

**The History of Woodsville Schools**  
by  
**Mrs. Clara Dickinson Weeks**

In the early days of our country's development, every little hamlet with a handful of settlers had its trading center, or store. It was here that the men of the vicinity, seeking diversion from their daily labors, often met for a game of checkers or chess around the cracker barrel.

At the same time, leading problems of the day were discussed, pro and con. This group became known as the "store court". We might be surprised if we knew the power behind this little group in the election of presidents, governors and town officers in particular. Many a project originated in the "store court". Woodsville may have received its name there!

At any rate, it was at the store of John L. Woods, which is now our American Legion Home, that plans for our first school house were discussed. There were only a dozen or two families in Woodsville at the time. It appears that up to this time (1840) the district had joined with the Bath District #10, across the river and that union schools had been maintained in a schoolhouse on the Ammonoosuc River road, west of what is now (1953) known as the Raymond Hill Farm.

The Woodsville District #13 was established in 1840 and the first meeting of the voters, called by the selectmen, was held on May 20th in that year. At that meeting Russell King, Nathaniel Dickinson, and Jona B. Rowell were chosen a committee to report a plan for a new schoolhouse, the expense of building same and location of site. The meeting adjourned to meet the third week in October. No one attended that meeting so nothing was done, but on November 10th, 1840, at a special meeting, it was voted to have the school three months in the year with a master board and the scholars.

Where the school was actually kept for the next six years is not mentioned in the records. It is logical to suppose that pupils continued to attend school in Bath.

Nothing more was done until the annual meeting of 1847, when it was voted to appoint a committee to see whether we join with Bath District or furnish a place in our own district for a school. At an adjourned meeting on April 9th, it was voted to appoint Russell King to ascertain the legal course about building a schoolhouse in Woodsville District #13.

After several adjourned meetings, all held at the store of John L. Woods, it was voted to build a schoolhouse in Woodsville and Mr. Witherell was appointed committee to fix upon the location and secure title to land. At adjourned meeting held July 3rd, Mr. Witherell reported that he had not been able to secure a piece of ground to set the house on.

At an October meeting, it was voted to raise \$220.00 to defray expenses of building a schoolhouse and location for same and said schoolhouse to be ready by December 1st next. It seems that it was found that all these votes and proceedings had been illegal and it was necessary to begin anew.

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So meetings called on petition of four voters held November 4th, 6th, and 20th, 1847, the matter was taken up in earnest. It was voted to build a new schoolhouse and that messrs Woods, King and Hall be a building committee ... that Mr. D. P. Kimball be a committee to lay out the spot for the house and assess the damage therefore by agreement with John L. Woods and that \$220.00 be raised to build house and furnish location. It was voted to raise \$31.00 in addition, the last mentioned sum to defray expense of stove, stovepipe, and out buildings, making \$251.00 in all.

There were meetings on December 4th and 11th but no business was recorded. In the meantime, Mr. Woods of the building committee proceeded to build the house. This was not the end, however. A meeting called on petition of voters was held at the newly built house on January 17th, 1848, to see if the district will vote to build a schoolhouse or purchase the one already built and take the money therefrom. It was voted at this meeting that Russell King, George Witherell and J. W. Morrison examine the house to see what alterations should be made, if any. The report of the committee made at an adjourned meeting on January 22nd is one of decided interest as indicating the character of Woodsville's first schoolhouse and the methods of transacting school district business in 1848. Report of above mentioned meeting follows: "We the said committee beg leave to report that the seats and writing desks are too narrow and too high and were imperfectly put up and finished, therefore they should be taken down and rebuilt. The window casements are too narrow and new ones should be put up. In many places the lathing is so imperfectly not nailed as should be, from which cause the plastering will soon be off and have to be repaired. There is wanting some finish about the entry door, the lathing in the entry should come off in part and put on more substantially and plastered and sealed up with seasoned boards. The work generally is done in a very slightly and imperfect, shammy manner in the inside of the house. The chimney is not what it should be, therefore a new one is required and some of the lumber was imperfectly seasoned, we think. from appearances. After due examination we are of the opinion it will cost \$21.00 to make these repairs and put up three more seats foe small scholars ... one in front and one on each side of the teacher's desk, which should have been done, we think, when the house was built. We, therefore, recommend that the said Woods make the foregoing alterations or amendments to be done in good faith, with good materials, and in a workmanlike manner, or make \$21.00 reduction from the original contract made with said Hall and King, being \$215.00 that the district raise to pay for said house, otherwise build another house."

An adjournment was had for a week to give Captain Woods time to consider this ultimatum and at the adjourned meeting it was voted to accept the schoolhouse built by J. L. Woods with \$21.00 deducted from the \$215.00.

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Russell King was chosen a committee to make the alterations and amendments recommended at a cost not to exceed \$21.00 and meeting adjourned February 1st.

The schoolhouse was thus completed and was then occupied for District Schools until completion of a new two story house was erected in December of 1872, at a cost of \$5,980.36. The old schoolhouse was sold at auction and converted into a dwelling house and still stands at the foot of Clay Hill on South Court street.

It was in the year 1872 and the village had outgrown the \$215.00 schoolhouse and on the question of building such a structure as was really needed, the village had the greatest fight in its history. What need the village had of such a big building was more than many could understand but the supporters of the new school, by agreeing to pay the taxes of some of its opponents, carried the day and a pretentious building with two large rooms on the first floor and a hall above was built in that year.

The building was finished in the early part of 1873. In 1874 the school report of the town of Haverhill had this to say: "No. 13 has erected a beautiful building at a cost of \$6,000.00, which is very creditable to the enterprise and taste of the inhabitants of that prosperous village. It is designed for a graded school and is fitted up with all modern improvements for convenience and comfort".

The dedication of the building was celebrated with a dance with people from far and near attended. In the two rooms on the first floor were the intermediate and grammar grades. The first teachers were Miss Mary Stevens in grammar grade, Miss Josie Foie, Intermediate and Miss Addie Ramsey taught the primary grade in the hall above.

For nearly ten years, besides for primary school purposes, this hall had served as a place for all social gatherings, church services, private schooling, etc. Increased population demanded another school room, so on March 7th, 1885, under the sponsorship of the Board of Education consisting of Ezra B. Mann, Albert Leighton, Herbert Remick, Samuel Page, James Sawyer, and Seth Stickney district No.10 in Bath was united with Woodsville Union School District and was put in charge of Bernard Child of Bath, who taught three terms. The school was organized into a high school district. A long list of male teachers followed as principals of the school, without apparent success.

Many attempts at grading the schools had been made, but in the fall of 1894, under principal A. B. Libbey, the nine grades were established. There were three grades in the primary department, three in the intermediate, three in the grammar, the hall accommodating both grammar and high school pupils. In that year Miss Ellen Stocker was in charge of the intermediate and Miss Marie Collins the primary.

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In November of 1894 Miss Collins resigned and I ( Clara Dickinson Weeks) took over, having been hired by the following Board of Education: Clarence Randall, Dr. O. D. Eastman, and Benjamin Dow. Miss Ellen Stocker was a graduate of Plymouth Normal School, was an excellent teacher, a strict disciplinarian, and in every way a credit to her Alma Mater.

Headmaster Libbey found the increased number of pupils and the merging of grammar with the high school grades was failing to work out satisfactorily. The district, hoping to improve conditions, voted money at the next annual meeting (1895) to finance a partition separating the grammar room from the high. At the same time, the old roast or freeze box stoves that had stood in the far corner of each room for many years were replaced by a central steam heating system and lavatories were installed in each room. Our former heating system had been run by the janitor, who built fires in the morning and piled a large pile of wood on the floor by the stove for the teacher to use while it lasted. Then the scholars were expected to take over, so this new setup was an event!

Mr. Libbey was engaged for another year (1895) and Miss Clara Holmes of Peacham taught the grammar grades. Both resigned at the end of the 1896 school year. Up to this date the work of the lower grades had seemed to meet the approval of the district, so teachers continued their services and Miss Rose Annis of Passumpsic was engaged to succeed Miss Holmes.

The problem of the day was to search for a suitable headmaster, which was the duty of the Board of Education members who were: Clarence Randall, Dr. O. D. Eastman, and Joe Bittinger. Their attention had been directed to one Samuel W. Robertson, who had been teaching in Gilmanton, NH, and the board was successful in securing his services for an indefinite period of time. Samuel Robertson was born in 86 Cherokee Reservation, Park Hill Mission, Oklahoma, the son of eastern parents who went there as missionaries to the Indians of Will Rogers fame. Mr. Robertson received his early education in the mission school conducted by his father and mother. In due time he was sent east for further educational training and graduated from St. Johnsbury Academy and Dartmouth College. His experience, background and personality fitted him for leadership.

Woodsville High School had never been a going concern. They had a curriculum of a kind and High School subjects had been taught at random, but school was never organized into classes. While speaking of organizing, we must not forget that Miss Annis took over more than half the unruly pupils from the former room and with plenty of tact and a strong will, organized a model grammar school with three grades. Her arrival at the time had much to do with Mr. Robertson's success. Miss Annis was a woman of rare intelligence, well versed in the technique of teaching and I think many of the local grandparents of '53 will agree with me that she had discipline strange as it may seem. She had neither normal school training nor a finished academic work course. She made full use of the talent God gave her.

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Soon after Mr. Robertson took over in August, the work of organizing a high school began. The aforesaid Board of Education and interested citizens met with Mr. Robertson to help in formulating the courses of study and in due time they met the approval of the state and on August 31st, 1896, Woodsville High School had its beginning. There were fourteen students in the High School, seven of whom were later graduated from higher institutions.....

\*\*\* Eugene M. Dow of '97, the first and only graduate of that year, entered Dartmouth College. He passed his college entrance examination without conditions and graduated as valedictorian of his class.

\*\*\* George C. Randall, class of '98 graduated with honors from Norwich University, Northfield, Vermont.

\*\*\* Raymond C. Jones, class of '98 graduated from the University of Vermont.

\*\*\* Osmond Barker, class of 1900 graduated from the N H Normal School.

\*\*\* Winnie Winslow was a graduate of N H Normal School.

\*\*\* Emily Bell, Lulu Currier, and George Blake took business courses.

Early during his first term, Mr. Robertson realized the need for better governing and organizing so he came to school one morning armed with a baseball and bat ... and soon a baseball team was in order, which changed the whole attitude of school life for the boys, giving it a new look, so to speak.

The strategy of organizing the school and the team so nearly at the same time, worked out to the advantage of the school, for no one without a passing grade could play on the team. Mr. Robertson reasoned that one way to get along with boys was to be a boy himself, so at once he donned a baseball suit and ever after played on the team.

With a little practice they were ready to compete with other schools. Then was born the Woodsville Union High School and the present baseball team. For many successive years a baseball bat was awarded by Mr. Robertson to the boy who scored the best batting average for the year.

To further promote the interest of the school, Mr. Robertson engaged a friend, a Mr. John Sargent, an elocutionist of some ability to train pupils for prize speaking contests. This proved a helpful part of their education as well as a boost for the school. The contest was given annually and being of far reaching interest, warranted a packed Opera House. On one occasion Littleton High School, priding itself on having good prize speaking material, suggested an inter-scholastic meet and Franconia, Bethlehem, and Woodsville were invited to compete in Littleton.

The contestants put on a good show to a packed house. Prize money was to be taken from door receipts. They were so financially successful that Littleton suggested doubling the prize money, to which all agreed, but to Littleton's consternation, the first prize went to Willis Howe of Woodsville, a freshman in knee trousers, who spoke "How the old horse won the bet."

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Mr. Sargent continued to coach prize speakers until Luvia Mann, one of his earlier winners, decided to take up that work and after graduating from Emerson's School of Oratory, took over the work and coached for many years with great success. She was succeeded by Mrs. G. Hampton McGaw.

The Lyceum and Debating Club created much interest since both boys and girls had an equal chance of participating in the various programs. Before Mr. Robertson resigned, the club had become quite famous for carrying off high honors in interscholastic contests.

The popularity of our High School grew by leaps and bounds, bringing in many pupils from outside. By this time eleven high school students had graduated and twice as many were ready to go. In the meantime, railroad business had increased, new families were moving into town and grades were becoming so crowded that primary scholars had to come in two sections until the first grade was moved to Mr. Hill's nearby stone shed and was taught by Miss Eastman.

By 1899 the present school rooms had become so congested that a larger building was a must. Grades had been reorganized, more teachers hired and both Mr. Hill's stone shed and the upper floor of the hose house had been utilized to accommodate the overflow. In spite of conditions just mentioned, one group of citizens favored enlarging the old building. The other group, believing this was poor economy ... objected.

Several special meetings were held to consider the matter of building and hot discussions were also held outside ... mostly concerning taxes! Groups seemed to be represented by Scott Sloan for and Samuel B. Page was swayed by opposition. Mr. Sloan was supported by such forceful people as George Kendall, Dr. O. D. Eastman, Mrs. Henry Mann, Mrs. Mary D. Randall and other influential citizens and when the final vote was taken the "Yeas" had it by a large majority.

The question of location became a debatable factor. William (Bill) Ricker insisted that King's Plain was the only place for a school house and he had his following. He offered good money for the lot where the old school house was standing, and refused to be denied. But, the lot was district property and he was helpless. It was decided to use the original location.

At another special meeting it was voted to bond the district for \$20,000.00 and the work of construction soon followed. Next came the question of moving the old building. It was purchased by Charles Davison with the understanding that it was to be moved intact to some place where it still could be used to serve the school until the new school house was ready for occupancy.

The prospect of this feat amazed the average man on the street, but in due time a company from Concord, NH, was hired to do the job. They arrived in Woodsville via freight train with horses, derricks, huge rollers, and other equipment.

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After a little time we were surprised to see the old school house go rolling across Dr. Miller's garden to Charles Davison's lawn and placed there ready for the first day of school in September. The building committee was George E. Cummings, Frank W. Baird, and Charles R. Gibson.

The work of constructing the new building went on and by 1901 people were again coming from far and near to inspect our new brick school house on the same lot as before. There was modern lighting, heating, ventilating, plumbing, etc. There was ample room for the high school, all of the grammar grades after they had been reorganized, and one room to spare.

Mr. Robertson, Miss Annis, Miss Stocker, Miss Eastman, and Miss Underwood were retained for several years as was Miss Desmond, the new primary teacher.

Grandpa William Lord acted as janitor and helped keep order in the lower halls until old age overtook him. He will long be remembered.

After the old school house had been vacated, Mr. Davison remodeled the lower floor to be used for business purposes and made the upper floor into a dance hall. Many a lass and lad of 40 or 50 years will recall tripping the light fantastic in Davison Hall. Anyone wishing to see parts of the old Davison Hall today can call Billy Brill, where they will find it transformed into a very unique and attractive dwelling, Billy having used the knotty pine, wide floor boards, and every other part from the old school house of 1872.

In 1905 Mr. Robertson resigned,. His inbred missionary spirit followed him throughout his nine years of service, when he raised the standard of the school from his "bat and ball" in 1896 to a creditable High School of 59 pupils and two assistant teachers in 1905. Fifteen students had graduated with honors from various colleges and Woodsville High School was really put on the map ... the son of a missionary being its founder. Mr. Robertson's last few years of teaching were spent in Santa Barbara, California, where he was known throughout the city as "Daddy Robertson."

Mr. Robertson was succeeded by Norman J. Page, a native son, a graduate of Haverhill Academy and Dartmouth College. He followed with new achievements. He readily saw the need of a Superintendent of Schools and through his help and advice, the present union was formed and in 1907, Fordyce T. Reynolds was hired to fill that position. Mr Page resigned in 1907 to accept a more remunerative position in Lisbon, NH. Mr. Frederick Wallace followed and taught one year. Mr. Reynolds proved a valuable asset to the progress of our schools as have his successors.

Elbert E. Orcutt who served so efficiently as headmaster of Woodsville High School for a ten year period, was born in West Burke, Vermont. He received his elementary education in that town, then completed his four year high school course at St. Johnsbury Academy in three years. He then enrolled at Yale College in 1903.

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At Yale, Mr. Orcutt won a Robinson Latin Prize in both his Freshman and Sophomore years. As a Junior he was awarded the Winthrop Prize for proficiency in Latin and Greek poetry. He was graduated in 1907 with high honors and a Phi Beta Kappa key. After teaching Latin and Greek for one year at Chattanooga University, Mr. Orcutt was offered a full instructorship at that institution, which he declined because of his desire to return to northern New England. The position of headmaster at Woodsville High School fulfilled his needs and Mr. Orcutt capably fulfilled the many needs of our growing high school.

He was young, brilliant, energetic, and a man of vision. He foresaw the need for a broader curriculum to provide the diversified requirements of the larger student body. His progressive ideas and ability to make them reality contributed greatly to the stature of the high school, as an institution of learning. During Mr. Orcutt's tenure, W. H. S. was granted certificating privileges to its graduates, by the New England College Entrance Board.

In 1912 Mr. Orcutt succeeded in convincing the people that we needed a new high school building. It took no store court or cold war to put the project across. In the spring of 1914 one of the most modern high school structures was ready for occupancy on King's Plain.

Ample provisions were made for commercial and domestic arts classes besides for the regular academic work. A course in domestic arts was added to the curriculum in 1915. In 1917 medical inspection was introduced into the schools and Dr. E. M. Miller acted as school physician. That same year the boys basketball team was organized and joined the North Country League.

In 1918 grades seven and eight were formally approved as a Junior High School, by the State Department of Public Instruction. Music was introduced in both High schools and grades in 1918 and for some time Miss Helen Duquid acted as instructor.

At the close of the school year of 1918 Mr. Orcutt resigned. The school report of that year had this to say, "Mr. Orcutt resigned to accept a position as headmaster of Plymouth High School. For ten years he had been the efficient head of the Woodsville High School and was chiefly responsible for its substantial growth in numbers and for its high rank among the schools of the state. His long and scholarly service will not be soon forgotten by his many pupils and friends." The number of pupils in high school at the time of Mr. Orcutt's resignation was 130.

In 1918 Mr. G. Hampton McGaw became headmaster of Woodsville Union High School, an office which he fulfilled most ably for 23 years. Mr. McGaw was born in Philadelphia, Penn. He attended Boy's Central High School in that city. His college was Wesleyan University from which he graduated with the coveted honor of being a Phi Beta Kappa man.

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Since it was his wish to specialize in the teaching of languages, Mr. McGaw spent a season at the University of Geneva, perfecting his mastery of languages, particularly french. In addition to his scholarly qualities, Mr. McGaw is a man of high ideals and strong moral and religious convictions. His aim may best be expressed by quoting his own words from a town report in which he stressed "Punctuality, accuracy in scholarship, widening vision of world affairs, love for work and desire to service."

Woodsville Union High School has been singularly blessed, all along the way, in the outstanding superiority of its leaders.

In the fall of 1918, 132 students were enrolled in the High School and the enrollment increased steadily until 1922-1923-1924 when it fell off slightly. Since 1925 the number of students has grown steadily and the progress of the school has kept pace.

The appointment of Miss Lottie M. B. Underhill as school nurse, in 1920 was a notable step forward. The checking of visual and hearing defects among students as well as advice on general health and personal hygiene contributed greatly to the physical and mental well-being of the students.

There were 133 students at W. H. S. in 1922. This year marked the introduction of a preliminary session ... beginning Thursday prior to the regular school opening on Monday. This proved to be a time saving device and permitted class work to start smoothly on the first school day.

Also, in 1922, Mr. May, Deputy Commissioner of Education reported that W.H.S. merited commendation for exceeding state requirements in Spanish, French I and French II. Credit for this high rating belongs to Mr. McGaw. Classes at this time were so large that in many instances the auditorium had to be utilized as a class room.

During the 1920's extra curricular activities such as baseball and basketball became self-sustaining. Woodsville High School joined the New Hampshire Debating League and made a good showing in competition. For a five year period the Lyceum spent \$700.00 for permanent school equipment. In 1925, a thirty-eight week school year was adopted and an extra teacher was added to the staff. The High School also had an excellent orchestra, published the Cycle, and participated in Alumni Education week. Through 1926-1927-1928, registration continued to increase. It might also be noted that while throughout the state, the average cost per high school student was \$107.00 ... the cost in Woodsville was only \$77.00.

The death of Mr. Norman J. Page in May of 1930 brought a personal and professional loss to the high and lower schools he had served so faithfully. His judgement and foresight were of great value to the school and the community.

Mr. Edward A. James succeeded Mr. Page as Superintendent of Schools.

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The high school suffered another great loss in 1930, with the death of Perley N. Klarke, who had contributed so generously for many years, of his time and talents in developing high school orchestras. Larkin Hosford, who previously had been bandmaster, courageously took over Mr. Klarke's work and served the high school we;; as it's Music master.

By 1933, Woodsville High School was beginning to feel the pinch of its ever increasing enrollment. The laboratory and commercial rooms were overcrowded and alterations and additional equipment were badly needed. Even with a depression in full sway and appropriations shrinking; both the laboratory and the typewriting room were enlarged and the high school facilities were accommodating over 200 students by 1934.

One of the most notable events in the history of the high school, and of the town, took place in this decade. A new and modern community building was built, and dedicated on November 10th, 1937. The new building, adjacent to the high school building, boasts a large auditorium of sufficient size to house such activities as graduation exercises, proms and dramatic productions, as well as sports events such as basketball games. Showers and locker rooms in the basement provide facilities which were badly needed and of great convenience to participants in all sorts of high school activities. The community building was constructed at a cost of \$58,000.00 and has a seating capacity of 1000.

At the beginning of another decade it is interesting to quote the variety and scope of activities at Woodsville High School. Basic studies and social activities continue as in previous years but many things have been added in which all students participate.

Weekly assemblies are held, often with an outside speaker, Lyceum programs, publication of the "Cycle" and the bi-weelky news sheet "Cycle Chatter", the Quill and Scroll Society, orchestra. band, chorus, singing, visits to government agencies, visits to manufacturing plants, meetings for conduct of school affairs, service connected with the building, health inspection, tuberculin tests by state agency technicians, junior public speaking. patriotic essay contests, the Senior play, and competitive speaking at Durham, comprise a long and impressive list. The public has contributed generously to the broadening and development of our high school students. The alumni provide an attainment award. Dr. Perley Speed sponsors the music award. The American Legion donates cups for athletics. The D.A.R. arranges a pilgrimage to the state capitol. The Rotary Club invites senior boys to their weekly meetings. Countless individuals have helped with food sales, and provided transportation for out of town events.

In 1941, after guiding the destinies of W.H.S. with great success for 23 years, Mr. G. Hampton McGaw resigned as headmaster. His term of office was by far the longest of any headmaster.

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Mr. McGaw stayed on as language instructor for several more years and the school continued to benefit from his talent and understanding.

Mr. J. Harold Moody succeeded Mr. McGaw as headmaster, for a two year period. Mr. Moody's achievements were notable. As a student during the depression, he entered Dartmouth College and worked his way through the first two years. Then, because of financial difficulties, he had to abandon his college career, temporarily. Later, he returned to Dartmouth and graduated with honors in 1931. he then took his masters degree at Columbia University and has gone on to become a successful Superintendent of Schools in the Hillsboro district.

Mr. Moody's tenure occurred during the war years. At the suggestion of the Army and navy, more technical studies were introduced into the high school curriculum, particularly aeronautics. The building of physical fitness and morale were stressed.

Girls did part time work at the hospital and boys worked in garages to learn mechanical skill. In 1942 a basement game room was installed to provide recreation for out of town students who remained in the building during the lunch hour. Mr. Moody taught science and mathematics but resigned after two years. In 1942, also, Mr. James resigned as Superintendent of Schools, succeeded by Richard Martin and Wesley Douglas.

In 1946 Mr. Phil Bennett assumed the duties of Superintendent of Schools and Mr. Anatolia Pendo followed Mr. Moody as headmaster of Woodsville High School. Mr. Pendo came here from Berlin, NH, where he taught in the high school and also served as sub-master of the Junior High. He is a graduate of Norwich University and later took his master's degree at Bates College. Mr. Pendo had been active in athletics throughout his college and teaching career and in addition to teaching mathematics, has served as basketball coach and developed teams of championship quality.

Woodsville High School has been following national progress all the way. Modern equipment such as fluorescent lamps, gas stoves for the laboratory, and domestic science rooms, and the new heating plants have been added. Great credit is do to the foresight of the executives who from its very beginning have struggled, sometimes against unfavorable odds, to build Woodsville High School into the fine institute it has become.

Due largely to the inspired efforts of Mr. Phil Bennett, a new Vocational Building is the most recent addition to the facilities of the high school. Here will be provided training in technical skills for those students who wish to learn them. At present a course in auto mechanics is available, also home economics and a wood shop. Later on a class in welding will be offered. Evening courses in the new building will also be available for adult education.

It is unfortunate that because of their numbers, it is impossible to pay tribute to our many fine grade and high school teachers ... individually.

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It has been their task to lay the foundations for the high school and college students of the future and to inspire in them a love for learning. Without their loyal and patient efforts, little progress could have been made. Many girls from this and nearby districts have been successful teachers in our schools.

Among them are Ada Mann Rowden, Mary Mitchell Mann, Manola Cutting, Clara Tuttle, Lilies Warren, and at present Giovannina Castello, Helen Franklin, and Florence Lang.

Within the relatively brief span of 56 years our school has developed from the one senior \$5,000.00 building to its present impressive standing among New England schools. High education standards have been maintained all the way and in all departments. Its alumni is represented with distinction in many fields of activity and in many corners of the earth.

With the leadership of its fine superintendents, headmasters, instructors, athletic directors, and the local cooperation of the public and its students, Woodsville Union High School district has made big business of turning out young men and women well equipped to meet life with high intelligence and good sportsmanship. We view it proudly because it is a community institution which fully justifies our pride.