

DISTRICT SCHOOL #10

The first District #10 school was in a log cabin that no longer exists on a road that also no longer exists. The road was Foley Road, which ran between Turk Hill and Moseley Roads in the vicinity of Casa Larga Vineyards. The log cabin schoolhouse was located down Foley Road to the west “in the hollow beyond the woods.” In the early 1850’s, when a new school house was built on Turk Hill Road at the corner of Foley Road on land donated by Anson Howard, the old building was moved to a nearby farm and used for storage.



School #10 first appears in the record in 1814 when the district was partly in Victor and partly in Perinton. By 1831, District #10 was wholly within the town limits, having been created from parts of Districts #3 and #1. Between the 1830’s and the 1850’s, the boundaries of many of the early districts were modified to accommodate population growth and shift, or as a result of petitions by residents who wanted their children to attend a more convenient school. Throughout those years, the school served a student population of between 40 and 50 students and was apportioned public money in amounts ranging from \$32.16 to \$68.98. The school library, with an annual budget of between \$2 and \$8, and used by both the students and their families, was quite extensive for the times, including such titles as *The History of Greece*, *Plutarch’s Lives*, *The Elephant as He Exists in the Wild State*, and *The Pursuit of Knowledge*.

During the last decades of the 19th century and into the early decades of the 20th, the school usually served a population of about 25 students, ranging in age from 6 to 14 in grades 1 through 8. Courses included the obligatory reading, writing, and arithmetic, as well as English, spelling, physiology, geography, drawing, nature study, and agriculture. Instruction was often geared to individual students, many of whom missed significant time due to family and farm needs. In 1920, for example, of 31 school-aged residents, 23 were registered, with an average daily attendance of only 14. In the small one-room schoolhouse, however, they were able to make up lost work and progress at their own speed.

Certain family names occur frequently on the old rosters. Among them are Thayer, Bumpus, Copeland, Wood, Moseley, Baker, and Bulman. Edward Copeland, a Civil War veteran, whose sons Henry and Carl attended the school, taught there in 1877.

The School Commissioner’s Reports of 1905 and 1906 show a school in generally good condition and in compliance with the standards and the statutes. Teachers Clara Gardner and Laura Carney were well-rated and paid \$36.00 per month. The library contained 125 and 138 volumes respectively. In 1906, the only criticism was the need for a globe, a new dictionary, and a state map. A letter to the Commissioner was written requesting that the school be allowed to wait until the following year to comply since there was no money to purchase the items without levying a new tax. Unfortunately there is no information on the outcome.

The school population steadily dwindled over the next several decades. In addition to fewer students overall, some chose to attend the larger village schools. In 1942-43, teacher Virginia Jordan had eight students, five boys and three girls aged 5 to 14, all from the Rodas, Bulman, and Smith families. At the end of that school year, the decision was made to close the school because there were so few students in attendance.

In 1951, after the Fairport schools were centralized, #10 school was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Villere, who converted the school into a private residence, making a dining room from the

woodshed, a kitchen from the coal bin, and a porch from the teacher's garage. Their daughter Annabelle continued the school connection as librarian at her alma mater, Fairport High School, for a number of years.

The old schoolhouse remains a private residence today.