

Bethinking of Old Orleans

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WATERPORT UNION-SCHOOL

Between 1898 and 1945 District No. 15 of Carlton graduated students out of a High School Department. We can assume that around 1894 District 15 set itself up as an institute of higher learning along with being a grade school. Prior to the establishment of free academies or high schools beginning in the mid-19th Century, higher learning was provided by private institutions known as academies.

The first high school graduates of Waterport in 1898 were: Julia Sturges Butler, and Frank Sowers. That's right, a class of two. In 1902 there was only one graduate. In 1904, '05, '06, '08, '09, '15, '17, '18 and '19 there were no graduates from Waterport High School.

The largest high school class from Waterport was sixty years ago in 1936 when eleven students received diplomas as follows: Leta Brigden Rush, Margaret Hoffman Neal, Marian Lacey Thompson, Carl Millis, Harry Millis, Edward Popen, Walter Popen, Lois Sanford, Verna Sargent Newman, John Sartwell and Ruth Springer Wigley.

Our photo with the article which is dated 1926, shows Waterport High School students and faculty seventy years ago. They are identified as follows: Front Row-Elmer West, Arthur Sargent, Dorothy Howard, Gladys (Last name unknown), Pearl McOmber, Helen Miller, Dorothy Welsh and Van Sweringen, Middle Row-Claude Furness, Minnie Belle Clark, Lillian Schwartz, Helen Matson, Ernestine Hard, Elizabeth Klatt, Ruth Harrison, Lillian Sargent and Ransford Wright. Back row-Mr. Henry Schoepflin, Howard Plummer, Floyd Furness, Ernest Stockton, Clarissa Sargent, James

Moore, Ida Randolph, Arnold Green, Arnold Fisk and Miss Adema Herrington. This picture was taken showing the north end of the Waterport School building. Note the fire escape off the second floor. This Waterport school building was built in 1922 and took the place of a wooden schoolhouse (torn down) which stood about where these pupils and their teachers had their picture taken.

In the mid-1950's an addition was added to this end of the Waterport School. In 1989 it was decided by the Albion School Board of Education to discontinue use of the Waterport School. It has since been sold to Lissow Development and transformed into apartments.

My thanks to Ruth Wigley for providing information on Waterport graduates and the loan of the photo.

As a side note, I recently received a pleasant note from Lillian Sargent Crofts of Ancaster, Ontario, Canada. It was her picture (1925) which appeared in Vol. XVIII No. 23, the girl sitting on a fence by Fred Holt. She indicates that she left Waterport when she was 18 (1927) and trained as a nurse at Highland Hospital. From there she went to Cleveland for Pediatrics where she met her husband Dr. Percy Williams, A Canadian. They lived in Hamilton and had four daughters, 15 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren. He died in 1978.

Like all high schools, Waterport had a year book years ago. I notice that in the 1926 issue, the Editor-in-Chief was Lillian M. Sargent. The year book was cleverly called *Aquaportus*, meaning Waterport, using the Latin terminology. *Aqua* for water and *Portus* for port.

