

become one of the top-ranking schools in New York State. The neighborhood called Westvale, once a community of dairy farmers and fruit growers, remained intact while the city of Syracuse grew around it.

A state supreme court judge and neighbor, John H. Farnham, and other neighbors and Trustees, George N. Terziev—who donated use of his chicken coop—Sidney Coulter, and others, led a successful fundraising effort

to build the red brick school, Cherry Road School.

Marion—who became known fondly to everyone as Miss Parsons—was presented with the old brass bell from the one room schoolhouse on Terry Road.

The scenes of farm life in the late 1800s and early 1900s transport readers to another time. The stories shared by family, former students, parents and former teachers provide clues to

the triumph of a small community school that survived through a series of troubling times.

*"The Brass Bell"* explores the life of a woman who did not accept failure from herself or from others, but who encouraged curiosity, mutual respect, and a community spirit for all of her students. It is a snapshot of a school that engaged an entire community, and has remained at its heart for nearly 10 generations.

The book was sponsored, in part, by the

Solvay-Geddes Historical Society. Some of the proceeds of the book will go to support the fledgling organization.

There will be Cherry Road School alumni on-hand to share stories about the olden days; a skit performed by students that honored the life of Miss Parsons on the day of her retirement in 1952 will be recreated.

Refreshments will be served at the event.