

On June 14, 1839, the Barre Gazette published a notice that "a normal school for the qualification of male and female teachers of common schools" would be established at Barre under the legislative act of that year. To gain admittance to the Barre Normal School a boy had to be at least 17 years old, in good health, ambitious to follow the profession of teaching, able to do well in a preparatory examination and to prove ~~his~~ satisfactorily his ability and high moral character. The requirements for girls differed in only one respect, namely, girls might enter at the age of sixteen years. The Rev. Samuel Fay and the Rev. James Thompson were references for the school.

It is rather interesting to observe at this time the New Salem Academy was prospering, and a secondary school in Petersham was opened by Mr. ^{Edmund} Willson. There were two hundred and thirty-one ⁽²³¹⁾ pupils under Mr. Ariel Parish at Westfield Academy.

In September, 1839, there were two red letter days. The second of September, Mr. H. Freeman opened a private school in the upper story of the upper school house.]

This detail above is in reference to private schools so do not copy more about that -

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Governor Everett delivered a public address in one of the meeting-houses when he spoke at the opening of the Normal school.

Professor Samuel Newman of Bowdoin College was principal & is reputed to have been "a literary and scientific man"

From various articles found in early Gazettes I gather that this school was an experiment in popular education. There was a similar school in Lexington which opened in the spring of that year. A letter in the Boston Morning Post of 1840 emphasized the need of competent and systematic instructors. It observed that in Bahr such subjects as the three r's, spelling, defining, English grammar, geography, geometry, and mental philosophy were offered. Rules were all-important in those days. Every move in spelling and grammar had to be supported by a rule. Each day Professor Newman read from Edgeworth on Education Abbot's Teacher or some other such publication. He gave daily lectures on the vocation of teaching and a weekly lecture on moral questions.

Life at the Normal school Boarding House was pleasant with excellent

accommodations and midnight pillow-fights. There were about fifty pupils boarding and seventy pupils in the school.

The clergy opposed the Normal school as did some other classes of citizens; and after one unsuccessful attempt to abolish this school in 1840, it was finally transferred to Westfield. The Bare Normal School remained just two years.

In 1852, Bare High School was established as a free public school for secondary education.

and so on

It is all very interesting. I think you would like to copy it - or perhaps have it type written as this is typewritten. There are 9 type written pages. too many for me to copy all - now - anyway.

Mr. O'Connor

My mother
copied this from
a paper written
in 1935 by Jean
Nickson who
consulted many
persons and
articles. It is a
part of Jean's
graduation address
Sincerely yours
Katharine Weeks