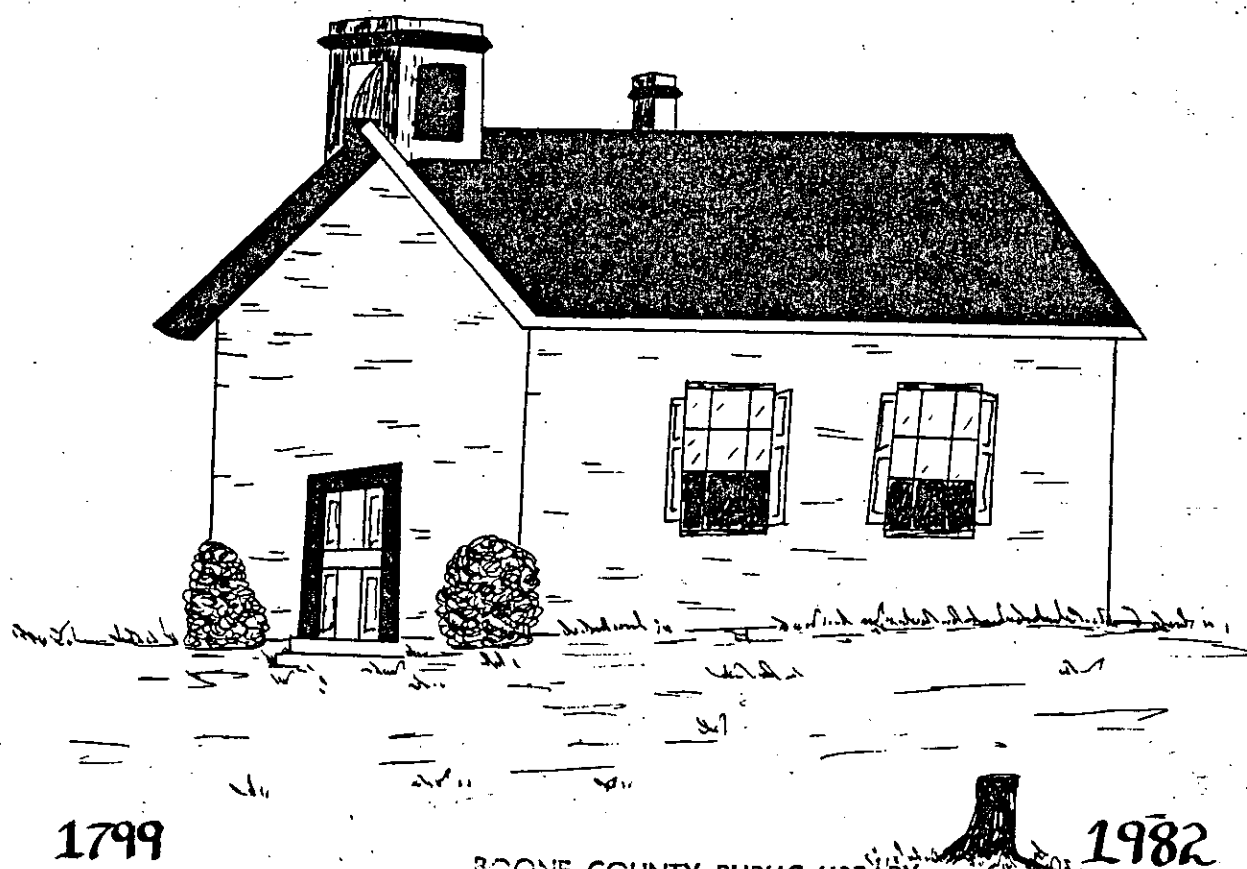


The History of Boone County Schools



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TO
THE EDUCATORS AND ALL OTHERS WHO CONTRIBUTED
TO THE HISTORY OF THE BOONE COUNTY
SCHOOLS, THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED

BY THE COMPILER

William Conrad

*to the Boone
County Library by
the author. Wm Conrad
Jul 2, 1982*

A project of the
BOONE COUNTY COMMUNITY EDUCATIONAL COUNCIL
Boone County, Ky.
June 30, 1982

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to express my appreciation to the following people who helped in putting this book together: to Mrs. Marilyn Nall, for proofreading and offering suggestions; to Shelly Eckler who coordinated and assisted with the production; and to Joyce Gregory for the design of the cover.

THE EARLY SCHOOLS OF FLORENCE, KY.

When the pioneer Kentucky lawmakers were framing the first Constitution of the Commonwealth of Kentucky little thought was given to the design and planning for education. The laws and constitution of Virginia were used as a pattern and they adhered to the English tradition that education was a private responsibility and not to be met at the state expense.

Early Kentucky was all backwoods and it was only in the truly large villages and county seats where academies and elegant seminaries were springing up for the wealthy who could afford to pay tuition fees. In the smaller hamlets and rural communities the less wealthy and country folk had to acquire an education with their own initiative or do without. The elders in such neighborhoods decided sooner or later that something should be done about their "youngun's" ignorance and looked about for the basic ingredients of a school system -- a schoolhouse and a schoolmaster.

By tradition, these schools were usually located on poor unproductive or worn-out land and in Virginia they were referred to as "old field" schools. This was the practice to save the better land for cultivation but in the new lands of Kentucky there was little if any worn-out land so the schoolhouse could be most anywhere. Therefore, it was usually in some location centrally located to the pupil population and close to a spring and wood supply. The building itself was quite crude. We have very little description of the first schoolhouse in the territory where Florence was to be established, but we do have on hand a description of an 1820 school in nearby Grant County, Ky. It would be typical:

"The house was built of small round logs 14 x 16 feet and covered with clapboards which were retained in place by heavy weight poles. It had a heavy puncheon floor (logs ten to twelve inches in diameter and split lengthwise) and was profusely ornamented with puncheon seats. The benches were supported by legs made

of round saplings driven into augur holes bored into the puncheon. Long wooden spikes were driven into holes bored around the wall, on which the children hung their hats, coats, and dinner baskets or pails. The ceiling was just high enough to allow the teacher and tall scholars to walk under without striking their heads. There were no windows and but one door."

The pioneer people were very much mindful of energy conservation, consequently, their doorways generally faced the south to allow the warm sunshine to enter for heat and light. The early structure in this locality, no doubt, followed these patterns as the writings of the late A M Yealey, an educator and historian in Boone County during the first half of the twentieth century, pointed out:

"that by subscription a sufficient amount of money was raised to build a house 16 feet by 24 feet with slab seats and a rock fireplace, the first public schoolhouse in the territory."

He further states that the schoolhouse was located at what is now the foot of Banklick Street. The place was called "Squirrel Hollow" because of the number of grey squirrels inhabiting the locality.

After acquiring a schoolhouse, the problem of finding a schoolmaster was not too difficult as the busy "ridge-road" running through the neighborhood was much traveled and there was certain to be an itinerant pedagogue looking for employment. But paying the pedagogue was another matter and with no public funds available to foot the bill, this meant another subscription. In Grant County this sum was "\$1.25 per quarter and this sum was usually half in money and half in 'coon skins."

Money was a very scarce item, consequently many children could not attend or perhaps attend only part of

the time for lack of funds. Some families sent the brightest child in the belief that they were more susceptible to learning while other families sent the blockhead and left the more intelligent to fend for themselves. In large families with small income, the children were often sent in turn - Tommy and Polly this term, and Mary and Willie next term. There were others who believed book learning was only for boys, as a result, their daughters were denied schooling.

The school term was designed to fit in with the work and busy seasons of the rural society, so it started in the month of September and continued into December. This gave the schoolmaster only three months employment per year, therefore, he eked out a living working in the neighborhood or elsewhere. In some cases the teacher might be a minister or even a farmer himself, but the majority of the early schoolmasters were itinerant pedagogues and boarded in the neighborhood while employed as a teacher. If he boarded in the home of a subscriber, that subscriber often paid his part by boarding the pedagogue.

The Maddens, Wilhoits, Conners, Crislers, and Stephens owned most of the land in the immediate area, and the tavern, operated by Doctor Thomas Madden and his wife Ruth at the "forks of the road" where Burlington Road branched off from the "ridge-road", made this an ideal location for a town. As the land owners sold lots and parcels of land to more settlers coming into the area, the village grew in size and population and the town of Florence was established in January of 1830.

Meanwhile the legislators in Frankfort attempted to establish a common or so called public school system in the state but the wealthy still resisted taxation and the tenants and poor were indifferent. In 1831, only 24 percent of the children between ages 5 and 15 in Kentucky were attending school. The census record for 1830 indicates that there were only 14 children between 5 and 15 residing within the confines of the village of Florence. Applying the 1831 statistic to Florence,

we find that about four would be in school. However, there were other factors that would enable the school to have more than four pupils.

The early schools were attended by pupils within a wide radius of the schoolhouse and there was also a broad range of ages extending in some cases from four to upward into the twenties. There is no doubt that the first schoolhouse in Florence was well attended by not only children, but also young men and women.

One of the newcomers moving into the Florence vicinity was Joshua Zimmerman from Madison County, Virginia to join other Virginians and kinfolk who had preceded him in settling in Boone County. He and his wife, Susannah Tanner Zimmerman, had no children of their own, but both being from large and prolific families, there were plenty of nieces and nephews in the surrounding countryside.

The Zimmermans purchased 160 acres of land just out of Florence on the road to Burlington where he later erected a brick mansion which still stands just a few hundred feet west of present day Wallace Avenue.

In 1835 Joshua donated land for the purpose of building a public schoolhouse or meetinghouse to the trustees of Florence who at that time were Lewis Youell, J J Carpenter, C Blackburn, A B McNeal, and George Tolston. This property was in the form of a lot 74½ feet square on the road to the mouth of Dry Creek. The location today would be quite near and north of the tennis courts at Boone County High School and covered by the newly constructed Burlington Road.

A building was constructed on this land and paid for by a tax of 15 cents per hundred dollars valuation plus a small subscription to pay the teacher. This school was quite an improvement and we are fortunate in having the text of a speech delivered in 1847 by one of the students L. Conner Yager. This oration will lend insight to the quality of education that was available and could be achieved in the village of Florence.

The speech follows:

"Fellow Students:

The term has drawn to a close and our departure is at hand. God only knows whether we shall ever meet again. Let then take a retrospect of the past, and also contemplate the future.

"I have met with some of you from the time I was a child, and could scarce lisp the letters of the alphabet, until the present. I, with many of you, have received in this place and under this roof, my only instruction.

"We have climbed this far up the rugged hill of science — we have stood side by side in the same class, bearing off alternately the palm of victory.

"We have experienced together the cares and perplexities of the school room, and sighed like the caged bird to be free again; we have formed associations which the grave can only efface from the tablets of our minds.

"We have had our joys and our sorrows, as all children do, and like all youths we have longed to be men. Time will soon roll around and our wishes will be gratified. We shall soon launch our frail barks upon time's tempestuous sea and then when bewildered in the whirling mists of life's discordant waves, or dazzling fame or shining wealth, or shipwrecked upon the coral reefs of disappointment, or meager poverty, our minds will wander back to the halcyon scenes and joyous sports of other days.

"In dreams we will visit our playgrounds and grasp again the hands of our classmates.

"In imaginations airy and fantastic gambols, we will engage in the innocent sports of schoolboy days. But I said that we must part; perhaps to meet no more till the pitcher is broken at the cistern, or the golden bowl at the fountain. Some of you may meet here again to travel on in the green sward paths of science. May Minerva strew your paths with roses and enable you to bear in faith, the heat and burden of the day, to smile, not frown at the perplexities of scholastic disquisitions. Let me say good bye, and joy go with you all.

"You Sir, who have guided our young and wayward minds in

the pursuit of knowledge, with profit to us and honor to yourself, no doubt feel something of the emotions which this occasion is calculated to inspire. Although you have presided over us with firmness, seeming at times to border on rigor, yet it has at all times been marked with moderation, and we have often seen the smile of approbation lingering on your lips. Although there may be animosities in the bosoms of some of your scholars, yet when their minds shall have been matured, they will say in their cooler reflections, that you have done right, and will remember you with gratitude, which I fear, alas! we will never quite repay.

"Have I not reason to be grateful? It was you sir, that gave me the first and last ideas of grammar, a science well calculated to discipline and adorn the mind. You have directed my exertions in an acquisition of the useful and important knowledge of numbers, and you have stored my mind with the treasures of Philosophy.

"Have I not cause for gratitude? Is there a scholar in this house that has not the same cause? No! And in future times they will reward you.

"You the Trustees of this school district, have come to witness the results of a system of Common School education, brought about by your unwearied perseverance and untiring industry. How well you are satisfied I am unable to say, but this much I would ask and entreat, that you will not become languid in the cause, but will cherish this system of education, until a school shall be upon every hill and in every vale, where all of the poor as well as the rich may store their minds with useful knowledge, and then will Kentucky boast as great as any other state.

"If you love your country, the firm base and pillar of which is education, if you would have your children patriots, if you would have the smiles of the widow and the orphan, go on in the cause of education.

"Heaven will reward you, posterity will rise up to bless, and your graves shall be moistened with the tears of grateful remembrance."

The educational process in Florence was greatly improved in the building of what we remember today as the "Old Town Hall" in 1849. As was sometimes the custom, the land for the building was purchased two years later for \$125 from Lewis Conner. The parcel was bought jointly by the trustees of the town of Florence and agents of Florence Lodge #95, Adam Finch and Samuel Craig. The deed states that the lower floor of the building on the property had to be devoted to the purpose of a seminary and other such uses as a town hall with a stipulation that this lower floor of the building also be reserved for the use of the Predestinarian Baptist Church one consecutive Saturday and Sunday in each month of the year. The second floor was used by the lodge. Lewis Conner was an elder in the Predestinarian Baptist Church at that time.

This school became a school of higher learning and Nelson Lloyd, a teacher of high rank, attended while his wife, Sophia Webster Lloyd, conducted a school for girls across the road.

The 1850 census for the town of Florence indicates that there were 46 children in the town between the ages of 5 and 16 and that nearly 75 percent attended school. The only teacher residing in the town at that time was Robert Varner.

State-wide progress had been made in the field of education and in 1849 a 2 cents levy per \$100 valuation of property was ratified by the citizens of the commonwealth with the funds being distributed to counties in proportion to children 5 to 16. By 1857 three month terms were increased in some instances to five month terms, and in the same year the Kentucky Educational Association was organized. About this same time there were schoolmistresses as well as schoolmasters teaching the boys and girls. To the oldsters of Florence, it seemed a long time since the students sat upon backless benches and chanted their lessons a little above a whisper while the master mended or made goose-quill pens to be used in writing with homemade ink which was a mixture of pokeberry juice, oak galls, and iron rust.

The 1860 census reveals that the village had 63 children

between ages 5 through 16 and 45, or 71 percent were attending school. At the same time there were three teachers living within the bounds of the town: George Marquess, Ann White, and William Conner.

Professor Lloyd taught at the Town Hall for some time, and shortly after beginning he devised a means of ringing the school bell which was outside the building. By means of a rope running through one of the windows and to the bell, he was enabled to ring the bell without leaving the building. The lodge objected to this and he continued to ring the bell in the normal manner. The family left Florence sometime during the Civil War era and moved to Grant county.

It then became the practice of the town council to sell the right to teach in this building to the highest bidder. This was done in August of each year and the teacher who expected to teach the following fall or winter term would be present and bid for the privilege. The sums bid ranged from \$1.50 to \$3.00 per month. There were also other teachers with private schools in the town and the second floor of the IOOF building (now the Stringtown Restaurant) was used for such purposes at one time. Even private homes were used and the Florence correspondent of the Boone County Recorder reported in the October 21st, 1875 issue, that Florence was well supplied with schools: Will Conner had a public school, a Mr Fullmaker had a German school, Irene Bradford had a private juvenile school, and D Y Bagby taught higher branches of education.

The schoolhouse on Price Pike where Joshua Zimmerman had donated land was used into the late 1870's, and then, when the building was used infrequently, it was decided to either put it in good condition or sell it. A suggested tax was presented to the people by the trustees to repair the building, but the taxpayers rebelled.

In May of 1881 the trustees of Florence, namely: William Conner, W F Varner, Benjamin Chambers, Henry Oslenwald, and Barney Von Bokern sold the land and schoolhouse to Dr. Sam Scott who had previously bought the land adjoining. Dr. Sam

Scott's home was located on Burlington Road opposite the intersection of Girrard Street. This house was recently razed to extend Girrard Street to the new Burlington Road.

This left the town with only the Town Hall for public school purposes; while private schools flourished. St Paul's church had a parish school which was established by Rev Joseph J Bent during his pastorate which was between 1874 and 1877. Father Bent lived in a brick house on the south side of Shelby Street, the first building off of Main Street. The school was in an addition built on the church which was at that time on the northeast corner of Shelby and Center Streets.

A few of the teachers in this era were: Misses Naomi and Jennie Ellis, Sadie Kirtley, and Henrietta Glacken. A Mrs Kirtley purchased Dr. Sam Scott's home and Mrs. Kirtley and her daughter operated a school in their home at one time.

Dissension arose in the town over the selling of the right to teach at the Town Hall. Many patrons claimed the highest bid did not procure a teacher with the better qualifications, and the highest bid often failed to produce a teacher with the qualifications.

A resolution was passed by the town board requiring all bidders to have the same qualifications as county school teachers, but the citizens wanted a public school of their own and the only way to obtain it was to elect a board understanding their needs. In 1887, a board was elected which purchased an acre of land from Ned Galway. This ground had a thirty foot outlet on to Shelby Street which appears to be a continuation of Montgomery Street. This outlet, in years to come, was fondly referred to as "school alley". A two room schoolhouse was erected on the land in 1888.

It was now possible to separate the primary and advanced grades. Up to that date the schoolhouses had been one room buildings with all grades conducted in the one room. The highest grade to be achieved in these schools was the fifth and sometimes the sixth grade. The era of the three R's: reading, 'riting, and 'rithmetic was coming to an end in Florence. Some of the educators in the days leading up to the

graded school were Lee M Fulton, Mamie Clutterbuck, William Clutterbuck, Joseph Ambrose, John W Howe, and Irene Bradford. Miss Bradford was the last teacher to purchase the right to teach in the Town Hall. Another teacher was L C Yager who as a boy made the 1847 speech in the Zimmerman schoolhouse. He was later the Superintendent of Schools in Boone County, and also father of a son who became a teacher. Mary Powers was another teacher. It is believed she taught at the early St Paul school for the 1880 census indicates she boarded with the pastor of the St Paul church and his mother.

The early educators to teach in the two room graded school were: Professor Arnold, John Vest and his mother, Maranda Vest, Bessie Talbart, Marie Khorn, Lizzie Vest, Ozark Ryle, Maude Walton, Mattie Bradford, and Andrew Collins. In 1900, Almer Michael Yealey contracted with the board of trustees as principal of the school with Lizzie Vest as primary teacher. The members of the board at that time were: Ezra Rouse, Henry Tanner, and Lewis Thompson. Mr Thompson had been a teacher in the county school system.

In 1908, a law was enacted in the state whereby every county in the commonwealth was to have at least one high school and it was to be located at the county seat. Now all taxpayers, no matter where they lived in the county, were compelled to pay taxes on the high school. The distance from Florence to Burlington and the time and cost of traveling back and forth daily to high school was more than the citizens could endure.

A petition was filed with the county judge for the establishment of a school district for Florence and the number 9 district, Pleasant Ridge. This latter schoolhouse was located in the northwest corner of Hopeful Road and US-42. The petition was granted and two more rooms were added to the Florence school and another teacher employed. The petition which was filed April 5, 1909, paved the way for a graded high school.

A two-year high school course commenced with the students completing the next two years at Burlington, or by paying tuition and going to Erlanger. By 1911 all was in readiness to begin a

four year high school. After a two-day inspection by state inspectors, the courses of study to be taught were approved.

First year: Rhetoric, Composition, Algebra, Latin,
General Science, and Ancient History.

Second year: English Grammar Plane Geometry, Latin.
Biology, Physics, Modern History.

Third year: English Literature, Algebra, Physics,
English History, Latin.

Fourth year: American Literature, Advanced Arithmetic,
American History, Latin, and Civics.

In addition, one period per week was devoted to Domestic Science for the girls and Manual Training for the boys.

The first four year studies commenced in 1913 with the first graduating class being in 1915 with the following graduates; Mabel and Harry Tanner, Ruby Corbin, and Robert Robbins. The class sermon was delivered on May the fifth by Rev. Wallace at the Florence Baptist Church with the class address being rendered on May the thirteenth by Rev. Harris at the Florence Christian Church. The residents of Florence were now convinced that their children could receive a high school education in Florence and they were ready and united in a vote for additional funds to add the fifth room to the schoolhouse and employ another teacher.

The school prospered and grew, and in 1925, the sixth room was added and the teaching staff increased to seven. In this same year, the first Boone County School tournament was held in Florence on April 29, 30, and May 1.

The afternoon sessions were devoted to athletics with Petersburg and Union out-distancing all comers in the preliminary contests in basketball. No better girls' game was ever played in Boone then the game between the teams from Union and Petersburg, with Union winning by a margin of two points. The Union boys' team had won over Verona the day before. Basketball at that time was played outdoors.

There were two night session held at the Florence Presbyterian Church which was next door to the Town Hall. Here it

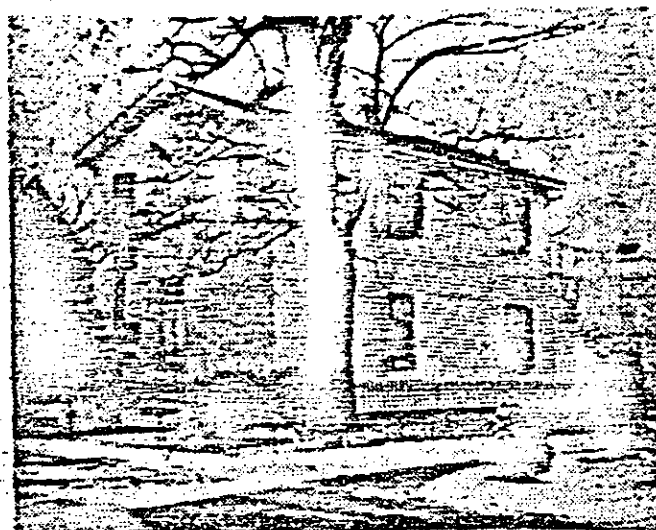
was demonstrated to large audiences that Boone County could produce the goods when it came to declamation, oration, and music. Professor A M Yealey was secretary of the tourney and financed it so well that there was a few dollars surplus after all expenses were paid. There were eight Boone County schools participating in this tournament and the results were: Hebron 105 points, Florence 98 points, Verona 62 points, Burlington 56 points, Petersburg 49 points, Union 34 points, Hamilton 10 points, and Belleview 7 points. At that time Belleview, Hamilton, and Petersburg had but one instructor in each of the high schools.

Since the high school was established in Florence, in 1911, and up until May 21, 1931, the school had the pleasure of granting eighty diplomas to students. The last class to graduate from the old frame building consisted of four girls and two boys. This was also the last year for Professor Yealey to be principal.

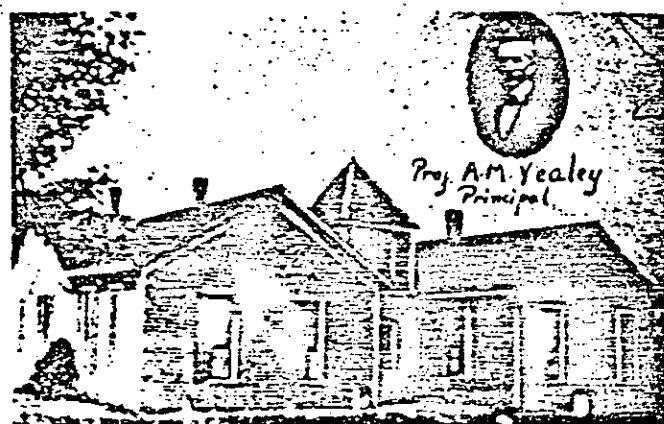
Professor Yealey and the trustees of the Florence schools, in 1901, inherited a two-room frame school building with two teachers, one acre of ground, a five month school term, and an ungraded school. By 1931, the staff of educators had increased to seven, the building had been enlarged several times and had six rooms and a large basement, and all teachers' salaries were greater than any paid in the county system. And more, the trustees had purchased and added five acres of land to the school grounds.

In September of 1931, some of the students reported back to their classrooms in the old school and then went to the new school building on Center Street. The principal was W R Davis.

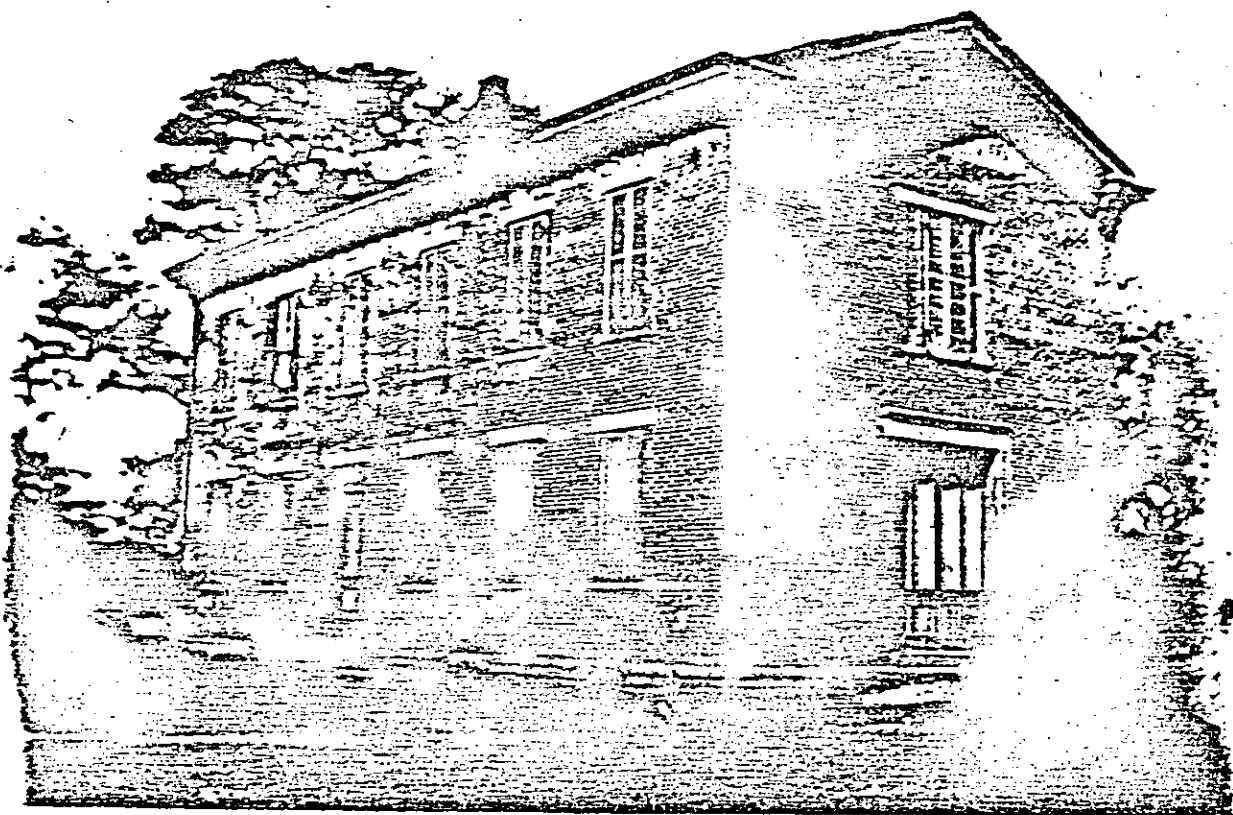
The Florence school system had consolidated with the Boone County School System.



The "Old Town Hall"
1849 - 1970



Florence Public School, 1888-1934, Prof. A. M. Yealey,
Principal



MORGAN ACADEMY

An ivy-covered brick building
on the north side of Burlington

THE MORGAN ACADEMY STORY

The Boone County high school system dates back to the year 1800 when the State Legislature of Kentucky set aside grants of land for the seminaries in various counties of the state. Boone Seminary was to receive 4500 acres of this land which was described as mountainous and located in what is now considered the Cumberland Lake region of Kentucky.

The justices of Boone County received the patents on this acreage in 1813. Three years later additional land was deeded to the Trustees of the Boone Academy. This latter parcel was in the form of two lots comprising two and one-quarter acres of land on the north side of Burlington. The deed stipulated that the ground was for the express purpose and no other nor upon any other condition than as a permanent seat for the Boone Academy. It further reads "that should the trustees of the Academy not comply on their part and the land ever revert back, it was to be in proportion to the original owners."

One of the first instructors at the institution is believed to have been Thomas Campbell, father of Alexander Campbell who founded the Disciples of Christ Church. Thomas, with his daughter, June, were in Burlington in 1819 where they had been hired to operate a school. However, they left shortly after because he disagreed with some of the laws in the state.

The school, which was a one-story two-room building nestled in a grove of beech trees on the road to Bullittsville, was called the Burlington Seminary, and in 1829 the trustees were as follows: James M Preston, President; Nathaniel E Hawes, Clerk; Churchill Gaines, Treasurer; Erastus Tousey, Willis Calvert, Richard Collins, and E S Armstrong. Six years later the school was styled Burlington Academy.

In 1841, a Boone County man named Allen Morgan, who lived on the Woolper Road near Petersburg, died intestate. Having no known relatives, his entire estate was sold and in accordance

with the laws of the Commonwealth, the proceeds were given to the Boone Academy.

The name of the institution was changed the next year to Morgan Academy in honor of the deceased and it operated under that title for the remainder of its existence. An amusing anecdote arose at the time concerning the title. Morgan Campbell, the village tailor, would jestingly denounce the school as having come between him and his inheritance, as he had been named after Allen Morgan.

Early teachers at the Academy were Sackett Mead, who instructed and acted as principal for a salary of \$800 per year, while Miss Mary Greenwood conducted the primary department for the tuition fee of that department. The term then lasted five months with about fifty pupils in attendance.

The Burlington Advertiser of September, 1849 carried this impressive advertisement:

BURLINGTON SCHOOL

Fall and winter

Starts Monday, 1st of October

Periander Scott and sister Miss Mary Ann Scott.

Terms for a session of 5 mos.

Higher branches, Latin, etc ----- \$13.00

Chemistry, Surveying, etc ----- \$10.00

English Grammar ----- \$ 8.00

Primary Branches ----- \$ 5.00

Extra charge for fuel.

John Cave, Secretary.

Periander Scott taught for only a few years, because in 1852 he was killed when the steam packet Red Stone exploded near Ghent, Ky.

In August of 1856, the trustees decided against repairing the old building and desired to construct a new school-house. The new academy would be a two-story building "twenty-seven and five/twelfths feet high". The dimensions would be 60 x 30 feet with two rooms in the first story and one large room on the second. The building was let to contract and completed two years later.

The academy flourished for some years being patronized

by prominent Boone County families as well as those in nearby Indiana and Ohio and in its heyday the attendance would consist of seventy-five to eighty students.

However, the school had never been self-sustaining and tuition fees were not sufficient to keep up the maintenance of the building. Some of the land grants had been retained and were sold in 1865 netting \$1500 for 3000 acres, but this sum was nearly all used the following year for repairing the fence around the premises, buying new benches and desks, and placing a partition on the second floor to create another room.

By the 1870's, the school had closed and the early editions of the Boone County Recorder began to publish anonymous letters written under the pen-name of "Education". These provocative missives were very elegantly written and chided the board of trustees for not opening the school and questioned the funds in the treasury of the academy. Only a few of these letters were required before the trustees answered in the same manner under the name "Institution" defending their actions and inactions. Before long "Union" and "Bullittsville" were added to the newspaper dialogues and the board finally responded,

They had tried to get an instructor without success and still it had taken about all of the funds they had to keep the building in condition. They added that they were willing to work and make sacrifices for the prosperity of the establishment but without cooperation of the citizens of the county, who should also feel as much interested, they would not be able to make it a success.

Efforts were made to re-open the school and advertisements very often appeared in August that the school would open if there were enough subscriptions. Although there were many who felt the common school was supplying sufficient education, there was a gradual drift back to the Morgan Academy.

By the 1880's the school was once more in action and would advertise a Fall and Winter term commencing about the second Monday in September.

In 1887, Profs. James Maurice Lassing and William Gaines announced a course of instruction for five months which would cost between \$12.50 and \$15.00 per term depending upon the options. They added that pupils from a distance could secure good boarding in Burlington at reasonable rates. Their tenure was short.

The following year found Prof. Henry Newton and Miss N T Arnold soliciting students in a like manner. Professor Newton was a very colorful instructor in Boone County at the time and had been teaching in Walton where he specialized in mathematics. The rumor went around that he was thought to be John Wilkes Booth, and the boys soon found out he was an excellent marksman with a revolver. This, coupled with the fact that he had a crippled foot, precipitated an investigation by the trustees who found there was nothing to the rumor.

Morgan Academy closed soon after and the land reverted back to the original owners. The old building was torn down and a barn stood in its place for many years on the lot next to the cemetery on the road to Bullittsville. Had it existed until 1908 the Burlington High School could have taken its place instead of the barn.

BOONE COUNTY SCHOOLS

Education came to Boone County when the pioneer settlers established little one-room primitive school houses in the various communities. One of the first recorded was near the mouth of Sand Run Creek. As early as 1773, a Captain Thomas Bullitt, with companies of surveyors, was in that area laying out tracts of land. Captain Bullitt planned a town at the campsite before they left, and several decades later the community of Bullittsburg came into existence. The school, which was there as early as 1808, became known as the Balsly School, then the Crisler School, and lastly the North Bend School when that district was consolidated with the Hebron School.

The year 1836 was long remembered by the early educators for in that year the General Assembly passed an Act establishing a Common School System in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The Boone County magistrates reacted favorably by appointing commissioners who made a survey of the county and laid out twenty-six school districts.

These first schools were very crude when compared with the standards of today. The school term was for three months, beginning in September and closing before Christmas. Some of these schools were named for the families who either donated the land or were the trustees of the school district. Community names were also used: Union, Richwood, Big Bone Church, Beech Grove, and Constance.

By the middle of the nineteenth century, there were an estimated 1,619 pupils with about twenty-one teachers in Boone County. Twenty-five years later, there were forty-six districts with a census count of 3,247 children of school age. By this date, 1875, the school term had increased to five months, starting in September and ending in February. The three month term was still popular where the district contained only a few pupils. It was often used also in the spring term which was an extra and was

provided by subscription only.

The one-room school houses began to fade away a few years before the turn of the century and were replaced by the multi-room schools in parts of the system. Petersburg had a graded school as early as 1896. These buildings had at least two rooms permitting the separation of the primary and elementary classes and a third room which allowed some advanced or higher subjects to be taught.

The three R's were old fashioned by 1890 since many new subjects had been introduced into the curriculum. It has been said that in the late nineteenth century one-room school, the teacher had from thirty-five to forty pupils, eleven subjects to teach, and only eight hours a day to do it in.

The town of Walton had a desire to become an independent school district in 1900. Two years later a new grade school, including a high school, was erected on Main Street and the best teachers available were acquired. Verona built a new high school in 1914 which, at the time, was considered one of the best. Pupils came from other counties to the Verona School by railroad.

The high school was very prominent in 1908 because a law had been enacted making it mandatory that one or more high schools be established in every county of the state. A high school was mandated in every county seat and thus Burlington High School was built. Plans were made for more high schools in the county.

By 1914, there were also high schools in Union, Belleview, Florence, and Hamilton. There was also discussion at the time concerning consolidated schools. One boy explained in an advertisement that he was tired of going to school every day with a big bunch of kids. He added, "I'm past fifteen!"

Florence was the leader when it consolidated with the Pleasant Ridge district to form the way for a graded school and high school. Petersburg appears to be next and by 1913 a bus was hauling pupils from the Berkshire and Terrill school districts. Petersburg pioneered the school bus in Boone County.

Burlington began using school buses in 1926 when they consolidated with the Locust Grove and other schools. By 1934, there were five consolidated high schools in the county: Florence, Burlington, Hebron, Hamilton, New Haven, and Petersburg. In addition there were the Walton and Verona Schools. The St Paul Parish School in Florence had moved from Shelby Street to a new location on the Dixie Highway in the 1920's and in 1925 this new school opened with an enrollment of 43 pupils. This school grew steadily.

By 1947, all of the small public schools had disappeared and the following had replaced them: Burlington, New Haven, Florence, Constance, Belleview, Hebron, Hamilton, and Petersburg. In addition to these county schools, there were of course the Walton and Verona Schools.

It became apparent by 1950 that the Boone County high schools at Florence, Burlington, Hebron, and New Haven were becoming crowded and expansion was needed. A twenty-acre tract was purchased on Price Pike on the edge of Florence and contracts were awarded. County Superintendent H N Ockerman announced in September of 1954 that 2,185 students had enrolled in the Boone County Elementary Schools and the new consolidated Boone County High School had an enrollment of 515. The distribution was as follows:

SCHOOL	PRINCIPAL	TEACHERS	PUPILS
Florence Graded	Rector A Jones	17	712
Burlington Graded	F N McWhorter	8	301
Hebron Graded	Lawrence Rodamer	11	478
New Haven Graded	H P Baker	8	477
Belleview Graded	Finley Horton	2	82
Constance Graded	Ralph V Lents	2	87
Petersburg Graded	Rachel Pottinger	2	89
Hamilton Graded	Silvian C Hopkins	2	143
Burlington Colored	Wallace Strader		24
Boone County High	Chester Goodridge	18	515

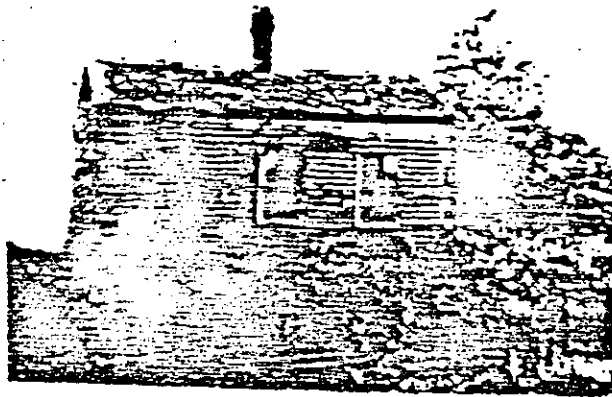
By 1950, a parish school had been opened by the All Saints Parish Church in Walton and this school was under the care of

the Sisters of Saint Benedict. There was an initial enrollment of 29 pupils. The Saint Paul Parish school in Florence had also dedicated an addition to their building in 1951. The Walton-Verona District also expanded and a new consolidated High School was built on the western edge of Walton.

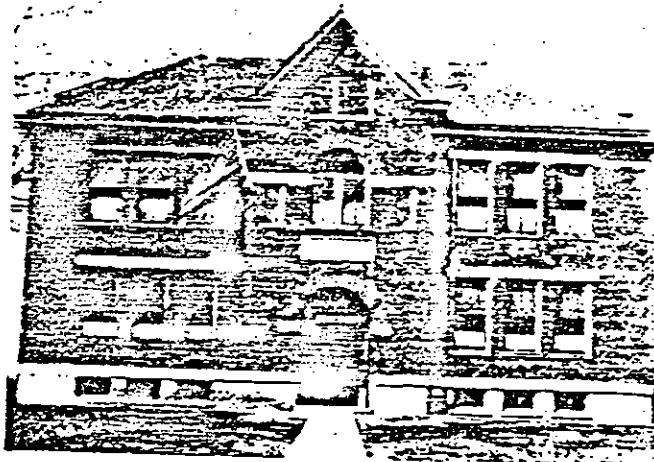
Boone County had become one of the fastest growing communities and within twenty years another high school was needed and additional elementary schools. Conner Junior and Senior-High Schools as well as the Goodridge Elementary School were built in the vicinity of Hebron. At the same time, it became evident that a vocational facility was required and the Boone County Vocational School near Hebron was established as a result.

At this date, 1982, there are several more new schools in the county. The educational facilities in Boone County at this time are:

SCHOOL	APPROX 1981-1982 ENROLLMENT
Boone County Vocational	260
Boone County Senior High	1055
Conner Senior High	750
Walton-Verona High	400
R A Jones Junior High	600
Conner Junior High	862
Ockerman Junior High	823
Burlington Elementary	729
A M Yealey Elementary	670
Goodridge Elementary	691
Hamilton Elementary	120
Ockerman Elementary	802
New Haven Elementary	495
Petersburg Elementary	102
Florence Elementary	794
Walton-Verona Elementary	425
All Saints Parish	69
Saint Paul Parish	439
Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish	188
Mary Queen of Heaven Parish	185



Burlington Public School
in 1880's



Burlington High School
1910



Walton High School
1902

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