

The school in Paris Crossing post-1908

Education Top Priority for Town of Paris Crossing

It is fitting that one of the first buildings in the new town of Paris Crossing was a frame schoolhouse. It was built in the northeast corner of the schoolyard close to the corduroy road which went north. All grades were taught in one room.

George Dodd was elected trustee in 1884. He saw the need for a high school for the children who wanted more education after common school. At that time, students had to travel to Lancaster or Lexington to continue their studies.

In the 1890's, Dodd started the first high school with one teacher. Classes were held in a frame building called the "Barracks" in the center of town. School lasted only five or six months.

In 1904, the decision was made to erect a two-room brick building east of the frame one. The high school used the room on the south while the ele-

mentary grades were in the north room and the frame building, which also served as an opera house. These rooms were all heated with big coal oil stoves.

In 1908, a second story was added. The high school and the seventh and eighth grades had classes upstairs. By this time, the high school was all four years. The seventh and eighth grade teacher also taught one class each for freshman, sophomores, juniors and seniors, with the principal having the responsibility of all the other classes.

In 1928, more work was done at the school with a basement and furnace added and two classrooms; two more classrooms and an office on the first floor; and an assembly hall on the second floor.

In 1961, the school closed after Jennings officials consolidated schools within the county.



In the 1890's this was the first high school in the area. It was housed in a building called the Barracks. Thomas B. Jeffery and (Moses) Spencer had the first hardware store in the building. It also became a skating rink and home.

Students at Paris Attended 2 Schools

Making sure all children who lived in Montgomery Township were educated was always a top priority for its adult residents.

When Paris was in its heyday, it had two school districts — the upper and lower. Teachers included Mary Fay, Martha Robertson and Lana Zener.

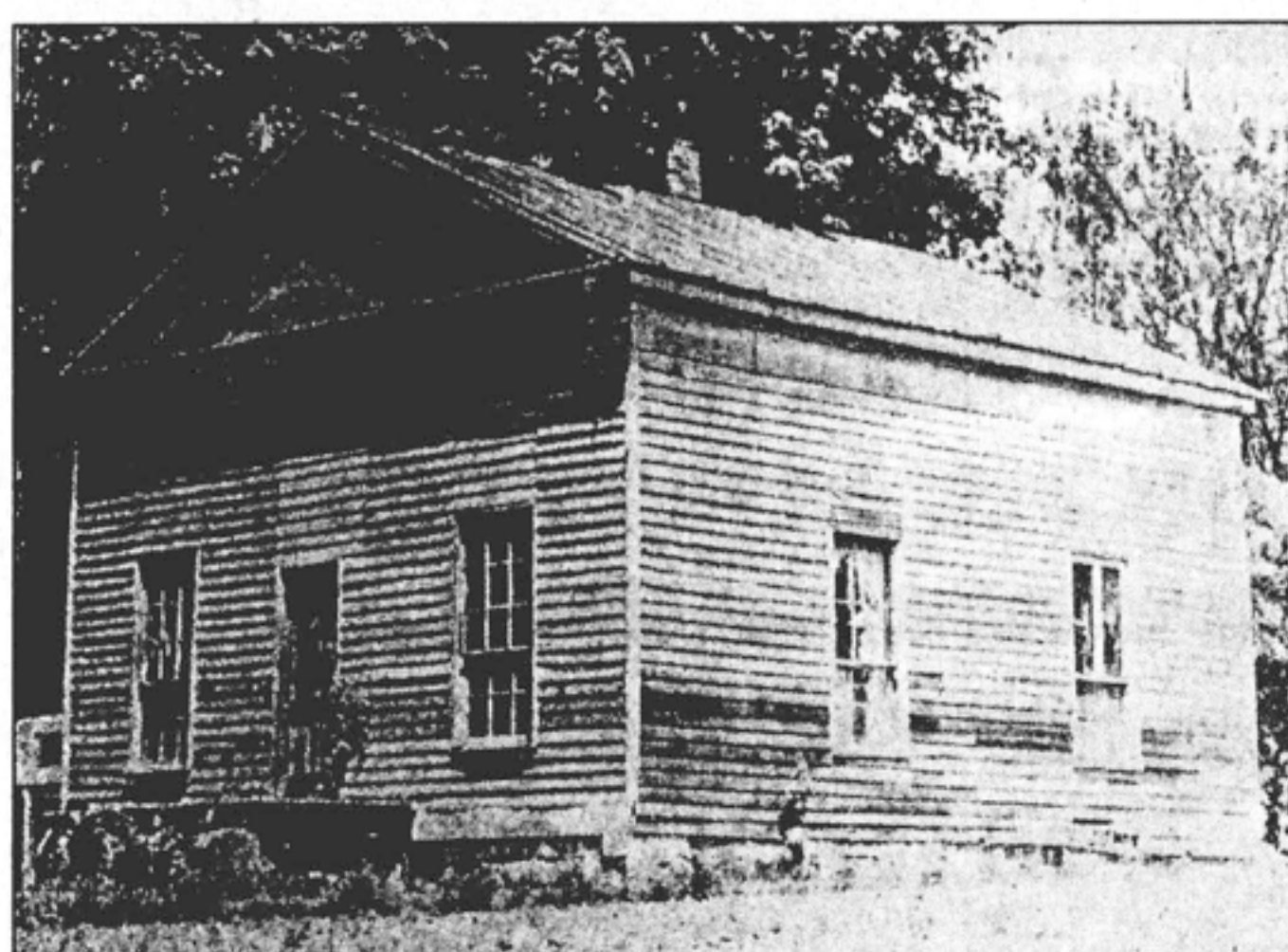
Each district had its own school. One of these buildings was constructed in the late 1850's or early 1860's. It had two rooms and two teacher. This continued until 1875 or '76 when Paris Crossing schools began to educate

its own share of the pupils.

Just before the Civil War, Warren Malcomb and John Davis were two of the instructors.

Later teachers included the following:

Freeman Bovard, Andy Jones, Riley Shepherd, James Lewis, Chas. Burdsall, Lana Zener, J.H. McGuire, Abba Deputy, Mary Dixon, Cynthia LeFeber, Ida E. McClanahan, Prof. Blime, Gail Deputy, Grace McGannon, Myra Carlock, Chester Ashton, Chas. Graham, Iva Wilkerson and Lawrence Calloway.



One of the schools located in Paris circa 1900.