



Port Byron Central School District 2004

“Port Byron – where the school, parents and community work together”

2004 Port Byron School Calendar

Historical Facts from 1937 to 2004

List of Districts combined to form Port Byron Central School

Town of Brutus – District 1

Town of Conquest – District 3, 6, 7, 13, 15

Town of Mentz – Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Town of Montezuma – Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

Town of Throop – Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Cornerstone laid on October 1, 1953 on Maple Avenue campus.

1990 – All three schools on one campus.

Port Byron Canal Days Presents **Our Schools**

The Graduating Class,

NON OMNIA VINCIT

Request your presence at the 8 P. M.

Commencement Exercises,
FRIDAY, JUNE 8th, 1886.

PORT BYRON ACADEMY.

Members

JOSEPH. H. BOOT.
THEOPHILUS DEVITT.
GORA A. SMITH.
ADDIE SWAIN.
G. BELLE FRISBIE.
MAPLE DICKEY.
LIZZIE WESTON.
MAGGIE L. TOWNSEND.
ANNA T. WELCH.

Organization

THE DEVITT, PRESIDENT.
LIZZIE WESTON, VICE PRES.
GORA A. SMITH, SECRETARY.

August 2004

EARLY EDUCATION



Hayden School, Throop – District 4



Montezuma School

EARLY EDUCATION – ONE ROOM SCHOOLS

In the beginning parents who were able had private tutors for their children, but in time districts were formed and one or two room schools were built in the early eighteenth century to fill the need of the growing population.

The first one room school in Port Byron was built on the corner of Green Street and Canal Street on land once owned by Jay Elliott. This building is no longer standing.

As the town grew and new families moved into the area a second school was erected between Pine and McClellan Street, around 1839. This building was used for church services as well as a school. The original building burned in 1840.

The last one room school built was located at the southeast corner of Rochester and King Street. This school was used as a house of worship for St. John's Roman Catholic Church and later as a fruit drier. It since has been demolished.

The one room schools were generally built of wood having one or two small rooms and two outhouses. They were heated by a stove that was located in the center of the room or in a corner. The stove was

fueled by wood in the spring and fall and coal in the winter.

The grades usually ranged from first to eighth with varying numbers of students at each grade level. The room was divided according to the grade level and often by gender.

The boys sat on one side of the room and the girls sat on the other. By having everyone in one room was an advantage to the lower grades because they could be taught by the older students.

The students usually walked two miles or more to school. Some would ride their horses and keep them in a stable at the school. Often children walked barefoot to school in the summer and did not go to school in the winter if they did not have shoes.

Schools usually ran from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with an hour off for lunch and playtime. Two recess periods were allotted to them, one in the morning and the other in the afternoon.

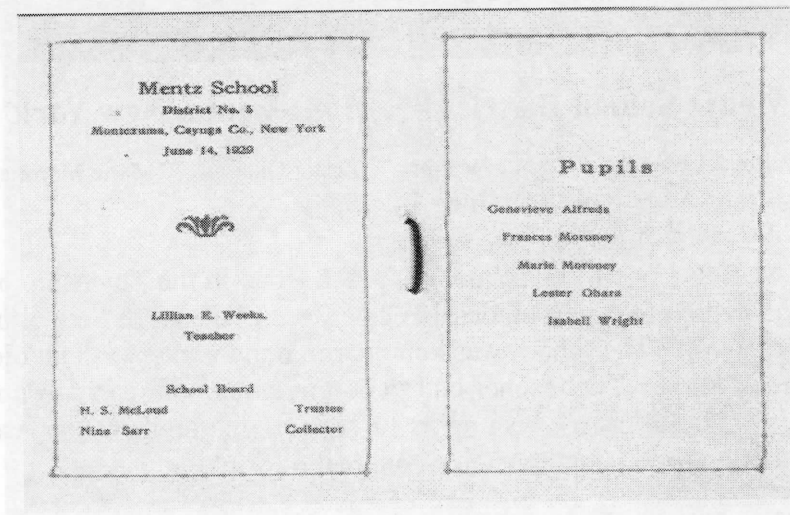
A school year was divided into two terms. The summer term the older students stayed at home to help run the household and farms; the younger ones were then taught by female teachers. The winter term was taught by men because it was easier for them to handle the older and rowdier boys.

Still enrollment was increasing and by 1970 two port-

disciplinarian. Truant officers would check attendance registers and made sure children were attending school at least once a month.

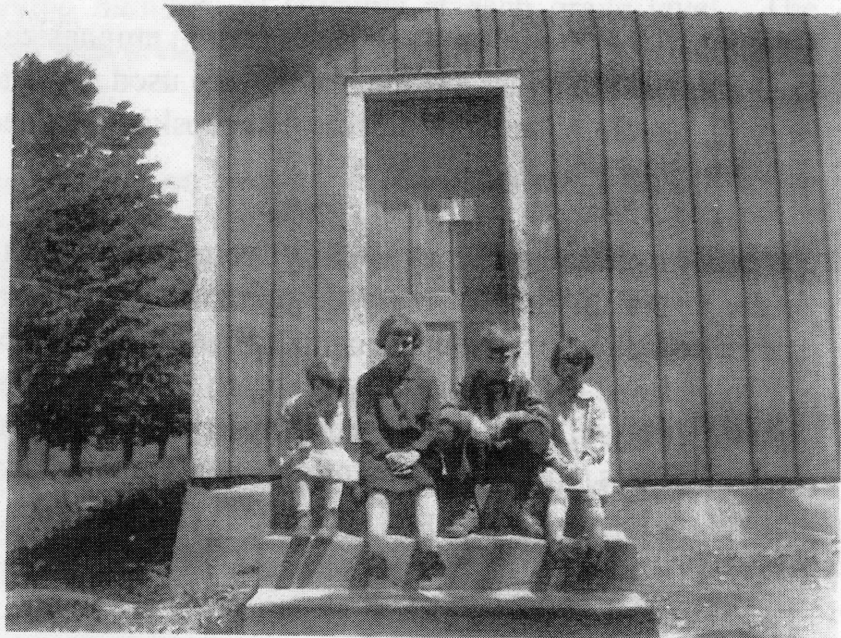
Reading, arithmetic and writing were emphasized during the school year. Stone slates were used to write on with a slate pencil and pieces of sheepskin wrapped on a block of wood as erasers.

One room schools were eventually merged together to create larger districts. This was to enable the Federal and State Educational Departments to keep track of one school instead of several. It would also insure that the students were all getting the same quality of education. These merges ended the era of the one room school houses.



MEMORIES FROM FORMER STUDENTS ABOUT THEIR SCHOOL DAYS

Lester Ohara



Mentz School District #5, Montezuma, New York

Frances Moroney Isabell Wright Lester Ohara Marie Moroney
June 14, 1929

“I went to a one room school on Beach Road in the Township of Montezuma for eight grades. Then I went to the High School in Port Byron. The school was kept warm in the winter with an old Chuck Stove. The teacher had to be there one hour early to put the coal in, to get the heat up in the school. In good weather, we would go to the next farm for a big pail of drinking water.”

In 1952, the Port Byron Central School was becoming

“School started at 9:00 AM and let out at 4:00 PM. I lived only ½ mile from the school, but others had 1 to 2 miles to walk. I started when I was 5; my Aunt Minnie Fowler taught for the first two years. Then Mrs. McCumber, Mrs. Weeks and the last year Mrs. Murray.

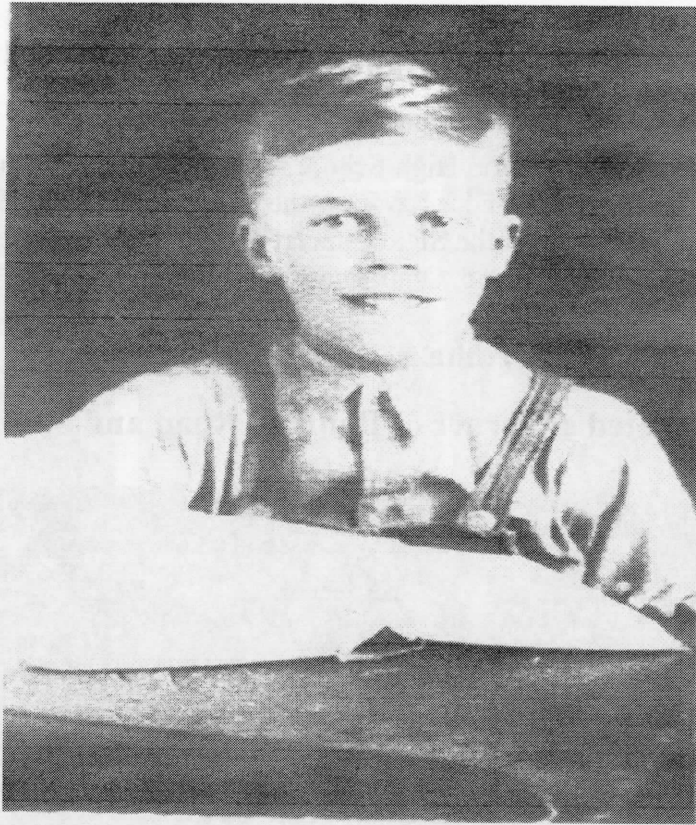
I went to Port Byron High School from 1932 to 1936 which was the year I graduated. I was in the school band. In 1936, we came in second at the State Concert and we went to the National Concert in Cleveland, Ohio where we received honors.”

Montezuma School House, District #7

Located at corner of Denman Road and Salt Road



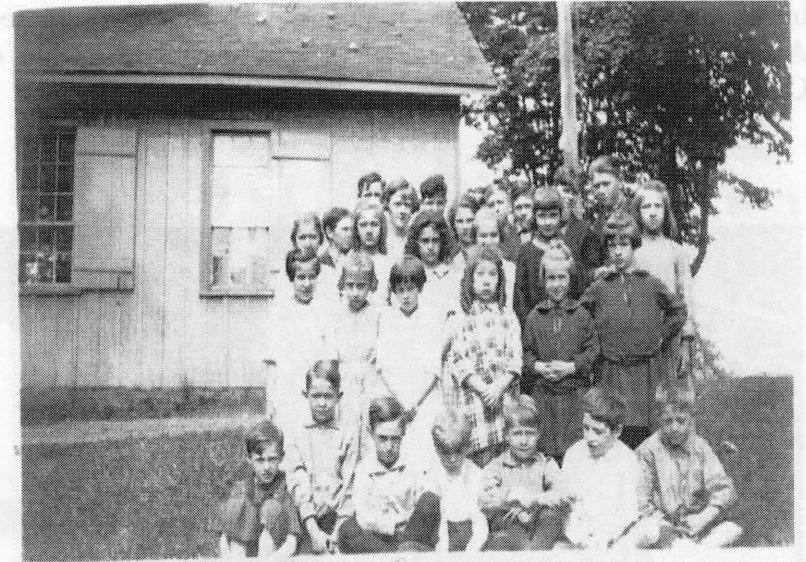
Larry Knapp



Larry Knapp 9 Years Old

"This is where I went to school for the first six grades. It took me 5 years because I spent only one week in first grade before being put in the second grade. Every day we got a pail of drinking water from the neighbors. Our main source of recreation was a rubber ball."

High Bridge Schoolhouse Montezuma District #6

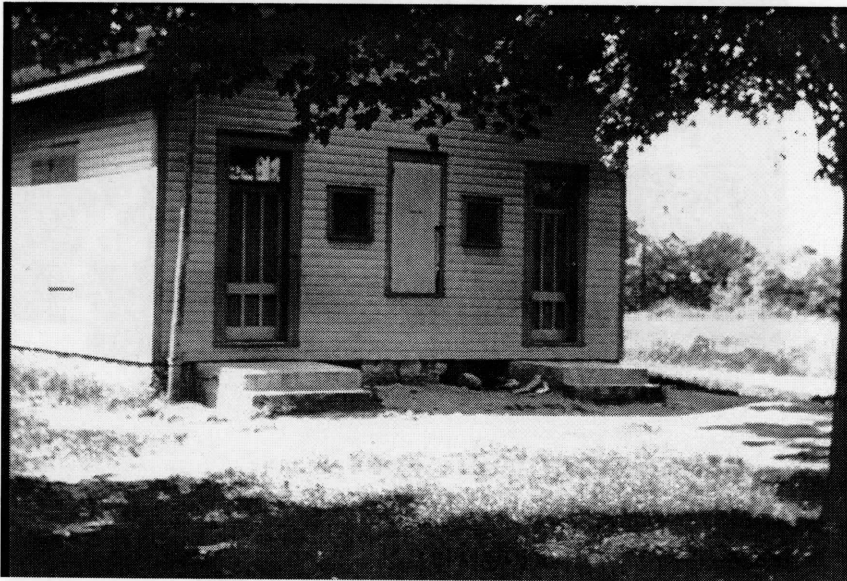


28 Pupils in June, 1923

Lila (Stoneburg) Wilson

Lila and Aaron Wilson now reside in the former Yellow Schoolhouse at the corner of Howland Island Road and Route #38.

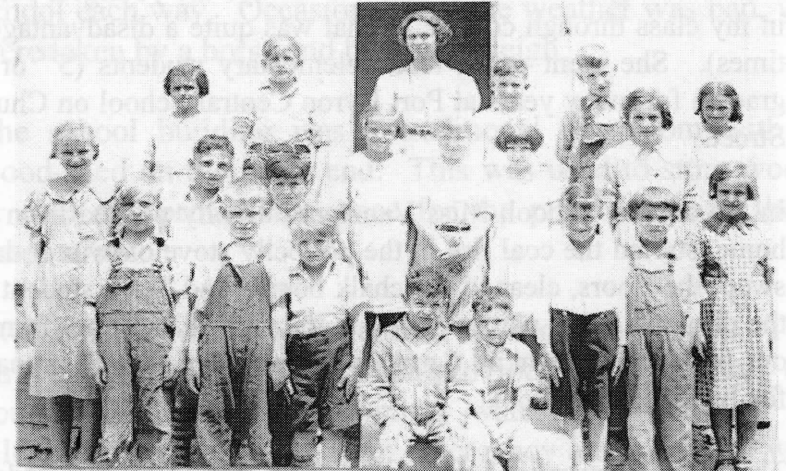
Ernest Stoneburg, Lila's father attended this school, along with his sister, Myrtle (Stoneburg) Young. Both are deceased. Another person who attended this school was Sara Forbes of Cato.



Yellow Schoolhouse District

Located at the corner of Howland Island Road
and Route #38

Carrie Mills Dudley



Henry School – 1936

Corner of Route #31 (West) and Thompson Road
(now Trumble Road)

1st Row: Harold Stevens, Loring Mills, Earl Stevens,
Anthony (Buddy) Saverese, Leon Case, Anthony
DeBottis, Charles Ball, Carrie Mills

2nd Row: Betty Woods, Vincent LaPorta, James Saverese,
Josephine DeBottis, Bruce Mills, Helen Bowen,
Shirley Larson, Barbara Mettler

3rd Row: Philomena DeBottis, Clarence (Junior) Stevens,
Carmel LePorta, Clifton Mills

Teacher: Mrs. Dorothy VanNostrant

“Josephine VanAcora was my teacher, Grades 1-6 in the Henry School House on the corner of Rte #31 just a short distance down the hill from our house. We used to run down the hill all the way to school and walk back – twice a day because we came home for lunch. What special fun it was when we were allowed to take a lunch to school. Anyway, she was a good teacher. I started first grade at age 4 and was always the youngest person in my class through college. (That was quite a disadvantage at times). She went on to teach elementary students (5th or 6th grades) for many years at Port Byron Central School on Church Street.

In the country school, Miss VanAcora usually walked from her home, started the coal fire in the pot belly stove on winter days, swept the floors, cleaned the chalk boards and had a student fill the drinking water pail by going to the well at the Jones farm or our farm. She taught all 6 grades and we were all well prepared for Junior High School.

There was always a Christmas program put on by the students on the last evening before Christmas vacation. On that night, there were kerosene lanterns and lamps to light the one room schoolhouse. You can only imagine what excitement and magic that created.”

Partial listing of teachers at Henry School

Miss Adams Helen Howell

Mr. Corfield Ms. Stormenger (??)

Genevieve Jones (Doherty)

Josephine VanAcora

Mrs. Dorothy VanNostrant

Anna White Howell

“My elementary years were spent at Forshee School Throop District #5. My home was on Rufus Road in a traditional farm house which had been occupied by many generations of the family. It was a one and one quarter mile walk to school each way. Occasionally, if the weather was bad, we were taken by a horse and buggy or sleigh.

The school building was a traditional one room with a wood-shed on the north end. This was used to store wood or coal and provided a place for the pupils to hang their outer wraps.

Two outside toilets were located west of the school. The girls had a wooden fence which provided some privacy. Of course, there was no running water or electricity or telephone in the school. If an emergency arose, a pupil was sent to the nearest telephone. Most medical emergencies had to be dealt with by the teacher.

The room was heated by a stove in the center of the room. A small area of the wall was painted black for a blackboard. The seats were double and fastened to the floor so no rearranging for small groups was possible.

A large cupboard in the front contained the few library books and chalk and other supplies.

The building was located at the corner of McDonald and Nugent Roads, across from Clifton Mills' present home. It must have been well constructed as it is still used as a private residence.

A few special occasions were looked forward to. One was the Christmas program. Much effort was put in to preparing plays, exercises, and single pieces. I think some of the older children went out and helped themselves to a tree. It was decorated with very simple decorations, usually of colored paper and popcorn. That night was very special; some parents brought special lanterns to light the room. The tree looked “awesome”. Gifts were small, but much appreciated.

Our daily program was the usual one followed by most one room schools. Each grade had a turn to come to the front of the room, where the teacher worked briefly with them and gave them an assignment for the next day.

Another special occasion was Arbor Day. All of us had a field trip to the woods, so we could select a small tree to bring back and plant in the school yard. The teacher would write all our names on a paper, put it in a small bottle, and place it under the roots of the tree. Apparently we were not very good gardeners, as the trees never lived.

The state had some control over each school. A county superintendent visited each school at least twice a year, more if the teacher asked for help. All of us were very impressed by his visits.

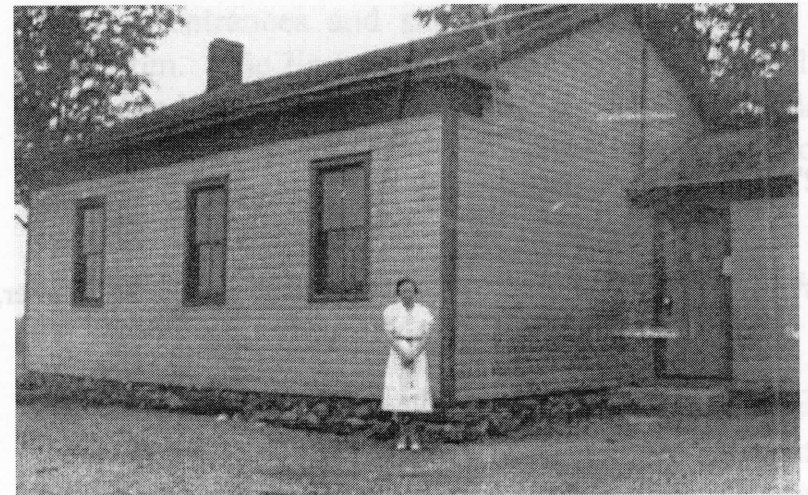
An attendance officer visited each month. He, too, could be called on for help for special problems. Attendance in school was not considered important to some parents. It was not unusual for a child to be kept home to help with farm work or baby sit, so Mom could help with outside work.

Annual School Meeting was a very exciting night. The parents met each year early in May to elect the officers for the coming year: Trustee, Clerk and Treasurer.

While the adults conducted their meeting, the children played outside. One person was the “runner” to keep track of what was going on inside. It as important to know who was going to be trustee – that would give us a pretty good idea who our teacher would be the next year.

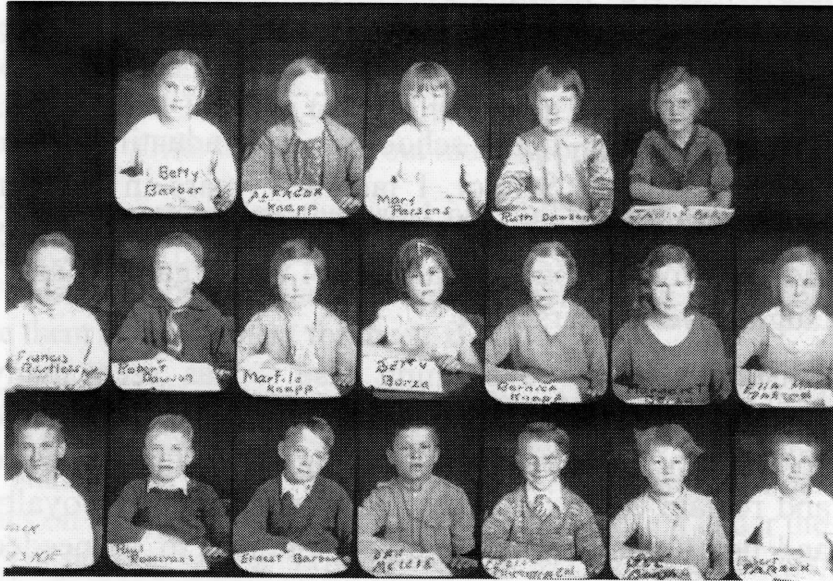
After finishing high school and graduating from Oswego Normal School, I taught 3 years in Hadden School – Throop #3 and one year in Spring Lake. By then the Port Byron Central School was organized and I taught several years there.

Education – like everything else – has seen many changes. One room schools served a vital part of the community. Many important things were learned there and remain essential today. Kindness, honesty, loyalty and helpfulness to one another continue to be needed today.”



Picture of Anna White by Hadden School – 1932

Hayden School – Throop District #4



1st Row: Betty Barber, Alfreda Knapp, Mary Parsons,
Ruth Dawson, Janice Barber
2nd Row: Francis Burtless, Robert Dawson, Martile Knapp,
Betty Borza, Bernice Knapp, Margaret Borza,
Ella Mae Parsons
3rd Row: Chuck Munskie, Paul Rosecrans, Ernest (Ray) Barber,
Dan Munskie, Cecile McCrutchen, Joe Borza,
Robert Parsons
Teacher – Miss Theresa VanDitto Picture taken in 1932

Furnished by Robert Dawson and Betty Burtless

FREE SCHOOL AND ACADEMY 1858-1898

The Erie Canal having been completed in 1825, Port Byron became a thriving town. This resulted in the need for a new school, one containing more classrooms and better equipment. Thus, consolidating the one-room schools into a single union school.

In 1857, a charter was drawn up to establish an academy in Port Byron. The following year a lot containing one and one-half acres was purchased on Church Street. The cost for this lot and to build would be \$10,850.00.

The building was to be three stories high, sixty feet long and fifty feet wide and would accommodate up to 400 pupils. The boys and girls entered the school by separate entrances and sat on opposite sides of the classroom. The first floor accommodated grades 1-4; the second floor were for grades 5-8. The high school students received their education on the third floor. The first principal of the school was under the leadership of Ceylon Otis from 1858 till 1860. At the time the school opened there were only six teachers on the faculty.

The school was divided into academic, senior, sub-senior, junior and primary departments. No resident of the Village paid tuition to attend the school. Students from outside of Port Byron paid \$4.00 per term tuition. The school year was divided into three terms; the fall term began in August and ended around Thanksgiving;

the winter term ended in mid-March while the spring term ended in mid-June.

Many of the students who lived outside the school district would have to walk four or five miles to attend classes each day. These students were from Montezuma, Throop, Spring Lake, Conquest and other surrounding districts.

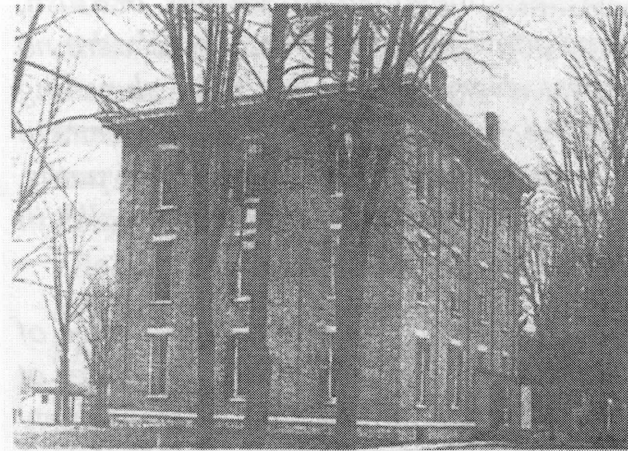
The classes started at 9:00 a.m. with prayer and devotions and ended at 3:30 p.m. Students who lived too far away brought their lunches with them in a tin pail. The students had an hour of recess at noon.

Some of the subjects that were offered were Latin, Greek, German and French. Also available were studies in book-keeping, physics and chemistry.

Graduation was one of the outstanding events for the Village of Port Byron. The events were held alternately between the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches because the school had no facilities to hold graduation exercises.

The Free School and Academy was destroyed by fire in November 1898 after dedicating 40 years of education to our area. The school was given permission by the Village to use the 2nd floor of the new "hose house" on Main Street until a new school was built. The only agreement was that the fire bell was not to be used for school purposes. Also classes were held in various church basements.

"Old Free School and Academy" 1859-1898



The Old Academy was a three-story brick building that was erected in 1859. It was located on Church Street. A fire destroyed it in 1898

The following is an excerpt from "Gram's Story" by Eva Burdick Blauvelt:

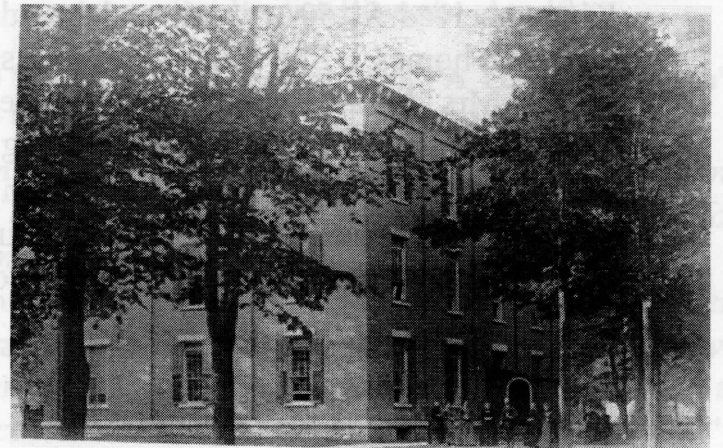
"In 1880, there was a combined grade and High school which served the village of Port Byron. There were many country schools in the outlying districts where pupils could receive instruction through the eighth grade. To attend the Port Byron Academy, as the combined school was called, students living outside the village limits were obliged to pay tuition of four dollars a term and furnish their own transportation. Most of them walked, sometime five miles each way, from Montezuma, Throop, Springlake, Conquest and other surrounding districts. The roads weren't paved as they are

now. They were dusty in dry weather, muddy in wet weather and either frozen ruts, or slush, or ice and snow in the winter. There were no snowplows; everyone did his own shoveling with a hand shovel. There were no cement sidewalk, just boardwalks and beaten paths. However, there were a few flagstone walks in the village."

"We walked to and from school, a distance of about half a mile, and went home for dinner at noon. The first school bell rang at eight-thirty in the morning, school started at nine o'clock and closed at four o'clock in the afternoon. We had an hour of freedom at noon. Children who lived too far from the school to go home at noon carried a lunch in a tin pail. I usually went home, but occasionally I took my lunch. I had a shiny quart pail which I kept highly polished and refused to allow it to be used for any other purpose than to hold my lunch.

"The school was a three-stored brick building which stood on the side of the present Centralized School. The boys and girls entered the school building by different walks and entrances and sat on opposite sides of the rooms. Devotions were held every morning in each room. We sang a hymn, the teacher read from the Bible and we repeated the Lord's Prayer or the Twenty-third Psalm in unison.

"Our school had no gymnasium, but calisthenics were attempted. The school lawn was well-shaded with maple trees and there, during recess and noon hour, we played marbles, ball, London Bridge, Ring Around a Rosy, Farmer in the Dell, and other games. The jumping rope was used, as many as ten or more of us girls would be jumping at the same time. As one tripped, she would be eliminated and take her turn at turning the rope. Friday afternoons there would be 'rhetorical exercises' or a spelling match."



Port Byron Free School and Academy

Historical Facts Found in books and write-ups

- The first person to graduate was Louis B. Roots in 1872.
- Because the school was free and open to all residents of the Port Byron District, it was known as a Union School in the 1860's and 1870's. In the 1880's and early 1890's it was called "Port Byron Free School and Academy" or simply the Port Byron Free Academy. On January 20, 1898, the school was named "The Port Byron High School".
- The first teaching certificate was issued to Miss Celestia King on April 10, 1854. Miss King received \$1.50 a week and boarded in different homes. She taught as an assistant with a Mrs. Sarah Randall Barrus. Celestia King was a granddaughter of Philip King.
- A copy of the deed for the Port Byron Free School and Academy 1858-1898 is in the possession of Penny Helzer, Village Historian.

Additional historical facts about this school has been located in several publications:

"Gram's Story" and "A Flickering Torch"

by Eva Burdick Blauvelt (Class of 1896)

"The Academy Bell" by Clara Barrus, (Class of 1884) (in 50th Anniversary booklet of the Port Byron High School 1872-1922)

"A brief History of the Port Byron Schools"

by Marie A. VanDetto and Theresa E. VanDetto



Eva Burdick Blauvelt – Age 10

The following is an excerpt from "A Flickering Torch" by Eva Burdick Blauvelt:

"In 1892, the school put on a program in observance of the discovery of America by Columbus four hundred years previously.

It was held in the Masonic Hall which was overly decorated with flags of all sizes. Everyone who owned a flag, large or small had donated it for the occasion. I recited the poem "Columbus" by Joaquin Miller.

"High School days, with their competitions, failures, successes, disappointments and love affairs, slipped by quickly. Now, the big event I had dreamed of was here at last – graduation day. Although the average

number of graduates was twelve, our class numbered four in June 1896. A few had completed the requirements the preceding January and didn't bother to return for the formalities of graduation, several had left school and, as usual, some had failed in examination.

"Graduation was one of the outstanding events of our small village, and it was held alternately in the Methodist and Presbyterian churches. The year I was graduated, it was held in the Methodist church. It was customary for the board of education and their wives to occupy the seats in the front of the church. The president of the board of education and the principal of the school sat on the platform with the graduates. Much time and care was always taken with decorating, and everyone gladly stripped their rose bushes and other flower bushes for the event. Those flowers, together with bushels of daisies, were most effective.

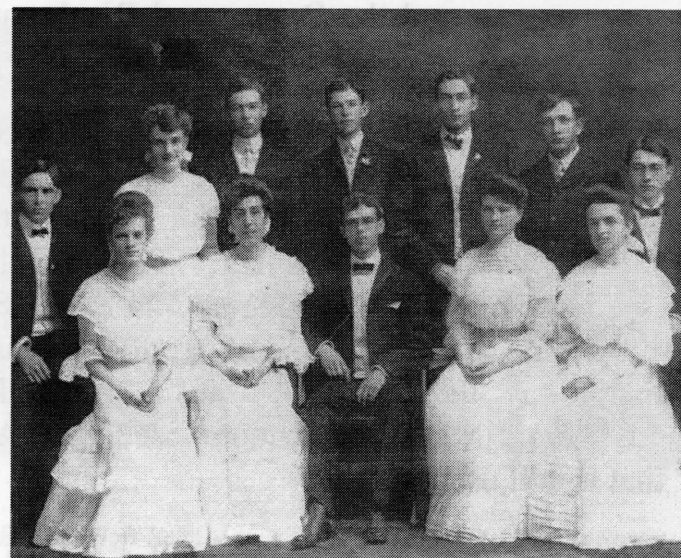
"When I graduated, music was furnished by a string orchestra from Syracuse. Considering the fact that Syracuse was twenty-five miles distant and transportation was most inadequate, I marvel that it was possible to obtain this talent. To balance the program and make it more interesting, we were assigned topics for our essays.

"In my day, high-school graduates did not wear caps and gowns. The boys wore heavy, dark suits and high, stiff collars. Girls wore dresses of sheer materials in white or pastel shades."

PORT BYRON HIGH SCHOOL 1899-1935 CHURCH STREET

The new high school was built on the same site, as was the Port Byron Academy in 1899.

After three years of changing leadership, Professor Moore took over as principal in 1902 until 1912. Mr. Moore's ideas of education were functional. During this period the curriculum was extended to include courses that dealt with daily life such as typing and bookkeeping.



Port Byron Central School – Class of 1904

*1st Row (seated) John Ryan, Elizabeth Moore,
Gertrude Newkirk, Alvin Stewart, Edith
Tallaman, Hettie Mills, Bruce Dougherty
2nd Row (standing) Olive Moore, Halsey Knapp,
Earl Blake, Allen Link, Swift Waterman*

Some of the important community leaders under the principal leadership of Mr. Moore were Dr. Stewart, Earl Blake, Mary Warren, Dr. Harry Elmer Barnes and Vera Fenn to name a few. In 1916 the school formed a baseball team but because there was no gym it prevented Port Byron from participating in sports with other schools.

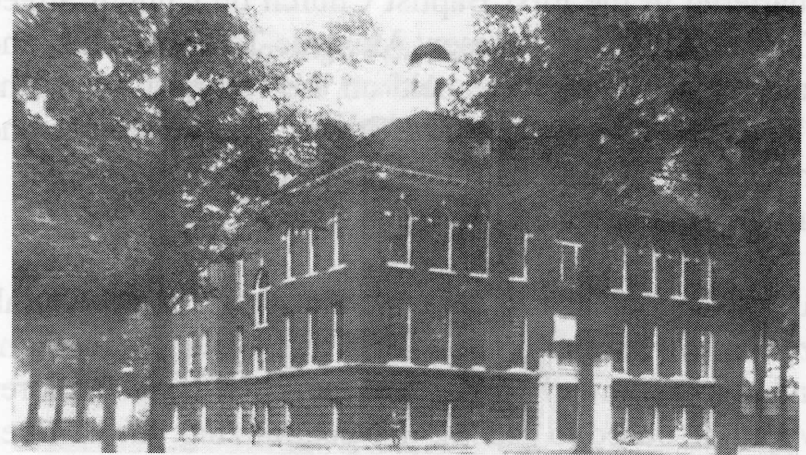
During the 35 years principalship changed many hands. In 1921 Arthur A. Gates took over as principal until 1959. More changes were made and gradually the school began to expand its curriculum, which included an active newspaper and the Orange and Black annual yearbook.

A school band was formed with the help of Mr. Gates and Mr. Freeman in 1930. Mr. Freeman learned his profession playing at one time with John Phillip Sousa's band. In the next few years Mr. Freeman's band became the largest group of young people to march in Port Byron. In 1936 the band won a class C championship at the National Music Festival in Cleveland, Ohio. Mr. Freeman composed the "Alma Mater" that is still used today.

Education was rapidly growing and the high school was becoming inadequate for the growth of the increasing population of Port Byron. Many residents started talking about centralizing the school district. At this time there were one hundred and forty-six (146) of the one hundred and eighty-six (186) high school pupils living in the outlying districts.

On December 24, 1935 the Port Byron High School was destroyed by fire. Mrs. Inez Shotz discovered the flames and reported the fire. The interior of the school was constructed of wood, which had dried out over the years, thus making it an easy victim of fire. Some say the fire was started in the boiler room then it went up into the ventilators and through the building.

There was only one fire escape to the building that being in the rear of the school. The other only escape would have been by means of halls through the front door. Luckily the fire occurred during the Christmas vacation.



Port Byron High School was built in 1899 on Church Street at the same site as the "Old Academy". The school burned on Christmas Eve day in 1935.

It took four area fire departments over three and a half hours to bring the blaze under control. The next school would be made of the best fire-proofing and equipment no matter the cost.

The classes resumed January 6, 1936 in various churches, private homes and public halls in the village of Port Byron.

The Junior and Senior classes which included grades seventh through twelfth (7-12) were housed in Dr. Stewart's house on the corner of Main and Pine Streets. The fourth, fifth and sixth grades were housed on the second floor of the Lowe Building on Utica Street (now the Advantage Auto Store).

The kindergarten, first, second and third grades were quartered in the First Baptist Church on Church Street. This building is the present Masonic Temple. The band and music classes were held on the second floor of the Fire Hose House on Main Street. Homemaking and Industrial Arts were in the house at 173 Main Street, a private residence.

A new school had to be built and the idea of centralization was formed. This meant that about 22 small one and two room schools would be closed and children would be bused to school. By centralizing, the children would have a modern school and have many more advantages.

On October 16, 1936 centralization was approved after bitter opposition. Thus the new Port Byron Central High School, the third school to be built on the Church Street site became a reality.

Hail to Port Byron

(Alma Mater)

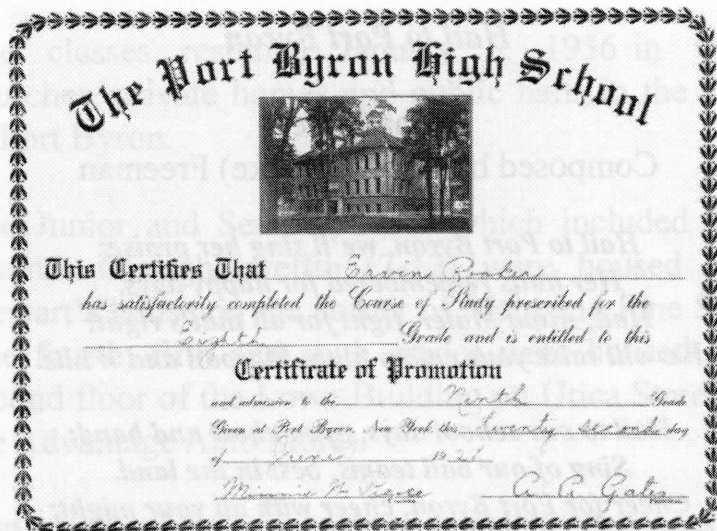
Composed by Elvin L. (Jake) Freeman

***Hail to Port Byron, we'll sing her praise;
Her halls remembered for happy days.
Hail, Alma Mater, fight for all that's right;
We will raise your colors high, Maroon and White.***

***Hail to our school days, gym, choir and band;
Sing of our ball teams, best in the land.
Cheer for Port Byron, cheer with all your might;
We will raise your colors high, Maroon and White.***

***Hail to our High School, we're true to you;
Four year we've studied, now we are through.
We passed our subjects, burning midnight light;
We will raise your colors high, Maroon and White.***





*Certificate of Promotion
Ervin Rooker completes Eight Grade
June 1928*

**“Growing Up”
Clyde “Polly” Miller
Graduate of Port Byron High School – 1936**

My earliest vivid memory is that of our first grade teacher – Miss Green – an excellent, beloved person. It seems that the kids learned early that one way to get out of class was to have to go to the bathroom. Miss Green decided that too many were asking one afternoon and said anyone else asking would have to stay after school the next night. In a few minutes, it was necessary that I “do just that” and therefore was told to go ahead, but to tell my parents I would be late getting home from

school the next night. I decided I should not be punished and therefore would not go to school that next afternoon. As I started back after lunch ---I only lived about 10 minutes from school –I found a window sill in a house near us and decided to sit there for the afternoon. Mrs. Dayharsh, who lived on Rochester Street just across from this house, saw me and called my mother who came and got me and took me to school. The next day my father told Miss Green in front of me that I was to be punished whenever necessary. That was the only time I ever “skipped school” in my whole life. Mrs. Dayharsh was a fine lady and a person I highly respected through my growing years.

I remember the High School Band – starting from a “hand full” of kids and growing to a large award winning organization. I remember Mr. “Jake” Freeman, our director, whom we all admired and who lead us through many events and contests including our excellent rating at Cincinnati, Ohio and the welcome home greeting we received from the “town’s people” on our return. We looked forward to the Saturday night concerts across from the Port Byron Hotel, on Utica Street during the summer.

I remember telling Fred Streeter, first chair clarinet player whom I sat next to and learned from, a joke about a parrot one day. After that Fred started calling

me “Polly” – a name which stayed with me all through high school and beyond.

I remember the High School burning down and finishing High School in the old mansion at the corner of Main and Pine Streets. I failed (did not pass) a math class in my Senior Year and remember going back for a half year as a post-grad in order to pass that course (and probably more importantly, to be able to play in the band).



December 24, 1935

PORT BYRON CENTRAL SCHOOL 1937-1990 TO PRESENT (2004)

On June 26, 1937 the corner stone was put in place by I.R. Warren. On Friday morning, May 6, 1938 the Port Byron School was dedicated.

This was a very up-to-date modern school with a much needed gym and auditorium. The auditorium was equipped with a loudspeaker system so the principal could speak to the entire school from his office to one particular room.

Other improvements to the school included a cafeteria, modern kitchen, vocational shops along with a large library.



Port Byron Central School

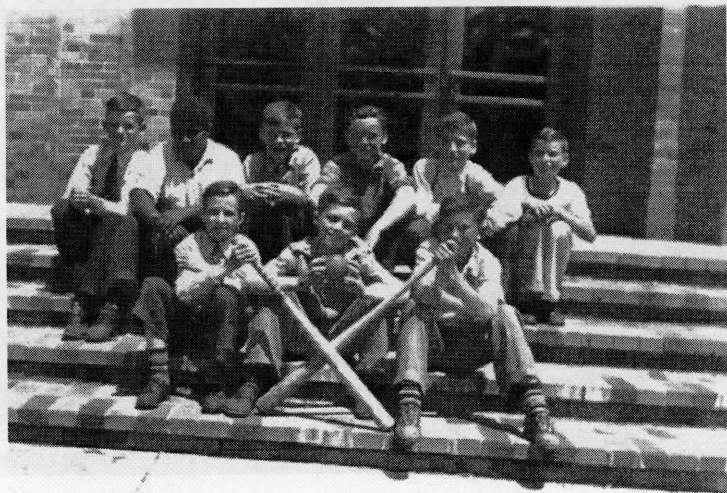
circa 1950's



These sleek beauties were the first Port Byron buses 1938

With the new districts added to the central school, transporting the students became an issue. Around 1938 it would take 8 buses to accomplish the task.

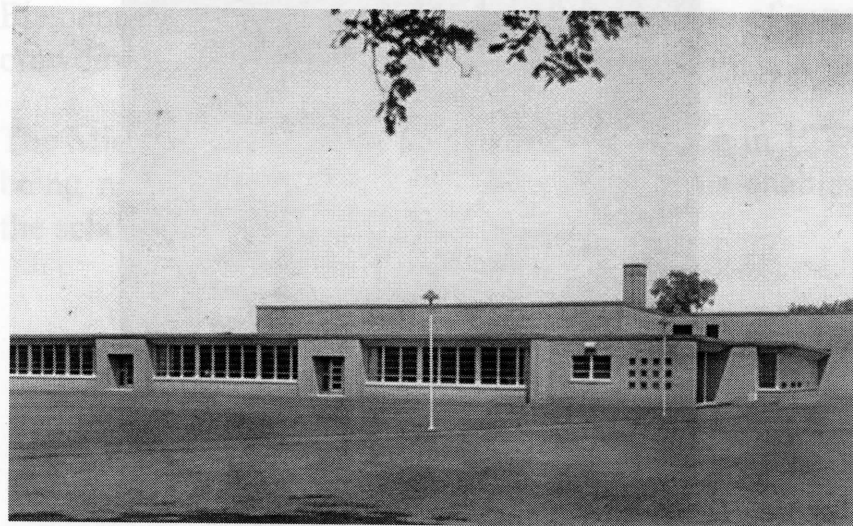
In a few years with more pupils registering more buses were added. Mr. Rudolph Schasel became the Transportation Manager.



6th Grade Boys

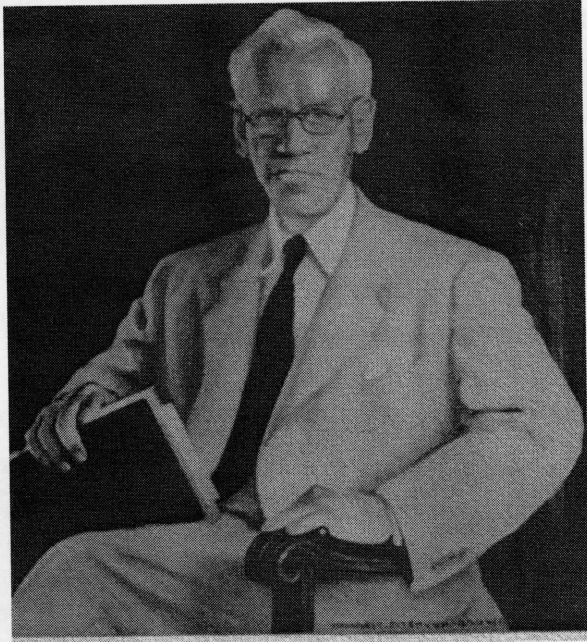
June 1943

over crowded with more than 1,350 students, so the need for a new school was considered.



Arthur A. Gates Elementary School 1954

In 1953 a new elementary school was started and built on Maple Avenue. This school was named after Arthur A. Gates.. He served as the district principal from 1921 to 1959. The school was dedicated on October 10, 1954. During his time Mr. Gates saw the Port Byron High School burn, the centralization of the district and helped institute many educational programs. Mr. Gates is one of the few living people to have a school named after him.



Arthur A. Gates

The student enrollment was constantly increasing, thus moving the students to temporary quarters to make room for the other pupils. This helped for a time but by 1961 the students were put on "curtailed sessions" dividing classes to half day sessions a day. It was decided to add on to the Elementary School, which was extended North and a new wing added to the East. In 1965 the Kindergarten and grades one through five were all in the elementary school. The sixth grade remained in the High School building on Church Street.

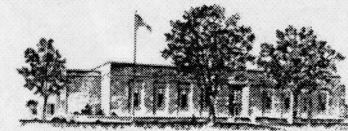
A teacher also served as a janitor, nurse and

able classrooms were purchased and placed by the Elementary School.

In 1976 both the Port Byron Central School and the Elementary School were facing another problem of over crowding.

The Middle School was added to Maple Avenue in 1977 being named the Leslie B. Lehn School. This enables the school to provide for grades 5-8.

Port Byron Central School



This Certifies That
Glen Paul Semans

has satisfactorily fulfilled the requirements
prescribed for graduation by the Board of Education
and is therefore entitled to this

Diploma

Given at Port Byron, New York, this 26th day of June, 1988.

Thomas R. Hanson
Principal

Linda L. Marshall
President, Board of Education

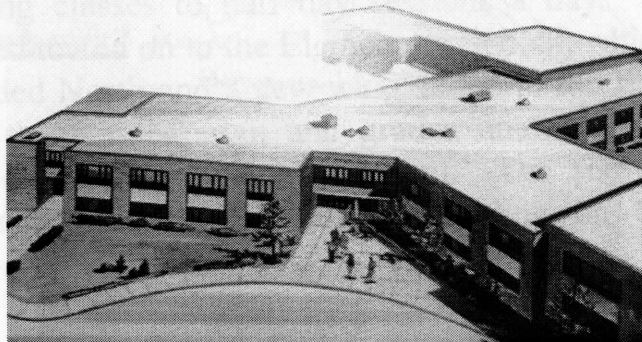
Murawski
Superintendent





Leslie B. Lehn

In 1990, after fifty-three years of serving and dedication to the residents of the Port Byron and surrounding area, the High School on Church Street was replaced with a more modern and up-to-date school on Maple Avenue. Thus, combining all three schools on one campus.



Dana L. West High School 1991

In 1991 the new high school was dedicated and named in honor of Dana L. West.



Dana L. West

The old high school on Church Street is still standing and serves the community as an apartments building.

Education in our community still is very important. The Administration, Board of Education and parents work hard to maintain the high standard of education for our children's future.