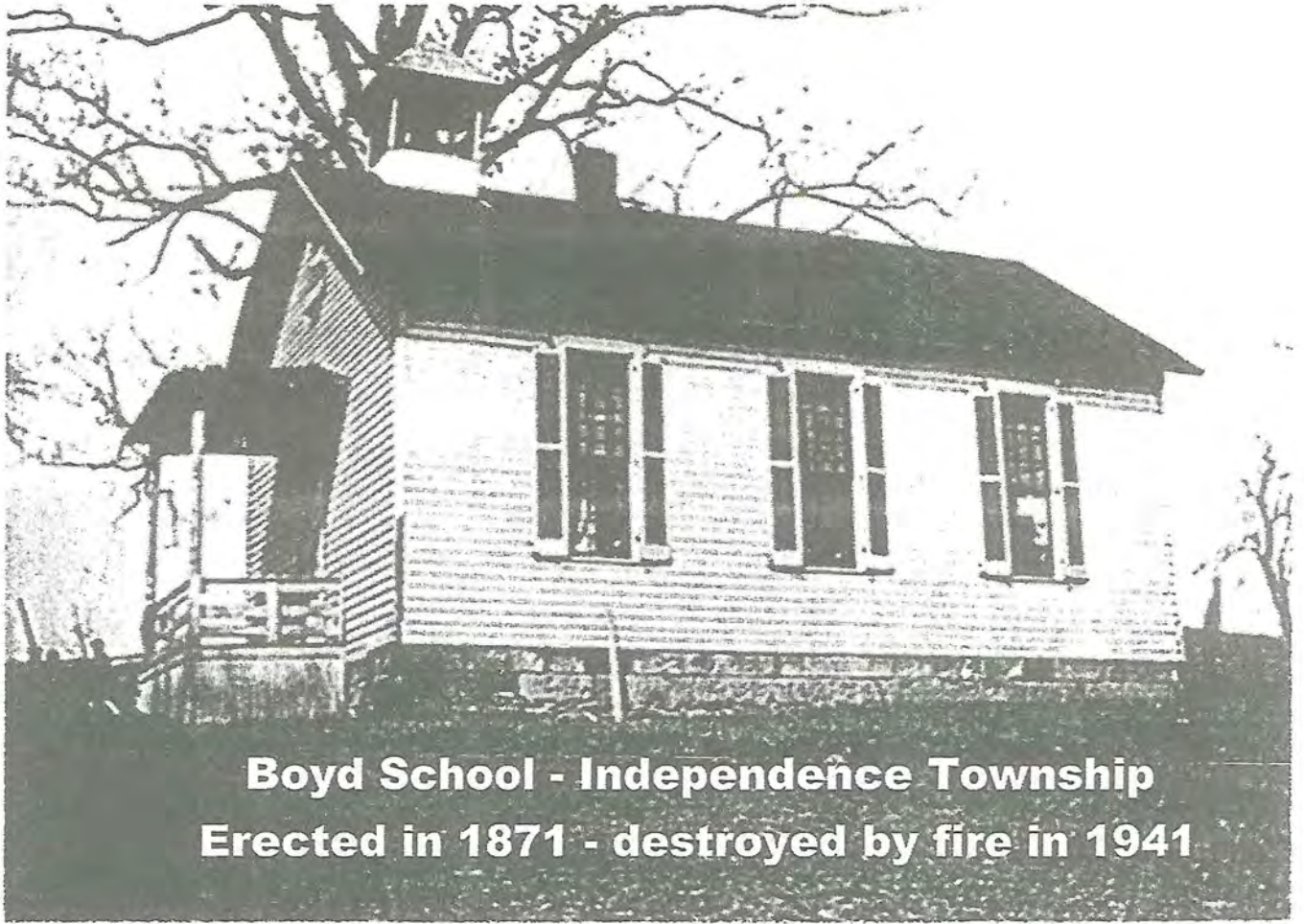


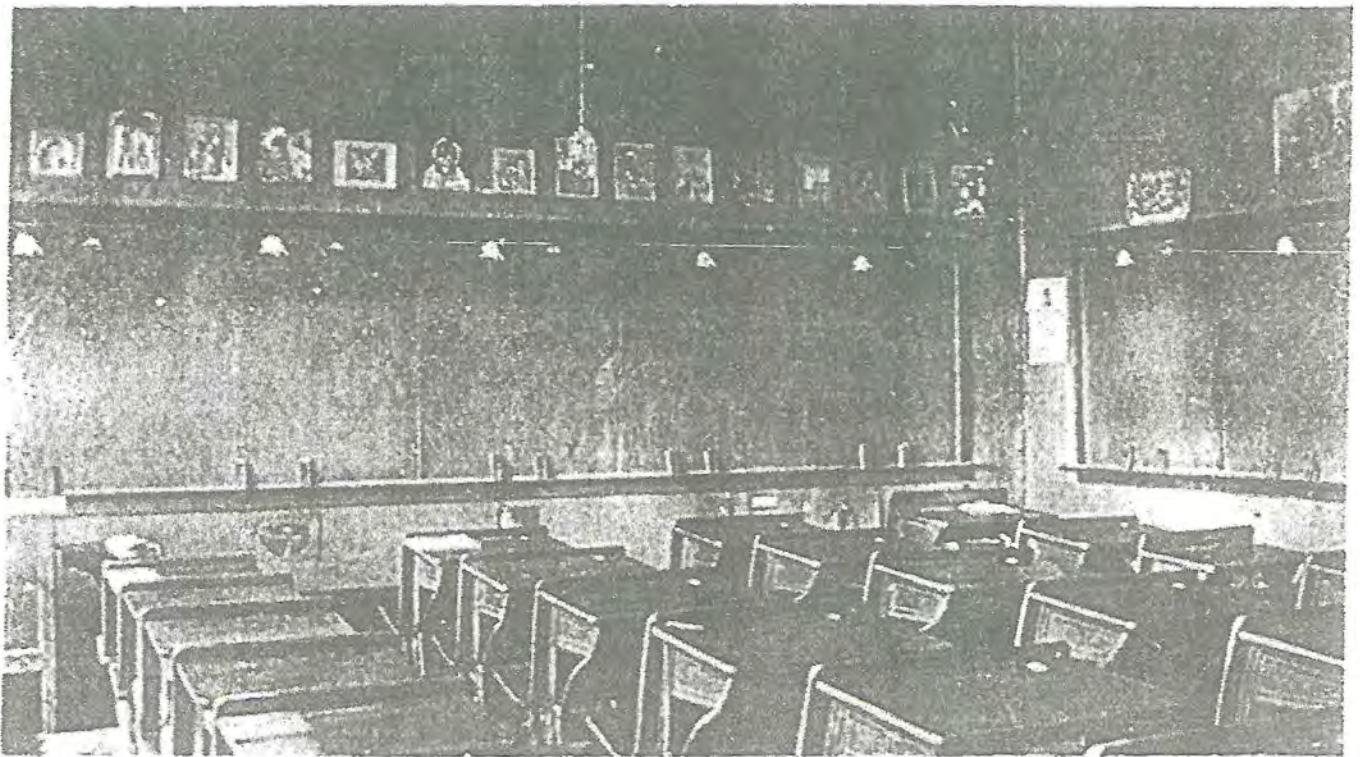
Boyd School

Independence Township, Washington County, PA

Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society



**Boyd School - Independence Township
Erected in 1871 - destroyed by fire in 1941**



Interior view of Boyd School - Independence Township

BOYD SCHOOL

Boyd School was a little one-room school building on Brashear Run Road about two miles south of Independence, Pennsylvania. It was located on a small tract of land that was formally owned by William Patterson.

The students entered the building by a small front porch. There were hooks on the wall just inside the front door for the student's coats. The girls hung their coats on the right side of the door and the boys on the left side.

In the very center of the room was a big coal stove that we all referred to as a "pot belled" stove. It was the teacher's chore to be at school early and get the stove burning before the children arrived. The coal for the stove was stored in another building that was about thirty feet from the schoolhouse. The teacher also had to bring the buckets of coal in from the coalhouse unless some of the older boys would volunteer to bring it in.

To the right of the big stove were two rows of desks facing the front of the room. These were small desks for students in the first four grades. There were two more rows of desks on the left side of stove that were used for the fifth to the eighth grade students. The teacher's desk was on a platform in the front of the room and on the wall just behind her desk was the blackboard. In front of the platform was a bench that would seat about five or six students. This is where each grade would be called to recite their lessons.

On the wall over top of the blackboards were two framed pictures of George Washington and Abe Lincoln. During recess the older boys would make little mud balls and bring them to class to see if they could hit the pictures without the teacher catching them. Somehow the teacher could never catch the guilty party.

Many of the younger students learned a great deal from hearing the older students reciting their lessons. This is one advantage of a one-room school.

Recess was a great time when all the students went about to play. If we had a small ball we sometimes would play a game we called "Annie Over". We had people on the upper and lower side of the coalhouse and roll the ball over the roof and hope the other side didn't catch it.

During recess, if you needed to go to the rest room you had to follow the path down a little hill to one of the two six by six buildings. We did not have nice soft toilet tissue but we could always read the "Sears" catalogue.

We had a well for our water supply. We pumped the water into a bucket with a real old fashion pump. We carried the bucket in and put it on a bench near the coat racks. A ladle was put into the bucket from which all the students drank. There was a pan for water that you could wash your hands.

Everyone was happy and loved to get to school early to talk and play with their friends. The children were all farm children. The older ones had to help with farm chores before they walked a couple miles over hills to school.

There were several one-room schools in our neighborhood. They would all ring the school bell at eight thirty and at nine o'clock. When we heard the eight thirty bell we knew we had to walk a little faster but the nine o'clock bell, we knew we were late for school. We could hear two other school bells beside Boyd School. We heard Jamison School and Scott School bells.

I went all eight years of grade school to Boyd and was in the last to go to Boyd School. To keep a school open you had to have at least ten students. When our class finished eighth grade there were only six students left. We were all bused to Avella Schools. This was a great change for country children. Boyd School closed in the spring of 1936. There were three families going to school then. The families were four McAdoo boys, four Adams girls, and two Craig children.

My sister Olive and I started to Boyd School in the fall of 1928 and attended all eight grades. We walked from home across Indian Camp Road, the Moore Farm, and the Patterson Farm to the School on Brashear Run Road. We had to cross a creek on the Moore farm. When there was a hard rain the creek would rise and wash away the board we walk across on. Dad would harness up our old gray horse and ride each one of us across the creek every morning and evening until the creek was back in its banks.

In 1928, our first teacher was Mary Brautigam. She only taught one semester before she married Charles Robison. It was a law at that time married women could not teach. You can imagine how well liked Charles Robison was by the students at Boyd School

I know that it would not be feasible for us to go back to one-room schools, but I am so pleased and thankful that I had the opportunity to go to Boyd School.

As Remembered by

Gertrude Adams Buck

More Than 400 Persons at Reunion at Old Boyd School

1935

INDEPENDENCE, June 27—Upwards of 450 persons, many former teachers, pupils and patrons or children of these patrons, attended the first reunion of the Boyd School, one mile south of here today. It proved a pleasing occasion as old acquaintances, teachers and pupils not seen for many years. When the roll was called for former teachers, 13 responded, the oldest of whom was J. A. Hutchison, of the Finleys, who taught at Boyds 52 years ago.

At noon the usual big dinner was served, one of the features of this school since it was established. The morning was given over to meeting old friends and following the dinner several speakers were heard.

James Moore, perhaps among the oldest of the pupils present and also a teacher and director, gave a very complete history of the school with many sidelights on the early school which were interesting. He compared the old school with that of today and of the high points in the school life of a child a half century ago entirely forgotten today. The old one-room school was highly praised by many "oldtimers."

J. A. Hutchison, now past 70 years, is perhaps the oldest living teacher. He taught at Boyd in 1883 and in recalling some of the events of that time told of a big snow that year. He had 34 pupils on the roll and the day of the snow two reported. He produced his old roll and called it and 10 of the pupils of that year responded. They were Robert Lowry, William Lowry, William B. Patterson, George Ralston, Bell Patterson Gregg, Annie Patterson Barber, Jennie Patterson Narigon, Annie McAdoo Sonda, Annie Ralston Lauck, Annie Anderson Forney. The 14 students were called together and received congratulations.

Annabell Woodburn Lowry, a teacher, gave an interesting talk in which she stated that the old one-room school was the backbone of our educational system and deplored the fact that they were fast disappearing. She told of the school closings and many other features that stand out in the minds of the former students.

Mrs. Alma Dodds Finnefrock, now a missionary in India and a former student of the school, brought greetings and told of some of her life in the district and of her work now.

The Rev. L. G. Richey, now pastor of the Franklin M. E. Church, and a former student and teacher of the school, told of the ties form-

ed in the old one-roomed school that last throughout life and work for good in a community.

Others who made talks were B. F. Skillen, principal of the Independence Township Schools; Earl Amos, J. G. McAllister, for many years a resident on the farm adjoining the school property, now of near Buffalo, and others. The McAllister brothers sang several quartet numbers with Mrs. Cora McAllister Patterson at the organ. Instrumental music was also furnished.

There are no records showing when the first old log school building was erected, but it was long before the public school system was established. There were no desks said Mr. Moore. Benches made from split logs formed the seats without backs. In the year 1888 the old log building was replaced with a brick structure made from bricks left over when the James Boyd house, now owned by W. B. Patterson, was erected, and from the James Dodds brick home which stands on an adjoining farm. The brick building was erected on a site near the present building. The building which is still in use was erected in 1871, 64 years ago. Only two school buildings in the township are older, the Jamison and Scott, both in the Mt. Hope section. With few exceptions, said Mr. Moore, the old building as it stands today is the same as it was 64 years ago.

The salary of the teachers at that time, said the historian, was \$15 to \$20 per month. The record of 1856 shows that the school board fixed the wages from \$15.50 to \$25 per month but in 1866 the wages jumped to \$35 per month for a four and one-half months term. He compared the millage of two and four mills with the present day levy for school purposes, showing that it had doubled many times.

Mr. Moore also grew reminiscent and told of the old singing schools, the literary societies, the debating societies and of some of the old-time debaters, E. F. Jones, T. B. Howard, William Summerville, William Patterson, W. S. Moore, J. G. McAllister, Walter Craig, W. H. McAdoo, the historian himself and others.

Four of the teachers of this school entered the ministry, R. A. Jamison, A. H. Orr, James M. Mickey and Leonard Richey. Of the pupils, two entered the ministry, William F. Plummer and Leonard G. Richey.

Twelve pupils became teachers, Laura Moore Weigmann, Maggie Patterson Stevenson, W. H. Mc-

Adoo, W. H. S. McAdoo, James M. Moore, W. C. Carman, Leonard G. Richey, Cora McAllister Patterson, Thomas McAllister, John McAllister, James McAllister and Martha Adams Ripley. Of this number five came back and taught at their home school, W. C. Carman, W. H. S. McAdoo, Leonard G. Richey, Cora McAllister Patterson and John M. McAllister.

Eight pupils from the old school have graduated from the township high school. Mildred Patterson Liggett, Martha Adams Ripley, Hilda Moore Allen, Hazel Patterson Campbell, Eleanor Patterson, Ruth McAdoo, S. Patterson and Faye Craig.

Mr. Moore read a list of the teachers who have taught at the Boyd school, although it was not entirely complete as the early records could not be found. Mary Buchanan taught the school in the year 1862 and those who have followed her and some who have taught two and three terms are: William McWreath, R. A. Jamison, Anna Nolan Pettit, Ebenezer McElroy, J. F. Welch, John H. Nolan, A. H. Orr, Taylor Atkinson, Katherine Christ McNary, Jennie Scott Campbell, Olive McGugin, James F. Cree, James M. Mickey, Lizzie McKee, Sylvia E. McWreath Lawton, Frank B. McCracken, Rachel Scott Byers, James A. Hutchinson, Samuel L. Byers, Jennie Armstrong, William Somerville, Magrie Eakin, W. C. Carman, Mary A. McAllister, Alda Eison, Annabel Woodburn Lowry, William W. Wilson, Cora Smith Wheat, Annabel Woodburn Lowry, Lizzie Martin, Leonard G. Richey, Cora McAllister Patterson, Anna Tensler Mechlin, John McAllister, Rose Patterson, Mary Buchanan, Jean DeFrance, Elizabeth Golden, Lester Noble, Emma Miller Brown, Harry McConnell, Pearl Findling McCarty, Wilda McCalmont Reed, Louis Rush, Guy Smith, Lillian Burig, Anna Wells Behannan, Louis Rush, Blanche Rush Horner, Bernice Gordon, Verner Smith, W. H. S. McAdoo, Hester Temple, Verner Smith, Olive Wolf, Glenn Johnston, Mildred Painter, Mary Brautigam, Mary Cox, Hazel Campbell, John Caldwell, Emma Lowry.

Before the days outing closed ice cream cones were passed out and the old teachers, students and patrons called it a "Perfect Day."

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Unknown Newspaper - 1935 Edition

Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society