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# HISTORICAL SKETCH

—OF—

## Schools in Paterson,

## NEW JERSEY;

with

## Notices of Some Schools in the Vicinity.

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BY WM. NELSON,

A member of the Paterson Board of Education,  
April, 1868, to April, 1871.

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PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE BOARD.

1877.

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PATERSON, N. J. :  
CHISWELL & WURTS, PRINTERS.

1877.





*D*  
From *Wm. Nelson.*

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Among the novel features of the very interesting Educational Exhibit made by New Jersey at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia, in 1876, was the series of histories of schools in the several cities and counties in the State. That of the Paterson schools was prepared at the request of City Superintendent Rogers, and was rather hurriedly written, April 25—May 1st, 1876. The aim was to show the development of the educational system from the simple village school teaching the merest rudiments, to the highly-complex series of graded schools, from the lowest to the highest, with a complex system of management, that prevails in large cities. As this evolution from the homogeneous to the heterogeneous is the outgrowth of a public sentiment, which is developed by changes in circumstances, many details were introduced which, though trifling in themselves, are more or less significant as showing the progress of education in a growing community. The truth embodied in the maxim, "The child is father of the man," applies to most things in this world. Hence the importance of studying the beginnings of movements affecting so iety. The history of educational progress in Paterson is in outline the history of the common school system everywhere in America. Mons. F. Boisson, the distinguished Commissioner of the French Government to the Educational Exhibit at the Vienna Exposition in 1873, and President of the French Educational Commission to the Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia in 1876, doubtless took this view of this Historical Sketch, when he was kind enough to say that he "regarded it as a model work of the sort," which he desired to incorporate in his report to the French Government.

The Board of Education having unanimously resolved to have the Sketch printed, the manuscript has been revised during the present month, and the work is now submitted to the public, as a slight contribution, of at least local interest, to the vast body of Centennial Literature.

WM. NELSON.

PATERSON, N. J., March, 1877.



# HISTORICAL SKETCH

—OF—

## Schools in Paterson.

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INTRODUCTORY.

{ “1742, den 1 Maj. Met *Attestatie* getrouwt Van Den Erw. Dom :  
Vaughan van Eliza b Thown  
JAMES BILLINGTON Schoolmaster &c.  
with Anna America &c.”

The writer hereof was struck some years ago with the above entry in the Acquackanonk Church Records,\* the first two lines being in the unmistakable chirography of Dominie Van Driessen, then pastor of that church, 1735-1748; the third line undoubtedly the autograph of the “Schoolmaster &c.,” while the last was apparently in the yet unformed handwriting of the bride, whose marriage to the Schoolmaster (on certificate—of proclamation of the banns—by the Rev. Edward Vaughan, Episcopal clergyman at Elizabethtown, 1709-1747) is thus set forth. The bride’s unusual surname might not unnaturally suggest the fancy that this record was a figurative mode of conveying the idea that on or about the above date this or any (Anna) part of America first became united to the Schoolmaster.

### POPULAR EDUCATION IN NEW NETHERLAND.

However, as Passaic county was originally settled by the Dutch, we may get light on this subject by inquiring what was done in “New Netherland” for the advancement of learning

\*In MS., Vol. I., p. 489.

by the early Dutch proprietors. The charter of the West India Company, in 1629, enjoined upon the Patroons and colonists the support of a minister and schoolmaster, in pursuance of which policy Adam Roelandsen arrived four years later, being the first schoolmaster in the colony.\* In the Company's new charter (1640) the support and maintenance of schoolmasters was again pledged, but funds subscribed for the erection of a schoolhouse in New Amsterdam (now New York City) were misappropriated, "and this laudable undertaking failed in consequence."† The people insisted that better provision should be made for education, modestly urging that "there should be a public school, provided with at least two "good masters," and in 1647 Peter Stuyvesant promised that the West India Company "would defray a part of the expenses of education, and would continue their assistance to promote the glorious work,"‡ and writing to the Classis of Amsterdam in 1649 "to send out a pious, well-qualified and diligent schoolmaster," forcibly remarked: "Nothing is of greater importance than the right early instruction of youth."§ The next year the Classis sent to New Amsterdam a person to be *Zicken-trooster* (consoler of the sick) and schoolmaster, and the local authorities employed Jan Cornelissen to keep the common school.|| In 1652, the Rev. Gideon Schaets was engaged to come from Holland to Rensselaerswyck, one of the conditions of his engagement being that he should "pay attention to the "office of schoolmaster for old and young."¶

The foregoing facts show that the Dutch progenitors of the oldest Passaic county families appreciated the importance of a common school system, and that the office of teacher was not

\*O'Callaghan's Hist. N. Netherland, I., 119, 143.

†Ibid., 396.

‡Remonstrance of New Netherland, p. 48; Brodhead's History of N. Y., I., 576 476.

§Brodhead, I., 508.

||Ibid., 516.

¶O'Callaghan, II, 567.

inappropriately vested in the local clergyman or his substitute, the *Zieken-trooster*.

#### FIRST SCHOOLMASTER IN PASSAIC COUNTY.

In the absence of an ordained preacher, the congregations of Acquackanonk and Hackensack were ministered unto spiritually by Guiliaem Bertholf, a *Zieken-trooster*, who in 1694 was sent to Holland by these churches to be ordained, and served them as pastor for thirty years thereafter.

In a Dutch manuscript in Bertholf's handwriting, in the writer's possession, dated April 10, 1693, he describes himself as "*Schoolmeester en ordinere schrijver ten durpe Acquig-genonck Residerende*" ("Schoolmaster and authorized scrivener, living at the village of Acquackanonk"), showing that he joined to his office of *Zieken-trooster* that of school-teacher as well. It is creditable to the first settlers of our county that they thus early maintained a schoolmaster among them; beyond doubt, Guiliaem Bertholf deserves the distinction of being the first in the county.

#### FIRST LEGISLATION.

It was not till the ensuing October or November that the Legislature of East Jersey passed the first law relating to public education in this State, providing for the annual election in each township of three men "with authority to employ a School Master and levy a school rate upon the inhabitants of the town." The preamble to the act very properly sets forth that "the cultivating of learning and good manners tends greatly to the good and benefit of Mankind," and confesses that the same "hath hitherto been much neglected within this Province."\*

\* Leaming & Spicer, 328; Record of Governor and Council, 167.

#### EARLY SCHOOLS IN PASSAIC COUNTY.

The marriage record given above is the next positive no-

tice we have of a successor to Dominic Bertholf at the school-master's desk, and it is the only mention we find anywhere of the spouse of Anna America.

But the tolerably frequent references to school-houses in sundry records show that every considerable hamlet or village in the county was prompt to provide facilities for the education of the young.

The oldest reference of this kind we have found is in the return in 1768 of a road at Pompton, "beginning at the fence "of Abraham Bertholf, Near the schoolhouse."\*

Again, in 1775, a road was laid at Singack, to start from "a certain Tract of Land which was purchased for the use of a "school or schoolhouse."† There is reason for believing that this tract has been ever since devoted to this honorable purpose, and that it is to-day occupied by the modest but neat little schoolhouse wherein assemble the children of Mountain View (Mead's Basin) to receive their daily quantum of learning.

Another like reference is in a road return dated 1794, which speaks of "a log schoolhouse," apparently in the neighborhood of Centreville, Acquackanonk township. In 1802 it is alluded to as "the Log Schoolhouse so called," from which we may infer that the primitive building had been removed, but the new structure retained the old distinctive appellation.‡

As remarked above, there is no doubt that schoolhouses were established in each settlement in the county as soon as the hamlets grew up, but the records of them are exceedingly scanty, and even tradition has scarcely occupied itself with perpetuating recollections of the earliest attempts at popular education.

\* Bergen County Road Records, Book B, f. 37.

† Ibid, f. 74.

‡ Essex County Road Records, A, 365, 409, 472.



THE FIRST SCHOOL IN PATERSON — ONE OF THE  
OLDEN TIME.

Doubtless the first schoolhouse erected within the present limits of the City of Paterson was at the corner of Market street and the Wesel road, in the southeast corner of the present city bounds. The "Wesel neighborhood" having been settled about a century and a half ago, it is believed a plot of an acre or two was at once set apart in the above location for a schoolhouse. At the close of the last century the site was occupied by a building about forty feet long, running from east to west, and twenty or twenty-five feet wide; the walls perhaps eight feet high, of stone laid up in clay mortar, supporting a shingle roof. The house was thus large, because designed for a double purpose—for a school, and for the dwelling of the teacher and his family. Do you wonder where were his dining-room, sitting-room, parlor and bed-room? They were all comprised in a space of twenty feet square. Perhaps he divided that into two rooms; for three-quarters of a century ago the Jersey Dutch in the rural districts were scarcely as fastidious as we are now, and the almost universal practice of "bundling" a whole family into one room, if not into one bed, was a wonderful economy of space, whatever may be said of it in other respects. Under the teacher's quarters was a cellar; under the other half of the building, none. A vast fire-place at each end of the house was all the heating and ventilating "apparatus" provided for many years. They answered the purpose of ventilation admirably, but for heating were not particularly successful, although consuming vast quantities of cordwood provided from time to time by the parents. By the year 1820, the clay mortar had fallen out from between the stones, and the walls were so full of air-holes that the old schoolhouse was familiarly termed "the Bellows." When the wind was from the north-

west, you might pile cords of wood on the fire, and the tremendous draft would almost carry the entire building out through the chimney! About 1825 the Trustees put in a box stove, which was more comfortable, and afforded the boys intense amusement in expectorating on the cast-iron, and hearing the curious "sizz," and enjoying the consequent annoyance of the Master. As for furniture, a plank ten or twelve feet long, with frequent legs, answered for half-a-dozen children; and a like plank, with a slight slope, supported by longer uprights, formed a desk that was substantial, if not ornamental. Comfortable chairs, fitted to support every part of the body, and handsome desks, with lids or drawers, book-racks, ink-wells, etc., etc., were all undreamed of for the school room, and would have been regarded as the designs of a fit candidate for the insane asylum—had there been such an institution in those days. The boys and girls sat on opposite sides of the room, on the north and south, respectively, and were about equal in numbers. Each pupil brought his or her own books, slates, pencils, pens, and ink-bottles, provided by their parents. The school held two sessions daily, three hours in the morning and three in the afternoon, there being a half-holiday every Saturday afternoon, subsequently changed to a whole holiday every other Saturday. Stated vacations were unknown, but the frequent changes of teachers, who were about as uncertain as are church choirs, afforded the children plenty of play-days through the year. The rates for "schooling" ranged from six to twelve shillings per quarter, while a few of the very oldest pupils, who studied unusual branches, occasionally paid two dollars per quarter—but that was an extravagance in which few parents thought of indulging their children. About 1820 the teacher was paid twelve shillings per pupil per quarter if he "found" himself, or ten shillings if he "boarded 'round." Prior to 1826 there was no bridge across the river at Market

street, and until 1815 there was no river bridge within three miles of the Wesel schoolhouse; consequently those children who lived on the opposite shore were ferried over in summer by their older brothers or parents, and in winter of course crossed on the ice. The space now occupied by Market street near the river was then used by the teacher as a garden for the raising of vegetables, to eke out his scanty living.—These details are given, because of the antiquity of the Wesel school, because it was in many respects typical of the earliest country schools, though rather superior to most of them, and because for nearly a century it enjoyed an enviable reputation throughout what is now Paterson.

#### SOME OLD-TIME SCHOOLMASTERS.

The first teacher there of whom the writer has been able to hear anything was William Jenner. His grand-father came to America about the middle of the last century, and his father settled at Preakness. William left home and followed the sea for some time, picking up an excellent education and a valuable fund of general information, of which he made good use when he returned and took charge of the Wesel school, about 1798. He next taught school at Preakness, where he took Paul's advice and followed after Charity—the daughter of James Ackerman. From 1813 to 1815 he taught once more at Wesel, living there with his wife and two or three children. About this time, or two or three years later, he mysteriously disappeared, and was never heard of more by his relatives.

Joseph Henderson, described by some of his pupils as “a full-blooded Englishman” and “an old tyrant,” succeeded Jenner at Wesel, about 1802, living in the schoolhouse with a charming young wife whom he married at Clifton, and who was worshipped by the pupils, to whom her kindness was in marked contrast to her husband's sternness. Henderson was a

capital surveyor, and did considerable work of that sort, running out many farm-lines in Acquackanonk, between 1804 and 1810, his surveys being regarded as very accurate. While at Wesel he created some excitement by instructing the scholars in the art of declamation, and for the better exercise of their lungs, and the accommodation of the parents, who used to attend the occasional "exhibitions" in crowds, these exercises were held in a large barn near by, the floor of which was cleared for the purpose. Who shall say that those unpretentious "exhibitions," held in a dreary barn, were not as delightful and intellectual as the more ambitious demonstrations of our schools and seminaries of to-day?

About 1806-7, Bernard Sheridan, an intelligent Irishman, with a marked brogue, succeeded Henderson at Wesel, and kept the school up to a very high standard: so much so, that he had as many as seventy pupils at one time, and children came as much as three or four miles to enjoy the benefit of his instruction. He was teaching there in 1811, as appears by the following communication in the Newark "Sentinel" in June of that year:

"On Saturday last a school exhibition was held in Mr. B. N. Sheridan's school, in the neighborhood of Weazel, near Paterson; and it is but due justice to Mr. Sheridan (considering the short period of tuition) to say that his pupils exceeded the most sanguine expectations of their parents, as well as the numerous audience who had the pleasure of being present at the exhibition."

On Sheridan's tombstone, in the First Reformed Churchyard at Passaic, is this flattering tribute to his undoubted worth:

"Here lies an honest man at rest,  
As ever God in his image blest.  
A friend of man, a friend of truth,  
A friend of age, a guide of youth.  
If there's another world he lives in bliss,  
If there's none, he made the best of this."

Thomas Gould taught at Wesel about 1820, being succeeded by Jacob Goetschius, who "used to take the hide off," say some of his old pupils from personal experience. Mr. Goetschius taught for a great many years all about this section, and was regarded as a remarkably thorough instructor.

Bryant Sheys next wielded the rod at Wesel. He was an Irishman, who retained a rich brogue to the last. He was a political exile, it is said, and came to America about a century ago, settling at Taunton, Mass., where he taught school during the Revolution. Of the incidents of "the times that tried men's souls," he was very fond of talking, especially when his tongue was loosened (and it was ever quite limber) by a glass or two. He used to say he "always liked the Baptists, because he never knew a Baptist who was a Tory during the "Revolution." He came to Paterson previous to 1800, and kept tavern in Oliver street, adjoining St. John's Roman Catholic Church, and being somewhat of an antiquarian, accumulated a valuable collection of local curiosities. He sold his tavern in 1802 to Judge Charles Kinsey (who occupied it as a dwelling), and took charge of the Wesel school for a short time. He was a Protestant, and married a farmer's daughter near Clifton, it is said, and when he resumed his sway at the old schoolhouse in 1822, his wife, his son James B. (afterwards a New York lawyer who achieved quite a reputation), and his daughter Harriet lived with him. Sheys was short and stout in build, was a man of fine parts, an excellent scholar, frank and generous, and his only fault was an overfondness for a "social glass," which unfortunately grew upon him in his later years. He taught at Wesel till 1828, and died soon after. —His eldest son was something of an artist, who one day seeing Thomas Paine in a butcher's shop, with great rapidity sketched his portrait upon the smooth side of the butcher's block, and, he used to claim, thus made almost the only por-

trait of Paine in existence, that noted free thinker being morbidly averse to sitting to an artist. This singularly-obtained sketch was for many years to be seen at the old "Museum Hotel," at the northeast corner of Main and Smith streets, Paterson.

One Carpenter succeeded Sheys at Wesel. After him came another teacher who remained but a few weeks. He dismissed the school one Saturday night, promising the pupils a sound flogging on the following Monday morning, for some real or fancied misbehavior. But alas for human frailty! That very night he visited a tavern at the Broadway bridge, got drunk, fell to fighting, and received two such black eyes and such a general battering that he was ashamed to be seen again by his pupils, and left the country for parts unknown. And so the children's quaking hearts on that gloomy Monday morning were once more full of gladness.

The old schoolhouse which had stood time's ravages for unknown years, at last fell into a state of hopeless decay, and about 1835 was torn down and replaced by a neat little frame building. This was supported as a "Union" school by the neighboring families on both sides of the river, until three or four years ago, when the State law required all school districts to lie wholly in one county. The people on the Bergen county side of the river set about building a schoolhouse of their own, and soon the venerable landmark was removed, and the "Wesel schoolhouse" is no more.

#### FIRST SCHOOLS IN THE TOWN OF PATERSON.

The town of Paterson was founded in the Summer of 1792, by the Society for Establishing Useful Manufactures (popularly known as the "S. U. M."), which aimed to build up here a great manufacturing city. During the following year quite a number of families were brought hither, to work in the numer-

ous shops, built or projected, and at a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Society, held April 15, 1794,

“The Superintendent representing to the Board that a number of Children were employed in the Factory, whose parents were so poor and the wages of the Children so low, that they cannot get to School, and that if something is not done a number of Children will be withdrawn—resolved therefore that Mr. Colt be authorized to employ a school Master to teach the Children of the Factory on Sunday’s\*—and that the compensation of the Master shall not exceed Ten shillings per week.”

According to tradition, the late Miss Sarah Colt, the daughter of Mr. Peter Colt, the Superintendent of the S. U. M., she being at the time but twelve years of age, began in April, 1794, to teach some of the factory hands on Sunday, in the basement of her father’s residence. This Sunday school was preceded by but one or two in America. Seventy-four years later (in 1868) Miss Colt had the gratification of seeing a procession of five thousand Paterson Sunday school children march in review past her house, acknowledging her as the founder of the system in this city.

The success of her modest effort at doing good doubtless led to the Society’s action, mentioned above, and a school-master was employed to continue the work this child had begun. The records are silent as to the manner in which this movement was carried forward, the only reference thereto being the following, in the minutes of January 25, 1796 :

“Mr. Colt laid before the Board a letter from Jno. Wright, the school master of Paterson, relative to the small tenement

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\*It may not be generally known that Sunday schools originally devoted most of their attention to teaching poor children how to read and cipher. So late as 1822, the constitution of the Paterson Union Sabbath School Society declared that society’s object to be “the instruction of children and youth in the rudiments of the English Language, Religion and Morality”—elementary education being placed first.

“ of the Society which he occupied as a School House for the  
“ children in the employ of the Society—

“ Resolved, that the Superintendent do not charge any rent  
“ for the said House whilst it was occupied as a School  
“ House.”

The Society failed in 1796, and was dormant for nearly twenty years, else better school accommodations would have been provided, beyond doubt, for at a meeting of the Directors held April 5, 1814,

“ The Governor reported that in the first formation of the  
“ Society, it was resolved that a Tract of Land should be ap-  
“ propriated for a School and another for a Church—but as  
“ there appeared no call for them, in the then State of the So-  
“ ciety, nothing was done.”

Within six or eight years after Paterson was founded, a schoolhouse was built at the southeast corner of Broadway and Prospect street—one story high, of frame, about 20x30 feet in area. Hither thirty-five or forty little folks repaired daily to learn reading, writing and 'rithmetic. The teacher bore the remarkable name of Smith, and his jurisdiction extended over a wide range of territory, for children sometimes came from Totowa, the “ Bocht ” (Riverside), and even Wesel, to attend “ the Paterson school,” either because of its superior reputation, or because those neighborhoods had no schools, or were temporarily in want of teachers. We may dismiss this school—or the consideration thereof—by adding that Joseph Sherburne succeeded Mr. Smith, teaching there for three years, up to May 1, 1805, paying the S. U. M. £3 rent per annum, and eight shillings for rent of a stove. Bryant Sheys also taught there for some time.

Thomas Wills was one of the last teachers in this building, about 1820. Wills taught in and about Paterson (especially at Wagaraw) for perhaps tuirty years, and was highly esteemed



by pupils and parents. Being a very superior penman, he was employed in 1798 to transcribe the records of Saddle River township from 1789, a task which he executed with great neatness. He was a fluent speaker, and was a leading member of a little debating society which used to meet on Saturday nights in Godwin's or Weller's tavern, sixty or seventy years ago. An oration which he delivered in Paterson on the Fourth of July, 1811, was so greatly admired that it was published in full in the Newark Sentinel, September 10, following. It is quite a rhetorical effort, and delivered by a good speaker must have sounded well. Wills lived during the later years of his life in a modest little house, still standing in Broadway, now the residence of Mr. E. B. King. A quaint knocker on the door contained a strip of brass on which was engraved an imitation of his autograph. Before the establishment of a postoffice at Paterson, the published lists of unclaimed letters in the Newark office generally advertised one or more missives for the Paterson pedagogue, showing that he carried on quite a correspondence. Wills died here February 7, 1823, aged fifty-two years, and lies interred in the neglected old burying ground at the foot of Totowa. His son, of the same name, was admitted to the New York bar in 1817.

#### AN AMBITIOUS ENTERPRISE.

In 1799, Paterson being then a village of but two or three hundred inhabitants, there was attempted here a project so ambitious as to excite a smile when we consider its character and the circumstances under which it was started. This was a public boarding school, for young ladies and gentlemen, conducted by the Rev. John Phillips and wife. The young ladies' school was kept in the "Old Hotel," a large wooden building erected in 1794-5 for hotel purposes, on Market street, between Hotel and Union, and destroyed by fire in June, 1848.

The young gentlemen were taught in the old "Colt House," a two-story-and-basement frame dwelling, occupied by the Colt family for several years, and standing on Market street near Main, the site of the present Masonic Hall. It was said by the late Judge Dickerson\* that these schools were well attended for two years. From an old account-book in the writer's possession it would appear that the enterprise was continued until the Spring of 1803, or for nearly four years. Phillips appears to have been in a state of chronic impecuniosity, paying "on account" but two or three times a year. Judge Dickerson said the discontinuance of the schools was owing to causes of which he had no knowledge. The old account-book referred to would seem to furnish an explanation. The Rev. Mr. Phillips was incessantly buying rye or corn—averaging six bushels of the former weekly, varying with the latter in the Spring. Now, rye and corn may be a wholesome diet, but after a while must get rather monotonous, and if the reverend boarding-school keeper really fed his pupils on such food (and he does not appear to have bought any other), is it any wonder that his school eventually ran down? Mind, I do not assert it as a positive fact that he really was so extreme a vegetarian as to provide such a bill of fare as rye and corn to his pupils, but if he did, the failure of his educational institution was not surprising. He is charged June 3, 1801, with £44 (\$110) rent for a house; and June 19, 1802, with £50 (\$125) rent for a house and barn; also with "one season's rent for two ten plate stoves, at ten "shillings each." In the Spring of 1803 he was sued for rent, etc., by the S. U. M., and his property sold to pay his debts. Phillips was something of a farmer, owned land on Totowa, and kept at least eight cows. After he was sold out, he left this part of the country. Mr. Phillips was probably the first clergyman who preached in the English language in or about

\* A Lecture on the City of Paterson, 1856, p. 21.

Paterson, holding Sunday meetings in his school-room in the Colt house. He was doubtless a graduate of Princeton in 1774.\* To his matriculation there he may have owed the fact that Richard Stockton (of the class of 1779) sent at least one child to Mr. Phillips to receive "schooling," for which Mr. P. was paid \$81.39 in May, 1802. The real failure of this ambitious attempt was doubtless because it was at least three-quarters of a century in advance of the times.

#### OTHER SCHOOLS AND SCHOOLMASTERS.

For the year ending May 1, 1806, the Colt house in Market street near Main was occupied in part by the family of Mr. Henderson, previously at the Wesel school, he paying £50 (\$125) rent for the building. He gave instruction in mental gunnery to about thirty children. To their great joy, he soon left, and subsequently removed to the far-off wilderness of Ohio, settling at or near Cincinnati, where it was subsequently reported that he had made a handsome fortune in civil engineering.

David Stevenson hired the same house during the year ending May 1, 1807.

Thomas Wills and Abraham Willis are also said to have taught there.

Willis was a surveyor, apparently a man of superior intelligence, whose dwelling still stands, in Willis street, next the Baptist church. Dying Monday, December 3, 1810, the Newark "Sentinel" remarked of him: "His life was useful, his character generous, honest and truly respected. His death most sincerely regretted, and his memory will ever be dear to every lover of his country."

From 1810 to 1812, the building was occupied for a school by Joseph Sherburne, above mentioned. He came to Pater-

\* Princeton Triennial Catalogue.

son from Maine as early as 1800, taught school ten or twelve years, then kept a store and acted as Justice of the Peace, until his death in 1829, in his sixtieth year.

About 1804-10 there was a very select school kept in the rooms over Henry Godwin's store, at the southwest corner of River and Bank streets, by the sweet, refined and intellectual wife of Benjamin Helme (who died there May 17, 1804), his poverty being thought by some to be the result of his reputation, which was such as to gain for him the extraordinary soubriquet, "the Honest Lawyer." Mrs. Helme had few pupils, but they were of the best families in the place.

The north or "Manchester" side of the river had been growing steadily in population, and about 1809-10 a frame schoolhouse some twenty feet square, one story high and very rough in its construction, was erected fifteen or twenty feet in the rear of the old Totowa Dutch church on Water street near Matlock. Richard Todd was the first teacher, doubtless, and he is said to have been equal to teaching anything.\* One Thompson, an Irishman, taught there about 1812-13. For several years John W. House, a leading Baptist, had charge of the school; in 1824 he had forty pupils. In 1825 the school seems to have passed into the hands of Charles Upson, who had thirty-five scholars. In 1827 Mr. House had resumed the teacher's desk and rod, and swayed the latter over forty-five heads. The schoolhouse was occasionally used for evening church meetings through the week, and in winter the young people gathered there for frolics under the guise of "singing-schools."

The early annals of this school, were they fully chronicled, would be found crowded with records of fierce battles between the pupils from the opposite sides of the river—there being an

\* Still earlier than this, Todd taught a school in the western part of Totowa, perhaps where the Totowa District School now stands.

inveterate animosity between "the Dutch boys" on the North side against the "the Paterson boys"—whom they regarded as intruders—"carpet-baggers," so to speak—on the South side. One winter's day sixty years or more ago, the leader of "the Paterson boys" dared the enemy to follow him across the river on the ice, and threatened them with figurative annihilation if they presumed to venture on Paterson soil. In his eager defiance, as he backed across the river, his face to the foe, he failed to perceive the dangers behind, and suddenly he broke through the treacherous ice, and only escaped a watery grave through the promptness of a family servant of his grandfather's, who had noticed the boy's danger from the Passaic Hotel. In the excitement of the moment the enmity between the clans was forgotten, and the leader of "the Dutch fellows" cordially clasped hands with the doughty champion of "the Paterson boys." \*

On the south side of Broadway, opposite the Washington Market, there formerly stood a long, old-fashioned building, originally a tavern. The upper floor was occupied for a school for many years; an outside stairway at the western end led up to it. Otis Wilmarth wielded the rod there in 1824, and Mrs. Phœbe Fairchild conducted the school in 1825. In 1826 John W. Woodward came from New York to take charge, offering "to instruct youth in Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Geography, and Grammar, for \$3 a scholar per quarter." Bradford W. Lyon (familiarily known as "Dominie" Lyon) also taught there at one time.

An old stone house on the site of Mrs. John R. Van Houten's residence, on Broadway, adjoining the Erie Railway, was occupied for a school by Thomas Wills prior to 1813.

Another building long used in part for school purposes was

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\* For names, etc., consult the still active Captain Stephen Allen, and Mr. Abraham H. Godwin.

that large double tenement house in Marshall street, east side, a short distance south of Oliver; B. W. Lyon taught the children about 1819-20.

The following lists of (private) schools, etc., in Paterson in the years named were made at the time by the Rev. Dr. Samuel Fisher, and are doubtless quite complete:

1824—Mrs. Haywood, Oliver street, 40 scholars; Enoch Williams, Ward street, 45 scholars; Mrs. Joseph F. James, Congress street (now Market, west of Union), 40 scholars. (Her husband appears to have kept a beer and cake shop in the same house.) James McGrorty, John street, 25 day and 10 evening scholars; Mr. and Mrs. Davis, Market street, near Union (doubtless in "the Academy"), 80 and 10 scholars; Otis Wilmarth, Broadway near Washington street, 45 scholars; Jacob Goetschius, Division street (near Washington, building erected in 1824), 40 scholars. This makes a total of 315 children attending day-school, out of a population of 2,178 persons under sixteen years of age.

1825—Mrs. (Wm.) and Miss Haywood, Oliver street, 35 scholars; Uzal Freeman, Prospect street, 70 scholars; Mrs. Phœbe Fairchild, Broadway near Washington street, 22 scholars; Mrs. Van Winkle, Market street, between Clark and Prince, 30 scholars; I. Mosher, Market street, between Clark and Union, 37 scholars; Jacob Catlin, about the same location, (probably both were in "the Academy"), 12 scholars; Mrs. Wilde, Market street, between Union and Main (probably in the "Colt House"), 15 scholars; Wm. L. Roberts and Jacob Goetschius, Washington street (doubtless Division street near Washington, as in 1824), 102 scholars. Total, 323 scholars.

1827—Enoch Williams, Main street near Broadway, — scholars; Miss Walmsley, Ward street, 9 scholars; A. Van Winkle, Ward street, 38 scholars; the Rev. James C. Fisher

Ward street, corner Cross, 31 scholars\* ; Mrs. A. L. Wilde, Congress street, 12 scholars ; Hugh Dougherty, White Alley, 60 scholars ; Wm. B. Hamilton, John street, 60 day and evening scholars ; Miss Bumstead, Prospect street, 6 scholars ; Z. Searle, Prospect street, 70 scholars ; Jacob Goetschius, Division street, 105 scholars ; Moses E. De Witt, Broadway near Main street, 28 scholars ; L. Sythoff, Market street near Clark (the Academy?), 45 scholars. Total, 469 children attending school. (In a newspaper summary Dr. Fisher stated that there were "eleven male and six female schools," attended by 633 scholars.†)

In 1829—Dr. Fisher published a summary as follows: Number of school children between three and sixteen years, 2,629 ; there were in the town nineteen pay-schools, twelve male and seven female, in which were instructed 664 children. "There is a free school for poor children which is supported "by the town ; also an infant school for children between three "and eight years ; 121 pupils at present. There are six Sab- "bath schools, in which are instructed 1,072 scholars ; of these, "528 attend no other school. Consequently there are in Pat- "erson 1,393 children who enjoy daily or weekly instruction "in the different schools."‡ Among the educational announcements in the newspapers of the day were the following :

May, 1826—M. E. De Witt, from Greenville Academy, New York, gives notice that he will open a school "in Main street, "in the room above the Hat Store of Mr. Brown"—a few doors north of Van Houten street, on the west side. In addition to the ordinary English branches, he undertook to teach Latin and Greek. Mr. De Witt soon became a successful pol-

\* For some years Mr. Fisher occupied the lecture-room of the First Presbyterian Church—a small frame building, subsequently removed to Ward street, south side, next to the corner of Cross, where it was used as a dwelling. This Spring it was removed to Cross street, west side, one door north of Oliver, and remodeled.

† Paterson Intelligencer, July 25, 1827.

‡ Paterson Intelligencer, Aug. 26, 1829.

itician, and was rewarded with the postoffice about 1832, a few years after coming to Paterson, and in 1843 was elected Sheriff of the county.

May, 1826—Mrs. Hamilton, from Belfast (Ireland), advertises a school for young ladies, in John street, for plain and ornamental needle work, etc. A Mr. Hamilton (presumably her husband) already had a school in that street.

April, 1829—A "Common School" was opened by Mr. Larned in Mr. Goetschius's schoolhouse in Division street near Washington; terms, \$1.50 and \$2.

May, 1829—M<sup>r</sup>. Hartley, from Providence, Rhode Island, began a school in the basement of the Baptist church in Broadway, between West and Mulberry streets, now occupied by the Second German Presbyterian Church. These premises were occupied at different times through many years for school purposes.

In the Fall of 1831, Isaac Serven opened a day and evening school in the basement of the old Main street Reformed Church.

The Rev. John Croes, jr., rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 1825-30, had a very superior classical school at one time in the rear of his residence, which occupied the site of the present First Presbyterian Church parsonage on Market street.

The mere mention of these names will recall to many of our older citizens the circumstances under which they acquired the education that was considered sufficient in those days "to give a boy a start in the world." Of the character of the instruction imparted, it may be said in brief that it was as diverse as the teachers who flitted across the early dawn of educational progress in Paterson.

#### FEMALE EDUCATION.

Female education received considerable attention in those



days, and some branches were taught which no longer find a place in the most elaborate courses of study in the most famous of modern seminaries for young women. A few specimens of the curriculum and charges of a "young ladies' school" in Paterson half a century ago may not be without interest.

In April, 1826, Mrs. Wilde advertised that the Summer term of her school would begin May 8, "in the School Room "now occupied by her, at the Corner of Main and Congress "Streets, in the Village of Paterson, where Young Ladies will "be carefully instructed in the various branches of English "Education,—such as, Reading, Writing, English Grammar, "Arithmetic, Geography, History, and Rhetoric. *Also*, Embroidery on Lace, to any required pattern for Veils, Dresses, "Caps, Edgings, &c. *Also*, the most approved method of "Painting on Velvet, of taking any pattern of Flowers, and of "Painting them in a superior manner."

This was in the old "Colt House."

In November, 1826, Miss Collis began a "select school for "young ladies," "in the house lately occupied by Miss Ben- "net, on the bank of the river." She proposed "to teach Read- "ing, Writing, Arithmetic, Grammar and Composition, His- "tory, Rhetorick, Philosophy [i. e., physics] and Chemistry, "with Drawing and Painting in water colours, Velvet Paint- "ing, Lace, and other ornamental Needle-Work. Hours of "attendance from nine in the morning until three in the after- "noon. Saturday will be devoted to Drawing. Terms from \$3 "to \$5. Drawing a separate charge of \$5. Velvet Painting \$3. "Lace-Working, separately, \$3."

In May, 1828, Mrs. Conover opened a young ladies' school which seemed to be on a less ambitious scale than the above, "at the brick house lately built in Broadway, the second house "next to Mr. Robert King's.\* Terms—for Reading and

\* Broadway, north side, between Washington and Bridge.

“ Plain Sewing, \$3 per quarter ; with Writing and Arithmetic, \$4 per qr. ; with Geography and Fine Needle Work, \$5 per qr.”

There are people who think that some features of that course of study—to wit, the “ plain sewing ” and “ fine needle work ”—might be introduced with advantage into the schools of to-day.

#### THE PATERSON ACADEMY.

The premature attempt of the Rev. Mr. Phillips to found a school of a higher order in Paterson was followed a few years later by an organized effort of a number of leading citizens to establish a superior institution of learning in the place. On May 6, 1811, “ The Paterson Academy ” was formally incorporated under the provisions of the general “ Act to incorporate societies for the promotion of learning,” the following gentlemen being elected Trustees : Abraham Van Houten, Charles Kinsey, John Parke, Samuel Colt, William Ellison. Mr. Van Houten was an old resident, who lived where the “ Wigwam ” now stands, an extensive property-owner, and at this time was the agent of the S. U. M. Charles Kinsey had started a paper mill here in 1802, and was one of the most intelligent, progressive and valuable citizens Paterson has ever had. John Parke was another man of great enterprise. Samuel Colt was a new-comer, a nephew of Peter Colt, of superior education and foremost in every good work for several years ; he had just started a rolling mill, under the patronage of his cousin, Roswell L. Colt. William Ellison was a native of Ireland, a graduate of the University of Edinburgh, and of great ability as a physician.

The Society U. M. generously gave a site for the Academy, at the southeast corner of Market and Union streets. The latter thoroughfare was not opened till later, when, and for many years after, it was known as Academy street.

Réferring to this matter in 1814, the Governor of the S. U. M. reported to the Directors :

“ That lately the population has so increased, that it became “ absolutely necessary, to build a school house. A Lot was “ fixed on in the least inconvenient place for the Society, and “ that he executed a Deed to the Trustees of the School ac- “ cordingly.”

His action was formally approved by the Board. The deed was executed September 4, 1812, but it is not unlikely that the lot had been occupied by the Trustees before this date. The Academy was a very plain frame structure, two stories high, about forty feet long on Market street, and twenty-five feet deep. The records of the society would doubtless be interesting reading, could they be found. Without them, the details of the school's history are exceedingly scanty. About 1820, Bradford W. Lyon is said to have taught there. James W. King was in charge for a while, and was succeeded by a Mr. Ware, who introduced the then popular Lancasterian system of managing by monitors.

In 1823 the Trustees advertise the opening of the Academy on June 2d, “ under the superintendence of Mr. William S. “ Davis, of Poughkeepsie, N. Y., assisted by Mrs. D. and a “ young lady,” who were to “ take charge of the female part “ of the school.” Reading, writing and plain needle work were taught at the very reasonable rate of \$2 per quarter; arithmetic, the elements of grammar and geography, for \$2.50; “ the critical and more abstruse parts of Geography and His- “ tory upon a new and interesting plan, with drawing and use “ of Maps,” \$3; rhetoric, composition, drawing, painting, botany and “ the translation of the French,” \$4. A Latin class was also promised, “ under the superintendence of a “ young Gentleman of ability,” as soon as a sufficient number of scholars should offer.

In the Fall of 1825, Dr. Lambert Sythoff, a physician who practiced out of school hours, took charge of the Academy, and his reputation was such that his complement of pupils was more than filled at once. During the following Spring he devoted eight hours a day to instruction, the better to accommodate the scholars. In a prospectus dated March, 1826, Dr. Sythoff says :

“In this Seminary, youth are led by easy gradations from the first rudiments of knowledge, to the higher classics, and to every species of Literary acquirement that may qualify them for admission into any of the classes of American Colleges, or fit them for the various stations of active life.”

It is probable that the Trustees had ere this ceased to have anything to do with the school, and simply rented the building to teachers. In the Spring of 1829 the Rev. Wm. J. Gibson informed his friends and the public that he intended “opening a school in the lower room of the Academy, lately occupied by Mr. De Witt.” At the same time Mr. Lyon announced the beginning of his “next quarter” in “the upper room of the Academy; also an evening school.” Of Lyon it has been said: “He had been clerk, writer, pettifogger, pedagogue, politician and editor; and though a man of very moderate parts, by his constant mingling in public matters became quite a prominent character in the town.”\* Lyon was a native of Litchfield, Conn., and came to Paterson from Middlesex county, New Jersey, in 1816 or 1817, opening a school at 65 or 67 Broadway. He died suddenly, January 30, 1838, aged fifty-five years.

About 1830, Henry White, during the later years of his life (he died in 1865) known as “Daddy” White, taught upstairs in the Academy, and a Mr. Collins on the first floor.

\*Paper read by the late Wm. Gledhill, before the Passaic County Historical Society, July 16, 1867,

The association seems to have become financially embarrassed soon after this. In 1836 the Legislature authorized those of the subscribers who had paid \$8 to assign their interest to the Trustees. The building was then removed to another lot belonging to the S. U. M., at the northwest corner of Academy (or Union) and Smith streets, for which \$600 was to be, but never was, paid. The structure was remodeled, and continued in use as a school-house for ten years, being partially destroyed by fire in 1846. The concern being now hopelessly bankrupt, Mr. Nathaniel Lane, for the Trustees, surrendered the premises to the S. U. M., November 29, 1848, and "the Paterson Academy" was a thing of the past.

Though it scarcely realized all the hopes indulged in by its founders, the Academy in its day exerted a moral influence not easily estimated. While it stood, Science had a home peculiarly her own. New church societies met there till they were strong enough to build for themselves\*; the first permanent Sunday school in Paterson (the First Presbyterian) was organized there; it was the popular lyceum; and indeed, for fifteen or twenty years "the Academy" was the headquarters of nearly every movement for the spiritual, moral, intellectual, social or physical improvement of the town—so naturally do men turn to the schoolhouse as the proper starting-point for any good work they may have in hand.

#### OTHER ACADEMIES.

The Methodists erected a neat little frame edifice for religious worship in Prospect street (where the present church stands), in 1820, and in the Winter of 1824-5 put up on the same lot a frame building, the front of which was adapted for a dwelling and the rear for a Sunday school, etc. January 20, 1825, Mr. Uzal W. Freeman moved into the yet unfinished building with

\*Among them, the First Presbyterian, in 1813, and St. Paul's Episcopal, in 1818.

his family, and four days later opened the "Methodist Academy."\* Two months later he was obliged to give up the dwelling to the Rev. John Creamer, the first regular pastor of the church. The successive preachers lived in this building till 1830. Mr. Freeman was very successful with his school, and during the Summer of 1825 had seventy pupils.† He kept it up until July, 1826, when he went to Newark, and although he returned a few months later he did not resume teaching, but applied himself to surveying and book-keeping—regarded as cognate pursuits a generation ago—until 1833, when he removed to Ohio, where he remained until his death. He was a native of Orange, N. J., but came to Paterson from Montville, Morris county.

In April, 1826, Edwin E. Griswold, from Connecticut, advertised that he had leased the "Methodist Academy" for one year, and would also teach evening school; but a week later he confessed that he had not met with sufficient encouragement, and the school remained in charge of Mr. Freeman a few months longer, when Zetus Searle took it in hand—a young man, lame, who kept the school up to the standard, seventy children attending in 1827. ‡ He removed to New York, continuing there as a teacher. The "Methodist Academy" then passed under the control of a Mr. Briggs, who was succeeded by a one-legged pedagogue, who was an excellent preceptor, too, about 1830-1.

About May 1, 1829, the Rev. Jacob T. Field, pastor of the Second Reformed Church, started the "Manchester Academy," in a roomy building which he erected for the purpose adjoining his residence on Water street, nearly opposite Albion. Eighty to one hundred pupils could be accommodated. Mr. Field conducted the classical department, and Asahel Ab-

\*MS. Diary of A. H. Freeman, Esq., of Orange, son of Uzal W. Freeman.

†Dr. Fisher's Census of Paterson, 1825.—Nelson MSS.

‡Ibid, 1827.

bott, of New Hampshire, taught the English branches. The school seems to have been quite successful, but Mr. Field disposed of his interest in it in 1831.\*

In connection with these movements for a higher education, it may be remarked that teachers of languages frequently came to Paterson, often remaining for some time. One Daniel Heyman taught French at the old Academy, and gave private lessons in the same, during 1826.

John J. Larena, a Spaniard, in the same year offered to teach persons how to read his native tongue in four lessons, but prudently required forty lessons to instruct his pupils how to converse in Spanish.

In the Spring of 1829 a number of the Paterson admirers of Miss Fanny Wright organized the "Jefferson Institute," the nominal object of which was to establish a public school "free from sectarian bias," the projectors being deeply tainted with the Deistic or atheistic sentiments prevalent at that day. A school was actually kept up for a few months in St. John's (Masonic) Hall, which then stood on Broadway where Washington street now joins that thoroughfare, from the south.

About the same time, a far nobler movement in the direction of higher education was started by some young men, who formed a "Philosophical Society," for their mutual improvement and the instruction of others. At their weekly meetings there were addresses and discussions evincing extensive study and deep thought on the part of the participants. The Society became very popular, and won the respect and sympathy of the better class of citizens, who contributed freely of books and money, until a valuable library and collection of philosophical apparatus had been acquired. The members were so greatly encouraged by their success that in 1832 they bought a

\* Paterson newspapers of the day. In 1825 the "Pompton Union Academy" was flourishing at Pompton, managed by Trustees. Mr. Harrison, from Princeton College, was in charge.

plot, 50x100 feet, at the northwest corner of Ward and Main streets, and erected a fine building for a "Mechanics' Institute." It was an enterprise too extensive for their means, and in advance of the popular demand—though not of the popular need. The Institute soon ran behind in its finances, then in its usefulness and interest, and after languishing for some years was disbanded and the property passed into other hands.\* It was really the most promising attempt that has been made in Paterson to supply the demand that has always been supposed to exist, for an institution devoted peculiarly to the higher education and cultivation of mechanics. That this attempt received little or no support from that class, and that no such institution has yet been permanently established, would seem to indicate that the want referred to is more imaginary than real.

#### FIRST FREE SCHOOLS.

Until 1827, there was no free public-school in Paterson or in the present limits of Passaic county. The Legislature had enacted a law in 1820 looking toward the establishment of free popular education, but few communities availed themselves of its provisions for many years. In some cases Township Trustees selected teachers for what were called the public schools, and a small tax was raised to help defray the expenses, but the parents paid the teacher a certain sum for each child's tuition; the children of indigent families were of course taught free, if they were willing to be distinctively known as "poor children," as few of them were.

A number of the public-spirited citizens of Paterson being of the opinion that the town ought to support a free school, held a meeting at the Academy on Saturday, April 7, 1827, and appointed Mark W. Collet, Dr. James Warren and Abraham

\* It is now occupied by Dr. Charles Inglis as a residence.



Godwin, Jr., a committee to draw up a memorial to be presented for the consideration of the voters at the Town Meeting the next Monday, recommending the raising by tax of \$400 for school purposes in Acquackanonk township, "to be expended by the Town Committee, agreeable to the act of 1820, in the education of poor children of the township." This recommendation was almost unanimously adopted by the voters at the Town Meeting. In June the Town Committee met and allotted \$275 to Paterson and \$125 to the rest of the township, a committee of prominent citizens being appointed "to take charge and select such children whose parents were not able to pay for their education, and employ teachers and apportion the amount of money equally amongst them for their education:" for Paterson—the Rev. Samuel Fisher (Presbyterian), the Rev. John Croes, jr. (Episcopalian), the Rev. Francis O'Donoghue (Roman Catholic), the Rev. John Kennaday (Methodist Episcopal), the Rev. Daniel D. Lewis (Baptist), the Rev. Wm. J. Gibson (Covenanter), and Mr. Caleb Munson Godwin; for the neighborhood of Acquackanonk—the Rev. Solomon Fræligh (True Reformed Dutch), the Rev. Benjamin C. Taylor (Reformed Dutch), and Mr. Cornelius G. Van Ripper; for the neighborhood of the Notch and Little Falls—Messrs. Evert H. Van Ness, John R. Speer, Ezekiel Miller. The Paterson committee engaged the Rev. Mr. Gibson, a graduate of Washington College, Penn., at \$75 per quarter, he to find his own fuel; they also hired the lower room of the Academy, at \$7.50 per quarter, and *the first free school in Passaic County* was opened there July 2, 1827. During the year, 134 scholars were enrolled, 70 or 80 of whom began with the alphabet; the average attendance was about 80, and the children made admirable progress. The school was visited at least once a week by some member of the committee.

The experiment was so successful that at the next Town

Meeting, in April, 1828, the sum of \$500 was voted for school purposes, which the Town Committee thus apportioned: Paterson, \$340; Committee—the Rev. Messrs. Fisher, O'Donoghue, Gibson, Wiggins (Reformed Dutch), Croes and Lewis, and Adrian Van Houten; Acquackanonk, \$50; Committee (also for Wesel)—the Rev. B. C. Taylor and C. G. Van Riper; Wesel, \$30; the Notch, \$30; Committee—John R. Speer and Simeon Brown; Little Falls, \$50; Committee—Ezekiel Miller and Evert H. Van Ness. The Paterson Committee held their school in the room under the Baptist (now Second German Presbyterian) church edifice on Broadway, near Mulberry street. The Rev. Mr. Gibson declined a re-engagement at the old rates, and started a school of his own in Mr. Goetschius's building; so the Committee employed a Mr. Childs, a graduate of Union College, N. Y., at a salary of \$300, he to find his own fuel. He remained but two quarters, when Mr. Gibson took charge once more. The number of scholars this year was 157, with an average attendance of 80. No reports were published by the other Committees.

In 1829, \$500 was voted, and appropriated as in 1828, the Committee being: for Paterson—John W. Berry, David Reid and John Strong; Acquackanonk and Wesel—Cornelius G. Van Riper, Esq.; Little Falls and the Notch—Simeon Brown, John R. Speer, Ezekiel Miller, Evert H. Van Ness.

The records for 1830 have not been found.

#### THE ELM STREET INFANT SCHOOL.

A number of benevolent ladies of the town who had long desired to provide gratuitous education for the children of the poor, agitated the subject during the winter of 1826-7, and prepared their plans for starting an "infant school" for the free education of poor children between the ages of three and eight years. They expected to have shared in the apportionment of

the township school-tax (and indeed claimed the credit for securing the levying of that tax), but failing to receive help from that source, they with commendable pluck organized the "Infant School Society," May 11, 1827, in the lecture room of the Baptist Church, and appointed as officers: Mrs. Fisher, 1st Directress; Mrs. E. Berry, 2d do.; Mrs. S. Collet, Secretary (declined, and Miss C. Colt appointed); Miss M. Wallace, Treasurer (declined, and Miss E. Colt appointed); Mrs. P. Sythoff, Mrs. E. B. D. Ogden (declined), Miss R. Wallace (declined), Mrs. E. Catlin, Miss M. Godwin, Miss S. Colt, Mrs. Elizabeth Speer, Mrs. Eveline Godwin, Miss Jane Van Houten, Managers. Mrs. Catharine Inslee was employed as teacher, and the Society U. M. gave the free use of a room. The school opened August 1st, 1827; 92 children were enrolled during the year, the average attendance the first two quarters being between 50 and 60, and during the third quarter between 70 and 80, families of every denomination contributing. The ladies received \$65 from voluntary contributions, and paid their teacher \$85. May 1st, 1828, the ladies engaged Mrs. Inslee (a daughter of Abraham Willis, previously mentioned as a teacher) at a salary of \$150 per year; the Society U. M. gave a lot of land, and through the generosity of a few friends a neat frame schoolhouse was erected in Elm street, where the German Presbyterian Church now stands. Thus this noble enterprise was placed on a firm basis, and for a generation or more afforded rudimentary instruction to those who else would have received none. In its later years, the upper floor was occupied for a "select school" by Miss Rachel Redman ("Aunt Rachel," everybody has always called her), while the "Infant School" was conducted by Miss Isabella Ray (now the wife of Charles Smith Kinsey, of Newark), under the auspices of the "Infant School Society," the children of the poor being charged the nominal tuition fee of one

cent per week. Miss Redman charged her pupils \$1.50 per quarter.

#### PATERSON TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS.

The township of Paterson having been incorporated in 1831, in that year the inhabitants voted a tax of \$300, "to be appropriated for a free school of all denominations," and elected the Rev. James Richards, John Brown and Henry Whitely a School Committee. The sum of \$203.50 was also received from the State. In 1832-3-4, \$300 was voted. In 1835 it was "*Resolved*, that nothing be raised this year for support of Free Schools, inasmuch as the law will not allow the school money to be appropriated for the exclusive benefit of poor children—and the Town Meeting recommend the School Committee in behalf of the inhabitants of Paterson, to petition the Legislature of the State of New Jersey to alter or amend the Law, that each township can have it in their power to appropriate their school money for one or more schools." Accordingly, January 26, 1836, the Legislature passed "An act to provide for the establishment of Public Schools, in the township of Paterson, in the county of Essex." This act made it the duty of the School Trustees "to establish one or more public schools within the township of Paterson, and provide, as far as the means may extend, for the education of *all* children in the said township not otherwise provided for, whether such children be or be not the proper objects of gratuitous education." The Trustees were also "authorized to require of the pupils received into the schools under their charge, a moderate compensation adapted to the ability of the parents of such children." No child was to be "denied the benefit of said public school on the ground of inability to pay for the same," but should "at all times be freely received and educated by the said Trustees." The

Trustees were authorized, with the approval of the Town Committee, to acquire and dispose of real school property.

The township school tax in 1836 was only \$200; in 1837-8, \$500; in 1839, *nothing*\*; in 1840-41, \$500; in 1842-3, \$300; in 1844-5-6-7-8-9, \$500; in 1850, *no* tax for any purpose was voted, save \$50 for the poor—and that only after several town meetings had been called.

In 1847, a Superintendent of Public Schools was elected, for the first time (the office having been created under the general school law of 1846), Silas D. Canfield being chosen. In 1848 there was none appointed; in 1849, John K. Flood was elected.

The designation, "free schools for the poor," was dropped after 1836, and they were known as "free schools" or "public schools," open to all classes and creeds.

The School Committee, originally composed of three members, was by the act of 1836 increased to not less than five nor more than nine members, and generally included some of the most prominent citizens of the town,†

The school accommodations in the days of the township educational system were rude and temporary. In 1835-6, the school was held in the Mechanics' Institute. In 1837-8 the Committee hired the basement of the Cross street Methodist Episcopal church, and the school was carried on there for two years. The first term of the Passaic County Courts was held in the same premises in the Spring of 1837, the school taking a brief vacation meanwhile, or occupying a building in the

\* In 1838 an act was passed prohibiting townships from raising more than double the amount of their respective apportionments of the State school fund. By an act of February 20, 1839, Paterson was relieved from this restriction, and the inhabitants were authorized to raise for the support of public schools *any* amount. The failure to vote anything, after securing this liberal legislation, is singular. It is believed the Committee elected in 1838 were regarded by the citizens as too progressive, and they were accordingly ousted, and no school money voted.

† For list of School Committeemen, 1831-50, see Appendix.

rear of the church. The basement of the Baptist church in Broadway (now owned by the Second German Presbyterian church) was next occupied by the public school, which remained there for several years. Then it was removed to the old "Academy," corner of Union and Smith streets, and continued there until that building was destroyed by fire one Saturday noon in 1846, presumably from sparks from the blacksmith shop of the adjoining Oldham Machine Works, which occupied most of the block bounded by Market, Union, Smith and Hotel streets. Much difficulty was experienced in securing suitable accommodations now, and the school was dismissed for some weeks in consequence, and then moved temporarily into the Cross street M. E. church, nearly 200 children being crowded into two small rooms. After three or four months, the Principal, Mr. Samuel B. Brands, rented to the Committee a school-room under his dwelling. This was a small two-story frame building in the rear of what is now No. 90 Ellison street (Mr. Joseph Barned's premises). It belonged to the estate of Dr. William Ellison, and had been a school-house for twelve or fifteen years, at least.\*

Notwithstanding the repeated enactments looking toward making the public schools entirely free, and really popular, there was always a conservative, retarding tendency, as a concession to which the rule was established that but one child from a family should be allowed free schooling. Forty years ago, the children were required to have a permit from the School Trustees before they could receive free instruction. This rule obtained generally until the organization of the city schools. After a while it became customary for the teacher to

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\*About 1832-3, Thomas Briggs taught a private school in this building; then Adam Dockson; some time after, Justice Charles Inglis, Sen., who sold the "good will" of the school in 1845 to Mr. Samuel B. Brands, who lived upstairs and kept a private school down stairs for a year and a half, until at the request of the present Dr. Charles Inglis he took charge of the public school in the "Academy."

receive additional children from one family, charging a tuition fee for them. From 1848 to 1852, one dollar per quarter was the charge for all children of a family after the first. The pupils were always expected to furnish their own books and stationery, unless too poor to do so.

#### TOWNSHIP SCHOOL TEACHERS.

John D. Keily was the Principal, 1835-7. He was an Irishman, educated in France for a priest, but he joined the Methodist Church in Paterson and then became a public school teacher. He had about one hundred children in his charge, and was a good preceptor and disciplinarian. While in Paterson he was a fierce abolitionist\*, but afterwards removed to Virginia, and there became quite as earnest a champion of slavery.

Miss Mary Wylie had charge of the infant class of the public school while at the Cross street church, having as many as sixty or eighty little folks under her care, generally. She was so successful that a separate primary school was established there, which she managed to the satisfaction of the successive School Committees for nearly twenty years.

Joseph Perry came to Paterson in the Summer of 1838†, and was employed as teacher of the "Free School" in 1839. He continued the occupation in a public or private capacity, in the basement of the old Baptist Church in Broadway, and afterwards in the "Academy," until 1846, when he left Paterson, entering the Baptist ministry. For the past ten years he has been pastor of the Seamen's Bethel at Philadelphia. He was lax in discipline, but won the respect and esteem of his pupils.

Sampson W. Buffum was the next Principal. He was from New Hampshire (where we believe he still lives, an honored

\* He explained his love for the African by saying that while bathing in France he was attacked by a marine monster—possibly Victor Hugo's devil-fish—and his life was saved by a negro who came to his rescue at the risk of his own life.

† He joined the Baptist Church, on certificate, in July of that year.

citizen), and was possessed of an energy and zeal which brooked no opposition. His outspoken denunciations of slavery aroused a bitter public sentiment against him that greatly impaired his usefulness. He was prominent, too, in organizing the "Free Church" (in which progressives of various sorts were foremost), that met in the "New Market" in Cross street, west side, between Ellison and Passaic, and took part in the anti-slavery meetings at the same place that were ultimately stopped by a dangerous riot. Buffum was loved by his associates, and hated by his opponents. He was a very strict disciplinarian—excessively so, beyond doubt, but there is much reason to believe that his punishments of pupils were exaggerated by those who were politically opposed to him. However, he was actually indicted for cruelty to a scholar, tried in open court, convicted and heavily fined. Among the charges against him, it was said that he tied a boy up by the thumbs while he flogged him, and that he fastened another to a door by an awl thrust through his ear!

Isaac Hamilton, son of William B., was another public school teacher, and not long after L. D. Williams presided, in the "Academy," giving place in 1846 to Samuel B. Brands. Mr. B. conducted the school there for about six months, until the building was burned down (there were 112 pupils enrolled at the time,) and then for three months in the Cross street church, and then for five or six months in his residence in Ellison street, as previously mentioned. His health failing he gave up for a while, and his father, David I. Brands,\* conducted the public school for about half a year, until the Spring of 1848.

His successor was Sherburne R. Merrill, formerly from

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\*David I. Brands came to Paterson from Warren county in the Spring of 1832, and for fifteen or twenty years spent his time alternately in farming or in trade, and in teaching. He was the first of three generations of teachers, and at the present time two of his sons—Samuel B. and Orestes M.—and a grandson—Alexander M.—are Principals of public schools in Paterson. We doubt if a parallel case can be cited.



Deerfield, Mass.—a young man with his head full of New England ideas of what a public school ought to be. Being appointed to the Ellison street school he set about reorganizing it, and meanwhile set on foot a project for securing better accommodations. In company with Mr. James Stiles he bought a lot on the opposite side of the street (where the “Arcade” now is), whereon stood a small dwelling, paying \$1,800 for the property. Then, mainly through the generosity of Mr. Nicholas Kip, lumber dealer at Passaic, and Mr. Andrew Derrom, carpenter, they put up in the rear of the dwelling (which was rented to other parties) a two-story schoolhouse, 30x40 feet in size, at a cost of about \$800, and in September, 1848, the public school was transferred thither, occupying the upper floor, while Mr. James Stiles conducted a private school on the first floor. Mr. Merrill had as many as two hundred children under his care in one room, 30x40 feet in size! He was allowed an assistant teacher, and was aided not a little by the older pupils, who acted as monitors and were often given classes to teach. Among those who thus began a career of pedagogy was the present City School Superintendent, Mr. William J. Rogers.\* Mr. Merrill designed a combined desk and seat—a vast improvement over the furniture then in vogue, and embodying substantially the same principle now universally adopted by manufacturers of school desks and seats. He also introduced a thorough system of registration—quite an advance upon anything previously in use hereabouts. In 1848-9, he had a class of young mechanics who were so anxious to improve that they gathered in his school-room every morning at *six o'clock* to study industrial drawing, mechanics, algebra and surveying, and they kept this up all Winter, too. We

\*Once when Mr. Rogers was but fifteen, Mr. Merrill took a trip West, leaving Mr. R. in charge of the school, and he was warmly complimented on his successful management.

hardly know which most to admire—the zeal of the pupils, or the self-denying patience of the teacher.

Largely through Mr. Merrill's efforts, too, the "Paterson Lyceum" was organized in 1848 and continued for about three years, meeting in the school room. The weekly exercises (public after the first year) were participated in by ladies as well as gentlemen, and were enjoyed by crowded audiences.

When the State appropriation ran out in 1850, the school was continued as a private enterprise by Mr. Merrill until the ensuing Spring.

#### PATERSON CITY SCHOOLS.

In 1850, Paterson (south of the Passaic river) had a population of 11,341 inhabitants, and the simple township system of government was found to be inadequate for an effective administration of the town's multifarious interests, particularly the educational department and the prosecution of street improvements. The failure of the annual town meetings in 1850 to vote any appropriations whatever resulted in a strong movement for incorporation as a city, which succeeded in March, 1851. The city was divided into three wards—East (now 3d and 4th), West (now 6th) and South (now 5th, 7th and 8th)—with two School Committeemen elected from each, having the same powers as like township officers. A more liberal appropriation was also made, and the whole of Messrs. Merrill and Stiles's building was hired for school purposes, Mr. Merrill continuing in charge, up stairs, while his brother Samuel C. taught on the lower floor. The first public evening school was opened there during the Winter of 1851-2, and was well attended. In October, 1852, Mr. Sherburne Merrill, who all the while—in addition to teaching school eight or ten hours a day—had been studying medicine with Dr. A. W. Rogers, went to Philadelphia to attend medical lectures, and when he

returned to Paterson he was *Doctor* Merrill, and is to-day one of our most popular and successful practitioners. He was succeeded in the school by the Rev. William E. Westervelt, who taught until April, 1853. Mr. S. C. Merrill continued in charge of his own department for some time longer.

Meanwhile, the School Committee of the East Ward had hired Mr. Jacob Goetschius's schoolhouse, in Division street, north side, just east of Washington, where the Swedenborgian church now stands. The South Ward School Committee hired the First Presbyterian Sunday school building in Elm street, where the First German Presbyterian church was afterwards located.

#### STEPS TOWARD ORGANIZATION.

By a supplement to the city charter, approved March 9, 1854, it was provided that three School Committeemen should be elected in each Ward, who should constitute bodies politic and corporate in and for their several Wards, with power to buy land and erect schoolhouses, subject to the approval of the City Council, the latter body being authorized to appoint a School Superintendent. This legislation was the result of an advanced public sentiment, which was awakening to the importance and necessity of better school accommodations in the growing city. In this Spring, also, the North Ward (now First and Second Wards) was added to the city. Among the new Committeemen were some energetic friends of education, who were disposed to make the most of the new powers conferred on them. The East Ward Committee secured the services of Samuel C. Hosford, who was then teaching in Connecticut, and he came on and took charge of the school in Division street,\* that same season, and being recognized as a man of superior ability he was encouraged to devise a uniform

\*A primary school, subsidiary to that in Division street, was held at this time in the Broadway Baptist church.

system of school management for the whole city. So far as this particular work was concerned, however, Andrew Derrom seems to have taken the initiative. Having been elected School Superintendent, he immediately called a meeting of all the Ward School Committeemen, who assembled in the City Council chamber on Saturday evening, April 15, 1854.\* They organized as the "Joint Committee," and adopted by-laws, calling for quarterly meetings. Dr. Charles Inglis, jr., Cornelius T. Vandervoort, Robert Miller and Isaac D. Blauvelt, from the South, East, West and North Wards, respectively, were appointed a committee to draft school regulations, and reported a series of nineteen rules on May 22, which were adopted, and form the basis of the ninety-two regulations now in force. The original report was mainly the work of Dr. Inglis. There were to be four terms in the school year, beginning May 1, September 1, November 1, and February 1; vacation only in August, and between Christmas and New Year's; holidays on New Year's, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving and Christmas.† A course of study was prescribed, and a series of text-books adopted, the latter to be furnished by Paterson dealers. In July a Normal School was suggested. In January, 1855, a "delinquent class" was authorized. (Three years later it was resolved to organize a "delinquent school," but it does not appear to have been done.)

\*The City Council Chamber was used in common by the Aldermen and the School Committeemen until June, 1858, when the Aldermen proposed to charge the latter \$100 a year rent. For a month the School Committeemen then met in the office of Socrates Tuttle, which he generously placed at their disposal. Then they fitted up a room for their accommodation in the East Ward school, where their sessions were held until 1860. They next moved into the West Ward school, and remained there until April, 1871, when the present room in the new City Hall was placed at their disposal by the Board of Aldermen. Seven years ago, the subject was mooted of erecting a separate building for High School, Board of Education and public library. The same idea has lately been revived.

†The Board has repeatedly, as in 1854, tried to do away with holidays on Easter Monday and Whit Monday, but the old Dutch sentiment in favor of "Paas" and "Pinkster" has been too much for them, and those holidays have been always kept by the pupils, whether the Board authorized them or not, as it generally has. It is only since 1869 that July has been added to the Summer vacation,

In March, 1855, the Legislature passed a supplement to the city charter, in which were some important changes relative to the schools, drafted by John Hopper and Dr. Inglis. The several Ward Committees were authorized to issue \$6,000 of bonds each, and to provide schoolhouses in their several Wards. It was also enacted, that the several Ward boards of School Committeemen should together constitute a City Board of Education. Mr. Derrom was re-appointed Superintendent by the City Council.

#### INCREASING THE SCHOOL ACCOMMODATIONS.

Meantime steps had been taken to acquire school property and to provide increased educational facilities.

May 23, 1854, the West Ward Committee bought of Messrs. Merrill and Stiles their property in Ellison street, for \$2,900, and with considerable modifications from time to time it continued in use for eighteen years.

August 1, 1854, the East Ward School Committee, mainly through the efforts of William Swinburne (now City Comptroller), took action and bought of Jane Van Saun a plot on East Van Houten street, 75x97 feet, for \$1,500, whereon they proceeded to erect a three-story brick building, now known as School No. 1.\* The structure was formally dedicated on Monday, September 3, 1855, all the school children in the city turning out in procession, with gay banners and streamers. Exercises were held on the Island, also, consisting of singing, and addresses by the Rev. James M. Freeman and others. Indeed, it was a gala-day in the town.

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\* An historic interest attaches to the bell on this schoolhouse. It was originally swung aloft on a tall post at the corner of Main and Market streets, about 1832, to ring out notice to the people of the departure of the cars for New York. The cars were at first drawn all the way by horses, and the track extended down Main street to the corner mentioned, from the depot, which until 1839 stood at the corner of Main and Grand streets. When this extension was discontinued the bell was placed on the depot, and there remained until September, 1855, when it was bought for the new school.

The South Ward School Committee bought of the S. U. M., September 30, 1854, three lots on Main street, being 75 feet front and from 111 ft. 8 in. to 107 ft. 7 in. deep, for \$1,200; May 31, 1855, a lot adjoining was also purchased, for \$450. It was decided to build at once, and contracts were given out, but the action was reconsidered, a change in location was agitated (the corner of Jersey and Slater streets being favored by many), and it was not till July 21, 1856, that the final contracts were made: Cornelius G. Garrison being given the carpenter work, for \$3,090, and the furnishing for \$1,012; Wm. Ackerman the masonry, for \$4,645. The school (now known as No. 3) actually cost about \$10,000. It was dedicated June 15, 1857, Daniel Barkalow delivering the address. Before its completion the South Ward school was held in the First Presbyterian Sunday school in Elm street (where the German Presbyterian Church now stands), and a primary school was held in the Wesleyan chapel, in Marshall street near Clay, Miss Wylie teacher. Both these schools were transferred to the new building.

Some of the schools on the north or Manchester side of the river have been mentioned. The school accommodations there were of about the same character as those in Paterson township. Some public-spirited citizens organized two "societies" for the promotion of learning," under the general law, one being the "Manchester Literary Association," and the other the "Manchester Academy," and after various efforts to further the cause of education the former bought of John R. Berdan, February 29, 1848, for \$200, a plot of land on Clinton street, west side, "594 feet northwesterly from High street," whereon they erected a two-story frame schoolhouse\*, which

\* It is said that this remote location was chosen, because a prominent citizen on North Main street—one of the School Committee, it is asserted—was strongly opposed to public schools, believing they would ruin the country, and so he insisted on having this schoolhouse built as far as possible from his residence! In 1852 S. B. Brands taught 40 children downstairs, and Miss C. G. Tuttle 35 upstairs. Jonathan Irish, a brother of the gallant Captain Hugh C. Irish, preceded Mr. Brands in this school.

was occupied as a public school for twenty-five years thereafter. The society's principal object perhaps was attained when proper accommodations had been provided for the school.—The "Manchester Academy" on September 13, 1849, bought of Samuel Graham, for \$200, a lot "on the northwesterly side of Division (now Northwest) street," fifty feet from Matlock street, and being 30x100 feet, and this site was occupied for a public school until 1857. In the Summer of 1860 the property was sold for \$400. This institution was long known as the "Staggtown school." When part of Manchester was annexed in 1854 to Paterson, as the North ward, the School Committee of that Ward seems to have acquired possession of, if not title to, both the school properties mentioned. In June, 1856, the Board of Education bought a plot, 100x100 ft., at the northeast corner of Temple and Matlock streets, and in the following month awarded contracts: for the carpenter work to Andrew Derrom, \$2,880; the furnishing to the same, \$1,068; the masonry to William Titus, \$3,800. The structure was completed in seven months, at a cost of about \$9,000, and dedicated with appropriate exercises February 9, 1857. The two other schools in the Ward were then closed.

In this connection it may be added, that in accordance with the provisions of a supplement to the city charter, in 1856, the several School Committees in March of that year transferred all the real school property they had acquired\* to the Mayor and Aldermen, in whom the title of such real estate has ever since been vested. The Mayor and Aldermen were also authorized to issue not exceeding \$50,000 of school bonds, to redeem those issued by the Ward Committees, and to complete the improvements already begun.

These measures of course caused a great increase in the ed-

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\*May 27, 1856, the "Manchester Academy" also made a conveyance to the Mayor and Aldermen of the "Staggtown" school property, probably to confirm the title previously transferred by the North Ward School Committee.

ucational expenditures of the city. While the schools cost but \$1,664 in 1851, \$2,960 in 1852, and \$1,540 in 1853, the outlay rose to \$8,047 in 1854, and \$13,165 in 1855; in 1856 \$23,700 was spent in building, \$2,095 for school lots, and \$12,284 for current expenses, and in 1857 the permanent improvements cost \$8,203, and the current expenses \$11,588.

#### A SYSTEM OF SCHOOLS ESTABLISHED.

Each Ward having at least one school, as before remarked steps were taken in 1854 towards organizing a *system* of grading and managing them, and something was done in that direction. The new law of 1855 conferring the needed power, on May 8 the Board resolved to consolidate and organize the schools under one system. In July it was decided that the East Ward school should be the Grammar School for the whole city, all the others to be Primary. Mr. Hosford was appointed Principal, at a salary of \$900; Miss Tanner, Vice Principal of the female department, at \$350, and Miss Eliza Stitt of the primary department, at \$300. Miss Mary Stitt was Principal of No. 2, in Ellison street, at \$300; Miss Elizabeth Cox of No. 3, in Elm street, at \$275; Miss Mary Wiley of No. 4, in Marshall street, at \$250; Miss Charlotte Donkersley of Intermediate No. 1, in Elm street, at \$285; Miss C. G. Tuttle of No. 5, in Clinton street, at \$300; Miss Ford of No. 6, probably in the same building, \$250; Miss E. R. Geroe of No. 7, in Northwest street, at \$200; Miss Eliza M. Halsted of the Colored school, at \$350. In all, there were twenty-six teachers, their salaries ranging as low as \$75. Male teachers were dispensed with. Among them was Charles O. Hurlbut, from the Spring of 1854 Principal of the South Ward school in Elm street. From Paterson he went to the State Normal school, and subsequently located in New York city, where he is now a very successful teacher of elocution.\*

\*Prof. Hurlbut gave a series of lectures on elocution before the Paterson Normal School in 1873.



At this time, and for some years after, there were male and female departments in the larger schools, but for a long while past there has been "no distinction on account of sex" in making up the schools and classes, and the present plan works so satisfactorily that it is likely to be permanent.

When the Main street schoolhouse was occupied, a Grammar department was established there, Miss Cox being Principal, with brief interregna, until 1865, when Alfred H. Decker was appointed, who was followed by Samuel B. Brands. The Temple street school was first in charge of Miss Osborn, with Miss Ford as assistant; Peter A. Youngblood (1861) and Orestes M. Brands were the successive male Principals.

Male assistants were soon employed in the male department of the East Ward Grammar school. C. M. Harrison was the first; then Robert De Hart, who being transferred to the charge of the South Ward school\* was succeeded by C. M. Myers, and later by Edward S. Ellis, now Superintendent of the Trenton public schools.

#### NORMAL AND HIGH SCHOOLS.

In July, 1854, the subject of organizing a Normal school was broached in the "Joint Committee," but no formal action was taken. Soon after, Mr. Hosford began to convene the teachers in an informal way in the West Ward schoolhouse, for conference, counsel and instruction. These conferences developed into a NORMAL SCHOOL, which was formally authorized by the Board in April, 1855, and regularly opened in the new East Ward school in the ensuing Fall. The sessions were held on Wednesday evenings, then on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, and afterwards on Saturday mornings. In

\* His transfer was hastened by the indignation he excited by an unusually severe chastisement he administered to two boys in the East Ward school. The parents demanded redress, but the two boys aforesaid were impatient, and lying in wait for their teacher one night gave him an unmerciful thrashing.

February, 1857, four classes were formed, with Mr. Hosford, Mr. De Hart, Mrs. Van Quenaudon (soon succeeded by Miss Donkersley) and Miss Stitt as teachers; in January, 1858, the classes were reduced to two, "on account of the expense." Notwithstanding the direst penalties were ordered by the Board—such as one dollar fine for each absence, and even dismissal—the school was not a success, and in 1860 it was proposed to abolish it, and organize a Teachers' Association for mutual improvement in their profession. But the Board was re'uctant to confess the school a failure, and resolved to reorganize it in three classes, with Messrs. Hosford and Myers and Miss Donkersley as teachers. The course of study was not changed, however, and the Normal School, instead of aiming to teach how to teach, continued to be in fact an elementary school for teaching the rudimentary branches. It is not strange, therefore, that it ultimately died quietly.

In September, 1860, the High School was organized, all the more advanced pupils in the Grammar schools (No. 1 and No. 3) being taken to form the new school. Chemistry, botany, geology and astronomy were added to the course of study.

At this time it was also decided that male and female pupils of the same grade should recite in the same classes.

Soon after, a Senior school was organized at No. 1, and all the other schools were organized with Junior and Primary departments.

This system continued substantially unchanged until 1868.

#### COLORED SCHOOL.

In January, 1855, a colored school was established, Miss Eliza M. Halsted being the first Principal—a position she retained for nearly twenty years, or until the school was disbanded. The sessions were held for a few months in the God-

win street (colored) M. E. Church; then in the Goetschius schoolhouse in Division street, when the East Ward school vacated those premises. In September, 1857, it was removed to the Clinton street schoolhouse. The location was so remote as to create much complaint from the parents of the children, and with good reason. At length, in 1873, the Board of Education bought for \$4,000, four lots in Godwin street, south side, between Washington and Bridge, for a new edifice. But December 27, 1872, the Board had voted that the colored children could attend the schools in their respective districts, and all but five or six availed themselves of the privilege, and as the plan seemed to work well a separate school for them was no longer necessary, and on May 30, 1873, the Colored school was ordered disbanded and the Godwin street property sold.\* Miss Halsted had eighty or ninety pupils on the roll most of the time, the average attendance being about fifty. The school did a good work in its way, and none the less so that it was done with a patient unobtrusiveness and self-denial that commended its teacher to the favor of every friend of education.

#### OBJECT TEACHING.

In October, 1861, the Board of Education appointed Dr. Ezra S. McClellan, a member, a committee of one to visit Oswego, N. Y., and inspect the system of object teaching there in operation. On his favorable report, the system was introduced in the primary department of School No. 1. In March, 1862, a Miss Parsons was brought on from Oswego and employed as a special teacher of a Model Training School, which was opened in the basement of the Second Presbyterian Church, whither the primary department of School No. 1 was transferred. The younger teachers were required

\*The Clinton street property was offered for sale, but has not been disposed of yet.

to spend an hour at this place every afternoon, to acquire a knowledge of the theory and practice of object teaching, that they might be able to use it in their classes. The school proved to be very expensive, the results were not all that were anticipated, and the teacher being arrested for punishing a pupil unduly was compelled to resign, and after less than a year's trial the experiment was discontinued.

#### MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

The laws relating to the school management underwent some change almost annually. In 1856 the Board of Education was given the power of electing the Superintendent, and he was to preside over that body. A member was elected Secretary, and another acted as Financial Secretary. Andrew Derrom was elected Superintendent in 1856-7; in 1858-9-60, Cornelius S. Van Wagoner was chosen; in 1861, William Swinburne. In 1862, for the first time, a member of the Board was elected to the position—Dr. Ezra S. McClellan. The Legislature of 1863 provided that the Board should elect one of its members to be President, and another person to be Secretary and Superintendent. Dr. McClellan was a candidate for the latter office, and for six months the Board was unable to agree on the subject, and then elected Mr. Hosford for the rest of the year. In 1864-5-6-7-8 Wm. Swinburne filled the office.

The relations between the Board of Education and the Board of Aldermen have generally been harmonious, if not exactly cordial, but as the powers of the former were enlarged the latter seemed to resent each additional step in that direction as a trespass upon their own prerogatives. In 1859 the Board of Aldermen failed to make the school appropriation, as required by law, until two months after the time prescribed, and then cut it down below the Board of Education's estimates, having assumed that the latter were based on erroneous returns of at-

tendance on the schools. The School Commissioners appointed a committee (C. E. Van Beuren, Ezra Osborn, I. D. Blauvelt, Robert Dalling, S. Maconachy) to consider the matter, who on September 1st presented an elaborate report, reviewing the whole subject, and remarking (and their conclusions were based on a law which is substantially the same to-day) :

“There is no discretionary power given the Mayor and Aldermen. They may not ask, ‘Will not a less sum answer?’ They cannot even inquire into the correctness of the Report. The law says they must appropriate according to the number *reported* by the Board of Education. The responsibility for the correctness of the Report is placed upon the Board of Education, and to the people alone from whom their powers emanate, this Board is responsible for the conscientious discharge of this as well as the other duties which they undertake to perform.”

The same issue has been raised during the present year.

In 1861 the City Council again neglected to vote the required appropriation, cutting it down \$3,000. The Board of Education decided to close the schools, and the Aldermen then placed to their credit the sum which had been withheld. It was to prevent any similar misunderstanding that it was provided in the charter of 1871 that the sum estimated by the Board of Education should “thereby become appropriated,” thus relieving the Aldermen of all responsibility in the matter, and placing the onus on the School Commissioners.

The seal of the Board of Education was prepared by Superintendent Van Wagoner, and adopted September 1, 1859.

For ten or twelve years after the organization of the schools, it was customary to appoint the teachers and fix their salaries yearly. For some years they held their positions indefinitely. Within the past six or eight years they have been required to

submit to periodical examinations for renewal of certificates, their positions depending on their passing such examinations satisfactorily.

Until 1869, proposals were solicited annually for Janitors of the schools, who then entered into contract with the Board for the faithful performance of their duties, which included keeping the schools thoroughly clean and, at first, *in repair*. Since 1869 the Janitors have held office during good behavior.

October 24, 1859, the main doors of the schoolhouses were ordered to be so altered that they would open outward.

In 1860 the number of School Commissioners was reduced to two from each Ward, one to be elected every two years.

The State Teachers' Association met in Paterson in December, 1860, in the First Presbyterian church lecture room, and at Continental Hall.

On Monday, June 3, 1861, the "Sandy Hill" school was opened, in the Baptist chapel—a long low frame building then standing on Straight street, between Market and Willis, and now located on the north side of Willis street, between the Erie Railway and Straight street. There were 140 children in attendance when it opened, and within three days the number swelled to 215. Miss Susan H. Rathburn was the first Principal, succeeded in June, 1862, by Miss Jennie Andrews. In March, 1869, the building changed hands, and the school was removed (pending the completion of No. 6) to an old building in Dickerson street, previously used as an orphan asylum.

Twenty years ago special teachers were employed to instruct the pupils in writing. Music teachers were also engaged occasionally, and so long ago as 1834 the instruction of drawing was proposed.

A striking reminder of the war-times is found in a resolution of the Board, September 4, 1862, authorizing "all the schools "to pick lint on Friday afternoons."

A special census taken in 1854 showed that the population of the city was 17,941, and that there were 4,968 persons from 5 to 17 years of age (inclusive), of whom 869 attended free, and 1,459 attended private schools. The effect of the increased school accommodations provided during the ensuing two or three years is shown by the fact that in December, 1855, 2,473 persons were attending the public day and night schools, and that 3,670 pupils were enrolled during the year 1856, the average attendance being 2,048, with 45 teachers.

The census of 1865 showed that Paterson had 24,893 inhabitants, an increase of fifty per cent. in ten years, and yet the Board of Education had been unable to provide for the greatly increased number of school children, owing to a lack of co-operation on the part of the Board of Aldermen. After repeated urging, however, and the offer from James Crooks of the gift of a site for a schoolhouse, and the taking of a special school census of Totowa, the Aldermen consented in 1866 to permit the Board of Education to erect a two-story frame building, 40x50 ft., on the proffered site—a plot of six lots, on Sherman avenue. Superintendent Swinburne prepared the plans and specifications, and supervised the construction. The new schoolhouse—now known as No. 5—was completed during the ensuing Winter, and opened in May, 1867, with Orestes M. Brands as Principal, who being shortly transferred to No. 4, was succeeded by his brother, Samuel B. Brands.

#### REORGANIZATION OF THE SCHOOL SYSTEM.

In the Spring of 1868, by the creation of three new Wards the number of School Commissioners was increased from ten to sixteen, and this infusion of new life led the Board on April 20 to appoint a committee (William Nelson, Charles Inglis\*

\*It was a curious coincidence that Dr. Inglis, who had mainly drafted the first School Regulations, should be appointed on this Committee to revise and adapt them to the wants of the greatly extended system. It was a fitting recognition, too, of his thorough familiarity with the schools and their needs, from many years' experience.

and James M. Baldwin) to revise the Board's by-laws and the School Regulations, which revision was finally approved by the Board July 19. By these Regulations the schools were classified in three grades—High, Grammar and Primary—and the course of study was partially revised. In 1869 the same gentlemen were appointed a committee to again revise the Regulations, and their report was adopted November 16. A very carefully-elaborated course of study was prescribed for all the schools at this time. These Regulations remain substantially unchanged to this date. The Normal school was revived, and with the High school was placed under the supervision of a committee appointed for the purpose, the effect being to stimulate a new interest in both. A system of grading teachers was also introduced, and a schedule of salaries for the various positions was for the first time adopted, the rates being raised materially.

As part of the history of this time it may be mentioned here that Samuel C. Hosford, after fifteen years' service as Principal of the "East Ward school," resigned March 31, 1869, to enter a manufacturing business. His successor in the High school was Samuel W. Rice, a highly successful and popular teacher,\* who resigned June 7, 1870, being succeeded by Andrew McIntyre; the latter was removed, and in September, 1873, Wm. B. Ridenour was appointed to the vacancy.

In May, 1871, Mr. Hosford was appointed School Superintendent for three years, but resigned in September, 1873, to give way to John Laird, who resigned in September, 1874. His successor was William J. Rogers.

The schools in 1869 were so overcrowded, especially in the lowest grades, that new accommodations were imperatively needed. A mission chapel of the Congregationalists, on Stony

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\* Mr. Rice has ever since been located at Passaic, where he is Principal of the main school and City Superintendent.



Road, large enough to seat 70 or 80 children, was rented by the Board and opened as a public school (No. 7) in September, 1868, being at once half filled. In April, 1869, another school (No. 10) was opened in a mission chapel at Weavertown, and upwards of 100 pupils were immediately enrolled.

#### INCREASED POWERS OF THE BOARD.

Much of the expansion of the school system just mentioned, besides more important measures to be dwelt upon hereafter, had been rendered possible only by material changes in the law relating to the Paterson educational department. The general revision of the city charter being under consideration by the Board of Aldermen, the School Commissioners on November 30, 1868, appointed William Nelson, James M. Baldwin and Elias A. Vreeland, together with the President (Henry L. Butler) and the Secretary (Wm. Swinburne) *ex officio*, a committee to revise that Title of the charter relating to the Board of Education, and through the cordial and effective co-operation of Senator John Hopper the work of the committee was incorporated in the new charter of 1869. The sections in this Title were re-arranged and the powers and duties of the Board more clearly defined. The annual appropriation had been fixed by the act of 1856 at not less than \$7 nor more than \$10 per capita on the average attendance reported by the Board; it was now required to be not less than \$12 nor more than \$15. The Board was given all the necessary power to acquire real estate and to build, alter or repair schoolhouses, without the approval of the Board of Aldermen, as formerly, the latter Board being required to appropriate the money necessary, to facilitate which they were authorized to issue bonds. The School Commissioners were also empowered to separate the offices of Secretary and Superintendent, hitherto vested in one person, and to fix the salaries, the compensation having been

previously restricted to \$600. Mr. Swinburne was continued in the two offices for another year, when Samuel Thorp was elected Secretary, holding the position for about a year, when he resigned; Peter A. Youngblood filled the place temporarily, and was succeeded by Vernon Royle in the Spring of 1872. Mr. Swinburne remained Superintendent until May, 1871.

#### NEW SCHOOLHOUSES PROVIDED.

The Board promptly set about exercising to the best advantage the large powers with which it had been entrusted by the charter of 1869. A special committee (James M. Baldwin, Charles Keeler and Henry L. Butler, Charles Inglis and Wm. Nelson being afterwards added) was appointed September 10, 1868, who on May 27, 1869, reported two sites for a new schoolhouse in the Fourth Ward—one on Willis, William and Mechanic streets, and one on the northwest corner of Summer and Ellison streets. The Board decided, June 3, to buy the latter—five lots, for \$6,500. The committee spent a great deal of time, thought and study on the plans, which were finally prepared under their general direction by E. J. M. Derrick, architect, and adopted by the Board September 21, 1869. On October 23 the contracts for the masonry and carpenter work were awarded to John P. Post & Sons, for \$40,845. Messrs. Heber Wells, Henry Shurman and John I. Corcoran were then added to the committee.—The structure complete, furnished and fenced, cost a little less than \$60,000. Its extreme dimensions are 90x95 ft.; three stories high, the fronts of Philadelphia pressed brick, trimmed with light yellow stone. It was almost the first building in Paterson of any architectural pretensions, and was regarded at the time as one of the handsomest, most substantial and best-arranged schoolhouses in New Jersey. It is safe to say that School No. 6 has few superiors in the State yet. It was opened informally in February, 1871, Wil-

liam J. Rogers being Principal, who remained in charge but a few weeks, when the High school was transferred from School No. 1 to the new building, the Principal of that school—Andrew McIntyre—exchanging buildings with Mr. Rogers.

The condition of the schoolhouse in Ellison street had been very poor for many years, and on November 25, 1869, the committee on erection, repairs and furniture recommended the purchase of a new site. The matter was considered for some months, but ultimately, February 25, 1870, the Board decided to abandon the old site, and to buy a plot 87x100 ft. on the southeast corner of Mill and Passaic streets, for \$7,000. Some months later they adopted plans (prepared by Mr. Derrick) for a new building, which was erected by John P. Post & Son during the ensuing year, at a cost of about \$25,000. It was opened in the Spring of 1871, with Miss Sarah J. Perry as Principal. In September, 1873, Mr. Hosford succeeded to the Principalship, holding the position until his death, June 27, 1875. The building is a very attractive one, and by many is considered the most elegant owned by the Board of Education. The Ellison street property was sold soon after, and the buildings removed to make way for the "Arcade."

By the annexation of a slice of Acquackanonk township to the city in March, 1869, a neat brick schoolhouse, 30x50 ft., one story high, erected in 1868, was brought within the city limits, and soon transferred to the control of the Board of Education, which opened a school there (now known as No. 7) in June, 1869, in charge of William J. Rogers. He being transferred to No. 6 in 1870, Alexander W. Brands was appointed to the vacancy.

In 1870, also, as a part of the plans for increasing the school facilities, the schoolhouse in Temple street was enlarged by the addition of a third story, and was greatly improved in other respects. The Totowa school was also extended.

The permanent improvements made in 1869-70-71 cost about \$115,000.

In 1871 a new city charter went into effect, which restricted the cost of permanent improvements to \$20,000 in any one year. It was also provided that the annual appropriation for current expenses should not "exceed thirteen dollars per scholar on the average number reported by the Board of Education as enrolled in the public schools in the preceding year." In 1874 the law was so amended as to give the Board of Aldermen a quasi authority over the expenditures of the Board of Education.

In the Fall of 1872 four lots were bought on Stony Road, whereon the Board proceeded to erect (David Henry being the contractor) at a cost of about \$15,000, the neat and commodious three-story brick schoolhouse, 40x60 ft., known as No. 8, which was completed and opened in the Spring of 1874, with Isaac B. Condit as Principal.

In the Summer of 1874 the Board set about building a schoolhouse at the southwest corner of Getty and Michigan avenues, at Lake View, and a very neat brick edifice of two stories and a high basement, 40x60 ft., the plans being prepared by Charles Urich, was erected (Martin Fitzpatrick, builder) at a cost of about \$10,000. It was opened in September, 1875, with the Rev. A. G. Ryerson as Principal. It is called School No. 9.

In the Spring of 1875 the Board purchased a plot 150x120 feet, on Warren street, in the Third Ward, for School No. 10, and erected thereon a three-story brick building, 60x80 ft., which was finished in February, 1876, at a cost of about \$19,000. It was declared by not a few to be "in all its details and appointments the most commodious and complete school building in the city."\* Charles Urich prepared the plans; Charles Hatrick was the contractor. Miss Lizzie D. Young was appointed Principal.

\* Annual Report for 1875, p. 77.

All the schoolhouses since No. 6 have been erected under the supervision of the respective committees on erection, repairs and furniture, assisted in 1871-2 by Wm. Swinburne, and in 1873-4-5 by Dr. Charles Inglis, Superintendents of Buildings.\*

The development of the public school system of Paterson has been so fully detailed in the annual reports † of the Board of Education of late years that it is needless to dwell at length here upon the subject, pleasing as it must be to every friend of popular education. A few statistics will present the main features at a glance, and will most strikingly exhibit the progress of ten years :

	1865.	1870.	1875.
1. No of schools.....	6	10	10
2. Value of school property.....	\$33,000	\$182,500	\$245,313
3. Seating capacity of schools....	3,000	4,849‡	5,509§
4. Scholars enrolled .....	5,455	6,212	7,540
5. Average attendance.....	2,511	2,612	3,666
6. No of teachers.....	46	78	103
7. Average yearly salary.....	\$308	\$423	\$502
8. Total current expenses.....	\$22,855	\$50,199	\$72,841
9. Expended for permanent improvements.....		\$68,334	\$19,781
10. Population of the city.....	24,893	33,518	38,824
11. Valuation of the city.....	\$8,432,860	\$17,961,339	\$22,292,000

\* These committees were as follows:

1870—Charles Keeler, George Townley, Heber Wells, John T. Dunn, Alexander Rae.

1871—Alfred Stoutenborough, Andrew H. Van Wagoner, Ira King, Thomas Hogg, John Clark.

1872—Andrew H. Van Wagoner, Ira King, John H. Robinson, John Brannin, Joseph B. Stewart.

1873—James M. Baldwin, John T. Probert, John Sommer, William Reid, Aaron Clegg.

1874—Charles H. May, David T. Gillmor, John Sommer, William F. Bertkau, Marinus Houman.

1875—David T. Gillmor, Gilbert G. Cooper, John Hinchliffe, Jr., Marinus Houman, Isaac Van Houten.

† Prior to 1869 but four or five Annual Reports of the Board of Education were printed in a permanent form. Since that year the Reports have been regularly printed in pamphlets, a collection of which presents a very thorough exhibit of the work done by the Board, and of the progress and condition of the schools.

‡ 1,572 seats at desks.

§ 3,374 seats at desks.

|| Prior to 1870 the average attendance reported was greatly exaggerated.

In 1865, there were but three good schoolhouses in the city—brick structures of the very plainest description. In 1876, the city owned ten spacious school edifices, two of them unsurpassed in New Jersey, and seven of which would be creditable to any city in the State. In 1865, and indeed until 1869, there were less than a dozen teachers receiving \$300 yearly salary, the pay running down to \$150. Now, the *minimum* is \$375. It is believed the improvement in the efficiency of the schools has corresponded with this greater liberality shown in their management, and the consequent extension of the system. And it is most pleasant to observe that the school-tax is the most cheerfully paid of any, by the taxpayers of Paterson.

The growth of the public schools of the city is the more remarkable, when it is understood that within the past six or eight years the Roman Catholic priesthood have been establishing parochial schools of a higher order than formerly in various parts of the town, and have been gradually prohibiting absolutely the attendance of children of their church upon the public schools. There are six or eight hundred pupils now attending these parochial schools, where ten years ago there were barely two hundred.

#### PRIVATE SEMINARIES.

It is just thirty years ago since a pamphlet was published presenting "Considerations in favor of erecting a good edifice for a Scientific and Classical School, in Paterson, N. J."—The author was J. Ennis, who had a superior school of that description in a small wooden building at the northwest corner of Church and Ellison streets, previously taught by one McKee, and commonly called the "Quality school," children of the best families in town attending it.

In 1865 George C. Tallman, jr., freshly graduated from Rut-

gers College, came to Paterson with his wife (formerly Miss Mary Stitt, a teacher in this city), and started a classical and scientific school in the building now known as No. 215 Main street, or thereabouts, subsequently removing to the present No. 227. Two or three years later he sold out to Henry Waters, also from New Brunswick, who soon, with the aid of some friends, succeeded in realizing the dream of Mr. Ennis, building a handsome and commodious three-story frame edifice on the southwest corner of Auburn and Van Houten streets, where his flourishing "Paterson Seminary" has a home of its own.

In the Summer of 1866 the Rev. P. E. Stevenson opened the "Passaic Falls Classical Institute" in the First Presbyterian lecture room, and after changing about several times within two years settled down in the Chapel of the "Independents," in Van Houten street, opposite School No. 1. This Institute was almost exclusively for young ladies, and at once took a very high rank, which it has maintained ever since. Its venerated founder died in 1870, but the school was kept up to the standard by his widow and his son Eugene. About a year ago it passed into other hands and was removed to Church street.

A few years after disposing of his school to Mr. Waters, Mr. Tallman (who had left Paterson) returned to this city and started the "Tallman Seminary" at Lake View. He died soon after, and Mrs. Tallman removed to York avenue, where she has established a very popular school.

#### PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE.

In what has gone before the writer has aimed at giving a mere outline of the rise and progress of popular education in the city of Paterson. A complete history—treating of every school and every teacher in detail, describing the gradual change of public sentiment toward free schools, and the phi-

losophy of the successive notable events in the educational progress of the village, the town and the city—would take more time and space than the writer has at his command, and would too greatly tax the patience of most readers. But it may be said with truth, that whatever advance in culture Paterson has made in the last half century, she owes in a large degree to those far-seeing men who just fifty years ago met at the old “Academy”—may its memory be ever blessed!—and organized the movement that resulted in the first free school in Passaic county.\* From that little school there has resulted the system which has furnished to tens of thousands of men and women all the education they have acquired. From that little seed has sprung up the giant tree which now shelters four thousand school children under its foliage, which imparts far more wisdom to the neophyte than did ever the rustling leaves of mystic oaks at Dodona.

Looking back over the past we can thank God and take courage. The Free School system seems to be established for all time. But in order to be permanent it must keep abreast of the times—must meet the popular want. Already there are those who doubt if the public schools are all that they should be and could be. There is a question as to whether they are not too straitly set in certain grooves. There is a desire to have less theoretical and a little more practical training in our schools, which shall teach boys and girls not merely how to read and write and cipher and parse, but which shall put them in the way of earning a living by the intelligent use of the faculties their Maker has given them. Why should not boys and girls be taught something of the art which enters into the designing of those beautiful patterns in silks, carpets, laces and a thousand other articles of use and admiration? In a manufacturing city like ours, what an inestimable advantage it would

\*See pages 32-3, *ante*.



be could we train our own boys in all the arts that would tend to make of them first-class mechanics, draughtsmen, designers, and workers in every trade ! Not that all have a bent this way, but should not a reasonable opportunity be given for the advancement of those who have the natural talent ? And our girls : could we not forego a little algebra for the sake of seeing them taught somewhat of the needle's use and how to make home comfortable and attractive ? The field of household and decorative art, too, is peculiarly fitted for the exercise of the feminine fancy with pencil and graver's tool. Moreover, there are those who would like to see a little more attention paid to the culture of the immortal souls of those who attend our schools ; in short, are almost disposed to say in the words of old Desiderius Erasmus, " Teach nothing in the schools but " what bears upon life and duty." Genuine culture should include somewhat of religious (not necessarily theological or sectarian) teaching, for the etymology of the word indicates that in ancient times mental and religious culture were regarded as almost identical.

But all these matters will be settled by the people in their own good time, by putting in control of the schools men who will best represent their views, and who will act wisely and prudently for the best interests of the whole city.

Meanwhile, we should never be satisfied with anything short of perfection in the schools of Paterson. The progress that has been made should but encourage us to think of the possibilities in the future. The power of that surging tide which sweeps through our city driving an hundred mills, and which could be made to drive a thousand, is as nothing to the power of our educational system, which ought to furnish the motive force to ten thousand busy little brains, enabling the owner of each to make his mark in the world. As the engineer, observing the use to which our water-power is put, is more astonished

at the force wasted than that utilized, so may the friends of education wonder that the admirable school system of our city is taken advantage of by barely half the children for whom it is designed. It is not strange that there should be a disposition to *compel* the attendance of all children at some school. Still, the improvement under good laws and wise administration is so marked that we may safely trust to an enlightened public sentiment to make the best possible use of the educational facilities provided, and to constantly improve and extend those facilities until our chiefest boast shall be the Public Schools of Paterson.



## A P P E N D I X .

### Paterson Town School Committees—1831-1850.

- 1831—James Richards, John Brown, Henry Whitely.
- 1832—John Brown, James Richards, C. Hequemborg.
- 1833—John Thompson, James Richards, James Moore.
- 1834—John Thompson, William Ridgway, Charles P. Jacobs.
- 1835—Elias J. Marsh, John Tilby, Wm. Ridgway.
- 1836—Elias J. Marsh, John Tilby, James Bentley, Silas D. Canfield, Halmoth Van Winkle, John Avison, Henry Van Houten, Wm. Ridgway. Amos Munson and Stephen Allen had a tie vote.
- 1837—Henry Whitely (declined), Andrew Hopper, John P. Brown (declined), Wm. Ridgway, Elias J. Marsh, Halmah Van Winkle, John Avison.
- 1838—Elias J. Marsh, John Avison, Lemuel Burr, Henry Van Gieson, Andrew Hopper.
- 1839—Isaac H. Van Riper, Wm. S. Thompson, Peter O'Brien, James Fanning, Wright Flavell.
- 1840—Thomas Forbes, Charles English (Inglis), Jr., Wm. Ridgway, Andrew Snyder, Josiah W. Shippey, Henry Van Gieson, John Wild.
- 1841—Wm. Ridgway, Charles Inglis, Jr., James Gordon, John J. Brown, Wm. Masters, Hiram Hathaway, John P. Brown, Andrew Griffith, Thomas D. Hoxsey.
- 1842—Charles English (Inglis), John J. Brown, Hiram Hathaway, Daniel Barkalow, Andrew Griffith, Moses E. DeWitt, James Shorrock, Henry Van Gieson, Thomas D. Hoxsey.
- 1843—John P. Brown, Robert L. Giddons, Philip Rafferty, Robert Cunningham, Francis Barber, Thomas Beggs, John S. Fayerweather.
- 1844—Henry Van Gieson, James Shorrock, John P. Brown, John S. Fayerweather, Samuel S. Townsend, Thomas Adams, Thomas Beggs.
- 1845—Jacob Goetschius, John S. Fayerweather, Wm. C. Smith, Albert Westlake, Walter E. Stephens, Samuel S. Townsend, Chas. Inglis, Jun.
- 1846—Jacob Goetschius, John S. Fayerweather, Wm. C. Smith, Frederick S. Weller, Samuel S. Townsend, Charles Inglis, Jun., David Burnett, John Brown, John P. Brown.
- 1847—Jacob Goetschius, John S. Fayerweather, Charles Inglis, David Burnett, John Brown.
- 1848—John J. Brown, John S. Fayerweather, Wm. H. Quackenbush, Benjamin Buckley, Jacob Goetschius, Edwin P. Parke, David Burnett.
- 1849—Alfred Stoutenborough, Edwin P. Parke, Abraham C. Van Blarcom, Henry Van Gieson, Charles O'Neill, Cornelius Hopper, Chas. Inglis, Jun.
- 1850—Edwin P. Parke, Charles O'Neill, Albert A. Hopper, Robert T. Creamer, Andrew Derrom, Benjamin Buckley.

### Paterson City School Committeemen.

- 1851—East Ward : Tunis Speer, James M. Smylie; West : John Sanderson, David Beam; South : Edwin P. Parke, Abraham Garrison.
- 1852—East Ward : Henry B. Crosby, Tunis I. Speer; West : Hiram Hathaway, John Sanderson; South : Charles O'Neill, Abraham Garrison.
- 1853—East Ward : Jacob V. R. Van Blarcom, Abraham Carter, Jr.; West : James M. Wright, Milton Sears; South : Cornelius C. Hopper, Francis A. Gallagher.
- 1854—East Ward : Cornelius T. Vandervoort, William Swinburne, Garret A. Hopper;\* West : Robert Miller, Josiah F. Calvin, William Van Dalsen; South : John King, Charles Inglis, Jr., John Hopper; North : Henry Fredericks, Isaac D. Blauvelt, Isaac A. Bogert.
- 1855—North Ward : Nathaniel Lane, William Rowe, Henry Fredericks; East : Garret A. Hopper, Cornelius T. Vandervoort, Lewis R. Stelle; West : Josiah F. Calvin, William Ridgway (declined, and Henry Hathaway was appointed), Adolphus Matthias; South : George Townley, Tunis Stagg, Peter Bell (died in June, 1855); Fifth : Cornelius S. Van Wagoner, George Vandenhoff, Benjamin Crane.

### School Commissioners.

- 1856—North Ward : Nathaniel Lane, Lewis L. Conklin, John Graham; East : Lewis R. Stelle, James Stiles, Sherman Jaqua; West : Hiram Hathaway, Adolph Matthias, William Allison; South : Henry Hagedorn, John Warren, B. Murray; Fifth : Cornelius S. Van Wagoner, Frederick Weller, John Agnew.
- 1857—North Ward : Nathaniel Lane, Peter D. Hopper, Cornelius C. Blauvelt; East : Wm. Hulme (resigned in June, and Garret I. Blauvelt elected), James Stiles, Edward Clark (declined and Samuel A. Van Saun elected, who removed from the Ward in January, 1858, and was succeeded by John C. Bensen); West : Adolphus Matthias, Geo. Swift, Hiram Hathaway; South : Henry Hagadorn, John Beyea, Hugh Manish; Fifth : Cornelius S. Van Wagoner, Ezra Osborn, Benjamin Buckley (resigned in January, 1858, having to attend the Legislature, of which he was a member; Samuel A. Van Saun was appointed to fill the vacancy).
- 1858—North Ward : Nathaniel Lane, A. N. Ackerman, Isaac D. Blauvelt; East : Socrates Tuttle, Albert A. Hopper, Victor Aldridge; West : Andrew Derrom, James Watson, George Swift; South : Robert Smith, Titus Ward, Patrick Curran; Fifth : William S. Hudson, Ezra Osborn, Robert S. Hughes.
- 1859—North Ward : Isaac D. Blauvelt, John Reynolds, Charles R. Hopson; East : John E. Van Winkle, Garret I. Blauvelt, Charles E. Van Beuren (resigned in November, and Socrates Tuttle elected); West : Robert Dalling, Richard Van Iderstine, William H. Harmon; South : Michael Morris, John Dougherty (office declared vacated, Oct. 6, for non-attendance, and John C. Westervelt elected), Samuel Maconachy; Fifth : Ezra Osborn, Peter Green, George Porritt (office declared vacated, Oct. 6, for non-attendance and John Hopper elected).
- 1860—North Ward : Robert James Fields, Ezra S. McClellan; East : Horace O. Hedge, Josiah P. Huntoon; West : Hamilton Arnot, Robert Dalling; South : John Keys (seat vacated November, 1861, for non-attendance and John C. Wester-

\* For many years past, a private school teacher.

- velt appointed), — Van Riper; Fifth: Henry L. Butler, Abram Garrison.\*
- 1861—North Ward, Ezra S. McClellan (resigned in May, 1862, and Ralph Spear appointed); East, Josiah P. Huntoon; West, John P. Zeluff; South, George Springsteen; Fifth, Abram Garrison (resigned December, 1862, and John I. Goetschius appointed).
- 1862—North Ward, Robert J. Fields; East, Horace O. Hedge; West, Hamilton Arnot (died November, 1862, and John R. Daggers appointed); South, John C. Westervelt; Fifth, John Hopper. President—Josiah P. Huntoon.
- 1863—North Ward, Ralph Spear; East, Ezra Osborn; West, John P. Zeluff; South, Michael J. Carmody (resigned and Patrick McInerney elected); Fifth, Henry L. Butler. President—John C. Westervelt.
- 1864—North Ward, Charles P. Gurnee; East, John Cooke; West, John Murphy; South, Henry McClory (April 18th, 1864, McClory and McInerney resigned and Alexander Hill and Michael A. Harrold appointed); Fifth, John Hopper. President—John Cooke.
- 1865—North Ward, Charles Sandford; East, Henry L. Butler; West, Alexander Rae; South, Samuel McConachy, Peter V. A. Westervelt; Fifth, William S. Hudson. President—John Cooke.
- 1866—North Ward, Alfred Dillistin; East, John Swinburne; West, John Murphy; South, Frederick Spindler (elected to fill a vacancy), John Dougherty; Fifth, James M. Smylie. President—Wm. S. Hudson.
- 1867—North Ward, Heber Wells; East, Henry L. Butler; West, Alexander Rae; South, Elias A. Vreeland; Fifth, Charles Inglis, Jr. President—Henry L. Butler.
- 1868—1st Ward, Alfred Dillistin; 2d, Richard Van Houten, Wm. Nelson; 3d, John C. Paulison; 4th, James M. Baldwin, Charles Keeler; 5th, William Cole; 6th, Henry Shurman; 7th, Jacob H. Quackenbush, Elias A. Vreeland; 8th, George H. Glass, Michael Connell. President—Henry L. Butler.
- 1869—1st Ward, Heber Wells; 2d William Nelson, Jacob H. Blauvelt (vice Richard Van Houten, resigned); 3d, Henry L. Butler; 4th, Charles Keeler; 5th, Charles Ingis; 6th, Alexander Rae; 7th, John I. Corcoran; 8th, Thomas Hogg; 9th, George Townley, Frederick Wagner. President—Henry L. Butler.
- 1870—1st Ward, Isaac Van Houten; 2d, Jacob H. Blauvelt; 3d, John C. Paulison; 4th, Alfred Stoutenborough, Sr.; 5th, George Bock; 6th, Robert Gilmor (removed from the Ward, and James Mills elected); 7th, John T. Dunn (removed from the city before the election of 1871); 8th, John Clark; 9th, George Beider (to succeed Frederick Wagner). President—Henry L. Butler.

### Commissioners of Public Instruction.

- 1871—1st Ward, Andrew H. Van Wagoner; 2d, Ira King; 3d, John A. Van Winkle; 4th, George B. Day; 5th, John H. Hopper; 6th, Joseph B. Stewart; 7th, George Beider, long term, and John Clark, short term† (Beider resigned, February 29, 1872, and Joseph Mosley was appointed); 8th, Thomas Hogg (held over, there being no election in the 8th Ward). President—Henry L. Butler.

\*These members drew lots in accordance with the new law, to decide which should hold office for one year, and which for two years. Messrs. Fields, Hedge, Arnot, Keys and Butler drew the long term.—The names given for the following years are only of the newly-elected members.

† By the charter of 1871 the 9th Ward was abolished, and the boundaries of the Wards so changed that Messrs. Clark and Beider were left in the 7th Ward; their seats consequently vacated. They were then re-elected from that Ward.

- 1872—1st Ward, Isaac Van Houten; 2d, William S. Black; 3d, John H. Robinson; 4th, James M. Baldwin; 5th, John T. Probert; 6th, William F. Bertkau; 7th, John Brannin; 8th, Isaac D. Rogers (died in office, and James Dunkerley appointed, October, 1872), Wm. High, Jr. (to succeed Thomas Hogg). President—George B. Day.
- 813—1st Ward, Albert W. Staggg; 2d, William Reid; 3d, Aaron Clegg; 4th, Charles H. May; 5th, William P. Richardson; 6th, Joseph Parker; 7th, Charles Helmrich; 8th, John Sommer. President—Isaac Van Houten.
- 1874—1st Ward, Isaac Van Houten; 2d, William P. Allee; 3d, David T. Gillmor, Alexander T. Groser (elected vice Aaron Clegg, resigned); 4th, George L. Catlin; 5th, Marinus Houman; 6th, Isaac McGee, William F. Bertkau (appointed vice Joseph Parker, resigned); 7th, William Pierce; 8th, George Yorkston. President—Isaac Van Houten.
- 1875—1st Ward, Andrew H. Demarest; 2d, Samuel Lair; 3d, Alexander T. Groser; 4th, Gilbert G. Cooper; 5th, James W. Ensign (resigned, and James Johnston appointed); 6th, John H. Hogan; 7th, Joseph McCrystal; 8th, John Hinchliffe, jr. President—George L. Catlin.
- 1876—1st Ward, James Huyssoon; 2d, Thomas Longbottom; 3d, William L. Bamber; 4th, Ezra Osborn; 5th, John McGowan; 6th, Isaac McGee; 7th, William Pierce; 8th, Henry T. Bergen. President—Alexander T. Groser.
- 1877—1st Ward, William Shinton; 2d, Samuel Lair; 3d, James Mills; 4th, Charles N. Sterrett; 5th, Robert H. Paxton; 6th, William Senior; 7th, Timothy Delaney; 8th, Michael Browne. President—William L. Bamber.



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