

A BRIEF HISTORY OF BUFFALO STREET SCHOOL
DISTRICT NO. 11 SPRINGWATER & WAYLAND.

On April 17, 1816, five and one-half miles were taken from the west side of Naples and three miles from the east side of Sparta and formed into the town of Springwater. When Livingston County was taken from Ontario and Genesee, February 23, 1821, no change was made in the boundaries of Springwater. Thus we see that Springwater, as a political subdivision, is older than the county of which it forms a part.

There stood in what is now George Fisher's dooryard a log building in which was taught the first school in the town in 1813-14 by James Blake. This was more than three years before the organization of the town and probably before the division of the town into school districts. In this building the meeting was held for the organization of the town government, April 9, 1817, then a part of Ontario County.

So far as I have been able to ascertain, no change has been made in the boundaries of this school district since its formation from parts of Springwater and Dansville in Steuben County. Later the said town of Dansville was divided and Wayland formed therefrom.

This district was organized at a meeting held (to quote from the first Districts Clerk's book) "at the house of Jesse Hyde in the town of Springwater by an order from the school commissioners of the town of Springwater and Dansville on the 4th day of 1836". At this meeting the trustees were authorized

to purchase a site for, and to have erected a school house
26 x 24, near the dwelling of John Carpenter. A tax of \$125 voted to
be applied on the erection of the house. Those trustees did not
perform either of those acts. The district never had a title
to this school site, except that gained by long possession or
occupancy until about 90 years later.

At a meeting on the 22nd of September of the same year
the prospective edifice was changed from ~~26 x 24~~ 26 x 24 to
21 ft. square to be built of 3 inch plank and provided with a stove,
but it wasn't built that year.

The district father next met in a house-- presumably vacant--
then owned by Andrew Spafard on May-day of the next year 1837.
That meeting voted a tax of \$7.00 to repair the house--in which the
meeting was being held--for school purposes, and that a school be kept
six months. As to who the teacher of the first six months of school
was, the records available do not disclose. We learn from a copy of a
report to the school commissioners that he or she received \$30.00
for the six months; that there were 58 children of school age
in the district, 46 of whom attended school.

That May-day meeting of 1837 repeated its command to the trustees
to build a school house 21' Square, this time specifying "a good
framed" building, to be finished by Oct. 1 and increased the
tax thereon from \$125.00 to \$150.00.

At a subsequent meeting the size of the edifice was again
changed to 20 x 22 feet and the \$150.00 tax reaffirmed. We may
assume that this was the size of the first building on this site, as
the annual school meeting of Oct. 1837 was held in the school house.

It is worthy of note th t in the year 1838 there were 25 familie with 71 children, 70 of whom attended school, and no doubt some families without children or with children under/school age ^{or over} . That was an increase of 13 pupils within one year.

Wee wonder what kind of a school was conducted with 70 students in a house 20 x 22- a space about 2½ ft square for each boy or girl.

Allow me to quote directly from the record of a meeting held April 25, 1838:

" 1st. Voted that Ashbil R. Grover serve as moderator.

2nd. That the trustees may hire Moses Coleman to teach the summer school " (Th_{is} is the first teacher ^{name} mentioned by

" 3d Voted that the lumber paid to said teacher be divided according to each inhabitants school bill.

4th Voted that the lumber that is paid to the teacher be delivered at Farnsworth & Thayer's mills."

5t . Voted that the district bear an equal proportion according to their tax in suing Arnold Gray provided the trustees cannot get it without.

6th Voted that the trustees shall buy a book for the district and charge it to the distr~~ict~~ suitable to copy the records of the district."

In the fall of 1871, the school house burned. At a meeting held Dec. 30 of that year this building was authorized 20 x 24. The late James Cook, then of Wayland, took the job at \$449.

In 1896 in complianee with ~~xxxx~~ the flag law, a pole was erected and a flag purchased at an expense of \$ 6.75.

The next year our first globe appeared. I remember it well. It cost 40 cents and was worth it. In 1898, the old long seats and desks were replaced by more modern furniture, some of which are not in place.

In 1919 a further attempt was made to modernize the school plant by the instillation of chemical toilets. These cost \$160.00

Although the district, as has been stated, held undisputed possession of the ~~same~~ school site for 90 years, no conveyance of the same had been made to the district. In 1926 the site was purchased of the late Jacob Hartz with the reservation of the right of way across the northeast corner in favor of Henry Grein. The next year an additional amount of land was deeded to Mr. Grein by the district in exchange for a like amount on the south side of the school lot which Mr. Grein purchased of Mr. Hartz, and for which the District has a deed from Mr. Hartz.

The last improvement of importance, the drilling of a well, was accomplished in 1931 at a cost of \$110.00.

The noveliest can, and usually does, give his story a happy ending. The historian is often denied that privilege. My closing paragraph is a bit sad.

Finally in 1936, after having completed just a century of honorable existence and useful work our school was closed.

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