

The Life and Times of a Summit One Room Schoolhouse

The following is derived from a minutes book that is currently in the possession of Arthur Warner, a past resident of Summit. The book, only 7 ½ “by 6 ½ “in size, was one of many books unrelated to each other, that Art bought as a box-lot at an auction for \$17.50.

This school educated scholars in Summit/Charlotteville and Jefferson for 40 years from 1846-1886. It had three different district numbers in its relatively short-lived life. It was considered a joint-school because students and tax monies came from two different town. Most of the annual meeting minutes are fairly cut and dry. They would elect a chairman, a collector, clerk, one to three trustees, a librarian and adjourn until next year.

I will be listing some of the more interesting meeting minutes so as to give the school a personality. Some of the minutes were very trick to read. As an example, one of the authors letter “s” sometimes looks like (or maybe it is) a “z, j or g”. I have never seen this before, in any other 150+ year old writings. I had to read half way through the 86 page book to find the one and only reference to the common name for the school, ARABIA.

The first entry, verbatim: Summit **March the 5th, 1846**

Philip Warner (or Worner) clerk District Clerk for the enzuing year District No. 22 in Summit and Jefferson. Peter H. Vanburen chosen trustee in District No 22 for three years. Abraham H. Vanburen chosen trustee in District No 22 for two years. Thomas H. Turk chosen trustee in District No 22 for one year. William H. Blacke chozen collector in District No 22 for the ensuing year. Publick Money voted two thirds to be applied to the winter School.

Summit Oct the 26, 1847

At a special meeting of School District number four in the town of Summit held pursuant to appointment and public notice at the School house in said district Henry Spore was chosen chareman and Thomas H. Turk was present as District clerk. Resolved by a majority of the votes present that Abraham Brazee bee trustee for three years Thomas H Turk district clerk and Henry Spore Colector and Jeremiah Tinklepaugh bee Lybraryan for the Present year our next annual meeting bee the first Tuesday in Oct next.

(they did not use punctuation or capital letters very often as you can see)

Summit October the six 1849

At an annual meeting of school district number four in the town of Summit held pursuant to appointment and public notice at the Schooll house in said district Abram Brazee was chosen chareman and Thomas H Turk was present as district clerk Resolved by a majority of the Votes present that Henry Spore bee Trustee for three years and Thomas H Turk bee district clerk and Jonhenry Woodbeck bee Lybraryan and William Blake bee collector for the present year And our next Annual meeting bee thee first Tuesday in October next it is Voted that every inhabiten that send children to Scholl shall bring a half a cord of wood for each Scholler Henry Turk 13 William Blake 11 Abram H Vanburen 4 Jeremiah tinklepaugh 12 Jonhenry Woodbeck 7 William Vanwagoner 7 Marten H Vanburen 13 Abram brazee 6 William Johnson 2 John H Vanburen 1 Thomas H Turk 3

(I believe the number following the name of an inhabitant was the amount of children that they sent to school. If this is the case, the total number of children was 79. All of the names middle initials appear to be an "H", I find this hard to believe, but that's what it looks like.)

This one teacher was listed in the back of the book dated **October 6 1846**

In district number four in Summit and Jefferson Jemima Lamont taught school the draw money that was payed to her from Jefferson \$1.43 and that received from Summit \$3.56

Thomas H Turk dis clerk

Summit January the 15th 1850

At a special Meeting of School district number four in the town of Summit held pursuant to appointment and public notice at the school house in our district Peter H Vanburen was chosen chareman and Thomas H Turk was present as District Clerk it was voted that we should cary on this meeting this evening it was voted that we shal have five months schoolen for the present year it was voted that thirteen dollars and fifty six cents should bee rased in the district for the support for the present year it was voted that each inhabiten shal fech wood acorden to the number of children sent to school

Summit October the 2 1855 annual meeting

Henry Vanburen chareman, Thomas H Turk district clerk, James Vanburen trustee, Henry Vanburen lybaryan, Garet Vanwagoner collector.

It was voted that all the children that woulden obey the teacher or thare provence they shal leav the school it was voted that our school begin the first Monday in November next and the wood bee got the last Saturday of october it was voted the trustees get the wood that aint got by the time for six shillen a cord. (I will now be skipping the election of officers, and just write the updates or changes in policy)

Oct. the 12, 1858

Thomas H Turk district clerk, Jorg Vanburen chareman, Marten B Vanburen Lybraryan Voted that we have three trustees in sted of one and the two old trustees remain in action for the length they war elected. Jacob Tinklepaugh is to git the wood during the winter and deliver it to the school house for fifty cents a cord if not got by the district

December 10 1863 Special Meeting

It was decided that the dist should have 6 cord of wood 3 cords of Boddy Maple Wood and 2 ½ of Birch or Beach ½ cord dry Spruce 2 cords to be delivered by 13th of December 1863 to be measured by Jeremiah Vanburen 4 cord to be delivered by the 25th of said month it was voted that the wood should be used for no other purpose than day school it was bid off by Ambros Oliver at 72 cents per cord 18 inches in length.

William (X his mark) Vanwagoner chareman William W Johnson dist clerk

March 22d 1866 Special Meeting

for the purpose of building a school house Abandoned this special meeting until March the 28 1866 to be held at the school house in Summit Dist No four at 7 o clock in the afternoon

Jeremiah (X his mark) Tinklepaugh

March 18th 1866 Special School Meeting for the purpose of voting for a new school house.

Ambros Oliver, Thomas Turk, George Vanburen, William W Johnson, Alfred W Johnson and David Vanburen voted for school house. Peter Vanburen, Jeremiah Vanburen, Giles Vanburen, Jeremiah Tinklepaugh vote against the school house

The school house shall not be less than sixteen or more than eighteen feet wide not less than twenty of more than twenty two in length

The school room shall be eight feet in the clear four feet of the building shall be taken for an entry next the road the balance of the building shall be taken for the school room the school house shall be sided with good Spruce or hemlock siding shall be planed and painted in the usual way the building shall be fitted up for school in the usual way of fitting up school houses ready for school it was voted and carried that the school house shall be completed by the first of Oct 1867. William W Johnson dist clerk Ambrose Oliver Charman

This meeting was objected to by Jeremiah Vanburen on the grounds that he was not consulted by the other trustees secondly He was not legally notified at what hour or what place.

September 29 1866

It is hereby ordered by A G Smith School Commissioner of the second commissioner District of Schoharie county that the School District in the town of Summit here to fore known as district No 4 of said town also commonly known as the Arabia dist shall be hereafter known and designated as District No 15 of said town of Summit

By order of A G Smith School Commissioner of Schoharie County

Wm W Johnson Dist Clerk

Oct 9 1866

It was noted that the school house shall be 16 feet wide and twenty two feet long it is voted their shall be six windows two on the sides & two on the rear and a small window over the door it was voted the whole Building be sealed up to the windows it was voted that their shall be window shutters to the windows made of good lumber hung with Buts & hooks to hook them fast it was voted that the trustees supertend the Building of the school house and tel the Lab it must be completed by the 15 of September next 1867 it was voted that the inhabitants shall furnish a portion of the lumber the prosedings of this meeting was approved of Wm W Johnson Dist clerk

March 28 1867 Special Meeting

It was that the building of the new school house bee ajournd till 1868 and bee completed by the 15 of September 1868 The above was approved of by a vote Thomas H Turk clerk Ambrose Oliver Chairman

Dec 14 1867 Special Meeting

It was voted that the vote should be by yeays and nays it was voted that the Schoolhouse shall be 16 feet by 20 feet 9 feet post it was voted that the said house shall be sided up with good spruce siding it was voted that the entry be sealed up with good hemlock inch Boards it was voted that each taxable inhabitant shall furnish lumber according to his tax it was voted that this meeting be adjourned until Jan 4th 1868 Giles Vanburen chairman

Feb 22 1868 Special Meeting held in the new house of Jeremiah Tinklepaugh

Resolved that this Dist accept of the ground where the School home now stands being four rods deep and 3 rods wide as now staked out for a school house site

Wm Williams clerk Ambrose Oliver chairman (a rod is 16.5 feet in length)

February 29th 1868 Special Meeting

It was noted that the logs for repairing the school house be on hand four weeks from the last meeting Thomas H Turk clerk George Vanburen chairman

October 13th 1868 Annual Meeting

Jeremiah Tinklepaugh gets the wood which is five cords at ten shilling per cord It was voted that we build school house in District No 15 it was voted that we build our schoolhouse 18 by 22 feet it was voted that we adjourn the first Saturday in December next Sat six oclock pm

Jery VanBuren Chairman Thomas H Turk Clerk

March the 23 1870 Special Meeting

It was voted that the trustees prosecute Jorg vanburens boys for braken a window out of the schoolhouse Thomas H Turk Clerk Ambrose Oliver chairman

May the 12th 1870 Special meeting

It was resolved that our boundaries in the district and No 3 (this was the Oliver school) run as folowes come at the north East corner of Straats burg Paten No 25 runen westerly to north corner of said lot then southerly to the corner of Peter H Vanburen then south to the corner of Levi and Alexander Snook then southerly by land to the corners of John Jay Snook then run north east to the corner of Thomas H Turk then south by lands to the of Thomas H Turk and James Johnson thence to north west corner of Nathaniel Johnson then north east to the north east corner of Nathaniel Johnson A. Oliver Chairman and Thomas H Turk

July 30th, 1870 Special Meeting

Voted that we rase \$40 dollars by tax on the taxable inhabitants in said district towards builden a new school house approved Ambrose Oliver chairman Thomas H Turk Clerk

March 16th 1871

William Lamont Supervisor of the town of Summit

Sir I herby resign the office of Trustee in District No 15 in the town of Summit County of Schoharie State of New York Charlotteville Ambros Olive

I accept the above resignation of Ambross Oliver as Trustee in School district No 15

William Lamont Super of the town of Summit

March 22 1871 Special Meeting

It was decided that Tobias Dingman be prosecuted to paye his tax

Wm W Johnson Chairman Thomas H Turk Clerk

October the 10 1871

Thomas H Turk gives fifty cents for the remnant of the privy

A. Oliver Chairman Thomas H Turk Clerk

Oct 14th 1873

Wood for the ensuing year: A Oliver 1 cord, W Johnson 1, T Turk 1, George Vanburen ½ , Peter Vanburen 1, Jeremiah Tinklepaugh ½ , Jamiah Vanburen ½

Feb 16 1874 Special Meeting

This meeting is to direct repairs to the school house

Nov 3rd 1877

At an adjourned meeting from the annual meeting it was voted that Sanders spellers be adopted for five years as text book also Wilson Readers be adopted also Thomsans arithmetic also Monteaths Geography also clark gramer A Oliver clerk George VanBuren chairman

Oct 8th 1878 Annual Meeting

The watter pail was sold to Isaac Turk for .10 Martin VanBuren took the .10 received for the watter pail that was sold minutes read and approved

W W Johnson Dist clerk A. Oliver Chairman

Oct 19 1879 Annual Meeting

It was voted that the school house be cleaned good twice a year just before school commences David Tinklepaugh cleans it for .30 cents a year R W Johnson clerk A. Oliver Chairman

Oct 9 1883 Annual Meeting

(after electing all the officers) it was voted that there should be no school for the ensuing year.

December 21st 1883

Special Meeting at the schoolhouse for the purpose to annul Dist No 15 William W Johnson was elected chairman Alfred W Johnson was elected Clerk it was voted by the majority of the taxable inhabitants to annul said District

May 25th 1886

I hereby appoint Seymour Oliver Collector of School District No 15 in the Town of Summit in place of Sanford Woodbeck who refused to serve

Ambros Oliver Trustee of school district No 15 in Summit Receivd and filed by me the 29th day of May 1886 Tomas H Turk district Clerk

These minutes are a good example of school district minutes of the time and even more exciting since they chronicled a school from birth until death in one book.

The school was located on Arabia Rd. which runs from Rte. 10 to Charlotte alley Rd. The #22 was the last district number used by the Summit school districts.

Jan 5th 1887 Town of Summit Supervisors Ledger

School District No 15

To Advertise School Building \$2.00

Jan 13th –Selling School Building \$2.00

Feb. 2nd Paid B.M Handy by order of trustees\$20.00

Feb 8th Ambros Oliver on order of Trustees \$6.50

Total \$30.50

By Sale of School Building \$30.50