

SCHOOLHOUSES OF ST GEORGE, MAINE

OVER THE LAST 150 YEARS



WHY COVER ONLY THE LAST 150 YEARS?

Because we have photos of some of the schoolhouses that existed in town over the last 150 years.

In 1883 there were about 19 school districts in St George, plus scholars at Seal Harbor [Spruce Head] and some on the islands. Some of the districts did not have their own school building but rented space or held classes in homes or businesses.

The census returns of the agents of the several districts show that there were 974 scholars in town on the 1st of last April. These figures show a decrease of 45 scholars from the previous year. This decrease is due mostly to removals from district number 20, or Clark's Island.

I would again call your attention to the subjects of tardiness and irregular attendance. There has been improvement in some of the districts the past year; but there is yet room for much to be gained in these particulars. Frequent absence breaks the chain of study and is a great hindrance to uniform and orderly advancement. The absent scholars often either lose their lesson, or the class loses the time to repeat for their benefit. Non-attendance is another important subject. There are several scholars in town, between 17 and 21 years of age, who do not attend school.

Parents, with whom rests the chief responsibility, should co-operate with teachers in these matters and use their utmost endeavors to keep the children at school.

In conclusion, I would say, of the schools generally, during the past year, that they have been very prosperous, and the school money has been judiciously expended.

A. WOODSIDE,

Supervisor of schools.

St. George, February 28, 1884.

- From the earliest printed town report – there were over 1,000 students in 1882!

District #1 – Wiley's Corner

This picture was found in a scrapbook dated 1941 that was given to Capt Frank O Hilt by his wife, Dora, and their son Willard. The description on the page says "Old School House Built in 1827 – Picture of school was taken in front of the old schoolhouse on the hill where the present school building now stands. The old building was bought by Mr J A Ewell and moved to his place of business, it is used by the J A Ewell Co at the present time as a store." The scrapbook page also states that the teacher at the time the photo was taken was Fred Witham.

Check out our January 2021 Newsletter for the list of the students in the photo.



District #1 – Wiley's Corner

This school replaced the one in the previous slide and was built in 1889 by W H Glover & Co. and a corner of it can be seen in the picture of the Grange Hall below. Even though it has been renovated, the building still stands today in the same location.



District #2 – Smalleytown and Long Cove

All 3 of these photos have been identified as the Smalleytown school.



It appears that District #2 covered the school at Smalleytown, also referred to as Smallburg or Smalleyburg, plus the school at Long Cove.

This slide shows photos of classes at the Smalleytown school. The Smalleytown school was located on the south side of the intersection at what is now River Road and Englishtown Road West. The town reports of 1918 – 1920 refer to issues at Smalleytown, with the older kids possibly being transferred to the 7th and 8th grade in Tenants Harbor and the other students transferred to the Long Cove School. It appears that this is when the Smalleytown school was closed.

Thor Jacobson, Emma Nelson, Helen Coltart, Lennie Lantz,
Elizabeth Trulsen
Einar Mannerinen, Anna Jacobson, Wilho Eloranta, Eddie
Edwards, Lester Smalley, Walter Kangas, Betty Edwards,
Julian Hawkins, Lewis Coltart, Lloyd Peterson.
Smalleytown School
burned & kids went
to school in Long Cove
Fall 1918
I. Peterson
O. Lantz
J. Nelson
L. Peterson

District #2 – Smalleytown and Long Cove

The Granite Hall, or Parish Hall, at Long Cove was the site of the Long Cove school.

The Feb 1916 school report mentions a new school building at Long Cove.

In 1920, following the closing of the school at Smalleytown, and those students being moved to the Long Cove school, it was reported that there was overcrowding at the Long Cove school - close to 50 students – and that some of the students in Smalleytown close to Wiley's Corner would be transferred there.

As the quarrying activity at Long Cove slowed, the school at Long Cove was closed in 1944 because of the small number of students.

During an attempt to move this building in 1964, the building collapsed.



Photo of students at Long Cove school

District #3 – Wallston or Gabbletown School



School in Gabbletown (Wallston Road).

Front row: Ernest Simmons, _____, _____, Harold Gardner, _____, Ruth Gardner, Mildred Rawley, Gladys Barter.

Second row: Edwin Watts, _____, Jesse Rivers, John Sivewright, Lena Simmons, _____.

Third row: David Sivewright, Wallace Watts, Grace Watts, Kate MacKenzie(?).

The school was located next to the home of Forrest Wall. The date of this picture is about 1900. If so, Wallace Watts would have been 12 years old at the time.

After it was closed, the schoolhouse was moved to the Long Cove road and is now the home of Mrs. Collins.



The school report of 1890 says about this school that “it was to be regretted that it could not continue longer”. The School Committee report of Feb 1897 recommended that this school be abolished and united with #19 [Tenants Harbor]. In Feb 1901 the school committee approved the establishment of a school in district 3. At this time, the Supt of Schools reported that “the school house at Wallston, not having been used for a number of years, required considerable work.” The school appears to have been closed permanently about 1919. It is mentioned in the 1918 town report but is not in the list of common schools in 1920. Note that the building was moved to Long Cove and is still there.

District #4 – Schoolhouse on Road to Turkey Cove in the area of Otis Cove

The adjacent map of 1857 shows a schoolhouse (SH) on the west side of what is currently known as Turkey Cove Road. In 1884, the students at this school averaged 11.

In the early 1890s there was only a spring term at this school, no fall or winter terms. In 1893 there were 5 students attending this school, and it apparently closed in 1894 as the 1895 report shows no district #4 school.

Smalley's "***History of St George***" mentions that the old schoolhouse from District #4 was moved to a site on Ridge Road.



District #5 – Port Clyde



The 1857 Lincoln County map shows a Free Will Church or Chapel at what is now commonly referred to as the four corners in Port Clyde. District #5 was organized June 15, 1835, and the school was probably at this location, as oral tradition is that this is the location of the earliest school building in Port Clyde.

The April 1896 school report says “the Port Clyde school has for a long time been too large for one teacher. We advise that another room be provided by making an extension in the length of the schoolhouse, and that the school be divided into two grades.” Average attendance was 54 pupils.

The 1897 report suggests “grading the Port Clyde school” to receive scholars from District #6 [Martinsville], if that school is suspended.

In Feb 1898 the School Supt reported that he had “purchased the necessary furniture for the new school house at Port Clyde” and classified the students into two grades.

In Feb 1899 the Superintendent reports that at Port Clyde there was a “thorough renovation, which was done by new sills, floor, hard pine sheathing, black-boards, book case and modern seats.”

The Feb 1907 report says that the schoolhouse at Port Clyde “has been thoroughly remodeled and built over during the past year. The second floor which it now has, provides the additional room which has been long needed and the structure is today a convenient, attractive and up-to-date building, well suited to its present use in every respect, and an ornament to Port Clyde and the town. The handsome weather vane...a gift from Capt J W Balano, adds much to the outward appearance of the house.”

District #5 – Port Clyde



A couple of classes at the Port Clyde school.

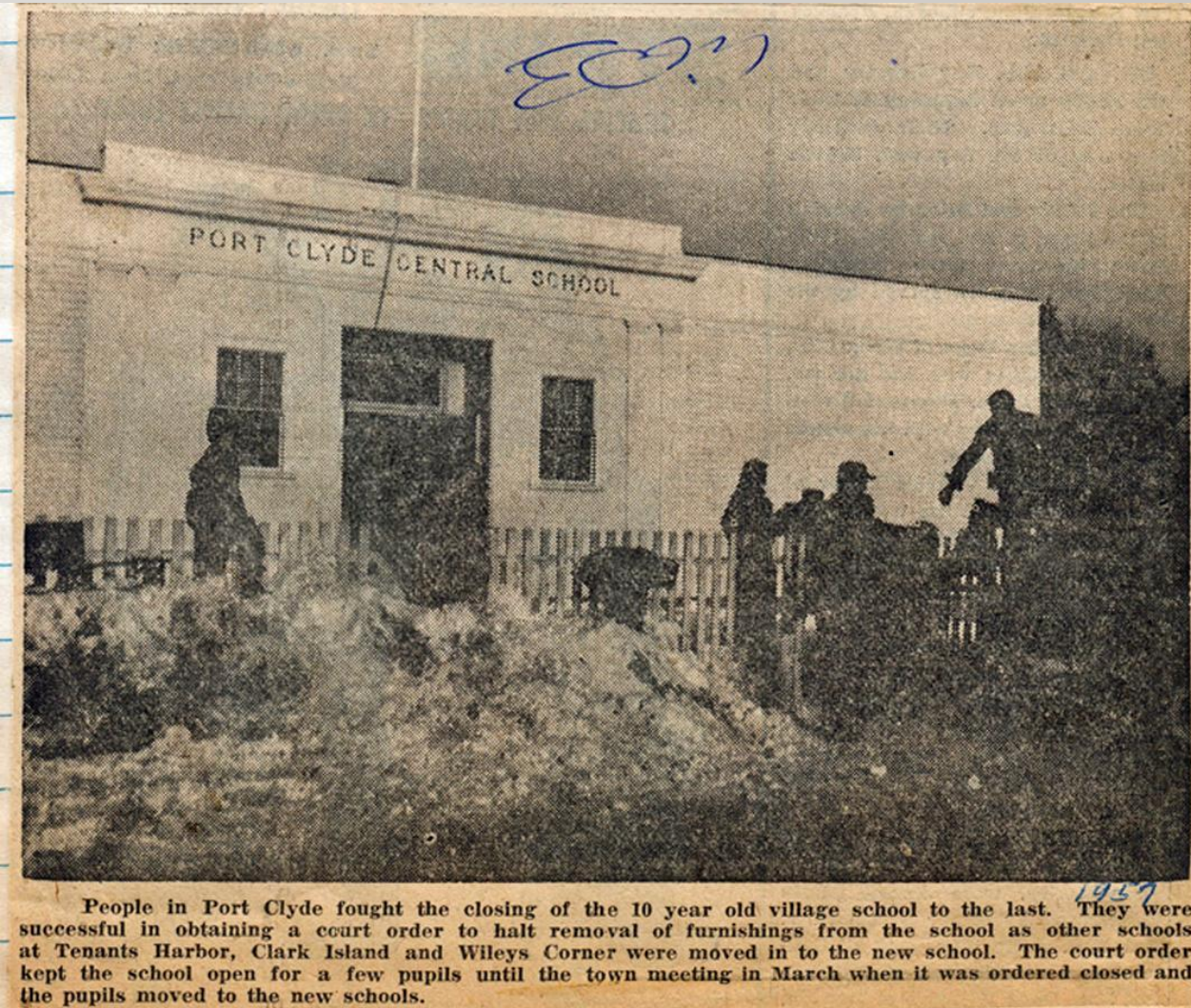


District #5 – Port Clyde

In the early 1940s the school reports discussed the replacement of the schoolhouse in Port Clyde. In 1944 the sanitary conditions were bad and were condemned by the State. There were questions of either relocating the school or building on the same lot. It was finally decided to build on the same lot and in 1947 two bids were received – the lowest was for \$19,500 and did not include a heating plant, and the highest was \$35,000. It was reported that building costs were high due to the war. In 1948 the town approved about \$22,000 for a new building, and it was built! The photo here shows the “new” Port Clyde Central School.

In 1956 the town voted to consolidate the remaining schoolhouses into a central elementary school in Tenants Harbor. The news clipping mentions the upset in Port Clyde to close this 10 year old school and move the students to Tenants Harbor.

This building was eventually removed when the “new stretch” of Route 131 by-passed what is now Drift Inn Road and went straight to Port Clyde village.



Districts #6 & #14 – Martinsville schools

There were two schoolhouses in the village of Martinsville, identified as “SH” on the adjacent map of Lincoln County from 1857.

In his History of St George, Albert Smalley wrote "as early as 1815 Phineas Wells deeded a school site to the Town, at Martinsville. There have been at least two buildings on this lot and it is possible that there was a third. If the late Mr. Granville Bachelder was correct in his statement about the school buildings on this lot, then there would have been three. The first was torn down and enlarged with added material. Later it was moved to just below the Monty Hupper place and was later sold to Herbert Pierson and became the Pierson Gift Shop."

As seen on this county map from 1857, there was a school just below the E Pease place, and another across the street from the G C Barter place. I believe the school Smalley is talking about is the one south of the Mill Pond bridge and is in District #6. The school north of the bridge is in District #14.



District #6 – Martinsville along Ridge Road and southerly from Ridge Road

This school was located south of the Ridge Road. See previous slide with 1857 map for location.

This school was operating in 1884 with an average number of 12 pupils. In 1903 the school report says that this school had an average of 11 students. It apparently closed in 1904 as it does not show up in the school reports after that date.

This photo has been identified as the school at Martinsville and may be of the District #6 school. Dale Pierson said that he recognizes the building as the one that his grandmother used as a gift shop.



District #7 – appears to cover area from Seaside Cemetery south to Harts Neck Road

In 1884 it was operating with an average number of pupils at 19 during the summer and 23 during the fall term.

The Feb 1893 school report says that “during the wet portion of the season, the water stands on a level with the road and flows back under the house. At present the foundation is a solid body of ice, and from a sanitary point of view, especially during the warm season, it is not a suitable place for a school building, as it imperils the lives of the teachers and scholars.” “We would advise the building of a new schoolhouse in a different location, before another Winter.”

The Feb 1897 report tells us that this “school in district 7 has been suspended...and should also be abolished.



District #8 – Elmore or Harts Neck

The 1884 school reports says that this schoolhouse was operating with an average number of 38 students.

In the year 1900 Alice P Long was the teacher here with average attendance of 17 students.

Fannie B Long was the teacher here in 1905 with 15 students.

In 1910 Maggie Williams was the teacher during the spring term with 10 students, and the fall term had 10 students with Grace A Holbrook teaching.

The last mention of a district school in #8 is in the 1916 report, with Mary E Long teaching an average attendance of 6 students in the Spring term. It apparently closed following that term, as there is no further mention of it.



District #9 – Willardham

Operating in 1884 with an average number of 21 students during the summer term. The 1884 report also mentions the “new schoolhouse is an honor to the district”.



WILLARDHAM SCHOOL 1928



Seated on ground: Charlie Harriman.
Front row: Tom McLain, Evangeline McLain, Carmen Smalley,
_____, _____, _____,
Hilda Makinen, Homer McLain, Ernest Mackie.

Back row: Charlie Mackie, Lauri Mackie, Geraldine Sprague,
Mamie Taylor (teacher), Doris Harriman, _____,
Erold Holmstrom, Wiljo Mackie (twin to Charlie)
The Harrimans ran a store where Bill Stuart later lived.

This schoolhouse was located on the east side of the town road, just north of where the boarding house was located – in the area of 213 River Road. It closed in 1942.

District #10 – Clark Island – on the mainland

The 1884 reports mentions an average number of 30 students. It also mentions “a new and commodious school-house”.

The Feb 1890 report mentions 70 scholars in the district, with an average attendance in the mid-30s.

This schoolhouse had renovations made to it in 1934-35 to accommodate the students from the Wheeler’s Bay school.

The school was closed in 1956-57 when the remaining village schools were consolidated into the one elementary school in Tenants Harbor.



District #11, #12 and #18 – Clark District and area, consolidated into Wheeler's Bay School

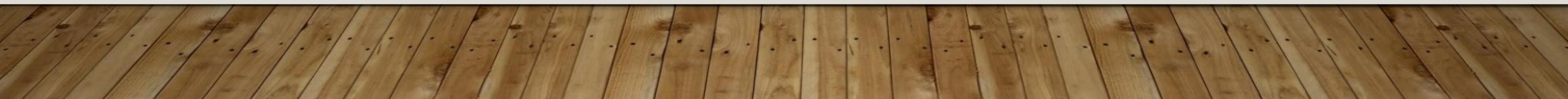
District #11 was operating in 1884 with an average number of 12 students. The 1893 report says about District #11 - “we consider it inexpedient to have a school building connected with a dwelling house” and it was recommended “to either build a new schoolhouse or furnish a more suitable building.”

District #12 was operating in 1884 with an average number of 13 students. The 1884 report also mentions a “want of harmony in the district”. In Feb 1901 a petition was received asking that a school house be built in district No. 12. The school committee voted against it due to “too few scholars in the district at the present time.”

District #18 was operating in 1884 with an average number of 6 students.

The Feb 1896 school report suggests that “a suitable building be built in the vicinity of Wheeler's Bay for the school formed by uniting districts 11, 12 and 18. The Feb 1897 report tells us that a new school was built in 1896 at Wheeler's Bay. Reports that followed called it District #11, and the average number of students attending ranged from 15 to 20.

The Feb 1935 school report says “In June of 1934 the Wheelers Bay schoolhouse was destroyed in the night by fire, in all probability of incendiary origin.” The report then tells of the Grange Hall at Wileys Corner opening their doors to the students for the remainder of the term, and after enlarging the Clark Island school into a two room school the students were conveyed from Clark District and Wheelers Bay to Clark Island.





Clark District School

In this photo, second from the left is Harold Barnes. In front of him is Pearl Barnes and Guy Barnes is between the two tall men. Kneeling in the front in the middle is Agnes Barnes Elwell, who was born in 1896. The teacher is Edward A Smalley and the photo was taken around 1906 - 1908.

District #13 & #17

The 1884 report says that in District 13 there was “no school. Students from this district attended school in district No. 18.”

There is no mention of a school in District #17 in the 1884 report.

District #11 - Wheelers Bay School

This photo is supposed to be students from Spruce Head, but from checking out the names of the students it looks like a combination of students from District #11 and District #18.

The Feb 1897 school report tells us that a new school was built in 1896 at Wheeler's Bay. Reports that followed called it District #11.

The teacher mentioned here says "Lidia Hawkins", but in fact was Lida Hocking, who taught school in District #11 in 1903, 1904, 1906 and 1908.

This is probably a photo of the Fall term at the Wheeler's Bay school in 1906.



BLANCH DENNISON RENA DENNISON WINNIE DENNISON
LIDIA HAWKINS LESTER ELWELL RALPH CLINE
CHESTER WALL ALBERT MAKER JR. CLIFFORD DENNISON VICTOR DENNISON
MORRIS DENNISON RAYMOND RACKLIFF CARRIE RACKLIFF DORA RACKLIFF

District #14 – Martinsville – north of the Mill Pond bridge

Average number of students in 1884 was 24.
See earlier slide for location.

The 1941 School report says the Martinsville School was closed due to “too few pupils”.



Martinsville school students about 1906.

District #14 – Martinsville – north of the Mill Pond bridge



Martinsville school students about 1911.



Martinsville school students around 1913.

District #15 – Whitehead Island

In 1884 Isaac H Grant was the teacher, and in 1885 he was the school agent, with Althea Chatman teaching the average attendance of 9 students. Isaac H Grant was also the lightkeeper on Whitehead Island from 1875 to 1890.

In 1892 and 1893 there were no Spring and Fall terms of school here, only a Winter term that accommodated 9 students. The school returned to 3 terms by 1895, and in 1897 the 3 terms only had 8 students.

During the mid-1900s there were no annual reports on this school, but it showed up again in 1908 with 5 students. In 1909 there were 9 students, and the Fall term of 1910 saw 12 students.

In 1932, because there was not a sufficient number of students in the district, the school at Whitehead was discontinued.



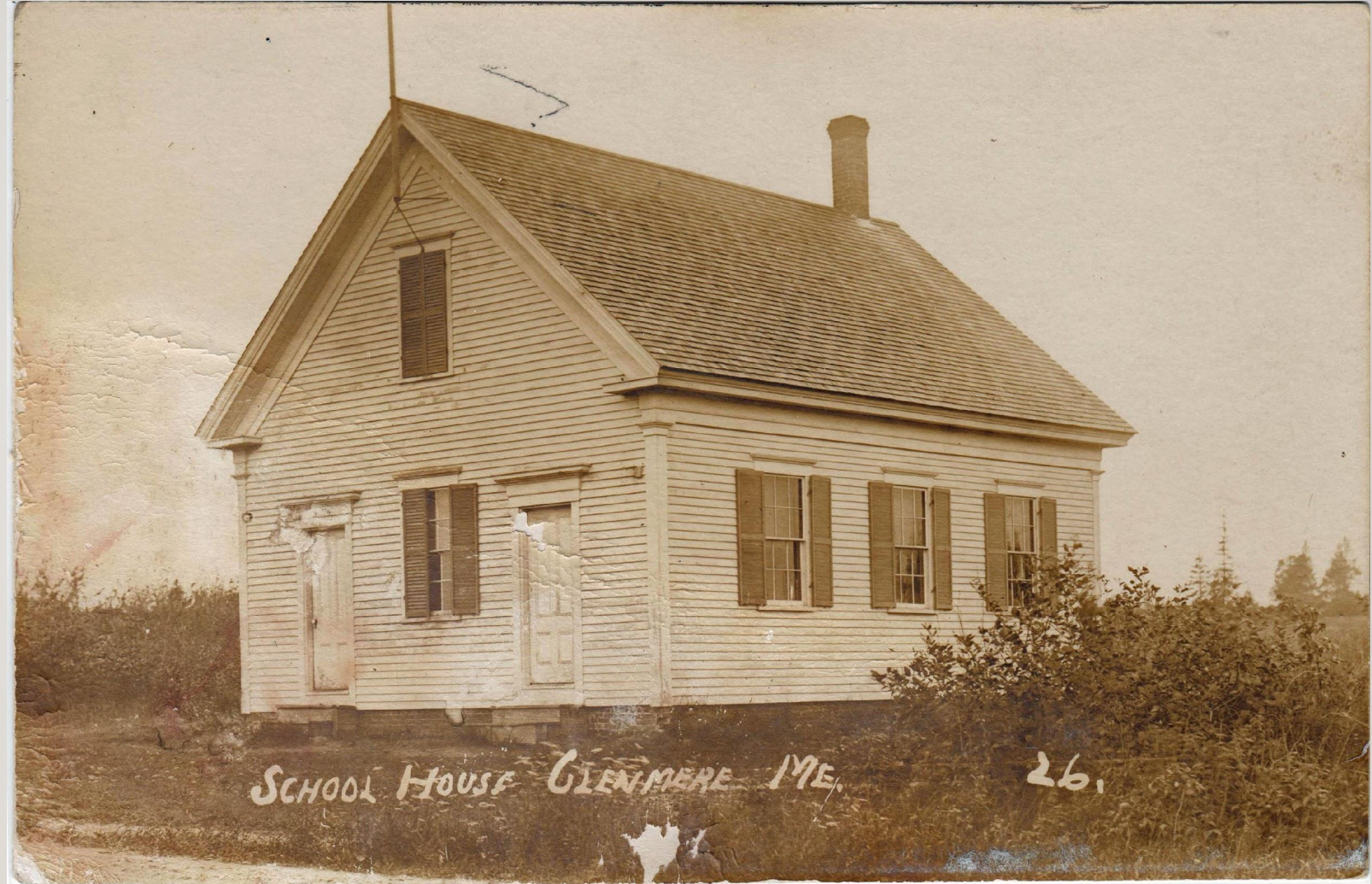
District #16 – Turkey / Glenmere

The 1857 County map shows the school house in Glenmere located at the intersection of what is now known as the Merrill Road and the Glenmere Road.

The 1884 report an average number of students at 20.

The Feb 1917 school report says there were an average of 13 students during the Spring term and 10 during the Fall term.

The school appears to have closed in the year 1918, based upon school reports.



District #19 – Tenants Harbor

The 1884 report mentions three terms of the primary school with an average number of students about 50. The grammar school had an average number of students in 1884 of 52-54.

The photo to the right shows the two school buildings at Tenants Harbor – one for the primary grades and one for the grammar school level. This photo was probably taken around 1899 as you can see the foundation of the new school has started between the two buildings.

It is not known how old these school buildings are in this picture, but the history of schools at this location go back to the 1840s.



District #19 – Tenants Harbor



Tenants Harbor schoolhouse about 1890.



*Primary schoolhouse at Tenants
Harbor up until 1900.
Mrs. Flora Matthews taught.*

District #19 – Tenants Harbor

The new school at Tenants Harbor was built in 1900. Even though it was usually referred to as the high school, it also housed the primary and grammar schools. The upstairs was the high school with the primary and grammar grades downstairs.



District #20 – Clark Island – on the island

The 1884 report mentions the average number of students at 20.

The Feb 1893 report talks about the school building connected to a dwelling house, creating “annoyance”. It was suggested that “measures should be taken” to improve on this situation.

The Feb 1896 school report tells us that “a lot on Clark Island was selected for the location of a schoolhouse, it being the judgment of the committee that the school should remain within the present limits of district 20. The owner of the island refused to sell the lot; but would donate the same, upon conditions, however, which it was thought best not to accept. The matter was then laid before the selectmen, who declined to take further action. Therefore, the facilities for public education on the island remain unchanged. It is hoped that measures will be taken to secure, for the scholars in this precinct, the privileges to which they are entitled. The town should take possession of the lot selected, and proceed to construct a schoolhouse.

In Feb 1897 the school committee reported on a new building at Clark Island. It doesn't mention if it was on the island or the mainland, but with earlier reports, it was probably on the island.

The district is last mentioned in the Feb 1907 report, with 10 students during the Fall term.

It has been said that the old schoolhouse on the island was moved from the island to Tenants Harbor to become the home of Bill Pratt. This is currently the location of the Schoolhouse Bakery.

After the activity on island quarry ceased, the designation of District #20 seems to have been transferred to Seal Harbor or Spruce Head village.



Seal Harbor – or Spruce Head village

The students in this section of town attended a school located in South Thomaston and the costs of the school were shared by the towns based upon the student population.

