

Forge School Papers 1849-1896
(From Bob Deming)

1849, Sept. 26 The annual meeting on October 1 was to discuss the building of a wood house and any other proper business.

1850, Oct. 9 Report of the School Society Committee.

“The undersigned, a committee of the School Society of the Town of Colebrook, having been duly notified and requested by D.C.Y. Moore, Benjamin Brown and James H. Coe, members of the Old Forge School District to determine and fix a site for a school house in said district. After having taken the matter into consideration and having made the preliminary measures to ascertain the most suitable location, have fixed the site for said house on the west side of the highway near the dwelling house of Moses Deming.

Beginning S $57\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ W 1 chain 32 links [87.12 feet] from the southwest corner of the above named Deming’s house, thence S $14\frac{3}{4}^{\circ}$ W 2 chains [132 feet] to a stake and stones, thence N $75\frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$ W 1 chain 40 links [92.4 feet], thence N $11\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ E 2 chains [132 feet] to a stake and stones, thence S $75\frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$ E 1 chain 50 links [99 feet] to the place of beginning. Contains 45 and a half rods of ground [1534.5 square feet].

Signed by:

Calvin Sage, Geo. Austin and Amos Corbin
School Society Committee

1850, Oct. 10 Notice: On petition of C. M. Perkins and others, warning is hereby given to the legal voters of the Forge School District that a special meeting will be holden at the school house on wensday [*sic*] October 16/50 at seven o’clock PM for the purpose of considering a vote posed for to build a new school house in said district and to vote what year to lay tax for defraying all expenses for to build said house and to do any other business proper to be don [*sic*] at said meeting.

[Signed]

Wm N. Manchester
School District Committee

1851, Sept. 21 Notice: Warning is hereby given to the legal voters of the Forge School District that the annual meeting for the choice of officers for the year ensuing will be holden at the school house on Monday the 29 day of Sept. /51 at seven o’clock PM and to make arrangements for setting up a winter school and to do all business proper to be done at said meeting and to take measures to build or repair a suitable house for the school.

Colebrook Sept. 21 1851

[Signed]

Wm N. Manchester,
School Committee

1851, Oct. 30 Notice: On petition of H. F. Lincoln and others, warning is hereby given to the legal voters of the Forge School District that a meeting will be holden at the school house on Tuesday, the 4 day of Nov. /51 at 7 o’clock PM for the purpose of ascertaining who it was on the 26 day of Oct. in the night. Person entered the school house and broke the windows with other damage to the house and to take measures to add to and repair said house. To do all business proper to be done at said meeting.

[Signed]
Wm N. Manchester, Committee

1851, Dec. 30 Notice: Warning is hereby given to the legal voters of the Forge School District that a meeting will be holden at the school house on Tuesday the 6 of January 1852 at 7 o'clock PM for the purpose of raising a tax to defray the expenses of repairs on said school house and to do any other business proper to be done at said meeting.

[Signed]
Wm N. Manchester, Committee

1852, March 6 District No. 4, Old Forge District

Beginning on Winchester line between the sixth and seventh tier, then east on said line to Barkhamsted line, then north to Farmington River, on Hartland line, then west to the southeast corner of lot No. 65, fifth tier, laid out to Josiah Phelps, then down Sandy Brook to the tier line between the sixth and seventh tier, then south on said line to Winchester line, the place of beginning.

Attest M. L. Phelps, Clerk of School Society

1852, March 13 Notice: Warning is hereby given to the legal voters of the Forge school District that a meeting will be holden at the school house on Monday the 22 day of March, AD /52 at 7 o'clock PM for the purpose of setting up a summer school; also to fix a site for a school house and to take measures to build a new house and do all business proper to be done at said meeting.

[Signed]
Wm N. Manchester, District Committee

1853, Oct. 4 Notice: Warning is hereby given to the legal voters of the Forge School District that the annual meeting will be holden at the school house in said district on Tuesday, Oct. 11 at 7 o'clock PM for the choice of officers for the year ensuing and to do all business proper to be done at said meeting.

[Signed]
D.C.Y. Moore, Committee

1861, April 19th Notice: All persons legally qualified to vote in the Forge School District are hereby notified that a meeting of said district will be held at the school house in said district on Thursday, April 25th, 1861 at 7 o'clock PM to act upon a proposition to erect a school building, also to fix a site for the same and to lay a tax to raise any money needed for the purpose of building said school house, and to do any other business proper to be done at said meeting.

[Signed]
Lyman Benedict, School Committee

1861, June 22 To the clerk of the Forge District.

Dear Sir –

At a meeting of the Board of School Visitors holden at the school house in the Forge District this day to examine the school building and hear what the proprietors

of said district wished to report in the matter of proper accommodations for the school; the board, after hearing and examination as above, decided not to accept the school building and therefore deprive the Dist. of public money rec'd from the State, unless they furnish a proper place for the school.

In behalf of the Board of S,V.,
W.F. Grant, Sec, pro tem.

1863, July 10

A letter with the letterhead of the Office of Superintendent of Common Schools; State of Connecticut, in New Britain:

To Wm H. Raidart, Esq., Clerk of Forge School District, Colebrook, Conn.

Dear Sir. The application of U. J. Hodge and others for an order for school money for the Forge School District is just received.

The application states that the school house is not built after the modern style of architecture, but is rather old and not very convenient, also that the applicants "have seen the need of a new schoolhouse" and "for years back" have "held meetings for the purpose of building."

The school visitors it seems, have given the district notice that the money would be withheld till the district have made arrangements to build a new school house. The district has failed to comply with the requirements of the School Visitors and therefore applies to the Superintendent for an order or certificate.

The School Visitors have evidently done their duty in giving notice and the question of an exception being made, must be decided by the facts already presented, or such as can be ascertained.

The school house is evidentially unsuitable; the petitioners testify to this. Why is not a suitable building erected? No reason appears in the applications except that "a vote to build" could not be obtained. While I should be very glad to do all in my power to promote the interests of education in the district, and to afford it on the relief, which is just, it does not appear to me that the reasons given, or the facts before me are sufficient to make it clear that the district is in equity – entitled to any portion of the public money, and I am therefore compelled to withhold my certificate till other facts can be obtained.

If the School Visitors are satisfied that the repairs made have rendered the house satisfactory for school purposes, or if there are any providential reasons for not rebuilding, I shall be glad to know the facts.

But the fact that there are forty children in the district, and that many of the parents are poor is an additional reason for providing abundantly for the education of all.

Yours respectfully,
David N. Camp,
Supt. Of Com. Schools

1863, Oct. 19th The undersigned, having been appointed by the Forge District in Colebrook a committee to decide on a site for a school house in said district and having met in pursuance of said appointment and heard the parties in the matter, unanimously fix on the site now occupied by their old school house together with so much land south and east as to make about half an acre.

[Signed]

Rufus Cleveland, Wm C. Phelps, H. C. Brown

1863, Oct. 24 To the clerk of the Forge School District - - below find a true copy of a petition:

To the Select Men of the Town of Colebrook:

We, the undersigned legal electors of said town petition you to warn a special meeting of said Town of Colebrook for the purpose of taking from the Forge School District situated in said town the following named persons (to wit) George White, Reuben Scoville, D.C.Y. Moore, Allen Barnes, Lester Hotchkiss, Wolcott Deming, Lyman Benedict, Albert Paddelford, or so many of the inhabitants of said Forge District as the town may deem reasonable and just, and annexing the same to the Sandy Brook School District.

Dated at Colebrook this 24th day October 1863.

[Signed]

Edward Taintor, S.H. Benedict, Charles Tuttle, John B. Corliss, Henry Sage, James D. Williams.

1866, July 14 Notice: Upon the petition of J. H. Bass and others, a meeting of the voters of the Forge School District will be held at the school house in said district on Friday, July 20th at 7 o'clock PM for the purpose of making arrangements for building a school house and suitable out buildings the present season, or if the district will not build, to sell the property belonging to said district to the highest bidder.

[Signed]

Harvey Deming, Committee

Robertsville, July 14th 1866

N.B. The grass on the building lot will be sold to the highest bidder at the commencement of the meeting.

1866, Sept. 22nd Notice: The voters of the Forge School District are hereby notified that the annual meeting for the choice of officers will be held at the school house in said district on Friday, Sept 28th at 7 o'clock.

[Signed]

Harvey Deming, Committee

Robertsville, Sept. 22nd, 1866.

1869 a plain piece of paper is a list of 54 student names, each followed by a number, their ages, no doubt, but several have two numbers separated by a hyphen. There does not seem to be a ready explanation for these second numbers.

Mary St. John 14-9, Celestia St. John 11-6, Julia St. John 6-7, Delia St. John 8-11, Cornelius Barnes 13-6, Ellen Breen 12, Mary Breen 10, Maggie Breen 11, Bridget Breen 8.

Lillian Deming 9, Dwight Deming 12, Adaline Benedict 9, Florin Benedict 12, James Corliss 14, Eddie Scovill 13-6, Julia Bidwell 11, Mary Bidwell 15, Clifford Barnes 14.

John A. Deming 15, Waldo Deming 9, Nellie Bass 12, Clara Norton 5, Anna Norton 7, Fred W. Benham 14, Eddie Benham 11, Rosa Snyder 15-6, Hattie Cook 13

Charles Cook 10, John De Mars 5, Addie Deming 15-6, George Deming 8, Estella Root 7, Hattie Root 5, Myra Pond 10, Almond Baily 13, Nancy Baily 14, Myron Baily 8

Francis Jenings 13, Ellen Fleming 15, Jenny Fleming 10, Effie Osborn 9, Wallace Osborn 7, Alice Reardart 13-6, George Reardart 11-6, Anna Leitzback 8, Augustus Leitzback 6,

Eddie Leitzback 4-6, Charles Benton 8, Reiley Benton 6, Albert Brewster 10, Estella Brewster 7, Mary Brewster 5, Lorenzo Nye 15, Albert Nye 11.

Total 54

1869, Nov. 17 Notice: The legal voters of the Forge School District are hereby notified that there will be a meeting of said district on Monday evening Nov. 22nd 1869 at 7 o'clock PM for the purpose of laying a tax to pay the indebtedness of the district and to do any other business proper to be done at said meeting.

Robertsville, Nov. 17 1869

[Signed]

Joseph Deming, District Committee

1869 (?) *This is an undated letter, written on a torn piece of paper (it was torn before the letter was written).*

“Your letter of Aug 31st is rec'd. Did these scholars who attended the school in the Forge District last winter from Hartland, Winchester and Barkhamsted live in the Forge District or not? In other words, does that district lie wholly in Colebrook, or partly in those other towns? No town, and no district is under any obligation to support a school for the benefit of people living in another town or district. If then these scholars from Hartland, Winchester and Barkhamsted do not live in the Forge District, that district has the right to charge tuition. But on the other hand, if the Forge District of Colebrook does include parts of any of these towns, that district has a legal claim upon such towns for a share of that portion of the income from the 4/10 of a mill tax and the town deposit fund, which was to be distributed ‘according to average attendance’. (See Laws of 1868, chapter XXX, Public Acts of 1868.)

In one or the other of those two ways the district may rightfully procure a part at least of the deficiency: \$38.00.

No tuition is to be required of scholars who are over 16 years of age, as though they were not entitled to attend public schools on the same terms as younger scholars.

No child over 16 draws any money from the School Fund, but that is no proof that such children have no right to attend public schools.

That mode of distributing the avails of the School Fund was adopted nearly 50 years ago, as more equitable than the previous mode of distribution to the several towns and school societies according to their respective grand lists.

The school can definitely imply that scholars over 16 are expected to attend the public schools. See section 107 (8).

That which has been fixed upon as the basis of distributing the public money does not determine who may and who may not go to public schools. Any inhabitant of a district who wishes to go to its school and needs the instruction given there has a right to go.

In a word, then, you can charge tuition for scholars of any age who live out of the district (or town), but you cannot charge for those over 16 who belong in the district.

Yours very truly,
B.H. Northrop
Per John Band

1871, August 25 Notice: The annual meeting of the Forge School District will be held at the school house in said district on Wednesday evening, August 30th 1871 at 7½ o'clock for the purpose of choosing officers for said school district for the year ensuing and to do any other business proper to be done at said meeting.

Robertsville, August 25th 1871

[Signed]

John P. Norton, District Committee

1872, Sept. 5 *[A letter from a former member of the Forge School District Committee.]*

New Haven, Sept. 5 /72

Mr. Wm H. Raidart

Sir

I received a line from you requesting a statement of the school affairs as they were when I left. 1st The number of scholars as I numbered them was thirty 30.

2nd The money I received from Town \$66.40.

The wages I paid the teacher was \$56.00 pr month including board, which was \$4.00 per week.

Borrowed of George D. Felton the sum of \$18.00 to pay for insurance and gave him the note of the District for the same. In regard to how much the District is in debt, I have no means of knowing, as I do not know how much money was to come from the Town, nor how much the District was in debt before.

I will give you the items of the act as it stands on my book and also I will send you the statement Mr. Viets gave me when school was out.

I agreed to pay the teacher for the summer \$5.00 per week to board around and find herself out of school time or over Sunday.

Forge School District

To: P.B. Osborn	Dr.
Oct. 25 to stove cover	\$1.00
Nov 4 to 3 glass	.70
“ 15 to one broom	.40
“ 20 to box blackboard pencils	.30
Feb. 26 to 16 week board of teacher @ \$4.00	<u>64.00</u>
	66.40

Received payment by order on Town

I find credited on book to Joseph Demming [<i>sic.</i>] for wood 9 nine cords \$2.50 per cord	\$22.20
My debt	66.40
Teacher's wages	<u>160.00</u>
	248.90

If there is anything more I will let you know anytime you like if you will let me know what you want. My regards to all inquiring friends.

Yours respectfully,
P.B. Osborn

1872 to 1874 (As per a note attached written by Homer P. Deming dated 1948.)

Attendance Record

<u>GIRLS</u>	<u>Tardy</u>	<u>No. Days Attendance (of 79)</u>
Alice Raidart	8	68
Nellie Bass	6	75 ½
Annie Leitzback	32	75 ½
Lillian Deming	27	68 ½
Effie Osborn	13	67
Hattie Cook	2	55
Jennie Fleming	18	64
Nellie Ives	16	65
Lizzie Benham	7	76
Estelle Brewster	16	70 ½
Mary Brewster	13	50
Rosa Barnes	6	31 ½
Rhoda King	24	72

No. Girls 13

<u>BOYS</u>	<u>Tardy</u>	<u>No. Days Attendance (of 79)</u>
Albert Nye	2	70
Charlie Cook	5	79
Morris Pfaefflin	5	65
Charlie White	14	25 ½
Waldo Deming	2	71
Arthur Case	10	72
Eddie Scoville	13	69
Geo. Raidart	1	71 ½
Lyman Balcom	6	73
James “	7	55 ½
Geo. “	3	73 ½
Dwight Deming	34	67
Wallace Osborne	9	74
Clayton Hull	5	74 ½
Augustus Leitzback	27	75
Eddie “	25	75

Geo. Howe	13	76 ½
Clayton Deming	2	66 ½
Thomas Benham	10	74 ½
Elbert Brewster	21	72 ½
John DeMars	1	78 ½
John Armstrong	12	69 ½
Florin Benedict	6	54
Lorenzo Nye	6	64
Riley Padelford	5	63
Cornelius Barnes	16	66 ½
Clifford “	5	43

No. Boys 27

Wages of Teacher	\$56.00
Whole No. of Scholars	40
Aggregate Attendance 2660 Days	
Length of School – 16 Weeks (80 Days)	
No. Scholars Over 16 – 9 (Boys 6; Girls 3)	

1877, August 20 Notice: The legal voters of the Forge School District are hereby notified that the annual meeting of the said district will be held at the school house in said district on Saturday, Aug. 25 at 7 ½ o’clock PM for the purpose of choosing officers for the year ensuing and to lay a tax or provide some other way to pay for painting the school house.

Robertsville, Aug. 20 1877

[Signed]

Joseph Deming, Comm.

[NOTE: this notice was written on the back of a billing sheet with the letterhead reading

“Robertsville, Conn., 186_
To JOSEPH DEMING, Dr.
FILE MANUFACTURER.

FILES OF ALL KINDS RECUT TO ORDER.”

1889, June 18 Notice: The legal voters of the Forge School District are hereby warned that a meeting will be held in the school house Monday, June 24 at half past seven PM for the purpose of choosing Committee and to do any other business proper to be done at said meeting.

Robertsville Conn.

June 18th 1889

[Signed]

C.H. Deming, Comm.

1894, June [This is a list of bills paid by the Forge School District.]

July 7, 1893 To Frank Adams (teacher's wages for 6 weeks).....\$21.00

Nov. 1 1893 To C.H. Deming for boarding school teacher 6 weeks @ \$2.00 ..\$12.00

July 24 1893 To O.D. Case & Co.

2 #2 double rear seats @ \$5.40....	10.80
4 #2 double desks @ \$7.50.....	30.00
4 #3 double desks @ \$7.25.....	29.00
2 #4 double desks @ \$7.00.....	14.00
2 #5 double desks @ \$6.75.....	<u>13.50</u>
	\$97.30

Discount 40 %.....	<u>38.92</u>
	58.38

To 1 cherry box desk with lock..... 5.00

63.38

Minus freight..... .30

\$63.08

To Culver & Streeter Dr.	
To lime.....	.25
64 feet yellow pine @ .35 per foot.....	<u>2.24</u>
	\$2.49

Aug. 21 1893 To John W. Fordyce & Son Dr.

3 [pieces of] glass 12x18 @ .15.....	.45
2 lbs. Putty.....	.10
7 lbs. Plaster of Paris.....	.21
1 pt. Blackboard silicate.....	.70
3 ½ hours labor @ .30¢.....	1.05
1 ¼ pts. Blackboard silicate.....	.88
D.C. shellac.....	<u>.15</u>
	\$3.54

Cr. By 1 pt. Blackboard silicate..... -.70

By 4 lbs. Plaster.....	<u>-.12</u>
	\$2.72

Aug. 8 1893 To M.H. Tanner & Co. Dr.

2 door locks @ .60¢.....	\$1.20
8 lbs. Wire nails @.04¢.....	.32
1 pail.....	.15
1 broom.....	<u>.35</u>
	\$2.02

Aug. 26 1893 To Robert Moore Dr.

113 feet lumber @ .02¢.....	\$2.26
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To John Carter	
1 day's labor.....	\$2.50

Aug. 26 1893	To Ralph Bull Dr. To 2 ½ day's work.....	\$5.00
Oct. 20 1893	To W.S. Clingan Dr. To 5 day's labor @ \$1.50..... Fright paid on castings.....	\$7.50 .30
Jan. 15 1894	1 roll zinc..... 1 window light.....	1.74 <u>.20</u>
		\$9.74
	To Howard Clingan Dr. 44 hours work @ 7 ½ ¢.....	\$3.30
	Total cost of repairs.....	\$96.66
	Arrearages – Bills of Adams & Deming.....	<u>33.00</u>
		\$129.66

Expenses of the School for the fiscal year ending June, 1894:

Teacher's salary, 30 weeks @ \$6.00 per week.....	\$180.00
4 cords of wood @ \$3.50.....	14.00
Sawing 4 cords of wood @ .50¢.....	2.00
Janitor.....	<u>2.00</u>
Paid by the Town.....	\$198.00

Cash Received

Oct. 18 1893	Borrowed of Wm Stowe @ 6%.....	\$125.00
	Sold 1 old school desk.....	.25
	Pay for the flag from the Town.....	<u>6.97</u>
		\$132.22

Charges

Oct. 21 1893	Ralph Bull 2 desks @ .25¢.....	.50
	Henry Simonds 2 desks @ .25¢.....	.50

[Signed]
W.S. Clingan, Com.

1896, October District School Meeting
Meeting called to order by District Committee.
Niles Manchester chosen moderator.
H.P. Deming chosen clerk pro tem.
Voted to lay a tax to raise \$250.00.

Voted to lay a tax of five mils on all the property in the district from the list of the town on list of 1896.

Mr. Wedge chosen committee to repair or rebuild fence.

Voted to adjourn.

[Signed]

H.P. Deming, Clerk pro tem