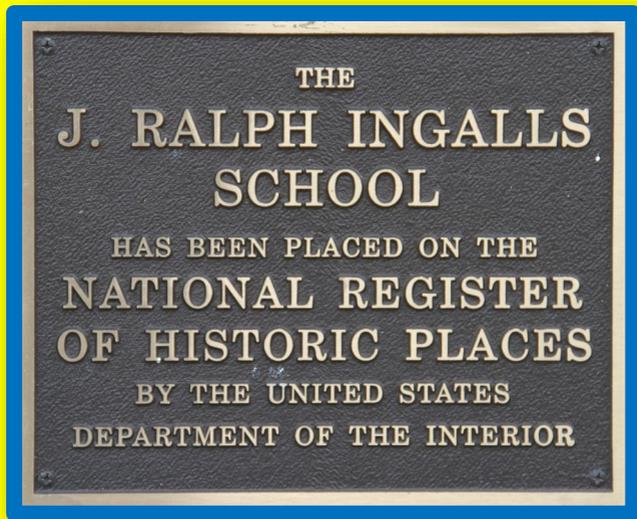


*Nanticoke Valley Historical Society  
of Maine, New York*

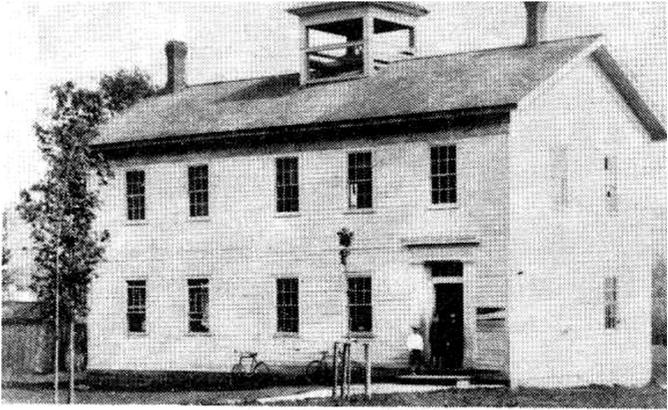


*Maine Central Schools  
1802—2024*



Check our Website: [www.nanticokevalleyhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.nanticokevalleyhistoricalsociety.com)  
and our Facebook page

Prior to 1938, within the Hamlet of Maine on Church Street, was a four room school. At the same time there were surrounding one room schools, and each was considered a district in itself. They were



*MAINE VILLAGE SCHOOL - before renovation*

Bowers Corners, Tiona, Gates Neighborhood, Allentown, Mount Ettrick, East Maine, Brocket Hollow, Pollard Hill and Broughtontown. In Union Center there was a 6 room school. These all centralized later (1938) into what became known as the Maine Central Schools. In 1833 there were records which referred to this building being in use. In 1900 to 1902 it was renovated outside and in. At that time the large meeting room with stage, upstairs was changed, to make two more classrooms, and making it the 4 classroom school. Many reminiscences shed light on the school days of the Old Maine School. Walking all the way down King Hill introduced a number of kids to Frost Bite. On the other hand they were able to slide down the snowy road on hand sleighs, all the way to school. (the road was somewhat different at the lower end then). Going back home, the sleighs could carry what they needed to take home, even though they must pull the sleds up hill all the way.

When the schools all became centralized in the 1938 time frame, it was decided to build a new building where the Old Maine School stood. In order to do that, they lifted the building onto rollers and moved it back far enough to allow the building of the new building (what would come to be called J. Ralph Ingalls) in front of it. It was observed that there were no complications caused by a need to move plumbing and such things, as the same out houses still stood outside and could continue to be used. Former students remembered that the old building was actually used in its new place until the new building was ready.



“The first Maine school was opened in 1802 by Betsy Ward, a widow. Female students were taught in her home, and she charged tuition for instruction. In 1815 Maine’s first school building (one-room) was built on a triangle of land a mile south of Maine Village on the road to Union. This road was later a plank, toll road. The Congregational church met in the school from 1819 until they built their own structure in Maine village in 1825. The school was still being used in 1900. In 1833 a frame school was built on Church Street in Maine village. By 1885 the village school was four rooms on two floors, with 85 pupils. It was remodeled and expanded in 1900. It was used until a new brick school was built on the property in 1940. The frame building was demolished in 1946. The *Tiona, or North Maine School*, was used as a church on Sunday by the Methodists from 1836 to 1871

Rev. William Gates taught a select school, the *Maine Academy*, at his home in the village. It was in the nature of a high school, and ran from 1837 to 1852. Students attended from as far away as Owego to be instructed in languages, mathematics, and the sciences. Gates was a “copperhead” and believer in slavery in this strongly” .....

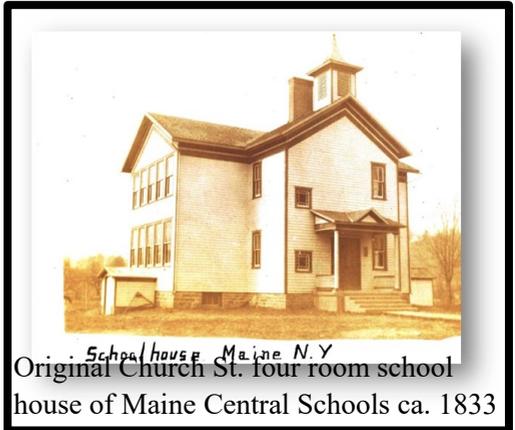


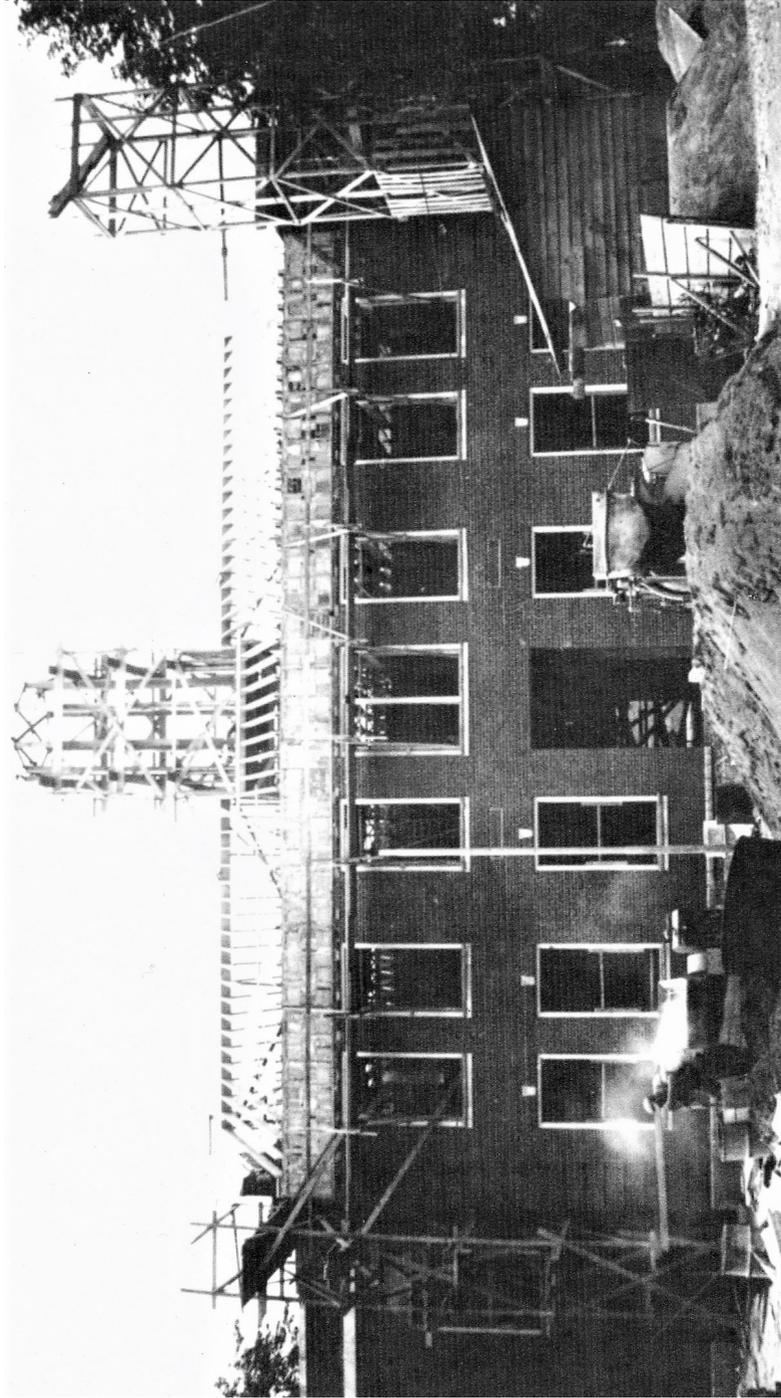
Gates Academy painted by Clarence Stratton 1974. Note the school house behind the Gates house.

.....abolitionist town, though it did not seem to affect the success of his school nor his pastor ship of the Baptist church where he served from 1841 to 1852.

Through the first quarter of the 20th century, adults could acquire a certificate to teach in a one-room school by attending a training class, usually less than a year. Often, a farmer and his wife both qualified, and the income from teaching was a welcome supplement to the household. For example Harry and Belle Johnson (b 30 Jan 1887) of East Maine both taught during the 1930s. Their red, one-room school was at the intersection of Farm-To-Market and East Maine Roads. It was furnished with a wood-burning stove, double seats nailed to the floor, and a recitation bench in front. There was no running water. The teacher taught eight grades. Most of the farm boys attended only in the winter months.

In 1938, a century after formation, the eleven existing school districts were centralized to form one district. The units which were combined were a *four-room school in Maine Village*; six-room school in Union Center; and nine, one-room schools. Dedication of this system was held at Maine Village, 29 May 1940. The centralized system provided for education of pupils in kindergarten through 9th grade in two schools: one in Maine Village and one in Union Center. The new, two-story large brick school built in Maine village educated students from <sup>79</sup> kindergarten to 9th grade. Pupils in grades 10, 11, and 12 were bussed to high schools in Endicott and Vestal.”





1939 35 Church Street

# School Renamed For Ingalls

The Maine Elementary School has been renamed the J. Ralph Ingalls Elementary



J.  
RALPH  
INGALLS

School in honor of the man who has served schools in the Maine-Endwell area for more than three decades.

The Maine-Endwell Board of Education voted for the change to recognize Mr. Ingalls' "long and outstanding service and dedication to the Maine-Endwell School System and to the cause of education."

Mr. Ingalls, who will be 73 next month, said today he is "very much pleased" with the honor. "There certainly isn't anything else the board could have done that I would have appreciated more," he said.

A retired Endicott Johnson Corp. employe, Mr. Ingalls lives at 7 McGregor Avenue in Maine.

HE SERVED as board president, first for the Maine Central School District and later the Maine-Endwell district for 21 years.

The veteran board member says he plans to retire from the M-E board when his current five-year term expires in July, 1970.

Mr. Ingalls began his service to education in 1938, the year the old Maine Central School District was formed, as school treasurer.

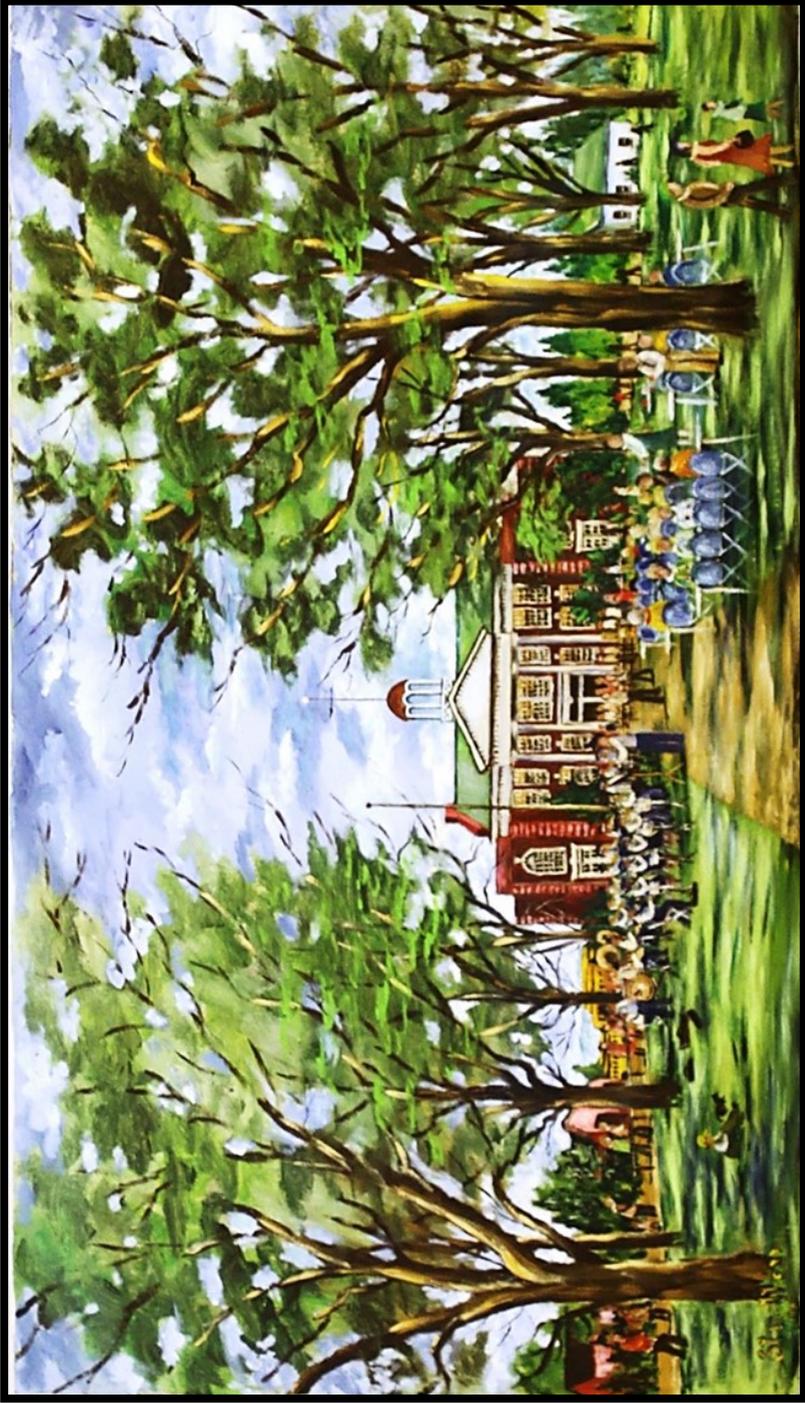
In 1945, he was elected to the district's school board, and five years later, was elected to the board presidency.

When the Maine system was consolidated with the Union Free School District of Endwell in 1957 to become the Maine-Endwell district, he again was elected board president and served as president until 1966 when he was succeeded by Mrs. John T. Caulfield, who since has moved to California.

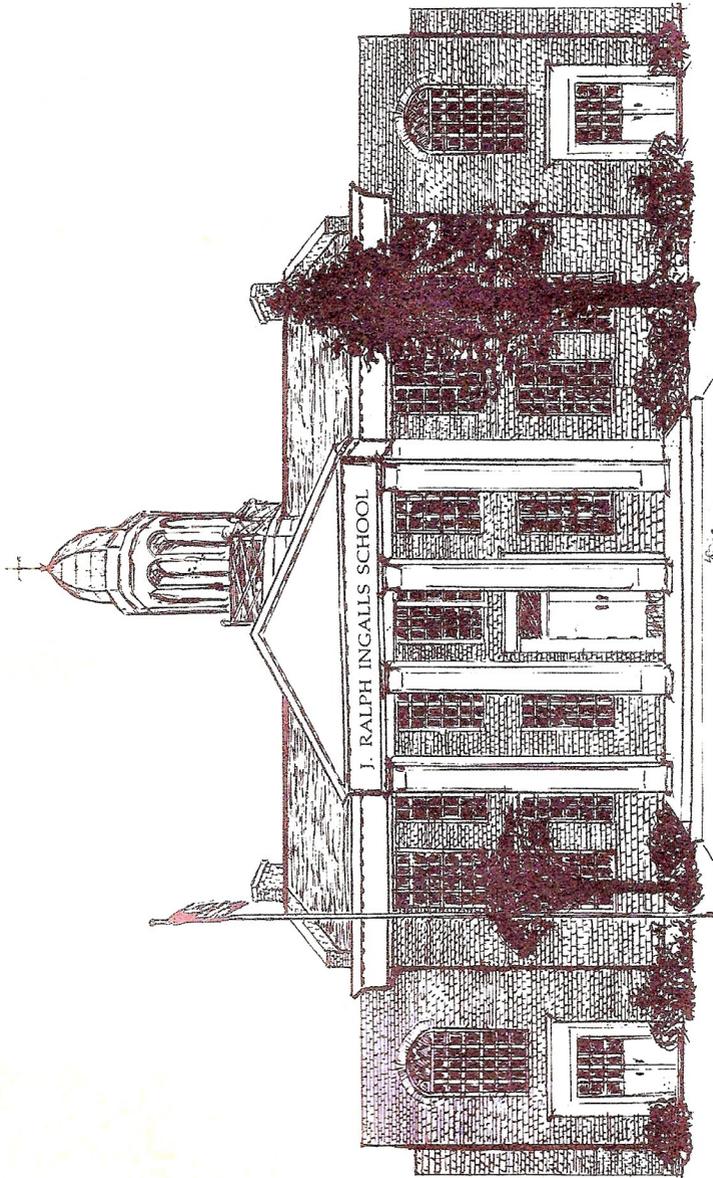
IN A CITATION, the board credited Mr. Ingalls' leadership for the "smooth" consolidation of the two districts and his plan of "spreading the debt" that turned out to be unique in the educational annals of New York State.

Mr. Ingalls' "success as a leader was not because he dominated, but because he commanded respect," the board citation read.

The school named after Mr. Ingalls is in Church Street in Maine. It was built in 1938.



*"Maine Community Band Concert at Maine Central School , Church Street," 1967, (47" X 26"), located in the Maine Memorial Elementary School auditorium. The school was constructed in 1939 and renamed J. Ralph Ingalls school in 1969. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1998.*



J. RALPH INGALLS SCHOOL

1970 sketch of J. Ralph Ingalls school, 35 Church St., drawn by Larry Rice.



**Church Street Lynn Winn 12.3.2019**

*Official Personnel*

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER ONE OF THE TOWNS  
OF MAINE, UNION AND NANTICOKE, BROOME COUNTY, AND  
NEWARK VALLEY AND OWEGO, TIOGA COUNTY, NEW YORK.

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
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ARTHUR G. DECKER, Industrial Arts  
EDWARD L. HERENDEEN, Physical Education  
DOROTHY HUMPHREY, Art (1940-41)  
LEE JUNG, Home Economics  
KEAMER B. WETZEL, Music Supervisor

THE ELEMENTARY FACULTY AT MAINE

OLIVE VANDEBURG, 1st Grade                      LUCY INGALLS, 4th Grade  
JULIA DANEK, 2nd Grade                      VEVA AMES, 5th Grade  
HELEN WHEATON, 3d Grade                      DOLORES LEWIS, 6th Grade

THE ELEMENTARY FACULTY AT UNION CENTER

LENA C. MILLER, 1st Grade                      IRENE BARNER, 3d and 4th Grades  
REVA STRATTON, 2nd Grade                      ESTHER H. FRAZIER, 5th Grade  
CORA WHITTEMORE, 6th Grade                      CLARA BARDEEN, 6th Grade

THE SECRETARY  
GWENDOLYN ADAMS

THE TRANSPORTATION STAFF

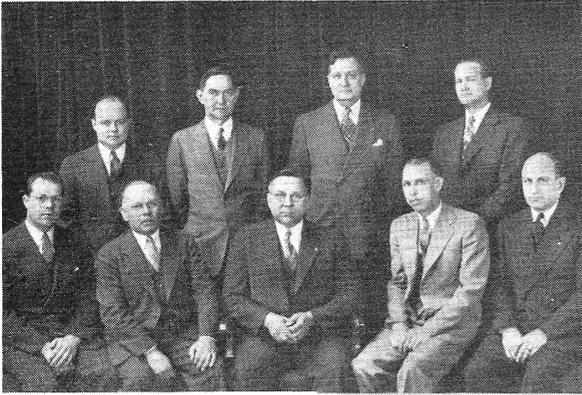
FRED B. PEARSALL, Superintendent of Transportation  
WILLIAM CHRISTOPHER                      RALPH LOOMIS  
THOMAS CUMMINGS                      LAWRENCE PITCHER  
EDGAR FLOOK                      ROBERT VANSLYKE

THE MAINTENANCE STAFF

ALEXANDER BROWN, Custodian, Union Center Roy HOYT, Custodian, Maine  
GRANT RIVENBURG, Assistant, Maine

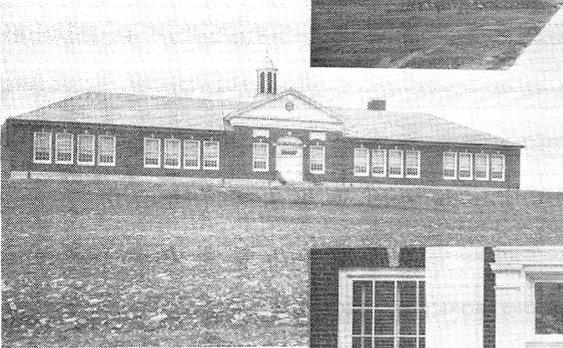
THE BUILDING CONSTRUCTION STAFF

*Architects*                      *Clerk of the Works*                      *Construction Sup't.*  
CONRAD & CUMMINGS                      RAYMOND STAHL                      VINCENT J. SMITH,  
Maine School



Board of Education

Maine Central  
School



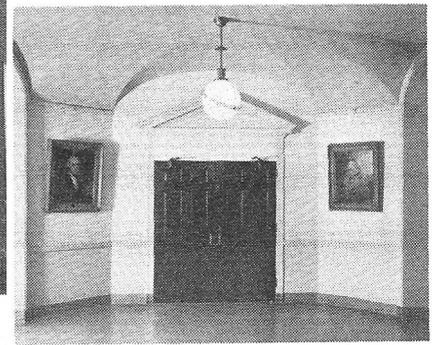
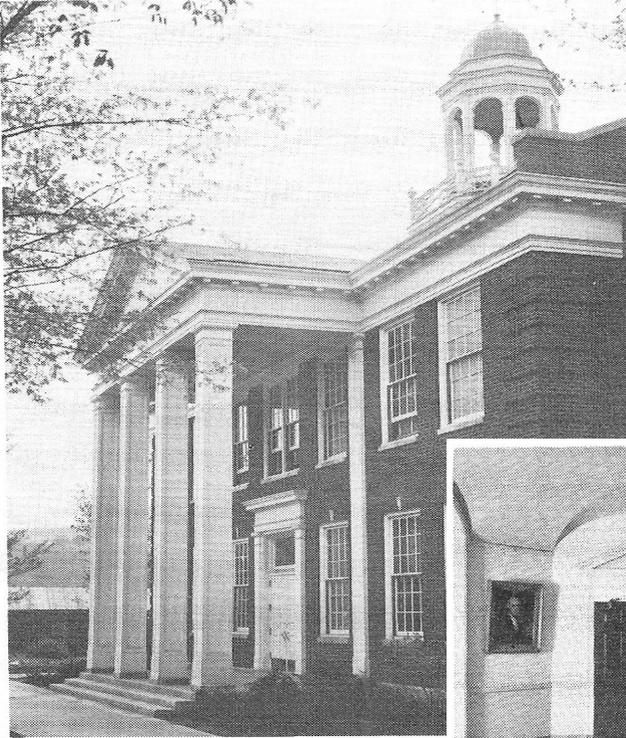
Union Center  
Elementary School



Faculty

Photographs by Foster Disinger  
Binghamton, N. Y.

MAINE CENTRAL SCHOOL  
Broome County, New York

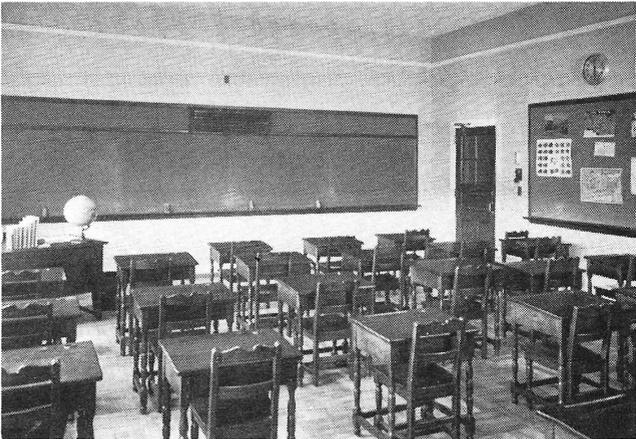


KEY TO GROUP PHOTOGRAPHS

BOARD OF EDUCATION. Front row, left to right: JEROME C. SHAVER, W. C. MCINTYRE, W. B. TYMESON, LESLIE E. OLIVER AND RALPH INGALLS. Back row, left to right: ALTON P. LEWIS, HERBERT H. RAY, CLEMENT G. BOWERS AND KENNETH S. KOON.

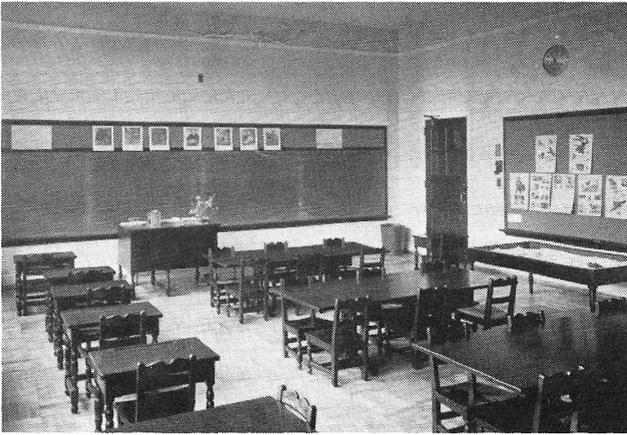
FACULTY. Front row, left to right: CLARENCE BERRY, LEE JUNG, ESTHER FRAZIER, JULIA DANEK, VIRGINIA BOLTON, REVA STRATTON AND J. C. SHAVER. Second row: EDWARD HERENDEEN, OLIVE VANDEBURG, LUCY INGALLS, DOLORES LEWIS, LENA MILLER, VEVA AMES, CLARA BARDEEN, HELEN WHEATON AND ARTHUR DECKER. Back row: KEAMER WETZEL, GUSTAVUS BENTLEY AND IRENE BARNER.

History Room



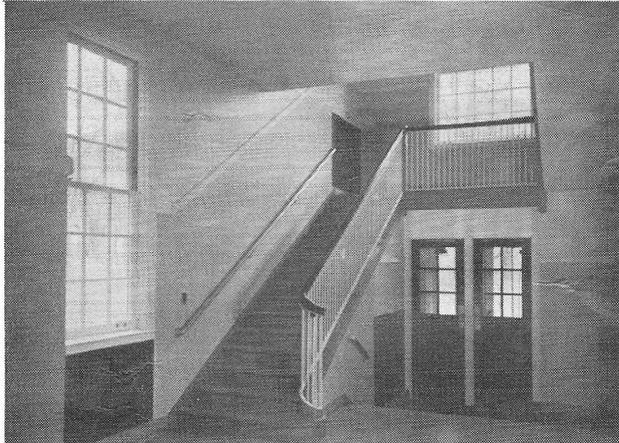
Auditorium

First Grade Room





Home Making Room



Stair Hall  
and  
Corridor



Library

## *Some Interesting Personalities*

During their existence of almost a Century and a half, the schools of the territory now included in our Central District have been training your people who, we like to believe, are second to none in inherent qualities of merit. That the native stock is endowed with a high load of potential ability and natural effectiveness seems borne out by the records of those who have made names for themselves in the world outside of Maine. Neither time nor space has permitted the preparation of a complete list or the presentation of adequate records of their achievements, but with little effort we have secured an imposing array of names representing personages who, mostly, are or have been of considerable importance in the nation—several of international significance. That an area of such small proportions and modest means could produce so many prominent sons and daughters in the span of a couple of generations seems little short of amazing. This knowledge should be an inspiration to all of us, and it should especially serve as an incentive to the younger generation.

Accordingly we present herewith a list of names with brief citations of persons who seem to have achieved special prominence, or who, for other reasons, are of very special interest. We suspect that several who deserve to be on this list are not included, owing to time limitations on our research. Most of those included in this list were born in this District or lived here for a considerable time. A very few, however, are immediate children of Maine parentage, born elsewhere, whose importance to the world has been such that it reflects great credit upon the stock from which they came. Accordingly, we have included these as well as two or three others whose fame did not transcend local bounds, but whose significance to this community has been of signal import. "Who's Who in America" and similar source books have been liberally drawn upon, since nearly half these people have gained recognition in such national works. We take pride in presenting the following list of interesting personalities, most of whom we can regard as our distinguished alumni.

ANDREWS, EUGENE M. Banker. Born in Connecticut, 1843. Lived in Union Center many years. President of the Farmers' National Bank of Union; public official and Trustee of the N. Y. Agricultural Experiment Station. Now deceased.

BOWERS, LaMONT M. Executive. Born at Bowers Corners, 1847. For thirty years on personal advisory staff of John D. Rockefeller; organized shipping on Great Lakes; head of Colo. Fuel & Iron Co.

BOWERS, FRANCK TAYLOR. Artist. Son of the preceding. Studied in New York and Paris; teacher of art; illustrator; National Academy Exhibitor. Died 1932.

BROWN, CURTIS. Journalist. Born in 1866, son of Ellen Curtis of Maine. London correspondent for American papers, 1398; organized a literary agency and has been very prominent in publishing and literary circles for over 40 years. Resides in London, Eng.

BUTLER, WILLIAM MORRIS, M. D. Neurologist. Born in Maine, 1850. Prominent specialist in nervous and mental diseases; author. Died in Brooklyn, N. Y.

- CASEY, DANIEL. Noted Baseball Player. Born in East Maine. Served on the big leagues and immortalized in E. L. Thayer's poem, "Casey at the Bat," (1888).
- CURTIS, RODNEY. Business Man. Born in Maine before 1850. Organized tramway system and was prominent in Denver for many years; an important street in that city is named for him.
- DAYTON, HENRY. Teacher. Born in 1830. For forty years Mr. Dayton taught in the schools of this district and as such was the beloved preceptor of many celebrities in this list. Died in 1923.
- FISHER, ERNEST. Business Man. Born in Bowers Corners District, 1850. Executive of large electrical manufacturing firm in Michigan.
- GATES, FREDERICK TAYLOR, LL. D. Educator and Executive. Born in Gates District, 1853. Co-founder of Chicago University; originator and Chairman of General Education Board and Rockefeller Foundation; co-founder of Rockefeller Institute. Chief business and benevolent executive on personal staff of John D. Rockefeller. Died, 1929.
- GATES, FREDERICK, L., M. D. Scientist. Son of the preceding. For many years Assistant to Dr. Alexis Carrel; died in 1933 while conducting important biological research at Harvard University.
- GATES FRANKLIN H. Banker. Son of F. T. Gates. First Vice-President of the Chase National Bank, New York City.
- GATES, RUSSELL. Business Man. Born in Gates District, 1845. For many years a prominent mercantile man and livestock dealer in Colorado. Died 1915.
- GRAY, JOHN W., M. D. Pathologist. Born in Gates District, 1883. Research worker and author of scientific papers on arthritis, etc. Member institutional staffs, Newark, N. J. and New York City.
- HINAMAN, JULIA M. Educator and Publicist. Born 1895. Represented Russell Sage Foundation before League of Nations, Geneva, on Child Welfare; publicity director for League of Women Voters in Washington, D. C. at time Suffrage Amendment was passed. Resided in Maine and was onetime teacher in Mt. Ettrick and Tiona schools. Died 1927.
- HINE, COLONEL CHARLES DeLANO. Army Officer and Railroad Executive. Born in Virginia, 1867; son of Major Orrin E. Hine and Alma DeLano, both of Maine. West Point graduate; Major in Spanish War; led famous 69th Regt. ("Fighting Irish") overseas in World War as Colonel; later on staff duty. Studied law; became railroad executive and expert advisor for Harriman lines. Now deceased.
- HOGG, WILLIAM. Founder of Mt. Ettrick. Came here in 1839; from Ettrick Parish, Selkirk, Scotland; was relative of Scotch poet, James Hogg ("The Ettrick Shepherd"). Before coming here with his relatives, William Hogg was shepherd for Sir Walter Scott at Abbotsford for fifteen years. He named Mt. Ettrick District.
- HOLDEN, OREN. Public Official. Born in Maine, 1842. Became prominent in County and State politics and held position in New York Customs House. Deceased.
- HOWARD, ARCHIBALD. Lawyer. Prominent member of the Broome County Bar. Both parents were born in Maine.
- HUGHES, ADA MAREAN. Educator. Born near DeLano's Cors. Taught at Bowers Corners school; President of the International Kindergarten Association; lived in Toronto, Can. Deceased.
- LOOMIS, LESTER, D. D., College Professor. Born in Maine, 1886. Professor of Religious Education and Secretary-Treasurer of Keuka College, Penn Yan, N. Y.
- MAREAN, JOSIAH TAYLOR. Jurist. Born in Bowers Corners District, 1842. District Attorney, Kings County, 1897; Justice Supreme Court of New York, 1899-1912. Lived in Brooklyn, N. Y. Deceased.
- MAREAN, LAURA. Educator. Born in Bowers Corners District. For many years Principal of a school in St. Joseph, Mo. Deceased.

MARÉAN, WILLIS ADAMS. Architect. Born 1853. A prominent architect in Denver, Colo., from 1880.

PIERCE, ANNA E. Educator. Born at Union Center. Dean of Albany Teachers College.

ROSS, WILLIAM McALLISTER. Jurist. Born in Gates District, 1850. Graduate of Harvard and Justice of the Supreme Court of New York. Lived in Syracuse, N. Y.

SLOSSON, EDWIN E., Ph. D. Scientist. Born in Kansas, 1865; both parents from Maine. Professor of Chemistry and Scientific Editor; director of Science Service; prominent scientific writer. Deceased.

TAYLOR, JOHN MILTON. Merchant. Came from New Hampshire with father's family in 1822; taught school in Broome County; conducted one of first stores in Maine, before 1837; later prominent as wholesale drygoods merchant in New York City and is reputed to have been a co-founder of Adams Express Company. Died about 1860.

VINCENT, EDGAR L. Author and Editor. Born 1851; came to Maine, 1888 and lived here for many years at DeLano's Corners. Wrote novels, religious books and many agricultural articles for rural publications; member of N. Y. State Assembly. Deceased.

WELLER, STUART, Ph. D. Geologist. Born in Maine, 1870. Professor of Geology, Chicago University; authority on geology and palaeontology; author of many scientific papers. Deceased.

## Oil Paintings

The oil paintings are copies, made especially for this school directly from originals hanging in the Metropolitan Museum of Art and in the New York Historical Society. The work was done by artists of the Federal Art Project in New York City. Two of the paintings are still in preparation, while five of them have been received. All exemplify the work of famous artists. A certain amount of expense, incurred in their preparation and framing, had to be reimbursed before our school could receive these works of art, and this was secured by contributions. The following benefactors who generously covered these expenses and sponsored the various paintings are listed as follows, with title of painting:

TITLE	ARTIST	SPONSOR
Entrance Foyer, Maine		
George Washington	Gilbert Stuart	Maine Lodge 399, F. & A. M.
Benjamin Franklin	Joseph S. Duplessis	Mr. Raymond Stahl
Alexander Hamilton	John Trumbull	Mr. Herbert H. Ray
Thomas Jefferson	Rembrandt Peale	Mr. Vincent J. Smith
Entrance Hall, Maine		
Col. George Coussmaker	Sir Joshua Reynolds	Messrs. Conrad & Cummings
Library, Maine		
Lady With A Pink	Rembrandt Van Ryn	Mr. Clement G. Bowers
Assembly Room, Union Center		
Hendrickje Stoffels	Rembrandt Van Ryn	Popular Subscription

Other schools found within the town of Maine 1885

**From the "Book of Schools" 25 March 1885.**

District	No	Pupils 5-21 years	Aver. Daily Attendance
Maine Village,	1	85	33,785
North Maine	2	51	18,557
Gates	3	16	7,842
Allentown	4	40	14,221
East Maine	6	45	19,350
Curtis	7	24	11,535
Mt. Ettrick	9	38	18,335
Bougham	10	33	17,114
Brocket Hollow	11	34	11,150
New Ireland	13	33	7,150
Kelly (Pollard Hill)	14	16	7,507
Union Center	15	88	38,714
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	12	555	248,795

**1960 Graduating Class Maine School District**

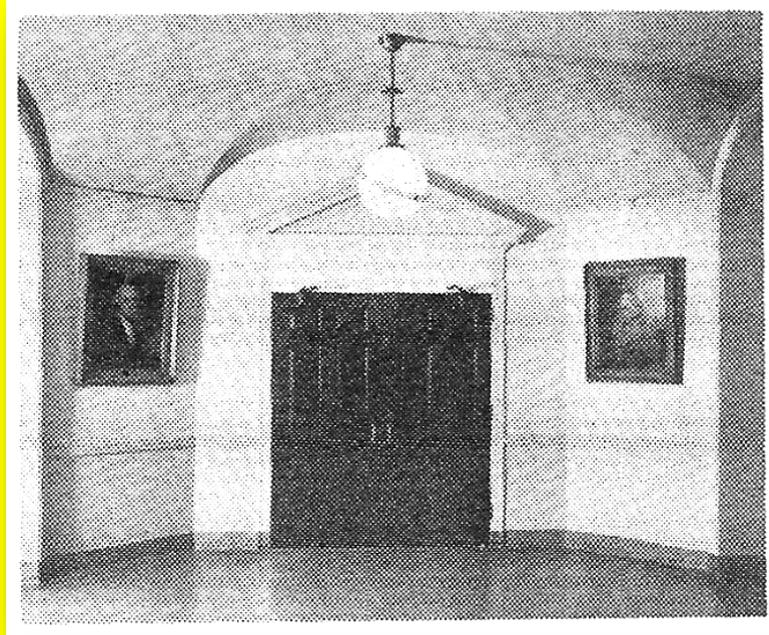






In 1938 construction started on this building to consolidate the numerous one room schools (9) in the town of Maine. This building plus another one in Union Center opened in 1940. Designed by Conrad and Cummings of Binghamton its form and details were inspired by colonial architecture in Williamsburg, VA.. In 1969 the school was renamed J. Ralph Ingalls school in honor of Ingalls, a school board member who served in the navy and was also an Endicott Johnson employee. Special oil painting reproductions were commissioned for the building and after 1983 when the building was closed the art works were given to the NVHS by Michael McKilligan. In 1998 this building was added to the National Register of Historic Places. Mike McKilligan willed the building to the Nanticoke Valley Historical Society in 2022.





This painting, by Edward Pomeroy painted in 1977, depicts the Gates District school on Nanticoke road located about two miles from the town center. Many of the original school buildings are still around and were moved and attached to houses or turned into private homes.