# HISTORY AND ALUMNI RECORD OF THE STATE NORMAL SCHOOL, 1867-1887, JOHNSON, VERMONT

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History and Alumni Record of the State Normal School, 1867-1887, Johnson, Vermont by Various

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## **VARIOUS**

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# HISTORY

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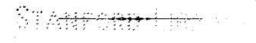
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Vermant: STATE \* NORMAL \* SCHOOL,

1887 --- 1887,

**ЈОНИЅОИ**, - - VERMONT.



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### TO THE ALUMNI OF THE JOHNSON NORMAL SCHOOL:-

For nearly three years the publication of an Alumni Record has been considered by the members of the Alumni, but nothing definite was done, however, until at the Alumni meeting, held at Normal Hall June 22, 1886, it was voted that a register, containing items with reference to each graduate and each teacher, former and present, should be published. A committee of five was appointed to prepare the same for publication. Five members of the Alumni and the Trustees of the school, together with its present Principal, pledged themselves to be responsible for the attending expenses.

Class reporters readily entered upon the work, and were diligent in their efforts; yet many, after long waiting, were forced to forward incomplete reports. It has been the aim of your committee to find the address of each unreported member. Such has been our success that with two exceptions communications have been received, either from each such member or from their friends who were fully able to give the desired information.

The reports of all graduates previous to Class 36 not marked thus † are brought forward to July 1886. All so marked and all reports of Classes from 36 to 40 inclusive are brought forward to March 1887.

Although the reports are necessarily brief, we trust that each Alumnus will regard with some degree of interest this first attempt to make a record of all graduates of the Johnson State Normal School.

> HELEN L. STORY, Chairman of Committee.

JOHNSON, VT., March 18, 1887.



### EARLY DAYS OF THE SCHOOL.

This school was started as an Academy about the year 1828 with sixteen scholars. The teacher was a Dr. Carpenter, of whose former or subsequent career we can learn nothing, but tradition and history agree that for the first year or two the school was held in what is now the town clerk's office. It had originally been a shoe-shop. Desks having been put in to fit it for ministering to the minds of youth, instead of their soles, as formerly, the ring of the lap-stone or driving of shoe-pegs gave way to the reciting of Algebraic formulas, and "hic hace hoc."

Dr. Carpenter was instrumental in having the first Academy erected, where the Normal building now stands; the old red school-house which had previously stood there and served as district-school building, town-hall and church, having been moved across the street under the lee of the large rock there.

In 1830 Perry Haskell, a recent graduate of the U. V. M., took the school, remaining six years, after which he taught at the South. He, has lately died at an advanced age in Ascutneyville.

In 1836, Lamoille County having been organized, and Johnson taken from Franklin County where it had formerly been, and made a part of the new county, the school was incorporated by act of Legislature as the Lamoille County Grammar School, and public lands were granted towards its support.

E. M. Toof was the next principal of the school, followed by B. J. Tenney, Wm. T. Herrick, C. Adams, Lyman T. Flint, Simeon H. Stevens, (who died here quite suddenly,) and Rev. Jason F. Walker, none of them remaining more than a year or two, and none are known to be now living, save Rev. Wm. T. Herrick in Castleton. The school was all the while steadily growing in public favor, subject, of course, to the periodical ups and downs which befall most similar institutions. In 1846 L. O. Stevens took the school, and, through his energy and perseverance, the academy building was repaired and enlarged at an expense of \$1200. In later years he settled in Iowa, where he is still living.

He was followed by Z. K. Pangborn, under whom the school at one time numbered 225 pupils, the highest it ever reached. Mr. Pangborn has for many years been the successful editor of a Jersey City paper.

H. M. Wallace taught the school for one year; then R. C. Benton, now a flourishing lawyer in Minneapolis; M. P. Parmalee, who for many years has been a foreign missionary in Turkey; L. D. Eldridge, now a prominent lawyer in Middlebury; Geo. W. Sogler, who afterwards went West to teach and died there; and S. H. Shonyo. Joseph Marsh, a son of President Marsh of the U. V. M., was in charge one term, also Miss Myra Benton, after whom came S. H. Pearl, during whose time of teaching the school surrendered its original charter, and was chartered as a State Normal School. Also in Mr. Pearl's third year in 1866, the building was almost entirely rebuilt, enlarged to double its former size, and fitted up in pretty much the shape it is in at this time, only minor alterations having since been made.

All honor to the memory of our ancestors who planted this tree of knowledge, and nurtured it through its tender years, that its fruit might bless us, their descendants. May their remotest posterity ever be worthy the ancestry.

### S. H. PEARL.

1867-1871

S. H. Pearl, the last Principal of the Academy, and the first of the Normal School, was a "man of mark." He fitted for college at Craftsbury Academy, and graduated from the U. V. M. in the class of '59; was married the next year to Miss Lydia White, of Craftsbury, a sweet, gentle woman, whom to know was to love.

He came here in the fall of '63, bringing into the school a fund of enthusiasm, of new methods and ideas, which did not fail to impress themselves upon the public in general, as well as upon his own special pupils. It was largely through his influence that the Normal School was located here, and the building fitted to receive it, which was done in three and a half years after his coming here. He graduated nine classes from the Normal School, and it is safe to say that never will one of his graduates forget him or cease to bless his memory. He so impressed his personality upon his pupils, and made them feel the greatness of their responsibility in the vocation for which they were fitting, that life assumed here a new meaning and depth to many a young mind and heart.

Mr. Pearl worked well, but not wisely for himself, perhaps exemplifying his favorite maxim: "It is better to wear out than to rust out;" but those who wished for him a long career of usefulness, would rather he had been content to have rusted a little, if need be, than to have worn out so prematurely. In 1871 he went from here to the Normal School in Plymouth, N. H., where he was as deservedly popular; but his work was