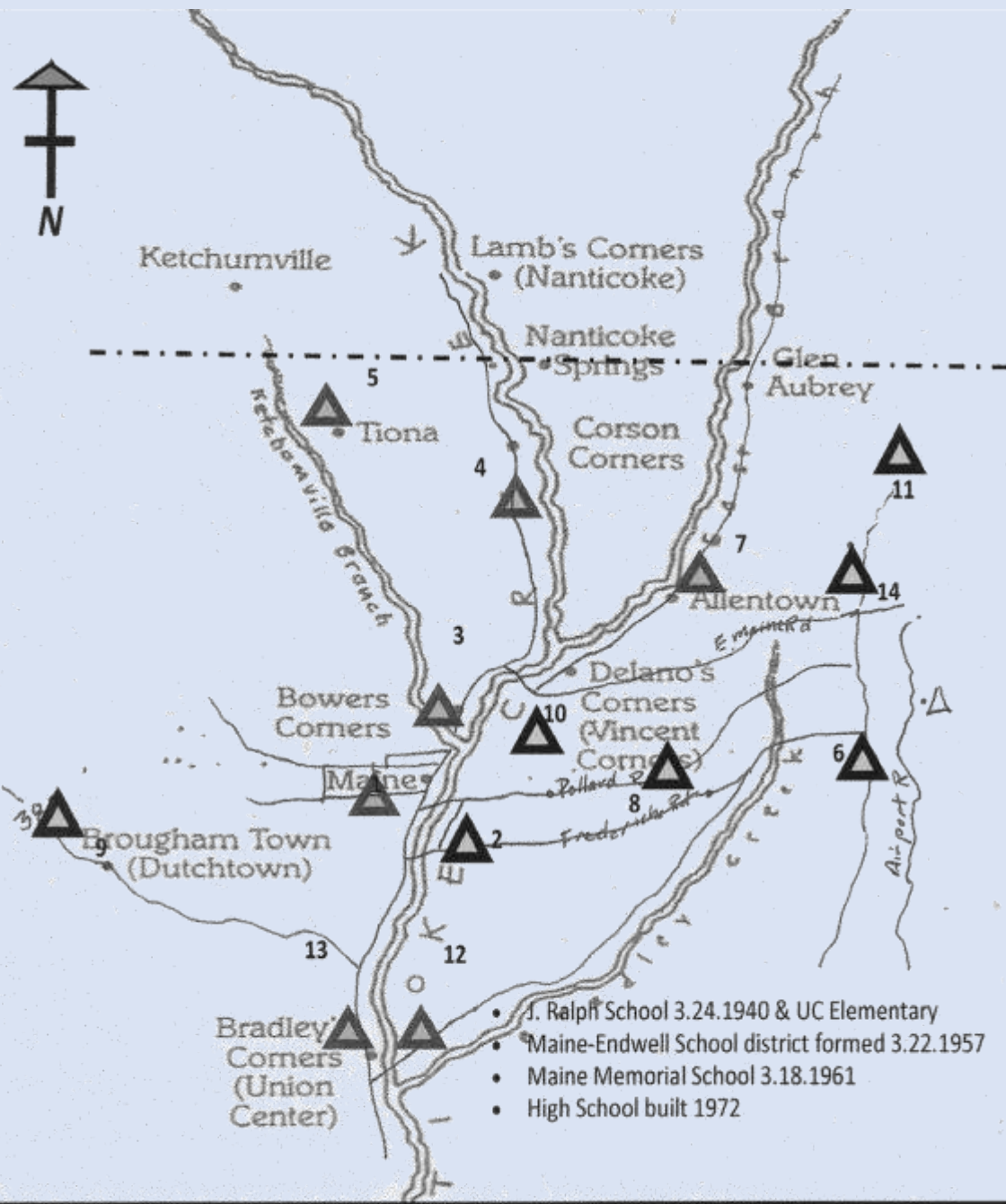




A Brief Photographic History of
Schools Near Maine, NY
Prior to 1940
by
The Nanticoke Valley Historical
Society of Maine, NY
May 2025



Maine District #18 - Schools Prior to 1848 - 1938

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Maine Village Church St. 4 Room ca. 1833 | 8. Brockett Hollow ca. 1855 Frederick Rd. |
| 2. Curtis School ca. 1819—1900 off Rte.26 | 9. Broughamtown School ca. 1866 604 Rte. 38B |
| 3. Bowers Corners ca. 1850 Tiona and Nanticoke Rd | 10. Pollard Hill ca. 1884 448 Pollard Hill Rd. |
| 4. Gates School ca. 1855 Nanticoke Road. | Also called George Kelley |
| | 11. Mt. Ettrick School ca. 1860 Airport terminal |
| 5. North Maine or Tiona School ca. 1865 649 Tiona Rd. | 12. Bradley Creek School |
| 6. Finch Hollow* Townline & Oakdale Rd. | 13. Union Center School ca. 1866 |
| 7. Allentown School Flint and Rte. 26 | 14. East Maine ca. 1851 |

One-Room Schoolhouse No. 4

In March of 1998 the Nanticoke Valley Historical Society received a donation of a one-room schoolhouse built in the 1840's. The schoolhouse was built in 1845 and was used as a K-12 school until 1942. Located at the intersection of Campville Road and Cafferty Hill Road, it was originally called Schoolhouse No. 4 and was part of the joint school district of Tioga/Town of Union.

The Schoolhouse Committee of the NVHS was formed for the purpose of establishing an authentic, hands-on museum in Maine, N.Y. The addition of this building has helped create a unique complex of buildings including the existing House Museum, Pitcher's Mill, and Carriage barns.

The Schoolhouse Committee held a variety of activities and received grants to raise the funds needed to move the schoolhouse and restore it to its original condition. There was an outpouring of community support, generosity, and enthusiasm for this project.

On Saturday, May 15, 1999 a Groundbreaking ceremony marked the beginning of an exciting chain of events. The new site at the intersection of Nanticoke Road and Route 26 was prepared and a concrete foundation was poured. Meanwhile, groups of volunteers dismantled the roof and chimney on Schoolhouse No. 4 to prepare it for its 12 mile move.

On Thursday, June 10, 1999 the schoolhouse was moved and placed in its new home. Over the next few months a hand-laid stone foundation was built under the elevated building. After it was lowered onto the stones a new cedar shake roof was put on and Schoolhouse No. 4. The building was closed up for the winter and once Spring 2000 arrived further renovations and restoration began.

On Sunday, September 24, 2000 the Dedication Ceremony took place and Schoolhouse No. 4 was officially opened to the public.



- School House #4
 - 1845 to 1942
 - Grades K– 12
 - Bornt Hill School
- Part of Tioga/ Town of Union SD





June 10, 1999



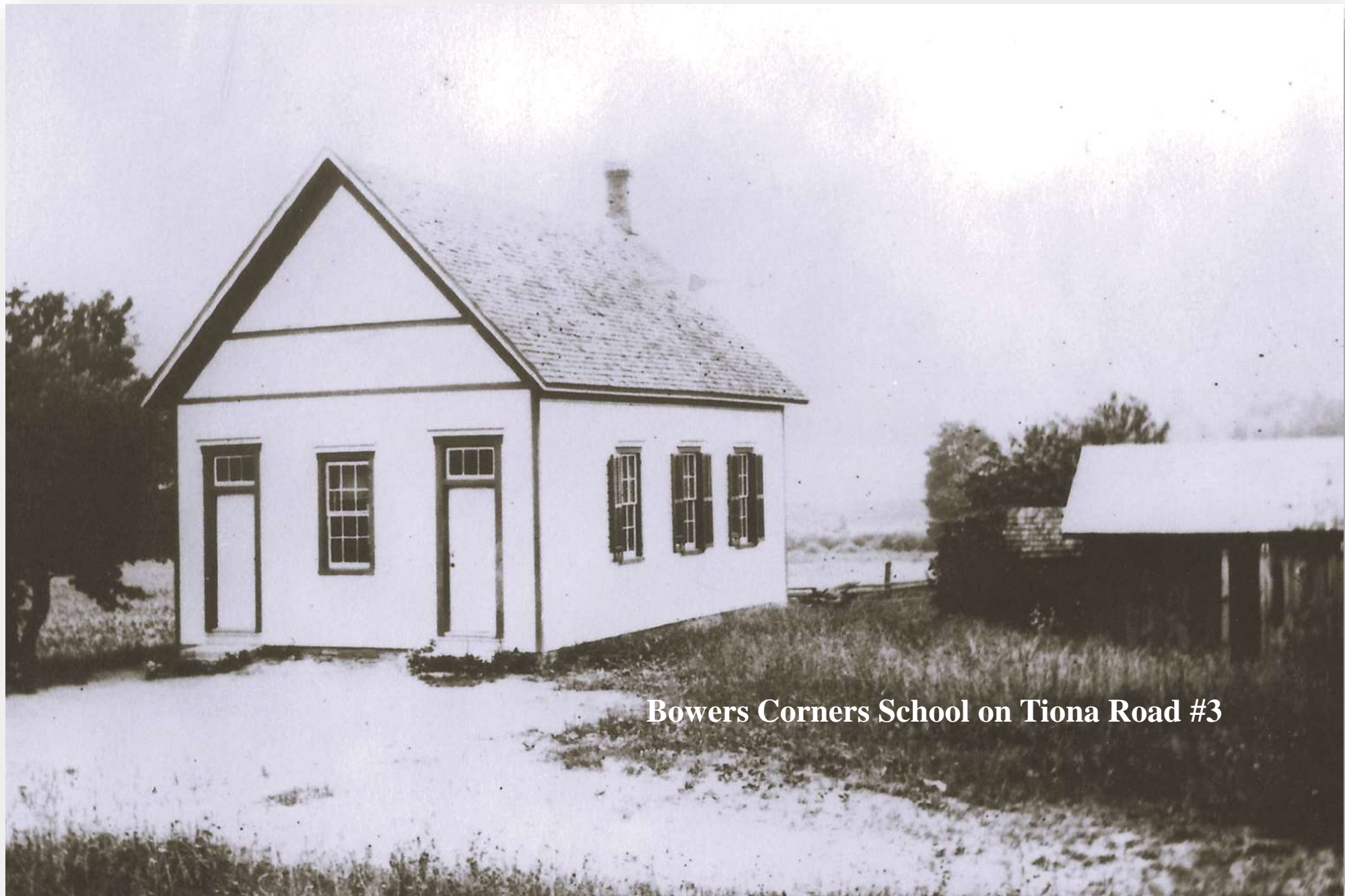
September 24, 2000 Former #4 Students



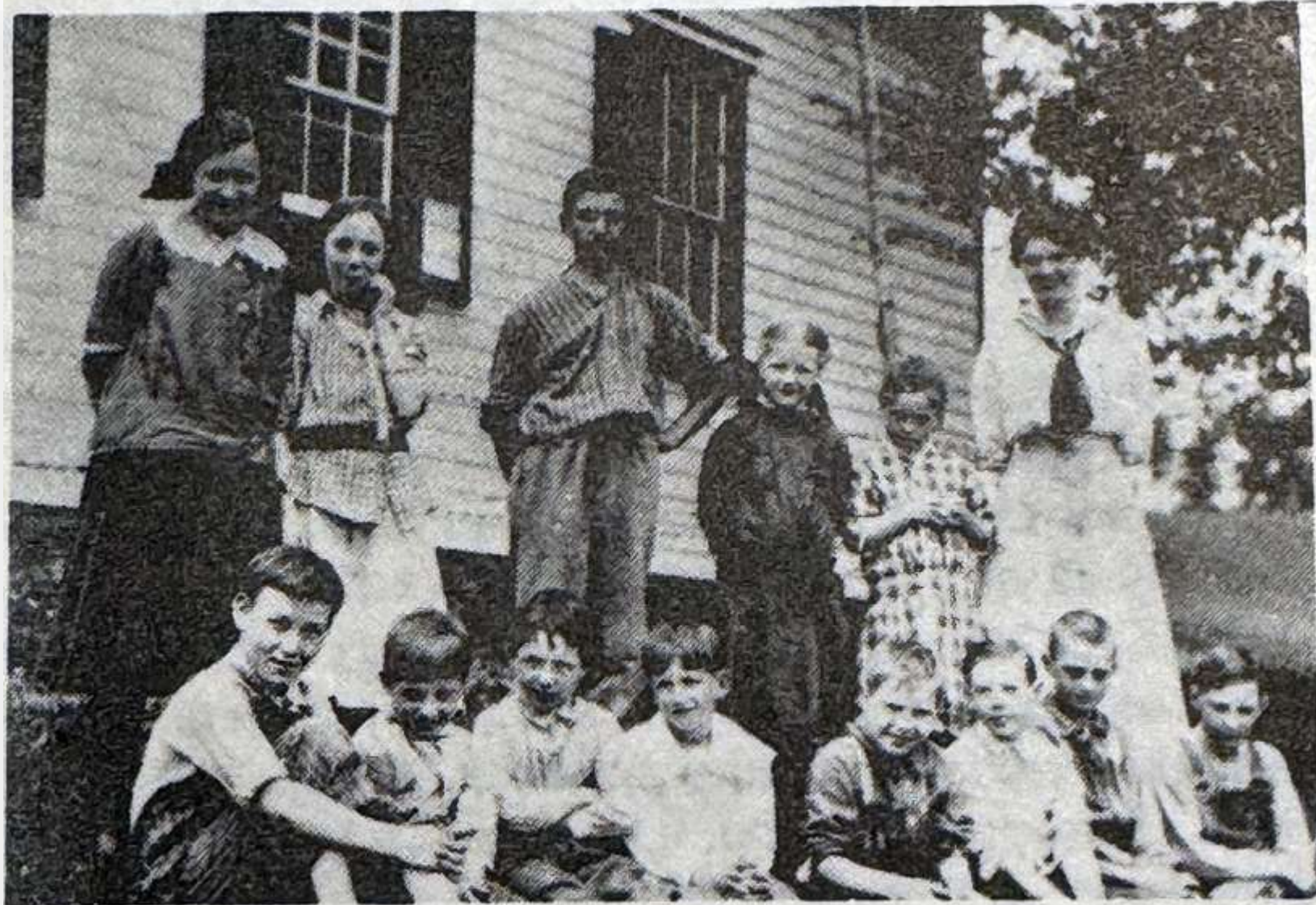
The Thorntons who donated the school house

Broughamtown School 1910 on 38B #9





Bowers Corners School on Tiona Road #3



TIONA SCHOOL (North Maine #5) Class 1915-17



Mt. Ettrick School #11—(where airport is today!)

Pollard Hill School— George Kelley #10



**Bornt Hill School 1913 Cafferty and and Campville Roads Not part of Maine
Teacher Mrs. Bennett Back Row: Jennie Plain Pierce left ,
Front second Boy on right Frank Plaine
This is the building at 14 Nanticoke Road**





Gates School #4 on Nanticoke Road

STORY OF A TEACHER

By Blanche Walter

“I had a contract to teach the one room school of Gates District, Maine, New York for the 1932-1933 year. I was thrilled! I was 19 years old. The school opened in September of 1932 with twenty-one pupils of various grades. They were good children and I cared for them.

In the beginning, New York State divided the state into local school districts. The schoolhouse was in the center with a one- mile radius going from the center like spokes in a wheel. Children came from all directions. They also lived on farms on different roads. Each family had their own path. A large group came together. The farthest had to come a mile. The children from farms along the way joined them. The children took care of each other. I don't recall any problems with tardiness. They walked in all kinds of weather. I had the fire going early on cold days. Also, I had left a good fire in the heatrola the night before. It was a task to get them warm, dry and comfortable during bad weather times. We draped coats around to be dry by the time they needed them to go home.”

Blanche was a teacher, beginning at 19 years of age, in the one-room school house of the Gates District, Maine, N.Y. Later she taught in the Maine-Endwell Schools. Mrs. Walter was also a Sunday School Teacher for 54 years at First Baptist Church in Maine, N.Y. She was a member of Fellowship Baptist Church, Dalton, Pa.



Gates School - painted by Ed Pomeroy 1977



Curtis School – across from American Legion Route 26 #2

Allentown School # 7 Route 26





Church Street School – before Maine Central

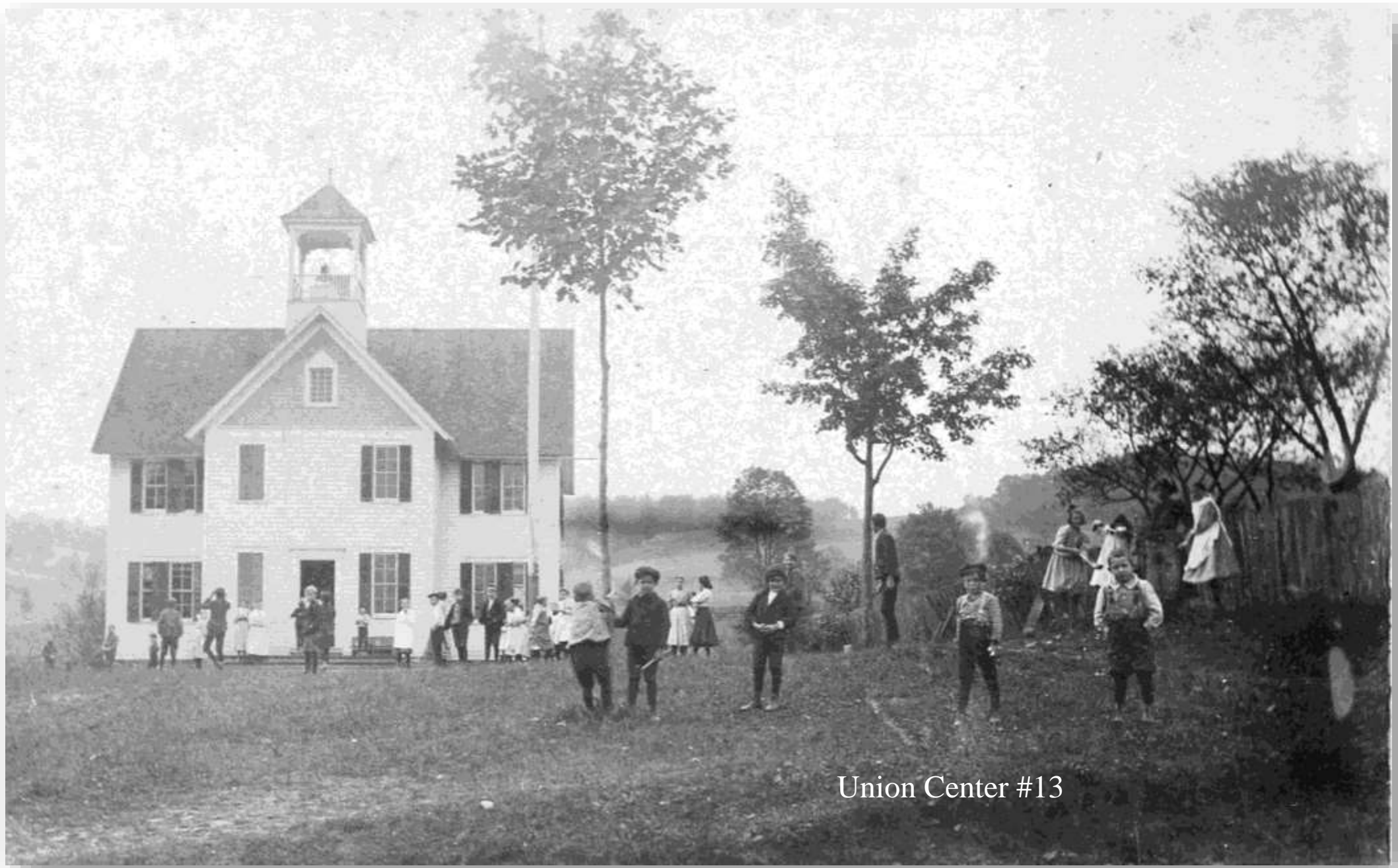


Maine Central School on Church Street 1939



Maine Academy

Held in this home on Main Street was taught by Professor William Gates . Students came from as far away as Owego to attend this institution. It taught the upper grades (high school) and closed in 1852. Professor Gates taught; languages, mathematics and science.

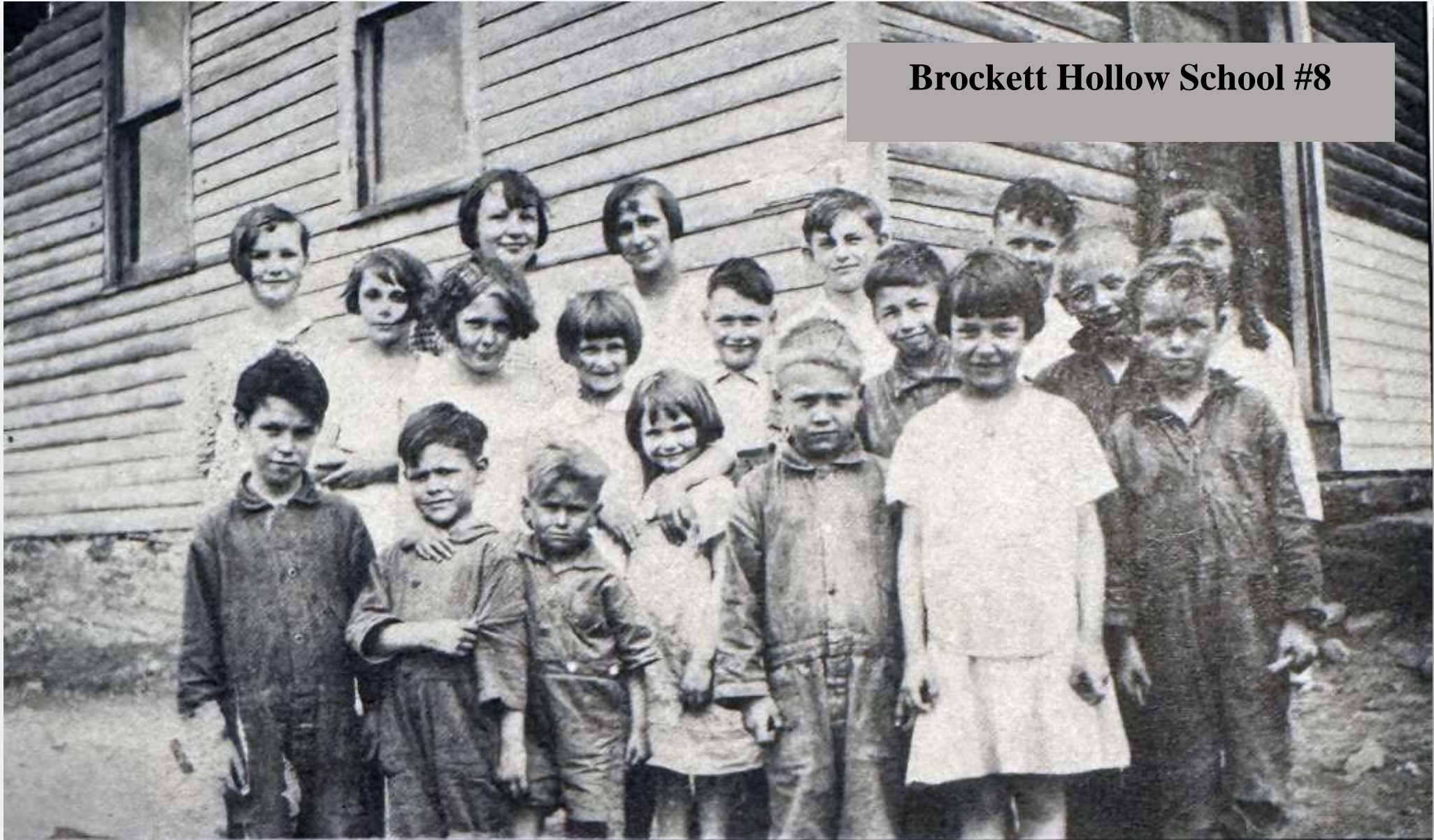


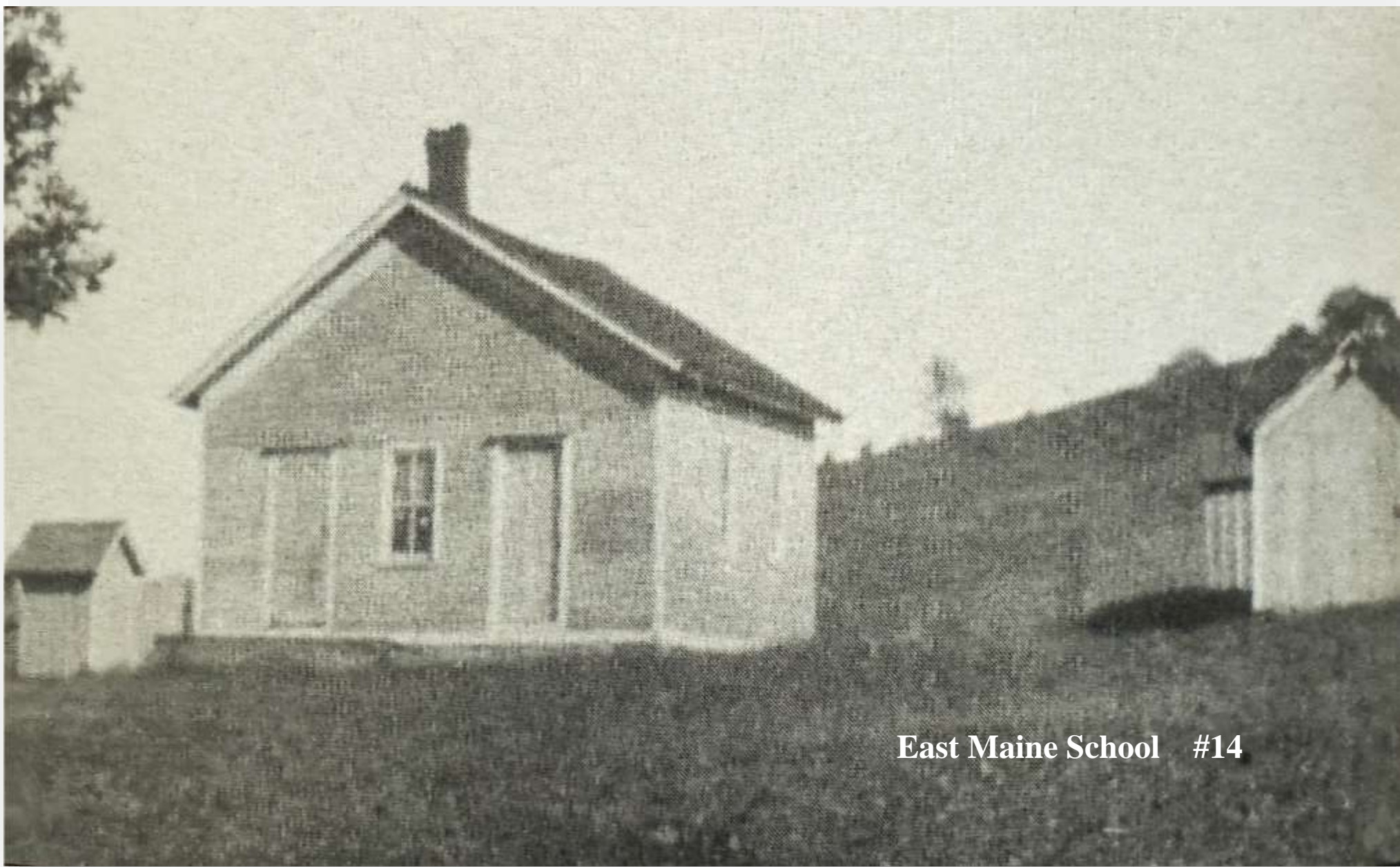
Union Center #13



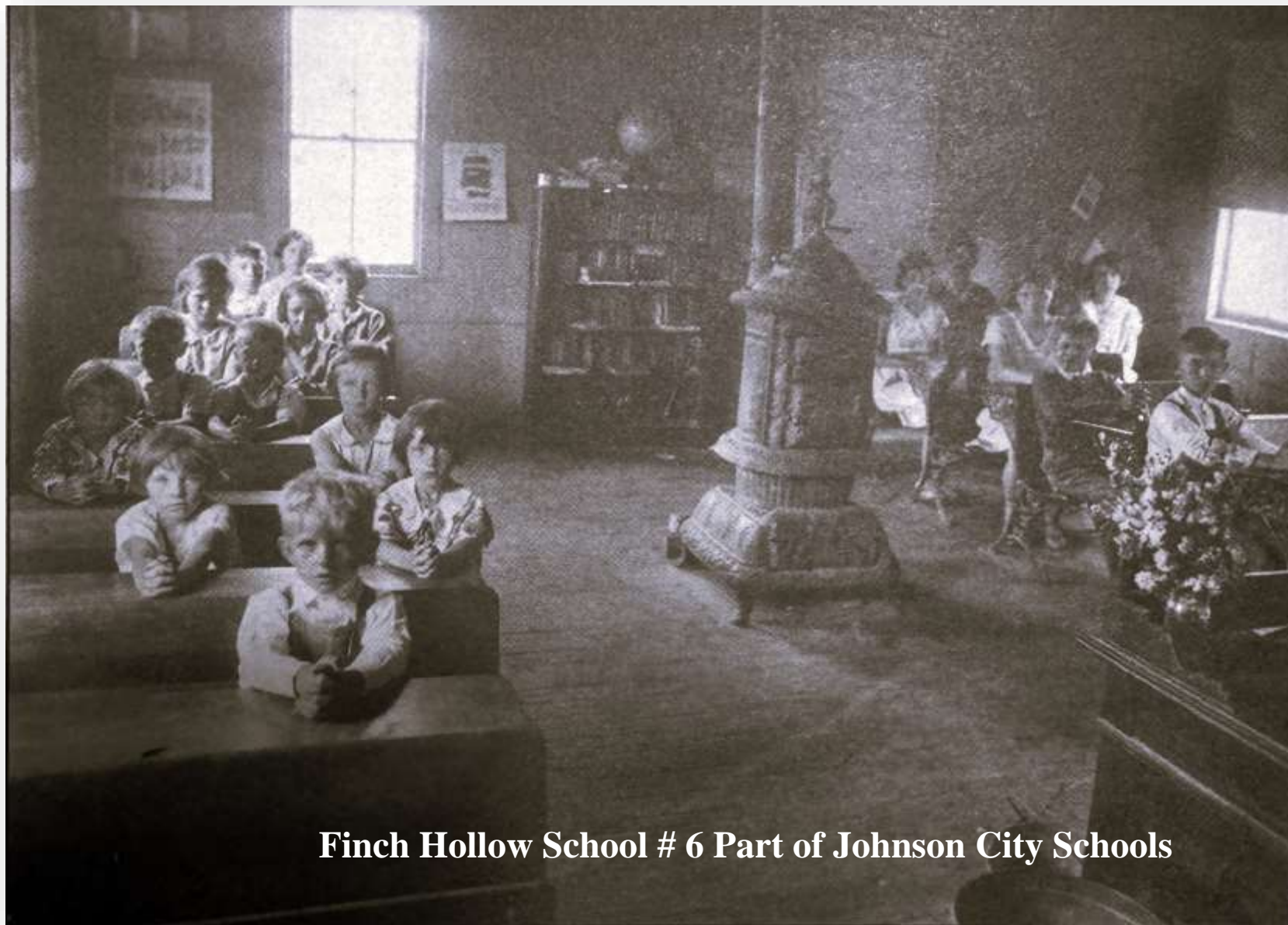
Bradley Creek School Union Center #12

Brockett Hollow School #8





East Maine School #14



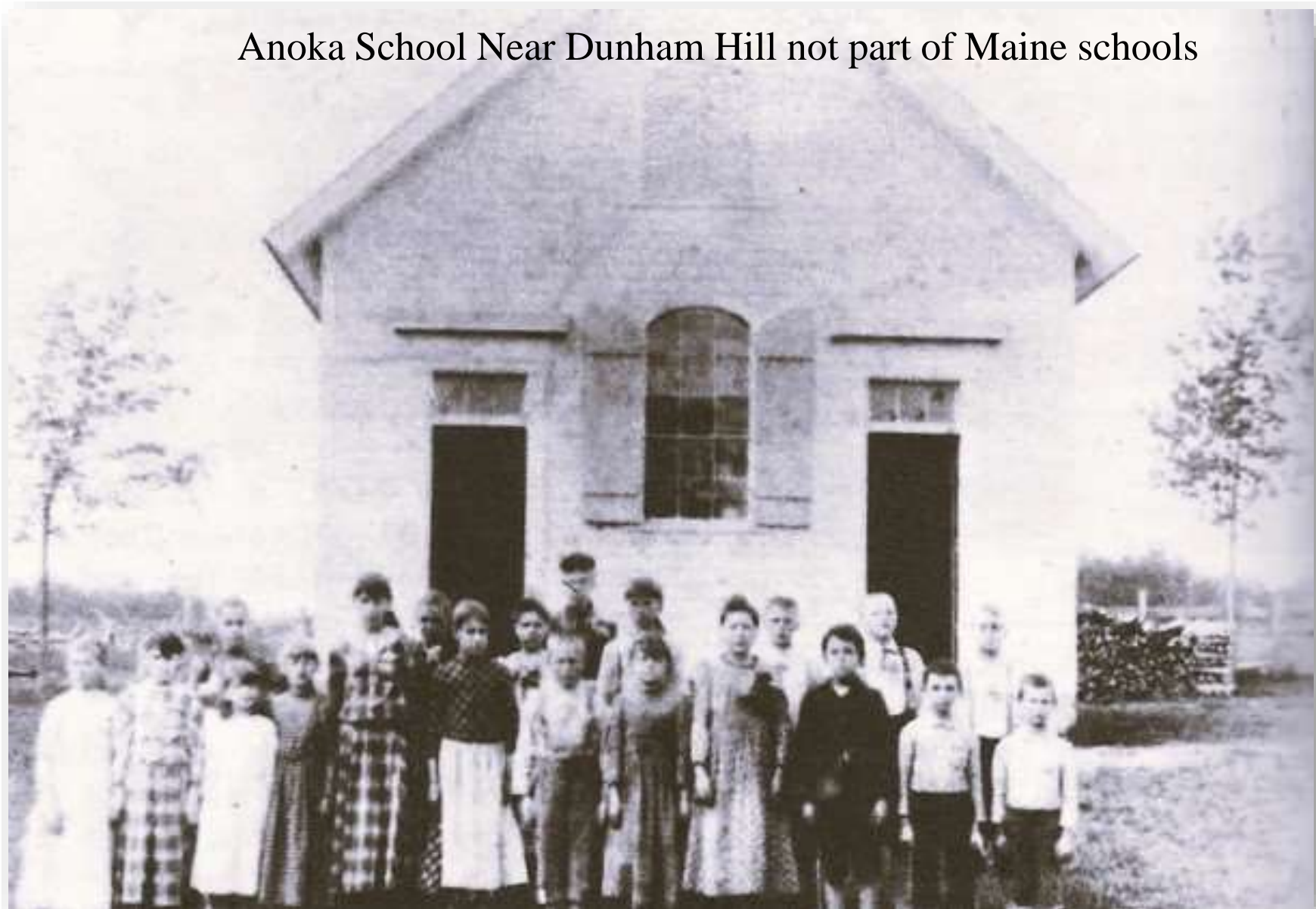
Finch Hollow School # 6 Part of Johnson City Schools





New Ireland School—Airport and Upper Stella Ireland (County 89) Roads

Anoka School Near Dunham Hill not part of Maine schools



MANNERS AND MORALS IN THE CLASSROOM

*"I see the boys and girls with their books and slates.
When the bell rings, they will go in.
A good child likes to go to school."*

— McGuffey's Eclectic Primer, 1881



Schoolmasters taught their students about manners and morals as well as lessons from their school books. It was important that the teacher taught the children how to behave in school as well as at home.

Students were expected to learn: Punctuality, truthfulness, honesty, courtesy, self-control, generosity, industry, neatness and kindness.

The Five-Finger Lesson

Of all the virtues mentioned, five were selected for easy memorization. These five virtues came to be known as the "Five-Finger Lesson."

In the "Five-Finger Lesson" pupils were taught truthfulness, honesty, punctuality, cleanliness and kindness. Each virtue was assigned to a finger in turn and all virtues were recited in order each day by reciting the virtue and bending the corresponding finger with the same finger of the opposite hand.

"May your 'five-finger lesson' be valuable to you throughout your school day and when you go home."



THE MCGUFFEY READERS were the most influential educational publications of early America. Written in the 1830's by William McGuffey, an Ohio professor, these books were well suited to the educational needs of the people.

Herein follows the first stanza of a poem from McGuffey's Fourth Eclectic Reader that students everywhere were encouraged to memorize:



*"Try, Try Again
'Tis a lesson you should heed,
Try, try again;
If at first you don't succeed,
Try, try again;
Then your courage should appear,
For, if you persevere,
You will conquer, never fear;
Try, try again."*

Bad Behavior

"Bad" behavior in the classroom led to any one of a number of punishments. Sometimes children were ordered to memorize long passages or write lines over and over. Teachers also shamed their students by making them wear a "dunce cap" or a sign around their neck. One of the most common punishments was getting a whipping with a hickory switch.



Good Handwriting

In glancing over old school contracts, it is apparent that in almost all cases, the schoolmaster is specified as a writing master; the chief requisite of a school teacher was that he should be a good teacher of penmanship.

Indeed, good handwriting was thought to be the sign of a cultured person.

The Town of Maine, New York



*P*roclamation

Whereas:

The Nanticoke Valley Historical Society, founded in 1969 is charged with; "The development and preservation of the history and the historic sites in the Nanticoke Valley and its environs in the Town of Maine, Nanticoke and Union in Broome County."

Whereas:

Schoolhouse No. 4, circa 1845, was moved from Bornt Hill Road, Endicott, New York to 14 Nanticoke Road, Maine, in the year 2000.

Whereas:

The Nanticoke Valley Historical Society has used this building for students and adults to experience what education was like in Broome County during the mid-1800s.

Now, Therefore:

I, James Tokos, Supervisor of the Town of Maine, New York, do hereby proclaim June 16, 2025 as Schoolhouse No. 4 Day throughout the Town of Maine and encourage all citizens to recognize the Nanticoke Valley Historical Society for the significant impact the one-room schoolhouse has had on our community.

Signed this 1st day of May in the year twenty twenty five.

James Tokos

Supervisor

June 16, 2025
Schoolhouse #4 Day
25 years in Maine, NY
Opened in 1845