

FRAME SCHOOL HOUSE BUILT IN 1844 USED FOR MANY PURPOSES

About 1844, a frame school house was built in the eastern portion of the town and this building was not only used for school purposes, but for church meetings, town meetings and public gatherings of various kinds. The court house was built in 1848 and, with the exception of the frame school house, this was the first building where public gatherings could be held, no church building being erected until 1850.

After the removal of the county seat from Mt. Pulaski to Lincoln, the Legislature by Act of Feb. 19, 1857, in view of the fact that the Mt. Pulaski court house had been erected by the private means of the people of Mt. Pulaski, "donated" the court house building to the town to be used for school purposes forever.

This act appointed Henry Vonderlieth, George W. Turley and Jabez Capps as trustees of the building for two years, at the expiration of which time, it was provided that the building was to be under the control and supervision of the board of school directors of the school district in which the town of Mt. Pulaski was located. Soon thereafter the old frame school house was abandoned and was sold for a private residence and the Mt. Pulaski school moved into the court house building. The building having two stories, each story was utilized for a school room. It is said that the first teacher in the building was John Kent.

Early Trustees

Among some of the earlier trustees of schools elected in the district, were: Alexander Rigdon, James Wade and Thomas J. Scroggin in 1841; N. M. Whitaker, George Snyder and William Friedrich in 1844; N. M. Whitaker, William Friedrich and Jabez Capps in 1845; D. F. Dickinson, D. W. Clark and Robert Downing in 1848; Alexander Rigdon, Thomas P. Lushbaugh and D. P. Bunn in 1854; N. M. Whitaker, Uriah Snyder and L. P. Lacey in 1855. County Superintendent Chalfant, referring to the Mount Pulaski schools in 1869, said:

"The Mt. Pulaski schools are well filled with pupils and are conducted with efficiency and success. Mrs. Nellie Shoup has charge of the higher department and Mrs. Hattie Mills is in charge of the primary department."

New School in 1877

In the spring of 1877 a change was made from the township district organization, under the control of a local Board of Education. A great improvement in the efficiency of the schools was at once apparent. That same year, a proposition was submitted to the voters to issue bonds to the amount of \$20,000 for school building purposes, which proposition was successful. A full block was purchased for a site, in Turley's first addition to the town, the same being about two blocks east of the public square and enclosed by Morgan, Garden, Cooke and Scott streets. The contract for building the structure was let to Terrell & Knight, of Kankakee, for \$14,667, plans and specifications having been prepared by W. S. Edbrooke, of Chicago. Work was begun on the building May 24, 1877. The corner stone was laid Sept. 4, 1877, with appropriate exercises, addresses having been delivered by Major M. Wemple and Rev. L. M. Robinson. The school directors at the time of the erection of the building were George Huck, Dr. F. D. Cass and John M. Tomlinson. The building is a two-story brick, contains eight rooms. The total cost, including furnishings and equipment, was \$15,200. School was opened in the new building for the first time in January of 1878.

Mount Pulaski Teachers

Among the teachers employed in the Mt. Pulaski schools in the 80's were: George W. Dominque, T. McGrath, William H. Derby, G. W. Monroe, P. T. Nichols, Mrs. M. E. George, Mrs. Kate P. Seyfer, F. E. Dyer, Eva Lord, America Robinson, C. Starck, Mrs. F. F. Beidler, Lou Barkley, Mrs. T. H. Mattfeldt, Grace Snyder, Cora

Turnbull, Anna Tutwiler, Julia Robinson, Will Schone, Lizzie Graham, Louise Hayes, Anna Martin, Inez Mathews, Louisa Meyer, Fred Clark, Hanna Seick, and Alice Osburn.

Early Teachers

Among the teachers in the 90's were William Miner, S. A. Edwards, T. L. Cook, Mrs. Kate Seyfer, Mrs. Anna Beidler, Mrs. Elinor Miner, Julia Robinson, Anna Tutwiler, Inez Mathews, Lucy Tutwiler, Flora Davis, Kate Rent-schler, Estella Snyder, Cora Gasaway, Magda Meyers, Nellie Waddell, Margaret J. Toomey, Kate Brown, Elizabeth Perkins, Cleo Hickman, Francis Wacaser, Alice Williams, Mattie Wilson, Nettie Rigdon, Nellie Van Orman and Frances Guttery.

FIRST SCHOOLHOUSE IN COUNTRY WAS BUILT NEAR L. FORK

The first school house built in the county is said to have been built on Lake Fork, near John Turner's. It was, as a matter of course, a log structure and to supply light a log from one side was entirely removed and window glass inserted. Pegs were inserted in the logs on one side of the room, on which a long board was placed and on this the pupils learned to write, standing during the exercise. The seats were of slabs, with legs sufficiently high to keep the feet of the smaller ones from the floor, while the older ones were in an equally awkward position from the seats being too low.

In this school house, as in all of the early ones, Webster's elementary Spelling Book and the Testament were the principal books used. The former was the established authority on orthography and it was considered an honor, that was obtained by few, to be able to spell correctly all the words in that book. Many of the old settlers delight to narrate their experiences in those early "spelling bees" and look back at them with pride and pleasure.

SKINNER, COPELAND AMONG EARLIEST TEACHERS OF AREA

Among the earliest teachers in the county were Thomas R. Skinner and William Copeland, both of whom taught in the Buckles' neighborhood. The former was afterwards County Surveyor and later County Judge, being an incumbent of the latter position when he died in 1857. William Copeland, best known as "Uncle Billy," was one of the early settlers. The school house in which they taught possessed a single door and no window, light and air coming through the cracks between the logs. Some of the pupils were John Buckles, Mart Turley, Isom Birks, Amelia Cass and Leonard Scroggin.

The earliest school schedule extant in the county is one made out by Silas R. Alexander, teacher, Oct. 6, 1841, of a school taught by him, "being situated on the premises of G. W. Turley's." Reference will be made to this schedule in connection with the sketch of the schools of Mt. Pulaski. Another Mt. Pulaski school schedule, still in existence, was made out by Michael Finrock, teacher, Dec. 9, 1842, and a third Mt. Pulaski schedule was made by David P. Bunn, teacher, Dec. 26, 1845, and filed with James Primm, School Commissioner at that time. A schedule, dated Dec. 31, 1845, is certified to as correct by J. M. McIntosh, teacher. It was of a school "kept" by him, in what is now Lake Fork township, in the school room adjacent to John Huston.

EARLY SCHOOLS

Some of the few scattered settlements in those days could not afford to employ a teacher and were therefore compelled to do without, or send their children through the timber or across the prairie to some more fortunate settlement where a school was in

DEIBERT BROTHERS WERE "PERFECT"; LIKED SCHOOL

(May, 1916)

The Laughery School, near Mt. Pulaski, which has been taught the past two years by Miss Lucille Fernandez, reports an exceptional record for perfect attendance. Last year the school did not have a single case of absence or tardiness. The Deibert brothers have made notable individual records. Arie Deibert has attended nine consecutive years without being either tardy or absent. Morrell Deibert has the same record for 8 years, and a younger brother, a similar record for 4 years. Upon such excellent records these boys are deserving of special recognition.

—Lo. Co. School Messenger.

AREA STUDENTS IN SPELLING CONTESTS

(December, 1913)

The third Logan County Spelling Contest was held in the Circuit Court Room at Lincoln on Saturday morning, Dec. 6th. Each township in the county was represented by its champion speller. The contestants from this area were:

Lake Fork township: Irene Reiterman.

Colvin School, Laenna township: Florence Gasaway, Laetham school.

Aetna Township: Pearl Westlake, Chestnut school.

Mount Pulaski township: Naomi Downing, Buchanan school.

Elkhart township: Donald Agnew, Elkhart school.

Broadwell township: Marguerite Humphreys, Honey Hook school.

—School Messenger

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operation. Some were sent a distance of six to nine miles, walking the entire distance, morning and night of each day, in order that they might avail themselves of the opportunity of acquiring the limited education, which opportunity thus offered.

LOGAN COUNTY SCHOOLS ORGANIZED HERE BACK IN 1850

(April, 1939)

Logan county schools were organized at a county convention held in 1850. The gathering was held at Mount Pulaski. David W. Clark was elected president; James Tuttle and John Randolph, vice-presidents; Wm. H. Young, secretary.

Resolutions were adopted for reports which would furnish statistical information regarding the educational needs of the county. Among other recommendations made was a list of school books. It included Webster's spelling book, the McGuffey readers, Ray's arithmetic, Mitchell's geography, Smith's grammar, Goodrich's History of the United States, and Webster's high school dictionary.

LATE EZRA E. DEAN SERVED 55 YEARS AS A DIRECTOR

(June, 1940)

Ezra E. Dean, who recently passed away at the age of 84, established a long record of public service. He served for 15 years as supervisor of Elkhart township and 55 years as director of the Lakeside school. He served continuously as director from 1885 until his death. No doubt this is among the longest periods of service of a school board member in the state.

In 1935 on completion of 50 years of service on the school board, the school patrons of Lakeside school held a dinner honoring Mr. Dean and presented to him a gold watch which was engraved "E. E. Dean, Director, Lakeside School, 1885-1935." Mr. Dean prized highly the gift as a token of the respect and esteem of his neighbors and friends. During the years, his kindly words of encouragement to teachers and pupils were a contribution to the success of the school.

In his passing the school loses a devoted, conscientious school official and the community a loyal friend and neighbor.

—School Messenger.

Laughery School Built In 1917 Cost \$4,000.00

(March, 1918)

This new brick-veneer school house, located 1½ miles from Mount Pulaski, on the Lincoln-Mount Pulaski road, was built during the summer of 1917 at a cost of about \$4,000. It is a very substantial building and modern in every particular.

The building is convenient for school work and also very attractive. A large, light and commodious basement, 9 feet deep is provided which affords an excellent playroom for the pupils. The lighting, ventilation, seating, toilets, etc., conform with the latest recommendations and requirements for sanitary school rooms. The school is equipped with six sizes of single pedestal desks. The school has unilateral lighting, all of the light being admitted to the left of the seated pupils from the east which is considered by authorities on schoolroom construction to be the best light for school rooms. Separate cloak room and a nice library room are provided. The yard has been carefully graded. The people of the district are to be congratulated on the excellent school building.

The building was recently dedicated. Assistant Supt. W. S. Booth gave the dedicatory address. The directors are: J. A. Roos, Thomas Deibert and Harry Kinert. Miss Marie Thompkins is the teacher.

—Lo. Co. School Messenger
1961—The building, which was sold due to consolidation of schools, was bought by Edd Dittus, who has transformed it into a fine modern home.

1914 MEMBERS OF BOARD EDUCATION

Mt. Pulaski District 33 Grade Board of Education in 1914 were: R. D. Clark, W. J. McCarthy, Chas. A. Ey, J. W. Seyfer, G. F. Lackenmeyer, J. M. Rothwell, J. H. Shrader. Teacher: A. C. Wacaser, Principal; Ann Leisch, Florence Wynd, Jennie Hassett, Katie Volle, Lucy Tutwiler, Ruth Snyder and Annetta Rigdon.

We Help Keep Your Home

BEAUTIFUL...



We've come a long way since the early days when Mount Pulaski's first settlers built their log cabins. Today's homes are much more comfortable . . . and they are much more attractive, too. Paint, Wallpaper and Varnish were "luxuries" the early settlers had to do without.

It has been our pleasure to serve this area in the painting and wallpapering business, helping keep Mount Pulaski's homes looking their best year after year.

We feel very thankful for the patronage we have enjoyed, and join in offering our Congratulations to Mount Pulaski on the Celebration of the Sil-Tennial.

RAY LETTERLE

Phone SW 2-5252

Mount Pulaski