CENTERVILLE

The town of Centerville was at first a part of the Meeme township made up of the present towns of Schleswig, Meeme, and Centerville, and the south one-third of the towns of Eaton, Liberty, and Newton. That was from 1848 to 1930. The numbering of the districts as originally set up was changed to the present district numbers in 1856. See the individual school histories for specific comments. Today the town is divided into school districts numbers 1 to 6 inclusive.

CENTERVILLE No. 1 — POINT RIVER
Marion Hickmann

The history of Centerville District No. 1 dates back to about 1852. The Centerville assessment roll of 1856 on file in the county treasurer’s office shows that that district was set up for taxation purposes before that date. The district then included sections 1-2-3-10-11-15-16, E¼ of 4, N¼ of NE¼, and SE¼ of NE¼, and NE¼ of SE¼ of Section 16. Those living or owning land at that time in the district were the Bakers, Stoltenbergs, Hockmayers, Obergockers, Janings, Kielmeiers, Doerschs, Biermanns, Leiteritzes, Wagners, Stockmeiers, Hildebrands, Schuettes, Bogenschultzes, Oldenhauers, Boettchers, Wimmlers, Orths, Groteguts, and Salms.

Education for the district children was first provided in an old Lutheran parochial school which was located one-eighth mile west, one mile south, and one mile west of the present Point River school. Some of the older settlers in the community today can still recall going to the Lutheran school for their catechism and three R’s.

The first school of frame construction was built in 1871 by community members for $560. It was called the Point River school after 1918 because the Point River flowed near the school building. It was located in section 3, town of Centerville, one-eighth mile west, and one-fourth mile south of the present site. The school was built the same year that the Lake Shore railroad was laid. In later years Albert Mill, one of the early teachers, made the grounds more attractive by planting a row of cedars. The first building had double seats and other equipment common to schools of the 1870’s. The old school was abandoned in 1908. The Groteguts bought the building and sold it to Rudolph Kielmeier for $152 in 1912. He used the old lumber in it for constructing a farm building.

The second and present school was constructed in 1908-1909 for $3,003. It is located near the SW corner of the SE¼ of section 3. The acre and a half site was purchased from Wm. Kono in 1903 for $275. The school was built as a two room building with a large attic and full basement. A basement furnace has always been provided. Kerosene lamps were used until 1939 when electric service was provided. Outdoor toilets are still in use. The building has a water system made possible by an artesian well with high iron content.

The structure built in 1908-09 was used as a graded school from 1909 to 1912. The enrollment in the first school always was very great, but by 1908 it became so large that the state advocated two rooms. During the first years in the new building the enrollment reached a total of seventy-seven. In 1912 the southern half of the district organized a new school district with the result that the enrollment was cut almost in half. Centerville District No. 1 now contains sections 1, 2, 3, part of 4, 9, 10, and 11. In 1945-46 the enrollment had declined to a total of twelve.

The second school used the double desks from the old school for several years. They were replaced by single adjustable seats. After the school became a one-room school again in 1912, one of the rooms became a playroom and a room in which to prepare noon lunches. Up to 1940 it was the custom for the children to buy their own books, but after that year free textbooks were provided.

Adolph Doerr was served on the school board for many years. Other school board members before 1906 were Moritz Rossberg 1872-73; Andrew Rettele 1874-76; Conrad Ortmyer 1877-79; Ernest Jaehnig, Fred Arends, G. Mill, Fred Jacobi, Adolph Klessig, Fred Schuette, and J. Lorfeld.
The record of teachers found in the county superintendent’s office shows that winter and summer terms were not held in this district. The record lists only winter term teachers. Those listed for the school are as follows: Wm. G. Stewart 1872, Herman F. Pohland 1873 to 1876, Wm. Mulholland 1877, F. A. Strupp 1878-79. Those from 1895 up to 1906 were Albert Mill, Fred Gensch, Thomas O’Connor, Otto Zander, W. G. Wehrwein, John Goldie, Mathew Fitzgerald, Albert Kielsmeier, Wm. Birkle, Simon Wehrwein, Henry Dunkart, Erwin Cary, and Wm. Engel. Men teachers were nearly always employed and were preferred as a general rule. The school year gradually increased from a three to a nine month term. The Doersch home was the teacher’s usual boarding place, if one was necessary.

Spelling contests were common in the early days. They were community affairs held in the school. Prizes were awarded from the district treasury. Later occasional box socials were held. Annual Christmas programs were the biggest and longest awaited affairs. In the 1920’s contests were held at Wimmler’s Hall at Cleveland by all the schools in the township. The contests were conducted by some member of the county superintendent’s office, and teachers, pupils, and parents packed the hall. Public card parties were also common in some years.

The scenic and recreational spot in the district is Point Creek Park which is used for picnic grounds, fishing, and duck hunting. It is located at the mouth of one of the many creeks emptying into Lake Michigan. The shores of Lake Michigan, which is the eastern boundary of the district, also affords scenic as well as recreational attractions. Throughout the district there are other small creeks forking their way deeper and deeper into the soil. These provide the district with some fishing areas especially during the spring freshets.

**CENTERVILLE 2 — LAFOLLETTE**

Delores Thieleke

Centerville No. 2 school district is now made up of sections 5, 6, 7, 8, and parts of 4, 9, 17, and 18 in Centerville township. Since 1918, it has been known as the LaFollette school in honor of Robert M. LaFollette. Prior to that time it was often referred to as the Jacobi school because of the connection that the Jacobi families had with it.

Up to 1856 this district was a part of the old Centerville district No. 2 which then included all of the present Centerville districts 2 and Jt. 3, and part of No. 4. In 1856, the Centerville township was redistricted and this area became the present school district No. 2, Centerville. The newly organized district 2 in 1856 contained about the same area of land as it does today.

The first school, a log building, was built a few rods west of the present school site. It was said to have been located at the southwest corner of section 5, across from the cheese factory. There was a cheese factory at that corner even in those early days, for it was said that the pupils made a “nuisance” of themselves at the factory. The opposition to the youngsters evidently became great enough to cause the voters in 1862 to purchase the present site, a quarter acre, from Frederick Knapworst for the sum of $7. No record of the size or cost of the old log building is available.

In 1873 a new frame school was built on the present site, and the old log structure torn down. The new school, the present one, was built to be modern for that time. Four windows on each long side provided the lighting. The building is about 24 x 30 ft. without a basement, and cost about $520. There is one large classroom and an entry-cloakroom. The school at first had two blackboards at the front of the room. Double seats and desks were used. In 1887, a belfry was added and the building re-clapboarded. A district lathing bee was held to re-lath the rooms. Wainscoting and new broalboards for the side walls were added about the same time.

Another quarter acre of land was purchased from Henry Zeddies in 1906 for $50 to enlarge the schoolgrounds. The double desks were replaced by single seats from Sears Roebuck in 1914 for $119.30. Electric lights were installed in 1937. The same year a well was drilled on the schoolgrounds so that it wouldn’t be necessary to carry water from the cheese factory west of the school. Today the school is heated by a
floor furnace instead of the old box stove. A large, well-built library cabinet in the rear of the classroom provides storage space for all books. The room is equipped with a radio, piano, steel file, chairs, work-tables, and other modern school equipment.

As in all rural districts the enrollment has fluctuated with the times. There is no record of the number of pupils attending yearly before 1870. The enrollment for 1870 was 48 according to the town clerk’s report to the county superintendent. The highest enrollment occurred in 1875 when 61 pupils were in attendance. The average for the latter part of the 1800’s and the early 1900’s was 50. Today the enrollment averages about 20 pupils yearly, with the decrease due to smaller families, larger farms, graduation from eighth grade at or before 14 years of age, and attendance at parochial schools.

Centerville District No. 2 was settled by Germans as the names of the early settlers, as listed in the Centerville assessment roll of 1856, indicate. The following were among the early pioneers: C. Leiteritz, G. Treick, W. Korf, T. Barthel, L. Rapsberg, T. Wagner, T. Henschel, S. Grotegut, and Michael Kuecker. Today the family names of Lutze, Jacobi, and Klessig are familiar in governmental and agricultural fields.

The early school district officers served their community for little or no pay. They were interested in providing the best education possible for the times and made it their duty and privilege to serve as a school board member. Ernest Leiteritz, Jacob Gauch, and Henry Hornman served in 1872 for $2 per year. Frederick Jacobi became a board member in 1884 and served for 42 years. He was also the town chairman for a number of years. Others who served before 1906 were: M. Egan, Ernest Jaehning, Adolph Klessig, Henry Schomburg, and Fred Jacobi. William Duensing and Herbert Klessig both served as treasurer for 21 years.

There is no record of teachers before 1872. Those listed in the county superintendent’s record book indicate that Irish teachers were preferred in this German community. Their pay was above the average paid other teachers in the town. In 1875 the sum of $50 per month was paid. The teachers’ names on record are: Emily Richter, 1872; Lizzie Donahue, 1873; Patrick Nagel, 1874-5; Katie Donahue, 1876 and 1878; P. Nagel, 1877; Wm. Mulholland, 1879; Fred Gensch, 1894; John Goldie, 1895-96; John Egan, 1897; Albert Jacobi, 1898; and Math. Fitzgerald, 1904-05. John Egan became conservation warden for Manitowoc county and still later assemblyman. The names of teachers after 1905 are recorded in the county school annuals.

The records do not show that summer and winter sessions of school were held. There may have been German schools for a short period each year. It is noted that mail was obtained from Hika, Meeme, Osman, Timothy, St. Wendell, and Newton as the years passed. Sanders spellers, Sanders and American Education readers, Davies and Rays arithmetics, Monithens geography, Kerl’s grammar, and Swinton’s history were used from 1870 to about 1890. The school has served as a community center for meetings and social gatherings.

Centerville No. 2 district is a farming community. Gustave Hinz operated a sawmill in the past, but that was discontinued in 1922. A cheese factory is in operation near the school. Small, wandering branches of Fischer Creek and Point Creek cut across the district. Neither one is of scenic or recreational value in this community.

CENTERVILLE JT. 3 — PLEASANT HILL

Louise Goetschel

The Pleasant Hill school, Centerville Jt. 3, was given that name by the school society members in 1918. That name was chosen because the schoolhouse stands on a small hill from which may be had a pleasant view of farms and woodland. It was formerly known as the Saxon school because it was built next to the Saxon church, so called because the early settlers had come to America from Saxony, Germany. Residents of the nearby communities now refer to this school as the Klessig or the Wiegand school because of the official connections that these families have had with district affairs.

This district was organized as Centerville district No. 2 in 1852 and included almost all of the western half of the Centerville township. In 1856, a part of this dis-
trict was attached to Centerville No. 4. The northern half of the original Centerville district No. 2 set up a school district by itself in 1856. The school districts in Centerville then were re-numbered and the old Centerville district No. 2 became the present Centerville district No. 3. In 1906, a small area in Meeame was attached to this district, making this Centerville Jt. No. 3, joint with Meeame.

The first log school was constructed soon after the district was organized for the sum of $150. It was located on the present school site. Little is known about the first building, except that it contained long benches seating about six children each. The room was said to have had a large covered opening in the center of the floor into which the dirt and refuse was swept. The old log building was torn down after it had served its purpose.

The second schoolhouse, a frame structure, was built in 1873 on the same site. This new school was more modern for it had blackboards, double desks and seats, and a better stove. It was built by Carl Rieck at a cost of $525. The structural design conformed to the rural schools built during that period with windows on three sides and no special room for the blackboard and dinner pails. After 43 years, this schoolhouse was abandoned and was purchased by the Cleveland Hardware Co. It was moved to Cleveland and used as a tinshop up to the present time.

The third and present school was erected in 1917 on the first site. It is a modern red brick building housing a full basement, a main floor, and a large attic. The basement houses the heating-ventilating plant, a fuel room, a large playroom and the indoor lavatories with running water. A new furnace and stoker were installed in 1945. The main floor consists of a large entry, a large classroom about 32 x 38 feet, and a large kitchen. The classroom is correctly lighted with natural and electric lights, has a spacious built-in library of shelves and drawers, and has all of the modern teaching and learning aids recommended for a one room school. Pleasant Hill school ranks as one of the county's modern rural schools.

The Pleasant Hill school has maintained a fairly large enrollment since its organization. The district had no summer sessions at least after 1872, but it is known that the first log school served the early settlers as a church until a house of worship, the present St. John and Peter's Lutheran church, was built directly south of the school. This congregation at times used the schoolhouse for its summer Bible school classes. The highest enrollment on record, as reported by town clerks, was in the 1880's when more than 70 pupils attended. The community has always had a high percentage of its school age children attending. The average yearly attendance during the last half of the 1800's was between 45 and 70. The community is not greatly affected by parochial school attendance, consequently the present enrollment is still high, being about 25 out of a total of about 45 children of school age.

Early settlers influential in establishing the first school were E. Jaehnig, C. Wie- gand, A. Katemann, G. Paul, G. Gabsch, G. Franke, C. Hammann, A. Klessig, G. Toeh- nisch, F. Klessig, C. Lorenz, C. Augustin, C. Trautman, W. Rossberg, C. Fritsche, F. Kolb, G. Lutze, and H. Huhn. The majority of them were farmers, but a few were carpenters, masons, and harness and shoemakers. Some of the pioneers made spinning wheels and funeral caskets during the winter months. Some district residents who have become prominent in town and county affairs were Louis and Otto Wiegand who served as town chairmen; Jos. Schneider, also town chairman; Kurt Wiegand, chairman of County A.A.A; John Lorfeld, a town chairman and state assemblyman; Oscar Huhn, a former pupil entered the teaching profession and later edited a German-American newspaper in Sheboygan.

School records kept since 1851 record the fact that Christian Jaehnig was the first director, C. Katemen treasurer, and Carl Wiegand clerk. They served without salary and performed such duties as the voters set up for them. Other school officers since 1872 were Ernst Jaehnig 1870-1880, August Klessig 1880-, John Lorfeld 1806-1916, Louis Wiegand 1886-1917, and Joseph Schneider 1896-1906. District residents who have served for years on the Board after 1906 were: Otto Wiegand 1918-39 and Edwin Klessig 1922-1946.

Ida Losner was the first teacher in 1852 and taught a four month term for a total salary of $50. The school term began in December. The next teacher, Dom. Schneider, taught for $20 a month. He also served as town clerk and town superintendent of schools. Other instructors on record in the county office were H. F. Pohlman 1872, P. J. White 1873; August Aurig 1874; W. L Albers 1876-1880, Otto Zander 1894-6, John Kassa 1897-8, Wm. Birkle 1904, and Simon Wehrwein 1905. Of the former teachers prior to 1906, W. L. Albers served as captain during the Civil War before teaching this

There are no records of the subjects taught before 1870, but by that time McGuffey's spellers, Sander's readers, and Ray's arithmetics were used. In the 1880's, geography, grammar, and history were added to the course. Up to 1870, German was taught for three months each term, but that was gradually discontinued since the law limited the time to be given to foreign language in the elementary school.

During the early 1900's the young people of the district formed a club known as "The School Society". This club put on plays and sponsored social affairs in the district and used the school for a meeting place. While school fairs and spelling contests were popular in the 1900's, this district was always to be reckoned with.

Centerville Jt. 3 is a prosperous farming community today. In the early days a shoemaker had his shop directly south of the school. A cheese factory on the Edwin Klessig farm was the site of the first cheese factory in Centerville and was erected by Edwin Klessig's grandfather in the 1870's. The remains of apple orchards and lilac bushes in some spots in the district denote the fact that many of the pioneer homesteads have been abandoned and the present farms greatly enlarged.

**CENTERVILLE 4 — CENTER SCHOOL**

Lorina Horsimann

Center School in all records was designated as School District No. 4. However, to the people in the district it is known as the Nenning School because of the Nenning families who have lived and are living across the road. In 1918 the school was given the name "Center School" because it is situated on Highway 141 about halfway between Manitowoc and Sheboygan. The district included the E1/2 of Sec. 17; all of Sec. 16 except the N1/2, the SE1/4 of NE1/4 and NE1/4 of the SE1/4; all of Sec. 21; the E1/2 of Sec. 20; all of Sections 29 and 30; the E1/2 of Sec. 32; and all of Sec. 33 except the SE1/4 of the SE1/4. The district was four miles long and a mile and one-half wide. Since 1856 the eastern and western boundaries have undergone some changes.

On the 12th of May, 1856, the town superintendent of schools of the town of Centerville directed George Leonhard, a resident of the district, to notify every qualified voter in the proposed Centerville District No. 4 to attend the first school meeting at the home of F. Miller on May 23, 1856. The main business transacted was the election of officers. The records show the written acceptance of each officer for his elected office. Incidentally, from the very first year until the present time, very neat and detailed records were kept. For the first 35 years most of these records were written in German!

In September, 1856, the annual school meeting was held at two o'clock in the afternoon. Plans were made to select a school site and to determine the type of building to erect. A quarter acre of land at the southeast corner of Section 20 was purchased from Joseph Leonhard. In 1901 another one-half acre was purchased from George Leonhard. On this site a log building 20 x 25 feet was erected. The people of the district furnished the logs and helped build the school. Those who furnished material and helped build received one dollar per day. Those who furnished only labor were paid six shillings per day. The crude log building was clapboarded for extra warmth. The interior was furnished with long benches, a small blackboard, and maps. Pauline Rosebergen, the first teacher, taught from December 1856 to March 1857 for twelve dollars per month.
In 1857 four months of school were to be held. However, if there was money left in the treasury, school was to be taught longer. The teacher was Agnes Walthers. She also taught the next term of six months at $20 per month. The records reveal the fact that most of the district people were German immigrants. At each annual meeting it was definitely stipulated that a teacher who could speak German be hired! Evidently, many of the pupils could not speak English upon entering school. This, of course, necessitated a teacher who could “handle” both languages. The people at the annual meeting also discussed and voted on the question of whether a male or female teacher was to be employed, the school board fees, the length of the school year, the teacher’s salary, and the tax to be levied.

On March 12, 1887, a special meeting was held to vote on the question of a new school. The vote was 26 yeas and 2 noes. On the question of whether a brick or a frame building was to be erected, the vote was 19 to 10 in favor of a brick building. The new structure was to be 36 x 24 x 12 feet. The building committee consisted of John Doersch, Carl Toepel, and Christ Wetzel. The structure was well-planned having a double hardwood floor, eight windows, and only “good” shingles and bricks were used. It was built on the same site as the first building and is now a part of the present building. The contractor was paid $700 to construct the building. The old log school was sold to Adolph Klessig for $14.

In 1901 the voters at the annual meeting decided to lengthen the old brick schoolhouse by adding sixteen feet to the west end at a cost of $300. Seven years later at a special meeting, it was decided to install a ventilating system. Playground equipment was purchased. Since 1915 the following improvements were made: a flag pole erected; a new hardwood floor laid; adjustable seats purchased; additional blackboards installed; electric lights, electric plate, and clock added; a new furnace with fan-driven heat distribution installed; and other modern teaching aids purchased. During 1946 a modern fully-equipped kitchen to make possible the serving of a complete hot noon lunch was added to the schoolroom. These many improvements and additions reflect the genuine interest of board members and parents in the welfare of their children.

In 1856 to 1865 the enrollment was about 25. This increased each succeeding decade as more and more boys and girls took advantage of the education offered to them. The largest enrollment was 63 in 1917. At that time a special meeting was held to discuss ways and means of coping with the over-enrollment situation. State Supt. of schools C. P. Cary suggested adding a second room and making the building a graded school. This suggestion was voted down. In its stead, it was decided to enroll no child below six years of age. This plan brought the attendance below sixty. Today the enrollment is 24, due to the fact that many district children now attend the St. Wendel parochial school. The first census record taken in 1867 lists a total of 134 children of school age—67 boys and 67 girls. The census records since that time show that there has been little change in the number of children since that time. The villages of St. Wendel and Cleveland account for the large number of children living in the district.

The Centerville assessment roll of 1856 lists these settlers living or owning land in the district: F. Benkard, John Schneider, Chas. Bogenschutz, T. Ahrens, Joseph Schneider.

The first school officers were Clerk C. Jaehnig, Treasurer C. Mayer, and Director T. Kiefer. The treasurer’s records show that in 1857 the clerk received 25 cents to attend some meeting and 13 cents to post notices of the annual meeting. Some district settlers who served terms as school officers were Frank Nenning as treasurer for 25 years; Frank Arends as clerk for 24 years; Wm. Arends as clerk for 21 years; and C. Toepel as treasurer for 21 years.

Some early teachers in the first school were Wm. Hillman, Domnick Schneider and a Dr. Quehl. It is interesting to note that Dr. Quehl was a doctor of medicine. Dom. Schneider was town superintendent of schools when the school was organized but who resigned his position to teach this school. The first teachers in the second school were: Maggie Pinter, Emilia Oberland, E. Schmitz, Theo. Conner, G. J. Groth, Wm. Burke, Henry Duckart, Erwin Cary, now Dr. E. C. Cary of Reedville, John Arends, now a teacher in Illinois, and Jerome Ledvina, now our county judge.

The district has no notable places of scenic or historical interest.
CENTERVILLE NO. 5 — RED ARROW

Clara Lallensack

Centerville district No. 5 is located in the old village of Centerville, now known as Hika. It was named the Red Arrow school in 1919 in honor of the famous Red Arrow, or the 32nd Division, to which many of the local boys belonged during World War I. To county residents it is commonly known as the Centerville or the Hika school.

Centerville district No. 5 was organized on January 19, 1852 as Centerville district No. 1. In 1856 the school districts in the township were for some reason renumbered and thus the old Centerville No. 1 became district No. 5. On January 5, 1852, D. Schneider, town superintendent of schools for the township, ordered Peter Schneider a resident of this community, to notify all qualified voters in sections 14, 15, 21, 22, 23, 27, 28 and the E¼ of sections 22, 33, 34 to meet on January 19, 1852, to consider the establishment of a school district. Thirty-three voters met at that meeting and they elected Director Fred Babenroth, Clerk Frederick Langenfelt and Treasurer Joseph Schneider. It was also agreed by a majority vote to build a schoolhouse on Lot 6, Block 9, in the village of Centerville at a sum not to exceed $100. This money was to be collected by the treasurer at a five per cent fee by August next through taxes. On June 30, 1852, Susan Gretz was engaged to teach a three month term beginning on July 1, at fourteen dollars per month.

The district did not maintain its original boundaries for long, for in November, 1852 the E¼ of sections 29 and 32 were attached to district 2. In May, 1856, the N¼ of section 14, the N¼ of 15, all of section 16 except a small area, the W½ of section 21, the W½ of the E¼ of 21, the W½ of 28, the W½ of E½ of 33, and the W½ of the E¼ of section 23 were attached to districts No. 3 and 4.

The first schoolhouse was built in the summer of 1852. In September, 1853, the schoolboard leased the schoolhouse for one dollar per month to Geo. Leisemer for a period of six months with the agreement that one room of the house was to be kept free for classes should it be decided to hold school. The crude building had very little equipment. Two tables and two benches, each twelve feet long, made for the sum of four dollars, were provided. The old school and site were sold at auction for about fifty dollars in 1858.

F. W. Otto, in 1858, presented the district as a gift the SE¼ of Lot 11, Block 12, village of Centerville. Whether this gift was accepted is a question, since the district later bought the S¼ of Lot 9, Block 1, from John Sachse for twenty-five dollars. This was the site of the present school grounds. The district, in 1858, appointed a building committee to design and to contract for a new school. Joseph Hermann was hired to construct the building for the sum of $162, said structure to be ready for occupancy by October 1, 1859. A stone foundation was put under the building in 1856 and at the same time a woodshed was built in front of the school "so as to be convenient for fuel in cold weather". Records do not seem to indicate the kind or size of the second school.

By 1871, the second schoolhouse was considered inadequate. A special school meeting was called at which the voters decided to erect a brick school. Bids were let, and by October, 1871, a brick building, 26 x 46 x 14 feet was built for $867. This building, after 77 years is still in use today. The structure still has the old time lighting with windows on the long sides and at the entrance. It now has a large classroom, an entry hall, two cloakrooms, a floor furnace, built in library cupboards, a piano, radio, electric service, a steel file and other necessary teaching and learning aids. The school does not have a basement and outdoor toilets are used. Single adjustable seats and desks now replace the old double seats. In 1911, through the efforts of R. H. Hinz, then clerk of the board, the Hika school installed the first playground equipment for a rural school in the state of Wisconsin. The swings and whirligig were homemade at a cost of about $18. The school had an artesian well which had an outdoor bubbler.
The first school term consisted of a three month session, but by 1858, a summer and a winter term was inaugurated. The summer term was usually taught by a woman teacher, while the winter term was taught by a man teacher. By 1860, an eight month term was maintained as a single term, being one of the first districts to do so. The voters also decided “that school shall be taught no more than five and one-half days per week”. Although a German settled community, this district did not vote to teach German in the school until 1865, when it was decided to teach German one-half of the time. In 1875, it was decided to teach German one-half hour per day. By 1893 this language was taught only one-half day per week. The records indicate that the teaching of German was discontinued in 1903.

The earliest record of enrollment was found for 1858 when 33 pupils attended. The attendance has always fluctuated, more or less, but in 1874 there were 106 children of school age enrolled, the youngest being three and one-half years of age and the oldest seventeen. Centerville No. 5 has always been considered a “large school”, but the rural factors affecting all rural districts has had its effect on this school. The average enrollment for the last few years has been about thirty pupils.

In 1894, the voters agreed that no child shall attend school unless he or she furnish evidence of satisfactory vaccination against smallpox. That act shows that the people of this district were leaders indeed in progressive movements. Records show also that for many years the teacher would have to pay for broken windows if he or she could not make the children pay or collect damages from the parents! In the past years the district allowed children from other districts to attend this school upon payment of tuition in advance, said tuition ranged from seventy-five cents to a dollar per month.

Early settlers of this district as shown in the Centerville assessment record of 1856 were the Wagners, Schneider, Eickoffs, Schultes, Huhns, Sackses, Werners, and the Mills. Otto and Evers owned much of the land in the village and in the surrounding area. Most of the settlers were farmers, but many families lived in the village where the men worked in the pioneer industries of Centerville.

The men elected to the school board have been progressive and deeply interested in the welfare of their school. A few of the officers who served prior to 1906 were August Mill, Charles Keune, G. Mill, Peter Werner, John Sachse, W. T. Albers, Wm. Sattmann, and members of the Schneider family. The record books show that some member of the Mill family has been on the board almost continuously since before 1870.

The list of teachers from 1852 to the present time is complete due to the excellent records which have been kept. The names of these teachers in order of their succession up to 1906 are: Susan Gretz, Mrs. Susan Hawkins, Catherine Skelley, Adelaid Blin, Gustave Markwardt, Mina Wolter, Edward Carberry, Owen Hillman, J. T. Cummings, Charlotte Edwards, T. H. Baker, Peter Werner, W. Quehl, Ida Schaffland, Sherwood Hayes, Thomas Gallogly, W. Elfred, Ferdinand Lonsdorf, W. T. Albers, Henry Deters, Joseph Guidinger, R. C. Nicolaus, Fred Dicke, W. G. Wehrwein, A. H. Zander, J. F. Walter, Fred E. Kolb, and Willie Engel. A. H. Zander later became city clerk of Manitowoc.

School fairs were annual fall events in the early 1900’s. These fairs featured farm and garden products as well as material made in the schoolroom. The school board always appropriated prizes from the school treasury. Red Arrow students were always to be reckoned with in the township and county spelling and achievement contests.

Centerville has a great deal of history connected with it. Much of this history can be found in books written about the early years of Manitowoc county. The early village was an important lake port and a fishing center. It once had a feed and cider mill, a brewery, general and hardware stores, blacksmith shops, warehouses, and other business common to lake ports. Remains of the old pier are still extending out into the lake.
Centerville school district 6 was designated the Maple Leaf school in 1918 to conform to the requirements of Chapter 40.36, Laws of Wisconsin. It was given that name because it is situated across the road from the Maple Leaf cheese factory. The school site of one-half acre is located on the N.E. corner of the NE¼ of the NW¼ of section 15, Centerville township. The school is often referred to as the Jacobi school because it is located near the Jacobi farmstead.

August 3, 1907 marked the organization date for this district. It originally belonged to the Centerville number 1 district. The first annual school district meeting was held on July 6, 1908, at the home of Fred Schuette. The voters assembled voted to buy the school site from Fred Schuette. The district set up is composed of parts of sections 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, and 16, all in Centerville.

Construction of the first school building was for some reason delayed for four years. During those years the children from this newly created district used the German Lutheran summer school building which was located one-half mile west of the present public school site. Mabel Sell was the first teacher hired by the district board at a salary of $49 per month for the eight month term. The present school building was constructed in the spring of 1912 by mason Wm. Toepel, carpenter Art Rieck, and painter Henry Born at an approximate cost of $1516. The frame building is 30 x 34 feet with a schoolroom 29 x 24 x 12 feet. A large entry-cloakroom is provided to store the children’s wraps and the dinner pails. A part of the entry is cut off and is used as a stairway to the basement. The full basement has a furnace, fuel storage space, playroom, and facilities for hand washing and drinking water. A spring, high in iron content, supplies the drinking fountain.

The other schoolyard buildings are the outdoor toilets. The schoolroom has two built-in libraries, correct window lighting, electric lights, a filing cabinet, chairs and tables, and most of the modern teaching and learning equipment. Twenty-eight single seats and the teacher’s desk were purchased in 1912. By July 7, 1913, the building was ready for the annual school meeting.

Centerville district 6 has never had a large enrollment. The number of pupils enrolled in 1909 was 27 with an average daily attendance of 23. The average enrollment since the district was organized has been about 15 pupils yearly. During the school year of 1945-46 the average daily attendance was 9 pupils. The usual rural factors account for the decrease in attendance. The 1945 census lists only 28 children of school age from 4 to 20 years of age.

This district is a farming community which was settled by Germans. The family names of Letteritz, Schuette, Jaeger, Grube, and Schneider are still common in the district as they were in 1856. Because of the low enrollment, the number of graduates since the organization of the school in 1897 has been limited, but all of them have become leaders in the communities in which they eventually settled.

The voters of Centerville 6 have always shown a keen interest in the affairs of their school. The selection of members of the school board received careful consideration with the result that the school has always ranked high in the county. The first school board members were clerk Fred Schuette, director Frank Rettele, and director Wm. Jaeger. In its 40 years of existence the names of Schuette, Rettele, Sixel, Bruck- schen, Lorfeld, Jacobi, Kielsmeier, Siggelkow, Zimmerman, and Jaeger are repeated again and again as members of the various school boards.

Since the school was organized after the Manitowoc county school annuals began to be issued, the names of all of the teachers of this school are listed therein. For some unknown reason the county annual directory of 1911-1912 failed to include this school’s record so that the name of the teacher, Josephine Schulte, was omitted. One of the most prominent teachers who taught this school was Anna M. Pritchard who was promoted from this school to the position of Manitowoc county supervising teacher in 1920.
Centerville school district has no places of historical interest. The scenic and recreational areas are confined to the shores of Lake Michigan at its eastern boundary and to Fischer Creek which winds its way along the southern boundary and empties itself into Lake Michigan.

In the spring of 1947, a special meeting was called to vote on the question of suspending the district school for the 1947-1948 term. This meeting was held on Thursday evening, February 27th. The vote was in favor of closing and of the transportation of the nine pupils to Centerville No. 1, the school from which the district had detached itself in 1907. After 40 years of operation the district children were again using the school organized by the pioneer settlers of this community.