



Christian Church & Nichols Public School circa 1910

History of Facilities and Faculty Nichols Public School Nichols, Iowa



Nichols Public School, Nichols, Iowa (1872-1915)

I am 40-feet square and two stories high. I was built in 1872 at the north end of a newly born and unincorporated village then known as "Nichols Station" as it had a newly constructed railway station on a newly constructed north-south railroad. Both the village and I were named after Samuel Nichols (1794-1870) one of the early (1840) Iowa settlers to come to Pike Township in Muscatine County.

My purpose was to provide housing for a "common school" of that time period. There were no grades as in 1st through 8th grade. There was no age based timetable for advancement. A farm boy who could only attend the winter term would over time be studying with full-time town students half his age. The teaching process may have been more like the modern day continuing education seminar that will have attendees with a broad range of ages and knowledge.

In 1875, the Nichols Christian Church erected a brick church on an adjacent tract on my west side. That same church, with some improvements, stands there yet today (2018) and still has an active congregation. The church is, I hope, a landmark that will remind future generations of my location as the first Nichols High School.

A "NICHOLS" column in the Muscatine Daily Journal of March 30, 1883, reported: "Miss Anna McKenna, of Muscatine, has been employed to teach the primary department of the Nichols schools. Nichols will henceforth have a graded school. A long-felt want." The graded system encompassed 1st through 8th grades. The term "Primary Department" encompassed the 1st, 2nd and 3rd grades. The Primary grade as we know it today arrived in Nichols in 1914-1915.

As best I can recall it was in 1900 that a three-year high school curriculum was established. The first "Principal" and only teacher for NHS was Thomas L. Eland. In 1903, Bessie Baker, daughter of the Nichols Savings Bank's Cashier, became the first graduate of Nichols High School. At the same time Professor Eland enrolled in the medical school at the State University of Iowa. In 1907, Dr. Eland married his former student, Bessie Baker, and they settled in Letts in Louisa County, Iowa. They are both buried in the Lettsville Cemetery.

At the beginning of the school year in September, 1913, the Iowa State Board of Education placed NHS on the list of accredited three-year high schools. This allowed NHS graduates to enroll in the 4th year class of any high school in the country to earn a four-year diploma. For that same year the Nichols School Board had hired an Assistant Principal thereby doubling the number of high school teachers to 2.

On January 27, 1915, after 43 years of service as the Nichols Public School building, my useful life ended. I was destroyed by fire. Miss Mayme Foley, who would teach the intermediate grades at the Nichols Public School for 48 continuous years (September, 1904, to May, 1952), smelled the smoke and then discovered the fire in my attic. Thereafter, classes were conducted in temporary quarters in the Opera House and churches until a new building was constructed.

The Monday after Thanksgiving (November 29, 1915) was the first day of school in the new beautiful three-story brick Nichols Public School building. The new building was located on the east side of Nichols on the north side of Ijem Avenue (which would become Iowa Highway 22). During the 1924/25 school year Nichols High School adopted a four-year curriculum.

Timeline of Public School Facilities in the Town of Nichols Iowa

- 1871.0622** Plat of the Original Town of Nichols filed with Muscatine County Recorder.
- 1872.0000** Two-Story White Wood-Frame Public Schoolhouse erected North side of Nichols.
- 1874.0000** Town of Nichols plat map in Muscatine County Atlas confirms location of NPS building.
- 1879.Circa** Picture of Nichols Public School and 77 students and faculty in front.
- 1899.0000** Latest picture NPS building with original dual entry doors
- 1900.0000** NPS building may have been remodeled to provide dedicated High School classroom.
- 1900.0900** NPS adds 3-year high school curriculum and hires Thomas Eland as "Principal Teacher."
- 1902.Circa** Earliest picture of NPS building with remodeled single-entry door.
- 1913.0900** First Assistant Principal, Anna Gurtner, hired to give NHS a faculty of two teachers.
- 1913.1000** State Board of Education placed NHS on the list of accredited 3-year high schools.
- 1915.0127** Two-story wood frame schoolhouse north side of Nichols destroyed by fire.
- 1915.0500** Cedar Rapids builder awarded contract to erect new brick and stone schoolhouse.
- 1915.1129** First Day of School in new two-story brick Schoolhouse on East side of Nichols.
- 1917.0406** US Congress declared war on Germany; US flags displayed in schoolhouse windows
- 1934.0000** Construction of new Auditorium-Gymnasium addition to brick schoolhouse.
- 1934.1005** First event in new auditorium: Funeral Services for 3 students killed in auto accident.
- 1955.0424** Dedication of Newly Constructed five-room elementary addition to schoolhouse.
- 1960.0100** Notice that State approval for Nichols Secondary School would end June 1, 1961.
- 1961.0517** Last Nichols High School graduating class Commencement Exercises.
- 1968.0826** Nichols School District ceased to exist; merged into West Liberty School District.
- 1968.0826** Elementary classes continued to be held in Nichols School Building.
- 1987.0000** Nichols School Building closed; all classes moved to West Liberty. [Last Updated 2018.0731]

Nichols High School

Faculty Members

1900 - 1961

| | | | | | |
|------------------------|-----------|------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|-----------|
| Thomas L. Eland (P) | 1901-1903 | V. W. Hancer (S) | 1939-1940 | Janelle Ramsey | 1957 |
| Julia Tomney | 1901 | Florence Miller (P) | 1939-1940 | Marge Sindelar | 1958 |
| R. E. Morris (P) | 1904 | Martin J. Crabtree | 1939-1940 | Betty Frantz | 1958 |
| Ella Thompson (P) | 1905-1906 | Robert F. Hedemann (S) | 1941-1947 | Nancy LaSalle | 1958 |
| Cecil W. Bangs (P) | 1907 | Martin J. Crabtree (P) | 1941-1943 | Mary Ann Towne | 1958 |
| Mayme Spaulding (P) | 1908-1909 | Eleanor Eitel | 1941-1942 | Paul Strickfadden (S) | 1959-1961 |
| John H. Boatman (P) | 1910-1911 | Gordon Patterson | 1941 | Kenneth Isaacs | 1959 |
| Walter Hoch (P) | 1912 | Neil Boyle | 1942 | Norma Young | 1959-1961 |
| Miss Smith Trump (P) | 1913-1914 | Pearl Morgan | 1942 | Glen Thomas | 1959 |
| Anna Gurtner (AP) | 1914 | Marjorie Elliott | 1943-1947 | Charles Lorber | 1959-1961 |
| Fred H. Dawson (P) | 1915-1923 | Edna Kirchner | 1944-1957 | Charles Kantz | 1960-1961 |
| Beulah Beshears (AP) | 1916 | Mrs. Place | 1944 | William Fabritz | 1960-1961 |
| Miss Stansbury (AP) | 1917-<> | James Powers | 1945 | Ann Clark | 1960 |
| Mr. Henderson (AP) | 1920 | Blanche Wylie | 1946 | Marie Peck | 1961 |
| Wilma Kleist (AP) | 1922 | Martin J. Crabtree (P) | 1947 | <> | |
| C. H. Christ (P) | 1924 | Martin J. Crabtree (S) | 1948-1952 | | |
| Laura Woddell (AP) | 1924 | Margery Randall | 1948-1949 | | |
| Mr. Gerbercht (P) | 1926 | Orville Buckingham | 1948 | | |
| Ella Boland | 1926 | Donald Trump | 1949 | | |
| G. G. Bellamy (S) | 1928-1936 | Mark Smith (P) | 1950-1961 | | |
| Mrs. G. G. Bellamy (P) | 1928-1929 | Mabel Brown | 1950 | | |
| Philip Unger | 1928 | Marilyn Snyder | 1950 | | |
| Edna Peterson | 1929-1931 | Mr. Whitehill | 1951 | | |
| Vera Schmeizer (P) | 1931 | Donn Stansbury | 1952-1956 | | |
| Miss Ilo Adamson (P) | 1933-1935 | Mr. Kephart | 1952-1953 | | |
| Mr. Inver Moats | 1933 | R. B. Lord (S) | 1953 | | |
| Lorraine Balzer | 1933-1937 | Carl Mealy (S) | 1954-1958 | | |
| M. C. Bruce (P) | 1936-1937 | Miss Geske | 1954 | | |
| E. R. Wilson (S) | 1937-1938 | Patricia Loft | 1955-1956 | | |
| | | Gilbert Lehman | 1955 | | |
| | | Dolores Sundet | 1955 | | |
| | | Olive Edgeton | 1955 | | |
| | | Gladys Rife | 1956-1958 | | |
| | | Jerry Mealy | 1957-1958 | | |
| | | Delbert Hardy | 1957-1959 | | |

Note: This list is incomplete as we have thus far been unable to identify all faculty members prior to 1944.

(P) = Principal (AP) = Assistant Principal (S) = Superintendent

Last Updated 2018.0805

Nichols Grade School

Faculty Members

1872 - 1968

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|
| Alice Templeton | 1876-1883 | Retha Burke | 1928-1929 | Mabel Arp | 1959 |
| Frank Gilbert | 1879-1886 | Helen Mackey | 1927-1929 | Ruth Hanks | 1959 |
| Mary Ellen Gilbert | 1879-1886 | Mrs. Fowler | 1930 | Elizabeth Griffin | 1959-1962 |
| Anna McKenna | 1884 | Genevieve Wheeler | 1931-1935 | Denise Vickers | 1959-1962 |
| Anna Schmitt | 1898-1899 | Harriette James | 1933-1935 | Marilyn Hoben | 1959 |
| Anna L. Walker | 1900 | Eileen Birker | 1935 | Gladys Shaw | 1960-1968 |
| Emma Freyermuth | 1902 | Mary Neiswanger | 1936-1937 | Edna Hummel | 1960-1968 |
| Mamie Dean | 1902-1903 | Emma Dillon | 1937 | Marie Kaalberg | 1960-1968 |
| Meile Wright | 1903 | Geneva Whitacre | 1939-1943 | Marilyn Dickinson | 1960 |
| Mayme Foley | 1905-1952 | Thelma Tufty | 1939-1942 | Rosalee Honts | 1960-1961 |
| Madge Babbitt | 1905-1907 | Donna Dasher | 1943 | Shirley Elder | 1961-1968 |
| Pearl VanTuyt | 1905-1906 | Alberta Wieskamp | 1944-1946 | Mark Smith | 1962-1964 |
| Blanche Baldrige | 1907-1911 | Helen Tatge | 1944 | Jean Kirchner | 1962-1968 |
| Grace Mitchell | 1908-1909 | Mr. F. J. Kohler | 1945 | Marietta Smith | 1964 |
| Mollie Flater | 1910-1912 | Bernice Hadley | 1946-1947 | R. S. Fleming | 1964 |
| Lena Geirse | 1910-1920 | Edith Newton | 1947-1952 | Lou Del Jasper | 1964-1967 |
| Miss Kupp | 1912 | Gertrude Coder | 1947-1950 | Marion Carpenter | 1965-1968 |
| Edna Hector | 1913 | Verda Covell | 1948-1949 | Richard Gipple (P) | 1966 |
| Lucile Eives | 1915 | Marilyn Flaherty | 1950 | Jean Burns | 1967 |
| Alice Gerry Billing | 1916 | Bernice Hadley | 1951-1958 | Myrna Piersel | 1967 |
| Verna Swain | 1917 | Nell Schmitt | 1951-1958 | Mrs. Vervoort | 1967 |
| Miss Croxen | 1920 | Miss Fales | 1951-1952 | Helen Corbett | 1967-1968 |
| Mrs. Polders | 1920 | Miss Howard | 1952-1953 | Bessie Franks | 1968 |
| Nellie Ramsey | 1922 | Miss Anderson | 1953 | Sandra Johnson | 1968 |
| Ora Nyemaster | 1922 | Miss Cunningham | 1953 | <> | |
| Katherine Richards | 1922 | Hortense Stansell | 1953-1955 | | |
| Nellie Walser | 1924 | Helen Tatge | 1954-1968 | | |
| Hazel Peifer | 1924 | Mrs. Kirchner (Jean?) | 1954 | | |
| Elsie Kirchner | 1924-1928 | Verna Nichols | 1954-1956 | | |
| Verla Beeman | 1927 | Jo Ann Kennedy | 1955 | | |
| | | Shirley Riley | 1955 | | |
| | | De Etta Hankins | 1955-1959 | | |
| | | Betty Simon | 1956 | | |
| | | Betty Malloy | 1957 | | |
| | | Carol Conrad | 1957 | | |
| | | Barbara Baxter | 1957 | | |

Note: This list is incomplete as we have thus far been unable to identify all faculty members prior to 1944.

*Nichols Public School
Erected 1872 - Photo ca 1879
Photo Source: 1984 Nichols
Centennial Book, page 65*



*Nichols Christian Church — Nichols Public School
Erected 1875 — Photo circa 1908 — Erected 1872
Photo Source: Keith Mills*

A plat map of the Town of Nichols in the 1874 atlas of Muscatine County shows the Nichols Public School at exactly the same location in the north end of Nichols as the building shown in this picture. The following abstract of Nichols history is from page 581 of the 1879 History of Muscatine County, Iowa: "The present fine two-story ... schoolhouse was built in the summer of 1872. ... The present attendance averages seventy-four scholars. The present teachers are Franklin Gilbert and Mary E. Gilbert, the former's wife."

There are 77 persons in the picture above and two of them appear to be teachers. The woman at the right end of the back row may be Mary Ellen Gilbert (age 37) and the second man to her right (with a mustache) may be her husband, Franklin Gilbert (age 46). The single small tree in this 1879 picture and the multiple mature trees in the 1908 picture in the upper right corner are consistent with a 29-year time span. These circumstances are all consistent with an estimated date of 1879 for this picture.

R. I. HAWTHORN,
Livery, * Feed
 AND SALE STABLE.
 WEST LIBERTY, IOWA.

Baled Hay, Straw and Grain for sale.

C. M. NICHOLS,
 --DEALER IN--
Dry Goods Only,
 WEST LIBERTY, IOWA.

NICHOLS ADVERTISEMENTS.

H. J. BROWN & CO.,
 --DEALERS IN--
Farm Implements, Pumps
 And Buggies of All Kinds.
 Binder Twine and Oil.

Agents for Plano Binder and Mower, Pattee Plow Co's
 Cultivators and Rolling Plows, and Bradley, Sulky and Gang
 Plows and Cultivators. NICHOLS, IOWA.

L. KERN,
General Blacksmithing.
 --AND DEALER IN--
AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.
 NICHOLS, IOWA.

Agent for Deering Union Binders, J. L. Case Sulky Plows
 and all Standard Farm Machinery.

E. J. STAFFORD, Postmaster.
 Also Dealer in
Confectionery, Stationery, Groceries,
CIGARS AND TOBACCO.
 Also, Depository for County School Books.

INSURANCE. Will insure your property against Fire
 and Tornadoes by placing you in good
 and reliable companies. Give me a trial when you want in-
 suring done.

SALES HEINZLE,
 Manufacturer of and Dealer in
Harness, Saddles, Blankets, Whips,
ROBES AND SADDLERY HARDWARE,
 NICHOLS, IOWA.

Sketch of Nichols.

1899

The town of Nichols proper was laid out in 1869 by B. F. Nichols. Since then several additions have been added. It has good stores, handling all manner of goods. The town was fortunate in having as its founders and early residents, men of broad views and great enterprise. Samuel Nichols came to Pike township from Ohio, in 1838. The founder of the town was a self-made man in every respect. When he came to this township, fully one-half of it was a swamp, but since then several ditches have been dug at great expense and the land thus reclaimed has grown valuable and is very productive. B. F. Nichols was the eldest son of Samuel Nichols and died November 5th 1893. The younger son, Townsend B. Nichols, is at present a resident of Chicago, but he still retains his large property interests in and around Nichols. His business interests in Iowa are managed by John Nicola, who grew up from childhood in the Nichols family and who also has the push and enterprise of the Nichols family.

Quite a number of the first residents still live in the township. Among them are Dr. S. H. Smith, the first physician in this part of the county; John Nicola, Elias Adams and Thomas Newton.

The people living in and around Nichols

are of the pushing, enterprising class who do their trading at home and are interested in the welfare of the town. Enormous quantities of grain and produce are annually shipped from here. With the railroad facilities and the enterprise of the citizens, the future of Nichols is assured and its growth in the future will no doubt be rapid.

Nichols is now an incorporated town of about 500 inhabitants, located at the junction of the main line and the Muscatine Division of the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern Railway, in Pike township, Muscatine county, 7 miles south of West Liberty, 55 miles north of Burlington, and 16 miles west of Muscatine, the county seat. It has four churches, Methodist Episcopal, Methodist Protestant, Catholic and Christian; a graded school employing three teachers; several stores, hotels, implement dealers, livery stable, elevator, lumber yard, and a weekly newspaper, the Gazette, published by T. A. Merrill and T. L. Miller. The following are the present officers of the town: Mayor, V. Reynolds; Recorder, John Fulmer; Marshal, Hez Smith; Street Commissioner, T. B. Horton; Treasurer, L. Kern; Assessor, John Stephens; Councilmen, W. S. Baker, Robert Black, T. E. Norris, John Nicola, J. W. Rummels jr. and Hiram Nelson.

THE NICHOLS GAZETTE

---\$1.00 A YEAR.---

MERRILL & MILLER, Publishers.

We can do your Job Work in good shape.

The People's Furniture Store.

C. H. MILNES,
 Licensed Embalmer and Funeral Director.
 WEST LIBERTY, IOWA.

J. L. GIVANS,
LIVERY,
 Feed and Sale Stable,
 WEST LIBERTY, IOWA.

NICHOLS ADVERTISEMENTS.

B. F. SWICKARD,
 --DEALER IN--
All Kinds of Building Material,
 Lumber, Sash, Doors, Blinds, Lath,
 SHINGLES, MOULDINGS, GREEN DOORS,
 Fence Posts, Wood, Lime, Brick, Cement, Plastering Hair,
 Building Paper and Stone.
 NICHOLS, IOWA.

W. R. TRAUTMAN,
General Repair Shop,
 Three Miles South and One Mile
 West of Nichols.

*Repairing of Agricultural Machinery promptly
 Attended to at all hours of the day or night.*

V. REYNOLDS,
 --PROPRIETOR OF--
Nichols Hotel.

First Class Accommodations.

DESCRIPTION AND PEDIGREE.

PAPILLION 1890 was foaled April 10, 1886. Imported in 1887. Color, black; 16 hands high, and weighs 1800 pounds. He was sired by Hayard 56; he by Laus Pariel 50. Dam, Favorite; she by Cour de Hayes 55. These horses are fine actors and have proved to be first-class, sure foal-getters. Their colts are all "straight goods."

DOLLAR KING is a full blood Norman Draft Stallion, color, dark bay, 16 1/4 hands high, and weighs 1900 pounds. He was sired by imported Hayard. Dam by imported Leopold. Grand dam by Dick O'Leary.

Photo Source:
Barbara Elder



Leona Hintz (Heath) 1st Grade (NHS 1909) — Alma Felton (Hazen) 1st Grade (NHS 1909) — Charles W. Elder 1st Grade (NHS 1909)

Picture of 36 students in the "Primary Room" (1st, 2nd & 3rd Grades) with their teacher, Anna Schmitt, during the 1898-1899 school year. The picture is taken in front of the two-story wood frame schoolhouse at the north end of Nichols, Iowa, as originally constructed in 1872 with DUAL ENTRY DOORS. Sometime between 1899 and 1902 the front of the schoolhouse would be remodeled to provide a single entry door and free up interior space for a new classroom for teaching the new high school curriculum.

1899

MAP OF TOWN OF NICHOLS

LOCATED IN PIKETWP.

SCALE 300 FEET TO 1 INCH.

COPYRIGHTED,

Plat Map of the Town of Nichols, Iowa
From Atlas of Muscatine County Published in 1899
by The Huebinger Surveying & Map Publishing Co.
Davenport, Iowa

In 1872, in anticipation of the needs of
travelers on the two intersecting railroads, a
new three story brick structure, the St. Nichols
Hotel, was built on Ijem Avenue.

On December 29, 1899, Nichols Savings
Bank received its state charter to engage in the
banking business in Nichols, Iowa. It would
then erect a bank building in conjunction with a
new building for the Nichols Opera House.

NICHOLS RAILROAD HISTORY
The Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Minnesota
commenced construction on the north-south
line in 1869. In 1873, the Muscatine Western
Railway reached Nichols with its east-west
line to Montezuma, Iowa, 80 miles west of
Muscatine. In 1899, both railroads were
owned by the Burlington, Cedar Rapids &
Northern, which in turn would be acquired by
the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railway in
1903. On August 31, 1904, Mayme Foley rode
a Rock Island train from Columbus Junction
north to Nichols to start her new job as a
teacher at the Nichols Public School.

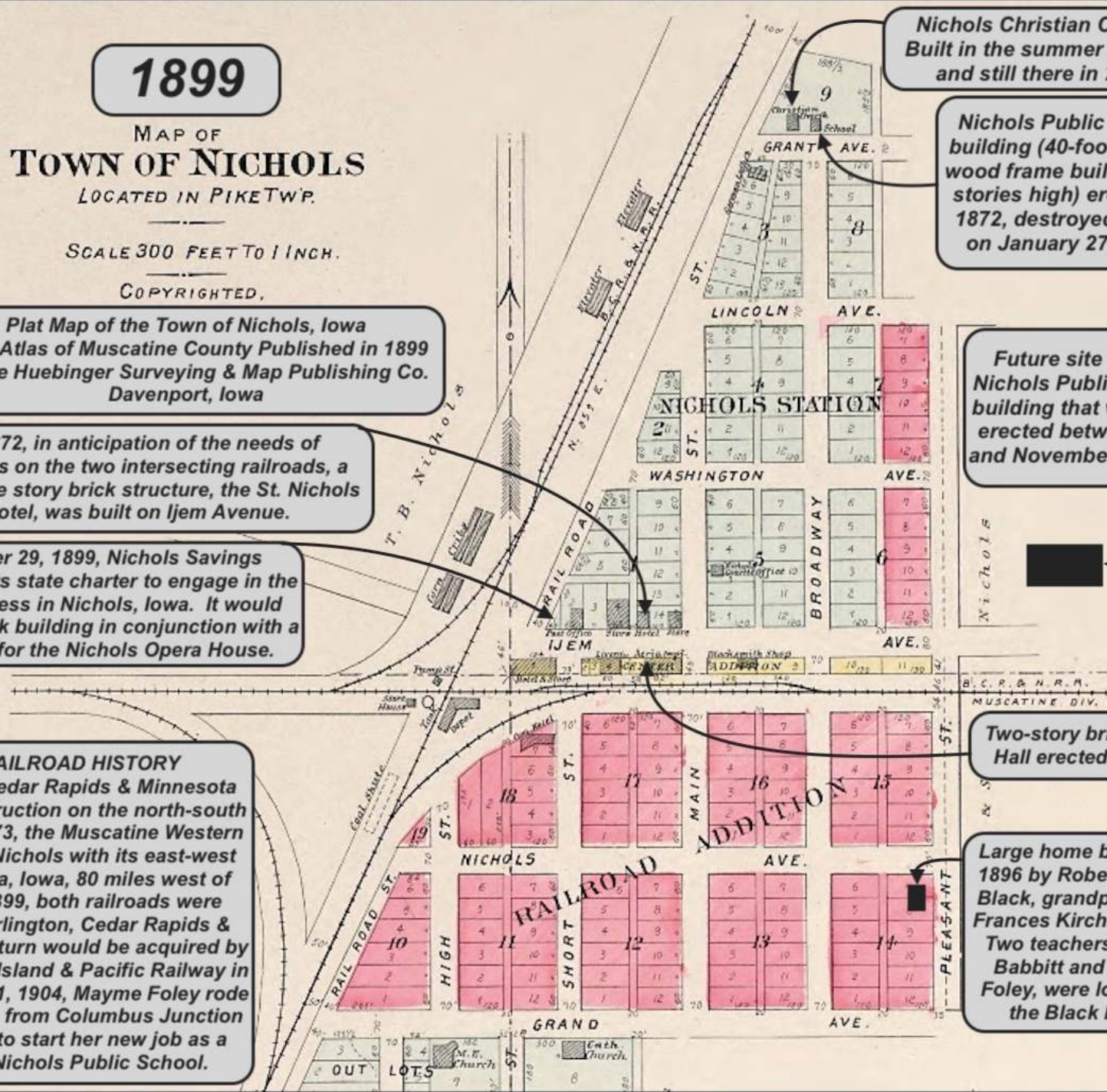
Nichols Christian Church
Built in the summer of 1875
and still there in 2018

Nichols Public School
building (40-foot square
wood frame building two
stories high) erected in
1872, destroyed by fire
on January 27, 1915.

Future site of new
Nichols Public School
building that would be
erected between May
and November of 1915.

Two-story brick Town
Hall erected in 1907

Large home built circa
1896 by Robert & Mary
Black, grandparents of
Frances Kirchner Elder.
Two teachers, Madge
Babbitt and Mayme
Foley, were lodgers in
the Black home.



**Madge Babbitt (Bangs), Teacher,
and her 42 students in 1st, 2nd
and 3rd grades during the 1907
school year at Nichols Public
School in Nichols, Iowa.**



Photo Source: Barbara Elder

(1) Susie Jameson, (2) Mary Stephens, (3) Frances Kirchner, (4) Mava Hamilton, (5) Esther Borgstadt, (6) Benjamin Nichols-1916, (7) Amanda Rummells-1916, (8) Elsie Alt, (9) Luva Brown-1918, (10) Linis Jameson, (11) Edmon Jameson, (12) Elsie Kirchner-1916, (13) Anna Nichols-1919, (14) Marie Brown, (15) May Lewis, (16) Cloyde Davidson-1918, (17) Russell Watkins, (18) Ralph Renshaw, (19) Willard Rice, (20) Ira Renshaw, (21) Joe Pratt, (22) Walter Elder-1919, (23) Glen VanTuyl, (24) Mabel Artz, (25) Robert Nolan-1918, (26) Myrtle Fetterman, (27) Earl Trautman-1916, (28) Mable Fulmer, (29) __ Winn, (30) Emil Browning, (31) Harry Nugent, (32) _____, (33) Frank Hollenbeck, (34) Walter Hollenbeck, (35) Albert Smith, (36) Elsie Nodine, (37) Mildred Hummel-1918, (38) Wilma Briggs, (39) John Artz, (40) _____ Ames, (41) Chancey Smith, (42) Floyd Bickford. [The year following a name is the year of NHS 11th Grade Graduation.]

Robert & Mary Black House in Nichols, Iowa



On December 11, 1895, Robert C. Black recorded deeds to Lots 7, 8 and 9 of Block 14, Railroad Addition, on which he built, probably in 1896, the house appearing above. The porch is on the north side of the house which fronts on Nichols Avenue and its right of way appears in the foreground of the picture. The far east side of the house fronts on Pleasant Street about two blocks south of where the new brick high school would be erected in 1915. Directly behind the photographer, about three blocks to the northwest, was the center of the Nichols business district. Photographer: Charles E. Jacoby of West Liberty. Photo Source: Barbara Elder

This Annotation

Supplements the preceding 1907 Photograph of Miss Madge Babbitt and her 42 students in Grades 1-2-3 at the Nichols Public School in Nichols, Iowa

Madge Babbitt (Grades 1-2-3) and Mayme Foley (Grades 4-5-6) both joined the Nichols Public School faculty in September, 1904. Miss Babbitt, who married the new principal, Cecil Bangs, on December 24, 1906, would stay for three years. Miss Foley stayed for 48 years.

Frances Kirchner (#3 in the 1907 photograph) took all of grades 1-2-3 with Miss Babbitt and all of grades 4-5-6 with Miss Foley. Miss Babbitt and Miss Foley were lodgers in the home of Robert and Mary Black where the Blacks' granddaughter, Frances Kirchner, and her widower father, Bernard Kirchner, also resided. It was a large house.

Nannie Black Kirchner, wife of Bernard Kirchner and mother of Frances Kirchner, died on March 26, 1901, at age 21. From grade 7 on Frances was enrolled by her father in private schools in Davenport. She was a 12th grade graduate of Saint Katherine's School in Davenport on June 6, 1916. On October 9, 1917, Frances married Charles W. Elder, a 1909 graduate of Nichols High School. Frances would preserve her print of the 1907 photograph of Miss Babbitt and her 42 students and dozens of other town and school photographs. Scanned images of her valuable historical collection would become part of the Nichols High School Digital Archives curtesy of her granddaughter, Barbara Elder of Nichols.

The 1907 photograph of Miss Madge Babbitt and her 42 students includes among the 2nd graders all four students who would constitute the 11th grade graduates of NHS in 1916. They are: Elsie P. Kirchner, Amanda E. Rummells, Benjamin F. Nichols and Earl A. Trautman. This would be the first class to graduate from the three-story brick school building to be erected in 1915. But the commencement exercises on June 2, 1916, would be held in the Nichols Opera House as the new school building would not have a gymnasium/auditorium for such events until 1934.



Nichols Public School faculty members circa 1907 Cecil Bangs, Principal, his wife Madge Babbitt Bangs, primary grades 1-2-3, and Miss Mayme Foley, intermediate grades 4-5-6. The child is Frances Kirchner (Elder) and the picture was taken in the home of her maternal grandparents, Robert & Mary Black. Photo Source: Barbara Elder



Photo Source: Barbara Elder

Miss Mayme Foley, teacher grades 4-5-6, Nichols Public School, and her 4th grade student, Frances Kirchner ca. May, 1908.

- 1896. Circa Robert & Mary Black build large new home in southeast Nichols.
- 1898.0615 Nannie E. Black marries Bernard A. Kirchner in Nichols, Iowa.
- 1899.0425 Frances Kirchner is born in Nichols, Iowa, to Nannie and Bernard Kirchner.
- 1901.0326 Nannie Black Kirchner died Nichols IA
- 1901. Circa Widowed son-in-law and granddaughter move into Robert & Mary Black home.
- 1904.0900 Miss Madge Babbitt new teacher grades 1-2-3 Nichols Public School.
- 1904.0900 Miss Mayme Foley new teacher grades 4-5-6 Nichols Public School.
- 0000.0000 Miss Babbitt and Miss Foley were lodgers at the Black home.
- 1907.0500 Frances Kirchner completes grades 1-2-3 with Miss Babbitt.
- 1910.0500 Frances Kirchner completes grades 4-5-6 with Miss Foley.
- 1913.0500 Frances Kirchner completes grades 7-8-9, Immaculate Conception Academy Davenport
- 1916.0606 Frances Kirchner Graduates grade 12 St. Katharine's School, Davenport, Iowa.
- 1917.1019 Frances Kirchner married Charles W. Elder in Muscatine, Iowa.
- 1952.0500 Mayme Foley retires after 48 years teaching in the Nichols Public School.

...Nichols Public Schools...

Record of Attendance, Punctuality, Scholarship and Deportment of

Charles W. Elder
 Grade *10* Room *140* for the year beginning
Sept 2 190*7* and ending 190*8*

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | Ave |
|---------------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Deportment | 87 | 87 | | 87 | 87 | 87 | 87 | 87 | 87 | |
| Days Absent | 2 | 2 | | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | |
| No. Times Tardy | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| Attendance | 17 | 17 | | 17 | 17 | 17 | 17 | 17 | 17 | |
| Plane Geometry | | | | | | | | | | |
| Solid Geometry | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1st Year's Latin | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2nd Year's Latin | 60 | 70 | | 85 | 90 | 96 | 70 | 86 | 73 | |
| Rhetoricals | | | | | | | | | | |
| Vocal Music | | | | | | | | | | |
| Arithmetic | | | | | | | | | | |
| Botany | | | | | | | | | | |
| Economics | | | | | | | | | | |
| Literature | 80 | 80 | | 83 | 84 | 87 | 87 | | | |
| Civics | | | | | | | | | | |
| English composition | | | | | | | | | | |
| Algebra | 80 | 80 | | 75 | | | | | | |
| Rhetoric | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bookkeeping | | | | | 76 | 93 | 93 | 90 | | |
| Physics | | | | | | | | | | |
| General History | 83 | 77 | | 88 | 73 | 85 | 87 | 85 | 73 | |
| Physical Geography | | | | | | | | | | |

SIGNATURE OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN

1st *Mr. John Elder*
 2nd *Mr. John Elder*
 3rd *Mr. John Elder*
 4th *Mr. John Elder*
 5th *Mr. John Elder*
 6th *Mr. John Elder*
 7th *Mr. John Elder*
 8th *Mr. John Elder*
 9th *Mr. John Elder*

Mayme Spaulding Teacher

To PARENTS:—The grades may be understood as follows: 95 to 100, excellent; 85 to 90, good; 75 to 85, fair; 75 or below, poor.

Principal

"Report Card" of Charles W. Elder for his Sophomore year (1907-08) at Nichols High School where he would complete what was then a three-year curriculum and graduate with the Class of 1909.

The Report Card was part of a large collection of Nichols school and town historical documents and photographs assembled by Charles' wife, Frances Kirchner Elder. Their granddaughter, Barbara Elder, is the source of the digitized copy of the Report Card.

Mayme Spaulding, who signed the Report Card as "Teacher" was then the only teacher at Nichols High School and had sole responsibility for teaching all subjects in what was then a 3-year curriculum. She was (by title and in the generic sense) the "Principal" teacher at Nichols High School for the two school years: 1908 and 1909.

In the years that Mayme Spaulding was "Principal," the total enrollment of all students in all three classes (9-10-11) was the equivalent of only one small classroom. Based solely on the number of graduates during the years 1908-1911 high school enrollment was something over 8 for 1908 and something over 15 for 1909. The teaching facility then was still the 40-foot square two-story wood frame building originally erected at the north end Nichols in the year 1872.

* Editor, NHS Digital Archives, 2018.0422



COMMENCEMENT

1913

The Senior Class
of the
Nichols High School
requests your presence
at the
Graduating Exercises
to be given on
Friday Evening, May 23
at eight o'clock
Opera House
Nichols, Iowa

MAKDONI

GRADUATES

ELSIE M. PIKE

ELIZABETH M. DORAN

GEORGE A. KIRCHNER

MARIE H. RYAN

PRINCIPAL—SMITH TRUMP

MARGARET E. UMSCHIED

CLARENCE R. METCALF

ZELPHA V. STEVENS

LOLA M. HUMMEL

HARRY E. SHANNON

The Commencement Program above for the Nichols High School Class of 1913 refers to “The Senior Class” but NHS would offer only a three-year curriculum (Grades 9-10-11) from 1900 to 1924. NHS graduates wanting a diploma from a four-year high school would usually enroll in the senior class at West Liberty High School. Two members of the NHS Class of 1913, Clarence Metcalf and Harold Shannon, are listed among the graduating class in the 1914 Commencement Program for West Liberty High School.

“Miss Smith Trump” was the “Principal” for the three-year curriculum at NHS for the two school years 1913 and 1914. For the 1913 school year she was the sole high school teacher. In September, 1913, Miss Anna Gurtner was employed as Assistant Principal. In October, 1913, the Iowa State Board of Education placed NHS on the list of accredited three-year high schools.

Editor, Nichols High School Digital Archives

Photo Source: Keith Mills



This is a Penny Postcard picture of the Nichols Christian Church and the Nichols Public School building circa 1910. Both structures were located at the north end of the town of Nichols on Grant Avenue facing south. The school building was erected in 1872; the church was erected in 1875. The photograph was taken by William N. Crozier, a commercial photographer living in Riverside, Iowa.

The school building was destroyed by fire on January 27, 1915. Classes were then held in the Nichols Opera House and a church. In May of 1915, the Board of Education awarded a contract to Hopp Construction of Cedar Rapids to erect a new school building on a new site on the east side of the Town of Nichols. November 29, 1915, was the first day of school in the new three-story brick and stone school building.

Photo Source:
Michael Appleby

Nichols Public School, erected
in 1872 on East
side of Nichols
Christian Church,
destroyed by fire
27 January 1915



For several years during the mid 1910s J. W. Rummells, Jr., operated a major produce business in Nichols, Iowa, based primarily on the raising and marketing of cabbage to midwestern towns. This picture is a northerly view of the Rock Island Railway tracks at the northwest corner of the Town of Nichols and was photographed on August 8, 1916.

Advertising Freight Car Loads of Cabbage Shipping
from Nichols, Iowa, on the Rock Island Railway in 1916



All Adjustments made According to Produce Reporter Rules and Grades

Muscataine County Cabbage

NICHOLS-MUSCATINE DISTRICT

FANCY-MEDIUM-GREEN-FIRM

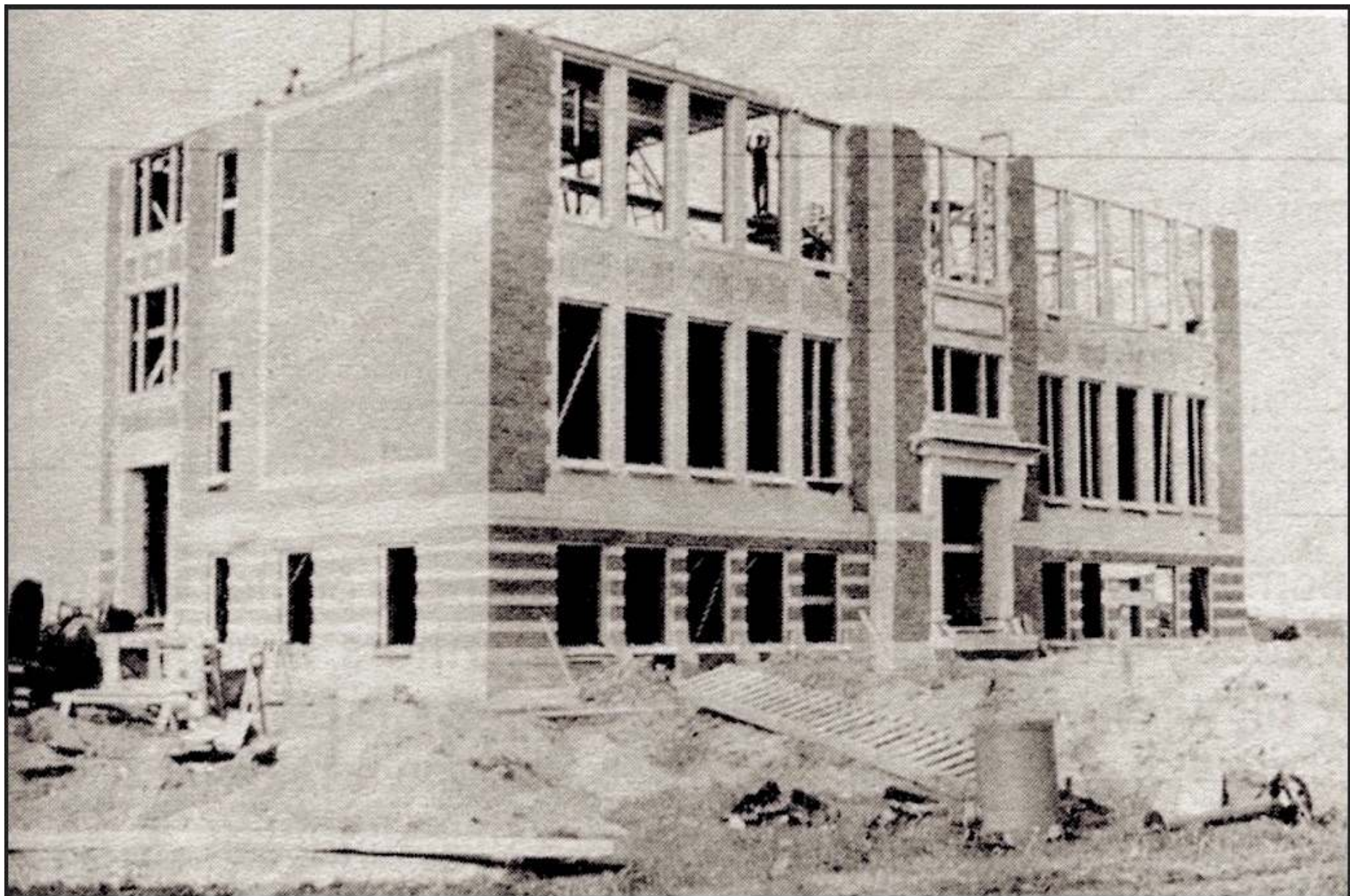
ALRIGHT-ALREADY-CABBAGE ON WHEELS

Daily From July 1st. to November 1st.

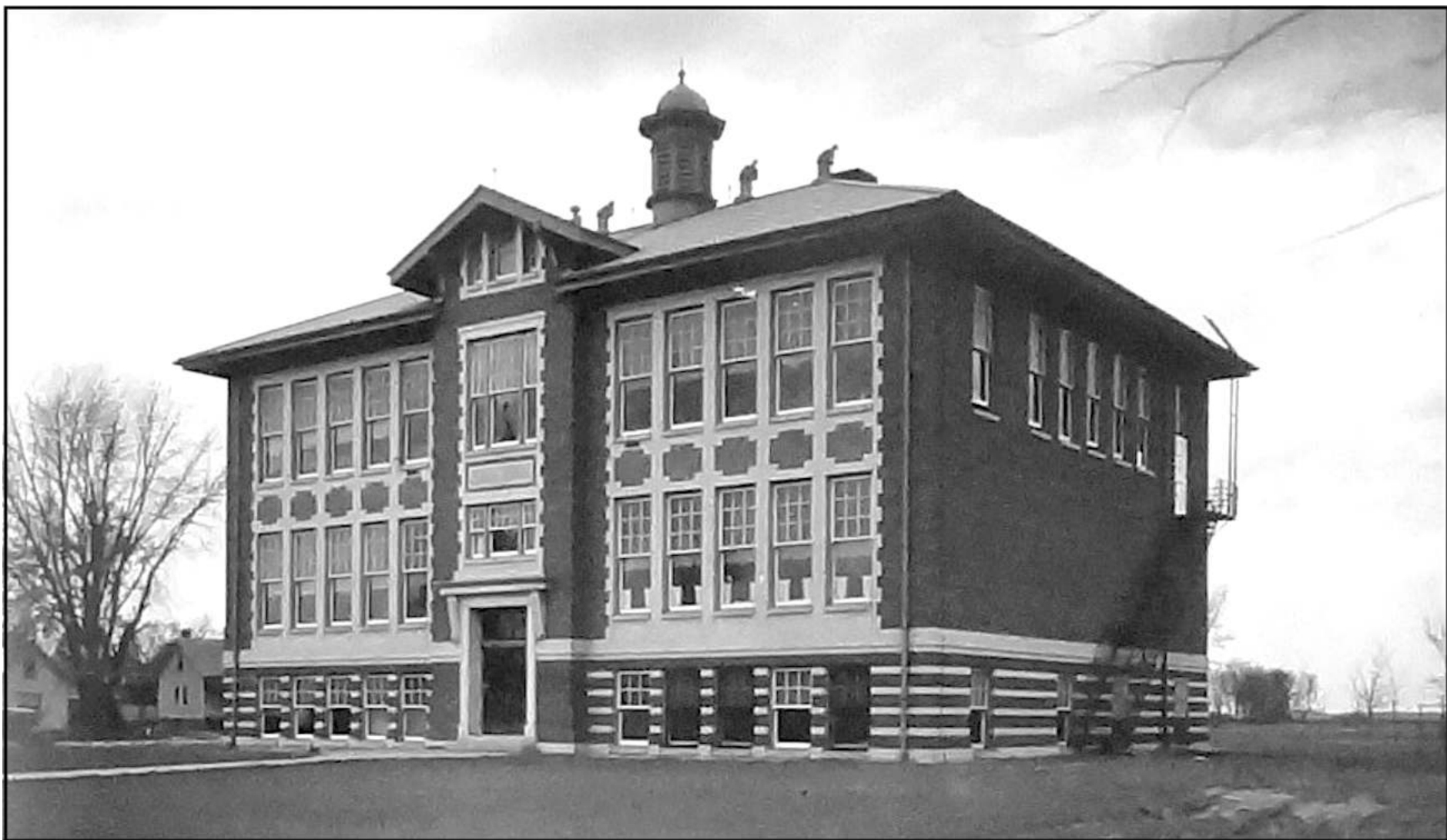
J. W. RUMMELLS, Nichols, Iowa

Am shipping cabbage daily, both bulk and crated. If on market, wire your offer or for prices. Have cars rolling. Can bill you out a car tonight or divert one or as many as you want.

FANCY BULK DOLLAR A HUNDRED; IF CRATED, 25 CENTS EXTRA FOR EACH CRATE. P. O. B. NICHOLS. WIRE QUICK. CRATES 15X16X30 CONTAINING ABOUT 90 POUNDS NET.



***Photograph of New Nichols School Building Under Construction
Published in The Nichols Courier Newspaper on June 17, 1915
Source: Nichols Iowa Centennial Book 1884-1984 Page 52***



Nichols Public School Building, Nichols, Iowa

The white two-story wood frame school building erected on the north side of Nichols in 1872 was destroyed by fire on January 27, 1915. In May, 1915, a contract was awarded to the Hopp Construction Co. of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, to erect a new three-story brick and stone school building at a new site on the east side of Nichols. Construction of the new building, as pictured above, was completed in November, 1915. November 29, 1915, was the first day of school in the new building. The first senior class to graduate from the new building held its commencement exercises on June 2, 1916.

CLASS 1916

The Senior Class of
the Nichols High School
requests your
presence
at the
Commencement
Exercises
at the Opera House
Friday Evening, June second
nineteen hundred-sixteen

Class Roll

ELSIE P. KIRCHNER
AMANDA E. RUMMELLS
BENJAMIN F. NICHOLS
EARL A. TRAUTMAN

CLASS MOTTO
"Finis coronat opus." The end
crowns the work.

CLASS COLORS
Old Rose and White

CLASS FLOWER
Pink Roses

Baccalaureate Sermon at the
Christian Church
Sunday Evening, May 28, 1916
8 o'clock

FACULTY

PROF. F. H. DAWSON
BULA V. BESHEARS
LENA GIERSE
MAYME FOLEY
ALICE G. BILLING

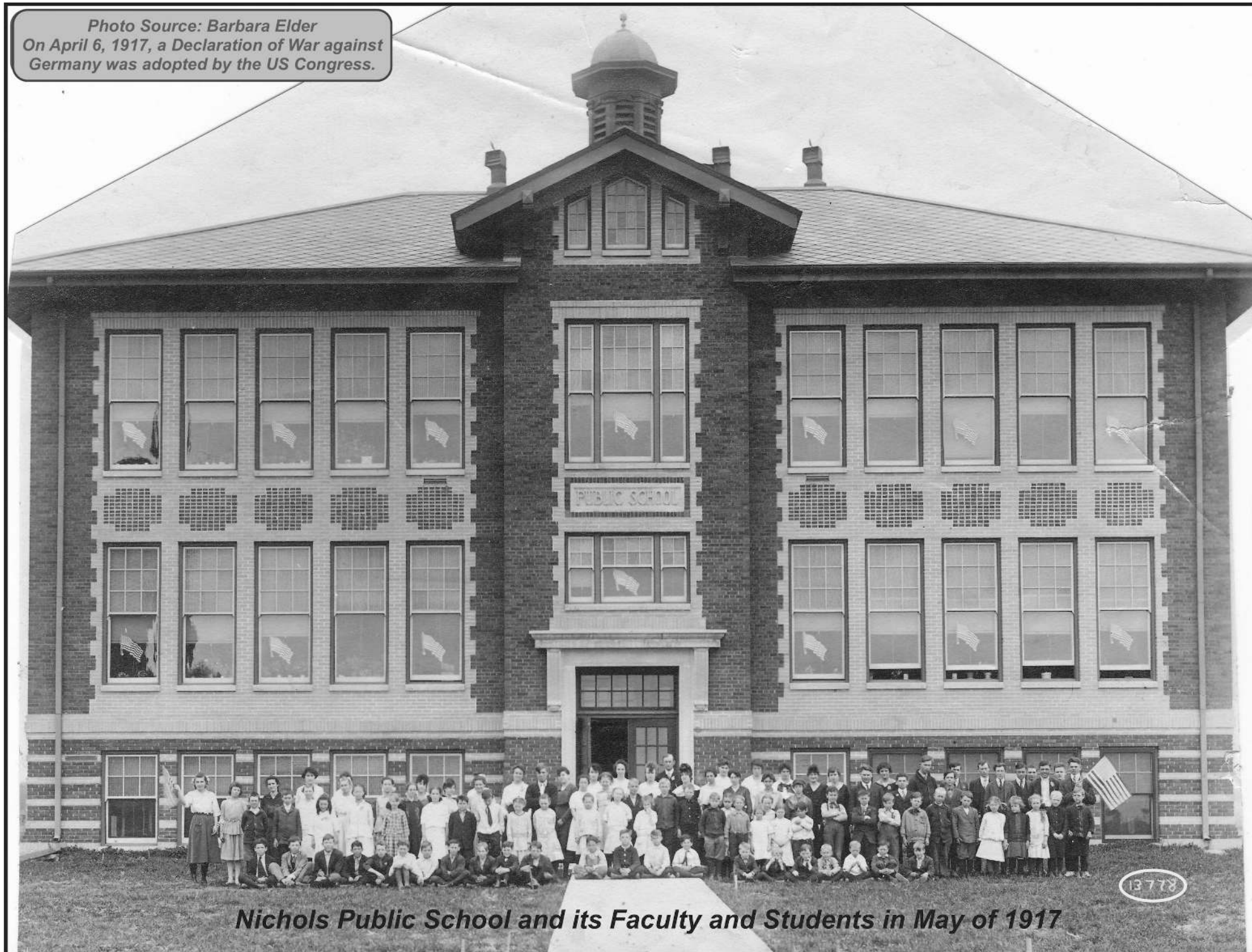


Alice Gerry Billing



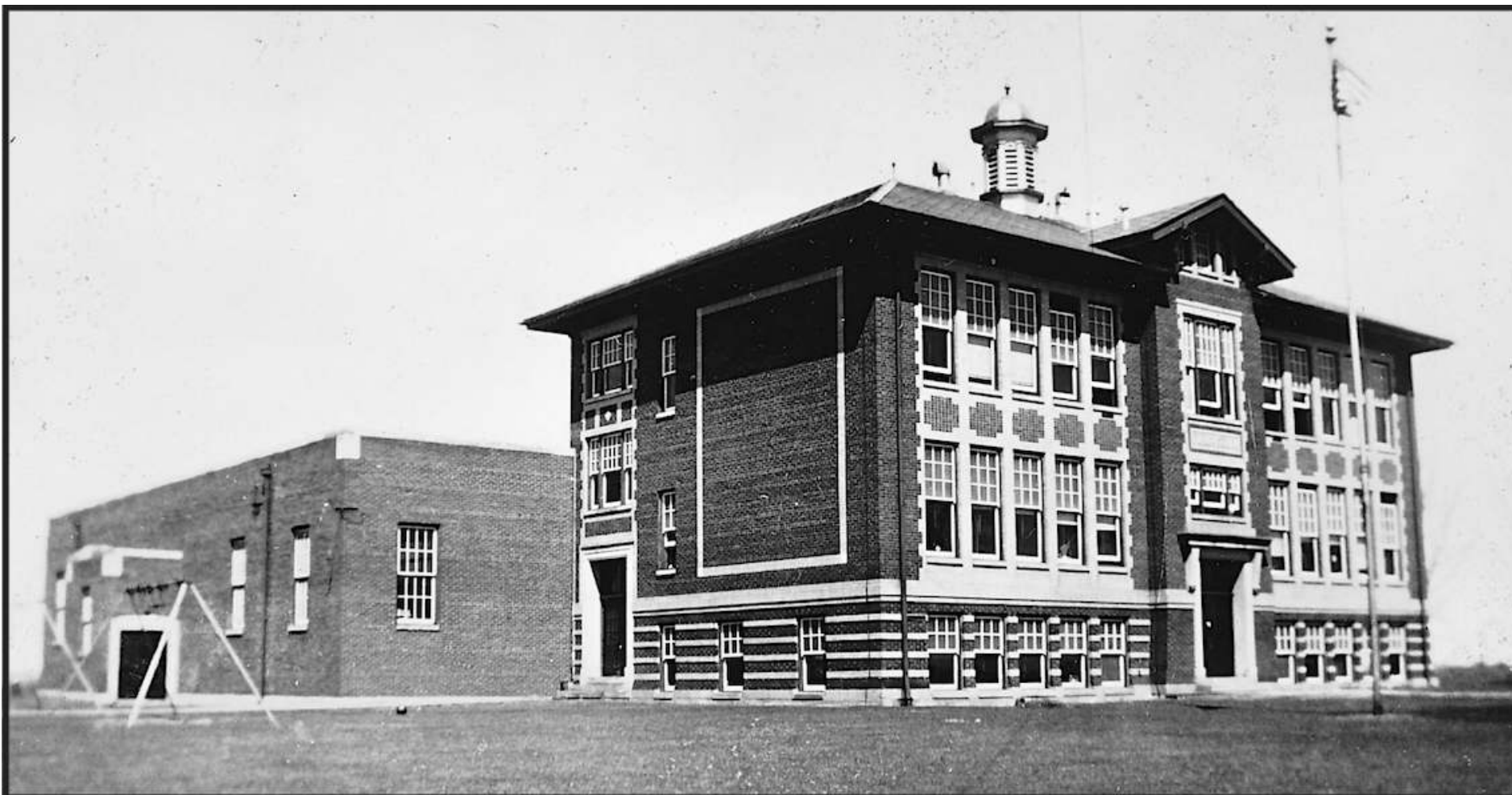
Mayme Foley

*Photo Source: Barbara Elder
On April 6, 1917, a Declaration of War against
Germany was adopted by the US Congress.*



Nichols Public School and its Faculty and Students in May of 1917

13778



— New Auditorium/Gymnasium 1934 —

In the spring of 1934 the Nichols Board of Education awarded a contract to the Huntzinger & Wagner firm of Iowa City for the construction of an auditorium/gymnasium addition to the existing schoolhouse building. The total cost was expected to be about \$14,0000.

Source: Muscatine Journal, May 1, 1934

— Triple Funeral for Three Students —

A car carrying six members of the Nichols High School baseball team was returning from a game in Conesville on October 2, 1934, when it crashed into a vehicle parked along the side of the road. Three players died from their injuries. A triple funeral for the three deceased players would be the first event held in the new auditorium on October 5, 1934.

Source: Muscatine Journal, October 3, 1934

MISS MAYME FOLEY

The first NHS Mirror yearbook, as published in May 1944, was dedicated to Miss Foley for her forty years (1904 to 1944) of teaching the Intermediate Grades in Nichols Public School. She would teach an additional eight years before retiring at age 79 in May, 1952.

Miss Foley arrived in the Town of Nichols by train from Columbus Junction on August 31, 1904, to begin her teaching career at Nichols Public School, an old two-story wood-frame structure at the north end of town. For her first year she was paid \$30 per month. On page 3 of the Muscatine Journal published on May 26, 1905, is a report that the school board hired Miss Foley for a second year and increased her salary to \$40 per month.

Miss Foley's father, Andrew Foley, who had emigrated from Ireland, and her mother Mary Ann Sweeney, whose parents had emigrated from Ireland, were married in Boston on April 18, 1865. In that same year they would move to a farm home in 76 Township of Muscatine County, Iowa, where Miss Foley and her seven siblings would be born.

Miss Foley was born on January 22, 1873. She died in Muscatine, Iowa, on March 29, 1957, and was buried in Ardon Cemetery in 76 Township, Muscatine County, Iowa.

— Annotation by Don Smith, Editor NHS Digital Archives



★ ★ ★ **Open House to Give Opportunity To View Structure**

Nichols — Dedication ceremonies for a new five-room addition to the Nichols school, which has been erected at a cost of approximately \$82,000 are scheduled here Sunday afternoon, starting at 2 p.m. An open house

period will follow the dedication giving visitors an opportunity to inspect the improved school facilities.

Extensive Program

The dedication comes as the climax to a program for improved school facilities dating back to early in 1953. In February and April of that year, residents of the school districts in Pike township and a section of Wapsie township voted to reorganize into a much larger Nichols Independent district.

With the increased enrollment resulting from the merger, fac-

ilities at the Nichols school proved inadequate and on March 13, 1954, a bond issue of \$90,000 was approved by voters of the district, to build a five room addition, remodel and enlarge the school lunch room, remodel and equip the home economics room, and change the heating system for the entire school.

Work was started on the project during the last week of July, 1954. As work was completed, classes were moved into the new section and it is now utilized by the primary through fifth grades.

The addition contains approximately 5,500 square feet of floor space, with each classroom containing at least 750 square feet.

New Lighting System

One of the desirable features of the addition is the use of bulateral lighting, permitting daylight to reach the inside portion of the classrooms on either side of the building. The side-lights permit light to enter the corridor.

Accoustical ceiling not only add to the beauty of each room but also serve to subdue noise. Heating and ventilation for each room is individually controlled.

The kindergarden room is a self-contained teaching unit. The room contains a rest room, separate entrance to the playground, coat racks, sink, drinking fountain, lavatory as well as shelves for books and toys . . . all scaled to fit a six-year old boy or girl.

The elementary addition now accomodates about 120 children and will accomodate 150, which is the anticipated enrollment within the coming few years.

Equipment for the new classrooms cost approximately \$3,000; shop equipment about \$750; and equipment for the home economics room about \$1,000. The \$82,000 cost of the entire project also included remodeling the lunch and

home economics rooms and converting the heating system.

Program Arranged

The program for the dedication ceremony at 2 p.m. Sunday is announced as follows:

The Rev. Gerald McCray will give the invocation; Robert Elder, president of the present school board, will welcome guests; Frank Ralston, county superintendent of schools, will speak as a representative of the county board of education; and the main address will be by the Rev. L. J. Vogel.

Dedication of the building will be by Ben Nichols, a past president of the school board. The Rev. N. A. Bolinger will pronounce the benediction.

Music for the event will be by the Nichols school band under the direction of Gilbert Lehman.

The tour of the building will begin when the dedication has been completed.

**Nichols Public School Facilities in 1955
 Showing The Newly Constructed
 One-Story Grade School Addition.**



**Muscatine Journal
 Wednesday
 April 20, 1955
 Page 14**

Nichols School Faced With Loss of Approval; State Urges Reorganization

A report has been mailed from Guilford Collison, regional supervisor for the State of Iowa Department of Public Instruction, to Harley Kirkpatrick, president of Nichols independent school board of education concerning the annual visit made to the Nichols school in November, 1959.

Collison noted that several improvements had been made in the school. He said, however,

that state approval for the Nichols high school may end June 30, 1961, and recommended that the school board step up reorganization studies.

Improvement which Collison reported had been made included: strengthening of the music instruction by hiring a full-time teacher; an additional teacher was hired for the 7th and 8th grade; additional secondary classroom was created by dividing a former study hall; improvements made in high school library; curriculum improvements made by offering two classes in biology; offering a course in beginning Spanish; modern lighting installed where needed; first-rate building maintenance.

Collison made the following recommendations:

"(1) Budgeting for school improvement should be in the area of elementary education. Specifically, you should continue to build up your room libraries, instructional supplies, and audio-visual aids.

"(2) If transportation can be

arranged, we recommend the 1/2 day kindergarten. This move would also "free" the teacher in the other half day of remedial reading instruction, office help, or some other assignment.

"(3) As was suggested in previous years, you should attempt to build the unencumbered balance in the general fund to one-quarter to one-third of the expenditures anticipated in any one year. This is only wise management and avoids having to pay interest on borrowed money.

"(4) My major recommendation is to explore very thoroughly school district reorganization. District unity in this project appears to be the ultimate answer

in the question of eventually maintaining an elementary attendance center at Nichols."

Collison's report continued:

"The Nichols school has made satisfactory progress in the past year in many areas as previously noted. We can recommend you for continued approval for the current school year and for the 1960-61 school year. However, because of your limited secondary program of studies and lack of adequate equipment in many areas, for example, science laboratory, June 30, 1961, will end state approval for the Nichols secondary school. As you know when a school's secondary school becomes unapproved, the entire system is considered likewise.

"That is why we urge you to step up reorganization studies and vote as a unit to preserve your elementary school. If you are not reorganized by June 30, 1961, it would then be necessary to send your secondary pupils to an accredited high school of your choice in order for your elementary school to continue to be approved. I am sure that you would rather be reorganized than to resort to this alternative."

Copies of the letter were sent to Paul L. Strickfaden, Nichols school superintendent; Frank Ralston, county superintendent; Loretta Hollenbeck, secretary; Ralph Schmitt, Robert Ramer, Keith Abbott and Shirley Elder, board members.

Barnhart and Strickfaden Are Named Top Graduates of Last Nichols Class

Nichols — Marianne Barnhart is valedictorian and Donna Strickfaden, salutatorian, of the 1961 graduating class at Nichols Independent high school, announces Paul Strickfaden, superintendent.

There are 22 seniors graduating in this final year of high school at Nichols. Next year high school students will be sent on a tuition basis to other schools in the area.

Baccalaureate exercises are scheduled Sunday, May 14, at 8 p. m. (cst) at the Nichols Methodist church. Commencement will be held Wednesday, May 17, at 8 p. m. (cst) in the high school gym.

Miss Barnhart, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Marion Barnhart, has chosen, "Toil to Succeed", as the theme of her valedictory address. "The Best is Yet to Be" is the theme of her valedictory address, by Miss Strickfaden, daughter of Supt. and Mrs. Paul Strickfaden.

In addition to being honor students, both girls have been active in numerous extra curricular activities during their four years at Nichols high school.

Marianne, who recently was named recipient of a music activity scholarship to the State University of Iowa, is a flutist in the band and holds an office

in the music group. She is secretary of the senior class with other activities past and present including chorus, basketball, student council, Nicholite staff and junior class play.

Donna is treasurer of the senior class and played basketball four years, serving as captain her junior year. Her other activities have included glee club, mixed chorus, band, Nicholite staff, plays and Mirror staff.

Baccalaureate

Sunday's Baccalaureate address will be delivered by Rev. Noble Bollinger of the First Christian church, Nichols. "A Penny for Your Thought" will be his topic.

The program will also include processional and recessional by William Fabritz, music instructor; invocation and benediction by Rev. Nancy Nichols of the First Methodist church; vocal solo by Anna Lee Donald; reading, "My Mother's Garden," by Linda Rummels; and instrumental solos by Harry Christofferson and Sandra Schmitt.

Commencement speaker next Wednesday night will be Dr. Walter L. Daykin, professor of labor and industrial management, college of commerce, State University of Iowa. "The Key to a Successful Life" will be the topic of his address.

A former instructor at the University of Kansas, Dr. Daykin holds Ph. D., M. A., and B. A. degrees from SUI in soci-

ology and economics. He also attended Graceland college.

He is affiliated with the Order of Arctus, Beta Gamma Sigma, Delta Sigma Pi and Church of Latter Day Saints. Many of his articles have been published in the field of labor legislation for law and economic journals.

The Nichols high school band will play three selections, including the processional march to start the graduation program. The invocation and benediction will be given by Rev. Nancy Nichols.

A vocal number will be presented by the seventh grade girls.

Superintendent Paul L. Strickfaden will present the Class of 1961 for graduation with Ben Nichols, president of the board of education, to present diplomas to the following:

Marianne Barnhart, Alvin Classen, Judy Durst, Carol Finley, Donald Green, Stephen Han, JoAnn Hartman, David Hillyer, Bill Hintermeister, Virgil Hollenbeck, Forrest Johnston;

Bernice Kasper, Bill Kline, Nancy Longstreth, Clarence Luetgens, Patty Meyers, Robert Middagh, Judith Mills, Robert Oostendorp, Cloyd Phelps, Donna Strickfaden and Dennis Wieskamp.

The Class Motto is "The Road Called Toil Leads Up to the City of Success". The Class Flower is the white carnation with Class Colors, baby blue and white.

—Nichols District to W. Liberty—

9-Year School Dispute Resolved

By MICHAEL L. CONKLIN
Press-Citizen Staff Writer

A nine-year school reorganization court hassle apparently will come to a quiet end Monday when the Nichols District becomes part of the West Liberty District. **[on 26 August 1968]**

On that date, West Liberty will officially assume control of the kindergarten through 12th grade (some 250 students), and the Nichols School Board will be dissolved. Because of the last minute problems created by the merger, opening day at West Liberty has been set back from Aug. 26 to Sept. 3.

The merger will end a court hassle that has involved the Nichols School Board, Lone Tree School Board, Johnson County Board of Education, Louisa County Board of Education and the Muscatine-Scott County Board of Education since 1959. It began then when Nichols was made a part of the West Liberty District by the

State Board of Public Instruction.

The decision was opposed by several groups who desired a merger between Nichols and Lone Tree instead. Petitions were presented for the matter to be voted on, according to Marshall Field, then involved in the controversy as superintendent of Johnson County Schools.

There never was a vote, said Field.

Suits were filed and a number of appeals kept the issue alive in the courts. The case came before the State Supreme Court on several occasions.

During the nine-year delay, Nichols maintained school for students from kindergarten through eighth grades. High school students went to West Liberty, Lone Tree, or other area districts, on a tuition basis.

Those opposing the merger finally were given until Aug.

10 by District Court to make final appeals before the merger would go into affect Monday. None came forward, according to Robert Osmundson, an Iowa City attorney who represented those appealing the 1959 decision. He indicated that he knew of no new legal action that would be initiated against the merger.

Two meetings have been held recently between the school boards of Nichols and West Liberty. These were Aug. 13 and Monday night.

Delmar Jeneary, Superintendent of West Liberty Schools, said their purpose was to iron out last minute problems created by the merger. He said bus transportation will be the biggest problem.

Jeneary indicated that a classroom shortage will not be created by the merger. Tentatively, plans call for the new students in kindergarten through sixth

SCHOOLS Turn to Page 2A

Schools

Continued From Page 1A

grades to remain at Nichols School. Seventh and eighth graders will be moved into West Liberty's new Middle School, which last year had three empty classrooms. This will involve about 40 students, he added.

About 40 high school students from Nichols already attended West Liberty on a tuition basis, Jeneary said. About 30 more will be added as a result on the merger. However students from Nichols who are going into their senior year at other schools will be allowed to remain for their final year. Their tuition will be paid by the West Liberty District.

This will involve about 10 students, Jeneary said.

The merger will mean loss of about 24 students at Lone Tree, according to Supt. Victor O. Draheim. School there still will open on Monday, he said.

Nichols school closes

WL board reshuffles district

By DeeAnn Paisley
of the Journal

WEST LIBERTY — The Nichols school building closed and many West Liberty school district students and staff were switched around to various buildings but Superintendent Chris Richardson can list many benefits brought about by the changes.

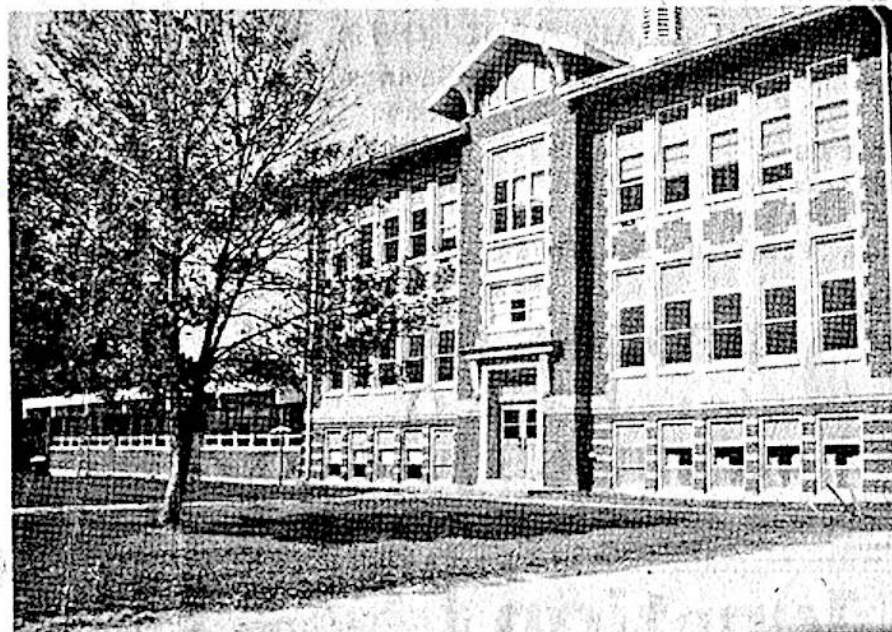
Many parents and teachers were highly critical of Richardson's options to close the Nichols school building and reorganize building use, when they were

presented in February and March. Critics especially objected to moving students in seventh and eighth grade to the high school building.

But in March the Nichols building closed and in September all of the Nichols and West Liberty kindergarten through second grades were housed in the elementary school, third through sixth grades were at the middle school and seventh through 12th at the high school.

According to Richardson, due to the closure and subsequent building restructure, special education students in the elementary grades are no longer bused to Muscatine but housed in self contained classrooms.

*Muscatine (Iowa) Journal
December 1987*



The West Liberty School Board closed the Nichols school in 1987, despite parents who were critical of the decision.

For 115 years (1872-1987) these two schoolhouse buildings provided a valued sense of community for the Town of Nichols and its surrounding farms.

It is part of our history worth remembering.

The purpose for building the Nichols High School Digital Archives is to collect, digitize, organize, and preserve in a form easily accessible by future generations the presently existing historical record of the public school system in Nichols, Iowa.

See: [www.https://musserpubliclibrary.org](https://musserpubliclibrary.org)



*Nichols Public School
1872 - 1915*