

# Schools Go To Highest Bidder

## Sale of Buildings Due To Centralization Recalls The History of Round Stone District

(From Rushville Correspondent)

The last page in the life history of the rural schools of this section is being written as the rural school houses of the new central district, one by one, go under the auctioneer's hammer to the highest bidder, or are turned back to the original farm from which the land came.

The walls of the beautiful new central school have risen, and the citizens think with pride and gratitude of the multiple opportunities of learning that await the children of this section within its portals, yet there is also a twinge of regret at the passing of the old district school where most of the present generation learned the three Rs.

### Land Reverts to Farm

On Saturday the school house and equipment in district 5, Potter, known as the Round Stone district, were put up at auction. The equipment found bidders but the building was not sold and stands vacant awaiting a purchaser. The land on which it stands was given by John A. Carmus in 1830 "for school purposes" and now reverts back to the Carmus farm now owned by John A. Cadmus' granddaughter, Mrs. Henry C. Underwood, and husband. The school building itself, they feel, belongs to the district that built it, and if a purchaser can be found who will move it away it will be sold.

### Potter School Has Interesting History

The history of the school property of Potter No. 5 is interesting and similar to that of many of the other districts now included in the central district.

When John A. Cadmus bought his farm in 1830 from Russel Briggs, who had taken it up and cleared part of it, he moved his wife and two-year-old son, Andrew J., into a luxurious two-room log cabin on the farm. He, with his neighbors, realized the need of a school and they united their efforts to erect a log school house on the land given by Mr. Cadmus for that purpose. The first school house had a dirt floor, benches made of split logs and a stone fire place. Here Andrew J. Cadmus started in school.

### Building Built Round in Shape

In 1838, just 100 years ago, the three trust as of the district, John A. Cadmus, David G. McMaster and Squire Thomas, built the Round Stone school house, unique in this section and a landmark for many years. The building was round in shape, with walls two feet thick built of field stone and faced with cobble stones drawn by teams from Lake Ontario. Ornamental designs were built into the walls, and a large stone, covered with Masonic emblems and with the date and the number of the district, was set over the door. There were seven windows and the seats were arranged amphitheater style around the circular school room.

The big boys, young men, sat in the outside row of seats and often 60 pupils were enrolled there during the winter terms. Ambrose Thomas, son of Squire Thomas, was one of the first teachers in the new school house, and he taught with the aid of a hickory stick.

### Old Stone Building Burns

Through the years that followed, teachers and pupils came and went, and the school building was gradually equipped with a new and better floor, larger windows and more comfortable seats but the walls of the building defied the ravages of time and school children until 1919 when an explosion of gas in the chimney set the wooden part of the building on fire and all wooden parts burned away and the walls damaged.

In 1920 a wooden school house was erected at a cost of about \$3,000. The stone with carved emblems was dug out of the ashes and rebuilt into the foundation of the new school, and now may be seen on the north east corner. School has continued to be held there until the present school year.

### Long List of Teachers

The long list of teachers who have sat behind the desk in the old Round Stone school house include such well-remembered names as: Mary Jane Pratt of Gorham, Mary Silvernail (Jones) of Rochester, Lida Gardner (Guider), Jennie Bordwell, (Skinner), and Hattie Read (Cole) of Penn Yan, Emma Whitman (Young) of Middlesex, Sibley E. Knott of Cheshire, John Ball of Benton (later Yates superintendent of the poor), and Charles Strobbridge of Potter.

Other well known teachers of a later era were Dora Lindsley (Jones), Nell Huie (Thayer), Irma White (Bedell) and Addie Sutphen (Aldrich). Mrs. Doris Fake of Gorham was the last teacher of the school, closing the door in June, 1938, on the last session of public school that will be held in the Round Stone district.