

HISTORICAL SKETCH
of the
PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF PORTLAND, OR.
1847—1888

T. H. CRAWFORD

In the sixth annual report (1870) I published an epitome of the history of the public schools of Portland.

Since then many changes have occurred in the location of schools; new buildings have been built; the old Central sold and vacated. As was anticipated, several errors in the first sketch have been discovered and some additional points have been brought to light.

It is now proposed to republish that sketch, mainly as it was then written, making corrections where necessary and introducing in its proper connection any new matter that may be of general interest. The sketch will then cover substantially, the history of these schools from 1847 to June 28, 1888, a period of forty-one years.

There is a peculiar fascination connected with the reminiscences of the early life of individuals, societies, communities and nations.

To weave these detached and frequently vague outlines into an interesting yet truthful narrative is the province of the historian. To do this successfully, requires much time and research; it demands gifts which, as all readers know, are very rare.

Many of these items are from those who were participants and who are already under "marching orders," as it were, for the future life. But a few years hence and the few remaining pioneers of this city will all have passed away.⁽¹⁾ Even now, it is with much difficulty that many of the unrecorded, though important, events are recalled. To enumerate those who have contributed to these sketches would occupy too much space. Indeed, I have met with much more of enthusiasm and readiness to assist in my work than I anticipated. The revival of memories of the early days of Portland seemed to be fraught with real pleasure on the part of those who were themselves the actors. From files of the *Oregonian*, from personal interviews with our older citizens, from many interesting letters from the pioneer teachers of Portland, from historical sketches already published by Hon. J. Quinn Thornton, W. H. Gray, S. F. Chadwick, T. L. Eliot, S. W. King and others, and from official records have I collected what follows. I have not the space to command here to elaborate these sketches, that must be done hereafter.

⁽¹⁾ Since the above was written, five of those who so cheerfully aided me in the work of collecting this information have been called from labor to rest: Rev. James H. Wilbur, Joseph S. Smith, Mrs. Jos. S. Smith (nee Carter,) Rev. Horace Lyman and Stephen G. Skidmore.

THE FIRST SCHOOL.

The first day school of any kind in Portland was opened in the fall of 1847, by Dr. Ralph Wilcox. It was conducted in a house erected by Mr. McNemee at the foot of Taylor street. It was properly a private school. It continued probably one quarter. The names of some of the pupils are given: Frances McNemee (Mrs. E. J. Northrup,) her brothers Moses, Adam and William; Charlotte Terwilliger (Mrs. Walter Moffett,) Milton Doan's children, Sarah, Mary, Peter and John; Henry Hill, Helen Hill (Mrs. Wm. Powell), J. Miller Murphy, Lucy and Charlotte Barnes, Emma and Sarah Ross, Alonzo Terwilliger. There were, no doubt, others, but their names I have not ascertained.

Dr. Wilcox was born in East Bloomfield, Ontario County, N.Y., July 9, 1818. Graduated at Geneva Medical College, August 7, 1839. Came to Oregon in 1845. Died in Portland, April 18, 1877.

MISS CARTER'S SCHOOL.

In February, 1848, Thomas Carter and family reached Portland. In April or May of that year Miss Julia Carter (Mrs. Joseph S. Smith) opened a school in a log cabin on the corner of Second and Stark streets. She taught one quarter. She had perhaps thirty-five pupils in all. Most of those attending Dr. Wilcox's school were her pupils. These additional names are recalled—John Cullen, Carrie Polk, the Warren girls (one now Mrs. Richard White, the other Mrs. D. C. Coleman, deceased,) several of the Appersons, and two of the Pettigrew children.

HYDE'S SCHOOL.

In the winter of 1848 and '49, Aaron J. Hyde taught a school in what was for years known as the "Cooper Shop." This "cooper shop" was the only "public hall" in the town for some time. It was located on the west side of First street, between Morrison and Yamhill streets (lot 3, block 14.) This lot was sold May 12, 1856, to Davis & Monastes for \$250. It was commonly reported in those days that a former owner, one Samuel Hancock, of W. T., bought it for the consideration of "*two pups*." A photograph of the "cooper shop" is in the possession of David Monastes, Esq., the present owner of the property. The photo shows, that the houses used in '47, '48, '49 as a Christian sanctuary, a Sunday and a day school, had, in 1857, become a Chinese wash house.

Aaron J. Hyde served in the Mexican war; was discharged at Santa Fe; came to California, thence to Oregon; taught the school referred to; married a Miss Whitley of Polk county; settled on a donation land claim about four miles south-west of Lebanon, Linn county, near the western angle of Washington Butte; died on this farm in the year 1859, and was buried at Sand Ridge.

OREGON TERRITORY ORGANIZED.

Sunday, August 13, 1848, the act organizing our Territorial Government was passed after a prolonged debate.

The Nathan Dane bill which passed Congress July 13, 1787, prohibited slavery in the North-west Territory, and declared that "schools and means of education shall be

forever encouraged.” By a previous act of Congress and in pursuance of a contract made by the officers of the Treasury, with Rev. Manasseh Cutter and Winthrop Sargent in October, 1787, the 16th section of each township was secured for educational purposes.

In framing the act for the organization of our Territory, the 30th section was added. This provoked much opposition. To Hon. J. Quinn Thornton is due the honor of this munificent addition to our educational resources. He spent the summer of 1848 in Washington city, and by his persistent and indefatigable labors not only the public schools of Oregon, but those of every State and every Territory since organized, has been thus endowed.

March 3, 1849, Hon. Joseph Lane issued his first proclamation as Governor of the Territory. Soon after, a public meeting was called in Oregon City at the instance of Rev. Geo. H. Atkinson to discuss some matters of importance. One question was, “shall we organize a system of free schools?” After a lengthy discussion a vote was taken, which resulted as follows: 37 for and 6 against free schools. At the request of Gov. Lane, Mr. Atkinson prepared the educational part of the forthcoming message to the first Territorial Legislature, July 17, 1849. This was the first impulse toward the organization of our public school system. The first school bill was passed September 5, 1849.

Rev. Geo. H. Atkinson, D.D., to whom, more than any other one person, our city and county schools are indebted, arrived in Portland in June, 1848. He recalls Miss Carter’s school as being then in session. Dr. Atkinson brought with him \$200 worth of school books of the latest and best authors. He came to Oregon, charged especially with the educational interests of the Territory. He afterwards imported about \$1,700 worth more of school books and sold out to S. J. McCormick, Esq.

HORACE LYMAN’S SCHOOL.

Late in December, 1849, Rev. Horace Lyman, late of Pacific University, began a school in the “School House.” This building, a frame structure, was built by Col. Wm. King for church and school purposes. It was located on lot 3, block 29, or on west side of First street, second door north of Oak. On this building was placed a bell. It was cast in 1850 by Meneeley, Troy, N.Y., and weighed about 300 lbs. Stephen Coffin purchased this bell at his own expense and expected to dispose of it for church and school purposes. In 1850 the old Taylor-street M. E. Church was built and dedicated November 14, of that year. Rev. James H. Wilbur afterwards bought the bell of Mr. Coffin for \$125, and placed it on the then new church. This bell now hangs in the steeple of the Taylor-street M. E. Church. It had generally been thought that Dr. Lyman taught the first public school proper, but in a letter from him, he says his school was a private one. There was no organization. He taught three months. Had about forty pupils; was paid by rate bills. Among his pupils he recalls the Carters, Chapmans, Kings, Parrishes, Hills, Terwilligers, Appersons and Coffins. Number of inhabitants, perhaps 250. Dr. Lyman says that “in the course of a year or two after I taught, seeing the great necessity of a public free school, supported by a tax, Josiah Failing, Col. Wm. King, myself and some others made strenuous and continued efforts to organize a school district under the Territorial law. In the midst of much opposition on the part of those who had no children or their own to educate, and of others who had personal interests in building up private and denominational schools, success was attained; and out of those first beginnings, have grown up the

admirable schools, which for the last few years have so blessed and distinguished the city of Portland.”

COLONEL REED’S SCHOOL.

In April, 1850, Cyrus A. Reed, opened a school in the “School House.” He taught three months. Paid by rate bills—at \$10 per quarter per pupil. He had an average of sixty-two pupils. The Colonel remembers among the boys and girls—the Carters, Cullens, Appersons, Chapmans, Coffins, Parrishes, Stephens, Millers, Hills, Terwilligers, McNemees and Watts. There was no district organization.

DELOS JEFFERSON’S SCHOOL.

About August 1st, 1850, Delos Jefferson, now a farmer in Marion county, began a school and taught three months. Mr. Jefferson thinks there was a district organization and that J. B. V. Butler and E. B. Comfort were directors. Mr. Comfort, in a letter, says Mr. Jefferson must be in error as he has not the slightest recollection of ever having any official relation to the schools. Mr. Jefferson had a school of about forty pupils. He received \$10 per pupil—paid by rate bills. About the same names appeared on his roll as on that of Col. Reed.

REV. DOANE’S SCHOOL.

Following Mr. Jefferson, came Rev. N. Doane, then and now a minister of the M. E. Church. He taught nine months, beginning about December 1, 1850. Had between fifty and sixty pupils. To the names of pupils last mentioned he adds the Davises, Crosbys, Lownsdales and Butlers. Mr. Doane received some pecuniary assistance from the M. E. Church Missionary Fund, so that rate bills were low—from \$2.50 to \$6 per quarter. His classes ranged from the A B C to fine class in Burrett’s Geography of the Heavens. He also occupied the “School House.”

FIRST ORGANIZATION.

In the *Oregonian*, December 6, 1851, a “Free School” is advertised. The Board consisted of Anthony L. Davis, Alonzo Leland and Reuben P. Boise. When this Board was elected, I have been unable to learn. But from the fact that the law of September, 1849, provided for an annual election on the first Friday in November, I presume these Directors were chosen at that time. From Dr. Lyman’s letter, also, it may be inferred that this Board was the result of the efforts he mentions. At least, this is the first evidence I have found of an organization perfected under the law.

This Board announce that John T. Outhouse will begin a school in the School House, next door to the “City Hotel” on Monday, December 15, 1851. “Books to be used—Sanders’ Readers, Goodrich’s Geographies, Thompson’s Arithmetics and Bullion’s Grammar.”

The City Hotel referred to was on the north-west corner of First and Oak, kept by Mr. DeWitt.

Mr. Outhouse, then a young man about twenty-two years of age, a native of New Brunswick, taught continuously, with the usual vacations, until March, 1853. He is now living at Union, Oregon, and is yet in the "harness" as a teacher. His descriptions of his school, the society of Portland, etc. are quite graphic. He was paid most of the time at the rate of \$100 per month from the County School Fund. Had about twenty pupils at first. He taught school, laid cross-walks, unloaded vessels and wrestled with the fever and ague. His district extended to Astoria—at least he reported pupils from there. In the spring of 1852 but three districts in Washington county reported. Portland received \$800 School Fund. So large was the school in the fall that an assistant was deemed necessary.

Among the arrivals in September, 1852, was a young lady from Massachusetts—Miss Abigail M. Clarke (Mrs. Byron P. Cardwell.) Miss Clarke taught a few weeks in the Portland Academy and Female Seminary, then in its second year and under the management of Mr. Buchanan. This engagement was evidently not the most congenial—at least for Miss Clarke. Under her skillful management, the "incorrigibles" who were placed in her hands by Mr. B., were speedily and happily changed into model boys and girls. So eminently successful was she that the Principal did not hesitate to transfer these pleasant classes to his own department and in turn impose another lot of his troublesome pupils on Miss Clarke. This unprofessional policy became so prominent that we are prepared to learn that Miss Clarke soon after accepted an offer to enter the public schools.

FIRST FREE GRADED SCHOOL.

From an editorial in the *Oregonian* November 27, 1852, signed by Anthony L. Davis, Benj. Stark and A. Leland, directors, with A. Leland, clerk, announcing the opening of a school on Monday, December 6, 1852. Mr. Outhouse is named as teacher in the "School House" and Miss A. M. Clarke as teacher of the primary classes on First street, between Taylor and Salmon. The exact locality was on the west side of First, second door above Taylor, and adjoining the store of Butler & Keiser, which was on the corner of Taylor and First. Mr. Outhouse's wages were \$100 and Miss Clarke's \$75 per month. It is presumed that Mr. Outhouse was employed to teach the advanced classes, but owing to the laxness of regulations, and largely, no doubt, to her popularity, Miss Clarke's school was patronized by all grades of pupils. She had for some time an average daily attendance of over ninety.

Mr. Eliot, in describing this school, denominates it as a "graded school." The reason will appear, when it is known that the building was two stories in height and in order to seat the pupils, the stairway was utilized. Children were seated—"graded"—on the stairs as far up as possible.

The front windows opening directly on the street, were the source of much annoyance in several ways. On one occasion, some mischievous (?) boy ("hoodlums" were unknown then!) commenced a series of "rappings" on the window panes and when he suspected danger, scampered for the hazel brush hard by. This became excessively provoking and Miss Clarke laid a trap for this naughty fellow. Frank Hill, one of the pupils, was detailed to catch the young rascal. This was rare sport for young Hill, no doubt. So when the unsuspecting urchin essayed to go into the "rapping" business again, Frank darted after him and soon triumphantly delivered him to Miss Clarke, who proceeded to thrash the "small boy in brown" most vigorously.

The next “rapping” at the door was from another source. A mad father appeared and demanded an explanation. He got none. He went in hot haste to Mr. Leland, the clerk, who informed him that “if he did not go slow, Miss Clarke would thrash him too.”

So the winter of ’52-’53 passed in conducting “graded” primary classes.

What trials Mr. Outhouse had down town with the “big boys and girls” may be inferred from some of his reminiscences:

“The boys would play truant” (they were related, no doubt, to some of the present generation) “and you could often find them playing cards during school hours. No one visited the school; the teacher had to work out his own salvation.”

From some other instances related, Mr. Outhouse was evidently a great admirer of Solomon’s ideas of discipline.

He remarks, also, that he saved his last year’s wages “by keeping ‘bach’ with a *lawyer* and a *land agent!*” I took occasion to mention this bit of history to quite a number of members of the legal profession as well as to some land agents. All agreed that it was unexplainable. Many of them ran over the present membership of the bar and gravely concluded that no one answered to that historical description. So to satisfy all parties, I wrote to Mr. Outhouse for the names of his illustrious companions. He replied that “we kept ‘bachelors’ hall” on the north-west corner of Start and Front, and that his companions there were Hon. Alex. Campbell,⁽²⁾ partner (then) of R. P. Boise, later of San Francisco and Judge of the Twelfth Judicial District, Cal., and George Sherman, of revolutionary stock, and agent for Hon. Benj. Stark.” This news seemed to satisfy most of the parties; but a closing remark of Mr. O.’s may throw some light on the singular (?) conduct of these worthy gentlemen. He says that the emigration of 1852 brought to Portland many excellent people and among these were many young ladies—“*then the bachelors blacked their boots and went to meeting.*”

After Mr. Outhouse closed his work, Miss Clarke continued, opening her school in the same house, near Taylor street, March 12, 1853.

May 21st 1853, the Directors gave notice that Miss Clarke would hold a public examination on Friday, the 27th, to which parents and friends were invited.

Miss Clarke taught until midsummer, 1853, and then accepted a position in an Academy at Oregon City, under the care of Judge E. D. Shattuck.

With the labors of Miss Clarke, the regular work of the free schools seems to have been for a time discontinued. Private schools were opening and closing every few weeks. The “Academy” was then flourishing under the Rev. C. S. Kingsley. General apathy in reference to public schools prevailed. From the best information I have been able to gather, over a year elapsed after the closing of Miss Clarke’s term before any movement was made toward reviving the free schools. The newspapers make no mention of the regular annual meeting in November, 1853. August 11, 1854, Col. J. M. Keeler, then County Superintendent, announces that he is ready to organize school districts.

⁽²⁾ This Mr. Campbell was a member of the first Board of School Directors elected in 1858.

During the fall of 1854, Thomas Frazer, Esq., began the agitation of the school question. He had printed, at his own expense, notices for a school meeting. He posted these notices, and after failing five times in succession to secure a quorum to do business, he succeeded in the sixth attempt, and, as a result, there appeared in the *Oregonian* of Dec. 7, 1854, the following:

“A Call”

“We the undersigned, legal voters of the Portland school district, deeming it important that district officers should be appointed and our public school re-organized, hereby annex our names to a call for a special meeting of the legal voters in this district to convene at the School House on First street, on Monday evening, December 18, 1854, at half-past six o’clock, then and there to elect, 1—A Chairman and Secretary of said meeting; 2—A Board of three School Directors; 3—A District Clerk; and transact such other business, etc. Thomas Frazer, Josiah Failing, H. W. Corbett, W. S. Ladd, P. Raleigh, L. Limerick, D. Abrams, T. N. Lakin, A. D. Shelby, Anthony L. Davis.”

At this meeting, Thomas Frazer, W. S. Ladd and Shubrick Norris were elected a Board of Directors and, I presume, A. D. Fitch was elected clerk.

During this month, Multnomah county was organized, and in January, 1855, L. Limerick was appointed County School Superintendent. Horace Lyman and J. M. Keeler served as County Superintendents when this city was included in Washington county.

It is quite probable that L. Limerick taught the first school under this organization. Prior to this time, it appears that the city had been divided into two districts, with Morrison street as the line—north was district No. 1 and south district No. 2. The Board in the south district consisted of Wm. Patton, Col. Wm. King, and E. M. Burton, with D. C. Sturtevant as clerk. When this organization was effected, I cannot ascertain. It had a legal existence during the incumbency of L. Limerick as County Superintendent, as a description of its metes and bounds is found in Mr. Limerick’s writing. So far as this part of the present district has a history I have this much: In the fall of 1855, Col. J. M. Keeler, just from Forest Grove—Tualatin Academy—taught the district school in the two story house, still standing on south-east corner of Jefferson and Second streets. He received \$150 per month. Had one hundred pupils per day. Had an assistant, also, whose name he does not now recall. I have been unable, so far, to discover any evidence that any other school was ever taught in the upper district after the six months’ term of Col. Keeler. The district had an existence from perhaps 1854 to April, 1856, when it was merged again into No. 1.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS.

During the early part of 1855, two different private schools were advertised.

February 10, 1855, a Mrs. Hill advertises “A Seminary for Young Ladies” to open March 24th. She taught at least two terms on the south-east corner of Washington and Third streets. She was an English lady. Taught dancing as an accomplishment; also music, painting and drawing. She removed to San Francisco.

March 31, 1855, a Miss S. B. Sweet, of Syracuse, N. Y., advertises a “Select School” in the “lower part of town for small boys and girls.” Refers to A. D. Shelby, Esq., for testimonials. She afterwards married a Mr. Rinehart at Winchester, Or., whither she removed with Mr. Shelby’s family. She and her husband are both dead. Her only child, a daughter, was a member of the family of Dr. J. C. Hawthorne for some years, and has herself been engaged in teaching.

SYLVESTER PENNOYER'S SCHOOL.

July 7, 1855, Messrs. Frazer, Ladd and Norris advertise for a "competent person to take charge of the Public Schools in District No. 1." A young lawyer, Mr. Sylvester Pennoyer, had lately arrived in Portland. He had gone from New York to Puget Sound to practice law. Becoming discouraged with the prospects, he sold his library and started for home. He saw the advertisement and at once sought an interview with Mr. Frazer. The wages offered, \$100 per month, Mr. Pennoyer thought too small, and demanded \$125. This bit of presumption has ever since been a source of much wonder to Mr. Pennoyer. In New York State, he had been satisfied with \$20 to \$30 per month for his services as a pedagogue. But Mr. Frazer meant business, and, evidently fancying the young man (Mr. P. was 24, then), he told him to go ahead. Off to the County School Superintendent's office he went. W. F. Boyakin, lately elected to succeed Mr. Limerick, was a Baptist minister, living on the north-east corner of Yamhill and Second streets. Here Mr. Pennoyer found the School Superintendent at the wash-tub. Making known his errand, Mr. Boyakin rolled down his sleeves and proceeded to put Mr. Pennoyer through the "regulation" quiz in the various branches. He gave him a certificate and an "extra endorsement."

Mr. Pennoyer taught six months in the "School House." The first Sunday Mr. Pennoyer spent in Portland, he repaired to church in his best "bib and tucker." Among other articles of apparel, he was, as he supposed, the fortunate possessor of a "swallow tailed" coat which was quite fashionable "at home." He was quite abashed to find that either he was far ahead or far behind the *elite* of Portland as not another "swallow tail" was to be seen. He made no inquiries, but took the first opportunity to present his coat to a very excellent farmer "just out from town aways." This farmer is now one of our substantial men, and, by the way, that "swallow tail" did respectable duty for several years afterward.

For over two years after the close of Mr. Pennoyer's school, no record has been found that gives any definite information concerning the public schools as to the disposition of the pupils or the funds. From the best information obtainable, it is believed by many that, at some meeting not recorded, it was agreed to discontinue the schools, as a charge on the district, so that the funds might accumulate towards the erection of a school building. This seems hardly probable, however, as subsequent transactions show that no funds were on hand when the new building was projected. In any case, no one seems to have been directly employed by any board to teach school until school was opened May 17, 1858, in the new Central School.

DISTRICT NO. 1 ORGANIZED.

Col. J. M. Keeler seeing the futility of trying to maintain two separate organizations within the city limits, was quite active in creating a sentiment in favor of a consolidation of the two districts. He had taught a school in No. 2 and subsequently taught two or more terms in the "School House." At all the preliminary meetings held to settle the terms of consolidation, and after the union was effected he was no less zealous. He planned the old Central Building.

On the petition of citizens of District No. 2, the Superintendent, W. F. Boyakin, issued a proclamation, March 31, 1856, consolidating Nos. 1 and 2—with a proviso that each district should pay its own liabilities contracted to date. A joint meeting of both districts was called for Wednesday evening, April 16, 1856, at the School House. At this meeting, Thomas Frazer was chosen Chairman and J. M. Keeler, Secretary; Wm. Weatherford, Josiah Failing and Alexander Campbell were elected a Board of Directors, and Thos. J. Holmes, clerk. These persons were sworn into office by Anthony L. Davis.

Mr. Campbell resigned August 4, 1856, and John H. Couch was elected to fill the vacancy.

For a complete record of directors and clerks to the present time, reference is made to a table appended to this sketch.

The first business of importance before the new district was the erection of a suitable school building.

At an adjourned meeting of the taxpayers May 12, 1856, the Board reported a building plan and estimated the cost for enclosing the building at \$4,500. A long discussion ensued. Benj. Stark opposed—suggesting that, as the county would soon be called on to erect a *jail*, this school tax would prove burdensome. Col. J. M. Keeler replied that the erection of a *school house* should have the first consideration, and suggested that if the school interests were more carefully fostered, a jail would prove indeed a burden, because of its uselessness in the community. Mr. Stark finally voted for the tax. A committee consisting of J. Failing, H. W. Davis, Wm. Beck, S. Coffin and A. M. Starr were appointed to ascertain the cost of different sites for school grounds. May 26th, this committee reported in favor of the "James Fields' block" No. 179—cost \$1,000. Voted to purchase 63 to 45. May 29th, a tax of \$4,000 for site and building purposes was voted 39 to 13. August 7th, Board advertised for bids. August 16th, contract awarded E. M. Burton & R. D. Carson for \$2,993. They were to enclose the building, lay floors, etc. April 24, 1857, a tax of \$4,000 was voted to complete the building. Contracts for painting and plastering were let during the summer of 1857. October 1, 1857, propositions to teach the school were received from J. M. Keeler and George A. Ellidge and laid on the table. November 28, 1857, Col. King presented a bill for \$120 rental of his "School House" from March 1853, when Mr. Outhouse closed, until the spring of 1855, when Mr. Limerick was the occupant. But the Board were evidently satisfied as to the validity of the bill, for the Colonel got his rent.

CENTRAL SCHOOL.

Monday, May 17, 1858, the first school in the Central building was opened. L. L. Terwilliger, Principal, with two assistants, Mrs. Mary J. Hensill and Owen Connelly.

From the records extant, I find that up to July 23, 1853, two hundred and eighty different pupils had been enrolled. The names of pupils, parents and residences are left on record. Of all the residences noted, but two were west of Seventh street, viz., those of F. M. Warren and Wm. M. King, which are noted "Park street." Most of the residences were on "First," "Second," "Third" or "Fourth" streets, with quite a number in "Couch Addition."

Mr. Terwilliger was Principal of the Central for two and a quarter years. August, 1860, Rev. George C. Chandler, one year; July 22, 1861, G. F. Boynton, nine months; April 30, 1862, O. S. Frambes, one year; March 23, 1863, John McBride, nine months;

January 11, 1864, E. P. Beebe, one and a half years; August, 1865, O. S. Frambes, three years; September, 1868, J. W. Johnson, three-quarters of a year (transferred to High School April 26, 1869); April, 1869, R. K. Warren, two and a quarter years; September, 1871, J. M. Williamson, three years; September, 1874, A. J. Anderson, two years; September, 1876, T. H. Crawford, one year; September, 1877, S. W. King, three years; September, 1880, C. W. Roby, five years.

A costly addition was made to the Central School during the years 1872-73. Nothing definite can be ascertained from the books as to the cost. Even the amount of the lowest bid, made by Mr. James Cummings, is omitted in the minutes of the Board. It has been approximately ascertained that the whole cost of that year's expenses on the Central was simply "over \$30,000." The original building cost about \$6,000.

CENTRAL SCHOOL SOLD.

At a meeting of taxpayers, Tuesday, Nov. 21, 1882, the Board of School Directors were, on the motion of D. P. Thompson, authorized to sell Block 179, on which the Central School building stood, for the sum of \$100,000; to buy not less than a whole block at some point farther west and erect thereon a suitable and commodious school building; to dispose of the Central School building in case a sale of block 179 should be effected.

No offer to purchase at the price named being received, the sale was not made.

Feb. 8, 1883, the Board of Directors received a communication from C. H. Prescott, Vice President of the Northern Pacific Terminal Company, offering the School District the sum of \$75,000—Cash—for Block 179—giving the District permission to remove the school building and guaranteeing on the part of his company to build a hotel on the block within a reasonable time.

Under a late act of the Legislature, the Board were fully empowered to sell the Block—but they deemed the matter of such grave importance, that a meeting of the Taxpayers was called to discuss the new proposition. Mr. D. P. Thompson presented a series of resolutions which gave the consent of the Taxpayers to the sale and requested the Board to effect the same on the terms offered by Mr. Prescott. The resolutions were adopted.

Feb. 29, 1883, the Board executed a deed to Block 179, and received therefore the sum of \$75,000 cash.

REMOVAL OF THE BUILDING.

P. A. Marquam, Esq., made two offers to the Board, looking to the removal of the school building—(1) to furnish, free of charge, ground on the block immediately north of Block 179, to which the District might remove the building, use the same for school purposes until a new building could be built, and then remove the building or dispose of the same at their pleasure; (2) to remove the building at his own expense for the building, give the district free use of the same until a new building could be provided.

The second proposition was accepted. During the months of March and April, the removal was effected—the school being adjourned in the meantime.

This building was occupied after its removal until the close of the school year, July 3, 1885.

The school was transferred to the Park School building in Sept. 1885.

PARK SCHOOL.

At the annual meeting of the Taxpayers, held April 8, 1878—a committee consisting of Messrs. Charles Hodge, Lloyd Brooks and Frank Dekum were appointed to inquire into the wants of the district as to additional accommodations, the purchase of grounds and the building of another school house.

At an adjourned meeting held April 22, 1878—this committee reported—recommending the purchase of Block 223, known as the Harker Block—bounded by Madison, West Park, Jefferson and Eighth Streets, for the sum of \$12,100.

The report was adopted and the Board were also authorized to borrow \$14,000 and proceed with the erection of a building.

Messrs. Morgan, Ainsworth and Northrup were the Board of Directors. Block 223 was bound at once at the price named. Contracts were let during the summer of 1878, for the erection of a twelve-room, two-story wooden building with basement—all to be completed by Aug. 1, 1879.

F. L. Taylor of Oakland, Cal., furnished the plans. E. M. Burton prepared the specifications and superintended the work. A Mr. Cady built the basement; J. M. Caywood the building above basement. The total cost to date including an additional room in the basement for a High School Laboratory, is \$31,000.

Monday, Sept. 1, 1879, this school building was first occupied by the High School, and eight classes of the Harrison-Street school, which were temporarily accommodated while the new Harrison-Street school building was being erected. The High School was taught here until the close of the school year, 1885.

Wednesday, Sept. 9, 1885, the Park School was opened as a regular Grammar and Primary school, with C. W. Roby as Principal. The new district comprised the old Central and the Park Primary districts.

Oct. 30, 1885, Mr. Roby tendered his resignation to take effect Nov. 17, 1885. Nov. 2, 1885, Frank Rigler was elected to succeed Mr. Roby. Mr. Rigler entered on his duties Nov. 18, 1885, nearly three years since.

PARK PRIMARY.

Sept. 1, 1880, what was known for five years afterwards as the Park Primary was organized on the first floor of this building and placed under the direct care of R. K. Warren, Principal of the High School.

HARRISON-STREET SCHOOL.

As early as September 9, 1884, Hon. H. W. Corbett moved that the Directors, Messrs. Failing, McCormick and Holmes, prepare plans for a building either in the upper or lower part of the city.

The Board, on this same day, accepted a proposition from Hon. Lansing Stout to prosecute the claim of the district to lot 3, in block 29, the site of the “old School House.” He was to receive a fee of \$500, contingent on his obtaining a good title. The suit was unsuccessful. The north half of block 134, south side of Mill street, between Second and Third streets, a free gift by Mr. Stephen Coffin, for public school purposes, was

exchanged in January, 1865, for the north half of block 160 on Harrison street, between Fifth and Sixth streets.

March 23, 1865, A. B. Hallock was employed to prepare plans for Harrison-street school building and to superintend the erection of the same. From the record of bills paid, it appears that W. S. Harn was the principal contractor. Total paid \$9,941.

January 20, 1866, the application of R. K. Warren as teacher was accepted, and on Monday, January 22, 1866, the first school was convened in the Harrison street district, with R. K. Warren as Principal and Miss M. N. Tower, Miss V. P. Stephens and Miss M. Kelly assistants.

For the quarter ending April 13, 1866, there were enrolled in this school 162 boys, 124 girls; total, 286.

R. K. Warren was Principal one and a half years, from January, 1866; September, 1867, J. P. Garlick, one year; September, 1868, R. K. Warren, three-quarters of a year (at organization of High School he was transferred to the Central); April 26, 1869, I. W. Pratt, nineteen and a quarter years.

July 8, 1871, Messrs. Chapman, Dolph and Dennison, Directors, let a contract for an extension to Harrison street building to Thomas Stephens for \$4,995. May 30, 1877, Messrs. Ladd, Ainsworth and Morgan, Directors, let a contract to Collins & Mayo for \$5,840, to build two extensions to this building. Total cost of the building, simply the original bids, \$20,777. This building was destroyed by fire Thursday morning, May 29, 1879. Insurance on building and furniture, \$7,000.

In July, 1879—by authority of the Taxpayers given at a special meeting June 11, 1879—the School Board—Messrs. Morgan, Northup and Wadhams—contracted with J. E. Mayo, for \$14,800 for the building proper. C. D. Harvey contracted to heat the building with hot water for \$1,800. Including painting, black-boards and the entire reheating a year later—owing to a failure of the first plan—the total cost of the new building reached the sum of \$21,800. E. M. Burton was the architect and superintendent.

Tuesday, September 6, 1887—the day prior to the opening of the fall term—this new building was partially destroyed by fire. Insurance amounting to \$12,261.26 was received by the Board.

Contracts were awarded September 30, 1887, for rebuilding, to Walker Bros., \$11,901; to J. F. Shea for heating, \$1,590. Otto Kleeman was employed as architect and Ira Goodnough as superintendent. Total cost when completed, \$24,688. The new structure was occupied, Tuesday, January 3, 1888. During the rebuilding, the school occupied rented rooms in various places—besides one room in Failing School and one in the High School.

NORTH SCHOOL.

January 22, 1865, Josiah Failing was instructed to confer with Messrs. Couch and Flanders relative to purchasing school property.

May 22, 186, the Directors, Messrs. Failing, Ladd and Shattuck, report the crowded condition of the schools, and recommend the purchase of more ground and the erection of another building.

Dr. R. Glisan made, in writing, several separate propositions to sell the district a block for school use. His offer of block 80, west side of North Tenth, between C and D streets, Couch Addition, for \$4,400, was accepted. The Board paid \$152.90 interest on an unpaid balance on this block.

During the summer of 1867, Messrs. Goodnough & Clark erected a seven room building on this block. Total amount reported by the clerk as paid on this building, was \$12,816.55.

Monday, February 10, 1868, school was opened in the North building, with G. S. Pershin as Principal, Misses E. J. Way, A. S. Northrup and Carrie L. Polk assistants. First quarter, there were enrolled—boys, 116, girls, 100; total, 216.

G. S. Pershin was Principal for two and a half years; August, 1870, T. H. Crawford, two years; September, 1872, S. W. King, one year; September, 1873, W. W. Freeman, three years; September, 1876, R. K. Warren, one year; September, 1877, E. E. Chapman, one year; September, 1878, Miss Ella C. Sabin, ten years.

May 30, 1877, Messrs. Ladd, Ainsworth and Morgan, Directors, awarded a contract to Wm. Braden to add two wings to this building for \$4,121.

Total cost of North School, original bids, \$16,937.55.

June 8, 1888, a contract was awarded to Messrs. Davey and Stewart for \$8,419, for the erection of a two-story four room wooden building on the N.W. corner of the North School block. The two lower rooms only are to be completed under this contract. Williams and Smith architects. The work is to be done September 5, 1888.

HIGH SCHOOL.

This department of our school system was instituted in pursuance of a resolution passed unanimously by the Board, Messrs. Wadhams, Lovejoy and Shattuck, April 14, 1869. It was formally opened in the North building, Monday, April 26, 1869, with J. W. Johnson as Principal and Miss M. N. Tower (Mrs. F. K. Arnold) as assistant.

During the Christmas holidays, 1873, the High School department was transferred to the second story, north wing of new Central, and October 10, 1874, it was moved to the lower floor of the new addition. September, 1879, the school was moved to the second floor of Park School. September 9, 1885, the school reached its *final home* in the High School building, erected in 1883-1885 on block 311—bounded by Alder, Twelfth, Morrison and Lowndale streets.

This building was begun in 1883, under Messrs. Wilson, Wadhams, Steel, Wasserman and Versteeg. It was completed in 1885, under Messrs. Versteeg, Wasserman, Wilson, Dodd, and Thompson. Wm. Stokes was the architect and Ira Goodnough superintendent of the construction. The principal contractors were Canuto and Zaniello, foundation; Mann and Seed, brick work; C. R. DeBurgh, carpenter work; John Maliff, plastering and cementing; John Donnerberg, heating and plumbing; O'Leary and Doyle, painting; Whittier and Fuller, glazing; Oregon Artificial Stone Co., stone work. For a more complete description of this building, see the Twelfth Report, 1885.

The block was bought of Mrs. S. G. Reed, Feb. 20, 1883—for \$30,000. Including the seating of the Assembly Hall--\$1,368 of which was paid by the district—the total cost to the district, of the High School building has been \$128,300. There are unsettled claims against the building which are now being heard in the civil courts.

J. W. Johnson was the first Principal—1869-1876—seven and a quarter years. September, 1876—A. J. Anderson, one year. September, 1877, R. K. Warren, eleven years.

COLORED SCHOOL.

At the annual meeting, April 1, 1867, Dr. G. H. Atkinson moved that a separate school be opened for colored children and that the Directors be empowered to rent rooms, etc., provided the expense of this school, for tuition, shall not exceed \$800 per annum. This school was opened in September, 1867, on the north-east corner of Columbia and Fourth streets; Mrs. Abbie J. Young, teacher. The first quarter shows twenty-one boys and five girls enrolled. Miss Anna S. Northrup succeeds Mrs. Young in February, 1869, and taught one and a half years; September, 1870, T. L. Dugger, one year. At the annual meeting, April, 1871, it was voted to close this school at the end of the school year. Since then, colored children have been admitted to all the schools.

NIGHT SCHOOL.

October 30, 1873, Messrs. Giltner and Glenn present, a resolution was passed by the Board to open a night school in the Central building, beginning on the first Monday in November following. The school was to be open from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. This school was to continue until the following April, Walter Johnson was employed as teacher. In a report of S. W. King, City Superintendent, December 5, 1873, thirty-five pupils are reported as attending this school. In a report of T. L. Eliot, March 14, 1874, he mentions having visited the evening school December 1st and January 5th and says that the school “seems to have done a good work for a class of young men in this city, and should be sustained part of every year.” This single session of four months was closed April 1, 1874. Mr. Johnson received \$200 for his services. January 2, 1884, an evening school was opened in the Watson school building, with T. H. Prince as teacher. Mr. Prince received \$2.50 per night for twenty nights. Boys only were admitted. Between 30 and 40 were enrolled.

“BLOCK 26.”

At the annual meeting, April, 1871, the Board were instructed to inquire as to the cost and advisability of purchasing more ground for school purposes. May 1, J. N. Dolph, Chairman, reported in favor of purchasing block 26 in Caruthers' Addition. On motion of W. S. Ladd, the Directors were authorized to make the purchase at \$5,500. May 5, 1871, a warrant for that sum was ordered drawn in favor of Oatman & Hackney. The Board then consisted of Messrs. Dolph, Dennison and Chapman. In September, 1881, owing to the crowded condition of the Harrison-street school, the Board, Messrs. Wadhams, Wilson and Hodge—contracted with Mayo and Crandall for a one story, one room, wooden building to be erected on block 26. Total cost \$1,011. The order for the building was made on a Friday. A week from the following Monday it was occupied by a class with Mrs. Julia Simpson as teacher. In 1882, the block, including the buildings on it, was sold to James W. Cook for \$7,750.

COUCH AND FAILING SCHOOLS.

The annual meeting of Taxpayers held March 6, 1882, authorized the Board, Messrs. Wilson, Hodge and Wadhams—to purchase two blocks for school purposes—

one in the northern and one in the southern portion of the city and erect on each a school building.

The Board bought block 159—Couch Addition, of S. G. Skidmore and Geo. W. Hoyt for \$8,250, and block 55—Caruthers' Addition, of John A. Sedlack for \$10,000. Justus Krumbein was employed as architect. The plans and specifications for each building were exactly the same. But six rooms—the upper floor—in each were to be completed under first contracts. April 24, 1882—contracts for both buildings were awarded to Shorno and Davidson—Couch, \$27,398—Failing, \$27,698. The Failing was completed in 1883. Total cost including heating—\$38,800. The Couch was completed in 1884. Total cost including heating—\$38,000. Messrs. Wm. Gardner & Co. furnished the heating apparatus for \$2,900 each, complete. For the details of these buildings, see Annual Reports of 1882 and 1883.

COUCH SCHOOL.

This school was organized and opened August 30, 1882, with four teachers—Miss Georgia L. Parker, Principal. Two classes occupied Plymouth chapel—E and N. 12th— and two classes the M. E. German church, D and N. 8th, until Tuesday, January 2, 1883—when the Couch school building was ready for use.

Miss Parker was Principal for one year. September, 1882—Justus Burnham Principal—five years.

FAILING SCHOOL.

This school was organized and ready for work August 30, 1882, with six teachers—Miss Anna M. Burnham as Principal. The building was not ready for use until Monday, October 9, 1882, at which time the school was duly opened. Miss A. M. Burnham, Principal—six years.

MACADAMIZED ROAD or STEPHENS' SCHOOL.

At the annual meeting, April, 1868, Thomas Stephens, James Terwilliger and others asked for a school house on the Macadamized road in the southern part of the district. A resolution was passed authorizing the Directors, Messrs. Lovejoy, Glisan and Dennison, to erect said school building at a cost not to exceed \$1,600 provided an acre of ground could be had free. This building was erected during the summer of 1868.

The first school in that district was probably taught by Miss Selina Barker (Mrs. S. M. Barr) in the spring of 1868—before the building of the present structure. Col. John H. Dickinson, now of San Francisco, taught the first school in the new building in the fall of 1868. His school lasted but two months owing to the small attendance, and Mr. Dickinson's desire to go to California.

In April 1869, Miss Janette Morrison began and completed a three months' school. By order of the Directors, no school was taught there during the fall term. December 6, 1869, W. S. Chapman began and completed a six months' term. The records next show that Martin Dustin taught during the winter of 1870-71 and up to June, 1871. S. F. Bennett taught during the month of June, 1871. The next mention made is of a three months school in the summer of 1871, when Miss Julia Sutton was employed. October 26, 1871, E. C. Clarke began a term of fourteen weeks. September, 1872,

Charles J. Mulkey was employed. He taught six months; whether longer, at that time, does not appear. He, however, began a term of six months July 1, 1873.

May 30, 1874, at a meeting of the Board, Messrs. Glenn, Ainsworth and Morgan, T. L. Eliot, County School Superintendent, was present and announced that in answer to a petition of the Taxpayers of the district, he had set apart, as a separate district, all that portion of No. 1 lying south of the city limits, with the condition that at least three months more of school should be conducted at the expense of No. 1. The Board complied with the condition and employed Miss Mary Pollock at \$50 per month to teach said school, closing August 31, 1874.

WATSON SCHOOL.

July 14, 1874, on the recommendation of the County School Superintendent, all that part of district No. 1 lying north of P street and east of the Balch claim, was set off and made into district No. 27, commonly known as the Watson School District. This school was regularly conducted by a separate Board of Directors, until January 19, 1883, when, by an act of the Legislature, it became again a part of School District No. 1. At that time, the school was taught by T. H. Prince and Miss Annie O. Gantenbein. At the close of the year 1883, the school was closed, and merged into the Couch School.

LOWNSDALE PRIMARY.

In September, 1848, Daniel H. Lownsdale bought the entire interest of F. W. Pettygrove in 640 acres of land on which the central portion of the city now stands. At that time, but sixteen blocks had been laid off. In the spring of 1849, Mr. Lownsdale disposed of one-half of his interest in the land to Stephen Coffin, and they, in turn, sold a certain portion of the claim to W. W. Chapman in December of the same year. These three then made an extensive plat for the future city. On this plat, as appears from the Graham map published by S. J. McCormick in 1859, there were three half blocks dedicated to "district school," viz. N $\frac{1}{2}$ of block 134 on Mill, between Second and Third streets; N $\frac{1}{2}$ of block 243 on Clay, between Eighth and Ninth streets; and the N $\frac{1}{2}$ of block 253 on Washington, between Eighth and Ninth streets. For some good reason, no doubt, when the people sought to provide a school building in 1856, as appears elsewhere in this sketch, neither of these half blocks was utilized. They were not then centrally located; they were too far back in the fir forests.

In 1864, a move was made to build a new school building, and the half block on Mill street was selected. This was within the Coffin claim. For some cause, Mr. Coffin gave in exchange, the N $\frac{1}{2}$ of block 160 on Harrison street between Fifth and Sixth streets. This was done in January, 1865. During that summer the first Harrison-street school building was erected. In consideration of Mr. Lownsdale's forethought and interest manifested in thus assisting to provide for the public school, and in view of the location of the High school building in which it had been determined to organize a distinct Primary school, the Board of Directors designated the said school as the "Lownsdale Primary School."

When opportunities shall occur to honor the names of Stephen Coffin and W. W. Chapman, by designating schools by their names, it should be done. The Harrison-street school should have borne the name of Stephen Coffin, as a token of the appreciation of

his gift. I have not been able to obtain any satisfactory reasons why the other two half blocks were not accepted by the district. They were still set apart as "District School" blocks in 1859; and in 1864, the one on Mill street was used. It must be presumed that after holding them for the purpose named in the dedication, from 1849 to 1864, or later, and the district not having made any use of them, the original owners, or their heirs, saw fit to dispose of them for their own use.

AINSWORTH SCHOOL.

In September, 1886, a petition was presented to the Board from the citizens living on "Portland Heights"—asking for a school in that part of the district. A census was taken which showed that there were nearly one hundred persons of school age in that quarter of the city. After some deliberation, the Board decided to open a Primary school only. A small one story wooden building which had served for a dwelling, was rented and remodeled so as to fit it for school purposes. It stood on the S. W. corner of Elm and Fifteenth streets. The school was named the Ainsworth, in honor of Capt. J. C. Ainsworth, a former Director, 1873-1879.

Monday, October 18, 1886, the school was opened with Miss Annie E. Knox in charge. In September, 1887, Miss Julia Cowperthwaite was elected teacher and held the position for the year. The attendance for the two year has been about twenty.

SCHOOL PROPERTY.

The district now owns five full blocks, one half block and one quarter block. The original cost of the five blocks and the Watson quarter block was \$65,450. The cost of the seven buildings as they now stand was \$277,988; adding the cost of the new building, now in course of erection on the North school block--\$8,419, the aggregate for buildings reaches the sum of \$286,407. Grant total for Real Estate and buildings--\$351,857.

CONCLUSION.

This sketch covers a period of forty-one years. That it is yet imperfect I have no doubt; but the imperfections now are mainly those of omissions because of the impossibility to obtain reliable information. The school records prior to 1856 are either lost or stored in forgotten garrets or cellars. The books and papers now on file in the clerk's office relating to the transactions of the Board up to about 1873 are exceedingly perplexing and unsatisfactory.

When a more complete history of Portland's public schools shall be written, the names of Thornton, Atkinson, Lyman, Keeler, Failing, Frazer, and a score of others, who ere long will be mentioned as "pioneers," will have a more prominent place. Even to that noble defender of free schools, Horace Mann, are our city schools deeply indebted. When the bill for our territorial organization was in peril on account of the added section of land for school purposes, Horace Mann came promptly to Mr. Thornton's aid and supported the measure heartily, and "before his logic and eloquence all serious opposition gave way."

To this sketch in appended, in tabular form, a complete list of directors and clerks who have served, in their respective capacities, since the organization of the district in 1856.

OFFICERS—DIRECTORS AND CLERKS. 1856-1888.

Year, beginning April,	MEMBERS OF THE BOARD			
1856-1857	Wm. Weatherford,	Josiah Failing,	Alexander Campbell.	.....
1857-1858	“	“	John H. Couch.	.....
1858-1859	J. D. Holman,	“	E. D. Shattuck.	.....
1859-1860	“	“	“	.....
1860-1861	“	“	“	.....
1861-1862	“	“	“	.....
1862-1863	Wm. Weatherford,	T. J. Holmes,	A. C. R. Shaw.	.....
1863-1864	S. J. McCormick,	“	Wm. M. King.	.....
1864-1865	“	“	Josiah Failing.	.....
1865-1866	W. S. Ladd,	“	“	.....
1866-1867	“	E. D. Shattuck,	“	.....
1867-1868	“	“	“	.....
1868-1869	A. L. Lovejoy,	R. Glisan,	A. P. Dennison.	.....
1869-1870	“	E. D. Shattuck,	Wm. Wadhams.	.....
1870-1871	“	“	J. N. Dolph.	.....
1871-1872	J. A. Chapman,	A. P. Dennison,	“	.....
1872-1873	J. S. Giltner,	J. G. Glenn,	“	.....
1873-1874	“	“	J. C. Ainsworth.	.....
1874-1875	A. H. Morgan,	“	“	.....
1875-1876	“	W. S. Ladd,	“	.....
1876-1877	“	“	“	.....
1877-1878	“	“	“	.....
1878-1879	“	H. H. Northrup,	“	.....
BEGINNING IN MARCH				
1879-1880	“	“	Wm. Wadhams.	.....
1880-1881	John Wilson,	“	“	.....
1881-1882	“	Charles Hodge,	“	.....
1882-1883	“	“	“	.....
1883-1884	“	James Steel,	“	N. Versteeg, P. Wasserman.
1884-1885	“	C. H. Dodd,	“	“ “
1885-1886	“	“	D. P. Thompson,	“ “
1886-1887	“	“	“	Geo. H. Durham, “
1887-1888	“	“	“	“ Wm. M. Ladd.
1888-1889	L. Therkelson,	“	“	“ “

OFFICERS—DIRECTORS AND CLERKS. 1856-1888.

Year, beginning April,	CLERKS
1856-1857	Thomas J. Holmes.
1857-1858	"
1858-1859	J. M. Breck.
1859-1860	"
1860-1861	J. F. McCoy.
1861-1862	William Grooms.
1862-1863	L. M. Parrish.
1863-1864	O. Risley.
1864-1865	L. M. Parrish.
1865-1866	"
1866-1867	"
1867-1868	"
1868-1869	J. F. McCoy.
1869-1870	E. Quackenbush.
1870-1871	R. Weeks.
1871-1872	R. J. Ladd.
1872-1873	"
1873-1874	"
1874-1875	J. D. Holman.
1875-1876	G. W. Murray.
1876-1877	"
1877-1878	"
1878-1879	D. W. Williams.
BEGINNING IN MARCH	"
1879-1880	"
1880-1881	"
1881-1882	"
1882-1883	Wm. Church, Jr.
1883-1884	"
1884-1885	"
1885-1886	T. T. Struble
1886-1887	"
1887-1888	Fred. A. Daly.
1888-1889	H. S. Allen.