

Northern Kentucky Views Presents:

Buck Creek School

by

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BUCK CREEK SCHOOL

Buck Creek is a tributary of the Little Kentucky River. It flows almost north in the eastern part of Trimble County.

The first school was a one-room log building located at the head of Buck Creek. The road leading to the school was almost impassable in the winter. In 1899 the building was condemned by Superintendent Zerfoss and the Board of Education built a one-room frame building farther down Buck Creek about one and one-half miles from its mouth. There was seating capacity for twenty-four children. A pot-bellied coal stove heated the room and a hole was burned in the floor where the poker had been placed. Lunch boxes were placed on a shelf when the children walked in the door. The long recitation bench, which was a custom in all schools, was near the slate blackboard. Water came from a well and the children drank from the same dipper.

Children and teachers walked a mile or one and one-half miles to school. Teachers were faithful in their attendance. In 1918 Frances Powell was elected substitute teacher for the entire county, and Mrs. Nannie Mae Cutshaw in connection with the same teacher. The teachers at this school and all schools were also janitor, nurse and teacher. The first job for the teacher each day was to build a fire in the pot-bellied stove, have the room warm and a smile on her face to greet the children, some of whom were always happy and smiling, some crying because they had fallen in the creek. During this time winters were more severe, it was difficult for children to attend, some days attendance would be only six or seven children.

In 1925 basketball was a popular sport. Walton McClellan, the teacher, introduced this sport to the students and built a full size court beside the creek. During his two years teaching, games were played with the neighboring school at Providence.

During these years the teachers were recommended by trustees. For a while there were three trustees, later the Board of Education recommended only one. Some of the trustees were Herbert Pyles, Noble Pyles, and Dora Dunn.

In the forties the school was merged with Bedford Consolidated School and the students were transported by bus.

During the early fifties the Board of Education gave the building to the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts. The Rotary Club moved the building to Cutshaw Lane and donated the water meter. The building still remains but is in poor condition.

Some of the early teachers at Buck Creek were: Willie Caplinger 1900, Ova Bryant 1917-1918, Gladys Greenwood 1924-1927, Edith Lambkin 1927-1930, Lola Pyles Stark 1930-1933, Edith Pyles Rodgers 1933-1937, Fannie Harper 1937-1938, Ada Juett 1938-1940. During the early forties there was a shortage of teachers. Anna Pyles was hired as an emergency teacher and served in this capacity until school was discontinued.

Some of the children attending school at Buck Creek were: Campbell, Dunn, Pyles, Richmond, Imel, May, Justice, Teague, Sanders and Wigginton.

Article by Lola Pyles Stark

Interviews with: Gladys Kendall and Edith Rodgers

Teachers records: County Superintendent Office 1916-1938

Georgia Nellie Chandler Cobb, "History of Education in Trimble County"

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