

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP

Monroe County, Michigan



THEN
and
NOW



2003
Donald R. Adams

INTRODUCTION

THEN and NOW

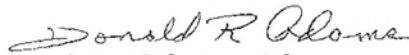
Bedford Township, Monroe County, Michigan

After taking inventory of my collection of history and photographs, it was decided to place this collection into one printing.

This printing will not come close to the complete history of Bedford Township. There are many more articles to research and photographs to collect.

Thanks to the many that assisted with this collection.

This printing may encourage others to add to the collection, to take an interest in our Bedford Township history, and to join as members of our Historical Society of Bedford.


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BEDFORD TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

in bits and pieces

June 2001
Researched and
written by

Donald R. Adams

June 2001

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS in bits and pieces.

I am pleased to share with you my hobby of family genealogy and local history.

After reading the minutes from past Temperance High School Alumni Association reunions, I found that a bell owned by the Association was used at the Temperance School. It is possible the bell is in excess of 100 years old. Thanks to Reg Goldsmith, Temperance High School Class of 1927, he saved the bell and donated it to our Alumni Association. Some of you may think I am suggesting Reg is in excess of 100, however, as Reg is my good friend, I know he was 93 last March 9th.

With my interest in local history, another good friend, Esther (Dunbar) Hammerstein, Temperance High School Class of 1931, gave me daily journals of her grandfather, William Dunbar. Esther died on October 28, 1996. In an entry under the date of Monday, November 24, 1890, he writes "Willie took me over to The Center School house where I began school this morning at 9 O C. I enrolled 44 scholars today and it is a noisy lot of people". With the photos of William Dunbar in my collection, it is easy to envision him ringing this bell to begin the school day.

The Center School was the name of School District Number 2 prior to being named Temperance School. The Center name came from its location being 80 rods east of the center of Bedford Township. According to the writings of Chester Newcombe, Temperance High School Class of 1926, the building known as the Center School replaced the original log school house. The name was probably changed to Temperance with the first phase of construction of the school building constructed in about 1902. The east room of this building was for grades 1 to 3 and the west room for grades 4 to 8. In the summer of 1917 a third room was added on the back. This was for the 8th, 9th, and 10th grades. In the summer of 1921, the whole building was raised and a basement put under all of it. In the fall of 1921, the 11th grade was added and the 12th was added in the fall of 1922. When the school population grew to the extent that the building was too small, two more rooms with basement, were added to the back.

The last addition to the school was a WPA (Works Projects Administration) project in 1937-38. In a writing of Burns Scott, Temperance High School Class of 1940, he reports "On February 10, 1938, our new school was dedicated with pomp and ceremony". Scotty died March 3, 1993.

At present the Temperance Elementary School of the Bedford School system is on this property at 1575 West Temperance Road.

The first land for the school was acquired on October 31, 1868, when William and Mercy Dunbar (great great grandparents of Esther Hammerstein) sold $\frac{1}{2}$ of an acre out of the northeast corner of the west $\frac{1}{2}$ of the northwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 22.

Some earlier history of this land is as follows:

James Wadsworth of Livingston County, New York purchased the northwest quarter, 160 acres, of Section 22 along with 1,840 other acres in Bedford Township from the United States of America on May 25, 1835. About eight years ago in some research I discovered this purchase. Since that time I have been curious as to this James Wadsworth and was he related to the Wadsworth family that lived in Temperance. A visit with Neil and Hazel Wadsworth, Temperance High School Class of 1929 for both, found that Neil had a hardcover book with the Wadsworth family history. James Wadsworth was born in Durham, Connecticut on April 20, 1768, and died in Geneseo, New York on June 8, 1844. In time he became one of the richest land proprietors in New York. His son James Samuel Wadsworth was a Brigadier General in the Union Army during the Civil War and died May 8, 1864, from a battle wound received May 6, 1864, in the Battle of the Wilderness near Spotsylvania, Virginia. By following back the ancestors of Neil Wadsworth I find that James Wadsworth was a fourth great uncle to Neil.

Following the 1844 death of James Wadsworth, this land was held in his estate until my second great uncle Charles Lucas Adams purchased it on February 19, 1857.

On September 7, 1861, the land was deeded to William Dunbar. William Dunbar was named the first postmaster on June 13, 1834, of the West Erie Post Office, which was the first post office in what was to become Bedford Township. At the first Bedford Township meeting on May 2, 1836, William was elected Supervisor. William represented in the State Legislature, the first district of Monroe County for two terms in 1857 and 1859, and for four years served as Monroe County Sheriff.

Now back to Bedford Township Schools.

The first 12th grade graduating class of Temperance High School was the Class of 1923. I believe the Class of 1923, may be the only class to graduate twice from Temperance High. The Commencement Exercise of the Temperance High School Class of 1921 was held at eight o'clock, Friday evening, June 10, 1921, at the Baptist Church, Temperance, Michigan. This was a graduation from the 10th grade. There were 15 students in this class. Of the 15 students 5 did not graduate with the Temperance High Class of 1923. The five are Amy (Goldsmith) Bemis, Helen Anna (Kimerer) Albring, Gwueneth (Hitchcock) Bectel-Opdyke, Kenneth Earl Ley, and Melvin J. Lawrence. My research found that Amy and Helen finished high school at Monroe. I have not found records on Gwueneth. That leaves Kenneth and Melvin, and I found their school history to be interesting.

The first 12th grade graduation of Lambertville High School was also with the Class of 1923. In this class there were three members as compared to the 10 at Temperance. The three were Kenneth Ley, Melvin Lawrence, and Velma Lawrence. If Kenneth and Melvin had not transferred from Temperance to Lambertville, Temperance would have had 12 members in the 1923 Class and Lambertville just one.

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS in bits and pieces.

As I said earlier there were 10 members of the Temperance High School Class of 1923.

Gertrude Mae (Adams) Kidney, my aunt
Lawrence Frederick Danzeisen
Rhoda May (Dull) Rawson
Rhuby May (Dull) Reid
Lucille E. (Hachman) Ward
Mary M. (Klaiss) Bingaman
Hubert Graydon Rawson
Sylvia E. (Rendle) Clark
Gertrude Henrietta (Scharer) Goldsmith
Elsie Marie (Trapp) Martin

Both Gertrude Henrietta (Scharer) Goldsmith and Elsie Marie (Trapp) Martin were in attendance at the Temperance High School Alumni Association reunion in 1998, in honor of the 75th Anniversary as graduates of their 1923 Class. Elsie died December 5, 2000.

Before more history of Lambertville High School and Temperance High School is recorded, earlier history of Bedford Township Schools should be covered.

Schools in Bedford Township at the time the 1859 Bedford Township plat map was published are as follows;

Little Lake School at Erie and the Angling Road. Angling Road ran northeast from Sterns Road at a point west of Secor Road, crossed Summerfield, Secor, Douglas, Temperance, Jackman, Erie, Lewis, and ended on Samaria Road at the Levi Lewis home, 166 Samaria Road, where the first Bedford Township meeting was held on May 2, 1836. Today we can still drive on part of this road known as Monroe Road between Sterns and Secor. Limited history is available on Little Lake School.

Rawson School at Smith and another angling road that crossed Smith Road about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile west of Douglas Road.

Lambertville School located a short distance west and across the road from the location when the new school opened in 1922.

Liberty Corners School on the northwest corner of Sterns and Jackman as compared to where the building is today at the southeast corner of Sterns and Jackman.

Lord School on the northeast corner of Sterns and Crabb until 1871, when a new school was constructed at the southeast corner of Sterns and Crabb and later changed the name to Banner Oak School.

Then there was Stone School which is the only school house building still at the same location as it was on the 1859 map. The land this school is on was purchased from one of my 16 3rd Great Grandfathers, Samuel K. Kinney. Stone School is located on the east side of Crabb Road at the half mile between Samaria and Erie. The building is presently a residential home.

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS in bits and pieces.

School Districts in Bedford Township at the time the 1876 Bedford Township plat map was published, with school buildings located as follows:

District #2 - South side of West Temperance Road, 80 rods east of Jackman Road. Temperance School.

District #3 - East side of Jackman Road, 800 feet south of Samaria Road. Samaria School.

District #4 - Southwest corner of Secor and Monroe. Lambertville School.

District #6 - Southeast corner of Sterns and Crabb. Banner Oak School.

District #7 - East side of Crabb Road at the half mile between Samaria and Erie. Stone School.

District #8 - Southwest corner of Secor and Section. Rawson School.

District #9 - Southeast corner of Sterns and Jackman. Liberty Corners School.

District #10 - North side of Sub-Station Road about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile east of Crabb. French School which was later named Wayside School.

In Bedford Township Board meeting minutes in 1890, 1891, and 1892, is listed school tax distribution to School Districts number 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10. Also School District 1 frl., Bedford and Whiteford; School District 3 frl., Bedford and Ida; School District 7 frl., Bedford and Erie.

Frل. is an abbreviation for fractional. A fractional district is a district that serves parts of more than one township.

District 1 frل. was DeLand School located in Whiteford Township on the east side of Summerfield Road a short distance north of St. Anthony Road. District 3 frل. was Moyer School located in Ida Township on the north side of Rauch Road just west of Geiger Road. Geiger Road in Bedford Township becomes Crabb Road. District 7 frل. was Forman School located in Erie Township on the east side of US 25 south of Sterns Road.

An 1895 Bedford School Districts map list all of the above plus District 1 and District 4 frل. District #1 was Bullock School located east side of Secor Road between Samaria and Erie Roads. District 4 frل. was Dean School located in Erie Township west side of US 25 south of Dean Road.

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP SCHOOL in bits and pieces.

In a Monroe Democrat article dated Wednesday February 19, 1902, it reads "A rally was held at the Temperance town hall Tuesday afternoon to discuss the question of a high school for Bedford Township. The meeting was addressed by School Commissioner Marvin". The Monroe Democrat was published between 1880 and 1915. Albert C. Marvin was the Monroe County Commissioner of Schools at this time.

In a Monroe Record article dated Thursday February 20, 1902, it reads "At the rural high school meeting held at the town hall on the afternoon of the 18th, was largely attended and resulted in the choice of S K Kinney as chairman and A. B. Tuttle as secretary. County Commissioner A. C. Marvin was present and read a very interesting and instructive paper of which we will give a synopsis in next week's issue of the Record. E. B. Hitchcock, Isaac Gordon, Thomas Hitchcock, A. B. Tuttle, H. M. Slick and others engaged in the discussion and all of them committed themselves to a better system of education for the children above the eighth grade throughout the rural districts and the following committee was appointed for the purpose of circulating petitions in favor of the afore said school. Thomas Hitchcock, A. O. Kinney, A. H. King, and V. E. Janney were chosen as said committee." The Monroe Record was published between 1900 and 1921.

A search was made for the synopsis of the paper by A. C Marvin without success.

In a Monroe Record article dated Thursday February 27, 1902, it reads "School officers and others interested in our public schools are given a very cordial invitation to attend the Education meeting to be held at the High School, in Monroe City, this week Saturday. An interesting program has been prepared and a large attendance is looked for. Prof. W.D. Henderson, of Ann Arbor will lecture in the afternoon on the subject, "Nuggets of Gold." Mr Henderson is an able speaker and it will be a treat to hear him. Besides the program as announced in the papers last week, we have the following to add: Solos by Miss Frances E. Willard and Miss Blanche Dunbar, of Samaria and Leon Shafer of Erie. Miss Minnie Zeigler of Lambertville will give a paper on some interesting subject. Dinner will be served at the High School by the Junior class. Remember the date Saturday, March 1st."

This article is not directly related to Bedford Township Schools, however, does reflect the attention given to education at this time.

An article in The Monroe Record dated Thursday March 6, 1902, as a follow-up to the February 27, 1902, article reads in part, "The educational meeting held at the Monroe High School last Saturday was attended by nearly two hundred patrons, school officers and teachers, and was one of the most enthusiastic meetings ever held in the county, all parts of the county were well represented considering the bad roads and weather. Prof. Bauer read a very excellent paper on "School Centralization". The disadvantages of the present system and the advantages of the centralized system were made plain."

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS in bits and pieces.

Loss of school buildings:

Lambertville School - Courier Scrapbook, Sue Potter article dated December 8, 1970. "The building was the second school to be built in Lambertville. Constructed in 1860, it cost \$1,294.52. There were two rooms, one on each story." The building was so badly damaged by a March 28, 1920, tornado that it was considered unsafe for further use.

In a paper by Edith Parmelee she writes "Monday evening, November 27, 1922, was a proud night for the community for it witnessed the formal opening of the new school building." This building was used for various grades until 1972. From 1972 to 1982 the building was used by the Bedford Public School Administration.

In the spring of 1986 the former school building, renamed Olde Schoolhouse Commons, was renovated to accomodate specialty shops and offices.

Samaria School - Courier Scrapbook, Sue Potter article dated April 27, 1971. "In the 1890's the one room school was demolished and a two-room frame building was constructed. On Sunday, March 28, 1920, the sky darkened and soon after 7 pm a tornado wound its way across Bedford Township, striking Samaria at 7:30. The Samaria schoolhouse was demolished. A new brick schoolhouse was constructed in Samaria in 1920 to replace the one demolished by the tornado. It had two rooms and a basement and faced Samaria Road. The last school classes were moved out in 1969."

The history of the Bedford Senior Citizens reads "On April 1, 1971, the Bedford School Board approved turning over the Samaria School building to the Bedford Senior Citizens."

My research found at the Monroe County Register of Deeds, a lease dated October 19, 1868, to School District #3 (Samaria) from Lucy, Gibbs, and Maria Hungerford. This covered a parcel 165' X 187.50' on the east side of Jackman Road, 781.50' south of Samaria and Jackman Roads. The lease is recorded in Liber 72 page 609. This location was the site of the first two school buildings for Samaria School. A condition of the lease "To be occupied for school purpose only, except that no continuous meetings of night after night, but there may be religious preaching on Sabbath, and Singing School at the option of District 3."

The third Samaria School building was constructed on a parcel "Commencing at the northwest corner of Section 10, then south 330', east 264', north 330'. west 264', to place of beginning." This is covered by a warranty deed dated August 21, 1929, to Trustees School District 3, from Richard Johnston, widower, and recorded in Liber 247 page 70.

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Loss of school buildings:

Bullock School - Monroe Evening News dated February 23, 1945.
"Bullock School was leveled early this morning in a fire believed to have started from an overheated furnace."

Courier Scrapbook , Sue Potter article dated April 11, 1972.
"St. Anthony's Church opened its doors and the children of Bullock School completed their school year in a basement there." "The one-room frame building, named for an early settler, was constructed in about the year 1892."

Temperance School - At 10 am on February 4, 1946, the fire alarm sounded and the 282 students, including myself, cleared the Temperance School building to safety. At that moment did we realize this would be the last day to attend classes in this building? Fifteen minutes later the building was in flames and burned to the ground, despite the efforts of eight fire departments from Temperance and surrounding villages. There was no water supply at that time and the Temperance Volunteer Fire Department was organized just ten months earlier. The wood floor hallways were oiled to reduce wear and this provided a wick for the fire, right down the middle of the building.

Never heard the official cause of the fire, however, I believe it was a chimney fire, as the flames first appeared in the northwest corner where the furnace and chimney were.

Following the fire the elementary students attended class in many buildings including Hamilton School, Manhattan Blvd, Toledo, Ohio. The high school students attended Lambertville High School in the afternoon and the Lambertville high school students in the forenoon. This provided an opportunity for the two groups of high school students to become better acquainted prior to the June 1, 1946, consolidation and the first school year of 1946-47 for the Bedford Rural Agricultural School.

The following articles were found in The Monroe Evening News with dates as indicated.

01 Mar 1946 -

County Briefs

LAMBERTVILLE — The meeting scheduled for March 12 at the Lambertville school for residents of district No. 4 to discuss the reorganization plan, has been moved up to Tuesday March 5 at 8 p.m.

After the consolidation of the various school districts with the voting of June 1, 1946, and April 3, 1948, we had students from the southeast corner of Bedford Township attending school at the Mason School system, students from the northeast corner attending Ida School system, and students from the northeast corner of Whiteford Township attending school in the Bedford School system.

As I understand, this continues at the present time.

In 1955 the name was changed from Bedford Rural Agricultural School to Bedford Public Schools.

History of school buildings since 1946 and 1948 consolidation.

<u>Building</u>	<u>Construction</u>	<u>opened</u>	<u>addition</u>
Intermediate School (1) 8486 Douglas Road	1951	1953	1953 1959 1969
Temperance Road Elementary 1575 West Temperance Road	1955	1956	1957
Douglas Road Elementary 6875 Douglas Road	1958	1959	1959 1969
Jackman Road Elementary 8008 Jackman Road	1959	1960	1963 1969
Senior High School 8285 Jackman Road	1964	1965	2000
Junior High School 8405 Jackman Road	1969	1971	
Smith Road Elementary 1135 Smith Road	1969	1971	1998
Monroe Road Elementary 7979 Monroe Road	2000	2001	
Bus Garage - Warehouse	1969	1971	
Administration Building 8336 Monroe Road	(1972 - 1982)		
1575 West Temperance Road	(1982 - 1993)		
1623 West Sterns Road	(1993 - current)		
Bedford Community Stadium		1997	

(1) This property was sold, the buildings demolished, and is now the site of a residential development.

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS in bits and pieces

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The number of students graduating from 12th grade public high school in Bedford Township as follows:

<u>Graduating Class of</u>	Lambertville H S	Temperance H S	Bedford H S
1923/29	67	54	
1930/39	180	114	
1940/46	200	153	
1947/49			140
1950/59			903
1960/69			2,554
1970/79			4,000
1980/89			3,928
1990/99			3,272
2000/01	—	—	<u>775</u>
	447	321	15,572

Total 16,340

This does not include the 310 students that graduated from the 12th grade at State Line Christian School.

Schools in Bedford Township other than Bedford Public Schools.

New Bedford Academy
6315 Secor Road

A charter school of kindergarten through eighth grade, was established in 1997 and in operation during school year 1998/99.

State Line Christian School
6320 Lewis Avenue

Ministry of Lewis Avenue Baptist Church of K4 (pre-kindergarten) through 12th grade, was established in 1973, and added grades until school year 1979/80 when they had all K4 thru 12th grades. There have been 310 students graduate from the 12th grade.

Our Lady of Mt Carmel Church
8330 Lewis Avenue

A parochial school, opened September 7, 1967, for 1st grade only, added the 2nd grade in 1968, the 3rd grade in 1969, and closed June 1970.

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BEDFORD TOWNSHIP PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS



Lambertville High School

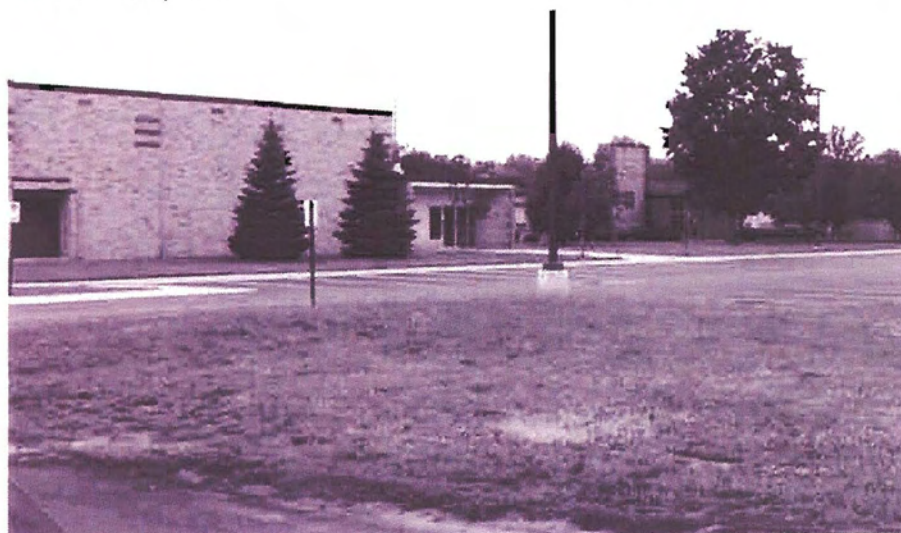


Temperance High School

Both Lambertville High School and Temperance High School had their first 12th graduation in 1923 and the last in 1946. On 01 Jun 1946, Bedford Township voters approved reorganization into a rural agricultural school. At the first meeting of the new Board of Education on 15 Jun 1946, it was decided the name of the school would be the Bedford Rural Agricultural School. In 1955 the name was changed to Bedford Public School.

The number of students graduating from 12th grade public high schools.

Class of	Lambertville H S	Temperance H S	Bedford H S
1923/29	67	54	
1930/39	181	114	
1940/46	200	153	
1947/49			140
1950/59			903
1960/69			2,554
1970/79			4,000
1980/89			3,928
1990/99			3,272
2000/03			1,608
	<u>448</u>	<u>321</u>	<u>16,405</u>
Total	17,174		



July 2003
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Bedford High School