

**THE HISTORY OF  
APPOMATTOX COUNTY  
SCHOOLS**

**1870 - 1991**

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**Dedicated to Lloyd and Shirley Walton  
who have given untiringly of their  
time and talents in service  
to the schools, to the youths, and to the citizens  
of Appomattox County**



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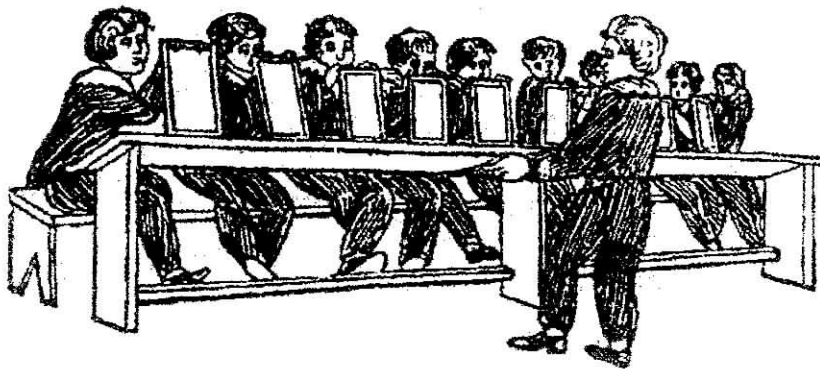
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# HISTORY OF APPOMATTOX COUNTY SCHOOLS

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## **APPOMATTOX COUNTY HISTORY OF DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION EARLY SCHOOLS**

Virginia's first schools were established to aid the colony's sizable group of orphaned and needy children, and to supplement the rudimentary educational provisions of the apprenticeship legislation.

A short-lived "free school" was established in Charles City in 1620, primarily because of the efforts of Patrick Copeland, a ship's captain.

A second "free school," believed to be the first effective provision for free education in America was established in 1634 in Elizabeth City County (now the city of Hampton).

In 1671 Governor Berkeley remarked, "*I thank God, that there are no free schools in Virginia*", but in fact, several free schools were being operated in the colony as a result of endowments.

### **COMMUNITY PRIVATE SCHOOLS DURING COLONIAL PERIOD**

Often known as "*old field*" schools, cooperative ventures among neighbors were considered local, private, free-enterprise operations. Planters, merchants, and other well-to-do people employed private tutors for their children. Grammar schools and academies constituted the other principal types of early schools in Virginia.

Primarily private secondary schools often included elementary and college level programs.

In 1693 the College of William and Mary became the Center for Higher Education. The pattern established by Virginia's early schools continued to 1860 with few major changes. Free schools, aided after 1820 by the Literacy Fund were charity institutions.

### **JEFFERSON'S PLAN FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION**

Thomas Jefferson held that public education was vital to democratic government. In a letter to George Washington he stated: "It is an axiom in my mind that our liberty can never be safe except in the hands of the people themselves and that too with the people of a certain degree of instruction"

In 1779 Jefferson introduced in the legislature "*A BILL FOR THE MORE GENERAL DIFFUSION OF KNOWLEDGE.*" The proposal called for a vertical state system of elementary schools, secondary schools, and colleges, crowned by a state university. All white boys and girls would attend free elementary schools for 3 years of 10 months each. Such schools would be located in each ward or "hundred" of every county and would be supported by local taxation. The most able students who completed elementary school would be selected to attend a secondary school at public expense. Outstanding boys who completed the secondary program could continue for 3 years in one of 9 colleges. Boys not selected for education at public expense could continue their schooling if their parents bore the cost.

The legislature enacted portions of the law, including a clause providing for election of local aldermen, to initiate the plan in each county. However, county courts were made responsible for holding elections of aldermen, and this they failed to do in every instance.

In 1796 the legislature established a system of primary schools as outlined by Jefferson. Again, however, the county courts were required to take the first steps. Of the outcome, Jefferson said in 1816:

*The experience of twenty years has proved that no court will ever begin it. The reason is obvious. The members of the court are the wealthy members of the counties, and as the expenses of the schools are to be defrayed by contributions proportioned to the aggregate of other taxes which everyone pays, they consider it a plan to educate the poor at the expense of the rich.*

Jefferson was to achieve only part of his plan—that of founding the state university. For nearly half a century he attempted to establish a state public school system. The failure of his efforts was partly due to the fact that too much was left to local initiative with too little centralization of authority at the state level. Probably this was a result of Jefferson's well-known distrust of a strong central government.



## THE UNDERWOOD CONSTITUTION OF 1869

A state public school system, differing in detail but similar in spirit to one first proposed by Jefferson a century earlier, was established with ratification of the Underwood Constitution in 1869. Concerns include:

- \*Vigorous opposition was aroused which centered on the provisions of establishing a public school system.
- \*Many felt that the cost of a public school system was an unwarranted, unrealistic, and probably unbearable financial burden.
- \*Provisions were made for a state superintendent of public instruction to be elected by the General Assembly and a State Board of Education consisting of the governor, attorney general, and chief state school officer.
- \*The State Board of Education would have authority to appoint and to remove county superintendents and district school trustees, to manage school funds, and to regulate all matters involving administration of the school system.

### BEGINNING OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

William H. Ruffner became the first state superintendent of public instruction. He was given 30 days to submit a plan for the organization of the state's public school system. With few modifications the plan was approved by the legislature on July 11, 1870. Public schools were opened in all counties in November 1870. At the close of the school year, 130,000 pupils were attending 2,900 schools, with 3,000 teachers.

### CONSTITUTION OF 1902

The new state constitution, ratified to become effective in 1902, gave a mandate for public education by providing that *"the General Assembly of Virginia shall establish and maintain an efficient system of public free schools throughout the State."* Retaining the existing structure of public education, the Board Of Education was expanded to include three experienced educators and two division superintendents. The State Board was further authorized to divide the state into school divisions, each to contain not less than one county or city.

### DEVELOPMENT OF HIGH SCHOOLS

Before 1900 opportunities for high school education were limited. James W. Southall was appointed State Superintendent in 1898 and urged the establishment of more county or district high schools. An act passed at the extra session of the General Assembly in 1903 reaffirmed the 1875 law providing for secondary education under regulations prescribed by the State Board of Education. A fee, not exceeding \$2.50 per month per child could be required.

The State Board established minimum requirements for the course of study and for teachers in high school in 1904. A comprehensive program of high school accreditation began in 1912 when the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools established a Virginia Commission on Accredited Schools.

### APPOMATTOX COUNTY SCHOOLS -BEGINNINGS

1871	WHITE SCHOOLS	COLORED SCHOOLS	NO. MONTHS TAUGHT	WHITE * TEACHERS	COLORED** TEACHERS
Stonewall	4	2	5	5	2
Southside	5	1	5	5	1
Clover Hill	4	3	5	4	2

\*7 male and 6 female

\*\*all male

	MONTHLY SALARIES		ENROLLED	
	MALE	FEMALE	WHITE	COLORED
Stonewall	\$23.23	\$15.48	166	88
Southside	\$29.06	\$19.00	197	43
Clover Hill	\$22.97	\$25.00	144	221

	AVERAGE ATTENDANCE		%OF SCHOOL POPULATION ENROLLED	
	WHITE	COLORED	WHITE	COLORED
Stonewall	110	64	41	21
Southside	122	32	45	10
Clover Hill	82	123	24	32

#### 1872 DEVELOPMENTS

The following statements from the Appomattox County Superintendent were included in the Second Annual Report of the State Superintendent:

- *"We expect to commence, this year, the erection of school houses, but this must necessarily be a matter of slow growth."*
- *"No litigation has grown out of taxation for schools."*
- *"No public school property destroyed by violence."*

#### APPOMATTOX COUNTY 1872-73 — FAMILY SCHOOLS

Union Academy, Spout Spring, Virginia

C.H. Chilton

Organized 1860, Elementary

1 Teacher

25 male and female students

Operation --4 months per year

Tuition per month --\$3.00

End of session--February 28<sup>th</sup>

Midway, Tower Hill, Virginia

Miss Ida Walton Jones

Organized 1871, Elementary

20 male and female students

Walker's Church

Miss L. Harris

Organized 1872 — High School

18 pupils

Operation — 5 months per year

#### APPOMATTOX COUNTY 1907-1908

NO. SCHOOLS	NO. BRICK	NO. FRAME	NO. WITH OUTHouses
48	1	47	10
NO. WITH SUITABLE GROUNDS	NO. WITH GOOD FURNITURE	NO. ROOMS IN ALL	
48	34	67	
NO. BUILT DURING YEAR			
5			

#### 1907-1908 —EXPENDITURES, BALANCES AND DEBTS

	FUNDS ON HAND AT END OF YEAR	GRAND TOTAL
Clover Hill	\$775.18	\$10,185.85
Southside	\$846.04	\$ 6,943.59
Stonewall	\$88.25	\$ 5,165.00

**SCHOOLS IN 1918-1920****One Room Schools**

White ----19

Colored----7

**Total Salaries for One Room School Teachers**

White-----\$4,900

Colored-----\$1,263

**Total Salaries for Two Room School Teachers**

White-----\$1,122

Colored-----\$ 420

**Enrollment in One Room Schools**

White-----530

Colored----- 59

**Term in Days --One Room Schools**

White-----126

Colored-----128

**West Appomattox High School — Early 1900's****Two Room Schools**

White-----2

Colored----1

**Enrollment in Two Room Schools**

White ----307

Colored---125

**Term in Days—Two Room Schools**

White-----136

Colored---120

**PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN 1925-1926**

SCHOOL	GRADES	ENROLLMENT
Buck Creek	1-7	26
Buck Hollow	1-7	52
Chilton	1-7	16
Evergreen	1-7	39
Gold Hill	1-7	25
Hardy	1-7	13
Harmony	1-7	29
Hixburg	1-7	45
Hollywood	1-7	17
Airy Hill	1-7	26
Appomattox High & Elementary	1-11	
Beckham	1-7	27
Bethlehem	(No information available)	
Hollywood	1-4	40
James River	1-7	25
Liberty Chapel	1-9	76
Martin Field	1-7	36
Mt. Comfort	1-7	26
Mt. Zion	1-7	20
Oakville	1-7	105
Pamplin High	1-11	
Petty's Fork	1-7	27
Piney Ridge	1-7	29
Rocks	1-7	25
Spout Spring	1-11	109
Stonewall	1-11	66
Vera	1-11	118
Wesley Chapel	1-7	19
Wheeler	1-7	22
Woodland	1-7	31
School term length----4 months and 2 weeks (90 days)		

# **SCHOOLS FOR COLORED CHILDREN**

Canaan-----28 students-----grades 1-7  
Morning Star -----37 students-----grades 1-7  
Roadside-----49 and 32 students(2 classes)-grades 1-7  
Appomattox -----65 students-----grades 1-4  
-----26 students-----grades 5-7  
Chap-----38 students-----grades 1-7  
Promise Land-----42 students-----grades 1-7  
Spout Spring-----14 and 21 students(2 classes)-grades 1-7

(Husband and wife teachers)

Stonewall -----61 students-----grades 1-7  
Agee-----60 students-----grades 1-7  
Lymus Harvey -----61 and 21 students (2 classes)-----grades 1-7  
Ironhill-----36 students-----grades 1-7  
Jordon-----20 students-----grades 1-7  
McCoy-----30 students-----grades 1-7

(Elwood Christian, age 12 was a student in this school)

Mt. Airy-----36 students-----grades 1-7

Other notes: Salary --\$411 per year at Elementary level to \$980 at high school level

## **PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN 1940-1941**

Appomattox High & Elementary

Evergreen

Liberty Chapel

Oakville

Pamplin High & Elementary

Petty's Fork

Spout Spring

Stonewall

Vera

Woodland

Agee

Bethlehem

Brown's

Cannan

Carver Elementary and High

Hixburg

Morning Star

Roadside

Spout Spring

Stonewall

## **PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN 1950-1951**

Appomattox High & Elementary

Vera

Pamplin High & Elementary

Evergreen

Spout Spring

Stonewall

Oakville

Cannan

Carver High & Elementary

Spout Spring

Stonewall

Mt. Airy

Roadside



**Buck Creek School in 1891**



**Oakville School — 1906**

**PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN 1960-1961**

Appomattox High  
Appomattox Elementary  
Pamplin Elementary  
Oakville  
Spout Spring  
Vera  
Evergreen  
Carver Price High & Elementary  
Stonewall Elementary  
Mt. Airy Elementary

**PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN 1971-1972**

Pamplin Elementary  
Appomattox Elementary  
Appomattox County High  
Appomattox Intermediate

**PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN 1973-1974**

Appomattox Elementary  
Appomattox Intermediate  
Appomattox County High  
Pamplin Elementary  
First Kindergarten Program (Housed at Pamplin and Oakville)

**PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN 1974-1975**

Appomattox Primary (Included Kindergarten)  
Appomattox Elementary  
Appomattox Middle  
Appomattox County High  
Pamplin Elementary (Included Kindergarten)

**PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN 1980-1981**

Appomattox Primary  
Appomattox Elementary  
Appomattox Middle  
Appomattox County High  
Pamplin Elementary

**PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN 1981-1982**

Appomattox Primary  
Appomattox Elementary  
Appomattox Middle  
Appomattox County High



**Buck Creek School**  
Picture made around 1920



**Buck Creek Students**

**THE ROOTS OF EDUCATION IN VIRGINIA**  
From notes at the Education State Library

John Hammond Moore, an author of several Virginia books, wrote in his Profile of a Mid-nineteenth Century Community these first lines,

"Except for a few weeks in April 1865, Appomattox played virtually no role in Virginia history. Only the end of the most dramatic episode in our national life--secession, war, defeat and peace set it apart from scores of other little villages . . . etc."

How wrong! If Mr. Moore had familiarized himself with the progressive activities taking place in Appomattox, he might have moderated the above quote. For example, the educational pioneering efforts in Appomattox, more than other areas of the state, were known throughout Virginia, before the War between the States for its number of boarding schools, private schools, home teaching, community tutors and field schools. All of these were initiated before the 1869 Virginia Assembly's idea of free education.

The idea of public education did not gain ground in larger cities and towns because elite classes looked upon it as meant for paupers and poorer citizens whom they resented. In Appomattox and near by counties, a number of families had children taught in local homes or field schools without regard to how much wealth one had or didn't have. Even though Mr. Moore stated that money was begrudgingly spent on the education of deserving paupers, where on earth did Mr. Moore find such written information to apply to our area?

He named only two academies in our area during this period. If his study had included all schools, including home tutoring and field schools, and a review of family records and families' letters, his evaluation would have been different.

Before 1780 in Buckingham County, in the area that later became Appomattox, was an old field school run by the great aunts of the late Jessie M. Hurt located near Hurtsville, Virginia. According to a letter and notes written by Mrs. Fanny Gills in 1930, more than 150 children attended this Hurt's Field School over a period of twenty-five years. The children were taught by Jessie's two great aunts and his great-grandmother. At one time the school was called the Barn School and later the Hurt's Field School. It was located near the old Hannah place between Chestnut Grove and Hurtsville.

Details of earlier schools can be found in a book published by Stuart McDearmon Farrar in 1989. This is a book that should be on every Appomattox home library shelf or table. The author states that this book is not a written history but a Source Book. It contains valuable historical information that he wishes to preserve. The facts are outstanding from 1824 to 1861. Farrar's efforts are greatly appreciated for producing an excellent and valuable book entitled, Historical Notes on Appomattox County.

As early as 1762, there was a school near Hixburg, Virginia (a part of Prince Edward before 1845) not too far from Walker's Presbyterian Church. Located on the Woodson's Estate, it is thought to be the first school in this area. The teacher was Mary Elizabeth Woodson, the daughter of Obadiah Woodson. Other academies and schools were:

- \*\*\*The Union Academy near Walker's Church (Presbyterian), 1838--for young boys
- \*\*\*The Oak Grove Academy, 1835, located near the New Hope Community --Buckingham County before 1845
- \*\*\*The Reedy Springs Academy--near Spout Spring, 1840
- \*\*\*The Concord Female Seminary--near Concord, Virginia, 1840
- \*\*\*The Union Female School--Spout Spring, 1854

Mary Ann J. Dickerson provided home teaching for community children from 1858 through 1872 near Wesley Chapel Church. Hannah Home tutoring was offered for several years around 1850 near Hurtsville, Virginia. Instruction was given at the Trent Home on old Hixburg Road around 1840 for family and neighbor's children. At the Robertson Home, 1860, located on old Hunter Road west of present day Appomattox, educational experiences were provided for family and neighbors. The Sweeney Home School, 1850-1860, located near Old Appomattox Court House, instructed family and community children. In 1845 tutors worked for several families in the West Home which was located near Clover Hill Village.



The Carson Home Tutoring School, 1850, was open for the following families: Carsons, Legrandes, Whites and Petersons. It was located near present day Hebron Church. Teachers were Misses Elsie and Katie Marshall of Bedford County. Walker children of Laurel Hill, 1830, were also tutored by the Misses Marshall of Bedford.

The Webb Family children, not too far from Hollywood Baptist Church were tutored by Mildred Jane Adams Webb, 1820. During the period of 1850's Rev. John C. Hamner was a tutor for eight years in the Legrande Home, located on old Hixburg Road.

Local historians and county records reveal that the first public school in Appomattox County was opened in 1869 in a log cabin near the present day Appomattox National Park. J. H. Featherston was the first teacher.

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**HISTORY OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF APPOMATTOX**  
**BY: REV. J. B. BRISTOW, SUPERINTENDENT**  
**WRITTEN IN 1885**

Appomattox has a brief history, having been formed from the historic counties of Charlotte, Prince Edward, Buckingham and Campbell, in 1845. Organized but a short period before the civil war, education received but a limited share of public attention prior to that eventful period.

As far as can be ascertained there was small provision made by a scanty levy to be appropriated by the justices of the county upon a certificate of absolute indigence of parents and children.

When, in 1870, the war had passed, the Underwood Constitution adopted, and the Legislature, in pursuance of the requirements of that instrument, had established a system of free public schools for Virginia, this county made arrangements to build, rent and occupy a small number of very primitive school houses. Three exceptions must be made to the above statement. The Christian people of the upper portion of the county had united to build houses and establish a male and female academy at Spout Spring, prior to the war, and the Baptist had built an excellent house, suited to school and church purposes, at Reedy Springs. These buildings were readily turned over to the free use of the public schools, and the earliest schools were started at these places.

The number of schools in 1872 (the earliest report in this office) was 21 (12 white and 9 colored), with an enrollment of 544 white and 439 colored students, and an average attendance of 325 whites and 241 colored. The money received from the state this year was \$2,995.95, from county funds nothing, and from district funds \$272.85. The value of school property owned by the district was \$145.96. The County Superintendent, in his annual report for 1872, refers to "amount borrowed on faith election of 1871," which to me is unintelligible. From this small beginning the schools seemed to increase in number, grow in enrollment and attendance, and advance in means and efficiency up to the year 1877, when we discover a general decline to a point even below the meager beginnings.

The causes leading to this disastrous result are known to the public in the history of the political parties and measures which diverted the funds, perverted the schools, and averted public sentiment, which had begun to flow toward free education in Virginia.

It is but proper for me to say that a current report and the official utterances of the Superintendents unite in testifying to the zeal, faithfulness and loyalty of our County Superintendent, Captain Chapman H. Chilton, during these years of origin, progress, and decline and darkness of the schools.

There has always been a strong sentiment against public schools among some of the wealthier classes of our citizens which together with those under their influence from among the other classes, prevented as hearty support of the system as was desired by the officials in charge.

We find frequently that the supervisors failed to levy anything for the pay of teachers, and small percent for the districts to build houses and furnish other requisites. The schools had decreased to so few; the teachers had been so poorly and irregularly paid, and public opinion

had become so pronounced against the schools, that in 1879 and 1880, when the proper funds again were appropriated to the schools, it was hard to find places, pupils and friends for the schools. Private schools were supported by some, and those who could not pay could not go.

As in most cases, however, when a person or an institution gets means the schools grew in favor when the fostering acts of more friendly legislators, who gave them the money they were entitled to.

Our schools are more than double the number not (1885) than in 1872. The funds from the county amount to nearly \$800, against nothing in 1872, and for district purposes we have nearly \$1,500 against \$1,038 in 1872.

I cannot doubt, from personal observation, from expressions heard in my intercourse with the people, and from declarations reported that even now our public school system has numerous and influential opposers. Nevertheless, I believe that the poverty of a large number of our people compels them to acquiesce in this means of educating their children, though they have no special love for the system and less information concerning the principles that underlie this great popular institution. Necessity seems to be the only apology which the public generally gives to the free schools for an existence. This is too bad, but long ways better than death, diversion and desertion in 1880.

The houses in which our schools were permitted to live in the earlier years of their existence were, with few exceptions (some already mentioned), poor, unhealthy, uncomfortable, and uncomplimentary. The present Superintendent has been to visit schools in old log cabins, without a single pane of glass or sash to put it in; with no stove, but a fireplace in one end, with holes on each side of it large enough to admit a cat in full run. Some were taught by white teachers for white children in just such buildings. The trustees seemed to be ignorant of this condition of things, and were aroused to their duty only when the Superintendent refused to open the schools the next year unless better accommodations were afforded. I think that as a rule the colored schools had as good quarters during these dark days as the white. There were not then (and are not now quite) as many schools for colored children as for white, in proportion to the population of each.

It is not congenial to me to say these things. I take no pleasure in recording such facts, and the student of history will take no pleasure in reading the record, but as I am writing history, I am obliged to conform to the truth. Born in the days of poverty, living in the hired houses of neglect, and enjoying only a forced and scanty sympathy from the public, is it any wonder that schools grew as slowly as they did? The people who went to these schools did not live in very grand style, but those entrusted with the management of their schools were usually comfortable. It may be proper to say in this connection that our trustees argue that they were educated in such houses, and they were as good as the children of this generation. I say nothing as to the right or wrong of the matter. These things are so. Our fathers did nobly with such advantages as they had, but the world moves, and it is quite as relevant to say that because our fathers used to cut grain with a reap-hook, the reap-hook is as good an implement as our children should have.

It is within the reach of my duty to say something of the management of the funds, houses and lots of our schools as they begin to acquire these things for themselves. In this county the schools seem to have been tolerably well located when permanent homes were given them.

Some mistakes were made - some of these irremediable; either could have been corrected. Little care was taken in some cases to secure good water and the right of way to it. Some houses were built on land with no sufficient title, and the public schools suffered consequent loss of money. In some instances good houses were built on lots, paid for, and no deed secured. Trouble and loss followed.

Nearly all the schools which are located permanently have good titles to their present surroundings. These difficulties have had their educational advantages, and have certainly as good apology for their existence as the poor houses once occupied, as our fathers sometimes built on lands of uncertain titles. The surroundings and grounds of our schools are a part of their history, as these things will be a matter of interest in the future. Nature gave us a poor soil,

as rule, in Appomattox, and we did not improve it much and so our schools live on poor soil, with a few stunted forests or field trees, as the case may be. In no known case has a tree been transplanted, groves improved, or a walk laid out. The fires of accident and carelessness have been prevented, in some instances, from destroying the school houses with the sedge fields by neighbors with plows and pine bushes. No attention has as yet been paid of looks, if much to books. Economy has not been anymore consulted than taste, for paint is a stranger to every school house, save and except the Academies above mentioned.

The houses constructed have been generally of planks, and of moderate size, with too little attention to light and ventilation. A system with friends, funds and furniture, without teachers, would not be very efficient as a schooling or educational expedient. Our teachers in the public schools have been fully up to the average of teachers under former systems. In an overwhelming majority of cases they have been the same men and women. In the early history of our schools, they have nearly all males as teachers; in later years they have as great a preponderance of females. The philosopher might have in this statement ground for a remark. The historian may take the privilege of saying, the Creator has largely endowed women for this work, and committed it to the gentle hands in its primary aspects, and wisdom seems to lie in the direction of our acquiescence. Our teachers, as far as their reputations have come down to us, were faithful and capable and moderately successful, judged by results. Some of them were learned and pious. These gave tone and taste to many of the struggling schools. At times they were rigid - the report says severe. The rod was and is used to some extent. Perhaps to a greater extent and advantage was it used more formerly than now. As the school regulations have been better understood and more generally obeyed, our teachers have had less occasion for corporal punishment. Largely over 150 teachers have been examined since 1878 (the records have not been preserved prior to that date), and in the majority of cases the applicants have had schools. The present Superintendent has kept records of the names of all teachers, and the schools to which they were assigned, but to give the names and a sketch of all should be more tedious, require more space and consume more time than deemed advisable. Captains R. H. Branch and T. J. Hardy seem to have been the earliest and most efficient teachers of the school among the males, while Misses Agnes Thomas, J. W. Jones, and Dilly Snapp were the leading females of the early school teachers. Where such leading spirits were supported by a corps of as able coadjutors as are enrolled on the registers of our schools, we may reasonably expect some advance in the work. It is so. Progress was made. The success of our schools is to be attributed largely to the personal influences and character of the teachers employed. If men did not love the system, they loved the money it gave their friends, and these noble teachers used them to build on for the good of popular education.

At the beginning of the school system in our county, our efficient County Superintendent, Captain C. H. Chilton, organized a County Teachers' Institute, which met, under a constitution and bylaws adopted by the society for instruction in pedagogics, regularly every month. The promoter of all schoolwork found here a wide and inviting field. Captain Chilton did a good work in this direction. Gradually he lessened the number of meetings, until an annual Institute was all that necessity seemed to him to require. Textbooks were regularly studied and recited in these teachers' meetings, in connection with recitations on theory and practice of teaching. Young teachers found aid and stimulus to their work. The more experienced became more deeply impressed with the dignity, importance and responsibility of their vocation. None but madmen and fools could ever aim to suppress such a helpful institution and adjunct to our admirable system of free education.

The books used, for want of means to purchase, and owing to lack of uniformity at first, were of every grade, degree and merit. Some schools used Smith's grammar (not so bad after all), and some used Pike's arithmetic, or one as old. But as time advanced, our schools, in a lively degree, fell into the line of progress on the book question, and the most approved books were introduced, and are now in use.

Free books for free schools are coming a necessity.

The trustees of schools in our county have embraced in their numbers the wisest, best and most sacrificing spirits of the citizens. Had they been paid, it would not have been said, as it



was, that the only pay a trustee got was the privilege of locating a schoolhouse convenient to himself and his neighbors.

Some of our people yet believe that public schools are an expensive machinery, forced on us, and to be used on as a thing to get money out of. May God and good men help us to see it as it is - the grand hopes of our loved Virginia and the future:

Summary

Funds from 1871 -72 to 1877 -----decreased.

Schools from 1871-72 to 1877-----decreased.

Public opinion from 1871-72 to 1877 -----improved.

Then again, from 1878-79, we improved, in all directions. Houses have increased in numbers and improved in character. Teachers are better supported, and a younger class coming up on the rostrum is better equipped. Trustees---well, politics must answer.

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An Excerpt from Historic Appomattox, A History and Geography Supplement for Use in the  
Schools of Appomattox County, Virginia, 1933  
Written by J. A. Burke, Superintendent

**Chapter Four on Education**

Among the chief duties of any government is the education of its future citizens. Even before the event of the public school system in Virginia, Appomattox turned to education as the avenue to future progress. Home tutors and privately operated academies functioned effectively and the war against ignorance was waged along many lines.

Among the best known academies in the county were the two, one for boys and one for girls, at Spout Spring.

The first public school in Appomattox County was located near the Old Court House. It opened about 1870 with J. H. Featherston as teacher. Some of his pupils were: W. P. Gills, Jerry Sears, Tom Turnes, J. W. McKinney, W. H. Morgan, C. M. Ragland, L. E. Smith, and Luther Martin.

The first public school in the town of Appomattox was located at the site of the present residence of T. W. Moses.

The first superintendent of schools in the county was Chap H. Chilton, who served from 1871 to 1885. Rev. J. B. Bristow served as superintendent from 1885 to about 1896. Then Mr. Chilton returned to office and served until succeeded by J. K. Hanner, who was followed July 1, 1913, by N. R. Featherston. J. A. Burke became superintendent August 1, 1926.

The growth and development of the present splendid school system has largely been due to the skill of these men, together with the support of fine school boards and the liberality and support of the public.

The present school board of the county is composed of: E. LeRoy Smith, T. J. Ligon, and J. O. Davidson.

In the early days of the public school system, the one teacher, one room school was the criterion. Many of these schools were started over the county and they were within walking distance of most homes. Then when the high school developed as a popular movement, each community wanted a high school for its students. However, the tendency grew towards a few efficient high schools and grade schools rather than many small schools, unable to meet requirements to be state accredited schools. This change was known as the "school consolidation" movement and resulted in the county having two large fully accredited high schools. Appomattox and Pamplin and two junior high schools at Oakville and Liberty Chapel.

There are now nine other white grade schools in the county located at: Spout Spring, Stonewall, Evergreen, Vera, Woodlawn, Pentecost, Mt. Comfort, Buck Hollow, and Petty's Fork.

In addition to the Colored Training School at Appomattox, there are the following colored grade schools in Appomattox County: Spout Spring, Stonewall, Agee, Roadside, Morning Star, Canaan, Chap, Beckham, Bethlehem, Browns, Iron Hill, Jordan Highway, Promise Land, Hixburg, and Mt. Airy. There are 20 teachers in these 16 colored schools.

In the 1932 session, there were 413 high school pupils in the county, divided as follows: 164 white boys, 224 white girls, 11 colored boys, and 14 colored girls.

At the same session there were 1922 grade pupils, divided as follows: 633 white boys, 609 white girls, 341 colored boys, and 349 colored girls.

There were in 1932, 46 white teachers and 19 colored teachers, one white supervisor and one colored supervisor, and seven principals.

With the growth of the consolidation program, a system of modern school bus transportation has grown up. In 1931, an average of 877 pupils traveled to school each day by school bus. Thirty such buses were operated at an average daily cost per pupil of only about ten cents. This system has nearly 40% enrollment hauled by buses, enabling the county to save thousands of dollars which would have been needed to maintain the smaller one-room local schools with only a few pupils each. It has also given pupils the benefit of better and more efficient instruction and equipment.

In 1931-32, it cost Appomattox County a total of \$96,001.27 to operate its school system, a slightly increased figure due to approximately \$13,672 spent on new buildings and \$1629.90 on repairs and equipment. In 1930-31 the total cost was \$87,195.20. Of this total, \$47,592.59 went for teachers' salaries. The school tax is \$1.00. The cost per high school pupil for the county was \$45.71 and \$17.69 per grade pupil for white children and \$27.00 per colored high school pupil and \$13.00 per colored grade pupil.

The teacher is the most important factor in any system besides the pupils themselves. Appomattox has well-trained teachers, holding high ranking certificates. In addition to Professor L. Crawley, who has served 23 years as the efficient principal of the Appomattox High School, it is interesting to note the careers of two of the county's most esteemed teachers, Miss Eddie Hardy and Miss Dean Johns. These two teachers have a combined service, counting the 1932-33 session, of 106 years.

"Miss Eddie" began teaching at the old "Hardy" school near Pamplin at a salary of \$15 per month, fifty-four years ago. She then taught at the LeGrand school and came to Appomattox in 1891. It is estimated that she has taught over 2000 pupils.

Miss Dean Johns has taught for 22 years in Virginia and 30 years elsewhere. She started her school career at Stonewall, 52 years ago. While there she taught J. R. Horsley.

The study of agriculture was introduced into the county schools with the establishment of the Appomattox Agricultural High School. This was one of the first and largest agricultural high school in Virginia. Professor R. W. Wilkins is the county's agricultural instructor. In 1917 the old agricultural department was replaced by the Smith—Hughes department.

Two active chapters of the Future Farmers of America have been functioning for several years, one at Appomattox and the other at Pamplin.

Home economics has also been introduced at the Appomattox and Pamplin schools with Miss Jane Abbitt as instructor for the 1932-33 session.

Health of pupils comprises one of the most important activities of modern systems. In 1931, there were 322 "5-point" pupils in the county. Five-point pupils are those normal in hearing, eyesight, throat condition, weight, and teeth.

It is estimated that public school buildings and sites in Appomattox County are worth approximately \$100,000.00, with equipment valued at \$16,000.00 at present reduced valuation.

Much might be written in connection with the remarkable advancement of public schools in the county and the details of the recent system. However, in a work of this kind, we have attempted to trace the growth of the system and give some major facts of its current activity.

Each pupil bears a responsibility in connection with the educational system. Our parents have spent thousands of dollars in money and long years of work and planning to give us the opportunity to master the arts of life. They have placed at our disposal fine buildings, trained teachers, free transportation, good libraries, athletic activity, leadership, and all the benefits of modern knowledge. They have sacrificed to give us a chance many of them never had.

The spirit of Appomattox is a worthy tradition and the school boy and girl of today will measure up to its finest and noblest interpretation by applying himself or herself to the full use of that great heritage, The Public School.

**A VIEW OF THE SCHOOL SYSTEM  
AS STUDENT AND EMPLOYEE  
BY: LLOYD G. WALTON**

September 1942 was the beginning of an educational career that brought excitement, development, progress, satisfaction and rewards to an Appomattox native, Lloyd G. Walton.

The school year of 1942 was my first year at Oakville Elementary School. It was a good year getting to know other students and experiencing the kindness, attention, instruction and excitement of learning which was provided by a young comely teacher, Miss Marie Owens. The year was so great and my childhood love for Miss Owens was so real that I did not attend school on the last day of the session because I didn't want to say a good-bye to her.

At this time, I didn't have much knowledge of the Appomattox County Schools. My interest was in the first grade at Oakville School. At the time the school had four rooms, seven grades and four teachers—Miss Marie Owens, Mrs. Ella Gordon, Mrs. Lou Rogers, and Miss Pearl L. Henry. Students were transported by school buses, and the driver of our bus was Mr. Walter Phelps. Even though we lived only five miles from Oakville, the bus ride one way was 15-20 miles. Neither rain, snow, nor frigid cold kept us from walking from our home to the main road (approximately 1/4 mile) to wait for the bus. Our day on the bus began at 8:00 a.m. and ended around 4:00 p.m., a long day for a first grader.

Oakville Elementary was similar to other elementary schools in the county. There were no indoor plumbing and no central heating system. Drinking water was obtained for the school from Mr. Emmett Martin's store on the opposite side of Route 26. Two students, rotating daily, from the upper grades were generally given the responsibility to keep an adequate supply of water in the school.

The classroom heat was from a stove located in the center of the room, and wood was the source of fuel. Truck loads of wood were delivered to the school and students in the upper grades were given the responsibility to split the wood and to keep a good supply stored in the hallway. Fires were started in the stoves each morning with students giving a helping hand.

Compared to the school curriculum at the beginning of the twenty-first century, the curriculum in 1942-43 emphasized reading, writing, and arithmetic. Virginia history was an important subject in the fourth grade and world geography in the fifth. A publication that was an aid to the curriculum and one that we enjoyed each week was the *Weekly Reader*. This publication took us outside the classroom and introduced us to the world and students in other places.

School continued to be exciting for me through the elementary years and especially in grades six and seven. Miss Owens, who left Oakville after teaching first grade to work in the war industry returned after World War II to teaching. Students, who had begun their school career with this energetic and masterful teacher in the first grade, were happy to have her guide their learning and development as they completed elementary school.

During my years in the Appomattox schools from 1942 to graduation in 1954, there was a dual system. Black and white children went to separate schools and were transported on separate buses. Although I did not know it at the time, records later revealed to me that there was a great disparity between the schools for black and white children. Expenditures for education were minimal for all children, but support for education of black children was much less than for white children. This blight of our society was not corrected until all schools in the county were integrated in January 1969.

In September 1949, my world was greatly expanded as I entered Appomattox High School. New students and six classes per day with a different teacher for each required much adjustment and rapid maturing. We were no longer the sheltered group under one teacher but teenagers who were expected and required to accept additional responsibilities and to become more independent learners. It was a successful year because of the great teachers who made learning exciting and challenging.

There is no way for me to measure or express the positive influence the following teachers had upon my life during high school: Mr. Henry Pack, Mrs. Gertrude Morris, Mrs. Carrie



Gilbert, Mr. John Hudson, Mr. Gordon Bragg, Mrs. Mary Taylor, Miss Harriett Holley, Mrs. Frances Cheatham, and Mrs. Louise Bergman Phelps.

The curriculum was challenging and comprehensive in the fifties. English, math, the sciences, social studies, health and physical education, foreign languages, music, business and vocational subjects were sufficient to prepare the serious minded and successful student for college.

Leadership development was an important part of the curriculum. Becoming active in vocational agriculture and FFA, I had opportunities to learn how to conduct meetings, how to speak before a group, and how to be an effective committee member. By my senior year I had participated in local, regional, and state public speaking contests and served as an officer in local and regional FFA (Future Farmers of America) organization. With this experience and self-confidence, my classmates elected me to serve as president of the Student Cooperative Association (SCA) during my senior year. Following high school graduation in June 1954 and looking forward to becoming a student at Virginia Tech in the fall, I was elected to serve during 1954-55 as secretary of the state organization of Future Farmers of America.

On July 1, 1958, I began my teaching career in Pittsylvania County. After teaching vocational agriculture at Dan River High School for four years, I became assistant principal of the school. One year later I became the first principal of Dan River Elementary School and went on from there to serve the county school system as elementary supervisor, director of several federal programs and assistant superintendent for instruction.

After working in the school system for fifteen years in Pittsylvania, my wife and two daughters moved to Appomattox County where I became superintendent on July 1, 1973.

During 1973-74 students of the county attended Appomattox Elementary School, located on Ferguson Street; Appomattox Intermediate School, located on Confederate Boulevard; Appomattox County High School, located on Church Street; and Pamplin Elementary School, located in the town of Pamplin.

By 1973 the State Board of Education was strongly recommending that local school divisions organize formal educational programs for five year old children. The General Assembly had appropriated funds to provide the same support for kindergarten students as for students in grades one through 12. For several years prior to 1973 teacher training institutions had been retraining experienced teachers and offering a degree program in early childhood education for those persons interested in working with five year old children. Therefore, in 1973 Appomattox County Schools had a sufficient number of trained and qualified teachers to implement a kindergarten program.

To bring as many as 100 additional students into the school system would require adequate and appropriate facilities. The present facilities were overcrowded with the present enrollment. Therefore, to provide housing for a kindergarten program created a challenge. After evaluating many options, the school board decided in July 1973, to reopen the Oakville School as an annex of Appomattox Elementary School.

From July through August, the principal of AES, central office personnel, teachers and parent volunteers worked to get equipment and materials in place, to identify and register students eligible for kindergarten, and to plan for the transportation of these students. When the 1973-74 school session opened at the end of August, kindergarten students were welcomed into an inviting and stimulating environment at Oakville. This was the beginning of a successful kindergarten program under the direction of four teachers: Henrietta Johnson, Carolyn Coleman, Sarah Morris, and Linda Merryman.

For several years prior to 1973, the school board in cooperation with the board of supervisors had worked with the community to gain support for the construction of a new high school. Land was purchased during the sixties just south of town on Route 727 and Evergreen Avenue in anticipation that a high school would be constructed in the near future. In 1970 a school bond referendum was on the ballot to receive citizen support to finance the construction of the school. The referendum was defeated by six votes.

This did not deter the efforts of the superintendent, Earl Smith, the School Board, and the Board of Supervisors to continue efforts for a new high school. Realizing the need for a

school was so great, the Board of Supervisors approved the project in 1971 and authorized the School Board to seek funding not to exceed 3.25 million from the following sources: \$2 million from sale of bonds, \$750,000 from Literary Fund of Virginia and \$500,000 as a grant from vocational funds for the vocational wing of the building.

In August 1974, Appomattox County High School became a reality. Students in grades nine through 12 were welcomed to a very modern facility with electricity being the source of energy for heating and cooling.

With this new facility came the most comprehensive high school curriculum ever offered in Appomattox schools. The vocational curriculum was expanded to include electronics, masonry, auto mechanics, drafting, occupational foods, many options in business education, vocational agriculture and home economics. The program was also expanded in the academic areas to include higher levels of math, science, foreign languages and English. Many opportunities were offered in fine arts, and disabled students were enrolled in special classes to meet their individual needs.

With the opening of the new high school, reorganization was a necessity for the entire school system. The former high school became Appomattox Middle School for seventh and eighth grade students, the former Carver Price High School and most recently Appomattox Intermediate School became Appomattox Elementary School for grades three through six; Appomattox Elementary School became Appomattox Primary School for kindergarten through grade two; and Pamplin Elementary School, which had previously served kindergarten through grade seven students, continued as Pamplin Elementary School, serving kindergarten through grade six.

After 1974 the school system focused on curriculum improvement through implementation of the State Standards of Quality and participation in the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. By 1980 all schools of the county met the state standards and were accredited by the Southern Association.

As the decade of the seventies ended it was obvious that Appomattox Elementary, Appomattox Middle and Pamplin Elementary were in need of repair. The cost of energy was increasing yearly and efficiency in operating the school system was a concern of the School Board. After considerable study, it was determined that the small enrollment at Pamplin could be accommodated in the Appomattox Primary and Elementary Schools. To keep Pamplin in operation would have required an expenditure of \$300,000 to \$500,000 in renovation cost and an additional annual expenditure of more than \$100,000 to operate the facility. Therefore, with much protest from a few people in Pamplin, the School Board voted unanimously in January 1982, to close Pamplin at the end of 1981-82 session. This resulted in sufficient savings to renovate Appomattox Elementary and Middle Schools to make them more efficient and comfortable for students and personnel.

With the many programs required to meet the needs of disabled children, the state mandate to reduce the pupil-teacher ratio and the increase in enrollment of kindergarten children, Appomattox Primary began to experience major facility problems by 1985. Realizing that an addition was needed at Appomattox Primary School, the School Board and Board of Supervisors authorized the administration to make application for a Literary Loan of \$1,200,000 to add a new library and ten classrooms to the school. By the time the loan was approved by the State Department of Education in 1989, plans and specifications were available and the project was advertized and bids were requested. J. E. Jamerson and Sons had the low bid of just less than \$1,000,000. The project was completed in time for occupancy at the beginning of the 1990-91 session.

Appomattox schools were known throughout the state as efficient, effective and child/student centered institutions. Many of my colleagues often wanted to know our secret for operating an effective school system. My answer was that the School Board had chosen four outstanding female principals. It was a pleasure for me to work with these persons, and I will always be indebted to them for their support of the school system and their exemplary qualities as educational leaders. To Shirley Eye, ACHS principal, Hezleine Foster, AMS principal, Janice Marston, AES principal, and Barbara Jackson APS principal, I express my deepest appreciation.

Having experienced eighteen wonderful years as superintendent of Appomattox County Schools, I retired on October 1, 1991, with gratitude and humility for the opportunity to serve the youth of Appomattox County, to have the support and involvement of caring and perceptive parents, and to have the rich experiences of working with teachers, principals, school board office personnel, cafeteria staffs, transportation personnel, teachers' assistants, and school office staffs.

I cannot think of a person with whom I worked in the school system who did not make valuable contributions, and I would like to list all of these persons by name. However, space will not allow me to do this, but I must give credit to the following persons who worked in the school board office who enriched my life and contributed to the smooth and effective operation of the school system:

Richard Carter, Assistant Superintendent for Administration and Vocational Education  
Jean Hesson, General Supervisor  
Joyce Jamerson, General Supervisor  
Daniel Davis, Visiting Teacher  
H. A. Paulette, Transportation Supervisor  
Billy Perrow, Transportation Supervisor  
Allen Franklin, Maintenance Supervisor  
Mae Holt, Clerk of the Board  
Etta Inge, Clerk of the Board  
Lois Foxwell, Personal Secretary and Clerk of the Board  
Brenda Gowin, Clerk of the Board  
Brenda Sauls, Assistant Clerk

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**SCHOOL LIFE IN THE 1800'S IN THE U.S.A.  
FROM THE RICHMOND TIMES DISPATCH  
BY BETTY DEBNAM**

After the Revolutionary War, education of the country's youth was still very limited. In the early 1800's most children lived on farms and attended a one-room school where the teacher taught all subjects to students of all ages, ranging from three to eighteen years of age. Students attended school primarily in the summer and winter. They were needed to work in the fields in the spring and fall.

Discipline was very strict. Students often had to "toe the line" or stand with their toes on a line as they recited their lessons. Teachers sat at their desks, often holding a book in one hand and a switch in the other. Teachers used these switches to punish students if they misbehaved or if they didn't know their lessons. Another form of discipline was shaming. Students might wear pointed dunce caps or sit in a corner. If teachers did not discipline their students, parents thought that teachers were not doing a good job. Laws were passed in the 1830's which forbade whippings in some parts of the country.

Classrooms were quite noisy in the rural areas. While the teacher worked with one or several students, other students would be at their seats working on individual assignments. Quick learners often skipped a grade or two. Students did much memorizing and copying. They weren't allowed to write original compositions. Instead, they copied from the Bible or from textbooks. Lessons were recited to the teacher. Benches lined the wall of the classrooms and the teacher's desk and a wood-burning stove were in the middle of the room or against the wall.

Teacher training was very limited. Most teachers had terminated their education when they finished schooling offered at the one-room schools. Some may have taken a test to get a job, but these were not very difficult.

The entire community was invited to spelling bees and school gatherings, where students spelled and recited words and passages they had memorized. Most of the knowledge of the outside world was gleaned from textbooks. Students seldom traveled any distance during their entire lifetime.

As the country grew and as more factories sprang up, families left their farms for the

cities. City schools were quite different. While there were laws against child labor, they were often hard to enforce. Poor students and orphans needed money; factory owners needed cheap laborers. Children often worked at full-time jobs. School buildings were limited. Classes were often held in basements, factories or churches.

City schools were very quiet. Strict teachers would demand silence and obedience. Students were not allowed to look to the right or left; they were to keep their eyes on the teacher at all times. In the late 1800's, students had individual desks. There was little contact with classmates during class time. Desks were lined in neat rows with boys on one side of the room and girls on the other. Since classes were so large, teachers needed help. Older students, trained by the teacher, acted as monitors and were in charge of a group of younger students.

Love of country and good citizenship were stressed. Students pledged allegiance to the flag daily. For persons of color or a slave, it was against the law for someone to teach them to read. This was often done, however, in the late 1800's in secret. Indian children were often forced to attend boarding school where they were trained in ways of the United States citizenry. Students of affluent families were taught at home by their mothers or by a tutor.

In many one-room schools, children as young as three years of age were in class along with older girls and boys. These three year old children often studied the alphabet and recited lessons. Kindergartners or "gardens for children," were started in Germany. They learned by playing with toys and by taking part in activities planned for young minds. The first kindergarten in the United States was started in 1853 in Watertown, Wisconsin. One of the new ideas in schools in the late 1800's was that students learn skills such as homemaking and carpentry which would prepare them for life in the outside world. As the 1800's ended and the 1900's began, even more revolutionary changes took place in the education of students in the United States.

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**FIRST PUBLIC SCHOOL IN COUNTY OPENED 1872  
AT OLD COURTHOUSE  
J. H. FEATHERSTON WAS TEACHER**

The first public school in Appomattox County was located near the old Court House. It opened about 1870, with J. H. Featherston as teacher. Some of the pupils of Mr. Featherston, during his school career were: W. P. Gills, Jerry Sears, J. W. McKinney, Mrs. Barnett, W. H. Morgan, C. M. Ragland, W. H. Trent, Tom Turnes, L. E. Smith and Luther Martin.

Prior to the public school, there were a number of private academies in the county and many families had private tutors. A female academy was located where Blackwell's Filling Station at Spout Spring is now located. A male academy was located on the south side of the railroad at Spout Spring.

The first public school in Appomattox was located at the site of the present residence of T. W. Moses. John G. Fisher of Stonewall, was the first principal at Appomattox, followed by Professor L. Crawley.

Note: From the *TIMES VIRGINIAN*, February 11, 1932

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**CHANGES IN EDUCATION IN APPOMATTOX  
DURING THE DECADE OF THE SEVENTIES  
By Lloyd G. Walton, Superintendent 1973-'91**

The Appomattox County School System entered the decade of the seventies, having changed very little in the prior twenty years. However, it was evident that the forces which emerged during the sixties would eventually result in major changes in the educational system.

On February 1, 1970, the school system reorganized to a unitary system. This was a tremendous responsibility for the county. However, with cooperation and assistance from the citizens of the county, the task was accomplished and education for the youths of the county continued.

With a steadily increasing school population and inadequate school buildings, plans were



begun in the late sixties for the construction of a comprehensive high school. This building was completed in the summer of 1974.

Beginning with the 1974-'75 session, the schools of the county were reorganized into one primary, two elementary, one middle, and one senior high school. Facilities were adequate to offer programs which were required by the State Standards of Quality Program. A program was begun in 1972-'73 for educable mentally retarded students. A full-day kindergarten program was operated for the first time during the 1973-'74 session. From that beginning, progress has continued in the educational program. Today the system has a comprehensive program of special education, vocational education, adult education, and an academically challenging curriculum for all students.

The reorganization in 1970, which brought about a unitary system, also brought about the closing of the remaining two small community schools. The enrollment and grade levels of the five operating schools facilitated the development of sound instructional practices. The instructional program underwent review and evaluation. This was brought about by an identification of needs of Appomattox students, the Standards of Quality, Basic Learning Skills, Minimum Competencies for Graduation, and the Gifted and Talented Program.

The impact of the move for individualizing instruction resulted in making greater use of data in cumulative records. Improvement was made in goal setting for individual students through an increased understanding of ability and achievement correlation.

The open classroom concept, used in the primary grades during the early years of the decade, brought about a better understanding of providing improved instruction through team teaching. In planning instructional programs, which provide attention to individual needs, greater usage was made of diagnostic procedures and remediation techniques.

A structured in-service plan for instructional personnel and support personnel brought about staff development activities in areas identified by classroom teachers, nurses, teacher aides, administrators, and supervisors. These activities resulted in improved teaching techniques, improved usage of resources, curriculum development in practically all areas, and more comprehensive health services.

A comprehensive program of Special Education services, developed during the seventies, provided for the needs of these students identified as possessing disabilities. Available to identified students, were services for the Learning Disabled, Speech Disabled, Educable Mentally Retarded, Visually Impaired, Trainable Mentally Retarded, Hearing Impaired, Emotionally Disturbed, Orthopedically Impaired, and Preschool Developmentally Delayed. Specially designed buses were purchased to transport students confined to wheelchairs as well as preschool children.

Vocational education experienced a very rapid expansion with the opening of the new comprehensive high school in September 1974. Three new programs of drafting, power mechanics, and electricity and electronics were added to the Trade and Industrial Education area. These new programs, with an existing program in bricklaying, served approximately 25 percent of all eleventh and twelfth grade students in the school division.

Business education courses, for the most part, were consolidated into two block programs of two periods each for grades 11 and 12. These programs were clerk typing and related occupations and secretarial and related occupations. In addition to the reorganization, new equipment was purchased and the instructional program became highly related to the needs of business.

Consumer and homemaking education remained a major area of the total curriculum, but occupational home economics was added. Clothing and food occupational programs, with double periods for grades 11 and 12, were established to train students for jobs in these areas.

Distributive education became a separate program and experienced a rapid increase in student enrollment.

Exploratory programs for grade seven in vocational agriculture and home economics were provided for the first time for elementary students. Vocational agriculture, also, was extended by giving students an option in horticulture. Greenhouse facilities were added at both the Appomattox Middle School and Appomattox County High School.

The decade of the seventies was great for vocational education as the program expanded from seven to fourteen programs. Approximately 85 percent of the students in grades 9-12 took one or more vocational subjects, and more than 95 percent of the students, graduating from high school and not going to college, finished with a job entry skill.

One of the biggest changes in education during the seventies was in the offerings for adults by the school division. Until 1974, most of the adult education was centered around farm machinery repair classes, sewing, typing, food production and conservation classes. These classes still existed with smaller enrollments, but new areas such as bricklaying, upholstery, auto mechanics, art, GED review, adult basic, music, physical education, cake decorating, radio, woodworking, welding, small engine repair, office machines, supervision, salesmanship, advertising, and shoplifting prevention classes were added. Enrollments from less than 100 adults per year in 1970 increased to more than 400. Annually, more than 800 families and individuals used the canning facilities located at Appomattox and Pamplin.

The instructional programs that were launched and those that were expanded and refined during the decade of the seventies provided a comprehensive program of education for youths and adults in Appomattox County and prepared them for the technological programs that were implemented throughout the 1980's.

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### APPOMATTOX COUNTY EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The Appomattox County Education Foundation, Inc., was organized in December 1987, for the purpose of aiding and encouraging students to attain higher education. It is a private corporation and is operated as an entity to receive contributions from individuals, organizations, businesses, and institutions in order to award scholarships. Contributions are tax deductible as tax exempt status has been granted.

Scholarships in the amount of \$1000 are awarded annually to two deserving seniors at Appomattox County High School and are renewable over a four-year period based on successful completion of each college term. The first recipients to receive this prestigious scholarship included Andy Carroll, son of Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Carroll and Laura Jackson, daughter of Mrs. Linda Herbert.

The original Board of Trustees elected to manage the foundation included Watkins M. Abbitt, Shirley C. Eye, Ellen P. Jamerson, Robert G. Stewart, and Lloyd G. Walton. Other persons who have served on the Board include Charles Booker, Jr., Bobby Carter, Walter Krug, Ora McCoy, Jack Thomas, Ruth Webb, and Mike Wills. The foundation is fortunate to have donors who place education as a top priority in Appomattox County. This foundation provides an opportunity for persons to invest their resources in young people. Contributions may be made to the foundation to establish scholarships in honor or memory of individuals and may be sent to the Appomattox County Education Foundation, P. O. Box 92, Appomattox, VA 24522.



Pictured above left to right: Shirley Eye, Ora McCoy, and Ellen Jamerson, standing— Watkins M. Abbitt, and Lloyd G. Walton.



## APPOMATTOX COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC COMPLEX

### ACTIONS COMMITTEE:

#### Alumni/Community Team Initiative on New Stadium

"Happy Talk," a song from the movie "South Pacific," says "you've got to have a dream, if you don't have a dream, how you gonna have a dream come true." This is what happened in June of 1992. A nucleus of persons who were keenly interested in providing a new stadium for the community and the youth of Appomattox County met and worked toward making this dream come true. The original ACTIONS Committee included:

Linn Barr  
Gordon Bragg  
Barbara Carr  
John Cole  
Richard Conner  
Berkley Drinkard  
Rindy Dunn (Reeves)  
Shirley Eye, Secretary  
Buster Jackson  
Bill Jamerson, Funding Com. Chair  
Phillip Jamerson, President & Const. Mgm. Chair  
Fred Kruschwitz, Vice President & Design Com. Chair  
Louise Martin  
Ora McCoy

Charlie Peterson  
David Read  
Frank Robinson, Publicity Com. Co-Chair  
Deborah Rush, Publicity Com. Co-Chair  
Al Sears  
Ronnie Spiggle  
Peggy Staples, Treasurer  
Bill Stratton  
Daniel Tanner  
Jack Thomas  
Mary Tolley  
Steven Williams  
David Woody

- June 11, 1992      The ACTIONS Committee was first launched to pursue "a dream" for a new athletic complex at Appomattox County High School.
- October 20, 1992      ACTIONS presented the proposed project to the Appomattox County School Board. Authorization was granted for:  
                          Phase I Football Stadium and Track  
                          Phase II Baseball and Softball Fields and Practice Field
- March 19, 1994      Ground Breaking Ceremony Held
- October 7, 1994      Grand Dedication of Bragg Stadium and Athletic Complex  
                          TOTAL COST \$952,804.86  
                          ACTIONS raised \$252,804.86 plus in-kind services  
                          School Board/Board of Supervisors allocated \$700,000
- December 11, 1997      ACTIONS Committee given approval by the Appomattox County School Board to proceed with Phase III and Phase IV.  
                          Phase III Softball and Baseball Field Lighting  
                          Approximate cost: \$31,000 Softball Field  
                          \$95,000 Baseball Field  
                          (Includes pulling wire and concrete bases)  
                          Phase IV Five Tennis Courts with Lighting  
                          Approximate cost: \$150,000  
                          Rationale for project:  
                          1) Enhance the new Standards of Accreditation for protection of instructional time by playing later games  
                          2) Increased use of fields which are at a premium  
                          3) Safety concern of tennis courts which have been patched numerous times  
                          4) Bring closure to an excellent athletic complex
- April 27, 1998      Kickoff Reception of ACTIONS Committee for Phases III and IV
- March 1 & Aug. 21, 1998      Updates to Appomattox County School Board

April 6 & 20,  
September 10, 1998

Meeting dates of entire ACTIONS Committee

Weekly to bi-weekly

Meetings of Finance Committee consisting of Phillip Jamerson, Shirley Eye, Louise Martin, Jerry Small, Mike Wills, and Greg Mayberry

September 14, 1998

Request to bid for materials and supplies for the lighting system at the softball field was released.

September 16, 1998

Financial Status:

Cash donations \$17,980

Parcel of Land (83-1/4 acres) to be auctioned late October

Approximate value \$35,000+

Financial Goal of ACTIONS:

Raise \$100,000 of the approximate \$276,000 needed for Phases III and IV.

Request the Appomattox County School Board to consider allocating the remaining \$176,000 in the 1999-2000 budget.

November 13, 1998

Cash donations \$17,995

Tommy Lawson is conferring with landowner to finalize right-of-way for 87.68 acres.

November 17, 1998

Upon receipt of right-of-way, the Board of Supervisors will negotiate auction.

Phillip Jamerson to appear before the School Board to request that they allocate approximately \$176,000 in the 1999-2000 budget for their portion of the approved projects III and IV.

November 17, 1998

School Board to give final approval to revised cost for softball lighting fixtures and poles - \$11,930

Future meetings:

December 3, 1998

Finance Committee

January 21, 1999

General ACTIONS Committee

Finance Committee

FUND RAISING IS CONTINUING.

December 7, 1998

Cash donations \$19,020

Spring 1999

Lights completed on the ACHS Softball Field at a total cost of \$26,745.63

Spring 2000

School Board approved the naming of the ACHS Softball Field in honor of Louise Lewis Martin; dedication scheduled for March 30, 2001

1999-2000

Efforts continuing by Phillip Jamerson, Shirley Eye, and Dr. Walter Krug to complete

the lights for the ACHS Baseball Field

Fall 2000

Gift of land to the ACTIONS Committee should be finalized for auction

Fall 2000

Lights completed for the ACHS Baseball Field at a cost of \$92,202

Fall 2000

Remaining funds given to the Appomattox County School Board by ACTIONS Committee for the construction of new tennis courts

December 2000

Closure of ACTIONS Committee projects

The ACTIONS Committee is truly grateful to each individual, business, community group, and Appomattox County School Board and Board of Supervisors for the contributions made to this "dream" of completing a classic Athletic Complex at Appomattox County High School.

"Weave of Dreams"

One who has seen dewdrops

On a spider web at dawn

Knows the weave of dreams:

Frailty and evanescence

Vanishing with the sun;

Enduring inspiration

Fragile cobweb,

Sturdy, homespun.

Bernice C. Heisler

History of the ACTIONS Committee submitted by

Shirley C. Eye

Principal of Appomattox County High School from 1987-1998

## **PUPIL TRANSPORTATION BY LLOYD G. WALTON**

By the beginning of the twentieth century public education was available for most students, grades 1-7. Students attended one and two room schools which were located within walking distance of their homes.

With state support of secondary education which began around 1905, the improvement of roads throughout the county, and some consolidation of schools, the need for pupil transportation became a necessity. School wagons became a mode of transportation, as well as some private vehicles.

Around 1912 the Appomattox Agricultural High School opened, and in 1915 a dormitory which accommodated forty-four students was constructed adjacent to the high school. Appomattox students, as well as students from surrounding counties, lived in the dormitory and attended the Agricultural High School. Seven school wagons brought students from the county to the school in Appomattox.

Prior to 1930 pupil transportation was deficient in many ways. This was due to the quality and scarcity of school buses, poor conditions of roads, and remote locations in which families lived. If students attended school, they walked, rode school wagons pulled by horses or mules, or rode with parents in private vehicles. During the latter part of the twenties a few homemade school buses were transporting students. A homemade bus was a truck chassis with a wooden-covered body and wooden seats to accommodate 10 to 20 students.

Buster Lucado from the Piney Mountain area of the county shared his school bus experiences with me. Beginning school at Oakville in 1920, he related that the mode of transportation was a school wagon pulled by horses. John Bingham was one of the wagon operators, and he received \$50.00 per month from the county for his service.

On one occasion Buster recalled a frightening experience as the children were transported home on the wagon at the end of the school day. The wagon had made a regular stop for some of the children to get off. It was also a turnaround place for the wagon. Having two very contrary horses, the wagon went in reverse over a bank, turning off the wagon body and all the children. No one was hurt Buster recalled. However, a gallon of sorghum molasses that Ralph Barlowe was taking home was crushed, but some of the molasses was saved.

Following the promulgation of school bus standards in 1928 by the State Board of Education, state funding for school transportation began in 1930. From 1930 through 1960 many school buses were privately owned and operated. Individuals purchased buses and operated them under contract with the School Board. Walter Phelps, White Lucado and others were private school bus operators. Terminating his services around 1960, Walter Phelps was the last private school bus operator for the School Board.

Prior to 1957 school buses owned by the School Board were serviced locally by Grinels Motor Company or Moses Motor Company. A regular schedule of service was provided for each bus, and it was the responsibility of the operator to park the bus at the designated motor company following delivery of students to school. Unless some major repair was needed, the bus was available for the operator at the end of the school day to return the pupils home.

In 1957 H. A. Paulette became the first supervisor of transportation for the school system. The present school bus garage, located on Route 460 across from the middle school, was opened in December 1957. Three mechanics, Jessie Paulette, Twyman Baldwin, and William Walker, were employed to service, repair, and maintain the fleet of buses. The supervisor of transportation, H. A. Paulette managed the transportation program, under the direction of the Division Superintendent.

Between 1957 and 1969, forty to forty-five buses were operated daily to transport an average of 2200 students. Because schools were segregated, two buses traveled over the same roads in many sections of the county, one for white students, the other for black students.

When schools were integrated in January 1970, the transportation system was integrated as well. This provided for an improvement in the efficiency of the system since fewer buses and drivers were needed. With the help of principals, teachers, parents, and students, increased emphasis was given to safety and pupil conduct.



H. A. Paulette served as transportation supervisor until his retirement in 1980. Following Mr. Paulette's retirement, William C. Perrow, III became supervisor, a position he held until 1995. In 1995 Matt Lair was appointed transportation supervisor.

From 1970 through 2000, pupil transportation changed in many ways. School divisions were required to serve special education students. During the 1970's these students were transported in county owned cars or on regular fifty-two passenger buses. However, as the special education program expanded, small buses were purchased to transport only disabled children. Buses were equipped with chair lifts and special seating to accommodate the needs of these children.

During the 50's, 60's, and 70's, many school bus drivers were students. Only a valid Virginia driver's license was required. By 1980 the requirements for school bus drivers increased and students were no longer allowed to drive buses. Drivers were required to have a Commercial Driver's license and to meet very specific requirements as established by the Division of Motor Vehicles and the Department of Education. To provide training for prospective bus drivers and to help these persons prepare for the written tests as well as the actual driving tests, Velma Johnson was assigned as the trainer and coordinator of this program.

Drug testing of drivers became a requirement in the 90's and random drug testing became a routine operation of the school system. In 1995 technologies had advanced to the level that it was feasible to install a communication system for the county. With a two-way radio system all school buses, schools, and the central office were linked to provide for instant communication. One can only imagine what a great benefit this system had been to the schools and especially the transportation system.

As the cost of gasoline increased and diesel engines became more popular as the power unit for school buses, the system began around 1980 to replace gas powered buses with diesel powered buses. This process was completed by 2000. In 1980 the cost of a fifty-two-passenger gas powered bus was around \$20,000. In 2000 the cost of a fifty-two passenger diesel-powered bus was approximately \$45,000.

Safety received strong emphasis during the last two decades of the twentieth century. Requirements increased not only for bus drivers but also for school buses. Changes included an increase from a four light to an eight light system, a stop arm and a crossing arm in front of the bus, strobe lights on the roof of a bus, reflectorized tape on the bus body, and seats with additional padding, and stronger attachments with higher backs.

Pupil transportation experienced as many changes during the twentieth century as public education in general. From the school wagon to the modern diesel bus was as drastic a change as the one room school and limited curriculum to a consolidated school with a comprehensive curriculum at the end of the century. Who could have dreamed that one hundred years would have brought about such improvements and advancements in transportation and public education? What will pupil transportation and public education be like at the end of the twenty-first century?



**VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE IN APPOMATTOX  
COUNTY SCHOOLS  
BY LLOYD G. WALTON**

When the tenth Congressional District Agricultural High School opened on September 9, 1912, more than ninety percent of the citizens of Appomattox County lived on family farms. These families depended upon field crops, livestock, and forestry products for their livelihood. Tobacco was the main money crop. It was from this agrarian culture that the agricultural high school was established with a curriculum to prepare boys and girls both for college and for life.

All pupils were expected to take the entire agricultural course for the first two years. During the last two years a student was given the option of taking special subjects to prepare for such vocations as the pupil chose. This was the beginning of instruction in agriculture, domestic science and manual training at the secondary level.

From the school manual of 1912, we are given a succinct description of the curriculum of the school. "The primary object of the school is to give agricultural, domestic science, and manual training in lieu of what heretofore has been given, and which has proven not to be so useful to the boys and girls in after life. We shall endeavor to teach the boys and girls more about their native soil, more about their gardens, lawns, home, cows, corn; and in fact to show them what the dormant soil has in store for them. If they farm, it should pay them to do so; if the girls keep house, they should like it rather than despise it. They shall be taught to make effort pay, matters not where it may be spent; and, as the farmer boy has not realized this, the school shall emphasize this especially."

To further the agricultural instruction of the school, arrangements were made with Mr. B. G. Anderson (Bureau of Plant Industry, United States Department of Agriculture, cooperating with the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station), for the students to be involved in a series of experiments which were conducted on the school farm. The purpose was to give the students an opportunity to observe the demonstration plots, to learn the scientific practices and applications of each and to make reports to class. Demonstrations included crop rotation, hay production, tobacco culture, and fertilizers.

Instruction in agriculture was greatly strengthened in 1917 with the passage of the Smith-Hughes Act by the U. S. Congress. This act provided funds for the construction of buildings, equipment and supplies for a comprehensive program of vocational agriculture in the high schools as well as support for teacher-training departments in Land Grant Colleges and Universities of each state. By 1920 Virginia Tech and Virginia State were awarding Bachelor of Science degrees in agricultural education and home economics.

As agriculture became an important part of the curriculum so did home economics. Both programs received federal and state support, which often resulted in these departments having the best facilities, equipment and materials of all high school programs. Students enrolled in these programs used their homes and farms as laboratories for the application of knowledge learned in the classrooms. On the farm or in the home instruction was continued during the summer months with parents actively involved in the laboratory learning experiences of their children. During the 1920's the curriculum of Appomattox High School in the vocational areas continued to expand and improve under the direction of certified and qualified teachers.

The Appomattox Agricultural High School became Appomattox High School when it was accepted as a Smith-Hughes school around 1920. It remained Appomattox High School until 1974 when it was converted to Appomattox Middle School and a new Appomattox County High School was located at the corner of Evergreen Avenue and state route 727 on a thirty acre plot of land purchased from Mr. Zach Cheatham.

In 1926 the Future Farmers of Virginia was founded. Many teacher trainers and teachers of vocational agriculture recognized the need to give vocational agriculture students opportunities to develop leadership skills and to participate in a variety of contests to reinforce and extend knowledge learned in the vocational agriculture classes. Appomattox High School and Pamplin High School were among the first in Virginia to organize a strong youth organization, the Future Farmers of Virginia. Following Virginia's lead, other states organized youth organizations as a part of the vocational agriculture program and by 1928 the national organization, Future Farmers

of America, was organized.

Because of the success of the FFV and FFA, other vocational areas of the high school curriculum followed the lead of vocational agriculture and organized youth organizations. For students enrolled in home economics, the youth organization became Future Homemakers of America. As business education became an important part of the curriculum after World War II, the Future Business Leaders of America was organized. Appomattox High and Pamplin High were always in the forefront among Virginia Secondary Schools in offering strong vocational classes and youth organizations.

When the Appomattox Agriculture High School was opened in 1912, schools were segregated. Therefore, black students did not attend the school, and there were limited vocational programs for black students in the schools they attended.

It was not until 1932 that an organized program of vocational agriculture was available for black students. The program was offered at Appomattox Training School which became Carver-Price High School in 1952. Rev. R. Q. Lawing was employed as vocational agriculture teacher in 1932, and he served in this capacity until the county schools were integrated in 1970. After integration the school became Appomattox Intermediate School, and Rev. Lawing continued to teach vocational agriculture until his retirement in 1974. In 1974 the new Appomattox County High School was opened and Appomattox Intermediate School became Appomattox Elementary School.

Soon after Rev. Lawing established the vocational agriculture program, he organized the youth organization, New Farmers of Virginia. This organization became a part of the Future Farmers of America in the 1960's.

During World War II farm families became very interested in improved ways to preserve food. Agricultural leaders also saw the need to educate adults with regard to improved practices in gardening and preserving food. Out of this need developed the concept of community canneries. Before the end of World War II, Appomattox County Schools, under the management and supervision of the vocational agriculture departments, operated a cannery in the Town of Appomattox and a cannery in Pamplin. From the early 1940's until these canneries were closed in the 1980's, hundreds of citizens used the canneries to process thousands of quarts and pints of food. Funds to operate the canneries came from the state, locality, and patrons. The needs for canneries declined rapidly in the 1980's as freezing became the main way of preserving food, families began to use more convenience foods and fewer families were engaged in farming.

During the World War II years the vocational agriculture department sponsored defense classes. These classes were mainly taught by Richard N. Ashworth, who was a maintenance employee for the Virginia Department of Highways. The purpose of these classes was to train males in skills which would lead to employment in factories making defense supplies and equipment. These classes were quite successful as many of the male residents took jobs in such plants as the Glenn L. Martin factory in Baltimore, Maryland.

Another need arose during World War II which vocational agriculture departments across the country were prepared to meet. As soldiers came home from the war, many wanted to return to farming, but had limited skills or financial resources to re-enter their career. Through the Veterans' program funded by the Federal Government, World War II Veterans were given an opportunity to participate in classes through the vocational agriculture departments and to receive compensation to go toward reestablishing a farming operation. This program was offered in Appomattox from 1945 until 1958. Out of this program developed the Young Farmers of Virginia, an organization that remained active in Appomattox from 1960 until the early 1980's.

Since the opening of the Appomattox Agricultural High School to the present, vocational agriculture and FFA have been a very strong component of the curriculum. From 1912 through 1973, the great majority of participants were farm boys. The curriculum included instruction in scientific production of plants and animals, financial management, record keeping, shop and manual skills, and management of soils, including crop rotations and fertilizers. From the knowledge acquired in agriculture and experiences through FFA, many students who later became outstanding farmers and agricultural leaders, vocational agriculture teachers and business managers entered our Land Grant Colleges each year. In 1912 approximately eighty percent of Americans were engaged in farming to produce food and fiber for the nation. By 1973



only three percent of Americans engaged in farming produced sufficient food and fiber for the nation and large imports to other countries.

In 1974 when Appomattox County High School was opened many changes were taking place in vocational agriculture. With a decline in farm boys entering school each year, and a requirement that the curriculum of the high school be opened to all students regardless of sex, the curriculum was revised and expanded to meet the needs of a diverse student population.

The curriculum was revised to offer a number of options. Options included production agriculture, agribusiness, horticulture, and agriculture machinery. Since 1974, the number of females and non-farm students enrolled in vocational agriculture and the FFA has increased each year. By the beginning of the twenty-first century, females occupied an important place in the agriculture classes as well as the FFA.

Why has the curriculum in vocational agriculture and the youth organization (FFA and NFV) been so effective in Appomattox for over eighty years? Community support, well qualified teachers and students eager to learn, have been the forces behind an efficient and effective program. Beginning in the early forties, the program was directed by W. C. Dudley. From the end of World War II until 1973, Henry Pack directed the program. During the 50's and 60's Mr. Richard Ashworth was the shop instructor. Lewis Motley was a part of the teaching staff from 1956 to 1962 and Richard Carter was a teaching partner with Mr. Pack from 1962 to 1973. At the Appomattox Training School and later Carver-Price High School Rev. R. Q. Lawing was the leader of vocational agriculture and the NFV from 1932 until his retirement in 1974. Since 1974 the comprehensive program at Appomattox County High School has been conducted by Bobby Waddell, W. C. Perrow, Barry Sauls, Jimmy Burcher, Albert Carter, Dennis Torrence, Arthur Wiggins, Jessie Morgan, and Tommy Johnson.

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#### THE APPOMATTOX BOARDING SCHOOL (Adapted from a booklet dated September 13, 1923)

A room for nine months with heat and water is available for \$50.00, which will not be refunded for any cause. This rate is for two persons per room.

Table board by the month is at just what it costs, plus five percent to collect and disburse. All pupils must bring bed covering, towels, napkins, etc. All pupils must furnish an electric bulb for their own room.

All pupils must observe the rules and regulations of the school and dormitory or forfeit money paid.

Application should be made at once. No pupil will be taken for less time than one month, and each must pay their pro-rata part of the cost of that month on the first of each succeeding month. It is estimated that the cost for the session will be between \$175 and \$200, but this is not guaranteed, as it may be less and it may be more. However, the cost has never exceeded \$195 for the nine months and as low as \$115.

Boarders having guests for more than one meal per month will be charged extra. Pupils having meals sent to rooms either for sickness or otherwise will be charged a small extra fee. A fee of \$4.00 will be charged all pupils for extra attention when sick. This does not include special nursing.

A nice home is provided for pupils who live at a distance. There is steam heat, bathrooms, hot and cold water on each floor. Members of the faculty will be on each floor, and every means available to make it a place for students to live and study will be had. All boarding pupils are required to live in the dormitory, where they will have the full school advantages. A high tone Christian lady will help look after the pupils.

We wish to say in the onset that this school is not a finisher, but a trainer. The greatest schools of our country are the training schools, for by their careful and thorough work they enter more students into our great universities and higher educational realms than any other class of schools. The greatest school is the one which teaches a child to think most accurately, to govern himself properly, and helps him to form the highest and noblest ideals, and teaches him that character is the chief aim of effort.

Since character is the purpose of education, the mind, the heart, the moral principles,

must be trained under pure and elevated standards in order to develop the highest type of manhood and womanhood. This discipline is parental, but firm. There is no long code of laws. The pupils are encouraged to do right from principle; they are placed on their honor as far as practicable, and we strive to foster truthfulness, honesty, and self-control. We realize our high obligation to the parents of those committed to our temporary guardianship, and know they have imposed a most sacred trust, which we must fulfill at any cost or care.

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**DORMITORY LIFE**  
**BY: LILLIAN EVANS, CLASS OF 1918**  
**APPOMATTOX AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL**

I was one of the first to arrive at the Dormitory on September 11, 1915. The first person I met, was Miss Nannie I Foster, one of our popular grade teachers. The next sight which attracted my attention was Mr. Ernest Shotwell setting his suitcase down on Mr. Crawley's front porch and ringing the door bell vigorously. Since I had come into town on No. 8 — the most popular train which passed through Appomattox — supper-time soon arrived; then I met a number of young men and young girls, whom I later learned to love very dearly. This was Saturday, and school opened the following Monday.

My roommate and I managed, somehow, to live through that Sunday, and were ready for school when the bell rang Monday morning. In the meantime, more boys and girls had arrived at the Dormitory.

We tried to be jolly and nice, but, I think it was almost a perfect failure, as everyone of us were feeling blue and sick at heart, because we had left our homes and were now among strangers.

Mrs. Abbitt, the matron, was lovely to us, and both she and Mr. Crawley tried to make us "feel at home." After we had been here a few days, we began to know each other, and we felt much better. Everyone was congenial, and we had music every evening in our little reception room down on the first floor; and often we played games on the campus.

One day, Ruthe Foster and I were passing down the hall, and saw written in large letters on one of the doors: *Biscuits Campbell*. Ruthe said, "For Heaven's sake let's go in. It's been so long since I saw a Campbell biscuit."

The boys were very nice to the girls, yes, very nice; often we would be surprised by a box of candy; a bag of chinquapins; or peanuts coming through the window, while we would be poring (?) over some difficult lesson for the next day.

The second floor was "No Man's Land" — perhaps "Mick" could explain why this was true.

Miss Pocahontas Wray, the teacher of Mathematics, was always "on the job," when the boys wanted to have a tete-tete with their favorite girls, after returning from church Sunday nights.

The broom learned, before the year was gone, that it had two duties to perform; this was an excellent way to convey notes from downstairs to an upstairs window, unless the Demon (?) appeared around the corner about the time the broom had gotten about half-way on its journey.

The first year in the Dormitory will always be remembered by everyone who was here, as being the happiest of all the years of dormitory life. It was more like our home then, and we had much more pleasure than ever again.

We enjoyed the winter sports a great deal, particularly skating on the icy cement walks, until one night "Runt" Rice fell and his head broke the walk up so that we could not skate any more. It was this year that "Jimmy" Wimbish and Nolan Gibson learned to dig up demerits.

Then came Commencement, which was the end of our happy little circle. Many of our dear friends graduated and left us, never to return. It was a sad time — that last night of Commencement — when we bade each other farewell, and our thoughts flew rapidly back over the few happy months we had spent together at school.

The most important feature of Commencement week, besides Senior night, was the Senior Play — Shakespeare's "Hamlet" — which plainly showed that the class had not been idlers, by any means.

Our vacation passed quickly, and we soon found ourselves back at school again. It is



very different now. We have a new faculty, and a number of new students; some charming young maidens, and some wonderfully intelligent (?) young men from different counties of the State — particularly those who hail from Halifax and Amherst.

Ernest is back again with his smiles and dimples, and "Runt" Rice (I mean Professor Rice) returned with his kid brother. This kid is a wonder, too, not only in his classes, but everywhere. There are three young professors here this year, and they seem to enjoy playing Rook with the ladies in Mrs. Abbitt's room, during the long winter evenings — judging from the hearty peals of laughter that reach the second floor, just when one is working out the hardest problem in the next day's lesson.

In the evenings, just after supper, the boys and girls gather in the reception room and enjoy a few musical selections, Elliott's splendid tenor blending harmoniously with the other voices, while his thoughts soar to the room just above. And shall we ever forget how Elsie blushed when Parson Moore played and sang his little song, "Kisses One, Kisses Two"?

At the beginning of the second term, some new students entered school; Frances Myers, Herman Bass, and our old friend, Yeadon Winbush, returned, all of whom we were glad to welcome.

We entertained a number of our friends, by giving a mid-winter reception in the Dormitory dining-hall, on the night of January 19, which marked the beginning of the new term.

When war was declared, our boys responded to the call of their country, and although they knew they were leaving a good school and friends, they felt it their duty to serve their U.S.A., so Parson Moore, Hugh Oglesby, Robert Beale, "Long John" Fore and "Runt" Rice, volunteered. We missed them greatly from the dormitory circle, the place did not seem the same without them, but we felt proud to know they had such a patriotic spirit.

Seeing our noble-hearted boys enlist in the army to fight for our country, aroused a determination in us to do our duty here more thoroughly than ever before, and we worked faithfully until commencement week, at which time we witnessed the graduation exercises of twenty-nine of our boy and girl friends—fifteen of whom were pupils who boarded in the Dormitory. Many tears were shed when the old crowd separated, and each went away to do his, or her part in the world.

Now another short vacation has flown by and again on the morning of September 13, 1917, we find ourselves assembled in the auditorium, listening to addresses of welcome, delivered by different members of the faculty and well-known friends of the school.

We find quite a number of strangers at the Dormitory now; many new faces have come in to take the places left vacant by so many of our dear "old" boys and girls.

We soon begin work again, and find that we have an entirely new faculty, but we have learned to love every member. Of course, we miss dear little Professor Johnny B. Roller in the Chemistry room, and we never hear his buttons fall on the floor any more; and that happy smile of Mr. Moyer's has gone from our midst, also the charming ways of Miss Atkinson, and even the chickens and pigs all look lonesome since Mr. Rice is no longer here. Each one left a host of friends here, who wish them success. But we can manage to give them up, now, since we have dear Miss Rollings to guide us safely through Fourth English; Miss Hollands' smiling countenance to lead us through the Math, and Miss Gold to teach the girls to sew a straight seam, while Mr. Hamner and Mr. Crawley drill Agriculture into the hard heads of some of the boys.

Mr. and Mrs. Spradlin are about the best friends we have, for they are the ones to whom we look for our meals. They are always kind and nice to us; they are loved by every one in the Dormitory—and I think Mrs. Spradlin has spoiled the girls by being so good to them.

Hallowe'en is a memorable night in the minds of the Dormitory pupil. At 5:30 o'clock, the Ghosts were seen in "No Man's Land," preparing for the raid. While the Ghost's exchanged places at the dining tables, the boys looked on in amazement. As soon as supper was over the Ghosts made their way very quietly downtown. No study bell rang for us that night. During the raid, near Rev. McElroy's home, one of the boys got sentimental, caught his girl's hand and began saying sweet nothings to her. How do you suppose the poor fellow felt when he discovered — very soon — that his girl was none other than the dignified Miss Rollings? His greatest desire was to leave Appomattox that night.

The Thanksgiving dinner, of 1917, is one we shall never forget. There were only a few

teachers and pupils who remained here during the holidays — only those whose homes are a long way from Appomattox. Since the crowd was not so large, we had a sumptuous dinner served, which was enjoyed immensely

The Baptist boys and girls, of the Dormitory, organized a Sunday school class at the Baptist church. Miss Thornton is the teacher, and we have enjoyed attending Sunday school very much. One reason is because we have such a lovable teacher. The boys and girls rarely ever miss attending when they are here.

The fifteen Seniors who live in the Dormitory, have worked faithfully this session; tonight we reached the goal.

It saddens our hearts, for a moment, when we stop to think that this is the last of our happy High School days. We shall leave this dear old school tomorrow, and in years to come our places will be filled by others who will have to travel over the same road we have traveled. We are not altogether happy when we bid our school friends farewell and leave them to take up our share of life's work. But the fond remembrances of our happy school days will ever remain with us.

Tonight we launch, where shall we anchor?



#### THE HOWARD M. AND CARRIE P. GILBERT SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Howard M. and Carrie P. Gilbert Scholarship Fund, was established by New Hope Baptist Church, Appomattox, Virginia, from a generous donation of \$15,000.00 by Carrie P. Gilbert, following the death and wishes of her husband Howard M. Gilbert. An expressed intent by the donor was to aid in the education of men and women who had a desire to further their education.

The benefits of this fund would be available to all persons who were members of New Hope Baptist Church and desired to pursue further education. Preference would be given, but not limited, to persons who desired to pursue an education for a career in a full-time Christian service at a Southern Baptist affiliated institution.

Monies for scholarship grants were to come from accrued interest except for the first year when grants would be made both from any accrued interest and from the original endowment. The original donation would be invested by the custodian of the fund in such manner as to receive maximum interest with a minimum security risk. Provisions were made in this fund to receive donations from other individuals. Such donations, unless otherwise expressed, would be added to the original fund and the additional accrued interest would be used for making scholarship grants.

The main criterion to be used in selecting a recipient was academic excellence. Other criteria include church activities, non academic achievements, church related curriculum, and

financial need. It was an express desire of Carrie Gilbert that the scholarship should be a substantial one and should make a difference in financing further education. Therefore, only one scholarship was to be awarded each year unless the amount of accrued interest exceeded fifteen hundred dollars. If there were at least fifteen hundred dollars, then two recipients could be selected with the principal recipient receiving two thirds of the total amount available and the second recipient receiving the other one third. The principal for the fund is now at \$28,850.00 which includes several more donations from the estate of Carrie Gilbert and her brother and sister-in-law, Lawson and Mary Pankey.

The scholarship fund was established in 1982. During the past nineteen years more than \$28,000.00 have been awarded to help fourteen individuals to further their education beyond high school.

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**APPOMATTOX COUNTY FINANCES**  
Source: Old School Records — 1905-1907

This county has been very progressive with the past two years. With a very low tax rate in 1905, she has succeeded in just doubling her county and district levies. County levy in 1905 was only five cents and the three districts had ten cents each. Now the county rate is ten, and the three districts twenty cents each.

In 1905 no money was raised by private subscription, while in 1907 \$1,500.00 was raised.

The pay of teachers has been raised, although it is still too low. The scale in 1905 was \$30.00, \$25.00, and \$20.00. In 1907 the scale of salary for the three grades of certificates is \$35.00, \$28.00, and \$20.00. In this connection, however, it will be noted that the length of term is now six months, when in 1905 it was only five.

The county now has one very good high school, upon which it spends, with State aid, \$1,350.00. There will be at least two more places ready for State aid by the fall of 1908.

The county has not made a great deal of progress in the way of new buildings, but two houses, which will cost about \$8000.00, will probably be completed in 1908.

A teachers' association has been organized, public meetings have been held, and a healthy sentiment is now evident in this county.

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**APPOMATTOX COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD**  
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING - MAY 21, 1926

Appomattox County School Board held a special meeting at Appomattox Courthouse on May 21, 1926, with E. Leroy Smith, T. J. Ligon, J. O. Davidson and N. R. Featherston present.

Rev. M. Thompson appeared before the Board on behalf of the Teacher- Parent Association of Appomattox, and appealed to the Board to furnish a music teacher for Appomattox this coming session. On motion carried, the Board decided that no music teacher could be furnished at present.

Mr. J. P. Alvis and S. E. Anderson, patrons of Stonewall graded school, appeared before the Board and requested the Board to appoint three teachers for Stonewall School this coming session. On motion carried the Board decided to furnish three teachers for Stonewall school.

Mr. J. D. Childers, M. L. Garrett, E. K. Martin and J. W. Scruggs, patrons of Liberty Chapel School appeared before the Board and requested the Board to give them three teachers for 1926-27. On motion carried the Board agreed to appoint three teachers for Liberty Chapel School for 1926-27 session.

It appearing to the Board that the patrons of the colored school at Appomattox had raised money and painted the Colored School Building, the Board agreed to give them \$10.00 toward helping to pay for the paint.

The Board agreed to pay R. S. Jenkins \$10.00 for taking seven children for five weeks to school.

A petition signed by all the grade teachers of Appomattox High School was presented to the Board asking for a raise in salary. The Board decided that it could not raise their salaries but agreed to furnish them rooms in the Dormitory free for the session of 1926-27.

Professor L. Crawley was nominated and appointed as Principal of Appomattox High School for the coming year. The following teachers were appointed to teach in Appomattox High School for the coming session:

Miss Kate O'Brien, Miss Gladys VanVolkenburgh, Mrs. Helen Welch, Mrs. Ola Furbush, Mrs. Florence W. Carson, Miss Edmonia V. Hardy, Miss Elda Stratton, Miss Pareeza Coleman, Miss Alice Carson, Mrs. E. A. Scott

The following teachers were appointed to teach at Pamplin High School for the coming session:

Miss Merle Davis, Miss Patty Brandon, Miss Claudia George, Mrs. C. E. Massey, Miss Mabel Adams, Mrs. H. F. Clarke, Miss Pearl Dunton, Miss Thelma Broughman

For Spout Spring:

Miss Viola Chilton, Miss Margurette Caldwell, Miss Lena Chilton

For Woodlawn: Miss Virginia Woodson

For Petty's Fork: Miss Mary D. Marshall

For Wesley Chapel: Miss Elsie Marks, Miss Virginia Alvis

For Chilton School: Miss Thelma Webb

For Stonewall: Miss Lucille Dudley, Miss Earle Patterson, Miss Myrtle Smith

For Mt. Zion: Miss Vivian Clarke

For Mt. Comfort: Miss Mary Kennard, Miss Kathleen Langan

For Buck Hollow: Miss Isabelle O'Brien, Miss Evelyn O'Brien, Miss Ursula Wooldridge

For Oakville: Miss Rebecca Brandon, Miss Eleanor Bailey, Miss Agnes Davidson

Miss Mattie S. Moss

For Liberty Chapel: Miss Frances Street

Miss Edythe Martin

Miss Olivia Rush

For Vera: Miss Virginia Harvey, Miss Alice Street, Miss Colyer Abbitt, Miss Mannie Inge

Miss Evelyn O'Brien

For Hollywood: Miss Virgil Inge, Miss Helen Dickerson

For Hixburg: Miss Idell M. Ferguson, Miss Iva M. Ferguson, Miss Lydia Rogers

For Harmony: Miss Gertrude Ranson

For Gold Hill: Mrs. W. R. Cheadle

For Hardy: Miss Cammie Anderson

For Evergreen: Miss Olive Lewis, Miss Elsie C. Marks

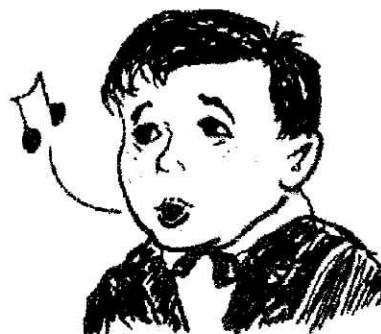
For Martin's: Miss Iva M. Ferguson, Miss Lucille Dickerson

For Rocks: Miss Ella Epperly

For Falling River: Miss Lucille Ferguson

For James River: Miss Anna Ferguson

Discipline  
School days,  
school days,  
Dear old Golden  
Rule days,  
Reading, writing and 'rithmetic,  
Taught to the tune of a hickory  
stick.





**APPOMATTOX AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL  
CAMPUS - 1926**



**HIGH SCHOOL**



**AUDITORIUM**



**DORMITORY**



**PROFESSOR LINDSAY CRAWLEY'S HOME**



## **CARVER-PRICE FACULTY - 1949**



**Front row, left to right: Mrs. James, Mrs. Stephens, Mr. Butler, Mrs. Harley and Mrs. Beasley.  
Second row, left to right: Mrs. Barnes, Mrs. Hamlett, Mrs. Mullins, Mrs. Hood, Mrs. Elliott and Mrs. Hicks.  
Third row, left to right: Mr. Walker, Mr. Clay, Mr. Lawing, and Mr. Johnson.**



**Presentation to two members of New Farmers of Virginia by Rev. R. Q. Lawing, Teacher of Vocational Agriculture and Mr. W. C. Dudley, Area Supervisor of Vocational Agriculture.**

## CARVER PRICE HIGH SCHOOL FACULTY - 1965



Row 1: Mr. Nathan Edwards, Mrs. Harriet James, Mrs. Mable Allen, Mrs. Alice Marby, Mrs. Sarah White, Mrs. Evelyn Martin, Mrs. Celestine Beasley, Mr. T. W. Marby, Principal. Row 2: Mrs. Mary Henricks, Mrs. Ellie Williams, Mrs. Teresa Hamlet, Mrs. Theda Harris, Mrs. Velma Elliott, Mrs. Dollye Forrest, Mr. David Moseley. Row 3: Mrs. Virginia Goode, Mrs. Henrietta Johnson, Mrs. Victoria Brown, Miss Laura Fleshman, Mrs. Josephine Webb, Mr. Edward Johnson, Mrs. Eddy Otey. Row 4: Mrs. Ora Smith, Mrs. Joseph Lewis, Mrs. Joan Lewis, Mr. Rudolph Williams, Mrs. Hezteine Foster, Rev. R. Q. Lawing, Mrs. Celestral Turner, Mrs. Frankie Hale (No Shown)

## GRADE FACULTY - APPOMATTOX HIGH SCHOOL - 1954



Left to Right, Seated: Mrs. Lou Rogers, 2<sup>nd</sup>; Mrs. Sallie Martin, 1<sup>st</sup>; Mrs. Kathleen Carson, 7<sup>th</sup>; Miss Mamie Cullop, 5<sup>th</sup>; Mrs. Pat Runkle, 5<sup>th</sup>; Standing: Miss Myrtle Smith, 2<sup>nd</sup>; Mrs. Ethel Evans, 6<sup>th</sup>; Mrs. Ola Furbush, 6<sup>th</sup>; Mrs. Mildred Burkey, 3<sup>rd</sup>; Miss Nola Burkey, 4<sup>th</sup>; Third Row: Mrs. Thelma Martin, 4<sup>th</sup>; Miss Flora Belle Williams, 7<sup>th</sup> Mrs. Edith Gregory, 1<sup>st</sup>; Mrs. Jean Hesson, 6<sup>th</sup>; Miss Pareeza Coleman, 1<sup>st</sup>. Not pictured, Miss Della Inge, 3<sup>rd</sup>.

# **APPOMATTOX AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL FACULTY - 1926**



**Principal Lindsay Crawley  
Miss Kate O'Brien  
R. W. Wilkins  
Miss June Hubbard**

**Mrs. Helene Welch  
Miss Aileen Houser  
Miss Elaine McDearmon  
Mrs. Ola Furbush**

**Mrs. Florence Carson  
Miss Alice Carson  
Miss Cecil Morgan  
Miss Eddie Hardy**

**Miss Pareeza Coleman  
Miss Elva Stratton  
Mrs. Eleanor Scott  
Miss Kate Franklin**

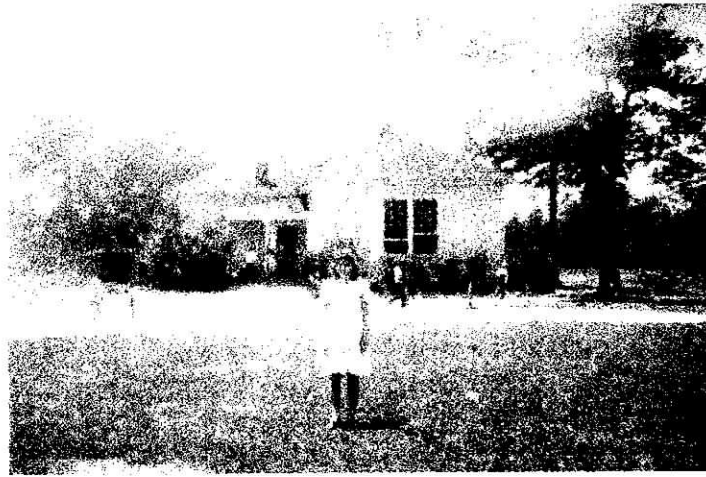


**Appomattox Agricultural High School - 1926  
Junior Class**

Chilton, Nannie Sue  
 Chilton, Virginia  
 Cullop, Evelyn  
 Dillon, Marion  
 Doss, Eva  
 Ferguson, Thelma  
 Ford, Frances  
 Hancock, Corine  
 Jamerson, Josie  
 Joy, Lucille  
 McKinney, Frankie  
 Paulette, Ella May  
 O'Brien, Frances  
 Reynolds, Sadie  
 Smith, Margaret  
 Smith, Frances

Thomas, Naomi  
 Trent, Mary  
 Upton, Ruby  
 Webb, Bessie  
 Wooldridge, Vernon  
 Burnett, Omer  
 Booker, George  
 Carson, Eugene  
 Coleman, Andrew  
 Doss, Guthrie  
 Ford, William  
 Lee, Bert  
 McDearmon, Richard  
 O'Brien, Joe  
 Trent, Thelbert  
 O'Brien, Clyde

## **VERA SCHOOL IN THE FORTIES**



**Picture provided by Jean Ferguson Brown, standing in the foreground.**



**OAKVILLE SCHOOL - 1943**

**Teachers pictured left to right are: Lou Rogers, Ella Lewis Gordon, Marie Owens, and Pearl Henry**



## OAKVILLE SCHOOL — 1906



Students with their teachers Miss Mary Frances Moss and Miss Mattie Sue Moss

## REEDY SPRINGS SCHOOL



John G. Nash is pictured on the left holding the school sign.  
Mrs. Glover Jones was the teacher. This picture was made in the 1920's.

**Students' Transportation - 1955**



**New Farmers of America Poultry Project - 1945,  
Carver High School. Students are Steven Hemmings  
and Lawrence Tanner. Both students  
are now Galilee Church officers.**

## SCHOOL BUILDINGS OF BYGONE DAYS



OAKVILLE

SPOUT SPRING



HARDY SCHOOL AT  
HURTSVILLE

This school is being dismantled and  
reconstructed in the Cloverhill  
Village by volunteers

## **SCHOOLS**

**Schools of Bygone Days**

**Airy Hill Public School**

**Appomattox Agricultural School**

**Life at Appomattox High School**

**A Brief History of Appomattox Middle School**

**History of Carver-Price High School**

**The Hardy School**

**Hurtsville**

**Liberty Chapel School**

**Liberty Chapel School**

**Deed for Liberty Chapel School**

**Nelson County Students Attending Appomattox County Public Schools**

**New Gold Hill**

**Oakville School**

**Oakville School**

**Oakville School - Memories of Betty Bryan**

**The History of Spout Spring School**

**My Year at Stonewall**

**Sulphur Spring School**

**Tower Hill School**

**Union Academy in the Spout Spring Area**

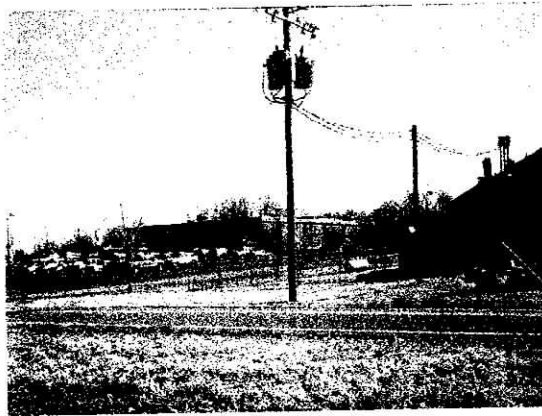
**Memories of Vera School**

**Wesley Chapel One-Room School**

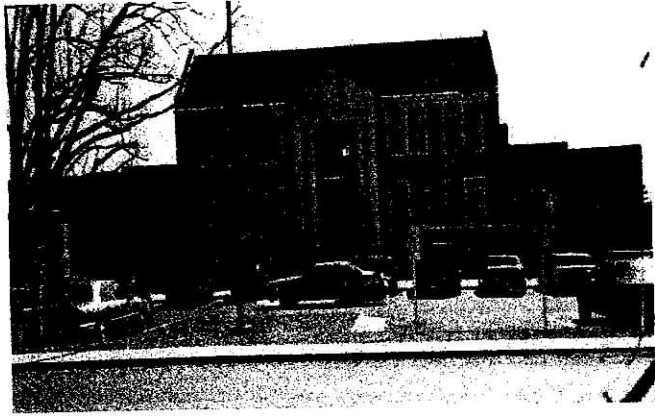
**Wheeler's School**

**School Information Provided by Barbara Pickett**

**APPOMATTOX COUNTY SCHOOLS — 2001**



**Appomattox County High School  
and Athletic Complex**



**Appomattox Middle School**



**Appomattox Elementary School**  
The wing on the left is the  
original Carver Price School



**Appomattox Primary School**

**What our schools do may prove in the  
long run to be more decisive than any  
other factor in preserving the form of  
government we cherish.**

**Franklin Delano Roosevelt**



**SCHOOLS OF BYGONE DAYS**  
**Times-Virginian, October 28, 1976**

The following article concerning Appomattox County Schools in the past was written for the Times-Virginian by Harriet A. Chilton, a charter member of the Appomattox County Historical Society.

The list of schools below was found in a notebook kept by my grandfather, Chapman H. Chilton. He was the first Superintendent of Appomattox County Schools, beginning in 1870 and serving until 1897, with the exception of the period from 1881 until 1885, when the Rev. J. B. Bristow occupied that post.

He listed the schools by district, stating that these schools were the ones established "by the first boundary." There are twenty-two schools listed in the Southside District, thirteen in Stonewall, and twenty-eight in Clover Hill. It is interesting that the districts have remained the same until the present day.

Mr. Jerry A. Burke, Superintendent from 1926 until 1962 stated that as far as he knew, there is no other list of early schools in Appomattox County, as the records were burned in fires at the School Board Office and at the Court House.

In order to compile accurate records about the early schools, it would be worthwhile to determine the location of each of these schools if possible.

It is suggested that any person with any knowledge of where these schools were held, either from personal recollection or from local hearsay, come into the School Board office and share that knowledge. Both early and current maps will be on hand to assist in locating the approximate place where the school stood in the 1800s. If unable to come in person, a letter giving the information would be most welcome, as well as a photo, list of students, teachers, etc.

Many of the schools were designated by a family name such as Martin's, Routon's or LeGrand's. Possibly these schools were held in a family home for the attendance of the children of the neighborhood, or located on property owned by that family. Others carry the name of the geographical location such as James River, Spout Spring, or Cherry Hill. The name that intrigues me the most is "Out of Place." It would be fascinating to collect data about how the schools got their names as well as where they were located.

It is possible that school met in the church buildings in some cases, as indicated by names such as Old Rocks Church, Promise Land, or Mt. Zion. Many county residents will recognize today's church names in the list such as Tower Hill or Reedy Spring.

The last one-room school in the county was Mount Airy. It closed around 1964, thus ending an era rich in educational experience for all the children of the county.

The schools listed below and marked with an asterisk were those attended by black students. Times and places that schools were established in Southside District by the first boundary:

Pamplin	1871	Long Creek	1871
Bush Forest	1872	*Pamplin	1874
*Piney Ridge	1876	Petty's Fork	1878
Salem Fork	1887	Reedy Spring	1887
Harvey's Gate	1887	*Chap	1888
*Promise Land	1884	*Bethany	1885
*Union Grove	1871	Martin's	1890
New Light	1890	Appomattox Depot	1891
Cheatham's Corner	1892	Falling River	1896
High School	1895	Glover's Shop	1884
*Chestnut Grove	1871	Hannah's	1877

Times and places that schools were established in Stonewall District by the first boundary:

Snapp's Mill	1872	Swines	1873
Mt. Zion	1872	*Stonewall	1879
*Nebraska	1884	Routon's	1883
*Mineral	1885	Ridge	1888
*Ridge	1888	James River	1889
Spout Spring	1892	Old Female Academy	1877
*Jordan Church	1876		

Times and places that schools were established in Clover Hill District by the first boundary:

LeGrand's	1872	Tower Hill	1873
Walker's Church	1871	Oakland	1874
Hollywood	1874	Langhorne's	1875
Hardy's	1875	Wood's	1884
*Spear's	1884	Airy Hill	1872
*Morning Star	1880	Rugby	1886
Headwater	1886	Sandy Level	1890
Paradise	1890	Harmony	1893
Patterson's	1895	Out of Place	1889
Thornhill's	1896	Sam & Davy Inst.	1896
*Old Rocks Church	1875	*Cherry Hill	1884
*Canaan	1873	*Road Side	1885
*Ayers	1874	*Mt. Pleasant	1873
*Bethlehem	1875	*Gold Hill	1884

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#### AIRY HILL PUBLIC SCHOOL By Nannie Watson Lyon

"Airy Hill," a one-room school for grades 1 through 7, was built on land owned by Mr. John Davidson near the Buckingham County line between the then village of "Rosebower" and the Lewis-Robertson community (Route 654). It opened around 1900 and closed in 1930. Teachers during its latter years were Mrs. "Sis" Harvey Morris, Miss Anna Ferguson, Miss Kathleen Lawthorne, Miss Thelma Webb, and Miss Vara Morris.

Several former Airy Hill students living in 1999 recall others who attended at various times during its years. A partial list includes BAGBY, Mallie; BEALE, Benny, Clarence, James, Mary L., and Walker; BRYANT, Billy, Emma, Johnny, Julia Ethel, Louise, and M. Emma; BURNLEY, Jimmy, Johnnie, and Mary; CARNEFIX, John E.; CHIDESTER, Ruby, Ruth, and Viola; CLARK, Ada; DAVIDSON, Jack; DURIE, Katie and Nellie; FRANKLIN, Courtney; GARRETT, Berkley, Braxton, Irene, Spencer "Junior," Leonard Christian, Leonard, Millie, and Wesley; HACKETT, Christine and Mae; LEWIS, Charlie Davis and Moss; MANN, Lillian; POWELL, Nathan; RAGLAND, Hermon, Lucy, Melissa, Reese; ROBERTSON, Annie V., Daisy, Dillard, Elizabeth, Fred, Minnie, and Walter; WATSON, Bessie, Doris, Florence, Hermon, Irvy, Jessie, John "Willie," Mattie Frances, Nannie Sue, Ora, Julia, and Thomas C.; WEBB, Bessie, Ellis, Mildred, and Oris; WOODSON, Amanda, Jake, Janie, Lena, Mattie, and Tom Edd; WORLEY, Clyde, Clytia, Jack, and Pearl.

Another school preceded Airy Hill. Charles Fitzhugh Perrow (1868-1956) recalled "Old Airy Hill" during the 1920's. He and brother John Guerrant Perrow (1866-1886) walked five miles to attend this school located on "Old Richmond Road" near Rosebower.

Article sent in for the Heritage Book was shared by Betty Drinkard.

## **APPOMATTOX AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL**

**Our Alma Mater 1908-1918**

**By Susie Booker**

Ten years ago, we were attending school in a small three-room building located where Mr. T. W. Moses now resides. There were only about a hundred pupils, including those in the high school who were taught in a small cottage back of the jail, but I am glad to say such conditions did not prevail long before the progressive people of Appomattox led by the principal, Mr. Crawley, saw the necessity for something better. A meeting was held and funds subscribed for our present building, which will accommodate more than five hundred pupils. This school is now called Appomattox Agricultural School.

The new school, a two-story building with a basement, has twelve rooms; among these is an auditorium, library, manual training workshop and chemical laboratory. It is heated by two furnaces and lighted with gas.

The dormitory building, which was erected in 1915, is a three-story brick structure. It contains a reception hall, reading room and home accommodations for forty-four pupils. It is also steam heated and gas lighted. This building was razed in 1976.

The location for the new building was well chosen, it being in the most desirable part of the town.

Since the new building was erected, the following subjects have been included in the course of study: domestic science, domestic art, music, also a Corn Club, a Canning Club, Poultry Extension, Livestock Club and Practical Agriculture Club. All this has proved a successful addition and the number of teachers increased from four to fourteen.

There are several school wagons that bring in children from the country, for the people are quick to see the advantage of consolidation.

The enrollment has increased from one hundred and sixty to five hundred and four pupils. One hundred and ten have been graduated from this school.

There are two literary societies—The Washington and The Lee. These are important factors in the intellectual and social life of the school.

Athletics is an important part of the work during the school year with special hours being arranged for baseball, football, basketball, and tennis. All pupils are urged to take a part in outdoor exercises.

The Y.M.C.A. and Boy Scout Organizations offer opportunities for those interested and enabled them to do good work for the school and community at large.

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## **LIFE AT APPOMATTOX HIGH SCHOOL**

**By Claudine O'Brien**

Appomattox High School was erected in 1908, with Mr. Lindsey Crawley, the principal; then twenty-one years later, I entered the first grade. One of the most beloved adults in the school was Uncle Bob Craig, the janitor. I can see him now in front of a tremendous furnace in the basement, pitching in shovels of coal. What a treat for me, who had walked four miles from my house, located in the National Park. Later in the upper grades, we first rode in a covered wagon drawn by two horses. At that time there was no bridge over the Appomattox River, and if the water was too deep for the horses to cross, we would go back to the Old Appomattox Court House and spend the night with the kind friends. Then, in place of the wagon we had a covered truck for transportation, which became a regular school bus. Not only was Uncle Ben seen at the furnace, but throughout the school befriending all.

Our curriculum was mostly "reading, 'riting, and 'rithmetic, taught to the tune of a hickory stick," however, we were fortunate in having music taught by Miss Kate Franklin. All classes in the elementary school participated; then at the end of school she presented a musical program. I remember singing "I'm a little disease germ and I want you to know how important I am and so." The home economics teacher made me a black crepe paper costume. We had no physical educational program; yet we certainly received much exercise through walking to and from school, using the "acting pole," jumping rope, having races, and playing jack rocks. Recess was

welcomed time, for we could take "home-brought" lunches and sit under a tree with friends to eat. Monday was a special lunch, including more than dry biscuits wrapped in newspaper. Often we traded our biscuits for loaf bread brought by our town friends.

Discipline was very strict, and I still remember standing in the corner on one foot because I said in the first grade, "I am sleepy." I received no sympathy from my mother when I confessed to her. Her reply was, "You don't have to learn, but it seems you can behave yourself." The teacher was always right.

Of my elementary teachers, Miss Eddie Hardy is the most memorable. For fifty years she taught the second grade, and besides me she taught five of my siblings. Another teacher in my fifth grade introduced me to art, which appreciation still is with me. She subscribed to an art magazine, The Illustrator, and shared individual pictures of artists, whom we studied. An embarrassing moment happened in her class. At a Christmas program Elizabeth Trent and I decided to sing "Away in the Manger" without any preparation. When we started singing, I looked at her and said, "I don't know your tune," and she said, "Neither do I know yours." With that, Mrs. Florence Carson disgustingly said, "Sit down."

In the sixth grade under Mrs. Ola Furbush, three incidents stand out in my mind: one day Lem Smith, sitting behind me, caught my arm between two ink bottles. I yelled "bloody murder" and Mrs. Furbush sent me out in the hall. Was I scared, for fear Mr. Crawley, the principal, would see me! He was one we all feared. On the bright side, I was asked to debate: "It is better to live in the country than in the city." Being a country child, naturally I enjoyed defending the country. Even today the third event embarrasses me. Jessie Mayberry, standing by me for a "Spelling Bee," fainted and fell to the floor. What did I do? I ran to the door instead of supporting her.

Another punishment came in the seventh grade for chewing gum. Others were guilty but they were able to swallow theirs before Miss Elaine McDearmon saw them. Again, I spent time in the hall.

At last I was in high school. Miss Gladys Van Volkenburgh taught us English; however, at Thanksgiving she married and was replaced by Miss Deane Johns, a brilliant teacher who also taught world history. She really opened my intellectual horizon. Several of us had her for four years of history and English. In my senior year, she gave us a dinner and bridge party at the Old Appomattox Hotel. Eighth graders can be rather sophisticated and one day Miss Deane said, "You act as if you think you are college students." Once she asked, "What part of speech is 'dog'?" We all yelled, "Noun." She then wrote on the board: a dog cart, He dogged my steps, and Doggone it! That really opened my mind. Having visited Europe, she gave me a desire to travel. High school gave me two other outstanding teachers: Miss Kate O'Brien for four years of Latin and Mrs. Helene Harvey, my senior English and French teacher. We remained friends until their deaths. In the eighth grade we lost a dear teacher, Mr. Nelson Brown, my algebra teacher, who died of a burst appendix.

I will never forget the day Mrs. Harvey, the Senior Sponsor, was called out of the French class and Christine Paulette said she would teach us a card game. Who should peep through the key hole of the French room, the classroom in the Old Dormitory? Mr. Crawley, and I was the one he saw; however, his punishment was only a "shaming." Yet another time he made me and the whole study hall copy 500 words out of the dictionary. The reason was we asked the student keeping the study hall if we could attend a trial at the Court House. She consented, and then later reported us. A student, Minnie McNally, had been killed in an automobile accident, and we were really interested in the trial.

In senior government we had library societies, and once a month we had a meeting consisting of a debate and special talk. (I forgot to say a study hall was held in the cold auditorium, which was everything except "study.")

So, in June 1932, I graduated from high school with 31 other seniors, and that fall enrolled as a freshman at Farnville State Teachers College.



## **A BRIEF HISTORY OF APPOMATTOX MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Appomattox Middle School has a long and proud history in the town of Appomattox. Originally built in 1908, the facility has undergone a number of major changes over the years. The school was first known as the Tenth Congressional District Agricultural Boarding School and had its first graduating class in 1910. The original school, a two-story building with twelve rooms, included an auditorium, library, manual training workshop, and chemical laboratory. In 1915, a gas-lighted, steam-heated, three-story brick structure was added. This building, which no longer stands, was located next to the church and housed a reading room, reception hall, and housing accommodations for forty-four students. By 1918, students from throughout the county were transported to the school by horse-drawn wagons. Subjects included domestic science, domestic art, and music. The clubs included the Corn Club, Canning Club, Poultry Extension Club, Livestock Club, and the Practical Agriculture Club. Over the years, additional buildings were added which included an auditorium, agriculture building, and home economics cottage. The auditorium and home economics cottage were demolished as a part of the current construction/renovation project.

The first major renovation of the main building was undertaken in 1939. A library (located in the area of the new main office), a cafeteria (now sixth grade classrooms), and a science laboratory were added. In the early 1950's, the gymnasium was added to the school. The gymnasium was completely renovated as part of the current project. In 1955, Appomattox Elementary School (the present Appomattox Primary School) opened and students in grades 1-7 transferred to that building.

In 1970, Appomattox High School and Carver-Price High School consolidated into one high school which became known as Appomattox County High School and was located on this site. When the new high school opened in 1974, this facility was converted into Appomattox Middle School. For the next twenty-four years, AMS housed grades 7-8.

The construction/renovation project which we dedicate today involved the construction of a two-story, state-of-the-art building located along Business Route 460 and the renovation of the older middle school building.

The Appomattox Middle School campus consists of three buildings: the newly constructed classroom section, the main building, and the old agriculture building. The new building, occupied in January 1998, includes the library, cafeteria, music rooms, computer lab, science lab, and eighteen classrooms. The renovated older building houses school offices, guidance suite, clinic, classrooms, computer labs, science labs, and the gymnasium. A third building, the old agriculture building, contain the Synergistic Lab and shop areas.

The renovation of the original middle school was completed in August 1998 at which time the sixth grade was moved to the middle school. In September 1998, Appomattox Middle School opened its doors to 583 students in grades 6-8 and a staff of 69 persons.

From: Dedication Program—October 18, 1998

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### **HISTORY OF CARVER-PRICE HIGH SCHOOL**

(Shared by Mrs. Harriette James)

Plans for the Carver High School were initiated during the 1929-30 school year. The bid was led by the local school board under the leadership of Rev. Arthur E. Jordan. The funding program for this building was organized by Mrs. Mozella J. Price, County Supervisor of Negro Schools, and extended over a period of several years. Meetings were held in Appomattox where teachers and lay leaders reported funds to build a better school for the boys and girls of the county.

The new brick building, named Appomattox Training School, was dedicated in May 1930. The 1930-31 fall term opened with the late Rev. Arthur E. Jordan as principal. Ruth O. Hasting and Mildred Hart of Petersburg, Virginia, were appointed as teachers. Seventy-five pupils were enrolled at the beginning of the term. The enrollment increased as the one room county schools were closed and the teachers and students were transferred to Appomattox County Training

School.

Using two buildings, the 1932-33 session of the Appomattox County Training School opened with four teachers. The old three room elementary school was renovated into a new agricultural department under the direction of Rev. R. Q. Lawing. The W.P.A. constructed a new agriculture building which was used for several years. Rev. Jordan developed the school's first football, pole vaulting, track, and high jump teams. The home economics department was developed by the elementary teachers who included sewing and cooking in their curriculum. A new department was built in the early 1940's. In May of 1933 the first graduation exercise was held.

The present building was completed in 1950-51. Upon approval of the school board, the name of the school was changed to the Carver-Price High School at the dedication exercises in 1952 in honor of Mrs. Mozella J. Price, Supervisor. The following principals have served: Rev. A. E. Jordan, C. A. Pennington, Sam E. Ewell, John T. Butler, Richard E. Patrick, E. T. Johnson, Maurice M. Robinson T. W. Mabry, and L. Alvin Beamon.

The county school officials planned reorganizational procedures which brought about unification in the schools in February 1970. The building which had been known as Carver-Price High School became Appomattox Intermediate School, housing grades five through nine. Mr. Beamon, who was principal of the Carver-Price High School continued in that position in the newly organized intermediate school. Mr. Daniel W. Davis served as principal during the 1973-74 session. With the opening of Appomattox County High School for the 1974-75 session, county schools were reorganized and Appomattox Intermediate became Appomattox Elementary, housing grades three through six.

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THE HARDY SCHOOL  
DEED BOOK 16, PAGE 620

This deed, made this 25<sup>th</sup> day of May 1914, between Thomas Tarleton Hardy and Elizabeth Ellen Hardy, his wife, of the county of Appomattox, Va. Partner of the first part, and the School Board of Clover Hill District No. 1, of Appomattox Co., Va. Party of the second part.

That in consideration of the interest the parties of the first part feel in the public free schools of the Commonwealth, and more especially of the County of Appomattox, in which they reside, and the further consideration of the promise on the part of the party of the second part, that the school building to be erected and maintained on the lot of land hereinafter conveyed, and the school constructed on a said lot shall be known and called "The Hardy School," they the said Thomas Tarleton Hardy and Elisabeth Ellen Hardy, parties of the first part do grant and convey with General Warranty of title unto the said School Board of Clover Hill District No. 1 of Appomattox County, Va. Party of the second part, the following real estate:

A certain tract of land situated in Clover Hill District of the County of Appomattox, Va. containing one square acre, to be hereafter surveyed and cut off the party of the second part, at its pleasure, adjoining St. Paul's Episcopal Church Lot, at Hurtsville, and the other lands of the parties of the first part, described as follows:

Beginning at the southeast corner of a said church lot, thence westerly a straight line, along the private road through the woods, a sufficient distance to cut off a said square acre, to a corner on a said road, thence northerly a straight line, paralleling the line of a said church lot, a sufficient distance to cut off a said square acre to a corner in the land of the parties of the first part; thence easterly a straight line paralleling the line along the road through the woods to the corner; thence southerly along the line to a said church lot to corner at beginning.

**NOTATION:**

The Hardy School has been dismantled and moved to the Clover Hill Village located near the Appomattox County National Historical Park. The school reconstruction is being spearheaded by Roy Varcoe and Nancy Murrery, members of the Appomattox County Historical Society.

## HURTSVILLE

Once there was a place called Hurtsville. This was a very active community around the turn of the century and until the mid-twenties. The location was near the county lines of Appomattox, Buckingham and Prince Edward Counties. The area before the Revolutionary War was known as the St. James Parish.

A log building serving as an Episcopal church, a country store and a one room school was once located here.

The old Episcopal church was covered with wood boards before 1900. The church was torn down in the 1940's. Some of the old logs are now in the home of Dr. and Mrs. Jack Matthews in Appomattox County.

The one room school had two outstanding teachers: Miss Edmonia Hardy, known as "Miss Eddie," who taught three generations (a grandfather, mother and son) and Miss Cammie Anderson, who taught the largest number of students in a one room public school in our county. Over a period of four years, she taught a hundred and fifty students.

According to Ragland Featherson in his Appomattox County history book, this was the first public school built in the county. The school was known for a short while as the Hardy Private School.

There were numerous private schools in Appomattox at the time, but "the Hardy School" was the first built by the state in the county. It is believed the school closed in 1929 and 1930.

Now the only things left in this once busy community are two road signs and three old 1800 homes: the Samuel Watkins home, the Woodson home and the quaint Jennings home.

A few of the names of families who enjoyed life here from the early 1800's until World War II: Agee, Blackwood, Carson, Coleman, Conner, Dickerson, Drinkard, Fore, Forbes, Gills, Gilliam, Gray, Hannah, Hix, Haynes, Hurt, Jennings, Kidd, Inge, Marshall, Repass, Sears, Phillips, Walker, Watkins, Webb, Woodson, and Woolridge.

According to Mrs. Eston Harvey, an Appomattox resident and a former student at the Hurtsville schoolhouse, a potbelly stove was the lone source of heat in the building. She said the older boys, seventh graders, would start the morning fire daily and would be responsible for cleaning out the ashes.

"We got water from a well about a good city block away," said Mrs. Harvey. She attended the preschool, first and second grades in 1925-27.

Each Hardy student brought his own tin cup for drinking. When students arrived at school, they would put their lunches on the top shelf of the coat closet. The lunches were packed tightly in a tin container to keep the ants out.

The students would arrive at school by walking, riding a wagon or as Mr. Harvey remembers, her grandfather would let her ride behind him as he rode his horse and dropped her off at school.

The Hardy School of Hurtsville is being moved to the Cloverhill Village, a living history museum.

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## LIBERTY CHAPEL SCHOOL

My mother, Mable Bertha Coleman, was born in 1879, and the only private school in this area was run by a Miss Ida Jones. She lived near Liberty Chapel Baptist Church and only taught through the seventh grade. The very first school in the neighborhood was a one-room school on Beverly Hills Plantation called Plantation School. My oldest sister and brother went to the Plantation School at the turn of the century. The last teacher there was a Miss Pankey. This school stood in a field near Stevens Run and was torn down in 1925.

Liberty Chapel School was build in 1915, and all the local families sent their children there. Those who attended Liberty Chapel at its height were the families of Martin, Booker, Page, Beale, Grow, Megginson, Harris, Carter, Phelps, Wells, Moore, Thornhill, Coleman, Childress, Garrett, Harvey, Totty, Scruggs, Jamerson, and Thomas. Three of the Bookers who attended Liberty chapel are still living. Livye is 93, George is 90, and I (Malcolm) am 86.

In the history of this plantation school, only one slave girl named Betty Stevens attended this school. She asked her master if she could go to school so she could learn to read the Bible. On a marker on her grave in a slave cemetery, it reads, "Betty Stevens could only read the Bible."

There were 28 white schools and 24 black schools at one time in Appomattox until 1981-82, then there were five.

I started to school at Liberty Chapel in 1920, and I want to give you an idea of what school was like in those days. Liberty Chapel was a three-room school with, first, second and third grades in one room; fourth, fifth, and sixth in another room; and seventh, eighth and ninth in the third room.

I walked three miles each way to school, except in bad weather; then we rode in a buggy that was made by my father so that it had four seats to carry all of us. The first paid school bus driver was John Beale. The bus was pulled by two mules named Dutsie and Logan.

Discipline was strict in those days. I got my first whipping from Professor Smith, a small man from Pennsylvania. He claimed the honor of whipping every boy at Liberty Chapel except my brother, Robert Booker. He was the toughest boy in school, six feet tall and mean. Robert had said if Professor Smith tried to whip him, he would make him sorry and he never got whipped. Wilson Scruggs and I got a whipping at the same time for being late coming back to class. We were told to chase a cow off the school yard to a yard about 500 feet from school where two girls were sun bathing on an old mattress, so we were distracted and got a whipping with a poplar which didn't hurt much.

Mumberly Peg was the main pass time at recess which is played with a knife; every school boy always had a pocket knife.

The teachers I remember at Liberty Chapel were Clara Chappel, Bell Zigler, Olivia Rush, Frances Street, Alma Porter, Elsie Morgan, and Virginia Harvey. When Elsie Morgan married Kirk Megginson, she had to give up teaching because one was not allowed to teach if one was married.

After a student finished the ninth grade at Liberty Chapel, they had to go to boarding school at Appomattox. I was the only boy in my family of seven boys and five girls to finish high school. I graduated in 1932 and then joined the Navy. All of my sisters graduated from high school and went to college. All the boys went out into the world and were very successful. My youngest brother joined the Army at Pearl Harbor and served thirty years and retired as a Master Sergeant. The Booker family had one girl who was an officer in the Medical Corps and five boys in World War II: two in the Navy, two in the Army, and one in the Air Corps. The only person killed during the second World War from Liberty Chapel School was Ed Gunter.

Submitted by Malcolm A. Booker, Sr.

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LIBERTY CHAPEL SCHOOL  
BY HAZEL LEE MARTIN

Liberty Chapel is among the oldest public schools in the county of Appomattox, opening around 1915. My aunts, Mary Coleman Moore, born 1904, and Corrine Coleman Cattlett, born 1907, attended and graduated from Liberty Chapel. Corrine went on to Farmville Teachers College.

The first school was a two-room frame building, located near Liberty Chapel Baptist Church on state route #616. Later two more rooms were added, one being a stage room with folding doors that could be opened into classroom for Community League meetings, debates, plays, and other school activities. The school had been made an accredited Junior High School before I entered in 1927.

Transportation for my first year in school was mainly by foot, walking about three miles. After the first year, we had a great school bus, a Model A truck with a boxlike building on the back in which the students rode. Incidentally, the bus made a turn around in our back yard in making the route to school. The junior high classes were discontinued in June 1935, the year I graduated. In my class were three boys and one girl (the writer). The next year we found waiting



for us a neat new bus that would carry us to Appomattox High School for the last two years of our high school education.

My most memorable experience associated with Liberty Chapel was I represented the school on May 3, 1935, in the May Court for the County Festival of Music and Health Program. One of the directors of this program was a distinguished teacher, Walter J. Payne who resides at his home in Pamplin.

Submitted by Hazel Lee Coleman Martin (1999)

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#### DEED FOR LIBERTY CHAPEL SCHOOL

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Book 15, Pages 287-288

THIS DEED, made this 17<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1914, between Isabella Payne, (widow), Ida W. Jones, and Cornelia Jones, all of the County of Appomattox, Virginia, Parties, of the first part, and the School Board of Stonewall District number 3 of the County of Appomattox, Virginia, party of the second part.

WITNESSETH: That in consideration of Forty (\$40.00) Dollars, cash in hand paid, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, the said Isabella Payne, Ida W. Jones, and Cornelia Jones, parties of the first part, do grant and convey, with General Warranty of title, unto the said School Board of Stonewall District Number 3, party of the second part, a certain tract of land, situated in Stonewall District, a short distance east of Liberty Chapel Baptist Church, immediately on the Bent Creek and Vera Road, and south of the same, adjoining the lands of Mrs. C. F. Doss and the other lands of the parties of the first part, containing two (2) acres, as plot of Survey made by W. A. Moses, Surveyor of Appomattox County, March 31, 1914, which is hereto attached and made a part of this deed, to be recorded along herewith, in which said plot of two acres of land herein conveyed is described by metes and bounds as follows, to-wit:

"Beginning at a corner in the Bent Creek and Vera Road at (1); thence along the road N. 47 degrees 30' W. 5.00 chains to (2); thence leaving road S. 42 degrees 30' W. 4.00 chains to stake and pointers at (3); S. 47 degrees 30' E. 5.00 chains to stake and pointer at (4); thence 42 degrees 30' E. 4.00 chains to station (1)".

The said parties of the first part covenant that they have the right to convey land to the grantee; that they have done no act to encumber the same; that the grantee shall have quiet and peaceful possession of said land, free from encumbrance; and that they will execute such further assurance of the title to said land as may be requisite.

Witness the following signatures and seals:

Isabella Payne

Ida Walton Jones

Cornelia Jones

STATE OF VIRGINIA, County of Appomattox, to-wit:

I, J. G. Thorp, a Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid, in the State of Virginia, do certify, that Isabella Payne, Ida W. Jones, and Cornelia Jones, whose names are signed to the foregoing deed, bearing date April 17, 1914, have acknowledged the same before me in my County aforesaid.

Given under by hand this the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May 1914.

F. G. Thorp, J.P.

March 31<sup>st</sup> 1914.—Surveyed the Liberty Chapel School Lot. Contains 2 acres.  
Deed recorded in the Clerk's Office of Appomattox Circuit Court, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 1914.

J. R. Horsley, Clerk

#### APPROVAL OF TITLE AND OPINION

Law Order Book Number 1, at page 523 Commonwealth Attorney S. L. Ferguson approved the title of said property.

Information from a 1915 *PUBLIC SCHOOL SOUVENIR*

The teacher for the first class conducted in Liberty Chapel School was Lester B. Harvey.

His pupils were:

**BOYS**

Judson T. Carter  
William J. Dixon  
John T. Goodwin  
Embrey Major  
T. Glover Lythgoe  
James E. Robertson  
William N. Smith  
Samuel N. Thornhill

John E. Childers  
Jesse C. Doss  
G. Wiley Harvey  
Dean McFadden  
Sam A. Moore  
Cabel C. Smith  
Kenneth E. Spiggle  
Joseph T. Wingfield

Lewis B. Childers  
Floyd T. Doss  
Jefferson B. Kinney  
Julian A. McFadden  
D. North Robinson  
Ernest W. Smith  
Ben A. Thornhill

**GIRLS**

Alice Kinney  
Elizabeth Coleman  
Riley Lewis Spradlin  
Ethel Wells

Emma Robertson  
Alice Smith  
Sallie Bell Thornhill

Ida Booker  
Callie Smith  
Clara Wingfield

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**NELSON COUNTY STUDENTS ATTENDING APPOMATTOX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
By: Virginia Mundy Cyrus

Due to the distance the Gladstone area students had to travel to Lovingsston to attend high school, the school boards of Nelson County and Appomattox County had an agreement to allow the high school students in this area to attend Appomattox County Schools.

Grade school students from the Gladstone area were also allowed to attend the Appomattox County Schools. Nevertheless, their parents had to pay tuition to the school board because there was an elementary school in Gladstone.

One bus from Nelson County transported the Gladstone area students to Appomattox. Mr. Dewey Worley was the bus driver. He was well liked by all the students and there were no discipline problems on the bus that he was unable to take care of.

The bus was always kept clean. I remember the two long flat seats down the middle of the bus, bench type with no back rest. The smaller children had to sit on the middle seats. The side seats were more comfortable with padded seats and padded back rest. This also was one continuous row down the side of the bus body.

Mr. Worley, the bus driver, had the girls sit on one side of the bus and the boys on the other side. The grade school boys sat facing the high school boys. The grade school girls sat facing the high school girls. The only back rest the children had was each other, back to back.

I remember the high school students were very concerned and caring for the younger students. They were always looking out for them. They would check to see that all the younger students got on the bus in the afternoon before leaving for home.

I recall an automobile accident on the James River Bridge at Bent Creek one morning as we were on our way to school. We were unable to cross the bridge. The bridge was a one lane steel frame structure. Mr. Worley took the students back to Gladstone and the younger children went to the Gladstone Elementary School that day. Most of the high school students lived in the village of Gladstone or lived in walking distance of home, so they walked home. The young children thought it was great fun to visit in a different school for the day. They gave us lunch and we had a lot of fun playing with different children.

Another interesting happening on the bridge was when the water rose very high. Mr. Worley asked all the students to get off the bus and walk across the bridge. He would not drive the bus across the bridge with all the students on it. The river was so high the water was splashing up on the bridge. I was scared to death. Again, the high school students cared for the younger children and tried to calm their fears of the high, splashing water while walking across

the bridge.

Sometimes a little streak of meanness would come out in some of the students. The windows on the bus were very small and only half of the window could be opened. A long row of hinges ran across the middle of the window and a latch at the top half of the window held it shut. After the bus left US Route 60, all the other roads were unpaved. The washboard rut, pot holes, bumps, and just rough roads in general, would jar the window latch loose. Down on a person's head the window would fall. Of course all the students got a real charge out of this happening. At times, someone would loosen the latch just a little to make sure it would fall. Sometimes we got in trouble for what we thought was a funny trick. It was not fun if your head was the one the window fell on and got the bump.

My sister, Elizabeth, and brother, Dick, and I started to Appomattox School in 1941. All three of us were in the same grade due to the way Mom previously entered us in school. Our ages were very near the same and I started at age five. We entered Miss Nola Burkey's 4<sup>th</sup> grade class.

The grade school, 1-7, was housed in the same building as the high school. The ground floor level was the elementary section. Miss Flora Belle Williams was the principal. The high school was housed on the upper level. Mr. Crawley was the principal. The cafeteria, managed by Mrs. Annie Laurie Babcock, was also on the ground level. The school did not have a gym. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade also occupied the top level. Mrs. Ola Furbush was the teacher and also the person in charge of the clinic. The school didn't have a nurse at that time. The clinic was across the hall from Mrs. Furbush's classroom.

I recall we had an hour for what we called "Big Recess" at 12:00 noon. All elementary and high school students were on the playground together at the same time. Students, any age, could walk downtown to the corner drug store. Many grade school students would walk a block or so to Mr. Haley's grocery store to buy penny candy, etc.

The high school students would play volleyball or get a baseball game going. Most of the grade school students would play marbles, jacks, or jump rope. Hopscotch was a favorite game with the girls. Sometimes the younger students would just watch older students play ball.

We also had a 15 minute afternoon time for physical education.

Miss Williams and Mr. Crawley, the two principals, would have some type of entertainment once a month in the auditorium, which was in a separate building from the main school building. Programs included a regular length movie, circus acts, various performers, plays, etc. There would be a small fee to attend these activities.

When the school had an assembly, Miss Williams would incorporate a garden show. Each student had the opportunity to enter a flower or flower arrangement in the show. She would see that each entry received a ribbon. No student was disappointed. Of course you were happy if your flowers won a blue ribbon, but many times you settled with the red or yellow ribbon or even the white.

In 1942 the 5<sup>th</sup> grade class was so over crowded another teacher had to be hired to take care of the overflow of students. Mrs. Thelma Webb Martin was hired. She taught in the room located behind the auditorium, known then as the music room. At this point I was separated from my brother and sister. They were put in Mrs. Martin's classroom and I had Miss Mamie Cullup. We encountered one more separation when we got in high school. My brother, Dick, took shop. Elizabeth and I had Home Economics. We did graduate at the same time.

A special event I recall was the opportunity to go see the film *GONE WITH THE WIND*. Arrangements were made for the upper elementary and high school students to see this film at the Lee Theater.

During the elementary years we had the privilege of having a music teacher once a week. Miss Kate Franklin would take each class to the music room located in the back of the auditorium. She taught us a lot of songs that have stuck with me through the years.

During the war our school would let you purchase war stamps and war bonds. Our classes would have a contest to see which class could purchase the most. I recall a convoy of soldiers spending the night in the cafeteria.

The high school years were filled with many exciting activities. I recall the clubs and

different organizations would sponsor a social we called Canteen Parties. The students would get together and dance to the music of the jukebox. The sponsoring organization was responsible for decorating the cafeteria, refreshments, and entertainment. Our parents were welcomed by the students to be there. They would sit in a group and enjoy each other's company while the students had fun. One party is especially outstanding in my mind, Miss Holley and the Latin class. The decorations were out of this world, costumes, favors, refreshments, and the pinata. I think everyone had a chance to bat at one of the many pinatas. Candy was a real treat in those days.

Mr. Crawley retired and Mr. John E. Peters became the high school principal.

The School Board added another year to high school in the 1949-50 school session. Dick, Elizabeth, and I left Appomattox School and went to Lovingson High School, Nelson County. We graduated in 11 years. I don't recall many new subjects being added to the curriculum at Appomattox the 12<sup>th</sup> year. Driver Education was one new subject.

The Nelson County students continued attending the Appomattox County Schools until 1951. A new high school was opened the fall of 1952 in Nelson County.

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#### NEW GOLD HILL SCHOOL

(From a local newspaper account dated November 15, 1905)

The school at New Gold Hill was closed for a week on account of scarlet fever. It reopened last Monday, as it has shown no inclination to spread.

Roll of Honor of New Gold Hill School for the first month are:

Hattie Fore	Katherine Watkins
Minnie Fore	Beulah Walden
Geneva Walden	Jessie Walden
John Fore	William Watkins
Oscar Walden	

Lillian Gilliam, Teacher



GOLD HILL SCHOOL

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#### OAKVILLE SCHOOL

In a special article in the Lynchburg News dated March 23, 1954 is recorded, "Oakville School Observes Founders Day. The program was centered around the organization of the first Parent-Teacher Association at the school which was called the Community League in December 1921.

Among the charter members who were present at the meeting were Mr. and Mrs. William C. Harvey, Mrs. E. B. Martin, Mrs. Otho Martin, Sr. and Mr. Wiley and Clarence Moore. Each person spoke of his or her interesting and humorous experiences."

The first school was a one room building, built in 1890, and located a short distance from Oakville on the Piney Mountain Road. In 1909 the school was closed and a new three-room frame building was built in Oakville, at the present location. In 1922, the school became an accredited junior high school, and a fourth room was added which was also used as a stage



room.

Attending Oakville School was a real experience for me. Not only did I receive a good education and moral guidance, but I also learned to work as well. We used wood stoves in all of the classrooms, which were without running water and indoor toilets. I lived just across the road from the school and was asked to build the four fires each morning. My pay was \$1.00 per week. Imagine what the present generation missed!

My mother boarded many of the teachers and I remember fondly Miss Mattie Moss, Miss Idell Ferguson, Misses Fannie and Elizabeth Haskins, Miss Elizabeth Royster, Miss Virginia Alvis and Mr. Comer.

Oakville School has been used widely as a community building since its closing in 1960.

Submitted by Otho W. Martin, Jr. (1999)

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OAKVILLE SCHOOL  
BY FRANCES ABBITT  
Contributing editor for *THE TIMES VIRGINIAN*  
March 4, 1998

The first Oakville School was built around 1890 and was located one-half mile east of Oakville on Piney Mountain Road. It consisted of one room. It was moved to the location of the present school in 1909 and extra rooms were added. In 1922 it was made an accredited junior high school and a fourth room was added. Later a cafeteria and other modern facilities were added.

"When Otha and I moved to the area from Lynchburg in the 40's, students in Oakville School were still using a dipper for drinking water and a wood stove for heat," Hazel Lee Martin remembered.

"I had the job of making the fire every morning at Oakville School," said David Martin.

I was happy to do that; I was paid \$4.00 a month for my services. Water had to be brought to school from neighbors," he added.

Some of the teachers at Oakville School were Mr. Rad Wheeler, Miss Lula Goodman, Miss Elizabeth Harvey, Miss Ruby Clark, Miss Fannie Haskins, and Miss Flora Belle Williams.

Many of the teachers boarded with Mr. and Mrs. Otho Martin, Sr., while teaching at Oakville School. Teachers also boarded in the homes of Mrs. Mattie Thorpe and Mr. and Mrs. Ed Owen. Teachers did not have cars in those days.

"Frances, when your mother, Elizabeth, was teaching at Oakville, she boarded with Mama and Daddy," said Christine Martin.

"One Saturday night your Dad came calling to see your mother. (They weren't married then). He hung his hat on the post at the stairway. When he was ready to leave that night, he couldn't find his hat. Finally someone found it, but the house dog had already found it and torn it to pieces. Needless to say, he went home hatless," she added.

In the early days of Oakville School, students walked unless brought by their parents. Many walked as far as three to five miles each way.

"I remember Red Coleman and his family walked at least five miles, as well as the children of my two uncles, Raymond Martin and Sidney Martin. They walked four miles each way," said Otho Martin.

"Eston Harvey and his brother, Richard, walked about three miles. All these children walked together," he added.

"I remember how protective Eston's mother was of her children. She insisted they wear raincoats and other rainwear to protect them from the rain," he continued.

"It was told that because none of the other school children, especially the boys, didn't wear raincoats and such, Eston would remove his as soon as he was out of sight of the house and put the things in the barn until he came back from school," Martin said with a smile.

The first transportation to Oakville School was by a covered wagon, such as those seen in westerns on television. Then came the bus, which was just a truck with a homemade body



and seats. Still, later, came the regulation bus.

"Oakville School had grades one through ten in the 1930's," Isabell Martin remembered.

Hazel Lee Martin attended school at Liberty Chapel, and she remembers quite well what it meant to the Liberty Chapel team when they had to meet the Oakville team.

"All students at Liberty Chapel dreaded the games they played against Oakville because they were rough," Hazel Lee explained.

"Before the games with Oakville the Liberty Chapel teachers would give the students a good 'talking-to' about proper behavior," she continued.

"Our students were told, 'Whatever you do, don't misbehave, regardless of what the Oakville students do,' she added.

Otho Martin remembers a spelling bee at Oakville School. "On this particular day, the teacher called the word *uncouth*, and asked me to make a sentence using the word. Right then I couldn't remember ever having heard the word," Martin said.

"The teacher kept looking at me, expecting an answer. A fellow student, Thurman Wilcox Sr., spoke quietly to me, 'I'll tell you what to say, try this, the dog ran down the road uncouth.' So I proudly said, 'The dog ran down the road uncouth.'"

Otho didn't say anything about the grade he received that day.

Oakville young people had the opportunity to take piano lessons from Mrs. Maude Martin who was a music teacher in the area for a time.

Prior to the public school, there were several private schools located near Oakville. In an old church register it listed Moore School House and other old accounts which tell of Mt. Comfort and Ridge Road School House. Oakville School was closed in 1959-60, and all students were bused to the central schools, located in the town of Appomattox.

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**OAKVILLE SCHOOL, late January 1967 to January 1968**  
**Memories of Betty Bryan**

Oakville School at this time was a rural community school that serviced kindergarten through seventh grade. It consisted of a "new" cafeteria, two indoor bathrooms, and four classrooms. One of the classrooms had a stage, so school assemblies could be held there. There was a small front porch that overlooked the parking lot and a ballfield. In the back was a blacktopped basketball court recently donated by local citizens. The cafeteria doubled as a gym of sorts that we could use in case of inclement weather or if we wanted to do rhythm activities. Each classroom had the "modern" technology of a TV that we used for educational purposes. Other audiovisual equipment consisted of portable movie projectors (the movies were obtained from Longwood College), and record players. There was no school library, but the upper grades were bussed weekly to visit the county library which was next to what is now the Appomattox Middle School. Each child could check out two books. The school was somewhat rundown when I was there, but we all kept it neat. A janitor came one morning a week to see that heavy cleaning was done. We had a music teacher visit once a week, too.

I accepted the job as sixth/seventh grade teacher, cafeteria manager, and principal replacing Earl Pickett. The following year was one I will remember as one of the most pleasant and interesting experiences of my career.

Life as a combination teacher/principal wasn't as difficult as you might imagine. The children helped each other academically as well as socially. They grew up in the neighborhood, so everyone around kept a benevolent eye on them.

I remember one time deciding that it was time to clean up the grounds. The electric company had recently replaced poles and had left a mess, including two poles on the baseball field. The entire school gathered to pick up rocks, glass, trash, and debris that were causing problems. One grandfather came with his tractor and wagon so the rocks would be carried away. That left two very long, heavy poles. All the upper class students worked as a team to lift the poles and carry them into the woods. It was unbelievable, but by the end of the day, the place, including the windows, was clean.

I remember another time where the children helped run their school. Mrs. Burks, the

cook, was absent and there was no substitute. Two of my girls went into the kitchen, made soup, sandwiches, and dessert for the entire school, served it, and cleaned up afterwards. What surprised me is that they didn't seem to think it was out of the ordinary. It was the custom for students who got free lunch to help the cook set up for meals and clean up afterwards, so the children were used to having student assistants in the cafeteria.

Keeping all the activities going was somewhat of a challenge, but I had a lot of help. The stage in my classroom became the school office. I was able to train some able assistants in office work. They ran off dittos, yes, the cranky, cranky kind for the school; kept supplies organized; and ran movies for the classes. One of my students would stay after school every day to help me count money and package it for the bank. We would then work on the books, balancing records, and reconciling different books. There were no computers. We ended the year in the black! On occasions, some of my students would take lower grades out for recess so that their teachers could teach one class instead of two. There were some squabbles, but not many. On two occasions, one of the boys kept my car running. One time I had a flat tire and, of course, didn't know how to use the jack or how to change it, so one of my poorest readers went out to take care of the problem. Another time he actually went into the engine to juggle something. Immediate start!

The fall of 1968 was unique. We integrated the school. This was a period of national tension and TV coverage of violence and unrest all over the country. It was not surprising to have parents on the first day of school, black and white, show up in the bus circle before the children arrived. We four teachers, Mrs. O'Brien; Mrs. Katherine Alvis, my mother; Mrs. Dickerson, and I stood at the front of the school to welcome the students. The parents got out of their cars and stood quietly on either side of the driveway, blacks on one side and whites on the other. Then in came the buses. You could hear the laughter before the bus turned the corner. As soon as the bus stopped, one child leaned out the window and yelled, "Hey, Ma, what 'chew' doing here? It's all right. Go on home." The parents nodded at each other, got in their cars, and went on home. That first day and those that followed were uneventful. The children got along very well. They continued to help each other and played well together.

At Christmas time the students were able to present a musical for the PTA meeting. The children were fine, but the parents seemed somewhat ill at ease with the integrated seating arrangements. After the first few numbers, however, all differences seemed to be forgotten. It was a beautiful program in all ways.

I have lost track of many of my students at Oakville, but those whom I have followed have done well. They have become preachers, teachers, laborers, factory workers, nurses, bus drivers, mechanics, and good citizens in their communities. I think the community spirit of being in a small school must have made a mark on their lives.

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**THE HISTORY OF SPOUT SPRING SCHOOL**  
Recollections primarily by Margaret and Roy Moon  
Written by Estaline McCraw

At the beginning to the twentieth century, the many one-room neighborhood schools sprinkled throughout Appomattox County were becoming more and more impractical. Securing qualified teachers, maintaining buildings, and the increasing student population necessitated the building of larger and more centrally located community schools.

In 1914 or 1915, the Spout Spring School, which is located on Route 647 was built. The land for the school was a part of the R. W. Smith property. Trees were cut and timber was donated by the men of the community to build the three classroom community school which would accommodate students in grades 1-6. In each classroom, the teacher taught two grades and all subjects within each grade. There was no electricity or running water in the building in the early years of the school.

Operating with few conveniences, the school allowed little opportunity for recreation. Wood heaters provided warmth, and Mr. Burton Carson contracted to furnish wood and deliver it to the school ground in early summer, thus allowing the wood to dry before late fall. Having

dried during the summer, the wood was split by the older children as it was needed. It was carried into the school building by younger children and stacked in wood boxes. Students also carried water daily in buckets from the Wesley Coleman home which was located on land adjacent to the school. Since there was no running water, two privies were located behind the school buildings, one for males and one for females.

Many students walked to school. However, those who lived some distance from school were transported by Mr. Oscar Cheatham, who placed seats on the body of a truck and operated his "bus" for a fee. Schools often shut down for weeks and sometimes longer because of inclement weather or because of epidemics of measles and whooping cough.

A primer level, which is equivalent to kindergarten today, was introduced in 1925 and lasted for several years. These younger children often learned so quickly from the older students that they were allowed to skip a grade in the early years of instruction. According to Margaret Moon, these younger children were allowed to move freely within and outside the school building as long as they were in hearing distance of the bell. Of course, the distance for hearing the bell was very short.

Many of the students' clothes, especially those of the girls, were homemade. The remainder was bought at the stores of local merchants. Each child had only several outfits, and if by accident, a garment was torn, it was neatly patched and often repatched to be worn again and again. Children anticipated the coming of spring because they could discard their too tight and too short shoes to go barefooted!

Light school lunches often consisted of wild game, various types of pork meat on biscuits, honey or jelly biscuits, apple puffs, or anything else that was left over from supper and suitable for a lunch. Cold sweet potatoes, baked in their jackets, tasted very good. Needless to say, there weren't many "picky" eaters in those days!

Classrooms were meagerly furnished with a teacher's desk and chair, desks for the students and a blackboard. Reading, writing, arithmetic, and language were studied by all students. In addition, health, history, and geography were taught to the upper grade students. Students learned primarily by copying, memorizing, and reciting. Friday spelling bees afforded great opportunities for competition. Younger students often finished the winners! During recess students enjoyed various games of ball, races, and other games such as hide and seek. Discipline was seldom a problem. A note home usually solved any difficulty as teachers were highly respected and supported by the parents.

By 1914 or 1915, teacher training had advanced significantly. Most teachers had received one or two years of training at the Farmville State Teachers College, now known as Longwood College. Only single ladies were offered teaching positions. Most boarded in the nearby home of Mr. and Mrs. William Alvis. Teachers' workdays began very early as they walked to school and built the fires so that the rooms would be relatively warm when the students arrived. They never felt really warm, though, unless they were lucky enough to sit near the stove!

Mr. J. A. Burke was the superintendent of schools at this time. Teachers were paid a monthly salary by the county, and there were times, toward the end of the school year, when there were insufficient funds. Teachers received no money for their services when the money ran out.

Among those teaching from the opening years of the school until 1930 were the following: Miss Mamie Cullop, Miss Helen Dickerson (sister of Estelle Martin and Erna Dickerson), Miss Earl Patterson who later married THE TIMES VIRGINIAN'S Father Darkleaf, Miss Vera Morris, and Miss Mary West.

The midyears (1930's to 1950) of Spout Spring School brought several welcome additions to the facility. First, the building was wired for electricity in the early 1940's. Second, a lunchroom was started by the PTA mothers and then taken over by WPA(Work Program for Adults) workers. Margaret Moon joined the lunchroom staff as a National Youth worker, which operated under the WPA program. Mrs. Ida McCann also worked in the lunchroom after World War II ended. The lunchroom was closed during the war years, and children brought their lunches from home. When lunchroom services were renewed, simple lunches were prepared on a wood cookstove in a former cloak room. Imagine how warm and uncomfortable that little room



was for the workers in the early fall and late spring! Water continued to be carried by the students to the school in buckets. There, it was poured into a large stoneware cooler with a spigot. That spigot was quite a novelty, and the students suddenly became unusually thirsty. At first, they brought jelly glasses from home to drink from, but after studying about germs in health classes, they began making paper cups which were discarded each time after use. Soon, the children found themselves not only being berated by their teachers but also by their parents for using so much paper. Conservation was quickly put to practice!

Roy Moon fondly recalls an annual school event that occurred in the early 1930's. A countywide May Day program was held in the town of Appomattox at the site of the present middle school. The day long event was the highlight of spring for school children and their parents. Mr. Walter Payne, an accomplished pianist and school teacher, visited schools in the county and taught students various songs so all could participate. Wrapping the Maypole, races, and relays added to the excitement of the day.

When Roy Moon enrolled in the seventh grade at Appomattox in 1935, the county ran out of funds to pay for bus transportation, thus causing Mr. Rufus Burnett to request that parents make donations so he could continue to operate the bus for the remainder of the year.

Mrs. Joyce Vaughan, a former Spout Spring School student said, "I remember during World War II that convoys of soldiers traveling on Highway 460 would come across the bridge and have a rest stop at our outside facilities. They would talk and play with us a few minutes and then give each child a candy bar as they bade us farewell."

The curriculum saw few changes during the 1930's until 1950. Mr. J. A. Burke continued as superintendent of county schools, and Mrs. Mildred Alvis served as Home-School Coordinator or "Visiting Teacher" for many years. The school was also served by a visiting nurse and a visiting librarian. By this time, teachers were allowed to marry. Many who lived nearby continued to walk to school, but those living at a distance either drove to school or were transported by their husbands.

Mrs. Rosa Inge, Mrs. Florence Trent, Miss Erna Dickerson, Miss Vera Morris, Mrs. Fannie Jennings, Miss Earlene Rosser, Miss Mamie Cullop, Mrs. Coylier Scruggs, Mrs. Nell Walton, and Mrs. Pauline Thomas were among those teaching during the midyears of the school.

In the later and final years of the school from 1950 until 1970, the facility underwent many changes. A lunchroom was added on the back side of the school building in 1950 or 1951. Lunch was prepared on a large, used A Home Comfort wood cookstove with a hot water tank. Students ate in this room where the lunch was prepared. Margaret Moon recalls the time that the water tank on the stove froze and burst during a severe cold spell. She had to go to a neighbor's home and cook lunch until new parts for the stove arrived. Margaret wouldn't think of letting "her children" go without homemade cookies! She made these at her home after work and brought them to school the next day. Thus, it was only fitting that Margaret became the lunchroom manager and only chef in the 1950's and retained this position until the school closed in 1970. Margaret endeared herself to every student who passed through the Spout Spring School, for she was not only a wonderful cook, but she served as school nurse, seamstress, confidant, and counselor for students who were having difficulty and who were being sent to the lunchroom for a period of isolation. I suspect there were students who deliberately made it possible to be sent to Margaret's room. Her serene, comforting manner, her attentive ear, and her cookies always brought about more appropriate behavior. Students will long remember the wonderful aromas of homemade soups, cookies, and other delicious food that permeated the classrooms. Lunches during this time cost about twenty cents. Ice cream, a real treat, was sold as an afternoon snack for five cents. The ice cream box was a real blessing for Margaret as it provided her with additional means of refrigeration. Margaret retired from the Appomattox Elementary School cafeteria staff in 1987. Later, the parents and former students had a surprise "This is Your Life" party for "their Margaret" under the pretense of having a reunion for all students who had attended Spout Spring School.

Along with the addition of the new lunchroom came a new well that was dug on school property. Two bathrooms and running water was installed in the building. Oil heaters were purchased for each of the classrooms which made the entire building much more comfortable.

In the 1960's, an electric stove was purchased for the lunchroom. Students were transported to school in county owned school buses. Separate buses transported black and white students to separate schools until they were integrated in 1970.

Mr. Earl J. Smith served as superintendent of schools, and Mrs. Mary Savage was supervisor of instruction. Dr. Aubrey Keesee followed Mrs. Savage as the instructional supervisor. Mr. Keesee was followed by Mr. Bruce Chandler, and the school continued to receive the services of a visiting nurse and a visiting librarian. With the interest and support of the PTA, the students and the teachers were provided with materials, equipment, and amenities that they would not ordinarily have had. Educational TV greatly enriched the instructional program. Emphasis on science, especially by educational TV, was encouraged. By the mid and later 1960's, many of the teachers in the school held Bachelor of Science degrees in elementary or secondary education. New teaching methods and strategies were being implemented.

Mrs. Colyer Scruggs, Mrs. Nell Walton, Mrs. Pauline Thomas, and Mrs. Susie Martin continued their teaching positions from the 1950's until the mid 1960's. From 1966 to 1970, Mrs. Estaline McCraw, Mrs. Dorothy Oliver and Mrs. Dorothy Dunnevant briefly served on the teaching staff along with Mrs. Walton and Mrs. Thomas.

County and school officials were finding the small community schools increasingly expensive to maintain and operate. They realized also that students would be afforded more educational opportunities at the larger schools in Appomattox. Therefore, a reluctant, but necessary, decision was made to close the Spout Spring School at the end of the session in 1970. Parents and students sadly watched the doors of their school, which had served them so well for over a half century, close. However, fond memories of the experiences there would remain forever.

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#### MY YEAR AT STONEWALL

By: Claudine O'Brien

In June, 1936, I finished Farmville State College, now Longwood, with a degree in Latin, English and history, along with a teaching certificate for grades 5-7.

As my mother died in 1933, it was a necessity for me to teach in Appomattox County.

Mr. Jerry Burke, the school superintendent, had one vacancy at Stonewall Elementary School as a principal and teaching grades 5-7, which I accepted with a salary of \$90 a month. Of my 44 years of teaching, it was one of the most rewarding experiences. I have always given credit to the success of that year to Miss Christine Garrett, whom I followed. The students were organized according to classes. While I was teaching one class, the other two would be studying. Miss Mattie Moss, ready for retiring, had 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades, and Miss Mary West, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. Since they were experienced teachers, they were a big help. We three boarded with Mr. and Mrs. Sam Anderson; however, it was necessary for me to leave Friday afternoon and return Monday morning to help with my sisters, 4 and 7, at home.

Being principal, as well as teacher, kept me busy. However, I had outstanding students. Later in life they proved it by becoming a doctor, art supervisor, nurse, secretaries, business men and farmers. They were well-behaved and a pleasure to teach. In fact, after 62 years, I still have a 7<sup>th</sup> grade student as a close friend.

The curriculum for each class was English, math, geography, art, health, and physical education.

We had a pump for our water, the students brought lunches from home and used "outside" bathrooms; yet no one complained.

One amusing experience: A 5<sup>th</sup> grade boy said one day, "Miss O'Brien, can't I say 'Is you?'" I replied, "I'm sorry, but you must say, 'Are you!'"

My father remarried in the summer of 1937 and I was no longer needed at home; so I accepted a position at Renan High School in Pittsylvania County teaching history.



**SULPHUR SPRING SCHOOL  
MR. AND MRS. ELWOOD CHRISTIAN  
BY: BETTY BOOKER**

In talking with Mr. and Mrs. Elwood Christian, they only remembered going to school in 1923. They went to an old church building off Route 60. This was on land owned by Mr. John McCoy. The teacher taught three or four months until the money being paid to them ran out. The children didn't go again until there was more money.

It was a one room school with no bathroom. In a classroom there were kids in first through fifth grades. The school was named Sulphur Spring. The boys had to stop when the crops came in to help on the farm. Girls didn't go to school in bad weather. The teacher stayed with people in the community. Sometime the teacher would take the girls home with her and leave the boys playing ball. They went to Mt. Airy from Bent Creek where they lived at that time. They rode a homemade bus made by a man in the neighborhood. They didn't go to school until they were seven years old. They remembered the name of another school that was called Iron Hill. Of course, they had to take their lunch each day.

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**TOWER HILL SCHOOL  
(From a local newspaper account dated November 1, 1905)**

The Tower Hill School began today. The students are being taught by Mrs. C. W. Phelps. There was some confusion in regard to which of the schools she would teach, the Bent Creek or Tower Hill. One of the Tower Hill patrons wrote to one of the school board members and recommended that Mrs. Phelps be appointed to that school, but a Miss Dawson had been appointed but failed to get the board's approval and then the Bent Creek patrons petitioned the board to send Mrs. Phelps to them but when the contract came it was for her to teach at the Tower Hill School. The Bent Creek School is knocked out simply because they cannot find a teacher for it. The writer thinks seriously of applying for it herself but fears she might fall through when she faces Mr. Hannah.

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**UNION ACADEMY IN THE SPOUT SPRING AREA  
Information provided by Margaret and Roy Moon**

Union Academy was located on Route 647 just beyond the present Spout Spring School building. It was built soon after the Salem United Methodist Church was built in 1837. School was held in the church while Union Academy was being built.

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**MEMORIES OF VERA SCHOOL  
By Walter J. Payne Jr.**



Vera School was my first teaching position. I accepted this position in 1932 as principal and teacher of the sixth and seventh grades. J. A. Burke was superintendent of the school district. I did not accept the position until the day before the school term began, which was for eight or nine months. My salary for teaching was \$60 per month with an extra \$2.50 for the

principal position. Other than myself, there were six other teachers at different times. They included Mary Reeves Black, Lou Covington, Edith Martin, Betty Morris, Margaret Smith (O'Brien), and Ellen Wilson.

Mr. Burke called the first teachers meeting in Appomattox, VA. All teachers assembled the day before the school term. Mr. Burke gave us instructions and issued supplies, which consisted of two boxes of chalk, a couple of erasers, and two brooms. Each teacher had the responsibility to sweep and then oil the floors to keep the dust to a minimum. This was performed after school hours.

The school consisted of four classrooms, kitchen, cafeteria, and auditorium. Note: Auditorium was used as cafeteria. There were large doors with black boards on one side that could be folded back to reveal the auditorium. This is where we held our PTA meetings once a month, and always had a large turnout. The president was Mr. Dick O'Brien. Many activities were performed, such as debates, stage shows acted out by the students, toy orchestra, and musical events. I taught the harmonica. The students that performed in the orchestra all wore red capes and hats, which were designed and sewed by the committee and people of the community. Frequently we would travel to Lynchburg to the radio station to broadcast our harmonious band.

Large stoves were used to heat each classroom, which was the responsibility of the acting teacher. Students were alternated to bring the wood from the wood shed outside into the classroom as needed. Frequently I would split kindling wood, as it was called, to start the fires.

Hattie Ferguson oversaw the cafeteria. She was an excellent cook. When vegetables were in season, students would bring them to school and exchange them for points to be later applied toward their lunch during the year. Exchange of commodities was frequently used. If I recall correctly, lunch cost \$0.15. Very seldom did anyone pay. Everyone ate; no one went without food. Someone would make sure that did not happen. Hattie Ferguson was one of 25 children. Her father's name was Dick Ferguson.

Activities included baseball, physical education, and volleyball. School buses arrived each morning and afternoon to take students to and from school. Names of the drivers: Mr. Allen O'Brien, Mr. Tom Watson, and Martin Covington. He drove the bus for the Hollywood District.

Outside of the school was a large cast iron bell attached to a pole. It had a rope that one pulled to ring it. I would look at my pocket watch and ring the bell to alert the students to take recesses and lunch. Note: In those days trousers had a small pocket, just for a pocket watch. I wore out quite a few pairs of trousers taking out that pocket watch more than several times a day.

I recall some students would leave their lunch in the hall instead of taking it to their desk. If the front doors were open, which they were in the summer months, Mr. Covington's dog, Dianne, would pay us a visit for a few free lunches. The second time she did this Mr. Covington caught her in the act. She ran through the classroom and jumped out of an open window. She never paid us a visit again.

Note: Mr. Johnny Carter contacted the State Highway Department, and he and I were instrumental in cleaning the area around the school, making a circular driveway and landscaping.

Some of my most treasured years (five) were spent at Vera School. I would have to say that of all the schools I taught some of the smartest pupils were there. I met many outstanding citizens of the Vera area. I was invited to many fine chitlin dinners by Mr. John Turnes and wife Mollie, son Gus, and Mary Covington, to name a few. In addition families would invite me to spend weekends at their homes to go hunting and fishing.

Once while visiting a family for a little fishing, we experienced something quite unusual. We found a nice shady area on a bank of the Appomattox River. We cast our line and were in wild anticipation of catching a few fish. A large log had been placed across the river from bank to bank so a person could cross over the river. We saw a lady approach the crossing. She looked at the river, then the log, and from her expression, we knew she was unsure about keeping her balance walking the log. The hand pole that was used for steadying was on the other side. Of course, she was unaware that we were there. After a few moments, she sat down on the log, rolled up her dress very neatly to hip high, straddled the log, and proceeded across.

After crossing, she unfolded her dress, got up, and went on her way, never knowing she had an audience. It would have been very embarrassing to all parties. From that day on, this manner of crossing the river was called "cooning the log."

After leaving Vera School I accepted the position of supervising teacher at Longwood College in Farmville, VA. I taught biology, chemistry, and music.

VERA SCHOOL! I shall never forget it!

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**WESLEY CHAPEL ONE-ROOM SCHOOL  
BY: LOUISE LEWIS MARTIN  
(FROM CHILDHOOD MEMORIES)**

This school was located in a small settlement five miles south of Appomattox. There was a school, church, general store, and family home in this rural community. I attended school there for seven years and had many fond memories of it. My older sister, Olive Lewis and an older brother Nollie Lewis attended seven years of school there.

I entered first grade there when I was six years old. My mother allowed me to go with my sister and brother to school one day in the spring before I entered that fall.

This was a large one-room built of wood covered with a metal roof. There was an uncovered platform in front, facing the public dirt road, one step down. Large windows were all across one side and back with nothing to view but huge trees. Two outdoor toilets were among those trees, one for girls and one for boys. The windows had large protective iron frames covering the glass. This did not obstruct light entering. Of course there was no electricity.

Inside this building there was a large table in one corner which held a water cooler. Each pupil had a drinking cup of his own which was kept in his desk. A long shelf on one wall held lunch boxes. These were usually metal pails that had been used previously for sorghum molasses made on someone's farm. Underneath the shelf was a row of hooks to hang wraps upon.

A large wooden teacher's desk was in front of pupils' desks with a large chalkboard behind it. Underneath the chalkboard was a little rack holding chalk and erasers. Each pupil had what was called a slate, really a small chalkboard. The pupils' desks were wooden with some being double and some single. Only the well behaved could sit double. Some desks had a round hole in the top in which a bottle of ink would fit. This was called an ink well. After a pupil had learned to write well, they were taught to use a pen dipped in the ink.

The building was heated by a big wood burning iron stove. Men in the neighborhood furnished a woodpile with cut up wood. The boys loved to get out and bring in wood. They also loved to go to a spring a quarter of a mile down the road to get water for the water cooler. The cooling system was simply opening all the windows and the doors.

The teachers boarded in my home so I had to behave or they might tell my parents!

We never missed a day from school because of snow. I remember my father putting on his boots and walking ahead of us to make a path. A family near us had four children so if no one else could come, we had school with seven pupils there.

The subjects taught were: math called "arithmetic," English, history, geography, spelling, writing first printing then long hand after which no more printing. Grading system was A, B, C, D, F. Pupils took home a report card each month which must be signed by parents.

Mid morning there was ten minutes called "little recess," one hour for lunch and "big recess" and mid afternoon another "little recess."

At the opening of school in the morning the teacher came out on the platform and rang a handbell. The pupils lined up by grade in order of one to seven and marched in taking their assigned desk. The same procedure was used at the end of each recess.

Across the road was Wesley Chapel Church. There was space for a playground. All played the usual children's games. We had a very small baseball diamond and very small teams! Everyone played, even the first grade.

The only holiday I remember celebrating was Christmas. We had a fresh-cut cedar tree



from the forest, and we all made decorations. The teacher let us place them on the tree anywhere we could reach. We exchanged small gifts and the teacher gave everyone a bag of candy.

Some of the things that happened I remember very well. One day during the big recess some of the older pupils suggested we go to the creek which was about a quarter of a mile down the road. They said we could do it and get back by the time the teacher rang the bell. She was inside the school and wouldn't see us anyway. Well, you can guess what happened. We didn't get back in time! She doubled the time we were late and made us stay after school several days to make it up. She made up a lot of work for us to do also!

Another thing I'll never forget is the day she washed a boy's mouth. He had used some very ugly words. She got a pan of water and a bar of soap. She said she was going to clean his dirty mouth and that we could all watch. She had soap suds running out of his mouth and all over his face.

The school closed the year I finished seventh grade because of so few pupils. Those few remaining were transported to Appomattox Agricultural High school which also included the grades. My father drove the bus.

Eventually the School Board offered the school for sale and my father bought it. He used it for a tenant building. Sometime later it was destroyed by a fire of unknown origin.



Pupils at Wesley  
right: Lawson Lee,

Harvey, Randall Wooldridge, Verta Simms, Bertrand Lee, Ruby Wooldridge, Robert Harvey, Cornell Pugh, Coy Mae Mann, Cora Smith, Mildred Simms, Bessie Johnson, Ursula Wooldridge, Nollie Lewis, Olive Lewis, Ethlyn Lee, Samuel Lee, Vera Smith, Jessalyn Johnson. Their teacher, Miss Annie Lee, is shown third from the left on the back row.

Chapel School left to  
Alta Pugh, Naomi

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#### WHEELER'S SCHOOL

Teachers at Wheeler's School from 1919 through 1926

Miss Susie Caldwell

Miss Berta Webb

Mrs. Parks Jennings (Dr. Christian's sister)

Miss Agnes Jennings

Miss Earle Patterson (Mrs. Calvin Robinson)

Miss Myrtle Smith (L. E. Smith's daughter)

Submitted by Cleo Coleman



## **INFORMATION PROVIDED BY BARBARA PICKETT**

Below is additional information I was able to collect on the history of the Appomattox Schools, along with the sources of this information:

### **ROCKS SCHOOL**

(Attended by Pearl Ranson Wilson (Mrs. Rhomy L. Wilson) who is now 93 years old and her brothers, Aubrey and Walter Ranson)

Rocks School was originally built down on the creek northeast of the present US Route 460. Later the New Rocks School was located up on the hill from Garrett's Place, approximately at the sight of the current Rocks Baptist Church's parsonage. The new school was one room and the children walked to it. Gene Richardson later bought that strip of land where the new school was located and built a house, which was sold by his wife after Gene passed away. The school included grades one through seven, and then the children went to Pamplin. Due to the distance to walk, some students stayed in Pamplin with relatives or friends, coming home on the weekends only while in high school.

### **GLOVER'S SCHOOL**

This school was located on a hill across the railroad track on state route 620. Pearl Wilson's grandmother went to that school. It was closed and the students divided, some going to Rocks School and some to MARTIN'S FIELD SCHOOL where for a while a preacher taught and then a teacher named Hannah. The Martin's Field School was located near the Cal Ranson farm.

### **PINEY RIDGE SCHOOL**

This was a one-room school to which most students walked, but where Bennie Massey, now over 90 years old, remembers his mother, Roxann Massey teaching. She took him to the school in a horse and buggy. He recalls she was harder on him when he was in her class than on the other students. This school was located opposite the current Piney Ridge United Methodist Church. Mr. Featherstone was superintendent of schools, then followed by Mr. Jerry Burke. Piney Ridge School included grades 1-7. In 1923 the 8<sup>th</sup> grade started at Pamplin High School which went through the 11<sup>th</sup> grade. Roxann Massey also taught at Prince Edward County's Beulah School located off the Darlington Heights Road and at the Madisonville High School.

### **BROWN'S SCHOOL**

This school was remembered by Bennie Massey and Mrs. O. T. (Claudia) Wooldridge. It was located on present Route 601 at the intersection of 620. It was for the "colored" and was a one-room school to the 7<sup>th</sup> grade when students then transferred to Carver-Price High School in Appomattox. Wilsie Smith was the black teacher who taught there.

### **HIXSBURG SCHOOL**

This was another one room school for black students and is still standing across from Mount Pleasant Church, according to Mrs. Claudia Woolridge. She remembers the teachers there were Mrs. Wheeler, Mr. Johnson, and Celestine Pierce.

### **HURTSVILLE SCHOOL**

This is another of the one-room schools for the black students. There is a house built on the school site now, recalls Mrs. Wooldridge.

## PERSONAL MEMORIES - STORIES

Virginia Babcock - Cherished Memories  
Memories of Betty Booker  
"Coach Gordon Bragg, the Legend"  
A Tribute to Sadie Wootton Brightwell  
Jerry A. Burke - Superintendent of Schools, 1926-62  
Richard B. Carter. Sr.  
Lindsay Crawley, Principal, 1908-1947  
Harriette Powell Cunningham  
Virginia Mundy Cyrus  
Reflections of School Days  
Erna Thornton Dickerson  
A Tribute to W. C. Dudley  
Shirley Cunningham Eye  
Sarah L. Elliott  
Hezeteine Robinson Foster  
Lois M. Foxwell  
Mrs. Carrie Gilbert - The South's Original Steel Magnolia  
Tribute to Carrie Gilbert  
Ella Lewis Gordon  
Miss Edmonia Hardy (Miss "Eddie")  
My Motivation to Become a Teacher - Cecil C. Harvey  
Anderson Napoleon Haskins  
Jean Akers Hesson  
Mary Grey Holland  
Mae M. Holt  
Memories — John Hudson  
Etta Ranson Inge  
Harriett Pierce James  
Joyce Carter Jamerson  
Presentation on School History --- Henrietta Johnson  
Miss Ida Walton Jones  
Elizabeth H. Jordan  
Rev. Raymond Quinton Lawing  
Louise Lewis Martin  
Sallie M. Martin  
My Roots in Education - Estaline McCraw  
John Edward McLean  
Lena Hunter McLean, R. N.  
Claudine Delaware O'Brien  
Henry P. Pack, Jr. - A Role Model for All Times  
Olive Lewis Pearce  
Eugene W. Peyton  
The First Appomattox County School Nurse - Barbara Pickett  
Mozella J. Price  
Elizabeth Coleman Reynolds  
Dianne T. Scruggs  
A Tribute to My Father - Earl James Smith, Jr.  
Earl James Smith, Superintendent, 1961-72  
School Days  
Celestral S. Turner  
Dora Turner  
Shirley Williams Walton  
Josephine Christmas Webb  
Ruth Hawkins Webb  
The Webb Teaching Legacy  
Arnetta West  
Flora Belle Williams

**CHERISHED MEMORIES OF MY EDUCATIONAL PURSUIT**  
**BY: VIRGINIA MOSES BABCOCK**

The challenge of opening educational doors to find out what is on the other side seems to have been my goal with academic pursuits. Pursuing these educational challenges, I have been popping in and popping out of educational doors wherever and whenever I could.

The love, encouragement, and expectations of my parents, grandparents and teachers during my school years in Appomattox County Schools instilled in me the desire and thrill of learning more about the unknown; be it nature, religion, environment, personality development, social and cultural norms, and the development of communities and societies with a significant number of people who have common interests.

We lived about one mile from Appomattox Agricultural School, walked to school each day, ran home for lunch, and back to school for the afternoon. Occasionally, we were lucky enough to have a dime for a hamburger or a hot dog at Callie Kates' lunch room. Whenever there was an extra dime I would get a pickle at Burkey's Store. On Fridays there was a nickel for an ice cream cone at Dr. James' Drug Store.

Some memories include the day Dick Burke and Cabel Christian jumped out of the window when Professor Crawley left the room. As they started down, Professor Crawley and Superintendent Jerry Burke, Dick Burke's father, were walking below. Dick said "Cabel, why did you push me out?" Cabel said "Dick you pulled me out!" On another occasion Professor Crawley entered the room in time to catch the ink bottle Rip Collins threw at Dick.

I lucked out on my final Latin exam. The night before, I chose a story to translate for review, which just happened to be the one for translation on the final exam. Miss Kate O'Brien was an excellent Latin teacher.

When I rose to give my final speech the night of graduation, June 1938, I was dismayed when I realized that my notes were gone. I don't know what I said other than "Goodbye, God Bless each of you and bring you good health, peace and success on your path in the future."

Oh yes, I forgot to say I failed the first grade. Diphtheria kept me home for a month so Miss Perreeza Coleman, and the character, Baby Ray, from my books were my second year teachers.

All of my teachers from Miss Elva Stratton in the first grade to Dr. Jennings Wagoner at the University of Virginia were excellent teachers. These superb teachers gave me an educational background that enabled me to move through my classes at Sweet Briar, Lynchburg College, and the University of Virginia without feeling that I had to take second place to any of the students.

While studying at Lynchburg College and UVA, I was teaching at Clifford Elementary School and working as a Probation Officer with the Fifth District Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court. Working with many dysfunctional families charted my path to Social Foundations at UVA. A major impetus was the burned face of a first grader, whose father, a heavy drinker, burned the boy's face with a pancake turner because he spilled the milk he was bringing home from a neighbor's farm for the new baby. I realized the need to unlock more doors in working with dysfunctional families.

With God's help, guidance, grace and my background from Appomattox Agricultural School, I was admitted for late summer admission at UVA, after being previously rejected. Dr. Jennings Wagoner directed me to another professor approved for late admission, after I sat in the waiting room for over an hour determined to enroll. He sent me to the Registrar who accepted me. Three months later I realized that they were two of the three professors on the Late Admissions Committee.

Rabbi Fischhoff reviewed five books with me, pulled the meat out of each chapter, and threw it at me! When I left that night, I knew I would ace that exam.

Dr. Hackett, upon my request, reviewed some work I did on a legal pad involving symbolism in culture. I wanted to be sure I understood what was expected, and knew I did well when he said, "Virginia, you passed your exam."

Again, I give credit to Appomattox teachers, especially Miss Flora Belle Williams, Miss

Elva Stratton, Miss Nola Burkey, Miss Mildred Kelly, Mrs. Helene Welch Harvey, Miss Kate O'Brien, Professor Lindsay Crawley, Miss Perreeza Coleman, and Miss Mary Morgan.

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### Memories of Betty Booker

Working as an aide was a most rewarding experience for me. When the program began, it was something I wanted to do, but I always put it off. It was when Mr. Al Johnson talked with me and encouraged me to give it a try that I decided to fill out an application. One only needed to be a high school graduate to apply. I was hired in 1970 and began working in the classroom.

The teachers did all of the teaching and the aides kept order, reminded students to always pay attention, to finish assignments on time, and to never speak out of turn. I remember always having a ruler in my hand that I used as a pointer and to give students a tap on the shoulder to get their attention or to point out directions with the work they were doing. Other duties included doing bulletin boards, checking papers, taking up lunch money, doing attendance, taking students for bathroom breaks, and doing the dreaded lunchroom duty.

We had the awesome task of trying to keep a cafeteria full of hungry, talkative students quiet for each of their one-half hour lunch shifts. We had help from the teachers and principal, but our only recourse was to use a noise light. The red light meant to get quiet quickly, and a green light meant to talk with a soft voice, which no one seemed to want to do. We would try again and again until it was necessary to turn the lights off and everyone had to finish lunch without talking. This did not please some parents and the office had to explain to them why it was necessary. They always wanted to know why their child couldn't talk during lunch because they never used a loud voice at home.

Before going to lunch one day as we were washing our hands, a girl in second grade was flipping water off her fingers at other students, and when I spoke to her, she decided that she would flip water at me also. Needless to say, I reacted quickly and without thinking, I shook her by the shoulders and told her she must never do that again to anyone, especially me. I saw her many years later and she remembered me. We talked; as we parted, she said I was the best "teacher" she ever had.

As the years wore on we began working with small groups of children out of the classroom where we could help them with assignments that required more instruction, and where we could work more closely with them one to one. As we became more experienced in our duties, we began working in the classroom without a teacher being present. We would follow her lesson plans or the class was given work to be done independently with assistance from us only if it was necessary. I always had the feeling that the teachers looked forward to our coming because they seemed eager to leave the room the minute we walked in the door. The teachers used this time as a planning period.

There was not a lot of money to be made during the early years, but we knew that if we returned the next year we could look for a little bit more. When we first began working as aides, we only had to sign a letter of intent agreeing to work the coming school year. It was several years later that we were signing contracts that were similar to the teachers' and later the contracts were the same but were showing a difference of the school days we were working. Not having to work some holidays, not going to school if there was bad weather, and not having to work in the summer were good reasons to be working as a teacher's aide.

During the years we were known as Title One aides, Chapter One aides, planning period aides, and bus duty aides. The biggest reward for us was when a child would show us love by giving us a hug or just sitting on our laps to be comforted if something was wrong. We are very confident by now. We can do any thing the teacher can do.

Some of us who began working as an aide soon decided that teaching is not such a bad job. It's a job we wanted to do and we did. My dad always told people, "You know that's my daughter and she's a school teacher." No, I was never a school teacher, but that's what we do: we teach students.



**"COACH GORDON BRAGG, 'THE LEGEND' "**

**From tributes in a salute to Coach Bragg**

**Dinner program 1/14/88, the *LYNCHBURG NEWS AND DAILY ADVANCE* 3/10/00  
and the Appomattox *TIMES VIRGINIAN* 3/15/00**

Gordon Hugh Bragg was reared in the Presbyterian Children's Home of Lynchburg, Virginia. There, he began his athletic career and learned his winning ways as a member of the "Shoeless Wonders" football team, a world-famous group of boys, who had at one time, a string of eight consecutive undefeated seasons. These teams were captured in action by movie companies of that day such as Fox, Pathe, and International.

Coach Bragg was awarded a scholarship to Lynchburg College where he excelled in basketball, baseball, and track. He was graduated from there in 1941 and served as Director of Athletics for the Presbyterian Home. He was signed by the St. Louis Cardinals' organization and pitched for the Lynchburg Cardinals.

In 1942, Bragg entered the U. S. Navy, a call that disrupted his professional baseball career. While in the Navy, he served as Chief Petty Officer at the Naval Air Technical Training Center in Memphis, Tennessee, where he was selected as instructor for hand-to-hand combat training of troops. During this time, he also worked in a rehabilitation program for returning combat veterans. He enjoyed a very successful Navy baseball career, pitching for the N.A.T.T.C. and Dyersburg Cotton Products teams. On being discharged from the Navy in 1945, Coach Bragg declined an offer to play with the Houston, Texas division of the St. Louis Cardinals. He chose to settle in the Lynchburg area with his family to pursue a teaching and coaching career. During this time, he pitched for the Appomattox Lee Theater baseball team.

"Coach" Gordon Bragg came to Appomattox in September of 1948 to coach baseball and football. He revitalized an almost nonexistent football program which he later built into a District IV and area power. Overall, his teams posted an impressive record of 175 wins, 35 losses, and 10 ties in football. He gave his best and demanded the best in performance from others.

In the classroom, he taught health and physical education, history, civics, and drivers' education. In fact, Coach Bragg first introduced drivers' education in Appomattox, and he volunteered his own car for the class.

He also organized non-school-related programs for the county, such as swimming and adult physical education. When he wasn't coaching or teaching, he volunteered as a school bus driver.

Former Brookville High School coach, Bunker Hill, coached against Bragg for nearly 20 years and said, "He was a great coach and all who played for him respected him and they still called him "Coach."

The Appomattox County High School stadium was dedicated as "Bragg Stadium" in 1988. He was inducted into the Virginia High School Hall of Fame, the Lynchburg Area Sports Hall of Fame, the Lynchburg College Hall of Fame and the Appomattox Hall of Fame.

"Coach" Gordon Hugh Bragg, died at his home on Wednesday, March 8, 2000. He was the son of William and Emma Bragg and was born February 10, 1918, in Waynesboro, Virginia. He was preceded in death by his loving and devoted wife of 57 years, Margaret Wirt Bragg.

A community leader, Bill Jamerson, said, "When I think of "Coach" Bragg, I think of an individual dedicated and committed to the life of young people. There's no way to describe how much he did for the youths of Appomattox County, not just in the schools but also through youth programs."

Hundreds of high school athletes swore by him, and his name was spoken with a reverence usually reserved for legends. The area mourns the death of a beloved coach.

**A TRIBUTE TO SADIE WOOTTON BRIGHTWELL  
BY HORTON MILLER SOUTHALL  
(Her student in the class of 1945)**

"Miss Wootton (Sadie Brightwell) began her teaching career in 1942 here at Pamplin High School, and her career spanned more than forty years, all here in Pamplin. My memories of her are so wonderful. She helped me in so many ways. I had always thought that you had to WORK your way through college, not so with her! I had to work my way through HIGH SCHOOL! She kept me in after school every day, to wash blackboards, sweep floors, grade test papers and to practice my writing. I had to write, "I must not talk in class," I know, a MILLION times!

Miss Wootton was our teacher, friend, counselor and a kind, caring person. She was concerned about her students and spent many hours helping them with problems. Her teaching program was high moral values and Christian principles. I remember our senior play, "Sound Your Horn." Miss Wootton was the director. There were ten characters and there were ten students in our class. We weren't good enough to take it on a tour, but we had so much fun.

There was another time that I "sounded my horn" and was saved by Miss Wootton. Late in February of 1945, before our last basketball game, I was suspended from playing basketball because I whistled at a girl in the hall and was caught by a member of the Student Council Association. I called it the student gestapo!. Basketball was my best subject, and I didn't want to miss that last game. Miss Wootton came to my rescue, suggesting that I whistle a tune in chapel as punishment. I could do a very good girl whistle, but I was terrible at carrying a tune in a real song. However, I accepted the punishment because I didn't want to miss that ball game. "Don't Fence Me In" was my selection. A terrible fiasco—my face is still red!

"Miss Wootton (Mrs. Brightwell) we appreciate you so much and love you too."

Mrs. Sadie Wootton Brightwell retired from teaching in 1985 and now resides in Farmville, Virginia. She continues to be a loyal friend and colleague in the Appomattox County Retired Teachers Association, which meets four times a year.

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**JERRY A. BURKE  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS 1926-1962**

**Place of Birth:** Appomattox, Virginia

**Schools attended:**

Tenth Congressional District High School (the present Appomattox Middle School)  
Denny Preparatory School, Highlands Falls, New York  
Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Virginia

**School assignments:**

Appomattox High School, Teacher and in charge of the Athletic Program  
Mr. Burke was appointed as Division Superintendent of Appomattox County Public Schools in 1926.

In November of 1959, Mrs. Jean Hesson paid the following tribute to Mr. Burke on behalf of the Appomattox Education Association:

Jerry A. Burke, division superintendent of Appomattox County public schools, has seen the value of school property increase from \$96,000 to \$1,725,125 since he was appointed in 1926.

Burke, a man of even temperament and calm judgment, has seen marked growth in the two county high schools. They bear testimony to his long range planning and keen insight into the educational needs of the county.

The Appomattox High School (the present middle school built in 1909) had an interesting history. For a number of years many of its students were boarding students, housed in a dormitory located on the school grounds. Additions began being made to this school plant when an auditorium was built, followed by an agricultural building and a home economics cottage.

Then in 1939, due to crowded conditions, a new building was constructed, complete with library, cafeteria, science laboratory, and other usual facilities. Also, at this time the unused

dormitory was converted to classroom use.

Crowded conditions were further alleviated in 1954 when the new Appomattox Elementary School (the present Appomattox Primary School) was opened and about 500 pupils were transferred from the high school to that building.

In 1952, a modern plant, consisting of 16 classrooms, a gymnasium-auditorium, a cafeteria, a library-clinic room, and conference rooms, was constructed adjacent to the former Carver High School. In 1958, a home economics building was also completed on this site. The Carver High School was later renamed the Carver-Price School in honor of Mrs. Mozella J. Price, Supervisor. (This School is now known as the Appomattox Elementary School.)

Dr. Woodrow Wilkerson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction who was the guest speaker during "Jerry Burke Night" sponsored by the Appomattox Education Association, expressed the sentiments of the people when he made the following statement:

'Mr. Burke never lost sight of good teaching in spite of his tireless exertion in choosing the right curriculum, in providing the proper buildings, in maintaining good public relations, and in keeping abreast of modern trends in education.'

Mr. Burke retired on July 1, 1962. Mr. Burke and his wife, the former Ethel Abbitt are the parents of three children: Mrs. R. Douglas Williams, Jr., Jerry A. Burke, Jr., and Richard F. Burke, III.

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**RICHARD B. CARTER, SR.**  
**DIRECTOR OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION 1973-1990**  
**ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT FOR ADMINISTRATION 1990-1991**  
**BY LLOYD G. WALTON**

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Richard Carter was born in the Vera area of Appomattox County, January 28, 1930. Growing up on a farm with brothers, sisters, and loving parents, he learned at an early age the basic values and principles of life that served him well throughout his adult life.

After seven years at Vera Elementary School, Richard entered Appomattox High School in 1943 and graduated in 1947. His academic record in high school was superior and his leadership skills were exceptional. Vocational agriculture was an important high school subject in which Richard excelled, along with the student organization, the Future Farmers of America. He served in many leadership roles in FFA, including president of the local chapter, vice president of the district (Hub Federation), and reporter of the Virginia Association of FFA. His classmates recognized his leadership skills and personal qualities and elected him president of the Appomattox High School Class of 1947 and the student council.

Richard entered Virginia Tech in 1947 and received a B.S. degree in Agricultural Education in 1951. Following graduation he entered the United States Air Force as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant and served in the Korean War. He was released from active duty, receiving an honorable discharge in 1953 with the rank of 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant. He again returned to VA Tech and received an M.S. degree in Agricultural Education in 1954.

His career in education began in 1954. From 1954 until 1973 he was an instructor of vocational agriculture. For eight years he taught in Mecklenburg County before returning to Appomattox in 1962 where he taught until 1973. During these years he received many honors and awards for teaching excellence, adult education programs, and development of youth through the FFA. In 1968 he received the Honorary State Farmer Degree, the Honorary American Farmer Degree and the Virginia Leadership Award given by the Virginia Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association.

From 1973 to 1990 Richard served as Director of Vocational Education for Appomattox County. In 1990 he was named Assistant Superintendent for Administration. I had the privilege to work with Richard during these years, to observe his strength as an administrator and teacher, his understanding of vocational education, and his ability to work with others to plan and implement a comprehensive vocational program for the county schools. His vision, hard work and knowledge resulted in Appomattox County Schools developing one of the most comprehensive vocational programs in the state. Prior to 1973 the school system offered

courses in vocational agriculture, home economics, and business education. By 1975 these basic vocational programs were expanded and revised and additional programs were offered in auto mechanics, drafting and electricity and electronics. In the early 80's classes in computer operations and applications were offered through the business education program. Under Richard's leadership computer labs were established in the four schools and all of the school libraries were computerized. Classes in health occupations were offered to students before the end of the 80's.

As the school curriculum in vocational education advanced under Richard's leadership, so did adult education. Planning, coordinating, and implementing one of the most diverse and comprehensive adult education programs in the area, Richard was committed to providing opportunities for student dropouts to work toward a GED diploma, to offering courses to enrich and broaden the knowledge of adults, and to meeting the needs of those adults who desired training in new areas of retraining to satisfy job requirements. Hundreds of adults enrolled in these programs and prepared themselves for new jobs, job advancement, and a higher quality of life.

Throughout Richard's career he was recognized by his peers and leaders in education at the local, state, and national levels as an authority on vocational programs, issues, and policies. Serving on many committees, boards, councils, and advisory groups at all levels, his wisdom, common sense, and experiences helped to shape policies and programs in vocational education during the last three decades of the twentieth century.

W. C. Dudley, area supervisor of vocational education for Virginia for many years, referred to Richard as "Mr. Vocational Education" and often said, "If you want a program implemented effectively, efficiently and professionally, give the assignment to Richard. He is responsible, knowledgeable, dedicated and visionary."

Rufus Beamer, Professor and Department Head of Vocational Education at VA Tech, said that Richard's leadership, knowledge of vocational education and ability to build a consensus among various educational groups ranked him among the best vocational educators in the state. In 1977-78 Richard served under Dr. Beamer as chairman of the State Advisory Council for Vocational Education.

From an early age Richard has been active in New Hope Baptist Church. During his college years and his eight years of teaching in Mecklenburg County, he remained active in his church. Since 1962 to the present he had served in many leadership positions in his church and the Baptist Association in the area. Richard is admired and respected as a Christian gentleman by his friends and associates in the county and state. His Christian values and principles have been a guiding force in his professional career, his relationships with others, and his concern, compassion, and action for those who need help.

Soon after graduation from college, Richard married his high school sweetheart and classmate, Bolling Conner. A graduate of William and Mary and Lynchburg College, she had a career in teaching and counseling which was as successful as Richard's. They have two children, Richard, Jr. and Elizabeth, who have followed their parent's footsteps with college and university degrees and much success in their chosen careers.

Richard retired from the Appomattox County School System in 1991. But he did not really retire at that time. For the next eight years he worked part-time at Central Virginia Community College as the regional coordinator of technological preparation. He was recruited for this assignment because of his knowledge of technology, his previous work with community colleges, and the respect and confidence he enjoyed from the administrators and boards of the school divisions in Central Virginia.

During my eighteen years as superintendent Richard was an equal partner with me in the administration of the school system. His influence upon vocational education will continue for many years to come. His exemplary character, strong leadership, knowledge of vocational education, tireless efforts, and ability to analyze and layout strategies to achieve objectives of the organization will continue to serve as qualities for others in education to emulate.



**LINDSAY CRAWLEY, PRINCIPAL — 1908-1947**  
From: *THE LYNCHBURG NEWS* (4/27/47 and 5/9/50)



After serving as principal of Appomattox High School, Lindsay Crawley, sent his resignation to the School Board effective July 1, 1947.

He had been principal since 1908, and had served with three county school superintendents. In 1926, the county Board of Supervisors unanimously endorsed him for a division superintendent of Appomattox County, while the School Board opposed him as such, and instead offered to increase his salary as principal.

For eight years he was director of agriculture as well as principal, and so many pupils from adjoining counties sought instruction that a high school dormitory was constructed and operated until local attendance increased. The dormitory was later converted to extra classrooms. In 1947 there were six buildings on the twelve acre lot, all of which were used daily.

Mr. Crawley was a civic leader. He helped organize the Chamber of Commerce and served as its secretary when the town was incorporated. He organized the first County School Fair and served as its secretary and later as president.

For six summers, he taught in the state schools for teachers. He was chairman of the Board of Stewards of Memorial Methodist Church for twelve years and was a teacher in the Sunday School for twenty-five years. In addition to this, he was active in the economic life of the time. He organized the garment plant which employed about one hundred people, and he personally supervised it until it was sold. During vacation periods, he also organized several factories in other towns.

It was believed that the present 4-H Club originated at the Appomattox High School. The Appomattox High School was one of the first, if not the first to initiate consolidation. Transportation began with two covered wagons, and in 1947, thirteen school buses were in operation. Appomattox High School was the first in the South to adopt the cottage plan for teaching home economics. Mr. Crawley organized the first Parent Teachers Organization in face of much opposition since a majority of the communities supported Community Leagues.

During his tenure as principal, he worked with approximately 250 teachers and presented diplomas to more than 1800 graduates. When queried about a recent teacher wage raise, Mr. Crawley said he did not believe that a wage increase would necessarily mean better teachers. "A good teacher cannot be bought and to many of them, salary is their last thought. As for me I have never asked for a raise, and during the depression, when funds were low, my faculty taught without pay," he stated.

The good teacher, he said, gives the student impressions and then his pupil makes proper expression. He thought that one factor without the other was poor training. He thought there was a danger in too much use of the motion picture as an aid in teaching because he thought it would eliminate pupil expression. He felt that his philosophy would apply to teaching in all fields of study, including music, art, literature, mathematics, and science.

Mr. Crawley was born in Cumberland County and was the son of Charles Wesley Crawley and Margaret Tinsley Crawley, who were teachers. He attended St. Alban's preparatory school at Radford; Randolph Macon College and graduated from Cornell University. The entire community was saddened as it learned of Mr. Crawley's sudden death on May 8, 1950, while working in his garden in the late evening. The county and town had lost an outstanding community leader and friend.

## **HARRIETTE POWELL CUNNINGHAM**

My name is Harriette Powell Cunningham and my place of birth was McKenney, Virginia, in Dinwiddie County.

I attended grade and high school at McKenney High School. After graduating there, I went to college. I received my certificate from Harrisonburg State Teachers College which allowed me to teach elementary grades. For five years I taught in Amherst County for a salary of \$75 a month. Then I married Marshall Cunningham and could no longer teach had I wanted to. The reason was that the law in Virginia at that time stated that a married female could not teach.

After marriage we lived in Appomattox County. In 1945 during World War II there was a scarcity of teachers. I well remember Superintendent Jerry Burke coming to my home and asking me if I would be the principal of Oakville Elementary School and teach the sixth and seventh grade. I accepted, as I felt it "my duty" at that time, and it was the first year in school after my son started school so I could let him ride with me in the car rather than ride a bus.

I taught only one year as I felt that I needed to be at home with my only daughter. While at Oakville, I succeeded in getting water on the school grounds. Realizing the danger faced by the school children in crossing Highway 26 to get water from a neighboring home, I went to see Superintendent Jerry Burke and said to him, "Mr. Burke, I have come not to ask for a small favor, but to ask for a necessity: water. I believe it to be very dangerous for our school children to cross the highway for buckets of water for the school. I would like to see a well with a pump on the property in a very short while."

Within a week or so a well was dug and a pump was installed on the school grounds.

In 1954, I went back to teaching. The first year I taught the sixth grade which was in the dormitory at the high school. The next year the new Appomattox Elementary School, which included grades one through seven, was in operation. There I taught the fifth grade. It was in June 1974 I retired from teaching after twenty-six years of work and pleasure.

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## **VIRGINIA MUNDY CYRUS**

Born: January 14, 1933

A lifetime resident of Gladstone, Virginia, Nelson County

Schools attended:

Amherst County Public Schools — Grades 1-3

Appomattox County Public Schools — Grades 4-10

Nelson County Public Schools — Grade 11

Radford College (now University) — Graduated in 1953 with a Collegiate Professional Certificate, B.S. Degree in Education

My first teaching experience was at Joseph Martin Elementary School, Martinsville, VA. I started teaching in January 1953, filling a vacancy in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Mr. Morris Epps was principal and Mr. Carpenter was Superintendent of Schools.

My first full year of teaching was in 1953 at Norwood Elementary School, Nelson County. I taught grades three and four. Mr. W. E. Kidd was superintendent. My starting salary was \$2050.00. I continued for one more year at Norwood Elementary teaching grades one with a \$150.00 raise in salary. In 1955 I moved to the Lovington Elementary School, grade four. Mr. Cecil M. Reed was principal, and Mr. J. B. M. Carter was superintendent. I taught 4<sup>th</sup> grade until 1957 with a raise of \$200.00 per year in salary.

During the 1957-58 school session, I married my husband Willie B. Cyrus in November 1957. In September 1958 I taught 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> combination grades at Appomattox Elementary School. Mr. Jerry A. Burke was Superintendent of Schools and Miss Flora Belle Williams was principal. My salary was \$3500.00. In 1959 I taught 5<sup>th</sup> grade with a salary of \$3750.00. In 1960 I worked with a remedial group. I had fewer students in the class and the help of Mrs. Virginia Cashon from the State Department of Education, who met with me frequently to check on the progress made by the students. She provided many books for my classroom on different reading levels for the students. This was a most rewarding year.

From 1961-65, I taught 6<sup>th</sup> grade. In 1966 the concept of departmental teaching was

introduced. I taught spelling, art, and handwriting. By now my salary had reached \$6000.00.

In 1967, the idea of employing an art teacher emerged. I started teaching art to all grades 1-7 at Appomattox Elementary School and continued this program in 1968. In 1969 and 1970 the art program was extended to all elementary schools in the county (grades 1-7).

In 1970 September arrived, and a teacher for the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade had not been obtained. I gave up teaching art in order to take the second grade position.

The summer of 1970 brought a new program to the grade school. Summer school was offered (33 days) with a salary of \$30.00 a day. I taught in this program for three summers. Mr. Eugene Peyton was the Director of Instruction for the county. In 1972, I was given a continuing contract as provided by 22-2173, Code of Virginia. This was the last contract that I received. My salary scale had now reached \$9112.00.

The Aide Program was started in Appomattox Primary School in 1973. Mrs. Yvonne Franklin was assigned to my class. We worked together for seven years. Many others were added to the program.

My final year for teaching at Appomattox Primary School was the 1990-91 school session. The salary had reached \$31,590.86 with 38 years of teaching experience. There was a salary freeze on the 1991-92 school term contract, giving the same salary as the previous year. Having retired, this freeze had no effect on me. There was another salary freeze in the 1971-72 school term. I am grateful to the Lord for the privilege of working with so many wonderful children. I loved each one as if he were my very own child.

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#### REFLECTIONS OF SCHOOL DAYS BY VIRGINIA MUNDY CYRUS

An interesting outing occurred while we were in high school. Our entire class went to Holiday Lake for the day. My brother, Dick, drove our cattle truck filled with straw for comfort for our classmates. Our mother, Mrs. Belle Mundy, went along as one of the chaperons. I remember Mom getting up very early that morning to fry chicken and to make deviled eggs along with many other foods for the picnic basket.

I recall several of us walked around the entire lake that day. After a day filled with vigorous activities and fun, we returned to school safe and sound in time to catch our respective buses to go home. Of course, Elizabeth and I enjoyed the ride home in the straw filled truck. By the way, this was not a Senior Day activity.

With many students being from the rural area, the 4-H Club was an important part of most high school students. Under the leadership of Mrs. Ella S. Anderson and Mr. Allen Harvey, students were able to achieve many goals through projects they undertook. Elizabeth and Evelyn Chenault were two outstanding 4-H Club members who won trips to the Chicago Fair, Chicago, Illinois. Money and ribbons were won by students participating in the Sears Roebuck seed and garden program.

Each fall Sears Roebuck Store had an Achievement Day Celebration as a culminating activity for those who participated in the gardening and canning program.

My brother, Dick, raised a hog. One requirement was to give one baby pig back to the club for another member interested in the same project.

While in grade school, I recall our class going to the county library once a week. The students would tiptoe up the steps to the second level and sit Indian-style on the floor in a circle. Someone would read a story to us. After the story was over, we had the opportunity to select a book to check out for the week. Sometimes we were able to select two books if we were careful to always return our book on time. Little did we realize at the time, this was one way the character of responsibility was being instilled in us.

Another incident that is very vivid in my mind is when the school bus was blocked by fallen pine trees across the road due to a snow and ice storm. The snow had not accumulated as deep on the ground when we left school at Appomattox as it was in the Gladstone area. Our bus driver, Mr. Dewey Worley, walked with Elizabeth, Dick, and me to our neighbor's house, about one-half mile and asked Mr. Luther Edwards if he would walk the rest of the way home with us, which was a mile. Mr. Worley borrowed an ax from Mr. Edwards to chip enough trees out of the

way so he could turn the bus around to continue the bus route. It was bad traveling during the inclement winter weather. There was no phone system in our area at that time. We were unable to reach home for help.

Due to the distance students lived from school, many could not participate in sports activities. The games were played after school hours, and students had to provide their own transportation home. I recall my brother, Dick, was able to play baseball because he had the privilege of driving the family car to school on the day of the game. I recall the basketball games were played outside on a dirt court. The school did not have a gymnasium. The high school had a football team coached by Mr. Fountain.

During the war, students would have to practice air raid drills. The grade school students would march out into the hall, crouch down on their knees on the floor with heads as close to the knees as possible and then put their arms over their heads. We would all be packed in very close together. A horn would signal for us to return to the classroom when the drill was over.

We also had fire drills once a month. We became familiar with all exits so wherever we were in the building at the time the fire bell rang, we knew where to go.

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ERNA THORNTON DICKERSON

BY H. B. MARTIN, JR.

Erna Thornton Dickerson was the seventh-born child in a family of eleven children. At the young age of six, she wanted to be a teacher. After her first week of attending school, she came home and gathered herself her first class made up of her siblings. The classroom was the stairway of the front hall in her family's home.

This desire to teach resulted in her attending Farmville State Teachers College, now Longwood, where she earned a Bachelor of Science Degree.

Her first teaching job was in Crewe. In those days young women did not have an apartment. They lived in rooming/boarding houses. Erna lived with Mrs. Farmer along with several other young women teachers.

An amusing story that I remember from Erna was about the "Jetersville Punch." Seems that teachers did not buy alcohol in Crewe, so sometimes on the weekend, a fellow teacher, the daughter of a minister, would get up a group of teachers and drive over to Jetersville to get beer, thus, "Jetersville Punch!"

Leaving Crewe, she went to Martinsville to teach. Martinsville was a town that offered good pay and therefore drew many young women to teach. Home, again, was a boarding house, The Spinning Wheel, owned by Dot Barker. It was during her time in Martinsville that Erna took the trip of her lifetime. She and three other teachers took a six-week motor trip out to the West. Their car was a brand-new Hudson - no longer made. I remember being impressed with this car and a unique feature; you stepped down into the car, something unheard of at that time.

Richmond became her next location with her teaching at Albert Hill School where she met and became best friends with Jenny Rodgers. This friendship lasted throughout her life. She lived in a beautiful townhouse in the Fan District and took her meals at Mrs. Gregory's, the place to board in the Fan.

Many weekends were spent on trips to New York City where Erna and Jenny would shop and buy elegant clothes, clothes being Erna's passion. They would be joined in the evening by Jenny's husband and attend Broadway shows. There were trips in the spring to Maryland to attend the horse races. She once bet on a horse "No Regrets" that had terrible odds and believe it or not, the horse won!

It was while she was in Richmond that she faced a big challenge when her aging parents asked her to come home and help them. They felt a real need to have her live with them. With her willingness to help, Erna gave up her life in Richmond, a life that she really loved, and came back to Spout Spring to take care of her parents.

Living here and much too young to retire, she took a job in Lynchburg teaching. Erna and my brother Billy, who also taught in Lynchburg, rode to work together. Erna could not drive a car.

Luckily for the family, my brother decided to teach Erna to drive. I used the word



"luckily" Billy taught her to drive, for he died shortly thereafter in his twenties. Erna must have been a quick learner for in no time she had her driver's license. She bought her very first car, a new white Oldsmobile that looked as though it had been made for her!

After my brother's death and not wanting to drive to Lynchburg alone she took a job teaching in Appomattox. She told me a story of having a parent teacher conference that was funny. It seems a little boy had to get his father to come in and discuss his schoolwork with Erna. On their arrival Erna asked the boy if that were his father with him to which the child replied, "yes, and ain't he ugly?"

While teaching in Appomattox, Erna reached retirement age and became a lady of leisure. She moved from the large family home into my bungalow. She furnished her home with lovely family pieces and a few new things that she selected for her own home. She loved her new career of being a homemaker.

As a member of Memorial Methodist Church she took an active part in the activities of the church. She also enjoyed her membership in the Garden Club, Woman's Club, and most of all, her Thursday bridge club. Erna continued her relationship with teaching as a member of the Retired Teachers Association.

Four years ago she was diagnosed with cancer and told that she had two to three years to live. She survived for four. Due to her good outlook and the will to live, she made the most of these last four years.

During this crucial time of her life, Luella Coleman, with whom she had taught, returned her friendship with Erna in many instances. Erna often spoke of Luella as the daughter she never had. This special relationship lasted right up to the end as it was Luella who was with Erna when she drew her last breath. Erna died in Westminster Canterbury on December 20, 1999.

I am fortunate to have had such a lovely lady for an aunt, a lady who made a difference in this world by helping to educate our young people.

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A TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM C. DUDLEY, JR.  
BY HORTON MILLER SOUTHALL  
(His student in the Class of 1945)

"We were so fortunate when Mr. William C. Dudley joined the staff in 1941 as vocational agriculture instructor at Pamplin High School. He was a man who incorporated very much into his teaching. We learned so many things from this gentleman, not only about agriculture, but some parliamentary procedure, chemistry, shop work, carpentry, bookkeeping and above all good citizenship. Mr. Dudley popped a question in class one day. "Who knows where cotton is grown?" A little fellow in the back of the room raised his hand and said, "I know---out of the top of an aspirin bottle."

About midway into his class, Mr. Dudley would sneak something into the corner of his mouth. Now, he thought that we thought that it was a mint. He didn't think that we thought that it was a little piece of thick apple chewing tobacco. The amazing thing to us was how he could go so long without expectorating! (College word! We called it spitting.)

Mr. Dudley is in heaven now. We appreciate so much having such a Christian gentleman as our teacher. "We love you Mr. Dudley and will see you again some day."

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SHIRLEY CUNNINGHAM EYE

Place of birth: Scottsville (Albemarle County), Virginia  
Present address: P. O. Box 703, Appomattox, VA 24522  
Father: Dabney George Cunningham  
Mother: Mary Magdalene Baird Cunningham  
Husband: Bruce Mauzy Eye  
Son: David Berlin Eye, Professional Actor, Manhattan  
Daughter: Suzan Kimberly Eye Mann, English Teacher, Spotsylvania County, VA  
Son-in-law: Gerald Mann, Science Teacher, Spotsylvania County, VA

**Grandchildren: Mary Kathleen Mann and Daniel Forrest Mann**

**Attended:** Scottsville High School, 1958  
Longwood College, B.S., 1974  
Longwood College, M.S., 1976  
University of Virginia

**School assignments:**

Sixth Grade, 1974-1982, AES  
English, 1982-1984, ACHS  
Principal, 1984-1987, APS  
Principal, 1987-1998, ACHS

**FROM HERE TO THERE.....**

**April Fool's Day, 1965!** Virginia State Police Supervisor: "Trooper Eye, you have been promoted to Investigator and transferred to Appomattox." "Yes, Sir; When Sir?" April 15, 1965! To Appomattox the Eye family, which included David, age 5, and Suzan, age 1, moved from Fairfax County. Housing in Appomattox was at a premium and the pace, which we learned to love, was foreign. Going from two salaries to one took quite a bit of juggling as well, but we usually managed monthly to leave at least ten cents in checking to avoid closure of the account!

Somehow Shirley Eye's name was placed on the substitute teachers' list, and after consenting to substitute six days for a sixth-grade teacher, this novice knew there had to be a better way regarding preparation to enter a classroom of 20+ students! Even though the substituting experience was a real "eye" opener and rather frightening, the hook had been imbedded.

A short period of time intervened before I received a call regarding a secretarial vacancy at the School Board Office. Was I interested? Well.....yes; 1967 was the year I began my association with the Appomattox County Public Schools. Earl Smith was the Superintendent; Eugene Peyton was the Director of Instruction; Mae Holt served as Clerk of the School Board and Etta Inge was Assistant Clerk of the Board; and H. A. Paulette handled the position of Transportation Supervisor. We also had one person in charge of the textbooks: Reggie Stanley; the historian who always kept one informed.

After working in the School Board Office for three years, the fever struck. Off to Longwood College I went in the fall of 1970; for I, too, wanted to become a classroom teacher and have a more intimate role with the educational process. Butterflies were in abundance my first day of classes, and when my first Western Civilization test was returned with an F+, I cried for two days wondering why this 1958 high school valedictorian ever left the security of a secretarial job! Upon making an inquiry of the professor regarding, "Why the plus with the F?"; he responded, "You DID take the test!"

Perseverance, hard work, determination (and the neighbor's saying, "You'll never make it."), and the loving support from my family resulted in a magna cum laude degree in December, 1973, with a major in elementary education and a minor in English. The momentum was flowing and in 1976, I attained a master's degree in school administration. Education opened numerous doors for our family that otherwise would not have existed. For example, David and Suzan had the good fortune of attending the Longwood College Campus School and accompanied me on the journey to Farmville each day.

One of my goals was to become a teacher under the direction of Superintendent Smith, who had given me encouragement to pursue my dreams. This was not to be, however, as he died in the spring of 1972 due to a massive heart attack while on a trip to purchase furniture for the new Appomattox County High School. Eugene Peyton, who had provided sage advice to me, became Acting Superintendent, and offered me my first teaching position.

January, 1974, mid-year: my very first class of sixth graders: Remember me Larry, Grover, and all? I loved you, but I surely was challenged. For just a few days, shedding tears, my rite of passage, was therapeutic and gave me strength to enter the classroom. My experience as a sixth-grade teacher at Appomattox Elementary School provided an exemplary opportunity for me to work with wonderful youth and their parents. Each year, when I decorate the Christmas tree, such fond memories are evoked by the ornaments that were shared with me from 1974 through 1982!

After eight years as a sixth-grade teacher, a desire to teach English at the high school level began to rumble. A vacancy occurred and in the fall of 1982, more butterflies: teaching ninth and tenth-grade English. I loved the curriculum and the extracurricular activities. Of course, it was a real bonus to have my daughter, Suzan who was a senior, stop by and give the high sign and more often than not ask for lunch money!

Eight years at the elementary level, two years teaching at the high school; only to make another move in August of 1984 to the Appomattox Primary School as principal; oh, where is that security of the secretarial position? Again, a blessing! What a grand opportunity to work with the staff of the primary school from 1984 through 1987; dedication, devotion, and caring were passwords of the period. I salute those who accept the challenge (or perhaps the better term would be calling) at this level.

Early August, 1987, my husband and I were vacationing in West Virginia, on the eve of wrestling with a rattler, but took the needed respite to call back to Appomattox to ascertain the School Board action relative to school appointments. My "whoopie" resounded from the mountain peaks upon learning that I had been appointed as the principal of Appomattox County High School; the school from which my two children had graduated and had been prepared for entry into The College of William and Mary.

Preparation began on August 15, 1987, for the opening of the new school year at Appomattox County High and required burning of the midnight oil on the parts of many individuals. This midnight oil became only too familiar for the next eleven years, but the rewards of working with the exemplary high school staff and the students far exceeded any personal sacrifice. Parting from the ACHS Campus on June 30, 1998, was such "sweet sorrow." I thank God for the energy, endurance, and window of opportunity to have served the citizens of Appomattox County, to have gone the distance and the second mile; I thank Lloyd G. Walton, former superintendent of schools, for having the confidence to entrust with me the reins of leadership; and I thank Bruce, David, Suzan, and my friends for their loving support throughout my career.

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#### SARAH L. ELLIOTT

Sarah is a lifelong resident of Appomattox County. She is the widow of the late Williard L. Elliott. Her adult daughter, Zanita (Penny) Robinson, an accounting clerk at a Lynchburg firm, is married to Melvin, a postal employee and U.S. Army retiree. Sarah is a smitten, devoted grandmother of Melanie Sarah-Grace, a fifth grader at Linkhorne Elementary School. The caring, oldest sibling of the Lipford clan, Sarah is the special sister, aunt, niece, cousin, and friend to the entire family.

A 1958 honor graduate of Carver-Price High School, Sarah continued her education at Burdett Business College, Lynn, MA. After receiving a secretarial certificate, Sarah returned to her alma mater (which later became the elementary school) as the principal's secretary. For 35 years, Sarah served in this capacity with diligence and commitment beyond measure. She prepared state and local reports, composed and forwarded correspondence, and answered countless telephone calls. She performed her clerical responsibilities with exceptional skill and zeal, but, most important, she touched lives. She comforted students who were concerned about their friends, family, future, even their pets. She went the extra mile to assist faculty and staff. Everyone could call on Sarah. She almost always had an answer or could find a way to meet the needs of the members of the school community.

Sarah is an ardent church worker. She is a member of Mt. Obed Baptist Church where she serves as treasurer and a member of the Usher Board and the Program Committee. She also performs clerical tasks at the church as needed. Further, she is a very active member of the Spout Spring Ruritan Club. Presently, she is the concession manager and she has served as a member of the board in the past. Her civic and community involvements include visiting the sick and shut-in and participating in programs to help youth.

July 1998, marked a "new beginning" for Sarah. She retired from a position which she loved and performed with distinction. Now, she has more time to travel, spend time with her family, and live according to her favorite expression: "Don't worry. Be happy."

## **HEZTEINE ROBINSON FOSTER**

**Address:** 7650 Red House Road  
Phenix, VA 23959

**Place of birth:** Charlotte County

**Family:**

**Father** - the late Harry Robinson  
**Mother** - the late Bessie Robinson  
**Husband** - Thomas R. Foster  
**Children** - Janice and Joyce  
**Grandchildren** - Terry, Brandon Danielle, Mikayla, and Raymond



**Schools attended:**

Central High School, Charlotte County  
Virginia Seminary and College, Lynchburg, VA  
Bluefield State College, Bluefield, West VA: B.S.  
Virginia State College, Petersburg, VA: M.Ed.  
University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA  
Longwood College, Farmville, VA  
Hampton Institute, Hampton, VA

**Endorsements:**

Elementary, middle, and high school principal  
Biology, English, general science, history, mathematics, social studies  
Sixth and seventh grades

**School assignments:**

Virginia Seminary and College, Publication Department, 1952-53  
Carver-Price High School, 1954-66  
Taught math, physics, chemistry, general science, biology  
Starting salary: \$2,100 per year  
Appomattox Elementary School, 1966-1969  
Taught science for sixth and seventh grades  
Appomattox High School, 1969-1971  
Taught earth science, biology, and math  
Appomattox Intermediate School, 1971  
Science and math  
Appomattox High School, 1971-73  
Biology and math  
Keysville Elementary School, Charlotte County, 1973-74  
Principal  
Appomattox Elementary School, 1974  
Assistant Principal and Title I Director  
Appomattox Middle School, 1974-1991  
Principal  
Longwood College, 1991-1998  
Instructor

**Interesting Experiences:**

I had a number of "firsts" during my career. I was the first African American to integrate Appomattox Elementary School and also Appomattox County High School. I was the first African American principal at Keysville Elementary School in Charlotte County and the first African American president of the Appomattox County Education Association.

During the first two weeks after I had integrated AES, crosses were burned in Charlotte County, only a half mile from my home. My mail box was bombed; an interesting experience I will say. During the Bush administration I was invited to the White House as one of his thousand points of light.

During my career, I served on state, local, and national committees and held membership in a number of organizations. Presently, I am a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, member



of Gamma Theta Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, president of the Central High Museum, president of the Assembly of Charlotte, secretary of the Trustee Board of Virginia University of Lynchburg, board member of the American Cancer Society of Charlotte County, member of the White Oak Grove Baptist Church, president of the Missionary Society, member and corresponding secretary of the senior choir, and program chair for the church.

**Awards:**

- \* Community Service Award given by Alpha Phi Alpha, a fraternity for outstanding community service
- \* Trustee board member of the year award given by the Trustee Board of the Virginia University of Lynchburg
- \* Doctor of Humane Letters given by Virginia University of Lynchburg
- \* Outstanding Educator Award given by Aspen Hill Baptist Church, Brookneal, VA
- \* Merit Award for excellence in educational leadership, team work, and professionalism given by the Appomattox County School Board
- \* An award given by the White Oak Grove Baptist Church in recognition of 37 years in education and devoted service to her church and community, March 1992

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**LOIS M. FOXWELL  
SECRETARY TO THE SUPERINTENDENT  
AND CLERK OF THE BOARD**

Lois Foxwell was born in Baltimore, Maryland. She attended elementary and secondary schools in Staunton, Virginia. It was at the Pan American Business School in Richmond that she prepared for a career as secretary/office manager.

Lois and her family moved to Appomattox in 1970. After working as a teacher's aide at Pamplin Elementary School from September through November of 1971, she was employed as secretary in the School Board office from December 1971, through January 1992, when she retired. Beginning in 1989 she assumed additional responsibilities as clerk of the school board.

From 1973 through 1991, Lois served as secretary to the superintendent, Lloyd G. Walton. During much of this time other electronic equipment and computers were not available for office operations. Therefore, Lois depended upon her shorthand and typewriter skills to meet the written communication needs of the superintendent and to type other documents, minutes and reports for filing.

During the eighteen years Lois was secretary to the superintendent, it is estimated that she typed approximately 9,000 letters that the superintendent dictated and prepared an equal number of documents, minutes, and reports. Her work was always of the highest quality, and the efficiency with which assignments were completed was excellent.

Lois was an excellent employee of the School Board office. Being knowledgeable of the operation of the School Board, she was well prepared to assist employees and the public. With a smile and a pleasant voice, she communicated well with others and served as a good ambassador for the School Board. Always loyal and supportive, Lois was a team player and a valuable member of the School Board office staff.

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**MRS. CARRIE GILBERT - THE SOUTH'S ORIGINAL STEEL MAGNOLIA  
BY: BILL AND ELLEN JAMERSON, FORMER STUDENTS**

In manner and stature, Mrs. Carrie Gilbert, teacher and mentor of Appomattox High School students, commanded respect. She was a tall, slender woman always keeping a smile on her face as she taught many classes at Appomattox High School. Her smile just became a little tighter when she was displeased or disappointed in a student's behavior in class. One became really embarrassed when not living up to her expectations.

Mrs. Gilbert was an independent and determined woman before this became the norm for women of today. Her marriage to Mr. Howard Gilbert remained secret for a number of years because in her time, local school board members frowned upon married school teachers. She was not blessed with children of her own, but most of us thought of ourselves as her children.

While some teachers evoked rebellion, she was a calm disciplinarian and treated all students equally regardless of station in life or academic class standing. Her manner and stature commanded respect.

Many of her students kept in touch with her through correspondence or visits after she retired. The community of Appomattox was fortunate in that she retired in this area and we were able to see her often.

One particular incident, which is an example of how independent and determined she was, happened as Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert were planning to build a new home in Appomattox and approached Bill for an estimate on cost of construction. Bill, at that time, had finished college, and was working in the family construction business. When Bill came to the two of them with a final estimated price on the cost of the house, Mr. Gilbert was not very pleased and indicated that he could not build the home at that price. After this meeting, Mrs. Gilbert came to Bill privately and told him that she had extra money that she had set aside which Howard did not know about. She asked him to make the contract for the price Mr. Gilbert wanted to pay, and she would pay the difference in real cost. Bill carried out her instructions and never revealed her secret to her husband even when Mr. Gilbert related to many persons in the community that he was able to get Bill to build his home at such a low price. Bill's respect for Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert made this a most amicable arrangement.

Mrs. Gilbert's memory will never fade as long as her students are living.

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A TRIBUTE TO MY FAVORITE TEACHER, MRS. CARRIE GILBERT  
BY: JOHN CALVIN LEWIS, III  
APPOMATTOX HIGH SCHOOL, CLASS OF 1951

According to WEBSTER, a teacher is one who teaches others; an instructor; a preacher. Teach--to impart knowledge to; instruct; inform; cause to learn or acquire skill in; to give instruction.

Mrs. Gilbert was an excellent teacher, however, according to most of her students she was more than just excellent - she was a super teacher, the best, the greatest, the best of the best. Mrs. Gilbert taught more than English and Math. She taught behavior with manners, kindness, respect, love, sincerity, tolerance, integrity, self discipline, patience, self respect, confidence, — I could go on and on with more words but the words could never express all the wonderful feelings and thoughts I have in my head and heart for her. Mrs. Gilbert was truly my hero and friend.

Mrs. Gilbert and I had a special relationship during the years I was a student, 1949-51. I will have to admit to a few of my character failures, not all of them of course, before you will be able to understand how we developed our special relationship with one another. I was a typical teenager, stubborn, wanted my own way, had my own ideas, lazy, did not like homework, tardy at times, sassy, etc. just to name a few.

Mrs. Gilbert understood my character flaws but would not tolerate any of them. As hard as I would try to intimidate and force my flawed actions and behavior on her, she never gave in. She would just smile, be nice, and say, "Young man, if you want to pass your grade, learn something and stay in this class, you will follow my rules." I was taught to do the right thing at home and I knew Mrs. Gilbert's way was the right way. I soon realized if I didn't follow her rules, I could forget about passing the subjects she taught.

After I figured out Mrs. Gilbert was the boss, everything began to take shape. I was truly interested in the subjects, learning, behaving, and doing the right things in her classes. When I slipped up and got rude, rowdy, or whatever a teenage boy might do, I was quickly made to behave, and in turn I would feel bad because I knew my actions were wrong and Mrs. Gilbert held me accountable for them.

Mrs. Gilbert became my mentor, teacher, friend, counselor and the one I could always turn to in difficult times. She was always willing to help me even though I had previously been one of her difficult students. I soon realized that my world was a better place because of her, even though she never did stop working on my discipline and my study habits.

I went to college after graduating because of Mrs. Gilbert's help. I was able to get

accepted to college only because of the encouragement and help provided by Mrs. Gilbert - counseling, encouragement, help filling out applications, encouragement, recommendations, information about college, encouragement, —did I mention encouragement???? Yes, I graduated, and have always attributed my college degree to Mrs. Carrie Gilbert, my teacher and friend.

I never lost contact with Mrs. Gilbert. She became part of my family. My wife and four children knew and loved her. We would visit her when we could and write from time to time. She never stopped giving me encouragement and love. This lady was a teacher of life, not just a couple of high school subjects. Her positive influences on my life are permanent and I feel grateful to be able to express my love and appreciation for such a wonderful person.

I LOVED MRS. CARRIE GILBERT.

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#### ELLA LEWIS GORDON

Ella Lewis Gordon was born in Appomattox County, Virginia. She attended State Teachers College, now Longwood College at Farmville, Virginia.

Her teaching career was spent in Appomattox County Schools where she taught in the primary and elementary grades from 1950 to 1977. Mrs. Gordon also worked with the preschool program in the summer of 1969 at the Appomattox Elementary School under the guidance of Eugene W. Peyton, Director of Instruction.

Ella was known for her creative writings and poems. Being a person of great wit and humor, she shared a college experience with her colleagues. When she entered her freshman English class at the State Teachers College in Farmville, Virginia, her professor, Miss Nancy Foster, as part of the first semester exam, wrote several possible essay topics on the blackboard. Ella chose a title that she *thought* said "There Is No Just Ice." The professor had written "There Is No Justice, but there was a crack in the blackboard separating the words, just and ice! Ella completed her essay, using the required number of words! Her professor was not only thoroughly amused at Ella's title, but she was profoundly impressed with Ella's well-written, creative essay. Using no name, the professor recounted this experience with her classes for years to come.

When Lou Rogers, Ella Gordon and Sallie Martin (pictured on the following page) retired in 1977 with 96 years of combined service, Ella wrote the following poem:

#### US THREE

For many years now, it has been our pleasure to be  
A part of a very special school,  
Where love, understanding, concern and  
Cooperation have been unwritten rules.

We'll enjoy reminiscing about  
The faculty and staff  
With whom we have shared a  
Few tough times, many, many happy  
Times and lots of laughs!

Through our combined 96 years of  
Work and play,  
Thousands of little boys and  
Girls have passed our way,  
And are now playing important roles  
In the world today.

However, through "our eyes" we'll always

See them as the little chaps  
That only a few years ago we taught,  
For instance, to me,  
Mr. Lloyd Walton, our superintendent, will always be  
The same little Oakville boy  
Who once sat on my knee.

As this school year ends,  
So does the teaching career of us three:  
Lou, Sallie, and "Ancient Me."

But before we go, we want to bequeath  
Much love, plenty of hard work,  
Good health and our very best wishes to all  
Since we won't be joining you again next fall.

But if perchance we should be near  
To hear a school bell toll,  
We'll probably reach out  
For a register to call our roll.

— Ella Gordon




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**MISS EDMONIA HARDY (MISS "EDDIE")**  
**BY CLAUDINE O'BRIEN**

It is true I had many wonderful teachers at Appomattox High School, but the one who really stands out as a special teacher, counselor, and friend was Miss "Eddie" Hardy in the second grade. Miss "Eddie" taught more than 50 years, and six in my family profited from her influence.

I am including a card she sent to my oldest sister Ouida, May 17, 1933, on the death of our dear mother. This sympathetic card really pictures the love and compassion of our teacher:  
My dear Ouida,

I have had you on my mind for several days, but more so since God claimed your dear Mother. Words are empty on such occasions, but I want you to know that I deeply sympathize with you and your dear sisters and brothers—the most of whom I had the great pleasure of teaching. The outstanding reason why I can so deeply sympathize with you is that when I was but little older than you God saw fit to take my dear Mother home and only ten months later, my dear Father, leaving seven sisters and brothers younger than myself to look to me for counsel and advice. No girl ever had more lovable parents, and I know God's will was best. You are blessed with a kind, healthy father, and I hear an active grandmother—for this I am glad. I believe you, like myself, will have Christian fortitude to go ahead, and do your best. I wish I could see you. Please accept my love and sympathy for all.

Your friend and ex-teacher,  
Eddie V. Hardy

P.S. Miss Eddie died in 1939.

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**MY MOTIVATION TO BECOME A TEACHER**  
**BY CECIL CONNER HARVEY**

The Appomattox County School System provided me with the wonderful opportunity to attend schools that had outstanding teachers. My first grade school experience was at Hurtsville Grade School. Miss Cammie Anderson was a petite lady, but she was a giant in the classroom.

My third year in school began at Appomattox High School where I remained until I



graduated in 1935. Miss Nola Burkey, Miss Mildred Kelly, and Miss Tompkins were among my favorite elementary school teachers. Miss Burkey read to us each day and shared her private library with us. Miss Kelly made each subject a fun game to enjoy; and Miss Tompkins imparted her love for music, art, and drama by providing us with opportunities to dramatize historical events or stories from an old reading book. Most of the textbooks were old and had been used many times. However, I knew that I wanted to be a teacher when I was in the fifth grade.

Three high school teachers who remain uppermost in my memory are Miss Lucy Legrand, Miss Kate O'Brien, and Mrs. Helen M. Welch. History became very interesting under the instruction of Miss Legrand who used a time line and maps. Students remember Miss Kate O'Brien. To me, she was the perfect English teacher who used humorous stories and activities to help us remember our subject matter. During my senior year, Mrs. Welch required each of us to keep a notebook of class material and activities.

When I entered Richmond Professional Institute, then a part of William and Mary College, I felt that the History and English Departments were exceptional. This was when I said, "Thank God!" for Miss Legrand, Miss O'Brien, and Mrs. Welch. My first RPI English teacher had never heard of diagraming a sentence. When I diagramed a sentence on the board, she remarked, "Pray tell me what you're doing!"

Two educational classes at RPI provided me with techniques and strategies that greatly enhanced my teaching career. The first class was taught by four teachers who used art and geography to teach educational concepts. There were no textbooks. Later, I found it impossible to teach geography without color and maps. The second class was a hands-on experience in teaching reading to various groups, including autistic children, deaf children, mentally challenged children, and adults (ages 15-25). After these two classes, other education classes, using textbooks and lectures, left me cold.

During my teaching career, county education systems adopted themes or ideas that were to be emphasized with students. History of the county was the big focus in Dinwiddie County. This was accomplished through classes and various assembly programs emphasizing people, places, things, and events. Prince George County stressed current events, world news and activities at Fort Lee, Virginia. Appomattox County concentrated on school and community academic competitions and athletic competitions. Pictures with cover stories were displayed in the local weekly paper and the daily Lynchburg paper. In addition to academic and athletic activities, rural Lunenburg County promoted 4-H Club activities weekly in its schools.

What a treat it was to teach in these different counties! Being a part of the numerous activities, developing relationships, gathering ideas and learning the history of the areas, were great educational experiences for me that I continue to recall with pride and pleasure.

Mrs. Harvey continues to be active in the Appomattox Historical Society where she motivates citizens and groups to preserve all aspects of Appomattox County's history. Her husband, Dr. Eston Harvey, supports and assists her in her continued efforts in historical research, documentation, and preservation.

**ANDERSON NAPOLEON HASKINS**



**Born: Buckingham County, February 22, 1915  
and died December 2, 1979**

**Son of Motier and Cora Haskins and had six sisters and six brothers**

**Husband of Ida B. Lewis and had three sons and one daughter**

**Veteran of World War II**

**School Assignments:**

**Custodian for the Appomattox County School Board for 27 years**

**Eulogy delivered by Rev. R. Q. Lawing at Mr. Haskins' funeral:**

**I worked with Brother Andy nearly 25 years. We learned to know and respect each other. He was talented and gifted. He could solve most any problem. His advice was sound and reasonable. He was interested in his work. He was dependable and always gave a full day's work. He was thoughtful of his co-workers. He was a good and trustworthy employee of the Appomattox County School Board for a long time. He worked under three different superintendents. Each one was impressed with his work.**

**"I have done my work..." I have found out through the number of years that Mr. Haskins has done his work; first as a husband and a father. He was loyal and faithful to his wife and family consisting of three sons and one daughter who all were good students and are now respected citizens of the community.**

**Second as a good neighbor and friend, he was touched by the suffering of the poor and less fortunate of the community. He has assisted in many funerals, dug many graves, and he loved people. He loved his brothers and sisters; a large family.**

**Third as a good layman and mechanic, he could fix anything that was worthy of being fixed. He built several homes and out buildings. He has repaired and worked on several churches in Appomattox County. He was reliable and dependable. Finally, "he has done his work" as a soldier of the U.S. Army. He was honorably discharged.**

**During our hours talking together, I found out that he believed in God and tried his religion by helping his brother and fellowman. Because of his belief in a supreme being, last Sunday evening death struck his mortal frame and he fell asleep on Jesus.**

**"I have done my work..." To Sister Bea, Margaret, Rufus, Tom, and Jimmy, I know how you feel because I have passed through what you are going through. Look to the hills and thank God for permitting your father and husband to be with you these number of years. Be still and meditate on your way and get as close as you can to Jesus, Our Lord. For sooner or later, you too must go the way of all the earth. God bless the entire family and all the friends assembled.**

**JEAN AKERS HESSON  
GENERAL SUPERVISOR 1972-1986**



Mrs. Hesson attended elementary school in Gladstone, Virginia. She graduated from Appomattox High School in 1941. In 1945 she received a B. S. degree from Farmville State Teachers College, now Longwood College. She completed requirements for a M. A. degree at Longwood College and engaged in post graduate study at Lynchburg College and the University of Virginia.

Beginning her teaching career in Henry County, Mrs. Hesson taught there one year before returning to Appomattox County in the fall of 1946. She had the privilege of serving under four different school superintendents during her career in the county. She was teaching social studies in the sixth and seventh grade when she was appointed principal of Appomattox Primary School, effective July 1, 1969.

In 1959 Mrs. Hesson was one of eleven teachers in the state of Virginia to receive the prestigious Valley Forge Classroom Teachers Award from Freedom Foundation at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. The award read in part: "For exceptional classroom work in behalf of responsible patriotic citizenship and the American way of life— and for service beyond the call of duty in helping our young people to a better understanding and knowledge of their rights and responsibilities in the land of God and freedom."

Her career spanned school consolidations, integration, special education and curriculum development. In November of 1972, she assumed the position of general supervisor in the central office of Appomattox County schools, where she served until her retirement in 1986.

Active in numerous professional organizations, Mrs. Hesson served twice as president of the Appomattox Education Association, was president of District F of the Virginia Education Association, and was a member of Elementary School Principals, the Virginia Education Association, the National Education Association, the Parent Teachers Association and the Appomattox County Retired Teachers Association.

Not only was Mrs. Hesson active in all aspects of educational leadership, but she was also an active leader in her church where she served as pianist, teacher and financial secretary. Her life was devoted to her church, to her family and to her career in education. The community was saddened and suffered a profound loss upon her death on June 6, 1999. She was the wife of Julian B. Hesson and the mother of Julian Grey Hesson and the late Julia Hesson Walker.

## MARY GREY SEARS HOLLAND



Mrs. Holland, the daughter of John Edward and Mary Irby Sears, was born in Appomattox on August 5, 1914. She was educated in the Appomattox County public schools. Upon graduation from high school, she entered Randolph Macon Woman's College, and in 1934 graduated with a B. A. degree.

Her teaching career began in Pittsylvania County where she taught grades 1-4 in 1934-'35. From 1935-'36 she taught chemistry, biology, algebra and 8<sup>th</sup> grade math in Campbell County.

She then traveled to Westmoreland County to teach from 1936-'37. It was here that she met her future husband, Ivey Holland, and they were married on July 7, 1937. In 1938 they returned to Appomattox where Mr. Holland worked in his father-in-law's business and Mrs. Holland, became a mother and homemaker.

During World War II, they traveled from coast to coast with several stops in between. After her third child entered school, Mrs. Holland returned to teaching at Appomattox High School in 1954 where she taught academic math and science classes. She was an innovative teacher and frequently surprised her students with aids, such as Tinker Toys in geometry class. She served as sponsor of several student organizations, including the Beta Club and thoroughly enjoyed chaperoning many class trips. In April of 1977, she was granted three educational days for a trip to Greece and at the end of the school year she retired.

During her career, she received numerous awards: She was the recipient of the Valley Forge Freedom Award; In 1958 she was recommended for the National Science Supplementary Training Program at Randolph Macon by Superintendent, J. A. Burke; In 1973 she was elected as a candidate from Appomattox County High School for State Teacher of the Year Award; School Superintendent, Lloyd G. Walton and Director of Instruction, Eugene Peyton, recommended Mrs. Holland for the 1974 National Teacher of the Year Award.

Not only was Mrs. Holland a dedicated teacher to her students, but she was also very dedicated to service to her community. She always found time to be very active in Memorial United Methodist Church, the Appomattox Garden Club, the American Legion Auxiliary, the DAR and the RMWC Alumnae Society where she held major offices in all these organizations.

On November 4, 1983, Mrs. Holland died leaving her husband, Ivey Holland, and three children, John Ivey, Tom, and Grey and a number of grandchildren.

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### MAE M. HOLT CLERK OF THE APPOMATTOX COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD 1954-1985

My mother, the youngest of five children, was born in Charlotte County, Virginia, to Joseph D. and Sallie Elwood Deaner Morris. She attended Vincent Elementary School, which was located close to her home, and graduated from Madisonville High School in 1932. She and my father, R. Garland Holt enjoyed a long and happy marriage until his death in 1990. Prior to moving to Appomattox, they lived in various sections of Virginia because of my dad's employment with the state.

When they lived in Dinwiddie County, my mother had the foresight to take advantage of some adult business education classes during World War II. After settling in Appomattox in the



mid 1940's, she worked for several business employers, thus enabling her to further refine her skills and to know and enjoy many of the county's citizens.

Through her friendship with Annie Laurie Babcock, food services manager, at Appomattox High School, she entered the school system working with Mrs. Babcock and her staff. Today, teachers remember the delicious lunches they were served and recall the pampering from the cafeteria staff during their short lunch break. After a few years, principal Lindsey Crawley, hired her as the school secretary in the main office. My mother found this job both challenging and engaging. Being a people person, she always enjoyed her involvement with students, teachers and other colleagues.

Her next career move was when Mr. J. A. Burke, Superintendent of Schools, hired her for the position of Clerk of the School Board. Mr. Burke and my mother were the only employees in the Central Office at that time. They were able, however, to run an efficient and effective school system for the county with the assistance of school staffs and faculties.

My mother worked with many people as management styles changed and as the state and federal mandates placed more demands on the school system. Mr. J. A. Burke, Mr. Earl Smith, Mr. Eugene Peyton and Mr. Lloyd Walton were superintendents of the county school division during her tenure as Clerk of the Board. She found these individuals to be unique in their leadership and to be very professional in the execution of their duties. Each superintendent provided her with many opportunities for professional growth.

A mother of three children, seven grandchildren and six great grandchildren, she has often influenced her family in the field of education. Two daughters, one granddaughter and one daughter-in-law are educators.

During the years of her employment, she witnessed many changes in education, including social changes, consolidation of schools, expanding building programs, advancing technology and a multitude of other transitions. Office colleagues remember her optimistic philosophy when the system was confronted with challenges. She would often be heard to say, "this too shall pass!" Many times she said that she would pay the county to allow her to work! What a testament to the joy she felt performing her job.

Submitted by Jane Holt Woodson, Daughter and Teacher

## MEMORIES --- JOHN HUDSON



Born: July 26, 1928, in Richmond, VA

My family moved to a small community near Huntsville, Alabama in 1929. One of my fondest memories of living in this area was when I received a bicycle for Christmas at the age of 10. This bicycle served me well in three states. After attending elementary school through grade six, I moved to a rural area of Tennessee near the Smoky Mountains. I had to walk approximately one mile to a two-room, 8-grade school.

In 1942, my family moved to Prince Edward County, Virginia. I attended Worsham High School, graduating in 1945. I entered Hampden Sydney College in the fall of 1945, graduating in 1949 with a Bachelor of Science Degree.

In the fall of 1949, I began my teaching career at Appomattox High School. My subjects

were in the science and math fields, with geometry being my favorite. Since teachers' pay was not very attractive, I compensated my income by measuring allotment crops for the ASCS, a division of the Department of Agriculture. I also worked at a drugstore in Farmville on weekends. One other unforgettable job was driving a school bus for 36 years. Watching the kids develop from K-12 was quite an experience.

I married Mildred Gilliam in 1951 and we have two children, Patricia and Gary. They are both pharmacists and live in Lynchburg. Our vacations are few and short. We did manage to get to the Worlds' Fair when it was in Knoxville, Tennessee.

My hobbies include gardening, carpentry, and mechanics. One of my favorite projects was building a 30 X 24 foot Dutch barn, which I use for a workshop and storage.

A few years back I developed Type II diabetes. By sticking to a fairly strict diet and exercising, mostly walking, I have managed to keep it under control. Overall, my health has been very good, having missed only a few days, due to illness, during my entire teaching career.

I have enjoyed teaching over the years and I miss the contact with both students and the faculty. One of the most rewarding aspects of teaching is to see how my former students have matured and prospered. I attend quite a few class reunions and thus have a chance to keep up with their progress.

I also have received letters from former students as well as some parents thanking me for my contribution to their success. I retired from teaching in 1990 but stayed in contact with the school by selling tickets to the home sporting events. I also retired from this in 1998 but still try to attend some of the sporting events. I still have an interest in the education of children.

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**ETTA RANSON INGE**  
**CLERK OF SCHOOL BOARD 1982-1989**

Etta Ranson Inge was born September 9, 1928 in Appomattox County. On April 8, 1950, she married a county native, Claiborne Inge. Their only child, Rita, grew up in the county, attended the public schools, and graduated from Appomattox High School in 1974.

Etta attended Evergreen Elementary School in grades one through six and completed her secondary education at Appomattox High School, graduating in 1945. A year later she completed a business program at Phillips Business College.

Upon completing the business program at Phillips, she was employed by Dr. Robert H. Cox, where she worked for five years as bookkeeper. Returning to Appomattox, she worked for a few months at Poe Hardware before accepting employment with the Appomattox County School Board in 1970. She served as deputy clerk until 1982 when she was appointed clerk of the board. She served as clerk until her retirement on August 31, 1989.

According to Lloyd Walton, she was a dedicated and competent employee who made a significant contribution to the operation of the school system. Having a warm and caring personality, she was most helpful to all employees and the public. Regardless of the demands or frustrations of the day, Etta always brought a pleasant smile, a humorous remark, and a word of encouragement to her coworkers and associates. She was thorough, accurate, and efficient in discharging the duties of her assignment. Faithful, loyal, and professional characterize her as an employee and person.

**HARRIETT PIERCE JAMES  
EDUCATOR — LEADER — FRIEND  
BY SHIRLEY W. WALTON**



Mrs. Harriett Pierce James was born on a three hundred-acre farm in Nottoway County, Virginia. She was the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. John B. Pierce and was one of seven children.

When Mrs. James' father, a graduate of Tuskegee Institute, went to Hampton Institute to teach, he moved his family there. Mrs. James was two years old at the time and grew up on the Hampton Institute campus.

Seaman Knapp, the founder of Cooperative Extension work, asked Dr. Pierce to go into agriculture and he became the first Negro agent for the Extension Service, United States Department of Agriculture. With this background all seven of the Pierce children became a generation of educators.

Harriett was exposed to good books, music, art, and many agricultural students from Hampton Institute, now Hampton University. That was how she met her husband, Gilbert James. They met while students and married upon graduation. They had a daughter, Beatrice, and two sons, Gilbert, Jr. and John.

The James moved to Appomattox in 1946, and Mrs. James began her teaching career. In 1963 she went to the State Department of Education as supervisor of English. In 1964 she returned to Carver-Price to teach English and to serve as guidance counselor. She wore many hats at Carver-Price teaching drama, music, and coaching the girls' sports.

When the schools unified in 1969-70, Mrs. James became guidance counselor for Appomattox High School. She then moved to the new high school and served in this role until retirement in 1987.

Her educational background included a Bachelor of Science and Master of Arts degrees from Hampton University with a major in English, education, physical education and health. Being a dedicated professional, she continued her education by doing post graduate work at Columbia University, Michigan State University, University of Virginia and Virginia State University.

During the twenty-five years she served as senior class sponsor, Mrs. James was an inspiration, role model and leader for many students. She dedicated her life to teaching and helping others for a total of forty-one years. Many adults will tell you that Mrs. Harriett James opened the doors of life for students by believing in them, giving them a chance and setting a professional example. Her positive influence upon the Appomattox County Schools and community will continue for many years to come.

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**JOYCE CARTER JAMERSON  
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT - 1991-2000**

Joyce Carter Jamerson was born May 3, 1949, to Charlie and Marian Carter of Appomattox, Virginia. She entered Appomattox Elementary School (now Appomattox Primary School) in 1955. Being in the first class to enter this new school, she continued there through the seventh grade. Contributing to the success and academic progress of this outstanding student during these years were Mrs. Sallie Martin, Mrs. Mildred Burkey, Miss Nola Burkey, Mrs. Isabelle Ligon, Mrs. Ethel Evans, and Mrs. Jean Hesson. Mrs. Hesson later became principal of AES and General Supervisor, a position Joyce assumed when Mrs. Hesson retired.

After graduating from Appomattox High School in 1967, Joyce entered Longwood

College, receiving a B.S. degree in 1970 with a major in biology and secondary education. In the fall of 1970 she began her career in education as teacher of biology and earth science at Appomattox County High School. It was also during this year that she married her high school sweetheart, G. H. Jamerson, Jr. Their only child and son, Faber, was born March 1, 1977.

While continuing her career as a teacher in the county, she enrolled in a graduate program at Longwood College, receiving a M.S. degree in 1973 with a major in Secondary Guidance and Counseling. With two years experience as teacher at Appomattox County High School, Joyce taught seventh grade life science from 1972 through 1976 at Appomattox Intermediate School, now Appomattox Elementary School, and Appomattox High School, now Appomattox Middle School.

In 1976 she was appointed Guidance Counselor at Appomattox County High School, a position she held until 1986. From 1986 through 1991 she served as General Supervisor for the county school system. Her responsibilities included coordination of special education, implementation of in-service education, assistance with recruitment and employment of personnel, evaluation and selection of textbooks, and other assignments as given by the superintendent. According to Lloyd Walton, Joyce was an invaluable member of the central office staff. Perceptive, intelligent, and a professional with exceptional administrative and supervisory skills, she handled her assignments well and always worked as a strong and supportive team member in the implementation of the school program.

On July 1, 1991, she was appointed Assistant Superintendent. When the superintendent retired at the end of September, 1991, Joyce was appointed as Interim Superintendent from October through December, 1991. Joyce was called upon again in 1997 to serve as Interim Superintendent. Prior to this time, she had completed advanced classes at Lynchburg College and University of Virginia to meet requirements for placement on the list of eligible superintendents.

With the exception of the two brief assignments as Interim Superintendent, Joyce served the school division as Assistant Superintendent during the decade of the nineties. She played a significant role in implementation of Standards of Learning program, in curriculum development, and in assistance to three superintendents. Her knowledge of education and experience in the school system contributed to continuity and efficiency of operation during the many transitions that occurred. After a very successful and rewarding career, Joyce retired September 1, 2000.

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**PRESENTATION ON SCHOOL HISTORY  
HENRIETTA JOHNSON  
MARCH 2, 1999**

When I began working with the Appomattox County School System, most of the schools were one or two room schools, with 25- 30 children per teacher, grades 1-7, with the exception of the two high schools.

During the early forties and fifties, there were a number of schools in the county because each community had its own schools which were named after the church or the families in the community.

These small community schools continued to be segregated. The superintendent and supervisors visited regularly to consult with principals and teachers and to observe students' progress.

During those days most students walked to school. The schools were cold and uncomfortable in winter. The only source of heat was a tin heater. The teacher was responsible for making the fire and for having the room warm when the children arrived. Sometimes the wood was green and unseasoned which made it hard to have a good fire. When the weather was extremely cold, everyone had to sit around the stove several hours during the morning to keep warm.

The larger boys would get the drinking water from someone's well or spring near by. Each child had his own drinking cup and brought his own lunch from home because rural schools did not have cafeterias or lunchrooms.

There were no PTA's. There were organizations similar to today's PTA's known as



school leagues, which the parents supported to raise monies for supplies needed in the classroom. Also, some teachers would use their own money for extra supplies or materials.

School supplies and furnishings were limited. In each classroom, there was one blackboard, several erasers, one or two boxes of chalk, two water pails, one dipper, one water cooler, two brooms and one mop for the entire year. The furniture consisted of the desks, chairs, and a bookcase.

Parents purchased their children's textbooks. The curriculum consisted of reading, language, writing, arithmetic, spelling, geography, science and health.

The rural schools did not have libraries, therefore, reading enrichment materials were brought from the library in the town of Appomattox by the visiting teacher or by the bus driver. These books were exchanged every two to three weeks. Thus, children had access to supplementary reading materials.

Students looked forward to attending several events: the 4-H Achievement Day, the musical festivals and May Day at the Appomattox School.

In the later fifties and throughout the sixties the one room school began to close. Children were bused to Appomattox. Classes for black children were set up in the old CC Camps and Camp Winnoah on Route 460, which was owned by the county supervisors, until the completion of the elementary school.

During the sixties the schools began to integrate through the Freedom of Choice Plan. Black students began attending white schools, and several white teachers were assigned to the Old Carver-Price School to teach. The schools became integrated in January of 1970.

During the early seventies the kindergarten program was initiated in the school system with four teachers, two aides, and 18-20 students per teacher. Because of limited space, the classes were set up in the old Oakville School on Route 26. Teachers enjoyed having several college students who did their practice teaching with them. After a few years the kindergarten classes were moved to Appomattox Primary School. From the early 40's through the 80's, all schools were closed in the outlying areas of the county, and students were bussed to schools that were built or renovated within the town of Appomattox.

Teachers were extremely grateful for the progress and for the many changes within their school system.

Henrietta P. Johnson was born in Appomattox, Virginia.

Schools attended:

- Morning Star Elementary, Evergreen
- Carver-Price High School, Appomattox
- St. Paul's School, Lawrenceville
- Virginia State University, Petersburg
- University of Virginia, Charlottesville
- Howard University, Washington, D.C.

School assignments:

- Mt. Zion Elementary School, Stafford, VA (Salary -\$65.00 per month in 1940-41)
- Mt. Airy School, Appomattox
- Carver-Price School, Appomattox
- Oakville School, Appomattox
- Appomattox Primary School, Appomattox

Special Notes:

- Retired in 1982
- Served on the Appomattox County School Board for four years (was the first African American to serve in this capacity in Appomattox County)
- "I have always loved children, and believe my work with them was really a talent from God."

**MISS IDA WALTON JONES**  
**Written by Estaline McCraw**

On March 11, 1846, Dr. David Crawford Jones and Mrs. Eliza Walton Jones welcomed a baby daughter, Ida Walton Jones, into their family home, "The Meadows". It was here that Ida spent the entire 96 years of her life. She was a distant relative of Lloyd G. Walton, a former Superintendent of Schools for Appomattox County.

At the age of 93, this remarkable lady recounted many interesting experiences during her life. When she was 17 years old, she was an eye witness at the funeral for General Thomas J. (Stonewall) Jackson, which was conducted at the First Presbyterian Church (location has since changed) in Lynchburg, Virginia. General Jackson's funeral, according to Miss Jones was the saddest occasion that she could remember. The hearse, accompanied by a Confederate honor guard, was brought by train from Chancellorsville to Lynchburg. Wagons, loaded with flowers, followed the hearse from the train to the church. Following the funeral service, the casket was taken by a packet boat to Lexington, Virginia. According to Miss Jones, the packet boat was still in Lynchburg in 1939 and still the object of much interest.

Miss Jones went on to recall conditions during and after the Civil War for the 1939 correspondent for *THE ROANOKE TIMES*. She indicated that decent food was at a premium and that clothing, including hats and shoes, was handmade. Bread made with flour was allowed only once a week. Corn meal, soaked in sorghum was a favorite dessert during those difficult times. Coffee was made from parched corn or chestnuts and sweetened, while boiling, with sorghum.

Cotton was raised on local farms, hand spun and sewed into dresses for women and into suits for men. Work shoes were made from the hides of cattle slaughtered for food. Sunday shoes were made from heavy black cloth, laced on the side with hand made shoe laces running through eyelets that were also tediously made by hand. Soles were put on the shoes by shoemakers. When wheat was thrashed, the straw was saved and woven or plaited into bonnets for the women. In 1939 Miss Jones still had one of those bonnets in her possession. What a treasure this would have made for a collector!

Miss Jones did not see General Lee surrender to General Grant even though her home was only eight miles from the site of the surrender.

This outstanding lady, who possessed such a keen memory, taught school in Appomattox County for 30 years. She attended four World's Fairs: Chicago, Philadelphia, St. Louis and Jamestown. She laughingly told *THE ROANOKE TIMES* correspondent that she had never chewed gum, had never drunk a Coca Cola or a bottle of beer, had never used rouge or lipstick, and had never used profanity.

While teaching school, Miss Jones was a correspondent for the county paper *THE APPOMATTOX AND BUCKINGHAM TIMES*. After retiring from teaching, she managed the family farm, "The Meadows" for the remainder of her life. She was assisted by her sister, Mrs. Belle Payne, who lived in Lynchburg.

She died in 1942 at Lynchburg General Hospital after a three weeks' illness. Her funeral was conducted by Rev. Thomas E. Johnson at Mount Comfort Methodist Church with interment in the family cemetery.

It is only fitting that this lady of great distinction be remembered in the history of the Appomattox County School System. Not only were thirty years of her life dedicated to the education of Appomattox County students, but she also left a rich collection of experiences and events spanning almost an entire century.

From: A 1939 interview with a *ROANOKE TIMES* Correspondent and Miss Jones's obituary in 1942. This information was shared by Fred and Maude Underwood.

## **ELIZABETH H. JORDAN**

Elizabeth H. Jordan, the daughter of the Reverend and Mrs. Nelson W. Jordan was chairman of the English Department and taught English to twelfth graders at Dunbar High School in Lynchburg for 22 years. She was also chairman of the Western District Drama group and inaugurated the Theater Guild and a local Thespian society. Miss Jordan retired in 1966 to care for her ailing sister, Mozella Price.

To show their appreciation for her dedicated service, the students of Dunbar recognized her in a special section of their 1967 yearbook. Miss Jordan continued to be active in her church and community in Appomattox County for many years.

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## **REV. RAYMOND QUINTON LAWING BY TIMOTHEUS W. N. LAWING**



Raymond Q. Lawing was born to William and Mary Lawing on March 3, 1910, in Chesterfield County Virginia. At a very early age, Raymond Lawing exhibited special gifts in the areas of leadership and administration. These skills were strengthened and polished in the home and at Bethesda Baptist Church where Raymond served in various capacities ranging from recording secretary to pianist.

Raymond Lawing graduated from D. Webster Davis High School on the campus of Virginia State University, and finished Virginia State College in 1932.

He married Florence E. Jones and they moved to Appomattox County to begin careers of service to God and humanity that would span fifty years. Mrs. Lawing served exceptionally well as a wife, mother, businesswoman and homemaker. Together, Mr. and Mrs. Lawing provided a home for many students.

Raymond Lawing, Sr. began teaching at Carver High School in 1932. He taught English, chemistry, math and agriculture to the citizens of Appomattox, including evening classes for adults.

While being innovative and optimistic, Raymond expanded his service and vision by preparing himself for the Gospel ministry. He graduated from the Moody Bible College in Chicago, Illinois, and began his service to God as a pastor.

In 1946, Rev. Lawing became a pastor of three local churches; Galilee, Mt. Shiloh, and Promise Land. During his years of work, Rev. Lawing inspired the citizens of Appomattox County to expand their spiritual and economic awareness thereby improving living conditions for the black population.

Rev. Lawing served not only as a pastor, teacher, and confidant, he was a counselor for many people who needed help with practical living situations.

Raymond Lawing continued to prepare himself for greater service to the citizenry by consistently studying at various colleges and universities to master new techniques and developments in his areas of service.

In addition to his academic accomplishments, Rev. Lawing was cited as a great teacher and leader by receiving the Revere Bowl; the most coveted and prestigious award that can be

presented to an educator.

Rev. Lawing was a man of faith and action and did not seek recognition. However, his work and service were often singled out as exemplary and received not only local, but national acclaim by representing his colleagues at National Educational conferences and workshops.

Rev. Lawing's life spoke for him as he served in numerous capacities, helping his fellow men. This very fruitful and uncompromising life closed in 1982 when Raymond Q. Lawing, Sr. graduated from earthly life to Eternity when he heard his Savior say, "Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a few things, now I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joys of my Kingdom."

Raymond Quinton Lawing, a man of love, is listed in Who's Who in Black America as one of the great men of this country, America.

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## LOUISE LEWIS MARTIN



### Schools attended:

Wesley Chapel School, September 1922-1929

Appomattox Agricultural High School, September 1929-1933

Farmville State Teachers' College, September 1933-1937, B. S.

### degree in Education

### School assignments:

Stonewall Elementary School	September 1937-38	Grades 6-7
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Evergreen Elementary School	September 1938-43	Grades 4-5-6
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Oakville Elementary School	September 1943-44	Grades 5-6
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Appomattox Elementary School	September 1944-46	Grade 4
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Appomattox High School	1956-1976	English, history, physical education, driver education(classroom)
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### Appomattox Agricultural High School Memories

My boy friend took me to see the first movie shown on a screen in the auditorium at Appomattox High. I attended FFA Boys' dances held in a dance hall over the drug store located on the corner of South Main Street. Principal Crawley selected students to help him in his office. During my senior year that was my job. Our senior play was titled "Where's Grandma?" I got to play the leading role—Grandma! She was called a "Flapper" but later turned out to be a real grandma. School closed second week in May instead of June—why? School Board ran out of funds.

### Recollections of Life at Farmville State Teachers College—now Longwood College

These were the years of the Great Depression. My family lived on a farm and though we had a good home and plenty of food, money was scarce. Because I could room and board in town cheaper than in college, I lived with three other girls in one room in the home of a couple who lived a block from the college.

I had a job delivering newspapers (Richmond Times Dispatch) to students who were taking economics classes and were required to subscribe to the paper. I was up early to deliver papers before breakfast and to get to class. I dated some Hampden Sydney students and got to



go to fraternity dances there. During the summer, when I went to visit one of the girls I roomed with, I met Carter Martin (my future husband). He asked if he could take me home. I learned later it was because he wanted to know the way to my home on the other side of the county. We dated either Saturday or Sunday nights. He had to share the family car with other brothers. In those days a family only owned one car. When I graduated from college, he wanted to give me my college ring. That's when I realized he was serious. However, my parents had somehow found enough money to buy my ring.

#### My Teaching Career

I began teaching at Stonewall Elementary School, grades six and seven, and was also assigned as principal. I think the degree gave me that status. Teachers had room and board with a Stonewall family. I remember feeling very "green" and doing things like forgetting to bring the keys to open the school which delayed the building of fires in the wood stoves of each room.

From there I moved to Evergreen Elementary School. It was there I taught Grades 4-5-6. Lots of things happened during those five years. On warm days we left the doors open. This was a two room school with each room having a door opening to a small porch on the front of the school. One day I turned around from putting math examples on the blackboard and what did I see—the superintendent sitting in a desk in the far back. This was the school where one of the young boys told me he knew I had eyes in the back of my head. This same boy was in the group who decided they would try smoking which of course was not allowed. I had smelled smoke but I hadn't decided how to handle it. The problem took care of itself because soon after the ten minute afternoon recess, a boy became very ill and I learned it was because he had smoked a cigar!

I kept a girl after school several days because of misbehavior. Her mother came to see me and I wondered if she was going to be angry. NO! The girl's father owned riding horses and he told me to come by his house and he would saddle one up for me to ride. This sounded exciting as I had never ridden a horse. He knew I hadn't so he gave me one that just "ambled" along. It was fun.

One year the other teacher and I decided we would have some kind of entertainment and invite parents to come. We wanted something different from a regular school play, so we had a Maypole Dance on a May afternoon. The men fixed a Maypole and the women made pretty dresses for the girls. They even made cloth streamers of many colors. The girls and boys, believe it or not, did a great job singing and dancing.

Carter and I were married in 1942. We decided I would continue teaching a while longer. World War II was brewing. Appomattox County began drafting young men to train for a year in order to be prepared. Carter was one of the first drafted. He had served his year and had a furlough for the weekend. That was the Sunday the news flashed over the radio that Japan had bombed Pearl Harbor. When Carter went back to camp in Maryland, he was soon shipped overseas and served in Europe until the war was over.

I continued to teach, and in September 1943, the superintendent asked me if I would go to Oakville Elementary School as a teacher was leaving. I taught 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades there and again was told I had eyes in the back of my head.

The next year the superintendent asked me if I would like to take the 4<sup>th</sup> grade in Appomattox Elementary School. Of course I would! Only one grade and I would be nearer home. After two years there, I retired in 1946. We wanted children of our own, and in 1949 my first child was born. The second one arrived in 1953. Teaching seemed a thing of the past. I was very happy being a mother and a housewife and helping on our farm. The "real" help on the farm came at harvest time when I prepared a big noonday meal for the helpers who came to harvest the crops.

In late August 1956, the superintendent of Appomattox County Schools came to my home to ask me if I would fill in at the high school until they could find a teacher for English and history. He said he felt sure they would have a teacher under contract in a few days, so I agreed to do it.

In the meantime the physical education teacher left to take a job nearer her home. Would you believe they never found a teacher? So I spent nine years teaching physical education,

driver education in the classroom, and coaching basketball, softball, volleyball, and was also a cheerleader sponsor!

It was 1957 when I found what I enjoyed most in my teaching career. I loved the coaching! I knew nothing about it, so I had much to learn! The principal told me he would ask the boys' coach to help me with practice and sit on the bench with me during games. We had about a month of practice before games started. A physical education major at Lynchburg College came to do her practice teaching. This was great! I learned from her and wondered if she learned anything from me! Some of the schools in the district played on Saturday nights but we didn't at Appomattox. Now you know where I spent Saturday nights! I really enjoyed watching these games and learned from the coaches and teams. I had a group of hard working and enthusiastic girls, so we were winners!

One spring some of the girls had learned some counties out of our district had girls' softball teams and they wanted a team also. I told them I would ask the principal if I could organize a girls' softball team and schedule some games. He gave me permission and we played four games: two at home and two away. The girls bought their own tee shirts and shorts to match as we had no uniforms.

Before long with the help of two other coaches, my principal and two other principals, we had softball going strong in the Seminole District.

As a source of recreation, some of the home economics teachers in the district would have their girls play volleyball one weekend in the spring. The Appomattox teacher asked me if I would take some girls from my physical education classes and form a volleyball team. I was happy to do this and so were the girls. The result of this eventually was the organization of volleyball as a girls' sport in the Seminole District. I really loved coaching the sports!

In 1976 I decided it was time for me to retire. A former student of mine was serving as assistant coach at this time so she was moved up to head coach. One of my daughters was in her second year of teaching and she was given a contract to take my place in physical education. The time was right to retire and spend time at home with my family. It made me happy to know I had a former student and my daughter to carry on my job in the Physical Education Department and take over all the coaching duties.

I am glad I have lived to see many more sports added to the girls' sports program. I now watch tennis matches, field and track, cross country as well as basketball, volleyball, and softball. I am now seeing the grandchildren of my former students play in these sports. I am having the "time of my life" seeing them and sharing the enjoyment they are having. WHAT MORE COULD I ASK?

#### COACHING RECORD

Taught 30 year in the Appomattox County Public School System

Coached 17 years at Appomattox:     Basketball - 17 years  
   Softball - 11 years  
   Volleyball - 5 years

Basketball: 204-58

8 District Championships  
2 Sectional Championships

Softball: 108-20

6 District Championships

Volleyball: 48-3

5 District Championships  
3 Tournament Championships

During these years there were no state games for girls.

Never had a losing season in volleyball or softball.

Had only two losing seasons in basketball.

Never had a technical foul called on her by any official!

Recent honors:

Named to the Virginia High School League Hall of Fame

Named to the first Appomattox County High School Hall of Fame

Inducted into the Lynchburg Area Sports Hall of Fame in 1996

Honored by having the softball field at Appomattox County High school named the  
LOUISE LEWIS MARTIN Softball Field

Has won the Virginia 10-miler in her category several times

Has won many gold medals for running in state and national competitions since her retirement

At the age of 83, Louise continues to win medals for running. In June of 2000, she participated in the Virginia Golden Olympics Games and received gold medals for the 5K (3.1 miles) and 10k (6.2 miles) races.

Refer to letters included in the last section of this publication supporting Louise Lewis Martin for the VHSL Hall of Fame. Debbie Rush, a high school teacher, coordinated this effort.

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### THE BIG QUESTION - "WHY IS SHE RUNNING?"

BY LOUISE MARTIN

(An article in the BROADCAST, the State Retired Teachers' Newsletter September 1998)

This is what I heard when I first started running. I was 55 years old, getting ready to retire from 30 years teaching in Appomattox County Schools, 20 of those teaching Physical Education and coaching girls' sports. "What are you going to do with all that leisure time when you retire?" I had just read a book by Dr. Cooper on aerobics and about starting a program of running as an exercise to promote good health. I would be retiring in five years and I didn't want to grow old *gracefully!*

I live in the country and it would be easy for me to run some of the roads around the farm. I could do this alone without calling someone to play tennis or whatever. As it worked out this is one hour of the day, I can call mine. Sound selfish? No, everyone needs some time they can call their own in order to have a well-balanced life.

So I began my program walking a little, running a little until I felt comfortable running. I finally made it up to five or six miles a day running. Then one day my husband said, "Why don't you run the Joe Sweeney 10 k this fall? What, me compete in a race? The more I thought about it, I began to think, "Why not? I have been doing that mileage out here by myself. Why not go do it with other runners?" So my first race was the Joe Sweeney 10 k, October 1979, two years after I retired. I was the only woman over the age of 50 who entered, so I won first place and got hooked on running in competition!

I was in my sixties before I learned about the Senior Olympics being held in Virginia. The first year I entered, I signed up for the 5 k and 10 k road races and 1500, 800, 400, 200 track events. I placed in all the events with gold medals in the road races, 1500 and 800.

In 1987, the first national Golden Olympics were in St. Louis, MO. I received an invitation to this, having qualified in the Virginia Golden Olympics. This sounded like it was quite a big event with participants from every state. I wasn't too keen on trying this. My husband was more interested in my racing than I was I think. Anyway, he talked me into it and we went. However, I was "chicken" and only entered one race, the 10 k road race. My whole family could talk about nothing else, trying to get me ready. I had a wonderful time and came home with the gold medal.

This National event is held every two years. My husband and I had been to everyone except in 1991. We were making our plans to go that week when he died unexpectedly of a heart attack. Since then, my oldest daughter, who is also a runner, goes with me. I like to tease her in that a few more years she can be a golden Olympian. Both of my daughters, Mary and Lucy, are runners. However, Lucy has a hard time finding time for it due to a busy schedule teaching, helping with the farm work, and seeing that her two sons get to and from their various activities. They both encourage me to keep running. My family has always supported me in my running throughout 26 years.

I am planning to run in the next Senior Olympics. They will be held in Florida, October 1999. This contest includes 18 sports. In 1997 the number of athletes registered was 10,320. The name has recently been changed to National Senior Games Association, and I have just received a charter membership patch and lapel pin from David F. Hull, President and CEO.

I will be doing a race somewhere every two weeks preparing for the Lynchburg 10 miler.

This is quite a challenge for me with its hills. Can you imagine my delight when I read in a recent issue of *Runners World* that it was a good thing to walk a little? I have been doing that as I near the top of a steep hill and my overall time is better when I do. You are never too old to learn!

Back to "why do I run?" I could use the one word "love" because I do love it. There are many reasons: to stay healthy mentally and physically through daily exercise and eating right. I don't worry about what I eat. Somehow since I started running, I enjoy the healthy foods; especially fruits, vegetables, cereals and whole grain bread. I don't worry about my diet. I believe you should eat a variety of foods. I don't like to admit it, but I really do like ice cream, the real thing.

Another reason is because I love nature, which I can enjoy, while running the rural roads. This is one hour a day when I commune with God. God speaks to me through the beautiful sounds and sights of nature in this wonderful world He created for us: the many beautiful wild flowers, trees growing from the tiniest dogwood springing up from a seed to the mighty old oak from a tiny acorn, sounds from the wind moving through whispering leaves, songs of the birds each singing their own melody, the mother quail hurrying her tiny, just hatched babies across the road to safety in the hay field as she sees me approaching, and the pretty spotted fawn running down the road in front of me and then darting off in the woods to its mother. I see a great universe perfectly made and ordered. These experiences make me feel happy in God's love. They help me become a better person. I am reminded of some verses from the Bible. Isaiah 40:31 "But they that wait upon the Lord will renew their strength: they will mount up with wings as eagles: they will run and not be weary." I Corinthians 9:24 "Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run that you may obtain."

I have been asked, "What is your most memorable race?" The answer is easy: the 10 k road race in the first Senior Olympics in St. Louis, MO, the summer of 1987. I couldn't believe I had won the gold medal! Then came the arrival at the Lynchburg Airport with my family holding a huge banner declaring the victory. The surprise when I arrived home was another banner in the yard and a delicious dinner on the dining room table for all the family to enjoy. I could never have done all these things I am relating to you without the support of my family and especially my husband. He would read my running magazines and then ask, "Have you signed up for this race?" He also enjoyed meeting the runners and their families. Mary tells the tale that he drove us to the races, watched and cheered us on the race course, then took us to dinner and announced to everyone in the restaurant that his wife just won a gold medal. Her husband gave me the nickname "Silver Fox." I kinda like that — not the silver part, but the fox. He is a fast runner and sly. Not only speed but slyness often wins a race. Mary, who got hooked on running at age 30 because of me, also told a news reporter once, "The races aren't the amazing thing about Mama. I have seen her run daily without stopping with pneumonia, a broken arm, and a broken wrist (injuries not related to running). She has fewer running injuries than any runner I know for the mileage she puts on." Yes, I have been greatly blessed in so many ways and I thank God every day many times for his love and care.

Why do I keep running? NO retirement! Runners never need to quit as they grow older and slower. They can always feel young again, within a few years, by graduating into a new age group. I can't quit because all the young runners tell me what an inspiration I am to them. I can't let them down.

By now you should know I think running is the greatest thing in the world for a person. The people I meet at the races are special kinds of persons, outgoing with confidence in themselves. That is another reason I love to run. "What motivates you?" I am asked. All these things I am telling you about. However, there is one important underlying motive - competing is fun, but it is even nicer to win.

HAPPY RUNNING! LOUISE

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SALLIE M. MARTIN

I was born in Appomattox County, Virginia, on June 18, 1916. I attended Liberty Chapel School in Appomattox County during the years 1922-31, completing first through the ninth grades.



We didn't have a school bus from our section of county to transport students to Appomattox High School. So, the last two years I lived with my Grandmother in Farmville, Virginia. I graduated from College High School there in June, 1933.

The next two years I attended State Teachers College in Farmville, Virginia, where I received my Normal Professional Certificate in June, 1935.

My first school assignment was in the primary grades at Goode School, about two miles outside of Danville, Virginia, in Pittsylvania County in the fall of 1935. I think my monthly salary was \$78.00, if my records showed I met the average daily attendance required. My next assignment was in the same county at Cascade School. I taught there two years from 1936-38.

My first assignment in Appomattox County was Stonewall School in 1951. The School Board wanted to close this school and the parents didn't want to do it. Superintendent Jerry A. Burke asked me if I would just teach until he could get someone else. So I taught until Christmas when one of the graduates from Longwood accepted it and I was assigned to Grade 1 in Appomattox High School in January, 1951. I continued teaching there until the Appomattox Primary School was opened in 1954-55. I retired in June, 1977, with 27 years of service in Appomattox County and three years in Pittsylvania County; a total of 30 years.

Salary for the first three years of teaching:

1951-52	\$1,500
1952-53	\$2,300
1953-54	\$2,600

Salary for the last three years of teaching:

1974-75	\$7,463
1975-76	\$7,863
1976-77	\$9,113

Sallie's Mother, Mary Louise Adams was born in Cumberland County, Virginia August 9, 1985. She attended Wayside School which was an early one room schoolhouse built in 1875. She completed two years of college at the Normal School in Farmville, Virginia.

Her first teaching assignment was in Appomattox County, Virginia in 1906 at Buck Creek School near T. Osborne Davidson's home where she boarded. Her next appointment was at Mt. Comfort School near Mt. Comfort Methodist Church in 1907-1909.

After three years of service in the county, she married Edward Kinckle Martin on June 23, 1909. A number of offspring from this union have served Appomattox County as teachers.

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#### **MY ROOTS IN EDUCATION BY ESTALINE MCCRAW**



In the fall of 1925, my mother, Estelle Vaughan of Farmville, Virginia, arrived in Andersonville, Virginia, to teach at the two-room school. It was here that she met and married my father, Herman Shield Anderson, on April 16, 1927. I arrived in their home on May 11, 1928. My mother, at this point, became a full-time homemaker for my dad and their three children.

Five years later, I entered the first grade at Andersonville school with Mrs. Emma Barker Thompson as my beloved teacher. I recently visited her at Holly Manor Nursing Home in Farmville, Virginia. With seven grades to teach in the then one-room school, independent learning began almost immediately! Evidences of creativity and resourcefulness were widespread in the learning and recreational activities. Many fond memories remain of individual

time in the evening with my mother as she "heard" my lesson by lamplight. She always encouraged academic excellence, but she expected perfection on the deportment side of my report card!

I entered high school with great anticipation. A new central high school, Buckingham Central High School, had recently been built. The unheated and often unreliable school buses traveled long distances over muddy, rut-filled or extremely dusty dirt roads to transport students to this central location. Older students often helped change tires or push mired school buses. Bus drivers became mechanics of sorts from necessity. I really didn't mind these interruptions if they occurred only occasionally, for classes were waiting at school and chores were waiting at home.

This beautiful new school was my first exposure to real luxury! The facility had running hot and cold water, electric lights, steam heat, bathrooms and a cafeteria. At that time, few rural homes in the United States enjoyed the comforts of such conveniences. The REA electrification and telephone loan programs were to improve living conditions significantly for rural Americans over the next few decades.

Upon graduating from high school, I entered Longwood College, my mother's alma mater, in the fall of 1944. The year, 1948, was a momentous one for me. I graduated from Longwood College with a Bachelor of Science degree in education in May. On July 17, I was married to Emmett Lawrence McCraw, my life partner for over fifty years.

Reliable automobiles were difficult to come by, and new cars were expensive in the 1940's. We couldn't afford two cars; therefore, I spent the next five years clerking at Martin's Jewelry Store in Farmville, Virginia, where we were living. In retrospect, this proved to be a very valuable experience for me during my teaching career. I learned what employers in the work world expect of employees. Also, the experiences with people from all walks of life enriched my life in many ways.

My entire teaching career of twenty-four years was spent in the Appomattox County School System. In August of 1966, when our youngest child entered school, I began teaching the fourth and fifth grades at the Spout Spring School, with an annual salary of \$4000.00. Longwood College had not taught me how to manage a multilevel, multiclass elementary situation in a facility with few modern conveniences, but I did not feel overwhelmed. My early childhood experiences as a student in the one-room school had prepared me far better than any college course could! Educational TV and various audio-visual aids were a godsend and afforded the students many additional educational opportunities at Spout Spring and in the other county schools from the late 1960's through the 1980's.

In the fall of 1968, I was offered a ninth grade teaching position at the Appomattox County High School, which I accepted. Federal mandates brought about the total integration of schools in January of 1970. Classroom space was limited. Many of us teachers rotated from one classroom to another, transporting teaching materials on carts. Of course, this type of situation did not lend itself to optimal teaching or learning. Overcrowding in this building eventually brought about the transfer of all ninth grade students and teachers to the present elementary school. A final transfer came in the fall of 1974 when the new high school became home for all high school students. For the remainder of my career, I primarily taught ninth grade English with a few tenth grade classes interspersed. In 1968, I also enrolled in the graduate program at Longwood College. By taking summer and night classes, I was able to receive a Master of Science Degree in educational supervision in May 1974. This additional education became very beneficial when the school system launched its comprehensive instructional program.

It is imperative for schools to be accountable to the public for their educational programs. Under the leadership of school superintendent, Lloyd G. Walton, and his administrative staff, great strides were made in the development and implementation of an instructional program of both scope and sequence on all levels, K-12. The English Department led, with great pride, in the development of curriculum guides and formats for lesson plans for the instructional program in all subject areas at the high school.

Plans and guides are of limited value, however, unless there is a means of evaluating the entire program. Therefore, a systematic program of teacher evaluation, rating teachers' effectiveness in all areas of classroom instruction, was put into effect, thus, assuring even

greater accountability. Regular testing of students was the final mechanism by which teacher effectiveness and student learning was determined.

The Appomattox County School System became known throughout the state for its exceptional rural instruction program. College preparatory classes were offered on campus and via satellite. Students were introduced to computer technology. Outstanding students attended the Central Virginia Governor's School in Lynchburg. Special education classes were expanded. The vocational administrative staff and teachers worked closely with community employers and with Central Virginia Community College. Longwood College sent many student teachers to Appomattox for their teacher training. Textbooks and materials, designed to best meet the objectives of the curriculum, were adopted and utilized.

These transitions cost additional money, and the school system was accountable for the monies spent. As a resident of the county, as a parent of three school-aged children and as a teacher in the system, it was always reassuring to hear community leaders, school officials and others praise Mr. Walton for his wise and frugal management of school funds. A number of people remarked on a number of occasions that when Lloyd Walton spent a school dollar, the public received a dollar's value!

The rewards for teaching children and young people are too numerous to mention. There is one thing, however, that I discovered over the years. Most students find their niche in society and become fine, upright and productive citizens. That is the ultimate reward for all teachers!

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**JOHN EDWARD MCLEAN**  
**BY LENA H. MCLEAN**



John Edward McLean was born May 17, 1925, in New York. He attended schools in Bellmore, NY, graduating from high school in 1944. After graduation he entered the US Army during World War II and served in the Medical Corps in the United States and Europe until his honorable discharge in 1947. At this time John, his parents, and twin brother moved to Florida. In 1951 John graduated from the University of Florida in Gainesville with a B.S. degree. In 1952 John married Lena Hunter of Red House, Virginia. I was a registered nurse employed by the Alachua General Hospital in Gainesville, Florida. John received his master's degree from Longwood College in Farmville, Virginia.

John had a variety of jobs. He worked as credit manager for Sherwin-Williams Paint Company in Hialeah, Florida, for four years. Upon moving to Virginia in 1956, he was employed by Roy Bridges and Associates as a sales representative of automotive parts and accessories. This job required him to travel quite a lot. In 1958, he accepted a position offered him by Mr. Jerry Burke, Superintendent of Appomattox County Public Schools. John taught eighth grade mathematics for three years. The next three years he served as principal of Pamplin School and taught seventh grade. He enjoyed working there and made many improvements.

In 1959, we had built a new home in Appomattox, and our daughter, Laurie, was born in 1962. John was later offered the job of DE/DO Coordinator at the high school and three years later became assistant principal. When the new high school opened, he served as assistant principal and remained in this position until his retirement in 1990.

Many former students have told us that John was a strict disciplinarian, but was a man of integrity, compassion, and fairness and that they really appreciated these qualities in later years.

John had a great sense of humor, and his witty expressions brightened the day for students and teachers. John was always interested in improvements and enjoyed projects. He was responsible for having the star placed above the high school to be illuminated at Christmas time of which he was proud.

After his death in 1995 after almost a year's illness, the late Frances Abbitt, contributing editor of The Times-Virginian and a former substitute teacher, gave a very impressive tribute to John. She wrote, "Appomattox County lost a beloved citizen in the death of Appomattox educator, John McLean. He will always be remembered as a caring man dealing with students as teacher/assistant principal. During his years with the Appomattox County school system from 1958 until his retirement in 1990, John McLean touched the lives of so many young people and they remember him with love and appreciation.

Kevin Gallier, an ACHS graduate, remarked, "Mr. McLean was a great assistant principal. Even when it was necessary for him to send us to detention, we knew in our hearts it was to teach us right from wrong. He really cared about us and we knew it."

Appomattox Mayor Ronnie Spiggle remembers well his eighth-grade experience with John McLean, "I though John was overly stern when he would tell my parents that he knew I could do better work, and I lost my television privileges. I came to realize that he was doing what he had to do to see that his students did their best work. I know now as the years have gone by that he did what he did to prepare us for the 'journey of life.'" Spiggle continued, "John didn't consider his work in the school system just a job that he left at school when he went home in the afternoon. He cared about his students all the time. He was so proud of the accomplishments of his students. Through the years he has been a good friend."

John A. Hudson, Jr., a teacher at ACHS many years while John was assistant principal, said to Abbitt, "John and I retired in 1990. I really enjoyed working with him. He was a very fair assistant principal. He was well liked by the students."

John McLean was an active member of Concord Presbyterian Church where he was an elder. He was an active member of the Lions Club for many years and was a member of the American Legion Post 104 and the Appomattox Chapter of AARP. Following his retirement he looked forward to visits from our daughter and son-in-law, Laurie M. and Donald Whitman, and our grandson, Kyle Hunter, who live in Bon Air in Richmond, Virginia.

John was honored after his death with a memorial sponsored by Principal Shirley Eye and the SCA. This was established by the planting of three trees near the flagpole at ACHS and naming the area The John McLean Square. A plaque in his honor is located in the high school main hall, and there is a plan in progress for a plaque to mark the square.

When I was asked to write a biography about my husband, John E. McLean, for this school history, I wasn't sure I could do it. I agreed with much hesitation, knowing that I may be biased in my opinion. However, I couldn't refuse as I know he contributed much to the schools and to the community.

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#### LENA HUNTER MCLEAN, R.N.

I was born on a farm near Red House, Virginia in Charlotte County in 1923. I attended Red House Elementary, a three-room school, grades one through seven. Then I attended Madisonville High School in Charlotte County, grades eight through eleven, graduating at age 16 in 1939.

After graduation, I attended and graduated from Montreat Junior College, Montreat, North Carolina, near Asheville in 1941. In August 1941, I entered Virginia Baptist Hospital School of Nursing in Lynchburg, VA. While there we affiliated with the Children's Hospital in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania for pediatric training for three months. I found nursing to be a noble, rewarding, demanding but a wonderful profession. However, the twelve hour duty, and sometimes "split" shifts could be very tiring!

I graduated from Virginia Baptist, where we had a strict but wonderful director of nursing, in 1944. I then did twelve hour private duty nursing there for three years.

In 1947 during a polio epidemic, the Red Cross needed volunteers to nurse polio patients. Five other graduates from Virginia Baptist, and I volunteered and were sent to Minneapolis and



St. Paul, Minnesota. Three of us were assigned to St. Paul's Children's Hospital where we worked several months.

We took care of many children with severe cases of polio. Administering medicines, treatment with packs, baths, etc. to help these suffering children was very rewarding. After returning, I worked in a hospital in Martinsville for a few months.

In 1948 several other nurses and I went to Gainesville, Florida and worked in Alachua Hospital there. It was in Gainesville that I met, and later, in 1952 married my husband, John McLean. We lived in Hialeah and Miami Springs four years and I worked in a doctor's office there.

We moved back to Virginia in 1956 and our daughter was born in 1962. I didn't do nursing again until 1971 when I was employed by the Appomattox School System to work at the Primary School with a salary of \$2700.00 for 180 days. When I retired in 1988, seventeen years later, my salary was \$12,711.00 for 180 days.

My work in the school clinic was very interesting and the children were a pleasure with whom to work. It was also a great responsibility with all these children, who reported their complaints to me daily.

When I first started to work at the Primary School, grades one through four were enrolled there, but, later this was changed to kindergarten through second grade.

Before Oakville School was closed, I was occasionally asked to report there to do different kinds of screening or for emergencies. My goal as school nurse was to promote and maintain the best possible health and educational potential for all students. Besides administering first aid and many prescription medicines, screening of hearing, and screening of vision with the titmus machine, I had many other duties. Proper immunizations and maintenance of accurate health records was a great concern, so, it was my responsibility to call parents when immunization records were incomplete or not up-to-date, as this was required by the state.

Recognizing diabetic problems, signs and symptoms was important, also detecting vision problems and referring both to a physician. I know of two children that I referred who were put on insulin. One of these I know is still taking insulin after many years.

I maintained a cardex file for each student in Appomattox Primary School. This included necessary information on each child and permission signed by the parents or guardian, to give Tylenol or aspirin as needed.

There were quite a few accidents on the playground, mostly on the "monkey bars." For something minor, I used cold packs on bumps and bruises. Band aids were a "cure all" for many little ones. I always notified the parents by telephone if possible. If I couldn't contact anyone, I sent a note home.

Pediculosis (better known as lice) screening was necessary many times, as were ticks. I always checked the child's temperature if his complaint was headache or stomachache. If my patient had an elevated temperature, I notified the parent about the need for seeing a doctor. If there was no fever, I had him lie down for a while and I let him return to the classroom. There were a few "fakers," so the nurse needed to be somewhat of a detective! Many children were under stress and needed some T.L.C. (Tender Loving Care) and needed to talk.

Teachers, aides, cafeteria workers, and janitors came to me many times for first aid or for advice on medical problems.

I treasure all the friendships made in the school system, and, my hope is that something I said or did for the children made an impact on their lives.

**CLAUDINE DELAWARE O'BRIEN**



Claudine Delaware O'Brien, the fourth child, was born to James Howard and Nettie Conner O'Brien in Lynchburg, Virginia, on October 30, 1914, at the beginning of World War I. (I still call myself a Halloween witch since I was born at that time.)

Teaching has always been part of my life, and even before starting school, I would be a teacher with imaginary pupils. I started at Appomattox High School and graduated in 1932. In reminiscing, I realize I had many outstanding teachers! Miss Eddie Hardy in the second grade and in high school Miss Kate O'Brien for Latin, Mrs. Helene Harvey for French and Miss Deane Johns for history. From Appomattox, I attended Farmville Teachers College (now Longwood). Latin became my major. As my mother died in 1933, it was necessary for me to come home for weekends, which I continued through my first year of teaching in 1937. Then my father remarried. Furthering my education, I had a summer at William and Mary and also Columbia University and a Sabbatical leave of one year (1965-66) at University of London, England. (I have always loved school.) Also, I received my masters from Duke.

My first teaching assignment was principal and fifth, sixth, and seventh grade teacher at Stonewall Elementary School, and really it was one of the most rewarding, as I followed a superior teacher, Miss Christine Garrett. After one year, I was able to leave home, because of Daddy's remarriage. I shall never forget my conversation with Mr. Jerry Burke, a wonderful Superintendent. I told him that since I was not in my field, I felt I should leave Appomattox, and he said, "We'll toss a coin," and the coin said, "Leave." So to Pittsylvania County I went and taught history, English, and Latin at Renan and Dan River from 1938-42.

My first year of teaching I made \$90 a month because I was principal; otherwise, it would have been \$75. In fact, after 44 years of teaching, I never made over \$12,000. In 1942 I felt I needed a change and accepted a Latin and English position at Lawrenceville, Virginia, for six delightful years! (I still attend the class reunions from those years.) These were World War II years and what these students had to give up, but never a complaint! The year 1948 took me to La Plata, Maryland, which was near Washington, D.C., affording me many opportunities of sightseeing, plays, and galleries.

In the nineteen years at La Plata, I left three times: first to teach Latin at Wakefield High School in Arlington, Virginia, where I taught Latin II to Army and Navy students; another year I stayed at home, teaching English, business math, and history; then in 1965, I had a Sabbatical leave to study English at the University of London. I lived with a Russian Jewish lady and it was "a highlight in my life."

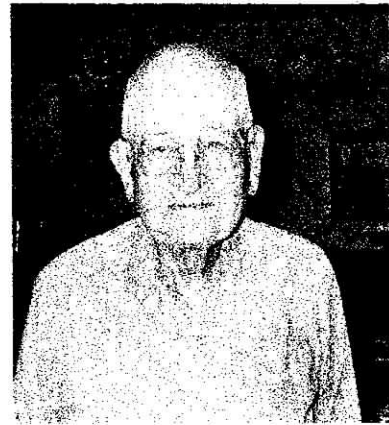
In 1970 I decided to finish my years in Appomattox High School, my home institution. I taught English, sociology, and Latin until 1981 when I retired. One of the enjoyable experiences was taking Latin students to Italy and Greece.

Retirement has meant one thing: being retired. I have had many wonderful trips, even as far as Japan and Australia. I have taught English to a Vietnamese woman and had two Japanese to be guests for six months to improve their English.

The Lord has truly blessed me. Now at 85 in 2000 I visit the nursing home, telling stories to the wonderful residents there, and on Sundays teach Sunday School.

Once a teacher, always a teacher!

**HENRY B. PACK, JR.  
A ROLE MODEL FOR ALL TIMES**



Henry B. Pack, Jr. was born in Blacksburg, VA, May 3, 1912. His parents were Dr. H. B. Pack and Ollie Mae Jennings Pack.

The Pack family moved to Madisonville in the early twenties and to Appomattox several years later to a farm on the Parkway Loop which is presently owned and operated by Henry B. Pack, III.

An outstanding student and leader, Mr. Pack attended Appomattox High School during the depth of the "Great Depression," graduating in 1930. From 1930 through 1934 he attended Virginia Tech receiving a B. S. Degree in Agricultural Education in 1934.

Considered one of the outstanding graduates in his class, he was recruited by many school divisions. Having a love for Central and Southside Virginia, he accepted the challenge as teacher of vocational agriculture in Halifax County, where he taught from August 1934, until January 1941. He entered the U. S. Army in January 1941, and advanced to the rank of major. In June 1946, following the end of World War II, he received an honorable discharge.

After almost five years away from the classroom, he was anxious to continue his career as teacher of vocational agriculture. On July 1, 1946, he signed a contract to return to teaching at his alma mater, Appomattox High School, where he taught until he retired in June 1974.

Teachers of vocational agriculture during Mr. Pack's tenure were employed for twelve months. It is interesting to note that his contract for the 1946-47 school session was \$3000.00 or \$250.00 per month.

Mr. Pack was married to Lucy Caldwell. She was a devoted wife and strong supporter of his teaching career. Born to this union was a son, H. Broderick Pack, III.

Early in Mr. Pack's teaching career he became known as one of the outstanding teachers of vocational agriculture in the state of Virginia. His students were always very special to him, and they had the highest respect and admiration for him. He had the ability, talents, and personality to develop shy, timid, awkward and insecure farm boys into individuals with self confidence, leadership skills, and goals for the future.

Mr. Pack was the model teacher of all times. Classroom instruction was reinforced through supervision of students' farm projects in cooperation with parents. A strong supporter of the Future Farmers of America organization, Mr. Pack extended teaching and learning through the many competitive contests at the local, state, and national levels. The Appomattox FFA Chapter ranked among the top chapters in the nation for many years under Mr. Pack's leadership.

Why was Mr. Pack so successful as a teacher and citizen of Appomattox County, and why was he so admired by his students? To know Mr. Pack was to know a person of the highest integrity. Expecting the best from his students, he always gave his best to them. He believed in treating all students with fairness, respect, and compassion. Never would he embarrass, ridicule, or speak harshly to his students or anyone. He was truly a professional educator and a person worthy of emulation.

He was admired and respected not only by his students but also by the community. He regularly visited his students on the farm. There he had an opportunity to become acquainted with students' parents and to involve them in the on-farm educational enterprises of their children.

After retiring from teaching in 1974, he continued to manage the Pack's Dairy Farm and to contribute to the community through the church and civic organizations. For thirteen years he

served as Mayor of the Town of Appomattox.

Thousands of students who were privileged to receive instruction and guidance from Mr. Pack went on from high school to experience success in many careers. Many of his students became successful teachers of vocational agriculture or entered other professional fields. A good number of his students remained in Appomattox after high school graduation and became effective employees in the various industries. Whether a student was interested in higher education or employment upon high school graduation, Mr. Pack always gave his encouragement, support, and guidance.

Mr. Pack will always be remembered as a great teacher and friend of students, as a person of the highest integrity, a community leader, and a devoted husband, father and grandfather. His interest in students and the community never waned during his years of retirement from 1974 until his death in 2000.

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**OLIVE LEWIS PEARCE**  
**TEACHER - PETTY'S FORK SCHOOL**  
**1926-31**

My mother attended Wesley Chapel School from 1915 to the end of the seventh grade in May of 1922. Her first grade teacher was Miss Louise Jamerson. From September of 1922 to June of 1926, she attended the Appomattox Agriculture School.

"Mama went to State Teachers College the summers of 1926, 1927, 1928. They considered that 3 quarters.

After she had finished the 3<sup>rd</sup> summer, the state teaching Certificate that was issued to her September 4, 1928 states she is "hereby granted the Elementary Certificate to teach in the Public Schools of Virginia, Elementary Grades for a term of 6 years."

At the end of her first summer at STC (1926) she had a Provisional First Grade — Elementary Grades State Certificate that she could teach one year. After she finished 2 summers at STC (September 1927) her state certificate stated that she could teach 2 years. So you see after 3 summers at STC, she could teach 6 years without coming back to summer school.

Her first contract with Appomattox School Board began September 15, 1926. She was hired for the winter of 1926-27 for 8 months for \$60.00 per month. The contract was signed by E. LeRoy Smith, Chairman of the Board, and L. F. Ferguson, Clerk of the Board, and Olive W. Lewis, teacher.

Her second contract with the School Board began September 14, 1927. It was for 8 months and was still \$60.00 per month. It was signed by E. LeRoy Smith, Chairman and J. A. Burke, Clerk.

Her third contract with the School Board is dated September 13, 1928. This was for 9 months at \$65.00 per month, signed by E. LeRoy Smith and J. A. Burke.

Her fourth contract with the School Board was dated September 12, 1929. Nine months at \$70.00 per month signed by Smith and Burke. "Another raise!"

Her fifth contract is dated September 11, 1930. Pay was still \$70.00 per month signed by Smith and Burke.

I believe she spent all five winters at Petty's Fork School and boarded at Mrs. Marshall's in Spout Spring for \$16.00 per month. I never heard her mention anything other than the Marshall's house at Spout Spring. How did Mama get to school every day? Ride the school bus? Walk?

She always told me some of her students were almost as old as she was, and, of course, the boys were twice as big as she was!

According to this Register that I have, she taught all 7 grades at Petty's fork, so she didn't even have a co-teacher.

One of her girls was a 4<sup>th</sup> grader and 15 years old. She only went one month the fall of '27 and Mama has written in the Register, "married" "She is Married!"

That school year 1927-'28 she had 33 pupils ranging in age from 6 years old to 15 years old. Seventeen of them were promoted; none failed; and 16 dropped. She has written in the register that of the 16 dropped, some moved, some went to school in Appomattox, one went to



school at Falling River School.

It's hard to believe when she signed her first contract (September, 1926) she was only 17 years old, and after she had taught five winters she was only 22 years old. She was 22 years old when she and Daddy were married on June 2, 1931.

**Acknowledgment:** Mrs. Pearce was the sister of Louise Lewis Martin. The above information was submitted to Louise by her niece, Jean Pearce Shell.

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**EUGENE W. PEYTON**  
**DIRECTOR OF INSTRUCTION 1967-1972 AND 1973-1974**  
**SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS 1972-1973**



Mr. Peyton came to Appomattox in 1965 as principal of the Appomattox Elementary School and served in that position until July 1, 1967 when he was appointed Director of Instruction for the Appomattox County School System. He served Appomattox County Schools in that position until his appointment as acting superintendent in 1972.

Prior to his coming to Appomattox, Mr. Peyton was principal of a school in Roanoke County, visiting teacher in Botetourt County and for five years served as general supervisor of instruction in Charlotte County.

He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Roanoke College, his Master of Education degree from V.P.I. and completed the equivalent of one year's study in further graduate work at the University of Virginia.

At the end of the 1974 school year, Mr. Peyton resigned as Director of Instruction because of the need to live closer to his and to his wife's aging parents. He accepted a position with the Montgomery County School Board in Christiansburg, Virginia, where he served as principal of Riner Elementary School. In 1975, Mr. Peyton spent three weeks in Chili, South America, where he participated in an international educator exchange program.

Mr. Peyton is married to the former Margaret Ann Walker of Christianburg, and they are parents of two sons, David and Phillip

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**THE FIRST APPOMATTOX COUNTY SCHOOL NURSE**  
**BARBARA L. PICKETT, R. N.**

Would I like to be the first Appomattox County School nurse even though it would be only part-time? The question came from Superintendent of Appomattox County Schools, Earl J. Smith during the late summer of 1967. I nearly jumped with joy! Part-time suited me just fine as I had children still below school age, and I needed the money as my husband and I were buying a farm and trying to start production of livestock.

We had come from Maryland where I had worked for six years as a Public Health Nurse whose job it was to take care of students' health needs in the schools. Two of my schools had been strictly for retarded children, numbering perhaps thirty or more children each. A graduate of the last three year class of the University of Maryland hospital, I had become an R. N. at nineteen years of age.

The school year 1967-68 was a challenging and rewarding one for me, as I knew I was setting a precedent for what future school nursing in the county would be. Immediately, I started organizing volunteers to do vision screening. There were seven schools to cover: Appomattox Elementary, Carver Price, Oakville Elementary, Pamplin Elementary, Spout Spring Elementary, Vera Elementary, and Appomattox High School. I visited the schools weekly, but after the screenings were complete, the outlying schools were visited bi-weekly, with Vera eventually becoming monthly unless I was called for a special need.

Vision screening was followed by hearing screening with the only piece of equipment I could locate, an audio tester, which was found at Appomattox Elementary School. That year 120 visual defects were detected and 91 hearing problems were identified. Immediately, upon correction, ease of learning was improved.

Of course, we know that dental problems can cause other illnesses as well as affect the ability to eat and speak. I was able to obtain a filmstrip on dental health and care which was shown, and toothbrush kits were provided by Crest Toothpaste Company for third grade students. Having 25 extra kits, I showed the film and distributed the kits after a discussion with the fourth grade class of Mrs. Beasley at Carver Price. All except two students in her class were diagnosed with cavities. Dr. Robert Lawson was the only dentist in Appomattox at the time. He offered to work with a few of the children at reduced rates, squeezing them into his already overcrowded schedule. The dental problems were so tremendous that even the Departments of Social Services and Health had only limited resources for dental care. Therefore, it took many months for me to get help for the children's needs.

These were only the beginning of health needs to be met. A diagnostic speech clinic was held on April 18, 1968, headed by Dr. Ralph Bradley, Director of Services for Virginia Hearing and Speech Foundation, Inc., which was sponsored by the Easter Seal Society. Screening was conducted for forty-seven children. Two had no significant problems, two were preschoolers, thirty two were referred for formal speech therapy, and the rest were referred for assistance with language stimulation and speech improvement. By the summer school session, a speech therapist would be working for the Appomattox County Schools.

I continued to work with the schools regarding communicable diseases, communicable skin conditions, and head lice. The measles vaccine was the big event of the school year when it was offered to all county residents, free of charge, at a Sunday clinic held by the Health Department with the cooperation of the schools and volunteers from the community and the Women's Clubs.

For children under seventeen years of age, the Crippled Children's Hospital could provide care on an income scaled rate. Many were treated at no cost for congenital deformities, affections or infections of growing bones and joints, neuromuscular disabilities, fractures, eye diseases and deformities, and by plastic surgery for congenital deformities or those from injuries such as burns. Also, the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond and the University of Virginia in Charlottesville provided excellent clinics and hospital treatment for children with various other afflictions such as diabetes, heart defects, epilepsy as well as orthopedic, eye, ear, and throat conditions and other maladies.

Other areas that were addressed included sanitation and nutrition. By the end of the 1967-68 school year examiners had completed testing for forty-six out of approximately 155 students who were possibly mentally retarded or "slow learners." It would be several more years before special education would be a state mandate. There were no counselors or psychologists at this time to assist students exhibiting signs of mental illness. Only vocational counseling was offered in the upper grades.

Sex education, through films and specific classes, was begun with written parental permission. Demonstrated baby baths were given in home economics classes upon the request of the teacher. Upon the request of Mr. Bryson, an English teacher at ACHS, I spoke on health careers to all of his classes one day. A list of community resources was developed for use in future years. During the year, 98 children were serviced by home visits.

At the end of the school year, I prepared a report for the purposes of documenting accomplishments for historic purposes; for providing a basis for education of the nurse's value to justify salary and expenses; and for a guide for future program planning. The value of a good

school nurse is immeasurable in her many roles as teacher, counselor, identifier of needs and program developer, as well as applying the healing arts and sciences to the well being of the children and employees.

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**MOZELLA J. PRICE  
SUPERVISOR OF BLACK SCHOOLS**



Mozella J. Price was born in Farmville, Virginia to the Rev. and Mrs. Nelson W. Jordan. She was not only the daughter of a minister, but a minister's wife as well who set high standards for herself and those students with whom she came in contact.

Mozella Price was educated in the Farmville school, Boydton Institute, Boydton, Virginia, Virginia State College and received a B. S. Degree at Hampton Institute, Hampton, Virginia. She continued her education at Teachers' College, Columbia University in New York City.

In the fall of 1919 Mrs. Price began her work as supervisor of black schools in Appomattox County, retiring from this position in 1963. It was truly an inspiration to see her on the move in her work.

The first few years of Mozella Price's work had to do mainly with encouraging, stimulating, and inspiring Negro citizens to meet the educational need of Negro children. In those days if the citizens would raise a certain amount of money, the Rosenwald Fund would match it and the local school board would pay its proportionate part and a new one or two-room school was built or a new room was added to an existing school. Then the children wouldn't have to walk so far to school. Pupil transportation was not extensive in that day and time.

Under the supervision of Mrs. Price, teachers were organized into the Health for Victory Club. Funds raised by the organization were used for scholarships for worthy students.

Mrs. Price was a woman with a great deal of ability who understood people. She had the confidence and respect of all races, the School Board and all those with whom she worked. Her projects and objective were based on sound logic and common sense with just enough emotion to make them more palatable.

After much hard work and dedication on Mrs. Price's part, she put the black elementary school on a sound basis. Then she began working on a black high school. For the first session, one room was secured behind First Baptist Church. There were eighteen students with one teacher, Miss Lilly Clayton. From this small beginning Carver High School came into existence.

In 1928 a new brick building was constructed to house both elementary and high schools. In 1951 a much larger building was constructed and the name changed to Carver-Price in honor of Mozella Price. She was also honored by the Virginia State College with a certificate of merit for her outstanding services in her special field of work. In addition to honoring her for her achievement in the field of education, the citation referred to Mrs. Price's interest and work for underprivileged youth.

In 1933 Mrs. Price and her husband built Camp Winonah east of Appomattox for underprivileged boys and in 1936, a summer camp was built for girls.

Mozella Price was supervisor of the black schools in Appomattox County for 44 years, but she left her mark in more areas than just the field of education. She was dedicated to the education of the black youth of this county and was continually striving for a better way of life

for all. She constantly looked for ways to help the underprivileged youth in the county. A devout Christian, she asked little for herself.

In 1951, when the community black schools were consolidated in the town of Appomattox, the new school was named Carver-Price in her honor.

Mozella Price died on July 11, 1971, but what she believed in, worked for and accomplished in the lives of youths are reminders of the contributions she made to Appomattox County. Her happiness was serving others and her lifestyle is expressed in one of her favorite poems:

#### **MY PRAYER**

God let me live each lovely day,  
So I may know, that comes what may  
I've done my best to live the way you want me to.  
Just let me know if I should stray,  
That I may stop along the way at any time of night or day and talk with you.

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**ELIZABETH COLEMAN REYNOLDS**

Interviewed by Shirley Walton

Mrs. Elizabeth Coleman Reynolds had an illustrative career as a teacher during the time that teachers were expected to teach, make fires, nurse, counsel, referee, clean the school building, keep the school property clean and make sure that the children had food and water. Her first teaching assignment was at Buck Hollow School where she taught in 1934-37. This school, which was located on top of the hill on Route 60 near Bent Creek, closed in 1937.

Another teacher, a Mrs. (Douglas) Anna Ferguson Harris also taught at this school. Mrs. Harris was the grandmother of Brenda Ferguson Gowin, who presently serves at Clerk for the Appomattox County Schools.

While Mrs. Reynolds was teaching at Buck Hollow School, she taught reading, writing, arithmetic, and Virginia history. The school consisted of one room and housed 14-15 students at a time. The water cooler with a spout was the only water source. The salary was \$70.00 per month with \$15.00 going for room, board and packed lunches.

Mrs. Reynolds had some interesting stories to tell about being a student at Wheeler School, which she entered as a small child in 1919. This school was located near Oakville Store on Route 611 about one mile from Wreck Island Creek. After attending Wheeler School for grades one through seven, she went to Oakville for grades eight and nine and then on to Appomattox High School for grades 10 and 11. After attending Farmville State Teachers College and receiving a Normal Professional Teacher's Certificate, Mrs. Reynolds started her teaching career.

One of her favorite stories as a student was about Eston Harvey always singing "Show Me the Way to Go Home." Another of her teaching stories includes how her students brought a lizard to school one day. After turning the lizard loose on the classroom floor, the students waited in awe for the teacher to scream or run or holler. But to their dismay, Mrs. Reynolds just picked up a broom and swept the critter out the door and made no comment. What a neat way to handle an interesting situation!

Another interesting story involved a customary visit to be made by the teacher to each student's home. The teacher was always served a nice meal and had a visit with the family. But when visiting a particular student's home, the meal was nicely laid out for one and Mrs. Reynolds had to eat all by herself while the rest of the family hovered elsewhere in the home. Needless to say, this was quite a different experience and one that Mrs. Reynolds will never forget.



**DIANNE T. SCRUGGS**

I was born in New York, New York, but I entered first grade at the home of Mrs. Mozella Price here in Appomattox in 1948. ( The black elementary school burned down during the summer.) So Mrs. Price opened her home for the students living in Appomattox. I remember that the old Maude's Restaurant was across the road. I cried every day and my first grade teacher would go get me an ice cream cone to stop me from crying. I attended "Price's Camp" through grade four.

By the fall of 1952, Carver-Price was completed and from grades five to twelve my elementary and secondary education was happily and successfully completed. Imagine my surprise the night of graduation when it was announced that I had been awarded a four-year scholarship to Virginia State College, Petersburg, Virginia. I was nominated for this award by Mrs. Harriette P. James and almost the entire faculty without my knowledge.

I completed Virginia State and was hired for my first teaching job in Petersburg, Virginia. For two years I taught in Petersburg. Then I married and moved closer to home and taught in Campbell County for two years. In 1968 I had the opportunity to teach in Appomattox and taught for 30 additional years.

I feel truly blessed to have been a teacher. I had such good role models from my peers and my co-workers. The friendships, memories and rewards of my teaching career are treasures that continue to bring me joy.

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**TRIBUTE TO MY FATHER  
EARL JAMES SMITH, JR.  
Commemoration by Hal Smith**



On May 14, 1975, the Appomattox County Education Association presented a plaque in memory of my father, Earl James Smith, Jr., which was inscribed as follows:

In memory of Earl James Smith, Jr., who contributed 20 years of dedicated service in the field of education in Appomattox County and whose initiative made the building of Appomattox County High School possible.

Earl Smith, acting in the capacity of Superintendent, was a man who exemplified patience, integrity, and pleasantness. When faced with a decision, he never failed to weigh the pros and cons of the issue. Combined with his experience and rationality, he assured you that his decision accommodated the pending need. He had the ability to work with people. And in return, they wanted to work with him. Many of you associated with him through his position, but a major part of him may lie hidden from you. Although his job and his family were separate, we all shared a part of his total life. I feel that he was good at his job, but I know he was a good father and husband. Remembering a favorite family phrase, "He loved us good." And that we never questioned. Even when times of discipline were inevitable, we knew that the punishment was never administered out of anger, but for our own welfare. To him, his marriage and his family were sacred.

After achieving the position of Superintendent, he started building on his dream. As in

many cases, it was a dream that he would never see come true. That dream was the completion of the new Appomattox County High School.

On behalf of his sisters and their husbands, Bunny and Juan Crofton, Nita and Paulus Price, Hazel and Grady Little, Joyce and Dick Pittman, and my mother, Anne C. Smith, my sisters, Maryjane, Donna, and Karen, and myself: we present this portrait of him, to be hung in the foyer of this auditorium, in memory of his dedication and devotion to education, and to the people and especially their children of Appomattox whom he loved dearly.

For many of us here today, we can say we knew him. For everyone else, my sincerest wish would be that you could have known him.

Written and delivered by Hal C. Smith on the night of his graduation  
June 10, 1975, first graduation class in the new school

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EARL J. SMITH, JR.  
SUPERINTENDENT 1962-1972

Earl J. Smith, Jr., was born in Prince Edward County on January 27, 1926. He died suddenly on Tuesday morning July 11, 1972, in Grand Rapids, Michigan, while on a business trip for the Appomattox County School System.

He attended high school in Farmville, Virginia; received a B.A. degree at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia; received his M.A. degree at Longwood College, Farmville, Virginia, and did further graduate work at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville.

He taught both elementary and high school grades in Pamplin, Virginia; served five years as Director of Instruction for Appomattox County; and on July 11, 1962, was appointed Superintendent of Schools for Appomattox County when Mr. Jerry A. Burke retired.

Mr. Smith was a member of the Pamplin Methodist Church where he served as trustee and Chairman of the Official Board. He served as president of the Pamplin Ruritan Club; served on Town Council and was a former mayor of the town of Pamplin; was a member of local, state, and national education associations; was a member of the Virginia and National Association of School Administrators; and was a member and past president of the Appomattox Lions Club.

An educator with great foresight, Mr. Smith worked tirelessly, and often against opposition, to have a new high school built for the youths of Appomattox County. All schools were very overcrowded following integration and consolidation.

On May 4, 1972, a contract was let for the building of the new Appomattox County High School in the amount of approximately 3.5 million dollars, including furnishings. The project was completed in August of 1974, and the school was dedicated in the fall of 1974. On May 14, 1975, the Appomattox County Education Association placed a plaque on the wall by the English wing and dedicated it to Earl J. Smith, Jr., for 20 years of outstanding service to the Appomattox County School System. An excellent portrait of Mr. Smith hangs in the lobby of the auditorium of the school reminding each of us of his untiring efforts in behalf of the county's youths.

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SCHOOL DAYS  
BY NELWYN O'BRIEN SMITH

Each of us who were enrolled in Appomattox School will never forget the years 1938-1939. That year, the main school building was to be remodeled which necessitated all grades from one through the senior class be housed in one of the other buildings on the school ground. First and second met in the two rooms back of the auditorium stage. Third and fourth were put in the area under the balcony in the auditorium. The rest of the area in the auditorium, up to the stage, was occupied by fifth and sixth grade. The two seventh-grade classes used rooms in the dormitory. High school classes, depending on the subject matter, moved from the dormitory to the balcony of the auditorium and to one of the rooms back of the stage at which time first and second doubled up. This probably was an afternoon class.

I was in the fourth grade that year. My books were kept in a cardboard box which was pushed under the seat when not in use. For a desk, a piece of plywood was used. My teacher was Miss Nola Burkey, who was wonderful, providing her boys and girls with quality

instruction. On either side of the auditorium, the middle way down stood two large cast-iron stoves that heated the entire area. I don't recall ever being cold. The lunchroom was in the basement of the dormitory where a hot lunch was available or pupils had their brown bag lunches. I can't remember where the rest rooms were located. My sister, who was in the sixth grade, said her class got "shot" frequently with spit balls sent down by the high school students in the balcony.

In spite of all the inconveniences, I don't recall parents, teachers, or students complaining. All of us made the best of the situation with the anticipation of returning to a remodeled building the next school year.

Colleges attended:

Longwood College, Farmville, VA 1946-48

James Madison College, Harrisonburg, VA 1948-50

Positions held:

Librarian at Woodrow Wilson Junior High School, Danville, VA 1950-55

County Librarian at Appomattox, VA 1955-58

Librarian at Appomattox Primary School for 12 years, making a total of 20 years

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#### CELESTRAL S. TURNER

I, Celestral Sergon was born in Pittsylvania County, Danville, Virginia. On February 22, 1958, I was married to William B. Turner from Spout Spring. To this union two children were born: Gwendolyn R. Turner and Tamera B. Turner.

I started to school in Danville, Virginia at Hollandsville Elementary School, grades 1-7. For grade eight, I attended Gretna High School and for grades 9-12, I went back to Danville where I graduated from Southside High School.

After graduating from high school, I attended Bennett College in Greensboro, North Carolina for four years and graduated with a B.A. degree. Later I took classes from Virginia State College and the University of Virginia earning 38 hours toward a master's degree.

I applied for a job in Appomattox and was hired to teach music education. Later I worked with grades three and four and also with grades one through twelve at Carver-Price High School. Some years later the music classes were open to the county. At this time I was asked to work with students at Stonewall (before closing), Spout Spring (before closing), Appomattox Primary School and Appomattox Elementary School.

My salary was \$2400 per month. I remained in Appomattox until I retired in 1990. This job was really a great experience for me. I really loved my job as music teacher and as 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher.

Most of the time, I could not wait for the next day because each day the students were eager to let me hear and see what they had learned. They loved all of the motivational skills and activities that were presented each day. Reading, writing, arithmetic, science, health, and English were taught. In music I taught rhythm band, marching, clapping, reading music, playing the autoharp, and piano. Students loved the piano lessons!

If I were younger, I would do this all over again.

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#### DORA TURNER

I was born and reared in Appomattox. My early school days were within the county school system. I completed junior high in Baltimore and graduated from senior high here in the county.

A teaching position was promised to me by our superintendent when I graduated from college and believe you me, I held him to that promise. (Isn't it good to have someone to go to bat for you? My Dad.) Would you believe that I didn't even have to fill out an application for this first job? And a resume, what on earth was that?! I truly believe there was no one around here at that time (prehistoric) who knew what a resume was. (Of course, I could be wrong.)

My first teaching position was in a two-room school in Spout Spring where even the third graders seemed larger than I. (Mind you, this was during the "dark ages" when half of the

children didn't start school until they were half-grown, eight years old, at least!)

I was assigned first, second, and third grades. After one look at the children (Oh, boy!), I decided that my voice was my biggest asset, and believe you me, I used this deep, strong voice to keep those youngsters "toeing the line." By the end of the first week I figured out that they were more afraid of me than I was of them: "home free."

The absolutely worse thing about those early days of teaching in a small country school was the heating system or the lack thereof. We had a pot-bellied coal burning, soot belching stove sitting a good distance from the walls with an extended, jointed pipe running to the chimney. (Oh, ye modern people, use your imagination, please!)

This "heating system" kept the room reasonably warm and unreasonably sooty, for every so often soot drifted down from the jointed pipes. These contraptions weren't cleaned very often. This finally sent me over the edge where I had been tottering all winter.

On a very windy day, the soot was being sent back through the pipes more than usual and this did not set well with me at all, especially as I was dressed in a pink and white wool dress. (I was looking good.) Well, a strong gust of wind had soot flying and landing all over the room, people included. That did it! I stormed out of the classroom (after notifying the other teacher), drove down to a "very picky" super's office and demanded that this nasty mess be taken care of immediately!

Was anything done? Believe it, after one good look at my now pink, white, and black outfit, someone got on the job. The next day we all returned to a very clean room, chimney, stove pipes, and all!

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**SHIRLEY WILLIAMS WALTON**  
**BY LLOYD G. WALTON**

Shirley Williams Walton was born in Pittsylvania County Virginia on January 20, 1938. Having one sibling, a brother, five years younger, the two grew up as rural youths with their parents who were engaged in a general farming operation with bright tobacco being the main enterprise.

At the age of six Shirley entered first grade at Dan River High and Elementary School, a combined school, grades one through 12. In 1956 Shirley graduated from Dan River High, and she entered Radford College in the fall, majoring in home economics.

From elementary school through college, Shirley was active in her church, school organizations, and community activities. Her peers soon recognized her budding leadership qualities and depended upon her to lead committees, organizations, and clubs. Having had a variety of experiences in high school, she was prepared to serve as vice-president of the state organization of Future Homemakers of America during 1955-56.

After two very successful years at Radford University, she decided to take off a year to teach sixth grade at Dan River High School. This was a great experience for her, but she realized that it was important to return to Radford to complete her degree. By going to college in the summer, she graduated with her class of 1960. By the way, it was during her first year of teaching at Dan River that she met her husband-to-be who had begun his teaching career at Dan River in 1958, the same year Shirley had begun her first year of teaching. Lloyd and Shirley were married June 10, 1960, at Rocks Spring United Methodist Church, the church in which Shirley had grown up.

In the fall of 1960 Shirley began teaching home economics at Woodrow Wilson Junior High School in Danville. She taught home economics and science. In January 1963, she reported to her principal that we were expecting our first child. The principal reported to the superintendent, who in turn met with Shirley, and informed her that she would have to terminate her teaching assignment the first of March of that year. Our first child was born July 5, 1963. Today expectant mothers often teach until the day the child is born. The attitude toward women and expectant mothers has changed greatly during the last forty years.

After our first child was born, Shirley stayed at home. Our second child was born November 23, 1964, and Shirley did not return to teaching until 1967. During the 1967-68 session she taught remedial reading at Spring Garden Elementary School in Pittsylvania County, and



the following year she returned to teaching home economics at Chatham High School and serving as advisor to Young Homemakers and Future Homemakers of America. In 1971 Shirley was recognized as Outstanding Young Educator of Pittsylvania County by the Jaycees.

After moving to Appomattox in 1973, Shirley did not terminate her profession. In August of that year, she was informed of an opening in the Virginia Cooperative Extension program in the county. She was interviewed for the position of Extension Home Economist and employed to begin work in September 1973. For the next nineteen years Shirley worked in this position, serving the adults and youths of the community with research-based information. Through Extension Homemaker Clubs, 4-H Clubs, weekly radio and newspaper releases, and work with clients individually to help with specific needs, Shirley was able to conduct a comprehensive educational program. The Appomattox Extension Unit ranked among the top units in the state in programs, individual achievement for both youths and adults, and coordination of activities with other local agencies and government. Shirley's enthusiasm, dedication, hard work, positive attitude, people skills, and knowledge of a broad area of subject matter enabled her to relate effectively to a diverse population of students and adults. If the challenge involved helping a student gain admittance to college, working with a student in developing a program to gain recognition as a national 4-H winner, or helping a homemaker plan a kitchen layout or evaluate a food program to meet nutritional needs, Shirley would leave nothing of reason unturned to meet every request and every need at the highest, professional level. The program she conducted and the services she provided resulted in her induction into the Academy of Women for Central Virginia in 1990.

After working with the Appomattox Unit of Cooperative Extension for nineteen years, Shirley was offered an opportunity in June of 1992, to become Director of Cooperative Extension in Southwest Virginia, an area of seventeen counties. Since her husband, Lloyd, was retired, she was now able to take advantage of this professional opportunity.

Knowing that we would return to Appomattox when Shirley completed her assignment in Southwest Virginia, we closed our home and moved to Abingdon, Virginia, where we lived for two years. This was a great experience for Shirley, and it introduced us to a part of the state that was not very familiar to us. We were readily accepted by the extension families and the great people of the region. Shirley's leadership was immediately recognized and accepted by extension employees and the state staff at Virginia Tech. Much progress in extension was realized during her tenure, and there was an outpouring of love, support, and disappointment when she had to retire in September of 1994 because of health problems.

We returned to our home in Appomattox upon her retirement, and after a period of recuperation, Shirley was busy again with many activities. In addition to her church and family responsibilities, she served on the first Habitat for Humanity Board of Directors as this organization was becoming organized in the county. She also became a member of Appomattox Retired Teachers, and did the computer work for her husband during the two years he served as president. During the next two years she became a co-president with her husband. Volunteer work in Cooperative Extension, the school system, and community continue to keep her busy. However, with all of these activities, she found time to serve as the guiding force and communications director with the use of her personal computer during the two years her husband served as chairman of the local Democratic Party from January 1995, through December 1997. Her work in the community for more than twenty years resulted in the Appomattox Chamber of Commerce naming her as Citizen of the Year in 1994.

Shirley and her husband continue to keep busy and find much joy and satisfaction in their involvement with the church, retired teachers, community, and family. There are no words to express the joy we receive from participating in the lives of our five grandchildren and observing their growth and development.

The Walton family continues to experience the "American Dream" and we give credit to our parents, the public education system, and the support and encouragement of thousands of wonderful friends and associates for fulfilling careers in education and extension. We continue to try to give back to others some of the support that others so freely have given to us through the years.

## **JOSEPHINE CHRISTMAS WEBB**

**Born: Belsprings, VA**

### **Schools attended:**

**Dunbar Elementary, Princeton, West VA  
Genoa Junior High School, Bluefield, West VA  
Genoa Senior High School, Bluefield, West VA  
Morristown, Junior College, Morristown, Tennessee  
Bluefield State Teachers' College, Bluefield, West VA  
Further study through UVA extension and Virginia State College**

**My first teaching position began September 13, 1943, at Canaan School located on Highway 24 in the village of Vera. This was a one-room school with grades 1-7 and forty students. My salary was \$75.00 per month. Canaan School was closed in October of 1956, and I was transferred to Carver Price High School. In 1970 the schools were integrated. I taught at Appomattox Primary School while the new Appomattox County High School was being completed. My teaching career came to a close on June 7, 1983, after having successfully completed 39 years of service.**

**I served under at least four or five school superintendents, the first being the late J. A. Burke. My supervisor was the late Mozella Price.**

**My experiences are too numerous to mention. However, painting the classroom, making fires, walking home, and pushing the bus in order to get home are among my recollections.**

**I continue to be involved in church activities. In addition to teaching I learned how to be a farmer's wife, and I have been a citizen in Appomattox County for 56 years. The older students in the community smile and continue to address me as "Miss Christmas."**

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## **RUTH HAWKINS WEBB**

**Ruth Hawkins Webb was born in Roanoke City, Virginia and attended Roanoke City Schools. Colleges attended were Mary Baldwin College, Staunton, Virginia and Roanoke College, Salem, Virginia. Upon graduation from college in 1943, I was employed by the Roanoke County School System to teach the 7<sup>th</sup> grade at William Bryd Junior High School in Vinton, Virginia at a beginning salary of \$110.00 per month.**

**After six years of teaching, I married Martin Luther Webb, a native of Appomattox County and moved to Appomattox in June 1949, at which time, Mr. Jerry A. Burke employed me to teach in the old Appomattox High School, now the Middle School. I taught 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grades in the subjects of English, civics, and general math. My classes were held in the basement floor rooms, and in the old dormitory, now demolished. My salary in Appomattox in 1949 was \$260.00 per month.**

**When our son, Douglas Webb was born in 1954, I had resigned from teaching until January 1964. I then returned to the classroom to fill a vacancy in 9<sup>th</sup> grade English, and then was asked to teach 12<sup>th</sup> grade English, filling the place of Mrs. Carrie Gilbert. I taught in this position until I again retired in 1967.**

**In 1966 I had taught the first integrated student in Appomattox County Schools in 12<sup>th</sup> grade English. She was Patricia Berry, a very good student. It was indeed a pleasure to have her in my classroom.**

**In 1971 I was appointed to the Appomattox County School Board, and was honored to be the first woman to ever be appointed to this position. I served on the Board for 12 years—until 1983.**

**In 1984 I was appointed to serve on the Central Virginia Community College Board in Lynchburg, Virginia, where I served for eight years, until 1992.**

**I have been most fortunate to have been involved in various areas of public education for a total of 30 years.**

**THE WEBB-FERGUSON FAMILY TEACHING LEGACY  
BY: RUTH WEBB, FORMER TEACHER AT APPOMATTOX HIGH SCHOOL  
AND WIFE OF MARTIN WEBB**

William Webb, the great, great-grandfather of Martin L. Webb of Appomattox, owned vast land holdings in what is now known as the Hollywood area of Appomattox County. This land had been granted to Williams's grandfather, Merry Webb, in 1730 by King George II of England.

John William Webb, Martin L. Webb's father, married Lelia Walker Ferguson, also a native of the Hollywood area, in 1902. Lelia, before her marriage, had signed a contract to teach in the Gold Hill school for the term of five months at a compensation of \$20.00 per month. The year was 1899. After three years of teaching, she married and raised a family of six boys, three girls, and one stepdaughter. In the ensuing years, Lelia Webb substituted at Gold Hill and Brown schools in Hollywood. Lelia's sister, Clem Ferguson, also taught for many years in the Hollywood school.

Meade Ferguson, a brother to Lelia and Clem, attended school in Hollywood and then came to Appomattox to be instructed by private tutors. He received his B. A and his M. S. degrees from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and then entered the University of Gaettingen in Germany where he received his doctorate degree. Returning to V.P.I. once again, Dr. Ferguson taught bacteriology there for a number of years.

Thelma Webb (to become Mrs. Edgar Martin), a daughter of Lelia and John Webb, began her teaching career in 1926 in the Appomattox school system for \$60.00 per month. Through the years, she taught in Chilton, Mt. Airy, Petty's Fork, Mt. Comfort and Oakville schools. In 1942 she signed a contract for \$80.00 per month. From the mid-forties until her retirement, she taught in the Appomattox Elementary School.

Eliza Roberta Webb, (known as Berta Webb) the half-sister of Thelma Webb Martin, taught in schools in Appomattox and Nelson counties for many years. In 1964 she retired from Nelson County.

The legacy of this family, in teaching, continues today with the daughter of Thelma Webb Martin, Jayne Martin Speck, who teaches in the Prince William County School System in Northern Virginia.



**Cadet Ferguson**



**Miss Thelma Webb's Class**



**Petty's Fork School - 1928**

This note was sent to Miss Lelia Ferguson, Martin Webb's Mother on December 12, 1899.

*Appomattox  
Dec 12/99*

*Miss Lelia:*

*You must not  
allow any pupil to attend  
school that has not been  
vaccinated after Jan 2<sup>nd</sup>  
1900. You are close for  
Amber Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> and  
commence Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> 1900  
Done by order of C. B. Bell  
H. P. Bell*



School Days

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#### ARNETTA WEST

I, Arnetta Vernell Coleman Winston West was born in Newport News, Virginia. Later, my parents moved back to Clover, Virginia, which is located in Halifax County. Here, we lived with my three sisters and one brother.

My elementary school years were spent at Clover Elementary School. After graduating from the Halifax County Training School, I entered St. Paul's College, which is located in Lawrenceville, Virginia, and graduated in four years with a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education.

In the fall of 1947, I began my teaching career in a two-room country school teaching grades one through four at Cross Roads School in Halifax County and later teaching lower grades at Clogs Mill School.

When the Prince Edward County public schools were closed in 1959, I was teaching grades three through six there. Then I moved back to Halifax County and taught at County Line School until I moved to Appomattox County in 1963. I remained in the Appomattox County School System until I retired.

Now that I am retired, I am enjoying my daughter, Roslyn, and twin grandchildren, Winston and Shannon.

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#### FLORA BELLE WILLIAMS BY NELWYN O'BRIEN SMITH

I had the rare privilege of having Miss Flora Belle Williams as my seventh grade teacher and thirteen years later worked with her on a part-time basis when she became the principal of the new Appomattox Primary School, consisting of grades one through seven.

She was a strong teacher giving her students a good foundation in the basic subjects, but also introducing us to the fine arts. I attribute my love for art and music to her. During the



year, we learned the names of many famous paintings as well as different kinds of instruments in an orchestra. Every Friday afternoon, a musical program came on the radio which we always listened to. If it were one of Sousa's marches, up we would go out of our seats to march around the room.

Miss Williams had a flair for writing. At that time, she was writing a novel that took place during the plantation era in the South. We sat spellbound as she would read the chapters she had completed. I wonder what has happened to that literary composition.

In the fall of 1955 I assumed the position as Appomattox County Librarian. One of my responsibilities was to "set-up" the library in the new Primary School which opened that school year. Three thousand books were on the floor from the County Library and the library of the High School. Since Mrs. Virginia Beard was hired as the assistant librarian, I only worked one day a week there after the books were ready to be checked out. During that time, I developed an adult relationship with Miss Williams.

She was an effective principal. Her first concern was for the individual child. Being a strong disciplinarian, I saw her stop students in the hall who had heel taps on their shoes (a fad at that time). With her screw driver in hand, off would come those nuisances. Her new building was not to be marred or noisy. She expected her teachers to help her maintain an attractive school. A lot of art work was displayed throughout the building. Because of her passion for beauty and orderliness, I feel this concept was passed down through each principal and today the school remains an inviting place of learning.

Even though she told me, when I was in the seventh grade, I was not as sweet as my sister Maurine, (which is probably true) I still respected her and have held her in high esteem for her major contributions to education in Appomattox County.



**APPOMATTOX GRADE FACULTY - 1955**



**Seventh Grade: Miss Flora Belle Williams, Principal and Mrs. Carson  
Sixth Grade: Mrs. Furbush, Mrs. Cunningham, Mrs. Evans  
Fifth Grade: Miss Cullop and Mrs. Caldwell  
Fourth Grade: Miss N. Burkey and Mrs. T. Martin  
Third Grade: Mrs. M. Burkey and Miss Inge  
Second Grade: Miss Smith and Mrs. Rogers  
First Grade: Mrs. Gregory, Miss Coleman, and Mrs. S. Martin**

## BIOGRAPHIES

Elizabeth Patterson Alderson  
 Katherine M. Alvis  
 Richard Neil Ashworth  
 Harriette Walton Carson Beasley  
 Betty S. Booker  
 Martha Louise Turnes Brown  
 Betty Alvis Bryan  
 Mary Frances Coleman Bryant  
 Mildred Trent Burkey  
 Nola Mae Burkey  
 Bolling Conner Carter  
 Richard Burke Carter, Jr.  
 Marian Carter  
 Frances McDearmon Cheatham  
 Frank Charles Chuchek  
 Cleo Reynolds Coleman  
 Dora Abbitt Conner  
 Daniel W. Davis  
 Nancy Martin Dickerson  
 Gertrude Eloise Franklin Doss  
 Julia Gillette Elder  
 Ethel Walker Alvis Evans  
 Easley Shuford Ferguson  
 Lucille Crawley Ferrell  
 Dollye LeGrande Forrest  
 Allen Edward Franklin  
 Kate M. Franklin ("Miss Kate")  
 Margaret M. Glover  
 Virginia Walker Goode  
 Barbara L. Gowin  
 Mary Jane Lucas Haley  
 Teresa Watkins Hamlet  
 Doris W. Harvey  
 Harriett Electa Holley  
 Frances Mattox Hopkinson  
 Dorothy Jimison  
 Don F. Jimison  
 Nellie Turnes Jobe  
 Marbella Robinson Johnson  
 Nancy Taylor Jones  
 Christine Wilson Knight  
 Janice R. Krug  
 Walter F. Krug  
 Merlie (Merle) Guill Lawson  
 Frances Pankey Lewis  
 Virginia Parks Martin  
 Bess Franklin Mattox  
 Edith N. McCormick  
 Christine McCoy  
 D. Jean Mills  
 Roberta Harvey Mitchell  
 Gladys DeWitt Moon



**Madeline Thomas**  
 Home Economics



**Mary Taylor**  
 Driver Education



**Velma Elliott**  
 Home Economics

**Gertrude MacKenzie Harris Morris  
Margaret Smith O'Brien  
Shirley H. O'Brien  
Louise Nelson Parris  
Henry Alexander Paulette  
Barbara Pickett  
Agnes M. Randolph  
Elizabeth Roberts  
Sudie Moulden Rowe  
Katherine (Kitty) Gough Sears  
Barbara Jean Almond Shelton  
Wanda W. Simpson  
Mary Lee Mills Taylor  
Jack P. Thomas, Jr.  
Dennis Wayne Torrence  
Particia Thomas Torrence  
Maude Underwood  
Barbara Perdue Waddell  
Sarah Drinkard Wayne  
Henry Lee Wyatt, II**



**Celia Beamer  
Business Education**



**Donald Armentrout, Principal of Appomattox County High School  
1976-1987**



## **BIOGRAPHIES AND PERSONALITIES**

### **ELIZABETH PATTERSON ALDERSON**

**Born:** Greensboro, North Carolina

**Schools attended:**

Rock Hill High School, Rock Hill, South Carolina

**School assignment:**

Appomattox Middle School, Secretary, 26 years service, 1974-2000

Former Girl Scout Leader

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### **KATHERINE M. ALVIS**

**Born:** Orange, Virginia

**Colleges attended:**

Davis and Elkins College, West Virginia

**Summer Courses:**

University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia

Mary Washington College, Fredericksburg, Virginia

Longwood College, Farmville, Virginia

**Final school assignments:**

Appomattox County, Virginia

Stonewall — three grades

Oakville — two grades

Appomattox Primary — 2<sup>nd</sup> grade

At twenty years of age, the experience of teaching at Shifflet's Hollow School, a one-room school in the mountains of Madison County, was really something to remember! As teacher, housekeeper and fire keeper and with a salary of \$65.00 per month I felt rich! A few years later, I came to Appomattox County, Virginia, where I completed my teaching career.

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### **RICHARD NEIL ASHWORTH**

**Born:** Pittsylvania County, Virginia

**Schools attended:**

Brosville High School, Danville, Virginia

VPI - short course in agriculture shop for two summers. He was issued a special purpose certificate for vocational agriculture shop classes.

**School assignment:**

Appomattox High School, Agriculture Shop 1946-'63

Mr. Ashworth was a mechanic for the Pittsylvania County Road System from 1925 to 1932. He became a mechanic for the Virginia Department of Highways from 1932-'45. Following self-employment for one year, he joined the Appomattox High School as an agriculture shop teacher. Mr. Ashworth signed his teaching contract on April 25, 1963, to teach for the '63-'64 school session; he died on May 30, 1963

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### **HARRIETTE WALTON CARSON BEASLEY**

**Born:** Richmond, Virginia

**Schools attended:**

Spout Spring Elementary School

Appomattox High School

Radford College

Longwood College

**School assignments:**

Woodbridge Senior High School - English

Rice Elementary School - Sixth Grade and Librarian

Appomattox County High School - Geography and English

**BETTY S. BOOKER**

**BORN:** Buckingham County, Virginia

**Schools attended:**

Oak Hill, Tongue Quarter and Fork Union in Buckingham County

Graduated from Carter G. Woodson High School in Buckingham County in 1959

**Married to:**

Bobby S. Booker for 40 years. He will soon retire from BWX Technologies in Lynchburg, VA. They have 3 sons and 5 grandsons who are the joy of their lives.

**School assignments:**

Carver Price School, Appomattox, VA--1968-'70

Appomattox Primary School, Appomattox, VA--1970-'80

Appomattox Elementary School, Appomattox, VA--1980-'95

She began working as Appomattox County's first teachers' aide in 1968 at Carver Price School. Aides began signing contracts in 1973-'74. Her annual salary was \$2,912.00. The final contract that she signed before her retirement in June 1995, was for \$8,892.00. She enjoys watching television, doing crossword puzzles and spending time with her grandsons. Betty found it most rewarding to work 27 years in the school system where her children received their education.

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**MARTHA LOUISE TURNES BROWN**

**Born:** Gladstone, Virginia

**Schools attended:**

Longwood College, B. S. degree (Collegiate Professional Certificate)

**School assignments:**

Appomattox High School, 1944-'45

Maternity leave, 1945-'48

Girls' physical education director, 1949-'50

Girls' sports, 1951-'57

From 1939-1943, Mrs. Brown taught in Nottoway, Campbell, and York counties.

During her tenure at Appomattox High School, she coached cheerleading, basketball, and softball.

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**BETTY ALVIS BRYAN**

**Born:** Lynchburg, Virginia

**Schools attended:**

Appomattox High School, 1957-1961

Longwood College, Farmville, Virginia, B. S. degree, 1961-1964

M. S. degree, 1974-2000

**School assignments:**

Virginia and North Carolina schools, 10 years, 1964-1974

Appomattox County Schools, 26 years, 1974-2000

Since her retirement, Betty has been substituting for Appomattox County Schools.

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**MARY FRANCES COLEMAN BRYANT**

**Born:** Lynchburg, Virginia

**Schools attended:**

Received her education in the Lynchburg School System

**School assignment:**

School Bus Driver, Appomattox, 23 years service, 1974-1997

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**MILDRED TRENT BURKEY**

**Born:** 2/10/1902 **Died:** 6/6/1989

**Schools attended:**

State Normal (now Longwood, Farmville, Virginia - 1919-1921

**School assignments:**

Dublin in Pulaski County, Virginia

Appomattox County Schools, 1922-'25 and 1941-'67

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**NOLA MAE BURKEY**

Born: 11/26/04

**Schools attended:**

Radford Teachers College, 1921-'23, Normal Professional Certificate

**School assignments:**

1928-'60 - Appomattox County Schools

1960-'61 - Leave of absence because of family illness and educational leave

1960-'67 - Appomattox Elementary School

Prior to coming to Appomattox, Miss Burkey taught in Franklin County for one year (1924-'25). Her next school assignment was in Wise County from 1925-'28. She was a recipient of the Valley Forge classroom Teachers' Medal. Former students remember her as an outstanding geography teacher. Her favorite hobbies were gardening and reading.

In 1950, Miss Burkey was on sick leave for 23 days. *She received her salary and paid the substitute directly.*

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**BOLLING CONNER CARTER**

Born: Appomattox County

**Schools attended:**

Appomattox High School, Graduated in 1947

William and Mary, Graduated in 1951, B.A., English and Education

Lynchburg College, Graduated in 1972, M.Ed., Guidance and Counseling

**School Assignments:**

Randolph Henry High School, Charlotte County, 1951-53', English Teacher

Beginning Salary—\$2100.00

Blacksburg High School, Montgomery County, 1953-'54, English, Science, Spanish

Boydton High School, Mecklenburg County, 1954-'55, English, History

Boydton High School, Mecklenburg County, 1955-'58, English, Guidance Director

Appomattox High School, Guidance Director, March 1967

Appomattox Intermediate School, Guidance Director and Counselor

Appomattox Middle School, 1974-'91, Guidance Counselor

Husband: Richard B. Carter, Sr. Children: R. B. Carter, Jr., and Elizabeth Carter McCoy

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**RICHARD BURKE CARTER, SR.**

Born: Appomattox County, 1/28/30

**Schools attended:**

Vera Elementary School, Appomattox, VA

Appomattox High School, Graduated in 1947

Virginia Tech, Graduated in 1951, B.S. Agricultural Education

Virginia Tech, Graduated in 1954, M.S. Agricultural Education

**School assignments:**

Chase City High School, Mecklenburg County, 1954-'55, Instructor of Agricultural Education

Blue Stone High School, Mecklenburg County, 1955-'62

Appomattox High School, Appomattox, VA, 1962-'73

Director of Vocational Education, 1973-'90

Assistant Superintendent, July 1, 1990, until retirement in October 1, 1991

Served as Tech Prep Coordinator for Virginia Region 2000, October 1991-July 1, 1998

Beginning salary in 1954 was \$3200.00 with an M.S. degree and \$200.00 credit for two years in the military.

Spent two years with the U. S. Air Force from July 1951 until July 1953. Served with 5<sup>th</sup> Air Force stationed at Seoul, Korea, for one year. Duty assignment: Assistant Air

Adjunct General with rank of First Lieutenant.  
Wife: Bolling Conner Carter  
Children: R. B. Carter, Jr., and Elizabeth Carter McCoy

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**MARIAN CARTER**

Born: Charlotte County, Red House, Virginia

Schools attended:

Red House  
Madisonville  
Randolph Henry

School assignments:

Appomattox County High School Cafeteria, 1959-1987  
Manager: 1978-1987

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**FRANCES MCDEARMON CHEATHAM**

Born: Evergreen, Virginia

Schools attended:

Appomattox High School - 1913-'17  
Randolph-Macon Woman's College, Lynchburg, Virginia - 1917-'21  
State Teachers College, Farmville, Virginia - 1942, Collegiate Professional Certificate  
From 1942-'66 Mrs. Cheatham taught English, history, Spanish and Latin at

Appomattox High School.

Before coming to Appomattox, Mrs. Cheatham taught in Martinsburg, West Virginia , in Roanoke City, Virginia and in Mulberry, Florida. She served as chairman of the VEA Welfare Committee 1949-'50. At the end of the 1965-'66 school year, she retired from teaching. However, she served as a substitute teacher for a number of years after her retirement.

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**FRANK CHARLES CHUCHEK**

Born: Johnston, PA

Schools attended:

Shippensburg State Teachers College, Shippensburg, PA, B.S.  
University of Pittsburg, Master's degree

School assignments:

Sayre, PA	School principal
Mechlenburg County, VA	School principal
Chase City, VA	School principal
Appomattox High School	Principal from 1961-1971

Following his tenure as principal of Appomattox High School, Mr. Chuchek was named Administrative Assistant for the Appomattox County School System. When he retired, Mr. Chuchek had served as a school administrator for 36 years.

He was a member of Liberty Baptist Church, a former member of the Appomattox Lions Club, a past Ruritan president, and an active member of the Appomattox Unit of the American Cancer Society.

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**CLEO REYNOLDS COLEMAN**

Born: Appomattox County

Schools attended:

Liberty Chapel, primary, elementary, two years of high school  
Appomattox High School, last two years of high school  
Longwood College, Farmville, VA, B. S.  
University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA, additional courses

School assignments:

Mt. Comfort one-room school (Had 14 pupils representing four grades the last year the school was open)



**Pamplin Elementary  
Campbell County**

Our home was within walking distance of Liberty Chapel School and except for childhood illnesses my sibling and I were always present. I don't ever remember schools closing because of inclement weather, and we had some very deep snows and cold weather. I had excellent teachers and many served as role models. Because of their concern for children and sincere dedication to the profession, and my love for children, I chose teaching as a career. I never once regretted my choice. The rewards of teaching are measureless. As a retired teacher, I enjoy working in the local, district, and state associations to promote education and the welfare of children.

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**DORA ABBITT CONNER**

**Born: Appomattox, Virginia**

**Schools attended:**

**Vera Elementary School, Grades 1-7**

**Appomattox High School**

**School assignment:**

**Appomattox Primary School, Cafeteria**

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**DANIEL W. DAVIS**

**Born: Clifton Forge, VA**

**Schools attended:**

**Jefferson High School, Clifton Forge, VA**

**A & T College, Greensboro, North Carolina, B.S.**

**Lynchburg College, Master's degree, 1971**

**Other Colleges and Universities Attended:**

**University of Virginia, Summer Institute, Mathematics, 1962**

**University of Nebraska, 1965, Summer Mathematics Institute**

**A & T, Mathematics Workshop**

**Virginia State College, Workshops**

**School assignments:**

**Central High School, Amherst County**

**Carver-Price High School, teacher, Home-School Coordinator and Supervisor of Adult Education**

**Visiting Teacher, Appomattox County**

**Principal, Appomattox Intermediate School**

**Principal, Appomattox Middle School**

**Assistant Principal, Appomattox Elementary School**

**Title I Supervisor and Visiting Teacher**

**Retired in June, 1987**

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**NANCY MARTIN DICKERSON**

**Born: Appomattox County, Virginia**

**Schools attended:**

**Appomattox County Schools, Grades 1-12**

**Longwood College, Farmville, Virginia — 1957-1961**

**B. S. in Elementary Education**

**School assignments:**

**Drakes Branch, Charlotte County, 1961-'62**

**Prince Edward County, 1963-'64**

**Oakville School, Appomattox County, 1967-'69**

**Appomattox Elementary, 1967-'69 (one year, I had 42 second graders and one aide)**

**Pamplin Elementary School, Pamplin — 10 years**

**Appomattox Elementary School, 1982-'91**

**In April of 1945, I went to school at Oakville with my mom's youngest sister, Birdie**

Harvey. This was my first experience in a classroom. Ella Gordon was the teacher. Little did I know that twenty some years later I would be teaching in that same classroom a 4<sup>th</sup>— 5<sup>th</sup> grade combined class!

I did my student teaching at Appomattox Elementary School, teaching second grade under the supervision of Myrtle Smith Scruggs. My principal was Miss Flora Belle Williams. At that time, there were only two classes for each grade 1-7. Lou Rogers was the other second grade teacher, and since she had taught me in the second grade, she wasn't allowed to have me as a student teacher.

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**GERTRUDE ELOISE FRANKLIN DOSS**

**Schools attended:**

Vera Elementary School  
Appomattox High School

**School assignments:**

Appomattox County High School, Study Hall and Library Aide, 1978-1990  
Every day was an unusual experience, and it was a joy working in the school system.

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**JULIA GILLETTE ELDER**

Born: August 27, 1920 in Lynchburg, Virginia

**Schools attended:**

I attended and graduated from E. C. Glass High School

**School assignments:**

Teachers' Aide - Appomattox Primary School - 1968  
Teachers' Aide - Pamplin Elementary School - 1970  
Secretary - Appomattox Primary School - 1970-'84

My work was interesting and dealt with many people. It was a pleasure and I wish I could work in that same situation right now. The faculty and staff at the school and School Board Office were a joy with whom to work.

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**ETHEL WALKER ALVIS EVANS**

Born: Concord, Virginia 5/11/1913

**Schools attended:**

Appomattox County Schools  
Fredericksburg State Teachers College, Fredericksburg, Virginia  
B. S. degree, Collegiate Professional Certificate

**School assignments:**

Appomattox Elementary School, Appomattox, Virginia  
5<sup>th</sup> grade - 1934-'37  
4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades - January 1952- June 1952  
6<sup>th</sup> grade 1952-1975

Mrs. Evans' husband, Dewitt Evans, was a local banker and served as a School Board member for the schools in Appomattox County.

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**EASLEY SHUFORD FERGUSON**

Born: Charlotte County, Virginia

**Schools attended:**

Bradford High School, Starke, Florida  
James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA — B.S.  
Sherwood Conservatory of Music, Chicago, Illinois

**School assignments:**

Appomattox County Schools — 1947-'51  
Ferrum College, Ferrum, VA — 1951-'52

When I lived in Florida, I received piano lessons from the same teacher from the time I was five years old until I reached the age of eighteen. My teacher was trained by a pupil of the great Letchitisky and at North Western University in Chicago, Illinois.

I taught private piano lessons in the public schools of Appomattox for 30 years, then ten years in my home, making a total of 40 years.

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**LUCILLE CRAWLEY FERRELL**

Born: Wellville, Virginia, Nottoway County

Schools attended:

Wellville and Appomattox, Virginia

School assignment:

Business Department of Appomattox High School, 1952-'54

Appomattox High School 1954-'74, school secretary

"I then became the school secretary at Appomattox High School where I retired in 1974. My beginning salary was \$150.00 per month, and it increased to \$400.00 per month by the time I retired"

Mrs. Ferrell was a model for all students who aspired to become secretaries. Her professionalism and assistance as the school secretary at Appomattox High School for twenty years was admired and appreciated by the entire staff.

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**DOLLYE LEGRANDE FOREST**

Born: Brookneal, Virginia

Schools attended:

Staunton Hill, Campbell County Elementary School

Central High School, Charlotte Court House, VA

Charlotte County High School

Virginia State, Petersburg, VA

St. Paul's College, Lawrenceville, VA --B.S.

School assignments:

Bacon District Elementary School, Charlotte County--1963-64

Carver-Price, Appomattox County -- 1964-68

Appomattox Elementary School

Appomattox Primary School --Retired June 10, 1991

Family:

Husband: The late Thomas Forest Sr.

Sons: Thomas, Jr. and Harold

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**ALLEN EDWARD FRANKLIN**

Born: Appomattox County, Virginia - October 1, 1929

Died: March 29, 1998

Employee of the Appomattox County School Board as Maintenance Supervisor from August 1, 1974 until his retirement on October 1, 1991.

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**KATE M. FRANKLIN ("MISS KATE")**

Born: Pamplin, Virginia, 1877

Schools attended:

Clavier, New York, 1905

Chautaugua, New York, 1912

Cornell University, New York, 1918

School assignments:

Fayetteville, West Virginia, Music 1905-'10

Appomattox High School and Pamplin High School, 1910-'53

2/3 of the day - private instrumental lessons

1/3 of the day - vocal music

When Miss Franklin retired in 1953 the music program did not continue for the 1953-'54 session. However on June 15, 1953, the School Board passed a resolution commending "Miss Kate" for her forty-three years of continuous service to the school system.

**MARGARET M. GLOVER**

Born: Pittsylvania County, Virginia

Schools attended:

Renan High School, Renan, Virginia

Madison College, Harrisonburg, Virginia

School assignments:

Marshall District Elementary and High School, Arvon, Virginia

Gretna High School, Gretna, Virginia

Evergreen and Vera School, Appomattox County

Appomattox Primary School, Appomattox, Virginia

Appomattox County High School, Appomattox, Virginia

Final School Assignment: Appomattox County High School— Librarian

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**VIRGINIA WALKER GOODE**

Attended Roadside Elementary School

Graduated from Carver Price High School

Earned a B.S. degree from St. Paul's College in Lawrenceville, VA, May 1954

Earned a Master's degree from Virginia State College in Petersburg, VA, May 1974

Taught 43 years in Appomattox County

1954 Roadside Elementary School, Pamplin, VA

Hurtsville Community, Grades 1-6

1955 Stonewall Elementary, Concord, VA, Grades 3-5

1956-'58 Spout Spring Elementary, Spout Spring, Grades 1-3

1958-'74 Carver Price, Appomattox, Grade 1

1974 My last career change was to the Appomattox Primary School. I was asked to go to APS to help during the period of integration. The transition period went smoothly.

Salary: The contract signed May 2, 1957 was for \$2,700 and the one signed on April 30, 1959 was for \$3,600.

Retired June, 1997.

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**BARBARA L. GOWIN**

Born: Appomattox County

Schools attended:

Appomattox County Schools (1-12)

School assignment:

Appomattox Primary School, Teachers' Aide (K-2, 1975-91)

I loved working with the children and teachers. Having been retired for nine years, I still have some of the children remember me and call me by name. That makes me feel good!

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**MARY JANE LUCAS HALEY**

I was born in Winchester, Virginia. However, being the daughter of a Methodist minister during World War II, I attended many different schools. My first year of school was spent at Fairfax Elementary School, and I graduated from Hampton High School in Hampton, Virginia. Following my graduation from high school, I entered Hill's Business School in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

In 1978, I became a teachers' assistant for three years at the Appomattox Elementary School. Then, I was transferred to the Appomattox Primary School where I served as a teachers' assistant for eighteen years.

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**TERESA WATKINS HAMLET**

Born: Appomattox County, Virginia

Schools attended:

Elementary Schools in Appomattox County

Virginia Seminary, Lynchburg, Virginia, High School and Normal Professional



Virginia State, Petersburg, Virginia, B. A. degree  
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Master's degree

**School assignments:**

Chap School (First teaching assignment)

Carver School (Elementary Level)

When the elementary section of the first Carver School burned, Mrs. Hamlet and other teachers were instrumental in continuing the educational program for students at the old Conservation Corps Camp located on Route 24. After a period of time, students attended school at Camp Winona located in the home of Mrs. Mozella Price.

Mrs. Hamlet gave leadership and is credited with initiating the first Title I reading program at Carver School. A leader and mentor for many, she had a special influence on her younger sister, Dora Turner.

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**DORIS W. HARVEY**

Born: Appomattox County, Virginia

**Schools attended:**

Appomattox County Schools

**School assignment:**

Doris has worked with the Appomattox County School System since 1974. She is presently manager of the Appomattox Middle School Cafeteria.

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**HARRIETT ELECTA HOLLEY**

Born: 2/8/1892

**Schools attended:**

Milwaukee - Downes College, 1911-'12

University of Wisconsin, 1912-'15

Collegiate Professional Certificate, B. A. Degree

**School assignments:**

Antigo, Wisconsin, Latin and history, 1915-'20

Lynchburg, Virginia, private school, grades 2, 3, and 4 art and music

Appomattox High School, English, and Latin 1939-'61

Miss Holley served as president of the Appomattox Education Association for two years. She was also the music director for Liberty Baptist Church and Memorial United Methodist Church.

Upon her retirement at the end of the 1960-'61 school session, she returned to her family home in Antigo, Wisconsin.

Miss Holley was related to Mary and Hester Babcock of Appomattox.

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**FRANCES MATTOX HOPKINSON**

Born: Pamplin, Virginia

**Schools attended:**

Various elementary schools in Virginia, West Virginia, and Tennessee

Pamplin High School, Appomattox County

Mary Washington College, Fredericksburg, Virginia, B. A. degree

Longwood College, Farmville, Virginia, graduate work

**School assignment:**

Pamplin High School, Appomattox County, 1949-'50-'51

Since I was the youngest faculty member at Pamplin High School, I was given the basketball team to coach and the Senior Play to direct in addition to teaching high school English, Spanish and social studies. I had three World War II veterans in my homeroom who were several years older than I, and I was apprehensive. However, they turned out to be quite helpful in explaining the value of a high school diploma to the regular students.

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**DOROTHY JIMISON**

**Born:** Holden, West Virginia

**Schools attended:**

K-9, Holden, WVA

10-12, Logan, WVA

Marshall College, Huntington, WVA, Associate Science Degree

**School assignments:**

Secretary, George Wythe School Board, Wytheville, VA

Secretary, George Wythe High School, Wytheville, VA

Dorothy is an accomplished musician.

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**DON F. JIMISON**

**Born:** McConnell, West Virginia

**Schools attended:**

McConnell Grade School, McConnell, WVA

Stollings School, Stollings, WVA

Logan Junior High School and Logan High School, Logan, WVA

Glenville State Teachers College, Glenville, WVA

Marshall College, Huntington, WVA, A.B. Degree

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, Master's Degree

Michigan State University, Oakland Branch, Postgraduate Work

**School assignments:**

Logan County Schools, Logan, WVA

George Wythe High School, Wytheville, VA

Clintondale Public Schools, Clinton Township, Michigan

Southside Virginia Community College, South Hill, VA

Dayton Christian Schools, Dayton, Ohio

Holiday Lake 4-H Center, Appomattox, VA, Center Director, Extension Agent

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**NELLIE TURNES JOBE**

**Born:** Appomattox, Virginia - October, 1918

**Schools attended:**

State Teachers College, Farmville, Virginia 1933-'35, Collegiate Professional Certificate

**School assignments:**

Shenandoah County, Virginia - 1936-'37

Oakville School, Appomattox County (one-room school) Grades 6 & 7-1937-'39

Appomattox High School, 1944-'52 - English I & II

Mrs. Jobe's hobbies were collecting postcards and stamps.

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**MARBELLA ROBINSON JOHNSON**

**Born:** Phenix, Virginia

**Schools attended:**

Central High School, Charlotte Courthouse, VA

St. Paul's College, Lawrenceville, VA — B.S.

Lynchburg College, Lynchburg, VA — M. S.

University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA

Virginia State University, Petersburg, VA

**School assignments:**

Appomattox Elementary School, Appomattox, VA (Reading Program)

Appomattox Middle School, Appomattox, VA (English, civics, U.S. History, math, and Life Sciences)

**NANCY TAYLOR JONES**

**Born:** Halifax County, Virginia

**School attended:**

Sandy Ridge (Grades 1-7), Halifax County

Volens High School, Halifax County

State Teachers College (Longwood), Farmville, Virginia

Additional work at University of Virginia, Charlottesville and Lynchburg College

**School assignments:**

Gladys High School, Campbell County - 1 year

Naruna Elementary School, Campbell County - 2 years

Appomattox High School, Appomattox County - 27 years

My teaching assignments changed dramatically from general science, life science, physical science, earth science, biology and advanced biology. A double major in biology and chemistry made these changes possible.

The most challenging event in my teaching career was the integration of Appomattox High School and Carver-Price. I am so glad to have been a part of the Appomattox County School System at that time in history. My belief system was tested, and I feel that it enabled me to take a giant step forward in my Christian growth.

Combining a teaching profession with homemaking was a happy combination, which I highly recommend.

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**CHRISTINE WILSON KNIGHT**

**Born:** Summerfield, North Carolina

**Schools attended:**

Bethany High School, Rockingham County, North Carolina

Brevard Methodist College, Brevard, North Carolina

Greensboro College, Greensboro, North Carolina

High Point College, High Point, North Carolina — B.S.

**School assignments:**

Monroe Elementary School, Reidsville, North Carolina —4<sup>th</sup> Grade

Stokesdale Elementary School, Stokesdale, North Carolina —4<sup>th</sup> Grade

Pamplin City Elementary School, Appomattox County--1974 — 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Appomattox Elementary School, Appomattox, VA --1975-85

**Approximate number of years taught:**

North Carolina — 14 years

Virginia — 10 years

Francis M. Knight, my husband, was transferred to Transco Pipeline Corporation in Appomattox, Virginia, in 1974.

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**JANICE R. KRUG**

**Born:** Johnstown, Pennsylvania

**Schools attended:**

Johnstown High School—Cambria County

Indiana University of Pennsylvania —Indiana, Pennsylvania

B. S. and M. Ed. in Education

**School assignments:**

Westmont Hilltop — Johnstown—Cambria

Bren Mar — Fairfax County, Virginia

Moved to Appomattox County with her husband, Walter F. Krug who became Superintendent of Schools in 1997.

Children: Meredith and Kristen

**WALTER F. KRUG**

Born: Washington, DC

Schools attended:

George Washington University, B. A. in Elementary Education, 1964  
M. A. in School Administration  
Ed.D in Curriculum and Instruction

School assignments:

Teacher, Hollin Hills Elementary School, Fairfax County, Virginia  
Assistant Principal, Patrick Henry Elementary School, Alexandria, Virginia  
Principal, Patrick Henry and George Mason Elementary  
Principal, Mount Vernon Community Center School  
Superintendent, Absecon Public Schools, New Jersey  
Superintendent, Appomattox County Public Schools

Family: Wife, Janice Krug, a former teacher and two daughters: Meredith and Kristen

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**MERLIE (MERLE) GUILL LAWSON**

Born: Appomattox County, Virginia

Schools attended:

Appomattox County Schools  
Mary Washington College, Fredericksburg, Virginia  
Lynchburg College, Lynchburg, Virginia  
Central Virginia Community College, Lynchburg, Virginia

School Assignment:

Appomattox Elementary School

Ms Lawson was a retired employee of the Tenth Court Services Unit in Appomattox. She was a member of the Appomattox County Retired Teachers Association. Also, she was involved in many clubs, civic organizations and youth activities throughout her life.

Her two children, Steven E. Lawson and Beth L. Reynolds reside with their families in the town of Appomattox. Beth is a teacher at Appomattox Middle School.

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**FRANCES PANKEY LEWIS**

Born: Frances Pankey, in the Tower Hill community of Appomattox County.  
Became Frances Pankey Lewis by marriage in 1947.

Schools attended:

Agee and Carver High School of Appomattox. Graduated from Carver High School in 1947.

School assignments:

Became the first Teacher Assistant in the county at the beginning of the summer program in 1966.

Became full time employee at the beginning of the 1968-'69 session, working at Carver Price High School until the 1970-'71 session. Began at Appomattox Primary School in 1970-'71 session, remaining there until retirement in June 1990.

Family:

Husband, Jesse R. Lewis, Sr.  
Son, Jesse R. Lewis, Jr., of Midland, Texas  
Daughter, Phyllis JoAnne Lewis of Appomattox  
Grandchildren: Maurice, Deric and Daryl Lewis (twins) of Midland, Texas

Salaries:

Teacher Assistant  
1968-69 \$190 monthly  
1989-90 \$650 monthly

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**VIRGINIA PARKS MARTIN**

Born: "Lathreash", Hixburg, Virginia - Appomattox County

Schools attended:

Hixburg School, Hixburg, Virginia



Pamplin High School, Pamplin, Virginia  
Averett College, Danville, Virginia  
Mary Washington College, Fredricksburg, Virginia

**School assignments:**

Adult Education in Hixburg area - teaching in homes and Hixburg School  
Mt. Comfort School - Appomattox County - 1936-'38  
Evergreen School - Appomattox County - 1944-'46  
Pamplin High School - Appomattox County - 1946-'52

When my mother, Virginia Parks, finished college, it was difficult to find a teaching position. She began her teaching career by teaching adult education in homes and at Hixburg School in the evenings. Lou Covington Rogers had been the teacher before her. When Miss Covington secured a position as a primary teacher, Mother replaced her. She traveled by horse and buggy.

From 1936-'38, Mother taught grades 1-7 at Mt. Comfort School. After marrying my father in April, 1938, she was allowed to finish the school term. Her contract was not renewed the following year because she was married.

Mother told us the story of a young boy who came to Mt. Comfort School. He was old enough to be in the seventh grade but had never attended school. Although the children teased him for being so big and only in the first grade, he began his education, studying diligently. At the close of the school session, he had completed work for grades 1-7. Before Mother died in 1986, this man passed through town, expressing appreciation for her teaching him.

Mother finished out another teacher's term when she began teaching at Evergreen and then taught one full term, teaching grades 4-6. During her teaching at Pamplin, she taught the second grade. It may be unusual that she taught her own three children - Kinckle, Anne, and Luella.

Mother's beginning teacher's annual salary in 1936 at Mt. Comfort was \$620.07. Her room and board was \$15.00 a month. She held a Normal Professional Certificate for teaching and subscribed to The Instructor and The Virginia Journal.

Submitted by Anne Martin Robinson

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**BESS FRANKLIN MATTOX**

Born: Pamplin, Virginia

**Schools attended:**

Fredricksburg Normal School (High School), Fredricksburg, Virginia  
Randolph Macon Woman's College, B. A. degree, Lynchburg, Virginia

**School assignments:**

Elementary grades, Pamplin, early 1940's  
Pamplin High School, early 1950's

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**EDITH N. MCCORMICK**

Born: Evington, Virginia

**Schools attended:**

New London Academy, Campbell and Bedford Counties  
Phillips Secretarial College

**Final Assignments:**

Teachers' assistant for 11 years at Appomattox Middle School  
Edith now serves as a substitute teacher in the Appomattox County School System.

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**CHRISTINE MCCOY**

Born: Campbell County, Virginia

**Schools Attended:**

Stonewall Elementary  
Carver-Price High School, Appomattox County  
I worked at the Appomattox Garment Factory for 10 years. Then I worked at Stanley's

Tobacco Company in Lynchburg for four years until the business closed. The remaining 18 years and 11 months of my career were spent as a cafeteria employee at Carver-Price Elementary School, Oakville School, and finally Appomattox Primary School.

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**D. JEAN MILLS**

**Born:** Detroit, Michigan

**Schools attended:**

Lincoln Consolidated, Whittaker, MI  
Alpena High School, Alpena, MI  
Charlemont High School, Charlemont, MA  
Central Connecticut College, New Britain, CT  
William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA

**School assignments:**

Windsor Elementary, Windsor, VA  
Northern High School, Prince Frederick, MD  
Appomattox Elementary School, Appomattox, VA, 1973-1993  
Appomattox County School Board Member, 1995-1999

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**ROBERTA HARVEY MITCHELL**

**Born:** Appomattox County

**Schools attended:**

Started in the year 1943-44 at Evergreen Grade School (grades 1-7 - a two room school)  
Appomattox High School, Grades 8-12 (Graduated in 1955)

**School assignment:**

Was hired as a Teacher Assistant in 1978-'79 at Appomattox Primary School. Lloyd Walton was superintendent and Pat Torrence was principal.  
Retired in the year of 2000. Barbara Jackson was principal and Walter Krug was superintendent.

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**GLADYS DeWITT MOON**

**Born:** Alleghany County, Virginia

**Schools attended:**

Gillaspie, Bedford, VA  
New London, Bedford County, VA  
Andrew Lewis, Salem, VA  
M. E. Marcuse, Big Island, VA  
Lynchburg General Hospital, R. N. Graduate  
Medical College of Virginia, Richmond, VA - Public Health (member of first class)

**School assignments:**

Nurse, Appomattox Elementary School, 15 years

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**GERTRUDE MACKENZIE HARRIS MORRIS (twice married)**

**Born:** Radford, Virginia 4/16/1903 **Died:** 6/17/1981

**Schools attended:**

Radford State Teachers' College, Radford, Virginia, 1921-'22, diploma  
Radford State Teachers' College, Radford, Virginia, 1930-'31  
Normal Professional Certificate

**School assignment:**

Appomattox High School, Social Sciences, 1943-1965  
Mrs. Morris served as president of the Appomattox County Teachers' Association in 1948-'49. Her interests and hobbies were music and civic improvement.

**MARGARET SMITH O'BRIEN**

Born: Appomattox County, Virginia

Schools attended:

Appomattox High School, Appomattox, Virginia

Radford College, Radford, Virginia (2-year Normal Professional Certificate)

School assignments:

White School near Rustburg, Virginia (Grades 1-7, 2 years)

Altavista Elementary (3<sup>rd</sup> Grade, one year)

Vera School, Appomattox County, VA (Grades 4-7, 4 years)

Miss Sue Powell was my first teacher. She married Charlie Caldwell, and they moved to Sweet Briar College where he served as caretaker.

Elaine McDearmon (Spencer) was my 7<sup>th</sup> grade teacher the first year that she was out of college. My high school teachers included Helen Welch Harvey and Mr. Lindsay Crawley.

When I was teaching at Vera, Walter Payne was principal. He and I did some departmental work in grades 4-7. Tommy and Jerry Harvey were among my students. One day Tommy swallowed some boy's quarter. Mr. Payne picked him up by his heels and shook him until the quarter became dislodged — an emergency met with equanimity.

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**SHIRLEY H. O'BRIEN**

Born: Appomattox, VA

Schools attended:

Vera Elementary, Vera, VA

Appomattox High School, Appomattox, VA

School assignments:

Cafeteria, Appomattox Primary and Elementary Schools

Substitute Teacher, Appomattox County High School

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**LOUISE NELSON PARRIS**

Born: Richmond, Virginia

College attended:

Longwood College, Farmville, Virginia

School Assignments:

1966-'69—Vera Elementary School

1956-'57 & 1969-'74—Appomattox Elementary School

1974-'96—Appomattox County Middle School (Librarian)

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**HENRY ALEXANDER PAULETTE**

Born: Charlotte County, July 27, 1912

Attended schools in Charlotte County and became a self-educated mechanic

Experiences:

Assistant on dairy farm in New Jersey

An electric welder with Baldwin Locomotive in Baltimore, Maryland

Employee of Appomattox County School Board as Supervisor of Transportation from 1957 until retirement December 31, 1980.

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**BARBARA PICKETT**

Born: Baltimore, Maryland

Schools attended:

Alexander Hamilton Elementary - Baltimore, Maryland

Gwynns Falls Junior High - Baltimore, Maryland

Western High - Baltimore, Maryland

University of Maryland School of Nursing

Liberty University, M.A. in Counseling

School Assignments:

Appomattox County Schools - First School Nurse

**AGNES M. RANDOLPH**

Born: Saxe, Virginia

Schools attended:

Charlotte County Schools

Saint Paul's College, Lawrenceville, Virginia, 2 years

School assignment:

Appomattox County Schools, Teacher's Aide, 1983-1999

She is the mother of thirteen children and a Mary Kay consultant. Children have been fascinated through the years with Mrs. Randolph's earrings. Each time she had a child she added another pair of pierced earrings on her ears.

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**ELIZABETH ROBERTS**

Born: Trenton, New Jersey

Colleges attended:

Trenton State College, Trenton, New Jersey

Monmouth University, West Long Branch, New Jersey

Taught nursery school, kindergarten, and first grade for 31 years in New Jersey Schools

Retired in 1995 and moved to Appomattox, Virginia

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**SUDIE MOULDEN ROWE**

Born: Albemarle, North Carolina

Schools attended:

Elementary and High School, Thomasville, North Carolina

School assignments:

Teacher Assistant, Appomattox Elementary and Primary School, 27 years

Substitute Teacher, Appomattox Primary School, 3 years

Sudie Rowe has given a total of thirty years to the Appomattox School System.

She shared a favorite passage: "Laughter is the language of the young at heart and the antidote to what ails us." This was her motto for life.

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**KATHERINE (KITTY) GOUGH SEARS**

Born: Campbell County, Virginia

Schools attended:

Rustburg High School, Rustburg, VA

Longwood College, Farmville, VA

School assignments:

She taught elementary school students in Rustburg, Concord, and Appomattox

County

Mrs. Sears started the first private kindergarten in Appomattox.

Husband: Robert Allen Sears, Sr.

Children: Katherine, Ann, and Al, Jr.

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**BARBARA JEAN ALMOND SHELTON**

Born in Appomattox County

Schools attended:

Appomattox County Public School System (Grades 1-12)

Graduated from high school Valedictorian

Longwood College, Farmville, VA

B.S. in Education (Cum Laude)

M.S. in Administration and Supervision

School assignments:

Pamplin Elementary School, Appomattox County

Title I (February-June, 1974)

Pamplin Elementary School, Appomattox County (Fall, 1974-Spring, 1975)



Appomattox Primary School (Fall, 1974-Spring, 1979)  
Appomattox Elementary School (Fall, 1979-December, 1998)  
Taught 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> Grades  
Gave private piano lessons (Grades 3-12)  
Student Teachers' Mentor  
Homebound Instructor (K-12)  
Private Tutoring

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**WANDA W. SIMPSON**

Born: Ashland, West Virginia  
Colleges attended:  
Clinch Valley College, Wise County, Virginia  
Radford University, Radford, Virginia  
Final assignment:  
Appomattox Primary School (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Grades)

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**MARY LEE MILLS TAYLOR**

Born: June 17, 1914, Patrick County, North Carolina  
Died: November 24, 2000, Pilot Mountain, North Carolina  
Schools attended:  
Red Bank High School, Cloudsville, Virginia  
Radford State Teachers College, Radford, Virginia - 1932-'33  
State Teachers College, Farmville, Virginia - 1938-1942  
School assignments:  
Patrick County, Virginia - 1933-1936  
Nelson County, Virginia - 1937-1939  
Appomattox County, Virginia - 1940-1976  
Mrs. Taylor retired from the Appomattox school system on December 16, 1976, giving her thirty-seven years with the county school system. She taught for seven years in other school divisions, thus giving her a total of forty-four years of service to public education. During her career, Mrs. Taylor taught both elementary and secondary grades. In 1943 she was transferred to Appomattox High School where she taught biology and began instruction in driver education. For more than twenty years, she had the responsibility for the driver education program. Approximately 2131 students received instruction in driver education from her during this time. On April 21, 1976, Mrs. Taylor was recommended as Outstanding Driver Education Teacher of the year by school superintendent, Lloyd Walton.

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**JACK P. THOMAS, JR.**

Born: Richmond, Virginia  
Schools attended:  
University of South Carolina, B.A. in history and education, 1970  
Valdosta State College, M. A. in history, 1975  
University of Virginia, Ed. D. in educational administration and supervision, 1985  
School assignments:  
Teacher, Portsmouth City Schools  
Teacher, Valdosta Public School  
Teacher, Chesterfield County Schools  
Assistant Principal, Chesterfield County Schools  
Principal, Powhatan High school, 1985-'86  
Principal, Gloucester High School, 1986-'88  
Director of Instruction, Southampton County Schools, 1988-'90  
Assistant Superintendent, Middlesex County Schools, 1990-'91  
Superintendent, Appomattox County Schools, 1991-'96  
Superintendent, Botetout County Schools, 1997-Present  
Family: Wife, Ruth Thomas, an elementary school teacher and two children: Will and Sarah

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**DENNIS WAYNE TORRENCE**

**Born:** Appomattox County

**Schools attended:**

Appomattox High School, Appomattox, Virginia 1954-1959

Virginia Polytechnic Institute, B. S. degree, 1959-1963

University of Maryland, M. S. degree, 1967-1968

**School assignment:**

Appomattox County Schools, Agriculture Education teacher, 1967-1977

He served on the Advisory Council for the Agricultural Teacher Education Council at VPI and SU in 1970.

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**PATRICIA THOMAS TORRENCE**

**Born:** Lynchburg, Virginia

**Schools attended:**

Appomattox High School, 1958-1962

Madison College (James Madison), Harrisonburg, Virginia, 1962-1966

She also has a M. S. degree and a PhD.

**School assignments:**

Appomattox County Schools, teacher, assistant principal

Appomattox Primary School, principal, 1973-1984

Dr. Torrence is presently serving as the Superintendent of Schools in Isle of Wight County.

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**MAUDE UNDERWOOD**

**Born:** Delaware County, Pennsylvania

**Colleges Attended:**

Lake Erie College, Painesville, Ohio

Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts

University of Guam, Guam, M. I.

Bowie State College, Bowie, Maryland

University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia

**Final School Assignments:**

Buckingham County, Virginia (Central Office)

Buckingham County, Virginia (Primary School)

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**BARBARA PERDUE WADDELL**

**Born:** Richmond, Virginia, 3/23/1930

**Died:** Appomattox, Virginia, 6/30/1981

**Schools attended:**

Randolph Henry High School, 1942-'46

Longwood College, Farmville, Virginia, 1960-'64

**School assignments:**

Charlotte County, Virginia, elementary grades, 1964-'65

Appomattox County, Virginia, elementary grades, 1965-'71

Pamplin School, principal, 1971-'78

Pamplin School, principal and Appomattox Elementary School Assistant Principal  
1978-June 30, 1981

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**SARAH DRINKARD WAYNE**

**Born:** Appomattox County, Virginia

**Schools attended:**

Vera Elementary

Appomattox High School

Longwood College, Farmville, Virginia (Farmville State Teachers College)

**School assignments:**

Woodland, Liberty Chapel, Vera, and Pamplin (all in Appomattox County)

Relatives recall that Sarah wore out two series of Laura Ingalls Wilder books reading to her students.

Sarah had clever ways of getting lessons across to her students. One day she conducted a funeral outside and had the students sing hymns as they buried the word, ain't — NEVER to be used again!

In 1941, when she got married, she almost lost her job because married women were not supposed to teach.

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**HENRY LEE WYATT, II**

Born: Durham, NC, May 9, 1943

**Schools attended:**

George Washington High School in Danville, Virginia, 1961

VPI, B.S. in Industrial Arts Education, 1965

VSU, M.A. in Industrial Education, 1974

**School assignments:**

Lynchburg City Schools, 1969-'90 (Industrial Arts, Photography, Graphic Arts, Drafting, Vocational Printing)

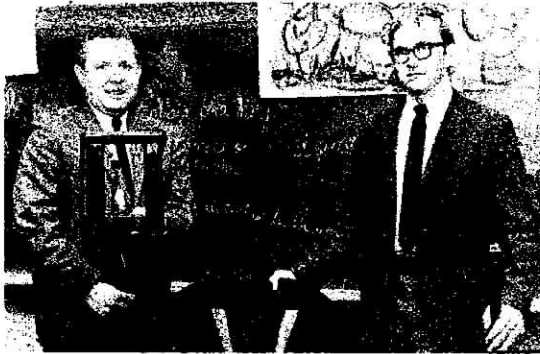
Buckingham Public Schools, 1992-'94 Electricity/Electronics

Appomattox Public Schools, 1994-'98 Electricity/Electronics



**Daniel Davis, Principal**  
**Appomattox Intermediate School - 1973-1974**  
**Appomattox Middle School - 1974-1975**

## PERSONALITIES IN OUR SCHOOLS



**James Hall - Spanish and World History**  
**Roy Robinson - Latin**



**Lucia Weatherford, Speech Therapist**  
**Margaret Shields, School Nurse**  
**Lucille Ferrell, Clerk**



**James Hall - Spanish and World History**  
**Elaine M. Spencer - English and History**



**Violet Harwood, County Librarian**  
**Verna Conner, Assistant Librarian**



**Teresa Armstrong, Librarian**



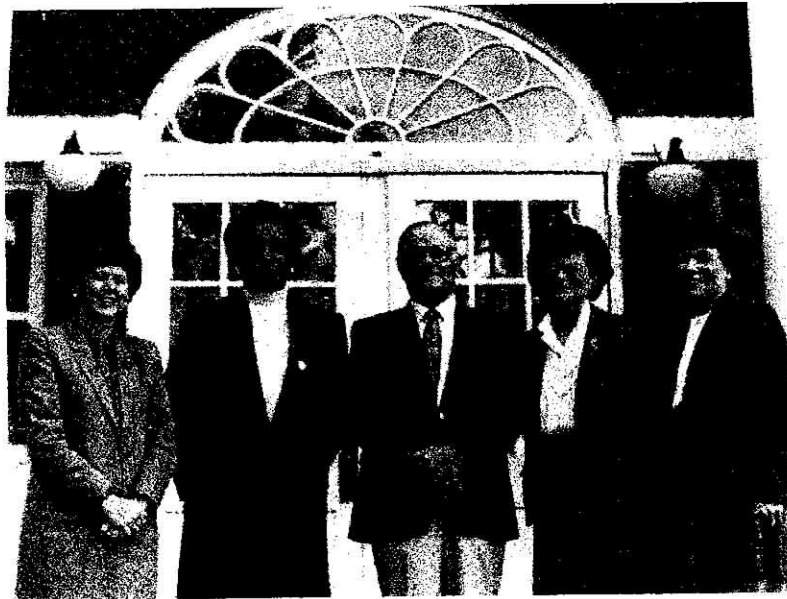
## MEMORIES AND PERSONALITIES



### CAFETERIA MANAGERS - 1987

Left to right:

Marian Carter, Appomattox County High School  
Margie Morris, Appomattox Primary School  
Doris Harvey, Appomattox Middle School  
Eloise Robinson, Appomattox Elementary School



### PRINCIPALS - 1987

Left to right:

Janice Marston, Appomattox Elementary School  
Hezteine Foster, Appomattox Middle School  
John McLean, Assistant, Appomattox County High School  
Shirley Eye, Appomattox County High School  
Carolyn Coleman, Appomattox Primary School

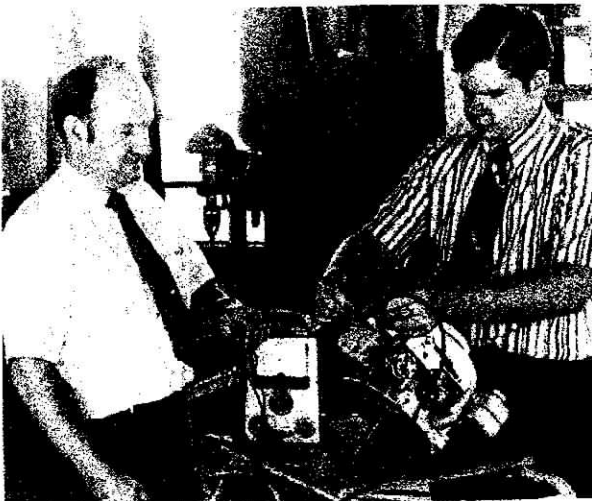
## LEADERS IN OUR SCHOOLS



**Carrie Pankey Gilbert**  
English Teacher  
Appomattox High School



**Henrietta Johnson**  
First African American to Serve  
on Appomattox County School Board  
1982-1986



**Richard Carter      William Perrow**  
Agricultural Education



**Henry Pack      Dennis Torrence**  
Agricultural Education

## CAFETERIA STAFF AT APPOMATTOX HIGH SCHOOL - 1980



Cafeteria Staff: Ellen Seamster, Irene Mays, Doris Harvey, Pearl Hamilton, Marian Carter, Manager, Ruth Trent, Kathleen Wooldridge, Helen Coleman, Shirley Dillard, and Violet Franklin.

## SPECIAL PEOPLE IN OUR SCHOOLS - 1968

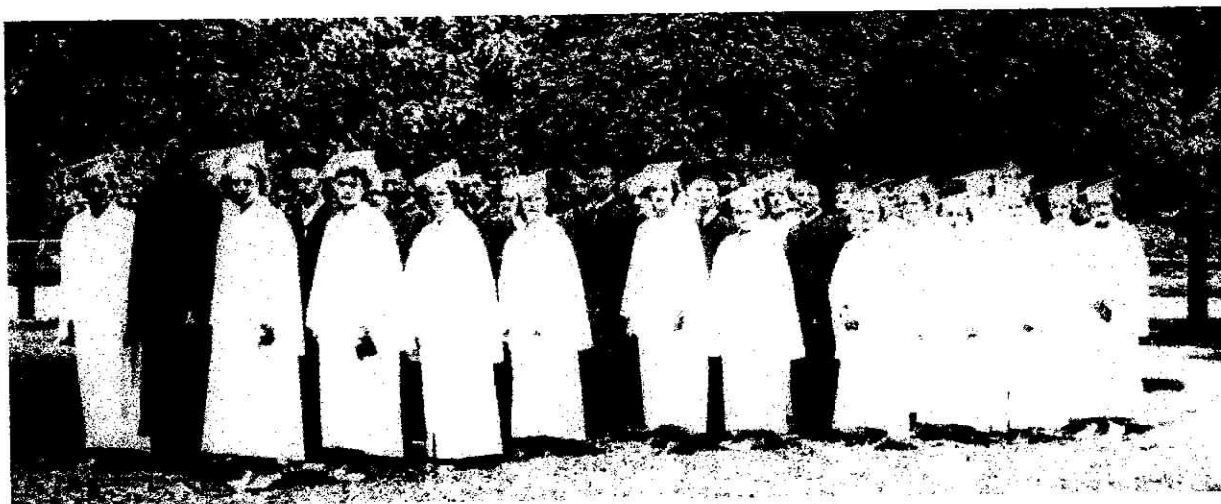


Left to right: Mrs. Barbara Pickett, First School Nurse, Mrs. Mildred Alvis, Visiting Teacher, and Mrs. Lucille Ferrell, Clerk.



Ruth Hawkins Webb  
First Woman to Serve on  
Appomattox County School Board  
1971-1983

## 1936 GRADUATING CLASS AT APPOMATTOX HIGH SCHOOL



This picture was shared by Mrs. Virginia Almond Smith, a member of this class.



**1972 Cafeteria Staff**  
**Appomattox High School**  
**Seated—Left to right:**  
**Gladys Lovell and Mildred**  
**Richardson, Manager**  
**Standing —Shirley Dillard, Holly**  
**Cawthorne and Helen Scott**

## Custodians at Appomattox High School — 1972

**Mr. Berkley Garrett and**  
**Mr. John Ferguson**





## **LETTERS, RESOLUTIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS**

**History of Class of 1932**

**Honor Roll of Appomattox High School, February 18, 1932**

**Action of Appomattox County School Board, May 5, 1913**

**Resolution To The Robert Craig Family**

**Kestner Letter from Mr. Crawley**

**Letter from Jane Hix**

**Letter from Shirley C. Eye**

**Letter from Mary McCraw Scott**

**Letter from Shirley W. Walton**

**Tribute to Dora Turner**

**Rules for Teachers, 1872**

**Code of Ethics of the Appomattox Teachers Association**

**The Old School House**

**Tree of Education**

**Vacation Days**

**The Rules for Writing (In Verse)**

**When You Write, 1919**

**Research Tidbits**

**Administrators of Appomattox County Schools**

**Membership of the Appomattox county Retired Teachers**

**Officers of the Appomattox County Retired Teachers - 2000-2002**

**Contract for Mrs. Teresa Hamlet**

**Resolution for Miss Kate Franklin**

**Miss Lelia Ferguson's Contract**

**Miss Mattie Martin's Report Card**

**Miss Nola Burkey's Retirement Information**

**Maps and Locations of Early Schools**

**Funnybone Ticklers — 1926 AGRICOLA Yearbook**

## HISTORY OF CLASS OF 1932 By Claudine O'Brien

Here we are the Class of 1932. For a few minutes let's turn back the pages of history and imagine we are entering the first day of our educational experience. Do you realize it has been more than sixty years? Even though we finished as a unified group, our first years were spent in different schools and communities.

For a few minutes we will follow our classmates to their various schools: from Vera came Ruth Morris, Rachel Morris, Katie Laced, Albert O'Brien, Lula Drinkard and Dot Covington. Spout Spring produced a missionary, Hazel Moon, who had her first year along with Chapman Chilton at Chilton School. Annie joined Hazel at Spout Spring, before their coming to Appomattox. Another who went to a one-room school was Carrington Beard; he went to Wheeler and then to Stonewall through the seventh grade. From Blass Ranson I learned of a new school, called Martin's Field for his grandfather. He now owns the land on which the school once was located. His grandfather gave the land. Both Blass and Christine Paulette attended Martin's Field. Blass transferred to Pamplin, coming to Appomattox in 1930 for his last two years of school.

Liberty Chapel graduated three from its seventh grade: Malcolm Booker, Elizabeth Phelps, and John Thornhill; however, John started at Appomattox. I suppose James Langram traveled the farthest to join our class, coming from the state of Texas. Vera Kerns attended Clifton Forge until 1930; she said that she felt at home even on the first day at Appomattox. Ruby Wooldridge claims Wesley Chapel as her beginning; Weselene Young and Clarkie Evans were Evergreen graduates. Lynchburg gave us Edith Robertson, who enjoyed sixth and seventh grades as well as high school with us. Nelson County sent us both Willie Jobe and Vernon Raglan to add to our distinguished clan. Appomattox School was the home for many of us, and who could ever forget the teaching and guidance of our second year teacher, Miss Eddie Hardy? In the group attending both elementary and high schools were found Billy Hubbard, Mandate Anderson, Garland Plunkett, Carrie Jamieson, Alice Lee Smith, Hilda Moore, Eloise O'Brien, Mary Smith and Claudine.

We at Appomattox Elementary School remember our beloved teacher, Miss Eddie Hardy in the second grade. In the third grade Hilda Moore, moving from her home on the James River, joined our ranks and was the vice president of the Class of 1932. Our fourth grade teacher, Miss Julia McCain, was noted for her use of a ruler, not for measurements but for punishment. In the fifth grade Mrs. Florence Carson opened my horizon to art through an art magazine, from which she shared with us small paintings of the renowned artists. For the sixth and seventh grade we had Mrs. Ola Furbish and Miss Elaine McDearmon, who later married Harold Spencer. She was still living in 1999.

At last we became "rats," joined by others from the "sister" schools. Our eighth grade brought sadness to us, as we lost two beloved teachers: Mr. Preston Brown through death and Miss Gladys Van Volkenburgh through marriage. Will you ever forget her replacement, Miss Dean Johns who taught us history and English? She was too brilliant for us "rats," but I have always been grateful to her for opening up my small mind. Miss Kate O'Brien taught English and Latin and was really the reason I became a Latin teacher. Mrs. Helen Welch had everyone for senior English and some of us for French.

After eleven years of schooling we were ready for graduation. I still recall the various shades of blue we had for Class Day. What a rainy June 13, 1932, it was! Then that night all the girls wore white for our graduation. There were thirty-two of us who received diplomas.

After we left high school we went our separate ways, but have always found time for our special reunions. Being "Depression children" we would often have covered dish meals and enjoyed the hospitality of classmates. This is our third reunion in the charming home of Malcolm and Beverly Booker, Beverly Plantation, and we really appreciate this kindness and generosity. Tonight, June 17, 1995, as we meet after sixty-three years from graduation, may we express our gratitude to the Lord for His blessings through the years.

**Honor Roll of Appomattox High School Is Announced**  
**Times-Virginian, February 18, 1932**

**Promotions in High School and Honor Roll in Grades of Appomattox High School**

**Seniors**—Carrie Jamerson, Vera Kerns, John Thornhill, Billie Hubbard, Carrington Beard, Elizabeth Phelps, Vernon Ragland, Blass Ranson, Malcolm Booker, Mary Smith, Chapman Chilton, Mandane Anderson, Claudine O'Brien, Hilda Moore, Rachel Morris, Lula Drinkard, Garland Plunkett, Dorothy Covington, Clarkie Evans, Catherine Lucado, Willie Jobe, Christine Paulette, Alice Lee Smith, Eloise O'Brien, Ruth Morris, Ruby Woolridge.

**Juniors**—Mary Smith, Thelma Morris, Jean Richardson, Dorothy Stelle, Mabel Cralle, Nellie Turnes, Verna Paris, Lillian Davidson, Helen Evans, Ruby Cole, Frances Marshall, Louise Lewis, Lawrence Moore, Lynwood Paulette, Hilda Abbitt, Thomas Taylor, Verna Kern, Newton Jennings, Katherine Davidson, Herbert Abbitt, Maud Burnette, Anne O'Brien.

**Sophomores**—Melvin Caldwell, Pearl Burnette, Helen Marshall, Virginia Christian, Ida Mae Mehurin, Jack Scott, Robert Cawthorne, F. E. Jennings, Marion Payne, Margaret Harris, Evelyn Martin, Eleanor Carson, Lester Wingfield, Elizabeth Drinkard, Elizabeth Trent, Reva Robertson, Evelyn Stewart, Willie Guthrie Anderson, Meredith Evans, Erna Dickerson.

**Freshmen**—Scott Sears, Sarah Drinkard, Alma Carson, Sarah F. Pretlow, Hazel Chilton, Catherine Tweedy, Elizabeth Harris, Louise Turnes, Lorine Martin, Edith Lucado, Willis Carter, Dorothy Sears, Thelma Torrence, Virginia Beale, Frances Smith, Odelle Ranson, Susie Plunkett, Polly Furbush, Edward Harvey, Louise Christian, Kuper Clore, Jane Burke, Edith Cole, Eloise Abbitt, Joe Paulette.

**Seventh Grade**—Noten Webb, Alfred Torrence, Jesse Torrence, William Moon, Bass Christian, Lucille Ferguson, Virginia Hall, Thelma King, Elizabeth LeGrand, Caroline Moses.

**Sixth Grade**—Alene Buchanan, Lois Chilton, Virginia Cralle, Beatrice Godsey, Isabelle Marshall, Rachel Moon, Alice Ringham, Pat Sears, Edith Smith, Leslie Gordon, Maurice Gordon, John C. Mitchell, Wylie Richardson, Mervyn Williamson.

**Fifth Grade**—Richard F. Burke, Jack Cawthorn, Burkley Guill, Katherine Burge, Mary Owen Carson, Marjorie Evans, Dorothy Godsey, Lorene Godsey, Maxine Glenn, Catherine Goin, Katherine Jones, Erma Mann, Laura Kinney, Bertha Torrence, Virginia Doss, Virginia Moses.

**Fourth Grade**—Dorothy Ferguson, Earle Guill, Gladys King, Lucille Moon, Pauline Seay, Emma Davidson, Mildred Christian, Avis Godsey, William Moore, Floyd Bingham, Fred Thompson, Gordon Doss, Ethel Jamerson, Lula Hall, Rebecca Richardson, Tessie Mays, Arthur Blackwell, Della Doss, Lena Stanley, Raymond Hall.

**Third Grade**—Fred Godsey, L. E. Giles, Jr., Glenola Trent, Baynith Moore, Harold Cawthorn, David Christian, Billy Evans, Thomas Guill, Garland Morris, Charles T. Moses, Iiah Buchanan, Charlotte Day, Constance Fulp, Frances Gordon, Mary Martin, Louise Woolridge.

**Second Grade**—Harry Burge, Robert Allen Sears, Billy Moses, Bud Ould, Herman Lee, William McFadden, Minor Hawley, Ivanhoe Bryant, Fred Hanenkrat, Dorothy Lee Johnson, Edith Schutt, Martha Thornhill, Edith Martin, Mary Jones, Ruby Jenkins, Virginia Dare Ide, Hilda Dinkins.

**First Grade—B**—Margaret Babcock, Doris Guill, David Reid, Gilbert Mays, Aubrey Doss, Helen Smith, Elma Giles, Laura Giles, Zada Stanley, Rachel Ferguson, Edith Hardy, Ruby Hudgins, Eva Martin.

**First Grade—A**—John Hall, J. L. Cates, R. B. Hudgins, Frances Mays, Clara Whitney Moses, Billy Ford, Hilda Hudson, Frances Woolridge, Inez Giles, Dot Buchanan, Raymond Johnson, Kathleen Agee, E. T. Lane, Frank Woolridge, Margaret Fulp.

**ACTION OF THE APPOMATTOX COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD**

**MAY 5, 1913**

**Source: Newspaper Clipping**

Whereas, This Board is informed of the intended resignation of Mr. J. K. Hannah, our efficient Superintendent of Schools of Appomattox County, and whereas the Board deems it fitting that a record of their estimate of his long and faithful services, to our County and schools be preserved:

Therefore, Be it Resolved, That this Board in meeting assembled desires to express its unanimous endorsement and recognition of the faithful and efficient services rendered by our retiring superintendent, to the schools of this County, that it is the sense of this body that Appomattox County has been most fortunate, in having for its Superintendent for such a long and continued period of time, our beloved Superintendent.

His services have been with an eye single to the best interests of our County and its schools. He has served both patrons, pupils, taxpayers and this Board most kindly, constantly and efficiently. He has spared no pains or trouble or personal inconvenience to render the work of our schools progressive, honest and up-to-date. He has ever aided this Board in its problems, and has always been patient, polite and helpful to the teachers of our County, and has in every way incumbent on his office, made his services of a high and satisfactory nature.

This Board desires to express their personal regard for Mr. Hannah and to let it appear upon the records of this meeting, that its members personally and on behalf of the citizens of this County, feel a deep sense of loss in severing the official ties that have bound us so long in school work.

And in conclusion wish to record their high esteem for him as Superintendent, citizen and gentlemen.

And further, instructs its Secretary to send a copy of this resolution through the mail to Mr. Hannah.

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**RESOLUTION TO THE FAMILY OF ROBERT CRAIG**

**February 4, 1952**

The School Board passed the following Resolution and directed that a copy be sent to the family of Robert Craig:

Be it resolved by The County School Board of Appomattox, at session this 7<sup>th</sup> day of January, 1952:

FIRST, we express to the family of Robert Craig, our sincere sympathy;

SECOND, Robert Craig served the County of Appomattox as Custodian of the Appomattox High School for nearly 40 years in a most efficient and satisfactory manner;

THIRD, that he endeared himself to both pupils and faculty over this long period of service;

FOURTH, he was a good citizen, good man, and beloved by all who knew him. He was a force of good in his community and will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

It is further resolved by the School Board, that a copy of these resolutions be sent to the family of Robert Craig.

**NOTE:** This resolution was signed by T. Dewitt Evans, Chairman; J. A. Davidson, Member; T. J. Ligon, Member; and J. A. Burke, Superintendent



Appomattox, Virginia  
March 26, 1940

Mr. T. R. Kestner

Dear Patron:

I take this method to tell you how pleased we are to be able to congratulate you and to tell you of the development and splendid progress we believe your children, Clarine and Lacy, are making at school. I know you must be proud of them. We are.

Aside from our regular routine reports, I have talked with the teachers and they join me in saying that they are learning well, are very courteous and always loyal to you and his school—three prime qualities. We regret we can not make this report of all our pupils.

We are also very thankful for our new school building and all of us can easily see how much better work both pupil and teacher can do in our new building. We also wish to thank you for your loyal support and hope we may see you more often at the school meetings.

If you have any suggestions to offer for the pupils' benefit, kindly write the Principal on this sheet.

Again congratulating you and them, I am,

Sincerely,

L. Crawley, Principal

Contributed by

Evelyn Kestner Chenault

Sisters: Clarine Kestner Mays

Faye Bugg

Frances Guill

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#### FROM THE DESK OF JANE HIX

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to recommend Mrs. Louise Martin for the VHSL Hall of Fame Coaches' Award. I can think of no other person who would be as deserving as Mrs. Martin for this high honor.

Mrs. Martin was my Volleyball, Basketball and Softball coach at Appomattox County High School during the years of 1969-1973. After high school I attended and graduated from Radford College majoring in Health and Physical Education. I have coached Varsity Basketball for 10 years, taught P. E. and have been a Guidance Counselor for 12 years.

The values Mrs. Martin taught me have stayed with me all of my life. I have used them in my personal life, my classroom, and in my coaching and counseling.

Mrs. Martin taught priorities to young people. Be true to yourself - respect others - work hard - academics first - God and family above everything. Have fun - enjoy success - learn from your defeats - respect your teachers - listen and you shall learn - be patient with yourself and others - be a kid - take responsibility - be a leader - help others less talented than you - and learn to laugh at your mistakes.

Winning records were nice in my playing and coaching days, but not as nice as the memories. I will always have the relationships and lessons of life learned from the best coaching role model I've ever known, MRS. LOUISE MARTIN.

Shirley C. Eye  
Principal  
Phone: 352-7146

*Appomattox County High School*

Route 5, Box 630  
Appomattox, Virginia 24522  
July 20, 1993

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:**

Nominating Louise Lewis Martin for the Virginia High School Hall of Fame is a humbling experience because this lady is a hero among all who know her. She had the unique quality of motivating her students to do their best as evidenced by her teaching/coaching record, and this quality continues today as she serves as a role model not only for senior citizens but youth and middle-aged persons as well.

Mrs. Martin conducted her coaching with dignity and style and never had a technical called on her by an official. Her stats, as stated elsewhere in the application, are most impressive, and it should be noted that Mrs. Martin coached girls' sports at a time when they did not receive the recognition given boys' athletics. Currently, Mrs. Martin is a vital member of the ACTIONS Committee aiding in the effort to have a new athletic complex constructed on the Appomattox County High School campus.

Physical fitness and running have become a part of her life. At 77 years of age, this lady clocks at least 2000 miles per year as she trains and participates in the following competitions:

- Appomattox Joe Sweeney 10K
- Virginia Ten Miler (placing first in her age group six out of ten years)
- Charlottesville Ten Miler (placing first five out of five years)
- Richmond, Williamsburg, and Roanoke Half-Marathons (first place)
- Virginia Golden Olympics (gold medal winner)
- National Senior Olympics (gold, silver, and bronze)
- Southeastern Masters International Track, Field, and Long Distance Championships (gold medal winner)

Mrs. Martin's recent accomplishments are included to serve as an example of the competitive nature she possessed as a coach even though the state competition for girls were limited during her career. She was a pioneer among female coaches and had an active part in organizing and initiating both softball and volleyball in the Seminole District. What a monument unto itself that at least fifteen of her former students have become physical education teachers (as is one of her daughters) or gone on to participate in intercollegiate sports! Louise Lewis Martin richly deserves to be placed among the recipients of this singular VHSL Hall of Fame award.

Shirley C. Eye

November 23, 1992

**To Whom It May Concern:**

I am writing this letter to recommend my former coach, Louise Lewis Martin, for the Virginia High School League Coaches Hall of Fame. Mrs. Martin had a very special talent for combining love, strategy, and sportsmanship. She instilled these qualities among her players and was respected by Seminole District coaches as well. Mrs. Martin approached each game with tenacity and zest. Regardless of physical strengths and attributes, Mrs. Martin "molded" a team exhibiting persistence, character, and discipline.

Mrs. Martin's example had such an overwhelming effect on her players' lives. She served as a coach, mentor, and parent to so many young girls. She was always caring and concerned when problems invaded her players' lives. I will always be thankful for the love and interest she gave me during the sudden death of my brother. She spent many hours helping me to channel my grief, plan for my future, and steady my life in general. Her concern and inspiration propelled me toward a successful college career.

I often reflect upon Mrs. Martin's great example and contributions in the high school sports' arena. My career as a teacher reflects so many of the important ideas she imparted to me under her tenure. Louise Lewis Martin should be recognized for her superior tangible and intangible contributions to the athletic realm of interscholastic sports. She will be remembered in highest esteem by both coaches and players respectfully.

Sincerely,

Mary McCraw Scott  
(A player from 1970-1974)

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August 16, 1999

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:**

It is an honor for me to recommend Mrs. Louise Martin for *ATHLETE OF THE YEAR*. I have known her for 25 years and she has been a mentor, role model and Christian example as we have worked together in many facets of the Appomattox community. Presently I work with her on the American Heart Association Board, the Appomattox County Retired Teachers and United Methodist Women at Memorial United Methodist Church.

Mrs. Martin is a Christian leader and brings much acclaim to the athletic programs in Appomattox County and Central and Southside Virginia. She was instrumental in fund raising efforts for the new Appomattox County High School Stadium complex. Her leadership is evident throughout the sports community as she continues to mentor and guide many young families, youth, and community leaders.

I had the pleasure and privilege to work with and hire persons who had Mrs. Martin as a teacher and coach. The influence she has had on many lives has contributed to stronger families and homes, stronger youth organizations, and a better community and world.

Her participation and achievements in the Commonwealth Games as well as her participation and leadership in community organizations have had far reaching effects on the lives of others. I know of no one who gives more to others to help them grow and develop with positive attitudes and sportsmanship qualities.

As I have worked with Mrs. Martin through the years, I have seen her reach out to the most unlikely athlete and nurture that youngster into a winner. She has the special touch of a caring, loving person who can bring out the best in everyone wherever she is involved. This is seen as she runs races, does devotions for her Sunday School Class, or works with a homebound church member.

Louise Martin is truly the **ATHLETE OF THE YEAR** in everyday life, on a basketball court or wherever you find her participating. I urge you to select her for this award and honor.

Sincerely,

Shirley W. Walton, District Director, Retired  
Virginia Cooperative Extension

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**A TRIBUTE TO DORA TURNER**  
By Kayla Gaynel Coleman, Age 12

This is a tribute to a Mrs. Dora Turner who is very dear to my life and surroundings. I am thanking her.

This all starts out when I first moved here three years ago, and I first went to the church I am a member of now. I was a little nervous because this was going to be the new church I was soon going to be a member of. As she does with all children I became one of Mrs. Turner's kids and church was a home away from home. And basically I grew to have two mothers instead of one. It was bad getting into trouble because I had to answer to two mothers instead of one. I stopped getting in as much trouble after that.

Not only is Mrs. Turner my "Mom away from Mom" she is also my tutor and my friend. She isn't a bad person, actually the best, most important one in the Town of Appomattox because she has a VERY BIG heart. Her heart is so big that if it was on the outside she would have to carry it in a big picnic basket.

I remember when I was in the fifth grade I was failing math and she told me I was going to learn this concept if it killed me. I knew this was the best person to go to because she was a math teacher. So one Saturday she called me and told me to bring my math book so we could study. I did and we studied for hours.

So you can see why she is a must to the community of Appomattox. I am glad she is a part of my life and I love her a lot.

---

**RULES FOR TEACHERS-1872**

1. *Teachers each day will fill lamps, clean chimneys.*
2. *Each teacher will bring a bucket of water and a scuttle of coal for the day's session.*
3. *Make your pens carefully. You may whittle ribs to the individual taste of the pupils.*
4. *Men teachers may take one evening each week for courting purposes, or two evenings a week if they go to church regularly.*
5. *After ten hours in school, the teachers may spend the remaining time reading the Bible or other good books.*
6. *Women teachers who marry or engage in unseemly conduct will be dismissed.*
7. *Every teacher should lay aside from each pay a goodly sum of his earnings for his benefit during his declining years so that he will not become a burden on society.*
8. *Any teacher who smokes, uses liquor in any form, frequents pool or public halls, or gets shaved in a barber shop will give good reason to suspect his worth, intention, integrity and honesty.*
9. *The teacher who performs his labor faithfully and without fault for five years will be given an increase of twenty-five cents per week in his pay, providing the Board of Education approves.*

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**CODE OF ETHICS OF THE  
APPOMATTOX COUNTY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION-1938**

In order that the welfare of the teaching profession may be promoted, and that the teachers may bring to their professional relations high standards of conduct, the Appomattox County Teachers' Association has adopted this code of ethics.



## **I. RELATIONS WITH PUPILS AND TO THE COMMUNITY**

1. The teacher should exercise his full rights as a citizen but he should avoid expressing too freely opinions and interests in politics, religion or economics.
2. The teacher should exercise at all times understanding, sympathy, appreciation, tolerance, justice, and firmness toward pupils.
3. The teacher should seek to establish friendly and intelligent cooperation between the home and the school.
4. The professional relations of the teacher with his pupils demand the same careful guarding of confidential and official information as is observed by other professions.
5. The teacher should take part in the life and activities of the community.

## **II. RELATIONS TO THE PROFESSION**

1. Members of the teaching profession should dignify their calling in every way.
2. Teachers should maintain efficiency by reading, by study, and by keeping in touch with educational organizations.
3. While not limiting his services by reason of small salary, the teacher should insist upon a salary scale suitable to his place in society.
4. The teacher should make an effort to carry out the policies of administrators
5. The teacher should not engage in anything that would be likely to draw unfavorable criticism upon himself or the school system.

## **III. RELATION TO MEMBERS OF THE PROFESSION**

1. A teacher should neither engage in nor listen to unfavorable criticism of his or her fellow teachers.
2. A teacher should not interfere between another teacher and a pupil in matters such as discipline or marking.
3. There should be cooperation between administrators and classroom teachers founded upon sympathy for each others' point of view and recognition of the administrator's right to leadership and the teacher's right to self-expression. Both teachers and administrators should observe professional courtesy by transacting official business with the properly designated person next in rank.
4. The members of the faculty of each school should work together for the best interest of that particular school.
5. Envy, jealousy, and gossip have no place among professionally trained teachers.
6. Testimonials regarding a teacher should be frank, candid, and confidential.
7. A contract, once signed, should be faithfully adhered to until it is dissolved by mutual consent.
8. Due notification should be given by school officials and teachers in case a change in position is to be made.

### **HELPING THE BEGINNING TEACHER**

"God dropped a spark down into everyone,  
And if we find and fan it to a blaze,  
It'll spring up and glow - like, like, the sun,  
And light the wandering out of stony ways."

~John Masefield

---

### **THE OLD SCHOOL HOUSE**

It stands by the wayside beneath an old tree.  
Where I frolicked in childhood, light-hearted and free.  
'Tis rude and timeworn, and the weather stained door  
Is carved with deep crosses and marked o'er and o'er,  
With drawings and names by childish hands traced,—  
Here, a part of a man, with the head quite effaced,  
But with shape and proportion ne'er intended by nature,

The body a child's but a giant in stature.  
 The half open door to my view has disclosed  
 The benches and desks still standing in rows,  
 All duly notched, where some idle boy sat,  
 And worn smooth where his elbows rubbed, this way and that.  
 The desk of the master , his inkstand and rule,  
 Where he set all the copies while he eyed the whole school.  
 On the desk close beside, where the ferule is laid,  
 Confiscated apples and tops are displayed;  
 Unchanged do they seem, and still standing there,  
 Are the pail and tin cup, and the master's arm chair;  
 And still in the center, all eaten with rust,  
 The old stove and its pipe, thickly covered with dust,  
 On the three legs is resting, the fourth broke and gone,  
 Is supplied by a brick for its weight to rest on;  
 The papers and ashes lie scattered about,  
 The bits of old pens with the feathers notched out,  
 The marks on the wall, the ink on the floor,  
 E'en the smoke on the ceiling's the same as of yore.  
 Hark! the voice of the child, thro' the half open door,  
 Who cons, in faint treble, his dull lesson o'er  
 And the other, who yawns with his arms o'er his head,  
 And sighs as he wishes his lesson was said;  
 Still deeper and longer, and more weary his sighs,  
 When he turns to the window his sleepy grey eyes,  
 And sees in the field the lambs skipping at play,  
 And envies their freedom this sweet summer day,  
 And believes in his heart that happy he'd be,  
 If he like the lambs, could only be free  
 To gambol and frolic, to stand or to run,  
 To lie down on the bank and bask in the sun;  
 But oh! this high bench, where his little short legs  
 Hang dangling, benumbed and lifeless as pegs,  
 While vainly he tries to reach with his toes  
 The too distant floor. Oh! these are the woes  
 Which many a child in his school yore knows.



Poem printed in the *DEMOCRATIC REVIEW* in 1846

---

#### TREE OF EDUCATION

A might Tree of Giant Strength  
 With Branches fixed so low,  
 That all may grasp its lower Limbs,  
 Was planted by Almighty Power,  
 With Purpose most sublime,  
 Its Praise is sung by every Tongue,  
 In every Land and Clime.

The Tree of Learning is the Work  
 Of Nature's highest Art,  
 And Men and Women are but Leaves,  
 A very simple Part;

But thro these leaves the Tree breathes Life  
And this Empyrean Tree  
Will stand a living Monument  
Throughout Eternity.

---

#### VACATION DAYS

'Tis sweet to know there comes a rest,  
To those who labor hard.  
That toil is sweetened with a zest,  
Because of its reward.

There is not excellence in life,  
No heights we can attain,  
Unless we struggle in the strife,  
Resolved the prize to gain.

Our youth's the seedtime when we sow,  
The seed in virgin mold,  
That future harvest may o'erflow  
In fruit a hundred fold.

And then the mind will be refined  
In the crucible of yore  
And more and more will be inclined  
On higher wings to soar.

This work shop call'd a school we now  
A little while suspend,  
To give its workers time somehow,  
Vacation's path to wend.

Our school is closed, our tasks are done  
Farewell, my pupils dear;  
I'll you remember, ev'ry one,  
tho absent, far or near.  
Your Teacher.

---

#### THE RULES FOR WRITING (In Verse)

(Source: Locker Writing Manual - 1919)

##### 1 — Preparation

Clear off the seat, the desk, the mind,  
Of useless rubbish — every kind;  
And sense the task, in bridled will;  
The cause will prosper to "Be still."

##### 2 — Position

Body erect, the feet placed flat,  
The little "arrow: points you at;  
Left hold paper and right guide pen;  
THINK you, about the next step then.

##### 3 — Movement

The movement is no slight nor trick,

But resting on the forearm — thick,  
While the hand, in direction trails,  
To and from you, upon the nails.

#### 4 — Practice

In practice then, you should discern,  
The start, the end, and every turn.  
Adjust your THINK, revise your SEE,  
Decide what likeness is to be.

#### 5 — Application

Practice, you know, is to the end,  
That you may all your writing mend;  
In Spelling, English, all the time,  
Let thought and act in purpose rhyme.

#### 6 — Remember

You'll do it not — or do it well,  
As you observe this warning knell,  
"By Direction," that's sounding clear,  
And for your guidance written here.

#### 7 — Don't

Don't write without the best of tools,  
And build your structure by these RULES  
Architect of aspiration,  
Follow "Plan and Specification."

---

### WHEN YOU WRITE

(Source: Locker Easy Method Writing - 1919)

(1)

WHEN YOU WRITE, what do you THINK  
What vision have you for your ink?  
What beauty, form and grace are here,  
To speed you business or your cheer?

(2)

WHEN YOU WRITE, do you discern,  
The grace of line for which all yearn?  
What picture would you here portray,  
To grace your letter, on its way?

(3)

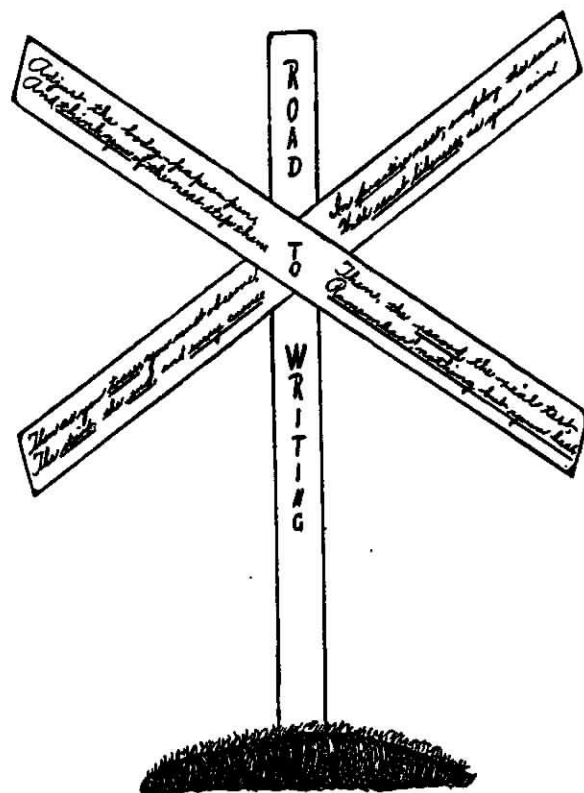
WHEN YOU WRITE, do you divine,  
Your likeness is thus writ in line?  
How will your friend impress-ed be,  
With this picture, "inked" of thee?

(4)

WHEN YOU WRITE, you should disdain,  
To give another needless pain;  
But rather by your pains and art,  
"Anoint the eyes" and cheer the heart?

(5)

WHEN YOU WRITE, what do you hope,  
To "glide" along on aimless dope,  
And thus in the "Despond Of Slough,"  
Take refuge in "don't know how?"





(6)

WHEN YOU WRITE, invoke your will,  
To climb with courage, up the hill,  
To learn a lesson from the ant,  
And in this purpose banish "can't."

(7)

WHEN YOU WRITE, you should employ,  
The forms of culture, grace and joy;  
To Locker Writing—make your bow,  
On this one fact, "I DO KNOW HOW."

---

## RESEARCH TIDBITS

### Education in Appomattox County

- The Edgewood Academy School began with good attendance October 10, 1898 in Spout Spring. Miss Emma Smith was the teacher..
- Evergreen School was opened in 1904. A fiftieth anniversary of the school was celebrated on October 22, 1954.
- APPOMATTOX WAS INDIAN! How did Appomattox get its name? You've guessed it, from a tribe of Indians. It was the name of an Indian village at the mouth of a river of the same name. It was visited by Captain Newport in May, 1607, and in Captain John Smith's history of 1608 it was referred to as "Agamatack" and as "Apamatuc." In 1612 Strachey called it "Appamtucks." In 1622 the Council of Virginia spelled it "Apo-Mattucke." Other old spellings were: "Apamatuck, Appamatuck and Appamatuke."
- The first school bus from Gladstone to Appomattox was in 1929-1930. The bus was driven by John Hesson. The "bus" was a truck with a homemade body on the back.
- J. A. Burke, in 1954, reported that he had received a statement from the Department of Education that they would allow seven cents per mile travel to all vocational teachers. The School Board thought this was reasonable in view of the increased cost of transportation and approved the increase.
- In 1964 a ten-classroom addition was constructed at the Carver Price High School.

### Education in Virginia

- The first free school was established in Elizabeth City County in 1643.
- In 1900 only 6.4% of pupils finished high school.
- A new state constitution reaffirmed the mandate for public education in 1902.
- A teacher's retirement fund was established in 1906.
- Funds were appropriated for the establishment of school libraries in 1906.
- In 1910 the first high school course of study was issued by the State Board of Education.
- The John F. Slater Fund started programs for Negro high schools in 1911.
- In 1912 there were 394 public high schools in Virginia. 177 were four year schools, of which 101 were accredited.
- Funds were appropriated to increase teacher salaries and lengthen the term in one and two room schools in 1914.
- In 1916 school building expenditures totaled \$1,272,138 - a new high for the State of Virginia.
- A collegiate professional certificate was issued for the first time in 1917.
- In 1917 the Julius Rosenwald Fund provided financial support for school construction, pupil transportation and longer school terms for Negro students.
- The development of vocational education programs was begun in 1918 when the General Assembly charged the State Board of Education for the responsibility.
- In 1921 the public school enrollment totaled 513,078 and the total value of school

- buildings was estimated at \$25,216,824.
- Statutory amendment altered compulsory school age to between eight and 14 in 1922.
- A five point pupil health correctional program was initiated in 1927.
- In 1928 the compulsory school age increased to between seven and 15.
- In 1929 a program of vocational and educational guidance was initiated by the State Department of Education.
- Practice teaching programs were initiated in 1932.
- As economy measures in 1933, state appropriations were reduced by 30 percent and state support of summer schools was discontinued.
- Elementary and vocational education programs were strengthened, music education programs were inaugurated, and the school term was lengthened in 1935.
- By the action of the General Assembly, a division of rehabilitation and special and adult education was added in 1938 to the State Department of Education.
- During 1938 audio visual education was receiving emphasis.
- Programs were initiated to provide funds for pupil transportation in 1941.
- In 1942 a seven-point wartime program for schools was developed as well as a manual of administration for high schools.
- Compulsory school age was raised to 16 in 1944.
- In-service training programs for teachers began to receive emphasis in 1944.
- The year 1945 resulted in funding for twelve-month employment of principals, the initiation of a visiting teacher program, and the establishment of a general supervisor position in school divisions.
- In 1946 a statement of policy outlining a comprehensive program of education was developed and a twelve-grade school system established.
- A serious shortage, of both teachers and school buildings, was prevalent in 1947. Thus, a teacher scholarship plan was inaugurated.
- In 1948 the supervision of school lunch programs was initiated.
- Kindergarten programs were authorized in 1953.
- In 1954 new elementary curriculum materials were issued.
- In 1958 the State Department of Education reorganized creating a division of secondary education and division of elementary and special education.
- School fire safety programs were initiated in 1959. Comprehensive pupil testing programs were also begun that year.
- Revisions were made in 1960 to the teachers certification requirements, school building regulations and standards for high school accreditation. State appropriations for teachers' salaries increased that year.
- In 1962 funds were appropriated for educational television facilities in teacher training institutions and driver education programs were strengthened by authorization of additional support funds.
- A Master of Arts degree in teaching received funding from the General Assembly in 1963.
- Elementary schools were accredited for the first time in 1964.
- In 1965 vocational programs expanded, statewide programs were initiated to provide textbooks, and federally supported programs were broadened and intensified.
- Sales tax revenues were designated for public education in 1966.
- The Virginia Constitution mandated in 1971 that public schools be of "high quality" and develop Standards of Quality. These standards were enacted in 1972.
- In 1973 the first Governor's Schools Program was established.
- The entry age for public schools was lowered to age five in 1976.
- The compulsory attendance age was raised from 17 to 18 in 1989 and corporal punishment was prohibited in the public schools.
- In 2000 the percentage of pupils finishing high school was 69%.

## ADMINISTRATORS OF APPOMATTOX COUNTY SCHOOLS

### Superintendents

Chap H. Chilton————1871-1885  
 Rev. J. B. Bristow ———1885-1896  
 Chap H. Chilton ———1896 - 1897  
 J. K. Hannah————1897-1913  
 N. R. Featherston————1913-1926  
 J. A. Burke ———1926-1962  
 Earl J. Smith, Jr.————1962-1972  
 Eugene W. Peyton————1972-1973  
 Lloyd G. Walton————1973-1991  
 Joyce C. Jamerson————1991-1992  
 Jack Thomas————1992-1997  
 Walter F. Krug————1997-Present

### Appomattox Agricultural High School

Lindsay Crawley————1908-1947

### Appomattox High School

John E. Peters————1947-1949  
 Howard Kerr————1949-1956  
 Kenneth W. Christopher————1956-1957  
 O. Grant Rush————1957-1961  
 Frank C. Chuchek————1961-1972  
 Wayne Tucker————1972-1973

### Appomattox County High School

Cecil B. Tillery, Jr.————1973-1976  
 Donald L. Armentrout————1976-1987  
 Shirley C. Eye————1987-1998  
 Michael Wills————1998-Present

### Carver-Price High School

Rev. Arthur E. Jordan————1930-1932  
 C. A. Pennington————Early 40's  
 Sam E. Ewell————1946-1948  
 John T. Butler————1949 -1952  
 Richard E. Patrick ———1952-1961  
 Maurice M. Robinson————1961-1962  
 T. W. Marby————1962-1969  
 Lee Alvin Beamon————1969-1970

### Appomattox Intermediate School

Lee Alvin Beamon————1970-1973  
 Daniel W. Davis————1973-1974

### Appomattox Middle School

Daniel W. Davis————1974-1975  
 Hezteine Foster————1975-1991  
 Leverne L. Marshall————1991-1993  
 Emily Thompson————1993-1997  
 Gregg Wheeler————1997 - Present



**Appomattox Elementary School**

Flora Belle Williams	1932-1963
Randall Hill	1963-1965
Eugene Peyton	1965-1967
Roland Canada	1967-1969
Jean A. Hesson	1970-1972
Tommy Johnson	1972-1973
Pat T. Torrence	1973-1974
Robert Williamson	1974-1979
Terry L. Quesenberry	1979-1980
Charles T. Bowmann	1980-1985
Janice M. Marston	1985-2000
Shirley C. Eye	2001-Present

**Appomattox Primary School (This school became the Primary School in 1974)**

Pat T. Torrence	1974-1984
Shirley C. Eye	1984-1987
Carolyn Coleman	1987-1991
Barbara Jackson	1991- Present

Remember the child. Pour out  
light and truth as God pours  
sunshine and rain. No longer seek  
knowledge as the luxury of a few,  
but dispense it amongst all as the  
bread of life. Summon the mightiest  
intellects: collect whatever talent  
or erudition or eloquence or authority  
the broad land can supply, and Go Forth  
and Teach this people.

Horace Mann

I view it (education)  
as the most important  
subject which we as a  
people can be engaged  
in.

Abraham Lincoln



## APPOMATTOX COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS --MEMBERSHIP 2000-2001

ALDERSON, ELIZABETH  
ALVIS, KATHERINE M.  
BABCOCK, VIRGINIA M.  
BEASLEY, HARRIETTE  
BOOKER, BETTY S.  
BRIGHTWELL, SADIE W.  
BRYAN, BETTY A.  
BRYANT, MARY FRANCES  
CARTER, BOLLING C.  
CARTER, MARIAN  
CONNER, DORA A.  
CUNNINGHAM, HARRIETTE  
CYRUS, VIRGINIA  
DICKERSON, NANCY M.  
DOSS, GERTRUDE  
ELDER, JULIA  
ELLIOTT, SARAH  
EYE, SHIRLEY  
FERGUSON, EASLEY  
FERRELL, LUCILLE C.  
FOREST, DOLLYE L.  
FOSTER, HEZTEINE  
FOXWELL, LOIS M.  
GLOVER, MARGARET M.  
GOODE, VIRGINIA  
GOWIN, BARBARA  
HALEY, MARY JANE  
HARVEY, CECIL S.  
HARVEY, DORIS W.  
HOLT, MAE M.  
INGE, ETTA R.  
JAMES, HARRIET P.  
JIMISON, DON  
JIMISON, DOROTHY  
JOHNSON, HENRIETTA P.  
JOHNSON, MARBELLA  
JONES, NANCY C.  
KNIGHT, CHRISTINE  
KRUG, JANICE  
LAWSON, MERLE  
LEWIS, FRANCES  
MARTIN, LOUISE L.  
MARTIN, SALLIE M.  
MCCORMICK, EDITH N.  
MCCOY, CHRISTINE  
MCCRAW, ESTALINE A.  
MCLEAN, LENA H.  
MILLS, DOROTHY JEAN  
MITCHELL, ROBERTA  
MOON, GLADYS  
MOON, MARGARET  
O'BRIEN, CLAUDINE

O'BRIEN, MARGARET  
O'BRIEN, SHIRLEY H.  
PARRIS, LOUISE  
PAULETTE, H. A.  
PAYNE, WALTER JOSEPH  
PICKETT, BARBARA  
RANDOLPH, AGNES  
ROBERTS, ELIZABETH  
ROWE, SUDIE  
SCRUGGS, DIANNE  
SHELTON, BARBARA  
SIMPSON, WANDA  
TURNER, CELESTRAL  
TURNER, DORA W.  
UNDERWOOD, MAUDE  
WALTON, LLOYD G.  
WALTON, SHIRLEY W.  
WEBB, JOSEPHINE C.  
WEBB, RUTH H.  
WEST, ARNETTA C.  
WYATT, HENRY L., II

JANUARY, 2001

**APPOMATTOX COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS  
OFFICERS — 2000-2002**



**Pictured above left to right are:**

**Harriette C. Beasley, Historian  
Dora Turner, Treasurer  
Margaret M. Glover, Secretary  
Estaline A. McCraw, President  
Celestral S. Turner, Vice President**

**Because our schools help  
shape the mind and character  
of our youth, the strength or  
weakness of our educational  
system today will go far to  
determine the strength or  
weakness of our national  
wisdom and our national  
morality tomorrow. That is  
why it is essential to our  
nation that we have good  
schools. And their quality  
depends on all of us.**

**Dwight D. Eisenhower**

65.95

Mrs. Teresa Hamlet

Appomattox, Virginia  
June 18th, 1943

TO: COUNTY TEACHERS  
 FROM: J. A. BURKE, SUPERINTENDENT  
 SUBJECT: FINAL SALARY PAYMENT

We take pleasure in sending herewith warrant covering the final salary due you for 1942-43. This amount is figured, as shown below. Please check this and if your calculations do not agree with ours, please notify us promptly and we shall be glad to go over the figures again.

The County Treasurer has requested us to ask each teacher to cash his warrant as soon after receiving it as possible in order that these payments may clear before the end of our fiscal year, June 30th. Thank you very much.

SETTLEMENT FOR 1942-43 SALARY:

9 x \$ 72.50 per month. . . . .	\$ 652.50	CONTRACT SALARY
State and Local Bonus. . . . .	\$ 30.00	
TOTAL ANNUAL SALARY. . . . .	\$ 682.50	

DEDUCTIONS FOR THE YEAR:

War Bonds. . . . .	\$ 18.75
Perm. Casualty prems. . . . .	\$ .00
Va. Retirement System. . . . .	\$ 32.67 ✓
State-Local Dues. . . . .	\$ 1.00
Victory tax to 6/15/43. . . . .	\$ 4.50 ✓
Total. . . . .	\$ 56.92

TOTAL DEDUCTIONS. . . . .	\$ 56.92
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NET SALARY DUE YOU FOR THE YEAR. . . . .	\$ 625.58
--	-----------

Our records show that  
 we have paid you a total  
 to date of. . . . . \$ 557.29

Therefore, balance due you is . . . . .	\$ 68.29
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Subject to final Victory Tax:

\$30.62 - MAY BONUS
68.29 - FINAL PAYMENT

\$98.91 - Total
\$52.00 - Deductible

\$46.91 - Amt. taxable at 5%. . . . .	\$ 2.34	Victory Tax
---------------------------------------	---------	-------------

NET AMT. OF FINAL CHECK \$	65.95
----------------------------	-------

With all good wishes for a very pleasant and prosperous vacation, I am

Sincerely yours,

J. A. BURKE  
 SUPERINTENDENT

This is a 1943 contract for Mrs. Teresa Hamlet.

COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD  
J. O. DAVIDSON, CHAIRMAN  
R. F. D. 4, APPOMATTOX, VA.  
T. DEWITT EVANS  
APPOMATTOX, VA.  
T. J. LIGON  
PAMPLIN, VA.  
ETHEL VNE T. MEGGINSON, CLERK

## Appomattox County Public Schools

DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT  
J. A. BURKE

APPOMATTOX, VIRGINIA

SUPERVISORS  
AUBREY M. KEESEY  
MOZELLA J. PRICE

VISITING TEACHER  
MILDRED ALVIS

### RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED BY The County School Board of Appomattox in session 15th day of June 1953 as follows:

FIRST, That Miss Kate Franklin of Pamplin, Virginia has been a most faithful and efficient instructor of music in the Appomattox School System for a period of forty-three (43) years continuous service.

SECOND, Miss Franklin has not only rendered an outstanding service in her particular field of instruction but her high standard of living and professional ethics has been a shining example.

THIRD, Her influence, patience, and understanding in the guidance of her pupils has been a marked characteristic of her teaching career. She has always felt her obligations and responsibilities for the proper guidance of those young people coming under her influence.

FOURTH, The Board regrets the loss of her services and her activities in the School System will be greatly missed.

We wish for "Miss Kate" a most enjoyable and satisfying and well earned rest from her long useful services.

The Board directed that a copy of this resolution be sent to Miss Franklin and a copy spread on the minutes of the School Board.

SIGNED J. O. Davidson Chairman  
J. A. Davidson Member  
T. J. Ligon Member  
Jersey Burke Superintendent



THIS ARTICLE OF AGREEMENT, between the BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES  
of Green Hill School District of Appomattox County, Virginia,  
of the one part, and Miss Lelia Ferguson of the other part:

WITNESSETH, That the said Miss Ferguson, under the supervision and  
direction of the said Board, but subject, nevertheless, to the visitation and lawful authority of the County Super-  
intendent, agrees to teach in Green Hill schoolhouse for the term of 9  
months at a compensation of Twenty dollars per month,  
for a lawful school, with a lawful average daily attendance of pupils: provided, that any failure on the part of the  
said teacher to report correctly the daily average, as required, to the Superintendent, shall vitiate this contract—  
the said amount to be paid by Warrent

the Board reserving the right to dismiss the said Miss Ferguson at any time, for cause,  
paying her for her services in accordance with this agreement to the date of her dismissal.

It is also agreed that the said Miss Ferguson shall keep the prescribed  
school register (to be furnished by the Clerk of the Board of School Trustees), open school at 9 o'clock in  
the morning, give 2 minutes at 12 o'clock, and close the school at 4 o'clock in the evening  
(a school day shall consist of 6 hours and 0 minutes, and a school month of four weeks of  
five school days each); obey all school laws and regulations, make monthly and term reports to the County Super-  
intendent according to the forms furnished, and return the school register to the Clerk of the Board of Trustees at  
at the end of the term in good order. For the loss or abuse of the school register, or any failure to make a monthly  
or term report to the County Superintendent within three days after the expiration of the month or term, the said  
Miss Ferguson  
shall be subject to a fine at the discretion of the Board, of not more than five dollars—~~the~~ The fine, in all cases,  
to be retained out of the teacher's pay, and to go into the funds of the district for the pay of teachers.

It is further agreed that the fire shall be made, or caused to be made, and the floor shall regularly be swept  
or caused to be swept by the said Miss Ferguson  
the Board providing the fuel, brooms and brushes therefor; and that the actual possession of the schoolhouse  
shall be considered by both parties as remaining and being at all times in the said Board or their successors.

## SPECIAL COVENANT

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, The parties having hereunto set their hands and seals, this 16 day  
of Sept, 189 7.

Attest: L. A. Miller  
Clerk of the Board.

J. H. Dickman, [L. S.]  
Chairman of the Board.

Miss Ferguson, [L. S.]  
Teacher.

# West Appomattox High School.

E. J. Mosley  
Principal

MISS E. V. HARDY,  
First Assistant.

MISS EMMA SMITH,  
Second Assistant.

Report of Mattie Martin  
for second month ending November 27th 1913.

Spelling <u>29 1/2</u>	Latin
Reading <u>85</u>	Latin Ex.
Writing <u>90</u>	Algebra
Arithmetic <u>20</u>	Geometry
Eng. Grammar	U. S. History
Geography	Gen. History
P. A. Study	Biology
Composition	Literature
Efficiency	Department <u>96</u>
Book-keeping	General Average <u>84 1/10</u>

Days present 16 Days absent 3  
Times tardy 3 Imperita 0

Remarks: "Studies well." Report  
sent from being absent  
Miss Mosley Principal. Emma Smith Teacher.

L. G. Martin Parent or Guardian.

Mattie Martin's report card, mother of Roy and Margaret Moon

## MEMBER'S STATUS AND INFORMATIONAL REPORT

## TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, VIRGINIA RETIREMENT SYSTEM:

1. NAME: (Print or type) <b>BURKEY NOLA MAY</b> (Last) (First) (Middle)		7. EMPLOYING AGENCY: <b>Appomattox County</b> (Name of department, institution, agency or local public school board)	
2. HOME ADDRESS: <b>Appomattox, Va.</b>		8. PRESENT RATE OF COMPENSATION: (Exclusive of perquisites) <b>\$80.00</b> per half month <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Month <input type="checkbox"/> Year <input type="checkbox"/>	
3. DATE OF BIRTH: <b>Nov. 26 1905</b> (Month) (Day) (Year)		9. PERQUISITES IN ADDITION TO CASH COMPENSATION: Board <input type="checkbox"/> Room <input type="checkbox"/> Apartment <input type="checkbox"/> House <input type="checkbox"/> Laundry <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Explain "other": _____	
4. SEX: Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
5. RACE: White <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Colored <input type="checkbox"/>			
6. MARITAL STATUS: Single <input type="checkbox"/> Married <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Widowed <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced <input type="checkbox"/>			

10. List below all service rendered prior to July 1, 1942, as a State employee and/or as a teacher or other professional or clerical employee of a local public school board. Use a separate line for each different rate of compensation received between July 1, 1937 and July 1, 1942. You must show the actual rate of compensation for the period following July 1, 1937, but for service before that date you need only to check the proper columns to indicate whether your compensation was paid by the hour, day, week, half month, month or year. Note that service rendered immediately prior to July 1, 1942, should be entered on the bottom line.

DEPARTMENT, INSTITUTION, AGENCY OR SCHOOL BOARD BY WHICH EMPLOYED.	RATE OF COMPENSATION (Prior to last five years merely check proper column if rate not readily obtainable)						FROM		TO		LENGTH OF SERVICE				
	Hourly	Daily	Weekly	Semi-Monthly	Monthly	Yearly	Month	Day	Year	Month	Day	Year	Years	Mos.	Days
Franklin Co. School Board					✓		Sept		1923			1924	1	0	0
Wise Co. School Board					✓		Sept		1924			1926	2	0	0
Appomattox Co. School Board					✓		Sept		1926			1937	11	0	0
Appomattox Co. School Board					25.00		Sept		1937			1938	1	0	0
"					25.00		Sept		1938			1939	1	0	0
"					25.00		Sept		1939			1940	1	0	0
"					25.00		Sept		1940			1941	1	0	0
"					25.00		Sept		1941			1942	1	0	0
TOTAL ALL PRIOR SERVICE (Total each column separately. Do not convert days into months or months into years)													19	0	0

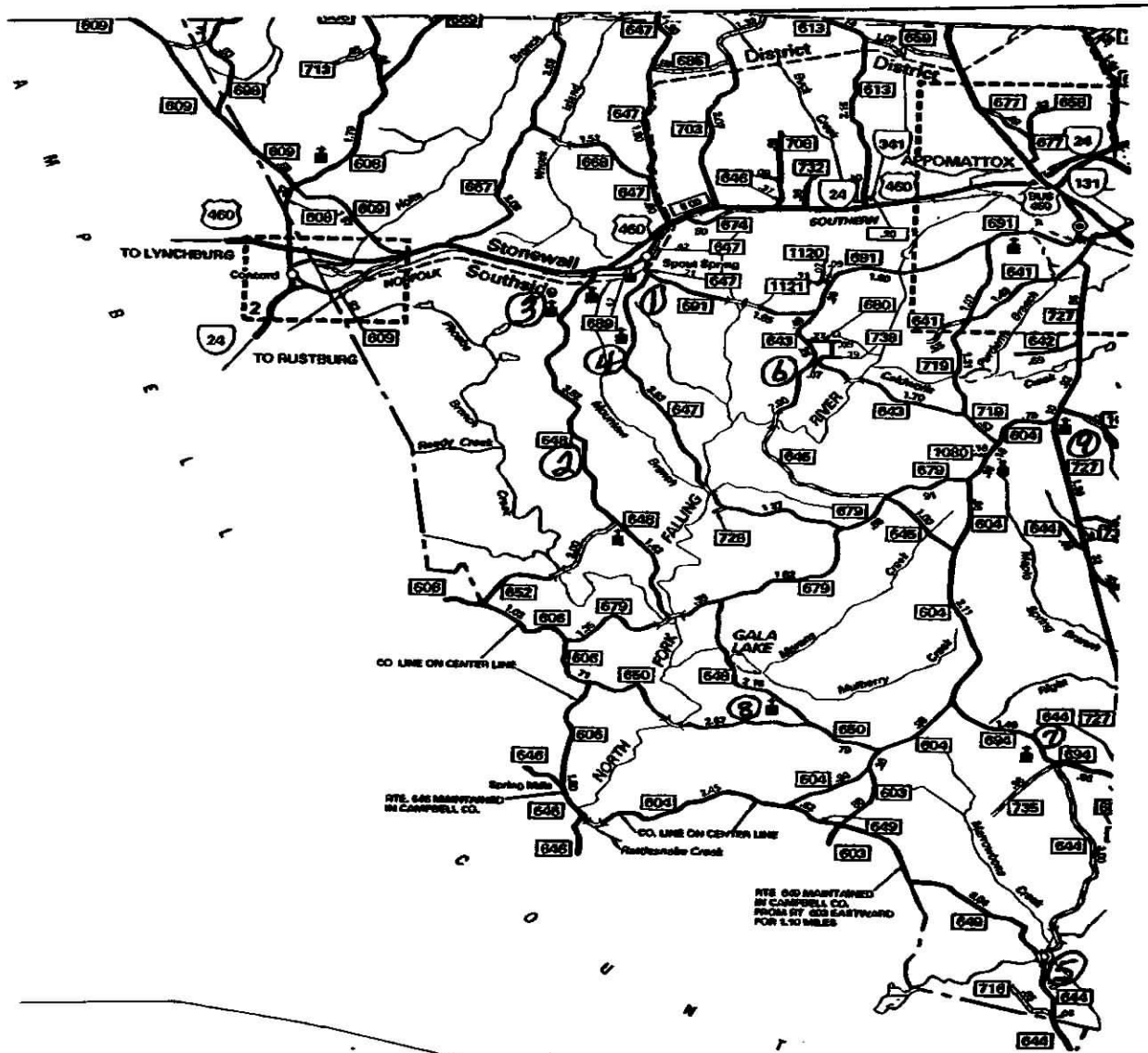
Women married during period of above service, state maiden name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Marriage \_\_\_\_\_ 19\_\_

11. If your contribution rate is more than 5% you may elect to contribute 5% and so more, but by so doing your employee annuity upon retirement will be correspondingly smaller. Do you desire to contribute at the rate of 5% only? Yes ☐ No ☐

12. If you have attained age 65 you need not make any contributions, but if you elect to contribute you will purchase a larger retirement allowance than you would otherwise get. If you have attained age 65 do you desire to make any contributions? Yes ☐ No ☐

# **LOCATIONS OF SCHOOLS DESIGNATED ON 5 SECTIONS OF THE MAP OF APPOMATTOX COUNTY MAP 1**



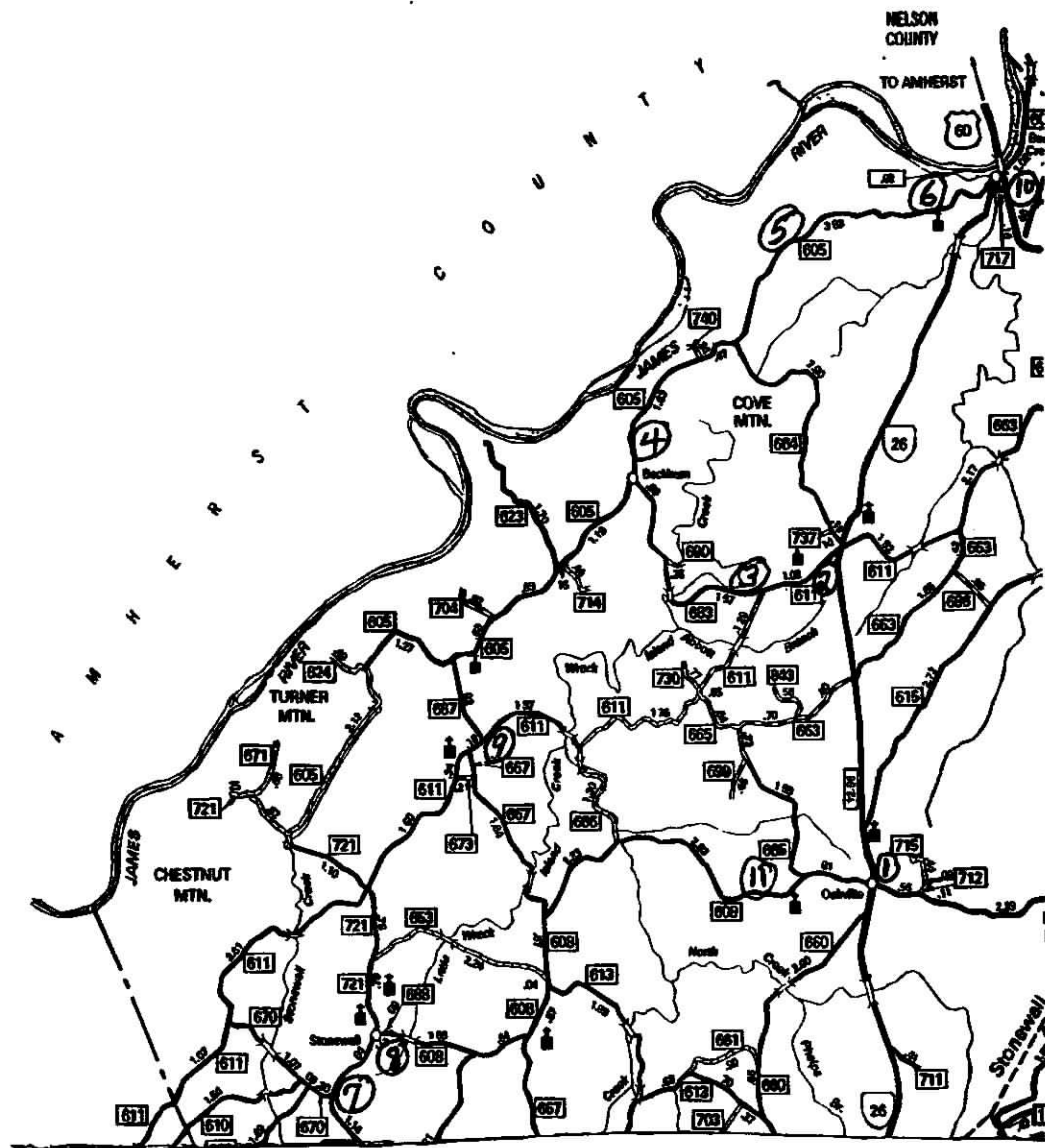
1. Spout Spring
2. Reedy Springs
3. \*Spout Spring
4. Union Academy
5. Pentacost
6. Chilton
7. Chap
8. Petty's Fork
9. Woodland

\*Schools for minority students





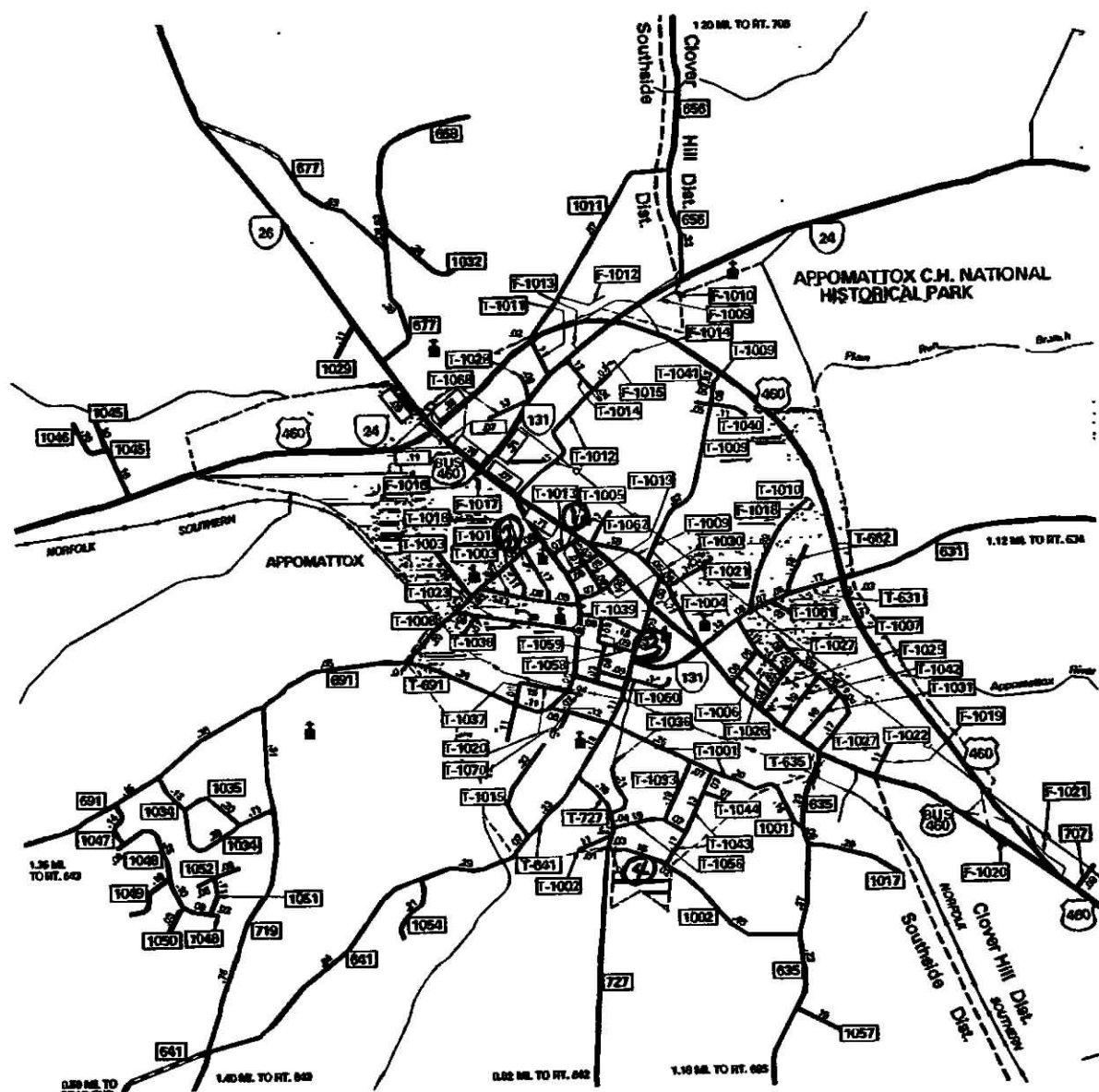
# MAP 3



1. Oakville
2. \*Mt. Airy
3. Mt. Comfort
4. Beckham
5. James River
6. \*Sulphur Spring
7. Stonewall
8. \*Stonewall
9. Mt. Zion
10. Buck Hollow
11. Wheeler

\*Schools for minority students

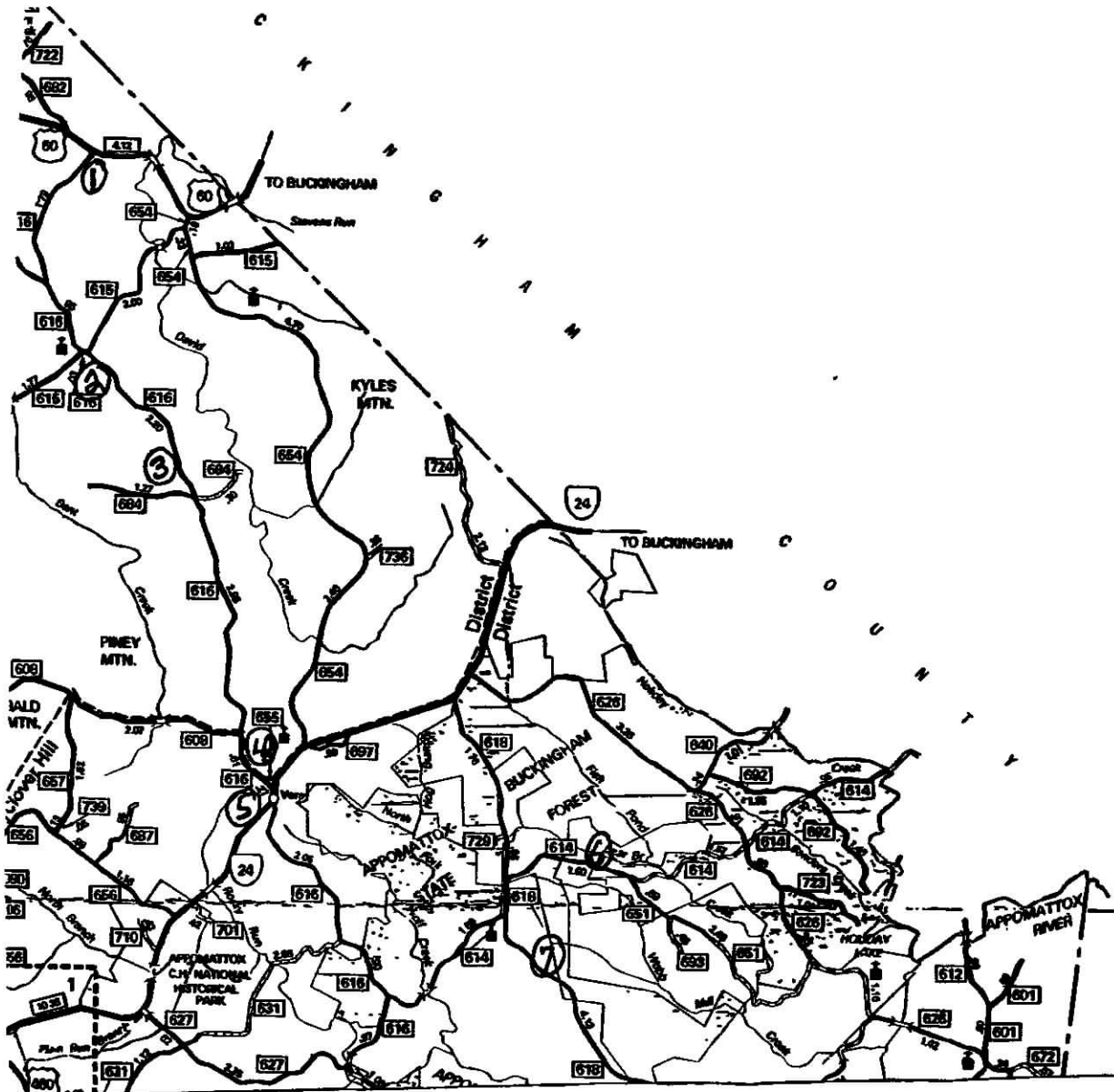
Map 4



1. \*Carver-Price High and Elementary  
(Later Appomattox Intermediate)  
(Now Appomattox Elementary)
2. Appomattox Primary
3. Appomattox High and Elementary  
(Now Appomattox Middle)
4. Appomattox County High

\*Schools for minority students

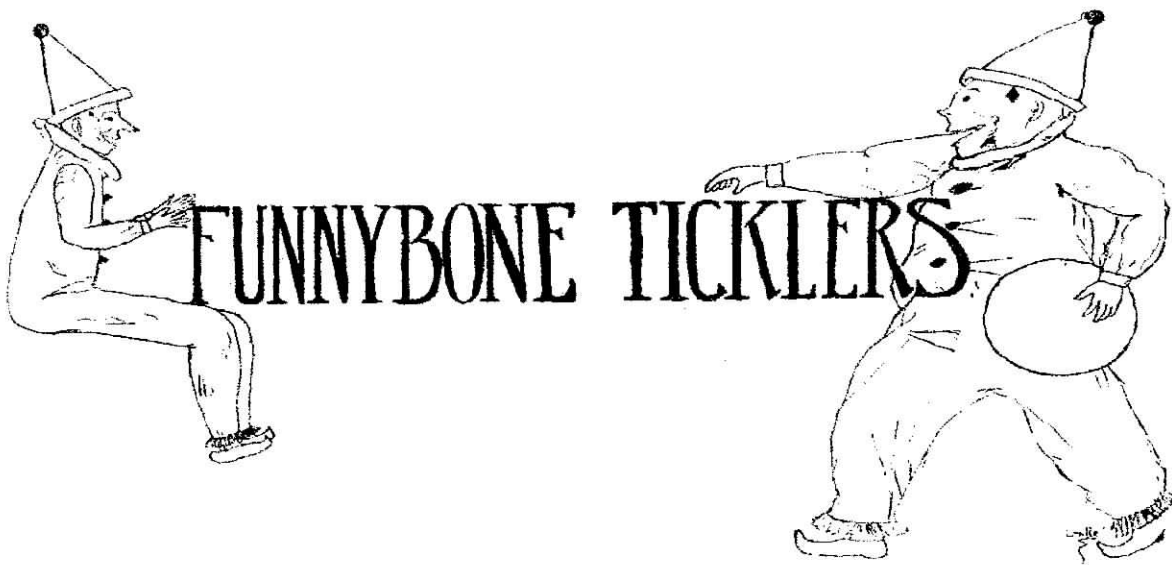
# MAP 5



1. \*Iron Hill
2. Liberty Chapel
3. Agee
4. \*Canaan
5. Vera
6. Gold Hill
7. Hollywood

\*School for minority students





Mary Trent: "The dance I went to Christmas reminded me of a race I saw at the fair."

Evelyn C.: "How's that?"

Mary: "After the first lap, it was neck and neck."

Mr. Crawley, in Biology: "On what animals do we find lice?"

Catherine C.: "Search me."

Jeffries S.: "Hunter, what part of the fish do you like?"

Hunter W.: "Oh, the Gills."

Jeffries: "I passed your house last night."

Catherine G.: "Thanks."

Miss Hubbard: "Hazel, name some minerals of U.S.A. You know what they are, most anything that comes out of the ground."

Jeffries: "Oh! Miss Hubbard, I know. Onions and potatoes."

A test followed, "That's no joke."

Eugene: "If all the girls left school what would follow?"

Joe O.: "We would."

William Ford, calling on Rachel Dickerson in October. "Let's go after violets."

Rachel: "Don't you know violets don't grow this time of the year?"

William: "Shucks! I studied the wrong love lesson."

Dan J.: "Where do you keep your money, Moss?"

Moss: "In my strong box."

Dan: "Where's that?"

Moss: "In my shoes."

Corine, teaching E. T. Price English: "It's a month since I been to the movies. 'What must I do to correct it?'"

E. T.: "Tell John Harvey."

Clyde O'B.: "I'm an expert cowboy."

Joe: "How's that?"

Clyde: "I ride a Latin pony."

Source: 1926 AGRICOLA Yearbook