

GRANT TOWNSHIP

Settlers were slow in coming to this particular section of Indiana, for it was once said that this is the territory that even the Potowatomies deserted.

In 1832 Andrew Jackson commissioned Henry L. Ellsworth, a lawyer and farmer, to visit the Indian country and report on the land and the Indians. He traveled extensively and noted with disfavor the scarcity of wood for fuel, fences, and buildings, plus the lack of drainage. He concluded this area was unsuitable for farming.

It was, therefore, surprising when he chose the prairie as far north as Goodland to invest his own capital. In 1835 he bought 18,000 acres.

When Ellsworth died, the family broke his will, citing his wild speculations in land in the prairie as proof of his incompetency. Your writer is proud to say she owns 160 acres of Ellsworth land which her father, W.W. Bowton of Jefferson Township purchased in 1890 from Matthew and John Moran of Goodland.

The public school system of Newton County was organized under the provisions of the State Constitution of 1851. For several years previously, the settlers had established and patronized subscription schools, but it was not until 1854 that the first school house in the county was built from public funds.

The first one-room frame school building in this community was erected in Civil War days of the late 1860's when the flag station was called Tivoli. Its first principal was Abraham Thomas McCurry, who came from Kent near Madison, Indiana. His wife, Susan (Gasaway) McCurry was his assistant principal. In 1871 a small room was added. Four years later, two additional rooms made a four room building a large structure for that day.

Early teachers included: Miss Rhoda McCurry (Humston), Miss Leona Pettit (Pratt), Miss Grace Wilson (Bringham), Miss Eliza Burgess Hunter, Henry Carson, Dr. J.A. Lovett, Miss Belle Marsh, and Mrs. Sadie Wing Lardner. J.J. Eckman was principal from 1878-1883. Mr. McCurry, who had engaged in business in 1872, was elected Grant Township trustee in 1800 and re-elected without opposition in 1882.

In 1887 the community had grown prosperous enough to erect a modern brick building. It contained two stories with four rooms on the first floor, and three on the second. A superintendent's office was also provided. There was a laboratory and a furnace room in the basement.

Early principals in the new building were F.C. Cassel and C.L. Davis. Other teachers included Charles Humston and Wilkes Morgan. In September 1893, J.C. Dickerson came from Mitchell, Indiana where he had engaged in teaching at the Southern Normal School, to take charge of the school. He remained ten years. He was principal with no assistant. A school board was then functioning which desired to secure a commissioned high school. Through the efforts of Mr. Dickerson and the Board of Education, this was accomplished during the early days of his administration. To meet the requirements of the State Board of Education, changes were made to entitle the high school to receive a commission. The three year course was changed to a four year course and the length of the school year was increased from eight months to nine months, a standard that has been maintained ever since.

Mr. V.B. Fagan was promoted to the principalship and Mr. Dickerson became superintendent. Mr. Fagan resigned to enter State Normal School at the end of his first year and I.A. Humberd was elected principal. Upon request, Mrs. Emma Mont McCrae of Purdue University inspected the school and it was on her recommendation, the long talked of and much desired commission was secured in 1894. The class of 1895 with four graduates out of twenty two from eighth grade were members of the first commissioned class of the Goodland Public School. Members of this class were Hattie Stevens, Willard Carney, John Summerfield McCurry, and John Jenkins. The school board included Dr. K. Clymer, President; Dr. M.L. Humston, Secretary; E.R. Bringham, Treasurer; and George Jenkins, Grant Township trustee.

This commission made it possible for graduates from the Goodland Schools to enter without examination, the freshman class in the State Normal School, Terre Haute, Purdue University, Indiana University, and perhaps other colleges. This was done by graduates of the classes of 1895 and 1896 and thereafter. All credits, including higher mathematics, four years of Latin, science, including physics and chemistry, and other required subjects were accepted. Because of this commission, high school students from non-commissioned schools completed their courses at Goodland Public Schools to entitle them to enter college. The classes of 1903 and 1904 had graduates from Morocco and Brook.

On January 21, 1908 the school building with all its

equipment and records was destroyed entirely by fire. Since early records were not turned over to the Newton County Superintendent, information concerning the earlier schools cannot be verified.

Temporary rooms were secured in the center of the business district where the work of instruction continued under a great handicap. Plans were started immediately to rebuild and just a year later the east wing of a new school was completed at a cost of \$21,000.

From 1913-26, Mr. A.J. Reames, the first industrial arts part-time instructor of the State, introduced manual training here, as well as teaching in Wolcott and Kentland schools. Domestic science and sewing were added. Basketball was the main sport, with both boy and girl teams.

During the school year of 1924-25, there was considerable agitation for an addition to the school building. The seven one-room township school buildings were growing old and inadequate and their type had served their day. Much money was required if they were to be continued; this was thought unwise.

The town trustee voted to abolish the school board so that the township might erect a new building in which the taxpayers would share alike so far as taxation was concerned. The title to all school property within the town was transferred to the township and L.W. LeMasters, then Grant Township trustee, with the help of his Advisory Board, J.W. Mustard, N.V. McClellan, B.A. Constable, W.O. Schanlaub, County Superintendent, and John A. Bruck, architect, and Frank Hodshire, contractor proceeded to carry out the wishes of the people.

The seven one-room schools brought in were as follows: Bower in Section 5, Galbreith, Section 3, Hancock, Section 2, Wildasin, Section 29, LeMasters, Section 22, Neary, the double school, Section 32, and Constable in Section 33. The completed building at that time (1925-26) was one that reflected the ideals of the community. This addition not only provided modern up-to-date classrooms, a high school assembly, but a large gymnasium and community room. Imaginary lines between the town and country no longer existed.

The passing years with age-dimmed memories makes it impossible to include a complete list of teachers who served the early Grant Township seven one-room schools. The list given me include the following: Kate Shepard, Charles Shepard, Glenn McDonald, Alva Stinson, Roy Shepard, Frank Shire, Calvin Kemper, Mayme Ellis, Willa Carpenter, Bruce Smith, Myrtle Scott, Kenneth Deardurff, Nora Brucker, Luella Elliott, Susie Beam, Susie Arnett, Florence Cloutier, R. Smith, Frank Martin,

Inez Oswald, Ruth Rice, Florence Morris, Maude Holmes Constable, Ruby Neary Bower, Mary Garrigus Anderson, Gladys Hauser, Winona Welch, Amy Cooper, Bernadetta Welsh Davidson, Louise Constable Hoover, Helen Constable, Edna Tice, Eleanor Mustard, Margaret Silvers, Evaline Armfield, Lenore Stombaugh Begley.

Principals from 1893 to the present date are: J.C. Dickerson, I.A. Humberd, Miss Edna Garrison, Miss Edna Watson, J.J. Eckman, Hervy Henderson, May Huston, E.H. McCleary, George Porter, E.W. Dunkin, Hubert Woodard, R.D. Norris, Lyman Newlin, Clarence Hall, John Sharp, Richard Beck, Fred Netherly, John McKnight, W.E. Riegle, and Anthony J. Arini.

Four teachers gave 138 years of service to the young people of the Goodland community. These were Misses Katherine Hogan, Wilma Verrill, Ruth LeMasters, and Dorothy McGraw, who is still a member of the Goodland Grade School faculty at this writing.

Changes and additions have been made in the curriculum of the school through the years. Commercial law and typing have been added. There have been debating teams, glee clubs, orchestra, and a Sunshine Society has been organized. The students from grade one through high school gave plays and programs. The Junior-Senior prom and Senior trips replaced activities of earlier days. Fever high interest in the leading sport, basketball, existed for many years.

Many graduates of the school have achieved outstanding distinction in various walks of life (agriculture, business, and the professions). The Alumni now numbers between eleven and twelve hundred.

Trustees of Grant Township since 1891 include the following: G.G. Jenkins, C.L. Constable, R.M. Shepard, A.P. Stevens, James Bell, L.W. LeMasters, Frank Frohreich, Seaver Davidson, C.W. Leatherman, A.F. Zimmer, H. Howard, and Harry Hawn.

The South Newton School Corporation was created at the request of petitioners. It took its place among the school corporations of the State on July 1, 1961. The newly formed corporation assumed all the assets and liabilities of the former corporations, including Grant and Washington Townships, the Brook, Iroquois Township School Corporation, the Kentland-Jefferson Township School Corporation. It was first known as the Metropolitan School District of South Newton.

Mr. Norris was elected superintendent of the South Newton Corporation in 1961. Before that he had been superintendent of Newton County Schools for ten years and principal of Goodland school nine years. Mr. Norris served from 1961 to 1964

and was followed by Vance B. Collins from 1964-66 when Mr. Kedrick Fisher, the present superintendent took over.

The Goodland Grade School continued to occupy the 1925-26 building in Goodland while rumors of the need for a new grade school building persisted. October 3 and 10, 1973 sealed bids were opened for a proposed new building. Construction began in March 1974. The old building was torn down in July 1975 following a sale of old equipment May 17, 1975. The first day of school in the new building was April 21, 1975 with an open house in May 1975 followed by a formal dedication on April 25, 1976.

This brings to date the history of education in Goodland, once named Tivoli-in Newton County-once a part of Jasper County-in a township named for a Civil War general Ulysses S. Grant.

Olive Kopka

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Counties of Warren, Benton, Jasper, and Newton, Indiana
Chicago, F.A. Battey & Co., c 1883.
2. First Annual of the Goodland High School, c 1914
3. Hamilton, Louis H. and Darroch, William (Ed.): A Standard History of Jasper and Newton Counties Indiana,
Chicago, Lewis Publishing Co., c 1916
4. 1876 Map of Township Schools in Newton County, Indiana
c 1969
5. Women's Literary Club, ed., A Century of Good Life in a Good Land 1861-1961.
Oxford, Indiana: Richard B. Cross Printing Co., c 1961

GRANT TOWNSHIP'S TEACHERS

1908	1913	1920
Helen Bell	W.O. Bough	Elizabeth Sliff
Florence Morris	Gertrude Weishaar	Rudolph Kinser
May Houston	A.J. Reames	Ova Shindler
Viola Creek		Frances Small
Charlie Daniel		Katie Hogan
Hervey Henderson	1914	Mary Downey
Vallie Walter		
Carmack	Edith Park	
	Mary Goetz	1921
	Alfred Walker	
1909	Martha Harvey	Sonise Constable
		Ethel Greene
Charlie Daniel		Mary Downing
Laura Warnock	1915	
Sadie Stack		
Helen Bell	Harriet Browne	1922
C.L. Rudesill	John Lansford	
Florence Morris	Anna McIntyre	Mary Ottan
Gertrude Ellis		Lola Elmorr
H.A. Henderson		Evaline Armfield
W. White	1916	E.E. Hoff's
A. Mock		
	Edith Fox	
		1923
1910		
George Porter	1917	Delia Yochem
		Paul Brown
	Agnes Davis	O. Messmore
	Roakle Smith	
1911	Opal Light	
	Wilma Verrill	1924
Francis Shoud	Marie Fisher	
Katie Hogan	Bessie Brolyer	J.H. Bergen
Vietta Rowland		Kathryn French
Gilbert Baird		
Ruth Snyder	1918	
Ethel Roberts		1925
Hope Jakway	Lenon Bringham	
		Gilbert Best
		Hazel Butler
1912	1919	Marie Fisher
		Lenora Stombaugh
Caddie Griffith	Siota R. Brown	
E.H. McCleary	Mabel Barnes	
Annette Cloutier	E.W. Dunkin	1926
		Pauline Burgess
		Sabrina Pampel

1927

Charles Wood
Mildred McCorkle
Ruth Masters

1928

Hope Babcock

1929

E.E. Clarkson
Ruby Porttens

1930

Vistor Shephard
Dorothy Swope
Wahneta Burt

1931

Adeline Armitage
C.E. Seddelmeyer
Vera Deardurff

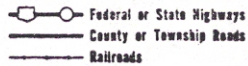
1932

Dorothy McGraw

1933

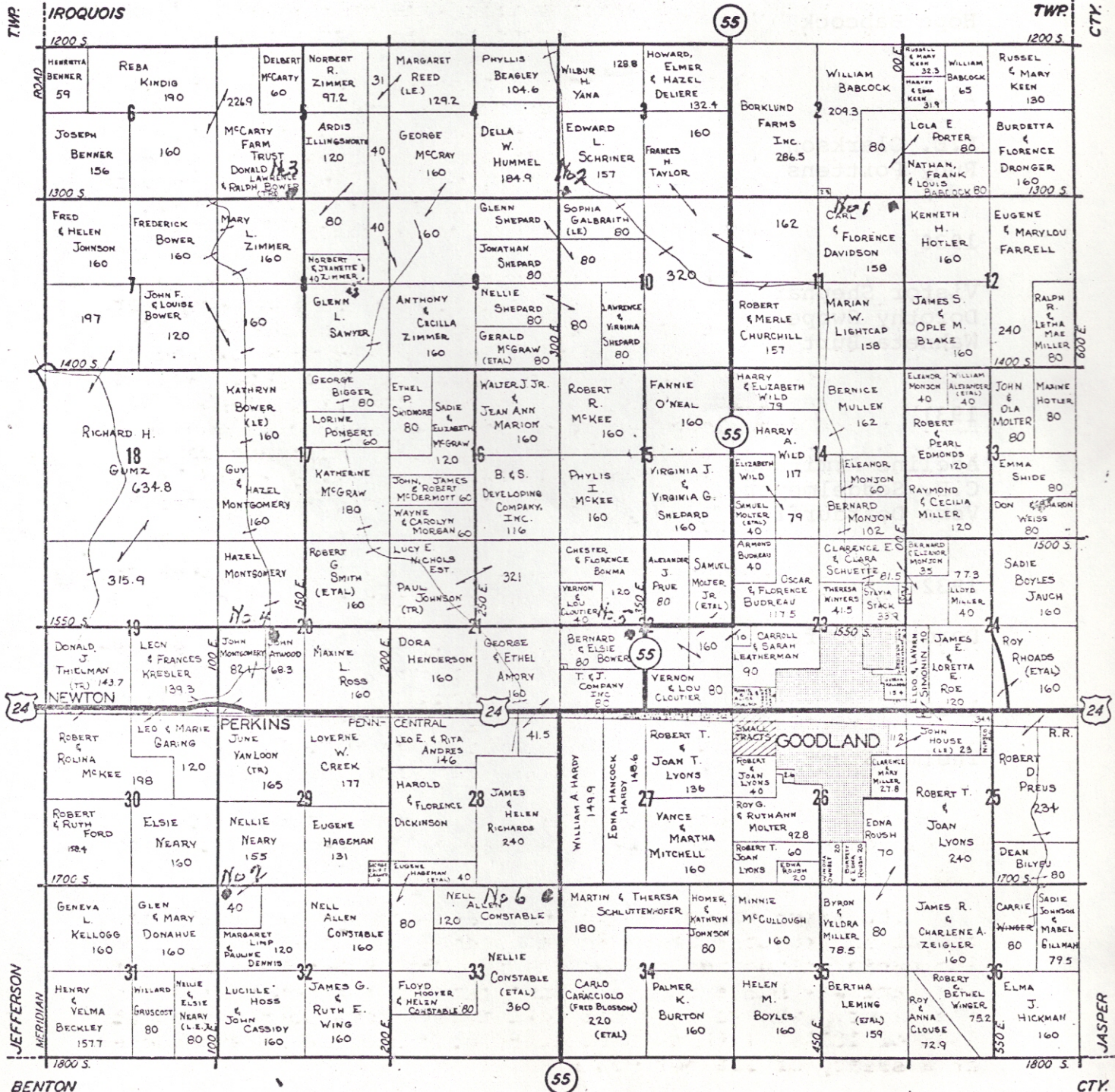
Thelma Stout

TOWNSHIP 27-N. RANGE 8-W.



No 2 Shepard School No 1 Stack
 3 Bowers
 4 Sawyer
 6 Constables
 5 Shelland
 2 Neary

GRANT



BENTON

JASPER

55

CTY.