

Mitchell School

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Date: Unknown

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

In Record Book No. 28, page 93, we found that on September 16, 1867, Edward B. Mitchell deeded to Samuel J. Brooks and other trustees:

A part of the east half of the east quarter of section 29, township 53, range 32, beginning at the 48 10/25 poles to north of the southwest corner of the said east half, then due north 140 yards, thence east 35 yards, thence south 140 yards, thence west to the place of the beginning, containing one acre more or less, for the sum of \$25.00.

The following were directors: Samuel J. Brooks, John Williams and Bennet Smith, and the deed contained the clause, "Whenever the said real estate conveyed hereby shall cease to be used as a school site, it shall revert back to the estate of the said grantor." Dated September 16, 1867 and signed by Edward B. Mitchell.

How soon the first school house was built, we find no record. It was possibly a log structure. The location of it was north of the present building. The first record found was in 1874. In the handwritten minutes many words, sound-spelled and very legible, were very interesting. From the minutes of the meeting came this:

"At the annual meeting of the qualified voters of sub-district 4, Township 53 and Range 32, held in the school house on the third Tuesday of April, 1874, Adolph Boregard was appointed chairman, and John Williams, Secretary. Whereupon said voters proceeded to elect by ballot three directors. Upon inspection of several ballots given at such election it found and publicly declared that John Williams was elected for three years, John Strode for 2, and Samuel J. Brooks for 1 year. It was also decided by the majority of the votes cast, there should be a four-month winter and a three-month summer school from April 25th to July 25th at \$30.00 a month. Edward Brooks taught the summer term."

A list of textbooks bought from Liberty is among the records some of which were the new grade readers:

The American Education Series
Watson's Independent Scrip Speller
Ray's Arithmetic and Algebra
Cornell's Geography
Spencerean System of Penmanship
Haley's Language
Swention's Condensed History
Steel's Fourteen Weeks in Physiology
Steel's Fourteen Weeks in Philosophy
Steel's in Astronomy
Steel's Chemistry
Steel's Geology
Youman's First Lesson in Botany

The enrollment in 1875 was 28 boys and 24 girls. The average daily attendance in the winter term was 22 and the summer was 15. The seating capacity of the school was 40. The law at that time was that a school board was not to exceed \$24.00 a year for the purchase of books for the library. The term for 1875 and 1876 was 6 months, 3 months summer and 3 months winter. W.P. Rollins was the teacher with the average of 36 pupils with attendance of 22. His salary was \$40.00 a month. In 1878 there were 47 pupils. The teacher was paid \$50.00 for 4 months. At the annual school meeting of 1884, the proposition of the new school house was voted down, but voted for the repair of the said building. A part of the meeting was the order for the contract for so many cords of wood for the fuel for the year. On May 19, 1884, a notice was given that directors of the school would let to the lowest and best bidder the following: that he furnish material of first class and do work on school premises.

1. Furnish shingles and cover building including tearing off said old roof.
2. Put new siding of first quality on said house.
3. Put four new windows 10x14-8 height. Close old doors and put one in east end and new 2'8"x6'8", 2 inches thick.

4. To seal two sides and one end of said house with 3/4" sealing and put siding at each opening 2x4.
5. To give said building one coat of paint on outside. Has to be strictly pure lead, with good boiled oil and further the said contractor to furnish 20 pounds of fencing nails to make it more stout.
6. To furnish lumber and four new pieces of either white or burr oak 8x8 feet long to cover the well on said premises and also put up curb 2 1/2' x 3' high with hinge cover.
7. To furnish and a put a fence across front part of school lot, posts to be mulberry and locust with stile in center and steps outside and inside the fence to be planked up with pine of first grade. Two barbed wire omitted. All said work to be done on or before September 1, 1884, and to be done good. We hold the right to reject any and all bids thought to be too high.
8. The said contractor to take schools warrants on Said District payable January 1, 1885 for such materials and work.

W.H. Dayden
S.E. Breckenridge
A. Boregard (clerk)

The contract for repairs was given to A. Boregard for \$197.50. In April, 1891, in the procedure of the business after the election of a director, E.A. Brooks, the vote was that the school term be extended by two months for the next year. The contract for wood was let by Robert Breckenridge for 5 cords of split hickory or oak and to be delivered in the schoolyard by the first of September at \$2.47 a cord. It was moved and seconded that a tax be levied to reseal the school house with 20 seats. The teacher in 1895 was Miss Nellie Dryden with a salary of \$35.00 per month, with a total of 28 pupils and average attendance of 12.

On April 6, 1896, the president, John T. Williams and John Williams, clerk, appointed J.L. Dodson to draw plans for a new house. The same was ordered to be advertised in Smithville Herald for three weeks.

The new school was located farther south on the Smithville Kearney Road. R.L. Breckenridge was to clear timber, fill the old well and prepare the ground for the new building for \$6.75. Also, he was to cut three cords of hickory or oak wood for fuel for \$8.65. The school term was to start the first Monday in September, run five months, then the other term to begin the first Monday in April for three months.

Some of the teachers were: J.T. Rice, 1883-1884; J.W. Wilkerson, 1884-1886; W.D. Hands; Miss Emma Brooks, 1901-1902; Miss Jennie Francis, 1902-1903; Mrs. J.M. Tracey, 1903-1905; Miss Mary Sherrick, 1905-1906 (this was the last year to have seven months); Miss Georgia Grimes, 1906-1907; Miss Carrie Latt, 1907-1908; Miss Angie Collier, 1907-1908; Miss Laura Heady, 1908 (for eight years); Rossie Taylor (with 30 pupils), 1917-1918; Besse Vaughn, 1918-1919; Nellie Wood, 1919-1920 (with 30 pupils); Epha Hess, 1920-1921; Nannie Crow, 1920-1921, 1921-1923; Ben Hull, 1923-1925; Mildred Scott, 1925-1927; Cornelia Shannon (with 10 pupils); Helen Arthur, 1920-1932; Lois Miller, 1932-1933; Mrs. Annie Spicer, 1933-1947; Emma Lee Burs, 1947-1948, 1948-1949 (19 pupils), 1949-1950.

In the fall of 1950, the district paid pupils' tuition and the pupils were transported to Smithville. Bonnie Justus was the last 8th grade graduate from Mitchell School. On the last day of school there was a combined program of Woods and Mitchell children as both women had been teachers of Woods and Mitchell.

Some of the many directors were: S.J. Brooks, John Strode, A. Boregard, Silas Breckenridge, Ed Moore, John Williams, Sr., D.W. Williams, E.A. Brooks, Williams Dryden, R.L. Breckenridge, James E. Lott, George Breckenridge, John R. Eastin, J.R. McClary, Earl Breckenridge, Ross Justus, John Rodgers, Ralph Fry, Fairy Breckenridge, Floyd Ecton, Charles Brooks, John Moore, Charles Cowdrey, Will Murphy, Lee Murphy, and Dee Norton.