

Denmark Historical Society  
Denmark Schools Timeline  
March 3, 2015

1808 - \$300.00 raised for schools & a committee was formed to divide the town into 3 districts. Elias Berry, Joshua Ames & Ichabod Warren Jr. were each members of the school committee. August 31<sup>st</sup> began construction of school in the center of town. Elias Berry, Cyrus Ingalls & Joshua Ames were chosen to build the school. \$210.00 was raised to pay construction expenses.

1825 – 254 students attended school & were divided into 12 districts with a census of 800 residents.

1825 to 1875 – schools held an average of 20 to 21 students with a high of 60 to 75 students. C. O. Pendexter'is due much of the credit for establishing the free high school, and for the general excellence of the several ungraded schools. Generally 8 schools are maintained with an average attendance of 85 students. The town began with 3, raised to 12 and then raised once again to 14 districts:

#1 –Fessenden School located at foot of hill to the left toward Thomes/Schmidt home (near present day town dump)

#2 – South Road School located across from Pendexter/Stacy home

#3 – Colby School located on Rocky Knoll Road (former Gallagher home)

#4 – White School House or Liberty Corner School located on Denmark Road just beyond Mt. Pleasant Cemetery (former Wheelock home)

#5 – Nason School or Bragdon School located under the mountain near Moose Pond

# 6 – Lowell School then changed to Deering School located on Hio Ridge Road (former Sanborn home)

#7 – Harnden School

#8 – Lake Road School (Denmark Road which goes from Dam on Moose Pond to Route 302 in Fryeburg)

#9 – Foot of Mose Wentworth's Hill (spelling in report)

#10 – West Denmark School located on Rocky Knoll Road near Warren/Anthony/Desilets home

#11 – East Denmark School located on Hio Ridge Road on right (former Doyle home)

#12 – Head's Corner School

#13 – Bush Rowe (spelling in the report)

#14 - South Road School

1871 – 1<sup>st</sup> Supervisor hired to supervise each school

1879 – Center District school built

1893 – High School established in the Center School on top floor. \$200.00 was appropriated, with the same amount received from the state to pay the school expenses. Only 1 year was this amount not raised to pay for school expenses.

1895 – West Denmark built new school and “did away” with nearby districts. Charles T. Stone was principal for 2 years.

1898 – State law enacted to close schools with less than 8 pupils, unless building maintained by town. Fred G. Kneeland principal.

1899 – Albert C. Eames of Bethel, principal for 2 years.

1901 – Percy Giles was principal for 1 year.

1902 – Perley Plant was principal for 1 year.

1903 – F. H. Sanborn, former teacher, was principal for 2 years.

1905 – Thomas Knowles, of New Portland, was principal for 1 year.

1918 – Denmark joined with Brownfield, Fryeburg and Stow as Union #12

1922 – Plan to build new school in East Denmark. The Center School burned. Most Denmark school records were lost in the fire of the Center School. High School students attended class at the town hall. Grammar & Primary students attended class at Colby, South Road and East Denmark schools.

1923- New school in center of town completed. East Denmark and the new school held classes for primary and grammar school students and all high school students attended school in the new building in the village.

1932 – Alumni notes from The Mount Pleasant Echo states that records previous to the year 1908 were lost in the fire of 1923. Records now are taken from 6 ledgers of Denmark School, town reports & Denmark High School yearbooks.

Sources:

The Mt. Pleasant Echo June 1932

The Town Register: Brownfield, Denmark, Hiram & Porter compiled by Mitchell, Davis & Daggett 1907

1950 report of schools & alumni

Revised June 5, 2015 las