

A High School Comes to Scarborough

By Linda Snow McLoon

Introduction

It's common knowledge that going back to early times Scarborough had over a dozen one-room district schools which offered children a grammar school education. But because no one seems to know much about when Scarborough first had a high school, I decided to do a little research on the subject. The information I was able to piece together led to this document, which tells the story of the beginnings of secondary education in Scarborough. We can track its growth from a humble beginning prompted by the state's 1873 Free High School Law to when it could boast its first school building dedicated to both high school and elementary classes, the White School. The document also shows its move to the building that became known as the Bessey School.

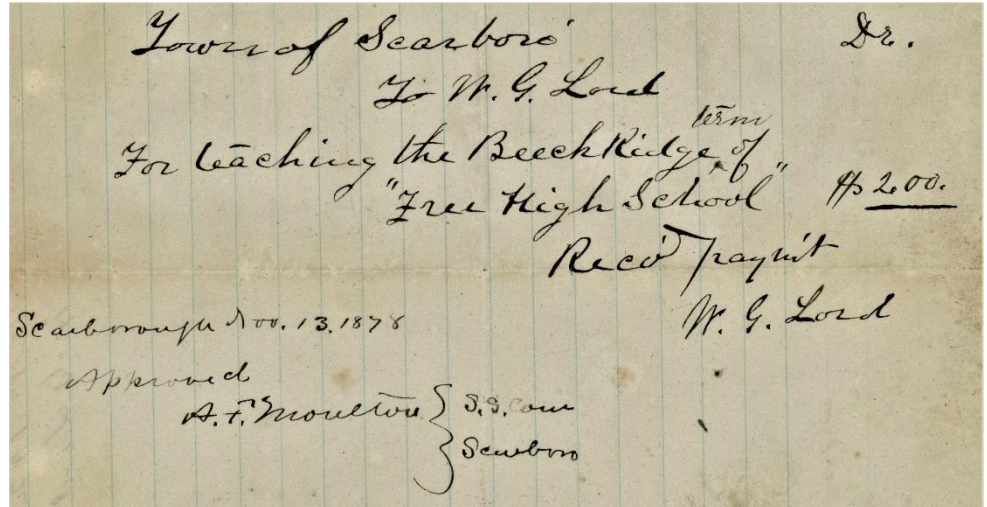
The resources I used include a large collection of the Scarborough Historical Society's town reports which are available on the society's website. The historical society's collection of ephemera contributed much helpful information, as did early pictures from their collections. Having access to the extensive private collection of Rodney Laughton made it possible to use his high school graduation programs, newspaper articles, and numerous school photographs. All of these materials allow us to expand our understanding of Scarborough's early high school.



For some time prior to the passage of Maine's Free High School Law, the friends of education throughout the state had been working toward establishing free high schools to supplement the various private academies which charged tuition. Finally, in 1873, the Maine Legislature passed a law which authorized towns to establish free high schools that offered secondary educational opportunity to all income levels at no charge, and as an inducement, the state would pay the towns one-half of their expense.¹

¹ Edward Clayton Reynolds, *The Cape Elizabeth High School, A History*, Portland, ME: Stevens & Jones Co., Publishers, 1892, pp. 9-10.

An entry in the 1878 town report acknowledging payment to W.G. Lord for teaching high school in Dunstan in 1876-1877 confirms that the first high school in Scarborough was organized by 1876. Since it was customary for school children to walk to school, the first high school program split the year between Oak Hill and Dunstan in an effort to offer more scholars an opportunity to attend at least one term of the Scarboro Free High School. The following year, a third term was added in the Beech Ridge District.



From the Ephemera Collection
Scarborough Historical Society

Some high school students would board with nearby families in order to attend multiple terms in the three locations.

FREE HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION IN 1877 TOWN REPORT:

The town voted at the last annual meeting to establish Free High Schools in the Oak Hill and Dunstan districts, and the committee accordingly went through the necessary preliminaries and set the schools in operation. We endeavored to have the terms at different times, so that scholars who chose to do so might attend both. After some delay it was arranged to have the Oak Hill school in the fall [1876], and the one at Dunstan following it in the winter [1877]. The services of Edmund Fogg, A.M., were engaged for the fall term, which began the first of October, and continued thirteen weeks. The number of scholars in attendance was about thirty. (We have no data from which to give the exact attendance or the studies pursued.) A good degree of progress was made by all, and though the attendance was small at the closing examination, it was evident that the term had been a profitable one.

The winter term in the Dunstan district began the first of January, in charge of William G. Lord, A.M., an able and experienced teacher. There was no delay at the commencement. Fifty-five scholars, mostly large and well advanced, were in attendance, and the term was soon in full operation. It continued four weeks, teacher and scholars seeming to vie with each other in activity and interest, when it became necessary on account of contagious sickness to discontinue the school for a time. After a vacation of two weeks, it began again with some diminution of the original number of scholars, and is now in successful progress. Mr. Lord is an educator in the broader sense of the word, and in spite of the discouraging circumstance of the prevalent sickness, has made this a very valuable term of school.

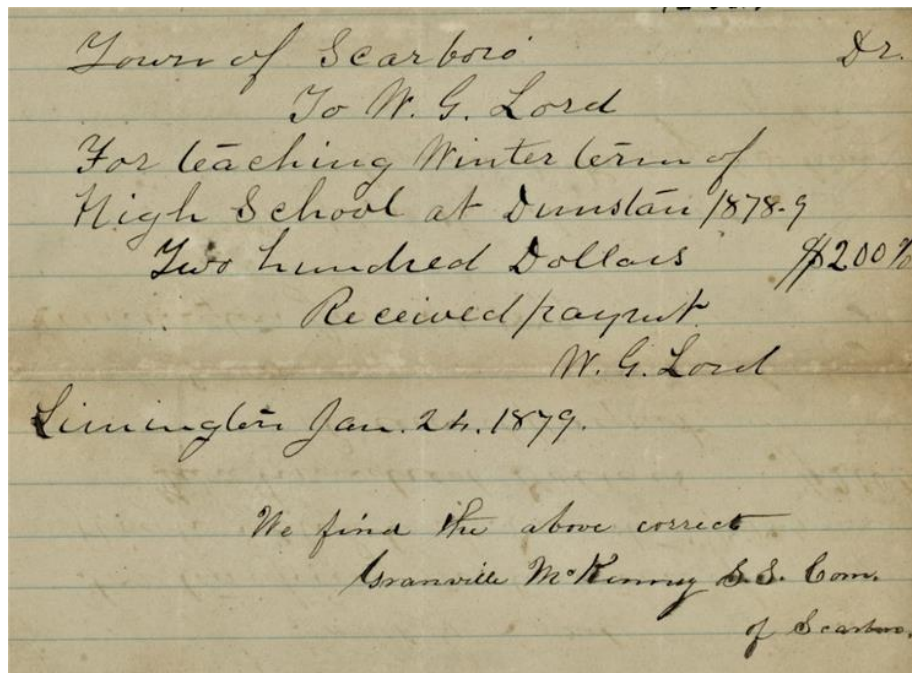
The benefit of these schools comes largely from the education of teachers in them for the common schools, and in this way the town reaps a direct and immediate advantage. We consider that the success of the free High Schools this year has been such as to warrant their continuance by the town, and we therefore recommend for that purpose on appropriation, the same as that of last year. We would particularly recommend that either the municipal officers or school committee be allowed to locate the schools and direct when the terms shall begin. If this be done, we believe that the High Schools will improve year after year, until they become of recognized necessity, and value to the town.

Payable to Edmund E. Fogg, for teaching High School at Oak Hill: \$250

Superintending School Committee: Augustus F. Moulton, Granville McKenney, James F. Small

FREE HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION FROM 1878 TOWN REPORT - 1877-78 SCHOOL YEAR.

The S. S. Committee and Selectmen together were last spring authorized to locate the High Schools in such places as in their judgment should be for the best interest of the town. After careful consideration they decided upon three terms to be held respectively at Beech Ridge, Dunstan and Oak Hill. It was feared that dividing the schools into three parts would make the terms so short that they would be of little profit, but the result has shown that this was perhaps the best arrangement that we could have made. We were fortunate in securing the services of Wm. G. Lord, whose former school had given so great satisfaction. Mr. Lord has devoted himself to the school with untiring application. He is peculiarly fitted for teaching and succeeds in awakening an interest among his pupils that amounts to enthusiasm. No one can deny that our Free High School the past year has been of great value. One hundred eighty-five scholars in all have been registered in the three schools, of these about one hundred twenty-five were different pupils, showing that quite a large number have attended the three terms in succession. The question for our consideration now seems to be, not whether it is best to continue the High School, but where we can find room to accommodate all the scholars who wish to attend. It is best just to say that the great success of the past year is mostly due to the untiring zeal and ability of the teacher, Mr. Lord. We would suggest that the appropriation be increased somewhat if there are to be three schools, so as to give terms of about ten weeks each.



From the Ephemera Collection
Scarborough Historical Society

To W.G. Lord, teaching High School at Dunstan, '76- '77: \$250. Received from the state: \$294.64
DO for tuition: \$16 Bal due from State: \$125.

To William G. Lord, teaching High School at Beech Ridge: \$166.67 & \$333.33 – Total due Lord \$750.

Superintending School Committee: Augustus F. Moulton, Granville McKenney, James F. Small

Having a town high school was a cause for pride and celebration, and on February 28 and March 1, 1878, examinations were held at Oak Hill and a prize declamation was offered at Dunstan. The printed program that is part of the Scarborough Historical Society's town hall ephemera collection lists the names of the scholars from each of the three school locations along with their teacher, W.G. Lord.

Scarborough Free High School.

EXAMINATION,

Thursday, Feb. 28, and Friday, March 1.

MATHEMATICS. NATURAL SCIENCE,
LANGUAGE READING,
HISTORY. SPELLING.

AT OAK HILL.

PRIZE DECLAMATION,

THURSDAY EVENING,

AT DUNSTAN.

ROBERT McLAUGHLIN, Committee
GEORGE P. SMITH, by
EMERY MOODY, Request.

A. F. MOULTON, S. S.
JAMES F. SMALL, Committee.
GRANVILLE McKENNEY.

B. Thurston & Co., Printers, 111 Exchange Street, Portland.

Scarboro' Free High School.

PRIZE DECLAMATION.

ORDER OF EXERCISES.

SINGING.
BY SCHOOL QUARTETTE.

Charles H. Giles.
Clara J. Libby, - - - "Mary Garvin," - - - Whittier.

SINGING.

Edna E. Libby, - - - "The Witch's Daughter," - Whittier.
Chas. H. Mitchell, - - - "Wit and Wisdom," - Sydney Smith.

SINGING.

Nellie C. Snow, - - - "Kathleen," - - - Whittier.
Frank L. Libby.

SINGING.

Georgia A. Merrill, - - - "Lady Clare," - - - Tenneyson.
Willie N. Fenderson, - - - "Barbara Frietchie."
Wm. F. Pillsbury.
Elmer E. Wilson.

SINGING.


Estella L. Foss, - - - "The Pipes of Lucknow."
Chas. A. Sanborn, - - - "The Rising of Vendee."

SINGING.

Elbridge G. Pillsbury, - - - "Spartacus."
Carrie E. Foss, - - - "The Ranger," - - - Whittier.

SINGING.

SCARBORO' FREE HIGH SCHOOL.

1877.  1878.

W. G. LOED, A. M., TEACHER.

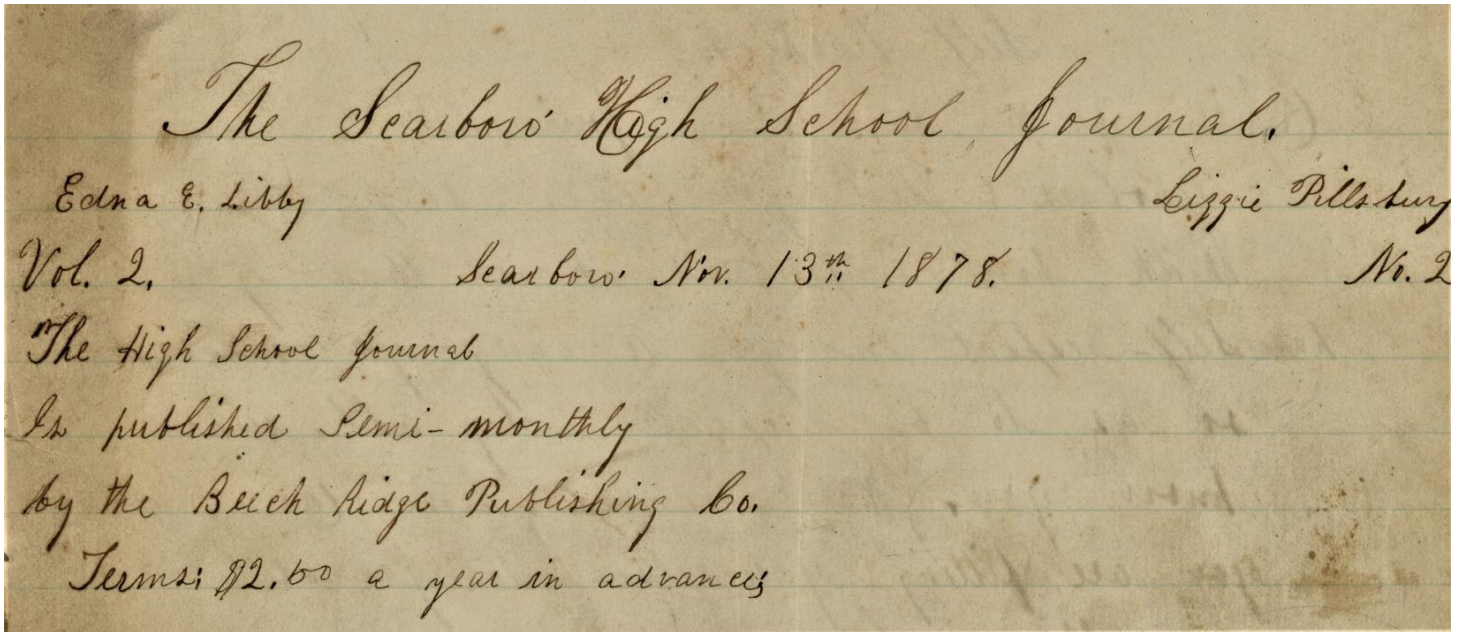
WHERE ENTERED. BERCH RIDGE.	WHERE ENTERED. DUNSTAN.	WHERE ENTERED. OAK HILL.
NAMES.	NAMES.	NAMES.
George Boothby.	Lewis Banks.	Frank L. Boothby.
Levi Boothby.	Levi Boothby.	Herman J. Brown.
George W. Butler.	Frank L. Boothby.	Willie P. Burnham.
Edwin B. Carter.	George W. Butler.	Edwin B. Carter.
Wm. H. Carter.	Willie P. Burnham.	Wm. H. Carter.
Wendell Carter.	Edwin B. Carter.	Joseph Foss.
Chas. E. Cheney.	Geo. W. Carter.	Willie N. Fenderson.
James E. Cheney.	Simon B. Carter.	Willie A. Gilman.
Wm. H. Cheney.	Wm. H. Carter.	Charles H. Giles.
John H. Jordan.	Wendell Carter.	Willard H. Googins.
Frank Harmon.	Chas. F. Cheney.	Nelson C. Harmon.
Charles Holland.	James E. Cheney.	Richard S. Johnson.
Charles A. Libby.	Wm. H. Cheney.	Fred. B. Leavitt.
Charles E. Libby.	Willie N. Fenderson.	Edward A. Libby.
Daniel C. Libby.	Chas. H. Giles.	Eugene H. Libby.
Eugene H. Libby.	Willard H. Googins.	Frank L. Libby.
John L. Libby.	Fred. Grant.	Moulton C. Libby.
Moulton C. Libby.	Chas. E. Guptill.	George B. Libby.
Wash. W. McKenney.	Orin Guptill.	Chas. H. Mitchell.
Howard A. Milliken.	Frank Harmon.	Horace Moses.
Chas. E. Meserve.	Eugene H. Libby.	Alvin F. Moulton.
John A. Meserve.	John L. Libby.	Eugene M. Morrison.
Walter Meserve.	Moulton C. Libby.	Fred. M. Newcomb.
Chas. H. Mitchell.	Willie F. Lowe.	Freedom Newcomb.
Samuel L. Morse.	John McKenney.	Wm. F. Pillsbury.
Isaac Morse.	Samuel K. Milliken.	Elbridge S. Pillsbury.
Frank Moses.	Chas. H. Mitchell.	Olin A. Patterson.
Horace Moses.	Horace Moses.	Chas. A. Sanborn.

WHERE ENTERED. BERCH RIDGE.	WHERE ENTERED. DUNSTAN.	WHERE ENTERED. OAK HILL.
NAMES.	NAMES.	NAMES.
Elbridge S. Pillsbury.	Frank Moses.	George S. Scamman.
George M. Pillsbury.	James G. Moulton.	Wm. Edward Seavey.
Wm. F. Pillsbury.	Alvin F. Moulton.	Robert B. Seavey.
Sylvanus T. Ricker.	Eugene M. Morrison.	Zenas L. Seavey.
Harry Rounds.	Wm. F. Pillsbury.	Edwin E. Skillings.
George S. Scamman.	Elbridge S. Pillsbury.	Frank E. Snow.
Harris B. Snow.	Clifford Richardson.	Harris B. Snow.
	Geo. S. Scamman.	Joseph B. Sturdevant.
	Frank E. Snow.	Charles F. Walker.
Nellie Bragdon.	Harris B. Snow.	Elmer E. Wilson.
Mary Bragdon.		
Nellie M. Carter.		
Carrie E. Foss.	Gussie Banks.	Gussie Banks.
Lizzie E. Foss.	Nellie E. Boothby.	Alice A. Brackett.
Mary F. Foss.	Lottie F. Burnham.	Carrie E. Foss.
Annie H. Hanson.	Estella L. Foss.	Estella L. Foss.
Susie F. Huston.	Nellie M. Carter.	Lizzie E. Foss.
Abbie E. Libby.	Carrie E. Foss.	Mary F. Foss.
Edna E. Libby.	Estella L. Foss.	Annie H. Hanson.
Kate McLaughlin.	Lizzie E. Foss.	Jennie A. Harmon.
Sadie E. McLaughlin.	Mary F. Foss.	Edna E. Libby.
Georgia A. Mitchell.	Eva A. Graffam.	Clara J. Libby.
Evie J. Moses.	Annie H. Hanson.	Mary L. Libby.
Ina Moses.	Edna E. Libby.	Minerva E. Libby.
Sarah A. Moses.	Georgia A. Merrill.	Lillie H. Hunnewell.
Annie Pillsbury.	Alice J. Moulton.	Georgia S. Hurlburt.
Marcia V. Pillsbury.	Hattie A. Moulton.	Hattie B. Hurlburt.
Lizzie S. Pillsbury.	Addie M. Moulton.	Georgia A. Merrill.
Nellie S. Ricker.	Evie J. Moses.	Alice J. Moulton.
Kate Temm.	Lizzie L. Pillsbury.	Hattie A. Moulton.
	Lizzie S. Pillsbury.	Addie M. Moulton.
	Marcia V. Pillsbury.	Hattie J. Newcomb.
	Nellie S. Ricker.	Nellie M. Plummer.
	Evie H. Rounds.	Ada L. Plummer.
	Fannie L. Rounds.	Sadie M. Plummer.
	Nellie C. Snow.	Emma L. Plummer.
	Emma F. Snow.	Mary A. Seavey.
	Alberta B. Snow.	Nellie C. Snow.
		Emma F. Snow.

Whole attendance, 185
Average attendance, 61

The three high school terms' locations were alternated, with the fall term at Beech Ridge, the winter term at Dunstan, and the spring term at Oak Hill. When the high school was in session, there were no common schools held in that district.

During the Beech Ridge term in 1878, Edna Libby and Lizzie Pillsbury collected work of classmates to put into the Scarboro High School Journal. They called their venture the Beech Ridge Publishing Co.



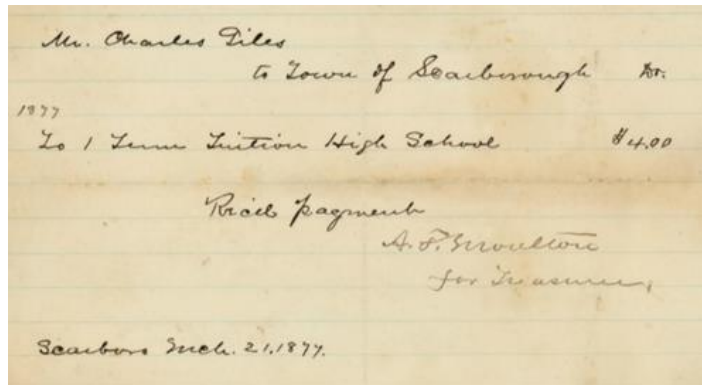
One student's contribution to the journal:

The image shows a close-up of a handwritten note on lined paper. The text is written in cursive and reads: "A woman having buried her husband, said she had one consolation, she knew where he was. nights."

FREE HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION FROM 1879 TOWN REPORT - 1878-1879 SCHOOL YEAR

The High School has been in charge of the same teacher that gave so excellent satisfaction last year, Wm. G. Lord, A. M. The first term was held at Beech Ridge, the second at Dunstan, and the third, which is now in progress, at Oak Hill. The interest of last year has continued unabated. About seventy-five scholars have attended each of the two first terms and the average of attendance has been very high; we are not able to give the exact attendance of the present term but it is large. While some of the higher branches of learning are taught in this school, attention is given chiefly to those most useful. The teacher labors to give a practical training to the studies of all the classes. Quite a number of scholars have been teaching a part of the year and have shown in their schools the good results of their High School training. We congratulate the town upon having such a good school established and would recommend an appropriation for its continuance at least as large as that of last year.

Attendance at the Scarboro Free High School was not free for out-of-town residents, as this receipt made out by Town Treasurer Augustus F. Moulton to Charles Giles shows. Charles paid \$4.00 for attending the Dunstan term of the high school in 1877.



From the Collections of Rodney Laughton

The state rescinded the Free High School Law in 1879, and after state money for high schools dried up, the status of the high school program in Scarborough for the next decade remains sketchy.

FREE HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION IN 1880 TOWN REPORT

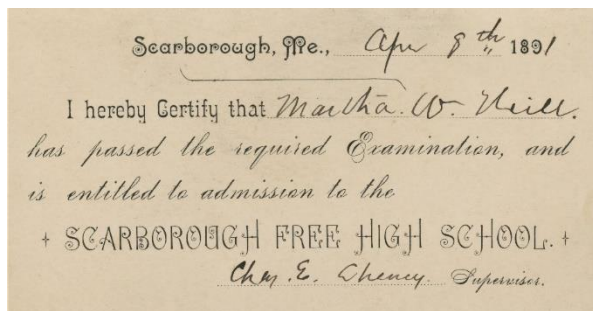
The Legislature of 1879 having suspended the Free High School act, the town has not maintained a High School the past year [beginning in the fall of 1879]. Arrangements were made for a term to be supported by private subscriptions, but the project failed for want of a suitable building in which to have the school.

A former student, Perley Libby, reported that in 1882 Master Lord of Limington was in charge of the high school, so it appears there were occasional attempts to continue the high school program. In a number of town warrants throughout the 1880s there were articles similar to the following:

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Free High School and raise money for the same.

Permanent high school classes were resumed without interruption in 1890, when a program was initiated with terms alternating between Dunstan and Oak Hill. At some point all classes were held at the town hall in Oak Hill.

When the Scarboro Free High School resumed classes during the 1890-1891 school year, students had to show a certain level of academic proficiency in order to earn admission. Martha (Mattie) Hill passed her admission exam, and four years later she earned a diploma.



Laughton Collection

We have photographs of the scholars who made up the student body of Scarborough's first permanent high school program in the 1890-1891 school year. This group of students participated in the fall term held at the town hall in Oak Hill in 1890.



Scarborough Historical Society Collections

**First Term 1890
Town Hall**

Front Row: Annie Hunnewell (Mrs. Fred Deering, South Portland), Howard Jones, Claista Milliken, (Mrs. Frank Morse, Saco), Harry Small, Walter Plummer, Blanchard Pillsbury, William Robinson, Nettie Lowe

Second Row: Elfleda Pillsbury*, Laura Roberts, Sadie Richardson, Clara Baker, Ida Wentworth, Florence Jones*, Sadie Libby, Myrtle Deering, Marion Oliver, Maud Wentworth, Bertha Libby, (Mrs. Ralph Lary), Minnie ?

Third Row: Henry Gilman, Clifford Plummer, Clifford Libby, Ora Roberts*, Alvan Larrabee, Albion Libby, Herbert Ormsby

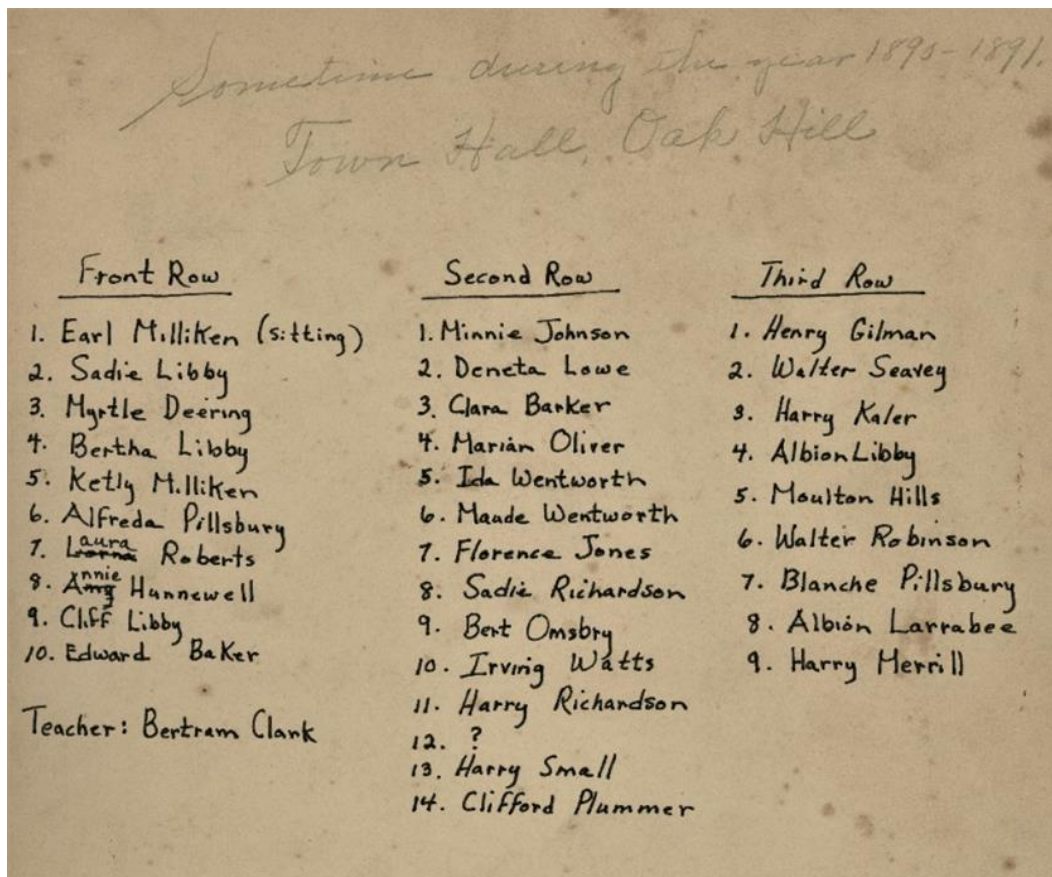
Fourth Row: Moulton Hills, Eddie Baker, Walter Seavey, **Bertrand E Clarke, Principal**, unknown, Harry Richardson, Earle Milliken, Harry Merrill, Walter Robinson, Harry Kaler

* Marked Deceased when the original list was written.

Another picture shows the same group of students in their classroom at the town hall at Oak Hill for classes during the fall term of the first permanent Scarborough High School during the 1890-1891 school year.



Scarborough Historical Society Collections



This same photograph was used in a 1934 newspaper article commemorating the first Scarborough High School 45 years earlier.



Laughton Collection

FREE HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION FROM 1891 TOWN REPORT – 1890-1891 SCHOOL YEAR

This school of two terms: Fall and winter, was under the charge of B.E. Clark, who proved himself an efficient teacher. Accurate scholarship characterizes all his teachings, while some attention was given to those most useful. The pupils have shown a constant interest and have pursued their studies with a marked industry. Let us keep pace with our adjoining towns and continue the High School; such a school is needed in town; it would enable our young men to qualify themselves for the important positions they will be called to fill. Fit them to fill our places with a thorough practical education, and it will ever be to them a source of wealth, prosperity, and happiness. I would recommend an appropriation for its continuance at least as large as that of last year.

TEXTBOOKS:

Books adopted in 1890:

New Franklin Readers

Greenleaf's Mathematical Series

Swinton's Geography

Harvey's English Grammar

Meservey's Bookkeeping

Barnes History

Modern Spelling Book

Smith's Physiology

Colburn's Intellectual Arithmetic

Books bought:

Townsend Civil Government

J.H. Allen's New Latin Method

French Grammar and Readers

Eclectic Physical Geography

Southworth and Goddard Grammar

Respectfully,

Edna E. Libby, Supervisor

This 1891 picture shows the Scarboro Free High School students who attended the high school's second term held at the Independent Order of Good Templars' hall in Dunstan, which was located where the soldiers' monument is today. The winter term of the first permanent high school was run by its principal and only teacher, Bertram E. Clark, who is seated in the front row.



Collections of Scarborough Historical Society

Dunstan 1891

Left to Right

Front Row: Eloise Milliken, Ella Gilman, Ida Wentworth, B C Clark (teacher), Agnes McKinny (reclining), unknown.

Second Row: Edna Milliken, unknown, Olive Webster, unknown, Rolena Blake, Mattie Hill.

Third Row: Maude Banks, Lettie Merrill, Eleanor Snow, Albion Libby, (space were no one is standing) Edward Snow, Bertha Libby, Maude Wentworth. (near the lamp post)

Fourth Row: Foy Moulton, Henry Gilman, Harry Merrill, Milton (sp.?) Hills (w/ bat), Ed Baker.

Back Row: Earl Milliken, Blanche Pillsbury, Albin Larrabee, Bert Ormsbee.

To the Trustees of the Lodge of Good Templars
West Scarboro:

We the undersigned, citizens of Scarboro interested in the cause of education, respectfully represent that every dollar charged by the Good Templars for the use of their hall for a high school lessens by so much the length of the school and deprives the children of the town of the benefit of education to that extent.

We recall the fact that your hall was built by contributions from the people of the town, the subscription paper declaring that it should be a "public hall", and since your society has already charged and received a considerable amount of money from the High School appropriation without being put to any expense whatever, we respectfully ask in the name of education and public spirit and for the sake of our scholars that you will allow the use of the Hall for the High School without further payment from the school fund which is already too small.

A. F. Sewell
F. C. McKenney
H. A. Milliken
J. J. Storey
Wm. H. Mitchell
Ora E. Sherman
Geo. M. Knight

E. L. Allen
Chas. E. Cheney
R. C. Seanez
C. E. Loper
C. F. Walker
Geo. J. S. S. S.
W. H. Montross
W. D. Barclay
Chas. W. Lobb
M. S. Milliken
E. B. Thurston
W. F. Dresser

J. B. Lobb
Thomas Sargent
Homer A. Brazier
Robert Newell
L. P. Whitehouse
E. B. Carter
J. S. Pillsbury
H. S. Pillsbury
C. C. Sibbes
C. F. Libby
C. C. Libby
H. B. Manchester
John S. Libby

Laughton Collection

Since the community had supported the building of the Good Templars hall just a few years earlier, residents signed a petition objecting to the fees the town was being charged for the use of the building for its high school.

The agreement in hiring the Good Templars Hall for the fall term of high school is that I pay \$1.00 per week for the use of it, not including the use of stage or organ. If a coal stove is used, it can be also used for any evening meetings. - The hall is to have proper care and any injury will be repaired at expense of the town.

If in the judgment of the trustees of Stephen Sewall Lodge the hall is receiving unnecessary injury this contract is ended, and the hall is to be vacated.

Laughton Collection

This document was part of School Superintendent Charles Cheney's negotiations with the Good Templars in 1891 for the use of the building for high school classes in Dunstan.

The following school year saw a third term added, probably at Beech Ridge, as this had been the protocol a decade before, but it appears it was not successful. A new Supervisor of Schools, Charles E. Cheney, took charge for that school year.

FREE HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION FROM 1892 TOWN REPORT – 1891-1892 SCHOOL YEAR

This school of three terms was taught by B.E. Clark, our teacher of last year. The change in location this year was detrimental in many ways. The spring and fall terms were well attended, but the winter term was shortened on account of small attendance. The pupils pursued their studies with an interest that showed in the end good work. Such a school should be established in our town, and made a permanent thing. I would recommend the usual appropriation.

Respectfully submitted,

Chas. E. Cheney, Supervisor of Schools

FREE HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION FROM 1893 TOWN REPORT - 1892-1893 SCHOOL YEAR

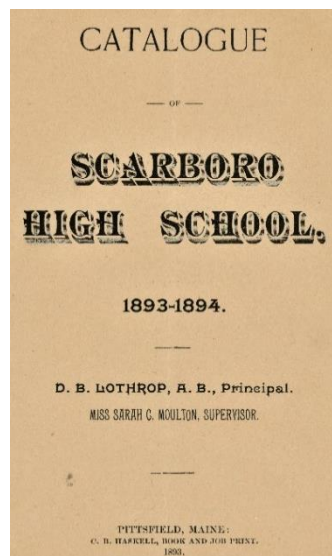
The spring term was taught by Mr. D.G. Donnocker. His high standing as teacher and the work he did in the school is too well known to need any commendation.

Mr. Donnocker resigned and recommended Mr. Roscoe A. Small as his substitute, who taught the fall term. The examination proved that thorough work was done during his teaching. He resigned to accept a position a teacher near Boston.

The winter term was taught by Mr. Arthur P. Irving who came highly recommended from Farmington where he formerly taught. He has fully sustained his high standing as teacher here. He has been enthusiastic in his work and has spared neither time nor pains in making the school a success and bringing it to a high standard.

The studies pursued during the past years have been as follows: Three classes in Latin, two classes in Greek, advanced classes in Algebra and Geometry. The classes in Astronomy and Physical Geography have completed those studies. The classes in Arithmetic and Grammar have reviewed those books and are ready to take Algebra and Composition. There has also been history, Reading, Spelling, Debating and other exercises. The whole number attending spring term was 23; fall term 35; winter term 26.

Sarah C. Moulton, Supervisor of Schools



An article in that year's town meeting included a vote on the following:

To see if the town will vote to support a free high school for the ensuing year, to be held in the town hall, and raise money for the same.

The 1893 town report also noted that in the previous year high school attendance was 23 students in the spring term, 35 students in the fall term, and 26 students in the winter term.

In 1893, a Scarboro High School catalog was published which spotlights a large amount of information on the early school. From the catalog, we learn there was a three-year road to graduation. Students in their third and last year of instruction were designated as being in the First Class, those just beginning their high school education were in the Third Class, and scholars in between were members of the Second Class.

Searboro High School

is pleasantly located in the central part of the town. Its aim is to provide instruction in the higher branches of study, and to promote the interests of education in the community.

STUDENTS.

Graduates, Class of 1893.

COLLEGE PREPARATORY COURSE.

Libby, Bertha O.
Ormsby, Herbert Wm.

SCIENTIFIC COURSE.

Libby, Geo. H.

First Class. ('94)

COLLEGE PREPARATORY.

Hunnell, John A.

SCIENTIFIC COURSE.

Blake, Rovena I.
Libby, Estelle H.
Olliver, Marion
Wentworth, Ida M.

Second Class. ('95)

CLASSICAL COURSE.

Gilman, Mabel
Larrabee, Ralph B.
Libby, Perley E.
Libby, Ruth E.
Moses, Annie E.
Staples, Edgar W.

SCIENTIFIC COURSE.

Bryant, Lewis M.
Cook, Grace E.
Hill, Mattie W.
Kaler, Addie E.
Kaler, Harry F.
Libby, Carrie E.
Libby, John O.
Larrabee, Walter F.
Milliken, Eloise Fiske
Peterson, Lewis A.
Pillsbury, Clara E.
Pillsbury, John M.
Robinson, Wm. J.
Seavey, Walter
Small, Harry S.
Snow, Edwin B.

Third Class. ('96)

SCIENTIFIC COURSE.

Banks, Maud
Berry, Hattie M.
Bowley, Sadie E.
Carter, Herbert D.
Cook, Albert A.
Cummings, Henrietta F.
Johnson, Willie H.
Larrabee, Mary H.
Libby, Ethel L.
Moody, Emery W.

Pillsbury, Guy H.
Richardson, Eddie M.
Robinson, Wm. B.
Sampson, Gertrude A.
Tucker, Albion C.

Students were admitted to the school after passing an examination which tested them in reading, spelling, English grammar, arithmetic and geography. They could choose between a college preparatory course, a classical course or a scientific course.

Courses of Study.

There are three courses of study, an outline of which has already been given. These courses have been carefully prepared to meet the needs of those desirous of obtaining thorough and practical instruction, and all students will find it to their advantage to enter some regular course and, as far as possible, to pursue the studies in the order indicated.

Text books are furnished by the town.

Rhetorical Exercises.

Exercises in Declamation and Composition occur regularly during each term. This work is considered especially important and is required of all students.

Literary Society.

The Scarboro High School Assembly holds weekly meetings, and is designed for a source of improvement in public speaking.

Rank.

A report of the progress and general deportment of each student is sent to the parent or guardian at the close of every term.

General Remarks:

All are cordially invited to visit the school and observe for themselves the character of the work being done.

It is essential that all students be present the first day of the term.

All are required to be punctual in attending to their recitations and exercises. An excuse for any absence from a recitation or exercise must be promptly rendered in writing, and the recitation or exercise made up.

Students living out of town will be admitted on the payment of moderate tuition.

Any student who wilfully injures or defaces in any way the building or property of the High School will be promptly expelled.



COURSES OF STUDY.

College Preparatory Course.

FIRST YEAR.

FALL TERM.	WINTER TERM.	SPRING TERM.
Arithmetic, Eng. Grammar, U. S. History, Latin Lessons, Penmanship, Reading.	Arithmetic, Eng. Grammar, Latin Lessons, Penmanship, Reading.	Arithmetic, Eng. Grammar, Latin Lessons, Penmanship, Composition.

SECOND YEAR.

FALL TERM.	WINTER TERM.	SPRING TERM.
Algebra, Greek Lessons, Cæsar, Eng. Composition.	Algebra, Greek Lessons, Cæsar, Eng. Syntax.	Algebra, Greek Lessons, Cæsar, Eng. Syntax.

THIRD YEAR.

FALL TERM.	WINTER TERM.	SPRING TERM.
Geometry, Anabasis, Cicero, Normal Class, Eng. Literature.	Geometry, Anabasis, Cicero, Normal Class, Eng. Literature.	Geometry, Anabasis, Cicero, Eng. Literature.

Classical Course.

FIRST YEAR.

FALL TERM.	WINTER TERM.	SPRING TERM.
Arithmetic, U. S. History, Latin Lessons, Reading.	Arithmetic, Eng. Grammar, Latin Lessons, Reading.	Arithmetic, Eng. Grammar, Latin Lessons, Eng. Composition.

SECOND YEAR.

FALL TERM.	WINTER TERM.	SPRING TERM.
Algebra, Astronomy, Cæsar, Eng. Composition.	Algebra, Physiology or Physical Geography, Cæsar, Eng. Syntax.	Algebra, Physiology or Botany, Cæsar, Eng. Syntax.

THIRD YEAR.

FALL TERM.	WINTER TERM.	SPRING TERM.
Geometry, Rhetoric or General History, Cicero, Normal Class, Eng. Literature.	Geometry, Chemistry or General History, Cicero, Normal Class, Eng. Literature.	Geometry, Physics or Geology, Cicero, Eng. Literature.

Scientific Course.

FIRST YEAR.

FALL TERM.	WINTER TERM.	SPRING TERM.
Arithmetic, Eng. Grammar, U. S. History, Penmanship, Reading.	Arithmetic, Eng. Grammar, Civil Government, Penmanship, Reading.	Arithmetic, Eng. Grammar, Book-keeping, Penmanship, Eng. Composition.

SECOND YEAR.

FALL TERM.	WINTER TERM.	SPRING TERM.
Algebra, Astronomy, Book-keeping, Eng. Composition.	Algebra, Physiology, Physical Geography, Eng. Syntax.	Algebra, Physiology, Botany, Eng. Syntax.

THIRD YEAR.

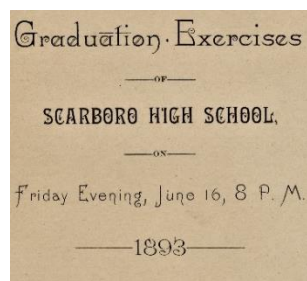
FALL TERM.	WINTER TERM.	SPRING TERM.
Geometry, Rhetoric, General History, Normal Class, Eng. Literature.	Geometry, Chemistry, General History, Normal Class, Eng. Literature.	Geometry, Physics, Geology, Eng. Literature.

"It has been our object to establish that course of study which will be most practical to the students after their school days are finished and they enter upon their vocations of life. Written examinations of each term's work have been given to all the students, and they have been required to attain a certain percentage upon the work of each term, for the general welfare of the students and that the school might attain its present high standard.

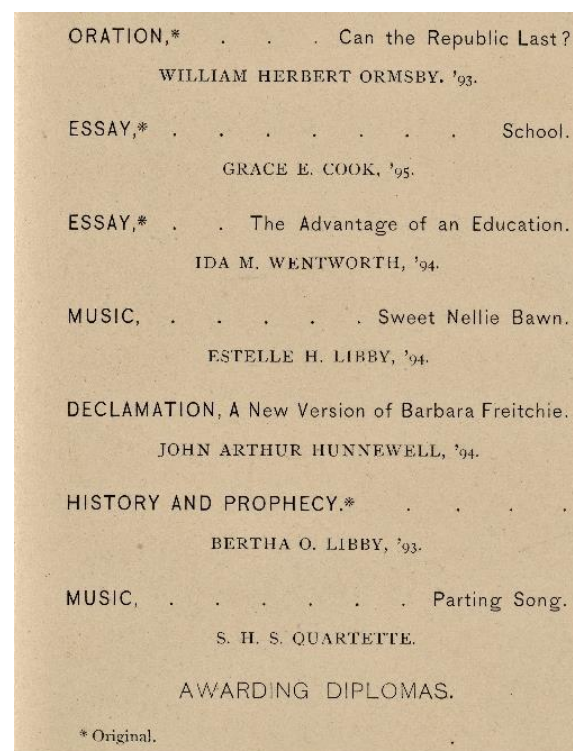
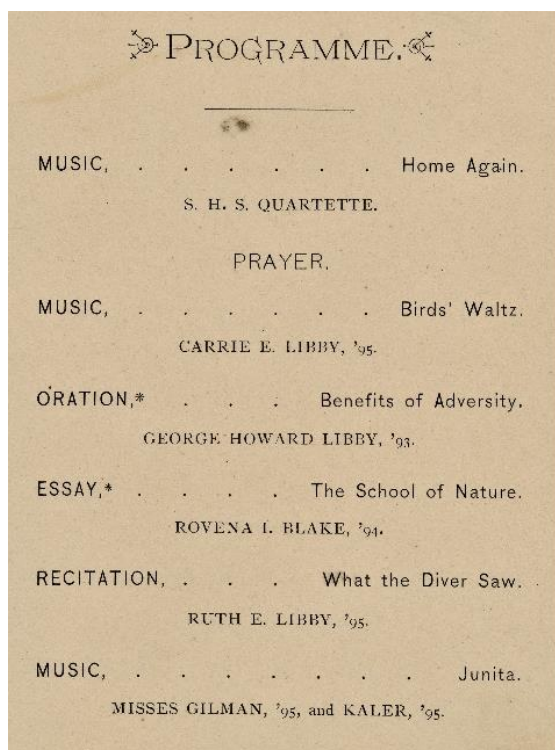
The work of the teacher and students of this school deserve the highest praise. Today we have a high school in the Town of Scarboro, of which all wise and conscientious citizens may well be proud."

JNO. A. SNOW, Supervisor of Schools

With only three graduating students in 1893, other students from the school participated in the graduation exercises. The class colors were cardinal and cream.



Laughton Collection



FREE HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION IN THE 1894 TOWN REPORT ON 1893-94 SCHOOL YEAR

The High School during the past year has been under the instruction of Mr. D.B Lothrop, who came to us with the highest possible recommendation, and who has labored faithfully and successfully for the welfare of the school. The school has been large throughout the three terms. The interest and attendance have been well maintained. The scholars have been interested in their studies and much good, thorough work has been done in the school.

The former course of study has been somewhat revised and printed in better form, with the names of the scholars and the classes to which they belong. I believe it to be the better plan to have the scholars keep along with the common studies, arithmetic, grammar, reading, spelling and writing as much as possible, with the more advanced studies which they take in the school, and thus avoid that lamentable ignorance concerning those studies that is so often found in a High School graduate. All but seven in the school take arithmetic and grammar.

The studies pursued during the past year have been as follows: Two classes in Latin, Cicero and Caesar, one class in Greek, Anabasis, three classes in algebra, two classes in geometry, classes in civil government, natural philosophy and physical geography. The classes in ancient and United States history, rhetoric, astronomy and physiology have completed those studies. There are also classes in arithmetic, grammar and bookkeeping. Nearly the whole school has taken bookkeeping the past two terms. Some have finished it. There have also been reading spelling, writing, composition, declamations, debating and other exercises.

The whole number attending spring term, 31; fall term, 40; winter term, 41.

Respectfully submitted, Sarah C. Moulton, Supervisor of Schools

At the 1894 town meeting the town voted "to support a free high school for the ensuing year, to be held in the town hall, and raise money for the same."



This photograph of
Scarboro High
School girls with their
teacher, D.B.
Lothrop, was taken in
1894.

Rodney Laughton Collection

Back row: Estelle Libby, teacher D.B. Lothrop, Grace Cook

Middle row: Mabel Gilman, Annie Moses, Rowena Blake,
Martha Hill, _____

Front row: Addie Kaler, Eloise Milliken, Ida Wentworth,
_____, Henrietta Cummings

High school drama
presentations were
popular, and often
graduation programs
would include a short
one-act play. These
two plays were
presented during the
school year.

The Danger Signal.
A Pleasing Drama, in Two Acts, will be given by
THE SENIOR CLASS OF S. H. S.,
AT SCARBORO TOWN HALL,
Friday Evening, April 12, 1895,
AT 8 O'CLOCK.
If very stormy, the following Monday Evening.

CAST OF CHARACTERS.

Charles Norman,	Wm. J. Robinson
Enfield, alias Williamson,	S. H. Small
Chester Norman,	John O. Libby
Doctor Valerian,	E. Perley Libby
Peter Bullock,	Edwin B. Snow
Pat Malloney,	Edgar W. Staples
Persimmon,	Lewis A. Peterson
Stella Enfield,	Ruth E. Libby
Mother Foresight,	Eloise F. Milliken
Miss Angle,	Mattie W. Hill
Norah,	Mabel Gilman

SYNOPSIS.

ACT I.

Stella and Chester Norman. Enfield warns Stella. Wreck of the "Northern Belle." Valerian's ingenious theory discovers Enfield's secret. Enfield's burning desire for revenge. The plot. The storm. The rescue.

ACT II.

Enfield implacable. Peter's ludicrous jealousy. Stella fears insanity of her father. Another attempt on the elder Norman's life. Enfield's terrible remorse. The "boys" take Peter "pickered sticking." Norman's peril. The danger signal.

The School Ma'am,

A Brilliant Comedy in Four Acts, will be given by

The Senior Class of S. H. S.

AT THE SCARBORO TOWN HALL,

Friday Eve'g, Dec. 14, 1894,

AT 8 O'CLOCK.

If very stormy, the following Monday evening.

CAST OF CHARACTERS.

Kate Bell, the school-ma'am,	Grace E. Cook
Mrs. Grump, the complaining parent,	Eloise F. Milliken
Mrs. Undertow,	Carrie E. Libby
Marly Undertow,	Mabel Gilman
Minnie Trueblood,	Ruth E. Libby
Undertow, a "self-made" man,	S. H. Small
Cypher, "a friend of education," } Directors,	John O. Libby
Trueblood,	Ralph B. Larrabee
Milt Harmon,	Edwin B. Snow
Johnnie Grump, the "little son,"	Lewis A. Peterson
Jamie McWhack, janitor,	Edgar W. Staples

SYNOPSIS.

ACT I: SCENE 1—Kate Bell is employed to teach the "deestric" school. SCENE 2—Mrs. Grump calls to tell Kate about her "little son." Undertow advises Kate.

ACT II: SCENE 1—School library torn up. Trouble brewing. Milt Harmon summarily quells an incipient rebellion for Kate. The Board make a "visitation" and examine the school. A vigorous demonstration by Mrs. Grump. The accusation. SCENE 2—Marly Undertow's plot.

ACT III: SCENE 1—Jamie McWhack interviewed by the Board. His inexhaustible humor. SCENE 2—Kate's grief and despair. SCENE 3—The night visit. The eavesdroppers. Burning of the school-house.

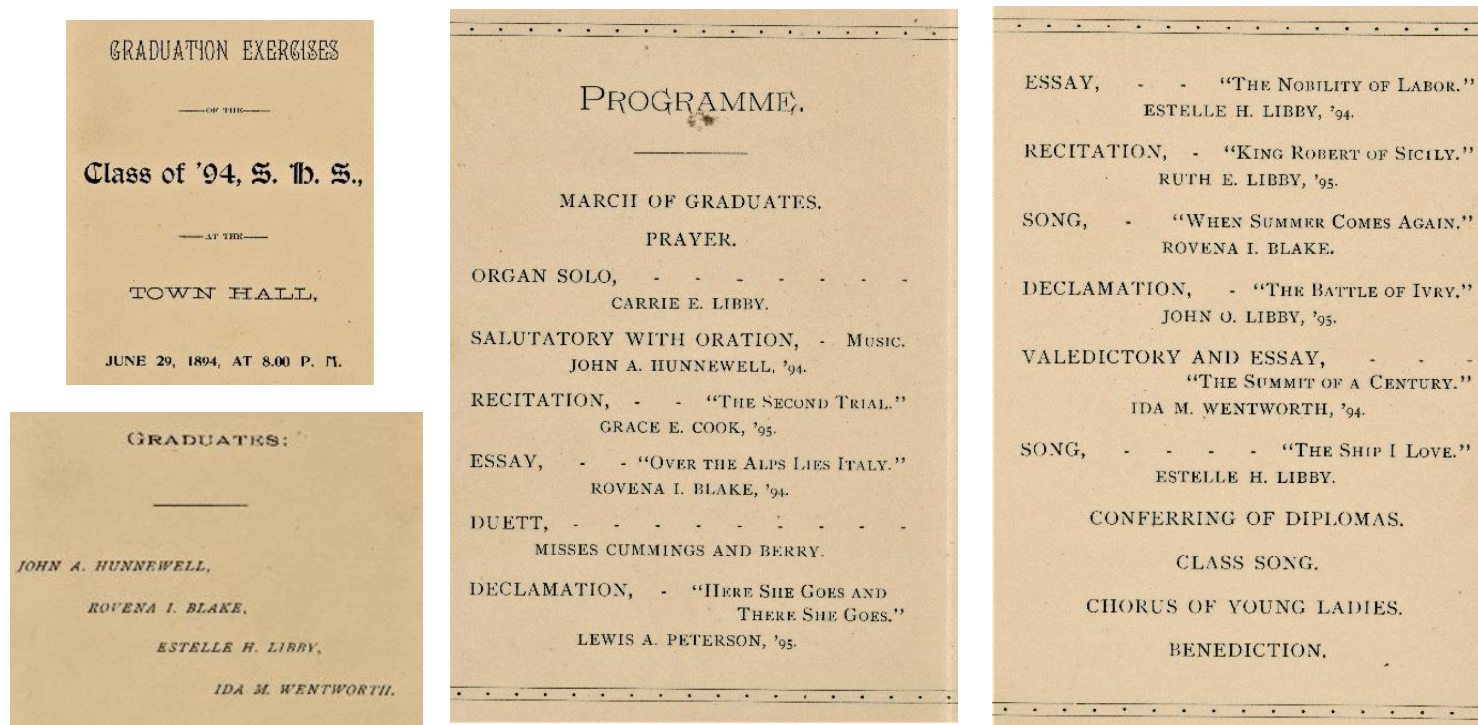
ACT IV: SCENE 1—The school-mistress in the toils. A row in the Board. SCENE 2—Kate in a dangerous position. Complete vindication of the school-ma'am.

Admission, = = Adults, 20 Cents.

Children under 12 years, 15 Cents.

Lakeville Press, Portland, Me.

The number of graduates in the class of 1894 grew to four. Other students besides the graduates were needed to fill out the graduation program.



Rodney Laughton Collection

FREE HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION FROM THE 1895 TOWN REPORT – 1894-95 SCHOOL YEAR

The instruction of the high school has been under the care of Mr. George H. Stoddard, whose earnest and faithful efforts deserve the highest commendations.

It has been our object to establish that course of study which will be most practical to the students after their school days are finished and they enter upon their vocations of life. Written examinations of each term's work have been given to all the students, and they have been required to attain a certain percentage upon the work of each term, for the general welfare of the students and that the school might attain its present high standard. The work of teacher and students of this school deserve the highest praise. Today we have a high school in the Town of Scarboro, of which all wise and conscientious citizens may well be proud.

Jno. A. Snow, Supervisor of Schools

S.S. Committee: Alvan B. Larrabee, Granville McKenney, George Scamman, H.H. Allen

Town Meeting articles, March 4, 1895

The articles residents were asked to vote on at town meeting in 1895 included the following:

Article #8. To see if the town will vote to support a free high school for the ensuing year, to be held in the Town Hall, and raise money for the same.

Many scholars who had been working diligently since the reopening of the high school in 1890 realized their goal in 1895, when the number of graduates swelled to nineteen.



9. *The Distribution of Man.	EDGAR W. STAPLES
10. A Parent's Love.	MARTHA W. HILL
MUSIC.	
11. CLASS HISTORY.	CLARA E. PILLSBURY
12. *Wonders of Electricity.	LOUIS A. PETERSON
13. Labor Conquers.	CARRIE E. LIBBY
14. *The Sun.	WILLIAM J. ROBINSON
15. Ancient and Modern Modes of Travel.	RALPH B. LARRABEE
MUSIC.	
16. A Political Education.	WALTER SEAVEY
17. The Power of Imagination.	MABEL GILMAN
18. Hawaii.	EDWIN B. SNOW
19. VALEDICTORY, with Essay—The Value of Decision.	RUTH E. LIBBY
CLASS SONG.	
AWARDING OF DIPLOMAS.	
BENEDICTION.	
* Excused.	

Programme.	
MUSIC.	
PRAYER.	
MUSIC.	
1. SALUTATORY, with Essay—A Description of Norman's Woe.	GRACE E. COOK
2. Our Country's Progress in Civilization.	E. PERLEY LIBBY
3. A Mother's Influence.	ADDIE E. KALER
4. * Railroads.	WALTER F. LARRABEE
5. Step by Step.	ELOISE FISKE MILLIKEN
MUSIC.	
6. ORATION—How to Make Life a Success.	S. H. SMALL
7. Advantages of Perseverance.	ANNIE E. MOSES
8. The Humble Origin of Great Men.	JOHN O. LIBBY

FREE HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION FROM 1896 TOWN REPORT – 1895-96 SCHOOL YEAR

The first term of the school year was under the management of Mr. George N. Stoddard. Mr. Stoddard was a faithful and conscientious teacher. The results of Mr. Stoddard's work while connected with the school will long be remembered by those students who had the good fortune of receiving the benefit of his labor. Mr. Stoddard was called to the principalship of the Freeport High School at the close of the spring term. The last two terms of the High School have been under the instruction of Mr. James G. Morrill, who came highly recommended by the faculty of Bates College. Mr. Morrill is a painstaking teacher and a good disciplinarian. Next year the High School will be a large school, as I have given many certificates of admission, and there are many well prepared to enter the school.

JNO. A. SNOW, Supervisor of Schools

S.S. Committee: Granville McKenney, Seth L. Plummer, Geo. S. Scamman, H.H. Allen

Public prize speaking was popular at that time. Over two dozen students participated in this program in 1897.

SEARBORO HIGH SCHOOL
Speaking Exhibition
TOWN HALL, OAK HILL
Friday, June 18, 1897.

- - PROGRAM. - -					
Music,	MISSSES MILLIKEN and LEAVITT		A Heart of Charity,	SUSIE G. LARKIN.	Anon
	Prayer.		Hullo!	CHARLES P. BOWLEY.	Foss
Music,	MISS GILMAN		An Auctioneer's Gift,	NORA G. NELSON.	Foss
The Spoiled Statue,	LOTTIE B. SNOW.	Anon	A Poetical Courtship,	EMELYN P. MILLIKEN.	Hills
One Hundred Years Ago,	WILLIE W. DRESSER.	Anon	How Columbus Found America,	EVA L. GOOGINS.	Dodge
The Two Chimneys,	LUELLA LIBBY.	Strong	The Child Martyr,	KATHERINE E. ORMSBY.	Anderson
The Cumberland,	FRANK L. OLIVER.	Longfellow	Music,		
Wanted, A Wife,	HARRY E. TRIPP.	Anon	The Slim Teacher of Cranberry Gulch,	ARNOLD E. COOK.	Anon
What the Little Girl Said,	S. JOSEPHINE PLUMMER.	Anon	Elopement in Seventy-five,	MILDRED C. OLIVER.	Anon
Music,	MISSSES GOOGINS and SEAVEY		A Thankful Parson,	WILLIE G. WILLMAN.	Anon
The Bicycle Ride,	MARY PEDERSON.	Harvey	Music,		
The Trouble With the Steward,	HARRY C. LANE	Anon	The Bridge Keeper's Story,	LILLIAN M. ROBINSON.	Eaton
The Execution of Queen Mary,	EDITH L. NEWCOMB.	Lamartine	Presto Chango,	ETTA A. LIBBY.	Smiley
The Black Horse and His Rider,	SCOTT G. LARRABEE.	Sheppard	Pat and the Pig,	DON L. LING.	Anon
	Music.		Music,		

*1897 Scarborough High School prize speaking competition
Rodney Laughton Collection*

FREE HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION FROM 1897 TOWN REPORT - 1896-97 SCHOOL YEAR

This school was under the instruction of J.G. Morrill (during the spring term). Mr. Morrill was with us the previous year and needs no recommendation. The fall and winter terms have been under the instruction of F.L. Ames. Mr. Ames came to us highly recommended, and the advancement and progress have been as marked, and the discipline as good as under the previous instructor. Mr. Ames has appeared deeply interested in the success of the school and in the welfare of each scholar. A large number of the scholars readily reciprocate and appreciate this interest and endeavor to procure good lessons and submit willingly to the rules and requirements of the school.

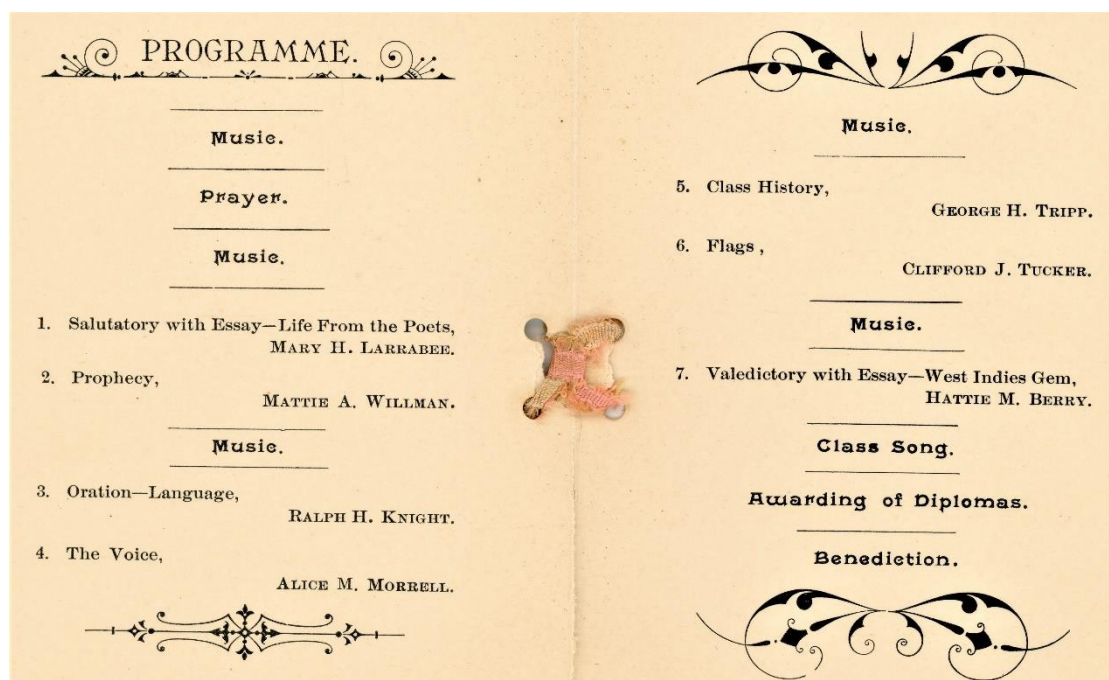
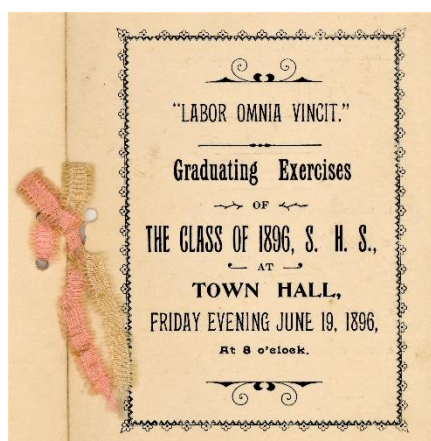
The attendance during the past year has been nearly the same as in preceding years. We would like to see all the children who enter the high school continue until they graduate.

H.H. Allen, Supervisor

Superintending School Committee: W.H. Graffam, Seth L. Plummer, F.P. Briggs, J.A. Snow, H.H. Allen

Class of 1896 graduation program

Laughton Collection



FREE HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION FROM 1898 TOWN REPORT - 1897-98 SCHOOL YEAR

It appears from reports in the 1898 town report that there was serious disagreement between the school superintendent and the school board that year.

From report of Superintendent of Schools:

At the beginning of the school year, your school board saw fit to take charge of this school, and procured the services of F.F. Ames, who your Superintendent had retained for the spring term.

*Our experience in school affairs has taught us that when there is a division, it is better for all parties to make a change. This state of affairs occurred last spring, and we most earnestly urged your school board to elect a new teacher, **which they did not do.***

We recognize Mr. Ames' ability as a scholar, but with his methods of instruction and discipline, we cannot concur. We regret that we have not received better returns for the money expended, and hope if our High School continues longer, our successor will labor under more favorable circumstances.

H.H. Allen, Supt.

To the Citizens of Scarboro:

We, citizens of Scarboro and members of your School Board, feeling that we cannot concur with your Superintendent's report, wish to express our opinion in regard t the High School and will say that, as far as we have been able to observe, and we think we have had ample opportunity, that the High School, with proper supervision, would have been one of the best we ever had, and even with the drawbacks which have been brought to bear, it has been a good and profitable school. We believe Mr. Ames to be a teacher of fine abilities and one who has given his best energies for the promotion of the school. Unfortunately, some of the larger boys made some little disturbance, but when reasoned with, with one exception, acknowledge their wrong and reinstated themselves in the school, for which, we think, they should be commended. On the whole, we believe the High school has been a success and the money well expended.

Members of the School Board: W.H. Graffam, S.L. Plummer

Others: A.B. Larrabee, C.O. Libby, Charles W. Libby, John Plummer, Abner P. Hill, W.D. Bowley, E.S. Oliver, J.H. Libby, I.C. Libby, George B. Libby, T. Alonzo Libby

At this time more space was needed to accommodate the high school at the town hall, and the following article was included in the warrant for the town meeting in 1898:

Town Meeting Article #26 – February 10, 1898

To see if the town will vote to build a new school house near the Town House, or raise the roof of the Town House one story, and finish, furnish and equip the same for the use of the High School (by request).

FREE HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION FROM 1899 TOWN REPORT - 1898-99 SCHOOL YEAR

The High School has been under the instruction of Mr. W.H. Ormsby, who needs no introduction to the inhabitant of Scarboro, being one of those teachers who uses all energy possible to secure the best of results. We think he has done everything in his power to make a success of our school, striving for the interests of every pupil, and everything we observed has been quiet and orderly around the school room, showing that he has been an excellent disciplinarian.

It gives us much pleasure to visit this school and listen to the recitations, the scholars being very prompt in answering their question; everything tends to show greatest harmony existing between teacher and scholars.

If everyone who thinks the High School is a failure in Scarboro would spend a short time in visiting this school, they would be highly pleased, and they would leave this school room saying within themselves what a noble lot of material we have to mold into noble young men and women, and I shall always strive to support a High School, and encourage all others to do the same. What money we raise for support of schools and spend for this purpose, and our children attend and obtain this knowledge, in after years we may observe the fruits of our labors.

FRED E. MOULTON, Superintendent - School Committee: W.H. GRAFFAM, J.F. STOREY, CHAS. E. LIBBY

FREE HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION FROM 1900 TOWN REPORT on 1899-1900 SCHOOL YEAR

The High School during the spring term was under the instruction of Clarence Proctor, who came to us with excellent recommendations and who labored earnestly for the welfare of the school.

The Fall and Winter terms have been under the instruction of Percy Fowler Parsons, a graduate of Harvard, who came to us with the highest recommendations. Mr. Parsons has labored earnestly for the school, and we think that he has met with untold success, as the scholars appear to be interested in their books and work with zeal to 55 procure good lessons, and submit willingly to the rules and requirements of the school. Mr. Parsons is a good disciplinarian, and should be retained for the next year.

FRED E. MOULTON, Superintendent.

School Committee: W.H. GRAFFAM, CHAS. E. LIBBY, DANIEL C. LIBBY

FREE HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION FROM 1901 TOWN REPORT on 1900-1901 SCHOOL YEAR

We retained the former teacher, Mr. Percy Fowler Parsons for the spring term, which he taught with the same success as past year and we graduated a class of two from our school, Latin scientific course. Etta Adele Libby, Scott Goddard Larrabee, who we think will go forth showing respect and honor for our high school, as many of our former graduates have done.

During the summer vacation Mr. Parsons was offered a position in Massachusetts, and sent his resignation to the School Committee of Scarboro which was accepted with regret.

The fall and winter terms have been taught by your Superintendent; the attendance has been good. It is unnecessary for me to make extended remarks.

FREDERIC E. MOULTON, Superintendent

School Committee: CHAS. E. LIBBY, DANIEL C. LIBBY, M. MILLIKEN

1. Name of the City, Town or Plantation	Scarboro Maine
2. Name or Number of School	High School
3. Name of the Teacher	Percy Fowler Parsons A.B. Harvard '95
4. Taught how many schools before	First High School in city as an under teacher
5. When the School commenced	Sept 5th '99
6. When the School closed	Nov 24th '99
7. When the School was visited by the Superintendent	Nov 23rd time before
8. Length of the School in weeks, 5 days in a week	11 weeks 4 days
9. Whole number of scholars attending School	21
10. Average number	19
11. Wages of Teacher, per week	\$65 a month
12. How many instances of tardiness	44
13. How many instances of dismissal	9
14. How many pupils not absent one half day	3
15. Number of daily recitations	11
16. Number of visits by Superintendent	3
17. Number of visits by citizens	12
18. Reading: No. of classes in, Whole No. of pupils in	
19. Spelling	1 19
20. Penmanship	" "
21. Arithmetic	1 13
22. Grammar	1 6
23. Geography	" "
24. Composition	" "
25. History	1 13
26. Physiology	" "
27. Book-keeping	1 8
28. Elements of Science	" "
29. Civics	" "
30. How many have attended to other studies? If so to what studies and how many to each	Sept 1st to Oct 1st 13
31. Is the school well furnished with text-books	Yes
32. What globes, wall maps and charts, if any, belong to the school	1 map
33. Was the teacher duly examined and certificated as required by law?	Graduate of Harvard

I hereby certify that this Register has been truly and faithfully kept as required by law, and that all the statements herein made are correct according to my best knowledge and belief.

Percy Fowler Parsons Teacher of High School
Hall Term.

1899.

* In cases where the teacher's board is paid by the town, the price of board per week should be added to the wages of teacher per week.

In the era before automobiles, a page from Percy Parsons' school register that each teacher was required by state law to keep includes his explanation as to why his class experienced a high rate of tardiness:

"This school has so many tardinesses because six scholars came in one wagon and the boy who brought them was never ready. It was all his fault and not theirs. Now that they come with their own rigs they are on time. Except for that, this school would have a very good record considering the roads and distances."

From the Scarborough Historical Society's ephemera collection

FREE HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION FROM 1902 TOWN REPORT - 1901-1902 SCHOOL YEAR

The high school during the past year has been under the instruction of Walter R. Whitcomb, a graduate of Dartmouth, who came highly recommended. At each visit to the school, the pupils were found orderly and attentive, and making commendable progress in their work. Mr. Whitcomb's manner of having the importance deserves much credit.

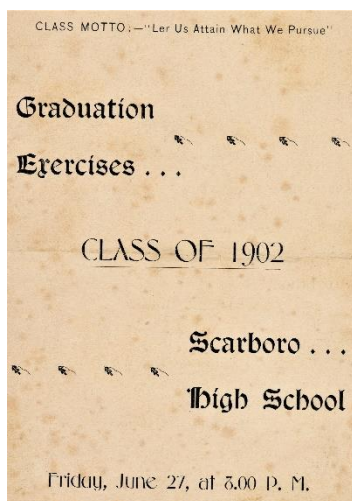
A piano has been purchased by the school, the money being raised by entertainments given by the pupils the past two years.

The spring and fall terms were twelve weeks each, the winter term seven, but would have continued two weeks longer, had not the teacher been unexpectedly called away. The average attendance has been good, and thorough work has been done throughout the year.

No subject is of greater importance than the relation of the public school to the life of the people, and from it we look to the boys and girls of today to come to manhood and womanhood better equipped for the duties of citizenship.

LIDA E. LIBBY, Superintendent

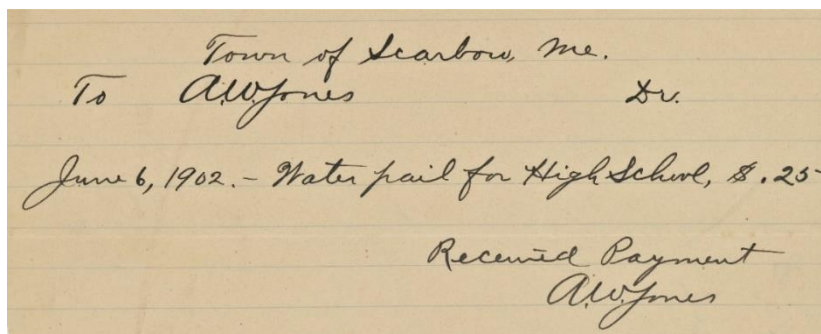
DANIEL C. LIBBY, MARK MILLIKEN, RICHARD M. LIBBY, School Committee



Laughton Collection

- - PROGRAM. - -	
INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC, "The Flower Song," <i>Gustave Lange</i> , MISS HELEN A. SWETT.	CLASS PROPHECY, MISS LULU B. ORMSBY.
INVOCATION.	ORATION, "Labor Conquers All," CLIFFORD H. LIBBY.
MUSIC, QUARTET.	MUSIC—"The Flower Girl," Vocal Solo, MISS MABEL GILMAN.
SALUTATORY, JAMES W. LYONS.	VALEDICTORY, "Weavers," MISS SUSIE A. PILLSBURY.
SONG, MRS. PLUMMER and MISS ROBERTS.	PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMAS, MISS LIDA E. LIBBY, SUPT.
CLASS HISTORY, MISS LIDA E. HARMON.	ADDRESS TO THE CLASS, PRINCIPAL A. W. JONES.
MUSIC, QUARTET.	MUSIC, QUARTET.
	BENEDICTION.

With no running water available in the district schools in Scarborough, it was customary to provide drinking water in the classrooms using a pail of water with a dipper. This practice evidently carried over to the high school classrooms, as we see from this receipt dated June 6, 1902, when the town purchased a pail for the high school for 25 cents.



Scarborough Historical Society's ephemera collection

Scarboro, Me., June, 14 1902
 Town of Scarboro Da
 to J. Ralph Ormsby
 for 6 weeks services as janitor for
 High School. \$4.50
 Rec pay
 J. Ralph Ormsby

Scarborough Historical Society's ephemera collection

A janitor's services were necessary in the early high school. In 1902, J. Ralph Ormsby had that job, for which he was paid \$4.50 for 6 weeks as janitor in the area of the town hall being used for high school classes.

HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION FROM 1903 TOWN REPORT - 1902-1903 SCHOOL YEAR

During the past year the committee has been obligated to obtain a new teacher for each term. Notwithstanding these changes, the work of the school has progressed favorably. The Spring term was taught by Prof. A.W. Jones, who worked earnestly for the advancement of the school, with a gratifying degree of success. At the close of the term Mr. Jones resigned, having been elected Principal of Oak Grove Seminary. The fall term was under the instruction of Mr. H.W. Hall, of Colby, who came highly recommended. This term had the largest number of pupils for the year, and the average attendance was very good. For the Winter term, the committee was fortunate in securing the services of Mr. W.H. Thompson, a teacher of many years' experience, who has worked diligently for the interest of each pupil. The parents speak in the highest terms of the teacher and he has their earnest cooperation in his school work.

Respectfully,

LIDA E. LIBBY, Superintendent

School Committee: MARK L. MILLIKEN, RICHARD M. LIBBY, ROSCOE G. TRIPP

HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION FROM 1904 TOWN REPORT - 1903-1904 SCHOOL YEAR

There has been marked progress in our high school during the past year, which is due to a large measure to the industry and the thorough comprehension of educational methods of its principal. The students understand that it is not a lounging place for those who are idle and indifferent, but a place where earnest work must be done.

A high school properly conducted has a great influence for good in any community, and is worth all it costs. Most of the graduates from the school are doing excellent work. Those who are not doing well cannot charge their want of success to the school.

Two-thirds of the pupils in our schools will never enter college but will graduate from the common or high school. The intelligence of our people of the future depends upon the character of our schools of today. These are the foundations.

Graduates: Dollie Littlefield Carter & Mildred Calista Pillsbury

Respectfully,

LIDA E. LIBBY, Superintendent

School Committee: RICHARD M. LIBBY, ROSCOE G. TRIPP, WILLIAM E. SEAVEY

GRADUATING EXERCISES.

SCARBORO HIGH SCHOOL.

Class of 1903.

Town Hall, Friday, June 26, at 8 P. M.

MARCH.

PRAYER.

PIANO SOLO,

MISS DOROTHY L. MILLER.

DECLAMATION,

Toussaint l'Ouverture.

J. RALPH ORMSBY.

MUSIC,

QUARTET.

RECITATION,

A Tale of the Road.

MISS AMY F. PILLSBURY.

PIANO SOLO,

MISS M. ANNA LEE

RECITATION,

Living Stones.

MISS MABEL L. BROWN.

MUSIC,

QUARTET.

RECITATION,

The Clown's Baby.

MISS GRACE J. WIGHT.

PIANO SOLO,

MISS DOROTHY L. LIBBY.

DECLAMATION,

The Death Bridge of the Tay.

NORMAN W. THURSTON.

MUSIC,

QUARTET.

RECITATION,

A Leak in the Dyke.

MISS RUBY L. MILLIKEN.

VOCAL SOLO,

MR. CHARLES E. HASKELL.

ESSAY,

The Lesson of Forgiveness.

MISS DOLLIE L. CARTER.

VOCAL SOLO,

MISS MABEL GILMAN.

ESSAY,

Heroism.

MISS MILDRED C. PILLSBURY.

PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMAS,

MISS LIDA E. LIBBY, SUPT.

ADDRESS TO THE CLASS,

PRINCIPAL WM. H. THOMPSON.

MUSIC,

QUARTET.

BENEDICTION.

GRADUATES.

Dollie Littlefield Carter.

Mildred Calista Pillsbury.

GRADUATION EXERCISES.

SCARBORO HIGH SCHOOL.

Class of 1904.

Town Hall, Thursday, June 30, at 8 P. M.

PRAYER

PIANO SOLO,

MISS AGNES SNOW

RECITATION,

How He Saved Saint Michael's

MUSIC,

MISS RUBY L. MILLIKEN

QUARTET

DECLAMATION,

Gettysburg

ROGER A. BENNETT

VOCAL SOLO,

MISS BERTHA THOMPSON

RECITATION,

The Bridge-Keeper's Story

MISS GRACE WIGHT

MUSIC,

QUARTET

DECLAMATION,

Reuben James

JOHN L. LAIDLAW

PIANO SOLO,

MISS M. ANNA LEE

RECITATION,

The Ride of Jennie McNeal

MISS AMY L. PILLSBURY

VOCAL SOLO,

MR. CHARLES E. HASKELL

ESSAY,

Character

MISS DOROTHY L. MILLER

PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMAS,

MISS LIDA E. LIBBY, SUPT.

MUSIC,

QUARTET

BENEDICTION,

GRADUATE,

Dorothy Louise Miller.

These graduation programs for the Scarboro High School classes of 1903 and 1904 were copied electronically from town reports from the collections of the Scarborough Historical Society.

In 1905, work on a building that would be a high school for Scarborough had been going forward. To those critical of the new school, School Superintendent Lida E. Libby spoke in defense of the project in the 1905 town report:

HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION FROM 1905 TOWN REPORT - 1904-1905 SCHOOLYEAR

This year's work in the high school has been satisfactory. The attendance has been good. Mr. Thompson has worked for the interest of each pupil and has spared neither time nor pains in making the school a success and bringing it to a high standard.

Concerning the new school house at Oak Hill, the question has been raised by many of our citizens, whether the town requires so large and expensive a building as it begun. We recognize the fact that it appears like a great undertaking to build such a building as has been planned, and at first sight, an extravagant undertaking for the town and one that it cannot afford.

We believe in economy in the administration of public affairs, but do not believe it would be good economy to erect a building that would not meet the requirements of the town. A schoolhouse is not built for a few years' service, but to meets the demands of higher education for the next half century, perhaps longer.

Respectfully,

LIDA E. LIBBY, Superintendent of Schools

ROSCOE G. TRIPP, WILLIAM E. SEAVEY, FRED A. MILLER, School Committee

At the town meeting that year, residents were asked to approve funding to finish the ambitious school building project:

Town Meeting Article #10 – 1905:

To see what action the town will take in regard to finishing the new school house at Oak Hill, and raise a sum of money for same.

An issue of The Town Register of Scarborough was published in 1905, and it had the following comments on the town's high school:

The first high school taught in town was held about twenty-three years ago and met in the district school houses, three months at Dunstan, three months at Beech Ridge, and three months at Oak Hill. Master Lord, of Limington, was employed instructor. The high school was for a while located at Dunstan, and kept in the Good Templar's Hall. This school will occupy rooms in the new building now under construction at Oak Hill. The school is making good progress and offers to the young men and women of the town educational advantages which may fit them for many of life's duties in this practical age.

While waiting for the completion of the building in 1905, Scarborough High School's spring term classes were held in the town hall. The White School at Oak Hill was finally able to open its doors for the fall and winter terms. At long last Scarborough had a high school building!

Originally called the White School, beginning in 1905 this building housed high school classes in upstairs classrooms and elementary grades occupied the first floor.



THE WHITE SCHOOL
From the Collections of Rodney Laughton

After serving as the town's first high school, the White School later became the Oak Hill Primary School. In recent years it has been a commercial building, most recently the home of the Arlberg Ski & Surf shop.



Arlberg Ski & Surf, which was the former White School, the first Scarborough High School.

In 1915, a reunion of the first two Scarboro Free High School classes was held.



Twenty-five years ago last month the present Scarboro High School held its first session at the Town House.

A reunion of the scholars attending the first two terms, was held Wednesday evening, Sept. 22 at the Moulton House. As far as known, all pupils of that time were invited, together with the teacher, who is now Judge Bertrand E. Clark, of Hancock County and Mrs. Clark.

It was an informal occasion, a renewing of old friendships, and in some cases a guessing of identities as quite a number of those present had met but seldom, if at all, during the time.

After greetings had been exchanged, the group posed for a picture, and from the difficulty the photographer experienced in keeping the party quiet, one would have thought the 25 years had rolled backward.

A fine shore dinner was next enjoyed, 21 being seated at the tables. On each table were placed pictures taken during these two terms, which recalled many amusing incidents. After dinner the party adjourned to the parlors, where a short program was given, Dr. Henry Gilman acting as master of ceremonies.

Judge Clark in responding to the toast, My Pupils, spoke in a pleasant reminiscent view of the school, and expressed his pleasure in meeting again with his old scholars.

Mrs. Kittie Milliken Morse replied to the toast, Our Teacher, paying a well deserved compliment to Mr. Clark for the influence he exerted over his pupils, and the respect and esteem he inspired, also their pleasure in again meeting him. Some amusing incidents of the first few days were recalled.

An original poem by Sadie C. Richardson was next in order, which follows:

Say she'd heard 'twas to be rigid,
That very first exam—
While she feared, not for herself,
But for others, well, ahem!

I listened and I pondered,
Very little could I say;
My strength was slowly oozing
As I journeyed on my way.

At last one thought came to me
Like a gleaming ray of light—
If the others all do pass,
They'll leave the road in sight.

Oh, then I was so timid,
And I gave an inward groan,
They've just a few to pick from,
Must I go back alone?

We reached the dear old Town House,
And I'll always bless the day
When first I saw our teacher,
And his kindness all the way.

We must have tried him sorely,
With our laughing and our acts;
But he showed a kindly spirit,
With a great amount of tact.

And I'll say, right now, dear schoolmates,
That this we need through life;
'Twill help to sweeten labor,
Good for husband and for wife.

And if we haven't got it,
Let's stock right up tonight,
We want the very best there is,
To help us live just right.

But, oh, those Wednesday afternoons,
Deep are they in memory riven;
How Al Libby could debate,
When driven on by women!

Al never would believe
Wonder if he does
That the mind of a woman
Over any man's may.

How I used to tug and argue,
Riding home with my dear Harry;
He always carried me by storm,
So I learned to be wary.

Oh, that practice makes all good,
Tho' 'twas hard to get and Nan

Just to read a page or two
Kept you posted for a week.

The terms were very liberal,
Only two dollars a year,
And if you paid them in advance
They asked three dollars clear.

Do you wonder that it sold
Like popcorn at a fair?
Oh, the old High School Observer
Has no equal anywhere.

Let us go back again, schoolmates,
Back to those old days gone by,
When we were just boys and girls,
'Tending the old Scarboro High.

Let us make this night so merry
That 'twill be on memory's page,
Like a beacon in the darkness,
Even down to our old age.

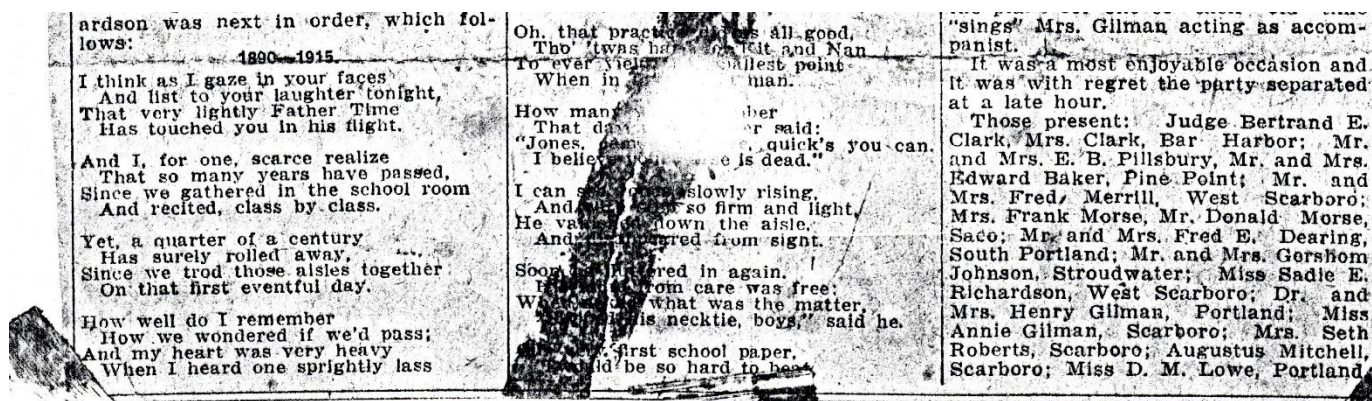
Following this was a vocal solo by Mrs. Lettie Pillsbury Merrill, which was much enjoyed.

Prophecies and Realities was a comparison of the prophecies of 25 years ago with the present of the school. This put the gathering in touch with the absent ones. Messages were read from Alvan F. Larrabee of Detroit; Rev. Harry Richardson of New York State; Albion and Clifford Libby of Newark, N. J.; W. Herbert Ormsby of Houlton; Mrs. Ella Gilman Shaw of Windham, and Miss Marian Oliver of Scarboro.

A business meeting followed, and it was voted to organize with the following officers: President, Mrs. Annie Hunnewell Dearing; secretary-treasurer, Danetta M. Lowe; executive committee, Mrs. Kittie Morse, Miss Annie Gilman, E. Blanchard Pillsbury.

It was voted to hold another reunion in two years, date and place to be announced later.

The company then gathered about the piano for one of their old time "sings" Mrs. Gilman acting as accompanist.



Laughton Collection

At some point the White School was deemed too small for the growing number of both high school and elementary school students, and the town had to consider going forward with a new larger high school for the community. Initially there was opposition to such an ambitious project.

Tax Payers of Scarboro Watch Out!

Are you willing to mortgage your homes to help pay for
a \$75,000 High School building, or will you vote
against such extravagance?

The Town Reports show that in 191 the tax rate was \$13.40, in 1925, \$36.00.
WHAT will it be in 1926 if the town borrows \$75,000 to build a new High School
building which is only the beginning of the expense? Remember interest on the \$75,000
must be added to the loan, which, for a term of years, is no small sum. Reckon it and
see!

remember too that \$74,278 for town expenditures was raised at the last annual meet-
ing, making a total of \$149,278 to be assessed for.

THINK of the maintenance of such a building.

Why not enlarge and remodel the present High School building?

Provision for this were made by the contractor at the time it was built should it be
necessary to do so at any future time.

This can be done at a reasonable cost, keeping our taxes within our pocket-books.

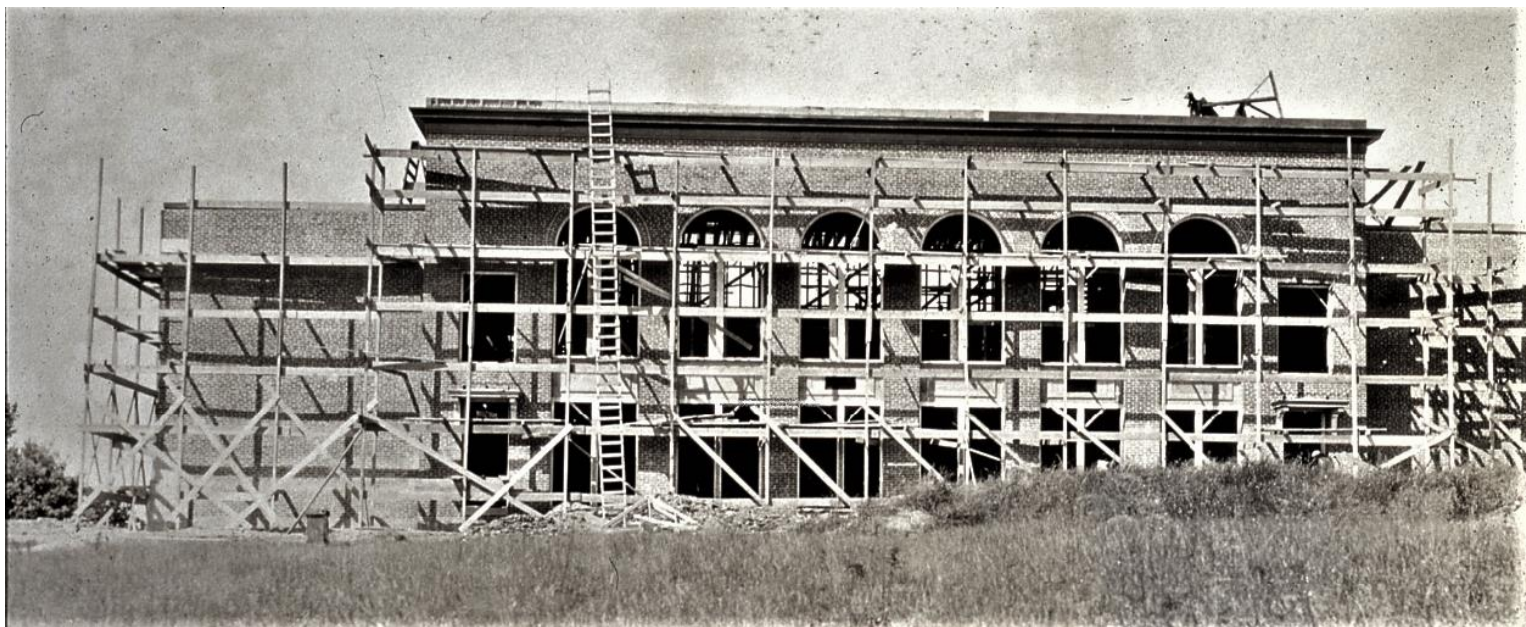
If you allow this unreasonable proposition to stand, you will have to pay unreasonable
taxes because taxes are assessed on the amount of money raised.

The Town Reports show there were 61 pupils registered in the High School in the
fall of 1922; in the fall of 1925, 62 pupils—a increase of one pupil in three years.

Is this registration and increase sufficient to require a \$75,000 building?

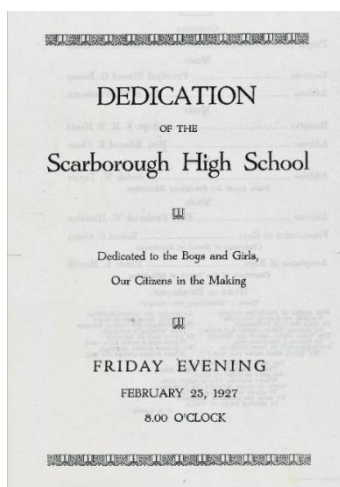
**Think these facts over, taxpayers, and present yourselves at
the polls on Saturday, April 3rd, at 2 p. m., to protect
the welfare of your families and town.**

The project to build a new high school was approved, and in 1926 construction began on a brick school building which was named Scarborough High School. The name was eventually changed to the Bessey School.



Scarborough's new high school under construction in 1926
The Laughton Collection

A formal dedication of the new Scarborough High School was held on February 25, 1927.



<p>... <i>Program</i> ...</p> <p>Orchestra</p> <p>Prayer Rev. R. H. Colby</p> <p>Music</p> <p>Remarks Principal Elwood G. Bessey</p> <p>Address Dr. B. F. Wentworth</p> <p>Music</p> <p>Remarks Supt. F. H. B. Heald</p> <p>Address Hon. Edward E. Chase</p> <p>Music</p> <p>Address Josiah W. Taylor State Agent for Secondary Education</p> <p>Music</p> <p>Address Hon. Frederick W. Hinckley</p> <p>Presentation of Keys Robert C. Green Chairman of Board of Selectmen</p> <p>Acceptance of Keys Elmer L. Merrill Chairman of the Board of Education</p> <p>HYMN OF DEDICATION. TUNE: "Jerusalem, The Golden"</p> <p>Fair shrine of cherished visions, Tonight we throng thy halls To reap the rich fulfillment Of dreams which reared thy walls; The Voice which called our fathers To breast a trackless sea, Proclaims still to their children, "My Truth shall make you free!"</p> <p>As steels for nation-building, By writ from sacred page, They wrought for unborn peoples Rich Wisdom's heritage. In every hall of learning Where eager souls have trod, We garner golden fruits, Where others turned the sod.</p> <p>Not ours to cross the ocean, That Freedom's torch might burn; Not ours to raise an altar, Where seeking hearts might turn. Ours, to make straight the pathway, To guide the dreams of Youth, To keep the questing footsteps In shining paths of Truth.</p> <p>F. B. LIBBEY</p>		<p>BUILDING COMMITTEE.</p> <p>Elmer L. Merrill, John M. Pillsbury, A. W. Hodgman, F. H. B. Heald, Secretary. <i>Board of Education.</i></p> <p>ADVISORY COMMITTEE.</p> <p>Augustus C. Johnson, Dr. B. F. Wentworth, Robert C. Green, Edward Higgins, Earle Leary.</p> <p>ARCHITECTS</p> <p>MILLER, MAYO & BEAL</p> <p>CONTRACTORS</p> <p>JOHN J. MALONEY & CO. General Construction</p> <p>HEATING AND VENTILATION</p> <p>A. B. FELS CO.</p> <p>PLUMBING</p> <p>RICE & REUBEN</p> <p>ELECTRICAL WIRING</p> <p>L. W. CLEVELAND CO.</p> <p>HIGH SCHOOL FACULTY</p> <p>Elwood G. Bessey, Principal Frances Bryant Libbey Marjorie Sterling Holway</p>
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Classes were first taught at the new high school in the fall of 1926.



Laughton Collection

Elwood G. Bessey was the first principal of the new Scarborough High School.



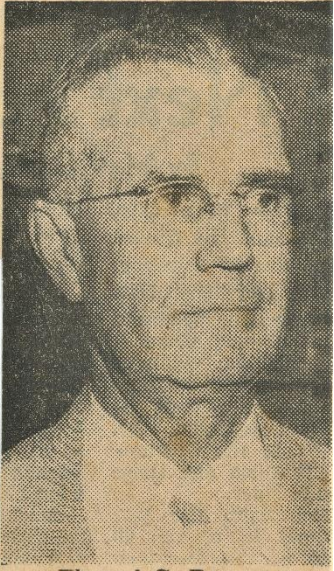
Laughton Collection

When the high school moved to still another new building on the Gorham Road in 1956, the former high school became the new junior high school. It was named after the beloved former principal, Elwood G. Bessey.

Scarborough
**Old High School Named In Honor
 Of Retired Prin. Elwood G. Bessey**

SCARBOROUGH — The Old Scarborough High School which will be used to house junior high pupils has been named the Elwood G. Bessey School by the School Committee.

Bessey retired in 1948 after serving 30 years as principal of the school. He now resides in Portland.



Elwood G. Bessey



