

Know Your Town, The 1940 Survey of
Norwich, Vermont with Carrie Barrett
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Population Trends and Economic Changes

*Families of
Norwich 1768
from West
1768*

THE town of Norwich with its villages and hamlets, (Norwich village, Root District, Turnpike, Lewiston, Pompanoosuc, Union village, New Boston, Beaver Meadow) has a history of one hundred and seventy-two years since the first town meeting was held in Norwich in 1768. When we consider thirty years as the timespan for one generation, six generations have lived here. Theoretically a person born in the first year of Norwich living to ninety might have laid eyes on a citizen of this town who by now, 1940, is ninety. In a stable and conservative community such actual contact might easily be proven, but Norwich cannot claim to be such a community. From the very beginning Norwich suffered drastic changes in population. It was settled from Connecticut and by the same fervor that drove the first settlers up the river from a less rugged and cold part of the country, their descendants or even they themselves were urged to move on as early as 1800.

*Surnames of
early settlers*

Even before the great exodus to the west people began to push on. They became the first settlers of Royalton, Tunbridge and Randolph, where today we find several old Norwich names, while Norwich itself has still surviving at least fifteen of those families which were numerous in town around 1800. Their surnames are; Armstrong, Brigham, Burton, Cloud, Cook, Cushman, Hazen, Hutchinson, Johnson, Lewis, Loveland, Messenger, Pattrell, Rogers, Stimson, and Waterman. From the newly organized counties of the northern state, the great tide moved on to reach New York state and very soon Ohio, Illinois and other mid-western states. These families considered none of their settlements of the last century as final. A whole literature of state publications dealing with questions of emigration had sprung up as early as 1836. Just a few titles of these publications might prove illuminating. "Cause of Unprecedented Movement to the West", 1836. "Abandoned Farms", 1837 and repeated at later dates. "Consideration of Cause for the Decrease in Rural Population", 1844. "Emigration to the West of Young Men of Vermont, Preventive Measures Recommended", 1872. "Vermont as Home", (against the exodus) 1872. "What Can Be Done to Keep our Young Men in Vermont", 1873. "Emigration", 1877. "The Depopulation of Our Rural Districts", 1879. "Inducement Vermont Offers for Farmer's Home", 1877. Also there were reports on summer travel and summer homes beginning in 1894. The nomadic unrest of the whole population makes it clear that the population trends are something far beyond a dollar and cent proposition. Norwich losses of population to the west and its gains from Connecticut are one and the same process at different periods.

*Early homes
in town*

But the story of Norwich is not a single track story. We look at one part of the town—toward the southwest, where, of a settlement of twenty farms, only one tumble-down house is left. Only the stones in the cemetery tell us of

We hope the Survey will prove worth the tremendous effort put into it. Not only the Woman's Club members but individuals too numerous to mention from all over the town have made contributions to the text and illustrations.

We thank the generous persons who loaned us their old town reports and other books, their valuable old pictures and interesting recent ones, also those who sent in notes or made use of our question box.

Most especially we are indebted to the committee of three from the Men's Club. Mr. H. H. Barrett, of the Dartmouth Photographic Bureau, contributed many hours of labor and much understanding to make our collection of maps and illustrations. Mr. D. T. Barrett not only aided in the remarkable work on the map of the town, but gave patient hours to aiding us in our interpretation of social and economic changes. To Mr. W. A. Carter we owe the presentation of our material on town finances, which proved to be a difficult subject for our group. We wish to thank Mr. L. M. Sadler, president of the Men's Club, for appointing such a valuable committee to assist us, also for the gift of two early maps, 1855 and 1869, enlarged for our study.

The survey would never have been started but for Mrs. Drown, president of the Vermont Federation and her two chairmen, Mrs. Nott and Mrs. McQuaid. The map would never have achieved professional qualities but for Robert Jones, who did the lettering and indicated road conditions. For painstaking thoroughness in compiling the index, we owe thanks to Miss Marion Lewis. We owe thanks to the personnel at Hanover High School, especially Miss Ruth Whitney, for proof reading, and to Miss Louise Pattrell for typing our manuscript. For the cover illustration by Mary Lord Fairbanks, we are indebted to Dartmouth College and Mr. Harold G. Rugg. We received valuable material and advice from the State Agricultural Experiment Station and University Extension Service, as well as from the Windsor County Farm Bureau. The state departments of Health, Education, and Welfare have all been so patient and thorough in answering our questions that we feel they welcome the opportunity to explain their programs.

Perhaps the reports would never have been put into shape for publication had it not been for the encouragement and financial aid proffered by Mr. F. H. Perkins of the Vermont Country Life Commission. For the actual publication of the Survey we must thank the many friends who helped us raise funds, as well as Mrs. Irene Burnham, who brought our manuscript to the attention of Mr. E. A. Hoyt of the Vermont Historical Society, and Professor Arthur W. Peach of the Citizen's Sesquicentennial Committee. It is only through the financial assistance of the Vermont Historical Society and the Norwich Library Association that this volume has been made possible. We are also indebted to Mr. Earle Williams Newton for his valuable editorial assistance, as well as for his enthusiasm and thoroughness in supervising the publication of the book.

the numerous families who got a living out of the now depleted land. Then we glance at another part of the town, and find that one has to pay for one acre as much as one would for a hundred or even two hundred acres out there, and yet even fifty years ago they were both worth the same amount. One of the farms in the west corner was a showplace. The census of the year 1850 gives the figures, stating that this land which today would be only fit for reforestation yielded not just a living but abundance and prosperity to its owner. His farm production brought him sixteen hundred dollars, about twice as much as a Dartmouth professor got at that time. Besides he paid in one year \$750 in wages, more than the whole place would bring today if somebody could be found to buy it. In 1850 this farm consisted of 450 acres of improved and 50 acres of unimproved land; it kept two horses, five cows, four working oxen, four other cattle, 300 sheep; it grew 50 bushels of wheat, 150 bushels of corn, 100 bushels of barley, 50 bushels of buckwheat, 1350 pounds of wool, 350 bushels of potatoes, \$30 worth of orchard products, 320 pounds of butter, 10 tons of hay, 70 pounds of maple sugar, \$85 worth of forest products. Today there is not a single acre of tilled land on it. This old freehold farm was a family farm and a family economic enterprise. Almost everything consumed on the farm was produced on the farm. The farm supplied food, fuel, lumber for housing, transportation, clothing. In prosperous years tea and coffee and some other luxuries were bought from afar, but otherwise spring shoats were next winter's sausages and this year's shearing next year's coat. Life was laborious, drudging, crude, but independent.

The census figures show that up to the latter part of the last century, Norwich had an economy of the greatest possible variety. How different the face of the earth must have looked! Wheatfield, small grain, oats, the apple orchards and sheep pastures compared with the monotony of our hayfields and cow pastures. 481 horses (compared with 250 today) and 406 oxen (compared with 40) produced on the farm and living on farm-grown feed took the place of the most expensive machinery and provided for all the transportation.

When a farm family of today substitutes an automobile and tractor for the driving horse and work team, an almost endless series of changes in living habits is entailed. There is no longer any need of growing oats and timothy to feed the horses; instead of this, some means must be found, some new cash crop discovered, that will keep money on hand to put fuel in the tanks. The tractor works faster and more efficiently than the horse, but it wears out and does not reproduce itself and costs a great deal of hard-won money. Gasoline, license plates, and insurance—everything must be paid in cash.

The change in agricultural development comes from the fact that not only draught-animals have been replaced by costly machinery but also human labor has ceased to function on our farms to a great extent. Families were large and boys and girls as soon as they were three feet high became increasingly useful as farm laborers. Under the law a father could command the services of his children up to the age of twenty-one without other recompense than food, clothes, and lodging. After the age of twelve or fourteen children paid their keep and became even a source of income. School was only part of their training.

The early educational laws of the American colonies explicitly provided that parents should give their children training in some useful occupation.

This requirement was made on the double ground that work is advantageous to the individual and essential to the prosperity of the community. Parents could teach work habits without seriously interrupting their own activities. For a long time parents supervised the training of children in work while they left to teachers the education of the children in the so-called three Rs. Today manual work is no longer a part of the training of a great number of young people.

In 1829 there were twenty district schools; 635 children went to these schools and the number of high school pupils was negligible. These children were the labor supply of the farming process. As they could not emigrate before they were twenty-one without the consent of their fathers, this number might almost be doubled. Today 247 children of the age from five to fourteen live in Norwich, 94 older than fourteen go to high school. School hours have vastly increased as against a century ago; much time is taken up by homework. In other words the children do not contribute to the production on the farms to any noticeable, or to any important extent as far as numbers are concerned. With a little arithmetic we might easily figure out that to the average farm the equivalent of one and a half full time all year round adult farmhand was available without cost in the early days because of unpaid family labor. But now-a-days cash is so urgent that in 1935, 87 farmers out of the 154 worked an average of 190 days for pay outside their farms. Only ten worked on other farms, all others for non-agricultural purposes.

The change in agriculture from the beginning to the present day is almost kaleidoscopic; from the primeval wilderness in 1761 when the proprietors of Norwich first met at the Waterman tavern in Mansfield, Connecticut to the broad acres and elegant homes of only fifty years later; from the times when it cost \$35 to transport one ton of grain to the Atlantic seaboard to the era of the milk truck and refrigerator car.

The tussle with the forest was over around 1800. Most of the settlers went in for all-round agriculture, raising a little of everything that they might need. There was an almost complete ignorance of fertilizer and the rotation of crops. Unconsciously the pioneers ruined the soil, but for the time this process produced a plenty. There was soon one specialty of which there was a surplus, that was wheat. It grew lavishly on the new forest-made soil. Forty bushels to the acre was by no means an unusual yield. Up to the eighties Norwich grew between two and three thousand bushels of wheat. Today, none is grown. There was a short comeback during the last world war, but our depleted soil, small fields, and steep slopes can not compete with Western wheat fields, or cattle ranches.

In 1800 the cattle supplied the needs of the immediate family for butter, meat and hides and there was frequently a surplus of beef cattle to be driven off to market. They were driven the entire distance, except in winter when dressed beef, pork or mutton was freighted out on sleds over the snow-packed roads. It took a driver three to four weeks for one trip to the Boston market. Besides the livestock and the crops, the forests themselves helped the farmers prosper. There was a welcome source of extra income in sending the straightest, largest logs by water to Hartford. But the greatest profit came through burning them. By a process of leaching and boiling, huge hardwood logs were manufactured into potash and pearlsh, the former for soapmaking while the latter per-

formed the function of baking powder. The brook north of the village cemetery was called Potash Brook. Another factor of the early prosperity was the universal development of domestic manufactures, the age of "mother-and-daughter-power." Eleven yards per capita of homespun were produced around 1810.

All of these community successes were immediately translated into rising land values. Between 1791 and 1806 an increase of 170% took place and everybody could feel his wealth increasing by sheer unearned increment. In 1840 our Town grand list reached its peak with \$18,000. The better-to-do-families had during this time accumulated a sufficient margin of time and money for the erection of fine homes, and Norwich experienced a period of tasteful stately buildings.

As early as 1830 the tide began to turn. The land was showing signs of weakness, the pioneers had mined it rather than cultivated it. The solution seemed to be wool raising. Vermont soil and climate were admirably suited to wool growing. In 1840 Norwich had 13,000 sheep. The change was revolutionary and was accompanied by a growing emigration. Sheep needed large pastures and little human labor compared to wheat growing. For the other forms of livestock the census figures of 1850 give us definite data—396 horses, 2,700 cattle, 700 swine. Dairying was already a rising industry, beef was being marketed in Boston, but these activities were without great import. However the normal production of the usual crops for local consumption was being maintained: six thousand tons of hay, (today 5,000); 55,000 bushels of corn, (today 8,000); 12,000 bushels of oats, (today 3,000); 35,000 bushels potatoes, (today 9,000); 2,000 pounds of honey, (today none).

In 1850 a typical Norwich hillside farm of 150 acres reported 125 acres improved land and twenty-five unimproved. At present it is but half improved. Moreover, the unimproved half has much less valuable timber than the twenty-five unimproved acres had sixty years ago. The loss is greater than the books tell. The value of this same farm was listed as \$4500 when a dollar could buy more than it does now. Today the listers give it half of that value. It grew all the food for man and beast, and sold 1800 pounds of cheese, 500 pounds of butter, 600 pounds of maple sugar, 450 pounds of wool, all for cash. Today the monthly milk check runs as high as a hundred dollars but how much of the hundred dollars is really income? There are only sixteen farms in town that raise their own oats. About twenty times as much grain is shipped into Norwich as is grown locally. On the farm of Herbert Rowell as many as 75 different kinds of apples were grown and proudly listed in 1850. Another farm had 1200 fruit trees. Today the whole town has not even twice as many as an average farm of that time would have had. Where are the trees? The former Rufus Cloud estate listed four hundred sugarmaples at one time. Today there is not a single one; they were all cut down for firewood around 1900.

By 1860 Norwich had lost half of its flocks of sheep. When in 1846 all protection was removed from the fine wool industry, the price fell rapidly to the impossible level of 25c. a pound. The great days of the Vermont staple crop were over. Sheep as well as their masters were seeking better fields at the frontier. Nevertheless flocks of considerable size were kept far into the eighties. Wool growing was still the most important means of livelihood. The compiler of the gazetteer of Windsor County in 1884 seems to consider three points as

essential; the number of sheep on a farm, the number of acres, and the number of trees in the sugar orchard. Dairying was not yet considered of sufficient importance for special investigation. About this time we hear for the first time of the sale of milk. Five thousand gallons were sold. The building of the Connecticut and Passumpsic Railroad in 1848 provided a decided impetus. Butter and cheese could be shipped more regularly in 1850. Forty-seven thousand pounds of cheese and 46,420 pounds of butter were made on the farms in town. In 1870 farm butter production had increased to 72,000 pounds, cheese had declined to 13,000 pounds while only a few thousand gallons of milk were produced. By the end of the century more and more fresh milk and cream were being shipped daily. From 1888 to 1904 Norwich had its own creamery until the property was sold to Hood and Company. With this newest type of dairy farming our people grew more and more dependent on good roads, as the milk had to be delivered in any season in any weather. So more and more of the outlying farms were abandoned.

The farmers were eager to sell their product the new way because the price obtained for fluid milk was better than that paid for the milk used in the making of butter and cheese. The evolution of the large city milk dealers with their retail routes, plants, equipment and personnel facilitated the extension of the milk-shed for Boston and vicinity. In the fifties and sixties there were more than 1500 milkmen distributing milk in Boston. In 1884 the business was in the hands of 700 dealers. Toward the end of the century the big contractors began to turn their attention to the business of selling milk direct to the consumer. They established their own milk receiving stations along the railroads and with the use of the milk truck their net grew more and more powerful until today the milk market is controlled by a few large firms so they are able to drive a closer bargain. The great majority of the farmers who depend on their farming for a living rely upon the monthly milk check as their most important source of cash. Without it they could pay neither their taxes, their insurance, the interest on the mortgage, nor the down payment and maintenance of an automobile. A demand for milk will continue as long as New England remains industrial and the proximity of our region will always give it the advantage over the West, although it costs fifteen dollars more a year per cow in Vermont than in the Midwest. Nineteen-tenths of the total improved area is devoted in one way or the other to the support of the dairy industry.

Despite this specialization in dairy farming, the number of cattle has only slightly increased during the last hundred years—937 milk cows in 1850 and 1100 in 1935. But in 1850 Norwich had 2,000 inhabitants, who got all their milk, butter and cheese supplies locally. How many of the 1400 inhabitants eat western butter and cheese today? Moreover, the productiveness of the cow has vastly increased. During the last thirty years extension workers and other agricultural leaders have opened the eyes of the dairymen to the value of wellbred stock. Scrubby and low grade cows could not compete with the high grade animals either in profits or in the quality of the milk.

The production of hay has varied the least through a hundred years. Five thousand tons were harvested when the first agricultural census was taken, the same amount today. Even the yield per acre kept an even level. Ninety percent of all the cropland today is in hayfields. In 1935, the total land under culti-

vation was 6,309 acres. Of this 4,957 acres were hayland producing 4,270 tons. The whole area considered by the same census was 23,000 acres.

Acreage of Various Crops—Norwich

	1879	1934
Hay, all	5,685	5,744
Small grains cut for hay	*	230
Alfalfa	0	1
Corn for silage	0	248
Corn for Grain	568	161
Corn, total	568	409
Wheat	157	0
Oats	575	87
Barley	4	0
Rye	39	0
Buckwheat	38	*
Mixed grains	*	0
Total small grains (threshed)	813	87
Potatoes	199	63
Beans	*	*
Tobacco	**	*
Apple trees, bearing age, no.	17,677	2,097
Apple trees, non-bearing age, no.	*	1,086

*Not reported

Production of Various Crops—Norwich

	1849	1859	1869	1879	1934
Hay, tons	5,972	5,135	5,596	6,048	4,891
Corn, bu.	54,991	13,198	18,151	19,484	8,250
Wheat, bu.	2,656	3,023	3,371	2,233	0
Oats, bu.	12,275	22,649	19,553	21,536	3,200
Barley, bu.	151	45	320	71	0
Rye, bu.	1,537	834	530	418	0
Buckwheat, bu.	1,241	485	2,185	741	0
Mixed grains, bu.	*	*	*	*	0
Total small grains, bu.	17,860	27,036	25,959	24,999	3,200
Potatoes, bu.	35,387	29,023	24,554	21,879	9,734
Beans, bu.	1,230	1,023	249	1,230	*
Tobacco, lb.	0	0	0	200	*
Apples, bu.	*	*	*	20,965	7
Orchard products	\$ 2,756	\$ 709	\$ 8,538	\$ 4,693	*
Maple sugar, lb.	25,180	41,570	48,000	53,085	*
Maple syrup, gal.	0	0	0	394	**919
Honey, lb.	2,238	1,898	233	1,830	*
Wood, cd.	*	*	*	3,792	*
Forest products	*		*\$ 26,081	\$ 12,660	*

*Not reported.

** 1936 as reported by the town listers.

Source: U. S. Census.

During these changes, Norwich lost half its population. The peak was reached in 1830, with 2,316 inhabitants.

This peak had been reached in the following way:

1770: 203; 1791: 1,158; 1800: 1,486; 1810: 1,812; 1820: 1,985; 1830: 2, 316.

The descent was as follows:

1840: 2,218; 1850: 1,978; 1860: 1,759; 1870: 1,639; 1880: 1,471; 1890: 1,304; 1900: 1,300; 1910: 1,252.

The lowest point was in 1920 with 1092 souls. In 1930 the figure is back to 1371, and in 1940, 1418. Compare 1940 with 1880 and 1800. The total figures are similar but age groups vary greatly. In the year 1800, the number of children of school age is given in the History of Norwich as 604, out of a population of 1486. In 1880, out of 1471, 390 school children were listed. Today, the figure is down to 220.

The way in which the older age groups outnumber the young is shown in the census of 1930:

Under 5	5-14	14-25	25-34	35-45	45-64	over 65
137	243	218	177	163	289	144

Of the 1371 inhabitants 861 were over 21, or of voting age. A man born in 1900 would be 40 years today and perhaps a valuable citizen with a growing family. But he is not likely to be living in Norwich. Of 19 infants born and recorded in the town report of 1901 not a single man or woman lives in our town today. Of 245 born during the decade 1900-1910 only 95 or one fifth are now citizens of Norwich. So four-fifths of our native born left town before they were thirty years old. In the next decade 203 children were born and 56 are now among our citizens from 20-30 years of age.

Nobody seems to have any doubts that our Norwich population has revived and only escaped the fate of most of Vermont's agricultural towns because of its location across the river from Dartmouth College. But if we analyze the statistics of the population we find that the rolling wave toward the west started almost as soon as Norwich was settled. Between 1840 and 1850, Norwich suffered the greatest loss. In 1830 the growth was suddenly stunted, and in 1850 it had dropped by almost one sixth of the population. And the ones who had left were the young, the ambitious, the parents of the future families. This loss occurred when Vermont was producing more wheat, more corn, more potatoes per acre, was paying higher wages, obtaining more wealth per capita than Ohio, Illinois, or Michigan. Conditions were good and it was not conditions at home which drove the young and ambitious off. It was the dream of the future, the west, where rising land values and lottery-like chances of getting rich quick eclipsed the laborious way of making a living and the small margin for getting rich slowly at home. Those who went expected a return of several hundred on their investment, but it was not only a dollar and cent proposition, it was a challenge to their initiative and a call to their love of adventure. After the panic of 1857 the emigration slowed down and many preferred to stay at home until the hard times were over. Instead, four years of war were ahead and Norwich sent 178 men to the armies of the union. More than one in ten of the whole population went.

Not all of the emigrants were frontiersmen by instinct. Once the industrialization of New England got under way, the new factories got their labor

supply from the farms. The lure of an easier life in the city drew great numbers into the army of industrial workers.

Our Survey's list of Norwich families shows almost as many households as a hundred years ago, although there exists only half the population of the peak year. The handwritten census of the year 1850 lists 368 households. 376 men called themselves farmers; that means that almost every adult male was a farmer. But most of the farmers were part-time farmers. They were carpenters, masons, harnessmakers, merchants, teachers, ministers besides, and their daughters and wives supervised the manufacture of home-produced linen and woolen clothing. There were 21 professional men, 60 craftsmen, 16 merchants and business men. They all had farms and worked the farms as a way of living, even if they got their main source of income in some other way. The census lists only 15 day laborers, and the hired man was listed among the members of the family. That is to say the head of almost every family was his own boss. The 31 lawyers, doctors and teachers might be compared to the 23 professors and instructors who live in town today. But their center of interest now is mostly on the other side of the river; hence the similarity in number seems misleading as a comparison.

Today of the 400 bread winners

$\frac{1}{4}$ make their living as farmers

$\frac{3}{8}$ make their living in Hanover

$\frac{1}{4}$ work in Norwich or wherever they find work

$\frac{1}{8}$ and this seems a high proportion—are retired.

The $\frac{3}{8}$ who work in Hanover are almost all on a salary basis while those who work in Norwich live mostly on roadwork and occasional jobs.

In terms of income the $\frac{3}{8}$ which we have called the Hanover group represent a much greater percentage in economic affluence. The number of independent business men and merchants is too small to compare with the 21 professional men of 90 years ago. In numbers these 21 professional men of 1850 may be compared to the 23 college teachers who live in Norwich, but the significance of these two groups is not the same. The college teachers may reside in Norwich, but do not necessarily take part in the life of the community. The 21 professional men in 1850 were the leading men of the town, in politics and church and school. Today Norwich is on the way from a town to a suburb. The last years have seen a definite change from one type of resident to the other.

But even now Norwich, as all rural districts, may claim consideration, not just in terms of economic products, but also as a center of human reproduction. The rural settlements of America have paid for the American cities. The land has furnished the people, and the country schools have equipped them with an education quite out of proportion with financial returns. As centers of human reproduction towns like Norwich give more than they receive. We educate our children "away" from our town. This movement is so one-sided and has gone on for so long that we have become fatalistic about it. But the last word has not been spoken.

The trend toward the city is not inevitable, and may not last forever. No inexorable laws have produced the depopulation of Vermont. Moreover the trends of the last 100 years reported here should not be misinterpreted to indicate that because of them Norwich will necessarily serve as a suburb of Hanover to the end of its history.

Our Norwich Town Goverment

"THE things in civilization we prize are not of ourselves. They exist by the grace of the doings and sufferings of the continuous human community of which we are a link", says John Dewey, one of our leading educators and lecturers, born in Vermont. The link which connects our local town officers forms our town government. The value of that community government largely depends upon *cooperative planning* between the leaders and members of that community, which will train them to be better citizens and reliable town officers. Thus the spirit of true democracy, which requires *common effort in making the plans* for a definite program, will result in a working demonstration of general cooperation for the best interest of our town.

At the present time our rural and village population do not participate proportionally in elections and in management of schools and other public enterprises. In March 1940, of sixteen officers elected only two were farmers and these two have daily contact with the village people, getting their mail at Norwich Post Office and enjoying village activities. As farm families compose about one-third of our population, we hope they will show more interest in Town Meeting. If you are a city voter and never attended a small country Town Meeting, come with me to Tracy Hall Auditorium, on the first Tuesday in March, at ten o'clock, where the Moderator, Glenn W. Merrill, calls the meeting to order and calls for the reading of the Warning, after which the new Moderator is elected.

This year Mr. Merrill is re-elected, followed by the re-election of the Town Clerk, Chas. C. Judd, who thereby becomes clerk of the meeting. The Town Clerk has the authority to appoint his own assistant—who is Mrs. Judd. The legal voters then hear and act upon the report of the Town officers.

The fourth item: Should we have two road commissioners instead of one? Voted down. Two road commissioners would require double equipment (too expensive for a town of this size) while the amount of work and pay involved would not be worth while for two commissioners.

Our 1940 Elected Officers and Their Duties

The fifth item: To elect all Town Officers and fix their salaries. The salaries are set at the rate of three dollars per day of nine hours. The first Officer to be elected is a School Director to serve three years, Carroll Barwood. All schools in town are managed by a board of three School Directors, co-operating with a superintendent who covers several towns, composing a district of not over fifty teachers. The superintendent is hired by the School Boards of that District, after recommendations from the State Board. The towns in our district are Norwich, Strafford, Sharon and Royalton. The school year begins July 1, instead of February 1, which leads to some confusion in compiling figures for the Town Report.