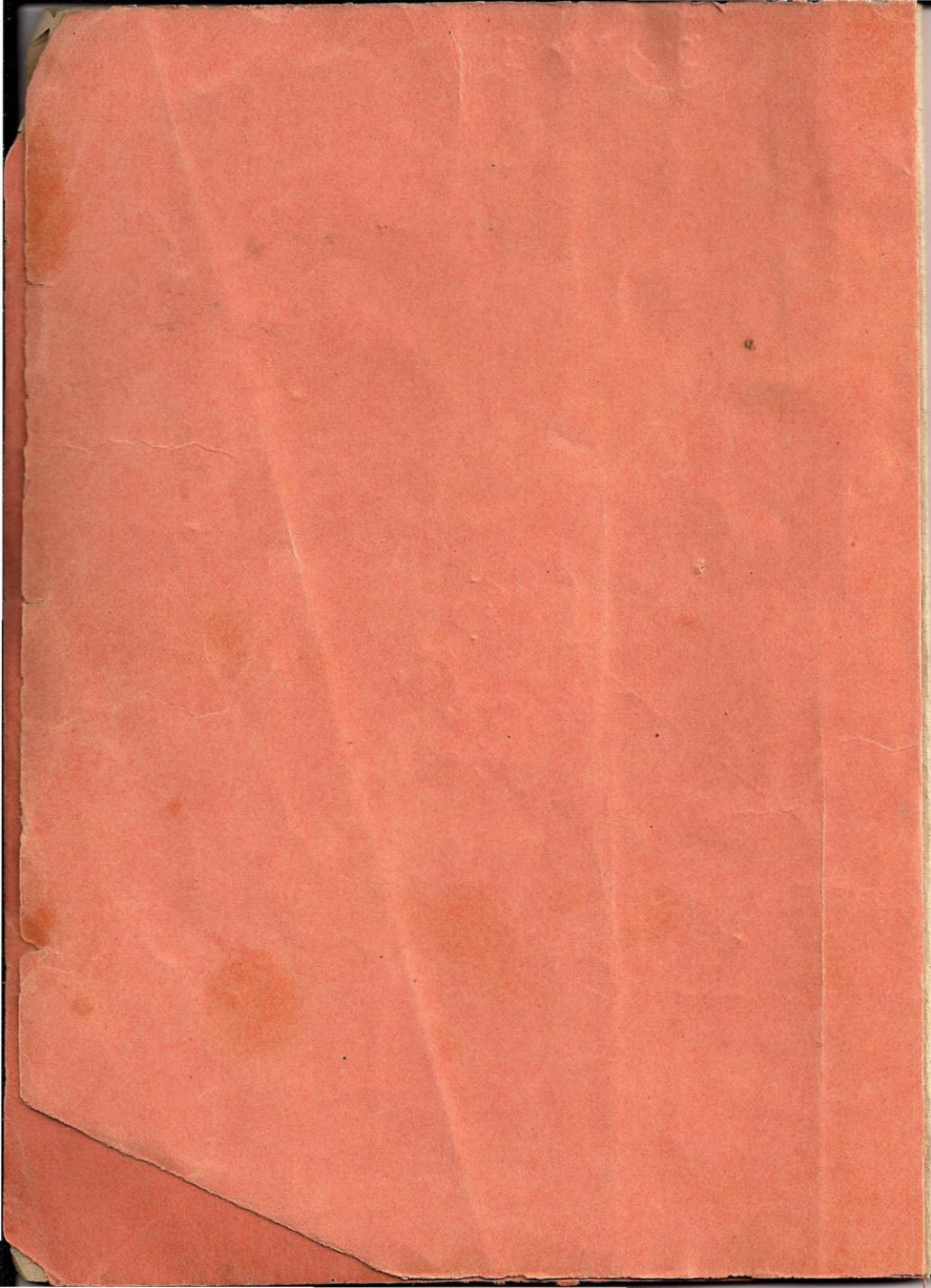
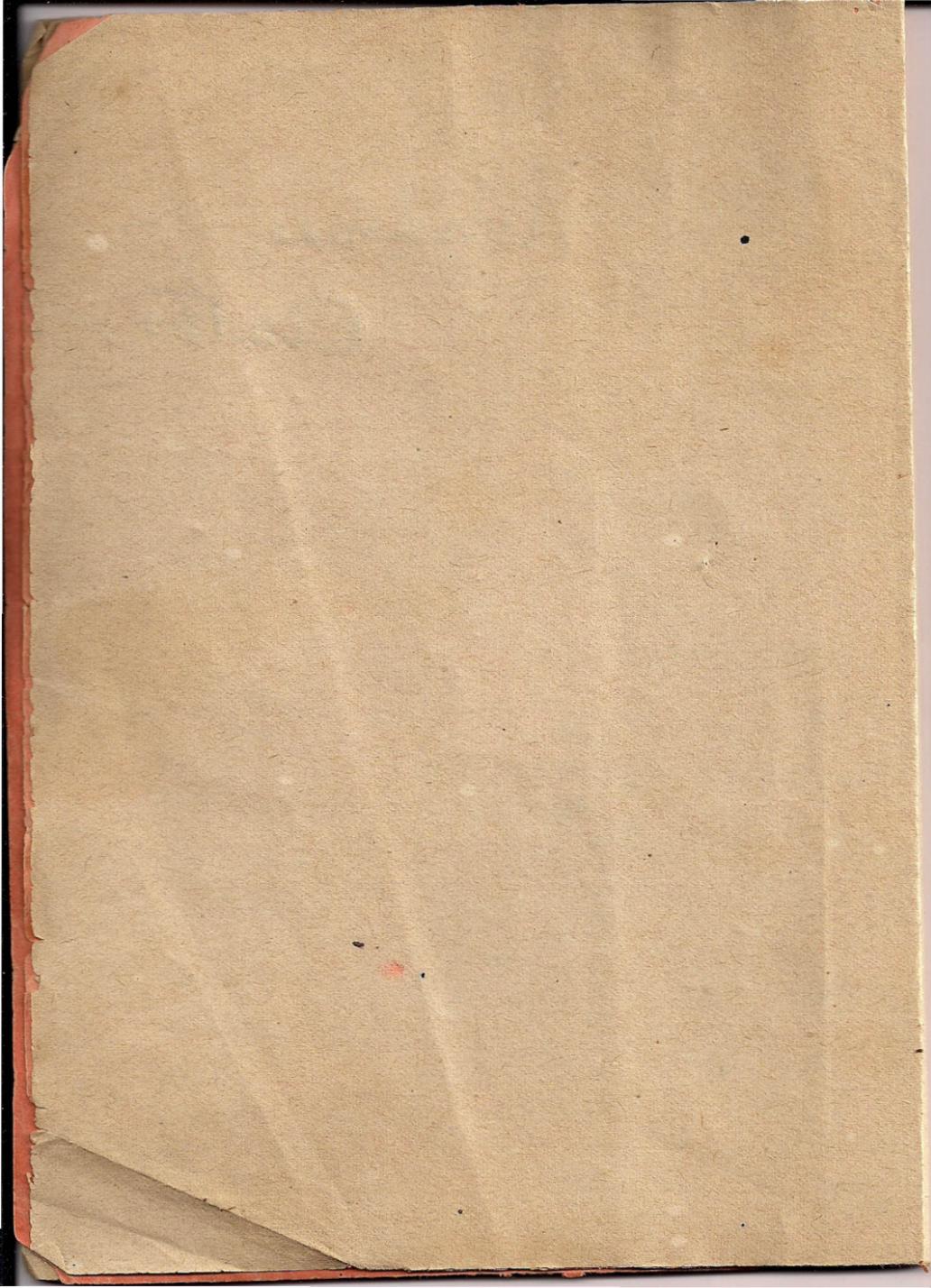


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JT. SCHOOL DISTRICT
No. 5.
1900.



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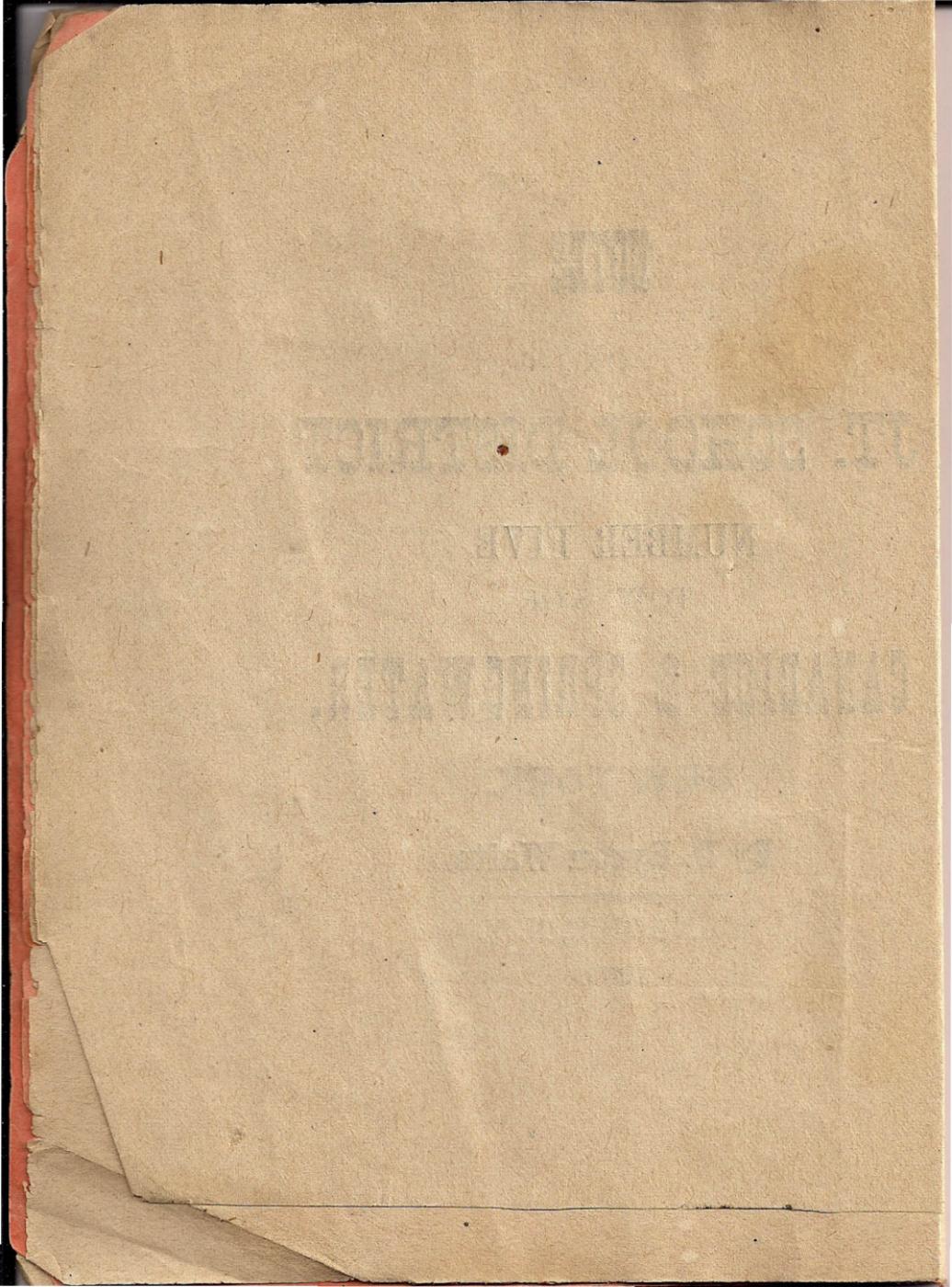
CANADICE & SPRINGWATER,

NEW YORK.

By D. Byron Waite.

CANADICE, N. Y.

1900.



PREFACE.

As a preface or explanation to the few pages following, I will say, the records of the Clerk's book are in good shape from the organization of the district to the present, but that of the Trustees, on October 10th, 1881, could not be found, and the present record is from that time, but all the early school-rolls are well preserved, hence, we have a pretty good continuous record of the district. Had the early school law required the registry of each scholar separately, I would have given the names of all who have attended from the beginning to the present, but early rolls only have the parent's name, and the attendance from that home, from day to day, but no record of absences, and irregularities are noted. The law requiring scholars names and attendance to be kept separate, took effect the winter term of 1839 and 40, when Lloyd Slade was the teacher.

It is both pleasant and sad to look back to my early school days, for Memory vividly brings associations that are dear, and recalls the happiest days of life, and still, a second thought brings

sadness, for of that youthful group, what a precious few of them are now on this side the line of worlds! Gentle reader, if the recalling of the names and scenes of the past ^{is} as interesting to you as to me, then the contents of these few pages may bring home to you a moment for reflection, if you are of the older class.

JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5,
CANADICE & SPRING WATER,
FORMERLY NO. 23, RICHMOND, N. Y.

I purpose to put in a handy shape the main points in the history of my home district, from its organization down to the year, 1900.

Though the first settlers came here as early as the spring of 1813, yet none came with children of school age, and at its organization but a very few were of an age urgently requiring better facilities in the educational line, than at home.

A Petition by the residents to the Commissioners of Common Schools of the town of Richmond, for the power to organize, was presented by B. G. Waite, and a notice was served by him on all of legal voting age, and the first meeting was held on the First Tuesday of October, 1827, at the house of William Clare, when Andrew Ingraham was Moderator, Josiah Jackman, Clerk, and Timothy Banister, William Clare and Benjamin G. Waite were elected Trustees, and after consulting a while as to where to buy, and how

to build, they adjourned to December 16th, and on that day adjourned to the First Monday in May. On the 5th day of May, 1828, by a vote, the school house was to be erected on the cross road leading east and west, and the site determined by measuring from Andrew Ingraham's to Samuel Skellenger's around the road, and at the half-way place, wherever that may come; that the grounds to be four rods square, and to have a frame building, 20 by 24 feet, and to be let to the lowest bidder, and be finished by the first of November, and paid for, January 1, 1829. A box-stove was voted at this meeting, and the district appears on record as, District No. 23.

When the road was measured, the site took in a very large pine stump, which had to be taken out, when all united at the bee. The building was let to Jonas Skinner, price not on record.

On the 10th of May, a Lease by Josiah Short, who lived in Livonia and owned the east half of the present Waite farm, to Timothy Banister and Benjamin G. Waite as Trustees, and to their successors in office, of four rods square of land, the north-west corner of which school lot to be

just thirty five rods east from the four corners and ten dollars to be the price for the same.

Melinda Gilbert taught the first term of school in the log shop built by Simon Pemberton a few years before, in which he did the tinkering for himself and neighbors, standing below the road near the corners; she afterwards married a man by the name of Robinson, lived and died there.

At the Annual Meeting on the 17th day of November 1828, Josiah Jackman was made the Clerk, Samuel Skellenger, Abel Stanwood and Benjamin G. Waite, Trustees, and Hiram Skinner, Collector, and on the 16th day of December Skinner gave a Bond to the trustees as Collector, for the sum of \$236.00, and if the law was then as it is now, one half of that amount paid for the school house, box stove and for the land.

At its organization Samuel Skellenger lived on the Knowles farm, had bought of the Bashford heirs the spring before; William Clare, on the south part of the Jackman place where he came in 1825 and bought of Simon Pemberton; Josiah Jackman was on the north where he undermined George Adams the year before; Benj. G. Waite

on the west part of the present farm, he came in March 1826, and bought of Cornelius Cannon; Alvin Washburn was on the Struble farm since 1825; Matthew Standish bought the two acres of land now owned by Milo F. Thorpe five years before of Abel Eastman; Abel Stanwood bought the Kingsley farm of his father Amos in 1824; Andrew Ingraham bought of Daniel Draper in 1825 the present Ingraham farm; Eber Weed the first settler on the Willson farm sold to Jonas Skinner in the winter of 1827; Abel Eastman in 1820 built the first house on the east part of the Richardson place and was living there; Hiram Skinner was on the Thompson lot, owned by M. F. Thorpe; Alpheus and Elisha Martindale were on the farms of O. F. Ray and Warren Frazer; Seth Sylvester Sen. on the Bailey place; Banister on the lower and Beckman Chamberlin on the upper part of Adelbert Struble's, and Elijah Parker where Fred D. Seward now is, takes in all then residing in the district. Quite a number of them had no children to send, and a few claimed to be too poor to pay the excessive rate-bills of that day, hence the school was very small, and the

first school room did not exceed 12 by 16 feet.

The first Public Money apportioned to this district was \$20.01, and the balance of the school funds was paid in proportion to the number of days each sent to school. What a contrast with the present method of educating the poor man's child! It is very true that teachers' wages were then much below the present rates but when the early settlers were obliged to burn ashes to get most of their few groceries and haul the few spare bushels of grain raised among the stumps, to the nearest market at the canal at Pittsford, spare change was not plenty with the wealthiest and much more scarce with the poor man with a large family. Abram D. Patterson and Daniel Peabody from the Johnson place, David Tompkins from the Mack place, Daniel Norton from the Buckner farm, Justus Grout and Reuben Gilbert from their old homes, and Benj. Reynolds from the Stuart farm sent in early days mostly to this school. Patty Jolatt was the first teacher in the new house for the next season and Oraline J. Waldo the summer following.

October 1830, at the Annual Meeting it was

voted for three months winter school and Lucinda Hudson was engaged, and February 25th a Special Meeting voted for the teacher to continue, and the district became Joint District No. Five of the towns of Canadice and Springwater, and has thus remained. At this time a vote was taken for those sending to school to provide a quarter of a cord of stove wood to the scholar, and that remained the law without change till 1844 when it was voted if any one neglected to get his wood he should pay two dollars per cord for the same, and this was the law till 1851 when it was to be furnished by the lowest bidder, as at present.

At a Special Meeting held the 7th day of October 1839 it was voted to raise \$11.34, to put with the Public Money, for a Library and Case.

In the winter of 1849 and '50 the school house that had stood the ravages of time and unruly jack knives for twenty one years, was burned to the ground, and whether by accident or intention it was a noble thing for the cause of education.

The old building was of the ancient style with desks of one continuous plank made fast to the wall around the room, and to which the scholar

must turn to write or study if he wished to give his books a resting place with back to the teacher, or facing the other way and resting the back against the sharp edge of the plank, while front seats were without backs and usually made of a hard-wood slab raised on legs high enough for the little fellows, and in the winter they made a very sociable substitute in the place of a sled for riding down hill, turned top side down a sixteen foot slab carried a noisy group of merry-makers.

A Special Meeting was held at Josiah Jackman's April 6, 1850, and adjourned two weeks, at which time it was agreed to move the school house site to the north west corner of the lands of William Richardson, to lease sixty four square rods of land for forty dollars, and adjourned to May 4th, and then adjourned once more for one week, at which meeting it was voted to pay Mr. Richardson in sixty days, and to build a house twenty four feet square, a wood house twelve by sixteen feet and two houses four by six feet, the house to be sided with inch lumber, painted and sanded, and put on a mortar wall one foot high on the east side above the ground, and all to

be in good workman-like manner, and to raise \$250.00, to pay for the same. It was to be built by the lowest bidder, and Ambrose Kingsley and William Wood each bid the same, but the trustees gave the job to Wood, which caused quite a bad feeling for a number of years. This house had box slips and was a great improvement over the old one, still those old pens were hard lessons to take, but easy to remember. In the fall of 1887 the house on the inside underwent a great and long-needed change for the better, by putting in a new floor and the latest style of seats, and in 1894, the ceiling was replaced by something much better, and with the addition of new windows, give us a clean, tasty and comfortably arranged room. In its early days religious meetings were quite frequent; regularly on Sunday, and very often on week-day evenings; the present Christian Church of the towns of Canadice and Springwater held its first meetings here, and Daniel Peabody, Ira Spencer, Amos Chapman and Andrew Ingraham were the speakers mainly, also, meetings were held here quite often by the Free-will Baptists and Elder Griswold and Sylvester Evens

and others were their speakers. It was a very common occurrence with the young more especially, to pay very little respect to the cause of religion, and speakers and professors were sometimes saluted with mud, apple cores and so forth, and to purify the air, the hot stove occasionally took a dose of Asafetida or Red Pepper.

I remember that the rite of baptism was to be observed in the gully south of the school house, a dam had been built just below the upper falls the day before, and on Sunday following, a lot of young miscreants drove a number of head of young cattle then running in the woods, back and forth, up and down the clayey banks and through the water until it was nearly of the consistence of porridge, and as the congregation came from the house, those smart polluters hid behind the logs then in the woods between the house and the water. In later years the students who were studying for the ministry at Lima were here on Sunday each fortnight to speak, but that custom was long since abandoned.

When the new house was finished in 1850, it was proposed to set shade trees, in the yard, but

it was voted down on the grounds that shade is damp and unhealthy for the children, and the dampness will rot the buildings, and hence the baking sun gave the children its healthy influence down to the passage of the Arbor Day law of 1888, making the Friday following the first day of May in each year, a day in which there shall be "such exercises as shall tend to encourage the planting, protection and preservation of trees and shrubs." At that time a general invitation was given, and there was good attendance, and the yard was pretty well filled with a good, healthy selection from the neighboring forests, but unruly boys and some girls kept them gored and girdled, only two or three were alive in one year, and others have been put in their places, and each year nearly, a few have to be added, and still the original number is not kept good.

Trees will not stand twisting and wriggling around, especially when the bark will peel, and Basswoods have been cut down to make whistles, and no one of the scholars were able to tell what jack knife could have done so foul a trespass.

Trees twelve years of age from planting, as

these should be, should now be noble specimens and an ornament to the yard that all would be proud of; still the grounds are as shadeless, and as uninviting as they were fifty years ago.

The trespassing and damage done by scholars to houses and surroundings, and the almost total want of care and oversight of some of the teachers, became so disgusting, that at the Annual Meeting October 14, 1879, it was "voted to hereafter charge all damages done by the scholars to the teacher teaching when damage was done and that the trustees see that enough of his wages be withheld until said damages are paid." This remains the law, and for awhile after its passage no material damage was done, but the seats, desks, houses and trees show continued additions to uncontrollable jack knife ravages.

Under the old rate-bill law trustees had the power to exempt all those sending to school they considered too poor to pay the tax, and it was often that so many were exempted as to cause complaint, in fact, some were exempt at times, on the sole ground of favoritism, hence it was abandoned, and thereafter all names were put on

the tax-roll, and all unpaid taxes were voted to be reassessed on the others at each annual meeting, hence the records have many resolutions to relieve some poor person from the burden of a school tax, and this even after the rate-bill was abolished, for I find as late as the record of October 2, 1869, a vote taken "to pay Annis Butler two dollars for Homer Johnson's schooling, winter before last."

The scholars who have attended the school, in numbers, have been subject to great changes, with less than a dozen at first to seventy seven, its highest point, in the winter of 1841 and 2, when Abner L. Doolittle taught, and like waves of the sea, the ebb and flow has often succeeded each other quite rapidly, but gradually on the decline until we have only five on the list.

During the school year of 1892 and 3, we were led to believe that if we wished to procure a Library for reference in the school room, money of nearly the amount to that expended, would be apportioned to us the next year, and by direction of the School Commissioner, \$8.50 were used, and when our portion was assigned us, it was

just \$1.99, and when it came into the hands of the Supervisor, he was instructed by the Commissioner to pay over no Library money without an Order from him; the Order was asked for, the money demanded, but no money yet for books.

Dr. David McCrossen was a man full of jokes, and ever ready to get the laugh on some one especially, who never joked, and Andrew Ingraham, often the target, aimed to be on his guard, but at the annual meeting, October 5th, 1841, McCrossen made a motion to adjourn to the first Tuesday of October next, and Ingraham, too over-watchful this time, thoughtlessly asked "*if that wouldn't fall on Sunday.*"

I said on page three that the consideration for the school house site of Josiah Short was ten dollars, but on referring to the Lease I find it but three dollars, and will here correct the mistake.

Resident Patrons.

From the organization of the district down to the present, changes have been on nearly every farm, and the different owners and others who sent to school will be here placed in their order. The Skellenger farm has passed the hands of Thomas Reynolds and Daniel Knowles to his heirs, with Robert Skellenger, David W. Thorpe Charles Goodrich, William Richardson and Patrick Broghan as tenants. Where Elijah Parker was, William A. Skinner, Thomas Reynolds, Hugh S. Salter, Bowman S. Sisco, Frank Fulton and Charles Terry; across the road, Allen Reynolds and George Smith; on the present Skinner place, Samuel J. Spencer and Charles Goodrich before William A. Skinner; on the Jackman and Clare farms, John Wright was a tenant, and A. G. Jackman succeeded his father; the Waite farm has remained in the name, Jonathan Weeks, Abram McKee and Green Waite, tenants; on Lot No, 15, or the present Johnson farm, Nicholas Milliman built in 1833, and in the different residences have been Nicholas and James Milliman,

William Wiseman, Joseph Utter, Harry Jones, Henry and James Hall, Timothy Huff, Reuben Thompson, John W. Spencer, Charles F. Richards, Joseph Wetmore, Charles Hotaling, Abner Jackman, and Lewis M. Johnson, and the two acres from the west edge of the farm, Albert B. Case; on the Bailey place, Seth Sylvester, Daniel Peabody, Craton Eldred, Josiah Short, William Prine, Josiah Downs, Lorenzo D. Beers, Isaac H. Bishop, John McCrossen, James Breeze, Edmund Dalrymple, George W. Bailey and Sheldon Robinson; on the lower part of the Martindale farm, Salmon B. Howe, Green Waite, Cyrus Swan, Benjamin Badger, Lafayette Carney, Manson Peabody, Orrin Parks and Warren Frazer; on the upper part, Ira Howe, Isaac Evens, Francillo Stuart, John McCrossen and Addison M. Kingsley; on the Kingsley place, Luther Evens and the Kingsleys, in succession; on the Milo F. Thorpe place, Isaac Merwin, Hiram Skinner, Luther Sprague, Jonas Quick, Solomon Case and William O. Ward; Matthew Standish followed Abel Eastman, and the Richardsons him on that place; John Williams, A-

bram Wiley, John Thorpe, Isaac S. Borden, Wil-
 liam M. Willson and Chester Richardson on the
 Jonas Skinner place; David McCrossen, Isaac S.
 Borden, Isabella Blake, Maurice Brown, Harriet
 Frary, Harris Ide, Henley Thompson, Isaac H.
 Bishop, Solomon Case, John W. Struble and
 George Pierce on Adelbert Struble's farm; the
 Ingraham place remains in the name and Mercy
 Hogan and Anna Cross were tenants; the Stru-
 ble homestead has had Henry Hall, Stephen M.
 Frisbie, Hiram Hogan, Allen Reynolds, Levi
 Coykendall, John Burch and Simeon Struble;
 and David W. Thorpe, for a long term of years,
 on the north-east corner of the Knowles farm,
 ends the list of resident patrons.

Resident Teachers.

This district has perhaps, furnished more teachers, educated wholly or mostly in it, than any other country district that we know of, and for a little proof we proudly give a list in alphabetical order: Persis Bishop, Eleanor C. Evens, Lucy M. Kingsley, Homer A. Kingsley, Franklin G. Knowles, Ezra S. Knowles, Sarah T. Knowles, Ann McCrossen, Amanda M. Reynolds, Temperance J. Reynolds, Mary E. Richardson, Emma E. Skinner, Mary E. Skinner, Eva E. Skinner, Hattie E. Skinner, Alta E. Skinner, Ellen G. Stuart, David M. Stuart, Nancy A. Thorpe, Noel M. Waite, Harriet Waite, Oran L. Waite, Edwin G. Waite, Mary E. Waite, E. Augusta Waite, Lyman O. Waite, and D. Byron Waite.

Teachers Employed.

A list of teachers who have been employed in this district, from the first down to the present: Melinda Gilbert, Patty Jolatt, Oraline J. Waldo, Lucinda Hudson, Dennis Conklin, Foster Hudson, Sally Cannon, Hosea Grover, Samuel Osborn, John M. Stiles, William S. Doolittle, Catharine Walling, Martha Grout, Samuel Clarke, Thomas T. Dyer, Matthew Lynch, Calvin Hayward, William Thayer, Maria Wright, Lloyd Slade, Mary Ann Crocker, Emeline Norton, Abner L. Doolittle, Orson V. Chapman, Lucretia Osgood, Warren Northrup, Sarah Brown, Caroline Mann, Samuel Withington, Mary Coe, Eleanor C. Evens, John S. Wiley, Harriet Somers, William Wemett, Adelia Kingsley, E. Augusta Waite, Alvira Coe, Mary E. Waite, Frances Doolittle, Oliver C. Armstrong, John B. Waite, Lyman Ray, David M. Stuart, Amanda M. Reynolds, Pamela Butler, Franklin G. Knowles, Annis Butler, Lucinda Peabody, Emma Winch, Ella Butler, D. Byron Waite, Flora J. Stillman, Alice B. Stillman, Shepard O. Stoddard, Matie

Nancy A. Thorpe, accidentally omitted.

P. Ford, Maggie L. Peabody, Barton S. Ross, Emma E. Skinner, Albert H. Tibbals, Emma Hickok, Lucius M. Doolittle, Belle Stillman, Addison C. Brown, Albert W. Fenton, Eva E. Skinner, George W. Peabody, Hettie E. Tucker, Kitty F. Curtice, Minnie J. Henry, Lena A. Mack, Nellie E. Buckner, Hattie E. Skinner, Cleora L. Coats, Ida Buck, Zoe Wetmore, Edith M. Agard-Jennie R. Beam, Jessie Colegrove, Lillian E. Waite, Hattie L. Amos, Alta E. Lamont, Mary Coats, Jettie Brockway, Mary E. Richardson, Iva A. Bowles, Dora B. Woodruff, Bertha Bray, Minnie R. Connolly, Emma B. Atwater, Mae E. Purcell. Some of them taught here a number of terms, and also at other places, giving always the best of satisfaction, and retired from the educational field with a reputation as a teacher that will live, while a few of the list spent their time, took their pay, and left the scholars, both mentally and morally, the losers, and they will tell to the teachers of future generations, that they too handled the pedagogic birch in their intellectual years. I well recollect that one of these for a long time, looked in vain, for the River Saint

Lawrence, and another, fancied she was endowed with a poetic gift, and as proof that she was, I will carefully copy one stanza from her last, as handed down on her school-roll:

The many cares are oe'r
 With toils of school around us;
 But brighter far than sun or star
 That tells us of Vacation.

Trustees.

I will here give a list of those who have been Trustees, and in the order of their first election to the office; some of them held that position for a long term of years: William Clare, Timothy Banister, Benjamin G. Waite, Abel Stanwood, Samuel Skellenger, Josiah Jackman, Oliver Stanwood, Hiram Skinner, Andrew Ingraham, Green Waite, Seth Sylvester, Luther Evens, Ira Howe, Jonas Skinner, Abram Wiley, Isaac Evens, Stephen M. Frisbie, David McCrossen, Francillo Stuart, Josiah Short, William M. Willson, Maurice Brown, Ambrose Kingsley, John McCrossen, Isaac H. Bishop, Daniel Knowles, Levi Coykendall, Hiram P. Richards, William A. Skinner, Simeon Struble, D. Byron Waite, Addison M. Kingsley, George W. Bailey, Lewis M. Johnson and Willard D. Caskey.

Clerks.

Those who have held the office of Clerk, in the order of their first election, have been: Josiah Jackman, Salmon B. Howe, Benjamin G. Waite, Hiram E. Willson, James H. Lee, William A. Skinner, Lewis M. Johnson, Franklin G. Knowles, William O. Ward, Horace S. Knowles, D. Byron Waite, Willie L. Kingsley, Albert G. Jackman and Milo F. Thorpe. Benjamin G. Waite held the office twenty seven years.

Collectors.

The Collectors have been: Hiram Skinner, Andrew Ingraham, Timothy Banister, William Clare, Robert Skellenger, Josiah Jackman, Ambrose Kingsley, David McCrossen, William Richardson, Daniel Knowles. Levi Coykendall, William A. Skinner, D. Byron Waite, Charles Goodrich, Hiram E. Willson, Hugh S. Salter, Hiram P. Richards, James H. Lee, Furman Thompson, Franklin G. Knowles, Horace S. Knowles, Chester Richardson, Lewis M. Johnson, George W. Bailey, B. Audubon Waite, Hiram H. Richardson, Albert B. Case, Willard D. Caskey and Fred D. Seward.

