

## School Locations Fluctuated with Changes in the Population

At one time, there were 13 one-room schoolhouses scattered across Marion Township. These were situated at the most populated areas so the students could easily walk to the school nearest their homes. Some of the names of these schools were Fairview, Slate, Lower Cana, Middle Cana, Upper Cana, Barnes, Mosley, Hopkins, Keith, Staples, and Center.

When the student population would change, some of the schools would close and other schools would be built as needed. These newer schools included Mt. Zion, Gum Lick, and Hughes (also called Cobb).

Some of the Marion Township school teachers included Sarah Lewis, Irene Coryell Joseph, Ray Foster, Harold Bussy Kysar, Clyde Matthews, Ermel L. Foster, Ralph Deputy, Estella Hartwell, Phyllis Callaway, Dollie Callaway, Thomas K. Rust, Alfred L. Kysar, Louise Johnson, Marie Hughes McGannon, Hazel Johnson Smith, Ralph Humphrey, Jane Kysar, Arthur Rogers, Mary Rowland, Dorothy Davis, Vera Moore, Crystal McGannon, Marjorie McGannon, Virginia Slarp Bridgewater, Robert Bridges, Gladys Coryell, Oran Hughes, Nellie Perry, Bernice Dixon Humphrey, Ethel Lowry, Lester Dodd, Estella Tobias, Betha Robinson

Barnes, Bertha Forrest Moore, Frank Young, Rolland Johnson, Charles Graham, Frank Euler, Nathan Gardner, Richard Rogers, Mary T. Deputy, L.W. Deputy, McGee Deputy, and Nellie Rogers Johnson. Later records mentioned Edna Wilkerson, Vera Lewis, Gladys Louise Johnson, Marie Johnson Bridges, Charles Layman, Joshua Deputy, John H. Rogers, Jr., George W. Bard and Lemuel Matthews, Enoch Layton, William E. McGuire, John Shillideay, E.J. Hughes, James W. Reed, Sobiskie Butler, William D. Rainy, T.J. Hudson, T.J. Staples, U.M. McGuire, J.S. McGuire, O.M. Coryell, Charles E. Wells, and Grant Stewart and Wesley Kysar.

Because of poor sanitation conditions at these schools, some parents tied a bag of asafetida around their child's necks to help ward off diseases. Students brought their lunches in a tin pail and the common menu for these lunches often consisted of cornbread or biscuits, fried eggs, some type of meat, fresh fruit and cookies.

With the help of County School Superintendent Shepherd Whitcomb, Marion Township organized a high school in 1912. A partition wall was built in the middle of the room at the Mosley School to separate lower grade students from the older ones. Gladys Coryell was

the grade school teacher and Rev. Rust of the North Vernon Christian Church the high school teacher.

In 1915, a new building was erected for the high school but because Marion Township had not been accredited yet, the students wishing to graduate had to attend a high school elsewhere such as Crothersville, Hayden or Seymour. Accreditation for the high school was eventually received and the first class to graduate from Marion Township High School was in 1918.

Some of the early teachers at the high school included Professor Combs, John S. Shillideay, Irene Beatty, Maria Gruber, Professor Holmes, Inez Hulsein and Professor Deputy.

One of the W.P.A. projects in Jennings included building room additions to the Marion Township High School building. This project was completed in 1938 and by having the extra classrooms, the district schools such as Mt. Zion, Gum Lick and Upper and Lower Cana could be closed and students could attend what became known as Marion Consolidated School.

One year later, the high school grades were eliminated so the students wanting to attend high school in 1939 and 1940 traveled to Crothersville. Beginning with the 1940-41 school year, high school students from Marion

Township went to Paris Crossing and did so until Paris Crossing High School was consolidated into North Vernon High School after the 1961 school year.

The Marion Township school remained open for lower grades until 1969 when pupils who lived in Marion, Montgomery and Lovett townships began attending the new

Graham Creek School near Commiskey. The Marion Township school building and grounds would be used as a community and recreation center.

## Spend a Day at Mosley School

In 1898, the Mosley School was one large room heated by two large flat-topped wood stoves. The entrance of the building was on the west and led into a "good-sized" hallway. On either side of the hall were coat racks and shelves for lunch boxes. Hanging from the ceiling was the school bell's rope.

The desks faced the east and blackboards extended across the entire east wall. Hung above the blackboards were three large framed pictures: one of the signing of the U.S. Constitution; one of the Lone Wolf; and the third of The Last Supper. These turn of the century students were fortunate to have a "map case" which included maps of "the continents, the oceans, seas, islands and one of the United States."

On the south wall were shelves of books—biography, history and some classics. There were also a few "current" novels.

School opened at 8 a.m. and closed at 4 p.m. An hour was taken for lunch and all students had 15-minute breaks in morning and afternoon.

Sometimes they played "shinny," using a block of wood or an old tin can for a "a hockey ball." The shinny sticks were made from shrubs that grew at a rounded angle out of the clay banks near Mosley.

Another game was "jail." The school's woodshed had an open window where the wood was unloaded. The leaders



Students at Mosley in 1898 - Marie Donnell identified those she could as follows; Row 1 L to R, unknown, Floyd E. Gruber, Alfred Deputy, Clifford Deputy, Almira Gruber, unknown, Carrie Trapp, Maud Lewis, Jennie Kysar, Myrtle Kysar. Row 2, Bertha Davis Trisler, Eunice Barnes, Neshia Carlock Bridges, Nathan Smith, Janie Barnes, Elma Kysar, Ethel Lewis, Frank Lewis, unknown, teacher Arthur Rogers. Row 3, unknown, Elmer Smith, Clarence Kysar, Cloay Deputy, Gertie Davis, Lulu Barnes and John Davis.

chose sides with one child becoming the first "prisoner." The object was to see which side could capture the most prisoners. All prisoners eventually escaped by jumping out the shed's window.

Jumping rope and playing marbles held a fascination for several of the students, and on rainy

days there were always card games like Bunco, Rook, Flinch and Authors.

In the winter, boys took parched field corn to munch on during school. The corn was heated on top of the stoves.

Spelling for "headmarks" or awards, held on the last day of the term, was an exciting time.

## Prominent Teachers Continued Their Careers

Some of the more prominent teachers from Marion Township included:

- Melville Baker Wells, graduate of Purdue University who became engaged in the works of the Armour Institute of Chicago

- Manfred W. Deputy, graduate of Indiana University and a post graduate of Columbia University, New York. He

served as president of Bemidji State University in Minnesota from 1919-1938 and was a faculty member at Florida Southern College in 1942.

- L.B. Rogers, who obtained degrees from Chicago University and Columbia University in New York and went on to become a professor at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles



The Marion Township Community Center now stands where the former Marion Township School was once located.—Staff Photo by Sharon Hamilton