

# **Scrapbook**

of

# **Schools**

by

**Kathryn Campbell Slasor**

(Schools included were located in Washington County, PA  
in Cross Creek, Independence, Hopewell, & Mt. Pleasant townships.)

## FOREWORD

The book you have just taken into your hands is a one-of-a-kind. There is no other book just like it either in make-up or content. It contains a partial history of the one-room schools that in former days dotted the landscape of the local area. This includes the townships of Independence, Cross Creek, Hopewell, the Boro of West Middletown, and a smattering of that in Hickory and Mt. Pleasant Township areas of Washington County, Pennsylvania.

This book is unique in that very little of it is "written" as most books are written. It is, instead, an accumulation of paragraphs and sentences, dates and memories, of school days of long ago, scattered in a hodge-podge manner on pages that, if seriously perused, will transport the reader back to those days when learning was the chief reason one was sent to school.

What it contains is of the utmost importance, and solicits the reader's perseverance to the end. A large percentage of the material is printed verbatim from the pen of Alvin Dinsmore White, outstanding teacher, author and lecturer for nearly a century.

Some of these pages have been reproduced in his own handwriting, for the benefit of the younger generation of today's readers who were robbed of any access to the influence of such greatness in a man.

For those who do not know, Mr. White was born in Smith Township on November 10, 1894. He lived until July 4, 1994, four months short of the century mark. It is beyond man's comprehension to absorb the extent of the legacy he left behind.

As Principal of a "Backwoods" country school, and being affiliated with many others of the one-room variety, Mr. White came to know his young and eager charges well. He endeared himself to immigrant parents unable to speak the language. He would oversee such vital elements as immunization shots and vaccinations. He brought scared little ones out of the wilderness in which they had been born into the world of Fort Necessity, the museum dinosaurs and the Heinz pickle. He saw that eye glasses were provided for those whose sight was a little fuzzy and that new shoes replaced the worn-out soles.

The Great Depression hit hard. The days of "no food in the house" were brightened when a five-gallon can of soup made with milk and home grown vegetables was carried into the school room, courtesy of Mr. White and his good wife, their family cow, and their vegetable garden. For two years this daily ritual kept food and milk in the mouths of those little ones who might have succumbed to the pangs of hunger.

Not to be overlooked or slighted in any way were the devoted teachers of those trying days. At the fantastic salary of one hundred dollars a month in 1931, the onset of the Great Depression, these dedicated young individuals would look out over a class of thirty to forty wistful-eyed little ones seated at their desks eagerly waiting to learn. These teachers have been held in ecstatic remembrance by generations to this day.

Now the scroll is winding down. The old one-room schools have been erased from the landscape. Never again will pantaloons-clad little urchins struggle through two miles of snow drifts or ankle-deep sticky mud to get to school. Time has all but run out, even on memories. It is the hope of this writer that the words written here will help to keep them alive for just a little while longer. Because few there are that remain.

Kathryn Campbell Slasor

# Notice to Painters

The Board of School Directors of Cross Creek School District will receive proposals at Beech Knob, on Saturday Aug. 26<sup>th</sup> inst. at 3 P.M. for painting during the month of October next. The exterior of Bushy Rock and White Oak School houses. 3 coats each — Stone Color — Shutters, Corner strips and Cornice brown. Materials — Fahnestock, Schwartz & Hall's White Lead, Dayton Oil. Bids will be received for the work — For the Material and for the work, and the Material of each house separately. The Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Aug. 11<sup>th</sup> 1876

By order of the Board  
J. M. Reed

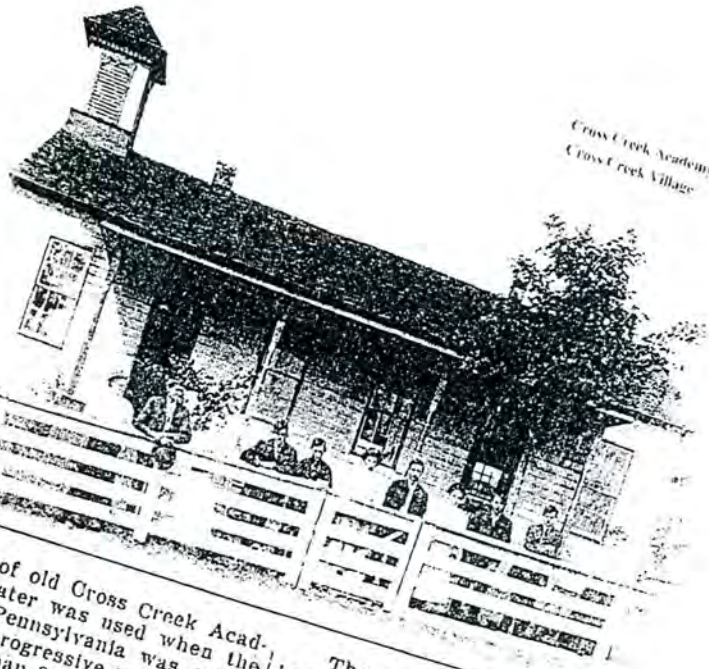
Secy of the Board.

January 10<sup>th</sup> 1856.  
The School Directors of Cross Creek Township  
Drs to Wm Jones for a table with drawers two  
dollars and seventy five cents for frame  
school house C.C. Village Dec 17<sup>th</sup> 1855

Wm Jones

The reader will see among the pages of this book one liners that contain little bits of information not related to anything else. We hope you enjoy our "Odds and Ends and Miscellaneous".

This title is derived from a true event that happened in our family. When we were getting our elderly mother ready to move, we told her she could pack her things so long as she labeled the boxes. Upon closer inspection just before moving day, we found all boxes labeled, "Odds and Ends and Miscellaneous".



Above is a photograph of old Cross Creek Academy, first rural high school in Pennsylvania established there in 1896 by the progressive school board of that day. Persons more than 80 years of age are unable to recall any other building. The structure is practically on the auction block and unless concerted action is taken within the next few weeks it will go the way of many other historic landmarks—be sold to the highest bidder and dismantled. Steps are being taken, however, which perhaps will save the building.

The photograph above was taken in 1907. Members of the student body and faculty are shown along the fence, from left to right as follows: Principal Eola Smith, now Mrs. William White, Canonsburg; Arthur Lyle, Mary White (Mrs. Edward Welch), Donald Lyle, John Johnson, Martha Johnston, Willa Cunningham, John Gault, Myrtle Balmer (Mrs. Mortimer), Vance Walker, Oscar Vance and Clare Cooke, assistant principal. The history of the academy with illustrations, will be printed in The Observer beginning this week.

**Miss Bessie Donehoo Makes Initial Move in Effort to Save Structure—Suggestion Advanced It Be Used as Museum.**

*Apr 19 1935*

**HISTORY OF OLD SCHOOL**

By A. D. McCARRELL,  
Of Hickory, Pa.

Cross Creek will lose its oldest landmark if the old Academy building, practically on the auction block, were to be razed. The structure, the only academy building, it is believed, in which the first rural high school in Pennsylvania was opened, is to be sold to the highest bidder within a few weeks and unless action is taken quickly will be destroyed. Miss Bessie Donehoo has volunteered to donate ground on which to place the historic structure. Alvin White, well known resident of the district, suggests it should be saved and used as a museum.

There is no record of a charter for Cross Creek Academy, but in the Recorder's Office of Washington County, Deed Book, Vol. 3A, Page 77, there is a deed dated January 24, 1829, by which John Graham and Jane Graham, his wife, transferred to John Boggs et al, of Cross Creek Township, for the consideration of \$15, grant, bargain and sell unto John Boggs, Joseph Cooke, John Ramsey, Benjamin Murray, and David Woods, trustees of the Cross Creek Academy, their successors in office, the east half of Lot No. 51 in the Village of Cross-Creek.

The same tract was conveyed by Henry Graham to John Graham. This is evidently a part of the tract donated to the Cross Creek Presbyterian Church by Henry Graham. At least there is a tradition among the oldest residents of the community to that effect.

If there ever were records kept of the academy they have either been lost or destroyed. Complete rosters of instructors and pupils are not available.

The following eight pages (numbered 4 through 11) are taken from the "Annual Report and Directory for Washington County Public School 1850 - 1950". Research and the writing of the history was done by James R. Braden with help from a committee of others: C. A. Mathewson, W. R. Williams, A. D. White, W. E. Noble, W. H. First, H. L. Tennyson, Douglas Bowman, L. R. Sutherland, W. G. Burkett, and C. R. Morrison.

Follow page numbers in sequence.

The remainder of the pamphlet may be found in the A. D. White Research Center at the Wabash Railroad Station in Avella.

## CHAPTER I

### THE BEGINNINGS

When we seek the beginnings of education in Washington County, we must go back a long way, back to the Scotch-Irish emigrants who crossed the mountains from Eastern Pennsylvania. These emigrants brought with them not only their material possessions, but their ideas of government, religion, and education. The schools were established, as Wickersham says in *A HISTORY OF EDUCATION IN PENNSYLVANIA*, "Without any controlling law on the subject, and therefore necessarily without system, prompted by the wish to obtain at least some education for their children, . . . and limited always by the scanty means, at their command, our fathers built school houses, employed teachers, and sent their children to school as best they could, and the wonder is not that under the circumstances so many sections of the country were poorly supplied with schools, but that education was so general." We may be fairly certain that no schools existed before 1770 for early historians agree that, aside from scattered pioneer families, no settlements had been made in the county prior to that date.

However, after 1770, population increased rapidly in Washington County as emigrants in large numbers moved in to settle on the fertile lands west of the Monongahela. It is doubtful if they found time to establish schools much before the time of the Revolution. Naturally the pattern of education which these settlers brought with them was that which had prevailed in their former places of residence. For the most part, this pattern was the church school. In fact, from the earliest records of education in America, the churches were foremost in the work of education everywhere. The deeply set religious convictions of our forefathers demanded that a place of worship be established first, and after the church was built, the community school soon followed. For the same reason, institutions of higher learning appeared at almost the same period. These church schools of higher learning were devoted to the training of Gospel ministers. Dr. John McMillan established a school on a branch of Chartiers Creek, now North Strabane Township, probably about 1780, according to Crumrine's *HISTORY OF WASHINGTON COUNTY*. This school, which included both Latin and Greek in its curriculum, continued to operate until the year 1791. This was the first classical and scientific school west of the mountains.

In 1782, Rev. Thaddeus Dodd built a log cabin and opened a classical and mathematical school near Amity, which continued for three and a half years until he sold his farm. This log cabin school had thirteen students, and all boarded with Rev. Dodd.

In 1785, Rev. Joseph Smith opened a school in his study at Buffalo Village. This school continued for two or three years. It was later held in a log cabin, which was erected as an addition to his own residence, and which was designed to be used as a kitchen. His wife generously gave it up to school purposes, and with restricted facilities for cooking, undertook the task of boarding the considerable addition to her family. When Rev. Smith's school closed, most of its students transferred to the log cabin school of Dr. McMillan.

After the Revolutionary War, the elementary schools of the church

became "common schools," largely because of mixed population and a strong sense of unity seemed to demand that people establish and support their own system of education apart from the influence of the church. However, the influence of the church could not be set aside entirely, and even up to 1840, school board minutes of Chartiers Township solemnly named the Bible, "as a text book in all the schools of the Township."

These "common schools" were known as subscription schools and were started by an enterprising man in the community, who had children to educate. He would call a meeting of his neighbors and a Board of Trustees would be appointed. The trustees were to provide a room or build a school house, ascertain the number of children to attend, fix the "tuition," and employ teachers. Whatever money was needed was raised by popular subscription, and neither the pay nor the qualifications of the teacher were elaborate. A location would be agreed upon and a committee to make arrangements would be appointed. The day would be announced, and both old and young would look forward to this date with more eagerness than the people of today anticipate Christmas or the Fourth of July. It was a holiday and also a day of hard work. The families would gather at the appointed place in the morning, traveling on foot, on horseback, or in carts and wagons drawn by oxen or horses. They were dressed for work and brought with them axes, saws, other tools, and rifles. The women brought food and a few cooking utensils. The materials for the building were the nearby trees of the forest, with some stones and clay from a nearby pit.

After the committee had selected the trees and marked them by chipping the bark, some of the men would fell the trees and cut the logs to the desired length, and others would drive the oxen and horses which pulled the logs to the building site. The men selected to do the building would notch the ends of the logs and lay them up to make walls. When a height of six or seven feet was reached, only the end walls were laid higher to form the gables. A long straight pole called the ridge pole was laid between the peaks of the two ends, and other poles or rafters were placed to support the roof. Straight grained chestnut trees had been selected and cut into three-foot lengths to be split into shingles or clapboards. These were laid in overlapping layers on the rafters and weighted down with poles and stones, as nails were too scarce and expensive to be used in a schoolhouse. The fireplace, which was usually five or six feet wide and four feet high, was made from stones, sticks, and wet clay, as was also the chimney. There was no ceiling, and the floor was wet clay packed down and hardened. This made a satisfactory floor when it was dry, but when the rain leaked through the roof or when the pupils tracked snow inside, it became a mud puddle. The spaces between the logs were filled or chinked with pieces of stone and clay. Slabs for a crude door were split from logs and fastened together by wooden pegs.

The furniture of the school consisted of crude split log benches and a split log slab fastened to the walls to make a kind of sloping desk. The teacher's desk was a crude affair made with split logs with a sloping top on which he could prepare copies for the writing lessons.

While the men were working, the women prepared a feast, which was served at noon. The food usually consisted of several varieties of game the men had shot, such as deer, bear, elk, buffalo, wild turkey, squirrel,

and wild pigeon. In addition to the game, there were beef, pork, potatoes, corn bread, hominy, maple syrup, pies, cakes, and such fruits as might be in season. For beverages, there would be sassafras tea, apple cider, apple jack, home-made wines, and whiskey.

After dinner there would be shooting matches, wrestling, and square dancing. The meeting would break up in time for the people to reach home before dark, as travel by night was difficult and dangerous.

These primitive schools continued to serve the community during the first quarter of the 19th century. Those who were able to pay tuition paid, and those who were unable to pay were allowed to attend free. The salary of the teacher, about twelve dollars a month, became the responsibility of more prominent citizens, who collected such contributions as the other patrons were willing or able to give. In West Finley Township, the teachers were sometimes paid in rye, which they, in turn, sold to the distillers. The requirements of the schoolmaster were that he could read, write, or cipher as far as the double rule of three. Many of these teachers, who were frequently barely removed from illiteracy, were men to whom manual occupations did not appeal and whose backgrounds or habits prevented them from securing clerical positions. Many of them were itinerant schoolmasters without families or fixed residence, keeping school wherever opportunity offered. The schoolmaster, except in the church schools, had no assured social position. He was unrecognized and unwelcomed by men of affairs in business or practical circles.

4  
Of the early teachers in Washington County, one was represented as a tyrant; another could not write; another could not cipher beyond the double rule of three; another gave his pupils whiskey for a Christmas treat; another was barred out and entered the school only by climbing down the chimney or by donning woman's apparel. On the other hand, some of the teachers were remembered as being outstanding. One "wrote a beautiful hand," another was a "fine mathematician," or "a good classical scholar." Some of these teachers went on to other professions, for teaching was a "stepping stone" to the professions. Many of the outstanding teachers became ministers, doctors, or lawyers. The written article which the teacher circulated for subscription was his only test of scholarship. There was scarcely any attempt at teaching as it is understood now. Each pupil came to the teacher in his order and said his lesson, since there was no attempt at classification. Blackboards, charts, maps, and globes were unknown.

The branches taught were spelling, reading, writing, arithmetic, and the Old and New Testaments. The textbooks of the school were not uniform as the pupils brought whatever books were in their homes. Some of the texts first used were the NEW ENGLAND PRIMER, Dilworth's SCHOOLMASTER'S ASSISTANT, Dilworth's SPELLING BOOK, Cramer's SEQUEL TO THE ENGLISH READER, Murray's GRAMMAR, THE WESTERN CALCULATOR, and the NEW TESTAMENT. School supplies came from whatever materials were available.

Most of the arithmetic was mental arithmetic. Promotion took place when the student was qualified to study a more difficult reader. Often the teacher had the only book, from which he would read aloud while the student wrote what he heard. Writing was done with pens made

of goose quills, and every teacher had to be an expert in making and mending such quills. The goose quill furnished the material from which the master made the pens for the scholars. The ink was homemade from maple bark, sumac, and white oak, and occasionally, there appeared an ink made from what was called "ink powder," but it was regarded as an outside "material," not to be trusted, as it would fade. The paper used in olden times was unruled. It was ruled by a homemade ruler, so called, and a pencil manufactured impromptu from a bar of lead. Ciphering on the slate was done with a pencil obtained from the nearest soapstone. The soapstone was chiseled into pencils, with the famous "Barlow Knife," or the "Elvey Knife," with a red bone handle, containing two blades. The copy was set by the master, whose competency was measured much according to his proficiency in making good pens and setting copies.

The earliest subscription schools known to have been established in Washington County were in Cross Creek Township, Mt. Pleasant Township, and Smith Township, according to Boyd Crumrine's HISTORY OF WASHINGTON COUNTY. Cross Creek Township had a school in 1782 or 1783, and there was a school held on a farm in Mt. Pleasant Township during the winter of 1783 and 1784. In Smith Township, William Lorie, a surveyor and a soldier, taught school in 1785.

The period from 1790 to 1834 saw the establishment of subscription schools in every township then in existence.

About the year 1800, Benjamin Huff taught school in Allen Township. He was succeeded by William Jackman, Robert Wilson and Solomon Allen.

In 1792, William Greenlee and Archibald Stanley were teachers in Amwell Township. Two school houses were known to exist in 1810, but little other information about education in Amwell Township is available until 1835.

One of the first school houses in Buffalo was a primitive one, built in 1803, near the site of the North Buffalo Church. It was a rude log structure, chinked, but not daubed with clay in the interstices, and was without a floor, other than the ground on which it stood.

Canton Township had a log schoolhouse built in 1815. This school building caught fire while the school was in session during the year 1829, and was wholly destroyed. Another early school was located on the ridge on the farm of William Wolfe.

Little is known of the early schools of Cecil Township, except that they were scattered, kept irregularly and by subscription. About 1804 and 1805, Samuel May taught a school in a log cabin for about a year and a half. The close proximity of the township to the Canonsburg Academy and later to Jefferson College, gave to this district a great advantage over the more remote townships, but it was not until the passage of the school law in 1834 that any step was taken toward the establishment of schools of general education.

The assessment roll of Chartiers Township for the year 1800 contains the names of six schoolmasters. At that time, there were four log school houses in the township. In 1807, Daniel Black and Samuel Miller were teaching in this township. Between 1815 and 1830, Price Cornwell and John Haft were listed as teachers.

Joseph Patterson was the teacher of the first school in Cross Creek

Nosco Hall School

- 1883-84 - J. E. Glass, Teacher (J. Edward)
- 1884-85 - Scott S. Adams (John White pupil aged 16)
- 1885-86 - Henry Pelley
- 1886-87 - Jess. B. Howden (Tommy Gault age 7)
- 1887-88 - Ida M. Campbell (Percy Gault age 6)
- 1888-89 - Jess. B. Howden (Henry Voyle age 12)

- 1889-90 - Ida M. Campbell
- 1890-91 - Bell Rankin
- 1891-92 - same

Nosco Hall School

- Sept 1, 1902 - Sybilla Rankin
- Aug 31, 1903 - same
- Sept 5, 1904 - same
- Sept 4, 1905 - same
- Sept 3, 1906 - same
- Sept 2, 1907 - May O. Hill
- month ending Feb 7, 1908 - Effie Cunningham
- Aug 31, 1908 - Sybilla Rankin
- Aug 30, 1909 - Sybilla Rankin
- 10-11 - Myrtle Caldwell \$50.00

- 1911-12 - Nosco Hall School
- 1912-13 - Nellie James
- 1913-14 - Stephen B. Frazier
- 1914-15 - Drane A. Cunningham
- 1915-16 - Elizabeth Mullin
- Alvin D. White

50  
50  
45  
45  
45  
45

Nosco Hall, Decm. 22, 1899

1 Paper	Ho	cts
		35
Chalk		25
Chalk		20
Poker		30
		110

Dnt.

A. C. Marshall, Teacher

Order granted No 84

**Nosco Hall, Dist. No. 1,**  
**Cross Creek Twp., Washington Co.,**  
**Penna.**

1899-1900.

**Board of Education:**

Robert Scott, Pres.    Thomas Johnson, Sec.  
 Robert Dimit, Treas.    Luther Lawton,  
 Stephen Cunningham, William Brown.  
 Prof. F. R. Hall, County Supt.  
**WILLARD L. REED, Teacher.**



**PUPILS:**

Gertrude Jeffrey,	Gretta Fullum,
Edna Lyle,	Cummins Campbell,
Pansy Campbell,	Guy Gault,
Ruby Vogle,	Howard Jeffrey,
Ethel Campbell,	Donald Gault,
Hazel Jeffrey,	Hayes Campbell,
Mellissa Fullum,	Johnnie Johnson,
Clara Fullum,	Dwight Jeffrey,
	Lemuel Fullum.

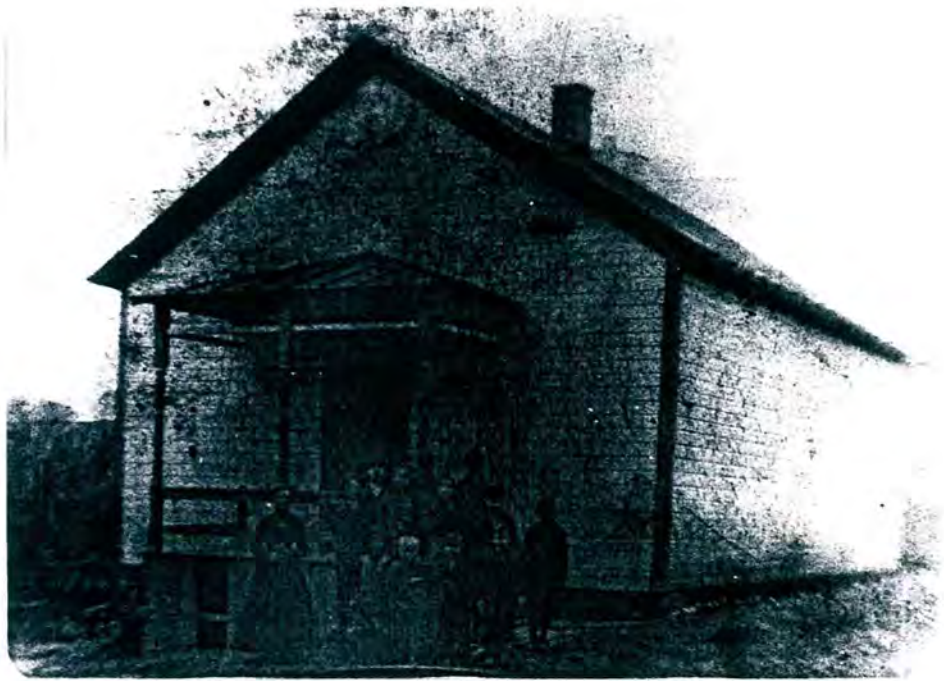
H. G. PHILLIPS; PUBLISHER; WILLIAMSPORT, PA.



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Willow Valley



1883-84 - Rennie J. Reed (Bertie Rea age 7)

1884-85 - Francenia E. Allen

1885-86 - Effie L. Rea

{ Bertie Rea - age 9  
Dora Rea - age 6  
Jennie Rea - age 17  
James Rea - age 11  
Harry Buxton - age 12

1886-87 - Minnie Rea

1887-88 - J. H. Mc Corbale

1888-89 - E. R. Cunningham

1889-90 - Charles R. Cunningham

1890-91 - Hella Mc Fadden

1891-92 - Ada Howden

Willow Valley School

1900-01 - A. Livonia Reed ✓

1901-02 - S. Blancher Reed ✓

1902-03 - W. W. Patterson ✓

1903-04 - J. Westmore Miller ✓

1904-05 - Elizabeth Mc Flemming  
1905-06 - W. W. Patterson  
1906-07 - J. R. Miller  
1907-08 - Myrtle Caldwell  
1908-09 - same

# SOCIETY

## Willow Valley Reunion

The reunion held at Willow Valley School June 28 will long be remembered by the 250 present as one of the finest social events ever held in this section. Early in the day cars began arriving and well-filled baskets, carried by those emerging indicated that later on the dinner was to be a real event.

The morning was given over to renewing old friendships and greeting those who came as friends and neighbors of old schoolmates. Many of those present had not met for 10, 20, 30 and even 40 years ago and you will have some idea of the many surprises.

As time moved on, cars continued to roll in. The beautiful school grounds began to take on the appearance of a real park, people were moving around under the shade of mighty trees that had been planted by those, who enjoyed the fruits of their labor in the comforts received on this occasion.

Never in the history of the oldest visitor could anything like this be recalled. Nor could anyone recall hearing of anything so commendable and praiseworthy as such a reunion. Not only were those who had either taught or attended school enthused with the idea, but many others who, as friends of education and a desire to assist the coming generation, expressed themselves as being anxious to assist in furthering a continuous of those reunions.

By this time the visitors had become acquainted, children of former teachers and pupils had been introduced, reminiscences exchanged, regret expressed for those unable to attend and some confidential chats held. As the sun mounted higher and higher in the heavens, and the cool, refreshing breeze continued to sweep over the grounds, the pealing of the school bell was heard. This was notice to find seats under the shade of the waving maples and be prepared to receive the dinner that soon was served.

When the crowd was seated, W. C. Brownlee, a former pupil, offered prayer. The committees were complimented on the fine manner in which the meal was served.

With dinner over, the afternoon exercises got under way. The first speaker was C. M. Rea, who gave a well prepared history of the school, which was instructive, entertaining and contained much humor. Mrs. C. M. Rea also made a very interesting address. Mrs. Iva Donaldson gave a talk in which she recalled many events of her girlhood days at the school. Nellie Kharas told of her experience as a teacher. Grace Borland spoke with much humor on events that happened during her school days. Mrs. A. C. Wilson also related some of her experiences as a

teacher. Wilda Brownlee read a parody on "The Old Oaken Bucket," which was well received and much appreciated. Mrs. Ada McEwen related her experiences as a teacher. E. M. Dowler spoke of his early school days. Mr. Dowler stated he attended the school in 1881 and has endeavored to keep in touch with the affairs of education ever since.

The athletic program consisted of horseshoe pitching, mushball, ball-throwing contest, shoe-kicking contest, foot races, and jumping contest, about 100 participating. Much excitement was created by the younger element in their endeavor to secure just a slight advantage over their opponents.

To this school belongs the honor of having for its pupils the O'Donnell triplets, Catherine, Betty and James. Their father, D. L. O'Donnell, is mail carrier on R. D. 1, Rea. The triplets are 15 years of age, enjoy good health and will enter high school this coming Fall. It is believed that no other school in Cross Creek Township has ever had the honor of enrolling triplets before. The triplets were much in evidence at the reunion.

Willow Valley School, if not the oldest in the township, is among the first schools to be started in the section, and those who made the reunion possible feel that they performed an act which will be followed by other schools.

# Teachers of Willow Valley School.

1861. Samuel F. Patterson	1883 Rena J. Reed
1862 Kate Jeffrey	1884 Francie Allen
1863 William P. Montgomery	1885 Effie L. Rea
1864 " " " "	1886 Minnie Rea
1865 G. A. Cotton	1887 J. Henri McEckle
1866 G. A. Cotton & W. W. Jackson	1888 Chas. Cunningham
1867 Adaline McKibben	1889 " "
1868 Alex. G. Burns	1890 Della McFadden
1869 Tillie McEugie	1891 Ada Houden
1870 R. Janie McKeever	1892
1871 Alonzo F. Hemphill	1893 Della McFadden
1872 Emma Jerome	1894 Lizzie Stevenson
1873 A. F. Hemphill	1895 Maggie Sauton & Wilda Brown
1874 " " " "	1896 Della McFadden
1875 Anna Hemphill	1897 Carrie Westlake
1876 " " " "	1898 J. Winfield Reed
1877 Mandaline Patterson	1899 Lora Smith
1878 " " " "	1900 A. Livonia Reed
1879 Clara B. Reed	1901 A. Blanch Reed
1880 W. W. Jackson	1902 D. W. Patterson
1881 Effie L. Rea	1903 J. Gertrude Miller
1882 Rena J. Reed	1904 Elizabeth McDonald

1905 D. W. Patterson  
1906 J. Ray Miller  
1907 Myrtle Baldwin  
1908 " "  
1909 " "  
1910 Nellie Vance  
1911 Nettie Welch  
1912  
1913 Maud Andrews  
1914 Mary Forney  
1915 Elizabeth Miller  
1916 Ezra Moore  
1917  
1918  
1919  
1920 John Baldwin  
1921 " "  
1922 Helen Harkins  
1923 Gertrude McCreary  
1924 Alna Henry  
1925 Marie Martin  
1926 " "  
1927 Blanche Carter  
1928 Mrs. Clara G. Rea

1929 Mrs. Clara G. Rea  
1930 " " " "  
1931 " " " "  
1932 Mrs. Rea & Miss Bemis  
1933 Mrs. Clara G. Rea  
1934 Mrs. Clara C. Rea  
1935 - closed  
1936 - closed  
1937 - closed  
1938 - Mrs. Helen Broulee  
1939 - Mrs. Genevieve Colver  
1940 - Mrs. Genevieve Colver  
1941 - Mrs. Genevieve Colver  
1942 - Mrs. Helen Broulee  
1943 - Mrs. Helen Broulee  
1944 - closed  
1945 -

Minnie Pea teacher Willow Valley 1886-1887  
\$30<sup>00</sup> per month

Will Bester  
Fred Walker  
Nowal Castner  
Rob Stewart  
Harry Buxton  
Collie Bromlee  
Cheley Stevenson  
Cameron Lawton  
Clarence Swarts  
George Stevenson  
Elyza Howler  
Lewis Proctor (col)  
Robbie Howler  
Hager Swarts  
Harvey Proctor (col)

Jama Pea  
Addie Stevenson  
Nannie Stevenson  
Grace Bromlee  
Bessie Lawton  
Low Lawton  
Mary Bromlee  
Wilda Bromlee  
Low Bromlee  
Bertie Castner  
Berta Pea  
Iva Pea  
Blanche Lawton  
Ellen Proctor (col)

# Independence

as part of Avella District Jointure  
Miss Joan S. Ruben born on March 18, 1935  
Parents: John S. and Ruben  
Retirement Rate: not recorded College Provisional  
Certificate - Graduated from West Liberty (W. Va.) State  
Teachers College in 1957  
Years of teaching in Avella School to July 1, 1960 - 3  
Teaching Special Room in Avella High School Bldg. till  
Dec 1, 1960 - then went to Michigan to take  
over a Special Class. Her place at Avella School was  
assumed by Mrs. Mildred Painter Morrow of Independence.

From News Files:

For January 1, 1873, lists of Teachers Attending Washington  
County Teachers Institute:

For Cross Creek Township:

Joseph M. Dickson

Mary H Dunbar

Emma Jerome

Aggie Cochran  
Laura Burns

L. M. McCarrell  
Rach(el) Dunbar

For Jefferson Township:

Emma J. Wilson

Amanda Cassidy

R.P. Stevenson

For Mt. Pleasant Township:

Lizzie A. Slemmons

M. T. Rockey

For January 29, 1873: Report of the death of the Rev. John  
Eagleson, D.D. and Resolutions of Respect by a  
Committee: Wm. Donahey  
Ezekiel Davis  
W. W. Hunter

George Keenan dies in well. Age 44. (Aug. 19, 1908)

# **MY MEMORIES OF FALLEN TIMBER GRADE SCHOOL**

by  
Frank Furiga

I was the youngest child in a family of six children. There were three boys and two girls older than I. Both of my parents were Central Europe immigrants. Since they arrived in this country without much formal education, they had to accept whatever work was available.

Mother was a Carpatho-Rusyn coming from the old Austria-Hungary and Dad was a Slovak coming from the same country. Due to his lack of much formal education, he took a job that did not require much work experience. He became a coal miner. Mother had come to this country as a child care-giver to my father's three children by his wife who had just died. Mother stayed with her brother during this time and eventually married her employer - my father.

My parents started a whirlwind of moves as Dad had to take employment wherever there were jobs available. Consequently, they moved from Van Voorhis to Hazelkirk to Pryor to Seldom Seen and finally to Pine Flats. Here they made a purchase of five acres of land which was most beneficial when raising a family. The property had ample room for gardens and keeping livestock, plus a house. Having settled down permanently, there was now a need to educate their children. Fallen Timber School supplied that need.



Fallen Timber Grade School, Independence PA,  
taken in 1937 - 1938 upon closing of school.

Eventually in the Avella district, progress was made to provide higher education. This came via the Highland Avenue School and finally Avella High School.

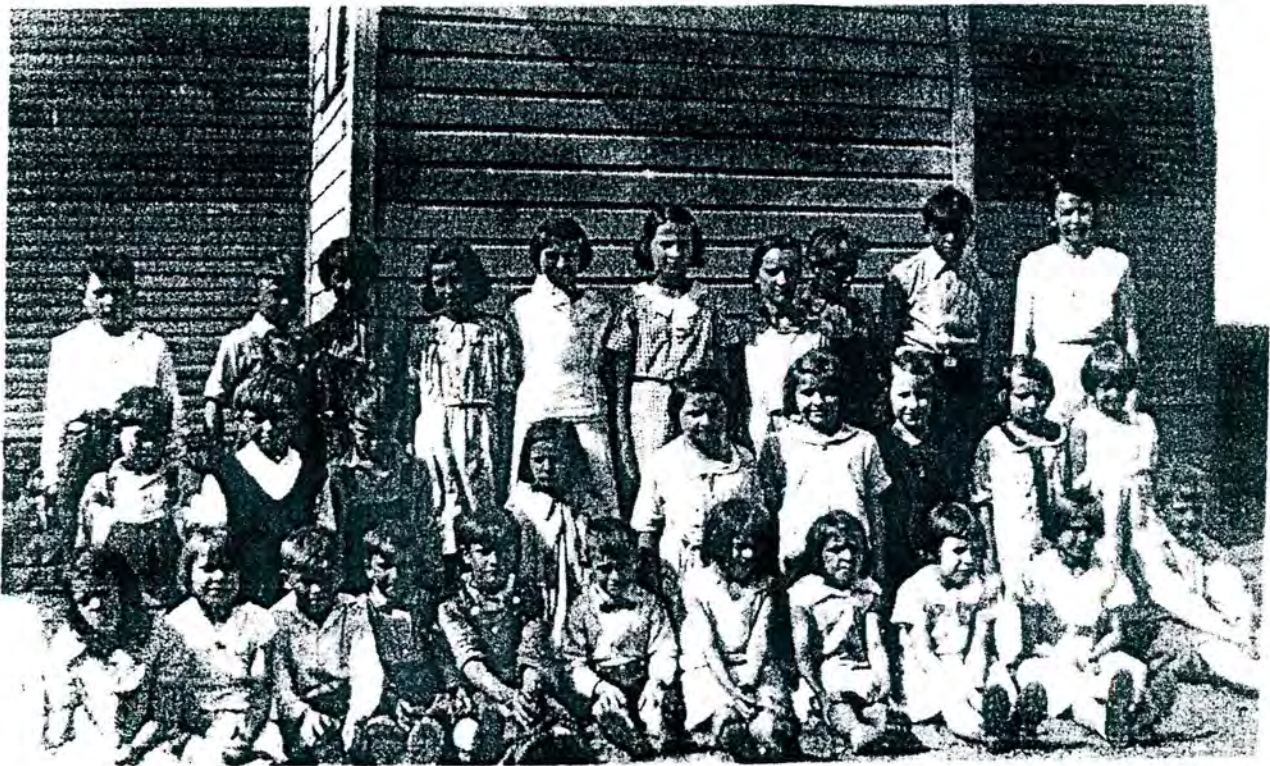
Due to economic necessity, Johnny, the oldest boy quit school early and went to work. The next two boys, Michael and Stephen, plus sisters, Helen and Mary, went to the high school but did not graduate as was the custom.

Since I was the youngest, Stephen and Helen would often bring things from school for me. Once I was treated to a visit at the school with Stephen. Sister Helen also took me as a guest. I created quite a stir when a slow flying airplane at low altitude approached the school. I jumped up, shouting, "Charlie Lindberg! Charlie Lindberg!" I ran out the door with all of the pupils following. In less than a minute, everybody was outside. No doubt the pilot wondered what was going on below. As a result, I never was asked to be a guest again.

In the interim, I looked forward to the day when I could attend that school. In 1931, that dream came true. I became a pupil at Fallen Timber .

My first teacher was Virginia Cox. She came from Washington, Pennsylvania. This was in the early thirties and a presidential election was under way. The teacher had quite a few Hoover stickers on her car. There were about 32-35 pupils and all came from working families. This meant that at home, Roosevelt was the popular choice. I recall that when FDR won the election, we got a day off from school.

Virginia Cox was our teacher for two years. At times she could be a strict disciplinarian and some of us got paddled.



*Class Picture of Fallen Timber School*

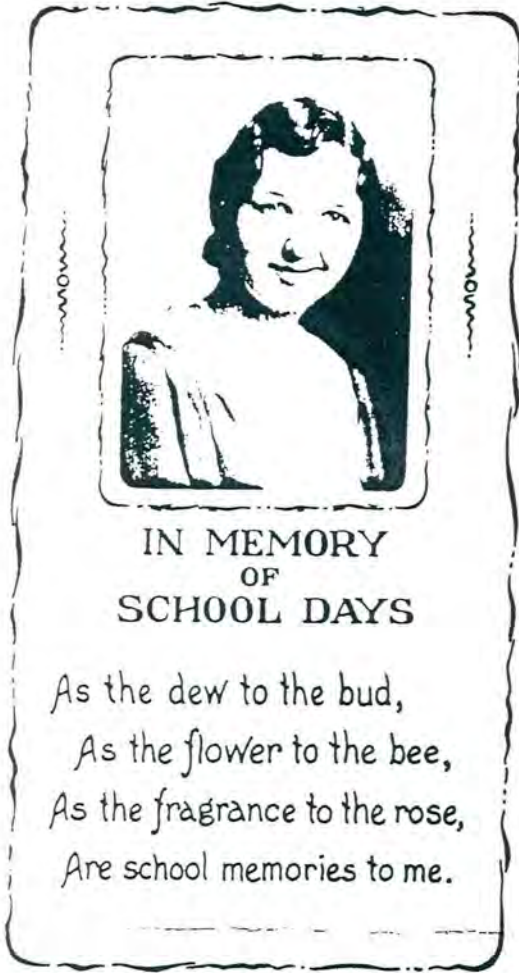
*Spring, 1932*

*Virginia Cox - last on upper right. Frank Furiga - front row, 3<sup>d</sup> from left, seated.*



At this time, which was in the heart of the Great Depression, some governmental agency decided that school children should have warm meals. As a result, every day, five days a week, a truck delivered a large milk can filled with thick soups, stews, etc. It was always nice and hot. There was also very fresh sliced white bread. It was really a very beneficial thing.

Our next teacher was Mildred Painter. By then I was in third grade. She was a very good teacher and very friendly. There was a parlor reed pump organ in the school at the time which she had loaned to Virginia Cox. Mildred could play it quite well. Unfortunately, she became ill and was replaced by a substitute teacher, Lily McNeely. It was some time before Mildred Painter could teach again.



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FALLEN TIMBER SCHOOL  
Independence Township, Washington County,  
Pennsylvania  
1933-1934

MILDRED M. PAINTER, Teacher

PUPILS

SIXTH GRADE

Jean Kotnik	John Kolesar
Charles Narquini	Jack Kotnik

FIFTH GRADE

Helen Smith	Lillian Bogatay
Mary Rockey	Rosie Narquini
Timmie Yensull	Tony Giedraetis
Helen McLaughlin	

FOURTH GRADE

Wilma Guzell	Malvine Rockey
Agnes Kolesar	Ray McLaughlin
Joseph Madera	Joseph Pankovich
Mike Kotnik	

THIRD GRADE

Dorothy Lucas	Frank Furiga
Lena Narquini	Rosemary McLaughlin

SECOND GRADE

Helen Kolesar	Jay Lucas
David Rockey	

FIRST GRADE

Genio Narquini	Clarence McLaughlin
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B. F. Skillen, Supervising Principal  
=====

Our next teacher was a very charming young lady by the name of Sarah Tranquil. She lived very close by in Penowa. Her father and brothers worked in the coal mines so she had a good understanding of what we went through. During the school year, she became ill and was off a month or so. Her doctor would stop by during school hours to see how she was doing healthwise. But in reality, he was falling deeply in love with her. Perhaps a year or so later, they got married. She continued teaching, but at some other school.

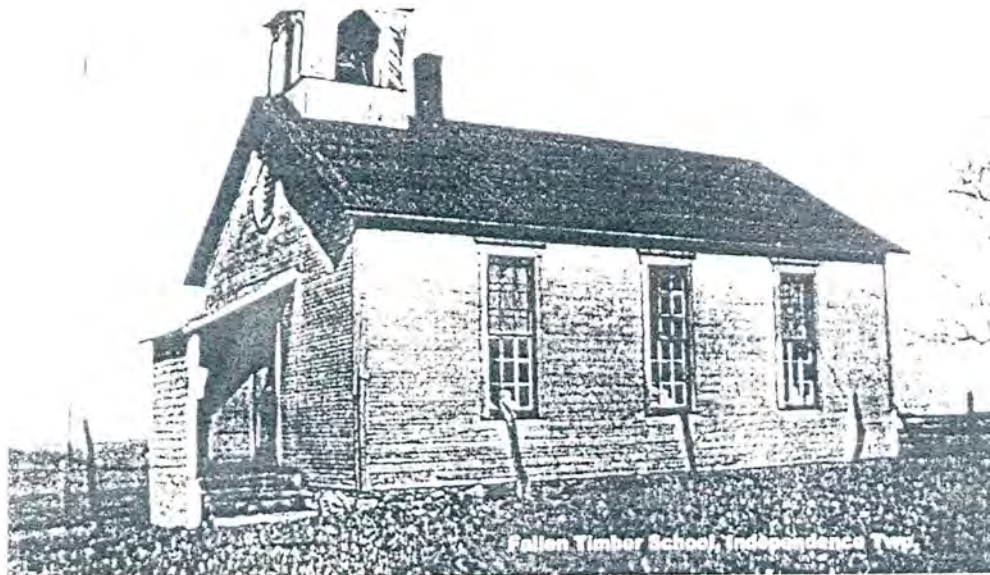
In the sixth grade, we had a teacher from Brownsville, Pennsylvania. Her name was Schaeffer. She was easy to get along with and was liked much by the pupils. At this time also, we got another school principal. He replaced a very business-like and not so friendly Mr. Benjamin Franklin Skillen. The principals worked out of the Avella High School offices and every once in a while would travel out to see how things were going in the elementary schools in the Avella School District. Our new principal was Thomas Alford Smith. He lived next to the Avella High School on Avella Heights.

At the close of the 1937-38 school year, Fallen Timber School went the way of many such one-room buildings in the county. Consolidation was the fad, and one after another, the little schoolhouses, with a belfry pointing to the sky, were abandoned.

The original Fallen Timber School had burned on October 11, 1894, due to a defective flue. It was quickly rebuilt by Samuel McFadden for \$451, exclusive of painting and new pupil seats.

Of my days at Fallen Timber, I have mostly happy memories. But the winters were bad and we saw much snow. Or it rained, and because of the distance from Pine Flats, we often arrived at school pretty wet. Yes, umbrellas were available but sometimes the winds turned them inside out. I remember that there were separate outside toilets for the boys and girls and on very cold days, we usually went out in groups at recesses. Heat was supplied by a potbellied stove surrounded by heat shields. Fuel was soft coal. And I remember that the water cooler was in the back of the room.

Like my fellow classmates, I went on to the upper grades through the school system at Avella. But in March of my senior year at Avella High, I enlisted in the Army Air Force since the War to end all wars was in full sway. Little did I dream where life would lead me. Today, in 2002, I have celebrated my 77<sup>th</sup> birthday- a long jump from my childhood. But I will carry with me to the end, my memories of my early school days and life at Fallen Timber School.





Willow Valley schoolhouse stood near where the Avella high school and elementary center stand today.

150th ANNIVERSARY EDITION—1808-1958 --- THE WASHINGTON REPORTER, WASHINGTON, PENNSYLVANIA

FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 1958

## Pioneers Responsible For Early Educational History

### Schools Closely Intermingled With Religious History

The early educational history of this County started almost as soon as the first settlers crossed the mountains. In many ways this early educational history is intermingled with the religious history.

The reasons for this are many, but two of the chief ones are: 1. The ministers were usually the best educated men in a community. The very nature of their work made it necessary that they be educated to a higher degree than the people they served. 2. These ministers set up schools to educate young men in order that these young men might go into the ministry.

It has been generally believed that the Rev. Thaddens Dodd, a Presbyterian minister, started the first school west of the Allegheny Mountains.

However, in the old court records of Yohogania County, in the proceedings of April 27, 1773, a reference is made to Richardson's schoolhouse in connection with the view of a road from the Courthouse at old Augusta Township to Pentecost's mill on Char-tiers Creek. We know nothing more about this, but this was evidently the first schoolhouse west of the Allegheny Mountains.

Next came Dr. Dodd, who established a school at Armitz in 1780 or 1781 to train young men for the ministry. About the same time, or possibly a little later, the Rev. John McMillan, famous

in the history of the Churches (Hill) Presbyterian Church, started his now famous log academy. During the years that followed, and up to the passage of the school law in 1834 the only schools in any part of the County were the subscription schools. These were taught by a man well versed in reading, writing and arithmetic, for a small compensation from the parents of each child.

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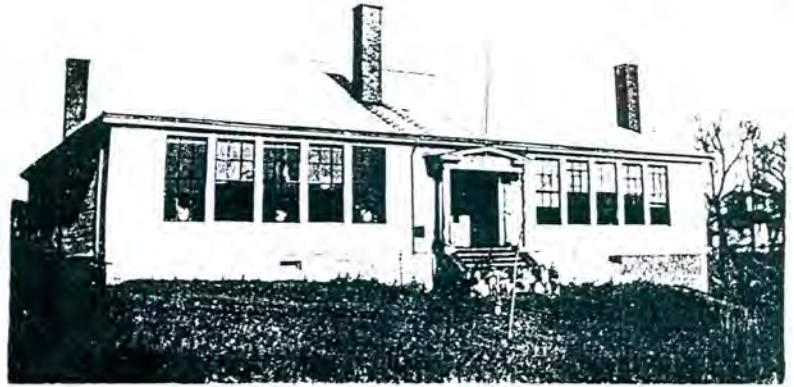
## INDEPENDENCE

The first school building known to exist within the territory of Independence township was built as early as, if not before, 1800. This is one that Mr. J. Scott, of this township, remembers very well, as he attended school there. It was situated on the hillside of the farm belonging to James Welch, now the property of his grandson, James H. Welch. Mr. Scott describes it as a log cabin, in the construction of which not a nail was used. Yet, rude as it was, this building served its purpose well, and within its walls gathered the pioneer children of its immediate section, to be taught by John Robinson, and after him by Thomas McCready, and again for a time by John Robinson. Lawrence Gardner, who was a noted penman, was also a teacher in this school-house, as was Isaac Sharp and others. In 1810 another log school-house, in which were used the oiled paper windows, was built in the vicinity of The Forks, on the Widow Wells' farm, but not a vestige of the building remains. An Irishman named Moses Hanlan was the teacher in 1810 and 1811. Hugh Maguire taught a school on the property of Cornelius Gist, just over the Virginia line. This was said to be at "the far end of The Forks." In 1820 a school-house was located on a branch of the creek, which was called Witch Run from its banks being lined with witch hazel. Nathaniel Smith, who owned a farm near by, was a teacher in this school-house. His son, William Smith, was a later teacher in the township. This school building was succeeded in 1830 by what is known as the Cuthbertson school-house, built on the farm of Dr. Cuthbertson, and which is still standing, but unoccupied. Among the teachers in the Cuthbertson house were William Smith, Joseph Baker, and Thomas Patterson. In 1833 a log school-house stood about twenty rods east of the site of the present Mount Hope Church, and Joseph Baker and George Vasbinder were among the teachers.

In 1836, under the operation of the school law of 1834, eight new school buildings were erected. One of them stood about one-fourth of a mile east of Mount Hope Church. In 1840 a brick building for school purposes was put up in District No. 5, known as Scott's District. In 1874 the present frame structure replaced it.

In 1834, after the enactment of the school law, a brick addition was made to the school-house then in use in Williamsburg. At that time Paul Ralston, David and Robert Buchanan were school directors. In 1855 or 1856 the first frame building was put up, the site on the hill, which belonged to the village, being exchanged with George Plummer for the one now occupied by the school buildings.

In 1863 Independence township comprised six school districts, in which six teachers were employed, and two hundred and forty-five pupils were enrolled. The amount of money received from all sources for school purposes was \$914.92; the State appropriation was \$97.20; and the expenditures for the year were \$777.51. In 1873 there were six districts, six teachers employed, and two hundred and twenty-eight pupils enrolled in the township. The amount of tax raised for school funds was \$2411.13; amount received from the State was \$144.46; cost of schools for that year, \$2496.40. In 1880 the township had still six districts, which were supplied with six teachers; number of pupils enrolled, 257; \$1424.37 was raised by tax; \$330.30 received from the State; and the expenditures for the schools were \$1550.42.



EARLY EDUCATION P & W SCHOOL

The schools previous to 1834 were conducted on the subscription plan and under the act of 1809. Those who were unable to pay for the schooling were permitted to attend and the teacher made out a bill and presented it to the County Commissioners for payment.

The early schoolhouses were built of logs. Much dust settled on the floors of these early educational institutions. This fact can be accounted for because the floors were usually nothing but the bare earth. The dust would sometimes collect on the floor to a depth of two inches or more and when school was in session the boys would amuse themselves by "kicking up the dust." The master would procure a stout hickory stick and settle the dust by "dusting" a few of the boys.

There is another quaint Christmas custom which has long since faded into the past. On an appointed night, about a week before Christmas, the larger boys would meet at the schoolhouse to "bar out the master." The building would be securely fastened and the pupils would gather on the inside. Upon the arrival of the master he would try to force his way in, but would find the door barred, at which time he would enter into an agreement with the scholars to give them a vacation between Christmas and New Years, which is the origin of the Christmas holidays, and also to give a gallon of whiskey and plenty of ginger cake as a treat for Christmas day. He would also agree to play corner ball with them on that occasion.

Washington Academy, which was the beginning of Washington College, secured a charter in 1797

and opened its first session in 1799, in a room on the second floor of the old log Courthouse, with Dr. Dodd as the first principal. In 1795, and for two years thereafter, Nicholas Charles Visnier, a Frenchman educated in Paris, opened in Washington a school in which he taught French at four dollars per quarter. The lessons were private and given in the homes of the pupils.

The famous old red schoolhouse, which stood for many years on the W. and J. College campus, dates back to 1796 and possibly earlier. On Nov. 23, 1798, William Porter opened a high school there. The building was later removed to the lot where the First Presbyterian Church now stands.

In 1803, the County Commissioners so far recognized the needs of education that they voted \$100 annually for the purpose of giving the rudiments of an education to the children of the poor. This was discontinued in 1808, but the next year the State Legislature passed an act providing for the education of poor children. The Commissioners set the sum of \$350 for this purpose and by 1833 it had been increased to \$2,500 annually.

In 1811, the Rev. D. D. Graham, of Canonsburg, advertised that he would open a school and give instruction in the "study of rhetoric, Belles lettres—comprehending the science of philology." From then until the public school law of 1834 was passed private schools were taught in Canonsburg by a large number of instructors.

The passage of the public school law of 1834 brought the

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1962



**STUDENTS AT POSSUM HOLLOW SCHOOL**—The last students to attend a one-room school in Washington County, the "Possum Hollow" School in Hopewell Township, are pictured with their teacher. The first students to attend the school more than 75 years ago trudged through snow and mud; the last pupils to attend were transported to and from their homes in modern, heated buses. The school closed May 31, 1962. From the left, top row: John Matello, David Cimarrilli, Bradley Webb, Alan McAdoo, Joseph Spunyog, Robert Carl, Dana Shalvis, Paul Kearns; second row, Sandra Dana, Diane Gagliani, Geraldine Potts, Michele Lonick, Maria Whiten; third row, Elaine Ciaffoni, Beth Cheeshorough, Cris Fogie, Sharon Bukovinski, Sandia Ruschell; fourth row, Barbara Curtis, Loretta Owen, Linda Rush, Beverly Pirillo, Marlene Gagich; bottom row, Norman Williams, Kenneth Georgetti, Charles Panjuseck, Barry Mlinaruk, Alan Magon, Dean Shalvis, Robert Campbell and Eugene Kaposky. In the center is the teacher, Mrs. Dorothea Wilson.

**EARLY EDUCATION**

"District School" into existence. The old system of private schools in which the education of the children of the poor was paid for by the County Commissioners drew a very distinct line between the richer and poorer classes and was unsatisfactory. The act of 1834 did away with this by establishing the basis of the public school system of today. It is claimed that the citizens of Washington were instrumental in having this act passed by the Legislature. The townships were divided into districts, which was the origin of the "District School." Female teachers were sometimes employed in the towns, but it usually took a man to handle the larger boys in the rural areas.

From the earliest settlement of Washington County down to within the last few years there were a number of private educational institutions throughout the County known as academies or seminaries. These passed out of existence with the development of the present high school system in the County. The following is a brief history of some of these institutions.

**DR. DODD'S ACADEMY**

Mention has been made of the select school for young men which was started by the Rev. Thaddeus Dodd on his farm in Annwell Township about 1780, as being the first among the first institutions of learning west of the Allegheny Mountains.

**McMILLAN'S LOG ACADEMY**

This famous academy, mention of which also was previously

made, was established by the Rev. John McMillan in 1781 or 1782. It was the forerunner of Jefferson College.

**REV. JOSEPH SMITH'S ACADEMY**

The Rev. Joseph Smith came to Washington County from Wilmington, Del., in the spring of 1779, but remained only a short time before he returned east. On June 12, 1779 he received a joint call from the united congregations of Upper Buffalo and Cross Creek Presbyterian Churches. He accepted this call October 29, 1779, and the following year moved his family to his new charges, and settled in what is now Hopewell Township.

In 1785, the Rev. Mr. Smith opened a select school on his farm for the purpose of training young men for the ministry. James McGready, Samuel Porter and Joseph Patterson had been pupils of Dr. Dodd in his school on Tea Mile Creek, which had just closed, so they continued their studies

with Mr. Smith. Classes were taught in a room of Mr. Smith's house which he had built for a kitchen. The school was continued for some time and then merged with Dr. McMillan's academy near Canonsburg, which afterwards became Jefferson College.

**EARLY EDUCATION**  
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# reunion

Former students and teachers reminisced about their school days at the Buffalo Elementary School at a first reunion held Saturday at Upper Buffalo United Presbyterian Church.

Part of the Avella Area School District, the Buffalo School opened in 1920 in a store room in Buffalo Village, until the new building was completed in 1921.

The school was built to centralize the Templeton, Oak Ridge, Pleasant Grove and Maple Grove schools at Buffalo Village.

The brick school, which was in operation until 1977, had four classrooms.

The first teacher to be hired for the school, in 1920, was Mabel Wilson Hamilton, who also was a substitute teacher in the district for many years.

In the 1920s teachers were hired on a yearly basis, and were not allowed to marry. If they did, they could no longer teach in the school district.

Along with their teaching duties, the teachers were also expected to oil the wooden floors and keep the wood stove burning.

In 1940, Alvin D. White came to the school as supervising principal, and held that job for 16 years. White started his teaching career in one-room schools in 1915, and taught all grades.

Lawrence Sutherland took over as principal in 1956 for two years, and in 1958 when Hopewell Township joined

the Avella district, White again became acting principal for the 1958-59 school year.

He was succeeded by Edward Stewart and James Lowe.

In 1969, Dr. Charles Gersna became elementary supervisor until the school closed in 1977. Gersna still serves as principal of the Avella elementary center.

Buffalo School was closed after it was damaged by lightning in 1977. The 96 students who were then attending it were transferred to the Avella Heights and Highland Avenue schools in Avella.

Several teachers at the Buffalo

Elementary School, including Mrs. Wilson, provided information on the history of the school and wrote articles for the reunion.

The others are: Mary Sawhill Stine, who taught in Hopewell Township before coming to Buffalo School in 1935. She was a teacher there until the school closed; Mary Scott McGaughey, who taught at the White

and Farrar schools before coming to Buffalo School in 1936 and teaching there until the 1970s; Mary Stack, a teacher at Buffalo School from 1943 to 1975; and Mary Ross, a Buffalo School teacher from 1954-1963.

The reunion was organized by Barbara McCreery Walker, Betty Waychoff Hodgens and Barbara Jones Roupe.

## EARLY EDUCATION

### WASHINGTON ACADEMY

The academy established by Dr. Dodd in 1780 may be said to be the forerunner of Washington Academy, afterwards Washington College. On September 24, 1787, a charter was secured for Washington Academy, but it did not open until April 1, 1789, when Dr. Dodd, as the first principal, started holding sessions in the upper rooms of the old log Courthouse that stood at the corner of South Main street and West Strawberry alley. In 1790 he was succeeded by Davis Johnson, who had taught English in the school. The Courthouse was burned in the winter of 1791, and the academy was forced to suspend operations, as no suitable quarters could be found.

It was shortly after this that the original stone section of the old academy building, located on the present W. and J. College campus, was completed in 1793, and this then became the permanent home of the Washington Academy. The success of the academy led to the incorporation of Washington College in 1806, four years after the formal incorporation of Jefferson College at Canonsburg.

After the incorporation in 1806, Washington College conducted a preparatory department which was a continuation of Washington Academy. After the union of the two colleges in 1869, the preparatory department was known as Washington and Jefferson Academy from that time until it finally passed out of existence many years later.

### JEFFERSON ACADEMY

Jefferson Academy, Canonsburg, was an outgrowth of Dr. John McMillam's famous log academy. The Jefferson or Canonsburg Academy was opened in 1791 on land donated by Col. John Canon, who also advanced the money for the erection of the building. It was not chartered until 1794. On January 15, 1802, Canonsburg Academy became Jefferson College. A preparatory department was conducted by Jefferson College as long as that institution remained at Canonsburg.

Jefferson Academy was formally organized in 1872. From 1869 to 1872 an unchartered academy was conducted by James Dickson and James Dunbar. The Rev. William Ewing was the first principal of the newly chartered academy in 1872. There were a number of men at the head of this institution until it suspended operation about 1914, due to the increasing number of high schools which were filling the needs of the broadened educational pattern.

### MRS. BAKER'S YOUNG LADIES SEMINARY

Mrs. Baker's Young Ladies Seminary was opened in Washington in 1811, and is believed to have been the first such school for young ladies west of the mountains. The seminary remained open for several years but little else is known about it.

### THE LADIES SEMINARY

This school was conducted in Washington in 1817. Nothing else is known of this institution.

### TRINITY HALL MILITARY ACADEMY

The Trinity Hall Military Academy was established at Washington in the fall of 1879 by the late William W. Smith at his large home in the center of his private estate just southwest of Washington.

The project of a military boarding school in Washington was the idea of Rt. Rev. John B. Kerfott, bishop of the Pittsburgh diocese of the Protestant Episcopal Church. Mr. Smith became interested and agreed to help the church by opening it at his beautiful home. After some plans were made the church backed out, and then it was through the generosity of Mr. Smith that the school was made possible.

In its day Trinity Hall was one of the best equipped private military schools in the United States. The school had its ups and downs and was finally closed in 1907.

## EARLY EDUCATION next page

## Why and Wherefore

By CAL HUNTER

### Academy Reunion Echoes

The reunion of Hickory Academy echoed and re-echoed against the mountains of Arizona, and all here who love the old school heard the sound. The excellent newspaper story, replete with names, and carrying the picture of a class, was received here with pleasure.

Cora Willison, of Pittsburgh, in a letter gave a report which would have been the pride of a first-class columnist. She did not attend the Academy, but is devoted to Washington County and the memories she has of a happy girlhood there. "Well, the big day is over," writes Cora, "the wonderful reunion of the Academy. And was that some reunion? We all arrived, walking on the tips of our toes and our hats on the side of our heads" for a good time.

"That is one of the outstanding days of my life. Really it was lovely. I wasn't eligible, but I was one of the first to arrive and the last to leave. They were generous enough to invite friends.

"We met at the schoolhouse, registered, pinned our names on, and started at each other. One could never believe that avoirdupois, bald heads, gray hair, false teeth and Old Father Time could play such havoc. They all looked so funny, and when I stepped to the mirror I was the funniest looking.

"How those old fellows ever got the money together to start that institution! Ed McClintock spoke so beautifully of them.

"The pictures of the different classes were posted. Vance, Bob, Romaine, Alta, Nora, Retzer and Prof. Wolf of course are gone.

"I'm tell you I get so homesick sometimes I could scream. How I long for just one day in that old home with Dad and Mother.

"It was told of Jim Briceland that he used to come into Hickory riding an old white horse. He said they must still think was riding as he sat astraddle of a horse while he ate his dinner."

And in this interesting vein Cora rambled on, mentioning this one and that one, attorneys, business men, doctors, teachers, farmers, ministers and housekeepers, whose lives reflect the valuable early training they received at Hickory Academy. It was indeed a splendid institution, which drew to it teachers and a student body in whom there were strong elements of character.

The idea of a reunion every five years finds a champion in Cora Tustin, who is probably the most enthusiastic honorary member of the old student body. Watch for her in 1939, she is the embodiment of the zest and pep which characterized the boys and girls who made the old Academy a stepping stone to higher things.

## COMPLETE PLANS FOR HICKORY REUNION

1939

HICKORY, Aug. 8.—All is in readiness for the home-coming of former teachers, students, their friends, and all those who were interested in the Hickory Academy to spend the day renewing old acquaintances and forming new ones.

The forenoon will be taken up with registering, class reunions and an inspection of the Hickory School plant, including the school library and domestic science department. An opportunity will also be given to any who may care to see the old Academy building, now Allison Brothers' hardware store.

Following a picnic dinner at noon, a program of music, short addresses, and the Academy history will be given.

The chairmen of the various committees are as follows: Program, John McC. Simpson; historical, Mrs. D. L. McCarrell; invitation, D. N. Cowden; financial, Miss Martha McBurney; dinner, Mrs. T. L. McCarrell.

## EARLY EDUCATION

### WASHINGTON FEMALE SEMINARY

The history of this illustrious school is covered in detail elsewhere in this edition.

There were many other academies established about over the County at various times. These schools lasted for varying periods of time and met with varying degrees of success. Due to space limitations they merely will be listed. This list is as complete as possible.

These institutions were: Union Grove Seminary, Hopewell Township; West Alexander Academy; Cross Creek Academy; Florence Academy, established when Florence was known as Briceland's Cross Roads; Florence Select School for Young Ladies, Florence; Hazzard's Monongahela Academy, Monongahela City; Wotring's Academy, Hopewell Township, better known as "Horse Mill Academy;" Upper Buffalo Academy, Buffalo village; Olome Institute for Young Ladies, Canonsburg.

Pleasant Hills Seminary, near West Middletown; Pleasant Valley Academy, Lone Pine; Lone Pine Academy; Paris Collegiate Institute, Paris; California Academy (Southwestern Normal School), now California State Teachers College; Linden Hall Seminary, West Alexander; Hoge Summit Academy, Somerset Township; Institute for Practical Arts for Immigrants and Their Children, Old Concord.

— THE END —

## Rules for Teachers

(1915)

1. You will not marry during the term of your contract.
2. You are not to keep company with men.
3. You must be home between the hours of 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. unless attending a school function.
4. You may not loiter downtown in ice cream stores.
5. You may not travel beyond the city limits unless you have permission of the chairman of the board.
6. You may not ride in a carriage or automobile with any man unless he is your father or brother.
7. You may not smoke cigarettes.
8. You may not dress in bright colors.
9. You may under no circumstances dye your hair.
10. You must wear at least two petticoats.
11. Your dresses must not be any shorter than two inches above the ankle.
12. To keep the schoolroom neat and clean, you must: sweep the floor at least once daily; scrub the floor at least once a week with hot, soapy water; clean the blackboards at least once a day; and start the fire at 7 a.m. so the room will be warm by 8 a.m.

# Dedications At Cross Creek

## Plaques To Mark Sites Of Two Schools

Plans for dedication of two plaques at Cross Creek Village on Saturday are nearing completion. Installation of the memorials will be completed today.

One plaque will commemorate the site of the old Cross Creek Academy and high school. It is being placed on a large stone in the center of the Village Nearby, a plaque is being installed on a pedestal at the Honor Roll and will honor the soldiers of all wars.

The dedication program will be held at 3 p. m., July 31, in the sanctuary of the Cross Creek Presbyterian Church, and the unveiling will follow. A picnic dinner will be served cafeteria style in the church dining room at 5 p. m.

The church program follows:  
Organ Prelude, Jane McCreary Rankin.

Hymn, "Faith of Our Fathers."  
Invocation, Rev. Jack W. Angerman, Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church, Washington, D. C.

Vocal Solo, "My Friend", (Albert Hay Malotte) by Genevieve McNelly Cooke.

Address, Rev. Ralph E. Kaufmann, Presbyterian Church of Stewartstown.

Vocal Solo, "Friend O' Mine", (Wilfred Sanderson) by Genevieve McNelly Cooke.

Greetings on behalf of the Academy Students, Dr. A. O. Hindman.

Greetings on behalf of the High School Students, J. Leroy Lee.

Reading of greetings:

Announcements.

Hymn, "God of Our Fathers."

Adjournment to the site of the memorial plaques.

Unveiling of Memorials.

Raising of the Colors.

"The Star Spangled Banner,"

Audience.

Dedicatory Address, Alvin D. White.

Dedicatory Prayer and Benediction, Rev. D. Lester Say, East McKeesport Presbyterian Church.

Officers of the Cross Creek Academy-High School Alumni Association are: President, D. Curlis Forney; vice president, J. Leroy Lee; recording secretary, Elizabeth M. Ronyak; corresponding secretary, Viola D. McCreary; treasurer, Lena P. McConnell; advisor, Alvin D. White.

Academy-High School Memorial Plaque committee: D. Curlis Forney, J. Leroy Lee, Alvin D. White, H. Montford Lee.

Community Honor Roll Plaque committee: Edgar Rankin, Thomas M. Kraefer, Harry A. McCreary, representing the Cross Creek Lodge 32 I.O.O.F.

Dinner committee: Alice B. Zellars, Eugenia C. Hall, Florence L. Lee, Ruth P. La Posta, Ruth D. Dunbar, Mildred E. Underwood, Mary B. Ross.

Reception: Laura A. Lee, J. Harold Chapman; registration, Nettie H. Denlinger, Della Z. Crumrine; program, Viola D. McCreary, Lena P. McConnell, Elizabeth M. Ronyak.

A portion of the  
historical material  
in this book is from  
The History of Wash-  
ington County by Boyd  
Crumrine.

## Cross Creek

**Schools.**<sup>1</sup>—The earliest authentic account of a school in this township that can be found is of one that was taught in the old log church at Cross Creek village, about the year 1782 or 1783, by Joseph Patterson, afterwards a Presbyterian minister, and first pastor of Raccoon congregation, at the village of Candor. It is also thought that Robert McCready, afterwards for a long time justice of the peace, and an

<sup>1</sup> This article on the Cross Creek schools is taken principally from a published account written by James M. K. Reed, Esq.

elder at Cross Creek village church, taught at Wells Fort at or near the same time. There are pretty reliable accounts of schools being held at houses on farms now owned by A. S. Richey, Esq., John F. Sharp, James Buchanan, Esq., R. T. Johnson, R. W. Wells, R. F. Burton, and at Cross Creek village.

About the year 1803 a house was built on the Presbyterian Church property, for the accommodation of the workmen who built the stone church at that place. It was afterwards known as the "study house," and was for a long time used as a school-house. It is said that there was not a sawed piece of timber in it. Robert Lee was the first teacher that we have any account of at this point. Thomas Best taught in the house for many years. During the spring of 1835 the boys of Cross Creek village, thinking the house a disgrace to the place, and being tired of going to school in it, met at night, and with ropes, etc., pulled the logs of one end out. It was used during the following summer, and then abandoned. The school was then kept in the academy building until the erection of the brick school-house.

At the McNary school, on Johnson's farm, among other teachers was a Mr. McCready, a native of Ireland, who had one of his thumbs cut off. He was said to be a very severe and tyrannical teacher. Among the earliest teachers that we have any account of at the McMillen school-house (now owned by J. F. Sharp) was George Miller, and a teacher by the name of Leeper. Hon. William Patterson, who was born at Patterson's Mills in 1796, and commenced going to school at this house, informed the writer that the first teacher that he went to was William McCaskey, about the year 1801. He taught there several terms. McCaskey was a bound boy raised by Judge Edgar, who gave him a good education; he was also a surveyor. He taught at other places.

About the year 1803 a house was built near the residence of Lysander Patterson, Esq., which was occupied about three years. At this house George Davis was the first teacher. The second teacher was James McGee, an Episcopalian. He could not write, but taught writing by using brass plates. John Kelley was the third and last teacher at this house. He was considered a good instructor. Among the early teachers was William Rea, who taught for several years, principally at the old house known as the McKibbin school, now the Buchanan farm. Mr. Rea afterwards served as a justice of the peace (appointed in 1823), and was also an elder of Cross Creek congregation. It is thought that Mr. McClain also taught at this house. Mr. McClain wielded the ferule a long time in this township and in different schools. He was appointed justice of the peace in 1818, afterwards removed to East Finley township, and died there. William McCleery taught at Cross Creek village prior to the year 1800.

About the year 1806, Gen. Thomas Patterson and Richard Wells built a school-house on the ridge be-



## Cross Creek

tween Patterson's mill and Wells' mill. In style of architecture, etc., it was considered far in advance of the times, being built of hewed logs. It has a shingle roof, tight board floor, and glass windows, and Mr. Wells put in a ten-plate wood-stove. Gen. Patterson and Mr. Wells hired Mr. James Haney to teach at twelve dollars per month by the year, they being responsible to him for his pay. The teacher had alternate Saturdays to himself. Mr. Haney was also a surveyor, and worked at that on his spare days, surveying many of the farms in that vicinity. He kept a day-book of the attendance of each pupil, and they collected the tuitions from such as were able to pay, and those that were unable to were allowed to attend free. Mr. Haney taught there until 1813. Of the pupils of his school many have held high positions of trust and honor. About the same time that this house was built a school-house was built on the farm now owned and occupied by Mr. Thomas McCorkle. Among other teachers here was Thomas Ewing, a native of Ireland, and who came here from Crawford County. He was the grandfather of Judge Ewing, of Pittsburgh, and taught many years in this vicinity. It is difficult to learn when the school-house on R. W. Wells' farm was built. It stood between the present dwelling of Mr. Wells and the public road, and was burned down about 1812 or 1815. Among the last teachers was Mr. Robert Marques, the father of Rev. John S. Marques, of Pigeon Creek. About the year 1812 a school-house was built on the farm now occupied by William Dunbar. Among the first teachers here was Richard Freeborn. Israel Bebout taught one year in this house in 1822. Mr. Bebout taught school two terms, and has since served for many years as committeeman and school director in this and Beaver County. He still lives in Cross Creek village, now in his eighty-fourth year. About the same year, 1812, a house was built near where Hampton Walker now lives. Its location is in Jefferson township, but by a special act of Assembly approved Feb. 14, 1867, the real estate of David S. Walker and Francis Cunningham was annexed to Cross Creek for school purposes. The first teacher here was Andrew McColloch, who taught about three years. William Elder taught one term, then an Irishman by the name of McDermott, who was educated for a Catholic priest. Cornelius Barber taught two years. This was a large and very successful school, and was attended by the Bebout's, Walkers, Grahams, and Van Ordstrands, many of whom are still living, having passed, full of honor, their threescore and ten years. Andrew McColloch was considered a successful teacher in his day. In the year 1835 he held the office of supervisor and constable, and about 1836 he removed with his family to Tuscarawas County, Ohio, where he resided until his death, about 1860. There was also a Mr. Scott taught at that house, and a Miss Ann McDermott.

There was an old school-house near the above building, on the Walker farm, within a few rods of where once stood an old saw-mill. Mr. Joseph Smith taught in this house. He afterwards became an elder of Cross Creek congregation. This building was abandoned in 1810 or 1811.

About this time, or previous, a school was kept for a while where Mr. John Purdy lives, on the farm of Arnold Lawton. A Mr. Pervard was teacher. About the year 1810 or 1812 there was also a school held for a while on the Dinsmore farm, now occupied by Samuel D. White. No particulars can be learned in either of the above cases.

In 1812 a frame school-house was built on the farm now occupied by Robert Vance. It was then in Smith township, but an adjustment of the lines afterwards threw it into Cross Creek. This house, like the one built the same year on the D. S. Walker farm, was a frame; they were the first frame school-houses in the township, and had large windows of glass. The teachers at this house were Thomas Allen, a Mr. Noyes, William Galbraith, Mr. McClure, Mr. Gilton, Alexander McConnell, John Boggs. The house was abandoned for school purposes about the year 1833.

About the year 1810-15, Master Ewing (Thomas) taught for four or five years in an old house on the Lyle farm, now owned by David Gault. We have no account of any other person teaching at that place. There was a second school-house built on the Buchanan farm near Rea's Rocks, in which Samuel Reed taught several years. Joseph Littlefair and Rev. James Sloan also taught in this house. It was abandoned about the time that the school law came into force. Samuel Reed taught many years in this county, and then removed to Marion County, Ohio, where he died.

About the year 1815 a school-house was built on the south side of the farm of Nathan Patterson, near Patterson's Mills. In this house the teachers were William Smith and Joseph Templeton. Templeton afterwards studied medicine, and located in the borough of Washington. About 1820 the building was removed to the northern part of the farm, near a spring. In this house a Mr. Gilpin taught two or three terms. James Fulton afterwards taught in the same house one term, but refused to teach any longer on account of its being uncomfortable, and in 1833 a new frame building was erected, where Mr. Fulton taught several terms. He was a very successful teacher, a native of New York State. He taught several years in this and adjoining townships, removed to Richland County, Ohio, taught there a while, and afterwards settled near the town of Wabash, in Wabash County, Ind., where he resided until his death. The next teacher here was William P. Sampson, who afterwards went to Kentucky, studied law, and became chief justice of that State. Samuel Reed also taught in this house.

During the summer of 1827 Miss Hettie Reed

taught in the old cabin on the farm owned by James Simpson. She afterwards taught two or three terms in the old house that stood near the present residence of Simon Marques.

About the year 1822 a school-house was built on the line between the farms of A. S. Richey and William Perry. Thomas Ewing taught in the house a while, and was succeeded by Robert Adams. About the year 1828 a school-house was built at the lower end of John N. Walker's lane, on the corner of the farm of John Lawton, Sr. The teachers at the house were Peter Lawton, Joseph Cummins, Nancy Wishart, David Wishart, and John Powlson. This house was used eight or ten years for schools. Previous to the erection of this building there was a school kept in an old house near the corner of the farm of John N. Walker. In 1833 a school-house was built on the farm of Nicholas Reed, now owned by J. M. K. Reed. The teachers in this house were Samuel Reed and Richard Kersams. About the year 1830, Rev. Daniel R. Hervey built a house at his residence near Woodrow P. O., where a student from Jefferson College, Canonsburg, taught one season.

At the convention of school directors held during the fall of 1834, relative to the acceptance of the provisions and requirements of the public school law passed in that year, Hon. William Patterson was the delegate from Cross Creek township, and advocated the acceptance of the school law. Robert Patterson, of Smith township, presided at that meeting, and the law was adopted by all the townships in the county, with five exceptions. The first board of school directors of Cross Creek township under that law were Moses Lyle, Eben Smith, Alexander Walker, Gen. James Lee, Nathan Patterson, and the Hon. William Patterson.

Hon. William Patterson was president of the first convention of school directors to elect a county superintendent, when John L. Gow, Esq., was elected. He was also Speaker of the House of Representatives during the session of 1834, when the school law was passed.

The school law of 1834 having come in force and the township being divided into sub-districts, about the year 1836-37 school-houses were built on farms of James McNary, Nancy Houston, and John N. Walker. The house at McNary's was used until the spring of 1855. The teachers in this house were W. Huston Walker, afterwards Reverend; Alexander Hays; John Campbell; David R. Campbell, afterwards Presbyterian minister; Alexander Thompson, Associate minister; Serissa Lyle; William P. Sampson, afterwards C. J. of Kentucky; Mary A. Vincent; John McCarrell, afterwards studied medicine, now at Wellsville, Ohio; A. W. Guthrie, afterwards studied medicine, died at Germano, Ohio; Mr. — Wallace; James P. Able, taught three or four years, and died of consumption; Margaret Galbraith; Thomas P. Smith; Daniel Donahoo, afterwards studied law; R. Lyle

White, who studied law and since became an editor; Mr. — Johnson; Nancy Glass; J. Boyd Stephens, taught two terms, is now a Presbyterian minister; John McKee; J. M. K. Reed, taught two terms; Adaline Cassidy; Mary E. Curry; Miss Cassidy taught for several years; and Miss Eva Simmons taught a subscription school one summer.

Among other teachers at Rea's School (on Nancy Huston's farm) were George W. Forrester, John W. White, Simon Webster French, James A. Stewart, Miss Jane S. Ramsey, Charles C. Fulton, R. T. Johnson, J. M. K. Reed, and Miles W. Marques. Among others who taught at Bushy Rock were Robert Curry, P. D., now of Nebraska Normal School; Matthew Templeton, Mary Grier, Thomas W. Thompson, J. M. K. Reed, M. W. Marques, Sarah A. Maxwell, William Plummer, Alexander E. Walker, Isaac M. Lawton, J. Edgar Rankin, William E. Scott, and S. H. Lawton.

In the year 1846 the citizens of West Point School, built a brick house on a lot of land containing one acre, deeded in fee simple by Mary P. Smith for school purposes. Among others who taught in this house were Hon. George W. Miller, R. T. Johnson, Rev. John M. Smith, J. S. Gormly, H. P. Durant, J. M. K. Reed, S. J. Jeffrey, Jane S. Ramsey, Hon. Samuel F. Patterson, William P. Montgomery, and W. W. Teagarden.

In September, 1865, the two schools in Cross Creek village were consolidated and graded, the higher department being taught in the old academy by Josiah Marques and the primary by Eva Simmons. At a meeting of the school board, Sept. 28, 1854, a uniform series of text-books was adopted for the first time, and the board resolved to encourage the attendance of the teachers at the County Institute by continuing their pay during said attendance.

When the township of Cross Creek was first divided into districts the number was ten, with the following designating names: No. 1, Nosco Hall; No. 2, Bunker Hill; No. 3, Cemetery; No. 4, White Oaks; No. 5, West Point; No. 6, Willow Valley; No. 7, Bushy Rock; No. 8, Beech Knob; No. 9, Limestone Lane; No. 10, Buckeye Valley. In 1853, when the territory comprising Jefferson township was set off, some of the numbers were changed and Nos. 2 and 3 were consolidated and known thereafter as Cross Creek Village District.

In 1863 Cross Creek township had nine school districts, in which ten teachers taught, and two hundred and ninety-seven pupils were enrolled; \$98.40 was received from the State, \$1082.50 from other sources, and the cost of the schools for the year was \$1132.23. In 1873 a new school building was erected at Patterson's Mills, at a cost of \$2000. It was a building two stories in height, and well equipped with the best of school furniture and apparatus. In that year the township was divided into eleven districts, and eleven teachers were employed. Two hundred and eighty pupils were enrolled. The amount of State money received was \$164.92, the sum received from other sources \$4167.29, and the total expenditures amounted to \$4404.81. In 1880 the districts of the township had been again reduced to nine, in which nine teachers were employed. Three hundred and thirty-nine pupils were enrolled. The receipts from all sources for schools amounted to \$1931.13, and the expenditures for the school year aggregated \$1791.87.

## Win Legion Awards At Cross Creek



SHIRLEY ZATTA



DONALD COLLETT

American Legion awards were presented to Shirley Zatta, 14, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Zatta, of Rea, R. D., and Donald Collett, 14, son of Mr. and Mrs. Maynard Collett, of Cross Creek. They were awarded certificates and medals as outstanding eighth grade students of the Cross Creek Township School by Bert C. Siders Post 643 American Legion.

1950

## Cross Creek Schools Open On September 5

### Assignments For Teachers For New Term Announced

Cross Creek Township Schools will begin the new term on Tuesday morning, September 5. Teaching assignments will be as follows:

- Cross Creek School—Room 1, Mrs. Hazel McNelly; Room 2, Miss Alberta McBride; Room 3, Mr. Harry Wilson.
- Beech Knob School—Grades Three, Four and Five, Mrs. Hazel Cooke.
- Willow Valley School will be closed.
- Cedar Grove School—Room 1 vacant due to the illness of Mrs. Lavina Allen; Room 2, Mrs. Viola Johnson; Room 3, Mrs. Gladys McCormick.
- Patterson Mills Schools—Room 1, Miss Julia Krezanosky; Room 2, Mrs. Helen Brownlee; Room 3, Mrs. Dortha Wilson.
- Avella School—Room 1, Mrs. Lena McConnell; Room 2, Mrs. Mary Ross.

From the rural area, Grades Three, Four and Five, with a few exceptions will be transported to Beech Knob School. All other grades will be transported to Cross Creek School. D. M. Phillips will have charge of the elementary transportation in the rural area and John P. McNelly will haul the High School pupils to Hickory. Grades One to Four will be taught at Avella, Grade Five will be transported to Cedar Grove School and Grades Six, Seven and Eight to the Patterson Mills School. Myers and Wright will have charge of this transportation as well as of that to the Avella High School. Enrollment of Freshmen at Avella High School is being conducted on Thursday and Friday of this week.

## Cross Creek Teacher Force Is Announced

Cross Creek Township schools during the coming school year, to open September 6 for an eight-months term, will be taught by the following instructors:

- Supervising principal, O. C. Muddell.
- Noscoe Hall, Genevieve Colwes.
- Cross Creek, Hazel McNelly, Jane Brown, Alice Chapman.
- Cedar Grove, Lavina Allen, Viola Johnston, Julia Krezanosky, Harry Wilson.
- Pattersons Mills, Mary Irene Myers.
- Beech Knob, Hazel Carter.
- Willow Valley, Helen Brownlee.
- Avella, Freda Thompson, Lena McConnell, Mary I. Balogh, Elizabeth Murzin, Jane Wilson, Harold Mieghen.

Aug. 1938

## Reunion Date Set For Former Cross Creek Academy, High School

The reunion of the former Cross Creek Academy and Cross Creek High School will be held Saturday, Aug. 3, 1957.

The last reunion was held in 1952 when over 225 students, teachers and friends attended. In 1954 a dedication program was held at which time a memorial bronze plaque was installed at the site of the former school, and this too was very well attended.

This reunion is more of a social affair so that former teachers, students and friends of the Academy and High School may once again meet and talk over the memories and the incidents that happened while attending school.

This year's reunion is to start with registration at 2 p. m. Saturday, Aug. 3 in the Cross Creek Presbyterian Church. A reception committee made up of Mrs. Ida Pettibon Meneely, of Washington, O.; Mrs. Mary Sponceller, of Alliance; Mrs. Ada Banevitch Headley, of Pittsburgh; Charles R. Lee, of Worthington, O., and William L. Scott, of Houston, will all be on hand to welcome you.

A short program will begin at 4 p. m. in the church sanctuary including some music, a welcoming address by Homer Lowry and a short business meeting. This will be followed by a ham dinner, served cafeteria style. Dinner reservations should be made by Tuesday, July 30. To make your reservations phone Mrs. McCreary, of Cross Creek, Winton 7-5655 or Mrs. Ronyak, Avella, Luther 7-7291.

Buggy accident. James L. Patterson, Burgettstown, and H. W. Donahoo, of Cross Creek, going from Frankfort Springs to Burgettstown, drove too close to the embankment and overturned. Bruised. (Nov. 15, 1882)

Cross Creek School

- 1909-10 - Alysia Ayres (aged about 9 yrs old)
- 1910-11 - Zelma Ridderour
- 1911-12 - Florence M. Clelland
- 1912-13 - Myrtle Palmer - Primary Room
- 1913-14 - Sylvia Bowser - Primary
- 1914-15 - A.C. Farmer - Primary
- 1915-16 - Sylvia Brown - Primary

Cross Creek High School  
 1909-10 - Mr. G. L. Smith + Miss ...  
 1910-11 - Miss ...  
 1911-12 - James H. Sellers + ...  
 1912-13 - James H. Sellers + ...  
 1913-14 - James H. Sellers + ...  
 1914-15 - James H. Sellers + ...  
 1915-16 - James H. Sellers + ...

Cross Creek High School

- 1896-97 - Frank H. Rydell ✓
- 1897-98 - Isaac L. Harshe ✓
- 1898-99 - same ✓
- 1899-1900 - J. M. W. Ferguson ✓
- 1900-01 - same ✓
- 1901-02 - Elba B. Patterson ✓
- 1902-03 - Wm. P. Collier ✓
- 1903-04 - Walter E. Coyner
- 1904-05 - same

Notes on Cross Creek Elementary School  
 by John M. Powelson - March 1951

He always attended 2 story frame building on the present school lot to the rear of the church.

Teachers were Eva Simmons, Olivia Todd, M. M. Todd, Clara Reed (Wilson)

He told of three Vance children - Homer, May and Martha, all started to school at the same time. Their father, Robert Vance, had to stay at the school. If he left, the children would all cry & start to run away.

Floresie Snodgrass attended at the same time  
 Horace Baker started to school, but didn't go very long.

Mr. Powelson (Mamie Thompson) attended school at Patten Mills (West Point) - daughter of Matthew Stephens also taught there. She told of early attempts at Teaching Physiology in being unacceptable to most patrons.

May 26, 1949

To the Teachers of Cross Creek Twp.

Re: Early dismissal and evening buss schedules May 26 & 27.

The buss will leave Avella at 2 P. M. and will take usual first buss load from Avella, Patterson Mills and Cedar Grove to Cross Creek.

From Cross Creek, the Rural area pupils will come to Cedar Grove and wait there for the last buss.

The First Buss downstream will haul all pupils to Avella, including those from Donohue who usually ride the last buss home. This buss will discharge passengers in Avella at Economy Store corner and at the old Bank Building. On the second trip upstream, the buss will run empty to Cedar Grove where it will start picking up the Rural Area children, then will return via Patterson Mills and Avella and take these children to their usual buss stops. (Jefferson Twp. pupils will wait for their buss at their own school, with the exception of Cross Creek. These pupils will come as usual to Avella. This plan is similar to that used on the day of the Teachers' meeting. Please see that your pupils are properly instructed about getting on the buss at the right time. Notice this plan will be used on both Thursday & Friday afternoons.

No School (for Pupils) on Monday, May 30.

On Tuesday, the Closing Day of School, you may arrange for dismissal at 10:30 A. M. You will be told later about the buss arrangements for that day.

*Same plan, as above, will be used on Tuesday.  
Buss will leave Avella at 10:30 A.M.*

- 1 - Ann C. Marshall - \$16<sup>00</sup>
- 2 - E. V. Campbell - \$25<sup>00</sup>
- 3 - James B. Stevenson (John White Nov 56)
- 4 - Elijah Honeho (Elizabeth Belout Sept 56 out)
- 5 - J. M. K. Reed (Sarah J. Jeffrey Sept 56)
- 6 - Josiah F. Marquis - Mary Patterson Oct 57
- 7 - William Plumer \$23<sup>00</sup>
- 8 - M. W. Marquis - \$25<sup>00</sup>
- 9 - Henry Durant (Isaac M. Lawton <sup>May</sup> June 57) - \$20<sup>00</sup> - 25<sup>00</sup>
- 10 -

David Sault, Treas.  
Salary \$12<sup>00</sup>

Samuel Cowles, Secy.  
Wm Patterson, Secy  
on some teachers reports

- J. M. K. Reed \$28<sup>00</sup>
- John White \$25<sup>00</sup>
- Sarah J. Jeffrey 1 month @ 20<sup>00</sup> # 6 on agreement
- Elijah Honeho \$22.66 <sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub>
- Josiah Marquis \$24<sup>00</sup>
- Henry Durant \$24<sup>00</sup>

- C. C. Fulp, Teachers : 1860-61
- 1 - Ann C. Marshall \$20<sup>00</sup>
- 2 - J. A. Cooke \$20<sup>00</sup>
- 3 - Kate M. Ramsey 20<sup>00</sup> (James B. Stevenson June-July 1861)
- 4 - Hannah L. Bebout - \$18<sup>00</sup> (James B. Stevenson 2 months) \$25<sup>00</sup>
- 5 - Susan L. Ramsey \$20<sup>00</sup>
- 6 - Ann Lawrence \$20<sup>00</sup>
- 7 - Wm E. Scott - \$22<sup>50</sup> Jas E. Rankin \$25
- 8 - Sally A. Marshall - \$18<sup>00</sup>
- 9 - C. J. McNulty - \$20<sup>00</sup>
- 10 -

John N. Walker, Pres

~~John H. Brown, Secy.~~

~~Jane J. Cooke 20<sup>00</sup>~~

Miller Lawton, Secy.

~~Katherine L. Ramsey 20<sup>00</sup>~~

# Cross Creek Township Schools

## Teacher List

1901-1902

Taken from the County Teachers Institute List in  
the Washington Observer for December 16, 1901.

Length of School Term -

No.	School	Teacher	Salary
1-	Nosco Hall	Miss Ora Hanson of Hankin - P. D. # 54	
2 -	Cross Creek	Harry Anderson Burgette town P. D. # 46	
3 -	Cross Creek	Miss Mabel Weaver of C. C.	
4 -	White Oak	L. M. Irwin	
5 -	West Point	Miss May Vance (?)	
6 -	Willow Valley	Miss Blanche Reed <sup>Burgette town</sup> P. D. # 48 + D. W. Patterson	
7 -	Bushy Rock	{ Miss Alpha Burton of Hankin P. D. 54	
8 -	Beech Knob -	Miss Anna Brown (?)	
9 -	Limestone Lane	Miss Cora Hobbe - New Cumberland, W. Va	
10 -	Buckeye Valley	J. Vincent Welch - Burgette town	



C.C. Teachers 1861-62

- 1 - Irene A. Holmes 16 <sup>00</sup> (18<sup>00</sup> late in term)
- 2 - Sallie A. Marshall \$21 <sup>00</sup> (18<sup>00</sup> early)
- 3 - Kate Ramsey \$22 <sup>00</sup>
- 4 - Miss Eva Simmons 22 <sup>00</sup>
- 5 - Van Baker - \$22 <sup>00</sup> (23<sup>00</sup> last part of term)
- 6 - Samuel F. Patterson - 23 <sup>50</sup> (~~Ann. 1<sup>00</sup> early in term~~  
22<sup>00</sup> early in term)
- 7 - Wm E. Scott \$24 <sup>00</sup>
- 8 - John Morrow 22 <sup>00</sup> (20<sup>00</sup> early in term)
- 9 - Miss Mary L. Raylock \$21 <sup>50</sup> (18<sup>50</sup> early in term)
- 0 -

No records for 1877 - 1883 (6 terms)

From 1883 - 1891 - no records for Cross Creek  
West Point - Bushy Rock

No records for 1892 - 93

1902 - 1904

No records for Cross Creek, White Oak -  
West Point, Beech Knob, Bushy Valley

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF CROSS CREEK TOWNSHIP

Term 1950-51

Washington County, Pennsylvania.

SCHOOL BUSS ROUTE No. 1-A

Contractor: John P. McNelly

School Buss: Ford 48 Passenger

Driver: John T. McNelly

Schedule and List of Children to be Transported:

	Elementary	High School
Leave Stevenson Cross Roads at 7:45 A. M.	Peggy Jo McNelly Van, Guy and Anita Jo Cowden Richard, Jerry and John King	Carol Cowden Wilma King
Gault Farm Lane at 7:48	Norman Malinky	
Stacko Farm Forks 7:50	John Buchko	Bernadette Stritzinger
Forks below Nosco 7:52	Richard, Charles and Patty Camp William Ullom	
Rea Cross Roads 7:57	John & Paul Chizmar	Katherine & Marian Chizmar
<del>xxxxxx</del>		
Ihnat Farm Lane 7:59	Mary Ann, Dorothy & Susan Ihnat	
Kabo Farm Lane 8:02	Evelyn and Paul Kabo	Dolores Kabo
Boccabella's at 8:04		Theresa Boccabella
Willow Valley at 8:06	Patty and John Eakin Roy, Robert & Gay Wagoner	Don Eakin Olan Wagoner Shirley & Chas. Zatta
Donohue Bridge at 8:10	Shirley Pettit Alex and Anna Kusick Irene, Barbara & Norma Jean Shaddock Shirley Ann Deco	
Gardner's Service Sta. 8:12	Discharge all pupils for Grades 4 & 5 Also Avella High School pupils.	
Dutko Service Sta. 8:14	Jerry and Joan Bauduin Robert Charlier	
Arrive at Patterson Mills School at 8:16	Discharge pupils for Grades 6,7,8 Also Hickory High School pupils.	
Arrive at Cedar Grove School at 8:20	Discharge pupils for Grades 1,2 & 3.	

April 2, 1845  
 Agreement of James Lee and Wm. Patterson with W.W.  
 Knight to build a schoolhouse for \$375 near to James  
 Patterson store. 35 feet long and 22 feet wide. Stone  
 foundation, brick wall, nine windows, 12 lights each.  
 Glass 10 x 12.

Death on August 23 of Mrs. Susan, wife of Samuel M. Cowan of near Elizabeth Town, Kentucky of consumption aged 47 years. Mrs. Cowan formerly resided in Cross Creek Twp.

Report of M. M. Todd for 3rd month at Beech Knob School ending Dec. 8, 1882 - 44 enrolled - average attendance 39. Pupils not absent - E. C. Reed, Wylie B. Reed, Rollie Simpson, James Simpson, Sammy White, Mason Smith, Clark Mc Mary, John Virtue, Brainerd Simpson, Minnie Pea, Uraia Mc Mary, Lulu Smith, Rosa Marquis.

Account of J. B. Reed of Cross Creek and Charles Campbell of Hickory graduating from Medical school in Philadelphia. A banquet was given, and a floor gave way injuring some of the students.

Death at Cross Creek on May 7, 1883 of Miss Mary Mc Kibben aged 46 years - mother survived - funeral by Rev. Dr. Caughey.

The undersigned Committee of School district No 6 do certify that Miss Jane L Ramsy has taught school in said district five months three months at \$14 per month and two months at \$16 per month November 12th 1853 Andrew Foley Samuel McKibben Wm ? Received \$28 of the first two months. Jane L. Ramsey

Nov. 25, '53 (1853)

We, the undersigned residents of district No 4 do hereby certify that we have examined Margaret T. Cole's day book and find that she has taught in our district three months or seventy eight days. Order granted for \$45 dollars. December 10th 1853. John L. Johnston and John Cole

Bill for building the school house  
 to be 30 ft by 22 in the clear story 17  
 in the clear stems as follows weather boards  
 poughed and dropt oak of floor ciled and lined  
 with pine inside 22 joists with double  
 floor raised under black board pine 2x4 girders  
 of glass 10 by 15 bratten shutters black board  
 to occupy one entire side of said house the whole  
 to be finished with two coat work paint of  
 foundation to be of common stone work  
 the whole to be done in a workman  
 like manner. Strong and substantial  
 masonry. The amount for the whole job  
 four hundred and forty four dollars

Robert, McClure

### Hall

Eugenia Clark Hall, 68, of 8 Hindman, Burgettstown, died at 1:40 a.m. Thursday, August 21, 1980, in Washington Hospital.

She was born November 10, 1911, in Cedar Grove, a daughter of Silas Monroe and Nellie Linsley Clark.

Mrs. Hall was a graduate of Burgettstown High School and Muskingum College. She taught school for 34 years, mostly in the Burgettstown School District.

### MARY EOLA WHITE

Mary Eola White, 93, of 120 South Jefferson Avenue, Canonsburg died Monday, May 6, 1974, in Canonsburg General Hospital.

She was born July 29, 1880 in Donegal Township to George and Mary Jeffreys Smith and was married to William A. White, who died in February, 1958.

She was a graduate of Bethany College and the Yale University Graduate School in New Haven, Conn. At one time, she was principal of the Cross Creek schools.

### Prof. Cathcart Leaves

1909

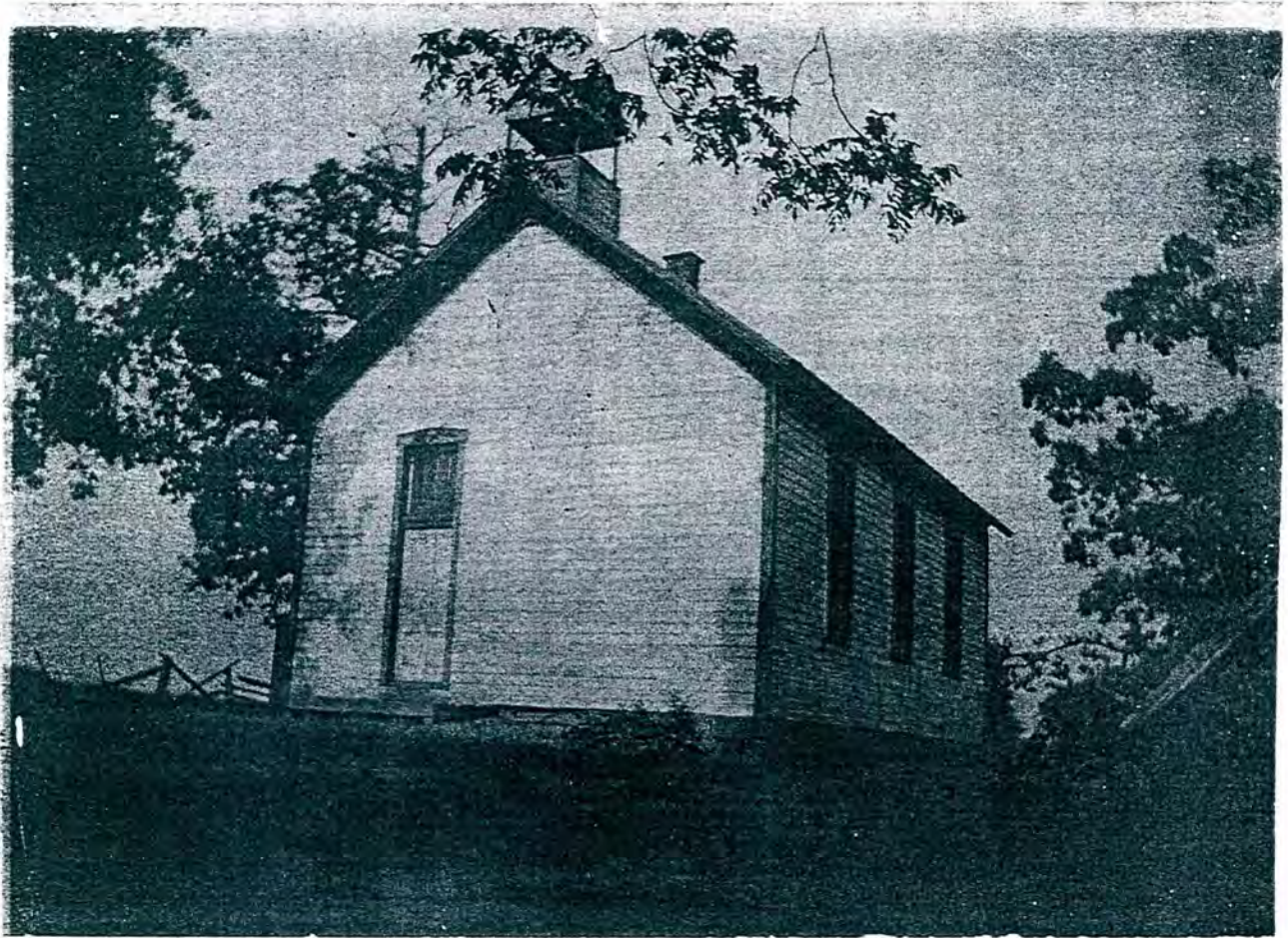
West Alexander, Jan. 14—Without giving any reasons for his sudden departure beyond saying that it was absolutely necessary to resign his school and leave town, J. W. Cathcart, principal of the West Alexander schools, stepped on the 7 o'clock train going east this morning and bade adieu to the town. The pupils of his room gathered at the school as usual and when they found that they had no teacher returned to their homes.

The directors of the school are at a loss to know what caused Mr. Cathcart to take this unexpected departure as he had been teaching here since the opening of the school term and had been getting along fairly well. The directors did not get any notification that he intended to leave until after the morning train was well on its way to Washington. Then a note was delivered to the secretary, Mr. Roney, by a member of the Armstrong family where Cathcart boarded. In the

note Mr. Cathcart made no explanation, merely stating that it was absolutely necessary to resign his school. County Superintendent L. R. Crumrine visited the school yesterday and it is not learned whether he informed Mr. Crumrine that he was going to leave or not.

Mr. Cathcart boarded at the home of W. W. Armstrong and last night packed all his belongings preparatory to leaving. Mr. Armstrong interrogated him some but got little information. Mr. Cathcart stated that he liked the town and the people as well as his school but assigned no reasons for his sudden departure. It is not known where he went.

Mr. Cathcart came to this place from Crosscreek township where he had been principal of the high school the previous year. He was employed at \$75 per month. His home is in one of the northern counties. The school is now closed until another teacher can be secured to fill the vacancy.



Manchester School as it originally appeared when it was in use close to where Route 231 meets with Route 844 on the hill above Avella.



Manchester School in its present location just off Seminary Road near West Middletown. The building has deteriorated into an almost worthless condition.

# MANCHESTER SCHOOL WILL HOLD REUNION

Former Pupils and Teachers of the  
Famous Independence Township  
Institution to Meet on Thursday.  
Many Old Timers Will Attend.

Independence, Aug. 19.—The reunion of the former pupils and teachers of the Manchester school of this township, which is to be held Thursday, August 23, is expected to be one of the important events of this section as great plans are being made to entertain one of the largest gatherings of the kind ever held in this township. Nine of the pupils who attended the first school in 1838 are expected to be in attendance at the reunion as they are all living within a short distance from the school house. The nine pupils are now over 80 years of age while a number of others who are nearing the 80th mile stone of their lives will be present.

The persons over 80 years are: Milton Murdock, of near this place; William Liggett, of Avella; Robert Baker, Independence; Perrize Baker, Mt. Hope, Independence township; Henry Chapman, Claysville; William Tarr, Independence; Patterson Taylor, Toledo, Ohio. Two others who are near 80 years who attended this school are, Thomas Tarr, of Washington, and David Richey, of Independence.

The school grounds and grove adjoining have been cleaned up and everything is now in readiness for the event that will recall many historic events connected with the adjoining fields of the old playground.

The first record of any settlement near this old historic spot was made in 1773, by John Doddridge, who came here from Bedford county and settled on 437 acres of land called at that time "Extravagance," which adjoined the ground on which the school house now stands. Soon after this Samuel Teeter, a relative of the Doddridges, came and settled on the adjoining tract to "Extravagance" and here on this place was built the old Doddridge Fort which has been made memorable by the numerous Indian attacks made during that time and the refuge it afforded to the early settlers. This old fort was built just a few rods away from where the present school building now stands and part of the logs of the fort are still preserved and will likely be on exhibition at the reunion.

Samuel Teeter, who lived on the tract called "Plenty" erected a fort near where the Manchester mansion now stands and near his residence he erected a second fort called "Teeter's Fort," around which he built a high stockade inclosing an eighth of an acre, with 16-foot logs driven in the ground. A number of these old logs are still in existence. The Teeter land is now owned by the Manchester estate. It was near this school house that the expedition against the Indians of Ohio was planned and from which place the men went and corralled over 150 of the redskins in a small log hut and literally butchered them and the entire tribe was practically wiped out.

Many people connected with the early school days of this school have been heard from and only this week a prominent New York banker was heard from whose name is Teeter, a grandson of Samuel Teeter, who settled on this very tract. It is not known whether the New York banker will be in attendance. The above historical events connected with this school and its surroundings are only a few of the many historical events that will be brought out at the reunion Thursday, August 23. Besides bringing out the historical events connected with the school, other amusements will be provided to make the day one of the most profitable ones ever spent in this way.

The Steubenville band has been secured and will make the music. The exercises will begin at 10 o'clock and the welcome address will be made by James Carl, a former teacher. Other addresses will be made during the day by John Jamison, of Oakdale, R. A. Hutchinson and W. T. Lindsey. The school history is being prepared by all the pupils of the school with Wallace Patterson and Thomas McAllister as chairmen. E. F. Westlake will read the history. Other addresses will be made.

# MANCHESTER SCHOOL

In 1856 the division of Hopewell township was made and free text books were introduced in 1893 as was the compulsory school law.

"In 1863 our township had six districts, employed six teachers, had an enrollment of 245 pupils, handled \$914.92 school funds, received as its share of the state appropriation \$97.20 and disbursed \$777.20. Now, coming to the history of the Manchester school we will follow John Doddridge over the mountains from Bedford county, his destination being a tract of land containing 437 acres and being known as "Extravagance." He came in 1773, bringing all necessaries on pack horses and upon arriving built a fort long known as "Doddridges Fort," the location being close to the school house here. A log house used for church purposes about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile to the west from here was known as Doddridge chapel and was used for years by the Methodists. Dr. Smith, a physician, preached there in the 30's. Lying north of the Extravagance tract was another known as "P Centy" which contained 380 acres and was taken up by Samuel Teeters, a relative of the Doddridges. Upon this, near the palatial residence Mr. Teeters enclosed one-eighth of an acre in stockade, within which was "Teeters Fort." Isaac Manchester, the father of Asa Manchester, and the grandfather of the present owners, purchased the tract upon the edge of which stands the school house, from Samuel Teeter. As has been stated the "Plenty" tract has since remained the Manchester estate and a walk through its historic fields and a visit to this most beautiful of country homes will convince one that the surveyors named it better than they knew and that it is truly a land of plenty.

The founding of the school whose reunion we are holding took place in 1839. The brick work was completed in the fall of 1838, but the carpenter

*You are cordially invited to be present at a Reunion of Teachers and Pupils, to be held at Manchester School-house, Thursday, August 23, 1906, commencing at ten o'clock.*

The Literary Society met at Manchester School.  
(Jan. 26, 1897)

All Parties from a Distance, by Communicating with Mr. James Murdock, of Avella, Pa., will be met at Avella Station, Wash. Railroad.  
MR. W. H. BUCHANAN,  
MISS ALICE MANCIESTER,  
Committee.

work which was done by a Mr. Elkins was not finished until the spring of the following year. The brick building which stood on the site of the present building, was somewhat smaller than the frame structure now standing and had a much lower ceiling; the story being only eight feet to the square. The need of a new building was the result of a fire which happened at night during the winter of 1850-51. In the summer of 1839 a term of three months was taught in the new brick school house by a Mr. Wills. He walked to and from his school. These summer terms were always subscription schools. Mr. Wills was employed to teach the following winter term, beginning in December, but things not going to suit his hot temper, he quit after having taught a few weeks. He taught another school in the township afterward and finally went to work as a government clerk in Washington City. Of the pupils enrolled in this unfinished term probably thirty in number there are eight living repre-

sents took their places, standing around the walls. Attention was not directed to the misspelled word but the pupil believing the word to have been misspelled and spelling it correctly could trap the delinquent. School was in session on two Saturdays in the month and the alternating Saturdays the patrons would snake some logs to the school lot for fire wood to be burned in open fire places or large wood stoves. The term of school was usually held in December, January and February. A summer school was sometimes held. Several of these log structures stood within the present limit of the township. One of the earliest was built on what is now Scott's district. No halls were used in the building. Gilbertson school stood on the Vance property and was in use before and after 1830. Various other pupils, Thomas Patterson and Joseph Baker taught here. The last named was a brother of Robert and Perrine Baker, early pupils of the Manchester school and still residents of the township.

J. P. Wells, Ella C. Herron, R. A. Hutchinson, completed unfinished term of Lydia A. Murdock, Jennie Hemphill, C. A. Brownlee, two terms; Eddie Scott, two terms; Hattie E. Welch Carman, Mamo Welch, Charles R. Cunningham, Charles B. Gardner, S. L. Byers, Jennie Woodburn Wilson, Leonard Richey, two terms; A. M. Painter, E. C. Carmon, E. F. Westlake, two terms; Ola M. Smith, Chauncey Lively, Jessie Brown, D. I. McAllister, two terms. The present teacher elected is Miss Alma Dodds. The only teachers of the above list deceased are Lydia Murdock, J. H. Nolan and John Porter.

The shortest term since 1865, consisting of 97 days was taught by Nan G. Gibson in 1866. The highest wages paid was to W. I. Lindsay, \$50; the lowest wages \$33. The largest enrollment was 61, the smallest 20. Average enrollment for this period of 41 years is 36. The highest average per cent of attendance was last year when there was an enrollment of 32 with 95 per cent as the annual average. The lowest was 69 per cent. The average per cent of attendance for the entire period of 41 years was 82 per cent. Total number of visitors registered was 292. The number of different pupils enrolled was 645. Determining on this basis, the time between 1839 and '65, we find 216 making a total of 559 pupils who claim Manchester school as their Alma Mater. Of the first number, 343, there were 51 whose family names began with C, and 53 whose names began with M.

Among those present were: Milton Murdock, 82; Robert Baker, 82; Jane Meloy, 79; Mrs. Elvira Dodds, 97, all of Independence; Mrs. Saria Hemphill, 78, West Middletown; Walter Craig, 76, West Middletown; Joseph Brownlee, 70, West Middletown; David Brownlee, 72, Los Angeles, Cal.; Mrs. Perry Liggett, 73, West Middletown; Lemuel Liggett, 63, West Middletown; Thomas McAllister, Independence; T. J. Armstrong, Carnegie; Jessie Brown, Independence; Jennie Wilson, Claysville; Mary M. Welch, Claysville; Eola Smith, Claysville; D. W. Patterson, Patterson's Mills; Rev. J. B. Jamison, Oakdale; E. F. Westlake, Washington; Mrs. W. V. Dunbar, Burgettstown; Mrs. W. C. Carman, Ingram; Mrs. Jennie Jamison, Oakdale; W. T. Lindsey, Pittsburg; W. A. Gillespie, 62, Eldersville; Mrs. Esther Donnell, Pittsburg; Mrs. C. C. Brashear, Wellsburg; Mrs. Mattie Berry, 65, Houston.

Laura Adams, the five-year-old daughter of A. G. Adams, was the youngest pupil present.

The story of the Manchester School as printed here is not complete. Words, as well as sentences, are missing. We are unable to locate the entire story, or to place it in the correct sequence at this time. Our apologies.

which was that of non-resistance. They had suffered untold horrors from the Indians and the Quaker governor of Pennsylvania had given them little or no protection, hence naturally they depended more on themselves and Virginia, than on the help they might receive from "Quaker guns." For a time affairs looked very belligerent in favor of the claims of Pennsylvania by extending the Mason and Dixon line in 1785, so as to define the south boundary of our state as we now know it. In retaining Washington county as part of the Keystone state we find Dorsey Pentecost, the relative of the present Sheriff, prominent and successful in his efforts so to do. Our county beat like our county, named in honor of the "Father of Our Country," was formerly known as Catfish camp. In 1783 at a meeting of the trustees of the county which body which then corresponds most nearly to our commissioners of the present, located the court house and prison in the center of Washington. The first legal execution was that of a negro boy in 1788. There were originally 13 townships in Washington county, the number corresponding to the 13 original colonies. Hopewell was one of the original townships, but at first included several others of which Independence was one.

Previous to the time of the school law of 1834 the schools were conducted entirely by subscription, the log school house being erected by the settlers and furnished by the dexterous use of the axe, with benches and writing tables. These early temples of learning were very similar where ever found. The writing tables were placed around the walls during the writing period and many times during this period the teacher was called upon with his knife to mend the quill pens. He set the copies for writing which was done on fools cap paper. The three "R's" were considered all important and the climax of each half day session was reached when the spelling/class was called and the pu-

than four score years of age, who are Isaac Cook, William Perrine and Robert Baker, William Liggett, William Tarr, Milton Murdock and Henry Chapman. The books used by the pupils were Western Calculator, United States Speller, English Reader and New Testament. The above pupils state that a splendid growth of poplars along the Manchester Lane furnished an inexhaustible supply of sprouts. Mr. Wills' successor was Mr. Chapman, who taught a summer term of three months in 1840. R. L. Johnston, a Vermontor, the father of L. M. Johnson of Cross Creek township, taught the term of 1840-41, also a three months' term in the summer following. In the face of much opposition Mr. Johnston introduced many new things into the school. Adams' Arithmetic and Smith's Grammar were adopted and steel pens came into use at this time. During the term of 1841-42 Mr. Richter, a Dutchman, furnished amusement by his murderous pronunciation of the king's English. Thomas Criswell ordered the poplars sprouted in 1842-43. Mr. Moore, a Divinity student, taught in 1853-54. Other teachers, the dates being unknown, were as follows: Mr. Walker, Mrs. Susan Perrin, Thomas Cunningham, Mrs. Frye, Jane Ramsey, John Morrow, Sarah Brownlee. These early teachers received about \$20 a month, a portion of which was paid by subscription. There were no official records kept previous to 1865, and for this reason the history is incomplete in the years previous to this date.

Following is a list of the teachers arranged in chronological order, the first having taught the term of 1865-66. I. J. Armstrong, Nan G. Gibson, W. I. Lindsay, two terms; S. L. Burns, Phoebe Manchester, now Mrs. J. B. Painter; A. C. Burns, Charlotte M. Murdock Crothers, R. J. Wilson, D. W. Patterson, two terms; J. H. Nolan, John S. Porter, D. W. Patterson, W. R. Jameson, J. B. Jameson, two terms;

# Bushy Rock School

- Aug 31, 1908 - Charles Morgan, Teacher
- Aug 30, 1909 - Amanda Henry, Teacher
- Aug 29, 1910 - same
- Aug 29, 1911 - Ruth Bemis
- Sept 2, 1912 - Leila Mc Cabl
- Sept 1, 1913 - Anna M. Brady
- Aug 31, 1914 - Anna M. Brady

- 1900-01 - Bushy Rock School #7
- 1901-02 - Mrs. Mae Vance ✓
- 1902-03 - A. Blanche Reed ✓
- 1903-04 - Urice Robinson ✓
- 1904-05 - same
- 1905-06 - Bruce Tuttle & Alice M. Anchor
- 1906-07 - Louise Hunsicker
- 1907-08 - Mary Bush ✓

## Three Avella Teachers Cited For Services

Three Avella teachers, Elsie Martin, Mary McGaughey and Alice Zellars have been chosen Outstanding Elementary Teachers of America for 1973.

Nominated by their principals earlier this year, they were elected for this honor on the basis of their professional and civic achievements.

Outstanding Elementary Teachers of America is an annual awards program honoring distinguished men and women for their exceptional services, achievements and leadership in the field of elementary education. Each year, the biographies of those honored are featured in the awards volume, 'Outstanding Elementary Teachers of America.'

These educators are now eligible to receive the Out-

standing Elementary Teacher of the Year Award Trophy. Unrestricted \$500 grants will be awarded to the schools represented by America's five Outstanding Elementary Teachers.

Distinguished judges, along with the Board of Advisors will select the five individual elementary teachers to be honored. In this way, the program thanks the teacher and the school for their contributions to the continuing excellence of American education.

6-30-73

1908  
 HICKORY COMMENCEMENT  
 The commencement exercises of the Mt. Pleasant township high school were held in the Hickory U. P. church on Friday evening, May 29th. There were but four graduates this year: Jennie Miller, Brown, Mary Eline Morgan, Lewis Evert Berry and J. Leslie Stewart. This has been the most successful year since the organization of the school in 1902, the attendance being double that of the preceding year.

Postmaster at Pattersons Mill in 1968 was J.J. Elliott. (Oct. 14, 1868)



White Oak School

1883-84 - Olivia P. Todd

1884-85 - same

1885-86 - Geo. McFarland

1886-87 - J. G. Reed

1887-88 - M. H. Baker

1888-89 - Nannie Anderson

1889-90 - Jess. B. Alowden

1890-91 - same

1891-92 - Mary J. Brunlee

Geo. Alowden - 16  
Jos. Alowden - 14

### Cross Creek HS Plans Meet

1962  
Alumni, teachers, and former pupils of Cross Creek High school will hold a meeting in the Cross Creek Presbyterian church Saturday, August 4, at 2 p.m.  
The present officers are: William Debelak, president; Mrs. Harry McConnell, treasurer, both of Avella; Mrs. Ellice Zellars, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Nellie Kharas, recording secretary, both of Cross Creek; E. A. Zellars, vice president. A. D. White, Hickory, is advisor.  
Registration will begin at 2 p.m. There will be a short program and business meeting at 3 p.m. and a basket-dinner at 5 p.m. Those attending are asked to take table service.

### White Oak School No. 4

1909-10 - Effie Cunningham

1910-11 - Mayme D. Armstrong

1911-12 - Howard J. Oviatt

1912-13 - same

White Oak School #4  
Closed 1913  
Howard Oviatt, last teacher.

To the President of the board of directors of the Cross Creek Tp Washington Co. Pa. We the undersigned residents of School district No. 4 do hereby certify that Mr Robert Irwin has laid in one hundred bushels of coal (at six cts. per bushel.) for the use of the school. \$6.00 Order granted Dec. 31st 1853 for 5 cents per Bu. \$5.  
John L. Johnson, Samuel Cole

THE PICTURE was taken in the spring of 1924 at White School better known as Possum Hollow near West Middletown, Hopewell Township. The students are: front row, left to right: Ben Temple, Elmer Temple, Robert Patton; second row: May Temple, ? Temple, Annetta Carter, Francis Temple, Elzie Tilton, Harold Carter, Martha Barr. Back row: teacher, Lawrence Sutherlin, Willis Tilton, Carl Craig, James Buchanan, Grace Buchanan, Bernice Craig, Hazel Carter. We are grateful to Mr. Willis Tilton of Florida for sharing his picture

## LETTER BOX

### "OLD POSSUM HOLLOW"

Editor, The Observer:

"Old Possum Hollow School." I haven't heard that name for many years, and what memories. The name takes me back to the days when I attended that very school.

The official name was "White School," but no one ever called it anything but "Possum Hollow."

We lived one mile from the school and every morning my brothers and sisters and I walked in all kinds of weather to old "Possum Hollow" and back again at night. There were eight of us all but the youngest attended school there.

Today everyone talks about the consolidated school being so much better, but sometimes I just don't know. There were all eight classes in attendance when I attended the school, and I really learned more from listening to the other classes recite than I did from the textbooks.

When I was in the seventh grade there was just one other pupil in that grade. My older sister and another girl were the only two pupils in the eighth grade. At that time midyear and final exams were a must for eighth graders if they were to prove their ability to enter high

school. Mrs. Grace Miller was the teacher at that time. She had this other boy and me take the mid-year exams also. In all modesty, I will say we made very good marks and so we went the second half of the term as eighth graders and all four of us finished the eighth grade together and entered Avella High School as four proud "freshies."

The point I am trying to make is that had we not been intermingled where we could listen to the eighth graders recite, this could never have happened.

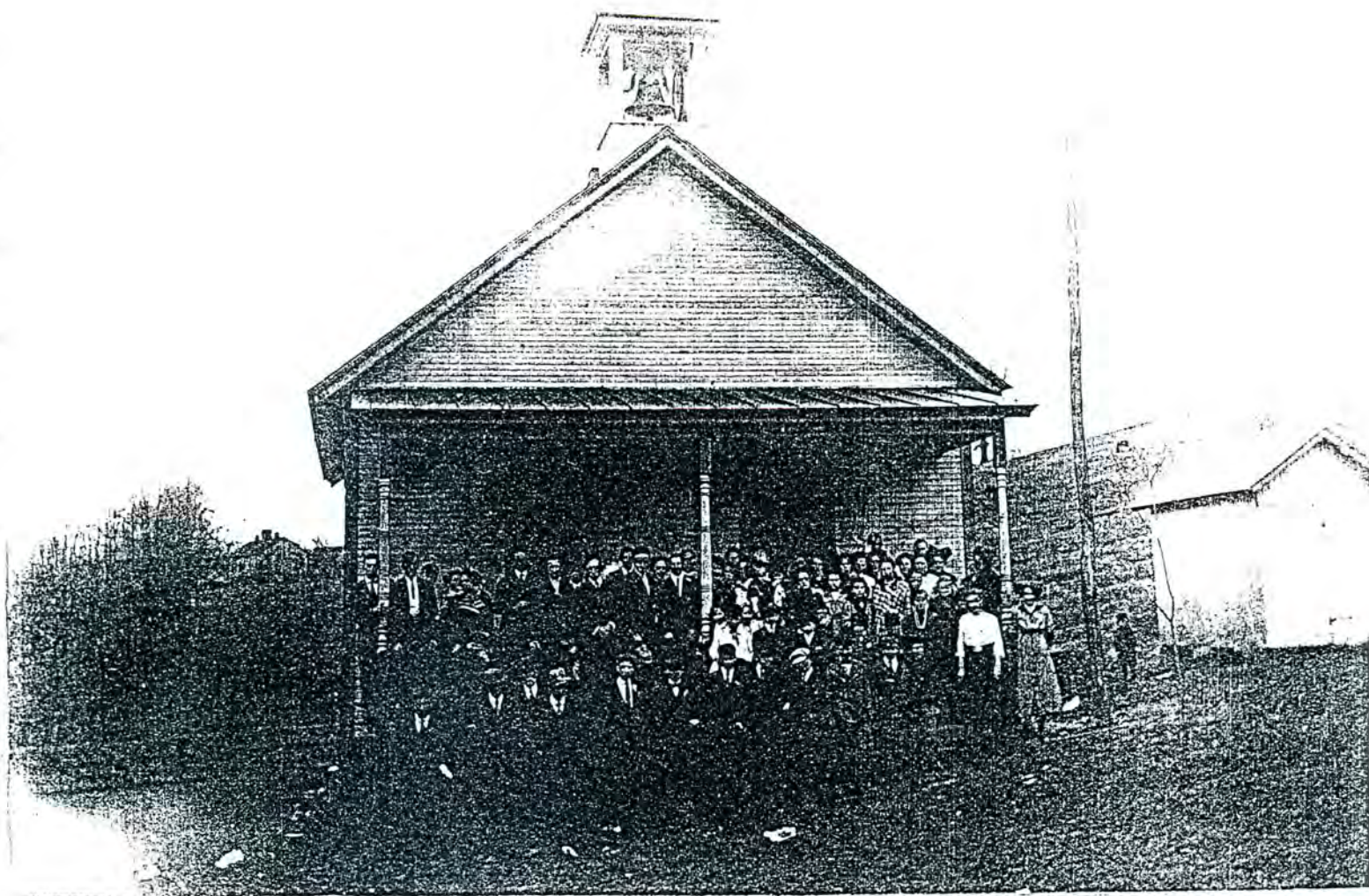
And those recesses and lunch hours. We played "Andy-Over," "Prisoner's Base" and "Jump the Creek," and really enjoyed every moment of it. Mrs. Miller always joined in with us at our playground activities.

Many years have come and gone since those days and I have five children, one of whom is a school teacher herself in your Washington County schools, and also two grandchildren.

Yes, it has been 35 years since I attended "Possum Hollow School" but with me the "memory will always linger on."

MRS. DOROTHY MAE TEMPLE MORRIS

Waynesburg, Pa.



## Muddy Lane School

This picture given A. D. White by Roy M. Thompson  
in fall of 1907. Two men to the left in  
front row are Samuel P. Stewart & John L.  
Thompson, while the girl to the extreme right  
looks like Mimmie Stewart Souley.  
Must have been taken about 1900

# Limestone Lane - No. 9

Pupils  
 John Holmes aged 6  
 Albert Alfred Stora - 18  
 Sam Stewart - 19  
 (Limestone Lane)  
 (Muddy Lane)  
 (125' deep in term)

Sept 3, 1883 - W. F. Cummins

Sept 1884 - same (125' deep in term)

(may have been no school here) 1885-86 -

Sept 1886 - { Amber Marquis { Char Sharp - 12  
 { Muddy Lane { Orr Lawton - 9

ending  
 Oct 4, 1887 - Minnie Bea - Limestone Lane <sup>Bobt Holmes 10</sup>  
 last 2 months of term - Jennie B. Doolen

month ending  
 Sept 28, 1888 - Amber Marquis (Limestone Lane)

month ending  
 Sept 30, 1889 - Allie M. Reed (Limestone Lane)

month ending  
 Oct 7, 1890 same

month ending  
 Oct 5, 1891 same

## Limestone Lane (Muddy Lane)

(name changed to Muddy Lane on 3rd mo. of report book, 1904-05 term)

Sept. 3, 1900 - Willard Reed, Teacher

Sept 9, 1901 - Cora B. Hobbs,

Sept. 1, 1902 - H. G. Noah

Aug. 31, 1903 - W. L. Keys (Wesley L.)

Sept 5, 1904 - Jessie Brown

Sept. 4, 1905 - Elsie Ross

Sept. 3, 1906 - same

Sept. 2, 1907 - Earl B. Amos

Aug 31, 1908 - same 46

No. 9 Limestone Lane  
or Muddy Lane

No. 7 - Bushy Rock on the  
former John N. Waller farm.

No. 8 - Beech Knob on  
former Eli Marquis farm.

White Oak  
Waller Valley  
Beech Valley  
Beech Knob

named for  
trees of the forest

Muddy Lane  
Bushy Rock

also an usual name

Woods Hall - a classical name  
Hall of Knowledge

West Point  
Bumble Hill

Historic names

Cemetery indicated the location

Muddy Lane School  
1909-10 - Earl B. Amos  
10-11 - same  
11-12 - Leila McCabe  
12-13 - Nettie B. Welch  
13-14 - Annabell Henshaw  
14-15 - same  
15-16 - same

8 mos.  
7 mos  
7 mos

### PARENTS' DAY IN THE SCHOOLS

1908

Special days, under various names, have become a part of school work in almost every county in the state. We believe in every day visiting in the schools, but we have faith in the good resulting from special reception days.

While there is a standing invitation to all to visit at any time, Wednesday, November 25, is set apart as a special day for parents, directors and friends of education to spend an hour or two in observation and inspection of the work that is done and being done for the children.

The success of our schools demands more visiting on the part of parents and directors. The teacher needs the sympathy and help of every parent in the district. Your presence on November 25 will do much to encourage the children and teacher in their work.

We earnestly request that the day be observed on the date named, in order that there may be uniformity throughout the county.

We are anxious for the success of this day. We know it is productive of much good if properly conducted. If teachers and pupils interest themselves in it, the parents will become interested and many visits will be the result. Let the teachers begin to prepare for it now. Let the best work of the pupils for each week be collected and kept in some appropriate place, so that when the time arrives there will be nothing to do except proper grouping of it.

We are opposed to preparing exhibits for parents' day that are not found in the regular work of the school. We are not in sympathy with the plan of devoting the day to "speeches," "dialogues," etc. A few of these are not out of place, but these should be incidental, rather than the prime feature. The day should be devoted to giving the parents, directors and friends of the children a general idea of the work of the school, together with that accomplishment by individual pupils. In this spirit, we hope the day will be kept.

School law of 1834 in effect. (Aug. 26, 1834)



**BUCKEYE VALLEY SCHOOL**, Class of 1904. Note the numbers on the clothing for identification. 1. Ray Brown. 2. Unknown. 3. Alvie Crow. 4. Jay Walker. 5. Ed Hancin? 6. Hazel Shepard. 7. Wm. Shepard. 8. Mildred Major. 9. Ralph Major. 10. ? Shepard. 11. Celia Crow. 12. Unknown. 13. Sarah Mae Brown. 14. Ada Crow. 15. Unknown. 16. ? Brown. 17. Ella Crow. A sad note: several of the Crow children drowned in the 1912 flood, eight years after this picture was taken. (Picture courtesy Albert Miller)

## Buckeye Valley School No. 10

- 1883-84 - Laura Moore  
1884-85 - Jennie Armstrong (Lewi DuCrany age 13)  
(Vance Carter age 13)  
1885-86 - same (Emie Campbell age 4)  
1886-87 - Henry Kelley  
1887-88 - James M. Moore  
1888-89 - Anna M. Johnston  
1889-90 - Cynthia A. Vance  
1891-92 - L. N. Stephenson  
1891-92 - Nannie Sillispie

Buckeye Valley School Dec 1909  
Wmifred Bushholder, Teacher

August 1910 - Maudie Ferguson, Teacher

August 1911 - O. W. Patterson, Teacher

Sept 1912 - O. W. P.

Sept 1913 - O. W. P.

Aug 1914 - O. W. P.

Buckeye Valley

1883-84 - Lada Moore ✓

84-85 - Jennie Armstrong ✓

85-86 - same ✓

86-87 - Henry Pelly ✓

87-88 - Anna M. Moore ✓

88-89 - Cynthia A. Jansone ✓

89-90 - L. M. Stephenson ✓

90-91 - Nannie Bellepaci ✓

91-92 -

92-93 -

Buckeye Valley School (Adorned Room)

1909-10 - Hannah M. Walker

1910-11 - Mary Vickerman (three months)

Florence Mc Clelland (last four months)

1911-12 - Annabell Denny

1912-13 - ~~Bessie La Rue~~ (8 months)

1913-14 Bessie La Rue 8 months

1914-15 same

1915-16 same

AD

# A good foundation

BY KATHRYN CAMPBELL SLASOR

'E'very day at noon we took our lunches and ate them along the way to our walk in the woods," Hazel Carter Cooke recalled one day several years ago, while reminiscing about her teaching days at Beech Knob School. The little frame institution of learning was in Cross Creek Township, not far from the historic Cross Creek Presbyterian Church, in the direction of Rea.

"Everyone really enjoyed it," Mrs. Cooke smiled softly, as she recalled a 10-year period in her young life in those long-forgotten days of the one-room school. "I took the bell with me and rang it about ten minutes to one. Then we all walked back to the schoolhouse from the woods."

It will never be known how much wisdom was instilled in the lives of her pupils by this devoted teacher, one of the last to stand behind the desk at Beech Knob. With the coming of consolidation, these informal, personal, extra activities vanished along with the schoolhouses that for many years dotted the countryside and radiated memories that even the passing of time could not erase.

According to a note penciled by the late A.D. White and left among his thousands of pages of school records, Beech Knob School was built in 1855 by William R. Campbell. It was described as "a school house near Simpsons."

Four scraps of paper, hand-written by probably the secretary of the school board, William Patterson, and signed also by the president, Robert Jeffrey (or president pro tem, William Reed), state the amount in installments paid by the school board to Mr.

Campbell. Dated between June 26, 1855, and Oct. 30, of the same year, the amounts totaled \$692 "in full." Two additional scraps noted that William R. Campbell was to receive "Eleven dollars for extra work to School House No. 8," and to William Reed, Ten dollars and fifty cents for stove and pipe."

Each schoolhouse in the township was known by a number, as well as by a name. Beech Knob was Schoolhouse No. 8.

Mrs. Cooke recalled that on these little excursions into the woods during lunch hour, "the bigger pupils helped take care of the little ones. There were about 21 pupils in grades one to four. I had good cooperation from O.C. Mundell and A.D. White. School directors, neighbors, parents, were 99 percent cooperative."

She remembered that water was carried from a spring near the playground and that two outside toilets completed the sanitary facilities. Parties were held every year at Halloween and Christmas, with a picnic at the end of the year. All were attended by "parents and everybody."

Mrs. Cooke was happily aware that her former pupils had gone out into the world and into all walks of life. "I taught the Cindrishes," she beamed proudly. "They became attorneys." Her teaching career totaled 43 years.

Even though Beech Knob Schoolhouse has been erased from the landscape, leaving nothing but a few rocks in disarray in its place, its influence in the world can never be measured. With teachers such as "Mifs Adaline Caisada," (Miss Adeline Cassidy) who went sleigh-riding with her pupils of 140 years ago, and Hazel Carter Cooke, who taught her

pupils the mysteries and secrets of nature a century later, students of Cross Creek Township were given a solid foundation upon which to build their lives.

And with historian, James Simpson, nodding approval from his vantage point in the old stone house atop the opposite hill, many a mold for an outstanding life was cast.

(Mrs. Cooke retired from teaching in 1973. She died Sunday, Feb. 7, 1999.)

► **KATHRYN CAMPBELL SLASOR** is a freelance writer who lives in Eldersville.

## Hazel M. Cooke

Retired Avella teacher

Hazel M. Cooke, 88, of Avella, died Sunday, February 7, 1999, in Presbyterian Medical Center, Washington, where she had been a resident since 1988.

She was born December 28, 1910, in Mt. Pleasant Township, a daughter of William Vance and Rachel Emerick Carter.

Mrs. Cooke was a teacher in the Avella Area School District for 43 years, before retiring in 1973.

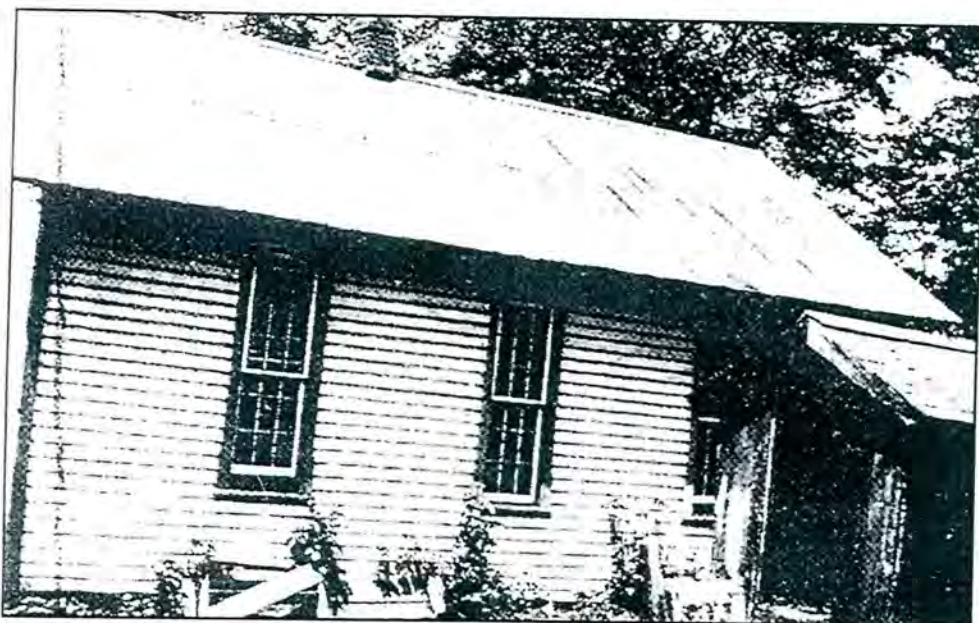
She was a 1943 graduate of Pennsylvania State University and had lived most of her life in Cross Creek Township.

Mrs. Cooke was a member of Cross Creek United Presbyterian Church, the Pennsylvania and National Teachers Associations, AARP, Cross Creek Grange 954, the Historical Society of Burgettstown, and the Pennsylvania and National chapters of Daughters of the American Revolution.

On October 10, 1940, she married Leonard Lyle Cooke, who died June 30, 1983.

Surviving are a sister, Annetta McCullough of Houston; and many nieces and nephews.

Deceased are five sisters, Mae McCombs, Alice Bell, Elizabeth Kraeer, Dessie Thompson and Blanch Mayfield; and three brothers, Everett, Brady and Joseph Carter.



Beech Knob Schoolhouse served as the educational and social center for Cross Creek Township.



"Every day at noon we took our lunches and are them along the way to our walk in the woods." It will never be known how much wisdom was instilled in the lives of the pupils of Hazel Carter Cooke, one of the last teachers in the Beech Knob School in Cross Creek Township. A far cry from today's 1994 sophisticated version of a classroom, was yesterday's humble little frame structure in the woods.

According to a note penciled by the late A.D. White, and left among his thousands of pages of school records, Beech Knob School was built in 1855 by William R. Campbell. It was described as "a school house near Simpsons." Four scraps of paper, handwritten by probably the secretary of the school board, William Patterson, and signed also by the president, Robert Jeffrey (or president, William Reed), state the amount in installments paid by the board to Mr. Campbell. One note is not dated. It is for four hundred dollars. Another is dated June 26, 1855, "an order for one hundred dollars for the second payment."

The third note reads, "Pay to William R. Campbell or order one hundred and ninety two dollars in full of contract for building School House No. 8, and this shall be your sufficient voucher on settlement of

your account. By order of the Board." This note is dated October 30th, 1855. Still a fourth scrap of paper, also dated the same day, gives William R. Campbell "Eleven dollars for extra work to School House No. 8." Another voucher dated that day gives William Reed "Ten dollars and fifty cents for stove and pipe for School House No. 8."

Each school house in Cross Creek Township during those early days was known by a number as well as a name. Beech Knob was School House No. 8. Willow Valley, near the present Avella High School on Route 50, was No. 5. And White Oak, on the Cross Creek-Cedar Grove Road, was known as School House No. 4. Early school board meetings were held at Beech Knob or in one of the homes.

"Notice to Mechanics — Sealed Proposals will be received by the Board of Directors of Common Schools for Cross Creek District at the house of William Patterson on Tuesday the 16th day of March next at the hour of 12 O'Clock for building a School House in said district on a lot of ground obtained from William Marques. The house to be twenty-six feet long and twenty feet wide in the clear and ten feet high. A plan and specifications for the building and further particulars may be obtained from

the Secretary of the Board." Dated January 30, 1855. A deed search would be necessary for exact proof that this notice pertained to Beech Knob.

A full account of the meeting of the School Board on March 16 includes the following business: "Proposals from Edward Joyce and Joseph Croner to build school house at W. Marques premises — \$396; from William Campbell — \$392; from J. McClain and S. Wilson for \$409. Motion to accept proposal of Mr. Campbell agreed to."

It is not clear to this writer just where school was held before Beech Knob No. 8 was built in 1855. But records indicate that long before this date, school business was very capably handled: "June, 1853 — It is agreed by and between Adaline Cafsady, teacher, and William Patterson, president of the board of directors of common schools of Cross Creek District in Washington County, that said Adaline Cafsady shall, under the supervision and exclusive direction of the board of directors of said district, and their successors, teach in the school house or building at No. 8 for the term of one month at any money in the treasury, reserving the right for the board of directors, for the time being, to dismiss

Histories, names, dates and events of families mentioned in this column each week are solely for the enjoyment of the readers. They are as accurate as a superficial search can make them. However, they are not to be used as documentation in genealogical research. With the passing of time and the handing down of stories from one generation to another, much accuracy is lost. We do not have the time nor the inclination to delve deeply into minute details. That is the task of the family genealogist. We do, however, welcome comments, additions and corrections. These stories are only a feeble attempt to preserve a partial history of those in the area who at one time passed this way, and whose legacies crossed our paths. KCS



**A CLASS OF** Beech Knob students, year and identities unknown. Possibly some Cookes, Simpsons, Reeds and others. This must have been a "special occasion day," as everyone is "dressed up."

Box social held at Cross Creek High School. (Oct. 7, 1908)

said Adaline Cafsady at the end of any month of said term. The actual possession of the school house and building, premises being mentioned, to remain and be considered by all parties as remaining and being at all times in the said directors and their successors. In witness whereof, we have hereunto set our hands and seals on the 20th day of June, A. D. 1853. Witness, Josiah H. Scott, Sec'y; Wm. Patterson, Adaline Cafsady."

James Simpson, historian, who lived near the top of the hill overlooking Beech Knob School, was a fervent participant in all school matters. He seldom missed a school board meeting, or any other social activity held in the building.

On August 4, 1859, his entry in his daily journal reads, "Mended ny share and ground my syth in the forenoon. Cut some oats in the afternoon till the rain came on. Went to the school board meeting at the school house at night. Mifs Adaline Casada got the school."

On October 26, he wrote: "Hauled cole today. Hauled a load of slack in the forenoon and a load of cole in the afternoon. Holed up the beets in the evening. Mifs Adaline Casada was here all night." And on Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25, the diary reads, "Went to meeting at Mount Prospect today to the Sacraments. The Rev. James Fleming preached and assisted Mr. Keeling. Mifs Adaline Casada went with us in the sleigh."

Since all details are not recorded, some speculation is necessary. James' mother, Ann Lyle Simpson, his father, Robert, and his sister, Rosannah, were occupants of the old stone house on the hill at this time. Rosannah, born in 1832, would be about twenty-seven years of age in 1859. She and Miss Adaline Cassidy were probably good friends, thus the overnight visits and the Sunday sleigh rides.

An account of the number of years Adaline taught is not readily available. Her records show that in addition to Beech Knob, she taught at other buildings in Cross Creek Township.

Expenses of early schools consisted of more than teachers' salaries. Some are listed in business records, such as, one broom, 25 cents; one tin cup, six cents; one piece of stove pipe, 45 cents; one fire shovel, 30 cents' four panes glass, 48 cents; one poker and shovel, 65 cents; one shutter bolt, five cents; and one entry for Robert Simpson for one set of strap hinges, 75 cents, and two dozen nails, 20 cents.

One of the biggest expenses was coal to heat the buildings. Bids were received and acted upon for "One hundred bushels of coal (cole) for six cents per bushel." An occasional bid was received for the building of a coal house or a privy.

The era of the old Simpson stone house at the top of the hill, and that of the Beech Knob School

across the bottom, are one and the same. Each was dependent upon the other. And with teachers such as "Mifs Adaline Cafsada" of one hundred forty years ago, who went sleigh-riding with the neighbors, and Mrs. Hazel Cooke, who taught her pupils the mysteries and secrets of nature nearly a century later, students of Cross Creek Township were given a solid foundation upon which to build their lives. And with historian James Simpson nodding approval from his vantage point on the hilltop, many a mold for an outstanding life was cast.

Twenty people attended a meeting  
of the Cross Creek and Hopewell  
Association for pursuit and detection  
of horse thieves. Held at home

of Thomas Patterson, Jr.

Mrs. Elorotha Montgomery Wilson born January 4, 1911  
Parents: John and Montgomery  
Married to Ewing S. Wilson  
Retirement Rate - Normal School Certificate  
Years of teaching to July 1, 1960 - 27  
Retired on 1973 - 40 yrs? teachers'  
year of sabbatical leave July 1, ~~1960~~<sup>1959</sup> - July 1, 1960  
Also Don leave late 1963-64 & early part of 69-63 term  
on account of illness & death of her husband, Ewing S.  
Wilson on October 9, 1964. 52

# TWO SCHOOLS 1936 CLOSE TERMS

Beech Knob and Muddy Lane Schools, Cross Creek Township, taught by Miss M. Hazel Carter and Mrs. Helen Brownlee, closed a successful and pleasant term May 13. At noon the pupils were taken from the schools to the Grange Hall at Rea, where a bountiful dinner was served by the parents and friends. In the afternoon a delightful program was presented.

The "Tom Thumb Wedding," under the direction of Miss Carter, attracted an unusually large crowd. The cast was as follows: Bride, Ruth Johnson; bridegroom, Edward Elias; trainbearers, Lorraine Katzbeck, John Monticello; flower girls, Sylvia Popp, Mary Lerby, Doris Johnson, Barbara Dobroski; maid of honor, Fairy Dillie; bridesmaids, Leora Ashbrook, Emma Fowler, Hazel Fisher, Mary Taczak; ringbearer, Billy Phillips; minister, Jeanette Brownlee; bride's father, Charles Mediant; ushers, Mike Taczak, Jimmy Stewart, Lynn Lerby, Wayne Maten; soloist, Kathryn Monticello; bridegroom's mother, Dale Ashbrook; bridegroom's father, Romaine Brownlee; guests, Dorothy Fishman, George Brautigam, Martha Fowler, Floyd Fisher, Geraldine Dillie, Merle Dillie, Betty Johnson, Ziggy Dobroski, Hazel Kaefer, George Taczak, Irene Popp, Howard Fisher.

Plays, recitations and songs were presented by the children, reflecting capable direction. Plays presented were "Getting Even with Sister's Beau," "Vacation Special," "Cousin Imogene's Dinner," "Secrets Under the Umbrella," "Perkins Family on a Picnic," "Too Much Borrowing," "Practical Use for Peddlers," "Disturbance in the Family," and "Cora's Caller."

Recitations were given by Mary Lerby, Floyd Fisher, Warren Moten, Gertie Poland, Evelyn Phillips, John Monticello, Ziggy Dobroski, Geraldine Dillie, Margaret Romanett, Lois Miller, and the valedictory by Deloris Dille.

Bob Dewett entertained on the guitars, Fairy Dille, Isabelle Armstrong and Deloris Garaldean sang a trio number, Leora and Dale Ashbrook, a duet, and Deloris Dille a solo.

C. M. Rea, secretary of the School Board, presented Edith Johnson, Isabelle Armstrong, and Josephine Liggett, eighth grade diplomas and writing certificates.

Mrs. Brownlee presented each pupil with a remembrance. Those perfect in attendance were: John Holmes, Josephine Liggett, Deloris Dillie, Evelyn Phillips, Isabelle Armstrong, Geraldine Dillie, Kathryn Monticello, Fairy Dillie, Mike and Mary Taczak and Billy Phillips. They were given certificates, seals and awards by the teachers. They also presented each pupil with a remembrance.

Those perfect in spelling for the second semester from Beech Knob were: Lorraine Katzbeck, Romaine Brownlee, Fairy Dillie and Mike Taczak. Each was given an award by Miss Carter. In the term contest the "Ideal Schoolmate," chosen by the pupils and teacher of

Beech Knob School, was Jeanette Brownlee, who also received an award from Miss Carter. Miss Carter and Mrs. Brownlee received many beautiful gifts. The parents expressed themselves as being well pleased with the past term and the teachers were given a hearty invitation to return next Fall.



**ALL THAT REMAINS** in 1994 of Beech Knob Schoolhouse are a few scattered rocks that once formed the steps and the foundation of this one-room center of learning.



**THE "KNOB" MAY** still be seen, upon which stood the schoolhouse. Beech Knob Road is shown in the foreground. The center of the picture shows the rise up to the knob, today covered with fallen leaves from the trees that grow in profusion where the school once stood. To the rear, above the knob and beyond the wooded area, are the green fields of the farms that border Cross Creek-Rea Road.

# Beech Knob School

month ending Oct 5, 1883 - J. A. Magill, Teacher  
(January - Feb 1884 - month of the deep snow)

month ending Oct 1, 1884 - James A. Smith  
Pupils - Reed, Sumpson, White, McNamee, Maguire

" " Oct 2, 1885 - W. H. Goslin, Teacher

pupils - Samuel Sumpson, Immie Ray (Rec.)

Oct 1, 1886 - W. H. Goslin;

Sept 30, 1887 - Clara B. Reed

Oct 1, 1888 - Flora Mc Corkle

Oct 1, 1889 - J. P. Stephenson

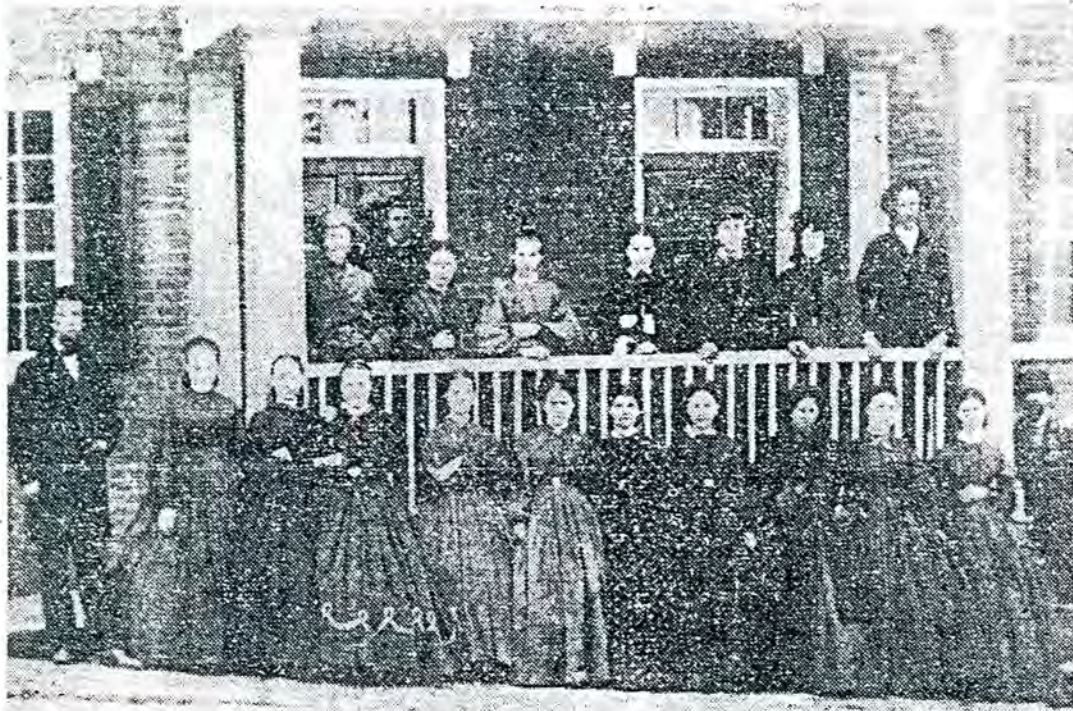
Oct 7, 1890 - Flora Mc Corkle

Oct 5, 1891 - Lizzie N. Stephenson

Beech Knob School # 8	
1883-84	J. A. Magill ✓
84-85	James A. Smith ✓
85-86	W. H. Goslin ✓
86-87	same ✓
87-88	Clara B. Reed ✓
88-89	M. H. Mc Corkle ✓
89-90	J. P. Stephenson ✓
90-91	M. Flora Mc Corkle ✓
91-92	Lizzie N. Stephenson ✓
92-93	

Beech Knob, Aug. 15, 1874  
I propose to furnish 1100 lbs.  
good coal to the various schools  
whose names are required by the board  
for \$1000

## Girls And Boys Of Public Schools Of 1864 Were Picturesque, Glamorous, Too



Names of a group of pupils of West Middletown Grammar School in 1864 appearing in the old picture shown above are: left to right, first row: Teacher, Alexander Dodd, Levinia Christie, Irene Lindsay, Rebecca Johnson, Jane Eliza McClure, Mary Lizzie McKeever, Virginia Burns, Ann Nolen, Ellen Johnson, Mary Christie, and Sarah Burns. Second row, Louis Bushfield, Martha Akinson, Laura Burns, Julia Nolen, William Lindsay, Florence Lane, James Bemis. Standing in doorway in rear, in uniform, James Barr. Standing at end of porch under window, John Jeffrey. The last two were not members of the school.

A picture of a group of Grammar School pupils of West Middletown taken in February, 1864; during the Civil War, recently found, is attracting a great deal of attention among the West Middletown residents and even in distant points where descendants of these early students are now located. The old fashioned hoop skirts and dresses of more than three-quarters of a century ago worn by these young students can be compared to the dresses of maidens of today.

Of the 21 persons shown in this picture not one is living today. The picture on the February day in 1864 was taken in front of what was known as the Sampson home then occupied by Mr. Sampson, a well known undertaker of the community, as the class was returning to school from dinner. This house now occupied by Mrs. Florence Williams stands on the north side of Main street of the second oldest borough in the county and

looks today much like it did the day this picture was taken. All of the students had not returned from dinner when this picture was taken. Nearly every young man that could shoulder a gun in the West Middletown section went to war and as a result very few young men were enrolled in the school.

The teacher of this school was Alexander Dodd who resided on what was later known as the Perry Liggett place just west of the borough. He never married. The last surviving member of this class was Virginia Burns, who married (Hill) John Smith and for many years resided on a farm in the Mt. Hope section of Independence Township. Later she moved to Wylandville with her daughter, Ida Smith. Her death occurred a few years ago at the age of near 95.

Levina Christia shown in this picture married George Graham; Irene Lindsay married a Dr. Phillips who practiced in West Middletown for years; Rebecca Johnson married a James McIlvaine;

Jane Eliza McClure married William Ralston, a farmer and carpenter in the West Middletown area; Mary Lizzie McKeever married Joseph George, who conducted a general store in West Middletown for years in the house now known as the Community center; Virginia Burns married John Smith a farmer of Independence Township; Ann Nolen married Henry Pettie and for many years lived in West Middletown; Ellen Johnson never married; Mary Christie, married William Weirich, father of Mrs. Philo Paul; Sarah Burns never married; Louis Bushfield married Florence Lane a member of the class; Martha Ackison married a Mr. Fowler; Laura Burns never married; Julia Nolen died in her youth; William Lindsay was clerk of the U. S. Court in Pittsburgh for many years; and Dr. James Bemis practiced medicine in West Middletown for more than a half century.

Independence Township Teachers  
as part of Avella District Jointure.  
Mrs. Mary Margaret Cunningham Parson b. on 11-11-189  
Parents:  
Married to St. Homer Parson of West Middletown, Pa  
Years of teaching to July 1, 1960 - about 16 1/2 years.  
Retired on July 1, 1965 with about 21 1/2 yrs teaching  
died Nov. 24, 1984.

Mrs. Elena Ottewill Fioroni born on October 3, 1923  
Parents:  
Married to Raymond J. Fioroni of Avella, Pa  
Total Years of Teaching till July 1, 1959 - 15 years.  
Withdrew from active service at end of 1958-59 school  
Returned to Teaching at the Allasbury School - Smith Township  
1962-63 School term

Mrs. Freda Morris Thompson born on Dec. 20, 1902  
Parents:  
Married to W. Howard Thompson of Avella, Pa  
Total Years of Teaching to July 1, 1960 - 21  
She must have retired in 1964 with 25 yrs teaching

# One-Room School Days in Independence

By  
David Davis

The one-room schoolhouse is, for the most part, extinct, gone. It survives in such specialized places as the Amish communities where it is tenaciously maintained. But essentially it has disappeared from the educational landscape, being judged by the experts as a pedagogical anachronism, a pitifully inadequate place to get a proper education.

But that little schoolhouse has, nevertheless, a lively survival in the memory of many such as I. And I remember well that one which sat down at the end of the town in Independence.

Our little schoolhouse (it was white, not red) had the typical tower and bell, and in the dirt-floor basement, the big coal furnace, coal pile, and play area for those bad weather days. The building was two-roomed but only one was used for school in that time of the late 30's and early 40's. The other room was used by the Grange and also for voting.

*Independence Grade School*



There were six grades in five rows and desk sizes accordingly, the smaller ones being on the west side of the room (about a mile from West Virginia) next to the blackboards, the sixth grade ones near the windows on the east. The teacher's desk was, naturally, at the front (south side). Above the blackboards behind her looking down on all of us were the portraits of the presidents, Washington and Lincoln, serious and solemn. Our country's flag hung between them. About those blackboards - I can still hear the slide of the chalk across the slate and the peck of the punctuation as teachers stood there writing out their sentences vigorously or students doing the same with much strain and labor. And I think I can still hear the sound of heads banging on those slates when some older boy got sassy with one of the teachers.

During my time there were three teachers, Miss Emma Lowry (near retirement), Mr. John Caldwell, and Miss Alice Smith. Miss Lowry gave me the only paddling I ever had in school--for hitting my sister, Judy. Only two strokes but I raised such a howl that she must have thought she was killing me so she quit. It didn't hurt but the mortification was terrible. The teachers of that time were not averse to using the paddle; neither they nor anyone else had any qualms about corporal punishment, not having had an overdose of psychology. Miss Lowry and Mr. Caldwell used the paddle judiciously. Miss Smith, a young first-job farm girl who couldn't take any lip from students, lost control a couple of times, and became a monster. The mother of one of her victims let her know in no uncertain terms that she wasn't to do that again. She didn't. I think Miss Smith was with us for only a year.

Two other things I remember about Miss Smith besides the fact that she could be mean, was that she was pretty and that she read Tom Sawyer to us over several weeks during the last 15 minutes of school. How we hung on every word about Tom and Becky Thatcher, Aunt Polly, Huck Finn and others. I thought how wonderful it would have been to have lived at that time and in that town along the Mississippi. Little did I realize how close we were in that tiny village to Tom Sawyer's times and circumstances. To be sure, we had no great river but two state roads converged in our town and like a river, a lot of life goes by on a road too.

We went to school in our bare feet until cold weather required the shoes that had been saved wear and tear by our going unshod. The school room floor was oiled regularly to keep the dust down, I suppose, maybe even for septic purposes. Whatever the purpose, it blackened our feet so that when we went home we had to scoot our feet in the grass or wash them before going into the house so as not to stain the carpet, which was rare, but the linoleum, so common. Besides the shoe saving barefoot custom, some of us as in Tom Sawyer's day, wore wellworn patched clothes as did many adults in those late years of the Great Depression.

Some of our desks were big enough to seat two but none of us boys shared such a desk with any Becky Thatchers, although we did have plenty of pretty girls. And we certainly did have a couple of genuine Huckleberry Finns, if not at least one girl Huck Finn. I'm sure we also had a Tom Sawyer or two, boys full of energy and imagination who got into mischief that upset teachers and parents and other adults, but they did nothing vicious. Although the desks had ink wells which the teacher



filled from a big bottle with a special spout (I can still smell that ink--it did not stink) but no boy seated behind a girl ever put her plaits in the ink well, even if he may have pulled them occasionally.

Being of an incurably romantic nature myself, I always had a crush on Betty, or Naomi, or Romaine, or Norma Jean, or Lorraine, or. . . well, anyway, I spent many a dreamy hour looking their way, sometimes having to turn discreetly, furtively half way around, leaning chin on hand, to behold momentarily the current charmer. But I was longest in love with Betty Westlake. All of these "crushes", dismissed by adults as puppy love, may have distracted from our lessons but it sure made school a lot more interesting.

Sometimes we were allowed to sit together, two boys or two girls, in one of the double desks to study spelling. But before long we got to talking and laughing and Mr. Caldwell would look at us, his big eyes batting faster than a blinking owl and the lips of his small mouth tightening in anger, and we would sober up real fast. In fact any time a boy was talking or otherwise goofing, causing any disruption and didn't get the message in that look, Mr. Caldwell was not averse to jerking him out of his seat and marching him to stand in front of the room facing the blackboard. Am I also implying that Mr. Caldwell was a lot more lenient with the girls? Yes. But of course they were better behaved.

How pleasant it was when the holidays came and we got a break from studies. First, Halloween, then Thanksgiving, Christmas, and on Valentine's Day, waiting, atremble for that special one when the love tokens were distributed from that big box, decorated, and with the slot where everyone had deposited his friendly or sweet greetings, often handmade, special. And how disappointing if the right message didn't come from the right person. It was fun to decorate the windows, hang appropriate emblems from the chandeliers ( too fancy a word for these plain fixtures), light globes actually. Then to string season-appropriate, colored art paper chains from wall to light to wall. It made me feel ever so daring to stand on a big ladder in this tall- ceiled room to string these chains. We had our Halloween party and parade through town of course and during Christmas we'd have Dicken's "Christmas Carol" or some other story relative to the season. At Easter, the folklore part was mostly emphasized, although there was no fear of mentioning the religious meaning. In those days, May Day was still celebrated. We didn't do anything about it in our school but I remember that we were bussed to Avella High for their program-- the May Queen and Court, the Maypole Dance, the Jesters, the strains of "In An English Country Garden". It had all the atmosphere of the Renaissance and the days of Shakespeare when lasses and lads in Spring went a-Maying and gathered rosebuds. Of course I wasn't aware of such literary and historical associations at the time. Finally, came the school-end picnic also in early May. Sometimes the day came chilly and overcast; sometimes warm and sunny. In any case we would head down the "red-dog road" and have our little picnic along the "crick," which was not a wild rushing stream. But there were deep places where you couldn't see the bottom and it looked murky and a little scary. I recall the time when my sister was standing on the edge of an undercut bank and it gave way. She could just barely touch bottom and I can still see her dress floating in a perfect circle around her waist and

she laughing instead of being hysterical. She enjoyed all the attention and I'm sure there were lots of tales about it afterwards. And yes, girls actually wore dresses to school, even to the year-end picnic.

There was no such thing as gym class but we had play time before school, during recess and lunch time. In the Fall we played softball or soccer. Soccer for us was very simplified--here are the boundaries, here the two goal lines; kick the ball across one or the other. Some kids had cleats on the front of their shoes and when they missed the ball and kicked your shins you were missing some skin. But there was no penalty. Sometimes the ball was soccer ball size, but never a real soccer ball; sometimes basketball size; sometimes just a big cheap rubber ball. And a level playing field? Forget it. Incidentally, the balls were not supplied by the school. The teacher bought them and the kids chipped in pennies, nickels, and dimes to help pay for them.

In winter on bad weather days we had recess and lunch time activities in the basement. The boys usually played marbles or did something to show off for the girls. Once while swinging on a crosspiece between the floor beams, my hands slipped on the upswing and I fell flat on my back where I lay making an awful moaning noise and gasping for air. The girls were not impressed, and I gave up basement acrobatics. What the girls did for entertainment I'm not sure, besides being amused by the antics of the boys. I was too busy gawking at them to notice what games they played. However, despite that disclaimer, I do recall one of their entertainments. . . Jacks! They played Jacks. How, on a dirt floor? That I don't really recall. But I do remember the tinkle and the tumble of the jacks being scattered, the bouncing of the little rubber ball as the girls dropped it and deftly picked up the jacks before the second bounce.

There were also certain distractions beyond the walls and windows of the school that provided amusement. In the late Fall we got to watch hog butchering. Not on a field trip or even with the teacher's permission. The butchering took place across the road in Robison's front yard. We had to look out the east window and look back a bit to see the proceedings--three large poles erected teepee style, the hog hoisted up hind feet first, a big fire under a huge copper tub of boiling water, the hog doused in it, dehaired, disembowelled and dismembered, the men working hard and fast. I don't remember the teacher badgering us to work on our lessons but it would have been next to impossible to read our geography and learn the products of Massachusetts with such a fascinating ritual going on right across the road. Then there was sheep watching. Many a daydreaming afternoon I gazed at them grazing on the hillside to the east on the school side of the road, wooly in the Fall and shorn to the skin in the late Spring. There were many other distractions which attracted us also; a team of horses pulling a loaded wagon, a tractor pulling a hay rake, a coal truck going down the reddog road, highway workers setting up the snow fences, even someone merely walking down the reddog road. A lot of people did a lot of walking to a lot of places in those days. Many people had neither car nor pick-up truck.

Sometimes the snow was so deep and the weather so cold that the farm kids couldn't make it to school but no buses picked them up and brought them there and I

don't remember any "snow days" cancelling school. There may have been one time when school had to be cancelled because Mr. Caldwell, who lived miles away in Hickory, couldn't make it. There was a time also when super cold days made for a special time for those of us who were able to make it to school. The furnace couldn't cope with such weather so the teacher had us gather at the big heating vent near the floor on the west wall. We had our lessons and lunch there sitting on chairs brought from the unused room. Even if the furnace couldn't heat the whole room, the hot air billowed out around us and we felt cozy in our coats and hats. And lunch was like a picnic even if there were no potato chips or fritos or corn curls or cans of pop and certainly no ice cream. A few of the kids had fancy lunch pails with fancy sandwiches, even cake, but there were a lot of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and graham crackers, all wrapped in newspapers and bound by rubber bands (actually it was "gumbands" as I recall) . All in all it was fun having school like this instead of sitting in five straight lines at our desks.

The school had one paid employee besides the teacher, the older boy who fired the furnace, put up and took down the flag, swept the floor after school, and made sure there was toilet paper in the girls' and the boys' outhouses. The pay was a few dollars a month . I don't know who took care of the grass nor do I remember seeing it mowed. Some farmer may have come and cut it in the Fall with his mowing machine.

Our other conveniences besides the outside toilets were a cloak room for our coats, hats, boots, and lunchpails or pails, and a two gallon water crock in the entry-way which had to be filled with a bucket of water handpumped from Mrs. Sally Buxton's well next door. The crock had a little push-button spigot that you pushed to fill the little cone-shaped cups was our drinking fountain. How slow it seemed when we were terribly thirsty standing in line after hard play in the hot weather. It was the boy janitor's job also to fill that crock, and to ring the bell before and after school and after lunchtime. But sometimes other kids were given that ringing privilege, pulling down on the big hemp rope knotted at the end. We liked to feel the big bell lift us up so we pulled down hard, sometimes turning it over. Then a couple of us boys had to climb up inside the tower and turn it right, holding the clapper so it wouldn't bong and pain our eardrums at that close range. Some other chores also were privileged assignments like cleaning the erasers, washing the blackboards, and passing out the pencils and tablets which we got, one of each, at the beginning of the month. (The paper was not white bond.) Before sharpening our pencils we wrote the lead down to the wood and used the whole thing right down to the nub. Frugality was an everyday lesson in life in those times.

There was one time of great sadness in our school. Next door, Ada, a girl in her teens, Mrs. Buxton's granddaughter, was bedfast dying of cancer. On Halloween we all went over to visit her in our mostly original but makeshift costumes--witches, ghosts, bums etc. -- and as we stood around her bed she looked up at us with eyes so longing for life, and I, in fourth grade, in ghost costume fell in love with this beautiful girl who lay dying. And to this day when I go back to the cemetery outside of Independence, I visit her grave and sometimes put a flower upon it. When she died, all the kids and all the town went to her funeral at the Methodist

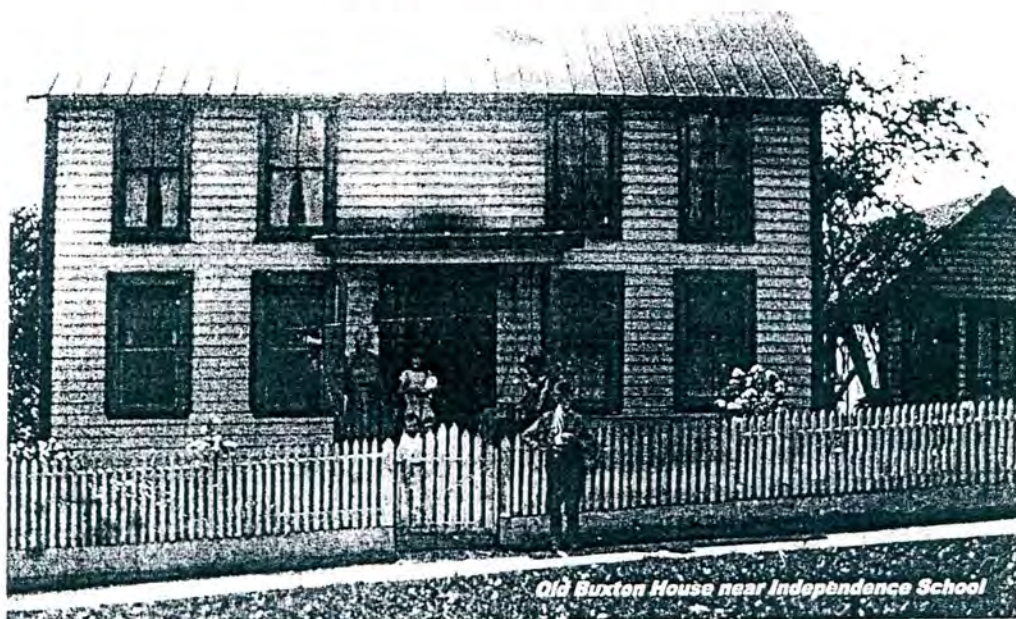
Church. One thing about a small town, no death, especially of a young person, is an incidental thing, quickly forgotten; and Ada's death lingered among us for a long time.

There was a time also when a great pall of alarm and worry was cast over the town and the school. My eleven year old sister, Judy Davis, was hit by a car speeding along that main highway, and injured terribly--a fractured skull and many broken bones. She was in a coma in Washington Hospital for nearly two weeks. But she was a tough girl and the prayers of the town saved her. Some weeks later she was back home, a leg and arm in casts, and with many scars, hobbling on crutches -- how I don't know, but she did.

I think I could name most of the students who were in school in my day and even remember where some sat. Some big kids sat in desks too small in the lower grades. There were no automatic promotions in those tougher times. But most of the kids were bright and learned a lot in our six-grade one room school, getting a preview of what was to come as we made our way through the grades listening to the lessons of those above us. Such a school, once huffed and puffed about by educational gurus, has been given credence by being somewhat replicated in the modern "open classroom" school.

In any case, these things I have written were something of the school days, but by no means the whole story, of those of us who went to a particular little white school house in the waning years of the Great Depression and the beginning of the Big War. They seem more like Tom Sawyer's days with every passing year. And I and others with whom I have talked, are glad that we had the privilege, the advantage, the good times, the great memories in getting our beginning education in that one room school now gone, down at the end of the town in Independence, Pa., USA. In that light, I close this piece and proudly sign myself—

David Davis, B.A., M.A., Th. M., Ph.D.,  
Student of a One Room School.



*Old Buxton House near Independence School*



In 1933 the log structure was replaced by a brick building made from bricks left over from two brick residences erected on the adjoining farms. These homes belonged to James Boyd and James Dodds. This building served until the building just destroyed was erected in 1871, 70 years ago. On June 27, 1825, a reunion of the school was held and 13 former teachers attended. The next year the school was abandoned owing to the centralization of schools at Independence and Avella.

Two of the old time one roomed school buildings known as the Jamison and Scott schools are older than the Boyd school but they are no longer used for school purposes.

At the reunion J. A. Hutchinson of the West Finley section was present. He taught the school in 1883 or 58 years ago. Mr. Hutchinson stated that they had a big snow that winter and of 34 pupils enrolled only two showed up at school. James Moore of Independence Township is perhaps the oldest living pupil of this school. He later taught there and was also a director. He recalls that the wages were \$15 to \$20 per month. In 1856 the wages jumped to \$16.50 to \$25 per month while in 1866 they went to \$25 per month for a four and one half months term.

The old Boyd school was the center of all community activities in its heyday and there were literary societies, debating classes and many other things that made it stand out among the older people of the community. Four teachers of this school entered the ministry while two pupils entered the same profession. Twelve pupils from this school entered the teaching profession and five of them returned to teach the old school where they received their early education. The passing of these

old landmarks recall many early events that meant much to that community three quarters of a century ago.

INDEPENDENCE, May 28.— Pupils and teachers of the Boyd School of Independence Township are planning for a reunion at the old school building Thursday, June 27. An enthusiastic meeting of the various committees and others interested was held tonight and all the plans are being completed as rapidly as possible.

This is one of the oldest one-room schools of the township, in which school is still being held. The pupils and teachers are scattered in all sections and are found in all walks of life. The big get-together meeting is assured of success. The reunion will be in session all day, with the usual big dinner as an added feature. This feature will recall to the minds of many of the former pupils the last day of school at Boyd's when there was always a big dinner and a large gathering for the exercises. The program will include speaking, music, sports, a history of the school and a general good time recalling the events of the early school days.

Years ago the Boyd family owned the farm on which the school stands and from which it received its name.

Thomas McAllister, who received his education at the Boyd School and since has taught in the schools of the county and also served as school director and residing near Hickory will be the general chairman. The other officers and committees are: Vice chairman, Lloyd Patterson; Secretary, Ione Patterson; treasurer, George Ralston; program, Eliza-

Beth Martin, George Ralston; history, James Moore; public invitations, Ione Patterson; music, James Moore; parking, William B. Patterson; grounds, John Adams; lunch, Arthur Smith; Mrs. W. R. Patterson; sports, George McAdoo; tables, John McAdoo, Guy

# Boyd School INDEPENDENCE DISTRICT BURNS

Fire Destroys One-Time Log Structure, One of Landmarks of Township—Prominent a Century Ago.

W. B. PATTERSON OWNER

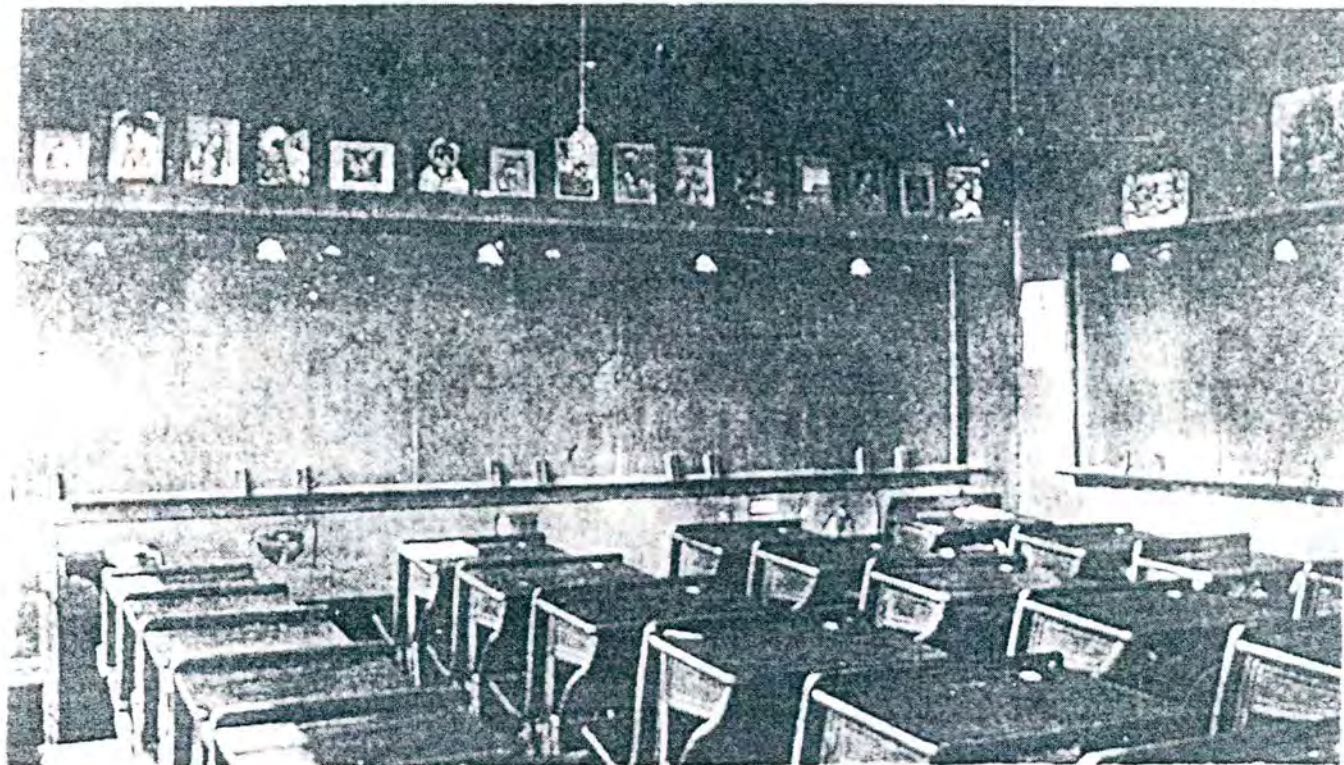
A former one-room schoolhouse of Independence Township, known as the Boyd School, one mile south of Independence, was completely destroyed by fire Wednesday. It is thought that the fire originated from an overheated incubator. The building, which had not been used for school purposes since May 1933 belonged to William B. Patterson, who occupied it as a residence for sometime but recently it had been used as a chicken house.

This was one of the landmarks of the township and was prominent as an educational center a century ago. The first school known as Boyds was erected of logs many years before the advent of the public school system. The seats were made of split logs with no backs or desks.

1935



**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

An itemized list for November 28, 1860 includes:  
Coal bucket, 75 cents  
Writing table, \$2.50  
chair, 50 cents  
Broom, 31 cents  
Bolt for door, 25 cents  
Water bucket and tin, 56 cents  
2 brooms, 25 cents each  
This list was for School House No. 1



# 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 10 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 1838 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 \$16.50 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 netirely 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 Grist McNary, Jennie Scott Campbell, Olive McGugin, James F. Cree, James M. Mickey, Lizzie McKee, Sylvia B. McWreath Lawton, Frank B. McCracken, Rachel Scott Byers, James A. Hutchinson, Samuel L. Byers, Jennie Armstrong, William Somerville, Maggie Eakin, W. C. Carman, Mary A. McAllister, Alda Elson, 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, Willa 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 Brautigan, 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."

Academy

Cross Creek Academy was founded in 1828 under the direction of Rev. John Swickton

Pleasant Hill Seminary 1840 founded as a school for girls by Jane Campbell McKeever. It is opened and located outside West Middletown a mile or two to the northwest where part of the original building is occupied by William M. Adco. (My Grandparents lived in it in 1936)

Union Grove Academy 1828 - Buffalo Village

Horse-mill Academy 1844

Upper Buffalo Academy 1853-1890

Eldersville Summer Normal <sup>1881</sup> by Samuel Amstutz

Fluence Academy Rev. Elisha McCurdy

F. seis Academy 1879-1889 Prof. William Brough

Frankfort Academy 1841-1848 Rev. James Sloan

Ingliside Academy closed in 1898. Organized by Edward Hawes 1871. Located in Mc Donald. Rev. H. D. Stone took charge thereof for 15 years. Pastor of United Presbyterian Church

Dr. Dodde Academy started by Rev. Shaddoe Dodd on his farm in Amwell Township about 1780

Mc Miller Log Academy established by Rev. John Mc Miller in 1781. It was forerunner of Jefferson College.

Jefferson Academy, Caronsburg outgrowth of Dr. John Mc Miller famous log academy. Opened in 1794.

West Baker Young Ladies Academy opened in Washington in 1811.

The last stage coach to leave Washington upon completion of the Chariton Valley railroad between Washington and Pittsburg, May 18, 1871. The coach was built in Washington by Richard R Forrest in 1845, and was the first round bodied coach constructed west of the mountains. It was later taken west and run on the Plains.

Hickory Academy built in 1872 occupied for 10 years and later used for 13 years by Mt Pleasant Vocational High School and still stands and is part of the property of Allison Brothers, hardware

Cross Creek Academy erected 1858 and removed in 1935.

Hickory Academy established in 1871 and continued till 1902 in June. The first class graduated in 1894. Several prominent educational workers laid the foundation for the school. The first recorded was an academy near Mt Prospect Church and taught by the minister of the church Rev. David Harvey and began the school in 1828 and in 1837 Rev. John Moore erected a building near Mt Prospect Church. Three known pupils were George Moore, John and James McCaull, sons of Thomas McCaull. All three became physicians.

Washington Seminary which stands at the corner of South Lincoln and East Maiden Streets. This school was one of the oldest female seminaries west of the mountains. It was established Nov 26, 1835, at a meeting held in home of Honorable J. M. M. Kennan. First seminary classes were held in old Masonic Hall. In 1840 a Seminary found it necessary to erect a new building.

## CONTINUED FOR DECADE

Hickory Academy was formerly established in 1891, and continued its existence for 11 years, closing in June of 1902, only three months before the present Mt. Pleasant Township Vocational School took its place in the community's educational work. Its first class was graduated in 1894, 40 years last June.

Several previous educational ventures laid the foundation for the school. The first recorded was an academy near the Mt. Prospect Presbyterian Church, a mile west of Hickory, believed to have been taught by the ministers of the church. Rev. David Harvey began this school in 1828, and about 1837 Rev. John Moore erected a building near the Mt. Prospect Church, on property now owned by Christian Knauer. Three known pupils in this academy were George Moore and John and James McCarrell, sons of Thomas McCarrell. All three became physicians. They are now deceased.

From 1884 to 1886 John H. Johnston, then an aged man, taught a select or subscription school in Hickory, preparing young men and women for college and for teaching. From 1886 to 1887 Rev. T. R. Alexander taught a class of young people in the Mt. Prospect Church. Among his pupils were J. Buchanan Manson and sister, Mrs. Ella Rankin, Lee Caldwell, Mrs. H. Davidson (deceased), Cratty Campbell and sister, Mrs. Lou Farrar. From 1888 to 1889 Rev. Alexander tutored Frederick Knauer

## Social and Spelling Bee

1909

Hickory, March 14.—On Friday evening the students of the Hickory High school held a box social for the benefit of the baseball team which will represent this institution during the coming season. A large crowd was present and the boxes were large and filled to overflowing. Col. R. A. Peacock was the auctioneer and made the hungry boys put up any where from 50 cents to \$5. At the conclusion of the repast an old time spelling bee was held. Mack White and Raymond Allison, of the junior class, were the captians, Dr. Joseph McElroy being in charge. The contest was very spirited and some good spelling was done by both sides. Robert Dinsmore and Lucy Kinemond were the champions. Another contest will be held in the near future and a challenge issued to other rural high schools in the county. About \$35 were realized from the sale.

# Reunion Held by Alumni of Mt. Pleasant Township High

1938

HICKORY, July 29.—School days of 20 and 30 years ago at Mt. Pleasant Township High School were happily recalled at a reunion of members of the classes which attended the school from 1906 to 1916. Each of the classes was represented, and most of the alumni attending the reunion, held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. D. T. McAllister near here Wednesday, were accompanied by husbands or wives. More than 100 persons were present.

The event proved so thoroughly successful that plans were made for another reunion of the same group to be held next year at Hickory Vocational High School, and officers were elected to take

charge of plans. Vance D. Smith, of McDonald, R. D., was elected president; Robert Dinsmore, of Washington, R. D., as vice president; Mrs. Mary Somerlade Ahrens, of Hickory, secretary, and Mrs. Margaret Stunkard Retzer, of Hickory, treasurer.

After an afternoon of conversation and fun, the group gathered at tables at the rear of the home where a bounteous dinner was served by daughters of committee members. Thanks were returned by the Rev. Edward W. Welch, of Reynoldsville, O. Miss Jean Walters, of Hickory, entertained with whistling and singing.

At an informal meeting, at which Mr. Welch acted as toastmaster, many events of former school days were recalled.

Included in the reminiscences were stories of the first basketball team which played in the barn of William Dinsmore and used the sheep shed as a dressing room. The team usually traveled on horseback. The first girls' team was formed about 1920.

The first baseball team, it was recalled, was composed of Roy Retzer, Richard Giffin, Harry Colwes, Wilbur Welch, Dwight Jeffrey, Add Peacock, William Simpson, Earl Allender, Lee Maxwell and Blair Slitt. Games were played on land on which the school now stands.

School songs were sung by the group, led by Mrs. Nan Peacock Hanna, and almost-forgotten class yells were revived.

A vote of thanks was extended to Mr. and Mrs. McAllister.

Greetings were read from Miss Mantle Strawn, Waynesburg, and Mrs. Grace Martin Hopkins, Laurel, Md., both teachers who due to sickness and home duties could not be present. Also from Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Hemphill, Harrison, Miss Gladys of 1906, Glendale, Calif., Mrs. Edith Simpson, McCreary, 1911, Saranac, N. Y., Mrs. Nattie Welch, 1910, McDonald, R. D., and Mrs. Simpson, 1911, McDonald, R. D.

The Mt. Pleasant Township High School was organized in 1902 and succeeded the Hickory Academy which offered higher education for the boys and girls from 1891 to 1902. The first term of the high school was held in the old grade school in Hickory. Aterwards, the academy building became the property of the township and used for high school purposes. The Mt. Pleasant Township High School ceased when the Mt. Pleasant Township Vocational High School was organized in 1915 and the new building completed in September of the same year.

Alumni present at the reunion were:

Class of 1906—Mrs. Eliza Goldsboro Malone, Pittsburgh; Mrs. Somerlade Ahrens, Hickory; Mrs. Mary Willison Glass, Hickory; Miss Emma Worstell, Mrs. Blanche Morgan McAllister, McDonald, R. D. 4; Mrs. Orella Acheson, Hickory; Ralph Retzer, Hickory; Ralph Simpson, Pittsburgh.

1908—Mrs. Jennie Brown Damm, Homestead; Mrs. Mary Morgan Stoffer, Houston.

1909—Mrs. Nancy Peacock Hanna, Pittsburgh; the Rev. Edward W. Welch, Reynoldsburg, O.

1910 — Mrs. Jeannette Allison Carlisle, Hickory; Mrs. Janet McCalmont Laing, Hickory; Miss Hazel Meanor, Pittsburgh; Mrs. Lucy Kinemond Williams, Hickory; Mrs. Anna Mary Scott Russell, McDonald, R. D. 4; Robert Dinsmore, Washington, R. D.

1911—Mrs. Jane Morgan Smith, McDonald, R. D. 4; Mrs. Elizabeth Peacock Kraeer, Bulger, R. D.; Roy Retzer, Hickory; Vance Smith, McDonald.

1912 — Clifford McNary, Mrs. Leila McPeak McNary, Library.

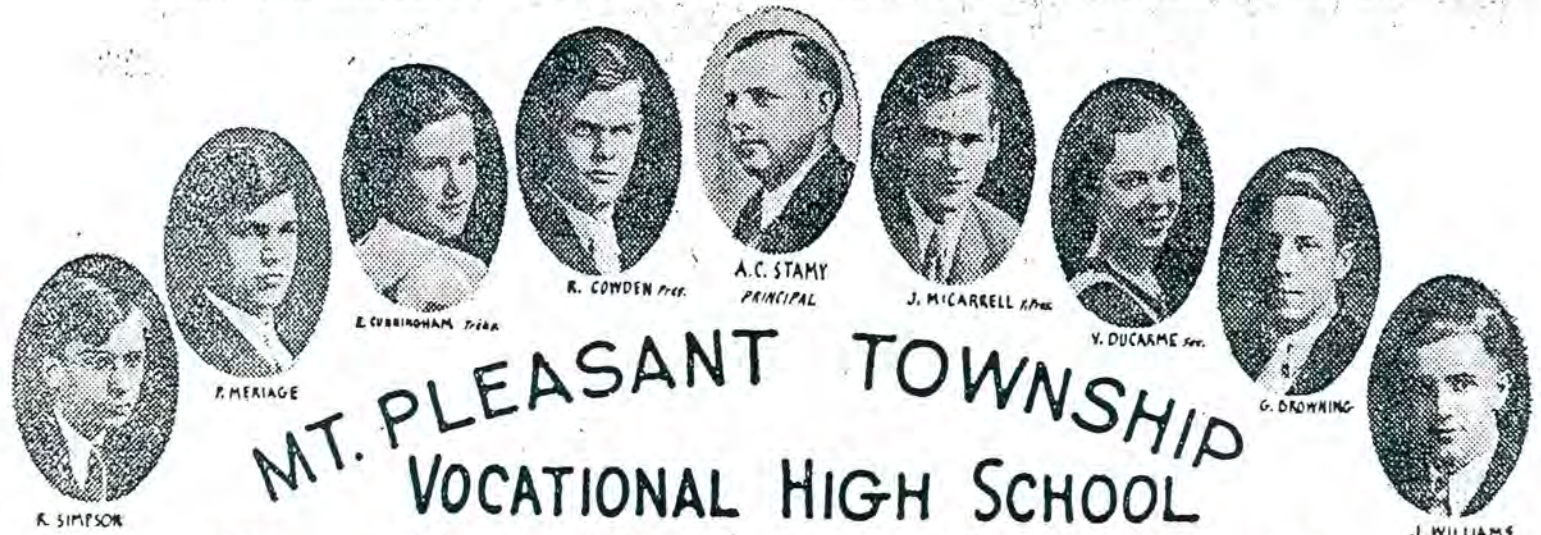
1913—Mrs. Laura Cooper White, Hickory.

1914—Mrs. Margaret Stunkard Retzer, Hickory; Mrs. Alice Dinsmore Morgan, Bridgeville, R. D.

1915—Thompson White, Hickory, R. D.; Mrs. Elva Moore Kinemond, Paris, O.

Principals who taught in the Mt. Pleasant Township High School from 1902 to 1915 were: George R. Norris, 1902-1905, Millersville; J. E. McConaughy, 1904-1907, deceased; Miss Arnetta McConaughy, assistant, New Concord, O.; James Hazlett, 1907, completed 1907; William L. Moore, 1907-1910, McDonald; Miss Romaine Russell, assistant, deceased; Lewis Hawkins, 1910-1912, Newcomertown; Miss Grace Martin Hopkins, assistant, Laurel, Md.; I. N. Roberts, 1912-1913, Miss Lucille McClellahan, assistant, New Concord, 1913-1915, Miss Mantle Strawn, assistant, Waynesburg.

# MT. PLEASANT TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES



## MT. PLEASANT TOWNSHIP VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL



Bottom row, left to right—J. Dhayer, B. Lee, S. Ducarme, J. McGugin, J. Antosh, E. Fryer, G. Deichler, D. O'Donnell, V. Alderson.

Second row—F. Macher, R. Hensel, B. Myers, M. Caldwell, E. Powelson, M. Babiarz, M. Franko, S. Casciola, J. Yanosik.

Third row—J. Rosanc, R. Dinsmore, M. Stitt, B. Brown, E. Scott, F. Macher, A. Frye, R. Paxton.

Fourth row—R. Simpson, P. Meriage, E. Cunningham, treasurer; R. Cowden, president; A. C. Stamy, principal; J. McCarrell, vice president; V. Ducarme, secretary; G. Browning, J. Williams.

# The Pleasant Hills Seminary

By Kathryn Campbell Slasor  
For The Enterprise

## From out of the past...

Pleasant Hills Seminary, an educational institution that would influence hundreds of girls for the next half century, had its beginnings in 1825. Thirty-five years earlier, the borough known today (1995) as West Middletown was but a scenic tract of land that straddled the high ridge that rose between the two streams of Cross Creek and Brush Run. These tracts had been patented in 1790 as "Rosegill" and "Saint Martin's." By 1794, three families had settled and built their cabins - those of Galbraith Stewart, William McKeever and David Craig.

These families and many others had settled along the coastal colonies due to religious or other persecution in the mother countries of Ireland, Scotland or England. As their families grew in the new world, the only directions for them to expand was West.

And West they came — by wagons, horseback and on foot, trudging wearily along the hazardous mountain trails, facing perils or slow transportation with small children. Wild animals and storms posed many threats. An ambush from Indians was always possible. Teams pulled heavily loaded wagons, which contained all the family's earthly possessions. In many instances, the wife and the children walked behind the wagon. Sometimes the mother would hide the baby at the foot of the hill or mountain and continue to "chock" the wheels when the horses had to rest. Upon reaching the summit, and again while the horses rested, she would make her way back to her baby, carry it up the hill and rejoin the family. Miles and miles of forest trails were covered in this manner.

One enterprising and unflinching little family whose roots were probably in County Caven, Northern Ireland, was comprised of William McKeever and his wife, Mary McFadden McKeever. With three small children, six-year-old Alexander, five-year-old Jane and three-year-old Sarah, they emigrated to America in 1792, settling in New Jersey. The following year their fourth child, Thomas, was born. Another year found them in Hopewell Township, twelve miles west of the bustling little frontier town of Washington, known earlier as Catfish Camp. The McKeever



**AN ICE HOUSE** was a necessity in the days of Pleasant Hills Seminary. Bill McAdoo says that the ice for keeping perishables for the occupants of the dormitories was stored in the basement, which is constructed of stone blocks. The building was probably built at a later date.

were either the second or the third family to settle permanently in what was to become the village of West Middletown. Only the Galbraith Stewarts preceded them.

In 1801 William McKeever built a stone house. He moved his family from the cabin that had been their home for seven years. The family had grown to include at least three other children — Nancy, Susanne and Matthew.

Churches were beginning to spring up in the area. The Presbyterians were growing in number. The McKeeveres were staunch Methodists. And a new influence, the Christian Church, had come into the area with the visitations and friendships of Thomas Campbell and his son, Alexander, from Bethany, on Buffalo Creek.

Education was of primary importance in this new community. Schools were organized with several members of the Campbell family as teachers and instructors. Jane Campbell, sister of Alexander, conducted a private school in the village, opening it when she was but eighteen years of age. It was

successful and well attended. Two years later, in 1821, Jane married Matthew McKeever and moved to his farm, Pleasant Hills, just west of town. Here she continued the school in a log cabin built for that purpose.

By the year 1825, two major events had taken place in the lives of Matthew and Jane Campbell McKeever. Their little son, Thomas Campbell McKeever, was born, and the tiny brick house was completed. Plans included increasing the size of the house, as the family grew, to accommodate their own children as well as pupils from that neighborhood. The school continued to prosper, and Jane was encouraged to elevate it to the dignity of a ladies' seminary.

Finally in 1842, Pleasant Hills Seminary became a reality, with the enrollment of forty-four young ladies. Dormitories and classrooms were added to the original buildings until a capacity of one hundred boarders could be accommodated. Matthew McKeever carried on his activities as farmer and sheep grower, and performed duties as

superintendent of the school, while Jane became its principal.

Studies included French, German, chemistry, astronomy, botany, mineralogy and an elaborate musical course. This included piano, violin, guitar and vocal culture. Drawing, oil painting, embroidery and others were taught the young ladies who came from far and near. The emphasis from beginning to end was on the study for the Bible.

A course was completed in three years. Hours were from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. The first class of four was graduated in 1847. They were Elizabeth G.J. Bryant, Marion, Ohio; Elizabeth A. Campbell, Bethany, Va.; Nancy Jane Clark, Wheeling; and Rebecca Jane Jones, Brooke County, Va.

Thomas Campbell McKeever, oldest son of Matthew and Jane, became professor in 1857, the year his mother retired. The seminary passed entirely into his hands. But at its fullest tide of prosperity, in 1866, this school that had been the dream of many of the Campbells and McKeever's was left without a leader. Professor McKeever suddenly sickened and died at the untimely age of forty-one. The institution never fully recovered.

A few small classes were graduated after that year, but the struggle was in vain. Other groups attempted to revive interest but failed. Finally another school was conducted for about three years, under the name of Zion Hill Collegiate Institute. This, too, was suspended about the year 1881.

The Campbell name remains extremely prominent yet today in Bethany, Brooke County, W.Va. Bethany College, founded by Jane McKeever's brother, Alexander Campbell, is the town's most indispensable asset, carrying on the work and dreams of a man with much vision. His founding of the Christian (Disciples) Church was an act that will live into eternity.

The McKeever name will likewise be perpetuated in West Middletown, the beloved village astraddle the ridge where William McKeever first set foot more than two centuries ago. The town's residents have erected a replica of the octagonal study used by Professor Thomas Campbell McKeever when he was overseer of Pleasant Hills Seminary. In it are shelves of books on history, genealogy and other appropriate educational volumes. And within its walls are held meet-



**THE OCTAGONAL STUDY** built and used by Thomas Campbell McKeever at Pleasant Hills Seminary was moved to this Main Street location in West Middletown after the seminary was discontinued. It was used here as a barber shop and a shoe repair shop. About 1930 it was razed. A replica was built in 1973 when the borough celebrated its sesquicentennial. It is today known as the McKeever Study, and is located at the western end of town.

ings of townfolk of kindred spirit.

But what of Pleasant Hills today? What activities have taken the place of the studious pupils who struggled from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. over a lesson in botany or mineralogy? And who looks after the premises such as did Matthew McKeever when he tenderly cared for his sheep?

The drama of Pleasant Hills now rests in the hands of a fun-loving, hard-working, euchre-playing, square dancing farmer by the name of William R. McAdoo, better known as Bill. He and his late wife, the former Thelma Carl, raised their two daughters, Carol Cummins Zappi and Linda Moore, in the original tiny brick house built in 1825 by Matthew McKeever for his wife, the former Jane Campbell. Bill added a few rooms to the historic old building, still leaving the original intact. He farms the thirty-nine acres in the portion of the tract where the house is located, as well as the thirty-seven acres across the road. Some of the acreage is used for pasture for his Angus cattle. On the remainder, he raises corn, oats, hay and other crops.

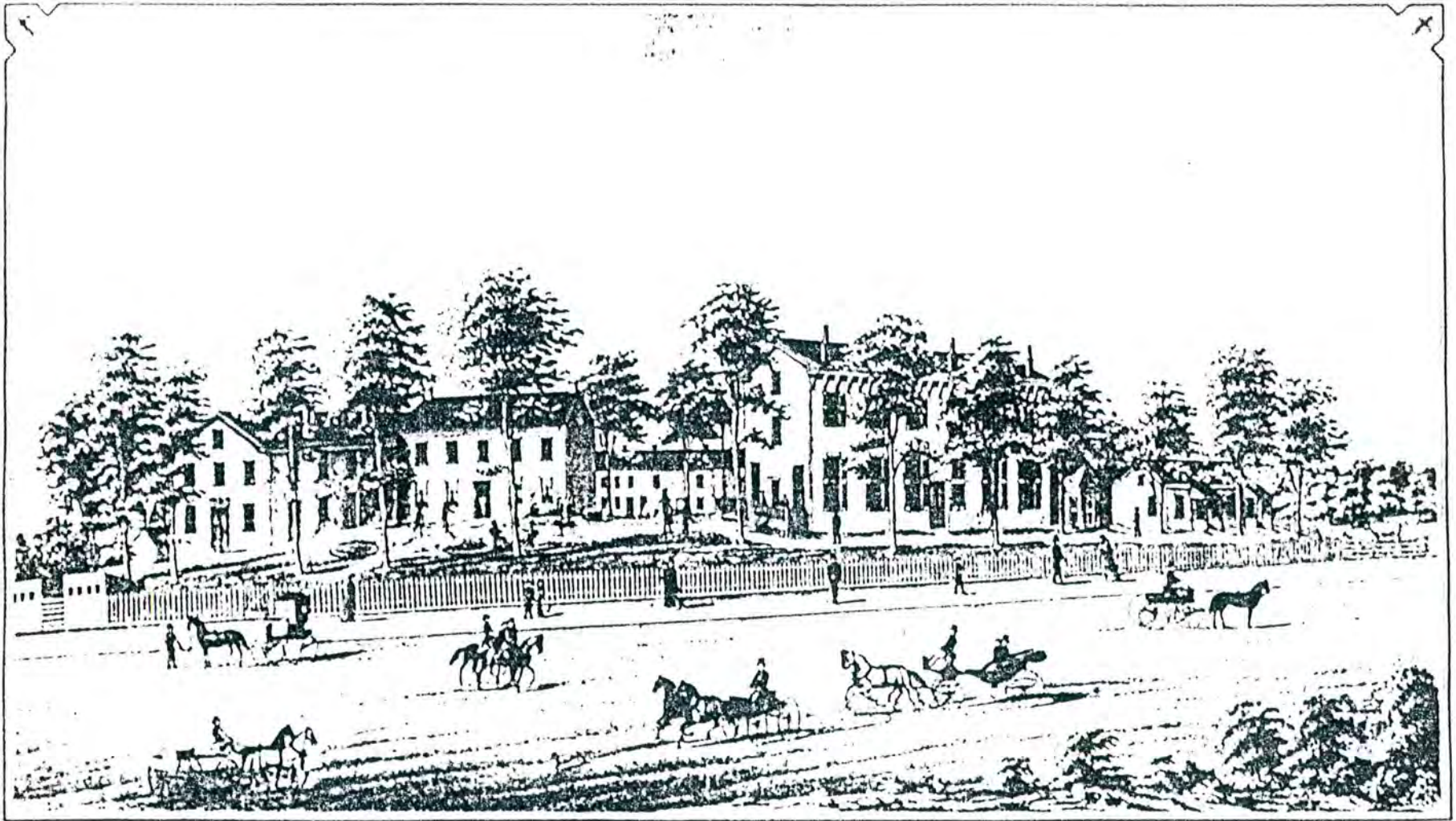
Although a retired employee of Jessop Steel Company in Washington, Bill is a farmer at heart. For many years he raised and sold Belgian horses. He has nine grand-

children, several of whom help him in operating the hilly acreage that he purchased from the Acheson Heirs in 1955.

From his back yard, Bill can look far into the deep valley below, formed by the hill on which he is living, and the one in the distance beyond. The valley is hidden to anyone who knows nothing of its existence. This particular terrait was an asset in a chapter of West Middletown's history. Known as "Penitentiary Hollow," this natural formation of the hills and valley served as the ideal spot for sympathetic farmers of the area to hide the runaway slaves who were extremely numerous for a time. Make-shift shacks had been built for their shelter. Here the unfortunate men might be hidden for several weeks at a time, helping with farm work in payment for their food.

From the front door of the tiny brick home, Bill can look out over the "pleasant hills" and visualize the activities that once spelled education, religion and righteous living for so many hundreds of individuals whose lives Pleasant Hills Seminary helped to mold.

Bill McAdoo is now deceased.



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**PLEASANT HILLS SEMINARY**, on the western outskirts of West Middletown. The small brick house at the right in this sketch was the original building, erected in 1825, by Matthew and Jane Campbell McKeever. It is the only section of the complex still standing (1995) and is the home of William McAdoo. Immediately to its left is the octagonal study built by Thomas Campbell McKeever.

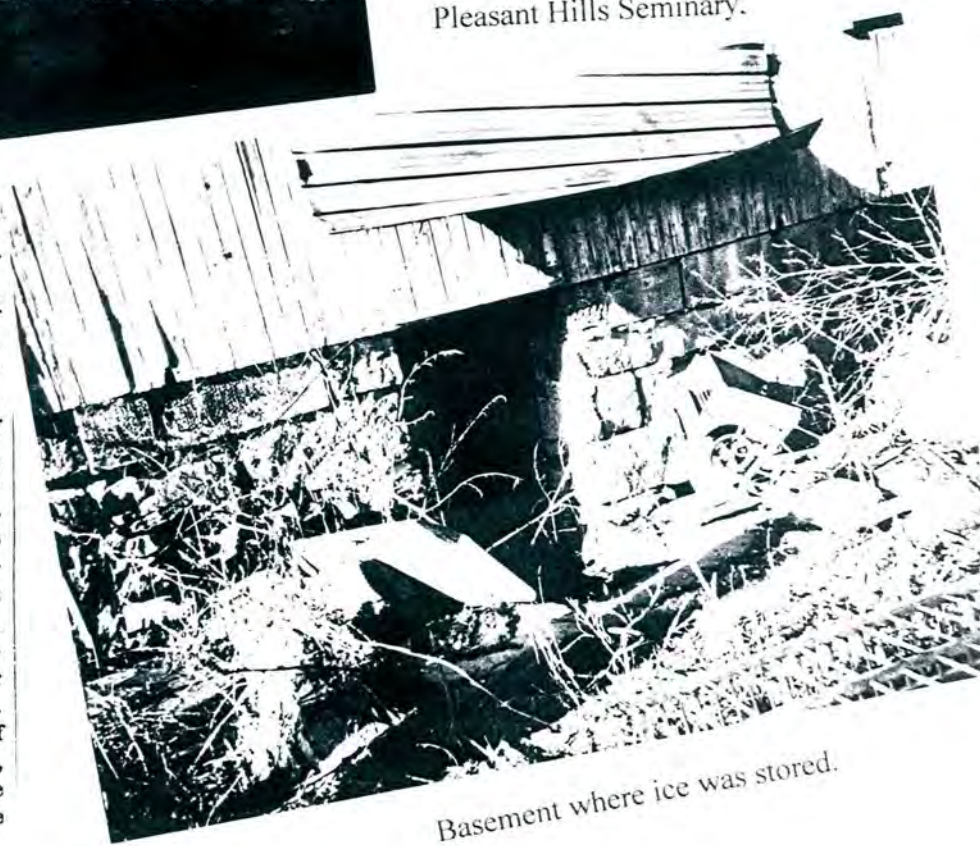




management, which was marked with extraordinary energy, it was highly prosperous. Addition after addition was made to the original buildings, until ample provision was made for the accommodation of one hundred boarders, and about that number were at one time in actual attendance. But, at the full tide of prosperity, in 1867, Principal McKeever suddenly sickened and died,—a providential affliction from which the institution never recovered. Including that year, the roll of graduates contains one hundred and fifty-two names, making an annual average of about seven and a half for these twenty-one years. The largest class was that of 1865, which numbered nineteen graduates. And these figures are all the more remarkable taken in connection with the fact that by far the largest proportion were boarding pupils from a distance, scarcely more than one in ten having been drawn from the immediate rural vicinity.

← The only original building left of Pleasant Hills Seminary.

PLEASANT HILL SEMINARY, near West Middletown, is another Washington County institution of the past. It was a development of the more private labors of Mrs. Jane (Campbell) McKeever, wife of Matthew McKeever, and sister of the well-known Alexander Campbell, leader of the "Christian Church," or "Church of the Disciples," so generally called by his name, and also the founder and first president of Bethany College, at Bethany, W. Va. Mrs. McKeever, having been a teacher in her youth, continued, as an amateur, the same pursuit after her marriage, using a room in her own house for this purpose. Her pupils were mostly gathered from the village and neighborhood of West Middletown, with occasional additions from abroad. Such was the prosperity of the school, however, that Mrs. McKeever was encouraged to elevate it to the dignity of a ladies' seminary. Her son-in-law, Mr. James Campbell, and her son, Mr. Thomas C. McKeever, both recent graduates of Bethany College, were associated with her as teachers, she herself of course becoming the principal. The financial management was for the most part in the hands of her husband.



Basement where ice was stored.

The course of study adopted and afterwards matured, embraced both ancient and modern languages, and was otherwise up to the level of the best institutions of the same kind. The instruction is also said to have been accurate and thorough. The first class, consisting of four members, was graduated in 1847. The principal, feeling the weight of advancing years, and Prof. Campbell having removed to the Pacific coast, the seminary passed, in a few years, wholly into the hands of Professor T. C. McKeever. Under his

Under the superintendence of Mr. Keever's widow, Mrs. Martha McKeever, assisted by Elder T. A. Crenshaw, the seminary was continued for several years, and graduated two classes of three members each, and then, under the pressure of discouraging circumstances, went into declension. Subsequent efforts were made for its revival, first by Mr. William M. Eaton, who had been educated at Washington and Jefferson College (now a Presbyterian minister), and then by the Rev. J. A. Snodgrass, of the Baptist Church, but without encouraging success. After an interval of suspension the property passed under the control of a conference of the colored people, and by them a school was conducted in it, under the name of Zion Hill Collegiate Institute, for about three years. In 1881 another suspension took place, and the unused property is now owned by Mr. Holdship, of the city of Pittsburgh.

# PROGRAMME OF THE LAST EVENINGS' EXAMINATION OF PLEASANT HILL SEMINARY, PENNSYLVANIA. THURSDAY EVENING, JUNE 29th, 1854.

Trio,

Mystery,  
Past and Future,

Dream no longer, Maiden Fair,

Mutation,  
Pernicious effects of slavery,

Jerusalem, my Happy Home,

Dialogue—On Fashion,

Oh, Boys, carry me 'long,

Female Accomplishments,  
Fall and Regeneration of Man,

Ah, for Wings,

Dialogue,

Will you love me then, as now, with variations,

Miss M'Vay,  
Miss J. C. Campbell,

To the Hills away,

Immortality of the Soul,  
Our years roll on,

Grand Polka de Concert,

Valedictory,

Take me home to die,

Good Night,

MUSIC.

The Misses Barrett, Wilson and Atkinson.

ESSAY.

Miss E. Mills, Pa.  
" E. Hanna, Pennsylvania,

MUSIC.

Miss C. Grafton, Ohio.

ESSAY.

Miss S. V. Grafton, Virginia.  
" A. Bell, Pennsylvania.

MUSIC.

Miss M. T. Nolen, Pennsylvania.

ESSAY.

Miss I. Freeman, Virginia.  
" D. Catupbell, Virginia.

MUSIC.

Miss D. Campbell.

ESSAY.

Miss M. A. M'Coy, Virginia.  
" I. B. Dowdall, Pennsylvania.

MUSIC.

Miss J. E. Campbell, Virginia.

ESSAY.

Miss J. E. Campbell, Virginia.  
" C. S. Wilson, Pennsylvania.  
" C. Grafton, Ohio.  
" L. Atkinson, Pennsylvania.

MUSIC.

Miss S. Mendell, Virginia.

ESSAY.

Representative of Philomusean Society,  
Philomathean Society.

MUSIC.

C. Pentecost, Pennsylvania.

ESSAY.

Miss M. T. Nolen, (Graduate).  
" M. Moore,

MUSIC.

Miss S. Mendel, Virginia.

ESSAY.

Miss M. C. Bell, Pennsylvania.

MUSIC.

C. Matthews, Pennsylvania.

ADDRESS

TO THE GRADUATING CLASS BY JAMES C. CAMPBELL.

MUSIC.

Miss M. Neil, Virginia.

SCHOOL REPORT.

# Little Red Schoolhouse Closed; Elementary System Must Change

By STEFANICOWAN  
Staff Writer

AVELLA — The Avella Area School Board and administrators have been taking a hard look at their three elementary schools for more than a year, but the permanent closing of the Buffalo Elementary School has made change in the elementary system inevitable.

The little brick building which had served as a neighborhood school for 56 years was damaged by lightning in August, and the board decided to close it for the 1977-78 year.

On Tuesday the closing was made permanent. The school, which was renovated only once in all the years of its use, will not be repaired.

When the building's chimney and part of the roof beams and ceilings damaged, the administration had time to shift the 95 Buffalo students to the Avella Heights and Highland Avenue Schools which solved the problem at least for a year.

The board and administration agree that some kind of action has to be taken within the year.

"This isn't hurting the kids

too much, but I don't want to see it become permanent," says elementary supervisor Dr. Charles Gersna.

Gersna favors a system of neighborhood schools, and did not want to see the Buffalo School closed for the entire year when the board was faced with making only a temporary decision.

Parents have asked Gersna to advise the board to retain the Buffalo School and have even offered to try to raise money for repairs.

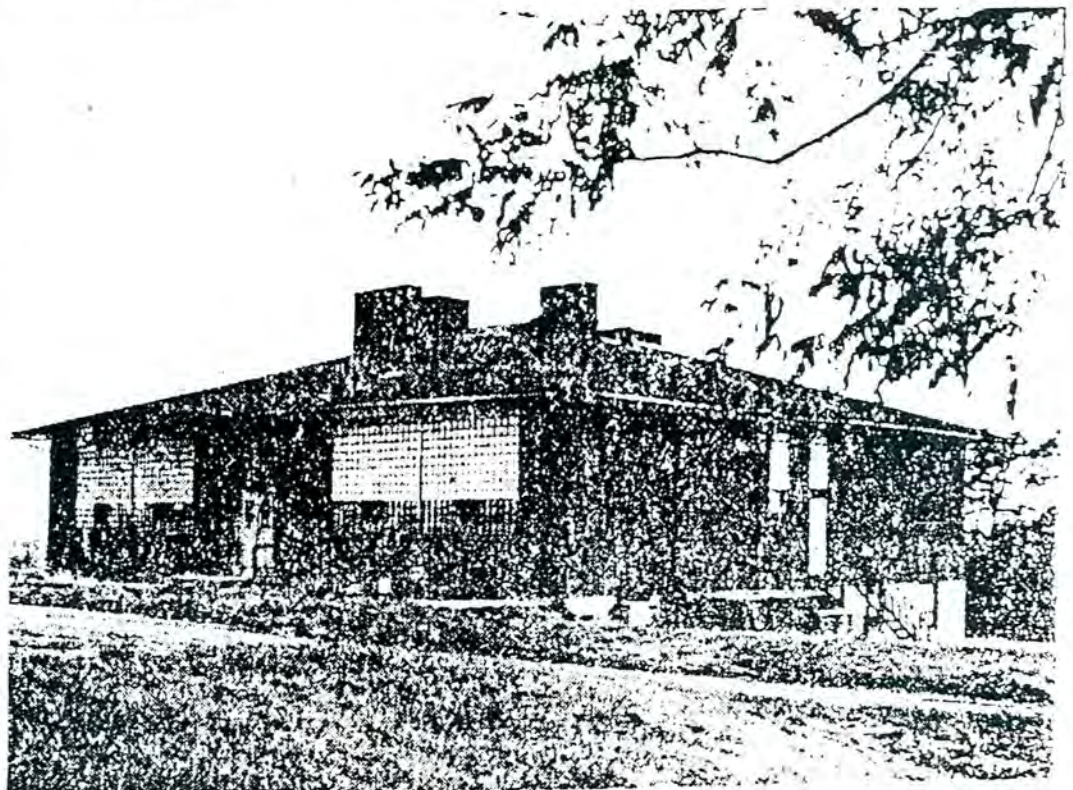
However, there is more to be considered than just the immediate repairs, which have been roughly estimated at \$5,000 — \$10,000.

Richard Patton, president

of the school board, said the reason the board voted to close the school permanent was fear of state Department of Labor and Industry demands.

"There would be no limit what we might have to spend if the Department of Labor and Industry comes in,

(Continued on Page A-5)



Observer-Reporter Photo

Buffalo School will finally close its doors to students

*Early school building  
Very poor construction, probably of logs  
having dip - board roof - gabled paper windows  
earth floor - parthen seats & tables and no  
chimneys*

The school at West Middletown burned. (Jan. 26, 1897)

## Buffalo Township

# Little Red Schoolhouse Closed; Changes Seen

(Continued From Page A-1)

Patton said.

Any work on a school requires approval of the Department of Labor and Industry, according to a representative of the Foreman, Dorsch, Bashford and Wallace architectural firm, which completed a study of the Avella elementary schools in March.

In reviewing the repairs that need to be made immediately, the department can also force districts to upgrade buildings to meet current safety standards of the department.

Installing fire resisting ceilings, safety doors and changing stairwells are some of the areas that older school buildings are often cited for by the department, and repairs like these can cost hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Last year the Fort Cherry School District found that similar changes would cost them about \$300,000.

Patton says the school board "should start something one way or the other by the time school is out."

Building a new school or enlarging existing elementary schools are two of the board's options.

The idea of some day building an elementary center has been discussed at public meetings and hearings, and has been sharply criticized by many of the citizens attending those meetings.

Although the architect's study on improving the elementary school system recommended building a new school as more practical and less expensive to local taxpayers than renovating the present schools, the board has not taken any action on the issue.

Adding on to the Avella Heights Elementary School has been suggested as a solution to the problem caused by closing the Buffalo

School, but no one can guarantee that the Department of Labor and Industry won't require additional renovation once a project is started.

Meanwhile, the children who used to attend the Buffalo School are still getting an education, although the conditions are not ideal.

"The students have lost identity with the building, not with their teachers or classmates," says Gersna. Most of the classes were simply transferred intact from one building to another.

Even now the largest elementary class would have only about 28 students.

Some first grade students now have to be transported from one end of the district to the other, which means a bus ride of more than an hour.

The other schools were not meant to handle so many students, and restroom and playground facilities are not really large enough, according to Gersna.

Wednesday, August 25, 1954

## Buffalo Village School Opens Next Monday

The Hopewell Township School at Buffalo Village will open for the 1954-55 term Monday, August 30. The teaching force has been increased by the employment of Mrs. Mary Ross of West Middletown who will teach Grade I.

The other teachers in the school, all of whom have been in the district for the past several years, are:

Mrs. Mary Stack, Washington, Grades 2 and 3 B; Mrs. Mary Stine, Taylorstown, Grades 3 A and 4; Mrs. Mary McGaughey, Avella, Grades 5 and 6; Mrs. Catherine Geho, Washington, Grades 7 and 8.

Mrs. Gloria T. Flannery will continue to serve as School Nurse. Earl Moore of Buffalo serves as building custodian.

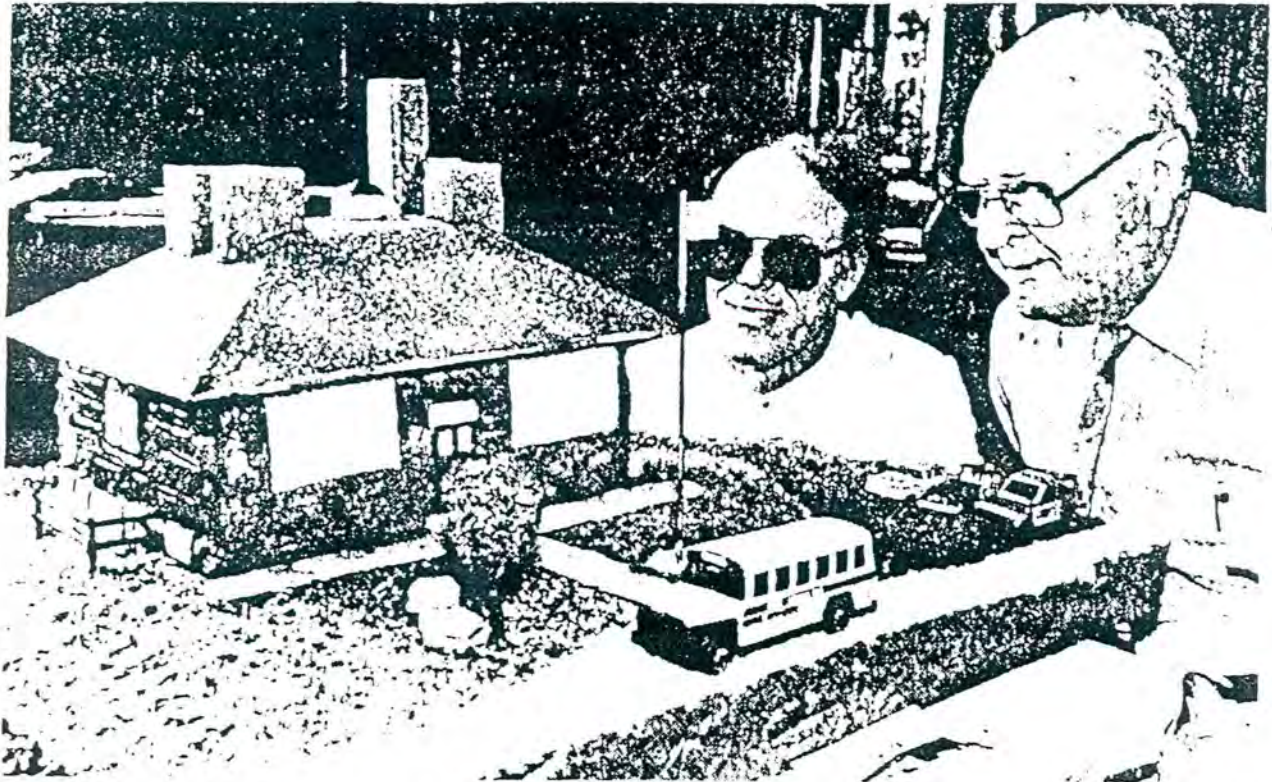
The school buses serving this school will run on the same schedules as they used last term. Bus contractors are R. Clinton Wilson and John R. Cowden.

High School students from the district will attend school at the Trinity High School or East Washington High School which open on August 30, or at Washington High School which opens on September 7.

Dismissal on the opening day at the Buffalo School will be at noon in accord with dismissal time at Trinity High School.

The county test for 8th grade pupils of Buffalo Township was given in the White School on Wednesday, May 24. The following pupils, Eva Beone, Marilyn Westfall, Frances McKean, Betty Cummins, Donna Poland, Carol Blyner, Richard Clouser, Bryan Wise, Cyrus Kelly, Clifford Jackson, Donald Warth, Raymond Davidson. The examination was given by teachers in Buffalo, Jennie Martin, Miss Ruth Wolfe, Miss and Miss Anna Buring. All pupils taking the test were successful.

The undersigned Committee of District No 6 do certify that they have employed Mifs Jane L Ramsey for two months more after her present term of three months expires at \$16 per month August 25 th 1853 (Same directors)



Observer-Reporter

Former Buffalo School principals Dr. Charles Gersna and Alvin D. White look at a cake shaped into a model of the school.



Former teachers at Buffalo Elementary School: from left, Mary Stack, Mary Stine, Mary McGaughey, Mary Ross and Mabel Hamilton.

Observer-Reporter

## Washington County, Pennsylvania.

SCHOOL BUSS ROUTE No. 1-A Contractor: John P. McNelly

School Buss: Ford 48 Passenger Driver: John T. McNelly

## Schedule and List of Children to be Transported:

	Elementary	High School
Leave Stevenson Cross Roads at 7:45 A. M.	Peggy Jo McNelly Van, Guy and Anita Jo Cowden Richard, Jerry and John King	Carol Cowden Wilma King
Gault Farm Lane at 7:48	Norman Malinky	
Stacko Farm Forks 7:50	John Buchko	Bernadette Stritzinger
Forks below Nosco 7:52	Richard, Charles and Patty Camp William Ullom	
Rea Cross Roads 7:57	John & Paul Chizmar	Katherine & Marian Chizmar
<del>Forks below Rea 7:59</del>	<del>Jean &amp; Eakin</del>	
Ihnat Farm Lane 7:59	Mary Ann, Dorothy & Susan	Ihnat
Kabo Farm Lane 8:02	Evelyn and Paul Kabo	Dolores Kabo
Boccabella's at 8:04		Theresa Boccabella
Willow Valley at 8:06	Patty and John Eakin Roy, Robert & Gay Wagoner	Don Eakin Olan Wagoner Shirley & Chas. Zatta
Donohue Bridge at 8:10	Shirley Pettit Alex and Anna Kusick Irene, Barbara & Norma Jean Shaddock Shirley Ann Deco	
Gardner's Service Sta. 8:12	Discharge all pupils for Grades 4 & 5 Also Avella High School pupils.	
Dutko Service Sta. 8:14	Jerry and Joan Bauduin Robert Charlier	
Arrive at Patterson Mills School at 8:16	Discharge pupils for Grades 6,7,8 Also Hickory High School pupils.	
Arrive at Cedar Grove School at 8:20	Discharge pupils for Grades 1,2 & 3.	

September 2, 1950

To the Teachers of Buffalo School:

Re: First Day's Program.

The Writing Supervisor will visit this school on Tuesday morning, Sept. 5. I do not care for the arrangement, but since they have dated you for this time, I wish that you would do what you can to co-operate.

Since Trinity High School will be starting their second week, I assume that they will have a full day's schedule there, which will mean that dismissal at your school will probably be at the normal time.

For the present, I suggest assembly at 9:00 A. M. Recesses at 10:15 to 10:30 and 10:30 to 10:45 A. M. Noon Hour from 12:00 to 1:00 and afternoon recesses at 2:15 to 2:30 and 2:30 to 2:45 with dismissal at 4:00. In case a slight adjustment is necessary to co-ordinate better with buss schedules this arrangement can be made.

A new elementary buss route has been established from the West Middletown vicinity to Buffalo School which will bring those children to the school at about 8:50 instead of at 7:55 as of last term.

In the evening, the busses will load on the same plan as last term:

Brush Run Buss will load at the school at 4:00 P. M.

The Oak Ridge and Farrar's Dist. loads will ride on Wilson's new buss.

The Route 31 pupils will ride on Wilson's old buss.

These last two loads will leave the school at 4:15 P. M.

Teachers will be expected to be at the school by 8:30 A. M. each day and may leave the school after dismissal, except that the duty of waiting after school until the late busses are loaded is to be rotated among the teachers, week by week, unless some other arrangement is worked out amicably among the teachers.

Re: Use of the Playground and Playrooms: Since considerable "debris" is on the ground just below the rear classroom windows, I wish that you would warn all pupils to stay completely off that area until this material has been removed. Since considerable work is still to be done in and about the playrooms, I suggest not using them when the weather permits outside play. If necessary to use them before the work is completed, the teacher can determine from day to day whether it is permissible to use them. New block windows are to be installed in the playrooms and while this work is in progress it would be advisable to forbid the children using the playrooms, or approaching too near the work outside.

I may not get to check all your books carefully before the opening day. I wish that you would fill out the first day's report giving me your shortages which I can find and supply in the evening of the first day. If we have what you want I will know and will know where it is. You may get what you want from the office, but materials which are not in sight will be located for you promptly if you will let me know your needs, I shall be at the bldg. some time Tuesday evening.

Respectfully

A. D. White

Sam Riggle:

Special buss schedule for Wednesday afternoon, Nov. 22.  
Dismissal at the High School at 3:00 P. M.

Pick up your load at that time and drive to Cross Creek.  
The other buss will run to Cross Creek this afternoon, due to earlier  
dismissal time at Avella High School, so you need not run to Patterson  
Mills today.

At Cross Creek, pick up the load waiting there for you and travel your  
usual route to top of Marquis hill. If Carol Cowden is on the buss, turn  
left at top of Marquis hill and take Carol to her stop at the Cross roads  
traveling by way of the ridge road out past Perry Polen's.  
After delivering Carol, drive past Nosco School, etc. to Rea and then  
follow your usual route for the rest of your deliveries. I believe that  
this will deliver all to their usual buss stops, except the Kabo, Boccabella  
and Zatta's who may walk home from Rea today only.

Very respectfully yours

A. D. White

### Crosscreek High School Commencement Exercises Are to Be Held Tonight

1920  
Crosscreek, May 27.—Commencement exercises for the Crosscreek high school graduating class will be held here tomorrow night, May 28. An interesting program has been prepared as follows:  
March, orchestra.  
Invocation, Rev. E. L. Eagleson.  
"The Practical Value of the Study of Literature," Edith Clark.  
Class History, Gertrude McKeag.  
Class Grumbler, Anna Kachunick.  
"The Practical Value of the Study of Chemistry," Harold Balmer.  
Class Will, Ethel McKeag.  
Vocal solo, Alice Black.  
"Some Little Known Facts of Local History," Grace Kuhns.  
Reading, "Brier Rose," Elizabeth Tucker.  
Class Prophecy, Harry Meneely.  
"The Practical Value of the Social Studies," Ruth Pettibon.  
Presentation of Diplomas.  
Benediction.

On December 30th, 1853, an itemized list is as follows:  
For sundry expenses for School No. 6  
May 9, 1 broom, 15 cents; June 20, 1 broom, 15 cents  
Oct. 3, 12 lights of glass at 3 1/2 cents, 42 cents  
Oct. 3, 1 paper of tacks, 6 1/2 cents  
Dec. 14, 1 screw for stove, 12 1/2 cents  
Dec. 15, 3 lights of glass at 3 cents, 9 cents  
Total \$1.00



April 12, 1951

To the Teachers of Patterson Mills and Avella Schools:

Re: Buss schedules afternoon of April 13

On account of the play at the High School on Friday afternoon, I am arranging for those pupils from Avella School, Fifth Grade who go to Cross Creek or to the rural area via Cross Creek and those pupils from the Patterson Mills School who go to Cross Creek, Cedar Grove or to the rural area via Cross Creek or to Patterson Mills to meet the buss at Gardners corner at 3:20. Those pupils from Avella School who go to Patterson Mills or Cedar Grove will go back to their school and wait for the second buss, the trip that carries the High School load home.

The Jefferson Twp. children may wait at the High School for their buss.

Pupils of Grades 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 who go to the rural area via Route 28 will walk from the High School to Avella School and wait there under the direction of the teachers there until time to meet their buss at the Gardner corner at the usual time.

All pupils in the Avella area who can do so are requested to walk directly to their homes from the High School.

The buss to Cross Creek will come to Patterson Mills as usual at the usual time.

Please ask your pupils to co-operate fully with this arrangement and to recognize the authority of any teacher who may be in charge of them at any time, since any irregularities or infractions of rules may result in our cancelling these arrangements to attend plays at the high school. If everyone co-operates in every way possible and all teachers are agreed, I shall favor continuing the arrangement in the future. Teachers will please report any irregularities. Be sure that pupils attending the play have bought tickets in advance and that they bring written permission from home. In case of any not complying with these requirements, I shall arrange either to take them home or to supervise their waiting at one of the schools during the afternoon.

Very respectfully

A. D. White

If any pupils not attending the play can walk home without any hardship, ask them to bring a written request for that privilege.

A D W

# Members of Graduating Class of Avella High



## AVELLA HIGH SCHOOL CLASS of 1934

Front row, left to right—S. Szunyog, V. Castrodale, E. Kubachka, E. Jackman, I. Caleffe, L. Vicheck, R. Brautigan.  
 Second row—E. Bruner, A. Banevitch, T. Mucci, E. Balogh, H. Bosseau, A. Dolinar, L. kachka, I. McFadden.  
 Third row—O. Wells, T. Smiley, R. Morgan, secretary; F. Rector, president; V. Lehner, vice president; H. Szunyog, treasurer; E. Lu-

### Elsie M. Martin

Elsie M. Martin, 80, of Avella Heights R.D.3 died Wednesday, February 8, 1989, in McMurray Hills Manor.

She was born July 19, 1908, in Cross Creek, a daughter of Carey W. and Elva M. Stephenson Farner.

Mrs. Martin was a graduate of Avella High School and Lock Haven State Teacher's College. She taught school in the Avella Area School District for 25 years. She was also a member of St. Michael Church, Avella.

Surviving are a daughter, Marlyn Campbell of Fairview; a son, Edward J. (Jerry) Martin of Burgettstown; three grandchildren, Melvin Campbell, Cindy Obremski and David Martin; and two great-grandchildren.  
 Her husband, Edward C. Martin, died October 11, 1981.

**MARTIN** — Friends of Elsie M. Martin of Avella Heights R.D.3, who died Wednesday, February 8, 1989, will be received from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. Friday in the Lee and Martin Funeral Home in Burgettstown. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Saturday, February 11, at St. Michael Church, Avella, with the Rev. Alvin Gutierrez officiating. Burial in the church cemetery. Rosary will be recited in the funeral home at 8:45 p.m. Friday.



85

**RETIREES HONORED** — Six Avella Area School District educators who have a total of 225 years teaching experience were honored at a dinner at the Cherry Hills Country Club. From left are Mrs. Mary McGaughey, 37 years; Mrs. Mary

Stack, 36 years; Mrs. Hazel Cooke, 40 years; Mrs. Dorothea Wilson, 40 years; Mrs. Viola McCreary, 44 years and Mrs. Alice Zellars, 28 years.

Observer-Reporter Photo

Aug. 11, 1876

The Board of School Directors of Crofs Creek School Dist. will receive proposals at Beech Knob on Saturday, Aug. 26 inst. at 3 P.M. for painting during the month of October next. The exterior of Bushy Rock and White Oak school houses. 3 coats each - stone color - shutters, corner strips and cornice brown. Materials - Fahnestock, Schwartz & Hall's White Lead, Dayton Oil. ....

2<sup>d</sup>

November 22<sup>th</sup> 1869

No 9

Articles bought for school

Five pairs of glass	75 cents
Pen	20
Puting in glass	50
One brown	50
One shovel	40
The amount	\$2.35
	50
	<u>2.85</u>

Wm. Potter for no 1  
Robert Wilson



**WHAT NOW?** — Raymond J. Fioroni, chief administrator of the Avella School District, discusses future plans with three teachers who retire from service to education at the close of the current school year. From Fioroni's left are: Mrs. Alice Zellars, Avella Heights Elementary School, 28 years; Mrs. Mary McGaughey, Buffalo Elementary School, 37 years, and Mrs. Elsie Martin, Highland Avenue School, 25 years. The retiring teachers were honored at the annual faculty banquet.



Nov. 25, 1853  
We, the undersigned residents  
of district No 4 do hereby cer-  
tify that we have examined  
Margaret T. Cole's day book  
and find that she has taught  
in our district three months  
or seventy eight days. Order  
granted for \$45. December  
10th 1853. John L. Johnston  
and John Cole

After the removal of the schoolhouse at Pattersons Mill, these steps remained as a reminder of schooldays of long ago.

December 19, 2002

Dear Kathryn:

You asked if I would recall some of the years I spent at Pattersons Mill School. It pleases me to know that there is someone who is interested about those days. Mostly I recall my teachers and my schoolmates.

The school was comprised of three rooms. In Room 1 there were grades 1 and 2. I recall the teacher, Miss Headley from West Middletown. In Room 2 there were grades 3, 4 and 5. Some of the teachers were Jessie Sawhill, Miss Louise Stauffer and my favorite teacher, Miss Dorothy Dallmeyer. She was kind and caring. In Room 3 were grades 7 and 8. Teachers were Margaret Conner and Mrs. Alice Leckey, a middle-aged teacher, but very caring that her students should really mind their P's and Q's.

The school was located beside the West Point Cemetery, and was surrounded by a high wooden fence on which we liked to hike the top rail. It was rather narrow and it's a wonder none of us ever suffered a broken arm or leg.

In Room 3 there was a large upright piano. Every Friday morning all three rooms gathered for what is now considered a sing-along. We all looked forward to that event. It was easy to be joyful and "tuneful" in our youth.

On days when we were outdoors at recess or lunch and it was time to go back inside, we lined up on each side of the large concrete steps and took turns at marching inside. Henrietta Bondy played a tune on the piano and the music was heard through the wide-open windows. In my mind I can still hear the music, and I am back in the old schoolhouse where I spent so many years!

Margaret Stricko

PROGRAM

Presented by the Class of 1955

Processional

Song of Welcome by the Graduating Class

Salutatory.....Linda O'Donnell

Gift Presentation.....Judy Lucas  
Jessie Murphy  
Charles Korpus  
Ralph Rankin

Class Will.....Bob Vizyak  
Richard Welsh

Key Presentation.....John Lis

Acceptance of Key.....Tommy Zellars

Parting Charge to the Seventh Grade.....Darlene Kolesar

Tribute to the Eighth Grade.....Barbara Weinch

Playlet....."The Judgement of Education"

Valedictory.....Donna Errett

Presentation of Legion Awards

Presentation of Certificates of Promotion  
Mr. A. D. White, Supervising Principle

Farewell Song by the Graduating Class

Recessional

CLASS ROLL

Marion Adams  
Jean Bauduin  
Joan Bernard  
Norman Boyce  
Betty Jo Brown  
Ronald Cindrich  
Douglas Coulter  
Alex Czarnecki  
Donna Darnley  
Neal Donovall  
Donna Errett  
Donna Fowler  
Darlene Kolesar  
Charles Korpus  
John Lis  
Judy Lucas  
Jessie Murphy  
Linda O'Donnell  
Patricia Porfeli  
Anna Marie Prevost  
Ralph Rankin  
Clarice Sieber  
Arthur Suprek  
Patti Suprek  
Margaret Tranquill  
Thomas Urnick  
Bernard Vizyak  
Robert Vizyak  
George Ward  
Richard Welsh  
Eighth Grade Teacher  
Mrs. Dorothea Wilson

Pattersons Mill School

SOUVENIR



Cross Creek  
Village School

CROSS CREEK TWP.,

WASHINGTON CO., PA.

September 1902 -- April 1903.

J. WINFIELD REED, Teacher.

School Board, W. W. Jackson, T. M. Johnston, R. V. Dimit, L. R. Lawton, A. O. Farrer,  
Prof. Frank R. Hall, Co. Supt.

McGugin pipeline being laid to Pittsburgh at the rate of  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile per day. (Dec. 26, 1883)

## Pupils.

---

Pansy Campbell	Dora Baker	Daisy Tuttle
Grace Bebout	Belle Campbell	Bessie Johnston
Janie May Farner	Ethel Marquis	Grace McNelly
Ida Hartman	Ada Hartman	John Anderson
Henry Thompson	Otto Kraeer	Clarence Huber
Oscar C. Vance	Frank Thompson	Robert Farner
Cummins Campbell	August Carl	DeWitte Oglevee
Martha Johnston	Vance Marquis	Harry Marquis
Hayes Campbell	Woodroe Zellars	Harry Hartman
Sam Kraeer	Philip Huber	Guy Anderson
John Zellars		

Nov 23rd 1853 C. C. Village cash for broom \$.25  
repairing wall below ceiling and daubing round windows  
1.00 repairing privy, furnishing boards and nails for  
same and repairing coal house \$1.25



**Report of School District, No. 7** *Cross Creek* **Township.**

For the term of / Months, ending *April 7th A.D. 1854* 26  
 No. of days taught \_\_\_\_\_ 13  
 No. of Male Scholars on the list, \_\_\_\_\_ 10  
 No. of Female Scholars on the list, \_\_\_\_\_ 11  
 Average number in daily attendance, \_\_\_\_\_

F	"	"	
No. studying Geography,	3	No. studying English Grammer,	4
No. studying History,	4	No studying Arithmetic,	12
No. studying Writing,	13	No. studying Reading,	20
No. studying Orthography,	9	No studying Philosophy,	2

**BOOKS USED,**

*Lewis Spelling, McGuffey's Readers*  
*Bible, Barber's History, Comstock*  
*Hirshman's Latin Grammar*  
*Greenleaf's Arithmetic*  
*Western Calculator*  
*Comstock's Philosophy*

SIGNED *A. M. P. Reed*  
**Teacher.**

Sub. Committee. *Thomas McBookle*

**Report of School District, No. 8** *Cross Creek* **Township.**

For the term of ~~one~~ Months, ending *10th of November 1853.*  
 No. of days taught *Twenty six*  
 No. of Male Scholars on the list, *Eleven*  
 No. of Female Scholars on the list, *Eight*  
 Average number in daily attendance, *Eleven*

F	"	"	
No. studying Geography,	<i>one</i>	No. studying English Grammer,	<i>four</i>
No. studying History,	<i>one</i>	No studying Arithmetic,	<i>Eight</i>
No. studying Writing,	<i>Eleven</i>	No. studying Reading,	<i>sixteen</i>
No. studying Orthography,	<i>Eighteen</i>	Philosophy,	<i>one</i>

**BOOKS USED,**

*Mitchell's Geography,*  
*McGuffey's Readers*  
*Lewis Spelling Books*  
*Barber's General History*  
*Comstock's Philosophy*  
*Greenleaf's Arithmetic*  
*Smith's Grammar & Testament*

SIGNED

*Wm. W. Thompson*  
**Teacher.**

Sub. Committee.

*Thomas McBookle*

# Notice to Mechanics

Sealed Proposals will be received by the Board of Directors of Common Schools for Cross Creek District at the house of William Patterson on Friday the 16<sup>th</sup> day of March next at the hour of 12 O. Clock. M. for building a School House in said district on a lot of ground obtained from William Marques. The House to be Twenty-six feet long and Twenty feet wide in the clear and ten feet high. A plan and Specifications for the building and further particulars may be obtained from the Secretary of the Board.

By order of the Board  
January 30<sup>th</sup> 1855

Thomas M. Corbally Pres<sup>t</sup>

Wm Patterson Sec<sup>y</sup>

## ORDER ON DISTRICT TREASURER.

January 30<sup>th</sup> 1855

\$..... 61 cents  
To the Treasurer of Cross Creek  
District Washington county:  
SIR:—Pay to Robert Jeffrey  
~~cash~~ (being one quarter salary for him as teacher  
~~on account of~~ for fuel furnished to No. 8.

or order

Sixty one cents

school house, on for rent of ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ & ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~

~~the case of \_\_\_\_\_~~ for which this will be your sufficient voucher on settlement of your accounts.

By order of the Board.

Attest:

Wm Patterson Secretary.

Thomas M. Corbally PRESIDENT.

April 2, 1873  
Agreement of James Lee and W<sup>m</sup>  
Patterson with W. W. Knight to  
build a school house for \$375<sup>00</sup>  
near to James Patterson store

33 feet long x 22 ft wide  
Stone foundation - brick wall  
nine windows - 12 lights each  
glass 10 x 12

Nov 3, 1874 - Pd W<sup>m</sup> C. Marquis \$37<sup>00</sup> for  
a coal house at C. C. V.

---

Nov 3, 1874 - Pd Joseph Cramer \$583<sup>00</sup> for  
2nd installment on building contract.

Dec 24, 1874 - Pd. J. Cramer 583<sup>00</sup> for  
3rd payt on building contract

# U.C. Prop. Teachers 1857-58

- 1 - Susan M. Johnson \$18<sup>00</sup>
- 2 - Elizabeth Bebout - (Eva Sumner Feb - 20<sup>00</sup> March 58) \$20<sup>00</sup>
- 3 - Sarah M. Cochran - \$20<sup>00</sup>
- 4 - Adaline Cassidy - \$16<sup>00</sup>
- 5 - Jennie S. Ramsey - (students indicate W. Point) \$20<sup>00</sup>
- 6 - Margaret Kempshall (Mary Patterson) \$20<sup>00</sup>
- 7 - A. E. Walker \$25<sup>00</sup>
- 8 - M. W. Marquis (Sarah C. Pees June 58) \$14
- 9 - Isaac M. Lawton (#8 - April 1858 - May 1858) - \$25<sup>00</sup>
- 0 -

William Reed, President

Samuel M. Cowen, Secy

Margaret Thompson - near Lawton's Mill \$40<sup>00</sup> for 2 months

3 - David S. Eagleson 1st month 1857

1 - J. M. Lawton - \$20<sup>00</sup>

Mary Patterson - sch. near Lawton's Mill @ \$20<sup>00</sup>

J. M. Lawton - sch. at the Kebber #9 @ \$25<sup>00</sup>

David S. Eagleson - sch. near Simpson @ \$25<sup>00</sup>

B. E. McIlvaine - Reeds #1 \$20<sup>00</sup>

J. E. Ramsey - sch. near Patterson's store \$27<sup>00</sup>

C.C. Twp. Teachers - 1859-60

- 1 - Ann C. Marshall
- 2 - John White -
- 3 - Phoebe A. Howard
- 4 - Evie Simmons (Jane A. Cook Oct. Nov 59)
- 5 - J. M. K. Reed
- 6 - Sarah J. Bell (Ann Lawrence <sup>Jan</sup> - May 1860)
- 7 - Sarah H. Lawton (James E. Rankin Jan 60)
- 7 - Adaline Cassidy
- 7 - Sarah J. Jeffrey <sup>#27</sup> (J. L. White Feb 1860 Nov 59 Oct 59)
- 0 -

---

Giles Lawton, Secy

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Jane A. Cook #20

Dec 14th 1853 We the undersigned hereby certify that we have employed John K. Donehoo for the term of two months or longer at twenty dollars per month in No. 9  
William Baker Wm Donehoo Committee

# Cross Creek Township Schools

## Teacher List

1873-74

Taken from minutes of the School Board

J. M. K. Reed, Secretary

Length of Term - 5 months

Number	Name of School	Teacher	Salary
1 -	Noaco Hall	Miss Sophie Duglefeld	\$ 35 <sup>00</sup>
2 -	Bunker Hill	Alexander C. Burns	32 <sup>00</sup>
3 -	Amenery		
4 -	White Oak Grove	Miss Rachel Stumber (Mrs. Henry M. Sault)	37 <sup>00</sup>
5-1 -	West Point	Miss L. M. Mc Canell	38 <sup>00</sup>
5-2	West Point	Miss Mollie Stumber (Mrs. Lee Stumber)	36 <sup>00</sup>
6 -	Willow Valley	A. J. Hemphill	37 <sup>00</sup>
7 -	Bushy Rock	Miss Mandelini Patterson	35 <sup>00</sup>
8 -	Beech Knob	Miss Lema Burns	35 <sup>00</sup>
9 -	Limestone Lane	Miss Hattie Selby	35 <sup>00</sup>
10 -	Buckeye Valley	Miss Maggie Allison	35 <sup>00</sup>

# Cross Creek Township Schools

## Teacher List

1874-75

Taken from minutes of the School Board

Length of term (1874-75) - 5 months

Number	School	Teacher	Salary
1 -	Noasco Hall	Miss <sup>age 27</sup> Mandelini Patterson	\$ 35 <sup>00</sup>
2 -	{ Cross Creek Village	- J. Albert McClure	36 <sup>00</sup>
3 -		{ combined for this year - probably the first year in the building erected to the rear of the Church	
4 -		White Oaks	Miss Mollie Stumbaugh
5 -	West Point - Primary	Annie M. Allen	33 <sup>00</sup>
	West Point - High	Sadie E. Slenny	36 <sup>00</sup>
6 -	Willow Valley	Alonso F. Humphill	37 <sup>00</sup>
7 -	Bushy Rock	Miss Annie Humphill	35 <sup>00</sup>
8 -	Beech Knob	John M. Patterson <sup>(19 yrs old)</sup>	33 <sup>00</sup>
9 -	Limestone Lane	Miss Hattie Selby	35 <sup>00</sup>
10 -	Buckeye Valley	Belle Ackerson	34 <sup>00</sup>

# Cross Creek Township Schools

## Teacher List

1875-76

Taken from the minutes of the School Board

Length of term

Number	School	Teacher	Salary
1.	Rosco Hall	Miss Maria J. Baker	\$ 30 <sup>00</sup>
2 -	{ Cross Creek Village	- Milton M. Todd	43 <sup>00</sup>
3 -			
4.	White Oak	- Miss Anna Mc Clurg	35 <sup>00</sup>
5 -	West Point - lower	- Sadie E. Slenny	35 <sup>00</sup>
	West Point - upper	- James B. Lyle	37 <sup>00</sup>
6 -	Willow Valley	- Miss Anna Hemphill	35 <sup>00</sup>
7 -	Bushy Rock	- Joseph Hichson	36 <sup>00</sup>
8 -	Beech Knob	- John M. Patterson	37 <sup>00</sup>
9 -	Limestone Lane	- Joseph B. Drwin	37 <sup>00</sup>
10 -	Buckeye Valley	- Mrs. Emma J. Beer	30 <sup>00</sup>



Teachers 1893-94 - C.C. Top

Hella McFadden - White Oak # 4

L. W. Patten - Buckeye Valley # 10

Mabel B. Reed - Roscoe Hall # 1

Mary J. Bromlee - Beech Knob # 8

Miss Jennie Woodrum - West Point # 5

Emma Cole - Primary # 2

Eufloa Rush - Bushy Rock # 7

Georgia Holmes - Muddy Lane No. 9

Ada Meloy - Beech Hill No. 3

Lizzie N. Stephenson - Willow Valley No. 6

Jas. A. Smith 1 1/2 months

1894-95 - 6 months term

C. P. Paxton - Roscoe # 30

W. P. Allen - Cum Creek Adv. # 3 - 35.00

O. O. Henderson - Primary # 2 (Cum Creek) - 30

Georgia Holmes - Bushy Rock # 30.00

Allie W. Reed - Limestone Lane 30

L. W. Patten - West Point # 30.00

Lizzie M. Stephenson - Willow Valley 30

Hella McFadden - Buckeye Valley

Virginia Stephenson - White Oak - \$30

Mary J. Bromlee - Beech Knob 30

Lella Mc Padden 32.50 - Buckeye Valley  
Jessie S. Brunner 30<sup>00</sup> - Beech Knob  
Annie Creech 33.00 - Primary Care Creek  
Mollie J. Rankin - No. 10 Hall 30  
Sadie Fulton 30<sup>00</sup> - Bushy Rock (Mrs. Robt. W. Wilson)  
Maggie Lawton - died Feb 28, 1896 - Willow Valley  
John Hunt 35<sup>00</sup> - Upper Room Care Creek  
L. W. Patterson 535<sup>00</sup> Institute 7<sup>00</sup> - West Point  
Martha Sanders 30<sup>00</sup> - White Oak  
Lana Peacock 32<sup>50</sup> - Limestone Lane  
Wilda Brownlee 1 mo + 19 days

96-97 - six months

L. W. Patterson 35 - West Point  
Lella Mc Padden 35 - Willow Valley  
Annie Margum 35 - Primary Room C. C. # 2  
Frank H. Ryder - Id. S. 50, No. 3  
Nannie Gillespie 33 - White Oak  
Lana Peacock 33 - Limestone Lane  
Mary L. Patterson 30 at # 10 - Buckeye Valley  
Mollie Rankin 33 at No. 1 - No. 10  
Marian L. Thomas 30 - at No. 7 - Bushy Rock  
Maud J. Thomas  
Beech Knob closed this term

# Cross Creek Twp Teachers Records

Mrs. Elizabeth Murrzyn Ronyak born Aug. 24, 1913

Parents:

Married to Michael Ronyak

Retirement Rate -

Permanent Standard Certificate

Years of teaching to July 1, 1960 = 18

Retired on July 1, 1974 with 32 years service

Mrs. Alverda Powelson Stewart born on May 21, 1905

Parents: John M. and Nannie Thompson Powelson

Married to Alvin R. Stewart who died on Dec. 21, 1958.

Retirement Rate =

Permanent Standard Certificate

Years of teaching to July 1, 1960 = 18

Retired on July 1, 1970

Died on July 28, 1988 aged 83 years

18 + 10 = 28 years total

The county test for 8th grade pupils of Buffalo Township, was given in the White School on Wednesday, May 24. The following pupils, Eva Boone, Marilyn Westfall, Frances McKean, Betty Cummins, Donna Poland, Carol Blyrner, Richard Clifford, Bryan Wise, Cyrus Kelly, Raymond Jackson, Donald Warth, Donald Davidson. The examination was given by teachers in Buffalo Township, Miss Ruth Wolfe, Miss Jennie Martin, Miss Olive Murray and Miss Anna Burig. All pupils taking the test were successful.

## Gladys Byrd Celebrates Birthday

Gladys Byrd of Locust Manor Personal Care Home, Locust Avenue, celebrated her 88th birthday on Jan. 17, with a surprise party given by her friends from Atlaburg and Cross Creek.

Mrs. Byrd is a retired school teacher in the Burgettstown and

Cross Creek area. She is a member of the Cross Creek Presbyterian Church.

She is the mother of three children: Dorothea Johnson of Topsham, Maine; James Byrd of Parma, Ohio; and Mary Esther Corrigan of Mesa, Ariz. 1984

March 27th 1855 To the Treasurer of the Cross Creek District, Washington County, Pa. Pay to E. Joyce and J. Croner on order One Hundred Dollars for building School Houses and this will be your sufficient voucher on settlement of your account. By order of the Board Robert Jeffrey, President, William Patterson, Sec'y.

## Cross Creek Twp Teachers Records

Mrs. Hazel Elmit McRelly born April 11, 1900

Parents: Robert and Nannie Johnston Elmit

Married to Walter B. McRelly who died

Retirement Rate: Permanent Standard Certificate

Years of teaching to July 1, 1960 = 40 yrs 5 mos.

Retired on July 1, 1962 with 42 years 5 months service

died on February 17, 1981

Mrs. Helen Crothers Brownlee born Aug. 29, 1897

Parents: Wylie F. and Jeanette Mc Noble Crothers

Married to Howard F. Brownlee March 22, 1922

Retirement Rate:

Permanent Standard Certificate

Years of teaching to July 1, 1960 = 35

Retired on July 1, 1962 with 37 years service

died Dec. 20, 1967

Mrs. Gladys Mc Cullough Mc Cormick Byrd born 1-18-1900

Parents: Matthew and Esther A. Mc Cullough

Married to Henry Mc Cormick who died on Aug. 8, 1937

married second to Harry Byrd - she 30, 1966

Retirement Rate:

College Permanent Certificate

Years of teaching to July 1, 1960 = 22½ years

Retired on July 1, 1965 with 27½ years

Contracts 1853-54 - C.P. & Jeff.

John P. Honeho #9 for 3 moe @ <sup>#</sup>20 ✓  
Crown Creek for 2 moe @ <sup>#</sup>20

John L. Johnston #4 Coles for 3 moe @ \$20 ✓  
Margaret P. Cole #4 Coles for 3 moe @ \$15 ✓  
#4 Coles for 2 months @ \$15 ✓

Leander Cassidy - school near Alex Masons  
for 8 moe. at \$24<sup>00</sup> per mo

Susan P. Marshall - Beech Knob for 37 days at \$12<sup>00</sup>  
per mo.

Josiah Marquis - Beech Knob for 4 moe. at \$18<sup>00</sup>

Raymond J. Steen - Melvorn #2 for 3 moe at \$18<sup>00</sup>  
(Reynolds & Steen on contract)

Leander Cassidy - Lee i #10 for 2 moe at \$18<sup>00</sup>  
(school to commence the first of August)

Lee i for 3 moe at \$23<sup>00</sup>

Lee i for 4 moe. at 20<sup>00</sup>

Kate N. Wylie - Gardner #12 - 3 moe at \$12<sup>00</sup> ✓  
" #12 - 6 moe at 12<sup>00</sup>

Miles Wilson Marquis - Gardner - 3 moe at \$18<sup>00</sup> ✓  
same - 18 days at \$20<sup>00</sup> ✓

Miss Hypheasa A. Mc Cormick - Mason #11

903

2 moe at \$12<sup>00</sup>

Board of School Directors build a water closet on the premises with the understanding that they reserve the right to remove the same at any time they cease to use the Academy for a High School Building.

On motion of Johnson & Mansum that the Board charge a tuition to those students residing outside of the Twp. \$1.00 per month for common branches & \$1<sup>50</sup> for higher branches or \$5<sup>00</sup> per term of 7 months for common branches & \$7<sup>00</sup> (?) for higher branches and students furnish own text books.

On motion of Johnson & Mansum that a committee composed of Rev. C. J. Williams, H. C. Anderson and Frank H. Rider be appointed to establish grades for the high school.

On motion of Johnson & Scott that H. C. Anderson & John Anderson be appointed a committee to attend the library now in the Academy building.

The foregoing minutes are the only record of official action by the board of directors in establishing the High School. This school is claimed to have been the first rural High School established in the State of Pennsylvania under the act creating such schools. Other schools claim the same distinction.

This school was at least one of the first and as such was an outgrowth of the old Cross Creek Academy which was established in Cross Creek about 1828 by Rev. Mr. John Stockton, who was for 50 years pastor of the Cross Creek Presbyterian Church.

The Cross Creek Academy was not in existence

Notes from the minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors of the School District of Cross Creek Township, Washington County Pennsylvania tracing the development of the Cross Creek High School.

For the school year of 1896 & 97 during which the Cross Creek High School was organized the members of the Board were: Henry C. Anderson President, J. M. Johnson Secretary & John Anderson Treasurer; other members, Robert H. Scott, James A. Smiley and James B. Manson.

Minutes of June 5, 1896

Motion of Manson & Johnson that we postpone the filling of # 3 (with a teacher) for the present. [Number 3 was the Advanced Room of the Cross Creek School which was known in 1893-94 as the Bunker Hill School and taught by Ade Meloy, later by Miss Smith & James E. Smith, In 1894-95 it was called the Cross Creek Advanced and was taught by W. P. Allen. In 1895-96 this room was taught by Mr. John Sims]

Motion of Manson & Smiley that the Pres



## LEGAL NOTICE

The School Board of the School District of the Township of Cross Creek proposes to sell the hereinafter described school buildings, parcels of land and personal property. The said Board will receive sealed bids for the same until 7:45 p.m. November 25, 1963, at which time the bids will be opened at the Avella Junior-Senior High School, Avella, Pennsylvania:

1. The Cedar Grove School Building and the lot upon which the same is erected. For complete description of the said lot see deed dated July 13, 1928, of record in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds in and for Washington County, Pennsylvania, in Deed Book 560, page 158, which by reference thereto, is incorporated herein.

2. The Patterson Mills School Building, including central heating system and one acre of ground upon which the same is erected. For complete description of the said land, see deed dated March 20, 1846, of record in the Recorder's Office aforesaid in Deed book K-3, page 505, which by reference thereto, is incorporated herein. Excepting and reserving to the Avella District Joint School Board the trailer presently located on the said lot together with the right and privilege to remove the same.

3. The Cross Creek School Building and the tract of land upon which the same is erected containing one acre, more or less. For complete description of the said land, see deed dated January 26, 1874, of record in the Recorder's Office aforesaid in Deed Book A-5, page 260, and also deed dated January 17, 1952, of record in the Recorder's Office aforesaid in Deed Book 827, page 615, which by reference thereto, are incorporated herein.

4. The building known and designated as the Browntown School, together with the central heating system and the lot of ground upon which the same is erected, containing 1.205 acres. For complete description of the said land, see deed dated October 17, 1916, of record in the Recorder's Office aforesaid in Deed Book 449, page 280, which by reference thereto, are incorporated herein.

Also, the following personal property:

a) At the Cedar Grove School Building: 1 Electric Hot Water Tank, Frigidaire, 80 gallons; 3 Hot Air Room Furnaces; 3 Pianos.

b) At The Patterson Mills School Building: 1 Hot Air Room Furnace.

c) At The Cross Creek School Building: 1 Electric Hot Water Tank, Frigidaire, 80 gallons; 2 Hot Air Room Furnaces; 1 Electric Shallow Well Pump and Tank Combination.

-d) At the Avella (Browntown Building): 1 Shallow Well Pump and Tank Combination; 1 Gas Hot Water Tank, 30 Gallon size; 1 Hot Air Room Furnace.

Bidders may submit sealed bids for each of the buildings only, the ground only, or the ground and each of the buildings erected thereon. The successful bidder for any buildings only, will be required to remove all debris and foundation within ninety (90) days of the date of sale.

TERMS OF SALE: sealed bids for the real estate only, or the real estate together with the building erected thereon must be accompanied by a certified check in the sum of 10% of the bid price, the balance to be paid upon delivery of a deed within thirty (30) days of the date of the sale. The sealed bids for the purchase of any building alone, or any of the personal property must be accompanied by a certified check in the full amount of the bid. The School Board reserves the right to reject any and all sealed bids.

For further information concerning the proposed sales, contact Mr. A. D. White.

CROSS CREEK TOWNSHIP  
SCHOOL BOARD

A. D. White, Secretary  
Box 83

Hickory, Pennsylvania  
STUART E. MURPHY, Esq.  
Solicitor  
347 Washington Trust Bldg.  
Washington, Pennsylvania

To Mr. Earl C. Lunger, Principal of Independence Twp. High School, Avella, Pa  
 The following pupils are being assigned to your school from the School Dist.  
 of Cross Creek Township for the School Year 1950-1951.

Name	Date of Birth	Parent	Address
<b>Grade Nine</b>			
<i>Thelma Wagoner</i> Mike Bilak	8-4-35 10-19-35	<i>F. L. Wagoner</i> John Bilak	<i>Avella</i> Avella
→ Evelyn Bogo	4-27-35	Angelo Bogo	" <i>St. Mary's H.S.</i>
Gloria Ann Brandenburg	11-3-35	Alex Brandenburg	"
Noreen Brinsky	5-7-36	Steve Brinsky	"
Henry Dhayer	5-23-36	Henry Dhayer	"
Marie DiBacco	8-1-36	Louis DiBacco	Rea 1
Dorothy Falleroni	7-12-36	Giacchino Falleroni	Avella
Darla Marie Kirschner	12-3-35	John Kirschner	"
Frank Proctor	12-20-35	Mrs. Mary Proctor	"
Thelma Strops	5-13-36	Mrs. Martha Strops	Rea 1
Dorothy Tazzac	6-25-36	John Tazzac	"
Olan Wagoner	3-22-36	Perry Wagoner	"
<b>Grade Ten</b>			
Joy Laurence	9-19-35	Eldridge Laurence	Burgettstown 2
Catherine Bosko	12-13-35	Mrs. John Bosko	Avella
Elizabeth DiBacco	5-4-35	Louis DiBacco	Rea 1
Mary Jane Dubois	12-27-35	Roger Dubois	Avella
Stella Gevenosky	8-18-34	Walter Gevenosky	Rea 1
Felicia Gevenosky	8-18-34	" "	"
Louis Ghelfi	4-21-35	Ambrose Ghelfi	Rea 1
Larry Kusiok	7-17-35	George Kusiok	Avella
Joan Lenard	2-15-36	John Lenard	Rea 1
Glenda Lowe	4-23-34	J. C. Lowe	Avella
Frank Marosi	1-21-35	Frank Marosi	Rea 1
Richard Mucci	9-21-35	Modesto Mucci	Avella
James Raineri	1-26-34	Thomas Raineri	"
<b>Grade Eleven</b>			
Donald Eakin	7-18-34	Paul Eakin	Rea 1
Bernadette Stritzinger	9-6-34	Frank Stritzinger	Burgettstown 2
→ Alvin Barbic <i>grand</i>	7-9-35	Mike Barbic	Avella
Dolores Barwidi	9-9-34	John Barwidi	"
Robert Dalesio	7-28-34	Tony Dalesio	"
Anna Ghelfi	12-19-32	Ambrose Ghelfi	Rea 1
Edward Gurasko	4-20-34	John Gurasko	Avella
DeWayne Kirschner	1-11-33	John Kirschner	"
Marlene Kirschner	7-3-34	" "	"
→ Evelyn Konecheck ?	1-28-33	Joseph Konecheck	Rea 1
Don Kristoff	1-23-35	Julius Kristoff	"
Emanuel Paris	9-14-33	Alex Paris	"
Robert Pollock	6-23-32	John Pollock	Burgettstown 2
James Ragan	7-5-34	Martin Ragan	Rea 1
Joseph Sabo	4-29-34	Charles Sabo	Avella
Shirley Strops	6-24-34	Mrs. Martha Strops	Rea 1

(over) 108

## To Independence Twp. High School

## Grade Twelve

Dale Andrews	5-1-32	Delbert Andrews	Rea 1
Raymond Brandenburg	11-27-32	Alex Brandenburg	Avella
Rose Marie Charlier	11-1-33	Fred Charlier	"
Andrew Dalesio	1-10-33	Tony Dalesio	"
Julia Kertesz	4-27-33	Louis Kertesz	Rea 1
Nick Kusick	8-29-33	George Kusick	Avella
Anna Mueller	5-28-33	Jacob Mueller	Rea 1
Ronald Pascuzzi	6-26-34	Joseph Pascuzzi	Avella
Shirley Peterson	9-15-33	Mrs. Evelyn Peterson	Rea 1
Wilma Peterson	1-18-33	Gus Peterson	"
Jean Peterson	3-21-34	Mrs. Julius Peterson	"
Edward Proctor	7-30-33	Mrs. Mary Proctor	Avella
Delma Scariot	9-9-32	Verino Scariot	"
William Schubenski	9-30-32	Mike Schubenski	"
June Takah	6-20-33	William Takah	Rea 1

As soon as your enrollments are completed, will you please report to me concerning the status of the enrollment of these pupils from Cross Creek Twp. In case any have not enrolled, I shall want to know it promptly. If any are enrolled whose names are not on this list, I shall want that information also.

Very respectfully yours

*A. D. White*  
A. D. White, Supv. Prin.

Box 83 Hickory, Pa.

P. S. You may use the enclosed carbon copy for your report to me if you wish

*add 9th Floyd Wagner - 8-4-35*  
*9th Sonya Andrews (Sonya Andrews parent)*

Burglars at Central Hotel, Hickory. (Oct. 14, 1908)

→ Did not report

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# GRADE SCHOOL DAILY PROGRAM

1933 - 1934 SCHOOL TERM

SCHOOL Brownstown WASHINGTON COUNTY

TEACHER Maryel Balogh

GIRLS 8

NOTE - PLEASE POST THIS PROGRAM IN YOUR SCHOOL ROOM BY OCTOBER 1

18 BOYS

TIME TO BEGIN

- 9
- 9:10
- 9:15
- 9:35
- 9:45
- 10
- 10:15
- 10:30
- 10:40
- 11:20

TIME TO CLOSE

- 9:10
- 9:15
- 9:35
- 9:45
- 10
- 10:15
- 10:30
- 10:40
- 11:20
- 11:30

CLASS

- Opening Exercises
- Health Inspection
- a+b Writing
- a+b Reading
- a Reading
- b Reading
- Recess
- a+b Arithmetic
- a+b Science

RECITATION

CLASS

STUDY

- Reading
- Reading
- Arithmetic
- Arithmetic

12.00

1.00

NOON

NOON

- 1:1:10 Story or Music
- 1:1:25 a+b English
- 1:1:40 a+b Health
- 1:2:05 a+b Silent Reading
- 2:0:05 a+b Silent Reading
- 2:2:15 Recess
- 2:2:30 a+b Spelling
- 2:2:40 a+b Spelling
- 2:2:50 a+b Spelling
- 2:3:00 a+b Geography
- 3:0:00 a+b Geog. or Hist. Alternate
- 3:1:15 a+b Poem or Game
- 3:1:30 a+b Art - Every second Friday

# Cross Creek High School - First year.

Frank H. Rider, Teacher. Term 7 months  
 School began September 7, 1896 closed Apr 15, 1897.

Students - 16 different boys.

Winfield Reed attended 105 days

Stewart Reed .. 104 ..

Jesse Lee .. 110  $\frac{1}{2}$  ..

George Glass .. 51 ..

Brammed Poy .. 15 ..

Lide Drwin .. 81  $\frac{1}{2}$  ..

Howard Reed .. 91 ..

Lyle Cooke .. 113 ..

Harris Reed .. 86 ..

Frank Patterson .. 41  $\frac{1}{2}$  ..

Elliott Scott .. 43 ..

James Marquis .. 55 ..

Willard Reed .. 78  $\frac{1}{2}$  ..

Tom Gault .. 63 ..

Henry Vogel .. 33 ..

Brammed Simpson .. 40  $\frac{1}{2}$  ..

Students - 10 different girls

Swinnia Reed attended 99 days

Bessie Honeker .. 101½ ..

May Vance .. 139 ..

Edna Anderson .. 135½ ..

Lama Anderson .. 129 ..

Alva Patterson .. 113 ..

Marie Poy .. 34 ..

Sarah Anderson .. 10 ..

Alice Andrews .. 66 ..

Mabel Weaver .. 95 ..

Text books used: Sheldon's Complete Arithmetic

Bancroft's Complete Geography, Eggleston's U.S. History,

Wentworth's School Algebra, Milne's High School

Algebra, Wentworth's Plane Geometry, Allen

& Greenough's Latin Grammars, Allen & Greenough's

Caesar, Tull & Fowler's First Book in

Latin, Gleason & Atherton's First Greek

Book, Macy's Our Government, Cook's

English Grammar & Composition, Ginn's

Outline of Rhetoric, Bryant & Stratton's

High School Bookkeeping

Second Year - Term of 1897-98

Teacher - Char. L. Harsha Salary

School began Aug 30, 1897 closed April 5, 1898.

Students - 14 boys - 9 girls

Lester Patterson	136 days	Nora Mc Hadden	113 days
Harry Wiegmann	139 days	Alice Campbell	100 days
Oliver Stevenson	132 days	Georgia Anderson	139 ..
Garfield Snodgrass	136 days	Edna Anderson	139 ..
Fyle Cooke	91 days	Fama Anderson	139 ..
Syde Durwin	101 days	May Vance	139 ..
Jesse Lee	102 days	Mable Weaver	130 ..
Stewart Reed	108 days	Alva Patterson	113 ..
Willard Reed	95 days	Nettie Hindman	60 ..
Harris Reed	75 days		
Jim Marquis	85 days		
Low Gault	84 days		
Howard Reed	55 days		
Henry Vogel	28 days		

Text books used: Sheldon's Complete Arithmetic  
 Milne's High School Algebra, Tuell & Fowler's  
 First ~~year~~<sup>Book</sup> in Latin, Allen & Greenough's Latin  
 Grammar, Eggleston's U. S. History, Conklin's  
 English Grammar, Jennings' Rhetoric, Macy's  
 Civil Government, Ray's Higher Arithmetic,  
 Hills' Rhetoric, Wentworth's Algebra, Hinsdale's  
 Civil Government,

Visitors: Supt. Frank R. Hall, Mrs. Jane Haska,  
 Mrs. Mary Slenny, Miss S. Anderson, Miss J.  
 Anderson, Miss B. Slonehoo, Mr. Gray Lee,  
 Wanfuld Reed, Lironia Reed, Miss Nettie Hindman,  
 Mr. P. Donaldson, Grace Kerr, Robert Scott  
 Rev. Char. Williams, Sadie Anderson, Stella  
 Hindman, Bessie Slonehoo, Mattie Vance,  
 Mr. Weaver.



# Two Reunions Will Be Held At Hickory High This Week

1939

HICKORY, July 25.—Plans are progressing for two reunions to be held at the Mt. Pleasant Vocational High School, here, this week. The first will be that of the class of 1924, which is scheduled for Friday afternoon, July 28, and the second on Saturday, July 29, will be the annual reunion of all who attended the Hickory High School between the years of 1902 to 1915 when the Vocational High School was organized. Large crowds are expected for both events with many from distant points.

The reunion of the class of 1924 annually takes the form of a picnic with members and their families invited. A picnic dinner will be served in the evening.

Invitations have been extended to several teachers, two of whom expected to be present being H. L. Pedicord of the Westinghouse High School, Pittsburgh, who was principal of the high school when the class graduated, and Ralph E.

Thomas of New York, who was supervisor of agriculture at the same period. Esther Cowden Wesner, Canonsburg; Ruth Neal Carlisle, Houston, and William Johnson, Canonsburg, R. D., are members of the class.

Arrangements for the second annual reunion of instructors, board members and pupils of the Hickory High School, classes 1902 to 1915, are being led by officers who include: Vance M. Smith, McDonald, R. D., president; Robert M. Dinsmore, McConnells Mills, vice president; Mrs. Grover Ahrens, Hickory, secretary, and Margaret Stunkard Retzer, Hickory, treasurer.

# 200 Present At Reunion Of Students Of Mt. Pleasant

1939

HICKORY, July 30.—The alumni and those attending the Mt. Pleasant Township High School, Hickory, had for their guests their families, former instructors, members of the board of education and friends at the annual reunion held on the high school lawn and school building Saturday afternoon and evening.

In mid-afternoon the first guests began to arrive and continued to come until 200 had assembled.

The reunion was adjudged the best yet held.

The sports committee, of which Miss Hazel Meaner, supervisor of recreation in the city of Pittsburgh, was chairman, planned games and contests for the children.

For the juniors, volleyball, balloon races and the Virginia Reel were in order. For the seniors, the committee provided potato and wheelbarrow races, an apple-eating contest and a hazard race.

The spacious school lawn was a veritable bee hive with the various groups greeting both old and new acquaintances and living and enacting again the school days of 30 or more years ago.

While the groups on the lawn were thus engaged another group was just as busily engaged in preparing the elegant dinner served in the spacious high school gymnasium.

Following the dinner, while seated in the gymnasium, Vance Smith, chairman of the reunion, in a few words of greeting, introduced Mrs. Nancy Peacock Hanna, Pittsburgh, who was chairman of the music committee and song leader. With Mrs. Margaret Stunkard Retzer at the piano, Mrs. Hanna led in singing "School Days", "America", and the song sung at the first reunion, "Tune of Old Black Joe".

The meeting was turned over to Robert Dinsmore, toastmaster of the evening, who combined wit, humor and cleverness and in a way all his own introduced a representative of each class who in clever sentences brought greetings from their classes.

George R. Norris, 1902-1904, of Pittsburgh, the first principal of the high school, was the only former teacher present and in his remarks noted the many changes which had taken place in the school and community in the 35 years.

H. L. Pedicord, a former supervising principal of the Mt. Pleasant Vocational High School, 1917 to 1931, now principal of the Westinghouse High School, Pittsburgh, commented on the splendid work accomplished at the Hickory School.

November 23<sup>rd</sup> 1860  
Craw Creek School Board \$2  
for School House No. 1.  
Coal Bucket \$ 75<sup>cts</sup>  
Writing Table 2.50  
Chair — — .50  
Broom — — .31  
Bolt for Door .25  
1859 Water Bucket & tin 36  
Two Brooms 25 each 50  
\$ 5.37

Nosco Hall Dec. 22, 1866  
B room, 35 cents  
chair 25 cents  
chalk 20 cents  
poker 30 cents  
A.C. Marshall, teacher  
Order granted

Avella, Pennsylvania  
April 28, 1950

To: Mr. A. D. White and the  
Members of the Cross Creek Township  
School Board.

The following is my report of activities  
as school nurse in your school district to  
the present time:

Time devoted to your school from April 1  
to April 28, 1950 totals three and one half  
(3½) days.

Seven (7) home visits were made.  
One (1) pupil with mumps.  
One (1) pupil with measles.  
One (1) pupil with bronchitis.  
Two (2) pupils with whooping cough.

One pupil has received glasses through  
the D. P. A. One pupil has had a tonsillec-  
tomy through the D. P. A.

One pupil has received glasses through  
the Health Center.

All the pupils have been weighed for the  
month of April.

Respectfully submitted,

*Gloria Tonini*  
Gloria Tonini R. N.  
School Nurse

Avella, Pennsylvania  
March 31, 1950

To: Mr. A. D. White and the  
Members of the Hopewell Township  
School Board.

The following is my report of activities as  
school nurse in your school district to the present  
time:

Time devoted to your school from March 1, 1950  
to March 31, 1950 totals two (2) days.

- One (1) child with pneumonia.
- Four (4) pupils with pediculosis. All the  
heads have been examined for pediculosis.
- Four (4) pupils with itch.
- One (1) child taken to the doctors for a  
lacerated finger.
- Three (3) home visits have been made.

I have finished the Audiometer tests. 54 pupils  
were examined; 17 pupils with defects; and 37 pupils  
were normal.

All the children have been weighed for the month  
of March.

Respectfully submitted

*Gloria Tanini*  
School Nurse

Officers of Cross Creek Twp. School Board after  
July 1, 1963:  
George Rankin, President  
A. D. White, Secretary  
Lee Cecchini, Treasurer  
Cross Creek, Pa.  
Hickory, Penna.  
Avella, Penna.

Schools of Cross Creek Twp.  
Closed - last teacher

White Oak	1913	Howard A. Rivett
High School	1929	Stella Cameron
Bushy Rock	1936	Miss Lyle - Ed. White
Woods Hall	1938	Miss Myers of W. G.
Muddy Lane	1939	Mr. Brownlee
Bushy Valley	1942	Miss Jane Wilson
Willow Valley	1944	Mr. Brownlee
Beech Knob	1945	Mr. Cooke

A DISTRICT INSTITUTE.  
Oct 31, 1892  
The Program of Exercises for the  
Teachers at Cross Creek.

The following is the program for a  
district institute to be held at Cross  
Creek Village on Friday night and Sat-  
urday, Nov. 11 and 12. Superinten-  
dent Tombaugh will conduct the ex-  
ercises.

- What is the tendency of the Modern Meth-  
ods of Education?—Dr. Mercer, of Eldersville.
- Scientific Temperance Instruction—Mrs. A.  
H. Kerr.
- History and Development of the Common  
Schools of Pennsylvania—Robert Anderson.
- Music in School—Harry Smith.
- Primary Reading—Miss McFadden.
- How to Study Geography—Miss Meloy.
- Opening Exercises—Mrs. Jamison, Will Cos-  
grove.
- Penmanship and the Methods of Teaching  
It—John Sutherland.
- Mental Culture—R. P. Stephenson.
- Twilight—Wm. Melvin.
- What is Good Order?—Miss Rush.
- Public School State Appropriations—H. C.  
Anderson.
- Is the Course of Study Accomplishing All  
that was Expected of It?—A. W. Fulton.
- Do you Think it a Good Plan to Have Some-  
thing Different from the Regular Program on  
Friday Afternoon?—Miss Bell Rankin.
- What Studies do you Consider Most Valu-  
able in Cultivating the Imagination?—Miss  
Brownlee, R. S. Anderson.
- Text Books and Their Uses.—Samuel Magill.  
Ruts—H. W. Doneho.
- What Do You Consider a Proper School  
Punishment?—Verne Gardner.
- Busy Work for Primary Pupils—Miss Sim-  
mons.
- Has a Teacher a Right to Dismiss Pupils in  
the Afternoon When Their Recitations are  
Over?—Miss Lizzie Stephenson.
- A Good Method of Teaching Subtraction to  
Primary Pupils—Miss Holmes.
- What is the Use of Such Meetings as These?  
—D. W. Patterson.

# Hickory District Graduates Studying At Many Colleges

Hickory district young people, including recent graduates of the Mt. Pleasant Vocational High School and many ex-servicemen are enrolling in college, the latter group taking advantage of the G-I Bill of Rights. Seven recent graduates of the school chose nursing as a profession and have enrolled in Washington Hospital School of Nursing.

Nurse trainees at Washington include: Betty Jo Crowley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Chester Crowley; Roberta White, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. E. H. White; Evelyn Cowden, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Cowden; Mary Markish, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Markish; Nancy White, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. E. H. White; Jane and Ann Lowry, twin daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Lowry. The first three girls named were graduated in the class of 1945; and the others were graduated this spring.

Enrolled at Westminster College, New Wilmington are: William Laing, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Laing; Donald McAllister, son of Mr. and Mrs. D. T. McAllister; Robert A. White, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry D. White; Vance Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. Vance M. Smith; and Robert Todd, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Todd. Audrey Retzer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Retzer, is a sophomore at Westminster.

Washington & Jefferson enrollees from the Hickory community are: Elmer Hulick, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Hulick; Marshall Stamy, son of Mrs. A. C. Stamy, and the late Mr. Stamy; Paul Salansky, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Solansky; and Leroy Gordon.

University of Pittsburgh students include: George A. Hoop, Jr., son of Dr. and Mrs. G. A. Hoop,

who is studying law; his brother, Wendell Hoop, who is taking the pre-medical course; and David Staudt, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Staudt, studying business administration.

Pennsylvania State College sophomores, graduated from Mt. Pleasant Vocational High School, are Louise Leech, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Leech, and Martha White, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh White, recently of Hickory, but now of Mercer.

"Bud" Allison, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. K. Allison, and Mary Louise Cooper, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter E. Cooper, are studying at Waynesburg College.

Martha A. White, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. J. White, is a sophomore at Geneva College, Beaver Falls; Mary Lee, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Lee, is attending Indiana State Teachers College; Barbara Brown, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. B. Brown, is enrolled at Otterbein University, Westerville, Ohio.

Mary White, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. D. White, and Marion Allison, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. K. Allison, have both graduated at the West Penn Hospital School of Nursing, Pittsburgh, and will have completed their training next February. Patricia Edmunds, granddaughter of Mrs. Ella Stewart, was graduated from the Columbia University Nurses Training Course, last June, and will complete her training this month.

Walter White, son of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh White, is attending the Pennsylvania State College Extension School at Slippery Rock. Robert R. White, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. D. White, recently entered service. He was graduated at Hickory this Spring.

## The Hickory Academy.

In one of the best, brightest and most progressive towns in the state can be found the Hickory Academy. This institution of learning is not old in years, but it already has a reputation for educational advantages and standing that has taken many other institutions of learning years to attain. The object of the academy is to give young men and women a practical business education and a preparation for college or seminary. Special attention is given to Latin, German and the common English branches. No pains are spared by the board of trustees and instructors to give students every advantage of a first-class academy. The students with diplomas from the Hickory Academy are admitted to all first-class colleges without examination.



Hickory is beautifully located in a very healthy region. Board and rooms can be had in the best families, and religious services are conducted every morning by the principal.

The officers are: President, G. M. Russell; vice president, S. N. McPeak; treasurer, Fred Colwes; secretary, Jos. Morris. Faculty: H. B. McElree, principal; Miss Nettie B. Harsha, assistant; Miss Belle McFate, instrumental music. For terms, etc., address, Prof. H. B. McElree, Hickory, Washington county, Pa.

## Avella School Opening Delayed

The Avella District Joint Schools have tentatively set Sept. 16 as the opening date for school. The delay in starting was caused by the preparations to move into the new high school building on Route 50, three miles east of Avella, and by the consolidation of the elementary grades into three buildings.

The new elementary buildings are Avella Heights, comprising grades one through six; Highland Avenue, with grades one and two, and Buffalo, with grades one through five.

Final plans for the date and time of the opening of school will be announced later.

## Avella Student Takes Degree At Georgetown

WASHINGTON—Angelo E. Falleroni, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gioacchino Falleroni, of Avella, was graduated from Georgetown University today. He received the degree of Doctor of Medicine from the School of Medicine at the 161st annual Commencement exercises at the University.

A 1956 graduate of the College of Arts and Sciences at Georgetown he plans to intern in Chicago.

## SCHOOL DISTRICT OF HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP

Washington County, Pennsylvania.

OAK RIDGE SCHOOL BUSS ROUTE: Contractor and Driver: R. Clinton Wilson

Buss and Capacity: 1949 Chevrolet 48 Passenger

Schedule and List of Pupils to be Transported:

Leave Danley's at 7:40 A. M. Rose Margaret and Janice Danley

Oak Ridge at 7:43 Duane and Roland Taggart  
John and Barbara Ann MillerMorris Lane at 7:45 ~~Loretta and Dewey Morris~~

Hayden Lane at 7:46 Louise, Mary J., Betty Jean, a Samuel &amp; Phyllis Hayden

Durila's at 7:47 ~~Lucille Durilla~~Lloyd Davidson Lane at 7:50 ~~Delores Jane Adams~~Henry Davidson Lane at 7:51 Martha, Peter and ~~Shirley Ann~~ RiggsansCox Forks at 7:53 Elmer, Evelyn, Helen, Lila and Frances Cox  
~~Harry and Helen Marie Mounts~~

Kirk Lane at 7:54 Ella Mae, Betty Ann and Robert Kirk

Arrive at Buffalo School at 7:56

Buffalo Store at 8:00 Ruth Waychoff Shirley Varner  
Richard Farrar

Swenderman's at 8:03 Charles Anderson Maxine Patterson

Red Barn at 8:05 Transfer to Trinity Buss: ~~Loretta & Dewey Morris~~  
Louise Hayden  
~~Harry Mounts~~  
Ella Mae KirkTake on From Brush Run Buss:  
Helen Durila Shirley Jean Mull Mary Ann PattersonTake on from Route 31 Buss:  
Jack Patterson Marlene Umphrey Thelma Smith (P)  
Winifred Meloy

Arrive at Washington High School at 8:20 A. M.

Return at onee to R. D. Craig's for Route 31 Elementary Load

Returning in the Evening: Leave Wash Hi at dismissal time

Meet Brush Run Buss at Red Barn at 4:10

Leave Buffalo School at 4:15 P. M.

which they did, as follows :

Lease, 99 years from James Boyd, 80 perches.....	\$1.00
Purchase from Joseph Scott, 80 perches.....	1.00
Purchase from Alexander Adams and Aaron Templeton, 79 perches.....	10.00
Purchase from John Lowry, 72 perches.....	10.00
Purchase from William Jamison, 80 perches.....	1.00
Purchase from John Dunkle, 80 perches.....	12.00
Purchase from Joseph Bigham, 80 perches.....	1.00
Purchase from Isaac Manchester, 82 perches.....	10.00
Purchase from Robert Harvey (Williamsburg), 36 $\frac{1}{2}$ perches.....	60.00

## HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP

**Schools.**—Primitive schools, supported by subscription, were taught in this township, as elsewhere in the county, several years before the beginning of the present century; but few particulars have been learned concerning them, or the teachers employed in them prior to 1828. Mr. William Hunter says he recollects at that time but four log school-houses in Hopewell, and that the teachers in that year, or in two or three years following, were John Ross, Bartley A. McClean, Nathaniel Jenkins, Samuel Elder, George Forester, and Joseph G. Chambers. The last named died in 1829.

Under the school law of 1834 the township (then comprising also the territory of Independence township) was districted in that year and 1835 by a committee chosen for the purpose, consisting of George Plummer, John Lowry, James Thompson, James Bell, Aaron Johnston, Abram Wotring. The number of districts into which the two (present) townships was divided was twelve. There were then in the entire territory (Hopewell and Independence) four hundred and twenty-four persons liable to taxation for school purposes. David Craig and Hugh McGuire were elected the first school directors, and James Thompson treasurer. The amount of money raised in that year for school purposes was \$349.37. In 1836 the township refused action under the school law, and only the State tax of \$124.78 was raised. In 1837 the provisions of the law were accepted by the township, and a total of \$718.15 was raised.

On the 26th of August, 1836, the township "resolved to build the necessary number of school-houses for the districts as soon as proper arrangements can be made, and that the secretary give notice in the *Reporter and Examiner* for proposals on the first Monday of October next." Feb. 14, 1837, it was "resolved that the secretary be authorized to contract for brick for eight school-houses." David Craig and James Thompson were appointed "a committee to obtain right of school property for West Middletown District, No. 3." Aug. 18, 1837, it was resolved that equal amounts be distributed among the several districts, except Middletown, No. 3, and Williamsburg, the former of which was to receive one hundred per cent. and the latter fifty per cent. more than the others. The secretary was authorized to contract with George Newcome to build these school-houses. The Adams school-house, No. 6, was also built by Newcome. Abraham Wotring, John Lowry, Henry Smith, Hugh McGuire, William Tweed, and James

These purchases were all made in 1837 and 1838. On the 27th of May, 1839, a lot was purchased of George Plummer, thirty-six perches, for the consideration "Love and respect for education, and the better maintenance and support of common schools." In 1845 the store of James McFadden was purchased for a school-house, in District No. 3. On the 14th of September, 1846, a lot was purchased of William McNulty for a school-house, and on the 16th of April, 1847, it was voted to proceed with the erection of a house forty-two by thirty-two feet, brick, thirteen inches thick, ten feet story, two stories in height. To this building another story was added in 1858.

The school report for the school year ending June 1, 1863, showed the following school statistics of the township: Number of schools, 6; number of teachers, 6; number of pupils enrolled, 216; receipts for school purposes, \$983.69; expenditures, \$695. The report for 1873 showed: number of schools in township, 6; number of teachers, 6; number of pupils enrolled, 162; receipts, \$1889.95; expenditures, \$1312.46. In 1880 the report showed the same number of schools and teachers; number of pupils enrolled, 210; school receipts, \$1856.11; expenditures, \$1217.29. The present number of districts and school-houses in the township is six, exclusive of the West Middletown district, which has been separate and independent from the township in school matters in and since the year 1856.

CROSS CREEK ACADEMY was opened near the same time as that of West Alexander, by another prominent Presbyterian pastor, the Rev. John Stockton, D.D., at Cross Creek village, in his ministerial charge. Its site was under the shadow of Vance's fort, so intimately associated with frontier history, both civil and religious. There Smith had broken the silence of the wilderness with the trumpet of the gospel, and there, too, the eloquence of the "silver-tongued" Marques had thrilled the hearts of a second generation with the heavenly message. Their successor, the venerable Stockton, received his seal from God upon a most honored and successful ministry of *fifty years*, begun in 1827, and relinquished in 1877, at that hallowed place. He departed this life in the peace of the gospel May 5, 1882, in the seventy-ninth year of his age. Among his first efforts to extend the kingdom of his Master was the establishment of this academy, with special reference to the training of ministers. Its teachers, with various intervals, were Samuel and George Marshall (the latter a son of Jefferson College, in the class of 1831, and afterwards a distinguished Presbyterian minister), John Marques, Robert McMillan, and Thomas M. C. Stockton, son of the pastor. Thirty ministers of the gospel came forth from that school, besides many other students who have filled honorable places in secular life. Washington College, the *alma mater* of Dr. Stockton himself, was the resort of most of the young men who caught their classical inspiration in this academy.

<sup>1</sup> An accurate list of the sons of this academy and that of West Alexander is not in the power of the writer, and therefore none is attempted. Very many of them are well known.

## HICKORY ACADEMY AND ONE OF ITS EARLY CLASSES



Built in 1892, the building occupied for 10 years by the Hickory Academy and later used for 13 years by the Mt. Pleasant Township Vocational High School, still stands in Hickory, and is a part of the property of Allison Brothers, hardware merchants. The building is shown here as a background for the pupils who attended the school in 1892. Those in the picture, from left to right, are:

Seated—Florence White Davis, Ida McDowell Ryburn, Dotty Brown, Margaret Emerick, Nora Cummins Timmons, Principal B. Wolf, Nellie Willison Meneely, Nettie Reed Coleman, Lou Couiter, Mary McBurney McCarrell, Della Walker Caldwell, Vinnie Allender Small.

Second row—Rachel Emerick Carter, Romaine

Russell, Della Rankin, Laura Peacock, Clara Miller, Mollie Rankin McBurney, Edith Stewart Quivey, Margaret Symington, Rebecca Patterson Cullen, Eula McIlvaine, Millie Donaldson Conner, Leila McElroy Kithcart, Lou Berryhill, Iva Moore Hamill, Margaret McCoy Emery, Blanche Walker Johnston, Lillian McClintock Lanphere, Annie Aiken.

Third row—Van Eman Cowden, James McCarrell, Andrew McBurney, Donaldson McCarrell, Edwin McClintock, David McCarrell, Vance Davidson, Robert McBurney, James Miller, David Brown, Robert Caldwell, Fred Colwes.

Back row—William Briceland, Bert McPeak, James Briceland, Joseph Allender, Harry Acheson, Edwin Griffith, Herbert Scott, John Cowden, David McPeak, George McBurney.

## Nearly 400 Persons Are Present at Reunion of Old Hickory Academy

Delightful Day Is Spent by Students and Friends of School Which Flourished in Mt. Pleasant.

# Hopewell Township Teachers' Records

Mrs. Mary Sawhill Stine born on Oct. 22, 1910  
Parents: Oscar and Sawhill  
Married to Theodore M. Stine of Taylors town, Pa  
Retirement Rate: 5.63% new College Permanent Certificate  
Graduate of Washington College 1931  
Years of Teaching in Hopewell Twp to July 1, 1960 = 28  
Retired in 1973 - with 41 years teaching

Mrs. Mary Lusabow Stack born on November 18, 1909  
Parents: Joseph and Lusabow (Russian)  
Married to John Stack, Sr.  
Retirement Rate 5.72 new - Normal School Diploma  
from California State Teachers College 1930  
Years of teaching in Cross Creek Twp - 3  
in Jefferson Twp - 3  
in Hopewell Twp to July 1, 1960 - 15

<sup>Irma</sup>  
Mrs. Mary Balogh Ross born on Feb. 27, 1911  
Parents: Michael and Balogh  
Married to Homer R. Ross of West Middletown, Pa  
Retirement Rate 5.91% Permanent Standard Certificate  
Years of Teaching in Cross Creek Twp - 16½ (1930-1940)<sup>see</sup>  
in Hopewell Twp - 0 to 1960<sup>July 1</sup>

Retired from Avelle Elementary School in 1974 - about 37 yrs  
teaching



## Hopewell Township Teachers' Records

Mrs. Mary Scott Mc Saughey born June 2, 1911  
Parents: Halden and Edith Fuller Scott  
Married to Curtis De Saughey  
Retirement Rate 5.55% new - Normal School Diploma  
from Indiana State Teachers College 1931  
Years of teaching in Hopewell Twp to July 1, 1960 - 23½  
Retired on July 1, 1973 with about 36½ yrs service

Mrs. Catherine Parkinson Selho born Feb. 25, 1902  
Parents:  
Married to Ralph W. Selho of Washington, Pa  
Retirement Rate - 6.46% new - Normal School Diploma  
from California State Teachers College in 1920  
Years of Teaching to July 1, 1960 - about 26 last 18  
of which were in Hopewell Township  
Retired on disability on January 1, 1963  
She died on Nov 3, 1964. She was blind ever  
since retiring and had been bedfast most of the time  
a victim of diabetes. She died in Washington  
Hospital



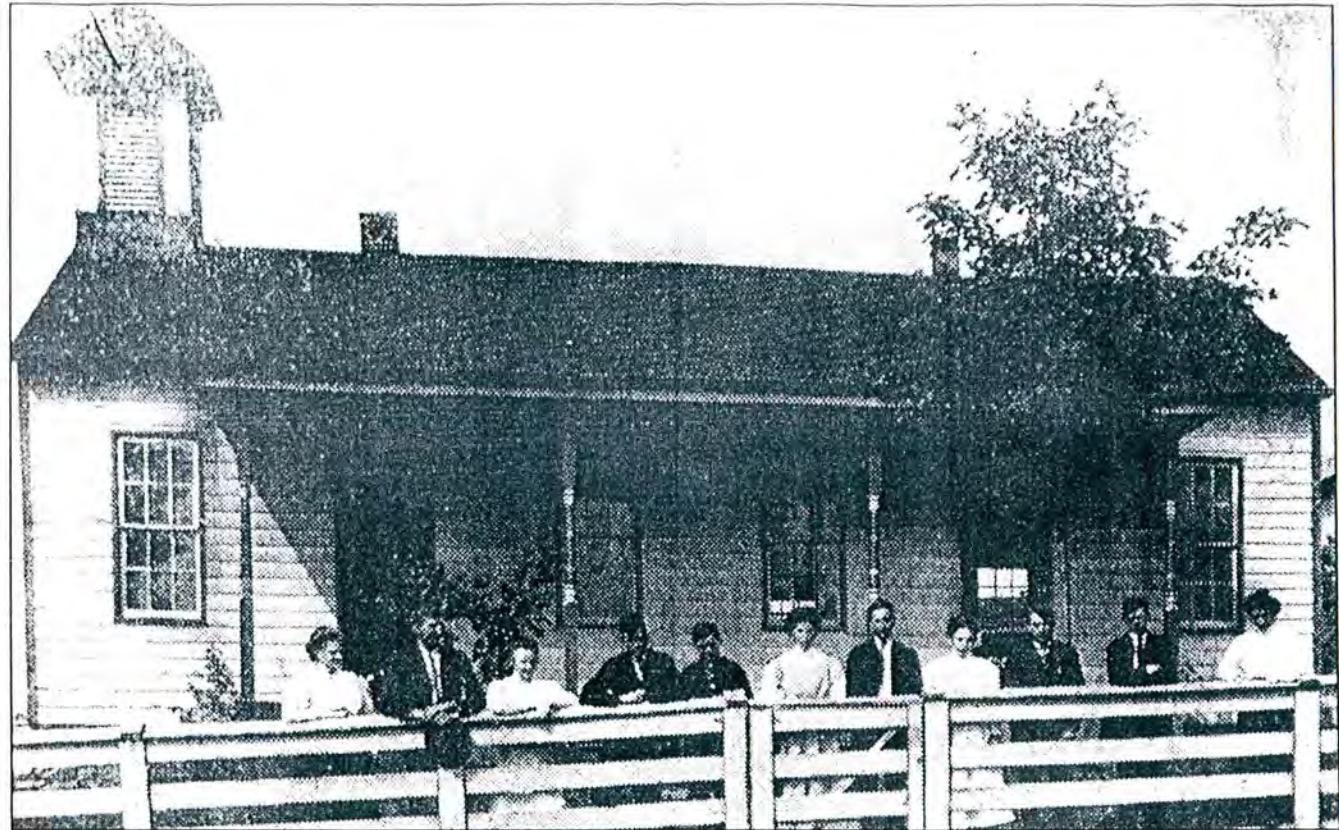
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**HICKORY CLASS REUNION**—The 1942 graduating class of Hickory High School held its 25-year reunion recently in the George Washington Hotel. Class members attending are pictured above, from left to right in the front row: Olive Smith Ferrell; Norma Fullerton Mungai; Verona Lesko Harclerode, Helen Antosh Kowloski, Elsie

Dinsmore Clarke, Marion Grubis Kotfis, Olive Prevost Piazza, Mi-nerva Brooks Peters and Neva Bosold Riggle. Back row: Willard B. Hoop, Howard W. McAnany, J. Clair Cowden, Allan M. Robinson, George E. Baker, principal, Earl Robinson, Herman J. Engel, Harry L. Lee and Joseph W. Toth.

Ruschell Studio

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**ALONG THE FENCE** of the historic Cross Creek Academy and High School in 1909 are some of the faculty and student body of that year. Left to right, Eola Smith (Mrs. William) White, principal; Arthur F. Lyle; Mary White (Mrs. Edward) Welch; Donald Gault; Martha Johnston; Willa Cunningham; John C. Johnson; Myrtle Balmer Mortimer; W. Vance Walker; Oscar C. Vance; and Clara Cooke Rea, assistant principal. Built in 1828, the old Academy stood until it was razed in 1935, having served as Cross Creek Township High School during the last 33 years of its existence as an institution of learning. Its doors closed forever in the spring of 1929.

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By Kathryn Campbell Slasor  
For The Enterprise

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## Cross Creek

Academy

## ACADEMY HISTORY

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.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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

## 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 Al-

gebra; 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!

## 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 exalted 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?

## 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.

States of Cross Creek High School  
Academy Reunions: presidents

- 1- August 2, 1952 - A. D. White
- 2- July 31, 1954 (Mediation of Plaza)
- 3- August 3, 1957 - Curtis Fowrey
- 4- August 4, 1962 - Wm. Hebelack
- 5- August 5, 1967 - H. M. Lee
- 6- July 29, 1972 - Ralph Powelson
- 7- August 13, 1977 - Harold Chapman
- 8- July 31, 1982 - Chas. Lee

Earlier Reunions were held at  
 Cooke's School in Aug 1913  
 on Craig Lee's Farm - Aug. 12 1914  
 in Stratton Hill Grove - Aug 23 1917

**CROSS CREEK ACADEMY -  
HIGH SCHOOL 1967**

The Alumni Association of Cross Creek Academy High School held a five year reunion at Cross Creek Church Saturday, August 5. Seventy-five persons attended the affair, including alumni, former students and teachers and friends of the two schools. These schools served the Cross Creek community for a total of 101 years, the Academy having been founded in 1828 and the High School continuing until 1929, when the institution was finally closed.

The reunion was planned by officers headed by H. Montford Lee, President. Following registration at 2 p.m., a program was presented in the church sanctuary at 3 p.m. Mrs. Edith Clark Jones of Burgettstown showed her collection of Alaska scenic slides. She was assisted by her husband, Harry Jones, a veteran of the U. S. Air Force. The Joneses were stationed for two years at Kodiak, Alaska and had visited many other parts of the State.

A. D. White of Hickory presented devotions and Howard Lee of Washington conducted the memorial service for 19 members of the Alumni Association. Members of the earlier classes of the High School were recognized.

H. M. Lee, President, presided at the business meeting. Mrs. Viva Newman gave the report of the recording Secretary and the treasurer, and greetings and regrets from those unable to attend were given by the corresponding secretary, Mrs. Hazel McNelly. Those attending for the first time were introduced including Mrs. Mary Lowrey of New Concord, O., Mrs. Edith Clark Jones of Burgettstown; Mrs. Celia Sutherland of Aliquippa, Richard Dabroski of Cleveland and Kenneth Loughner of Greensburg. The group voted to hold another reunion in five years and officers elected to arrange that reunion were: Ralph Powelson of Washington, President; J. Harold Chapman of Washington, Vice President; Mrs. Hazel McNelly of Cross Creek, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. Viva Newman of Cross Creek, Recording Secretary; H. Howard Lee of Washington, Treasurer.

Members of the Alumni Association reported unable to attend on account of illness included: John C. Johnson of San Antonio, Texas; John P. McNelly of Somerset; Miss Alva Patterson of Avella, and Mrs. Etta Reed Mowrey; a former teacher from Washington.

**HIGH SCHOOL CLOSED.**

The Crosscreek high school, which is the oldest institution of its kind in Washington county, closed its term recently. During the fourth, fifth and eighth months of the year every pupil was present every day. Four pupils attended every day of the year. They were Otto Kraefer '08, Myrtle Balmer '10, Oscar Vance '11 and Howard Oviatt '11. The average attendance was 12 boys and 9 girls. Seven passed successfully the entrance examinations. There were two graduates this year: Otto Kraefer, who has a record of ten years without missing a day at school, and David Lyle. 1908

PHOTOGRAPH OF OLD CROSS CREEK ACADEMY PROGRAM

**CROSS CREEK ACADEMY.**  
**A. J. MITCHELL, PRINCIPAL.**

STUDENTS IN ATTENDANCE FROM NOVEMBER 1851—TO NOVEMBER 1852.

F. ANDERSON, H. ANDERSON, J. ANDERSON, Y. BAKER, L. CASSIDY, J. E. DONEHOO, H. DONEHOO, S. McF. FARRAR, J. GRAHAM JR.	J. GRAHAM JR., JOSEPH JAYES, T. C. HAYS, WM. K. LYLE, H. W. MARQUIS, W. MARQUIS, H. S. McFARLAND, S. D. McFARLAND, S. T. McFARLAND, BENJAMIN B. THOMAS, H. DONEHOO, E. J. GEE, WELTANNA LEE, FINEBYA S. McFARLAND, E. McBRIDE.	G. M. McFARLAND, J. FULTON MAGILL, THOMAS MURRAY, L. ROBERTSON, J. B. STEVENSON, WM. STOCKTON, JAMES TOLAND, P. VANDORSTRAED, H. WALKEE, MARY E. ANNA NEALE, EWALINE SIMMONS, M. A. SIMMONS, H. T. SCOTT, MARGARET VANMAN. FEMALES 15. TOTAL 22.
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**ORDER OF EXERCISES.**  
 FOR THE EXHIBITION OF THE PHRENAKOSMIAN LITERARY SOCIETY OF  
**CROSS CREEK ACADEMY.**  
 OCTOBER 10TH, 1852.

*"Doctrina Sed Vim Promoveat Insulari."*

SALVATORIA.....		J. K. DONEHOO, C. C. VILLAGE
<b>MUSIC.</b>		
SELECT ORATION.....	CHARACTER OF BONAPARTE.....	P. VANDORSTRAED C. C. VILLAGE, Pa.
SELECT ORATION.....	THE WONDERS OF NATURE.....	S. T. McFARLAND, " "
SELECT ORATION.....	PUBLIC OPINION.....	F. ANDERSON, " "
<b>MUSIC.</b>		
ESSAY.....	SOLITUDE.....	T. MURRAY, C. C. VILLAGE Pa.
ESSAY.....	THE SEASONS.....	E. DONEHOO, " "
ESSAY.....	FACTION AND IMAGINATION.....	S. McF. FARRAR, C. C. VILLAGE Pa.
<b>MUSIC.</b>		
ORIGINAL ORATION.....	THE SCHOLAR'S MISSION.....	J. HAYS, WASHINGTON CO. Pa.
ORIGINAL ORATION.....	VOICES OF THE PAST.....	L. CASSIDY, " "
ORIGINAL ORATION.....	MODERILITY.....	S. C. McFARLAND, WASH. CO. Pa.
<b>MUSIC.</b>		

Printed at the Commonwealth Office Washington Pa.

Above is a reproduction of an original program of a literary entertainment given at the old Cross Creek Academy in 1852. This interesting document, containing the names of members of old families of the district, is the prized possession of M. L. Cook, of Hickory, who recently celebrated his 85th anniversary. It speaks for itself.

We the undersigned Committee of District No 6 do certify that Miss Jane L. Ramsey has taught school in said district at 14 Dollars per Month for two months August 25th 1853 Samuel McKibben Wm Rea Andrew Foleu

# Cross Creek Academy Has Long History

School Organized By Church Pastor; Later High School

The history of the Cross Creek Academy begins very early in the pastorate of the Cross Creek Presbyterian Church by the Rev. John Stockton.

Coming to this pastorate in 1827 as a graduate of Washington College and a recent student at Princeton Theological Seminary, Mr. Stockton almost immediately became interested in the cause of education in his new field of labor. Working closely with Aaron Bebout, the Cross Creek Academy was organized by Mr. Stockton in 1828, and for two or three years sessions of the school were held in the home of John Curry, Cross Creek Village, this building standing on a lot later owned by Samuel C. Cummins and now owned by George Rankin. Classes were held in various locations in addition to the Curry residence, and it is known that the school had quartered in turn in the houses later occupied by Lewis Baker and Mrs. Caroline Bebout, also in an old building on the present site of the Hindman residence and in the home of the founder, Dr. John Stockton, who lived in the brick house now owned by Joseph Carroll.

The building which was to permanently house the Academy for many years and which the Cross Creek Township High School later occupied during its entire existence was erected about 1858 by a number of enterprising citizens as stockholders. The building was erected on a plot of ground belonging to the Cross Creek Church and adjoining the historic plot of the old Cross Creek graveyard. There the building stood until it was removed in 1935. Later the stockholders of the Academy building were bought out by James Dinsmore, an elder in the Cross Creek Church, and he presented the building to the Church, free of debt.

The first teacher of the new building was Robert McMillan, and Thomas C.M. Stockton was probably the second teacher, serving just before the Civil War period.

The closing event of a study course at the Academy about that time was called an exhibition. The program was very similar to the commencement programs of later times, with the exception there was no presentation of diplomas. Some of the young people who appeared on such programs in the pre-Civil War years were Alice McFarland, Minerva McFarland, Eliza Ann Lee, Elizabeth Lee, Mary Dinsmore, Jane Ann Cooke, Josephine Cooke, Mary Booher, David Pry, Henry C. Anderson, W. Craig Lee, Silas Cooke, McCune Donehoo and Samuel Rankin.

During the Civil War period the Academy was opened for a short time with Thomas C. M. Stockton again as instructor, but a nation racked with civil war does not have the time or energy to pursue education. Consequently the doors of the Cross Creek Academy were soon closed to remain so until the year 1879.

It was then reorganized through the efforts of Rev. W. H. McCaughey, of the Cross Creek Church. About 30 students were enrolled under the instruction of Newton Donaldson and his sister Elma, and they were followed by W.D. Hamaker.

Another period of reorganization was necessary about 1885 when Darwin Hindman was the instructor and he was followed in turn by Messrs. C.L.V. McKee, Hollenbaugh, Kistler, W.H. Smeltzer and John S. Marquis, the last a son of John Marquis, an earlier teacher in the school. While Rev. John Stockton was instrumental in starting the academy, there is no reference anywhere to his having served as teacher, although he served the Cross Creek Church as pastor for 50 years. Among other names not previously mentioned as instructors here were Samuel and George Marshall, James B. Lyle, John H. Sherrard and Rev. Charles G. Williams, the last named serving while also pastor of the Cross Creek Church. Many of those men who served as instructors at the Academy became prominent ministers in the Presbyterian Church.

Once more the Academy was closed in 1893 to be reopened in 1895 with a new Board of Controllers composed of Rev. Charles G. Williams, President; Dr. F.M. Hayes, secretary; R.C. Vance, treasurer; Robert Scott, Abram Pry and Henry C. Anderson. Prof. P.W.H. Frederick was elected principal and one class was graduated in the academic course in 1896. The class was composed of the following persons: J. Winfield Reed, now of Washington, and his wife, Mrs. Martha Vance Reed, Miss Livonia Reed, deceased; Miss Bessie Donehoo, deceased; Miss Mary Patterson of Cross Creek Township; Mrs. Iva Rea Donaldson, now of Columbus, Ohio, L.M. Irwin, now of Pittsburgh and John Wiegmann, now of Brookline, Pittsburgh.

Among others who attended the academy at Cross Creek are: Rowland Simpson, Hadonfield, N. J.; Rev. Joseph W. Dunbar, St. Clairsville, Ohio; George Dunbar, Washington R.D. 1; Dr. A. O. Hindman, Burgettstown; George Johnson, Canonsburg and Mrs. Dean Baker Jobs of Brownsville. All of the above are living at this time as far as is known. The following persons, all deceased, also attended the Academy at that time: Robert A. Stewart; R.C. Cassidy; Mrs. Gynx Vance Foster; Miss Della Hindman; and Miss Dora McCorkle.

In a bulletin of the academy for the year 1890, it was indicated that the academic year consisted of three terms, the first opening on September 6, 1880, the second in January, 1881 and the third in April, 1881. How long each term actually was or how much time intervened between terms is not given. Boarding (in clubs, including room rent) advertised at less than two dollars a week suggested that a highly inflated currency probably did not exist at that time. Tuition for the English course offered was \$8 and in the Classical course was \$10.

A handbill printed in 1879 advertising a Literary Entertainment in The Church at Cross Creek Village by the Phrenocosmian Literary Society of Cross Creek Academy on Wednesday evening, December 24, with performances consisting of Original Orations, Essays, Declamations, Debate, Dialogues and Readings from the Bi-Weekly Review, with appropriate music to be provided testifies to the fact that instruction in these literary arts was probably very important in the life of the old school. This advertisement further gives the admission prices for the performance of 10 cents and 15 cents each for children and adults respectively and with the evening's performance to begin at 6:30 sharp.

That the instruction provided in the early academy was of a high type there seems to be little doubt. The instructors were, for the most part, graduates, or at least students, from leading colleges such as Washington and Jefferson, and the interest taken in classical secondary education by the pastor of the Cross Creek Church and prominent men of the community who served as trustees assured that the school was conducted with definite purposes in mind. Among these objectives none was more important than the furnishing of educated men as candidates for the gospel ministry, as well as for the professions of law and medicine.

Quoting from the address of Dr. Stockton, delivered at the close of his pastorate in Cross Creek Church: "In this academy, most of those from this church who entered the ministry received their education preparatory to entering college; also others who entered the ministry from other congregations amongst whom were Rev. Alfred Paul, Rev. John Kerr (then of Pittsburgh) and Rev. John W. Dinsmore (then of Illinois). Besides these some who entered the legal profession and became distinguished; for example Hon. Judge Paul, (then of Wheeling) and Judge Moore (then of Texas). Others entered the medical professions; and still others, who entered none of the learned professions, were fitted for usefulness in society, and successfully prosecuting the different callings of their choice."



It might be said that many of these students came under the direct influence of the venerable founder of the school, the Rev. Dr. Stockton. A record of usefulness such as this school has acquired is outstanding for a small community and probably has seldom, if ever been equaled, or surpassed.

After the graduation of the class from the academy in 1896, a discussion arose among the sponsors of the school as to whether it should be continued. The school had been closed during the two-year period, 1893-95, and was operated with difficulty during what proved to be its final year of existence, 1895-96.

The Legislature of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania had recently passed an Act enabling school directors in rural areas to establish township high schools. Whether to avail themselves of the provisions of this Act was the topic of many conferences among the members of the Board of School Directors of Cross Creek Township, and between them and the Trustees of the Academy during the summer of 1896.

Referring to the minutes of the School Board for June 5, 1896, we find that a committee was appointed to "look after a teacher for School No. 3, if one is necessary, and decide whether it shall be taught as a common or a high school." This committee was composed of Henry C. Anderson, President of the Board, and John Anderson and Thomas M. Johnson.

At the Board meeting, held on August 1, 1896, it is evident that this committee brought in a report, but a motion to accept the report of the committee (its substance is not given) was lost. The matter was probably at a standstill, with we suppose much agitation in the community, until August 20, when we turn again to the minutes of the School Board and discover that the Board decided to "elect by ballot a teacher for to teach a high school in the township."

Frank H. Ryder of Washington, a member of the class of 1896, just graduated from Washington and Jefferson College, was elected principal at a salary of \$50 per month for a term of seven months. Consequently, on September 7, 1896, there began in Cross Creek Village the sessions of what is claimed to have been the first rural high school in Pennsylvania. (this claim is challenged by communities in other parts of the Commonwealth.) Sixteen young men and 10 young women composed the student body of the Township High School during this first year, this high school now fully taking the place of the old Cross Creek Academy, which had well served this community for a period of nearly 70 years.

The high school was to continue, with a lapse of only one year, until 1929. Records for most of its 33 years of existence are available.

The full membership of the Cross Creek Township School Board in 1896 was composed of the following: H. C. Anderson, President; Thomas M. Johnson, secretary, and John Anderson, treasurer; with J. B. Mason, James A. Smiley and Robert H. Scott serving as the other members of the Board. Just one week before the opening of the new school term, on August 31, 1896, a joint meeting was held between the School Board and the Board of Trustees of the Academy. Serving on the Board of the Academy were Rev. Charles G. Williams of the Cross Creek Church and Robert C. Vance, in addition to Robert Scott and H. C. Anderson, who were also members of the School Board of the Township. At this joint meeting arrangements were made for the use of the building for the high school, and other such matters necessary for the transfer of the properties of the Academy to the use of the High School.

With the establishment of this high school the final chapter was written in the history of the Cross Creek Academy. This Academy had filled a need in the lives of the young men and women of that area for nearly 70 years and had passed from the scene, as do so many of our institutions, making way for a more progressive institution. It will long be remembered chiefly for the contributions made by its graduates which are evident to us today.



Rev. John Stockton, D. D., for fifty years pastor of Cross Creek Presbyterian Church founded the Cross Creek Academy in 1825.



Class of 1906 of the Cross Creek Township High School, seated, left to right: Nellie Gault, Ethel Vance, Effie Cunningham and Edna Bebout. Standing: Erie Cunningham, Samuel Johnston, DeWitt Ogilvie.

# AT CROSSCREEK

Program Arranged for Annual High School Event. Next Wednesday Evening—A Normal Will be Conducted the Coming Summer

1935

Crosscreek, April 25.—The Crosscreek High school, which is the oldest rural high school in Washington county, will hold its commencement exercises Wednesday evening, May 2, in the Presbyterian church. The baccalaureate sermon will be preached Sunday evening, April 29, by the Rev. J. M. Houston, of Kenilton, Ohio, a former pastor of the Presbyterian church of this place. The Crosscreek High school is the oldest rural high school of its kind in the county and for many years before the establishment of a high school, an Academy was conducted.

The school for the past few years has been in charge of Prof. W. E. Cozins and Miss Mae Vance. A good musical program has been prepared in connection with the graduating exercises. The Motte orchestra, of Pittsburgh, has been secured for the event. The spring normal course of the school will begin May 8, and will last six weeks. Following is the interesting program that has been prepared:

- Waltz, "Dolly Dallas," Victor Herbert.
- March, "Silver Heels," Neil Moret.
- Invocation, Rev. George M. Donchou.
- Serenade, selected.
- Oration, "Digging for Hidden Treasures," Mary Edna Bebout.
- Oration, "A Lighthouse Amid the Billows," Samuel Lenum Johnston.
- Waltz, "Babes in Toyland," Victor Herbert.
- Oration, "Hitch Your Wagon to a Star," Effie Frances Cunningham.
- Oration, "What is Fate?" DeWitt Clinton Oglevee.
- Harp Solo, B. Gasper.
- Oration, "Opportunities, the Watchword of the Great," Earle Leroy Cunningham.
- Oration, "The Marble Waiteth," Ethel Amy Vance.
- Clarinet solo, E. Onickenberg.
- Oration, "The Waiting Niche," Nellie Alberta Gault.
- Class History, Earle Leroy Cunningham.
- Violin solo, M. Pascale.
- Class prophecy, Mary, Edna Bebout.
- Cornet solo, H. Motte.
- Presentation of Diplomas.
- March, "American Beauties," Star.
- Benediction.

# Movement Started to Save Old Cross Creek Academy

1935

CROSS CREEK, March 31.—With sale of the building scheduled for Monday night, a movement is taking form here to prevent razing of the old Cross Creek Academy building, which housed one of the oldest secondary educational institutions in Washington County and in which the first rural high school in Pennsylvania was founded in 1896.

The building and the land on which it stands have long been part of the property of the Cross Creek Presbyterian Church, whose trustees, because of the dilapidated condition of the old school, have ordered its sale and removal from the church property.

Sponsors of the belated movement to save and restore the building point out that there are traditions of considerable worth connected with it, that many of the older citizens of this community and other sections of the

county received at least a part of their education there, and that to them the place has hallowed memories.

They believe that in some way a fund can be raised to secure control of the building and to restore and repair it, perhaps as a shrine and perhaps to use it again in some way in connection with educational enterprise.

Some have suggested that Henry Ford might be interested in the project, since the building was one of the earliest schools of its kind in the county and because in it the first rural high school of the State held its classes.

Though the exact age of the building has not been definitely determined, it is believed to have been in use nearly a century ago, making it one of the few abandoned school buildings of that age in Western Pennsylvania which are still standing.

## Shall We Raze the Cross Creek Academy?

To the Editor of The Observer, Sir:—Three score years ago, there was a tendency among the people to remove structures that were no longer fit for use or had become an eye sore in the community, but within the last decade there is a decided change regarding dilapidated structures, both public and private. There were many edifices that were permitted to fall into decay that had no small part in shaping the lives of past generations.

Remove not the ancient landmarks was the admonition delivered to the Hebrew nation of old and the same might be taken to heart by the present generation.

There is a growing sentiment among the alumni of the academy that instead of razing the Cross Creek Academy building, later used as a high school, it should be preserved. While it is dilapidated and in need of repair, it, with similar edifices in other localities should never have been permitted to become such.

While this academy was not the first of its kind to be organized among the early pioneers in Washington County, its origin carries us back to those primitive times that are very dear to all those who have a deep reverence for those forebears who spared no labor, nor deemed no sacrifice too great in order that their posterity might enjoy educational and religious privileges denied them.

When the community has outgrown these buildings which can no longer be used for the purpose for which they were intended, why not keep them in repair and convert them into a community museum? By doing this the youth will grow up to respect and protect them, rather than aim stones at the vacant windows.

Were the alumni of the academy who are now living given a voice in the matter, there is no doubt but that they would be unanimous in perpetuating the structure whose memories associated with it are very dear to them.

This community has the distinction of having organized the first rural high school in the state of Pennsylvania (1896). These schools, termed the "farmer's college," were intended to give the rural youth educational advantages equal to those enjoyed by their city cousins.

With competent instructors, qualified to teach mathematics, English, history and the languages, a study of the nature and formation of soils, plants, insects, etc., to be suited to the locality, is required.

The fact that this building was used to house the first rural high school in the state should be sufficient to arouse the interest of Henry Ford and others interested in antiques. Should this be done there is no doubt that he would be glad to add it to his collection of similar buildings he has had removed and rebuilt on his estate at Dearborn.

As such buildings stand today they are eyesores and all are glad to see them removed. Once they are gone they cannot be replaced. As time passes all these buildings that have a history will be taken care of before they become total wrecks.

Let us hail the day when we shall not destroy the ancient landmarks which our fathers have set up, but preserve them along with the many pleasant memories associated with them.

A. D. McCARRELL,  
Hickory, March 30, 1935.

# Woman Offers to Give Ground

Miss Bessie Donehoo Makes Initial Move in Effort to Save Structure—Suggestion Advanced It Be Used as Museum.

## HISTORY OF OLD SCHOOL

By A. D. McCARRELL,  
Of Hickory, Pa.

Cross Creek will lose its oldest landmark if the old Academy building, practically on the auction block, were to be razed.

The structure, the only academy building, it is believed, in which the first rural high school in Pennsylvania was opened, is to be sold to the highest bidder within a few weeks and unless action is taken quickly will be destroyed.

Miss Bessie Donehoo has volunteered to donate ground on which to place the historic structure. Alvin White, well known resident of the district, suggests it should be saved and used as a museum.

Cross Creek Academy was organized in 1828 in the Village of Cross Creek, almost under the shadow of Vance's Fort, so intimately associated with frontier history, both civil and religious. There the Rev. Joseph Smith broke the silence of the wilderness with the trumpet of the gospel and there, too, the eloquence of the "silver-tongued" Marquises thrilled the hearts of a second generation with heavenly messages. Their successor, the venerable Rev. John Stockton, D. D., who ministered to his people for 50 years, began his ministry in 1827 and relinquished it in 1877. Among his first efforts was the establishment of this academy.

The organization of this famous school, in 1828, takes one back to the primitive times of the Scotch-Irish pioneers who desired educational advantages for their children other than the subscription schools taught by the proverbial master versed in the three R's.

At that time the surrounding hills were covered with dense forests of oak, walnut and hickory in which the dreaded war whoop of the red warrior had scarcely ceased to echo.

The Presbyterian ministers who settled in this country, along with the pioneers, were strong in their convictions that the higher education should go hand-in-hand with religion.

The schools served a two-fold purpose, affording opportunity for advanced study, and training young men of the community for the ministry.

There is no record of a charter for Cross Creek Academy, but in the Recorder's Office of Washington County, Deed Book, Vol. 3A, Page 77, there is a deed dated January 24, 1829, by which John Graham and Jane Graham, his wife, transferred to John Boggs et al, of Cross Creek Township, for the consideration of \$15, grant, bargain and sell unto John Boggs, Joseph Cooke, John Ramsey, Benjamin Murray, and David Woods, trustees of the Cross Creek Academy, their successors in office, the east half of Lot No. 51 in the Village of Cross Creek.

The same tract was conveyed by Henry Graham to John Graham. This is evidently a part of the tract donated to the Cross Creek Presbyterian Church by Henry Graham. At least there is a tradition among the oldest residents of the community to that effect.

If there ever were records kept of the academy they have either been lost or destroyed. Complete rosters of instructors and pupils are not available.

The first principal was Dr. Samuel Marshall, who taught a class in the rudiments of Latin for two years. He was succeeded by George Marshall, a son of Jefferson College, in 1831. Under his leadership the school grew and a house was built. Girls also were taught.

Dr. George Marshall afterwards became a Presbyterian minister and preached at the Bethel Presbyterian Church for nearly 50 years. Dr. Marshall attended the 50th anniversary of Dr. Stockton's ministry in 1877. John Marquis was a teacher.

Thomas C. M. Stockton, M. D., son of Dr. Stockton, entered the academy as a student at the age of 12 years. After graduating from Washington College he returned home and taught in the Cross Creek Academy for six or seven years. Tradition states he was a forceful instructor and under him the school attained its peak. He was a professor in Muskingum College, New Concord, O., later. The number of students on its roll was about 50.

Mr. Sherrard, of Steubenville, O., was a teacher for a short time. Robert McMillan taught in 1851-1852, perhaps longer.

Approximately 60 sons of the Cross Creek Presbyterian Church became ministers.

A school is judged by the number and character of its graduates. Records show that Cross Creek Academy developed 30 ministers

of the gospel. Others became teachers or filled honorable places in secular life.

Washington College, the alma mater of Dr. Stockton, was attended by most of the young men of the academy inspired to continue their studies.

Outstanding men who attended this academy include:

Rev. Perrin Baker, son of a shoemaker, who served as pastor of the Belle Vernon Presbyterian Church, and it was said of him that he was the most brilliant minister of his time in Old Redstone Presbytery.

Rev. John A. Marquis, a noted teacher and outstanding Presbyterian minister, was moderator of the Presbyterian General Assembly.

Rev. John W. Dinsmore, D. D., author of Scotch-Irish in America and a brilliant Presbyterian minister.

Rev. Elisha Donehoo, D. D., pastor of the Eighth Presbyterian Church, of Pittsburgh, and Thomas Stockton, M. D., already mentioned.

There were no doubt a long list of others equally famous whose names were not given to the writer.

We are indebted to M. L. Cook,

of Hickory, now 85 years old, for the accompanying program and roll of students of the class of 1851-1852. As far as is known this is the only original document in existence of the academy.

There is very little to be learned of the character of the early school but it is reasonable to suppose that higher mathematics was not overlooked and much time and attention was given literary attainments in which debating and oratorical contests were given first place. The closing day performances or public exhibitions played a prominent part in those early schools, and were attended by the entire community. The teacher's ability as an instructor, was judged by the performance of the pupils on those occasions.

Such an exhibition, held in 1862, was attended by Mr. Cook, who remembers the three outstanding orators of that day: David Pry, James Robinson and Silas Cooke. The work of the Cross Creek Academy was suspended on several occasions.

# Members of Last Class Graduated At Historic Cross Creek Academy

May 4 1935



Members of the Class of 1896, last to graduate from Cross Creek Academy, appear in the picture above, as follows:

Back row, left to right—John Weigmann, Bessie Donehoo, J. Winfield Reed, Martha J. Vance (now Mrs. Winfield Reed).

Second row—Iva Rea (Mrs. Lester Donaldson), Livonia Reed (deceased), P. W. H. Frederick, principal.

Seated in front—Mary Patterson and L. M. Irwin.

Action which may result in the saving of the old Cross Creek Academy building at Cross Creek has been started.

To go on the auction block, the structure will be razed unless prompt action is taken. A committee named to raise funds met last night to make plans to launch a campaign. They are confident citizens of the district will do their part to preserve the historic structure dear in the memories of many for future generations.

A list of instructors at the old academy, which was followed by the opening of the first rural high school in Pennsylvania in the building, follows:

Dr. Samuel Marshall, Dr. George Marshall, Rev. Robert McMillan, 1851-1852; Rev. John A. Marquis, Thomas C. M. Stockton, M. D., Prof. Newton Donaldson, W. D. Hamaker, D. Hindman, Mr. Hollenbaugh, Mr. Kistler, Mr. Smeltzer, Rev. J. P. Anderson, Rev. John Hindman Sherrard, taught from May to September, 1857, received \$250; Rev. C. G. Williams; Dr. C. L. McKee, Rev. P. W. H. Frederick, 1895-1896.

Of the instructors, Dr. John A. Marquis was moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in 1916.

A partial roster of academy students, from 1828 to 1896 has been compiled and contains the following names: John Marquis, John W. Dismore, David Patterson, T. C. Hays, Mary Booher, Rachel Booher, John Stephenson, Hugh Stephenson, Emma Jane Cassidy, Mary Elizabeth Lee (McDonald), Elisha Donehoo, D. M. Donehoo, Henry Donehoo, Josephine Cooke (White), John R. Donehoo, David Robinson, Robert Stephenson Anderson, Samuel S. Dunbar, William Dunbar, George Dunbar, William H. Walker, Benjamin Powelson, Capt. William A. F. Stockton, Dr. J. Clark Stockton, Joseph Magill, W. Craig Lee, Hugh Lee, Thomas C. M. Stockton, M. D., teacher and student; Lyle Rea, Silas Cooke, James Robinson, David Pry, Westanna D. Patterson, Dr. A. M. Rea, Jennie Duncan (Vance), Brenard Kerr, J. Cook White, Alice Reed, Dora McCorkle, Hemphill McCorkle, William G. White, James D.

White, John M. White, Jennie Stockton, Dr. Joseph W. Dunbar, Belle Cook (Stephenson), Della Hindman, L. M. Stephenson, Elizabeth Stephenson, Rev. George M. Donehoo, Nettie Hindman (Dellinger), Dr. William McCorkle, R. C. Cassidy, Frank Patterson, Dr. Audley O. Hindman, Jennie Campbell (McNary), Edd Glass, J. B. Lyle, Julia Cook, Dr. Charles L. Campbell, Rucina Lyle, Elizabeth Dunbar (Patterson) Ulysses Lyle, Joseph Magill, Jennie Duncan Vance, Brainerd Kerr, J. Cook White.

The roster of the Class of 1851-52 is intact, due to the preservation of an old program by M. L. Cook, venerable citizen of the Hickory district. Names appearing on this program follow:

F. Anderson, H. Anderson, J. Anderson, V. Baker, L. Cassidy, J. K. Donehoo, E. Donehoo; S. McF. Farrar, J. Graham, Jr., Joseph Hayes, T. C. Hayes, Wm. K. Lyle, M. W. Marquis, W. Marquis, B. S. McFar-

Township in 1782 or 1783. About the same time, Robert McCreedy taught at Wilson's Flat. Soon afterward, six other schools were established in Cross Creek Township. About the year 1803, a house was built on the Presbyterian Church property for the accommodation of the workers who built the stone church at Cross Creek. It was afterwards known as the "study house" and was for a long time used as a school house. It is said that there was not a sawed piece of timber in this structure. During the spring of 1835, the boys of Cross Creek village, thinking the house a disgrace to the place, and being tired of going to school in it, met at night and used ropes to pull out the logs of one end. It was used during the following summer and then abandoned. The school was then kept in the academy building until the erection of a brick school house. About a dozen other schools were known to have been held in this township between 1800 and 1834, and one of these was considered far in advance of its time. It was built in the year 1806 of hewed logs, had a shingle roof, a tight board floor, glass windows, and a wood stove. Gen. Thomas Patterson and Richard Wells hired James Haney to teach at twelve dollars per month by the year. The teacher had alternate Saturdays to himself, and on those days worked as a surveyor.

A school was held in 1798 in West Alexander, two years after the town was laid out by Robert Humphreys in 1796. The school continued throughout this early period.

Claysville was laid out by John Purviance in 1817. That Claysville was a place of some importance, even at this time, is inferred from the number of signatures appended to a subscription agreement made for the purpose of establishing a school and building a school house in the new town in the first year of its existence. It is not to be supposed that all the seventy-five names attached to the subscription list were residents of the new town. Many of them were probably residents of Donegal Township, but lived reasonably close to the town. Individual subscriptions are not listed, but the total amount subscribed was \$255.50. One John Stevenson was to haul the timber, while another subscriber, James Cruthen, was to furnish one shingle tree.

The first record in East Bethlehem Township from which any positive and reliable information is obtained concerning schools is the assessment roll of the year 1800, which contained the names of John Donaghoo and Peter R. Hopkins, schoolmasters. Of the latter, nothing more is known, except the fact that he taught in that year. His name is not mentioned in the assessment roll of 1801. John Donaghoo taught for several years in a log house on the farm of William Welch and later at Beallsville and at Hillsborough, now Scenery Hill. While teaching at the Welch School House, he was in the habit of walking into Brownsville, a distance of seven miles, to take lessons in grammar, algebra, and geometry, which he afterwards taught successfully. He was one of the first to introduce the "word method," of teaching the pupils words and sentences. He taught reading by the "word method," from paddles on which he printed words and sentences. He was a good scholar, an able debater, and was an ardent supporter of the free school system. There was another old school house, built in the woods at the corner of four farms in 1815 and used until 1825, when the Grove School House was erected. A log schoolhouse was erected at Fredericktown about 1810.

In 1816, a school was taught in a log house at Millsboro by George Doggs. Another very old log school house was located at the Sandy Plains Fair Grounds, and there were several other primitive school houses in different parts of the township.

Subscription schools were taught in the early years in what is now East Finley Township in the old Quaker meeting house, and in school-houses in what are known as the Jordan and Ely districts. Among the teachers who taught in these early schools were James Hunter, George Plants, Samuel England, and John Adams. The last named was in all points a specimen of the old-fashioned "school-master."

The earliest teacher in East Pike Run Township was Robert Quail, who was mentioned as a "schoolmaster" in the assessment roll of Pike Run Township for the year 1807. The schools taught here were like all the others of Washington County, taught in log houses or cabins for short terms, mostly in the winter season. Pike Run Township embraced the territory now forming East and West Pike Run.

Two of the earliest teachers in Fallowfield Township were Thomas Sutton and Joshua Pennell.

In the year 1805, a Mr. Shaw taught school in Hanover Township, but schools were not taught in this township with any regularity until after the passage of the school law of 1834.

Primitive schools, supported by subscription, were taught in Hopewell Township several years before 1800, but few particulars have been learned concerning them or the teachers employed prior to 1828. At that time, there were about four log school houses in Hopewell, one of which was located in West Middletown.

The first school building known to exist within the territory of Independence Township was built as early as, if not before, 1800. It was a log cabin, with not a nail used in the entire construction. In 1810, another log school house with oiled paper windows, was built. Another was built in 1820, followed by another one in 1830.

In Jefferson Township, a Mrs. Laird taught a school in 1795, or 1796. A school was taught in an old log cabin in 1811. The first frame school building was erected in the township in 1813; this building remained in use until the enactment of the school law in 1834.

The earliest school in Mount Pleasant Township, was taught by one Daniel Johnston, part Indian, in the year 1795. The next school house was built about the year 1797 near where Mt. Prospect Church now stands. A widow with two daughters moved into the building and taught in it for some time. During the autumn of that year, an old gentleman named Reynolds, from Cross Creek, called to pay his respects to the lady teacher. The school was dismissed for the occasion. In a few weeks, the teacher's name was changed to Mrs. Reynolds, and she moved to Cross Creek. Soon after, the house was burned by an incendiary and then replaced by a new building. Three other schools existed prior to 1800, and there is a record of schools being held until the adoption of the school law in 1834.

About 1790, a man named "Forgee" Johnson came from the East and taught a subscription school in Nottingham Township.

The first school in Peters Township was held in a log cabin in the year

1800. A little later another school house was built, and two others were constructed in 1808 and 1809.

The first schoolhouse in Robinson Township was a log building erected about 1800. The school was taught by an Irishman, John Elliott, and continued for more than ten years. From 1810 to 1813, a school was taught by Thomas Crawford and William Geary.

In Smith Township, the earliest school was taught at the close of the Revolutionary War by William Lowrie, a surveyor and a soldier of that war. Another surveyor, named Sinclair, taught some time previous to 1800. A school was taught at Burgettstown in 1798-1799 by George M. Kaif. There were eight schools in Smith Township before the year 1807.

The first school taught in Somerset Township was held in an old log dwelling house in 1798. It was taught for one year by Samuel Lawrence. Following this venture, a school was opened in another log dwelling, taught by an Irishman, Leonard Blaine. In 1801, short terms of school were held in the lower part of the township, all of them being financed by individual subscriptions. School buildings were erected in 1804, 1814, and 1827.

Although the location of the buildings is unknown, schools were taught in South Strabane Township in the early days by subscriptions.

The first school in what is now Union Township was built about the year 1800. The log building was sixteen feet square and stood on the bank of Peters Creek about half a mile above Finleyville. Other schools were built in 1808 and 1812.

The earliest known school teachers in West Bethlehem were Walter Thomson, John Donahoo, and Peter R. Hopkins, who taught in 1800. In 1805, the oldest building was a German School, which had a clapboard roof and windows made of greased paper. English schools were established in the township about 1809; before that time, all schools were taught in German. Among the first to teach in English was Walter Thomson, who had previously taught in German. Scholars came from a distance of four miles to attend his school. One of the ancient log school houses of this township was used until 1863 and was said to have been the last of its kind used for school purposes in Washington County.

The earliest known teacher within the territory which is now West Finley Township was John McDowell, a Scotchman, who taught in 1799. This school teacher and his successors were paid in rye, which was sold to the distillers.

The Washington Academy, a church school, was chartered by the Legislature in 1787. This, the first school in Washington, began operation in 1789 under the direction of Rev. Thaddeus Dodd. The twenty students met in the upper story of the log courthouse that stood on the public square fronting on Cherry Way. The Board of Trustees was made up of all the Presbyterian ministers west of the mountains.

In 1795, a tutor appeared in the city of Washington, offering to teach French at the low price of \$4.00 per quarter. In 1796, William Porter taught a day school in the schoolhouse on Wheeling Street. Another school, a brick one, was erected about 1806. Michael Law and William O'Hara were teachers listed on the assessment roll of 1807. The early history of the city of Washington reveals a number of subscription

schools established for both "ladies and gentlemen." Shortly before the adoption of the school law, it was noted by John L. Gow that about two-hundred children were enrolled in the schools. The boys and girls attended separate schools. There was one school for colored children attended by both boys and girls. With the acceptance of the school law of 1834, Washington became a regularly organized district with 354 children enrolled in the three schools.

A school was established in a log house in Monongahela City about 1800, with Mr. Tilbrook as teacher. Other schools followed. There was no organized effort to establish a uniform system of schools, other than an attempt to assess and collect a poor tax on the richer, to pay for the schooling of the poorer class of citizens. Schools were taught in several private houses. Some of the early teachers were a Mrs. McKeever, Edward Tower, a Mr. Victor, Orlando H. Gold, Joseph Grieves, and Moses Arthurs. About 1834, E. A. Talbot opened a school, and a Miss Clarke and a Mr. Watson kept school in an old house. No school house was erected prior to the adoption of the public school law of 1834.

The first mention of a subscription school in Canonsburg, not directly connected with the Log College of Dr. John McMillan, is found in 1811. In January of that year, the Rev. D. D. Graham advertised to open "a series of instructions on the study of rhetoric and belles-letters, comprehending the science of philology." In the year 1816, a brick school house was erected on Water Street. Little is known of the school except that it was in operation for many years. The history of the schools of Canonsburg, after the passage of the school law in 1834, is identical with that of Chartiers Township.

It would be a mistake to assume that a system of education in Pennsylvania began with the Free School Act of 1834. Historians estimate that before this Act was passed, there were more than four thousand school houses in the state, built by volunteer contributions in their respective neighborhoods. So uniform and republican in principle were these schools, that in 1834, it required only a legislative act to systematize and unify what had been adopted as an educational policy by thousands of communities all over the state.