



## **DISTRICT No. 1 CENTER HILL SCHOOL**

There is more information known about the Center Hill school and District No. 1 as compared to the other school districts as one of the clerk's records for the years 1848 to 1883 still survives. When the town was chartered in 1727, the third item called for 100 acres be set aside for the benefit of a school. Due to the Indian conflicts, not enough families settled in the town to have a regular school building, and it was not until a June meeting in 1765 of the proprietors was it voted that a schoolhouse be built on the school lot, and the bid for the construction of the school was won by Ensign McGaffey. The school lot was directly across from the old meetinghouse, and records show that a scheduled meeting at the meetinghouse in April of 1776 be moved to the schoolhouse, proving the time frame of its construction.

Not much is known about the first several years of the school or its early instructors. An old home day address in 1899 by Mrs. J. W. Fowler, mentions James Gray, Master Sutton, (John) Casey, Thomas D. Merrill and Master Batchelder. A biography of Capt. James Gray says he was born in 1749 in Newburyport, MA., and came at age 19 to teach school in Epsom, putting the year as about 1768. This would make him one of the first teachers in the town. How and why Capt. Gray came to Epsom can only be speculated on. John Mark Moses in his "Early Settlers of Epsom" writes that James Gray came from Byfield, MA where he was a writing master at Dummer Academy. There was a Solomon Sutton in Epsom who became impoverished in later years as well as James Casey, who was for a time town clerk and had to leave town for some unlawful act. Thomas D. Merrill lived in Epsom and was active in town politics, ran a store, and was a most prominent citizen.

There is little information about the school other than annual expenditures until the March meeting of the town in which no money was expended for either schooling or preaching. The town was without a minister and was seeking to engage Rev. Thurston. The town was without a parsonage building, and it was felt that one would be needed should the town hire a new minister. A vote in July 1779 exchanged the school lot to instead be a parsonage lot, reserving a privilege for the school house of a half acre where the school currently stood. It is not exactly clear what complaint was made to Lieut. Ephraim Locke that is mentioned in the minutes of May 22, 1780, where the town was in 'neglect for not keeping a stated school.' If no money was expended in 1779, there would have been no school, but by 1780 it was not the only school within the bounds of the town. The situation appears to have been addressed on March 21 of 1781 when the town appropriated 1,000 pounds for the support of a school the ensuing year. Apparently there were other issues, as a few days later on March 26, another meeting was held and it was voted to sell the schoolhouse near the meetinghouse be sold. Indeed the 'schoolhouse which was formerly built by the proprietors' was put up for sale to the highest bidder. No information is contained in the records as to bought the old schoolhouse, and it is assumed a replacement was built by the fall of 1781.

There are no records for the next several decades relating to the school on Center Hill. The town during the time period of 1792 to 1808 struggled to get schools built and repaired throughout the several districts, which in 1808 was settled on as six districts. District No.1 was said to contain all the area within its current limits, and a portion of what was later District No. 7 below the old Yeaton Tavern, to the Deerfield line. No mention of schools appear in the public record, but James Babb, through his diaries, offered information as a member of the school committee, visiting the North District in 1819 where the instructor was Ann McClary. She likely was the daughter of James Harvey McClary. By 1823 the town had seven school districts, with School District No. 5 altered in 1819. James Babb visited the Center School in August of 1823, and the instructor was Ann G. McClary. There were 58 scholars. The school committee, including James Babb, records another visit to the District No. 1 School on May 28 of 1825, where Miss Kimball was the instructress and the student population had grown to 75 students.

The only records from 1826 to 1847 come from the Selectman's expenditures of accounts for each district, primarily giving the amount given to each district and the person receiving the money, generally known as the prudential committee. Fortunately the records for District No. 1 for the years 1848 to 1883 still survive, and from them are listed most of the teachers and what they were paid, and also what repairs and changes were made to the schoolhouse during that period. With this information, a fairly complete list of instructors can be made.

The schoolhouse apparently was used for other purposes and meetings, including a Singing School, which the voters decided in 1850 to limit the use to when the school was not in session. In October of 1851, it was voted to build a new school house, but the vote was rescinded five days later in favor of repairing the existing building. It received three coats of pure white lead and good linseed oil in 1852 along with new plaster on the interior with Benjamin M. Heath doing the painting and Job Sanders the plastering. At the same time, the porch to the schoolhouse was underpinned and the door stone set by J. S. Chesley. This is the first mention of any description of what the school may have looked like, and most likely the only schoolhouse with a

porch, which look was retained in its future replacement. In 1855 Joseph Lawrence Jr. was to move the wood house a few feet south and build a fence from it to the schoolhouse. The next year the school vote included the finishing of a privy with proceeds from selling the funnel not used in the school room. A new stove was installed by J. C. Sanders in 1859.

A copy of the 1860 (NH Historical Society) school report for the district did not reflect very kindly on either of the instructors, as shown in this excerpt:

*Summer Term. Susan C. Willey, Teacher. The scholars under Miss Willey's care made some progress in the right direction. The classes in mathematics showed a superficialness, a want of practical knowledge. We found the order poor at our first and last visit, and this seems to be one of the characteristic features of No. 1 School. Miss Willey is an old teacher, and has imbibed habits and fashions that are somewhat stale; has too many ceremonies, too much formality in the school-room, yet considering the adverse causes operating against this school, she did tolerably well.*

*Winter Term. Edwin Greene, Teacher. The auspices under which Mr. Greene commenced were favorable, but still there was a clandestine conspiracy, already here, and soon it burst, became ripe, and with this development down went the school. There was quite a degree of improvement on the part of some scholars still; so we see, from much evil a little good may be educed. There never will be a good school here until the parents, all as one, support the teacher. Just the moment the parents say, my children shall not be corrected, just so soon our schools go down throughout the land. Mr. Greene is a nice young man, we conclude – one who is amply qualified to instruct, but one who does not have that commanding appearance which some others have.*

Similarly, a report by the superintending committee for 1863, H.F. Sanborn, Prudential Committee, comments, a bit tongue and cheek, on the attendance problem due to illness:

*Some scholars were kept from school by sickness, some through fear of taking disease, (the diphtheria), others were allowed to stay away to demonstrate in the hereafter that an idle brain is the devil's workshop.*

Daniel G. Chelsey was paid for repairing the seats and desks, supplying 3 pieces of stove funnel and replace glass in the windows in 1866. The March 18, 1869 meeting of the district voted to indefinitely postpone building a new school house in favor of repairing the old one at a cost of fifty dollars. Two months later that was rescinded, again to consider building a new school. On May 22, it was voted to raise \$1200 dollars for a new school house, only to have that vote rescinded as well in June. Instead five hundred dollars was approved for repairs.

The minutes of the district also show that pupils from outside the district were sometimes allowed to attend the Center School, though this practice sometimes required a tuition cost.

The regular printing of town reports in 1879 included individual reports of each of the school districts. The 1880 report was not favorable to two districts, including the Center Hill School:

*It will be required of me to report to the State that two school-houses (in Nos. 1 and 5) are unfit for school purposes. One unfit to have a winter school in and the other but little better. It has been said that one would not hold a pig. The other would freeze him if it did. – Cyrus O. Brown, Superintending School Committee, March 1, 1880.*

The report did not go unnoticed and the district approved six hundred dollars *to repair and procure suitable furniture and apparatus and needful conveniences* and a new stove. It was also voted to turn the school house one quarter way round. As with previous such votes, a few months later, the repairs were canceled and a new school house was to be built. This time it was done. The old school house was sold to Josiah D. Langley for \$46.00, and a new house was built, to be completed by the middle of October 1880. Jackson Clark Philbrick was paid \$644.77, and the new school and outbuildings were painted in 1881. The superintending school committee took notice and commented “*A new and commodious school-house has been built the past year in District No. 1, and whatever of pleasure and profit comes from the winter term is largely due to a cheerful and comfortable school-room.*”

An interesting report for the district in 1883 gives L. A. Harriman being paid for 1 week teaching, including board, 6 dollars- and 1.00 for his fare home.

In 1884, along with the school reports, names of scholars on an ‘Honor Roll’ were printed, that listing based on student attendance during the various terms. Individual school reports were dropped in the annual town reports by 1887 in favor of town wide School Board reports with tabular statistics by school. From the school committee reports it is known the schoolhouse was painted in 1893 and shingled the following year. In 1900 the inside got repainted and another side shingled. The interior had closets installed for books and supplies in 1902, and another exterior paint job about 1905. The winter term was delayed two weeks in 1907 due to illness; the chimney rebuilt in 1910; the interior painted in 1911. The schoolhouse and wood shed were shingled again in 1924. It was suggested in 1936 that the toilets at the Center School should have access from the school room, and it was wired for electricity by 1937. The 1939 superintendent’s report recommended that the sheds at the Center School be joined to the main building and new type septic toilets installed. The one room schools began to change to specific grades, as opposed to the mixed grades 1 – 8. About 1940 the Center School was hosting grades 5-8 and was closed in the of fall 1943 - and reopened for the fall of 1951 with grades 4-5. The final year of the Center School was in 1954, grade 5 being taught, the last instructor, Miss Barbara A. Mosher (later Barbara Smith who went on to teach at the new Epsom Central School.

The school board authorized by vote the selling of the school house to Elizabeth M. Travis and Madeline R. Knowles, November 30, 1956.

## **DISTRICT No. 1 CENTER HILL SCHOOL**

**First school in Epsom, built 1765.**

**Possibly sold 1781 and a new one built.**

**Refinished 1856-1858**

**Sold 1880 to Josiah D. Langley and current building erected.**

**Closed 1955.**

**Still standing and used as a residence.**

**Diary of James Babb**

1823, August 1 - Visited the school in the center district. 58 scholars, 33 Female 25 Male. 12 in Reader, 14 Testament, 32 Spelling Book, 13 Writing, 5 Geography, 9 Grammar. Miss Ann G. McClary instructress. Principally small scholars and appeared tolerably well. All of these spoke low and indistinct. Mr. Curtis made some remarks and closed with a prayer. A.M. P.M. Intended to visit(ed) the school in Mr. Cilley's district but having some business to do with Samuel Blake, Mr. Curtis went alone.

**Warrant Article March 11, 1823**

No. 8 – To attend to the request of certain inhabitants of the Town of Epsom being part of districts No. 2, 3 and 4 respecting a new school district. At the meeting, voted that Richard Webster and other petitioners for a school district have leave to withdraw their petition.

**Warrant Article April 21, 1823**

No. 3 – To attend to the request of certain inhabitants in Districts No. 2, 3 and 4 respecting a new school District in said town. Voted that the inhabitants of Epsom who have petitioned for a new school district taken from No. 2, 3 & 4 have leave to withdraw their petition.

**SCHOOL REPORT from JAMES BABB DIARY 1825 May 28**

District No. 1 - whole number 75

18 Spelling Book - ordinary

21 English Reader - well generally

36 Unclasped

3 Grammar

Miss Kimball Instructress

**1826 Selectmen Accounts in the town on Schools**

1826 District No. 1 \$129.51

Paid Drusilla Sanborn as per Acct. 39.75

Paid E.D. Lord for wood for said District 3.00

Paid Ephraim Locke for repairs school house 1.00

Paid Locke for ditto .50

Paid John Chesley for repairs school house .25

Paid James Babb Esq. For wood 5.50

Paid Daniel Wells for wood 5.47

Paid Arthur Caverno as per account 64.00

Paid Timothy Person (Pearson) for repairs school house .39

Paid Thomas D. Merrill for repairs .19

Paid Jonathan Chace (Chase) for wood 5.30

**1827 Selectmen in the town of Epsom report on schools - \$522.77**

1827 District No. 1 \$131.22

Money not expended in 1826 in the towns hands 4.16

Paid B.L. Locke for repairing school house 7.25  
Paid B.L. Locke for keeping school 12.00  
Paid Jonathan Chase for wood 11.34  
Paid Moses P. Gray for keeping school 4.67  
Paid William Stickney for keeping school 10.00  
Paid James Babb for 1 axe and handle 1.34  
Paid Doct. Noah J. T. George for keeping school 40.00  
Paid Thomas D. Merrill glass putty and lime .26  
Paid Timothy Parson for repairing school house .50  
Paid Greenleaf Allen for 17 ¼ feet of wood 2.36  
Paid John Chesley for boarding Dr. George and mending key 5.00  
Paid Wm. Tarlton Jr. for procuring and dismissing school master 1.50

**1828 Selectmen in the town of Epsom \$409.28**

1828 District No. 1 \$135.38

Amount brought forward 109.86  
Paid John Cate for services .34  
Paid Jona \_\_\_\_ for 2 cords of wood 3.50  
Paid David Dickey Jr. for keeping school 5 weeks, 2 days at 12 per month 16.09  
Paid David Locke 3<sup>rd</sup> for boarding David Dickey 5 weeks, 2 days at \$1 per week 5.33

**1829 Selectmen in the town of Epsom to the several School Districts in said Town**

1829 District No. 1 \$127.78

Dec. 12, 1829 paid Thomas D. Merrill Esq. in full said districts proportion of school money, 127.78

**1830 Selectmen in the town of Epsom to the several School Districts in said Town**

The whole to assessment \$410.27, Interest, 81.56, total \$491.83  
1830 District No. 1, \$123.24

December 29, 1830 paid Ephraim Locke in full said districts proportion of school money, 123.24

**1831 Selectmen in the town of Epsom to the several School Districts in said Town**

The whole to assessment \$492.05  
District No. 1, February 14, paid Thomas D. Merrill the proportion of district No. 1, 123.18

**1832 Selectmen in the town of Epsom to the several School Districts in said Town**

The whole to assessment \$494.36  
District No. 1, March 9, paid Thomas D. Merrill 127.58

**1833 Selectmen in the town of Epsom to the several School Districts in said Town**

The whole to assessment \$457.61

District No. 1, paid Thomas D. Merrill, 113.62

**1834 Selectmen in the town of Epsom to the several School Districts in said Town**

The whole to assessment \$474.629

District No. 1, paid Thomas D. Merrill, 115.40

**1836 Selectmen in the town of Epsom to the several School Districts in said Town**

Paid Thomas D. Merrill, District No. 1, 118.78

**1837 Selectmen in the town of Epsom to the several School Districts in said Town**

Paid Thomas D. Merrill, District No. 1, 119.25

**1838 Selectmen in the town of Epsom to the several School Districts in said Town**

Paid School District No. 1, 107.75

**1839 Selectmen in the town of Epsom to the several School Districts in said Town**

Paid John Griffin, District No. 1, 120.76

**1840 Selectmen in the town of Epsom to the several School Districts in said Town**

Paid Frederick Sanborn, District No. 1, 119.88

**1841 Selectmen in the town of Epsom to the several School Districts in said Town**

Paid William McMurphy, District No. 1, 120.40

**1842 Selectmen in the town of Epsom to the several School Districts in said Town**

Paid Simeon C. Goss, District No. 1, 115.00

**1843 Selectmen in the town of Epsom to the several School Districts in said Town**

Paid John C. Hall, District No. 1, 131.87

**1844 Selectmen in the town of Epsom to the several School Districts in said Town**

Paid expenditures in District No. 1, 126.00

**1845 Selectmen in the town of Epsom to the several School Districts in said Town**

Paid expenditures District No. 1, 120.53

**1846 Selectmen in the town of Epsom to the several School Districts in said Town**

District No. 1, 98.67

**A pre-printed chart was filled out by the superintending school committee of Epsom for 1846, and listed the following:**

District No. 1, Lucy A. Lord, teacher, first term 80 pupils, second term, 80 pupils

**1847 Selectmen in the town of Epsom to the several School Districts in said Town**

William Ham, school committee

B. L. Locke  
Henry F. Sanborn  
District No. 1, 101.86

**1848 Selectmen in the town of Epsom to the several School Districts in said Town**  
District No. 1, 98.25

**1848, March 25 School District No. 1 Records**  
Sarah E. Locke, Summer School Teacher retained for following year, paid 39.00  
Thomas Steele, paid 64.90

**1849, March 24 School District No. 1 Records**  
Sarah E. Locke, summer school instructor,  
Mr. H. F. Sanborn, winter school  
Paid Sarah E. Locke, 35.45  
Paid G. R. Ramsey, 60.22

**1850, March 23 School District No. 1 Records**  
Voted H. F. Sanborn keep the winter school provided that he keep for a reasonable compensation  
Voted the Singing School nor any other meeting take place while the school is keeping.  
Paid Sarah E. Locke, 36.00  
Paid Henry F. Sanborn, 64.00

**1850 Selectmen in the town of Epsom to the several School Districts in said Town**

William Ham, Superintending School Committee  
Nathan Griffin  
Paid H.F. Sanborn, District No. 1, 120.72

**1851 Selectmen in the town of Epsom to the several School Districts in said Town**  
William Ham, Superintending School Committee  
Nathan Griffin 2<sup>nd</sup>  
H.F. Sanborn

District No. 1, 126.16

**1851, October 11 School District No. 1 Records**  
Voted to build a new schoolhouse, with a committee of three to draw plans, H.F. Sanborn, John Griffin Jr. and B. M. Heath

**1851, October 16 School District No. 1 Records**  
Voted to reconsider building a new schoolhouse in favor of repairing the old schoolhouse.\

**1852, March 27 School District No. 1 Records**  
Voted to paint the schoolhouse with three coats of pure white lead and good linseed oil. Vote to plaster the schoolhouse. Painting bid to B.M. Heath, plastering to Job Sanders. Sold the old



stove. Voted that the porch to the schoolhouse be underpinned and the door stone set by J.S. Chesley.

**1852 Selectmen in the town of Epsom to the several School Districts in said Town**

Henry F. Sanborn, Superintending School Committee

Amount of assessment of school district No. 1, 219.18

Paid Joseph Lawrence Jr., District No. 1, 137.86

Paid Job Sanders for plastering School District No. 1, 7.75

**1853 Selectmen in the town of Epsom to the several School Districts in said Town**

Paid S. A. Weeks, District No. 1, 109.65

**1853, Aug. 13 School District No. 1 Records**

S. A. H. Weeks, Prudential Committee

(no committee report for previous year given)

**1854 Selectmen in the town of Epsom to the several School Districts in said Town**

Paid John C. Hall, District No. 1, 138.35

**1854, March 18 School District No. 1 Records**

John C. Hall. Prudential Committee

Report of the school committee 1853

Paid Clara A. Carpenter for teaching summer school 35.00

Paid H. F. Sanborn for teaching school 61 days at 24. 00 per month 66.55

**1855 March 17 School District No. 1 Records**

Voted that Jos Lawrence Jr. to move the woodhouse a few feet south and buld a fence from said woodhouse to the schoolhouse.

Paid for 1854:

Miss Hilton teaching 12 weeks, 27.00

J. Griffin for boarding Miss. H. 16.00

B. H. Harvey teaching 3 months at 20.00 – 60.00

**1855 Selectmen in the town of Epsom to the several School Districts in said Town**

Benjamin Towle, School Committee

Paid Joseph Lawrence Jr., District No.1, 155.52

**1856 Selectmen in the town of Epsom to the several School Districts in said Town**

Paid Nathan Griffin 3<sup>rd</sup>, District No. 1, 170.41

**1856, March 29 School District No. 1 Records**

Voted to dispose of the funnel not used in the school room and to finish a privy with the proceeds..

Report of the committee for 1855:

Paid Clara Towle for teaching school 50.12

Sarah J. Girffin, 21.00  
H.F. Sanborn 66.18

**1857 Selectmen in the town of Epsom to the several School Districts in said Town**

B.L. Locke, Superintending school committee  
Paid John M. Griffin, District No. 1, 161.16

**1857, March 21 School District No. 1 Records**

Report of the committee for 1856:  
Paid Clara A. Carpenter for teaching the summer school 38.14  
H.F. Sanborn for teaching the winter school 97.92  
John Griffin Jr. for boarding teacher in the summer 19.00

**1858 Selectmen in the town of Epsom to the several School Districts in said Town**

George W. Gardner, School Commissioner  
William Ham, Superintending School Committee  
Paid William Sanders, District No. 1, 156.83

**1858 March 16 School District No. 1 Records**

Report of the committee for 1857:  
Paid Sarah Jane Griffin for teaching the summer school and board – 71.25  
Paid H.F. Sanborn for teaching winter school and board 82.72

**1859 Selectmen in the town of Epsom to the several School Districts in said Town**

B.G. Howe, Superintending School Committee  
Paid Joseph Lawrence, District No. 1, 156.82

**1859 March 15 School District No. 1 Records**

William Sanders, Prudential Committee  
Report from 1858 Committee:  
Paid Lizzie J. Cochran as teacher 39.00  
Paid H. P. Lamprey for teaching 27.50  
P. Bartlett for board  
S. (C?) O. Brown for teaching 40.00  
Paid J. C Sanders for hauling and setting up stove 1.25

**1860 – Annual School Report Year ending Feb. 25, 1861** [NH Historical Society]

District No. 1 – Charles C. Smith, Prudential Committee

Amount of school money assigned to district, \$163.18

Number of scholars, summer and winter:

First term, 62

Second term, 52

Length of school in weeks:

First term, 12

Second term, 11.  
Wage per month, including board:  
First term, \$20  
Second term, \$34

Summer Term. Susan C. Willey, Teacher. The scholars under Miss Willey's care made some progress in the right direction. The classes in mathematics showed a superficialness, a want of practical knowledge. We found the order poor at our first and last visit, and this seems to be one of the characteristic features of No. 1 school. Miss Willey is an old teacher, and has imbibed habits and fashions that are somewhat stale; has too many ceremonies, too much formality in the school-room, yet considering the adverse causes operating against this school, she did tolerably well.

Winter Term. Edwin Greene, Teacher. The auspices under which Mr. Greene commenced were favorable, but still there was a clandestine conspiracy, already here, and soon it burst, became ripe, and with this development down went the school. There was quite a degree of improvement on the part of some scholars still; so we see, from much evil a little good may be educated. There never will be a good school here until the parents, all as one, support the teacher. Just the moment the parents say, my children shall not be corrected, just so soon our schools go down throughout the land. Mr. Greene is a nice young man, we conclude – one who is amply qualified to instruct, but one who does not have that commanding appearance which some others have.

#### **1860, March 31 School District No. 1 Records**

Charles C. Smith Prudential Committee  
Report of the committee for 1859:  
Paid Sarah J. Griffin for teaching summer school 57.00  
Paid C.O. Brown for teaching winter school 85.00  
Paid for black board 3.72

#### **1861, March 26 School District No. 1 Records**

Jonathan C. Sanders, Prudential Committee  
Report of the committee for 1860:  
Paid Susan Willey for teaching summer school 36.00  
Paid B. M. Heath for Board, 24.00  
Paid E. Green for teaching winter school 67.67  
Paid N. Griffin 2<sup>nd</sup> for Board 24.75

#### **1862, March 6 School District No. 1 Records**

Jonathan Watson, Prudential Committee  
Report of the Committee for 1861:  
Paid Miss Davis for teaching summer school 55.00  
Paid Mr. Davis for teaching winter school 94.00 (incl board)

#### **1863 Selectmen in the town of Epsom to the several School Districts in said Town**

Paid Henry F. Sanborn, District No. 1, 163.13

**1863, March 16 School District No. 1 Records**

Henry F. Sanborn, Prudential Committee

Report of the Committee for 1862:

Paid Miss L. F. Dearborn for teaching summer school 12 weeks 60.00

Paid Miss L. F. Dearborn for teaching winter school 90.00

**1863**

Annual report of the superintending school committee of the town of Epsom, New Hampshire, 1864 from the NH Historical Society, 379.778b E641 [manuscript]

District No. 1 – H.F. Sanborn, Prudential Committee

Teacher summer term, Miss Lizzie J. Chesley, winter term, D. Gilman Chesley.

Whole number of scholars, summer 43, winter, 41

Average attendance, summer 34, winter, 30

Length of school each term twelve weeks.

Some scholars were kept from school by sickness, some through fear of taking disease, (the diphtheria), others were allowed to stay away to demonstrate in the hereafter that an idle brain is the devil's workshop. Good passion (?) went was made each term.

**1864 Selectmen in the town of Epsom to the several School Districts in said Town**

Paid Daniel G. Chesley, District No. 1, 160.59

**1864, March 15 School District No. 1 Records**

Daniel G. Chesley, Prudential Committee

Voted to invite Daniel G. Chesley to keep the winter school

Report of the School Committee 1863:

Paid Miss Hannah Chadwick, 40.50

Paid B. M. Heath for board of same 15.75

Paid Charles A. Towle for teaching winter school 54.00

Paid B.M. Heath for board of said Towle, for wood and repairs 31.00

**1865, March 18 School District No. 1 Records**

Daniel T. Cilley, Prudential Committee (on 2<sup>nd</sup> ballot)

Report of the Committee for 1864:

Paid J. Lizzie Chesley for teaching school three months including board 60.00

To teaching Winter school including board 102.00

Paid D. G. Chesley for repairing seats and desks, furnishing 3 pieces stove funnel, window glass and putting in the same, white washing &c

**1866 Selectmen in the town of Epsom to the several School Districts in said Town**

Paid Henry F. Sanborn, District No.1, 135.48

**1866, March 17 School District No. 1 Records**

William P. Babb, Prudential Committee

Voted 5% of school money in building a privy

Report of the Prudential Committee 1865:

Paid Sarah C. Willey for teaching summer school 10 weeks and board 60.00

Paid C.O. Brown for teaching winter school nine weeks plus board 78.75

**1867 Selectmen in the town of Epsom to the several School Districts in said Town**

Paid Charles J. Brown, District No. 1, 63.95

**The State of New Hampshire – In compliance with the provisions of Chapter 955 of the Pamphlet Laws, approved July 12, 1850, the Superintending School Committees of the Town of Epsom submit the following Report of the condition &c of the Schools in said Town the past year. 1867 submitted by D. Gilman Chelsey.**

School District No. 1, 34 boys, 29 girls, 4 children between 4 and 14 not attending

**1867, March 23 School District No. 1 Records**

Charles J. Brown, Prudential Committee

Report of the Prudential Committee 1866:

Paid Mary B. Libbey teaching school 20 weeks 73.00

Paid George W. Batchelder for boarding teacher, 20.00

**1868, September 30 School District No. 1 Records**

Voted to repair the schoolhouse by loan, by issuing notes of the district, a sum of money not exceeding forty dollars with which to repair the school house and build a privy

Chose Henry F. Sanborn, Henry Knox and Lowell Eastman a a committee to carry into effect the foregoing vote.

**1869, March 18 School District No. 1 Records**

Jonathan S. Chesley, Prudential Committee

Voted to employ the same teachers that taught last year.

A vote to build a new school house indefinitely postponed.

Chose a committee of three to determine the cost of repairing the school house – Henry Knox, James A. Page and Henry F. Sanborn.

Voted that scholars from out of the district pay in future 00.331/3 per week as tuition.

Voted A. Locke and A J. Sherburne be excused from paying tuition the winter term 1868-69

Report of the committee for 1868:

Paid H (K?). E. Towle for teaching school 10 weeks, summer term 30.00

Paid Horace Robinson for board of H (K?) E. Towle 25.00

Paid A. M. Heath for teaching 12 weeks including board 95.00

**1869, April 1 School District No. 1 Records**

Voted to raise 50 dollars with which to repair the schoolhouse, accepting the committees report.

**1869, May 1 School District No. 1 Records**

Voted to rescind the vote of April 1, 1869 to raise 50 dollars to repair the old schoolhouse

Voted to build a new school house

Voted a committee to procure a plan – Daniel T. Cilley, Alonozo Wallace, John C. Hall

**1869, May 22 School District No. 1 Records**

Voted to raise 1200 dollars to build a new school house

**1869, June 12 School District No. 1 Records**

On motion of Henry Knox, voted to reconsider the vote to raise 1200 dollars to build a new school – 24 voting in favor of reconsidering and 19 against it. Voted to rescind the vote to build a new school house..

On motion of Henry Knox, to amend an article to raise 500 dollars with which to repair the school house. Passed the motion. Chose Henry Knox, George Sanders Jr. and Varnum Fisk a committee to repair the school house. Repairs to be complete the 20<sup>th</sup> of October next.

**1870, March 22 School District No. 1 Records**

John C. Hall, Prudential Committee

Report of the Committee of 1869:

Paid Cynthia Varney for teaching school 9 weeks, summer term including board 54.00

Paid Andrew M. Heath jr for teaching 59 ½ days including board 95.40

**1871, March 18 School District No. 1 Records**

Henry F. Sanborn, Prudential Committee

Voted repairs to the school house

Report of the Committee for 1870:

Paid 12 weeks of school including board 72.00

Paid for 11 weeks school including board 82.50

[teachers names not given]

**1872, March 16 School District No. 1 Records**

Henry F. Sanborn, Prudential Committee

Accepted committee's report and the committee on repairs.

Report of the committee 1871:

Paid Ida Knox for teaching summer school, 42.00

Paid Henry Knox for board of teacher 30.00

Paid Frank M. Cutchins for teaching winter school 135.00

Paid for repairs to schoolhouse 139.05

**1873, March 26 School District No. 1 Records**

William T. Sanders, Prudential Committee

Report of the committee for 1872:

Paid Hattie A. Sanborn for teaching 12 weeks 72.00

Paid George H. Tripp for 10 weeks teaching 60.00

Paid George W. Batchelder for board of said Tripp 40.00

**1874, March 25 School District No. 1 Records**

Daniel T. Cilley, Prudential Committee

Voted to rescind the vote of 1869 requiring out of district scholars to pay tuition and to exclude all scholars out of the limits of the district.

Report of the committee for 1873:

Paid Mary L. Wallace 13 weeks 78.00

Paid Andrew M. Weeks 2<sup>nd</sup> seven 3/5 weeks 137.00  
Paid William T. Sanders repairing seats, glass 1.25

### **1875, March 16 School District No. 1 Records**

John C. Hall, Prudential Committee  
Report of the committee for 1874:  
Paid Miss Ada Lake for teaching 12 weeks including board 96.00  
Paid D. G. Chesley for teaching 12 weeks including board 108.00

### **1876, March 18 School District No. 1 Records**

Joseph Lawrence, Prudential Committee  
Report of the school committee 1875:  
Paid Cynthia Tasker for teaching 19 weeks school 85.50  
Paid Alonzo Batchelder for board 19 weeks 54.53  
Paid Daniel G. Chesley for teaching 14 weeks including board 140.00

### **1877, March 10 School District No. 1 Records**

George W. Batchelder, Prudential Committee  
Report of the school committee for 1876:  
Paid Annie E. Towle for teaching 10 weeks, 48.75  
Paid Daniel T. Cilley for boarding teaching 10 weeks 25.00  
Paid D.G. Chesley for teaching three months 113.45

### **1878, March 27 School District No. 1 Records**

Charles H. Hall, Prudential Committee (2<sup>nd</sup> ballot)  
Voted to buy one new stove.  
Report of the school committee for 1877:  
Paid George O. Wiggin for teaching 12 weeks including board 84.00

### **1879, March 22 School District No. 1 Records**

Joseph Lawrence, Prudential Committee  
Voted indefinitely postpone article to buy new stove.  
Report of the school committee 1878:  
Paid Miss B. A. Currier 9 weeks teaching summer at 7.00 per week 63.00  
Paid Daniel G. Chesley 13 weeks teaching winter term 113.75

### **1879 DISTRICT No. 1.**

Charles H. Hall, Prudential Committee. Summer term.—Miss Anna B. Currier, teacher. Wages per month, including board, \$27.00 ; length of school, 9 weeks; whole number of scholars, 32.  
Miss Currier fully sustained her former reputation as a thorough and systematic teacher, by keeping one of the best schools that we ever visited in district No. I.  
Winter term.—D. Gilman Chesley, teacher. Wages per month including board, \$35.00; length of school, 13 weeks; number of scholars, 39.  
Although the school was quite lengthy (lengthened materially, by using money unexpended last year) yet nearly all the scholars were very Constant and punctual in attendance during the entire term, and made

good improvement. Some of the younger scholars by writing their spelling on tablets designed for the purpose, not only improved rapidly in spelling, but also acquired much skill in penmanship. Written examinations were given several classes by both of the teachers in their respective schools. Annie Chesley is reported as having ranked the highest in these examinations in the summer school, and J. Eugene Philbrick, in the winter school.

#### **DISTRICT No. 1. HONOR ROLL**

First Term—Ella B. Hall, Eliza Philbrick, Maurice L. Langley.

Second Term—J. Eugene Philbrick, Walter J. Philbrick.  
Mamie P. Cass, Alice J. Cass, Eliza Philbrick, Emma Philbrick.

#### **1880 SCHOOL REPORT.**

It will be required of me to report to the State that two school-houses (in Nos. 1 and 5) are unfit for school purposes. One unfit to have a winter school in and the other but little better. It has been said that one would not hold a pig. The other would freeze him if it did. — Cyrus O. Brown, Superintending School Committee, March 1, 1880

#### **1880 DISTRICT No. 1. CENTER.**

Number weeks of school: summer, 103-5; winter, 131-2. Number scholars : summer, 32 ; winter, 37.  
Wages of teachers : summer, per month, \$27 ; winter, \$40. Average attendance : summer, 28 1-5 ; winter, 33 2-3.

The summer term was taught by Miss Luella M. Ewings, of New York. This teacher governed her school well and labored industriously for the welfare of her pupils and deserved better success than she attained. Her dialect, somewhat peculiar and at variance with ours, but common in other parts of our country, grated the ears of some fastidious minds and caused unfavorable remarks that lessened the esteem of her pupils. The most of her classes appeared well and made fair improvement.

Winter Term.—Mr. Daniel G. Chesley, teacher. A veteran of nearly a quarter of a century, who possesses a patience and untiring industry united with a critical and practical knowledge of the branches taught, which rank him pre-eminent as an instructor. This school contains more advanced scholars than any other in town. The attendance has been very regular, which clearly indicates a continued interest kept up by the teacher. Mr. C. has done more for the education of the younger portion of his district than any other teacher.

#### **1880, March 27 School District No. 1 Records**

Joseph B. Cass, Prudential Committee

Voted to receive scholars out of the district

Report of school committee 1879:

Paid Luella Ewings for teaching summer school 70.00

Paid Daniel G. Chesley for teaching 13 ½ weeks winter school at 10.00 per week 135.00

Paid Daniel G. Chesley for repairing stove .31

#### **1880, April 13 School District No. 1 Records**

Voted to repair old school house.

Voted 600.00 to repair and procure suitable furniture and apparatus and needful conveniences.

Dispensed with article to raid money for new stove and blackboard for the school room

Voted to expend five per cent of the school money for the purchase of a stove.

Voted committee of Henry Knox, William A. Sanders and Jackson C. Philbrick committee to expend the 600.00.



Voted to turn the school house one quarter way around.

#### **1880, August 4 School District No. 1 Records**

Voted to build a new school house

Voted not to retain the committee on repairs.

Voted John C. Hall a committee to build a new school house

Voted to rescind the vote passed April 12 1880 to repair the old school house.

Voted the authorize the building committee to use the 600.00 towards building a new school house that was raised for the purpose of repairing the old house.

Voted an additional 150.00 for suitable furniture and apparatus and needful conveniences

Voted to sell the old school house to the highest bidder

Voted that the school house be ready for use by the middle of October

Voted a suitable out building providing the committee has sufficient funds

#### **1881 REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE.**

A new and commodious school-house has been built the past year in District No. 1, and whatever of pleasure and profit comes from the winter term is largely due to a cheerful and comfortable school-room. CYRUS O. BROWN, C. W. TARLTON, Superintending School Committee. Epsom, March 1, 1881.

#### **1881 DISTRICT No. 1. CENTER.**

Summer term, 9 weeks ; scholars, 26 ; wages per month, \$25.

Winter term, 133-5 weeks; scholars, 39; wages per month, \$35.

Summer Term.—Miss Mary A. Seavey, teacher. Miss Seavey is one of the few who realizes that telling is not teaching, and that scholars should mainly rely upon themselves. Her quiet energy secured unusually good order, and her slight dependence upon the text-book for questions required a thoughtful study of the subject by her pupils. Five classes in geography were brought into two with the best results by the change of text-books on this subject. An unreasonable complaint made against the teacher near the close of the term wrought much injury.

Winter Term.—C. W. Tarlton, A. M., teacher. Of him we have reported before and now would reiterate the same, and more also, were he not a member of the school committee. Much credit is due the scholars of this school for their studiousness, uniform courtesy, and constant progress. A class of fifteen in National arithmetic and geography will compare favorably, we think, with any similar class in the State. Much interest and progress has attended all other studies.

#### **1881, March 22 School District No. 1 Records**

Jackson C. Philbrick, Prudential Committee

Voted to accept report on the out building is needed at 150.00

Voted to raise 150.00 to repair and paint the out building

Voted a committee of three to paint school house, repair out building and paint same.

Voted not to admit scholars out district. Rescinded to admit scholars at .50 a week

Report of the school committee for 1880:

Paid Mary A. Seavey, 56.25

Paid Charles W. Tarleton 119.00

Building Committee:

Received of Josiah D. Langley for old school house 46.00

Paid J. C Philbrick for foundation and underpinning et al 644.77

### **1882, March 8 1881, School District No. 1 Records**

Daniel C. Ayer, Prudential Committee

Voted to insure the school house for 800.00 in the NH Insurance Co.

Report of the school committee 1881:

Paid Adelaide Veasey teaching summer school 62.50

Paid Daniel G. Chesley teaching winter term 116.00

Paid C. S. Heath building shed 30.00

Painting house and shed 15.74

### **1883 DISTRICT No. 1.**

Amount of school money, \$187.80. Daniel C. Ayer, prudential committee. Wages paid teacher per month, including board, summer and fall terms, \$25.00 ; winter term, \$32.00. Length of school, summer term, 10 weeks ; fall term, 8 weeks ; winter term, 6f- weeks.

Number of scholars, summer, 35 ; fall, 33; winter 37. Average attendance, summer, 29 ; fall, 29 ; winter, 32.

Miss L. A. Harriman, of Raymond, was engaged to keep the summer term, but in consequence of a misunderstanding in regard to wages she left after keeping one week, and Miss Mina H. Quimby, of Concord, was employed to finish the term and to keep the fall term. In this school reading was really made a study. In order to read so as to be well understood by others it is necessary that the reader should understand well what he is reading himself. Reading, by substituting the definitions of some of the more difficult words in place of the words themselves, was a very interesting exercise. Good progress was made in all the other branches studied.

The winter term was taught by Miss Adda Lake, of Deerfield. The teacher endeavored to impress upon the minds of her pupils the importance of being thorough in whatever they undertook, preferring short and well-learned lessons instead of longer and consequently more imperfect ones. The scholars were generally studious and well-disposed, and, although the term was short, made some improvement in their studies. The summer school was somewhat interrupted by some evil disposed person or persons breaking and entering the school-room between the sessions, and injuring property therein. It is hoped that the guilty will see the folly and wickedness of such acts, and that nothing of the kind will ever again occur in this usually quiet district.

### **DISTRICT No. 1 Honor Roll**

First Term.—Gracie L. Quimby, Mabel Sanders, Michael M. Steele.

Third Term.—Eliza Philbrick, Fred S. Heath, Maurice L. Langley, Walter J. Philbrick.

### **1883, March 20 1881, School District No. 1 Records**

Charles S. Hall, Prudential Committee

Paid L. A. Harriman for teaching 1 week school including board 6.00

For his fare home 1.00

Paid Mina H. Quimby for teaching 17 weeks school including board 106.25

Paid Adela Lake for teaching 6 weeks and 4 days including board 54.00

### **1884 District No. 1**

Amount of school money, \$240.88. C. Sumner Hall, prudential committee.

Miss Ida M. Scott, of Deerfield, taught the summer and fall terms, and D. G. Chesley taught the winter.

Wages per month, including board, summer and fall terms, \$26 ; winter term, \$35.

Length of school, summer term, 9 weeks ; fall term, 6 weeks ; winter term, 12 weeks.

Number of scholars, summer, 33 ; fall, 32 ; winter, 34.

Average attendance, summer, 29 ; fall, 27 ; winter, 29.

It was the aim of both teachers to awaken thought, to have each pupil think and reason for himself, to feel that he had a mind capable of comparing, reflecting and choosing. Whatever was done, they tried to have done well, knowing that a little well learned is better than much poorly learned. Each term was favored with a goodly number of visits by citizens and friends, but it is a remarkable fact that none of the parents visited the school during the year, although all are interested in having good schools. It is hoped that the next year will witness a decided change in this respect, and that all parents will feel it to be a pleasure, as well as a duty, to visit the school often.

#### **DISTRICT No. 1 Roll of Honor**

First Term.—Hattie Wells, Alice Sanders, Gracie Quimby, Jennie Desilets, Josie Ginesi, Bryant Langley.

Second Term.—Myrtie Batchelder, Bertha Cotterell, Nellie Langley, Hattie Wells.

Third Term.—Michael M. Steele.

#### **1885 REPORT OF THE Superintending School Committee**

There is great deficiency of globes and maps in our schoolrooms, which ought to be supplied.

Districts Nos. 1 and 4, the only ones in town that have out-line maps. - MRS. S. C. G. AVERY, S. S. Committee. Epsom, Feb. 26, 1885.

#### **1885 DISTRICT No. 1**

Joseph Lawrence, Prudential Committee.

Summer Term.—Whole number of scholars attending school, 26 ; average attendance, 24 ; length of school, 6.6 weeks ; wages of teacher, \$26, \$32 per month.

This term was commenced by Miss Minnie J. Veasie, of Deerfield. After teaching nearly three weeks she was obliged to give up her school on account of ill health, and Miss Mary A. Seavey, of this town, finished the term.

We were glad to see some improvement both in the order of the school and in the studies pursued. But as it takes scholars and teacher some little time to become familiar with each others' wants and ways, the interruption and change affected the interest and progress of the school very unfavorably.

Winter Term.—Whole number of scholars attending school, 35 ; average attendance, 31 ; length of school, 12.6 weeks; wages of teacher, \$45.

Mr. F. D. Veasie, of Deerfield, taught this school. He has had many years of experience in this work, and he labored faithfully for the advancement of his pupils. The examination showed careful work and a good understanding of the different branches studied.

#### **DISTRICT No. 1. Roll of Honor**

First Term.—Hattie L. Batchelder, Nellie G. Langley, Grace L. Quimby, Nellie L. Quimby, Ansel C. Heath, Willie H. Knowles, Bryant T. Langley, Perley W. T. Sanders.

Second Term.—Bryant Langley.

#### **1886 DISTRICT NO. 1—CENTRE.**

Summer and fall terms, Miss Ella F. Chesley teacher.

Winter term, Mr. William Whittier of Deerfield, teacher.—There are no dullards here, and the teacher who expects to win the reputation of being an excellent instructor in this school must first earn it by hard and continuous labor. There is something to do besides giving out and hearing lessons, but even this is of no small moment, since there are some forty classes ranging from the primer to the higher English branches, which must be pnned through with in the course of a day. The scholars are naturally enthusiastic and desirous of learning and they know how to appreciate a good teacher. On the other hand, they love play almost as well as study, and will take an ell if given an inch. If the teacher can sit calmly by and

pursue the even tenor of his way, unmolested by the pranks of mischievous boys and girls during school hours, it may be well for him, but bad for the children. They require for their good, someone who will interest himself in their interests, keep them in order if they have any inclination to be disorderly, using, if necessary, some proper mode of discipline, without fear or favor. Such a teacher we could heartily commend. It is to be supposed that Mr. Whittier knows the importance of making the return of school registers in season for the committee to report at the annual town meeting, but we are sorry to say that his has not been received. For this reason we are obliged to omit some of the statistical items pertaining to the school.

**DISTRICT NO. 1. Perfect Attendance**

First Term.—Harry Sherburne, Millie Hilliard and several others.

Second Term.—Harry Sherburne, Millie Hilliard, Nellie Quimby and others.

**1887 ROLL OF PERFECT ATTENDANCE CENTRE.**

First Term—Hattie L. Batchelder, Bertha T. Cotterell, Millie Billiard. Myrtie E. Batchelder.

**1888 ROLL OF PERFECT ATTENDANCE. CENTRE SCHOOL.**

First Term. Delia Demers, John Demers, Willie Knowles, Albert Knowles, George V. Fiske, Michael M. Steele.

Second Term. Melvina Demers, Delia Demers, Tenie Heath, Millie Hilliard, Nellie Langley, John Demers, Lewis Haines, Albert Knowles, Bryant Langley, Bertie Quimby, Harvey Wells.

**1889 ROLL OF HONOR. CENTER SCHOOL.**

First Term.—Willie H. Knowles, Bertha T. Cotterell, Myrtie E. Batchelder, Nellie L. Quimby.

Second Term.—Delia F. Demers, Melvina M. Demers.

**PERFECT ROLL OF HONOR. Center.**

Delia Demers, John B. Demers.

**1890 ROLL OF HONOR.Center.**

Bertha Cotterell, Dora L. Demers 2, Melvina M. Demers, Millie L. Hilliard, Nellie G. Langley 2, Alice Sanders, Arthur Demers 2, Frank Garvin, T. Bryant Langley, Robert E. Munro, Lewis E. Haynes, Ella Sanders.

**1892 ROLL OF HONOR. CENTRE.**

Nellie G. Langley 2, Willie Hilliard 2, Ansel Heath, Albert C. Knowles.

**1893 REPORT OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF THE TOWN OF EPSOM**

For the Year Ending March 1, 1893.

For various reasons, chief among which were deep snows, bad traveling, and sickness, several of our winter terms were closed sooner than they otherwise would have been; and the coming year the Centre school will be entitled to have 4.6 weeks added to the school; the New Orchard, 2 weeks; the Mountain, 3 weeks; the North Road, 11 weeks; and the New Rye, 4 weeks.

JAMES H. TRIPP,

CLARA C. WOODMAN,

DANIEL G. CHESLEY

**1893 ROLL OF HONOR. CENTRE**

Eddie L. Bunker, Millie L. Hilliard, Albert C. Knowles, Mary G. Knowles, Eva A. Lawrence, Nellie G. Langley, Bertha T. Cotterell,\* Grace B. Sherburne.\*

### **1894 SCHOOL REPORT**

The Centre school was seriously interrupted, first, by the sickness of the teacher, Miss Phelps, who commenced the summer term, and afterwards by the sickness of pupils, and the terms were shorter than they otherwise would have been, and the coming year the school will be entitled to have 6.6 weeks added to it.

The Centre and New Rye schoolhouses have been painted during the past year, and it is hoped that other schoolhouses will be repaired and painted in the near future.

D. G. CHESLEY,  
DANIEL YEATON

### **1894 ROLL OF HONOR. CENTRE.**

Arthur Munroe.

### **1896 SCHOOL REPORT.**

By an amendment of the school laws made by the last legislature the school year was made to begin with the fall term.

The North Road school-house should be painted the coming season and the one at the Centre shingled.

DANIEL YEATON,  
MARY L. WALLACE,  
JOHN H. DOLBEER

### **1896 ROLL OF HONOR.**

CENTRE.

Millie L. Hilliard, Charles F. Rogers.

### **1897 REPORT OF SCHOOL BOARD**

One side of the Centre school house has been shingled.

### **1897 ROLL OF HONOR.**

CENTRE SCHOOL.

Eva A. Lawrence, Charles F. Rogers, Elnora S. Chesley, 2 May A. Philbrick, 2 Nora E. Philbrick, 2.

### **1898 ROLL OF HONOR**

CENTRE SCHOOL.

Elvira S. Chesley, 2, Roy Marston, 2, Charlie Rogers

### **TEACHERS**

#### **1898**

CENTER: Lillie M. Bickford, Blanche H. Emerson

### **1899 SCHOOL REPORT**

The blackboards all need painting, or what would be much better, replaced by slate, then they would never need paint. Repairs are continually needed, in fact waste and repair is the life of our bodies. Is it not so with other things? If there was no waste we would have nothing to do for exercise to keep our bodies in a healthy condition.

The Centre needs new steps, and one side will soon need new shingles.

### **1899 ROLL OF HONOR**

CENTRE

Elnora Chesley, Charlie Rogers

### **TEACHERS**

**1899**

CENTER: Carrie W. Carpenter, Maggie D. Waterhouse, G. Llewellyn Griffin

### **1900 PERFECT ATTENDANCE**

Centre.—Elnora S. Chesley (2), Mabel F. Chesley, Myra E. Longley, Wallace Longley

### **1901 SCHOOL REPORT**

The schools have been very much interrupted by sickness; measles, whooping-cough and scarlet fever prevailing to such an extent that only one of our schools could keep its regular course.

Repairs have been made on the Center building, painted on the inside, and shingled.

John H. Dolbeer

D.G. Chesley

M. Josie Rand

School Board

### **1901 ROLL OF PERFECT ATTENDANCE**

CENTER SCHOOL.

John G. Chesley, 2, Mabel F. Chesley, 2, Myra E. Longley, John Peck, Elnora S. Chesley, 2, Blanche Philbrick, 3, Wallace Longley, Flora Hall.

### **TEACHERS**

**1901**

CENTER: Cora M. Brown

### **1902 ROLL OF PERFECT ATTENDANCE.**

CENTER SCHOOL.

Elnora S. Chesley, 3 Mabel F. Chesley, 2 John G. Chesley, 2 Flora D. Hall, Bertha M. Hall, Stacy I. Hart, 2 W. Clay Hart, 2 Clarence H. Hart, 2 Lysle E. Hart, Wallace F. Longley, 2 Blanche C. Philbrick, 3

### **1903 REPORT OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF THE TOWN OF EPSOM.**

Closets for books and supplies placed in the Centre house school.

M. JOSIE RAND,

CHARLES A. BROWN,

FRANK L. SEAVEY

**1903 PERFECT ATTENDANCE.**

**CENTER SCHOOL.**

Elnora S Chesley, 3 Mabel P. Chesley, John Chesley, Blanche Philbrick, 3 Flora D. Hall, Albert J. Yeaton. Bertha M. Hall, 2 Isaac Stacy Hart, 2 Willis Clay Hart, 2 Clarence H. Hart

**1904 REPORT OF SCHOOL BOARD.**

Needed repairs at the other schools have been made and more would have been done at Gossville and the Centre if the weather had been less severe in the fall.

Chas. A. Brown

Frank L. Seavey

Helen G. Yeaton

**1904 PERFECT ATTENDANCE**

**CENTER SCHOOL:**

Isaac S. Hart, 2, Willis A. Clay Hart, 2, Clarence H. Hart, 2, Lysle E. Hart, 2, Annie M. Hill, 2, Mabel F. Chesley, 2, Albert J. Yeaton, Edna C. Fogg, John G. Chesley, 2, Bertha M. Hall, Blanche C. Philbrick, 2.

**TEACHERS**

**1904**

CENTER: Lillian M. Bickford

**1906 REPORT OF SCHOOL BOARD**

The Center school house has been painted on the outside and the Gossville school house on the interior. Very few repairs other than these have been necessary.

Helen G. Yeaton

Walter H. Tripp

John H. Dolbeer

**1906 PERFECT ATTENDANCE**

**CENTER SCHOOL:**

Blanche Philbrick, 2, Flora D. Hall, Annie M. Hill, Alice L. Hart, Lysle Hart, 3, Isaac S. Hart, 2, Willis C. Hart, 2, Clarence H. Hart, Albert J. Yeaton, 2, Charles C. Rogers, John G. Chesley

**TEACHERS**

**1906**

CENTER: Lela G. Langley, Lillian M. Bickford

**1908 REPORT OF THE SCHOOL BOARD**

The winter term was badly interfered with by sickness and difficulty in obtaining teachers.

The center school was two weeks late in beginning.

John H. Dolbeer

R. Estelle Hall

Walter H. Tripp

## **1908 ROLL OF HONOR**

### **CENTER SCHOOL.**

Viola P. Brown, John G. Chesley, Flora D. Hall, Lysle E. Hart, Annie M. Hill, Blanche C. Philbrick, 2, Gilbert H. Knowles, Albert J. Yeaton, William E. Yeaton

## **TEACHERS**

### **1908**

CENTER: Lillie M. Bickford

## **1909 ROLL OF HONOR**

CENTER: Flora D. hall, Annie M. Hill. John G. Chesley, Gilbert H. Knowles, Watson T. Ambrose, Ellsworth B. Philbrick, 2, Albert J. Yeaton, William E. Yeaton, Forest E. Ambrose. Absent one day, Blanch C. Philbrick.

## **TEACHERS**

### **1909**

CENTER: Nellie F. Sherburne, Edna A. Place, Elsie M. Shackford

## **1911 REPORT OF THE SCHOOL BOARD**

We have rebuilt the chimney at the Center.

Charles A. Brown

Lizzie F. Fowler

John W. Cox

## **1911 ROLL OF HONOR**

CENTER SCHOOL: Watson T. Ambrose, 3, Albert J. Yeaton, Marion A. Langley, James M. Steele, Gilbert H. Knowles, 2, William E. Yeaton, Ellsworth B. Philbrick, 2, Hazel A. Philbrick, Forrest E. Ambrose

## **TEACHERS**

### **1911**

CENTER: Nella V. Swett

## **1912 REPORT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

The Center school house painted inside and made several other minor repairs where necessary

Lizzie F. Fowler

John W. Cox

Charles A. Brown

## **1912 ROLL OF HONOR**

CENTER: Ellsworth Philbrick, 3, Forrest Ambrose, 1, Gertrude Ambrose, 1, Ernest Collins, 1, Hazel Philbrick, 1, Frank Ambrose, 1, Watson Ambrose, 1, James Steele, 1

## **TEACHERS**

### **1912**



CENTER: Bessie A. Smith, Nellie A. Merrill

**1913 ROLL OF HONOR**

CENTER: James Steele, 2, George Knowles, 1, Watson Ambrose, 1, Thomas Yeaton, 1

**TEACHERS**

**1913**

CENTER: Nellie E. Merrill

**1914 ROLL OF HONOR**

CENTER: Gilbert H. Knowles, Thomas R. Yeaton, Ellsworth Philbrick, 3, Louis A. Demers, Watson T. Ambrose, Arthur Sherburne, George W. Knowles, 2, Alice Ambrose, 3, Hazel A. Philbrick, 3, James M. Steele, 3, William Yeaton, Ivan R. Rowe

**TEACHERS**

**1914**

CENTER: Nellie E. Merrill, Edna Place

**1915 REPORT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

CENTER: Alice F. Ambrose, Hazel A. Philbrick, 2, Louis Demers, James M. Steele, Hattie E. Ambrose, Watson T. Ambrose, 2, Ellsworth B. Philbrick, 2, Arthur Sherburne, Ruth Sanders.

**TEACHERS**

**1915**

CENTER: Edna A. Place, Eleanora S. Chesley, J. Harold Weeks

**1916 ROLL OF HONOR**

CENTER: Alice F. Ambrose, 2, Marie E. Warren, 2, Fred K. Ames, 2, Omar J. Ames, Hazel A. Philbrick, 3, Ellsworth B. Philbrick, Hattie E. Ambrose, 2, Arlin P. Warren, 2, Guy Bickford, Watson T. Ambrose, George W. Knowles, Marion A. Langley

**TEACHERS**

**1916**

CENTER: J. Harold Weeks

**1917 ROLL OF HONOR**

CENTER SCHOOL: Guy Bickford, Madeline Nighswander, 2, Arthur Nighswander, Hazel A. Philbrick, Ivan R. Rowe

**TEACHERS**

**1917**

CENTER: Edith M. Towle, Mittie J. Smith

**1918 ROLL OF HONOR**

EPSOM CENTER

Ruth Sanders, 2, Hazel A. Philbrick, 2, George W. Knowles, 3, Esther E. Rowe, 2, Ivan R. Rowe, 2, Hattie E. Ambrose, 2, Alice F. Ambrose, 2, Lloyd M. Hart, Arthur Nighswander.

### **1918 TEACHERS**

EPSOM CENTER: Mittie J. Smith

### **1919 ROLL OF PERFECT ATTENDANCE:**

CENTER SCHOOL

Hattie Ambrose, 2, Alice Ambrose, 2, George W. Knowles, 3, Hazel A. Bickford, 3, Lloyd M. Hart, Edna Rowe. Irving R. Rowe, Arthur Nighswander, Ruth E. Sanders

### **1919 TEACHERS**

CENTER: Mittie J. Smith

### **1920 TEACHERS**

CENTER: Gladys M. Johnson, Irma H. Tucker

### **1923 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (excerpt)**

There were maintained during the year, five schools for a school year of 36 weeks. The State Program of Study was well carried out. Number of students Center, 18.

### **1924 SCHOOL BOARD REPORT**

During the summer vacation various minor repairs were made at all the school houses. One side of the Center school house was shingled and the wood-shed.

### **1924 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (excerpt)**

There were maintained during the year five schools, for a school year of thirty-six weeks. There was one change in the teaching force. Miss Edith Robinson resigned and Miss Scribner took her place. The teachers and school boards of the Union have formed a Teacher's Association and have already held one meeting and have voted to have at least four meetings a year.

Several boys and girls who have graduated between the ages of 14 and 16 have been denied the privilege of working in manufacturing establishments because they did not attend school three hundred half-days as required by law. Number of registered pupils: Center, 15.

### **1932 ROLL OF PERFECT ATTENDANCE**

CENTER

John Kelley

### **1933 ROLL OF PERFECT ATTENDANCE**

CENTER

Glenn Yeaton, Margaret Ambrose

### **1934 ROLL OF PERFECT ATTENDANCE**

EPSOM CENTER GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Glenn Yeaton, Arlene Ambrose, Jeanette Demers, Clara Yeaton

### **1935 SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS REPORT (excerpt)**

Graded schools of primary and grammar organization were maintained with four grades each at Short Falls and New Rye respectively. There were also three mixed schools. Following is the list of teachers, their respective schools and pupils enrolled:

Barbara Colby	Center School	31
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### **1936 SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS REPORT (excerpt)**

I would recommend at this time for the material improvement of the school plant and also for the physical and moral welfare of the pupils would be that the toilets at Short Falls and Center Hill should be changed so as to provide entrance from the school rooms as at Gossville and partly at New Rye.

### **1936 ROLL OF PERFECT ATTENDANCE**

CENTER SCHOOL

Albert Yeaton

### **1937 ROLL OF PERFECT ATTENDANCE**

CENTER SCHOOL

Robert Demers, Kathleen Demers, Albert Glenn Yeaton, Catherine Yeaton

### **1937 SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS REPORT (excerpt)**

The adequacy of our school buildings: All four buildings now in use have been wired for electricity through the kindness of the Parent-Teacher Association, the Community Club, and other interested citizens. Short Falls and Center Hill school houses both have space within the building for septic toilets. At least one of these should be installed during the coming year.

### **1939 SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS REPORT (excerpt)**

If one-room buildings are to be continued, I would recommend that the sheds at Short Falls and the Center, at least, be joined to the main building and new type septic toilets installed. This improvement is most urgent at Short Falls, where the children are of primary age.

Chester W. Doe

### **1941 SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS REPORT (excerpt)**

At the current time, schools are being maintained in Epsom as follows including:

Center	Grades 5-8	Mrs. Emma W. Keniston	28 students
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### **1942 SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS REPORT (excerpt)**

The present organization of the schools is as follows, including:

Center	Grades 5-8	Mrs. Euna W. Keniston	21 students
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### **1943 SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS REPORT (excerpt)**

Student population, 113, boys 48, girls 53

Center	Grades 5-8	Mrs. Elinor P. Kelso	22 students
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### **1952 SUPERINTENDENT SCHOOL REPORT (excerpt)**

Center                      Grade 4,5                      Miss Pearl V. McCoy                      22 pupils  
Music                                      Mr. Salvatore Viggiano

Mr. Viggiano, a graduate of the New England Conservatory of Music, was engaged to replace the late Bertram Colter (deceased during the summer), who had endeared himself to all the school children.

Last year at Short Falls, under the direction of the teacher, the pupils cleaned out the woodshed and made a practical arts room of this space, constructed steps leading to the well, built volleyball and basketball courts, provided lunchbox shelves in the classroom, painted the book-cases, and made other needed repairs. Mr. Earle I. Foster gave a set of the "Books of Knowledge" to the Short Falls school.

### **1953 SUPERINTENDENT SCHOOL REPORT (excerpt)**

Center                      Grades 4,5                      Miss Pearl V. McCoy                      20 pupils

A new building of 4 classrooms and a general purpose room with size of 2 classrooms and the un-partitioned corridor, with a smaller room for the use of the nurse and other administrative purposes, together with toilet facilities, lunch kitchen, and rooms for storage and for heating equipment, would be none too large for 4 classrooms of pupils.

visited. The school board of Nottingham has been helpful in consultation.

### **1954 SUPERINTENDENT SCHOOL REPORT (excerpt)**

Center                      Grade 5                      Miss Barbara A. Mosher                      24 pupils

At the annual meeting held March 6, 1954, the School District of Epsom voted to construct and equip a new Central School, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$67,500.00 for this purpose, \$7,500 from the capital reserve and \$60,000 from bonds or serial notes.

The school board engaged Mr. Arnold Perreton of Concord as architect and accepted his plans and specifications for a four-classroom building with a general purpose room the size of two classrooms, together with supplementary rooms. The general contract was awarded to the successful bidder, Hillsboro Construction Co., Inc.

This building is now under construction, on the northwest side of Black Hall Road, on a six-acre lot given by Mr. Robert E. Cutter who also did the preliminary grading (gratis). As in any project of this kind, the committee has been constrained to forego some desirable features. However, the essentials of health, comfort, and educational convenience have been maintained. A few more weeks will see the building occupied and classroom activities under way.

Mr. Andrews, now teaching upper grades at Short Falls School, has been designated by the school board as principal of the new school.

### **CENTER HILL SCHOOL TEACHERS**

1823

Miss Ann G. McClary, 59 scholars

1825

Miss Kimball, 75 scholars

1826

Drusilla Sanborn, 39.75

Arthur Caverno, 64.00

1827

B.L. Locke, 12.00

William Stickney, 10.00

Dr. Noah J. T. George, 40.00

1828

David Dickey Jr., 5 weeks, 16.09  
1846  
Lucy A. Lord, 80 pupils each term  
1848  
Sarah E. Locke, summer term 39.00  
Thomas Steele, 64.90  
1849  
Sarah E. Locke, summer term, 35.45  
G. R. Ramsey, 60.22  
1850  
Sarah E. Locke, 36.00  
Henry F. Sanborn, 64.00  
1854  
Clara A. Carpenter, summer term 35.00  
H. F. Sanborn, 66.55  
1856  
Clara Towle, 50.12  
Sarah J. Griffin, 21.00  
H.F. Sanborn, winter school, 66.18  
1857  
Clara A. Carpenter, summer term 38.14  
H. F. Sanborn, winter school, 97.92  
1858  
Sarah Jane Griffin, summer term w/board, 71.24  
H.F. Sanborn, winter school & board, 82.72  
1859  
Lizzie J. Cochran, 39.00  
H.P. Lamprey, 27.50  
C.O. Brown, 40.00  
1860  
Susan C. Willey, summer term, 36.00  
Edwin Greene, winter term, 67.67  
1861  
Miss Davis, summer term 55.00  
Mr. Davis, winter school, incl. board, 94.00  
1862  
Miss L. F. Dearborn, summer term, 60.00  
Miss L. F. Dearborn, winter school, 90.00  
1863  
Lizzie J. Chesley, summer term  
D. Gilman Chesley, winter term  
1864  
Miss Hannah Chadwick, summer term, 40.50  
Charles A. Towle, winter school, 54.00  
1865  
J. Lizzie Chesley, 3 months incl. board, 60.00  
J. Lizzie Chesley, winter school incl. board, 102.00  
1866  
Sarah C. Willey, summer term incl. board, 60.00  
C.O. Brown, winter school incl. board, 78.75  
1867  
Mary B. Libbey, 20 weeks, 73.00  
1869  
K. E. Towle, summer term 10 weeks, 30.00  
Andrew M. Heath, 12 weeks incl. board, 95.00  
1870  
Cynthia Varney, 9 weeks summer term incl. board 54.00  
Andrew M. Heath Jr., incl. board 95.40  
1872  
Ida Knox, summer school, 42.00  
Frank M. Cutchins, winter school, 135.00  
1873  
Hattie A. Sanborn, 12 weeks, 72.00  
George H. Tripp, 10 weeks, 60.00  
1874  
Mary L. Wallace, 13 weeks, 78.00

Andrew M. Weeks 2nd, 137.00  
1875  
Miss Ada Lake, 12 weeks incl. board, 96.00  
D. G. Chesley, 12 weeks inc. board, 108.00  
1876  
Cynthia Tasker, 19 weeks, 85.50  
Daniel G. Chesley, 14 weeks, incl. board, 140.00  
1877  
Annie E. Towle, 10 weeks, 48.75  
D. G. Chesley, 3 months, 113.45  
1879  
Miss B. A. Currier, 32 students, summer term 9 weeks, 63.00  
Daniel G. Chelsey, 39 students, 13 weeks winter term, 113.75  
1880  
Luella M. Ewings, summer school, 70.00  
Daniel G. Chesley, winter term, 135.00  
1881  
Mary A. Seavey, summer term, 56.25  
Charles W. Tarleton, winter term, 119.00  
1882  
Adlade Veasey, summer term, 62.50  
Daniel G. Chesley, winter term, 116.00  
1883  
Miss L. A. Harriman, 1 week, dispute over wages, 6.00  
Mina H. Quimby, 17 weeks incl. board, 106.25  
Ada Lake, 6 weeks incl. board, 54.00  
1884  
Ida M. Scott, summer and fall terms  
Daniel G. Chesley, winter term  
1885  
Minnie J. Veasey, summer term  
Mr. F. D. Veasey, winter term  
1886  
Miss Ella F. Chesley, summer and fall terms  
Mr. William Whittier, winter term  
1889  
Ella F. Chesley  
Mary A. Seavey  
Laura A. Ayers  
1894  
Miss Phelps  
1898  
*Lillie M. Bickford*  
*Blanche H. Emerson*  
1899  
*Carrie W. Carpenter*  
*Maggie D. Waterhouse*  
*G. Llewellyn Griffin*  
1901  
*Cora M. Brown*  
1904  
Lillian M. Bickford  
1906  
Lela G. Langley  
Lillian M. Bickford  
1908  
Lillian M. Bickford  
1909  
Nellie F. Sherburne  
Edna A. Place  
Elsie M. Shackford  
1911  
Nella V. Swett  
1912  
Bessie A. Smith  
Nellie A. Merrill

1913  
Nellie E. Merrill  
1914  
Nellie E. Merrill  
Edna Place  
1915  
Edna A. Place  
Eleanora S. Chesley  
J. Harold Weeks  
1916  
J. Harold Weeks  
1917  
Edith M. Towle  
Mittie J. Smith  
1918  
Mittie J. Smith  
1919  
Mittie J. Smith  
1920  
Gladys M. Johnson  
Irma H. Tucker  
1935  
Barbara Colby, 31 students  
1942  
Mrs. Emma (Euna) Keniston, grades 5-8, 21 students  
1943  
Mrs. Elinor P. Kelson, grades 5-8, 22 students  
1952  
Miss Pearl V. McCoy, grades 5-8, 22 students  
1953  
Miss Pearl V. McCory, grades 4 7 5, 20 pupils  
1954  
Miss Barbara A. Mosher, grade 5, 24 pupils