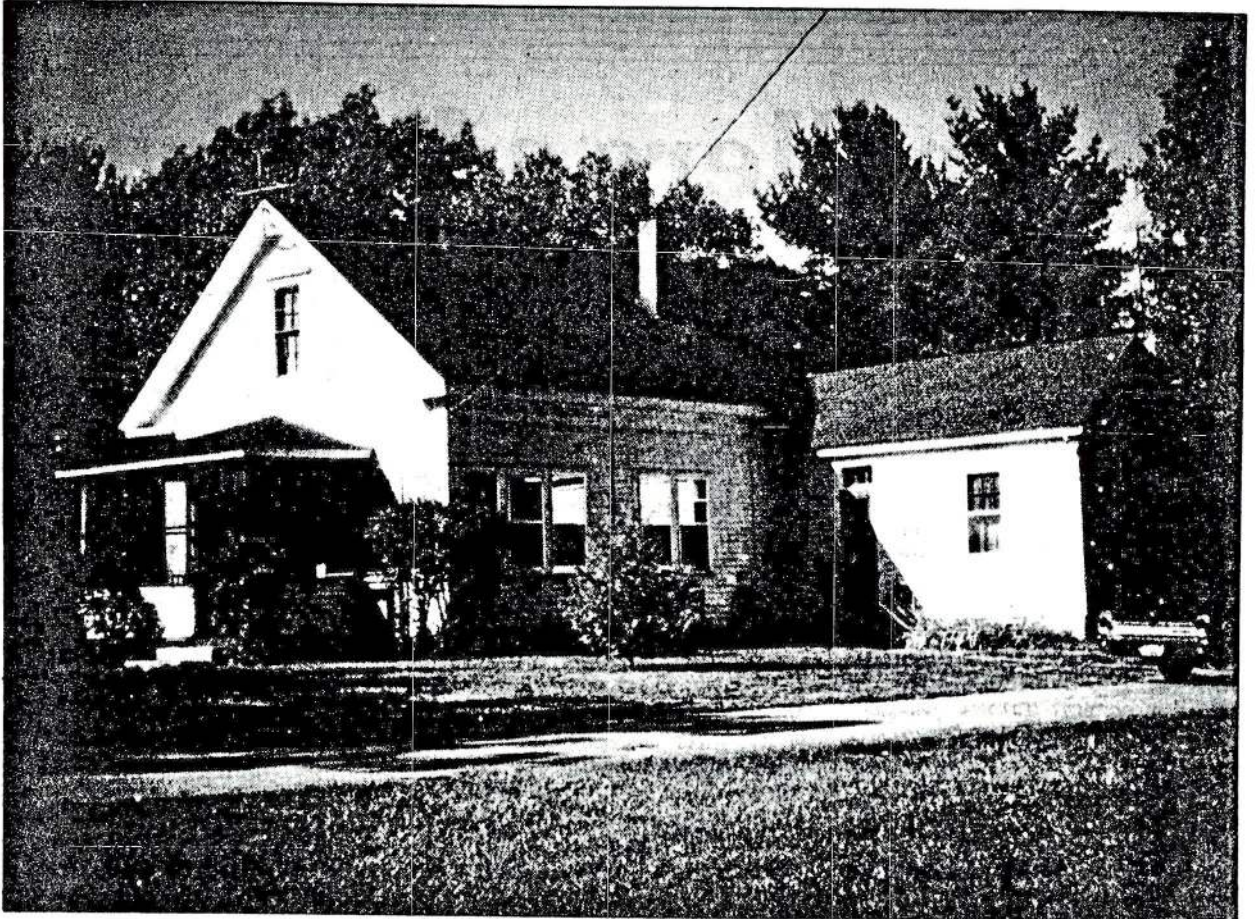


# Nabnasset District School No. 7



BACK IN 1891, according to the School Report, Nabnasset School No. 7 headed the list of district schools for neatness and carefulness in the use of books. The former school building is presently a private residence in its original location on Oak Hill Road.

(Courtesy 'Westford Recollection' series)

## *An old fashioned bargain at \$2000*

By June W. Kennedy

**T**he Town Report for the year ending in the spring of 1873 gives the cost of the Nabnasset School No. 7 as \$2,000. Located on Oak Hill Road, it is a family dwelling today. It has been said that the children received a good education here, for Lizzy Winship (from West Chelmsford) stayed with the school.

Usually, as soon as a school had a good teacher, she was placed in the Center or at Granlerville where more money was offered. Miss Winship wished to remain near her home.

In 1891 the School Report lists Nabnasset with 23 pupils, average attendance 13. Herbert, Nellie, Frank and Harry Ingalls are recorded on the Nabnasset Honor Roll for perfect attendance and no tardiness. When one considers the long treks to school, the quarantining of entire families in times of disease and the scarcity of immunization, that is quite a record!

Also from the 1891 report: "Some of the books have been in use for a long time and will have to be replaced by new ones, but most teachers and pupils have exercised care in the use of books and few have been needlessly injured."

However, in the report of the treasurer, the cost of repairs looked greater than usual and very little had been turned into the treasury in payment for damage. This was due to the fact that new teachers did not realize that the students were expected to pay for all injuries done above the ordinary wear. The rule held teachers responsible for injuries to school property and if pupils didn't pay the amount due for damage, the teacher was liable to have it deducted from her wages.

"The Committee" requires books to be kept covered. Most schools try to be careful, but No. 7 still heads the list for neatness and carefulness in the use of books."

Repairs and furnishings of the

### **The rule held teachers responsible for injuries to school property...**

schools in 1891 capture the flavor of the times:

Stoney Brook School — Paid for dustpan and coal sieve, \$8.85; Paid for dipper, brooms and crayons, \$8.50; Paid George Drew for lock and painting blackboard, \$1.50; Parkerville School — Paid George Drew for repairing clock, \$1, Paid George Drew for setting glass & repairing pump, \$1.70; Nabnasset School — Paid George Drew for repairing fram and glass, \$1.50.

It was the policy of the (school) committee to prevent waste, when possible, remembering the "stitch in time".

June Kennedy is a Westford resident, an avid history buff and author of 'Westford Recollections', a series of historical vignettes and photos.