

Collins School

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Source: Mr. and Mrs. Collins F. Kindred collection

Collins School, No. 38, is located in Platte County near the city of Smithville on the West. It is closely united with the history of the Smithville community.

The land where Collins School was built was given by Mr. Perry Collins soon after the Civil War. Many citizens in this community had the advantages of a good District School education. Among the early teachers were: Miss Kate Collins, later the wife of Mr. Snail. She was Mr. Charles Collins' first teacher. He was the father of Ora Lee Pinkard. Other teachers were Ralph Miller, James Sodeman and Joe Wright. Peter Gilmore Hornbeck (Uncle Jim), born 1860, was among the early pupils and listed among his schoolmates were the Daugherty, McComas, Heath, Silvey, Collins, Swaney, Hornback, Justus, Day, Berry, Neff and Lowman families.

Some of the school patrons who served as directors of the school were: Charles French, William Lake, Dan Heath, Lloyd Allmon, Estel Sharp and J.A. Ballinger. Some of the teachers we recall were: Leta Piburn (1916), Laura Mae Douglas (1922-23), Ida Miller, Mable Crow, Madison Ballinger, Ada B. Silvey, Estella Mae Atkins, Hester Golden, Fern Heath, Dorothy Walker, Cora Heath and Geraldine Yates (1942). Mrs. William Lake was the last teacher.

A call meeting was held August 30 at the school in 1957 with 17 votes for and none against annexation with the Smithville District.

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