

36. District 1 Tubbs School

CHAPTER 11 - Education

One-Two Room School Houses

Before 1957 most Enfield schools taught grades one through eight. Some of the games school children played were hide n' seek, baseball, swing, pickup sticks, drop the handkerchief, dodge ball, fox and geese and ante-ante Over. During the winter, sledding was the favorite pastime during lunch recess. From the Enfield Center school, stories have been told of starting on the hill (West Enfield Center Road) just past the school and sledding down through the intersection of Enfield Main and Enfield Center Roads, to the bottom of the road. There was always a chance of being run over by the local traffic - horse and sled. Sometimes a neighbor would come out and watch for the traffic so that no one would get hurt.

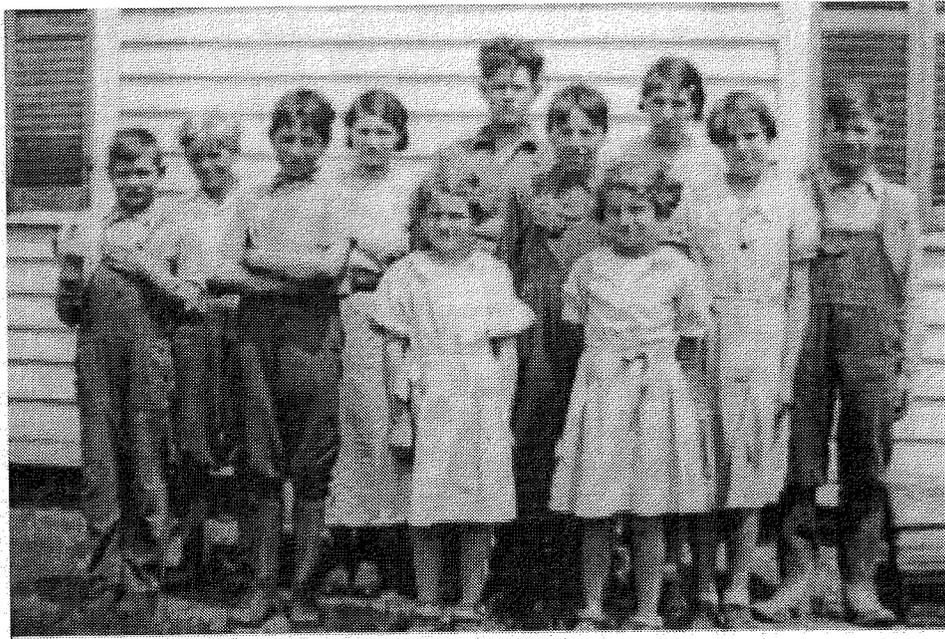
End of the year school picnics were celebrated at each of the schools. Some of the picnics were held at Enfield Falls.

Most years each school had a photographer come around with his dog, to take pictures of the students and teacher. The dog was always in the school picture.

Schools celebrated major American holidays with not only the students but with the students' families. Christmas - December - a tree was decorated and each student would read a poem or story or do a skit; Thanksgiving - November - pilgrims and a feast; May Day - nature hike; Arbor Day - trees and ferns were planted around the school grounds; Easter - April - colored and drew pictures, egg hunt. Students saluted the United States flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance, the Lord's Prayer and the 23rd psalm every morning. For some of the celebrations, such as July 4th, the Enfield community in their celebrations of the event used the schools. 4-H clubs were popular in schools.

Students either bought lunch with them or, if they lived within a short distance of the school, went home for lunch. During the winter families would bring in pots of soup or stew to share.

In 1940-41 the Tompkins County Home Bureau developed a lunch program in the Ithaca School District Area. Surplus commodities, furnished by the Federal Government, were used. The program was planned as a cooperative project between the teachers and parents, although in some cases, the teachers assumed full responsibility for the program. The women of the school district were organized either as room. Teachers were usually responsible for securing the supplies in Ithaca. The practice of providing



37. Tubbs School June 18, 1936. Row 1: Doris and Marian Holley. Row 2: Harlan Holley, ?, Dana Rumsey, Mildred and Raymond Holley, Ralph, Edith, and Nellie Rumsey, Francis Holley

surplus commodities for the schools was discontinued in 1943-44.

Discipline was always strict. The penalty varied from whippings to sitting apart in a chair or staying after school or in at recess to do extra work. Some of the Teachers would board at nearby schoolhouse neighbors or at the houses of school trustees.

In eighth grade the pupils would take a regents examination and, if they passed, would go to school in Ithaca. Families would have to provide their own transportation to the school in Ithaca. Most students would board with someone in Ithaca during the week and come home on the weekends. The Tompkins County Traveling Library Truck visited schools. A local doctor would come once a year to give each child a physical.

Following is a list of School Districts that were in existence at some time within the Town of Enfield.

District #1 - (Tubbs) located on the northeast corner of Aiken and Podunk Roads. It appears at this corner on the 1866 map. Annexed to District #1 Town of Ulysses July 13, 1945. Teachers: Dana Tubbs, Blanch Tucker

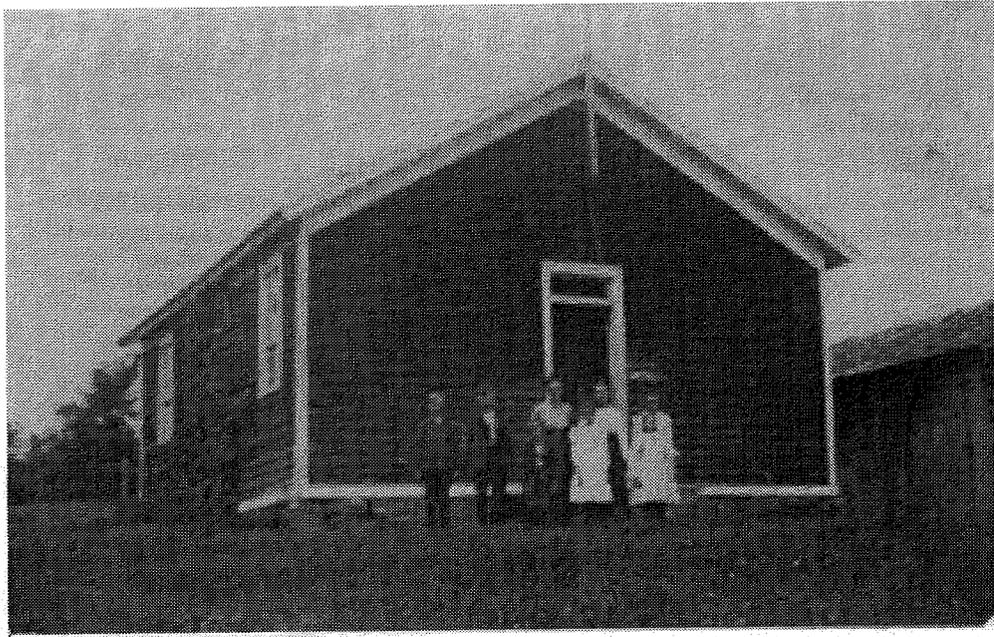
District #2 - (Rolfe) located on the east side of VanDorn Road north of State Route 79. Appears on the 1866 map in that area.

About 1960 the Rolfe School was torn down and moved. Two of the black boards and the cement block to the entrance of the school are owned by a local Enfield resident. Teachers 1922-1931: Carlton Fowler, Mr. and Mrs. Bud White Warena Ramsey, Mary Freese Ward

Memories of One Room School House By Eunice Beardsley

From 1929 to 1936 I had the same teacher Warena Ramsey¹. She taught all 8 grades and every subject.

At Christmas we would decorate the school using twisted red and green crepe paper. We put crepe



38. District 4 Millers Corners School

paper bells at the windows. Each of us had to recite Christmas poems and we put on a play. Our parents were invited to our program. We drew a child's name for a gift and we always gave our teacher a big gift. One year we gave Mrs. Ramsey a brush, comb and mirror set. We enjoyed popcorn balls and got a candy cane.

DISTRICT #3 - (ULYSSES - ENFIELD): This district probably would have included property in the northeast corner of the town.

District #4 - (Millers) located on the west side of Halseyville Road just north of State Route 79. Appears on the 1866 map at that site. Annexed to District #6 on January 12, 1916. This annexation was appealed and ordered void on October 9, 1917. Teacher 1922-1934: Blanch Tucker

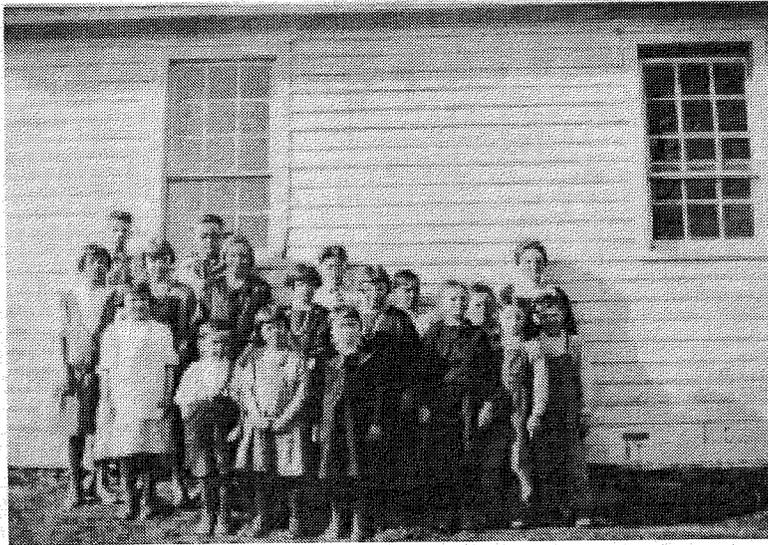
District #5 - (Stone Schoolhouse) located east side of Applegate Road south of State Route 79. Also appears on the 1866 map. Annexed to District #6 on July 12, 1916.

The remains of this schoolhouse were used in road construction according to the memory of some long-time residents.

Record books of 1888, show school operations cost approximately \$200 and the tax levy provided \$88.03. Some purchases were a 50-cent water pail, wash dish and dipper for 25 cents, one eraser at 20 cents, and a fire shovel for a quarter, and broom, which cost 30 cents. 1896 it cost 50 cents to bring a stove from Ithaca and set it up at the school; a pump and fixings from Treman, King and Co. \$3.09 and for putting it in, 50 cents; 1899 flag rope, 30 cents; for fixing pump twice, 25 cents; 1900 for well chain, bucket, tin pail and dipper, \$1.27 and for one globe, 25 cents; 1901 slating for blackboard 50 cents, latch for door, 15 cents and padlock for schoolhouse 35 cents.

District #6² - (Enfield Center) appears on the 1866 map at the northwest corner of Rothermich and Fish Roads. Later located on Enfield Center Road west of Route 327 across from the Methodist Church. A two-room schoolhouse. The school had fund raising dances in the Enfield Center Grange Hall to raise money so 8th graders could go on their graduation trip to New York City.

In 1888 this school was only one room. The budget for that year was \$321.00. By 1912 the school-



39. Millers School May 1925. Blanche Tucker Teacher. Pupils from left back row: Paul Chrisjohn, Harlan Ross, Horace Lanning, Willie and Harold Dickerson, Blanche Tucker. Second Row: Nettie Schilling, Doris Hansen, Helena Schaber, Elizabeth Stevenson, Margaret Hansen, Harold Laue, Nelson Brown, Delbert Schilling. First Row: Elsie and George Dickerson, Anna Schilling, Charlotte Tucker.

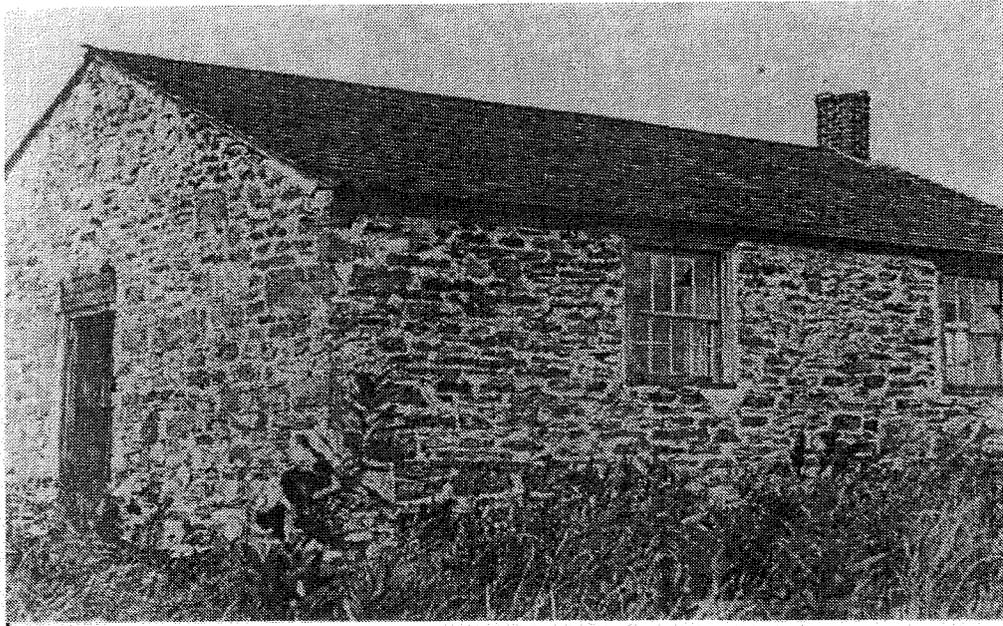
house budget was \$517.94. In 1885 major improvements were made on the school - a new ceiling, new lathe, plaster and paper. The 900 feet of basswood ceiling cost \$22.50 and a roll of plaster board \$1.90; wages and boarding of the men who did the work on the school totaled \$7.33. A wooden blackboard was installed in 1901, costing \$1.50 for lumber and \$2.16 for making and installing. A little money was made for expenses by selling the hay in the schoolyard. A local farmer did the cutting. In 1889 this school received 50 cents for its hay.

When the Stone schoolhouse pupils were taken to District 6 Enfield Center in 1916, transportation cost the district about \$100, which was paid to two different men according to the record books. This schoolhouse is currently standing and used as a privately owned home. Teachers 1925-1939: Mrs. Rumsey, Mrs. Coe, Miss May Savercool, Ms. Bertha Patterson, Robert Hubbell, Mrs. Sheffield, Mildred Wood

District #6 - (Ulysses - Enfield) Located northeast corner of Jacksonville and Iradell Roads. Appears on the 1866 map at this location.

District #7 - (Woodard) located northeast corner Woodard (Woodward) and Hines Roads. Appears on the 1866 map at this location. On Saturday, June 24, 1957, Woodard School celebrated Martha Bock Day. Martha Bock was the last schoolteacher to teach at Woodard School. More than 100 pupils and friends attended the celebration day, which was held at the school. A thirty-foot banner was placed across the front of the school proclaiming Martha Bock Day. Decorated hay wagons were placed around the school grounds. At noon a lunch buffet was served. A cake was prepared by Mrs. Elizabeth McFall, Mrs. Dorothy Gordon and Mrs. Andrew Krayniak, decorated by Mrs. Alma Bock. The cake was a replica of the schoolhouse.

The school "Hand Bell", which belonged to her grandmother, was gold plated and engraved as a gift to Martha. Lee Rumsey, one of her first pupils, was Master of Ceremonies for the day. Lawrence Eckler, of Niagara Falls, represented the middle generation, which she taught. Mrs. Susie Allen of Cayuta Lake, Mrs. Blanch Tucker, and Mrs. Nellie Meyers all students of Martha were in attendance at the celebration day. E. Craig Donnan, Superintendent of Schools in Ithaca, shared the



40. Stone School House

history of how Martha built fires for school heat and other tasks not strictly within her teacher requirements. This schoolhouse is currently standing and used as a privately owned home. Teachers: Blanch Tucker, Susie Allen, Nellie Meyers, and Martha Bock

District #8 - (Purdy) located southeast corner of Bostwick and Colegrove Roads. Also appears on the 1866 map. This schoolhouse is currently standing and used as a privately owned home. Teachers: Prior to 1916 Mrs. Jessie Teeter, 1946-50: Mrs. Scofield.

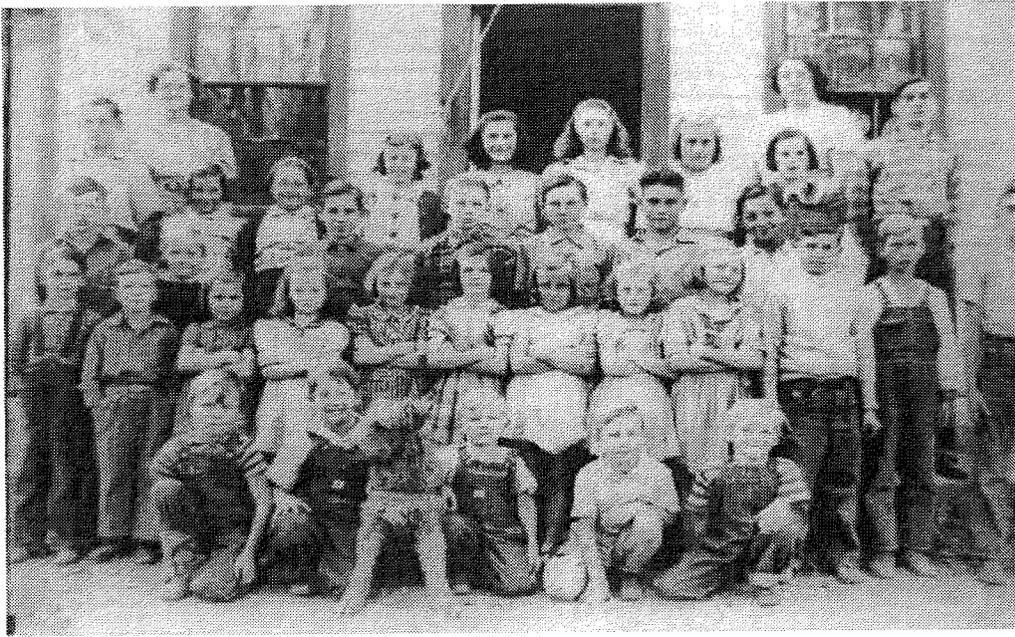
District #9 - (Rollison/Roleson/Rolison) (Enfield-Hector) located southeast corner of Route 79 and Black Oak Road. It is at this location on the 1866 map. Some papers indicate that the district became part of the Odessa Central Rural School on September 25, 1943. The New York State Commissioner of Education made it part of Central School District #1 of the Towns of Ulysses, Tompkins County, Covert, Seneca County, and Hector, Schuyler County on July 18, 1947. Roleson

School burned down in 1947. Classes for the balance of the school year were held in a private home on Fish Road. Teachers: 1930-31 Emily Pike; 1931-32 Antoinette Berzeena; 1932-33 Miss Sturdevant; 1933-35 Erma Davenport; 1935-36 Clara Patterson; 1936-44 Laura Hovencamp; 1944-45 Doris Lovelace (also taught a few months in 1926-27); 1946-47 Doris Acre (After the Roleson School burned)²; 1924-1947: Christine Newberry, Blanche Allen, Ike (Isaac) Clawson, Mary Rolison; Mrs. Gould, Miss Strike, Flossie Bullivant, Gertrude Straight, Antoinette Berzeena, Doris Acre, Mrs. Aiken.

District #10 (The Little Red School) By Hilda Amberge

Located on the east side of Connecticut Hill Road between Griffin and Rumsey Hill Roads. This school was also known as Nobles School named because of the Nobles Family who settled in the area in 1809.

The schoolhouse was a typical one-room school. It had a “cloakroom” on the left as you entered and a small room around to the right where the water “cooler” stood, and at one time pupils’ individual tin cups were hung in numbered order. Beside that door stood a bookcase cupboard. The teacher’s desk



41. Enfield Center – 1st row: __ Schilling, Bruce Connors, Robert Linton, __, Doug Addy; 2nd Row: Lavern Laughlin, Alice, Poole, Connie Cretser, Joyce Fitchpatrick, Betty Gillow, Carolyn Schilling, Mildred Purdy, Mary Jane Bowers, __, Frank Stark, __; 3rd Row: Harvey Wilkin,, __, James Linton; __ Combs, Ron Addy, Jack Swansborough, Roger Whittaker, __.

usually was in front of that, with a recitation bench — quite long — where each class would come as the teacher called their turn to recite. There was no electricity at any time when the building was used as a school, kerosene lamps were used. The room was fairly well lighted with its windows.

Two outhouses were outside, for boys at the southeast, and for girls at the northwest corners of the yard.

Water was dipped from a spring across the road and carried as needed. Heat was usually from the wood stove at the north side of the room, although there are several references in various diaries to purchase of coal. Diary of Hugh Hulse Smith notes in 1872 that wood was taken to school, and he split it.

Pupils walked to school. Some were able to take a shortcut path through the woods (Bell's) but the rest walked on Connecticut Hill Road. Many had a mile or more to go. Wheeler Smith was one trustee, and his daughter Ruth and Julia Griffin (McAuliffe) walked together nearly a mile. (Mrs. M. allows "as how" the pupils did not behave very well for the teacher.)

A problem always: the winter weather — snow, blowing, blizzard conditions did not necessarily mean there was no school — although diaries mention a few days when the teacher could not get there, so the pupils walked home. In the late 1920's after an illness all summer, Hilda Place was usually taken to school, either in the family Ford (Model A), by horse and buggy, or by the team and the bobsled. In fact, the diary noted the exception — as some great accomplishment — when she "walked to school today." One winter, with visibility zero, Hulse Smith took a rope down to the School House, and escorted his children home as they held on to the rope. They took a shortcut across the last field, so that the neighbor across the road, who had been watching for them to return, had no idea when they came home. She had her husband bundle up and walk across to ask about their safety! Neighbors helped neighbors.

In the classroom, with sometimes all 8 grades present, each pupil could scarcely help hearing the work of the grades other than his/her own. Also, older pupils helped the younger ones. In addition the



42. Purdy School

twin sisters each night as they got home taught their young brother what they had learned that day. Thus, as he entered school, he joined right in handily with the work of their grade — they all moved on the same year, and were graduated from Ithaca High School together. All pupils took their “Regents exams” at the Enfield Center School.

There was major discussion as to where the high school pupils would attend high school. It was voted they should go to Ithaca High School, but a special school meeting on August 12, 1930, voted NO on the question of the district paying transportation costs! Each family had to arrange something on its own (10 miles to town). Smiths rented rooms in town and mother and pupils stayed down during the school week. This continued for two years. The Places found a family with whom their daughter could live. Needless to say, everyone had major inconveniences during these times. During the summer of 1932, at the annual school meeting, it was voted to provide transportation. A committee, Nathan Rumsey and Larry Lanning, was named to make the arrangements. After much hard work, as school started a private contract had the pupils riding (beginning 7:15 a.m.) with Mr. Brooks. The School Districts of Bostwick, Budd, and Woodard also joined in. In later years a larger bus was hired.

Though there was still no electricity, the water situation improved. A special meeting December 16, 1931 voted to put in a well. The next day Hulse Smith with Hugh Curry and Claude Place helping, set up the well drill and work started. Shortly before this they had put in a well at the Bostwick School (Harvey Hill Road). Diary excerpt: “they have struck water at the school house. Lots of water I guess. December 23, 1931. December 29, 1931 “bargained for a pump.” January 5, 1932 — helped install pump at schoolhouse. Pump works good. Later, January 17, 1932 — “Took up pump; shortened pipe. Had Fred Smith’s pipe die to cut threads”. (I understand this same drilled well provides for the current resident of this home.)

Records from Doris Ely, teacher in 1932, list her salary for 38 weeks at \$22 per week; she lists textbooks used.

In June 24, 1947, a special school meeting was held. The vote was “Yes” to send all pupils to Ithaca schools. Elementary pupils that September attended Central School (site of GIAC). High School pupils attended the High School at what is now Dewitt Mall, on Cayuga Street: Boys’ Entrance — Seneca Street; Girls’ Entrance — Buffalo Street.



43. District 9 Rollison School – left to right back row: Orin Lovelace, Clifford Updike, Betina Lanning, Doris Ink, Thelma Ink, Betty McCarrick, Irma Davenport (teacher), Dana McElwee, Scott Lanning. Middle: Vincent Ameigh, Joan Lanning, Mary Lovelace, Catherine Lovelace, Virginia Lanning, Douglas Willis, Charles Warren. Front: Carl Updike, Lawrence Lehmann, Calvin Rothermich

Some of the teachers (not in year order) Grace Stark – 1922[?]; M. Stark (her sister Gertrude taught at #11 school); Ellenton; Dorothy Cox; Robert Hubbell; Rena White (wife of Robert Budd); Bud White (substitute); Ethel Baker Mill (substitute, drove horse from near Trumbull Corners. Then left buggy at Wheeler Bell's. Daughter Helen stayed with Mary Smith); Miss Newberry (Christine); Tressa Sanford³ (1926-28); Leta Hines; Mr. Roundsville; Miss Wessley⁴; Miss Radford; Mrs. Clausen (1933-35); Mrs. Parker (1930); Doris Ely (Hector).

District #11 - (Harvey Hill) located north side of Harvey Hill Road west of Route 327. Appears on the 1866 map. This schoolhouse is currently standing and used as a privately owned home.

School Days at District #11 - Harvey Hill By Blanch San Soucie Stout

Going to school in a one-room schoolhouse is something you can never forget. I had the same teacher from first grade (no Kindergarten) through seventh grade. I am sure many will remember Elmina Rumsey. There were four in my class and three of us went on to Ithaca to high school and graduated together. I found out that Hilda Hubbell made the best-scalloped potatoes when we had hot lunch bought to school every other day in the winter. On odd days Mrs. Rumsey would make a huge pot of cocoa to go with our lunch from home. It was a pretty neat system. Children took the big white kettle home from school on the night before it was their mother's turn to cook and got it back to school full of something hearty to fill 20 to 25 kids.

I sure am glad the Hubbell's lived across the road. They kept the "pot belly stove" stoked during the cold weather and even then the drinking pail still iced up.

Do you remember the Palmer method of writing, Christmas, and memorizing your "pieces", Annie, Annie Over, Hoops, and "Tobacco Juice", Fox and Geese in the snow, Mr. Crippen and his monthly Bible Class, the last day of school with the picnic under the big tree, opening the school day with the Pledge of Allegiance and the Lord's Prayer?

When I first went to school we saluted the flag with our right arm straight out in front of us. When



44. Nobles School

World II started we began placing our hand over our hearts. During this time we brought in small items like toothpaste, combs, washcloths, toothbrushes, etc. and these were put in special Red Cross boxes and sent to our service men.

When Elmina retired they brought us a teacher from the city, Ithaca, she introduced "Recess" to us, I had never heard of such a thing, but I guess it was O.K.

My class was ready for the eighth grade when Elmina retired, Elmina told my grandmother that we were ready to take the regents even if this new teacher goofed up bad. Taking the regents seemed to be the highlight of grade school. This was it, if you passed you went on to high school, which meant riding the bus and a whole new world. We took our regents exams in the school at Enfield Center. It still stands, as a home, across from the Methodist Church.

Teachers: Mrs. Wooley, Elmina Rumsey, and Mrs. English.

DISTRICT #12 - The school was located about 500 feet south of the intersection of Harvey Hill Road and Town Line Road (now Buck Hill Road). It was on the west side of the Town Line Road in the Town of Hector. This school was probably a Town of Hector School with Enfield children attending.

Christine Newberry was the teacher. Marion Newberry Deal as her sister and substituted when Christine was not able to be at school. Marion married Jack Deal of Radio Station WHCU in Ithaca, New York.

This school was moved to the Alton Culver farm on MacIntyre Road after it was no longer used as a schoolhouse. The above information was came from Richard Fisher, who attended the school and had all the teachers mentioned.

Teachers: 1931 - 1937 Miss Ames, Mrs. Travis, and Marion Newberry.

DISTRICT #13 - (CHRISTIAN HILL) located southeast corner of Waterburg and Iradell Roads. Appears on the 1866 map at this site. Annexed to District #1 Ulysses September 2, 1941.

District #14 - (Budd) By Catherine Kellogg

District #14 (Budd) was located in the front of Budd Cemetery on the south side of Gray Road and



45. District #11 school 1st row-Gary Schilling, Sandra Holcomb, Rose Mary DaBall, Nancy Hubbell, and Keith Holcomb. 2nd row: Beverly Hornbrook, Marcia Hubbell, Blanch San Soucie, Katherine Calkins, Butch Hornbook, Malvern Schilling. 3rd row: Ralph Willsey, Jon Hubbell, John Calkins, Virginia Hubbell, John Calkins, Virginia Hubbell, Gloria DaBall, Alan Hubbell, Shirley Hornbrook

appears on the 1866 map. When the schoolhouse was sold and torn down and moved in the early 1930's the cemetery property line was moved out to the Gray Road.

The earliest minutes of the meetings recorded were in 1860. The school was closed in 1935 and the pupils were sent to Ithaca. There were not enough pupils to warrant hiring a teacher.

A few interesting notes from the secretary book – 1860 – 1922. District #14 was #25 in the town of Enfield, Newfield and Ithaca. It later became #14 and was referred to as #14 in the annual school meeting minutes as Enfield in 1873.

Note: the spelling of some words are interesting and I left them as they were in the minutes. (Perhaps the beginning of phonics)!

1860: A special meeting called in district #25 in the Town of Enfield, Newfield and Ithaca at the schoolhouse in said district at six a clock P.M. on the 11 day of January 1860 by the of said district for the purpose of building a new scool house in said district.

1. Charles H. Kelly serves as chairman for the special meeting.
2. Moshien made and seconed for building a new scoolhouse.
3. Moshien made and seconed for regerning this meeting.
4. Moshien made and seconed to rase four hundred dolars far to building a new schoolhouse.
5. Moshien made and seconed to move the sight for a scool house and was out of order.
6. Moshien made and seconed for regerning this meeting and was cared January 11/61.

To the Clerk of District No. 25: The Trustees of District No. 25 at a meeting held fro the purpose have resolve that a special meeting be called at the schoolhouse on Saturday on the first day of February 1861 at six o clock PM of that day for the purpose of reconcidering the vote taking on the 11 day of January 1860 and voting the same subject again. J.H. Newman, George W. Budd, Daniel R. Wood – Trustees District No. 25

1861:

1. Masien made and seconed that C.H. Kelly serve as chairmen for the spechel meeting.
2. Masien made and seconed that thar a recondsering the vote on building a new scoolhouse.

3. Masien made and second that to sell the old schoolhouse and place the proceeds on the new school house.

4. Masien made and second to change the sight of the schoolhouse near in the center of the district.

5. Masien made and seconded for to resign this meeting and was carried February the 1 1861.

1866: "Resolved that there be got three cords of maple or hickory wood and one cord of pine and fitted for the stoves, to be completed by the first of Decemby by DR Wood \$5.25 cts. To be inspected by Trustees."

"Resolved that there be built a fence in front of the house, one privy and all necessary repairs to house and insurance." Wm. Snow Chairman

1869: Moved that the trustees raise a sufficient amount of money to paint the house and all other necessary expenses.

1870: Resolved that the trustees have power to change the wood stoves now in use for coal stoves and to provide fuel for the stoves used for the insuing year.

Resolved that there be a well dug on George W. Budds' premises on the north side of the road (George W. Budd giving the right) for the use of this school.

1888: "Moved and carried that the trustees are authorized to levy a tax to defray the expenses of the school the insuring year." A.J. Teeter to draw 2 tons of Cole at \$1 per ton.

1889 – 1900 – Election of officer's main agenda of meetings on these dates. S.F. Mabey was elected Librarian during a great deal of this time period. Mrs. B. Osterhout was voted to teach reaming term in 900. No other teachers were mentioned until 1918 where it was stated that the trustee asked for right to hire his daughter Miss Nellie Rumsey.

Other teachers from 1900 to closing are listed as our memory recalls in the following order: Miss Nellie Rumsey (Mrs. Nellie Myers), Mrs. Edna Gray, Mrs. Mabel Sheffield, Mr. Earl DePuy, Mrs. Alice Clauson, Mrs. Nellie Myers.

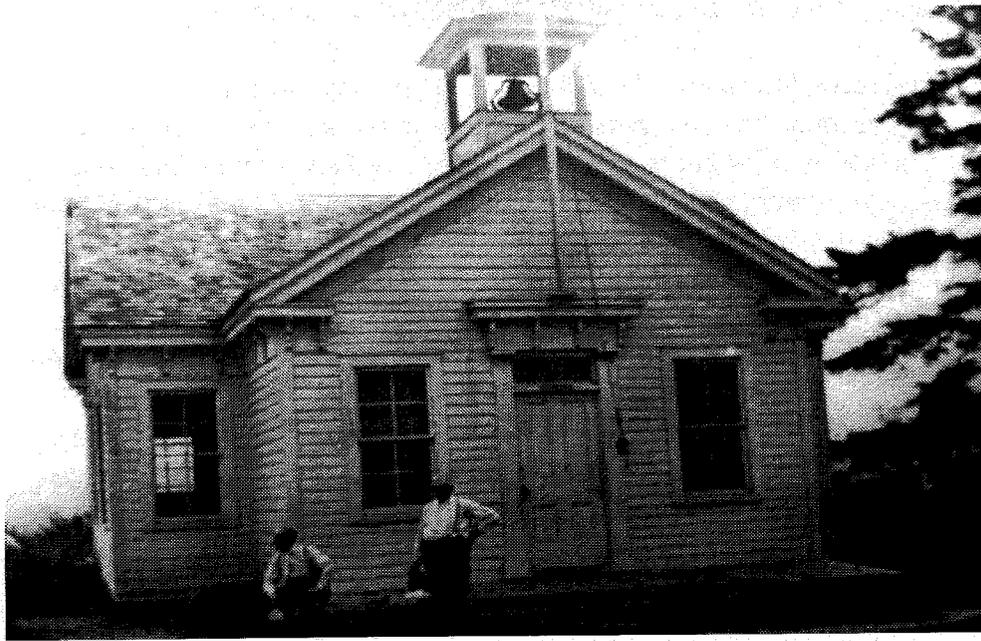
District #17 - (Saxton Hill) located southwest corner of Cayutaville Road (or Saxton Hill Road) and Black Oak Road (or Connecticut Hill Road) in the Town of Newfield. Annexed to District #12 Newfield September 12, 1916. The above annexed to Newfield Central School August 1, 1941.

One Day On Connecticut Hill By Fern Buckingham Smith Ferris and family

On February 19, 1959, the Smith family arose to start the day. Earl, husband and father left to drive school bus for Swarthout and Ferris and then to work for the town of Enfield Highway Department, driving a snowplow. It had been a fairly harsh winter with snow banks getting extremely high alongside the road. Roxie was 11 and attending Boynton Jr. High School in Ithaca. Diana was 9 and in the 5th grade and Joyce was 7 and in the 2nd grade. They were attending Enfield Elementary School. Debra, age 3, was at home with her mother, Fern.

After everyone had left for the day, Fern and Debra walked to Grandma and Grandpa Smith's (Mary and Hulse) for their supply of milk. This was about a third of a mile east on Connecticut Hill Road. The snow banks on both sides of the road were higher than the snowplow trucks. It started snowing very hard and the wind was picking up so there was a lot of drifting. While they were walking down, they could hear the plow coming. They had to run to get into the driveway before the plow came down the road. They made it, but it sure was scary (Debra still remembers this even though she was very young at the time).

Enfield School closed about 10 A.M. Fern needed to make a path from the road to the house so that Diana and Joyce could get in from the bus. She put Debra in front of a small window so she would be able to watch her do this. It was difficult to get the girls into the house because they went into snow up to their armpits. The school had a dress code at that time so the girls had to wear dresses. When Fern got



46. District 14 Budd School

the girls in the house she put them in a tub of warm water to help them warm up quicker. They said it felt good on their cold legs.

Fern noticed the storm had not let up at all. It was still snowing and the wind was blowing the snow into bigger banks. She phoned Boynton School to ask if they would be dismissing the children early. The lady that answered the phone said there was no reason to close early. Fern told her that she was unable to see the road in front of the house, but the lady said it was clear in Ithaca. The girls and their mother ate lunch and settled down to watch TV.

Around 2:30, Fern heard the kitchen door open. Roxie, Bob Arnold and Dean Wilkins were walking in the house. It took awhile for them to catch their breath so they could tell Fern the school bus was stuck in the snow on Black Oak Road (the North Road as they called it then). Fern phoned the Enfield Highway Barn to tell them about the bus being stuck. Rolf Holtkamp, the bus driver, had asked if Roxie could get home to call for help. She said she could by crossing the fields. He sent Bob and Dean with her to help her through the deep snow. The snow was so deep Roxie kept getting stuck. The kids had to crawl on their hands and knee some of the way. Bob and Dean got warmed up and had some soup. They left the house to go back to the bus to let Rolf know they had called for help.

Roxie kept telling Fern that some of the children on the bus hadn't eaten breakfast or lunch due to the school closing at 11:00. Roxie wanted to take packages of cookies to them. Fern thought that if they could take enough clothes with them, the Everhart girls, Elizabeth, Janet and Barbara, would be able to walk home, stopping at the Smith house first to warm up and have lunch. She also thought that the bus would then be able to turn around and go back to Route 79, after the plow arrived and cleared the road. Roxie and Fern dressed in many layers of clothes and grabbed the cookies and started for the bus. It was about a half-mile from the house. They stayed in the fields - it was easier traveling than the road.

Rolf Holtkamp and the children were very glad to see them. Fern told Rolf her plans for the Everhart girls and he agreed with her. Roxie and Fern then shed their extra layers of clothes and the Everhart girls put them on. The group of five then walked back to the Smith's. Elizabeth, Janet and Barbara ate lunch and then walked home. Fern phoned their mother, Aline, to let her know they were walking home. Fern could see their house because it was only a quarter of a mile away, but it was difficult with the snow blowing. They phoned her when they arrived home. The storm had finally begun to ease a little. Fern

again phoned the Enfield Highway Department to let them know the bus was still stuck. The time now was about 4 P.M.

Earl had a feeling that something was not right at home. He could only drive as far up Trumbulls Corners Road as the little red schoolhouse, which was still about a mile from home. He walked home from there. It was about 7 P.M. when he got to the house. Fern told him about the bus being stuck down the North Road. He put on dry clothes, ate supper, grabbed a long rope and headed out to walk to the bus. When Earl was a young boy in school at the little red schoolhouse down the road, his grandfather, Wheeler Smith, would walk to the school any time there was a bad storm. He would bring with him a rope with knots in it. Each child would grab a knot and hang on while they walked. Earl was planning on doing the same.

When Earl got to the bus, he also discovered there was an Enfield snowplow stuck up the road in front of the bus with two men in it. He also found a car with two other people in it. They were his cousins, Hilda and Norman Amberge, who lived across the road from the Smith's. Everyone got together and started to walk across the fields towards the Smith house. Earl had left a large outdoor flood light on an outer building turned on to help direct everyone to the house. The wind was still blowing and the snow was still coming down. It was a very long and hard walk.

When the 32 children got to the house, they brought a lot of snow into the house with them. The kitchen floor was made of wide maple boards finished with raw linseed oil, which became very slippery when wet. Hilda, Norman, Roxie and Fern formed an assembly line across the kitchen to help the kids get across the kitchen and into the living room. They hung their coats on hangers on the water pipes, which extended across the kitchen ceiling. After everyone was in the house, Earl had to shovel snow out of the kitchen. Rolf and the plowmen remained outside until all the children arrived. The Smith girls brought out dry clothes for people to change into, mostly they used the socks.

The Smith family's pantry was kept well stocked in case of bad winter storms. Earl told Fern the best thing to do would be to get all the soup and sandwich material out for something quick and hot for the children to eat. She also made hot oatmeal for the ones that wanted it. They all enjoyed the food.

Earl had all the children take turns phoning their parents to let them know they were okay. Later many of the parents let the Smith's know how much they appreciated this.

About this time, Bill Banner, superintendent of Ithacaschools, phoned to obtain information about the bus. He was relieved to hear everyone was safe and sound.

There was a front room, which had a pool table, but the Smith's usually kept this room closed in the cold winter months. However, on this night they opened it. That kept the boys busy playing pool. Roxie played records so the girls could dance.

Earl spent about two hours or more packing a path on the snow banks from the house to the road, getting ready for the people to leave the house when possible. He used a snow shovel and his feet.

Charles Sheffield driving a school bus, a Tompkins County "V" snow plow, Jake Smithers and Frank Spadaro met at Millers Corners, on Route 79, to start the trip up to the Smith house. When they got to the corner of Rumsey Hill Road, Connecticut Hill Road and Trumbulls Corners Road, Frank and Jake got out and started walking in front of the plow with flashlights because the plow driver could not see the road. At one point Frank got off the road by mistake and sunk in the deep snow.

It was around midnight by the time the plow and the school bus arrived at the Smith's. There was a lot of confusion while everyone was getting ready to go home. Earl told the children to be sure to stay on the path to the road or they would sink into the deep snow. The plow stayed with the school bus until the last student was home which was about 3 A.M.

The Ithaca School System sent the Smith's a lovely letter thanking them for all they had done for the children and also included a check to help pay for the food they had so generously given.



47. Enfield Elementary School

Enfield Elementary School By Mary Burtless and Mary Cole

Enfield Elementary School is a small rural school in the Ithaca City School District near the Intersection of State Route 79 West and State Route 327. The school sits on 15.75 acres of well-maintained lawn and garden areas. Initially, the land was owned by the Miller family and sold to the Ithaca City School District in 1957. Construction of the main school building began in 1959 with additions being built in 1969 and 1990. The community school thrived and bustled with students from Kindergarten to the Sixth Grade. With the transition to Middle Schools in the early 1980's, Enfield Elementary School's Sixth Grade Students were relocated to Boynton Middle School and later to DeWitt Middle School. As with any district that experiences periods of growth, redistricting became the challenge. During the 1980's, the school district boundaries were expanded and the Glenwood Elementary School was closed. Students from Glenwood were enrolled in Enfield Elementary School.

Today, Enfield Elementary School educates a total of two hundred sixty-two students, grades Pre-Kindergarten through Fifth Grade. The majority of the families and students are of European descent.

The Enfield School Community is comprised of sixty-four staff and faculty members. The children's learning is supported and enhanced with a team of sixteen classroom teachers, two Reading Specialists, four Special Education Teachers, a Support Teacher and music, art, and physical education programs.

Through the 21st Century Grant monies, the Road Ahead Grant, Bay Grant and Title I money, after school homework clubs and programming are made available to all students to enhance, enrich and strengthen academics.

We believe that "We are the Ithaca City School District's best kept secret!"

The Library By Ruth Miller

In looking back at our heritage of so many good things, let's not forget to give credit to our "Public Library". In November 1929 the Cornell Extension Bulletin, published by the N.Y.S. College of Agriculture, featured "The Library of the Open Road." Among several schools, our own District #14 Enfield Falls school is pictured with the students selecting books from the Traveling Library on wheels.

A well selected stock of books, chosen by a trained librarian was distributed by the book truck to

small libraries, deposit stations, gas stations, and farm homes. This plan of giving farm youth equal library opportunities with city children was called "The County Library".

The Tompkins County book truck made regular stops at 129 schools in 1929. The county board of supervisors paid the salary of the county librarian in the same way that it paid the county nurse, demonstration agent and others. In 1928 after the Tompkins County Library was organized, 160 branch stations were organized. Much could be said about the advantage of having such good reading materials on hand for the country pupils to use. Few families had transportation to go into the city for such.

To conclude the year of 1929 statistics tell us Tompkins County had 39,559 people living on 476 square miles; 9,319 live on farms; 39, 559 have public library service; 4,477 children attend 125 district schools. There are libraries in Dryden, Groton, Ithaca, and Newfield.

The last Librarian to work on the Public Library truck was one of our own Enfield natives, Eleanor Bohach Daharsh.