

CHAPTER XX.

PUBLIC EDUCATION—THIRTY-THREE YEARS GROWTH OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, N. J.

NOTE—For more than a half a century, the Public Schools of Middlesex County have been under the superintendency of father and son, Rev. Ralph Willis and H. Brewster Willis. By reason of this unusual circumstance, I have been induced to write this brief sketch of the Public Schools of Middlesex County, keeping in mind those who have rendered more than ten years of public school service continuously in supervisory, teaching and administrative positions in the same district. It is quite possible that some names of those worthy, and some important facts have been omitted; if so, I trust the omission will be forgiven, as I have sought the fullest information.

School service is a patriotic service. The preservation and continuation of our present form of government depends very largely upon the public schools of our land. It is high time that more public appreciation should be expressed of the service rendered by those working in the Second Line of National Defense.

H. BREWSTER WILLIS.

July 1, 1920, New Brunswick, N. J.

Ralph Willis was appointed Superintendent of Schools of the County of Middlesex more than fifty years ago by Governor Joel Parker, about the time the Legislature discontinued local township school superintendents. For a period of twenty years he continued in office, improving the County Public School System, a record of which may be found in the Annual State School Reports.

In his last report to the State Board of Education the following appears: "I retire from the office with a grateful sense of the honor conferred upon me by so many reappointments; with a consciousness of honest efforts in the performance of my duties; and with pleasant memories of the respect and kindness of all with whom I have been officially connected." His official mantle fell upon the shoulders of his son, H. Brewster Willis, in 1887.

He died March 17, 1895, highly esteemed by all who knew him, as a faithful and successful school official.

In 1897, County Superintendent H. Brewster Willis attempted to have the United States Flag float from every school house in Middlesex county. He discovered that the school law would not permit the Boards of Education to expend public school money for United States Flags. Upon this discovery, a campaign was conducted among the Boards of Education, teachers and pupils, and, through entertainments and donations, the school districts raised the sum of \$3,000, which amount provided United States flags of varied dimensions and quality, to every public school property in the county.

In 1898, the County Superintendent drew an amendment to the school law, which included the purchase of United States Flags among the items which the Board of Education might purchase out of the fund for current expenses. This amendment became a law, and the purchase

of United States Flags was made permissible by Boards of Education out of school funds. In 1900, by a further Act of the Legislature, the Boards of Education were compelled to purchase United States Flags and display the same upon or near each public school property, each school day and at such other times, as said Board of Education deemed proper.

Correspondence with the Secretary of State of the respective States of the Union in 1898, revealed the fact that Middlesex county was the first county to uniformly display the United States Flag over all its school houses, and that the State of New Jersey was the first State to require by law the United States Flag to float upon or near every public school building in the State.

City of New Brunswick—In the very early days there was established a free-school, conducted under the Lancasterian Plan. This famous school was located in the old four-room wooden building on Schureman street. Part of the building was occupied as the living quarters of the teachers.

Under the township act, the New Brunswick schools were known as School District No. 1. In 1890, and since that date, modern ward schools have been erected.

At the present time this city has six large graded elementary schools, well equipped; Junior High, and a most modern Senior High School, comparing favorably with any high school in the State in a city of the same population. The graduates of eight elementary schools in districts immediately surrounding the city, attend this high school. The graduates of the Senior High School are admitted on certificate to the leading colleges and universities. At this date the teaching force numbers 175, exclusive of a number of evening school teachers and those who are teachers in classes for foreign born residents. The total enrollment is about 5,400 pupils. Population 32,779. A large number of the school population attend the excellent Parochial Schools.

Among the City Superintendents who have rendered valuable service in the development of the city school system, might be mentioned Henry B. Pierce, Charles Jacobus, Ellis A. Apgar, George G. Ryan, William Clinton Armstrong, George H. Eckels and the present City Superintendent, Ira T. Chapman.

Among the teachers who have served continuously in the city system for many years are Misses Eleanor S. Lott, Anne Castner, Cecelia Boudinot, Mary Castner, Cornelia Schroeder, Amanda Voorhees, Annie Rastall, Grace E. March, Carolyn Plechner, Emma A. McCoy, Saidee Felter, Josephine Masso, Angie Wray, Blanche Johnston, Mr. Henry Miller, Miss Sarah O. Whitlock, Mr. George W. Wilmot, Misses Susie Crabiell, Saidee A. Smith, Chrissie Bartle, Jessie M. Gray, Selma Erickson, Margaret Wall, Bertha Dewald, Permella Wray, May U. Bogan,

Maude Hart, Suzanne J. Price, Martha Dewald, Mr. George H. Brooks, Misses Faye Van DeVenter, Helen Morrison, Jessie Morrison, Myra Selover, Katherine Boudinot, Mrs. Kate C. Marsh (formerly Miss Kate C. Garland); Misses Marjorie Deshler, Sadie Leary, Elsie Dunham, Mrs. Josephine de Percin (formerly Miss Josephine Paulus); Misses Edith Richardson and Laura Hughes.

Many of the most distinguished professional and business men have served long and well upon the Board of Education, among those who have served for a period of ten years or more, mention might be made of Garret Conover, John Cheeseman, Thomas N. Doughty, John S. Stewart, Abram R. Provost, Robert L. Hoagland, John Helm, Joseph Eldridge, E. Leon Loblein, Charles E. Tindell, James A. Morrison, Henry G. Parker, Anthony Viehman, A. L. Smith, Otto O. Stillman, George C. Ludlow, Theodore G. Nelson, Henry R. Baldwin, Robert J. Smith and A. W. Winckler. It is worthy of note that H. B. Zimmerman, Nelson Dunham and Henry L. Janeway each served for a period of twenty-two years, and that Morris Bauer has been connected with the Board of Education of the city for a period of twenty-four years.

The sum of \$408,340 has been raised for the next school year, which is an indication of progress. The school system is up-to-date, and with the completion of the school buildings now being erected, the citizens of New Brunswick may justly be proud of its educational privileges.

City of Perth Amboy—While private schools were maintained for the children of the well-to-do, education in the public schools was somewhat delayed. A private school was established in the early days in what was known as the "State House," then the home of the Governor of East Jersey, and later known as The Westminster.

The earliest record of an attempt to found a system of public schools is contained in a minute of a public meeting, bearing date January 9, 1788. The work of the public schools was carried on for many years in the City Hall, or in rented rooms, until 1780, when the first public school building was erected, and in a greatly enlarged capacity still serves, and is known as School No. 1.

In 1895, the city took on a new life, and its growth developed a fine system of schools consisting of thirteen large, well equipped elementary schools and an up-to-date, capacious High School. Pupils from surrounding districts enjoy the privileges of the High School. Graduates of the High School are admitted on certificate to twenty-two colleges and universities. The teaching corps numbers over two hundred, and the total enrollment is thought to be 8,500. Population 41,707.

Charles C. Hommann, James S. White, Adrian Lyon and Samuel E. Shull have rendered valuable service as City Superintendents. Mr. Shull has been City Superintendent continuously for a period of twenty-five years, and his leadership is very generally recognized.

It is worthy of note that the following named have taught for many years: Miss M. Emma MacWilliam, Mr. Edgar H. Kleinhans, Mr. Charles Dietz, Misses Jennie Pemberton, Anna Joslin, Mary P. Meade, Grace Hawk, Edith L. Sofield, Mr. Joseph F. Walker, Misses Harriet Fraser, Katharine McCormick, Mary Morris, Lillian E. Fretz, Mary E. Hansen, Grace Carman, Anna Major, Agnes Hardiman, Nellie Shean, Ida B. Miller, Mamie B. Miller, Alice Hegstrom, Sue Franke, Rose McCormick, Rose M. Blume, Genevieve Frank, Bertha Oxenford, Blanche Van Syckle, Margaret Connor, Caroline Kimball, Mr. Henry S. Hulse, Mr. Will W. Ramsay, Misses Augusta D. Martin, Wealthy D. Heinzleman, Pauline Philo, Margaret J. Slugg, Ellen M. Ostrye, Lillian M. Canse, Margaret E. Boughton, Ingeborg Oksen, Margaret Martin, Harriet H. Meade, Alice M. Clack, Philomena Martin, Emma Clausen, Bertha Brown, Helena M. Wright, Ruth W. Hancock, Lucy Woglom, Leisa F. Henry, Mabel Lanning, Elsie J. Snyder, Besse R. Hunter, Jetta Stacey, Florence Leathers, Florence Garretson, Virginia Miller, Leila Arnold, Katharine A. Martin, Harriet Webster, Esther Laurey, Mr. Mark R. Lefler, Mr. Glenworth Sturgis, and Miss Mabel E. Treen.

Mr. John K. Sheehy has served as a member of the Board of Education for ten or more years and as president of the Board for a number of years. The sum of \$200,000 for maintenance has been raised for the next school year. The public school system of the city of Perth Amboy has kept pace with its remarkable growth.

City of South Amboy—For many years the town of South Amboy comprised two school districts, each containing one school building, in the township of Sayreville, viz., Park School and Raritan School. One of the original school buildings is still in use, however, very much enlarged and modified.

In 1880 the town of South Amboy became a borough, and in 1908 the borough was incorporated into the city of South Amboy, and recently School No. 1 has been remodeled into a fine high school building, with all modern facilities and containing a junior and a senior high school department. At this date the teaching force includes thirty or more teachers, exclusive of the vocational evening school teachers. The school enrollment has reached about nine hundred. This is exclusive of pupils attending large Parochial Schools. Population 7,897.

In considering the names of those who were in school supervisory positions in this municipality, should be mentioned the names of James Corkery, Miss Kate McCoy, Miss Mary Thomas, R. M. Fitch, and City Superintendent O. O. Barr, who has been in charge of the city schools for the past six years.

Among the teaching corps who have served continuously for many years are Misses Laura Rutan, Kate C. Bogart, Katharine O'Connor, Mary J. Watson, Mary E. Buchanan, Mrs. Florence Matteson (formerly

Miss Florence Coker), Misses Helen Brown, Martha Buchanan, Ruth Campbell, Edna M. Agan, Margaret Gallagher, Cecilia McGonigle, Helen Applegate and Mary Mack.

The two names that stand out conspicuously as school board men who have rendered long and valuable service are Frank E. DeGraw, who served eighteen years; and Alonzo L. Grace, who gave his services for eleven years. The last appropriation for school purposes called for \$42,250. Under the recent administration the school system of this municipality has greatly improved, and the quality of the high school work is recognized in college entrance examinations.

Borough of Dunellen—In the beginning of the last half century, the school district of Dunellen possessed a one-room school on the site of the present Whittier School. In 1880 this building was added to and remodeled into a modern four-room school building, with greatly increased school facilities.

In 1885 the village of Dunellen was formed into a borough from the township of Piscataway.

Quite recently the Lincoln School building was erected, providing eight very desirable school rooms, and at the present time the Whittier School building is being again enlarged at a cost of nearly \$100,000. Upon the completion of this building the borough of Dunellen will have two very excellent elementary school buildings. The school enrollment of the borough is about 700 pupils, and those who complete the eighth year are permitted to attend the Plainfield High School. Population 3,394.

Among the school supervisors of recent years in this borough, we recall E. W. Oley, Lester Meseroll, Guy H. Rentschler and M. Burr Mann, who has been supervising principal for the past two years. The teachers who have served long and well in this district are Misses Imogene Smith, Fannie Smith, Ritie G. Brokaw, E. May Higgins, Ethel C. Rogers and Mary H. Lindsley.

Among the school board men who have given their services for more than ten years are August F. Todd; Arthur J. Hanley and Theodore W. Day, who has just completed his twentieth year of service on the Board of Education.

The appropriation made for the current expenses for the coming school year of this district is \$28,400. The school facilities of this municipality are quite up-to-date, especially with the privilege of sending eighth year pupils to so excellent a high school as Plainfield maintains.

Borough of Helmetta—The growth of the Helmetta school shows a progressive transition from a one-room frame building, erected in 1885, to a new brick building of modern construction containing five rooms, erected in 1912.

The school of Helmetta was one of the first propositions considered

by Mr. George W. Helme when he built the early snuff mills in the village of Helmetta, said to be named after Mr. Helme and one of his daughters. The founder of the village of Helmetta was very greatly interested in public education, and the George W. Helme Company has always befriended the public school interests of the borough and county generally.

Originally, this district was a portion of East Brunswick township, and was known as School No. 74. In 1888 it became a borough. The school facilities are considered among the best in the county. It has approximately 200 school population, and transports its eighth year pupils to the Jamesburg High School, upon the completion of the elementary school course. Population 687.

The school supervision has been in charge of Miss Lizzie F. Straub for the past thirty years, and her faithfulness and usefulness have been recognized and appreciated by the citizens of the borough. The teachers who have served faithfully for a number of years are Mrs. Jessie R. Colburn (formerly Miss Jessie R. Henkel), Misses Alida E. Franklin and F. Lillian Franklin.

Among the School Board men who have given their services for over ten years are Clinton M. Clemmons, Robert J. Franklin, Sr., Walter B. Helme, James Deming, and Chester A. Burt, who served for a period of twenty-one years. The names of Welcome G. Clemmons and William H. Clemmons will always be associated with Helmetta schools.

Appropriation has been made for current expenses for the coming school year of \$6,000. For a borough of its size, its school facilities compare very favorably with others, and is likely to do so as long as the George W. Helme Company officials reside in the borough.

Borough of Highland Park—The first public school in Highland Park was organized in 1885 in a private house, with Miss Chrissie Bartle as the first teacher. In 1886 a one-room school building was erected on the site of the present Lafayette School. From time to time, by reason of the increased school population of the borough, additional rooms and wings were added until at the present time the Lafayette School is a large, well-equipped elementary building with spacious grounds. Quite recently two new buildings of modern type, of four rooms each, known as the Hamilton and Irving Schools, have been erected, and yet the school accommodations are wholly inadequate.

The borough was formed in 1905, since which time a very unusual growth in school population has taken place. The erection of a new up-to-date building with a spacious auditorium and gymnasium is now being contemplated to fill a much needed want. It is quite likely that the school population of the borough of Highland Park has increased in a larger percentage than any other district in the county within the past decade, with the exception of one district. The district furnishes very

excellent elementary school privileges, and sends those leaving the elementary school to the New Brunswick High School, where they have very excellent instruction. The enrollment is nearly 900 school children. Population 4,866. The corps of teachers at present number over thirty.

Among those who have had a leading part in the school supervision of the borough are Thomas G. Van Kirk, J. A. Wilson, Justin Warbasse, Frank E. Spring, and F. Willard Furth, the present supervising principal. Misses Mabel W. Stoothoff, Blendina Smock and Bertha Snediker have served for a number of years faithfully in the school system. Among the School Board men who have rendered faithful and efficient service for a number of years, the name of Condit S. Atkinson is most frequently mentioned

The sum of \$67,800 has recently been appropriated for current school expenses for the coming school year. The borough is growing in leaps and bounds and its citizens are ambitious to keep pace in educational matters. Considerable community school work is being well directed by school organizations.

Borough of Jamesburg—In 1887 the village of Jamesburg was incorporated into a borough out of a portion of the territory of the township of Monroe.

For more than thirty years pupils attended the one-room school located on the Old Englishtown road. Later a two-room building was erected on a lot adjoining the Presbyterian church. This building was destroyed by fire. A two-room building was erected where the elementary school building now stands. By reason of the growth of the borough and the appreciation of the course of instruction by those living outside of the borough, not only the elementary school facilities have been greatly enlarged, but a modern high school has been erected. The high school diplomas are recognized by the normal schools and colleges. The school population of the municipality is about 700. Population 2,671.

Charles Stout, Forman Coosaboom and Curtis A. Deveney have had charge of the school supervision of the borough for a number of years. Mr. Deveney, the present supervising principal, has been at the helm for the past fifteen years, and his good work is generally recognized. Among the teachers who have rendered a considerable term of service are Charles L. Stout, Misses Maggie Pownall, Blendina Smock and Hilda Baremore. John H. Baremore has been a valuable member of the School Board for more than thirteen years, and John Waddy has rendered efficient service as a School Board man for more than twenty years.

The appropriation for the ensuing year for current school expenses is \$17,843. By reason of the large elementary school population the

Board of Education has decided to build another modern school building at a cost of \$85,000, adjoining the present high school building. Not less than seven borough and township school districts adjoining and surrounding the Jamesburg High School transport in large numbers the graduates from the eighth year. This school under the present efficient management offers very excellent high school facilities.

Borough of Metuchen—Many years ago the present school district of the borough of Metuchen was known as Franklin School District, No. 15, township of Raritan, and the building was known as the Franklin Civic House, a one-story building with one room. This large room was divided into two rooms, one of which was used by the Presbyterian congregation for weekly prayer meetings, and the other for public school purposes. In 1872 a two-story frame building was built on the site of the present high school building, and in 1907 the present high school building was erected. More recently, Mr. Charles S. Edgar, now deceased, donated a plot of ground containing seven acres for school purposes, upon which an up-to-date elementary school has been erected and designated as the "Edgar School." These two buildings, together with a movable two-room building, adjoining the high school, furnish very excellent school accommodations, for a school population of about 800 children. Population 3,334.

The names which stand out the most prominently as school supervisors in this district, are A. T. S. Clark, Henry Anderson, and Thomas G. Van Kirk, the present incumbent, who has occupied the position of supervising principal for more than twenty years, serving the township of Raritan for six years and the borough since its formation in 1904. Misses Anna Cheeseman and Martha C. Vogel, and Mrs. Jasper H. Hogan (formerly Miss Emma Siemons), have been faithful and efficient teachers in this district for a number of years. Prominent among the School Board men, are the names of Thorfin Tait and that "grand old man," Robert Bruce Crowell, recently deceased, who served on the School Board continuously for nearly half a century.

The recent appropriation for current school expenses was \$29,960. The high school graduates are received in the normal schools and colleges upon evidence of graduation. The citizens of Metuchen have always manifested a pride in the work of the public school.

Borough of Middlesex—For many years the district now included in the borough of Middlesex, which was formed in 1913, had but a single one-room school, known as Harris Lane School. This building, which is still standing, was erected over one hundred years ago, and is possibly the oldest existing school building in the county of Middlesex. The land on which the building stands was donated to the community by Mr. Hendrick Smock. The teachers were paid by the parents of the pupils attending, and the money for the erection of the school house was raised by public subscription.

The Pierce, Watchung and Parker schools, all elementary, accommodate the 500 school population with some difficulty. Population 1,852. At a recent meeting the district voted the sum of \$112,000 for an up-to-date, fireproof school building with all modern equipment, much to the credit of the public-spirited citizens of the borough.

Mr. William Love has been in charge of the school supervision since the borough formation, and the results of his work are very commendable. The name of Miss Nora B. Henderson, who taught in the township of Piscataway for a number of years and in the borough of Middlesex since its formation, a total experience of twenty-six years, is a household name in the community.

The men who were most interested in the educational facilities of the new borough were Max F. Wirtz, James V. N. Polhemus, Louis V. Poulson, Stewart C. Crouse, Clinton M. Cary, John L. Douglass, Bayard Naylor, Augustus C. Ramsey, Everett A. Gowdy, John H. Sebring and Joseph White.

The recent appropriation for current school expenses was \$41,483, and this amount, together with the amount appropriated for the new building, makes a total appropriation of \$153,483. The elementary school graduates attend the Plainfield and Bound Brook high schools. For its age, this young borough is exceedingly promising in educational matters.

Borough of Milltown—The village of Milltown was formerly a portion of East Brunswick and North Brunswick townships, separated by a stream known as Lawrence brook. The first school was located somewhere back of the Methodist church. Later a two-room school on Main street, was erected.

Milltown was formed into a borough commission in 1888, and erected a four-room school building. Later, the borough commission became a full-fledged borough, and a fine modern eight-room school was erected on a desirable lot, donated to the borough by Mr. James Ford, a resident of New York City, who for many years was interested in Milltown. Later there were four more rooms added to the building, which at the present time is wholly inadequate for a school population of 600 children. Population 2,573.

The men who have been most prominent in the school supervision of the district are E. W. Merritt, Warren A. Roe, Harry R. B. Meyers, and the present incumbent, Stephen F. Weston, who very recently has taken charge. The teachers who have served for a considerable period in the school are Misses Eva Benham and Annie Merritt. Miss Grace Shaw is now completing her tenth year of faithful service. J. Milton Brindle, Howard S. DeHart and George Heyle have served more than ten years each on the Board of Education. The sum of \$28,750 has been raised for the next school year, and the sum of \$65,000 has recently been

voted for the purchase of a playground and the erection of an additional school building. With these additional school accommodations, Milltown school facilities will be abreast with boroughs of like population.

Borough of Roosevelt—The district known as Roosevelt was formerly known as Blazing Star District, No. 22, and a part of Woodbridge township. The borough of Roosevelt was incorporated in 1906. At that time there was a thirteen-room school in Chrome section of the borough; a four-room school in the Carteret section, and a one-room school at the East Rahway section, which school was later discontinued. So marvelous has been the growth in valuations and population that in order to provide adequate school accommodations, addition after addition to the school buildings became necessary in order to accommodate 2,000 children of school age. Population 11,047.

The borough has a teaching corps of about fifty teachers. Some seventy-five high school children attend the Rahway High School, and many of the high school graduates have attended the New Jersey Normal Schools and Columbia University.

The school supervision has been in charge of Miss Barbara V. Hermann as supervising principal for the past thirteen years. The teachers who have served faithfully for ten years or more in said borough are Miss Catherine Hermann, principal of the Carteret section school; Misses Anna Devereux, Mary Devereux, Mary Connolly and Ethel Keller.

The School Board men who have served faithfully for more than ten years are Edward J. Heil, Matthew A. Hermann, Charles H. Morris, Frank J. Born, Patrick J. Coughlin, George W. Morgan and Valentine Gleckner. Appropriation has been made for current expenses for the coming school year of \$83,862. The school system of the borough of Roosevelt is one of the most complete elementary systems in the county. Its equipment, including its home-making department, will compare favorably with any borough of the State, of the same population.

Borough of Sayreville—Prior to 1871 the village of Sayreville was a part of the township of South Amboy. In this year the town of South Amboy was incorporated into a borough by a special Act of the Legislature. The remaining section of the township was named after James R. Sayre, one of the founders of the Sayre-Fisher Manufacturing Company, which at that time was the only industry in the township, but to-day it is conceded to be one of the largest industries of its kind in the world.

The school trustees of the district, which was then known as District No. 37, advocated and erected a school building at a cost of \$4,000, which was then and still is known as School No. 1 in said district. This district has recently been made the borough of Sayreville. At the present time, the district embraces three school buildings, the school property at Ernston having been taken by the Government during the war. The

school population numbers about 600. The graduates of the elementary school attend high school in South Amboy and New Brunswick. Population 7,181.

Mr. Jesse Selover has been supervising principal of this district for fourteen years, or more, having acted previously as principal of No. 1 School for a period of five years. Among the teachers who have served faithfully and well for the past ten years or more, are Misses Mercy Hillmann, Emma Arleth and Catherine Samsel. Mr. James N. Blew, now deceased, served as a School Board man for a period of twenty years and Mr. George L. Sullivan for more than ten years.

The current expense appropriation for the coming year is about \$25,000, and at a recent meeting an appropriation of \$105,000 was voted for a new school building which has been greatly needed for a number of years. With the completion of the new building, the borough of Sayreville will have reason to be proud of its public school accommodations and instruction.

Borough of South River—The borough of South River was formerly a part of the township of East Brunswick. Later it was made a commission by special Act of the Legislature, and at a comparatively recent date it was made a full fledged borough. Until 1908 the three-room brick building, with several additions, met the school requirements. After that date the growth of the borough necessitated additional school buildings. No. 2 and No. 3, buildings of considerable size, have been erected to meet the demands of the school population, and No. 3 is used for High School purposes. The school population is about 1,300, and the teachers number 36. Population 6,596.

Those most prominently in charge of the school supervision of recent years have been William Campbell, Francis P. O'Brien, Louis J. Kaser, William H. Connors, and T. Frank Tabor, who has been supervising principal for the past three years. Among the teachers who have served long and well in this district are Misses Sarah T. M. Brown, Mary Stadler, Estelle Van Arsdale, Theresa Smith and Jessie Henderson. Their long term of faithful service justifies special mention. Mr. George Allgair has been a member of the School Board for twenty-four continuous years, and Rev. William J. Kern for a period of ten years.

The sum of \$55,998 has been appropriated for the current expenses for the coming school year, and \$155,000 for alterations to School No. 1. School No. 1, while among the most substantially built school buildings of the county, has become antiquated, and the Board of Education is planning to make either substantial alterations or erect a new building. When this has been accomplished, the borough of South River will have provided ample and modern school accommodations for the school population, which is increasing very rapidly.

Borough of Spotswood—The borough of Spotswood was formerly a part of the township of East Brunswick, and became a borough in 1903.

For many years the one-room school taught by Miss Eugenia Dimmick was well known throughout the county for its high grade of work. Later an additional room was added, and Mr. Thomas G. Van Kirk became the principal. In 1901, the old school building was used for a fire department, and an up-to-date four-room brick building was erected across the roadway immediately opposite the old building. This borough has a school population of about 250, and at present necessitates half-day classes in some of the grades. Population 704.

School supervision has been in charge of Miss Anna Fitts, who has taught in the district for a period of twenty-six years, and has been acting as supervising principal for the past eleven years. The names of Roy P. Stillwell and Mark W. Swetland appear prominently as principals of the school, immediately prior to the borough formation. Mr. John O. Cozzens has been a member of the Board of Education continuously for a period of forty-four years, and is the dean of School Board men of the county. Mr. Charles DeVoe has rendered many years of valuable service as a School Board man.

The sum of \$3,027 has been appropriated for the current school expenses during the coming year. This district is in need of additional school accommodations. At least two rooms should be added at once to the present school building. The grounds are ample and well kept. The graduates of this school are transported by automobile to the Jamesburg High School.

Township of Cranbury—The history of the Cranbury schools dates from the organization of the first church in 1738. There is a record of an Indian mission school about 1756, established by David Brainard. Later, two district schools were organized, one known as the South Cranbury School, and the other as the Bunker Hill School. These schools were separated by a considerable lake, and continued to vie with each other until the new grammar school was built in 1896. The Board of Education closed the school at Cranbury Neck and Wycoff's Mills, and transported the pupils to a central grammar school. This transportation necessitated an enlargement of the grammar school building to eight rooms, with a manual training room and equipment.

In 1919, that portion of the township of Cranbury commonly known as Plainsboro, was set off by the Legislature into the new township of Plainsboro. This separation leaves one large elementary school building in the township, to which children are transported by a number of conveyances. The graduates of this elementary school are transported by autos to the high school in Hightstown. The school population of Cranbury township is about 250, and the corps of teachers is eight in number. Population 1,083.

Valuable service was rendered during the two-school period by Miss Ella Davis (later Mrs. Amzi Duncan), and Miss Holmes. Miss Laura

Scudder has been a teacher in said district continuously for a period of twenty-two years, and Miss Anna L. Ervin for a period of sixteen years. For the past eight years Mr. Floyd L. Evans has occupied the position of supervising principal of said district.

Mr. William F. Perrine and Howard J. Butcher have been board members continuously for over twenty-five years, and John V. B. Wicoff, R. S. Mason, E. S. Barclay, S. H. Perrine, D. J. Wilson and J. H. Conover have served on the Board of Education for a period of more than ten years. The current expense appropriation for the coming year was \$13,300. This district requires additional school accommodations of at least two rooms and an auditorium. These improvements are now being considered by the Board of Education.

Township of East Brunswick—Some years ago, the township of East Brunswick included what is now known as the borough of South River, borough of Helmetta, borough of Spotswood, and a portion of the borough of Milltown. The oldest building in the district is the Weston's Mills School, No. 2, which is still standing, but abandoned. It is situated near the location of the old tollgate on the New Brunswick and Old Bridge turnpike. There are five school buildings within the district, three of which are graded schools. The graduates from the elementary school are transported to the high school at South River and the high school at New Brunswick. The school population is about 500 and the number of instructors 12. Population 1,857.

The school supervision of this district has been in charge of Mr. John F. D. Heineken for a period of twenty-one years. Misses Kathryn A. Newmyer and Mae A. Newmyer have rendered valuable service as teachers continuously for more than ten years in this district. Nine years of valuable service was rendered by Mr. Harry R. B. Meyers as principal of School No. 7, Dunham's Corner, immediately prior to his election as supervising principal of the borough of Milltown. Dr. I. C. Crandall has served upon the School Board for twenty-one years, and Mr. Henry Warnsdorfer for more than ten years. The current school expense appropriation for the coming year is \$8,500.

The townships of Sayreville and Madison send a considerable number of pupils to the Old Bridge School, in which there is not sufficient room for desirable work, and, unless said townships erect additional school buildings for the accommodation of their pupils, it will be absolutely necessary for the Board of Education to enlarge the present school building at Old Bridge. The township territory remaining, after the formation of four boroughs, presents a difficult problem to the school administrators, the solution of which will ultimately be a consolidation of schools, with transportation.

Township of Madison—Madison township contains seven public schools. The building located in the Morristown section is undoubtedly

the oldest building in the township. The school population in the district is about 400. The graduates of the elementary school attend the high schools at Jamesburg, Matawan and Perth Amboy. Population 1,808.

The school administration of this district was in charge of Mr. Asbury Fountain for more than ten years. He was succeeded three years ago by Mr. Raymond E. Voorhees, the present supervising principal. Miss Marguerite Winter has given twenty-four years of continuous service in the Morristown district, and it would be difficult to overvalue her work in that community. Mrs. Lambertson (formerly Miss Bessie Warne), and Miss Viola Wilson have given more than ten years, respectively, of teaching. The School Board men, who have rendered more than ten years of service, are Edward Barker, John Otto, Michael Schulmeister and D. H. Brown.

Appropriation has been made for current expenses for the coming school year of \$8,802. By reason of the proximity of so many school children living on the Madison township line near the village of Old Bridge, and the establishment of the sections known as Nos. 1 and 2, Brunswick Gardens, a new four-room school building is very much needed and should be located centrally, so as to provide school accommodations for the children of these three sections. The Board of Education realizes the condition, and will undoubtedly meet the requirements of the law.

Township of Monroe—In the early days the township of Monroe had seven schools. The same school locations still exist with improved school buildings. The school population numbers about 300 pupils, and all of the graduates of the elementary schools attend the Jamesburg High School or Hightstown High School. Population 2,006.

The school supervision has been in charge of the following supervising principals: Messrs. William H. Connors, Roy R. Stillwell, Harris A. Jamison and Raymond E. Voorhees, who is the present supervisor. Miss Rebecca T. Allen has rendered faithful service in this district for a period of twenty-nine years continuously. Mr. Daniel W. Clayton, Mr. George Mount and Mr. James H. Tilton have served upon the Board of Education for many years. Mr. Daniel W. Clayton was a charter member of the County School Board Association, and has been its treasurer ever since its organization. The current expense appropriation for the coming school year is \$12,000.

The schools known as Gravel Hill, Dey Grove, Pleasant Grove and Old Church, should be closed, and the pupils transported to a new, up-to-date school building in a central location.

Township of North Brunswick—There are four school buildings in the township of North Brunswick, the oldest of which is Oak Hill, which is known to have been in existence for more than eighty years. The earliest record (1861), reveals the fact that George B. Wight, who later

became the Rev. George B. Wight, was the teacher. Mr. Wight entered the Civil War, and later he became one of the best known Methodist ministers in the State.

The other schools are known as Red Lion, Livingston Park and Adams. The city of New Brunswick has recently taken a portion of North Brunswick township into the city limits, which will to some extent affect the attendance in the Livingston Park School. The graduates from the elementary schools attend the New Brunswick High School. The school population numbers 200. Population 1,399.

Mrs. Anna Williams has given seventeen continuous years of school service in this district, and Mrs. Ruckman (formerly Miss Mamie F. Tracy), has taught in this district for fourteen years. Miss Bessie M. Schoenly, the supervising principal, has been in charge for the past five years. Mr. Thomas W. Buckelew has been a member of the School Board for thirty years, and Mr. Edward W. Suydam has served for a period of over ten years.

The appropriation for this district for current expenses is \$11,480. The board is wisely transporting the children from the Oak Hill school to the graded school at Milltown. It has purchased a valuable lot upon which to erect a new school building at or near Berdine's Corner. A new one-room school building has just been completed at Adams Station, which is known as an Italian settlement. This new building will give much needed relief to the Red Lion Graded School, which was greatly overcrowded.

Township of Piscataway—Fifty years ago, the township of Piscataway included within its borders what are now known as the borough of Dunellen and the borough of Middlesex. There were seven small ungraded schools, with seven teachers. Now there are three large graded schools and one ungraded school, with a corps of twenty-four teachers. The school building at New Market, South Plainfield and Brunswick avenue, are large and well equipped schools. The school population is about 1,000 pupils. The graduates of the elementary schools attend the high school at Plainfield, New Brunswick and Bound Brook. Population 5,385.

The school supervision has been in charge of Mr. Alfred Wilson (now principal of one of the largest schools in Newark), and Mr. William F. Mets, who has occupied the position of supervising principal of the township for the past fifteen years. Misses Meta F. Soper, Carolyn Van Pelt, Harriet I. Gregory and Mabel A. Bowers, and Mr. Frank Meskill, have taught successfully and continuously for many years in the district. Among the men who have served more than ten years upon the School Board are: Everett Marshall, A. G. Nelson, John Geary, J. F. Ten Eyck and F. O. Nelson. The appropriation for the approaching year is \$47,141. By reason of the increase of school population in South

Plainfield, another graded school building is required to provide the school accommodations demanded by law. The Board of Education is already considering such a building, and when it shall have been erected, Piscataway school district will have reason to feel proud of its public school facilities.

Township of Plainsboro—What is now known as the township of Plainsboro has had only one school building in its territory for many years. The rapid growth of the community required buildings providing four school-rooms. The people of the district have voted \$50,000 for the purpose of erecting an up-to-date four-room school, of Princeton stone, with spacious auditorium, home-making department, shower baths, electric light, with ample recreation grounds. School population of this district is 125. Population 800.

The school supervision has been in charge of Mr. Floyd L. Evans, who has acted in the capacity of supervising principal for the past ten years. Miss Luella Hults has taught in this community for a period of ten years. Mr. John V. B. Wicoff, who as a young man attended the old one-room school, has for many years been the firm and progressive friend of the public school interests of Plainsboro, and together with Mr. H. W. Jeffers, was largely instrumental in the formation of the district.

Appropriation has been made for current expenses for the coming year of \$4,000. Since the recent formation of this new district, which includes a portion of the territory of Cranbury and South Brunswick townships, a number of prominent men have become interested in the character of the school facilities and the government of the township; among them are Mr. Henry W. Jeffers, superintendent of the Walker-Gordon Dairy Farms, and a number of officials from the Rockefeller Institute. This locality catches the educational echo from old Princeton College. Graduates from the elementary department are transported to the Princeton High School. The school facilities of this new township are full of promise.

Township of Raritan—The township of Raritan, prior to 1904, contained ten school districts, nearly all one-room school buildings. In 1904, the borough of Metuchen was formed, and in 1906 the borough of Highland Park was organized out of the territory of Raritan township, thus removing from the township all the graded school buildings. In 1908, a movement for larger and better schools was begun, which resulted in the building of two four-room school buildings in the following year. The population in the Piscatawaytown-Lindenau section grew so rapidly as to necessitate an up-to-date eight-room brick building, which at the present time is inadequate. The school population is about 1,100, and is distributed so widely over the district that transportation is required in several directions. Population 5,419.

For a number of years, Mr. Thomas G. Van Kirk was supervising principal of the district. He was succeeded by Mr. Charles Runyon, who has acted in the capacity of supervising principal for the past sixteen years. The names of Wilfred R. Woodward, Miss Dillie F. Thornall, Miss Susan M. Fillips, Mrs. Charles Runyon (formerly Miss Jennie E. Serviss), Mrs. Elizabeth L. Swackhamer, Mrs. Charlotte R. Haas, Miss Clara E. Runyon, Mrs. George Carman (formerly Miss Josephine Flanagan), and Samuel R. Brash, are worthy of notice for long terms of service, especially Misses Susan M. Fillips and Dillie F. Thornall, who have taught in the district continuously for twenty-eight years; and Mrs. George Carman and Mr. Wilfred R. Woodward, for a period of twenty-four years. The administrative line of work has been largely controlled by William T. Wörner, who has been a member of the board continuously for thirty-six years, William Carman, 35 years, and Jerry W. Letson, who served on the board for a period of more than ten years.

The appropriation for the coming year is \$60,000. The district has recently raised for new buildings \$250,000. It is proposed to purchase a desirable lot of considerable size on the trolley line between Metuchen and Fords, and erect an up-to-date eight-room building, and to add six or eight rooms to the Piscatawaytown building. When these improvements shall have been made, the district will have excellent school facilities, considering the awkward territory left in the township after taking away the borough territory of Metuchen and Highland Park.

Township of South Brunswick—Some years ago the school system of the township of South Brunswick consisted of thirteen schools, twelve of which were one-room rural school buildings, Kingston being the only two-room school building in the district. Three new buildings have more recently been erected—one single room building at the Ridge, two four-room buildings, one at Dayton, and one at Monmouth Junction. The old school buildings at Mapleton, Scott's Corner, Little Rocky Hill have been abandoned. The school population of the township is about 650, and the graduates of the elementary schools attend the high school at Jamesburg, Princeton and New Brunswick. Population 2,666.

For a number of years the Rev. J. N. Folwell occupied the position of supervising principal. His successor, Mr. Floyd L. Evans, has been in supervisory control for the past thirteen years. The teachers who have taught in this district for a number of years are Misses Margaret Terhune, Mary A. Green, Henrietta M. Osborne and Gertrude W. Shann. Among those who have served on the Board of Education are Mr. Salter S. Selover, thirty-two years; Mr. Frank W. Stout, twenty-nine years; Mr. William Perkins, ten years.

The sum of \$27,000 has been appropriated for current expenses for the coming year. From present indications, it would appear that within the near future a large graded school of eight or more rooms should be

erected at or near Dayton, to which the children from Pleasant Hill, Road Hall, Fresh Ponds and Deans could be transported. Great difficulty has already been experienced in securing teachers for these one-room rural schools. The remedy is consolidation of one-room schools, which would also be a blessing to the children.

Township of Woodbridge—Previous to the year 1876, the only schools outside of Woodbridge proper were Iselin, Locust Grove, Six Roads and Fords, Rahway Neck and Blazing Star. About this time the Woodbridge grammar school was constructed, which was the most noticeable school building in this section of the county. In 1906 the borough of Roosevelt was formed, leaving within the district of Woodbridge eight school buildings, most of which are up-to-date school buildings with most modern appointments.

The district maintains a central high school, a central grammar school and six elementary schools which prepare the children for the grammar school previous to their attendance at the high school. The special teachers of the high school faculty supervise the drawing, music, manual training, the manual arts, penmanship and physical training, in these outlying elementary schools. The school population approaches 3,000 children. Population 13,423.

Mr. John H. Love has been the supervisory officer of the district for a period of twenty-five years, being the dean of supervisors in Middlesex county. The following are the names of teachers who have rendered valuable service in this district: Misses Annie Richards, Viola E. Dunham, Ethel A. Inslee, Jennie D. Garthwaite, Grace C. Huber, Mr. Isaac H. Gilhuly, Misses Margaret Lockwood, Helen V. Ensign, Helen Lorch, Louise A. Huber, Rena Allen, Mrs. Ruth K. Green, Misses Orpah Harvey, Beatrice L. Meyer, Stella J. Wright, Grace A. E. Bayliss, Julia E. M. Bayliss, Sophie K. Johnson, Edith G. Hinsdale, Mrs. Mary La-Forge (formerly Miss Mary S. Clark), Mrs. Adelaide Noble (formerly Miss Adelaide Paxton), Mrs. Jeanne Travis (formerly Miss J. Jeanne Adams), and Mrs. Hazel Matthews (formerly Miss Hazel Gilhuly). Mr. Everett C. Ensign has been a member of the Board of Education for a period of twenty-four years, and Mr. Howard A. Tappen, Mr. Howard R. Valentine, Mr. Charles Farrell and Mr. Melvin Clum for more than ten years.

The school appropriation for next year is \$196,997. The school facilities of Woodbridge township will bear a favorable comparison, from the standpoint of school buildings, equipment and supervision, with any township school district in the State, with a similar population and valuation. Woodbridge has always been a leader in educational matters.

The following is a table of comparison of thirty-three years of growth:

School Phases.	1887.	1920.	Increase.
Number of Male Teachers Employed.....	20	83	63
Number of Female Teachers Employed.....	160	783	623

PUBLIC EDUCATION

221

Average Salary Paid to Male Teachers	800	1,600	800
Average Salary Paid to Female Teachers	550	1,100	550
Total Number of Pupils Enrolled.....	8,850	30,000	21,150
Average Daily Attendance.....	6,000	22,317	16,317
Value of School Property.....	270,000	3,454,100	3,184,100
Total District School Appropriation.....	60,000	958,046	898,046
Total State School Appropriation.....	70,000	454,673	384,673
Total Amount Received from all Sources.....	130,000	1,412,719	1,282,719

Honor Roll—So many of the residents of the county have rendered such long and valuable public school service in Middlesex county that I take pleasure in mentioning the names of those who have served successfully and continuously for many years, hoping that the public will appreciate these faithful workers upon whom depend Business Enterprise; Good Citizenship; Public Security; State Pride; National Prosperity—aye, the very perpetuity of our institutions depend upon our Public School Teachers, Public School Officials, Public School Facilities.

The following named have been supervising principals, with an active service for more than ten years; years of service:

Samuel E. Shull (Supt.) Perth Amboy, 25; John H. Love, Woodbridge, 25; Miss Lizzie F. Straub, South Amboy, 20; John F. D. Heinen, Milltown, 19; Thomas G. Van Kirk, Metuchen, 19; Charles Runyon, New Brunswick, 17; William F. Mets, New Market, 15; Curtis A. Deveney, Jamesburg, 15; Jesse Selover, South River, 14; Floyd L. Evans, Dayton, 13; Barbara V. Hermann, Chrome, 13; Anna Fitts, Spotswood, 13.

The following named have served as teachers, in active service for more than twenty years; years of service:

Fifty Years—Eleanor S. Lott, New Brunswick.

Thirty to Forty Years—Mary Castner, New Brunswick, 35; Cecelia Boudinot, New Brunswick, 35; Cornelia Schroeder, New Brunswick, 34; Annie Richards, Woodbridge, 34; M. Emma MacWilliam, Perth Amboy, 33; Katharine O'Connor, South Amboy, 33; Mary Stadler, South River, 33; Sarah T. M. Brown, South River, 33; Gertrude W. Shann, Kingston, 33; Amanda Voorhees, New Brunswick, 31; Viola E. Dunham, Woodbridge, 30; Miss Meta F. Soper, Metuchen, 30; Mr. Charles Dietz, Perth Amboy, 30.

Twenty to Thirty Years—Jennie Pemberton, Perth Amboy, 29; Mary J. Watson, South Amboy, 29; Carolyn Plechner, New Brunswick, 28; Dillie F. Thornall, Metuchen, 28; Susan M. Fillips, Metuchen, 28; Marguerite Winter, Cliffwood, 27; Susie B. Felter, New Brunswick, 26; Sarah O. Witlock, New Brunswick, 25; Margaret Terhune, New Brunswick, 25; Emma A. McCoy, New Brunswick, 24; Anna Joslin, Perth Amboy, 24; Wilfred R. Woodward, New Brunswick, 24; Mrs. Josephine F. Carman, Metuchen, 24; Josephine Masso, New Brunswick, 23; Angie Wray, New Brunswick, 23; Edith L. Sofield, New Brunswick, 23; Katharine McCormick, Perth Amboy, 23; Edgar H. Kleinhans, Perth Amboy, 23; Mrs. Florence C. Matteson, South Amboy, 23; Blanche Johnston, New Brunswick, 22; Joseph F. Walker, Perth Amboy, 22; Mary P. Meade, Perth Amboy, 22; Grace Hawk, Perth Amboy, 22; Mary E. Buchanan, South Amboy, 22; Laura Scudder, Cranbury, 22; Henry

Miller, New Brunswick, 21; Adelle Williams, Perth Amboy, 21; Frank Meskill, South Plainfield, 21; Henrietta M. Osborne, Dayton, 21; Ethel A. Inslee, Woodbridge, 21; George W. Wilmot, New Brunswick, 20; Susan Crabel, Milltown, 20; Harriet Fraser, Perth Amboy, 20; Helen Brown, Perth Amboy, 20; Estelle Van Arsdale, South River, 20; Mercy Hillmann, South Amboy, 20.

Names of those who have rendered unusually long term of service but not on the Honor Roll by reason of change of district:

Blendina Smock, New Brunswick, 36 years; Nora B. Henderson, Freehold, 35; Chrissie Bartle, New Brunswick, 35; Anna Cheeseman, Metuchen, 29.

Names of those who have rendered unusually long term of service, but have retired with pension:

Amanda E. Van Nuis, Perth Amboy; *Anne Caster, New Brunswick; Rebecca T. Allen, Hightstown; Louise H. Connell, Emma Gilman, Ella Kent, Frances Kent, Perth Amboy; Laura Rutan, Kate C. Bogart, South Amboy; Mary Wakeham, Laura Wilson, New Brunswick; *Isabelle Huff, *Mary E. Vaughan, Perth Amboy; *Sarah J. Price, *Elizabeth Heward, New Brunswick.

*Deceased.

Names of School Board members, with address and years of service:

Forty to Fifty Years—John O. Cozzens, Spotswood, 42.

Thirty to Forty Years—William T. Woerner, New Brunswick, 36; William Carman, Metuchen, 35; Salter S. Selover, Jamesburg, 32; Thomas W. Buckelew, New Brunswick, 30.

Twenty to Thirty Years—Frank W. Stout, Monmouth Junction, 29; William F. Perrine, Cranbury, 26; Howard J. Butcher, Cranbury, 25; Everett C. Ensign, Woodbridge, 24; George Allgair, South River, 24; Chester A. Burt, Helmetta, 21; I. C. Crandall, Old Bridge, 21; Theodore W. Day, Dunellen, 20.

Note—Mr. R. Bruce Crowell, of Metuchen, N. J., who recently died, had served as a member of the Board of Education for fifty years.

Realizing that there would be a much greater proportional return from combined effort than from individual effort, the following organizations have been established for a number of years and have been very helpful from the viewpoint of better preparation, unity of purpose, sociability and community interests:

Teachers' Library—Twenty-five years ago there was organized a Teachers' Library, composed of one hundred and fifty professional works, established in the third story of the old Free Circulating Library, corner of George and Paterson streets, New Brunswick, New Jersey. The object of this library was to provide the most recent professional publications, for the use and benefit of the teachers of the county. The board of managers consisted of H. Brewster Willis, County Superintendent, president; George G. Ryan, Superintendent of Schools of the

City of New Brunswick, vice-president; Alfred J. Wilson, Supervising Principal of Piscataway Township, secretary; Samuel E. Shull, Superintendent of Schools of the City of Perth Amboy; Harry Cathers, John F. D. Heineken, R. M. Fitch, librarians; Thomas G. Van Kirk, recorder.

This library is now established in desirable rooms in the Free Public Library on Livingston avenue, New Brunswick, containing over 3,000 volumes, with a librarian in attendance. New works are added yearly. This library is considered one of the best teachers' libraries in the State of New Jersey. The management of the library at present is as follows: H. Brewster Willis, president; Ira T. Chapman, Oscar O. Barr, vice-presidents; Thomas G. Van Kirk, secretary; Samuel E. Shull, treasurer; John F. D. Heineken and Miss Kathryn A. Newmyer, librarian.

School Board Association—The Middlesex County School Board Association was organized twenty-four years ago; H. Brewster Willis was elected president; John H. Wade, vice-president; William Carman, secretary; and Daniel W. Clayton, treasurer. The following persons were present and became charter members of the Association, in addition to the officers: Brognard Betts, Edward S. Hammell, John Evans, Ferdinand E. Riva, William H. Clemmons, Welcome G. Clemmons, John H. Kuhlthau, Manning Freeman, William Fitz Randolph, Aaron W. Deane, George P. Smith, Charles W. Fisher, D. E. Lowrie, John C. Morris, Rev. J. A. Trimmer and Wilson S. Frederick. The object of the Association was to meet the State and county school officials, consider public school interests generally, and exchange views upon the administrative and professional lines of school work. Several of the governors of the State, all of the officers of the State Department, a considerable number of State Senators and Assemblymen, together with the leading educators of the State and from other States, have appeared before this organization on important school matters.

This is the first organization of its kind in the State, and it is believed the first of the kind in the country; its direct object being to prepare School Board men for their responsible duties. At present the membership of this Association numbers two hundred, and the management is under H. Brewster Willis, president; Samuel E. Shull, Ira T. Chapman, Oscar O. Barr, vice-presidents; Daniel W. Clayton, treasurer; William Carman, secretary, and Thomas G. Van Kirk, assistant secretary. It is rather noticeable that County Superintendent Willis, County Surrogate Daniel W. Clayton and ex-Sheriff William Carman have continued for a period of twenty-four years officials in this Association.

Supervising Principals' Association—The Supervising Principals' Association was organized eighteen years ago with H. Brewster Willis, County Superintendent, president; John F. D. Heineken, secretary; Asbury Fountain, treasurer, together with Harry Cathers, Thomas G. Van Kirk, J. N. Folwell, William Campbell, John H. Love, Russel M.

Fitch and others, at the Sewaren House, Woodbridge, in 1902. The object of this organization was to prepare and enforce uniform courses of study, rules and regulations for the government of schools, distribute printed matter to pupils, teachers and parents, secure from the boards of education the necessary district school stationery, and hear the leading school men of the State on important school problems.

This organization at present has a membership of thirty supervising principals, and has been an educational force in the school matters of the county. The present officials of the Association are: H. Brewster Willis, president; Samuel E. Shull, Ira T. Chapman, Oscar O. Barr, vice-presidents; John F. D. Heineken, secretary; Floyd L. Evans, assistant secretary. This organization is the first of its kind to be established in the State. Nearly all of the counties have now fallen in line.

District Teachers' Association—In 1902 each of the borough and township school districts of the county organized a monthly teachers' meeting. Each district was organized by a president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer, with a distinct yearly program approved by the County Superintendent, and usually included special papers to be prepared by one or more of the members, the review of a pedagogical work which had previously been assigned, an address from an outside school man, and a class demonstration. The pedagogical works used by these associations were secured at the Teachers' Library from the large number of writers on theory and practice, history of education, school administration, psychology, physical training, agriculture, manual arts, domestic science, moral education, ethics and miscellaneous works.

At the close of the school year a report has been made by the president and secretary of the work accomplished and filed the same in the office of the County Superintendent. These monthly meetings have afforded an opportunity for a demonstration of the best teaching in the county, and created a sociability among the teachers, especially in the rural sections. The high school commencement exercises, the elementary school closing exercises and the annual field day demonstrations and exercises are under the control of these district organizations.

Parent-Teachers' Association—For some years Middlesex county has had the benefit of the active work of a County Council Parent-Teachers' Association, with local district associations. Very many of the substantial improvements to school buildings and the ornamentation to the school grounds are the result of the activity of the Parent-Teachers' Association.

The officers of the County Council of Parent-Teachers' Association are as follows: Mrs. Charles A. DeRussy, of Woodbridge, president; Mrs. W. O. Whitney, of Highland Park, vice-president; Mrs. A. N. Mullin, of Highland Park, secretary; Mrs. G. H. Boynton, of Woodbridge, corresponding secretary; Mrs. George G. Johnson, of New Brunswick, treasurer.

There is not a county in the State, where there is more professional help for teachers than in Middlesex.

County Vocational Schools—At the regular meeting of the County School Board Association held in the city of Perth Amboy, on the 31st day of January, 1914, a resolution was passed instructing the president of the Association, Mr. H. Brewster Willis, to appoint a committee of five, of whom the County Superintendent should be one, to investigate the necessity for and to consider the advisability of County Vocational Schools, and to submit the findings of the committee in a report to this Association, at an early date.

Mr. Willis appointed as members of this committee, Mr. A. Clayton Clark, superintendent of the Raritan Copper Works, Perth Amboy; Mr. Howard V. Buttler, president of the Buttler-Howell Co., New Brunswick; Mr. Douglas J. Fisher, of the Sayre & Fisher Co., Sayreville; Mr. John V. B. Wicoff, counsellor-at-law, Plainsboro. The committee made a thorough investigation of school and industrial conditions in the county, and visited a number of vocational schools in this and other States. This committee reported that 1,113 pupils had left the schools of the county during the previous year, before they had completed the eighth year of work; that these children were not prepared for life work; that out of sixty representative manufacturing industries in the county, fifty-four were favorable to the establishment of vocational schools. A definite recommendation was made to the effect that County Vocational Schools should be established in Middlesex county.

The report of this committee was submitted to Hon. Peter F. Daly, judge of the Court of Common Pleas, who appointed the same gentlemen who had so ably served as an investigating committee, as members of the Board of Education of the Vocational Schools. The members of the newly appointed board organized as follows: Mr. A. Clayton Clark, Perth Amboy, president; Mr. Howard V. Buttler, New Brunswick, vice-president; Mr. Douglas J. Fisher, Sayreville; Mr. John V. B. Wicoff, Plainsboro; Mr. H. Brewster Willis, New Brunswick, secretary; Mr. Thorfin Tait, Metuchen, treasurer, (all college men), on November 2, 1914.

The board made a very careful search throughout this State and other states for a suitable man, in education and vocational experience, to act as a County Director of Vocational Schools. Clifford E. Parsil, assistant to James E. Dougan, headmaster of the Newark Boys' Vocational School, was the unanimous choice of the county board, and his successful administration for the past five years is the best evidence of the fact that the board acted wisely in its selection.

Vocational School No. 1, at New Brunswick, was opened in September, 1915. A building on Guilden street, which had formerly been used for public school purposes, was equipped with woodworking machinery

and benches, a drafting room, and a room where the related academic subjects could be taught. On opening day about thirty-five boys reported for work, but before the first term was well under way there were but two or three vacancies. The school at that time was equipped to accommodate fifty-four boys. In September, 1916, a printing department was added to School No. 1, and this increased the capacity to seventy-two boys.

Within the past year the board has erected an up-to-date strictly vocational school building, at an approximate cost of \$120,000, with a capacity for the industrial instruction to 150 boys. This building is located on a very desirable site on Easton avenue, in the city of New Brunswick, directly opposite to Buccleuh Park, where the boys have the privilege of enjoying all the facilities of the park and the athletic grounds. The building is equipped with most modern facilities, including a spacious and well furnished auditorium, named after Hon. Peter F. Daly, judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Middlesex county, who has been such a staunch advocate of the County Vocational Schools, and furnished by the donation of \$1,500 from Mr. Joseph Hayden, of Omaha, Nebraska, a friend to the school. Mr. Floyd S. Stein, principal, is the head of the woodworking department; Mr. Frank M. Tomer, head of the drafting; Mr. Alfred J. Cardinal and Mrs. Bertha L. Schaeffer in charge of the academic subjects; Mr. Morton H. Roby, head of the printing, and Mr. William F. Van Pelt, head of the auto repair department. The foundry and electrical departments will be opened in due time.

The Guilden Street School property, since the opening of the new school building in October, 1919, has been used as a County Vocational School for Girls, in which is taught practical dressmaking, practical cooking, food values, food selection and purchasing, household accounts, hygiene, home nursing, together with the academic branches. The direct object of the school is to teach young girls all phases of American home making. Miss Carolyn Argast, of Columbia College (principal), is head of the practical dressmaking department; Mrs. Alice B. Rose is in charge of all phases of the cooking and food department, and Miss Elizabeth Wallack is in charge of the academic department.

In September, 1916, County Vocational School for Boys, No. 2, was opened in the city of Perth Amboy. The building was made of brick, and especially constructed for the purpose. At this center a very large and well equipped machine shop was established; mechanical drafting and related academic subjects are taught, and instruction given in industrial chemistry, requested by and generously supported by the large industries of the city maintaining chemical laboratories. This property has recently been purchased by the board for \$20,500. Mr. John M. Shoe (principal), is at the head of the machine shop department; Mr.

Albert Gardner, drafting; Mr. Otto B. Durholtz, related academic subjects; Mr. Joseph Tatton, head of the department of industrial chemistry.

Plans and specifications have been prepared for an additional building on the five unoccupied lots, adjoining the present school, at a cost not to exceed \$135,000. The County Board of Estimate has acted favorably upon this building proposition.

In addition to the day courses for boys, the board has maintained since 1915 evening schools in three centers—the city of New Brunswick, the city of Perth Amboy, and the city of South Amboy, in which about 800 men and women received instructions in carpentry, pattern making, mechanical drafting, architectural drafting, show card writing, machine shop practice, automobile repairing, shop mathematics, agriculture, dressmaking, millinery and cooking.

The County Vocational Schools have graduated about fifty boys who are holding their own in the industrial world.

In view of the critical condition of industry, Middlesex county may justly feel proud of the vocational schools she owns and maintains for the boys and the girls who have received elementary academic instruction and desire to prepare themselves for the industries. The demand for vocational education is a widespread one, and is rooted in the social and economic changes of the times.

The Boards of Chosen Freeholders have given substantial help in the establishment of the County Vocational School system. The members of the Board of Chosen Freeholders who made the appropriation which made possible the organization of County Vocational Schools were: A. J. Gebhardt, director, New Brunswick; Andrew Ely, Dayton; William D. Casey, Roosevelt; Alfred Kerr, South Amboy, and Theodore Cohn, New Brunswick.

The members of the Board of Chosen Freeholders who voted the appropriation to provide permanent buildings for the County Vocational School in the city of Perth Amboy and in the city of New Brunswick are: William S. Dey, director, South Amboy; Clarence M. Haight, Dunellen; E. Leon Loblein, New Brunswick; Frederick Gebhardt, Sr., New Brunswick; Louis J. Belloff, New Brunswick; F. William Hilker, Perth Amboy, and Christian Jorgensen, Perth Amboy.

For friendly help in the public school work during the past thirty-three years, I am pleased to mention the State Department of Public Instruction; the County Press; Rutgers College; the several school organizations, and in the preparation of this brief sketch I am pleased to acknowledge the aid of Mr. Clifford E. Parssil, Middlesex County Director of Vocational Schools; the Supervising Principals; and Miss Anna J. Lagerstedt, who has been the efficient secretary of the County Superintendent for the past fourteen years.

