

SALEM  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

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ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING JUNE 16, 1876,

AND

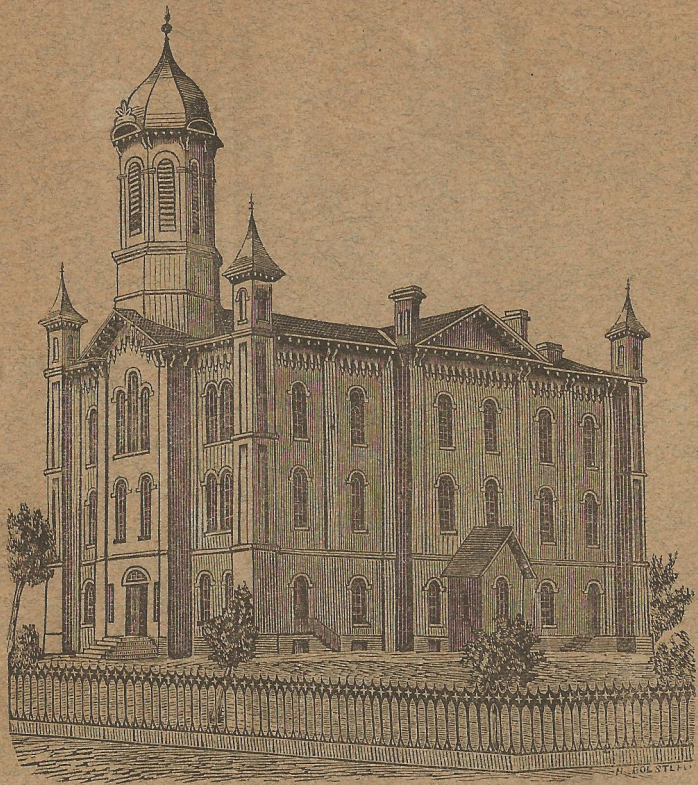
CALENDAR

FOR THE

SCHOOL YEAR 1876-7.

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SALEM, OHIO:  
REPUBLICAN BOOK AND JOB PRINTING OFFICE.  
1876.



FOURTH STREET SCHOOL BUILDING.

HISTORY  
OF THE  
EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS

OF  
SALEM, OHIO.

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HISTORY OF THE SALEM SCHOOLS PRIOR TO THE ORGANIZATION OF THE GRADED SYSTEM.

It is not certainly known who kept the first school in the borough. Joseph Shreve, who was for many years engaged in a school under the direction of the Society of Friends (Quakers), wrote and published two poems on the conclusion of his teaching, and gave with them a list of the names of Salem teachers. In one stanza he thus alludes to himself, and one of the early teachers:

“Nor to myself let me too much engross,—  
The pious FISHER nursed thy early days;  
She long bestowed attention strict and close,  
Beneath whose efforts Science spread her rays.”

This was Hannah Fisher. Judith Townsend was the first named on the list. A man named James Craig is said to have kept school in the vicinity about that time. These were undoubtedly the first teachers in the place.

The names of Nathan Ball, Moses Stanley, Caleb Hunt, and Ann Warrington, are given as teachers succeeding those above named. They kept such schools as could be made up for one quarter at a time, at a certain rate per pupil. The first schools were kept in rooms fitted for the purpose. The old meeting-house (the first built in the town), that stood back of the site of the Town Hall, was for a while used as a schoolroom. The first house, exclusively for school purposes, was a hewed log structure, and was built where the REPUBLICAN office now stands. This was done about the year 1810 or 1811. In the fall of 1809 Joseph Shreve came to Salem (his first arrival), and he was engaged to keep a school during the following winter. In the spring he returned to Pennsylvania. After him came two lady teachers.

“Then TOLERTON, with stern commanding brow;  
Bade Mathematics lift her piercing eye;  
Bade freakish youth to rigid order bow,  
And rising powers neglected grammar try.”

It was in the fall of 1811 that James Tolerton took charge of the school, and until some time in the year 1816, he was the principal teacher in Salem. He was the father of Robert and Hill Tolerton, so well known to the citizens of Salem. He gained a great reputation for skill in training bad boys, and is said to have used the rod freely. But there is no account of any interference with his discipline by parents, whose affection for their wayward sons was stronger than their judgment, which is a failing too common among the parents at this time, and too often causes the demoralization of schools, and helps fast children to the position of head of the family. Several teachers followed Mr. Tolerton, whose terms were short. Among them were (1814) Susannah Hewett, (1815) Martha Townsend (now relict of Dr. Stanton), Benj. Marshall, Daniel Stratton, Joshua Shinn, and others.

In April 1822, Joseph Shreve again came to Salem, and commenced teaching in the log school-house on Main Street, the same mentioned above. For about eleven years his school was the principal one in the town. In 1827 or 1828, a brick school-house was erected on the lot now vacant, in front of the post-office. The expense of building was defrayed by contributions from the Friends; and the schools held in it were under the direction of their Monthly Meeting. This house was built under the direction of the teacher, who was much pleased with its internal arrangements, though it was far behind the improvements of the present day. This school increased in interest, and many young persons came and boarded in Salem to attend. The teacher was in many particulars just the man for the place. He was one of the best teachers of his day, and he had the entire confidence of the Friends. His good standing in their society helped him much. The interest that he felt in his work may be inferred from the following stanzas:

“Hail Salem School! still dearer thou to me,  
When pensive fancy to the future strays,  
And time draws near that I must part with thee,  
Who rocked the cradle of thy infant days.”

“Here long to teach has been my toilsome lot,  
Yet sweet endearments found in many a heart;  
While duties pressed, with varied labors fraught,  
Knowledge to half a thousand to impart.”

Many of his pupils afterwards became teachers, and there are many persons about Salem now who have pleasant remembrances of happy times in that school. He had several assistants at different times, among whom might be mentioned his brother Thomas, and sister Eliza. In the Spring of 1832 he closed his school, and published a poem on its conclusion, and also one on that of the previous winter. From them some quotations are given in this history. He afterwards engaged in the practice of medicine at Mt. Union. In this profession he was as popular and successful as in teaching. He died in 1846. In 1829–30 Mr. Samuel Ruckman kept a school in a frame house on Green Street. It was called a “district school,” but the school system was not then in such a condition as to render much help to teachers. About the same time a school was kept in the Friends’ meeting-house on Green Street, by Jonathan Thomas. Some others were kept for short terms in the same house. In 1830 a brick school-house was built at the corner of Green and Chestnut Streets, and during the following winter James Tolerton was engaged there. Eliza Shreve also kept one term in that house. The next winter Mr. Jacob Heaton was teacher, and the next Martin Heckard. The latter was a rigid disciplinarian, and in many particulars a good teacher. It was about this time that Mr. P. R. Spencer first visited Salem, and introduced his system of penmanship. Mr. Heckard eagerly adopted it, and taught it in his school.

In the summer of 1834 Amos Gilbert came to Salem from Lancaster Co., Pa. His arrival and subsequent teaching made a notable era in the school interest of the place. He was a man of thought, and his greatest ambition was to set others to thinking. In teaching, Natural Philosophy was his hobby. He took much delight in communicating facts in nature, and he had great respect for the Pestalozzian system of education. Some time in the next year he was joined by his son-in-law, Abner G. Kirk. In 1836 his connection with this school ceased, and Mr. Kirk continued in it some time longer. He was succeeded by Benjamin B. Davis, who after a few terms, engaged with a few other persons in starting

the *Village Register*, the first successful newspaper enterprise in the town. Several inefficient teachers followed, and the school became much demoralized. In 1843 Reuben McMillan taught a term with good success. This was his beginning.

Among the teachers who taught between 1843 and 1853, were Lewis T. Park, Jesse Holmes, Jesse Markham, and Wm. McClain. Col. T. C. Boone, the present President of the Board of Education, says he went to school in Salem to Wm. McClain in 1839 or 1840, and to Abner G. Kirk in 1843. From this we conclude that Mr. McClain taught at two different times, and that Mr. Kirk must have taught in all about seven years. Mr. Holmes taught, with great success, for the Hicksite Friends, in 1847-8-9, first in their meeting-house, and next in the brick school-house built by them on Green Street, now used as a dwelling-house. After this, in the same house, Mr. McClain taught a private High School.

In the first schools nothing was taught but Reading, Spelling, Writing, and Arithmetic. In the schools kept by J. Tolerton and D. Stratton, Grammar and Surveying were taught. In J. Shreve's school the additional branches were Geography and Astronomy. The Latin language was first taught in a select school kept by Rev. Jacob Coon, in 1844-45. History, the higher branches of Mathematics, and the natural sciences were much taught after the adoption of the Union system, and to some extent before.

The first schools were made up by subscribing an article of agreement, prepared by the teacher. Each subscriber agreed to send and pay for the tuition of one or more pupils. The usual rate in the first schools was \$1.50 per quarter for each pupil. Some teachers did not get more than \$1.00. In 1830 some of the best teachers received \$2.00 per pupil, and then the terms rose gradually to what they now are in select schools and academies. Prior to the adoption of the graded system, it was customary to have school on every alternate Saturday, and twenty four days of teaching made a school month. In the first schools the teachers made their own specific regulations, there being then no directors or examiners. The Quaker schools were under the direction of a committee appointed by the Monthly Meeting, who had control of the house, appointed teachers, and visited the school from time to time, the teacher receiving all the tuition fees.

The records of the Board of Education are incomplete, all the minute books being lost except the one now used by the clerk which has been in use less than three years. From the medley of old papers the following facts have been gleaned:

A poll-book dated April 11, 1853, shows that in accordance with the Act of March 14, 1853, 110 voters assembled at the District-School House and voted for school directors. Joseph J. Brooks received 100 votes, and Alfred Wright and Isaac Snider each 87. Mr. Brooks was to serve for three years, and it was decided by lot that Alfred Wright should serve for two years, and Isaac Snider for one year. Stacy Hunt was chairman of the election, and C. D. Bassett was secretary.

Among the records is a notice dated April 25, 1853, calling upon the qualified voters to meet at 10 A. M. May 14, 1853, at the district-school house to vote by ballot for or against an Act entitled "an act for the better regulation of public schools in Cities Towns, &c." passed Feb. 21, 1849. This notice was signed by James Woodruff, Henry P. Reitzell, James Brown, Jr.,\* Benj. Stanton,\* Peter H. Boswell, Anthony Gongwer,\* Lewis Keen, Philip Mathews, Clayton Sharp,† John Harris, Joel Sharp, Allan Boyle, John Gibbons,\* Wm. B. Ryus,† Elias Wolfley,\* Robert Grimmesey, R. Schooley,\* T. F. Sharpnack, John Sheets,\* John Callahan, Rich'd H. Garrigues,\* Geo. B. Weaver,† Geo. Sheets,\* J. W. Casselberry, Sam'l C. Taylor, James Barnaby,\* Isaac Snider, J. C. Whinery, Jacob Heaton, Wm. C. McCracken,† Wm. Pidgeon, John Hudson, Benjamin Wisner, F. H. Bently, Wm. McClain,† Wm. H. Garrigues,† B. W. Casselberry, Isaac G. Thomas, Simeon Sharp, and J. W. Grimmesey.†

The names marked with a star are of persons deceased, and those with a dagger of persons not now residents of Salem. Capt. Jacob Heaton secured the signatures to the notice.

The election was held and the law adopted, although the poll-book has not been found. A poll-book dated May 30, 1853, shows that 102 persons voted for members of the Board of Education required by the law of 1849. The persons

elected were Isaac Snider (85) and Jacob Heaton (81) for three years, Richard Garrigues (78) and John Harris (85) for two years, and Clayton Sharp (80) and Eli Davidson (51) for one year. Alfred Wright had 1 vote for three years. John Hudson, 1 for two years, and 48 for one year.

The clerk of this election was Emmor T. Weaver, and the judges, Enos Eldridge, John Neas, and Wm. Ryus.

The members of the Board were qualified on June 3, 1853, by Geo. B. Weaver, Justice of the Peace.

We learn from a bond for 2000 dollars dated June 13, 1853, signed by Jacob Heaton, Jonas D. Cattell, and Geo. B. Weaver, that Jacob Heaton was appointed treasurer for one year.

It seems from bills for teaching, presented to Messrs. Brooks, Wright, and Snider, in their brief reign, that S. M. Galbreath, J. Markham, E. S. Seymour, C. E. Siple, M. Hambleton, and N. Plummer, had been teaching within the year preceding the change in the law.

A report by J. Markham, of his school for the term beginning April 11, and ending July 1, 1853, shows an enrollment of "104 males, 139 females, and an average daily attendance of 62 males and 82 females." The branches taught were Orthography, Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, English Grammar, and Geography.

A certificate dated July 22, 1853, issued to Miss Rebecca Stratton, signed by Joseph S. H. Grimes, Benj. Stanton, and Thomas Y. French, shows that the Board of Education had appointed these gentleman as local examiners. The certificate was valid for nine months, and included besides the ordinary branches, Natural Philosophy, Chemistry, Physiology, Botany, and Algebra. On the 27th they issued a certificate to Mrs. Rebecca McClain, valid for the same time, including Painting and Drawing in addition to the ordinary branches.

Nine-month certificates for the ordinary branches, were issued on the 27th to May A. Boswell, and Miss C. H. Pinkham, signed by Messrs. Grimes and Stanton. Mr. Grimes omitted the H. in his signature in all the certificates named except that to Rebecca Stratton.

Mr. Wm. McClain who had been teaching a High School on Green Street, was employed by the Board of Education to take charge of the High School under the graded system.

Jesse Markham was also employed to superintend all the grades below the High School.

In 1854, the Board of Education employed as superintendent, Mr. A. Holbrook, for the last twenty years principal of the National Normal School, Lebanon, Ohio. He gave one hour extra labor per day to induce the Board to allow him three hours per day for supervision of the several departments. From three departments he re-organized the school into six departments, giving each teacher the exclusive charge of about 40 pupils. Mr. Holbrook was paid \$1,200 a year; a larger salary than was paid at that time by any village in Ohio for a Superintendent.

Reuben McMillan, for several years past the successful Superintendent of the Public Schools of Youngstown, Ohio, followed Mr. Holbrook in 1855, and continued as Superintendent and Principal of the High School for six years. He says, "I found the schools in good running condition, as left by my predecessor, Mr. Holbrook. I found a good corps of teachers, and an energetic wide-awake set of pupils, that would have done honor to any town. During my connection with the school the number of pupils increased so that new rooms had to be rented and occupied till the new building on 4th Street, commenced in 1860, could be finished. During that time the Friends' school was suspended, which gave the public schools an accession of many choice young people. Their house was occupied by one of our Primary Schools.

During my administration in connection with the High School, there were 204 females and 156 male students, a very large per cent of whom are still living and most of them are intelligent and useful citizens, and are in honorable professional or business positions in Salem, and elsewhere. Of these, at least 103 became teachers, some for a time—others are still teaching."

In 1861 the Board employed as Superintendent the Hon. H. H. Barney, the first State Commissioner of Common Schools of Ohio, at a salary of \$1,000. He entered upon his duties at the beginning of the winter term in 1861, and resigned a few weeks after the beginning of the fall term of 1862. Under his administration the Board prepared and published, in pamphlet form, a full list of Rules and Regulations.

Mr. Barney was succeeded by J. C. Cummings, who served about a year and a half, when ill health closed his school labors.

The 16th of August, 1864, W. D. Henkle entered upon the duties of Superintendent, and continued to serve for eleven years, except two years, from 1869 to 1871, when he served as State Commissioner of Common Schools, which office he resigned to return to Salem. When absent his place was filled by Prof. M. C. Stevens, Principal of the High School, who conducted the schools without any change of plan. In each of these eleven years the Superintendent prepared, and the Board caused to be published, a sixteen-page pamphlet giving full statistics of the schools, thus making the record complete for these years. The schools were numbered from 1 to 10, the latter being the High School. A pupil remained one year in each room, until he reached No. 9, in which he remained three years, thus making eleven years' preparation to reach the High School. The average age of the pupils on entering the High School, was nearly 17, thus giving them more maturity than is found in the schools of many cities. In this eleven years the examinations were all conducted by the Superintendent, who also examined all the papers of the written examinations. The number of examinations conducted in the year 1873-4 was 1,024. Mr. Henkle served at different salaries; one year at \$1,000, two years at \$1,200, one year at \$1,500, one at \$2,000, one at \$2,250, and three at \$2,500. Mr. Stevens's salary as Superintendent for two years was \$1,500.

In 1875, Mr. Henkle having succeeded the Hon. E. E. White in the editorship of the Ohio Educational Monthly and National Teacher, the Board of Education, employed Capt. Wm. Wood, late Superintendent of the Public Schools of Findlay, Ohio, to manage the schools. Since his administration began last September, several material changes have been made in the course of study in the High School, the grading, and the mode of conducting the examinations, etc. These are referred to more specifically under the head of "Present Organization."

## HIGH SCHOOL.

The High School of Salem was organized immediately after the adoption of the graded system in 1853. Previous to its organization, select schools of a higher grade had existed and had been very extensively patronized by the town and surrounding country. In these, the higher branches of mathematics seem to have occupied a prominent place, and continued to do so after the change. As a rule the classics and studies relating to languages have found less favor among Friends, the early settlers, and fashioners, to a great extent, of public sentiment in Salem, than Mathematics and Natural Science.

The High School from its earlier days maintained a high order of excellence, both in discipline and acquirements; its pupils were taught to *think*, to *compare*, to *judge for themselves*, to regard the education of the schoolroom as a *means* rather than an *end*.

No regular course of study was ever insisted on until 1864, when under the supervision of W. D. Henkle, a course was prescribed, and rigidly adhered to through his administration. Since his retirement this course has been so modified as to make Latin elective.

At present it stands as follows:

### FIRST YEAR.

Algebra; Physiology; Physical Geography; Latin Grammar and Reader, or English Grammar and Composition.

### SECOND YEAR.

Algebra; Geometry; General History; Natural Philosophy; Cæsar and Virgil, or Natural History and Botany.

### THIRD YEAR.

Geometry; Trigonometry; Analytical Geometry; Chemistry; Astronomy; Virgil and Cicero, or Rhetoric and Literature.

### FOURTH YEAR.

Mental Philosophy, Logic, Civil Government, Literature, Geology, Reviews.

Exercises in declamation and composition throughout the course. Nearly all the pupils now in attendance have selected the Latin course.

The first class graduated in 1865. The whole number of graduates to the present time is fifty.



It has not been at any time the aim of the High School to prepare pupils for College. Its ordinary classes have furnished ample facilities for such preparation, with the exception of *Greek*, which has been met by private teachers.

The standard for admission to the High School has varied little for the past ten years; in brief, it may be said that a good knowledge of the common branches, and American history, will admit all applicants.

At first, and for a number of years after the adoption of the union system, the superintendent was *ex-officio*, principal of the High School.

The growing exigencies of the school finally demanding nearly all his time and attention in supervision, the offices are now, and have been, since 1864, entirely distinct.

The following statements make reference to prominent teachers of the High School other than the Superintendents:

Miss Jennie Breckinridge was associated with Mr. Holbrook as teacher. Under the Superintendency of Mr. McMillan, Mr. Howard Gilbert, assisted for a brief period by Miss Ryder, taught the principal classes. To these succeeded, in 1857, Mr. T. E. Suliot, whose name is to-day held in grateful remembrance by pupils both in the old and new world, and Miss R. A. Prunty. Mr. Suliot's connection with the school ceased in 1862, and Miss Prunty continued her faithful labors till 1866, when she resigned to become the wife of Dr. J. L. Firestone. Mr. T. C. Mendenhall succeeded Mr. Suliot in 1863, and remained three years. In 1866, Mr. Horace Hollister and Miss M. A. Southard assumed the management, Mr. Hollister remaining one year, and Miss Southard five. Mr. M. C. Stevens, the present able principal, has held the office since 1867, with the exception of two years filled by Mr. A. Blunt, when Mr. S. acted as Superintendent. Miss Southard's place has been occupied successively by Miss Mary B. Wakefield, one term; Miss S. J. Busheé, and Miss S. A. Platt, the present occupant.

The Public Schools of Salem in all their departments, have been an object of just pride and gratification to its citizens. Especially is this true of the High School. May they long continue a centre of light and knowledge to the community.

#### PRESENT ORGANIZATION.

*Board of Education*:—Col. T. C. Boone, Pres.; R. A. Kirk, Treas.; Judge P. A. Laubie, Eli Sturgeon, M. D., Mayor M. V. Dunlap, and J. P. Hogan. Clerk, Wm. Eastman.

*Board of Examiners*:—J. M. Kuhn, M. D., J. B. Strawn, and W. D. Henkle.

*Superintendent*:—Capt. William S. Wood.

The school year comprises forty weeks, and is divided into four terms of ten weeks each.

The daily sessions commence at 8:45 A. M., and 1:55 P. M., and close at 11:50 A. M. and at 4 P. M.

The average scholar completes the work of a grade in one year.

There are twelve grades numbered from 1, the lowest, to 12, the highest. Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12, constitute the High School. With a single exception, there is but one grade to a teacher below the High School.

In the course of study adopted this school-year the work of each year is divided into term's work, and a programme is arranged to complete it, and is posted in the respective rooms.

In all the grades below the High School, Reading, Spelling, Arithmetic, Music, and Penmanship are taught; Objects and Common Things, Composition, and Drawing, in Grades 1, 2, 3, and 4; Geography, and Map-Drawing in Grades 4, 5, and 6; and a review once a week in 7 and 8; Elementary Physics in Grade 7; Grammar in 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8.

Written examinations in every study, through all the grades, are made six times a year, and results recorded.

In every school the pupils are seated according to rank in studies at their last written examination.

The Superintendent takes entire charge of the classification of the schools, and examines the two lowest grades in principal studies, orally, as well as in writing, near the close of the school year. He occasionally holds other special examinations, both oral and written.

#### BOARDS OF EDUCATION.

The reputation of the Schools has been largely due to its efficient Boards of Education, who have sought to employ first-class teachers.

The first Board under the law of 1849 was elected in 1853. Jacob Heaton and Isaac Snider were chosen for 3 years, Richard Garrigues and John Harris for 2 years, and Clayton Sharp and Eli Davidson for 1 year. At the following elections two members were regularly chosen to serve three years. In 1854 John Hudson and Eli Davidson were chosen; in 1855, John C. Whinery and Samuel Chessman; in 1856, Jacob Heaton (63)\* and Stacy Hunt (65); in 1857, Allan Boyle (51) and Albert French (52); in 1858, J. C. Whinery (131) and W. P. West (104); in 1859, Jacob Heaton (132) and John Hudson (137); in 1860, Allan Boyle (?) and Abel Carey (?); in 1861, Calvin C. Brainard (144) and Alex. Pow (90) and Wm. P. West (86), to serve out the time of Dr. Carey, removed from the district into the country; in 1862 J. C. Whinery (263) and John W. Fawcett (177); in 1863, Jonathan K. Rukenbrod (179) and Chas. R. Taber, and Wm. Eastman (178), to serve for 2 years in place of John W. Fawcett; in 1864 Calvin C. Brainard and Alex. Pow; in 1865 J. C. Whinery and Wm. Eastman; in 1866, Chas. R. Taber (95) and J. K. Rukenbrod (69); in 1867, Alex. Pow and C. C. Brainard, and E. H. Price one year; in 1868, Wm. Eastman (298) and Allan Boyle (192); in 1869, L. B. Lockard (134) and J. K. Rukenbrod (143); in 1870, Peter A. Laubie (273) and Thos. C. Boone (255); in 1871, Robt. V. Hampson and Allan Boyle; in 1872, Eli Sturgeon and Martin V. Dunlap; in 1873, P. A. Laubie and T. C. Boone; in 1874, no election could be held in consequence of the repeal of the law of 1849, and the adoption of a codified school law; in 1875, R. A. Kirk and J. P. Hogan.

December 4, 1851, John W. Fawcett was appointed in place of John Hudson, who had entered the military service; August 28, 1862, Wm. Eastman in place of J. W. Fawcett, who had entered the army; November 3, 1866, E. H. Price in place of J. C. Whinery, who had moved from the district; and in 1868, L. B. Lockard, in place of C. R. Taber, deceased.

The following persons have served on the Examining Board: Rev. J. S. H. Grimes, Dr. Benj. Stanton, Thomas Y. French, Dr. Jno. Harris, Rev. A. B. Maxwell, Rev. J. A. Swaney, Dr. J. M. Kuhn, Rev. S. McBride, W. D. Henkle, Rev. Dr. I. N. Baird, M. C. Stevens, and Jehu B. Strawn.

\*The figures denote votes received.