

Warren Township Schools

The first school in Warren was taught by R. Lee, in 1807. Overall, public institutions in Warren Township have undergone increased consolidation. Originally there were at least fourteen distinct school districts in the township. By the 1870's there were twelve school districts, and they were still operating in the same way by 1903, when records indicate that the average number of months of instruction was seven. There were then two male teachers and ten female teachers, 148 male students and 104 female students. During the first half of the twentieth century, these districts were further consolidated to one school in Warren Center by the early twentieth century and eventually to the North East Bradford school district. The motives for this consolidation can be seen in H. L. Putnam's report on Bradford County, from the 1903 record. Besides noting concerns over poor teacher salaries and student transportation his main position was, "Laws should be enacted which shall encourage the people in sparsely settled districts to better their schools ... this should be apportioned in such a manner as to encourage needed improvements, such as transportation of pupils and consolidation of schools." (Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, 1903: p. 36, 362)

The school referred to in the Parley Colburn House was attended voluntarily by the children of a few settlers, the teacher either donating his time or was paid with free board, a few bushels of wheat, potatoes or apples. It will be noted that the term now known as "school tax rate" had not even been invented because maintenance was made by free will donations. Free schools under state supervision came thirty years later in 1834. The first County Superintendent of Schools to supervise Warren Township Schools was elected in 1854.

Information is scarce on schools in our territory up to 1893. The following, however is an exact account of a school board meeting held Saturday, September 2, 1893 in Abell's Hall. "At the call of the President of the School Board met in Abell's Hall, Saturday, September 2, 1893 at 2 o'clock P.M. for the purpose of purchasing books and supplies for the schools of Warren Township in compliance with the "Free text book" law approved May 18, 1893. Members present were: President C.E. Corbin, G.B. Sleeper, A.H. Bowen, R.C. Whitaker, M.H. Deuel. John Prince being absent. Minutes of previous meeting were read and approved. It was moved and adopted that we supply our schools with Barnes History of the United States in place of Swintons. Also, that we adopt Robinson's Shorter Course Arithmetics in place of Robinson's Practical Higher Course. Mr. H.W. Childs representing Sheldon and Company and Americal Book Company, publishers of New Yourk was present. Through him we ordered a Sheldon and Company Readers and Spellers to the amount of \$48.64 and of the American Book Company, books to the amount of \$159.58. They allowed us 20% discount from their list price. Guy w. Peck of Towanda was present. Of him we ordered school supplies to the amount of \$29.27. There being no further business, the board adjourned to meet later over J.F. Cooper's Store. Members present were: C.E. Corbin, G.B. Sleeper, A.H. Bowen, M.H. Deuel and R.C. Whitaker." The selection of the teachers for the fall and winter term of 1893-1894 was unanimously ratified. Each teacher received \$26 monthly. The term of five months was changed to six months. The County Superintendent was G.W. Ryan.

The minutes of the meeting continued to state that Miss Annetta Patton (Mrs. Silas Sleeper) came to the board with an apparatus for teaching Astronomical Geography. The Board decided not to purchase it. At the same meeting the Board voted to secure boxes in which the books were to be placed and the boxes nailed up for the summer. Facts concerning the finances of the schools were: Receipts – State Aid - \$1102.11 – Taxes levied \$2012.92 – Dog tax \$.69 – Sale of books and pencils \$.22. Expenses: - Thirteen teachers' wages - \$2374.77 – sheep damage \$21.00 – auditors' fees \$6.00 and other items amounting to \$3676.34. The auditors found the district in debt amounting to \$314.01. The following teachers were approved by the Board:

School No. 1. Warrenham – H. Louise Ring

2. Aurora – Winifred Hickey

3. Dunham – Mary Hickey

4. Warren Center – Miles Allyn

4. Warren Center – Annah Bowen

5. Shingle – Elmer Jones

6. Pendleton – Eva Root

7. Brown – Nellie Arnold

8. West Warren – Hattie Stanton

9. Union – Eunice Davies

10. Cadis – Hattie Wolcott

11. Sleeper Hill – Anna Powell

12. Whalen – Nathan Young

13. Folk – Lizzie Hickey

At the time of this meeting – Warren Township had 160 males – 176 females – school attendance of 207 – a six month school term and at the approximate cost of \$95 per month.

Going back just a bit, records tell us that a school in 1880 known as the Red School was then located on the flats of the farm, we know as the George Allyn Farm. Because of frequent water flooding this school was moved to higher ground on the site of the old High School Building. There on the new location another room was added. At the time of the 1897-98 term there were 14 schools and 15 teachers – the number of pupils enrolled – 306- the amount levied for school purposes were \$1902.58

The first local Institute was held at LeRaysville, Pa in 1899. The teachers received the same pay as for a school day.

The board decided to close the Dunham and Folk Schools June 3, 1901 and on April 26, 1902 it was decided to advertise the Dunham, Folk, Sleeper Hill and Shingle School houses for sale. On May 10, 1902 the Sleeper Hill school building was sold to Silas Sleeper for \$18; the Dunham to Monroe Dunham for \$11; the Folk to Eugene Allyn for \$20 and the Shingle school building to A.H. Bowen for \$18.50.

It was decided to close the Warrenham School, June 1, 1903. Arrangements were made to transport the Warrenham children to Warren Center thus closing the Warrenham School, August 8, 1903.

At a meeting of the Board June 6, 1904, the Whalen School was closed. It was also voted to close the Aurora School. It was decided to sell the Warrenham School August 6, 1904 to Andrew Dewing for \$20. The Aurora School was reopened at this time temporarily. On September 16, 1905 the Whalen School was closed.

On August 10, 1907 the Union School was closed and pupils were sent to Warren Center School. The Board voted to close the Pendleton and Brown Schools June 1, 1908 and pupils were transported to the West Warren School.

At a meeting July 1908 the Board decided to specify certain regulations to the drivers of school routes such as: they should furnish good wagons covered by curtains, should have plenty of blankets and soap stones. Teachers' salaries had gone up to \$40 and \$50. The principal received \$75. Drivers of school routes received from \$.86 to \$1.50 a day for transporting pupils.

On February 18, 1911 the Whalen school building was sold to Frank Southwick for \$41 and the following June, the Brown schoolhouse was sold to S.S. Brainard for \$42. It was also decided to close the Union School.

The last two schools to be closed were Cadis and West Warren. West Warren School was closed in 1938. The building reverted back to its owner.

The Cadis School was closed in 1940. Twelve years later in 1952, the building was sold to John Hastings.

The High School was changed from three years to two years in 1921. It is known to have been changed back to a three year high school in 1923. In 1923 the vacated Union School was moved to the back end of the High School building. The woodshed was moved to make a place for it. Board meetings were held in the High School building with the aid of a kerosene barn lantern. In January 1937 the building was wired for electricity. Part time Agriculture, Home Economics and Music were added to the course of study.

In 1943 the high school was changed to a two year high school. Two years later - 1945, it was permanently closed and pupils were transported to Vestal, and/or LeRaysville. At this time in 1952, it was voted to build a new building rather than renovate the old one. A corporation - or the municipal authority was formed which was composed of Milo Wilson, Aubrey Brister, Max Dewing, Leonard Barnes and Merton Wheaton. It was also this same year that a joint school board was formed to operate the schools of Rome, Windham, LeRaysville Boro, Orwell, and Warren Townships.

In September 1953 the new Warren Township Elementary School was occupied. The following year, the old high school building was sold at auction to Carl Wilson.

Northeast Bradford Junior/Senior High School opened its doors September 7, 1955 replacing Rome and LeRaysville High Schools and serving all high school students now in the Northeast District.

The Warren Center Elementary School was closed June 1970 and all pupils are now transported to the new Northeast Bradford Elementary School located near the Northeast Bradford High School at Rome, Pennsylvania, R.D. #1.

As time goes on, it may become increasingly difficult for younger generations to pin point the location of the thirteen schools described in this report above. This committee has endeavored to make this an easier task. Half of these schools were located on the present government tract. The acre or less ground used, reverted back to the original owner when the school ceased to exist. In most cases the buildings were liquidated. A part of a stonewall - a lingering lilac bush even now is the only tangible evidence of what was one time a part of the township's greatest interests.

Following were the locations:

- Aurora – On the Turnpike two tenths mile past Michigan Road on right.
- Dunham – On site of old Monroe Dunham farm and near the Catholic Cemetery.
- Folk – Midway on road leading from S. E. Pendleton farm to Ashley Allyn farm.
- Shelton – Midway on the Catholic Cemetery – Harry Strope Road or on the corner known as Boland's Corners.
- Warrenham – On Montrose Turnpike on the corner bend of road leading to Hiram Dewing farm.
- Warren Center – North of creek on former George Allyn farm – Later up the road to higher ground where the present Warren Township Fire Station now stands.
- Sleeper Hill – On corner of roads known as Sleeper Hill road the road connecting with Warren Center – Lake O'Meadows – on the property of Sylvenus Gower.
- Brown – On or about the spot where either the Kenneth Oakley home or the present telephone building stand.
- Whalen – At the juncture of Warren Center – Highland Lake and Neath roads.
- Cadis – Continued location – now latest building, a replacement of one by fire is a home.
- Pendleton – (South Warren area) Near Pendleton's Corners or more accurately on site ¼ mile south on former Howard Kelley lot.
- Union – Beyond Highland Lake on road passing "the brick house". The building moved to Warren Center to become part of Warren Center School – an addition on the back of the building for the seventh and eighth grades at the time.
- West Warren – Building still stands on the present Antisdell farm.

Other schools existed for brief periods before the "era" of the thirteen schools but little or no information is known. As an illustration a school did exist about Civil War time near Runyon's Corners and juncture leading to Keith Newman farm. A school known as the Arnold Hill School

was located on the hill north of the present Audra Allyn farm and also a school somewhere near the brick house in the Highland Lake Area. There may have been others.

It is evident that education has always been a cornerstone in Warren Township. The constant upgrading and improvement to our local school system continues today. As with our religious convictions, we are proud of our educational heritage.

Other Community Services

Likewise, consolidation has been a principle focus in other aspects of our public facilities. There were originally five post offices in the township (South Warren, Warren Center, West Warren, Warrenham, and Cadis), while now there is just one, located in Warren Center.

However through regionalized programs, our seniors have better access to services, the county library reaches out into our community with mobile locations and county services are easily reached by all.

Other Organizations

The earliest organization of the Patrons of Husbandry in Bradford County had been Grange, No. 39, of Pike Township. When it was organized, on 23 November 1873, the grange movement in Pennsylvania was only slightly over two years old. Many grange organizations followed quickly, including the earliest grange in Warren Township, West Warren Grange, No. 298. It was founded on 7 October 1874, with 30 members, led by master I. S. Rogers. A second grange was founded in Warren Center on 4 February 1907, Warren Center Grange, No. 1337. Both of these granges in Warren Township became important centers for rural community life during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Their history is typical of scores of granges. The West Warren Grange disbanded, but for twenty years, the Warren Center Grange sponsored a fair called "Old Home Days" that included parades, visiting bands, speakers, dinners, barbecues, and exhibits. The grange ran a variety of fund raising drives, but by the late twentieth century, membership dropped so low that the remaining membership decided to also disband and join the nearby Wappasening Grange, No. 188 in Windham, which had been founded on 9 April 1874. The Warren Center Grange donated their grange building and land to the township. The structure was razed by the Township Supervisors in 2004. (Information from Grange History 1873-1985: Bradford – Sullivan Counties, The Village Press, West Warren, PA 1985)