

A Letter from Joan Hess Mullen

I am much interested in the research being done on schools in the town of Gilboa, and loved reading Kristen Wyckoff's article. My mother taught at Owlsville, and it was quite a hike from where she lived in Flat Creek. Before I go any further, perhaps I should identify myself.

I am the daughter of Franklin Hess and Muriel Gordon Hess. When he was a child, my father lived in Broome Center and Franklinton, while my mother lived in the house now owned by Vernon Pickett in Flat Creek. My father was postmaster in Gilboa at the time the dam was being built. He and my mother bought the Raymond Brown farm in Broome Center, and I spent the first 13 years of my life there. When I was a teenager, we moved to the house opposite the Waterfall House. I have so many wonderful memories of Gilboa and Broome Center, and still have a variety of fourth cousins living in the area . . . including Bee Mattice, Bill Thorpe, Betty O'Hara, LaVerne Hubbard, and several others. It will always be "Home" to me.

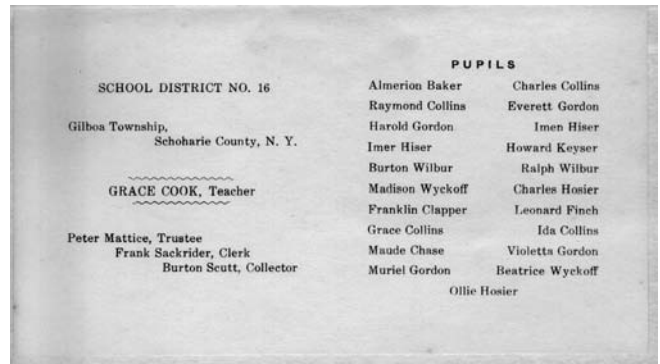
Back to the subject of schools. You are welcome to keep and use all the items in the package I'm sending. . . . One more thing I just remembered: my mother substitute taught up on Doc Leonard's Mountain several times. I went along and remember so well the old building, with its water bucket, lunch pails, and pot-belly stove. I believe this was the Rowe District. I remember there being only a few pupils. Mother once said when she taught in the winter, she had to arrive early in order to start the wood stove before the kids got there. How things have changed.

Joan Hess Mullen, Class of 1945, 518-747-7234 or e-mail cooja@aol.com

From the editor:

The attachments Joan mentioned in her letter were a lode of goodies, including the test items shown on page 7 (the test is available as a PDF download at http://ftp.genericcomp.com/GHS_Publications).

In addition, there were pictures of graduating classes from Chapel and Franklinton schools; a teaching certificate, paychecks, and teacher contracts; and some mementos used as graduation keepsakes by teachers at that time. Some of these items are shown below.



The outside (left) and inside (right) of a graduation card given by Grace Cook (Kingsley) in 1914, photo courtesy of Joan Hess Mullen



The new Gilboa-Conesville Central School, photo courtesy of Joan Hess Mullen



Teachers at the new Gilboa-Conesville Central School, photo courtesy of Joan Hess Mullen

State of New York
 COMMISSIONERS EXAMINATIONS

School file

ELEMENTARY EXAMINATIONS FOR PUPILS IN GRADES FIVE
 TO SEVEN INCLUSIVE

This envelop contains questions on
 ARITHMETIC, READING AND SPELLING
 to be used

TUESDAY FORENOON, DECEMBER 20, 1910
 and at no other time

This envelop must be safely kept, and must be first opened in the presence of the class.

Xw228-N10-18,000 (7-867)

TUESDAY FORENOON
 STATE OF NEW YORK

COMMISSIONERS GRADE EXAMINATIONS
 based on the State elementary course of study
 FIFTH, SIXTH AND SEVENTH GRADES

These questions have been prepared by a committee of school
 commissioners appointed for the purpose.

FIRST TERM

TUESDAY FORENOON, DECEMBER 20, 1910

DIRECTIONS

1 Allow no communication and no recess. Seat the pupils
 so as to avoid the temptation to secure or give aid. The ques-
 tions must not be exhibited prematurely. Pupils must not be
 given any assistance whatever. No alteration, rejection or
 substitution of questions is permitted. Dishonesty in conduct-
 ing the examinations will be sufficient ground for revoking a
 license to teach.

2 Pupils can not become entitled to term certificates of pro-
 motion without passing the examination in all the subjects
 prescribed for the respective grades. Teachers should promote,
 without certificates, pupils who fail to pass in one or more
 branches, if promotion can be made without detriment. First
 term standings must not be allowed toward second term
 certificates. The judgment and honesty of the teacher are tested
 in conducting the examination and in marking the answer
 papers.

3 Failure to send a copy of the report to the school com-
 missioner within two weeks after the examination and to leave
 a copy in the school register will be regarded as a dereliction
 of duty on the part of the teacher. Blanks for report are in
 the register.

4 School commissioners may call in for review any and all
 answer papers rated by the teacher at a passing mark. When
 not called in, such papers must be kept on file in the school
 building for one year.

READING

The test in reading shall be on the ability of the pupil to read
 orally plain English prose equal in difficulty to the matter
 prescribed for the respective term. The selection shall be made
 by the teacher from matter with which the pupils are not
 familiar. In estimating the standing attained, regard shall be
 had to position, pronunciation, enunciation, fluency and ex-
 pression.

The test may be given either Tuesday or Wednesday.

ARITHMETIC

NOTE.—All the operations except very simple ones must be
 indicated.

FIFTH GRADE

Answer any 10 questions.

- 1 a Change 33 ft to in.
 b Change 80 pk to bu.
- 2 Write as decimals: five tenths; twenty-five thousandths;
 two and one hundred thirty-five thousandths.
- 3 Change each of the following to a common fraction: .25;
 .005; .7; .875; .96.
- 4 Multiply 5.125 by 1.29.
- 5 How many cubic inches are there in a bushel? How
 many cubic inches in a gallon?
- 6 Express in cents the value of each of the following frac-
 tional parts of one dollar: $\frac{3}{10}$, $\frac{2}{3}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{1}{16}$, $\frac{1}{12}$.
- 7 What is the cost of paving a driveway 370 ft long and 13.5
 ft wide at \$.25 a sq. ft?
- 8 The length of a field is 80 rd and its width is 30 rd; how
 many acres are there in the field?
- 9 A room is 20 ft long by 18 ft wide; find the cost of cover-
 ing the floor with yard wide matting at \$.60 per yard.
- 10 A man sold 630 lb of wool at 21½ cents per lb; how much
 did he receive?
- 11 A farmer paid \$2205 for 36¼ acres of land; how much
 did he pay per acre?
- 12 In one year a farmer's herd of seven cows produced milk
 as follows:

Cow no. 1	.....	4625	lb
" 2	.....	5337	"
" 3	.....	4125	"
" 4	.....	6878	"
" 5	.....	5987	"
" 6	.....	4651	"
" 7	.....	6724	"

What was the total amount of milk produced?

X606-N10-122,500 (7-866)

Please turn to page 10

Our Newsletter uses bulk mail for the lower cost, but it also
 means that the newsletter will not be forwarded by the Post
 Office. Please notify us if you have a temporary address during
 our mailings in early March, June, and September (there is no
 winter issue). 607 652-5988, GHS@gilboahome.com

Elementary Examinations, *continued from page 7*

SPELLING

NOTE.—Pupils should be instructed that only proper names should begin with capitals. Definition of the word should be given by the teacher when necessary.

FIFTH GRADE

- | | | |
|---------------|-------------|-----------|
| 1 salt | 18 dairy | 35 sauce |
| 2 farming | 19 rabbit | 36 wheat |
| 3 cider | 20 coffee | 37 canal |
| 4 worry | 21 addition | 38 deer |
| 5 Delaware | 22 saliva | 39 dear |
| 6 strait | 23 adverb | 40 lumber |
| 7 message | 24 square | 41 Albany |
| 8 harvest | 25 George | 42 forest |
| 9 active | 26 hound | 43 market |
| 10 New Jersey | 27 Hudson | 44 hunger |
| 11 forty | 28 doubt | 45 extra |
| 12 stream | 29 chirp | 46 hatch |
| 13 oxen | 30 woman | 47 senate |
| 14 child's | 31 moist | 48 coral |
| 15 plow | 32 crown | 49 torch |
| 16 Buffalo | 33 chalk | 50 season |
| 17 olive | 34 Syracuse | |

SIXTH AND SEVENTH GRADES

- | | | |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1 second | 16 social | 31 model |
| 2 decade | 17 chickadee | 32 pencil |
| 3 grassy | 18 February | 33 travel |
| 4 happy | 19 gallon | 34 certain |
| 5 glance | 20 dozen | 35 squirrel |
| 6 forever | 21 bushel | 36 purple |
| 7 Arctic | 22 account | 37 Omaha |
| 8 creature | 23 solemn | 38 choir |
| 9 waves | 24 Portugal | 39 pansy |
| 10 ocean | 25 truant | 40 bluebird |
| 11 afraid | 26 women's | 41 salmon |
| 12 England | 27 sparrow | 42 celery |
| 13 product | 28 talking | 43 kitchen |
| 14 cipher | 29 sound | 44 oyster |
| 15 Liverpool | 30 silent | 45 pitcher |

Dictate the following sentences and allow *two* credits for each italicized word:

- 46-48 Kind *hearts* are more than *coronets*.
 49-50 *Sorrow* *depresses* the heart.

X606-N10-122,500 (7-866)

SIXTH GRADE

Answer any 10 questions.

- Copy and add the following: 7894; 421; 6923; 1009; 24; 9788.
 [No credit is to be given unless the answer is absolutely correct.]
- Define *three* of the following: percentage, fraction, quotient, mixed number, base, numerator.
- a What per cent of 45 is 9?
 b Find 15% of \$4424.
- Express *each* of the following decimals in per cent: .25; .333; 1.25; .5; .375
- A man sold a horse for \$200 which was $\frac{1}{3}$ less than the horse cost him; what was the cost?
- How many square rods are there in a field containing $16\frac{1}{2}$ acres?
- A farmer owning 350 sheep sold 20% of them. How many sheep did he sell? How many did he have left?
- A certain number is $\frac{2}{3}$ of 96; what is the number?
- Find the cost of digging a cellar 27 ft long, 15 ft wide and 9 ft deep at 18 cents per cubic yard.
- A flock of 75 hens averages 120 eggs per hen for the year; what is the value of the eggs at 30 cents per dozen?
- How many gallons of water will be contained in a tank 7 ft long, 5 ft 6 in. wide and 4 ft deep?

SEVENTH GRADE

Answer any 10 questions.

- $591744 \div 92 = ?$
 [No credit is to be given unless the answer is absolutely correct.]
- a $17\frac{1}{2} - 12\frac{3}{4} = ?$
 b $\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{1}{2} \times 14 \times 6\frac{3}{4} \times 2\frac{1}{4} = ?$
- Express *each* of the following decimally: 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ %, 6%, $\frac{1}{4}$ %, 175%, 16 $\frac{2}{3}$ %.
- If 8 bushels of potatoes cost \$4.00, what will 20 bushels cost at the same rate? [Solve by proportion.]
- A farmer raised 225 bu. of potatoes; he sold $\frac{2}{3}$ of them to one merchant and $\frac{1}{3}$ of the remainder to another. How many bushels remained unsold?
- How many yards of carpet 27 in. wide are required to cover a room 9 ft long by $13\frac{1}{2}$ ft wide?
- A bin 15 ft square is filled with oats to the depth of 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ ft; how many bushels of oats are there in the bin?
- Write a 60 day note for \$100, interest at 6%, with your teacher as payee and yourself as maker.
- In what time will \$320 at 5% amount to \$360?
- A boy deposits \$20 in a savings bank paying 4% interest credited semiannually; how much money will the boy have in the bank at the end of two years?
- T. O. Coon bought of J. M. Clark 360 lb of wheat at 95 cents a bushel; he gave his check on the First National Bank of Weston in payment. Write the check.
- Find the interest on \$8040 from Feb. 17, 1908 to May 13, 1910 at 6%.

The Franklinton graduates (below), photo courtesy of Joan Hess Mullen

