

## Gaines District No. 12

This photo of the Gaines District No. 12 School House was taken around 90 years ago.

The school building, which was located near the corner of the Eagle Harbor-Knowlesville Road and Kenyonville Road, is now a residence.

I remember this school being painted red in the 1950s. Here it appears to be white with shutters which were probably green.

The teacher was Helen Seivert (Mrs. Louis Basinait) who is standing to the left.

Students in the photo include: Edward Hewitt, Marion Davis Leeper, Mildred Morrison, Forder Filer, Emmett Davis, Aletha Clapp, Alemeda Benham, Hany Hewitt, John Ferris, Nelson Davis, Roland Clapp, Emily Benham Parker Starkweather, Esther Hewitt Starkweather and Howard Davies.

The town of Gaines had 12 school districts.

Even though centralization was complete for the Albion District by 1953, all 12 school houses are still standing in Gaines.

It seems that during the early 19th century, the New York State Department of Education laid out a grid over New York state establishing school districts in areas of four square miles each.

The school house was generally placed near the center of that four square mile area so students did not have to ideally walk more than a mile or at most two miles to school.

The 1845 school commissioners report lists one hundred thirty two school districts in Orleans County at that time. With centralization and bussing we now of course just have five school districts.

I think the flag pole is interesting in this picture in that it is really just a wooden pole that was probably cut from a near-by woods.

It appears to be unpainted and natural in appearance.

