

# **One Room Schools - Miscellanea**

Compiled from:  
The Burgettstown Enterprise  
& Local Donations

Fort Vance Historical Society

## BOARD VOTES TO ABANDON CHERRY VALLEY SCHOOL

Directors of the Smith township school district voted on Tuesday evening to abandon the Cherry Valley school, offer the building and land for sale, and next school term to transport 75 pupils from there to Raccoon school. In order to secure the state appropriation for the township schools this year, it was necessary for the directors to pledge themselves to this economy measure and to eliminate seven teachers. Four were dropped in 1940 and three more will not have their contracts renewed in 1941.

Bids for the purchase of the building and land will be received by the directors until June 10. A motion was passed to advertise for bids for the re-wiring of the Atlasburg building, and for a quantity of flat wall paint to paint the three portable buildings in Langeloth on the outside and to paint the interiors of the Slovan, Francis Mine, Bulger and Harmon Creek buildings.

Mr. Donaldson, janitor at Raccoon was authorized to make necessary painting and repairs to that building during vacation.

Mr. Tennyson was authorized to make arrangements to have water piped into the Frances Mine school.

It was announced that members of the Joint Board will hold a meeting on Tuesday evening, May 20, and will be guests at a dinner in the Home Economics house, prior to the meeting, at 6:30 o'clock.

Bills totalling \$6,746.60 were approved for payment, but the treasurer reported only a bank balance of \$1038.55 available with which to pay such bills. The directors spent the remainder of the session drawing up a budget for the 1941-42 school year. This Budget will be acted upon at the June meeting.

**Board Votes to Abandon Cherry Valley School  
Burgettstown Enterprise-May 15, 1941 Edition**

### An Old-Time Essay

As our thoughts these days so readily turn to Old Home Week and the halcyon days of long ago, I enclose an old-time essay once read by a little Cinder Hill girl, whose matronly locks are now streaked with silver threads among those ebony curls that so effusively clustered around her classic brow.—Your Guess.

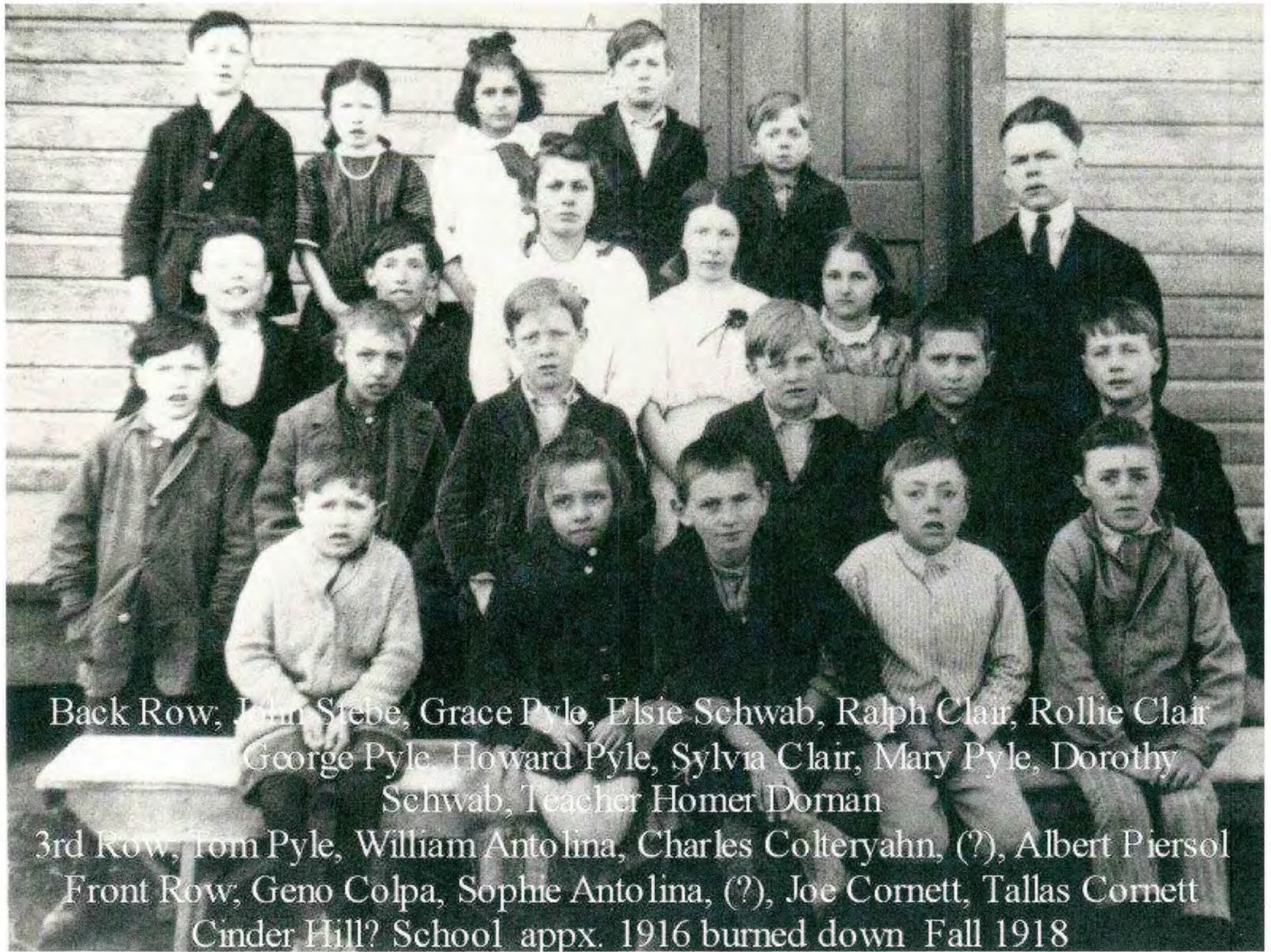
#### THE ESSAY

After a long search through the labyrinths of my mind for a suitable subject for a composition, I have at last found one. And although it is one upon which all our members have written, yet I trust you will not disallow me the same privilege. My subject, therefore, is PAPER.

In the first place it is a very thin subject, with the advantage that it is easily seen through. Paper is made out of old rags, straw and bark; not the bark of dogs, but the bark of trees. The rags are generally bought up by an old man with a poor horse and a dilapidated wagon whose wheels play wobble-wobble all over the road. Sometimes he has a dirty white dog with him not unlike Ol. Duncan's old dog Jack. I don't know whether he's training him up for that business or not. Paper is put up in rolls or cut into sheets. Paper rolls don't make good eating; neither will old paper sheets make good butter rags. It takes 24 sheets to make one quire; and a single choir can raise a bigger rumpus than 24 turkey gobblers and a red shawl. A boy sometimes wears paper collars and cuffs his sister because she didn't do up his one linen pair. That last was not intended as a pun. Boys and paper sometimes go on a "fly." I don't like to see boys go on a fly, but I'd rather see paper on a fly than a fly on the paper. You can rest assured there are no flies on this paper.

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Back Row, John Siebe, Grace Pyle, Elsie Schwab, Ralph Clair, Rollie Clair  
George Pyle, Howard Pyle, Sylvia Clair, Mary Pyle, Dorothy  
Schwab, Teacher Homer Dorman  
3rd Row, Tom Pyle, William Antolina, Charles Colteryahn, (?), Albert Piersol  
Front Row, Geno Colpa, Sophie Antolina, (?), Joe Cornett, Tallas Cornett  
Cinder Hill? School appx. 1916 burned down Fall 1918

**Cinder Hill School-Abt. 1916**



# 'Gallants' Made Paths in Snow But Roughnecks Pushed Lassies Into Drifts in Good Old Days, Woman Recalls

By MRS. B. A. BUBBETT.

We write of the sunbount regime in Coventry. Complexions in those days were preserved, not enameled, substantial clothing and stout shoes were the order of the day. The boys comprised two classes, the beaux, who tramped the snowdrifts making paths for the girls to walk safely home, and the bullies who washed the girls' faces with snow. To walk a slanting low high up to a narrow log with the greater part of the hand-rail gone and down another incline on the opposite side was the modus operandi of crossing Brush Run en route to school. The Sea of Galilee had no more quickly-changing moods than had Brush Run, an almost dry channel one day, then rain and melting snow from the hills on both sides and it became a raging torrent, sweeping great trees down stream. The writer fell off the foot log once, was swept down and lodged on top of the flood gate and there was higher learning at that time for Osgood's sixth reader, Mitchell's physical geography, Stoddard's arithmetic and algebra, and Burt's grammar were high up in the tree branches all the way to the mouth of Raccoon Creek.

We were very much in awe of the coming of the county superintendent. His coming at one time was an advantage to the writer. Having stood second in a long row comprising the advanced spelling class, the first place being held the greater part of the season by a young man who afterward became a college graduate. Not being hard-boiled—like so many of the younger set of the present day—he became somewhat nervous when the visitor came, misspelled Aaron, and had to go to the foot of the class, leaving your humble servant in undisputed possession of the head, not, however, by spelling the word as a boy afterwards did big A. little Arou.

We had many teachers, but to John McBride, of Bayington, must be given the credit of enduring us for the greater number of terms. He could see through the large book, or knew in some occult way that your concentration on the open page was not to study the les-

son, but to read the love letter previously slipped through an opening in the back of the desk, and he knew when your head was bent low over your desk that you were not meditating on the lesson, but surreptitiously eating an apple or cake. We never were permitted to hold up fingers, or toes, wave our arms, or exercise in any spectacular way during study hours, thus making the recreation periods all the more enjoyable. There was no dancing listed on the curriculum, but it was sometimes practiced to the accompaniment of a switch, but not often, as the tactful nature of our good teachers prevented many an outbreak by even the rougher pupils.

The teacher's sense of humor was often tested. We recall when one of our boys reading "Solomon's Choice," as printed in Osgood's Fourth Reader, read instead of "fatted fowl," fatted owl, but if the lesson of the Scriptures, i. e.—the good sense of choosing wisdom—was learned by the reader. The mistake of substituting a fowl that was not edible was negligible. Also, we recall a small girl's reading of the Scripture verse "Arise Peter slay and eat." The "e" in eat being somewhat erased, the girl read "Arise Peter slay the cat." But the crowing chain of errors was got off by one of our young men reading an address eulogizing soldiers, in which the following verse appears: "Our soils are consecrated by the blood of heroes." He rendered it in a loud voice, "Our souls are concentrated by the blood of horses." But the mistakes were not frequent. We won the victory over all the schools of Hanover Township in a contest featured by a Teachers' Institute. One hundred words selected from Webster's Dictionary by a committee were given orally to three pupils from each school. We were obliged to write them quickly. Coventry misspelled but one word. Florence advanced grade missed three words, and all the others missed many more words.

Former students whose names are worthy of special mention are Rev. Jesse Bruce, D. D., who ministered in the Presbyterian Church until called from the Church Mil-

litan to the Church Triumphant; George Duncan, who was called by death before finishing his seminary course; Joseph Burns, who was studying theology under Rev. William McElwee, D. D., preparatory to entering the seminary, when called to come up higher. Dr. McElwee's text in preaching the funeral sermon was 1st Kings, 8th chapter, 18th verse, "Thou didst well that it was in thine heart."

The honored ones living at the present time are Rev. Jesse Culley, D. D., member of the faculty of Western Theological Seminary, Pittsburgh, and Rev. E. A. Culley, D. D., pastor of a Presbyterian Church. Of physicians we note Dr. Henry A. Burns, who saved the lives of many by his knowledge of medicine, and lost his life by his devotion to his patients, riding through inclement weather day and night to help some sufferer. Later students of Coventry we mention Rev. Wylie Fulton, of Princeton, New Jersey, Theological Seminary; Rev. James A. Bubbett, minister of the Christian Church, Greeley, Colorado; Dr. Harry Dennis, of Freeport; Edgar M. Burns, member of the faculty of Rutgers University, with as many letters to his name as President Roosevelt uses in codes, having got both his Master's and Doctor's degree. And we do not forget the great host of other teachers doing good work in high and grade schools all over this country.

Bravery and quick thinking characterized Coventry pupils. We recall the rescue of a very valuable team of horses. There were no telephones available. First intimation of the coming of the galloping steeds was the sound of their hoofs on the clay road. Only seconds elapsed before they were down the hill coming from Bayington, and rushing up the schoolhouse hill. But in that short time a line of the larger boys was formed at the crest of the hill. The boys were dragged under the flying hoofs, struck by the heavy wagon, but they held on until the panic-stricken animals were quieted.

The walls of Coventry schoolhouse resound no more with the noise of school children. The building of the William Penn Highway left the house high above the road, and the advent of the improved

road made it possible to abandon Coventry No. 1 and transport the children via bus to a centralized school in Florence. Those good old days had "a fly in the ointment," or rather a wheel in the mire. Bad roads were the bane of existence. The writer was constrained at one time to write "Mud Musings." A poet would sing of the joys of Spring.

Of the birds, or the leaping sea.  
But a road—a road, a firm, smooth road

Would be more beautiful to me.  
Ker slip! Ker slop! Over the rural route—

It is roof for poor Dobbin now—  
An invitation comes. How can we attend?

And echo answers—how?  
Ting-a-ling-ling, it's the telephone ring.

A friend is sick in bed,  
Or whisper it low. A dearly loved one

Is numbered among the dead.  
Then ker slip ker slop with many a stop.

Wadeth Dobbin and Gray,  
We sit in the mud when the buggy breaks down.

Like "the wonderful one-horse shay."

Ding-dong, ding-dong, loud and strong

Pealeth the old church bell,  
The pastor enters the sacred desk,  
The gospel news to tell.

But he preaches to many an empty pew,

Country cousins at home must stay

And read Luke, 16th chapter, 26th verse

The whole livelong day.  
Oh, we have paid tax enough

To turn the roads to stone,  
But all the rainy season through.

We must stay at home and groan,  
But now with the improving of

the missing link, the road between Frankfort and Murdockville joining all the roads in one complete chain, we may some day write an ode on the macadam. It will be a hard subject. We had got it so deeply into our minds, as they built

be kept as a souvenir so the future generations could see what a clay

roads to the North, South, East and West of us, that our road was to

road was like.



## COVENTRY SCHOOL

Coventry School was in Hanover Township, Washington County. It stood on the south side of what became Old Route 22, the "path" that ran east to west between the Ohio River and Pittsburgh.

Jim Savage, who attended classes at Coventry as a first grader, recalls that the one room had two stoves which heated it in the wintertime. There was no well or spring close by, so water for drinking and washing hands must be carried in buckets by the older boys in the class. They were required to walk several hundred yards to obtain the water from a spring in the woods.

Mrs. B.A. Bubbett, a historically inclined lady from Hanover Township, wrote some interesting facts about the Coventry area and Brush Run, which which meandered through Robinson Township, flowing under Lyle Bridge, among others, and into Raccoon Creek near the Bigger property.

Mrs. Bubbett speaks of some of the teachers at Coventry No. 1. There was John McBride, of Bavington, who "could see through the large book," and would know if the pupil was meditating on Osgood's Sixth Reader, or on a love letter previously slipped through an opening in the back of the desk.

She recalls that dancing was not on the curriculum, but was "sometimes practiced to the accompaniment of a switch." This was not too often as teachers were of tactful nature, many would-be incidents were prevented.

Mrs. Bubbett recalled the day that a team of runaway horses was stopped at the top of Bavington hill by a small group of brave boys from the school. The boys held the panic-stricken animals until they were quieted.

Mrs. Bubbett closed her thoughts on Coventry School by writing a short thyme on conditions of the day - the mud roads - which when dry were clay, when wet, were impassable. She entitled it, "Mud Musings."

A poet poet would sing of the joys of the Spring, of the birds  
or the leaping sea.  
But a road - a road, a firm smooth road, Would be more  
beautiful to me.  
Ker slip! Ker slop! Over the rural route- It is root for  
poor Dobbin now -  
An invitation comes. How can we attend? And echo answers -  
how?  
Ting-a-ling-ling, it's the telephone's ring. A friend is  
sick in bed.  
Or whisper it low. A dearly loved one is numbered among  
the dead.

Coventry school, con't.

Then ker slip ker slop with many a stop, Wadeth Dobbin and  
Gray.  
We sit in the mud when the buggy breaks down, Like "the wonder-  
ful one-horse shay."  
Ding-dong, ding-dong, loud and strong, Pealeth the old  
church bell.  
The pastor enters the sacred desk. The gospel news to  
tell,  
But he preaches to many an empty pew, Country cousins at  
home must stay  
And read Luke, 16th chapter, 26th verse, the whole  
livelong day.  
Oh, we have paid tax enough To turn the roads  
to stone.  
But all the rainy season through We must stay at home  
and groan.

Mrs. Bubbett added that at one time all schools of Hanover Township were entered in a contest sponsored by Teachers Institute. Coventry misspelled one word. The Advanced Florence Grade missed three words, while all the others missed many more words.

In Mrs. Bubbett's final closing, she wrote, "The walls of Coventry Schoolhouse resound no more with the noise of school children." Mr. Savage, whose life came long after Mrs. Bubbett's, goes a step farther.

"Not a sign of Coventry School stands - only an imprint in the soft earth where it sat."

The building of the William Penn Highway left it high above the road and the advent of the improved road made it possible to abandon Coventry No. 1 and transport the children via bus to a centralized school in Florence. The year was 1929.





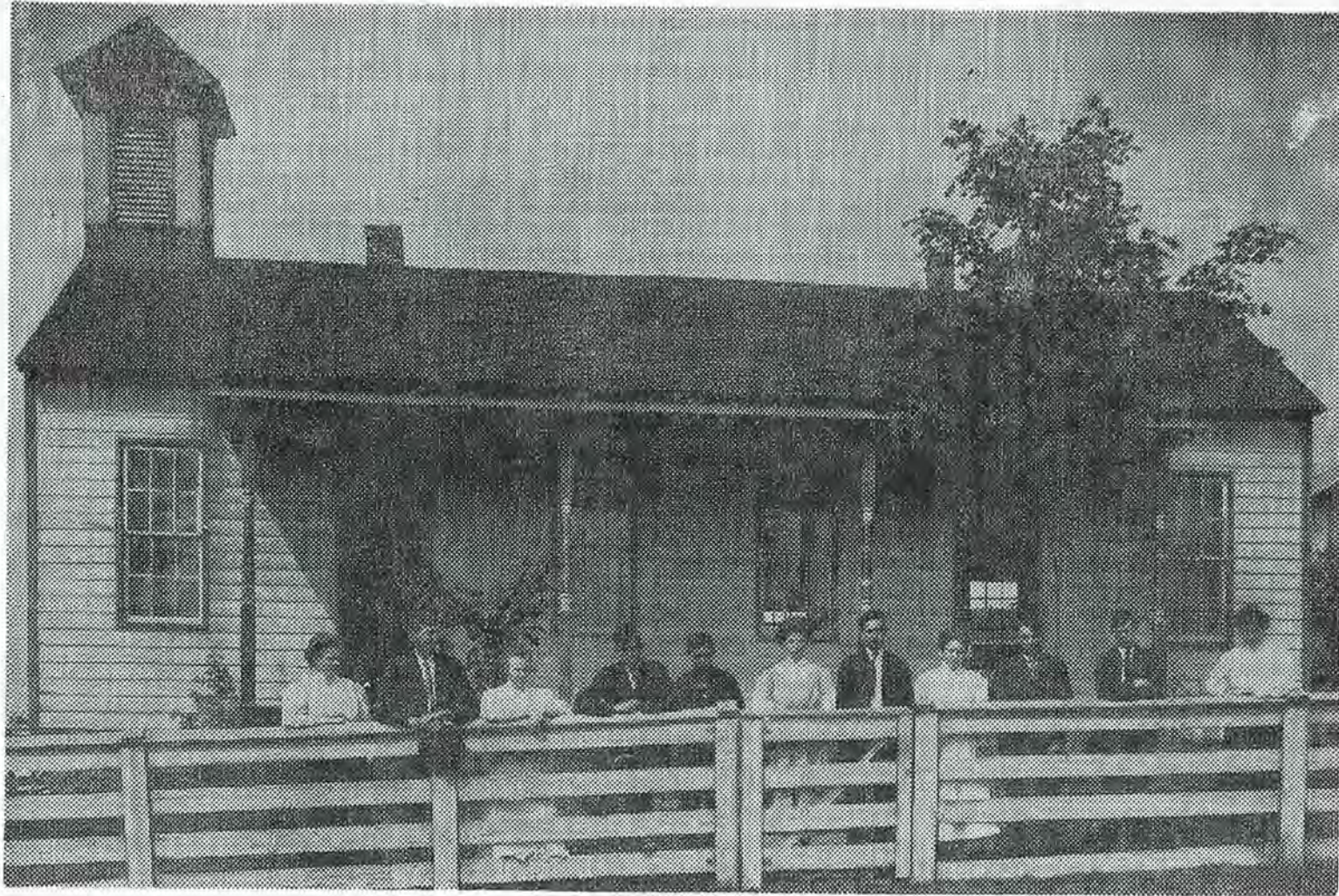
**Cross Creek Academy  
and  
High School Reunion  
August 2, 1952**



# THE CROSS CREEK ACADEMY BUILDING

Erected about 1858.

Removed in 1935.



This picture was taken in 1909.

Those persons appearing in the picture are, left to right: Mrs. Eola Smith White, Principal; Arthur F. Lyle, Mrs. Mary White Welch, Donald Gault, Matha Johnston, Willa Cunningham, John C. Johnson, Mrs. Myrtle Balmer Mortimer, W. Vance Walker, Oscar C. Vance and Mrs. Clare Cooke Rea, Assistant Teacher.





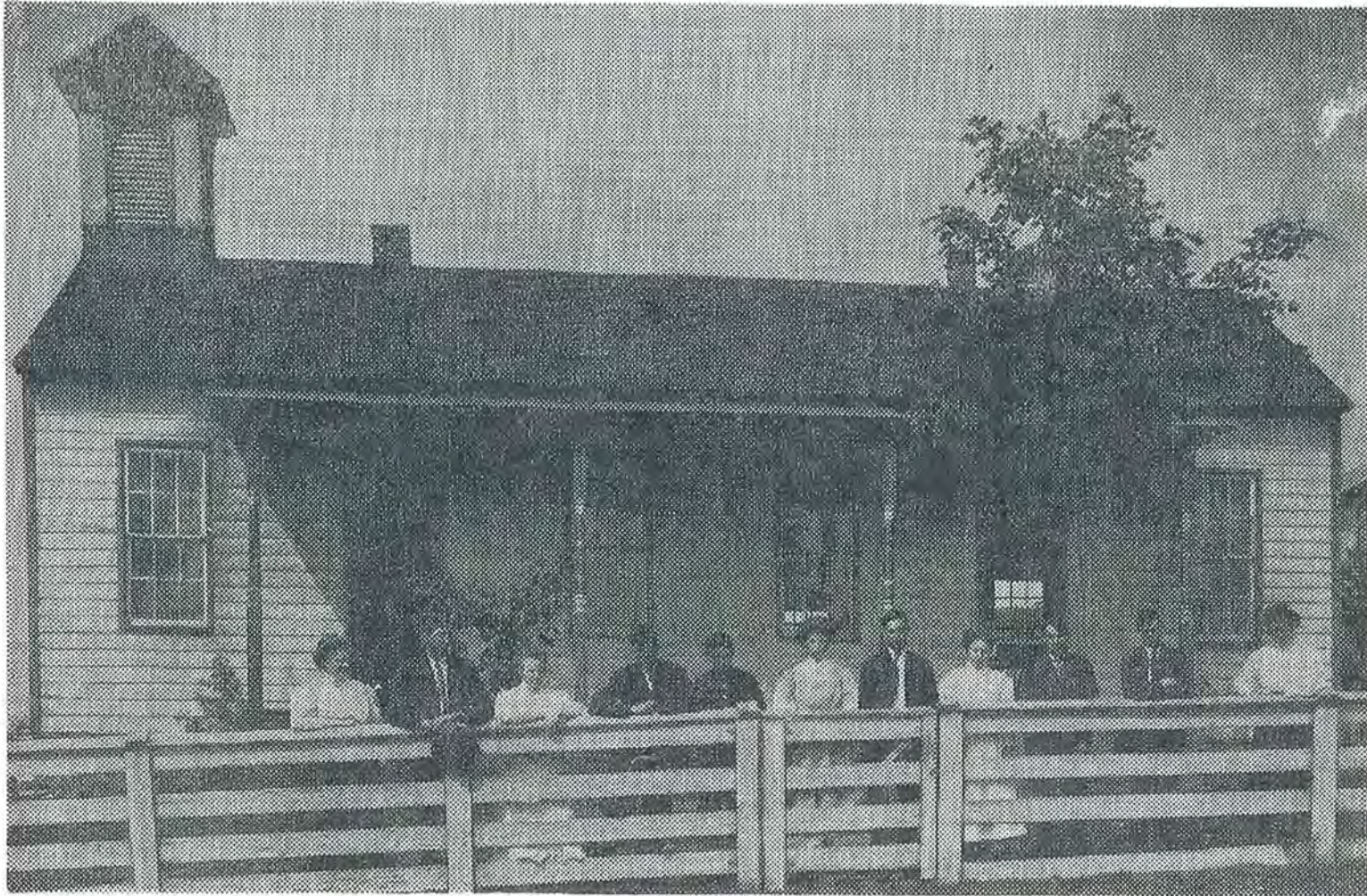
**Cross Creek Academy**



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# Certificate of Attendance

*This is to certify that the Bearer*

attended a Post Graduate Course offered by the Alumni Association of the

## Cross Creek Academy and the Cross Creek Township High School

held at the Cross Creek Presbyterian Church in Cross Creek Village, Washington County, Pennsylvania, on

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 1952

in a Reunion Meeting of former students and graduates of the Cross Creek Academy and of former teachers, students and alumni of the Cross Creek Township High School, and of friends of the cause of education in the Cross Creek Community, and in all places where the influence of these two schools has reached.

Founded in 1828, the Cross Creek Academy served the youth of the Cross Creek Community until it was succeeded by the Cross Creek Township High School in 1896. The latter school continued to serve in this area until it was closed in 1929.

In witness whereof, the officers of this Reunion have hereto set their hands and seals on the day and date above mentioned:

President:.....

Class of 1913

Secretary:.....

Class of 1902

Registrar:.....

Class of 1918



### **First teacher**

The first teacher in the new building was Robert McMillan, with Thomas Stockton, son of Dr. John Stockton, possibly the second. Early records were not kept or have been lost or destroyed, so that no complete list of pupils or teachers is available. It is known, however, that education was of the highest caliber, and that most graduates became useful members of society. Ministers of the gospel, doctors of medicine and those who followed the legal profession were not uncommon among those who went forth in life from the early years of the Cross Creek Academy.

The closing event of a study course was called an exhibition. This was similar to a commencement of later years, with the exception of the presentation of diplomas.

Entertainments were given periodically by the Phrenakosmian Literary Society of the Academy as early as 1852. These consisted of debates, declamations, orations, essays, dialogues, readings and music. Admission to these entertainments was fifteen cents for adults and ten cents for children.

The Academy was closed sporadically throughout the years. During the Civil War, classes were suspended, beginning in 1862. The school remained closed until 1879, when it was reopened under the efforts of the Rev. W.H. McCaughey. Although the school was organized by Dr. John Stockton, who preached at Cross Creek Church for a period of 50 years, there is no record as to his having served as a teacher or instructor of the Academy.

The spring of 1896 saw the last graduating class of the old Cross Creek Academy. Members of this class were John Wiegmann, Bessie Donahoo, J. Winfield Reed, Martha J. Vance, Iva Rea, Livonia Reed, Mary Patterson and L.M. Irwin.

P.W.H. Frederick was the principal.

### **Mary L. Patterson**

Among the Academy graduates of the 1895-96 term was Mary L. Patterson. Miss Patterson was a daughter of Robert M. and Lydia Ann McClave Patterson, and she was born on the old homestead that carried the family name for five generations. She was a great-great-granddaughter of William Patterson, who was granted a patent for the 245 acres of land known as "Oddity," from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in 1787. A grist mill was later built on this land, near Avella, and the area is yet today called Pattersons Mill.

Mary L. Patterson had four brothers and sisters who grew to adulthood and stayed on the farm. They lived in "the old stone house," as it was known for miles around, that had been built in 1794 by their great-great-grandfather, William. Mary, however, received a better education than her siblings, as noted in her attendance at the Cross Creek Academy. She secured employment with the law office of Josiah M. Patterson, and later with the McClane Mining Co. of the McClane Farm family.

The Pattersons were raised in Cross Creek Presbyterian Church. A.D. White recalls that they sat in the pew behind where the White family sat. He remembers the long white beard of Robert M. Patterson, Mary's father, and the bonnet worn by her mother, tied with ribbons under her chin. In 1924, Mary published a book of the family's history, beginning with the Clyde Valley in Scotland, and the family's emigration to Ireland and then to America.

Mary L. Patterson died July 6, 1965, the last of her family.

Dr. Audley O. Hindman, who practiced medicine in Cross Creek and later in Burgettstown, was also a graduate of the Academy. A well-known civic worker and prominent in religious and social life, Dr. Hindman was at one time Burgess of Burgettstown and president of the school board, and he served

three terms in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. Dr. Hindman died in 1965, having served in the field of medicine for more than 60 years.

Graduates of the high school who became prominent farmers and well-known and respected citizens of the area included R.C. Cassidy and Robert Stewart of Jefferson Township, and Homer Cooke of Smith Township. The latter attended classes but decided to graduate elsewhere. Mr. Cooke was well-known in the line of farming, and he always had a good story handy for whomever he would meet.



### **High school comes into existence**

When classes resumed in the fall of 1896, Cross Creek Township High School had come into existence. This had taken place after much thought and consideration and legislative action. Tuition for non-residents was one dollar per month, for those who attended what was to be known as the first rural high school in Pennsylvania. Frank H. Ryder was chosen as principal. His salary was \$50 per month, for a seven-month term. School opened on Sept. 7, 1896, for "sixteen men and ten women." The term closed April 15, 1897.

When this class was graduated three years later, on April 10, 1899, it consisted of seven members: Mae Vance, Edna Anderson, Laura Anderson, Mabel Weaver, Alva Patterson, Lyle M. Irwin and Willard Reed. Names are familiar yet today of those pupils on the roster of Cross Creek Township High School until its closing in 1929. Names such as Marquis, McNelly, Campbell, Zellars, Vance, Cooke, Pettibon and countless others are never to be forgotten as the generations come and go.

A. D. White was a teacher during the teens and early twenties, teaching at one time with Mary Lowry, principal. Reunions are held at five-year intervals for those who enjoy renewing their schoolday friendships.

**High School Comes into Existence-Cross Creek Academy  
The Enterprise-March 23, 1994 Edition**

### **The book is closed**

The old Academy building could have told many stories in its 101 years of standing adjacent to the old Cross Creek Graveyard — as many stories as it had pupils and teachers. Each individual carried its own drama of life, dramas that are lost forever, with the exception of those having been recorded with the pens of men with vision. A.D. White is one of those men. It is with appreciation of his help that this article is written.

It is a well-known fact that history cannot be repeated. Once a chapter of life is written, the book is closed. The last chapter of the Cross Creek Academy and High School was written in 1935, when the building was sold and erased from the face of the earth. In spite of attempts to save it at that time, all efforts proved futile. In 1991, meetings were held with rebuilding the ancient landmark in mind. But Dr. Tom Zellars, chairman, sadly affirms that not enough interest could be generated. The book has been closed.

**Closing of Cross Creek Academy**  
**The Enterprise-March 23, 1994 Edition**



**By Kathryn Campbell Siasor**  
For The Enterprise

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The ad in the Pittsburgh Commercial Gazette dated Sept. 13, 1889, read, "Wanted: principal for an academy. Classical and normal courses. Expenses very moderate and salary given. Address with references: Box 72, Cross Creek Village, Pa."

No record has been left whether or not this advertisement brought forth any results. It is known, however, that for six more years after the ad appeared, classes continued in the old Cross Creek Academy. And for 33 additional years, until the spring of 1929, the building served classes of Cross Creek Township High School.

Formal education for pupils in Cross Creek Township began about the year 1782. Scotch-Irish pioneers such as Robert McCready, who arrived from Scotland in 1772 and served in the Revolution, was an early teacher. McCready settled in what became Jefferson Township in 1777, and he built what is believed to be the first log house in that township, in 1778. He also drove the first stake in the first log house in Cross Creek, in 1779.

About 1803, a schoolhouse was built on the church property in Cross Creek. The story is told that the big boys of this school, who had become bored with the process of learning from books, pulled out one end of the building. The log schoolhouse then collapsed.

**State's First Rural High School was Cross Creek Academy**  
**The Enterprise-March 23, 1994 Edition**



### **Dr. Stockton organizes Academy**

The Rev. John Stockton went to Cross Creek in 1827, a graduate of Washington College and a more recent graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary. He immediately became interested in the field of education, along with his pastorate of Cross Creek Presbyterian Church. He organized the Cross Creek Academy in 1828, and for two or three years classes were held in the home of John Curry, in Cross Creek Village. This lot was later owned by Samuel C. Cummins, then by George Rankin.

The school met in other houses as time went on, among them the homes of Lewis Baker; Caroline Bebout, a building which later became the Hindman residence; and in the home of its founder, Dr. John Stockton, the brick house which was later occupied by Joseph Carroll. By the year 1858 the need for a permanent building became evident. A group of enterprising stockholders erected such a building on a plot of ground belonging to the Cross Creek Church, adjoining the historic old graveyard. According to deed books of 1829, trustees of the Academy had secured the land from John and Jane Graham, the same tract that had been conveyed by Henry Graham to John Graham. This was evidently part of the tract donated by Henry Graham to the Cross Creek Church.

(The Graham boys became the subject of a book, "Aunt and the Soldier Boys," which consists of letters narrating the Civil War experiences of the young men from 1856 to 1867.)

James Dinsmore, an elder in the church, bought out the stockholders and presented the building to the church free of debt.



### **A tragic note**

A tragic note colored the joy for the graduating class of 1902 with the death of Percy Gault on his 20th birthday. Percy had passed the examination which would have graduated him a few days later. He had been playing football and had in some manner become injured. Medical help was unable to save him, and he died April 30, 1902. This was one of the first funerals attended by A.D. White, who was age 7½ at the time. Mr. White recalls the loud weeping by members of Percy's family, whose hopes for his entering the ministry and becoming an outstanding citizen were dashed. The Gault family was one of prominence in the Cross Creek area, and the entire countryside was in mourning.

Two original poems, in Percy's own handwriting, were found in his pocket at his death. One was entitled simply, "Ode." His "Journey of Life" voices the ambitions and ideals toward which he aimed, while "Ode" seems as a prophecy of his own life's sudden ending. "Ode" is as follows:

As in the grave we laid him, a  
child of humble birth;

We thought no more about him  
when we laid him in the earth.

The mother, sad and lonely, her  
heart so racked with pain,

Bent down beneath the burden  
of life's most glorious gain.

And when we looked upon him,  
so white and deathly still,

The hands by toil so hardened,  
forevermore were still.

Across the darkened river  
where no man knows the land,

He began his longest journey to  
that far-off better land.

And at the gate of heaven, all  
robed in white array,

There stands the blessed Savior  
to judge us on that day.

And who will be the next to cross  
that great dark sea?

And answer to that question:  
Have you been true to Me?



### **She remembers**

Among the graduates who today remember their days at Cross Creek is Edith Clark Jones of Burgettstown. Edie lived in Cedar Grove at the time and remembers that in 1922, when some governmental body decided to pave the mud road to Cross Creek, she and the other pupils made their way on foot or with a horse. Occasionally a Model T would happen along and pick them up.

Edie remembers the plays given by the students and of having to hold them and other activities in the church. No playground was provided, so the brick road in Cross Creek Village served well in that capacity. Edie was in the graduating class of 1926. One of her classmates was Alice Black, who married Ellis Zellars a few years later. They became the parents of Dr. Thomas Zellars, today's superintendent of the Avella Area School District.

When the school first opened in 1895, textbooks included Sheldon's Complete Arithmetic; Barnes Complete Geography; Eggleston U.S. History; Wentworth's School Algebra; Wentworth's Plane Geometry; and other typical high school courses. These subjects were still being taught in the 1920s, with the addition of English, French, Latin, ancient history and science in a makeshift laboratory, complete with occasional explosions!



## Cross Creek To Dedicate Plaques



The village of Cross Creek's attractive Community Honor Roll arch is enhanced by this memorial plaque at the base. It commemorates the deeds of soldiers of the community who served in all wars and will be dedicated Saturday at a program at the church nearby. Cross Creek Lodge 32, IOOF has given the plaque to the community.



Observer Photos  
This large boulder and plaque at Cross Creek commemorates the site of the Cross Creek Academy, 1828 to 1896, and the township rural high school, 1896 to 1929. It will be dedicated tomorrow at 3 p. m. at a program in the Presbyterian Church. A dinner will follow the unveiling. The plaque is a gift of the Academy and High School Alumni Association.

Plaque to  
Commemorate  
Cross Creek Academy  
Erected by alumni  
1954







# CROSS CREEK HIGH SCHOOL

1922-1923

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1st Row L. to R.

Bill Strobe, Harry Meneely, Ellis Zellars, Harold Balmer,  
Bob Lee, Kenneth Laughner

2nd Row

Ruth Meneely, Ethel McKeag, Nellie Strobe, Gertrude Russell,  
Martha Kuhns, Margaret McNelly, Ruth Dalmeyer (Dunbar)

3rd Row

Gertrude McKeag, Elsie Henderson, Bernice Allen,  
Anna Maskerina, Grace Kuhns, Betty Tucker, Edith Clark (JONES)  
Ruth Pettibon (La Posta), Alice Black (Zellars)

Back

A. D. White

# Cross Creek survived fire of 1904

The village of Cross Creek holds volumes of history. Religion and education brought high standards of living very early to the country folk who chose this hilltop for their dwelling place.

Situated on a hill about five miles southwest of Burdettstown, it takes its name from the stream which drains almost the entire township. Cross Creek empties into the Ohio River directly across from another stream entering the river from the other side. The river and the two streams form a cross, thus both streams are called Cross Creek, as well as the township and the village.

The "village on the hill" was laid out in lots by David Wilkin, who had bought three acres from Henry Graham. The latter donated land for the old Presbyterian Church which was founded in 1779 and from which many influential individuals came. The early houses were erected during Graham's lifetime, forming the nucleus of a sizable country town.

Cross Creek Village grew as the decades passed and eventually became a center for trade in a wide area. By the mid-1800s, it boasted a post office, three stores, a blacksmith shop, shops for making wagons and harnesses, boots and shoes, as well as a hotel. Professional men such as doctors, surgeons, surveyors and others were attracted to the village, filling the needs of the growing population.

One day in March, 1904, the peace and tranquility of the little village was threatened beyond words. Men were at work burning brush on the lot of T. A. Hindman near the Bowelson-Wagon shop.

Shortly before 2 p.m., a spark from the burning brush was blown down to the roof of the wagon shop and the dry shingles blazed up almost instantly. A number of men attempted to extinguish the flames but their efforts proved in vain.

Soon great showers of sparks were carried by the high wind to adjoining buildings and in a few minutes flames broke out in the hotel. T. A. Hindman's blacksmith shop was soon ablaze and it was seen that all three buildings were doomed.

Telephone calls for help were sent out through the surrounding country. A call was sent to Burdettstown for help but they arrived too late to be of any use. The flames gained great headway and were carried across the



**KATHRYN SLASOR**

street and the Samuel Scott residence was soon ablaze. A small tool shop was burned to the ground. So quickly did the fire spread that little could be saved. Nearly all the residents of the town moved their household goods from their homes so that the main street was piled with merchandise of every sort.

The fire was fought by means of bucket brigades. The water was carried from wells in buckets, wash boilers, tubs and any available vessel. With buckets and wet blankets, the volunteer firemen worked tirelessly, beating back the flames which threatened to lick up every building in town. At times, four or five residences were on fire at the same time.

The fire was finally brought under control about 4 p.m. By night, the whole town presented a desolate appearance.

In some areas, all that was left were blackened chimneys and smoldering ruins. About the streets were battered wash boilers, bits of broken furniture and frayed blankets. Residents gathered on the streets and discussed the fire which had brought so much destruction to the little village.

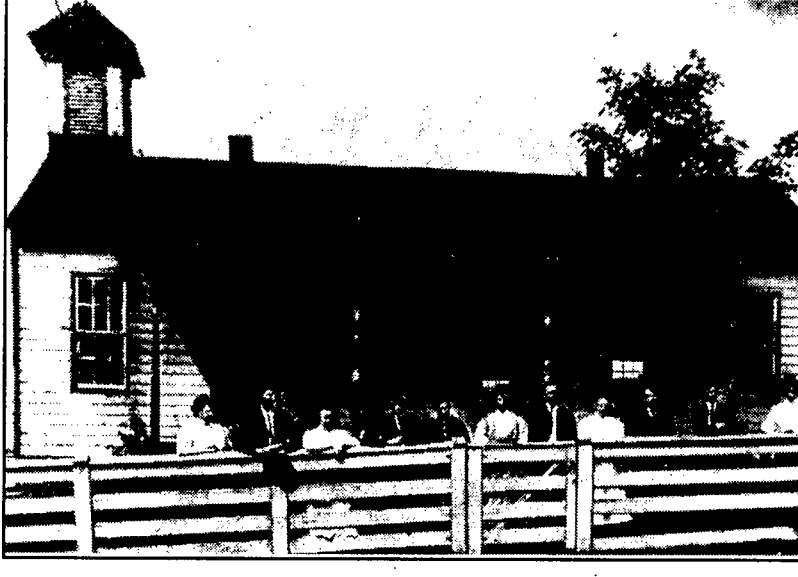
### The Cross Creek Academy

Many years before the great fire, the people saw the need for education. The Rev. John Stockton, a recent student at Princeton Theological Seminary, immediately became interested upon his arrival to his new pastorate in 1827.

By 1828, he had organized what was to become the Cross Creek Academy. For many years, students met in homes and various locations.

The permanent building for the academy, and which later would house Cross Creek Township High School, was erected in 1828 on a plot of ground belonging to the Cross Creek Church.

This school served a two-fold purpose; it was an opportunity



Contributed

**OLD SCHOOL TIES** - This picture was taken in 1909. Those persons appearing in the picture are, from left, Mrs. Eola Smith White; Arthur F. Lyle, principal; Mrs. Mary White Welch; Donald Gaul; Martha Johnston; Willa Cunningham; Myrtle Balamer Mortimer; W. Vance Walker; Oscar C. Vance and Mrs. Clare Cooke Rea, assistant teacher.

for advanced training and study, and for training young men for the Christian ministry. Special attention was given to higher mathematics, oratorical and literary attainments. Ministers, doctors, lawyers, and teachers received their secondary education in this historic school.

The academy was closed during the Civil War and reopened in 1879. By 1896, it was realized that a high school would better suit the needs of the students, thus the Cross Creek High School was born.

This level of education continued until 1929, when the school as such could no longer meet the requirements that were state-

mandated. The school then closed, but the building remained until it was considered an eyesore and was torn down after much confusion and many objections in 1935.

Even though the old building held countless fond memories and was dear to the hearts of those whose lives it touched, any movement throughout the ensuing years to restore it or rebuild it died for lack of support.

It was seen by the majority as just an old building. But to those who would care, it was a haunting bit of history that could never be revived.

*(Slasor is a special correspondent for the Pennsylvania Focus.)*

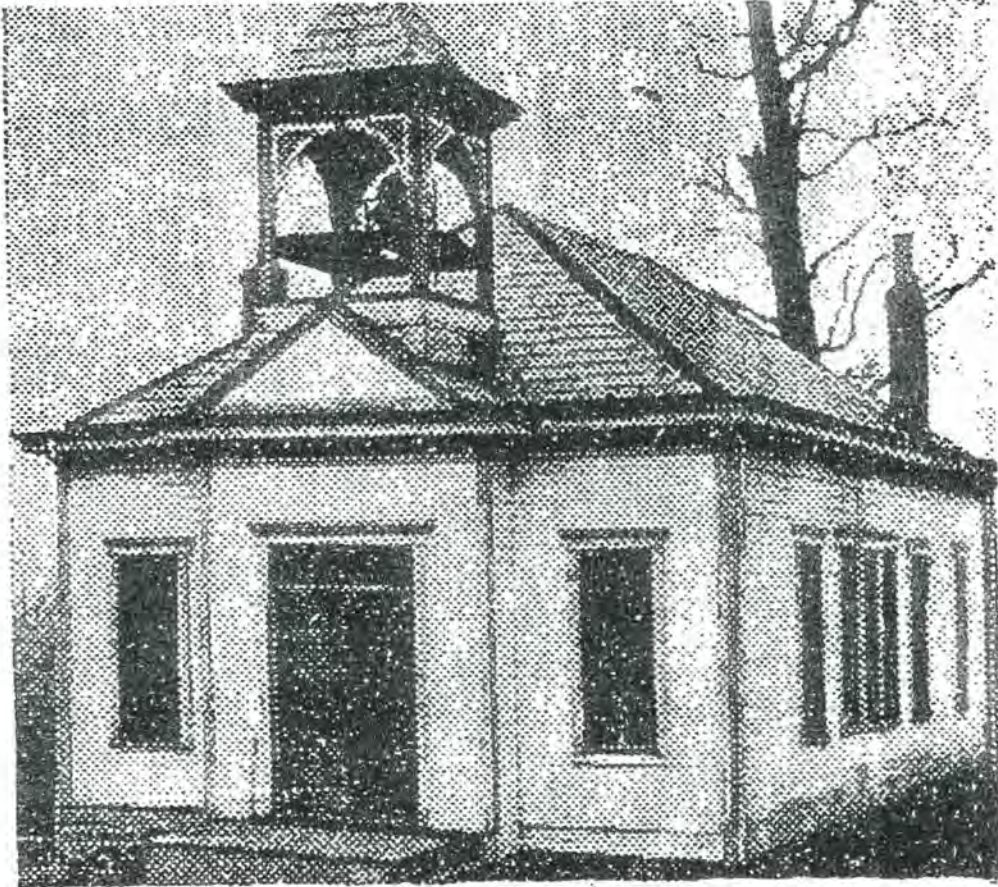




1904-05 FORT DILLO SCHOOL. Front row, left to right: Howard Savage, Marie Ferguson, Morgan Virtue, Wilda Virtue, Elizabeth Armstrong, Walter Armstrong, Allie Fuller, Leroy Thornburg, Josephine Savage, Norman Virtue. Second row: James Virtue, John Glass, Fred Hood, Cecil Ferguson, Howard McHenry, Ray Ferguson, Harry Virtue, Viola Fuller. Third row: Ethel Danley, Frances Moorhead, Anna Richey, Zella Glass, Ida Campbell (teacher), Julia Virtue, Maggie Glass, Lizzie Maloy, Mary Hood, Hazel Danley.



# Dillo School



**DILLO SCHOOL**

**Dillo School** — The Dillo School was named for Fort Dillow, an Indian fort built by John Dillow. The original building was built on the Dunlap farm, and a second school was built on an adjacent property on land that is now owned by Josephine Savage Tarr. It is believed the original brick building burned, and the second building was erected in 1901. Besides being the present owner, Josephine Savage Tarr attended Dillo School for eight years and later returned as a teacher. Teachers at Dillo School include Lawrence Swearingen, Ida Campbell, Jennie Tucker, Maud Coswell, Edna McMillian, Elsie Andrews, Leida Russell, Edith McCombs, Elizabeth Andrews, Nellie Boyce, Anna M. Palmer Edgar Burns, Josephine Savage Tarr, Ruth Cooley, Margaret McMillian, Martha Lance, Beryl McGee, Martha Cully, Irene Perkins, Mrs. Hannon, Mellie McNicholas and Mary Anderson.





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# Florence School 1911-1912



- |                                 |  |  |                                    |
|---------------------------------|--|--|------------------------------------|
| 1. Harold McDonnell             | 2. Sam McNinch                         | 3. Roy Peterson?   | 4. Craig McWright                  |
| 5. (Unkown)                     | 6. Dwight Cook?                        | 7. Harry Ewing   | 8. Mary Martin                     |
| 9. (Unknown)                    | 10. Elizabeth Fullerton <i>m. Hawn</i> | 11. Gertrude Yolton <i>m. Tucker</i>                               | 12. Florence Fulton                |
| 13. Eula Fullerton              | 14. Mable Fullerton <i>m. Arnold</i>   | 15. Wesleys Cook McDonnell, Teacher ( <i>Grace Cassidy's Dad</i> ) | 19. Clifford "Banty" Work          |
| 16. Sarah Lyons <i>m. Gloss</i> | 17. Beulah Jackson <i>m. Cook</i>      | 18. Agnes Potts  | 21. ? Fulton (brother to Florence) |
| 20. Dean Saxton                 |  |  |                                    |





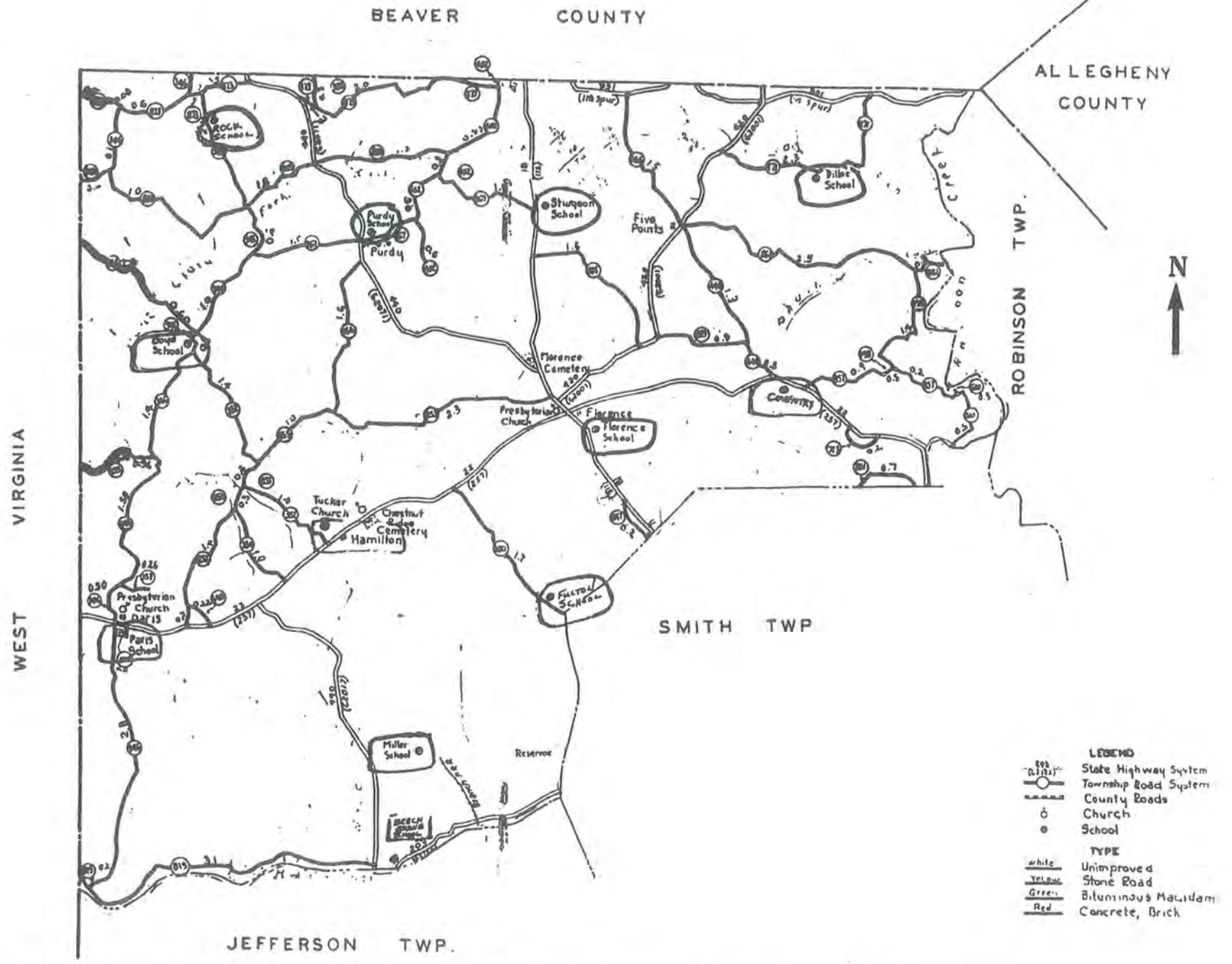
Ruth Plunkett

### **Old Schoolhouse updated**

The One-Room Schoolhouse Reunion Committee recently added Plexiglas pretend windows and a memorial sign to the schoolhouse pavilion at Hanover Park. The schoolhouse was the site of a recent reunion, when pupils from the now closed one-room area schoolhouses gathered.

**One Room Schoolhouse-Hanover Twp.  
The Enterprise-September 2, 1995 Edition**





MAP OF HANOVER TOWNSHIP AND THE LOCATION OF THE COUNTRY SCHOOLS BEFORE 1951



## Miller School Reunion Program

The following program has been announced for the reunion of former teachers and pupils of the Miller School, scheduled to be held Saturday, August 20, beginning at 3 p.m., at Meadowcroft Village, near Penowa, in Jefferson Township.

Call to order: Opening remarks, Albert Miller, of Meadowcroft Village. Opening exercises, Mrs. Hazel Sutherland Pettibon, teacher, 1918-19; Call the roll of former pupils, William P. Wilson, teacher, 1899-1901; Rededication of the reconstructed Miller School; Dedicatory address, Hon. J. Dean Polen, member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and of the Pennsylvania Historical Commission; Recognition of former teachers, pupils and guests; Announcements; Tour of Meadowcroft Village, under the direction of Albert Miller; Picnic lunch at the shelter house.

Persons attending are asked to bring their own food and beverages.

To reach the Village, drive west of Avella on the blacktop road toward Penowa. Road signs will direct the entrance into the Village.



**NOTICE**

The Board of Directors of Hanover Township School District will receive sealed bids for furnishing and delivering approximately 2200 bushels of run of mine coal to the several schools in the district. All bids must be in the hand of the secretary on or before July 8 at 9 a.m. The board reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Signed-W. H. Horstman, Sec'y.  
Hanlin Station, Pa. R.D. 1.



# ORDER OF EXERCISES,

( FOR )

# PARIS HIGH SCHOOL

## EXHIBITION.

PARIS, WASHINGTON CO., PA., APRIL 18TH, 1873.

MUSIC.

PRAYER.

MUSIC.

### TABLEAU—OUR SCHOOL.

SALUTATORY.....C. B. McCABE  
 DECLAMATION—Not So Easy.....WILLIE MAHAN  
 DECLAMATION—Sally's First Speech.....SALLIE LOW  
 DIALOGUE—Fashionable Dissipation.....ALLIE GRIFFITH & FLORA BRABSON  
 SONG—Ring the Bell, Watchman.  
 DECLAMATION—The New Bonnet.....SALLIE KENNEDY  
 DECLAMATION—Church Scandal.....MINNIE McCOLLOUGH  
 DIALOGUE—Widow's Mistake: { Widow Bedott,.....Nannie Graham.  
   { Mr. Crane,.....Charles McCabe,  
   { Melissa Bedott,.....Julia Gardner.

MUSIC.

### TABLEAU—GAMBLER'S WARNING.

DECLAMATION—Glass of Cold Water.....SALLIE CAMPBELL  
 DIALOGUE—Yankee Aunt { Jemima Greenleaf,.....Lizzie Morrison.  
   { Mary Bustle,.....Maggie Johnston.  
   { Mrs. Bustle,.....Julia Campbell.  
   { Mr. Bustle,.....Oscar Brashear.  
   { Fred Bustle,.....Frank Mahan.

MUSIC.

ESSAY.....JULIA CAMPBELL  
 SONG—Whip-poor-will.....MAGGIE GRAHAM  
 DECLAMATION—Firmness.....CORA GRIFFITH  
 RECITATION—Greenhorn and Razor Seller.....CHARLES McCABE  
 PLEDGE WITH WINE.....NANNIE GRAHAM  
 SONG—Don't Marry a Man if he Drinks.

### TABLEAU—HOME EDUCATION.

DECLAMATION—Hide and Seek.....ELLA EDWARDS  
 DECLAMATION—The Young Declaimer.....ROME McCABE

DIALOGUE—Annie's Party { Uncle John,.....J. E. McCabe.  
   { Dora,.....Cora Griffith.  
   { Annie,.....Sallie Kennedy.  
   { Flora,.....Flora Brabson.  
   { Fannie,.....Allie Griffith.  
   { Faith,.....Maggie Graham.  
   { Fairy,.....Julia Gardner.

MUSIC.

ESSAY.....LIZZIE MORRISON  
 DIALOGUE—Wonderful Dream.....ALVIN McCABE & ELLSWORTH RIDEOUT.  
 DECLAMATION—That's What's the Matter.....JOHN MORRISON  
 TABLEAU—STAYED TOO LATE.  
 DIALOGUE—1773 vs. 1873.....1773, HATTIE McCABE; 1873 ANNIE JOHNSON  
 SONG—Little Brown Jug.  
 DECLAMATION—Our Country in 1920.....CHARLES BRABSON

DIALOGUE—Matrimonial Advertisement, { Mary Cole,.....Alice Brashear.  
   { Grandmother Cole,.....Annie Johnson.  
   { Jack Cole,.....John Morrison.  
   { Aunt Martha Gordon,.....Julia Campbell.  
   { Cyrus Gordon,.....Q. C. Farquhar.

DUET—Mr. & Mrs. Williams—Mr. Williams, James Martin; Mrs. Williams, Jennie Gardner  
 TABLEAU—DISAPPOINTED.

DIALOGUE—L. Edwards,.....Sam. L. Mahan.....Jim.  
 SONG—The Old Folks at Home.  
 DECLAMATION—Buckwheat Cakes.....FRED GARDNER  
 AFFECTING ADDRESS.....J. E. McCABE

MUSIC.

DIALOGUE—Deaf and Dumb.....Q. C. FARQUHAR and WM. McCABE  
 DECLAMATION—Slightly Mixed.....FLORA BRABSON  
 DECLAMATION—The Wind.....JENNIE McCREADY  
 DIALOGUE—Lord Dundreary's Visit.

Belle Ellwood.....Sadie Campbell.  
 Lillie Ashton.....Hattie McCabe.  
 Gordon.....James Wilson.  
 Lord Dundreary.....Cirt. Farquhar.  
 DIALOGUE—The Old Man's Drunk Again,  
 Old Man.....Will. McCabe.  
 Daughter.....Julia Gardner.

### TABLEAU—THE SCHOOL BELLS.

BEN BUSTER'S ORATION.....FRANK LOW

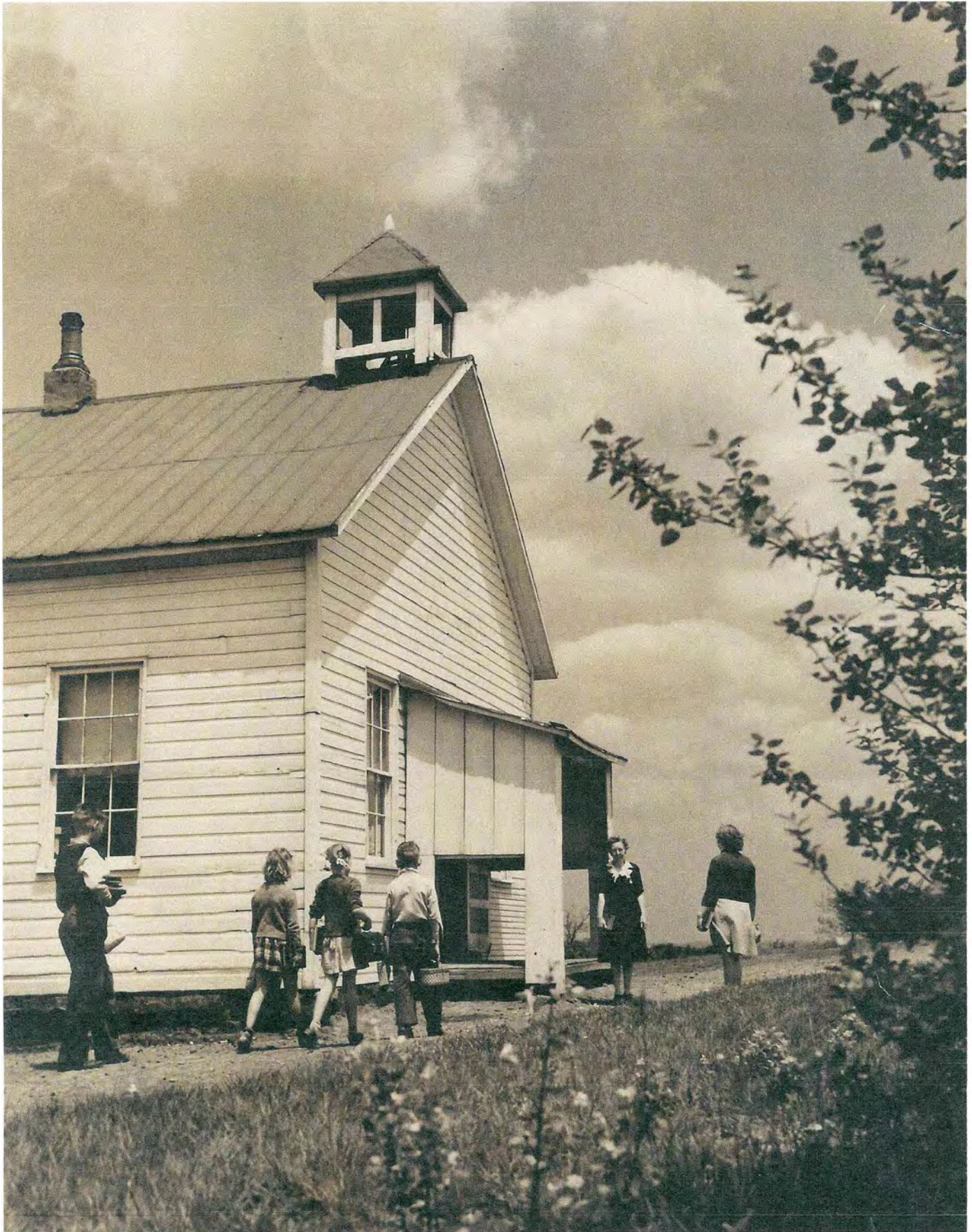
MUSIC.

ESSAY.....ANNA JOHNSON  
 THE TWELVE MONTHS—January, Julia Gardner; February, Mary McCreedy; March, Clara Mahan; April, Hattie McCabe; May, Julia Campbell; June, Alice Brashear; July, Irene Amspoker; August, Lizzie Morrison; September, Anna Johnston; October, Sadie Campbell; November, Maggie Johnston; December, Nannie Graham.  
 DIALOGUE—The Barber Shop.—Pompey.....L. Mahan. Cuffy.....L. Edwards.

VALEDICTORY.....ALICE BRASHEAR  
 CLASS FAREWELL—SONG.—Miss Ray Wilson, Miss Mary Campbell, Miss Jennie Gardner, Miss Hannah McCabe, Miss Roena Wilson, Mr. James Martin, J. E. McCabe.  
 TABLEAU—FAREWELL.

Q. C. FARQUHAR, Principal.  
 Miss IRENE AMSPOKER, Ass't.





**Purdy School, 1944-1945**

**Ralph McCracken, Burleigh Roberts, Anderson, Ron Mercer, Betty Anderson  
Teacher, Sylvia Hannan**



# Purdy School

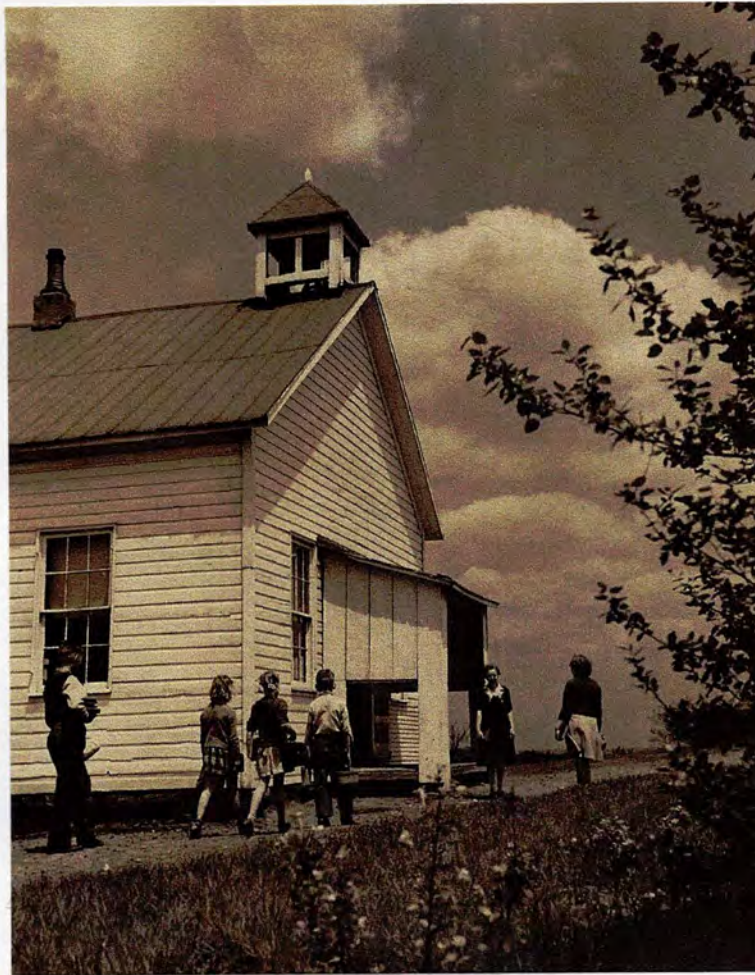


**PURDY SCHOOL**

**Purdy School** — Purdy School was built on land owned by John McCracker. All school property was obtained from the property owners for a small token and to be used for school purposes only. When the land was no longer needed for school purposes, it was returned to the original owner.

Teachers who taught at Purdy School were Anna Crouse, J.R. Bable, Fred Hood, Margaret Curry Aten, Howard Black, Florence Knapp, Ketura Gilliland, W.C. McDonnell, E.W. Devitt, Margaret Hughes, Grace McDonnell Cassidy, Margaret Perkins, Francis Lane Martin, James Craig, Elsie Andrews, Ruth Arnold Herron, Sylvia Hannon, Francis Hughes, Irene Perkins and Anna Mae Neely.





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*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*







**Purdy School-Hanover Twp.  
1944-1945**

**Ralph McCracken  
Ocie Campell  
Margaret Roberts  
Wendell Mercer  
Eleanor Crago**

**Teacher-Sylvia Hannan**

***Compliments of Eva Cuoma***



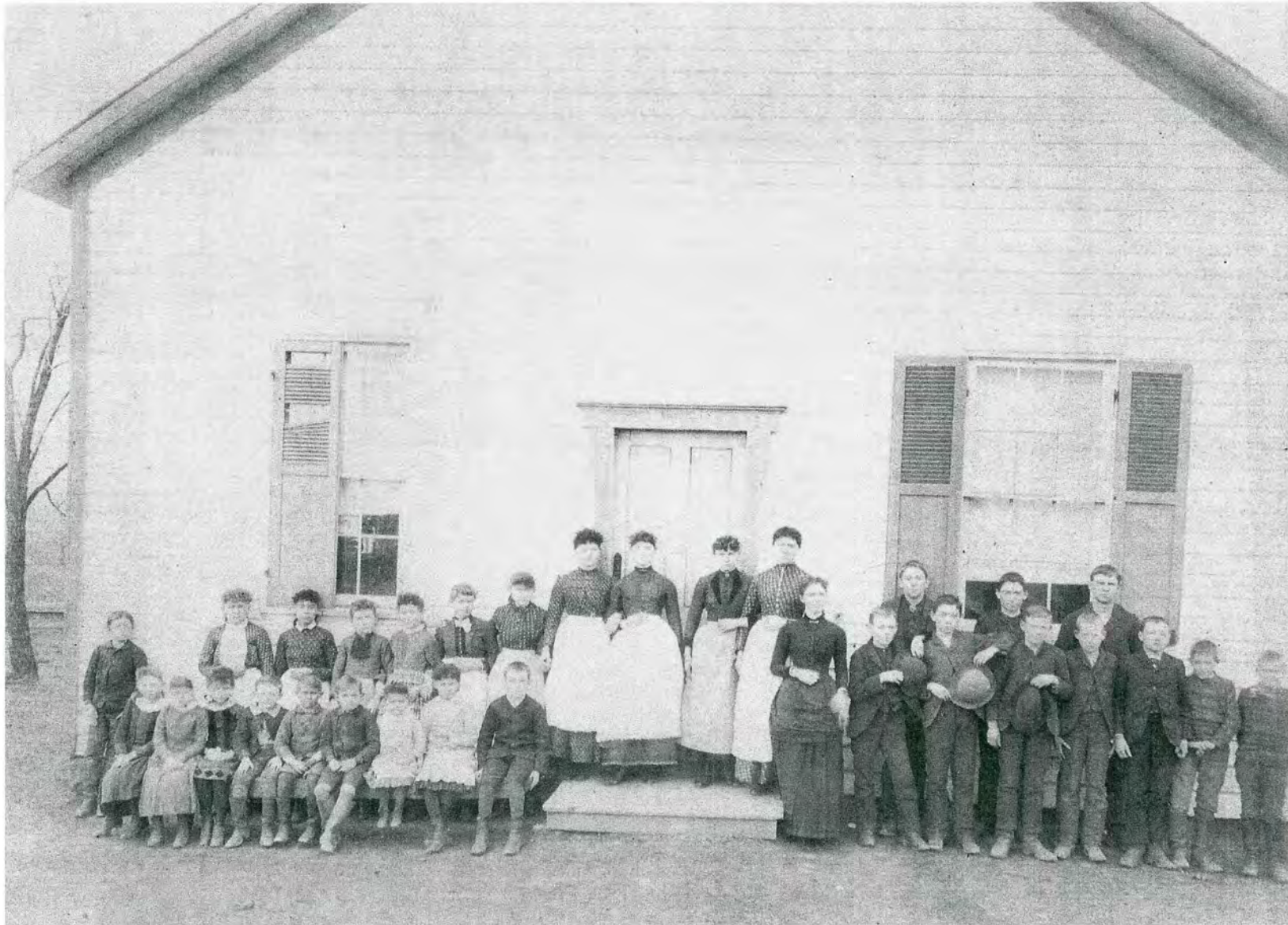
**Purdy School**  
Hanover Township, Washington County, PA



**Front Row, L-R:** Charley Herron, Francis Warwick, Ella Brown, Fred Herron, Willie Warwick, Cleveland McCausland, Jess Sprankle, Lizzie Patterson, Lulu Patterson. **Middle Row, L-R:** Silas Patterson, Oddie Anderson, Ralph Ownings, Arthur Gilliland, Dollie Gardner, Rena McCracken, Bessie McCracken, Iva McCausland, Ola McCausland. **Back Row, L-R:** Scott Anderson, Bob Patterson, Harry Gardner, George McCracken, George McCausland, Edna McCracken, Lulu Gilliland, Effie Owings, Nora Jackson, Edd Ownings. **Teacher:** Katie Scott.



**Purdy School**  
Hanover Township, Washington County, PA



**Front Row, L-R:** Ola McCausland, Rena McCracken, Bessie McCracken, Addie Anderson, Bernie Grant, Ralph Owings, Maggie Grant, Cora Grant, Fred McDonnell, Lida Purdy (Teacher), Curt McDonnell, George McCracken, Scott Anderson, Brook Hought, George McClausland, Charley Gilliland, Ormand Gilliland. **Back Row, L-R:** Edd Owings, Minnie Grant, Jessie Grant, Edna McCracken, Maggie McCracken, Lulu Gilliland, Effie Owings, Sallie McCracken, Emma Purdy, Linnie Owings, Maggie Anderson, Milton McDonnell, Hiram Morrison, and Bill Scott.



**Purdy School**  
Hanover Township, Washington County, PA



Unknown Information

*Fort Vance Historical Society*



# Rock School- 1910 or 1911

## LOCAL MAN, 81, KEEPS IN TOUCH WITH FIRST GRADE TEACHER

Seventy-six years ago in the fall of 1905, Thomas Maynard Campbell, of Purdy Road, Hanover Township, began his first year of school at the old Rock School which was located near his home. Maynard, who was only five at the time and wouldn't be six until February, walked across the fields to the one room school house with his sister, Anna Mae. His first grade teacher that year and, of course, the teacher for the whole school, was Anna M. Crouse, who lived with her family on their farm over the hill from the school. Now, Mr. Campbell is 81 years old, still lives in a house on a part of the family farm, and will soon be sending Miss Crouse a birthday card, as he has done before, for her birthday on December 6. This year she will be 101 years old. Miss Crouse taught in the area for some time, but later moved to Washington, Pa. She now lives in a nursing home in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, and, according to her cousin, Mrs. Ed (Alva) Tarr Wilcoxon, of Frankfort Springs, she is not in very good health.

Maynard and his sisters, Mrs. Anna Mae Neely, a former school teacher in Hanover Township, and Mrs. Carrie Stephenson, met recently at Maynard's home and reminisced about their school days. When they attended school it was only for seven months out of the year with the school year ending on March 22. When Maynard started, the Rock School building was fairly new. There had been an older Rock School just a little farther down the road and closer to the big rock pictured above.

Mr. Campbell believes that his father, who was born in 1868, probably attended the older Rock School which was gone by the time Maynard began. He liked his first grade teacher, Miss Crouse, and he and his sisters also remembered some of their other teachers, such as Wes C. McDonald, Kate Finnegan and Frank C. Ramsey, who later became a minister.

According to Mrs. Neely, going to school at Rock School was "fun." In the fall the boys played ball and the girls played house on the big rock for which the school was named. They also played "hide and seek" and "prisoner's base." On nice days they sat on the grassy banks and ate the lunches they had brought in their dinner pails. Mrs. Stephenson said that they had no hot lunches then, but did have good lunches of sandwiches, pie, cake, cookies and fruit. The students had to go to the spring and carry water back to the school for everyone to drink and at

first Mr. Campbell remembers walking to a spring on the Hines farm of which the present McNicholas property is a part. Later there was a well drilled at the school, but as Mrs. Stephenson remembers, the water wasn't very good to drink.

Winter time meant dressing warmly because, like the houses, Rock School was cold. Mrs. Stephenson says that she could never remember being really warm back then. The children would gather around the pot belly stove in the school to keep warm, but then their backs would get cold. Coal was burned in the stove, and the coal house was across the road from the school so the coal had to be carried across in a bucket by one of the children.

School also represented about the only entertainment for the area children. They would excitedly meet by oil lamp in the evening at the school for pie socials and literaries. At the pie socials some of the children would entertain, and then the boys would buy the pies which the girls had made. The proceeds would be used to buy something for the school such as the library books which Rock once bought. At literaries, the students would enjoy debates, dialogues, recitations and music. Mrs. Neely reminisced that she "never saw any theater look as good as the school did when it was all lit up at night with a lantern hanging outside."

According to Washington County history books, schools were not taught in the township with any regularity until after the passage of the school law of 1834. An election was held at the school house in Florence on March 20, 1835, to elect school directors, and in 1836 the township was districted. The schools were then called district schools. In 1908, when Mr. Campbell was in grade school, there were 12 schools and 12 teachers (six males and six females) in Hanover Township with the total number of months taught being seven. The average salary of the teachers per month was \$44 for males and \$44.50 for females. The cost of each pupil per month was \$1.85.

Rock School closed in 1917, but it stood empty for some time after that until it was finally torn down. The hillside where it stood is quiet now and covered with trees and ground pine, but the rock with all the initials is still there, and the memories are still in the hearts of local people like Mr. Campbell, Mrs. Neely and Mrs. Stephenson, and probably in the heart of Miss Anna M. Crouse, too.



Rock School about 1910 or 1911. Back row, left to right, Anna Mae Campbell, Nina Devitt, Nora Ramsey, Lula Ramsey, William Tarr, Anna M. Crouse. Front row, left to right, Edna Campbell, Lawrence McCausland, George Devitt, Maynard Campbell.



Maynard Campbell at site of old Rock School.



Maynard Campbell pointing out his initials, TMC, on the old rock. Other initials, he believes, are WT, William Tarr; WGD, George Devitt; and SLM, Samuel Lawrence McCausland.

**Local Man, 81, Keeps in Touch with First Grade Teacher**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-November 1981**

*Fort Vance Historical Society*



# Rock School



**Front row: Unknown, Lawrence McCousland, George Devitt, and Maynard Campbell  
Back Row: Anna Mae Campbell, Nina Devitt, Nora and Lulu Ramsey, William Tarr and Anna Crouse**



THE VANISHING ONE-ROOM SCHOOL

RUTH CELESTA MILLER

February 1971 and April 1971



Before Callery became a borough, Adams Township had eleven schools. No. 1 Conley, No. 2 Galbraith, No. 3 Orr, No. 4 Myoma, No. 5 Forsythe, No. 6 McMarlin, No. 7 and No. 8 Callery (it was a two story building), No. 9 Downieville, No. 10 Fiel (later Ludwig) and No. 11 Beers.

The first school buildings were log, except the Orr School which was brick. Later it was moved forty or fifty rods from the old site and rebuilt of hand hewn timber. Both buildings were on the Orr property near the Brownsdale\_Valencia Road. In 1899 it was torn down and a new frame building erected on the Robert Parks farm and was thereafter known as the Parks School. It was abandoned when the electric cars began to operate and the children were sent to the Ludwig School by streetcar.

Before school houses were built, classes were organized in various homes and instruction in the common branches was given. Mr. Robert Hill taught in the first log building in 1805, it being located on or near tthe old Davis farm. In 1837 a log school was built near Callery - a little west of the borough. That building also was abandoned and moved to where the Ludwig School stood. Most of the material was used in building the Fiel and Ludwig Schools. About 1848, Samuel Hood taught the first



school in the neighborhood of Robbins Mill. He used the house vacated by Ruben Conaby.

The Myoma School first stood on the west side of the B & O Railroad on the McCombs property. In 1904 it was abandoned and Bethel Church was bought and used for school purposes until June 3, 1951 when all one-room schools were abandoned and the consolidated school was erected on property owned by the United Presbyterian Home for Children.

Some of the buildings were completely destroyed but Callery, Ludwig and Downieville were remodeled into homes.

Conley School is used as a marble shop. Myoma is gradually rotting away and the Forsythe School is still standing at this date, 1971.

Anyone who had the inclination and was able to read, write, spell and count to a certain degree could teach. Robert Hill, John Irvine, Silas Miller, Samuel Hood, Timothy Ward, Matthew Wright, Joe Staples, Joseph and Robert Cowan and one or two Douthetts were teachers.

According to Butler County History of 1883, the first log school was built in 1805 with Matthew Wright, Timothy Ward and Joseph Kirk serving as teachers, but according to other references, Robert Hill was the first teacher.



The buildings were very crude and by 1836 the buildings were constructed or reconstructed of hand hewn timber which gave them a superior appearance. They all looked alike for two reasons; one was the same men built all or most of them and two, the people of the Community were of Scotch-Irish extraction and being of the Scottish Presbyterian faith, they were opposed to anything that would take the attention of the children away from their studies. Thus, everything was very simple and plain.

No. 1 or Conley School may have been the Hill School of earlier days. There is no record to justify this other than the fact that Robert Hill was the first teacher and the Hill settlement was in the vicinity. Later the Conleys moved in the area and changed the name. The original building - other than the old log school - is where the marble works are at the intersection of Brownsdale-Valencia Road and Denny Road.

Besides the teachers who taught in the early days of the school, there were Estella Udick, Namome Boyd, Martha Park, Ruth C. Miller, Viola Hartung, Marjorie Boyd and Edward Fester.

No. 2 or Galbraith School stood across the road from Rev. Galbraith's house; later occupied by John Cooper and Earl Grubbs.



No early reference is made of teachers, but some who did teach there were Pauline Hartzell Renison, Linnin Miller Bosler, Amy Olive Cox and Grace Sherman Fullerton.

Walter Pearce bought the building and made a house near his own property.

No. 3, first called Orr School, later the Parks School. The first two buildings stood close to the Brownsdale-Valencia Road. The third or last building stood in an open field on the Robert Parks farm and was reached by a lane. The nearest road was a short connecting road with the Three Degree Road. This short road is now called Huch Road.

Teachers who taught in the second building were Sally Sloan Bryson, Absalom Gray, Eaury Irvine, Ora Kennady Sherman and Mr. Painter. In the last building were Lyda Millinger, Ethey Orr, Joseph Miller and Grace Thompson. The school was then closed and the children sent to No. 10 by streetcar. The property was returned to the owner. The building was sold first to Dewitt Kennedy and he sold it to W. Leslie Shannon who used the material for the house in which he is now living. The land of Robert Parks farm was sold to Jacob Huch whose children still own.

No. 4 or Myoma School first stood across from the B & O Railroad on the William McCombs property.



It faced what is now Thielman Road. Some of the teachers were Samuel Armstrong, George Dombart, Virginia Cookson, Elizabeth(Bessie)Brown or Bowen and Grace Braham aunt of Judge Walter Braham, Lawrence County.

In 1904 the school board bought Bethel Chursh and fitted it over into a school. This building faces the Thielman Road and stands a few rods from the Mars-Evans City Road. The building is gradually falling down.

Some of the teachers were John Cashdollar, John Reichle, Ella Reichle(Perry), Rachel Irvine Werner, Lulu Irvine, Grace Irvine, Ellodie North, William Parsons, Fanny Weinstein, Linnie Miller Bosler, Jane Stitzer, Ruth C. Miller and Ethel Davis.

No. 5 or Forsythe School was erected on the William Davison property afterwards owned by his sons, Thomas and Roger. The property was given with the understanding that when no longer needed for education purposes, it would revert to the owners. The building is still standing but in decay. It faces Forsythe Road.

Some of the teachers were James Rowan, Olive Ralston, Helen Marberger Slack, Blanche Crawford, Ada Hamilton and Irene Brooks.

No. 6 or McMarlin Schcol was built on the McMarlin property at the end of the lane which led from the farm buildings to the main road. This property was sold to William Velte and later to Mr. Stamets.



Some of the teachers were Ella Reichle Perry, John Reichle, Ora Kennedy Sherman and Ester Boice.

No. 7 and No. 8 or the Callery School consisted of two rooms. The lower room was No.7 and upper No. 8 It was built on the property of Job Staples and stood across the road from Crestview Presbyterian Church. The entire school property was sold to Lollo and Cartwright who made an apartment dwelling.

Some of the teachers were Elizabeth (Bessie) Bowen, Virginia Cookson, John Shannon, Mable Confer, Miss Reef, Helen Ferguson, Jean Hildebrand, Chauncey J. Miller and Mrs. Bond.

For many years all eighth graders went to Callery for a final examination to permit them to enter an Academy or later to High School. Most of the examination was written. Reading and mental arithmetic were oral. Henry B. Kiester and Miss Rainey, who gave me my oral exam, gave some of the examinations. Other teachers in the township were present and helped correct papers. For many years before Mars had a high school there eighth graders went to Callery for this examination.

No. 9 or Downieville stood at the intersection of a road which crossed the railroad with Mars-Valencia Road. I am not sure who owned the original property but think it was part of the Downie tract. It is an apartment now.



Some of the teachers were Marie Allison, Anna Longdon, Dayle Schwab, Alma Davison, Janet Mincer Mattern, Margaret Lurting Cupp, Ella Reichle Perry and Ruth C. Miller.

No. 10 the Ludwig School was originally built west of Callery. When the Callery School was built, the old building was moved to the Besnecker farm one mile north of Mars. It faces what is now Dobson Road. It was called the Besnecker School.

When E. C. Ludwig, the florest in Pittsburgh bought the property and built a large green house, the electric streetcar was in operation and used for shipping into Pittsburgh. This station was called Ludwig so eventually the school was called the same. Some often called it the Fiel School since the Fiel's purchased the property later.

The entire property was sold to Mr. Dowling who converted it into a dwelling and lived there several years. It was later sold to Mr. Roberts, a teacher in the consolidate school.

Some of the teachers were M. Kline Jordan, Laury Irvine, Wilda Irvine, Lulu Irvine, Sara Hamilton, Anna Douthett Fogal and Ruth C. Miller.

No. 11 or Beers School was built on property owned by James Beers now owned by M. Dale Cashdollar. The part where the school stood was sold to James Kramer, torn down and used in building a house.

About 1889 C. B. Baxter Irvine and Jacob Miller



in the vicinity of Old Union Church who would have to go to No. 3 school on the Huch farm or to the Myoma School. The Board decided it was too far for the smaller children to walk and decided to erect this school. Andrew Rosebaugh opposed the building of another school in the township. It was finally settled by moving Orr School, No. 3 to the Parks farm and build the Beers School.

Some of the teachers were Nellie Cowden, the first, followed by Amy Olive (ollie) Cox, for two years, Bertha Welsh Flinner, Ollie Cox again for two years, Ida Jackson and Jessie Black Watson. Others were Floyd Hoffman, Mr. McCoy, Gertrude Turner, Ethel Dunlop, Ella Barr, Orpha Wigton, Mary Harbison, Clemence Schneider, Ehtel Davis, Edna Hartung Stenzel, Ruth Nicely, Edna Perry, Emma Beitler, Miss Steinheiser and Ruth C. Miller.

Other teachers in the township were Florence Irvine, Estella Zeigler, Helen Barr, Ethel Kennedy, Winifred Bovard, Anna Bailey, Frannie Crawford, Bessie Hutchman, Helen C. Barr, Irene Miller and J. C. Longdon.

School directors in 1909 were J. C. Dight, J. A. Humes, W. L. Marburger, T. W. Hayes, D. B. Stoup and Robert Anderson. C. H. Thielman began serving in 1910.

In 1911 Perry E. Cooper was elected to serve two years, A. A. Cooper and A. C. Rosebaugh for terms of four



years and C. H. Thielman for six years. These same men served in 1912 with the addition of J. A. Humes. In 1920 C. H. Schwab, J. A. Humes, W. H. Cashdollar and W. C. Hoffman served as directors and again in 1921. C. H. Schwab served for 18 years. Those who have served at various times were; Harry Wagoner, Earl Thielman, Charles Werner, Edward Wolf, Ausmun Marburger, Louis Wohlgemuth, James Wohlgemuth, W. H. Miller, Frank Cashdollar, Francis Kennedy, Margaret Morrison, and Ethel Tindall.

A few items omitted: Helen Humes Crawford taught in the township, Miss Hooks (Irene's sister) taught No. 5, Walter Marburger also a teacher along with Mary Smith Allender, Oliver Cashdollar, Grace Allender and Clara McCarl.

The eight grade or county superintendent was also the principal of usually the largest school in the county. He made the examination for entrance to high school. Visiting teachers first assisted in correcting these exams but later all papers were sent to the county office and a committee was appointed to correct them.

In the beginning the wages were low and the term six months. About 1900 the term was extended to seven months and to eight months about 1920. In 1940 it was set at nine months. During the early period the teachers roomed and boarded generally with a member of the school



board or with some family near the school. In 1910 the wages were \$42.50 monthly. Between 1915 and 1920 they were increased to \$50.00. They were increased to \$100.00 around 1930.

Besides C. H. Thieleman, C. H. Schwab and J. A. Humes served the greatest number of years as director.

Most of the bells, if not all, were purchased by raising money through box socials and literaries.

Myoma School was outstanding in the field of literary work. It had many talented young people past school age who took an active part.

Mary Blakeley in the Beers School was a "bright and shining star." She was known for reciting long poems. Her favorites were "The Burial of Moses" and "Curfew Shall Not Ring Tonight". Many of the children could play some musical instrument. "The School House On The Hill" was a favorite song for the Beers School. And, "Onward Christian Soldiers" for the Ludwig School.

The flag which hung in the Beers School (not the one outside) was carried by John Beers during the Civil War. It had a faint blood stain in the lower right-hand corner. His wife, Mary Hamilton Beers, gave it to the school in his memory.

Joseph Cashdollar used the first Myoma School building to erect a granary.



The teachers did all their own work as janitor. If they hired it done they paid out of their own pockets. Until about 1935 the teachers furnished their kindling wood and after that time a part of the kindling was furnished by the Board.

All the teachers stressed the three "R's". Ollie Cox stressed history, technical grammar, civil government and physiology. Her father being a Civil War veteran aroused her patriotism to its fullest. Reed and Kellogg grammar was used and diagrams were heavily stressed.

Music instruction was introduced about 1940. Many years before, James Rowan had taught singing but it was discontinued because of the lack of funds. Then about 1940 Margaret Coddington followed by Clemence Schneider were hired to teach music. The children with few exceptions were talented in music and excellent singers.

Spencerian system of writing was first used. A year of vertical writing spoiled many a child's handwriting. This was followed by the Palmer system. Later the Peterson system followed by the Painter system. W. C. Painter visited the schools once a month and gave the teachers instructions for teaching methods.

John Fowler Cashdollar was noted for his beautiful hand-writing. For many years he wrote the names on the Slippery Rock Normal diplomas.



In 1901 when the state made it compulsory that all children were to be vaccinated against small-pox, Dr. E. L. Wason of Callery went to each school in the township and vaccinated the children. After 1901 children were required to be vaccinated before entering school.

The buildings were hard to heat in the winter. The large stoves standing in the middle of the room was too hot for those near by and not hot enough for those sitting near the outside walls. A type of furnace was tried in several buildings but without success.

"Fairwell, One-Room Schools!" Those were the happy days and we could read, write, spell and count when we were finished with the eight grade.

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The earlier teachers were well known for the disciplin in the school rooms and on the playgrounds. Herbert Shelatoe and Samuel Hood were long remembered for their strict disciplin. Silas Miller was better known for teaching character and the elementary subjects. He was well read and had mastered many subjects beyond those which he taught. He wrote and composed music and conducted a singing school at Myoma. He was a good penman and surveyor. He wrote many legal documents such as wills and deeds. He also surveyed many farms and roads in southern Butler County.



Among the teachers already listed, the following have been brought to my attention: At the second No. 3 or Orr's School were Herbert Shelatoe, Maude McClymonds, Lula Painter, Allen Painter, Richard Timblin, Emma Brown Nicklas, Susan Stuart Blakeley, Amelia Gilliland Irvine, Mr. Hosick, and Laury Irvine was the last teacher.

No 4, Myoma; Helen Marburger, Blanche Crawford, Vivian Dodds and Doyle Schwab.

No No. 5, Forsythe; Katherine Hooks, Alice Kincaid McPherson, Mr. Bixler and Mr. Hoover.

No. 8, Callery; Wellington Irvine.

No. 9, Downieville; Wilber Kennedy, James Wohlgemuth, Harry Bruce, Raymond Davidson, Margaret Gay Hartung, and Minnie Gross.

No. 11, Beers; Alice Stuart Ramsey, Grace McGee Cashdollar, Paul Wohlgemuth, Dora Twentier, Mildred Beers, Pearl Kidd, Betty Ellenberger and Miss Kriess.

Two others taught in the township but their schools are unknown: Raymond Ziegler and Emma Clark.

No. 2, Galbraith School was first called Crowe School. They had a large tract of land in the area. Crowe property was sold to Isaac Blakeley so it was also known as Blakeley School prior to the time of Rev. Galbraith.

This story is not Conclusive. It was done mostly from memory and old-time accounts. My thanks to all.

RUTH CELESTA MILLER