CIVIL WAR ERA

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Town of Halfmoon

Apportionments of School Fund 1855

Report of John C Mott late
Superintendent of Common Schools

To the Hon Board of town
Auditors of the Town of Halfmoon

The Undersigned late
town Superintendent of Common Schools
of said town would Respectfully report
that the Whole amount of Money received
by him since his last report is, from
the County Treasurer $975,77

the Same was apportioned
among the Districts and parts of Districts
required by the State Superintendent
the amount paid to Districts upon
paper orders 789,08
To my successor of Capron 186,69
$975,77

All of Which is respectfully submitted

Signed John C Mott
late Supt Com Schools

Received the above
March 3rd 1855

Silas Knight
Town Clerk

Report of John O Mott late
Superintendent of Common Schools

To the Hon Board of town
auditors of the Town of Halfmoon
The Undersigned late
town superintendent of Common Schools
of said town would Respectfully report
that the whole amount of Money received
by him since his last report is, from
the County Treasurer $975,77
the same was apportioned
among the Districts and parts of Districts
required by the State Superintendent
the amount paid to Districts upon
paper orders 789,08
To my successor J Cassidy 186,69
$975,77

All of which is respectfully submitted

Signed John O Mott
Late supt Com Schools

Recorded the above
March 3rd 1855

Selus Knight
Town Clerk

Alteration in School Dist No 9

At a meeting held at the village of Crescent in the town of Halfmoon on the fifth day of April 1855 It was ~~resol~~ ~~lad~~ the town Superintendant

Resolved That a new School Dirtrist be formed to Consist of the South portion of Dirtrest No nine which said new Dirtrist shall be numbered 17 and shall be bounded as follows Commenseing at the Mohawk river begining at the wertern boundary of Dirtrist No 1 and running Northerly along said boundary and the East line of land heretofore occupied by James Nixon to the Northern corporate bounds of the Village of Crescent, Thence wert along the northern bounds of said Village to the wert line thereof, Thence Southerly along this wert boundary of said Villay to the Creek or Cluter Paint mill, Thence along down said Creek to the Mohawk river, Thence down said river to the place of begining

The formation of the appar said Dirtrist involving an alteration of Dirtrist No 9 nine the consent of the trustees of the said Dirtrist to such alteration has been presented to the Superintendent and filed with the the town Clerk

This order will take effect on the first day of May next

John Corsedy Tow Supt
Comm Schools

~~We hereby con~~

We hereby Consent to the alteration made in Dirtrist No 9 in the town of Halfmoon by the order of the above is copy Dated at Halfmoon April 1855

Frederick Tingler } Trustees
Luther Benedict } Dist

Seler Knight
Town Clerk

Recorded the above April 5, 1855

Apportionment of School fund for the different Districts in the town of Halfmoon 1855

Whole Districts and School Houses in this Town

No of Districts	No of Schools	Teachers money		Library Money	
No 1	1 1 6	$ 8 6	16	4	41
" 2	8 2	7 3	40	3	41
" 4	4 1	5 1	58	1	71
" 5	1 1 1	8 8	29	4	58
" 6	3 4	4 7	86	1	41
" 7	3 2	4 6	80	1	33
" 9	1 9 3	1 3 2	45	8	03
" 14	5 8	6 0	63	2	42
" 15	1 8 1	1 2 6	07	7	53
16	1 8 1	1 2 5	53	7	49

Part or Joint Districts

No 4	4	3 4	1 9	68	1 54
" 5	5	8	4	26	33
" 11	11	12	6	38	50
" 12	12	7 4	39	38	3 07
" 13	13	2 0	10	64	83
" 8 & 18	18	22	11	70	92
		1191	$ 930	81	$ 49 51

March 29th 1855 John Caughey
Town Superintendent
of Common Schools
Halfmoon

Recorded the above March 30th 1855

Silas Knight
Town Clerk

Alteration in School Districts No 9 & 15

To the Hon Selas Knight Town Clerk of Halfmoon,

Dr Sir we the trustees of School Dists No 15 & 9 apply to your Honorable body, that you will record a division line between the several Districts Begining at the Mohawk river and at the Steeny Kill and running westerly as the Kill now runs to the Paint mill including all the property south of said Kill then running then running westerly to Dist No 5 called the Wm House dist then along said dist taking the lands lately owned by Abram Sheffer & Cornelius Vandekar Isaac H Benedict widow Catherine Tucker Myres Stivers John White and Johnathon M Newton to the river thence down the river to the place of begining

To the trustees of School Dist No 9, we the of School Dist number 15 of the town of Halfmoon not knowing the presere line between the two Dists in Crescent Village, we therefore prepare to you that if you are willing to have a direct line between the two Dists and have it recorded in the town Clerks Office Starting at the Mohawk river and what is called the Steeny Kill and running westerly as the Kill now runs to Dist No 5 called the Wm House Dist Dated Feb 15th 1855

Jeremiah Slenbergh
J. H. Benedict
Matthias Speer
Trustees of Dist No 15

To the Supt of Common Schools of the Town of Halfmoon

We the trustees of School Dist No 9 of Halfmoon are Willing that the bine above Stated may be the Division line between the Dists, so you will please make the alteration and oblige

Luther Benedict
Hiram Marker
Frederick Taylor
Trustees of Dist No 9

Recorded the above March 18, 1855

Selas Knight Town Clerk

Report of John Cassidy Supt Com Schoo

Town of Halfmoon Dr to
John Cassidy Town Supt

Dec 14th 1854 To cash paid teacher in

Dec	14	Part dist No —	12	41	49
"	16	to cash to teacher in No	4	29	24
"	20	" " teacher & trustees "	5 (Part)	5	71
"	"	" " teacher No —	2	18	35
"	26	" " trustees No —	7 (Part)	1	51
"	29	" " teacher No	14	3	15
"	"	" " " "	11 (Part)	6	15
"	"	" " " "	13 (Part)	11	16
Jany	1st 1855	" " " "	9	60	57
"	10	" " " "	5	4	85
"	"	" " trustees	11 (Part)		45
"	23	" " teacher "	15	5	61
				$186	24

Dec 13th 1854

Town of Halfmoon Cr

By cash received of J. O Mott
Late Supt — $186,69 ~~186~~
$186,24

Ballance on hand Feb 27th 1855 11 45

Audited and allowed this
27 day of February 1855

Benjamin Wright Supervisor
Signed Abram Sickler Justice
Selar Knight Town Clerk

Recorded the above Feb 28th 1855

Selar, Knight Town Clerk

At a Meeting held for the purpose of forming a new School district in the town of Halfmoon at the Law office of John C Watt in said town on the fifteenth day of October one thousand Eight hundred and fifty three

Present John C Watt Town Superintendant of Common Schools

Resolved that a new School district be formed to consist of a part of district Number nine which said district shall be numbered nineteen and shall be bounded as follows commencing at the North East angle of the abutment of the Lower Aqueduct and running from thence North eighty one and a quarter degrees East two chains and Eighty two links down the river, thence North Seventy five and a quarter degrees East five chains down the river, thence South Eighty five and three quarter degrees East three Chains and thirty three links down the river, thence South seventy five degrees East Six chains and Eighty one links down the river, thence South thirty degrees East fifty seven links down the river, thence South Sixty two and one quarter degrees East two chains and twenty links down the river, thence North forty Eight and a quarter degrees East fifty two links down the river, thence South Eighty Eight and a half degrees East three Chains and ninty three links down the river, thence North six and a half degrees West seventy chains to the line between Sickler and Benedict thence North Eighty five degrees West twenty Eight Chains to the Plank Road thence North Eighty Eight and a half degrees West thirteen Chains and fifty

links to Mr Castlendins line, thence South thirty six and a half degrees west until it Strikes the centre of the Highway leading from Crescent to Fishers Ferry thence along the Centre of said Highway Easterly untill it intersects the Easterly line of district Number fifteen and from thence Southerly along the line of said district fifteen to the Mohawk river, thence Easterly along the north bank of said river as the same winds and turns to the place of beginning

The formation of the aforesaid district involving an alteration of district number nine and the consent of the Trustees of said said district to such alteration has been obtained and is hereto annexed and filed herewith herewith in the Office of the Clerk of the town of Halfmoon

Signed L. C. Mott
Town Superintendant of common Schools of the town of Halfmoon

We do hereby Consent to the alteration made in District Number nine in the town of Halfmoon by the order of which the foregoing is the Original

Dated October 15th 1853

Signed Frederick Taylor
Hiram Masher
Luther Benedict
Trustees of District number nine

Recorded the above October 17th 1853

Silas Knight
Town Clerk

Formation of New School Dist

At a meeting of Superintendents of Common Schools, Supervisors and town Clerks of the Towns of Halfmoon & Wetterford held at the House of Isaac H Hawley in the town of Halfmoon in the Twenty first day of April 1855 It Was

Resolved that a new School District be formed to consist of the north part of Joint District No 1 and the northwest part of Joint Dist No 8 & 18 and East part of District No 9 and the South part of District No 2 in said towns of Halfmoon & Wetterford, which said new District shall be numbered 3 and shall be bounded as follows, Commencing at the north East corner of John Gleasons form running westerly along the same, thence along the north line of Nelson Overackers form to the North East Corner of Hiram Smiths form, thence northerly along the line of the form occupied by Robt. P. Smith to the North East corner of the Travis Wood lot, thence westerly along the north line of the form known as the James Smith form, and continue to the North and South road, thence southerly along the south road to the South East Corner of the form owned by Henry C. Myres, thence westerly along the south line of said Myres form, thence continue westerly along the north line of Wm Philos form to the North west corner of said Philos form, thence southerly along the west line of the said Philos form and the land owned by Abram Sickler to the south west corner of the Sickler form to the North west corner of Anguish Cambells form thence southerly along the west line of the Cambells form to the

South West corner of the same, thence Easterly along the South line of said farm to the North and South road, thence southerly along said road to the south line of the said Cambels farm, thence easterly along said line to the South East corner of said Cambells farm, thence Easterly along South lines of the farms owned by Nicholas E Philo John Vanvechten Alexander Button and the farm occupied by Martin H, Haynes also continue the same course along the South line to the Corner of the John Gleason farm thence Northerly along the East line of Gleason farm to the place of biginning

The formation of the aforesaid district involving an alteration of Districts No 2 and No 9 and Joint District No 8 & 18 and the consent of the trustees of Districts No 2 and Joint Dist No 1 to such alteration not having been given it is ordered that a notice in writing of the same alteration signed by the Officers above mentioned, be served upon one of the trustees of said Dist No 2 and Joint District No 1

This order will take effect on the first day of August Next

Signed John Cassidy Town Supt Com Schoo Halfmoon

Philip J. Haart 2nd Town Supt Com Schoo Waterford

Shubael Tegler Supervisor Halfmoon

Joshua Merge Supervisor Waterford

Selon Knight Town Clerk Halfmoon

Chas E Pickett Town Clerk Waterford

Recorded the ~~[illegible]~~ April 21st 1855

Selon Knight Town Clerk

Copy of notices to Trustees Dist No 2 and 1

To the trustees of district No 2 of the town of Halfmoon

You will plear take notice that an order was made this day by the town Superintendants of common Schools Supervisors and town Clerks of the towns of Halfmoon and Watterford of which the following is a copy by which certain alterations in the said district are made as will appear by the said order and that such alteration will take effect on the first day of August next
Halfmoon April 21st 1855

Signed John Cassidy Town Supt Com Schools for the Town of Halfmoon

April 28 1855 I do hereby acknowledge the cervere of the above notice, Signed Alvers Nessel

To the trustees of Joint district No 1 of the Halfmoon

You will plear take notice that an order was made this day by the town Superintendents of Common Schools Supervisors and Town Clerks of the towns Halfmoon and Watterford of which the following is a copy by which certain alterations in the said district are made as will appear by the said order and that such alteration will take effect on the first day of August next
Halfmoon April 21st 1855

Signed John Cassidy Town Supt Com Schools of Halfmoon

April 25 1855 I do hereby acknowledge the cervere of the within notice, Signed Benjamin Ide

Recorded the above April 28 1851 Seler Knight
Town Clerk

Decision of Superintendent of publick instruction in case of an appeal

In the matter of the appeal of Robert P. Smith and others inhabitants of School District no 2 in the town of Holfmoon and of John Van Vechten and others inhabitants of District no 6 in said town against an order of the Superintendents Superveroes and Clerks of the towns of Holfmoon and Watterford erecting a new School District

Rice Supt

In this case districts situated in both towns being affected by the proposed order a single trustee of district no 2 in Holfmoon and of join district no 8 and 18 in Holfmoon and Watterford applied to the Superveroes and Town Clerks of the two towns to be associated with the Superintendents in their deliberations, The order ~~as~~ was made by this Board thus assembled and the answer sustaining and defending it is signed by every member

The appellants insist that the Board was entirely destitute of jurisdiction. The statutes authorize the association of the town Clerk and Superveros with the Superintendent, only upon application of the trustees of any district to be affected by the proposed action,

If a majority of the trustees of any one district make the application it cannot be doubted that jurisdiction is given as to all, in this case however a majority of the trustees of no district made the application, and the superveroes and town Clerks composing a majority of the Board, had no authority whatever in the premises, considerable research has failed to discover any adjuged case in which the precise point here presented has been determined

up

It is however believed to be impossible in accordance with general principals, to sustain an order made by a tribunal which, in its constitution as whole, has no jurisdiction, although including persons, as in the case of the two Town Superintendents, who acting alone by themselves would have possessed requesite authority; and although these persons all concur in the order, and nothing appears showing that their judgement was in any degree controlled or their deliberations affected by the presence of third parties

The difficulty is, that it must always be practically impossible to ascertain whether the decision is in fact the unbiased judgement of those to whome the duty of making it has been committed by the law, It may be said that a judicial officer is not only blameless, but praiseworthy for seeking to enlighten his own mind by the suggestions of disinterested and intelligent advisers, There is a manifest difference however between his voluntary application which is consistent with that judicial independance which it is so important to preserve, and being subjected to the influence of persons claiming to deliberate with him as a matter of right, It is moreover an element in the policy of the law that all persons required to exercise judgment for the public good, shall be held to an undivided responsibility and not be permitted to diminish by distributing a part of the burden among others

It is with some reluctance that this doctrin is applied to the present case, The evidence tends to the conclusion that the erection of a new district was necessary, and that its boundaries were established judiciously and are liable to as little objections as any other that could be devised, If the order had been made by the Town

over

Superintendents alone it would probably have been sustained upon the evidence now before the department

The fact that the Supervisors and Town Clerk concur is additional and weighty testimony to its justice and efficiency, It is very possible however that the appellants would have presented evidence which might modify this conclusion if they had not relied, as they had a right, upon the fatal want of jurisdiction

Under the circumstances the trustees of the districts affected are recommended to consent to the making by the Two Superintendents of an order similar to the one already made, to the end that it may take effect immediately, and that a school may be established at once with the delay and embarrassment to result from a fresh appeal, This suggestion however is merely advisory

The appeal is sustained

The town Clerks of Halfmoon and Waterford are directed to record this decision

Given under my hand and seal of the Department of Public instruction at the city of Albany this fourteenth day of July 1915

L S

Signed A. M. Rice
Supt of Public Instruction

Recorded the above decision Sept 19, 1915

Silas Knight
Town Clerk

Formation of New School District No 3

At a meeting of the Superintendents of the towns of Halfmoon and Waterford held at the house occupied for school purposes in the proposed new district in the town of Halfmoon on the 16th day of October 1895

It was resolved a new School District be formed to consist of the north part of Joint District No 1 and the North West part of Joint District No 8 and 18 and East part of district No 9 and the South East of District No 2 in said towns of Halfmoon and Waterford which new District shall be numbered 3 and shall be bounded as follows

Commencing at the north East corner of John Gleason Farm running westerly along the same thence along the north line of Nelson Overaker Farm to the north East corner of Hiram Smiths Farm, thence northerly along the line of the Farm occupied by Fred P Smith to the North East corner of the Travers woodlot, thence westerly along the north line of said Travers lot, thence westerly along the north line of the Farm known as the James Smith Farm and continue to the north and south road, thence southerly along the south road to the south corner of the Farm owned by Henry C Myers, thence westerly along the south line of the said Myers Farm, thence continue westerly along the north line of Wm Philo Farm, ~~and the~~ thence Southerly along the west line of the said Philo Farm and the land owned by Abram Sickler to the South West corner of the Sickler Farm, thence East along the South line of the said Sickler Farm to the North West corner of the Angus Cambell Farm, ~~thence~~ thence Southerly along the west line of the Cambell

over

Farm, ~~thence~~ to the south west corner of the same thence Easterly along the south line of said farm to the North & South road, thence southerly along the said road to the south line of the said Cambell farm, thence Easterly along said South line to the South East corner of said Cambell thence Easterly along the south lines of the farms owned by Nicholas E Philo John Van Vechten and Alexander Button and the Farm occupied by Martin H Haynar also continue the same course along the South line to the South east corner of John Gleasons farm thence northerly along the East line of the Gleason farm to the place of begining

The formation of the afore said Dirtrist involving an alteration in dirtrist No 2 and Joint Dirtrist No 1 and 8 & 18 and the consent of the trustees of dirtrist No 2 and Joint Dirtrist No to such alteration not having been given it is ordered that a notice in writing of said alteration signed by the Officers above mentioned be served upon one of the trustees of said Dirtrist No 2 and Joint Dirtrist No 1.

This order will take effect on the first day of May eighteen hundred and fifty Six

Signed John Cassidy
Town Supt of Com Schools
for the town of Halfmoon

Philip T Heart
Town Supt of Com Schools
for the town of Wellerford

Recorded the above Nov 4th 1855
Seler Knight
Town Clerk

Notice Served on trustees of Dist No 2

The trustees of District No 2 in the town of Halfmoon will take notice that an order was made this day by the town Superintendents of Common Schools of the towns of Halfmoon & Watterford of which the following is a Copy by which certain alterations in the said district are made as will appear by the said order and that such alterations will take effect on the first day of May next

Dated at Halfmoon this 16 day of October 1855

Signed John Cassidy
Town Supt of Com Schools of the town of Halfmoon

Philip T Hearst
Town Supt of Com Schools of the town of Watterford

Recorded the above Nov 4th 1855

Selas Knight
Town Clerk

Nov 8, 1855 Report of Town Supt of Com Schools

Due District	No 2	2,91
,	, 9	45,64
,	, 16	6 96
,	, 14	5,30
amount due Districts		$60,81
the whole amt received		$991,32
amt due		$ 60,81
amt Paid out		$919,51

Signed John Cassidy
Town Supt Com Schools

Received the above Nov 10th 1855

Silas Knight
Town Clerk

Formation of New School Dist

At a meeting of the town Superintendants of the towns of Clifton Park and Half moon held on the 22 of February 1856 at the house of John W Van Vranken in the town of Clifton Park

Resolved

That a new school dirtrict be formed to consist of the East part of District No 3 and West part of Joint District No 4 which said District shall be numbered Sixteen and shall be bounded as follows; Begining at the Mowhawk river and runing north along the west line of lands of Christopher C ~~Westfal~~ Hegeman to the highway, thence north along the west line of the Parsonag lot to the north line of said lot, Thence East along the north line of the lands now owned and occupied by Andrus Van Vranken Horman van Vranken, John McDermot Lawrence Fellows Adam Van Vranken John Clute, Thence South along the East line of the land of the said John Clute to the Mohawk river Thence West along the said river to the place of begining

The formation of the aforesaid dirtrict involving an alteration of dirtrict No 3 and 4 and the consent of the trustees of District No 4 to such alteration not having been given it is ordered that a notice in writing of the said alteration signed by the Town Superintendants be served on one of the trustees of the said District.

This order will take effect on the 23rd day of May next

Signed { M L Finck
John Cassidy } Town Superintendants of Com Schools of the town of Clifton Park & Half moon

Recorded the above Feb 23rd 1856
Selas Knight
Town Clerk

Town of Halfmoon in Apt With

John Cassidy T. supt of Com Schools

From					
April 5	to Sept 29, 1855	to paying order	Dist no 1		90,57
March 29	" Dec 11, 1855	"	"	2	76,81
" 26	" Oct 22d, 1855	"	"	4	53,29
" 22d	Oct 25, 1855	"	"	5	92,87
May 21st	June 23, 1855	"	"	6	49,27
March 17th	Nov 8, 1855	"	"	7 (Joint)	48,13
" 27 1855	Feb 21, 1856	"	"	9	140,48
Feb 15	Dec 22d, 1855	"			63,05
March 27	Nov 2d, 1855	"	"	15	133,80
Feb 16	Nov 27, 1855	"	"	16	133,02
March 27	Oct 5 1855	"	"	4 (Joint)	21,22
Nov 6	1855	"	"	5 Joint	4,59
April 28	August 30, 1855	"	"	11½ (Joint)	6,88
April 19	Nov 8, 1855	"	"	12 (Joint)	42,45
April 3	April 19 1855	"	"	13 Joint	11,47
Sept 13	" 29 1855			8 & 18 (Joint)	12,62
					980,52

To pay ballance of 1854 Dist 13 — 45

980,97

Cr By cash of County Treasurer 1855 — 980,32

000,65

By ballance due to Dist No 13 in 1855 — 45

Over Paid — ,20

Recorded Feb, 27th 1856

Seler Knight
Tom Clerk

Amount of School fund belonging to the to the town of Halfmoon for the year 1856 used apportioned as follows

Sch. of Dist.		No. of Dollars	Teachers $	cts	Library $	cts
Joint	1	106	99	93	5	46
	2	73	75	19	3	76
	4	50	56	45	2	06
	5	90	89	39	4	63
	6	29	49	22	1	50
Joint	7	33	51	84	1	70
	9	75	79	50	3	86
	14	58	68	32	3	00
	15	170	142	08	8	75
	16	169	141	42	8	70
Joint with Clifton Park						
	4	36	23	71	1	85
	5	7	4	61		36
	11	13	8	55		67
	12	73	48	09	3	76
Joint	13	32	21	17	1	64
8 &	18	16	10	54	"	83
Waterford		1020	$ 992	91	$ 52	54
			52	54	Library no	
			$ 1025	45	in all	

John Cassedy Town Supt of Common Schools Halfmoon

Recorded the above this 8th day of April 1856 Warren Rulison Town Clerk

At the first Meeting of the legal voters of School District No 3 of the town of Hartmoon held May 1st 1856 the following persons were Chosen officers

Trustees { Wm Philo 1 year
Hiram Smith 2 " "
John Olmsen 3 " "

Clerk Lucius M Smith
Librarian Emons Champion

Lucius M Smith Clerk

Received the above May 10th 1856
Warren Hutson
Town Clerk

1855