

In February 1784, the East Hampton Town Trustees agreed to give the inhabitants of the North Side (what is now Springs) 15 pounds to build a school house. Legend has it that the school was built in George Asa Miller's garden on Fireplace Road.

I have discovered notes taken from an original document dated March 6, 1807, about the building of a schoolhouse "or place for occasional publick worship" in District Four, Springs. It was to be built by shares; to be 24 feet long, 18 feet wide. It was voted to sell the old schoolhouse and put the money toward the new one. The total cost, reckoned in pounds, shillings, and pence, was £103—15 shillings—4 pence.

The committee for building the new school and place of occasional worship included David Talmage, chairman; Timothy Miller, clerk; Ambrose Parsons, Joseph Miller, Jonathan King.

Thirty-two men were the shareholders: David Talmage, Timothy Miller, Elnathan Parsons, John L. Gardiner, Ambrose Parsons, Joseph Miller, Jonathan King, Jared Cook, Joseph Miller Jr., Nathan Miller, Timothy Miller Jr., Joseph Edwards, Edward Bennett, Miller King, James Field, Isaac Plato, John King, Josiah Miller, Abraham Leek Jr., John Parsons Jr., Jonathan Miller, Eleazar Miller, Nathan H. Lester, Samuel Bennett, Lester Bennett, David Lester Jr., Hedges Parsons, David Miller, Isaac Edwards, Joshua Penny, Martin Plato, and Elisha Miller.

From "Looking Them Over"

6/14/73:

In 1807, that building was sold at auction to Elisha Miller for 11.8 pounds and a new school house was built on Common Land at the intersection of Fireplace Road and Old Stone Highway. (According to an article in the November 5, 1909 *East Hampton Star*, the Town exchanged some property with Samuel Mulford for the land now known as the Springs village green.) It wasn't until forty years later, when a larger school building was needed,

u d o

1 u 1847

that the Springs School Trustees applied to the Town Trustees to purchase a 40' by 60' plot of the Common Land the school was on for \$12. The Town Trustees agreed to sell them a 40' by 70' lot and issued a quit claim deed in September 1847. (The actual deed wasn't issued until September 1878 at an additional cost of \$3.)

The 1847 school house, which some local historians say is the original part of what is now Ashawagh Hall, cost \$418.

In September 1884, the *Sag Harbor Express* reported: "The Springs district will build a new school house soon, though probably not soon enough for this winter's term; \$1,000 were appropriated for that purpose." And in December, the residents voted for the new school.

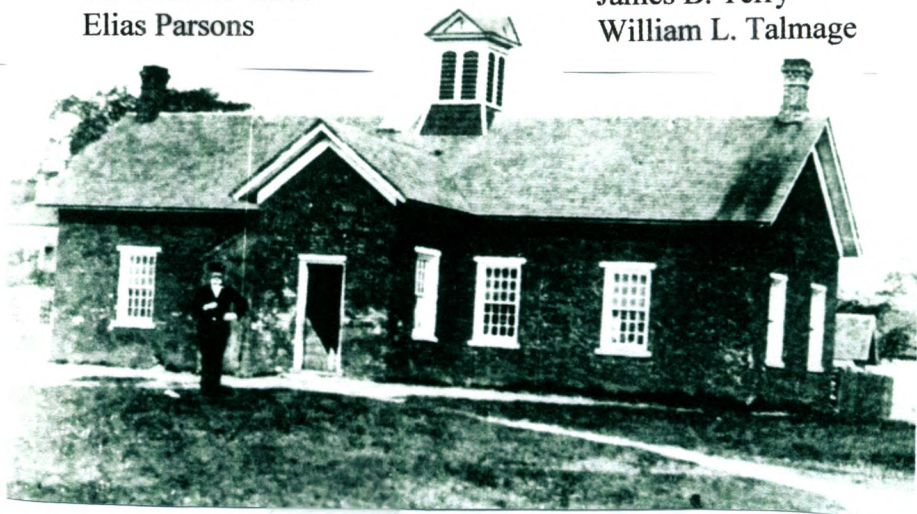
The building was either enlarged or newly built. The *Sag Harbor Express* reported: "The Springs School District now Boasts of a new school house completed on the 4th instant (2/4/1885) by J. Mason Schellinger of Amagansett; a house of which it may be proud. The building is one story, 20' by 54' and has one wing, or entrance way, on both sides, and is divided into two rooms, with folding doors between - one of the rooms being 18' by 23' and the other 18' by 28'.

The building also has a belfry in which the bell from ~~which~~ ~~The bell from~~ the old school has been placed. The building cost \$1600.00, and the whole expense of both building and fixtures is \$1,900.00. George A. Miller is principal of the school and Miss Alice Miller is assistant."

Names of some of the teachers in the 1800s as listed in the school ledgers:

Joseph Edwards
Ambrose Parsons
Isaac Edwards
Elisha Miller
John Parsons, Jr.
Elnathan Parsons
Mulford Parsons
Lewis Edwards
Asa Miller
Joseph Miller, Jr.
Baldwin Talmage
William D. Parsons
Jered Cook
Smith Miller
David H. Miller
Daniel Edwards
Samuel King
Jonathan A. Parsons
Nathan Pratt
Silvanus Edwards
Elias Parsons

David D. Parsons
Thomas Hedges
Daniel Edwards
Abraham Parsons
George Sid Miller
John E. Parsons
Sineus Edwards
Isaac S. Miller
Samuel H. Edwards
Samuel L. Miller
Timothy L. Miller
William H. Parsons
Isaac Edwards
Isaac King
Henry Schellinger
Remington King
William Bailey
John S. Penny
J. S. Miller
James B. Terry
William L. Talmage



5/1/1896

Our school closed on Tuesday, and on Wednesday evening the school gave an exhibition entitled "Shenandoah." The primary room was trimmed in theater style, and used for the stage, the large sliding doors were thrown back and footlights placed across them, curtains being used to part the stage from the auditorium, thus making of our school rooms a nice play room, the principal trouble being in size, as the room was packed to its utmost capacity, and many were turned away, unable to get in, for the benefit of whom the teachers have decided to hold it again this (Thursday) evening. The small admission fee of 15 cents was charged, and quite a sum will be netted which will be placed on account for an organ fund, the old organ being about used up. Great credit is due Mr. Perrine and Miss Edwards for the untiring efforts put forth in training and making the many necessary preparations for so much of a show, it lasting about three hours. Good music was rendered by two organs, two violins, one mandolin and a drum corps consisting of two snare drums, a bass drum and a fife, also by the singing of patriotic airs. This has been of much interest to the school and a good chapter of history of the Civil war is indelibly stamped upon their young minds.



Springs News:

The teacher, Mr. Ray, started on Saturday for a pleasure trip to Gardiner's Island, and on account of the incessant blowing of the wind was unable to get off until Tuesday noon. School began Wednesday and will close on Friday for the term, after which young America will be free.

5/8/1884 in 4/18/44

SPRINGS.

(One of the most harmonious school meetings ever held in our district was that of Tuesday evening. All reports seemed satisfactory and were quickly accepted. H. B. Schellinger was unanimously elected trustee, R. G. Foster, collector; D. E. Edwards, clerk. The full vote of the meeting empowered the trustees to hire Miss Ruth Miller to teach the primary and first grade. A vote was taken instructing the trustees to sell the old school property to the village society to be used as a hall. The new building is progressing finely and when completed will add much to the advancement of our village and we hope for the better education of our people.

8/6/09

The new school house will be opened on Monday, October 25. The steam heating plant was tested recently and found to be in good working order.

10/15/09

The board of school trustees of this district has called a special school meeting to be held at Ashaway Hall on Friday evening, March 15, at 7:30 o'clock. The purpose of this meeting is to vote on the following questions: "Shall the district authorize the erection of a new school building on the property now owned by the district, and shall the sum of forty-five thousand dollars be raised by tax upon the taxable property of said district, to be collected in installments as provided by section 467 of the education law?"

3/15/29



SPRINGS.

School bonds of this district to the amount of \$9,000 will be sold in front of the post office in this village on February 10 at two p. m. The bonds are to be in denominations of \$500 and one is to be paid off each year, with interest at 4½ per cent.

1/29/09

New School Building

Now in Use at Springs.

The new school house at Springs is acknowledged by all who have seen it to be one of the prettiest school buildings of its size in the county. Its location is on a natural elevation well back from the street, affording a spacious foreground and lending grace and dignity to its appearance.

The building contains four large class rooms, well lighted and ventilated. The rooms are fitted with modern school furniture and with slate blackboards on four sides. The building is heated by steam and is well calculated to afford comfort to the pupils and teachers.

The front portion of the structure is taken up with the hall and two stair ways leading to the two upper rooms. Separate coat rooms for the boys and girls open into each of the rooms. The four rooms, two on the first floor and two on the second occupy the back or rear portion of the building. Only two of the rooms will be furnished for school work at present.

The trustees of the district have built a building that will do much to advance education and culture of the young men of this every citizen of Springs should be proud.

The cost of the building, exclusive of site, was about \$9,000.

The first school house at Springs was located on what is now the garden of Supervisor Miller and after the town exchanged some common land with one Samuel Mulford of East Hampton for the land now known as the Village Green, this building was removed to the triangular piece between the high ways which the district bought of the town trustees. This building was a wooden structure and it was here that our oldest residents got their education.

In 1847 the brick building was erected. After its completion, the old wooden structure was again moved to the upper end of Kingstown and converted into a dwelling house and is now the home of Daniel King. The brick building was enlarged in the winter of 1884-85 and Supervisor Miller and Miss Alice Miller were the first to teach a school in the new rooms with their broad folding doors which made it so easy and pleasant for them to unite their interests that they have been life partners nearly ever since. The school has enjoyed the services of many earnest and capable teachers and to-day we have one of the finest school properties for the size and wealth of the district of any on the east end of this island. The building and

SPRINGS SCHOOL HOUSE BURNED TO GROUND IN HOUR WEDNESDAY MORN.

Building Valued at \$30,000, Only Partly Insured; Firemen Unable to Battle Wind and Flames Without Water; Teachers March 56 Pupils to Safety in Record Time; Building Erected in 1909.

The Springs school house, valued at \$30,000, was burned to the ground in less than an hour Wednesday noon. School was in session, when the fire was first discovered, by Mrs. Madella Lloyd, who was teaching a class on the second floor. Mrs. Lloyd looked out of the window and noticed smoke pouring from the back of the building, and at the same time she heard a threatening sound of crackling flames above her head. The fire had not yet broken through the ceiling. The fire alarm was sounded almost instantly, and Mrs. Lloyd with her charge of thirty pupils marched down the outside fire escape in orderly fashion. The only other teacher, Miss Edna Green, who has charge of the kindergarten, first and second grades, ordered the children to put on their clothing and then rushed them from the building. Although the children, fifty-six in number, knew that this time the fire alarm was not a fake one, every child was out of the building in record time without a mishap. After the two teachers had lead their pupils to safety they both ran back into the building and saved what records and books they could hurriedly gather together. When Mrs. Lloyd returned to her room on the second floor she found the room dense with smoke and the fire beginning to come through the ceiling. Within ten minutes the whole top story of the building was a mass of flames. For a time the teachers had to restrain some of the older boys and girls from rushing back into the building for their coats, hats and school books.

By this time a few men had been attracted by the smoke issuing from the top of the school house. They managed, with the help of some of the older boys, to carry the piano from the second floor to a safe place outside of the building. A few books, two desks, and other small articles such as could be grabbed up were carried out.

In less than fifteen minutes after the fire was first noticed by Mrs. Lloyd the flames had eaten through the roof and fanned by the strong westerly wind the flames quickly made their way through the center of the building. Within a half-hour the building was burned to the ground, a mass of smouldering twisted wreckage.

Companies One and Two of the East Hampton Fire Department, made a record five mile run to the Springs school. An effort was made to extinguish the flames with chemical but by this time the entire top story was in flames, so the firemen turned their efforts to saving adjoining property. The dry grass at the rear of the building ignited and as quick as a flash the flames burned across the grass and on into the woods to the east.

Principal Alexander Bear was confined to his bed, suffering with the prevailing influenza. However his two assistants, Mrs. Lloyd and Miss Green, who, by the way, come from Southampton, proved themselves capable of carrying on in this emergency in a most efficient manner. They deserve the praise of the community for carrying out a real, honest-to-goodness, fire drill in which one little slip would have proved disastrous.

The Springs school house was built twenty years ago, to be exact, in July, 1909, by George A. Eldredge, Charles Taylor acting as foreman. Although the building was constructed at that time for about \$10,000, it is valued at over \$30,000 today. It was a two and a half story building of frame construction.

Quoting from the Star, issue of November 5, 1909, it says: "The new school house at Springs is acknowledged by all who have seen it to be one of the prettiest school buildings of its size in the county. Its location is on a natural elevation well back from the street, affording a spacious foreground

and lending grace and dignity to its appearance."

The little old "Red Brick House on the Hill," which had served this rural district as a place of learning for a great many years, was sold to the village society and converted into a village hall and public meeting place.

It is believed that the fire was caused by an overheated chimney. Although the district carried insurance on the building it is reported that the amount would nowhere near offset the loss.

The school board, which includes Justice Merton H. Edwards, chairman; Kenneth Miller and Gilbert Miller, have decided to convert the village hall into temporary quarters for school purposes.

The first school house at Springs was located on what is now the garden of George A. Miller, cashier of the East Hampton National Bank, and after the town exchanged some common land with one, Samuel Mulford, of this village, for the land now known as the village green, this building was removed to the triangular piece at Springs, between the highways, which the district bought of the town trustees. This building, was a wooden structure and it was here that our oldest residents obtained their education. In 1847, the brick building, now known as Ashwaugh Hall, was erected. It is this building the board has selected

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Sightseers a Nuisance to Firemen at Springs Fire

Several members of the local fire department have complained to The Star that they were hindered in attempting to answer the fire call at the Springs Schoolhouse fire on Wednesday by motorists who were driving to the fire and who made no effort to clear the road for the firemen. An instance cited to the Star was that although Company No. 2 had their truck at the fire in ample time there were only two members of this company there at that time. Members of the Company have stated that they could have been on duty in plenty of time had it not been for the fact that the roads were blocked by slow drivers who were going to the fire, but who made no effort to let the firemen go by them.

2/1/29

A force of men has been at work during the past week on Ashwaugh hall, putting it in suitable condition to be used as a temporary school. The main hall will be divided into two rooms by the sliding doors, and will be used by Principal Saar and Mrs. Lloyd, while Miss Greene will have the primary department in the room on the second floor. The work on the hall

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\$30,000 SCHOOL HOUSE FIRE AT SPRINGS



E. M. GAY AWARDED CONTRACT TO REBUILD SPRINGS SCHOOL HOUSE

The school board of the Springs school district has awarded contract for the new school to replace the one destroyed by fire on January 30, of this year, and the new building is to be completed by December 21, 1929, according to the specifications. Edward M. Gay's bid of \$35,300, for the general contracting was accepted, while the contract for the plumbing and heating, went to the Montauk Plumbing and Heating Company, with a bid of \$6,841.

Springs' new schoolhouse will be built on the site of the one destroyed by fire, and the contractors are using the old basement in erecting the new building. Stephen J. Lynch has the sub-contract for the mason work and excavating.

The new school will be of one story, with three classrooms and an assembly room, which may be converted into a classroom. The building will be 55 by 96 feet, and will be of fireproof construction, being built of building blocks with stucco finish and brick trim. William F. La Pen of Southampton, was the architect.

At present the school is being conducted in Ashwagh Hall, where the 63 pupils are under the supervision of Principal A. William Sayre and two teachers. Immediately after the burning of the old school, in January, the school board arranged to have school desks placed in the old hall, which has served temporarily as a schoolhouse.

9/13/29

Springs Children Receive Prize

The children of the Springs school, in recognition of their effort, and excellence in preparation and presentation of the school exhibit at Farmingdale, have been presented with a \$2.50 gold piece. This has been placed in the Springs school fund for a worthy purchase to commemorate the opening of the new school building. From time to time the teachers and pupils hope to add to this fund in various ways.

The Springs exhibit received very high compliments and mention as one of the leading exhibits. The teachers and pupils of the local school are deserving of a great deal of commendation for their work, as the work exhibited was prepared since the removal of the school to Ashwagh Hall. Much of the work prepared for the purpose was destroyed by the fire. Principal Saar has reserved a space at Riverhead to exhibit at the fair next fall.

6/1/29

The building also has a belfry in which the bell from which
The bell from the old school has been placed. The building
cost \$1600.00, and the whole expense of both building and
fixtures is 1,900.00. George A. Miller is principal of the
school and Miss Alice Miller is assistant.”

14. THREATS TO BUILDING: a. none known b. zoning c. roads
 d. developers e. deterioration
 f. other: _____
15. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS AND PROPERTY:
 a. barn b. carriage house c. garage
 d. privy e. shed f. greenhouse
 g. shop h. gardens
 i. landscape features: _____
 j. other: _____
16. SURROUNDINGS OF THE BUILDING (check more than one if necessary):
 a. open land b. woodland
 c. scattered buildings
 d. densely built-up e. commercial
 f. industrial g. residential
 h. other: _____

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:

(Indicate if building or structure is in an historic district)

The house stands about 200' west of Fireplace Road.
 The front of the house is screened from the road by a hedge.
 In back of the house is woodland.

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known):

This 1 1/4 story house has a 3-bay front facade with the entrance at the north end and a row of three attic windows. A one-story gable-roof addition is to the north and a lean-to addition spans the rear of the house.

SIGNIFICANCE

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: mid-19th century

ARCHITECT: _____

BUILDER: _____

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

Thompson King (1801-1881) is identified as the owner of this house on the 1873 Beers Atlas. The 1838 Coastal Survey shows six houses along this part of Fireplace Road including one that is set back from the road at about this site.

A 1923 photograph of this house shows the chimney at the north end and a front door surround with a transom. Both additions are present and the two windows in the north addition are at the same location. All windows, except the attic windows, in the photograph have 6/6 light sash.

21. SOURCES:

Eugene L. Armbruster, photograph, 1923, New York Public Library.
 F.W. Beers, Atlas of Long Island, N.Y., Brooklyn: Beers, Comstock & Cline, 1873.

22. THEME:

U.S. Coast Survey, maps no. 72 & 74, 1838.
 J.E. Rattray, East Hampton History, Garden City, N.Y.: Country Life Press, p. 412.