

3 + 4

SPECIAL EDITION

Jefferson County Public Schools

KABLETOWN AND MIDDLEWAY DISTRICTS

1860's - 1933



Vol. 2, No. 7

Jefferson County, West Virginia

April, 1976

Kabletown District

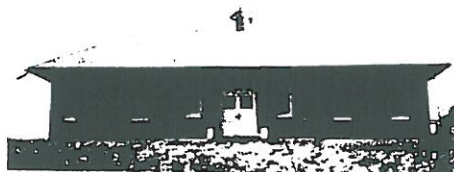


KABLETOWN SCHOOL - 1885

Pictured is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Rowland of Kabletown, but the building was once the Kabletown Graded School which was built in 1885.

The home is located directly across from the ruins of the Old Stone Church. The school was built on a lot purchased by the Board from a Mary Wilson for \$100. Originally it was a one-room school, but a partition was later added.

The school was used until 1915 when it was replaced by a new brick school still standing today in Kabletown. In 1916, the school was sold for \$446 to Elmer Roderick who remodeled it for use as a home.



KABLETOWN SCHOOL-1915

This two-room brick school was built in 1915 for white students of the Myerstown-Kabletown area. It was used continuously until 1971 when it was replaced by South Jefferson Elementary.

MYERSTOWN BLACK SCHOOL

In 1875, the first known school in Myerstown for black students was built on a lot purchased from a Fisher A. Lewis. No longer standing today, the school was located on the left, one mile out of Myerstown on the Myerstown-Rippon road. Today the home of James King is located on the approximate site of the school.

The school was used until 1936 when the students were transferred to Eagle Avenue. It was sold the same year to a Charles Sims for \$170.

The Myerstown School for white students was built in 1877 on a lot purchased from a Henry Smith for \$130. The school still stands today and is used as a private residence. It is the third house on the right out of Myerstown on the Myerstown-Rippon Road.

The school was closed in 1915 when the new Kabletown brick school was completed. It was sold in 1916 for \$420 and is owned today by Roosevelt Green who rents it to Mrs. Doris Moten.



MYERSTOWN WHITE SCHOOL - 1877

RIPPON SCHOOLS



RIPPON SCHOOL - 1900

The first known school for white students in Rippon was built in 1874 at the fork of the road leading from Rippon to Myerstown. It was a one-room school built on a lot purchased from a N. S. White.

In 1900, the school became the Rippon Colored School, and white students moved over to a new brick school which still stands today just outside Rippon on the Rippon-Summit Point Road.

The new brick school was built on land purchased from a Margaret Timberlake for \$200. Originally it was a one-room school, but a second room was added later.

The school was used continuously until 1971 when it was replaced by South Jefferson Elementary. From 1971 until 1975, it was used for kindergarten classes. Today the school is not used but is still the property of the Board of Education.

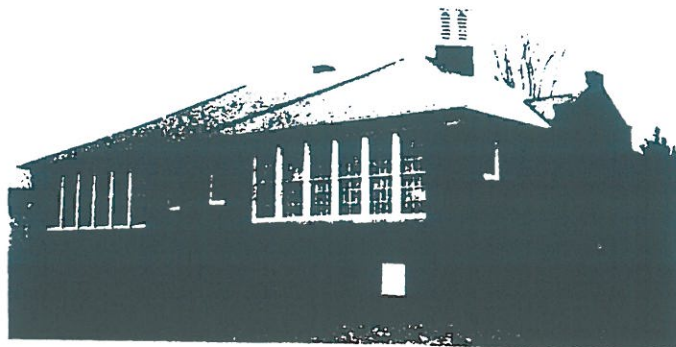
The Rippon Colored School remained in operation until 1939 when the students were transferred to Eagle Avenue School in Charles Town. The school was sold to the Savannah Baptist Church and was used as the minister's home until it was hit by a truck. The building was so damaged that it had to be torn down. A home was built on the same lot, and it, too, was demolished by a truck. Today another new home has been built on the same site.

WHEATLAND SCHOOL

Wheatland School of the Kabletown District was built in 1911 on the Wheatland Road. It operated until 1933 when it was consolidated with Summit Point School. In 1934, it was sold to a Mr. Melvin for \$265. Today the former school is the residence of Samuel Cook.



Summit Point Schools



SUMMIT POINT SCHOOL - 1920

Although there were probably earlier schools in Summit Point, the first school which can be documented was built in 1887 on the same lot on which the brick school still stands today in the small community. The land for the school was purchased from A. P. Thompson for \$10.

This early school, situated closer to the Methodist Church, was really two buildings. A stone building faced the road and behind it, connected by a covered walk-way, was a wooden building.

The upper grades were housed in the stone building with one teacher, and the lower grades were situated in the wooden building with a different teacher.

The boys and girls had separate playgrounds with a high board fence between.

According to Edna Farnsworth, a life-long resident of Summit Point and a student at this early school, the teachers were strict and allowed no time to be wasted. "When we finished a textbook and had no other to begin," says Miss Farnsworth, "we just started the same text over from the very first page." She recalls studying English history, United States history, West Virginia history, mathematics, agriculture, and book-keeping in the upper grades. "We had no foreign languages or higher mathematics like algebra," says Miss Farnsworth, "but the instruction we had was thorough and complete."

James Snyder, another life-long student of Summit Point recalls that the upstairs of the Timberlake Store (now Jackson's Store), a building across from Skinner Poston's home, and a room in the Poston home were all used as temporary classrooms.

When the brick school was completed, the wooden structure of the old school was moved to Baker's Garage, but it no longer stands today.

The new brick school was used until 1971 when it was replaced by South Jefferson Elementary. Today the school is owned by Chester Baggs of Richwood Hall.

In 1920, a four-room school was built on the same lot to replace the early school. Since the stone from the old school was needed for the foundation of the new school, the stone building was torn down first and the students were placed temporarily in various buildings in the community.

MT. PLEASANT SCHOOL



The building pictured is now the home of James Payton of Mt. Pleasant but it once was the Mt. Pleasant Colored School.

It was built in 1908 on land purchased by the Kabletown District Board of Education from a George Anderson for \$100.

Mt. Pleasant School was used until 1936 when students were transferred to Eagle Avenue in Charles Town. That same year, the school was sold to a H. P. Light for \$200.

It is believed there was an earlier school at Mt. Pleasant near the site of the school pictured.

FAIRMOUNT SCHOOL



FAIRMOUNT SCHOOL - 1922

The first Fairmount School of the Kabletown District was built in 1876 on a lot purchased from an Evans Rodgers. It was located several miles back on the Mt. Mission Road. This school was destroyed by fire in 1922, but it was replaced by the second Fairmount School pictured above.

This picture of the later school was loaned to SCHOOL NEWS by Marianna J. Smallwood of Kabletown, a teacher at Fairmount for 10 years. Fairmount remained open until 1939 when it was replaced by Blue Ridge Elementary.

In 1939 Nathaniel Gray purchased the school for \$120. He tore it down and rebuilt it as a home in Charles Town. The rebuilt Fairmount School still stands today, the second house on the right toward Summit Point after the intersection of the Summit Point-Middleway roads on Harewood Avenue.

Even farther up Mt. Mission Road than Fairmount School was Pine Grove School. Very little is known about this school because there are no early Board minutes from the Kabletown District. Pine Grove operated until 1934 when it was consolidated with Fairmount. In 1934 Pine Grove was sold to a Ward Clipp for \$52.



Years ago, one of the highlights of the school year in many Jefferson County Schools was the May Day Program. These students pictured were students of Marianna Smallwood when she taught at Fairmount School. The students pictured are (front row):

Jessie Masson - wreath bearer, Erma Gaynor - queen, Allen Howell - crown bearer, and (?) Mason - wreath bearer; (back row) - Louise Mobley - lady-in waiting and Louise Brown - wreath bearer.

A Teacher Looks Back

Mrs. Marianna Smallwood of Kabletown recalls in the following article her experiences as a teacher at both Mannings School and Fairmount School. Mrs. Smallwood taught at Mannings from 1924 to 1926. She boarded with a family near the school during the week and returned to Kabletown over the weekends. She taught at Fairmount from 1926 until 1932 and again from 1935 until 1939. In her early years at Fairmount she walked about two miles from her home in Kabletown across the fields to the Shenandoah River at Myers Ferry. She crossed the river at this point on her flat boat called "Leaping Lena." After crossing the river, she walked two more miles to the school.

"Reminiscences"

By

Marianna J. Smallwood

During the last week in August in 1924, I was told that I had been appointed to teach in the one room school at Mannings. This indeed was good news to me as I had borrowed money to attend Shepherd College during the past summer for a nine week course, thereby earning a temporary teacher's certificate which would entitle me to a \$60 monthly pay.

Can you imagine how I felt on the opening day of school to find the building locked, the window shutters nailed closed and weeds knee-high in the yard. Upon inquiry I found out who usually was responsible for opening the school for business. I contacted this person and asked for a volunteer to go with me throughout the neighborhood to notify the parents that school would begin the next day at nine o'clock. After covering about a four-mile tramp and having stopped at the homes of children who usually attended the public school, I was a tired beginner teacher but not ready to give up. Yet this was a disappointing first day experience.

In the community there was located a thriving parochial school (Mt. Mission School) which had a large enrollment. As I later found out, this school provided a haven for the public school pupils who differed with their teacher. This custom reversed likewise as those pupils of the parochial school who did not see eye to eye with their teachers often reported for enrollment at the public school.

I would like to mention that I was eighteen years old at this time and several of my pupils were sixteen - quite large for their age. Yes, one actually later proposed marriage! This is how he brought it about. He had called several times at the home where I was boarding and one particular evening he proposed.

Continued Page 4

"Reminiscences", con't.

"Miss Johnson, I'd like to ask you a question."
I replied, "All right if I can answer it."

Are you going to be Mrs. () or Miss Johnson when school closes in May?" he inquired.

"I expect I'll still be Miss Johnson," I replied.

Another incident comes to my mind. I had found tobacco on one of the pupils. The order of that day was to take the tobacco away from the child and follow with some form of punishment. Later in the afternoon after dismissal, I was stooping down to go under a wire which was a part of the fence when wham, I felt something hit me on the cheek. Upon examination I found I had been struck with a pebble which had come from a sling shot. The tobacco bearer had had his revenge. Back into the school room we went for a session. The next day the boy's father sent me a note saying that Dr. Pittman had advised him to let his son smoke, as this would help his asthma! Can you imagine this!

Another incident - one of the pupils went home at noon for lunch. On this particular day I was outside with the pupils when I noticed smoke in the vicinity of the Murrill Hill Church which was not far from the school. Upon investigation we found a brush fire was gaining headway. We took branches from pine trees and hastily beat out the fire, the job proving to be a dirty, hot byline to teaching. We later learned the pupils who had gone home for lunch had started the fire.

A chore which became a weekly task was replacing the flag pole which had been damaged over the weekend by students swinging on the rope. One of the patrons usually brought us the pole from which the pupils removed the bark. After everything was lined up, the pole was set. This happened many times.

I want to tell about a unique way to cross the Shenandoah River. This was winter when winters were unusually cold. The river was frozen over and the ice unusually thick on Friday when I planned to go home for the weekend.

I went to the river expecting to walk the ice as I have done several times. Instead a man who operated a store in the neighborhood was waiting to meet a wholesale truck for groceries. He and the ferryman were going to push a canoe over the ice to

the opposite side of the river. When they saw me, they called to me to hurry in order to ride in the canoe. Can you picture this - one man pulling while the other pushed the canoe with me riding in all my glory.

Along with the above mentioned experiences and many others, the pupils and I managed to work with the 3 R's, cooperated with the church in presenting programs, and held indoor festivals several times during the year to raise funds to buy school supplies.

After being at Mannings two years, I was appointed teacher at Fairmount School where I plied the trade for ten years. Besides teaching, I often was asked to cut the pupils' hair. I remember cutting the lobe of a little girl's ear. She didn't utter a sound but upon investigating to see if I had trimmed evenly, I saw the blood dripping from her ear. This was a precious blond six-year-old who several years later became the May Queen in a closing day program. Added to barbering were many other tasks such as delivering mail, purchasing articles, taking care of students' physical needs, and oh yes, preparing hot meals twice a week.

I became upset when I saw that the pupils had nothing to eat for lunch every day except huckleberries and honey cake. The Charles Town Lions Club found out about the situation and donated \$5 each week to purchase food for the children to have a hot lunch two times a week.

I, of course, became the cook. I stayed after school to prepare the food for the next day. The old wood stove which provided our heat also served as the cooking stove. We used the recitation bench as a table and slabs of wood for chairs around it. As I recall, the children's favorite meal was kraut and dumplings.

We had a very successful 4-H Club at Fairmount which one year met all requirements to become an outstanding one. By holding indoor festivals, we purchased a sewing machine and with

assistance of one of the ladies of the community, the girls learned the first rudiments of sewing. Our PTA was enjoyed by the community as it was a social event in which we all worked to accomplish many things such as beautifying the school and church yards, building picnic tables at a nearby spring and screening the school windows. I recall one of the ladies and I painted the interior of the school room in August in order to have it ready for the school year.

Added to other experiences the children and I often spent a part of the lunch hour repairing the county road. Men hauling wood would get stuck in ruts, and as a result the roads would become almost impassable. Armed with hoes and buckets and boxes in which to carry stones and rocks, we filled many ruts. It was quite a contrast to the present Mission Road one travels over today.

Besides having our playground equipment for recreation there was "Ditch Day." Every Tuesday and Thursday during the last half hour of the lunch period, the children went to a ravine not far from the school where they would pole vault from bank to bank. Even the girls became experts. Would I vault with them? No, there was a tree stump nearby where I sat to watch them. "Ditch Day" was quite a treat for the children.

In spring the children were delegated to hunt tea berry leaves and oak balls. I soon learned I had to get a loud sounding bell and a whistle to use to let them know when it was time to return to the classroom. Often the older ones would venture quite a distance.

I could go on and on with reminiscences of these days but this will do for this time. We had many happy experiences and often many former pupils come to see me now, some bringing their grandchildren to see Miss Johnson, as I am still called by them.

Jefferson County School News is a monthly publication sponsored by the Board of Education as a public service to Jefferson County residents.

Superintendent . . . Harold L. Pickens
President of the Board . . . Richard Neal
Editor Mary Stocks

Special thanks are due to the following people who so willingly supplied information to the editor of this paper for this special publication:

Mrs. Beverly Huyett
Mrs. Norval Johnson
Mr. James Ernest Watson
Mr. and Mrs. James Grantham
Mrs. Margaret Kilmer
Mrs. Caroline Wesco
Mrs. Virginia Burns
Mrs. Holmes White
Mrs. Nancy Sardone
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NEXT ISSUE
SHEPHERDSTOWN
DISTRICT SCHOOLS

MIDDLEWAY DISTRICT



Pictured are students of the Middleway Public School standing in front of the school which was built in 1893. It was a two-room building which replaced an earlier one-room school.

Both schools were located in the vicinity of the Full Gospel Pentecostal Church (originally the Protestant Methodist Church).

This picture, taken sometime between 1910 and 1917, was loaned to SCHOOL NEWS by Mrs. Nancy Sardone whose mother, Julia Barnes, was a teacher at Middleway School during this time.

Front row left to right are Harlan Watson, Albertus Brining, Lawrence Nicely, John Castleman, Robert Smith, Lyndon Janney, Lester Watson, Leonard Mason, Allen Lyne, Roy Swartz, Tom White, and Leonard White. Second row: Page Moore Henry, Bernice Woods, Margaret Nicely, Nellie Pine, Eva Pine, Mary Myers Whittington, Edna Nicely Pifer, Bruce Castleman, Pearl Castleman, Mary Janney, and Frank Pine. Third row: Harry Nicely, Viola Underwood, Blanche Pine, Corinne Underwood Kisner, Dulcey Cain, and Margaret Snyder. Back row: teachers Julia Moore Barnes and Lula Jennings Shaul.

The two-room school was built by a contractor named C. C. Huyslett of Summit Point at a cost of \$812. The school was used until 1925 when it was replaced by the brick school which still stands in Middleway and which is now the private residence of Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Linton.

In 1926, the Board of Education considered moving the old school to Kearneysville to use as an addition to the overcrowded Linwood School, but the move was never made.

A TEACHER LOOKS BACK

Mrs. Julia Barnes wrote this article about her teaching experience at the Middleway School from 1910-1917. The article was published in the Pennsylvania Farmer in 1952. Mrs. Barnes' daughter, Mrs. Nancy Sardone of Kabetown, found the clipping in her mother's scrapbook and shared it with SCHOOL NEWS.

In 1910 I made my debut as a public school teacher in West Virginia. After passing the state uniform examination, I received an appointment as primary teacher in a two-room school in a village - population about 200.

The school house was on a hill overlooking the hamlet with a beautiful view of the distant mountains in the west - the only thing pleasing to the eye.

My home was in the county seat so I boarded the five school days with families who were not patrons for \$10 a month. Of course my salary was \$30 a month, later raised to \$35 and then \$40. Believe it or not, I managed to save enough to see me through the vacation months.

Each winter we held an oyster supper in the town hall to raise money for supplementary readers. This was work but fun and a good crowd turned out in spite of the weather. Fifty cents for all you could eat.

After these seven years I joined the graded school faculty in the county seat where I did second grade work, with a class of 50, for three years. This was easy. When I changed my profession in 1920 I was receiving \$80 monthly, but I had less because the dollar was not worth as much.

MIDDLEWAY BLACK SCHOOL



Pictured is the home of Virginia Burns in Middleway, but the building was once the school for black students. It was built in 1908 on land purchased by the Board from a N. R. Roberts for \$100.

However, there was at least one earlier black school in Middleway. A school was built in 1870 on a lot next to the 1908 school, but it is no longer standing.

The building pictured is on the right, across from the power plant, on the road leading to Summit Point.

Maintaining regular attendance at the school must have been a problem. The 1926 Board minutes record that parents in the area were notified that unless their children started attending the school, it would be closed.

The school was closed in 1929 when the students were transported to Linwood in Kearneysville.

MIDDLEWAY SCHOOL-1925



This three-room brick school was built in Middleway in 1925 at a cost of \$4883. It was used continuously until 1971 when it was replaced by South Jefferson Elementary near Summit Point. Today the school is owned by Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Linton. They use it both as their home and as a ceramic shop.

WOODBURY SCHOOL



Woodbury School was located on the right, one and one-half miles from Leetown on the Leetown-Kearneysville road. It is believed that the school was erected in 1887.

Almost directly across the road was the site for an earlier school which was probably built in 1868 on a lot purchased from Isaac Strider for \$5.

However, there must have been an even earlier school in this same area according to an article which appeared in the Jefferson Republican Sesquicentennial Edition on September 20, 1951.

The article was written by a Mary H. Cockrell who had been a resident of Leetown in the early 1850's. An excerpt from the article is reprinted below.

The time in the history of Leetown, about which I shall write briefly was 1854 and 55, when Franklin Pierce was President of the United States, when the Crimean war was devastating southern Europe, and the anti-slavery agitation was embittering sectional animosity in our country.

"I was a schoolgirl then, attending school in a long log building near the pike, less than half a mile North of the Episcopal Church.

"Two tenplate stoves, burning wood for fuel, were needed to heat the school room in winter.

"Thomas Beall was our teacher.

"The school at that time was a public institution, the first of the kind having been established in this country in 1849. My school mates came from families for miles around. All came on foot; automobiles and buggies were unknown among them."

The school described, less than half a mile north of the Episcopal Church, would have been in the same general area as the school on the Strider property and the Woodbury School.

Woodbury was discontinued as a white school when the new brick school was built in Leetown in 1911. For two years, it was used as a school for black students and was finally closed in 1913.

The picture of Woodbury School was loaned to SCHOOL NEWS by Mr. and Mrs. Jack Huyett who own "Woodbury," an old estate located close to where the school once stood.

SNOW HILL SCHOOL



Snow Hill School was built in 1897 and was located on the Charles Town - Leetown road. It stood on the right (coming from Charles Town) on the corner at the point where a side road leads to the county landfill.

The school was used until 1911 when it was replaced by the brick school still standing in Leetown. When the school closed, it was moved nearby to what was known as the County Poor Farm for use as a chapel.

The school still stands today on the farm and is used as a storage shed.

LEETOWN GRADED AND HIGH SCHOOL



In 1911 a new brick school was built in Leetown to replace Woodbury, Wright, and Snow Hill Schools.

The lot for the school was purchased from a I. H. Strider for \$175. An architect was hired by the Middleway District Board of Education to draw up plans for the new two-room brick school. The contract was awarded to a F. O. Trump for \$2,368.

The Board also employed a superintendent who received three percent of the contract price to supervise the construction.

The new school was declared a graded school by the Board, and a principal was hired for \$50 a month. The 1911 Board minutes record that the principal should be "preferably male."

By 1912, the two-room school was too small for its enrollment. In 1913, a two-room addition was added, with Trump's contract of \$3,275 again being accepted. The contract price included the installation of a heating plant.

After the addition was completed, the school became Leetown Graded and High School with a staff of four teachers. T. L. Yates became the principal and the teacher of the two year high school program.

In 1931, the high school program was no longer offered. Leetown Graded School continued to serve grades 1-8 and then later 1-6 until it finally closed in 1971 when it was replaced by North Jefferson Elementary. Today the school is owned by Dunaway Licklider.

LEETOWN WRIGHT SCHOOL

1867



The children pictured were students at Wright School in Leetown around the early 1900's. The school stood past the entrance to the Isaac Walton League and next to the present home of Mrs. Nellie Owens.

The picture was loaned to SCHOOL NEWS by Mr. W. L. Barron of Shepherds-town who is one of the students pictured: Front row are Ada Benner, Blanche Emery, Charles Bowers, Edith Hooe, Irene Emery, Ruth Bowers Barron (Mrs. W. L. Barron), Herbert Shull, Olive Bowers, George Bowers, and Annie Hooe. Back row: Forest Watson, Stanley Benner, Ema Hooe, Edith Shull, Lelya Benner, Florence Licklider (teacher), Daisy Iselin, Mabel Coates, and Frank Watson.

Wright school was built in 1867 on a lot deeded to the Middleway District Board of Education from Daniel Wright for \$30. The school remained open until 1911 when it was replaced by the brick school still standing in Leetown.

OAK GROVE SCHOOL



Oak Grove School was built originally as a private school. It was located on what is now the James Grantham farm on secondary 1-13 off State Rt. 51 west (Child's Road). It is believed that the school was deeded over to the Middleway District Board of Education in 1868 for use as a public school.

The 1901 board meetings record paying James Grantham, the father of the present owner of the land, \$13.50 rent per year for use of the school.

Oak Grove, no longer standing, was used until 1919. The picture above was loaned to SCHOOL NEWS by Shirley Macoughtry of Summit Point whose mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lee Macoughtry, were students at Oak Grove.

Johnsontown School

There was a school for black students at Johnsontown, a small community on the Brownshop - Bardane road, but the date of its erection is unknown.

The school was located next to the present home of Charles Johnson in Johnsontown.

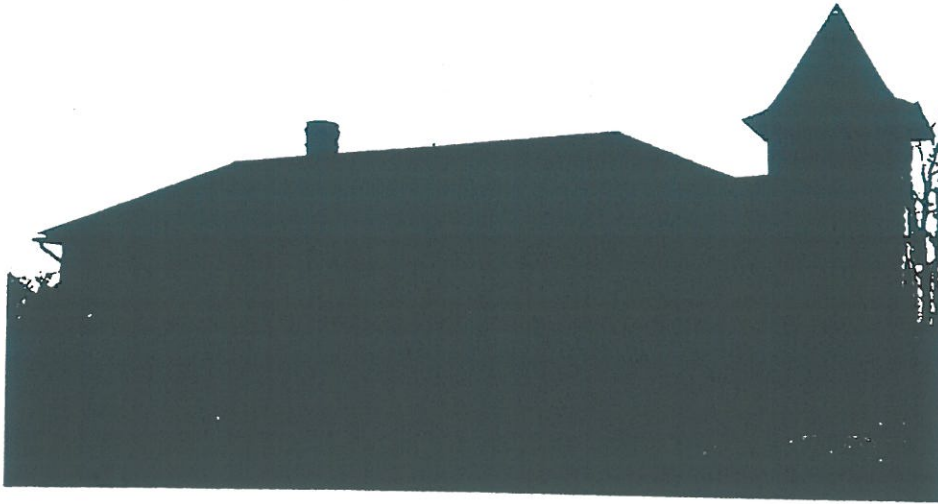
In 1924, the patrons of the area asked that the school be replaced because "the old log public school endangers the health and lives of our children especially in the winter months." However, the Board declined to take any action.

In 1929, according to the Board minutes, the nearby unused Wiltshire School was rented from the Charles Town District Board of Education for the Johnsontown students.

Although the Board minutes are not clear, it is believed that Wiltshire was rented for around two years and then the Johnsontown School was reopened.

In 1933, the Johnsontown School was closed, and the students were transferred to Linwood in Kearneysville.

KEARNEYSVILLE SCHOOLS



The stone part of the Kearneysville School was built in 1872. It is believed, however, that there was an earlier school located nearby the school pictured.

According to the Board minutes of 1895, there was only one teacher with 15 students in the "upper room" and 18 students in the "lower room." In 1901 a second teacher was added.

The brick addition was built in 1906 by a F. O. Trump for \$1792. The school evidently had a large enrollment for by 1917, a third teacher was employed.

The school was used continuously until 1971 when it was replaced by North Jefferson Elementary.

It is believed that the first school built in Kearneysville for black students was in 1872 on land purchased from a Mr. Turner for \$40.

According to the Board minutes of 1895, one teacher handled an enrollment of 45 students.

A new black school was built in 1899 on a lot purchased by the Board of Education from a G. T. Hodges for \$150. The new school, called Linwood, was a two-room building, erected by a D. B. Gageby for \$700.

Linwood was located in the area close to the railroad tracks reached by turning right at the end of the underpass.

In 1925, the patrons of Linwood petitioned the Board, requesting an addition for the school and the implementation of a two-year high school program.

The Board declined the request because the construction of a new school at Middleway was then underway. The Board considered moving the old Middleway School to Linwood to alleviate crowded conditions, but the move was never made.

Linwood was used continuously until 1948 when the Kearneysville students were transported to the new Eastside School in Shepherdstown. Linwood was sold in 1948 and is no longer standing.

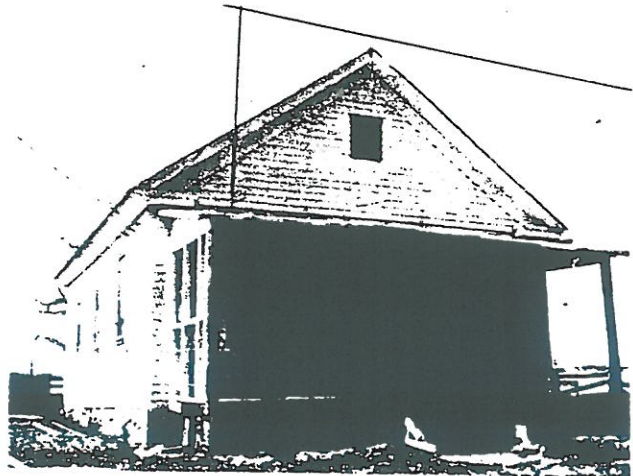
JAMESTOWN SCHOOL

A school for black students was built in 1884 at Jamestown, two and one-half miles southwest of Summit Point. It was built on land deeded to the Middleway District Board of Education by Abraham Doleman for \$40.

According to Caroline Wesco of Jamestown, the school, no longer standing, was on the left (coming from Summit Point) and close to the road.

Jamestown School was closed in 1911.

Swimley School



The Swimley School still stands today on the Henry Smith farm on the Swimley Road. The school was built in 1891 and replaced an earlier school which was located on the same lot.

The school was built by a J. L. Clendening for \$525. The 1891 Board minutes report that 20 new double desks at a total cost of \$54 were purchased for the new school.

In 1933, Swimley School closed and the students were transferred to Summit Point School.

In 1934, the school was donated to Stanley Hardesty who owned the farm at that time. Until recently, the school has been used as a private dwelling.

Next Issue
**SHEPHERDSTOWN
DISTRICT
SCHOOLS**