KOSSUTH

Kossuth township was organized before the legal establishment of school districts. There is no recorded evidence that any of the present school districts numbered from 1 to 5 inclusive have ever had any other district number designation. An interesting bit of historical fact about Kossuth is that the four sections added to the eastern part of the township were added for school attendance reasons. The West Twin river coursing through these sections separated that area from the rest of the Two Rivers township. Since there were no bridges connecting these sections to the Shotover district, the proper officials attached these sections to Kossuth so that the children could attend Kossuth No. 5.

KOSSUTH 1 — FRANCIS CREEK

Lillian C. Jehle

Kossuth district No. 1 was appropriately named the Francis Creek school because it is located a short distance north of that village and is the district school for the Francis Creek community. As one would expect, it has always been known by that name. Francis Creek was so named from Francis creek which flows past the school into the West Twin.

The Francis Creek district was organized in the early 1850's, but it was not until October 8, 1856, that the trustees for the district purchased 334 acres of land from Michael Hasmer for $37.50 for a school site. The original school site is used today and is described in the warranty deed as the N.W. corner of the NW 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of section 17, Kossuth. The district then included all of sections 1, 2, 3, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15. When Kossuth Jt. 1 was set up in 1901, a large area was detached in the northeastern area. Other small areas were detached since its organization so that today the boundaries of the district are very irregular.

The first public schoolhouse, a frame structure, was built about 1852. According to a picture of that school in possession of Mrs. Louis Cootway, a former pupil, the building was about 18 x 24 feet with four shuttered windows on each long side and one in the entrance side. A small entry was attached to the front of the building and a lean-to shed for fuel was added to the rear. The equipment consisted of the usual homemade desks and seats, seating six to eight pupils each. There evidently was no cloakroom, and so the clothes and dinner buckets were stored in the schoolroom. The schoolyard had a large dinner bell atop a high pole to call the pupils to from play. After the first building had served its purpose, it was sold for $43.45 on February 27, 1892, and moved about one mile west to the present highway 141. There it was remodeled into a cheese factory, still standing today and owned by Adolph Schenian.

The second and present school building was brick-veneered and built in 1891 at a cost of $708 for material and $747.41 for labor. This school is about 28 x 33 with a smaller brick fuel shed attached to the rear. The building does not have a basement because the schoolyard is covered with only a thin layer of soil on top of rock. Outdoor toilets only are practical. New blackboards, double desks, and a bell were purchased for the new school. The large Webster dictionary added in 1893 is still found in the library. The school was heated by a wood stove until 1908 when a more modern heating and ventilating system was installed. Today a floor furnace is used. A kitchen cabinet and oil stove to aid in serving hot lunches were purchased in 1922. Single type desks and seats replaced the double desks in 1923. A new maple flooring was laid in 1930. Two years later free textbooks were adopted. In 1935, the southwest corner of the schoolyard was partitioned off and made into a semi-library-kitchen. Electric lights were installed the same year, making possible the use of radio and an electric plate. Other equipment consists of a piano, a steel file, maps, globe, bulletin boards, tables, and chairs. A well was drilled on the schoolyard in 1908 by William Reif.
Playground equipment consisting of a merry-go-round and a slide was purchased in 1927.

Enrollment records for the latter 1800's on file in the county office show that the school buildings were filled to capacity. Summer and winter sessions were held up to about 1875 with the older boys and girls attending during the winter. In 1870, the records show that 69 pupils attended, but by 1875 and 1880 the average yearly attendance was above 90. During the 1890's the enrollment averaged about 70, but by 1900 the number of pupils had again gone up to 90. Even as late as 1915 the enrollment was near the 60 mark. Since that time there has been a steady decline, so that by 1948 the average daily attendance was 8, although there are still about 80 children of legal school age in the district according to the 1945 school census. The establishment of the parochial school in the village as well as other rural population trends have had their usual effect.

The 1857 Kosnuth assessment roll lists W. Robinson, Carper Hessel, S. Walker, John Krist, John Strout, Jos. Kellner, John Woodfield, Geo. and John Robinson, W. Dolezal, Jacob Hessel, Casper Ewen, and Michael Hasmer as early residents of the district. Others who came later were Wencil Wacek, Frank Kliment, Anton Youra, John Rezek, Wencel Kerscher, Wenzel Titera, Wencil Svade, John Tesarik, Joseph Maresh, and Anton Hochman. Some former pupils who became well-known were Lillian L. Chloupek, county supervising teacher and county superintendent of schools; Adolph Chloupek, an attorney at Mishicot; Dr. Chas. Chloupek of Green Bay; John Chloupek, county judge; Erwin Chloupek, a lawyer in San Francisco; Louis Stastny, a wholesaler in Chicago; Louis Meyer, town chairman; Orrin Meyer, Calumet county agricultural agent; the Hessel's, who were and are prominent Francis Creek businessmen; Jos. Konop, prominent lawyer of Milwaukee, Ladimer Titera, a Major in World War I; as well as a host of others who became prominent in the community and county. Some district residents who became teachers were Lillian Chloupek, Clifford Meyer, Ursula Baugnit, Francis Schenian, Ivy and Sylvan Hessel, Orrin Meyer, E. Chizek, Clarence Mleziva, and others.

The names of the school officers prior to 1872 are unknown. Wm. Chloupek is recorded as clerk from 1872 to 1874; Wm. Robinson, clerk from 1874 to 1880. Others who served on the board prior to 1906 were Frank Dolezal, Anton Chloupek, Christ Phiel, John Kranik, Emanuel Fierst, Joseph Chloupek, John Rezek, John Robinson, John Strout, Jos. Tesarik, Ignatz Pankratz, Anton Skarievoda, John Peroutka, and Albert Stransky.

There is no record of who the teachers were before 1872, but a complete list of all persons who taught this school is available since that year. Those teaching here up to 1907 were: John Chloupek 1872-3, Annie Sullivan 1873-4, John P. Kennedy, 1874, Melora Shove 1875, Wm. Burke 1876, Leroy Backus 1877-80, John Chloupek 1880-88, John Pospisil 1886, F. B. Morrisey 1887-9, Adelia Boettcher 1890 (last teacher in the old school), Mary Pelischer (2 mo.) and Blanche Tilson (6 mo.) 1891, Bridget O'Dea 1892, Maggie Kane 1893-96, Eugene Mason 1896-99, Annie Schneider 1899-1901, Peter Gruber 1901-02, John Guehin 1902-04, and Anton D. Strout 1904-07. Former teachers who became prominent in other professions were County Judge John Chloupek, Atty. Anton Strout, and banker F. C. Baugnit.

The Francis Creek school has always taken an active part in school fairs, township and county contests, and in progressive school movements. It has served as an eighth grade diploma examination center for surrounding schools. A near-serious accident occurred in April 1919, when lightning struck the schoolhouse while classes were in session. The bolt struck the bell tower and entered the classroom injuring several pupils slightly and Richard Swade quite seriously.

The first business place of Francis Creek was a flour and gist mill and a brewery built and owned by Anton Chloupek on the present John Meyer farm located across the road to the north of the school. One of the original buildings is still standing. Mrs. Geo. Schmidt, formerly L. L. Chloupek, reports that quite a good-sized village existed at one time around the mill and school property. The first tavern and dance hall was built by Joseph Chloupek at the place where the Jos. Stransky home is now located, which is on the northeast corner of the Polifka road and highway 141. That business place was later moved to the present Wagner's hall by John Stastny. The first Francis Creek postoffice was located in this building. The first business place in the present village was begun by Casper Hessel nearly a century ago. That business place was located at the present Luke Herman home. Later the place was taken over by Charles Hessel, Sr. In later years the establishment was moved a short distance and is now the Louis Hessel place. A church and cemetery on the present Stransky farm is a reminder of the early days of the community. Contrary to most rural villages, Francis Creek has grown and prospered with the coming of the railroad and the modern highways.
KOSUTH JT. 1 — BROCKVILLE

Elayne Schlundt

“Cinder Dump” was the name first given to a little boxcar station located north of Francis Creek. This was later officially named Brockville, but for what reason it was given this particular name is unknown. Since this school was located nearby, it was only natural to name this the Brockville school in 1918.

Kossuth Jt. 1 was organized in 1901 when a group of parents petitioned the proper officials to set up a new school district. None of the surrounding schools was within “walking distance” for the children, and for that reason it was felt that a school located centrally in this area would be most convenient. Accordingly, after due hearings, a school district was created by detaching areas of land from Kossuth 1 and 2, Gibson Jt. 6, and Cooperstown 2 and it became Kossuth Jt. 1 because the schoolhouse is located in Kossuth.

While the schoolhouse was under construction, the children attended school in an old log building across the road from the present site. That building belonged to Charles Rezek. The teacher in that school was Adela Lawrence who received $30 per month for a nine month term. The new school was not completed until the summer of 1903. Peter Hromko did the masonry work while Jos. Stransky contracted for the carpentry work. The building and labor cost $2,300.

The school built by 1903 is still in use today. It is a brick structure, 36 x 41 feet, with a schoolroom 26 x 35 feet. A belfry houses a large school bell which can be heard throughout the district. In addition to a large classroom, the main floor houses a cloakroom shared by both the boys and girls, and a large library room in the northeast corner of the building. A stairway from the library leads into a full-sized basement housing a common fuel, furnace, and play room.

The walls and ceiling of the schoolroom are covered with tin. Window lighting is from the left and rear of the room — conforming to the state code. The bell rope hangs down from the ceiling near the front of the room, making it an easy task for the teachers to call the pupils to their classes. The school is well-equipped with single desks, work tables, bulletin boards, blackboards, sand table, and a new teacher’s desk. Out-door toilets are still maintained, keeping the building from being designated as a modern school. Electric lights and services were installed in the later 1930’s.

The enrollment in Kossuth Jt. 1 has remained fairly constant since its organization in 1901. For that year we find that the district had a school census of 25 boys and 28 girls, with 40 of that number attending school. During the early 1940’s the enrollment dropped below 15, but since that time the attendance is again around 20 yearly out of a census list of about 30 to 35 children of school age. Today the number of children of school age is just about half of that 40 years ago. Smaller families, larger farms, mechanization on the farms, and older residents are the causes of this population decline.

The first schoolboard elected in 1901 was composed of clerk Emil Witt, director Edward Kostlavy, and treasurer Steve Shimon. Other early board members serving before 1906 were Frank Rezek, Adolph Skarievo, and John Stuiber.

The first teacher in the new brick school was Rose Ledvina. The pupils sat in large, double desks while studying arithmetic, reading, history, physiology, geography, agriculture, civics, and grammar. They recited at the front of the room while seated on long benches. The schoolroom, at first, was heated by a large box stove. During the winter it was always roasting hot near the stove and freezing a short distance away. To eliminate this condition, the voters soon voted for a basement furnace.

Since this school was organized shortly before the county Annuals began to be issued in 1906, the teacher list is complete. Other teachers teaching this school prior to 1910, in addition to Adela Lawrence and Rose Ledvina, were Rose Voboril, Mary
Conway, Catherine McCulley, and Henry Antholz. A later teacher, Ewald Jedlichka, was the only teacher casualty from Manitowoc County in World War II, losing his life in the European theater of war.

Because of its recent organization, the number of graduates from this school is limited. A few of the more recent graduates have become prominent in this and other communities. Henry Swetlik is a member of the Federal F.B.I.; Lester Tepley is a professor of biochemistry; Edith Suchomel became a lieutenant army nurse; Eileen Rebechek is a nurse in Milwaukee; while Frank and Amelia Suchomel became teachers, as did Alvina Shestak.

During the days of school fairs, Kossuth Jt. 1 pupils were active participants and were to be reckoned with at all times. Gold and silver medal winners came from this school when town and county spelling and achievement contests were held from 1910 to the 1930's. Although this is one of Manitowoc county's youngest districts, it is one of the more progressive ones. Just what part this school will play in the future rural school organization remains to be seen.

KOSSUTH 2 — ELM VIEW

Ruth Maertz

Kossuth district No. 2 was officially designated the Elm View school in 1918 because of a large elm tree which once stood in the schoolyard. Since the removal of this tree, a row of elm trees along the road has been planted to perpetuate the name. To residents of this and nearby communities, the school is commonly known as the Augustine school because the school site was purchased from the Augustin family.

The Kossuth assessment roll shows that this district was set up prior to 1856. It has been a mother district for other districts surrounding it, for in 1898 an area in the southwestern part was detached to become a part of the newly organized Franklin Jt. 6. Again in 1901 an area in the northeastern part of Kossuth district No. 2 was detached to form a large part of the newly created Kossuth Joint 1. Since 1870 the district has also had land detached from it to be added to Franklin Jt. 9, Kossuth 1, and Kossuth 3. The district originally consisted of sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 16, 17, 18. Now it has only section 8 and parts of sections 5, 6, 7, 9, 16, 17, 18, all in the township of Kossuth.

It is believed that there was no school building prior to 1861 but very likely there was some schooling for the children before that time in some building. The first log school was thought to have been built about 1861 on the present site which is in the SW 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of section 7, town of Kossuth. No information is available as to its size or cost. The equipment consisted of rude wooden benches, a teacher's desk, and other furniture common to early schools.

The second and present school building was built in 1905 at a cost of $681. The old log school was torn down and the better logs used in the new frame building. Some of the equipment of the old school was retained. Double desks were installed several years after the new school was erected. Since that time new single, adjustable desks have been purchased.

Many additions have been made to the frame building since it was first erected. The woodshed, which at one time was located a short distance from the school, was attached to the rear of the school. A bell tower has also been added. A partition was built across the front of the schoolroom to create a cloakroom for the pupils. A built-in library was added to the rear of the room to care for the large number of books found in the school. The room is heated by a large floor furnace as no basement is provided. The windows are placed along the front and long sides of the school. Outdoor toilets are maintained in first class condition. The school, though over sixty years old, has always been kept up to the best possible standards.

This district school has experienced the same fluctuation in enrollments as other schools of the county. There are no attendance records for this school prior to 1870,
but the town clerk's reports to the superintendent of schools indicate that the small building must have been taxed to its capacity in the years gone by. The enrollment in 1870 was sixty-three, but by 1885 the attendance had gone up to ninety-four. During all of the latter 1800's the number of pupils in school yearly averaged between sixty and eighty. After the districts of Kossuth Jr. 1 and Franklin Jr. 6 were detached from this district, the enrollment dropped to forty pupils. Since 1905 there has been a steady decline so that for the 1946 term of school the attendance was five. The voters at the annual school meeting of July, 1946, decided to suspend the school and transport the children to nearby schools.

Kossuth district No. 2 was settled by a mixture of nationalities. The assessment roll of 1857 lists the following as owning land in the original district: Anton Kranyik, Franz Waneck, Martin Kazda, Franz Herman, Joseph Cenefelt, Michael Wessner, Jos. Kellner, J. Augustine, Joseph Wiesner, Con. Sullivan, Jacob Rank, Joseph Cisler, and Peter Rumpel. Today few of these family names are common to the community. The hundreds of sons and daughters of the past residents of the district all became progressive leaders in this and other communities.

There is no record of the first school officers of this school. The residents who served on the school board from 1872 were Wencil Chizek 1872; John Duchac 1873-80; Mathias Pech 1880--; Anton Cizek 1893-6. Wencil Sladkey, Frank Worel, Wencil Cizek, Emil Witt, John Swettlik, H. Cizek, and J. J. Augustine served from the years 1897 to 1905.

School records available do not show who taught in this district prior to 1872 but we do know that winter and summer terms were common up to about 1875. The average pay for teachers during the latter 1800's was about forty dollars monthly. The texts used after 1870 were the Sanders spellers, the McGuffey and the Sanders readers, Ray's arithmetic, Montgomery's geography, and the Phinnaeus and Kerl's grammar books. Annie Chloupek taught the winter and summer terms of 1872. M. Hale Smith held forth as teacher from 1873 to 1878. Teachers after that date were Emil Prochazka 1888-89; Thos. Burke 1889; James Gill 1894; Chas. Meinsnest, later Manitowoc county superintendent of schools, in 1895; John H. Kassa 1896; Peter Gruber 1897; J. E. Connors 1898; Mabel Pankratz 1904; and Elizabeth Halloran in 1905. The names of teachers who taught here after 1905 are listed in the county school annuals.

This district has neither scenic nor historical places of interest. A burial plot along the Polivka Corner's road is the final resting place of many of the older settlers of this and surrounding communities. This plot is one-half mile south and one-half mile west of the Elm View school.

**Kossuth No. 3 — Palm Grove**

Marie G. Krejcarek

Kossuth District No. 3 in the early days was often referred to as the Reif Mills school since it was located only about one mile from the Reif Mills church. In 1918 when district schools were named, the school was named the Palm Grove school. That name was chosen because of its nearness to the Palm Grove cheese factory which burned down in 1919.

Kossuth No. 3 district was set up for educational purposes early in the 1850's. No written records of the establishment of the school are available, but Wm. Antholz, the present clerk, has supplied much valuable data through personal research and contacts with old-timers. The school site was included in a grant given by the United States government to an unknown officer who served in the Mexican War for work well done. This grant was made during the presidency of Millard Fillmore. This officer to whom the land was granted sold it to Philip and Heinrich Vogt for fifty dollars. In 1868 John Jackel bought the property from Henry Vogt, and he in turn sold it to Anton
Neuser. In the sale a lease of 1/4 acre was given to School District No. 3, Kossuth, for the school site. The site was sold to the district about 1880. The original school district contained sections 19-20-21-23-29-30-31-32-33. When Franklin District 6 was set up in 1898, parts of Kossuth No. 3 were detached from the original area. Later other areas in the southwestern and southern parts of the original district were detached and added to Franklin No. 8 and Manitowoc Rapids No. 10 because the Branch river cut off this area from the rest of Kossuth No. 3. Since there were no bridges over this river at that point at that time, it was difficult for the children from that cut-off region to get to the Palm Grove school. Today the district is made up of sections 20, 21, 29, and parts of sections 19, 22, 28, 30, 31, and 32.

The first school held in the district was a German school in a private home. It was located one mile north and one-half mile east of the present school site.

The first public school was a makeshift building of logs, one-half mile south of the present site on what is known as the Vraney farm. The school terms were at first irregular because of the shortage of teachers who could speak English.

The second public school, located on the present site, was built sometime in the 1860's. It is reported that a single pine tree five feet in diameter was used to get the lumber to build this frame structure. It had clapboard siding, once painted red, but later remembered only as a weather-beaten old building. This structure was razed in 1881 and the lumber used to build a cheese factory on the northeast corner of the Frank Delsman farm. That building was destroyed by fire in 1902.

The third and present brick-venered building was built in 1881 at a cost of $885, and was then commonly known as the Neuser school. It is located on the S.E. corner of the SW1/4 of section 20. At first it contained a large cloak room on the eastern end with the rest of the building being used for a classroom. About 1923 the school was enlarged by building a new entry and tearing out the wall between the old entry and the classroom. At that time, too, the woodshed was moved and added to the west end of the school. Today the school is well-kept, has electric lights, a floor furnace, adequate library shelving, single chair-type desks, reading table and chairs, and other equipment found in modern schools. The building itself lacks many of the standards expected of modern schools.

According to the town clerks' reports to the county superintendent begun in 1870, the enrollment figures for this school show the usual trends common to rural districts. In 1870 the town clerk's report shows that 110 pupils were enrolled. Attendance figures for succeeding five year intervals were as follows: 1875—86; 1880—99; 1885—99; 1890—91; 1895—61; 1900—78; 1905—63. During the later 1900 the enrollment has averaged about forty. The present attendance is seventeen, although there are fifty-two pupils of school age residing in the district.

The names of the teachers prior to 1872 are unknown. Summer and winter terms were common up to 1873. Some of the teachers from 1872 to 1906 were Viroqua Sheldon, Edwin L. Clark, Josie Howarth, Louis Truettner, John A. Hussey, V. B. Sheldon, Celia Lawrence, B. L. Oakley, Celia and James Fitzmaurice, Carrie Edwards, Amanda Zander, Katie Egan, Alice Cary, J. McKeough, Ella Bartke, John Regan, J. L. Morrissey, Adelle Lawrence, Maggie Cary, Arthur Bleser, Peter Mittnacht, Hanna Lorrigan, E. C. (Dr.) Cary, Mayme Green, and Agnes Olson. The voters at the annual meeting in 1891 passed a resolution that only teachers with at least a third grade certificate, with three years of experience, and with the superintendent's recommendation be hired. It should be noted that this district has always tried to get the best teachers possible.

Some citizens serving as school clerks from 1872 to 1906 were John Bolan 1872, Mich. McKeough 1873, Jos. Eatough 1873-5, Wm. Eatough 1876-80, Mich. McKeough 1881, M. C. McCarthy 1884-98, Valentine Dirkman 1899-1904. The failure of the Manitowoc State Bank in the 1890's resulted in the calling of a special meeting in this district for the purpose of determining how Mich. McKeough, the school treasurer, should be reimbursed for losing about $300 of district money through that bank failure. It was agreed that the district would bear one-half of the loss, while Mr. McKeough and his bondsmen would have to bear the rest of the loss.

The first settlers having land in the original district were M. McKeough, John Decker, A. Fitzmaurice, P. and H. Vogl, R. Rostern, Wm. Smith, P. McShane, F. Massmann, A. Stafford, D. Sullivan, P. and N. Reif, T. Dalwig, L. Voelker, F. Brockhoff, F. Braun, Wm. Eatough, T. Dirkman, and B. Delsmann.

Graduates of the last forty years who have made names for themselves are: A. J. Antholz, a former county teacher, now superintendent of schools at Spooner, Wisconsin, and president of the Wisconsin Education Association in 1943; Erwin, Norman, and Erma Kubisch, Emma Hrdina, and Geo. McKeough, all of them county teachers;
Frank Vraney, a Manitowoc real estate man; Emil Kirt, assistant superintendent at the Oriental Mills; and others who have become successful in their field of endeavor.

The district has scenic and historical places of interest. About a mile south of the school, midway between Branch and Reif Mills, is a well-known spot for all old-timers—the old swimming hole at the old Rank Mills which once were grist and saw mills. All that remains of those mills now are some stone walls almost entirely overgrown with cedars. One of the mills was a three story frame building which was later torn down and the lumber used to build the barn now standing one-fourth mile south of the Branch school. Few men or boys living within a few miles of this spot in the early days avoided stubbing their toes on the stones in the river. Even today the spot is a favorite picnic place and attracts residents for miles around on warm summer evenings. The once prosperous village of Reif Mills is also in the district, but since it was fully described in the history of Franklin Jt. 6, no history of this hamlet is given in this history.

KOSSUTH 4—ROCKWOOD
Mrs. Margaret Gruber

In 1908, the Allwood and the Rockwell Lime Companies petitioned the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad Company to establish a depot in this village. As it was necessary to have a name for this depot, the officials of the railroad decided upon the name of Rockwood by taking a part of the name of each lime company. In 1918 then, it was only natural that the voters of Kossuth district number 4 should adopt the name of Rockwood School for their educational institution.

Kossuth Dist. No. 4 was organized in 1853 and then consisted of sections 22, 23, 26, 27, 34, and 35 in Kossuth, plus section 31 in T. 20 N., R. 24 E. Many changes have been made to the district boundaries since its organization. The legal proceedings for several of these changes are on file with the district records. Today, the district is one of the largest and richest in Kossuth and includes all or parts of section 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 33, 34, 35, and 36 in T. 20 N., R. 23 E., and section 31 in T. 20 N., and R. 23 E.

The first school board was charged with the task of purchasing a school site and having the school built. On January 23, 1854, the board purchased for the district one acre of land from Carl Gramlich. This site is located in the N.E. corner of the NW¼ of the NE¼ of section 35 which is not the central part of the present district. Additional parcels of land were purchased and added to the school site in 1868, 1907, 1923, and in 1939 so that today the schoolyard consists of about two acres.

Four different school buildings have served the district up to the present time. It is said that the first log schoolhouse was located off the present site in a ravine south of the present Ervin Anthold home. This school was said to have been opened soon after Wisconsin became a state. In 1854, the voters of the newly organized district voted for a new site and a new school. It was a one-room school made of cedar logs. In 1881, the voters decided to remodel according to a paragraph taken from the minutes taken at a special meeting held June 20, 1881.

This cedar log building served the district until 1898, when it was sold at public sale as shown by an account of the auction. The auction was held July 16, 1898, and Henry Rumpf was hired by the district for 25 cents to keep bidding up the price of the schoolhouse. Henry Oestreich finally bid $16.50, but Rumpf bid $17 so the building was not sold at this time. The sum of $10 was realized, though, for blackboards, school bell, stoneboat, stove and pipes, and some other “trash.” Later on the building was sold at private sale to Charles Tills who used it in building a home. This home is now occupied by the Wm. Kappelman family in the Meadow Brook district.
At the annual school meeting on July 5, 1897, the voters decided to build a new structure. It was to be of brick, 28 x 52 x 14 feet high costing $1,100, and patterned after the school buildings of that day. The building had windows in the long and in the entrance sides. The schoolhouse had an entrance, a cloakroom, and a large classroom which was heated by a large heater. Real slate blackboards, 4 feet wide, were provided. By 1912, the enrollment became so great that the state required the addition of another teacher. The long schoolroom was then partitioned into two rooms and a new entrance was made on one of the long sides so that it would serve the new room. (See the 17th County Annual for a picture of this school). In 1924, this building was abandoned and sold to Peter Massman who dismantled it and used the brick in building his present home.

At a special school meeting held March 7, 1923, the voters discussed the advisability of building a larger and more modern school to meet the rapid increase in enrollment. At another special meeting held March 28, 1923, the vote to build was favorable. The new two story building is constructed of red brick, has north and south entrances leading to halls which divide the lower and upper floors into two classrooms each. The basement houses a playroom, the lavatories, and a modern heating-ventilating plant which is now equipped with a stoker. The equipment is modern and meets graded school standards. The building was completed and dedicated in September 1924. Today the school plant is valued at about $40,000. School records show that the school bell was once a train bell and was given to the school by the railroad company on the condition that it would never be sold. This bell has been the school property since 1898.

Kossuth Dist. No. 4 was a one-room school until February 7, 1912 when it became a two-room graded school. Walter Reich was the first principal and Blanche Jana the first primary teacher. Darwin Schuette and Edwin Ewen were members of the first graded school class. At an annual meeting on July 16, 1923, the voters decided to add a 9th grade and hire a third teacher, making this a 1st class state graded school. In 1924, the 10th grade was added and a fourth teacher added. The members of the first 10th grade graduating class were Elva Grams, Viola Herman, Orval Hessel, Grace Kortens, Margaret Mohr, Katherine Mulholland, Mae Rohrbach, Jos. Schles, Martha Seidl, Mabel Specht, and Gilbert Steinbrecker.

County and district records do not give attendance records prior to 1870. District records of attendance are complete from 1871 up to the present. By 1871, there were 73 pupils in attendance. District records show, too, that the two term school year was in vogue as late as 1879. The largest enrollment occurred in 1898 when 102 pupils were taught by Chas. Meisnest. In 1912 when Rockwood set up a graded school there were 87 pupils enrolled. In 1928, there was a total of 132 pupils enrolled. By 1948, the enrollment had decreased to about 70, including the ninth and tenth grades, so for the school year of 1946-1947 only three teachers were employed — two for the grades and one for the high school. There are still about 150 pupils of school age in the district but the parochial school at Francis Creek has affected this school's enrollment. The decline of the lime industry has also affected the enrollment tremendously in the last decade. Upon recommendation of the State Department of Public Instruction, a special school meeting was held Monday evening, March 22, 1948, to vote on the discontinuance of the 9th and 10th grades. The voters assembled to discontinue offering high school courses after the 1947-1948 term by a vote of 29 to 5.

Present day residents are descendants of these early settlers as shown by district and county records. Names common now and in pioneer times are the family names of Ewen, Mohr, Bolle, Bleser, Krumdick, Hardrath, Delsman, Meyer, Schuette, Tills, Massman, Alsweide, and others. Mathias Ewen, a pupil of the first school, was an active leader in later school affairs. He was followed by his son John, his grandson William, and now his great grandson William, Jr. on the schoolboards. Peter Massman, the present director, has served continuously for 45 years. Other board members before 1906 were clerk Thos. Mohr 1874-93, treasurer Nick Meyer 1872-82, and clerks J. C. McCarthy and M. Senn 1872-74. Henry, Ed. and Richard Alswege were members of the board too. The district school has had many of its graduates enter the professions, business, industry, while many have become prominent farmers in this and other communities.

Mrs. Mary A. Fearney Madden of Providence, R. I. was the first teacher. She taught the three “R’s”. The girls were taught knitting and patching and did not study arithmetic. For her salary she received donations of money and food. Nicholas Meyer was the first teacher in the cedar log school. Under the terms of his contract he had to teach German and English, one half day each. A few others who taught this school up to 1906 were Nick Watry 1871, Wm. Ross 1872, Louis H. Truetnner 1873, Selma

Rockwood district is proud of the record of its school alumni in World War II, for 110 of its former pupils served in the armed forces. The first casualty in this war was Ensign Robert Tills who lost his life at Pearl Harbor. Two army nurses, Lieut. Olga Brazzalle and Lieut. Edith Suchomel, were graduates of Rockwood.

The Rockwood school has served as the community center for community activities. The Rockwood Community Club was well-known in this section of the county for its plays, debates, etc. It disbanded during World War II, but reorganization plans are being made. Boy Scout Troop 13 holds its weekly meeting in the recreation room. The yearly school picnic is an enjoyable affair. Every family in the district is invited and attends.

Some interesting district resolutions were found in the records. In 1871, it was resolved "that the schoolhouse be closed on Sundays and all religious meetings be prohibited being held in the schoolhouse hereafter". Evidently the building was used for church purposes up to that time. In 1872, it was resolved that a teacher be employed capable of teaching English and German — two days of German and three days of English weekly. In 1883, it was resolved to teach German all the time that "the law allows". A note written to the teacher by a parent regarding some boys who were looking in through the saloon windows, about a half century ago, is also on file with other records. The teacher wrote "To be kept for future use" on the note.

The pages of school history which could be written from the records kept by the district officers would show that Kossuth district No. 4 residents have always been keenly interested in their school. There is no doubt that the educational needs of the future generation will always be of the highest standards for this district.

KOSUTH 5—MEADOW BROOK

Evelyn W. Kliment

Kossuth school district No. 5 was given the name of Meadow Brook district because of the small brook which meanders through the district north of the school. It was formerly called the Spencer school because the first school was built on the Henry Spencer farm. Today it is commonly called the Kappelman school because it is located near the Wm. Kappelman home.

Kossuth No. 5 was organized in the early 1850's. The original district was a large one before Gibson Jt. 7, organized in 1914, detached much land to the north. Other pieces of property have been added to Kossuth 4, Mishicot Jt. 4, and Two Rivers 4 from time to time. Because sections 18, 19, and 31 in Range 24 east, township 20 north are separated from the rest of the sections in that township by the West Twin river, and because the town east of that river objected to building bridges for the convenience and safety of the children west of the river in those sections, the township of Two Rivers in the early 1850's, relinquished its claim to sections 18, 19, 30, and 31 in R. 23 E., T. 20 N. Those sections were then attached to Kossuth and the children attended Kossuth 4 and 5. Sections 18, 19, and 30 became a part of the present Meadow Brook district.

The first settlers brought with them the family Bible, medical books, and European textbooks. Among these settlers there was young George Powel of London, England. George, who was more educated than the rest, held school during the winters in a combined church and school made of logs and located at the S.E. corner of section 13 which is now the junction of county trunk Q and the highway to Francis Creek. This building was purchased by Wm. Spencer and used as a shed on what is now the Jos. Staudinger farm, the old Wm. Spencer homestead.
The first public school was erected about 1853 and was the fifth schoolhouse for Kossuth. It was built of logs and was located a few rods south across the road at what is now the road leading to the Louis Cootway farm. That farm now owned by Wm. Kappelman was the homestead of Henry Spencer. This building was soon abandoned, for in the early 1860's, the district purchased one-half acre from John Spencer for $50. The site was the present one.

The second school building was used until 1885 when it was sold to Peter Kornely who moved it to the present site of the Kornely Dairy. There it was remodeled into a cheese factory, now known as the Meadow Brook Cheese Factory. That school had meager equipment consisting of two wall maps, a globe, and two blackboards. The teacher's desk stood on a platform two feet high. Classes were held at the front of the room with the pupils sitting on a long bench, the girls on one side and the boys on the other side of the room. A cast iron box stove stood in the center of the room and toasted those who sat near it, but gave little or no heat to those near the walls. Fuel was furnished by the lowest bidder. Each year the interior of the school was whitewashed. In 1876, the voters decided to add more windows, plaster the room, and fix the desks and seats. A new well was dug and lined with brick. Yearly purchases of a pail, a dipper, and tin cups are recorded in the treasurer's book dating back to 1870. The clerk's record books for the early years of this school were destroyed when the home of one of the clerks was destroyed by fire.

At the annual meeting July 7, 1884, the voters decided to build a new school. An additional half-acre of land was purchased from Henry Spencer. No contract was let as all district residents agreed to help build and to haul supplies. The schoolboard acted as the building committee. They hired Thomas Cross, a carpenter, to direct them. The completed building, the one now in use except for the porch and bell tower, cost $791. The bell tower and attached woodshed were added in 1903 at a total cost of $50. The open porch facing the south gives access to two entrance doors leading into two separate cloakrooms. A door from each leads into a large classroom about 32 x 40 feet with four windows on each long side. The cloakrooms are lit by a window facing the front of the building.

Until 1946, a large floor furnace in the northwest corner of the classroom was used as the heating and ventilation system. A door in the rear wall lead into a combination fuel and storage shed until 1946. The classroom now has modern single desks, library shelves, blackboards, steel filing case, piano, radio, bulletin boards, and recitation and work tables. Beginning with the fall of 1946, the district has undertaken a modernization program by remodeling the old woodshed into a combination kitchen and furnace room. A large automatic oil-burning furnace heats and ventilates the class and cloakrooms through a system of pipes. The kitchen is equipped with a Skelgas stove, sink, and cupboards. Many more improvements are being planned in order that a modern rural school will result.

The district records have many interesting entries. The children at first were not provided with free texts, but had to buy them from the school officers who purchased them direct from book companies. A first reader cost 18 cents while a second reader was valued at 25 cents. The school supplies were ordered by the officers and not by the teachers. In 1898, pictures of Washington and Lincoln and three additional blackboards were purchased. Report cards were first recorded for 1912.

Frank Jindra of Mishicot Jt. 4 was paid a sum of money at one time for teaching three children residing in this district but attending the Mishicot Jt. 4 school. In 1924, a row boat was ordered for the children of this district who lived east of the West Twin river so that they could attend the Meadow Brook school. In this way the district was able to avoid paying tuition to the Shoto district.

The town clerks' reports to the superintendents from 1870 to 1911 show that this was one of the medium-sized schools of Manitowoc county. The highest enrollment occurred about 1880 when about 70 children attended out of a school census of 121. The nearness of the parochial school at Francis Creek affects the attendance. The present enrollment averages around 30 yearly out of 70 school age children.

Some of the early settlers were the Cross, Fulton, Croft, Birringer, Staudt, Stadler, Kornely, Spencer, Worthington, Grobe, Powel, Koch, Cootway, Blieser, Zander, Krueger, Kettenhoffen, Jost, Whittaker, and King families. Clemens Worthington was a dyemaker and minister; John and Wm. Spencer were often called on to minister to the sick; Jos. Krueger was a blacksmith; George King operated a grist mill at the north end of the bridge at Kings Bridge, a hamlet named in his honor; Wm. Zander operated a store and tavern and post office at the south end of the bridge. These buildings have been razed by fire. Tuft Cootway brought the mail once per
week from Manitowoc. The descendants of these early settlers have became prominent in this and other localities. Arthur Bleser, the present town chairman, is a resident of this district.

Peter Kries, George Powel and Thos. Croft were members of an early school board. Other district residents on the Board before 1906 were Thos. Worthington, John Entringer, Mathias Koch, Henry Spencer, Henry Grobe, William Spencer, Wm. Bolzenthal, Peter Kornely, Peter Bleser, and Chas. Tills. The school board members attended their first school board convention in 1905.

There is no indication that the school term was ever divided into two sessions. The list of teachers for this school is incomplete but those names on record seem to indicate a preference for male teachers. The following are on record as having taught Kossuth No. 5: F. Lonsdorf 1872, Nancy Darling 1873, Chas. Tift 1874-6, T. W. Byrnes 1877, C. F. Canright 1878-9, Mary Short 1885, Rosa Miller 1894, John Shambeau 1895-7, Hugh Westgate 1898, Wm. Spencer 1903, and Christ Wuellner 1904-05. The wages of teachers have gone from about $20 per month in the 1870's up to nearly $250 by 1918.

Will Spencer in 1903-04 conducted the first spelling contest for schools in this area. The contest was won by a pupil from Kossuth No. 5. At a county contest held at Manitowoc in the old Turner Hall a few years later, Wm. Tills of this school was acclaimed champion speller of Manitowoc county. School fairs and debating societies were common activities the first 30 years of the 1900's. School societies were organized yearly from 1909 to 1927 according to a society record book. The Meadow Brook Community Club was an active organization in the 1920's. Today the Kossuth Hustlers, a 4-H club, use the school as a meeting place. All of these organization and clubs have made the Meadow Brook school a real community center for community-minded residents.