of the action of the Trustees, he at once protested, stating that he understood he was "Hired for the School Year ending July 31, 1871."

A special meeting of the Board was held to reconsider his case and it was decided to continue the gentleman "at the same rate" until the date he had mentioned. However, the minutes of the meeting read:

> "Provided that there is satisfaction given between Teacher and Trustees in performance of Duty."--1

In June of the same year, another meeting was held at the home of Mr. Dally and the following resolutions passed:

> "1st Moved and Carried that no Scholar be received from other Districts, without consent of Trustees, pay required if admitted.
> 2nd That there be 8 weeks vacation during the year, 6 in summer and 2 at the Holidays, School to be Kept open 11 Months of 4 weeks each.
> 3rd That Mr. Smith be employed until April first 1872 at the same rate ($70) per month, provided satisfaction is given--and if the funds are out, to wait awhile until collected.
> 4th As Mr. Smith of Amboy wants the School House to hold a Concert, that we let him have it but hereafter Moved and Carried that the Trustees do not let it for any purpose, as there is a Hall in the place to Hire."--2

The fine reputation of the school must have been attracting the attention of parents in the neighboring school districts and some "outside" children had been enrolled.

1 District Minute Book.
2 Ibid.

As the school was much crowded, the Trustees probably deemed the first resolution a wise move.

The second resolution is quite definite, clearly fixing the length of the school year. "The Holidays," meant Christmas Holidays.

The cloud of financial embarrassment of the previous year must have passed over, for Mr. Smith continued to give satisfaction and probably he was willing "to wait a-while" for his salary if necessary.

The fourth resolution shows the evident desire of the school authorities to cooperate with honest citizens who had gently suggested to them that they objected to such competition.

The continued growth of the school prompted a special meeting of the Trustees to be called in September "for the purpose of taking into consideration a better accommodation in the school room." With this in view:

> "It was moved and carried that the Trustees have a partition put through the Center of the Large room, making two rooms for to accommodate both Teachers."--1

Two teachers must have been occupying the room downstairs because the partition was placed in that room. Let us hope that they thoroughly appreciated the division that was made.

1 District Minute Book.

At the end of the month, Miss Fanny Kelly resigned and Miss Sardinia Frazee was elected to fill her place, at the salary of $100 per quarter. In October, Mr. Ward Smith resigned as Principal and Miss Frazee took his place at an increased salary. Miss Priscilla Davis was then made First Assistant at a salary of $115 per quarter and:

> "It was also moved and carried, as Miss Fanny Kelly has consented to return to the school; We employ her as Second Assistant at $75 per Quarter."--1

In the following year it seems that a number of scholars had left the school to attend a parish school in the district. This was unfortunate for teacher Fanny Kelly, because this decrease in enrollment caused her to be dropped from the faculty.

On the 15th of July it was decided to return to a Male Principal, and Mr. Henry Anderson's offer of $80 per month was accepted, he being engaged for a year of ten school months:

> "provided he gives satisfaction."

Another progressive step was taken in 1873, for at a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees held December 14, a motion was made:

> "to procure a Library for the school, being informed by the State Superintendent that by raising $20 by Subscription He would send the School $50 worth of Books. It was moved and carried that We raise the Amount."--2

1 District Minute Book.
2 Ibid.

Little of moment happened in connection with the schools until 1875, when a notice was given to the legal voters of the Jefferson School District No. 25, and the Academy District No. 24, to meet at the Masonic Hall on Friday, the 9th of July, for the purpose of voting on a proposition to unite in establishing and maintaining a graded school in accordance with the provisions of Sec-61 of the School Law.

At this meeting, Mr. C. W. Boynton was elected Chairman and Mr. Howard Valentine, Secretary. County Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Ralph Willis, father of the late Superintendent of Schools, H. Brewster Willis, so well known to many of the Woodbridge citizens in memories of their school days, explained the advantages that would accrue from the consolidation of the two districts and the advantages of a graded school.

The vote was polled by school districts, the:

> "Academy district No. 24, voting 19 in favor and 1 opposed, Jefferson district voting 8 in favor and 1 opposed."--1

a total of 29 votes being cast for so important a proposition.

The following gentlemen were then elected as Trustees to serve for both districts until the next annual election,

1 District Minute Book.

viz: C. W. Boynton, C. C. Dally, and C. A. Campbell.

The new consolidated district was to be known as Woodbridge School District No. 24. The action of the voters was approved by County Superintendent Ralph Willis, and by Mr. Ellis A. Apgar, State Superintendent of Public Intruction.

At the annual election which was held September 6, 1875, at the Jefferson School House, Mr. Howard Valentine was elected Trustee for three years, W. H. Berry for two years, and C. A. Campbell for one year.

The record of this election closes the old minute book which had been opened in 1841 as the record of the Strawberry Hill, No. 7, School District.

In the appendix to this thesis will be found additional interesting statistics of these school districts regarding teachers, trustees, financial reports, and a few other matters.

A new era in education had begun in the township.

CHAPTER VII

Summary

OTHER SCHOOLS

Academy district school erected 1851 had R. C. Cyphers as first teacher succeeded by B. C. Hopkins.

School was supported by various funds and tuition fees. Town Superintendent Dr. Ellis B. Freeman examined teacher candidates.

School building was moved to lower Rahway Avenue after Strawberry Hill, No. 7 and Jefferson No. 24 merged. Strawberry Hill No. 7 and Jefferson No. 24 record book dates from 1841.

Mr. S. E. Ensign appointed teacher in 1849.

Subscription list opened to build school fence. A motion was made to incorporate Strawberry Hill as Franklyn School.

Strawberry Hill school ordered to be sold, and the proceeds used to purchase property for a new school in conjunction with Jefferson.

Excerpts from cash book show costs of new school. Charles F. Mawbey, the first District Clerk.

Shortage of school funds 1871 occurred. Principal Ward Smith was to be dropped. Rules were passed relating to attendance of outsiders, tuition, vacations, school year and use of building for extra-curricular purposes.

Changes were made in the teaching personnel.

Opening of a Parish school reduced public school enrollment.

Henry Anderson made principal in 1872 and school library started in 1873.

District voted to unite with Academy No. 25 to build new graded school.

Messrs. C. W. Boynton, C. C. Dally and C. A. Campbell were to serve as trustees until next election.

Annual election was held September 1875 and Howard Valentine, W. H. Berry, C. A. Campbell elected trustees for Woodbridge District No. 24.

Old minute book ends. New era begins.

Old School. No. 1.

Showing old front and iron fence.
Note old hitching post in front.
(Figure is janitor John Ohmenhiser)

CHAPTER VIII

THE NEW GRADED SCHOOL

The time elapsing between the consolidation of the two districts, Jefferson and Academy, was a period of preparation. No doubt the town was all agog over the progressive action of the new Board of Trustees. Many an argument must have been heard in the old stores among the "cracker barrel" orators, especially in the Commoss & Ensign store, the scene of many Trustee meetings, which was located at the Southwestern corner of Amboy Avenue and Main Street, now, alas, gone the way of many other relics of Revolutionary days. Let us see what these new Trustees did.

On October 1, 1875, a notice was sent out to the legal voters of School District No. 24, that a special meeting would be held on the eleventh day of the same month at 8 o'clock p. m. at the Masonic Hall:

> "for the purpose of considering the question of locating and erecting a school building and disposing of the present school property. Signed: H. Valentine, C. A. Campbell, William H. Berry } Trustees"--1

A unanimous vote was recorded at this meeting on the question of the expediency of erecting a new building and it was decided the school should be located within the follow-

1 Minute Book. School District No. 24

ing boundaries, viz:

> "At a point beginning at Woodbridge hotel thence to Rowland's Corner, thence to store of Commoss and Ensign thence to the temperance lot and from thence to the point of beginning Woodbridge hotel on either side of the streets or within the said boundaries."--1

Two citizens, E. B. Freeman and S. E. Ensign, were appointed to act in conjunction with the trustees in locating a desirable site.

In January of the following year Mr. W. H. Berry reporting for the committee previously appointed to view lands, stated that two suitable plots had been found at a reasonable price and that the committee suggested the building:

> "should be, say 71 x 112 feet, two stories, six apartments, each arranged to be thrown into one room at will by raising the partitions composed of large sash, the lower * half of glass and capable of seating on each floor 400 scholars, and in their opinion, would cost from twenty to twenty-five thousand dollars."

The committee deemed it inadvisable to erect a building to accommodate a smaller number and thought such a building would answer the demands of the district for at least ten years.

The action of the committee was approved and bonds were ordered issued to defray the cost of the work, not to

1 Minute Book. School District No. 24

*. Probably an error because the lower part was blackboard. J.H.L.

exceed twenty-five thousand dollars.

One can imagine the scathing criticism of the oldtimers at the extravagant notions of these new Trustees regarding a schoolhouse. The audacity of these men in wasting public money in the erection of such an enormous building that never could be filled, was condemned by many a circle of "stick-whittlers" and "saw-dust box" experts, we may be sure.

However, up-to-date business men with foresight more than usual had envisioned a greater Woodbridge and knew what they were doing, so they quietly went on with their work, although a petition was received signed by six citizens protesting against such community suicidal proceedings.

The site finally decided upon was the one offered by Mr. James Valentine for the sum of $2000. Sealed proposals for the erection of the new school building were received the following March, Messrs. Manning and Randolph getting the carpenter contract for $9700, and Mr. William B. Vanvoast the mason work for $7124.

The work of erecting the building went on rapidly and on July 7, 1876, Mr. Henry Anderson was appointed as principal. Later in the same month Miss Sarah E. Eldridge was appointed vice-principal, and Mrs. Kate A. Moore teacher. In August, Miss Emma Mills received her appointment as a teacher in the new school and "Mr. J. F. Clarkeson's bid of school

desks was accepted." A clock was also purchased from E. Howard & Company of Broadway, New York, for the sum of $600, and a bell from Meneley & Limberley at a price of 30¢ per pound, the weight to be 1500 pounds.

At last the school was finished and at a meeting of the Board of Trustees held in the new school January 6, 1877:

> "the clerk was directed to request the Clergy of the town to conduct the dedicatory exercises of the school January 20 at 1:30 p. m., also to invite the State and County Superintendents to participate in the exercises."--1

On motion, Gottlieb Stoebbe was appointed janitor, receiving $25 per month for the first month which later was increased to $360 per year.

The following news items have been taken from a copy of a Woodbridge newspaper, the Independent Hour, dated August 17, 1876:

> "A Bell for the Public School-Trustees considered a bell for the new school being erected. 'Of Course have a bell, for the building would be incomplete without a bell in the tower; and we never heard of a public school building, college or other educational edifice without such facilities for calling the students to books or dismissing them to their happy homes."--2

An editorial note in an issue of the same paper for August 31, 1876, says referring to the new clock:

1 Minute Book. School District No. 24
2 Ibid

"Let two things be observed--get a good clock, and keep it in good time."--1

The old clock is in good running order still and keeps excellent time.

Independent Hour--September 21, 1876
Bell for the Public School

"The bell purchased by the Trustees for this building landed in this place on Monday. It is a Meneley bell weighing 1500 pounds. Upon the outside of the bell are raised inscriptions reading as follows:

School District No. 24 A. D. 1876
Howard Valentine, D. C.)
William H. Berry)Trustees
Charles A. Campbell)
Manning & Randolph--Carpenters
W. B. Vanvoast & Co.--Masons
"Wisdom is better than gold."--2

What a splendid memorial to these men! For nearly sixty years the golden-tongued bell has served the town people faithfully and well. What memories cling around the old bell and clock! How many of us have climbed the steep stairs up through the tower and then through the wooden trap to peep out of the openings in the clock face and view the landscape stretching out at our feet! Scores of initials of school boys and girls are carved in the interior woodwork in the mechanism room. But hark! What is that whirring noise? See, the great hammer is rising slowly. The clock is about to

1 Minute Book. School District No. 24
2 Ibid

strike. Crash! Crash! 'Tis twelve o'clock. We must hurry down before the principal catches us.

Independent Hour
November 2, 1876

"A handsome spire was placed upon the tower of the public school building on Monday last. The spire supports a gilt vane seven feet in length, and below the vane large gilt letters."--1

November 9, 1876

"A large and excellent clock from the factory of Messrs. E. W. Howard & Company of New York, who made the Tribune clock and are the best clock makers in the country, was put in running order, in the tower of the Public School building yesterday.

"The works are placed 35 feet from the dials which are 6 feet in length which prevents the works being affected by the shaking of the tower when the bell is being rung. The clock cost $600 and is well worth the money."--2

November 23, 1876

"Mr. J. F. Clarkson has obtained the contract among numerous other applicants to furnish desks for the teachers and scholars in our public school building. The Scholars desk is known as the "Victor Hadley Brothers & Kane of Chicago."--3

"When not in use, the lid is let down and the desk locked up, thus keeping the books safe and free from dust and dirt; the desk when locked up being only about a foot in width.

1 Woodbridge Independent Hour, November 2, 1876.
2 Ibid. November 9.
3 Ibid. November 23.

One hundred and seventy of these desks
have been ordered together with five
Office desks for the teachers."--1

January 18, 1877

"The inhabitants of Woodbridge are respectfully invited to be present at the
Dedicatory Exercises
of the new
Public School Building
Woodbridge, New Jersey
on
Saturday, January 20, 1877 at
1:30 o'clock p. m."--2

The paper also carried a notice to the legal voters of a meeting to authorize the Trustees to dispose of the present "public schools and school property in the district."

Among those present at the interesting ceremonies were Mr. Ellis Apgar, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, New Brunswick; Colonel A. W. Jones, Editor of the Independent Hour; and Mr. Anderson, Sr., Superintendent of Public Schools in Rahway.

Mr. Howard Valentine presented the keys of the building to the principal, Mr. Henry Anderson, and in his remarks stated that the cost of the building and the ground was about $25,060 so far and that there was a deficit of about $60.00 over and above the appropriations. Mr. W. H. Berry stated that $2300 more would be necessary to complete the building

1 Woodbridge Independent Hour, November 23, 1876.
2 Ibid, January 20, 1877.

throughout and put a proper fence around it.

Immediately following the exercises, a meeting of the Trustees and voters of the district was held in the school at which Mr. Hampton Cutter, President of the Board of Trustees of the First Presbyterian Church of Woodbridge, entered a formal protest for, and in behalf of, said Board of Trustees, against the disposition in any way of the property known as the Academy School property, claiming said property as belonging to the Presbyterian Church and

> "that the title and ownership in and to the said property had never been parted with on the part of said church."

Notwithstanding this protest, the Academy property was sold March 11, 1880 to Mr. Joseph H. T. Martin at private sale for the sum of $700 on the understanding that a public street was to be cut through it within a year and that if used for anything else he would have to pay $300 additional.

The Jefferson School was sold at public auction to Mr. David P. Carpenter for $375, the building to be moved from the lot within ninety days.

The fate of the "Downtown" District School has been told in a previous chapter. The Jefferson School was moved to the lot on which the Middlesex Water Company's Building now stands at the west corner of Main Street and Pearl Street and was used as a feed store, then as a Chinese Laundry and

was again moved to its present location opposite the Municipal Building, block No. 542A, where, dressed up in a coat of stucco, it serves as a gas, oil, and auto accessory station.

The following staff of teachers was appointed in July 1877 for the following year:

"Mr. Henry Anderson, Principal
Miss Helen R. Williams, Vice-principal
Miss Kate A. Moore
Miss Nelly A. Ensign
Miss Ida Ayres
Miss Minnie Moore."--1

The salary of the primary department was set at $300 for eleven months.

The board adopted the following schedule of rates to be effective in September for non-resident pupils.

"	A Class	$9.00	per	quarter	
	B "	8.00	"	"	
	C "	7.00	"	"	
	D "	6.00	"	"	
	E "	5.00	"	"	
	F "	4.00	"	"	"--2

The "A" Class was the highest class according to the grading.

An additional teacher, Miss Hattie Stelle, was engaged at a salary not to exceed $18.00 per month. Gottlieb Stoebbe continued as janitor.

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees held September

1 Minute Book. District No. 24
2 Ibid.

10, 1878 a motion was made and carried:

> "That the clerk notify the Principal and Teachers that when the children need books, to give them the name of the books but not to recommend them to any particular store, but let them get the books at any store where books are kept, as viz: Commos & Ensign, C. Drake's, M. A. Brown's, Mrs. Luckhurst's or elsewhere."--1

Such a motion seems to indicate that a complaint had been made by some store keeper that he was not getting his share of the textbook business.

The length of the school term was fixed at ten months by action of the Trustees on May 9, 1879, and the following June the Composite Iron Company was awarded a contract to erect an iron fence complete for the sum of $800. This fence stood for many years, being removed at last to the rear of the school lot when the grounds were graded and the present retaining wall constructed.

According to the census of August 1879, the number of children between 5 and 18 years of age in the school district was 673. Of these, the Trustees' Report of July 1, 1880, shows that 502 were enrolled in the school, the average enrollment being 289½, being a percentage of 57.6.

No reason was assigned for such a small average enrollment, but as there was no compulsory attendance law and no school official to enforce one, perhaps no better

1 Minute Book. District No. 24.

could be expected. There were seven teachers employed at this time.

A very interesting and complete financial report was presented "in accordance with the requirements of the School Law," and is herewith given:

Receipts

July 1, 1879--Balance in hands of Collector and in process of collection...	$ 1925.39
Apportionment from State Appropriation.....	2580.80
Amount raised by District Tax.....	4040.00
Amount received from other sources:	
Notes discounted.....	1919.73
Sale of School property-Academy $700 and Jefferson School $375.....	1075.00
Sale of Stove (Jefferson School.	3.44
Treasury Trustees' Free School Land.....	80.00
Total....	$11624.36

Expenditures

Amount expended for Teachers Salaries.....	$ 2770.00
" " " Janitor's "	300.00
" " " Fuel.....	190.81
" " " Incidentals.....	120.00
" " " Building and Repairing of School Property.....	1659.13
Discounted notes paid.....	3250.00
July 1, 1880--Balance in hands of Collector and in process of collecting...	2352.37
Balance in hands of W. H. Berry from sale of School Property.....	969.60
Balance in hands of C. W. Drummond, D. C. Free School Land.....	12.45
Total....	$11624.36"--1

1 Minute Book. District No. 24.

This balance of $3334.42 (total of $2352.37, $969.60, and $12.45) should be reduced, because a bond of $1000 and two coupons $70.00, due June 1, 1880, had not been presented for payment at the date of the report. As the school increased in size, the second story was finished and put into use as needed. One schoolroom, the hallway, and a cloakroom were "finished off" before the opening of school in September.

As a help to the teachers in their endeavors to enforce discipline, the Board passed the following rule January 27, 1881.

> "That we empower the teachers of the various rooms to punish the children in their rooms and if necessary to suspend them for one week, each suspension to be reported to the Trustees, and if the same child is suspended three times in one term the Trustees are to take the matter in hand, etc."--1

In March 1881 there was a Public Meeting at the schoolhouse. The amount thought to be necessary:

> "to maintain a free public school the coming year; to furnish and insure school buildings and for other current expenses of the school was $2000."--2

One of the voters suggested that $1500 might be sufficient but the larger amount was carried. This amount was supplemented by a balance in the hands of the collector a-

1 Minute Book. District No. 24.
2 Ibid.

mounting to $4811.21.

On April 16, 1881, a meeting was held at which Miss Helen R. Williams tendered her resignation as Vice-principal, to take effect at the close of the month, and Miss Eleanor S. Lott, a teacher in New Brunswick, was offered the vacancy at $50 per month:

> "provided she can be released from her present engagement."

The clerk was also directed to write to the Board of Education of New Brunswick requesting them to grant her permission to accept the position. It seems that Miss Lott could not be released by the New Brunswick Board so Miss Rebecca Shamp was engaged to teach for Miss William's unexpired term.

At the meeting of the Trustees on July 7, the same year, a letter was received from County Superintendent Ralph Willis, stating that he had received the resignation of Mr. C. A. Campbell on account of illness and had appointed Mr. Howard Valentine as his successor.

A motion was also carried:

> "That the principal and the vice-principal must hold a First Grade County or a State Certificate and that the teacher of the C Class shall hold not less than a second Grade County Certificate, and that this resolution shall take effect on and after September 1, 1881."--1

1 Minute Book. District No. 24.

The following list of applicants for teacher positions was also received:

> "Mr. E. L. Anderson for Principal, Mattie J. Thomas of Raritan, New Jersey, and Mary T. Reed of Rahway for Vice-principal, Nellie A. Ensign, Mary A. Moore, Sarah A. McEwen, Edith Scott, Carrie I. Dally, and Annie V. Miller for minor positions."--1

It was the custom for many years to have the teachers apply for their reappointment at the close of the year. It will be noticed that the higher the grade, or class, the higher the certificate. There were three grades of County Certificates and three of State Certificates, the lowest being the third grade in each class. Second and Third Grade County certificates were good only in the County of issue. First Grade County and all State Certificates were good anywhere in the State excepting the cities which had the right to give examinations and issue certificates good only in the city issuing them.

Mr. Joseph H. T. Martin stated:

> "that he had thought somewhat giving prizes to the best scholars in each room. And that he now would make the tender of $200, to the Board of Trustees to be divided up for prizes in each room as they thought proper."--2

On July 14, 1881 the following teachers were appointed for the ensuing year "in the capacity set opposite their names:"

1 Minute Book. District No. 24.
2 Ibid.

"E. L. Anderson as Principal, Salary $1000
.....Vice-Principal.....

Helen A. Ensign-teacher	C	classroom	350	
Mary A. Moore	"	D	"	300
Sarah A. McEwen	"	E	"	250
Edith Scott	"	F	"	240
Carrie I. Dally	"	G	"	230 "--1

Resolutions were also adopted on the death of Mr. Charles A. Campbell, late Trustee. Miss Mattie J. Thomas had been secured for the Vice-principalship since the last meeting at a salary of $600 and the committee appointment was confirmed.

The matter of prizes came up for discussion in September and the plan suggested by Principal E. L. Anderson was adopted:

"For the scholar having best general average, best deportment, etc., in the different divisions as follows:

One Grand Prize--For scholar making greatest improvement in whole school, End of term.....		$ 25.
1st Division-Room	A At end of term July 1	10.
	B " " " " " "	10.
	C " " " " " "	10.
	D " " " " " "	10.
	E " " " " " "	10.
	F " " " " " "	10.
2nd Division-Room	A " " " " " "	10.
	B " " " " " "	10.
	C " " " " " "	10.
	D " " " " " "	10.
	E " " " " " "	10.
	F " " " " " "	10.

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"Christmas Prizes

For scholars passing best examination

1st Division-Room	A.....	$ 10.
"	B.....	10.
"	C.....	10.
2nd Division-Room	A.....	5.
"	B.....	5.
"	C.....	5.

For best behavior till Christmas-Room C 5.
" " " " end of term " " 5.

Total of all prizes $200."

The evident practical interest of Trustee Martin was displayed in this splendid contribution for prizes and no doubt created quite a furore in the district. Such public spirited citizens were rare and, for that matter, are so today.

In October a bill for $379 was paid for "trimming for the school house in honor of President Garfield," whose death had occurred September 19 after being shot by the assassin Guiteau the previous July.

Donald McVicar received the contract "for finishing off the Clock and the N. E. Room upstairs at School House." His figure was $475.

The meeting of December 30, 1881 was held at the residence of Mr. Joseph Martin:

"It was stated that the Christmas prizes were awarded to the following scholars:

1 Minute Book. District No. 24.

Miss Sadie Brewster	1st	Division	Room	A	$10.
Miss Luella Kelly..	2nd	"	"	"	5.
Miss Mamie Clarkson	2nd	"	"	B	5.
Miss Lulu Boynton	1st	"	"	"	10.
Miss Mamie Levi	1st	"	"	C	10.
Miss Anna Hilsdorf	2nd	"	"	"	5.
Miss Emma Rohrback	for Good Behavior			G	5."--1

A motion marking an important epoch in the local school policy was also passed as follows:

> "Resolved: that we give to the scholars completing the course of study in the school a Certificate of Graduation."--2

In 1882, in accordance with the new school law, the Annual Election of Trustees was held March 21, notice having previously been posted by the District Clerk.

The following June came the momentous awarding of the Joseph Martin prizes. This was done by the full Board after examining the records of the pupils presented by the teachers, the decision being that:

> "the Prize Money donated by Mr. Joseph T. Martin should be distributed as follows:
>
> "The Grand prize of $25 to Miss Jennie Berry, Room B. Who had made the highest average and the other prizes to:

Mr. Sidney Pearson	1st	Division	Room A	--$10.
Helen Clarkson-----	2nd	"	" A	--10 .
Mabel Freeman------	1st	"	" B	-- 10.
Mamie Clarkson-----	2nd	"	" B	-- 5.
May Fink----------	2nd	"	" B	-- 5.
Mamie Levi---------	1st	"	" C	-- 10.
Annie Hilsdorf-----	2nd	"	" C	-- 10.
Annie Kimmer-------	1st	"	" D	-- 10.

1 Minute Book. District No. 24.

2 - Ibid

May Kelly----------	2nd Division-	Room	D--	$10.
Irene Clarkson------	1st "	"	E--	10.
Willie Berry--------	2nd "	"	E--	10.
Georgia Boynton-----	1st "	"	F--	10.
Kate Mahoney--------	2nd "	"	F--	10.
Belle Farron		"	G--	5.
Henry Romend		"	H--	5. " 1

Certificates were signed for those completing the course, viz:

Sidney Pearson
Sadie Brewster
Clara Melick
Lulu Bloodgood

" This is the first graduating class from the graded school."

On December 29, 1882, Mr. W. H. Berry stated that he had received an offer from Mr. B. Dunigan to purchase the Jefferson School lot on terms as follows:

> "$200 cash to close bargain. Eight hundred cash in thirty days and the balance $800 in a mortgage upon the property." 2

Mr. Berry was empowered to accept the cash and close the bargain.

On January 2, 1883, a progressive move in relation to teaching training was made at a meeting of the Board held on this date:

> "Moved and Seconded that the Trustees will expect the teachers they employ to have some Normal Training in the methods of teaching. This resolution to take effect on and after September 1, 1884. Carried." 3

1. Minute Book - District 24
2. Ibid
3. Ibid

The Trustees were thus beginning to recognize the fact that the simple possession of a teacher's certificate was not necessarily an indication that a person could teach.

At the Annual School Meeting of the district, March 20, the District Clerk had in his report to the voters a statement that there were eight teachers employed for eleven months, 794 children between the ages of five and eighteen years in the district and 523 children attending school.

On March 4, 1883, Mr. W. H. Berry was given charge of the money received from the sale of the Jefferson School lot and it was understood that with this money he should contract for flagging the walk in front of the school house and to the front steps on each side and also "to contract for building a picket fence on the east side of the lot." One thousand dollars had been paid in cash for the lot and a mortgage for $800, given for the balance, by the St. James Church.

On June 25, 1883, Mr. Donald McVicar was given the contract "to finish off the center rooms upstairs" for $648.

Mr. J. C. Ashley was appointed as janitor to succeed Mr. George Kelly at a salary of $21.00 per month.

On June 27, 1883 the following prizes were awarded from the money given by Mr. J. H. Martin for that purpose for the past year:

"The Grand Prize was divided between Miss Helen Clarkson and Miss Lulu Boynton, $12.50 each--Total--- .....$25.

Miss	Grace Allan	1st	Division-	Room	A	..... 10.
Miss	Belle Middleton--	2nd	"	"	"	..... 10.
"	Nellie Boynton	1st	"	"	B	..... 5.
"	Mamie Clarkson	1st	"	"	"	..... 5.
"	Mamie Levi	2nd	"	"	"	..... 10.
"	Sadie Levi	1st	"	"	C	..... 10.
"	Annie Kimmer	2nd	"	"	"	.....10.
"	Irene Clarkson	1st	"	"	D	..... 10.
"	Elsie Lawson	2nd	"	"	"	..... 10.
"	Kate Mahoney	1st	"	"	E	..... 10.
"	Georgie Boynton	2nd	"	"	"	..... 10.
"	Theresa Dunn	1st	"	"	F	..... 10.
"	Emma Rahrback	2nd	"	"	"	..... 10. " 1

No amounts are placed opposite the names of Miss Beatrice Fink and Miss Lizzie Guice, pupils of Miss Acker, and Henry Seigelkoff and Joseph Nolan in Miss Sadie Brewster's class, these pupils being recorded as first and second in their respective classes.

We might infer from the foregoing list that girls as a class are better scholars than boys, and in comparison with the previous list of prize winners, that it's a foregone conclusion who will win most of the prizes offered; or that boys don't care to compete for prizes anyway.

On July 2, 1883, another progressive action on the part of the School Trustees appears on the Minutes of the Board under this date as follows:

"Moved and Seconded that Miss M. A. Moore be allowed to be the first of the teachers to attend the Normal School. Carried.

"Moved and Seconded that the other teachers attend in the order that Miss Thomas (the principal) may approve." 2

1. Minute Book District 24
2. Ibid

A substitute was employed by the Board to take Miss Moore's class. A letter from Miss Edith Scott was also received, requesting that she be released for the term in order that she might attend the Normal School. The release was granted.

Progressive action on the part of a Board is usually followed by similar action on the part of its teachers. The professional leaven implanted by the Trustees induced professional spirit in its teachers, resulting in improved instruction for the children.

At a later meeting, Miss Carrie I. Dally informed the Board that she would attend the Normal School in place of Miss Moore who could not go until the next February. Other teachers took advantage of the Board's action in this matter as time elapsed.

On February 22, 1884, the District Clerk was requested to confer with the school architects, C. Graham and Sons, and with Manning & Randolph, the builders, regarding the report that had been made by Mr. Ingraham and Mr. Sutton that the school floors were settling.

At the Annual Meeting held March 18, there were reported 786 children in the district according to the school census of the previous May.

"March 14 the number enrolled on the school registers in the various rooms are as follows:

Registers:

Room of	Miss	M. J. Thomas	35--now	present	30
" "	"	M. A. Honnell	38-- "	"	32
" "	"	M. A. Moore	55-- "	"	50
" "	"	M. T. Reed	55-- "	"	52
" "	"	C. I. Dally	69-- "	"	54
" "	"	R. A. Miller	78-- "	"	55
" "	"	G. Harned	69-- "	"	65
" "	"	H. A. Clarkson	180-- "	"	70
		Total on roll	579	and now in school	408

In 1882	enrollment for year was	384
" "	average attendance "	181
" 1883	enrollment for year was	548
" "	average attendance "	372 " 1

Miss Clarkson had the lowest grade and was also paid the lowest salary. The prevailing notion at that period, and for many years, was that little or no skill was necessary to teach the First Grade children and that, therefore, the lowest salary should be attached to that position. Fortunately, Miss Clarkson happened to be of the stuff of which good teachers are made, her advancement and success in later years proving this.

The enrollment, of course, covered every name that had appeared on the register, if for only a day, but an average of 70 in a class room, 25x 30, was certainly too many for one teacher. What did she do with them and how did she do it?

At this meeting the proposition of increasing the Board membership from three to six came up but was defeated.

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The Board meeting of June 25, 1884, was held at the residence of Mr. W. H. Berry, and the Joseph Martin prizes, totaling $155, were awarded as follows:

"

Room A--Teacher, Miss Thomas (Principal)
The Grand Prize had to be divided among three students, viz:
$25.00

Miss Mabel Freeman	$ 8.35
" Belle Middleton	8.35
Master Frank Harned	8.35

$10.00

1st Division--Lulu Kelly	5.00
" " Jennie Berry	5.00

$10.00

2nd Division--Mamie Clarkeson	5.00
" " Nellie Boynton	5.00

Room B--Teacher, Miss M. A. Honnell (Vice-princ.)

1st Division--Mamie Levi	10.00
2nd " Maggie Miller	10.00

Room C--Teacher, Miss M. A. Moore

1st Division--May Kelly	10.00

$10.00

2nd " Georgia Boynton	5.00
" " Anna Siegelkoff	5.00

Room D--Teacher, Miss M. T. Reed

1st Division--Ellen Kenna	10.00
2nd " Wallace Lee	10.00

Room F--Teacher, Miss Clara Acker

1st Division--Henry Romond	5.00
2nd " Lena Jordan	5.00

Room G--Teacher, Miss Grace F. Harned

1st Division--Thompson Dally	5.00
2nd " Henry Siegelkoff	5.00

Room H--Teacher, Miss H. A. Clarkeson

1st Division--Nettie Phillip.....$ 5.00
2nd " Willie Feith..... 5.00

Diplomas of Graduation were also awarded to the following students:

Miss Mabel Freeman	Miss Nellie Ahearn
" Louisa M. Boynton	" Rose Murrey
" Libbie Potter	" Florence Flood
" Belle Middleton	" Carrie A. Brown
" Lillie Brown	" Fannie Farron
" Amy Brewster	" Lulu Kelly
" Jennie Berry	Master Frank Harned [1]

No doubt the Grand Prize winners were sadly disappointed at each receiving $8.35 instead of the greatly desired $25.00. They didn't even get a ten-dollar bill. Mamie Levi and Maggie Miller must have been much better satisfied than they, for they each received ten dollars.

It was no use to complain, because it could be shown by the rules of mathematics that it figured out exactly 97 5/7% for each one of them. They had been educated up to a hair's breadth of each other and it was impossible to detect any mental differences. In fact, they were true, mental triplets.

When the Board met in July, Mr. J. F. Clarkeson was employed to raise the floors, the Trustees supplying the material. This was done by using iron rods attached to trusses in the attic and suspending the floors from them after jacking them up. The lower floors were supported by a number of iron pillars set up on the basement floors. This work may still be

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seen and has every appearance of having met all the requirements for which it was devised. Naturally, it did not add to the appearance of the class rooms and some pupil floor space was lost.

"Joseph H. T. Martin Donation

The Prize Winners

for year ending June 24, 1885

Room A	Miss Thomas Teacher	Sarah Pierson	98 1/10	$10
" " "	Dimick "	Mary Ashley...	98 5/10	10
" B "	Reed			
	1st Division	May Kelly	99 6/10	10
	2nd "	Gertrude Levi	97 8/10	10
" C "	Miller Teacher			
	1st Division	Edith Edgar	99 8/10	25
	2nd "	Nellie Newton.	99	10
" D "	Scott Teacher			
	1st Division	Annie Golden	98 4/10	10
	2nd "	Mamie Gerity	89	10
" E "	Dally Teacher			
	1st Division	Henry Romond	98 6/10	10
	2nd "	Lizzie Anderson	98 3/10	5
" F "	Acker Teacher			
	1st Division	John Ohlott	92	10
	2nd "	Irving Demarest	92 1/10	5
" G "	Harned Teacher			
	1st Division	Henry Johnson	95 6/10	5
	2nd "	Eddie Anderson	94	5
" H "	Ayres Teacher			
	1st Division	Martin Schneider	92	5
	2nd "	Kate McDonald	91 1/10	5
" I "	Farron Teacher			
	1st Division	Henry Anderson	92 3/10	5
	2nd "	Johnnie Fitz-patrick	89 6/10	5
				$155 " [1]

A study of the foregoing figures shows that a difference of 2/10 of 1 per cent cost May Kelly just $15.00 cash.

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Two-tenths of 1 per cent would have made Edith Edgar that scholastic myth, the absolutely mathematically perfect scholar. But what teacher ever has ever had the temerity to mark a prize winner 100%? The difference between Irvie Demarest and John Ohlott was exactly 1/10 of 1 per cent, or, in hard cash, five dollars. But that is just how it worked out, so what could be done?

The Annual School meeting of March 16, 1886, was rather unusual. At the close of the regular business, by the request of the chairman, Mr. C. W. Boynton, the:

> "Reverend Dr. McNulty was called on for remarks, he having been a frequent visitor at the school during the past years. He complimented Teachers, Scholars, and Trustees for the excellent work in their several departments. In course of the Doctor's remarks, he stated that it did his heart good to see so many male faces. His gentle reproof for the moment caused many to look dejected, but his following remarks made faces brighter and in all our consciousness we said we will attend more regularly other meetings with our wives, daughters, sisters, and other peoples sisters, and daughters.
>
> "Reverend L. H. Lighthipe being called, spoke at some length, comparing this with other schools, saying his experience led him to say that our school was second to none. On motion by Reverend L. H. Lighthipe, it was moved a vote of thanks be tendered to the Trustees and Teachers for the able manner of conducting of the school during the past year. It was carried unanimously. Reverend Charles Noble, being called, endorsed the remarks by Brothers McNulty and Lighthipe, also made many remarks of his own in his usual happy and pleasant strain." [1]

1. Minute Book – District 24

Three ministers at a school election, all extolling the efficiency of the public schools! Surely, this was a "love feast." A vote of thanks to the Trustees, and teachers for their good work! A most unheard of proceeding. How the voters must have hung their heads when the good Doctor chided them so guilelessly on their forgetfulness of their church duties. But their spirits must have risen again as the dominie proceeded in a lighter vein as evidenced by the clerk's statement in the minutes:

> "Our consciousness said we will attend more regularly other meetings with our wives, daughters, sisters, and other peoples' sisters, and daughters." 1

We may reasonably infer from the undoubted influence of the reverend's remarks that the "other meetings" were church meetings. No mention is made on the record that the Doxology was sung before the voters dispersed. A communication from County Superintendent Ralph Willis was read at the April meeting of the Board:

> "in regard to receiving children outside of the school District, the practice is discouraged by him except in very few instances." 2

It seems that a considerable number of outside pupils, attracted by the high standing of the Woodbridge Graded school, had been received by the Board as pay pupils. Some observant citizen with an eye on expenses incurred in "finishing off" additional class rooms, probably had written to

1. Minute Book – District 24
2. Ibid

the County Superintendent commenting on this and suggesting the action recommended by Mr. Willis to the Board.

At the appointment of teachers, the preceding May, Miss M. C. Ayres had not filed her application for reappointment, but in the meantime, a committee of one of the Board had visited her to see for what salary she would remain and now reported that:

> "He had seen Miss Ayres and that $425 was the least she would remain for."

It was decided by the Trustees that:

> "As she is a valuable assistant that we raise her salary to that amount and notify her of the same."

Here we have an authentic case of a teacher knowing her worth to the community, sticking to her expressed demand and getting it. In addition she was recorded on the minutes of the Board as "a valuable assistant."

The first recorded course of study for the school appears on the minutes of the Board under date of February 11, 1887. This was prepared by Miss Thomas, the principal, who had been directed by the Trustees three years previously to:

> "raise the grade of the school."

The course was adopted:

> "subject to such modifications as circumstances may require."

<u>High School</u>

Grade Senior:
Geometry, History, Outlines of Chemistry,

Rhetoric, English, Literature and Composition, Latin (optional), Mathematics throughout the Course.

Grade A:
Latin (optional), Algebra, Philosophy, Physics, Geography, Con. of United States, Rhetoric, Ancient and Modern History, Reading, Geometry, Drawing.

Grade B:
Arithmetic (Practical-Complete), Botany, History (Ancient), Physiology (completed), Algebra (Elementary), Bookkeeping, Composition, Declamation, Grammar and Analysis, Perspective Drawing.

Grammar Department
United States History, Con. of United States, Mental and Practical Arithmetic, Geography and Map Drawing, Physiology, Grammar and Analysis, Reading, Spelling, Writing, Drawing, Composition and Declamation.

Intermediate Department
Local Geography, First Principles Language Lessons, Mental and Practical Arithmetic, Spelling, Reading, Writing, Drawing, Calisthenics.

Primary Department
Alphabet, Spelling and Reading from Charts, Numbers, Object teaching, Reading from First and Second Readers, Elementary Arithmetic, Writing and Drawing on Slates, Calisthenics.

Miss Thomas also reported that "the present class for graduation was about ready" and at the Board meeting of March 2, diplomas were signed "for the Graduation Class of March 4, 1887," viz:

William F. Ames	Mamie Clarkson
Arthur G. Brown	Nettie Lawson
Sarah M. Pearson	Louise E. Brewster

Mattie C. Pearson

A piano was also ordered to be purchased, the initial payment on which was an amount of $72 received as interest on the Jefferson School lot. Previous to this, however, an entertainment had been given by the school for the purpose of raising funds for such an instrument. Mr. Joseph Martin was empowered to make the purchase. This piano replaced the old Esty Organ that had been in use for many years.

On March 15, the annual meeting of the legal voters of the district, No. 24, was held in the school building. For some reason, a larger number of citizens than usual attended. Daniel S. Voorhees was Secretary of the meeting and James E. Berry was Chairman.

After the reading of the District Clerk's report the names of Thomas F. Dunigan and C. W. Drummond were put in nomination for Trustee for a three-years' term to succeed C. W. Drummond. Two hundred and six ballots were cast, Mr. Drummond receiving 161, and Mr. Dunigan 33. Mr. D. S. Voorhees received one vote and there was one blank. Mr. Drummond was then declared elected.

Under the order of miscellaneous business, Mr. C. W. Boynton offered the following resolution, seconded by T. H. Morris:

> "Resolved: that it is the sense of this meeting that the Grammar Department of the Woodbridge Public School be separated from the High School Department and be arranged so that pupils of average intelligence may complete

> the same by the time they reach the age of fourteen and that they receive a certificate to that effect on completing the prescribed course." [1]

After some discussion, it was decided that the resolution was not admissable. Here was an advance step in modern school grading turned down just because some one made an appeal to the chair on a point of order.

In later years, the plan suggested in the resolution came into use and the completion of the eighth year of work was marked by a Grammar Grade certificate entitling the holder to enter the high school.

When the new Board organized, Mr. Martin reported that he had purchased a Chickering piano through Mr. Peter Lawson for the sum of $340. A bill of $10 was also paid "for the use of the Hall (probably old Masonic) for the Graduation exercises." This is the first mention of any public exercises for graduation.

At the October meeting, a request was received from some of the students for permission to use the unfinished rooms upstairs "for a sort of Gymnasium." Permission was given on the understanding that when the rooms were thus used, one of the teachers should be present. This is the first reference to any such exercises on the part of the school.

On January 6, 1888, a severe shock was received by the Trustees at this meeting, for a letter from Miss M. J.

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Thomas, the principal, was read, tendering her resignation on account of the illness of her mother. The resignation was received with great regret, and on motion the District Clerk was directed to draw up a suitable resolution embodying the feelings of the Board.

This testimonial to Miss Thomas was "handsomely executed" by Mr. C. D. Clarkson and signed by the Trustees."

> "This testimonial certifies that Miss M. J. Thomas was a most successful Principal of the Public and High School of District No. 24, Woodbridge, New Jersey, for more than five years, during which there was an average daily attendance of over five hundred pupils. We attest as deserving special attention the increased attendance, cheerful obedience and progress in the Course of instruction that warranted the introduction of a High School Department which was carried to a successful issue under her administration. We recall the harmonious working of the teachers under her guidance in their various departments, consisting of ten rooms of instruction conjointly. We hold in grateful remembrances the untiring efforts of the Principal in obtaining the choicest works as well as auxiliary apparatus and illustrative specimens used in the higher branches of education; and under this head we especially appreciate the united efforts of the Teachers and Pupils in a work that obtained a first-class Musical instrument. We know by our continued incumbency in office at the hands of a discriminating constituency that we echo their sentiments of regard, as well as express their regrets, that the illness of a devoted Parent has called from our school a Principal in whom we have implicit confidence."
>
> Signed
>
> William H. Berry)
> Joseph H. T. Martin) Trustees 1
> C. W. Drummond)

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Miss Thomas must have been unusually well qualified for the responsible position she held. Not only was she scholastically well prepared, but she possessed those qualities of amiability, self-possession, tact, and that essential knowledge of human nature, usually inborn, upon which success is so largely dependent.

The Woodbridge Graded School had indeed suffered a great loss in her resignation. Many times in his connection with the Woodbridge schools has the writer heard the highest enconiums on the personality and the work of Miss Thomas.

The finest monument that may be erected to the memory of any teacher is that which she herself erects in the hearts of her pupils.

Mr. Alfred H. Wilson of Closter, New Jersey, was appointed as principal to succeed Miss Thomas on January 21, 1888. At the Annual Meeting of the legal voters of the District, May 20, the following resolution was offered by Mr. P. K. Edgar and unanimously adopted:

> "Whereas our esteemed fellow citizen, Mr. William H. Berry has just completed a long and faithful term of service as trustee of our public school, having served the people in that capacity most acceptably since the organization of the present district, therefore Resolved--that this meeting place on record its high appreciation of the faithfulness and zeal of our worthy townsman. Resolved--that the Secretary be instructed to transmit a copy of this resolution to Mr. Berry." 1

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Mr. W. H. Berry had retired from a public office that carries with it no monetary compensation, but one which calls for unselfish and unremitting service of the highest type in behalf of one's fellow citizens. The highest reward that may be expected for such service is the approbation, confidence and appreciation of the general public.

In the case of Mr. Berry, this was freely given and placed on record, in the above resolution.

Principal Alfred Wilson appeared before the Board on this date in regard to the closing exercises. Mr. Martin stated that:

> "the closing exercises had always been held in the school house and did not think that the trustees were authorized to say that exercises should be held elsewhere at the expense of the district."

He also stated that:

> "last year the graduating class made a request to the Board to hold the graduating exercises elsewhere and that the privilege was granted them, they making all arrangements, etc. If the present graduating class were to make a similar request to the Board they would consider it."

On June 4, 1888, Mr. Charles Drummond, District Clerk, reported that he had received $875.16 from Reverend P. L. Connolly, payment in full of the mortgage and interest on the Jefferson school lot.

Mr. Wilson, the principal, appeared at this meeting and requested permission to hold the exercises for the graduating

Prin. A.H. Wilson. Mgt. Miller Arthur Valentine Paul R. Lewis Gorham Boynton
Lillian N. Browning Adeline S. Anness Willard P. Melvin.
Class of 1888

class in the Presbyterian Church, provided the consent of the Church authorities could be secured.

Permission must have been given by the Board and the Church because the exercises were held in the "White Church" on Friday evening, June 29, the following pupils receiving diplomas:

Adeline S. Anness	Lillian M. Browning
Maggie H. Miller	Gorham L. Boynton
Paul R. Lewis	Willard P. Melick

Arthur Valentine

James M. Green, Principal of Long Branch High School, Long Branch, New Jersey, was the speaker.

On September 4, 1888, the janitor's salary was raised to $27.50 per month.

On November 10, the principal (Wilson) reported that he had dismissed a number of children who had been living outside the school district. He also stated that there were two other "outside" pupils who were doing well in their classes and whose parents were willing "to pay something for their tuition." The Trustees "thought that $5.00 per child would be reasonable." He drew the attention of the Board to the fact that a number of children were unable to purchase the necessary textbooks. Instructions were given to allow the pupils more time.

In 1889, electric bells were installed by Mr. F. J. Clarkson. Galvanized iron pails filled with water were ordered placed on each floor in case of fire, and $60 was appropriated "for putting in the arrangements for washing in the basement."

Previous to this the children had performed their ablutions at the pump.

The following plan of "punishments" was introduced by Miss M. J. Thomas during the latter part of her principalship. A similar plan was in vogue not only in Woodbridge but all over the country. Probably in some out-of-the-way places where there are country schools it may still be in use.

> "Deportment Pupils who are talking, or otherwise disorderly in their rooms, or about the building will receive one demerit for each offense.
>
> Tardiness For each case of tardiness one demerit will be given, unless an excuse from the parent is presented by the teacher. The pupil may remove one demerit, for whatever cause, by one week of perfect deportment.
>
> Results For fifteen demerits received by the pupil a Private Admonition will be given by the Principal. For twenty demerits notice will be sent to the parents. For twenty-five, there will be a suspension of at least one week, after which a pupil may be re-instated only by action of the Trustees. If a re-instated pupil reaches twenty-five demerits, he or she will be expelled for the remainder of the term."

All such systems, being unnatural and unpedogogical according to modern psychology, fall of their own weight, especially the weight of the demerits. Pupils and teachers have gradually learned the futility of such devices.

Mr. Joseph H. T. Martin resigned as Trustee at the Annual election held in March and the local paper referred to

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the matter as follows:

> "Mr. Martin, the retiring Trustee, has filled that position for the past nine years and has always proved a most efficient and acceptable officer. He has ever evidenced a deep and active interest in all school matters, and been very liberal toward the institution in many ways, especially in the donation of prizes. He will always be gratefully remembered by all interested in the school, and merits, and has, the sincere appreciation of the entire community."

In 1889, graduation exercises were held in the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Reverend M. Chapin of New York being the speaker of the occasion. Permission was given to the Graduation Class to use the school one evening on the understanding that there be no dancing.

The District Clerk was directed to write to Professor James M. Green, recently appointed Superintendent of the State Normal School at Trenton, in regard to teachers.

There seemed to be considerable trouble this year in securing satisfactory applications for vacancies so the Clerk was directed to place the following advertisement in the New York World for Sunday and Monday:

> "Teacher wanted in a Graded School in a village in New Jersey, Salary $350 per year, Must be a Normal Graduate. Address with recommendation, Teacher--Box 342 World Office, New York."

Quite a number of answers to the advertisement were received, all except one being from men. The Trustees, pre-

ferring women teachers, ordered another advertisement to be inserted in the New York Tribune for Sunday and Saturday, which read:

> "Lady teacher wanted in a Graded School in New Jersey, salary $375 per year. A Normal Graduate preferred. Address with references Instruction, box 40. Tribune Office, New York."

One application was received but the lady was not appointed. Mr. Wilson then secured a teacher through one of the Teachers' Agencies.

An additional teacher was added to the Primary Department, Miss Farron having 102 enrolled in her room, the Trustees were of the opinion "that it was impossible to teach them properly." Miss Farron, no doubt, agreed with that opinion.

On February 5, 1890, the principal reported that $107.96 had been raised toward the flag and pole and that Mr. William Edgar and Mr. W. H. Cutter had each offered to give a white oak tree toward the erection of the flag pole. Mr. Smith Bloomfield was suggested as the proper person to get the tree in shape.

On June 3, the principal was authorized to have printed programs prepared for the graduation exercises that were to be held in the Presbyterian Church on June 27, and also to express the thanks of the Board to Professor Cook for consenting to be the speaker for the occasion. The Trustees also

resolved to secure the use of the Masonic Hall for the reunion of graduates.

On June 30, the Board passed a resolution that an invitation be given to the five clergymen of Woodbridge to participate in the exercises at the flag raising on July 4, and that Mr. Wilson have charge of the program and that he also read the Declaration of Independance.

The different societies of the town were also invited to attend the exercises, viz:

> "The G. A. R., Jr. O. U. A. M., F. and A. M., C. B. B., and if these societies desire to parade, that Captain Isaac Inslee be the Marshall, with power to appoint as many aides as he may wish."
>
> "Jotham Coddington's estate donated a white oak for the flag pole."

On July 15:

> "Mr. Wilson was authorized to go to New York and see what he could find in reference to securing a teacher who could teach music in connection with her other teaching in our school." 1

Mr. Wilson seemed to have been successful in his search, for Miss Virginia Oliver was engaged for the work.

On August 29, the Board raised the price of tuition for "outside" pupils as follows:

To be Paid Quarterly In Advance

Primary	$ 8.00
Intermediate	12.00
Grammar	16.00
Higher Grade	20.00

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On September 11, the regular teaching of music was introduced into the school and the Board ordered the purchase of music readers, charts and easels:

> "these being necessary to introduce the teaching of music in the school--The System being the National System.

On October 21, the Board ordered the school closed until Monday, November 3 because of an epidemic of measles. Mr. Wilson reported that there were one hundred and fifty-two scholars present and one hundred and thirteen absent.

Another meeting of the Board was held the next evening and on motion it was decided to ventilate the schoolhouse:

> "by putting two registers in the chimneys, one in top and bottom, making twenty registers in all."

On October 27, the Trustees decided to call a special district school meeting to be held on Friday evening, November 7, 1890 in the schoolhouse at eight o'clock:

> "for the purpose of voting upon the following proposition: First, shall the Trustees be authorized to accept a lease at One Dollar a year of a School House proposed to be erected at Sewaren by J. Herbert Johnston."

This meeting was held and considerable discussion ensued, opinions regarding the advisability of the proposed step varied. It was stated that Sewaren raised about 12% of the District Taxes. Figures were also given showing the

amount:

> "that would be lost on State Tax and State Fund if Sewaren was made a separate District."

The voting resulted in 20 ballots being cast in favor of and sixteen against the proposition.

On March 17, 1891, $700 was ordered raised to establish and maintain a free Primary Public School at Sewaren as follows:

For teachers	$400
Furniture	150
Incidentals	150
Total	$700

On June 8, 1891, the clerk was ordered by the Board:

> "to confer with the Principal and endeavor to secure a teacher to fill vacancy who is qualified to teach Drawing."

Miss Ada Wicker was secured for the position through a Teachers' Agency, the Board agreeing to pay one-half of the Agency commission.

On August 28, Miss Lucy J. Smith was engaged as teacher for the Sewaren school. Later it was decided to organize three grades at this school "and no higher."

The opening of the Parochial School caused a large decrease in the attendance, the total enrollment being 339 and the average daily attendance 215. There was also considerable sickness in the school, many cases being scarlet fever.

On May 23, 1892, Miss Sadie Brewster and Miss Halleck tendered their resignations which were received and the Clerk

was directed to convey to these ladies:

> "the regret of the Board for the loss of their services and also the high appreciation of the ability and faithfulness with which they had discharged their duties as teachers and the entire satisfaction of the Trustees with their work and to wish them equal success in their new positions."

Such a letter from their Board must have been deeply appreciated and greatly treasured by the retiring teachers.

On June 13, Principal Wilson:

> "was requested to visit the State Normal School at Trenton, New Jersey in reference to securing a teacher for Room E, at a salary not to exceed $400 per year."

A motion was passed to hold a school picnic at Boynton Beach on June 24.

Mr. Wilson informed the Board that he had applied for a position at Newton, New Jersey, where the salary was $1500 per year, and would like the Trustees to give him such a recommendation as they thought him entitled to:

> "On motion the Board instructed the District Clerk to give Mr. Wilson a recommendation covering the following points--Ambition, Progressiveness, Conscientiousness, Character, Ability, Tact, Judgment, and that he can teach and manage a school of 400 scholars."

It seems evident, not only that this Board of Trustees appreciated the services of its good teachers, but

that they would not stand in the way of the teachers' advancement in the profession and were willing and glad to go on record in the matter.

On July 6, the Trustees received a letter from J. Herbert Johnson declining to renew the lease on the Sewaren Schoolhouse. The Clerk reported that all property belonging to the District had been removed from the school at Sewaren and stored in the Woodbridge school building.

Mr. Wilson's resignation was received and the Clerk was ordered to write him expressing the appreciation of the Board for his work and regret at the loss of his services. Mr. Wilson later obtained a principalship at East Orange, New Jersey.

On July 28:

> "The Clerk reported that to date there had been twenty-seven applicants for the position of principal."

After much discussion the Board concluded:

> "That in many respects G. W. Gamble would be the best man for the place and on motion he was unanimously elected principal for the school year commencing in September 1892 at a salary of $100 per month."

On August 4, 1892, a letter was received from Mr. Vernon L. Davey, Superintendent of East Orange, requesting the Board to furnish him with a photograph of the school to be displayed with the New Jersey State School Exhibit at

the Columbia Fair, Chicago. Mr. C. A. Boynton was instructed to have a photograph of the building taken and forward one to Mr. Davey.

Hancock and Levi offered to paint the flagpole two coats for $20.00 provided the Board have the topmast lowered. The offer was accepted. This pole, together with the topmast, was about one hundred twenty-one feet high and was surmounted with a gilded, metal spread-eagle which turned with the wind. Many years afterwards, when the pole was taken down, being too rotted to remain up, it was found that the eagle had been pierced in a number of places by local expert marksmen.

October 13, 1892, was a red-letter meeting in the annals of the Board, it being devoted almost entirely to preparations on a large scale for the celebration of Columbus Day. The President of the Board, Mr. M. A. Brown, was directed to purchase badges for the school children and Principal Gamble was authorized to have printed 600 programs of Columbus Day exercises. A committee was also appointed:

> "to see if twenty-five small muskets or rifles could be secured for the larger boys to carry on Columbus Day."

On motion the line of march on Columbus Day was made as follows:

"Schoolhouse to Main Street; Main Street to Perth Amboy Avenue, to Green Street, to Rahway Avenue, to Main Street, to Methodist Episcopal Church."

On motion, the Clerk was authorized to invite all military and civic organizations in the district to take part in the exercises and parade on Columbus Day. The list was as follows:

Americus Lodge, No. 83, F. and A. M.
W. C. Berry Post, No. 85, Department New Jersey, G. A. R.
Junior Order U. A. Mechanics, No. 40
Woodbridge Council, No. 120, C. B. L.
German Union Benevolent Association
Sewaren Land and Water Club
Young Mens Christian Association
Captain Isaac Inslee Camp, No. 12, Division, New Jersey, Sons of Veterans
Bavaria Council, No. 332, C. B. L.
Chosen Friends
Loyal Temperance League
Womens' Christian Temperance Association
W. C. Berry Womans Relief Corps. No. 12
Auxiliary to Post No. 85, G. A. R.
Township Committee and the School Trustees, Valentine, Drummond and Martin.

Mr. C. W. Boynton was appointed a committee to engage the Woodbridge band for the parade.

On October 18, 1892, the new course of study as prepared by Principal George W. Gamble, was read and adopted and five hundred copies, including the new rules, were ordered to be printed. To further strengthen the second floor of the school, it was decided to place in each room on the first floor, a 7" x 7" yellow pine post to rest on the girder in the basement and run to girder under the ceiling of the first floor.

"The clerk was instructed to purchase the six posts and also two yellow pine timbers 6" x 6" and 14' long to be used on the Jack Screws."

On October 20, the Board met at the schoolhouse at 10 a. m. and on motion the clerk was authorized to provide carriages for the lady teachers for use on Columbus Day.

The following extracts are from the "Independent Hour" of October 27, 1892 and refer to the "Columbian Day" celebration:

"Friday, October 21, 1892, will always be a memorable day in the history of Woodbridge, as it witnessed the grandest demonstration the historic town has ever seen--the Columbus Day celebration arranged and managed by the officers and teachers of the Public School. At 9:30 a. m. the school yard, street, and adjoining properties were filled with a large assemblage, who listened to the President's proclamation, distinctly read by Principal Gamble. The large school flag was then raised by members of Berry Post and saluted by the pupils, after which Post Commander Sutton delivered an excellent address. The line of march was then formed as follows:

Citizens on horseback
Woodbridge Cornet Band
Township Officials
Trustees and Ex-Trustees of the School
Color Guard of pupils
Sons of Veterans
Berry Post, G. A. R.
Principal Gamble and pupils of Public School
American Mechanics
St. James Parochial School
St. Mary's Sodality
St. James Temperance Cadets
Woodbridge and Bavaria Councils, C. B. L.
Union German Benevolent Association
Citizens in carriages and on foot."

> "The residences and places of business along the line of march were beautifully and artistically decorated with the national colors."

In addition to the exercises given by the pupils, which included singing and recitations, one-minute speeches were made by citizens.

> "The one-minute speeches were opened by Principal Gamble, who made some pertinent suggestions to parents. He was followed by Reverend Dr. McNulty, Reverend E. Meachem, and C. H. McDonald, Captain Inslee, S. B. Hinsdale, William Edgar, C. W. Boynton, J. H. T. Martin, and P. K. Edgar."

In 1892, during the latter part of November, and the first part of December, a diphtheria epidemic occurred among the school children and the buildings were ordered closed. Dr. Mitchell, State Board of Health Inspector, gave instructions to have the school floors, desks, and all woodwork sprinkled with biohloride of mercury and also:

> "to fumigate the school building and water closets with burning sulphur as suggested by Inspector Township Board of Health."

Schools were to have been opened December 13 by permission of State Inspector Mitchell, but another case of diphtheria occurring, they were kept closed until January 3, 1893.

On February 7, 1893 the Trustees met at the school house at 2 p. m. and made an inspection of the exhibit of school

work being prepared for the State Exhibit at Trenton.

> "Among those present was Miss E. Dimmick, a former vice-principal, and Mr. Ellis B. Freeman, who was at one time principal of the Academy District School."

CHAPTER VIII

Summary

THE NEW GRADED SCHOOL

Special meeting of the new district No. 24 was held to consider the location and erection of the new graded school, on October 1, 1875.

Committee reported on January 1876 and the report was accepted. Contracts were awarded March 1876, and in July, Mr. Henry Anderson was appointed principal.

A clock and a bell had been purchased.

Dedication exercises were held on January 20, 1877. School notes from the newspaper "Independent Hour" given regarding the new school.

Mr. Hampton Cutter protested the sale of the old school property. First staff of teachers was appointed in 1877.

Rates of tuition were adopted for non-resident pupils. Instructions were given regarding the purchase of school books.

Length of the school year was fixed at ten months in 1879, and the financial report was presented.

Rules governing school discipline were passed in 1881. Trustee C. A. Campbell resigned and Howard

Valentine was appointed as his successor.

Certification of teachers was considered and rules were passed. Mr. J. H. T. Martin offered prizes for scholarship.

The schoolhouse was draped because of the death of President Garfield. School prizes were awarded in December.

A resolution was passed authorizing certificates of graduation. The first graduation class was awarded diplomas in 1882.

A motion was passed requiring some normal school training of teachers which was to go into effect in September 1884.

Winners of school prizes were announced in 1883. Permission was given for teachers to attend normal school.

School enrollment given as of March 14, 1884. The class graduating in 1884 was awarded diplomas.

Prize lists for the school year ending June 24, 1885 are given.

The annual school meeting was held in March 1886. It was an unusual type, ministerial speakers being present.

The first recorded course of study given in February 1887. Graduating class had diplomas signed March 4, 1887.

Great interest was shown in the school election of March 15, 1887. A testimonial was directed to be drawn regarding the resignation of Miss M. J. Thomas.

Mr. Alfred H. Wilson was appointed to succeed Miss Thomas on January 21, 1888.

A resolution was passed at the annual meeting of voters, 1888, in appreciation of services of Trustee William H. Berry who had resigned.

Improvements were made in the school equipment in 1889. A system of merits and demerits was introduced by Miss Thomas.

Mr. Joseph H. T. Martin resigned as trustee in March 1889. An advertisement was placed in a New York paper for a teacher.

Principal Wilson was sent to New York to engage a teacher of music in 1890.

National System of teaching music was introduced in September 1890.

School opened at Sewaren with Miss Lucy J. Smith as teacher.

Parochial school opened which decreased enrollment. Mr. Gamble was elected principal to succeed Mr. Wilson.

A new course of study was prepared by Principal Gamble and was adopted by Board, October 18. "Columbus Day" was celebrated October 21 on a grand scale.

CHAPTER IX

OTHER TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

So much has been said in previous chapters regarding the school districts situated within the accepted boundaries of Woodbridge Village, that one is prone to forget that there were other districts within the confines of the present township lines.

For many years the growth of the township was centered in Woodbridge proper, making the school population larger and of greater interest to the citizens of that section than elsewhere. The proper recording of school transactions was a necessity and was demanded by the intelligent taxpayers, resulting in written school minutes that would be a credit to any Board of Education today.

An interview with an old Trustee of one of the early types of school districts elicited the statement that he was clerk of his district and never kept any book records; never knew any to be kept, and when the present township system was inaugurated, he turned over a few loose papers to old Doc X at-----. About the only thing he did, so far as he could remember, was to see that the teacher got her warrants. Probably this was true of most of the small school districts.

The reports of the various State Superintendents of Public Instruction as found in the bound volumes of "Legislative Documents" for the different years of the second half of the nineteenth century, give much interesting information regarding the early school districts, drawn from the reports of the Town Superintendents of Schools, and later from the reports of the new County Superintendents who replaced them in 1867.

These Town, or Township Superintendents have been mentioned in a previous chapter with special reference to those serving Woodbridge.

The State Superintendent's report of 1863 enlightens the legislature regarding these officers:

> "The Town Superintendent is the officer whom the law holds responsible for the proper management of the educational affairs of the township. He is the custodian of the money appropriated to school purposes, and he gives bonds to the inhabitants of his township for the safe keeping and lawful disbursement of the same. To him is assigned the duty of forming and altering school districts. He gives notice of the time and place of all annual and special meetings. He must visit the schools, make himself acquainted with their condition, report the same annually to the inhabitants of the township and to the State Superintendent, he must examine teachers when the Chosen Freeholders see fit to add this to his other duties."

These officers were elected yearly and received one dollar for every day they were employed in the business of their office.

Many of these town superintendents were incapable of making an intelligent report even when blanks were provided for their use. The office was a political one entirely, no special educational qualification being required.

State Superintendent Ricord mentions that the reports of the town superintendents were often "so ambiguous that the data is useless." Such a simple question as, "What is the number of districts in the Township?" was often answered in such a vague and unsatisfactory way that, speaking of this item, the superintendent refers to it as, "an item which has never yet been made known."

The "Little Red School House" surely did exist and probably met the requirements of the day in many cases, but in his report to the Legislature under date of January 15, 1862, Superintendent F. W. Ricord, speaking of the district schools, among which must have been "The Little Red School House," says "many of them are miserable shanties." Also,

> "A schoolhouse situated upon the public highway with not a foot of playground and not a solitary out-shed is not the place wherein to teach morality, to preserve instinctive delicacy, and yet there are hundreds of such schoolhouses throughout the State."

In his Annual Report for the School Year ending August 31, 1869, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, E. A. Apgar, referring to the sanitary accommodations in connection with the district schools says:

> "Outhouses, 335 indifferent ones, most of which have one apartment for both sexes, and 182 have none at all. Middlesex is free from this shame."

Previous to 1856, the district schools were not required to keep a school register and for a long time, even where they were used, in many cases they were inadequately kept and the law was often absolutely ignored. This may have been because the law made no provision for the registers to be supplied to the districts.

The State Superintendent of Public Instruction, in his report for 1864, presented to the Legislature in 1865, says:

> "In many instances, where the teachers endeavor to conform with the requirements of the law, they are compelled to furnish books for the purpose themselves; and every time they accept new positions, they carry these books with them and the schools from which they remove are thus left without records."

One of the greatest sources of trouble in the early school districts, according to these reports seems to have been in the selection of teachers:

> "The selection of teachers is a very fruitful source of trouble. In some districts it is made by calling a meeting of the inhabitants and taking a vote. It is not uncommon for the Trustees of a district to select one teacher and the dissatisfied portion of the inhabitants to select another."--1

The term "Free Schools" appears in early records quite often and may be misleading to many not conversant with its

1 Report of State Super. of Public Instruction 1864.

application. In his report of 1868, relative to free schools, State Superintendent Apgar, speaking of public schools as distinct from private schools, says:

> "This does not necessarily mean "free schools," or schools open to the public where all children of the legal age may attend and receive an education free of cost. This, I regret to say, is not the case. About one-half of the schools of the state are free, but the remaining half are partially supported by what are termed 'rate bills' or 'tuition bills.'"

Sometimes it was the duty of the Trustees to collect the rate bills, and because of this, some citizens would not serve on the Boards. Others wouldn't collect them without a commission. Sometimes the teacher had to collect them, often becoming involved in quarrels with the school patrons regarding the amount of the charge which was based upon the attendance of the child, the quality of instruction and even school discipline.

The amount of money received from these bills enabled the school year to be extended. Some districts actually closed their schools when the State appropriation was exhausted and did not resort to rate bills.

The State Superintendent in his annual report says:

> "The greatest objection to the rate-bill system is that it requires the poor man to pay for the education of his children. This is contrary to the principle we found our public school system on, which is that every child has a right to

Old Lafayette Sch
Left in Raritan Twp when Twp. Sch lines were drawn

135A

Raritan. The Act of 1895 modified the Act of 1894, one of the amendments giving the Boards of Education of the adjacent townships power to change district boundaries where township lines cut in two old districts so as to make it inconvenient or impractical for a considerable number of children to attend school in their own township. Changes were to stand for three years only, giving opportunity for frequent adjustments. The action of the Woodbridge Board of Education in the matter of such adjustments will be referred to in another chapter.

Bonhamtown School, Franklin School (Metuchen), New Dover School, Mt. Pleasant School, and Oak Tree School (old No. 6 Raritan) now a private residence, were also embraced within the recently organized Raritan Township.

The Bridgetown district school and the South Branch School (probably) were taken over by Rahway when it extended its boundaries in 1858.

The report of the State Superintendent of Public Schools for the year 1850, appearing in the Senate Journal of New Jersey 1851, gives the whole number of Woodbridge Township School Districts as seventeen and the amount expended on them as $777.50 (includes Woodbridge Village.)

Ellis B. Freeman, Town Superintendent of Woodbridge, whose report to the State Superintendent of Schools for

the year 1851 appears in the Senate Journal, says:

> "There were originally eighteen districts in this township, #5 and #6 have been united, also #11 and #12, and a school for colored children formed in Rahway. .....There are three private schools in the township which take a number not less than 75 children, residents of the township. .....Eight of the teachers through the summer were females of ages 18 to 25.....
>
> "There will be but one school under the direction of a female during the winter, although two of the schools, viz: Rahway and Woodbridge, have female assistants. Several of the male teachers are experienced, as such, having made teaching a profession from choice, one of them having taught the same school more than 30 years.
>
> "....Course and Extent of Study....under this head is included all the studies usually taught in schools, from the alphabet to English grammar, geography, history, surveying, bookkeeping, and in one school a class of Latin scholars."--1

Town Superintendent of Woodbridge, Sidney Averill, in his report to State Superintendent John H. Philipps, printed in the Senate Journal for 1853, says:

> "There are nominally 18 districts in this township though really only 16, as two have been heretofore absorbed in others. (Strawberry Hill and Jefferson to form #24, and #5 and #6 to form the Academy District.) There is a school also for colored children.
>
> "The teachers are frequently retained a number of years in the same school. One aged gentleman, a worthy example of this class

1 Senate Journal for 1852.

> of persons has been 33 years in the same school. He merits a pension, though in his case, one might infer from the attachment of his patrons, that he will never need it."

Probably this old gentleman was "Bethune Duncan, the brother of Chief Justice Duncan of South Carolina, who commenced teaching school at Oak Tree, October 1819, and continued his service there for 45 years."--1

Superintendent Averill was very outspoken in his criticism of his schoolhouses in the same report:

> "It is known from actual observation that there are barns built for horses in this town which exceed in cost and convenience, fourteen out of its seventeen schoolhouses. We have only three well-furnished public school rooms in the township; but another is building at a cost of over $3,000, which, it is hoped, may throw over our old and weather-beaten rooms.....a dark and disreputable shade, with all their mutilated desks set against the walls, that with their long, plank seats, may remind us of those early times when as yet the cushioned seat was not." 2

Mr. Averill was not reappointed to his office the next year, no doubt his reward for the expression of an honest criticism.

Luther J. Tappen, Town Superintendent of Woodbridge in 1863, in his report to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction says:

> "Registers are kept in all schools. Amount of money raised by the township $2.00 per

1 Ezra Hunt M. D. Metuchen and Her History 1870.

2. Senate Journal for 1852

scholar. Amount from state $447.86."

State Superintendent E. A. Apgar's Annual report for 1867 gives the enrollments of Woodbridge Township schools as follows:

District	1	44
"	2	66
"	3	206
"	4	231
"	5	107
"	6	53
"	7	177
"	8	67
"	9	40
"	10	37
"	11	80
"	12	55
"	13	44
"	14	24

These numbers of districts are only sequential numbers and are not to be confused with present-day numbers. Nos. 3 and 4 were in Woodbridge proper. No. 5, no doubt, was Fairfield Union, and No. 7, Franklin in Metuchen.

Incorporated School Districts were later given names, and thus we find in Superintendent Apgar's report for 1869, as it appears in "Legal Documents, State of New Jersey, 1870," the following list of District schools with some statistics:

Woodbridge Township Schools
1869

Place	Enroll't	Condition	Average Salary
Rahway Neck	32	fair	$25.00
Blazing Star	47	poor	41.66-M* 33.33-F*

* M means Male--F means Female

Rahway Neck.
Sch.

(now a private residence)
1933

Old Six-Roads
Washington)

Place	Enroll't	Condition	Average Salary
Academy	121	fair	$32.50
Jefferson	215	good	70.00-M 55.00-F
Fairfield Union	69	good	23.00
Bonhamtown	No report	fair	
Franklin(Metuchen)	144	poor	76.00-M 38.00-F
Uniontown	40	fair	25.00
New Dover	21	poor	20.00
Mt. Pleasant	19	fair	20.00
Oak Tree	48	good	26.67
Lafayette Union	37	good	30.00
Washington	39	good	33.00
Locust Grove	28	good	25.00

It appears that Jefferson (up-town school, Woodbridge,) Blazing Star (Carteret--Old No. 2) and Franklin (Metuchen), had each two teachers, one of each sex; Lafayette Union, one teacher, male.

It will be noted, as other lists of school districts are given, that some of them disappear from Woodbridge. These appear afterwards in the reports from other townships.

"Rahway Neck" school is now occupied as a private residence and is located on the road between Carteret and Rahway, looking very much the same as when it resounded to the monotoous chant of the multiplicatinn tables, with the exception that now a fine privet hedge surrounds it.

"Blazing Star" (#2) has disappeared, but its ghost rubs elbows with the fine building erected adjacent to it in the Chrome section of Carteret.

"Academy School," the old "downtown" Woodbridge School became a wanderer, finally laying its tired old frame to rest on the banks of the Woodbridge Creek, near the bridge opposite the property of the Woodbridge Lumber Company on Rahway Avenue, a solemn lesson to all those schools contemplating such a change in their life work--converted to religion, then backsliding to a plumber's junk shop.

"Jefferson School" is now a dignified place of business opposite the Municipal Building on Main Street. In its varied career since leaving the field of education, it has performed its duty as a feed store, a Chinese Laundry, and is now eking out an existence as an Auto Accessory Shop and Gas Station on one side, a luncheonette on the other, and a private residence on the second story. Disguised with its coat of stucco, it puts up a bold front, there being little about it now to recall to mind those early days when the playful school boys placed a board on the top of the chimney to smoke out the school for a holiday.

"Fairfield Union" school was a one-story, two-room building about 31 feet by 57 feet, erected on a lot purchased from Daniel Voorhees August 10, 1858, on the south side of King George's Post Road. It was later moved across the highway to make room for the present new brick edifice now occupying the old site. It had the distinction of being crowned

New Sch. No 2.
erected by W. Co. Bd.
Shown on left.

Old School
Blazing Star
moved off its
foundations

with a belfry enclosing a bell, but school, belfry, and bell finally fell victims to the fire demon and now scarce one remains who knows the spot whereon it stood.

There had been an old school previous to this situated on the Crow Mills Road which was later moved to the spot now occupied by the Fords National Bank and which was used as a grocery store and post office by Mr. Melvin Clum, President of the Township Board of Education. It was again moved to make way for the new bank and is now the residence of Mr. Clum on Fourth Street.

"Uniontown School," a one-room building, went up in fire and smoke one afternoon whilst the children were at play. After the fire, the children were housed for some time in a little church on the adjacent lot, but fate decreed that it, too, should be translated in fire and smoke. At first it stood on the north side of Galbraith's Hotel on the old highway, but railroad changes led to its removal from that site to the one on the Woodbridge Road.

Clayton in his "Compilation" of 1882, says:

> "Among the early teachers was Master William Creamer who taught a school at Uniontown in 1817-1819. He is well remembered by the older inhabitants as a "learned man and well fitted for teaching."

The Woodbridge newspaper, the Independent Hour, published the following item from a special contributor under

date of June 14, 1877:

"It was our happy lot to be present at the Public School entertainment at this place on last Friday evening, where we were most agreeably surprised to meet friends from Rahway, Woodbridge and Menlo Park. Of course, the house was filled. It was a solid comfort to attend a school examination as well as an exhibition of the 'stage paces' of the scholars. The exercises consisted of a most rigid and searching test of their various capabilities in geography, mental arithmetic, a cross-examination in all kinds of tables of weights and measures and a grand tournament in spelling, a promiscuous list of about 200 of the longest, toughest, and unseemly words endured in the English language, and although many of them might compete with the Turko-Russian list of war news, yet only two were missed in the whole list and many of the scholars in the competition seemed not over ten years of age.

"The Scholars as a group are good singers.

"The lady principal is deserving of the greatest consideration from all that are interested for the thorough and prompt manner in which she teaches them all to answer, drones and laggards not being tolerated. The management certainly has cause for self-congratulations in so fortunate a selection. Being a total stranger to her, we have no reason to be biased.

"Many who attended the exhibition were agreeably surprised to find that Mr. Edison of Menlo Park had placed his telephone in the house for the entertainment of the visitors. The felicity of hearing as well as seeing so recent and wonderful an invention could not fail to make it unusually impressive, especially to all interested in progress and enlightment and although all the instruments and connections were only temporarily arranged and the operators not all practiced yet the result was most gratifying. Only the least amount of testing and we had selections

Iselin Sch.
(Uniontown)
two - rooms

2.

Uniontown School
one - room
(Iselin)

1.

> from Mr. Sankey's hymns as well as National Airs--My Country 'Tis of Thee--being transmitted with wonderful clearness. It was shown also that the cries of birds and animals upon an imitation of them, could be transmitted with great clearness. We should not be at all surprised if Edison taught this child of his inventive fancy to talk."
>
> (Signed)--Progress

Probably this little school had the honor of being the first school building in the country in which to have the telephone demonstrated.

Bell had filed his application in Washington D. C. for a patent on his telephone apparatus, February 14, 1876. Edison, in his shops at Menlo Park, New Jersey, near the Iselin School (Uniontown), had invented the carbon button, a part of the vibrating mechanism within the transmitter and the receiver. This is a little brass box containing particles of carbon composed of especially selected and treated coal, and no doubt the audience at the Iselin exercises was listening to a very early, if not the first, public demonstration of its application to Bell's telephone.

"Washington School," also known as Six Roads No. 4, escaped the fate of its relatives at Uniontown and Fairfield but was abandoned and sold for $75 when the new Avenel School No. 4 was opened. The buyer then resold it and it was torn down. In all probability the lumber from it was

used in the construction of one of the small houses in the neighborhood. Being located on King George's Road, the main highway between Woodbridge and Rahway, on the east side about half way between Avenel Road and the Pennsylvania R. R. bridge, it became a favorite resting place for "Knights of the Road" especially over weekends, scarcely being fit for occupancy many a Monday morning. With its old pot-stove, "carved" furniture, cracked, plastered walls, barn-like floor, tumble-down foundations, splintered door and rotting wooden steps, it could not keep pace with modern educational progress and now the place whereon it stood shall know it no more.

"Locust Grove" school is located on the far edge of the township beyond Colonia on the old road leading from Rahway to Plainfield and was abandoned when the new building was erected at Colonia near the Pennsylvania R. R. station. The Clark Township children attended there for many years although that township was in Union County. It continued to be used as a Sunday school for many years afterwards and the building is still in good condition.

A news item appearing in the Independent Hour, June 15, 1876, says:

> "The schoolhouse in Locust Grove District No. 19, in the upper part of this township near the residence of Colonel G. W. Thorne, is being enlarged and thoroughly

New Dover School.

Locust Grove School

> repaired, replastered, painted and furnished with new furniture of the most approved style and a parlor organ, with clothes room, library room, hall and coal room, new outbuildings and front fence. This is an improvement which the good people in that vicinity will appreciate and we congratulate Colonel Thorne and the other Trustees and friends of education and comfort for children while in school, on their efforts to have one of the neatest and most complete little school buildings in the Township and perhaps in the country."

This school was a one-room building and how it held all these "improvements" is a mystery. The illustrations of these district schools were made from photographs taken in the early years of the administration of the present supervising principal of schools before the wave of public school transportation and consolidation had reached this township.

November 20, 1871, County Superintendent Ralph Willis wrote to the various District Clerks in Middlesex as follows:

> "Gentlemen: Serious evils have arisen from the unsettled state of the boundaries of school districts and the want of some permanent form in which they may be preserved for reference. The Trustees of each school district of Middlesex County are, therefore, earnestly requested to send to the County Superintendent, a careful description of their boundaries in their district. Special care will be needed that such description does not conflict with the claims of any neighboring district or districts.

Old "New Dover" Sch.
now
private residence 1933

".....These descriptions of boundaries, when sent in and approved, will be recorded in a book provided for the purpose, and when the collection is completed, a copy of it will be placed in the office of the State Superintendent at Trenton, having legal authority and force."

(Signed)--R. Willis, County Superintendent

March 5, 1872, Mr. Willis called a meeting of the Trustees of the Township Districts for Thursday March 14, at the Academy Schoolhouse, Woodbridge, at 2 p. m. for the purpose of examining and correcting the boundary descriptions preparatory to their publication in a permanent form.

Chapter IX

Summary

OTHER TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

The State Superintendent's report of 1863 enlightens the legislature.

The State Superintendent Ricord calls the Town Superintendent's reports "ambiguous" and data useless.

District schools, "miserable shanties", says Ricord. Registers not kept previous to 1856.

The selection of teachers is the greatest source of trouble reported by State Superintendent in 1864.

Explanation of term "Free Schools" given.

Many evils are corrected by the introduction of the township system by an Act of 1894.

Raritan Township organized out of Woodbridge and Piscataway Townships in 1870.

The Act of 1895 modifies the Act of 1894.

The whole number of school districts in Woodbridge Township given in the State Superintendent's report of 1850 is stated as seventeen.

The report of Superintendent Ellis B. Freeman of Woodbridge appears in the Senate Journal of 1851.

Town Superintendent Sidney Averill reports in the Senate Journal 1853 and criticizes the district schools.

Town Superintendent Luther J. Tappen says "Registers are kept in all schools (Woodbridge)".

Enrollments in District Schools of Woodbridge for 1867 are given by State Superintendent Apgar in 1867.

The list of district schools with some statistics for Woodbridge Township is given.

A quotation from Clayton's "Compilation" of 1882 mentions Master William Creamer.

The "Independent Hour" publishes the story of a school entertainment at Iselin.

Mr. Edison loans his telephone to Iselin school for demonstration purposes.

A news item in the "Independent Hour", June 15, 1876, tells about Locust Grove School.

In 1871, County Superintendent Ralph Willis calls for descriptions of school district boundaries.

In 1872, County Superintendent Willis meets with the Trustees of the Township Districts at the Academy School, Woodbridge.

CHAPTER X

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

During the eighteenth century and about three-quarters of the nineteenth, the period of the development of the "Free Schools," or public schools, as distinct from private institutions, xxx the raising of money for the education of poor children was a regular and increasing item in the township budgets according to the old town records. In fact, it almost seemed that there were no other children than poor children attending school. Many parents who could afford to do so sent their children to private schools of which there was a considerable number in Woodbridge Township, two having been previously mentioned, viz: the old Academy and the Elm Tree Institute.

A few others will be mentioned as worthy of notice in connection with this history. "Mrs. Ricord's Boarding School for Young Ladies at Woodbridge, New Jersey," is the heading of an advertisement appearing in the "New Jersey Advocate and Middlesex and Essex Advertiser," Volume IV, No. 4, published in Rahway, Tuesday, March 28, 1826.

> "The winter session of this school will close on Saturday, the first of April, and the summer session commences on Wednesday, the 19th day of April. Mrs. Ricord cannot, on this occasion, refrain from expressing her obligations to her patrons. She hopes to merit their con-

Old Well on
Site of old
Adrian Institute.

Site of old Adrian Institute
on
New Bloomfield Ave
off N. side of
Iselin Road

tinued support by unremitted exertions
to improve her pupils.

Terms

Reading and Writing with plain Needlework	$2.50
Arithmetic and English Grammar	3.00
Composition, Geography, History and Ornamental Needle work	3.50
Astronomy, Natural Philosophy, Rhetoric	5.00
Music, Drawing and French (separate charges)	

Boarding and Washing, $115 a year, or
$2.00 per week exclusive of washing.

A most particular attention will be
paid to the moral and religious in-
struction of the pupils."

This school occupied the plot of land now the site of the two houses on the corner of Rahway Avenue and Claire Avenue, almost directly opposite the Elm Tree Institute.

Another important school in the early seventies, the "Adrian Institute," was located half way between Woodbridge and Iselin on New Bloomfield Avenue, just beyond the residence of Mr. Reinhardt. It was destroyed by fire, probably about 1877. The foundations are filled with discarded junk with a number of large trees growing among it. The "Woodbridge Independent Hour" for June 22, 1876, gives the following account of the graduation exercises of that year:

"The third annual commencement of the Adrian
Institute at Iselin (formerly Uniontown)
took place last Thursday afternoon. A large
number of invited guests were present to
witness the exercises which were conducted
by the efficient principal, Mrs. L. H.
Matthews and her assistants, Misses Anna

> Michaelis, and Mary E. Fisher. The pastor of the Presbyterian Church, Reverend J. M. McNulty, gave the invocation. The program consisted of essays, recitations, German conversation, piano solos, vocal solos and duets, a German play and a French play.
>
> "Adrian Institute has been increasing in popular favor since its opening three years ago and under the efficient management of Mrs. Matthews, bids fair to be one of the first institutions for young ladies in the country."

Judging from the commencement program, this school must have been well patronized and of excellent standing.

Another young ladies' boarding school occupied the present home of Mrs. F. G. Tisdall, next door neighbor to the Elm Tree Institute (Morris Academy) and was kept by the Stevens sisters. French, Latin, Arithmetic, Reading, and Writing were the principal subjects taught.

Miss Nettie Walker was teacher in a private school erected by Judge Albert D. Brown, father of the well-known "Brown Brothers" in East Woodbridge, or as it was sometimes called, Woodbridge Neck. "The Independent Hour" of June 29, 1876, tells that this young lady held a picnic at Alderney Park for the scholars and patrons of the school, together with a select company of friends.

A private school was conducted in the Presbyterian Manse by the pastor of the church in the old part now demolished. Reverend Thayer Martin, grandfather of J. H. Thayer

Martin, Jr. and the Presbyterian minister at the time, taught Latin.

Another school was carried on by a Mr. Stevens in the building now occupied by Mrs. Dunigan of Green Street near the Pennsylvania R. R. Station before the road was cut through. Many changes have been made in the appearance of the building since that time. French and Drawing were two of the principal subjects taught.

Miss Jane Arrowsmith's private school for young ladies was held in the house now occupied by Mr. J. H. Love at 95 Green Street. The appearance of the building has been changed considerably since its school days.

The Misses Emma and Sarah Mills kept a school in the house now owned and occupied by Mr. David Brown on Main Street next to the Methodist Church property on the east side. Tuition was $12.00 per quarter. Music and dancing were extra, a male teacher coming from Newark to teach the latter subject. When the school closed in 1876, through the opening of the new graded school, now known as School No. 1, there were from twenty to twenty-five pupils enrolled, mostly young children.

Today, the private school has little or no place within the area served by a good, well-administered school system. The public elementary school followed by the High School meets

every ordinary need of the present day, except for those who especially desire a social career for their sons and daughters and have the financial ability to pay for it.

CHAPTER X

Summary

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Raising money for the education of poor children was an ever increasing item.

Mrs. Ricord's Boarding School for Young Ladies at Woodbridge is described.

The "Adrian Institute" between Woodbridge and Iselin holds its annual commencement June 22, 1876.

Stevens sisters kept a boarding school in the present home of Mrs. Tisdall, Rahway Avenue.

Miss Nettie Walker teaches in East Woodbridge. The Presbyterian Minister keeps a school in the manse.

Other schools are kept by Mr. Stevens, Miss Jane Arrowsmith and the Misses Mills.

CHAPTER XI

A NEW ERA BEGINS

The following notice marks the beginning of another epoch in the history of Woodbridge Township Schools:

> "Notice is hereby given that an election will be held on Tuesday, July 24, 1894 at 3 o'clock in the afternoon in Masonic Hall, Woodbridge, New Jersey for the purpose of electing nine trustees of schools for the township of Woodbridge. This election is called in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 335, Section 16 of the laws of 1894, etc."
>
> Signed--H. Brewster Willis
> County Superintendent of Schools
> for the County of Middlesex
>
> Dated July 21, 1894.

When the meeting took place, there were twenty-two candidates for Trustee, the following gentlemen being elected: Howard Valentine, C. B. Smith, Joshua Liddle, C. W. Boynton, John Lockwood, Joseph W. Savage, John H. Hilsdorf, Charles B. Demarest and John Correja, Jr. On July 30, the elected members met in the public school at Woodbridge for organization with results as follows:

> "Mr. Howard Valentine was unanimously elected President and Mr. Charles B. Demarest District Clerk. The members then drew lots for the terms of office, Mr. Howard Valentine, Mr. John Hilsdorf and Charles B. Demarest securing the three year terms; Mr. C. A. Boynton, Mr. John Correja, Jr., and Mr. John Lockwood

the two-year terms and Mr. C. B. Smith, Mr. Joshua Liddle and Mr. Joseph W. Savage the one-year terms.--1

One of the first acts of the new Board was to designate and distinguish the several schoolhouses by number.

Woodbridge No. 1	Washington No. 4
Blazing Star No. 2	Locust Grove No. 5
Rahway Neck No. 3	Iselin No. 6

Fairfield No. 7

Mr. B. King, Clerk of Clark Township, Union County, requested that the children from that township be allowed to continue attending the Locust Grove School for the coming year, their Board proposing to pay for all books supplied by the Woodbridge Board.

The first order for school supplies for the several schools under the new regime was as follows:

"25 Gross Alpha Dustless M. Crayons
" " Assorted
5 gal. Davids Black Ink--1 Doz. qts. do.
2 gross each Spencerian Pens. #1, #5, and #9
2 Gross Pen holders, straight handles
10 " Lead pencils, rubber ends, stamped "Woodbridge Schools."
3 " Soap stone slate pencils--wood covered
2 M. sheets plain manilla writing paper."--1

The schools reopened September 4, 1894, after the summer vacation, and on September 10 the Visitation Committee of the Board reported an enrollment of 482 children, 360 new books of all kinds in good condition in the hands of pupils, and 1383 new books needed for all the schools.

A special meeting was held September 25, 1894 for the

1 Minutes, Board of Education.

purpose of raising by a district school tax the following amount thought to be necessary to conduct the schools for the coming year:

"Teachers, Janitors and Fuel	$ 850.00
Repairs and School Supplies	425.00
District Clerk's Salary	225.00
Textbooks and Pupils' Supplies	1500.00
Total-------	$3000.00"--1

All items were voted upon favorably.

A definite effort by the new Trustees to sustain the principals and teachers in school discipline is indicated by the following resolution under date of October 24, 1894:

> "Resolved that the Principals of all the schools be requested to report to the Board monthly the names of all pupils whose average in deportment during the preceding month is less than 80 and those pupils who cannot preserve this average will be liable by expulsion by the Board and that the Principals be instructed to have this resolution read by the teachers in each department monthly."--2

At the request of the Board, Mr. J. V. Freeman, the Assessor, was asked to value the school property in the Township, which he did, reporting as follows:

"January 7, 1895

District	Amount	Less Bonds	Adding Cash	Net
1	$30,000	$6000	$3000	$27000
2	2,470	1300	2550	3700

1 Minutes, Board of Education
2 Minutes, Op. Cit.

District	Amount	Less Bonds	Adding Cash	Net
3	750		100	850
4	790	40		750
5	690		60	750
6	870	70		800
7	1200		100	1300
	$36770	7410	5790	$35150[1]

A note was added stating that Districts #5 and #6 are to be divided between Woodbridge, Raritan and Clark Townships. The present valuation of township school property appears in the appendix.

At this period the school children in Keasbey were supposed to attend No. 7 (Fairfield) but a complaint from Mr. J. C. Rossi of Keasbey's Landing, stated that there were 100 children in that district unable to attend school because of the distance to No. 7, and requested the Board to take some action in this matter.

A petition was received by the Board from the Graduating class asking for a course in Shakesperian literature which was granted, and the clerk authorized to purchase the necessary books to an amount not to exceed five dollars.

The matter of adjusting district lines came up and the President appointed a committee to confer with committees from neighboring townships where such adjustment was desirable.

1 Minutes, Board of Education.

Probably for the same reason that a bell was purchased for the graded school in 1876, a belfry was erected on No. 7 school.

The district clerk reported that in conformance with the order of the Board relative to the petition of the Senior class to have a course in Shakesperian literature, he had purchased:

> "Twelve copies of Julius Caesar and twelve copies of Hamlet at 22½¢ each."

On April 25, Mr. John Lockwood, District Clerk, reported that he had conferred with committees of adjoining townships as to the proposed change of district lines between Raritan Township and Clark Township, and stated that Mr. Carman, District Clerk of Raritan, had notified him, that the Raritan Board had adopted the lines as reported by their committee.

A similar report was made regarding Woodbridge and Raritan lines, and Woodbridge and Clark lines. It was thus definitely settled what school territory was included within Woodbridge Township. The settlement had to be made for the purpose of avoiding the confusion in taxation for school purposes which had been caused by different portions of a school district being in different townships or counties when their lines did not conform to the township lines.

The Trustees ordered that a description of the new boundary lines be written in the minutes of the Board.

Teachers' salaries were taking a trend upward at this time, varying from $35.00 per month, the lowest in the township, up to $55.00 paid to the first assistant at School No. 1.

The appointments for principal were as follows:

Miss M. J. McCurdy	Blazing Star #2
" Carrie C. Jacques	Rahway Neck #3
" E. Ella Baker	Washington #4
" Rachel F. Folsom	Locust Grove #5
Mr. William Spencer	Fairfield #7 (Fords)

At a meeting on May 24, Mr. H. Valentine, Chairman of the Teachers' Committee reported that the Committee unanimously recommended Mr. John H. Love for principal of No. 1 School, and he was unanimously elected at a salary of $1200.

When the new principal took charge in September, he found that under instructions from the Board, no promotions of pupils had been made the previous June, and that the method of doing this was left to him.

A proposition from Mr. A. Weber, relative to the establishment of a school at Weber, had previously been received, offering to deed some property to the Board for this purpose, and he now wished to know what action the Trustees would take. He was assured that the matter would be taken up at an early date.

A committee was eventually appointed by the President of the Board to meet with Mr. Adam Weber in relation to opening a school at that place.

Following this action, an interesting light on the economical policy of the Trustees is indicated in a request to the janitor of School No. 1:

> "That he light the lamps in front of the schoolhouse all evenings when the moon is not shining."--1

At the same meeting, the newly appointed principal, Mr. John H. Love, was present and at his suggestion an appropriation of $50.00 was made with which to purchase additional scientific apparatus.

On August 19, Mr. Weber appeared before the Board and offered a part of the factory building at Weber for the purpose of a temporary school.

It seems that the "Weber" school committee was in favor of another offer for the location of a school at Weber, for at an adjourned meeting of the Board on August 26, Mr. Ephraim Cutter, the Chairman, reported the building offered by Raritan River H. & P. Brick Company, through Mr. James Rossi the Superintendent, for a temporary school and recommended that a school be opened near "Keasbeys" in the southern part of the township.

1 Minute Book, Board of Education.

Mr. Cutter also read several letters received by him from Mr. Rossi relative to making certain changes in the building that he offered in order to adapt it better to educational purposes.

The structure was a new one and had been used as a store house. At the next meeting of the Board it was resolved:

> "that it is expedient to open a school near 'Keasbey Landing' this coming year, to be known as 'No. 8 School.'"--1

Also it was resolved:

> "That the offer of the R. H. & P. Brick Company, through Mr. Joseph C. Rossi, Superintendent, to furnish and prepare a building suitable for school purposes be accepted."--2

It was also decided to engage two teachers for the school, a principal and one assistant, the salaries to be $40.00 and 35.00 per month respectively, and to proceed with the furnishing and equipment of the building at once. Miss Annie Richards received the principalship and Miss Mary H. Hall was elected as assistant.

A motion was carried at the same meeting:

> "That one thousand "Perfect Slate Erasers" be purchased and distributed to the different schools in the district."--3

1 Minute Book, Board of Education.
2 Ibid.
3 Ibid.

These erasers were small, pressed paper blocks about two inches long, one inch wide and half an inch thick, requiring no water. These were the days of slates and pencils. The so-called noiseless slates, bound around the edges with felt were used by the children. Teachers of today have had little or no experience with the old slate sponge and water such as the old-timer had. Drops of cold water gently and surreptitiously squeezed down the back of a neck invitingly bent forward by the pupil occupying the seat in front, usually produced results not conducive to the general good order of the class room.

The introduction of the "Blocks" had in view not only hygienic improvement, but the elimination of the "water-and-neck" trick. It proved, however, to be simply an exchange of one evil for another, for the "Perfect Slate Eraser" was also a perfect class-room missle. A teacher, weak in discipline, was helpless when a "Perfect" storm broke in her room.

The Keasbey School, No. 8, was opened Monday morning October 7, 1895, with an enrollment of 44 in the Primary Departments and 28 in the Grammar grades.

The Vertical Writing System was much in vogue at this time and Woodbridge schools followed the fad. Its one redeeming feature was its legibility.

Reports had begun to come in from several members of the Board regarding the increased enrollments at various points in the district, indicating that the population of the township had commenced a steady growth and that additional school accommodations would soon be required. The great problem of building schools to keep pace with population growth had commenced and has continued from that day to this.

In 1896, it was the custom of the principals of the several schools to make reports and address all communications direct to the Board which necessitated a great deal of detail work for the Board and for the Clerk on the minutes. Much of this was of minor importance and began to prove irksome.

Miss E. E. Baker, teacher and principal at No. 4, requested the Board to allow her to engage a pupil as janitor at $2.00 per month. Permission was given with the understanding that this sum was to be paid while the weather required the building to be warmed, and after that time, one dollar per month for the remainder of the year.

The principals of the smaller schools had to do their own janitor work or make some such arrangement as above. In some cases, the principals were paid extra for this work.

Mr. John Ohmenheiser was the regular janitor at School No. 1 and received $40.00 per month when schools were in

session but the amount was cut down to $10.00 a month during the summer vacation.

At a February meeting, Miss Amanda G. Edgar was installed as temporary principal at Blazing Star (Carteret) because of the diphtheria in the family of Miss McCurdy.

An important step in the unification of the township schools took place when, acting on a letter received from County Superintendent H. Brewster Willis, February 1, the Board decided:

> "That the sense of the Board was that Teachers' Meetings might be of benefit to the teachers and through them to the pupils."--1

A motion was carried that:

> "Teachers' Meeting be held in No. 1 Schoolhouse on the last Friday afternoon of each school month at 2 o'clock and that all teachers be required to attend such meetings or satisfactory reason for absence therefrom be given to the Board and the Clerk authorized to notify the teachers."--2

The first meeting was held on February 21, 1896.

On March 17, 1896, the annual meeting for the election of three Trustees and for voting appropriations for the coming year was held in the Masonic Hall. As a result, Mr. A. R. Berry, Mr. E. C. Ensign and Mr. J. H. Coddington were elected.

1 Minute Book, Board of Education.
2 Ibid.

Mr. E. C. Ensign has served continuously, with the exception of a few months, ever since that date, an evidence of the implicit confidence of the community in his integrity, trustworthiness, and ability to occupy such an honorable position. In addition to being a member of the Board, Mr. Ensign was elected as District Clerk in March 1899 and still holds that position (1933), each year finding him the unanimous choice of the Board.

On May 7, 1896 (with the exception of Mr. Love who was appointed on May 1) teachers were appointed to the township schools as follows:

John H. Love	Principal	No.	1	$1350	per	year
Amanda G. Edgar	1st Assistant	"	2	45	"	month
Helen Harned	2nd "	"	2	40	"	"
Josephine Folsom	3rd "	"	2	40	"	"
Carrie Jacques	School	"	3	35	"	"
E. Ella Baker	"	"	4	35	"	"
Rachel F. Folsom	"	"	5	35	"	"
Annie L. Armstrong	"	"	6	40	"	"
William A. Spencer	Principal	"	7	55	"	"
Alice Smith	Assistant	"	7	40	"	"
Annie Richards	Principal	"	8	45	"	"
Mary H. Hall	Assistant	"	8	40	"	"
Isabella Middleton	"	"	1	50	"	"
Viola E. Dunham	"	"	1	50	"	"
Martha E. Smith	"	"	1	50	"	"
Aletta R. Runyon	"	"	1	50	"	"
Luella T. Kelly	"	"	1	50	"	"
May Kelly	"	"	1	45	"	"
Anna D. Dixon	"	"	1	45	"	"

Janitorial service for the following schools was fixed by appropriations of:

> "Twenty dollars janitor salary per annum for cleaning schoolhouses Nos. 3, 4, 5, and 6, and that we appropriate thirty dollars per annum for janitor for No. 8 schoolhouse."--1

Miss Alfarata Dilks was appointed (No. 1) as First Assistant in the High School department at $60.00 in place of Miss Keliher who had resigned, and Miss H. May Dixon was appointed Third Assistant at No. 1 at a salary of $50.00 per month. Mr. Eugene M. Weeks was elected principal of School No. 2 to succeed Miss McCurdy at a salary of $80.00 per month. Miss Mary Van Arsdale was appointed to teach music, drawing, Latin and German in No. 1 at a salary of $60.00 per month. These appointments closed the complement of teachers for the township for the ensuing year.

The high school faculty at that time consisted of John H. Love, Mary Van Arsdale, and Alfarata Dilks. Thirty-minute periods were in vogue, with continuous instruction through both sessions.

The subject of German was introduced this year, the beginning of many other progressive steps in building up a new and modern curriculum.

On July 6, the Textbook and Course of Study Committee reported as follows, the report being approved unanimously:

1 Minute Book, Board of Education.

"At a meeting of the Committee on Textbooks and Course of Study held June 30, 1896, action was taken as follows on the course of study recommended by Mr. Love. Moved and carried that the recommendation of Mr. Love in relation to an English course and a Latin Scientific course in the High School Department and the course of study outlined by him and presented by him to the Board be recommended by the Committee to the Board for adoption.

Signed--E. C. Ensign, Chairman of Committee"
--1

In August, when better drinking facilities were needed, a new well was ordered to be dug on the north side of School No. 1. During the process of the operation, the contractor drove his drill through a layer of bluestone before reaching the potable water which was of remarkably fine quality and extremely cool. For many years thereafter, the clanking of the pumphandle went on, even after "city water" had been introduced, until by order of the Board, the well was filled in with ashes.

In the same month an important change was made for the benefit of the children attending School No. 1 by the installation of the Peck-Williamson System of heating and ventilating. This was a mechanical, hot-blast system of heating, and a pressure system of ventilating. A gasoline engine drove the ventilating fans which sent the warm air through metal shafts into the several class rooms.

1 Minute Book, Board of Education.

This was a tremendous advance in school heating and ventilating and the system was very efficient, being in operation many years until it wore out.

This year also marked the beginning of the era of adjustable single-desk type school furniture. At the same time an increased appropriation for chemical and philosophical apparatus was made ($100) at the request of the high school principal.

Mr. Chase, Trustee from the Carteret section, was authorized "to employ the Hermann boys to haul cinders to fill up the school yard at No. 2 school." One of these "boys" later became Mayor of Carteret, and the other, President of the Carteret School Board.

In 1897, with the object in view of improving the standard of the school, the Supervising Principal recommended that the high school course be increased from three years to four. This suggestion was unanimously approved. Three of the four members of the senior class decided to continue through the fourth year, but the remaining student, Mr. John H. Weber, elected to be graduated as the last of the old three-year course classes. The Board dispensed with the usual public graduating exercises this year for obvious reasons.

The visitation of other school systems for purpose of observation by certain teachers was encouraged by action of

the Trustees at the request of the principal of the high school. No. 1 was always known as Woodbridge high school, although it housed all the elementary grades too. In fact, children attending the school, in whatever grade, invariably spoke of going to Woodbridge high school.

This year was also notable for the first "Grand School Day." County Superintendent H. Brewster Willis wrote to the Board asking permission for this to be held, and Friday, June 11, 1897, was fixed for the event to take place at Boynton Beach. Mr. John H. Love was directed to confer with the other principals in the township and make all arrangements.

Mr. C. W. Boynton, the owner of the resort, gave the use of the place free with all the "amusements and attractions" and in many other ways helped to make the day a joyous one for the children. Trolleys and stages were the means of transportation and a fine program of sports, including physical competitions and "A Grand Musical Dumbbell Exercise" took place on the dance-hall floor. Many of our "grown-ups" still remember this event and often refer to their participation in it.

On May 17:

> "Mr. Adam Weber made an offer to the Board to erect a suitable and modern schoolhouse at Weber upon plans to be approved by the Board at a cost not to exceed four thousand

> dollars and to lease the same to the Board for five years with the privilege of releasing it at an annual rental of $150; the schoolhouse to have sufficient grounds around it and to be known as the Weber School."--1

The offer was unanimously accepted.

The janitorial problem was much different in those times although but thirty-five years have elapsed. Consider the following:

> "Moved and carried that twenty dollars ($20) a year be allowed to the teachers of Nos. 3, Rahway Neck; 4 Washington School, later Six Roads; 5 Locust Grove; and 6 Iselin #6, to pay for keeping the schoolhouses clean and that forty dollars ($40) a year be allowed to No. 7 school (Fords) for the same purpose and the janitor of No. 8 school (Keasbey) to get fifty dollars ($50) per year for his services."--2

John Ohmenhiser, janitor of No. 1, was receiving $50.00 per month.

About this time, the Board gave up the annual transportation of all textbooks from the outside schools to School No. 1 for storage purposes for the summer and the redistribution of them in the fall and substituted

> "closets made with locks built in each of the schoolhouses for the purpose of keeping the textbooks in during vacation."--3

A motion was also carried "to provide places for tying horses at No. 7 school."

1 Minute Book, Board of Education.
2 Ibid.
3 Ibid.

Something had occurred relating to the "Weber School" proposition, for at the August meeting a motion was passed directing that the contract with Adam Weber be revoked if advisable. Later reports from the committee appointed in this matter, led to the acceptance of an offer from Mr. Keasbey of the R. H. & P. Brick Company to build an addition to the Weber school.

The minutes show that coal for the schools was being supplied at prices varying from $5.10 per ton to $6.25 per ton, according to the distance it had to be carted. Locust Grove School called for four tons at the latter price. Roads in those days were not as they are today and had to be reckoned with when bidding.

On November 29, 1897:

> "On motion the Board decided to erect a two-storey brick schoolhouse at Keasbey, New Jersey."--1

A committee was then appointed to visit Keasbey to ascertain if they could secure a lot for the proposed school. Woodbridge Fire Company, No. 1, was authorized to call upon the janitor of No. 1 School to ring the schoolhouse bell in case of any fire that might occur. The fire laddies had been experimenting with the rim of a large steel wheel and with a small bell, but they were dismal failures, hence the

1 Minute Book, Board of Education.

request to the Board for the big school bell.

On December 6, the special committee on the Keasbey school site, reported that the R. H. & P. Brick Company offered to donate a site for a school at the corner of Crows Mill Road and to lay out a new street.

The Board accepted the offer with certain minor provisions and directed that Mr. Adam Weber be notified of their intention to erect a school building at Keasbey at public expense and not lease any building from private parties.

On March 3, 1898, the Keasbey schoolhouse committee reported that a two-story brick school could be erected and completed for $6500 including furniture and heating apparatus. The report was adopted and the following resolution carried:

> "That the Board of Education be authorized to exchange the present lot now owned by the said Board near Weber's factory, for a lot on which to build a schoolhouse, situated on the easterly side of Crows Mill Road, having a frontage of 150 feet on said road and 150 feet in depth, and within six hundred feet of present schoolhouse, said lot to be conveyed to said Board by the Raritan Hollow and Porous Brick Company, etc." --1

The resolution also authorized the erection of the school at a cost not to exceed $6000 and bonds to be issued

1 Minute Book, Board of Education.

Corner of old Bicycle room - Sch. 1.

175 A

for $6500 to include the furnishings.

At the Annual Meeting, March 15, the following appropriations appeared on the ballot and were carried:

"Current Expenses of the Schools.....	$7500
Repairs to School Buildings.....	1000
Textbook, Apparatus and Pupils' Supplies.....	900
Total	$9400--1

So many pupils were riding to school on bicycles, that, at the request of Principal John H. Love, School No. 1, the Board ordered that a place be built for the proper storage and care of them. This was done and the old "bicycle room" was fitted up with holders. Many "grown-ups" will remember this convenience.

Soon afterwards, the Board, on resolution, decided to open a school in New Dover, and Miss Anna Cheeseman was appointed teacher at a salary of $400 per year.

At the September meeting, the Board arranged to open a room:

> "in the Canda Brick building for a school room at a rental of $10.00 per month for the purpose of extending No. 2 school. (Carteret)."--2

In 1899, as an expression of their appreciation of the interest of the Raritan Hollow and Porous Brick Company in the Keasbey school, the following resolution was passed by

1 Minute Book, Board of Education.
2 Ibid.

the Board on January 23:

> "The Board of Education of Woodbridge Township feel that the Raritan Hollow and Porous Brick Company of Keasbey have taken a most unusual interest in the schoolhouse just erected there. The material help given in the way of land, brick, and other things has enabled us to erect a much more roomy and substantial building than would otherwise have been the case. We wish, on behalf of ourselves as representatives of the Township, and of all friends of Public Schools, and school children to express our hearty thanks and appreciation for what they have done in this case, and we hope that not only may they never have cause to regret what they have done for the children, but that all may see that it is a good investment."--1

In 1899, the Sewaren Land and Improvement Company approached the Board with a proposition regarding a lot for a school, and at the same meeting the proposition was supported by the people of Port Reading who petitioned the Board for a school building, which resulted in the appointment of a committee to select a suitable lot and report to the Board.

At the annual meeting, March 20, the voters were called upon to ballot on a resolution authorizing the school Trustees to accept a plot of land containing a number of lots on which to build a schoolhouse situated on the southwest corner of School Street and Cottage Avenue, Port Reading,

1 Minute Book, Board of Education.

said lot to be conveyed to said Board by the Sewaren Land and Improvement Company.

The Board of Education was also authorized to erect a schoolhouse to be built of brick at a cost not to exceed $5000, including furnishings.

At the organization meeting of the Board, March 28, Mr. E. C. Ensign was elected District Clerk, and has held the office without a break since that time.

The plot of land voted for at the annual meeting did not meet with the approval of the Board and at a special meeting of the voters held June 8, the location of the new school to be erected at Port Reading was slightly changed, making 200 feet on School Street and 100 feet on West Avenue. In this month also, the Board dispensed with the room in the Canda Building at Carteret which had been used for school purposes.

The plans of J. K. Jensen, architect, were accepted for the Port Reading school and construction commenced soon afterwards, the contract having been awarded to Mr. John T. Moore.

Reports now began to be received of the crowded conditions at the Carteret school, and in November a petition from residents of Carteret for better accommodations was presented to the Board which appointed a committee to look for a suitable school site at that place.

W.H.S. Dept. 1899

Group I

W.H.S. Dept. 1898

Group II

Back row 2-3. - Mildred Tucker
Anna Schendorf.
Miss Mary Thomas.

2d row 2, 3: -
Mrs. Pierson, Ethel Lockwood,
Jack Arnold, Max Lee, Miss
Alberta Dietz.

3d row 2, 3: -
Sophie Robinson, Minnie Cromer
Rice, Susie Motta, Francis
Dorse, Mabel Stein.

Sitting:-
Harry Teach, Wm Pierson,
Royal Smith, Reifa Smith,
Ernest Heidtoff, Sidney
Nic.

CHAPTER XI

Summary

A NEW ERA BEGINS

Notice is given of an election July 24, 1894, for the purpose of conforming to the new school law.

The new School Board transacts business. Three thousand dollars had been raised by District School Tax.

The trustees make rules for school discipline. School property is valued at $35,150.

Demands for a school at Keasbey received by the Board. District school lines rectified in 1876.

The school trustees appoint township teachers. Mr. Howard Valentine, Chairman of Teachers' Committee, recommends Mr. John H. Love for principalship of School No. 1, May 24, 1895.

Mr. A. Weber makes a proposition for a school at Weber.

The Raritan Hollow & Porous Brick Company offers to prepare a school and furnish it at Keasbey and the offer is accepted.

Keasbey School No. 8 is opened October 7, 1895. The great problem of building schools commences. Teachers' Meetings are encouraged by the Board.

List of teachers and salaries is given for 1896-1897.

German introduced in the curriculum 1896. The Board adopts Course of Study recommended by Mr. Love.

A new heating system is installed in School No. 1 and adjustable desks introduced.

Supervisor J. H. Love recommends a four-year course for the high school in 1897.

First "Grand School Day" held June 11, 1897. The Board decides to build its own school at Keasbey.

The school appropriations for 1898-1899 are $9400. The Board decides to open a school at New Dover.

The Sewaren Land and Improvement Company makes a proposition to the Board regarding a school at Port Reading in 1899.

The Board is authorized to erect a school at Port Reading at a cost not to exceed $5000.

On March 28, Mr. E. C. Ensign is elected District Clerk.

A committee is appointed to look for a suitable school lot at Carteret.

H.S. DEPT. W.H.S (Old No. 1) 1901

CHAPTER XII

CENTRALIZATION BEGINS

In 1900 a motion was carried on March 6:

> "that $300 be inserted in the budget for the coming year for the transportation of scholars of the higher grade from Carteret to Woodbridge high school."

This item was rejected by the voters at the annual election on March 20.

The transportation idea, however, was budding, but none could foresee the great oak that would grow from such a little acorn. At the present time (1933) the budget item for school transportation is over $30,000.

One of the most advanced steps in progressive policy ever taken by the Board was its decision to unify the schools of the township under one administrative head, and by a unanimous vote the principal of School No. 1 was appointed Supervising Principal over the schools of Woodbridge School District.

On August 25, at a special meeting of the voters, the Board was authorized to purchase a school lot at Carteret, Rahway Avenue and Fitch Street, and to erect a two-story brick structure at a cost not to exceed $12,500, including lot, school, and furnishings.

The enrollment at No. 2, Carteret, had increased so much that, upon the suggestion of the supervising principal, the "Copenhagen System" was introduced as a relief measure. This system, in brief, supplied a "helper" to the regular teacher, who did the actual teaching to one group, while the helper took care of the remaining pupils, usually with "busy work." Several very fine teachers developed in later years from these helpers trained under the tutelage of a good teacher. One young girl who commenced in a building, originally a store, is now principal of one of the largest schools in the township.

The Port Reading school opened in the fall of the year, the first teachers being Miss Hattie Demarest and Miss Susan Savage, and the number of the New Dover school, No. 9. was transferred to the new Port Reading school.

The repair committee was directed to secure a janitor for the school at a salary not to exceed $10.00 per month. Mr. Henry Turner received the appointment.

A great improvement in sanitary arrangements for School No. 1 was made by abolishing the old type of outside toilets and introducing the modern water closets. The old vaults which had been in use since 1876 were changed into a storage bin for coal, an underground runway being constructed, leading into the school building.

On February 7, 1901, the following minute is interesting as giving the names of local newspapers at that time:

> "Moved and carried that an advertisement for bids for the erection of the new school building at Carteret be inserted twice in the next issues of the following papers: Woodbridge News, Woodbridge Register, Perth Amboy Republican, and the Rahway Advocate."

All these names have disappeared and new ones have taken their place.

At the Board meeting on March 10, the contract for erecting the new school at Carteret was awarded to Ira R. Crouse on his bid of $8998.

The annual meeting of the district voters was held on the 19th and the following appropriations were carried:

"Repairs to School Buildings.....	$2000
Textbooks and Supplies.....	1600
Bonds falling due.....	2000
Interest on Bonds and Notes.....	1900
Current Expenses.....	12500

At the May 21st meeting, the Board at the request of Mr. H. Brewster Willis, County Superintendent, endorsed the uniform County Course of Study in the following resolution:

> "Resolved that we hereby endorse the uniform county course of study for the primary and grammar years of work as approved by Charles J. Baxter, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and has been used in this county and district for the past four years,

Rear - L to R
Fern in Vandervoen
Geo. A. Hutchinson Rathbun
Irvin Vickstrom
Harold Robinson
John H. Love, Prin
Stacy Lockwood
Wm. Insley
Sidney Roe

Front - L. to R.
Geo. Campbell
Lulu Blair
Edna Brown
Anna Johnson

CLASS of 1932
(Entrance to new Auditorium.)

and hereby request the teachers of the district to continue to carry out said course."

All the schools of the township were ordered closed on September 19 as a mark of respect to the memory of President William McKinley who had been assassinated, his funeral being held this day.

The attendance at the New Dover School (No. 11), having decreased so much, the school was ordered closed on January 1, 1902, and the teacher, Miss Schendorf, transferred to Locust Grove (No. 5). The Raritan Township Board was then informed of the Board's action. It should be remembered that this school was located in Raritan Township just over the boundary line on Wood Avenue. The Woodbridge Board had been supplying the teacher, material, and equipment, and the Raritan Board the building. This action on the part of the school Trustees eliminated another of the old district schools. The building is now a private residence.

In 1902, at the annual school meeting on the 18th of March, the following appropriations were voted by the taxpayers:

"Repairs to School Buildings.....	$2000
Bonds falling due.....	1000
Interest on Bonds and Notes.....	1700
Textbooks and Pupils' Supplies.....	1500
Current Expenses.....	13800
Total.....	$20000

associates and the townspeople. What was Woodbridge's loss was Perth Amboy's gain.

On March 17, the taxpayers voted for a brick addition to School No. 1 consisting of four rooms, to cost, including furnishings, not more than $13,000. The total budget at this election was $20,000.

At the organization meeting, Mr. William Edgar was elected president and held the office until his death in 1912.

Appointments of teachers were made in May, the lowest salaries being $400 for the teachers at Rahway Neck, Locust Grove and Iselin. In the "graded" school, the lowest salary was $450 and from that figure, salaries ran up to $600 for the teacher of a combination 7th and 8th grade. Principals' salaries were: Carteret No. 2, $900; Fairfield No. 7, $700; Keasbey No. 8, $700; Port Reading No. 9, $500; and Carteret No. 10, $550. The lowest salary in the high school department which had four teachers beside the Principal-Supervising Principal, was $600 and the highest, $750, was paid to the vice-principal.

Messrs. John H. Leisen, John Lockwood and William L. Harned were appointed a committee to supervise the addition to School No. 1; Mr. J. K. Jensen, the architect; Hughes and McElroy the carpenter work contractors; Randolph Lee

the mason contractor; and Mr. Frank Edgar the contractor for the tinning work--these were the lowest bidders.

In 1904 the need for another school building at Carteret was brought to the attention of the Board and a committee was appointed to investigate, which later recommended the erection of the desired school. Mr. Elmer Osborn, one of the Carteret members of the Board, recommended the building be erected on the site of the old School No. 2, and the recommendation was adopted unanimously.

The following resolutions were passed at the meeting of April 11:

> "Resolved: that the Board be authorized to erect and furnish a two-storey brick school building containing thirteen rooms, on the site of the present No. 2 School building at Carteret, said building to cost not more than $35,000."

Another resolution authorized the Board to dispose of the old school building as advantageously as possible. It was also decided to raise the sum of $3000 to complete and furnish the No. 1 addition and to provide additional heating facilities for the main part of the building. The recommendations of the Board, at a special meeting held April 28, were approved almost unanimously.

Messrs. H. V. O. Platt and Elmer Osborn, members from Carteret and Mr. John H. Leisen were appointed as a committee to secure plans and specifications for the projected

new school at Carteret and their recommendations were presented at a meeting held May 17 and were adopted subject to approval by the State. The same committee was appointed to superintend the erection of the building.

An effort was made by a realty company to change the location of the proposed school, but, no doubt influenced by a petition from Carteret citizens, presented by Mr. J. H. Thayer Martin, it was decided unanimously to adhere to the original plan. Permission was given by Mr. Canda to move the old building to an adjacent lot, the Board to use it until the new school was erected. The illustration on page 130 A shows both buildings, new and old.

Some time later, old No. 2 was dismantled and became, as many another good school that had outlived its usefulness, a mere memory.

A severe storm had displaced the cupola from the top of the school and carried it away down the road to the astonishment of the good people of the town. Perhaps the old cupola could not bear to see what was going on below and was glad to be removed from the sad scene of destruction.

In June of this year, Mr. Clarence M. Liddle was elected Custodian of School Monies. Mr. Louis Bradford of Newport, New Jersey, was appointed principal of School No. 10 at a salary of $550.00 per year. Mr. Bradford left the teaching profession many years ago but at the present time is a member of

the Board of Education of the Borough of Carteret.

On September 18, 1905, the following motion appears on the minutes of the Board:

> "Moved and carried that all children in fourth grade, School No. 9 (Port Reading) be allowed to attend either School No. 1 (Woodbridge) or School No. 2 (Carteret) as they see fit."

There was no such thing as transportation at that time except for those fortunate on es whose parents had their own vehicles. All the other children walked to school.

At the November meeting, Supervising Principal John H. Love requested the Board to allow the teachers of the township to have a one-session day one Friday each month for the purpose of a general conference of teachers and for the meeting of the Township Pedagogical Circle at School No. 1 in the afternoon. The request was granted. This "Circle" was organized for the study of one or more professional books each month, drawn by the teachers from the Middlesex County Pedagogical Library which had its headquarters at New Brunswick and had been organized under the leadership of County Superintendent of Schools, H. Brewster Willis.

The programs of these teachers' meetings centered around discussions and papers based on the reading of this professional literature and usually followed by conference on matters pertaining to the general welfare of the township.

Supported by annual contributions from the teachers of the county outside the cities, and supplemented later by an allowance from the State, a splendid Pedagogical Library had been built up, being housed in the New Brunswick Public Library building and lasting until after the death of Mr. Willis.

A few years ago, the books were distributed among the several districts, some were presented to the library of Rutgers University for the use of teacher-students, and the "Professional Circles" ceased to exist as a county organization.

In 1906, tuition charges for pupils attending Woodbridge schools from outside the township were fixed at ten dollars per year for primary children and fifteen dollars per year for the grammar grade pupils.

On February 19, 1906, the Board engaged Mr. J. H. Thayer Martin, Jr. to represent them:

> "before the committee on Townships and Boroughs and state the position of the Board of Education regarding its school bonds and the proposed Borough of Carteret."

The number of high school students from Carteret had been increasing steadily, until at this time they formed a goodly proportion of the high school department student body. The grade school department also in that section of the township had been increasing in enrollment owing to the rapid

growth in population, and a movement had been initiated by an interested group of citizens to secede from the township and form a municipality of their own under the name of the Borough of Roosevelt, to include both Carteret and Chrome. Another important action was taken at this meeting, the following motion being passed:

> "Moved and carried that some provisions be made in the annual budget for transportation of pupils from outlying districts to Woodbridge High School."

As a matter of economy, Principal James Shepard of School No. 2 was authorized to direct the removal of old furniture from the old No. 2 school for use in the new No. 2.

The annual election of Trustees was held in March, a total of twenty votes being cast.

At this time there was only one school poll in the township and that was in Woodbridge proper. Unless there was something of unusual interest astir in school matters, the number of citizens appearing at elections was usually small.

The roads were generally in bad condition at this season of the year and it was no unusual occurrence for a stage carrying voters from Carteret to Woodbridge to get stuck in the mud, its occupants then being compelled to complete the journey on foot.

More than once, the writer has assisted in rounding up enough voters to open the meeting at the annual election.

High Sch. Orchestra 1907

Wm. Prall. Wm. DeHaven Clarence Olson. Alf. Johnson.

Anna Waring. Miss Emma Cornish, Instructor. Usher Randolph. Chas. H. Treen.

Wm. Gardner. Clarence Gillis

-- -- --, Mr. Elmer E. Osborn and Mr. H. V. O. Platt, having been appointed to membership on the Board of Education of the new Borough of Roosevelt, their places on the Woodbridge Board were filled June 18 by the election of Mr. Howard A. Tappen and Mr. William T. Ames for their unexpired terms.

Under the able leadership of Miss Cornish of the high school department, a school orchestra had been organized and was now honored by being invited to play for the high school Commencement Exercises. (See page 191 A--Illustration)

It had become the custom now to bring to Woodbridge the fourth and eighth grades of the township for their annual exercises and to receive certificates of promotion.

The children met in School No. 1 in the early afternoon and paraded to the Methodist Episcopal church, the Trustees of which kindly allowed the use of the building free of charge for the event.

This custom continued until the fourth grades got too large and could not be accommodated; the eighth grades alone filled the church with their friends and relatives.

The eighth grades soon grew too large also and eventually were divided into two groups, Keasbey, Hopelawn, and Fords forming one group using the Fords No. 7 building, and later the new No. 14 building for their exercises and those on the north side of the township forming the second group,

using the auditorium of the new Barron Avenue high school.

As the years passed by, the high school classes which had held their exercises alternately in the Methodist Episcopal church and the Presbyterian church because their own auditorium was too small, grew too large for the Methodist church. They then used the Presbyterian church annually until the erection of the handsome auditorium on the north side of the high school.

At the present time (1933) the high school auditorium is taxed to its fullest capacity for this annual event owing to the increasingly large graduating classes.

Although the Board of Roosevelt had taken over the schools of that section, arrangements having been made for taking care of the school bonds issued for No. 2 and No. 10 as they fell due, the high school students continued to attend the Woodbridge High School at an annual tuition rate of $35.00 per capita.

Port Reading No. 9 had now reached its capacity and demand arose for additional accommodations for the children. A vacant room in the village was secured as an annex and Miss Jennie Numbers appointed teacher, October 15 at a salary of $450.

Residents of Avenel now began to agitate for the transportation of scholars from Avenel to Woodbridge school but

the Board refused to grant it, saying:

> "All school children from the first to the eighth grade living in that vicinity can be accommodated at School No. 4."

The transportation fever was spreading, having reached Keasbey, a communication being received from the people of that place:

> "requesting free transportation for their children attending the Woodbridge High School."

An important resolution reading as follows, was passed at the meeting of the Board on October 15:

> "Moved and carried: that the High School Diploma shall be granted only for four full years of high school work and that a Commercial Certificate shall be issued for the three years commercial work and that to obtain the High School Diploma, holders of such certificate shall select enough studies to complete four years of work."

This action was indicative of the development that had taken place in the high school department through the passing years.

On January 21, 1907, a delegation from Avenel appeared before the Board and requested better school facilities for that vicinity.

In response to pressure from Keasbey and Port Reading, estimates were secured for additions to the schools in those sections and presented to the voters in March at the annual

meeting and were carried unanimously.

The recommendations included a second-story brick addition containing two rooms for No. 9 at a cost not to exceed $6000, and a two-stor y brick addition of four class rooms to the Keasbey school not to cost more than $12000.

The use of electric light in the town had been increasing and the Board moved to install electric lights in assembly room, halls, and cloak rooms of No. 1 school, at a cost not to exceed $250. Large, swinging oil lamps were in the school now and were still the only source of artificial light.

It will perhaps be interesting to note that the expenses of the March 18 election for officials were a bill for $3.00 from Mr. T. Harvey Morris who had acted as secretary. It should be mentioned, however, that his report reads in part:

> "The following appropriations and resolutions receiving a majority of the votes were carried unanimously (36 votes)."

At the same election, Mr. Melvin Clum, representing the Fords section of the township, became a member of the Board and served continuously as member, vice-president, and president of the Board until his death, on April 10, 1933.

Grad. Class - Eighth Grade - Sch. 1 - 1907.
(With Pres. Wm. Edgar).

1954

The demand for increased school facilities had now spread to Fords, for at the May 6 meeting, Messrs. William Edgar, the president of the Board, and John H. Leisen were appointed a committee:

> "to investigate the need of more school room at Fords and ascertain at what figure a suitable lot can be procured in that vicinity."

On July 15:

> "Mr. H. A. Tappen, Chairman of the special committee appointed to investigate the school needs of Avenel, recommended the renting of the Avenel Fire House and the securing of a teacher to teach there."

The recommendation was adopted and in August, Miss Carrie Ewing was appointed as "Fire House" teacher at a salary of $450.

The matter of transporting pupils from Port Reading came before the Board again, but the Clerk was directed to inform the petitioners for that privilege that their request could not be granted because there was no money available for that purpose during the present school year.

In 1908, attention was drawn to the fire hazards at No. 1, so the old wooden stairs leading to the second floor were eliminated and iron stairs substituted; the side walls of the stairways were filled with flake asbestos as further protection.

Medical inspection was introduced and Drs. B. W.

Hoagland and I. T. Spencer appointed as inspectors.

Mr. C. W. Boynton of Boynton Beach, who for many years had served as member of the Board of Education, and was one of the progressive citizens responsible for the erection of the "Graded School" in 1876, died at his home in Sewaren. Although he had not been a Board member for many years, he had continued his interest in the schools and was always active in his support of the progressive policies of the Board.

Resolutions of regret were drawn by the Board and ordered put on the minutes.

At the September meeting of the Board, the following motion was carried:

> "Moved and carried: the president be authorised to contract with the New York and New Jersey Telephone Company for installing telephone in No. 1 school."

This was a decidedly progressive step in the unification of the township schools and it was not long before all the schools were connected with the office of the supervising principal at Woodbridge No. 1.

Steady pressure from Keasbey and Fords resulted in the following action:

> "Moved and carried the trolley fares of Michael Fee from Keasbey, and Ella Joyce from Fords, attending Woodbridge High School be paid."

The principle of paying transportation of high school pupils to the Central High School was getting more firmly established. Equality of opportunity in regard to a high school education for all children in the township qualifying and desiring it, was now being demanded as a right and was being definitely established by the Board.

In 1909, at the April meeting of the Board, a petition was presented to them signed by thirty residents of Fords praying that body to purchase a piece of land at the rear of No. 7 school lot for a sum not to exceed $400 and to erect a school on the combined lots at a cost not to exceed $13600. Steps were at once initiated to secure the proposed lot and all additional frontage up to 200 feet, free and clear.

Another Board member of the old regime died this year, Mr. John Lockwood. Many years of faithful and efficient service had been rendered by him to the schools and he was well known for his business integrity, unimpeachable character, kindliness of heart and his unfailing interest in all educational matters.

Resolutions of regret and a testimonial to his worth were passed by the Board and ordered put on the minutes.

Manual training was introduced into the schools by the appointment of Miss Edith Hinsdale as art and manual

training teacher in No. 1 School at a salary of $700. At first the work was entirely for the grades, wooden trays and sloyd knives being the chief tools.

The teachers' committee presented a teachers' salary schedule to the Board, which was ordered laid over for a month, but was finally adopted.

As this was the first definite attempt to regulate teachers' salaries providing for regular annual increments, it is herewith given:

"Salary Schedule for the Schools
of
Woodbridge Township
June 7, 1909

First:
The minimum salary for primary teachers, Normal School graduates without experience, shall be $500. The maximum salary shall be $800.
Second:
The minimum salary for untrained teachers without experience shall be $450. The maximum salary for primary or grammar grade teachers shall be $800.
Third:
The minimum salary for trained grammar school teachers shall be $600. The maximum salary shall be $900.
Fourth:
The minimum salary for high school teachers and special teachers shall be $650. The maximum salary, $950. The minimum salary of the vice-principal of the high school shall be $850. The maximum $1200.
Fifth:
The minimum salary of principals of primary or grammar schools of two to four rooms shall be $650. the maximum, $950.
Sixth:
The minimum salary for principals of primary or grammar schools of more than four rooms shall be

$750. The maximum $1050.

Provided:
No teacher shall be appointed principal of a school of more than one room unless he or she shall have at least a First Grade County Certificate in full force and effect.
Provided:
Teachers of one-room schools shall be rated as primary teachers if there be less than five grades and as grammar grade teachers if there be more than four grades.
Provided:
Increases of salary shall be based upon length of service and efficiency. For each year of service the teacher shall be entitled to $25 increase; and for rating as "G" good, to $25 additional. Increases shall continue until the maximum of the grade is reached. The rating of the teachers shall be based upon separate records kept respectively by the principals and the supervising principal and marked each month. Said records shall not be divulged to any other teacher than the one immediately interested, the supervising principal of schools and members of the Board of Education. Said records shall be submitted to the Teachers' Committee for consideration at least one week immediately preceding the annual appointment of teachers. Blanks for such records shall be provided by the Board of Education.

On May 17, the following resolution was passed:

> "Whereas: John H. Love has occupied said position of Supervising Principal for eight years last past and possesses all the qualifications required by law: Therefore: we do appoint the said John H. Love as Supervising Principal for the school district of the township of Woodbridge for the term of one year to take effect Julyl, 1909."

This resolution was passed because the State Legislature at its last session had passed an act terminating the office of supervising principal in all the townships,

boroughs, and cities without superintendents, on the 30th of June, 1909. This also provided that such an officer could only be reinstated upon the authorization and recommendation of such an officer by the County Superintendent. The Board could follow suit if it were of the opinion that such an office was:

> "a necessity for the equal instruction, advancement and benefit of all the school children of the district."

A special meeting of the voters of the township was held June 29 for the purpose of voting on a resolution to purchase a lot adjacent to the Fords No. 7 school and erect a schoolhouse on the combined lots, the total cost with furniture and other necessary equipment, not to exceed $1400. The total vote cast was seventeen for the resolution and none against it. The building was to be of brick and contain four class rooms.

On September 20, the president and District Clerk were authorized to take measures to:

> "transport school children living remote from schools to schools that are most convenient."

The supervising principal had come into possession of an "Orient Buckboard", one cylinder automobile, tiller steering, friction plate drive, motor mounted at the rear, and was using it as a means of transportation to the township schools when visiting them. Today, the machine would be a

curiosity. The Board passed a motion to supply gasoline for the car while using it for school purposes. Very little gasoline was consumed because the car was, as a rule, out of commission.

The first recorded purchase of trolley tickets for school children appears in the minutes under the date of June 29:

> "Moved and carried: an order for $50 be drawn in favor of Supervising Principal John H. Love, to be used for the purchase of trolley tickets to be sold to pupils. Said $50 be repaid to the custodian of school monies at the close of the school year."

At this time the first township truant officer was appointed.*

On October 19, transportation for children above the fifth grade at Port Reading to and from Woodbridge was ordered by the Board. The meeting of this date marks another epoch in the history of the Woodbridge schools, for on motion of Mr. Tappen, the following preamble and resolutions were adopted:

> "Whereas in the judgment of this Board, the school accommodations now provided in this district are inadequate and unsuited to the number of pupils attending or desiring to attend school and: Whereas: it is the opinion of this Board that, in order to provide adequate and suitable school accommodations, a plot of land be secured and a new schoolhouse be erected and school furni-

* J. H. Love had been acting as T.O.
Mr. F. A. Edgar first paid appointee.

> ture and other necessary equipment purchased, and that the amount necessary for the foregoing is thought to be the sum of $70,000, therefore, Resolved: that a meeting of the legal voters of the school district be held at Masonic Hall, Woodbridge, on the 16th day of November, 1909, at three o'clock in the afternoon and that the District Clerk be and is, hereby directed, etc....."

Other resolutions called for the purchase of a lot at a price not to exceed $5000 at the corner of Grove Avenue and Barron Avenue and to erect a schoolhouse which, with its furniture and equipment, was not to exceed a cost of $65000. Payment for the land and buildings, etc., was to be through a bond issue. When the special meeting took place the resolutions were all carried by safe majorities.

The transportation of children from Port Reading was again taken up, and Mr. Juan, the local liveryman, was given a contract to do the work at a cost of $30.00 per month, which was to include the transportation of the teachers also.

John Miele of Iselin was employed to transport pupils from New Dover to Oak Tree school Raritan Township, at $15.00 per month. The Board was now thoroughly committed to the transportation idea.

President William Edgar appointed H. A. Tappen, H. R. Valentine, and J. C. Fowler, as Building Committee for the projected new high school, and the Finance Committee was directed to attend to procuring bids on the bond issue.

On January 17, 1910 bids on the bonds for the new high school were opened and Howard V. Stokes of New York secured the issue of $70,000 at 100.83, subject to the usual legal procedure.

John Noble Pierson and Son, of Perth Amboy, were appointed architects. Plans for the new structure were presented at the February 21 meeting and were adopted, subject to approval by the State Board. Later in the year, the plans were considerably modified in order to bring the building within the appropriations.

High school tuition for outside students was raised to $75.00.

On April 18, the following motion was passed:

"Moved and carried the following invitation be tendered Governor Fort of New Jersey:

To His Excellency, John Franklin Fort
Governor of New Jersey

Dear Sir:

We, the Board of Education of Woodbridge Township, Middlesex County, New Jersey, in regular session, extend to you a unanimous and hearty invitation to be our guest at the laying of the corner stone of our $70,000 high school at a date that may be mutually agreeable in June, and we sincerely trust that you may be with us.

Over 1000 children are already eager to meet our Governor with flowers and songs."

GROUP OF TOWNSHIP
TEACHERS
1910
Attending meeting of Prof Circle at No. 1.

Seventy thousand dollars was considered a large sum of money at that time to pay for a school, but today we are astonished at the value the Board received for its money. Committees interested in school buildings came from many parts of the State to inspect and admire.

The lot on which the school was erected was the old Woodbridge ball field, the scene of many a tough struggle between Perth Amboy baseball teams and Woodbridge, even including the baseball fans. Many old timers of the two places will remember the famous "Marions" of Perth Amboy, and the "Brown Boys," --Dave, Will, Charlie, and Arthur, who played on the Woodbridge Athletic Club team. The cheers, the groans, the fights, the arguments! How well we remember them and the efforts of "Paddy" Murphy of blessed memory, and "Paddy" Cullinane not to stop them until it was compulsory to do so (which they could always do in double-quick order.)

On May 16, 1910:

> "Mr. W. H. Demarest presented a letter from his brother, Mr. Ernest Demarest of Tacoma, Washington, offering to ship the Board, free of cost, a flag pole 150' in length, with a topmast 50' in length for the new high school. The offer was accepted and Mr. Demarest was given a vote of thanks."

The bids for the new school were opened at the meeting of May 23. Ira R. Crouse of Perth Amboy was awarded the general contract, exclusive of heating, and John L. Reed of New-

ark, the heating contract.*

Further building was undertaken in September, the repair committee recommending an extension to School No. 6 (Iselin) and a new front entrance to No. 1 school. Architect Pierson was instructed to prepare plans for these improvements, the recommendations being adopted.

The extension at the Iselin School consisted of one additional class room, Mr. J. M. McElroy securing the contract on his bid of $1512.

On July 18, the recommendation of the building committee for the installation of telephones at Fords, Keasbey, and Port Reading schools was adopted unanimously.

The subject of transportation again came to the fore, requests for it being received from Iselin and Port Reading at the Board meeting on September 6. The New High School Committee also reported at this time that Governor J. Franklin Fort had set October 6 as the date when it would be convenient for him to attend the laying of the corner stone.

A short time later, it was agreed to provide transportation for high school and eighth grade pupils from Iselin.

On November 21, a communication was received from Mr. Ernest Demarest of Tacoma, Washington, informing the Board that:

> "the giant flag pole would probably reach New York in December."

* Mr Reed never completed his contract.
J.H.C.

The enrollment at No. 1 had increased to such an extent that the Hungarian Magyar church adjacent to the school had been secured for use as a school room but the heating was so inadequate that, in December, part-time in the main building was instituted for two grades, and the use of the church discontinued.

In 1911 the building of the new high school proceeded under the supervision of the Building Committee. The following list of furniture is given as supplied by Albert Leon of Perth Amboy, New Jersey, together with the contract figures:

"125	Pupils Desks and Chairs	@$ 4.25
8	Teachers " " "	@ 14.00
9	" "	@ 4.50
20	Tablet Arm Chairs	@ 4.75
20	Commercial Desks	@ 7.50
48	" Chairs	@ 70.00 per doz.
1	Principal's Desk	@ 40.00

Heywood Brothers and Wakefield Company supplied 300 assembly settees, lifting seats, slat-backs @ .87 each."

On April 17, on recommendation of the Janitor's Committee Mr. B. A. Dunigan was appointed janitor of the new high school at a salary of $100 per month. It was moved and carried that the Locust Grove (No. 5) School be closed. Thus passed another old-time school from the educational system.

The Teachers' Committee recommended the appointment of male principals for schools Nos. 1 and 7.

On July 17, a motion was carried that the Chemical and Physical Laboratory for the new building be outfitted at a cost of $476.75.

The appointment of a physical instructor was made at this meeting; Mr. F. C. Ryder was chosen at a salary of $850.

The Locust Grove School having been closed, arrangements were directed to be made for the transportation of the pupils from that section to the most convenient school. Rahway school was selected by the committee appointed for the purpose.

At a subsequent meeting this month, Mr. Gilbert Johnson was given the contract for the erection of the new flag pole at the high school for the sum of $295. The giant pole, which, for transportation purposes had been cut into two pieces, had been sent by sea around Cape Horn and had arrived safely in New York Harbor from whence it was brought by a Port Reading tug boat to Port Reading free of charge through the courtesy of Mr. Barrett, then the superintendent at Port Reading docks, and lastly by a team of horses from the dock to the high school.

Mr. Johnson set the pole in a concrete foundation about ten feet deep and six feet wide, putting the topmast in place and reeving the halyards through the block at the top

ready for hauling up the new flag that had been presented for the purpose by Barrett. The "pull" of the flag in stormy winds caused the topmast to bend like a whip-lash, and, fearing an accident, the piece was taken down sometime later. The main part of the pole was trimmed into shape and stands as the flag pole today. The topmast is now used as a flag pole for school No. 10, Hopelawn.

A magnificent new flag had been presented to the High School by Superintendent Barrett, of the P. R. R. and was formally raised on the great flag pole, Saturday, September 23, 1911, at 3 p. m. with appropriate exercises.

At the August meeting of the Board, the Building Committee was directed to make arrangements for the opening of the new high school on September 11.

The first staff of teachers to occupy the new building consisted of:

"Mr. John H. Love.....Principal and Supervising Principal
Miss Edith Whitney.....Vice-principal

Teachers--High

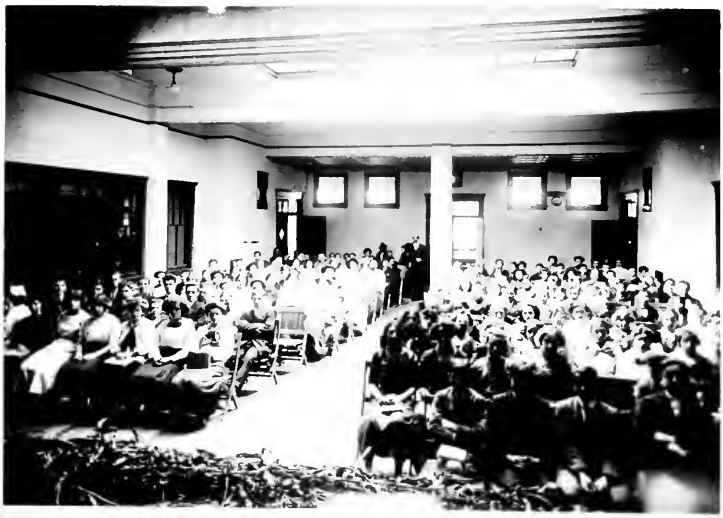
Isaac Gilhuly	Viola Dunham
Edith Brander	Ruth Braley--Music

Teachers--Grade

Helen Holmes	Anna Shoemaker
Nellie Hamil	Anna Keegan
Frank C. Ryder	Edith Scott
Leona Van Riper	Edith Hinsdale--Art

Another era in the history of the Woodbridge schools had opened!

STUDY HALL
1911 - 1912
(now the library)



ASSEMBLY ROOM.
1911 - 1912
(part of this is now the Art Room)
(Corn stalks on front edge of platform)

W. H. S Assembly Room
1911-12

CHAPTER XII

Summary

CENTRALIZATION BEGINS

The office of the Supervising Principal of Schools was created in 1900 and John H. Love was appointed to the position.

Voters authorize a new school at Carteret to cost $12,500.

The "Copenhagen" System was introduced at Carteret. Port Reading school was opened in 1900.

Improvement in sanitation was made at School No. 1. County Superintendent's Uniform Course of Study was endorsed by the Board.

The New Dover school was closed January 1902. The school appropriations for 1902-1903 total $20,000.

Carteret residents protest the reduction of the principal's salary.

Mr. Victor Main, President of the Board resigns in 1903.

The taxpayers authorize an addition to School No. 1 to cost $13,000.

Mr. William Edgar succeeds Mr. Main. Mr. Clarence Liddle elected custodian of school funds June 1903.

Supervising Principal John H. Love recommends the last Friday afternoon for teachers' meetings.

Mr. Howard Tappen and Mr. W. Ames succeed Mr. E. Osborn and Mr. H. V. Platt who accept membership on the school board of the new Boro of Roosevelt.

Medical inspection was introduced in 1908. Mr. E. W. Boynton, an old school board member dies.

First telephones installed in the schools 1909. Manual training introduced in 1909. First attempt to regulate teachers' salaries in 1909.

The Board authorized to erect an addition to the Fords No. 7, cost not to exceed $14,000.

The first recorded purchase of trolley tickets for transportation of pupils was June 29, 1909.

The Board appoints first truant officer in 1909. Preamble and resolutions offered by Mr. Tappen for the erection of a new high school October 19, 1909.

Governor Franklin Fort of New Jersey invited to be present at the laying of the corner stone April 18, 1910. Giant flag pole offered to the Board by Mr. E. Demarest of Tacoma, Washington.

Mr. Ira Crouse of Perth Amboy awarded the general contract for the new high school May 23, 1910.

Procession of School Children
passing down Green Street
at
Ceremonial Breaking of Sod
for
New High School
1910.

Laying of Corner-stone - W.H.S
by
Gov. Franklin Fort
1910

* Gov. Fort - Making
Address

Governor Franklin Fort lays the corner stone of the new high school October 6, 1910.

Locust Grove School No. 5 closed.

Presentation of flag by Mr. Barrett, Superintendent of P. R. R. Port Reading; raised September 23, 1911.

The new high school opened September 11, 1911 with Mr. John H. Love as principal.

CHAPTER XIII

SCHOOL BUILDING
(Continued)

In January 1912, the County School Board Association met in the new high school gymnasium, the members being given an opportunity to inspect the school.

On February 19, demands for additional school accommodations were being received by the Board who decided to submit the following propositions to the taxpayers at the Annual March meeting:

> "(1) An addition to Port Reading school of four rooms at a cost of $15000 and
> (2) The purchase of a plot of ground and the erection of a four-room school at Avenel at a cost of $16000."

On February 26, a number of plots had been offered to the school Trustees by different individuals, all of which were carefully considered, resulting in a motion being carried to accept the proposition of Mr. J. B. Edgar of Lots 19-20 etc. to 25 inclusive on Cedar Street, about 700' West of Avenel Station for $500 and to donate adjoining lots of Avenel Street, numbers 1-6 inclusive.

On March 19, the annual meeting of the voters of the township school district was held according to law and the resolutions of the Board regarding additional school accommodations, together with the appropriations, went through.

It seems that the Roosevelt Board of Education must have objected to the increased tuition charge for the pupils from their Borough attending the Woodbridge High School for County Superintendent H. Brewster Willis notified the Woodbridge Board that State Superintendent Calvin Kendall had fixed the tuition charge at $40 for the Roosevelt children attending high school, and $20 for those attending the grammar grades.

The Board of Education was also authorized to remodel No. 9 school house at Port Reading to conform to the State building laws at a cost not to exceed four thousand dollars ($4000).

Some discussion having taken place among the seniors of the high school regarding the substitution of a trip to Washington, D. C. for the usual commencement exercises, a request to the Board to have this done at the expense of the Board was gently but firmly refused.

Up to the 19th of May, the Supervising Principal had been acting as principal of the Barron Avenue School too, but the increase in the high school enrollment and the many demands made on his time by the rapid development of the other schools of the township, necessitated the severance of the two offices. A motion was now passed that the Teachers' Committee should secure a

separate principal for the Barron Avenue building. Mr. Arthur C. Sides, Ph. D. was later recommended and appointed to the position at a salary of $1400 per annum.

The construction of the new school at Avenel had gone on apace. The "Fire House" school and the Six Roads School had been closed, the pupils being directed to report at the new building No. 4 in September. All children below the seventh grade living beyond Lockwood's Crossing, and who had been attending Woodbridge, were assigned to the Avenel School.

The township schools suffered a severe loss this year in the death of Mr. William Edgar, President of the Board of Education, which occurred December 14. He had been absent from the meetings of the Board since October 20, his chair being filled by Vice-President Howard A. Tappen.

By order of the Board, the township schools were closed at 10 A.M. on the day of the funeral.

A petition for local school accommodations was now presented by the Ellendale Terrace (Hopelawn) parents and a committee was appointed to investigate the needs of that section. In November, an offer to build a school house for the Board to lease at Hopelawn was received from interested contractors and

power to act in the matter was given the committee.

The rules and regulations committee had been considering a new salary schedule for some time and now reported as follows:

> "A minimum annual salary for Primary, Grammar and Special Teachers of $500 and a maximum for the same grades of $900; also a minimum for High School Teachers of $700 and a maximum of $1500. Principals to be rated as High School Teachers. Promotions of all teachers to be based on efficiency."

The report was adopted unanimously.

In 1913, the Ellendale Terrace Committee seems to have leased a building in Hopelawn to be used as a school, for the Board minutes under date January 20, 1913 read as follows:

> "Moved and carried that Mrs. Matthews be engaged as janitor of the new Ellendale School at Ellendale Terrace at $10.00 per month from the date of school opening."

Mrs. Evon Anness was appointed principal at $650 per annum and Miss Rose Galaida assistant at $500. A third-room was added in 1913 and Miss Witherow appointed as teacher.

On February 17, an interesting communication had been received by the Woodbridge Board in the form of a resolution from the Board of Education of Pleasantville, New Jersey, and in the light of present agitation regarding the Teachers' Tenure of Office Act is worth

quoting:

"RESOLUTION.

Whereas, It is the unanimous opinion of the members of the Pleasantville Board of Education that the Tenure of Office Acts applying to the employees of the Board of Education through-out this State are a menace to the progress of our schools; therefore be it

"Resolved, That said Board of Education does hereby express its unqualified opposition to the Acts in their present form and does and will support any bill tending to abolish or amend same acts in such manner as to afford relief from their oppression; that the teachers' committee be made a committee, with power to act, to cooperate with legislators and any other persons or bodies to further the passage of any such bill that may be introduced in the Legislature; that this Board of Pleasantville approv es and hereby accepts as official the acts of its individual members along these lines."

"The above resolution was passed at the regular meeting of the Pleasantville Board of Education held the fourth day of February 1913. Eight members were present and eight voting in the affirmative. For the benefit of our school system lend us your aid.

Chas. Chattel
H. W. McConnell Teachers'
T. H. Smith Committee"

As set forth in the resolutions adopted at a special meeting of the Board, December 22, 1913, on the death of Mr. William Edgar, the cause of education in Woodbridge Township had suffered a severe loss. The Board had lost one of its wisest counsellors

and ablest members, and the schools had lost a true friend--one who was always willing to give his time and thought for the uplifting and advancement of educational ideals in the community.

Mr. Edgar had a kindliness of heart and a warm sympathy that had won the respect and love of the teachers as well as the pupils. He was one of the "old school" of Trustees with definite, personal ideas regarding his obligations as a citizen to serve his community to the best of his ability, which he did in the field of work that he came to love so much. As one of the group of men responsible for the erection of the Barron Avenue High School, his name stands with theirs on the commemorative bronze plaque on the walls of that building.

The enrollment in the lower grades at School No. 1 necessitated the transference of the sixth grade from that school to the high school building which now housed pupils from the sixth to the twelfth grades inclusive.

Mr. Hampton Cutter was unanimously elected to fill the vacancy for the unexpected term of the late Mr. William Edgar at this, the last meeting of the Board for the year 1913.

On March 17, 1914, the annual meeting of the legal voters of the school district was held in the Masonic Hall at 3 o'clock to elect four members to the Board and to approve appropriations. As a result of the balloting Mr. Charles A. Campbell, Mr. Maurice P. Dunigan, and Mr. Charles Alexander were elected for three years and Mr. Frank O'Boyle for one year. The following appropriations were approved:

"Building & Rep'g Sch. Houses.....	$5000
Current Expenses.....	54000
Manual Training.....	1000
Vocational Classes.....	500
Total	$60500"

At the organization of the Board April 6, Mr. H. A. Tappen was unanimously elected President and Mr. Melvin Clum, Vice-President for the ensuing year.

On April 27, Miss Hazel Drake was appointed office assistant to the Supervising Principal for the ensuing year at a salary of $500. Miss Mittie Randolph had previously been part time office assistant but was now regularly appointed as full-time kindergarten assistant.

The Hopelawn building, leased as a school by the Board, had proved unfitted for the purpose, because it was extremely difficult to heat. The enrollment also had increased to such an extent that a Committee of the Board consisting of Mr. Melvin Clum and

Mr. Charles Alexander was appointed to obtain options on property at Hopelawn suitable for a school site. At a meeting of the Board May 4, the committee reported that Mr. Samuel W. Schwartz had offered a plot of land 200 ft. x 200 ft. described on Map of Florida Grove Development.

The report being accepted, it was decided to call a meeting of the voters of the School District for the 26th of May for the purpose of authorizing the Board to purchase the lot and proceed with the erection of a school building. The cost of the lot was not to exceed $1800 and the cost of the schoolhouse, furniture and equipment was not to exceed the sum of $20,200. The money was to be raised by bond issue.

On motion of Mr. W. H. Demarest, seconded by Mr. Alexander, it was also voted to present to the voters at the same meeting the following propositions:

> "To erect a four-room brick addition to the Fords No. 7 School and to purchase the necessary furniture and equipment the total cost not to exceed $20,000. The money to be raised by a bond issue."

When the meeting was held, a total of 41 votes was cast, all of the resolutions offered being carried almost unanimously. It is interesting to note how few voters turned out at so many of these meetings to vote on such large amounts of money.

Either they were apathetic and felt no particular responsibility, because in a vague way payment seemed so far off according to their notions of a bond issue, or perhaps, the school enrollment was increasing so fast all over the township that the voters in one section might need the voters of the other sections to put over a building proposition for them at some future date, which usually resulted in no opposition or a small vote being polled. Whatever it was, the results were satisfactory.

On June 15, Mr. Ensign, although not now a regular member of the Board, was elected unanimously to be District Clerk for the coming year.

Although the old Locust Grove school had been abandoned as a public school for some time, the people of the vicinity had continued to use the building as a Sunday school. Mr. John H. Williams, as their representative, offered to expend $300 in repairing the structure, on condition that if the Board of Education took possession of it again at the end of one year they would pay $200, if at the end of two years, $100; but if at the end of three years or thereafter free of any obligation. Mr. Williams' offer was accepted unanimously.

The Supervising Principal of Schools had been

appointed as "Supervisor of Exemption Certificates" at this time, and has served in that capacity ever since.

A short time previously, a new course of study for the High School had been prepared and had received the approval of the State Department of Education. On motion it was now approved by the Board of Education.

The faculty of the High School Department at this time consisted of--

"Arthur C. Sides, Ph. D., Principal
Latin, French, Mathematics
Edith A. Whitney
Latin, German
Isaac H. Gilhuly, A. M.
Science, Mathematics
Viola E. Dunham
Commercial Subjects
Edith E. Brander, B. A.
English
Walden H. McNair, B. S.
History
Viva M. Playfoot
Household Arts
John M. Dockstader
Manual Training, Mechanical Drawing
Edith Hinsdale
Drawing, and Designing
John H. Love, Supervising Principal of Schools"

On August 20, bids were opened at the meeting for the Fords addition and Mr. John C. Fowler was awarded the contract. The contract for the Hopelawn School was awarded to Fred Christensen Contruction Company at the following meeting.

The Household Arts department of the High School had created so much interest in the town that a request to the Board for the orga nization of an evening class in Cooking, for the benefit of the older girls of the town not members of the high school was granted unanimously and Miss Viva Playfoot was placed in charge at $3.00 per night.

Another action of the Board at the meeting, October 19 was the appointment of Miss Mary Fee, a graduate of the local high school as a helper to Mrs. E. Anness at the Hopelawn school at a salary of $2.00 per day. Miss Fee, now Mrs. John Duff, is the present principal of the new Hopelawn School No. 10 having charge of thirteen teachers and an enrollment of 506 pupils.

The Public Service Railway Company had been charging ten cents for a one-way trip on the new "Fast Line" road between Port Reading and Sewaren and the Board through its attorney Mr. A. Auten had attempted to have the rate decreased but without avail. Mr. Auten was now directed to take up the matter with the Public Utilities Commission, which he did later, but again was not successful. The cost of transportation of children from Port Reading to Woodbridge School by way of Sewaren was thus much increased.

Mr. Charles Alexander, a member of the School Board, who had been ill for some time died December 4 and the Board issued an order for all the flags of the Township Schools to be placed half-mast on the day of his funeral. Resolutions of regret were adopted and an engrossed copy sent to the widow.

Although Mr. Alexander had served on the Board only a few years, he had proved himself an active and efficient worker, one whose sole interest as a Board member was the welfare of the township schools.

The death of Mr. Alexander created a vacancy in the Board personnel that was filled by the election December 21 of Mr. E. C. Ensign, who, although the District Clerk, had not been an actual member of the Board since its organization the previous April 6, having been defeated at the annual election in March.

Recognizing the difficulties experienced by teachers in reaching the Hopelawn School through its inaccessibility from the nearest trolley point, the Board arranged for their transportation from a rendezvous in Perth Amboy at an expense of $5.00 per week, to continue until April 1.

In February 1915, Mrs. Evon Anness resigned as principal of the Hopelawn School and Miss Rose Galaida

was appointed to the vacancy. In the meantime, the erection of the new Hopelawn building was proceeding rapidly, the committee being given power to secure the necessary furnishings and to have a well dug.

The annual meeting of the legal voters of the Township was held March 16 in the Masonic Hall, lower Green Street when Messrs. H. R. Valentine, W. H. Demarest, and E. C. Ensign were elected for three-year terms and Andrew Olesen for a two-year term--unexpired term of the late Mr. William Edgar.

The following appropriations were carried:

"Building & Rep. Sch. Houses.....	$ 6000
Current Expenses.....	53000
Manual Trg. and D. Science.....	1500
Vocational Classes.....	500
Total	$61000"

On July 19, Mr. M. J. McCabe was appointed janitor of the new Hopelawn School at a salary of $55 a month.

Action was taken in September regarding night Vocational Schools by the appointment of Mr. John M. Dockstader as teacher of Mechanical Drawing at $3.00 per night, Miss Viva Playfoot teacher of cooking at $3.00 and Miss Alice Sandahl teacher of dressmaking at $3.00 per night, the school to be open Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday evenings of each week, commencing October 4.

The sewing and the cooking classes seemed to be well liked, but there was little demand for the mechanical drawing classes which were discontinued December 21.

The high school tuition fee having been raised from $35 to $75 had been protested by the Roosevelt Board of Education and no payment had been made by them for the high school pupils attending Woodbridge from their school district until October 18 of this year, when President Tappen and Clerk Ensign reported that they had effected a settlement on the basis of $50 per capita.

At the close of the school year 1910-1911 the Roosevelt Board had transferred their high school pupils to the Rahway High School.

On February 4, 1916, the Iselin School was destroyed by fire which was supposed to have started from an overheated furnace in the basement although this could not be substantiated. It seems that while the children were outside during the afternoon recess, several of them noticed smoke durling up from the basement, around the outside of the building and rushed in to tell the teacher who was seated at her desk. As quickly as possible, the few pupils remaining in the school left the structure, and only just in time, for the fire soon caused the floors to fall into the cellar and in a very few moments the

destruction was complete. Helpful neighbors and other friends saved the piano and some of the larger pieces of equipment.

Without the loss of a single day of school, classes were commenced in the old church building on the adjacent lot and continued to be held there until the new school, later erected on the foundations of the old, was ready for occupancy.

On the 21st of the month the Board of Education decided that at the next annual meeting of the district voters to be held March 21, at Masonic Hall, resolutions be presented for the erection of a new four-room brick school at Iselin, to replace the one destroyed by fire, the cost of the building, furniture and equipment not to exceed $18000. The vote on the resolutions when presented to the Board at the meeting was 88 for and 1 against. The total appropriations for the year were carried also--

"Building & Rep. Sch. Houses.....	$ 4000
Current Expenses.....	59000
Manual Training.....	2000
Vocational Classes.....	500
Total	$65500"

The war-like spirit abroad and the possibility of its spreading to the United States had created a feeling that the country should be prepared for the worst. With this in view, Voluntary Military Training

was introduced in the high school on action of the Board March 20.

Although the date for opening schools had been fixed for September 5, the prevalence of Infantile Paralysis caused the Board to change the time of opening to October 1, the idea being that cooler weather would cause a decrease in the virulence of the dread disease.

Interest in the World War and the war sufferers led the Board to grant permission to the Supervising Principal to collect money from the school children for relief purposes.

On December 18, the teachers of the township presented a petition to the Board requesting an increase of salary on account of the high cost of living. The request was referred to the Teachers' Committee to decide, subject to the approval of the Board at the next regular meeting.

On February 19, 1917, the last chapter in the history of the old Six Roads No. 4 School was closed by the action of the Board authorizing its sale to John Melie of Iselin for the sum of $75. The new building near the Pennsylvania R. R. Station, with its later addition now known as Avenel No. 4, replaced the vener-

able structure and its assistant the "Fire House" School. Let us hope that the modern edifice will serve the children as long and faithfully as old Washington No. 4.

On March 20, the annual school election was held in Masonic Hall, Woodbridge, seventy-eight votes being cast for the total appropriations of $71,000, excepting the Vocational Classes which received one negative vote.

The "War Fever" was nearing its height at this time, moving the Board to order that the "Star Spangled Banner" be sung by the township scholars every day until further notice and to be sung in the open when practicable.

The high school students under the Supervising Principal and instructors McNair and Meredith had secured a number of Krag rifles with contributions from interested citizens, and had been drilling volunteer students as a part of the physical training exercises. Certificates of proficiency in the Manual of Arms were awarded to students earning them under set rules, and commissions, as Second Lieutenant etc., were granted to those meeting the required standards. Great enthusiasm was manifested in this work.

A Home Defense unit of citizens was organized in April and given the use of the High School gymnasium for drill purposes. A Red Cross Organization was formed also and assigned headquarters in the school

building.

A motion was passed at the regular Board Meeting April 17 that pupils of the graduating classes receive their diplomas if they enlisted and were called for Army or Navy duty before graduation.

The following month, the Parent Teacher Association of the high school requested permission to organize a lunchroom in the high school which was granted, the Board agreeing to furnish the gas for that purpose.

"War Gardens" had recently been proposed and the sum of $100 was appropriated to purchase garden implements and seeds.

School accommodations were again in demand and a committee previously appointed was directed to report on the price of a plot at the rear of Number 1 School.

Two of the high school teachers had neglected to attend the Baccalaureate Sermon to the graduating class, probably for good and sufficient reasons, so the District Clerk was directed to write a letter of censure to them which no doubt was meant as solemn warning to other members of the staff not to neglect what they should consider to be an official duty.

Conservation of food was the watchword at this time and an excellent lecture in the High School by a State representative brought forth the following motion

at the June meeting of the Board:

> "Moved and carried, the lady who spoke on canning in the high school be requested to give another talk."

The physical imperfections found in so many army recruits were probably the prime cause for the Physical Training Act passed by the legislature this year making physical training compulsory in the public schools of the state. Manuals were rapidly prepared by the State Department of Education and issued to the different school districts.

A change was made in the length of the school day by the local Board in order to meet the new State requirements of thirty minutes a day for a new subject.

On October 15, a note was made concerning transportation for the Supervising Principal of schools.

From bicycle to buggy for school visitation had been the first stage; and now from buggy to automobile was the next step as per action of the Board in a motion that

> "Auto transportation be furnished Supervising Principal, John H. Love when needed in his visits to schools."

CHAPTER XIII

SUMMARY

County School Board Association met in the new high school.

Demands for additional school accommodations from Port Reading and Avenel were received.

Mr. Arthur C. Sides, Ph. D. was made principal of the high school.

Six Roads school and Fire House school were closed and Avenel No. 4 opened.

Death of Mr. William Edgar, President of Board of Education occurred.

Ellendale (Hopelawn) petitions for school accommodations.

A new salary schedule was offered and adopted by the Board.

Mrs. Evon Anness was appointed principal of Hopelawn school.

The Board adopts resolutions disapproving of Tenure of Office Act.

Mr. Hampton Cutter was elected to vacancy caused by death of Mr. William Edgar.

Mr. H. A. Tappen elected president of Board of Education and Mr. Melvin H. Clum, vice-president.

Meeting of voters called for May 25 to authorize the Board to purchase land and erect a new school at Hopelawn and also to erect a four-room addition to Fords No. 7.

Supervising Principal appointed Supervisor of Exemption Certificates.

New course of study approved by State Department now approved by the Board.

Evening classes in cooking organized.

Public Service Railway Company refuses to reduce trolley fare between Port Reading and Sewaren for school children.

Mr. Charles Alexander, member of Board of Education died December 4. Mr. E. C. Ensign, District Clerk, elected to vacancy.

Evening vocational school appointments made. Mr. John Dockstader, mechanical drawing; Miss Viva Playfoot, cooking; Miss Alice Sandhal, dressmaking.

Iselin School destroyed by fire on February 4, 1916. New four-room brick school voted for Iselin, March 21. Voluntary Military Training commenced in high school.

December 18 the township teachers petition for salary increase.

Old Washington School No. 4 (Six Roads) sold for $75. War spirit prevalent throughout the schools.

Home Defense unit and Red Cross organization given headquarters in high school.

Motion passed April 17 allowing diplomas of graduation to senior boys who enlisted and were called prior to graduation date.

Committee authorized to report on price of land at rear of School No. 1.

Physical training throughout schools made mandatory by legislative enactment.

Supervising principal of schools provided with auto transportation.

CHAPTER XIV

WAR-TIME DOINGS AND EVENTS

The township schools, as elsewhere in the State, were called upon to cooperate in the great crisis of the World War.

The entry of the United States into the conflict had been foreseen and the rising spirit of patriotism had led the citizens in many places to put into motion plans for being in readiness. In connection with this, public spirited individuals in Woodbridge donated enough money with which to purchase a number of rifles, and a volunteer group of high school boys enrolled for military drill as a part of the physical education work which, under the new law, went into effect on September of this year.

Two groups of boys were formed, and at stated intervals each group was taken to a rifle range on the property of Mr. W. H. Cutter and instructed in the care and use of the rifle. Many of the boys qualified as marksmen under the same rules used in the military training at Sea Girt.

A system of military certificates was devised which developed great interest among the students.

"The Dial", published by the high school students has the following notice under date April 27, 1917:

> "In June there will be held an examination open to seniors who desire to qualify for military certificates. At the same time all boys trying for the military Cup for Best Drilled Cadet will be examined."--1

> "In a recent report received at the office it was stated that in the following high schools, military instruction was given: Englewood, Trenton, Hoboken, Red Bank and Woodbridge. From the viewpoint of percentages Woodbridge led the list with nearly one hundred per cent volunteers."--2

Registration Day, June 5, 1917, was a legal holiday by proclamation of the Governor of New Jersey, but the teachers and pupils met in their respective schools at the usual hour in the morning and held patriotic exercises which were followed by parades.

The following extract is taken from the issue of "The Dial" for June 20, 1917:

> "Barron Avenue School and School No. 7 united in a grand demonstration. Headed by volunteers from the Citizens Fife and Drum Corps preceded by Supervising Principal John H. Love and Mr. B. A. Dunigan in his fire chief uniform, the children above the third grade and including the high school students started from the high school at 10 A.M. and covered the following line of march.....Included in the parade were the high school cadets officered by Lieutenant H. M. Prentiss and Second Lieutenant Victor N. Love, who gave a splendid exhibition of marching and drill work. The Red Cross girls

1 The Dial, April 27, 1917
2 Ibid

> carrying their stretcher were much admired. Following the Red Cross contingent were the members of the cooking class in caps and aprons typifying preparedness. Then came the teachers and the various grades. At the conclusion of the parade, the children gathered on the steps of the high school and sang the 'Star Spangled Banner', led by Mr. Wm. Inslee on the cornet."--1

Similar parades were held in other sections of the township under the leadership of the principals and teachers.

At the suggestion of the Fuel Administrator, the schools were closed from December 21, 1917, until January 23, 1918, because of a coal shortage.

Patriotic activities were very much in evidence throughout the school year. Teachers and pupils were unsparing in their endeavors to "do their bit" in the war by buying Thrift Stamps and Liberty Bonds; subscribing to the several "drives" for the Red Cross, the Y.M.C.A. and the Knights of Columbus; collecting books for the soldiers' camps; sewing and knitting for the Red Cross; making furniture, scrapbooks etc., for the rest rooms at the camps and for the hospitals.

The work in English was correlated with these activities, many excellent speeches being prepared and delivered as "Four Minute" speeches in all of the township schools, some of which would have done credit to any of our well-known "Four-Minute" men.

1 The Dial, June 20, 1917.

The Household Arts Department correlated its work with the Red Cross requirements. Over 2000 garments were made by the pupils and much other assistance given the regular Red Cross workers. Sweaters, helmets and socks were turned out in large quantities.

The Art department of the schools prepared many beautiful scrap books with decorated covers and presented them to the Base Hospital at Colonia.

School Gardens

To help in the food shortage, several of our public spirited citizens gave the use of large tracts of land to be used by the students as school gardens. Implements and seeds were furnished by the Board of Education and large quantities of vegetables were raised on the land which is now entirely covered by homes on High Street and vicinity.

The following statistics taken from the annual report of the Supervising Principal of Schools 1917-18 will give some idea of what the township schools did to "Help Win the War"!:

"War Saving Stamps and Thrift Stamps purchased by teachers and pupils.....	$ 6831.90
Liberty bonds owned by teachers and pupils.....	42350.00
Collected by pupils for New Jersey Library War Fund.....	179.63
Subscribed by pupils during Red Cross Drive, May 20-27, 1918.....	241.65
Subscribed by pupils to Junior Red Cross.....	272.00

Sale of Xmas Seals, Middlesex County Tuberculosis Branch of Red Cross....	49.67
Total	$49924.85"

During the year the County Superintendent of Schools requested a report regarding the children of foreign parentage attending the Woodbridge Schools and the results were quite interesting. The report showed among other nationalities:

"Hungarians	711	Danish	182
Italian	252	German	113
Slavish	214	Polish	83"

In addition to these, the leading groups, there were Russians, Irish, Swedish, English, Scotch, Norwegians, French, Greeks, Hollanders, Roumanians, Canadians, Syrians, Swiss, Spanish, Bohemians, Servians, Finns, Mexicans, Filipinos, and Austrians.

In 1918, the question of additional school accommodations came to the front again and a suggestion that the old Woodbridge Athletic Association building be secured for use as a school was referred to Mr. Herbert N. Morse, Business Manager for the State Department with the request that he visit Woodbridge and make an inspection of the building. Instead of Mr. Morse, Mr. McDermott, State Building Inspector was sent to make the inspection, the gist of his report made later being unfavorable to the use of the building for school purposes.

Mr. Frank R. Valentine, one of the prominent citizens of the community, sent a communication to the Board recommending that the study of the German language in the high school be discontinued. As this course was being followed in many other schools of the State, the Board decided to allow the Senior Class to continue the study of German for the remainder of the school year and then it was to be dropped from the curriculum.

Two high school instructors, Mr. Walden McNair becoming a Major in the training camps, and Mr. Meredith going to France with the Bucknell Unit becoming a Lieutenant, had enlisted in the service.

A report made to the County Superintendent shows that twenty-three high school pupils enlisted for War Service, one, Mr. Ira Dunn being killed in action in France.

Notwithstanding so much excitement, regular school work was carried on with unusual zeal. The stimulation afforded by two high school literary societies, the Olympians and the Adelphians, which carried on a series of debates and individual platform speeches, did much to sustain the educational spirit of the pupils. County Superintendent H. Brewster Willis, organized a spelling contest between Middlesex County and Monmouth County

which was held in the high school in Perth Amboy June 1, 1917. A prize of $100 was offered to the winning team by Mr. Melvin Rice of the State Board of Education. The Middlesex team won the contest with a score of only three errors to their oppcnets 15.

David Coddington of the eighth grade, Woodbridge, made a perfect score and was awarded a ten dollar gold piece as his share of the prize money.

The high school orchestra, the volley ball tournament, a track team, cadet corps, basketball and debating societies and the splendid high school paper kept everybody busy and happy.

The aims of the school paper as given by the students are here quoted:

> "The development of useful, intelligent, refined, healthy citizens, through sound scholarship, clean athletics practical debating, dramatics, school politics and sensible social attractions."

After the resignation of Mr. A. C. Sides as principal of the high school, the Supervising Principal again became principal, carrying on the duties of both offices until June 17 of the same year when Mr. O. P. Butterwick was appointed principal.

At the July meeting, the Board decided to grant a bonus as follows to all teachers completing the full school year of 1918-1919:

"8% on salaries of $800 or less per annum
6% " " $801 to $1000 inclusive
4% " " above $1000"

Spanish was introduced in place of the German which had been discarded.

"The Dial" Staff for 1916-17 consisted of

"Miss Lillian Hirner--Editor-in-Chief
Mr. Michael Golden---Manager

Miss Ruth Tappen
Miss Ruth Noe
Mr. Norman Lee — Associate Editors
Mr. Harry Baker
Mr. Andrew Desmond

Mr. Erich Shuster
Mr. David Coddington
Miss Mary Walsh — Reporters
Miss Sara Mooney
Miss Mary O'Neil

Mr. W. H. McNair--Faculty Advisor"

The enrollment in the township schools had increased in every building over that of the preceding year. The following is taken from the Supervising Principal's annual report for the year 1917-18:

"School	Enrollment	Number of Teachers	Principal
Barron Avenue	288	11	O. Butterwick
No. 1	708	18	E. Barth
Avenel	209	4	A. Packard
Iselin	94	3	G. Bayliss
Fords	416	8	H. Sharp
Keasbey	364	8	A. Richards
Port Reading	364	8	V. Coover
Hopelawn	228	5	R. Galaida
Total	2671	65	

On August 19, 1918, Mr. J. M. McElroy succeeded Mr. John Dockstader as Manual Training instructor at the Barron Avenue School.

On November 18, Mr. Lester Dix was appointed as principal of School No. 1 to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. E. Barth during the terrible epidemic of influenza that had been sweeping the country causing the death of thousands of people.

The terrific explosion at the munitions plant at Morgan near South Amboy, in October, had devastated the immediate vicinity and had damaged places for many miles around. Hundreds of people driven from their homes in fear of further explosions had fled into the open spaces of the surrounding country where, subject to exposure, they more easily fell victims to the influenza.

Public buildings in Woodbridge as well as in many of the other places were thrown open to the refugees. Cots were set up in the high school gymnasium and other rooms in the Barron Avenue School and the local Red Cross with the assistance of many citizens did noble work helping the large number of men, women and children, many of whom were ill with pneumonia who had taken advantage of the hospitality of the school. Schools throughout the township were closed until all danger was past.

CHAPTER XIV

SUMMARY

WAR-TIME DOINGS AND EVENTS

High school boys given instruction in use of rifle. Excerpts from high school paper, "The Dial".

Registration Day, June 5, 1917 a legal holiday. Extract from "The Dial" re--Registration Day parade.

Schools closed by Fuel Administrator, December 2, 1917 to January 23, 1918.

The township schools "Do Their Bit". Statistics showing how pupils "Helped Win the War".

State Building Inspector Mr. McDermott, refuses to sanction use of old "Club House" for school purposes.

German dropped from the Curriculum.

Report made to County Superintendent regarding enlistments from the high school.

Spelling contest held June 15, 1917. David Coddington wins ten-dollar gold piece.

Aims of the high school paper, "The Dial".

Mr. O. P. Butterwick succeeds Mr. A. C. Sides as principal of the high school.

Bonus granted to all teachers completing years 1918-19.

Spanish introduced instead of German.

Extract from Supervising Principal's report year 1917-18.

Mr. J. M. McElroy succeeds Mr. John Dockstader.

Principal E. A. Barth, School No. 1 dies of influenza and Mr. Lester Dix succeeds him.

Morgan explosion closes schools temporarily.

CHAPTER XV

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION ENDS

As the years went on, the annual school budget increased, and in 1919 the appropriations called for at a special election in the early part of January were as follows:

"Building and repairing schoolhouse.....	$ 7500.00
Current expenses.....	75000.00
Estimated deficit in current expenses June 20, 1919.....	10000.00
Manual Training.....	2500.00
Sinking Fund.....	5337.60
Total.....	$100337.60

Although such a large amount was requested,-there were only fifteen votes cast, all being in favor of the budget. An occupational classification of the fifteen voters shows that eight of the fifteen were school officials or school employees, the others, probably workmen doing repair work on the building in which the election was held.

"Classification

3 janitors	1 mason
1 president of the Board	1 contractor
1 vice-president of the Board	1 assistant to contractor
1 manual training teacher	2 plumbers
1 attendance officer	1 carpenter
1 supervising principal of schools	1 no occupation"

Mr. John V. Burke succeeded Mr. Ellsworth Ferdon as principal of the Keasbey School and Mr. Alfred Hann took the

place of Miss Galaida at Hopelawn.

Mr. William H. Demarest, a member of the Board, resigned because he was leaving the district, and Mr. Fred Bohlen was elected to fill the unexpired term at the annual election on March 18.

The committee previously appointed to secure a price on property at the rear of School No. 1, now reported that a plot of land 192' x 190' could be purchased in that location for $4000 and recommended that the Trustees secure it. A motion to accept the offer was passed unanimously and a committee was at once appointed by the president to get figures on the approximate cost of a new twelve-room school to be placed on the lot. Another committee was appointed to find the probable cost of an eight-room brick addition to Fords School No. 7.

The Woodbridge School Committee consisted of Mr. H. R. Valentine, Mr. Charles Farrell, and Mr. E. C. Ensign. The Fords Committee consisted of Mr. Melvin H. Clum, Mr. Benjamin Walling, and Mr. M. P. Dunigan.

At the Board meeting of May 5, resolutions were passed calling a meeting of the voters for May 27 for the purpose of presenting the following propositions:

> "(a) The purchase of the E. W. Valentine lot for $4000 and the erection of a 12-room fireproof building on it at a cost not to exceed $96000, including furniture

and necessary equipment.
(b) The erection of an addition to Fords School #7 at a cost not to exceed $65000, including furniture and equipment."

In addition to taking steps for providing more school accommodations, a motion was introduced by the Chairman of the Teachers' Committee and passed unanimously, to have more time devoted to the special subjects such as art, music, manual training, and domestic science.

When so much pressure is being brought to bear on many Boards of Education at the present time to eliminate these subjects from the school curriculum, it is refreshing to come across such a sane item in the Woodbridge school records.

Two weeks later, it was decided to continue the Bonus System for another year and the General Ceramics Company was given permission to use No. 7 school for evening Americanization classes.

When the special election for the new school at Woodbridge and the eight-room addition to No. 7 occurred, 43 ballots were cast, all in favor of the appropriation of $165,000.

The election being held in the afternoon, was probably the cause for such a small number voting. This is a contrast to present day elections which are held in the

evenings, when sometimes two thousand or more voters turn out to vote.

Up to this time there had been no school nurse employed, the regular township nurse being called upon when needed. The action of the Board in appointing Miss Marion Lockwood as township school nurse, January 16, 1919, at a salary of $125 per month, thus marks the beginning of a most important phase of a modern school system.

Miss Mary Fee (Mrs. John Duff) was appointed principal of the Hopelawn School in place of Mr. A. Hann at a salary of $1200, which position she has continued to hold to the present date.

The amount of money raised for the erection of the new school at Woodbridge was found to be insufficient, thirty-five thousand dollars being the estimated deficit. It was also found necessary to raise an additional fifteen thousand for the addition to the Fords School. A special election was held October 7 and the resolutions presented by the Board to the voters for the above purpose were adopted.

Another worthwhile item to be noted, is the granting of a 10% salary increase to the janitors of the township schools. It was also decided to commence Americanization classes in School No. 1 and other township schools if desired.

Keasbey fire house was being used now for an extra class. When the new bids for the erection of the Woodbridge school were opened at the meeting of the Board on November 24, Fred Christensen Construction Company received the general construction contract; George Stillwell, the general plumbing contract; E. J. Coffey, the general electric contract; and the Johnson Heating Company, the heating contract.

On December 15, the following resolution was passed unanimously:

> "Resolved: that from January 1, 1920, increases be granted teachers in accordance with the Bonus Law amounting in the aggregate to $11,125 for the balance of the present school year--said increases to be apportioned as follows:
>
> Teachers receiving under $1500.....15%
> " in service $1500 or over.....10%
> " " " 5 to 10 years..... 2½%
> " " " 10 to 15 " 5%
> " " " 20 years or more.....10%
> and salary of John H. Love be $3500 per year. The bonus previously agreed upon to be on the present contract salary and no bonus to teachers employed after January 1."--1

The year 1920 opened with a request from the Avenel residents for additional school accommodations in that section.

1 Minute Book, Board of Education

Teachers' salaries received another boost. All teachers who had taught in the township from 6 to 20 years, were given an increase of 7% based upon their salary as previous to percentages being added for length of service, and teachers in service five years only, received a 5% increase.

The manual training department was extended by the addition of another teacher owing to the increased number of classes. The summer school allowance to teachers who attended was continued for the next year.

An increasing interest of the Board in the subjects of music, art, and construction work, led to the following resolution:

> "Moved and carried that teachers who claim inability to teach their grade music or the art and construction work, and who elect to take advantage of the Board's offer to pay them $50 extra for attendance at an approved summer school or college, must elect these specified subjects as part or all of their summer school course to be eligible for the additional compensation, and no course shall be approved unless it bears directly upon the regular class room work, and a copy of the records obtained at the summer school or college, showing course or courses and standings shall be presented to the Board of Education as soon as possible after the said records and standings have been issued by the school or college authorities."--1

1 Minute Book, Board of Education.

Transportation contracts for school children were made as follows:

"John Melia--Iselin to Woodbridge--$800 for school year.
Charles Peterson--Locust Grove to Avenel--$1250
Van Fleet Hewitt--New Dover to Iselin for $700
A. Cerbo & Son--Hopelawn to Fords $6.50 per school day--also--
A. Cerbo & Son--Allowance of $1.00 per school day to transport pupils from No. 7 and 8 to high school each morning."--1

Medical inspectors appointed for 1920-1921 were Dr. Joseph Mark, Dr. B. W. Hoagland, Dr. I. T. Spencer, and Dr. Edward Hansen.

Manual training was extended to several other schools within the township.

The treasurer of the Free School Lands of Woodbridge (Mr. E. C. Ensign) notified the School Board that he had turned over to the Board $5000 in cash, and Liberty Bonds of a face value of $2500.

We find 1921 another building year. No. 11 was still in process of construction and a special election was held for a school at Sewaren.

The supervising principal was given permission to attend the convention at Atlantic City. Mr. Lester Dix, principal of School No. 1, was given charge also of School No. 11 for the ensuing year.

1 Board Minutes

Mrs. Irene Shay was appointed helper at School #10 at a salary of $700 per year but resigned in February.

As no provision had been made in the tax ordinances for the amount of $11,125.50 required by the teachers' bonus, emergency notes for this amount were issued and arrangements were made for the amounts of the several notes issued to be included in the tax levies of the respective years wherein the notes fell due.

The regular annual township district school meeting was held on February 24 when the following appropriations recommended were adopted by the voters:

"Building and repairing school houses...	$ 8000
Current expenses.....	150000
Manual Training.....	3000
Total.....	$161000

The school Trustees were also empowered to issue a note for $35,000 to meet current year deficits of that amount.

Principal O. P. Butterwick of the high school resigned to enter business, and was succeeded by Mr. Fred C. Shotwell. The request of Mrs. C. R. Brown to plant a permanent Xmas tree on the high school grounds was granted and the tree was set in the northeast corner of the campus.

An appropriation of $150 was made for the purchase of athletic equipment for the high school. This was the

first time such action had been taken and it definitely settled the position of high school athletics as a legitimate part of school work and as such, entitled to financial assistance, a principle which has continued ever since.

An important step in educational policy was taken by the Board when the following resolution was passed in April.

> "Resolved: that the minimum salary of high school teachers for the coming year (1920-1921) be $1800 and for primary and grammar grades $1200, and all teachers attending an approved summer school or college and taking one or more subjects be allowed $50 at the end of their year. Furthermore--Resolved: that teachers in service in Woodbridge township for five or more years receive for the coming year, 1% of their salary (extra) for each year in service up to a maximum of 20%."--1

Business had been receiving its share of the prosperous times following the war, and the request of the teachers to be given a share in this prosperity was met by the foregoing resolutions.

Sewaren residents appeared before the Board at the April meeting and requested the Trustees to take steps for the erection of a school in their part of the township.

1 Minute Book, Board of Education.

Messrs. Fred Bohlen, E. C. Ensign and Benjamin Walling were at once appointed a committee to act in the matter, reporting to the Board on April 19 regarding a plot of land offered to them by the Baldwin Realty Company, situated on Sewaren Avenue and Sherman Street.

The necessary steps were then taken by the Board for a special meeting of the legal voters to be held May 18 at the high school to secure their consent to purchase the plot of land specified and to erect a schoolhouse thereon which, with furniture and equipment, should not exceed $50,000, the cost of the plot to be one dollar.

The resolutions presented to the voters were carried and at the July meeting of the Board, Mr. Fred Bohlen moved the passage of resolutions authorizing the purchase of the land, the erection of a four-room, fireproof schoolhouse, and the purchasing of the necessary furniture and equipment, the whole to be financed by a bond issue for $50,000. The resolutions were adopted and Mr. J. K. Jensen was appointed architect.

Mrs. Frank Edgar was appointed as grade teacher at a salary of $1300. Mrs. Edgar, at the present time (1933), is principal of School No. 11.

The usual commencement exercises, annually held in Woodbridge for all of the fourth grades, were directed to be held in the respective schools. Thus came to an end the custom of having the children brought in stages to Woodbridge, usually to the Methodist Episcopal church, and taken back home to the different sections from whence they came.

The affair had become quite a burden, and the classes had increased in size to such an extent that the church was overcrowded, very little space being left for interested parents and friends. The step met with approval from every one.

Once again the call for increased school accommodations came in from Port Reading in the form of a petition which was laid over for consideration later.

The local Red Cross had been much interested in Child Welfare work in the township, and an offer to supply a car for that purpose was made by it to the Board if they would pay for its upkeep. The Trustees accepted the offer on the understanding that they should have full control of the car.

The death of the attendance officer, Mr. John Thompson having recently occurred, the secretary of the Board, Mr. E. C. Ensign, and the supervising principal were appointed a committee to draft resolutions of regret on his

demise. These were presented at the next meeting of the Board and adopted unanimously.

However, Mr. Thompson is worthy of more than these expressions of regret. His title was that of Attendance Officer but he was more than that. He brought to his work a deep sympathy for his fellowmen that endeared him to so many families, particularly the children. In his visits to the various homes, he went in the light of a family friend, ready to hear their troubles and help them to bear them. Many a time he was known to go to homes with legal papers to serve, but although he would perform his duty, he would leave them with food on their tables or shoes on the feet of the children.

Good natured at heart, he hid this by a bluffness of manner which, although impressive to a stranger, the children and all his friends saw through and discounted.

In his younger days, he had been a saddler by trade, being noted for the excellence of his work and the honesty of his dealings with his customers. The advent of the automobile sounded the death knell to his business, but at last, fate and friends stepped in to his assistance, and in the employ of the Board of Education he fitted into a niche that seemed to have been made just for him. His memory in the township is still green.

Up to this time, although domestic science had been a part of the eighth grade course of study on the north side of the township, it had not been offered to the eighth grades on the south side. The action of the Board now taken to provide a full equipment for this subject at School No. 7, Fords, was therefore much appreciated. This was done largely through the efforts of Mr. Melvin Clum, the president of the Board and member from the Fords section.

Mr. Louis Meyer resigned as member of the Board of Education and was appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the Attendance Officer, Mr. Thompson.

Mr. Fred Shotwell, having resigned as principal of the high school, Mr. Lee Woodman was elected to fill the position.

Another petition for additional school facilities was received by the Board from the residents of Colonia and a committee of three, Messrs. H. R. Valentine, Benjamin Walling, and E. C. Ensign was appointed to meet with a delegation of citizens from Colonia at Iselin school, Monday September 26, to discuss the situation.

The school year of 1921-1922 opened with a continuance of the school building boom. Resolutions were adopted at the December 10 meeting calling for an addition of

four rooms to the Avenel school and for a meeting of the voters to be held November 14, 1921, for the purpose of authorizing the Board to erect the addition and to purchase the necessary furniture and equipment at a cost not to exceed the sum of $55,000.

Another notable event, was the election of Mrs. Sadie B. Gardner of Fords to the Board to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Louis Meyer. She was the first woman in the history of the township to fill such an office.

When the special election was held for the Avenel addition, 44 ballots were cast for the proposition and one against it. This added another $55,000 to the bonded indebtedness of the schools.

The policy of the Board in relation to an allowance to teachers for college extension work was voted to be continued.

When the School Board met on January 16, 1922, resolutions were introduced by the committee on the Colonia proposition calling for a meeting of the legal voters of the township on February 14, 1922, for the purpose of voting to authorize the Board to purchase a suitable lot in Colonia upon which to erect a new schoolhouse and to secure the necessary furniture and equipment at a total cost not to exceed $53,400, also to erect an addition to the Hope-

Roy Anderson Jas Filer Alex Walker Benj. Walling Sup. J.H. Love
M.P. Dunigan Anna B. Ile B.K. Pres. Melvin Clum Judie B. Gardner E.C. Ensign, Secy.

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lawn No. 10 School, to cost, with necessary furniture and equipment, $55,000.

Mr. J. V. Burke, principal of Keasbey, resigned to take a principalship in Perth Amboy and was succeeded by Miss Elsie Wittenbert.

The health work of the schools was extended by establishing a health clinic at School No. 11 in cooperation with the Health Department of the municipality.

Miss Margaret Lockwood had been appointed as principal of the new Sewaren School and Mr. James G. Catano was the choice of the Board for the position of janitor.

Great interest was shown at the February elections, because of the appearance of several lady candidates for the Board vacancies and also because of unusual interest in the propositions to be submitted. All appropirations were carried and the following persons were elected:

Mr. Melvin H. Clum..... 3 years
Mrs. A. Gardner..... 3 years
Mr. Roy E. Anderson..... 3 years
Mrs. Anabelle Baker..... 1 year

On March 20, 1922, Mr. H. A. Tappen, president of the Board since the death of Mr. William Edgar, announced his intention to retire from the Board. In a brief speech he thanked his fellow members for the loyal support and cooperation he had consistently received and for their unfailing kindness during his term of office. In the retire-

ment of Mr. Tappen, the community lost the services of a valuable Board member, whose sole object throughout his connection with the schools had been the development of an educational system of which the township should be justly proud, and the comfort and happiness of children and teachers.

Mr. Melvin Clum succeeded Mr. Tappen as president and Mr. H. R. Valentine was elected to the office of vice-president.

A new salary schedule was presented to the Board by a special committee that had been appointed to draft one and was unanimously approved. The schedule follows:

	Minimum	Maximum
"Kindergarten and Elementary Grades	$1200	$1800
Kindergarten Assistants Certified	1000	1500
Special Classes	1500	2000
Special Teachers	1500	2200
Elementary Principals--up to 11 teachers	1600	2300
Elementary Principals--12 to 20 teachers	1800	2600
Elementary Principals--21 teachers and over	2300	3300
High School Assistants	1700	2400
High School Principal	2600	3600"

"Elementary teachers' salaries to be based on a minimum base of $1200, allowing $50 per year for experience within the township and $25 per year for experience outside the township with an extra $100 for teachers of the 8th grades. A super-maximum is allowed for elementary teachers in the township for 20 years or more."

A change in the health department was made by the appointment of only one physician for the whole township, Dr. B. W. Hoagland, at a salary of $1500. This was done at the suggestion of the health Committee of the Board and was undertaken as an experiment for the improvement of the department by placing all responsibility on one person and thus removing the "incidental" feature of the medical service. The plan lasted one year.

Owing to the difficulty of reaching the Hopelawn School through lack of public facilites, and also lack of boarding accommodations, arrangements were made for the transportation of the teachers from Perth Amboy as a center, the teachers to bear one-third of the expense.

The detail work of the office of the high school principal had increased to such an extent that a clerk was granted him, Miss Marie Dunigan receiving the appointment, October 16.

The teaching of thrift was introduced into the schools this year. School Savings Banks were no new features, but nothing had been previously done along this line in Woodbridge.

The plan of "The Educational Thrift Service Corporation" was presented to the Board by the supervising principal and permission was given for its introduction.

Under the plan, a local bank was selected as a depository, providing free all the necessary supplies and services. The children were furnished with small passbooks, and one day a week was appointed as "bank day" on which any sum of money could be brought to the class teacher, collected by her, and be credited in the book. A representative of the bank would then call for the cash. Provision was made for withdrawals, and competition between classes was stimulated by the use of "100% thrift" banners.

Comparative statistics were printed by the Thrift Corporation in their "Thrift Magazine" which also included pictures of school groups standing exceptionally high in their collections. The failure of the local bank sponsoring the project some years later (1932) brought the work to a halt and had a demoralizing effect on the children in so far as the school savings habit was concerned. Over $30,000 was credited to the savings accounts of the school children when the failure occurred.

The Fords section of the township was within the area controlled by another banking institution, which was not in favor of the Thrift Service plan, but which issued passbooks of its own to the children for school savings under the ordinary savings plan. This scheme, although success-

ful at first, died a natural death, largely owing to the increasing financial depression and the reverberations of the sounds from crashing banks.

Under the energetic direction of the township music supervisor, Miss Anna C. Frazer, orchestral work had increased in popularity, and at the suggestion of the supervising principal, the Board unanimously adopted a resolution making this phase of music a part of the high school curriculum with credit allowance toward the high school diploma.

On January 15, 1923, school accommodations at Fords had again become inadequate and a committee was appointed by the president to find a suitable plot of land on which to erect a new school at that place.

The annual School Board elections were held on February 13 when the following members were elected and the appropriations carried as stated:

"Members

Maurice P. Dunigan.....	3 years
Benjamin Walling.....	3 years
Annabelle Baker.....	3 years
Alexander C. Walker.....	1 year
(Mr. H. R. Valentine resigned)	

Appropriations

Current expenses.....	$196000
Building and repairing.....	21000
Manual training.....	5000
Additional amount for completion of Avenel School addition.	12000
Total.....	$234000"

At the organization of the Board, Mr. Maurice P. Dunigan was elected vice president to succeed Mr. H. R. Valentine.

Township school principals at this time 1923-24 were:

"High School..... Mr. Lee Woodman
Schools No. 1 and 11..... Mr. Lester Dix
Avenel..... Miss Bertha Schermerhorn
Colonia (opened October 22). Miss Minnie Compton
Iselin (No. 6)..... Miss Mabel Reeves
Fords (No. 7)..... Mr. Howard Sharp
Keasbey..... Miss Elsie Wittnebert
Port Reading ..... Mr. Horace H. Beach
(left and Joseph Lewis Appointed)
Hopelawn..... Miss Mary C. Fee
Sewaren..... Miss Margaret Lockwood"

The accommodations in the high school had been taxed to their utmost during the past school year, so, as a measure of relief, it was decided to procure a two-room portable school and place it on the south side of the building with a connecting passageway to enable the pupils to use the regular facilities of the school without being exposed to the weather. An asbestos type of building was selected at a cost of $3725, and preparations were made for it to be ready for use at the opening of schools in September.

The New Jersey Teacher's Pension and Annuity Fund, which became operative in April 1919, enabled Miss Annie Richards of the Keasbey School to retire from active service, ~~and~~ she ~~was~~ being the first Woodbridge teacher to take advantage of the

new law. The Board presented Miss Richards with a beautifully engrossed testimonial of appreciation of her long and faithful service in the township.

A development company had secured a large tract of land at Iselin and had erected a large number of small homes, attractive to small investors, which had caused a sudden increase in the population of that section of the township necessitating further school accommodations. With this demand in view, a committee of the Board was appointed Jan. 7, 1924 to secure a suitable piece of property on which to erect another school at Iselin.

The portable building at the high school, being only a temporary expedient, inquiries were made regarding the advisability of erecting an addition to the Barron Avenue school and its probable cost.

Resolutions having previously been prepared by the Board, the following propositions relating to additional school accommodations were presented to the legal voters of the township on February 13, 1924, for the adoption of:

"1.	Purchase of a lot at Hopelawn.....	$ 3000
2.	Purchase of a lot at Fords.....	9000
3.	Erection of a school on Fords lot.....	156000
4.	Erection of addition to Barron Avenue school.....	225000
5.	Purchase of a Port Reading lot.....	2000
6.	Erection of an addition to Port Reading (5 rooms).....	60000"

These propositions were all carried and the Board authorized to proceed with their plans. In connection with this election, it was discovered that an error had been made in stating the terms of the bond issues for the Barron Avenue High School addition and the addition to the Port Reading School, which necessitated the presentation of a new set of resolutions to the voters for correction, which was done at a special election held April the 14th, all the propositions being carried.

A trolley strike at this time, and the failure of the contractors to complete the Colonia School within the time specified, made it necessary for the Board to secure additional bus transportation service for the school children living in Colonia, Locust Grove and part of Avenel to the Iselin School which was done at a cost of $2052.74.

Miss Hazel Drake having resigned her position as office assistant to the supervising principal, Mrs. Irene Shay was appointed to succeed her April 21, and to commence her duties on a twelve-month basis the following June.

Great preparations were on foot in the old town for the 255th Anniversary and Memorial Celebration to be held Saturday, June 14, and the Board was requested to supply a group picture of the Board members to appear in the official book of the great event. The illustration on page 259A was

made from the resultant photograph.

As an evidence of their interest in the high school, the Barron Avenue Parent Teachers' Association presented the sum of $111.50 to the Board toward the purchase of a piano for the new auditorium being erected as a part of the new addition.

A similar group at Avenel No. 4 sent an invitation to the Board to be present at a Bible presentation by the Junior Order of American Mechanics on May 22, 8 p.m.

These organizations had sprung up all over the township and were working harmoniously with principals and teachers for the benefit of the schools.

Many pieces of school equipment were purchased through their efforts which otherwise might not have been secured, and prominent speakers on educational topics were often brought before their meetings.

On May 29, the art department of the Avenel branch of the Womans' Club presented a beautiful plaque and a large plaster cast to the Avenel School.

The Parent Teachers' Association of School No. 11 made a fine donation to the Board toward the purchase of a stage curtain for their school.

The 255th anniversary of the granting of the town charter (1669) was approaching and instructions were issued by the Board for the decoration of School No. 1 and the high school with flags and bunting in honor of the occasion.

In order to take care of the increased school enrollment, it was found necessary to procure two more portable buildings, one for the high school and another for Iselin School No. 6, both to be set up and ready for use in September.

Although a number of auditoriums had been built in connection with the township schools, their significance being appreciated by the citizens, proper stage curtains had seemed not to be considered a necessity. The first steps in this direction having been taken by the Parent Teachers' Association of No. 11, and by the Board for the new high school auditorium, an impetus was thus given to the idea, the result being the purchase of stage curtains for Avenel, Fords, Hopelawn, and Woodbridge No. 11.

In 1925, school building, previously authorized, was proceeding rapidly. Several changes in the plans and specifications had to be made in the high school addition as circumstances showed their desirability.

When the annual meeting of the district voters was held on February 10, the following appropriations were carried

by a large majority:

"Purchase of land for school purposes.....	$ 1800
Building and repairing schoolhouses.....	18000
Current expenses.....	276625
Manual training.....	6000
New heating and fireproof stairways No. 1.	18000
Payment of note.....	5000
Total.....	$315425

The progressiveness of the times is evident when the Board unanimously decided at its May meeting to supply the attendance officer with a Ford sedan. The bicycle, as a means of official transportation had seen its day, done its part well in the general scheme of administration and now was officially retired.

At the same meeting, Miss Viola E. Dunham notified the Trustees that she intended to resign at the close of the school year under the provisions of the Teachers' Pension and Annuity Fund Law. Miss Dunham commenced to teach school at the age of sixteen, and previous to the township being made the unit of administration by the School Law of 1894, she had taught school at New Dover, Franklin Park, and at Iselin. From Iselin she was transferred to School No. 1 in 1895 to the fourth grade, and passing up through the grades by virtue of her outstanding efficiency, she was placed on the high school faculty in 1905 in the commercial department, where she remained until her retirement June, 1925.

As a testimonial to her long and faithful service, the Board of Education passed a motion directing that fitting resolutions be prepared, engrossed, illuminated, and presented to her on their behalf.

The completion of the addition to the high school obviated the use of the two portables, so they were transferred to the school grounds of No. 11 during the summer.

The question of the employment of married teachers had troubled the Board for some time, so in conformance with a common feeling in the matter, the following resolution was passed to go into effect immediately:

> "Resolved: that any teacher not under the provisions of the Tenure of Office Act and who may now be employed in or who may be hereafter employed in the Woodbridge township public schools and who shall marry during the term of her employment in said schools, shall cease to be employed by the Board of Education as a teacher after the close of the current school year in which she shall have been married."--1

This resolution has continued in effect up to the present time.

Mr. Alexander Walker, member of the Board who had been ill for some time, resigned his position and Mr. John A. Lahey of Sewaren was appointed to serve in his place until the next election.

The school conditions at Iselin had become very acute and Mr. Henry Kuntz of that place offered certain lots to

1 Minute Book, Board of Education.

the Board at a price provided the land be used for the erection of a school and for the maintenance of a public playground, the option on the property to continue one year.

The Board agreed to accept the offer and to present it to the legal voters of the district at the next regular school election.

Meanwhile the work on the Barron Avenue addition was being pushed so that it would be ready in September at the opening of school. The Board now authorized the laying of a new cement sidewalk in front of the property at a cost of $600.

At the first meeting in the school year, 1925-1926, which came on September 21, an offer of property for school purposes came from Mr. John Hagaman which was accepted by the Board. On this land, now called Hagaman Heights, a double portable building was later erected as a relief to School No. 9 and continues in use to date under the supervision of the principal of that school.

Miss Reeves, the principal of Iselin No. 6, having resigned, Miss Stella J. Wright, grade teacher at Fords was appointed to succeed her.

Mr. Howard Sharp, principal of School No. 7 in Fords, had been given charge of the new school (No. 14) and when

Miss Wright was transferred to No. 6, Miss Georgianna Cronce, a teacher in No. 14, was appointed clerk assistant to Mr. Sharp, at a salary of $100 per year, but she was to continue her duties as teacher.

Mr. Arthur C. Ferry succeeded Mr. Lee Woodman as principal of the Barron Avenue School.

Again, in 1926, a new year opened with a building project. This time the Board, at its meeting on January 4, 1926, decided to recommend the erection of a new school at Iselin on the tract that had been offered by Henry Kuntz, the cost of the building and land not to exceed $110,000.

Meanwhile, it was found that the appropriations that had been made for the Barron Avanue addition, the Port Reading addition and the new school at Fords were insufficient, and resolutions were therefore submitted to be presented to the voters at the next annual meeting calling for additional amounts as follows:

"Barron Avenue School.....	$20000
Port Reading's Addition.....	4000
New School at Fords (14).....	6000

Another resolution was passed at a later meeting to present an additional proposition at the same annual meeting for the purchase of land and the erection of an addition of eight rooms to the Keasbey School at a cost not to exceed $115,000.

The total for the new buildings and additions, authorized by the voters when the elections took place on February 9, was the large sum of $255,000.

Once again the question of teachers' salaries came under discussion and a new elementary teachers' schedule was now presented by the Teachers' Committee for adoption by the Board:

"Minimum.....	Elementary	Teachers.....	$1200
Maximum.....	"	"	1800
Super-maximum.	"	"	2000
First Year....	"	"	1200
Second "	"	"	1250
Third "	"	"	1300
Fourth "	"	"	1400

and $100 annual increment thereafter until the maximum is reached.

"Provided: that teachers of grades 6, 7, and 8 shall receive $100 per annum above the schedule, as heretofore, until the maximum is reached, but the maximum shall not be exceeded.

"Provided: that in departmental work, including any grade lower than the sixth, an equitable division of the $100 special allowance shall be made, e. g. a teacher having half sixth and half fifth shall receive $50 above the schedule. The elementary schedule shall not include special instructors. Salaries of special instructors shall be at the discretion of the Board, but shall in no case be less than a minimum of $1500. Assistants to supervisors shall be classified as special instructors. Special instructors shall receive annual increments as per the elementary teachers schedule. An allowance of $50 per year shall be made for "outside" experience up to six years inclusive, which shall be added to the minimum when engaging a new, experienced person.

"Provided: that upon the marriage of any female teacher working under the Tenure of Office Act, the annual increment shall cease and the salary remain static so long as the teacher remain in the employ of the Board of Education. This rule shall go into effect at once but shall not affect present married teachers."--1

This schedule was modified later to exclude sixth grade teachers from the extra $100 increment.

Considerable dissatisfaction had arisen amongst the teachers having charge of the extra curricular activities in the high school because of the additional time they had to give without any salary schedule provision being made for it, so when their case was presented to the Board on June 21, a motion was passed allowing

"Football Coach.....$50 extra
Baseball " ..... 50 "
Athletic Director..... 75 "
Debating Coach..... 75 " "--2

An interest in summer schools was displayed in a resolution allowing such schools to be organized in the high school, School No. 11, and in other schools if desired.

At the August 2 meeting of the Board, Mr. Thomas Murray, cashier of the Woodbridge National Bank, made an offer for the purchase of the several bond issues, aggregating $255,000 at par and accrued interest. No bids having been received in reply to public advertisement regarding

1 Minute Book, Board of Education
2 Ibid

their sale, the offer was unanimously accepted.

Transportation contracts were awarded as follows:

"For the school year ending June 1927.

William Brinkman--	Locust Grove, Colonia Route 1	$1750
George Hagadorn...	New Dover to Colonia Route 2	800
John Vereb.....	Iselin and Woodbridge Route 3	1500
A. F. Montecalvo..	Avenel to Woodbridge Route 4	1250
Anthony Zullo.....	Schools 8, 10 and 7 to Woodbridge Route 5	2000
A. Cerbo & Son....	Schools 8, 10 and 7 to Woodbridge Route 6	1860"--1

Under the new law allowing teachers to attend the annual convention of the State Teachers' Association without loss of salary for any school day necessary for the purpose, a number of teachers, upon their request, received permission from the Board to be absent. The amount paid for substitutes was refunded to them by the Board of Education.

The athletic department of the schools continued to receive the support of the Trustees, and a sum of $360 was assigned to it for the purchase of uniforms and equipment.

The year ended with much building in progress and the budget for the following year in preparation.

On January 17, 1927, death struck once more at the School Board for it took away Mr. John A. Lahey who had

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been appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Alexander Walker. Mr. Lahey, in his short connection with the Board, had displayed many qualities that had pointed him out as a valuable member. A college man, broad in his views, open to conviction and possessing a quiet charm of manner that made him very approachable, the schools, in his death, lost a good and kind friend.

For a number of years it had been the policy of the Board to centralize its upper grades as much as possible. This had been done by grouping the elementary schools in Keasbey, Hopelawn, and Fords into one section known as the South Side, and the remaining schools into a section known as the North Side. The eighth grade students were transported to one school in each section as a center; on the South Side this school was No. 7, and on the North Side, the Woodbridge School No. 1. As the school population increased, instead of building additions to some of these schools, the seventh grades were pushed out of them and centralized with the eighth grades.

An attempt was made by petitions to break up this plan, but each time a petition was presented, the Board held fast to its policy of centralization.

Under pressure from continued requests from the teachers, another change was made in the salary schedule for

their benefit as follows:

> "Moved and carried: all voting in the affirmative--that the maximum salary for all teachers from Kindergarten to 6th grade inclusive be $1800; that a super-maximum be given after twenty years' service of $2000, and an extra super-maximum of $2500 per annum be granted after twenty-five years service, and that the maximum salary for the 7th and 8th grades be $2500 and that no increase will be granted any lady teachers who marry while in service."--1

For the school year, 1927-28, one teacher met the requirements for the $2500, and in 1928-29, when this schedule became effective, another teacher reached this extra super-figure.

Although such action on the part of a Board is very commendable, the total salary list of any schools under such requirements as set up in Woodbridge is little affected, because there are so few teachers who could be expected to reach such a high point of remuneration. The few who do, are certainly worth it, if only from the standpoint of years of service, and it is reasonable also to suppose that there would be few years left for them to enjoy it.

There is at least one good feature about high maximums and super-maximums, and that is the excellent advertising for the school system.

1 Minute Book, Board of Education.

At the meeting of the Board on July 18, Miss Jane Low, on the recommendation of the Teachers' Committee, was appointed to the newly-created position of Primary Supervisor.

The erection of the new school, No. 15, at Iselin, followed by the redistribution of the pupils between the two buildings in that community, enabled the two portables there to be discarded. An increase in the enrollment at Avenel, No. 4, was met by moving the buildings to the rear of that sdhool where they are still in use. (1933).

Improved methods of instruction in the high school made it necessary to provide better library facilities for the students. The old "study hall" was fitted up with proper school library furniture, together with necessary equipment to accommodate about one hundred students per period. Miss Harriet Breckenridge, the first person to be appointed to the important position of full-time School Librarian, was succeeded by Miss Grace C. Huber who has continued the excellent work commenced by her predecessor. At the present time there are 3000 volumes in the library, and additions are constantly being made.

On December 15, 1927, the local Board of Health requested the Trustees to cooperate with them in administering the toxin-antitoxin treatment to the school children

for the prevention of diphtheria. Dr. McDonald, who was present at the meeting, explained the use and value of the treatment. The Health Committee of the Board was then directed to meet with the mayor and health officials of the township at a conference on the subject to be held on December 19. No satisfactory arrangements could be made regarding the division of the cost of the proposition between the township and the school officials so the whole project was dropped.

In 1928, the residents of the Rahway Park section of Avenel petitioned the Board for school accommodations and for better transportation facilities to the Avenel school. The matter was referred to a committee for investigation. Later, the transportation was improved but the school suggestion was tabled.

Hopelawn was now demanding additional school facilities, and a special meeting of the township voters was called for March 6 to authorize the Board to erect a four-room addition to the school in that section at a cost not to exceed $45,000, and also to authorize a four-room addition to the Barron Avenue High School at a total cost, including furniture and equipment, of $25,000. All the propositions presented were carried.

Radios now became a part of school equipment in the high school as one was purchased, largely through the efforts of the students.

Special office equipment now began to be introduced in the high school, commencing with the purchase of a comptometer for use in the commercial department of the school.

For some time it had been recognized that a suitable athletic field should be provided for the use of the high school teams, but although much time and labor had been spent by a special committee appointed to look for a field, no satisfactory place could be found. In June of this year, a conference was held with a representative of the Woodbridge Speedway Company, and arrangements were made for the use of their property by the high school for athletic purposes. Some time later, the Board authorized the expenditure of a few hundred dollars to place the grounds in condition and the Speedway became the official athletic field. The high school football team first used the field for the season of 1932.

The high school salary schedule was now revised and the following schedule adopted unanimously:

"The minimum salary for inexperienced teachers.....$1700
No minimum for experienced teachers.....

"Yearly increments to be:
At the end of the 1st year.....$100
At the end of the 2nd year..... 150
At the end of the 3rd year..... 200
and thereafter $200 per year until the maximum is reached.

"The maximum salary shall be.....3500 per year. All salary increases shall be based entirely on efficiency. Recommendations for salary increases shall be made by the supervising principal and the school principals in conference.

"This schedule shall not be retroactive. It shall be applicable the next school without reference to the old schedule."--1

It was also provided that in the elementary grades the annual increment of $100 should continue until the super-maximum of $2500 was reached. It was provided, too, that the salaries of teachers who had reached the $1800 maximum previously fixed, should commence to increase again from that point at $100 per year up to the $2500. At the same time it was agreed that salaries of principals should increase as per the high school schedule, including married female principals.

On May 13, 1929, Messrs. Howell, Filer, and Ensign, the Building Committee on the Sewaren addition, having reported the need of further finances owing to an error in the previous estimate given, a special meeting of the district voters was ordered to authorize the Board to raise the further sum of $26,000 to complete the building.

It had been customary previously for teachers and principals to be paid their salaries in ten equal install-

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ments coinciding with the school year, September to June, but a request from the principals to be paid by the calendar month was received and granted on June 10.

Miss Marion Lockwood, the school nurse, resigned because she had been appointed to a better position elsewhere.

At this same meeting, the sum of $800 was appropriated for athletic purposes in the township.

Iselin, No. 15, had now become so crowded that at the meeting on July 15, the Board authorized the purchase of a two-room portable at a cost of $5390.

The recently organized band had created so much interest that an appropiration of $800 for musical instruments and music was readily granted at the same meeting.

At the invitation of the Board, Dr. Allan G. Ireland of the State Health Department, attended the Board meeting on August 12 and gave an instructive address on school-nurse activities, and also advised the Board to employ two nurses instead of one. In accordance with this advice, Miss Henrietta Koyen and Miss Rose Nash were appointed school nurses for the ensuing school year at salaries of $1800 each, and automobiles were provided for their transportation.

At the October 21 meeting, an appropriation of $200 was granted for township physical training purposes. Another progressive step in music was taken by the appointment of Mr. Theodore Hoops as bandmaster for two days per week.

So many demands were being made for the use of the auditoriums and gymnasiums in the township, that the following resolution was presented by a special committee and passed unanimously:

> "That all auditoriums and gymnasiums be charged for at prices specified on past minutes, excepting to such organizations specifically exempted on such minutes, and no deviation be made from such ruling. The rates to be charged are as follows:

High School Auditorium.....	$50
" " " and cafeteria....	50
" " " " gymnasium....	50
" " " " " and cafeteria....	60
" " Cafeteria.....	25
" " Gymnasium.....	25
All other school auditoriums.....	20
" " " courts.....	15

At the annual school elections held February 11, 1930, the Board was authorized to purchase a plot of land on the south side of School No. 11, at a price not to exceed $21,000 on which to erect an addition.

On April 28, the request of Mr. Isaac Gilhuly, a teacher in the high school who had many years' service, to permit him to retire at the closing of the school year was granted.

In order to give the pupils at Fords, No. 7, better facilities for manual training and household arts, Mr. J. K. Jensen was directed to draw plans for a brick addition at the rear of the building for that purpose.

When the Board met on June 30, the meeting was called to order by the president and, on motion, adjourned for one week out of respect to the memory of Mr. Benjamin Walling, a member of the Board who had recently died. He was first elected to the Board on March 20, 1917, and had served continuously since. Very few public servants give freely the amount of time that Mr. Walling gave to his duties as Chairman of the Repair and Supply Committee of the Board of Education. His knowledge of business methods was of great service to the Board and made him peculiarly efficient in the discharge of his Board duties. The community lost a valuable and worthy citizen in the death of Mr. Walling.

At the suggestion of the supervising principal, the Trustees adopted the policy of appointing non-teaching principals for schools having eight or more class rooms. The expense of this was met partly by abolishing the office of primary supervisor.

The vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Walling was now filled by the appointment of Mr. Ernest Moffett, a man of college training and an old Woodbridge graduate, the second graduate of the local school to receive that honor, the other being Mr. Roy Anderson.

During the past school year, the two school nurses had cooperated with the B. P. O. E. of Rahway in their "Crippled Kiddies Campaign" and a communication was received from that organization by the Board commending the excellent work done by the nurses.

When the School Board met on October 6, the supervising principal presented an interesting chart based on a school census taken under his direction. The discussion that followed, resulted in the presentation of a resolution by Mr. M. P. Dunigan, calling for additional school accommodations at School 11 consisting of twelve class rooms to cost, together with furniture and other necessary equipment, a sum not to exceed $140,000. Also a second resolution was passed, that a special meeting of the voters be called for October 28 to authorize the Board to proceed with the work.

When a delegation of citizens from the Strawberry Hill section appeared before the Board on October 20, and requested a school for that part of the school district, they were assured that their request would be presented

to the voters in February of the next year.

The special election for October 28 was held and the resolution of the Board, regarding an addition to No. 11, was passed unanimously.

In the interests of the high school athletic department, the president of the Board appointed Mr. Mark McClain, Mr. E. C. Ensign, Mr. A. C. Ferry, Mr. H. M. Benkert (athletic coach), and Mr. M. P. Dunigan as an Advisory Committee.

On January 19, economic conditions in the township had become very bad and were reflected in the condition of many of the school children. Relief measures, undertaken by the Red Cross and the township authorities, were supported by voluntary contributions of $2.00 each month from each teacher for a period of three months, commencing in January.

History began to repeat itself when the following resolution was submitted to the Board on January 19:

> "Resolved that at the annual election to be held on February 10, 1931, the following proposals shall be submitted to the legal voters of the district, and that the same shall be stated in the notices of the election."

The first proposal was to authorize the Board to purchase a plot of land on Strawberry Hill on which to erect a school for the sum of $20,000. The second proposal was

to authorize the Board to erect a six-room building on the plot which, together with furniture and other necessary equipment, should not exceed a cost of $70,000. Both proposals were approved by the voters. Mr. J. K. Jensen was appointed as architect to draw plans for the new school and Mr. James Filer, Mr. Willard Dunham, and Mr. Mark McClain were appointed as a Building Committee.

Again history repeated itself when the Board assigned the number "three" to the proposed new school, this number being the one that used to designate the old Rahway Neck School. Contracts for the Strawberry Hill School were awarded April 28, and Miss Mildred Bettman was elected as principal of the school to assume her duties when the building was completed.

On September 21, the Chairman of the Building Committee, having charge of the addition to School No. 11, reported that the school was ready for opening.

The question of defining the district lines for the new school on Strawberry Hill now came up and the boundaries were fixed as follows:

> "All of Second Street; all of Fulton Street south of Second Street; all of Cutter's Land; Amboy Avenue to Second Street, and all of Bunn's Lane."--1

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On December 21, 1931, a letter was received from the Manufacturers' Association of Woodbridge, requesting the Board to take steps to reduce school expenses for the coming year. The clerk of the Board was directed to notify the Association that every effort would be made to meet their request.

A letter was also received from the township Teachers' Association notifying the Board that they were willing to cooperate with them in their efforts to reduce school expenses by relinquishing the scheduled salary increments for the ensuing year.

In 1932, the nation-wide, and also world-wide financial depression which had followed the great stock market debacle of 1929 was being reflected in the schools all over the country. Many citizens and industrial plants were unable to pay their taxes, resulting in a great shortage of school funds. Taxpayers' associations were being organized in practically every municipality for the purpose of influencing municipal budgets. In some communities, "scrip" began to be used in whole or in part, to pay teachers' salaries. Legislation was being demanded to give governing bodies the power to reduce salaries without which, because of the Tenure of Office Act, it could not be done. School matters in general were getting into a chaotic con-

dition and Woodbridge township was hit harder than many others because of debt service and non-payment of taxes.

Budget-slashing began to be the order of the day and Woodbridge School Board was no exception. At the first meeting in the new year, the budget for the coming year was discussed, but little progress was made. At the meeting January 11, 1932, the Board received a visit from the township principals, and various economies, particularly in regard to salary cuts, were taken up. A vote of the members was then taken on the question of asking the township teachers to take a salary reduction of 8 1/3% for the ensuing year, all voting in the affirmative. The principals then retired after notifying the Board that the officials of the Teachers' Association would be informed, and requested to bring the matter before the teaching body at the earliest moment.

On January 15, at the meeting of the Board of Education, the following letter was received from the Teachers' Association:

> "The township Teachers' Association, at a meeting held on Tuesday afternoon, January 12, 1932, rejected the proposal to donate to the township, a sum equal to one-twelfth of each monthly check. The following is a report of the ballot:
>
> Total number of votes cast.....193
> Votes "No".....191
> Votes "Yes"..... 1
> Votes "Rejected"..... 1
> Total.....193"

Another meeting of the Teachers' Association was held Monday, Jaunary 18, at which the following resolutions were passed:

"Be it resolved by the Teachers' Association of Woodbridge township that, to assist the Board of Education in their efforts to reduce the school budget for the school year of 1932-33, the following plan be adopted:

1. The employees of the township Board of Education, including teachers, clerks, nurses, custodian, etc., be divided into four groups as follows, determined by the contractual salary received:

Group 1.....	$1200.....	$1800
" 2.....	1825.....	2400
" 3.....	2425.....	3000
" 4.....	3025.....	and up

2. That the employees in Group 1 contribute $4.00 per month for ten months, commencing September, 1932.
That the employees in Group 2 contribute $6.00 per month, etc.....
That the employees in Group 3 contribute $8.00 per month, etc.....
That the employees in Group 4 contribute $10.00 per month, etc....

"And be it further resolved that the contribution is understood to be entirely voluntary on the part of the employees, and in no way considered a reduction in salary and shall not be construed in any way as interfer ing with the provisions of the Tenure of Office Act.

"And be it further resolved that the teachers and other employees receive their full salary check according to contract, and the donation aforesaid be returned by the individual employee to the Board of Education and accredited to the proper accounts.

> "Be it further resolved that we look with disfavor upon the matter of comparison of contributions for this purpose among the various township employee groups; and that such groups shall act as their respective members see fit, and that in nowise shall responsibility for their act be placed upon the employees of the Board of Education. This action on the part of the teachers is not contingent upon the contribution of any other municipality employed group."--1

This offer on the part of their employees was unanimously accepted by the Board.

When the annual school election took place in February, the manual training item was defeated, and according to school law another election was called for the purpose of revoting on this question. The special election was held and the manual training amount was approved.

This being the Bi-Centennial Year of the birth of George Washington, great preparations had been made by the Federal Authorities for its observance. Programs suitable for the occasion were given in thousands of schools all over the country and Woodbridge schools did their part. Every school room in the township had received from Washington, D. C., a handsome lithograph of "The Father of His Country." Special programs were prepared in every school and several complete mimeographed copies were made, bound in book from, and filed in the high school library for preservation. The Board of Education received invitations

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to attend these exercises and many members did so.

In line with the policy of the Board to acquire school properties, the Custodian of School Funds was instructed by the Board on April 4, to pay Nicholas Lannie $6500 for the plot of land at the rear of and adjoining Avenel School with the first funds available. The purchase of this property had been approved previously by the voters.

Mr. Louis E. Meyer, township attendance officer died and Mr. N. P. Jensen succeeded him. Mr. Meyer was a kind, sympathetic man of high ideals and performed his duties in a very efficient manner. He appreciated the responsibility of his position and cooperated to the fullest extent with the administration. The Board lost a valuable employee in his death and the community a good citizen.

At the Board meeting on May 24, the supervising principal reported the probability of a large increase in the high school enrollment for 1932-33, basing his prediction upon the effects of the prevailing business depression and the very large enrollment in the eighth grades. The situation was so evident that the Board decided to erect a frame annex of five rooms at the rear of the high school building at a cost not to exceed $10,000, including the necessary equipment. Mr. J. K. Jensen, architect, was directed to draw plans and submit them for consideration. The plans met with

the approval of the Trustees and during the summer, the building was erected and completed for less than $9000, the cost being paid from the repair fund.

The peak of school appropriations had been reached in the school budget for 1932 when the taxpayers were called upon to provide $551,459.58 for school purposes.

Many persons and industries not being able to pay their taxes, a considerable portion of the school moneys could not be collected. The effect of this was felt heavily in the schools in the curtailing of supplies of all kinds and much delay in payment of salaries when they became due. However, when the school year ended in June, all salary payments had been met in full.

W.H.S. Band - 1932
Leader - Mr Theodore Hoops

W.H.S. BAND
1932
Leader - Mr. Theodore Hoops.

CHAPTER XV

Summary

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION ENDS

School budgets began to increase rapidly. The Board votes more time for the special subjects in the school curriculum.

A new school at Woodbridge and an addition to Fords authorized by the voters May 27, 1919.

School nurse appointed and a salary bonus granted to teachers to become effective January 1, 1920.

Mr. Fred Shotwell succeeds Mr. O. P. Butterwick as principal of the high school.

Teachers' salaries improved by resolution April 1921. Special election held May 18, 1921 and a school at Sewaren authorized at a cost not to exceed $50,000.

Mr. Fred Shotwell resigns and is succeeded by Mr. Lee Woodman as principal of Barron Avenue High.

Colonia residents begin to agitate for a school. An addition to Avenel school authorized by the voters November 14, 1921 at a cost not to exceed $55,000.

February 14, 1922 the Board authorized to erect a school at Colonia at a cost not to exceed $53,400, and an addition to Hopelawn at a cost of $55,000.

The first women members of the Board elected February 1922. Mr. H. A. Tappen resigns from the Board March 20, and Mr. Melvin H. Clum succeeds him as President.

The teaching of Thrift in the schools authorized by the Board this year.

The purchase of school lots at Hopelawn, Fords and Port Reading, the erection of a new school at Fords, and additions to Barron Avenue school and Port Reading, totalling $455,000, were authorized by the voters February 13, 1924.

Mr. Arthur G. Ferry succeeds Mr. Lee Woodman as principal of the high school September 1925.

Additional money raised to complete Barron Avenue, Port Reading and Fords schools.

February 9, 1926, the voters authorize the erection of a new school at Iselin at a cost of $110,000 and an addition to Keasbey at a cost not to exceed $115-000.

A new salary schedule for elementary teachers adopted by the Board this year.

Mr. John Lahey member of the Board died January 17, 1927. Two portable buildings transferred from Iselin to meet increased enrollment at Avenel.

March 6, 1928, the voters authorize an addition to Hopelawn at a cost not to exceed $45,000 and a four-room addition to the high school at a cost of $25,000. Salary schedules again improved for teachers.

A bandmaster appointed for the township October 1928. Additional land purchased for school No. 11 February 11, 1930. Mr. Benjamin Walling, member of the Board died, and Mr. Ernest Moffett was appointed to succeed him.

October 28, 1930, the voters authorized the erection of an addition to School No. 11 at a cost not to exceed $140,000.

At the annual election February 10, 1931, the taxpayers authorize the purchase of land and the erection of a new school on Strawberry Hill at a cost not to exceed $90,000.

Demands for school retrenchments and economies begin December 1931. Teachers volunteer to relinquish salary increments for the next year.

January 18, 1932, the teachers grant a portion of their salaries to assist in budget reduction. Bi-Centennial of birth of George Washington celebrated. Budget of 1932 for school year 1932-33 reaches the peak of school appropriations--$551,459.58.

CHAPTER XVI

OVER THE PEAK

Shortly after the re-opening of schools in September, several delegates from the local Taxpayers' Association presented themselves at a meeting of the school board and urged a reduction in the school budget for the current year. Mr. Ernest Moffett, speaking for the finance committee, outlined the attitude of the school board in the matter and after several expressions of goodwill, the delegates retired.

At the same board meeting, a number of citizens from Hagaman Heights appeared and requested transportation from that section to the Port Reading school. Certain grades of school children had been transported previously but it had been discovered that the route did not conform to the legal requirements of the State Department of Education for free transportation thus necessitating a discontinuance of the service. However, the Board agreed to take up the matter again with the proper authorities and see what could be done.

Supervising Principal John H. Love notified the Board that infantile paralysis had appeared in School No. 1 and that the State Health Department had advised him not to close the school as had been suggested. The Board approved this policy.

Owing to lack of employment for many young people, because of the economic depression, several applications for postgraduate work had been received by the high school principal. The high school department being considerably overcrowded, a resolution that graduates of the school be refused admission for the present year was passed unanimously by the Board.

November the 21st, the supervising principal was directed to arrange for bedside instruction to be given James Lukides, a high school student, unable to attend regular classes because of a severe form of personal illness.

Again, a delegation from the Taxpayers' Association appeared before the Board. Budget matters were discussed and the thanks of the association tendered to the Board for the communication lately received from the chairman of the Finance Committee.

A rather unusual event, was the appearance of the Mayor of the Township, Mr. William Ryan and Township Attorney Mr. Henry St. Lavin at this meeting by the express invitation of the Board. A friendly and enlightening discussion of Woodbridge Township finances, particularly as they related to the School Board was held and at the termination of the discussion the following resolution was

1933 School Transportation. Sec. 1. N. Side of Campus

295 A

1933 School Transportation, Sec. 2. E Side

300A

> not to exceed twenty per cent (20%) over a period of years, provided that said reduction apply to the whole group and not to anyone individual teacher in any school system."

The meeting of the School Board January 20, 1933, was memorable because of certain changes brought about, partly under pressure from the Taxpayers' Association, and also undertaken as an economy measure initiated by the Board.

At the previous meeting, the Supervising Principal had submitted a new plan of operating the High School for the coming year under which this department would be in continuous session from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. One very important feature of the plan was that, in his opinion, there would be no necessity of further additions to the High School building for many years and that in all probability the recently erected annex at the rear of the school could be closed, thus saving the cost of its operation and maintenance. The preparation of the scheme and its detailed working out was the result of more than a year's co-operative study by the High School principal Mr. Arthur C. Ferry and the Supervising Principal as their contribution to the several economy measures under consideration. On motion, the report was adopted unanimously with a few minor changes as to time of opening and closing.

Another radical step undertaken by the Board, was the reduction of the principals of School Nos. 4, 8, 10, and 12

to grade positions but without any reduction of salary or change in title. The positions of Art Supervisor and of Assistant Music Supervisor were also abolished, following out the new economy policy that had previously thrown out the Kindergarten Department at School No. 1.

A suggestion that the township teachers be requested to submit to a twenty per cent (20%) reduction in salary for the next school year was discussed, the secretary being directed to communicate with the Teachers' Association in regard to the matter, a report on their action to be presented at a meeting of the Board to be held at 8 p.m. January 26th. When the meeting took place, a letter from the Teachers' Association was read in which a counter proposition of a ten per cent reduction was made but which was refused by the Board, further instructions being given to the District Clerk to request a reconsideration of the original proposition by the teachers. This was done , resulting in their acceptance of the twenty per cent cut.

When the election for Board members occurred in February, a total of 2783 votes was cast, Mr. James Filer receiving 1404, Mr. E. C. Ensign 1352, and Mr. Mark J. McClain 1306.

On February 20th, at a session of the Board, a proposal to change the time of the Borough, Town and Township

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WOODBRIDGE TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

FORDS No 14

SCHOOL No 4 AVENEL

school elections from the second Tuesday of February to the time of the general elections in November was opposed. Although a bill with this in view had been passed in the State Legislature, the Woodbridge School Board had not taken advantage of its provisions. Later on, the Act was repealed.

Acting under the direction of the Board, the Finance Committee had been making strenuous efforts to secure funds with which to pay the school teachers and as a step in this direction, the following motion was passed March 8th, 1933:

> "Whereas, it has been shown to this Board that the Township Committee will be unable to furnish to this Board the funds required to pay the arrears of salary of its employees, and a committee of township officials has proposed that the Township issue its Tax Revenue Bonds in small denominations, payable in June with a low rate of interest but receivable at any time in payment of taxes in amounts sufficient with a portion of cash to cover the arrears to January 1st, be it
>
> Resolved: that the Board will co-operate with the township officials and will offer such bonds to its employees."

At a later meeting of the Board, a delegation of the Township Teachers' Association was present to whom the bond-payment proposition was explained.*

On March 29th, the Board of Education organized for the coming year, Mr. Melvin H. Clum being re-elected to the presidency and Mr. Maurice P. Dunigan as Vice-President.

*Bonds, known as "Baby Bonds" were issued in denominations of ten and twenty-five dollars and were all sold in due time by the employees.

In April, the community was shocked by the death of Mr. Clum which occurred at his residence in Fords on the 10th instant. A special meeting of the Board was held on the 17th when the following resolution was passed and placed on record:

> "Resolved: that the members of the Board desire to record their profound sorrow at the death of Melvin H. Clum, who was elected to this Board March 18, 1907, and who has served continuously ever since.
>
> Mr. Clum's wise and helpful counsel, broad sympathies and kindly presence endeared him to all of us and he will be greatly missed.
>
> In his passing away, Woodbridge Township has suffered a distinct loss.
>
> The memory of his faithful, unselfish, service, always cheerfully given, will be an inspiration to us who were privileged to be his associates.
>
> In our sorrow, we recognize the greater grief of his family to whom we offer our deepest sympathy. Also be it
>
> Resolved: that an engrossed copy of these resolutions be forwarded to the family of Mr. Clum."

Previous plans for reducing salaries of all School-Board employees for 1933-34 culminated in the following motion which was passed unanimously May 15th:

> "Moved and carried the salaries of all school employees of the Board under Tenure of Office be fixed at 80% of their last respective contract salaries, pursuant to the provision of Chapter 12 of the Laws of 1933."

WOODBRIDGE TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

SCHOOL Nº 7
FORDS

SCHOOL Nº 8
KEASBEY

SCHOOL Nº 9
PORT READING

> "Moved and carried that salaries of all employees not under tenure will be 80% of last contract salary, excepting medical inspectors and clerk of Schools #7 and #14."

The 20% reduction was applied also to the salaries of the school nurses, the attendance officer, district clerk and custodian of school funds.

A unanimous vote of the Board elected Mr. Maurice P. Dunigan as president to succeed the late Mr. Melvin Clum, and Mr. Roy Anderson as Vice President to succeed Mr. Dunigan.

Seeing no prospect of their delinquent salaries being paid before the close of the schools for the summer, the teachers had engaged the services of Mr. Julius Kass, a young Perth Amboy lawyer, as their counsel and as their representative. On June 19 he appeared before the Board to present a report on an investigation he had made into school and municipal affairs.

Following a discussion of the report, a motion was made and carried:

> "That the Township of Woodbridge be requested to pay over to the Custodian of School Moneys forthwith the balance of the appropriation for school purposes for the school year ending June 30, amounting to $215,175.84, all of which has heretofore been specifically requested."

and a second motion

> "That the Township be requested if payment

> cannot be made in cash, to pay the State and County school taxes remaining unpaid since February first of this year, pursuant to an act relating to the financing of schools approved May the 10th, 1933, being Chapter 156 of the Laws of this year (excepting the ten per cent of the State School Tax which must be paid in cash) in order that the County Treasurer may make payment in scrip or otherwise the amounts of the State apportionment which is due the district and payment of which has been prevented by the failure of the township heretofore to pay such taxes to the County Treasurer, unless the township authorities can make some other and better adjustment of such liability."

Mr. Willard Dunham, the member from Fords, reported the death of the janitor of School No. 14, Mr. Philip Fisher. In the passing of Mr. Fisher, the Board lost a faithful employee and the township an excellent citizen.

The next meeting of the Board was held June 30th, at which time Supervising Principal John H. Love tendered his resignation to take effect at once, thus bringing to a close his long period of service in the Woodbridge school system.

The action of Mr. Love came somewhat as a shock to most of the members of the Board, but for almost a year he had been considering such a step. Under the provisions of the Teachers' Pension and Annuity Fund of New Jersey, he had been eligible for retirement for a number of years, but being still educationally and physically active, he had deferred his ultimate decision.

The Board accepted the resignation with regret and the Teachers' Committee was instructed to draw up a resolution to that effect and present it to Mr. Love.

The following is Mr. Love's letter to the Board:

"Board of Education,
Woodbridge, N. J.

Gentlemen:

It is with the deepest regret that I tender my resignation as Supervising Principal of the Woodbridge Township schools, to take effect at the close of the present month.

As probably many of you are aware, I have had this matter under consideration for considerable time, but have now definitely decided to take this important step.

My object in resigning is to take advantage of the pension for which I have been eligible for a long time and to devote the remaining active years of my life to literature or to some field of endeavor allied to the one in which I have been directly and happily occupied so long.

When I view the tremendous development of the Woodbridge Township schools since becoming connected with them in 1895, I feel that it has been the greatest honor and privilege any man could have had accorded to him to have had a part in the building up of such an organization for the benefit of the youth of this community.

In order that the Board may not be hurried in choosing my successor, I shall be happy to donate my services for any reasonable period of time that may be necessary to make a careful selection for the important office I am now vacating.

My personal thanks are extended to the Board collectively and individually for the con-

fidence they have always reposed in me and for the loyal support and co-operation I have received so unstintingly without which my path would have been difficult indeed.

It is my sincere wish that this same spirit be passed on to my successor whoever he may be."

(Signed) John H. Love

Dated June 24, 1933.

Beginning as high school teaching principal in the township in September 1895, and a few years later being placed in charge of the entire township system, Mr. Love saw the old type of "country school" disappear, and in its place arise the present group of structures, modern in architecture and appointments.

When the present high school building was opened in September 1911, Mr. Love was its first principal, combining that position with his supervisory duties.

As the enrollment in the high school department increased, it soon became evident that the two positions must be separated and from a large number of applicants, Mr. Arthur C. Sides Ph. D. was selected and appointed as principal of the High School and Mr. Love was released to give his whole time to the supervisory work.

Beginning with a school property valuation of a little more than $30,000, which has increased to a valuation of over $2,250,000, and with a group of less than twenty teachers,

reaching two hundred at the time of his retirement, Mr. Love, in his thirty-eight years of service achieved a unique place in his chosen field of work.

The educational upheaval as a result of the great economic depression throughout the country did not leave Woodbridge unscathed. Let us hope that the marks will not be permanent.

With confidence in the ability of those who guide the destiny of our schools, and with faith that the future has even finer things in store for the good and welfare of our children, we believe that a new and greater era in the educational history of Woodbridge has begun.

309 A

WOODBRIDGE TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

SCHOOL No 6
ISELIN

SCHOOL No 12
SEWAREN

CHAPTER XVI

Summary

Taxpayers' Association request reduction in school budget. Hagaman Heights citizens request resumption of transportation facilities to Port Reading School.

Infantile paralysis appears.

Graduates of High School refused permission for post-graduate work.

Bedside instruction ordered for sick pupil.

Taxpayers' Association delegates again appear before Board.

Mayor William Ryan and Township Attorney appear at Board meeting to discuss finances.

Board orders resolution printed requesting cooperation with them by payment of taxes.

Resolution relating to Tenure of Office Act passed.

Superintendent Principal Love submits new plan for operation of High School as an economy measure.

Principals of four schools made "teaching" principals.

Teachers' Association grant the request of the Board for a twenty per cent salary reduction.

Messrs. Filer, Ensign, and McClain re-elected to Board.

The Board opposes changing time of Borough, Town, and School elections.

Board resolves to cooperate with Township Committee by accepting "Baby" bonds for school employees.

Mr. Melvin H. Clum again elected president of Board and Mr. M. P. Dunigan Vice President, March 29.

Death of Mr. Clum in April.

Resolutions adopted and recorded on death of President M. H. Clum.

Resolution passed reducing salaries of school employees for 1933-34.

Mr. Maurice P. Dunigan succeeds the late Melvin H. Clum as President and Mr. Roy Anderson elected Vice President.

Mr. Julius Kass appears before the Board in behalf of the Township teachers.

Township Committee petitioned by Board for financial assistance.

Mr. Philip Fisher, janitor of School #14 dies.

Supervising Principal, John H. Love, tenders his resignation to take effect as of June 30, which is accepted with regret.

CHAPTER XVII

WOODBRIDGE TOWNSHIP TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

Mention has been made of this association in a previous chapter. Its present form took shape in 1932 when Mr. Harry Sechrist, a member of the High Sch. faculty was elected its first president and Miss Ruth A. Numbers, a teacher in School NO. 15 its first secretary.

Much of its earlier activities followed along the lines of previous programs, but as the financial condition of the schools became affected by the general depression, discussions arose within the organization concerning the financial policies of the Board of Education, especially as they affected teachers' salaries.

Previous to this time, all contacts between the Board and the teachers had been made through the supervising principal, but now the Board became alive to the importance of the Association and recognized it by dealing with the teachers directly through their duly elected officials on all matters pertaining to the general welfare of the teaching body.

On January 12, 1932, a second meeting of the organization was held in School No. 11 to consider a proposition of the

Board to donate ten per cent of their yearly salary as one step in the efforts being made to reduce school expenses.

At a previous meeting of the association, the teachers had unanimously agreed to a suspension of their scheduled salary increments for one year, but on the new proposition they disagreed and defeated it by an overwhelming vote of 191 to 1.

As a matter of convenience in handling business, a system of delegates, one from each school, was inaugurated and put into practice.

September 28, 1932, Mr. Frank Seih, an instructor in School No. 7, was elected president and Mr. Henry W. Beecher Vice-President with Miss Ruth Numbers again as secretary.

Disturbing rumors regarding the financial condition of the schools had begun to permeate the teaching staff, creating a highly nervous tension among them. The demon of the depression had begun to show its claws to the teachers.

At a meeting held October 18th, a motion was passed requesting the Board of Education to appoint a committee from among its members to meet with the Teachers' Executive Committee to discuss certain questions to be formulated and presented to the Board prior to the proposed meeting. In conformance with this request, the chairman of the Finance Committee of the Board, Mr. Ernest Moffett,

together with Mr. Roy Anderson met with the Teachers' Committee and gave them considerable interesting information.

November 14th, 1932, at the suggestion of the Supervising Principal, a committee of three was appointed to attend a meeting of delegates from all County Teachers' Associations to be held at Highland Park for the purpose of organizing a County Association of Teachers. This move on the part of the teachers was taken because of drastic legislation being introduced at Trenton affecting the whole body of teachers in the State.

Largely at the instigation of the local Taxpayers' Association, the Board of Education sent a communication to the Teachers' Association requesting a refund of twenty per cent of their contractual salaries for the ensuing year which resulted in the following letter being sent to the Board by President Seih:

> "The teachers of Woodbridge Township have earnestly and thoughtfully considered both the financial condition of the Township and your request that they refund (20) per cent of their contractual salaries for the school year 1933-34, both of which questions were so clearly presented to them by the chairman of your finance committee, Mr. Moffett.
>
> While appreciating the seriousness of the situation, members of the Teachers' Association are unanimously of the opinion that the amount of refund requested is excessive, and in justice to themselves and to the obligations which they themselves are carrying cannot be granted.

> Desirous of doing what they feel is their full share toward reducing the budget, the members of the Association unanimously offer the Board of Education a refund of ten (10) per cent of their contractual salaries for the ensuing year of 1933-34.
>
> The Association wishes to express its keen appreciation of the fine spirit shown by the Board of Education in all its dealings with the teaching body."--2

A request from the Board to reconsider this action resulted in the following resolution:

> "Resolved, that the members of the Association accept the Board of Education's demand and grant a twenty (20) per cent refund on individual salaries for the ensuing school year 1933-34." 3

110 votes were cast for the resolution, and 69 against it. A motion to make the vote unanimous was defeated.

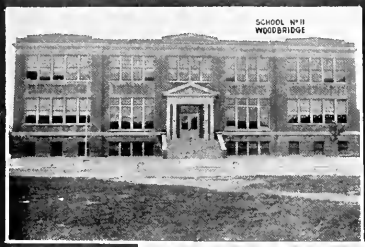
Upon receipt of a communication from the Association notifying them of the action of the teachers, the Board directed the district clerk to send a letter of thanks to them for "their generosity."

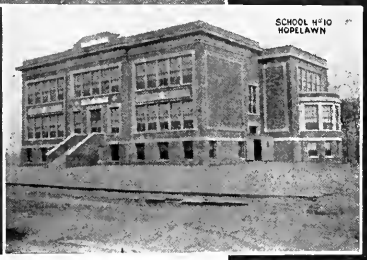
As it turned out, the teachers had done voluntarily what an act of the legislature gave all school boards the right to do later without the consent of the teachers of the State.

The teachers' rights in the Pension and Annuity Fund were protected by making the usual monthly deductions from the contractual salaries instead of from the actual salaries.

2 Minutes of Association.
3. Ibid

WOODBRIDGE TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS


SCHOOL Nº 11
WOODBRIDGE


SCHOOL Nº 10
HOPELAWN


SCHOOL Nº 2
COLONIA

As evidence of the continued financial stringency and its effect on the schools, the following letter was sent by the Association to the Middlesex County Senator and Assemblymen a copy also being sent to the State Teachers' Association at Trenton:

"We respectfully solicit your careful thought and consideration of a situation in Woodbridge Township, Middlesex County, which we believe warrants remedial measures by the State of New Jersey. As a representative of the State, permit us to present this situation to you and call your attention to the following conditions existing in this school district:

TOWNSHIP OF WOODBRIDGE

1. Present heavy indebtedness of our township.
2. One of our banks closed.
3. Unpaid public employees for 4 months.
4. Taxes in arrears.
5. A large school population with limited sources of tax revenue.
6. A large territorial domain, costly in maintenance.
7. Sources of tax revenue limited, due to (a) a very few large industrial plants, (b) a large settlement in Iselin of small one-story houses on small lots-little tax revenue but many children to be educated. Other poor sections in Hopelawn, Keasbey, Port Reading and parts of Woodbridge. A large proportion of modest homes throughout the township.
8. The condition existing in our leading industries--the clay industry.

May we also call to your attention a tax rate sufficiently high with a cost of education per pupil considerably below the average of our county and the state. (See state Reports)

Also, a drastic reduction in the school budget for the coming year including a twenty (20) per cent reduction in salary of school employees and a dispensing with many services.

In view of the fact that we have made a sincere and efficient attempt to put our house in order and in the interest of equal opportunity for every child in the State, employees and taxpayers, we respectfully ask you for your consideration and assistance in aiding municipalities in our unfortunate position.

The wide variance in the cost of education per pupil in the various municipalities of the State as shown in State Reports, cannot but make us feel that there is far from an equality of opportunity to the child, to those who serve and to those who pay the costs.

May we ask if there is not some plan whereby a minimum standard of education can be maintained throughout the State and a financial means of assistance found for those municipalities which cannot fully carry the cost of such a minimum standard?

Is it possible for the wealthier districts to carry any of the burden of the distressed districts to the extent at least of helping to maintain this minimum standard?

Would a State income tax, luxury and amusement tax, or a sales tax assist in financing of such a plan? It is pointed out the States of New York, Delaware and a few others have worked out a plan along these lines which works quite admirably.

As a group of teachers and public school employees, we would appreciate any support and co-operation which you can give us at Trenton."

From this letter, it may be seen that the Woodbridge teachers were fighting not only their own battle, but that of the teachers and children of the whole State. Many of the

suggestions embodied in their letter were seriously considered later by the State Legislature.

At a meeting of the Association, held March 7, 1933, all schools being represented, it was decided to employ counsel to look after their interests. A committee was also appointed to confer with the Taxpayer's Association, The P. T. Associations, and the local Merchants' Association, to inform them of the plight of the teachers.

There appearing no improvement in the financial situation, and the end of the school year being in sight without any visible prospect of relief, it was unanimously decided at a meeting held May 23rd, to send the following letter of appeal to each of the local newspapers, including the Perth Amboy Evening News, requesting publicity for it. Copies of the letter were also sent to State Senator Arthur Quinn, Assemblymen John Rafferty, John V. Burke, Elmer Brown, and the secretary of the State Teachers' Association:

> "May we as an organization of over 200 teachers and school employees, with the educational welfare of over 6000 pupils in our care, make an appeal to you as our representatives regarding a distressing condition in our township, with teachers and employees unpaid for a period of five months and no relief in sight?
>
> We find many of our number in want, the morale endangered, and the efficiency in the training impaired.
>
> Drastic reductions have been made in our budgets including an additional twenty per cent cut in our salaries and many

services have been dispensed with.

> We have a low cost of education per pupil, considerably below that of the average of the State etc. etc.---" 1.

On June 13th, Mr. Julius Kass, a rising young attorney of Perth Amboy, having received an invitation from the association, addressed the teachers at a meeting held in School No. 11. His optimism regarding his ability to collect the teachers' back pay, created so much enthusiasm that he was at once appointed the Associations' legal representative.

One of the first steps taken by Mr. Kass was to request the teachers to make an assignment of their delinquent salaries to him as he said this was

> "to facilitate the collection of the money due you in the event that it will be necessary to bring suit to protect your rights."--2.

As another part of the plan of Mr. Kass in his efforts on behalf of the teachers he stated that he proposed to hold a series of mass meetings in the township for the purpose of enlightening the citizens regarding the financial condition of the municipality with particular emphasis on the situation as it affected the teachers.

Notwithstanding the efforts of their counsel in their behalf, when the schools closed for the usual summer vacation, no part of the delinquent salaries had been paid to the teachers.

1. Association Records
2. Ibid

Probably efforts of the teachers to secure their back pay would have been more fruitful if they had become alive to their situation sooner, but school history had no precedent for them and they were taken unawares.

As in every group of individuals in similar organizations, certain members were more aggressive than others, and these being unamenable to reason, but perfectly honest in their efforts, probably did more damage than good to the cause of the teachers.

Loose statements, unsupported by the necessary facts, always are prone to cause irritation, to say the least, and teachers as a body, being semi-public servants whose compensation comes out of the pockets of the taxpayers are in no position to make threats and demands, which oftener than not, tend to alienate their best friends and generally in the long run do little good.

The main cause for the aggressiveness of the Woodbridge teachers, however, seemed to be in their suspicion that they were not receiving their just proportion of the tax-dollar collected.

Other causes were rumors that other groups of employees were being paid in preference to them, and a general feeling that the Board of Education itself was not pushing their cause strongly enough with the Municipal Authorities.

STRAWBERRY HILL. No 3.
Erected 1931
The third school to be erected
on this historical hill.
The first one - 1701

Whatever the specific causes were, the fact remains that the public school teachers in Woodbridge, as elsewhere, were being hit by the great economic depression just as other groups of citizens had been hit much earlier.

When taxes are not being paid, tax-receiving bodies must suffer.

School No. 15. (Iselin).

Two portables shown on left.

CHAPTER XVII

Summary

Mr. Harry Sechrist elected president of the new Teachers' Association.

Board recognizes the Association as medium through which to contact teaching body.

Teachers unanimously ~~unanimously~~ ~~agree to suspension~~ after Board a repeal of 10% of salary ~~schedule~~ for one year.

Teachers defeat proposition to grant salary donation as economy measure.

Delegates elected from each school as working committee.

Mr. Frank Seih elected president of the Association, September 28, 1932.

Board members, Moffett and Anderson, meet with teachers, October 18, 1932.

Committee of those appointed to attend meeting at Highland Park.

Communication received from the Board requesting 20% reduction for ensuing year.

Request granted by 110 to 69 vote.

Teachers send letter to State Legislative representatives drawing attention to Woodbridge's financial stringency, and making valuable suggestions.

Association sends letters to all local papers drawing attention to non-payment of salaries.

Mr. Julius Kass of Perth Amboy appointed legal representative of the Association, June 13th, and to assist in collection of back salaries.

Delinquent salaries unpaid when schools closed.

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12. _____Minute Books of the Board of Education of the Township of Woodbridge 1895-1933.

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15. _____"Legislative Documents"--of the State of New Jersey.

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APPENDIX

BOUNDARIES OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 25--
JEFFERSON. (OLD NO. 4)

(Includes old Strawberry Hill District 7 which united with it in 1860)

"Beginning at Cutter's Dock; thence down Woodbridge Creek, as the same runs to the N. line of the Corporation of Perth Amboy; thence, with said line Westerly & Southerly, to S.W. corner of Isaac Floods; thence N. Westerly, along the dividing line of I. Flood and others, to the main road, known as Old Brunswick Road; thence, N. Westerly, along the dividing line of Robert Goddington and Joel Melick, to the Brunswick, Turnpike Road, as the S.W. corner of Edward Thompson's property; thence Northerly, to the S. W. corner of D. Voorhees' property; thence still Northerly, along the dividing line between I. Flood and brother, and D. Voorhees, to an angle in the road leading to Metuchen; thence S. to Metuchen road again; thence, Easterly, along Metuchen road to Hurd's Brook, including residents and their properties on both sides of the road; thence, N. Easterly, along said brook to N. W. corner of the land of Ellis Drake; thence, running S. through Valentines' Lane, to Main Street; thence E. to Fulton Street; thence S., down Fulton Street to the road leading to Cutter's Dock; thence E. along said road, taking both sides of it, to the place of beginning."

BOUNDARIES OF SCHOOL

DISTRICT

No. 24--Academy

"Beginning at Cutter's Dock, and running W. along Cutter's Road to the foot of Fulton Street, including the N. side of said road; thence along Fulton Street, to Main Street; thence along Main Street to Valentine's Lane; thence down said Lane to Hurd's Brook; thence up Hurd's Brook, until it crosses Metuchen Road, corresponding with the line of District 25; thence W. along Metuchen road, to the road leading to the Poor House, excepting residents and their properties on both sides of said road; thence through the road called New Lane, to the Uniontown Road, taking only E. side of said Road; thence up said Uniontown Road to and including Mr. Hoover's farm; thence N.E. through the new Boulevard Road, to Queen Ann's Highway; thence N. E. to Avenel Station, on W. & A. R. R.; thence, N. Easterly, to the road from Woodbridge to Rahway, at and including the place of Samuel Meeker; thence S. E. along Douglas Avenue, to David Blairs, not included; thence, E. and Southerly, along the road passing by Albert D. Brown's Smith's Creek, including all residents on the W. side of said road; thence following said creek to the Sound;

Note: Queen Ann's Highway later called King George's Post Road.

thence down the Sound to Woodbridge Creek; thence up said Woodbridge Creek to Cutter's Dock, place of beginning.

TRUSTEES

From Records of Strawberry Hill #7
Record Book opened April 7, 1841

Later joined with Jefferson School District 1860

1841

Augustus Coddington
David N. Demarest
Peter Melick
Ephraim Cutter
James M. Tappen

1845

David N. Demarest
James M. Tappen
Hampton Cutter
Peter Melick
Charles M. Dally

1846

Peter Melick
David N. Demarest
Hampton Cutter
Jeremiah Dally
Jonathan H. Drake

1847

David N. Demarest
Jeremiah Dally
Jonathan H. Drake
Hampton Cutter

1848

Peter Melick
Hampton Cutter
Jonathan H. Drake
Jeremiah Dally

1849

Samuel Ensign
William Inslee
S. V. Hollister
William Cutter
D. N. Demarest

1850

Probably as in 1849

1851

William Inslee
Samuel E. Ensign
William Cutter

1852

William Inslee
Samuel E. Ensign
Hampton Cutter

1853

William Inslee
Hampton Cutter
David Ayres

1854

Hampton Cutter
David Ayres
William L. Burke

1855

David Ayres
Cortland P. Osborne
Henry F. Demarest

1856

David Ayres
Cortland P. Osborne
Henry N. Demarest

1857

Henry N. Demarest
Cortland P. Osborne
James Valentine

1858

Henry N. Demarest
James Valentine
Cortland Osborne

1859

James Valentine
Cortland Osborne
David Ayres

1860

Charles M. Dally
(place of Osborne resigned)
David Ayres
William Inslee, Sr.
S. E. Ensign (app'd Oct. 24, 1860 place of C. M. Dally resigned)

1861

Union of Strawberry and Jefferson Dists.

David Ayres
Samuel E. Ensign
Francis Hart
(place of Inslee resigned)

April 7, 1862

J. Commos
Samuel E. Ensign
Francis H. Hart

April 6, 1863

F. H. Hart
J. Commos
William Bedman, Jr.

1864

Francis H. Hart
William Bedman Jr.
J. Commos

1865

William Bedman Jr.
Joseph Drake
Isaac Inslee

1866

Isaac Inslee
H. N. Demarest
Lafayette Reed

1867

(Sept. 2--Change in School year)

Charles F. Mawbey
Lewis Potter
W. H. Cutter

1868

Charles F. Mawbey
Lewis C. Potter
W. H. Cutter

1869

Samuel E. Ensign
Charles M. Dally
C. F. Mawbey

1870-71

J. C. Cutter
Samuel E. Ensign
Charles M. Dally

1871-72

September 4.

Edward Potter
Joseph C. Cutter
Samuel E. Ensign

1872-73

September 2.
Clarence C. Dally
Edward Potter
Joseph C. Cutter

1873-74

Howard Valentine
Clarence C. Dally
Edward Potter

1874-75

August 4.

Samuel Dally
Howard Valentine
C. C. Dally

(End of 1st minute book)

TOWN SUPERINTENDENTS OF SCHOOLS*

J. B. Clark	1847-1848
J. M. Brewster	1848-1850
Alanson Newton	1850-1851
Ellis B. Freeman	1851-1852
S. Averill	1853-1861
Ellis B. Freeman	1852-1853
Dr. Dayton Decker	1861-1862
Luther J. Tappen	1862-1867

* County Superintendents took the place of Town Superintendents in 1867.

TRUSTEES OF THE OLD ACADEMY

District No. 6--1

1843

Edward Munday
William H. Berry
Jotham Coddington
Dr. Ellis B. Freeman
Luther Hampton

1846

Ellis B. Freeman
Luther Hampton
David Bloomfield
William H. Berry
Jotham Coddington

1847

E. B. Freeman
John E. Barron
William H. Berry
David Bloomfield
George Brewster
Alanson Newton
Jotham Coddington

1848

E. B. Freeman
Alanson Newton
William H. Berry
Thompson Edgar
David Bloomfield
Alex Edgar
Jotham Coddington

1849

E. B. Freeman
William H. Berry
Thompson Edgar
Alexander Edgar
A. Brown
Joel Tappen
Jotham Coddington

1850

Ellis B. Freeman
James Bloodgood
Jotham Coddington
Cornelius Prall
Randolph Coddington

1851

Ellis B. Freeman
Jotham Coddington
Randolph Coddington

1853

Ellis B. Freeman
James Bloodgood

1854

E. B. Freeman

1855

Furman Lee

1856

E. B. Freeman

1857

Joseph Marsalle

1858

E. B. Freeman
Jotham Coddington
William E. Fink

1859

E. B. Freeman
Jotham Coddington
William E. Fink

1--District No. 5 joined No. 6 later, and the combined districts are referred to as No. 3 later in the Minute Book, Academy District
Note: For years omitted, no trustees are given--Ibid

1860	1861	1862.
E. B. Freeman	E. B. Freeman	E. B. Freeman
Jotham Coddington	Jotham Coddington	Jotham Coddington
Francis P. Edgar	Francis P. Edgar	Francis P. Edgar

Note--No entries in Minute Book, Academy District, after 1862.

TEACHERS OF THE ACADEMY DISTRICT

J. H. Morris	1844-48	E. B. Freeman (part)	1866
C. B. Read	1849-50	B. B. Yocum "	1866
R. C. Cyphers	1851-55	G. G. Hancock "	1867
Miss Conklin	1852-53	B. B. Yocum "	1867
B. C. Hopkins	1856	Miss Day	1868-69
Dwight Kegwin	1857-59	Miss Pace	1870-72
Dwight Kegwin (part)	1860	Miss Harriot	1871
Charles O. Holmes	1860	Miss Demerest (part)	1872
Charles O. Holmes	1860-63	Miss Hancock (part)	1872
Harriet Coddington	1862-66	David Sprague	1874-75
Thomas J. Dally	1864-65		

TEACHERS OF THE STRAWBERRY HILL DISTRICT NO. 7

No record of teachers	1841-44
J. H. Poillon	1845-48
S. E. Ensign* (part)	1848-55

JEFFERSON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 25

Miss Robinson	1865
Miss Silva	1865
Mira C. Kelly	1865
George W. Dally	1866
Mira C. Kelly	1866
Miss I. E. Hays	1866
H. Anderson	1875-76
Kate Moore	1875-76
D. M. Sprague	1875-76
Ettie Sellers	1875-76
Ida Ayres	1875-76

WOODBRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 24
(Combined 25 & 24)

1876-1877	1877-1878
Henry Anderson, Principal	H. Anderson, Principal
Kate Moore	H. R. Williams
Eva Sollace	Kate Moore
S. E. Eldridge	Nellie Ensign
Nellie A. Ensign	Minnie Moore
H. R. Williams	Ida Ayres
Laura E. Miller	Hattie Stelle
	Sara McEwen

Note1--Records very incomplete between 1867-74.
" 2--District voted to join with Jefferson-Strawberry Hill for Graded School (Wge. No. 24)

* No records in Minute Book--probably continued until 1864. The district joined Jefferson in 1860, the combined districts being called No. 25.

1878-1879

E. L. Anderson, Principal
H. R. Williams
Nellie Ensign
Ida Ayres
Mary Moore
Hattie Stelle
Sara McEwen

1879-1880

E. L. Anderson, Principal
H. A. Ensign
M. A. Moore
Hattie Stelle
Sara McEwen
Edith Scott
H. R. Williams
Carrie Dally

1880-1881

E. L. Anderson, Principal
H. R. Williams
H. A. Ensign
M. A. Moore
Sara McEwen
Edith Scott
Carrie Dally
Rebecca Shamp

1881-1882

E. L. Anderson, Principal
M. J. Thomas
H. A. Ensign
M. A. Moore
Sara McEwen
Edith Scott
Carrie Dally
Clary Acker

1882-1883

M. J. Thomas, Principal
M. A. Hommell
H. A. Ensign
M. A. Moore
Sara McEwen
Edith Scott
Carrie Dally
Clara Acker
Sadie Brewster

1883-1884

M. J. Thomas, Principal
M. A. Hommell
M. A. Moore
R. A. Miller
Mary Reed
Carrie Dally
Clara Acker
Grace Harned
Helen Clarkson

1885

M. J. Thomas, Principal
Eugenia Dimmick
M. T. Reed
M. A. Moore
R. A. Miller
M. C. Ayres
Edith Scott
Carrie Dally
Clara Acker
Grace Harned
Fannie Farron

1885-1886

M. J. Thomas, Principal
E. Dimmick
M. T. Reed
R. A. Miller
M. C. Ayres
Edith Scott
Grace Harned
H. A. Clarkson
Z. A. Inslee
Fannie Farron

1886-1887

M. J. Thomas, Principal
E. Dimmick
R. A. Miller
M. C. Ayres
M. T. Reed
Edith Scott
Grace Harned
H. A. Clarkson
Z. A. Inslee
Fannie Farron
Marry Clarkson
Martha F. Horsfield

1887-1888

M. J. Thomas, Principal
E. Dimmick
R. A. Miller
M. C. Ayres
Sadie Brewster
L. J. Franklin
Grace Harned
H. A. Clarkson
Belle J. Middleton
Fannie Farron
A. H. Wilson (Thomas resigned)

1888-1889

A. H. Wilson, Principal
E. Dimmick
R. A. Miller
M. C. Ayres
Sadie Brewster
L. J. Franklin
Grace Harned
H. A. Clarkson
Belle J. Middleton
Fannie Farron

1889-1890

A. H. Wilson, Principal
E. Dimmick
R. A. Miller
M. C. Ayres
Sadie Brewster
Grace Harned
Maggie Suydam
Inez J. Hallock
Belle J. Middleton
Fannie Farron
Lulu Kelly

1890-1891

A. H. Wilson, Principal
M. C. Ayres
R. A. Miller
Sadie Brewster
Virginia Oliver
Helen Boynton
Inez Hallock
Belle J. Middleton
Fannie Farron
Lulu Kelly

1891-1892

A. H. Wilson, Principal
Sadie Brewster
Ada E. Lyman
Inez Hallock
Belle J. Middleton
Charlotte E. Waite
Ada Wicker
Fannie Farron
Lulu Kelly
Lucy J. Smith (Sewaren)

1892-1893

George W. Gamble, Principal
Elizabeth Garretson
Ada E. Lyman
Charlotte E. Waite
Ada Wicker
Belle J. Middleton
Eleanor Hedden
Fannie Farron
Lulu Kelly

1893-1894

George W. Gambel, Principal
Belle J. Middleton
Mary E. Keliher
Margaret Morrison
Martha E. Smith
Kate Godfrey
May E. Kelly
Luella Kelly
Mabel Olmstead
Eleanor M. Heddon
Bessie Resin (resigned Dec.)
Mary L. Pennybacker

(End of old District System)

COMMENCEMENT OF TOWNSHIP SYSTEM

UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE ACT OF 1894.

The following list of teachers is given by schools that were embodied in the new Township System 1894-95.

School No. 1 (Woodbridge)

George W. Gamble, Principal
Belle J. Middleton
Mary E. Keliher
Margaret Morrison
Martha E. Smith
Kate Godfrey
Mary E. Kelly
Luella Kelly
Mabel Olmstead.

School No. 2 (Carteret)
(Blazing Star)

Mary McCurdy, Principal
Josephine Folsom
Nellie S. Lefferts
Amanda G. Edgar
Helen Harned

School No. 3 (Rahway Neck)

Carrie O. Jacques

School No. 4 (Six Roads)

Ella S. Baker

School No. 5 (Locust Grove)

Rachael F. Folsom

School No. 6 (Iselin)

Anna L. Armstrong

School No. 7 (Fairfield or Fords)

William Spencer, Principal
Alice Smith

School No. 8 (Keasbey)

Annie Richards
Mary H. Hall

TRUSTEES OF OLD SCHOOL DISTRICTS

WHOSE NAMES APPEAR ON THE RECORDS BETWEEN THE DATES GIVEN.

Note--(All offices expired under Act of 1894)

New Dover #12 1877-1894

E. E. Mead
W. H. Demarest
Samuel L. Wood
T. Woodruff
Ezra Force
Van Fleet Hewitt
J. W. Wortman
Samuel Woodruff

Lafayette Union #16 1870-1894

Israel Thornall
Asbury Moore
John Graney
George Cutter
Pike Whittier
Henry Wittneyburt
Benjamine Ford
W. L. Thornall
G. F. Melick
James Moses
Henry Vanderveer
William Garman

Locust Grove #19 1874-1894

George Thorne
Charles H. Clark
Lewis Smith
G. E. Abbott
Miss Sarah Robinson
Miss E. S. Hartshorn-3
Richard Fagan
Albert Lambert
D. R. Jaques

3--District Clerk 1884-1889

Washington #20 1873-1894

J. M. Clark
W. H. Bailey
Benjamine Smith
J. W. Bowdvin
N. N. Thorp
J. P. Dayton
George E. McFarland

Rahway Neck #21 1879-1894

Henry Simmons
S. B. Frazee
W. Tristram
D. P. Carpenter
James G. Ward
Lewis Claus
G. I. Merrick
J. L. Slugg
John Perrine
Fred Thornall
G. A. Wihrly
Thomas L. Slugg

Blazing Star #22 1875-1894

J. C. Foulks
Daniel C. Turner
David Tappen
David Silkman
John B. Osbourn
Albert S. Brown
Henry H. Turner
C. Crowell
Joseph M. Savage
Fred Leber
Louis Rough
A. W. Radley
M. J. Sexton
Adam Huber
Walter Quinn

Uniontown #23 1875-1894

Jephtha Runyon
P. M. McCarty
*M. L. M. Hussey-1889
J. M. Seymour
Charles Bachelor
F. P. Applegate
F. R. Upton
John Krusse
Edward Martin
G. R. Hall-1887-93
C. S. Bloomfield
Thomas Dunn
Haines Freeman
Clarkeson Moore
Patrick Dunn-1888
J. W. Martin
Frank Cooper-1890
*L. M. Hassey
Francis Cooper, Sr.
P. Wortman
Charles Erotyn
Charles Wyckoff
John Corrija, Jr. 1888-1894

Fairfield Union (Fords) #26 1873-1894

E. Stope
A. Campbell
Ellis Harned
W. H. Warner
Andrew R. Smith
Samuel Ling
William Bolmer
William H. Barr
C. A. Bloomfield
William O'Riley-1890-93-94
John Liddle-1895
Lyman Mundy
W. H. Fullerton-1888
Joshua Liddle-1889-1892
C. Gardner- 1891
J. V. P. Voorhees-1893
J. Feeney-1895
Peter Costello-1894
Thomas Feeney-1894
John H. Conover-1895

The following names as Trustees of "Fairfield Union District" are attached to the "Indenture" relating to the property on which the original Fairfield School was later erected and is dated August 10, 1858.

Samuel Dally
Lewis Ford
Robert Coddington

* No doubt the same individual although written differently on the record.

TEACHERS IN OLD SCHOOL DISTRICTS,

Excepting Jefferson and Academy, now included in whole or in part within the present Township.

Years 1881-1894 --7

New Dover District #12

Folsom, Rachael F.
Hatfield, Nettie
Giles, Sarah
Tooker, H. T.
Croudron, L.-1887 *
Dunham, Viola E.

Lafayette Union #16

Whittier, Ebzira
Williams, Jennie
Walker, Miss
Miller, Julia-1887
Boice, Nellie
Clarkeson, M. E.

Locust Grove #19

Lambert, C. M.
Folsom, Rachael F.-1887

Washington #20 (Six Roads)

Randolph, E. F.
Reynolds, L. D.
Sharp, Mary
Whitney, Gertrude S.-1887
Moore, Miss

Rahway Neck #21

Jacques, Carrie O.-1887 (Commenced here in 1881)

Blazing Star #22 (Carteret)

Frazer, Maggie
Grove, Mary E.
Monford, Jennie R.
Ayres, Nellie A.
Martin, Abbie-1888
Hunter, Jessie
Tappen, Jessie

Uniontown #23 (Iselin)

Wood, Gussie
Messinger, Miles M.-1886
Dunham, Miss A. H.-1888

7 "Condition of the Public Schools in New Jersey (Middlesex County) for the years 1881 to 1890"--Records in Office County Superintendent of Schools.

* A special report to State Department of Education caused date 1887 to be noted. Names preceding this date follow in their order from 1881 to 1887.

330 A

John Grove
1865 1933

School Board Members

Township System from 1894 to 1933

Ames, William T. 1906-1908

Alexander, Charles ..... 1914-1914 (died Dec. 4)

Anderson, Roy..... 1922-date.

Boynton, Casimer W. 1894-1896

Berry, Albion R. 1896-1899

Brown, Marcus A. 1907-1910

Bohlen. Fred 1919-1923

Baker, Mrs. Annabelle 1922-1932

Correja, John Jr. 1894-1896
(Apptd. May 23, 1899-1900)

Cutter, Ephraim 1895-1898

Chase, Leon A. 1895-1899
(Resigned Feb. 25)

Goddington, Jonas H. 1896-1899

Cranston, A. P. 1897-1900

Cutter, Hampton ..... 1903-(Dec.)-1909

Clum, Melvin H. ..... 1907-1933 (died Apr.)

Campbell, C. A. 1914-1917

Christie, Morrison ..... 1932-date.

Demarest, Charles B. 1894-1896

Demarest, William H. ..... 1909-1919 (Feb.)

Dunigan, Maurice P. ..... 1914-date.

Dunham, Willard ..... 1924-date.

Ensign, Everett C. ..... 1896-1914 (Dist. Clerk)
1915-1934

Edgar, William ..... 1899-1912 (died Dec.14)

Edgar, J. Blanchard 1900-1903

Fowler, J. G. 1909-1913

Farrell, Charles S. 1910-1922

Filer, James .....1924-date.

Grohman, Charles 1899-1900

Gardner, Mrs. Albert .....1921 (Nov.) -1927

Hilsdorf, John H. 1894-1897

Harned, W. L. 1901-1907

Howell, F. Turner 1927-1930

Kellar, William B. 1896-1900

Krug, William B. 1900-1901

Lockwood, John 1894-1896
1901-1909

Liddle, Joshua 1894-1898

Leisen, John H. 1899-1914

Lahey, John A. .....1925-1927 (died Jan.)

Mundy, Ellis B. Jr. 1903-1907

Meyer, Louis E. .....1921-1921 (October)

McClain, Mark D. .....1930-date.

Moffett, Ernest .....1931-date.

Main, Victor W. 1898-1903

O'Boyle, Frank 1914-1915

Osborn, Elmer E. 1901-1906

Olsen, Andrew 1915-1917

Platt, H. V. O. 1900-1906

Ruddy, George W. 1897-1900

Smith, C. B. 1894-1895
1896-1897

Savage, Joseph W. 1894-1895

Stevenson, A. H. 1917-1920

Tappen, Howard A. 1906-1922

Valentine, Howard 1894-1897

Valentine, H. R. 1909-1924

Voorhees, William .....1913-1914 (Dec.)

Waring, Wilson 1898-1901

Walling, Benjamin B. .....1917-1930 (died Aug.)

Walker, Alexander C. .....1923-1924 (died)

PRESIDENTS OF BOARD

Howard Valentine 1894-1895

Casimer W. Boynton.....1895-1896

Ephraim Cutter.....1896-1898

Leon A. Chase.....1898-1899 (resigned Feb. 25)

Wilson Waring.....1899-1901

Victor Main.....1901-1903

William Edgar.....1903-1913

Howard A. Tappen.....1913-1922

Melvin H. Clum.....1922-1933 (died '33)

Maurice P. Dunigan 1933-

DISTRICT CLERKS TOWNSHIP SYSTEM

Charles S. Demarest 1894-1895

John Lockwood 1895-1896

Albion R. Berry 1896-1899

E. C. Ensign .....1899- 1934 (died '34)

WOODBRIDGE TOWNSHIP TEACHERS
1894-1933

Armstrong, Annie L.	1896-1899	Brander, Edith	1907-1913
Ayres, Sereno	1898-1900	Bayless, Grace E.	1908-1912
Albertson, Mary	1907-1908	Buckelew, Emma R.	1908-1909
Allen, Rena	1909-1911 1912-1919	Bailey, Jean	1909-1910
Adams, Jennie	1909-1913	Betz, Minerva V.	1910-1915
Anness, Evon	1913-1915	Bayliss, Julia	1910-1913
Ashby, Ruth	1916-1917	Brough, Lillian M.	1914-1918
Anderson, Lily H.	1918-1919	Banta Beatrice	1914-1914
Anderson, Lillian	1919-1921	Brough, Marguerite	1915-1917
Adams, Harvey	1920-1921	Bruce, Mildred D.	1916-1817
Anderson, Matilda	1922-1924	Booth, Helen M.	1916-1917
Arace, Minnie E.	1923-1928	Barth, Edgar W.	1917-1918
Anderson, Ruth	1926-	Breger, Berdie	1917-1919
Augustine, Ethel	1928-1931	Brown, Grace V.	1918-1926
Anderson, Lillian	1928-	Budd, Francis H.	1918-1922
Agreen, Elsie M.	1928-	Butterwick, Oliver P	1918-1920
Alpine, Ethel	1928-	Bauermann, Edna K.	1919-1926
Baker, E. Ella	189[illegible]-1898	Bunn, Gladys	1919-1923
Baumann, Evelyn	1898-1901	Brown, Eleanor	1919-1922
Burwell, Edith	1900-1902	Brown, Esther A.	1919-1920
Berrien, Sadie	1901-1902	Budd, Augusta H.	1919-1920
Bennett, Maud	1902-1904	Belmore, Mabel	1920-1921
Boice, Margaret	1902-1906	Brumagim, E. Schenck	1920-
Bradford, Lewis	1904-1906	Breining, E. Fitzgerald	1921-
Braley, Ruth	1907-1912	Beatty, Mary E.	1922-1930

Beach, Robert R.	1926-1927	Balogh, Theodore	1929-
Bareford, M.	1922-1923	Brewster, Margaret	1929-
Beach, Horace H.	1922-1923	Bingaman, E. June	1930-
Boehm, Chester, H.	1923-1926	Butansky, Rose	1931-
Bruck, Helen	1923-1924	Cheeseman, Anna	1898-1904
Braun, Martin	1923-	Chase, Edna	1899-1902
Brodkin, Ida	1924-1928	Cornish, Emma	1903-1907
Boylan, Patrick	1924-	Campbell, Flora	1904-1906
Battis, James	1924-1930 died	Clair, Katherine	1906-1908
Brace, Sara	1924-1925	Covert, Stanley	1911-1912
Blakeslee, Zeltha	1925-1927	Crampton, Margaret	1912-
Bosworth, Ruth	1925-1926	Collins, Ethel	1913-1915
Brown, Lurline	1925-1926	Cavanaugh, Margaret	1915-1916
Bettman, Mildred	1925-	Cronce, Georgianna	1915-
Baker, Anna	1925-1930	Coley, Gertrude	1916-1920
Burke, John Vincent	1919-1922		
Blackman, Violet	1926-1931	Chase, Marian	1917-1919
Barrett, Mary	1926-1928	Campbell, Ruth	1918-1921
Blewitt, Elizabeth	1926-1928	Coughlin, Mae	1904-1906
Billow, Florence	1926-1928	Cunnington, Arthur	1911-1911
Baroody, Helen	1926-1926	Coover, Vincent N.	1914-1918
Ballinger F. Guensler	1926-	Center, Ethel M.	1918-1918
Burgeson, Lillian	1926-	Costello, Margaret	1918-1921
Breckenridge, Harriet	1927-1929	Chase, Ruth	1920-1921
Babbett, Lelia	1928-1928	Callan, Helen	1920-1921
Blewitt, Loretta	1928-1929	Coe, Viola Ernst	1921-
Baker, Edna	1929-1930	Casey, Julia King	1921-1930

Campbell, Grace	190 -1930
Caster, Anna	1922-
Chryn, Roxanna Tice	1923-
Cawley, Marian	1924-1924
Cowart, Mae	1924-1926
Calkins, Gladys	1924-1928
Compton, Adelaide	1925-1926
Conran, Kathryn	1925-
Caplan, Henrietta Morrison	1927-1933
Campbell Pauline	1927-1927
Chase, Ethel	1927-1930
Cross, Horace	1927-1928
Crammer, Mary	1900-1903
Compton, Minnie W.	1912-
Clifford, Catherine	1929-1931
Coutts, Lorraine	1929-1930
Chamberlain, Elsie	1930-1932
Coan, Helen	1930-
Dilks, Alfaratta	1896-1898
Dunham, Viola E.	1890-1925
Dixon, H. May	1896-1901
Dixon, Anna D. D.	1895-1914
Davis, Clara	1899-1909
Demarest, Hattie	1999-1900
Daniels, Mary	1904-1906
Deshler, Marjory	1906-1909
Dockstader, John	1914-1918
Duff, Mary C. Fee	1915-
Dixon, Carrie	1917-1920
Dieruff, Alma	1918-1919
Darr, Marjorie H.	1917-1918
Demarest, Marie	1918-1921
Dickenson, Anna L.	1913-1916
Douth, Flo. A.	1918-1918
Dilts, Helen	1918-1918
Dix, E. Frances Perrine	1919-
Dix, Lester H.	1919-1927
Davis, Edith	1920-
Dart, Edna E.	1920-1921
Driscoll, Irma E.	1921-1922
Dunham, Matilda	1921-1922
Donnelly, Claire	1921-
Delaney, Julia	1922-1924
Duggan, Mary	1922-1924
Drugan, Grace	1923-1925
Donnelly, Katherine	1923-1926
Deitz, Dorothy	1923-
Dunn, Edith	1924-1926
Drysdale, Euphemia	1925-1926
Danninger, Ida	1926-1926

Dobol, John	1928-1929	Ennis, Catherine	1928-1933
Dougherty, Edward	1928-	Ellsworth, Gertrude	1929-1930
Deutch, Dorothy	1929-1931	Edison, Rose	1930-
Dockstader, Helen	1929-1930	Edgar, William	1931-
Dunn, Grace	1929-1930	Folsom, Rachael	1894-1901
Drennen, Katherine	1929-	Fones, Mary	1900-1903
Dey, Margaret	1929-	Falkenberg, Margaret	1901-1904
Drummond, Violet	1929-1933	Fischbach, Augusta	1905-1906
Deutch, Ann	1929-1932	Ferdon, Ellsworth	1910-1913
Dunigan, Margaret	1930-	Follensby, Bradley	1911-1912
Drummond, Spencer	1930-	Farrell, Theresa B.	1912-1916
Dunigan, Verna	1930-	Fowler, Edna N.	1914-1917
Dunbar, Helen	1930-	Farrell, Gertrude	1914-1916
Dolan, L. Virginia	1931-	Fowler, Teresa J.	1915-1917
Desmond, Thomas J.	1932-	Finnegan, Julia A.	1916-1919
Dunigan, Jane A.	1932-	Foster, Frances M.	1916-1918
DuBree, N.	1922-1922	Frazer, Anne C.	1916-
Edgar, Amanda	1894-1898	Finlaw, Ellen A.	1917-1925
Ensign, Helen N.	1904-1906 1907-1932	Fitzgerald, Sara C.	1919-
Ewing, Carrie	1907-1912	Finck, Lillian	1923-1926
Edgar, Mrs. Frank	1920-	Finkelstein, Matilda	1923-1925
Emmons, C. A.	1925-1926	Frederick, Robert W.	1925-1926
England, Aaron	1926-1927	Fein, Nettie	1925-1926
Emory, Sylvia S.	1926-1930	Fancher, Charles F.	1925-1928
Erb, Ruth E.	1926-	Ferry, Arthur C.	1925-

Finkelstein, Florence	1926-1929	Gilhuly, Hattie D.	1917-1919
Foley, Charles	1926-1927	Gallin, Leona E.	1917-1918
Flynn, Eileen	1926-1930	Gundrum, Kathryn R.	1919-1919
Flackbarth, Matilda	1928-	Glancy, Kathryn A.	1919-1920
Fink, Rose	1929-1930	Golden, Michael	1919-1922
Fredd, Mabel	1929-1930	Graham, Mary	1921-1921
Fullerton, Viola	1929-	Gillespie, Cecilia C.	1921-1921
Finn, Alice	1930-	Gelman, Susan	1920-1928
Fox, Evelyn	1931-	Griffin, Kathryn	1921-1926
Ford, Madelyne	1931-1932	Good, Mrs. J. F.	1922-1922
Fullerton, Marjorie	1932-	Gelfer, Mary	1922-1923
Fortna, Mary	1927-1928	Gleckler, Gertrude	1922-1924
Garthwaite, Jennie D.	1899-	Gunther, Sue	1924-1930
Grant, Edith	1901-1902	Goldfinger, D. Hilfner	1924-
Gibson, Ella	1902-1906	Genaro, Renata	1925-1929
Gobel, L. M.	1904-1905	Goldstein, Esther	1925-1926
Gilhuly, Isaac H.	1904-1930	Gade, Alice M.	1925-
Gilbert, Elsie	1906-1907	Gundrum, Mary	1925-
Green, Edna	1906-1906	Goldfarb, Esther	1926-1928
Green, Ruth K.	1911-1930	Gerns, Reva L.	1926-1928
Geist J. Lawrence	1913-1916	Green, Lily	1928-1933
Grenelle, Mary	1908-1909	Gillette, Marian L.	1928-
Galaida, Rose	1913-1919 1930-1930	Giroud, Margaret D.	1928-
Garthwaite, Matilda	1915-	Geiger, Anna	1930-1932
Gilhuly, Hazel	1916-	Harned, Helen	-1898

Hall, Mary	1896-1902	Huntress, Edna	1923-1929
Harding, Hannah	1901-1904	Heller, Gertrude	1923-1928
Huber, Grace	1905-	Huber, Augusta F.	1923-1928
Haelig, Ida M.	1906-1908	Haitsch, Elsie S.	1923-1924
Hunter, Louisa	1907-1908	Horowitz, Theresa	1923-
Harrison, Beatrice	1908-1908	Hoy, Mary E.	1926-1929
Hamil, Nellie	1909-1912	Heyder, Mae E.	1925-1929
Hinsdale, Edith	1909-1919	Holland, Virginia	1926-1928
Holmes, Helen	1909-1912	Holden, Llewellyn	1926-
Harvey, Orpath	1909-	Holden, Ruth Snyder	1926-
Hankins, Ralph	1912-1913	Holen, Medie	1927-1928
Hilton, Ruth	1913-1918	Hoops, Theodore	1928-
Hays, Edith	1914-1914	Hilfman, Beatrice	1928-1929
Hutchinson, Ada	1914-1919	Huganis, Kathryn	1930-1931
Hawthorne, Emma K.	1915-1918	Huber, Grace F.	1930-
Herman, Edna	1917-1917	Hanson, Mary	1930-
Harrington, Helen L.	1918-1919	Hamilton, La Verne	1930-
Hann, Albert G.	1919-1919	Huntley, Florence	1930-
Herncane, M. Elizabeth	1919-1920	Henry, Ruth	1931-
Haviland, Lydia	1919-1923	Hixon, Louise	1931-
Hollenbeck, Warren	1919-1921	Henrickson, Margaret	1932-
Harman, Salome	1920-1921	Inslee, Ethel	1898-1905
Hangsterfer, Thyrza	1921-1929	Ingalls, DeWitt	1905- 1912-1917
Hine, Anna M.	1921-	Ingraham, LaMonte	1931-
Harding, May Walsh	1921-	Jacques, Carrie O.	1894-1906

Jacques, Isabelle M.	1894-1904	Kraber, Laura	1908-1909
Johnston, Fannie	1901-1906	Kinsey, Rita	1906-1907
Johnson, Sophie K.	1902-1910	Kaufman, Mabel	1907-1908
Jaede, Augusta V.	1915-1916	Keegan, Anna	1910-1912
Johnson William C.	1908-1909	Kuhlman, M. B. Huber	1915-1921
Jones, Olive	1911-1912	Koch, Henrietta	1915-1917
Jones, Annabelle	1915-1916	Kresley, Clairmont, A.	1917-1918
Jeroloman, Louise	1917-1918	Kramer, Kenneth F.	1919-1920
Jost, John	1918-1919	Koons, Dorothy	1924-1929
Johnson, Jean S.	1918-	Kline Hannah	1923-1923
Johnson, J. Edward	1921-1922	Kramer, Florence	1924-1930
Jardine, Ethel M.	1922-1923	Keating, Eugenia	1925-1927
Jeffers, Susie	1922-1923	Kramer, Genevieve	1925-1926
Jones, Ella M.	1923-1924	Kotel, Sophie	1925-1930
Jacques, Harold	1921-1922	Kauffman, Elizabeth	1926-1927
Jauss, Florentine M.	1922-1922	Keen, M. Genevieve	1927-
Jansenn, Mary D.	1923-	Kitchen, Elizabeth P.	1928-1930
Jacobsen, Mildred	1924-1930	Kibler, Olive	1930-1930
Jaffee, Bertha	1924-	Kennedy, Anna	1900-1908
Jessup, Annie	1926-1928	Kraber, Roy	1913-1914
Johansen, Emma	1930-	Love, John H.	1895-1933
Julian, Mildred	1931-	Love, William	1896-1898
Kelly, May E.	1894-1899	Ludlow, Lizzie	1898-1901
Kelly, Luella	1894-1901	Love, Jesse	1901-1904

La Forge, Mary Clark	1903-1915	Lyons, Agnes	1926-1932
Lockwood, Margaret	1905-1911	Levi, Eleanor Mack	1926-
Lorch, Nellie	1911- 1907-	Lorch, Ruth	1926-
Leonard, Nellie	1907-1908	List, Amelia	1926-
Larson, Jennie	1908-1910	Lehmerman, Rose	1926-
Lippincott, Clara M.	1910-1912	Low, Jane	1927-1928
Love, Verna B.	1913-1915	Lee, Malvina Hubbard	1927-
Lichti, K. Freeman	1913-	Leimpeter, Susan	1929-
Lindstrom, Lillian	1916-1918	Lovely, Margaret	1930-1930
Lloyd, Frances E.	1916-1918	Lund, Rolland	1932-
Ludlow, Mildred K.	1917-	Lafand, Adele	1928-
Lewis, Myra J.	1918-1920	Merchant, Carrie	1899-1901
Leonard, Teresa	1919-1919	Mitchell, Anna	1901-1903
Lowe, Christine C.	1919-1928	Macy, Cornelia	1901-1901
Leisen, Ruth	1921-1921	McElhenny, C. M.	1905-1909
Lamb, Grace	1921-1922	McGrath, Sadie	1906-1906
Leffler Louis, E.	1922-1922	Miller, Gertrude	1910-1911
Lewis, Joseph	1923-1925	Morhous, Bessie M.	1910-1910
Lippincott, Violet G.	1923-1924	Murch, Hortense	1910-1911
Leber, Doris	1923-1926	Meyer, Beatrice	1911-1928
Lee, Charlotte	1923-1925	McNair, Walden H.	1914-1917
Lauk, Herbert	1924-1926	Meredith, Gilbert J.	1915-1918
Lynch, Katherine	1925-1925	McLaughlin, Helen	1916-1919
Lipak, Sara	1925-1926	McNair, Pauline Paulson	1917-1919
Lewis, J. Louise	1926-1933	Mulvaney, Elizabeth	1917-

Mason, Carlotta Cowins	1917-1921 1927	Morrow, Martha	1926-
Mills Eleanor H.	1918-1926	Meehan, M. Josephine	1927-1929
McElroy, James M.	1918-	McCracken, Eleanor	1923-1929
Maxwell, Elizabeth, G.	1919-1921	Melick, Jeanette	1928-
Meyer, Bella S.	1919-1924	Mullen, Helen M.	1928-
Malloy, M. Elizabeth	1920-1921	Murphy, Susan	1928-
Muller, Anna M.	1920-1922	McDonald, Geraldine	1929-1931
McMahon, Freida Miller	1920-	Morris, Alice	1929-1930
Meigs, Clara E.	1921-1923	Mullen, Mary	1929-
Molson, Marie L.	1922-1923	McCarthy, Rosemary M.	1929-
Mooney, Elsie	1922-1922	Metzger, Carl	1929-
Mullane, Gertrude	1922-1925	Munn, Margaret	1929-
McElroy, Russell	1922-	Mack, Mary	1929-
Miller, Margaret D.	1923-1924	McCrory, Pansy	1930-
Mullane, Claire C.	1923-	Mulvaney, Robert	1930-
McMahon, Helen G.	1920-1922	Miller, Dorothy	1930-
Munn, Mary	1924-1933	Monaghan, Margaret	1930-1933
McInroy, Galen	1924-1924	Morrison, Fannie	1930-
Mouton, Micella	1924-1925	Mazeika, Helen	1931-
McDermott, Dorothy	1925-1931	Morganson, Margaret	1931-
Miller, Sadie	1925-1924	Misdom, Mae	1931-
McFarlane, Virginia	1924-1924	Mooney, Margaret M.	1932-
Meyerhoff, William	1925-1926	Mucciarelli, Sylvia	1932-
Major, Evelyn	1926-1927	McKernan, Alice	1921-1922
Musson, Margaret	1926-1928	McDowell, Florence	1907-1909

Numbers, Jennie B.	1906-1913	Parker, Edna H.	1913-1914
Neff, Jesse C.	1914-1916	Paxson, Mrs. O. H.	1915-1915
Nihoff, Anita	1921-1922	Parker, Helen M.	1918-1927
Neff, Lillian	1921-1923	Pester, Marie J.	1921-1922
Nevell, Effie K.	1922-	Pastorius, Helen W.	1920-1920
Neiltopp, Florence M.	1922-1923	Pugh, Gertrude	1928-1928
Nolan, Edna A.	1925-	Petersen, Sareda	1924-
Numbers, Ruth	1925-	Prestup, Pauline	1928-
Nelson, Axel	1927-1933	Perlman, G. Stopiek	1929-
Neville, Frances	1927-1929	Partridge, Ruth	1930-
Neary, Genevieve Ryan	1928-	Pippett, Margaret	1930-
Nussbaum, Dorothy	1929-	Pease, Kent	1930-1933
Oatman, Miriam	1906-1917	Predmore, Jennie T.	1919-
Osborne, Rae	1917-	Quinn, Emily M.	1920-1921
Ohmenhiser, Ida B.	1919-1925	Quinn, Marian	1923-1925
O'Brien, Mary	1926-1927	Runyon, Alletta	1896-1906
O'Brien, Mary	1923-1927	Richards, Annie	1894-1906
O'Brien, Margaret	1926-1930	Rollinson, Lillian	1902-1906
O'Brien, G. R.	1929-	Rice, Florence	1910-1912
Potter, Carrie	1898-1898	Reyder, Frank C.	1911-1912
Potter, Blanche	1905-1906	Randolph, Mittie	1910-1928
Padget, Bonnylin	1908-1918	Roberts, Florence I.	1914-1916
Paxton, Adelaide	1908-	Rohrberg, Morris	1919-1925
Packard, Asa J.	1912- 1916-1917	Rapp, Margaret C.	1914-1916
Playfoot, Viva M.	1913-1919	Ryder, Helen L.	1920-1921

Ramsey, Ruth	1920-1921	Richards, Louise	1931-
Reeves, Mabel	1920-1926	Reed, Francis	1928-
Roarke, Lillian	1921-1922	Smith, Abbie	1894-1899 1901-1903
Rigley, E. M.	1903-1905	Shepherd, James F.	1896-1906
Roeder, William	1921-1923	Smith, Alice M.	1896-1899
Richards, Catherine M.	1922-1925	Sprague, David	1898-1908
Rothfuss, C. Howard	1922-1923	Shepherd, Charles	1899-1901
Race Edna S.	1923-1923	Savage, Sue	1900-1906
Rothfuss, Bryan C.	1923-1924	Schendorf, Anna	1901-1904
Rudnik, Hilda	1923-1924	Seamans, Mary	1902-1905
Rue, Margaret	1924-1927	Scott, Edith	1902-1917
Robinson, Florence	1924-1926	Savage, Josephine	1903-1908
Richman, Bertha	1925-	Slugg, Bessie	1903-1906
Robinson, Florence Cowins	1925-	Solomon, Edythe	1904-1906
Richards, Lillian M.	1926-	Sterling, Pauline	1905-1906
Ryan, D. Galbraith	1926-1930	Sexton, May	1905-1906
Rosioppi, Lillian	1926-1930	Schmidt, Gertrude	1906-1907
Reynolds, Leyland F.	1927-	Sanders, Carrie B.	1906-1907
Reid, Helen Ryan	1927-	Sabine, Florence	1908-1911
Robinson, Alice	1929-	Shoemaker Anna	1908-1912
Rice, Orian	1928-1930	Slosson, Irene	1909-1910
Resnick, Ida	1929-	Schultz, Elsie	1909-1911
Rothman, Rose	1929-	Schneider, Rose	1911-1913
Ruggieri, Joseph	1930-	Segoine, Marion	1912-1918
Ryan, Elizabeth	1930-	Sharp, Howard	1912-
Reppie, Helen	1930-	Sides, Arthur C.	1913-1915

Spicer, Florence	1913-1914	Schultz, Frances	1923-1926
Savage, Jane	1913-1914	Straight, Helen Peck	1924-1933
Staples, Edward F.	1915-1916	Silidiker, Ida	1924-
Smith, Ruth E.	1916-1921	Schrimpf, Elsie	1924-1928
Stover, Laura	1916-1916	Stein, Mary	1924-1926
Schultz, Alvenia	1918-1919	Steinlauf, Rae	1924-1926
Schermerhorn, Bertha	1918-	Stauffer, Richard	1924-1926
Smith, Bella M.	1919-1924	Sydnor, Elizabeth	1924-1926
Sullivan, Mary V.	1919-1921	Schoner, Irene T.	1924-1927
Stockton, Edna M.	1919-1922	Silverman, Sylvia	1925-
Silverman, Jean	1919-1929	Shaw, Lena	1922-1923
Skidmore, Clara B.	1919-	Seih, Frank	1925-
Sharpe, Amy	1920-1921	Schlesinger, Gertrude	1926-1929
Sharp, Gertrude	1919-	Stephens, Fred	1926-1926
Shotwell, Fred C.	1920-1921	Sherwood, Vera	1926-1930
Shoemaker, Esther E.	1920-1923	Sabelotsky, Rose	1926-1929
Sheehan, Honora	1920-1923	Saunders, Millard	1927-1929
Sheets, Grace E.	1921-1922	Shershine, Frank W.	1927-1928
Stuart, Winifred H.	1921-1924	Sackrider, Cecilia	1928-
Stonier, Josephine	1921-1922	Schimmel, S. Konicoff	(Mar. 1928 —
Shotwell, Bertha	1921-1922	Shaw, Margaret L.	1928-
Seligman, Lillian	1921-1924	Stratton, Katherine B.	1928-
Schenek, Cecilia	1922-1923	Smith, Beatrice R.	1928-1930
Shibe, Jane E.	1923-1924	Seitzer, Gladys R. Wilson	1929-

Sullivan, Helen T.	1929-1929	Updike, Grace	1898-1899
Sackett, Esther	1930-	Vernon, Laura	1912-1912
Sechrist, Harry	1930-	Vebre, Madeline de	1916-1920
Stam, Lily (Stamboff)	1930-	Velcamp, Margaret	1924-1931
Sullivan, Helen	1930-	Voorhees, Florence	1927-1929
Slattery, Kathryn	1930-	Voorhees, Miriam	1922-1927
Storholm, M. Thorne	1925-	Van Hise, T. Belle	1898-1903
Tunison Estelle	1901-1902	Van Liew, Elsie	1904-1906
Tausig, Marie	1906-1911	Van Houten, Eugenie L.	1927-
Taylor, Fannie F.	1914-1914	Van Slyke, Alida	1922-
Trumbower, William C.	1916-1916	Van Riper, Leona	1910-1913
Traver, Mercy E.	1916-1916	Van Arsdale, Mary	1896-1902
Tompkins, Florence	1917-1917	Weeks, Eugene	1896-1898
Tansy, Gertrude	1923-1924	Whitney, Edith A.	1899-1913
Tielsch, Elizabeth	1923-1931	Wilson, Howard	1901-1910
Tier, Carolyn	1924-1929	Witherow, Mary	1913-1914
Talley, Margaret	1925-1926	Wright, Stella J.	1908-
Trimble, Sybella	1926-1929	Wittnebert, Elsie A.	1913-
Terhune, Dorothy	1927-	Walton, Grace	1914-1916
Tamboer, Lincoln	1927-	White, Helen B.	1915-1916
Toth, Grace	1928-	Whitaker, Sarah Huber	1916-1929
Toth, Margaret	1928-	Woodruff, Ada	1918-1919
Tuck, Helen	1930-	Wallace, Marie D.	1918-1924
Tracey, Ruth	1931-	Williams, Lillian	1919-1923
Trainor, Alice	1932-	Wermelschirchen, Anna	1920-1924

Wheeler, Fannie E.	1920-1921
Waters, Catherine	1920-
Woodman, Lee W.	1921-1925
Watts, Mabel A.	1922-
White, Edith	1922-1926
Wisely, A.	1923-1924
Willets, Seymour	1923-1924
Welsh, Edna	1923-1924
Werlock, Verna McElroy	1924-
Williams, May E.	1924-1925
Werlock, Stephen A.	1925-
Whitehead, Florence	1925-
Whipple, Lula Aldous	1926-1933
White, Harold	1927-1931
Walker, Margaret H.	1927-1929
Wilcox, Ruth	1928-
Wescott, Donald A.	1928-
Wilson, Ethel A.	1928-
Walling, Irene	1928-1929
Weisman, Elsie	1929-1931
Weiss, Anna M.	1929-1933
Weintraub, Ethel	1930-
Weiland, Lillian	1930-
Willis, Anna H.	1930-1931
Weigand, Barbara	1930-1931
Weymouth, Marjorie	1931-1933
Walsh, Eleanor	1930-
Young, Matilda	1911-1913
Yerkes, Mabel	1913-1914
Young, Ruth	1913-1917
Young, Elta de	1924-
Zayas, Trinita de	1926-1926

SCHOOL CLERKS AND SECRETARIES

Mittie Fitz Randolph (part time) to J. H. Love	1913-1921
Hazel Drake-Buttler (Secretary to J. H. Love)	1921-1924
Irene Shay (Secretary to J. H. Love)	1924-
Natalie Berry (Clerk of Schools #1 & #11)	1921-1927
Marie Dunigan (Clerk of High School)	1922-
Emma Petersen (Clerk of Schools #7 & #14)	1931-

VALUATIONS OF SCHOOLS

1932-1933

High School.	$ 416,000.00
Woodbridge #1	112,000.00
Avenel #4	103,500.00
Iselin #6	29,000.00
Fords #7	174,000.00
Keasbey #8	162,000.00
Port Reading #9.	120,500.00
Hopelawn #10	139,000.00
Woodbridge #11	298,000.00
Sewaren #12.	155,000.00
Colonia #2	56,000.00
Iselin #15	110,000.00

Fords #14	$ 167,000.00
Strawberry Hill #3	90,000.00
Hagaman Heights	9,000.00
Two Portables at #11	12,000.00
Two Portables at #4	12,000.00
One Portable at #6	6,000.00
Two Portables at #15	12,000.00
	$2,183,000.00

BONDS OUTSTANDING

1932-1933

Colonia #2	$ 37,000.00
Strawberry Hill #3	90,000.00
Avenel #4	37,000.00
Iselin, Old School #6	4,000.00
Fords, Old School #7	47,000.00
Keasbey #8	85,000.00
Port Reading #9	50,000.00
Hopelawn #10	74,000.00
Woodbridge #11	246,000.00
Sewaren #12	115,000.00
Fords, New School #14	138,000.00
Iselin, New School #15	100,000.00
High School	248,000.00
	$ 1,271,000.00

EXTRACTS FROM THE REPORT

of the

SUPERVISING PRINCIPAL OF SCHOOLS

School Year

1932-1933

TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

	1932-33	1931-32	Increase or Decrease	
Total Enrollment	6614	6561	53	
Boys	3460	3370	90	
Girls	3154	3191	37	D.
Ave. Daily Attend.	5843	5762	81	
Pupils not Absent or Tardy	1018	972	46	
No. of High School Pupils transported within the District	694	535	159	
No. of Pupils below High School transported within the District.	547	620	73	D.
Total transported	1241	1155	86	
Ave. Daily Attend. in High School	915	751	164	

TEACHERS EMPLOYED

Supervising Principal	1
Non-teaching Principals (Elem.) . .	9
High School Principal	1
Special Supervisors	2
Kindergarten (School I)	1
Grades 1-8	154
High School Teachers	29
Short Term Teachers	1
Manual Training & Domestic Science.	4
Total....	202

The following figures have been taken from the District Clerk's report to the State Department under the caption: "COST AS APPORTIONED TO ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS AND HIGH SCHOOLS"

Total Cost of Current Expenses & Maintenance for the Year.	$507,928.62
Grades, Kgn. to VIII--Elementary Schools	416,270.14
Grades IX to XII--High Schools	82,553.81
Cost per Pupil, based on Costs for the year on Average Enrollment in whole township	82.36
Cost per Pupil, based on costs for the year on Average Enrollment in High School	97.61
For School Year 1931-32 (for comparison) for whole township	84.56
For High School alone	123.52

Woodbridge Township Schools
Total Enrollments

Woodbridge Township School Enrollments for 1921-22----1932-33

School and Number	1921 1922	1922 1923	1923 1924	1924 1925	1925 1926	1926 1927	1927 1928	1928 1929	1929 1930	1930 1931	1931 1932	1932 1933
B. Ave. High	316	408	492	582	567	590	628	644	700	886	813	1012
Wood'ge #1	636	680	748	747	751	736	577	656	617	617	683	643
Colonia 2*	---	---	25	135	144	150	136	153	146	150	152	137
Avenel #4	278	278	428	411	434	472	468	441	451	443	497	487
Iselin #6	162	231	279	303	367	403	148	185	213	222	236	212
Fords #7	689	687	769	844	587	553	599	574	597	607	608	531
Keasby #8	375	409	422	395	400	402	459	443	410	392	357	342
Port Rdg.#9	378	378	388	396	474	459	449	450	472	457	464	435
Hopeln. #10	260	321	364	402	413	446	429	496	520	539	515	507
Wood'ge #11	529	493	481	595	672	682	841	814	849	825	873	875
Sewaren #12	26	116	129	142	139	152	154	152	207	228	225	223
Fords #14*	---	---	---	---	408	492	460	493	490	419	421	446
Iselin #15*	---	---	---	---	---	---	371	406	438	449	475	493
Hag. Hts. *	---	---	---	---	---	40	82	75	71	70	76	77
#3 Strawberry	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	166	194
Totals	3649	4001	4525	4952	5356	5577	5801	5982	6181	6304	6461	6614

* First enrollment figures indicate the year building was opened.
Hagaman Heights--A two-room portable under principal of #9.
Decrease in #1 1927-28 caused by transfers to #11 addition.
" " #6 " " " #15 new.
" " #7 1925-26 " " " #14

Graduation Class.
Eighth Grade 1907.

Back Row: Anna Rhode, Annie Landt, Alice Turner, Roger Gimbernat, Edna Weber, Helen Valentine, Susie Farron, Verna B. Love, Charles Campbell, Josephine Mc Gowan.

Front Row: Tom Cody, E. John Kuhn, Teresa Fowler, William Edgar, Pres. Bd. of Education; Elsie Gilbert, Teacher; Thora Thompson, Ruth Gilman, Ruth Valentine.

Group of Twp. Teachers.
1910.

Line 1.
Carrie Ewing, Isaac Gilhuly, Jennie Adams, Orpah Harvey, Stella Wright, Anna Keegan, Jean Baily Nellie Hamill, Edith Scott, Annie Richards, Edith Hinsdale, Irene Slosson, Sophie K. Johnson, Rena Allen.

Line 2.
Marie Tausig, Anna Shoemaker, Ethel Inslee, Helen Ensign, Helen Holmes, Grace E. Bayliss.

Line 3.
Howard Wilson, Adelaide Paxton, Bonnylinn Padget, Edith Brander, Anna D. D. Dixon, John H. Love Prin., Florence Sabine, Jennie Numbers, Mary Clark, Ruth Brayley, Nellie Lorch, Jennie Larson.

Study Hall- 1911- 1912.

Table- Front Left:- Seymour Deber, Hargis Prall,

Harold Throgmorton,-Table 2, Left:- Sarah Huber, Cora

Shaffer, Irene Brown,----------, Ethel Dunham.

Standing:- Ivins Brown, Third Table,-Left:- Julia

Finnegan, Marie Demarest, Alice Moore, Marian Christie,

Pauline Paulson. Table-Rear Right:-Martin Reyder,
Charles Kuhlman, -------, --------, ------Kelly.

Middle Table,-L to R.-Abel Peterson, Ralph Liddle,

Leon Mc.Elroy,---- -Reyder (Fords)Patrick Fenton,

Martin Jaeger.

Center Table-Front:- Joe Cushing.

Members of W. H. S. Dept. Old No.1 1901.

Standing-L.to R.-Anna Johnson, ~~Flo~~. Campbell, Lulu Blair, Fannie Vanderveer, Sidney Noe, Wm. Inslee, Geo. Rathbun, Harold Robinson, Miss Mary Van Arsdale, Percy Brown, Irving R. Valentine, ~~Ed~~. Christianson, Ed. Sattler, Lester Hamilton, Worth Gardner, ~~Royal~~ Smith, Willie Gilman, Miss Edith Whitney, Prin. John H. Love.

Rows front to rear,- Ruth Smith, Inez Turner, Edna Gilman, Wm. Moffett, Bessie Slugg, Katie Brown, Nellie Ensign, Hattie Zettlemoyer, Mgt. Lockwood, Dorothea Boynton, Edna Brown, Anna Ostrawich, Ida Lockwood, Mae Coughlin, GraceHuber, Gussie Fischbach, Sue Savage, Carrie Harned, [illegible], Mgt. Howell, Carrie Ewing,-[illegible], Jennie Shourds, [illegible]

Class of 1901:-Rear-L to R.-Fannie Vanderveer, George Rathbun, Irving R. Valentine, Harold Robinson, John H. Love, Prin., Ida Lockwood, William Inslee, Sidney Noe.
Sitting- L to R.-Florence Campbell, Lulu Blair, Edna Brown, Anna Johnson.

Woodbridge High School Class-1932

Bottom row L * R.
Vincent de P. Shay

Clifford J. Handerhan

Sara M. Holland

Helen V. Wainright

Julia R. Grace

Wm. J. Grausam

Mildred B. Mooney

Sophie R. Jeglinski

Mgt. M. Kennedy

Helen L. Katt

Lillian Rush

Marie R. Baumann

Rose Varady

Helen Nagy

Mary D. Charonko

Mildred E. Choper

Mary R. Peta

S. Jane Copeland

John Gursaly

Julius A. Kollar

Geo. A.Esposito

WM. H. Henry

Second row-L * R.

Gladys A. Schade

Dorothy L. Anderson

Dorothy J. Fullerton

Nettie A. Katt

Mary Jaworsky

Blanche E. Burke

Mgt. Dalina

Laura E. Ashley

Flo. R. Snyder

Eleanor W. Voelker

Genevieve F. Paszynski

Elizabeth Lucas

Irene M. Tobias

Emily M. Harned

Marian S. Mc Cann

Evelyne B. Howard

Dorothy Nelson

A. Jean Thergesen

Dorothy M. Farr

Doris Kreutzberg

Ruth S. Howell

Kathryn M. Hinkle
Virginia M. Moll
Frank F. Baumgartner
Robert L. Ferry
John Hacker
Arthur J. Clear
Ernest Blair

CLASS OF 1932. (continued)

Third row- left to right:

Erna Ferdindanson

Margaret V. Bram

Helga L. D'Angelo

Erna M. Dettmer

Frances L. Dettmer

Dorothy E. Christensen

Jeanette J. Nielsen

Marion R. Schmidt

Rita E. Toner

Catherine E. Briggman

Mildred C. O'Neil

Elaine Zischkau

Mary P. Connolly

Dorothy L Zischkau

John A. Aquila

Frances B. Nelson

Elmer Dragos

Roy C. Pateman

Arthur R. Kreyling

William B. Derrick

Louis J. Kager

Joseph Kopi

Francis J. Leitner

Chester J. Cavallito

William Ellis

Edward A. Reisman

Daniel M. Galbraith

Top row-L to R.

William M. Petersen

Jerry A. Retkwa

Russell B. Baldwin

Ray. T. Petersen

H. Alton Wolny

Frances M.D'Angelo

Ruth H. M'Gowan

Claire Nelson

Dorothy L. Kreyling

Mary E. Levi

Helen J. Klein

Janet E. Mawbey

Pauline M. Hall

Betty E. Tiffany

Jennie Sokolska

Elizabeth E. Quackenbush

James J. Mayer

Nathan Bernstein

Irving I. Farer

Francis S. Barna

HIGH SCHOOL BAND-1932

Front Row- J.H. Love, Sup. Prin. Schools. Warren Geigel, Roy Pateman, Everett Ellis, Chas. Terzella, Ray Wachter, Sam D'Orsi, Arthur Kreyling, Frank Kovino, Michael Drcibus Alfred Peters, Frank Baumgartner, Theodore Hoops,(Instr.)

Second Row:- Chris. Thomsen, Michael D'April, Donald Lella. Louis Milano, George Acton, Arthur Klein, Steve Lazar, John Rubanich, Rubin Greco.

Third Row:-Elmer Krysko, John Burger, Herman Kosic, Louis Genovese, Wilson Haberkorn, Henry Inselberg, Salvador Virgillo, George Esposito.

Fourth Row:-William Peterson, Robert Disbrow, Robert Leisen, Craig Senft, Charles Coover, William Ellis.

Fifth Row:-Anthony Lazizzar, Venusto Ferioli, Philip Bell, John Lucas, Melvin Sherman, Alton Wolney, Ray Peterson.