A BRIEF HISTORY OF
THE WAUPACA COUNTY TEACHERS COLLEGE

A Seminar Research Paper
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In Partial Fulfillment
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by
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I recommend acceptance of this seminar paper to the Graduate School in partial fulfillment of this candidate's requirements for the degree of Master of Science. The candidate has completed his oral seminar report.

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ABSTRACT

A Brief History of the Waupaca County Teachers College is a seminar paper written as partial fulfillment of the requirements for a masters degree at Wisconsin State University at La Crosse.

The Waupaca County Teachers College located in New London, Wisconsin, opened in 1902 and closed in 1924. The purpose of the institution was to prepare teachers for the rural schools of the county. In its twenty-two year history five hundred and thirty-seven students graduated. The total faculty numbered not more than four at any one time. It was guided through its brief history by three principals, while being housed in two different buildings; the High School of New London was its first home, and the McKinley School was its second.

In 1924, the college closed its doors due to a waning population and an increased tax burden felt by the predominantly farming population of the county.
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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In a short time a very old building known in the New London School district as the McKinley School will be torn down. For some sixty years this building has served as an elementary school for the district. But for one short period of eighteen years it served an additional educational function. During the period of eighteen years between 1906 and 1924 a county teachers college made its home on the second floor of McKinley School.

When this writer found out about the school and how apparently very few remember its existence it seemed a very interesting topic for a seminar paper.

This paper will try to cover not only the college's existence in the McKinley School but also the period of time when the institution was housed in the high school. In 1902, when its doors were opened, a need for training rural teachers was felt. By 1924 when the school closed its doors, the burden on the county to finance the training normal was felt more than the need to train rural teachers.

The sources for this paper are County of Waupaca Board Proceedings, City of New London Board of Education Proceedings, news paper articles and interviews with local citizens.
I wish to express my gratitude to the Committee on Theses and Seminars, History Department of Wisconsin State University at La Crosse who have given of their time in advising and assisting me in the writing of this paper, and to Mrs. Edward Lyon and Mrs. Meinhardt for offering primary sources of information.
CHAPTER II
FORMATION AND ORGANIZATION

For a period of one-half century after Wisconsin was admitted to the Union, the state appeared to act upon the assumption that teachers for country schools would somehow or other grow up by themselves. Very few classes were being taught in the state normal schools to prepare teachers for the country schools, and it was therefore felt that the state appeared satisfied to have teachers with little training instruct country children.

The move to change this came in 1894 when Conrad F. Patzer, speaking for the county of Manitowoc, felt that there was a need at least within his own county for just such special training. A circular was sent out to some three thousand voters in the county urging the advisability of having the county board of supervisors establish a training school for country teachers in the county. In 1897, a similar move was made by the county superintendent of Marathon county who advised his board of supervisors to make an appropriation for a county training school. Both motions were dropped probably

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1 Patzer, Conrad F., Public Education in Wisconsin. (Madison: State Press, 1924) p. 176
2 Ibid., p. 135.
because at that time the county board of supervisors had no implied powers, and therefore could not authorize the establishment of such a school. A move was made to secure such powers from the state legislature in 1894. The legislature passed through the efforts of the state superintendent of schools L.D. Harney, an act authorizing the establishment of two county teachers colleges. The way was now opened for counties to train teachers for their rural schools. The first such school opened its doors in the fall of 1899 in Waupaca.

In November of 1901 county superintendent of schools Berhan speaking before the Waupaca County Board of Supervisors told of the need for Waupaca to have a county teachers college of its own. Berhan reported that:

Free education is a phrase that has lived in America since long before the birth of the nation. It is one of the principles upon which this Republic was founded, and has been called the corner stone upon which rests the safety of a government of the people.

Opinions differ on how the schools should be run, financed and even who should be able to go, but we may say without fear of contradiction that at no time in the past has there been so keen an interest in the course of elementary education as at present. That our own state has been affected by their movement to improve the rural school is proven by recent school legislation in Wisconsin.

Ibid., p. 175
4
Ibid., p. 176
5
Proceedings of the Waupaca County Board of Supervisors (1901), p. 37.
There is a wide field of usefulness for a teachers training school in Waupaca County. Country schools, as a rule can not secure teachers who have had professional training. The grades of the village and city schools require nearly the entire available product of the seven normal schools of the state. The high schools though they may offer instruction in theory and art of teaching, can not provide the training that will fit its graduates to enter upon the work of teaching without serious loss to the schools under their charge.

I believe that this board can not make an appropriation that will bring a greater return than would the money expended in maintaining a county training school for teachers. 6

The state legislature after discovering how well the first two schools in Dunn and Marathon counties had developed decided to allow four more counties to set up schools. This apparently was all that was needed by the Waupaca County Board to get them to make their move. On November 21, 1901, Supervisor O. A. Buslett from the Town of Harrison presented resolution number six, which stated:

Resolved by the Board of Supervisors of Waupaca County Wisconsin, that there is hereby established in accordance with Chapter 266, laws of 1899, a county training school for teachers.

The purpose of this school shall be to give instructions in the elementary branches of learning and to fit teachers for country school work.

No tuition shall be charged to any resident of Waupaca County attending such school.

The County Training School Board shall secure from some village or city within the county, room, and seating in some school building, and make such agreement relative to admission of students to instruction in high school and grammar school grades as they deem wise, it being

6 Ibid., p. 48
7 Ibid., p. 48
understood that all such instruction and rent of room and equipment shall be within reasonable cost to the county.

There is hereby annually appropriated out of the general fund of Waupaca County a sum as sufficient to carry out the provisions of this resolution, said sum not to exceed $1,000 in any one year. This appropriation shall be disbursed by the county treasurer upon the order of the president and secretary of the training school board.

The County Training School Board shall annually render to the county board a complete statement of the expenditure of all monies coming to their hands and shall file with the county clerk the bonds required by Chapter 266, laws of 1899 as amended by Chapter 373 laws of 1901, after their approval by the finance committee of this board.

On November 22, 1901, a day after the presentation of the resolution, the county board adopted supervisor Buslett's resolution. It was now the job of the Board to choose a site for the new school.

The Board of Education of the City of New London, having been informed of the county's need for a building to house the new teachers training school, formulated a letter requesting that the training school be located in its midst. The letter addressed to the honorable board of the County Training School of Waupaca County read as follows:

Dear Sirs, - The fact has been brought to the notice of the Board of Education of this city that the County Training School Board of Waupaca County is seeking to locate a County Training School for Teachers, which was recently authorized by action of the County Board, in some city in the County which can offer the best advantages as to location and equipment.

Ibid., p. 55
Through our esteemed Mr. Holmes we wish to communicate to you that we heartily indorse the County Training School movement which brings the required training for teachers within easy reach of the masses and that we respectfully request your honorable board to consider New London a candidate seeking the location of the County Training School in its midst. We beg to state the following points of advantage which we can offer with reference to location and equipment.

1. The location of New London with reference to railroad facilities is equal to, if not superior to any city in the county. In our estimate the accessibility of a town is a fact not well be considered.

2. The board agrees to give to the Training School the use of two rooms on the 2nd floor of the High School building, one room on the third floor, library and reading room at stated periods, Laboratory which is well fitted with student's experimenting tables ample apparatus and recitation chairs, and Gymnasium. The Board also agrees to heat these rooms free of charge.9

As a result of this generous offer the city of New London became the home for the Waupaca County Teachers Training School in 1902.

The next task that lay before the county board after a site had been chosen was the selection of a faculty. This was accomplished when the board hired Professor J. L. Bowman, formerly at the State Normal School in Superior, as principal. His assistant was to be Miss Lucy Norton of Ann Arbor, Michigan.

The classes which were to be taught by these two instructors followed the course of study designed for the other three county schools already in existence. The school year was divided into three terms, beginning in the fall and ending

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9Proceedings of the Board of Education of New London. (November 29, 1901)
in the spring. Those students who had graduated from
high school could be graduated from the training school at
the end of their first year. Those students who had only a
grade school degree would be required to attend a second year.
The first term in school was to include classes in elementary
education, primary reading methods, geography, music and
chorus.\textsuperscript{10} A class in library science was required but no
credit was given for it. In second term the student would
study child psychology, geography, English, practice teaching
art and chorus.\textsuperscript{11} Psychology of learning, mathematics,
English, music, chorus, and two credits in practice teaching
made up the spring term.\textsuperscript{12} At this time those students who
held a high school degree were graduated from the county
school to go out to teach in the rural schools.

For those students who held only a grade school diploma
the second year of school included along with more practice
teaching classes in biology, history, economics and mathematics.
All students were required to take library science, physical
education and chorus without credit. To this curriculum would
be added many other courses before the school closed in 1924.

\textsuperscript{10} Fatzer, Conrad E., \textit{Public Education in Wisconsin}.
(Madison: State Press, 1924) p. 15.
\textsuperscript{11} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{12} Ibid.
The site of the school chosen, its faculty hired, and its curriculum ready to go into effect, it was now ready to open its doors for the 1902-03 school year.
CHAPTER III
DEVELOPMENT OF THE SCHOOL

In compliance with its proposal, the city of New London set apart two convenient rooms on the second floor of the high school building. These two rooms were furnished with sixty-four seats, a roller top desk for the principal, a teacher's desk for the assistant, a table for the assembly room, a large table for the reading room, twenty-four chairs and a clock for each room.¹ These rooms were to be heated and taken care of without expense to the training school. With this equipment available, the school opened its doors to its first classes.

The school year began September 2, 1902, with a staff of two teachers. The enrollment for the first quarter was twelve, but by the end of the second quarter the enrollment had risen to twenty-three. One student had to be dropped from the course because she had not sufficiently advanced to do the work. A chart showing the school's enrollment through its twenty-two years of existence is found in the Appendix.²

The first year of classes saw two new fields of study added to the curriculum of the training school. The Board of Education for the city of New London added a Kindergarten

²Appendix A, p. 38
department to its curriculum in 1902, enabling the students of the training school to observe and do practice work in this class. The Board of Education also hired a teacher of vocal music for the city schools and allowed this same teacher to spend three periods of each week teaching students in the training school. Both of these moves were made with no added expense to the training school student or the county.

Textbooks were rented that first year by both residents of the county and also non-residents. Those students who lived in the county of Waupaca were charged twenty-five cents per month, while the non-residents were charged two dollars and eighty cents per month. These fees were similar to those adopted by all of the training schools in other counties. This money was used by the principal to supply the reading room with magazines and papers, and to purchase supplies for the school.

The training school library at this time consisted of about three hundred volumes. Most of these books were gained from two sources, either from publishing houses which sent sample copies or from the private library of the principal of the school, Professor Bowman.

The first year seems to have been a success, for the

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3 Proceedings of the Waupaca County Board of Supervisors. (1902), p. 41.
4 A financial accounting for this first year and also for two other years may be found in Appendix B.
report made to the county board had nothing but praise for
the new institution, its teachers and students. The projected
enrollment for the second year 1903-04 had already passed that
of the first year.5

On August 31, 1903, the second year for the training
school began. School opened with the same staff of two
teachers, but the enrollment had jumped to seventeen more
than had attended the previous year. Because of the necessary
materials that would be needed to serve the increased enrollment
Superintendent J. B. Stanley, in his annual report to the board
of supervisors asked that $700 be set aside for the coming
years expenses.6

Forty students were in attendance when school began in
1904, one student quit because of illness, two others were
advised to enter public schools for more training, and one
student entered during the year. Meanwhile the minimum age
limit for graduation was set at seventeen; because it was felt
that at this age the student was more mature and better equipped.7

On October 22, 1904, Professor O. L. Bowman resigned his
position as principal to become head of the Dunn County Training
School at Menomonie, Wisconsin. J. B. Stanley who was at

5*Proceedings of the Waupaca County Board of Supervisors.*
(1902), p. 41.

6*Proceedings of the Waupaca County Board of Supervisors.*

7*Proceedings of the Waupaca County Board of Supervisors.*
(1904), p. 33.
that time superintendent of schools, was asked to replace Bowman. The school was now under the guidance of its second administrator.

During the summer of 1905 a second faculty change took place when Miss Lucey Norton, an assistant since the school started in 1902, resigned her position to go on for further study at the University of Michigan. Her position was filled by Miss Julia Servaty of Neillsville, a graduate of Oshkosh Normal and the University of Chicago. When school opened in 1905, Professor Stanley and his assistant met the forty-eight students who had enrolled.

The state legislature in an apparent move to aid the new county schools financially changed its support from one-half to two-thirds of the actual money spent on running the schools. Now the county could spend its money to add new courses, programs or facilities to its already expanding curriculum. In Waupaca County an additional program was introduced which allowed its residents who had been out teaching to come back for short refresher courses. Credit was to be given for the work completed. This program did however put an increased burden on the two teachers and the existing facilities.

The 1906-07 school year saw the attendance figures jump to fifty-four. The number of non-residents greatly

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increased. Ten students from Outagamie county and one from Ashland joined the forty-three students from Waupaca county. Until 1912 when Outagamie County would build its own school many of its residents attended the Waupaca School.

In 1906 new furniture was added including a cabinet for curios. Classroom work was varied that year to include more work in literature. Each student as a part of his public speaking practice was to appear before the entire student body at least six times to give short dissertations. Instruction in cataloging and managing libraries was included, along with experimental work in the natural sciences.

With the additional courses offered by the school a new era in the school’s history seemed to be taking shape. During the first four years of its existence the school had grown from an enrollment of twenty-five to an enrollment in 1907 of fifty-two. Seventy-nine students had graduated from the school. Of these forty-four were still teaching in the county. Of the first year graduates, two had been married, one was attending Normal School and three were still teaching under training school diplomas. Of the second year graduates, only one had left the ranks of teaching. The third and fourth graduating classes saw all of its graduates still teaching in 1906.9 This achievement made it very apparent that the county

9Ibid., p. 62
training school was fulfilling its obligation to the county and its rural schools.

The great number of non-resident students from Outagamie County and the apparent interest that county had shown in training teachers for its own rural schools caused a resolution to be presented before the Waupaca County Board of Supervisors. At the evening session of November 23, 1906, a resolution proposed by Supervisor A. R. Potts of Dayton, passed providing that a committee consisting of the chairman of the county board and two others should meet with the county board of Outagamie at its spring meeting.¹⁰ The purpose of the meeting was to confer on the possibility of the two counties sharing in the cost of a training school. The two groups met in April of 1907 but the Outagamie board wished to think the matter over more. The matter rested here with only an occasional letter passing between the two county boards; subsequently in 1912 Outagamie county built its own county teachers college in Kaukauna, and the idea of a merger was ended.

In 1907-1908, forty-four students attended the school and nineteen graduated. Equipment in the form of a compound microscope was added. The library had grown to one thousand indexed books when two hundred volumes were donated by

¹⁰Ibid., p. 91
Congressman James B. Davidson.\textsuperscript{11}

The New London Board of Education needing the rooms occupied by the training school gave the college quarters in a new building erected on the north side of town, which was to serve both elementary grades and the training school. The training school board had been led to believe that the college was going to occupy the whole upper story but were disappointed when they found out that the city was to use one of the rooms on the second floor. This left the training school with two classrooms, a library, and an office in the McKinley School. This new home for the county teachers college was to be its last home.

A new requirement was added by the state legislature in 1907, calling for two years of work for those county teacher college students who had only a grammar school degree. Only one year was required for those students having a high school diploma.\textsuperscript{12} Prior to this time all students regardless of their previous preparation could be taught in the same classroom; now at least another classroom was needed.

The problem was to some degree solved when a third teacher was hired for the 1908-1909 school year. Miss Margaret Scanlon was hired to relieve the burden placed on the principal and his assistant by the new additions to the

\textsuperscript{11}Proceedings of the Waupaca County Board of Supervisors. (1907), p. 46

\textsuperscript{12}Ibid., 1908, p. 46.
curriculum. The addition of a third assistant still did not relieve the overcrowding which apparently was being felt; for people had to be turned away for the first time in the history of the school because of limited facilities.

The state legislature passed legislation requiring all persons as a pre-requisite for taking an examination for a third grade certificate to attend a professional school for teachers for additional training.\textsuperscript{13} This school was to last for six weeks, and the student to become eligible would have to receive a satisfactory standing in school management, methods of teaching reading, language, arithmetic and geography. Because the school wished to make such a program a part of its curriculum a six-weeks summer session was started. The state agreed to pay for two-thirds of the cost of running such a summer program.\textsuperscript{14}

In 1909, the county board of supervisors made a study comparing their training school for teachers with six other county training institutes. This study led the county to believe that the county was not receiving from a tuition pupil the actual cost of instruction, although nothing was done to change the tuition cost for the non-resident student.\textsuperscript{15}


\textsuperscript{14}Proceedings of the Waupaca County Board of Supervisors (1908), p. 76.

\textsuperscript{15}The results of this study can be found in Appendix C.
The largest attendance to date occurred in the 1909-1910 school term. Sixty-one students were enrolled. The institution had outgrown its present quarters and was at a standstill until larger ones could be provided.

The principal pleaded for more space at the beginning of the 1910 term. An enrollment of sixty-eight was now housed within the walls of second floor of the McKinley School. Professor Stanley invited the public to visit the school and see the conditions under which school was being carried on, but still nothing was being done. When more money was asked for the board only replied that with "Ordinary business care and prudence business can be carried on with what is on hand." 16

In 1912, the problem created by the large attendance was relieved somewhat by the opening of the Outagamie County Teacher's College in Kaukauna. The number of non-residents, which had been increasing each year, was reduced substantially. The problem of a lack of facilities was not eliminated entirely though when that same year the new county agricultural school was housed in the same building. Even with these problems school went on as usual. Miss Maude Brewster was hired to replace Miss Margaret Scanlon as the second assistant on the faculty in 1912.

According to Mrs. Mabel Meinhardt, who attended the school in 1912-13 the social life of a county training school

16 Proceedings of the Waupaca County Board of Supervisors (1911), p. 65.
student consisted of a "boat trip down the Wolf River, a season ticket for four Chautauqua programs, one movie for English, relay races one spring, a traveling picnic and the play Hiawatha was given at the Opera House." 17

In 1913 two new faculty members were added to replace Miss Brewster, who had only been added to the faculty the year before; and Miss Servatya who had been on the faculty since 1905. Miss Doro Thomson and Miss Ethel Jenkins became the new assistants to C. B. Stanley. The summer school session which had been added to the curriculum in 1908 was dropped because the state now required a full year of attendance at a professional school for teachers in order to take an examination for a third grade certificate. 16

Graduates from the class of 1914-15 could look forward to a wage of forty to fifty dollars per month. 19 Although this might seem like a very small sum of money at least the assurance that others could go out and earn that was given when the state agreed to pay the combined teachers' wages in the county teachers schools up to four thousand dollars per year. 20 When

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17 Statement by Mrs. Mabel Meinhardt, Personal Interview, (May 18, 1966).
16 Proceedings of the Waupaca County Board of Supervisors (1913), p. 34.
19 Ibid., 1915, p. 23
20 Ibid., p. 23
the state agreed to provide funds to support instruction in domestic science in the training school. The Waupaca County Board agreed to allow one of its own teachers already on the faculty to teach the class twice a week. The city of New London provided a special room for the class.

In the summer of 1916, the Waupaca institution offered a summer course in manual training which attracted fifty-three students. An attempt was made to keep the class going through the winter but no room, "not even enough for a bench," could be found.

Principal C.B. Stanley in his annual report appealed to the board for more room to run the school. In his report he listed ten reasons why such room should be made available. These reasons varied from the constant claim of overcrowding to the complaint that certain classes could not be offered because of the lack of facilities; "The fact that the state pays the salary of the teachers places an obligation upon the county to give these teachers such conveniences and room to work as will make possible their very highest possible achievement." Mention was also made concerning the lack of adequate housing for students attending the college from other parts of the state.

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Excerpts from the Waupaca County Board of Supervisors (1916), p. 30.

Ibid., 1916, p. 19.
county. The Board of supervisors, after studying Principal Stanley's report, came up with a solution embodied in S.E. Wright's resolution of November 20, 1916; Resolution Number 7:

Resolved that this county board of supervisors appropriate a sum of money not to exceed twenty thousand dollars to be expended in the erection of a suitable building for the Waupaca County Training School for Teachers.

This amount of money to be raised by the issuing of bonds to mature at the rate of one thousand dollars per year. The first payment to be made in the year 1919 and such bonds to bear interest at the rate not to exceed four per cent.

And be it further resolved that a committee of three members of this county board be appointed by the chairman to select a location for this proposed building and to report at this next session of the board.23

The resolution was passed. The first move towards the construction of a new county training school had been made.

In the fall of 1917 this building committee reported.
A site had been chosen for the new school, but "Owing to the unsettled condition of our country, causing a marked increase in the cost of materials and labor," the committee asked that action be deferred until the next session of the county board.24

Even in the County of Waupaca, preparation for the war with Germany was being felt. This move by the county board was probably one of the most significant in the school's history. Although future resolutions would re-open the question of build-

23 Proceedings of the Waupaca County Board of Supervisors (1916), p. 22.
24 Ibid., 1917, p. 12.
ing a new school the future boards would not be as favorably inclined to build it in New London or to even put up the needed money for construction. As a result the new home for the county school never was built.

Although the preparation in 1917 for war with Germany had halted the construction of the new school it had also helped to cut down the overcrowded conditions found earlier. For the next three years the number of students attending the school fell to an all-time low. Many new jobs and their financial rewards helped to create this low attendance figure. As a result the attendance at the school dropped from fifty students in 1916-17 to sixteen in 1919-20.\(^\text{25}\) This problem though was not one peculiar to the Waupaca school alone. This decrease was noted in most of the other county normal schools.

In 1918, Principal C.B. Stanley, resigned the position which he had held since 1904. The post was taken over by Professor E.M. Calef, the former principal of Weyauwega High School and a graduate of Superior Normal. Professor Calef's term as principal was to be a brief one but it also was to be a very interesting one.

In 1918 under the direction of the new principal, a model one room school was added to the teachers' training

\(^{25}\) Appendix A, p. 38
facilities at McKinley School. Since the practice teaching
which had been carried on in the city of New London's grade
schools did not provide the training school student with the
real rural school atmosphere or problems; it was felt that
this new one room situation would allow the student to really
feel what his teaching experience in the rural school would
be like. The model school would house thirty-two students
ranging from grades one through eight. These students would
be brought in from the city schools and would meet daily
under the guidance of Miss Kobler, who was hired to run the
model school. The regular program for a rural school followed,
recitations would proceed as in a rural school, illustrative
seat work was used and almost every problem of rural school
management was here met.  

The student teachers who received their experience
in teaching within this classroom were to follow a definite
procedure to get themselves ready for this experience. They
were first instructed in some of the approved methods of teach-
ing. After this they were sent to observe the model class
under the leadership of Miss Kobler and make reports on their
observations. The third step was to teach the model class

26 Proceedings of the Waupaca County Board of Supervisors
(1919), p. 72.

27 The Hour Class, School annual of 1921
while being observed by Miss Kobler, who would then comment on their teaching habits. Written plans for each lesson were required and closely examined and criticized. Thus when the student left the Normal to take up the work of actual teaching there was very little adjusting necessary for the new teacher to adapt himself to actual teaching conditions.

In 1919 a note of support was given to the training school and its new one-room school by the assistant superintendent of schools for the state of Wisconsin, Carter Alexander, who declared:

The classroom work was characterized by such solidity, thoroughness and honesty while such care was exercised in admitting students that any parent could rest assured that his daughter would there get a strong preparation for rural school teaching.

Altogether the school merits a far stronger attendance than it enjoys this year. I should regard it as a calamity to the rural schools of your county for you to allow a training school doing such work as yours is doing this year to die.

In the fall of 1920 attendance was back up to its pre-war level. Some fifty students were enrolled that fall. Several reasons were given by Principal Calef for this renewed interest in the teaching profession. The first was the new salary schedule for rural school teachers in the county of

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26 Ibid.

29 Proceedings of The Waupaca County Board of Supervisors (1919), p. 25.
Waupaca. A salary of $150 a month minimum, according to Mr. Calef, drew not only more students to the training school but also more teachers into the county from neighboring counties. A second reason was that the school had been made "more attractive with the purchase of a piano and Victrola." A third given was that the principal had corresponded with a number of the prospective students keeping them informed on the work of the school. Advertisements such as this in an annual were also used to entice students to attend the Waupaca County Normal School.

SCHOOL DAYS:

We gathered here one autumn morn,
All Embryo teachers - as yet unborn
Under deaf hands of our teachers three
Pedagogos dynamic we'll "turn out" to be.
As to pep and spirit, we hold first place.
Callahan Esq. is watching our pace---
As forward we go with a smiling face.

Calef as principal holds the reins,
Our efforts and energies, Miss Berg trains.
Undaunted, Miss Barrett teaches us to cook-
Numerous "hot dishes" that taste and look
Tempting, attractive and 0-so good!

Now if a teacher you want to become,
Of qualified rank and a large income
Right boldly I challenge you to find
More fitting school for work of our kind,
About our city, town or state.

30 Proceedings of the Waupaca County Board of Supervisors (1920), p. 23.
31 Ibid.
Let not this urgent summons wait—

BUT JOIN

WAUPACA

COUNTY

NORMAL

This poem advertising for new students and also the calendar of events in the Hour Glass all tended to make one believe that the Waupaca County Teachers College was not all stiff and formal.\footnote{See Appendix D, p. 44.}

At the Waupaca County Board of Supervisors meeting in November, 1920, the idea, which had been tabled in 1917, concerning the construction of a new County Teachers College was brought to the front again. A resolution was presented by supervisor E. F. Tism and passed by the Board of Supervisors to appropriate \$40,000.\footnote{Proceedings of the Waupaca County Board of Supervisors (1920), p. 36.} This sum was to be spent in purchasing a site and erecting a suitable training school building and dormitory. These buildings were to be ready by September 1, 1921. The failure of the committee to pick a site to which everyone agreed caused the construction to be put off another year.

The greatest number of graduates in the schools history
received their diplomas in 1922. Forty-four students received their certificates to teach. The school was able to supply teachers to all the schools which asked for them. 35

The twenty-second school year for the Waupaca County Teachers College began as usual in the month of August. The enrollment for the fall quarter was thirty-seven, which was equal to the number of students enrolled in 1922-23. The state legislature changed the name from the Waupaca Training School for Teachers to the Waupaca County Rural Normal School. 36 Additional legislation allowed graduates of the County Rural Normal Schools, who were also high school graduates, to receive one full year of credit at any State Normal School on any course preparing the student for elementary school teaching. 37

At the Board of Supervisors meeting held that November, Jacob Werner of New London, proposed renewal of the building plans with an increase in the appropriation to $50,000. 38 He also remarked that due to crowded conditions the school should be ready for occupancy in the fall of 1924.

This proposal was sent to the finance committee which

35 Proceedings of the Waupaca County Board of Supervisors (1922), p. 33.
36 Ibid., 1923, p. 107.
37 Ibid.
38 Ibid., p. 62.
reduced the appropriation to $35,000 while retaining the proposed completion date. The site to be used was that site chosen by the committee in 1920. 39

This suggestion brought a counter proposal from supervisor Kraugh of Manawa which stated:

Whereas the location of Waupaca County Training School on the extreme border of the county is not to the interest of the greater number of residents of Waupaca County and

Whereas the attendance at Waupaca County Training School has on many occasions been less the entire half of Waupaca County than has been the enrollment from Outagamie and Shawano County.

Be it resolved that it is the sense of this county board that the tender of free accommodations for such schools on the same terms as we have received in its present location should be given careful consideration by the Training School Board and we further recommend that the offer of the village of Manawa be accepted. 40

Manawa, a small community located some eight miles from New London, had made a written offer to the county board to provide school rooms in its graded school free of charge for use by the County Training School as long as they wanted to use the facilities. 41 Manawa's offer along with the proposal of supervisor Kraugh were defeated by a vote of the board, and a committee was appointed to contact the architects and to

39 Ibid.
40 Ibid., p. 75
41 Ibid., p. 36
look for a site within the city of New London.

This decision by the county board when it was made public caused a great deal of concern among the people of Waupaca County. Some argued its merits on a financial basis. The farmers of Waupaca County along with those from many other areas were experiencing the "era of the war boom collapse." 42 Deflation and vanishing markets hurt the farmers in the early 1920's. This situation of course caused the farming population of Waupaca County to take a second look at the tax situation. Did they really want to raise their taxes and build a new facility for the school, or were they more willing to stop tax expenditures for the time being until their own financial status became more stable.

Other arguments concerning the new school facilities were conducted on a more personal basis. An editorial in the Waupaca County Post claimed that the placing of the new facility in New London was the work of astute politicians to hand New London something the city was not entitled to. 43 This comment brought a reply from the editor of the New London Republican of "Sour grapes." 44

43 Editorial from the Waupaca County Post. (December 13 1923).
44 News item from the New London Republican. (December 20, 1923).
In any case the committee selected to contact the architects and prepare the plans for the school met on February 27, 1924. The committee recorded that the city of New London had offered to the county board three choice locations for the school. This committee after looking at the sites chose the location which included lots nine through twelve of block four. This was the Sheldon-Rickaby property located in the fourth ward across from the site of the new city high school which was already under construction.\textsuperscript{45}

Auler and Jenson, architects from Oshkosh, were hired to make up the plans and specifications for the new building. Bids were to be let for the new school on April 24, 1924.

Before such bids could be let a special meeting was called by the County Board of Supervisors. The call for this meeting was made April 19, 1924. The financial problems of the farmer and the personal feelings over where the school should be located had caused the county board to take a second look at its proposal of 1923. The fate of the Waupaca County Normal School which had been in existence now for twenty-two years was to be determined at this very important special session.

The board met on May 5, 1924. The reading of the resolution which would dissolve the county school was taken care

\textsuperscript{45}\textit{Proceedings of the Waupaca County Board of Supervisors} (1923), p. 7
of almost immediately. The resolution was presented and read by supervisor M. J. Nolan, of Manawa. It read as follows:

Whereas the County Board of Supervisors of Waupaca did on the 30th day of November 1923 vote to appropriate the sum of $35,000 for the erection and completion of a County Normal School building in Waupaca County to be built in the year 1924.

Therefore be it resolved that the action of the County Board of the 30th day of November 1923 relating to the sum above mentioned $35,000 all contained in report 24 of the year 1923 is hereby rescinded.

Be it further resolved, that said County Rural Normal School be discontinued at the close of the present school term.46

The resolution was voted on and passed in very short order, most of the discussion having been carried on prior to the meeting itself. Once the vote had been taken and the resolution passed the brief history of a once vital educational institution came to an end.

The New London Republican expressed the feelings of many of the people who were in close contact with the school and who did not especially agree with the board's motion to close its doors.

Out of the frying pan into the fire, is a position assumed by the Waupaca County Board of Supervisors due to their actions of rescinding the 1923 boards appropriation for a new training school building and their additional vote to eliminate the school entirely at the close of its 1924 spring term.

---

46 Proceedings of the Waupaca County Board of Supervisors (May, 1924) p. 6
The county wants teachers for its rural schools at a minimum salary. It seemingly does not want the normal for training those teachers and at the same time it cannot obtain teachers at a low salary unless it has a training school. As a natural result rural students must actually suffer because of scarcity of properly trained teachers. So the rural school boards must pay an expensive salary for a normal trained teacher coming from outside the county.

It will not be surprising if in two or three years the institution is re-established. The country schools have been served faithfully and well for 22 years by the County Normal. This generation of schools does not know what it means to do without it, but we never miss the water until the well goes dry is as true today as ever.47

47 New London Republican, (May 8, 1924).
CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

In June of 1924, New London and Waupaca County saw the last graduating class receive their diplomas. Over the twenty-two year span five hundred and thirty-seven students had graduated from the school. Because of financial difficulties Waupaca County Normal would exist no longer. The training of teachers for the rural schools would now be left up to the State Normal Schools such as those at Stevens Point and Oshkosh.

Waupaca County Normal, which in 1902 was the fourth school of its kind in existence within Wisconsin, had a brief but eventful history. Under the guidance of its three principals the school had succeeded to a point where its graduates were placed in great demand by the schools of the area. A model class room, was set up to test the ability of the teacher trainees. This classroom proved to be a real help in preparing the teacher to meet all situations. The curriculum of the school and the school itself had been praised by the Assistant Superintendent of Schools for the State of Wisconsin for its effort in preparing capable rural school teachers. The city of New York's public service instructor had cited the 1923 catalogue as a high spot of teacher recruiting literature. Many of the schools graduates had gone on to continue teaching in that county which had provided them with their training at a minimum charge but with a great deal of enthusiasm and interest.
The building which had housed the training school for eighteen years would no longer echo with the sounds of adult voices. Instead of training teachers for classroom duties, McKinley school would be used as a training ground for the youth of the city of New London. It would be their voices which would be heard from then on in that building.

The equipment formerly used by the teachers college was destined to be either stored, sold or used for completely new purposes. The city of New London had given the county room for storing some of the equipment in a barracks located just north of the school. Some of this equipment would be later sold to the city at a minimum cost. The county put some of the equipment to use in its offices in the city of Waupaca. Within a very short time little remained to tell the story of the Waupaca County Teachers College.

It is hoped that this paper will provide some kind of lasting history of a school which within a short time few will remember as ever having been in existence. At the time of this writing many of the records of the school already had become a part of the lost past. The failure to keep records up to date or keep them from being destroyed has made the writing of this paper a very difficult one. It is hoped that more people will become interested in writing on some part of the history of the County of Waupaca, before this material too will be lost to future generations.
BIBLIOGRAPHY
BIBLIOGRAPHY

A. PUBLICATIONS OF WAUPACA COUNTY GOVERNMENT AND NEW LONDON CITY GOVERNMENT


These proceedings are a part of the general record of business of the board of education for the city of New London. These records may be found in the city high school.

Shoemaker, L. L., County Clerk. Proceedings of the Board of Supervisors of Waupaca County in Annual Session, 1897-1927.

A general record or journal of the business conducted by the legislative body of Waupaca County for the past thirty years. These proceedings are prepared as an annual report by the county clerk. Petitions, complete reports by all committees, presentation of resolutions, voting records and written correspondence taken up by the board are all included in the publication.
B. STATE PUBLICATIONS


This book is a two year analysis of educational problems and progress in the State of Wisconsin. The book is put out by the State Superintendent of Schools and was used as a source for materials found in the Appendix.

C. SCHOOL PUBLICATIONS

Annual Catalogue 1923.

This booklet was used by the school to introduce the school to prospective students. The objectives, course of study and other general materials relating to the Waupaca County Training School are found within this catalogue.

The Hour Glass., 1921, Published by the Senior Class.

A school annual published by the senior class of 1921. This is the first annual published by the Waupaca County Normal School.

D. NEWSPAPERS

New London Republican., February 27, 1902
New London Republican., August 28, 1902
New London Republican., October 5, 1904
New London Republican., August 30, 1923
New London Republican., December 20, 1923
New London Republican., May 8, 1924
Waupaca County Post., December 13, 1923

E. BOOKS


A book intended as a text for prospective teachers. The book covers not only the history of public education in Wisconsin, but also the policies and laws governing educational actions.

A brief history of the public school system of Wisconsin. The book also includes a plan for reorganization of the public schools along with a summary of educational laws passed by the state.


A detailed study of the farm situation in the State of Wisconsin in the period indicated. The book includes a statistical evaluation of both the agricultural and dairying industries in the state for these fifty years.


A sketchy history of the county. This book is more of a personal biography of the author with brief comments on many topics.

F. PERSONAL INTERVIEWS

Mrs. Sadie Lyon

A former student at the county Normal School. Mrs. Lyons provided the school annal which was of great help in presenting a personal view of the life of the school. Mrs. Lyons is presently teaching in the Junior High in New London.

Mrs. Mable Meinhardt

Mrs. Meinhardt was a graduate of the County Normal School in 1913. She presented to this writer a very interesting account of the early history of the school. Mrs. Meinhardt is no longer teaching, but lives within the city of New London.

Mrs. Grace Holtz

Mrs. Holtz, a graduate of the school, provided additional material to supplement the information already obtained concerning the activities of the students while attending the school. Mrs. Holtz is currently teaching in the New London system.
APPENDIX A

The following enrollment and salary figures are taken from the annual report to the state department of public instruction.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>No. of Teachers</th>
<th>No. of Males</th>
<th>No. of Females</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Salary of Principal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
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<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1903-04</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>40</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1904-05</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>38</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1905-06</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>48</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1906-07</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>54</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1907-08</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>44</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1908-09</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1909-10</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>61</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1910-11</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>68</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>52</td>
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<tr>
<td>1912-13</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>39</td>
<td>41</td>
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<tr>
<td>1913-14</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>52</td>
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<tr>
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<td>42</td>
<td>42</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1918-19</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>32</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1919-20</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1920-21</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
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<td>1921-22</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>61</td>
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<tr>
<td>1922-23</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>$3,000.00</td>
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<td>1923-24</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>$3,450.00</td>
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APPENDIX B

The following financial statements for selected years, are taken from the respective annual report to the County Board of Supervisors.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 10, 1902</td>
<td>To Balance on hand at last Report</td>
<td>.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 24, 1902</td>
<td>To Cash of County Treasurer</td>
<td>50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 31, 1902</td>
<td>To Cash of County Treasurer</td>
<td>50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 7, 1903</td>
<td>To Cash of County Treasurer</td>
<td>40.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 19, 1903</td>
<td>To Cash of County Treasurer</td>
<td>60.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>200.29</td>
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**DISBURSEMENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 1, 1902</td>
<td>By paid D. A. Holmes for Kimball Organ</td>
<td>25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 10, 1902</td>
<td>By paid G. L. Bowman expense account</td>
<td>4.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 10, 1902</td>
<td>By paid Midland Publ for books</td>
<td>12.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 10, 1902</td>
<td>D. C. Heath supplies</td>
<td>2.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 10, 1902</td>
<td>American Book Co.</td>
<td>.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 10, 1902</td>
<td>MacMillan Co.</td>
<td>.26</td>
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<td>January 23, 1903</td>
<td>G. L. Bowman Expense Acct.</td>
<td>11.59</td>
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### November, 1906

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Receipts</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>November 1, 1905</td>
<td>Balance on hand last report</td>
<td>4,766.71</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 23, 1905</td>
<td>Tuition fees from Outagamie County</td>
<td>32.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 1, 1906</td>
<td>Appropriation fees by county clerk</td>
<td>1,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 23, 1906</td>
<td>Tuition fees from Outagamie County</td>
<td>93.80</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 22, 1906</td>
<td>Received from State Treasurer</td>
<td>1,992.86</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>7,956.27</strong></td>
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### DISBURSEMENTS

<table>
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<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>By Teachers salaries from November to December 1905</td>
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<td>By Teachers salaries from January to February 1906</td>
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<tr>
<td>By Teachers salaries from March to April 1906</td>
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<td>By Teachers salaries from May to June 1906</td>
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<td>By Teachers salaries from September to October 1906</td>
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<td>By Books, apparatus and supplies 1906</td>
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<td>By Cash on hand in County Treasury October 31, 1906</td>
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<td>By Cash on hand in C. A. Holmes Treasury</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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**Balance on hand** 2,500.00
### Receipts

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<td>Tuition from Shawano County</td>
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<td>Appropriation by county board</td>
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### Disbursements

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<td>Textbooks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supplies</td>
<td>122.57</td>
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<tr>
<td>Furniture</td>
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<td>Janitorial service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Repairs</td>
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<td>Postage and stationary</td>
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<td>Printing</td>
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<td>Subscriptions and Publications</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lectures</td>
<td>52.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Domestic Science</td>
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<td>Livery-visiting schools</td>
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<td>Express</td>
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<tr>
<td>Telephone and Telegraph</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training school board</td>
<td>20.73</td>
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<td>Advertisement</td>
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<td>Commencement</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,567.93</strong></td>
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Balance on hand: 6,409.86
APPENDIX C

A study made by the county board of supervisors comparing their school with six other schools in 1909.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Pop of County</th>
<th>Sch Est</th>
<th>Pupils in Sch</th>
<th>Tuition per pupil</th>
<th>Grad in 1909</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eau Claire</td>
<td>31,000</td>
<td>1905</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>$7.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dunn</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>1900</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marathon</td>
<td>43,000</td>
<td>1699</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marinette</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>1905</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sauk</td>
<td>33,000</td>
<td>1906</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>1903</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waupaca</td>
<td>32,000</td>
<td>1902</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>$2.60</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Salary of Prin.</th>
<th>Salary of Assist.</th>
<th>Assist</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>2nd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eau Claire</td>
<td>$1600</td>
<td>$1200</td>
<td>$900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dunn</td>
<td>$2000</td>
<td>$1500</td>
<td>$1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marathon</td>
<td>$2000</td>
<td>$1500</td>
<td>$900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marinette</td>
<td>$1800</td>
<td>$1300</td>
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<td>$1300</td>
<td>$600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood</td>
<td>$2000</td>
<td>$1300</td>
<td>$600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waupaca</td>
<td>$1650</td>
<td>$1000</td>
<td>$600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Average of 1st six counties</td>
<td>Waupaca county</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>31,000</td>
<td>32,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time since School Established</td>
<td>5 years</td>
<td>6 years</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of pupils attending this year</td>
<td>66.8</td>
<td>53</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Tuition pupils</td>
<td>6.16</td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition per pupil per month</td>
<td>$2.58</td>
<td>$2.80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of graduates this year</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>22</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of graduates</td>
<td>132.6</td>
<td>115</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total teaching in county</td>
<td>61.6</td>
<td>45</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total amount received in tuition</td>
<td>$653.33</td>
<td>$1,040.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total amount received in apportionment of county board</td>
<td>$11,030.00</td>
<td>$9,200.00</td>
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</tr>
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APPENDIX D

The following calendar of events is taken from the Hour Glass, an annual for the Waupaca County Teachers College 1921.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

September

22. Hike to Brick Yard—Pearl and Doris take amazing trip in tram car.
27. First Sun Hop.

October

13. Trip to Hamilton Canning Factory—Sauerkraut a la mode.

November

4. Freshman Costume Party
22. Senior Class Party—Exhibition Dance.
24. Juniors give class party.
30. Mayme Lueck rings fire bell—School emptied in record time.

January

11. First Basket Ball Practice—Pearl learns to run with basket ball.
12. "Rheumatism" prevalent among basket ball players.
15. Teachers Convention
25. Sadie gives a declam for Lit.
28. Costume Party

February

7. Mr. Hatton speaks—subject The Ear (of corn)
9. Anna's mind takes domestic trend—She tells assembly about Snap Shot Stew.
18. Normal vs. Manawa—No room for score.
30. Beatrice Miley forgets to chew gum today.

March


April

7. Visitors: Dr. Osborne, Dr. Alexander, Mr. Bigford and Mr. Brown.
18. Cadet Week
May

6. Rural School Contest.
11. Gang meeting at Marie Doran's. Anna Chief entertainer.
23. David Anderson, Author of "Blue Moon" and "Red Lock"
   entertains students.

June

1. Hourglass goes to print
23. Graduation