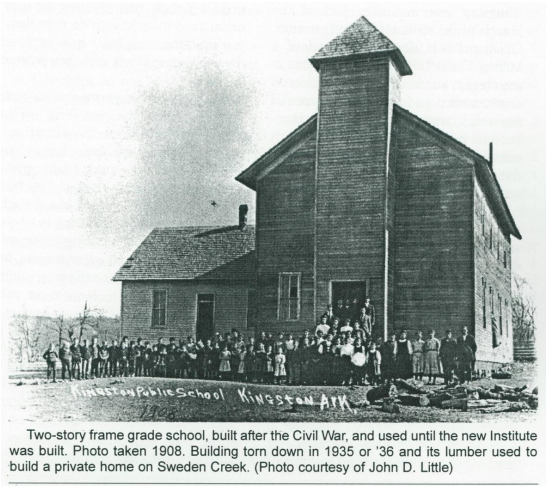
THE HISTORY OF EDUCATION IN MADISON COUNTY, ARKANSAS

1827-1948



Two-story frame grade school, built after the Civil War, and used until the new Institute was built. Photo taken 1908. Building torn down in 1935 or '36 and its lumber used to build a private home on Sweden Creek. (Photo courtesy of John D. Little)

By

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1991 – updated 2020

Contents

CHAPTER 1.....8
Introduction.....9
The Problem and Value of the Study.....10
Purpose of the Study.....11
Methods of Study.....12
Review of the Literature.....14

CHAPTER 2.....21
The Period from 1827-1865.....21
The Territorial Years.....21
Arkansas Becomes a Territory.....21
The Ordinance of 1785 and 1787.....22
The Early Counties.....24
The Early Schools.....26
Territorial Education in Madison County.....30
The Early Statehood Years.....33
Madison County.....34
Statehood Provisions for Support of.....36
Public Education, 1836-1865.....36
Characteristics of the Early Schools.....46
Madison County Schools: 1836-1868.....49
Huntsville Masonic Institute.....53
AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE HUNTSVILLE MASONIC INSTITUTE.....54
Pleasant View Female Seminary.....60
An Act to Incorporate Pleasant View Female Academy,.....61
in the Town of Huntsville, Madison County.....61
Summary.....63

CHAPTER 3.....66
The Reconstruction Government Creates.....66
A New School System.....66
Formation of the School Districts in Madison.....72
County Under the School Law of 1868.....72
The First Two Years: 1869 and 1870.....72
School Attendance.....76
School Revenues.....77
Number of Pupils in the Branches Taught.....78
Formation of the Remainder of the.....81
Madison County School Districts,.....81

1870-1897.....81
The Constitution of 1874.....81
The School Law of 1875.....82
.....92
Madison County Schools.....93
The Period from 1880-1900.....93
Outline of Study for the Schools in Madison County.....94
Studies for First Reader Pupils.....95
General Directions and Suggestions.....95
Studies for Second Reader Pupils.....98
General Directions and Suggestions.....99
Studies for the Third Reader Pupils.....101
General Directions and Suggestions for Third Reader Grade.....102
Studies for Fourth Reader Pupils.....104
Textbooks in Use from 1879-1880.....105
The Period from 1900-1925.....108
Consolidation of the Smaller Districts.....109
Strengthening of Local Supervision.....110
Standard Course of Study for All Schools.....114
Graded Course of Study.....114
Pedagogical Techniques.....117
General Directions to Teachers.....118
Improved School Facilities.....121

CHAPTER 4.....124
The Period from 1926 to 1948.....124
Repercussions of the Depression.....127
Reorganization and Consolidation.....131
The Madison County Reorganization Plan.....136
Reorganization Plan Summary.....145
Initiated Act No. 1 of 1948.....146

CHAPTER 5.....151
Statistics of the Districts.....151
The Enumeration or School Census.....151
Enumeration of the Madison County.....156
School Districts.....156
Student Enrollment and Attendance.....161
School Attendance.....162
Revenues Raised and Expended for the Public Schools.....171
Madison County, 1880-1940.....171

CHAPTER 6.....178
County Supervision, Teacher Education, and.....178
Teacher Certification.....178
County Supervision.....178
County School Officials.....181
Madison County: 1836-1948.....181
Teacher Education and Certification Programs.....182
The County Institute.....183
Teacher Certification.....186
Sample Examination for County Teaching Certificate,.....189
1920: Madison County.....189

CHAPTER 7.....196
Schools of Madison County by District Number.....196
Huntsville District No. 1.....197
Professor Jesse Bird & Bird College.....204
Huntsville Academy - Huntsville High School.....223
The Smith-Hughes Act.....225
Huntsville High School Notes.....231
The Huntsville S.I.A.....232
The Huntsville Community Institute.....236
A new beginning - Senate Bill 117.....254
Act 145.....257
Huntsville State Vocational School.....263
McConnell's Chapel District No. 2.....295
Mountain Grove District No. 3.....298
Lower Whorton Creek District No. 4.....301
Upper Whorton Creek District No. 5.....304
Bohannon School District No. 6.....306
Baldwin School District No. 7.....309
Lone Star District No. 8.....312
Alabam District No. 9.....313
Park Hill District No. 10.....320
Jackson Creek District No. 11.....322
Oak Grove District No. 12.....324
Witter School District No. 13.....330
Aurora School District No. 14.....333
Hocks Creek District No. 15.....337
Purdy School District No. 16.....338
Buckeye District No. 17.....340
California School District No. 18.....344
Whitener District No. 19.....346
Harmony District No. 20.....350
Duncan District No. 21.....352

Recess at Duncan school c. 1927.....354
Lower Camp Ground District No. 22.....354
Peace Valley District No. 23.....357
Mount Pleasant District No. 24.....361
Kingston District No. 25.....362
Pleasant Home District No. 26.....391
Possum Creek District No. 27.....394
Upper Camp Ground District No. 28.....398
Hickory Grove District No. 29.....401
Mountain Springs District No. 30.....404
Asher District No. 31.....406
Japton District No. 32.....409
Combs District No. 33.....414
Jones District No. 34.....418
Little's Chapel District No. 35.....420
Loy District No. 36.....431
Clear Creek District No. 37.....432
Reeds Creek District No. 38.....436
Wolfpen District No. 39 and.....438
Good Luck District No. 39.....438
Burke District No. 40.....443
Fairview District No. 41.....446
Ogden District No. 42.....449
Henderson Creek District No. 43.....449
Bluff Springs District No. 44.....454
Langley District No. 45.....457
Delaney's Creek District No. 46.....460
Cedar Bluff District No. 47.....462
White River Chapel District No. 48.....467
Riverside District No. 48.....467
Saint Paul District No. 48.....467
Chaplain District No. 49.....475
Farmer District No. 50.....477
Bethel District No. 51.....480
Weathers District No. 51.....480
Long Valley District No. 51.....480
Oak Summit District No. 52.....483
Crosses Creek District No. 52.....483
Accident District No. 52.....483
Shady Grove District No. 53.....486
Delaney District No. 54.....496
Plainview District No. 55.....499
Wesley District No. 56.....501
Cove District No. 57.....505
Little Spring District No. 58.....507

Locust Mountain District No. 58.....507
Flint School District No. 59.....509
Forum School District No. 59.....509
Greenwood District No. 60.....515
Dutton District No. 61.....517
Spring Hill District No. 62.....520
Pettigrew District No. 63.....524
Concord District No. 64.....526
Boston District No. 65.....529
Smyrna District No. 66.....532
Big Sandy District No. 67.....536
Crosses Creek District No. 68.....539
Cross Roads District No. 69.....542
Enterprise District No. 70.....548
Kilgore District No. 71.....545
Lake District No. 72.....548
Thompson District No. 73.....552
Mount Dorcas District No. 74.....555
Short Cove District No. 75.....559
Drakes Creek District No. 76.....562
Fancher District No. 77.....564
Dripping Springs District No. 78.....566
Hindsville District No. 79.....569
Union Gap District No. 80.....575
Friley Creek District No. 81.....577
Liberty District No. 82.....581
Panther Creek District No. 83.....586
Cobb Creek District No. 84.....587
Phipps Chapel District No. 85.....591
Oak Grove District No. 86.....593
Spoke Plant District No. 87.....596
Marble District No. 88.....599
Mountain View District No. 89.....602
Calbaugh District No. 90.....604
Ball Creek District No. 91.....607
Good Hope District No. 92.....610
Free Will District No. 93.....613
Pharris District No. 94.....616
Lower Rock House District No. 95.....618
Red Star District No. 96.....621
Health District No. 97.....625
Upper Rock House District No. 98.....629
Pinnacle District No. 99.....631
Low Gap District No. 100.....635
Venus District No. 101.....637

Robertson District No. 102.....640
Crosses District No. 103.....642
Ferrell's Creek District No. 104.....646
Saint Paul District No. 105.....650
Ribbon Ridge District No. 106.....650
West Liberty District No. 107.....653
Muddy Gap District No. 108.....657
Dabney District No. 109.....658
Berry Branch District No. 110.....659
Easterling Creek District No. 111.....661
Withrow District No. 112.....663
Highway District No. 113.....665
New Home District No. 114.....668
Atkins District No. 115.....672
Walnut Grove District No. 116.....672
Oak Grove District No. 117.....673
Bayley District No. 118.....675
Accident District No. 119.....680
Clifty District No. 120.....683
Bethel District No. 121.....686
Rocky Grove District No. 122.....687
East Liberty District No. 123.....689
Bolinger District No. 124.....691
Reynolds District No. 125.....693
WORKS CITED.....696

FORWARD

For you readers and researchers in the future, this volume is an update to my original doctoral dissertation from the University of Arkansas published in 1991. I have deleted pages that the University required of all dissertations at that time as they are not relevant to the study. I did maintain Chapter 1 which includes an introduction, the stated problem and value of the study, its purpose, methods, and the review of the literature. This is probably not of interest to anyone but I decided to retain it. I have retained all of the original footnotes and the list of worked cited at the end.

During the years from 1991 – 2020, I have collected many photographs, stories, and additional information on education in the county which I have now incorporated into this book. I realize that school photos have not changed much in the past 100 years but seeing the faces of former students and teachers in a place (school) called Seed Tick or Shake Rag or Alabam just seems to bring the story a little more to life. When this dissertation was completed, the first simple word processing programs had just been marketed and the displaying of graphics and pictures was not yet possible as they are today.

CHAPTER 1

Introduction

The history of organized education in Madison County began before the county was established as a legal entity in 1836 by the state legislature. It began shortly after the first settlers arrived in the Kings River valley in 1827 where they erected the first school southeast of Kingston.[1]

While the history of education in the county is an interesting one, it must be viewed as more than a collection of buildings, teachers, students, and curriculum. The school was an integral part of the history of the community in which it was situated. The school reflected the values, mores, philosophies, and lifestyles of the early settlers. Organized education was part of the history of a way of life that no longer exists. Each community had its own identity and if you were from Nubbin Ridge, you probably viewed the world a little different than those who lived on Possum Creek.

Each county educational system in Arkansas has a history, written or not, that tells the story of the dreams and philosophy of the founders, the struggles for survival, the successes and failures, the strengths and weaknesses,

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[1] Theta Mu Epsilon, *The History of Huntsville and Madison County* (Huntsville, Arkansas, *The Madison County Record*, 1978), 27.

and the fulfillment or the disappearance of the system's objectives. If unwritten, the history is of little value. On the other hand, an accurately written account of the historical progress of a system is invaluable in the further progress of modern education.[2]

The history of education is a phase not only of national history but also of the history of mankind and particularly of culture and civilization. It may mean the course of events, or it may mean the records of the events in a work such as a written history.[3]

With respect to the national experience, the history of education in Madison County is a relatively young history, having its beginnings only as recent as 1827. During this period from 1827 to the present, 122 of the original 125 school districts which once flourished in the county have disappeared. Unfortunately, most of the once thriving communities also have disappeared.

The Problem and Value of the Study

The purpose of the study is to present the circumstances surrounding the establishment, growth, and

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[2] Earl R. Williams, "John Brown University: Its Founder and Founding, 1919-1957" (Unpublished doctoral dissertation, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, 1971), 1.

[3] H. G. Good, *A History of American Education* (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1956), 3-4.

development of the educational system in Madison County, Arkansas, 1827-1948. While the structural pattern of education and the methods of its operation are largely determined by constitutional provisions, legislative enactments, judicial decisions, and local policy, these acts may be thought of as the practical expressions or manifestations of the mental pictures of concepts which the people of the state and local area have of education. Therefore, the study will attempt to trace the development of the educational system in Madison County as it relates to the constitutional provisions, legislative enactments, judicial decisions, and local policy decisions.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study was to answer, insofar as possible, the following questions in a historical context:

1. What efforts were made in the territorial years and early statehood years to provide education in the county?

2. Were there any academies, seminaries, or colleges operating in the county, and if so, how were they established and operated?

3. How were the school districts established, financed, and operated?

4. What were the names and locations of the 125 school districts established in the county?

5. What major problems were associated with school finance in the county?

6. What sources of revenue were collected and expended for public education in the county?

7. What comparison can be made of the cost of education from one decade to another decade?

8. What was the enumeration, enrollment, and attendance in the county schools?

9. What subjects were taught in the schools and what was the relative enrollment in the subjects?

10. How many teachers were employed in the county and how were they prepared, certified, and compensated?

11. Were there any significant developments in education that set Madison County apart from other counties in the state?

12. What were the conditions prior to and after the consolidation of 1948?

13. What effects did the state-wide consolidation of school districts have on Madison County?

Methods of Study

The investigation was the result of research covering both primary and secondary sources relating to school history in Madison County. The information for the study was obtained largely from the publications of government and learned societies. The annual and biennial reports of the

State Department of Education of Arkansas as well as records of the county court and office of the county board of education were used extensively. The Acts of Arkansas provided the needed legal data pertaining to the laws which established the guidelines for the operation of the schools. Histories of the state, articles from newspapers, periodicals, and historical journals, unpublished doctoral dissertations and general references regarding the general conditions of education in the county and state furnished items of interest. Information from personal interviews was used to give the study coherence.

The material is presented in the chronological order of its occurrence with consideration given each unit as it occurred with the passage of time. The study is organized chronologically into four periods.

The first of these deals with the period from 1827 until the close of the Civil War in which the schools of the area were mainly subscription schools or private academies and seminaries.

The second period begins in 1866 and covers the developments of the educational system until 1925. It was during this period that all of the districts were established and schools were maintained by local millage levies and state apportionment allocated by the child.

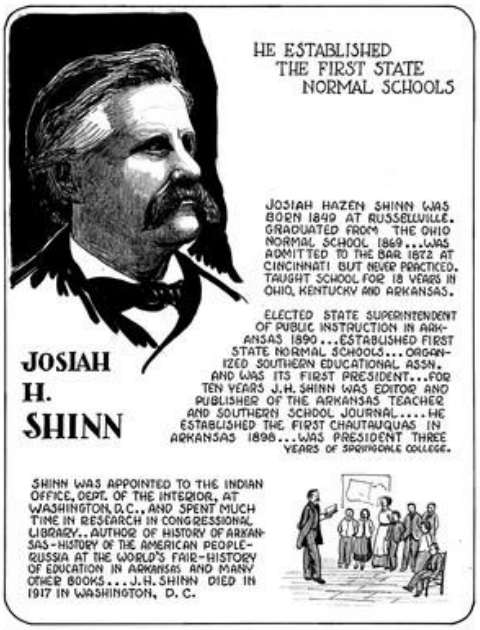
The third period, 1926 to 1939, began with the expressed need of more equalized funds for the public schools as well as more state control of the schools. **The fourth period** begins in 1940 and documents the changes while the state was recovering from the depression of the 1930's and the events which lead to the consolidation of most of the districts in 1949.

Throughout the study, an effort was made to trace and interpret the events which lead to the present-day system of education in Madison County. An effort also was made to document the names of the teachers and those who made important contributions to the efforts to create a more informed and educated society.

Review of the Literature

There have been only a few detailed studies of a historical nature devoted to the history of Arkansas' public education system. Most of the historical writings concerning the public schools have been general and brief in scope and usually have been part of broader studies commissioned by the U.S. Office of Education or the Arkansas Department of Education.

The first study of significance concerning Arkansas public education was published by J.H. Shinn in 1900.[4] The study was reported in a monograph under the sponsorship of the United States Bureau of Education, which at that time was a part of the Department of the Interior. Shinn traced the development of the public schools prior to the Civil War in part one and in part two, traced it since the Civil War to 1895. The work is only 121 pages in length, but the author gave a good account of the origins of the present school system in Arkansas.



Shinn's writing emphasized the provisions for financial support for education that the state was making. Due to the sparse population, he explained that it was difficult for the state to maintain an adequate school system. He gave a vivid description of the legislative enactments relative to public education, beginning with the development of the territory, and emphasizing the provisions for financing the common schools.

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[4] J. H. Shinn, *History of Education in Arkansas*, United States Bureau of Education, Circular of Information, Vol. I (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1900).

He reported that prior to the Civil War, common schools were supported from the sales and rentals of the public lands granted by the United States. During this period, many private schools and academies were in operation deriving their support from tuition or subscription. He stated that the people regarded the business of education as private, personal, and religious.

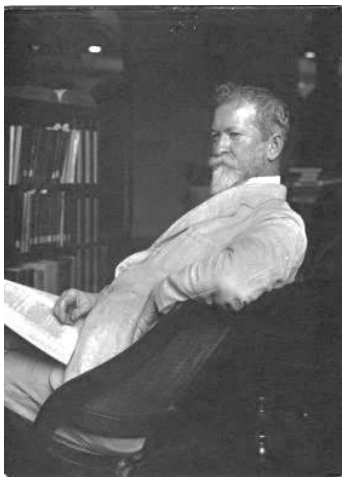
A second study that paralleled the study by Shinn was published in 1912 by Weeks.[5] He drew heavily on the study by Shinn. Special consideration was given to the history of the public lands that Arkansas received from the United States Government. His study summarized the early attempts at education in the state in the following fashion:

1. That it was an evolution from private schools, usually called academies.
2. That the system was highly unorganized; most of the state did not conduct any type of common school.
3. That it drew its support (a) first of all from tuition fees and from endowments made by private individuals; (b) from direct taxation, which, however, during this period was so small that it may be neglected (being only $1,100 for the year represented by the Federal Census of 1860); (c)

[5] Stephen B. Weeks, *History of Public School Education in Arkansas* (United States Bureau of Education, Bulletin 11, Washington, D.C., Government Printing Office, 1922).

> from the income of the seminary and saline funds, which were soon directed from the higher to the lower schools; (d) from the income of the sixteenth section funds, which, as will be learned, were the property of the township, and not of the state as a whole.

The study by Weeks depicted the changing attitude of the people towards the common schools and a common education as well as their changing attitude towards taxation. This attitude began during the reconstruction era and ended with the more prosperous years for the state in 1912.



Stephen B. Weeks c. 1920

At the request of the Arkansas State Educational Commission, the Federal Bureau of Education furnished the leadership for another study of the public school system in Arkansas in 1922.[6] The study was divided into two parts: Part I contained the facts relative to the conditions of the schools in Arkansas, and Part II contained pertinent information relating to school finance and administration in the various counties.

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[6] Fletcher H. Swift, *The Public School System of Arkansas*, Part II (United States Bureau of Education, Bulletin 11, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1922).

Governor McRae, on the basis of the report, formulated and presented to the General Assembly important education legislation. The report stressed that the basic cause for the poor conditions in the state's school system was chiefly financial. The study gave many recommendations to upgrade the public school system in Arkansas. Many profiles of the counties are contained in this report. The majority of the recommendations were related to school finance but many other recommendations of historical significance also are listed.

In a study made in 1930, Irby proposed a program for the equalization of educational opportunities in the State of Arkansas.[7] The study reported that there were wide differences in educational opportunities among the counties of the state, and these differences were of long standing. Irby proposed that the state funds be distributed on the basis of the number of teachers employed and pupils in average daily attendance.

In 1937, a study of local school units in Arkansas was made as a part of a program sponsored by the United States Office of Education, Department of the Interior.[8] The

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[7] N. M. Irby, *Program for the Equalization of Educational Opportunities in the State of Arkansas* (Nashville, Tennessee: Cullhorn and Chertner Co., 1930).

[8] J. W. Studebaker, *Study of Local School Units in Arkansas* (United States Office of Education--Arkansas Department of Education, Little Rock, Arkansas, 1937).

program included ten states in each of which the study was made under the direction of the State Department of Education. The program was financed by the allocation of Federal funds through the Works Progress Administration and the Department of the Interior.

The general purposes of the Arkansas Study were (a) to collect, organize and analyze data concerning the present schools and school administrative units; (b) to formulate standards and plans for the reorganization of existing administrative units into more effective school units; and (c) to ascertain and plan for the needs of the future school programs in Arkansas. The study embraced each of the 75 counties of the state. In each county, complete data was collected with respect to the present attendance areas and administrative units. In addition to the county studies, a thorough study was made of the history and development of the state public school program and of trends with respect to the schools in the state.

In 1940, Owens made a study of the development of white secondary schools in Arkansas.[9] At the time of the study, one third of the children of school age lived in districts that were unable to support a high school. A general review of past legislation affecting education was given by Owens,

[9] Morgan R. Owens, "The Development of the White Secondary Schools in Arkansas" (Unpublished doctoral dissertation, George Peabody College, Nashville, Tennessee, 1940).

particularly as it influenced the support of the early development of the secondary school.

In 1952, Bruce made an evaluation of the Arkansas State school finance system relating to the School Finance Act of 1951.[10] One of the major divisions of the study was the historical development of the Arkansas school revenue system. The study was not intended to include a complete historical study of school finance in Arkansas but the study is helpful in that it gives a general resume of the distinct periods of development of school finance.

Davenport, in a historical study on public education in Arkansas, reported the development of constitutional and legislative provisions for education since the days of pre-statehood.[11] The study will be helpful in reviewing the constitutional and legislative provisions which lead to many of the developments of the school system in the various counties.

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[10] Imon Bruce, "An Evaluation of the Arkansas State School Finance System" (Unpublished doctoral dissertation, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, 1952).

[11] William R. Davenport, "The Development of the Constitutional and Statutory Provisions for Education in Arkansas" (Unpublished doctoral dissertation, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, 1955).

CHAPTER 2

The Period from 1827-1865

The Territorial Years

Although there were no public schools or organized system of public schools in Arkansas prior to the Civil War, some provisions were made for the education of the children of the state from the very beginning.[12] Schools were taught in Arkansas almost as soon as there were English-speaking families here. In order to fully appreciate the development of the pre-Civil War system of education in the state, it will be necessary to examine the early attempts by individuals and the territorial legislature to establish a system of schools in the new territory as well as those contributions made by the federal government.

Arkansas Becomes a Territory

In December 1818, Congressman George Robertson of Kentucky introduced a bill in Congress for the formal creation of the Arkansas Territory. "This territory," said Robertson, " . . . was, from its remoteness from the present

[12] T. M. Stinnett and Clara B. Kennan, *All This and Tomorrow Too* (Little Rock: The Arkansas Education Association, 1969), 11.

seat of government, almost without either law or government."[13]

Congress wasted little time in passing Robertson's bill and on March 2, 1819, President James Monroe signed the Arkansas Territory bill into law, and the Arkansas Territory officially came into existence.[14]

Congressman George Robertson

The Act which created the Territory of Arkansas also provided that the sixteenth section of land in each township in Arkansas be reserved as "an endowment for the common schools of the township in which said section is located."[15] It should be noted that under these provisions, the sixteenth sections were the property of the respective townships, and were not the property of the state as they would later become known to be.

The Ordinance of 1785 and 1787

The concept of the "sixteenth section" lands was created by the Continental Congress when it placed its stamp

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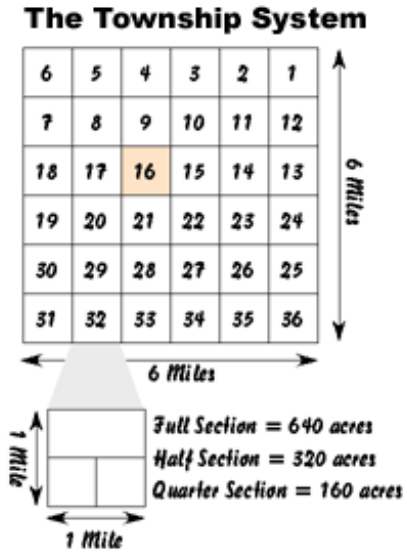
[13] Fred Berry and John Novak, *The History of Arkansas* (Little Rock: Rose Publishing Company, 1987), 26-27.

[14] Ibid., 27.

[15] Dallas T. Herndon, *Centennial History of Arkansas* (Chicago-Little Rock: S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1922), 536.

of approval on education and set the stage for many systems of education in the various states.[16] This was accomplished by the passage of the Land Ordinance of 1785 and extended later by the passage of the Northwest Ordinance of 1787.



The Ordinance of 1785 was the beginning of aid to territories and later to states for education. It provided that the sixteenth section of every township in the territories and the states be set aside for the establishment of public schools.[17] The ordinance further provided that the sixteenth section be granted to the township and not to the state, and further provided that each township should have the funds arising from its own lands, and no more.

The Northwest Ordinance of 1787 was a clarification and definition of the Land Ordinance of 1785 and was the beginning of endowment of public institutions of higher learning with public lands.[18] It has often been referred to as the

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[16] Leslie P. Todd, *Rise of the American Nation* (New York: Harcourt, Brace and Jovanovich, Inc., 1972), 145.

[17] Ibid., 146.

[18] Ibid., 148.

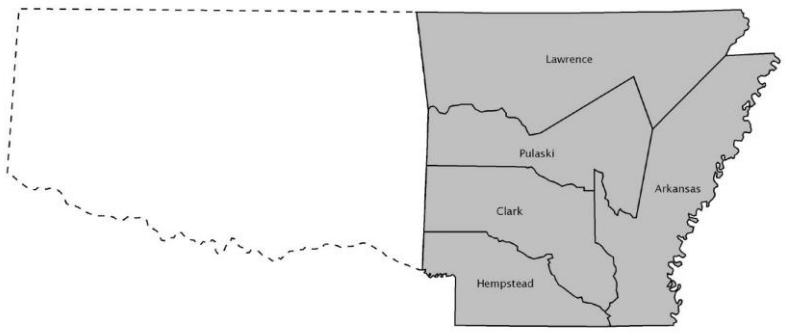
"Charter of Public Education" in the United States. Article III of the Ordinance contains the now famous promulgation:

> ***Religion, morality, and knowledge being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged. . . .***[19]

The members of the Continental Congress apparently believed that public education was a necessary condition for the successful working of representative government and hoped that this provision would stimulate public support of schools in the territories.

The Early Counties

When the territorial government was established, the original two counties created by the Missouri legislature were divided into five.[20] They were Lawrence, Pulaski, Arkansas, Clark, and Hempstead.

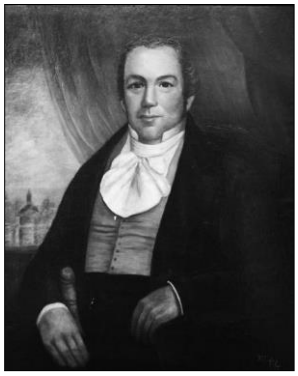


[19] *Journal of the Continental Congress* (1978), Vol. 32.

[20] Berry, op. cit., 26.

Some of the counties extended beyond the present state lines into Missouri and Oklahoma. Present-day Madison County was part of Lawrence County, which basically encompassed most of the lands north of the Arkansas River except for those lands east of the White River in eastern Arkansas.[21]

The population of those counties had grown from about 1,100 in 1810 to 14,000 at the time of their organization as a territory.[22] The difficulties and dangers of frontier life were great in the new territory and the people were intensely preoccupied with the task of providing the imperative needs of existence. Thus, the opportunities for organization were few. As a result, the people were little concerned with education at this time.[23]



Territorial Governor James Miller

Territorial Governor James Miller wrote that most of the people of Arkansas were "miserably poor" and lived in houses that were "but little better than a square of rail fences." [24]

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[21] Ibid., 27.

[22] Bill McCuen, *Historical Report of the Secretary of State* (Little Rock, 1986), 14.

[23] W. O. Wilson, *Arkansas and Its People* (New York: The American Historical Society, Inc., 1930), 462.

[24] James Miller to Mrs. Miller, March 20, 1820, The Robert Wilson Trimble Collection.

Territorial Arkansas was a country "very new and society very uncultivated."[25]

The Early Schools

During the first ten years as a territory, there was no organized system of schools in Arkansas although there were a few scattered private schools. Stephen B. Weeks, in his "History of Public School Education in Arkansas," said:

> **The first schools in Arkansas were church schools under the direction of the Jesuits, who during the French and Spanish regimes, made some efforts at instruction of the Indians in things temporal as well as spiritual.[26]**

The Jesuits abandoned the field a short time before Louisiana was purchased by the United States, and some of the Protestant denominations established schools among the Indians.[27]

The first Protestant mission and school among the Cherokees of Arkansas was established in 1820 by the American Board of Missions of the Congregational Church at Old Dwight in Lawrence County (present-day Pope County).[28]

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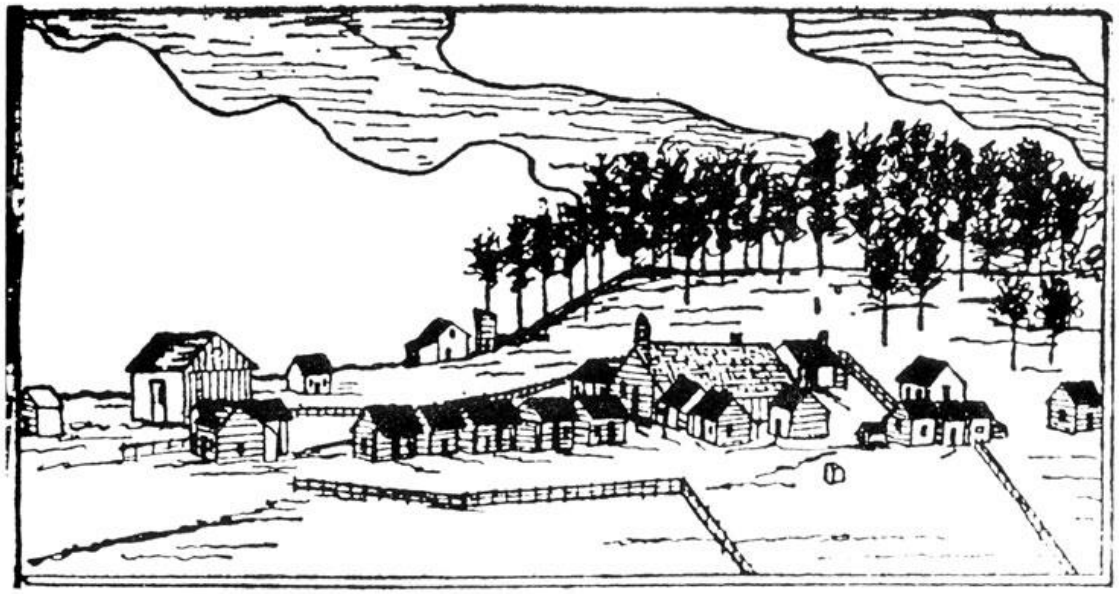
[25] Ibid.

[26] Stephen B. Weeks, *History of Public Education in Arkansas* (United States Bureau of Education, Bulletin 27, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1912), 64.

[27] Ibid., 65.

[28] Herndon, op. cit., 531.

Reverend Cephas Washburn was the director of the school which gained a wide reputation and is said to have been the first real organized effort to establish an educational institution in Arkansas.



(Old Dwight Mission - Picture courtesy of the Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture)

Soon, numerous other private schools flourished. These schools were often financed by giving the teacher room and board in some private home and farm produce for the remainder of pay.[29] No doubt, these schools were established by the early settlers from the New England states. Only meager records are available concerning the earlier ones, but newspaper accounts are available to show

[29] Berry, op. cit., 48.

their existence. One such school was started by Mr. Caleb Lindsey in 1816 in old Lawrence County. It began under the Missouri Territorial law and continued until about 1824 at which time Mr. Lindsey died.[30]

An advertisement in the *Arkansas Gazette* in the late 1820's advertised the Dwight Academy, which was located in the building formerly occupied by the Old Dwight Mission during the early part of the decade. The advertisement read as follows:

> **The annual session of Dwight Academy commences on the first Wednesday in September. Terms of admission: Including board and tuition in spelling, writing, and arithmetic, per annum--$100. English grammar, geography, history and rhetoric--$108. Mathematics, philosophy, astronomy, and the Latin and Greek languages--$120.**[31]
>
> **Scholars are required to furnish their own beds and bedding.**

Following the mission schools came a period of private or subscription schools, in which the patrons paid a set amount for each child for a given term, usually three months. By 1829, almost every heavily populated township of the five counties that constituted the territory had a school of some kind.[32] Some were private schools taught by

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[30] Weeks, op. cit., 66.

[31] Boyd W. Johnson, *Arkansas Frontier* (Little Rock: Perdue Printing Company, 1957), 78-79.

[32] Herndon, op. cit., 531.

“old field” schoolmasters, who were well-educated men, while others were schools under the control of the county court. Many of the early settlers were from Alabama, Tennessee, the Carolinas, Kentucky, and other states where "old field" schools were maintained and they brought their educational ideas with them to Arkansas.[33] These schools were often referred to as "forest schools" because of their usual locations on the borders of the broken wilderness. In the older states, they were often referred to as "old field schools."[34]

The township system of education was introduced very early into Arkansas. On November 21, 1829, the Sixth Territorial Legislature enacted Act 69 which provided for the establishment of a school in any township of six miles square.[35] This law made it the duty of the county court, on the representation of the people of the township, to appoint an upstanding person as trustee of the school land or section number sixteen of that township.[36] It was the duty of this person to take charge of the section, to protect it from waste and to lease it out for any term not exceeding five years to the person offering the highest rent. Other

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[33] Ibid., 532.

[34] Ibid., 533.

[35] Acts of Arkansas Territory (1829), 127.

[36] Ibid., 128-131.

provisions of the territorial law set forth that the moneys or rents were directed to be apportioned by the county court annually for the support of the school in the township. In case there were not enough people in the township to support a school, adjoining townships could consolidate and combine their monies for the common benefit of a consolidated township.

However, in a country where land was more plentiful than anything else, the trustees found it a difficult matter to lease the school lands for sufficient amounts. As the sum from the lease was insufficient in most cases to establish and maintain public schools, very little was accomplished by Act 69 in establishing a permanent system of education in Arkansas.[37] This was further compounded as the Territorial Legislature failed to appropriate any additional money to supplement the rentals.[38]

Territorial Education in Madison County

It is doubtful that any organized schools existed in Madison County until the early 1830's. In fact, records indicate that the early settlement of the county started in the late 1820's by frontiersmen from a variety of nationali-

[37] Herndon, op. cit., 536.

[38] Ibid., 537.

ties but mainly men of Scotch-Irish descent.[39] It should be noted, however, that people of English, German, Irish, Indian, Scotch, and African descent also contributed to the development of Madison County.[40]

It also is doubtful that any settlers arrived in the county until after 1825. This is due to the fact that at the time of the Louisiana Purchase, three groups of Indians lived in Arkansas.[41] One of these tribal groups, the Osage, lived in the Ozarks region. They were nomads who lived mainly by hunting, along with some scratch agriculture.

> **. . . as they were accustomed to the use of weapons and needed much territory to support themselves, the Osage were more warlike than the Quapaws and the Caddos. An Osage hunting party, . . . were feared by whites and Indians alike.[42]**

In 1818, a treaty was made with the Osage in which the tribe surrendered its Arkansas lands. They were finally removed by 1825 to the Indian Territory.[43] It is after this date, that the first settlers probably felt it safe to settle in the new territory.

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[39] Theta Mu Epsilon, "A History of Huntsville and Madison County," *The Madison County Record*, 1977: 12.

[40] Ibid., 13.

[41] Berry, op. cit., 36.

[42] Ibid., 37.

[43] Ibid., 38-40.

In the fall of 1827, an expedition from Lauderdale County, Alabama, explored the Kings River valley in the eastern part of the county.[44] Members of the trek were Thomas Cunningham, John Coulter, and Henry King. King died during the exploration and was buried on the bank of the stream which would later bear his name. Cunningham and Coulter returned to Alabama shortly.

Two years later, in the fall of 1829, another party from Alabama, consisting of William King, Benjamin King, Charles Burney, Turner Hamblet, Thomas Rogers, William Adair, and Lemuel Rogers, came in a colony to the valley.[45]

During the next four years, many other settlers ventured into the Kings River valley. By 1833, a sufficient number of settlers had arrived to warrant the erection of a school building.[46] This building was a simple log structure which measured twenty-four feet square. The first teacher of the school and the first recorded teacher in the county was the Reverend John F. King, a Cumberland Presbyterian minister and teacher from Tennessee.[47]

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[44] *The History of Northwest Arkansas* (New York: Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1889), 421.

[45] Ibid., 422.

[46] Ibid.

[47] Ibid., 471.

The Early Statehood Years

In January 1836, delegates from all over the Arkansas Territory met in Little Rock where they wrote a constitution to be sent to Washington in connection with the application which the territory was making for admission to the Union.[48]

Unlike the Constitution of the United States, the constitution they wrote for Arkansas contained the following provision for education:

> **Knowledge and learning generally diffused through a community being essential to the preservation of a free government, and diffusing the opportunities and advantages of free education through the various parts of the State being highly conducive to this end, it shall be the duty of the General Assembly to provide by law for the improvement of such lands as are, or hereafter may be granted by the United States to this State for the use of schools, and to apply any funds which may be raised from such lands, or from any other source, to the accomplishment of the object for which they are or may be intended. The General Assembly shall from time to time pass such laws as shall be calculated to encourage intellectual, scientific, commerce, manufactures, and natural history, and countenance and encourage the principles of humanity, industry, and morality.**[49]

When the state constitution was finished and the people had approved it, C. M. F. Noland of Batesville was commissioned to go to Washington and deliver it in person to Congress. Congress took its time about acting on

C.M.F. Noland c. 1815

[48] Berry, op. cit., 34-35.

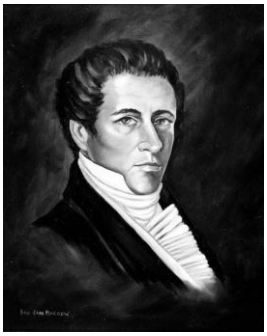
[49] *Journal of the Arkansas State Convention* (1836), 24-25.

Arkansas' application but on June 15, 1836, Arkansas became the 25th state admitted to the Union.[50]

Approximately three months later, on September 12th, the first state legislature assembled in Little Rock and James Sevier Conway was sworn in as the state's first governor.[51] Four days later, speaking to the lawmakers on the subject of education, Conway said:

> **The fabric of the state, when once constructed, must stand for ages. It must be fixed in the understanding of the people. Let us therefore examine far and collect all materials calculated to enlighten the public mind and diffuse general knowledge. . . . We have ample means for the establishment of such educational institutions as will insure universal education to the youth of our state.[52]**

The Governor called on the legislature to act promptly in school matters. It did act promptly, in the only way it knew and understood. It chartered two private academies.[53]



James Sevier Conway

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[50] Fay Hempstead, *Historical Review of Arkansas* (1911), Vol. I, 131-132.

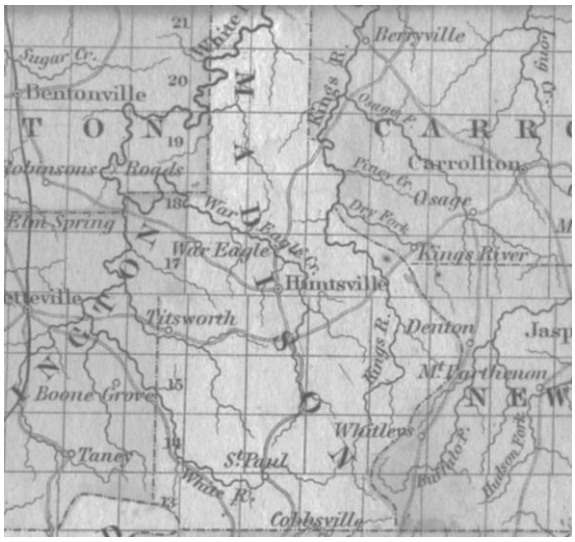
[51] Berry, op. cit., 50.

[52] Herndon, op. cit., 241.

[53] Weeks, op. cit., 14.

Madison County

On September 29, 1836, the First General Assembly created Madison County out of territory taken from Washington County. Madison County became the thirty-sixth county created by the General Assembly and was named for President James Madison.[54]



1855 Map by J.H. Colton Co., New York

Madison County is in the second tier of counties from the northern and western boundaries of the state, between Benton and Washington on the west, and Carroll and Newton on the east. Carroll County forms the northern boundary and Franklin and Johnson counties form the southern. The thirty-sixth parallel crosses the county approximately seven miles south of Huntsville. The length of the county from north to south is thirty-seven miles. It is twelve miles wide on the northern

Original Map Copyright 2005 digital-topo-maps.com

[54] Fay Hempstead, *A Pictorial History of Arkansas* (New York: N. D. Thompson Publishing Company, 1890), 1031.

boundary and twenty-five miles wide on the southern boundary. The total area of the county is 837 square miles.[55]

Statehood Provisions for Support of Public Education, 1836-1865

The provisions of the Constitution of 1836 provided little help for the common schools of the state, except to reserve the lands granted by Congress to the state for common school use and restrict the use of the money derived from the public lands.[56] Even though a desire was expressed by Governor James S. Conway and Governor Archibald Yell to establish and organize a common school system in the state, educational legislation following the Constitution of 1836 was primarily an attempt to establish common schools with the support of only the public lands granted to the state in accordance with the Constitution.[57]

Governor Archibald Yell

[55] Madison County, loc. cit.

[56] Weeks, op. cit.

[57] Ibid., 29-31.

Several special laws for the establishment of schools were passed between 1840 and 1843, many of a local nature.[58] However, on February 3, 1843, Governor Yell approved an act entitled "an act to establish a system of common schools in the State of Arkansas."[59]

It created five commissioners in each township having five householders and fifteen white children, and authorized them to sell the sixteenth section; each township was made a district, provision was made for the election of three trustees, with a term of office lasting two years. The trustees were to erect school houses and select a teacher as soon as the interest upon the township fund or the subscriptions would permit. Each board of trustees was required to cause a school or schools to be kept in each township for at least four months in each year by a teacher of "competent ability and good morals," for the instruction of children in orthography, reading, writing, English grammar, geography, arithmetic, and good morals.[60]

Every teacher was required to keep a well-bound book, entering therein the name of each student, the time he or she commenced, the age of such student, the number of days

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[58] Josiah H. Shinn, "Resume of Educational Development in Arkansas," Biennial Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Department of Education, Little Rock, 1907-1908.

[59] Acts of Arkansas, 1843.

[60] Ibid., 130-139.

attended, the studies received, the books used, the proficiency gained, and the moral conduct of each student. Also required was an accounting of the cost of books and paper for each student and other matters as may be directed by the trustees. Failure to submit monthly reports to the trustees resulted in the withholding of compensation until all reports were completed.[61]

Sections of the school law of 1843 provide a great deal of insight into how support of the schools was to be provided and managed. The sections read:

> Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, that the said commissioner herein provided to be elected, shall, before entering on his duties, take an oath before some justice of the peace in his county, faithfully to discharge the duties required of him by law, and truly account for and pay over all moneys which may come to his hands as such commissioner, agreeably to the provisions of this act; and shall continue in office for the term of three years, and until a successor is elected and qualified; and shall enter into bond to the State of Arkansas, for the use of said township, with good security, to be approved by the trustees above named, in a penal sum of not more than ten or less than one thousand dollars, conditioned that he will faithfully discharge the duties required by the provisions of this act, and pay to said trustees all money which may come to his hands as such commissioner.
>
> Sec. 5. And be it further enacted, that the said commissioner, after having executed bond, and taken the oath prescribed by this act, shall sell the sixteenth section of the township for which he

[61] Ibid.

was elected, on a credit of ten years, having first given notice of the time and place of sale thereof, by at least six advertisements, set up on the most public places in his county, at least thirty days before the day of the sale thereof; Provided, No Part of said section shall be sold for less than two dollars per acre.

Sec. 11. And be it further enacted, that it shall be the duty of the said trustees of each of said townships, to cause a common school or schools to be kept in their respective townships, for the term of at least four months in each year, by a teacher of competent ability and good morals, for the instruction of children in orthography, reading, writing, English grammar, geography, arithmetic and good morals.

Sec. 19. And be it further enacted, that the accruing annual interest on the money arising from the sale of the sixteenth section in any township, shall be a perpetual fund to be appropriated to the support of a school or schools, in the respective townships; but no part of the principal shall ever be expended for any purpose whatever; and shall be loaned out at an interest of not less than six per cent, per annum, by the said township commissioner, he taking bond and good security, to be approved by the trustees of his proper township.

Sec. 13. And be it further enacted, that it shall be the duty of the township trustees, annually, on the first Saturday in August, to take an enumeration of all the unmarried children in their respective townships, between the ages of five and twenty-one years, noting how many are sent to school, and how many are not, also the amount subscribed for each one that is sent to school, and the number of whom there is no subscription, if any, and how many are unable to subscribe for the support of the school or schools in their respective townships; said trustees shall also state the amount of funds raised in their respective townships for the support of schools therein, stating the source

from whence said funds shall be then raised, a copy of which enumeration and statements of funds shall by them be filed in the office of the county court, within twenty days thereafter. It shall also be the duty of said trustees at the same time to make out and file with said clerk, a statement showing the price of tuition paid for each scholar, the cost of books and stationery for each, the time said school or schools are kept in each year, and the amount paid the teacher each year.

Sec. 24. And be it further enacted, that it shall be the duty of the said clerk to make out an abstract of the above returns filed in his office, a copy of which shall be forwarded to the Auditor of the State, at least twenty days before the commencement of each General Assembly, and to produce uniformity in said abstract, it shall be the duty of the Auditor to furnish said clerk, at least ninety days before the commencement of each session of every General Assembly, tabulet form of such abstract.

Sec. 26. And be it further enacted, that the county treasurer of each county shall be the treasurer of the board of commissioners of his country, and shall, before he acts as such, take an oath faithfully and securely to keep all moneys, which may come to his hands as such treasurer, and pay out the same as may be required by said board of commissioners, he shall also execute a bond with good security, to be approved by the county court of the county in which the land lies, to the State of Arkansas, in the penal sum of ten thousand dollars, for the faithful discharge of his duty as such treasurer, which bond shall be the use of the common schools of the proper county.

Sec. 27. And be it further enacted, that said board of county commissioners shall have control of all funds (other than those which may arise from the sale of the sixteenth sections aforesaid) and such other funds as are by this act expected, which may be appropriated to the support of common schools

in said county, to be distributed as hereinafter mentioned. Whenever it shall be the wish of the inhabitants of two or more adjoining townships to unite the funds of said townships for the purpose of supporting a common school, for the use of said townships, they may, by petition, express such wish to the township to support a common school for the benefit of the townships so wishing to unite, and that the same shall continue so united during the pleasure and convenience of the inhabitants of such townships.

Sec. 29. And be it further enacted, that it shall be the duty of the said board of commissioners to distribute to the schools of their respective counties all money, which may be appropriated for that purpose and under their control in the hands of the treasurer, as follows, to wit: first, to the trustees of each township such sum as will be sufficient to pay for tuition and books for the indigent children in each township for four months in each year; second, they shall then pay to the trustees of each township having the least annual fund arising from the sale of sixteenth section in that township, such sum of money as will bring the annual fund of said township equal to the one having the next highest annual fund, then to the two last, so as to bring them equal to the one having the next highest annual fund, and so on, increasing the funds of the lower classes, until the county fund is exhausted.

Sec. 30. And be it further enacted, that all moneys which may come to the hands of the township commissioner in this act mentioned, arising from the sale of the sixteenth section, shall be by him loaned out, under the direction of the trustees of the township, the said commissioner taking bond with good security to be approved by the township trustees, payable annually, at an interest of not less than six per cent a year payable half yearly in advance.

Sec. 31. And be it further enacted, that the sum of one thousand dollars, of the common fund of the State,

be, and the same is hereby appointed for the purchase of books, for the use of common schools in the State.

Sec. 32. And be it further enacted, that the Auditor of the State, by himself or agent, be authorized to expend the aforesaid sum of one thousand dollars to purchase school books for the common schools of this State, and to distribute the same to the board of commissioners of the several counties, in proportion to the number of children in each county between the ages of five and twenty-one years; that said books be purchased in some eastern city, where they can be had on the best terms.

Sec. 35. And be it further enacted, that when any real or personal estate shall escheat to, and vest in, the State, by virtue of existing laws, the same shall be for the use and benefit of the inhabitants of the county where such property may be at the time of the death of the owner thereof, and the money arising from the sale of such estate, real and personal, shall, when paid into the treasury of the State, be entered to the credit of the county commissioner of said county, for the use of common schools therein.

Sec. 36. And be it further enacted, that the county commissioners of each county, shall be a body politic and corporate, capable of suing and being sued, plead, and be impleaded, in any court of the State having jurisdiction of the subject matter of such suit.

Sec. 37. And be it further enacted, that every person who shall take up any stray beast, which the owner thereof shall not reclaim within one year, shall pay into the county treasurer of the county where such stray was take, two-thirds of the appraised value of such beast, in discharge of his bond executed as herein specified.

Sec. 38. And be it further enacted, that every person taking up any animal as a stray shall at the time

of the appraisal thereof enter into bond with sufficient security to be approved by a justice who appoints the appraisers, in the value of such animal to the State of Arkansas, for the use of the proper county for the use of schools therein, conditioned, that if the owner of such animal shall, within one year from the date thereof, appear and prove his property in the animal so taken up, that he will deliver up said animal or if such owner should fail to prove his property therein, within the year, that he, the obligor, will pay into the county treasury two-thirds of such appraised value, stating the amount of such appraisement.

Sec. 39. And be it further enacted, that all moneys which have come into the Bank of the State of Arkansas, on account of the rent or lease of salt springs within the State, shall be paid over to the treasurer of the State, and by him distributed to the several counties, in proportion to the qualified voters of each county, and paid over to the board of county commissioners provided for in this act, for the use of common schools in each county.

Sec. 41. And be it further enacted, that so much of the surplus revenue of the United States, distributed to the State of Arkansas, as shall remain unappropriated, after the final adjournment of the present General Assembly, with the dividend arising therefrom in the Bank of the State of Arkansas, shall form a capital for the use, benefit and support of common schools of this State, and the accruing interest upon said capital, after the first day of July, in the year eighteen hundred and forty-three shall be distributed to the several counties in this State, for the annual support of common schools in said counties, agreeable to the number of white population in the respective counties. And it shall be the duty of said bank, or the receivers of said bank, to make said distribution, and pay the same to the order of the board of county commissioners of each

county, on the first day of January and July each year.

Sec. 42. And be it further enacted, that all fines for false imprisonment, assault, assault and battery, breach of the peace, trespass on real property, for fraudulent pretenses and gaming, all fines inflicted for the suppression of vice and immorality, shall, when collected, be paid into the county treasury of the proper county, for the use of schools in said county.

Sec. 43. And be it further enacted, that the annual assessment of taxes on the sixteenth section sold under the provisions of this act, to be paid by the owner thereof, whether the same be for state or county assessment, when collected, shall be paid by the collector of such tax, into the hands of the township commissioner of the township in which said sixteenth section is, for the support of schools in said township, the receipt of which commissioner shall be a sufficient voucher for the amount so paid.[62]

While this was the first comprehensive attempt to establish and organize an education system in the state, the law would be doomed to failure as it provided no financial support for the public schools except that derived from tuition, contributions, fines, and the interest on funds derived from the sale of sixteenth section lands. The act did not mention any form of taxation.

The school law was not without its critics. State Auditor Conway sharply criticized the law in 1844. He said:

> **The common school law is so complicated, and requires the concerted effort of action of so many**

[62] Ibid.

> **officers that . . . the system . . . can never be fully organized in a state so sparsely settled as ours. To organize every township and county in the state would require about 5,800 officers, all to act and attend the duties assigned them without any compensation but the satisfaction derived from aiding the cause of education.**[63]

Stephen B. Weeks, in one of his writings for the U.S. Bureau of Education, later would explain problems with the law in terms of an "inadequate money base":

> **An analysis of this law will show how far it was from the modern idea. The schools were to be supported entirely from contributions and the sixteenth section endowment. There was no suggestion of State or local taxation. Those unable to contribute were to be educated as "indigent children." The funds from the sixteenth section under the most favorable conditions were inadequate. Had the lands been sold at $2 per acre for cash the whole principal would have been but $1,280 per township, which, if invested at 10 per cent, a rate not unreasonable at the time and place, would have produced an annual income of $128, a sum barely sufficient to support one teacher for three months, leaving nothing for incidentals or for buildings. But the lands were sold on 10 years' time, and we know in many cases were never paid for. It becomes evident, then, that the public schools had in the main to depend on private subscriptions and could regard the income from the public land fund (both seminary and sixteenth section) as, at best, but an uncertain adjunct to the contributions of interested and public-spirited citizens.**[64]

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[63] Elias Conway, State Auditor, "Report to the Governor," 1844.

[64] Weeks, op. cit., 32.

Many other factors were involved in the failure of the Act of 1843 to establish an organized system of education in the state. These included an immense area of 51,000 square miles, a sparse population of 97,500 spread over the 51,000 square miles, or slightly over one person per square mile. Also, the total assessed valuation of the entire state was only about $22,300,000. Thus, the total tax collection on that amount for the use of general government amounted to only $30,492.[65]

During the next twenty years, the School Law of 1843 would remain the basic law for the common school education of the State of Arkansas. Succeeding laws, up to the time of the Civil War, were simply amendments to the basic law in an attempt to perfect the system outlined by the Legislature of 1843.[66]

Characteristics of the Early Schools

During the period from 1836 to 1860, the immigration into the area was largely from the Old South; and in turn, the greater portion of the inhabitants of the southern states came directly from England or from the English

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[65] Josiah Shinn, "History of Education in Arkansas," United States Bureau of Education, Circular of Information, Vol. I (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1900), 16.

[66] W. E. Thompson, "Growth of the Public School System in Arkansas," Biennial Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Department of Education, Little Rock, 1889-1890, 18-19.

colonies along the North Atlantic.[67] These immigrants were adherents to two prominent educational characteristics. The first and foremost was the system private or academic schools, typical of New England.[68]

Most Arkansans held the southern aristocratic idea that education was a privilege to be enjoyed by those who could afford it, not a necessity to be demanded of the state as a right.[69] Some people also held a kindred theory that education was a daughter of religion, and like religion, was a personal or family matter.[70] Then there were those persons who approached the question from another angle and held that to tax one man to educate another's children was a socialistic practice, and had no proper place in a democracy.[71] They believed that education was an advantage or luxury to be paid for by those who enjoyed it. Those who did not feel inclined to participate in the luxury of education, of course, were under no obligation to support it.[72]

In keeping with these ways of thinking, private academies increased sharply in numbers. The state usually

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[67] Wilson, op. cit., 461.

[68] Ibid., 462.

[69] Weeks, op. cit., 22.

[70] Stinnett and Kennan, op. cit., 9.

[71] Ibid., 10.

[72] Weeks, op. cit., 23.

conferred its blessings on these private institutions by granting them charters, and sometimes by allowing them grants and immunities.[73] But it did not finance or operate them. They were financed by endowments and donations, and tuition. They were too expensive for the children of the common people, the non-wealthy, to afford. However, the common people were as yet relatively indifferent to education.[74]

For the non-wealthy white children, there were other schools, however. These were roughly comparable to what were later to be the district public schools, in that they were locally initiated and that any white child who wanted to could attend them.[75] But they were not generally free. These schools, often referred to as "subscription schools," required that every child was to pay tuition, unless he was too poor to do so. In some cases, the fee for attending the school might be paid by providing room and board for the teacher or by providing some sort of produce or various other sundries.[76] In case a child could not pay the tuition, the district maintained a small fund of public

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[73] Ibid., 24.

[74] Ibid., 25.

[75] Stinnett and Kennan, op. cit., 10.

[76] Weeks, op. cit., 30.

money to pay the tuition for the child.[77] However, there was sort of a social stigma attached to accepting public funds for such purposes. In some cases, the township required that an affidavit be sworn that the child was indeed an indigent and therefore entitled to free tuition.[78] To the early settlers, this seemed humiliating. In those days, illiteracy was not considered a disgrace, but pauperism was. Therefore, the early schools were not truly open to all of the white children of the state.[79]

Madison County Schools: 1836-1868

After 1840, schools were established in every thickly settled community. These schools, like most other schools in the state, were operated on a private subscription basis; usually for a three-month term.[80] According to the U.S. census of 1840, only two schools were in operation at that time. One of the schools was located in War Eagle Township, a short distance northeast of Huntsville and the other was located in Hilburn Township, near old Saint Paul.[81] The school near Huntsville had an enrollment of 30 students

[77] Acts of Arkansas (1853), 126.

[78] Ibid.

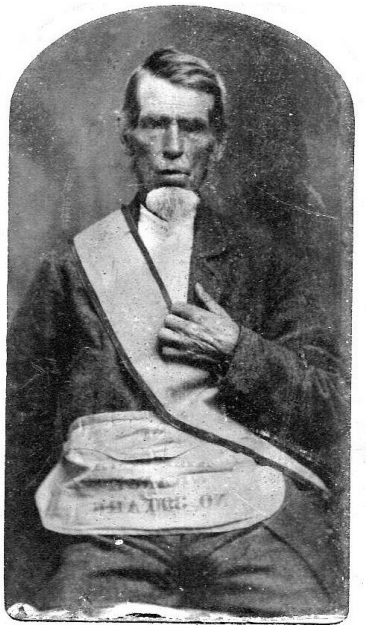
[79] Stinnett and Kennan, op. cit., 10-11.

[80] Shinn, "Resume of Educational Development in Arkansas," op. cit., 27.

[81] Census of the United States, 1840.

while the school near old Saint Paul had an enrollment of 23 students. The school which had been constructed near Kingston in 1833 was apparently not operational at the time of the 1840 census and was not listed. The total population of the county at that time was only 2,775, or only about 3 people per square mile.[82]

Among the early teachers of these schools were the Reverend John F. King, a Cumberland Presbyterian minister and teacher, who had taught at the school near Kingston; Thomas McCuiston, who would also serve as county surveyor from 1836 to 1848; John Wilson, Arkansas Wilson, and J. R. Berry. Mr. Berry related in an interview in 1888 that he had taught a three-month school term in 1846 for $15 and board. No great amount of learning was required in the teacher, and when two or more applicants appeared for the same school, the one who gave the best evidence of muscular development was invariably employed, other things being equal.[83]

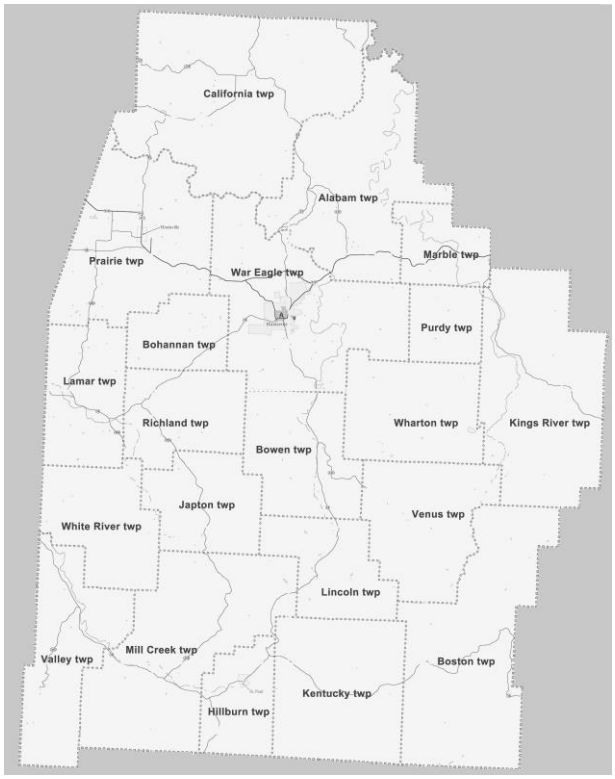


(Thomas McCuiston, educator and County Surveyor) Courtesy of the Madison County Genealogical and Historical Society

[82] Ibid.

[83] *History of Northwest Arkansas*, op. cit., 471.

By 1850, several other schools had been established in the county. Besides the three previously listed, one was constructed near Alabam, on the site of the Alabam Church, another in Bowen Township, a mile from Aurora; another at the old Cumberland Presbyterian camp meeting ground near Kingston; and another one within two miles of Hindsville.[84] Teachers listed in the 1850 U.S. census were William Austin, James H. Hobbs, John P. Blakely, Samuel H. Burns, James Bybee, and Elijah Davis.[85]



In January, 1853, the legislature passed a new school law which created a county commissioner to whom was given the general supervision of all the county schools in the county.[86] He was to advise the trustees as to the best methods of conducting common schools, constructing school houses

[84] Ibid.

[85] Census of the United States, 1850, 124-125.

[86] Acts of Arkansas (1853), 126.

and procuring teachers. He was to recommend the best textbooks, maps, charts, and apparatus, and to use his influence to obtain uniformity of system and practice.[87]

The office of county commissioner of common schools was an elective office. The commissioner was to receive "two per cent, upon all moneys which may come to his hands for his services as said commissioner. . . ."[88] The office in Madison County was first held by Mr. D. L. Saunders and later by Mr. P. W. Newton.[89]

In 1854, a special school census was taken by the state, under the direction of Secretary of State David B. Greer.[90] Mr. Greer reported that most of the counties had not complied with the law, and there appeared to be no school organization in many of them. Madison County did not file a report with the Secretary of State as did not forty-eight other counties.[91] Although the common school laws of 1843 and 1853 were intended to establish common schools in all parts of the state, very few were in operation.

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[87] Ibid.

[88] Ibid.

[89] *History of Northwest Arkansas*, op. cit., 472.

[90] Shinn, "History of Education in Arkansas," United States Bureau of Education, Circular, Vol. I, 1900, 19.

[91] Ibid., 20.

Huntsville Masonic Institute

As communities developed into towns and centers of population, the subscription schools were increased in length and the "schoolmaster" remained for successive sessions. Some of the more advanced and better organized schools were incorporated by the Legislature and placed under the control of legally constituted boards of trustees.[92] These schools were usually designated by the term academy, though a few were known as seminaries or institutes. During the twenty-five year period from 1836-1861, the Legislature chartered ninety-four academies throughout the state.[93]

On December 20, 1854, the General Assembly chartered the Huntsville Masonic Institute at Huntsville. This academy was under the control and management of Odeon Lodge, Number 44, Free and Accepted Masons of Huntsville and was one of only two such institutions sponsored by the Masonic fraternity in the state.[94] The building was a two-story frame structure, covered with clapboard. The framework was built of logs held together with square nails.[95] The school

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[92] David Y. Thomas, *Arkansas and Its People* (New York: The American Historical Society, Inc., 1930), 463.

[93] Weeks, op. cit., 16.

[94] Acts of Arkansas (1854), 63.

[95] Gloria Sisk, "Madison County Remembrances of the Past," *Madison County Record*, 1986: 98.

met on the first floor of the structure and the Lodge met on the second floor.[96]

(Pictures courtesy of Huntsville Masonic Lodge No. 364)

Sections of the Act which created the academy provide a great deal of insight into how the school was to be provided for and managed. The sections read:

AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE HUNTSVILLE MASONIC INSTITUTE

Section 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas, That Daniel L. Sanders, Samuel E. Kenner, Thomas Bateman, John Mosby, John T. King, Hugh C. Berry, Chesley H. Boatright, and James G. McConnel, trustees of the institution of learning at Huntsville, in the county of Madison, known as the Huntsville Institute, under the control and management of Odeon Lodge, No. 44, of free and

[96] Ibid., 99.

accepted masons, be and they are hereby declared and constituted a body politic and corporate in deed and law, by the name of the Huntsville Masonic Institute, and by that name, they and their successors in office, shall have succession for the term of ninety-nine years, and by competent and capable in law, to have, receive and enjoy, all real and personal property of any kind whatever, which may have heretofore been or may hereafter be given, granted, bequeathed, or devised to said institution, for the purpose of establishing, endowing or maintaining the same: may have and use a common seal, to make and enter into contracts, sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, answer and be answered, and defend and be defended in all courts of law and equity of this state, and to grant, bargain, sell or assign any real or personal property, in such manner as they may think expedient, and to act and do all things whatsoever, for the benefit of said institution of learning in as ample a manner as any person or body politic can or may do by law; provided, they shall always be under the control and subject to the visitation of said Lodge; And provided, they shall perform no act contrary to any law of this State or of the United States.

Section 2. Be it further enacted, That any conveyances that may have been made to the trustees of said institution heretofore appointed, by deed, gift, will or otherwise, shall come to the trustees appointed by this act, in their corporate name and characteristics, and be held by them as though the same had been made to them since the enactment of this charter and that no misnomer shall annul or defeat any gift, grant, devise, or bequest to said institution.

Section 3. Be it further enacted, That said trustees shall have the power to elect a president, and professors in said institution, and such other teachers as the interest of said institution shall require, and to fill vacancies when they occur in the faculty of said institution.

Section 4. Be it further enacted, That said Lodge shall have power to appoint a board of visitors, whose duty shall be to attend the annual or stated examinations in said institution, and said Lodge shall have power to fill all vacancies in the board of trustees, and in the said board of visitors.

Section 5. Be it further enacted, That the president of said college when elected, shall be ex-officio president of the board of trustees of said institution, and until there shall be a president of said institution elected, and thereafter whenever a vacancy shall occur in the office of the president, the trustees shall at each of their meetings, select one of their number to preside over their deliberations.

Section 6. Be it further enacted, That said trustees, together with the president and professors of said institution, shall prescribe the mode of education, the course of study, the discipline and the manner of enforcing it in the institution.

Section 7. Be it further enacted, That the faculty of said institution, shall have power to confer such degrees in the arts and sciences, upon the students thereof, or upon such other persons as in their judgements are worthy of them, as are usually conferred by colleges and universities in the United States, and to grant diplomas or certificates thereof, which shall be signed by the president and professors of said institution, and sealed with the common seal of the corporation, to authenticate and perpetuate the memory of such graduation.

Section 8. Be it further enacted, That said board of trustees shall hold their first meeting at said institution, on the first Monday of February, eighteen hundred and fifty-five, and thereafter when it shall be deemed necessary. The president if elected and present, shall call such meeting, by giving each trustee sufficient previous notice, to enable him, with reasonable efforts, to attend;

> and in the absence of a president, after one is elected, or in case he be absent, any five of said trustees shall be a quorum to transact business.[97]

It is significant to note that in section seven of the act, the Legislature granted the board of trustees the power to . . . "confer degrees in the arts and sciences . . . as are usually conferred by college and universities in the United States. . . ." According to David Y. Thomas, in his *History of Arkansas and Its People*, "Occasionally, the high sounding term of "college" was used, even though the organizers had no intention of attempting to establish a school of college rank."[98] The Masonic fraternity sponsored two institutions in the state: Saint John's College in Little Rock and the Huntsville Masonic Institute. Saint John's College attempted to establish itself as a true college by offering advanced courses and conferring degrees.[99] It appears that the Masonic leaders in Huntsville had plans to establish a similar institution in the northwest section of the state.

Records indicate that the board of trustees appointed Isaac Murphy, who would later become the eighth Governor of Arkansas, to head the new academy. John I. Smith, in his book *The Courage of a Southern Unionist* which is the

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[97] Acts of Arkansas (1854), 63-64.

[98] Thomas, op. cit., 463.

[99] Berry, op. cit., 75.

biography of Isaac Murphy, states "Perhaps his selection of Huntsville was due to its need for teachers and his need for funds. He and at least two of his eldest daughters handled the Female Seminary of Huntsville and another school."[100] It is assumed that the other school was the Huntsville Masonic Institute as the common school which was operating in Huntsville at the time would have had no need for a school administrator. The board of trustees also hired Professor Humphrey Enyart as an instructor at the academy.[101]

In the August 10, 1855 edition of the South-West Independent, a letter written to William Minor Quesenbury, (known more generally as Bill Cush), notable Arkansas artist and wanderer, and then editor of the paper, was published in the correspondence section.[102] The letter is undated, but appears among other correspondence dated July 25, 1855, July 14, 1855, and July 18, 1855, and is signed by one “R. S.”.

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[100] John I. Smith, *The Courage of a Southern Unionist* (Little Rock: Rose Publishing Company, 1979), 88.

[101] Census of the United States, 1860.

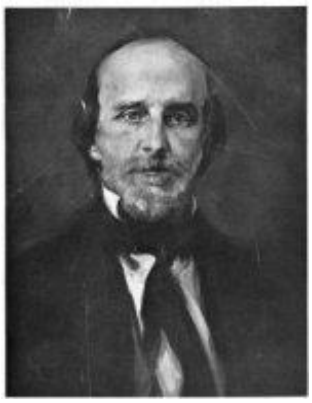
[102] *South-West Independent*, Fayetteville, Arkansas, August 10, 1855 Vol. 47, page 2.

Huntsville, Ark's

Dear Cush:

If I could be assured that a communication of the kind would not be deemed obtrusive I would briefly notice the examination of our Masonic Institute, which came off Thursday and Friday last.
The exercises commenced early on Thursday morning- Spelling, Reading and definitions. The performances satisfactory to all.
Short speeches, by declamation, and appropriate Dialogues, not only enlivened and interested the audience, but evinced well the patience, taste and scholastic skill of our experienced principal. The performances of these classes were indeed highly commendable.
On the second day the more advanced classes were examined- the answers on Mental Arithmetic; the exercises on the black-board-in evolutions, common Arithmetic and Algebra, were highly gratifying to all the friends of the Institution. Questions selected promiscuously anywhere within the lids of the Arithmetic were solved as readily as chalk marks could be made on the board, while some of the classes evinced entire familiarily (sic) with the most difficult evolutions in Algebra.
Extended examinations on English grammar, Geography, and Natural Philosophy evinced general knowledge of the elementary principles of the useful sciences. The ready answers to the numerous questions propounded for hours, evinced a thorough training of the classes, and not a little commended, the skill and scholastic ability of our experienced Principal-Professor Murphy.

On Friday we had several dialogues performed, with little less than Theatrical excellence-the emphasis, air and spirit Daguerreotyped the original.
A few of the speeches delivered commended with the talents of the young men: while they reflected honor upon the Institution. Elocution was displayed fully and freely, in all its elegant, pleasing and artful demands.



Isaac Murphy

The exercises were closed by an eloquent address from Dr. Saunders, and an appropriate, pleasing and impressive talk from our old friend, Rev. John Buchanan.
So far as I am prepared to judge, Cush, our Institution is a

> ***laboratory of intellectual improvement. Our Principal exhibits but little of the vapor, frippery and useless ceremony of Eastern Institutions-but as an experienced, practical workman, labors to store the intellectual garner, and guide the moral machinery, fraught with scholastic wisdom, to the part of usefulness, piety and honor. All the talk of a short way up the hill of science, is but folly and delusion-the old maxim: "Applicatio vincit omnia," is yet strictly true, nor will the difficulties be overcome without labor-intense application.***
> ***The third session of our Institution will open on the first Monday in September next. R.S.***

Although there is no indication that any baccalaureate degrees were ever conferred by the Institute, the school apparently enjoyed a widespread reputation during its short tenure. The academy was in operation up until 1861 at which time the school closed due to the Civil War. Although the building was not burned during the war, Odeon Lodge No. 44 became defunct and the institute was not reopened after the close of the war.[103]

Pleasant View Female Seminary

On January 8, 1855, approximately three weeks after it had incorporated the Huntsville Masonic Institute, the General Assembly incorporated the Pleasant View Female Academy in Huntsville.[104] Although the Act referred to the school as an academy, it was known locally as a female seminary. The seminary building was erected one-fourth mile

[103] Sisk, op. cit., 99.

[104] Acts of Arkansas (1855), 108-109.

south of Huntsville on land which was donated by Mr. John Sanders.[105] Mrs. Mary Lowe Pierson, of Washington County, was hired to teach the school and Isaac Murphy and at least two of his older daughters were hired to assist in the running of the seminary.[106]

The Act which created the seminary is considerably different than the one passed three weeks before which created the Huntsville Masonic Institute. The Act was basically an act of incorporation and nothing more.

An Act to Incorporate Pleasant View Female Academy, in the Town of Huntsville, Madison County

Section 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas, That to encourage education in this State, Daniel L. Sanders, Samuel E. Kenner, John C. Pitner, John Moseby, and Abner Adams, and their successors, are hereby created a body corporate and politic, under the name and style of "The Trustees of Pleasant View Female Academy," in the town of Huntsville, Madison County.

Section 2. And be it further enacted, That the said trustees and their successors, shall be capable of acquiring, holding, and possessing in their corporate capacity, a lot of land, not to exceed ten acres, for the erection of suitable buildings, and to acquire and hold also in their corporate name, any amount of property for the use of said academy, both real, personal and mixed, not to exceed in value five thousand dollars exclusive of

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[105] *History of Northwest Arkansas*, op. cit., 476.

[106] Ibid.

the lot of land upon which the buildings of said academy are situated.

Section 3. And be it further enacted, That the said trustees and their successors shall possess all the powers that are usually granted, of suing, and being sued, pleading and being pleaded, and to make all by-laws, rules and regulations, which may be necessary for the good order and government of said academy, not inconsistent with the constitution, and laws of this State.

Section 4. And be it further enacted, That this charter shall extend and be in force for the term of twenty years, subject to be renewed by the legislature of this State, and should any vacancy, at any time occur in said board of trustees, it shall be lawful for a quorum of said board (which is hereby declared to be a majority of all the members), to fill said vacancy by appointment, and further, that this act be in full force and after its passage.[107]

Isaac Murphy had been actively involved in the Far West Seminary in Fayetteville and was no doubt chosen because of this experience.[108] Although no information is available on the curriculum of the Pleasant View Female Seminary, it was no doubt very similar to the curriculum of the seminaries in Fayetteville in which Murphy and Mrs. Pierson had been involved.

In "The Witness," a Fayetteville newspaper, an advertisement of the opening term of the female seminary

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[107] Acts of Arkansas, 1855, 108-109.

[108] *The History of Education in Washington County, Arkansas* Washington County Retired Teachers Association (1986), 14.

announced that the tuition for a five-month term would be $8 and would cover a curriculum of reading, spelling, defining, geography, history, mental arithmetic, and geometry. The more difficult course of study would cost $10.00 and would include grammar, rhetoric, composition, ancient geography, ancient history, logic, natural philosophy, and astronomy. Plain and ornamental needlework also were offered.[109]

Mrs. Pierson conducted the school until she was forced to suspend operations during the Civil War. In 1863, the seminary and much of the town was burned by federal troops.

Summary

Although there were no public schools or organized system of public schools in Arkansas prior to the Civil War, some provisions were made for the education of the children from the very beginning. Numerous religious denominations established schools in the more thickly settled areas and soon thereafter, private schools flourished throughout the state.

The township system of education was introduced to Arkansas when the Sixth Territorial Legislature enacted Act 69 in 1829. The Act provided for the establishment of a school in every township of the state by the county court on the petition of the people of the township. Money to

[109] Ibid., 19.

finance the school was to be provided from funds derived from the lease of the sixteenth section of the township. As the sum from the lease was insufficient in most cases to establish and maintain a school, very little was accomplished by Act 69.

The first school in Madison County was erected near Kingston in 1833 by the early settlers of the area. The first teacher of the school and the first recorded teacher in the county was the Reverend John F. King. By 1840, two other schools were in operation with one located near Huntsville and the other one in Hilburn township, in the south part of the county.

In 1843, Governor Yell approved an act to establish a system of common schools in the state. While this was the first comprehensive attempt to establish and organize an education system in the state, the law failed as it provided no financial support for the public schools except that derived from tuition, contributions, fines, and interest on leases or sales of the sixteenth section lands. Furthermore, the law was so complicated, that it required over 5,800 school officers to administer the system.

Most Arkansans still held the southern aristocratic idea that education was a privilege to be enjoyed by those who could afford it, not a necessity to be demanded of the state as a right. Therefore, interest in a free common

school system in the state was low. During the period from 1836 to 1860, private academies and subscription schools were maintained in the state and in Madison County.

CHAPTER 3

The Reconstruction Government Creates

A New School System

In response to the internal problems created for Arkansas and the other states of the late confederacy by the Civil War, Congress passed a series of Acts commonly referred to as the Reconstruction Acts of 1867.[110] The first of these acts divided the Confederate States into military districts and place them under military authority. It further provided that upon the ratification of a new constitution and the adoption of Amendment 14 to the Constitution of the United States, the states could be entitled to readmission into the Union and entitled to representation in Congress, which they had not had since their succession.

The Acts also directed the commanding generals of the military districts to conduct a registration of qualified voters in each state and ordered an election in the states for the purpose of voting for or against a state constitutional convention and for the election of delegates to the convention. In accordance with these Acts, a constitutional convention was called for in Little Rock on January 7, 1868, by General Edward Ord, Commandant of the Fourth Military District which was composed of Arkansas and Mississippi.[111]

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[110] U.S. Statues, et al. (1867), 428-430.

[111] Fred Berry and John Novak, *The History of Arkansas* (Little Rock, Rose Publishing Company, 1987).

Education and the problems relating to education were accorded a place of greater significance than by any of the other previous constitutional conventions by the diverse group of delegates--blacks and whites--whom were relative newcomers to Arkansas.[112] Among the standing committees of the Convention was included a Committee on Educational Institutions and Interests.[113]

The reports of the Committee on Education contained nine sections all of which were adopted in substance in the finished constitution. Arkansas, like the other Southern states, had never established a true system of free public education. This document provided for several new features, two of which were a state superintendent of public instruction and a two-mill state tax on property for school purposes.[114] As other sources for school support it mentioned the general state revenue, a poll tax on every male resident, and the permanent school fund, which was to be derived from the endowment of school lands. In addition it directed the Legislature to authorize by general law a property tax in each county, township, or district in which the school fund was not sufficient in itself to maintain a three-month term of school for all the children each year.

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[112] *Journal of Arkansas State Convention* (1868), 33.

[113] Ibid., 52.

[114] Ibid., 599-602.

It also charged the Legislature with providing by taxation for building school houses and purchasing equipment and extended school privileges to black and white alike, between the ages of five and twenty-one. Later that year, the legislature met and on July 23, 1868, passed a school law as outlined in the constitution.[115]

The School Law of 1868 provided for ten circuit superintendents to be appointed by the governor, one man for each of Arkansas' ten judicial districts, each circuit man to receive a salary of $3,000 a year. Individually, these men were to do their district work and collectively they were to serve as a state board of education, with the state superintendent of instruction as chairman. The law also required that on the third Saturday of December, of each year, the electors of each organized school district were to hold a public meeting, to be designated the "annual school meeting of the district."

At this meeting, a trustee for the district was to be elected, and the amount of local tax determined necessary was to be levied on the district for school purposes. Among the duties required of the trustee was the transmitting, between the first and fifteenth of October of each year, a written report detailing various statistics and other information about the school district.

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[115] Acts of Arkansas (1868), 163-197.

Information required by the new school law included: the names and ages of all persons between the ages of five and twenty-one residing in the district on the first day of October; the number of males and females respectively, of each race that attended the common school during the last school year; the average number of each sex that attended daily; the number that pursued each of the branches designated to be taught in the common schools of the state; the number of times the school was visited each term by the trustee and the Circuit Superintendent; the number of days that school was taught during the year; the name of each teacher and the grade of his certificate; the wages paid each teacher per month, and the whole amount of wages paid teachers during the year. He also was to include in his report the number of male inhabitants in his district subject to per capita tax, for the support of the schools; the amount of taxes voted by the district during the last school year, and for what purpose the tax was voted; the amount drawn from the county treasurer as well as detailed descriptions on how the money was spent. Once the report was completed, it was to be forwarded to the office of the Circuit Superintendent.[116]

On September 14, 1868, the State Board of Education met for the first time in special session, as the time

[116] Ibid., 163-197.

prescribed by law for the annual meeting of that body was on the second Monday of January of each year.[117] At this meeting, held early for the purpose of facilitating the inauguration of a practical system of public school, a plan of operation was agreed upon and rules and regulations adopted as the nature and importance of the subject seemed to demand. The Circuit Superintendents immediately went forth and entered upon the work of organizing and establishing schools in their respective districts.

Madison County was in the fourth judicial district which was composed of Boone, Carroll, Marion, Newton, Searcy, and Van Buren counties. Governor Powell Clayton appointed William H. H. Clayton, his brother, to serve as the first circuit superintendent.[118] The office of the district was to be maintained in Huntsville.

In a letter to Dr. Thomas Smith, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, circuit superintendent Clayton expressed optimism at the developing school system in the 4th Judicial District.

W. H. H. Clayton

[117] State of Arkansas, Biennial Report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Department of Education, Little Rock, 1869-1870, 8-9.

[118] Ibid., 64-65.

Office
Circuit Superintendent
4th Judicial District
Huntsville, Ark.

November 14, 1870

Hon. Thomas Smith, Supt. Public Instruction

Sir:

Inclosed (sic) please find my annual report for the scholastic year, ending September 30, 1870.

There have been, as you will see by reference to my tabular report, 216 schools taught in the 4th district, during the past year, with an attendance of 11,017 pupils--making 45 schools and 1,447 more pupils more than I reported last year.

There were $21,245.85 paid to teachers during the year, and $13,800 for the erection of new school houses--$2,688.15 of which was raised by special tax, the remainder by subscriptions.

The December apportionment of the common school fund was used to pay the teachers for last year's services. I have not included it in this year's report; I have included only the June apportionment.

There are 18,217 persons between the ages of five and twenty-one years, distributed throughout the counties as follows: Searcy, 2,548; Madison, 3,672; Newton, 2,234; Carroll, 2,157; Van Buren, 2,277; Boone, 2,885; Marion, 2,243.

There are 7,200 children in the district who have not attended the public schools. Out of this number, there are about 1,000 included in new districts that were not organized sufficiently for schools this year. A few are in attendance at private schools; some are so scattered among the mountains that they are out of all schools; others are kept at home by parents opposed to popular education, and still others by parents opposed to any education at all.

Our teacher's institutes were well attended, and have produced the best results. There is no feature of our school law more calculated to do educational good than our institutes and public examinations. The teachers throughout the entire district are deficient in their qualifications; there is, however, a decided improvement on last year.

Our school law is so framed that it is left optional with the people whether they organize in school districts or not, but after they are once organized, the Superintendent can have schools in spite of all opposition. For this reason I have devoted much of my time to the work of organization, which, with perhaps the exception of Van Buren, is now quite complete. I will be able to send you my report of the 16th sections by the middle of next month.

Yours respectfully,

Wm. H. H. Clayton[119]

Following Clayton, A. S. Prather was appointed as circuit superintendent. However, as a disproportionate amount of the school funds were used for the salaries of this position and the quality of their work was questionable, the position was abolished in 1873 when the county office of superintendent of public instruction was created.

Formation of the School Districts in Madison County Under the School Law of 1868

The First Two Years: 1869 and 1870

On November 13, 1868, only two months after the first meeting of the newly formed state board of education, County Judge G. W. Vaughan ordered the first school districts, under the new school law, erected in the county. Huntsville No. 1 was the first district created in the county and ten

[119] Ibid., 64-65.

others were created by order of the county court during this session.[120]

There were:

McConnell's Chapel No. 2
Mountain Grove No. 3
Lower Whorton Creek No. 4
Upper Whorton Creek No. 5
Bohannon No. 6
Baldwin No. 7
Lone Star No. 8
Alabam No. 9
Park Hill No. 10
Jackson Creek No. 11

During the December session of the county court which was held on December 11, 1868, three more school districts were created.[121]

Oak Grove No. 12
Witter No. 13
Aurora No. 14

During the month of January, two sessions of the county court were held and the number of school districts was expanded to thirty-four. There were seven districts created by Judge Vaughan on January 4, 1869, and thirteen more were created during the session held on January 25, 1869.[122] The new districts were:

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[120] *The History of Northwest Arkansas* (New York: Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1889), 472.

[121] Ibid.

[122] Ibid.

Hocks Creek No. 15
Purdy No. 16
Buckeye No. 17
California No. 18
Whitener No. 19
Harmony No. 20
Duncan No. 21
Lower Camp Ground No. 22
Peace Valley No. 23
Mount Pleasant No. 24
Kingston No. 25
Hartwell No. 26
Possum Creek No. 27
Upper Camp Ground No. 28
Hickory Grove No. 29
Mountain Springs No. 30
Asher No. 31
Japton No. 32
Combs No. 33
Jones No. 34

During the next two years, the county court would create thirteen more new school districts and by September 30, 1870, Madison County had created 47 school districts. The new school districts were:

Little's Chapel No. 35
Loy No. 36
Clear Creek (Possum Trot) No. 37
Reeds Creek No. 38
Good Luck No. 39
Burke No. 40
Fairview No. 41
Ogden No. 42
Henderson's Creek No. 43
Bluff Springs No. 44
Langley No. 45
Delaney Creek No. 46
Cedar Bluff No. 47

One of the many problems facing Madison County as it set about to organize its educational system was the lack of qualified teachers and the facilities in which to conduct a school. Only nine school buildings were standing in the county when the first 34 districts were created and they were listed by circuit superintendent Clayton as being in poor condition. Their combined value was estimated to be only $490.[123]

Another problem was securing men to serve as directors or trustees of the newly formed school districts. According to state superintendent Thomas Smith, two-thirds of those people interested in serving as district trustees were unable to read and were entirely unacquainted with the management of public schools. The new system would have to be put in operation by people who were largely without education, without experience in school matters and such material had to be employed in the selection of trustees as the county could furnish.[124]

Even with these obstacles, 23 new school buildings were erected in 1869, bringing the county total to 32 and the following year, 15 more buildings were built bringing the total to 47. The value of the original 9 buildings had been

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[123] State of Arkansas, Biennial Report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Department of Education, Little Rock, 1869-1870, 49.

[124] Ibid., 6-7.

placed at $490 or roughly $54 per building. The schools built in 1869 were valued at $3,800 or roughly $165 each and the schools built in 1870 were valued at $2,800 or $187 each.[125]

In his first report to state superintendent Smith, circuit superintendent Clayton reported the enumeration or scholastic population between the ages of 5 and 21 of Madison County for the year ending September 30, 1869, to be 3,003. Of these, 1,558 were white males, 17 were black males, 1,419 were white females, and 9 were black females. For the year ending September 30, 1870, the scholastic population had dropped to 2,972. Of these, 1,229 were white males, 27 were black males, 1,696 were white females, and 30 were black females.[126]

School Attendance

Circuit Superintendent Clayton reported that the 34 school districts in Madison County had enrolled 2,067 students as of September 30, 1869. Of these 2,067 students, 1,135 were male and 932 were female. There were no black students enrolled at this time. Of the total scholastic population which was eligible to attend school, this represented 68.8 percent of the eligible population enrolled in

[125] Ibid., 43.

[126] Ibid., 34.

school. For the year ending September 30, 1870, the total enrollment has risen slightly to 2,103. Of these students, 1,100 were male and 1,003 were female and represented a 70.8 percent rate of enrollment. However, Madison County had created 13 new school districts during the year bringing the total number of school districts in the county to 47.[127]

School Revenues

Some difficulty was experienced in securing the levy and collection of district taxes for the support of the schools. In some instances, the electors in the district refused to authorize the levy of the tax by the county court; and in other instances, where it was authorized to be levied by the district meeting or the trustee, the county court refused to place the amount of tax on the collector's book. During the year 1869, the state apportionment to Madison County totaled $3,423.41 and the district tax totaled $1,163.00 for a total of $4,586.42. For the year ending in 1879, the state apportionment to Madison County totaled $3,553.12 and the district tax collected totaled $1,680.00 for a total of $5,233.12. This represents a per pupil expenditure of $1.66 for 1869 and $2.49 for 1870.[128]

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[127] Ibid., 39.

[128] Ibid., 52-53.

Of the $9,819.00 raised during these two years, $7,396.00 was spent on teacher salaries, $1,423.00 was spent on school buildings and purchase of sites, $190.00 was spent on furnishings and $810.00 was paid to the school trustees.[129]

Number of Pupils in the Branches Taught

The school law required that certain subjects be taught to all students and that the relative number enrolled in each branch be reported to the circuit superintendent each year. The branches were orthography, reading, penmanship, mental arithmetic, written arithmetic, grammar, geography, history, and higher branches as the teacher might feel necessary.[130]

Circuit superintendent Clayton reported that the following numbers of pupils were instructed in the following branches in Madison County during 1869-1870[131]:

Branch	***No. Enrolled 1869***	***No. Enrolled 1870***
Orthography (spelling)	**1,933**	**2,500**
Reading	**977**	**1,292**
Penmanship	**492**	**661**

[129] Ibid., 48-53.

[130] Acts of Arkansas (1868), 163-197.

[131] State of Arkansas, op. cit. (1869-1870), 38-39.

Branch	*No. Enrolled 1869*	*No. Enrolled 1870*
Mental arithmetic	**235**	**222**
Written arithmetic	**342**	**466**
Grammar	**215**	**181**
Geography	**86**	**94**
History	**35**	**9**
Higher Branches	**12**	**27**

Upon the theory that no one could read well without first having learned to spell well, more attention was given to orthography than to any other branch of study.[132]

> **. . . The pupils were divided into spelling classes, according to their advancement. Twice each day these classes would be called upon to recite. The words were pronounced by the teacher, beginning at the head of the class. When he reached the head, he was given a credit mark and then took his place at the foot. At the end of the term, the one having the most "headmarks" was usually rewarded with a small prize. Friday afternoons were given up to spelling matches and "spelling Bees," in which everyone with a reasonable distance of the schoolhouse took part. Two captains were selected to "choose Up." The one winning the first choice named the best speller present, the opponent named the next best, and so on alternately until all those present who wished to participate were arrayed in two opposing lines. Then the teacher "gave out" the words, first to one side and then to the other. Each speller who misspelled a word took his seat, the last one standing being the victor. To "spell down" an**

[132] *A Reminiscent History of the Ozark Region* (Reprint: Cape Girardeau, Missouri: Ramfre Press 1956), 21.

> **entire school was considered quite an achievement.**[133]

When the child could spell fairly well, he was given the First Reader. By the time the Second Reader was reached, the writing lessons began. The copy book consisted of a few sheets of foolscap paper, covered with a sheet of tough wrapping paper. At the top of the page the teacher wrote a line for the pupil to imitate.

> **. . . These "copies" were intended to teach a moral, as well as serve as a specimen of penmanship, such as "Time and tide wait for no man," "Whatever is worth doing is worth doing well," etc. As the teacher rarely taught more than one term in a place, and as each teacher had a different style of penmanship, it is a wonder that many of the young people of that day learned to write as well as they did. . . .**[134]

Next came arithmetic. In the pronunciation of this word, the first letter was often dropped. Readin', 'Ritin', and 'Rithmetic (known as the three R's) were considered the essentials of a practical education. "Anyone with a passable knowledge of the three R's was equipped for the great battle of life, so far as ordinary business transactions were concerned. . . .[135] Such was the character of the early schools in the county.

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[133] Ibid., 22.

[134] Ibid., 23.

[135] Ibid.

Formation of the Remainder of the Madison County School Districts, 1870-1897

The Constitution of 1874

Reconstruction in Arkansas came to an end on May 15, 1874, when President Grant by proclamation recognized Elisha Baxter as the legal Governor of the state.[136] The end of the hated Radical Reconstruction era was to be marked by the Democrats calling for still another constitutional convention which was soon ratified by the citizens of the state.[137]

The Constitution of 1874 contained the following provisions for education:

> Section 1. Intelligence and virtue being the safeguards of liberty and the bulwark of a free and good government, the State shall ever maintain a general, suitable and efficient system of free schools whereby all persons in the State, between the ages of 6 and 21 years, may receive gratuitous instruction.
>
> Section 2. No money or property belonging to the public school fund, or to this State for the benefit of schools or universities, shall ever be used for any other than for the respective purposes to which it belongs.

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[136] Berry and Novak, op. cit., 120.

[137] Ibid., 121.

Section 3. The General Assembly shall provide by general laws for the support of the common schools by taxes, which shall never exceed in any one year 2 mills on the dollar on the taxable property of the State, and by an annual per capita tax of $1, to be assessed on every male inhabitant of this State over the age of 21 years: Provided, The general assembly may by general law authorize school districts to levy by a vote of the qualified electors of such district a tax not to exceed 5 mills on the dollar in any one year for school purposes: Provided further, That no such tax shall be appropriated to any other purpose nor to any other district than that for which it was levied.

Section 4. The supervision of public schools and the execution of the laws regulating the same shall be vested in and confided to such officers as may be provided for by the general assembly.[138]

The School Law of 1875

In response to the new Constitution, the General Assembly passed a comprehensive school law in December, 1875.[139] The law which was quite extensive provided detailed administrative items which set forth how the school districts in all counties were to be created, financed, and administered. The law provided that:

1. Each county was to be divided into school districts which were to be styled a body corporate by the county court.

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[138] *Journal of Arkansas State Constitutional Convention* (1874), 260-271.

[139] Acts of Arkansas (1875), No. 45, 54-82.

2. The electors of each organized school district were to meet annually, on the third Saturday in August to hold the annual school meeting of the district at which time they were to elect three school district directors, choose a site for the school house, to decide the amount of tax to be raised, and to cause the school to be built and maintained.

3. Set forth the duties of the directors of the district.

4. Set the minimum school term at three months.

5. Allowed the district directors to permit a private or subscription school to be taught in the district after the regular three-month school term was completed.

6. Set forth the qualifications and duties of the teacher of the school.

7. Set forth the qualifications and duties of the county examiner.

In the school law of 1875, the office of the state superintendent who was elected by popular vote was retained. Other administrative items in the act, in addition to the ones previously listed, were:

1. Created a general tax of 2 mills on the property of the State, to be distributed per capita by the state superintendent to all children between the ages of 6 and 21.

2. Created a poll tax of $1 on each male citizen over 21 years of age, to be distributed by the county judge to the school districts in proportion to the number of polls in each.

3. Created a local tax in year district not exceeding five mills on the dollar, to be determined by the electors of each district each year and to be paid directly to the districts.

4. The commissioners of the common school fund were the Governor, Secretary of State, and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

5. The county court was to apportion school revenue on the first Monday of July.

6. The school directors were charged with the duty to determine what amount of money was to be raised on the taxable property of the district that would be sufficient with the public school revenues of the state to defray the expenses of a school for 3 months.

7. The board was responsible for establishing separate schools for white and Negro children.

8. A clerk, an appointed director, was charged with keeping books that contained the following:

(a) minutes; (b) accounts of the district, by debits and credits, including the accounts with the county treasurer, and present the same at the district meeting. He also was to show the current expenses for

the year spent on school houses, outbuildings, fences, stoves, wood, maps, charts, blackboards, books, etc., the date of each order drawn by them on the county treasurer, and for what services or consideration and for what amounts and in whose favor the warrants were drawn; (c) a statement of the indebtedness of the district, and the surplus monies; and (d) the amount of taxes levied.

9. The office of county superintendent of schools was abolished and the duties transferred to a county examiner. The examiner was appointed by the county court for a term of two years. No salary was appropriated for the examiner other than a fee of two dollars, paid by the examiners, for each examination which he conducted. The duties and responsibilities of the county examiner were essentially the same as those of the former county superintendent.

It is important to note that the school law of 1875 did not require a district to provide a school even though the electors petitioned the county court to establish one. The law simply stated that a school must be operated for three months before it was entitled to receive state revenue. Furthermore, the constitutional limitation of 5 mills on local districts prevented many schools from operating each year. Many school districts could not raise enough money to hold a school each year.

From September 30, 1870, to October 5, 1898, the remaining school districts in Madison County were formed by order of the county court as provided by in the school law of 1875.[140] A listing of those school districts are found on the following page. Many of the school districts were known by different names other than the one used by the county examiner. For example, Clear Creek was also known as Possum Trot and Hartwell was often referred to as Popcorn. Where other names are known, they are included in parenthesis. It also is important to note that when a school district petitioned the county court for dissolution, at times the county judge would reissue the district number to the next school district which petitioned the court to form a new school district, therefore, several schools may share a common number.

[140] Records of the Madison County Court, loc. cit.

MADISON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS

No.	Name	Date Created	Date Consolidated	To District
1.	Huntsville	11/13/1868		
2.	McConnell's Chapel	11/13/1868	1/25/1949	1
3.	Mountain Grove	11/13/1868	4/22/1944	32
4.	Lower Whorton	11/13/1868	2/28/1949	1
5.	Upper Whorton	11/13/1868	6/2/1949	1
6.	Bohannon	11/13/1868	6/2/1949	1
7.	Baldwin	11/13/1868	12/19/1944	48
8.	Lone Star	11/13/1868	6/2/1949	1
9.	Alabam	11/13/1868	2/28/1949	1
10.	Park Hill (Seed Tick)	11/13/1868	6/2/1949	1
11.	Jackson Creek	11/13/1868	4/29/1944	1
12.	Oak Grove	12/11/1868	5/27/1944	1
13.	Witter	12/11/1868	6/2/1949	1
14.	Aurora	12/11/1868	6/2/1949	1
15.	Hocks Creek (Hawks Creek)	1/4/1869	6/2/1949	1
16.	Purdy	1/4/1869	2/28/1949	25
17.	Buckeye	1/4/1869	6/2/1949	1
18.	California	1/4/1869	6/2/1949	1
19.	Whitener	1/4/1869	6/2/1949	1
20.	Harmony	1/4/1869	2/28/1949	1
21.	Duncan	1/4/1869	6/2/1949	1
22.	Lower Camp Ground	1/25/1869	6/2/1949	25
23.	Peace Valley	1/25/1869	6/2/1949	1
24.	Mount Pleasant	1/25/1869	6/2/1949	1
25.	Kingston	1/25/1869		
26.	Hartwell (Popcorn)	1/25/1869	6/2/1949	1
27.	Possum Creek	1/25/1869	4/29/1944	48
28.	Upper Camp Ground	1/25/1869	2/28/1949	25
29.	Hickory Grove	1/25/1869	6/2/1949	1
30.	Mountain Springs	1/25/1869	6/2/1949	1
31.	Asher	1/25/1869	7/29/1948	70
32.	Japton	1/25/1869	2/28/1949	1
33.	Combs	1/25/1869	8/6/1943	48
34.	Jones	1/25/1869	6/2/1949	1
35.	Little's Chapel	1869-1870	2/28/1949	25
36.	Loy	1869-1870	2/28/1949	25

MADISON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS

No.	Name	Date Created	Date Consolidated	To District
37.	Clear Creek (Possum Trot)	1869-1870	6/2/1949	1
38.	Reeds Creek	1869-1870	2/28/1949	1
39.	Wolfpen			
	Good Luck	1869-1870	6/2/1949	1
40.	Burke	1869-1870	6/2/1949	25
41.	Fairview	1869-1870	9/3/1943	48
42.	Ogden	1869-1870	6/2/1949	48
43.	Henderson Creek	1869-1870	6/2/1949	1
44.	Bluff Springs	1869-1870	2/28/1949	25
45.	Langley	1869-1870	2/5/1946	17
46.	Delaney's Creek	1869-1870	4/1/1947	25
47.	Cedar Bluff	1869-1870	2/28/1949	1
48.	Riverside	1870-1873	5/25/1929	
	Saint Paul			
49.	Chaplain	1870-1873	6/2/1949	1
50.	Farmer (Valley Springs)	1870-1873	6/2/1949	1
51.	Weathers	1/1888	3/1925	25
	Long Valley	1936	9/13/1947	1
52.	Oak Summit	1885-1888		
	Accident	1870-1873	12/19/1944	32
53.	Shady Grove (Walnut Grove) (New Home)	1870-1873	3/17/1942	125
54.	Delaney	1870-1873	9/3/1943	48
55.	Plainview	1870-1873	7/29/1948	70
56.	Wesley	1870-1873	6/2/1949	1
57.	Cove	1870-1873	6/2/1949	48
58.	Little Spring	1870-1873	7/9/1889	158*
	Locust Mountain	4/21/1891		
59.	Flint	1870-1873	10/14/1885	
	Forum	10/15/1885	2/28/1949	1
60.	Greenwood (Greasy Creek)	1870-1873	6/2/1949	48
61.	Dutton	1870-1873	9/21/1943	48
62.	Spring Hill (Shake Rag)	1870-1873	6/2/1949	1
63.	Pettigrew	1870-1873	8/6/1943	25

MADISON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS

No.	Name	Date Created	Date Consolidated	To District
64.	Concord	1874-1877	6/2/1949	1
65.	Boston	10/23/1876	9/3/1943	48
66.	Smyrna	10/11/1875	9/11/1947	1
67.	Big Sandy	1874-1877	4/2/1946	1
68.	Crosses Creek	1874-1877	6/2/1949	48
69.	Cross Roads	1874-1877	12/1/1947	88
70.	Enterprise (Thorney)	1874-1877	6/2/1949	1
71.	Kilgore (Upper Baldwin)	1874-1877	4/9/1930	48
72.	Lake	1874-1877	6/15/1924	9
73.	Thompson Cannon Creek	1874-1877	9/21/1943	48
74.	Mount Dorcas	1874-1877	6/2/1949	1
75.	Short Cove	7/2/1877	2/28/1949	48
76.	Drakes Creek	7/28/1877	6/2/1949	1
77.	Fancher	8/22/1877	6/2/1949	1
78.	Dripping Springs (Kingman) (Kings River)	9/10/1877	6/2/1949	1
79.	Hindsville	9/10/1877	6/2/1949	1
80.	Union Gap	10/1/1877	9/2/1941	6
81.	Friley Creek	10/3/1877	12/16/1947	108 82
82.	Liberty	1/12/1878	6/2/1949	48
83.	Panther Creek	5/1/1878	10/9/1910	91 3
84.	Cobb Creek	7/11/1878	2/28/1949	1
85.	Phipps Chapel	7/4/1878	3/17/1942	33
86.	Oak Grove (Nubbin Ridge)	7/3/1878	12/29/1930	13
87.	Spoke Plant (Chinkapin)	4/9/1879	6/2/1949	48
88.	Marble	7/8/1879	2/28/1949	1
89.	Mountain View	7/21/1879	6/2/1949	1
90.	Colbaugh	4/6/1880	6/2/1949	1
91.	Ball Creek	8/10/1880	6/2/1949	48
92.	Good Hope	10/6/1880	6/2/1949	48
93.	Free Will	7/3/1882	9/19/1944	48
94.	Pharris	7/5/1882	7/9/1909	40

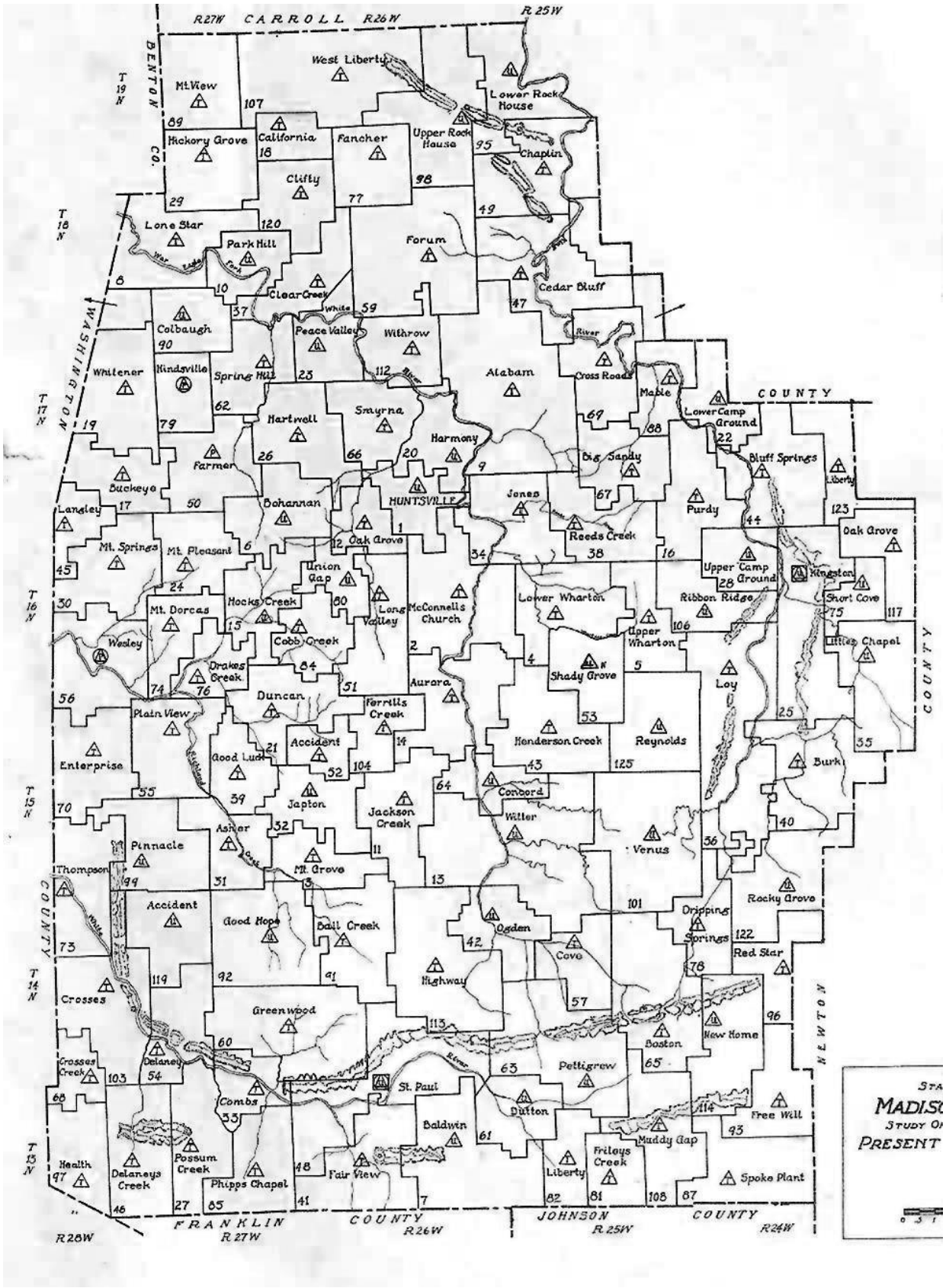
No.	Name	Date Created	Date Consolidated	To District
95.	Lower Rock House (Mount Olive)	1/4/1883	6/2/1949	1
96.	Red Star	4/1/1883	12/15/1942	48
97.	Health (Independence)	8/6/1883	6/2/1949	48
98.	Upper Rock House	10/1/1883	9/12/1944	95 77
99.	Pinnacle	10/7/1883	6/2/1949	48
100.	Low Gap	4/5/1884	9/9/1929	61
101.	Venus	4/6/1889	6/2/1949	1
102.	Robertson	4/10/1889	10/13/1928	70 73 99
103.	Crosses	7/8/1889	8/26/1944	48
104.	Ferrels Creek	7/8/1889	6/2/1949	1
105.	White River Chapel Saint Paul**	3/11/1871		
106.	Ribbon Ridge	/16/1891	4/6/1944	25
107.	West Liberty	4/16/1891	6/2/1949	1
108.	Muddy Gap	4/16/1891	6/21/1949	48
109.	Dabney Creek	4/16/1891	3/13/1926	92 60
110.	Berry Branch (Elm Spring)	7/13/1891	9/3/1925	9
111.	Easterling Creek	7/14/1891	4/7/1921	1
112.	Withrow	10/1/1891	8/2/1941	1
113.	Highway	10/18/1891	7/29/1948	48
114.	New Home	10/18/1891	6/2/1949	48
115.	Atkins	7/18/1892	10/13/1903	48
116.	Walnut Grove	7/11/1893	9/3/1902	1
117.	Oak Grove	7/11/1893	10/25/1941	25
118.	Bayley	9/26/1893	3/3/1926	113
119.	Accident	10/22/1893	2/25/1949	48
120.	Clifty	10/13/1894	6/2/1949	1
121.	Bethel	1/5/1895	10/10/1910	84 14 104
122.	Rocky Grove	1/5/1895	12/16/1941	48 93***

123.	East Liberty	7/12/1895	2/28/1949	25
124.	Bolinger (Valley Home)	7/16/1897	6/12/1926	36
125.	Reynolds	9/28/1897	6/2/1949	1

* To District #158, Washington County

** Saint Paul was originally District # 105 but with the annexation of Riverside, wanted a lower district number.

*** To District #93 in Newton County


R27W CARROLL R26W R25W
BENTON CO.
WASHINGTON COUNTY
NEWTON COUNTY
COUNTY
FRANKLIN COUNTY
JOHNSON COUNTY
R28W R27W R26W R25W R24W
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West Liberty
Mt View
Lower Rock House
Hickory Grove
California
Fancher
Upper Rock House
Chaplin
Clifty
Lone Star
Park Hill
Forum
Cedar Bluff
Clear Creek
Colbaugh
Peace Valley
Withrow
Whitener
Hindsville
Spring Hill
Alabam
Cross Roads
Mable
Lower Camp Ground
Hartwell
Smyrna
Harmony
Big Sandy
Bluff Springs
Farmer
Buckeye
Bohannan
HUNTSVILLE
Jones
Purdy
Langley
Reeds Creek
Oak Grove
Mt. Springs
Mt. Pleasant
Union Gap
Upper Camp Ground
Kingston
Hocks Creek
Long Valley
McConnells Church
Lower Wharton
Ribbon Ridge
Short Cove
Mt. Dorcas
Wesley
Cobb Creek
Upper Wharton
Little Chapel
Drakes Creek
Aurora
Shady Grove
Loy
Duncan
Ferrills Creek
Plain View
Accident
Henderson Creek
Reynolds
Enterprise
Good Luck
Burk
Concord
Japton
Jackson Creek
Willer
Asher
Venus
Pinnacle
Thompson
Mt. Grove
Rocky Grove
Good Hope
Ball Creek
Ogden
Dripping Springs
Cove
Red Star
Highway
Crosses
Greenwood
Boston
New Home
Crosses Creek
Delaney
Pettigrew
St. Paul
Combs
Dutton
Free Will
Baldwin
Muddy Gap
Health
Delaneys Creek
Possum Creek
Phipps Chapel
Fair View
Friloys Creek
Liberty
Spoke Plant
MADISO
STUDY O
PRESENT

Madison County Schools

The Period from 1880-1900

In his annual report to State Superintendent George Hill in 1879, Madison County Examiner Nelson J. Carlock reported considerable progress in Madison County during the past few years:[141]

> The cause of popular education is very progressive in this part of the state. There are many evidences of this progress, some of which, in addition to the statistics which accompany and form a part of this report, I give in detail below.
>
> First, There has been quite an increase in the number of districts which have voted the five mill tax on the dollar, the maximum allowed by the constitution.
>
> Second, there is a more general demand for better teachers. A truer appreciation of the dignified and transcendently important work of the educator--the molding of human destinies--is assuming life in the popular mind.
>
> Third, We have no opposition to the "free" school system. Our people are talking about, writing about, thinking about the subject. We currently have 55 public schools in this county. Four years ago there were only about 18 schools in operation.
>
> Fourth, more interest has been shown in the annual district school meetings and the school directors are taking considerable interest in getting their schools in running order, but some are still

[141] State of Arkansas, Biennial Report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Department of Education, Little Rock, 1883-1884, 111-112.

> unaccountable deficient in making their annual report, which is very perplexing to the County Examiner.

Even though County Examiner Carlock was optimistic in his report, the number of schools holding yearly terms in the county would fall during the next three years to 34 before beginning to climb upwards once again.

Outline of Study for the Schools in Madison County

The bridging over from one term and one teacher to another, thus enabling one teacher to begin where the other had left off, was a monumental problem facing many of the rural school districts. In his biennial report to the Governor, State Superintendent of Public Instruction J. L. Denton reported:

> **Violence is done to the mind when studies are not so grouped as to conform to the successive stages of mental development--the natural order in which the faculties unfold. The adoption of an outline of study by the country schools would put an end to the unphilosophic and mischievous practice of mixing studies that do not lie on the same plane. . . .**[142]

It is evident that County Examiner Carlock held the same opinion. An outline of study for the ungraded schools of Madison County was obtained from a school register dated 1879 for the Duncan school district issued from the office of the county examiner. The outline directed that all

[142] Ibid., 65.

teachers were to follow the general directions and suggestions as issued by Mr. Carlock.[143]

Studies for First Reader Pupils

Reading: Words in print and script from charts, word cards, blackboard, and First Reader.

Spelling: Spell all words of the reading lesson.

Writing: On slates ruled in three spaces by a scratcher. Use long pencils. Write words from chart and blackboard. When the First Reader is used, children should copy a part of each reading lesson upon the slate, to be criticised (sic) by the teacher at the recitation.

Numbers: Read and write numbers to 100. Addition and subtraction by 1's, 2's, 3's, 5's to 25. Add columns of units, no result to exceed 25. Practical, original examples should be given with each exercise by teacher and pupil.

General Directions and Suggestions

Reading: It is very important that children should take the first steps in all their work correctly. They should be taught, in familiar conversations, to observe objects and tell their names. By easy questions, lead them

[143] Arkansas Public School Register, Duncan School District, Madison County, 1879.

to express their simple ideas about things which they can see and handle. Bring objects to the school room for them to examine and talk about. Use pictures. Seek to establish freedom and familiarity between yourself and young children. Print upon the blackboard the names of the most familiar objects, which do not contain more than three or four letters, and teach the child to recognize the word and pronounce it as soon as pointed out. After pupils have learned to pronounce a few words at sight, teach the letters that compose them, and print them upon the blackboard, and teach children to write them upon their slates. Keep a list of the words learned upon the blackboard, and add new words as fast as they are learned. Reading is the comprehension or expression of thought indicated in printed or written characters. The pronunciation of words is not reading, but should precede reading as a preparatory exercise; therefore, test the ability of the children to pronounce the words of a reading lesson, and to comprehend their meaning before they attempt to read it. Indistinctness of utterance, hesitancy, and clipping of words or sounds, should be corrected with the utmost care. Teach the child to express the thought naturally, by a series of easy questions upon the lesson.

Language Lessons: Are thus introduced at a time when it is very important that children should be taught to answer all questions in complete sentences. In all the

exercises with children, develop the power to express thought properly. Correct all mistakes in the use of language. In every written exercise, whether upon the blackboard or slate, require the use of the necessary punctuation marks. Always examine with care all the written exercises required, to see how well they have been prepared, and to correct all errors. Whatever else you do, or fail to do, be sure that you do not neglect the "little ones" who need direction and encouragement at every step.

Spelling: After children have become familiar with a few words, teach them to spell, always requiring them to pronounce the words distinctly. Dictate words, learned in their reading lessons, to be written upon their slates.

Numbers: While children are learning the names of objects, develop a knowledge of numbers, by letting them count one, two, three, etc., as they pick up the objects, always giving the name of the object. Write the figure representing the number of objects on the blackboard. Use beans, spools, stones, picture-cards, blocks, letters, toys, etc. Use objects that will interest the child. Construct simple examples with objects in addition and subtraction by 1's, 2's, and 3's, and from such exercises lead the pupils to construct for themselves addition and subtraction tables. Take the first steps slowly and surely.

Writing: Prepare the slates by ruling one side of them permanently, by scratching, as copy books are ruled, with four equidistant lines and three spaces, or with two lines to indicate the height of the small letters, and a line above and one below to indicate the length of loop-letters. Great care should be taken at first to teach the children how to form the letters. Always write the word or words to be written on the blackboard, using lines so the children may observe how each letter is formed. Guide the hand in the first efforts. Teach them to draw straight lines; vertical and slanting, equal spaces distant, and one, two or three spaces high on the ruled slate; keeping in mind the fact that this exercise will aid in teaching space and slant in writing. Require pupils to bring to the reading class each day an assigned part of the lesson neatly written on the slate.

Studies for Second Reader Pupils

Reading: Second Reader.

Spelling: Oral and written of all words used in the reading lesson.

Numbers: Addition and subtraction tables to 12's and by 3's, 4's, etc., to 9's as far as 50. Adding numbers in columns. Subtracting numbers in which each figure of the minuend is always greater than the corresponding figure of the subtrahend. Multiplication and division

tables to 5's. Combinations in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Reading and writing numbers to 10,000. Analysis of simple problems. Roman numbers to 100.

Writing: From copies on the blackboard. Copy a part of each reading lesson, making proper use of capitals and punctuation marks. Pupils should be taught how to hold the pencil, the proper position and the formation of small letters. Use slates properly ruled into spaces.

General Directions and Suggestions

Reading: Test the ability of the pupils to pronounce every word in the lesson, and require them to give, before reading, the substance of the lesson in their own language, or let them substitute other words for certain selected words in the sentences. Seek constantly to obtain distinct articulation and natural tones. Teach them to read as they would talk. Don't let pupils of this grade point to the words when reading. Train the eye and the voice. Give variety by using picture books and children's papers for reading exercises at least once a week.

Language Lessons: Besides the questions asked and answered in every recitation, occasionally write sentences with prominent words omitted, to be supplied by the pupils. Give a list of familiar objects with which sentences are to

be constructed. Bring curiosities, pictures, etc., and request children to describe them. Require correct ideas as well as correct construction of sentences. Let children select the object words (nouns) in the reading lessons, define and explain them.

Spelling: Spell words from the reader, and words used in other exercises. Spell monosyllables by sound. Require the phonic spelling of words sufficiently to obtain correct and distinct enunciation. Let a part of the spelling be written. Drill on difficult words found in the lesson, and those pronounced alike but spelled differently. Spell with every exercise.

Numbers: Combine written work with the mental in this grade. Give practical examples embracing the number work of this grade. Require children to construct examples using the prices of familiar objects, such as sugar, candy, slates, thread, hats, etc., thereby teaching children habits of inquiry and observation. Give exercises to obtain rapid work. Vary the number work so as to awaken an interest in every exercise.

Writing: Continue slate work giving the pupils instruction at the same time it is given to those who write in copy books. Before leaving the Second Reader, let children write with a lead pencil on paper, teaching them how to hold the pencil. Close attention should be given to

the formation of letters, slanting, spacing, capitals, etc. Make frequent use of the blackboard in illustrations.

Studies for the Third Reader Pupils

Reading: Third Reader

Spelling: Spelling Book. Oral, written and phonic spelling of all words used, giving selected words in the reader as a special exercise. Definitions. Abbreviations.

Numbers: Mental arithmetic to fractions, using textbook. Rapid combinations, using the tables to 12's. Reading and writing numbers of two periods. Add and subtract numbers. Multiply and divide numbers of two periods, multiplier or divisor, not to exceed 12. Analysis of problems. Tables, United States money, of avoirdupois weight, of dry, liquid and long measures, and of time. Written arithmetic through fundamental principles using a textbook during last six months.

Geography: Pupils in this grade should be taught from the globe and outline maps. They should be taught at first to draw maps of the school grounds, town, county and State. They should learn to describe the natural divisions of land and water, and name and locate the grand divisions and the political divisions of North America. Use a primary geography during the last six months of the grade.

Writing: Write with pen and ink in copy book. Use books in which the proper formation of the small letters (singly and combined with words) can be taught. Give special attention to the position of pupils and manner of holding the pen.

General Directions and Suggestions for Third Reader Grade

Reading: Follow directions given in preceding grade. Require each pupil to obtain a dictionary and find the definitions of common words. Make this a class exercise at their seats at first, to teach pupils how to use a dictionary; teach the marks that indicate the sounds of letters and the accent, so they can determine the pronunciation of words. Cultivate tones and expression with great care. Let the class memorize short selections, containing gems of thought, to repeat singly or in concert as a drill exercise. Do not let pupils attempt to read selections beyond their comprehension. Let children bring story books from home and read aloud to the class.

Language Lessons: Teach the use of the interrogation point, comma, period, and capital letters. Never permit written exercises to be prepared carelessly, or without a proper use of capitals and punctuation marks. Teach pupils to separate simple sentences into the complete subject and predicate, and to find the subject word and predicate verb (include the auxiliaries) by a series of questions

developing the thought of the sentence. Let the student use a language lesson book as a guide in the exercises given.

Spelling: Guard carefully the pronunciation of words in oral spelling, securing distinctness and purity of tone. Require pupils to construct sentences, using the word spelled. Combine definitions with the spelling exercise. Let half of the spelling be written work. In the written work, require neatness and good penmanship.

Geography: The work in geography should be largely conversational. If books are used in this grade, have the pupils occasionally read portions of the text; also have them read selections from any books to be had containing descriptions of the country, cities or localities studied. The oral work should embrace a knowledge of the natural divisions of land and water, ability to point them out on a map, the study of the local geography of the town and county in which the pupil resides, and then the State. Teach the children how to draw rivers, coast line, etc., with chalk. Require them to draw a map of the State.

Numbers: Require all work which pupils place upon their slates or blackboard to be arranged neatly and systematically, and where concrete numbers are used the denomination or name should be written. Give special attention to the principles and analysis, giving the reasons in operations.

Writing: Use copy books with pen and ink. Great care should be taken to teach the children to hold the pen properly, and to write lightly. Teach the elements of small letters and capitals. Study and follow the instructions given in the copy books.

Studies for Fourth Reader Pupils

Reading: Fourth Reader.

Spelling: First half of speller, from reader and other textbooks. Use of writing speller. Definitions, each pupil having a dictionary. Spell words by sound. Abbreviations and punctuation.

Writing: Copy Books, special instruction should be given on proper formation of capitals, slant and shading of letters.

Geography: Geography to Europe, with map-drawing.

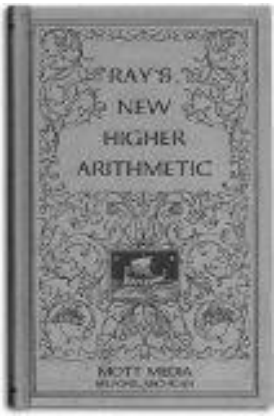
Grammar: Oral Grammar first year. Textbook second year. In the oral work, first name all object words, distinguishing those that begin with a capital; then action words; form simple sentences combining these. Quality words, combine with object works, etc. Let each part of speech be taken up in this way, until pupils can point out the parts of a sentence and tell the name

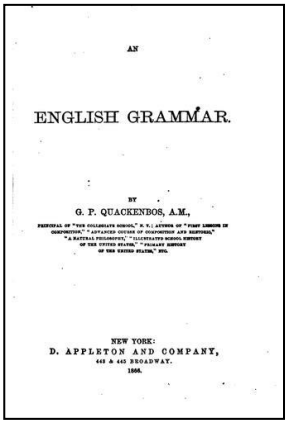
and relation of each word. Analyze simple sentences from reader.

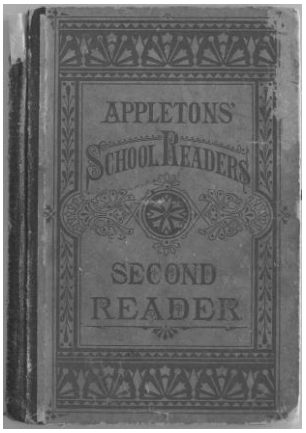
Numbers: Written arithmetic; common and decimal fractions and compound numbers. Mental arithmetic; each subject preceding the same work in written arithmetic. Declamations and select readings. Written abstracts.

Textbooks in Use from 1879-1880

READING - Appleton's Readers
Dictionary - Webster
Penmanship - Model Copy Book (Goodman's Patent)
History of the United States - Quackenbos
General History - Swinton's Outlines
Grammar - Quackenbos' Illustrated Lessons in Our Language and English Grammar
English Grammar
English Literature - Hunt
Geography - Cornell
Arithmetic - Ray
Algebra - Ray
Geometry – Schuyler







In a letter to State Superintendent W. E. Thompson in 1888, County Examiner J. H. Bohlen reported that the schools in Madison County were in "very fair condition."[144] Bohlen further reported that the schools were making progress and the people of the county were interested in the cause of education and doing all they could do to have more and better schools.

The following year, County Examiner J. T. Walker reported a twenty-six percent increase in the enrollment of the common schools in the county as well as errors made in the levying of the district tax:

Huntsville, Ark.
September 23, 1889

Hon. W. E. Thompson,
Superintendent Public Instruction
Little Rock, Ark.
Dear Sir:

I herewith enclose my annual report as county examiner of Madison County. I am a few days late, but this was caused by my earnest endeavor to secure a full and correct report. I wrote and rewrote to the delinquent directors until I secured the data for a report that I think is very nearly accurate.

I feel very much encouraged to find that we enrolled 73 percent of all our children last year, and that we secured an average daily attendance of 41 percent.

The number of districts voting a special tax was greater than directors or the levying court, and the taxes

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[144] State of Arkansas, Biennial Report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Department of Education, Little Rock, 1887-1888, 79.

were not levied. I send you herewith a full report of the deaf mutes, blind, and insane:

BLIND

District 47 - Willis Boren, age 17; post office, Alabam. District 56, Nannie Fritts, age 14; parent A. W. Fritts, Wesley. (She is now in the Blind School). District 77 - Smith, age 10; parent John Smith, Fancher; totally blind.

DEAF MUTES

District 48, John Cobb, age 6, totally deaf; parent, Nancy Cobb, St. Paul. L. B. Shipley, age 13, totally deaf, parent B. F. Shipley, St. Paul; Janie Shipley, age 10, totally deaf, parent B. F. Shipley, St. Paul. District 32, Thomas Rogers, age 9, deaf-mute and insane; parent M. A. Rogers, Drakes Creek. District 87, Sarah J. Barber, age 16, totally deaf and dumb; parent Allen Barber, Boston. District 98, John W. Watts, age 7, totally ____; parent Adeline Watts, Rockhouse. District 102, Lilly Cook, age 6, totally ____, parent A. B. Cook, Thompson.

All the districts above are new districts, and hence had no schools last year. A part of the receipts were from sources other than by taxation. Nearly $1000 were expended in private schools not reported.
Very respectfully,

J. T. Walker[145]

In 1882, ninety-four school districts were in existence in the county while only thirty-four districts had sufficient funds to hold a term of school.[146] By 1889, the number of districts in the county had increased to one hundred-five with eighty-nine districts holding school that

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[145] State of Arkansas, Biennial Report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Department of Education, Little Rock, 1889-1890, 65-66.

[146] Ibid., 77-80.

year. By 1900, all one hundred twenty-five districts had been formed and one hundred twenty-three districts were holding a term of school.

However, County Examiner J. A. Sullivan, in his report to the state superintendent of public instruction in 1900, voiced the opinion that the county would be more efficient and conduct better schools if the number of districts were reduced and larger districts created.

> **. . . It is my opinion that the two most profitable things to do for the betterment of school interests would be: first, the requirement of a higher standard of qualifications for directors; second, raise the number of children necessary to form a district from thirty-five to fifty-five or more. There are too many districts in my county for the population of school children. . . .**[147]

The Period from 1900-1925

During the next twenty-five years, many changes occurred in the schools of Madison County. Emphasis was placed in the areas of: (1) consolidation of the smaller districts; (2) strengthening of local supervision; (3) standard course of study for all schools; (4) pedagogical techniques; (5) improved school facilities; (6) establishment of various school improvement organizations;

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[147] State of Arkansas, Biennial Report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Department of Education, Little Rock, 1903-1904, 78-79.

and (7) greater emphasis and teaching of health and nutritional practices. Although the development of these areas varied from school district to school district, most schools labored to improve in most of the areas.

Consolidation of the Smaller Districts

Although the mere mention of the word consolidation was considered taboo in the districts, state and local officials were discussing with vigor the idea of consolidation as early as 1900. In every annual communication to the state superintendent of public instruction, the county examiners expressed their concern with the large number of small school districts in the county.

Statewide, the reports of the county examiners on the average number of pupils in detail attendance for the year closing June 30, 1904, revealed clearly the fact that there were too many small and weak school districts in the state and Madison County was no exception.[148] This problem was clearly stated by State Superintendent John H. Hinemon in his Biennial Report of 1904:

> **. . . The continued increase in the number of small districts is sapping the very life blood out of our school system, and is doing great harm to the cause of popular education. It is much**

[148] Ibid., 12.

> **better for a child to go two or three miles to a good school than to have a poor school only a few rods away. . . .**[149]

During this period, Madison County had 125 school districts with an average expenditure for teachers' salaries of $3.85 per capita based on average daily attendance which was fifty-six cents higher than the state average.[150] Although fewer teachers and fewer schools could have serviced the county, local residents were opposed to the concept of consolidation and the number of schools would not be dramatically reduced until the 1940's.

Strengthening of Local Supervision

The isolation of the country teacher put him in peculiar and special need of encouragement. Working alone, seldom meeting fellow teachers and rarely having the opportunity to visit other schools and learn new methods, the need for a strong county examiner and supervisor became paramount to any type of success in the county.[151] In the past, many examiners had been coerced into licensing incompetent individuals due to the pleas of friends, the

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[149] Ibid., 12-13.

[150] Ibid., 13.

[151] State of Arkansas, Biennial Report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Department of Education, Little Rock, 1905-1906, 23.

influence of relatives or the threats of local politicians.[152]

During the period from 1900-1925, the office of county examiner was strengthened. The issuance of all county licenses to teach was placed entirely under the control and authority of the county examiner.[153] The same was true in regard to endorsement for institute attendance and in regard to renewal and extension of licenses. Every teacher was required to attend the yearly teacher's institute and if they did not attend, the examiner could refuse to endorse their license.[154] The county examiner also was authorized to hold examinations on the third Thursday and Friday in March, June, September, and December at the county seat.

The county examiner was to visit each school in his county each year.[155] If the examiner found the school being conducted in a manner which he felt was not conducive to proper learning, he could influence the board of directors to non-renew the contract of the teacher as well as fail to endorse the license of the teacher in the future.[156]

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[152] Ibid., 24.

[153] State of Arkansas, Biennial Report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Department of Education, Little Rock, 1909-1910, 144.

[154] Ibid., 145.

[155] Ibid., 146.

[156] Ibid., 147.

The specific duties required by law of the county examiner were:

1. To examine applicants to teach.

2. To keep a record of the age, name, sex, post office address, date and grade of certificate, and place of birth of each person licensed by him to teach.

3. To encourage the residents of the county to form and organize school districts and to encourage parents to purchase suitable textbooks for the children and send the children to school.

4. To direct the attention of teachers and school patrons to those methods of instruction that will best promote mental and moral culture, and to adopt the most feasible and improved plan for building and ventilating schoolhouses.

5. To labor to create among the people an interest in public schools, and to take advantage of public occasions, such as the dedication of schoolhouses, public examinations and institutes to impress people with the importance of educating every child, and of maintaining a system of free schools.

6. To receive the reports of directors and transmit an abstract of the same to the State Superintendent, together with a report of the condition and prospects of the schools under his superintendency.

7. To number the school districts of his county and to keep in his office a record and description of each district, and a record of such changes or alterations as may be made in the boundaries of the same.

8. To hold one teacher's institute annually and to give twenty days notice of the same.

9. To present at the July term of the county court an account for expenditures of postage, county district records, or a school map of the districts of the county, freight or express charges for the transmission of blanks.

10. To serve as chairman of the county school book board, and to keep a record of the books adopted.

11. To hold public examinations of candidates for teacher's certificates on the third Thursday and Friday in March, June, September, and December, at the hours fixed by the State Superintendent.

12. To grade and file in his office the papers submitted by candidates for license to teach, and on application, to exhibit these papers to the State Superintendent or any school director in the county.[157]

[157] State of Arkansas, Biennial Report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Department of Education, Little Rock, 1903-1904, 29-30.

Standard Course of Study for All Schools

The Legislature of 1903 passed a bill providing for a State course of study for the public schools of the State.[158] In adopting such a policy, the Legislature hoped to advance the organization of the school system in many areas.[159] One of the primary purposes was to put the school work of the State on a common basis and to lessen the loss of time and waste of effort when pupils changed schools or more importantly, the all too frequent change of teachers in the public schools.[160] The new system also would set a common curriculum with goals thus stimulating a student to finish the curriculum and possibly enter high school or college.

Graded Course of Study

First Grade

Reading - Chart and Primer or First Reader

Spelling - From Reader

Writing - Slate and tablet and blackboard exercises

Language - Oral production exercises

Arithmetic - Oral lessons in "Numbers," reading, writing and counting numbers to 50.

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[158] Ibid., 33.

[159] Ibid.

[160] Ibid., 33-34.

Second Grade

Reading - Second Reader

Writing - Slate, tablet, and blackboard exercises

Language - Oral and written reproductions

Spelling - From Reader

Arithmetic - Oral lessons in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, and combinations of numbers within the limit of 60. Reading and writing numbers to 10,000 and counting numbers to 100.

Third Grade

Reading - Third Reader

Writing - Copy book

Spelling - Begin spelling book

Geography - Primary or oral lessons

Language - Oral and written reproduction exercises

Arithmetic - Addition, subtraction, multiplication and division with combinations to 1,000. Reading and writing numbers to 1,000,000 using both Roman and Arabic notation.

Fourth Grade

Spelling - Primary spelling book completed

Reading - Fourth Reader

Writing - Copy book

Geography - Primary or equivalent work completed

Arithmetic - Common fractions and denominate numbers with frequent exercises in reading and writing numbers

Grammar - Primary grammar begun

Fifth Grade

Reading - Fifth Reader or History of Arkansas

Writing - Copy book

Spelling - Advanced spelling book - first half of book

Grammar - Primary completed

Geography - Complete or advanced book; divided into three parts; complete first divisions

Arithmetic - Review common fractions, decimals and percentage

Sixth Grade

Spelling - Advanced spelling book completed

Reading - Selections daily in history or some other suitable book

Writing - Copy book

Geography - Complete second division

Arithmetic - Percentage reviewed and its applications

Grammar - Advanced grammar begun

United States History - To Mexican War

Seventh Grade

Spelling - Exercises daily on difficult words selected from Geography, History, and Grammar lessons

Writing - Copy book

Geography - Completed

Arithmetic - Completed

Grammar - Completed

History - Completed

Physiology, Elementary Algebra, Civil Government

Memory Gems and Declamations throughout the course.[161]

Pedagogical Techniques

"Good buildings, modern furniture, splendid equipment and all else amount to little if a school is not in the hands of a competent and skillful teacher."[162] With these remarks, County Examiner L. F. Bell opened the Madison County Normal Institute in Huntsville in 1910 with Professor J. C. Massie as conductor.[163]

During the two-day institute, teachers were given detailed instruction and suggestions in each grade classification as well as instruction in the subject matter. During

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[161] Ibid., 131-134.

[162] Personal notes of L. F. Bell, County Examiner, Madison County, 1910.

[163] State of Arkansas, 1909-1910, op. cit., 115.

the next decade, improving the pedagogical techniques in the schools would be of importance not only in Madison County but the state as well. A review of the general directions given to the teachers at the institute gives some insight into the importance given to pedagogy during this period.

General Directions to Teachers

1. Do not repeat questions.

2. No pupil should ever know who is likely to be asked the next question.

3. Lessons for beginners should be very short, not exceeding ten minutes.

4. See that all the class is given close attention to the one who is reciting.

5. No pupil should be allowed to leave his seat or the room without permission.

6. Every day should add something to the teacher's knowledge of the business of teaching.

7. Every teacher should have a call bell and a definite method of calling and dismissing classes.

8. Remember that the single subject of reading, if wisely and intelligently taught, is a liberal education.

9. Do not repeat half-audible answers, teach the children to speak loud enough to be heard by all the class.

10. Look your pupils in the eye when you question them, and teach them to look you in the eye when they answer.

11. The teacher should avoid the mistake of talking too much while teaching. Remember, that telling is not teaching.

12. Remember with beginners, the important point is not how much they can learn, but how well they learn.

13. A short visit to the home of the pupils will do much to disarm prejudice and inspire interest and cooperation on the part of the patrons.

14. The health of the teacher and the discipline of the school will be greatly improved if the teacher will stand during a portion of the day.

15. Make as few classes as possible. The multiplicity of classes is one of the greatest difficulties in the way of effective work in rural schools.

16. No teacher should allow any reflections of the work of his predecessor and certainly the teacher himself should say or do nothing that could be so construed.

17. Children under eight years of age should be given frequent recesses for play and in pleasant weather, after they read, write and spell, they should be sent out of doors.

18. An occasional written examination is an excellent method of determining the thoroughness of the work. Pupils cannot too early be taught to "talk with the pencil."

19. The school should be a center of politeness, civility and good manners. The uplift of a studiously courteous teacher in a community of children is amazing.

20. No teacher can afford to set a bad example by using tobacco on the school grounds, by carelessness in personal habits, or by failure to be punctual and systematic in all his work.

21. In the primary grades, teachers should give constant attention to the correction of current blunders and inaccuracies in forms and expressions of speech. As the child learns to draw by drawing, paint by painting, to walk by walking, so he must learn the art of speaking and writing our language by speaking and writing, and not by learning rules and definitions without learning to apply them to everyday speech. In every grade there should be frequent exercises in letter writing, so that each child is able to write a letter neatly and correctly and fold and direct it properly.

22. Teach children to read and write as soon as possible. Other studies may well be made to wait on these two.

23. Strive to prevent rather than to punish wrong-doing. Teach the children to resist as well as to avoid temptation. The skillful teacher will find frequent opportunities for impressing the value of activity, earnestness and lofty purpose in life and character. The precepts of a true teacher have immense weight, but her example is still weightier.

24. Children are great imitators, and it is very important that the teacher present a living example of the essentials of right living--neatness, sobriety, kindness, truthfulness and politeness.[164]

Improved School Facilities

During the period from 1900 to 1925, increased activity and interest in the erection of new school buildings was seen in the county. During this period, approximately seventy new buildings were erected with many of the old substandard buildings being replaced.[165]

With the assistance of bulletins issued by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, the county examiners assisted the local school directors with plans and specifications for the construction of the new school

[164] Bell, op. cit.

[165] Records of the Madison County Court, loc. cit.

buildings.[166] Many of the school buildings built during this period were identical, such as the buildings at Harmony, Chaplain, and West Liberty.

The selection of the location of the school was of great importance to the community and the law provided that the selection was to be made at the annual school meeting where every patron could vote.[167] In addition to providing for a mechanism for selecting the site of the school, the law also provided for other specifications for the school site. The size of the building was to be twenty-four feet wide and thirty-six feet long and thirteen feet high for a school of forty students. The teacher's platform was to be placed at one end of the room, not on the side. Should the platform be placed on the side, the teacher could not see the entire class at a glance, thus making supervision much more difficult. The site of outhouses were to be at the rear corners of the school grounds and it was recommended that they be surrounded by a thick screen of evergreens.[168]

In addition, attention also was given to the physical conditions, lighting, water supply, playground, doors and windows of the school. The teachers and directors were

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[166] State of Arkansas, Biennial Report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Department of Education, Little Rock, 1911-1912, 43.

[167] Ibid., 44.

[168] Ibid., 47.

instructed to give constant attention to the physical conditions and comfort of the children. In a bulletin issued by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction in 1912, teachers were instructed to exercise vigilance to prevent the placing of vile language and obscene pictures on outhouse walls and other places in the school.[169]

> **. . . persistent effort should be made to create a wholesome sentiment against such practices. No other source is more fruitful of evil than this vicious practice of depraved minds, and common justice to innocent and pure-minded children demands that they be protected from such contaminating influences. . . .**[170]

In addition to these instructions, much attention was given to the proper ventilation of the school. All schools were encouraged to install "jacketed" stoves to improve the ventilation and temperature of the building.[171]

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[169] Ibid., 49.

[170] Ibid., 50.

[171] Ibid., 47.

CHAPTER 4

The Period from 1926 to 1948

The period from 1926 to 1948 began with the expressed need of more equalized funds for the schools which was coupled with more state control over the public schools. Between 1927 and 1929, the legislature enacted three laws which would have long-term effects on the public schools of the state.[172] They were: (1) The Equalization Law, establishing machinery for the Equalizing Fund; (2) Act 156 of 1929, providing for consolidation of schools on petition of a majority of the electors in the territory affected, and eliminating the provision that a majority of electors in each school district involved was required; and (3) instituting college credit earned as the basis for renewal of teachers' licenses, replacing attendance at county institutes.

Additionally, the legislature authorized the State Board of Education to lend the Permanent School Fund to school districts to assist them in building and furnishing school houses, thus creating the Revolving Loan Fund.[173] The

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[172] State of Arkansas, Biennial Report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Department of Education, Little Rock, 1929-1930, 8.

[173] Ibid., 11.

purpose was to enable poor school districts to obtain funds at a lower rate of interest than they were accustomed to paying. Although loans were made to 44 school districts in 25 of the counties the first year, no schools in Madison County applied for funds the first year.[174]

One of the key developments during the decade of the 1920's was the Constitutional Amendment, referred by the 1925 Legislature, permitting the electors of school districts to vote a maximum of 18 mills for support of the public schools.[175] Heretofore, the limit had been 12 mills. The amendment was adopted by the people in the 1926 General Election.[176]

By May, 1928, 34 of the 108 active school districts in Madison County had voted to raise the district millage to the maximum of 18 mills permitted by the new Constitutional Amendment. The following mills levied per $1.00 of assessed valuation were in effect for Madison County at the end of May, 1928:[177]

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[174] Ibid., 32.

[175] T. M. Stinnett and Clara B. Kennan, *All This and Tomorrow Too* (Little Rock: The Arkansas Education Association, 1969), 163.

[176] Ibid.

[177] State of Arkansas, Biennial Report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Department of Education, Little Rock, 1927-1928, 194.

No. of Districts	Number of Mills Voted
1	2
1	3
4	5
1	6
2	7
7	8
2	9
15	10
1	11
30	12
3	14
8	15
34	18

By 1930, the number of districts in the county voting the maximum 18 mills had risen from 34 to 57. Seven districts voted millage rates between 13 and 17 mills with 21 school districts voting at least 12 mills.

The decade of the 1930's began with a bitter fight with the Arkansas Tax Payers Association, a group which organized after the Legislature of 1929 passed Act 118--The Hall Net Income Tax Law.[178] The Tax Payers Association secured a referendum on the action of the legislature for submission to the people in the general election in November, 1930. In the general election, the people upheld the law.

In 1931, the legislature enacted a new school law, embodied as Act 169.[179] Practically all the provisions to

[178] Stinnett and Kennan, op. cit., 167.

[179] Acts of Arkansas (1931), 476-588.

the old school law were written into the unified and simplified law but the new law also contained several new provisions which would have great impact upon the administration of the public schools. The new school law provided:

1. For the election of the State Board of Education;

2. That all teachers be certified by the State Board of Education and that the rules and regulations and standards for granting certificates should be set by the board;

3. That all school districts should prepare a budget in advance of the fiscal year and that all school districts live within their income during the fiscal year, with the members of the school board being personally liable for any deficits incurred;

4. That no bonded indebtedness be contracted in the future which would make the total indebtedness of the district in excess of seven per cent of the assessed valuation of property;

5. That school boards be authorized to sell bonds only after the approval of the State Board of Education; and

6. That there shall be only one type of school district rather than the six types which had been previously allowed.

Repercussions of the Depression

The period from 1930 to 1933 marked a period of acute problems for the public schools in the state. The full effect of the economic depression began to be felt during the latter part of 1930 when more than 170 banks failed in the state and tied up more than four million dollars of the

public school funds.[180] In addition, the Equalizing Fund incurred a deficit of over $500,000 in 1931 and no money was available to the fund through 1932.[181] Many school districts were left with insufficient funds to operate the district or to pay teacher salaries.

The General Assembly of 1931 enacted Acts 206 and 207 authorizing the State Board of Education to borrow sufficient funds to loan to school districts to pay teachers' salaries which were due and unpaid as of July 1, 1931.[182] The State Debt Board negotiated a loan for $2,000,000 for the payment of past due teachers' salaries which was loaned to the school districts. The school districts were to repay the loans by October 1, 1932. By October 1, 1931, all payments were made by the school districts but many were left with insufficient funds to operate school the following year.[183]

In addition, Act 26 of 1933 repealed five sections of Act 169 of 1931 and abolished the office of county superintendent of schools and the county board of education in

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[180] State of Arkansas, Biennial Report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Department of Education, Little Rock, 1930-1932, 9.

[181] Ibid., 10-11.

[182] Acts of Arkansas, No. 319 (1939), 471.

[183] State of Arkansas, Biennial Report, 1930-1932, 12.

favor of a county examiner.[184] The duties of the county board of education were transferred to the county judge. The act which was intended to save money left the office of county examiner as a one-day-a-week job and effectively abolished county supervision of schools.

By the end of the decade of the 1930's, education began to improve in both the state and Madison County. Throughout the county, many new buildings were built or repaired with federal government aid and state contributions to local school districts were increased.[185]

The Teachers Salary Law, Act 319 of 1939, was enacted by the General Assembly.[186] Key provisions of the act provided for earmarking a specified percentage of local district revenues for teacher salaries and created a Teacher Salary Fund in the state treasury. Major requirements each district had to meet to receive from this fund were: (1) vote an 18 mill local tax; (2) keep expenditures with the district's legal revenue; and (3) pay teachers at least the amount earmarked for teacher salaries.

The decade of the 1940's began with significant changes in the school law. Passed and signed into law were measures

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[184] Acts of Arkansas, No. 26 (1933), 36.

[185] State of Arkansas, Biennial Report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Department of Education, Little Rock, 1939-1940, 172-173.

[186] Acts of Arkansas, No. 319 (1939), 471.

which: (1) reorganized the State Board of Education; (2) restored county supervision and county boards of education; (3) provided for continuing contract provisions; (4) increased the amount of the Equalizing Fund; (5) increased certain taxes to accrue to the Common School Fund; (6) increased the teacher salary fund; and (7) provided for textbook adoptions on recommendations of professional committees.[187] However, the entrance of the country into World War II would have a profound impact on the public schools.

Probably the greatest impact on the schools was the great exodus of teachers into either the armed services or into war related industries where one could earn as much in one month as one could in a year of teaching.[188] But the most disastrous inroad of the war effort on the public schools was the general freezing of school revenues, making it impossible to keep up with rapidly mounting cost of things.[189]

Perhaps the most significant event of the decade of the 1940's was the adoption of an initiated act which reorganized school districts in the state and the adoption of a constitutional amendment removing the limit on local

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[187] State of Arkansas, Biennial Report, 1939-1940, 178-179.

[188] Ibid., 179.

[189] Ibid., 180.

millages. Both were adopted in the General Election of 1948 and would forever change the face and direction of the schools in Madison County as well as statewide. These two enactments "constituted the cornerstone for rapid development of the public school system of Arkansas" as we know it today.[190]

Reorganization and Consolidation

A concerted plan to reorganize and consolidate the State's school districts had been discussed and hammered at by the legislature and the Arkansas Education Association since the early 1920's.[191] Attempts to force consolidation were hampered by the law which provided that a majority consent of the voters in the district affected had to be obtained in order to effect a consolidation.

In 1929, the General Assembly passed an act to provide for consolidation if a majority of the electors in all of the affected districts petitioned the county board of education to consolidate the districts.[192] This new law did indeed reduce the number of school districts considerably but not to the degree the backers of the law had hoped for.

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[190] Stinnett and Kennan, op. cit., 183.

[191] Ibid., 182-183.

[192] Acts of Arkansas, No. 118 (1929), 220-224.

Year	Number of School Districts
1921	5,112
1928	4,598
1932	3,086
1946	2,179
1948	1,598

In 1937, a study of local school units in Arkansas was made as a part of a program sponsored by the United States Office of Education.[193] The program was financed by the allocation of Federal funds through the Works Progress Administration and the Department of the Interior and ten states, including Arkansas, were chosen for the study.

The general purposes of the study were: (1) to collect, organize, and analyze data concerning the schools and the school administrative units; (2) to formulate standards and plans for the reorganization of the existing administrative units into more effective school units; and (3) to ascertain and plan for the needs of the future school programs in Arkansas. The study embraced each of the 75 counties of the state.[194]

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[193] "Study of Local School Districts in Arkansas" (State Department of Education and United States Bureau of Education, Little Rock, 1937), 1-9.

[194] Ibid.

In each county complete data were collected with respect to the attendance areas and administrative units. From this data, the project staff developed preliminary proposals regarding the organization of attendance areas in the various counties and consulted with the County Examiners, local advisory committees appointed by the County Examiners, local educators and various citizens before making final recommendations. As an outgrowth of this study, a proposed plan of reorganization for each county was developed.[195]

The plan for each county provided elementary, junior high, and senior high or junior-senior high attendance areas where the local conditions permitted. The basic premise was to make it possible for every child to have access to a standard elementary and secondary school. However, those children who resided in areas which were considered "isolated," due to bad roads, streams and rivers, or mountains, would have to provide their own transportation to the centers or board in the centers in order to have access to the schools.

Using the county as a basis, details of each attendance area were examined and evaluated. The following activities were included in the study:

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[195] Ibid.

1. A study was made of factors and conditions affecting the educational program, such as, significant physical features, population, transportation and communications, and economics status.

2. The area, enumeration, density of school population, enrollment, grades offered, and present number of teachers were studied.

3. The location of schools, the facilities provided, and the advantages offered were analyzed, particularly with respect to the size of the school according to the number of teachers.

4. The length of the school term, training, experience, and tenure of teachers by size of schools.

5. The curricular offerings of the classified and non-classified schools.

6. A study of school buildings with respect to size, type, and status or condition of the building was made.

7. The distribution of pupils according to assessed value of taxable property per pupil in school districts were studied.

8. A study was made of the cost of instruction per child in the various schools.

In addition to the above activities, the second part of the study concerned itself with the organization of the

schools in each county. For that purpose, the following procedures were used:

1. Maps of each county were made, showing the roads of different types, the streams, location of cities, towns, and villages, the boundary lines of the school districts, the locations of the school buildings, and the distribution of school population six to seventeen years of age, separate symbols being used to designate children of the several age levels.

2. The centers of population were determined by a study of roads, distances, and the distribution of population. The location of present school buildings was determined. Plans were made for the disposition of all present schools and the school to which each group of children were to be assigned was determined.

3. The size and type of school to be maintained at each selected location was set forth, including the number of grades to be taught, the probable enrollment by grades, and the number of teachers needed. The six-grade elementary school, a three-year junior high school, and a three-year senior high school, or a six-year elementary school and a six-year high school was accepted as the desirable types of organization.

4. The bus routes necessary to provide transportation of children to the designated schools were determined. The

number of pupils to be transported and the distance to be traveled were definitely determined.

The Madison County Reorganization Plan

The outline given in the following pages indicated the recommended locations of elementary, junior and senior high schools in the county as well as the estimated enrollment in each school. The enrollment figures were estimated using the current enumeration figures provided by the school district.

School districts preceded by a Roman numeral indicated the locations of senior high schools with grades one through twelve. School districts preceded by capital letters indicated the locations of junior high schools with grades one through nine. School districts preceded with arabic numbers indicated the locations of elementary schools which would contain grades one through six. The school districts which were not preceded by either a number or letter were to be discontinued and the students sent to the school under which they were listed.

Under the proposal, five school centers would be established in Madison County. They were to be located at Clifty, Huntsville, Kingston, Saint Paul, and Wesley. Students who lived in their respective center would attend elementary school at the center unless it had been determined that their district was "isolated" or the

district contained enough students to warrant the continuance of the elementary or junior high school. Students would attend high school at the center.

MADISON COUNTY PROPOSED
REORGANIZATION PLAN
CLIFTY CENTER

	School District	Estimated Enrollment Elem.	Jr. High	Sr. High	Total
I.	Clifty #120	47	11	-	58
	California #18	24	3	-	27
	Mountain View #89	23	4	-	27
	Hickory Grove #29	17	3	-	20
	West Liberty #107	20	10	-	30
	Lone Star #8	16	4	1	21
	Park Hill #37	21	2	-	23
	Clear Creek #37	17	4	-	21
	Fancher #77	32	12	-	44
	Upper Rock House #98	6	3	-	9
	Forum #59	80	10	-	90
	Cottage Hill (Benton County)	33	10	5	48
	War Eagle (Benton County)	22	11	4	37
	Shady Grove #76	21	2	1	24
Total Clifty Elementary		379			
1.	Lower Rock House #95	27	7	-	34
	Cedar Grove (Carroll County)	5	6	3	14
Total Lower Rock House Elementary		32			
Total Clifty Junior and Senior			102	14	
TOTAL CLIFTY CENTER		411	102	14	527

196

[196] "Outline and Maps of Proposed Reorganization of School Units in Arkansas," State Department of Education, Little Rock, Vol. II, 1937, 1-5.

MADISON COUNTY PROPOSED
REORGANIZATION PLAN
HUNTSVILLE CENTER

School District	Estimated Enrollment Elem.	Jr.High	Sr.High	Total
II. Huntsville #1	38	44	36	168
Spring Hill #62	11	4	-	15
Harmony #20	6	3	4	13
Smyrna #66	23	1	-	24
Withrow #112	10	7	-	17
Hartwell #26	45	4	-	49
Oak Grove #12	25	6	-	31
Peace Valley #23	20	7	6	33
Bohannon #6	52			
Total Huntsville Elementary	280			
1. Aurora #14	33	5	-	38
Jackson Creek #11	22	3	-	25
Witter #13	23	8	-	31
Concord #64 15	7	-	22	
Ferrels Creek #104	28	8	-	36
Total Aurora Elementary	121			
2. McConnell #2	46	15	-	61
Jones #34	37	8	-	45
Reeds Creek #38	32	6	-	38
Long Valley #51	43	-	-	43
Union Gap #80	19	5	-	24
Total MConnell Chapel Elementary	177			
3. Alabam #9	64	14	-	78
Cross Roads #69	10	5	-	15
Marble #8867	21	-	88	
Total Alabam Elementary	141			
Total Huntsville Junior High				185

HUNTSVILLE CENTER CONTINUED

School District	Estimated Enrollment Elem.	Jr. High	Sr. High	Total
A. Hindsville #79	48	14	14	76
Colbaugh #90	55	1	-	56
Buckeye #17	30	3	-	33
Farmer #50	9	6	-	15
Whitener #19	10	4	-	14
Total Hindsville Elementary	152	28		
B. Lower Whorton #4	36	21	-	57
Ribbon Ridge #106	8	3	-	11
Upper Whorton #5	44	15	-	59
Total Lower Whorton Elem. & Jr. High	88	39		
Total Huntsville Senior High			60	
Isolated Schools				
1. Cedar Bluff #47	8	2	-	10
2. Chaplain #49	26	-	-	26
3. Henderson Creek #43	31	3	-	34
TOTAL HUNTSVILLE CENTER	1024	257	60	1341

[197]

[197] Ibid.

MADISON COUNTY PROPOSED
REORGANIZATION PLAN
KINGSTON CENTER

School District	Estimated Enrollment Elem.	Jr. High	Sr. High	Total
III. Kingston #25	103	25	23	151
Short Cove #75	20	1	-	21
Oak Grove #117	21	1	-	22
Lower Camp Ground #22	17	4	-	21
Purdy #16	24	10	5	39
Big Sandy #67	19	3	-	22
Total Kingston Elem. Jr. & Sr. High	204	44	28	
Isolated Schools				
1. Little's Chapel #35	16	-	-	16
2. Burke #40	20	1	-	21
3. Loy #36	29	-	-	29
4. Upper Camp Ground #28	12	10	-	22
5. East Liberty #123	23	7	-	30
6. Bluff Springs #44	18	8	-	26
7. Reynolds #125	38	-	-	38
8. Venus #101	21	2	-	23
TOTAL KINGSTON CENTER	381	72	28	481

198

[198] Ibid.

MADISON COUNTY PROPOSED
REORGANIZATION PLAN
ST. PAUL CENTER

School District	Estimated Enrollment Elem.	Jr. High	Sr. High	Total
IV. Saint Paul #48	88	26	13	127
Fairview #41	26	6	-	32
Ogden #42	20	19	-	39
Highway #113	37	-	-	37
Cove #57	17	6	-	23
Red Star #96	30	9	-	39
New Home #114	28	8	-	36
Total Saint Paul Elementary & Jr. High	246	74		
A. Combs #33	47	27	-	74
Greenwood #60	35	2	-	37
Phipps Chapel #85	17	1	-	18
Total Combs Elementary	99			
1. Delaney #54	37	8	-	45
Possum Creek #27	17	3	-	20
Crosses #103	36	13	-	49
Thompson #73	17	2	-	19
Accident #119	12	7	-	19
Asher #31	30	1	-	31
Total Delaney Elementary	149			
Total Combs Jr. High		64		
B. Pettigrew #63	75	30	-	105
Dutton #61	13	9	-	22
Liberty #82 11	3	-	14	
Boston #65	25	13	-	38
Total Pettigrew Elementary & Jr. High	124	55		
Total Saint Paul Senior High			13	

SAINT PAUL CENTER CONTINUED

School District	Estimated Enrollment Elem.	Jr. High	Sr. High	Total
Isolated Schools				
1. Baldwin #7	12	7	6	25
Ball Creek #92	59	1	-	60
Good Hope #92	18	3	-	21
Crosses Creek #68	15	-	-	15
Health #97	38	-	-	38
Delaney's Creek #46	16	1	-	17
Friley's Creek #89	8	-	-	8
Muddy Gap #108	12	3	-	15
Free Will #93	16	7	-	23
Spoke Plant #87	24	3	-	27
Rocky Grove #122	15	-	-	15
Dripping Springs #78	10	1	-	11
TOTAL SAINT PAUL CENTER	861	219	19	1099

[199]

[199] Ibid.

MADISON COUNTY PROPOSED
REORGANIZATION PLAN
WESLEY CENTER

School District	Estimated Enrollment Elem.	Jr. High	Sr. High	Total
V. Wesley #56	51	25	13	89
Mount Dorcas #74	15	1	-	16
Drakes Creek #76	16	-	-	16
Mount Pleasant #24	32	5	-	37
Hocks Creek #15	40	5	-	45
Mountain Springs #30	36	5	-	41
Langley #45	20	5	-	25
Total Wesley Elementary and Jr. High	210	46		
A. Japton #32	55	7	-	62
Mountain Grove #3	30	3	-	33
Accident #52	30	8	-	38
Good Luck #39	17	11	-	28
Total Japton Elementary and Jr. High	132	29		
Total Wesley Senior High			13	
Isolated Schools				
1. Pinnacle #99	50	13	-	63
Enterprise #70	26	8	-	34
Plainview #55	33	10	-	43
Duncan #21	50	10	-	60
Cobb Creek #84	32	-	-	32
TOTAL WESLEY CENTER	533	116	13	662
TOTAL FOR COUNTY	3210	766	134	4110

[200]

[200] Ibid.

Reorganization Plan Summary

The 1937 Study of Local School Units in Arkansas proposed that Madison County be reorganized into five administrative centers located at Clifty, Huntsville, Kingston, Saint Paul, and Wesley. Junior and Senior high schools were to be maintained at each center. The plan called for 43 different school locations in the county; five junior-senior high schools five junior high schools, and thirty-eight elementary schools. The plan required thirty secondary teachers and ninety-three elementary teachers. The number of children to be transported was 2,127.

The Clifty Center would require four teachers for the junior and senior high school, nine teachers for the elementary school, and one teacher for the wing elementary school with 442 or 84 percent of the students being transported.

The Huntsville Center would require seven teachers for the junior and senior high school, seven teachers for the elementary school, ten teachers for the wing junior high-elementary schools, and eleven teachers for the three wing elementary schools located at Alabam, Aurora, and McConnell's Chapel. Sixty percent of the students would be transported.

The Kingston Center would require three teachers for the junior and senior high school and five teachers for the elementary school with 26 percent of the students being

transported. The Kingston Center was the only district that was not to contain any wing schools.

The Saint Paul Center would require three teachers for the junior and senior high school, six teachers for the elementary school, nine for the two junior high-elementary schools at Combs and Pettigrew, and four teachers for the elementary school at Delaney. The Saint Paul district would be the second largest in the county with 1,099 students and 44 percent requiring transportation.

The Wesley Center would require three teachers for the junior and senior high school, five for the elementary school, and five for the wing junior high-elementary school at Japton. Forty percent of the students would require transportation to school.

In the county, twenty-eight of the districts were deemed to be isolated and were to maintain an elementary school at the present site until such time as conditions warranted a consolidation to one of the five centers. These 28 elementary schools would require 31 teachers to meet the teacher-pupil ratio of forty students per teacher.

Initiated Act No. 1 of 1948

Undaunted by the defeat of a similar act in the general election of 1946, the Arkansas Education Association obtained enough signatures to have the issue placed back on

the ballot in 1948. The provisions of the 1948 Initiated Act were virtually the same as the Act proposed in 1946. The proposal was to combine all school districts with less than 350 children in a county unit.[201]

The proposed act was hotly debated in the rural areas. Charges that "those people in Little Rock were trying to take the rural people's schools away from them and move them to town" fired many lively discussions in the rural districts. Many people argued that consolidation would destroy the community life about the site of the school. Others argued that consolidation would take away local control of the schools.

According to Dr. Jasper *Northcutt, Madison County Supervisor of Schools in 1948 and* 1949, the county board of education in Madison County was actually in favor of the proposed initiated act. "The board felt that education could best be served by consolidation of the smaller districts into more efficient units."[202] This time the people of Arkansas voted by a 2 to 1 margin for the reorganization proposal. In Madison County, the proposal was defeated by a margin of 7 to 3.

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[201] Stinnett and Kennan, op. cit., 183

[202] Interview with Dr. Jasper O. Northcutt, Madison County Supervisor of Schools, February 28, 1991.

After the adoption of Initiated Act No. 1, the Huntsville and Saint Paul school districts were the only two districts left intact. The Act required that a district have at least 350 enumerates and be able to provide instruction in grades one through twelve. It was now up to Supervisor Northcutt to visit each district and submit a plan to the county board to reorganize the county's 122 former districts.

Dr. Northcutt mailed petitions to each president of the local school boards explaining that they must petition the county board to be annexed into districts which met the requirements of the newly adopted law. However, he received very few of the petitions back. It soon became apparent that he would have to visit each of the districts to explain what must be done under the law.

People in the county were extremely upset and many blamed the supervisor for the upcoming consolidations. Many threats were made against his life and he was warned ahead of time not to appear in the districts. He visited the districts anyway and delicately and deliberately explained the new law. He found that many people were misinformed as to what the act was to do and many people were more positive after his visits. He also found that many people had self-serving motives as the reason for opposing consolidation. Two board members of adjoining districts were opposed to the

consolidation because it would hurt them financially. The board members would hire a teacher to teach in one district and when the term was completed, they hired her to teach a term in the other district. When that term was completed, she would return to the other district and teach another term. This kept the teacher employed more or less full time and she agreed to give the board members one-half of each paycheck for this favor.

As part of the reorganization plan, he established as many wing schools as possible to ease the anger of the local residents. However, the wing schools "were to be doomed by the very people who wanted to keep their community schools." As time passed, the local residents would see the benefits other children were receiving at the larger, better financed schools and would want their children to receive the same.

On June 2, 1949, the county board of education met in regular session to reorganize the districts as required by Initiated Act No. 1.[203] The importance of the 1937 study of local school units in Arkansas became very apparent as the county board used the recommendations of the study in reorganizing the districts with the additional plans submitted by County Supervisor Northcutt. The board elected not to establish senior high schools at Clifty and Wesley and reorganized the county into three districts: Huntsville,

[203] Minutes of the County Board of Education, June 2, 1949.

Kingston, and Saint Paul. Elementary schools were left in the isolated districts with wing schools operating as recommended by Supervisor Northcutt.

CHAPTER 5

Statistics of the Districts

The Enumeration or School Census

The enumeration of school-age children in each local school district had its beginnings with the first state school law which was passed in 1843.[204] The taking of the school census was of prime importance as state funds were for many years apportioned on the basis of a district's enumeration in terms of the total enumeration of the state.

Under the provisions of this act, it was the duty of the township trustees to annually enumerate all the unmarried children, between the ages of five and twenty-one years, in their respective townships on the first Saturday in August. Besides taking the annual school census, the trustees also were to gather other information related to the operation of the local school. This included noting how many were sent to school and how many were not; also, the amount subscribed for each one that was sent to school, and the number of whom there was no subscription. The enumeration report also was to include the number of households that were unable to subscribe for the support of the schools.

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[204] Acts of Arkansas (1842), 135.

The enumeration of the school-age children was continued under the school law of 1849.[205]

Some technical changes were made in the law apparently in response to questions from the local trustees.[206] Apparently, the question of whether or not to enumerate the slaves or other black children had arisen under the school law of 1843 which as passed was to include all children. The words "free white persons" were included in the 1849 law.[207] Another change involved clarifying the exact ages to be enumerated. The new law read "over the age of five years and under that of twenty-one."[208]

Again in 1853, the school law required of each township district an enumeration of the school-age population.[209] Under this law the responsibility was given to the township treasurer who was a member of the board of trustees for the district. Eighteen years was set as the upper age limit, and the enumeration was again confined to white children only.

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[205] Acts of Arkansas (1848), 65.

[206] Ibid.

[207] Ibid.

[208] Acts of Arkansas (1852), 156.

[209] Ibid.

In 1866 the "Rebel Legislature" met and passed a comprehensive school law which returned the maximum age for all school enumerates to the age of 21.[210] The responsibility for reporting this enumeration was placed with the president of each board of trustees who was to report his enumeration, as well as any other information that might be required, to the common school commissioner of the county.[211]

In December of 1875, the General Assembly passed another general school law which changed the methods in which the annual school enumeration was to be taken.[212] Owing to the troubles which faced the state during the period from 1868-1874, school attendance was far from satisfactory. In 1870, 107,908 children were enrolled in the state schools with an enumeration of 176,910. Three years later, the attendance had fallen to 59,587 with an enumeration of 194,314.[213] In other words, only about one-fourth of the children of the state were enrolled in the free schools.

Under this law, it became the responsibility of the entire board of directors to take the enumeration rather than just

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[210] Acts of Arkansas (1866), 416-421.

[211] Ibid., 421-422.

[212] Acts of Arkansas (1875), 71.

[213] State of Arkansas, Biennial Report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Department of Education, Little Rock, 1869-1874.

the president of the board.[214] They were to make their report to the newly created county examiner each year by the first part of September. The new law also required that all children, both white and colored, between the ages of six and twenty-one be enumerated as well as all "deaf-mutes, blind and insane in the school district."

The procedures for taking the annual school enumeration basically remained the same for the next fifty-five years. In 1931, the General Assembly amended the census provision of the school law of 1875 to include "all persons physically handicapped to the extent of being impaired in earning a livelihood" and ". . . all persons over ten years of age who cannot read and write the English language."[215] The time for reporting the results of the enumeration also was changed from September to on or before March 10 of each year.

In 1936, the State Department of Education reported to the General Assembly that department officials had experienced difficulty relative to the accuracy of the school census for the past several years.[216] The department reported that several districts had been "padding" their reports and that duplication of reports was occurring within and between

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[214] Acts of Arkansas (1875), 71.

[215] Acts of Arkansas (1931), 538.

[216] State of Arkansas, Biennial Report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Department of Education, Little Rock, 1935-1936, 12-14.

various school districts. Even with the limited staff of the State Department of Education, over 10,000 names were removed from the rolls of several school districts.[217] Inasmuch as the school census was used as the basis for distribution of school funds and the United States Office of Education had announced forthcoming changes in its requests for information, the department of education requested that the General Assembly of 1937 amend the law of 1931 relative to the enumeration.[218]

Under the new law, each local board was still responsible for enumerating its district but the State Board of Education was to directly supervise the enumeration process rather than the county supervisor.[219] Furthermore, the enumeration was to include:

> **Only those children whose parents or legal guardians are legal residents of the district on March tenth of the year of the enumeration or who are legally transferred to the district . . . and only those children who have attained their sixth birthday on or before the tenth of March . . . and who have not attained their twenty-first birthday on or before the date of the enumeration.[220]**

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[217] Ibid.

[218] Ibid.

[219] Acts of Arkansas (1937), 576-581.

[220] Ibid., 576.

Both white and Negro children were to be enumerated but separate reports were required for the two races. In addition to the aforementioned changes, a severe penalty for illegal reporting of the enumeration also was imposed upon conviction.

In 1941, the General Assembly once again amended the enumeration law. Under the amended version, the school enumeration was to be taken only on even numbered years.[221] Effective with the 1942 census, only those children between the ages of six and eighteen were to be enumerated although anyone could still attend school until the age of twenty-one. A supplemental Act passed in 1945 required each county board of education to make adjustments during the odd numbered years to the enumeration of those students who transferred into or from the districts in their county.[222]

Enumeration of the Madison County School Districts

The enumeration of students in Madison County reached a high of 7,884 students in 1900, being the 18th largest county in the state in terms of students eligible to attend school at that time. Several times from 1869 to 1900, the county was ranked as high as 14th in scholastic population

[221] Acts of Arkansas (1941), 827-829.

[222] Acts of Arkansas (1945), 191-192.

between the ages of six and twenty-one. A steady growth in the scholastic population was maintained between 1873 and 1900 after which time, the scholastic population, as well as the general population, began to decline. The sharpest decline in the scholastic population began in 1933 and continued through 1948.

During the decade of the 1880's, the average yearly enumeration was 5,221 students. During the next decade, the average has risen to 7,349 students and by the decade of the 1900's, the average yearly enumeration had fallen to 7,000 students. During the decades of the 1930's and 1940's, the average enumeration fell to 5,012 students.

The enumeration of black students appeared to be fairly and consistently performed and reported from 1869 through 1948 even though there was no significant black population in the county. The highest enumeration of blacks was in 1882 at which time, twenty-five males and twenty-five females were enumerated. After 1883, the scholastic population of blacks averaged around twenty students per year up until 1920, when the scholastic population fell to eleven with the moving of many of the black families to the Fayetteville area. After 1920, the scholastic population only averaged five per year. Table 1 summarizes the enumeration of the scholastic population for the years 1869-1948 for Madison County.

Table 1 Enumeration of Scholastic Population Madison County

YEAR	MALE (W)	FEMALE (W)	MALE (B)	FEMALE (B)	TOTAL	RANK IN - STATE
1869	1,558	1,419	17	9	3,003	24
1870	1,229	1,696	27	20	2,972	22
1873	2,010	1,900	32	23	3,965	14
1878					4,031	14
1879	2,311	2,054	17	15	4,397	17
1880	2,241	2,127	16	17	4,401	20
1881	2,219	2,089	24	16	4,348	20
1882	2,518	2,407	25	25	4,975	18
1883	2,649	2,484	12	11	5,156	20
1884	2,814	2,565	10	14	5,403	18
1885	2,946	2,718	9	11	5,684	19
1886	3,105	2,914	7	7	6,033	18
1887	3,550	3,248	9	10	6,817	15
1888	3,702	3,514	8	9	7,233	14
1889	3,757	3,533	15	10	7,315	14
1890	3,739	3,488	10	11	7,248	16
1891	3,654	3,485	13	22	7,161	18
1892	3,729	3,523	12	12	7,276	16
1893	3,527	3,470	10	11	7,018	20
1894	3,728	3,590	8	13	7,339	21
1895	3,720	3,050	8	12	7,390	17
1896	3,656	3,585	8	13	7,262	17
1897	3,781	3,743	8	15	7,547	14
1898	3,773	3,576	6	15	7,370	18
1899	3,804	3,704	8	8	7,524	19

Table 1 Continued

YEAR	MALE (W)	FEMALE (W)	MALE (B)	FEMALE (B)	TOTAL	RANK IN STATE
1900	3,974	3,892	6	12	7,884	18
1901	3,840	3,741	4	12	7,597	19
1902	3,719	3,661	10	5	7,345	23
1903	3, 581	3,443	11	7	7,042	29
1904	3,507	3,407	1	9	6,924	33
1905	3,463	3,491	12	2	6,968	36
1906	3,391	3,274	10	12	6,687	38
1907	3,383	3,261	5	13	6,662	39
1908	3,326	3223	10	11	6,570	40
1909	3,222	3,078	8	10	6,318	42
1910	3,116	2,930	8	11	6,065	42
1911	3,037	2,993	8	13	6,051	42
1912	3,240	3,071	11	13	6,335	43
1913	3,211	3,069	12	12	6,304	43
1914						
1915						
1916						
1917	3,137	3,169	12	12	6,330	49
1918	3,044	3,007	15	13	6,079	54
1919	2,956	2,944	9	11	5,920	57
1920	2,786	2,795	5	6	5,592	60
1921	2,812	2,757	1	3	5,573	57
1922	2,823	2,877	0	0	5,700	55
1923	2,689	2,714			5,403	58

Table 1. Continued

YEAR	MALE (W)	FEMALE (W)	MALE (B)	FEMALE (B)	TOTAL	RANK IN STATE
1924	2,659	2,641	2	3	5,305	58
1925	2,642	2,599	3	3	5,247	58
1926	2,612	2,570	2	3	5,187	57
1927	2,599	2,433			5,023	58
1928	2,536	2,394	1	4	4,935	58
1929	2,481	2,322	1	3	4,807	58
1930	2,330	2,254	1	3	4,578	58
1931	2,386	2,368	1	3	4,758	53
1932	2,521	2,491	1	3	5,016	56
1933	2,452	2,543	2	3	5,000	56
TOTAL (W) TOTAL (B) (Separate male - female count discontinued. Only totals reported beginning in 1934.)						
1934	5,384		4		5,388	56
1935	5,279		4		5,283	55
1936	5,071		3		5,074	55
1937	4,922		1		4,923	56
1938	4,772		2		4,774	57
1939	4,691		2		4,693	58
1940	4,865		2		4,867	58
1942	4,593		3		4,596	57
1944	4,022		2		3,947	60
1946	3,945		2		3,947	59
1948	3,267		1		3,268	59

Student Enrollment and Attendance

Owing to the troubles which faced the state during the period from 1868-1874 as the state was still recovering from the effect of the Civil War, school enrollment as well from school attendance was far from satisfactory. By 1879, the enrollment of the Madison County schools was only 987 students which represented 22.4 percent of those who were of school age. As attendance records were not compiled until 1891, it is not known what the average daily attendance of these schools were. However, by 1891 average daily attendance was only about 50 percent and it was probably less in the 1880's (Table 2).

The highest enrollment ever reported in the county was in 1897 when 123 districts held school with a total enrollment of 5,622 students and an average daily attendance of 3,719 students or 66.2 percent. The year 1899 is significant in that it was the only year that all 125 school districts in the county held school during the same year. That year, the enrollment was 4,718 students, which represented 62.7 percent of the scholastic population. The average daily attendance that year was 2,547 students or 58.8 percent of those enrolled attending on any given day. The ratio of those who attended school daily to the scholastic population was only 33.9 percent (Table 3).

School Attendance

Provisions were not always made in Arkansas for definite terms of school or for requiring students to attend the schools which were provided. As previously stated, the pressing problems of existence and earning a livelihood often took precedent over the needs of a formal education. Consequently, schools and school sessions were held "when time could be spared or there were seasonal lulls in the other work."[223]

The first statutory provision for minimum school terms came with the passage of the school law of 1843.[224] The act specified that each township school was to "keep a school for a term of at least four months each year."[225]

In 1867, the required length of the term was reduced to three months, no doubt to the financial problems which accompanied the aftermath of the Civil War.[226] However, three months as a minimum school term became a standard and this minimum term remained on the Arkansas law books until 1931. That year, the school attendance law was amended that

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[223] W. O. Wilson, *Arkansas and Its People* (New York: The American Historical Society, 1930), 216.

[224] Acts of Arkansas (1843), 130-139.

[225] Ibid.

[226] Acts of Arkansas (1867), 170.

"all common schools of the state shall be open and free at least six months each year."[227]

Compulsory school attendance was provided for in Arkansas as early as 1853.[228] Parents were to send their children to school for at least one-fourth of the school term but as this amounted to only about one month of attendance, the law was difficult to enforce. It was not until 1909 that the next law was passed dealing with school attendance.[229] The act directed that all children between the ages of eight and fifteen were to attend school for one-half the time the school was in session. The act also provided that children could receive instruction at home in lieu of attending the public school or private schools. There also were exemptions from the law for children not having proper clothing, those living more than two and one-half miles from the school, and those having mental or physical handicaps.[230]

In 1917, an act was passed which reduced the lower age limit to seven years for mandatory attendance as well as extending the amount of time required to attend the school session from one-half of the term to three-fourths of the

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[227] Acts of Arkansas (1931), 572.

[228] Acts of Arkansas (1853), 155.

[229] Acts of Arkansas (1909), 701-706.

[230] Ibid., 702

term.[231] This attendance requirement was amended in 1931 when the minimum attendance period was extended to one hundred school days and every educable child under sixteen years of age was required to complete the eighth grade.[232]

An amendment to the compulsory school attendance section of the law was passed in 1947.[233] The law directed that children were to attend at least 150 days in a nine-month school term. Table 3 shows the daily attendance record in the public schools of Madison County for the years 1891-1940. By 1910, the enrollment was 5,262 (64.6%) for the county--a gain of only 233 over 1891 (50.3%). By 1940, the county daily attendance was 3,804 (78.6%) which was 79.4 percent of statewide enrollment.

Table 4 gives the teacher statistics for Madison County from 1869 to 1938. There were no teacher certificates issued until 1873. These certificates were for the first grade (7), the second grade (7), and the third grade (7) with 18 male and 3 female teachers. By 1900, there were 74 male and 30 female teachers for a total of 104 for Madison County.

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[231] Acts of Arkansas (1917), 1509.

[232] Acts of Arkansas (1931), 563-569.

[233] Acts of Arkansas (1947), 785.

Table 2- Student Enrollment
Ages 6-21
Madison County

YEAR	NO. OF DISTRICTS	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	ENROLLMENT/ ENUMERATION
1879				987	22.4%
1880				1,239	28.2%
1881	23			1,208	27.8%
1882	34	973	829	1,802	36.2%
1883	41	1,166	1,012	2,178	42.2%
1884	46	1,394	1,084	2,478	45.9%
1885	57	1,770	1,410	3,180	55.9%
1886	58	1,743	1,476	3,219	53.4%
1887	59	1,761	1,360	3,121	45.8%
1888	58	1,804	1,579	3,383	46.8%
1889	89	2,882	2,438	5,320	72.7%
1890	83	2,582	2,343	4,925	67.9%
1891	96	2,759	2,270	5,029	70.2%
1892	114	2,677	2,356	5,033	69.2%
1893	113	2,241	2,243	4,484	63.9%
1894	117	2,303	2,247	4,550	62.0%
1895	120	2,643	2,905	5,548	75.15
1896	118	2,415	2,183	4,598	63.3%
1897	123	2,945	2,677	5,622	74.5%
1898	124	2,481	2,226	4,707	63.9$
1899	125	2,506	2,212	4,718	62.7%
1900	123	2,411	2,294	4,705	59.7%
1901	123	2,847	2,687	5,534	72.8%
1902	123	2,730	2,549	5,279	71.9%
1903	121	2,893	2,548	5,441	77.3%

Table 2. Continued

YEAR	NO. OF DISTRICTS	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	ENROLLMENT/ ENUMERATION
1904	120	2,776	2,569	5,345	77.1%
1905	119	2,875	2,634	5,509	79.1%
1906	120	2,391	2,174	4,565	68.3%
1907	118	1,977	1,842	3,819	57.3%
1908	116	2,605	2,493	5,098	77.6%
1909	116	2,404	2,271	4,675	74.0%
1910	115	2,735	2,527	5,262	86.8%
1911	114	2,552	2,457	5,009	82.8%
1912	115	2,605	2,466	5,071	80.0%
1917	116	2,616	2,578	5,194	82.1%
1918	117	2,510	2,464	4,974	81.8%
1919	119	2,557	2,554	5,111	86.3%
1920	119	2,417	2,425	4,842	86.6%
1921	119	2,332	2,404	4,736	85.0%
1922	119	2,394	2,492	4,886	85.7%
1926	112			4,054	78.2%
1927	111	3,974	106	4,080	81.2%
1928	108	3,949	142	4,091	82.9%
1930	108	3,452	82	3,534	77.2%
1932	107	3,428	33	3,461	70.0%
1934	106	3,599	97	3,696	68.6%
1936	108	3,812	61	3,387	76.3%
1938	108	3,610	336	3,946	82.7%
1940	107	3,220	584	3,804	78.2%
1942	97	3,065	534	3,374	78.3%
1944	88	2,876	498	3,374	83.8%
1948	72	2,287	467	2,754	84.2%

Table 3

Daily Attendance in the Public Schools
Madison County

YEAR	ATTENDANCE	ENROLLMENT	PERCENT OF ENROLLMENT	STATEWIDE PERCENT OF ENROLLMENT
1891	2,532	5,029	50.3%	51.1%
1892	2,701	5,033	53.7%	55.9%
1893	2,472	4,484	55.1%	55.1%
1894	2,714	4,550	59.6%	58.4%
1895	2,394	5,548	43.2%	58.3%
1896	3,330	4,598	72.4%	58.0%
1897	3,719	5,622	66.2%	61.9%
1898	2,883	4,707	61.2%	63.0%
1899	2,547	4,718	54.0%	58.8%
1900	2,977	4,705	63.3%	62.1%
1901	3,351	5,534	60.6%	61.8%
1902	3,472	5,279	65.8%	63.1%
1903	3,497	5,441	64.3%	63.2%
1904	3,404	5,345	63.7%	62.5%
1905	3,661	5,509	66.5%	61.8%
1906	2,835	4,565	62.1%	62.1%
1907	2,334	3,819	61.1%	63.4%
1908	3,475	5,098	68.2%	63.6%
1909	3,189	4,675	68.2%	63.7%
1910	3,397	5,262	64.6%	64.4%
1911	3,063	5,009	61.1%	63.1%
1912	3,309	5,071	65.3%	63.9%
1917	3,564	5,194	68.6%	66.3%
1918	3,068	4,974	61.7%	65.9%

Table 3. Continued

YEAR	ATTENDANCE	ENROLLMENT	PERCENT OF ENROLLMENT	STATEWIDE PERCENT OF ENROLLMENT
1919	3,159	5,111	61.8%	68.2%
1920	3,369	4,842	69.6%	67.5%
1921	3,262	4,736	68.9%	70.0%
1922	3,197	4,886	65.4%	72.2%
1923	3,056	4,789	63.8%	72.8%
1927	2,684	4,080	65.7%	71.9%
1928	2,787	4,091	68.1%	71.0%
1930	2,449	3,534	69.3%	71.4%
1936	2,985	3,837	77.8%	78.3%
1940	2,990	3,804	78.6%	79.4%

Table 4 - Teacher Statistics: Madison County

				CERTIFICATE TYPES - GRADES			
YEAR	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	STATE	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD
1869	41	6	47				
1870	49	9	58				
1873	18	3	21		7	7	7
1879	24	3	27		13	6	8
1880	18	2	20		9	6	5
1881	23	4	27		11	13	3
1882	18	1	19				
1883	14	0	14				
1884	30	3	33				
1885	55	10	65				
1886	54	5	59	NO CERTIFICATE REPORT			
1887	50	12	62				
1888	78	23	101				
1889	86	12	98				
1890	53	27	80				
1891	74	28	102				
1892	79	27	107				
1893	74	22	96				
1894	75	26	101				
1895	100	16	116				
1896	77	40	117		30	40	47
1897	80	42	122	2	43	49	30
1898	77	29	106	1	42	52	11
1899	67	33	100	1	29	38	32
1900	74	30	104	1	22	42	39
1901	81	35	116	2	31	43	40
1902	88	36	124	1	35	48	40

Table 4. Continued

				CERTIFICATE TYPES - GRADES			
YEAR	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	STATE	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD
1903	86	38	124	1	51	36	36
1904	87	31	118	1	38	31	48
1905	70	35	105	1	30	45	29
1906	71	35	106	1	28	53	24
1907	75	51	126	1	32	46	57
1908	70	51	121	0	48	48	35
1909	70	42	112		35	47	30
1910	80	45	125				
1911	72	53	125				
1912	66	41	107		43	54	10
1919	56	58	114	2	48	70	4
1920	54	65	119	3	38	68	10
1921	58	71	129	2	31	75	21
1922	64	62	126	1	39	68	18
1927	64	69	133				
1928	65	71	136				
1930	63	75	138				
1934	51	76	127				
1936	52	75	127				
1938			127				

Revenues Raised and Expended for the Public Schools

Madison County, 1880-1940

During the decades of the 1880's, the average revenue raised per year was $7,312, with a high figure of $11,722 in 1884 and a low figure of $1,923 in 1880. The revenue consisted chiefly of monies apportioned from the common school fund, the district tax, and the poll tax on all males. During the same decade, the common schools expended an average of $6,268 per year with the largest expenditure year being in 1889 and the lowest expenditure year being in 1880 at which time $1,918 of the $1,923 raised was expended. During the decade, this represented a per pupil expenditure of $2.31 based on an average student enrollment of 2,713 per year. The average teacher salary in 1880 was $74 per year.

During the 1890's, the average yearly revenue increased by a factor of 1.53 to $11,153 per year with a high figure of $12,598 in 1894 and a low figure of $8,513 in 1895. During the same decade, the schools expended an average of $11,257 per year which was $104 per year more than was raised. This represented a per pupil expenditure of $2.29 based on an average student enrollment of 4,921 per year or a decrease of two cents per students over the previous decade. The average teacher salary in 1890 was $120 per year.

During the decade from 1900 to 1910, the average yearly revenue increased by a factor of 1.44 to $16,055 per year with a high figure of $24,084 in 1909 and a low figure of

$12,291 in 1900. During this same period, the schools expended an average yearly amount of $15,341 which represented a per pupil expenditure of $3.07. The average teacher salary had decreased to $108 per year by 1900.

The decade from 1910 to 1920 saw the average yearly revenue increase from $16,055 to $26,677 per year with a high of $29,421 in 1917 with a low figure of $22,974 in 1910. The increase from the decade, which began in 1900 to the decade which began in 1910, represented a growth factor of 1.66. During this decade, the schools in Madison County expended an average of $26,106 per year which represented a per pupil expenditure of $5.11 per year based on an average enrollment of 5,104 students per year. The average teacher salary in 1910 was $159 per year.

From 1920 to 1930, the average revenue raised per year was $48,117 which represented the largest revenue growth factor since 1880; it being 1.80 over the previous decade. The highest figure during this decade was $72,726 which was raised in 1928 with the lowest amount being $33,102 in 1921. During the same decade, the schools expended an average of $45,029 per year with an average per pupil expenditure during the period of $10.12, an increase of $5.01 over the previous decade. The average teacher salary in 1920 was $239 per year.

During the period from 1930 to 1940, the effects of the economic depression also were felt in Madison County. From 1933 to 1940, the average amount expended for the public schools fell to $43,309 per year; down from the $45,029 per year raised during the decade of the 1920's. In 1930, the average teacher salary had risen to $405 per year but in the years following the depression, the average teacher salary had fallen to $299 per year. During this same period, the amount of money raised from the district tax fell from $28,460 raised in 1932 to an average of $18,969 collected in the years following the depression. Due mainly to a decrease in the average enrollment in the county schools, the per pupil expenditure increased from 1930 to 1940 to $15.69. These figures are summarized in Tables 5 and 6.

Table 5

Revenues Raised for the Support of the Common Schools
Madison County

YEAR	COMMON SCH. FUND	DISTRICT TAX	POLL TAX	MISC.	TOTAL
1879	1,538.38	76.00		74.00	1,743.38
1880	1,818.05	90.00		14.50	1,922.55
1881					4,904.71
1882	3,159.92	403.20	1,603.19		5,166.31
1883	577.10	653.50		4,159.03	5,389.63
1884	2,621.83	5.263.08	2,702.15	1,135.20	11,722.26
1885	5,083.81	790.91	2,007.63	854.30	8,736.65
1886	4,036.03	926.37	2,141.05	39.10	7,142.55
1887	4,443.03	1,223.33	2,236.24	3.13	7,895.73
1888	5,315.07	2,118.63	2,324.83	52.26	9,810.79
1889	5,273.37	2,522.32	2,549.76	87.45	10,432.90
1890	5,471.89	1,742.21	2,644.54	1,054.54	10,913.18
1891	5,900.36	2,185.22	2,562.27		10,674.85
1892	5,508.48	2,909.14	2,741.20	135.09	11,293.91
1893	5,728.80	2,687.52	2,78.59	60.77	11,259.68
1894	6,061.23	3,313.59	2,914.43	309.20	12,598.45
1895	5,474.04	120.00	2,914.43	4.13	8,512.60
1896	5,347.47	2,257.68	2,859.35	269.22	10,743.72
1897	5,320.80	2,670.89	3,535.35	187.47	11,714.51
1898	5,576.99	2,425.57	2,829.56	450.65	11,282.77
1899	6,469.18	2,163.79	3,279.00	650.32	12,562.29
1900	6,338.20	3,224.90	2,708.19		12,291.29
1901	7,599.24	3,850.54	3,808.59		15,258.37
1902	7,445.06	2,594.50	2,929.00		12,967.56
1903	8,006.05	3,017.96	2,929.00		13,953.01

Table 5. Continued

YEAR	COMMON SCH. FUND	DISTRICT TAX	POLL TAX	MISC.	TOTAL
1904	7,534.94	3,017.96	2,928.19		13,481.68
1905	7,616.40	3,45.27	3,446.02	20.00	15,167.69
1906	7,943.52	5,916.01	3,055.34	397.53	17,312.40
1907	8,559.36	5,852.92	3,152.49	402.62	17,967.39
1908	8,460.74	6,280.00	2,979.90	343.37	18,064.01
1909	12,285.90	8,253.30	3,165.11	379.80	24,084.11
1910	11,498.76	7,315.98	2,854.20	1,305.38	22,974.32
1911	15,156.03	7,926.53	3,234.35		26,316.91
1912	13,780.50	12,727.33			26,507.83
1913	17,432.00	9,377.93	2,610.94		29,420.87
1918	16,454.58	9,686.66		118.91	26,260.15
1919	17,134.97	11,337.92		109.63	28,582.52
1920	15,392.00	24,994.00	3,000.00		43,386.00
1921	14,427.36	12,628.06	2,500.00	3,546.96	33,102.38
1922	14,565.15	18,637.90	2,400.00	2,648.73	38,251.78
1927	26,530.72	20,839.55		5,751.19	53,121.46
1928	31,360.00	21,380.00		19,986.00	72,725.96
1930	24,226.62	26,274.00		13,269.25	
1932	17,705.00	28,460.00		3,332.00	49.497.00
1934	14,408.00	2,1475.00		3,146.00	39,029.00
1936	25,053.00	2,1866.00		1,818.00	48,737.00
1938	43,401.00	16,306.00		7,904.00	67,611.00
1940	35,807.00	16,231.00		22,382.00	74,420.00

Table 6

Revenues Expended for the Support of the Public Schools
Madison County

YEAR	TEACHERS SALARIES	REPAIRS	SUPPLIES	TREASURER COMM.	MISC.	TOTAL
1873	1,705.00		200.00			1,905.00
1879	1,195.33	24.15				1,219.48
1880	1,471.50		300.00			1,918.25
1881						3,939.03
1882	3,715.17			111.38		3,826.18
1883	2,903.63	124.47		27.08		3,082.18
1884	5,570.65	662.02		152.91	6.85	6,392.43
1885	6,767.43	148.59		167.26	431.86	7,515.14
1886	7,470.24	430.69		142.85		8,043.78
1887	7,257.27	734.76		157.48		8,149.51
1888	8,878.53	147.45		196.16	14.20	9,236.34
1889	9,839.00	519.88		218.26		10,577.14
1890	9,599.86	673.50		218.26		10,491.62
1891	7,835.49	456.52		213.86	23.98	8,259.85
1892	9,898.70	922.11		225.64	157.14	11,203.59
1893	11,945.16	1,113.34		225.20		13,283.70
1894	11,399.37	916.27		251.97	180.90	12,748.51
1895	9,527.34	1,112.03	175.36	92.89		10,907.62
1896	9,616.64	841.80		209.87		10,668.31
1897	11,459.57	333.86	510.06	234.29		12,537.78
1898	9,294.61		404.33	228.86	187.81	10,115.61
1899	12,097.05			251.25		12,348.30
1900	11,254.76		579.46	245.83		12,080.05
1901	11,530.86	772.83		305.16		12,608.85
1902	12,801.15		1,251.66	223.26		14,276.07

Table 6. Continued

YEAR	TEACHERS SALARIES	REPAIRS	SUPPLIES	TREASURER COMM.	MISC.	TOTAL
1903	13,494.83	668.05		279.06		14,441.94
1904	13,117.87		1,138.79			14,256.66
1905	9,653.86	812.69		303.35	434.58	11,204.48
1906	14,954.77	1,312.54		343.70		16,611.01
1907	16,062.79	1,084.93	37.71	357.70	282.62	17,825.75
1908	17,120.17	1,068.31		361.28	343.37	18,893.13
1909	18,577.17	1,685.65		481.12	470.98	21,214.92
1910	19,907.19	1,690.48	531.23	554.33	467.99	23,051.22
1911	20,871.02	1,403.04				22,274.06
1912	23,795.13	2,090.07		540.98		26,426.18
1917	25,913.92	3,969.40			2,016.13	31,899.45
1918	23,361.49	401.30			1,993.16	25,756.45
1919	13,978.99	2,666.49		581.09		27,226.57
1920	28,438.55	2,000.00	2,993.99			33,432.54
1921	31,359.47	3,056.78				34,416.25
1922	35,196.64	3,230.40	518.75		27.72	38,973.51
1927	37,955.00	2,910.12	1,218.20		6,983.89	49,067.21
1828	51,099.58	4,781.66	3,091.55		10,283.01	69,255.80
1930	55,933.00	10,613.00	1,383.00		11,319.00	79,248.00
1932	41,206.00	1,475.00			6,516.00	49,197.00
1934	35,075.00	1,339.00	678.00		4,186.00	41,278.00
1936	32,005.00	2,159.00	648.00		1,090.00	35,902.00
1938	43,759.00	3,234.00	109.00		5,554.00	52,747.00
1940	50,279.00	3,453.00			25,105.00	78,837.00

CHAPTER 6

County Supervision, Teacher Education, and Teacher Certification

County Supervision

No provision for county supervision of schools was made in the Constitution of 1836 under which Arkansas became a state. With the passage of the first statewide school law in 1843, the county judge was charged with the responsibility of school officer for the county.[234] He was to be assisted by a board consisting of himself, the county clerk, and three other elected citizens who collectively were to serve as a county board of school commissioners.

The school law of 1853 provided for a county commissioner of education who was to be elected at large in each county.[235] His term of office was for two years and he was given general supervision of all common schools in the county. He had the responsibility of advising and assisting the township trustees in the performance of their duties. The commissioner recommended textbooks, teaching materials, as well as the manner of conducting and operating the schools in the county.

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[234] Acts of Arkansas (1843), 130-139.

[235] Acts of Arkansas (1852-1853), 143-157.

In 1868, the legislature abolished the office of county commissioner and created the position of circuit superintendent in each of the ten judicial districts in the state.[236] The Governor appointed these ten officials at a salary of $3,000 each. These salaries and other expenses consumed more than half of the $80,000 state school fund, and objections of the people to this expense led to the abolition of the circuit superintendent position in 1873. This led to the creation of the office of county superintendent, who was to be appointed by a convention of school trustees in each county.

In 1875, the legislature abolished the office of county superintendent and created the office of county examiner who was to be appointed by the county judge for a two-year term.[237] This law was changed in 1907 to allow the voters in each county to determine whether they wanted county supervision.[238] If so, a county superintendent was to be elected at the next general election.

In 1919, the legislature once again changed the method of county supervision by providing for a county superintendent in each county to be elected by an elected county board

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[236] Acts of Arkansas (1868), 163-197.

[237] Acts of Arkansas (1875), 54-82.

[238] Acts of Arkansas (1907), 1004-1013.

of education of five members.[239] The county superintendent was the agent of the county board and to perform such duties as might be prescribed by the board or provided by law.

No further change was made in the law relative to county school officers until 1933. By two acts, the legislature abolished county school boards and county superintendents and vested their duties in the county court and a part-time county examiner who was paid $600 per year.[240] In 1973, the office of county examiner was once again made a full-time position with an increased annual salary.

An act "To provide more effective supervision of public schools," was passed by the 1941 General Assembly.[241] The new law re-created the county board of education, and provided for a county school officer to be called a county supervisor of schools. The county supervisor was employed by the county board and was designated as the executive officer of the board.

To be eligible for the office of county supervisor, an individual was required to hold a bachelor's degree from an institution approved for certification of teachers, to have had not less than three years' experience as a school

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[239] Acts of Arkansas (1919), 177-184.

[240] Acts of Arkansas (1933), 60-683, 778-780.

[241] Acts of Arkansas (1941), 838-855.

administrator or five years' experience as a teacher. The supervisor also was required to have a valid state certificate to teach in Arkansas. The county board was given the authority to set the supervisor's salary between $1,500 and $2,700 annually.

County School Officials

Madison County: 1836-1948

1836-1852

County Judge, County Clerk, three other elected citizens to serve as a county board of school commissioners.

1853-1867

Office of County Commissioner of Education

D. L. Saunders,	1853-1865
P. W. Newton,	1865-1867

Office of Circuit Superintendent

William H. H. Clayton,	1868-1870
A. S. Prather,	1870-1873

Office of County Superintendent of Schools

O. S. Ragland,	1874-1876

Office of County Examiner

D. W. C. Bolinger,	1876-1878
Frank Nantes,	1878
Nelson J. Carlock,	1879-1882
R. S. Andrews,	1883-1884
J. H. Bohlen,	1885-1888
J. T. Walker,	1889-1890
H. A. Reynolds,	1891-1892

J. W. Southerland,	1893-1894
H. F. Mintern,	1895-1896
Jessie Bird,	1896
John A. Sullivan,	1897-1902
L. F. Bell,	1903-1910
T. C. Wiggins,	1911-1919

Office of County Superintendent of Schools

Afton Wheeler,	1920-1933

Office of County Examiner/County Supervisor

Robert M. Reed,	1933-1934
Frank Cannaday,	1934-1937
P. V. Blankenship,	1937-1948
Jasper Northcutt,	1948-1953

Teacher Education and Certification Programs

Efforts to raise the admission standards for teaching, to establish the education of teachers as a professional process, and to bring into being institutions to serve this purpose were met with stubborn opposition almost everywhere.[242] Basically, there was the philosophy that only general or liberal education was necessary to prepare teachers; that the existing colleges could and would furnish an adequate supply of well-educated teachers. This never happened.243 In addition, many Southerners believed that education was no concern of the state, but a concern of the

[242] Stinnett and Kennan, *All This and Tomorrow Too* (Little Rock, The Arkansas Education Association, 1969), 329.

[243] Ibid.

family and the church. Therefore, the idea of tax-supported schools to prepare teachers was not in their line of thinking.

For a quarter of a century or more, after 1868, the chief reliance of the rural schools for teachers was upon their former students. In fact, during this period, it was expected that most graduates of the common schools or academies would serve a period of time as a teacher before proceeding on in their chosen profession.[244]

The state's first attempts at making available some formal preparation for teachers were the district normal institutes, and later, the county institutes. The first district institutes were voluntary, but so few teachers attended because of the travel distance and the expense, that the law was changed to make attendance mandatory.[245]

The County Institute

The specific purpose of teacher's institutes was to give a broader training to the rural teachers. They were designed to coach candidates for examinations but were intended to enlarge and broaden the teacher's knowledge of subject-matter and school management. The institute did not

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[244] Interview with Searles Johnson, Japton, Arkansas, August 14, 1983.

[245] Stinnett and Kennan, op. cit., 332.

deal with pupils but dealt with teachers. The fact that no normal school existed in the state rendered the teacher's institute doubly valuable.

During the institute, the teachers studied arithmetic, elements of pedagogy, grammar, geography, history, school management, reading, spelling, and penmanship. Regulations for conducting the county institutes were to the point:

> Regulations: Institutes are to be opened, conducted and closed as are the best schools. The institute will begin at 8 o'clock each morning and close at 12. And beginning at 2 in the afternoon will close at 6 o'clock.
>
> All teachers should have their regular books with them each day. White's Elements of Pedagogy and Baldwin's Art of School Management are the prescribed books for pedagogical work, Harvey's Grammar will be used for the class book in grammar.
>
> Instructors are requested to study Raub's Method of Teaching, Raub's School Management, Baldwin's Elementary Psychology and Education, and Thring's Lectures on Teaching.
>
> A knowledge of principles, methods of teaching and school management are the objects for which these institutes are held. The vital principles of the teacher's art should be unfolded to the students and all methods which embody these principles should be systematically presented and illustrated.
>
> Important subjects neglected in the ordinary school and difficulties in the subjects there taught may be incidentally explained. The work is not so much the presentation of the academic course as it is the how to teach that course intelligently, logically and satisfactorily.

> Instructors will see to it that their instruction is specially adapted to the circumstances and needs of the county teachers. Your work is to show how the improved methods of the graded school may be used to advantage in country schools. Do not present the method as it is used in the best schools, asking your students to modify it to suit their needs. Put your invention, experience and skill to work and present the improved modified form. This is one of the reasons why you were selected to instruct. Make your instruction systematic and simple. Outline a plan for every lesson and have the teachers copy it in their notebooks.
>
> These meetings are not places for debate or controversial argument, and valuable time must not be wasted along these lines. The programme is for a meeting of two weeks. Where four or six weeks are consumed, the instructors will divide each daily subject in proportion and teach it the more exhaustively.[246]

The report of the county normal institute held in Huntsville in 1902 reflected the views that many people were still hostile to the idea of teacher education.

> **Madison County Normal Institute**
>
> **The small enrollment in Madison County this year is due to two causes: First, the rigid examinations of the county examiner had cut down the number holding certificates from nearly 200 to 58. Second, the enrollment of lookers-on and courtiers was declined without thanks.**

[246] Records of the Madison County Board of Education, Huntsville, Arkansas.

The hostility to the system of County Institutes, so noticeable in some localities, is not found here.

Being called home by the grave illness of my wife, Prof. C. S. Barnett, assisted by Mr. Crawford and Miss Riptoe, of Eureka Springs, took charge of the work on the thirteenth day of the session.

There is a spirit of unsatisfaction, here as elsewhere, auguring change, and that is for the better.

J. C. Massie,
Conductor[247]

Teacher Certification

The early school laws of Arkansas contained no provisions relative to the licensing of teachers. It was not until 1853 that the law set forth provisions relative to the licensing or certification of teachers.[248] The county commissioner was required to examine all applicants and certify those who he deemed qualified to teach in his county.

The school law of 1868 altered the procedures for obtaining teaching credentials considerably.[249] The circuit superintendent held semi-annual examinations at the county seat of each county in his district. The examination was

[247] State of Arkansas, Biennial Report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Department of Education, Little Rock, 1897-1898, 15.

[248] Acts of Arkansas (1853), 149.

[249] Acts of Arkansas (1868), 180-188.

composed of both written and oral questions. The law specified that all persons applying for examination with the intention of teaching should be examined in "orthography, reading in English, penmanship, mental and written arithmetic, English grammar, modern geography, history of the United States, the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution and laws of the State of Arkansas."[250] In addition, the applicant had to be known to be of good moral character and could not be "given to profanity, drunkenness, gambling, licentiousness, or other demoralizing vices or who did not believe in the existence of a Supreme Being."[251]

Three grades of certificates were issued by the circuit superintendent: first, second, and third grade certificates. The grade of certificate one received depended upon the score made on the exam.

The next major change in the teacher certification law came in 1875 when the process was placed under the direction of the county examiner.[252] The county examiner made out the exam, administered, and graded the exam. Examinations were held each quarter instead of semi-annually with examination in the same subjects as before with the omission of the Constitutions of the United States and the State of

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[250] Ibid., 181.

[251] Ibid.

[252] Acts of Arkansas (1875), 68-69.

Arkansas. Three grades of certificates granted by the county officials were continued. A fourth type of certificate, a state certificate, was granted by the State Superintendent. These certificates were valid for life, in any state public school. To qualify for a state certificate, a teacher was examined in all subjects included in the county examination plus algebra, geometry, physics, rhetoric, mental philosophy, history, Latin, and pedagogy. In 1893, an act required that the method of designating and reading the survey of lands by ranges, townships, and sections be taught in the public schools, thus a section relating to this area was added to the examination area.

During the next forty years, the certification process changed little with teachers being examined and granted licenses in their respective counties. However, Act 329 of 1941 brought major changes to the teacher certification process.

The examinations were to be prepared by the State Department of Education and graded there. The examinations were to be supervised by the chief county school officer acting as agent for the State Board of Education. Those passing the examinations were issued State Board County Certificates. The act also provided that teachers holding a valid second or third grade certificate must on or before September 1, 1941, forward such certificate to the Commis-

sioner of Education who was required to issue theretofore, without fee, a State Board County Certificate. Moreover, the act provided that holders of County First Grade Certificates could convert them to state-wide certificates.

> **As meager as the provisions of Act 329 may appear, its provisions laid the foundations for the rapid advance of standards of preparation and licensure for teachers. The State Department of Education had the sole authority for issuing certificates and the conversion of the existing county certificates resulted in seeking renewal through college credits.**[253]

Act 177 of 1947 provided that after July 1, 1948, no certificate of original issue could be issued on less than 12 semester hours of approved college work. After July 1, 1949, no certificate could be issued unless 30 semester hours of college credit had been obtained. It would be 1962 before the Bachelor's degree would become the minimum requirement to obtain a teaching certificate in Arkansas.[254]

Sample Examination for County Teaching Certificate, 1920: Madison County

1. No communication with anyone except the Examiner must be had during the examination.

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[253] Stinnett and Kennan, op. cit., 355.

[254] Ibid., 356.

2. Reference to any textbook, dictionary, cyclopedia or notebook, is strictly prohibited.

3. Write Plainly; do not crowd your work, use only one side of the paper; pin together the separate sheets of each subject; number your answers to correspond with the questions; write your name or number at the head of each paper.

4. Requirements: Nothing below 50 per cent will be considered; for first grade 85 per cent, for second grade, 75 per cent, and for third grade, 60 percent must be made upon each paper in written arithmetic, mental arithmetic, grammar, and orthography; and an average of the above grades must be made upon all the other papers combined.

Orthography

1. Define the following words: insolvent, corpulent, plebeian, suitor, sepulcher.

2. Mark diacritically as to sound and accent the following words: Eyrie, opaque, omelet, examine, autobiography.

3. Discriminate between the following words: Evident and obvious; populace and populous; presents and presence.

4. Spelling test.

Mental Arithmetic

1. If 2/7 of a farm is worth $2,300, what is 5/9 of it worth?

2. A merchant mixes 50 pounds of coffee worth 20 cents per pound with 60 pounds of coffee worth 25 cents per pound and 40 pounds worth 12½ cents per pound. What is the mixture worth per pound?

3. A can dig a ditch in 5 days, B in 6 days and C in 5½ days. How long will it take the three together to dig the ditch?

4. A boy lost 1/5 of his money and then earned 50 cents more, after which he spent 2/3 of what he then had and had $2.50 remaining. How much had he at first?

5. What must one invest in 4½% bonds at par to obtain an annual interest of $671.50?

Written Arithmetic

1. The school tax in a town having property to the amount of $3,000,000 was $9,000. (a) What was the tax rate? (b) What property tax did a man pay whose property was assessed at $15,000?

2. A wagon listed at $200 was bought by a dealer at 20% and 10% off and sold by him at list price. How much did he gain? Find % of gain.

3. Find the interest on a note for $500 for 3 years, 5 months, 18 days at 5½%.

4. Divide $289 among three people in the ratio of 1/2, 1/3, and 1/9.

5. Two loaves of bread at 10 cents each; one chicken at 64 cents; 3/8 lb. of butter at 32 cents per pound, were used in making 32 sandwiches. What was the cost of each sandwich?

Theory and Practice

1. What is the change of value in any color by adding white or black? Define hue, value, chroma.

2. What is the difference between instinct and habit?

3. What are bodily causes of mental variations?

4. To what extent is it true that children have no interest in moral habits?

5. Name four devices for forming the reading habit.

6. What health knowledge can be taught in the 6th grade?

7. Tell how to overcome some of the difficulties in teaching nature studies and sciences.

8. What fractions should be used in our first set of practice examples?

9. What are some punishments that are more humiliating than corporal punishment?

10. How can you show that subject matter of percentage is neither new nor difficult?

Geography

1. Define latitude, longitude, zone, rotation of the earth, revolution of the earth.
2. Locate and tell an important fact about each of the following: Mount Vernon, Saint Augustine, Stone Mountain.
3. Compare the United States and Brazil as to climate, area, industries, and population.
4. Name the principal mountains in North America, South America, Africa, Europe, and Asia.
5. From what country or state would you go to get the following things: cork, olives, coal, raw silk, linen, bauxite, wheat, corn, cotton and fine dishes?
6. What large towns in Arkansas are situated on the Missouri Pacific Railroad? On the Rock Island? On the Cotton Belt?
7. Canada. (a) location, boundaries and area; (b) most important provinces and cities; (c) surface, drainage, waterways; (d) climate, products, industries.
8. Name three principal rivers, four cities, five minerals, and three manufactured goods in Arkansas.

Grammar

1. Write three sentences showing the use of these words as verbs: progress, cement, commission.
2. Write three other sentences using these same three words as nouns.
3. When is a verb said to be transitive? Intransitive?
4. In trying to compliment a speaker at the close of his address a woman said, "I love to hear you talk so much." What did she probably mean to say? If that is what she meant to say, what rule of grammar did she violate? Give another example of the violation of the same rule.
5. Outline a theme on the following subject: School Libraries. Write a paragraph on one of the main divisions of your outline.

United States History

1. (a) What important question was discussed in the Webster-Haynes debate? (b)State the position of each speaker on this question.
2. What were the circumstances which brought the Monroe Doctrine into existence?
3. What conditions in Cuba led to the Spanish American War?

4. State Hamilton's financial policy?

5. Tell the route and relate an instance in the travel of Lewis and Clark.

6. What sections of the United States were settled originally by the English, French, Dutch, Spanish?

7. Locate the Northwest Territory and tell how it was organized.

8. Give with dates of transfer the different nations that have exercised sovereignty over the present state of Arkansas.

CHAPTER 7

Schools of Madison County by District Number

The School Law of 1843 authorized the establishment of a school and the election of a commissioner and three trustees in each township which had five households and fifteen children. According to the U.S. Census, only two schools were in operation in Madison County in 1840; one in War Eagle Township and one in Hilburn Township. By 1850, other schools had been established in the Alabam, Bowen, Prairie, and Kings River Townships.

The School Law of 1868 led to the rapid establishment and organization of the over 130 school districts which would blanket the hills and valleys of Madison County. By 1870, forty-seven school districts had been formally established and the remaining districts would be created by 1897, the Reynolds school district being the last district created.

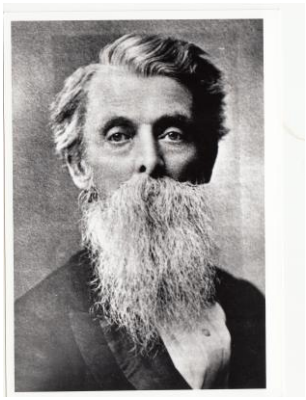
Although the Madison County districts numbered through number 125, at least 130 school districts were known to have existed. As one school district was dissolved, the county court would reassign the number to the new district.

The teachers listed as having taught in the school districts were obtained from the records of the "Registers of School District Warrants of the Madison County Treasurer." Lists of school directors were obtained from

the records of the county court as well as from the warrant registers of the respective county treasurers.

Huntsville District No. 1

Although the exact date of the formation of the first school in the Huntsville area is not known, an organized school was in operation near Huntsville in 1840.[255] The school was located just northeast of town near Lowe's Spring (just off of present-day Parrott Drive) and had an enrollment of 30 students in 1840.[256] Teachers listed in the township at that time were James H. Hobbs, John P. Blakely, F. M. Collier, Elijah Davis, Arkansas Wilson, J. R. Berry, and John Wilson.[257] This school would serve the needs of the community off and on for the next 15 years for short terms as monies and students were available.



James R. Berry

On December 20, 1854, the General Assembly chartered the Huntsville Masonic Institute under the control of Odeon Lodge No. 44, Free and Accepted Masons of Huntsville.[258]

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[255] U.S. Census, 1840.

[256] Ibid.

[257] Theta Mu Epsilon, *The History of Huntsville and Madison County* (Huntsville, Arkansas: The Madison County Record), 1978: 24.

[258] Acts of Arkansas (1855), 63-64.

(More information in Chapter 2, p. 51) The act gave the trustees, together with the president and professors, full authority to "confer such degrees in the arts and sciences, upon the students . . . as are usually conferred by colleges and universities in the United States. . . ."[259] It appears that the board of trustees appointed Isaac Murphy, who would later become the eighth governor of Arkansas, to serve as president of the new academy.[260] The board of trustees also hired Professor Humphry Enyart as an instructor at the academy.[261]

The Huntsville Institute (Courtesy of Huntsville Lodge No. 364)

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[259] Ibid.

[260] John I. Smith, *The Courage of a Southern Unionist* (Little Rock: Rose Publishing Company, 1979), 88.

[261] U.S. Census, 1860.

The building stood at the corner of present-day Main and Hughes Streets. The building was a two-story frame structure, covered with clapboard and its framework was built of logs held together with square nails. The school met on the first floor of the structure and the Masonic Lodge met on the second floor.[262]

Although there is no indication that any baccalaureate degrees were ever conferred by the Institute, the school apparently enjoyed a widespread reputation during its very short tenure. The academy was in operation up until only 1861 at which time it was permanently closed.

On January 8, 1855, approximately three weeks after it had incorporated the Huntsville Masonic Institute, the General Assembly incorporated the Pleasant View Female Academy.[263] Although the act referred to the school as an academy, it was locally known as a female seminary. The seminary building was erected one-fourth mile south of Huntsville on land which was donated by Mr. John Sanders.[264] Mrs. Mary Lowe Pierson of Fayetteville was hired to teach the school and Isaac Murphy and at least two of his older daughters were hired to assist in the running of the semi-

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[262] Gloria Sisk, "Madison County Remembrances of the Past," Madison County Record, 1986: 98-99.

[263] Acts of Arkansas (1855), 108-109.

[264] *The History of Northwest Arkansas* (New York: Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1889), 476.

nary. The board of trustees of the seminary were Daniel Sanders, Samuel E. Kenner, John C. Pitner, John Moseby, and Abner Adams.[265] The school was operated continuously until forced to suspend operations during the Civil War, during which time, the building was burned by federal troops.

On November 13, 1868, in accordance with the School Law of 1868, County Judge G. W. Vaughan ordered the first school districts erected in the county. Huntsville No. 1 was the first district created during this term of the county court.[266] However, the aftermath of the Civil War had left its toll on the county and the schools were slow to organize and due to the lack of adequate financial resources, schools were held only for short and indeterminate sessions. The abandoned Huntsville Institute building, which now served as the home of the Huntsville Methodist Episcopal Church South, would also serve the Huntsville school district as its school for the next twenty years. Madison County had suffered greatly during the Civil War and rebuilding the farms and towns was of greater importance than schooling. By 1879, (the first year that we have records for) total enrollment in all schools in Madison County only reached 987 while the total funds raised that year county wide only amounted to slightly over $1,700 or $1.72 per student. It

[265] Ibid., 476.

[266] Ibid., 477.

can be assumed that the funds raised for the years following the Civil War were even more meager. There was little education being conducted in Huntsville during these years.

In 1879, Dr. Monroe Knight, a Huntsville physician, resurrected the idea of rebuilding the seminary. Dr. Knight was a physician of considerable note and was the author of *Knight's Medical Advisor*, a book very popular in its day.[267] He was a very well-educated man and well versed in the classics. Dr. Knight, along with W. S. Laurey and William A. Gage, sold the subscriptions to the school and under their supervision, a 61 x 36 feet, two-story building was erected just west of the Huntsville Cemetery on present-day College Street.[268]

The College Street School c. 1882

[267] Ibid., 1102.

[268] Ibid., 476.

The first board of directors consisted of W. J. Sams, A. A. Brodie, Dr. J. E. Plummer, William A. Gage, and J. M. Caldwell. Dr. Knight, William Marrs, and W. S. Laurey were added to the board of trustees in 1884.[269] All of the members of the board of trustees were active members of Huntsville Lodge No. 364, Free and Accepted Masons, which had obtained the original charter for the first private academy in the county.[270] (Odeon Lodge No. 44 became defunct during the Civil War and was rechartered as Huntsville Lodge No. 364 in 1879).

Professor John T. Walker served as the first principal of the revitalized academy. He was followed by E. D. Tingle, John Sullivan, G. W. Stuckey, and Professor W. C. Adair.[271]

During the late 1880's the principals of the new school were very learned men and spoke and wrote well. Writings by other educators of the period point to a common theme - the public must be sold on education and its importance. Over the next thirty years, this theme would be noted in other news columns and at the yearly teacher's institute. A column by Prof. G. W. Stuckey, the 4th principal of the new

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[269] Ibid., 477.

[270] Archives of Huntsville Lodge No. 364, Free and Accepted Masons of Arkansas, Huntsville, Arkansas.

[271] Goodspeed, op. cit., 476.

Huntsville school, appeared in the July 14, 1886 edition of the Madison County Democrat entitled "The Teacher and his office".

. . ." Nor is his influence at an end, nor has it accomplished its grandest results, when it is seen, not only in all the common walks of life, but in the higher places of society; holding the awful balance of justice, wielding the powers of argument and persuasion and residing over the civil rights and institutions of just people. But it is his higher privilege and duty to train up his classes for glory and immorality; to point them to Christ, the Great Teacher, that they may become heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ. What an advantage and need I add, what an amazing responsibility is here! . . ."

In 1888, principal W.C. Adair announced the opening of school. The school would be divided into three grades. The first grade would include instruction in orthography, reading and primary arithmetic. The second grade curriculum would consist of reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, and primary grammar. The third grade would be taught higher arithmetic, algebra, geometry, history, physiology, analysis and Latin. Rates of tuition for the first grade were $1 per month, second grade $1.50 per month and third grade $2 per month. The school term was to last for 20 weeks. This school would be the primary source of education in the Huntsville area for the next 20 years but as most schools of the era, it operated usually for short terms, ranging from 3 to 6 months each year. For those students with the

financial means, subscription schools were held in the interim.

Professor Jesse Bird & Bird College

Jesse Bird

(picture extracted from Hindsville Academy photograph – Madison County Historical Society)

Perhaps the most remembered educator in early Madison County history was Professor Jesse Bird. Much of what is known about the life of Prof. Bird comes from the early writings of William Herschel Hughes, a former student of Bird and former teacher in Madison County and from U. S. census records.

Jesse Bird was born in June, 1850 in Kentucky to Jesse and L. Bird, the youngest of five children of this Methodist minister and his wife.[272] In a 1933 news article, Hughes states that Bird was educated at the University of Virginia and had engaged in newspaper work in Richmond and Cincinnati

[272] U.S. Census, 1860, Clinton County, Missouri.

and later practiced law in Lexington, Kentucky.[273] In the 1870 U.S. Census of Buchanan County, Missouri, Jesse Bird is living with one Benjamin Bird, perhaps an uncle or brother, and states his vocation as "Lawyer".

In a 1962 article for the *Arkansas Democrat*, Hughes states that he is a graduate of Transylvania College (Lexington, KY) rather than the University of Virginia which he made reference to in his 1933 article.

> **. . . Professor Bird was a graduate of Transylvania College, and except for the interlude of the Civil War, had taught in Kentucky and Tennessee until he moved to Arkansas in 1885. He bought a small farm where he grew fruits and flowers. He was a great teacher and encouraged us to read the impressive literature of the world. He often forgot the routine of class pressure, and talked about the historic campaigns and magnetic leaders he had known. As if by magic, the years fell from him and together, we lived those epochal events of the fateful '60's. . . .**

In 1880, he is living in Charleston, Mississippi County, Missouri, is single and is practicing law.[274] Professor Bird arrives in Madison County about 1885 and begins to teach school in the Whitener School District near Hindsville. The following year, he founded the Hindsville Academy.

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[273] The Arkansas Gazette Magazine, Feb. 19, 1933, p. 13.
[274] 1880 U.S. Census, Mississippi County, MO.

> **"When he came to Madison County he put city life behind him forever and for 40 years he was content with his career as a country school teacher. He found an inadequate makeshift school system that offered the most meager elementary training three months each year. Occasionally there were a few months of subscription school, but the teachers were poorly prepared to train others.**
> **Schools were taught in rude log huts unfit for winter use. Each district adopted its own texts and planned its course of study. Not a school was graded. The ambitious boy or girl found no place in the county for the equivalent of a high school education.**
> **Bird founded the old Hindsville Academy and brought to the mountain youth the classic traditions of the cultured East. He selected a faculty of college-trained teachers, and made the village the center of learning for the county. Strong courses were offered in mathematics, English, history and teacher training. The fame of the academy spread and many came from other counties."** [275]

Hindsville Academy opened the doors to schooling to every deserving student. If the applicant was unable to pay the small tuition fee, he was enrolled anyway and a place found where work paid the board.

[275] Op. Cit. The Arkansas Gazette Magazine.

Hindsville Academy – Courtesy of the Madison County Genealogical & Historical Society

During the next three years, Professor Bird would teach and run the Hindsville Academy. In 1890, he moved to Huntsville where he became the principal of Huntsville High School.

September 11 1890 - *Huntsville Democrat*

Huntsville High School – The Huntsville High School will open, Fall term on Wednesday September 10, 1890 and continue thirty-six weeks. Board can be obtained at $8 and $10 per month. Tuition is $1.50 and $2.50 per month according to grade.

Jesse Bird,
Principal

An ad in the same issue of the newspaper also announces the opening of Hindsville Academy for the new school year with J. W. Southerland as principal.

For the next two years, Bird would serve as principal of the Huntsville High School. However, during this period, he incurred the displeasure of the board of directors and his contract was not renewed. As a result of his non-renewal, Bird College was founded.

In a December 1977 article for The Madison County Record, former student and educator Newt Reynolds wrote:

"There is an interesting story concerning the existence of this college. [Bird College] Prof. Bird, while teaching Huntsville's regular school, incurred the displeasure of one or some of the directors who refused to employ him for another school year. It seems that most of the patrons of the district were disappointed because of the dismissal of Mr. Bird. One of these upset patrons was the late W. A. (Bill) Wheeler, who after conferring with a number of the dissatisfied patrons, then asked Professor Bird not to leave town to find another school for he intended to build a house for him in which to hold school for the next year, and that he and many of the patrons would send their children to him and pay tuition for that year's schooling. So, a house was soon erected and most of the children attended school there that year. This house hereafter was referred to as Bird's College."

The Bird College building was erected on what is now known as Governor's Hill, about ¼ mile south of Lowe's Spring. (Note: Lowe's Spring is located just off Lakeview Place and feeds the small lake in that neighborhood)

An advertisement in the Madison County Record in 1892 announced the opening of the fall term of the school:

BIRD'S HIGH SCHOOL
Huntsville, Ark.
Fall Term Will Open
Monday Sept. 6th, 1892

And continue forty weeks. Fall term 16 weeks. Winter and Spring terms 12 weeks each. Tuition $2.00 and $4.00 per month, according to grade--payable each term in advance. Incidental fee $2.00 per year. Deduction made only in case of protracted sickness. Board can be obtained at $8 and $10 per month. The only school in Madison County furnishing instruction in a high school course.

Jesse Bird,

Principal

According to Reynolds, the following year a new director was elected and Prof. Bird was re-hired as principal of the Huntsville High School. It appears that school may have been held in both the Bird College building and the Huntsville school building on College Street. Mr. Reynolds stated that he had attended school there when Mr. Abraham Easterling was teaching at the school. Whether this was Bird College or Huntsville High School is uncertain.

The following picture is thought to be the Bird College building, taken in 1896. The photo is only identified as Huntsville school, 1896, Stella Brodie, teacher. The

building's architectural features do not match the College Street school or other known buildings in Huntsville during this period.

Thought to be Bird College, 1896 – (Madison County Genealogical and Historical Society)

Evidence that Professor Bird's college was well thought of in the community is found in the biographies of many of the prominent citizens of early Huntsville as many of them sent their children to him for their education. Although Bird College would operate for only about 8-10 years, many people today still remember the contributions made by Professor Bird to the educational development of the area.

W. H. Hughes makes reference to the founding of Bird College and his personal admiration for Mr. Bird in his 1933 magazine article:

> **"A private school building was erected and equipped for his use at Huntsville and he established a county normal school. For years there were few teachers in the county who had not been partly trained at this school. Students with college ambition found the preparatory course ample. He was a born teacher, sympathetic, patient, and painstaking. He was counselor and friend."**

During the next four years (1892 – 1896), Prof. Bird's schools would be the center of education in the Huntsville area. The following four years of Bird's life are somewhat of a conundrum and are particularly difficult to follow as he appears to leave Madison County for periods of time, get married, and shows up in areas that former students seem to know very little about.

While all seems to be going well in Huntsville, Professor Bird moves, at least temporarily, to Heber Springs in Cleburne County. On May 28, 1896, the following appears in *The Jacksonian*, the Heber Springs newspaper:[276]

> **"Prof. Bird, from near Fayetteville, has charge of our State Normal. He is a thorough instructor and we believe will give the best of satisfaction."**

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[276] Abstracts from *The Jacksonian* Newspaper: Published in Heber Springs, Arkansas, 1894 – 1896. Arkansas Research, Inc., Conway, Arkansas. Copyright 2005, p. 169.

It appears that Bird was not teaching a regular term of High School as he did in Madison County, but was conducting teacher education courses (the Normal) only. The Normal usually began as soon as the public school ended its spring term and normally lasted about six weeks. Traveling from Madison County to Cleburne County to conduct a six week normal contributes to the mystery of this period and seems to indicate a need for ready cash.

On June 4, 1896, the following comments were made once again in the Local Notes of *The Jacksonian*:

> **"The Normal is growing in popularity every day."**
> **"No mistake was made when Prof. Bird was chosen to conduct the Normal at this place."**

Two weeks later, the newspaper reported:

> **"The State Normal closes this week. Prof. Jesse Bird is an able instructor and has done some of the best work during his stay with us."**

The preceding indicates that Bird planned to be in the Heber Springs area for only a short time.

Months later, in the fall of 1896, he would return to Hindsville Academy to open its 9th and final year. The following ad appears in the Madison County Democrat on September 16, 1896: [277]

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[277] The Madison County Democrat, Huntsville, Arkansas, September 16, 1896, page 1, Column 1.

Hindsville Academy
9th Year
Hindsville Academy will open Fall Term
Monday, Sep. 14th, 1896
And continue forty weeks. Fall term 16 weeks.
Winter and Spring Terms 12 weeks each.
Tuition $2.00 and $4.00 per month, according to grade.
Payable each term in advance.
Incidental fee $2 per year. Deduction made only
In case of protracted sickness. Board can be obtained
At $8 and $10 per month.
The only school in Madison county furnishing
instruction in a High School course.

Jesse Bird,
Principal

This ad also appears on April 28, 1897.[278] Even though the Fall term was over and no mention of starting dates of the winter and spring terms are mentioned, it was common to run the same ad without changes off and on during the school year. This type of "outdated" ad appears many times in Madison County newspapers during this period.

In this same issue, the editor mentions in his "Locals" column that "County Examiner Jesse Bird spent Saturday and Sunday in the city." The following advertisement is displayed on the previous page:

Notice to Teachers
Office of County examiner,
Hindsville, Ark
April 3rd, 1897

[278] The Madison County Democrat, Huntsville, Arkansas, April 28, 1897, Col. 1, page 1.

The County Normal will be held at Huntsville, commencing Thursday, the 3rd day of June, 1897. Board may be had at $1.50 and $2.00 per week.
The law says "All persons holding County Certificates to teach in the public schools of Arkansas are required to attend said Normal, the full time, under penalty of forfeiture of license, which may be restored only by re-examination; provided that the instructor may, for good and sufficient reasons, by and with the consent of the County Examiner, excuse any teacher from such attendance." Public examinations July 1st and 2nd, 1897.

Jesse Bird,
County Examiner

Professor Bird was appointed as County Examiner in Madison County in 1896.[279] In 1897, he would also marry for the first time to Sallie Southerland who had been married previously and had three children, Luna Southerland, age 7, Beulah Southerland, age 5, and Clara age 3.[280] Future writing would indicate that he experienced family and financial problems and for whatever reason, Bird vacated the office of county supervisor shortly after his appointment, probably in late 1897. Whether the educational climate of Madison County was not to his liking or his family was not happy in the area, he began to search for other venues in which to practice. A front page news story in the Fort Gibson Post,

[279] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vols. A-Z, 1878-1948, 240.

[280] U.S. Census, 1900, Cleburne County, Arkansas.

Fort Gibson, Oklahoma on August 25, 1898 reported the following:

A BIG COLLEGE ASSURED

One to be Established at Fort Gibson at Once. The Tide of Good Fortune Comin Our Way at Last—Other Good Things Will Follow,

Fort Gibson is to have, among other important enterprises and institutions, a college! There is practically no doubt about it. The preliminary details are already settled and the institution is assured.

Prof. Jesse Bird, an old and experienced educator of Huntsville, Ark., is the promoter of this important acquisition to our growing little city. He has been in town several days this week looking over the field and has decided that Fort Gibson is the coming city of Indian Territory, and consequently the host point at which to begin the foundation of a great educational institution.

Prof. Bird has been president of the Hindsville (Ark.) Academy and the Huntsville High School for nearly fifteen years. Several years ago when his town gave promise of becoming a large city he established Hindsville Academy and built a fine college structure. But, as is often the case, a railroad missed his town several miles and killed it. Last winter, however, Prof. Bird disposed of his college property to advantage and began looking, out for a more promising location for a large educational institution. He went through Missouri, but found the field all occupied. By mere chance he heard of Fort Gibson, down here in the little known Indian Territory—a town destined to grow into the metropolis of the great Southwest. He came down here to investigate. He found a magnificent location—unoccupied. He could see a grand future for our town, great promise in our natural advantages and resource, and he saw superb health in the crystal waters of the beautiful Grand river. An ideal location for the up-building a great college and a great city.

Well, to make a long story short, Prof. Bird will

establish his school at Fort Gibson—temporarily perhaps until a suitable structure can be built. The name of the college and further information regarding the establishment of this important institution will be given in our next.

But the college is a certainty.

Prof. Bird departed yesterday and will return in a few days and take up his permanent residence here.

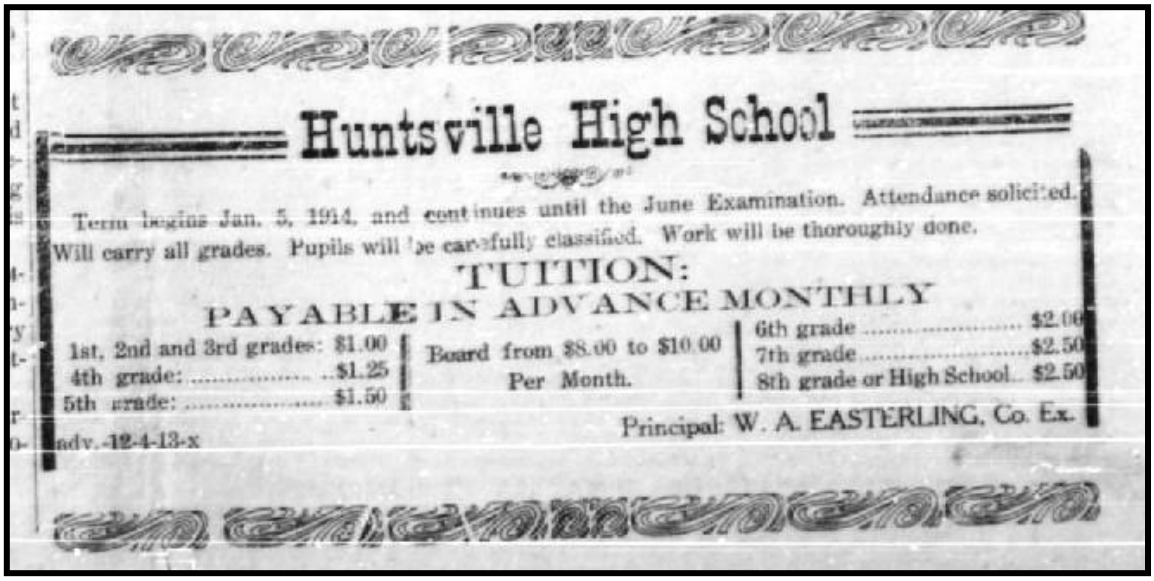
What happened to Bird's proposed Ft. Gibson school is not known. It does appear that he returned to Heber Springs as he and his family are listed in the 1900 U. S. Census for Cleburne County. The census further indicates that in March, 1900, Sallie gave birth to the first of two sons, Harold and three years later, Ray. There are no records of Prof. Bird having taught in Madison County from 1898 – 1900.

About 1901, he and his family return to Madison County where records indicate that he taught both at Huntsville and the Hindsville public school. In the years that follow, county records indicate that he taught at the following schools:

1901 – Huntsville & Hindsville
1902 – Hindsville & Wesley
1903 – Clifty
1904 – Huntsville
1905 – Huntsville
1906 – Huntsville
1907 – Huntsville
1908 – St. Paul
1909 – St. Paul
1910 – St. Paul
1911 – St. Paul
1912 – Pettigrew

1913 – Huntsville
1914 – Dutton
1915 – Dutton
1917 – Cass in Franklin Co.

In the winter of 1913, the Huntsville Academy building on College Street was destroyed by fire. It has always been assumed that classes were moved to the Bird College building following the fire as it was reported that the summer



Huntsville High School

Term begins Jan. 5, 1914, and continues until the June Examination. Attendance solicited. Will carry all grades. Pupils will be carefully classified. Work will be thoroughly done.

TUITION:
PAYABLE IN ADVANCE MONTHLY

1st, 2nd and 3rd grades: $1.00
4th grade: $1.25
5th grade: $1.50

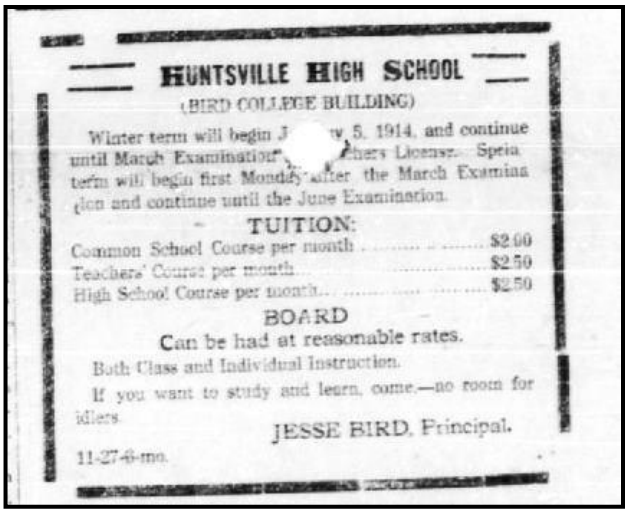
Board from $8.00 to $10.00 Per Month.

6th grade $2.00
7th grade $2.50
8th grade or High School.. $2.50

Principal: W. A. EASTERLING, Co. Ex.

adv.-12-4-13-x

Teacher's Institute was held at Bird College. An interesting set of advertisements appeared in the February 1914 issues of the *Huntsville Republican*. Abraham Easterling ran an ad in all four weekly February issues announcing the winter term of Huntsville High School.
In the same issues, Prof. Bird also announced his term of school which was to be held in the Bird College Building.



HUNTSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

(BIRD COLLEGE BUILDING)

Winter term will begin J[illegible]v 5, 1914, and continue until March Examination[illegible]chers License. Spria term will begin first Monday after the March Examination and continue until the June Examination.

TUITION:

Common School Course per month $2.00
Teachers' Course per month $2.50
High School Course per month $2.50

BOARD

Can be had at reasonable rates.

Both Class and Individual Instruction.

If you want to study and learn, come.—no room for idlers.

JESSE BIRD, Principal.

11-27-6-mo.

It is not known if two schools were conducted in Huntsville that winter, the public school and Bird's private school. Furthermore, where was the public school holding classes? It must be assumed that the public school made use of local churches or the Masonic building to conduct their classed until a new school could be erected. Mr. Easterling was listed as a member of the Huntsville faculty in 1914 while Prof. Bird was listed as being employed by the Dutton school district according to county records. It is assumed that Bird conducted a spring term through June at his college building and then accepted a position at Dutton in the fall.

In the short years that followed, Prof. Bird began to lose his eyesight and by 1920, he was nearly totally blind. About this time, his wife and family once again left him and he was not only blind, but alone, and destitute. In April, 1923, while visiting in Huntsville, he became very ill and was taken to the Fayetteville hospital. A fund was started

by his friends in the area to help pay for his care while there. Many doubted that he could recover from his illness. According to the local newspaper, if his health improved sufficiently, he would travel to Kansas City to stay with his family "but it is very doubtful if he lives many days."

Professor Bird died on December 26, 1923, at the county farm, and was buried as a pauper in the Huntsville Cemetery in an unmarked grave near the row of tall cedars which separates the old and new sections of the cemetery. An article published the following day in the Madison County Record reported his death:

PROF. JESSE BIRD DEAD

> Professor Jesse Bird, well known school teacher, died yesterday at the county home where he had been about a week, and his remains were buried this afternoon in the Huntsville Cemetery, the funeral service being conducted by Rev. J. M. Bandeen of Hindsville.
>
> For a long time Prof. Bird had been in failing health and during the past three years, because of almost total blindness which compelled him to quit the school room, he had been in charge on the charity of his friends. Most of the time he resided at Saint Paul but during the past year he spent several weeks at Huntsville, coming here the last time on October 30, and was cared for at the City Hospital until the 19th when his physical condition grew so serious that it became necessary that he be taken to the county home where he could have constant attention which could not be provided for him at a hotel or private boarding house. The Record is unable to learn anything about Prof. Bird's life prior to his residence in this county, which began about 35 years ago. It is understood,

> however, that he was a native of Kentucky and it is known that he came here from Missouri. His age was about 74 years. He was very highly educated and was recognized as one of the ablest instructors in the state. He was qualified to have filled chairs in the leading universities but seemed to prefer work in the public schools. His first school in the county was at Whitener and after that he taught at various places in the county, including Huntsville. The deceased is survived by his wife and one son, but according to his statements, they had both forsaken him. The son is serving an enlistment in the navy, and it seems, he could have made some allotment toward his father's support if he had wanted to. Mrs. Bird had been residing in Kansas City for quite awhile but recently she came to Elkins and, in justice to her, we will say that it is reported that she came here with the intention of taking care of Prof. Bird, and it is a fact that he went from St. Paul to this wife's home in Elkins but he did not remain long. He came from there to Huntsville on October 30, as stated above, and made known that he was still an object of charity. He refused to talk of why he did not stay with his wife other than to say there was no possibility whatever of a recounciliation (sic) between them. There is usually two sides to every marital infelicities, and we shall not say which side was most wrong in this unhappy home. We regret his sad ending, for as a pupil of Prof. Bird we esteemed him for his worth as a teacher and his favor as a friend.

The respect that many former students had for Prof. Bird is evident in the many reminiscences, letters, and poems written about him.

Marguerite Gilstrap, who lived in the Washington, D.C. area in 1990 and knew Professor Bird gave insight into the feelings and respect many people held for Professor Bird:

> Perhaps the best way to introduce Professor Bird to you is to tell you. . . . I was reminded of him as I read Frederick Crews review of "Mark Twain and Science: Adventures of the Mind" by Sherwood Cummings in the current issue of The New York Review of Books. Cummings shows Twain was responding creatively to a general crisis that involved much more than his own feelings. He was exploring the metaphysical void that had been opened by . . . Darwin's theory of evolution and other books. . . .
>
> In the spring of 1920, after school was out in Saint Paul, my father, who admired Professor Bird and knew his desperate needs--he was nearly blind, had no income, his family left, he lived alone--hired him to tutor me in algebra. He came to our house and we did some algebra problems. One day he brought his copy of "Tom Sawyer." My brother Dick and I read it and were of course, enchanted. His love of knowledge and his need to share it were the driving forces in his life. . .
>
> He was the principal of the school in 1910. In appearance, he was a sparse man, about 5 feet 10, clean shaven, a pink but not ruddy complexion, with blue eyes, greying hair. In my memories, he always wears a cap. In the summer, we would see Professor Bird in his garden, with a hoe. . . . A man who had dedicated his entire life to the betterment of his fellowman and now, was penniless and destitute with no family. . . .

From William H. Hughes:

For years there were few teachers in the county who had not been partly trained at this school. Students with college ambition found the preparatory course ample. He was a born teacher, sympathetic, patient, and painstaking. He was counselor and friend.

While teaching his classes he became blind. He was taken to the county farm, penniless and desperately ill. In a dingy room in the shadow of the old academy where he had sacrificed so many years for the youth of his adopted

state, the worn teacher lay down to die.

Madison County Record, 31 January 1924:

Starts Fund for Prof. Bird Monument

Mena, Arkansas, January 26, 1924: Editor Madison County Record: It was indeed with a pang of sadness that I read of the death of my old friend and school master, Prof. Jesse Bird, and of the sad manner in which his life closed. I think I knew Prof. Bird as only a few of his students knew him. Faults he had, to be sure, but who has not? There never was but one perfect man on earth and he was crucified. We live in the deeds which we accomplish and not in dollars and cents which we accumulate and leave behind. Many of the world's greatest men have died in abject poverty, in bare attic chambers or in almshouses, and yet their gems of literature, art and science decorate the pages of history of all time to come.

Next to my mother, I feel that I owe my deepest debt of gratitude to Mr. Bird for the shaping and molding of character and preparing me to meet life's problems. Generous to a fault, knowing not and neither caring for the value of money, his generous deeds live in the hearts of
those who were recipients of his generosity. Although qualified to fill any station in life he chose to serve among the meek and lowly, with the result that many young men and women were enabled to get broader views of life and its responsibilities.

The following poem, by Mrs. Lovejoy, might truly have been written about Prof. Bird.

O, my people; journeying onward,
You of Christ's great brotherhood
Heed the lessons which He gives you
Written in his blessed word,
Strong and clear and full of meaning
Comb, If you would follow me
Down among the poor and lowly;
Here your Christian work must be.
This the path which you must follow,
This the way the Saviour trod;
And he teaches this will lead you

Into peace and up to God.
'Tis in deed, we serve the Master,
Words are idle, empty prayer;
All our Christian life a pretense,
If the deeds are wanting there.
If you will but heed this lesson,
Which the blessed Savor gave,
Going out into the by-ways,
Seeking those he came to save.
Telling them in wondrous story,
With an earnest heart of Love,
Yours will be a glorious harvest
Gathered for the fold above.

Gone is one who devoted his life to the elevation and betterment of mankind. We shall not see his emaciated form – not even a semblance of his former self – blindly feeling his way along the streets, accepting charity whenever it might be meted out.

Former schoolmates and pupils of Prof. Bird, we have a duty to perform, one which, I am sure, you will all join in cheerfully, viz: That of erecting a suitable monument to his memory, with the simple inscription there on "Prof. Bird" or something else more suitable. The enclosed check of five dollars is for the purpose of starting such a fund. Now, Mr. Editor, will you please pass the hat and keep tabs and oblige.

Very truly yours, W. C. Skaggs

One of the great stains on Madison County is that this man who had done so much for so many people, died on the poor farm, penniless and uncared for, without someone to comfort him. - Newt Reynolds 1977.

Huntsville Academy - Huntsville High School

As previously stated, from the mid 1880's to 1913, the two-story frame building on College Street would be the hub of educational activity for Huntsville District No. 1.

Beginning in the 1890's, the school provided a common school education from grades one through eight, and students who wished to become teachers were given higher order instruction so that they could pass the examination to become teachers. Locally, the school was known as Huntsville Academy.

In 1911, the residents of Huntsville applied to the County Examiner to become a special school district as allowed under the school law of 1869. This simply allowed for the formation of a new school district within the corporate limits of the town of Huntsville. For what purposes the special district was formed is not known. However, the residents of Huntsville apparently believed they were paying more taxes than the rural people to support the school and students who lived outside of the city limits would have to pay tuition to attend the school. The enumeration of the district in 1911 was listed as 280 with an enrollment of 204 students. The average daily attendance was 126 students with three teachers employed. The expenditures that year totaled $1,220.00. The next year, the enumeration dropped to 191 and the enrollment of the special school district dropped to 160 with an average daily attendance of 104. The Huntsville special school district was abolished the following year.

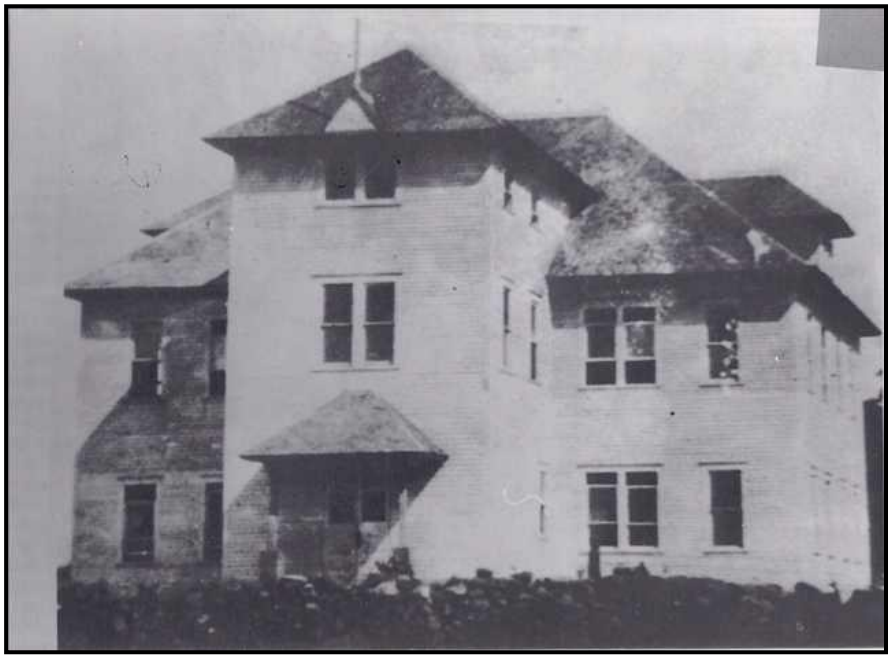
In the winter of 1913, the academy building was destroyed by fire. Many students would enroll in the Bird College while a new school building was being constructed. It would be several years before a new school would be built. In a "side note" in the May 20, 1915 edition of the *Madison County Democrat*, the editor quipped "Let the new high school building be of brick or stone." Hopes aside, a new two story wood frame building, whose forward bell tower actually made the building appear to have three stories, was completed and would now be home of Huntsville High School and ten years later, The Huntsville Community Institute.

The Smith-Hughes Act

The passage of the 1917 Vocational Education Act by Congress was to have significant and long-lasting effects on Arkansas education and the public school buildings of the state. Known as the Smith-Hughes Act, the new law provided federal appropriations to the state on a one-for-one matching basis and was designed to promote vocational education in agriculture, trades and industry, home economics, and teacher training in these fields. These funds were to be allocated by state departments of education to local school districts to defray as much as 50 percent of their instructional costs. To provide the state's match, the 1919 Arkansas General Assembly levied a 1/5 mill tax on the

taxable property of the state and designated the State Board of Education as the administrative body that would carry out the provisions of Smith-Hughes.

The Smith-Hughes Act provided for three subdivisions of vocational education. These included agricultural education, available to boys fourteen and older who lived in rural areas; home economics, offered to girls of the same ages in city or rural schools; and trades and industries, offered primarily to boys in city schools. Smith-Hughes had an almost immediate impact on the state of vocational education in Arkansas.



Huntsville High School or Huntsville Academy c. 1917

About 1916, the new Huntsville High School or Huntsville Academy building was completed and school began as usual. County Examiner Troy Clark announced that beginning in the winter term of 1918, domestic science and practical agriculture would be added to the Huntsville school curriculum. He informed patrons that "a stove and other equipment for domestic science work will be placed in the school and a shop for the agricultural and normal training students will be erected immediately."[281]

It was reported in late April of that same year the domestic science class now had an excellent four-burner stove and full equipment for doing practical work. It was also reported that the boys had also built a shop for doing manual training work and that members of the agricultural class were busy with their gardening and making very pleasing progress.[282] County records indicate that only two teachers were employed by the district in 1918, Mrs. W. H. Hughes, and Ms. Fannie Robinson. It is not clear who was teaching the domestic science and newly added agricultural classes. With only two teachers for all grades at the school, the newly added vocational curriculum probably received minimal attention.

In a 1921 advertisement, the school was referred to as "Huntsville Public School" for the first time rather than

[281] The Madison County Democrat, Vol. 31, No. 42, April 11, 1918.
[282] Madison County Democrat, April 25, 1919.

Huntsville High School.[283] The 1921 school term was to begin on September 5th and continue for eight months with W.D. Webb, principal; Mary Barnes, intermediate grades; Gertrude Wheeler, primary grades and Miss Rema Youngblood as assistant high school teacher. County records indicate that only Webb, Barnes, and Wheeler were paid with public funds. Miss Youngblood may have been a volunteer as indicated by the title "assistant". The ad further states that a two year High School course will be offered. Although a public school, tuition was still charged for all grades. There was no mention of any vocational program and no teachers for domestic science or agriculture were listed. The 1921-1922 school term ended on April 21st as advertised and immediately following the close of the school term, a six week Teacher's Normal Institute ran until the June examination for new teachers.

In 1923, G. L. Amos of Charleston was named principal and applications for a Smith-Hughes instructor and domestic science teacher were solicited. The school hoped to be able to offer a three year high school curriculum during the year, but due to a shortfall in funds, school remained as a two year high school without a vocational program.

Finances did not improve the following year. The school board was still trying to pay off the construction

[283] *Madison County Record*, December 19, 1921.

debt for the new school that was opened in 1916 and whether or not a full year of school could be funded in 1924 was doubtful. The school board decided to charge tuition for the first two months: primary grades $1.50, intermediate $2.00 and high school $3.00 - payable in advance to the teacher.[284]

In January, 1926, the school reported an enrollment of 172 students with four teachers (Mrs. Idele Garcia, principal, Miss Mildred Shepard, Mrs. E. C. Gilliland, Mrs. Clay McBroom – teachers in the grades and Mrs. Alfred Hawn, piano teacher).[285] The enrollment figure of 172 is somewhat misleading as so many students were leaving and enrolling nearly every week. While there had been 172 students enrolled since school started in September, the average daily attendance of about 120 is more indicative of how many students were attending school on any given day. The primary school, which consisted of grades 1-3, reported an average daily attendance of 32; the intermediate department, which housed grades 4-6, had an enrollment of 41 students with an average daily attendance of 39. The 7th grade reported 20 students, 8th grade 15, and 5 sophomores would graduate in May.

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[284] Madison County Record, August 23, 1923.
[285] Madison County Record, Huntsville, Arkansas, January 28, 1926, Vol. 39, No. 31.

Huntsville School on College Street, c. 1915 – courtesy of the Madison County Genealogical and Historical Society

Besides having financial problems, the school also experienced attendance and enrollment problems, which were typical in many school districts during this time. School attendance and enrollment were a revolving door; each week, students dropped their enrollment and new students enrolled. With teachers teaching at least three grades and enrolling at least 2 new students each week, continuity of instruction would become an academic issue.

> **. . .”the following students have entered the 8th grade [in the past three weeks]Cecil Bohannan and Clinton Bohannan, Dry Fork; Thelma Dudgeon and Violet Cluck, Aurora; Troy Lane, Boston; Virgie Guinn, Ball Creek; Tilda Reeves, Prairie Grove; Vivian Rhodes, Mante; Reba Patterson, Pearl Newman, Vada Dotson, Maxine Phillips, Strange Cain, John Miler, Clifford Miller, Muriel Keck, all of Huntsville.** [286]

[286] Ibid.

Even with financial problems and high mobility among the pupils, the "academy" appears to have made a real effort to provide a suitable education for the students of the area. Each week, articles were written and published in *The Madison County Record* to keep the public informed of happenings at the school.

Huntsville High School Notes

The 8th grade students rendered the following program
Monday: Song by class.
Reading, "Nancy Jane", Muril Keck.
Music, "Southern Blues", Vivian Rhodes.
Dialouge.
Reading, "Mary at the Ball Game," Arla Kelley.
Reading, "A life Lesson," Reba Patterson.
Solo, "Star of the East," Ruby Everett.
Reading, So Did I," Leslie Officer

The midterm examinations arrived with the recent snow storm. But in spite of the inclement weather, the following students made a general average of "A": Winnie Gage, Harry Phillips, Reba Patterson, Pearl Newman, and Pearl Sutton.

The following new pupils have enrolled in the 7th grade: Kendall Bohlen from Clifty and Jewel Easterling, from Wharton. The enrollment for this grade in now twenty.

Miss Maxine Garrett has been elected assistant leader of the Glee Club.

We are glad to have Mrs. Alfred Hawn, instructor in piano, with us again. Lola Cannady, who was recently injured in an automobile accident is improving. Ruth Boatright, Tilda Reeves, Strange Cain, Pearl Sutton, Virgie Guinn, Cecil Bohannan and Elizabeth Gage have been on the sick list.

Mrs. Harry Kelly and little sons, Johnnie and

Burnell, visited school last Monday morning. Corbitt Keck is visiting a few days at Ozark, Ark. Misses Ora Cain and Roa Harwood were recent visitors. Rev. Edward Van conducted devotional exercises last Monday morning.

Our "Rough Riders," Muriel Keck, Pearl Sutton, Vivian Rhodes and Harry Phillips, make a daily horseback trip from their homes three to five miles away. Seldom are any of them late, but those horses "sure to ramble."

The General Science class is now studying electricity. In order to understand the practical applications of this subject, the class visited the workshop of the Huntsville Motor Company last Thursday, when Mr. Amiel Theis demonstrated and explained several interesting features of electrical . . .

Misses Mary Stroud and Edna Moses were visitors last week.

Intermediate Grades

The following pupils were perfect in attendance for the last week: Lily Seals, Novella Bryan, May Herrington, Vera Reed, Doyle Cain, Hiram McCarver, Pansy Teague, Lorrine Boatright, Garland Herrington, Vaye Taylor, Raymond Theis, Alba Goucher, Menritta Reed, May Boatright, Clifford Ledbetter, and Harold Taylor.

Mrs. P. B. Reed and Jas. A. Hearn were our visitors Friday.

At the recent mid-term examination the following made Grade "E" (excellent): Norma Spurlock, Henrietta Reed, Clifford Ledbetter, Earl Hearn and Harold Taylor.[287]

The Huntsville S.I.A.

In February, 1926, the Huntsville School Improvement Association (S.I.A.) was organized with Mrs. P. B. Reed as president, Mrs. Lon Garrett, vice

[287] Ibid., Vol. 39, No. 32

president, Mrs. Frank Moore, secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Clay McBroom, assistant, and Mrs. Alfred Hawn, reporter.[288] The purpose of the association appears to have been to raise money for the financially strapped school district. The state apportionment in 1926 was only $5.76 per student which would net the district less than $1,000 per year. With local ad valorum taxes very low, the school was facing financial collapse. Rather than addressing the root problems of school finance, (inadequate state funding, poor local tax support), the S.I.A. responded in the only way the ladies knew how. They held parties to raise money. The following appeared in the April 15, 1926 issue of the *Madison County Record:*

S.I.A. Gives Novel Party

An interesting party was given under the auspices of the Huntsville S.I.A. at the new Hargis-Drake building last Friday evening. Unique games and contests were indulged in by the merry crowd until a late hour.
At a meeting of the S.I.A. last Saturday afternoon, the members voted to extend their thanks to P.B. Reed who cleaned up the building for the party and to Harry Kelley for the lighting of same. The net proceeds of the party amounted to $9.40. At the meeting Saturday, Gordon Hawkins tendered the association the use of the room over Hawkins Bros. store for their future meetings. The offer was accepted with a vote of thanks and future meetings will be held there.

[288] Ibid., Vol. 39, No. 34

One month later, on May 20th, the School Board ran the following announcement in the *Madison County Record*

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

The attention of the patrons of Huntsville school district is called to the fact that the present indebtedness of the district is $4,219.87 which includes the amount due on building. The annual resources have not been sufficient to support the length of school term we should have and at the same time provide any payments whatever on the indebtedness, consequently the indebtedness is annually increasing. Something must be done and done now if we are enabled to contract with teachers for more than three months term this year. If any patron of the district has a solution of the serious problem that confronts, we will appreciate having it submitted at once.[289]

SCHOOL BOARD

Apparently, no one had any solution to the problem and the school ended the 1926 school year with the usual fanfare expected during commencement week. The operetta, "The Tyrolien Queen" was presented at the Dixie Theatre by the high school students (9th and 10th graders); On Thursday, a second play, "The Second Puncture", was presented and on Friday, the commencement exercises were held with five sophomores and fifteen 8th graders graduating.[290]

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[289] Ibid., Vol. 39, No. 47
[290] Ibid., May 27, 1926, Vol. 39, No.48.

An article that appeared in *The Madison County Record* the week following was more of an editorial than a news article. The editor showered praise on about everything that could be praised: the student addresses; the organization of the commencement program; the faculty; the amount of time spent despite moderate salaries, etc. Even the commencement speaker, the Rev. C. M Hughes of Siloam Springs was complimented as he complimented everyone else.

About a month later, on June 1st, a school rally was held at the Dixie theatre in Huntsville to discuss the financial woes of the school district. Speakers at the rally were county superintendent Afton Wheeler and the same Professor C. M. Hughes of Siloam Springs who had delivered the commencement address the month before. Members of the school board informed the large crowd in attendance that plans were being worked out which "seem certain of solving the school problem for Huntsville" and the board hoped to make definite announcements concerning this plan soon.[291]

[291] Ibid., June 3, 1926, Vol. 39, No. 49

The Huntsville Community Institute

Less than a week later, the plan was announced by the Huntsville school board. The biggest surprise was the announcement that Prof. C. M. Hughes of Siloam Springs [note: originally from Baton Rouge, he was associated with John Brown University at Siloam Springs at this time] had been hired as superintendent of the Huntsville school district. The excitement of the announcement and the plan are best explained by the editor of *The Madison County Record*. While the article is quite lengthy for news articles of that period, it is well worth the time to present it here in its entirety.

Huntsville Launches Unusually Progressive School Program

In connection with her forward march of progress in civic and commercial affairs, Huntsville is about to advance the most important step she has yet taken – that of laying the foundation for a great industrial institute, beginning with a full four year high school of the A grade type, the initial plans for which are now in the hands of Prof. C. M. Hughes of Louisiana who has been employed by the board of directors as superintendent of the school for a term of three years. Other teachers will be secured later.
The central idea of the school, as planned, is industrial. As expressed by Prof. Hughes, in an educational address at the recent school rally held in the interest of Huntsville's school possibilities, boys and girls should be educated to the useful things that opportunity offers at their home instead of them being qualified for employment less profitable and pleasurable elsewhere. Therefore, the chief aim of the school, which will be named The Huntsville Community Institute, will be to train

the hand and heart as well as the head.
To this end, industries that have great possibilities in Madison County will be introduced into the work of the school as it progresses, and each child that attends will be given a chance to become proficient in some line of useful labor as he goes through school. Prof. Hughes expects to put on a program of work that will be unique from the community and industrial standpoint and from the very start people from surrounding districts will be offered advantages of a full four year high school. And as the plans more fully mature, the ultimate object will be to add on two years of college work.
The school will be under the absolute control of the board of directors of Huntsville special school district No. 1, but in order to carry out his complete plans, Prof. Hughes will have to secure outside help, as all great community educational projects are supported, and this responsibility he gladly assumes and will get on the job at once. During the next three months entervening [sic] from now until the beginning of the ensuing term of school, he hopes to have well established a rapidly growing fund to be expended in payment for the necessary grounds and buildings. At first, the present school building will be used but before another school year it is practically certain that additional grounds and buildings will be at the command of the board and faculty.
Huntsville citizens have never before been so practically unanimous in their support of a great move. As stated repeatedly in the Record, our school district has an indebtedness of about $4,200, the principal part of which was caused by the loss of the school building by fire twelve or thirteen years ago. To put on the progressive school program outlined above, it is first necessarily important that this indebtedness by wiped out, and to that end almost every taxpayer in the district has signed an agreement raising the assessed valuation of their real estate, for school purposes, to an amount necessary to pay the indebtedness without drawing on the regular fund used for teacher's wages and incidental expenses. In addition to solving the financial side of our school problem, these same loyal citizens are enthusiastically boosting for the Huntsville Community Institute, and there can be no possibility of failure of the project with such splendid support.
Prof. Hughes come highly recommended as a Christian

gentleman, and as a teacher of superior ability, ripe in experience in the school room and rich in his vision of a great school for Huntsville and Madison County. In addition to his school activities, he gives liberally of his time and talent to church work. He is a minister of the Methodist Church. His chief work, however, has been teaching and for several years he was prominently connected with the schools and colleges of Louisiana. For four years he was superintendent of the city and county schools of Baton Rouge, the capital of the state. During the last four years he was head master at Centenary College of Shreveport, and more recently has been connected with the John E. Brown College of Siloam Springs.

The Huntsville school board feels very fortunate in securing a man of Mr. Hughes type to head our school and citizens of this district who have had the pleasure of forming his acquaintance and learning something of his splendid personality and educational qualifications are free to express their endorsement of the board's action in employing him and are gladly getting behind the move to make Huntsville a great educational center.[292]

Prof. C. M Hughes – Picture courtesy of the Madison County Genealogical and Historical Society

The similarity of the vision of the Huntsville Community Institute and that of the Kings Plan for the Kingston community are quite striking. Both plans would

[292] The Madison County Record, June 10, 1926, Vol. 34, No. 50.

rely on a strong vocational component to the curriculum, a spiritual component (to be provided by the local church), physical training and hygiene, and external funding and other external resources. Neither state apportionments based on enrollments or average daily membership nor local property taxes would be sufficient to fund such an undertaking.

The high energy and the ability to move ideas forward of Prof. Hughes (similar to that of Supt. Rayburn of Kingston) amazed the locals around Huntsville. The following week after the school board announced his hiring and his plan for the Huntsville Community Institute, it was announced that another plan for the purchase of land for the Institute was in the works. Professor Hughes obtained an option to purchase 35-40 acres on the Polk tract, on the west side of Huntsville. This property was better known by the locals as “the old reunion grounds”.

The plan was pretty simple. Several local investors would pledge $100 each to purchase the entire tract of land. The Institute would retain about 10 or so acres in the center and the remaining property would be subdivided into residential lots and sold at public auction with the idea that the parts would be greater than the sum of whole. The investors would then be repaid for the purchase price with the school district retaining the profits.

While waiting for the land survey of the property and raising money to make the initial purchase of the tract, Professor Hughes continued to work on his grand plan for the Huntsville Community Institute. On June 24, 1926, he announced how the Institute would work. Many of the people in the area still clung to the notion that education was a luxury and not a necessity of life. There was much more shame associated with being poor than being illiterate and during this period, is was widely held that one could be successful in most of life's circumstances by just plain old hard work and toil. Professor Hughes would wisely appeal to this mentality to sell his idea. Not only would he sell his plan based upon the principle that students should do manual labor during the school day, but he also appealed to the vanity of the locals in that Huntsville would become a model of progress to be admired and emulated by other communities.

> **"A school planned and organized on the hypothesis that acquiring the ability, the skill, and the will do some kind of honorable work is the most essential part of an education."[293]**

The Hughes plan called for a twelve year school; eight in the grades and four years in high school. The striking feature of the plan was what Hughes referred to as its "industrial feature". He stressed that the function of education was to produce the best possible citizens for the

[293] Ibid., June 24, 1926, Vol. 39, No. 52.

community and that good citizenship was based upon intelligent, skillful, honorable productive work. Further, he felt that it was the duty of the school to help the students "get a vision of what the best economic possibilities are" and then provide the appropriate training in those areas. If there was a market for grapes, then students should be taught the principles of vineyard development and management; if there was a market for swine, then students should be taught all that was known about successful hog production.

Hughes ascertained that in Madison County, the best agricultural lines would be in grapes, strawberries, blackberries, apples, poultry, hog raising and dairying. The curriculum of the Huntsville Community Institute would include practical courses in all of these for the boys and on the school grounds, there would be set aside a plot of ground for each one of these "industries". He envisioned a small vineyard, a few acres for strawberries and blackberries, a modern poultry plant and even a modern dairy. Each boy would be expected to spend several hours each day working in his trade for which he would be graded and his fist requirement for graduation would be proficiency in his chosen industry. In fact, each boy was expected to build the beginning of his business while in school and his

plants and animals were to be transferred to him upon graduation.

For boys who did not wish to follow an agricultural tract, a shop would be built to develop certain mechanical abilities and trades. Products such as chairs, tables, brushes, brooms, etc. were to be manufactured and marketed with the profits to be returned to the boys for use in paying their expenses while attending school. Hughes believed that this approach would allow the children of the very poor to send their children to school also.

Rev. Hughes also had a plan for the girls which would "parallel that of the boys." This was not necessarily true as the girls program was to prepare them for the work of wifehood, motherhood, and homemaking. They would be taught principles of sanitation, health, beautification, and home economy.[294]

To assist the girls in their educational expenses, a garment shop was to be constructed in which a few types of garments could be made. From the sales of these garments, the girls would be able to pay their way through school.

In early July, 1926, a school rally was held on the grounds that would serve as the future campus of the Huntsville Community Institute to celebrate the purchase of the property. Twenty-eight local citizens had invested $100

[294] Ibid., Vol. 39, No. 52.

each to purchase the old Polk farm which was to be subdivided into lots and sold at public auction in the future. Prominent speakers from other towns were invited to speak, music was provided, and the ladies of the S.I.A were to serve refreshments to those in attendance. In preparation for the event, Mr. C. M. Hurst, supervisor of buildings and grounds for the State Department of Education, visited Huntsville prior to the event to make recommendations to building placement and landscaping. [295]

According to accounts, nearly the entire population of Huntsville turned out for the celebration. The celebration opened with a concert by the Huntsville Cornet Band followed by a fried chicken supper by the S.I.A. Following supper, speeches of support for the community institute concept were given by the Rev. J. A. Womack, presiding elder of the Fayetteville district, Supt. J. L. Bond of the Western Methodist Assembly, Rev. H. Lynn Wade, pastor of the Central Methodist Church, L.L. Hilton, Dean of John E. Brown College in Siloam Springs and C. M. Hughes. [296]

The following week, Prof. Hughes would invite the Assistant Director of Vocational Education at the state department of education, R. B. Smith to Huntsville to try and get a commitment for funding of a "Smith-Hughes" instructor for the community institute. With the usual

[295] The Madison County Record, Vol. 40, No. 3, July 8, 1926.
[296] Ibid., Vol. 40, No. 3.

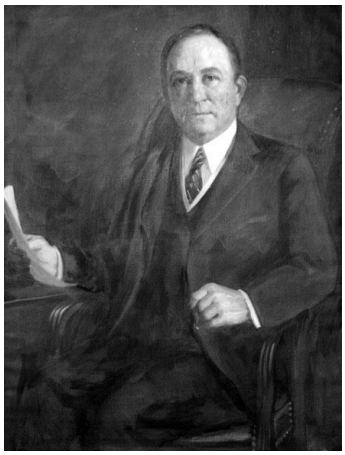
fanfare of the time, this was no simple meeting. A reception was held for Professor Smith at the Madison Hotel which began with music, singing, and lots of speeches. The singing must have been good as Prof. Smith commented that he "liked the way folks in the Ozarks sing." Representatives from the local banks, the county agent, and County Superintendent Afton Wheel were just a few of the special guests invited to attend the reception given by the Huntsville school board. Prof. Smith praised the school board for their work and enthusiasm and pledged his support towards getting a Smith-Hughes instructor for the school.

The date of September 4th was set for the auctioning of the lots in what was now being called the College Hill addition. Prof. Hughes had great expectations for his newly formed "Community Institute" and even though his grand building program could not commence until sufficient funds were raised, it was time for a new school term to commence and school had to continue at the building on College Street just west of the cemetery. With so much publicity about his new institute and the enthusiasm which seemed to be shared by the local community, Hughes became concerned as to where to house all of these new students. In late July of 1926, he wrote an open letter to the citizens of Huntsville asking them to open their homes to the new students.

" . . they are willing to do the chores around the house, and any other work that is to be done. We must have the cooperation of the citizens in taking care of our students if we are to make our school grow . . . " [297]

During the next two months, the concept of the Huntsville Community Institute was the main topic of discussion in the Huntsville community. Community leaders were preparing to taut Huntsville as an educational center and a great place to live where children could attend a first class high school in a "healthful climate and wholesome Christian environment." [298]

On Saturday, September 4, 1926, the auction of the forty lots took place with the usual fanfare expected of a Huntsville event. All businesses in town closed from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. The auction began with a band concert, followed by an address by U.S. Senator Joseph T. Robinson. People would afterwards talk for weeks about Senator Robinson's speech on the value of education, many lamenting that every boy and girl in Madison County were not present to hear his speech. Many commented that it was the best address they had ever heard.[299]



Senator Joseph T. Robinson
Picture Courtesy of the Arkansas Historical Commission

[297] Ibid., Vol. 40, No. 4.
[298] Ibid., Vol. 40, No. 10.
[299] Ibid., Vol. 40, No. 11.

All forty lots were sold for a grand total of $3,305. The school received $500 ($2,800 returned to the 28 investors who had purchased the tract) and 18 acres from the sale which made the College Hill Addition auction a great success in the eyes of the community and the school board. With the opening of the fall school term just two weeks away, many who were caught up in the recent successes of the auction, did not fully comprehend that the Hughes Plan for the Huntsville Community Institute was going to cost about $50,000 to put in place and with a district that was already over $4,000 in debt, the plan was in trouble from the very start.

Even though it was impossible to finance the community institute without considerable financial assistance from outside the area, on September 15, 1926, the Huntsville Community Institute was born full of vim and enthusiasm. Twenty-eight boys and girls enrolled the first month and by the end of the semester, the enrollment had grown to sixty-four.

Teachers hired for the first year of the Institute were C. M. Hughes, Supt., teacher training and history; Justin R. Tucker, Vocational Agriculture; Olin Perkins, science and mathematics; Imogene Crutcher, Home Economics.

Mrs. Afton Wheeler, grades 1-3; Ethyl Gilliland, grades 4-6; Mrs. J. E. Campbell, grades 7-8; Mrs. C. M Hughes, physical education and music.

Although extremely hopeful and ever enthusiastic about the community school concept, money (or the lack thereof) continued to plague the district. Donations were solicited by the school board from each patron in the district. Those patrons with children who made sufficient donations, their children would attend without paying tuition; those patrons who did not make a donation, their children would pay out-of-district tuition.[300] Records do not indicate how successful this finance program was, but on the surface, this plan appeared to have issues. To compound matters, the per capita apportionment from the public school fund dropped from $5.76 to $4.38. The S.I.A. sprang into action in the only manner they knew: they sponsored a pie supper to raise money for the school.

By November, not only were the students of the "Community Institute" receiving a sound, practical education, but so was Professor Hughes. Attendance at school had been a problem from the very beginning of public education in the area and 50 years later, it was still a problem.

" Now parents, for the present, your child's job is that of going to school for a purpose. It is up to

[300] The Madison County Record, Vol. 40, No. 13, September 23, 1926.

> **you to see to it that he attends to this job. He MUST be there EVERY DAY and ON TIME. You cannot afford to keep him out of school, away from his business, to attend to some little outside job. You are doing him a great injustice . . . . KEEP HIM THERE EVERY DAY till he is out for good.** [301]

Despite poor finances, poor attendance, and a community that was not for sure whether education was worth the price and sacrifice, Mr. Hughes continued working tirelessly for the community institute. During October and November, several trips were made to Little Rock and published in the "locals" section of the newspaper mentioning only that he was there on business. In December, he was appointed as minister of the Huntsville Methodist Episcopal Church South. Professor Hughes understood the dilemma that the Huntsville School district and his new Community Institute faced even though it appears that the locals did not have a firm grasp on the financial realities of the district:

1. The district was still over $4,000 in debt;
2. District enrollment was only about 150 students;
3. Attendance was running about 50% on any given day;
4. The Hughes Plan was estimated to cost about $50,000 to implement;
5. Total State funding was less than $1,000 per year
6. Local funding plus state per capita was barely meeting the day to day expenses of the district.

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[301] The Madison County Record, Vol. 40, No. 19, November 14, 1926.

It appeared that the Huntsville Community Institute was doomed. In January, 1927, the local citizens were becoming impatient with the progress of the Huntsville Community Institute. While they were eager to see a college type campus in Huntsville, they were not willing to finance any part of it. They wanted the institute as long as someone else was willing to pay for it.

In response, an article published in The Madison County Record on January 20th tried to address some of the local concerns and gossip about the institute.

Great School Project Still Very Much Alive

If there has been any doubt in the mind of anybody about the final success of Huntsville's school building program, the ultimate object of which is establishing and equipping buildings for the Huntsville Community institute, that individual has another think a-comin', to judge from two recent enthusiastic meetings of citizens of the town held for the purpose of considering ways and means to carry on the good work.

It is true little has been said or done for some time of a public nature to evidence the continued very vigorous state of life of the great move, but during the seeming lull in activities, very energetic forces have been forming for important action. Committees to handle affairs have been appointed and are organizing for the real business of putting big propositions over.

Huntsville will have the great school that has been so much talked of. Don't let anybody become discouraged because things do not appear to be moving rapidly. Matters of such great importance cannot be hurried. Just be patient, and any time when asked what has become of Huntsville's big school proposition, tell 'em it's more

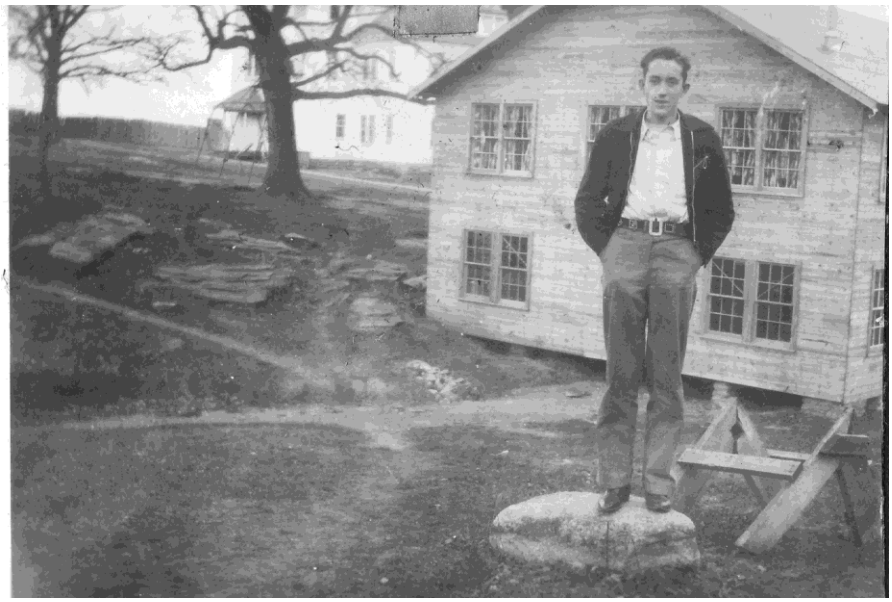
alive than ever, and add: "Just wait and see!" [302]

Either the editor of the Madison County Record was lying to the public about the future of the school or he knew much more than he wanted to share with the public. Pie suppers, novel parties, and donations would never come close to raising the amount of money needed for Hughes' dream school. After the September auction only netted $500 for the school district, C. M. Hughes knew that another approach involving state aid was the only chance he had of bringing vocational education to the Huntsville area. Education in Huntsville was now at the crossroads and a new bold approach to finance would have to be undertaken. In the months to come, another plan would be unveiled which would actually lead to the demise of the Huntsville Community Institute as envisioned by Mr. Hughes.

Teachers at the College Street school from 1900-1930 were: 1900, Nora Berry, Lena Berry; 1901, Jesse Bird, Nora Routh, Ora Brooks, Gracie Bolinger, J. T. Walker; 1902, J. T. Walker, Grace Bolinger, Tennie Johnson, N. M. Whaley, Etta Coger; 1903, N. M. Whaley, Daisy Forest, Myrtle Baker; 1904, Daisy Forest, Jesse Bird, Etta Coger, Donna Simpson; 1905, Jesse Bird, J. C. Boatright, L. F. Bell; 1906, Jesse Bird, A. G. Combs, Lydia Hawn; 1907, Jesse Bird, Tom Wiggins, J. C. Boatright, A. C. Gregory, Arlie Guinn; 1908,

[302] The Madison County Record, Vol. 40, No. 30, January 20, 1927.

C. E. Stamps, J. R. Stotts, Minnie Stotts; 1909, Arlie Guinn, Lydia Hawn, W. B. Gibson; 1910, T. C. Wiggins, Harvey Combs, Arlie Guinn; 1911, T. C. Wiggins, Etta Coger, H. L. Thompson; 1912, Ward Kendall, W. A. Easterling, Etta Coger; 1913, Jesse Bird, Etta Coger, Claude Garrett; 1914, Etta Coger, W. A. Easterling, Lydia Hawn; 1915, J. C. Boatright, W. A. Easterling, Mary Hayes; 1916, J. C. Boatright, Mary Hayes, H. L. Thompson; 1917, Troy Clark, Fred Watson; 1918, Mrs. W. H. Hughes, Fannie Robinson; 1919, Lou Oliver, B. F. Johnson, Idle Sutton; 1920, Idle Sutton, W. D. Webb, J. C. Boatright; 1921, Gertrude Wheeler, W. D. Webb, Mary Barnes; 1922, Gertrude Wheeler, Gladys Anderson, G. L. Amos; 1923, Mary Berry, G. L. Amos, Bessie McBroom; 1924, G. L. Amos, Bessie McBroom, Ethel Gilliland; 1925, Bessie McBroom, Idele Garcia; 1926, J. E. Campbell, Mrs. Afton Wheeler, Ethyl Gilliland, C. M. Hughes; 1927, C. M. Hughes, Ethyl Gilliland, Mrs. Afton Wheeler, Keith Sutton, J. C. Baber; O. W. Basham, Walter Long, Ethel Gilliland; 1929, J. C. Baber, Frank Cannaday, Ethel Gilliland, Edna Boatright, Mrs. Afton Wheeler.



Unknown student with building for vocational use in background
c. 1927 with the College St. building on the left background

Panoramic Picture of the Huntsville School – December 1928

This picture contains approximately 177 students and what appears to be six adults.

A new beginning - Senate Bill 117

Unknown to most of the citizens of Huntsville, Senator F. O. Butt of Eureka Springs filed Senate Bill 117 soon after the opening of the Arkansas Legislature in January, 1927. The bill quickly received a "do pass" recommendation from the Senate Education Committee and was subsequently approved by the Arkansas Senate on February 1st. Citizens of Huntsville would be made aware of the bill and its content on February 3rd. [303] SB 117 provided for:

1. The creation of 8 state vocational schools in Arkansas;
2. The dividing of the state into four districts with two schools to be located in each district;
3. The schools could not be located within 20 miles of a four year high school that received federal monies; (in most cases, received money to pay the salary of a Smith-Hughes Agriculture teacher)
4. Communities interested in applying for one of the schools must contribute a minimum $15,000 in cash, land, or equipment;
5. The schools were to teach the literary branches usual to high schools to the extent as would be applicable to the training of vocational students;

In the same issue, Supt. Hughes published an article in which he favored such vocational schools (the article

[303] The Madison County Record, Vol. 40, No. 32, February 3, 1927.

apparently was circulated to the state wide press). Hughes argued that the bill "was born out of a desire to meet a crying need." He further stated that there were sections of the state that contained between 3,000 and 6,000 students who were without any form of high school training. He referred to them as "the worst neglected people, educationally speaking, in the entire South . . . It merits the support of every one who would help the really, needy fellow."

He then summarized (and editorialized) the bill in terms that he thought everyone would probably understand although his point #1 was the only one that was even close to the language in SB 117:

1. To go to sections where there are no established schools of high school standard.
2. To reach a class of youths for whom nothing is being done educationally, a class without inspiration, without vision and with but little hope.
3. To establish a type of school for which there is a crying need – a type of school which proposes to train young people to be producers rather than job hunters; a type of school in which head, heart, and hand shall receive equal training.
4. To do this great work at a much less cost to the state than any other bill of its kind.

Prof. Hughes knew that the only way his new concept of education could be realized was with the financial assistance of the State of Arkansas. He had devised a great plan.

Senate Bill 117 had sailed through the Senate with relative ease and was expected to do the same in the House of Representatives. This, however, was not to be the case. One week later, the House Committee on Education held hearings on the bill and rejected the bill outright. One of the main reasons for not receiving a "Do Pass" recommendation was the "20 mile" stipulation in the bill. For example, nearly all towns in Washington, Benton, and Carroll would not be eligible to apply for one of the schools because those towns were within 20 miles of each other and had high schools which employed a Smith-Hughes teacher. The closest school to Huntsville that had a four year high school and employed a Smith-Hughes instructor was the Kingston school district which was 20.7 miles from Huntsville.

Without the approval of the education committee, the bill was probably dead for the session. Local citizens were encouraged to write or contact all Representatives requesting their reconsideration of the bill. Representatives James Anderson of Madison County, Wilson Cardwell of Springdale, John Nance of Rogers and William

Wahlquist of Mammoth Springdale along with former Senator M. I. Shuster of Huntsville lobbied intensely for passage of the bill.[304] This intense lobbying effort paid off and on March 16, 1927, Governor Martineau signed the bill into law.

Act 145

Senate Bill 117 became Act 145 once signed by the Governor and it provided for the creation and maintenance of public schools of vocational training in the state of Arkansas. The purpose of Act 145 was to establish 8 vocational schools in the state, 2 to be located in each of four districts. District one was composed of Benton, Carroll, Boone, Marion, Searcy, Newton, Madison, Washington, Crawford, Franklin, Johnson, Pope, Van Buren, Sebastian, Logan, Conway, and Faulkner Counties. The act further provided that the new vocational schools were to teach the literary branches usual to high schools to the extent, as would be applicable to the training of vocational students in the areas of domestic arts, manual arts, commercial vocational arts, and vocational agriculture. The underlying intent of this new school was to develop the student along lines appropriate to local conditions.

The Governor was to appoint three trustees for each district to select two sites in their respective district to locate the new vocational high schools. There were,

[304] The Madison County Record, Huntsville, Arkansas. Vol. No. 40, March 17, 1927.

however, certain stipulations and limitations to follow in the selection process. First of all, any community which wished to be considered for selection had to contribute at least $15,000 in either money, land, buildings or equipment. Plus, no location could be selected that was within 20 miles of an existing four-year high school which offered an existing domestic science department or manual training department.

It soon became increasingly evident that Act 145 originated in Huntsville. In appreciation of Senator Butt's efforts in introducing and sponsoring the bill, a special reception and luncheon was held in Huntsville on March 12th, sponsored by the Huntsville school board and citizens of Huntsville. The luncheon was served in the domestic science room of the Huntsville Community Institute by Miss Imogene Crutcher and her cooking class.[305]

Prof. Hughes, serving as toastmaster, reviewed the history of the school bill, mentioning the fact that the state vocational school idea originated in Huntsville, adding that the interest and activity of the citizens of Huntsville had contributed to the enactment of bill into law and Huntsville would no doubt be chosen as one of the sites for one of the two schools. Representatives Wilson Cardwell of Springdale, William H.V. Wahlquist (brother of Anna

[305] The Madison County Record, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. 40 No. 38, March 17, 1927.

Cannaday of Huntsville) from Mammoth Springs, and John Nance of Rogers promised their assistance in helping Huntsville secure one of the schools. [306]

On June 21, 1927, Governor Martineau appointed the three members of the board of trustees of the state school of vocational education for the 1st district. They were Senator F. O. Butt of Eureka Springs for a term of four years, Tom Hargis of Huntsville for a term of six years, and O. W. Bass of Fayetteville for a term of two years.[307]

Two points of interest are immediately noted: These gubernatorial appointments were from NW Arkansas and when viewing a map of District 1, it is odd that these appointments were not more evenly distributed among the district; secondly, the governor never appointed any trustees for the other three districts. When one views the

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[306] Ibid.
[307] The Madison County Record, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. 40, No. 52, June 23, 1927.

appointments made in district 1 with the rest of the state not to have any of the vocational schools since no trustees were ever appointed and with the 20 mile rule, Huntsville looked like the front runner for one of the two state vocational schools. (No vocational school could be located in Washington, Benton, or Carroll counties as each high school in those counties already had vocational programs and were within 20 miles of each other and Kingston, which had a vocational program, was 20.4 miles from Huntsville.)

The new trustees for District 1 wasted no time in getting to work. The next day after their appointments (June 22, 1927), they held their first meeting in Huntsville. Senator Butt was elected as chairman, O.W. Bass was elected as secretary, and Tom Hargis was elected as treasurer. The trustees agreed to hold their next meeting in Huntsville on July 20th at which time applications for locations for the two schools would be received and considered.[308]

Even before the trustees held their first meeting, Huntsville was going after one of the schools in dead earnest. The day before the trustees held their first meeting, a large number of citizens held a meeting at the Madison County Courthouse to discuss plans for raising the necessary $15,000 and appointing a finance committee

[308] The Madison County Record, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. 41, No. 1, June 30, 1927.

consisting of Tom Hargis, Jake Drake, J.B. Harris, J.S. Miller and Afton Wheeler. Later that evening, a general meeting of the public was held at the Dixie Theatre to discuss plans for acquiring one of the schools. [309]

Prof. C.M. Hughes opened the meeting with an address in which he outlined briefly the meaning of an industrial training school. He was followed by Carl Greenhaw of Harrison who spoke as a booster of educational progress and advised Huntsville to take prompt and immediate action. The Rev. L.C. Garrison of Houston, Texas, a visitor to Huntsville, spoke encouragingly of the idea and urged Huntsville to seize the moment. He was followed by Jake Drake and Tom Hargis who argued the economic impact such a school would have on general business interests in the community and urged those in attendance to make monetary pledges to begin the fundraising.[310]

It was expected that the trustees would select Huntsville at the July 20th meeting but due to the large number of applications and complaints from schools within the district that sufficient time to establish a financial plan had not been granted, the trustees postponed the decision date until August 20th. The meeting place was changed from Huntsville to Fayetteville and the trustees

[309] Ibid.
[310] Ibid.

decided to visit each community that had indicated that they would be submitting applications.

Over 90 people attended the August 20th meeting in Fayetteville, which was held at the Mountain Inn and hosted by the Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce. Only five communities ended up sending delegations to make presentations before the board of trustees. The communities were Huntsville, Yellville, Greenwood, Clinton, and Damascus. Greenbriar, Centerville, and other communities submitted applications but were not present at the meeting. Huntsville had over 40 people present, Clinton had 18, Greenwood 12, and Yellville and Damascus had 5 each.

Huntsville's offer consisted of cash and land valued at $32,000; 20 acres of land; labor valued at $3,000; equipment valued at $1,000; an option to purchase from 300 to 500 acres of land; use of the public school building and two Smith-Hughes teachers and a Home economics teacher. Although Huntsville did not have the cash or land or equipment at the time of the presentation, the supporters were confident that they could raise the monies if selected.

Yellville offered a $23,000 building on five acres, $13,570 heating plant, teachers, and equipment. Greenwood offered $30,000 cash and a site valued at $2,500, payment of teachers and janitorial services valued at $3,800 and use of the high school for the first year at no charge. Damascus

offered only the minimum $15,000 cash. Clinton's presentation consisted of $10,000 cash, land valued at $5,000, building materials valued at $1,000, vocational equipment valued at $110 and use of the high school and faculty.

At the end of the day, the board of trustees announced that Huntsville would be the site of one of the two schools. For some reason, the board was not able to select the second site and set another meeting to be held in Huntsville on August 29th to name the second site.[311]

Huntsville State Vocational School

Huntsville was ecstatic! From the Madison County Record, August 25th:

> **Madison County has been signally honored and immeasurably progressed by Huntsville being selected as one of the locations of the eight State Vocational Training Schools to be established in Arkansas… To be sure, our community cup of joy is full and running over! And not only has Huntsville and the immediate vicinity great cause for rejoicing but the entire county has been given an educational distinction that should swell the pride of every citizen. To have any kind of a state institution located in every county in the state is not possible; therefore, to be the first chosen not only form the seventeen counties in the district but the seventy five in the state, as a proper location for one of the state vocational training schools is an extraordinary favor which cannot be too highly valued.**

[311] The Madison County Record, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. 41, No. 9, August 27, 1927.

> **That Huntsville rightfully deserves this recognition is granted from two very cardinal standpoints. First, "by right of discovery." This idea of the creation of this particular kind of educational opportunities for rural boys and girls who heretofore have not ahd a chance foe even higher education, to say nothing of vocational training, originated in Huntsville, and the law providing these schools was written by and sponsored to enactment by Madison county's senator and representative in the legislature. Second, Huntsville is most ideally located for such an institution, being in the center of a rural section populated by 10,000 to 15,000 boys and girls to patronize it. These salient facts were convincingly given to the board by Prof. C. M. Hughes and Judge J.B. Harris who ably presented Huntsville's claims. . .**

Letters and telegrams came from all over the state congratulating the town on being chosen. To say it was the talk of the town was an understatement. City and County officials were looking to expand the town and the Madison County Record heralded the decision as one of the most important ever in Madison County. However, much work was still to be done. A few days later, the board of trustees met in Huntsville and announced that Clinton would be the second site.

During the summer and fall of 1927, various fund-raising efforts were planned. Prof. Hughes, who had originally been sent to the area as a missionary, raised money through the same program which had sent him to Arkansas. Previously, an auction of lands had raised money for the Huntsville Community Institute and if it worked

once, it might work again. The Polk farm, located on the Northwest part of Huntsville, was once again to be purchased and divided into lots and the lots auctioned off. The date for the sale was set for November 22nd with 160 acres adjoining the town to be sold at public auction in residence lots and acreage tracts with the land being divided into 300 select residence lots and fifty acres cut into tracts varying in area from one to seven acres. The entire transaction of buying and re-selling the property could be described as a community project as 165 citizens purchasing the land and then reselling the property at public auction. Huntsville residents rallied around the fund-raising effort with classes from the school selling everything from hamburgers at the auctions to baked goods.[312] With money raised at the auction, local contributions, money sent to the town from the efforts of missionary programs, land was purchased not only for the new vocational school but for a new elementary school as well. The new vocational school was to be located on a hill west of town and the elementary school was to be located on a section of land at the base of the hill which had been part of the original Polk farm.

For reasons unknown, but possibly due to the restrictions set forth by Act 145, only two state vocational

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[312] Interview with Reba Louge, retired teacher in Madison County, Huntsville Arkansas, December, 1990.

schools were ever created under the new vocational school act. One was to be at Huntsville and the other was built at Clinton.

Although it would be a few months before building of the new school facility would begin, Huntsville State Vocational School opened on September 12, 1927.

An advertisement in September 8, 1927 that appeared in The Madison County Record, Supt. Hughes announced the opening of the new school with classes to be held at the College Street School.

Huntsville
State Vocational School
"Where Thought and Toil Meet"
Opens September 12
As a State Institution Carrying a Complete Vocational Course
The course of study will be so arranged as to meet the demands of college entrance requirements, and at the same time meet the requirements of the law for vocational training. It is the intention of the school to defray part or all of their expenses. The vocational courses will be representative of the communities industrial possibilities. Every student, without exception, will be required to take at least one major subject in vocational training.
C. M. Hughes, Supt.

Construction of the new vocational high school began in early 1928 under the supervision of W. D. Parks of Huntsville. The building was designed by architect A. O.

Clark of Rogers, under the supervision of C. M. Hurst of the Arkansas Department of Education. It was originally planned to be constructed of brick but locals insisted that the school be constructed of native stone similar to the stone used in buildings around the Huntsville public square.

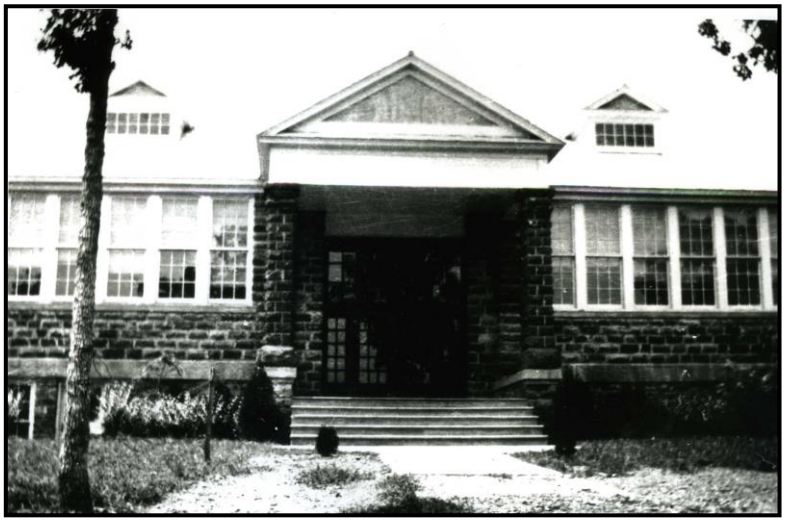
It was reported in The Madison County Record that one of the first acts of the construction project, as part of the jubilation and celebration of the new school, was to be the laying of a cornerstone before the actual construction began in the NE Corner of the building. This was to be a big public event and coordinated by Huntsville Masonic Lodge. However, it does not appear that this was done as planned but was added later with little fanfare. The first building, which would become known as "Old Main" was completed in 1929 with the first classes held in the fall of that year.

At a meeting of the three trustees held on September 13, 1928 in Huntsville, the trustees, architect Clark, and supervisor Hurst inspected and approved the work completed to date. Mr. Albert Bond, representing a heating and plumbing establishment in Rogers presented an estimate for the installation of the heating system and the necessary plumbing for the building. The goal was to have all of the masonry, windows, roof, and heating system completed by January 1st.

Due to the heavy woodlands on the east side of the hill, construction was not visible from the road leading to the public square. As was typical of the times, some citizens begin to circulate rumors that it was all just a "hoax" - a school was not being built at all and that the workers were just drawing their pay.

In time, the rumors reached a level that caused *The Madison County Record* to come to the rescue:

> **"if there may be a "doubting Thomas" as to the amount of work that has already been done, we would urge that he drive up there over a splendidly graveled driveway and view it for yourself" . . .You will find W.D. Parks there every day . . .**



Huntsville State Vocational School c. 1930 – Courtesy of the Madison County Genealogical and Historical Society

HSVS BEGINS 2ND YEAR AT COLLEGE ST. SCHOOL

The man whose vision and tireless efforts had essentially created the new HSVS would end up serving only one year as the superintendent of schools. Although it is not entirely clear what happened, C. M. Hughes announced that he would not be returning as superintendent as school funds were not sufficient to pay him. Little more was said in the local newspaper (editor Hawn was also a member of the school board) about Hughes leaving the district. However, the trustees would replace Mr. Hughes with Prof. Olin Perkins, an educator from Oklahoma who was principal of the Huntsville schools.

Within months of his hiring, Mr. Perkins returns to Stillwell, Oklahoma as editor of the Adair County Democrat. Professor Edgar W. Bass, Superintendent of the city schools of Tuttle, Oklahoma is hired as the 3rd Superintendent in as many years. He is the brother of O. W. Bass, Trustee.

On September 6th, Superintendent Bass announces that the 2nd year (1928-1929) of the Huntsville Vocational High School would begin on Monday, September 10th.

> **"A school where the practical as well as the theoretical side of life is taught; a school where your child may choose a vocation, and when finished is qualified for the place chosen; a school where your child may complete a four-year high school course, organized on a fully accredited basis. Credits earned in the Huntsville Vocational School will be accepted in any College or University.**

WHY NOT SEND YOUR BOY OR GIRL TO HIGH SCHOOL?

COURSES WILL BE OFFERED IN THE FOLLOWING: History, American, Modern and Medieval, and Problems in Democracy. English, 4 years. Mathematics,3½ years. Vocational Agriculture, 3 years. Home Economics, 4 years. Sciences, general science, physics, zoology and botany. Elective courses in Commercial Law, Commercial Arithmetic and Bookkeeping.

THE FACULTY: All teachers in High School are well qualified, holding degrees or certificates from the following institutions: Oklahoma A.& M. College, Stillwater Okla., the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, or the College of the Ozarks, Clarksville. The faculty will urge the strictest cooperation of parents, for it must be a spirit in evidence always if the program is to be sound.

ATHLETICS will be encouraged, especially basketball, baseball and track. Games will be scheduled with North Arkansas Conference teams. A Smith-Hughes team will be organized to compete in Little Rock next March.

SOCIETIES will continue as heretofore organized. In these societies students are taught how to properly appear before the public. Each three months the societies compete for honors. Each student shall be a member of either the Mountaineer or War Eagle Literary Society.

BOARD AND ROOM may be had in some of the best homes in Huntsville at a price ranging from $12.00 to $16.00 per month. Light housekeeping rooms, either furnished or unfurnished may be had at very reasonable prices. Where two or more can occupy the same room and do light housekeeping the expense would be very small."[313]

[313] The Madison County Record, Huntsville, Arkansas, September 6, 1928.

A couple of weeks later, Superintendent Bass reported that the enrollments for the new school term were not as high as had been anticipated.

> **"The 1918-29 term of the Huntsville Vocational School opened last Monday morning with a total enrollment of 160 students. This enrollment will be substantially increased within a short time, some pupils being out on account of work in the canning factories. The enrollment in the different departments are as follows:**
>
> **Primary, Mrs. Afton Wheeler, teacher, 52;**
> **Intermediate, Mrs. E. C. Gilliland, teacher, 38;**
> **7th and 8th grades, Walter Long, teacher, 36;**
> **High school, 35.**
>
> **The enrollment in high school is unusually low at the beginning, but it is believed this will be increased to 50 within the next two weeks."**

Mr. Bass went on the say that everything possible was being done to provide the very best facilities in the way of convenience and comfort until the new school was ready for occupancy. He hoped that the building would be ready by January 1, 1929.

NOT JANUARY, BUT JULY BEFORE BUILDING IS READY

The winter and spring of 1929 come and went and the new State Vocational School building was not yet completed. The trustees would announce that a grand dedication ceremony would be held in conjunction with the annual Huntsville Reunion, which was held annually during the last week of July.

Committees were organized and on July 18, 1929, the trustees announced that a new feature attraction would be held during the annual reunion. The program would occupy the entire first day of the reunion and plans were being made to have the largest crowd ever seen in Huntsville.

The committee had secured a very impressive roster of speakers for the dedication and special music and other entertaining features were to be interspersed between the many speeches. It was anticipated that the dedication ceremonies would begin in the early afternoon and continue until late in the evening. Speakers for the grand event were to include: Senator Joseph T. Robinson, former Governors Charles H. Brough and Harvey Parnell, Congressman Claude A. Fuller, State Senator F. O. (Festus Orestes) Butt and many other prominent speakers.

L to R: Senator Joseph T. Robinson, Congressman Claude A. Fuller, former Governors Charles H. Brough and Harvey Parnell.

The dedication ceremonies were held in the new auditorium of the building and was attended by hundreds of local and visiting dignitaries during the 2 day event.

An informational program was printed for distribution during the dedication ceremonies. The program would announce that the building and equipment would be used for the first

time for the 1929-30 school year even though the school had held its first two terms in the college street school which was currently the home of the Huntsville Community Institute.

Huntsville State Vocational Training School

1929-30 Term Begins September 2, 1929

HISTORICAL

The Huntsville State Vocational School was established by the Arkansas State Legislature in 1926 in recognition of the necessity for providing a free school to the boys and girls who were unfortunate in being so situated that they did not have a high school near enough to make it practical for them to attend, also to provide, TUITION FREE, institutions where they could learn a vocation at the lowest possible cost. There are two such schools in this district, one at Huntsville, and one at Clinton.

The members of the board of trustees for these two schools, appointed by Gov. Martineau, are State Senator F.O. Butt of Eureka Springs, Tom Hargis, cashier of the First National Bank of Huntsville, and O.W. Bass, county superintendent of Washington county, Fayetteville. It was largely through their influence that our first appropriation was secured from the legislature in 1929.

BUILDING AND EQUIPMENT

The building and equipment is all new and up-to-date and will be used for the first time for the school of 1919-30. It is just being completed and is a credit to any town or state.

PURPOSE

The Huntsville State Vocational School is supported by the State in recognition of the need of such an institution to provide vocational high school training for the boys and

girls who cannot get free school training in their districts.

The Huntsville State Vocational School recognizes as its plain duty and accepts as its function in the Arkansas Educational program to provide a real vocational high school program. TUITION FREE, to those who are unable to obtain such courses in their home schools.

WHO MAY ATTEND

Any boy or girl in the counties served by this school who desires to learn a vocation whereby they can earn a living.

Any boy or girl who has completed the eighth grade and does not have a high school available to him or her.

COURSES

Complete courses will be offered in, Cooking, Sewing, Home management, Home Nursing, Smith-Hughes Agriculture, Farm mechanics, Farm management, Dairy Management, Leather Work, Cabinet Making.

Commercial course includes Bookkeeping, Shorthand, Typewriting, Business English, Business Arithmetic, Commercial Law, Commercial Geography, Spelling and Penmanship.

Science course includes Chemistry, Biology, General Science, Botany, and Physics.

Mathematics course will be Algebra I and II, Geometry I and II and Commercial Arithmetic.

English course will include English I, Composition, English II, Rhetoric, English III, English IV, American Literature, English Literature, Letter Writing, News Writing, and Editorials.

History course will include History I, II, III and IV, World History, American History, Problems of Democracy embracing all of the questions confronting the American citizen in American government. The constitution of the United States will be studied and interpreted.

Other courses will be added to the course of study as there is a demand for them and as facilities are available.

EXPENSES

Cost of attending the Huntsville State Vocational School will be very low, due to the fact that there will be no tuition charge. An enrollment fee of five dollar ($5.00) per semester will be charged to keep up equipment, etc. and this will be the only school charge. Good board and room can be obtained at from sixteen to twenty dollars per month. There will be come opportunity for work to pay part of the expenses. Light housekeeping rooms will be available at a very low cost, thereby making it possible to live very cheaply.

LIVING CONDITIONS

Huntsville is a county seat town, composed of contented, permanently located families, in the center of an agricultural community, thereby insuring to the out of town student a wholesome and moral surrounding while here. Every effort will be exercised by the school and town to make the student's life here as homelike and profitable as possible. The churches are glad to cooperate in this program and to help the student in every way possible.

ENTERTAINMENT

In addition to the regular courses offered there will be organizations within the school to provide wholesome entertainment. Each Wednesday at 9:00 o'clock we will have our regular chapel exercise. Outside speakers will be invited to give us messages at these exercises as often as is consistent with our program. The chief aim of this program will be to discuss moral training and will be a part of our regular curriculum.

ADVISORS

Each class will have a sponsor whose duties will be to assist that class with its programs, problems, etc. In addition to this each individual student will be assigned to one of the regular teachers who will serve as advisor to that student, to help and advise them with school and personal problems.

FACULTY

The board of trustees has exercised every possible care in selecting a well trained faculty to carry on the program of the school in such a manner that it will be a complement to the state program of education and to the legislature that made it possible. The faculty is composed of the following instructors:

Edgar W. Bass, Superintendent, Bachelor of Science degree, Oklahoma A. and M. College; ten years' experience as teacher and superintendent of schools. *History and Citizenship.*

John C. Baber, Bachelor of Science degree, Arkansas University; four years' experience teaching. *Smith-Hughes Agriculture, Farm Mechanics, Farm Management, Dairy Management, Manual Training.*

Ruth E. Rudolph, Bachelor of Science degree, Arkansas University. *Home Economics.*

Golda Miller, three years at College of the Ozarks and Arkansas University; one year experience teaching. *English*

Elsa Marie Hawkins, **three years at College of the Ozarks and Arkansas University; one year experience teaching. *Science***

Charles Woolard, Bachelor of Science degree, Oklahoma A. and M. College; five years' experience teaching. *Commercial.*

Frank Cannady, Arkansas Polytechnic School; three years' experience teaching. 7th and 8th Grades.

These teachers are all rurally reared and trained in addition to their professional training and are thereby able to understand, appreciate and interpret the rural educational problems of such an institution as the Huntsville Vocational Training School will be.

Noticeably absent from the proceedings was C. M. Hughes, the man who had clearly master-minded the idea of a state funded vocational school for Huntsville. No mention of him was found in any program, news article, or speech. He remained in the area for several months, as the local

Methodist minister, but apparently left the area some months later.

Cornerstone in the northeast corner of Old Main

Time Line for Huntsville State Vocational School

Mid-January, 1927 – Senate Bill 117 introduced by Senator F.O. Butt
February 3, 1927 – Bill approved by the Arkansas Senate
February, 10, 1927 – Bill rejected by House Education Committee
February-March, 1927 – Intense lobbying effort
March 16, 1927 – Governor Martineau signs bill into law as Act 145
June 20, 1927 – Meeting at Madison County Courthouse to discuss fund raising
June 21, 1927 – Governor appoints trustees for district #1
June 22, 1927 – Trustees hold first meeting in Huntsville
August 20, 1927 – Trustees hold meeting in Fayetteville – Huntsville selected
September-October, 1927 – Various fundraising events held
September 12, 1927 – HSVS opens at Huntsville Community Institute buildings
September 14, 1927 - Trustees meet in Huntsville to approved plans for Main building
September 15, 1927 - Plans taken to Little Rock by C.M. Hurst, State Supervisor of School Buildings
November 22, 1927 - Auction of Charley Polk farm (160 acres) into 300 select residence lots to purchase land
May 7, 1928 – Construction begins on main building
July 1929 – main building is completed
July 25, 1929 – Dedication Ceremonies
September 2, 1929 – first classes in new building

The 3rd year of HSVS Begins in new facility on the Hill

For reasons that were not completely clear, the seventh and eighth grades were moved from the College Street school to the new vocational school to attend classes. School officials would give the reasons as overcrowding at the College Street school for the move. This was not going to set well with state education officials as the new State Vocational School was to be high school for grades 9 -12.

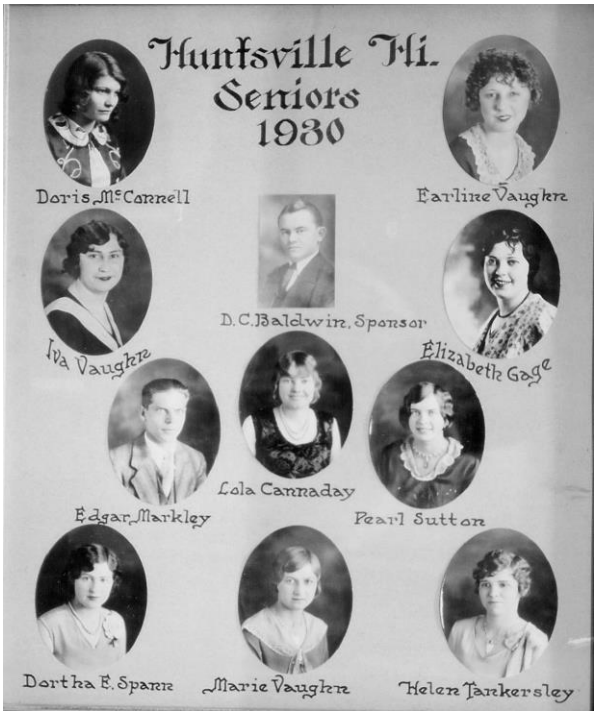
The General Assembly passed Act 325 of 1929 and appropriated a total of $20,000 to operate the school. The monies were to be used for salaries for the superintendent, teachers and for library, shop, office, dairy, commercial economics and other equipment as well as for fuel, upkeep, and other miscellaneous expenses.

When the school opened, it was the first in the county with indoor bathrooms. However, the bathrooms had not been connected as no sewer system existed in Huntsville at the time. In order to get the bathrooms connected, several of the students were used to dig the hole for a septic tank as their first vocational experience.

Huntsville State Vocational School c. 1930 – Picture courtesy of the Madison County Genealogical and Historical Society

Huntsville State Vocational School c. 1935 – Picture courtesy of the Madison County Genealogical and Historical Society.

The spring of 1930 would see the commencement of the first class of graduates from the new vocational high school.



The first class graduated consisting of 13 students: Ed Markley, valedictorian, Lola Cannaday, salutatorian, Dortha Spann, Earlene Vaughn, Elizabeth Gage, Marie Vaughn, Iva Vaughn, Pearl Sutton, Doris McConnell, Helen Tankersley, Harry Phillips, Leila McBroom, and Norman Dale.

Commencement exercises were actually a week long affair which began with a banquet in honor of the seniors, given by the juniors, on the Friday night before commencement.[314] On the following Sunday, Baccalaureate services were held at the school auditorium with what was known as "Class Night" being held on Wednesday night, prior to the final ceremonies. Class Night activities included speeches by the valedictorian and salutatorian, class history, class prophecy, class wills, followed by jokes and

[314] Madison County Record, May 22, 1930.

grumbling. Final commencement ceremonies were held at the school auditorium on May 23rd with Dr. H. G. Finney, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Fayetteville delivering the commencement address.

Eight more students would complete the requirements for graduation during the summer school session. This would bring the first graduating class totals to 21. They were: Brada Hayes Drake, Delphia Hayes Boatright, Florence Calico, Clint Bohannan, Lela Anderson, Pearl Newman, Doyle Hillard, and Floyd Calico.

In the fall of 1930, the 7th and 8th grades were returned to the College Street school to allow further expansion of the school. The state legislature would also send a select committee to Huntsville to inspect and evaluate the school and its property. The purpose of the visit seemed to be to determine if Huntsville had met the requirements of their offer to the state in order to be selected as one of the two schools in district no. 1. The committee would determine that the new school and the community had:

1. Acquired 33 acres of land valued at $10,000;
2. Had received $22,000 in cash donations;
3. Had spent $12,000 on equipment;
4. Had send $8,000 on labor costs.

Huntsville's initial offer consisted of cash and land valued at $32,000; 20 acres of land; labor valued at $3,000; equipment valued at $1,000. Huntsville had passed the test by exceeding the acreage by 12 acres, cash and land valued at exactly $32,000, and exceeding the amount spent on equipment and labor by $16,000.

The following were faculty members and administrators during the 1929-30 school year:

E. W. Bass, superintendent
Frank Cannaday, principal
Albert King, 7th and 8th grades
Pansy Gage, Home Economics
D. C. Baldwin, commercial department
Goldie Miller, English
Elsie Marie Hawkins Anderson, Science
J. C. Baber, Agriculture/Manual Arts

Huntsville State Vocational School – 1930;

The TRAIL BLAZER

SHOWS THE WAY

HUNTSVILLE, ARKANSAS, MARCH, 1928

IGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAM

Members of the girls' team, reading from left to right, are:

Top Row—Edith Reed, Dena Obenchain, Ruth Hargis and Dorotha Spann.

Bottom Row—Marie Stewart, Agnes Soule and Ruby Everette.

Members of boys' team, reading from left to right, are:

Top Row—Virgil Keck, Charles Coger, Loy Cox, and Coach J. C. Baker.

Bottom Row—Ezra Drake, Hill Everette, Harry Phillips and Floyd Cannaday.

Basketball teams 1928 at Huntsville Community Institute buildings from school newspaper. Note basketballs with lettering HVS.

During the fall of the 1930-31 schoolyear, boys and girls basketball teams were organized with Albert King and Goldie Miller serving as respective coaches. The new Huntsville teams immediately noticed that the teams from the schools in the surrounding towns had mascot names associated with their teams, such as the Prairie Grove tigers, Berryville bobcats, etc. Within a week, HSVS adopted "The War Eagles" as their new mascot. The following week, the *Madison County Record* agreed to provide space in the weekly newspaper for a school edited newspaper, with its own masthead, called "*The War Eagle*". Volume I, Issue I made its debut on October 9, 1930. The school paper would be full of news about the school, new student profiles, senior profiles, sports news, academic announcements, etc.

The new HSVS basketball teams held their first athletic contest against Prairie Grove. The new teams wanted to make a good show as the new Huntsville superintendent, J. D. Baggett, was the previous school administrator there. However, providence was not kind to the new HSVS teams as they returned to Huntsville winless, the boys losing 19-9 and the girls team losing 13-7.

The boys continued to improve and games were difficult to schedule as the games were played on an outdoor court and were scheduled and played weather

permitting. By November, the HSVS teams had shorted their mascot name from the War Eagles to Eagles. An account of a game with Berryville was reported in the January 8, 1931 edition of The War Eagle and was described as exciting, fast, and close. Huntsville would win the fast and exciting game by a score of 15-14.

In 1932, it was decided to move the two-story wood structure to the new property in the Polk addition. The movement of this large building was performed by placing the building on logs and slowly pulling the building by mule teams to the selected site. The movement took several months and the foundation of the building was not completed until the following year. During this period, students attended classes in the various churches throughout town.

By 1934, the new vocational school was growing and gaining in reputation and had many students coming from neighboring counties and communities. Most of the students walked to the school and many of them boarded in town with people that lived near the school.

To provide activities for the students, a track team was soon organized and competed statewide although the team had no uniforms. In addition, a 4-H club was also added as a student activity.

Soon after, a football team was organized even though much opposition surfaced over the starting of a football program at the school. The controversy ended when the students boycotted classes and spent the day on Governor's Hill having a picnic.[315] Although no equipment or uniforms were available, the team simply played in their overalls. However, by 1937, used uniforms were purchased from the University of Arkansas with maroon and white being chosen as the school colors. The first coach was Price Fritts who volunteered his time.

Huntsville Football Team - 1939

Back row: Earl Voss, Coach; #66 ____; #68_____; #63 Paul Harrison; #55 Quentin Counts; #61 Lloyd Smith, Jr.; #64 Stanford Swain; #65 Charles Whorton, Jr.
Middle row: #82 Joe Harper; #73 John Robert Dotson; #83 Clive Callaway; #53 Doyle Barker; #75 Earl Hargis; #50 Doyne Friddle; #79 Floyd Vinscent
Front row: #81 Gene Johnson; #67 _____; #85 Junior Simpson; #62 _____; #69 Edgar Fildes; #58 John Gibson; #77 is Harry Joe Carns

The appropriation for the vocational school for the year ending 1934 was:[316]

Salary of Principal $1,560.00

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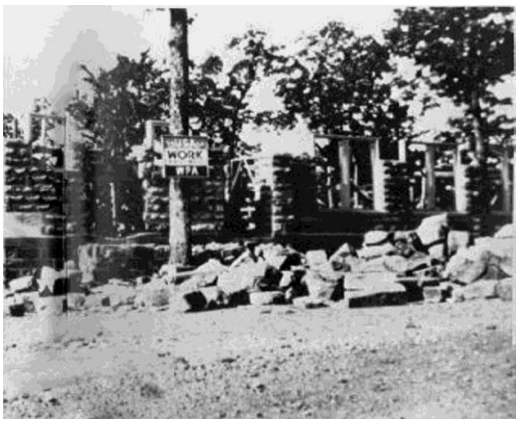
[315] Carol Whittemore, "Fading Memories: A History of the Lives and Times of Madison County People," Vol. I, The Madison County Record, Huntsville, Arkansas, 1989: 74-75.

[316] Acts of Arkansas (1934), 611.

Salary of Commercial Teacher	$1,035.00
Salary of Smith-Hughes Teacher.....	$1,050.00
Salary of English Teacher	$ 450.00
Salary of Science Teacher	$ 450.00
Salary of Home Economics Teacher	$ 855.00
Salary of Janitor	$ 450.00
Coal	$ 200.00
Lights and Water	$ 120.00
Library	$ 100.00
Smith-Hughes	$ 200.00
Home Economics Equipment	$ 50.00
Maintenance	$3,480.00

With the assistance of the NYA in 1935, construction of a new vocational agriculture building and a separate home economics building was begun. The home economics cottage (as it was known) was completed in 1936 and the vocational agriculture building was completed soon thereafter. The NYA barracks were built just west of "Old Main" and would eventually serve as a lunchroom for the vocational school.



L to R – Completed Home Economics Building; Home Economics building under construction; Bottom: Original vocational agriculture building on right half of photo; shop addition added in the 1940's on left side.

Driver posing with first school bus for the new state vocational school.

H.V.S. pep club
left to right
Ruth KELLY Campbell
unknown
Betty Boatright
Maxine HILLARD Graff
Betty Rice
Gail HILLARD Hudson
Carmel HUNTER Stephens
Jean SULLINS Owens
Helen WITHROW Johnson

H.S.V.S Student Code of Conduct

- We, the students of the State Vocational School, will endeavor to promote the welfare and honor of our

school, and will refrain from reflecting any dishonor on our school, on ourselves, or on others.

- We will do our best to develop a better school spirit; strive to maintain a spirit of fellowship with our fellow-students, our teachers, and others.
- We will refrain from any form of dishonesty, such as cheating on tests; and we vigorously condemn an act of stealing money or property.
- We resolve that our conduct outside school should be such as not to reflect on the school, which forbids drinking or disorderly conduct, or frequently undesirable places, at all times.
- We will respect the good name of our school, or anyone in it, and will defend our school against unfounded criticism; but where any situation needs to be corrected, we will ourselves do all in our power to correct it.
- We will respect school property by doing nothing to cause damage to it and be keeping classrooms and grounds orderly.
- We do not endorse smoking, but if it is to be done on the school campus, we agree that it shall be done only at one designated place.
- We the students of H.S.V.S must keep physically and morally clean.

- We build our character by cultivating good habits.
- We must do all these things because we are accountable to God and humanity.

Alma Mater – c. 1930's

Let our voices loudly ringing
Echo far and near
Songs of praise thy children singing
To thy memory dear.
H.S.V.S., H.S.V.S
Tender fair and true
Grateful sons, with love unfailing
All our vows renew.

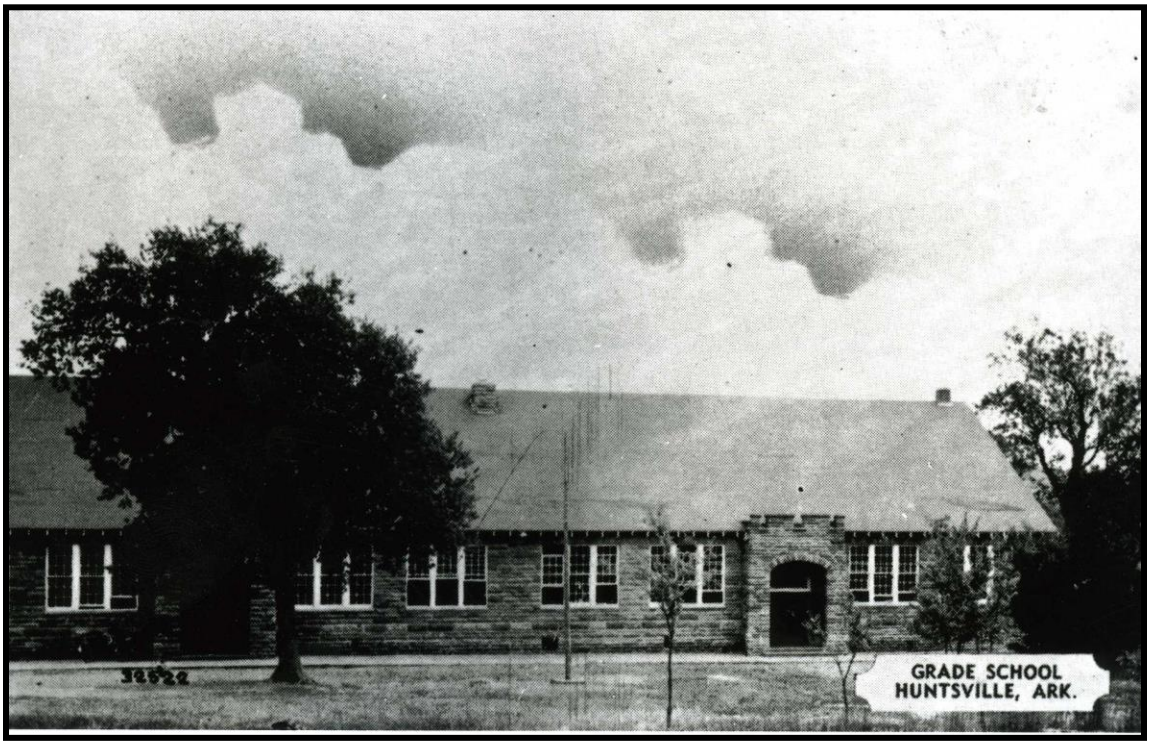
Debate Club
Front Row: Spurlock, Cornett, Sutton, Lewis, Mills, Litterell
Back Row: Burke (Sponsor), Glasgow, Harper, Deer, Reed, Reeves
Sutton, Deer, Lewis, and Reed debated successfully in 1940 against Ft Smith, Rogers, Bentonville, Siloam Springs, and Springdale.

Students posing with new typewriters in front of old main, c. 1931

Teachers at the vocational high school from 1929 through 1948, in addition to those previously mentioned, were: H. R. Overholt, superintendent; Mittie Hawn, Principal and English; Arthur Johnson, Agriculture; Mrs. Norman Heathman, Home Economics; O. K. Sergeant, Band Director; Eula Mae Davis, Commercial; Harley Gilliam, Coach; Hallen Berry, English and Algebra; Flora Lockhart, Social Science; Margaret Lisle, Science; George Lisle, Vocational Counselor; Mrs. Ray Dean, Science; Eleanor Counts, Social Science and History; Lois Morris, Vocational Counselor; P. V. Blankenship, Superintendent; Henry Burke, Principal;

Elbert Mitchell, Principal and Science; Gayle Johnson, Social Science and History; Betsy Hargis, English; Eddie Foster, Coach and Math; Keith Sutton, Trades in Industry and Math.

In 1940, construction of a new building and gym to house grades one through eight was begun on the land acquired from the sale of the Polk farm. The two-story rock structure was designed by the Russellville office of the NYA. As soon as the new school was completed, the wood-frame building which had been moved from the College Street location was torn down.



Huntsville Grade School c. 1945 – Courtesy of the Madison County Genealogical and Historical Society

Teachers in grades one through eight from 1930-1948 were: 1930, J. C. Baber, A. W. Basham, Mrs. Hugh Boatright,

Ruth Boatright, Mrs. Afton Wheeler; 1931, J. C. Baber, Mrs. Hugh Boatright, Gertrude Gilliland, Albert King, Mrs. Afton Wheeler, Lee Combs, Newt Reynolds; 1932, Gertrude Gilliland, J. C. Baber, Norma Spurlock, Albert King, Mrs. Afton Wheeler; 1933-1935, Mrs. Afton Wheeler, Albert King, Norma Spurlock, Gertrude Gilliland, J. C. Baber, Frank Cannaday; 1936, Gertrude Wheeler, Norma Spurlock, Mrs. Kelley Cornett, Frank Cannaday, Newt Reynolds, Opal Johnson; 1937-1939, Norma Spurlock, Pauline Steele, Newt Reynolds, Opal Johnson, Frank Cannaday, J. C. Baber; 1940, Norma Spurlock, Pauline Steele, Newt Reynolds, Opal Johnson, Frank Cannaday, Mrs. Van Albertson; 1941-1942, S. G. Sanford, J. C. Baber, Louise Lewis, Ollie Delozier, Opal Johnson, Pauline Steele, Floyd Calico, Newt Reynolds, Norma Spurlock, Bernice Martin; 1943, J. D. Baber, Mrs. John Gaskill, Bernice Martin; 1943, J. C. Baber, Mrs. John Gaskill, Bernice Martin, Newt Reynolds, Mrs. J. C. Matthews, Pauline Steele, Norma Spurlock, Floyd Calico; 1944-1946, J. C. Baber, Mr. P. V. Blankenship, Reba Louge, Opal Hinds, Norma Spurlock, Floyd Calico, Bernice Martin, George Cullins; 1947-1948, Floyd Calico, Reba Louge, Albert Todd, Eula Todd, Opal Hinds, Mrs. P. V. Blankenship, O. D. Easterling.[317]

[317] Records of School District Warrants, Madison County Treasurer, Huntsville, Arkansas, 1890-1948.

Persons listed as having served on the board of directors of the district were: Lingle Johnson, J. C. Boatright, W. D. Parks, Tom Dotson, Grover Harris, Alfred Hawn, Tom Hargis, I. M. Coger, Howard Brashears, Lon Hudson, A. F. Murphy, Newt Reynolds, Clay McBroom, Vernon Fritts, J. A. Harrington, J. R. Warren, Harold Harris, Frank Rice, A. E. Sparks, J. C. Baber, Sherwood Phillips, Allen Presley, John Gaskill, and Lester Keck.[318]

[318] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vols. A-Z, 1878-1948.

Huntsville School District Administrators

Head teacher or Principal

John T. Walker, 1879 – 1882; 1901- 1902

E. D. Tringle, 1883

John A. Sullivan, 1884

G. W. Stuckey 1886,

W. C. Adair, 1888

Jesse Bird 1890, 1904 – 1906;

Horatio F. Mintern, 1895

T. C. Wiggins 1910-11

W. A. Easterling, 1914 -15

G. L. Amos 1923 -24

Idele Garcia 1925

Superintendent (term first used in 1927)

C. M. Hughes 1927 – 1928

Edgar W. Bass 1928 - 1930

Olin Perkins 1930 - 1930

J. D. Baggett, 1930 - 1937

P. V. Blankenship 1937 -

Walter C. Collum 1944 - 1946

H. R. Overholt 1946 – 1950

McConnell's Chapel District No. 2

McConnell's Chapel was established on November 13, 1868, by order of the county court. The schoolhouse was located south of Huntsville on Highway 23 just north of the War Eagle Creek bridge with the bulk of the district contained within Range 26 West, Township 16 North.

The enumeration of 1879 listed 97 students in the district with a distribution of $98.94 from the common school fund. By 1886, the number had risen to 125 students with one black student listed in the district. Two years later the school census had fallen to 89 and by 1892, the district enumerated only 47 students.[319]

[319] Ibid.

Teachers at the school were: 1901-1903, U. S. Fraze; 1904, W. R. Cluck; 1905-1906, James R. Stotts; 1907, Mollie McCurry; 1908, F. W. Patrick; 1909-1910, Walter Ledbetter; 1911-1912, J. P. Reynolds; 1913, H. L. Thompson; 1914-1915, Robert Reed; 1916, Olen Haney; 1917, Phillip Frederick, Ann McConnell; 1918, S. B. Mitchell, F. E. Parks; 1919, Dexter Harris; 1920, Newton Reynolds; 1921, Dexter Harris, Bessie McBroom; 1922, Albert King; 1923, Walter Long; 1924-1925, J. C. Hacker; 1926, J. P. Reynolds; 1927-1935, J. C. Hacker; 1936-1936, Mary Rice; 1938-1941, J. C. Hacker; 1942, Ewell Easterling; 1943, Arlie Easterling; 1944-1947, Narene Seals Parson; 1948, Merle Coger.

The following persons were listed as directors during the years from 1883-1938: William Stotts, James Gilliland, F. W. Stroud, Sam Reeves, Jim Harris, W. D. Parks, Tom Dotson, G. T. Harris, J. F. McConnell, Clarence Stroud, Mart Swope, A. F. Murphy, Z. T. Withrow, Dave Anderson, Alfred Hawn and Hugh Murphy, Jesse McBroom, Ewell Seals, Douglas Stroud, Herman Weathers, Ewen Easterling, Burse Reeves, Garner Bolinger, and C. N. Watson.[320] McConnell's Chapel was consolidated with Huntsville District No. 1 on January 25, 1949.

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[320] Records of School District Warrants, Madison County Treasurer, Huntsville, Arkansas, 1890-1948.

Mountain Grove District No. 3

The Mountain Grove school district also was officially created by County Judge G. W. Vaughan on November 18, 1868. The school district was located approximately 4 miles south of Japton in the area where Panther Creek crosses state Highway 295. The district was located mainly in Range 27 West and was divided by the township line between Township 15 North and 14 North.

Although the district was officially created in 1868, the district was unable to meet its financial obligations after a few years and a special tax of $90.00 was levied on the district by County Judge F. M. Sams on October 9, 1874.[321] No school was apparently held for the next several years. In 1884, James C. Sizemore and 24 others petitioned the county court to reinstate the district and redefine the boundaries.[322] D. J. Groseclose, James C. Sizemore, and C. W. Masterson were appointed by County Judge M. D. Lucas as the new board of directors.

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[321] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. A, 1874, 43.

[322] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. D, 1884, 1.

Mountain Grove School, 1903, J. R. Reynolds, Teacher

One of the students who attended Mountain Grove school in the early 1920's was Carson Scott, who would later become a teacher and Grand Master of Masons in Oklahoma.

According to Mr. Scott:

> Before school and at noon, the teacher rang a bell and we all lined up and when everyone was in place and quiet, we all marched in to our desks. There were several grades in the room and when you finished your own work you could listen to the other grades reading or counting or whatever they were doing.
>
> I think this often helped to learn a grade above what you were doing right then.[323]

[323] Interview with Carson Scott, retired teacher in Madison County, Huntsville, Arkansas, March, 1988.

Teachers at Mountain Grove were: 1900, S. B. Mitchell; 1901-1902, J. R. Reynolds; 1903, Jap Vaughan; 1904-1905, Lizzie Johnson, 1906, W. T. Bohannon; 1907, W. J. Chumley; 1908, Lizzie Johnson; 1909, Fred Herriman; 1910-1911, Searles Johnson; 1912-1913, Millard Sizemore; 1914-1915, Virgil Farmer; 1916, Searles Johnson; 1917, Drue Combs; 1918-1919, Monroe Neal; 1920, Mona Mix; 1921, B. F. Johnson; 1922, Grace Coger; 1923, Fred Mix; 1924, B. F. Johnson, Clara Hooper; 1925-1926, Jack Hoskins; 1927, Loyd Mix; 1928, Annabel Hawkins; 1929-1930, B. F. Johnson; 1931-1933, Hazel Counts; 1934, Howard Ward; 1935, Hazel Mix, Beatrice Bell; 1936, Wade Johnson; 1937, Vernon Stansel; 1938, Homer Barker; 1939, Monroe Neal; 1940-1942, Berdis Rogers; 1943, Sabrina Woodbridge; 1944, J. D. Haynes.

The following persons were served the district as members of the board of directors during the years from 1884-1930: D. J. Groseclose, James C. Sizemore, C. W. Masterson, W. G. Rogers, A. D. Neal, B. F. Johnson, W. L. Cook, F. T. Parker, Logan Sizemore, Harve Harrison, Johnson Rogers, Andy McConnell, H. C. Herriman, Clyde Parker, Isaac McChristian, and E. M. Oliver.[324] Mountain Grove was consolidated with the Japton school district on April 22, 1944.

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[324] Records of School District Warrants, Madison County Treasurer, Huntsville, Arkansas, 1890-1948.

Lower Whorton Creek District No. 4

Lower Whorton Creek school district was established under the provisions of the school law of 1868 by the county court on November 13, 1868. The schoolhouse was located on State Highway 74, approximately 4 miles east of state highway 23 south and was located across from the Lower Whorton Creek cemetery. The district was bordered by McConnell's Chapel on the west, Shady Grove to the south, Upper Whorton Creek to the east, and Jones and Reeds Creek on the north.

The attendance of Laverne Cook, a black child, in the Lower Whorton Creek school in the mid-1940's antedates the Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka decision by nearly a decade and may be the first integrated school in Arkansas. In the mid-1940's, Laverne Cook was the only black child left in Madison County. She was being raised by her grand-

parents when the black school at Shady Grove was closed. The state required schooling for the child but state law forbade the integration of races in the schools. Mr. P. V. Blankenship, county examiner had been aware of the presence of the girl and knew her family. He approached Mr. O. D. Easterling, teacher at Lower Whorton Creek, and they agreed to have the girl attend the school with the white children. There seems to be no record of any objection to the attendance of the girl in the white community or from state authorities.[325] (See Shady Grove District No. 53)

Teachers from 1900 to 1948 at Lower Whorton Creek were: 1900, U. S. Frazer; 1901, Walter Long; 1902-1903, Abraham Easterling; 1904-1905, Walter Long; 1906, Abraham Easterling; 1907, Effie Allred; 1908-1909, Afton Wheeler; 1910, Ina Boatright; 1911, Ozie Daily; 1912-1913, Walter Long; 1914, J. P. Reynolds; 1915, O. L. Daily; 1916, Sarah Hutchinson; 1917, Willie Miller; 1918, Fred Waggener; 1919, Willie Miller; 1920, Charles McElhaney; 1921, Deck Harris; 1922, Mary Phillips; 1922-1923, Walter Ledbetter; 1924, S. B. Mitchell; 1925, John Miller; 1926, Dalton Dotson; 1927, Elmer Vaughan; 1928-1929, Elmer Whorton; 1930, Vada Long; 1931-1932, Floyd Harrison; 1933-1935, Claude Johnson; 1936, Clint Bohannon; 1937-1939, Clyde Mix; 1940-1942, Claude

[325] The Madison County Record, November 7, 1985.

Johnson; 1943-1944, Bruce Johnson; 1945-1948, O. D. Easterling; 1949, Brenda Mathis.

The following persons served the district as members of the board of directors from 1881-1930: B. Wheeler, A. R. Phil, Walter Phillips, Joe Boatright, F. M. Shuster, Jap Montgomery, Oliver Dotson, T. Montgomery, Sam Wheeler, L. H. Miller, J. R. Easterling, C. O. Montgomery, J. R. Dotson, A. B. Dotson, and C. A. Montgomery.[326]

In 1931, the district listed operation costs as $40, Instruction costs as $640 and general maintenance costs as $10. The needed tax assessment to produce the amount of money needed was 12 mills.

The last session of the Lower Whorton Creek school was taught in the fall of 1948 with the following enrollments: first grade, 4; second grade, none; third grade, 5; fourth grade, 1; fifth grade, 3; sixth grade, 2; seventh grade, 2; eighth grade, 3; total enrollment, 13 boys and 7 girls.[327] The district was consolidated with the Huntsville school district on February 28, 1949.

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[326] Records of School District Warrants, Madison County Treasurer, Huntsville, Arkansas, 1890-1948.

[327] Arkansas School Record Book and Register, School District No. 4, Madison County, Arkansas, 1948.

Upper Whorton Creek District No. 5

Upper Whorton Creek school district was created on November 13, 1868. The school district and schoolhouse was located only about three miles east of the Lower Whorton Creek school with the districts being separated by Whorton Creek. Erecting two separate school districts within that proximity of each other was in no doubt in response to the dangers of a swollen creek which would hamper the attendance and safety of students living on the southeast side of the creek.

Upper Whorton Creek, 1943, Clara Tassey, teacher.

The school building was a simple wood-frame structure with two narrow doors facing the west. As was the usual custom in many rural communities, the boys entered one door and the girls entered the school by the other. In order to facilitate the heating of the building, the stove was placed in the center of the room.

Teachers at the school were: 1900, N. J. Carlock; 1901, H. M. Adams; 1902, J. A. Carlock; 1903, W. F. Reynolds; 1904, W. A. Easterling; 1905, Afton Wheeler; 1906, Luna Southerland; 1907, Afton Wheeler; 1908, Cora Wheeler;

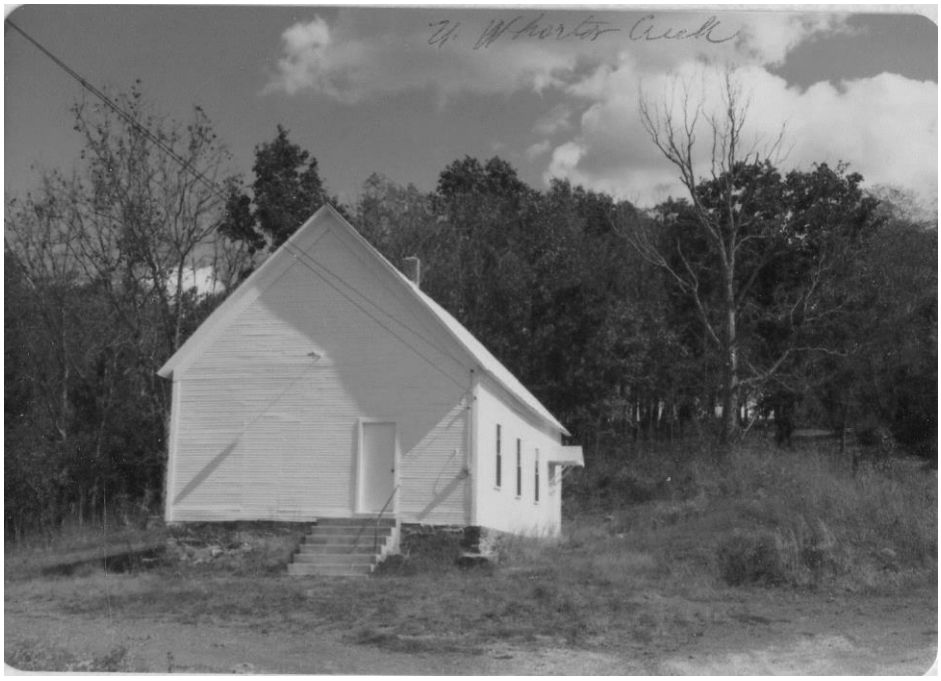
1909, Luther F. Taylor; 1910, Rosetta Yingst; 1911-1912, Harrison Steele; 1913, J. B. Hill; 1914, J. H. Steele; 1915, Sarah Steele; 1916, J. H. Steele; 1917, Harry Mullins; 1918, W. M. Goucher; 1919, O. L. Daily; 1920, Rhoe Slavens; 1921, H. L. Thompson; 1922, J. H. Steele; 1923-1924, Bruce Johnson; 1925, J. P. Reynolds; 1926, Walter Long; 1927, Vada Long; 1928, J. P. Reynolds; 1929, Vada Long; 1930, Dalton Dotson; 1931, J. M. Evans; 1932, Vay McConnell; 1933, Walter Long; 1934, Vada Long; 1935, Vay Bolinger; 1936, O. D. Easterling; 1937, Vay Bolinger; 1938-1938, Bonnie Bolinger; 1940-1941, Gladys Vanhook; 1942, Bonnie Bolinger; 1943, Clara Tassey; 1944-1945, Bonnie Bolinger; 1946-1948, Clara Tassey.

Members of the board of directors serving the district at various times from 1876-1930 were: G. W. Steele, Noah B. Dotson, William Johnson, Darius Johnson, Andrew Wheeler, Reuben L. Phillips, Reuben Bowman, J. A. Steele, William Frisby, Squire Burk, A. D. Bolinger, Homer Parsons, Alvin Ledbetter, J. F. Faddis, B. J. Roberts, O. B. Dotson, Bert Steele, J. N. Stancell, S. T. Easterling, and G. C. Frisby.[328]

[328] Records of School District Warrants, Madison Co unty Treasurer, Huntsville, Arkansas, 1890-1948.

In 1931, the district listed operation costs as $0, Instruction costs as $500 and general maintenance costs as $15. The needed tax assessment to produce the amount of money needed was 12 mills.

The school district was consolidated with the Huntsville school district on June 2, 1949. Although the district was consolidated, classes in grades one through six were held into the 1950's at the school.



Upper Whorton Creek School

Bohannan School District No. 6

The Bohannan school district was established on November 13, 1868. The district, like many of the school districts, underwent many boundary changes through the years

but basically occupied 4 square miles and was located on either side of the range line between Range 27 West and 26 West and on either side of the township line between Township 16 North and 17 North, approximately 4 miles west of Huntsville.

In the early 1880's, the Bohannan school was a one-room log structure with no windows and a puncheon floor. The school was in session only two months per year and the students studied mainly from Webster's Blue Back Speller, McGuffey's Reader, and a slate. Books were extremely scarce in those days and students and teachers used what resources they had.

Keith Sutton, who taught school at Bohannan from 1937-1940, remembered the schoolhouse as more than:

> . . . just a school; it was a community building, controlled by members of the school district, and was used for whatever purpose the residents chose to use it for. Sunday school and church were held there. Often we would hold literaries, spelling bees, Christmas programs, revivals and family gatherings.[329]

[329] Interview with Keith Sutton, retired teacher in Madison County, Huntsville, Arkansas, November, 1990.

Teachers at Bohannan school included: 1900-1901, Henry Thompson; 1902, John Bohannon; 1903, Henry Thompson; 1904, Richard Harper, J. E. Pierce; 1905, N. S. Cannon; 1906, H. M. Fritts; 1907, Walter Bohannon; 1908, Maggie Fitch; 1909, J. H. Bohannon; 1910-1911, J. R. Davis; 1912, C. H. Bohannon; 1913, J. R. Davis; 1914, Thelma Ghormsley; 1915, Annie Fritts; 1916, Viola McCoy; 1917, C. H. Bohannon, J. R. Davis; 1918, Albert Ledbetter; 1919, Bessie Cobb; 1920, J. R. Davis; 1921, John A. Crow; 1922, John R. Davis; 1923, Annabell Jackson; 1924, Polly Hubbard, Effie Boyd; 1925, Vada Long; 1926-1928, J. R. Davis; 1929, John A. Crow; 1930, Floyd Harrison; 1931, Newt Reynolds; 1932-1934, Lucy Ledbetter; 1935, Floyd Harrison; 1936, Mary Rice, Doris Sutton; 1937-1940, Keith Sutton; 1941-1944, Flora Hawkins; 1945-1948, Bessie Cornett.

The following persons were listed as directors during the years from 1879-1930: Elmer Yarbrough, Dan Richardson, A. J. Outland, Ben Davis, B. R. Lovit, Marion Bohannon, J. H. Bohannon, W. E. Laird, B. M. McMinn, W. M. Bohannon, W. M. Boyd, E. B. Reed, U. S. Patterson, M. C. Johnson, Charles Bohannon, Edd Rich, Arthur Shaw, W. S. Patterson, J. R. Davis, David Gaugh, Jim McCoy, Otto Bell, and Arthur Laird.[330]

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[330] Records of School District Warrants, Madison County Treasurer, Huntsville, Arkansas, 1890-1948.

Bohannan school district was annexed to the Huntsville school district on June 2, 1949. Like many of the schools which were consolidated at that time, an elementary school was maintained at Bohannon into the 1950's.

Baldwin School District No. 7

Located southeast of Saint Paul in Range 26 West and Township 13 North, the Baldwin school district was one of the original eleven school districts created on November 13, 1868. Composed of very rugged, mountainous terrain, the district contained approximately 12 square miles, bordering Franklin County to the south.

During the late 1870's, school was not held in the Baldwin district as was the case in many of the school

districts in Madison County. On May 12, 1883, David Williams, Russell Cardin, Morgan Witter, and 14 other local residents petitioned the county court to re-establish the district and set the boundaries.[331] The petition was granted by County Judge A. L. Thompson and the district would operate for the next sixty years.

On December 23, 1884, the community was outraged when a riot broke out at the school following a Christmas program. Apparently a man entered the school in an intoxicated state and began firing a pistol at random. No one was injured but considerable damage was done to the building by not only the gunman but by the fleeing participants and patrons.[332]

Teachers at the Baldwin school were: 1900-1902, C. R. Brightwell; 1902, J. A. James; 1903-1904, Ethel Gilliland, Harvey Combs; 1905-1906, Katie Allen; 1907, Millisa Morgan; 1908, Belle Anderson; 1909, Jesse Stewart; 1910, Joe Nickens; 1911, Dink Barber; 1912, Joe Nickens; 1913, Louie Robinson; 1914-1915, Bryon Shipley; 1916-1917, Fannie Robinson; 1918, Bessie Johnson; 1919-1920, Esther Bivens; 1921, Maggie Robinson; 1922, Bonnie Cowen; 1923, Maggie Robinson; 1924-1925, Curtis Swaim; 1926, Edward Buck; 1927, Mrs. Charles S. Cook; 1928, Lydia Long; 1929, Alpha

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[331] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. C, 1883, 435.

[332] *The Saint Paul Mountain Air*, Saint Paul, Arkansas, Vol. 6, No. 4, December 29, 1894, 3.

Williams; 1930, Bessie Cornett; 1932-1932, Alpha Williams; 1933, Shelly Cornett; 1934-1936, Lennie Swaim; 1937-1939, Walcie Tuttle; 1940, Ahniwake Davis; 1941, Era M. Ogden; 1942-1943, Leota Keck; 1944, Clifford Mears.

Baldwin School

Members of the board of directors who served between 1908 and 1935 were: Tom Langley, W. H. Nickens, Charles Little, John Gregory, W. H. Robinson, Sam Jones, T. J. Hubbard, Elmer Carlton, J. R. Jones, W. E. Sams, Sim Jones, W. M. Bayles, and W. W. Kendrick.[333] The Baldwin school district was annexed to the Saint Paul school district on December 19, 1944.

[333] Records of School District Warrants, Madison County Treasurer, Huntsville, Arkansas, 1890-1948.

Lone Star District No. 8

The Lone Star school district was created on November 13, 1868, although a school had existed for several years in the community. The original name and location of the school is not known. The land on which the present school building stands was donated by Jasper Cook in the early 1900's.[334] The patrons of the district asked Mr. Cook, who was part Cherokee Indian, to name the new school. He chose the name Lone Star. The school district was located approximately five miles north of Hindsville on state highway 45 north and encompassed approximately six square miles. The school building was a simple, rectangular wood-frame structure covered with clapboard, typical of early school construction of the late 1800's and early 1900's. The entrance to the building was marked by two doors with a large painted, five-pointed star between the two.

Teachers at Lone Star school included: 1900-1902, Lennie Johnson; 1902, Cora Salyer; 1903, J. R. Stotts; 1904, Ollie Berry; 1905, Pearl Sandlin; 1906, A. G. Garrison; 1907, Rose Dunaway; 1908, J. R. Stotts; 1909, Walter Samuels; 1910, Vard Ivie; 1911, H. M. Fritts; 1912, Lydia

[334] Sisk, op. cit., 73.

Skaggs; 1913, Walter Samuels; 1914, M. H. Baker; 1915-1917, Pearl Bowlin; 1918-1919, Maggie Cook; 1920, Pearl Bowlin; 1921, Gayle Johnson; 1922, D. B. Newton; 1923-1926, Pearl Bowlin; 1927, Iva Vaughan; 1928-1929, Willie McElhaney; 1930, Anna Phillips; 1931, Freda Hankins; 1932, Margaret Luck; 1933-1935, Clara Tassey; 1935-1937, W. E. Bland; 1938-1939, Frances Feldt; 1940-1943, Gladys Lynch; 1944, Hazel Koontz; 1945, Eula Todd.

Serving on the board of directors for the school were: T. E. Phillips, Ben Denney, Fletcher Warren, C. A. Hardie, R. O. Archer, E. M. Austin, J. W. Bowman, C. C. Dempsey, W. J. Bowlin, E. L. Denney, A.N. Sanders, C. C. Denney, and Arnie McGinney.[335] Lone Star district was consolidated with Huntsville district No. 1 on June 2, 1949.

Alabam District No. 9

One of the oldest school districts in the county and the only schoolhouse in the county listed on the National Registry of Historic Places, the Alabam school district also was created on November 13, 1869. Although the school district was officially created at that time in response to the school law of 1868, the U.S. census indicated that a

[335] Records of School District Warrants, Madison County Treasurer, Huntsville, Arkansas, 1890-1948.

school was in operation at Alabam on the site of the Alabam church as early as 1850.

The Alabam school was located on State Highway 127 in the community of Old Alabam, located between the two cemeteries which served the community. The building also served the community as a place to hold funerals and memorial services.

The community was founded and named by the Reverend Henry Ray, who was affectionately known as "Uncle Henry Ray" by the children and grandchildren of the early settlers.[336] Reverend Ray founded the Cumberland Presbyterian Church at Alabam in 1851 and he and Reverend John F. King, who was the first recorded teacher in Madison County, taught the early schools at Alabam. This early school was supported entirely by voluntary subscription and usually lasted two or three months.[337]

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[336] Theta Mu Epsilon, *A History of Alabam* (Huntsville, Arkansas, The Madison County Record), 1980, 3.

[337] Ibid.

Alabam school abt 2011

By the late 1870's and early 1880's, the Alabam school was growing rapidly with as many as 112 students in regular attendance.[338] The Denny family donated land to construct a new school and in 1878, a new school was constructed. The first teacher at the new school was Charlie Mitchell, a well-known teacher in Madison County. Probably one of the most popular and notorious teachers was John Denny, who taught several terms at Alabam before being convicted of horse thievery and sent to prison.[339] Mr. Denny lived in a cave northeast of Alabam near the crossroads at Cedar Bluff which still bears his name. He was remembered by the early

[338] Records of the Madison County Court House, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vols. A-Z, 1878-1948.

[339] Theta Mu Epsilon, *A History of Alabam*, op. cit., 20.

children of the school in that he always carried stick candy to give to those students who were good.

The school at Alabam, like most schools in the county, only operated three months per year or until the money was exhausted. Within walking distance of the school were two other school districts: the Lake school district and the Berry Branch (Elm Springs) school district. These school districts rarely operated at the same time and students could move from district to district after the term of one school had expired. All of these early schools were ungraded and students were advanced by books rather than grades.[340] If a student could not attend a term of school for some reason, they would simply pick up where they left off in their books from the last term they attended.

In 1912, Mr. E. U. Grubbs, president of the Alabam school board, and his father began the construction of a new school building. The building was a two-story structure, basically devoid of ornamentation, with a trapezoid roof. This building was built not only for educational purposes, but also housed the local masonic and oddfellow lodges. It also was used for Sunday worship services by various church

[340] Ibid.

Alabam School, 1913 – Charley Mitchell, Teacher
Front row: Marion Malone, Mrs. Henry (Nora) Montgomery; Kate Montgomery; Laura Berry; Ada Montgomery; Hildrige/Huldridge Grubbs; Audry Harwood; Steve Montgomery; Gavin Malone; Bessie Dishroom 2nd row: Elbridge Hatfield; Mrs. Tom (Myrtle) Montgomery; Mary Montgomery; Addie Montgomery; Ocie Dishroom; Charley Mitchell, teacher; Maggie Denney; Mabel Denney; Ara Morrison; Alma Berry 3rd row, (beginning in center of photo): Frankie Dishroom; Vera Morrison; Dorothy Harwood; Clara Montgomery; Mattie Montgomery; Delph Berry; Wayne Montgomery
(there one of the girls in this row who is not named here, but not sure which one)

4th row: James M. Denney; Tom Montgomery, holding daughter Lela Montgomery; Earn Montgomery; Melvin Montgomery; Wood Montgomery; Doyle Montgomery; Fred Montgomery; Mancil Morrison; Earl Denney; Wood Harwood; Rue Berry; Berry Denney; Hugh Montgomery

5th row: Ewell Morrison; Jack Harwood; Burse Montgomery; Roy Grubbs; Rushie Dishroom; Claude Montgomery; Den Montgomery

organizations. According to the National Registry of Historic Places, "The Alabam school . . . represents one of Arkansas' earliest community buildings. It is a significant

historical structure in its usage as an educational, fraternal and religious institution."[341]

Being situated between the two large cemeteries at Alabam, funerals were held quite often at the school. As telephones were not in abundance at the time, the teacher rarely knew when a funeral was to take place until the undertaker arrived with the deceased. Classes would continue with the casket at the front of the room until the family arrived. At that time, classes would cease and the children would sit quietly while the funeral was being conducted.[342]

Teachers at the Alabam school were: 1900-1901, Charlie Mitchell; 1902, M. H. Benson; 1903-1904, F. M. Patrick; 1905, D. B. Newton; 1906, Frank Patrick; 1907-1908, Ward Kendall; 1909, Cam Garrison; 1910, W. S. Page; 1911, Lela Montgomery; 1912, Maud Montgomery; 1913, Charlie Mitchell; 1914, Newt Reynolds; 1915, Fred Patrick; 1916, Nellie Newton; 1917, H. L. Thompson; 1918, Elmer Vaughn; 1919, Fannie Robinson; 1920-1921, D. B. Newton; 1922, Paul Watson, Ova Phillips; 1923, D. B. Newton; 1924, Vera Dotson; 1925, Elmer Vaughn; 1926, Cleo Hooper; 1927, Cleo Hooper Fowler; 1928, Blanche Montgomery, Frank W. Cannaday; 1929, Eula

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[341] Letter from Sandra Taylor, Arkansas Historical Preservation Program, Little Rock, Arkansas, March, 1978.

[342] Interview with Polly Hubbard Delk, retired teacher in Madison County, Huntsville, Arkansas, December, 1990.

McElhaney, Bessie Cornett; 1930-1931, Frank Cannaday; 1932, Frank Cannaday, Bulah Stroud; 1933, Jack Elzey, Bulah Stroud; 1934-1935, Howard Hankins, Freda Hankins; 1936, Hattie Phillips Walker, J. C. Ewing; 1937, Beatrice Cannaday, Katie Austin; 1938, Flossie Reeves, Donna Everett; 1939-1942, Polly Hubbard, Juanita Hubbard; 1943, Essie Barker, Juanita Hubbard Bailey; 1944-1947, Vada Long, Juanita Bailey; 1948, Margie Bailey.

The following persons were listed as serving on the board of directors between the years of 1877-1942: Campbell Montgomery, Jonas McChristian, L. P. Berry, S. T. Montgomery, J. M. Denny, Mat Grubbs, Berry Montgomery, Frank Polk, C. P. Berry, F. W. Patrick, Will King, H. L. Montgomery, A. J. Denny, E. E. Patrick, C. J. Wiggins, Riggs Yarbrough, Jim Owens, W. R. Hatfield, Brice Everett, Denver Smith, Carl Hatfield, Berry Denny, Riggs Yarbrough, Melvin Montgomery, and Burse Montgomery.[343]

The Alabam school district was consolidated with Huntsville district No. 1 on February 28, 1949. The Huntsville district operated a wing school at Alabam through the early 1950's at which time it was permanently closed.

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[343] Records of School District Warrants, Madison County Treasurer, Huntsville, Arkansas, 1890-1948.

Park Hill District No. 10

The Park Hill school district, known locally as "Seed Tick School," was located in the northwest section of the county in Range 27 West, Township 18 North, approximately two miles south of Clifty. The school district was created on November 3, 1868.

Park Hill 1943 aka Seed Tick School

Upon petition to the county court on October 28, 1904, the school district was dissolved due to the small number of students attending the school. The students were sent to Clifty and Lone Star.[344]

On October 15, 1912, a petition was submitted to County Judge V. S. Cannon to re-establish the school district with its former boundaries by R. G. Lane, William Lee, H. Bailey,

[344] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. I, 1904, 98.

W. F. Sanders, H. G. Vaughn, and Will Todd.[345] The petition was granted and Joseph Trott and Alvin Murdock were appointed as the directors until the annual school meeting.

Teachers at the school were: 1900-1901, H. L. Bunch; 1902-1903, William Robinson; 1904-1912, no school; 1913, Floyd Harrison; 1914-1916, Mable Phillips; 1917, Alma Stone; 1918, Ruth Hutchinson; 1919, Ethel Vaughn; 1920, Pauline Ruser; 1921, Mable Vaughn; 1922-1923, Thelma Vaughn; 1924, Syble Vaughn; 1925, Nelle Burns; 1926, Susie Bohannon; 1927-1932, Grace Knoles; 1933, Mrs. J. J. McCasland; 1934, Amy M. True; 1934, Willie Calico; 1935, Ada Vaughn; 1936, Willa Bohannon; 1937-1938, Merle Coger; 1939, Flossie Butts Reeves; 1940, Virginia Ledbetter; 1941-1941, Ralph James; 1943, Joye Hankins; 1944, Frances Feldt; 1945-1946, May Smith; 1947-1948, Mrs. Gordie Penny.

Serving on the board of directors for the school district between the years of 1879 and 1931 were: T. E. Bohannon, Peter Trott, George Moore Drain, Joseph Trott, Alvin Murdock, H. E. Cook, Loss Woods, W. C. Allen, Pete Trott, Grace Pitts, O. M. Patterfield, Speed Jones, and John Crumley.[346]

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[345] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. J, 1912, 413.

[346] Records of School District Warrants, Madison County Treasurer, Huntsville, Arkansas, 1930-1948.

One of the problems which had faced Park Hill school since its inception was lack of enrollment. By 1940, the school was facing the same problem once again. The enrollment figures for 1940 were 19, with an average daily attendance of 7; 1942, an enrollment of 22, with an average daily attendance of 15; 1944, an enrollment of 15, with an average daily attendance of 11; 1947, an enrollment of 18 with an average daily attendance of 16; 1949, an enrollment of 23 with an average daily attendance of 18.[347] On June 2, 1949, the district was consolidated with Huntsville district No. 1.

Jackson Creek District No. 11

According to some historians, the Jackson Creek area contained the earliest settlement in Madison County. The Jackson Creek school district was the last of the eleven original districts created on November 13, 1868. The district was basically located in the center of Range 26 West, Township 15 North and contained approximately seven square miles.

In 1875, a furor was raised when it appeared the school district did not have enough money to start its new term. The problem was solved when County Judge F. M. Sams discovered that the county superintendent did not know that a

[347] Arkansas School Record Book and Register, School District No. 10, Madison County, Arkansas, 1930-1948.

school was being held at Jackson Creek and had not given the school any apportionment from the common school fund. Judge Sams immediately transferred $97.00 to the district and a full three-month term was held.[348]

On April 16, 1891, County Judge R. L. Johnson ordered part of the Jackson Creek school district given to create a new district to the south.[349]

Teacher Gwendolyn Ledbetter and Jackson Creek students in 1941

Teachers at the Jackson Creek school were: 1900-1901, Monroe Neal; 1902, Cluck Wiley; 1903-1905, Amy E. Teague;

[348] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. C, 1875, 75.

[349] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. E, 1891, 308.

1906-1909, H. B. Mitchell; 1910, J. W. Oliver; 1911, Everett Spurlock;1912, B. Mitchell; 1913, J. S. Jamison; 1914, Carlie Bohannon; 1915-1916, J. S. Jamison; 1917, Will Stanberry; 1918, Everett Tassey; 1919, J. W. Stanberry; 1920, S. B. Mitchell; 1921, Clyde Mix; 1922, S. B. Mitchell; 1923, Clyde Mix; 1924-1926, Bradah Hays; 1927, Vada Dotson; 1928-1929, Beatrice Jackson; 1930, S. B. Mitchell; 1931-1934, Amo Harris; 1935, Callie Gray; 1936, E. G. Ledbetter; 1937-1939, Mary Mix; 1940, Ewell Parson; 1941-1942, Gwendolyn Ledbetter; 1943-1944, Vada Reeves.

Persons serving on the board of directors from 1900-1930 were: Clyde Mix, Will Ledbetter, H. B. Mitchell, T. B. Mitchell, L. C. Ledbetter, W. S. Pennington, J. K. Mitchell, Boyd Mitchell, W. L. Ball, W. F. Canes, S. B. Mitchell, C. S. Scott, G. M. Jamison, C. D. Rogers, J. H. Mitchell, and Al Guinn.[350] The Jackson Creek school district was consolidated with the Huntsville school district on April 29, 1944.

Oak Grove District No. 12

The Oak Grove school district was created on December 11, 1868, by order of the county court. The school district was located in Range 26 West, Township 16 North, approximately 2 miles west of Huntsville. The school

[350] Records of School District Warrants, Madison County Treasurer, Huntsville, Arkansas, 1930-1948.

district struggled for the first several years and by 1875, the district was dissolved.[351]

Oak Grove School (date unknown)

In April of 1884, a petition of 13 citizens was presented to County Judge A. L. Thompson requesting that the Oak Grove district be reinstated to its former boundaries. The petition was granted and J. J. Mays, James Officer, and A. Parks were appointed to the board of directors.[352]

Mrs. Reba Louge, who taught school at Oak Grove from 1935-1944 and who was the last instructor to teach at Oak Grove, remembers the day-to-day operations, frustrations, and joy in teaching in an eight-grade, one-room school. A copy of her lesson plan from 1935 demonstrates clearly the

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[351] Ibid.

[352] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. C, 1875, 594.

shortcomings and amount of instruction required to teach in a one-room, eight-grade school.[353]

Reba Louge with Oak Grove students in 1941

Daily Program for the Last Two and One-Half Months

Opening Exercises	8:00- 8:05
Primer and First Reader	8:05- 8:18
Second Reader	8:18- 8:31
Third Grade Reading	8:31- 8:44
Arithmetic "A"	8:44- 9:00
Arithmetic "B and C"	9:00- 9:15
Arithmetic "D"	9:15- 9:30
Arithmetic :E"	9:30- 9:40
Number Class	9:40- 9:50
Algebra	9:50-10:05
Recess	10:05 10:15
Primer and First Reader	10:15-10:25
Arkansas History	10:25-10:40
English 3rd and 4th	10:40-10:50
English 5th	10:50-11:02
English 7th and 8th	11:02-11:17

[353] Interview with Reba Louge, retired teacher in Madison County, Huntsville, Arkansas, December, 1990.

English 6th	11:17-11:32
Agri on Tues., Thurs., and Fri.	
Reading 8th on Mon. and Wed.	11:32-11:50
Spelling 2nd-5th Grades	11:50-12:00
Lunch/Noon Hour	12:00- 1:00
Primer and First Reader	1:00- 1:10
Second Reader	1:10- 1:22
Third Grade Reader	1:22- 1:32
Fourth Grade Reading	1:32- 1:42
Fifth Grade Reading	1:42- 1:52
Sixth Grade Reading	1:52- 2:07
History 7th and 8th	2:07- 2:22
History 5th and 6th	2:22- 2:35
Civics	2:35- 2:45
Recess	2:45- 3:00
Primer and First Reader	3:00- 3:10
Geography 7th	3:10- 3:22
Hygiene 5th	3:22- 3:32
Hygiene 6th	3:32- 3:42
Geography 7th and 8th Review	3:42- 3:50
Geography 6th	3:50- 3:58
Geography 4th and 5th	3:58- 4:06
Spelling 2nd-8th Grades	4:06- 4:15

Mrs. Louge remembered the long, exhausting days of teaching such a wide curriculum. If the lessons could not be completed in the allotted time, the school day was simply extended by fifteen or thirty minutes. In order to achieve the level of learning that was required, it was imperative that students be on their very best behavior. Talking or whispering was not tolerated. In fact, the teacher was judged mainly by the board on how well he/she maintained order in the school. When visitors came to the school, absolute silence was to be maintained at all times. Even accidentally knocking an article off of the desk onto the floor was considered a disciplinary infraction.

Books for the school were furnished by the county examiner's office and a strict inventory was to be kept at all times. If a student lost his/her book, this was considered a major problem. Mrs. Louge remembered once when a young boy lost his paperback spelling book. A thorough search was made in and about the school for the lost book. If it was not found, the county examiner would have to be notified of the shortage and the young man would be expected to appear before him. Mrs. Louge and the young man traced his path which he took from home to the school. It was determined that the young man had dropped his book in the pasture and evidence lead them to believe that the cows had chewed the book up. When Mr. Frank Cannaday, county supervisor, was informed of the unfortunate incident, he peered over his glasses at Mrs. Louge and said, "Bring me the cow." Even the dreaded supervisor was not without compassion and understanding.

Oak Grove school, not unlike the other rural schools of the county, was the center of community activity. If the school term lasted into the Christmas season, the Christmas program at the school was the highlight of the year. Students would work very hard on learning individual "pieces" as they were referred to as well as small skits and plays. Once even the president of the school board participated. Long before the students and their families

arrived, the school board president, dressed in his Santa Claus suit, climbed the ladder which lead to the attic and bell tower and sat in the attic during the program. When the children began to sing, "Up on the Housetop," he would make the click, click, click noises with the song. Soon, no one was singing and Santa made his way down the ladder into the school. As Mrs. Louge stated, ". . . Now how could anyone not believe in Santa after that."

Teachers at the Oak Grove school were: 1902, Ammon Harrison; 1904, Richard Harper; 1905, Cora Harrison; 1906, Charles Bohannon; 1907-1908, J. A. Watson; 1908, Zula Guinn; 1909-1910, No school; 1911, Clyde Patterson; 1912, Ruth Rainey; 1913, Guy Ledbetter; 1914, W. R. Rice; 1915, Bessie Boatright; 1916, Margie Wheeler; 1917-1918, Viola McCoy; 1919, Fannie Fritts; 1920, Anna Barnes; 1921, J. C. Boatright; 1922, Iva Crow; 1923, Sylvia Jackson; 1924-1925, Newt Reynolds, Harold Nelson; 1926, Elmer Vaughn; 1927-1930, Lela McBroom; 1931-1933, Elmer Vaughn; 1934, Clint Bohannon; 1935-1944, Reba Louge.

The following persons were listed as directors during the years from 1884-1930: J. J. Mays, James Officer, A. Parks, Ralph Cannaday, Abb Whitely, Hiram Langston, Dean Sutton, Helen Fifer, James Babcock, H. D. Barnes, Charles King, Will Smith, B. Wheeler, G. W. Pritchard, T. M. Hawkins, W. S. Patterson, J. W. Minam, Milton Lawson, W. T.

D. Johnson, C. M. Rhodes, Bill Johnson, Adry Gaskill, Jim Bolinger, L. W. Minor, and Felix Long.[354]

At the end of the school term in 1944, four of the remaining twelve students graduated from the eighth grade. Being within two miles of Huntsville, the board of directors voted to close the school. The school district was consolidated with Huntsville on May 27, 1944.

Witter School District No. 13

The Witter school district was created on December 11, 1868. The school district was situated around the community of Witter which is located midway between Huntsville and Saint Paul on Highway 23 south. The school was originally located on the west side of War Eagle Creek but was moved in 1932 on the site of the Witter cemetery.[355] Like many of the school buildings in the county, the building served as both church and school.

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[354] Records of School District Warrants, Madison County, Huntsville, Arkansas, 1890-1948.

[355] Interview with Hoy Haught, Postmaster at Witter, Madison County, Arkansas, April, 1989.

Witter School 1906

Teachers at the Witter school were: 1900-1901, J. N. Carlock; 1902-1903, D. B. Roberts; 1904, Vista McNew; 1905-1907, C. L. McElhaney; 1908, Charles Bohannon; 1909, Charles McElhaney; 1910, A. P. Barker; 1911, S. B. Mitchell; 1912, Javan Hill; 1913, S. B. Mitchell; 1914-1915, Ed Mize; 1916, Virgil Farmer; 1917-1918, Canda Pharris; 1919, Ruby Hill; 1920-1921, J. P. Reynolds; 1922, Theodore Sutton; 1923, Loyd Cornett; 1924, Fred Mix; 1925-1926, Arthur Mullins; 1927, Theodore Sutton; 1928, Vada Long; 1929, Lydia Long; 1930, Newt Reynolds; 1931-1932, Clara Hooper; 1933-1935, Homer Barker; 1936, Veron Stenzel; 1937, Homer Barker; 1938-1940, Veda Tassey; 1941-1942, Clara Tassey; 1943-1945, Willia Paker.

C. L McElhaney teacher, 1906

Persons listed as serving on the board of directors from 1900-1938 were: H. L. Pharris, J. A. Minache, Kige Keck, G. L. Shepherd, G. L. McAdoo, L. C. Harvey, J. R. Rose, J. W. McElhaney, Jackson Seals, W. H. Smith, Charles McElhaney, Wade McElhaney, W. H. Collins, G. W. R. Hooper, I. H. Haught, and A. L. Reeves.[356] The school district was consolidated with Huntsville on June 2, 1949.

[356] Records of School District Warrants, Madison County, Huntsville, Arkansas, 1890-1948.

Aurora School District No. 14

The Aurora school district, located approximately seven miles south of Huntsville on Highway 23 south, was created on November 11, 1868. The school district encompassed approximately seven square miles with War Eagle Creek running through the center of the district.

The original site of Aurora was west of War Eagle Creek but on April 13, 1945, a tornado struck the area and the entire community of Aurora was destroyed.[357] A new school was quickly constructed on a hill located on the east side of the creek. This building would serve the community into the 1950's. Aurora School District #14 had several different school buildings.

Aurora School Building #1 – This appears to have been a log building, circa 1870. It was used for both school and Church services, and caught fire around 1930 during a revival meeting. One of the lanterns near the back of the building caught the wall on fire and the door was close to being blocked by the blaze. In a short notice published in *The Madison County Record*, 11 September 1930 issue: "Carpenters erecting the new school building at Aurora think they will have it finished by October 1st.

[357] Interview with O. D. Easterling, retired teacher in Madison County, Huntsville, Arkansas, January, 1991.

Aurora School c 1930

Aurora School Building #2 – This frame building completed in October, 1930. It was destroyed in 1942 when the "first" tornado hit Aurora.

Aurora School Building #3 – After the 1942 tornado, another frame school building was built. The school and town were hit by a second and more devastating tornado in April 1945. This tornado traveled across Madison County from near Combs to Aurora then onto Marble. The school building was again destroyed along with the few remaining businesses still open at Aurora.

Aurora School Building #4 – In the 1930's the main road between Huntsville and St. Paul (now known as Highway 23) was moved from the west side of War Eagle to the east side. Once the highway was relocated and bypassed Aurora, most of the businesses closed. After the tornado of April 1945, the school was re-built on the east side of the river. This rock building was originally a two-room building, with a smaller room added on several years later.

Teachers at the Aurora school district were: 1901, J. G. Hunt; 1 McElhaney; 1910, O. L. Daily; 1911, Ethel Sisemore, J. S. Jamison; 1912, Ethel Sisemore, Chester Hocks; 1913, J. C. Hacker; 1914, Clay McBroom; 1915, Robbie Spurlock; 1916-1918, J. Chester Hacker; 1919, S. B. Mitchell; 1920-1921, J. Chester Hacker; 1922, Walter Long; 1923, J. C. Hacker; 1924, Walter Long; 1925, Floyd Harrison; 1926, J. A. Gage; 1927,

Walter Long; 1928-1929, Lloyd Mix; 1930, O. W. Basham, Walter Long; 1931-1932, Beatrice Jackson; 1933-1935, Gwendolyn Hacker, Freda Hankins; 1936, Clara Tassey; 1937, J. C. Hacker; 1938, E. G. Ledbetter; 1939, Miada Jackson; 1940, Lydia Long; 1941-1942, O. D. Easterling; 1943-1944, E. G. Ledbetter; 1944-1948, Vada Long.

Members of the board of directors of the school from 1876-1938 were: B. B. Cluck, John Upton, O. K. Posey, J. H. Guinn, Monroe Cluck, John Parker, J. H. Spurgeon, Lee McElhaney, Wiley Lehuck, J. R. Wheeler, J. R. Stroud, Charles McElhaney, James Parker, Walter Long, J. Tucker; G. S. Miller, Everett Spurlock, R. B. Tassey, P. M. Cluck, J. C. Hacker, W. L. Hays, J. C. W. Whelchel, Clarence Stroud, Hugh Stroud, Olen Jackson, and Clint Seals.[358] The school was consolidated with Huntsville on June 2, 1949. A wing school was operated at Aurora through the mid 1960's before the school was permanently closed.

The school was consolidated with Huntsville on June 2, 1949. A wing school was operated at Aurora through the 1960's before the school was permanently closed in 1967 or 1968.

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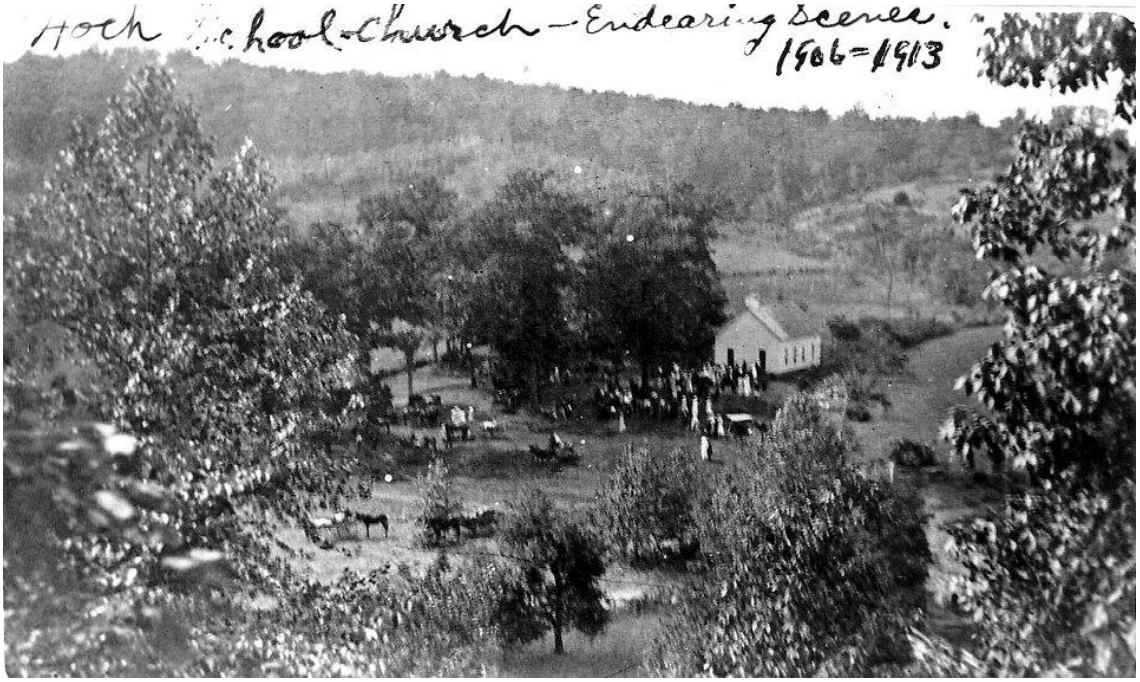
[358] Records of School District Warrants, Madison County Treasurer, Huntsville, Arkansas, 1930-1948.

Hocks Creek District No. 15

The Hocks Creek school district was created on January 4, 1869, by order of County Judge G. W. Vaughn. The school district was located midway between Huntsville and Wesley and was named for the creek which ran close to the schoolhouse. Probably one of the most often misspelled names among the school districts of Madison County, Hocks Creek is often referred to or identified as Hawks Creek or Hacks Creek.



Teachers at the Hocks Creek school were: 1901, Noah Harrison; 1902, W. T. Hinch; 1903, Noah Harrison; 1904-1905, Monroe Neal; 1906, U. S. Cannon; 1907, No school; 1908, Sherman Clark; 1909, Walter Bohannon; 1910, Sherman

Sisemore; 1911, Rose Harrison; 1912, Idyl Dutton; 1913, Joyce Sutton; 1914, Guy Ledbetter; 1915-1916, John R. Davis; 1917, Mary Miller; 1918-1919, Ivie Wheeler; 1920, Effie Boyd; 1921, Sherman Clark; 1922, John A. Crow; 1923, Virgie Bell; 1924-1925, Easie Stroud; 1926, John F. Gaines; 1927, Troy Ledbetter; 1928, John A. Crow; 1929, Troy Ledbetter; 1930, Floyd Calico; 1931, Troy Ledbetter; 1932-1935, Floyd Calico; 1936-1937, Esther Neal; 1938, Helen Garrett; 1939, Ida McCall; 1940, Vada Long; 1941, Augusta Coger; 1942, Mable Stout; 1943, Bessie Cornett; 1944-1945, Edith Howard; 1946-1947, Reba Lawson; 1948, Florence Barker.

Persons listed as serving on the board of directors from 1900-1930 were: Jason Clark, Claude Hunt, Carter Lawson, J. C. Stanfield, J. S. Dorsey, G. C. Lawson, J. R. Brooks, P. S. Scott, Will Ledbetter, Charles Dorsey, A. F. Harrison, C. B. Darrey, and William Gains.[359] The school was consolidated with Huntsville on June 2, 1949.

Purdy School District No. 16

The Purdy school district was created on January 4, 1869. It was located in Range 24 West, Township 17 North with the schoolhouse being located in Section 21. The school district occupied approximately five square miles between the upper and lower campground school districts.

[359] Ibid.

The school census enumerated 65 students in the Purdy school district in 1878 with a distribution from the common school fund of $68.34. By 1886, the enumeration had risen to 79 but decreased in 1892 to 60 students.

During the 1930's, the average enrollment of the school was 39 students with a high enrollment of 49 in 1935. The average daily attendance during the period was 30.[360]

Teachers at the Purdy school were: 1900-1902, W. F. Morris; 1903, Carroll Hudson; 1904-1905, J. P. Reynolds; 1906, Charlie Mitchell; 1907, Carroll Hudson; 1908, C. D. Garrison; 1909, Charlie Mitchell; 1910, R. E. Mitchell; 1911, O. D. Montgomery; 1912, W. F. Boydston; 1913, J. P.

[360] Arkansas School Record Book and Register, School District No. 16, Madison County, Arkansas, 1930-1942.

Reynolds; 1914-1915, Pearl Parker; 1916-1917, Lester Cline, Wassie Smith; 1918, Lester Cline; 1919, J. M. Greene; 1920, S. A. Holt; 1921, Kate Fancher; 1922, J. H. Mullins; 1923, Grace Wiggins; 1924, J. P. Reynolds; 1925, Myrtle Hawkins; 1926, Lorin Brandenburg, Afton Wheeler; 1927, Arthur Mullins; 1928, T. C. Wiggins; 1929, Clara Hooper; 1930, Clarence Stamps; 1931, John Bunch; 1932-1933, Hazel Whitely; 1934, Mary Wist; 1935, Merle Coger; 1936, Gladys Garrett; 1937-1939, Clarence Stamps; 1940, Mrs. Afton Wheeler; 1941-1942, F. C. Terry; 1943-1944, Freelan Sugg.

Serving on the board of directors from 1892-1830 were: N. C. Drake, A. P. Spradling, W. B. Snow, W. E. Spradling, r. J. Mitchell, Bert Snow, Jesse Burk, C. H. Taylor, Lark Spork, Jess Moore, Thomas Wall, J. M. Sparks, and George Smith.[361] The district was consolidated with Kingston on February 28, 1949.

Buckeye District No. 17

The Buckeye school district was created on January 4, 1869, and was located on Highway 295 between Whitener and Wesley in western Madison County. Schools had been held in the area as early as the 1850's. The first schoolhouse at Buckeye was a primitive log structure, built by pioneers

[361] Records of School District Warrants, Madison County Treasurer, Huntsville, Arkansas, 1890-1948.

while James Buchanan was president.[362] In an article written by William Herschel Hughes for the *Arkansas Democrat* in 1962, Hughes wrote:

> Buckeye had long been neither better nor worse than 100 other one-room schools in Madison County. No school was graded and each district adopted its own textbooks, often decades out of date. One might be well advanced in reading and know little or nothing about arithmetic. The pupil might name all the capitols of all the countries in the world and give a hundred dates in U.S. history, but know little about either subject.[363]

> A majority of the teachers in these one-room schools did not even have high school training, and some teachers had barely completed the seventh grade. But by rare fortune, the Buckeye teacher, Jesse Bird, was a graduate of Transylvania College, and except for the interlude of the Civil War, had taught in Kentucky and Tennessee until he moved to Arkansas in 1885. He bought a small farm in the district and grew fruits and flowers. He was a great teacher and encouraged us to read the impressive literature of the world. He often forgot the routine of class pressure, and talked about the historic campaigns and magnetic leaders he had known. As if by magic, the years fell from him and together, we lived those epochal events of the fateful '60's.[364]

A teacher's contract dated December 31, 1932, was found in the attendance registers of the Buckeye district. The

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[362] Sisk, op. cit., 120.

[363] *Arkansas Democrat Sunday Magazine* (Little Rock: Democrat Publishing Company), December 9, 1962.

[364] Ibid.

board of directors contracted Norma Ruth Neal for $40.00 per month for a term which was to commence on July 10th, 1933, and continue as long as money was available. Furthermore, the contract stipulated that the teacher was to keep carefully the register required by law and to make such reports to the county superintendent as required; preserve from injury to the utmost of her power the district property; give said school her entire time and best efforts

c. 1903

during the school hours and to use her utmost influence with parents to secure a full attendance of scholars . . . to the best of her ability.

Teachers at Buckeye school were: 1900-1901, J. A. Carlock; 1902, Noah Harrison; 1903, Ethel Bedingfield; 1904,

Kelley Phillips; 1905, W. A. Ellis; 1906, O. E. Phillips; 1907-1908, Ova Lane; 1909, J. N. Phillips; 1910, Nellie Houst; 1911, J. N. Phillips; 1912, J. R. Davis; 1913, Clyde Patterson; 1914-1915, E. G. Mason; 1916-1917, Blanche Proctor, E. G. Mason; 1918-1919, John Morris; 1920, Harvey Johnson; 1921, P. C. Watson; 1922, Charlie Sylvis; 1923, Cleo Johnson; 1924, Hazel Walker; 1925-1926, Clara Montgomery; 1928,Ezra Drake; 1929, Clara Montgomery; 1930, Harry Phillips; 1931-1932, Emele Calwell; 1933, Ruth Neal; 1934, Madeline Cate; 1935-1936, Alyne Berry; 1937-1938, Lydia Long; 1939-1940, Virginia Bedingfield; 1941, Helen Kleine; 1942, Virginia Bedingfield; 1943, Mrs. Albert Berry; 1944, Mrs. Nolan Parker; 1945-1948, Nona Berry.

Buckeye School, c. 1930

Persons who served as directors of the school from 1877-1930 were: D. D. Phillips, Woodsen Blake, Washington

Evans, Auety Vaughn, Shade Mitchell, T. C. Eubanks, H. H. Fitch, F. H. Williams, J. N. Phillips, Lee Delk, W. J. Drake, N. L. Williams, A. W. Gibbs, Thad Mitchell, Marion Roberts, John Mitchell, C. H. Bragg, W. E. Burnett, John Morris, W. C. Everett, N. L. Williams, Claude Titsworth, J. L. Eubanks, and John Campbell.[365] The school was consolidated with the Huntsville district on June 2, 1949. The final enrollment of the school was 26 in grades one through eight with an average daily attendance of 18.

California School District No. 18

The California school district was created by the county court on January 4, 1869. The district was located approximately 2 miles north of Clifty and encompassed approximately three square miles, being one of the smallest in the county.

The school building was a white, wood-frame structure with a prominent bell tower on the apex of the roof and was located on highway 127, approximately one mile from the junction with highway 12. The building was surrounded by a large parcel of flat land and provided a large play area for the students.

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[365] Records of School District Warrants, Madison County Treasurer, Huntsville, Arkansas, 1890-1948.

In 1875, a 5-mill tax was levied by the county court to support the district.[366] The tax, extremely large for that period, was in no doubt due to the small area the school district occupied. In 1907, a boundary dispute was heard by the county judge between the California school district and the neighboring West Liberty district. The property in question would have made the district boundary into a rectangle but the judge found in favor of the West Liberty district.[367]

Teachers at the California school were: 1901-1904, Edward Todd; 1905-1906, Nora Oliver; 1907, Alvin Ellis;

[366] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. C, 1875, 71.

[367] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. I, 1907, 418.

1908, J. B. Goddard; 1909, Maggie Fitch; 1910-1911, Gula Ivie; 1912, Katie Southerland; 1913, Gula Ivie; 1914, Grace Oliver; 1915, Eula Todd; 1916, Fannie Fritts; 1917, J. W. Philips, Pearl Nelson; 1918, Edward Todd; 1919, Ester Mason; 1920, Maggie Cook; 1921, Anna True; 1922, Harold Teague; 1923, Robert E. Arnold; 1924, Mrs. C. E. Brown; 1925, Clarence Houston; 1926, Clara Vaughn; 1927, Howard Hankins; 1928, Freda Hankins; 1929, Arla Wheeler; 1930, Pearl Holland; 1931, Howard Newton; 1932, Ralph James; 1933-1936, Zula Calico; 1937-1939, Eula Todd; 1940, Jeff Hanes; 1941-1945, Eula Todd.

Persons listed as serving on the board of directors from 1900-1930 were: M. F. Evans, Ben Brown, J. R. Ray, E. S. Evans, A. J. Todd, T. B. Brown, Ettis Obenshain, and A. F. Stafford.[368] The school was consolidated with the Huntsville district on June 2, 1949.

Whitener District No. 19

The Whitener school district was created on January 4, 1869. The district was located in Range 28 West, Township 17 North, approximately 2 miles west of Hindsville, and about 1 mile east of the Washington county line.

[368] Records of School District Warrants, Madison County Treasurer, Huntsville, Arkansas, 1890-1948.

The school building was quite modern by conventional standards in that the two doors which lead into the school had transoms and were somewhat ornamental with beveled centers. The area between the doors also contained the same ornamental beveling found on the doors. The school also had a rock and concrete porch and steps.

According to Mrs. Polly Hubbard Delk, who taught at Whitener in the 1930's, teacher's contributed greatly to the development of moral and ethical concepts as well as to the spiritual development of the students. The process varied from teacher to teacher but usually included the pledge of allegiance, reading a short passage from the Bible and sometimes a prayer, either verbal or silent, for the day. Teachers always served as "role models" and exercised great influence on the developing intellects of their students. Discipline, not usually a serious problem, usually meant standing in a corner or staying after school. Corporal punishment was used when necessary but was not required all that often. There was a tacit understanding on the part of most students that if they received a "whipping" at school, they would receive a more harsh chastisement on arrival at home. The parental support of the teacher helped greatly in controlling behavioral problems.[369]

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[369] Interview with Polly Hubbard Delk, retired teacher in Madison County, Huntsville, Arkansas, December, 1990.

Even though music teachers were not common to the Madison County schools, at times music teachers would come to the area and conduct what was commonly referred to as a "singing school." Professor J. N. Hamby conducted these singing schools in various parts of the county. Students would pay a small subscription fee to attend these schools. One such school was conducted at Whitener in 1909. Religious and patriotic songs were mainly taught and church hymnals were used as the main instructional source.[370]

c. 1907

[370] "Madison County Musings," The Madison County Historical Society, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. 5, No. 3, 1986, 15-16.

Teachers at Whitener school were: 1900-1902, Richard Ray; 1902-1903, J. R. Stotts; 1904, W. H. Hughes; 1905, S. P. Williams; 1906, Vard Ivie; 1907, S. B. Goodard, Monroe Fritts; 1908, Vard Ivie; 1909, R. A. Ellis; 1910, W. N. Bohannon; 1911-1912, Donald Ledbetter; 1913, Roscoe Harrison, Otto Phillips; 1914, Elise Foust, Theodore Roller; 1915-1916, Troy Clark; 1917, Rob Mason, L. Flemming; 1918, Opal Frost, Ralph Sutton; 1919, G. F. Fitch, Nelle Newton; 1920, Onie Fitch; 1921, Nona Berry; 1922, Mary Berry; 1923, Lilburn Thompson; 1924-1925, H. L. Thompson; 1926, Anel Jackson; 1927, A. H. Berry; 1928, Elsie Hawkins; 1929-1932, Anna Rice; 1932-1934, Doris McConnell; 1935-1936, Polly Hubbard; 1937-1938, Mrs. Curtis Berry; 1939-1940, Cleo Johnson; 1942-1942, Leona Davis; 1943-1944-1946, Stella Shipley; 1947, Olena Shipley; 1948, Stella Shipley.

Members of the board of directors from 1900-1930 were: Jerry Phillips, Calvin Savage, A. J. Harris, V. T. Vaughn, Henry Mayfield, Herbert Proctor, A. D. Towers, Charles Bryant, Elmer Vaughn, Claude Linebarger, Cal Burnett, I.T. Vaughan, and C. F. Fitch.[371]

From 1930 through 1947, the enrollment at Whitener began to steadily decline. Selected enrollments during the period were: 1933, 11 boys, 10 girls; 1937, 10 boys, 13

[371] Records of School District Warrants, Madison County Treasurer, Huntsville, Arkansas, 1890-1948.

girls; 1940, 9 boys, 9 girls; 1947, 5 boys, 4 girls.[372] On June 2, 1949, the school district was consolidated with the Huntsville No. 1 district.

Harmony District No. 20

The Harmony school district was created on January 4, 1869. The district was located approximately 2 miles northeast of Huntsville on U.S. Highway 412.

One of the early schools operating near the site of the Harmony school about 1890 was the Cox school.[373] This building served as both school and church. The seats were split logs with legs and there were no desks. The only window in the school was a ten-foot log which could be removed and put back when it rained. The building was heated by a fireplace located at one end of the room. About 1900, a new school at Harmony was constructed. The building was made of sawed timber, had windows and the benches had back supports. Most of the students transferred to the new school and classes ceased at the Cox school.

During the 1930's and early 1940's, enrollment at Harmony school consistently ran about 20 students. After

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[372] Arkansas School Record Book and Register, School District No. 19, Madison County, Arkansas, 1930-1947.

[373] Interview with Bill Baker as told to Virginia Threet, Huntsville, Arkansas, 1960.

the mass consolidation of many of the county schools in 1949, enrollment doubled at the school. According to Ercell Jones, this was due in part to the closing of many of the schools and students were forced to find another school as close as possible.[374]

Front Row: Donna Ruth Cain, Johny Reed, Dewey Logue, Dixie REED Jones, Johnnie LAUGHTER Brown, Leroy Thompson

2nd. Row:
Eugene King, Wilma THOMPSON Ledbetter,Dean Armes, Betty THOMPSON Ledbetter, Jr. Gabbard, Davis boy, Mary Ellen Smith, Teacher-Herman Skaggs

3rd. Row:
Cleburn Armes, Eual Thompson, Clifford Logue, Ruel Thompson, Jerry Fritts

Teachers at the school were: 1900, F. W. Patrick; 1901, D. B. Newton; 1902, Minnie Denney; 1903, Safronia Swift; 1904, J. T. Whitely; 1905, F. W. Patrick; 1906, Edith Phillips,

[374] Interview with Ercell Jones, retired teacher in Madison County, Huntsville, Arkansas, June, 1987.

1907, F. W. Patrick; 1908, Ethel Ivie; 1909, Elmer Vaughn; 1910, Norma Boatright; 1911, Elmer Vaughn; 1912, Lydia Harvey; 1913, Ona Salsman; 1914, W. A. Phillips; 1915, Elmer Vaughn; 1916, Mable Littrell; 1917-1918, Fannie Fritts; 1919, Mary L. Phillips; 1920, J. C. Boatright; 1921, Mary Phillips; 1922, Dexter Harris; 1923, Elmer Vaughn; 1924, Gladys Anderson; 1925, Dean Dotson; 1926, Vada Dotson; 1927, Frank Cannaday; 1928, Pearl Newman; 1929, Ercell Jones; 1930-1932, Hattie Phillips; 1933-1934, Flossie Butts; 1935, Flora Hawkins; 1936, Katie Austin; 1937, ; 1938, Herman Skaggs; 1939, Mildred McCall; 1940, Herman Skaggs; 1941, Essie Barker; 1942, Katherine Sutton; 1943-1948, Ercell Jones.

Persons listed as serving on the board of directors from 1900-1930 were: Ben Vaughn, Jim Cain, Jim Phillips, A. J. Grimes, M. J. Phillips, B. F. Burkett, H. L. Montgomery, Tom Smith, Jewell Smith, Flora Dillahunty, Ester Stroud, Earl Stroud, Bert Vaughn, and Will Dillahunty.[375] The school was consolidated with Huntsville on June 2, 1949.

Duncan District No. 21

Located about three miles south of Draketown just off Highway 295 in Range 27 West, Township 15 North, the Duncan school district was officially created on January 4, 1869.

[375] Records of School District Warrants, Madison County Treasurer, Huntsville, Arkansas, 1890-1948.

As early as 1900, the school enrolled fifty to seventy students each year. The school district was very popular with teachers in the county as it boasted two rooms and two teachers in 1926.[376]

Teachers at the Duncan school were: 1901, Amos Harrison; 1902-1903; U. S. Cannon; 1904, Monroe Drake; 1905, Monroe Neal; 1906, G. W. Cannon; 1907, Zella Miller; 1908-1909, Stella Ellis; 1910, Arnold Ledbetter; 1911, Monroe Neal; 1912, Sherman Sisemore; 1913, Floyd Harrison; 1914, Elora Duncan; 1915, Olen Haney; 1916, Ray Hanson; 1917, Thomas Wheeler; 1918, Earl Wheeler; 1919-1920, Floyd Calico; 1921-1922, Virgie Bell; 1923, John A. Crow; 1924-1925, B. F. Johnson; 1926-1928, Olen Garrett, B. F. Johnson; 1929, Olen Garrett, Annabel Jackson, Clara Brooks; 1930, Annabel Jackson, Mrs. Cleo Jackson, Clara Brooks; 1931, Annabel Jackson; 1932-1933, Gladys Garrett, Wayne Roberts; 1934, Gladys Garrett, Wayne Roberts, Elbert Mitchell; 1935-1936, Elbert Mitchell; 1937, E. G. Mason; 1938-1940, Floyd Calico; 1941-1942, Esther Neal; 1943, Floy Sisemore; 1944-1945, Mabel Stout; 1946-1947, J. D. Haynes; 1948, Max Mitchell.

Persons listed as serving on the board of directors from 1900-1930 were: A. J. Garrett, Smith Pennington, R. H. Garrett, D. Garrett, J. H. Drake, E. E. Garrett, G. W.

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[376] Interview with Annabel Hawkins, retired teacher in Madison County, Saint Paul, Arkansas, May, 1987.

Sisemore, W. H. Walker, John Dunaway, W. H. Hackerman, W. B. Drake, J. C. Drake, L. Neal, R.H. Garrett, and D. Carbitt.[377] The school district was consolidated on June 2, 1949, with Huntsville district No. 1. A wing school would operate at Duncan until about 1953.

Recess at Duncan school c. 1927

Lower Camp Ground District No. 22

Located just off of highway 21 about three quarters of a mile from the intersection of U.S. Highway 412 in Range 24 West, Township 17 North, the Lower Camp Ground was created under the school law of 1868 on January 25, 1869. The

[377] Records of School District Warrants, Madison County Treasurer, Huntsville, Arkansas, 1890-1948.

school district encompassed approximately six square miles with Kings River as the western boundary of the district.

Although the district was created in 1869, schools were not held with any regularity until 1885 when Joshua Furst, Dannett Everett, and Polk Smith petitioned County Judge M. D. Lucas to reinstate the school district and establish the boundaries. The school district was enlarged at this time to include other families.[378]

In 1904, an article of agreement between the board of directors and a contractor was drawn up for the construction of a new school building in the district.

Article of Agreement - Sep. 8, 1904

> Article of Agreement between J. R. Owens, D. W. Moyer, and Jeff Crow, Directors in School District No. 22, Campground, with Z. T. Barnes. Agrees to build a house in said district to come from the ground, frame, weatherboard, lay the flooring, roof, put in windows, all work is to be done in workman-like manner and further agrees to have said work done by the 15th of Oct. 1904. The parties of the first agree to pay said Z. T. Barnes the sum of $40.00 to be paid when work is done. The said house is to be 24 by 38 ft. and 12 ft. high.
>
> Z. T. Barnes
> J. R. Owens
> D. W. Moyer
> Jeff Crow[379]

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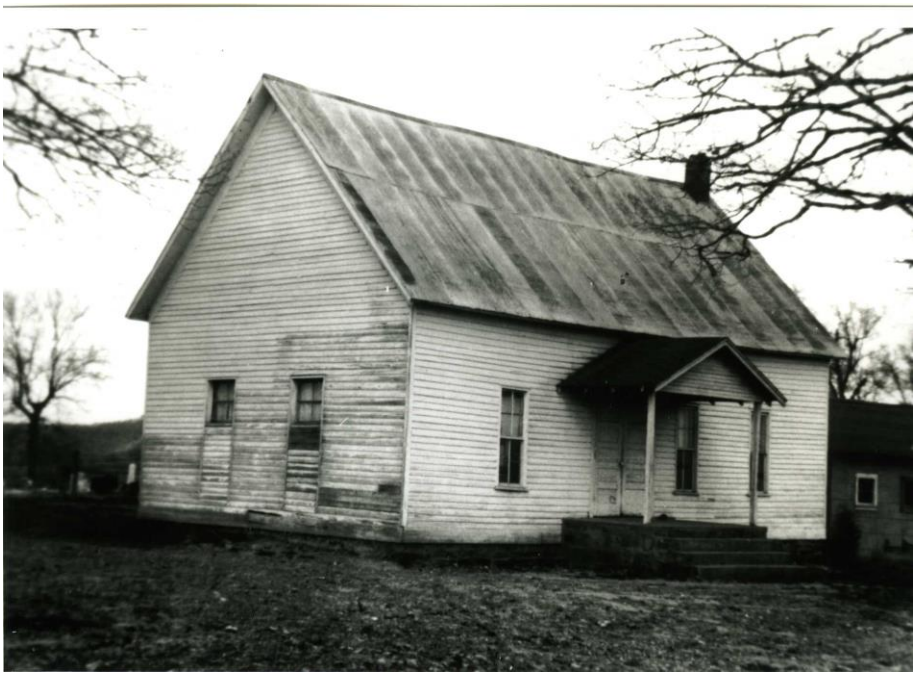
[378] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. D, 1885, 37.

[379] Proceedings and Minutes of the Madison County Board of Education, Huntsville, Arkansas, 1904.



Teachers at the school were: 1901, H. L. Bunch; 1902, Tom Hargis; 1903, Carroll Hudson; 1904, Jasper Owens; 1905, Charlie Mitchell; 1906, William Robinson; 1907, J. T. Whitely; 1908-1910, Maude Bohannon; 1911, Kate Fancher; 1912, Nona Boatright; 1913-1915, Cam Garrison; 1916, B. D. Reynolds; 1917, Cam Garrison; 1918, Tonie Keen; 1919, Maymie Thomas; 1920, Pearl Walden; 1921, Lester Cline; 1922, Essie Barker; 1923, Myrtle Barnes; 1924, Jeff Haynes; 1925, Clara Hooper; 1926, Mary Haynes; 1927, Jack Elzey; 1928, Noble Jones; 1929, Millie Stout; 1930, Otto Stamps; 1931, Cecil Bohannon; 1932, Iva Vaughn; 1933, Pauline Wiggins; 1934, Katie Austin, Merle Coger; 1935, Clint Bohannon; 1936, Merle Coger; 1937-1938, Coy Logan; 1939, Geraldine Formby; 1940,

Merle Coger; 1941, Mrs. Charles Bunch; 1942-1944, Eulena McFerrin; 1944, Robbie Walden; 1945, Fern Sugg; 1946-1947, Fern Sugg McCollough; 1948, Margie Bailey Stout.

Serving on the board of directors from 1885-1930 were: A. Simmins, R. M. Davis, J. F. Bell, W. A. Page, Joshua Furst, Dannett Everett, Polk Smith, J. R. Owens, D. W. Moyer, Jeff Crow, Baxter Davis, John Hatfield, W. W. Holt, R. A. Smith, J. P. Hargis, James Littrell, George McLain, Will Smith, Joe Holt, and D. H. Shrum.[380] The school district consolidated with Kingston district No. 25 on June 2, 1949.

Peace Valley District No. 23

The Peace Valley school district was created by the county court on January 25, 1869. The district was located in Range 26 West, Township 17 North, approximately 3 miles east of Withrow Springs. Several schools had operated for years in the area, including Shake Rag, Flint, and Oak Summit. This situation often placed the Peace Valley school district in a precarious situation with finances and student enrollments often low.

On July 19, 1909, a petition from the patrons of the school district to County Judge J. B. Harris asked that the school district be dissolved and attached to the Spring Hill

[380] Records of School District Warrants, Madison County Treasurer, Huntsville, Arkansas, 1890-1948.

school district.[381]The petition was granted and the administrative unit of the school became vested with Spring Hill. However, students still attended school at the Peace Valley schoolhouse and for accounting purposes, the expenses of each school district were kept separately.

In 1915, the patrons once again petitioned the county court to reinstate the school district under control of its own school board. County Judge F. W. Patrick granted the request and appointed Virgil Phillips, S. T. Alderson, and R. S. Ellis to the board of directors.[382]

Following are enrollment figures for the school district for the years indicated: 1936, 23 boys, 14 girls, with an average daily attendance of 19; 1938, 8 boys and 1 girl, with an average daily attendance of 6; 1942, 10 boys and 16 girls, with an average daily attendance of 14. With enrollment figures down and attendance even worse, and several of the patrons of the district unhappy with the way the district was being administered, a petition was presented to the county board of education to dissolve the district.

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[381] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. I, 1909, 149.

[382] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. K, 1915, 289.

A meeting of the county board was held December 16, 1942. Members present:

J. C. Baber
Robert Reed
John Gaskill
L. N. Hudson
W. A. Ellis

A petition from school district #23, Peace Valley, asking to be dissolved and consolidated with school district #1, Huntsville. The petition was checked and found to be short of the required number of qualified electors to warrant the consolidation. A motion was made to throw out the petition. Vote was unanimous.

c. 1901

Teachers at the Peace Valley school were: 1900, Ethel Bedingfield; 1901, James W. Walker; 1902, Sophrania Swift; 1903, Walter Samuels; 1904-1905, Otto Stamps; 1906, Ethel Bedingfield; 1907; Ethel Ivie; 1908, E. M. Vaughn; 1909, H. M. Fritts; 1910, J. H. Bohannon; 1911-1912, Sibyl Ellis; 1913, Ola Gage; 1914, Julia Rice; 1915, Ruth Vaughn; 1916-1917, Ruth McLoud; 1918, Mary Bedingfield; 1919, Winnie Reed; 1920, Mary Bedingfield; 1921-1922, Douglas Garrett; 1923-1924, Mabel Vaughn; 1925, Ruby Littrell; 1926, Iva Vaughn; 1927, Earline Vaughn; 1928, Iva Vaughn; 1929, Floyd Cannaday; 1930-1932, Mrs. Jasper Hawkins; 1933, Zelda Benson, Elmer Vaughn; 1934, Earline Vaughn; 1935-1938, Opal Hinds; 1939, Herman Skaggs; 1940, Flora Hawkins; 1941, J. D. Haynes; 1942-1943, Herman Turner; 1946-1947, Elsie Spralls; 1948, Mrs. Jessie Brannan.

Persons listed as having served on the board of directors of the district from 1900-1930 were: Marshall Brown, Andrew Nelson, S. T. Alderson, R. S. Ellis, W. T. Bryant, Virgil Phillips, Wood Walker, William Littrell, J. H. Alderson, Arch Vaughn, and Everett Tassey.[383] The school district was consolidated with the Huntsville district on June 2, 1949. The final two months of the teacher's salary had to be paid from the funds belonging to the Spring Hill district.

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[383] Records of School District Warrants, Madison County Treasurer, Huntsville, Arkansas, 1890-1948.

Mount Pleasant District No. 24

The Mount Pleasant school district was created on January 25, 1869. It was located in Range 27 West, Township 16 North, approximately three miles north of Drakes Creek.

c. 1940 Front row: Dean Worley; Harold McCoy; Donald Taylor; Claudie Sue Johnson; Glenna Hull; Velma Lou Parks; Artie McCoy

2nd row: Walden Powell; Marion Johnson; Fern Watkins; Connie Fay McChristian; Conley Worley; Annie Faulkner; Cleta McChristian; Betty Duncan; Bobby Joe Sloan; Geral Keith Hull; Doris Jean Boatright; Trufa Faulkner; Doris Garrett

3rd row: Calvin Taylor; Roy Powerll; Elmo Watkins; Phyllis Parks; Melba Lea McCoy; J. R. McCoy; Phyllis Sloan; Myrtle Faulkner; Billy Duncan; Bertha Watkins; Bessie Watkins; Gene Watkins; Dearl parks; Thomas Faulkner; Homer McCoy; Orabell McChristian

4th row: Maxine Faulkner; Willard Powell; Denver McCarver; Juanita Sloan; Dale McCoy; Cecil Parks; Imogene Eubanks; Nella McCoy; Lois McCoy; Kenneth McCoy; Maxine Sloan; Mable Boatright; Ruby McChristian Teacher, Floyd Harrison

Teachers at Mount Pleasant were: 1901-1902, E. G. Mason; 1903, P. L. Kirksey; 1904, Maggie Peach; 1905, H. M. Fritts; 1906, J. A. Watson; 1907-1908, John Davis; 1909, J. A. Watson; 1910-1911, Troy Ledbetter; 1912, B. F. Duncan; 1913, Jesse McCoy; 1914, No school; 1915-1918, Troy Ledbetter; 1919, J. R. Davis, 1920, Kinley Johnson; 1921-1922, L. F. Bell; 1923, Paul Watson; 1924, E. G. Watson; 1925, Elva Dorsey; 1926-1927, Thomas Wheeler; 1928-1929, S. B. Mitchell; 1930-1931, Troy Ledbetter; 1932-1933, Floyd Harrison; 1934, Wayne Roberts; 1935, E. G. Mason; 1936, Beth Holland; 1937-1938, W. H. Ward; 1939-1940, Floyd Harrison; 1941-1942, E. G. Mason; 1943, Troy Ledbetter; 1944, Cleo Johnson; 1945, Wayne Roberts; 1946-1947, Max Mitchell; 1948, Leta Parker.

Serving on the board of directors between 1900 and 1930 were: P. C. Sams, E. S. Boyd, E. D. Parks, John Crow, Alvo Dackey, B. H. Johnson, H. C. Worley, Walter Ferguson, J. R. Vanderford, W. B. McCarver, Jerry McCoy, G. L. McCoy, J. J. Worley, Robert McCoy, Martin Johnson, and W. B. Reed.[384] The school district was consolidated with Huntsville on June 2, 1949.

Kingston District No. 25

The Kingston school district was established under the provisions of the school law of 1868 on January 25, 1869.

[384] Ibid.

The community of Kingston came into existence in 1853 when the town was surveyed and laid out by King Johnston, who also built the first house on the original site of the community.

The first recorded school in the county was constructed around 1833 southeast of Kingston. Some accounts have placed this structure on Sweden Creek and it was reported to have been a simple log structure which measured twenty-four feet square. The first teacher of the school and the first recorded teacher in the county was the Reverend John F. King, a Cumberland Presbyterian minister and teacher from Tennessee.

A new school building was constructed shortly before the beginning of the Civil War. It was of colonial style architecture with green shutters over the windows. Berry Daniels was the first teacher to have school in this building. The second teacher was an Englishman named Dilts. He was considered a very able instructor and believed in the old slogan "spare the rod and spoil the child." The school had an enrollment of 75 pupils at that time.[385] The town of Kingston was burned during the Civil War and the new school with it.

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[385] "Madison County Musings," The Madison County Historical Society, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. 3, No. 1, 1984.

Two-story frame grade school, built after the Civil War, and used until the new Institute was built. Photo taken 1908. Building torn down in 1935 or '36 and its lumber used to build a private home on Sweden Creek. (Photo courtesy of John D. Little)

During the aftermath of the Civil War as the town was being rebuilt, it appears that the school was built just southeast of the town on a hill overlooking the community. About 1916, the Reverend Elmer J. Bouher, a Presbyterian minister wrote to the Home Missions of the Presbyterian churches requesting that he be sent to take charge of the mission which had been started at Kingston but abandoned. After visiting the area, he decided that he could not make better

use of his life anywhere else in the world and he settled in the area to work out his ideas.[386]

Reverend Bouher's idea, which he called "The Kingston Plan" was a comprehensive and far-seeing one. The basic idea was to develop cooperation between the church and the school district in order to create a community building program with the church developing an extension of the local public school and developing the local community resources in what Bouher would call "a mecca of educational opportunity." Reverend Bouher felt the plan was possible in Kingston because there was practically only one church in the community and the school directors and the people of the community were glad to have the help of the church. With the resources of the local church, the school district, annual appropriations from the Board of Home Missions, and the possibility of securing donations from a sponsoring church, his envisioned ministry could proceed. His plan had regard not only to the direct needs of the mind and the soul, but to the whole underlying physical and industrial basis of the people's life. As Reverend Bouher said:

> We cannot redeem these people's souls without redeeming their fields. The whole life and work of the school is influenced by the religious element injected into it by the church; the church is built up and its influence for good is built

[386] *Ozark Life, Kingston, Arkansas*, Vol. I, No. 1, 1925.

> and strengthened by the increased intelligence developed by the school.

During the next several years, he would preach the gospel of better living, of cleanliness, of education for children, of good roads, of service and brotherly love, along with a definite and decisive Christianity.

The Brick Church of Rochester, New York, adopted the "Kingston Plan" as one of its missionary projects and would be instrumental in developing one of the most impressive and famous educational institutions in the state. In a letter to the church in 1921, Dr. Warren H. Wilson, Director for Church and Country Life Work of the Board of Home Missions wrote:

> I have just returned from Kingston where Rev. Elmer J. Bouher is Missionary. . . . The community of Kingston is extraordinary, yet representative of what we have in the Appalachian and Ozark Mountains. Pure white American stock, with the pioneer habits of gun-toting and whiskey stilling always in evidence. Yet, they are intelligent and progressive there in a high degree. It is a constant fight. They burned down a school-house as a result of a progressive school victory, only this week. At Kingston our men are mounting guard every night over our buildings until the excitement passes. We are steadily winning.
>
> The wonderful thing about Mr. Bouher's work is its spirituality and practical force. The school in which the non-religious work centers, is the public school; yet the Presbyterians control and direct it as truly as does the State of Arkansas. The people are eager for what we have to give and the extending influence, in

> this state; where the school year is only three or four months, is beyond calculation. . . .[387]

By this time, the school at Kingston had an enrollment of 178 students, many who came from adjoining districts, boarding in the village and paying tuition. The school had a principal, an agriculture teacher, paid jointly by the Federal Government and the state, a domestic science teacher, whose salary was paid by the Board of Home Missions, instructor of music and a Red Cross nurse in addition to the usual staff of primary and secondary teachers. Reverend Bouher had further plans to build a club house on the hill, with a gymnasium, showers, a shop and library and as soon as these were completed, to build a college fully equipped "to which young men and women from all over the Ozarks may come."

Rev. Elmer J. Bouher, from the June, 1925 first edition of *Ozark Life*.

Reverend Bouher continued building his church and the school with the assistance of J. P. Perrill, his principal and associate pastor. The success of the "Kingston Plan" was apparently not going unnoticed in Madison County. In a

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[387] "Brick Church Life," *The Brick Church*, Rochester, New York, Vol. 28, No. 10, 1921, 156.

letter to the Brick Church in September of 1922, Reverend Bouher wrote:

> There was an account of the visit made last May by Dr. Taylor, Dr. Snell, and Mr. Platt which filled the larger part of two columns in the first page of the local newspaper published in the neighboring village of Huntsville. The people of Huntsville, and another near by village, Hindsville, have been stirred up by the enlarging of the work at Kingston to raise extra money to provide additional teachers for their schools. You will never know what your visit has already done for not only Kingston, but other parts of the county . . . There have been several men here to look over our work and they will open other work on the "Kingston Plan" just as soon as they can get ready. . . .[388]

The following year, ground was broke to build a new church on the existing site of the school which had been named "Community Hill." Its design was of the typical New England colonial style, complete with a bell tower and arched windows on the front. On the first floor of the church building was the Community Hall. It contained a stage for dramatic productions, a bowling alley, a reading room and a library of several thousand volumes, dressing rooms with lockers, showers, and two kitchens. Three hundred people could be accommodated in the hall. The sanctuary of the church could seat about 400. The church

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[388] "Brick Church Life," The *Brick Church*, Rochester, New York, Vol. 29, No. 11, 1922, 165.

and additional building planned for the school would be completed by 1925.[389]

Attached to the church, was the so-called Institute Building, which contained a basement and two stories. It housed basic classrooms, administrative offices, rooms for literary societies, the Boy Scouts, Girl's Home Economics department, Ladies' Aid, Men's Club, kitchen, and dining room, and a reception hall.[390]

To the right of the church several hundred feet to the south was the school of vocational agriculture. It contained a classroom, library, and shop and marked the southern most boundary of the campus. A house for the Smith-Hughes instructor was located adjacent to the agriculture building. On the north side of the church, on the grounds of the old Kingston Mission, was the Kingston Public School. It was a large building in which a school of ten grades was conducted. On the playground were courts for basketball, volleyball, and tennis. Still further to the north stood the old church and the parsonage. The old church would soon be turned into a hospital and health center complete with nursery and surgical suite. The entire

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[389] *Ozark Life, Kingston, Arkansas*, Vol. 2, No. 3, 1926, 1-2.

[390] *Ozark Life, Kingston, Arkansas*, Vol. 1, No.1, 1925.

plant was furnished with running water, steam heat, and electric lights.[391]

In 1924, Otto Ernest Rayburn of Reeds Spring, Missouri, wrote County Superintendent Afton Wheeler inquiring about possible openings in the area. Superintendent Wheeler put him in touch with Reverend Bouher and he was offered the job as superintendent of the school system in the summer of 1924.[392] Mr. Rayburn's work was considered phenomenal by the local residents as he set about to systematize the school. His hard work and perseverance paid off for during his first year as the Kingston High School became a four-year accredited high school. In April of 1925, the first four-year high school diploma ever given in Madison County was presented to Arthur Johnson.

Otto Ernest Rayburn

Superintendent Rayburn began inviting people from all over the state to visit the school and see the "Kingston Plan" in action. In addition to inviting dignitaries to

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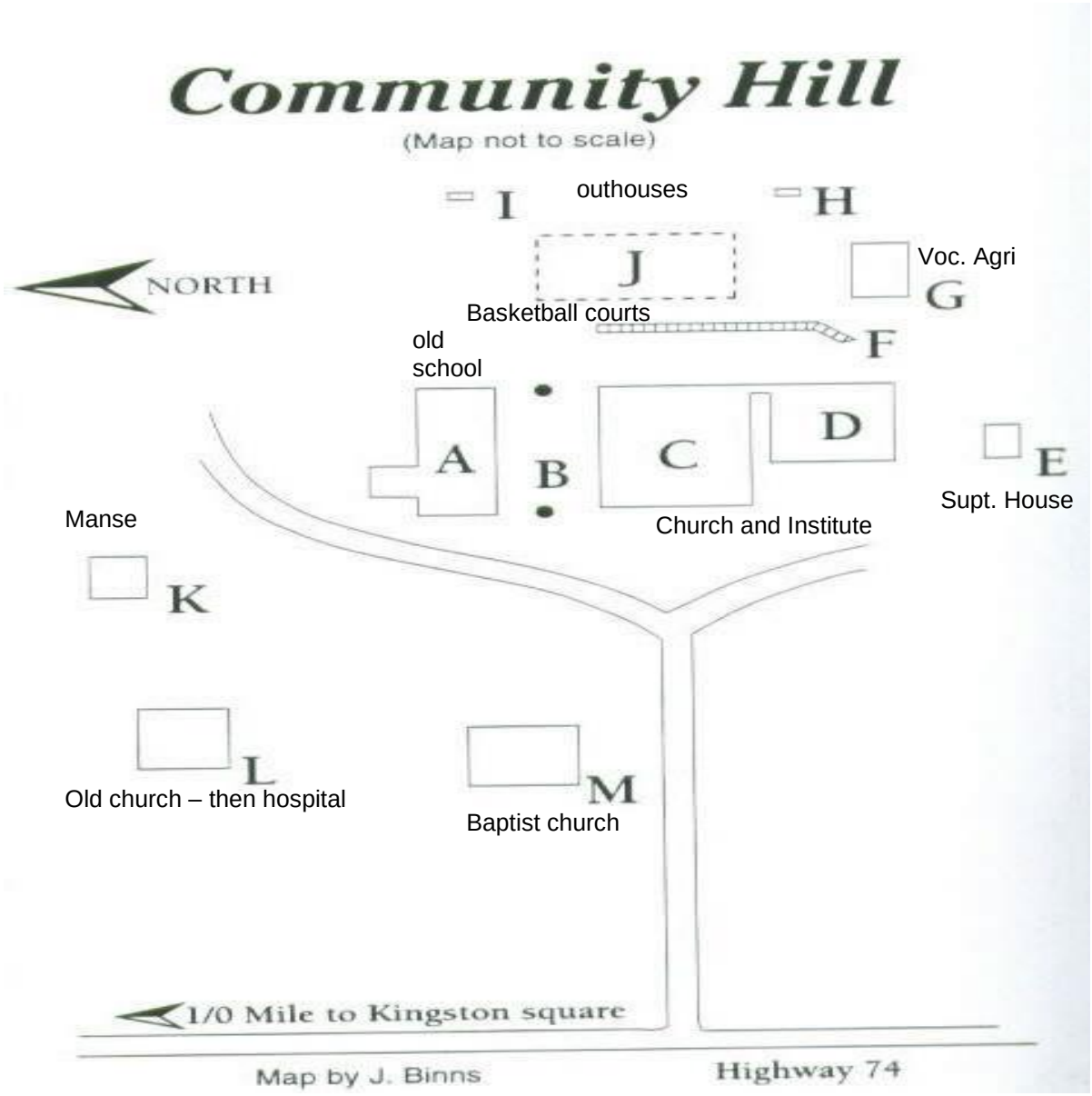
[391] Interview with John D. Little, Kingston, Arkansas, December, 1990.

[392] *Ozark Life, Kingston, Arkansas*, Vol. 3, No. 5, 1927, 16-17.

visit the school, letters of support were garnished from governmental and educational leaders all over the state.



My Dear Mr. Rayburn:

I am aware of the progressiveness of your school and the community that it serves. Your institution and its surroundings are ideal. The patrons are boosters, which accounts for the spirit predominating in that locality. The citizenship of the Ozarks is made up of pure American blood--the kind that any community must be proud of.

I have watched the growth of your institution with a great deal of interest, and am delighted to say that it has merited an important place in our educational system. I predict for your school and your community continued recognition and prosperity.

Yours very sincerely,
Tom J. Terral,
Governor[393]

Dear Mr. Rayburn:

The people of the State who are following the progress of education in Arkansas are keenly interested, not only in the splendid work the Kingston schools are doing, but they are also vitally interested in the community activities which are being fostered by the superintendent and other leading citizens of Kingston. In many ways the Kingston educational plan is a unique one. It aims to provide adequate means to meet the educational needs of its boys and girls, and in addition, it strives in every possible way to socialize the entire community.

Madison county was, until this past year, one of the eight counties in the state which did not have within its boundaries a class "A" or a class "B" or a class "C" public high school. During the past year the Kingston high school satisfactorily met the requirements for a class "C" rating and it is confidently believed that during the coming year the school will meet all the requirements for a fully

[393] *Ozark Life, Kingston, Arkansas*, Vol. 1, No. 1, 1925.

> accredited class "B" four-year high school. There can be no question that in every phase of civic and industrial life, a community is directly dependent upon a continuous line of properly trained persons and it is equally significant that progress in a given community will be retarded in about the same proportion that education is neglected. Madison county, as well as the other counties in the state, can develop socially and economically only through the proper provision for the education of its children. This is the soundest investment that can be made for the social solidity and industrial prosperity of a community, state or nation.
>
> The State Department of Education heartily commends the educational progress at Kingston. It is extremely anxious to see the work there developed both in scope and effectiveness.
>
> Yours very sincerely,
> H. G. Hotz,
> State High School Supervisor[394]

With the complex virtually completed on "Community Hill" superintendent Rayburn saw a need to expand the visibility of the school. In June of 1925, Mr. Rayburn saw the need of a publication which could serve many purposes. First of all, the school could advertise widely, it would be a forum to publish literary articles by students, faculty members and other members of the community as well as provide another vocational program in the school as the vocational department would do the printing. The school board did not share his vision and did not see fit to assume the financial responsibility of such a "doubtful" venture,

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[394] Ibid.

so Mr. Rayburn assumed this responsibility himself, with the assurance that all profits of the publication would be given to the school as long as he served the district as superintendent. Thus, the publication *Ozark Life*, published at Kingston, Arkansas, was born.[395]

Superintendent Rayburn immediately saw the necessity of selecting someone to assist him in administering the affairs of the school. He contacted one of his old college acquaintances, W. Gordon Ross, and hired him as principal and teacher of English at the school.

"KINGSTON HIGH SCHOOL INVITES YOUR ATTENTION"

In the June issue of *Ozark Life*, Mr. Rayburn and Mr. Ross used their new publication to advertise the opening of the fall term of the high school.[396]

INTENSIVE EDUCATION
PRACTICAL
CULTURAL
DISTINCTIVE

> The Kingston High School is a school with a soul. Its idealism is set in the solid granite of principles long nurtured in tradition, enriched by practical experience, and flavored with common sense. It is the balance wheel of the machinery of the community. It is earnestly trying to meet the educational needs of a people typically American, in the unhampered environment of the beautiful Ozark Hills. It is not a parochial school. It is, first and last, a practical Arkansas school and has the complete approval of the

[395] Ibid., 1.

[396] Ibid.

> Governor of the State and the State Department of Education. Its goal is to give to the youth of the mountain sector of Arkansas such an appreciation of beauty, such a thorough knowledge of principles, such a vision of things worth while that, having taken hold of the handles of the plow, they will not look back.
>
> Kingston is a door of opportunity TO YOU. If you are a student, it offers you the chance to get a high grade secondary education at low cost. If you are a citizen, public spirited and a lover of youth, it offers you an opportunity for financial investment yielding rich annual returns--YOUNG PEOPLE TRAINED FOR LEADERSHIP. Literary, scientific, and vocational courses taught by college trained teachers. Board and tuition reasonable.

The faculty for the 1925-1926 year included: Otto Ernest Rayburn, Superintendent; W. Gordon Ross, Principal; H. L. Smith, Smith-Hughes Vocational Agriculture; Mrs. Justin Tucker, Home Economics; an assistant teacher in junior high to be elected; Albert King, intermediate; and Gertrude Wheeler, primary.

The course catalog for the year listed the school calendar, detailed the curriculum, discussed the organization of the school and the facilities for instruction. Information also was provided relevant to the administrative procedures, tuition, a daily class schedule, athletics, literary societies, scholarship societies, Boy Scouts, and future plans for the school.

Students who wished to enroll in the fall term in the seventh through twelfth grades were reminded that they should plan their courses and order their books at least two

weeks before the opening of the term. The superintendent and the principal announced that they would be in their respective offices on August 24th, 25th, and 28th to meet students and help them plan their courses.

Tuition and fees for the first term were payable on Monday, September 7th. For students in the 7th and 8th grades, tuition for the term of four months was $8.00 except for students who were residents of district No. 25 and who had been enumerated for the year 1925-1926. Residents of the district who were twenty-one or older and those students who moved into the district after July 20th were required to pay tuition. In order to attend the high school, all students paid by the unit. The tuition varied according to the course load taken by the student. For the four-month term, tuition ranged from $7.50 to $12.00.

SCHOOL CALENDAR
1925-1926

FIRST SEMESTER

Registration	September 7
Classes Begin - 8:15 a.m.	September 8
Rural School Literary and Athletic Meet and Kingston School Fair	October 16-17
Thanksgiving Holiday	November 26-27
Semester Examinations	December 17-18
Semester Ends	December 23

SECOND SEMESTER

Registration	January 6
Classes Begin	January 7
Lincoln Day	February 12

Semester Examinations	April 15-16

COMMENCEMENT WEEK

Baccalaureate Sermon	April 18
Primary Program	April 19
Intermediate Program	April 20
Junior-High Program	April 21
High School Play	April 22
Commencement Day	April 23

The curriculum of the school was very well developed and progressive by county standards of the day. At this time, the school at Kingston was the only accredited four-year high school in the county. The notion that a liberal arts education was indeed necessary was evident by the required course offerings of the school.

CURRICULUM
HIGH SCHOOL

BEGINNING SEPTEMBER, 1925

Odd Years 9th and 10th	Even Years 9th and 10th
English I or II	English I or II
Community Civics	World History
General Science	Elementary Algebra
Elective	Elective
Vocational Agriculture with Project	Vocational Agriculture with Project
Home Economics	Home Economics
Latin I	Latin I or II
Debating	Music
Physical Training	Physical Training
11th and 12th	11th and 12th
English III (Amer. Lit.)	English IV (English Lit.)
Geometry	Advanced Algebra
American History	Problems in Democracy
Elective	Elective
Vocational Agriculture with Project	Vocational Agriculture with Project
Home Economics	Home Economics
Biology	Physics
Debating	Debating and Music
Physical Education	Physical Education
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL	JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
7th and 8th Odd years	7th and 8th Even years
English 7th or 8th	English 7th or 8th
Arithmetic 7th or 8th	Arithmetic 7th or 8th
United States History	Physiology
Geography	Arkansas History
Vocational Agriculture or Home Economics	Civics Vocational Agriculture or Home Economics
Physical Training	Physical Training

Organization of the School

The Kingston Public School was organized on the basic six-six plan. With this program, the elementary course of study could be completed in six years, two years were spent in the junior high school and four years were used to complete the senior high course of study.

The school widely advertised and boasted that they were a Class "C", accredited high school in the state of Arkansas. They further assured students that work completed at the school was acceptable to the State Department of Education and the colleges of the state with many colleges in other states giving full credit work completed at the school.

Facilities for Instruction

The course catalog detailed every aspect of the school. This was no doubt necessary as most of the prospective students and their parents had only been exposed to the simple, one-room school environment well known to the county.

The catalog informed the prospective student that the curriculum was adapted to afford a thorough training in "culture and discipline and gave distinctive instruction in a variety of subjects." Furthermore, the faculty was made of carefully selected men and women who were college trained in the subjects that they taught.

The library was described as a modern one with several thousand volumes which were properly catalogued. The library also boasted of having a magazine table which contained between thirty and forty current magazines. Also described were the well-equipped laboratories which were provided for the science and agriculture departments.

It is highly doubtful that the library and laboratories were as well equipped as the advertising and catalog would lead the reader to believe. In an article published in an issue of *Ozark Life* in 1925, an appeal was made for donations to these facilities.

> . . . But the providing of necessary equipment for a school that is to prepare its students properly for higher education or the business world, is no small matter. We have the largest public school

> library, perhaps in Northwest Arkansas--3,000 volumes catalogued and ready for use. But we still lack certain books that we must have. In natural science laboratory equipment we are also short. The friends of the Kingston project will confer a lasting benefit upon the youth of this section by either donating such articles direct, or giving the amount necessary for the purchase of them. The list of our needs follow:
>
> For the library, several up-to-date Webster International or Funk and Wagner Dictionaries. Books on biography, especially the lives of historical characters. Late fiction--1924 and later. We would appreciate a shower of such books about September 1st.
>
> For the laboratory, two or three good microscopes. General equipment for use in departments of general science and biology. Tools for the boys in manual training. . . .[397]

The facilities, furniture, and other equipment on Community Hill had been donated by area citizens, the Brick Church of Rochester, and the Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church under the appeal of Reverend Bouher. Mr. Rayburn apparently felt that the same type of appeal would no doubt bring results as it had in the past.

Administrative Procedures

Procedures for students were clearly stated in the catalog. The first day of each term was set aside for registration. Students who registered after this date were

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[397] Ibid.

required to pay a fifty-cent late registration fee. Those students who entered school fifteen days after the term began were required to make up any missed work before credit would be given for any work attempted.

Each student was required to take physical training at least two hours each week unless excused by a physician. However, no credit was given toward graduation for the physical training requirement.

Credits were granted in units with a unit being defined as a forty-five recitation which met five times a week for eight months. The average student was expected to pass four credits per year with a maximum of four and one-half credits to be carried by any student.

Classes were in session from 8:15 in the morning until 3:15 in the afternoon. Students were required to be in the library when not in class. Students were advised that they were to study at least one and one-half hours for every 45-minute recitation that they attended.

Non-resident students who boarded in Kingston were under the direct supervision of the faculty at all times. The superintendent reserved the right to select the homes where the students would board while attending the school. Students were not allowed to change their boarding places without the permission of the faculty.

Students were marked tardy when they were late to class, chapel, or any other school function with two tardies being equivalent to an absence. Once a student received five absences, he was required to take a special examination in the subject in which the absences occurred.

Tuition

All students at the high school paid tuition according to the number of units taken. For students who were residents of the district and enumerated for that year, the tuition was $5.00 per unit. Non-residents paid $6.00 per unit. There was no charge made for the courses in vocational agriculture and home economics as they were funded under the Smith-Hughes Act. Students in the junior high school, who had been enumerated, were not required to pay tuition as they received state and local monies. All others paid $2.00 per month. Students who enrolled in general science or biology were required to pay fifty cents and one dollar, respectively, for lab fees.

High school books and supplies could be purchased at the high school bookstore. Books for the lower grades and junior high students could be purchased from the Kingston Mercantile Company. One hundred fifty dollars would normally provide the necessary expenses of a student for

eight months including tuition, books, fees, and room and board.

Activities

Various activities were provided for the students who attended the Kingston High School. Basketball, baseball, tennis, and track was provided for boys and tennis, volley-ball, and basketball was provided for girls. The Kingston Athletic Association was formed to oversee the program and membership in this organization was a prerequisite before being allowed to participate in any of the aforementioned sports. A membership fee of fifty cents was charged each semester to join the Athletic Association.

Basketball game played between Kingston and Huntsville high school teams, played at Huntsville [glass lantern slide, courtesy of Hidy Bouher Eby]

Students were required to sign up for the sports within three weeks of registration. In order to maintain

eligibility, they were required to pass at least three full-time subjects.

Kingston also had an active Boy Scout troop which was open to all boys in the community between the ages of 12 and 18. The scouting program was considered to be an integral part of the school program and was given equal consideration with the other subjects.

There were two active literary societies at the school, the Excelsiors and the Athenians. Membership in either of these societies were voluntary but every student was urged to join one of them. The societies often competed against one another in reading contests, spelling bees, fund-raising projects and other school related activities. Programs were presented each Friday afternoon at 3:15 by these two groups.

The scholarship society at the school was known as The Society of the Seven Sages. It was composed of the seven students who made the highest grades during the year. Students also were required to have satisfactory deportment and carry at least four units of work. The sages of one year acted as the student council the next year. Any student who was a member of the society and did not enroll the following year was replaced by an alternate. At the close of the school year, each member was awarded a "diploma of honor and a beautiful scholarship medal."

During the next two decades, Community Hill would be the site of the Kingston schools. The school continued to grow in reputation into the latter part of the 1920's and early 1930's. In an article published in 1929 in *Ozark Life*, the success of the high school was expounded and it was held up as a model school:

> The Kingston High School has been called "The Little Harvard of the Hills." It has met all the requirements for a standardized Class B high school in the state of Arkansas. Numerous mountain coves near Kingston have been made productive through the tutelage of this school. Not only does the institution maintain a high cultural standard, but its vocational courses in agriculture, home economics and printing are sound and practical.
>
> The outgrowth of the work of Bouher, Rayburn and other workers is the Kings-Plan, a national country life service. It is what might be called a humanitarian plan giving the maximum of social, educational and cultural opportunity to a rural community. The Plan insists that every child has the right to be well born and an opportunity for the development of its faculties without environmental handicaps. Already a number of communities are copying with good results the Kings-Plan. Numerous inquiries and requests arrive daily at the Kingston headquarters. . . .[398]

As the school entered the decades of the 1930's and the 1940's, the school continued although several factors appeared to slow the success it once enjoyed. The

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[398] *Ozark Life, Kingston, Arkansas*, Vol. 5, No. 6, 1929, 3-6.

depression of the 1930's, the establishment of the nearby state vocational school at Huntsville, changes in the school laws of the state as well as World War II all worked together to slow the progress and reputation of the school. About 1940, a fire in the Institute building partially destroyed it. Termites began to eat away at the building and it began to slowly deteriorate and fall into disrepair.

In 1950, the Brick Church in Rochester, New York, which had sponsored the project and owned the property and the buildings, was apparently experiencing financial difficulties. The church decided to liquidate its mission holdings and the church and school were put up for sale. The community was offered the opportunity to purchase the site and buildings but due to the condition of the campus and church, the board decided that the construction of a new school facility, constructed of concrete rather than wood, would be more feasible. The church committee decided to sell the holdings in lots and asked the school to vacate the buildings no later than June 30th.[399]

A representative from the Brick Church was sent to Kingston to oversee the disposing of the property. Presbyterian churches in the area were allowed to come to Kingston and salvage what items they could from the

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[399] Interview with John D. Little, Kingston, Arkansas, December, 1990.

property. Any items which were not sold were to be destroyed. Unfortunately, most of the books in the library were not sold and were burned on the site. The church and school buildings were bulldozed to the ground by the new owner of the land. A site for the new school was chosen on a hillside north of the town square and about 1951, construction of the new school was underway.

Faculty and Arthur Johnson, first graduate of Kingston's high school, about 1925. Left to right: Afton Wheeler, county superintendent of schools, Cordelia Davenport, Arthur Johnson, Albert King, Otto Rayburn. [Photo courtesy of John D. Little, from photo album owned by Albert King]

Teachers at the Kingston school were: 1900-1902, John A. Sullivan, 1903, C. E. Lundy; 1904, Edith Wright; 1905, Abraham Easterling; 1906-1907, H. P. Barnes; 1908, Lydia

Hawn; 1909, T. C. Wiggins; 1910, Afton Wheeler; 1911, Zella Miller; 1912, Lydia Hawn; 1913-1914, Eva Grigg, Richard Barker; 1915, T. C. Wiggins, Kate Boatright; 1916, O. L. Dailey; 1917, Virgie Johnson; 1918, Afton Wheeler, Gertie Wheeler; 1919-1920, Gertie Wheeler, Afton Wheeler, G. S. Boggan; 1921, J. P. Perril, Grace Combs; 1922, Ethel Oliver, Charles Manning; 1923, Albert King, Mrs. Justin Tucker, H. L. Smith, Jewell Smith; 1924, Jewel Smith, Albert King, Mrs. Justin Tucker, H. L. Smith, Otto Rayburn; 1925, Gertrude Wheeler, Albert King, Otto Rayburn, W. Gordon Ross, H. L. Smith, Mrs. Justin Tucker; 1926, Cardelia Davenport, H. L. Smith, Albert King, Voisy Suggs, Dora Watson, W. Gordon Ross, Otto Rayburn; 1927, Grace Bolinger, Emily Boydston, Thomas E. Anthony, Beulah Thompson, Otto Rayburn; 1928, Claude Johnson, Emily Boydston, Grace Bunch, Beulah Thompson, Otto Rayburn; 1928, Claude Johnson, Emily Boydston, Grace Burch, Beulah Thompson, Otto Rayburn; 1929, C. J. Stotts, Beulah Thompson, Grace Bunch, Claude Johnson, Jack Elzey, Katherine Lucy; 1930, Claude Johnson, Emily Boydston, Beulah Thompson, C. J. Stotts, Myrtle Hawkins; 1931, N. D. Webb, Emily Boydston, Kate Finley, C. M. Hurst, Gayle Johnson, Helen Poyner; 1932, Mary Gray, Walter Finley, Kate Finley, Ruby Holt, Gayle Johnson, Helen Poyner; 1933, Walter Finley, Kate Finley, Helen Poyner, Gayle Johnson, Mary Gray, Ruby Holt, Anna Lugenbuel; 1934, Ruby Holt, Anna

Lugenbuel, Lester Vanzant, Mrs. Lester Vanzant; 1935, Ruby Holt, Anna Lugenbuel, Mrs. Lester Vanzant, Lester Vanzant; 1936, Marguerite Bunch, Catherine Combs, Lester Vanzant, Mrs. Lester Vanzant, Ruby Holt; 1937, Enele Calwell, Mrs. C. E. Combs, Marguerite Bunch, Lester Vanzant, Mrs. Lester Vanzant; 1938, Enele Combs, Marguerite Bunch, Lester Vanzant, Mrs. Lester Vanzant; 1939, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Vanzant, Logan Jones, Catherine Combs; 1940, Lester Vanzant, Marguerite Bunch, Catherine Combs, J. A. Cline; 1941, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Vanzant, Clarence Stamps, Madge Grove, Francis Clark, Marguerite Bunch; 1942, Hazel McCollough, Glen Seals, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Vanzant, Catherine Combs, Clarence Stamps, Fred Bunch; 1943, Jewell Smith, Irene Ames, Clarence Stamps, Catherine Combs, Kate Fancher, Flossie Cook Smith, Fred Bunch, W. D. Little; 1944, Clarence Stamps, Eldred Stamps, Catherine Combs, Floy Perry, Fred Bunch, Irene Ames, W. D. Little, Mayme Snow; 1945-1946, Fred Bunch, Justin Knorr, Clarence Stamps, Catherine Combs, Eldred Stamps, Orden Smith, Pauline Bunch, Doyle Little, Myrtle Little; 1947-1948, Justin Knorr, Catherine Combs, Mabel Stout, Pauline Bunch, Fred Bunch, Sylvia Seals, Myrtle Little, Katie Austin.

Persons listed as having been on the board of directors for the district from 1880-1948 are: S. B. Grigg, Pete Maxwell, W. L. Stamps, N. S. Walker, John D. Combs, Fell

Villines, H. E. Garton, W. T. Boydston, J. S. Grigg, W. J. White, W. S. Bradshaw, Newton Lane, A. P. Barker, W. P. Bradshaw, W. C. Coger, George Basore, F. C. Wright, Webb Johnson, A. B. Bunch, H. C. Fields, S. E. Seals, J. C. Little, R. L. House, Otto Stamps, W. A. Little, Clarence Burton, Earnest Slaton, and H. H. Thomas.[400]

Pleasant Home District No. 26

The Pleasant Home school district was located near the community of Hartwell on U.S. Highway 412 approximately four and one-half miles west of Huntsville. The school district was commonly called "Popcorn" and was officially created by the county court on January 25, 1869. Early pioneer humor being what it is, local legend has it that the name "Popcorn" was selected due to massive strands of popcorn which were used at the school during Christmas to decorate the tree which was always present at the schoolhouse during the holiday season. Whether or not the legend is true, it is as plausible an explanation as any for such a strange name.[401]

The community of Hartwell or Hart came into existence after the establishment of a post office in the area around

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[400] Records of School District Warrants, Madison County Treasurer, Huntsville, Arkansas, 1890-1948.

[401] *Madison County Musings*, The Madison County Historical Society, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. 5, No. 3, 1988, 2-5.

1910 with James S. Hart serving as the first postmaster. The community consisted of a store, post office, wagon yard, and the schoolhouse which was used for various community activities. In addition to serving as the school, the building also served as the home to two different church groups. The Baptists would meet at 10:00 a.m. for church services and the Church of Christ would use the building at 11:00 a.m.

In the 1930's, the school at Pleasant Home was fairly well-organized and structured. The school day always began with what the teacher referred to as "the program." The program consisted of the pledge of allegiance to the flag, usually a Bible reading, and at times, a student would give a short recitation of some poem which they had memorized for the occasion. The rest of the morning, leading up to the first recess, was spent in reading and language instruction. After the recess, arithmetic instruction in all grade levels lasted until lunch. The afternoon was spent studying subjects such as hygiene, geography, spelling, and another reading lesson was always presented to the younger students. The school day normally ended about four o'clock.

In 1931, its budget was certified by the board secretary as operations, $20; instruction, $510; fixed charges, $30; Necessary taxes to be voted, 18 mills.

1903 6th row: Elliot Turner; Francis Bedingfield; Jim Carlock, Teacher; Elmer Turner; Ona Holland; Maud Thurmond; Una Woods; Plummer Lewis; Will Woods; Jim Hart, board member; George Turner, board member

Teachers at the Pleasant Home school were: 1900-1901, H. A. Reynolds; 1902, Henry Thompson; 1903, J. A Carlock; 1904-1905, Zella Miller; 1906, Mack Bohannon; 1907, Walter Bohannon; 1908, H. M. Fritts; 1909, J. R. Davis; 1910, H. M. Fritts; 1911, Lida Skaggs; 1912, H. M. Fritts; 1913, Mabel Bedingfield; 1914, J. R. Davis; 1915-1917, Earl Wheeler; 1918, Jess McCoy; 1919, Bessie Neal, Jess McCoy; 1920-1921, Albert King; 1922, Effie Boyd; 1923, John Miller; 1924, Ethel Haney; 1925-1927, Ruth Hinds; 1928, Ezra Drake; 1929, Jack Hoskins; 1930-1931, Zula Calico; 1932-1933, Newt Reynolds; 1934-1940, Raymond Hatfield; 1941, Mrs. Earl Voss; 1942, Beulah Burke; 1943, Mrs. P. V. Blankenship; 1944, Ruby Warren; 1945-1947, Clyde Johnson; 1948, Flora Lockhart.

Persons having served on the board of directors at the school were: R. W. Tallerson, C. A. Walker, John H. Smith, Dave Taylor, Tom Walker, M. L. Austin, Dan Hammon, J. C. Childress, M. Bass, S. M. Eubanks, James Hart, George A. Turner, Charles Johnson, W. C. Robinson, C. G. Lewis, J. W. Ellis, Bert Cloer, J. M. Degan, Joe Walker, J. M. Cook, Max Sorden, Clay C. Scott, Fred Jones, Mrs. Fred Reed, Mrs. John King, Newt Cook, F. L. Haggard, and Raymond Hatfield.[402] The school district was consolidated with Huntsville District No. 1 on June 2, 1949.

Possum Creek District No. 27

The Possum Creek school district was officially created on January 25, 1869, under the provisions of the School Law of 1868. The school district was located about three miles south of Patrick in Range 27 West and Township 13 North extending from Patrick south to the Madison-Franklin County line.

Following the Civil War, the Possum Creek school district, like many small rural isolated districts, did not hold school due to lack of financial resources and teachers. In July of 1884, A. P. Smith and ten others petitioned County Judge A. L. Thompson to reinstate the district to the

[402] Records of School District Warrants, Madison County Treasurer, Huntsville, Arkansas, 1890-1948.

tax rolls, re-establish the district boundaries and order an election for the board of directors of the district.[403]

By the 1920's into the 1930's, the schoolhouse was nothing better than a one-room shack, even by building standards of the day.[404] It was unpainted, covered with vertical sawed lumber with vertical strips of sawed lumber nailed between the larger pieces to provide some kind of insulation from the elements. The building had no foundation and was supported by stones stacked at the corners with the building resting thereon. A large rock served as a step into the school. The building was heated by a stove in the center with a raised platform for the teacher's desk in one end of the building. Water was provided by a hand-dug well near the building.

Mrs. Bonnie Pace, who taught at the school in 1934, recalls having to clean out the well due to the poor quality of the water. All of the water was removed from the well and as she could get no one to help her clean out the various debris in the bottom, she climbed down into the well and cleaned it out. As it would take a few days for the well to fill up again, water was carried about two miles from the nearest house.

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[403] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. C, 1884, 520.

[404] Interview with Bonnie Pace, retired teacher in Madison County, Combs, Arkansas, April, 1989.

Possum Creek School c. 1911

Enrollment at the school ran anywhere from 15 to 25 during the 30's and 40's with the average daily attendance running about 60 percent. An average daily attendance in the rural isolated districts of 60 percent was considered normal.

Teachers at the Possum Creek school were: 1901, Cynthia Cornett; 1902, Will Anderson; 1903, David Stewart; 1904, Cora Salyer; 1905, No school; 1906, Ruby Carroll; 1907, Troy Ledbetter; 1908-1910, Louie Hurst; 1911, Sherman Sizemore; 1912, Ethel Hurst; 1913, D. C. Frazier; 1914, G. H. Hill; 1915, Frank Faubus; 1916, Dewey Anderson; 1917, No school; 1918, Daisy Anderson; 1919-1920, Lula Jayne; 1921, Frank Faubus; 1922, Hattie Smith; 1923, Curtis Swaim; 1924-1929, C. C. Bailey; 1930, Hannah Parsley; 1931, Rita Reed;

1932-1933, Jim McIlroy; 1934-1935, Bonnie Pace; 1936-1937, Agatha Hall; 1938, Lillie Hannah; 1939, Harvey Brashears; 1940, Mrs. O. R. Meyers; 1941, Carl Benson; 1942, Frank Faubus; 1943, Bonnie Pace.

Persons having served the district as members of the board of directors from 1900-1944 were: J. E. McKinsey, Charley Baker, M. M. Parsley, A. A. Hanna, W. H. Long, C. B. Hill, R. E. Gulledge, H. D. Prater, J. Montgomery, F. R. Parsley, Robert Hill, C. C. Parsley, R. E. Mills, W. A. Hill, A. Hicks, Tom Baker, E. Gulledge, Charles Benson, W. M. Parsley, and Roxie Baker.[405]

On April 29, 1944, a petition was filed with the county board of education asking the county board to annex and consolidate the district with Saint Paul No. 48.[406] The petition asked that an agreement be made with the Saint Paul district that no elementary students would be permitted to attend the school at Saint Paul but must attend the school at Possum Creek in grades one through eight, thus allowing students in the district who wished to attend high school at Saint Paul to do so. The petition was granted and a school continued at Possum Creek until 1949 when the school was permanently closed.

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[405] Records of School District Warrants, Madison County Treasurer, Huntsville, Arkansas, 1890-1948.

[406] Proceedings and Minutes of the Madison County Board of Education, Huntsville, Arkansas, April 29, 1944.

Upper Camp Ground District No. 28

The Upper Camp Ground school district was created on January 25, 1869, by the county court. It was located near the banks of the Kings River about three miles northwest of Kingston and was once the focal point of a fairly active and densely settled community.

The schoolhouse was located near the cemetery at Upper Camp Ground and served the community as church, school, and a general gathering place. In 1910, an epidemic of typhoid broke out in the community resulting in the deaths of many of the students and members of the community.[407] Apparently, school continued as usual with the school day being interrupted as many as four times a week in order that the schoolhouse could be used to conduct the funerals.

Upper Campground School c. 1903

[407] *The Madison County Record*, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. 111, No. 5, February 8, 1990, 1.

Upper Campground 1962

School at Upper Camp Ground was considered very progressive for the times. Students were encouraged to participate in the local "literary" and programs were presented to the public often.[408] A typical program would consist of readings, drills, monologues, dialogues, and various skits. A monologue was a memorized presentation presented by only one student. Drills were different than dialogues in that the drill was composed of several students giving part of a memorized presentation centered around a common theme to the audience. Dialogues could best be described as small skits or plays. They were the main source of entertainment for the local community.

[408] *Ozark Life, Kingston, Arkansas*, Vol. 3, 1928.

The Upper Camp Ground school, like most schools, held three- to six-month terms each year until the 1940's. The end of the term was always marked by a special celebration. It was not uncommon for one school to invite the neighboring school district to a marshmallow roast or other school outing, involving athletic and academic competition.

Teachers at the Upper Camp Ground school were: 1901, M. B. Doak; 1902-1903, H. M. Fritts; 1904, Other Smith; 1905, Clay Sisemore; 1906, Goldie Spurgeon; 1907-1909, W. F. Boydston; 1910, Merle Garton; 1911, Sid S. Lane; 1912, J. W. Garton; 1913, Pearl Parks; 1914, Side Lane; 1915, Harrison Steele; 1916-1917, Lilly Watkins; 1918, William Sikes; 1919, S. A. Holt; 1920, Edna Bunch; 1921, F. W. Patrick; 1922, W. H. Grigg; 1923, Stella Whorton; 1924-1925, Elmer Whorton; 1926, Myrtle Hawkins; 1927, Elmer Whorton; 1928-1929, Clarence Stamps; 1930, Lorin Brandenberg; 1931, Jack Elzey; 1932, Joe Maxwell; 1933, Clyde Johnson; 1934, Glenn McCollough; 1935, Ray Stout; 1936-1937, Bonnie Bolinger; 1938-1939, Elizabeth Wyatt; 1940, Irene Little; 1941, Kate Fancher; 1942, Pauline Gross; 1943, Pauline Bunch; 1944-1947, Lois Sugg Buell, Christine Parker Grigg; 1948, Hazel McCollough.

Persons listed as serving on the board of directors for the school from 1900-1948 were: J. H. Hawkins, D. M. Reynolds, H. R. Wall, W. E. Wright, E. S. Stamps, Tom

Dorsey, D. M. Wiggins, J. B. Wright, G. H. Dorsey, J. E. Wall, J. D. Gross, W. A. Johnson, Coleman Hathorn, Olney Martin, J. C. Hathorn, J. D. Wright, J. D. Yingst, Oscar Wall, and Edward Perryman.[409]

From 1925 to 1940, the enrollment of the school district averaged 24 per year with the enrollment reaching thirty only once. From 1940-1949, the enrollment never exceeded fifteen any one year. Even with this low enrollment, the school never closed until it was consolidated by the county board of education on January 28, 1949, at which time it was annexed to the Kingston school district.

Hickory Grove District No. 29

The Hickory Grove school district was located on Lynch Creek west of Clifty in Range 27 West, Township 18 North, with the western boundary of the district bordering Benton County. The district was officially created on January 25, 1869. In 1894, the district boundaries were changed to include Sections One and Two in Township 18.[410]

The little schoolhouse, one of the best maintained in the area, was located in a grove of hickory trees, near the

[409] Records of School District Warrants, Madison County Treasurer, Huntsville, Arkansas, 1890-1948.

[410] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. F, 1894, 254.

Lynch Cemetery. The school had a large bell that was too heavy to hoist to the top of the building and was mounted on a four-posted tower in the schoolyard.

Hickory Grove School District #29, photo taken in 1910 or 1911 - Ruby Ivie, Teacher

Front row, left to right: Pearl Dutton; Lucille Lynch; Ethel Dutton; Lectie White; Harvey Lynch; Benjamin Todd; Ethel Phillips; Bertha George; Arley Lynch; Fred Todd; Eddie Todd; unknown; Dorothy White; Pearl Lynch; Joe Lynch; Alta Todd; Alvey White. Two little girls standing in front: Neva Todd and Edith Beall
Back row: Clarence Pemberton; Elbert Lane; Chester Lynch; Ike Lynch; Charlotte Beall; Ruby Ivie, Teacher; James Beall; Bertie Lynch; Amy George; Mae Lynch; Vernie George; Harley White

The board of directors maintained a strict budget in the district, often volunteering time for cutting wood and keeping the building and grounds in reasonable repair. From 1930 to 1934, the total expense of the district, except for teacher salaries, was $8.45.[411]

[411] Records of School District Warrants, Madison County Treasurer, Huntsville, Arkansas, 1890-1948.

Teachers at Hickory Grove included: 1900, D. B. Newton; 1901-1903, J. B. Goddard; 1904, Nora Oliver; 1905, Edward Todd; 1906, Pearl Sandlin; 1907, Stella Ellis; 1908-1909, Edward Todd; 1910, Ethel Ivie; 1911-1912, Ruby Ivie; 1913, Edward Todd; 1914, Ira Baker; 1915, Mabel Hawkins; 1916, Maggie Cook; 1917, Edward Todd; 1918-1919, Pearl Bowlin; 1920, Edward Todd; 1921-1922, Robert Arnold; 1923, Frank Cannaday; 1924, Eula McElhaney; 1925-1926, Gladys Lynch; 1927, Olva Phillips; 1928, Ethel Phillips; 1929, Pearl Holland; 1930, Ruby Vaughn; 1931-1932, Gladys Stansell; 1933-1934, W. E. Bland; 1935-1937, Olive Lynch; 1938-1940, Hazel Koontz; 1941, Olive Lynch; 1942, Hazel Koontz; 1943-1948, Gladys Lynch.

Serving as members of the board of directors for the district between 1900 and 1948 were: J. L. Todd, Jasper R. Shelton, W. H. Lynch, M. L. Phillips, W. C. Vaughn, Chester Lynch, Fred Todd, W. C. Lynch, E. H. Watson, E. L. Calico, George Lynch, I. L. Lynch, Walter Guthrie, Arch Stillwell, Cecil Garrison, Harvey Lawson, Martin Bray, Harvey Obenshain, and Arch Reynolds.[412]

The largest enrollment of the school during the period from 1930 to 1948 was nineteen. The last year the school operated the enrollment was 12 boys and 6 girls with students enrolled in each of the eight grades. The school

[412] Ibid.

was consolidated with the Huntsville district on June 2, 1949.

Mountain Springs District No. 30

The Mountain Springs school district, located in Range 28 West, Township 16 North, was created on January 25, 1869. The school district was accessible by Highway 295 with the Crossroads community being the closest settlement to the district.

Notes left in a school record book belonging to E. G. Mason, who taught more terms at Mountain Springs than anyone, give some insight into the school:

> . . . There were single seats with inkwells on the side. Water was carried from a nearby spring by the older boys and girls. . . . As I did not cherish doing all of the cleaning, pupils were assigned routine chores in order to keep the building clean. . . . On Friday afternoon, we usually have a spelling bee or a ciphering match or a literary. If the weather is nice, a ballgame is held. . . .[413]

The district had a fairly large enrollment during the 1930's and 1940's ranging from a low of 29 to a high of 47. Attendance seemed to vary depending upon which teacher was conducting the school at the time. Some teachers reported

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[413] Arkansas School Record Book and Register, School District No. 30, Madison County, Arkansas, 1938.

attendance running at 50 percent while some reported attendance figures at 85 percent.

Mt. Springs School, 1937 Front row, left to right: Gerald Byrd; Gale Slusher; Chester Sanders; Gerald Bennett; Leonard Boyd; Hubert Boatright; Bob Sanders; Curtis Smith; Cecil Johnson; Norman Boyd; Alvin Sanders 2nd row: Genevieve Calico; Mary Anna Mason; Janie Sanders; Fern Bennett; Doris Howell; Rex Sanders; Leah Mason; R. D. Mason; Conley Calico; Doris Byrd

3rd row: E. G. Mason, Teacher: Nellie Moppin; Evelyn Howell; Imogene Bennett; Francis Sanders; Pearl Boatright; Otis Slusher; Ray Hill; Marie Slusher; Lucille or Charlene Sullivan; Dewey Whittemore

Teachers at the school were: 1901, Lou Oliver; 1902-1903, Albert Harrison; 1904, Mack Bohannon; 1905-1906, W. H. Hughes; 1907, H. M. Fritts; 1908, Delah Ware; 1909, Monroe Drake; 1910, Jap Vaughn; 1911, E. G. Mason; 1912, W. N. Bohannon; 1913, Florence Southerland; 1914, Harvey Johnson; 1915-1918, E. G. Mason; 1919, J. C. Boatright; 1920, Tommie Johnson; 1921-1922, Troy Ledbetter; 1923, R. L. Fulton; 1924, E. G. Mason; 1925, Thomas Wheeler; 1926, Ruth B.

Miller; 1927, Hazel Lucas; 1928-1929, Cleo Johnson; 1930, Iva Vaughn; 1931, V. C. Erwin; 1932-1934, E. G. Mason; 1935, L. F. Bell; 1936-1937, H. M. Fritts; 1938-1939, E. G. Mason; 1940, J. Cecil Knott; 1941, Floyd Harrison; 1942, Hazel Counts; 1943-1944, E. G. Mason; 1945-1947, Cleo Johnson; 1948, Mrs. Arthur Self.

Persons listed as serving on the board of directors for the district from 1900-1948 were: John Boatright, Noah Ledbetter, J. P. Duncan, F. M. Johnson, W. H. Purvis, H. E. Ware, N. L. Williams, W. H. Calico, J. L. Everett, T. E. Morris, Charles Hazelton, G. D. Sanders, H. E. Louge, T. E. Mason, H. D. Boyd, E. E. Hulsizer, J. L. Mason, Allen Bennett, Ernest Tooley, Lawrence Fitch, T. A. Cobb, and Joe Sanders.[414] The district was consolidated with Huntsville on June 2, 1949.

Asher District No. 31

The Asher school district was officially created on January 25, 1869. Located in one of the most isolated areas in western Madison County, it occupied approximately five square miles in Range 27 West, Township 15 North. The school-house was located midway between Draketown and Patrick on Lollars Creek.

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[414] Records of School District Warrants, Madison County Treasurer, Huntsville, Arkansas, 1890-1948.

Although not much is known about the school district, only men had been hired to teach there until 1918 when Altha Thornsberry was hired as the first woman teacher in the history of the school. The school boards of the Madison County school districts usually changed teachers yearly as can be seen by reviewing the district rosters of teachers. Many teachers would receive better offers in other school districts while some could not please the local school board. As more and more teachers passed the examination to teach and teachers became more plentiful in the 1910's, new teachers would often offer to teach a term of school for half of what the previous teacher was getting.[415]The female teachers who travelled to other districts had to find a place to board while teaching at the local school. As the Asher district was so isolated from the larger communities, it was probably not practical for a woman to venture into that area at the turn of the century.

Enrollment at the Asher school during the 30's and 40's never exceeded thirty students and in the late 1940's, average daily attendance fell close to the mandatory ten. On July 29, 1948, the Asher district along with the Plainview and Enterprise districts, petitioned the county board of education to dissolve the Asher and Plainview

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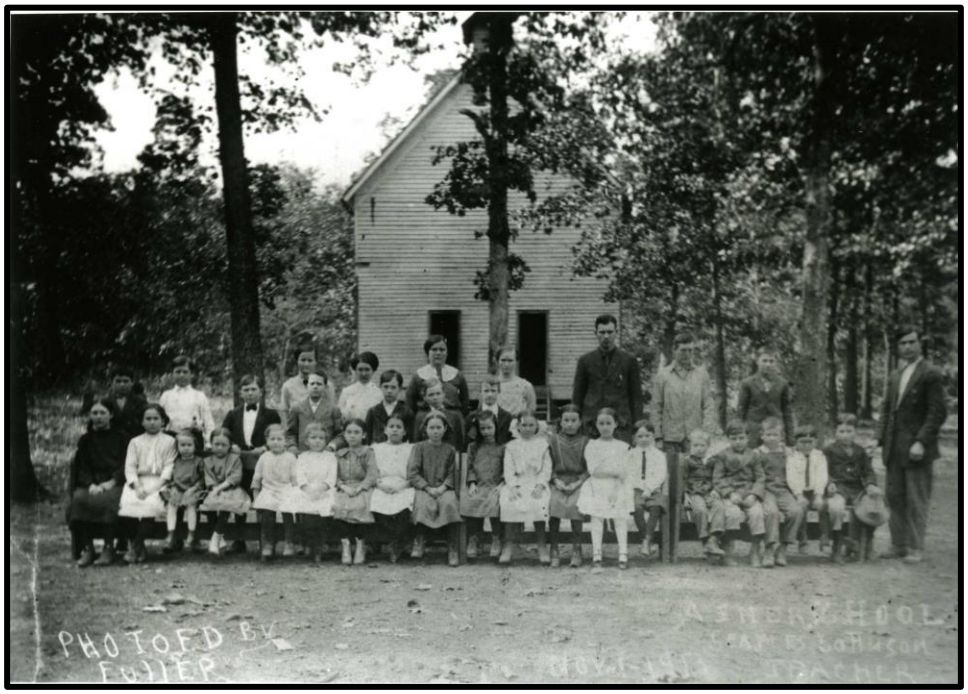
[415] Interview with Frankie Thornsberry, retired teacher in Madison County, Saint Paul, Arkansas, January, 1988.

districts and to annex and consolidate them into the Enterprise school district. This petition was seen to be in the best interest of all three districts and the petition was granted.[416]



Asher School c. 1913, Searls Johnson, teacher

Teachers at the Asher school were: 1901, H. M. Adams; 1902, W. T. Hinch; 1903, B. F. Johnson; 1904, L. F. Bell; 1905, Jap Vaughn; 1906-1907, Walter Harrison; 1908, Monroe Neal; 1909, R. F. Johnson; 1910, J. S. Combs; 1911, J. S. Lollar; 1912, Monroe Neal; 1913, Searles Johnson; 1914-1915, B. F. Johnson; 1916, Monroe Neal; 1917, Clyde Ledbetter; 1918,

[416] Proceedings and Minutes of the Madison County Board of Education, Huntsville, Arkansas, July 29, 1948.

Altha Thornsberry; 1919, Maude Stapleton; 1920, Monroe Neal; 1921, Kinley Johnson; 1922, B. F. Johnson; 1923-1924, No school; 1925, Gladys Stansell; 1926, A. A. Drain; 1927, Lucy Ledbetter; 1928, Gladys Stansell; 1929, Henry Todd; 1930, Bertha Ledford; 1931, Zelda Wheeler; 1932-1934, Annie Hand; 1935-1936, Jessie Ayers; 1937, Berdis Rogers; 1938-1939, W. J. Ledford; 1940, Alma Ayers; 1941, Walter Long; 1942, Rhoda Houston; 1943, Vista Ball; 1944-1945, Laura Atha; 1946-1948, Elmer Ledford.

Persons listed as serving on the board of directors for the district were: John Sisemore, Joe Olinger, M. H. Bowman, B. B. Thomas, A. F. Murphy, M. R. Drain, Frank Atha, H. W. Couch, J. M. Ledford, T. F. Lacy, R. L. Glenn, Dave Lollar, Nolan Hankins, W. L. Olinger, H. L. Ledford, Arthur Roach, Clyde Hankins, Ray Smith, Cartie Stapleton, and Arthur Glenn.[417]

Japton District No. 32

The Japton school district was created on January 25, 1869. It was located in Range 27 West, Township 15 North in the community of Japton. Beginning in the early 1920's, the Japton school district would become one of the largest in

[417] Records of School District Warrants, Madison County Treasurer, Huntsville, Arkansas, 1890-1948.

that area of the county often having between two and four teachers.

On April 22, 1944, the Mountain Grove school district was annexed to the Japton school district for administrative purposes. The following December, Accident district No. 52 would also be annexed to the district. In June of 1947, the Japton school district petitioned the county board asking that the Mountain Grove school district be restored to its former status but the request was denied by the county board on an unanimous vote. According to Dr. Jasper Northcutt, county supervisor of schools, patrons of the Mountain Grove school district questioned the validity of signatures on the original petition for annexation. As the furor mounted, patrons of both districts became angry, often "pitting neighbor against neighbor."[418] Neither district now wished to continue paying for the school bus which had been purchased to transport the Mountain Grove students to Japton. The unanimous vote of the county board apparently ended the feud between the districts.

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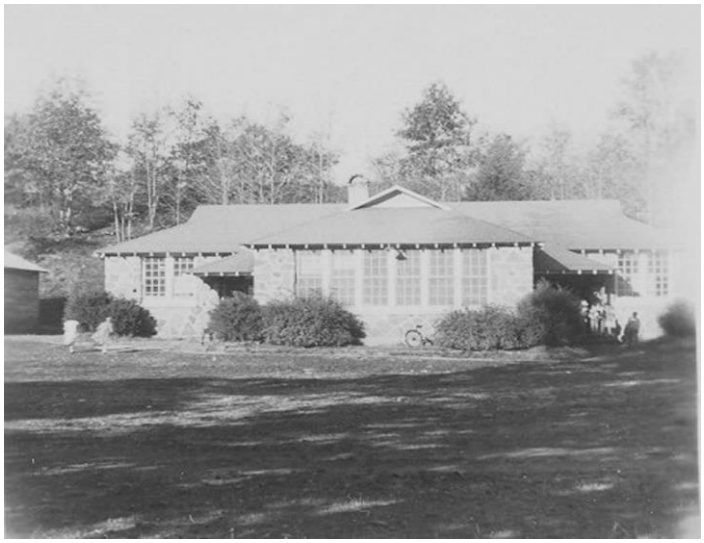
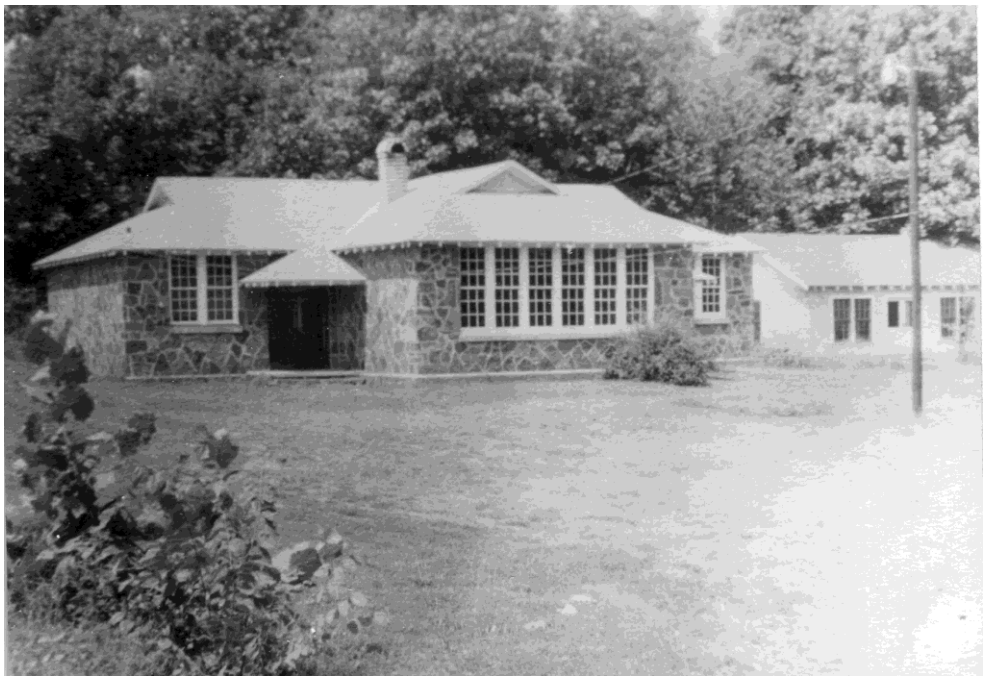
[418] Interview with Dr. Jasper O. Northcutt, former Madison County School Supervisor, Huntsville, Arkansas, March, 1991.

Teachers at Japton were: 1900, U. S. Cannon; 1901, A. M. Duncan; 1902-1903, Monroe Neal; 1904-1907, B. F. Johnson; 1908, Alvin Ellis; 1909, Sherman Sisemore; 1910, S. B. Mitchell; 1911-1913, B. F. Johnson; 1914, Monroe Neal; 1915, S. B. Mitchell; 1916, Sherman Sisemore; 1917, Floyd Harrison; 1918, Dorothy Thornsberry; 1919, Bessie Dudgeon; 1920, B. F. Johnson; 1921, Newt Reynolds; 1922, Mona Mix; 1923, Clyde Mix, Mona Mix; 1924, Mona Mix; 1925, S. B. Mitchell; 1926-1927, Bruce Johnson; 1928, Virgil Keck; 1929, Hazel Johnson, Bruce Johnson; 1930, Vada Whorton, Elmer Whorton; 1931-1932, Vada Long, Lydia Lang; 1933-1934, Mona

Mix, Luther Mix; 1935, Lloyd Mix, Gwendolyn Ledbetter; 1936-1937, Lloyd Mix; Hazel Mix; 1938-1939, Ralph Ballard, Berdis Rogers; 1940-1941, Ralph Ballard, Bruce Johnson; 1942, Reba Rogers, Bruce Johnson; 1943, J. C. Ewing, Margaret Beard; 1944, Carl Vanlandingham, Vista Ball, Sherman Sisemore, J. C. Ewing; 1945, J. D. Haynes, Mona Mix; 1946-1947, J. C. Ewing, Jessie Ayers; 1948, J. C. Hacker, Clara Tassey.

Japton School – Began August 2, 1943





Japton School and lunch room

Persons listed as having served on the board of directors of the district were: C. E. Duncan, J. H. Rogers, J. J. Rogers, E. P. Sisemore, M. W. Drake, F. M. Eubanks, Sherman Pennington, H. L. Grant, John W. Spurlock, J. C. Kisor, R. L. Glenn, Bruce Johnson, N. E. Herriman, Johnnie Eubanks, and Jack Spurlock.[419] The Japton school district was consolidated with Huntsville on February 28, 1949. An elementary school was maintained at Japton into the early 1950's.

[419] Records of School District Warrants, Madison County Treasurer, Huntsville, Arkansas, 1890-1948.

Combs District No. 33

The Combs school district was officially created on January 25, 1869, by County Judge G. W. Vaughn although a school had been maintained in the Combs area as early as 1855. The location of the old school building has been reported to be in Section 2 of Township 13 North, Range 27 West, a short distance south of the site of the old school hill. It appears that two different school buildings served the area from 1850 to 1900.[420] As was the case in many of the school districts during this time, the Combs school district held school only when money was available and usually for two- or three-month terms.

At some point between 1870 and 1900, the Combs school district was dissolved and the students attended school at Greenwood and Phipps Chapel. On July 15, 1902, J. S. Combs, G. A. Barron, and others petitioned the county court to re-establish the former school district. Parts of the Greenwood and Phipps Chapel school district were used to create the new district.[421]

Within a few years, a small schoolhouse was constructed on the hill overlooking Combs. This building, often

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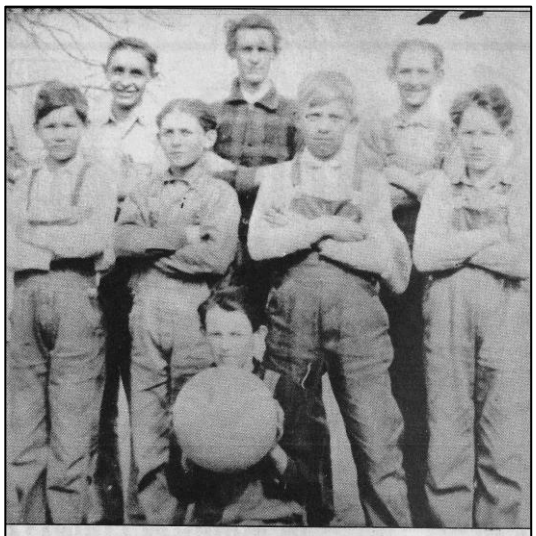
[420] Billie Jines, Veneda Pope, and Georgia Yates, *Combs . . . The Way We Were* (Ozark, Missouri: Dogwood Printing, 1990), 9-10.

[421] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. H, 1892, 251.

referred to as "The Hall" appears to have been used by other groups. During this time, a fraternal order, The Independent Order of Knights of the Horse, may have used the building as a lodge hall, thus the nickname. In 1909, a larger building was constructed above the small building and the two school buildings would from this point on be referred to as the small room and the big room by some people while some referred to them as the lower and upper rooms.[422]

During the 1930's, basketball became very popular in the area and boys and girls teams were organized. The only practice facility was an outside, dirt court and as the spending of tax money for such non-academic purposed was not considered proper, pie suppers were held to purchase uniforms and equipment. The local boys apparently loved the game as the 1935, team, coached by Deck Gage, won the district tournament at Fayetteville.



Pictured is the Combs School basketball team taken on the outside dirt and gravel court between the upper room and the lower room school buildings in 1926-27 or 1927-28. A portion of the lower room can be seen in the left of the photo. Arthur Johnson, superintendent and teacher of the school, was also the coach.

"It could not have been later than 1928 for that was my last year as a student in the Combs School," said Orval Faubus. He went on to say, "We played teams from Crosses and Delaney, and perhaps St. Paul, although I don't recall a game with the latter. Once we journeyed to Mountain Crest to contest that team. Two things I recall, we won the game, but the opposing team was cheered on by the most girls I had ever seen. Mountain Crest was a Presbyterian girls' school. My sister, Connie, and Elsie Benson, along with the Van Brunt girls on Mill Creek, attended the school.

Pictured, left to right, back row - Orval E. Faubus, the late Zember Cornett and the late Herman Burrell. Front row - Carl Eversole, the late Jesse Burrell, Carl Benson, and the late Rex Eversole. Seated, holding the ball, the late Tom Orll McChristian. Herman Burrell was the father of Noreta Baker, father-in-law of Sheriff Ralph Baker, and deputy collector of Madison County. *Photo courtesy of Orval Faubus*

[422] Jines, Pope, and Yates, op. cit., 3-14.

Another achievement during this same period was the addition of a small library to the school. Books were brought by the students and some were donated by people in the community. Students were taught the operations of a library system, as it related to cataloguing and classification.

One evening during the 1938-1939 school term, the "Little Room" caught fire and burned to the ground. Miss Grace Benson, the teacher that year, finished teaching her students in the old W. G. Barren Store. Later, a partition would be built in the "Upper Room" creating two classrooms.

On August 6, 1943, the district petitioned the county board of education for annexation and consolidation to Saint Paul district No. 48 with no grade school children to be transported to Saint Paul. As soon as enrollment was large enough, the Combs school was to be set up as a Junior High School as well. With this plan in mind, a new two-room concrete block structure was erected just south of the existing school at a cost of $4,200. This building would continue to serve the school until 1955 at which time, it was permanently closed.

Teachers at the Combs school were: 1902, Kate Allen; 1903-1904, G. B. Combs; 1905-1906, Monroe Drake; 1907, Garland Combs; 1908, B. F. Johnson; 1909-1911, Monroe Drake; 1912, Robert M. Reed; 1913, Bonnie Cole, Rose Irwin; 1914, Afton and Gertrude Wheeler; 1915, Estah Miller, Floyd Harrison; 1916-1917, Gertrude and Afton Wheeler; 1918, Drew Combs, J. S. Jameson; 1919, Robert M. Reed; 1920, Orin Glass; 1921, Lovie Hurst, Lillie Hurst; 1922, Lillie Hurst; 1923, Richard Barker, Drue Combs; 1924-1925, Drue Combs, Robert M. Reed; 1926-1927, Ina Johnson; 1928, Robert M. Reed; 1929, Zola Montgomery, Robert M. Reed; 1930, Grace West; 1931, Robert M. Reed, Lela Mullen; 1932, Robert M. Reed, Frankie Thornsberry; 1933, Chester Jackson, Frankie Thornsberry; 1934-1935, Deck Gage, Frankie Thornsberry; 1936, Beulah Southerland, Robert M. Reed; 1937, Bonnie Pace, Grace Benson; 1938, Grace Benson, Wade Guinn; 1939, Glynn Gabbard, Wade Guinn; 1940, Velma Dabney, W. H. Ward; 1941, W. H. Ward, Billie Allen; 1942-1943, J. C. Hacker, Billie Allen Shipley.

Persons having served on the board of directors were: V. A. Combs, E. C. Combs, H. C. Smith, L. E. Barron, W. M. Johnson, H. F. Miller, E. E. Jeter, James Blevins, G. A. Barron, J. C. Brougher, J. G. Villines, S. B. Eaton, J. M. Eaton, Sam Clark, Aug Riley, Joe Blevins, H. P. Eversole, Oliver Combs, John Miller, Clyde Blevins, Frank Hall, Joe

Burrell, S. W. Prather, Bill Dixon, Emery Napier, E. D. Gabbard, Dove Martin, Leonard Parker.[423]

Jones District No. 34

The Jones school district was created on January 25, 1869. The school district was located in Range 25 West, Township 16 North and occupied about eight square miles.

c. 1940, Ewell Easterling, teacher

c. 1958 Jones School

During the 1920's and early 1930's, the one-room school at Jones was a busy place with the enrollment running as high as 66 in 1928. Selected enrollments for grades one through eight during the period were: 1924, 64; 1928, 66; 1932, 60; 1935, 51; 1939, 45. During the 1940's, the enrollment continued to fall until 1948 when the enrollment fell to 21. The school district was consolidated with Huntsville on June 2, 1949.

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[423] Records of School District Warrants, Madison County Treasurer, Huntsville, Arkansas, 1890-1948.

Teachers at the Jones school were: 1901, Laudonia Swift; 1902, Charlie Mitchell; 1903, Harry Davis; 1904, Thomas Wiggins; 1905-1906, W. T. Hinch; 1907, F. W. Patrick; 1908, C. W. Stroud; 1909, F. W. Patrick; 1910-1911, Charlie Mitchell; 1912, N. J. Carlock; 1913, C. O. Wheeler; 1914, Elmer Vaughn; 1915, Nelson J. Carlock; 1916, Oliver Green; 1917, Joe Rice; 1918, Anna Coger; 1919, Willie Goucher; 1920, Charlie T. Mitchell; 1921, Walter Ledbetter; 1922, Bessie McBroom; 1923, Anna Barnes; 1924, Elmer Vaughn; 1925, D. B. Newton; 1926, Maggie Slaven; 1927, Amos Harris; 1928, Jim Sikes; 1929-1930, Cleo Fowler; 1931, Mary Haynes; 1932-1936, Clarence Stamps; 1937, Pauline Hawkins; 1938, Kathleen Johnston; 1939-1942, Ewell Easterling; 1942, Pauline Hawkins; ;1943-1944, F. C. Terry; 1945-1946, Drucilla Taylor; 1947-1948, Mrs. J. C. Ewing.

Persons serving on the board of directors for the school district between 1900-1948 were: T. R. Cain, P. R. Phillips, John Sikes, N. J. Carlock, H. O. Reeves, Charley Stroud, Marsh Mitchell, Fred Hawkins, Saul Fowler, Ed Stroud, Kate Phillips, Claud Bolinger, Wood Cain, Clark Fowler, Mack Reeves, J. E. Jones, Hubert Cline, Ewell Harwood, and Ewin Bolinger.[424]

[424] Ibid.

Little's Chapel District No. 35

The exact date of the founding of the Little's Chapel school district is not known but it was somewhere between 1869-1870. The district was located approximately five miles south of Kingston on Sweden Creek in Range 24 West, Township 16 North.

The Little family, along with several others, came from Hall County, Georgia, in 1869 and settled in the area along Sweden Creek. The school, which also served as the church, was originally built on government land which was later homesteaded by Sarah Smith. The school was owned and financed by the families who had homesteaded the area and only their children were allowed to attend the school.[425] In

[425] Interview with John D. Little, Kingston, Arkansas, December, 1990.

1890, the Madison County Board of Education purchased the land and school from Sarah Smith for $4.00, thus making it a public school for the area rather than a private one. It appears from enumeration and tax records that tax monies were used to support the school from 1870-1890 even though it was a private school. The enumeration of 1879 listed 61 students in the district with a distribution of $62.22 to the district.

In 1909, the Pharris school district was annexed to the Burke school district. The school building which had been used in the Pharris district was torn down in 1914. Each plank was numbered and moved by horse and wagon to the Little's Chapel school district where it was reassembled.

Memories from a former student of Little's Chapel

My formal schooling began in the fall of 1942 on Sweeden's Creek at a one room school 5 miles south of Kingston named Little's Chapel, district #35. It was a lovely structure about 20'x30' setting along a slope. It had 2 separate doors in the south, 5 windows on each side, a brick chimney in the center of the north end and blackboards on either side. A large wood stove set in the center with "JUMBO" on the lid. This building had been torn down at Felkin's Creek, pieces numbered and reassembled at the present location about 100 yards west of the old log building. It had a very steep pitched roof, decorative trim over each door and window and painted white. I can remember Mr. Burton, who had only one arm, painting the inside white during one school term.

There was a home-made table on the stage used for the teachers desk and a bench at the edge of the stage called the "recitation bench". The entire grade went to this

bench at the same time and took turns reading aloud to the teacher. The other seven grades were at their desks preparing lessons.

I have many fond memories of my school days there as I always loved school and cannot remember being asked if I had my homework done. I liked all my teachers but some were liked better than others in some ways. The school day began at 8:00 a.m. ("took up books" was the phrase we used) and were dismissed at 4:00 p.m. We had a 30 minute recess at 10:00 a.m. one hour lunch period at 12:00 noon and another 30 minute recess at 2:00 p.m. Kate Fancher had a personal hand-held bell to ring to "take up books" and Doyle Little had a loud shrill whistle by holding his tongue, teeth and lips "just so" all the while thrusting out air. I think the others had a small store bought whistle to blow. I always wished for a bell like Miss Kate had and I wore my lips out trying to whistle like Mr. Little. Wonder if that caused my over-bite?

There was no money appropriated for athletic equipment so the pupils and teacher had to be creative and selective of the games and/or activities that were available. Most was played in the county dirt road. The playground was rough , sidling and steep. Some of the outside games we played were Stink Base, Dare Base, Red Rover, Ante-I-Over, Flying Dutchman, London Bridge, Needles Eye, Drop the Handkerchief, Tag, and Hide and Go Seek. When it was rainy or cold we sometimes played Hop Scotch, I Spy, Blind Fold inside, or some ciphering on the blackboard. Most walked to school bare footed. Sometimes one of us was injured like a stone bruise, thorn in the flesh, grass cut or a stubbed toe. Caustic Balsom was a common patent medicine used as a "heal all". Kerosene or coal oil was also poured on every cut. We would saturate a twine string in Caustic Balsom and wrap it several times around the injured toe. We had not heard of a school nurse, gauze, tape or band-aid. A stall was made from a piece of flour sack to fit over the injured (mashed or cut) finger or toe. It had a heavy string or ribbon of fabric attached to tie around the wrist or ankle to hold it in place. I don't remember anyone being injured very seriously. It is a miracle some of the smaller pupils weren't hurt in rough games like Red Rover.

The first year I had so much to learn as all first graders do. Sometimes the little ones were permitted to walk along with an older student to "The Bear Den" to

fetch a pail of water. We don't really know who or when the spring got it's name. My ancestors homesteaded this land and we were always told bears hibernated there in the cave-like entrance to the spring. Our family used it as a cellar to keep things from freezing and to keep the milk and butter cool in the shallow flowing water. Also they used it for safety from cyclones and tornados if they had time to get there after they were seen coming over the mountain. All the students were asked to carry in wood. This was usually cut on the school ground of one acre by one of the three board members or a thoughtful parent.

There were no outside toilet facilities. The girls went to the hollow behind the building and the boys the other direction. The teacher was the janitor, fire builder and general repairman. Students who were asked to help with these duties were gratified and eager to help as this meant you were dependable. There was no money involved in these duties and probably $30.00 to $50.00 a month for the teacher salary. There was no electricity and still none. However, the R E A lines pass over the school ground now.

There was not a pencil sharpener in the building in the life of the school. We sharpened them at home or sometimes the older boys had a pocket knife. I can remember when a knife couldn't be found and we would find a broken window pane, either in the window or outside in the gravels in the eaves drip to use to sharpen the already short pencil. Supplies were hard to come by and we were taught by the teacher and parents to not waste pencils and paper.

All required subjects were taught and each class was called to the recitation bench for as many oral answers as possible so as to not grade papers all night. If you were industrious and kept your lessons up you could observe what the class at the bench or blackboard were doing and actually learn to your fullest capacity since all eight grades were taught. If you were slow this was a great time to catch up.

There was no lunchroom or lunch area. We all carried a lunch pail. Sometimes not too many goodies but always enough to sustain growing pains. In the warmer weather we ate outside on the door steps or on the big rocks. Sometimes we shared food with each other. There was a bench in the back near the door where we set our lunches near the one water bucket and one dipper. Sometimes some

had their own cup. One teacher showed us how to fold paper and make a nice cup. Sometimes paper was scarce. I still remember how to make this cup.

In the summertime I can remember stopping by my Grandmother's house after school and looking for a baked sweet potato, fried apple pie, salt bacon, cured ham or a cold biscuit in the pie safe or warming closet. If there were no sweets sometimes I could find a piece of cornbread and go by the garden and get an onion, radish, or tomato and go on my way home. I can't remember ever having any store bought goodies for lunch.

Friday evenings the floors were cleaned in tip-top shape. Everything in the desks were taken out and stacked neatly in the green locker. Blackboards were erased and the building left very orderly for church services on Sunday. We never had a minister live in our community but we had 2 very faithful preachers who must have had the real love of Jesus in their hearts for us. They were John Grigg and Frank King. They were both married and had very large families living 7 to 10 miles away. There was no roads to their homes, just a mountain trail up the bluff so steep we called it "The Cow's Face", across the Smelly Hollow, up another bluff and on 2 or 3 miles. I can't remember a time when the Missus and children didn't walk along with him regardless of heat, ticks, chiggers, rain, snow, sleet, ice or a beautiful Easter Sunday or Mother's Day. Other ministers I can remember was Bill Strode, Tarlton Lane and Alec Woods but don't remember their families being so faithful.

Christmas was always a festive time. The older boys usually found a big cedar tree that would touch the ceiling. A week or two before Christmas parts for the program would be given out. As we popped and strung popcorn and twisted red and green crepe paper for decoration we silently practiced our pieces for the program. We always had extra boughs of cedar limbs to elegantly decorate over each of the 10 windows with a big red bow and maybe a pine cone in center of each swag. Sometimes we had store bought icicles. The whole school saved the foil wrappers from chewing gum to cover the star for the top of the tree. The whole community drew names and exchanged gifts. After the program Santa Claus was on his yearly rounds and always stopped by to hand out the gifts.

June 9, 1939, we experienced a very sad occasion--the

death of a young mother, Vinnie Cook. She died from complications of tonsillitis. The funeral was in their house near the school then went to Kingston for burial. The four children ranged in age from about 12 years down to 2 years. This created a big problem. There was no welfare then and had there been the father, Arlie Cook, had too much pride to take help. Therefore, he must continue to work in the fields, pick berries, can anything he could find growing and play the part of Mother, too. When school started it was harder as there were no day care centers. What would he do with Glen who was 2 years old? It was decided by the teacher, board members and community that he would go to school with older brother and 2 sisters. Other than him being spoiled rotten as a little boy it had no ill effects. The father never remarried and all the children have successful jobs and families in Washington County. Baby Glen is employed by Ward's Ice Cream for the past 25 years.

My first teacher in the fall of 1942 was Miss Kate Fancher (I have a copy of her teaching license), an old maid probably in her sixties with fiery red hair who lived on the old home place with her brother, Sam and his wife Ollie. She was very well educated (probably at Little's Chapel) with many years experience and a few correspondence courses from the University of Arkansas. I'd be willing to wager she taught more than 100 school terms, a few months here and there the year around. When money ran out in one district another was ready for her.

In the fall of 1943 I was in 2nd grade. Miss Josephine Lane was hired and she boarded at our house. She usually stayed Monday through Thursday nights and went home on the weekends. Our house was too small for an extra but somehow we managed. Our house was only 2 rooms with an unfinished attic. There was a crude staircase in the kitchen end with a curtain over a storage area under the steps. During the time she was with us we had a gold fish. I can remember one morning getting up and the fish bowl was frozen so hard the fish couldn't swim. When the ice thawed he was ok. Somehow Daddy found enough money for a candy bar, apple or something from town for her lunch pail. My brother and I had to make do with what Mama cooked or had left over from breakfast. Sometimes she would take the last little wad of biscuit dough, roll it thin, butter it and sprinkle cocoa or cinnamon on it, roll it up, slice and bake it while the oven was still

hot. This was almost as good as a store bought snack! Later that year Miss Josephine married my Uncle, Odel Smith.

The fall of 1944 brought William Doyle Little as my 3rd grade teacher. He, his wife Flossie and preschool daughter, Donna Jean, moved to our community and lived in the house at "The Bear Den" spring where we got water for the school. This was a real challenge as he was the only male teacher I had. He introduced more sports this year plus swings made by him and the older boys. He loved to sing, therefore we sang a lot. Row, Row, Row your boat was one of my favorites. Seems like we sang The Star Spangled Banner every morning. On rainy or bad days we did exercises inside. He was a good teacher. Outstanding in my mind was his teaching penmanship. We did a lot of this practice on the blackboard to save paper. We made llls, eees, ttts,ddds,and overlapping ooos, by the mile, being sure to keep the llls and eees open and backtrack on the ttts and ddds closed. He was a very good scribe and wanted us to be. I still have the penmanship text book we used. Wouldn't it be nice if this had been a success in all the grade schools. Some penmanship is barely readable!

Before the year ended he was drafted to the U. S. Army and a younger brother, Lavoyd, came to finish the term. About 2 weeks after school was out he died of a cerebral hemorrhage. This was a tragic year for us students.

My 4th and 5th grades were taught by Miss Katie Austin from the Loy community. She was an old maid who sometimes courted Burl Weathers, a well known business man, and owned the Kingston Mercantile. She sometimes worked in his store on Saturdays or when she was not teaching. By this time WW11 had ended and caused so many of our community to go away for jobs that it left our attendance very low. This gave her much more time for undivided student help so I finished grades 4 and 5 this year. She boarded with the Lee Parker Family and walked about 2 miles to school along with the Parker's daughter, Juanita. She died an old maid and he a bachelor many years later.

1946-47 brought a fresh young graduate of Kingston High School to be my 6th grade teacher. She was the oldest of several children whose mother had died giving birth years before. She was so very proud of her job and

was a good teacher, Miss Reba Steele from the Upper Campground community. She boarded with my grandparents, Charlie and Dollie Cook. Sometimes she walked the 6 or 7 miles to our community and sometimes her brother, Ray, brought her on the family horse.

1947-48 my seventh grade teacher was a repeat except this time she was Mrs. Josephine (Lane) Smith, now my aunt with a little girl, Shirley Jo, 2 years old. This year she rented a little cabin about 1½ miles from school and walked the distance to school with the Eoff , Bowen and Eaton students. This little house had been built by Bill Eoff for his daughter, Lois White and baby Joyce to live in near them while her husband Dorsey was in service in Japan. Cora Eoff was the sitter for Shirley.

The fall of 1948 brought Miss Kate Fancher again as my 8th grade teacher. A few years older and a little more experienced. She was still able to walk the 2 ½ mile road on upper Sweeden Creek each day. I was lucky to live on this road and got to walk with her, her nieces and nephews, Ibert, Nadine, Wayne and Ina Lucille Fancher. Pauline and Edwin (we and his family always said EDMOND) Stephenson also walked with us. This walk was interesting and educational. There was nearly always water in the road ditches in the springtime. Often we would see several toad frogs and lots of masses of frog eggs in the water. As the days went by we could see the eggs mature and finally the tadpoles were there by the thousands with such long tails. As the weeks went by the tails began to disappear as the little tadpoles grew. Pretty soon they didn't seem to swim all the time but had grown legs long and strong enough to jump and were now land animals and soon would lay their own eggs and start a family.

Sometimes our pockets would be full of goodies we picked along the way. Black haws, hazelnuts and chinquapins were our favorites. We played hully-gull with the chinquapins.

All of the Fanchers' loved and rode horses to town, to the neighbors or to do chores. I've seen Sam who had a club foot skid small trees tied with a lariat rope to his pony's saddle horn for fire wood. I've been told that tumble bugs that we often seen in the road as we walked to school, only push balls made of horse dung. These were fairly large black hard shelled bugs that worked in pairs, made a ball of this dung about 1½ inches in diameter and one pushed and one pulled backward on and on to no telling

where. I never knew for what reason they worked so hard getting to a certain place to lay their eggs in this ball.

Some of the boys walked to school on stilts. This was nice on muddy days, kept the shoes dry and clean. My dad thought it was hard on shoes! Some rolled a hoop and guided it with a paddle. I even learned how to do this. J. E. Eoff rode a long horned billy goat. Sometimes this was a distraction after we got to school.

We were also entertained as we walked by snakes (sometimes King Snakes swallow poison snakes), blue tailed lizards, squirrels, rabbits, white tailed-hawks swooping low to get a baby chicken for an afternoon snack. In the fall Charlie Cook could be seen making molasses near the road and Gusta Byers cutting the tops off the corn field or gathering corn in a horse-drawn wagon for Grandpa Charlie. Sometimes when I'd stop at Granny Dollie's for a snack she would be out by the smoke house making lye soap in the big black wash kettle. She thought the soap was best if made in March when the sign of the moon was just right. If we ever had cucumbers we thought was too large to use Miss Kate was glad to have them. Sometimes she had a bigger load than she could carry home!

Miss Kate was a very picturesque reader. Sometimes when the weather was too bad to play outside she would bring an interesting g book and read aloud to us, as the school had no library books. All 8 grades listened intently to the continued story. She read about 20 minutes each day. When a certain book was started nobody wanted to miss a day so it helped attendance. When Mama died on the circus wagon all the sadness and tears were expressed. During joyful times she expressed much enthusiasm and happy exciting emotions!

In December 1947, Little's Chapel school district #35 ran out of funds and the school was terminated. At this time county-wide consolidation took place and school at Little's Chapel was no more. Since this was my 8th grade, my parents were afraid I might not be ready for the county examination that must be passed before one could go into 9th grade at Kingston High School. My Aunt Flossie Smith, her two daughters, Betty Jo and Billie Ruth and I rented a 3 room apartment with no plumbing in Kingston over the post office and went the last semester of the 8th grade at Kingston.

At the end of that term the county supervisor, P. V. Blankenship, came to school and administered the test to

determine who would be promoted to 9th grade. For this a lot of 8th graders including any from all nearby one-room schools assembled in the sanctuary of the Presbyterian Church that was connected to the school. Mr. Blankenship seated us, one on each end of every other pew. The test began and lasted several hours. I think we were notified by mail at a later date. Anyway, I entered the 9th grade. This year we had new students from Lower Campground, Upper Campground, Ribbon Ridge, Liberty, Elk Horn, Boxley, Marble, Little's Chapel and Short Cove. A few older gentlemen who were recently discharged from the service took advantage of the G. I. Bill. Some really wanted to get a better education and some just attended to get the benefits of a monthly check. Those entering the 9th grade with me were Bill Bradley, Raymon Hathorn, Chubby Evans, and J. B. Haythorn. Raymon Hathorn was the only one to graduate with the class. J. .B. Haythorn, who had lost a leg and was injured otherwise just went one year . The two flights of stairs was a difficult challenge for him. He ran for a public political office, won and served several years. Our class had 14 graduates which was the largest graduating class of Kingston High School up through 1953.

In 1979 our Kingston 4th graders tested highest in the state on the achievement tests placing in the 81st percentile nation wide. We are still proving to ourselves and the whole state that we don't need more consolidation or Act # 1 which will be on our ballots the next time we vote.

Charlene Cook Grigg
1980

Teachers at the Little's Chapel school were: 1900, Jolly King; 1901, Stella Lowry; 1902, Ava Griggs; 1903, Thomas Wiggins; 1904-1905, Addie Fancher; 1906, W. B. Casey; 1907, Addie Fancher; 1908, Mary Salle; 1909, Louis Miller; 1910, Addie Fancher; 1911, William Garton; 1912, Ano Bradshaw; 1913, J. M. Green; 1914, Lydia Spears; 1915, Lula

Gross; 1916-1919, Kate Fancher; 1920, Ada Watkins; 1921, Myrtle Hawkins; 1922, Kate Fancher; 1923, Katie Austin; 1924, Lorin Brandenburg; 1925, Clell Bolinger; 1926, Kate Fancher; 1927, Myrtle Hawkins; 1928-1929, Flossie Cook; 1930, Opal Garton; 1931, Edith Whitely; 1932, Kate Fancher; 1933, Mrs. Rymer Twyman; 1934, Dessie Everman; 1935, Mabel Stout; 1936, Myrtle Hawkins Little; 1937, Kate Fancher; 1938-1939, Augusta Self; 1940, Myrtle Little, 1941, Glenn Seals; 1942, Kate Fancher; 1943, Josephine Lane; 1944, W. D. Little; 1945-1946, Katie Austin; 1947, Reba Steele; 1948, Kate Fancher.

Persons serving on the board of directors from 1900-1948 were: W. H. B. Bowen, W. B. Fancher, Lee Fancher, A. G. Little, J. W. Harris, Albert Cook, J. W. Cook, Sam Fancher, J. F. Bowen, John White, H. H. Bowen, A. W. Norris, Will Eaton, Herman Cook, Lonnie Cook, Willie Eoff, Lonzo Stevenson, Claude Fancher, Eddie Cook, W. E. Johnson, and Dorsey White.[426] The school was consolidated with the Kingston district on February 28, 1949.

[426] Records of School District Warrants, Madison County Treasurer, Huntsville, Arkansas, 1890-1948.

Loy District No. 36

The Loy school district was created by the county court between 1869 and 1870. It was located in Township 16 North, Range 24 West approximately four miles southwest of Kingston.

In 1878, the enumeration of the district was 49 students with an apportionment from the common school fund of $49.98. By 1888, the school district enumerated 83 students and received $89.93 from the common school fund.

Teachers at the Loy school were: 1901, Walter B. Stephenson; 1902, James Adams; 1903, W. T. Hinch; 1904, Walter Ledbetter; 1905, Martha Ivie; 1906, W. L. Hilliard; 1907, Thomas Wheeler; 1908, Walter Ledbetter; 1909, O. D. Montgomery; 1910, Lewis Miller; 1911, Gary Dotson; 1912, Peark Parker; 1913, Kate Fancher; 1914-1915, Walter Ledbetter; 1916, J. Harrison Smith; 1917, Vern Moses; 1918,

G. W. Forrest; 1919, J. H. Mullins; 1920, Ethel Saunders; 1921, R. Whorton; 1922, Katie Austin; 1923, Vada Callaway; 1924, Myrtle Hawkins; 1925, Arthur Johnson; 1926, Katie Austin; 1927, Gladys Stansell; 1928, Callie Gray; 1929, Kate Fancher; 1930, Jack Elzey; 1931-1932, Lorin Brandenburg; 1933, Katie Austin; 1934-1936, Joe Maxwell; 1937-1939, O. D. Easterling; 1940-1941, Bonnie Bolinger; 1942, Ewell Parson; 1943, Katie Austin; 1944, Margaret Beard; 1945-1947, Katie Austin; 1948, J. E. Combs.

Persons having served on the board of directors between 1900 and 1948 were: T. O. Stephens, J. N. Whorton, Sam Russell, J. P. Stamps, J. S. Stamps, Ray Parsons, Newton Whorton, Lynn Russell, J. H. Combs, J. L. Austin, A. E. Sparks, James Parker, J. T. Stephenson, Grover Fancher, Fred Pharris, Claude Bolinger, Clell Bolinger, Audie Holiday, W. E. Dailey, Omer Austin, and Fred Berry. The district was consolidated with Kingston on February 28, 1949.

Clear Creek District No. 37

The Clear Creek school district was created between 1869 and 1870 under the provisions of the school law of 1868. The district was located in Range 26 West, Township 18 North along the old CC road south of Clifty. The one-room schoolhouse was often referred to as the Bohannon

school and the district also was known as Possum Trot by the local patrons.

Although the district was formerly created around 1870, no enumeration or apportionment from the common school fund was made in 1878. In 1888, the enumeration of the district was reported to be sixty with an apportionment of $65.02. Enumeration of the district was reported for the following years: 1892, 46 students; 1893, 48 students; 1894, 55 students; 1895, 46 students; 1896, 46 students; 1897, 56 students.[427]

In 1894, a contract was issued to J. C. Anderson to teach a three-month term at Clear Creek for $26.00 per month. The contract stipulated that the school was to be open six and one-half hours each day. A similar contract was offered to J. W. Walker in 1896 for the sum of $23.00 per month.[428]

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[427] *Madison County Musings*, The Madison County Historical Society, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. 5, No. 4, 1986, 21-40.

[428] Ibid.

Teachers at the Clear Creek school were: 1893, Andy Calico; 1894, J. C. Anderson; 1896, J. W. Walker; 1897, H. M. Fritts; 1898, D. R. Ferree; 1899-1900, Homer Reynolds; 1901-1902, Ethel Bedingfield; 1903-1904, Dave B. Newton; 1905, Vard Ivie; 1906, Laura Evans; 1907, Lydia Hawn; 1908, Gula Ivie; 1909-1910, Mary Bedingfield; 1911, J. W. Oliver; 1912, Dollie Keeney; 1913, Viola Hinds; 1914, Ethel Crawford; 1915, J. L. McCoy; 1916, Roscoe Harrison; 1917, Floyd Calico; 1918-1919, Mabel Vaughn; 1920, Bessie Neal; 1921, J. L. McCoy; 1922, Newton Reynolds; 1923, Harold Teague; 1924, Ruth Hinds; 1925, Anna K. True; 1926, Zula McElhaney; 1927, J. L. McCoy; 1928, Pauline Wiggins; 1929, Cora Vaughn; 1930, Elfie Boyd; 1931, Jay Roberts; 1932, Zula McElhaney Calico;

1933-1934, Opal Hinds; 1935-1936, J. D. Haynes; 1937-1938, Willie Calico Bohannon; 1939, Mable McKinney; 1940-1941, Opal Hinds; 1942, Myrtle Little; 1943, Margaret Luck; 1944-1945, Albert Todd; 1946-1948, Willie Bohannon.

Persons listed as having served on the board of directors from 1894-1948 were: Abraham Hinds, Tom Harp, Jimmy Clark, Baugh Hinds, Bill Bailey, J. A. Trolinger, S. H. May, W. E. Seigel, Albert Bohannon, W. A. Lewis, W. C. Calico, J. C. Calico, F. W. Johnson, I. H. Hinds, G. W. Bohannon, E. V. Litterell, R. Sanders, Sam Jones, E. L. Calico, Frank Marlow, Walter Hadley, Jewell Calico, Thomas Inguire, Fred Dorsey, and Billie Stafford.

Enrollment and average daily attendance at the school during the 1930's and 1940's are represented by the following: 1933, enrollment, 30, ADA, 24; 1935, enrollment, 21, ADA, 18; 1937, enrollment, 24, ADA, 15; 1939, enrollment, 20, ADA, 13; 1942, enrollment, 27, ADA, 16; 1947, enrollment, 18, ADA, 12. The school district was consolidated with Huntsville on June 2, 1949, although a wing school operated until 1955 at the site. The students were then transferred to the wing school at Clifty.

Reeds Creek District No. 38

The Reeds Creek school district was created in 1869 or 1870 by the county court. The district was located in Range 25 West, Township 16 North approximately 3 miles east of the Jones school district.

The Reeds Creek school district was relatively small no doubt due to the surrounding school districts. The Jones school district was located just west approximately three miles while the schools at Big Sandy and Purdy were northeast of the district, separated only by a ridge of hills.

The 1878 enumeration of the district was 38 students between the ages of six and twenty-one while the 1888 enumeration listed 55 students. The enrollment of the school during the 1930's and 1940's also was relatively small. The enrollment and average daily attendance during these decades were as follows: 1932, enrollment, 30, ADA, 19; 1936, enrollment, 24, ADA, 13; 1938, enrollment, 29, ADA, 21; 1942, enrollment, 19, ADA, 16; 1946, enrollment, 8, ADA, 6; 1947, enrollment, 8, ADA, 7.[429]

Teachers at the Reed Creek school were: 1900, J. A. Carlock; 1901-1902, Fred W. Patrick; 1903, W. H. Hughes; 1904-1906, W. T. Hinch; 1907, Ward Kendall; 1908, Bruce

[429] Arkansas School Record Book and Register, School District No. 38, Madison County, Arkansas, 1932-1947.

Kendall, Charlie Mitchell; 1909-1910, Sam Wheeler; 1911, Ward Kendall; 1912, Charlie Mitchell; 1913, Lester Cline; 1914, J. E. Jones, Donna Tucker; 1915, Lille Watkins; 1916, W. A. Easterling; 1917, Lester Cline; 1918, Ana Morrison; 1919, Rhoe Slavens; 1920, Elsie Harwood; 1921, Rhoe Slavens; 1922, Elmer Vaughn; 1923, Arthur Mullins; 1924, Harold Nelson; 1925-1926, Noble Jones; 1927, J. P. Reynolds; 1928, Jessie Hopper; 1929-1930, Bruce Fowler; 1931, F. C. Terry; 1932, Chloe Stafford; 1933, F. C. Terry; 1934, J. C. Ewing; 1935, F. C. Terry; 1936, Herman Skaggs; 1937-1938, J. D. Haynes; 1939, Faye Frisby; 1940, Paul Russell; 1941, Irene Little; 1942, Freelen Suggs; 1943, Juanita Bolinger; 1944-1945, Kay Haney; 1946-1947, Christine Parker; 1948, Brenda Mathis.

Members of the board of directors for the district between 1900 and 1948 were: James Hamilton, R. Cline, Sal Fowler, Matt Fowler, Frank Walden, W. R. Walden, Walter Harwood, J. E. Jones, H. C. Walden, S. L. Sparks, R. C. Bolinger, J. F. Smith, M. T. Fuller, J. D. Tibbs, J. M. Bolinger, W. H. Cline, Logan Yingst, Millard Fowler, Tom Cline, Roy Grubbs, Willie Derie, A. D. Sparks, Grover Walden, George Pullin, Merle Walden, Oscar Perkins, Vern Thompson, and Herman Skaggs. The district was consolidated with Huntsville on February 28, 1949.

Wolfpen District No. 39 and Good Luck District No. 39

A school district was created around the Brashears Switch area between 1869 and 1870 by order of the county court. The district contained approximately ten square miles and the boundaries meandered through this mountainous area one square mile on either side of the range line between Range 16 West and Range 27 West, south of Brashears to the Franklin-Madison County line. The district also encompassed those lands northeast of Brashears, including most of Section 31 in Township 14 North, Range 26 West. The hollow which ran northeast of Brashears was called Wolfpen

and it is believed that the schoolhouse was located in that area.[430]

In 1878, the enumeration of the district was 13 students with a distribution from the common school fund of $13.26. As this amount was not sufficient to maintain a school, the district was apparently dissolved shortly thereafter. On April 8, 1882, a petition by Allen Payne and 22 others was presented to County Judge M. D. Lucas asking that the district be reinstated. Judge Lucas granted the request and named Allen Payne, W. R. Brashears, and A. L. Thompson as the board of directors of the school.[431] In 1886, the district annexed part of the lands formerly in the Phipps Chapel district.

With the coming of the railroad to the area, the small communities began to boom. By 1888, the enumeration of the district had increased to 89 with a distribution from the common school fund of $96.45. In addition to this apportionment, the district had voted a special tax rate of 1 mill. W. R. Brashears and Allen Payne continued to serve on the school board with Mr. Brashears being appointed to fill vacancies by the county judge on at least two

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[430] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. D, 1886, 233.

[431] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. C, 1882, 381.

occasions. In 1897, Mr. Payne died and was replaced by M. Stewart.

With the construction of a new school in Saint Paul, the school held its last classes in 1905. The school district was formerly annexed to the Saint Paul district on January 15, 1907. Teachers at Wolfpen were: 1901-1902, Katie Allen; 1903, Cynthia Cornett; 1904-1905, Helen McCatherine.

The Good Luck school district probably was not created until between 1910-1913, however, the exact date is not known. The Wolfpen school district had originally been assigned district #39 and was formally dissolved in 1907. The first recorded teacher in the Good Luck district was in 1913 and local sources place the building of the school building around 1910. The district was located in Range 27 West, Township 15 North approximately two miles southwest of Georgetown. A creek ran through the center of the district and the site for the location for the schoolhouse was chosen where the creek crossed the county road. According to residents in the area, the Good Luck school was constructed entirely by donations of materials and labor from the district patrons. The building was a simple wood-frame structure with homemade desks for the students. The desks were patterned after the "patent desks" or factory-made desks and were considered quite unique by the local patrons.

Good Luck school c. 1960

After the schoolhouse was complete, a name of the new district and schoolhouse had to be chosen. Mrs. Elizabeth Drake suggested the name Good Luck as the community had nothing but good luck in their efforts in establishing the district and the school-house.[432]

Former teachers of the district commented on the support they received from the people of the district. Many special programs were held at the school, which also doubled as the community church. In 1933, the school was holding their annual end of school program which was considered an important community event. In order to seat the parents, wooden planks would be brought in and laid across the student seats in order to form benches. The school was totally packed by all the parents and other community

[432] Interview with Reba Louge, retired teacher in Madison County, Huntsville, Arkansas, December, 1990.

members who came to view the school program. The night before, it rained heavily and the creek near the school was too swollen to allow those who lived on the western side to cross. In order to assure that all could arrive, a tree was chopped down over the creek, thus creating a make-shift foot bridge.

At one point, the school had as many as 55 students. However, in the 1940's, the enrollment never exceeded more than 30 students and by 1947, the enrollment had fallen to 18. During the last year of the school, the enrollment was 13 with 3 first graders, 2 second graders, 3 third graders, 2 fifth graders, 1 sixth grader, and 2 eighth graders. The school was closed in 1949 and consolidated with the Huntsville district.

Teachers at the school were: 1913-1914, John Harrison; 1915, Sherman Pennington; 1916-1917, B. F. Johnson; 1918, No school; 1919, Florence Calico; 1920, Ruth Johnson; 1921, Iva Cobb; 1922, Florence Calico; 1923, Floyd Calico; 1924, Madge Jackson; 1925, Otis Drain; 1926, Lucy Ledbetter; 1927-1928, Hazel Johnson; 1929-1930, Alex Johnson; 1931-1933, Reba Patterson Logue; 1934, Gladys Garrett; 1935, Hazel Mix; 1936-1937, Helen Garrett; 1938, Bruce Johnson; 1939-1940, Isaiah Bray; 1941-1943, Sherman Sisemore; 1944-1945, Gladys McChristian; 1946-1948, Edna Davis.

Persons having served on the board of directors from 1901-1948 were: G. W. Glenn, J. F. Drake, J. L. Eubanks, Burl McDougal, W. H. Simms, F. L. Eubanks, A. J. Guinn, G. W. Glenn, W. F. Boyd, Sherman Sisemore, A. J. Rogers, J. C. Counts, Bert Watkins, U. E. Sims, R. H. Garrett, Claude Davis, W. W. Sisemore, E. O. Davis, and Hubert Smith.

Burke District No. 40

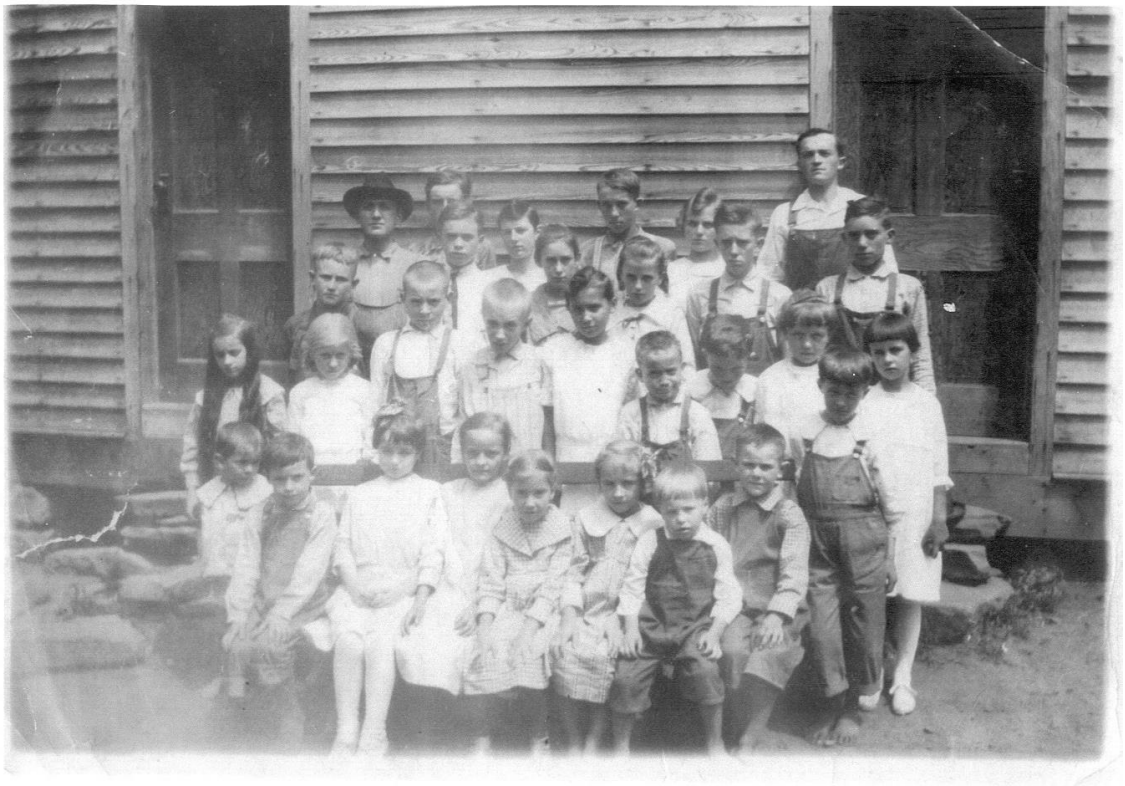
The Burke school district was created between 1869 and 1870 and was located on the upper end of Felkins Creek in Section 15, Range 24 West, Township 15 North, near the original site of the community of Weathers. The Weathers post office was moved to a site near the Mount Olive cemetery, approximately three miles to the northeast in the 1930's.[433]

In 1878, the enumeration of the district was 42 students with a distribution from the common school fund of $42.84. By 1888, the enumeration of the district was listed as 95 with a distribution of $102.95.

In 1909, the Pharris school district, which was located about two miles north of the Burke school, was consolidated with Burke. Even with the additional students, the school continued to lose enrollment. In 1920, the total enrollment

[433] Interview with John D. Little, Kingston, Arkansas, December, 1990.

of the school was 30 with an average daily attendance of 19. By 1933, the enrollment had fallen further to 21 with an average daily attendance of 15. In 1943, the total enrollment of the school was 5, with 2 in the first grade, 2 in the third grade, and 1 in the fourth grade. Average daily attendance that year was only three. In 1946, the enrollment increased to 14 with an average daily attendance of 11.[434]



Burke School

[434] Arkansas School Record Book and Register, School District No. 40, Madison County, Arkansas, 1920-1946.

Teachers at the Burke school were: 1901, J. E. Bedding-field; 1902, Casey Willie; 1903, Thomas Wheeler; 1904-1905, Will L. Hilliard; 1906, Addie Fancher; 1907, Edith Gilliland; 1908, Gertie Johnson; 1909-1910, Addie Fancher; 1911, Virgil Johnson; 1912, Kate Fancher; 1913, Virgil Johnson; 1914-1915, Harrison Smith; 1916, Eula Parker; 1917, Norman Boomer, Myrtle Hawkins; 1918-1919, Bertha Bolinger; 1920, Kate Fancher; 1921, Ethel Sanders; 1922, Charles A. Sparks; 1923, Myrtle Hawkins; 1924-1925, Flossie Cook; 1926, Grace Bolinger; 1927, Kate Fancher; 1928-1929, Paul Russell; 1930, No school; 1931-1932, Katie Austin; 1933-1934, Charlia Eaton; 1935-1936, Lillian Steele; 1937, Elizabeth Wyatt; 1938-1939-1943, Katie Austin; 1943, Margaret Beard; 1944-1947, Ollie Fancher; 1948, Katie Austin.

Persons listed as having served on the board of directors between 1900-1948 were: Wymbert Pharris, H. C. Pharris, W. N. Barker, J. L. Burke, Max Pharris, C. C. Gresham, M. M. Parker, J. H. Burk, John Brandenburg, J. S. Burke, Luther Eaton, J. R. Williams, Sam Brandenburg, Willie Burke, J. C. Burke, Joe Johnson, Buster Fancher, George Burke, W. D. Williams, Ranson Eaton, Dexter Taylor, and E. O. Davis. The school was consolidated with Kingston on June 2, 1949.

Fairview District No. 41

The Fairview school district, often referred to as the Flemming Creek school was located in Range 26 West, Township 13 North approximately two and one-half miles south of Saint Paul on Flemming Creek. The district was created between 1869 and 1870.

The 1878 enumeration of the district was 55 with a distribution of $56.10 from the common school fund. In 1888, the enumeration was 76 with a distribution of $82.36. In addition to these funds, the district also had voted a special 5-mill tax to support the district. The enrollment in 1920 was 24 with most of the students enrolled in the first four grades.

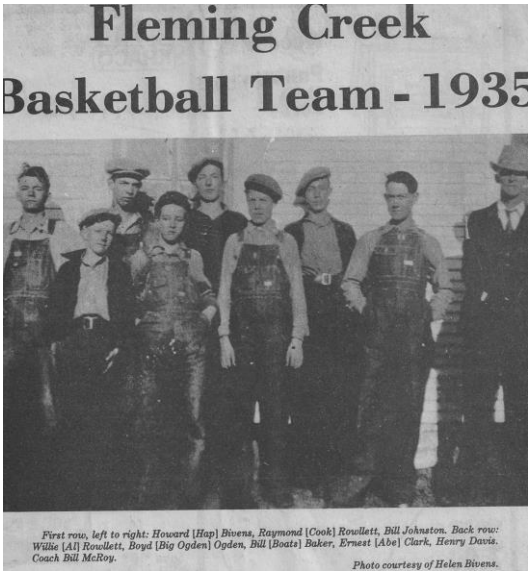
The faculty of the Fairview school from 1901 to 1912 included some individuals who had established themselves in other fields or who would become known in the years to come. Mr. J. T. Walker, who taught at Fairview in 1901, was a former State Senator representing Madison and Benton Counties in 1883. While in the senate, he served as assistant secretary of the senate as well as chairman of the education committee. He was previously county examiner in Benton and Boone Counties and served as principal of Huntsville College and High School in 1880 as well as county examiner in Madison County.

Mr. J. S. Miller, who taught in 1903, would leave teaching and form an abstract company in Huntsville which is

still in existence today. Mr. Harvey Combs, who taught from 1907-1910, would later become Insurance Commissioner for the State of Arkansas. Hezzie Brashears, who taught from 1911-1913, became a renowned musician in the Little Rock area playing professionally at the Pulaski Theatre. One of Mr. Brashears students, Bill Baker, also appeared with him several times in Little Rock and would later travel nationally with a famous vaudevillian troupe known as the Weavers.[435]

The Madison County Democrat
July 25, 1918
Fairview School House Burned

The Flemings Creek school house, Fairview, burned Tuesday morning about 2 o'clock. Incendiarism is the general belief. This was a god house and the fiend in human form guilty of setting the fire should have perished in the flames of the house.



First row, left to right: Howard [Hap] Bivens, Raymond [Cook] Rowlett, Bill Johnston. Back row: Willie [Al] Rowlett, Boyd [Big Ogden] Ogden, Bill [Boats] Baker, Ernest [Abe] Clark, Henry Davis. Coach Bill McKoy.

Photo courtesy of Helen Bivens.

[435] Harry F. Shinn, interview with Bill Baker, Saint Paul, Arkansas, July 31, 1975.

Teachers at Fairview were: 1901, J. T. Walker; 1902, D. A. Griggs; 1903, J. S. Miller; 1904, Helen McCatherine; 1905, William Stapleton; 1906, Robert M. Reed; 1907-1909, Harvey Combs; 1910, John Burnett; 1911-1913, Hezzy Brashears; 1914-1915, Charles Gabbard; 1916, Arch Cornett; 1917, Violet Cowan; 1918, No school; 1919, Bonnie Brashears; 1920, Vida Williams; 1921, Sam Russell; 1922, Bessie Cornett; 1923, C. C. Casteel, H. C. Whitney; 1924, Anna Mae Hargove; 1925, Don Holiday; 1926-1927, Chester Jackson; 1928, L. C. Combs; 1929, Chester Jackson; 1930, M. D. Boatright; 1931, Mrs. M. D. Boatright; 1932, W. C. McIlroy, Chester Jackson; 1933-1935, W. C. McIlroy; 1936, Flora Hawkins; 1937-1938, Lennie Swaim; 1939, Nora Crawford; 1940-1941, Lennie Swaim; 1942-1943, Frankie Thornsberry.

Persons listed as having served on the board of directors for the district from 1900-1943 were: W. E. Davis, John Kimball, James F. Baker, M. P. Sallee, John Kimball, W. E. Davis, S. M. King, Hezzy Brashears, H. S. Davis, W. H. Eaton, P. G. Johnson, D. B. Hall, Walter Webb, A. Ogden, Earl Johnson, Willis Johnson, Howard Bivens, LeRoy Baker, and Troy Bushman. The school district was consolidated with Saint Paul on September 3, 1943.

Ogden District No. 42

The Ogden school district was created between 1869 and 1870 by the county court. It was located in Range 26 West, Township 14 North approximately three miles south of Witter.

The enumeration of the district was 54 in 1878 with a distribution of $55.08 from the common school fund. In 1888, the enumeration was 51 with an apportionment of $55.27.

On April 16, 1891, County Judge R. L. Johnson created a new school district on Locust Mountain which was located just west of the Ogden school district. As part of the court order establishing the new district, part of the Ogden school district was annexed to the new district.[436] During the next several years, the boundary of the district was changed several times as parents wished to have their children moved to other nearby districts.

Ogden School 2012
Constructed about 1938

[436] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. E, 1891, 308.

Ogden School 1915 Back: Bonnie Garner; Pearl Stapleton; Irene Garner; Willie Phillips; Sallie Tucker; Esther Hoskins; Emma Hoskins; Ray Garner; Alfred Tucker; Bill Hoskins; Taylor Hubbard

Front: Eva Hoskins; Allie Hubbard; Polly Hubbard; Rildy Tucker; Delia Eden; Vernie Ogden

During the 1930's, the average enrollment of the school was 20, with a high of 24 and a low of 17. The average daily attendance during this same period was 15.

Ogden School House Burned

The recent destruction by fire of the Ogden School House on War Eagle removed one of the old landmarks of that community and many folks regret it is gone. The building was erected about 50 years ago.

- Madison County Record, October 14, 1937

Teachers at the Ogden school were: 1902, Jane Caswell; 1903, Laura Miller; 1904-1905, S. B. Mitchell; 1906, Lizzie

Vannay; 1907, C. L. McElhaney; 1908, Emma Williams; 1909, No school; 1910, Cora Kilgore; 1911, Canda Pharris; 1912, Ona Salsman; 1913, Mary Miller; 1914-1915, Pearl Stapleton; 1916, Ray Garrett; 1917, Altha Thornsberry; 1918, No school; 1919, Vida Williams; 1920-1921, Bonnie Cowan; 1922, Vada Calloway; 1923, Eula McElhaney; 1924, Madge Jackson; 1925, Eula Calloway; 1926, Elmer Whorton; 1927, Luther Mix; 1928, Katherine Lucy; 1929, Deck Gage; 1930, Beatrice Jackson; 1931, Eula Calloway; 1932-1934, Mary Haynes; 1935, Vay Bolinger; 1936, Maida Jackson; 1937, Nona Moody; 1938, Hazel Mix; 1939-1940, Bessie Cornett; 1941, Hazel Koontz; 1942, Evelyn Woodbridge; 1943, Nona Seals; 1944, Dixie Stout; 1945, Elmer Whorton.

Persons listed as having served on the board of directors of the district from 1900-1945 were: Cal Hubbard, Albert Harvey, W. C. Ogden, W. L. Ogden, Will Pharris, Price Brandenburg, P. A. Ogden, C. A. Jordon, A. M. Doty, I. E. Hawley, C. T. Haynes, Taylor Hubbard, Woodrow Johnson, and Harold Ogden.

Although the school was not formerly consolidated until June 1, 1949, no classes were held at the school after 1945. The school district was consolidated with Saint Paul district No.48.

Henderson Creek District No. 43

The Henderson Creek school district was created between 1869 and 1870; however, it appears that no school was held in the district until 1885. The enumeration of 1878 lists the district but does not show any students enumerated. On January 6, 1885, B. B. Cluck, C. J. Lester, and J. C. Frasier and 32 others petitioned the county court to re-establish the district and set the boundaries. The 1888 enumeration of the district was 60 students.[437]

The district was located in Range 25 West, Township 15 North, east of Aurora. Although the linear distance to the center of the district from Aurora was only about two and one-half miles, the traveling distance was about six miles due to the rugged, mountainous terrain.

Students playing a game of "fox and geese" at Henderson Creek school, 1933

[437] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. D, 1885, 37.

Henderson Creek 1908, C.L McElhaney, teacher

On March 17, 1942, the Shady Grove school district, which bordered Henderson Creek on the north, only enumerated one student and the school district was dissolved. Approximately one and one-half square miles of the district were annexed to the Henderson Creek district and the single student was transferred to Lower Whorton Creek.[438]

Teachers at the Henderson Creek school were: 1901, Abraham Easterling; 1902, Crawford Reno; 1903, J. R. Crawford; 1904, Sam Russell; 1905, Vista McNew; 1906, S. B. Mitchell; 1907-1908, Walter Long, Charles McElhaney; 1909, Walter Long; 1910, Rebecca McElhaney; 1911, J. C. Hacker; 1912, Everett Spurlock; 1913, Jesse Price; 1914, Walter Long; 1915-1916, Clay McBroom; 1917, Walter Long; 1918, O. L. Daily; 1919-1920, Everett Spurlock; 1921, Ausie Reeves; 1922-1923, Vada Long; 1924, Willie Hays; 1925, Willia

[438] Proceedings and Minutes of the Madison County Board of Education, Huntsville, Arkansas, March 17, 1942.

McElhaney; 1926, Callie Gray; 1927, Donna Parker; 1928, Ercell Jones; 1929, Donna Everett; 1930, Vay McConnell; 1931, Pauline Jackson; 1932, Wilda McConnell; 1933-1936, Lydia Long; 1937, Walter Long; 1938, Lily Seals; 1939, Mrs. Jim Morgan; 1940, Mary Rice; 1941-1943, Vada Long; 1944, Walter Long; 1945-1947, Vada Reeves; 1948, Willia Parker.

Persons having served on the board of directors from 1900-1948 were: J. M. Faubus, G. S. Miller, M. H. Officer, M. M. Herriman, G. M. Spurlock, A. J. Dennis, John Parker, P. M. Cluck, Roy Dudgeon, Harrison Seals, George McElhaney, Burl Spurlock, Andie Dennis, Dave Herriman, Claude McConnell, Roam McElhaney, A. M. Doty, E. Officer, Austin Hull, C. E. Officer, Sid Dennis, Keith Whorton, and M. B. Swearingin. The school district was consolidated with Huntsville on June 2, 1949.

Bluff Springs District No. 44

The Bluff Springs school district was created between 1869 and 1870. The district was located in Range 24 West, Township 17 North approximately four miles northwest of Kingston.

The 1878 enumeration of the district was 49 with a distribution from the common school fund of $49.98. By 1888 the enumeration had risen to 66 with a distribution of $71.52.

During the 1930's and 1940's, the county board of education received more boundary change requests for the Bluff Springs district than any other district in the county. Most of the requests were made in the interests of all high school students living in the Bluff Springs school district so that they could attend the high school at Kingston. At one point there were so many requests that the county board requested both school boards to call a meeting to consider consolidation of the districts.[439]A petition filed by the Bluff Springs district was considered in 1943, but was rejected by the county board as it did not contain the necessary signatures.

Enrollment in the district averaged 28 students during the 1930's with an average daily attendance of 25. By the 1940's, the average enrollment had fallen to 16 per year with an average daily attendance of 14. The district was consolidated with Kingston on February 28, 1949.

[439] Proceedings and Minutes of the Madison County Board of Education, Huntsville, Arkansas, December 21, 1943.

Bluff Springs School, 1910-1911

Front row, left to right: Elsie Boatright; Troy Presley; Eddie Griggs; Carl Presley; Jim Presley; Elmer Boatright; Stella Slaven; Bessie Slaven; Ivy Perry; Edie Perry; Lori Perry; Pearl Styles; Lela Boydston; Clyde Sisco; Walter McArthur

2nd row: Earl Presley; Willa Parker; Amanda Parker; Jim Parker; Ruth Slaven; Jennie Fultz; Sid Parker; Willa Hawkins; Lela Montgomery Boatright, Teacher; Albert Parker; Hope Parker

3rd row: Fannie Fultz; Dalton Parker; Zea Parker; Pearl Parker; Rhea Slaven; Oma Boatright; Chloe Parker; Minnie Boydston; Lem Boatright; Bell Boatright; Bertha Fultz

4th row: Floyd Styles; John Slaven

Teachers at Bluff Springs were: 1901, Alvin Bunch; 1902, Walter Stephens; 1903, W. R. Casey; 1904, Charlie Mitchell; 1905, J. T. Whitely, 1906, Zella Miller; 1907, W. T. Hinch; 1908, Lewis Miller; 1909, Thomas Wheeler; 1910, Lela Montgomery; 1911, Lela Boatright; 1912, Eva Grigg; 1913, Mary Hayes; 1914, J. A. Watson; 1915, Joe Taylor, W. A. Grigg; 1916, Idele Sutton; 1917, J. C. Dotson; 1918, Chloe Parker; 1919, James C. Dotson; 1920, J. B. Bunch; 1921, S. A. Holt; 1922, Ethel Oliver; 1923-1924, Ethel Sanders; 1925, Katie Austin; 1926, Grace Maxwell; 1927-1928, Otto Stamps; 1929, Dalton Dotson; 1930, Sam Bunch; 1931-1932, Clyde

Johnson; 1933, Lorin Brandenburg; 1934-1936, Coy Logan; 1937-1938, Kenneth Griggs; 1939-1940, F. C. Terry; 1941, Myrtle Little; 1942, Bernice McArthur; 1943-1944, Clyde Johnson; 1945, J. C. Ewing; 1946, Glenn McCollough; 1947, Freelan Sugg; 1948, Maxine Fancher.

Members of the board of directors from 1900-1948 were: W. B. Presley, J. P. Sisco, William Slaven, M. D. Presley, A. D. Parker, J. D. Page, S. A. Maxwell, S. E. Jackson, J. Cain, J. H. Carter, Walter McArthur, Arch Whiteley, Dalton Parker, Charles McClung, Sid Suggs, Clyde Johnson, Dan Seitz, Mack Cain, Noble Whiteley, and Hugh Smith.

Langley District No. 45

The Langley school district, located on the western edge of Madison County, was created between 1869-1870. Although the district was located in Madison County, the schoolhouse was located less than one-half mile from the Washington County line and served students in both counties.

The 1878 enumeration of the district was 39 with an apportionment of $39.78. On July 10, 1884, the district was dissolved and attached to Buckeye and Mountain Springs school districts as the district did not have sufficient funds to support the school.[440] Two years later, the

[440] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. C, 1884, 531.

district petitioned the county court to re-establish the district and a special five-mill tax was approved by the voters. By 1888, the enumeration of the district had dropped to 35 with a distribution of $37.93 from the common school fund. However, the special 5-mill tax voted in 1886 provided enough funds to support the school.

Teachers at the Langley school were: 1901, Fannie Harris; 1902, W. H. Hughes; 1903-1904, E. G. Mason; 1905-1906, W. L. Fritts; 1907, Guy Sullivan; 1908, E. G. Mason; 1909, James Jeffers; 1910, P. M. Drake; 1911, Paul Watson; 1912, Stella Nelson; 1913-1914, H. M. Fritts; 1915-1916, Tommy Johnson; 1917,

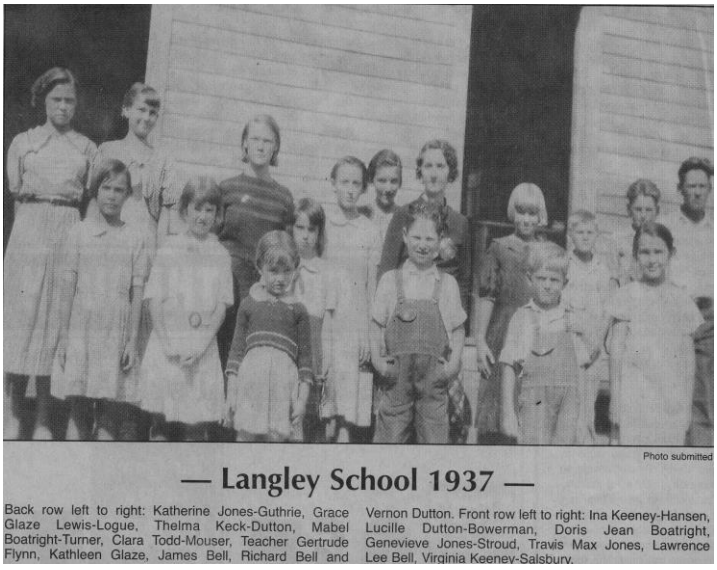


Photo submitted

— Langley School 1937 —

Back row left to right: Katherine Jones-Guthrie, Grace Glaze Lewis-Logue, Thelma Keck-Dutton, Mabel Boatright-Turner, Clara Todd-Mouser, Teacher Gertrude Flynn, Kathleen Glaze, James Bell, Richard Bell and Vernon Dutton. Front row left to right: Ina Keeney-Hansen, Lucille Dutton-Bowerman, Doris Jean Boatright, Genevieve Jones-Stroud, Travis Max Jones, Lawrence Lee Bell, Virginia Keeney-Salsbury.

No school; 1918, Clyde Sisco; 1919-1920, Madge Gel; 1921, Louie Sword; 1922-1924, Paul Watson; 1925, Grace Wiggins; 1926-1927, Elfie Boyd; 1928, Earline Vaughn; 1929-1930, Paul Watson; 1931, Raymond Delk; 1932, Era Watson Walker; 1933-1934, Clarence Stamps; 1935, Cecil Nott; 1936-1937, Gertrude Flynn; 1938, J. C. Nott; 1939-1941, Fern Culwell; 1942, Ruth Harrison; 1943, E. G. Mason; 1944, Pauline Fitch McCoy; 1945, E. G. Mason.

Persons listed as having served on the board of directors for the district between 1900-1946 were: Brack James, C. Stringfield, D. B. James, Green Keeney, Herbert McMinn, J. W. Morrison, Walter Keeney, Lee Trammel, A. D. Denton, C. M. Bell, Will Keeney, Ray Pitts, N. E. Todd, Guy Keeney, A. C. Campbell, Bea Stroud, John Jones, and A. N. Pitts.

A petition was filed with the county board of education on January 22, 1946, asking that the district be dissolved and attached to the Buckeye school district. The county board posted the legal notices of the proposed dissolution and on February 4th, a petition of remonstrance was filed with the county board. After much discussion, the board rejected the petition of remonstrance as it did not contain the required names of the qualified electors of the district and granted the original petition of dissolution.[441]

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[441] Proceedings and Minutes of the Madison County Board of Education, Huntsville, Arkansas, February 5, 1946.

Delaney's Creek District No. 46

The Delaney's Creek school district was officially created between 1869 and 1870. It was located in Range 28 West, Township 13 North approximately four miles south of Delaney. Although the district was created shortly after the passage of the school law of 1868, a school was not held with any regularity in the district until the 1880's.

The enumeration of 1878 listed the district but no students were listed and no distribution was made from the common school fund to the district. In April of 1886, J. W. Faubus, Elias Lincher, William Jones, and thirteen others filed a petition with the county court asking that the district be re-established and the boundaries set. The county court granted the petition and ordered that the Health school district be notified that the district "was back in business."[442] The enumeration of 1888 listed the district as having 66 boys and 67 girls between the ages of 6 and 21 and an apportionment of $144.14 was made to the district. In addition to these funds, the district voted a 4-mill special tax to support the school.

For reasons unknown, the entire school board resigned in 1891. County Judge R. L. Johnson appointed Charles Watkins, Lewis Gabbard, and J. W. Faubus to the board. In

[442] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. D, 1886, 171.

1903, the schoolhouse burned and the board constructed a new school for the district. As most of the materials and labor were donated, the total expenditure for the new school was $29.21.[443]

During the 1930's and 1940's, enrollment at the school declined sharply. In 1932, the enrollment was 22 with an average daily attendance of 12. Of the 22 students, 14 were enrolled in the first grade with six of them absent on any given day. By 1935, the enrollment had dropped to 11 with nine enrolled in 1939. The enrollment into the 1940's averaged 11 students per year. On April 1, 1947, the district was consolidated with Saint Paul.

Delaney Creek School

1925

Back row, left to right - Unknown, Bonnie Wilson, Albert London, Unknown, Roy Hall, Hazel London, Wayne Barron, Dora Massie. Second row - Lillie Massie, Albert Hall, Jack London, Unknown Tincher, Paul Massie, Clyde Tincher. Third - Hester Calhoun, John Floyd London, Arthur Tincher, Walter Tincher, and Harold Calhoun.

Teacher was Lula Martin.

[443] Records of School District Warrants, Madison County Treasurer, Huntsville, Arkansas, 1890-1948, 46.

Teachers at the Delaney's Creek school were: 1901, S. L. Casteel; 1902, Walter Ledbetter; 1903, No school; 1904, Afton Wheeler; 1905, S. L. Casteel; 1906-1907, Minta Brashears; 1908, Lige Combs; 1909, Mary Sallee; 1910, Frank Faubus; 1911-1912, Harry Mullen; 1913, Edd Self; 1914, F. D. Faubus; 1915-1917, Walter Hill; 1918, Wilkie Francis; 1919-1920, Harold Brashears; 1921, Lula Jayne, H. P. Johnson; 1922, A. L. Faubus; 1923-1924, Harold Brashears; 1925, Lula Martin; 1926-1927, F. D. Faubus; 1928-1929, Louie H. Crumpacker; 1930-1931, Pearl Caine; 1932, Bonnie McIlroy; 1933, Edward Buck; 1934, Olive Boone Banks; 1935, Clay Anderson; 1936-1937, Alpha Easley; 1938, Isaih Bray; 1939, Carl Benson; 1940, Grace Benson; 1941, F. D. Faubus; 1942, Helen Vanlandingham; 1943, Alma Ayers.

Persons listed as having served on the board of directors for the district between 1891 and 1946 were: Charles Watkins, Lewis Gabbard, J. W. Faubus, W. P. London, Charlie Tackett, H. A. Conley, J. H. Massie, J. F. Hall, F. Shackelford, W. P. London, Ed Tackett, E. D. Jayne, Frank Massie, Marvin Hollingsworth, George Massie, Marion Hollingsworth, Al Hollingsworth, and Agnes Hollingsworth.

Cedar Bluff District No. 47

The Cedar Bluff school district was located in Range 25 West, Township 18 North approximately three miles northeast of Alabam. The school building set near a large limestone

bluff, on which several cedar trees grew, overlooking the Kings River. The school district was created under the provisions of the school law of 1868 between 1869 and 1870.

In 1878, the enumeration of the district was 53 with an apportionment from the common school fund of $54.06. By 1888, the enumeration of the district had fallen to 19 and $20.59 was distributed to the district from the common school fund. As no special tax rates were voted by the district, it is doubtful that a school was held with any regularity in the district for a few years. It was common practice for a district, such as Cedar Bluff, to save up its money and have school only as the district's finances would allow.[444]

In 1905, a new school building was constructed by Riley Roberts near the bluff. The building was a simple wood-frame structure with two doors at the front. Having two doors at the front was not a safety function but rather evolved from the religious practices of the day. In many of the rural churches, men entered one door and sat together and the women entered the other door and sat together. When schools were constructed, quite often the practice continued.[445]

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[444] Interview with Leota Hatfield, Forum, Arkansas, November, 1989.

[445] Ibid.

At some point, the patrons decided that the schoolhouse was too close to the bluff and the building was moved back into a grove of trees. The building was not placed on a foundation but rather was supported by rock posts at certain intervals.

Cedar Bluff School, 1914

Front row: Nora Presley; Kyle Hobbs; Carrie Hatfield; Tom Hatfield; Luther Holland; Ollie Garrett; Ed Hawkins; Leonard Kendall; Raymond Hatfield; Mack Hobbs

2nd row: Noble Presley; Hattie Kendall; Amy Roberts; Elizabeth Hobbs; Sarah Holland; Gertrude Presley

3rd row: Allen Presley; Carson Roberts; Carl Hatfield; Monroe Hawkins; Carl Roberts

Back row: Noah Hawkins; Rule Holland; unknown; Joe Taylor, Teacher; Virgil Hatfield; John Hobbs; Price Kendall; Haydon Hobbs

One of the most popular brass bands in the area was organized around the school in the 1920's. Although the school had no music program or music teacher, musicians in other parts of the county would visit the school for instruction and practice. The band participated in local gatherings and county fairs and reunions.

During the early 1900's, the enrollment at the school averaged 40 students. Enrollment during the 1930's never exceeded 20 students with a low enrollment of ten in 1934. In 1947, the last year classes were held at Cedar Bluff, the enrollment was 26 with students enrolled in all eight grades.

In 1931, the school budget totaled $480, with $450 for instruction and $30 for maintenance. A tax of 18 mills would be needed to raise that amount of money. The school district was consolidated with Huntsville on February 28, 1949.

Teachers at Cedar Bluff school were: 1900, Will Stone; 1901-1903, Tom Hargis; 1904, Vard Ivie; 1905, Minnie Denney; 1906, C. Hudson; 1907, Vard Ivie; 1908, Bruce Kendall; 1909, W. R. Hatfield; 1910, Ward Kendall; 1911, Nona Boatright; 1912, Clyde Garrison; 1913, J. Alex Donnell; 1914, Joe Taylor; 1915, Virginia Salsbury; 1916, Mable Vaughn; 1917, Vard Ivie; 1918, Sidney A. Holt; 1919, Olah Acree; 1920, Mary Sanders; 1921, Mabel Hudspeth; 1922, Dave B. Newton; 1923, Ester Vaughn; 1924, D. B. Newton; 1925, Ethel Sanders; 1926-1927, Pollie Delk; 1928, Vada Dotson; 1929, Gladys Stansell; 1930-1931, Donna Everett; 1932, Lola Cannaday; 1933, Robbie Davis; 1934, Elmer Vaughn; 1935, Freda Hankins;

1936, Cleo Fowler; 1937-1939, J. C. Ewing; 1940-1941, Donna Everett; 1942, J. C. Ewing; 1943, Gillis Cox; 1944, Florence Barker; 1945-1947, Margie Bailey.

Persons serving on the board of directors for the school district between 1900 and 1947 were: J. R. Roberts, J. P. Holland, William R. Hatfield, W. D. Hobbs, J. B. Presley, F. R. Marshall, L. Kendall, W. B. Hatfield, W. R. Marshall, John Goucher, Frank Patterson, Virgil Hatfield, Noble Grubbs, Jay Bohannon, Loy Goucher, Arvil Presley, Mulkey Anderson, and T. M. McLoud.

White River Chapel District No. 48

Riverside District No. 48

Saint Paul District No. 48

The White River Chapel school district, which would later become the Riverside school district, was created between 1869 and 1870 by the county court. The district was located in Range 26 West, Township 14 North, and encompassed the present site of Saint Paul and those lands northwest of Saint Paul on either side of the White River. The land for the schoolhouse was deeded to the district by D. S. and Sarah Williams in 1871.[446] The deed specified that the house

[446] Deed from the archives of the Saint Paul School District, Saint Paul, Arkansas, 1871.

was to be used for both religious and educational purposes. The schoolhouse was erected on the south side of the White River near the cemetery. The little church and school building was known to the early settlers in the area as White River Chapel.[447] As the town of Saint Paul would not come into being until 1887, this building would serve the area as church, school, and gathering place into the early 1900's.

In 1878, S. S. Welton, a member of the school board, reported the enumeration of the White River Chapel school district as 82. This entitled the district to an apportionment of $83.64 for the following year.

In the early 1880's, it was decided to extend the Fayetteville branch of the Saint Louis and San Francisco

[447] White, Ray, "Facts, Fiction, and Fancy on Historic Old Riverside Cemetery," unpublished article, Huntsville, Arkansas, p. 1.

Railroad into Madison County. The site of the Fieldan Salyer farm, present-day Saint Paul, was selected as the terminus for the new railroad.[448] In March, 1887, the proposed site for the town was surveyed by George W. Chase. The streets were uniformly sixty feet wide, numbered from First to Eleventh from the river north and from A to G east and west, with Madison Avenue being between B and C streets. H. F. McDaniel and The Saint Louis and San Francisco Railroad each received one-third interest in the town in consideration of their services in laying it out and J. P. Salyer, son of the deceased Fieldan Salyer received the other third. On July 15, 1887, the railroad officially opened the town of Saint Paul.

Within one year, the town was booming with over two dozen businesses, hotels, and a mill. The population had reached 300 and people were moving rapidly to the area. With this growth, the little White River Chapel school was not able to accommodate the incoming students.

By 1888, the enumeration of the district had reached 148. That year, Mr. H. F. McDaniel built a school in the town of Saint Paul. Mr. McDaniel donated the land and paid for the cost of construction of the building and

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[448] *The Saint Paul Mountain Air*, Saint Paul, Arkansas, Vol. 28, No. 4, March 25, 1922, 56.

furnishings. The school would be known as the Hugh McDaniel School.[449]

The School at Saint Paul is visible in the upper far right, c. 1910

On July 8, 1889, a petition was submitted to County Judge W. A. Gage to form a new school district in Saint Paul. The petition was granted and the district became number 105. The district would continue to use the Hugh McDaniel school and the district would operate as a special town school district. In 1893, the school enrolled 136 students and employed three teachers with one serving as principal.[450] G. W. Garrison served as principal in 1894 and

[449] State of Arkansas, Biennial Report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Department of Education, Little Rock, 1893-1894, 3.

[450] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. H, 1901, 219.

H. C. Caldwell served in 1895. The school was a graded school and held terms ranging from seven to nine months.

In 1896, a new school building for the White River Chapel school district was built about two miles from Saint Paul near the junction of Highways 23 and 16. As the little chapel was to no longer be used for school purposes, the district's name was changed to Riverside. The building, much larger than the little chapel, was covered with clapboard, had a tin roof and a large bell tower at the apex of the roof. In 1901, the county court would set the new boundaries between the Riverside and Saint Paul districts.[451]

In 1900, a new school was erected on the hill, next to the Methodist Church. The school, quite ornate for the

[451] Arkansas School Record Book and Register, School District No. 49, Madison County, Arkansas, 1920-1948, 188.

period, had two stories and by 1912, an addition to the structure would be built on to the back of the building, thus creating a third room.

About 1940, with the assistance of the NYA, a new school was constructed at Saint Paul. The new building, complete with gymnasium, was constructed with stone and is still in use. Originally, classrooms were constructed around the gym but in time, the gym would be enlarged and the classrooms move to other buildings.

Teachers at Riverside school district number 48 were: 1901, Nannie Welton; 1902, Jane Casell; 1903, Nannie Welton; 1904-1905, M. A. Burklow; 1906, Harvey Combs; 1907, Pearl Kilgore; 1908, Robert Reed; 1909, Henry Thompson; 1910-1911, Charles L. McElhaney; 1912, Nettie White; 1913, John E. Burnett, Henry Thompson; 1914, Ed Mize; 1915-1916, Orval Calloway; 1917, Walter Ledbetter; 1918, Kelley Cornett; 1919, Henry Thompson; 1920, Kate Allen; 1921, Bessie Johnson; 1922, Bertha Thornsberry; 1923, Polly Hubbard; 1924, Ed Myers; 1925-1926, Curtis Swaim; 1927, Clara Hooper; 1928, Curtis Swaim.

Persons having served on the board of directors between 1900 and 1929 were: W. F. Milligan, L. Tweedy, Levi Langley, G. W. R. Hooper, J. E. Jones, Curtis Swaim; F. L. Ogden, G. Hall, Boyd Cornett; G. C. Finch, and T. M. Davis.

Teachers at Saint Paul districts 105 and 48 were: 1900, P. M. McKay, J. T. Walker; 1901, Hattie Griggs, Dubois Griggs; 1902, Jesse Bird, J. S. Miller, 1903, D. B. Roberts, J. S. Miller; 1904, J. S. Miller, D. B. Roberts, J. T. Walker, G. B. Combs; 1905, Mary Johnson, J. S. Miller, A. M. Burklow; 1906, M. A. Burklow, H. O. Whitening, J. S. Miller; 1907, J. S. Keyes, Mary Keyes; 1908, Jesse Bird, Luna Southerland, Beulah Southerland; 1909, Jim Woods, Jesse Bird; 1910-1911, Jesse Bird, Isaiah Linely; 1912, Kate Allen, Beulah Southerland; 1913, Golda Barber, Beulah Southerland, W. H. Hughes; 1914, C. A. Patterson, Beulah Southerland, Ruth Southerland; 1915, C. A. Patterson, Zella Miller, Ruth Southerland; 1916, Beulah Southerland, H. M. Roberts, Linda Polk; 1917, Beulah Southerland, H. M. Roberts, Mabel Ricketts; 1918, Mabel Ricketts, Beulah Southerland, Bryon Shipley, Floy McGalliard; 1919, W. F. Keck, Abraham Easterling; 1920-1921, Beulah Southerland, Robert M. Reed, Esther Bivens; 1922, Beulah Southerland, Robert M. Reed; 1923, Ada Watkins, Robert M. Reed; 1924, Loyd Cornett, Jewell Holiday; 1925, Virgil Ramsey, Vera Hill; 1926, Robert M. Reed, Beulah Southerland; 1927, Robert

M. Reed, Flora Cornett; 1928, Beulah Southerland, C. C. Casteel; 1929, Curtis Swaim, Beulah Southerland, Marguerite Gilstrap; 1930, Curtis Swaim, Beulah Southerland, Georgia Evans; 1931, Beulah Southerland, Curtis Swaim, Clyde Mix, Mary Mix; 1932, Curtis Swaim, Clyde and Mary Mix; 1933, Curtis Swaim, Clyde and Mary Mix, Marguerite Gilstrap; 1934, Curtis Swaim, Bessie Cornett, Marguerite Gilstrap, Geraldine Cornett; 1935, Joe Anderson, Curtis Swaim, Geraldine Cornett, Bessie Cornett; 1936, Curtis Swaim, Joe Anderson, Frankie Thornsberry, Bessie Cornett; 1937, Curtis Swaim, Frankie Thornsberry, Robert Reed, Bessie Cornett; 1938, Edward Buck, Bessie Logan, Curtis Swaim, Vernon Stenzel, Lera Harmon; 1939, Curtis Swaim, Vernon Stenzel, Lora Harmon, Josephine Taylor, Harvey Brashears; 1940, Curtis Swaim, Lera Harmon, Ralph Davis, Harvey Brashears, Arch Conway, Josephine Taylor, John Keitz; 1941, Lois Derry, Maxine Stone, W. D. Webb, Arch Conway, Bonnie Pace; 1942, Clyde Mix, Maxine Stone, W. D. Webb, Arch Conway, Bonnie Pace; 1943, Edith Dixon, Bonnie Pace, Clyde Mix, Mary Mix, Justin Knorr, Lennie Swaim, Louise Williams, Eula Worley; 1944, Mildred Ratliff, Geraldine Johnson, Mary Mix, Agatha Hall, Mrs. D. E. Foster, Velma Dabney, Clyde Mix, J. C. Hacker, Frankie Thornsberry, Lennie Swaim, Bonnie Pace, Justin Knorr, Leota Keck, Hazel Smith, Jimmie Gage, Leona Layton, Lena Robbins, Thelma Ledford, Evelyn Conley, 1945-

1948, Bonnie Pace, Mary Mix, Agatha Hall, Frankie Thornsberry, Velma Dabney, Leota Keck, Lennie Swaim, Florence Pettit, Jimmie Gage, J. C. Hacker, Leona Layton, Bonnie Lee Pace, Geraldine Johnson, Clyde Mix, Mildred Ratliff, Thelma Ledford, Geraldine Cornett, Annabel Hawkins, Louise Williams, Gladys Calico, Mrs. William Parker, Margaret Glenn, Dessie Harriman, Aluna Ayers, Fannie Phillips, and Cleo Johnson.

Persons serving on the board of directors of Saint Paul district no. 105 and 48 between 1900-1948 were: George W. Prater, W. C. Gilstrap, W. E. Bayles, S. G. Phipps, N. J. Williams, Jesse Phipps, W. B. Barron, A. L. Boen, Shade Mitchell, Wood Barber, Arthur Holiday, J. C. Johnston, J. F. Gilstrap, S. J. Casteel, H. J. White, John Crawford, G. Hall, Earl Williams, Bert Milligan, Earl Shinn, Clyde Thomas, Marion Bayles, Hugh Hall, V. V. Kilgore, Dorsie Pharris, Tom Langley, Silas Casteel, R. L. Brashears, Ed Mullen, Oren Penny, B. E. Faubus, C. S. Kendrick, Earl Chamberland, Orville Callaway, Homer Barker, and Henry Robins.

Chaplain District No. 49

One of the most isolated school districts in the county, the Chaplain school district was created between 1870-1873. It was located in Range 25 West, Township 18 North on the western edge of Kings River.

The 1878 enumeration of the district listed 50 students with an apportionment from the common school fund of $51.00. By 1888, the enumeration of the district had increased to 60 with an apportionment of $65.03.

Enrollment at Chaplain from 1920 to 1948 never exceeded 22 students during any school term. Enrollment figures for selected years were: 1928, 22; 1932, 19; 1934, 18; 1937, 21; 1942, 19; 1944, 12; 1948, 14.[452]

Teachers at the Chaplain school were: 1901, C. D. Boydston; 1902, J. A. Donnell; 1903, H. S. Page; 1904-1906, J. A. Donnell; 1907, Orval McMimm; 1908-1909, Fred Southerland; 1910, J. A. Donnell; 1911, Fred Southerland; 1912, Hattie Houston; 1913, Fred Southerland; 1914, Mary Kendall; 1915, Nellie Newton; 1916, Mrs. W. W. Sanders; 1917, Fred Southerland; 1918, Mrs. E. G. Hutchinson; 1919, Price Kendall; 1920, Kate Bookard; 1921-1922, Fred Southerland; 1923, Esther Mason; 1924, Frank Cannaday; 1925-1926, Fred Southerland; 1927, Bud Combs; 1928, Fred Southerland; 1929, Iva Vaughn; 1930-1932, Mabel Stout; 1933, Millie C. Stout; 1934, Millie Doss; 1935, Lola Cannaday; 1936, Mabel Stout; 1937, Annie Hand; 1938, Katie Austin; 1939, Armania McCall; 1940, Lorene Yarbrough; 1941-1942, Bessie Cornett; 1943,

[452] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. D, 1886.

Mabel Stout; 1944-1945, Millie Doss; 1946, Mary McClain; 1947-1948, Millie Doss.

Chaplin School, 1937

Back row: Annie Hand, Teacher; Daisy Doss Worley; Cecil Woods

2nd row: Myrl Doss Hotalling; Lottie Woods; Daily Doss Harp; Earl Doss

3rd row: Betty Woods Harp; Virginia Houston Carr; Garlin Houston; George Doss

4th row: Georgia Woods Houston; Jessie Doss Willhite; Clyde Doss; Lorene Doss Walker

5th row: unknown; Troy Woods; Claude Doss

Front row: unknown; Ina Mae Doss Worley; Dale Woods

Persons listed as having served on the board of directors between 1890 and 1948 were: Daniel Holman, James Holman, William Bennett, Arch Hankins, William Holman, T. B. Marshall, B. S. McClain, W. A. Harp, Robert Houston, O. M. Applegate, G. L. Doss, Fred Southerland, Roy C. Scott, P. W. McClain, Matt Allen, D. M. Harp, P. H. Houston, Loss Woods, Fred Doss, S. A. Doss, Raymond Wilson, and Fred Worley. The district was consolidated with Huntsville on June 2, 1949.

Farmer District No. 50

The Farmer school district, also known as Valley Springs, was created between 1870 and 1873. The district

was located in Range 27 West, Township 17 North, approximately three miles southeast of Hindsville.

The 1878 enumeration of the district was listed as 60 with a distribution to the district of $61.20. In 1888, the enumeration of the district was 94 with a distribution of $101.89 from the common school fund.

Farmer School District #50, commonly called Valley Springs School, 1907

1. Edgar Columbus Smallin; 2. Ovia Johnson; 3. Oney Johnson; 4. J. A. Watson, Teacher

Farmer School c. 1900

Teachers at the Farmer school were: 1900, W. W. Duncan; 1901-1902, C. E. Adams; 1903-1904, H. M. Fritts; 1905,

George Spradling; 1906, S. E. Williamson; 1907-1908, J. A Watson; 1909, Vard Ivie; 1910, W. F. Bohannon; 1911, Stella Ellis; 1912, Clarence Powell; 1913, Stella Ellis; 1914, Fred Watson; 1915, Adry Gaskill; 1916, Sidney Holt; 1917, H. M. Fritts; 1918, Dewey Anderson; 1919, Harvey Johnson; 1920, Paul Watson; 1921, Cecil Stockberger; 1922, Floyd Cornett; 1923, Kinley Johnson; 1924, Anna Barnes; 1925, John A. Crow; 1926, John Baggett; 1927, Mrs. Amo France; 1928, Ruth Neal; 1929-1931, Keith Sutton; 1932, Henry Todd; 1933-1934, Walter Long; 1935, Willia Parker, 1936-1937, Vada Long; 1938, Juanita Hubbard; 1939, Clara Tassey; 1940-1942, Stella Shipley; 1943, Anne Phillips; 1944, Dixie Barker; 1945-1947, Adeline Hatfield; 1948, Dixie Holland.

Persons listed as having served on the board of directors between 1900 and 1948 were: H. A. Johnson, C. B. Sanders, W. J. Richard, W. E. Starnes, W. J. Sanders, Oscar Ledbetter, George Spradling, John Dodson, W. E. Roberts, Milton Brown, W. F. Hawkins, D. F. Fritts, J. E. Starnes, C. R. Shepherd, Willie Pardue, J. C. Frost, Lem Dennis, Clifford Cline, Nolan Parker, C. H. Bragg, J. L. Witt, Bill Gilbert, and LeRoy Shepherd. The district was consolidated with Huntsville on June 2, 1949.

Bethel District No. 51

Weathers District No. 51

Long Valley District No. 51

School district No. 51 was assigned to three school districts from 1886 to 1935. In 1886, John C. Bethel and eleven others petitioned the county court to form a school district in Range 27 West and Township 16 North.[453] John Ledbetter, Ewell Smith, and Ely Yarbrough were appointed to be the school directors. For reasons unknown, a school was not established in the area and in January, 1888, County Judge M. D. Lucas ordered the erection of a school in the Weathers area on the petition of William Weathers and others in Range 24 West, Township 15 North.[454] James Little, William Patterson, and J. W. Burney were appointed to the board of directors. This school district would serve the area until 1925 at which time the school district was dissolved upon the petition of C. B. Weathers, H. H. Thomas and others. In 1936, the Long Valley school district was created by the county board of education.

In 1886, the enumeration of the district was listed as 41 students with a distribution of $95.52 from the common school fund. As the Bethel school district did not continue

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[453] Ibid., 199.

[454] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. J, 1912, 394.

at this time no enumeration was listed for the district in 1888. In 1892, the Weathers school district enumerated 41 students and in 1900, the number was 37 with a 2.5 mill district tax being levied.

Teachers at the Weathers school were: 1901, Meda Doak; 1902-1904, Edith Wright; 1905, Paul Williams; 1906-1907, Addie Fancher; 1908, Kate Fancher; 1909, Mattie Reynolds; 1910, Virgie Johnson; 1911, Bertha Bradshaw; 1912, Belle Boatright; 1913, No school; 1914-1915, Kate Fancher; 1916, George Ryker; 1917-1920, Myrtle Hawkins; 1921, Stella Slover; 1922, Bessie Slover; District consolidated with Kingston; Long Valley School District; 1936-1937, Floyd Harrison; 1938, Armina McCall; 1939, Laneda Edwards; 1940, Armina McCall; 1941, J. C. Nott; 1942, Fannie Phillips; 1943, Ruby Ensign; 1944, Drucilla Taylor; 1945, Floy Perry; 1946, Wilma Faddis.

Long Valley School – picture provided by C.N. Watson

Mt. Olive/Weathers School, 1899

Back row: Harve Owens; C. B. Weathers; Willie Little; Norman Jones; Larkin Wyatt; Monroe Willie; Jimmie Little

2nd row: Callie Weathers; Addie Fancher; Mollie Weathers; Lizzie Winford; Ida Wyatt; Willie Wyatt; Lula Wyatt; Cleave Willie

3rd row: Stella Bedingfield Hawkins, Teacher; Martha Willie; Little Lee Fancher; John White; Steve Owens; Henry Burney; Charley Willie; Edd Willie; Jess Jones; Jennie Jones; Sarah Weathers

Front row: Charlie Jones; Eddie Weathers; Willie Blackford; Zula Blackford; Nannie Owens; Minnie Weathers; Lula Jones; Martha Weathers; Burrell Weathers; Lillie Weathers; Maude Weathers; Ethel Burney; Nellie Willie; Ada Willie

Persons listed as having served on the board of directors for the Weathers district were: C. B. Weathers, J. H. Austin, A. J. Pennington, J. W. Burk, J. B. Thomas, O. J. Bradley, W. N. Jones, W. J. White, H. S. Norris, and S. N. Norris. Persons listed as having served on the board of directors of the Long Valley school district were: 1936, C.

T. Paschall, M. C. Hallam, and E. J. Denney. Others were Joe Whitely, Charley Whitely, Dutch Murphy, Loy Whitely, and Floyd Sutton.

Oak Summit District No. 52

Crosses Creek District No. 52

Accident District No. 52

The Oak Summit school district was created between 1870 and 1873. The school building was located just east of Withrow Springs in Section 3 of Range 26 West, Township 17 North. Although little is known about the district, Sam Withrow and Joseph Adams served as members of the board of directors for the district. The district was dissolved around 1887.

Crosses Creek school district was created in October of 1888 on the petition of L. I. Easley, T. P. Haskins, C. M. Easley, and Sanford Wofford.[455] The district was created from parts of Health school district No. 97 and Delaney school district No. 54. The school district was dissolved on July 9, 1906. The school district would be re-established in 1917 as district No. 68. (See district No. 68 for more information on Crosses Creek.)

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[455] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. J, 1912, 469.

On October 15, 1912, County Judge V. S. Cannon approved the petition of D. D. Davidson, B. T. Duncan, and others to establish a school district from parts of the Duncan school district and the Japton school district.[456] Local legend had it that if the local patrons could get the district established and a school built, it would be by accident, thus the name of the new school district.

The school district was dissolved in March, 1926, on the petition of E. E. Garrett, R. H. Garrett, and T. S. Sisemore, and others and was annexed to the Duncan school district. The district was re-established once again in 1929 and would continue until 1944 at which time it was consolidated with the Japton school district.

Teachers at the Accident school district were: 1915, Ora Guinn; 1916, Edward Hanson; 1917, Bert Jackson; 1918, Earl Cluck; 1919, Bruce Johnson; 1920, Elmer Cowan; 1921, Mrs. Herbert Eversole; 1922-1923, Noble Jackson; 1924, Sylana Woodward; 1925, Noble Jackson; 1929, Gladys Garrett; 1930, S. B. Mitchell; 1931, Alan Garrett; 1932-1934, Helen Garrett; 1935, Madia Jackson; 1936-1938, Noble Jackson; 1939, Alma Ayers; 1940-1942, Helen Garrett; 1943, Noble Jackson.

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[456] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. H, 1903, 412.

Accident School #52, 1933 or 1934

Top Row: Helen Garrett, Teacher; Pauline Glenn; Loren Drake; Ima Sisemore; Zelma Corbitt; Learie Howard; Lorene Rogers; Madelene Rogers; Harvey Corbitt

Middle row: Raymond Corbitt; Preston Garrett; Lorene Garrett; Ruby Garrett; Maxine Logue; Vera Mae Glenn; David Howard; Otis Howard; Eugene Smith

Front row: Leon Garrett; Leeda Howard; Juanita Howard; Troy Glenn; Loy Glenn; James Garrett

Persons having served on the board of directors for the district were R. H. Garrett, J. H. Ross, E. Garrett, Carter Ward, J. D. Corlett, J. E. Sisemore, Fred Rogers, Earl Rogers, R. S. Cowan, B. H. Drake, A. F. Howard, Elmer Jackson, Marvin Garrett, and J. H. Richardson.

Shady Grove District No. 53

The Shady Grove school district was created by order of the county court between 1870 and 1873 and was located south of Lower Whorton Creek in Range 25 West, Township 16 North. Although the school district was created in the early 1870's, no school was held with any regularity in the district until the late 1880's. The district is best remembered in the county as the "Colored" school district although separate schools were maintained for the white and the black children in the district.

In 1886, A. L. Burgess, W. A. Dotson, and J. S. Lane petitioned the county court to re-establish the boundaries of the school district. The petition was granted and the three men were appointed to the board of directors of the district. The 1888 enumeration listed 66 students in the district with an apportionment of $71.52 granted to the district from the common school fund. The 1892 enumeration listed 34 white children and 22 colored children while the enumeration of 1900 listed 47 white children and 15 colored. In addition to the distribution from the common school fund, a 5-mill special tax was levied by the district.

On March 25 1903, a petition was presented to the county court by Mr. Nelson York asking permission to erect a school house for the black students of the district:

> On this day was presented to the court the petition of Nelson York and a majority of the

> colored men of Whorton Creek Township praying the court to make an order authorizing the said colored people to erect a school house in school district four, showing the court that they have purchased one acre of land from John Casey off of the NE corner of the SW¼ section 21, Township 16 N, R 25 W. Also showing to the court that they have the house partly built and that said prayer is for the purpose of education of the colored children of said neighborhood. Also showing to the court that they are enumerated in school district 53.
>
> And the court being fully advised in the premises both grant prayer of the petitioners, and authorize said building and use same for the school house for the colored, and the court further orders that all of the colored people that are in school district 53 are hereby transferred to school district #4 and that they shall use the house now building for school purposes.[457]

From this point, the black children attended school at the schoolhouse which was called New Home school and the white children attended school at the Shady Grove schoolhouse. Although the county court ordered the black children transferred to the Lower Whorton Creek school district, there is no evidence that this court order was ever received by the county superintendent and the black children continued to be listed and enumerated in the Shady Grove school district No. 53.[458]

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[457] Arkansas School Record Book and Register, School District No. 53, Madison County, Arkansas, 1920-1930, 397.

[458] Morgan, Gordon D., "School Integration in Madison County, Arkansas," Madison County Record, November 7, 1985.

Shady Grove School taken abt. 2007

During the 1920's and 1930's, the average enrollment of the New Home school never exceeded ten students. The last recorded enrollment of the school was in 1933-1934 with seven students. By 1946, only one black school-age child, Laverne Cook, who was being raised by her grandparents, remained in Madison County.[459]

Madison County Examiner P. V. Blankenship was aware of the presence of the child. Arkansas law required schooling of the girl but a teacher of quality for a single student

[459] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. E, 1891.

was not economical and blacks and whites attending the same school was against the law. Mr. Blankenship approached Mr. O. D. Easterling, teacher at the Lower Whorton Creek school about enrolling the girl at the school. Both men agreed that it was unfair to deny the child her education even though there was little likelihood of prosecution if the young girl was kept at home. It was agreed that some story would be told to state authorities if they ever asked why the law was being ignored concerning segregation.

The white children and their parents were told that the new girl was coming to the school. According to Mr. Easterling, the white children were so excited that arguments and a small shoving match developed as to who was going to get to sit with her at school. There is no record of any objection to Laverne Cook attending the Lower Whorton Creek school where she participated in all school activities and no issue was ever made of her race. She attended only one term of school before moving to Fayetteville. The attendance of Laverne Cook, a black child in a white school, during the late 1940's antedates the Brown Decision outlawing segregated schools by nearly a decade.

Following is an article by journalist **Bill Bowdon, which appeared in the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, on February 4, 2019:**

HUNTSVILLE -- A tiny, all-white public school in rural Madison County quietly enrolled a black girl in the mid-1940s, several years before it was legal to do so. By 1946, there was only one school-age black pupil left in Madison County, said Kevin Hatfield, a former Huntsville mayor.

It made no sense to hire a teacher for one pupil, so school administrators sent Laverne Cook to the all-white Lower Whorton Creek School, where the boys had a small shoving match over who would get to sit next to her, according to Hatfield's doctoral dissertation on the history of Madison County schools.

"She was beautiful," said Betty Neal of Dallas, Cook's daughter. "My mom was gorgeous. ... She was popular."

Laverne Beatrice Cook Toran, 72, died in 2011. On her deathbed in a San Francisco hospital, Cook told her daughter about an envelope under her bed at home.

"She said, 'I want you to get it and put it in your suitcase and don't open it until you get home,'" Neal said. So, after her mother died, Neal returned to Dallas and opened the envelope. It was full of photographs of her white ancestors in Madison County.

Neal knew that her maternal grandfather was white, but that's about all she knew about that side of her family until she found those pictures.

"I only knew my grandfather was white because of my mother's complexion and her hair," Neal said. "It was obvious she was not 100 percent black."

Neal conferred with an aunt in Fayetteville, who identified relatives in the photos.

"When I saw those pictures, I thought, 'Oh my God! These are all white people! Really, really white!'" said Neal, who was raised by her father's parents in Fayetteville. "I knew I was a little bit country, but I must admit, I was thrown."

Cook's mother was black and her father was white, Neal said. She said Cook could have passed for white, but everyone in Madison County knew her mother was black. It was a secret they kept from state education officials.

"It was top secret," Neal said. "Everybody in Madison County knew. They didn't want anybody else to know. They didn't want the recognition."

That secret integration in a small, mountain community was years before the Supreme Court's 1954 decision in Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kan., which found segregated schools unconstitutional. Arkansas schools had been officially segregated since the state Legislature passed Act 52 in 1868.

After the 1954 Supreme Court decision, Charleston was the first school district in Arkansas to desegregate, followed by Fayetteville, whose School Board was actually the first to approve desegregation, according to The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture.

Two University of Arkansas schools integrated in 1948 -- the law school in Fayetteville and the medical school in Little Rock. But integration for Arkansas grade schools and high schools legally didn't come about until after the Brown v. Board of Education decision.

Arkansas historians said they were unaware of a black pupil attending an all-white Arkansas public school before it was legal to do so, but it wasn't out of the realm of possibility.

"I have not heard of such, but that doesn't mean it didn't happen," said Guy Lancaster, editor of The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture.

"I do not know of any cases in Arkansas where the school district allowed one (or a few) black students to attend, even though it broke the law before Brown," said John A. Kirk, a professor of history at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and director of the Anderson Institute on Race and Ethnicity.

Cook would have been about 7 years old and living with her grandparents in Madison County when the school for black students at Shady Grove closed, according to Hatfield's dissertation at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville.

"The state required schooling for the child but state law forbade the integration of races in the schools," he wrote, referring to Jim Crow laws.

P.V. Blankenship, the Madison County school examiner, approached O.D. Easterling, the teacher at Lower Whorton Creek School, about the situation, wrote Hatfield.

"Both men agreed that it was unfair to deny the child her education even though there was little

likelihood of prosecution if the young girl was kept at home," according to Hatfield's dissertation. So they agreed to have Cook attend school with the white children.

"It was agreed that some story would be told to state authorities if they ever asked why the law was being ignored concerning segregation," according to Hatfield's dissertation.

Hatfield said he interviewed Easterling around 1990.

"He still didn't want to talk about it because he was afraid he'd go to prison," Hatfield said.

Easterling died in 1998. Blankenship died in 1958.

While Cook's integration of the Whorton Creek school was largely unknown outside Madison County, it was documented decades later by publications within the county.

One of those articles appeared in the Madison County Record in 1985. It was written by Gordon D. Morgan, a sociology professor at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, and his wife, Izola Preston.

"The attendance of Laverne Cook, a black child, in a white school in Madison County, in northern Arkansas, in the mid-1940s, antedates the Brown decision outlawing segregated schools by nearly a decade," they wrote.

Joy Russell, a Madison County historian, also wrote about Cook's integration of the Whorton Creek school in 2011 for the Record and in 2013 for Madison County Musings, a publication of the county's genealogical and historical society.

"The black family was greatly respected by the local community and no record of objection to the girl attending school with the white children can be found," Russell wrote for Musings. "She took part in all school activities and no issue was made of her race."

Russell said she hasn't been able to find any school documents from the time that Cook attended school at Lower Whorton Creek.

But there is a photograph.

It shows Cook on the Whorton Creek school playground in the fall of 1949. She's standing with the teacher, Brenda Mathis, and five white girls. Cook has her arms around a smaller girl in front of her, Barbara Fowler, now Barbara Robertson, 77, of Huntsville.

"We were close, I guess," Robertson said. "We went to school every day, played together every day. We would eat out of her lunch bucket just like she would eat out of ours. We all brought food. Like a picnic. It was fun."

Robertson said her family moved back to Madison County from Wyoming in 1948, and Cook was already attending the Whorton Creek school at that time.

Robertson said the school at Whorton Creek was just "a little old poor country school."

"We didn't know any racism then," she said. "We were never taught to look down on anybody. Probably, if we had, we would have gotten the seat of our pants warmed."

Paul Vanderpool, 83, who still lives near Whorton Creek, remembers Cook. "I went to school with her," he said. "There was no problem with that. She was just another one of the kids. Yeah, she studied. She used to walk to school with one of the other neighbors. She would wait and come down with him to school."

According to Russell's Musings article, there were 295 slaves living in Madison County in 1860. After the

Civil War, 160 black people remained in the county in 1870, she wrote. But the number dropped to 44 by 1900. (About 91 black people live in Madison County now, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.)

The number of black school-age children in Madison County dropped from 15 in 1900 to five in 1935, wrote Russell. By 1946, Cook was the only one left.

"It was against the law for her to go to school here, but that's back when parents had a little say over their schools," Vanderpool said. "She didn't have no place to go to school. They had a public meeting. One of the School Board members said our job is to educate the children, give them the best education we can."

So the public was on board, and Cook was allowed to attend the nearest white school, at Lower Whorton Creek, a one-room schoolhouse where students in grades one through eight were taught by the same teacher.

Neal said her mother attended the Whorton Creek School from 1946 to 1948 or 1949. Then Cook moved to Fayetteville, where she was one of the first five students to integrate Fayetteville High School in 1954.

Neal said her mother was 16 years old when she married James Henry Neal, an Army man from Fort Smith. She dropped out of high school, and they moved to California. They soon divorced, but Cook stayed in California and remarried.

Neal said she is proud of her white ancestors in Madison County. One story about her great-grandfather is that he borrowed money from a bank and would walk several miles in the rain to make payments on the loan.

"I never saw racism in Northwest Arkansas, not to the extent that somebody would call it racism," Neal said.

Though she moved to Texas in 1979, Neal stays in contact with many people she grew up with. She also visits Fayetteville often. It keeps her grounded.

"I still have friends from third grade on -- my white friends -- that I still communicate with weekly on Facebook," she said.

"I figured at some time my mom and I would sit down and talk about it," she said. "I didn't know she would get sick and pass away. ... What took place in Madison County is such a phenomenal story, and no one really knows it."

Teachers in the Shady Grove school district were: 1901, Nora Berry; 1902-1904, No school; 1905, J. W. George; 1906, Luther Taylor; 1907, Aggie Easterling; 1909-1909, Ozie Dailey; 1919-1911, Archie Miller; 1912, Oliver Green; 1913, Ozie Dailey; 1914, Willie Miller; 1915-1916, Harry Mullins; 1917, Anna Rice; 1918-1919, Lutie Dotson; 1920, Dexter Harris; 1921, Beulah White; 1922, Ethel Haney; 1923, James H. Mullins; 1924, No school; 1925, Willia Hayes; 1926, Arthur Mullins; 1927, Dalton Dotson; 1928-1929, Rhoda Barker; 1930-1931, No school; 1932, Viola York; 1933, Gustin Payne; 1934, No school; 1935, Vivian Taylor; 1936-1937, No school; 1938, Ruby Ballard.

Persons listed as having served on the board of directors of the district were: A. T. Burgess, J. S. Lane, W. A. Dotson, Alvin Galloway, J. B. Easterling, Kell Burgess, John Crabtree, Wiley Burgess, J. W. George, W. H. Cook, J. H. Tucker, O. L. Dailey, M. H. Burgess, A. C. Galloway, W. G. Lane, R. M. Mullins, S. T. Easterling, J. W. Westbrook, C. D. Davis, and Fred Dotson. The school district was officially dissolved by the county board of education on March 17, 1942, and annexed to school district 125.

Delaney District No. 54

The Delaney school district was established between 1870 and 1873 and was located in Range 28 West, Township 14 North in the southern part of the county. The enumeration of 1878 listed 94 students in the district with a distribution of $95.88 from the common school fund. By 1886, the school census had reached 97 with a distribution of $102.82.

In 1891, a petition was presented to the county court asking that part of the Delaney school district, lying east of the White River, be used to create a new school district.[460] The petition was granted as long as the new district would not lower the enumeration of the Delaney school district to below 35 students. The new district was Dabney district No. 109. By 1900, the enumeration reached 97 once again with a 5-mill special tax being levied by the district.

In 1916, the attendance at Delaney became large enough to warrant the hiring of an additional teacher and until

[460] Arkansas School Record Book and Register, School District No. 54, Madison County, Arkansas, 1920-1940, 308.

1933, a two-room school was maintained there. During the years following the Depression, enrollment at the school dropped to an average of 35 students and only one teacher was hired. By 1938, enrollment was once again sufficient to hire two teachers and a two-room school was maintained until 1943 at which time the school was consolidated with the Saint Paul school district.[461]

Teachers at the Delaney school were: 1900-1902, Cynthia Parsley; 1903, J. T. Walker; 1904, Dave Stewart; 1905, E. H. Sparkman, John Byrd; 1906, J. J. Osburn; 1907, Abraham Easterling; 1908, Frank Faubus; 1909, W. A. Easterling; 1910-1911, Robert Reed; 1912, James Anderson,

[461] Proceedings and Minutes of the Madison County Board of Education, Huntsville, Arkansas, July 29, 1948.

James Gage; 1913-1915, James Gage; 1916, Al Faubus, Leonard Jones; 1917, Dessie Ritchie, Dewey Anderson; 1918, Alphaia Brashears, Orin Glass; 1919, Alphia Brashears, Orin Glass; 1920, Maggie Faubus, Dorothy Thornsberry; 1921, Maggie Faubus, J. S. Jamison; 1922, Bud Combs, J. S. Jamison; 1923, Zola Montgomery, J. S. Jamison; 1924, Virgie Ramsey, Bertha Thornsberry; 1925-1926, Zora Ritchie, James H. Mullins; 1927, Virgie Ramsey, Mark Guinn; 1928, Kinley Johnson, Deck Gage; 1929, Kinley Johnson, Jamie Bradshaw; 1930, Lela Anderson, Lloyd Mix; 1931-1933, Ralph Buck, Mark Guinn; 1934, Velma Dabney, J. N. Pool; 1935-1936, Edward Buck; 1937-1938, Clarice Taylor Faubus; 1938, Lake Guinn; 1939, Agatha Hall, Clay Anderson; 1940, Agatha Hall, Florence Pettit; 1941, Velma Dabney, Florence Pettit; 1942, Velma Dabney, Wanda Taylor; 1943, Velma Dabney, Thelma Ledford.

Persons listed as having served on the board of directors were: Charley Dabney, Thomas Reed, R. A. Hall, T. C. Dabney, Jack Stewart, W. A. Buck, W. A. Foster, Al Faubus, H. C. Shipp, M. S. Gabbard, W. L. Guinn, H. C. Smith, W. E. Patrick, Zola Spencer, R. H. Brashears, Elmo Ritchie, J. C. VanBrundt, E. B. Ledford, Fred Parsley, W. E. Dabney, J. O. Jones, and Ellis Patrick. The school district was consolidated on September 3, 1943, with the Saint Paul school district.

Plainview District No. 55

The Plainview school district was established between 1870 and 1873 by order of the county court. The district was located in Range 27 West, Township 15 North and was contiguous with the Enterprise and Asher school districts.

The enumeration of the district was listed as 51 in 1878 with a distribution of $52.02, 53 students in 1886 with a distribution of $56.18, 61 students in 1888 with a distribution of $66.12, and 75 students in 1900 with a 2.5 mill tax levied for support of the district.

Enrollment in the district averaged 23 students during the 1930's with an average daily attendance of 18. By the 1940's, enrollment had fallen to 16 students with an average daily attendance of 9. In July of 1948, the Plainview, Enterprise, and Asher school districts petitioned the county board of education for consolidation and annexation to the Enterprise school district.[462]

[462] Ibid.

Plainview School - 1912

Front row, left to right: Everett Smith (deceased), Sam Burchett, Iva Cobb (Dunaway) (deceased), Sylvia Jones, Felsie Jones, Eladis Johnson, Alice Smith, Bessie Burchett, Johnny Smith, Claude Smith, Tom Cobb, Mamie Sharp. Second row: Christene Cobb (Hill), Olen Allison (deceased), Sarh Dunaway (Fortner, Garrett), Tom Watkins, Ray Littrell, Jim Burnett, Braden Sharp (deceased), Willard Smith. Third row: Cliffie Littrell, Bessie Cobb (Dunaway), Callie Allison (Garrison) (deceased), Dellie Fritts (Boyd), Kate Allison (McElhaney) (deceased), Lora Gardner,

Picture and information provided by Wayne Dunaway

Bertie Cobb (Smith), Mintie Burchett (Sutherland), Jessie Lawson, Myrtle Dunaway (Davenport) (deceased), Mary Sharp. Back row: Asa Fritts (deceased), Jim Johnson, School Board (deceased), Luther Smith (deceased), Fred Faulkner (deceased), Willie Fritts (deceased), Jesse Gardner, Walter Smith (deceased), Roy Lawson (deceased), Hayden Johnson (deceased) Earnest Fritts (deceased), Floyd Harrison, teacher; Sam Dunaway (deceased), Oscar Smith (deceased).

Plainview School c. 2010 on Faron Ledbetter farm

Teachers at the Plainview school district were: 1900, Jap Vaughan; 1901, Guy Sullivan; 1902, Jap Vaughan; 1903, Tennie Johnson; 1904, Henry Thompson; 1905, J. C. Gage; 1906, Jap Vaughan; 1907, A. M. Duncan; 1908, W. W. Dunaway; 1909, L.

F. Bell; 1910, Walter Harrison; 1911, Orpha Cannaday; 1912, Floyd Harrison; 1913, Troy Ledbetter; 1914, Walter Harrison; 1915, Ona Salsman; 1916, Jap Vaughan; 1917, Monroe Neal; 1918, Bessie Cobb; 1919, Clonna Whitmire; 1920, Bessie Cobb; 1921, John Sharp; 1922, John F. Anderson; 1923, Mrs. C. Matt; 1924, Troy Ledbetter; 1925, Annabel Jackson; 1926, Troy Ledbetter; 1927, Annabel Jackson; 1928-1929, Lucy Ledbetter; 1930-1931, Jack Haskins; 1932, Edna Clark; 1933, Eula Calloway; 1934-1937, W. J. Ledford; 1938, Janice Crumley; 1939-1940, Gwen Ledbetter; 1941, Pauline Jackson; 1942, Cuba McElhaney; 1943, Ruth Harrison; 1944, Christine Hill; 1945, Kathleen McElhaney; 1946-1947, Elmer Ledford.

Persons listed as having served on the board of directors were: Willis Sharp, J. M. Smith, Charles Duncan, J. W. Gardner, J. C. Johnson, William Fritts, J. J. Jones, C. C. Hunt, D. M. Thomas, J. W. Hill, W. E. Gardner, Charley Gardner, Joe Goolsby, Tom Cobb, Everett Hill, Bud O'Neal, Jess Easley, E. Thompson, Calvin Parker, and Howard Calhoun.

Wesley District No. 56

The Wesley school district was established between 1870 and 1873 and was located in Range 28 West, Township 16 North with the school building being located in the community of Wesley. On July 2, 1876, a petition was filed with the

county court to re-establish the boundaries to include the Andrew Dunaway farm on Richland Creek.

The enumeration of 1878, filed by J. M. Johnson, listed 115 students in the district with an apportionment from the common school fund of $117.30. By 1886, the enumeration had dropped to 82 students with an apportionment from the common school fund $86.92. Two years later, in 1888, a special tax rate of 2 mills was levied by the district and 36 boys and 56 girls were enumerated by the district. In 1900, the district tax rate was lowered to 1 mill with the enumeration being reported as 103 students.

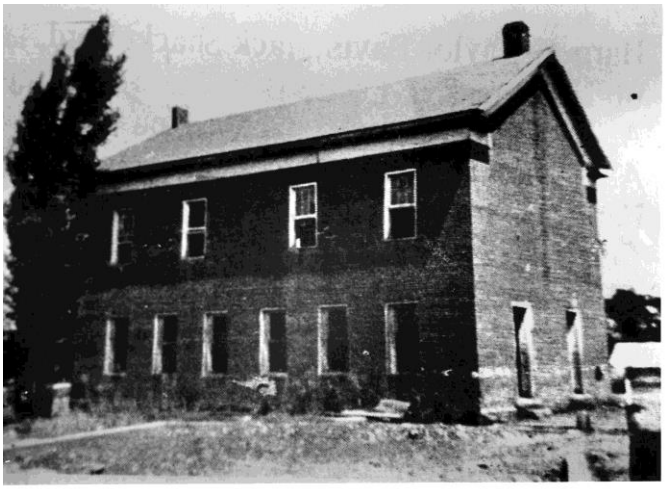
From 1903 to 1909, the school required two teachers in order to accommodate the high student count. During the period from 1910 to 1921, one teacher taught the school terms at the school. Whether this was due to a drop in student enrollment or due to a lack of funds is not known. However, by 1922 the two-room school was continued and would eventually require three teachers by the 1930's.

TOP ROW: Cleo Johnson, teacher, Alice Shofner, Opal Jean Dill, Phyllis Counts, Jack Gage. Fred Jr. McCoy, Afton McCoy, Vera McCoy, Wayne Counts, Trillan Johnson, ?, Oscar Easley
BOTTOM ROW: Ina Teague, Marcelene Johnson, Gwendolyn Counts, Tommie Wheeler, Louise Counts, Cortez Stubblefield, Lois Counts, Coleman Johnson, Doyle Shofner, Reathel Thomas, ? Easley, ?, Leola Samuels, Jessie Samuels

Wesley 1936

Teachers at the Wesley school were: 1900, J. C. Anderson; 1901, J. F. Johnson; 1902, Jesse Bird; 1903-1905, Guy Sullivan, P. L. Kirksey; 1906-1907, Ellen Fritts, L. F. Bell; 1908-1909, Robert Ledbetter, Grace Sharp; 1910, Robert Ledbetter, 1911, L. F. Bell; 1912, Walter Harrison; 1913, W. E. Mayes; 1914, Ruby Carroll; 1915, L. F. Bell; 1916, Walter Long; 1917, J. M. Green; 1918-1920, Katherine Bell; 1921-1922, John Ballard, Iva Cobb; 1923-1925, John Ballard, Verna Johnson; 1926-1927, John Ballard; 1928, Clyde and Mary Mix;

1929, Hazel Lucas; 1930, Clyde Mix, Hazel Lucas; 1931, Arthur Johnson; 1932, Hazel Counts, Wayne Roberts; 1933, Muriel Sharp, Mrs. A. R. Tarpley; 1934, Clyde Mix, Muriel Sharp, Mary Mix; 1935, Clyde Mix, Mary Mix, Cleo Johnson; 1936, Cleo Johnson, Burl Smith; Mrs. H. L. Hunnicutt; 1937, Engels Broyles, Cleo Johnson; 1938-1939, Troy Ledbetter, Hazel Counts; 1940-1942, Elbert Mitchell, Hazel Counts; 1942, Elbert Mitchell, Cleo Johnson; 1943-1947, Elbert Mitchell, 1948, Conley Neal.



Left to right: Van Counts, Gus Counts, Gus Buchannan, Eugene Bell, Max Counts, Afton Johnson. Wesley basketball team, 1929.

Persons listed as having served on the board of directors for the school district were: B. D. Counts, W.N. Shofner, J.M. Kirksey, B. D. Shofner, S. D. Counts, M. D. Counts, Alex Kennan, L. F. Bell, G. B. Lucas, Fred Johnson, C. G. Berry, L. M. Counts, I. L. Sharp, Tom Wheeler, Walter Harrison, E. B. Shofner, O. B. Counts, Max Counts, Paul Johnson, Nolen Johnson, Afton Johnson, A. C. Counts, and Eugene Bell.

The school district was consolidated with the Huntsville district on June 2, 1949. A wing school was operated by the Huntsville district at the Wesley school into the 1950's before it was permanently closed.

Cove District No. 57

The Cove school district was established between 1870 and 1873. The district was located in Range 25 West, Township 14 North approximately three miles from the Odgen community.

The 1878 enumeration of the district, as reported by Isaac Keck of Grant, listed 46 students in the district with a distribution of $55.20 from the common school fund. The enumeration of 1886 and 1888 listed 49 and 50 students, respectively, with a 5-mill special tax levied in 1888. By 1900, the district census reported only 52 students and the 5-mill tax levy remained in order to support the district.

The district did not hold school in 1905 as a fire destroyed the old school building and a new one was not yet completed.

Cove School c. 1908 – J. E. Burnett, Teacher

Teachers at the Cove school were: 1901-1902, H. C. Moore; 1903, Sy Russell; 1904, Ruth Johnson; 1905, No school; 1906, William Stapleton; 1907, John Stapleton; 1908-1909, J. E. Burnett; 1910, W. F. Keck; 1911-1912, J. W. Stanberry; 1913, G. W. R. Keck; 1914, Millard Sisemore; 1915, Cora Ogden; 1916, Harrison Burnett; 1917, No school; 1918-1920, J. P. Reynolds; 1921, James F. Cowan; 1922, Luther Cowan; 1923, Trella Lane; 1924, Katie Austin; 1925, Mary Haynes; 1926, Julia Calloway; 1927, Mary Shadwick; 1928, Homer Barker; 1929, Troy Lane; 1930, Gail Barker; 1931, Troy Lane; 1932, Jessie Ayers; 1933-1934, J. D. Haynes; 1935, Alpha Gage;

1936, Mona Moody; 1937, Noble Weaver; 1938, Maida Jackson; 1939, Lloyd Mix; 1940, Edith Dixon; 1941-1942, Mildred Burnett; 1943, Mary Burnett; 1944, Margie Bailey; 1945-1947, Clara Tassey; 1948, Kate Fancher.

Serving as members of the board of directors for the district were: W. R. Keck, J. K. Burnett, S. J. Smith, H. S. Cowan, W. F. Keck, P. A. Ogden, A. J. Lane, Elbert Anderson, John Phillips, P. S. Cowan, D. H. Keck, J. S. Burnett, Beechie Porter, and W. C. Smith.

Enrollment at the Cove school during the 1930's averaged 26 students per year with an average daily attendance of 19. During the 1940's, the enrollment fell to an average of 20 students with an average daily attendance of 15. The district was consolidated with the Saint Paul district on June 2, 1949.

Little Spring District No. 58

Locust Mountain District No. 58

The Little Spring school district was created between 1870 and 1873 and was located in Range 28 West and Township 18 North, between the community of Calbaugh and the Washington County line. The district reported an enumeration of 47 students in 1878 but had declined to 39 students by 1886. The enumeration of 1888 listed only 26 students in the district with an apportionment of $28.18 with no district

tax being levied. The following year, a petition was filed with the county court by B. F. Evans and John Wade to dissolve the district and annex the area to school district 158 in Washington County.[463] County Judge Benjamin Drake granted the request and ordered the remaining students to Calbaugh school district and the Whitener school district. In addition, the real estate and other property of the school were granted to the Whitener school district.

In July, 1891, a petition was presented to the county court to establish a school district on Locust Mountain, which was located approximately three miles southwest of Witter.[464] The new school district was assigned number 58 and was located in Range 26 West, Township 15 North, near Section 34. The district was ordered made of parts of school districts 11, 42, 91, and 13.

The enumeration of the Locust Mountain school district in 1900 listed 64 students with a local district tax of five mills. The distribution that year from the common school fund was $80.64.

Teachers at the Locust Mountain school were: 1901, Monroe Neal; 1902, Edith White; 1903, No school; 1904, S. B. Mitchell; 1905, Ernie Clark; 1906, J. A. Casey; 1907, J. W.

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[463] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. E, 1889, 22.

[464] Ibid., 1891, 308.

McKibbins; 1908, S. B. Mitchell; 1909, George Dennis; 1910, Oscar Scott; 1911-1912, Georgia Kidwell; 1913, Newton Reynolds; 1914, Gertie Wist; 1915-1916, Lovie Pharris; 1917, Dorothy Thornsberry; 1918, Vida Williams; 1919, Verd Chuck; 1920, Tressie Lane; 1921-1922, Canda Smith; 1923, Nancy Smith; 1924, Pollie Hubbard Delk.

Persons listed as having served on the board of directors for the Locust Mountain school district between 1900 and 1924 were: John Morris, George Kirk, John Parker, Albert Harvey, S. B. Dennis, H. A. Teague, J. M. Herriman, and Newton Smith. The school district was dissolved in 1925 and the district was annexed to school districts 42, 13, and 11.

Flint School District No. 59

Forum School District No. 59

The Flint school district was established between 1870 and 1873 and was located in Range 26 West, Township 17 North, approximately 1.8 miles from the McLoud Ford on War Eagle Creek. Although school would be held off and on in the schoolhouse at Flint for years after the district became defunct, the district was officially dissolved on October 14, 1885, as the district could not pay its debts.[465] Prior to dissolving the school district, County Judge M. D. Lucas

[465] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. D, 1885, 141.

ordered $59.12 from the common school fund to secure the outstanding debts of the district before he dissolved it.

The district reported an enumeration of 59 students in 1878 with a distribution of $60.18 from the common school fund. With the dissolution of the district, students were transferred to the Spring Hill and Peace Valley school districts.

The following year, 1886, the Forum school district was established by County Judge Lucas. The school district was located in Range 26 West, Township 18 North and at one time covered over 16 square miles, being one of the largest districts, geographically, in the county.

The school district reported an enumeration of 37 students the first year and received a distribution of $39.22 the first year. By 1888, the enumeration of the Forum school increased to 42 students and a 5-mill district tax was levied for the support of the school. The district census increased slowly and by 1892, 48 students were listed. By 1900, the district enumeration had dropped to 22 students and the 5-mill district tax remained in effect.

During the decades of the 1930's and 1940's, the population of the area increased and a new schoolhouse was built on property donated to the school by Clint Ham. The deed to the property stipulated that the land for the school would revert back to the Ham family should the school

district cease to exist. As the school-age population increased, another room was added to the existing schoolhouse and a lunchroom was constructed just north of the schoolhouse. The new two-room schoolhouse was situated on State Highway 23 just north of the community of Forum. The large upper grade room was at the front of the building with the students facing east while the adjoining lower grade room was in the back of the building with the students facing south.

In 1932, the enrollment at the school was 62 students in grades 1-8 with one teacher. The following year, the board of directors hired two teachers and constructed the second room to the school.[466] In 1937, the enrollment at Forum was 29 students in grades 1-4 with 19 students enrolled in grades 5-8. By 1948, the enrollment and average daily attendance were:

Grade	Enrollment	Average Daily Attendance
1	21	17
2	5	3
3	8	6
4	12	9
5	17	14
6	1	1

[466] Arkansas School Record Book and Register, School District No. 59, Madison County, Arkansas, 1930-1948.

7	11	8
8	2	1
Total	77	59

Forum School 1925 from Pollie Hubbard Delk, teacher

Teachers at the Forum school district were: 1901-1902, Nora Davis; 1903-1904, Pearl Sandlin; 1905, Luna Southerland; 1906-1907, Ella McCurry; 1908, Nona Boatright; 1909, William T. Smith; 1910-1911, Mimmie Southerland; 1912, Cammie Montgomery; 1913-1914, Everett Hinds; 1915, Viola McCoy; 1916-1917-1918, Annie Fritts; 1919, Mildred Hinds; 1920, Isaac Smith; 1921-1922, Anna Barnes; 1923, Price Everett; 1924, Cleo Hopper; 1925, Pollie Hubbard; 1926, Jess McCoy; 1927-1928, D. B. Newton; 1929-1930, Anna K. True; 1931-1932, Madeline Tankersly; 1933-1934, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Fowler; 1935, Bruce Fowler, Flossie Butts; 1936, Clara Tassey, Dessie Everman; 1937, Flossie Butts, Maida Jackson; 1938-1940, Freda Hankins, Howard Hankins; 1941-1942, Freda

Hankins, Claude Johnson; 1943, Freda Hankins, Howard Hankins; 1944, J. C. Ewing, Essie Barker, Eulena Casteel; 1945-1947, Essie Barker, Florence Barker; 1948, Juanita Bailey, Polly Hubbard.

Persons listed as having served on the board of directors for the Forum school district were: B. E. England, B. G. Harmon, John Stroud, J. G. Stewart, E. S. Kelley, D. F. Walden, W. T. Walden, Roy Gumm, Samford Stroud, Elmer Gumm, Dave Marshall, Harry Kelly, Harley White, Clint F. Ham, R. D. Hinds, Ben Littrell, Carl Myers, Alvie White, W. M. McClain, and Clarence Gumm.

The district was consolidated with Huntsville district no. 1 on February 28, 1949. The Huntsville district operated a wing school at Forum until the late 1950's at which time the school was permanently closed.

Forum School District #59 – 1930

Back row: Jesse Kittner; George Ham; Henry Marshall; Katy White; Oscar McCullen; Madeline Tankesley, Teacher; Chester Ham; Ethel Marshall; Curtis Lovey; Ellen Gumm; Vernon Littrell

2nd row: Ruth White; _____Stroud; Tilda Walden; Kenneth Ham; William Stroud; Clara Silvis; Johnnie Corn; Leona Stroud; Bruce Marshall; Ethelene Waters; Bernice Reinhart; Keith Ham; Myrtle White; Virgie Littrell; Charles Walden

front row: Elaine Marshall; unknown; Mary White; L. J. Littrell; Ruth Ham; unknown; Joyce Ham; Ray Stroud; _____Hayes; J. C. Hinds

Greenwood District No. 60

The Greenwood school district, also known as Greasy Creek school district, was established on October 11, 1886, by County Judge M. D. Lucas upon the petition of John Faubus, Elizah Combs, W. Combs, and 18 others.[467] The three men listed as the principal petitioners also were appointed as the first board of directors of the school. The district was located just northeast of Combs in Range 27 West, Township 14 North.

The 1888 enumeration of the district listed 72 students with an apportionment of $78.03 from the common school fund and a special tax rate of 5 miles being levied by the district. The 1892 enumeration of the district listed 94 students and in 1900, the enumeration was 86.

[467] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. D, 1886, 225.

The most famous member of the faculty of the Greasy Creek school was Orval E. Faubus, who taught there in 1932 and 1936. Listed as a student in the 1936 class was Miss Alta H. Haskins who would later become the wife of Orval Faubus and the First Lady of Arkansas.

Teachers at the Greenwood school on Greasy Creek were: 1892-1893, John S. Combs; 1894-1895, James Simmons; 1896, Jim Brashears; 1899, Floyd Walker; 1900, Sam Casteel; 1901, Louis Weber; 1902, Greenberry Combs; 1903, Kate Massie; 1904, Arthur Holliday; 1905, Harvey Combs; 1906, Afton Wheeler; 1907, Louie Hurst; 1908, J. S. (Sherman) Jameson; 1909, E. C. (Lige) Combs; 1910, J. S. Jameson; 1911-1912, Mary Sallee; 1913, Frank Duncan; 1914, Arch Cornett; 1915, Mary Sallee Simmons; 1916, Minnie Joslen, D. C. (Dale) Frazier; 1917, Harvey Johnson; 1918-1919, Dewey Glass; 1920,

H. L. (Henry) Thompson; 1921, Bessie Cornett; 1922, Drew Combs; 1923, Alma Coleman; 1924-1926, Louie Hurst; 1927, Louie Crumpacker; 1928, Frankie Southerland; 1929, Thelma Combs; 1930-1931, Deck Gage; 1932, Orval E. Faubus; 1933, Wade Guinn; 1934-1935, Annabell Hawkins; 1936, Orval E. Faubus; 1937, Annabel Hawkins; 1938, Mary Dennerline; 1939, Bruce Johnson; 1940, Frankie Thornsberry; 1941, Connie Byrd; 1942-1943, Frankie Carlton, Jessie Ayers; 1944, Jessie Ayers; 1945, Wanda Combs; 1946, Elizabeth Smith; 1947-1948, Alma Ayers.

Persons listed as having served on the board of directors for the Greenwood school district between 1900 and 1948 were: Ed Thornsberry, Hiram Thornsberry, Jasper Simmons, Ira Thornsberry, Charles Simmons, J. S. Faubus, Arch Brandenberg, Walter Hendrix, Arthur Sisemore, John Deaton, W. M. Joslen, Alvis Wood, Eddie Hawkins, Dave Thornsberry; Elmo Ritchie, Oren Penny, Henry Robbins, and C. S. Kendrick. The school district was consolidated with Saint Paul school district on June 2, 1949.

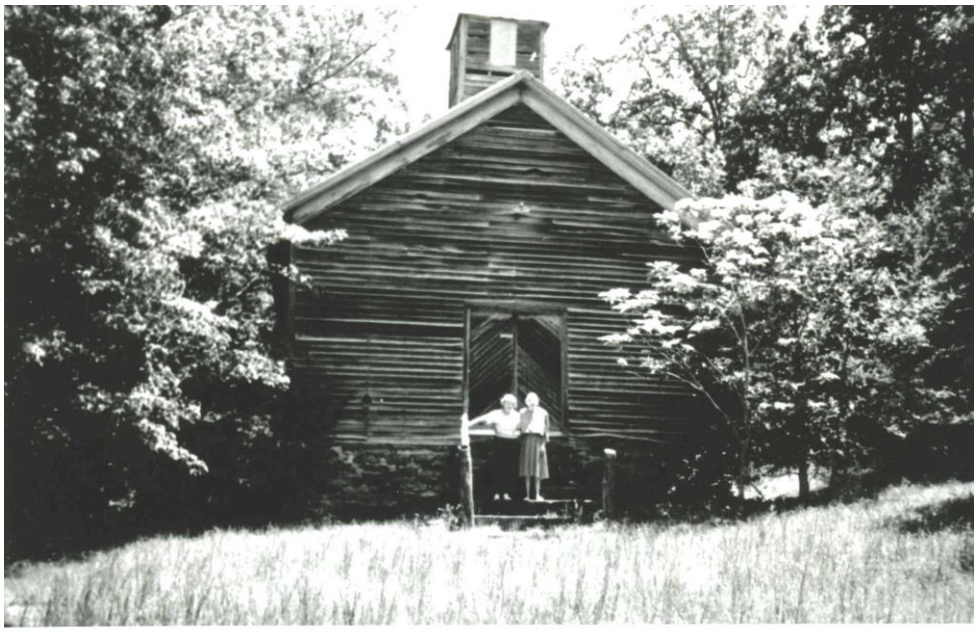
Dutton District No. 61

The Dutton school district was created between 1870 and 1873 and was located in Ranges 26 and 27 West, Township 13 North in the southern part of the county. The 1878 enumera-

tion of the district as reported by board member J. L. Miracle listed 77 students in the district.

By 1886, the enumeration of the district had fallen to 59 students and the district received $62.54 from the common school fund. By 1888, the district census had risen to 82 students and was listed as 73 in 1900 with a 5-mill tax being levied by the district.

During the period from 1900 to 1905, four separate disputes concerning the boundary lines between the Dutton school district and the Saint Paul district broke out with petitions being filed with the county court to settle the boundary disputes. Each time the dispute was settled in favor of the Saint Paul school district.[468]



[468] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. H, 1900-1905, 437-484.

During the 1930's the average enrollment of the district was 22 students with an average daily attendance of 15. During the 1940's, the average enrollment fell to 18 with an average daily attendance of 9 students.[469] On September 21, 1943, the patrons of the district petitioned the county board of education to dissolve the district and annex to the Saint Paul district.

Teachers at the Dutton school were: 1900-1901, J. S. Miller; 1902-1903, Robert M. Reed; 1904-1905, J. D. Hughes; 1906, J. C. Wiggins; 1907, Eliga Combs; 1908, Garland Combs; 1909, Melissa Morgan; 1910, Wood Barber; 1911, Hershel Hughes; 1912, H. L. Thompson; 1913, Sherman Clark; 1914-1915, Jesse Bird; 1916-1917, Byron Shipley; 1918, O. F. Calloway; 1919, Gertie Wist; 1920, Canda Smith; 1921-1922, D. Bruce Newton; 1923, Henry Combs; 1924, Richard Barker; 1925, Bud Combs; 1926, Arthur Mullins; 1927-1928, Bud Combs; 1929, Bud Combs; 1930, Howard Hawkins; 1931-1932, Joe Anderson; 1933, Mark Guinn; 1934-1935, Shelley Cornett; 1936, Mildred Wist; 1937, Flora Hawkins; 1938-1939, Rhoda Houston; 1940, Mildred Burnett; 1941-1944, Louise Williams.

Persons having served the Dutton school district as members of the board of directors were: F. T. Hooper, Stephen Ricketts, J. W. Wist, James Ritchie, R. E. Cornett,

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[469] Arkansas School Record Book and Register, School District No. 61, Madison County, Arkansas, 1930-1948.

W. C. Casey, J. S. Miller, L. M. Wist, L. L. Swaim, Jess Cornett, A. M. Kelly, J. M. Ricketts, P. J. Wist, Charley Wist, J. W. Ponder, L. H. Smith, E. M. Dutton, Q. Z. Wist, Truley Song, and Ed Mullen.

Spring Hill District No. 62

The Spring Hill school district, often referred to as Shakerag, was established between 1870 and 1873. The school district was located in Range 27 West, Township 17 North, approximately three miles northeast of Hindsville in Shakerag Hollow.

On October 21, 1876, County Judge A. L. Thompson levied a special tax of 5 mills on the district.[470] The purpose and propriety of the levy was not clear and the tax was soon lowered to one mill where it remained through 1900. The 1878 enumeration of the district, as reported by School Director G. W. Phillips, listed 57 students in the district. The enumerations of 1886 and 1888 listed 71 students in the district while the enumerations of 1892 and 1900 listed 60 and 83 students, respectively.

[470] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. C, 1876, 94.

An account of the Shakerag school was given by John E. Grigg who attended the school in the early 1900's:[471]

> . . . Shakerag school house was one-half mile down the hollow from our house and we usually had a six-month term of school each year starting in July and ending in December. The school house was a one-room box building with 1 x 12 boards for the walls. The boards had shrunk and the cracks between the boards were for one-half to three-fourths inch wide and some of the boys chewed tobacco and spit through the cracks. When cold weather came someone would cut some green oak wood and deliver to the school. It was up to the teacher to try and get some heat from the old box stove we had to burn the wood in. For seating, there were long benches on each side of a center aisle. At the back of the room there was a stage and a blackboard (and) located at one end of the stage was a shelf that held two zinc water buckets with two long handled dippers for our drinking water. Our water was carried about three-fourths of a mile from a spring. The hollow was not very wide and some of the level ground was lost because of a dry branch that carried considerable water when it rained. Because of this we had little room for a playground. Our baseball diamond was somewhat oblong and when we played wolf on the ridge we used the hillside too. Across the branch from the school house was a Hazelnut thicket and when the teacher found it necessary to punish one of the students, one of the boys would be sent for a Hazelnut switch. One time two of the older boys got mad at the teacher and returned after school and turned over all the benches and bent the dipper handles, tore up books and other charts and equipment. Next day the boys came to school with extra pants on and the teacher used a board on the villains. One of the boys said the handles were

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[471] *Madison County Musings*, The Madison County Historical and Genealogical Society, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. 3, No. 3, 1984, 133-138.

beaten off his knife that he had in his hip pocket.

We always carried our lunch to school. We usually had some kind of home cured meat with cold biscuit or cornbread and sometimes we had fried or boiled eggs. We often had fried or baked Irish and sweet potatoes, and baked roasting ears in season. We also took butter and molasses or jelly and sometimes we had pie or cake. . . . About 1916 weatherboard siding was put on the walls of the school which made it warmer in the winter. About this time regular desk-type school seating was installed and a water cooler was added and each pupil had to furnish his own drinking cup which was the folding type cup. . . .

Spring Hill aka Shake Rag School, District #62 – about 1918

1st row: Lois Chappell; Curtis Phillips; _____Phillips; J. Hawkins; Lee Phillips
2nd row: Fred Crumley; Floy Crumley; _____Crumley; Nola Phillips; Elsie Hawkins; unknown; unknown; Hugh Chappell; Radis Hill; unknown
3rd row: unknown; Mamie Bohannan; Sula Chappell; rest of row unknown (boy 2nd from right may be Doyle Phillips; boy with #2 above head is Nolen Chappell
Rest not identified

Enrollment at Spring Hill school varied considerably during the 1930's and 1940's. The average enrollment was 9 with a high enrollment of 23 students in 1933 and a low enrollment of 4 in 1946. The school district was consolidated on June 2, 1949, with the Huntsville school district.

Teachers at Spring Hill school were: 1901-1902, J. E. Price; 1903, Ollie Berry; 1904, Lillie Price; 1905, Zula Guinn; 1906, F. M. Liner; 1907, Crystal James; 1908-1909, W. T. Bohannon; 1910, Herbert McMimm; 1911, C. G. Lewis; 1912, Troy Clark; 1913, Charles Bohannon; 1914, Jessie Price; 1915, Charles Bohannon; 1916, Carl Ellis; 1917, W. M. Goucher; 1918-1919, Ruth McLoud; 1920, Clyta Ingraham; 1921, Georgie Phillips; 1922, Lula Young; 1923, J. C. Boatright; 1924, Clara Montgomery; 1925, Susie Bohannon; 1926, Ruby Tassey; 1927-1928, Mary Bedingfield; 1929, J. S. Sikes; 1930, Irene Buchannan; 1931-1934, Mrs. Melvin Combs; 1935-1936, Herman Turner; 1937-1938, Mrs. Gerald Walker; 1939-1941, W. A. Ellis; 1942-1943, Verda Turner; 1944, Mary Smith; 1945-1946, Verda Turner.

Persons listed as having served on the board of directors of the district were: John Phillips, J. P. Chappell, Jacob King, B. G. Robinson, George Caldwell, H. P. Ferguson, Jody Phillips, Earnest Chappell, John Holland, Virgil Phillips, D. G. Hawkins, G. A. Price, C. L. Warren, J. H. Alderson, G. E. Clark, Guy Phillips, Andy Ruth, D. W.

Alderson, H. E. Routh, J. C. Potter, A. G. Routh, Jess Hammonds, and J. C. Phillips.

Pettigrew District No. 63

The Pettigrew school district was created by order of the county court in October, 1894, after the dissolution of a school district bearing the same number in the Wesley area the preceding year.[472] The district was located in Range 25 West, Township 13 North, with the schoolhouse located in the community of Pettigrew.

The enumeration of 1900 listed 184 students in the district with a 5-mill tax levied. For the next twenty years, the district would require two teachers to handle the student enrollment.

The schoolhouse was quite modern for the day being constructed in the early 1900's. It had an imposing bell tower mounted on the front of the entry area with two rooms on either side of the entry hall.

[472] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. F, 1894, 270.

I think this could be the 1st Pettigrew Schoolhouse which burned prior to 1910. I think the name on the sign is Pettigrew School, ___29, 1905 The boy in the back row with the "x" above his head is supposed to be Harrison Lowe? Teachers this year were J. S. Miller & C. C. (Columbus) Drake. Those names can be seen on board. There are 88 students in the picture & school records say there were so many students that it required 2 teachers.

Teachers at the Pettigrew school were: 1901-1902, Walter Long, D. B. Roberts; 1903-1904, S. Y. Russell, W. T. Hinch; 1905, J. S. Miller, C. C. Drake; 1906, Monroe Neal, Lon Oliver; 1907-1908, W. H. Hughes, A. P. Barker; 1909-1910, Mollie McCurry, J. E. Casey; 1911, Walter Long, Lena Southerland; 1912, Ethel Lewis, Jessie Bird; 1913, Mary Yount, B. F. Johnson; 1914, O. R. Cornett, Golda Cornett; 1915, Oscar Cornett, Fannie Bryant; 1916-1917, Oscar Cornett, Golda Cornett; 1918, Alice Terhune, Golda Cornett; 1919, Ed Mize; 1920, W. H. Mullins; 1921-1922, Byron Shipley; 1923, Bessie Johnson, Bryon Shipley; 1924, Alma

Coleman, Bryon Shipley; 1925, Clyde Mix, Bessie Johnson; 1926, Clyde Mix; 1927, Clyde Mix, Mary Mix; 1928, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Johnson; 1929, Callie Gray, Ray Cornett; 1930, Basil Crawford, Maggie Marshall, Richard Barker; 1931, Louie Crumpacker, Pauline Wiggins; 1932, Ray Baker, Callie Gray; 1933, Hazel Keck, Ray Baker; 1934, Hazel Keck, Robert Reed; 1935, Robert Reed, Lela Barron; 1936-1937, R. D. Gage, Alpha Gage; 1938, Vada Long, Fannie Evans; 1939, Geraldine Cornett, Vada Long, Walter Long; 1940, Geraldine Johnson, F. D. Faubus; 1941, Edith Dixon, Geraldine Johnson; 1942, Geraldine Johnson, Walcie Ahart; 1943, Robert Reed, Leota Keck.

Persons listed as having served on the board of directors from 1900-1944 were: J. B. Dixon, C. V. Lucas, E. E. Jeter, Ed Orton, J. M. Bryant, A. D. Phipps, C. C. Lucas, Hollie Barker, W. H. Manery, C. E. Crawford, A. P. Barker, O. R. Cornett, H. R. Martin, W. H. Keck, W. F. Keck, Hollis Barron, J. F. Cowan, Simon Watson, Orbin Ferrell, V. M. Martin, Gayle Haught, and J. O. Ferrell. The school district was consolidated with Saint Paul on August 6, 1943.

Concord District No. 64

The Concord school district was created between 1874 and 1877 but school was never held with any regularity for several years in the district. The district was located in

Range 26 West, Township 15 North approximately three miles south of the community of Aurora.

As school was not held at Concord with any regularity during the first ten years, no enumeration was listed for 1879. In July, 1886, J. M. Wood and 24 others petitioned the county court to re-establish the district.[473] The petition was granted and J. S. Cluck, N. W. Cox, and Fred Bolinger were named to the board of directors.

The enumeration of the district listed 75 students in 1886 with a distribution of $79.50 from the common school fund. By 1892, the district census had dropped to 43 and in 1900, the enumeration was listed as 38 with no district tax levied.

From 1930 to 1948, the district never enrolled more than eleven students during any given term. The average daily attendance during this time was six students. In 1934, the school term was so short that none of the ten students enrolled were promoted to the next grade.[474]

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[473] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. D, 1886, 206.

[474] Arkansas School Record Book and Register, School District No. 64, Madison County, Arkansas, 1930-1948.

Concord School, 1947; Mary Rice, Teacher

Left to right: Junior Hughes; Jean Hughes; Joel Hughes; Othenia Hughes; Shirley Ogden; Johnny Dale Hughes; Larry Dimmitt

Teachers at the Concord school were: 1901, Wiley Cluck; 1902-1903, S. B. Mitchell; 1904, C. C. Drake; 1905, S. B. Mitchell; 1906, Walter Long; 1907, Goldie Spurgeon; 1908-1910, J. C. Hacker; 1911, Becka Spurlock; 1912, Olen Haney; 1913, Everett Spurlock; 1914, S. B. Mitchell; 1915, J. C. Hacker; 1916, J. W. Ledbetter; 1917, Chester Haynes; 1918, J. W. Stanberry; 1919, Earl Cluck; 1920, No school; 1921-1922, S. B. Mitchell; 1923, Clara Hooper; 1924, Noble Jackson; 1925, S. B. Mitchell; 1926, Willa McElhaney; 1927, Beatrice Johnson; 1928, Donna Parker; 1929, Doris Long; 1930, Mary Haynes; 1931-1932, Gwendolyn Hacker; 1933, Wilda McConnell; 1934, Vada Long; 1935, Walter Long; 1936, Willa Parker; 1937-1938, Clara Tassey; 1939, Mary Rice; 1940, Clara Tassey; 1941, Mary Rice; 1942, Pauline Jackson; 1943,

Fannie Phillips; 1944, Vada Reeves; 1945-1946, Willia Parker; 1947-1948, Mary Rice.

Persons listed as having served on the board of directors for the district were: Dave Dennis, Thomas Wood, M. F. Swoke, W. D. Tassey, Harrison Seals, C. M. Farmer, Adison Wheeler, W. A. Harrison, W. J. Haynes, Charley Haynes, G. W. McKnight, Glen McFee, Walter Webb, Sid Dennis, Seth Jones, Vernon Ogden, W. E. McElhaney, L. H. Dimitt, and Olvie Hughes. The school district was consolidated with the Huntsville district on June 2, 1949.

Boston District No. 65

The Boston school district was established on October 23, 1876, by order of County Judge John S. Polk with James Harris, J. H. Cowan, and James Williams being appointed as the first board of directors.[475]

The district was located in Range 24 West, Township 14 North in the community of Boston.

[475] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. C, 1876, 93.

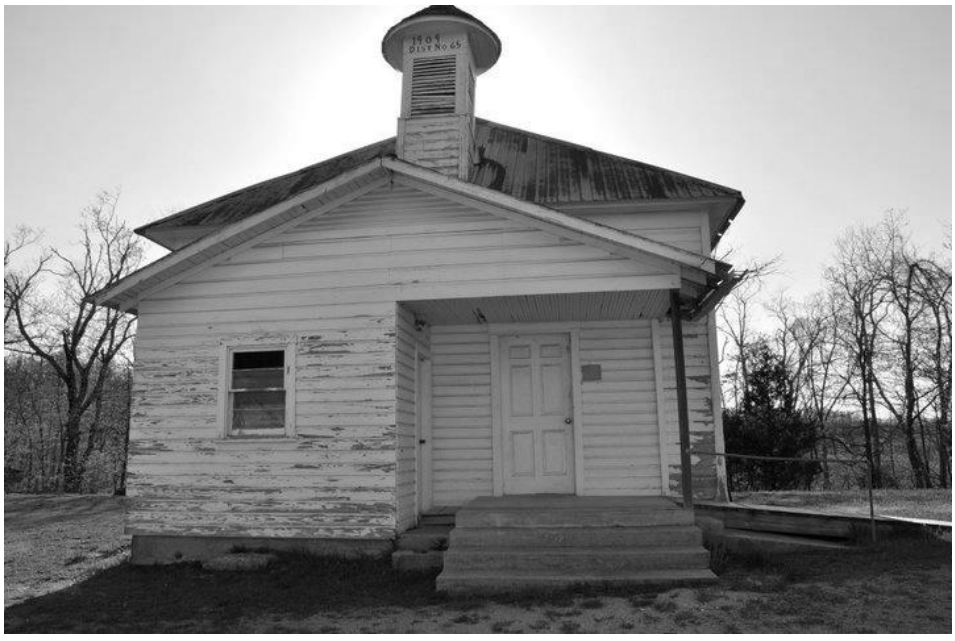
The enumeration of 1878 listed 71 students in the district. By 1886, the district census had increased to 80 with a distribution of $84.80 from the common school fund. In 1888, the enumeration of the district dropped to 52 students and a district tax of 5 mills was voted to support the school.

During the 1930's, enrollment at the school averaged 30 students in grades one through eight each year. During the 1940's, enrollment increased with an average of 37 students per year.[476]

Boston School, September 1927; Homer Barker, Teacher on left of photo

[476] Arkansas School Record Book and Register, School District No. 65, Madison County, Arkansas, 1930-1948.

Teachers at the Boston school were: 1901, Lena Berry; 1902, Jim D. Hughes; 1903, W. S. Page; 1904, W. A. Ellis; 1905, Melvin Stotts; 1906-1907, Fannie Walker; 1908, Addie Powers, Willie Smith; 1909, Charles H. Renner; 1910, Richard Barker; 1911, W. F. Keck; 1912, John E. Burnett; 1913, W. F. Keck; 1914, Orval Calloway; 1915, Claude Williams; 1916, Stella Roberts; 1917, W. F. Keck; 1918, Harry Mullins; 1919, J. P. Reynolds; 1920, F. W. Patrick; 1921, J. P. Reynolds; 1922, Boyd Stapleton; 1923, Essie Barker; 1924, Vada Long; 1925, Essie Barker; 1926-1927, Homer Barker; 1928, Essie Barker; 1929, Frankie Southerland; 1930-1932, Essie Barker; 1933, Troy Lane; 1934, Lloyd Mix; 1935, Kate Fancher; 1936, Charlia Eaton; 1937, Beatrice Gillmore; 1938, Flora Hawkins; 1939, Edith Dixon; 1940, Essie Barker; 1941, Ardath Great-house; 1942, Lillie Russell; 1943, Agatha Hall.



Persons serving on the board of directors were: J. C. Williams, J. F. Hughes, C. C. Hooper, Monroe Warren, G. P. Hobbs, S. V. Cowan, S. H. Cowan, J. B. Evans, Tom Bryant, Fred Hughes, Roy D. Ogden, Doyle Hughes, Henry Byrant, J. S. Epperson, Elbie Eaton, Elbert Evans, Ervin Johnson, and J. H. Byrant. The school district was consolidated with the Saint Paul district on September 3, 1943.

Smyrna District No. 66

The Smyrna school district was established on October 1, 1875, upon the petition of W. M. Fritts and others.[477] The boundaries of the district were established in Sections 21 and 17 of Range 26 West, Township 17 North.

The schoolhouse was constructed in the spring of 1877 by Grove Bolin Cannaday and others. The first intentions were to use the building as a Baptist church but before it was finished, the builders decided to use it for a school.[478] The building was well-seated with split-log benches and Miss Polly Phillips was the first teacher with the school term lasting three months.

The Smyrna school, like most schools of the era, was the center of community activities. The schoolhouse was

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[477] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. C, 1875, 68.

[478] The Madison County Record, Huntsville, Arkansas, November 16, 1939: 5.

used for Sunday school, preaching, spelling matches, debates, and a favorite amusement in the Smyrna area was Kangaroo Court. During sessions of the "Kangaroo Court," a local person serving as the judge would issue sentences to community members, usually young couples, of an amusing nature.

On the north and south sides of the building were "style blocks." These were built of logs about 30 inches high by four feet square and were used by the ladies and children who came by horseback to dismount.

The 1878 enumeration of the district as reported by S. B. Cannaday listed 31 students in the district. By 1886, the number had increased to 59 and a distribution of $62.54 was made from the common school fund. During the same year, the county court accidentally levied a 5-mill tax against the district. A complaint by John R. Simpson and others of the district was filed with the county court that the levied tax had not been voted on by the patrons of the district. On July 3, 1886, County Judge Lucas rescinded the tax levy.[479]

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[479] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. D, 1886, 219.

Smyrna School c. 1990

In 1888, the enumeration of the district decreased to 46 students and $49.85 was apportioned from the common school fund. As this would not be sufficient to hold a three-month term of school, the district did vote the 5-mill tax levy which had been removed from the tax books just two years before.

Teachers at the Smyrna school were: 1900, H. M. Fritts; 1901, J. Reynolds; 1902, H. A. Reynolds; 1903, Zella Miller; 1904, J. E. Price; 1905, Walter Bohannon; 1906, Emma Brown; 1907, M. L. Bohannon; 1908-1909, J. C. McQuerry; 1910, Jess McCoy; 1911-1912, Pearl Carlock; 1913, Fred Sanders; 1914, Mary Hayes; 1915, Everett Hinds; 1916, Joe Rice; 1917, J. C. Boatright; 1918, Albert King; 1919, Ethel Sanders; 1920-1921, Ava Phillips; 1922, Georgie Phillips;

1923-1924, Effie Boyd; 1925-1927, Frank Cannaday; 1928, Ana Harris; 1929, Zula Calico; 1930, Margaret Miller; 1931-1932, Pete Miller; 1933-1934, Donna Simpson; 1935, Elsie Brown; 1936, Lilly Seals; 1937, Herman Skaggs; 1938, Anne Smith; 1939, Wilma Rhodes; 1940, Anne Smith; 1941, Fred Reed; 1942-1943, Ruby Warren; 1944, Lorene Yarbrough; 1945-1947, Dixie Barker Holland.

Smryna School 1935

Front Row, Left to Right: Ross Benning; Oda Vea Warren
2nd Row, Left to Right: Celesta Grace Markley; Lorraine Warren; Clifford Bensing
3rd Row, Left to Right: Juanita Bensing; Gene Brown; Floyd Warren
Back Row, Left to Right: Howard Warren; Elsie Jett Brown, Teacher; Ellen Bensing

Persons listed as having served on the board of directors were: Elias Watkins, J. H. Stone, Charlie Fritts, G. W. Rainey, Will Barker, P. E. Markley, J. R. Walker, Floyd

Outland, Charles King, Elmer Brown, Frank Simpson, Al Harrington, W. A. Warren, Frank Warren, Jess Smith, Ted Slaven, Elmer Warren, and Lillie Slaven. The school district was consolidated with Huntsville on September 11, 1947.

Big Sandy District No. 67

The Big Sandy school district, also known as the Pleasant Hill school, was originally created between 1874 and 1877. However, like many of the early school districts, no school was held in the early years although the district had been established by the county court. The enumeration of 1878 did not list the district as in operation.

In July, 1886, James J. Tice and 13 others filed a petition with the county court to re-establish the district in Range 25 West, Township 17 North.[480] The enumeration of 1886 listed only 30 students in the district and $31.80 was apportioned from the common school fund. The enumeration of 1888 listed only 19 students, making Big Sandy the smallest district in the county. The distribution from the common school fund that year was only $20.59 and an additional 3-mill tax was levied against the district.

In 1900, the district tax was not levied and due to the small enumeration of the district, the school only held short terms for the next several years. Due to the close

[480] Ibid., 207.

proximity of the Reeds Creek and Purdy schools, many students could attend terms there after the short term at Big Sandy ended. In July, 1910, a petition was filed with the county court to dissolve the district and attach it to the Reeds Creek, Purdy, and Marble school districts.[481] The school district remained dissolved from 1910-1917 at which time it was re-established.

During the 1930's and 1940's, the average enrollment of the school was 18 students with an average daily attendance of 12. The highest enrollment during this period occurred in 1939 when 30 students were enrolled with an average daily attendance of 17 students.[482]

Big Sandy School, 1925

[481] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. J, 1910, 146.

[482] Arkansas School Record Book and Register, School District No. 67, Madison County, Arkansas, 1930-1945.

Big Sandy School, 1900, Carroll Hudson, teacher

Teachers at the Big Sandy school were: 1900, Carroll Hudson; 1901, Ladonia Swift; 1902, No school; 1903, Carroll Hudson; 1904, J. T. Whitely; 1905, Carroll Hudson; 1906, W. L. Kendall; 1907, Bruce Kendall; 1908, Ana Morrison; 1909, Etta Ray; 1910-1916, No school; 1917, Ana Morrison; 1918-1919, Pearl Walden; 1920, Georgia Phillips; 1921, Lester Cline; 1922, Alma Berry; 1923, Cleo Hooper; 1924, Margie Slaven; 1925, Vada Dotson; 1926, Mabel Hudspeth; 1927, Clarence Stamps; 1928, Clint Bohannon; 1929, Lucy Grose; 1930-1931, Merle Coger; 1932-1933, Willia Kendall; 1934, Jewell Parson; 1935, Willia Kendall; 1936, Pauline Hawkins; 1937, Mabel Stout, Cleo Fowler; 1938, F. C. Terry; 1939, J. D. Haynes; 1940, Robbie Walden; 1941, Pauline Hawkins; 1942,

Lorene Yarbrough, Pearl Light; 1943, Pauline Hawkins; 1944, Fern Sugg; 1945-1946, Ruby Smith.

Persons listed as having served the district on the board of directors were: Sam Sparks, W. M. Davis, George Yarbrough, E. H. Garrison, D. J. Jones, Ned Sanders, H. M. Phillips, W. M. Sanders, J. S. Tice, Frank Fowler, Henry Dotson, J. M. Horine, W. J. Stansell, Noble Tice, John Reeves, and J. A. Foster. The school district was consolidated with Huntsville on April 2, 1946.

Crosses Creek District No. 68

The Crosses Creek school district was created in October, 1888, on the petition of L. I. Easley, T. P. Haskins, C. M. Easley, and Sanford Wofford.[483] The district was created from parts of Health school district no. 97 and Delaney school district no. 54. The district was originally assigned district no. 52 but was dissolved on July 9, 1906. The designation of district no. 52 would be later assigned to the newly formed Accident school district.

On July 30, 1917, a petition by W. J. Ritchie and others was presented to the county court asking that the Crosses Creek school district be re-established.[484] The

[483] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. E, 1888, 469.

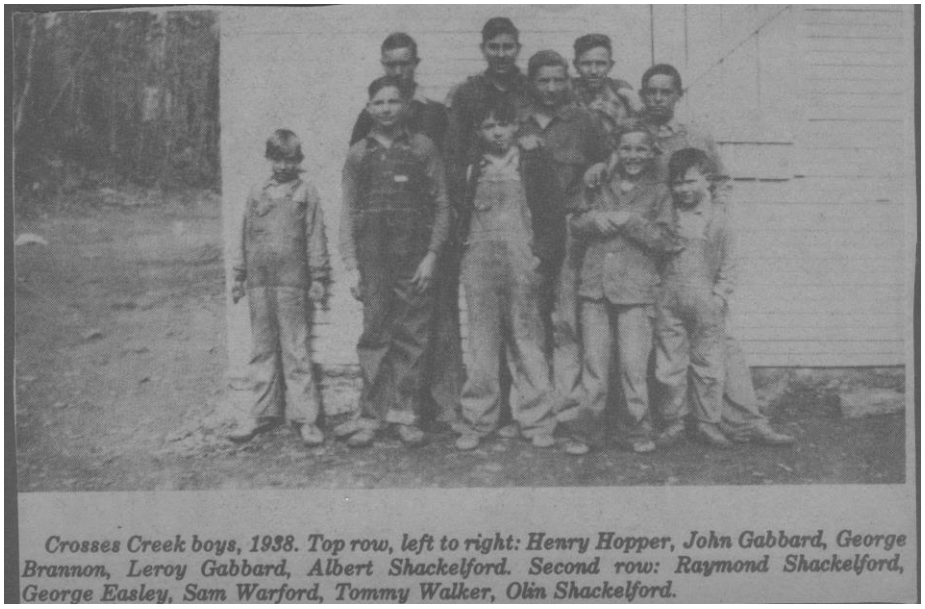
[484] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. K, 1917, 499.

petition was granted and Sam Gabbard, Allie Worford, and Birch Ritchie were appointed to the board of directors.

Crosses Creek School c. 1994

Teachers at the Crosses Creek school were: 1901, R. H. Brashears; 1902, Etheyl Stewart; 1903, Fannie Yarbrough; 1904, A. G. Combs; 1905, David Stewart; 1906-1917, School district dissolved; 1918, Ara Morrison; 1919, Dessie Ritchie; 1920, Alpha Brashears; 1921, Essie Barker; 1922, Harold Brashears; 1923, Hester Anderson; 1924, Clyde Brashears; 1925, Bonnie Brashears; 1926, Eula Burnett; 1927-1930, Edward Buck; 1931, Marie Stewart, Jim Stewart; 1932, Pearl Caine, Marie Stewart; 1933, Pearl Caine, Burl Smith; 1934, Wade Guinn; 1935-1936, Wilda Taylor; 1937, Edward

Buck; 1938-1939, Carl Vanlandingham; 1940, Jimmy Foster; 1941, Dora Dixon; 1942, Geneva Gabbard; 1943, F. D. Faubus; 1944, Irene Barker; 1945-1947, E. G. Mason; 1948, Mabel Smith.



Crosses Creek boys, 1938. Top row, left to right: Henry Hopper, John Gabbard, George Brannon, Leroy Gabbard, Albert Shackelford. Second row: Raymond Shackelford, George Easley, Sam Warford, Tommy Walker, Olin Shackelford.

Girls in Carl Vanlandingham's first school. Crosses Creek 1938.
Top row, left to right: Mildred Boyd, Wilma Gabbard, Elizabeth Shackelford, Morene Calhoun, Wilma Shackelford, Hester Couch, Cathern Gabbard, Lorene Gabbard. Second row: Elsie Shackelford, Zona Calhoun, Bernice Couch, Dixie Calhoun, Velma Shackelford, Martha Shackelford. Bottom row: Helen Couch, Bernice Calhoun, Mary L. Boyd, Alice Easley, Lucy Shackelford, Alice Walker, Bell Pelfrey.

Persons listed as having served on the board of directors were: J. B. Barnes, Otto Garrison, J. B. Howell, Sam Gabbard, E. F. Butler, J. W. Ritchie, Sam Calhoun, D. H. Easley, John Baker, Lonnie Shackelford, C. C. Wilson, F. A. Shackelford, W. L. King, Elmer Warford, and W. R. Baker. The school district was consolidated with Saint Paul on June 2, 1949.

Cross Roads District No. 69

The Cross Roads school district was established by order of the county court between 1874 and 1877 in Range 25 West, Township 17 North, including Sections 2, 3, 10, 11, and 12. Like many of the school districts created during this period, terms were not held with any regularity if at all and there is no record of any school being held at Cross Roads until 1888.

On May 9, 1887, a petition was filed with the county court by T. J. Vaughan and others to re-establish the district. Mr. Vaughan, J. W. S. Holloway, and J. P. Presley were appointed as directors for the district.[485] The first enumeration of the district listed 45 students and a distribution of $48,77 from the common school fund. By 1900, the enumeration of the district had fallen to 37 students and no district tax was levied.

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[485] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. D, 1887, 310.

Enrollment at the school in the 1930's ranged from a low of 11 students in 1934 to a high of 27 in 1939. During the 1940's, the average enrollment was 16 students per term with an average daily attendance of 13 students.

Cross Roads School #69, located between Marble and Alabam, c. 1934

back row: Opal Myers; Millie Baughman; Vina Myers; Mary Wall; Eunice Wall; Willa Kendall, Teacher

middle row: Myrtle Baughman; Harold Myers; Mildred Myers; Clarence Wall; Nerle? Baughman; Vernon Tice; Nora Wall; John Wall

front row: Baughman boy; Maxine Myers; Darlene Adams; Robbie Adams; Forest Myers

Cross Roads District No.69, 1941: Back Row- Cuthbert Elzey, Florene Taylor, Dewey Taylor, Lem Harp, Ferrell Tabor, Wayne Wright; Middle Row – Teacher, Essie Barker, Herbert Taylor, Patsy Spencer, Bobby Fowler, Pauline Wilson, J. C. Bolinger, Vilina Harp, Darlene Wright, Charles Wright. Front Row – Clarence Taylor, Ray Yarbrough, Ethel Spencer, J. W. Bolinger, Ina Ray, Mary Helen Ray, Junior Bolinger, and Melvin Spencer.

Teachers at the Cross Roads school were: 1901-1902, W. M. Robinson; 1903, Charlie Mitchell; 1904, Carroll Hudson; 1905, Thomas Wiggins; 1906, Carroll Hudson; 1907, D. B. Newton; 1908, Lon W. Hudson; 1909, Omer McMimm; 1910, Carroll Hudson; 1911, Scott Page, D. B. Newton; 1912, C. D. Garrison; 1913, Ward Kendall; 1914, Cam Montgomery; 1915, Ralph Perrill; 1916, Cam Garrison; 1917, Ova Phillips; 1918, W. M. Robinson; 1919, Hattie Kendall; 1920, Noda Spurgeon; 1921, Ward Kendall; 1922, Canda Smith; 1923, Clara Montgomery; 1924-1925, Myrtle Barnes; 1926, D. B. Newton;

1927-1928, Eula McElhaney; 1929, Howard Newton; 1930, Mrs. Dell Kendall; 1931, Blanche Montgomery; 1932-1933, J. C. Ewing; 1934, Willia Kendall; 1935, J. C. Ewing; 1936-1938, Willia Kendall; 1939, Lorene Baker; 1940, Ethel Moore; 1941-1942, Essie Barker; 1943, Ethel Moore; 1944, Alma Ewing; 1945, Rosalee McLoud; 1946-1947, Alma Ewing.

Persons listed as having served on the board of directors of the district were: W. J. Tacker, Frank Wall, H. D. Garner, J. B. Hudson, C. H. Taylor, T. A. Barnes, A. J. Grigg, W. H. Ray, J. M. Hudson, L. Presley, Henry Ray, Alex Wall, Rena Adams, J. E. Myers, Earl Ray, Ed Myers, C. C. Wilson, Keller Wright, R. C. Drain, Claude Elzey, Kendall Hudson, Leonard Burgess, Amos Taylor, and Grady Williams. The school district was dissolved on December 1, 1947, and annexed to the Marble school district.

Kilgore District No. 71

The Kilgore or Upper Baldwin school district was originally established between 1874 and 1877 by order of the county court. As with the preceding districts, school was not held with any regularity for several years and the enumerations of 1878 through 1886 show no school in operation during this period.

In July, 1887, a petition was presented to the county court by E. M. Witter and others to re-establish the school

district and define the boundaries.[486] D. L. Kilgore, D. B. Leslie, and W. Gipson were appointed to the board of directors by County Judge M. D. Lucas.

The land for the school was donated to the district by D. L. Kilgore in 1899. The board of directors of the district, A. J. Abner, Evins Jones, and G. C. Rudders, also were charged with direct supervision and control over the school grounds as well as the adjoining cemetery.

The enumeration of 1888 listed 62 students in the district with an apportionment of $67.19 from the common school fund. By 1900, the enumeration had dropped to 45 students with a 5-mill tax being levied by the district. The enumeration of 1926 is of special interest in that the entire student population of the district, which totalled 15 students were all from three Kilgore families, making the district a true family school.[487]

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[486] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. D, 1887, 332.

[487] Annual and Enumeration Report of the School Directors, Madison County Board of Education, Huntsville, Arkansas, School District No. 71, 1926.

Teachers at the Kilgore school were: 1900, Nannie Jeffers; 1901, Tine Allen; 1902, Nannie Welton; 1903, W. H. Brashears; 1904, No school; 1905, Oma Perry; 1906, Fanny Walker; 1907-1909, E. M. Mize; 1910-1911, Golda Baker; 1912, Cora Kilgore; 1913, Cleo Vandagriff; 1914, Ed Nard; 1915, Estha Miller, Clyde Blevins; 1916, Willia Highes; 1917, No school; 1918, Gertie Wist; 1919-1920, Esther Bivens; 1921, Lula Young; 1922, Alma Coleman; 1923, No school; 1924, Bessie Cornett; 1925, Lula Young; 1926, Mrs. Charles Cook; 1927, Linne Baltimore.

Persons listed as having served on the board of directors for the district were: A. J. Abner, W. R. Watkins, G. L. Kilgore, G. C. Kilgore, F. M. Kilgore, and Fred Abner.

The school district was consolidated with the Baldwin school district on April 9, 1930.

Enterprise District No. 70

The Enterprise or Thorney school district was created between 1874-1877 by order of county court. The district was located in Range 28 West, Township 15 North and occupied approximately nine square miles. The enumerations of 1878 and 1886 did not list the district as holding any terms of school.

On April 12, 1887, a petition was filed with the county court by Henry Fritts and others to re-establish the district and define the boundaries.[488] Charles Bell, J. C. Hankins, and Stephen Ball were appointed as members of the board of directors.

The enumeration of 1888 listed 57 students in the district with an apportionment of $61.77 from the common school fund. In addition, a 5-mill district tax was levied by the district. By 1900, the enumeration listed a total of 75 students with the continuation of the 5-mill district tax.

During the 1930's, the school enrollment averaged 36 students in grades one through eight with an average daily attendance of 28 students. During the 1940's, the

[488] Ibid., 296.

enrollment increased to an average of 38 students per year with the highest enrollment in 1949 when 42 students were enrolled with an average daily attendance of 37 students.[489]

Enterprise School c. 1995

Teachers at the Enterprise school were: 1900-1901, L. F. Bell; 1902-1903, A. M. Duncan; 1904, James C. Gage; 1905-1906, John Ballard; 1907, Sarah Lollar; 1908, L. F. Bell; 1909, Walter Harrison; 1910, James Jeffers; 1911, Walter Harrison; 1912, J. A. P. Vaughn; 1913, Walter Harrison; 1914, Clyde West; 1915, Harvey Johnson; 1916, Walter Harrison; 1917, Noah Robinson; 1918, Bessie Dudgeon; 1919-1920, Noah Robinson; 1921, Bessie Cobb; 1922, Flossie Thomas; 1923-1925, Mary Fritts; 1926, Ralph Ballard; 1927,

[489] Arkansas School Record Book and Register, School District No. 70, Madison County, Arkansas, 1930-1949.

L. F. Bell; 1928, Jack Haskins; 1929-1930, Ralph Ballard; 1931-1933, Hazel Mix; 1934-1936, Ralph Ballard; 1937-1939, Elbert Mitchell; 1940, E. G. Mason; 1941, Conley Neal; 1942-1943, Carl Vanlandingham; 1944-1945-1946, Cuba McElhaney; 1947, Kathleen McElhaney; 1948, Elmer Ledford.

Persons having served on the board of directors for the district were: G. W. Lucas, John Foster, U. S. Allison, Will Fritts, W. L. McElhaney, Blanche McElhaney, C. F. Kirksey, W. A. Bell, G. H. King, N. E. Scranton, O. W. Allison, W. C. McCollough, Lee Wheeler, Clarence Spencer, Al Short, and Guy Dill. The school district was consolidated with Huntsville on June 2, 1949.

Lake District No. 72

The Lake school district was established by order of the county court between 1874 and 1877. The school was located northwest of Alabam in Section 7 of Range 25 West, Township 17 North with part of the district in Range 26 West.

The enumeration of the district in 1878 listed only 21 students. By 1888, 46 students were enumerated by the district and a 5-mill tax was levied. In 1900, the enumeration of the district had increased to 65 and the district tax was no longer levied. Due to the close proximity of the

district to the Alabam school, short terms were often held with students attending both schools each year.[490]

Teachers at the Lake school were: 1901, A. B. Coger; 1902, Daisy Forest; 1903, Maggie Peach; 1904, Daisy Forest; 1905, Kelley Phillips; 1906, D. B. Newton; 1907, Gula Ivie; 1908, Lillie Montgomery; 1909, Ward Kendall; 1910, W. R. Hatfield; 1911, Hargis Booker; 1912, W. R. Hatfield; 1913, W. R. Rice; 1914, Gula Ivie; 1915, Lydia Hawn; 1916, Gula Ivie; 1917, Mary Hayes; 1918, Bruce Newton; 1919-1921, Ana Morrison; 1922-1923, Maude Regan.

Lake School District #72, 1903; near Alabam, Arkansas

Back row, left to right: Lee Rector; Bell Norwood and daughter; Will Walden; Mr. and Mrs. John Baines and son; Laura Presley; Ava Burns; Flora Presley; Price Pullen; Johnny Hatfield

2nd row: Mattie Presley and son; Dicy Hatfield; Emma Burns; Florence Everett; W. B. Presley; Novel Denney; Daisie E. Forest, Teacher; Maggie Pullen and baby; Mr. and Mrs. Al Ward and baby

3rd row: Lela Montgomery; Eula Burns; Mabel Hatfield; Maybell Norwood; Grace Norwood; Artie Presley; Burse Presley; Charley Presley; Albert Hatfield; Richard Rector; Claud Presley; Elbridge Presley; Tom Norwood

4th row: Noble Presley; Cuba Denny; Aubrey Burns; Lizzie Montgomery; Lizzie Hatfield; Essie Presley; Myrtle Everett; Lon Hefner; Oscar Hefner; Rufus Presley; Ewell Montgomery; Herman Presley; Elbert Presley; Clayde Presley; Herbert Presley

Persons listed as having served on the board of directors of the Lake school district were: W. J. Porter, W. B. Presley, Will Parker, J. G. Hatfield, E. J. Everett, Lewis Everett, A. K. Presley, Maude Regan, W. R. Presley, H. E. Holland, and J. T. Hatfield. The school district was dissolved on June 15, 1924, and annexed to the Alabam school district.

Thompson District No. 73

The Thompson school district was established by the county court between 1874 and 1877 in Range 28 West, Township 15 North. The original schoolhouse was located in the community of Thompson which was located just off of Highway 16 in Section 34 of Range 28 West, Township 15 North.

The enumeration of 1878 as reported by James Maloy was 56 students with an apportionment of $59.36. In 1886, the enumeration was listed as 69 students. By 1888, the enumeration had risen to 103 and a special district tax of 5-mills was levied.

In 1923, Bertha Thornsberry was hired by the board of directors to teach a five-month term of school for $50.00 per month. After a few weeks, she was paid $22.50 by the directors and was dismissed. She claimed that the action taken by the board of directors was without cause or explanation and she sued for the balance of her contract by

filing a case with justice of the peace J. F. Thomas of Thompson. The justice of the peace found in favor of Miss Thornsberry and awarded her $227.50.[491]

With the departure of the railroad through Thompson and the southern part of the county, the small community of Thompson ceased to exist. In 1941, the school was moved from Thompson to near the Cannon Creek bridge on Highway 16. The school was known as the Cannon Creek school and was opened in 1942. The only students to attend the school were the children of the teacher, Mrs. D. E. Foster. Two years after the new school was constructed, the district was consolidated with the Saint Paul school district.

Thompson School, 1917

front row, left to right: Florence Pool; Hazel Pool; Mary Watkins; Maud Wilkins; Buster Pool; Howard Thomas; Laura Wilkins
middle row: Cleo (Thompson) Penney, teacher; Susie Watkins; Guy Pool; Lonnie Smith; Charlie Gay; Pete Wilkins; Ben Ross; Reuben L. Pettit; Roy Pettit; Amos Jordan; Dan Jordan
back row: Euna Klug; Minnie Roberts; Kate Thomas; Fannie Creech; Susie Wilkins; Jessie Watkins

[491] Sisk, op. cit., 71.

Teachers at the Thompson school were: 1900-1901, Maggie Brink; 1902, Henry Thompson; 1903, J. C. Gage; 1904, Henry Thompson; 1905, W. H. Hughes, Garland Combs; 1906, Logan Duncan; 1907, W. L. Fritts; 1908-1909, Bryon Shipley; 1910, Fred Jones; 1911-1912, C. A. Sparks; 1913, Ruby Carroll; 1914, J. A. P. Vaughn; 1915, J. S. Lollar; 1916, Estah Miller; 1917, Cleo Thompson; 1918, Rhoda Foster; 1919, Drew Combs; 1920, Laren Ledford; 1921, Ruby Anderson; 1922, Ona Thompson; 1923, Bertha Thornsberry, Ona Thompson; Nettie Brandenburg; 1925, Ruby Anderson; 1926, Carrie Collins; 1927, Vada Calloway; 1928-1929, Mark Guinn; 1930, Zola Montgomery; 1931, Merle Montgomery; 1932-1934, Janie Brashears; 1935, Lilly Agee; 1936, Katherine Gilstrap; 1937, Luther Mix; 1938, Agatha Hall; 1939, Lilly Agee; 1940, Carl Benson; 1941, Clarice Faubus; 1942-1943 (Cannon Creek school), Mrs. D. E. Foster.

Persons listed as having served on the board of directors were: Enos Robbins, C. Robertson, Rue Daily, Charles Cluck, W. W. Pool, Charles Creech, P. Thompson, S. B. Dyke, Earl Hankins, Edgar Foster, Buster Pool, Jim Couch, and D. E. Foster.

Mount Dorcas District No. 74

The Mount Dorcas school district was established on July 2, 1977, by County Judge F. M. Sams.[492] County Judge Sams appointed J. M. Duncan, James Lange, and Bethel Counts as the first board of directors of the district. The district was located in Range 27 West, Township 16 North, and occupied approximately seven square miles in Sections 16, 17, 19, and 20.

At the Annual School Meeting held on August 17, 1878, F. T. Counts was chosen chairman of the meeting. It was voted to hire M. W. Drake as the first teacher of the school and to pay him $120 for a three-month term.[493] In addition, $12 was voted for furniture and apparatus.

In his annual report to the county superintendent, J. M. Nail, teacher of the Mount Dorcas school in 1881 filed a report which must have thoroughly confused the superintendent. The enrollment was reported as ten males and thirteen females, for a total of 23 students. When the instructor calculated his average daily attendance, he reported an ADA of 36 5/22 males each day and 29 17/24 females or a total of 55 students in average daily attendance. In addition, 23 17/23 males and 30 1/24 females or a total of 47 students

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[492] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. C, 1877, 127.

[493] Arkansas School Record Book and Register, School District No. 74, Madison County, Arkansas, 1878-1882.

were reported as absent each day.[494] Texts listed by the teacher as in use at Mount Dorcas were: Reading, Wilson's, McGuffey's, and Napple's Readers; Spelling, Webster's; Arithmetic; Ray's.

Mt. Dorcas School notes – from Nancy AYERS Schaefer

I should say that mother wrote about her childhood in notebooks which she gave copies of to each of the 4 children. I also have some of the materials she planned to use in books about her parents. Her mother's family was from Elm Springs area, but her father's family lived in Madison Co from before 1900. Her father Ralph Sutton (son of Clay Dean Sutton) was also a teacher in his early years and she tells a bit about that in the materials I have. Her brother Bob E. Sutton wrote at least one book about Madison Co. as well as numerous newspaper articles.

Here's what she has to say about her time at Mt. Dorcas. It doesn't give info that would be particularly useful for the schools page, but I thought you would like her picture of what it was like to teach there as a very young teacher.

"A little later, as I went to teach a rural school at Mt. Dorcas in my first winter after High School, nothing in the world was so pleasant as coming home to our house on the hill east of Huntsville every weekend. Daddy came for me every Friday evening and took me back on Monday morning. I probably wouldn't have made it without that wonderful break because I was 16 going on 17 as I told the school directors who hired me, and I had never been away from home.

Mt. Dorcas school was heated with wood, was lit with oil lamps when we had a Christmas program at night, and of course, had an outdoor privy. I used to gather twigs and small limbs as I walked from the Fred Neal home where I boarded, to start the fire with when I got to school. I

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[494] Ibid.

had 16 pupils covering about all grades. The three pupils in the 8th grade were larger than I was but we became good friends.

We had nice scaly-bark hickory trees in the school yard and so the kids and I picked up, cracked, and picked out hickory nut kernels to sell. A truck peddler served the Mt. Dorcas community outside of Wesley, Arkansas. He carried many staples needed in the house, simple remedies for man and beast, etc. He also bought eggs and hickory nut kernels! With the proceeds from our project during the fall recess periods we were able to buy a basketball and a flag for our school.

We did have that Christmas program with everyone in school participating. One little boy, I'm not sure of his name now, only knew the song "When It's Round-Up Time in Texas" and he thought that would be fine, so that's what he sang for the Christmas program. All in all, it was a pleasant school term, and then it was shortly after Christmas, and the six month school term completed, that I took the $45.00 a month I had earned less $10.00 a month for my room and board, plus a scholarship I had received when I graduated from High School and was ready for John Brown University at Siloam Springs, Arkansas."

Mt. Dorcas School c. 1979

Teachers at Mount Dorcas were: 1878-1879, M. W. Drake; 1880, Asaline Hash; 1881, J. M. Nail; 1884, Isaac Boyd; 1885, C. C. Nail; 1886, J. A. Duncan; 1887, Isaac Boyd; 1888, John A. Whittemore; 1889, Maggie Sullivan; 1901, S. B. Mitchell; 1902-193, George R. Lee; 1904, Ruth Neal; 1905, George Cannon; 1906, Walter Ferguson; 1907, Mack Bohannon; 1908-1909, Troy Ledbetter; 1910, Fred Herriman; 1911, Walter Bohannon, A. M. Duncan; 1912, Troy Ledbetter; 1913, Monroe Neal; 1914, B. F. Duncan; 1915, Monroe Neal; 1916-1917, Kate Bell; 1918, Tommie Johnson; 1919, Christina Cobb; 19201-921, Cleo Johnson; 1922-1923, Troy Johnson; 1924, J. A. Crow; 1925, Troy Ledbetter; 1926, Floyd Harris; 1927, H. L. Johnson; 1928, Troy Ledbetter; 1920, Carson Scott; 1930-1931, Ruth Neal; 1932-1935, Troy Ledbetter; 1936, Kenneth Duncan; 1937, Troy Ledbetter; 1938-1940, Conley Neal; 1941, Katherine Sutton; 1942, Glenn McCollough; 1943, Troy Ledbetter; 1944, Adell Richardson; 1945, Kathleen Dorsey; 1946-1948, Troy Ledbetter.

Persons listed as having served on the board of directors for the district from 1878-1948 were: J. M. Duncan, James Lange, Bethel Counts, F. T. Nail, James Louge, T. G. Eubanks, A. J. Garrett, J. H. Duncan, William Eubanks, K. B. Duncan, J. A. Duncan, J. W. Jones, James Counts, G. W. Ledbetter, Samuel Neal, J. C. Faulkner, William Neal, A. M. Johnson, A. J. Ledbetter, Troy Ledbetter, H. L. Johnson, Elmer Johnson, B. F. Duncan, Jim Ross, Arch Duncan, Byron Ross, J. M. McChristian, Fred Neal, Henry Johnson, V. P. Neal, and N. C. Pryor. The school district was consolidated with the Huntsville district on June 2, 1949.

Short Cove District No. 75

The Short Cove school district was created on July 2, 1877, upon the petition of John Bowen and others by the county court. County Judge F. M. Sams appointed John D. Kesner, M. E. Bowen, and W. P. Mitchell as the first board of directors.[495] The district was created from sections of the Little's Chapel school district and was located in Range 24 West, Township 16 North approximately 2 miles southeast of Kingston.

The 1878 enumeration of the district as reported by M. E. Bowen listed 47 students and a distribution of $47.94

[495] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. C, 1877, 126.

from the common school fund. By 1888, the district enumerated 51 students and received $55.27 from the school fund with no local tax being levied.

During the 1930's and 1940's, the enrollment of the school averaged 20 students per term with an average daily attendance of 16. The highest enrollment figure during this period was 31 students in 1938.

Short Cove School August 31, 1908

Teachers at the Short Cove school were: 1901, Vada McNew; 1902, No school; 1903, J. W. King; 1904-1907, Walter Smith; 1908, Frances Bedingfield; 1909-1911, Eva Bradshaw; 1912, Mary Hayes; 1913-1914, Nealie Grigg; 1915, Virgil Johnson; 1916, W. H. Grigg; 1917-1920, Grace Johnson; 1921,

Virgie Johnson; 1922, Fannie Bradshaw; 1923, W. C. Houston; 1924, Clarence Houston; 1925, Lorin Brandenburg; 1926, Ethel Sanders; 1927, Nellie Stout; 1928-1929, Lorin Brandenburg; 1930-1931, Joe Maxwell; 1932, Emily Boydston; 1933, Mabel Stout; 1934, Kate Fancher; 1935, Myrtle Hawkins; 1936, Catherine Combs; 1937-1939, Helen Garrett; 1940-1941, Catherine Combs; 1942, Glen McCollough; 1943-1944, James L. Little; 1945, Tennessee Hargis; 1946-1947, Josephine Smith; 1948, Hazel McCollough.

Short Cove School
Elmer Smith; Nellie Cline; Ruth Smelley; Maggie Thomas; Verdie Lane; Audie Thomas

Back: Belia Mitchell; Elma Armes; Delma Armes; Kate McCollough; Roxie Smith; Orden Smith

Persons listed as having served on the board of directors for the district were: John Wyatt, T. A. Smeley, W. T. Weathers, J. N. Mitchell, Jesse Smith, R. M. McCollough, W. C. Thomas, P. S. Smith, W. L. Thomas, J. W. Rogers, J. W. Combs, W. A. Little, Joe Armes, B. A. Burney, Loyd Kisner,

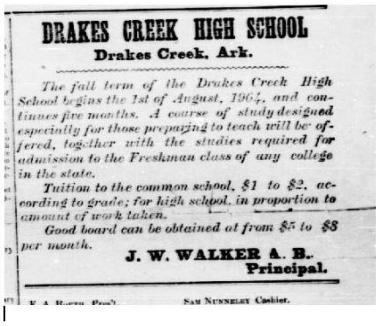
George Self, and Otto Smith. The district was consolidated with the Kingston school district on February 28, 1949.

Drakes Creek District No. 76

The Drakes Creek school district was established on July 28, 1877, by order of the county court. The district was located in Range 27 West, Township 16 North with the school-house located in the community of Drakes Creek.

The enumeration of the district was listed as 52 students in 1878. In 1882, a new school building was erected complete with windows and desks for the students. The school was free to students during the regular term of July through October but after the regular term had ended, a subscription school was held for the next three months at $1.00 per month.[496]

From Madison County Democrat, July 20, 1904



DRAKES CREEK HIGH SCHOOL
Drakes Creek, Ark.

The fall term of the Drakes Creek High School begins the 1st of August, 1904, and continues five months. A course of study designed especially for those preparing to teach will be offered, together with the studies required for admission to the Freshman class of any college in the state.

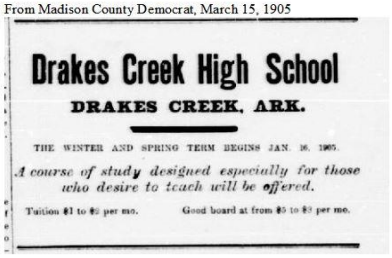
Tuition to the common school, $1 to $2, according to grade; for high school, in proportion to amount of work taken.

Good board can be obtained at from $5 to $8 per month.

J. W. WALKER A. B.
Principal.

SAM NUNNELEY Cashier.

From Madison County Democrat, March 15, 1905



Drakes Creek High School
DRAKES CREEK, ARK.

THE WINTER AND SPRING TERM BEGINS JAN. 16, 1905.

A course of study designed especially for those who desire to teach will be offered.

Tuition $1 to $2 per mo. Good board at from $5 to $8 per mo.

By 1886, the enumeration of the district had reached 93 students and $98.58 was apportioned to the district from the common school fund. In 1888, the district reported an enumeration of 107 students with no local school tax being levied by the district. The

[496] Arkansas School Record Book and Register, School District No. 76, Madison County, Arkansas, 1930-1948.

state apportionment that year was $115.96. By 1900, the district had voted a 3-mill school tax and the school census remained high at 97 students.

During the 1930's, the enrollment at the school averaged 22 students per year with an average daily attendance of 20 students. During the next decade, the average enrollment would fall to 18 students per year with an average daily attendance of 14 students.[497]

Teachers at the Drakes Creek school were: 1901, Maggie Peach, L. F. Bell; 1902, B. F. Johnson, Lizzie Johnson; 1903, L. F. Bell; 1904-1905, Jonas W. Walker; 1906-1907, Robert Ledbetter; 1908-1909, Logan Duncan; 1910, Henry L. Thompson; 1911, Afton Wheeler; 1912, Roscoe Harrison; 1913, Pearl Carlock, 1914, Stella Ellis; 1915, J. P. Reynolds; 1916, Thomas Wheeler; 1917, Florence Wallace; 1918, Florence

[497] Arkansas School Record Book and Register, School District No. 77, Madison County, Arkansas, 1930-1948.

Calico; 1919-1920, Troy Ledbetter; 1921, Effie Boyd; 1922-1923, Floyd Calico; 1924, John Miller; 1925-1927, Floyd Calico; 1928, Irene Buchannan; 1929, Floyd Calico; 1930, Lucy Ledbetter; 1931-1934, Esther Neal; 1935-1937, Floyd Calico; 1938, Mrs. Ezra Drake; 1939, Pauline Blankenship; 1940, Monroe Neal; 1941-1942, Floy Lee Calico; 1943-1944, Kathleen McElhaney; 1945-1947, Floy Lee Sizemore.

Persons listed as having served on the board of directors of the district were: W. C. Herriman, J. W. West, S. A. Littrell, E. M. Johnson, N. J. Hill, G. W. Dunaway, Z. W. Neal, J. C. Faulkner, Ed Forbes, G. W. Neal, Thomas Wheeler, W. E. Counts, Lum Neal, B. E. Mitchell, Ralph Calico, Oliver Neal, Elbert Mitchell, Tilbert Counts, S. L. Atha, John R. Dotson, Max Mitchell, and Bud O'Neal. The district was consolidated with the Huntsville district on June 2, 1949.

Fancher District No. 77

The Fancher school district was established on August 22, 1877, by order of the county court. The district was located northeast of Clifty in Range 25 West, Township 18 North.

The enumeration of 1892 listed 57 students in the district. By 1900, the student census had fallen to 29 students and a 5-mill tax was levied by the district.

During the 1930's, the average enrollment at Fancher was 38 with an average daily attendance of 36 students.

During the 1940's, the enrollment remained high with an average of 29 students with an average daily attendance of 25. Although the district would be consolidated on June 2, 1949, with Huntsville, a wing school would be operated at the Fancher school into the early 1950's.[498]

Fancher School District No. 77, 1941, J. C. Ewing, Teacher

Teaching at the Fancher school were: 1900-1902, A. B. Coger; 1903, D. B. Newton; 1904, Annie Butler; 1905, J. A. Donnell; 1906, W. R. Hinch; 1907, Nora Oliver; 1908-1909, Lillie McQuistion; 1910, Maggie Houston; 1911, Mable Bedding-field; 1912, J. A. Donnell; 1913, Ruby Presley; 1914-1915, J. A. Donnell; 1916, Mrs. H. H. Freeman; 1917-

[498] *Madison County Musings*, The Madison County Historical and Genealogical Society, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. 9, No. 1, 1990.

1918, J. A. Donnell; 1919-1920, Eura Siegal Graham; 1921-1922, Ada Watkins; 1923, Zula McElhaney; 1924, Grace Rogers; 1925, Muriel Keck; 1926, Ada Graham; 1927, Cora Vaughn; 1928, Howard Newton; 1929, Oakley Long; 1930, Eula McElhaney; 1931-1933, Eula McElhaney; 1934, Mark McKimmey; 1935, Willie Calico; 1936, Claude Johnson; 1937-1938, Mark McKimmey; 1939, Chloe Stafford; 1940, Eula Calloway Worley; 1941, J. C. Ewing; 1942, Eula Worley; 1943, Ralph James; 1944-1946, Gillis Cox; 1947, Millie Doss; 1948, Margaret Luck.

Persons listed as having served on the board of directors were: J. P. Harper, P. M. Ray, G. A. Halley, J. W. Slane, B. A. Harper, F. E. James, Lester Graham, J. W. Isley, Clyde Clark, Lee Graham, Lee Kisor, Leonard Dunn, Carl Pitts, Melvin Graham, and Lester Graham.

Dripping Springs District No. 78

The Dripping Springs school district, also known as Kingman or Kings River, was established on September 10, 1877, by order of the county court. The district was located in Range 24 West, Township 14 North approximately 4 miles northeast of Boston.

A. J. Williams reported the 1878 enumeration of the district as 39 students with a distribution from the common school fund of $39.78. In 1886, the district census had increased to 79 students and in 1888, it was reported as 73

students with an apportionment of $79.12 from the common school fund.

The enrollment of the Dripping Springs school averaged 20 students in the 1930's with an average daily attendance of 16. During the 1940's, the enrollment fell to an average of 14 students with an average daily attendance of eleven. During the period from 1931-1935, the total expenditures for the school, except for teacher salaries, was only $4.70 for miscellaneous supplies.[499]

The school was consolidated with Huntsville on June 2, 1949.

Teachers at the Dripping Springs school were: 1901, Ada Coon; 1902, Ethel Harper; 1903, Ethel Ivie; 1904-1905, Luther Taylor; 1906, Fanny Smith; 1907, Fletcher Keck; 1908, W. T. Smith; 1909, Jess McCoy; 1910, J. H. Steele; 1911, Stella Roberts; 1912, Sarah Steele; 1913, J. H. Steele; 1914, Dan Keck; 1915-1916, Canda Pharris; 1917, James Cowan; 1918, Howard P. Teague; 1919-1920, Mary Kidwell; 1921, Grace Franklin; 1922, A. L. Reeves; 1926, Troy Lane; 1927-1928,

[499] Arkansas School Record Book and Register, School District No. 78, Madison County, Arkansas, 1930-1948.

Kate Austin; 1929, Jessie Ayers; 1930, Cleo Bryant; 1934, Troy Lane; 1935, Fannie Evans; 1936, Geraldine Cornett; 1937, Noble Weaver; 1938, Mildred McCall; 1939, Flora Hawkins; 1940, Leota Keck; 1941, Edith Dixon; 1942, Flora Hawkins; 1943, Eunice Milligan; 1944, Katie Austin; 1945, Walter Long; 1946, Jessie Ayers; 1947-1948, J. C. Combs.

DRIPPING SPRINGS SCHOOL - 1916

Back row, left to right: Jim Faddis, Lemuel Thomas, Leonard Keck, Frank Welchel, Bill Epperson, Roosevelt Williams and Silas Thomas.

Second row: Ora Faddis, Cora Welchel Keck, Pearl Welchel, Charity Faddis, Rosie Williams Collins and Cora Faddis.

Third row: Teacher, Candie Pharris, Squire Williams, Willie Williams, Mart Ledbetter, Arthur Thomas, Robert Thomas, Grover Epperson, Fielding Combs, Johnny Williams and Lee Faddis.

Front row: Janie Williams, Bertha Thomas, Esther Johnson, Lula Faddis, Golda Johnson, Lucy Keck Bryant, Maggie Williams, Liza Combs and Donnie Epperson.

Persons serving on the board of directors of the district were: S. Mitchell, Joe Johnson, J. H. Burk, A. J. Williams, A. J. Epperson, E. F. Whelchel, W. C. Ledbetter, Charley Johnson, Jim Eaton, W. D. Johnson, John Williams, Mart Ledbetter, F. D. Whelchel, J. L. Bennett, J. F. Williams, Ed Williams, Arvil Johnson, and Jim Bennett.

Hindsville District No. 79

The Hindsville school district was established on September 10, 1877, by order of the county court. The district was located in Range 27 West, Township 17 North.

L. W. Routh, a member of the Hindsville school board, reported the enumeration of the district as 134 students in 1878. In 1886, the district enumerated 122 students and in 1888, the district census was reported as 109 with a distribution of $118.13 from the common school fund. By 1900, a 3-mill tax was levied by the district with a reported enumeration of 117 students.

A composition written by Frances Bedingfield, a teacher at the Hindsville school in 1910 sheds some light into the thoughts of women teachers in the Hindsville area during the turn of the century.[500] The composition is presented as was

[500] *Madison County Musings*, The Madison County Historical and Genealogical Society, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. 4, No. 2, 1985, 69-72.

written. The age of Miss Bedingfield is believed to be about 17.

GIRLS RIGHTS

I am one of the strong minded for I believe in girls rights. Many people think girls have no rights any more than babies. And that they are to be fixed up like dolls and fed on dainty things and petted like kittens.

Boys are well enough but they are such a conceited set. They think they are good looking when they have red hair, freckeled faces, ugly mouths, big feet and are as awkward as calves. But they are the coming men you see. They are to take all the places, fill all the offices, make all the laws, cast all the votes and lead women around like property.

Therefore boys must be given a chance to show what they are and what they can do. They just become conceited for anything. We girls are made to step aside. Get out of the way and after the boys are served and cared for, take what is left in education, occupation, property and rights.

That is all the time so much a matter of course. And people nowadays express surprise if any girl protests against her enforced inferiority. And she is called brazen, manish, strong-minded, self-willed if she dares to rebel against the settled order of things that so degrades the very nature of a woman.

Well, so be it. I am one of the strong-minded for I will not admit my rights to everything to be less than that of a boys rights. And I will claim and demand every privilege. Aid and sympathy which are considered to them even without their asking.

And furthermore, I do say and boldly assert that girls are mistaught, misled and misadvised in their girl life. So that when womanhood comes, they are illy (sic) qualified for anything but a menial subordinate position and thereafter are the pensioners on some mans bounty for support.

For one, I will rebel. I will be no pensioner in my womanhood. I will earn my way to independence. The

right to work to strive wherever I can do the most for my own advancement. If this be treason, make the most of it and I call on the girls to do the same. Don't play the simpering ninny, and be afraid to say you have a soul. But come out boldly and assert it at all times. The dignity of your sex to any and every position to which you can efficiently fill.

Do this and the battle for your rights is more than half won. Fail to do this and you merit the mean opinion of men always form as inferiors and dependants (sic).

Boys need no champions for their rights. They have every right, every privilege, and every encouragement. It is the girls who are uncared for, pushed aside and oppressed. The girls who want the right to live, to move, to speak and have a being of her own. Shall we have it? Or will you? Oh!

Christian men endeavor to strike us down in the future as you have in the past and force the girls in the humiliating position of inferiors and dependants (sic).

Hindsville Academy, 1896-1897,
Jesse Bird, teacher

In 1937, a fire destroyed the school at Hindsville and school was held in the area churches until a new school could be constructed. In 1940, the school began to participate in the school lunch program. The first school lunches were nothing more than canned fruits, such as grapefruit. Students were to provide their own plates and eating utensils.[501]

Hindsville School, c. 1890

[501] Oakley Long, retired teacher in Madison County, Huntsville, Arkansas, September, 1990.

Hindsville School and lunchroom, c. 1948

Teachers at the Hindsville school were: 1900, James Walker, C. B. Mitchell; 1901, Jessie Bird; Nora Davis; 1902, Jessie Bird, Ollie Berry; 1903-1904, W. B. Stephens, Eva Stephens; 1905-1907, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Stotts; 1908, Thoms Wiggins, Artie Guinn; 1909, J. R. Stotts; 1910, Chloe Phillips, Frances Beddingfield; 1911, Otto Phillips; 1912, Iva Harris, Beulah Harris; 1913, W. A. Easterling, Sybil Ellis; 1914, J. M. Greene, Beulah Harris; 1915, J. M. Greene, Ruth McLoud; 1916, J. M. Greene, Ida Cannaday; 1917, Herschel Hughes, Mrs. Herschel Hughes; 1918, Virginia Ellis, Idele Sutton; 1919, Virginia Ellis, Olin Haney; 1920, Sherman Clark, Virginia Ellis; 1921, Nellie Vaughn, Virginia Ellis; 1922, A. H. Berry, Nellie Vaughn; 1923, A. H. Berry,

J. M. Bandeen; 1924-1925, Gayle Johnson, J. M. Bandeen; 1926, J. D. Carter, Mrs. J. M. Bandeen; 1927, O. C. McCarroll, Eleanor White; 1928, Mrs. J. M. Bandeen, Mrs. A. H. Berry; 1929, Grace Wiggins, Mrs. A. H. Berry, Mrs. J. H. McNutt, John McNutt; 1930, Grace Wiggins, Mrs. A. H. Berry; 1931, Grace Wiggins, Mrs. A. H. Berry, Lela Montgomery; 1932, Lela Montgomery, Gayle Johnson, Mrs. A. H. Berry; 1933, Gayle Johnson, Lola Cannaday; 1934, Lola Cannaday, Gayle Johnson, Stella Ellis; 1935-1936, Stella Ellis, Paul Watson; 1937-1938, Stella Ellis, Claude Johnson; 1939-1940, Claude Johnson, Alyne Berry; 1941-1943, Alyne Berry; 1944-1947, Oakley Long; 1948, Stella Shipley, Alline Loomis, Dixie Holland, Nora Berry.

Persons listed as having served on the board of directors were: John Johnson, L. B. Jones, Elmer Harris, T. R. Lane, S. G. Parsley, J. C. Harris, A. H. Berry, J. M. Burnett, T. E. Harris, L. V. Parker, A. G. Combs, Homer Clark, T. E. Linebarger, F. S. Simpson, Ed Martin, Sam Rainey, W. C. Mayfield, Paul Smith, J. M. Fulkerson, W. E. Norman, Nolen Chappell, and D. W. Shipley. The school district was consolidated with Huntsville on June 2, 1949, although a school was operated at the Hindsville center until the mid-1960's.

Union Gap District No. 80

The Union Gap school district was created on October 1, 1877, by order of the county court. The district was located approximately 3 miles southwest of Huntsville in Range 27 West, Township 16 North. The school district was named Union Gap as the schoolhouse set in the gap of the union of two large mountains.

One of the unusual things about the Union Gap school was that it was totally isolated from the surrounding community. There were no residences within two miles of the schoolhouse. This fact kept many young women teachers from applying to teach in the district. If anything ever went wrong at the school, help would be some distance.[502] In addition, any teacher coming into the area would have to board in the community which was some distance from the school.

The enumeration of 1878 listed 30 students in the district with an apportionment of $30.60 from the common school fund. By 1900, the district census had risen 59 students and no district tax was levied by the district.

During the 1920's, the Union Gap district and the Oak Grove district combined their resources in order to provide a six-month term of school. Each district had the resources

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[502] Reba Louge, interview, retired teacher in Madison County, Huntsville, Arkansas, December, 1990.

to provide only a three-month term of school. When one term was finished at one school, all of the students enrolled in the other school to complete another term.[503]

On April 26, 1937, the Union Gap school district was abolished by order of the county court.[504] The district was annexed to the Bohannon school district.

Union Gap School, c. 1915

Teachers at the Union Gap school were: 1901, J. R. Stotts, 1902, H. A. Reynolds; 1903, Kelly Phillips; 1904, J. A Watson; 1905, Robert Ledbetter; 1906-1907, J. E. Berry; 1908, Ella McCurry; 1909, Fred Watson; 1910, J. A. Watson; 1911, Sherman Clark; 1912-1913, Paul Watson; 1914, Virgil

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[503] Ibid.

[504] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. O, 1937, 217.

Bell; 1915, Edward Harrison; 1916, Floyd Harrison; 1917-1918, Paul Watson; 1919, Edith Haney; 1920, Virgil Bell; 1921, Ethel Haney; 1922, Velma Long; 1923, Ethel Haney; 1924, Newt Reynolds; 1925-1926, Lela McBroom; 1927-1928, Reba Patterson; 1929, Pearl Sutton; 1930, Doris Sutton; 1932, Norma Spurlock; 1932, Doris Sutton; 1933-1934, Keith Sutton; 1935, Doris Sutton; 1936, Clint Bohannon.

Persons listed as having served on the board of directors were: G. V. Watson, George Hanson, J. C. Goolsby, J. J. Bell, Floyd Sutton, J. A. Stanfill, L. A. Nelson, Elmer Denney, Bill Hallam, Emmit Vanzant, John Ledbetter, and Minnie Johnson.

Friley Creek District No. 81

The Friley Creek school district was established in April, 1887, by order of County Judge M. D. Lucas upon the petition of J. E. Reavis and others. The district was to be located in Range 25 West, Township 13 North approximately 3 miles south of Pettigrew.[505] County Judge Locus appointed J. E. Reavis, J. E. Matting, and Joseph Johnson as the first board of directors.

Ten years prior to the formation of the Friley Creek school, County Judge J. S. Polk had ordered a school

[505] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. D, 1887, 289.

district created in Richland Township near Drakes Creek with the same district number. However, there is no record that any school was ever established in the area.[506]

The 1888 enumeration of the Friley Creek school district listed 48 students with an apportionment of $52.04 from the common school fund. By 1900, a 5-mill tax had been voted by the district and the enumeration was listed as 70.

During the 1920's, and 1930's, the Friley Creek school district was probably one of the poorest school districts in the county. Not only was money a problem, but school attendance and interest was at an all-time low. The school-house was nothing more than a one-room shack. It was without doors and some of the window frames were even missing. In 1934, County Examiner Robert Reed made a visit to the Friley Creek school and was dismayed at the program of instruction of the school. Apparently, he suspended several students who did not have the adopted texts:[507]

> Mr. Reed:
> As you see some of these books are not the adopted texts. The parents of the children who attend Friley School are very poor. Some are on Direct Relief. They were not able to buy new books, and the ones used had mostly been given or loaned to them. I believe that these children were better off in school, using old books than they would have been out of school. I

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[506] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. C, 1877, 139.

[507] Louise Cook, teacher at Friley Creek school, letter to Robert Reed, County Examiner, 1934.

> visited all over the district and I know that it is impossible for them to buy new books.
>
> Louise Cook

Apparently, the problem continued at Friley Creek as a letter from Mrs. Maggie Hamilton, the teacher in 1936, to County Examiner Frank Cannaday stressed the continuing attendance problem:[508]

> I cannot give a definite Daily or Weekly Program of Recitations because of the irregular attendance. I stayed as close to the Daily Program given as the attendance allowed. When giving group work in penmanship, I assigned it just before the first recess. But individual work came as the pupil had opportunity.
>
> Mrs. Maggie A. Hamilton

[508] Maggie Hamilton, teacher at Friley Creek school, letter to Frank Cannaday, County Examiner, 1936.

Enrollment figures in grades one through eight for the Friley Creek school during the 1930's were as follows: 1934, 8 students; 1935, 6 students; 1936, 9 students; 1937, 11 students; 1938, 10 students; 1940, 4 students. Except for the teacher's salary, the only expense of the district between 1931 and 1934 was $3.46. On December 16, 1941, the county board of education ordered the dissolution and consolidation of the Friley school district with Muddy Gap and Liberty districts.

Friley School, 1934

Front row: Murl Watson; Alice Bowling; Loyd Bowling

Middle: Mildred Teater; Dorothy Watson; Gayle Williams; Delpha Watson

Back: Earl Williams; Louise Cook, Teacher

Teachers at the Friley Creek school were: 1901, H. C. Moore, W. T. Hinch; 1902, H. C. Moore; 1903, Emma McNew; 1904, No school; 1905, Robert E. Lee; 1906, W. F. Keck; 1907, Beulah Southerland; 1908-1915, No school; 1916-1917, Cleo Vandagriff; 1918-1919, Myrtle Hill; 1920, Velma Long; 1921, George Sisemore; 1922, Charles Wages; 1923, Ed Mize;

1924-1925, Frankie Southerland; 1926, Eula Callaway; 1927, Jeff Castleberry; 1928, Anne Butler; 1929-1931, Gladys Barker; 1932, Sarah Butler; 1933, Gladys Barker; 1934, Louise Cook; 1937, Eva Griffith; 1938, Marianna Simpson; 1939, James Yarbrough; 1940, Eula Tucker.

Persons listed as having served on the board of directors for the district were: William Mitchell, J. F. Helton, J. H. Harris, James Williams, Rufus Clark, William Weatherby, Riley Sisemore, George Seals, Shelby Bowling, Henry Weatherby, and Sam Penn.

Liberty District No. 82

The first of three school districts in Madison County to be named Liberty, the school district was established in July, 1888, by County Judge Benjamin Drake.[509] The district was located in Range 25 West, Township 13 North approximately three miles southeast of Dutton. A. J. Sisemore, N. T. Acord, and Solomon Sayler were appointed as the first board of directors of the district.

On April 1, 1878, another school district by the same number was created near Harmony. This was probably the Cox

[509] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. D, 1888, 415.

school district which would later be annexed to the Harmony school district.[510]

The enumeration of 1892 listed 61 students in the Liberty district and in 1900, the district census was listed as 60 with a 5-mill tax being levied by the district. The minutes of the annual district meeting, in which the 5-mill tax was levied read as follows:

> At the regular annual school meeting of the electors of school district No. 82, Madison County, Arkansas, held pursuant to legal notice on Saturday, the 19th of May, A.D. 1900, a legal number of the electors of the district being present, the following business was transacted to wit:
>
> J. R. Brewer was elected for a three-year term on the board of directors
>
> A 5-mill tax was voted by a vote of 9 to 5
>
> The length of the school term is to be 3 months[511]

Textbooks used in 1889 and 1890 at the school which were also adopted by the board of directors were:

> U. S. History - Quackenbos
> Modern Geography - S. A. Mitchell
> English Grammar - Thomas H. Harvey
> Arithmetic - Joseph Ray
> Reading - W. H. McGuffey
> Spelling - W. H. McGuffey

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[510] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. C, 1878, 154.

[511] Arkansas School Record Book and Register, School District No. 82, 1889-1900, 12.

Enrollment at Liberty school during the 1930's averaged 24 students per year with an average daily attendance of 16. During the 1940's, the enrollment averaged 16 students per year with an average daily attendance of 12. In 1942, no school was held in order to tear down the old building and erect a new one. The total expenditure for the new school was $400 with the labor being donated by local patrons.

In 1894, a teacher was paid $30.00 a month to teach at the school. In 1935, nearly forty years later, the salary was still $30.00 per month.

Liberty School September 1941 - Last year of school in old school house. It was torn down next year and moved to St. Paul.

Top Row: Roy Jones; Denver Seals; Loyd Jones

2nd row: Leon Patrick; Dixie Williams; Melvin Jones; Arlis Jones; Dale Williams; Lucille Patrick

bottom row: Levon Rogers; Pauline Williams; Kenneth Williams; Imogene Williams; Colleen Rogers; Wanda Edwards; and Grace Patrick

Teacher – Laveda Edwards from Huntsville

Teachers, contract period, and salary amount for the district from 1889 to 1900 were: 1889, G. S. Ricketts, four-month term, $25.00/month, start on July 8th; 1890, B. J. Keck, three-month term, $25.00/month; 1891, Joseph Johnson, three-month term, $25.00/month, start on December

8th; 1892, J. D. Coleman, three-month term, $30.00/month, start on July 5th, Mrs. H. S. Knowlton, 1-month term, $30.00/month, start on October 10th; 1893, Mrs. H. S. Knowlton, 3-month term, $30.00/month, start on July 10th; 1894, G. S. Ricketts, 3-month term, $30.00/month, start on July 30th; 1900, Pleas A. Oliver, 2-month term, $25.00/month, start on October 1st.[512]

Liberty School – 1920, Clyde Mix teacher

[512] Ibid.

Other teachers at Liberty school were: 1901-1902, J. S. Miller; 1903, Ruth Johnson; 1904, Thomas Wheeler; 1905, Louis Weber; 1906, Omer McMinn; 1907, Wood Barber; 1908-1910, Oscar Cornett; 1911, Cleo Vandagriff; 1912, Mabel Ricketts; 1913, Oscar Cornett; 1914, Florence Southerland; 1915-1917, George Williams; 1918, Ed Mize; 1919, Bessie Cornett; 1920, Clyde Mix; 1921, Boyd Stapleton; 1922, Delpha Hayes; 1923, Billie Hayes; 1924, Vada Long; 1925, George Williams; 1926, Shelly Cornett; 1927, Cecil Brown, Ercell Parker; 1928, Carson Scott, Mildred Wist; 1929, Ollie Lane; 1930, Shelly Cornett; 1931-1934, Darlis Cable; 1935-1936, Louise Cook; 1937, Hazel Smith; 1938, Louise Williams; 1939-1940, Helen Vanlandingham; 1941, Laveda Edwards; 1942, No school; 1943, Louise Williams, Gola Callaway; 1944, Louise Williams; 1945, Mabel Ricketts Smith; 1946-1947, Hazel Smith; 1948, Mildred Wist Ratliff.

Persons having served on the board of directors for the district were: J. W. Sisemore, N. T. Acord, Solomon Sayler, W. A. Williams, J. R. Brewer, T. S. Williams, W. H. Long, George Sisemore, J. J. McCowan, R. S. Whitmire, Russell Sisemore, L. J. Coleman, N. A. Williams, C. T. Miller, G. H. Ritchie, Elmer Williams, J. R. Cable, Everett Long, John Rogers, Oscar Williams, Eli Williams, D. H. McCarty, and George Seals. The district was consolidated with Saint Paul on June 2, 1949.

Panther Creek District No. 83

The Panther Creek school district was established in October, 1896, by County Judge J. D. Beavers. The district was located near Panther Creek in Range 26 West, Township 15 North, Section 31.[513] Two other school districts, Ball Creek and Mountain Grove, were within one mile of the Panther Creek school.

The enumeration of 1900 listed 20 students between the ages of 6 and 21 in the district with no district tax being levied. No doubt due to the small number of students, the district was short-lived and was dissolved in October, 1910, only 14 years after it had been established. The district was annexed to the Ball Creek and Mountain Grove school districts and the county court ordered the remaining funds equally distributed between the two school districts.[514]

Teachers at the Panther Creek school were: 1901, G. B. Combs; 1902-1903, Grover Brashears; 1904, Lowe Oliver; 1905, Henry Oliver; 1906, Myrtle Casey; 1907-1908, Fred Harmon; 1909, Oscar Scott.

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[513] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. F, 1896, 540.

[514] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. J, 1910, 163.

Cobb Creek District No. 84

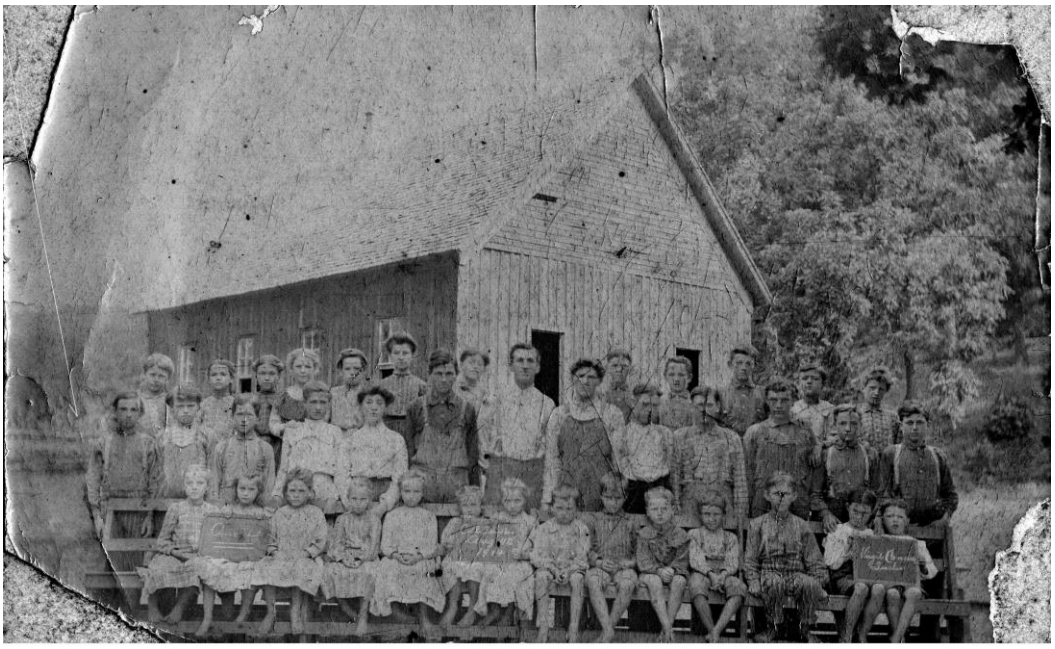
The Cobb Creek school district was established on July 11, 1878, upon the petition of R. H. Martin, G. W. Harrison, John Parker, Pleasant Drake, and Samuel Harris.[515] The district was formed from part of the Hocks Creek district No. 15 and was located in Range 27 West, Township 16 North, southeast of the Hocks Creek school. The district apparently got off to a "rocky start" as the following week, John Parker and Samuel Harris requested that the county court transfer their property back to the Hocks Creek district.

The enumeration of 1878, as reported by board member A. Moulder, listed 32 students in the newly formed district. Six years later, the district enumerated 57 students and received $60.42 from the common school fund. In 1888, the number had leveled off to 52 students and $56.35 was apportioned from the common school fund.

The following year, the election of two new board of directors was contested before the county court. The petition alleged that the newly elected directors did not meet the qualifications for election. The petition was

[515] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. C, 1878, 170.

granted by County Judge Benjamin Drake and A. B. Guinn and Green Simpson were appointed to fill the vacancies.[516]



Aug 11,1904(14) Virgil Cannon Teacher

Throughout the decades of the 1930's and 1940's, enrollment at Cobb Creek averaged 28 students per year with a high enrollment of 30 in 1933 and a low enrollment of 27 in 1948. The average daily attendance during the 1930's was 23 and during the 1940's, 24 students.

Teachers at the Cobb Creek school were: 1900, Noah Harrison; 1901, U. S. Fraze; 1902, Henry Thompson; 1903, Arthur Watson; 1904-1905, Virgil Cannon; 1906, John Davis; 1907, G. W. Cannon; 1908, Virgil Cannon; 1909, Arnold

[516] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. E, 1889, 26.

Ledbetter; 1910, Fred Watson; 1911, Floyd Harrison; 1912, C. A. Patterson; 1913, Ray Hanson; 1914, Olen Haney; 1915, Ray Hanson; 1916-1917, J. L. McCoy; 1918-1919, Hobart Drake; 1920, Floyd Harrison; 1921, George Brooks; 1922, J. P. Reynolds, Nancy Smith; 1923, Velma Long; 1924-1925, Virgie Bell; 1926-1927, Pearl Newman; 1928, Marie Thomas; 1929-1930, Olen Garrett; 1931, Doris McConnell; 1932-1933, Vay McConnell; Lucy Hill; 1935, Floyd Harrison; 1936, Elsie Brown; 1937, Lavon Watson; 1938, Helene Lucas; 1939, Lavon Watson; 1940, Reba Rogers; 1941, Lorene Yarbrough; 1942, Vera Steele; 1943-1945, Floyd Harrison; 1946, Dixie Stout; 1947-1948, Floy Perry.

Cobb Creek school and church c. 1930

Persons serving the district as members of the board of directors were: John Brooks, Luther Drake, W. J. Evans, G. F. Boyd, Oscar Witt, Clarence Nelson, Otto McCarver, S. S.

Harrison, Milton Lawson, J. R. Hanson, G. G. Garrison, G. W. Watson, J. J. Bell, J. W. Swain, A. P. Vaughn, G. V. Watson, Otto Duncan, E. V. Watson, Ray Harrison, L. O. Drake, Lewis Brooks, C. N. Watson, Bill Watson, and H. L. Clark. The district was consolidated with Huntsville on February 28, 1949.

Cobb Creek School - 1941

Top row: Paul Laird, Eugene Watson, Stanley Drake, Alvin Faulkner, Cuba Lou McCarver, Jack Boyd, Rosie Faulkner.

2nd row: Lorene Yarbrough, Teacher; Dwain Gube Watson, Mildred Faulkner, Doyle Yarbrough, Clevis Faulkner, Gerald Drake, Eugene Harrison, Leon Laird.

Front row: Loy Drake, Dalton Holloway, Cleta May Laird, Conley Faulkner, Earnest Laird, Curtis Harrison, Wanda Vaye Watson, Doyle Holloway.

Phipps Chapel District No. 85

The Phipps Chapel school district, also known as Sky Kingdom, was created on July 4, 1878, upon the petition of J. H. Combs, David Stephen, Solomon Steven, and others.[517] The district was located in Range 27 West, Township 13 North approximately two miles south of Combs.

The district served a large area in the early years and with the "boom" associated with the coming of the railroad and the early development of the Brashears Switch area, a large enumeration was reported. Following is a listing of the district census for various reporting years:

Year	Enumerates
1878	121
1886	111
1888	127
1892	118
1900	86

With the development of the Saint Paul area in the 1890's and the establishment of a town school, the enumeration of the district began to decrease. In 1903, a petition was submitted to the county court to dissolve the district and transfer all monies to the Combs district.

[517] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. C, 1878, 166.

Although the court record reflects that the district was dissolved, the district continued to operate.[518]

During the 1930's, enrollment at the Phipps Chapel school steadily declined. During the latter part of the decade, enrollment fell to 13 in 1938 and to 12 in 1939. The average daily attendance during these years was nine students.

Teachers at Phipps Chapel were: 1901-1902, A. J. James; 1903, T. A. Mitchell; 1904, Laura Milard; 1905, Monroe Drake; 1906, Grover Brashears; 1907, Eliza Combs; 1908-1909, Robert Reed; 1910, Nettie White; 1911-1922, Louie Hurst; 1913, Robert Reed; 1914, Harold (Hezzy) Brashears; 1915, Ethel Hurst; 1916, Clyde Blevins; 1917-1918, Robert Reed; 1919, Altha Thornsberry; 1920, F. D. Faubus; 1921, Bessie Neal; 1922, Elsie Patrick; 1923, Frankie Southerland; 1924-1925, Chester Jackson; 1926, Lela Mullins; 1927-1928, Thelma Combs; 1929, Lela Mullens; 1930, Bonnie McIlroy; 1935, H. O. Whiting; 1936, Lois Bragdon; 1937, Alta Faubus; 1938, Velma Dabney; 1939-1940, Lily Hanna; 1941, Irene Drain.

Persons listed as having served on the board of directors for the district were: A. B. Neil, V. M. Grant, William Byford, W. J. Burrell, Mat Stephens, Sam Parker, O.

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[518] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. H, 1903, 479.

H. Patrick, Russell Johnson, Walter Stephens, D. H. Patrick, Dave Parsley, A. J. James, Alfred McHone, Clifford Wilson, E. E. Starkey, Jess Perkins, Oliver Combs, John Miller, and Ed Baker.

On March 2, 1942, a petition was filed by the 13 remaining electors of the district with the county board of education asking that the district be dissolved and annexed to the Combs district. On March 17, 1942, the county board granted the request.

Oak Grove District No. 86 (Nubbin Ridge)

A school district was established in Ranges 27 and 28, Township 17 North, Section 12 by the county court on July 3, 1878, upon the petition of Alfred Parker and others.[519] The district was located approximately three miles east of Hindsville and may have been called Good Hope. The enumeration of the district in 1878, as reported by Alfred Parker of Hindsville listed only 25 students in the district. The district was in existence no more than six years as no enumeration for 1886 or 1888 was reported.

On September 5, 1908, the land for the Oak Grove school district was deeded to the board of directors by Andrew and Anna Keck. The school district was located in Range 25

[519] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. C, 1878, 176.

West, Townships 15 and 14 North, southeast of Witter. The school district was commonly referred to as Nubbin Ridge.

In 1927, A. L. Reeves, teacher at the Oak Grove school reported that 21 students had enrolled at the school.[520] Of these 21, five entered after the opening day due to having to work on the farm or due to illness. The school term that year was for 3 3/4 months and he was paid $70.00 per month. He also reported that he had previously taught 4 5/8 years, had a third-grade teaching certificate and had passed the eighth grade at Aurora on March 16, 1915.

Mr. Reeves also reported to the county superintendent that seven of the 21 students were retarded in their learning to the point that they would have to be retained. He listed the causes of the retardation as: 3 students, poor mental capacity; 1 student, physical defects; 2 students due to unfortunate home conditions; and 1 student, unknown cause.

During the term, three of the students moved from the district, leaving 18 students enrolled. Of these 18, nine missed over 20 days of the 75-day school term.

Teachers at the Oak Grove school were: 1910, Lloyd Orton; 1911-1912, Emma Burnett; 1913, Isa Sayler; 1914-1915,

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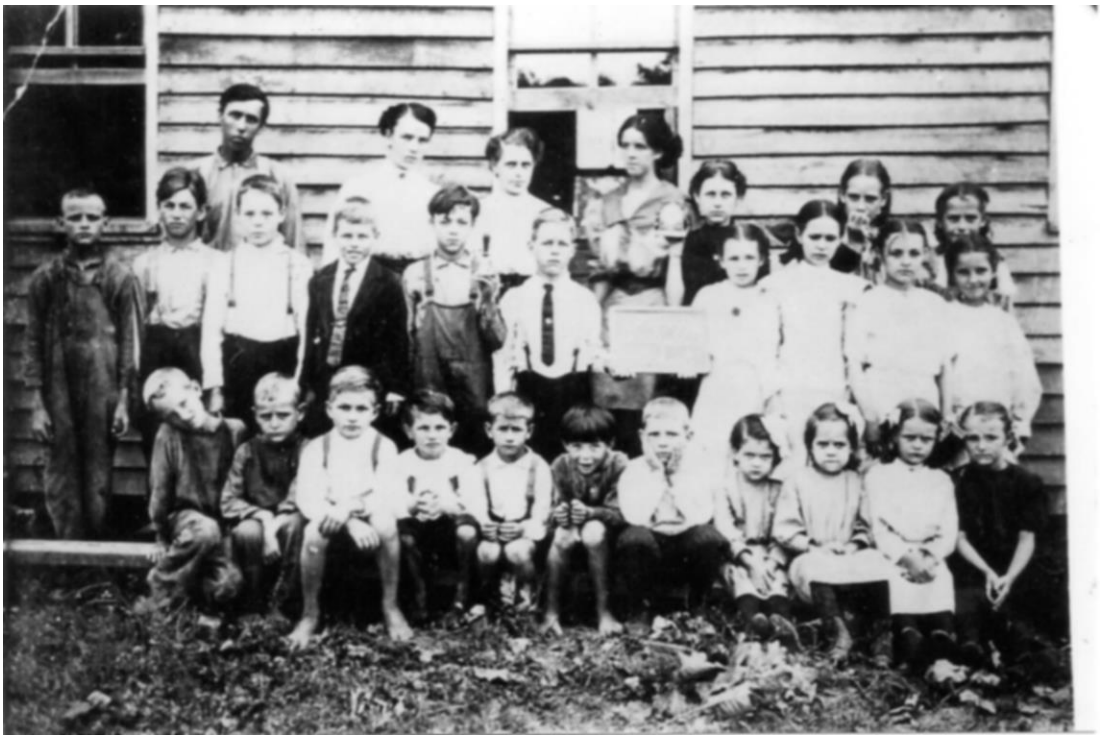
[520] Arkansas School Record Book and Register, School District No. 86, Madison County, Arkansas, 1927.

Pierce Rice; 1916-1918, Ausie (A. L.) Reeves; 1919, Harold P. Teague; 1920, Florence Burnett; 1921, F. C. Clark; 1922-1923, A. L. Reeves; 1924, Ray Cornett; 1925, A. L. Reeves; 1926, Ana Harris; 1927, A. L. Reeves; 1928, Charlia Bryant; 1929, A. L. Reeves; 1930, Elva Barker.



Nubbin Ridge School, 1911

Back row: Guy Haught; Chloe Haught; Mary Eddy; Emma BURNETT Eddy, Teacher; Beatrice Haught; Nancy Estep; Lizzie Estep

2nd row: Willie Estep; Vollie Stewart; George Eddy; Tillman Jordan; Everett Haught; Bryan Jordan; Grace Stewart; Charity Keck; Marjorie Haught; Ruby Anderson

front row: Noah Estep; Sam Estep; Virgil Moore; Earl Moore; Jimmie Stewart; Ray Haught; Billie Eddy; Alta Reeves; Alpha Reeves; Thelma Deams Eddy; Elsie Haught

Persons listed as having served on the board of directors for the district were: B. F. Moore, John Haught, Joe Snodgrass, Wax Pharris, W. W. Anderson, A. L. Reeves, Isaiah Haught, and J. H. Keck. The district was dissolved on December 29, 1930, and the district was annexed to the Witter, Ogden, Cove, and Venus school districts.

Spoke Plant District No. 87

The Spoke Plant school district was established on April 9, 1879, by County Judge F. M. Sams upon the petition of John Davis and ten other petitioners.[521] The school district was located in Range 24 West, Township 13 North, Sections 15 and 22. County Judge Sams appointed J. J. Harris, Jasper Harris, and M. J. Wages as the first board of directors. The school was located in the small community of Spoke Plant, so named because of the wagon works which manufactured the spokes for wagon wheels.

The 1888 enumeration listed 37 students in the district with an apportionment of $40.10 for the common school fund. By 1900, the enumeration had increased to 74 students and a 5-mill tax was levied by the district.

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[521] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. C, 1879, 225.

Enrollment at the school during the 1930's and 1940's never exceeded 18 students in any one year. The average daily attendance during these two decades was 14 students.

Spoke Plant School c. 1940 - upstairs Spoke Plant Lodge # 376 - Independent Order of Oddfellows

Teachers at Spoke Plant were: 1900-1903, Florence Cathey; 1904, Ethyl Ivie; 1905-1906, Willis Casey; 1907, Lizzie Varney; 1908, Zarly Harmon; 1909, D. C. Frazier, Spencer Lewis; 1910, Mabel Ricketts; 1911, Beatrice Bell; 1912, Rebecca Clark; 1913, F. W. Hill; 1914, Clem Hill; 1915, Rebecca Clark; 1916, W. C. Ryker; 1917, W. J. Campbell; 1918, Sidney Clark; 1919, Rebecca Reed; 1920, Bertha Whitmire; 1921, Simon Cornett; 1922, Sidney Clark; 1923, M. B. Buchannan; 1924, Alice Smith; 1925, J. D. Haynes; 1926, Alden Hagen; 1927-1928, Joe Anderson; 1929, Maggie Marshall; 1930, Troy Lane; 1931, Hazel Keck; 1932, Elzada Griffith; 1933, Elzada Acord; 1934, James Yarbrough; 1935, R. W. McIlroy; 1936, Essie Barker; 1937, Pauline

Jackson; 1938, Bessie Cornett; 1939-1940, Reba Reed; 1941, Irene Drain; 1942, Florence Easley; 1943, Helen McCollough; 1944-1945,O.G. Briscoe; 1946, Mabel Smith; 1947,Aileen Vire; 1948, Opal Stepp Williams.

The last students before consolidation with Oark in 1948. In the back is Tommie Lucille Hoskins and Charles (Joe) Stepp. In the front is the teacher, Opal (Stepp) Williams, Fawn Stepp, Fern Stepp, Rita Stepp, Reba Stepp and Marshall Eldredge.

Persons having served on the board of directors for the district were: Turner Acord, Nick Ritchie, Williams Evans, Harvey Cowan, Squire Holland, George Pritchett, Walter Hamilton, Spencer Holland, T. J. Love, F. C. Clark, T. F. Ritchie, J. J. Stepp, R. H. Tassey, W. H. Holland, A. B. Hoskins, W. A. Stepp, and Robert Eaton. The school district was consolidated with the Oark school district in Johnson County on September 21, 1948.

Marble District No. 88

The Marble school district was established on July 8, 1879, by County Judge F. M. Sams. The school district was located in Range 25 West, Township 17 North near the community of Marble. J. S. Davis, J. T. Stroud, and Z. P. Fondren were appointed as the first board of directors.[522]

The 1879 enumeration of the district, as reported by J. S. Davis, listed 40 students in the district. In 1886, the enumeration listed 79 students and in 1888, the district census was reported as 62 with a distribution of $67.19 from the common school fund.

Marble School – Constructed c. 1880

[522] Ibid., 230.

In 1927, the school enrollment increased to sufficient numbers to warrant the hiring of a second teacher for the school. From 1927 through 1939, the average enrollment at the school was 48 with an average daily attendance of 39.

Marble School District #88, 1941

Back row: unknown; ____Dotson; Chloe Vaughan; Juanita Taylor; J. B. Yarbrough; L. C. Cline; Ella Rhea Robinson; Nadine Parker

Middle row: Robie Walden, Teacher; Lue Wall; Jerri Walden; Jay Garrison; Lonnie Dale Taylor; Mary Len Cline; J. L. Owens; Barney Harvey; unknown

Front row: Virginia Taylor ?; Donna Yarbrough; Billy Joe Wall; Dorothy Lea Yarbrough ?; Kenneth Giffin; Dorothy Jean Cline; Christine Burgess; Reta Rose Walden

The Marble school district was consolidated with the Huntsville district on February 28, 1949. The school had an enrollment of 62 students at that time and the county board elected to maintain a wing school in the district into the late 1950's.

Teachers at Marble were: 1901-1902, G. W. Richardson; 1903, Homer Moss; 1904-1905, Carroll Hudson; 1906-1907, Lon Hudson; 1908, Maggie Hudson; 1909, Bruce Kendall; 1910, William Robinson; 1911, C. T. Mitchell; 1912, S. S. Lane; 1913, Joe Nickens; 1914, C. T. Mitchell; 1915, Ida Donnelly; 1916, Joe Taylor; 1917, Will Grigg; 1918, Hattie Kendall; 1919-1920, Lester Cline; 1921, C. W. Washburn; 1922, J. H. Smith; 1923, Henry Holland; 1924, C. D. Grigg; 1925, A. L. Hamby; 1926, Flossie Cook; 1927, Willia McElhaney, Zula Calico; 1928, Grace Gibson, Jack Elzey; 1929-1930, Blanche Montgomery, D. B. Newton; 1931-1932, Bruce Fowler, Cleo Fowler; 1933, Kate Stanphill, Jack Elzey; 1934, Jack Elzey, Emily Boydston; 1935, Robbie Walden, Emily Boydston; 1936-1937, Robbie Walden, Jack Elzey; 1938-1939, Robbie Walden, Ethel Cline; 1940, J. C. Ewing; 1941-1942, Robbie Walden; 1943, Fern Sugg; 1944, J. D. Haynes; 1945, Robbie Walden; 1946-1947, Merle Coger, Freelan Sugg; 1948, J. D. Haynes, Virginia Ellis.

Persons listed as having served on the board of directors for the district were: Andy Presley, James Hargis, B. T. Burkett, W. A. Boatright, Dick Cain, P. C. Hargis, W. T. Holland, H. D. Garner, O. M. Presley, D. L. Hudson, Ward Kendall, Frank Walden, J. B. Barnes, Jim Parker, Thomas Hudson, H. K. Holland, Logan Owens, C. T. Garrison, Hugh Hargis, and Sam Taylor.

Mountain View District No. 89

The Mountain View school district was established on July 21, 1879, upon the petition of A. V. Smith, G. H. Oliver, Jonn Gibson, Alfred Harp, and others. The district was located in Northwest Madison County in parts of Range 27 West, Township 19 North. County Judge F. M. Sams appointed A. B. Pemberton, J. T. Pertiller, and D. Burden as the first board of directors of the district.[523]

The first enumeration of the district, as reported by A. B. Pemberton, listed only 12 students in the district. Eight years later the district enumeration was reported to be 73 students and in 1888, the number was 68.

MOUNTAIN VIEW
1912
BACK ROW; Audy Roberts, Hall Webb, Everett Ford, Herman Billings, Andy Lee, Bob Stafford, Charley Mason, Frank Lockyear, Maggie Huston, (teacher) Loy Ford, Pearl Stafford & Lois Kitty.
MIDDLE ROW; Clyde Stafford, Earl Roberts, Bill & John Stafford, Guy Quinton, Robert & Paul Burns, Lillie & Grace Harp, Bertie Stafford, Lula & Mabel Pemberton, Dora Stafford, Opal & Marie Burns.
FRONT ROW; Lillie Roberts, Freda & Ruby Stafford & Gela Mae Quinton.

[523] Ibid., 233.

During the 1940's, the district averaged 36 students enrolled each year with an average daily attendance of 26 students. In 1949, the last year of the school, the enrollment was 38 students with an average daily attendance of 28 students. The district was consolidated with Huntsville on June 2, 1949.

The 1929 Mountain View Basketball team consisted of, left to right, Teacher and Coach: Bill Ledford, Roy Foster, Ford Bell, Julian Counts, Norman Spencer, Clayton Bell, and Clarence Spencer.

Teachers at Mountain View were: 1901, Homer Moss; 1902, N. J. Carlock; 1903, Pearl Sandlin; 1904, Lucille Powers; 1905, Ruth Roberts; 1906, Edward Todd; 1907, Laura Evans, Zula Guinn; 1908, D. B. Robinson; 1909, J. A. Donnell; 1910, Edward Todd; 1911, F. S. Rin; 1912, Maggie Houston; 1913, Nettie Houston; 1914, Stella Shaddox; 1915, Duke Houston; 1916, Nettie Houston; 1917, W. F. Townsend,

Isaac Cook; 1918, Ruth Harrison; 1919-1920, Nettie Houston; 1921, Larue Archer; 1922, Clyde Boone; 1923, Gladys Craig; 1924-1925, Zula McElhaney; 1926, Howard Hankins; 1929, Bill Ledford; 1930, Gladys Stansell; 1931, Chloe Dotson; 1932, Freda Hankins; 1933, Chloe Stafford; 1934, Amo Harris Davis; 1935 W. H. Knox; 1936-1937, Freda Hankins; 1938, Nora Crawford; 1939, Ethel Phillips; 1940-1943, Chloe Stafford; 1944, Willie Bohannon; 1945-1948, Chloe Stafford.

Persons listed as having served on the board of directors for the district were: B. F. Threet, J. M. Brown, G. W. Stafford, Fred Ford, Willie Pemberton, J. L. Colville, Sam Cook, P. F. Stafford, John Woods, P. T. Stafford, P. G. Kirk, W. F. Evans, Bill Myers, and Sammie Lane.

Calbaugh District No. 90

The Calbaugh (Colbaugh) school district was established on April 6, 1880, upon the petition of Alfred Cameron, T. Richie, W. G. Reynolds, and J. W. Horn. The school district was located in Range 27 West, Township 18 North, Section 29.[524]

The enumeration of 1888 listed 66 students in the district and in 1900, the district reported 60 with no special district tax being levied. In 1902, the county court errored in levying a 2 1/2 mill tax against the

[524] Ibid., 273.

district which was refunded to the patrons. The total refund amounted to $7.84.

During the 1930's, the district enrollment averaged 39 students per year with an average daily attendance of 30. During the 1940's, the enrollment averaged only 34 students per year with an average daily attendance of 31.

Colbaugh School - 1937, Teacher , Polly Hubbard

Front row Left to right.
Bea McGinnis, Blanch Gosvener, Tolberta Wilks, Loris Ferguson, Harold Scroggins, Emma Lewellen, and Virgina Evans.
Second row: Clifford Gosvener, Pauline McGinnis, Ruby Evans, Madge Davis, Beatrice Knoles, Ruby Wade, Virgina Knoles, P. J. Moon, Willard Gosvener, Hoyt Knoles, Phyllis Dorsey, and teacher Polly Hubbard.
Back row: Leonard Gosvener, Burl McGinnis, Fern Cornelison, Lucille Evans, Marie Knoles, Ellis Trolinger, Allen McGinnis, Loy Gosvener, Elsie Bohannan, Ruby Lewellen, Minnie Evans, Clara Mae Gosvener, Millard Gosvener and Jack Ferguson.

Teachers at the Calbaugh school were: 1900, Tennie Johnson; 1901, Ruth Johnson, I. B. Goodard; 1903-1904, Will Boydston; 1905-1906, I. B. Goodard; 1907-1908, Otto Philips; 1909-1910, Inez Coger; 1911, J. L. McCoy; 1912, Viola Hinds, Avery Harrison; 1913, Bula Harris, Avery Harrison; 1914, J. L. McCoy, Viola McCoy; 1915, M. A. Baker; 1916, Inez Hinds, Cuba Coger; 1917, Mabel Phillips, Cuba Coger; 1918, Shelby Clark; 1919, Pearl Franks; 1920, Pearl Franks; 1921, Mona Mix; 1922, J. Clark Hawkins; 1922, Gladys Craig; 1923-1924, Grace Coger; 1925, Grace Coger, Stanley Lee; 1926-1927, Grace Coger; 1928, Jack Haskins; 1929, Floyd Harrison; 1930-1932, Eula McDaniel; 1933, Mrs. H. L. Bond; 1934, Cleo Johnson; 1935, Jessie Holt; 1936, Mrs. Amo Davis; 1937-1938, Polly Hubbard; 1939, Mrs. Gerald Walker; 1940, Ethel Phillips; 1942-1943, Mrs. James Bohannon; 1944-1946, Herman Turner; 1947, Leta Parker; 1948, Cleo Johnson.

Persons having served on the board of directors for the district were: T. F. McGinnis, J. L. Lane, A. M. Cook, D. A. Coger, Joseph Lane, William Lee, Dan Davis, W. S. McConnell, E. D. Davis, E. F. Knoles, Atlas Gosener, Robert Griffith, Sammie Lane, Grover Trillinger, and Pete Sharrock. The district was consolidated with Huntsville on June 2, 1949.

Ball Creek District No. 91

The Ball Creek school district was established on August 10, 1880, upon the petition of J. H. Hughes, Lewis Parker, and John Ball. The district was located in Range 26 West, Township 14 North. During the first ten years of its existence, the district would have several boundary disputes with the adjoining school districts.[525]

The enumeration of 1888 listed 68 students in the district. By 1892, the enumeration had fallen to 57 and in 1900, the district reported only 44 students in the district and a 5-mill tax was levied to support the district. The loss of students was due primarily to the annexation of part of the school district to form the Locust Mountain school district in 1891.

Ball Creek School c. 1935

[525] Ibid., 287.

In 1901, Green Berry Combs taught a three-month term of school at Ball Creek.[526] The term began in July and ended in September with 27 students enrolled. The students ranged in ages from 5 to 20 years. Nineteen of the students were enrolled in grades one through three with the remaining students enrolled in grades four through eight. All students enrolled in the upper grades were girls as the older boys did not attend school usually above the fourth grade as they were needed at home to work on the farm. As the term was held in the summer, students did not wear shoes to school the entire term. Boys wore knee britches and girls wore dresses all of which were homemade. The day began at 8:00 in the morning and ended between 4:30 and 5:00 with one hour off for lunch.

Ball Creek (Ball Town) School, 1901, Green Berry Combs, teacher

[526] Ewell Parks, interview, retired teacher in Madison County, Huntsville, Arkansas, June, 1984.

Enrollment at Ball Creek during the 1930's and 1940's was fairly large for a country school with an average enrollment of 54 students each year. However, only one teacher was required as the average daily attendance was only 32 students each year.

Teachers at Ball Creek school were: 1901, Green Berry Combs; 1902, No school; 1903, Arch Cole; 1904, Charles Bohannon; 1905, Mack Bohannon; 1906-1907, Wyatt Bohannon; 1908-1909, H. B. Mitchell; 1910, B. F. Johnson; 1911, Vista New; 1912, Guy Ledbetter; 1913, Sherman Sisemore; 1914, B. B. Jackson; 1915-1916, E. C. Combs; 1917, J. H. Smith; 1918, William J. Williams; 1919, Searls Johnson; 1920, Altha Thornsberry; 1921, Bruce Johnson; 1922, Fred Mix; 1923, S. B. Mitchell; 1924, Annabel Jackson; 1925-1927, Loyd Mix; 1928, Bradah Drake; 1929, Luther Mix; 1930, Jessie Ayers; 1931, Wade Guinn; 1932, Polly Hubbard; 1933, Alpha Williams; 1934, Maida Jackson; 1935, Orval Faubus; 1936-1938, Essie Barker; 1939, Robert Reed; 1940-1941, Mary Mix, Clyde Mix; 1942, J. D. Haynes, Elizabeth Smith; 1943, Reba Rogers, Polly Hubbard; 1944-1947, Polly Hubbard; 1948, Mona Millard.

Persons having served on the board of directors of the district were: J. V. Ball, E. J. Miller, W. J. Kirk, Walter Richardson, H. E. Rogers, J. W. Boyd, J. H. Sisemore, H. H. Ball, Cal Haskins, H. Edens, E. M. Shipp, Sid Simmons, Scott Edens, John Gross, Scott Edens, W. L. Ball, Vernon

Masterson, W. T. Ball, Everett Ball, Alfred Hawkins, Jake Simmons, J. J. Burnett, Jobe Simmons, and C. H. Sams. The school district was consolidated with Saint Paul on June 2, 1949.

Good Hope District No. 92

The Good Hope school district, also known as Yellow Hammer or Yellow House, was established on October 6, 1880, by County Judge F. M. Sams upon the petition of J. D. McCall and others.[527] J. D. McCall, Joseph Thermos, and Henry Swaim were appointed as the first directors of the school district.

The enumeration of 1888 listed 69 students in the district and by 1900, the district census had fallen to 41 students with no local tax being levied. During the 1930's and 1940's, the enrollment of the district varied greatly from year to year. In 1933, the district enrolled 17 students with an average daily attendance of 12. In 1936, the enrollment was 39 and in 1937, the enrollment fell to 24. The following year, enrollment at Good Hope fell further to 18 students with an average daily attendance of 13 students.

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[527] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. C, 1880, 303.

In 1916, the schoolhouse at Yellow Hammer burned. In order to complete the building, it was necessary to use the teacher salary fund to finance the completion of the building, a long-standing practice in many school districts.[528]

In the Madison County Court

In the Matter of School District No. 92

On this day was presented to the court the petition of J. W. Drain, Nathan Hill, and Marion Thomas, the directors of school district No. 92 in Madison County, Arkansas, and represents and shows to the court that at the close of the fiscal year 1916, said school district had a balance in the treasury of $80.45 belonging to the teachers wages fund of said district, and that it will receive from the apportionment to be made this year more than $100.00, in addition to the special tax which has just been paid into said fund by the collector.

That said school district has no house and is now engaged in building a school house, and has no funds with which to complete the building, and that it is absolutely necessary to use $75.00 of the said amount now on hand in the completion of said building for said district.

It is therefore considered, ordered, and adjudged by the court that the sum of $75.00 be transferred from the teachers wages fund now in the treasury belonging to said district, to the building fund of said district, and the treasurer is hereby directed to make said transfer in conformity to this order on his books, and to honor warrants drawn on said building fund by the directors of the district.

F. W. Patrick,
County Judge

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[528] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. K, 1916, 545.

Good Hope School District #92, c. 1940 – Jessie AYERS Samuels, Teacher

Front: Alvie Ayers; Alta Mae Roach; Norma Jean Stewart; Carmel Edens; Donnie Stewart; Richard Stewart
middle: Junior Roach; Alton Edens; Helen Roach; Pauline Roach; Cleo Roach
back: Wayne Ayers; Christine Roach; Hazel Roach; Ester Roach; Jessie Ayers Samuels, Teacher

Teachers at Good Hope were: 1901, J. H. Bohannon; 1902, J. P. Reynolds; 1903, No school; 1904, G. W. Cannon; 1905, Lou Oliver, 1906, Robert E. Lee; 1907, Ethel Sutton; 1908, J. W. McKibbins; 1909, Monroe Drake; 1910, Floyd Harrison; 1911, Lillie Olinger; 1912, Ruby Carroll; 1913, Rose Morris; 1914-1915, Sherman Sisemore; 1916, Dorothy Thornsberry; 1917, E. C. Combs; 1918, Minnie Joslen; 1919, Golda Vanlandingham; 1920, Bertha Thornsberry; 1921-1922, Laura Ledford; 1923-1924, Willie Ledford; 1925, Bruce Johnson; 1926-1927, S. B. Mitchell; 1928, Bruce Johnson;

1929, Lela Anderson; 1930, Orval Faubus; 1931-1932, Lillie Agee; 1933, Carson Scott; 1934, G. W,. Thompson, 1935-1937, Bruce Johnson; 1938, Anna Hand; 1939-1940, Jessie Ayers; 1941, Roda Carrigan; 1942-1943, Beatrice Castor; 1944, Alma Ayers; 1945, Sherman Sisemore; 1946-1947, Alma Ayers; 1948, Leona Layton.

Persons listed as having served on the board of directors of the district were: Verge Williams, William Thomas, Marion Thomas, J. M. Gardner, J. W. Drain, Nathan Hill, R. N. Tackett, Andy McConnell, D. M. Thomas, J. W. Dunn, E. C. Combs, Ed Ayers, E. B. Roach, Oscar Thomas, C. M. Glenn, Ottis Drain, Arthur Roach, and Jesse Stewart. The school district was consolidated with Saint Paul on June 2, 1949.

Free Will District No. 93

The Free Will school district was established on July 3, 1882, by County Judge A. L. Thompson upon the petition of A. J. Burns, W. C. Holland, A. C. Campbell, and others. The district was located in Range 24 West, Township 13 and 14 North, in Southeast Madison County. The three main petitioners also were appointed as the first board of directors of the district.[529]

[529] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. C, 1882, 382.

The enumeration of 1888 listed 65 students in the district with the enumeration of 1900 listing 45 students and a 5-mill tax being levied by the district. During the 1930's and 1940's, enrollment in the district steadily dropped. In 1932, the district enrolled 20 students, in 1934, 24, in 1936, 21, and in 1939, only five students were enrolled.

During the 1920's, possibly due to the small enrollment, several children, who were mentally retarded, were enrolled at the school.[530] Even through the best efforts of the teacher, little could be done for the children. They could not be taught to read, write, or perform even simple math computations. Much of the instructional day was spent caring for these children which meant ignoring many of the other students. The teacher complained to the board of directors of the district about the time being spent with these children but to no avail. The teacher resigned at the end of the term.

Teachers at the Free Will school were: 1901, Bertha Caswell; 1902-1904, Louis Webber; 1905-1906, No school; 1907, Fannie Patton; 1908, Nathan Stepp; 1909, Lydia Spears; 1910, Ray Hanson; 1911, Alva Rush; 1912, Claude Williams; 1913, Emma Burnett; 1914, Claude Williams; 1915, Earnest

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[530] Frankie Thornsberry, interview, retired teacher in Madison County, Saint Paul, Arkansas, April, 1987.

Lucas; 1916, Gladys Welch; 1917, Sidney Clark; 1918, Boyd Stapleton; 191, Bertha Whitmire; 1920, Luther Cowan; 1921, Charles Sylvis; 1922, Florence Burnett; 1923, J. T. Buchannan; 1924, Frankie Thornsberry; 1925, Alden E. Hayen; 1926, Chloe Cook; 1927, Maggie Marshall; 1928, Troy Lane; 1929, Cleo Bryant; 1930, Katherine Lucy; 1931-1932, Flossie Cook; 1933-1934, Gladys Barker; 1935-1936, Hazel Ricketts; 1937, Armina McCall; 1938, Alma Ayers; 1939, Mildred Burnett; 1940, Hazel Smith; 1941, Rhoda Houston; 1942, Edith Dixon; 1943, Hazel Smith; 1944, Alma Ayers.

Freewill School 1916
Ernest "Red" Lucas, Teacher

Front Row, left to right: Ola Rich, Bertha Neff-Williams, (first name unknown) Rich, Nellie Burns, Gene Neff, Hazel Everman, "Short" Thomas, Ernest "Red" Lucas, teacher.
Middle Row: Annie Hendrix, Blanche Clark Sickel, Vina Hendrix, Dinah Burns, Orville Thomas.
Back Row: Bertha Harrison, Bessie Burns, Loyd Burns, Giles Clark, Willie Clark, Chester Everman, Homer Brundrage, Elmer Burns.

Persons having served on the board of directors of the district were: John Hughes, W. W. Burns, J. C. Holland, Noah Emerson, D. Holloway, W. A. Russell, Wash Everman, Robert Killian, Norman Robinson, J. C. Cowan, John Bryant,

W. M. Boyd, W. F. Neff, Arch Hammon, Owen Yates, and W. M. Epperson. The district was consolidated with the Saint Paul district on September 19, 1944.

Pharris District No. 94

The Pharris school district was established on July 5, 1882, by order of the county court in Range 24 West, Township 15 North approximately two miles northwest of the Burke school. Although the district was created in 1882, there is no record of any school being held in the district until around 1890. The enumerations of 1886 and 1888 list no students for the district. It is not until the enumeration of 1892 that 40 students were reported to the county superintendent.

In July, 1888, Joshua McCoy and twenty others petitioned the county court to re-establish the district and set the boundaries.[531] County Judge Benjamin Drake appointed George Clark, John Martin, and Ashley Wages to the board of directors.

During the next ten years, school was not held with any regularity at Pharris. On July 9, 1901, John Brandenburg and others once again petitioned the county court to confirm the district boundaries and appoint a board of directors for

[531] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. D, 1888, 433.

the school district. County Judge J. B. Harris appointed John Brandenburg, Larkin Young, and Marcus Summers to the board of directors.[532]

School was held from 1902 to 1909 at the Pharris school at which time, the district was permanently dissolved and annexed to Burke district No. 40. The schoolhouse at Pharris was torn down in 1914 and moved, plank by plank, to the Little's Chapel school district and reassembled.

Pharris School, c. 1909

Teachers at the Pharris school were: 1902, J. E. Beddingfield; 1903, Robert Reed; 1904, Ruth Walker; 1905,

[532] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. H, 1901, 116.

Charlie Holt; 1906-1907, Lewis Miller; 1908-1909, Gertie Johnson.

Persons having served on the board of directors of the district were: George Clark, John Martin, Ashley Wages, W. H. Cook, John Stansell, John Brandenburg, Larkin Young and Marcus Summers.

Lower Rock House District No. 95

The Lower Rock House school district, also known as Mount Olive school district, was established on January 4, 1883, by order of the county court.[533] County Judge A. L. Thompson appointed Barry Jordon, Charles Crabtree, and Gilbert Ferguson as the first board of directors of the district.

The enumeration of 1888 listed 61 students in the district and 67 students were reported in 1900. The enrollment during the 1930's averaged 30 students each year with an average daily attendance of 26. During the 1940's, the enrollment fell to an average of 21 students per year with an average daily attendance of 16 students.

In 1936, the board of directors purchased land in Section 30 of Range 25 West, Township 19 North to build a

[533] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. C, 1883, 418.

new schoolhouse.[534] The new school was patterned after a floor plan obtained from the state department of education and was completed the following year.

Lower Rock House School, c. 1980

On September 19, 1944, the Upper Rock House school district was annexed to the Mount Olive school district and the Fancher school district. Nine square miles was added to the district and increased the enrollment of the school from 12 students to 24 students the following year.[535]

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[534] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. O, 1936, 102.

[535] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. C, 1883.

Lower Rock House School #95- 1941 also known as Mt. Olive School

Front: Bud Bohannan; Loretta Worley; Joetta Worley (Loretta & Joetta were twins); Janice Sisco; Della Worley; James Sisco
2nd row: Floyd Worley; Elmer Bohannan; Claude Pinkley; Christine Worley; Harold Worley
Back row: Arminia McCall, Teacher; Martha Bohannan; Thelma Bohannan; Ellen Bohannan; (4 girls in very back) - Lucy Bohannan; Bonnie Worley; Opal Worley; Grace Bohannan

Teachers at the Mount Olive school were: 1901, Mary Carlock; 1902, W. H. Meade; 1903, Tom Hargis; 1904, J. A. Oliver; 1905, Ethyl Ivie; 1906, J. P. Reynolds; 1907, J. A. Donnell; 1908, Jessie Foust; 1909-1910, Charles Bohannon; 1911, J. A. Wheeler; 1912-1913, Lydia Hawn; 1914, C. D. Wheeler; 1915, Newt Reynolds; 1916, Albert Graham; 1917, Nettie Houston; 1918, Mildred Hinds; 1919, Dewey Anderson; 1920, Tom Keene; 1921, Chlora Parker; 1922, Fannie Hooper; 1923, Chlora Parker; 1924, Arthur Mullins; 1925, Eula McElhaney; 1926, Jeff Haynes; 1927, Henry Todd; 1928, Arthur Mullins; 1929, Earline Vaughan; 1930, Howard Newton; 1931,

Lola Cannaday; 1932, Helen Tankersly; 1933-1934, Esther Mason; 1935, Alla Kelley; 1936, Bruce Fowler; 1937, Beatrice Vaughan; 1938, Ester Mason; 1939-1940, Evelyn Fultz; 1941, Arminia McCall; 1942, Margaret Calloway; 1943, Clara Vanderpool; 1944-1947, Mrs. M. M. Rookard; 1948, Ruth Miller.

Persons listed as having served on the board of directors of the district were: S. S. Holland, John Houston, G. W. Dunn, Joe Worley, W. M. House, C. S. Southerland, D. S. Holland, M. H. Fanning, Lewis Worley, G. W. B. Southerland, Norman Hill, Virgil Pinkley, Walter Bohannon, and W. E. Clark. The district was consolidated with Huntsville on June 2, 1949.

Red Star District No. 96

The Red Star school district was established on April 1, 1883, by County Judge A. L. Thompson upon the petition of J. R. Berry, J. Ward, and eleven other petitioners.[536] The school district was located in Range 24 West, Township 14 North and extended into parts of Newton County. W. C. Stanberry, J. B. Edwards, and W. B. Hearnbeck were appointed as the first board of directors of the school district.

The enumeration of 1888 listed 56 students in the district with only 23 students being enumerated in 1900.

[536] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. C, 1883, 423.

Enrollment figures for the school district during the 1930's and 1940's were as follows:[537]

Year	Enrollment	Average Daily Attendance
1932	40	34
1935	33	29
1937	36	31
1938	19	18
1940	23	17
1941	17	16
1942	18	13

Due to the drop in enrollment at the school, in early 1942, an effort was made by the county board of education to dissolve the Red Star school district. The plan met with harsh opposition from the district patrons. Unfounded charges were levied against the county supervisor and the county board of education from misappropriation of district funds to general incompetence and malfeasance in office by the local citizens. On October 17, 1942, the county board of education compromised with the district by placing them in an attendance area with the Saint Paul school district and allowing the students to attend grades one through eight at Red Star.[538]

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[537] Arkansas School Record Book and Register, School District No. 96, Madison County, Arkansas, 1930-1942.

[538] Minutes and Proceedings of the Madison County Board of Education, Huntsville, Arkansas, October 17, 1942.

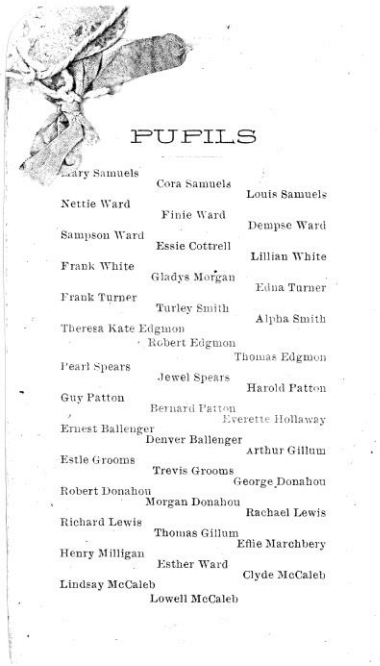
> . . . set up an attendance area including the territory embraced in the Red Star School District No. 96 with that of Saint Paul with Red Star retaining the eight grades there until the time that the district sees fit to join in a plan . . . whereby the students would be sent to the 7th and 8th grades in Saint Paul so that they would have junior high privileges along with those of Saint Paul. A board of trustees will be retained at Red Star which is to work with and cooperate with the Saint Paul board. . . .

After a little more than a year, parents realized that their children were receiving better educational opportunities at the Saint Paul school. On December 15, 1943, the patrons of the Red Star district petitioned the county board of education to transfer all assets and liabilities of the district to the Saint Paul district.[539]

Red Star School, 1919 – Charley Sparks, teacher

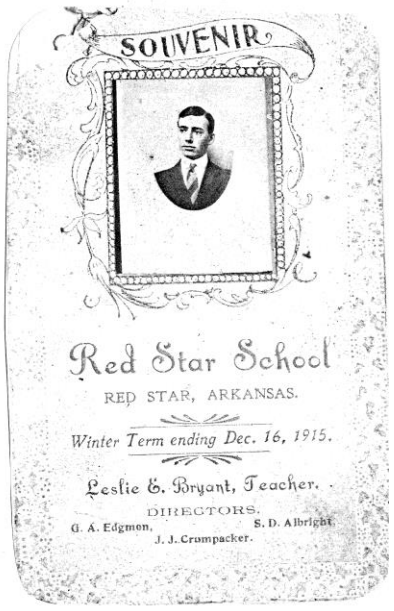
[539] Ibid., December 15, 1943.

Teachers at the Red Star school were: 1901, William Anderson; 1902, Florence Bolinger; 1903, Clyde Ryker; 1904, James Hughes; 1905, Fred Hughes; 1906, Fannie Patton; 1907, Luna Southerland; 1908, Addie Fancher; 1909, Richard Barker; 1910, Mary Sallee; 1911-1912, Lydia Spears; 1913-1914, Stella Roberts; 1915, Leslie Bryant; 1916, Chester Albright; 1917, Harrison Burnett; 1918, G. F. Adams; 1919, Charles Sparks; 1920, James F. Cowan; 1921-1922, Bud Combs; 1923, Kate Fancher; 1924, Veda Callaway; 1925, Homer Barker; 1926, Vida Callaway; 1927, Charles Sparks; 1928, Kate Fancher; 1929, Gladys Barker; 1930, Kate Fancher; 1931, R. C. Wells, Flossie Cook; 1932, Eula Callaway, Edith Whitely; 1933, Essie Barker; 1934, Jessie Ayers; 1935, Charlia Eaton; 1936, Homer Barker; 1937, Fannie Evans; 1938, D. L. Flud; 1939-1940, Kate Fancher; 1941, Margaret Callaway; 1942, Edith Dixon.



PUPILS

Mary Samuels
Cora Samuels
Louis Samuels
Nettie Ward
Finie Ward
Dempse Ward
Sampson Ward
Essie Cottrell
Lillian White
Frank White
Gladys Morgan
Edna Turner
Frank Turner
Turley Smith
Alpha Smith
Theresa Kate Edgmon
Robert Edgmon
Thomas Edgmon
Pearl Spears
Jewel Spears
Harold Patton
Guy Patton
Bernard Patton
Everette Hollaway
Ernest Ballenger
Denver Ballenger
Arthur Gillum
Estle Grooms
Trevis Grooms
George Donahou
Robert Donahou
Morgan Donahou
Rachael Lewis
Richard Lewis
Thomas Gillum
Effie Marchbery
Henry Milligan
Esther Ward
Clyde McCaleb
Lindsay McCaleb
Lowell McCaleb



SOUVENIR

Red Star School

RED STAR, ARKANSAS.

Winter Term ending Dec. 16, 1915.

Leslie E. Bryant, Teacher.

DIRECTORS.

G. A. Edgmon, S. D. Albright,
J. J. Crumpacker.

Persons who served on the board of directors of the district were: W. H. McFarland, F. M. Presley, W. G. Ballinger, H. J. Clark, J. Ward, W. N. Spears, G. A. Edgemon, S. D. Albright, J.J. Crumpacker, Dixie Carroll, Robert Edgemon, Ben Marksberry, C. H. McKinley, Fred Eaton, J. D. Parker, Ellis Yates, Henry Edgemon, Dempsey Ward, and John Dugger.

Health District No. 97

The Health school district, also known as the Independence school district, was established on August 6, 1883, by the county court. The school district was originally recognized as part of Washington County although the management of the district was apparently under the supervision of the Madison County superintendent of schools.[540] In 1881, a special Act of the Legislature established the Crawford/ Madison county line and placed the east half of Township 13 in Madison County. All of Township 13 North, Range 28 West had originally been part of Washington County. The court order establishing the Health district as part of the Madison County system designated the entire eastern half of Township 13 North as the school district making it one of

[540] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. C, 1883, 450.

the largest geographical districts in the county, consisting of 15 square miles.

The 1888 enumeration listed 75 students in the district. By 1900, the number had dropped to 50 students and a 5-mill special tax was levied by the district.

Health School c. 1990

The enrollment of the district began to drop after 1938. In 1936, the district enrolled 38 students with an enrollment of 30 students in 1938. The following year, the enrollment fell to 22 students with 14 pupils in 1940. By 1944, the school district enrollment was down to 12 with an

average daily attendance of 8. The school district remained active until consolidated with Saint Paul on June 2, 1949.

Teachers at the Health school were: 1901, Arch Cornett, H. M. Fritts; 1902, Cynthia Cornett; 1903-1904, A. J. Blevins; 1905, Zella Miller; 1906, David Stewart; 1907, Myrtle Watts; 1908, Minta Gentry; 1909, F. D. Faubus; 1910-1912, W. D. Mullins; 1913-1914, Leonard Jones; 1915, Louie Hurst; 1916, Ethel Hurst; 1917, Clint Jones; 1918, Harold Brashears; 1919, Etta France; 1920, Dixie Anderson; 1921, C. C. Bailey; 1922, Daran Skelton; 1923, Zora Ritchie; 1924, Harold Brashears; 1925, Nettie Brandenburg; 1926-1927, C. C. Bailey; 1928, Gladys Jones; 1929, Ralph Buck; 1930-1931, Hazel Maguire; 1932, George Dockery; 1933-1935, F. D. Faubus; 1936-1937, Lela Mullins; 1938, Juanita Johnson; 1939, Effie Rose; 1940, Walcie Tuttle; 1941, Walcie Ahart; 1942, Helen McCollough; 1943-1946, Elizabeth Smith; 1947, Irene Barker; 1948, Ellen Napier.

Health School District #97, also known as Independence School – 1915
Top row, left to right: Beulah Wilson; Rosa Brannon; Dottie Brannon; Albert France; Hobert Baker; Lee Ritchie; Rural Wilson; Walker Walkup; Miss Louie Hurst, Teacher
2nd row: Mary Walkup; Ada Barker; Ha Wilson; Bertha Jarnagan; Loice Regal; Dove Wilson; J. C. Watts; Parla Walkup; Henry Dawn
3rd row: Beulah Ritchie; Effie France; Margaret Jarnagan; Jewel Brannon; Anna Brannon; Ocie Jarnagan; Gertrude Waits; Albert Walkup; Monrow Doss; Dovie Walkup; Eugene Osburn; Jim Bridges
4th row: Dorothy Brannon; Coonie Waits; Mary Jarnagan; Reta Regal; Flora Dawn; Bertie Barker; Leon Walkup; Outon Ritchie; Euel Jim Brannon; Jonce Osburn
5th row: Alice Barker; Ruby Brannon; Dorothy Ritchie; Neoma Wilson; Martha Waits; Eula Wilson; Amanda Bobby France; unknown; Lensley Barker; Roosevelt Barker
Front row: Dick Brannon; Flora Walkup; Alfred Jarnagan; Troy Walkup; Roy Patrick; Cecil Ritchie; Archie Doss; Roy Doss

Persons having served on the board of directors of the district were: W. P. Jones, C. M. Easley, C. H. Creekmore, C. C. Ritchie, D. H. Brannon, H. C. Brannon, L. B. Gabbard, J. P. Gabbard, H. C. Walker, Omer Herrick, O. K. Miller, W. D. Gabbard, H. A. Frances, D. H. Branning, Harvey Parrish, J. B. Mounce, Lester Thomas, Jess Osburn, and Charley Couch.

Upper Rock House District No. 98

The Upper Rock House school district, commonly referred to as the Pleasant Hill school, was created by County Judge A. L. Thompson on October 1, 1883, upon the petition of Phillip S. Turner and thirteen other petitioners. The school district was located in Range 26 West, Township 18 North. County Judge Thompson appointed J. W. Ball, M. B. Graham, and John W. Turner as the first directors of the newly formed district.[541]

The enumeration of 1886 reported 53 students in the district with $56.18 apportioned from the common school fund. In 1888, the district listed 66 students and by 1900, the number had fallen to 39 students with a 5-mill tax being levied by the district.

Enrollment at Upper Rock House during the 1930's and 1940's was the lowest in the county. In 1936, only 8 students were enrolled at the school and the following year, only 5 students enrolled. By 1940, the enrollment had increased to 12 students with an average daily attendance of nine.[542]

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[541] Ibid., 459.

[542] Arkansas School Record Book and Register, School District No. 98, Madison County, Arkansas, 1930-1940.

In August, 1944, the county board raised the question of dissolving those districts in the county that had fallen far below the number of children required by law and whose assessment had fallen to the point that the school could not operate for the 100 days required by law. The board ordered the supervisor to file a report on the status of the Upper Rock House district and the Baldwin district. On September 19, 1944, Supervisor Blankenship made his report to the county board of education and the Upper Rock House school district was annexed and consolidated with the Lower Rock House and Fancher districts.[543]

Teachers at Upper Rock House were: 1900-1903, J. A. Donnell; 1904, Anna Butler; 1905, Lillie Ferrill; 1906, Eva Wilson; 1907, Fred Southerland; 1908, Jessie Foust, Katie Southerland; 1909, Gula Ivie; 1910, W. J. Cornelison; 1911-1912, J. A. Donnell; 1913, Ida Cannaday; 1914, Bessie Boatright; 1915, Ida Cannaday; 1916, Pearl Wilson; 1917, Edith Miller; 1918, Nettie Houston; 1919, Opal Hester; 1920, Ana Morrison; 1921-1922, Delpha Hayes; 1923, William Hayes; 1924, Fred Southerland; 1925, Lata Dee Bauher; 1926, Mrs. A. K. True; 1927, Howard Newton; 1928, Jessie Hooper; 1929, Mabel Stout; 1930, Mrs. Cecil Bohannon; 1931, Howard Ward; 1932, Ruby Vaughn; 1933, Merle Coger; 1934, Mabel Stout;

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[543] Minutes and Proceedings of the Madison County Board of Education, Huntsville, Arkansas, September 19, 1944.

1935, Opal Price; 1936, George Gentry; 1937, Mildred McCall; 1938-1939, Roy Gaddy; 1940, Nora Crawford; 1941, Mildred MCall; 1942, No school; 1943, Arley Sisemore.

Persons having served on the board of directors of the district were: Melvin Graham, Carl Meyers, R. E. L. Graham, M. C. Martin, H. T. Bohannon, Maynard Johnson, M. A. Rookard, Jim Rookard, E. L. Graham, M. B. Graham, Bert Harp, W. M. Brown, and John Foster.

Pinnacle District No. 99

The Pinnacle school district was established on October 7, 1883, by County Judge A. L. Thompson upon the petition of Jephtha Duncan and others. The district was created from parts of Asher district number 31 and Thompson district number 73 and was located in Range 27 West, Township 15 North. County Judge Thompson appointed Jephtha Duncan, James Hankins, and H. F. Whitmire as the first board of directors of the district.[544]

[544] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. C, 1883, 464.

Original school building at Pinnacle, built c. 1885. The group shown here is a Church group and the only people identified are the two men who are standing in front of the door wearing hats - Frank and William Whitmire. Frank was one of the first board members of the district. This building was replaced in 1911 by another building.

The enumeration of 1886 listed 87 students in the district with an apportionment of $92.22 from the common school fund. In 1888, the district reported 71 students and by 1900, the district census remained about the same with 69 students reported and no local millage levied.

In 1887, the size of the district tripled with the addition of Sections 20, 29, and 32 in Range 27 West, Township 15 North. In 1894, two more sections, numbers 17 and 28 were also added to the district.

Francis Atha, teacher at Pinnacle in 1924, reported students between the ages of six and twenty enrolled at the school. Classes would begin at 8:30 each morning with

students singing several songs from what was commonly referred to as "The Yellow Songbook." This was usually followed by a reading from the Bible and a recitation of some poem from a student. Instruction usually started with the first grade in reading. The other students studied independently with the older students helping the younger ones.[545]

Recess was not much different than recesses of today. Baseball was a very popular game at Pinnacle but the implements of the game were hard to come by. Most often, the ball was homemade of string, tightly wound and tied. The bat, commonly made of hickory, was also homemade and rocks served as the bases. The smaller children usually occupied themselves in the dirt or sand. School ended at 4:00.

Pinnacle school built in 1911. It was built by John Foster and Milton Lawson with lumber being hauled by John Davenport and John Hankins. This building was torn down in 1953.

Enrollment at Pinnacle during the 1920's was high for a rural district. In 1928, an eighteen-year-old man by the name of Orval E. Faubus, was hired to teach his first

[545] Frances Atha, interview, retired teacher in Madison County, Elkins, Arkansas, August, 1986.

school. The enrollment that year was 74 students and increased to 80 the following year. Mr. Faubus had completed the eighth grade at Combs and Greasy Creek and would enter the newly created State Vocational School the following year.

During the 1930's, the enrollment at Pinnacle averaged nearly 39 students per year. During the 1940's, the enrollment dropped slightly to 29 students per year with an average daily attendance of 24. The district was consolidated with Saint Paul on June 2, 1949, although a wing school would operate in the district into the early 1950's.[546]

Teachers at Pinnacle were: 1901, P. L. Kirksey; 1902-1904, J. A. Carlock; 1905-1906, Sarah Lollar; 1907, Logan Duncan; 1908, Hugh Badgley; 1909, J. A. P. Vaughn; 1910, Sarah Davenport; 1911, Rosa Whitmire; 1912, J. S. Lollar; 1913, Sherman Lollar; 1914, Ona Salsman; 1915, J. A. P. Vaughn; 1916, Ona Salsman; 1917, Ernest Thomas; 1918, Cloma Whitmire; 1919, Laura Ledford; 1920, Ernie Cornett; 1921-1922, Clyde Mix; 1923, Wade Johnson; 1924, Francis Atha; 1925-1926, Willie Ledford; 1927, Lorin Combs; 1928-1929, Orval E. Faubus; 1930-1932, Willie J. Ledford; 1933-1934, Orval E. Faubus; 1935, Madaline Cornett; 1936, Anna Hand;

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[546] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. 99, 1920-1940, 507.

1937, Irene Vanlandingham; 1938, Orval E. Faubus; 1939, Essie Barker; 1940-1941, Carl Vanlandingham; 1942, J. C. Knott; 1943, Cuba McElhaney; 1944, Irene Drain; 1945-1946, J. C. Knott; 1947, Laura Atha; 1948, Dessie Harriman.

Persons who served on the board of directors of the district were: Frank Lacy, D. Ridley, H. C. Ledford, G. H. Hall, T. F. Lacy, Alonzo Ledford, H. F. Whitmire, V. R. Davenport, W. M. Davenport, G. P. Couch, C. N. Lacy, Carl Vanlandingham, W. F. Whitmire, N. D. Riggins, T. A. Dunaway, Francis Atha, J. S. Hankins, Lester Thomas, and John Davenport.

Low Gap District No. 100

The Low Gap school district was established on April 5, 1884, by order of the county court upon the petition of A. A. Ogden and 21 others. The district was located in Range 25 West, Townships 13 and 14, just north of the community of Pettigrew.[547]

The enumeration of 1888 listed 80 students in the district while the enumeration of 1900 reported 76 students and a 5-mill tax being levied by the district. No attendance records are available for the district.

Frankie Thornsberry, who taught at Low Gap in 1922, remembered that the school could not afford a blackboard so

[547] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. C, 1883, 492.

one was painted on the wall with black paint. There were no restrooms for the school and students used the surrounding woods. Supplies were purchased at the local drugstore at Pettigrew. Pencils, made of cedar, were one cent or six for a nickel. "Big Chief Tablets" could be purchased for five cents and all textbooks could be purchased at the drugstore.

Low Gap School c. 1930

Teachers at Low Gap were: 1901-1902, Robert Reed; 1903, Roscoe Williams; 1904, W. R. Cluck; 1905, Robert Reed; 1906, Thomas Wheeler; 1907, No school; 1908, W. F. Keck; 1909, Arthur Barker; 1910, Richard Barker; 1911, Oscar Cornett; 1912, Golda Barber; 1913, Mabel Ricketts; 1914, W. F. Keck; 1915, Walter Barker; 1916-1917, W. F. Keck; 1918, Richard Barker; 1919-1920, Beulah Southerland; 1921, J. P. Reynolds; 1922, Frankie Thornsberry; 1923, Florence Burnett;

1924, Essie Barker; 1925, Ray Cornett; 1926, Basil Crawford; 1927, W. A. Buck; 1928, Vada Callaway.

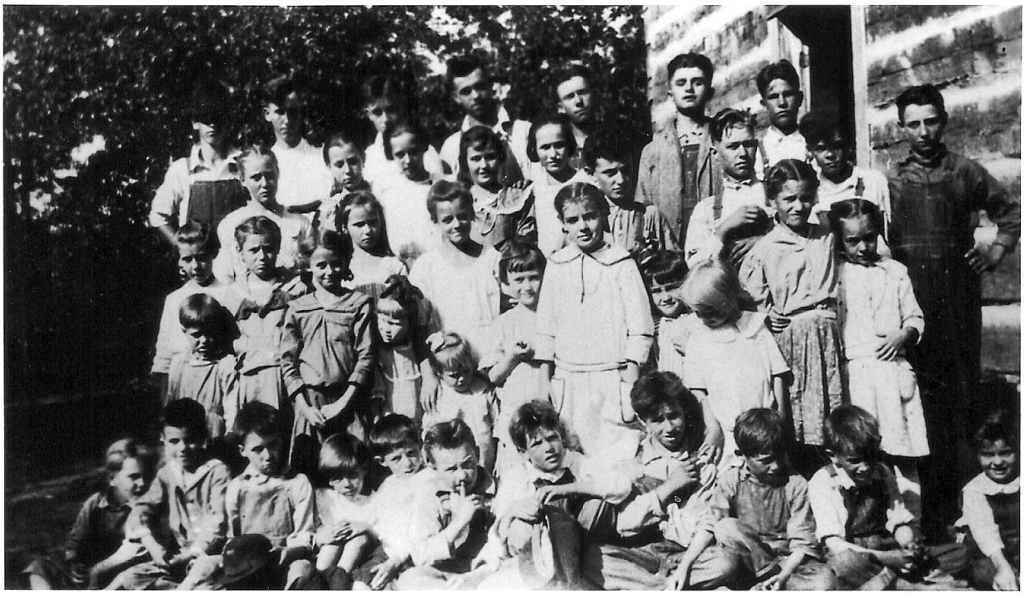
Persons listed as having served on the board of directors of the district were: S. S. Barker, F. M. Baker, P. L. Franklin, G. A. Fuller, Frank S. Barber, P. J. Minks, T. T. Barker, H. C. Bennett, and T. E. Minks. The district was consolidated with Dutton district No. 61 on September 9, 1929.

Venus District No. 101

The Venus school district was established on April 6, 1889, by County Judge Benjamin Drake upon the petition of Joe Johnson, A. C. Marsh, and others. The district was located in Range 24 West, Township 15 North and J. Hilburn,

Andrew Gordon, and C. C. Shook were appointed as the first board of directors of the district.[548]

The enumeration of 1892 reported 42 students in the district and by 1900, the district census had risen to 66. During the 1930's, the average enrollment at Venus was 19 with an average daily attendance of 13.



Venus School - 1923

Front: Melvin Maggard; Lewis Johnson; Gussie Swearengin; Neil Maggard; Edd Maggard; Melburn Martin; Ancil Maggard; Orval Martin; Ewell Herriman; Ree Snodgrass; Hurshel Johnson
Second Row: Dorther Maggard; Ruby Keck; Bessie Martin
Third Row: Verna Johnson; Stella Phillips; Florence Herriman; Silva Keck; Ivy Keck; Minnie Fleming; Alta Fleming; Ester Snodgrass
Fourth Row: Fannie Phillips; Flossie Phillips; Lodena Maggard; Lora Maggard; Daisy Reeves; Ida Snodgrass; Johnie Rogers; Floyd Burgess; Floyd Maggard; Martin Swearengin
Fifth Row: Martin Caudille; Hary Caudille; Carl Phillips; Theodore Johnson; Roger Reeves; Leonard Burgess; Orbin Caudille

[548] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. E, 1889, 59.

The district was consolidated with Huntsville on June 2, 1949, but due to the isolated status of the district, a wing school was continued in the district into the early 1950's. Enrollment during the 1950's averaged slightly more than 20 students with an average daily attendance of 18.

(The new Venus School and the old school)

Teachers at the Venus school were: 1901, James Adams; 1902, Emma Bolinger; 1903, Cynthia McCatherine; 1904, C. C. Shook; 1905, Robert Reed; 1906, Emma Williams; 1907, Luther Taylor; 1908, Luther Taylor; 1909, Emma Williams; 1910, Frank Rice; 1911, Jess McCoy; 1912, Ray Hanson; 1913, Olen

Haney; 1914-1915, G. W. R. Keck; 1916, Willie Miller; 1917, William Smith; 1918, No school; 1919-1920, Ausie Reeves; 1921, No school; 1922, Nancy Smith; 1923, Zula McElhaney; 1924, Dalton Dotson; 1925, Veda Callaway; 1926, Ausie Reeves; 1926, Essie Barker; 1928, Dalton Dotson; 1929, Homer Barker; 1930, Clara Hooper; 1931, Walter Long; 1932, Homer Barker; 1933, Madia Jackson; 1934-1935, O. D. Easterling; 1936, Fannie Phillips; 1937-1938, Geraldine Cornett; 1939-1940, Walter Long; 1941, Lydia Long; 1942, Keith Sutton; 1943-1944, Mary Rice; 1944, Katie Austin; 1945, Robert Ledbetter; 1946, Walter Long; 1947-1948, Mary Rice.

Persons having served on the board of directors for the district were: C. F. Johnson, Jesse Maggard, S. B. Faddis, W. A. Ward, R. S. Sams, M. B. Sanders, Joe Swearing, Andy Maggard, L. E. Bryant, Carl Phillips, and Jess Swearengin.

Robertson District No. 102

The Robertson school district, also referred to as the Fritts Creek school, was established on April 10, 1889, by order of County Judge Benjamin Drake upon the petition of J. Cook and others. The district was located in Range 28 West, Township 15 North and was created from parts of the Pinnacle, Thompson, and Enterprise school districts.[549]

[549] Ibid., 541.

The school district was dissolved and annexed to the Enterprise, Pinnacle, and Thompson districts on October 13, 1928, after thirty-nine years of existence. Although little is known about the district, an interview with Fannie Harris Carrigan, which appeared in the *Elkins Graphic* on March 13, 1974, provides some information on the district.[550]

> I am thinking when I taught my first school. I was seventeen years old (ca. 1900). It was in a small hot house on Fritts Creek, in Madison County, later it was called Robertson. It was boxed up with oak planks, stripped to keep out the cold. I had just 16 pupils, although the school wasn't graded, they ranged from the first to the eighth grade.
>
> It was late in winter, but we had an old fashioned stove with a drum, and by placing the seats around the stove, we were reasonably comfortable.
>
> I boarded near the school, but carried my dinner, so as not to leave the school grounds. I received just $20.00 a month and paid $6.00 for board. I thought I had money. I received my first check for two months of $40.00.
>
> My sister and I were riding to Huntsville, to cash it and do some shopping. When she started to get on her horse, she remarked, "I forgot my purse." I said, "Oh never mind, I'll have plenty. I'll let you have all you want." When I went to cash the check there was only $28 in the treasury. Couldn't cash it.
>
> I had just fifteen cents so I bought ten cents worth of cheese and crackers. We rode home, about

[550] *Madison County Musings*, The Madison County Historical and Genealogical Society, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. 5, No. 4, 1986., 20.

> 12 miles, as we lived in Wesley, without feeding our horses. I never believed in spending the last nickel.

Teachers at Robertson were: 1901, Ollie Harris; 1902, Fannie Harris; 1903, Ruth Neal; 1904, Minnie Calico; 1905, Logan Duncan; 1906, Rose Dunaway; 1907, No school; 1908, James Jeffers; 1909, J. S. Lollar; 1910, Lilie Ollinger; 1911, Noah Robbins; 1922, Willie Wilkins; 1913, J. A. P. Vaughn; 1914, Rachael Osburn; 1915-1916, Florence Wallace; 1917, No school; 1918, Grance Grandstaff; 1919, Alice McNeely; 1920, Christina Cobb; 1921, Iva M. Cobb; 1922, No school; 1923, Laura Atha; 1924, Jack Haskins; 1925, Eula Hammond; 1926, Fern Bell; 1927, Eula Burnett.

Persons having served on the board of directors of the district were: J. B. Wilson, C. Robertson, M. Swafford, W. A. Whitmire, W. L. Smith, W. C. McCullah, T. A. Dunaway, D. F. Riggins, and T. R. Bowman.

Crosses District No. 103

The Crosses school district was established on July 8, 1889, by order of the county court. The district was created from part of the Delaney school district because the "district had become too large for one teacher to manage."[551] County Judge Benjamin Drake appointed Louis Martin, J. G.

[551] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. E, 1889, 7.

Stufflebean, and F. M. Anderson as the first board of directors of the district.

The enumeration of 1892 listed 104 students in the district. By 1900, the number had decreased to 76 students and a 5-mill tax was levied by the district.

Enrollment during the 1930's averaged 45 students per year with an average daily attendance of 36. By the early 1940's, the enrollment had dropped to 16 with an average daily attendance of 12. The district was consolidated with Saint Paul on August 26, 1944, with the stipulation that a wing school would be operated for lower elementary students at the school. However, in 1945, a tornado hit the Crosses area and the school was destroyed.

Crosses School, 1935

Back row, left to right: Jimmie Robbins; Edison DeVault; Joe Riddle; Margaret Crudup; Lois Calhoun; Geneva Edmond; Tom Faubus; Doyne Robbins; Johnie DeVault
Middle row: Mildred WIST Ratliff, Teacher; George Crudup; Norman Taylor; Connie Anderson; Helen Crudup; Alma Mae Ingram; Ima Lee Crudup; Ebb Riddle; Florence ANDERSON Pettit, Teacher
Front row: Alan Robbins; Melba Lee Webb; Sue Pettit; Virginia Webb; Geraldine Jordan; Sue Faubus; Geraldine Taylor; Sonny Ingram. Boys in very front: Eugene Taylor & Wallace Riddle

Teachers at the Crosses school were: 1901, R. T. Anderson; 1902-1903, J. T. Walker; 1904, J. A. Carlock; 1905, James Osburn; 1906, W. L. Anderson; 1907-1908, No school; 1909, W. H. Hughes, 1910, Anna Calloway, W. H. Hughes; 1911, Richard Barker, Lydia Cravens; 1912, R. A. Ellis; Lydia Cravens; 1913, J. Orville Karnes, Myrtle Karnes; 1914, J. J. Osburn, Lydia Cravens; 1915, Ruby Carroll; H. L. Thompson; 1916, Loyd Dabney, Louie Hurst; 1917, Ethel Hurst, Louie Hurst; 1918, Louie Hurst; 1919, Canda Smith; 1920, Ruby Anderson; 1921, Orin Glass; 1922, C. C. Casteel, Alice Stufflebean; 1923, Ruby Anderson, Alice Stufflebean; 1924, Ruby Anderson, Zora Ritchie; 1925, Zola Montgomery, Lloyd Cornett; 1926, Ray Cornett; 1927-1928, Lloyd Cornett, Zora Ritchie; 1929, Zora Buck, Virgil Ramsey; 1930, Lawrence Scroggins, Virgil Ramsey, Faye Swaney; 1931, Inez Patrick, Wiley Stufflebean; 1932, Edward Buck, Marie Stewart; 1933, Marie Stewart, Florence Anderson; 1934, Abraham (W. A.) Easterling, Florence Anderson; 1935, Florence Petit, Mildred Wist; 1936, Clay Anderson, F. D. Faubus; 1937, F. D. Faubus, Clay Anderson; 1938-1939, Lucille Anderson, Bobby Faubus; 1940, Bobby Faubus; 1941-1942, Agatha Hall; 1943, Geneva Gabbard.

Crosses School, 1939
Boys Basketball team

Back, left to right:
Bobby Faubus, Teacher;
Rollen Kellar; Joel
Stufflebeam; Doin
Robbins

Front: Loyd McAfee; Joe
Woods; Johnny Devault;
Allen Robbins; unknown

Crosses School, 1939
Girls Basketball team

Back, left to right:
Lucille Anderson,
Teacher; Eutha Kellar;
Lolita Eubanks; Ruby
Easley

Persons listed as having served on the board of directors of the district were: A. D. Phillips, Lee Woolen, James Ritchie, J. C. Stewart, T. G. Anderson, J. B. Patrick, J. M. Stewart, Bob Anderson, James Anderson, M. T. Thomas, Henry Robbins, Amos Jordan, R. T. Anderson, Bill Stewart, Cecil Barker, John Ritchie, and Elbert Foster.

Ferrell's Creek District No. 104

The Ferrell's Creek school district was established on July 8, 1889, by County Judge Benjamin Drake upon the petition of J. M. Powell, J. C. Wood, G. L. Mathis, and others. The district was located in Range 26 West, Township 16 North, and was formed from parts of the Jackson Creek and Aurora school districts.[552] Powell, Wood, and Mathis also were appointed as the first board of directors of the school.

The land for the Ferrell's Creek school was part of the homestead of Johnnie Cole and Nancy Ward who donated the land. The first school was a large log structure which housed the 48 students who enrolled in the school the first year.[553]

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[552] Ibid., 1.

[553] The Madison County Record, Huntsville, Arkansas, October 27, 1983.

Ferrell's Creek School – 1903

Back row: Teacher John Davis and his wife; Charlie Cox; Carter Powell; Roy Williams; Molly Powell Woods; Ona Revis Evans; Lila Powell; Martha Ann McChristian Duncan; Susan Ward; Loretta Wright Cowan

Middle row: Bert Jackson; Harve Cox; Tom Sullins; Carter Ward; Burley Revis; Rachel Powell; Candy Revis; unknown; Mahalia Wright Wilson; Mary Ward; unknown; unknown; unknown

Front row: Ruby Sullins; Reese Sullins; Olen Jackson; Burley Jackson; Sam Guinn; Ola Jackson Thomas; Will Jackson; Bert Guinn; Bertha Jackson Ledbetter; Hope Revis; Leola Cox; Henry Powell; Grace Sullins; Rachel Jackson Spurlock

About 1910, the building was remodeled and clapboard was added over the logs. About 1915, the old school was torn down and a new one, with two doors and a trapezoid roof was erected by the men of the community.

Enrollment at the school during the 1930's and 1940's remained high in comparison with the other county schools. The average enrollment during the 1930's was 38 students

with an average daily attendance of 30. During the 1940's, the enrollment fell slightly to an average of 32 students per year.

Teachers at the Ferrell's Creek school were: 1901, Daisy Stotts; 1903, J. R. Davis; 1903, S. B. Mitchell; 1904, Will Bohannon; 1905, J. R. Davis; 1906, Ruth Roberts; 1907, Charles Bohannon; 1908, Golda Spurgeon, Charles McElhaney; 1909, Amy Teague; 1910, Golda Spurgeon; 1911, Emma Williams; 1912, J. S. Jamison;

C. 1915

1913, B. B. Jackson; 1914, S. A. McGuire; 1915, B. B. Jackson; 1916-1917, Bessie Dudgeon; 1918, Clyde Ledbetter; 1919, J. C. Hacker; 1920, Edith Stroud; 1921-1922, Velma Long; 1923, Ethel Haney; 1924, Sylvia Jackson; 1925, Sylvia Woodward; 1926, Mary Johnson; 1927-1928, Doris Long; 1929-1931, Noble Jackson; 1932, Carson Scott; 1933-1935, Noble

Jackson; 1936, Mona Mix; 1937, Gwen Ledbetter; 1938, Mona Mix; 1939, Lydia Long; 1940, O. D. Easterling; 1941, Anabel Hawkins, O. D. Easterling; 1942, Walter Long; 1943-1946, Anabel Hawkins; 1947, Robert Ledbetter; 1948, Iva Wheeler.

Ferrell's Creek School c. 1935

Persons serving on the board of directors of the district were: T. A. Jackson, J. M. C. Powell, H. R. Jackson, Carter Ward, E. E. Garrett, Joe Jackson, J. A. Ball, John Peters, Tom Jackson, Burley Jackson, W. J. Guinn, Mack Wilson, Hobart Jackson, Frank Jackson, Dave Kisor, Claude Murphy, Olen Jackson, Erman Jackson, Arlis Murphy, Earl Rogers, M. E. Garrett, and W. O. Thomas. The school district was consolidated with Huntsville on June 2, 1949.

Saint Paul District No. 105

(See school district No. 48)

Ribbon Ridge District No. 106

The Ribbon Ridge school district was established on April 16, 1891, by County Judge R. L. Johnson. The district was located in Range 24 West, Township 16 North approximately three miles southwest of Kingston. R. Larkin Hudson, B. C. Sisco, and Jeff Blackford were appointed as the first board of directors of the district.[554]

The first enumeration of the district in 1892 listed 41 students in the district. By 1900, the total had increased to only 74 students with no tax being levied by the district.

Enrollment during the 1930's and 1940's averaged only 16 students per year with a high enrollment of 23 in 1942. The average daily attendance during the same period was 14 students. Enrollment and attendance could not exceed much more than 25 students as the Ribbon Ridge school was one of

[554] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. E, 1891, 326.

the smallest in the county. In addition, only $3.76 was spent by the district between 1931 and 1935 with the exception of teachers' wages.

Ribbon Ridge School 1914, Teacher Sid Holt

back Row: Sid Holt, Teacher; Sammy Stansell; Barnett Yingst; Newt King; John Yingst; Bird Phillips; Dora Yingst; El Cook; Del Cook

2nd Row; Ada Yingst; Ted Yingst; Preston Cook; Jake Yingst; Ellis Yingst; Jess Stansell; Fred Yingst; Vena Stansell; Froney King (behind Vena); Susie Yingst; Donna Yingst; Lola Yingst; Mima Stansell

Front Row; Clell Jones; Virgil Jones; Leonard King; Verna King; Esther Stansell;
Bessie Yingst; Ova Yingst; Virgie Yingst; Grace Yingst; Ora Yingst; Velia Yingst; Marge Cook

Teachers at Ribbon Ridge were: 1901, Sophronia Swift; 1902, Annie Butler; 1903-1904, Will Boydston; 1905, Aggie Miller; 1906, Will Boydston; 1907, Iza Selleck; 1908, Sam Wheeler; 1909, Frances Bedingfield; 1910, O. D. Montgomery; 1911, Ova Bradshaw; 1912, S. T. King; 1913, L. H. Yingst;

1914, Sidney Holt; 1915, Eva Grigg; 1916, Sarah Steele Garton; 1917, Dexter Harris; 1918, C. W. Mashburn; 1919, G. W. Forrest; 1920, Ada Lane; 1921, Eugene Barker; 1922, Ethel Sanders; 1923, Zola Garton; 1924, Pauline Wiggins; 1925, Margie Slaven; 1926, Emily Boydston; 1927, Margie Lee Slaven; 1928, Willie Stout; 1929, Otto Stamps; 1930, Doris McConnell; 1931, Chess Bunch; 1932, Myrtle Hawkins; 1933, Callie Gray; 1934, Herman Turner; 1935, Jewell Parson; 1936, Lois Easterling; 1937, Ruby Faddis; 1938-1939, Jewell Parson; 1940, Clarice Faubus; 1941, Vers Stede; 1942, Gladys Vanhook; 1943, Ollie Fancher.

Persons listed as having served on the board of directors for the district were: O. S. Yingst, S. T. King, T. S. Yingst, W. O. Stansell, W. J. Jones, B. C. Sisco, L. H. Yingst, R. L. Phillips, John Cook, K. C. Jones, and Oscar Jones.

On April 6, 1944, John T. Cook petitioned the county board of education asking that the district be abolished and the district consolidated with Upper Whorton and Loy. However, the county board "thought best" that the district be consolidated with Kingston. The board further stipulated that all students were to be left in the district until such time as the road conditions improved so that the students could be transported to Kingston.[555]

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[555] Minutes and Proceedings of the Madison County Board of Education, Huntsville, Arkansas, April 6, 1944.

West Liberty District No. 107

The West Liberty school district was established on April 16, 1891, by County Judge R. L. Johnson and was the northern most district in the county. The district was located in Range 26 West, Township 19 North with the school-house located approximately one and one-half miles south of the Carroll-Madison county line on Highway 23.[556]

The enumeration of the district in 1892 listed 40 students in the district. By 1900, the number had increased to 49 with a 5-mill tax being levied by the district.

The daily program of instruction during 1934-1935 of Eula McElhaney was:

8:30 Opening Exercises
Penmanship
Agriculture Class
Primer Class
2nd Reader
3rd Reader
4th Reader
6th Reader
8th Grade English Class
6th Grade English Class
3rd and 4th Grade English Class

10:15 - 10:30 Recess

2nd Grade Arithmetic
3rd and 4th Grade Arithmetic
6th Grade Arithmetic
8th Grade Arithmetic

12:00 - 1:00 Noon Hour

[556] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. E, 1981, 420.

Arkansas History
3rd and 4th Grade Physiology
Civics
Primer Class
2nd Reader Class
3rd Reader Class
8th Grade History
Primary History

2:30 - 2:45 Evening Recess

Algebra
Primer
4th Grade Geography
6th and 8th Grade Geography
2nd Grade Spelling
3rd and 4th Grade Spelling
6th Grade Spelling
8th Grade Spelling

4:00 Dismiss

In 1945, the district erected a modern building modeled after designs recommended by the department of education. The building contained two ventilation windows which was placed just under the roof-line facing the front. The back side of the building was lined with windows.

West Liberty School c. 1920

West Liberty School, 1941 Sept 25

Back row, left to right: Everett Hancock; Mildred Brown; Vivan Brown; Pearl Brown; Dolly Hancock; ____Coble; Allen Buddy Myers

Front row: unknown; unknown; Stella Hancock; Forrest Luck; Hazel Luck; Donnie Myers; Emil Luck (age 6, he died 13 days after this picture was taken from diptheria, on October 8, 1941); Margaret Luck, Teacher

Teachers at West Liberty were: 1901-1903, D. B. Newton; 1904-1905, J. R. Freeman; 1906, Edward Todd; 1907-1909, J. A. Donnell; 1909-1910, Grace Oliver; 1911, Mary Beddingfield; 1912, Grace Oliver; 1913, Elsie Foust; 1914, Nora Oliver; 1915, Cam Montgomery; 1916-1917, Esther True; 1918, Marie Obenshain; 1919-1920, Leva Wilson; 1921, Amy Lantenschlager; 1922, Leva Wilson; 1923, Mary Phillips; 1924, Clyde Mix; 1925, Cora Vaughn; 1926, Eula McElhaney; 1927, Frieda Hankins; 1928, Cora Vaughn; 1929, Margaret Miller; 1930, Lydia Long; 1931, Claude Johnson; 1932-1933, Opal Johnson; 1934-1935, Eula McElhaney; 1936-1938, Ralph James; 1939, Opal Hinds; 1940-1942, Margaret Luck; 1943-1944, Gladys Vanhook; 1945, No school; 1946-1947, Hazel Koontz; 1948, Gladys Vanhook.

Persons listed as having served on the board of directors of the district were: J. H. Oliver, C. W. Berry, W. L. Luck, Alfred Brown, D. L. Gullick, M. L. Tallent, Oscar Myers, Ambrose Beaver, Raymond Toombs, Rallie Beaver, and Arthur Clark.

The district was consolidated with Huntsville on June 2, 1949. However, a wing school was established at Clifty and with an increase in students during the last 1950's, the school was re-opened in 1957 to house lower elementary students from Clifty.

Muddy Gap District No. 108

The Muddy Gap school district was established on April 16, 1891, by order of the county court. The district was located in Range 25 West, Township 13 North approximately two miles southwest of Pettigrew.[557]

The enumeration of 1892 listed 40 students in the district with 47 students and a 5-mill tax levy being reported in 1900. The enrollment during the 1930's and 1940's averaged only 10 students per year with an average daily attendance of 7.

Teachers at the Muddy Gap school were: 1900-1901, W. H. Mead; 1902, J. D. Hughes; 1903, J. W. Reynolds;

Harvey Ward on horseback in front of the Muddy Gap School

1904, Martha Ivie; 1905, Alfred Casey; 1906, Will Bohannon; 1907, W. F. Keck; 1908, Isaac Keck; 1909-1910, Belle Boen; 1911, Ethyl Lewis; 1912, Rosa Williams; 1913, Estha Miller; 1914-1915, Cleo Vandagriff; 1916, Claud Williams; 1917,

[557] Ibid., 305.

Milbern Lewis; 1918, James Cowan; 1919, William H. Smith; 1920, Maude Stapleton; 1921, Bertha Thornsberry; 1922, S. B. Mitchell; 1923, Fannie Evans; 1924, Trella Lane; 1925, Basil Crawford; 1926-1927, Frankie Thornsberry; 1928-1929, Eula Callaway; 1930, Mildred Wist; 1931, Cleo Bryant; 1932, Hazel Keck; 1933, Cleo Bryant; 1934-1935, Essie Barker; 1936, Hazel Ricketts; 1937, Rhoda Houston; 1938, Mildred Burnett; 1939-1940, Pauline Jackson; 1941, Alma Ayers; 1942-1948, Pauline Jackson Thacker.

Persons having served on the board of directors of the district were: T. W. Hamilton, S. H. Cowan, J. J. Ward, E. A. Black, J. L. Harris, E. E. Thacker, J. M. Evans, Tom Harris, W. P. Ward, W. S. Brandenburg, T. H. Moore, J. R. Newman, J. M. Hamilton, Henry Brandenburg, Jim Ford, Mart Brandenburg, Shelby Bowlin, Paul Thomas, and Bert Brandenburg. The district was consolidated with Saint Paul on June 2, 1949.

Dabney District No. 109

The Dabney Creek school district was established on April 16, 1891, by County Judge R. L. Johnson. The district was created by taking part of Delaney district No. 54 east of White River.[558] Willis Copeland, Melton Walker, and D. Burwell were appointed as the first board of directors of the district.

[558] Ibid., 308.

The enumeration of 1900 listed 47 students in the district with a 5-mill tax being levied by the district. As the district was dissolved in 1926 and the district annexed to Greasy Creek district, no enrollment or attendance figures are available.

Teachers at Dabney Creek were: 1901, Maggie Brink; 1902, Helen Gayheart; 1903, No school; 1904, Maude Montgomery; 1905, Ernest Clark; 1906, Myrtle Stewart; 1907, Maude Montgomery; 1908-1909, Lillie Hurst; 1910-1911, E. C. Combs; 1912, Lillie Hurst; 1913-1914, Ethel Hurst; 1915, Arch Cornett; 1916-1917, Oren Glass; 1918, Ruth Anderson; 1919, Maggie Faubus; 1920, Drew Combs; 1921, Zola Montgomery; 1922, Oren Glass; 1923, Zola Montgomery; 1924, No school; 1925, Elva Brashears.

Persons having served on the board of directors of the district were: Albert Clark, Henry Kent, Charles Perry, Isaac Deaton, Charles Gibson, C. O. Montgomery, W. J. Eddy, Tom Boyd, John Deaton, and J. T. Boyd.

Berry Branch District No. 110

The Berry Branch school district, also known as Elm Spring, was established on July 13, 1891, by County Judge R. L. Johnson. The petition signed by a majority of the electors of Alabam, Jones, and Harmony school districts, stipulated that the Berry Branch district could only be formed as long as it did not reduce any of the other dis-

tricts below thirty-five students. John McCuiston, John Berry, and G. W. Phillips were appointed as the first board of directors of the district.[559] The school was located in Range 25 West, Township 17 North, Section 20 approximately one mile south of Old Alabam on Berry Branch.

The small school building housed not only the school but served as a Christian Union Church in the early 1900's. The building contained the usual stage at the front of the room and the wall was painted black to serve as a blackboard. No desks were used in the room and benches served the needs of both church and school.

If money was available, a three-month term of school was held during the early 1900's. As this was not the usual case, school was typically held at Berry Branch in July and August with the students going to Alabam for a month. The school district was dissolved and annexed to the Alabam district on September 3, 1925.

Teachers at the Berry Branch school were: 1901, Charlie T. Mitchell; 1902, W. H. Benson; 1903, Zella Miller; 1904, F. W. Patrick; 1905, Dave B. Newton; 1906, F. W. Patrick; 1907-1908, Ward Kendall; 1909, C. T. Mitchell; 1910, W. S. Page; 1911, Mable Beddington; 1912, T. E. Berry; 1913, Ruth Berry; 1914-1915, Lester Cline; 1916, Ara Morrison; 1917, Frank Dillahunty; 1918, Maymie Thomas; 1919-

[559] Ibid., 331.

1920, Ruby Wheeler; 1921, Mack Burkett; 1922, No school; 1923, Grason Phillips; 1924-1925, Mable Hudspeth.

Members of the board of directors of the district were: John MCuiston, John Berry, G. W. Phillips, W. G. Baughman, William King, T. P. McCuiston, Irvin Vaughn, W. J. Eddins, Steve Harwood, S. J. Wilson, and Robert McCuiston.

Easterling Creek District No. 111

The Easterling Creek school district, also known as Antioch or Pleasant Hill, was established on July 14, 1891, by County Judge R. L. Johnson. The county court ordered the district created from parts of the McConnell and Aurora school districts as these two districts had an enrollment in excess of 180 students. The court further ordered that the district could only remain in existence as long as the district contained at least 50 students.[560] D. E. Coon, Horace Long, and J. L. Clark were appointed by Judge Johnson as the first board of directors of the district.

Interestingly enough, the enumeration of 1892 listed exactly 50 students in the district; the exact number required to keep the district alive. By 1900, the enumeration had fallen to 38 students. However, Judge Johnson was no longer in office and the 50-student requirement was

[560] Ibid., 344.

apparently ignored by County Judge Baker. The district was dissolved on April 7, 1921, and annexed to the McConnell's Chapel and Aurora districts.

Pleasant Hill or Easterling Creek School - c. 1900

Teachers at the Easterling Creek school were: 1901, H. R. Williams; 1902, Grace Bolinger; 1903, Walter Long; 1904, Emma McNew; 1905, Walter Ledbetter; 1906, Arlie Guinn; 1907, Walter Ledbetter; 1908-1909, Ira Boatright; 1910, Everett Spurlock; 1911, Walter Ledbetter; 1912-1913, Clay McBroom; 1914, Ollie Greer; 1915, Walter Long; 1916, Julia Rice; 1917, Eula Parker; 1918, Ethel Haney; 1919, Ottis Seals; 1920, Ethel Haney; 1921, J. B. Harris.

Persons listed as having served on the board of directors of the district were: D. E. Coon, Horace Long, J. L. Clark, A. B. Cox, Jerry Haney, Tom Officer, Oscar Officer, W. J. McBroom, Sam Haney, B. M. Rainey, and J. A. Boatright.

Withrow District No. 112

The Withrow school district was established on October 1, 1891, by order of the county court upon the petition of 70 electors of the area.[561] The district was located in and around modern day Withrow Springs State Park with the schoolhouse standing approximately 500 feet north of the spring.

The enumeration of 1892 listed 41 students in the district. By 1900, the enumeration had increased slightly to 44 and a 3-mill tax was levied by the county court to support the district. The following year, a petition was presented to the court advising the court that the 3-mill tax was never adopted at the annual school meeting and the court ordered the tax collection to cease and ordered a refund to those who had paid the tax.[562] Accusations of impropriety on the part of the board of directors for advising the county court that a tax had been passed when in reality it had not, caused many hard feelings in the district for some years. In 1903, the district did not meet for its annual school meeting and the county court had to appoint T. F. Marshall to serve on the board of directors.

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[561] Ibid., 372.

[562] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. H, 1901, 93.

The next several years were difficult for the school as the district could not operate on the revenues apportioned from the common school fund based on the enumeration of 44 students. In order to increase the enumeration of the district, the directors apparently attempted to enumerate some of the students in the neighboring Forum district which led to further appeals to the county court to firmly establish the boundary lines between the two districts.

Enrollment during the 1930's and 1940's never exceeded 16 students in any year. The average enrollment during this period was 14 with an average daily attendance of 11. The district was dissolved and annexed to the Huntsville district on August 2, 1941.

Withrow Schoool – 1913, Cam Montgomery, teacher

Teachers at the Withrow school were: 1901, J. R. Stotts; 1902-1903, Martha Ivie; 1904, Kate Massie; 1905, Gordon Hawkins; 1906, Mollie McCurry; 1907, J. W. McKibbins; 1908, Mollie McCurry; 1909-1910, Katie Southerland; 1911, Ollie Withrow; 1912, Annie Houston; 1913, Cam Montgomery; 1914, Ruth McLoud; 1915, Fannie Fritts; 1916, Ova Phillips; 1917, Mable Litterell; 1918, Ova Philips; 1919, Mable Phillips; 1920, Mary Phillips; 1921, Alma Berry; 1922, John Miller; 1923, Henry L. Thompson; 1924, Clara Hooper; 1925, Elpha Boyd; 1926, Clara Hooper; 1927, Eula Callaway; 1928, Cleo A. Fowler; 1929-1930, Amo Harris; 1931, Helen Tankersly; 1932-1933, Earline Vaughn; 1934, Wilda McConnell; 1935-1936, Beulah Stroud; 1937-1938, Herman Turner; 1939-1940, Mrs. Jim Bohannon.

Persons having served on the board of directors of the district were: J. H. Withrow, J. K. McLoud, J. B. McLoud, C. F. Cox, Labe Jones, T. F. Marshall, A. A. Price, Marshall Brown, Roscoe Cox, Will Baker, Everett McLoud, A. E. McLoud, Otto Calico, and Robert McLoud.

Highway District No. 113

The Highway school district was established on October 18, 1891, by order of the county court upon the petition of twenty-three registered voters. The district was located in Range 26 West, Township 14 North, Section 14. The district

boundaries were extended by a county court order in July, 1895.[563]

The enumeration of 1900 listed only 39 students in the district with a 5-mill tax being levied by the district. Enrollment in the district averaged 25 students during the 1930's with a reported average enumeration of 48. Enrollment during the 1940's dropped rapidly and the district petitioned the county board of education for dissolution and annexation to Saint Paul on July 29, 1948.

Highway School c. 1940

[563] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. E, 397.

Highway School, 1936

Back row: Ova Bryant; Thelma Marrs; Faye Petree; James Dennis; Virgie Bryant; Cecil Smith; Bob Morris

Middle; Alta Bryant; Otis Hoskins; Melba Holland; Imogene Samples; Maxine Smith; unknown; Lorene Hoskins

Front: Ewell Dennis; Aaron Samples; ____ Mix; Maggie Morris; Junior Smith; Kathleen Samples; Maxine Bryant; Fern Petree; Wayne Holland; unknown; Loyd Mix, Teacher

Teachers at Highway school district were: 1901, Edith White; 1902, Bertha Casewell; 1903, M. A. Burklow; 1904, William Stapleton; 1905, Maggie Woods; 1906, John Stapleton; 1907, John Burnett; 1908-1909, Ed Anderson; 1910-1911, Wavie White; 1912, Mable Beddingfield; 1913-1915, Myrtle Cornett; 1916, James Cowan; 1917, Kelly Cornett; 1918, Luther Cowan; 1919-1920, Bessie Johnson; 1921, Earl Williams; 1922, Fannie Hooper; 1923, Muriel Reed; 1924, Essie Barker; 1925, Hazel Ricketts; 1926, No school; 1927, W. C. Gilstrap; 1928-1931, Polly Hubbard; 1932, Jack Haskins; 1933-1934, Polly Hubbard;

1935, Katherine Lucy; 1936, Henry Todd; 1937, Jessie Ayers; 1938, Lloyd Mix; 1939-1940, Hazel Mix; 1941, Mona Mix; 1942, Jessie Ayers; 1943, Walter Long; 1944, Fannie Phillips; 1945-1947, Bessie Cornett.

Persons listed as having served on the board of directors of the district were: Elmer Bryant, J. F. Petree, W. W. Grable, Levi Bivens, E. J. Weaver, Doc Bryant, Earl Ogden, W. B. Bryant, G. R. Dawson, E. E. Holland, Hosea Pharris, R. M. Morris, Earl Bryant, C. N. Laningham, Jess Bryant, C. O. Masterson, Bill Haskins, Virgil Wages, and Cecil Tadlock.

New Home District No. 114

The New Home school district was established on October 18, 1891, by County Judge R. L. Johnson. The district was located in Range 24 West, Township 14 North approximately two miles east of Boston.[564]

The district listed no students in the enumeration of 1892 but by 1900, the district census reflected 57 students and a 5-mill tax being levied. Movement of students in and out of the district during a school term created a problem for the district during the depression. In 1932, the total enrollment of the school for the 100-day term was 44 students with an average daily membership of 36 and an

[564] Ibid., 463.

average daily attendance of 29. This indicates that approximately 20 percent of the students entered the district after the school term began and may account for the failure of 19 of the 44 students of the school during that term. The following year, 1933, the enrollment statistics were about the same with only 18 of the 40 enrolled students being promoted to the next grade.[565] Enrollment steadily decreased during the late 1930's and 1940's from a high of 44 in 1932 to a low of 18 in 1946. The school district was consolidated with Saint Paul on June 2, 1949 although it appears that no terms were taught at the school after 1945.

Teachers at New Home were: 1900, James Adams; 1901, J. D. Hughes; 1902, Myrtle Baker; 1903, J. Ed Price; 1904, Fred Hughes; 1905, W. S. Page; 1906-1907, No school; 1908, Fannie Patton; 1909, Golda Barber, Mable Ricketts; 1910, Noah Patton; 1911, Beulah Southerland; 1912, Dan Barber; 1913-1914, Rose Williams; 1915, Rose Smith; 1916, J. P. Reynolds; 1917, Rebecca Clark; 1918, J. P. Reynolds; 1919, Mable Ricketts; 1920, Mabel Smith; 1921, Joe M. Rice; 1922, Charlie Sylvis; 1923, Homer Barker; 1924, Fannie Evans; 1925, Olena Friend; 1926, Alberta Smith; 1927, Troy Lane; 1928, Charles A. Sparks; 1929-1930, Charlia Bryant; 1931, Kate Fancher; 1932, Florence Barker; 1933, Kate Fancher;

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[565] Arkansas School Record Book and Register, School District No. 114, Madison County, Arkansas, 1930-1940.

1934, Lillian Steele; 1935, Gladys Barker; 1936, Fannie Evans; 1937, Louise Cook; 1938, Jessie Ayers; 1939, Maxine Burnett; 1940, Louise Williams; 1941, Hazel Smith; 1942, Alma Ayers; 1943, Elizabeth Smith; 1944, Kate Fancher; 1945, Hazel Smith.

New Home School c. 1909

New Home school between Boston and Red Star c. 1900

Persons who served on the board of directors of the school district were: S. P. Smith, C. M. Hall, H. A. Thomas, J. H. Smith, Joe Durrell, John Woodward, Bill Embry, J. A. Bryant, H. M. Johnson, J. R. Johnson, John Embry, William Barnes, R. C. Johnson, Edd Johnson, Orville Smith, and E. O. Johnson.

Atkins District No. 115

The Atkins school district was established on July 18, 1892, by County Judge R. L. Johnson. The district was located on Whittmore Mountain just north of Saint Paul in Range 26 West Township 14 North, Section 20.[566] The district was one of the most short-lived districts in the county being established in 1892 and dissolved in 1903.

The district used a small church building for the school which was located adjacent to a cemetery. There is no record that any school was held there after 1900 and no district warrants were issued by the county treasurer after that date. It appears that the Saint Paul school district currently holds title to the property belonging to the Atkins district.

Walnut Grove District No. 116

Another short-lived school district in Madison County was the Walnut Grove district which was established on July 11, 1893, upon the petition of N. J. Carlock and others. The district was to run from "the mouth of Reeds Creek down War Eagle to the mouth of Whorton Creek."[567] D. L. Bolinger,

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[566] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. E, 1892, 496.

[567] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. F, 1893, 49.

Freeman Skaggs, and F. D. Shade were appointed as the first board of directors.

The district was dissolved on September 3, 1901, after nine years of existence and attached to the Jones and Lower Whorton Creek school districts. The only known teachers of the school were: 1900-1901, Nelson J. Carlock; 1902, Mary Boatright.

Oak Grove District No. 117

The Oak Grove school district was established on July 11, 1893, and was the eastern most school district in the county being located in Range 23 West, Township 16 North. The district was created from sections of the Kingston and Short Cove school districts.[568] John Thomas, S. Thomas, and P. M. Gurley were appointed as the first board of directors of the school district.

The enumeration of the district in 1900 listed 36 students and a 5-mill tax levied by the district. The enrollment of the school averaged 27 students during the 1930's and 1940's with an average daily attendance of 23. In 1940, the enrollment of the school was 28 students and the year ended with 18 being promoted and 10 being retained.

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[568] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. F, 1893, 55.

Oak Gove School District No. 117 - 1933
back row left to right:
Pearl Root, Lottie Eoff, Alice King, Ula McCollough, Elza Bunch, Teacher;
Maria Knight, Gladys Bowen, Drucilla McCollough, Lois Eoff, Atrel Bowen,
Alice Puryear

2nd. row:
Verma Lee Eoff, Freda Root, Leroy Wesley (Jack) Eoff,
Kenner King, Melvin McCollough

seated:
Boyd King, Chester Knight, unknown, Dennis Eoff,
Carlton Potter, Ernest Bowen, _____,
Olen Bowen, Jim Bowen

Teachers at Oak Grove were: 1900, W. B. Stephens; 1901, Ethyl Harper; 1902-1904, J. T. Whitely; 1905, Walcie Smith; 1906, Benton Smith; 1907, Will Bohannon; 1908, No school; 1909, Vergie Bunch; 1910, No school; 1911-1912, Nealie Grigg; 1913-1914, Ava Bradshaw; 1915, Minnie Boydston; 1916, Norman Boomer; 1917, Leo Bunch; 1918-1919, Ethel Sanders; 1920, G. W. Forrest; 1921, Bessie Slaven; 1922, Nettie Grigg; 1923, J. B. Bradshaw; 1924, W. C. Houston; 1925, Ethel Sanders; 1926, Millie Stout; 1927, Margaret E. Morris; 1928, Millie Bradshaw; 1929, Margaret

Bolinger; 1930, Flossie Cook; 1931, Joe Maxwell; 1932-1933, Elza Bunch; 1934, Sam Bunch; 1935, J. B. Bunch; 1936, Wilma Steele; 1937, Lois Clark; 1938, Glenn McCollough; 1939, Herman Turner; 1940, Augusta Coger.

Persons listed as having served on the board of directors of the district were: John Bowen, R. T. Mitchell, W. H. Frazier, J. N. Wiggins, J. T. Stiles, J. R. Scroggins, M. C. Eoff, H. G. Eoff, H. J. Lane, Bob Scroggins, H. T. Land, J. M. Coger, R. A. Boen, J. R. Root, E. M. King, C. L. Oxford, Wylie Eoff, Jewel Smith, J. W. Brown, Claude Stout, and Alvin Rogers. The district was consolidated with Kingston on October 25, 1941.

Bayley District No. 118

The Bayley school district was established on September 26, 1893, by County Judge J. T. Stroud and was located in Range 26 West, Township 14 North just south of the Ball Creek road and State Highway 23 south. The district was within two miles of the Highway and Atkins districts.

The enumeration of the district in 1900 listed 28 students and a 5-mill tax levy. Attendance at the school never exceeded 15 students and was attended primarily by

students of the Bayley family.[569] The district was dissolved and annexed to the Highway district on March 3, 1926.

From "Days at Bayley School" by M. E. Oliver, printed in *The Ozark Mountaineer* magazine:

> **"In every community each generation of young people seem to have a natural desire to advance and move forward in a new world. Traditional superstitions sometimes referred to as fogeyism, witchcraft, or spiritualism, couples together with things performed to produce good or bad luck, brought about as inherent desire to rid themselves of such superstitions and to create a new atmosphere of thinking.**
>
> **My parents often told me of the changing times, the change from starting a fire with a flint rock to a match; the change from the torch light to a coal-oil lamps; from a homemade peg shoe to a manufactured boot and from a homemade ox cart to a Springfield wagon. They were very definite in their opinion that we had advanced more in their lifetime than had any generation prior to that time.**
>
> **So it was with us children when we first attended a three month school at the old Bayley school far back in the hills in the year of 1896. We would**

[569] Arkansas School Record Book and Register, School District No. 118, Madison County, Arkansas, 1920-1925.

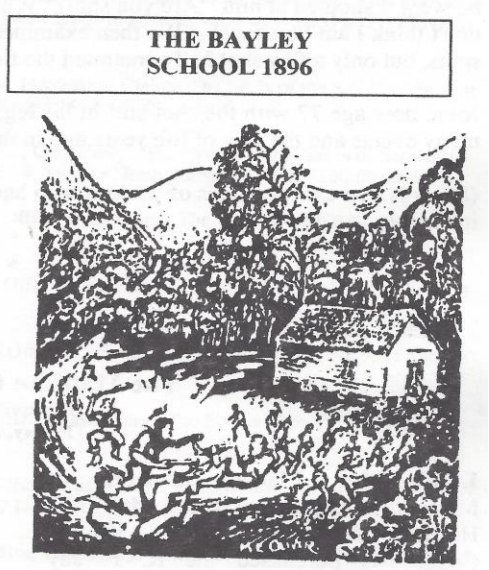
leave home early in the morning with lunch pails filled with cornbread, bacon, onions and sorghum molasses. We traveled barefoot over rough rocky roads and paths for one to three miles.

At school, we were a rough and tumble, go-lucky sort. We delighted in rolling large stones down the steep hillside, cutting grape vines at the ground and using them to swing out over the tree tops that stood on lower ground. We climbed small slender trees or saplings, swung out from the top and rode them to the ground. You have probably heard of the fellow who grew one leg longer than the other from walking on the hillside. This did not happen to us, but some of the small trees never did grow straight after we quit riding their tops to the ground.

The older boys played some good games of baseball. They made their bats and balls and followed some of their own rules, but for the most part the game was played very much as it is today. One day during noon recess a vicious fight occurred over a ball game between the Baker and Womack boys. They fought with baseball bats, rocks and knives. Both sides were brave and determined. It was the worse fight I have witnessed to this day.

Mrs. Elizabeth Stewart, a most talented woman, was the teacher. She stepped out in the middle of the fight and persuaded the boys to quit. The next day the school board met and decreed that three of the boys would have to take a whipping. The fourth one was over 21 years of age and was given a choice of taking the 10 lashes or quitting school. He accepted the lashes and the most interesting thing to me was watching this little lady administer a total of 40 lashes to the four boys, with a large long hickory withe. She was almost completely exhausted when she finished. This stopped the fighting in school, but the feud went on in the neighborhood for years.

I have made a pen and ink drawing, which will give you a fair idea of what the school house looked like and the impression I got of this fight when it occurred 70 years ago. The Bayley School House was located three miles northeast of St. Paul, Arkansas, and one and one-half miles east of the gap of the Whitmore Mountain. The stagecoach route from Ozark to Eureka Springs, Arkansas, passed by it. Now Highway 23 passes where it was located but a traveler would never notice that a community center was once there."



Teachers at the Bayley school were: 1901-1902, Fannie B. Walker; 1903-1904, Charles Bohannon; 1905, G. W. Cannon; 1906, Beulah Southerland; 1907, Estella Powers; 1908, John Burnett; 1909, Grace Kidwell; 1910, Vina Neal; 1911, Georgia Ledbetter; 1912, Sadie Neal; 1913, Harvey Johnson; 1914, No school; 1915, Gertie Wist; 1916, Pearl Burnett; 1917, Vida Williams; 1918, Bessie Cornett; 1919-1920, Eunie Cornett; 1921, Tressie Lane; 1922, Ruby Ricketts; 1923, Eula Baker; 1924, Ottis Drain.

Persons having served on the board of directors of the school district were: Samuel F. Bayley, A. S. Bayley, E. Cotter, J. J. Burnett, Pete Eubanks, and Lane Bayley.

Accident District No. 119

One of two school districts in the county with the same name, Accident district No. 119 was established on October 22, 1893, by the county court. The district was located two miles south of Pinnacle in Range 27 West, Township 14 North.

The enumeration of the district in 1900 listed 44 students with a 5-mill tax being levied. Enrollment during the 1930's and 1940's remained fairly constant with an average of 24 students being enrolled each year. For reasons unknown, the district would lose about one-half of its enrollment during the 100-day school term usually ending the term with approximately 14-16 students.[570] The last term of school held at Accident was in 1949 with an enrollment of 13 students and an average daily attendance of 10. The district was consolidated with Saint Paul on June 2, 1949.

Teachers at Accident school were: 1900, R. T. Anderson; 1901-1992, J. A. Carlock; 1903, J. C. Gage; 1904, W. L. Fritts; 1905, Walter Guinn; 1906, Dave Stewart; 1907, G. C. Stewart; 1908-1909, J. A. P. Vaughn; 1910, Dink Barber; 1911, J. A. P. Vaughn; 1912, Lillie Olinger; 1913, Lydia Cravens; 1914, Edward Osburn; 1915-1916, Noah Robbins; 1917, No school; 1918, Cloma Wittmire; 1919, Grace Grandstaff; 1920, Ruth Johnson; 1921, Fred Mix; 1922, Jess

[570] Arkansas School Record Book and Register, School District No. 119, Madison County, Arkansas, 1930-1949.

McCoy; 1923, Ottis Drain; 1924, Lloyd Mix; 1925, Howard Hankins; 1926, Frances Atha; 1927, Jessie Ayers; 1928, Henry F. Todd; 1929, Mable Montgomery; 1930, Thelma Ledford; 1931, Orval E. Faubus; 1932, Wade Guinn; 1933, W. J. Ledford; 1934, Clay Anderson; 1935, Nona Moody; 1936-1937, Nora Crawford; 1938, Alta Faubus; 1939, F. D. Faubus; 1940, Irene Drain; 1941, Helen Vanlandingham; 1942, No school; 1943, Leona Combs Layton; 1944-1946, Helen Vanlandingham; 1947, Fannie Phillips; 1948, Margaret Glenn.

Accident School #119, September 19, 1916 - Noah Robbins, Teacher

Back row, left to right: Belle Drain; Flora Hankins; Ida Drain; Clarence Drain; Floyd Hankins; Noah Robbins; Earl Hankins

2nd row: Ora Salsbury; Jasper Lacy; Hoyt Drain; Howard Hankins; Alice Thomas; Jeannie Hankins; Gertrude Hankins; Allie Thomas; Lester Hankins

3rd row: Duraff Drain; Alma Drain; Nolen Hankins; Olen Lacy; Clyde Hankins; Ethel Franklin; Bernice Hankins; Mildred Salsbury; Ruby Hankins; Ruth Hankins; Zola Lacy

Front row: Burl Hankins; Jesse Reed; Ollie Thomas; Raymond Hankins; Edward Thomas; Claud Lacy

Persons listed as having served on the board of directors of the district were: W. D. Smith, T. D. Martin, James Maloy, C. M. Massie, J. F. Thomas, J. M. Lacy, John Drain, C. D. Franklin, Charlie Hankins, C. S. Hawkins, T. J. Tackett, W. E. Couch, Floyd Hankins, A. W. Reed, Glenn McFee, Earnest Couch, and Raymond Davenport.

Accident School District No. 119, c. 1890. Man in rear wearing a black hat is James Marion Maloy, a school board member. Girl, 3rd from left, back row is Vadie Maloy.

Clifty District No. 120

The Clifty school district was created on October 13, 1894, from sections of the California school district and was located in Range 27 West, Township 18 North, Section 12.[571] County Judge J. D. Beavers appointed Ben Vaughn, E. M. Samuels, and M. P. Wisdom as the first board of directors of the district. The following year, a boundary dispute erupted between the Clifty and California school districts which ended with the changing of the boundaries of both school districts. Clifty was the only recorded district to charge the county for use of their facilities to hold general elections.[572]

The enumeration of 1900 listed 83 students in the district with a 5-mill tax being levied. Enrollment from 1920-1948 was unusually high for a relatively new school district. Enrollment and attendance figures for selected years at Clifty were:[573]

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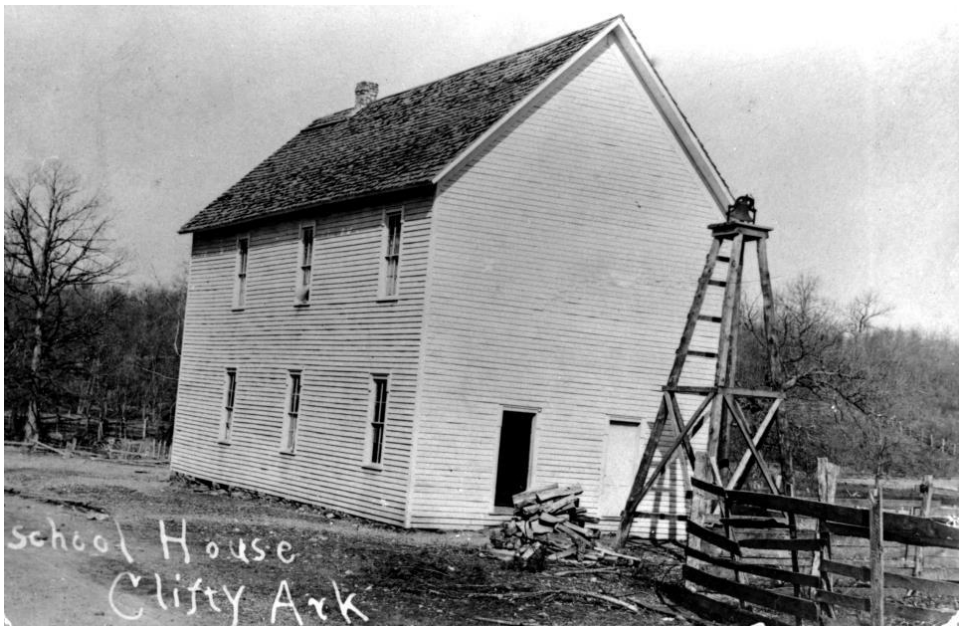
[571] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. F, 1894, 270.

[572] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. H, 1903, 393.

[573] Arkansas School Record Book and Register, School District No. 120, Madison County, Arkansas, 1920-1948.

Year	Enrollment	Average Daily Attendance
1925	72	48
1928	68	44
1933	61	40
1934	54	47
1937	48	32
1938	53	36
1946	44	27
1948	33	29



Teachers at Clifty were: 1900, C. F. Smith; 1901, Etta Howell; 1902, J. A. Donnell; 1903, D. B. Robinson, Jesse Bird; 1904, W. H. Brandy; 1905, J. B. Goddard; 1906, J. R. Freeman; 1907-1908, Edward Todd; 1909, Jesse Foust; 1910, Lillie Sanders; 1911-1912, Vard Ivie; 1913, G. W. Forrest;

1914, Edward Todd; 1915, Grace Oliver; 1916, Virgil Allison; 1917, Lloyd Cannon, Maggie Cook; 1918, H. L. Thompson, Edith Vaughn; 1919, Earl Wheeler, Loran Archer; 1920, G. M. Goucher; 1921, Robert Arnold, W. M. Goucher; 1922-1925, Jess McCoy; 1926, Henry F. Todd; 1927, D. B. Robinson; 1928, Howard Hankins; 1929, Jay P. Roberts; 1930-1931, Earline Vaughn; 1932-1933, Mark McKimmey; 1934, Ethel Phillips; 1935, Eula Calloway; 1936, Howard Hankins; 1937-1939, Eula Calloway; 1940, Eula Todd; 1941, Eula Worley; 1942-1943, Opal Hinds; 1944-1946, Margaret Luck; 1947, Fred Schiller; 1948, Helen Towns.

Back Row, left to right: unknown, Robert Lee Jones, Kenneth Neil Samuels, Ruth Vaughn,Martha Jones, Tommy Jones, Robbie Sandlin, Ruby Sandlin, Leroy Keeling, Mary Ruth Rogers, William Sandlin, Harvy Jean Hawkins, Jimmy Vaughn
Second Row: Clinton Crites, unknown, Jack Sharp, Fern Todd, Lucielle Hadley, Helen Ruth Keeling, Alma "Sis" Hadley, Doris Rogers, Bertha Jean Presley, unknown, Howard Hilton, E.J."Tator" Vaughn.
Third Row: Darlene Archer, Jean Gilmer, Doris Sharp,Lou Sharp, Lois Jones, Wanda Mae Hilton, Janita Archer, Dorothy Hadley, Bernice Ingram, Ruth Hadley, Bela Mae Vaughn; Eula Todd, Teacher
Front Row: Billy Sharp, unknown, Gerald Sharp, Charley Jones, Paul Ingram, Nathaniel Jones,
Shade Hadley

Persons having served on the board of directors of the district were: M. P. Wisdom, Fred Lothes, H. G. Vaughn, E. N. Samuels, C. F. Evans, Major Todd, Arthur Vaughn, J. M. Goddard, C. W. Mason, Bill Samuel, Charles Todd, A. F. Stafford, Delmar Roberts, Clyde Hadley, Wardlow B. Gilmer, and Elmer Robertson.

The district was consolidated with Huntsville on June 2, 1949. The county board planned to maintain a wing school at Clifty for a few years before moving all students to Huntsville. However, unexpected growth in the Huntsville district coupled with lack of facilities forced the continuation of school at Clifty until 1960. Due to overcrowding at the Clifty facility, some lower elementary students attended classes at West Liberty during this same period.

Bethel District No. 121

In 1886, John C. Bethel and eleven others petitioned the county court to form a new school district in Range 27 West, Township 16 North.[574] John Ledbetter, Ewell Smith, and Ely Yarbrough were appointed to be the school directors. For reasons unknown, a school was not established in the area and in January, 1888, County Judge M. D. Lucas ordered the district dissolved.

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[574] Arkansas School Record Book and Register, School District No. 121, Madison County, Arkansas, 1930-1940, 199.

On January 5, 1895, a petition was filed with the county court to re-establish the district which was to be located west of Huntsville in Range 27 West, Township 16 North between the Ferrell's Creek school district and the Cobb Creek school district on the property of John Bethel. The enumeration of the district was listed at 33 students, which during this period, usually translated into about a 35 percent enrollment or 11 students.

The Bethel district was in operation from 1895-1910. On October 12, 1910, a petition was filed with the county court to dissolve the district and annex it to Cobb Creek.

Teachers at the Bethel school were: 1901, W. T. Hinch; 1902, N. R. Williams; 1903, Walter Ledbetter; 1904, George Cannon; 1905, Mollie McCurry; 1906, J. R. Stotts; 1907, Ella McCurry; 1908, Fred Watson; 1909, Javan Hill; 1910, Walter Long.

Persons having served on the board of directors of the district were: H. C. Ledbetter, John Bethel, W. W. Ledbetter, A. B. Short, and Johnson Ledbetter.

Rocky Grove District No. 122

The Rocky Grove school district was established on January 5, 1895, by the county court. The district was located in Range 24 West, Township 14 North and was located

approximately two miles north of Red Star with the district extending into Newton County.

The enumeration of the district never exceeded the 37 students which were recorded in 1900. During the mid-1930's, the district enumeration only averaged 18 students per year. In 1933, the school term was only 47 days while the average term during the period for most county schools was 100 days. The school enrolled 21 students that year with only 7 being promoted.[575] Between 1900 and 1940, school was not held at Rocky Grove during seven of the forty years; more than any school district in the county. Due to its isolated status, poor financial support, and sparse population, the county board of education dissolved the district and annexed it to Sunny Hill school district No. 93 in Newton County on December 16, 1941.

Thought to be Rocky Grove c. 1903, Robert Reed teacher

[575] Ibid.

Teachers at Rocky Grove were: 1901, Robert Reed; 1902, W. S .Page; 1903, Robert Reed; 1904, Thomas Wheeler; 1905, Addie Powers; 1906, Ethel Sutton; 1907, Lewis Miller; 1908, Estella Powers; 1909-1910, Viloa Ryker; 1911-1912, Bessie Spears; 1913, No school; 1914, Rosa Whitmire; 1915, Charles Roberts; 1916, Cecil Jeter; 1917, Harold P. Teague; 1918, No school; 1919, Lona Whitmire; 1920-1921, No school; 1922, Nancy Smith; 1923, No school; 1924, Goldie Hudspeth; 1925, Eula Callaway; 1926, Mildred Callaway; 1927, Charlia Bryant; 1928, Mary Russell; 1929, C. C. Culbertson; 1930, Grace West; 1931-1932, No school; 1933, Dessie Everman; 1934, Voris Callaway; 1935, Maggie Hamilton; 1936-1937, August Coger; 1938-1939, Irene Vanlandingham; 1940, Frankie Carlton.

Persons having served on the board of directors of the district were: H. L. McFee, W. A. Carpenter, E. H. Wood, Luther Eaton, J. R. Beavers, R. C. Whitmire, James Eaton, M. L. Knight, J. E. Sparks, Willie Whitmire, J. W. McFarland, O. A. Light, J. G. Villines, and S. B. Eaton.

East Liberty District No. 123

The East Liberty school district, one of three districts in the county known as Liberty, was established on July 12, 1895. The district was located northeast of Kingston in Range 24 West, Township 16 North.

The enumeration of the district in 1900 was listed as 82 students with no local millage levied. In 1936, the district enumerated 45 students and in 1937, 47 were listed. The enrollment during the 1930's and 1940's averaged 35 students per year.[576]

Teachers at the East Liberty school were: 1900, W. O. New; 1901, W. B. Stephens; 1902, John W. King; 1903, Fannie Yarbrough; 1904, Thomas Wiggins; 1905, Myrtle Bunch; 1906, J. E. Casey; 1907, H. R. Kirby; 1908, Eva Bradshaw; 1909,

[576] Arkansas School Record Book and Register, School District No. 123, Madison County, Arkansas, 1930-1948.

Lela Montgomery; 1910-1911, Gertie Johnson; 1912, Nealy Grigg; 1913, Addis Faddis; 1914-1916, J. C. Dotson; 1917, L. W. Harrod; 1918, Eva Walker; 1919, Edna Bunch; 1920, Henry Griffith; 1921, J. B. Bunch; 1922-1923, Alice Bunch; 1924-1925, Kate Fancher; 1926, Gladys Stansell; 1927, Claude Johnson; 1928, Clint Suggs; 1929, Claude Johnson; 1930, Edna Bunch; 1931, Clarence Stamps; 1932-1934, John Bunch; 1935-1937, Glenn McCollough; 1938-1939, Elza Bunch; 1940-1941, Herman Turner; 1942, Irene Little; 1943, Gordon Bradshaw; 1944-1946, Hazel McCollough; 1947, Maxine Fancher; 1948, Christine Grigg.

Persons listed as having served on the board of directors of the district were: C. B. Bunch, S. B. Bunch, Jesse Maxwell, W. A. Davidson, Tom Smith, Henry Fancher, Cliff Suggs, Chess Bunch, Floyd Bunch, Clyde Sugg, J. B. Bunch, and C. R. Grigg. The district was consolidated with Kingston on February 28, 1949.

Bolinger (Valley Home) District No. 124

The Bolinger school district, also known as Valley Home, was established on July 16, 1897, by order of the county court upon the petition of Wilson Rose and 27 others. The district was formed from sections of the Burke school district and was located in Range 24 West, Township 15

North. Wilson Rose, M. M. Parker, and David Tucker were appointed as the first board of directors of the district.[577] The land for the school was donated to the district by R. M. and Louisa Smith and was located in Section 17 of the township.

(old school shedded as barn)

Teachers at Bolinger were: 1901, Florence Bolinger; 1902, Maude Basore; 1903, Omar McMinn; 1904, Robert Reed; 1905, Arthur Barker; 1906, Afton Wheeler; 1907, Fanny M. Smith; 1908, Mattie Reynolds; 1909, Kizie Gibson; 1910, Fanny M. Smith; 1911, Pearl Parker; 1912, No school; 1913, Ollie Montgomery; 1914, Addie Pharris; 1915-1916, Grace Tucker; 1917, Ralph Sutton; 1918-1919, Hazel Faubus; 1920, Grace Franklin; 1921, Lizzie Stamps; 1922, Stella Slavens; 1923, Lorin Brandenburg.

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[577] Records of the Madison County Court, Huntsville, Arkansas, Vol. G, 1897, 52.

Persons who served on the board of directors of the district were: R. M. Smith, J. M. Bolinger, Matthew Rose, A. S. Russell, T. B. Bollinger, J. T. Butts, T. T. Hobbs, J. M. Sparks, and Charlie Sparks. The district was consolidated with the Loy school district on June 12 1926.

Reynolds District No. 125

The Reynolds school district, the last district to be created in the county, was established on September 28, 1897, by County Judge H. L. Baker. The district was located in Range 25 West, Township 15 North due south of Upper Whorton Creek.

The enumeration of 1900 listed 38 students of school age in the district. The enumeration of 1936 listed 43 students in the district and 52 were listed in 1937.

Enrollment during the 1930's averaged 40 students per year with an average daily attendance of 29 students. By the 1940's, the enrollment began to fall with an average enrollment of 23 and an average daily attendance of 10 students.[578]

According to Mr. O. D. Easterling, teacher at Reynolds from 1943-1946, the school was mostly a family operation during this period. Most of the students were related to

[578] Arkansas School Record Book and Register, School District No. 125, Madison County, Arkansas, 1930-1948.

him and to each other. It was common for parents to visit the school during the lunch period and provide a picnic lunch for all. After lunch, a game of baseball with the parents, teacher, and students was common place. On days when parents did not visit, lunch was usually eaten near the

Reynolds School - 1922
Polly Hubbard, teacher; Dorothy Coble; Fannie Reynolds; Aggie Mullins; Maggie Mullins; Sylvia Reynolds.

Front Row: Goldie Reynolds; Bessie Coble; Edith Davis; Marie Walker; Tommy Reynolds; Fawn Reynolds.

rock wall on one side of the building and students entertained themselves with such games as "wolf over the ridge" and "stink base."[579]

[579] O. D. Easterling, interview, retired teacher in Madison County, Huntsville, Arkansas, January 1991.

In 1942, the district increased in size with the annexation of the Shady Grove school district. However, very few students lived in the Shady Grove district and the enumeration and enrollment of the Reynolds school district changed little. On March 21, 1949, the county board dissolved the Reynolds school district and consolidated it with Huntsville.[580]

Teachers at the Reynolds school were: 1900, W. T. Hinch; 1901, H. R. Williams; 1902-1903, Vista McNew; 1904-1905, Luther Gaylor; 1906, W. D. Russell; 1907-1908, Mattie Reynolds; 1909, O. L. Daily; 1910, J. C. Dotson; 1911, Fannie Smith; 1912, Archie Miller; 1913-1914, Sarah Steele Garton; 1915, Sarah Hutchinson; 1916, W. M. Goucher; 1917-1918, Clora Parker; 1919, Edith Haney; 1920, L. Hayes; 1921, Trella Lane; 1922, Pollie Hubbard; 1923, Vera Taylor; 1924, Mary Haynes; 1925, Dalton Dotson; 1926, Otto Stamps; 1927, Callie Gray; 1928, Henry F. Todd; 1929, Katie Austin; 1930, Daisy Russell; 1931, Callie Gray Harris; 1932, Chess Bunch; 1933-1934, Myrtle Hawkins; 1935, Lily Seals; 1936-1938, Ewell Easterling; 1939, Gladys Vanhook; 1940, Robert Reed, 1941, Eula Parson; 1942, Narene Seals; 1943-1946, O. D. Easterling, 1947, Bonnie Bolinger; 1948, J. C. Hacker.

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[580] Minutes and Proceedings of the Madison County Board of Education, Huntsville, Arkansas, March 21, 1949.

Persons listed as having served on the board of directors for the district were: Tom Reynolds, A. J. Reynolds, Joe McKnight, W. S. Hayes, F. M. Shuster, T. F. Reynolds, J. H. Lyman, John L. Carter, Claude Stout, G. B. Walker, John Keck, Walter Walker, C. W. Carpenter, H. L. Easterling, Ellis Keck, Tommie Reynolds, and Steve Lyman.

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65, Madison County, Arkansas, 1930-1948.

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A

Abner, 57, 195, 489, 490
Acord, 515, 518, 528
Acree, 425
Adair, 31, 198, 199
Adams, 57, 195, 279, 383, 395, 437, 440, 486, 549, 561, 585
Ahart, 472, 552
Albertson, 269
Albright, 549, 550
Alderson, 332, 334, 470
Allen, 103, 270, 284, 295, 380, 390, 403, 404, 431, 432, 436, 490
Allison, 488, 593
Allred, 277
Ames, 363
Amos, 224, 247, 327, 392, 486, 566
Anderson, 247, 251, 262, 272, 284, 326, 370, 397, 398, 422, 426, 432, 437, 448, 450, 452, 455, 466, 483, 493, 526, 528, 539, 545, 549, 551, 564, 565, 566, 576, 583, 590
Andrews, 177
Anthony, 362
Applegate, 435
Archer, 287, 532, 593
Arnold, 320, 327, 377, 521, 593
Atha, 383, 500, 555, 557, 564, 591, 607
attendance, 11, 17, 18, 67, 102, 105, 106, 107, 120, 129, 149, 157, 158, 159, 160, 179, 210, 220, 225, 226, 228, 231, 239, 244, 256, 276, 278, 289, 296, 313, 315, 316, 318, 332, 369, 379, 382, 399, 400, 407, 412, 416, 422, 445, 447, 449, 455, 460, 466, 473, 481, 485, 487, 494, 497, 499, 501, 502, 512, 513, 516, 521, 523, 527, 529, 531, 533, 536, 538, 544, 547, 548, 551, 553, 556, 558, 560, 565, 567, 570, 575, 576, 581, 584, 587, 590, 592, 601
Austin, 49, 287, 293, 326, 330, 364, 367, 393, 395, 396, 408, 415, 417, 435, 439, 455, 503, 562, 603
average teacher salary, 167, 168, 169
Ayers, 383, 386, 422, 433, 441, 455, 464, 503, 536, 539, 540, 541, 549, 575, 583, 585, 591

B

Babcock, 303
Baber, 247, 262, 269, 270, 333
Badgley, 557
Baggett, 437
Bailey, 293, 294, 331, 370, 399, 426, 455, 461, 551
Baker, 246, 287, 324, 370, 377, 410, 411, 472, 484, 486, 490, 524, 533, 560, 579, 582, 585, 589, 601, 608, 616
Baldwin, 69, 83, 85, 139, 180, 262, 283, 284, 285, 488, 490, 553
Ball, 85, 139, 226, 227, 298, 383, 386, 487, 519, 534, 535, 536, 537, 552, 568, 589
Ballard, 386, 446, 453, 488
Baltimore, 490
Bandeen, 215, 508
Banks, 422
Barber, 103, 284, 432, 434, 466, 518, 559, 560, 585, 590
Barker, 274, 293, 305, 312, 326, 330, 362, 364, 390, 409, 426, 434, 437, 446, 455, 461, 466, 471, 472, 476, 479, 483, 486, 514, 526, 528, 537, 541, 549, 552, 557, 559, 560, 561, 565, 566, 570, 575, 583, 585, 600
Barnes, 224, 247, 303, 329, 330, 362, 391, 437, 460, 484, 486, 530, 585
Barron, 388, 390, 434, 472
Basham, 247, 269, 310
Basore, 364, 600
Bass, 254, 255, 262, 367
Bateman, 52
Baughman, 578
Bauher, 554
Bayles, 285, 434
Bayley, 86, 589
Beard, 386, 396, 409
Beaver, 574
Beavers, 519, 591, 597
Bedingfield, 316, 334, 366, 398, 470, 498, 504, 570
Bell, 113, 117, 178, 246, 274, 283, 312, 327, 331, 336, 380, 383, 420, 450, 452, 453, 487, 488, 496, 500, 511, 521, 527, 564, 608
Benson, 292, 334, 370, 389, 390, 422, 493, 578
Berry, 21, 23, 26, 30, 32, 33, 48, 52, 55, 62, 77, 86, 193, 246, 267, 287, 290, 293, 317, 323, 337, 396, 445, 453, 470, 476, 482, 508, 509, 510, 535, 536, 546, 574, 577, 578, 581, 608
Bethel, 86, 438, 494, 496, 594, 595
Bird, 178, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 221, 246, 315, 431, 452, 466, 472, 508, 593
Bird College, 200, 204, 205, 206, 213
Bivens, 285, 411, 432, 490, 583
Black, 576
Blake, 317
Bland, 287, 377
Blankenship, 178, 267, 269, 276, 367, 444, 500, 553
Blevins, 390, 490, 523, 551

Boatright, 52, 227, 228, 246, 269, 270, 277, 303, 326, 330, 362, 380, 411, 417, 425, 439, 460, 470, 479, 530, 554, 579, 580, 587
Boen, 434, 575, 588
Boggan, 362
Bohannon, 69, 83, 135, 274, 277, 281, 282, 283, 295, 298, 303, 305, 311, 323, 330, 334, 366, 380, 396, 399, 426, 437, 470, 479, 482, 495, 510, 511, 532, 534, 536, 539, 545, 546, 554, 568, 575, 582, 588, 589
Bohlen, 102, 177, 227
Bolinger, 87, 177, 246, 272, 279, 280, 304, 362, 374, 392, 394, 396, 401, 402, 408, 413, 473, 549, 561, 579, 586, 588, 599, 600, 601, 603
Bookard, 435
Booker, 491
Boomer, 408, 588
Boone, 66, 67, 252, 410, 422, 532
Bouher, 338, 339, 340, 341, 344, 355, 360
Bowen, 49, 192, 394, 496, 497, 588
Bowlin, 287, 377, 576
Bowling, 515
Bowman, 280, 287, 383, 564
Boyd, 27, 282, 298, 312, 336, 367, 380, 398, 406, 419, 431, 476, 479, 495, 500, 518, 521, 537, 541, 542, 577, 582, 610
Boydston, 313, 362, 364, 374, 435, 498, 530, 533, 570, 588
Bradley, 439
Bradshaw, 364, 393, 439, 448, 498, 570, 588, 598
Bragg, 318, 437
Branches Taught, 74
Brandenberg, 374, 464
Brandenburg, 314, 394, 396, 409, 413, 417, 493, 498, 543, 551, 576, 600
Brandy, 593
Brannan, 334
Branning, 552
Brannon, 552
Brashears, 270, 370, 402, 403, 410, 411, 422, 433, 434, 448, 449, 463, 483, 490, 493, 519, 522, 523, 551, 577
Bray, 378, 406, 422
Brick Church, 340, 341, 342, 355, 361, 608
Brightwell, 284
Brink, 493, 576
Brodie, 198, 205
Brooks, 246, 312, 327, 521
Brougher, 390
Brown, 9, 232, 234, 239, 276, 320, 334, 437, 445, 479, 518, 521, 532, 554, 574, 582, 588, 619
Broyles, 453
Bryant, 323, 334, 472, 476, 503, 526, 541, 542, 549, 562, 575, 583, 585, 597
Buchannan, 470, 500, 528, 541
Buck, 285, 422, 433, 448, 449, 483, 551, 559, 565
Bunch, 295, 314, 330, 362, 364, 374, 416, 570, 588, 598, 599, 603
Burden, 531
Burgess, 442, 446, 486
Burk, 280, 314, 409, 439, 503
Burke, 70, 84, 137, 267, 367, 393, 406, 407, 408, 409, 542, 543, 599
Burkett, 326, 530, 578
Burklow, 431, 432, 583
Burnett, 318, 323, 411, 431, 454, 455, 466, 476, 483, 509, 526, 537, 541, 549, 559, 564, 575, 583, 585, 589
Burney, 31, 438, 498
Burns, 49, 295, 540, 542
Burrell, 391, 524
Burton, 364
Burwell, 576
Bushman, 411
Butler, 484, 501, 514, 553, 570
Butts, 295, 326, 461, 601
Bybee, 49
Byford, 524
Byrd, 448, 464

C

Cable, 518
Cain, 226, 227, 228, 326, 392, 418, 530
Caine, 422, 483
Caldwell, 198, 430, 470
Calhoun, 451, 484
Calico, 269, 295, 312, 320, 327, 367, 377, 380, 398, 399, 406, 433, 479, 500, 502, 530, 564, 582
Callaway, 395, 434, 514, 518, 549, 559, 561, 575, 582, 597
Calloway, 413, 431, 450, 455, 466, 476, 493, 502, 546, 565, 593
Calwell, 317, 363
Cameron, 532
Campbell, 242, 247, 293, 318, 420, 527, 540
Canes, 298
Cannaday, 178, 247, 254, 262, 264, 269, 293, 302, 303, 326, 334, 377, 426, 435, 450, 477, 478, 479, 508, 513, 546, 553, 609
Cannon, 282, 294, 309, 311, 327, 385, 440, 492, 493, 495, 521, 539, 589, 593, 595
Carbitt, 328
Carlock, 89, 90, 177, 279, 305, 316, 366, 391, 392, 400, 479, 500, 531, 545, 557, 565, 586, 587, 590
Carlton, 285, 464, 597
Carpenter, 597, 603
Carroll, 34, 66, 67, 134, 251, 252, 255, 313, 330, 370, 452, 482, 485, 493, 529, 539, 550, 565, 571
Carter, 312, 418, 441, 508, 568, 603
Casell, 431
Casewell, 583

Casey, 393, 408, 416, 443, 457, 467, 471, 519, 527, 575, 598
Casteel, 411, 422, 432, 434, 461, 463, 565
Castleberry, 514
Castor, 539
Caswell, 412, 541
Cate, 317
Cathey, 527
Chamberland, 434
Chappell, 470, 509
Childress, 367
Chuck, 457
Chumley, 274
Circuit Superintendent, 65, 67, 72, 177
Clark, 23, 191, 223, 247, 309, 311, 312, 323, 363, 390, 392, 399, 450, 457, 466, 470, 502, 508, 509, 511, 514, 522, 526, 527, 528, 533, 541, 543, 546, 550, 574, 576, 577, 579, 580, 585, 588
Clayton, 66, 68, 71, 72, 74, 177
Cline, 314, 330, 363, 392, 401, 402, 437, 482, 530, 578
Cloer, 367
Cluck, 226, 271, 297, 309, 310, 414, 415, 441, 473, 474, 493, 559
Cobb, 85, 103, 140, 282, 380, 406, 450, 451, 453, 488, 496, 519, 520, 521, 564, 595
Coger, 246, 270, 271, 274, 295, 312, 314, 330, 364, 391, 482, 491, 501, 530, 533, 534, 554, 588, 597
Cole, 390, 536, 567
Coleman, 375, 464, 472, 490, 517, 518
Collins, 306, 493
Colville, 532
Combs, 70, 83, 138, 142, 246, 269, 274, 284, 362, 364, 368, 383, 387, 388, 389, 390, 396, 410, 411, 422, 431, 432, 435, 448, 462, 463, 466, 470, 483, 493, 498, 503, 509, 519, 522, 523, 524, 535, 536, 539, 540, 549, 556, 557, 576, 591, 610, 612
Conley, 423, 433, 453, 488, 496
consolidation, 11, 13, 104, 105, 106, 120, 127, 142, 143, 144, 325, 389, 416, 450, 514
Consolidation, 105, 127
Constitution of 1874, 77
Conway, 33, 34, 43, 207, 252, 433, 609
Cook, 103, 275, 276, 285, 286, 287, 295, 320, 363, 367, 377, 394, 408, 444, 445, 446, 490, 512, 513, 514, 518, 530, 532, 534, 541, 543, 549, 562, 571, 585, 588, 593, 609
Coon, 503, 579, 580
Copeland, 576
Cornett, 269, 282, 285, 293, 305, 312, 370, 404, 411, 413, 431, 432, 435, 437, 463, 466, 472, 490, 503, 518, 526, 528, 551, 557, 559, 562, 565, 576, 583, 589
Couch, 383, 493, 552, 557, 591
Counts, 267, 274, 380, 406, 453, 494, 496, 500
county examiner, 79, 81, 82, 90, 102, 106, 107, 108, 125, 150, 175, 176, 181, 183, 276, 302, 410
Cowan, 411, 413, 441, 455, 472, 475, 476, 503, 528, 541, 542, 549, 575, 583
Cowen, 285
Cox, 324, 426, 473, 502, 515, 580, 582
Craig, 532, 533
Cravens, 565, 590
Crawford, 182, 252, 309, 398, 411, 414, 434, 472, 532, 550, 554, 559, 575, 591
Creech, 493
Creekmore, 552
Crow, 282, 303, 312, 327, 329, 331, 336, 437, 496
Crumley, 295, 450
Crumpacker, 422, 464, 472
Cullins, 269
Culwell, 420

D

Dabney, 86, 390, 433, 447, 448, 449, 523, 565, 576
Dackey, 336
Dailey, 362, 396, 445, 446
Daily, 163, 277, 279, 300, 309, 415, 460, 493, 513, 547, 592, 602
Daniels, 337
Darrey, 312
Davenport, 19, 362, 557, 591, 609
Davis, 49, 193, 267, 282, 285, 312, 317, 323, 331, 335, 366, 391, 406, 409, 411, 426, 431, 433, 446, 460, 482, 508, 521, 526, 528, 529, 532, 534, 568
Deaton, 464, 577
Degan, 367
Delk, 292, 318, 321, 419, 426, 457, 609
Delozier, 269
Dempsey, 287, 550
Denney, 287, 325, 425, 439, 511
Dennis, 415, 437, 457, 474
Denny, 289, 293
Denton, 90, 420
Derie, 402
Derry, 433
Dillahunty, 326, 578
Dilts, 337
Dimitt, 475
Dixon, 391, 433, 455, 472, 476, 484, 503, 542, 550
Doak, 374, 439
Dockery, 551
Dodson, 437
Donnell, 425, 435, 501, 531, 545, 553, 573, 593
Donnelly, 530
Dorsey, 312, 336, 375, 394, 399, 496
Doss, 435, 502
Dotson, 226, 270, 272, 277, 279, 280, 293, 298, 326, 395, 417, 426, 442, 446, 482, 500, 532, 561, 598, 602
Doty, 413, 415

Drain, 295, 383, 406, 486, 523, 528, 538, 540, 557, 589, 591
Drake, 229, 256, 314, 317, 318, 327, 367, 380, 387, 390, 405, 406, 419, 441, 456, 471, 474, 494, 495, 500, 515, 520, 521, 523, 536, 539, 542, 560, 562, 564, 566
Dudgeon, 226, 385, 415, 488, 568
Dugger, 550
Dunaway, 287, 328, 450, 451, 500, 557, 564
Duncan, 70, 83, 90, 91, 140, 326, 327, 328, 335, 380, 385, 387, 437, 440, 441, 450, 463, 487, 493, 494, 495, 496, 500, 521, 554, 557, 564, 605
Dunn, 502, 540, 546
Dutton, 84, 138, 213, 214, 312, 464, 465, 466, 515, 560

E

Easley, 422, 440, 451, 482, 484, 528, 552
Easterling, 86, 205, 213, 214, 227, 246, 269, 271, 272, 276, 277, 279, 280, 307, 310, 362, 392, 396, 401, 414, 432, 445, 446, 448, 508, 562, 566, 568, 570, 578, 579, 601, 602, 603, 609
Eaton, 390, 394, 408, 409, 411, 476, 503, 528, 549, 550, 597
economic depression, 123, 169
Eddins, 578
Eddy, 577
Edens, 537
Edgemon, 550
Edwards, 439, 518, 546
Ellis, 317, 319, 323, 327, 332, 333, 334, 367, 377, 385, 437, 449, 470, 476, 500, 508, 530, 550, 565, 603
Elzey, 293, 330, 363, 374, 396, 486, 530
Embry, 585
enrollment, 11, 48, 73, 102, 130, 131, 132, 157, 160, 167, 168, 169, 181, 193, 196, 220, 225, 226, 227, 242, 244, 278, 295, 296, 313, 318, 323, 324, 332, 337, 341, 375, 378, 379, 389, 391, 399, 400, 405, 407, 409, 412, 416, 422, 424, 444, 447, 449, 451, 455, 459, 466, 470, 471, 475, 481, 485, 487, 494, 497, 499, 501, 502, 516, 520, 523, 529, 531, 533, 536, 538, 540, 544, 545, 547, 551, 553, 556, 560, 565, 567, 570, 575, 576, 579, 581, 584, 587, 590, 595, 598, 601
enumeration, 11, 37, 72, 130, 132, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 220, 270, 313, 393, 395, 396, 400, 403, 407, 409, 412, 414, 416, 418, 421, 423, 428, 429, 434, 436, 438, 442, 446, 447, 449, 451, 454, 456, 457, 458, 459, 462, 465, 467, 471, 473, 475, 478, 479, 480, 484, 487, 489, 490, 492, 497, 499, 501, 502, 504, 510, 512, 515, 519, 520, 522, 523, 524, 527, 529, 531, 532, 534, 537, 540, 542, 544, 547, 551, 552, 555, 558, 560, 565, 569, 572, 575, 576, 579, 580, 581, 582, 584, 587, 589, 590, 592, 595, 596, 597, 601, 602
Enyart, 56
Eoff, 394, 588
Epperson, 476, 503, 542
equalization of educational opportunities, 17
Erwin, 380
Eubanks, 318, 367, 387, 406, 496, 589
Evans, 279, 318, 320, 398, 432, 456, 472, 476, 503, 521, 528, 531, 532, 550, 575, 576, 585, 594
Everett, 227, 293, 297, 310, 318, 329, 331, 334, 380, 415, 426, 451, 460, 474, 479, 491, 518, 537, 579, 582
Everman, 394, 461, 542, 597
Eversole, 390, 441
Ewing, 293, 386, 392, 401, 417, 426, 461, 486, 502, 530

F

Faddis, 280, 439, 562, 570, 598
Fancher, 85, 103, 134, 314, 330, 363, 374, 393, 394, 395, 396, 408, 409, 417, 439, 455, 476, 498, 500, 501, 545, 549, 553, 570, 585, 599
Fanning, 546
Farmer, 84, 136, 274, 305, 436, 437, 474
Faubus, 370, 415, 421, 422, 434, 448, 449, 462, 463, 464, 472, 484, 493, 523, 537, 539, 551, 556, 557, 566, 570, 577, 591, 600
Feldt, 287, 295
Ferguson, 336, 470, 495, 544
Ferree, 398
Ferrell, 472, 566, 567, 568, 595
Ferrill, 553
Fields, 364
Fifer, 303
Finley, 363
first recorded teacher, 31, 60, 288, 337, 404
Fitch, 282, 318, 320, 323, 380, 420
Flud, 550
Flynn, 419
Forbes, 500
Ford, 458, 532, 576
Forest, 246, 491
Formby, 330
Forrest, 395, 570, 588, 593
Foster, 268, 433, 449, 482, 483, 488, 492, 493, 554, 566
Foust, 323, 545, 553, 573, 593
Fowler, 293, 392, 401, 402, 426, 461, 482, 530, 546, 582
France, 437, 551
Frances, 287, 295, 498, 504, 508, 552, 555, 570, 591, 607
Francis, 363, 422, 555, 557
Franklin, 34, 213, 252, 284, 368, 402, 503, 560, 591, 600

Franks, 533
Frasier, 414
Fraze, 271, 521
Frazer, 276
Frazier, 370, 463, 527, 588
Frederick, 217, 271
Freeman, 501, 573, 587, 593
Friend, 585
Frisby, 280, 401
Fritts, 103, 266, 270, 282, 287, 303, 320, 323, 326, 334, 335, 366, 374, 380, 398, 419, 437, 450, 452, 460, 477, 479, 487, 488, 493, 551, 562, 563, 581, 590
Frost, 323, 437
Fulkerson, 509
Fuller, 402, 560
Fulton, 380
Furst, 329, 331

G

Gabbard, 390, 391, 411, 421, 422, 449, 483, 484, 552, 566
Gaddy, 554
Gage, 197, 198, 227, 262, 264, 309, 334, 389, 390, 413, 429, 433, 448, 450, 455, 464, 472, 487, 493, 590
Gaines, 312
Gains, 312
Garcia, 225, 247
Gardner, 450, 540
Garner, 272, 486, 530
Garrett, 227, 228, 247, 312, 314, 327, 334, 406, 413, 441, 496, 498, 521, 568
Garrison, 256, 287, 292, 313, 330, 378, 425, 430, 482, 484, 486, 521, 530
Garton, 364, 374, 393, 570, 602
Gaskill, 269, 270, 304, 333, 437
Gaugh, 283
Gayheart, 576
Gaylor, 602
Gel, 419
Gentry, 551, 554
Geography, 75, 97, 99, 100, 101, 111, 112, 113, 189, 301, 352, 516, 572, 573
George, 18, 20, 89, 267, 269, 295, 314, 331, 364, 377, 402, 409, 415, 423, 428, 434, 437, 439, 445, 446, 457, 470, 482, 495, 498, 511, 514, 515, 518, 521, 528, 543, 551, 554, 595, 612
Ghormsley, 282
Gibbs, 318
Gibson, 210, 211, 212, 246, 530, 531, 577, 600
Gilbert, 437, 544
Gilliland, 225, 242, 247, 269, 272, 284, 408
Gilmer, 594
Gilstrap, 216, 432, 434, 493, 583
Glass, 390, 448, 463, 565, 576
Glenn, 374, 383, 387, 394, 406, 417, 433, 496, 540, 588, 591, 599
Goddard, 320, 377, 593, 594
Goodard, 323, 533
Goolsby, 451, 511
Gosener, 534
Goucher, 228, 279, 391, 426, 470, 593, 602
Grable, 583
Graded Course of Study, 110
Graham, 501, 502, 545, 552, 554
Grammar, 75, 100, 101, 112, 113, 180, 190, 516
Grandstaff, 564, 591
Grant, 77, 387, 454, 524
Gray, 298, 363, 395, 415, 472, 570, 603
Greathouse, 476
Green, 391, 393, 420, 445, 453, 520, 535, 536
Greene, 314, 508
Gregory, 246, 285
Gresham, 409
Griffith, 514, 528, 534, 599
Grigg, 362, 364, 374, 417, 468, 486, 498, 530, 570, 588, 598, 599
Grimes, 326
Grose, 482
Groseclose, 273, 275
Gross, 374, 375, 393, 537
Grove, 69, 70, 83, 84, 85, 86, 134, 135, 137, 139, 140, 226, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 298, 299, 302, 303, 363, 375, 377, 384, 414, 442, 443, 445, 477, 510, 519, 524, 525, 526, 586, 587, 588, 596, 602
Grubbs, 291, 293, 402, 426
Guinn, 226, 227, 246, 298, 303, 310, 390, 406, 441, 448, 449, 464, 466, 470, 483, 493, 508, 520, 531, 536, 568, 579, 590
Gulledge, 370
Gullick, 574
Gumm, 461
Guthrie, 377

H

Hacker, 271, 309, 310, 386, 390, 414, 433, 474, 568, 603
Hackerman, 328
Hadley, 399, 594
Hagen, 528
Haggard, 367
Hall, 122, 342, 370, 388, 390, 392, 411, 423, 431, 433, 434, 448, 449, 476, 493, 557, 566, 585
Hallam, 439, 511
Halley, 502
Ham, 459, 461
Hamblet, 31
Hamilton, 191, 402, 513, 514, 528, 575, 597, 609
Hammon, 367, 542

Hammond, 564
Hand, 383, 435, 539, 557
Hanes, 320
Haney, 271, 327, 367, 401, 446, 474, 508, 511, 521, 561, 568, 579, 580, 602
Hankins, 287, 293, 295, 310, 320, 383, 426, 435, 461, 487, 493, 532, 555, 557, 574, 591, 593
Hanna, 370, 523
Hannah, 370
Hanson, 327, 441, 511, 521, 541, 561
Hardie, 287
Hargis, 229, 254, 255, 256, 268, 270, 330, 331, 425, 491, 498, 530, 545
Hargove, 411
Harmon, 433, 461, 519, 527
Harp, 399, 435, 531, 554
Harper, 282, 303, 502, 503, 588
Harrington, 270, 480
Harris, 256, 259, 270, 271, 272, 277, 298, 323, 326, 331, 392, 394, 419, 446, 475, 479, 496, 508, 509, 514, 520, 526, 532, 533, 543, 562, 564, 570, 576, 579, 582, 603
Harrison, 256, 275, 277, 279, 282, 295, 303, 309, 311, 312, 316, 323, 327, 336, 374, 380, 383, 385, 390, 395, 398, 406, 408, 415, 420, 439, 450, 452, 453, 454, 474, 488, 500, 511, 519, 521, 532, 533, 539, 549
Harrod, 598
Harvey, 180, 246, 284, 306, 317, 326, 370, 378, 380, 410, 411, 413, 431, 433, 437, 457, 463, 488, 516, 528, 552, 589
Harwood, 228, 392, 401, 402, 578
Hash, 495
Hatfield, 1, 293, 331, 367, 423, 425, 426, 437, 491, 609
Hathorn, 375
Haught, 304, 306, 473, 526, 609
Hawkins, 229, 262, 274, 282, 303, 314, 323, 326, 327, 334, 363, 374, 375, 377, 392, 393, 395, 408, 411, 433, 437, 439, 464, 466, 470, 476, 482, 498, 503, 533, 537, 568, 570, 581, 591, 603, 609
Hawn, 225, 227, 229, 246, 267, 270, 272, 362, 398, 491, 545
Hayen, 541
Hayes, 247, 417, 446, 479, 491, 498, 518, 554, 602, 603
Haynes, 190, 274, 327, 330, 334, 386, 392, 399, 401, 413, 455, 474, 482, 528, 530, 537, 546, 602
Hays, 298, 310, 415
Hazelton, 380
Helton, 514
Herrick, 552
Herriman, 274, 275, 387, 415, 457, 495, 500
Hester, 483, 554
Hicks, 370
high school diploma, 344
highest enrollment, 157
Hill, 69, 83, 84, 89, 134, 135, 204, 240, 242, 266, 279, 294, 295, 305, 331, 334, 342, 347, 355, 360, 370, 422, 432, 450, 458, 467, 470, 480, 500, 514, 521, 527, 538, 540, 546, 552, 595, 596
Hilliard, 395, 408
Hinch, 311, 383, 391, 395, 400, 417, 471, 501, 514, 595, 602
Hinds, 269, 334, 367, 398, 399, 460, 461, 479, 533, 545, 574, 594
Hindsville Academy, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 208, 209, 211
Hobbs, 49, 193, 426, 476, 601
Hocks, 70, 83, 140, 309, 311, 520
Holiday, 350, 396, 411, 432, 434
Holland, 320, 336, 377, 426, 437, 470, 479, 491, 509, 528, 530, 540, 542, 546, 583
Holliday, 463
Hollingsworth, 423
Holman, 435
Holt, 314, 331, 363, 374, 417, 425, 437, 534, 543, 570
Hooper, 274, 293, 305, 306, 314, 330, 431, 466, 474, 476, 482, 545, 554, 561, 581, 583
Hopper, 401, 460
Horine, 482
Hoskins, 274, 367, 528
House, 86, 134, 251, 289, 364, 537, 544, 545, 546, 552, 553
Houst, 317
Houston, 256, 320, 383, 435, 466, 498, 501, 531, 542, 545, 546, 554, 575, 581, 588
Howard, 270, 274, 293, 312, 320, 411, 441, 451, 461, 466, 486, 501, 503, 532, 546, 554, 591, 593
Howell, 484, 593
Hubbard, 282, 285, 292, 293, 321, 323, 413, 431, 437, 457, 460, 534, 536, 583, 602, 609
Hudson, 270, 313, 330, 333, 425, 482, 485, 486, 529, 530, 569
Hudspeth, 425, 482, 578, 597
Hughes, 194, 200, 201, 207, 217, 221, 222, 223, 224, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 242, 243, 244, 246, 247, 249, 251, 253, 256, 257, 259, 261, 266, 267, 315, 323, 343, 349, 357, 380, 400, 419, 432, 466, 471, 475, 476, 493, 508, 534, 542, 549,565, 575, 585
Hulsizer, 380
Hunnicutt, 453
Hunt, 101, 309, 312, 450
Huntsville Masonic Institute, 51, 53, 55, 56, 57, 193, 195
Hurst, 239, 363, 370, 390, 463, 523, 551, 565, 576
Hutchinson, 277, 295, 435, 602

I

Inguire, 399
initiated act, 126, 143
Initiated Act No. 1, 142, 144, 145
Irwin, 390
Isley, 502
Ivie, 287, 312, 320, 323, 326, 334, 377, 395, 398, 425, 437, 491, 503, 527, 545, 553, 575, 581, 593

J

Jackson, 69, 83, 135, 282, 296, 297, 298, 303, 306, 310, 323, 327, 390, 406, 411, 413, 415, 418, 441, 450, 455, 461, 474, 523, 528, 536, 562, 566, 568, 575
James, 21, 24, 33, 34, 49, 52, 193, 251, 271, 272, 273, 275, 284, 295, 299, 303, 310, 315, 320, 331, 334, 365, 390, 395, 396, 402, 411, 417, 419, 420, 435, 438, 446, 448, 455, 463, 466, 470, 475, 480, 487, 492, 494, 496, 498, 502, 503, 508, 514, 523, 524, 528, 530, 534, 549, 555, 561, 564, 565, 566, 574, 575, 583, 585, 591, 597, 611
Jamison, 297, 298, 309, 448, 568
Jayne, 370, 422, 423
Jeffers, 419, 488, 490, 564
Jeter, 390, 472, 597
Jett, 326
Johnson, 27, 34, 179, 246, 252, 267, 269, 270, 274, 275, 277, 279, 280, 282, 285, 287, 297, 304, 317, 323, 327, 335, 336, 344, 362, 364, 367, 374, 375, 380, 383, 385, 387, 390, 394, 395, 399, 406, 408, 409, 411, 412, 413, 417, 418, 419, 421, 422, 431, 432, 437, 439, 441, 448, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 461, 463, 472, 474, 476, 488, 496, 498, 500, 502, 503, 508, 509, 511, 517, 524, 528, 533, 536, 539, 543, 551, 554, 557, 560, 562, 568, 569, 571, 574, 576, 577, 579, 583, 584, 585, 586, 589, 591, 595, 598, 610
Jones, 70, 83, 135, 276, 285, 325, 326, 330, 363, 367, 391, 392, 399, 400, 401, 402, 415, 420, 421, 431, 439, 448, 449, 450, 474, 482, 489, 493, 496, 509, 551, 552, 571, 577, 582, 587, 610
Jordon, 413, 544
Joslen, 463, 464, 539

K

Karnes, 565
Keck, 226, 227, 228, 270, 285, 306, 386, 432, 454, 455, 472, 476, 501, 503, 514, 517, 525, 526, 528, 559, 561, 575, 603
Keen, 330
Keene, 545
Keeney, 398, 420
Keitz, 433
Kelley, 227, 229, 269, 317, 431, 461, 491, 546
Kendall, 227, 246, 292, 400, 425, 426, 435, 482, 486, 491, 530, 578
Kendrick, 285, 434, 464
Kennan, 20, 45, 46, 47, 121, 122, 127, 143, 178, 179, 185, 453, 618
Kenner, 52, 57, 195
Kent, 577
Kesner, 497
Keyes, 432
Kidwell, 457, 503, 589
Kilgore, 85, 412, 431, 434, 488, 489, 490
Killian, 542
Kimball, 411
King, 31, 48, 52, 60, 262, 269, 271, 288, 293, 303, 336, 337, 349, 362, 367, 393, 411, 470, 479, 484, 488, 498, 570, 571, 578, 588, 598
Kingston, 8, 48, 49, 60, 70, 83, 132, 137, 141, 146, 234, 235, 251, 255, 314, 331, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 353, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 371, 373, 375, 392, 393, 394, 396, 409, 415, 416, 439, 497, 498, 569, 571, 587, 588, 597, 599, 610, 612
Kirby, 598
Kirk, 457, 532, 537
Kirksey, 335, 452, 488, 557
Kisner, 498
Kisor, 387, 502, 568
Kleine, 317
Knight, 197, 198, 597
Knoles, 295, 534
Knorr, 364, 433
Knott, 380, 557
Knowlton, 517
Koontz, 287, 377, 413, 574

L

Lacy, 383, 557, 591
Laird, 282
Lane, 226, 294, 317, 364, 374, 394, 442, 446, 455, 457, 476, 503, 509, 518, 528, 530, 532, 534, 541, 570, 575, 585, 588, 589, 602
Lang, 386
Langley, 70, 84, 140, 285, 418, 419, 431, 434
Langston, 303
Lantenschlager, 574
Laurey, 197, 198
Lawson, 303, 312, 378, 521
Layton, 433, 539, 591
Ledbetter, 228, 271, 277, 280, 282, 295, 298, 303, 310, 312, 323, 327, 335, 370, 380, 383, 386, 391, 395, 406, 422, 431, 437, 438, 450, 452, 474, 495, 496, 500, 503, 510, 511, 521, 536, 562, 568, 579, 589, 594, 595

Ledford, 383, 433, 449, 450, 488, 493, 539, 557, 591
Lee, 269, 294, 310, 318, 394, 420, 433, 488, 495, 500, 502, 514, 534, 539, 566, 570
Lehuck, 310
Lester, 270, 314, 330, 363, 401, 414, 482, 502, 530, 549, 552, 557, 578
Lewis, 191, 269, 367, 395, 399, 417, 421, 422, 470, 472, 491, 521, 527, 534, 543, 546, 575, 596
Light, 482, 597
Lincher, 421
Linebarger, 323, 509
Linely, 432
Liner, 470
Little, 17, 20, 21, 24, 27, 31, 33, 35, 44, 55, 56, 62, 66, 70, 71, 83, 84, 89, 102, 103, 104, 106, 107, 109, 118, 120, 121, 124, 125, 128, 134, 137, 143, 149, 150, 178, 182, 194, 244, 285, 292, 315, 344, 360, 361, 363, 364, 374, 389, 392, 393, 394, 399, 401, 407, 410, 417, 429, 438, 456, 497, 498, 543, 599, 605, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 616, 617, 618
Littrell, 326, 331, 334, 461, 500
Lockhart, 267, 367
Logan, 252, 275, 330, 363, 402, 417, 433, 493, 500, 530, 557, 564
Lollar, 383, 488, 493, 557, 564
London, 422
Long, 84, 135, 247, 271, 276, 279, 282, 285, 293, 302, 304, 305, 309, 310, 312, 317, 370, 383, 386, 414, 437, 438, 439, 453, 471, 474, 476, 501, 503, 507, 509, 511, 514, 518, 521, 561, 568, 574, 579, 580, 583, 595, 610
Lothes, 594
Louge, 260, 269, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 380, 405, 496, 510, 610
Love, 219, 528
Lovit, 282
Lowry, 393
Lucas, 273, 329, 380, 403, 438, 453, 458, 462, 472, 478, 488, 489, 511, 521, 541, 595
Luck, 70, 84, 140, 287, 399, 402, 404, 502, 574, 594
Lucy, 282, 363, 383, 406, 413, 450, 482, 500, 521, 541, 583
Lugenbuel, 363
Lundy, 362
Lyman, 603
Lynch, 287, 375, 376, 377

M

MADISON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS, 83
Maguire, 551
Manery, 472
Manning, 362
Marlow, 399
Marrs, 198
Marshall, 334, 426, 435, 461, 472, 528, 541, 581, 582
Martin, 269, 336, 375, 378, 391, 422, 472, 509, 519, 543, 554, 564, 591
Mashburn, 570
Mason, 317, 320, 323, 327, 335, 378, 380, 419, 435, 484, 488, 546, 594
Massie, 113, 182, 423, 463, 581, 591
Masterson, 273, 275, 537, 583
Mathis, 401, 566
Matthews, 269
Maxwell, 364, 374, 396, 417, 418, 498, 588, 599
May, 77, 121, 207, 221, 225, 228, 230, 284, 295, 304, 327, 342, 399, 484, 516, 609
Mayfield, 323, 509
Mays, 299, 303
McAdoo, 306
McArthur, 417, 418
McBroom, 225, 229, 247, 270, 271, 272, 303, 309, 391, 415, 511, 579, 580
McCall, 312, 326, 435, 439, 503, 537, 541, 546, 554
McCarroll, 508
McCarty, 518
McCarver, 228, 336, 521
McCasland, 295
McCatherine, 404, 411, 561
McChristian, 275, 293, 406, 496
McClain, 435, 461
McClung, 418
McCollough, 331, 363, 374, 417, 488, 496, 498, 528, 552, 588, 599
McConnel, 53
McConnell, 69, 83, 135, 141, 264, 270, 271, 272, 275, 276, 279, 323, 415, 474, 521, 534, 540, 570, 579, 582
McCoy, 282, 283, 303, 335, 336, 367, 398, 420, 460, 479, 503, 521, 533, 542, 561, 591, 593
McCuiston, 48, 49, 577, 578
McCurry, 271, 460, 471, 510, 581, 595
McDougal, 406
McElhaney, 277, 287, 293, 305, 306, 309, 310, 377, 398, 412, 414, 415, 431, 450, 474, 475, 486, 488, 500, 501, 530, 532, 546, 557, 561, 568, 572, 574
McFarland, 550, 597
McFee, 474, 591, 597
McFerrin, 331
McGinney, 287
McGinnis, 534
McHone, 524
McIlroy, 370, 411, 422, 523, 528
McKay, 431
McKibbins, 457, 539, 581
McKimmey, 501, 593
McKinsey, 370
McLain, 331
McLoud, 334, 426, 458, 470, 486, 508, 581, 582
McMimm, 435, 470, 485
McMinn, 282, 420, 518, 600

McNeely, 564
McNew, 305, 414, 498, 514, 579, 602
McNutt, 508
McQuerry, 479
McQuistion, 501
Mead, 575
Meade, 545
Mears, 285
Mental Arithmetic, 187
Meyers, 370, 554
Milard, 523
Miller, 24, 226, 256, 262, 277, 310, 312, 327, 362, 366, 380, 390, 393, 395, 410, 411, 412, 415, 417, 431, 445, 466, 467, 471, 479, 490, 493, 500, 517, 518, 524, 537, 543, 546, 551, 552, 554, 561, 570, 574, 575, 578, 581, 596, 602, 611
Milligan, 431, 434, 503
Mills, 122, 370
Minam, 303
minimum school term, 79, 158
Minks, 560
Minor, 304
Mintern, 178
Mitchell, 268, 271, 274, 277, 289, 292, 297, 298, 305, 309, 313, 314, 318, 327, 330, 336, 385, 391, 392, 401, 412, 414, 417, 434, 441, 453, 457, 474, 485, 488, 495, 497, 498, 500, 503, 508, 514, 516, 523, 530, 536, 539, 568, 575, 578, 588
Mix, 274, 277, 298, 305, 310, 385, 406, 413, 432, 448, 453, 455, 472, 476, 488, 493, 518, 533, 536, 557, 568, 574, 583, 591
Mize, 305, 431, 472, 490, 514, 518
Montgomery, 277, 292, 293, 309, 313, 317, 326, 370, 390, 395, 417, 448, 460, 470, 486, 491, 493, 508, 530, 565, 570, 574, 576, 577, 581, 591, 598, 600
Moody, 413, 455, 591
Moore, 229, 295, 314, 454, 486, 514, 526, 576
Morgan, 18, 284, 415, 443, 466, 612
Morris, 267, 313, 317, 318, 380, 457, 539, 583, 588
Morrison, 401, 420, 482, 483, 491, 554, 578
Mosby, 52
Moses, 228, 395
Moss, 529, 531
Moulder, 520
Moyer, 329, 331
Mullins, 279, 305, 314, 395, 401, 445, 446, 448, 466, 472, 476, 523, 546, 551
Murdock, 295
Murphy, 56, 57, 58, 194, 195, 270, 272, 383, 439, 568
Myers, 431, 461, 486, 532, 574

N

Nail, 494, 495, 496
Napier, 391, 552
Nard, 490
Neal, 274, 275, 297, 312, 316, 317, 327, 328, 367, 383, 385, 398, 437, 450, 451, 453, 457, 471, 488, 495, 496, 500, 523, 564, 589
Neff, 542
Nelson, 89, 177, 303, 320, 334, 391, 401, 419, 442, 511, 521, 587
New, 9, 21, 24, 26, 31, 33, 45, 51, 62, 69, 84, 86, 138, 158, 195, 217, 340, 341, 342, 361, 443, 444, 536, 584, 585, 598, 608, 609, 610, 618, 619
Newman, 226, 227, 326, 521, 576
Newton, 34, 50, 66, 67, 87, 177, 252, 271, 287, 292, 320, 323, 325, 364, 377, 392, 396, 398, 425, 435, 457, 461, 466, 485, 491, 501, 530, 546, 554, 573, 578, 596
Nickens, 284, 285, 530
Normal Institute, 113, 181, 224
Norman, 267, 408, 509, 542, 546, 588
Norris, 394, 439
Northcutt, 143, 144, 145, 178, 384, 612
Northwest Ordinance of 1787, 22
Nott, 419, 439

O

Obenshain, 320, 378, 574
Officer, 227, 299, 303, 415, 580
Ogden, 70, 84, 138, 285, 411, 412, 413, 431, 454, 455, 475, 476, 526, 558, 583
Old Dwight, 25, 26, 27
Olinger, 383, 539, 590
Oliver, 247, 275, 277, 297, 319, 362, 377, 380, 390, 391, 398, 417, 445, 471, 500, 501, 517, 519, 524, 531, 539, 545, 573, 574, 593
Ollinger, 564
O'Neal, 500
Orthography, 74, 186
Orton, 472, 526
Osburn, 448, 552, 564, 565, 590
Outland, 282, 479
Outline of Study, 90
Overholt, 267
Owens, 18, 293, 329, 330, 331, 530, 612

P

Pace, 368, 369, 370, 390, 433, 612
Page, 292, 331, 418, 435, 476, 485, 578, 585, 596
Parker, 275, 310, 314, 317, 336, 375, 391, 395, 396, 401, 408, 409, 415, 417, 418, 433, 437, 451, 457, 474, 491, 509, 518, 520, 524, 530, 534, 545, 550, 579, 599, 600, 602
Parks, 261, 270, 271, 272, 299, 303, 336, 374, 535, 612
Parsley, 370, 448, 449, 509, 524
Parson, 271, 298, 396, 482, 570, 603
Parsons, 280, 396

Paschall, 439
Patrick, 271, 292, 293, 325, 332, 367, 374, 381, 391, 400, 449, 476, 523, 524, 539, 566, 578
Patterfield, 295
Patterson, 226, 227, 282, 303, 317, 406, 426, 432, 438, 511, 521
Patton, 541, 549, 585
Peach, 335, 491, 500
Pemberton, 531, 532
Penn, 515
Pennington, 298, 327, 387, 406, 439
Penny, 295, 434, 464
Perkins, 242, 402, 524
Perril, 362
Perrill, 341, 486
Perry, 364, 439, 490, 521, 577
Perryman, 375
Pertiller, 531
Peters, 568
Petree, 583
Pettit, 433, 449
Pharris, 85, 305, 306, 393, 396, 407, 409, 412, 413, 434, 457, 503, 526, 542, 543, 583, 600
Phil, 277
Phillips, 226, 227, 228, 270, 277, 280, 287, 293, 295, 317, 323, 325, 326, 332, 334, 377, 392, 433, 437, 439, 455, 467, 470, 474, 477, 479, 482, 486, 491, 508, 510, 532, 533, 562, 566, 571, 574, 577, 578, 581, 583, 591, 593
Phipps, 85, 138, 388, 403, 434, 472, 522, 523
Pierce, 282, 526
Pierson, 57, 59, 195
Pitner, 57, 195
Pitts, 295, 420, 502
Pleasant View Female Academy, 57, 58, 195
Plummer, 198
Ponder, 467
Pool, 448, 493
Popcorn, 82, 83, 364
Porter, 455, 491
Posey, 310
Powell, 66, 437, 566, 568
Powers, 476, 531, 589, 596
Poyner, 363
Prater, 370, 434
Prather, 68, 177, 391
Presley, 270, 418, 426, 484, 486, 491, 501, 530, 550
Price, 266, 413, 415, 435, 460, 470, 479, 554, 582, 585
Pritchard, 303
Pritchett, 528
Proctor, 317, 323
Pryor, 496
Pullin, 402
Purvis, 380

R

Ragland, 177
Rainey, 303, 479, 509, 580
Ramsey, 432, 448, 565
Ratliff, 433, 518
Ray, 101, 212, 267, 288, 320, 323, 327, 374, 383, 396, 413, 420, 427, 472, 482, 486, 495, 502, 516, 521, 526, 541, 559, 561, 565, 619
Rayburn, 235, 344, 346, 347, 348, 349, 355, 360, 362
Reed, 178, 228, 229, 271, 282, 333, 334, 336, 367, 370, 390, 400, 411, 431, 432, 448, 449, 466, 472, 479, 512, 523, 527, 537, 543, 559, 561, 583, 591, 596, 600, 603, 609
Reeves, 226, 227, 272, 293, 295, 298, 306, 392, 415, 474, 482, 503, 525, 526, 561
Regan, 491
Renner, 476
REORGANIZATION PLAN, 134
Reynolds, 87, 137, 177, 192, 204, 205, 219, 269, 270, 271, 274, 277, 279, 282, 292, 303, 305, 313, 330, 366, 375, 378, 385, 398, 401, 439, 455, 457, 476, 479, 500, 510, 521, 532, 539, 545, 559, 575, 585, 600, 601, 602, 603
Rhodes, 226, 227, 228, 304, 479
Rice, 270, 271, 282, 303, 323, 334, 391, 415, 446, 474, 479, 491, 526, 561, 579, 585
Rich, 282
Richard, 282, 303, 323, 362, 390, 437, 466, 472, 476, 549, 559, 565
Richardson, 282, 441, 496, 529, 537
Ricketts, 432, 466, 517, 518, 527, 541, 559, 575, 583, 585, 589
Ridley, 557
Riley, 390, 424, 515
Rin, 531
Ritchie, 448, 449, 464, 466, 483, 484, 518, 528, 551, 552, 565, 566
Robbins, 433, 464, 493, 564, 566, 590
Roberts, 280, 305, 318, 327, 336, 398, 424, 426, 431, 437, 453, 471, 476, 503, 531, 549, 568, 593, 594, 597
Robertson, 20, 21, 86, 493, 562, 563, 564, 594
Robins, 434
Robinson, 223, 241, 247, 284, 285, 292, 295, 330, 367, 470, 485, 488, 530, 531, 542, 593
Rogers, 31, 103, 251, 254, 274, 275, 298, 383, 386, 387, 406, 441, 498, 501, 518, 521, 537, 568, 588
Roller, 323
Rookard, 546, 554
Rose, 21, 56, 62, 194, 287, 306, 312, 390, 539, 552, 564, 585, 599, 600, 608, 616
Ross, 348, 349, 362, 441, 496
Routh, 246, 471, 504
Rudders, 489
Ruser, 295

Rush, 541
Russell, 284, 396, 401, 408, 411, 414, 454, 471, 476, 518, 524, 542, 597, 601, 602
Ryker, 439, 527, 549, 596

S

Saint Paul, 48, 84, 86, 87, 132, 138, 141, 142, 144, 146, 215, 217, 283, 284, 286, 304, 327, 371, 381, 389, 404, 409, 410, 411, 413, 422, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 434, 448, 449, 455, 464, 465, 466, 473, 476, 484, 493, 518, 522, 537, 540, 541, 542, 547, 548, 551, 556, 565, 569, 576, 583, 584, 586, 590, 605, 609, 615, 616, 618, 619
Sallee, 411, 422, 463, 549
Salsbury, 425
Salsman, 326, 413, 450, 557
Salyer, 287, 370, 428
Sams, 198, 272, 285, 296, 336, 494, 496, 526, 528, 531, 537, 562
Samuels, 287, 334, 591, 594
Sanders, 52, 57, 195, 295, 380, 399, 408, 417, 425, 435, 437, 479, 482, 498, 562, 570, 588, 593
Sandlin, 287, 377, 460, 531
Sanford, 269, 440, 483
Saunders, 50, 177, 395
Savage, 323
Sayler, 515, 518, 526
Schiller, 594
school buildings, 71, 74, 117, 118, 130, 131, 221, 304, 362, 387, 388
school law of 1843, 36
School Law of 1868, 64, 68, 192, 196, 367
School Law of 1875, 78
Scott, 273, 274, 298, 312, 367, 435, 457, 485, 496, 518, 519, 537, 539, 568, 616
Scranton, 488
Seals, 228, 271, 272, 306, 310, 363, 364, 394, 413, 415, 474, 479, 515, 518, 579, 603
Seigel, 399
Seitz, 418
Self, 380, 394, 422, 498
Selleck, 570
Shackelford, 423
Shaddox, 531
Shadwick, 455
Shafner, 453
Sharp, 450, 452, 453
Sharrock, 534
Shelton, 377
Shepard, 225
Shepherd, 306, 437
Shinn, 14, 15, 35, 44, 47, 50, 410, 434, 616
Shipley, 103, 284, 323, 390, 432, 437, 466, 472, 493, 509
Shipp, 449, 537
Shook, 560, 561
Shrum, 331
Shuster, 252, 277, 603
Sikes, 374, 392, 470
Simmins, 331
Simmons, 463, 464, 537
Simms, 406
Simpson, 246, 478, 479, 509, 514, 520
Sisco, 418, 419, 569, 571
sixteenth section, 15, 21, 22, 35, 37, 39, 40, 42, 43, 44, 60, 61
Sizemore, 273, 274, 275, 370, 500
Skaggs, 219, 287, 326, 334, 366, 401, 402, 479, 587
Skelton, 551
Slane, 502
Slaton, 364
Slaven, 392, 418, 480, 482, 570, 588
Slavens, 279, 401, 600
Slover, 439
Smith, 56, 66, 67, 71, 72, 103, 194, 221, 222, 224, 239, 249, 251, 257, 266, 267, 293, 295, 303, 306, 314, 326, 327, 329, 331, 343, 349, 357, 362, 367, 368, 370, 374, 383, 390, 392, 395, 402, 406, 408, 418, 433, 438, 449, 450, 453, 455, 457, 460, 464, 466, 467,470, 476, 479, 480, 482, 483, 486, 498, 503, 509, 518, 521, 528, 530, 531, 536, 542, 552, 561, 564, 565, 575, 585, 588, 591, 593, 594, 597, 599, 600, 602, 616
Snodgrass, 526
Snow, 314, 364
Sorden, 367
Southerland, 178, 204, 210, 279, 320, 380, 390, 432, 435, 460, 464, 472, 476, 514, 518, 523, 546, 549, 553, 559, 581, 585, 589
southern aristocratic idea, 45, 61
Sparkman, 448
Sparks, 270, 314, 396, 402, 408, 482, 493, 549, 585, 597, 601
Spears, 393, 541, 549, 550, 596
Spencer, 449, 488, 527, 528
Spork, 314
Spradling, 314, 437
Spralls, 334
Spurgeon, 310, 374, 474, 486, 568
Spurlock, 228, 269, 297, 309, 310, 387, 415, 474, 511, 579
Stafford, 320, 399, 401, 502, 532, 594
Stamps, 246, 314, 330, 334, 363, 364, 374, 375, 392, 396, 417, 419, 482, 570, 599, 600, 602
Stanberry, 298, 454, 474, 546
Stancell, 280
Stanfield, 312
Stanphill, 530
Stansel, 274
Stansell, 377, 383, 395, 426, 482, 532, 543, 571, 599
Stapleton, 383, 411, 413, 454, 476, 518, 541, 575,

583
Starkey, 524
Starnes, 437
Stede, 570
Steele, 269, 279, 374, 394, 408, 503, 521, 570, 585, 588, 602
Stenzel, 305, 433
Stephens, 396, 416, 508, 524, 588, 598
Stephenson, 395, 396
Stepp, 528, 541
Stevenson, 394
Stewart, 284, 370, 404, 448, 449, 461, 483, 540, 551, 566, 576, 590
Stone, 189, 295, 425, 433, 479
Stotts, 246, 271, 272, 287, 323, 363, 476, 508, 510, 568, 581, 595
Stout, 312, 327, 330, 364, 374, 394, 413, 435, 482, 498, 521, 554, 570, 588, 603
Stringfield, 420
Stroud, 228, 272, 293, 310, 312, 326, 391, 392, 420, 461, 528, 568, 582, 589
Stufflebean, 564, 565
subscription schools, 12, 27, 46, 51, 61, 200
Sugg, 314, 331, 375, 417, 482, 530, 599
Suggs, 362, 401, 418, 599
Sullivan, 104, 178, 198, 362, 419, 450, 452, 495
Sutton, 227, 228, 247, 264, 268, 281, 282, 303, 305, 312, 323, 326, 417, 437, 439, 496, 508, 511, 539, 562, 596, 600, 618
Swafford, 564
Swaim, 285, 370, 411, 431, 432, 467, 537
Swaney, 566
Swearengin, 562
Swearingin, 415
Sweden Creek, 337, 392
Swift, 16, 325, 334, 391, 482, 570, 618
Swoke, 474
Swope, 272
Sword, 419
Sylvis, 317, 541, 585

T

Tacker, 486
Tackett, 423, 540, 591
Tadlock, 583
Tallent, 574
Tallerson, 367
Tankersly, 264, 461, 546, 582
Tarpley, 453
Tassey, 279, 287, 298, 305, 310, 334, 386, 437, 455, 461, 470, 474, 528
Taylor, 228, 279, 292, 314, 342, 367, 392, 409, 413, 417, 425, 433, 439, 445, 448, 483, 486, 503, 530, 561, 602, 618
Teague, 228, 297, 320, 398, 457, 503, 526, 568, 597
Terhune, 472
Terry, 314, 392, 401, 417, 482
Textbooks, 101, 516
Thacker, 575, 576
Theory and Practice, 188
Thomas, 31, 48, 49, 51, 52, 55, 66, 67, 71, 103, 314, 327, 330, 336, 362, 364, 380, 383, 391, 393, 395, 399, 408, 417, 434, 438, 439, 449, 450, 474, 485, 488, 492, 498, 500, 516, 517, 521, 530, 538, 539, 552, 557, 559, 566, 568, 576, 578, 585, 587, 591, 596, 598, 618
Thompson, 33, 44, 85, 102, 103, 138, 246, 271, 279, 282, 284, 292, 299, 323, 362, 366, 368, 402, 403, 431, 450, 451, 464, 466, 467, 491, 492, 493, 500, 521, 539, 540, 544, 546, 552, 554, 562, 565, 581, 593, 609, 618
Thornsberry, 381, 383, 385, 390, 411, 413, 431, 433, 448, 457, 464, 492, 493, 523, 536, 539, 541, 558, 559, 575
Threet, 324, 532, 608
Tice, 480, 482
Titsworth, 318
Todd, 21, 269, 287, 295, 319, 320, 377, 383, 399, 420, 437, 531, 546, 573, 583, 591, 593, 594, 603, 619
Tooley, 380
Toombs, 574
Towers, 323
Towns, 594
Trammel, 420
Trillinger, 534
Trott, 295
True, 295, 320, 398, 461, 554, 574
Tucker, 242, 310, 349, 362, 401, 446, 514, 599, 600
Turner, 31, 334, 367, 470, 528, 534, 552, 570, 582, 588, 599
Tuttle, 285, 552
Tweedy, 431
Twyman, 394
typhoid, 371

U

United States History, 112, 190, 352
Upton, 310

V

Vandagriff, 490, 514, 518, 575
Vanderford, 336
Vanhook, 279, 570, 574, 603
Vanlandingham, 386, 422, 483, 488, 518, 539, 557, 591, 597
Vannay, 412
Vanzant, 363, 511
Varney, 527

Vaughan, 68, 69, 196, 264, 272, 274, 277, 287, 450, 484, 546
Vaughn, 292, 295, 303, 311, 318, 320, 323, 326, 330, 334, 377, 380, 383, 387, 391, 398, 401, 419, 425, 435, 488, 493, 501, 508, 521, 554, 557, 564, 574, 578, 582, 590, 591, 593, 594
Villines, 364, 390, 597
Voss, 367

W

Wade, 239, 274, 306, 390, 456, 464, 483, 536, 557, 591
Wages, 514, 526, 543, 583
Waggener, 277
Walden, 330, 402, 461, 482, 530
Walker, 102, 103, 177, 198, 246, 293, 317, 328, 334, 364, 367, 397, 398, 410, 411, 419, 431, 448, 463, 470, 476, 479, 490, 500, 508, 534, 543, 552, 565, 576, 589, 598, 603
Wall, 314, 375, 486
Wallace, 500, 564
Ward, 246, 274, 292, 336, 390, 400, 425, 441, 486, 491, 530, 546, 550, 554, 562, 567, 568, 575, 578
Ware, 380
Warford, 484
Warren, 270, 287, 340, 367, 470, 476, 479, 480
Washburn, 25, 530
Watkins, 374, 393, 401, 406, 421, 422, 432, 479, 490, 501
Watson, 247, 272, 292, 303, 317, 335, 362, 377, 417, 419, 437, 472, 508, 510, 511, 521, 595
Weatherby, 515
Weathers, 84, 272, 407, 438, 439, 498
Weaver, 455, 503, 583
Webb, 224, 247, 363, 364, 411, 433, 474
Webber, 541
Weber, 463, 518
Weeks, 15, 16, 25, 27, 33, 34, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 51, 619
Welch, 541
Welton, 427, 431, 490
West, 58, 86, 118, 134, 270, 272, 281, 283, 294, 296, 298, 312, 319, 320, 326, 328, 331, 335, 367, 375, 378, 381, 384, 387, 390, 391, 392, 394, 396, 400, 402, 404, 407, 409, 412, 414, 415, 420, 423, 426, 434, 436, 438, 440, 442, 446, 449, 451, 454, 456, 458, 462, 464, 467, 471, 473, 475, 477, 480, 484, 486, 488, 490, 491, 494, 497, 499, 500, 501, 502, 504, 509, 511, 515, 519, 520, 522, 525, 526, 528, 531, 532, 534, 540, 542, 544, 546, 550, 552, 554, 555, 558, 560, 562, 566, 569, 571, 573, 575, 577, 582, 584, 586, 587, 589, 590, 591, 594, 595, 596, 597, 599, 601
Westbrook, 446
Whaley, 246
Wheeler, 178, 204, 224, 231, 242, 247, 256, 269, 277, 279, 280, 303, 310, 312, 314, 320, 327, 336, 344, 349, 362, 366, 380, 383, 390, 391, 395, 401, 408, 417, 422, 453, 463, 474, 488, 500, 517, 545, 559, 568, 570, 578, 593, 596, 600
Whelchel, 310, 503
White, 18, 23, 86, 180, 364, 394, 426, 427, 428, 430, 431, 434, 439, 446, 447, 457, 461, 508, 523, 576, 583, 612, 619
Whitely, 303, 314, 325, 330, 394, 417, 439, 482, 549, 588
Whitening, 432
Whiting, 523
Whitmire, 450, 518, 528, 541, 555, 557, 564, 596, 597
Whitney, 411
Whittemore, 266, 495, 619
Whorton, 69, 83, 136, 275, 276, 277, 278, 374, 386, 395, 396, 413, 414, 415, 442, 443, 445, 571, 586, 587, 601
Wiggins, 178, 246, 293, 314, 330, 362, 375, 391, 393, 398, 419, 466, 472, 485, 508, 570, 588, 598
Wiley, 297, 310, 446, 474, 566
Williams, 9, 284, 285, 318, 323, 380, 409, 411, 412, 427, 433, 434, 439, 457, 466, 475, 476, 486, 502, 503, 504, 514, 518, 528, 536, 539, 541, 559, 561, 568, 575, 579, 583, 585, 589, 595, 602, 619
Williamson, 437
Wilson, 24, 45, 48, 158, 193, 251, 253, 340, 436, 484, 486, 495, 524, 553, 564, 568, 574, 578, 599, 611, 619
Wisdom, 591, 594
Wist, 314, 457, 466, 490, 518, 566, 575, 589
Withrow, 86, 135, 272, 331, 440, 580, 581, 582
Witt, 437, 521
Wood, 334, 392, 434, 464, 466, 473, 474, 518, 566, 597
Woodbridge, 274, 413
Woods, 295, 432, 436, 532, 583
Woodward, 441, 568, 585
Worley, 336, 433, 436, 502, 546, 594
Wright, 362, 364, 375, 439, 486
Written Arithmetic, 187
Wyatt, 374, 409, 498, 536

Y

Yarbrough, 282, 293, 435, 438, 479, 482, 483, 514, 521, 528, 594, 598
Yingst, 279, 375, 402, 570, 571
York, 9, 21, 24, 31, 33, 51, 69, 158, 195, 217, 340, 341, 342, 361, 442, 446, 608, 609, 610, 618, 619
Youngblood, 224
Yount, 472