

EDUCATION IN THE BULLOCKS CREEK DISTRICT

There are virtually no records existing on the history of education and schools in the area. The County Superintendent's files contained only two photographs; one of the "old school" and the other of a later school. We do know that Reverend Alexander established his academy here in 1787, and that it was still in operation as late as 1860 and possibly much later. Dr. Samuel A. Smith's journal reveals that his daughter, Lula, was attending school here in 1873 and that he was paying \$25.00 in 1874 to send his children to the school. Reverend James Starks was the teacher; he had previously left the pastorate of Bullocks Creek Presbyterian Church in 1870. So from these bits of information, we may make a reasonable assumption that some type of educational system was in Bullocks Creek from the time of Reverend Alexander's classical school to 1946 -- a period of one hundred and fifty-nine years.

The first public school building that we have knowledge of was located at the Northwest corner of the cemetery where a utility building is presently located. This school was built about 1860 (possibly sooner) when the third meeting house for the congregation was constructed. It is just possible that this building was used to house the Bullocks Creek Academy in its last days (see drawing). On into the first decade of the twentieth century, this school was used to educate the children of the area. When the next school building was constructed, this building was sold to Mr. Ratchford and was moved approximately seventy-five feet North onto his property and was used as a tenant house. In 1981, when the land was sold to a paper corporation, the building was burned.

The second school was built about 1907, on the South side of the McConnellsville Road (old Hamilton's Ford Road) across from the present West gate of the cemetery. This school employed two teachers and at one time boasted of an enrollment of a hundred or more students. This building was destroyed by fire in 1937.

The third and last school was built about two hundred yards to the East and held classes for the lower grades until consolidation with the Sharon schools in 1946. The building was smaller and more plain than its predecessor. At the time of consolidation, the school was given to the Presbyterian Church and was rented as a dwelling for a number of years until a new right-of-way was cut for Highway 322. At that time, the building was dismantled.

