

## BEAVER TOWNSHIP

Beaver Township is located in the west central part of Newton County. Due to poor roads, the swampy nature of the land and poor living conditions, Beaver Township remained undeveloped. The township was established in 1834.

The people of Beaver Township realized the need for schools, and when they had sufficient funds, they had a subscription school with each family paying their own way. Often land valued at \$1.25 an acre was donated by an interested person. Patrons would gather to build a school, and it was usually completed in three days. The floors, benches, and doors were made of puncheons; wooden hinges were used on the doors; and greased paper was put over a sawed out log for a window. The roof was made by using clapboards and held down by weigh poles. For night meetings each family was asked to bring candles or grease with a rag to furnish light.

The early instructors were generally farmers who could read, write and cipher. During the 1830's and 1840's the school term was generally not more than three months. The cost was \$2 per pupil. There were usually 20 or more pupils. Sometimes the tuition was paid for with farm products or by furnishing board and room. Education was a family matter and decided locally.

The ordinances of 1785 and 1787 were for dividing the public land into townships and the 16th section was to be used for public school maintenance.

In 1846, Caleb Mills, a noted educator, recommended to the General Assembly public taxation for the support of the schools, state distribution of a common fund based on the school census, and the election of a county Superintendent of education. In 1849, a general school law, including most of Mills' recommendations, was passed.

In 1852 a new school law was passed. It united the school districts of a township; this was the beginning of the township trustee system.

In 1851, John Murphy plotted the town of Morocco. There were few families and the town grew slowly. Three or four business houses and a one-room log school made up the town. The only other school in the township in 1853 was west of Morocco and was known as Kessler School.

The first building constructed in the county for school,

church, and public meetings was built by John Murphy. It ceased to be in 1854 when a new frame schoolhouse was built on the corner of the block immediately north of the business district. This was built with public funds at a cost of \$300. It had windows, a shingled roof and was sealed on the inside. A school known as the Oakdale School was built the same year. In 1859 the Whitson School, better known as the Darroch School, was built. This school was built in the southeast corner of Section 28, but was moved to Section 33. In these schools, board seats replaced the puncheon benches.

In 1852 schools were erected and teachers were paid by public taxation. The state was soon in trouble financially, and the school term was cut to 45 days. During 1859 the revenue was only 94¢ per child. School affairs after 1859 were managed by one township trustee whose duty was to decide school needs, levy taxes, and employ teachers.

The local tax levy for school purposes in 1861 was 15¢ on each \$100 property valuation; the state levy for schools was 10¢.

In 1864 the local levy was increased to 20¢; in 1865 it was 25¢, and remained at that figure for several years. The real estate in the township was valued at \$125,000. Between \$1000 and \$1500 was raised annually for the operation of three to five schools.

The county school officer after 1860 was the examiner. For each day he worked he received \$3. His major function was examining and licensing teachers.

There were four grades of certificates--6, 12, 18, and 24 months, issued depending on the grade attained on the examination. Teachers were examined for the 3 R's and geography. They were also expected to show knowledge of the Constitution of the United States and Indiana.

In 1860 the average salary for a male teacher was \$20 per month, and of a female \$10 per month.

Schools remained ungraded until the late '70's and the Morocco was the first to be graded. Textbooks were expensive and scarce. The McGuffey Eclectic Readers were probably the first in widespread use.

In 1867 the law stated that free public schools should be provided, and Beaver Township wanted them in their district. Several schools were built: Eagles Mere - N.E. corner of Beaver Township; Bowers; Toad Puddle; Cox; East Union; West

Union - southwest of Morocco on the Vane Smith property; Wade; Darroch - south of Morocco; Norway; and Decker. These were built, equipped, and teachers employed. In 1873 the county examiner became the county superintendent and was elected by the trustees. He was elected for two years and paid \$4 a day for his work. The first county superintendent was John H. Merchant.

The population of Morocco in 1873 was about 650. The combined school enrollment of the seven district schools was almost 200. The township tax levy for education was special schools 25¢ and tuition 25¢ per \$100 property evaluation. Expenditures for the year in both funds were under \$1100.

In 1875 a two-story frame building was erected and this housed the elementary school until 1899. The first four grades were downstairs and the advanced grades upstairs. Within a few years, it was necessary to add another wing, making the building an L-shaped one.

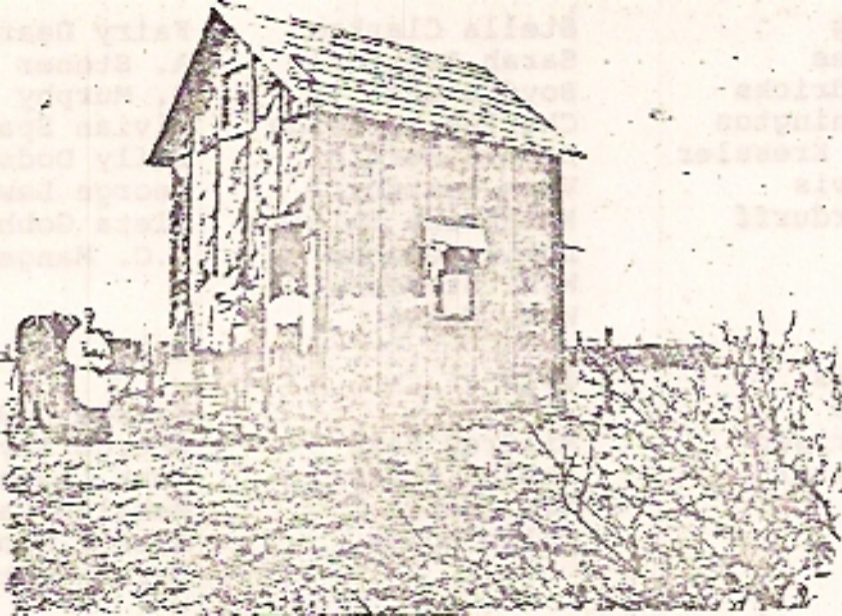
The common school promotion was initiated after 1880. Questions for the graduation examination were prepared by a state committee. A diploma called a "Certificate of Proficiency" was granted to a pupil who obtained an average of 75% on the examination and did not fall below 65% in any subject. A diploma entitled the pupil to enter high school, but there were few high schools available.

In 1889 a new school was erected in Morocco at a cost of \$20,000. The two-story brick structure contained six classrooms and a large assembly room and provisions for two extra rooms in the basement. The first principal was E.E. Giltner, and W.O. Schanlaub taught the 7th and 8th grades.

It was in this new building in 1902 that a two-year high school course of study was offered, and the third year was added the following term. A fourth year course was added, and in 1905 the first four-year high school class graduated. They were Bertha Padgett, Margaret Kessler, and Jesse Carpenter. The following year Earl Kessler was the only graduate.

In the year 1921 a new high school was built next to the grade school. Athletics became quite prominent and in the year 1937 a new gym was built next to the high school. This also served the people of the community as an auditorium.

In 1967 a new high school was built in the north end of the county on the Atkinson property. This provides an educational center more centrally located in the northern part of the county.



## BEAVER TOWNSHIP'S TEACHERS

1908	1914	1919
J.P. King Ray Graves F.L. Wildricks W.E. Pennington Margaret Kressler Edith Davis Cora Deardurff	Stella Clarkson Sarah Archibald Boyd Smart Charles Burnside Harold Martin Vera Deardurff Katherine Shields Luella Graham W.D. Stevens W.W. Wells	Fairy Deardurff A. Stoner B. Murphy Vivian Sparks Emily Dodson George Lewis Fleta Gobhal R.C. Manger
1909		1920
Mame Ellis R. Graves J.C. Morrison Jesse Hunter	1915  Mildred Hale Beulah Potts W.W. Wells Chloe Hulse	George Lewis George Ray John Lasher Mabelle Gaither Albert Moore Feral Potts
1910		
Fannie Smart Emma Ketcham Flossie Smart Fred Taylor	1916  Marion Applegate Ruth Purdy Vera Agate	1921  Gladys Roberts George Nichols H.C. Weathers Francis Unzicher
1911		
Gertrude Deardurff Flossie Smart J.M. Illingsworth J.C. Lazenby Bruce Stevens	1917  Nell Donaldson Alvin Stoner Leota Woods Ruth Corbin Olive Potter	1922  Hilda Morehouse L.G. Shields Ernest Clarkson Nellie Hendricks Miss Michaels
1912		
C.L. Rudecill Ethel Niles	1918  Leta Bridgman Alvin Stoner Roscoe Protzman Vera Ramey Eunice Rider Opal Padgett Emma Ketcham R.F. Ringham Earl Applegate Lenora Winters Olive Potter Clifford Davis	1923  Ruth Mondy Earl Roush Mary Reeves Erma Michael Frank Stephens
1913		
Bertha Kennedy Bessie Clark Ruth Law Marcie Guinn Jessie Hunter Maude Smart		

1924

Ruth Mondy  
Naomi Pruitt  
Ada Cross  
Ruth LeMasters

1930

L.W. Larew  
R.A. Plowman  
Thomas Cox  
Hannah Sharp  
Elizabeth Weedman

1925

Anna Younger  
Ruby Smith  
Burnell Mummert  
Plummer Schooley  
Eva Robinson

1931

C.A. Grayson  
Jesse Lash  
Grace Dixon  
Helen Best  
Frances Cox

1926

Lucille Sizelove  
Dorothy Frank  
Flossie Perkins  
Anna Clift

1932

Matilda Auman  
Helen Baird  
Margaret Dickinson  
Rose Cassell

1927

Wallace Bush  
Ruth Connelly  
Eunice Tompkins  
Reva Lilly  
Lorene Goss  
Adeline Bulge  
Caroline Brunswick

1933

Cora Kalfise

1928

Gertrude Deer  
Blythe Archibald  
Eunice Hill  
Irma Greenham

1929

Dorothy Odle  
Mary Chamberlin  
Kathryn Ball

TOWNSHIP 29-N. RANGE 9&10-W

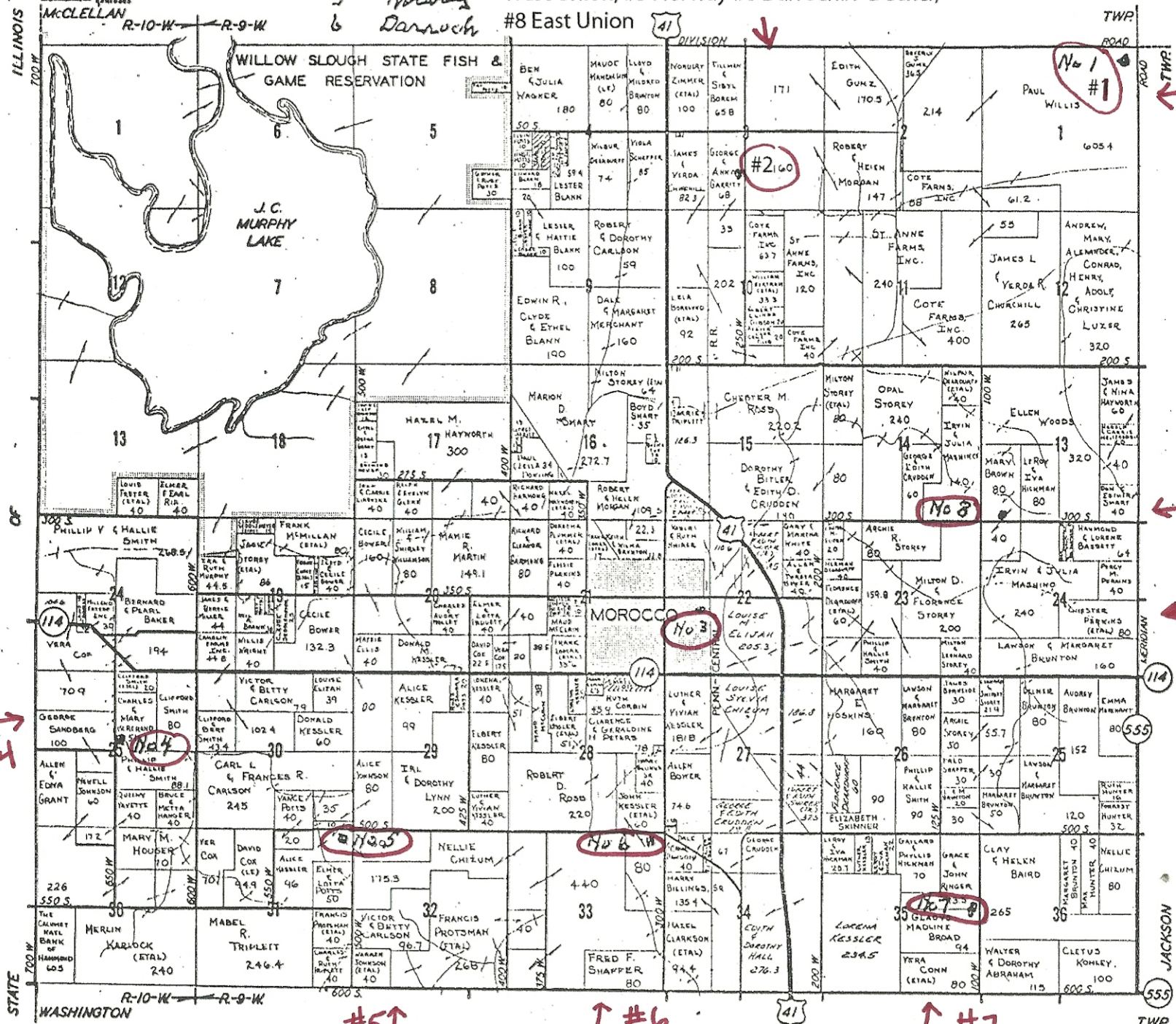
Federal or State Highway  
County or Township Road  
Railroads

2 Cox  
4 West  
5 Norway  
6 Darroch

# NAMES

\* #1 Eagles Mere; #2 Cox; #3, Toad Puddle, #4  
West Union, #5 Norway #6 Darroch #7 Decker,  
#8 East Union

# BEAVER



#4

#5 ↑

#6 ↑

#7 ↑

#8 ←

#3 ←

TWP