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A.

A BRIEF HISTORY
OF
THE VICTOR CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Nearly all the first school houses were built of logs with large fireplaces and rude benches and seats. Of course, they were very unsanitary from a modern point of view, with their slates, pencils and water pails. The children of the present generation may think going to school is a hardship. Can you imagine the little pioneer girls and boys hurrying home in the dusk of the early winter evenings, huddled together, hurrying the little ones along for fear of the dark and dreaded wolves that might overtake them before home and safety were reached?

The matter of providing a suitable place for the education of the young does not seem to have been neglected even by the earliest settlers. The first school house in the town was built on Boughton Hill, on land set aside by residents as early as 1790 for a school house and for a cemetery, and the intention has been carried out up to the present.

Daniel A. Dickinson was one of the first school masters who taught the young their reading, writing and arithmetic much in the same manner our children learn today. Mr. Dickinson boarded with a Victor family.

The first school house in the village of Victor, finished in 1816, was constructed near the site of the canning factory, now the Hartman Industrial Park on School Street, approximately in the location of the present grocery store. It was a frame structure and

its first teacher was Melancton Lewis of Massachusetts. He was hired at \$20 per month for five months, and boarded in different homes. He had a school full of 50 scholars. -- the old house has been removed.

The first school house in this district (No. 4 E. Victor) was located at the forks of the road near Great Brook. It was a frame building, later the property of the Torrence family. Of the earliest teachers, was one Cathcart, who taught two or three winters. The third school was attended by 100 pupils, and the seats were placed in regular order from the walls towards the centre. Writing desks and seats for the larger were next to the wall, and were graduated towards the midst of the room where the smallest sat. The teacher stood his back to the great broad fireplace, and, like the Light Brigade at Balaklava, was nearly surrounded; he had children to the right of him, children in front of him, and children to the left of him. If he did not differ materially from many of the old teachers, and work by system, he deserves this brief remembrance at our hands.

Triphena Hart taught school in her father's barn during the summer of 1790. A house was built near the village, where Theodosia Jerome taught. Another was erected about 1800 near Mr. Hart's, and the teacher, Paul Richardson, united his ability as an instructor of youth with that of expounding the law.

The three districts just considered (#8 joint dist., #6, and #11 joint dist.) sent their children to the school in an old log house near the W. F. Hawkins property. The records show that the town of Victor was divided into thirteen districts in 1825. District No. 1 took in the southwest corner of the town and extended as far north as the former Mrs. Abbie Bellis' home and west to include the

farms just west of Brace Road. The school house stood on the southeast corner opposite the large barn on the farm formerly owned by Edward Frinear. District No. 2, Boughton Hill, was near the cemetery. The land for the school was given by Hezekiah Boughton. District No. 3 was west of Boughton Hill in the southwest corner of the town and extended north to include the former Rose O'Neil and Malone farms, comprising what would have been the Parmalee and Kamp district. District No. 4 lay north of No. 1 and included in a general way what is now the East Victor District. (District No. 5 was the No. 1 District). No. 6 was north of No. 4 and corresponded to the Brownsville District. District No. 7 was the Valentown Hall District. District No. 8 was the northwest corner of the town. District No. 9 south of No. 7, was the same as Fishers. District No. 10, the northeast corner, joined with Perinton. District No. 11 was the Dryer District. District No. 12 was the Lane or Parks District. District No. 13, the southeast corner of town, joined with Farmington.

The first East Victor school house stood where the former Julia Embry lived. When the original cobblestone school house was built, it stood where the new building was built in 1913. In the Valentown District, the first building was on the northeast corner of the Martin Snyder farm.

In 1831, Bernard Dewey began his career as a teacher in the Fisher's District. He told many interesting stories of those early days and how he studied to keep ahead of his scholars. He also taught in the Valentown district and at East Victor. Augustus Hopkins was also a teacher in East Victor. At one time, the

following instructors of note were teaching in and around Victor: Fish in Victor Village, Allen on Boughton Hill, W. W. Brace in the Jackson District, Dalano at East Victor and William Gallup in the Kamp District.

In 1837, School District No. 1 was divided between Boughton Hill and East Victor and judging from the records some lively times must have been seen.

Among the early educators in Victor was Mrs. Caroline Boughton Gallup. She was not only an excellent teacher, but one of the greatest influences for good the town has ever known. Her students might have thought of her looking down with approval from her high seat in glory, surrounded by all the departed victorious Victorites, rejoicing with us in the completion of this century of progress. She began teaching when sixteen years of age, in the Park's District. At that time, the district contained families of at least eight cousins. She taught for nine years. In 1847, she married William Gallup who was also a teacher. They continued teaching ten years after their marriage.

A number of select schools have flourished in Victor at different times. In the early 1840's, Mr. and Mrs. Simmons began the erection of quite a pretentious building on the ground then occupied by the Walling residence. They intended to found a female seminary but as funds gave out, the building was never finished and was later taken down. Select schools were conducted by Miss Annie Dwight, Miss Harriet Osborne, and Miss Bortle. Mrs. Gallup held school one year in the Presbyterian Church and later in her home.

A COMPLICATION OF FACTS ABOUT THE VICTOR HIGH SCHOOL

All Early Records Burned

The school houses built since 1844 -- Instruction in music begun in 1876 -- names of principals since 1884

The early records of the village school having been lost in the burning of Gallup's Store in 1893, tradition and the memories of the oldest inhabitants were the only source of information until the records were started again in 1844.

The first school house was stated to have been located on School Street, south of the Lehigh tracks, about where the O. S. Bacon's barns stood, about where the Market Basket grocery store is now located. After a lapse of many years, it became necessary to erect a new building and one was built of cobblestone on the lot south of the first building. The first school meeting of record was held in this stone school house on the first day of October, 1844. Isaac Marsh was elected moderator, or chairman and William F. Seavey elected district clerk.

At a district meeting held October 7, 1845, a committee of five, consisting of Paul S. Richardson, Abiram L. Peet, Ansel Perkins, William Ball and William C. Dryer were appointed to investigate the property of preparing a suitable place for the instruction of the children. This committee reported at a succeeding meeting and it was voted to build a new school house for \$900 to be raised by taxes. It is a well known fact that schools are seldom built without considerable controversy, and this case proved no exception to the rule. Several succeeding meetings were held, the plan, size and shape changed several times, a larger amount of money was voted, and the

contract for building was finally given to Gideon Shaw and Orin Preston for \$1,153. The building was erected during the summer of 1846. It was a three-room wooden structure shaded by two magnificent elms. One was named the George Washington Elm at dedication ceremonies conducted by the Rev. C. W. Backus, local Presbyterian pastor in 1887. The tree stood until June 1924. The trustees of this building after its completion were: Orrin Miller, Henry Brown, and Melancton Lewis. The teachers were: M. G. Sabin, I. H. French, and Angeline Richardson, and William P. Hawkins, Librarian.

The school house that preceded the one built in 1846 was sold for twenty-five dollars to Nathan Morgan. The stones were used to build the blacksmith shop that was located on West Main Street, presently our Town Hall. The teachers at that time were John S. Bacon and his wife.

At a special meeting held September 15, 1854, it was voted to build an addition to the school house, 30 by 32 feet and at another meeting held September 22, the resolution to raise \$800 to pay the expense of the addition was voted down and not constructed.

It appears from the record of October 15, 1860, that the district put in coal stoves and disposed of the old wood stoves, purchasing seven tons of coal for use in two stoves at a cost of \$6.50 per ton. In 1862, the price advanced to \$8.00 per ton; in 1863, \$9.00 per ton; in 1864, \$14.00 per ton; in 1865 \$15.00 per ton; and in 1866, the price dropped back to \$10.00 per ton. During the high prices of coal, more wood was used and the coal supply was reduced from seven tons to four.

Upon an order from G. W. Sutphen, school commissioner in the western district of Ontario County, dated September 12, 1866, the number of the Victor village school district was changed from No. 5 to No. 1, that formerly belonged to the district which was divided between Boughton Hill and East Victor districts. District No. 3 was divided, one part being called No. 3 or Kamp's District while the other part formed a joint district with East Bloomfield and was called No. 5, or the Parmalee District.

At a special meeting held February 19, 1869, the need of more schoolroom facilities was considered and at another special meeting held March 5, 1869, it was voted to make an addition to the school house, 24 by 30 feet in size, and a tax of \$1,000 was levied to pay the expense of the building. This arrangement seemed to go through without any trouble. At this time, we find the names of Miss Tozer, Miss E. Palmer, and Mr. E. M. Pelt as teachers at different seasons of the year.

In 1870, the district voted to charge tuition for foreign scholars, to be cash in advance or a sufficient guarantee of payment. In 1872, the district voted \$50 to dig a well and put in a pump for the use of the school. This was not done for some time as in 1873, it was again voted to do so.

In 1876, one hundred dollars was voted to be used in connection with forty-two dollars in trustees hands for the purchase of a musical instrument and music books for the use of the school. Some of the names of the teachers of those times are as follows: I. H. French, Mary Page, Daniel Fish, S. V. V. Standish, Asa Countryman, Miss Peet, Miss Jane Loughborough, Miss E. Dryer, John B. May,

R. A. Kneeland, Mrs. English, and Delia Felt.

At a meeting held October 10, 1882, a resolution was introduced to consider the advisability of erecting a new school house. At a meeting held October 24, a committee was appointed to make inquiry for a suitable location and provide plans, specifications and prices for the building. E. S. Norton, Josiah Upton, L. P. Miller, James Draper and James Walling were appointed to this committee. There were lively discussions held before the final arrangements were made, K. P. Jeravis, the pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church, taking an active part in them.

At a meeting held May 17, 1883, the committee reported several sites examined, the district finally selecting and subsequently purchased the one on the corner of Main Street and School Street, presently the site of Canandaigua National Bank's Victor office. Various other meetings were held to consider propositions relating to the erection of the school house.

At the annual meeting of October 9, 1883, the building committee reported their proceedings in obtaining plans and specifications and that they had made a contract with Sylvester Wilcox, of Honeoye Falls to erect the building for \$10,225. This meeting evidently was one of much interest, as 191 votes were recorded on the ballot. The architects who drew the plans and specifications of the building were Putnam and Block, of Rochester. J. S. Wilcox, contractor, and George S. Wilkinson were both of Honeoye Falls. Trustees were: James F. Draper, James Walling and L. P. Miller.

Upon completion of the new school building, the main part of the old school house was sold to Daniel Ellis, who moved it onto

Maple Avenue and it was taken down when the Lehigh tracks were laid. The annex was sold to George D. Bement, moved onto East Main Street and made into a double house later occupied by Mrs. C. J. Phillips and C. J. Brownell.

The new school building was dedicated August 20, 1884. The dedication ceremonies were opened by the singing of a quartette, followed by scripture reading and prayer by Rev. C. W. Backus. John S. Clark of Boston, a former Victor boy, gave a short address comparing the differences between the old education and the new. Rev. John Bacon, a former principal of the school in the 1840's made a few remarks and Rev. K. P. Jervis read an original poem. Other speakers made interesting remarks and music was interspersed between the addresses and other exercises, thanking the trustees for their management of affairs involving the construction of the new school.

The faculty at that time consisted of Oliver D. Clark, A. B. of Rochester University as the principal. He had two assistants: Miss Elizabeth Buzzell in the Intermediate Department of three grades and Miss Jennie E. Webster (Mrs. W. B. Gallup) in the Primary Department of four grades.

In 1903, the faculty then consisted of Principal, E. J. Rowe in charge of the Academic Department; Preceptress, Sara M. Harrington; Assistant, Viola Van Voorhis; Grammar Department, Sara R. Ware; Intermediate Department, Lulu M. Anguish; Primary Department, May R. Collins. Miss Harrington became a teacher in the Victor School System on September 1, 1885, and since then the yearly report of the hiring of the teachers reminds one of the Sunday morning announcement, "Sunday School will assemble at the close of the service as

usual." One read the names of the other teachers and Miss Harrington, as usual. It might be said of her, as Tennyson said of the brook, "Men may come and men may go but I go on forever." Much might be said of her helpfulness and influence for good in the school and town. She was president of the Unity Club for 13 years. Miss Harrington served for a period of 49 years in her chosen profession.

The following is a list of principals of the school commencing September 1, 1884:

O. D. Clark, one year	- and then -	John Morris, one year
W. N. Boynton, two years		George M. Boynton, two years
E. M. Crocker, three years		George R. Wicker, four years
A. T. Rinker, two years		

The registration of scholars during the last winter term of 1899 was about 250.

In 1891, a Union Free School was formed. At that time, the Board of Education was as follows: W. A. Higinbotham, L. G. Loomis, and Bolivar Ellis. After the formation of the union school, the following were elected: W. A. Higinbotham, for one year; L. G. Loomis and W. B. Gallup for two years, Bolivar Ellis and John Ladd for three years. The faculty consisted of E. M. Crocker, Sara Harrington, Julia Whiton, Mable Stillman and Anna Jones.

In 1892 there were 688 children registered in the Victor School System. There were 17 teachers earning a total of \$5,637.22 in wages and the total value of the school was \$21,550.

The first commencement took place in 1894, following being members of the class: Isabelle Ellis, Louise Salter, Oscar Smith, Nelson Lobdell, Edna Proseos, Belle James, Eva Ransom, Addie Rose, Inex Ladd, Clara Fisher, and Rachella Bennett.

No doubt the formation of a Union School at this time seemed quite an undertaking but the Board of Education, composed of men of good judgment and great foresight, were able to measure to see the good that would result from such a move. "Indeed they built better than they knew," for the school had prospered far beyond their expectations.

In 1911, the school house was enlarged by the erection of a large two-story brick addition. More rooms were soon needed and the original rooms were divided, some of them more than once, to provide rooms for additional pupils, teachers, and departments. The Union Free School was torn down in the spring of 1971 because it was considered to be unsafe.

In September 1938, the Victor Central School System formation was approved by the voters 549 to 248, calling for the consolidation of sixteen rural districts including the Victor Union Free School District. Subsequently, a portion of Perinton and Farmington #12 districts were added. In its initial year of operation, thirty-two teachers were on the teaching staff and a total of 700 pupils enrolled. The original budget was \$87,000 and assessed valuation totaled about \$3,000,000. Members of the original Board of Education were: William McMahan, R. O. Adams, Leo Guinan, Leslie Loomis, and Fred Sale. W. O. Miller replaced Fred Sale during the early years of centralization. Ralph Martin served as District Principal. The outstanding decision made by the original Board was to purchase the 172 acre Ladd farm for the total sum of \$5,000 in 1937. The school started in 1939 and finished in 1940. The first graduating class was in 1941.

The original buildings which consisted of the present Junior High School, with the bus garage in close proximity, were erected at a total cost of \$425,000 - the 30-year bond issue carried a 2% interest rate.

In the 1950's, a major break-through in education for the area took place with the formation of the B.O.C.E.S. program. Initial service for Victor consisted of Driving Training, shared with Red Jacket Central, and taught by Mr. John Geise, who retired as the present full-time instructor at Victor in 1986. The program has now grown to 20 types of occupational programs, plus extensive shared educational services to handicapped children.

The Primary Building was built in 1954 originally for grades kindergarten through grade six. An addition to this building was finished in 1957.

The Senior High Building was finished in September, 1964, for grade nine through twelve. An addition was needed and finished in 1972.

The Intermediate Building was built in 1969 for grades three through five, leaving the primary for grades kindergarten through two.

In 1968, the bus garage was remodeled for kindergarten and pre-school classes, and in 1980 the Junior High Building was remodeled including the addition of a gymnasium and cafeteria.

In the 49 years since centralization, other dramatic changes have taken place within the district. 190 full-time teachers and 25 teacher aides are employed. There are 2,700 pupils enrolled. The present Board of Education consists of Larry Thomas, Irene White,

Margaret Nelson, John Blawski, Ronald Czadzeck, Robert Militello and Jeffrey Hollebrandt.

Mr. Alton Corbit was our school principal until his title changed to District Supervising Principal. He held this position for 27 years until he retired from our school district and went to the Community College of the Finger Lakes. Dr. John Mullen came to our schools in 1973 and in 1975, Mr. Carl Palumbo, high school principal, became Superintendent until his retirement in 1986. Our present Superintendent of Schools is Richard J. Thomas, who was appointed to the position July 1, 1986.

The Parent-Teacher Association was organized October 18, 1921. Through the Association, the community is brought into pleasant relations with the school. It affords the parents the opportunity to secure a better understanding of the aims and needs of the school, and gives the teachers a more intelligent understanding of the child, through their contact with their parents. The organization is a potent force for good and every parent should be a member.

The following were presidents of the association in its early years: Mrs. Harriet Webster, 1921-23; Emily Phillips, 1923-24; Mrs. Charles Sale, 1924-25; Mrs. Raymond Phillips, 1925-26; Joseph Sugden, 1926-27; and Sara M. Harrington, 1927-28.

Our school system today includes Victor, areas of Farmington, East Bloomfield, Macedon and Perinton, with a 1987-88 budget of \$13,784,766. Its unique and breathtaking 172-acre campus is well known in the area for its beauty, excellent educational system, teachers, and administrators, which all here are proud to claim.

Many stories are told of the good times of those early days and of the excellent teachers. Whatever may come to us later in life, the dearest memories seem to cluster around the school days. The cares and responsibilities of later years have not come upon us, and we seem to be able to better enjoy the present, not knowing what may be in store for us in the unknown future. The closest bonds of friendship are those formed during school days, and it never fails to bring an answering handclasp or a contribution.

Other Interesting Facts on
THE VICTOR CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Taken from the History of Ontario County, N.Y. (with illustrations)
1788-1876 Philadelphia: Everts, Ensign and Everts, 716 Filbert St.
1876 - press of J. B. Lippencott & Co., Philadelphia

East Victor originally called Scuddersville

These are notes taken from the earliest recorded meetings of East Victor residents of school district No. 4 dated December 14, 1818. The meeting was held at the home of Nathaniel Boughton at 5 in the afternoon.

"Resolved that a school house will be built; that school house shall be built by a tax on the resident inhabitants of said district."

On December 28, the residents of the school district met again at the home of Nathaniel Boughton with the following business being transacted:

"Resolved that a piece of ground for a sum be purchased of Ezekial Scudder -- carried by a majority of 5."

"Resolved that a house be built 22 feet long and 18 feet wide

underpinned with stone laid in lime and sand mortar, planked with 1 1/4" plank clapboards, with siding not to exceed 6" to the weather side, roofed with pine shingles 1/3 to the weather. Six 12" and 2' 6" windows, 7 x 9 glass, pine sash, oak floor; tables on three sides of the house with benches attached to the writing tables. Said house to be built in a workmanlike manner."

"Resolved that instead of a chimney, a stove be provided. Resolved that whoever builds the house shall take materials for building of the proprietors provided that he can have them at cash prices."

At a meeting on January 6, 1819, further action was taken on the school house. It was decided that the new schoolhouse should have a chimney, rather than a stove. It was also decided to use wall tables for the scholars rather than writing tables.

"Resolved that the bid of John M. Hughes for \$250 be accepted."
6-22-55 - newspaper article by Mrs. Bertha B. Aldridge of Victor

If the history books are accurate, Victor had perhaps the earliest school in Ontario County. The history which Lewis Cass Alrich compiled in 1893 says that Boughton Hill residents in Victor established a school as early as 1790. (T.J.?) 9-5-47 by Clarence J. Webster.

Victor for school centralization, September 1938 - vote 549 - 248 2-18-59 (T.J.?)

Vera Brown first taught in the system in a one-room school on Egypt Road, transferring to the main building on West Main Street in the village. For the past 12 years, she has been teaching in the new school on High Street. 9-9-53 (deceased - 1981 - Miss Brown

retired in 1957 after completing a 53-year teaching career.)

History of Ontario County, N.Y. edit. by George S. Conover and
compiled by Lewis Cass Aldrich D. Mason & Co., Syracuse, N.Y. 1893

1790 - Boughton Hill locality inhabitants built first school
in town.

1800 - before - E. Victor had one District #8 - 1798

1892 - census, 688 students - value of school property
\$21,650 - 8 frame, 1 brick, 2 stone -- \$9,504.80 received as
budget. 17 teachers - \$5,637.22

1911 - The first school house in the village was situated on
the west side of School Street on land later belonging to the Victor
Preserving Company and the first teacher was Melancton Lewis.

1874 - Atlas - Cedar Pond

Fisher Miles District - District organized Sept. 17, 1933

1941 - December 30th, new school dedicated