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2022 MCHC BACK TO SCHOOL, part one, AUGUST 18

Today was Madisonville and North Zulch's first day back to school. To recognize this big annual event, we are kicking off our next fifteen-part segment, "BACK TO SCHOOL," by taking a historical stroll across the county and looking back at our school history.

Madison County is dotted with communities that were once early settlements; many had schools. We have uncovered the names of fifty-two schools in the county! Some of these schools may be the same. Others may have changed their name over the years. Although each has a history dating back to the early years of the county, there is no complete record of the history of all of our schools. We've tried to piece together a little information for all known schools. As always, we can use your assistance to help us complete the puzzle!

FUN FACTS: The 1855 Madison County School Census shows the County had seven school districts with 255 children enrolled: 142 males and 113 females. In a 1936 University of Texas, MA Thesis, by Herman Wren, he stated there were 38 schools in Madison County, 124 teachers, and 3,598 school children.

► Below is a list of known schools:

1. ANTIOCH
2. ALBERT LEE HIGH SCHOOL, A.L. Lee
3. ALLEN ACADEMY – Madison College, Madison Academy
4. BLACK OAK
5. BRICK FLAT
6. BRUSHY, District 26
7. BULLARD, District 27
8. BUNDIC, District 21
9. CEDAR LAKE
10. CENTER, District 28
11. CHAPEL HILL, District 33
12. COBBS CREEK – AKA Dingerville,
13. CONCORD, District 4 AKA Gum Springs. Name changed to Concord in 1898
14. CONNOR, District 1
15. COTTONWOOD, District 29
16. DINGERVILLE – AKA Cobbs Creek
17. EAST LIBERTY – aka HIDEOUT, District 14
18. ELWOOD, District 3
19. FELLOWSHIP, District 5
20. FORREST RANCH
21. GEORGE, District 16
22. GREENBRIER, District 13
23. GREER, District 7

24. HERRING COMMON SCHOOL
25. HIGH PRAIRIE, District 6
26. HOLLIS, District 15,
27. HOPEWELL
28. JENKINS, District 17
29. KICKAPOO, District 24
30. LARRISON PRAIRIE
31. LIBERTY (Old Liberty)
32. LONE OAK
33. MADISONVILLE ISD
34. MADISONVILLE COLORED HIGH SCHOOL – MARIAN ANDERSON
35. MECCA , District 20
36. MIDWAY – District 2
37. MT. TABOR, District 23
38. MT MARIAH BAPTIST CHURCH & SCHOOL
39. OAK GROVE, District 11
40. PEE DEE, District 30 – AKA Brick Flat
41. POOLE’S CHAPEL
42. PLAINVIEW, District 9, AKA Searcy
43. ROCK PRAIRIE
44. ROCKY HILL
45. ROGER’S PRAIRIE
46. SAND PRAIRIE
47. SHADY GROVE
48. SHAW PRAIRIE
49. SHEPHERD’S PRAIRIE
50. SWEET HOME
51. SOUTH BETHEL, AKA Little Rock
52. TANYARD
53. TEN MILE. District 8
54. UNION, District 10 UNION HILL
55. WILKERSON
56. WILLOWHOLE, School #806

Most of this information is derived from A History of Madison County, Texas, Volumes I and II. Other sources include Newspaper articles, Madison County Library & Museum, Texas State Historical Commission, Portal to Texas History, and the University of Texas 1936 MA Thesis, by Herman Wren. Any additional information or corrections to the “BACK TO SCHOOL” segment would be greatly appreciated!

BACK TO SCHOOL, part two Aug 19

► ANTIOCH CHURCH AND SCHOOL, *Submitted by Pearl Adams*

Believed to be among the oldest independent African American churches in Texas, The Antioch Church of Christ & School began first as the “Christian Church” on the Hayes Plantation, three miles east of Midway, by former slaves of the plantation. They chose the name Antioch from the Bible scripture, “and the disciples were called Christians first at Antioch,” Acts 11:26. The church building also served as a school. The box-like church building served also as a school where grades one through eight were taught. Some teachers were Pricilla Carson, Bessie Wheaton, Henrietta Bailey, Texana Grace, Hattie Word, Mr. Cleveland, Author Penn and Mr. Story.

Around 1915 a bungalow schoolhouse was built. Later a top floor was added. In 1925, with a Rosenwald Loan, a larger two-story school was built with a stage for programs and a lunch room. This school continued until 1944. Children were from the communities of Harbuck Ranch, Burns Settlement, Newport, Goose Prairie, and Antioch. Grades one through ten were taught. Antioch consolidated with Midway in 1934-35.

► **BLACK OAK**, *Submitted by Vernon W. Farris*

Black Oak school was established about 1880 in the Connor Community. It was a two-room building with one teacher whose desk was located where the teacher could see both rooms. The boys were in one room and the girls in the other. The students of each grade level occupied a separate row of desks. The teacher “heard” the lessons by grade and by subjects, such as spelling, English, arithmetic, and history. Mr. Chambless was a very strict teacher and gave many whippings. While Mr. Broadway was teaching there, about 1912, the school building burned and they had classes at the Church of Christ until a new school was built.

Mr. Broadway had always chewed tobacco and decided to stop. When he did, he made all the boys in his class stop, too! If a boy was caught chewing, he got a whipping. There were many whippings given for this. It seems that whipping was a way of life at Black Oak School. Students were whipped for talking, fighting, not having assignments, going to dances, and going to Madisonville without their parents. At recess, the boys played on one side of the building and girls on the other. Boys played baseball, marbles, and mumble-peg, and played with a pocketknife. Girls played softball, hopscotch, jumped rope, and mumble-peg and they fought a lot.

For entertainment, there were dances and box suppers. They had musicals and singing and “dinner on the ground,” somewhat like our covered-dish dinners today. At the box suppers, the girls prepared a dinner for two and put it in a pretty decorated box, and the boys bid on it. If a boy was “sweet” on a certain girl, the other boys would bid against him for her box. They had pie-suppers and ice cream socials, usually to raise money for some special project. Everyone would make a freezer of ice cream to be sold by the cone or dish. The pies were sold by the piece. These social events took place in the school. The dances were held in people’s homes. John Taylor, a Black man who lived on Jeff Farris’ place, and his wife, Harriet, would play for the dances. He was an outstanding fiddle player and his wife played the mandolin. When he saw a couple that he knew were courting, John would play an extra-long “set.” Other musicians who played were Hamp Carr, who could play any instrument, and Jack and Birtie Farris, who both played the guitar.

► **BRICK FLAT – PEE DEE**, *Submitted by Orie Stewart*

During the 1860s and 1870s about sixty-three families lived in Pee Dee. The Pee Dee Baptist Church was formed and a school was also started in the same one-room church. The old church and school building was a meeting place for the families on Friday and Saturday nights for musical entertainment. The Pee Dee school, which was called Brick Flat, would start after the cotton season was over and lasted until the last of April or May. The one-room school was filled and there was only one teacher. Later a new two-room schoolhouse was built a few yards south of the little church which was torn down. Two teachers taught in the new school. For entertainment at school, basketball was played in the fall and baseball in the spring. There were also school plays of one and two acts. There was a big Thanksgiving dinner by the community families and a large Christmas tree was erected in the school house for Christmas. Brick Flat - Pee Dee consolidated with Madisonville in 1938.

[BACK TO SCHOOL, part three Aug 20](#)

► **BRUSHY**, *Submitted by Elaine Warden Brown and Lurie Andrews Tucker*

There was no church in the community so preachers came once a month for services in the schoolhouse. The land was donated by Mr. Markett for the school.

The school was one room with only one teacher, usually young teachers just beginning their first year. Classes were held only four to six months each year. On Friday afternoons there were spelling matches. The older children played baseball. The younger ones played drop the handkerchief, pop the whip, and ante-over. The children looked forward to April Fools' Day. There had always been a tradition of having the afternoon off and a picnic in the pasture near the school. One year the teacher was a "holy sight," never in favor of anything. She said there would be no picnic or leaving the school room. After lunch, every kid made a break for the pasture. The teacher rang the bell all the time they were gone. When they returned, she was so mad she could have eaten ten-penny nails. She asked who wanted a whipping first. Of course, no one answered, and that made her even angrier. That "day of the whippings" was the last April Fools' Day picnic. For entertainment the young people enjoyed dancing; the waltz, two-step, and square dancing were popular. Jeff and Frank Hall were the fiddle players.

I loved to go to school. We had a one-room school at Brushy with all grades taught by one teacher. Some of my first teachers were Bertie Andrews, Travis Batson, Pearl Hannah, and Grady Hannah. Then the school closed, and we had to go to Normangee High School. The school was so different. We walked from Brushy to Ten Mile and caught the bus. The teachers there told us to get books and reports, things I'd never heard of. The town kids laughed and made fun of the country kids. I came home and cried and did not understand

► **BULLARD**, *Submitted by Joyce Bullard McMAHON*

Alabama native Calvin Cullee Bullard (1824-1882) brought his family to this area from Hunt County, Texas, in 1867 and settled on 160 acres of land between Bedias Creek and Caney Creek. Beginning about 1880 until 1923, there was a school in the Bullard community, which was also used as a church. Several teachers taught: Miss Jessie Steel Devine, Mattie Day, Margaret Bethke, Hanah Olberson, Mattie Emma Tuck, Frankie Wilson Russell, Henry McDonald, Fannie McNair Heath, Eula Morgan, Ruth Gibbs Lindsey, Kate Nichols, Ludie Neighbors, Sally Morris. In 1923 students were transferred to the Center School.

► **BUNDIC**, *Submitted by Sibyl Windham*

According to legend, Bundic was named for a Mr. Bundick, who lived near Bundic Lake at the foot of Bundic Hill.

The land for a school was donated by Mr. Zulch. The first building consisted of one room and was used for school as well as the church. When this building became too small or too weatherworn, it was torn down and a new building was constructed about a mile south of the old one. This building was later burned and a new one was built on the same site. While the new one was being built, teachers Luel Taylor and Helen Bingham finished the term in a log house owned by George Powers. Henry Krohn, a pupil, said, "Abe Lincoln has nothing on us, for we are going to school in a log cabin, too." The school was consolidated with North Zulch in 1942, and children now ride the bus to school.

Children walked to school carrying their lunch in a tin pail or basket. Lunches consisted of pork and biscuit, baked sweet potatoes, a bottle of syrup, bacon, eggs, and sometimes a piece of cake. Early school supplies were cedar pencils and rough tablets. These supplies were carried in a homemade satchel. This satchel was carried over the shoulder with books on each end for balance. The school

furniture was rough in the early days. It was replaced with double desks which two pupils shared. The room was heated with a wood-burning stove. The teacher and children kept a supply of dry wood in the building. The teacher called the class to a bench at the front of the room for recitation by tapping a bell on her desk. There were no visual or audio aids such as today. Everything was done using chalkboards, books, pencils, and paper. Quite a bit of memory work was required.

At recess, the teacher and children played Wolf-Over-the-River, Marching-Around-the-Levee, Green Gravel, and Tag. The girls often made playhouses which some of the boys delighted in tearing up. Boys sometimes played marbles. It was much later that Physical Education began. Each member who was large enough had to work, so there was not much time for entertainment. Occasionally a box supper was held. Parties were given in some homes. Boys played baseball on Sunday afternoons, while the girls watched. There was a swimming hole in the Navasota River where the boys enjoyed swimming.

BACK TO SCHOOL, part four, August 21

► CEDAR LAKE, Submitted by Frankie Hardy

The Cedar Lake school began in 1916. In 1920 it consolidated with the Midway Independent School District. The land for the school was donated by Gus Jones, who was a large landowner in the county. The school was built by the families of the community who donated supplies and labor. It was a one-room building and the grades taught were the first through the seventh. The first teacher in the school was George W. Edwards from Gonzales, Texas. Recess periods were typical as in most schools: the girls played Ring-Around-the-Roses and Hide-and-Seek, while the boys played ball and wrestled. The children were forbidden to play near the lake. They played in the woods, climbing trees, and picking huckleberries and blackhaws, which were plentiful during the fall season.

Some of the early families that settled in the community were: Sim Washington, Gus Jones, Calvin Malone, Jim Johnson, Emanuel Bradley, Presley Glazes, Eli Coleman, Arie Bailey, Sam Cotton, Tuck Smith, and the Dankins family.

The main social events took place during Christmas and at the end of the school term. There would be box suppers, spelling contests, and ball games.

► CENTER, Submitted by Myrtle Batson Shaddix

The Center Community is located southwest of Madisonville, named because the school was located in the center of the district. Center is surrounded by Madisonville, High Prairie, Cottonwood, Union, Bedias, and Bullard communities.

The first school in this community was called Liberty or "Old Liberty," located on Ira Webb Bailey's place north of the Edgar Batson place; what is now the Oak Ridge Country Club. Miss Pearl Wycough (later Mrs. J.M. Brownlee) was a teacher in about 1894. Later a school was built on land donated by J.R. Lindsey about four miles southwest of Madisonville. This probably was the beginning of the Center District. For the 1906-1907 school year, the teachers taught for five months, at \$37 per month. This was a one-teacher school until 1916 with ten grades. In 1917-1918 a new building was completed on land donated by Mr. Davis located where the Lewis Mathis home is now. This location was more centered in the community. Ten grades were taught until about 1933 when Madisonville School began transporting the eighth, ninth, and tenth-grade students to Madisonville. In the late 1940s, Center consolidated with Madisonville.

► **CHAPEL HILL** – *Submitted by Alice Lee Gooden, Oma Lee Guess, and TSHA*

Early a Black church and school were organized in the High Prairie area called Chapel Hill. The citizens built the church and the county or the state started the school. From Volume I – Madisonville Black History, “The first school built in the county was in High Prairie in 1868.” John Smith was the first teacher. When MCHC Volume I was published, the church was still standing. The school had been torn down and the children of the community bussed to Madisonville.

John Smith was the first teacher for Blacks in Madison County. The school was organized on the south bank of Ferry Creek, south of what is now the Laceola townsite, at a spot known as High Prairie. During the late 1890s Black settlers in the western part of the community constructed the Chapel Hill Baptist Church and a school. In 1896, forty-three students attended the community's Black common school. As late as 1935, the thirty-one Black pupils living in the Laceola district either attended the Chapel Hill school or traveled to Madisonville for their elementary education.

Submitted by: The “Trick” Johnson Family

My parents came to the school and cooked lunch every day. They took a week's duty at a time and came early to cook meals like we ate at home. There was a pantry in the school for the ingredients needed for the school meals. They'd fix things like red beans.

We had several classes in one room, and used books that folks had used before us. We had recess outside. I loved basketball. We never had enough girls to make 2 teams so we'd have to get boys to play against us. I tried my best. Sometimes we'd go into town to play city folks and we'd beat them. I still remember how it felt when I'd try to throw the ball as hard as I could, to the other end of the court.

“I never felt poor or different. We ate well, had chickens and hogs and gardens. We loved everyone.”

► **COBBS CREEK – DINGERVILLE**, *Submitted by Lucille Garrison and by Lucille McGill Bates*

If something turned out well or had a good appearance, the store owner, Mr. Laswell would say, “That's a ‘dinger’, isn't it!” This became such a common expression with him as he met many people in the store that two of his customers, J.B. Francis and Frank Johnson, gave it the name Dingerville.

The Cobbs Creek Baptist Church was built before Dingerville came into existence. It was about 300 yards east of the site of this little village on the Old San Antonio Road. The building was used for school purposes also. Teachers who taught were Jennie Glover, Mary Marsh, Fannie Parten, Anna Blackwell, Jaynie Wycough, Mary French Walker, and Lola Poteet. On September 7, 1912, Laswell and his wife, Lizzie, sold 249 acres of land to O.H. Johnson after they had reserved one acre of land for school purposes. Sometimes between 1912 and 1915 a one-teacher school was built and made ready for a teacher and the children of the community. It is believed that Mrs. Ethel Bruce was the first teacher. Consolidated with Midway in 1934-35.

It has been said the oldest settler was located near the head of a creek named for the landowner, Clark Cobb; hence the name, Cobbs Creek.

This community was noted for its “singing schools,” which usually lasted one or two weeks. Both young and old people attended and were taught to read music and sing gospel songs. Young people attended home parties given in summer on front yards where they played such games as flying Dutchman, tag, Pop-the-whip, London Bridge, and Drop-the-Handkerchief. Wintertime parties were given by parents who had larger homes and fewer active games were played. “Candy breaking” was a popular entertainment.

The one church in the community had an early beginning. A congregation of Baptist members was organized in 1883 and met in a small building located several miles southwest of the present site of the Elwood Baptist Church. This building was later purchased by the group and moved to a location about one and one-fourth miles west of the present location and near the head of Cobbs Creek. In 1901, a three-acre block of land was purchased from J.W. McAdams and a new church building was erected. This building served also as a schoolhouse and a place to vote until the Elwood school was built a few years later. In 1933, the Cobbs Creek School at Dingerville was consolidated with Elwood.

BACK TO SCHOOL, part five, August 22

► CONCORD, Submitted by Ruth Colwell Parker

The community was originally called Gum Springs because there were springs located in the area near sweet gum tree groves. The county school was started in 1898, on land donated by C.W. Stewart of Grimes County. At this time the name of the community was changed to Concord, as it was discovered that a community in Leon County was called Gum Springs. The first school teacher was Beulah Parten, who later married Ruben Kelton, Sr.

The school first was moved from the land donated by Mr. Stewart to a more central place in the community. This land was donated by Reverend and Mrs. W.C. Kunze. Mrs. Kunze was Katherine Hightower, the daughter of J.R. and Emma G. Hightower.

The school in Concord was moved to Madisonville in the fall of 1939, and this closed one of the institutions that held fond memories for all that attended. There was one year that only two students were promoted. The teacher did not feel that the others had accomplished what they should. At recess, the children played baseball and ring games such as London Bridge, and Rover Red Rover. There was a little playground equipment, but in front of the schoolhouse there was a grove of trees and the boys built a "flying Jennie." We girls had playhouses under the trees and kept them clean with broom weeds.

When the school was moved, the community life was never the same. The school had been the place where plays were held at the end of school, along with concerts, singing school with teachers like the Magness brothers, Walter Plunkett, Jowel Jenkins, and his sons, Robert and Leon. The schoolhouse was the place of Grange Meetings, 4-H Club, Home Demonstration Club, community parties with "box suppers", beauty contests, and other gatherings were held. The community was given the school building by the county so the Concord Presbyterian Church was able to continue its services.

► CONNOR, from TSHA

Connor, on Farm Road 1428 eight miles east of Madisonville, was established in the mid-1800s. Rufus M. Connor and James S. Connor were postmasters at the local post office, which operated from 1890 until 1905. The general store was also run by Jim Connor. The population of Connor was 101 in 1900. The population was fifty in the 1930s. In 1989 a general store was in operation at the site. In 2000 the population was twenty. A two-room Black Oak School was established in 1880; one room was for the boys, and the other was for the girls. A single teacher sat between the rooms and taught arithmetic, English, history, and spelling. The school was annexed to Madisonville in 1963.

► COTTONWOOD, Submitted by Lucille Bates

It received its name from a cluster of Cottonwood trees that grew on the ground where the school

was located. The land for the school consisted of two acres bought from J.R. Day in 1885. Soon after the land was purchased a small schoolhouse was built. A new school building was erected about 1913. Some of the early teachers were Alice Hill, Robert Fry, Loula Malone, who later became Madison County School superintendent, G.O. Buckhaults, Texas Lee, Julia Walthall, Gertrude Landers, and Ouida Byers, who later married Garland Madole, and Florence Boyd Heath.

The school was consolidated with Madisonville in 1944. The building was used as a voting place until deemed structurally unsound. The people now go to North Zulch to cast their votes in elections

► **EAST LIBERTY - HIDEOUT**, *Submitted by Ethel Ivey and Lucille Bates*

It is not known when the community three miles south of Midway, on road to Huntsville, was first called East Liberty. Fugitives of the county fleeing from the “law” would hide in the big cedar brake near the school, and that is the reason the area was called Hideout.

The land where the one-room school first stood is located on property owned today by Gerald Wakefield. After the East Liberty (Hideout) School was consolidated with Midway and the land was later sold, the members held their services in the Forrest Ranch School.

Miss Laura McCorquodale of Midway taught school there in 1910 and boarded with Will and Laura Forrest. When I started school at the age of six, Mrs. Marguerite Miller was my teacher. She rode a side saddle on a big black horse called Star. Other teachers were Josephine Stutts from Pee Dee, Willie Belle Hensarling from Jenkins, Effie Johnson from Midway, Aubrey Ferrell from North Zulch, and Lowell Robinson from Elwood and Frankie Mae Wakefield.

BACK TO SCHOOL, part six, August 23

► **ELWOOD**, *Submitted by Hattie Carter Madole, and TSHA*

By 1854 Elwood, one of the largest communities in the county, was a rival to Madisonville for designation as the county seat. The first school remembered by “old-timers” of Elwood was a log cabin structure used for both school and church. It stood near a creek in the pasture now belonging to Frank Weathers. In 1899 William G. French, the proprietor of a country grocery near Elwood Cemetery, became postmaster of a revived post office designated **French**.

In 1874, the original log Methodist church, which had long doubled as a schoolhouse, was replaced with a frame structure also used as a school and community center, as well as a union church. The local school enrolled fifty-six pupils in 1896. By the late 1890s, the town reported a population of 250. Teachers who taught were Mary French Walker, Mona Sowell, Betty Madole, Ouida Byers, Kate McDonald, and Mary Marsh.

In the fall of 1917, a new three-teacher school was built near the Wilson Store on the Old San Antonio Road. The first-year teachers were Ira Fulgham, his sister, Winnie Fulgham, and Salina Holcomb. In the second year, the faculty consisted of Mr. and Mrs. Van Burkelo and Oma Dee Carter. These teachers stayed at the school for several years. They were followed by L.E. Straughn, Velma Lenox, and Tassie Wilkenson. Several students who graduated from the Elwood School were attending Sam Houston State Teachers College at Huntsville. Eventually, all who earned teaching certificates were given a position in the school. Mr. Minkert was the principal. At one time Elwood had as many as six teachers.

In 1933, the Cobbs Creek School at Dingerville, two miles south, was consolidated with Elwood.

Two years later, the two segregated schools of the Elwood Consolidated School District enrolled 159 White and thirty-eight Black pupils. In the fall of 1948, the school consolidated with the Midway Independent School District.

► **FELLOWSHIP**, *Submitted by Vernon Welch Farris*

The name “Fellowship” is thought to have come from the Fellowship Baptist Church which was located about one mile north of the schoolhouse. The Fellowship Baptist Church was the only one in the community; the one-room school building was also used for church services and as a meeting place.

The one-room Fellowship school was on land owned by William Park, who deeded it to Madison County Common School in 1895. Some of the first teachers were: Kate Wells, John DeFee, Mr. Pittman, Bernice Poteet, Mary Walker, and Vivian Brooks. Walter McGill was a teacher in 1870 and 1871. It is believed he taught three of the Andrew Jackson Farris children, namely, Mary Farris Carter, Jefferson Davis, and James Lewis Farris.

There were three generations, grandfather, Jefferson Davis Farris; father, Otis Eugene Farris; and son, Vernon Welch Farris, who attended the one-room Fellowship School. From 1866 to 1876 there was not a school at Connor. Edwin Martin Seay and his sister, Willie Seay, rode horseback to attend Fellowship School. Mrs. Alice Slaughter was the last teacher to teach in the one-room school.

Otis Farris served as a trustee of the Fellowship Common School District for many years, along with Tom Farris, Sam Whitten, Lee Baker, Wade Stewart, and Lon Phillips. In 1922, the trustees hired John Brownlee to plan and build a new two-room schoolhouse. The fathers took their wagons without wagon beds, and went to a large sawmill at Elmina, Texas, below Huntsville. It was a two-day trip. They hauled the entire bill of lumber for the new school in just one trip.

In the fall of 1923, the new school was ready. Most country schools were of seven months duration, and the earlier ones lasted only four months. Parents had to pay the teachers. Mrs. Fannie McCulloch Slaughter and Mrs. Costello were the first teachers in the new school.

At recess, the pupils played baseball and softball. Later they had basketball. They also played “Red Rover”, mumble peg, and marbles. The girls skipped rope and played hopscotch. For entertainment and to raise money there were box suppers and ice cream socials, much the same as in most communities.

► **FORREST RANCH**, as reported in The Madisonville Meteor and MCHC Vol. I

The September 12, 1929, Edition; Fred Gibbs was the Principal and Daisy Bell Hale was the teacher. At one time, Mrs. Alice Lee Tarrow Gooden also taught here. After the East Liberty (Hideout) School was consolidated with Midway and the land was later sold, the members of the Midway Assembly of God Church held their services in the Forrest Ranch School.

► **GEORGE**, *Submitted by Lucille Bates and TSHA*

In the early 1900s, George Donaho had a little country store about 400 yards northwest of the place that later became George, Texas. Friends of Mr. Donaho would often say, “Let’s go up to George’s and stay a while.” When the railroads came through, they asked what the people wanted the stopping place to be called. They agreed that they wanted to call it “George,”; so, George it was.

There was a school at George which at one time had three teachers. The George school was consolidated with the Normangee Independent School District in Leon County in 1943, and in 1954

the community's store and post office closed. George reported a population of fifty and two businesses in 1959, the last year for which figures are available.

BACK TO SCHOOL, part seven, August 24

► **GREENBRIER**, *Submitted by Elizabeth Ward, Carline Marshall, and Carl Risinger*

It was known as Mitchell Chapel, then as Greenbrier, but it is unknown why the name was changed. Perhaps because Greenbrier Creek was named first and the community name was taken from there. The school was a County Common School District and was locally controlled.

Lillis Jane and James C. Colwell deeded one acre of land at this site for a community school in 1884. When their four-year-old daughter, Callie Lorena, died in 1888, part of the school property was set aside for a cemetery. A two-room schoolhouse stood beside the cemetery from about 1890 until the 1940s, when Greenbrier began to decline.

In the mid-1880s, the first known school teacher was Miss Loula Malone. Robert Gibbs was teaching by the mid-1890s and continued at least through the 1901- 1902 school year. Other teachers mentioned by former students are Laura Raney (Mrs. Joe Andrews), Elma Tarpley (Mrs. Grady Wakefield), Jessie Wilson (Mrs. Lynn Wilson), Rhoda, Sloan Poole (Mrs. U.J. Poole), Sybil Ross Bozeman, Rosa Belle Floyd. "Miss Willie Belle" Pritchett (Mrs. L. M. Pritchett) and Bernice Featherstone.

Methodist Church services were held in the school, but there was never a thriving congregation in the memory of anyone interviewed.

Most of the social functions took place at the school building. Former residents recall Halloween parties, Christmas parties, box suppers, and school closing programs. The school consolidated with the Madisonville school in 1941.

► **GREER**, *Submitted by Elizabeth Ward, Carline Marshall, and Carl Risinger*

It was named for T.N.B. Greer, who was an "old ranger" from Fort Boggy in Leon County. The first Greer School was about a mile north of the Greer Cemetery. Mandy Malone and Nellie Lewis were teachers at the old school. It was changed to this site so it would be closer to most of the children in the community. Bill Walker and his wife, Margaret, gave two acres of land for the school and cemetery. Church services also were held in the school building.

Teachers were Lucy Lesesne, Mr. Phifer, Brother Kelley, his son Howard Kelley, Blanche Shoemaker, Mildred Scott, Dewitt Brown, Jewell Baugh, Vallie Bledsoe, Hazel Bledsoe, Wendell House, Ruby Keelan, Bertha Rumfield, Dorothy Payne, Margie Tabb, Myrtle Wallace, Lucille Hall, Rachel Rucker, Georgia Brown and Bert Brown. Laura Raney who later married Joe Andrews was a favorite teacher.

► **HERRING COMMON SCHOOL**, *Source, An Educational Survey of Madison County by Herman Wren*

Consolidated with Midway in 1934-35. We have no other information on this school.

► **HIGH PRAIRIE – LACEOLA**, *Submitted by Hope Cannon Rhodes and TSHA*

In 1900 residents in the northern portion of the community applied for and received a post office with the name Laceola; it was housed in A. T. Fairey's general store. At the turn of the century, Laceola had a cotton gin, a gristmill, a blacksmith shop, and two syrup mills. In 1907, however, the Laceola and High Prairie post offices were officially closed.

"Thomas Fisher and Sam Fisher, State of Texas, County of Madison, Texas. Know all men by these present that we the above, written for and in consideration of the advancement of the cause of education in our community have given and donated for the purpose of a site for a Public Free School, two acres, in the D. Ariola Survey, 7th day of January A.D. 1884." The High Prairie School employed only one teacher for several years. J.T. Hollis, Robert Broadway, Emma Fulgham, Ludi Neighbors, and all of Madisonville, were there during the one-teacher days. In 1896, fifty-nine pupils attended the local one-room school. In 1914, Julia Walthall of Midway was the primary teacher. As late as 1935 there were still forty-four pupils enrolled at the local school.

For recreation and entertainment in the school, there were basketball, baseball, horseshoe pitching, hopscotch, tug-of-war, volleyball, and washer pitching. Special days observed were Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Box suppers, cake sales, and school plays were also enjoyed. There were church groups that had services in the High Prairie School building twice a month. In later years the High Prairie School took part in the Interscholastic League Meet at the Madisonville High School. In the 1940s the Laceola school was consolidated with the Madisonville Independent School District.

Submitted by Laura Ann Cannon: Laceola is where I live, and students here went to the High Prairie School, which was about half a mile south. Chapel Hill was for blacks only and was about a mile due west cross country. I met a black guy about my age who lived with his grandparents when we were kids, and he lived very near the High Prairie (white) school but walked cross country every day to the black Chapel Hill school. His parents ultimately moved with him to San Antonio, where they thought he'd get a better education. Our white bus drove right in front of his grandparents' home. There is no real sign of where the High Prairie School was except perhaps some wood over an old well but the Chapel Hill School is still standing in ruins. It's past saving.

► **HOLLIS**, *Submitted by Leslie Hibbetts and Lucille Bates*

There was a town with a post office called Hollis, a Hollis Private School, and a Hollis Public School. The school was built in about 1910. At one time there were three teachers when homemaking and manual training were taught. Jim Hollis, the father of Loyce Hollis Taylor, was instrumental in seeing that the Hollis Private School was built. The teachers were Lemma Hollis Shannon, Spotsford Hollis, and Jim Hollis. About 1910 after the school closed, the building was converted into a Methodist Church.

In 1912 or 1913 the Methodist Church was moved to North Zulch. The members of the Church of Christ began having services in the building. Across the road and directly in front of the Hollis School was the town of Hollis.

When the railroads were built to the west of Hollis, people began to move to North Zulch. The town became less and less prosperous, and soon there was no town at all. The Hollis School continued to last for several years.

► **HOPEWELL** - *submitted by Mrs. Theodora Green*

(2022) The Black Hopewell School and Church was ON The Island. The Island is near the Ferguson Farm, part of the Trinity River Area. Hopewell-Island Cemetery or Island Community Cemetery. It's located One mile S of the Ferguson State Prison Farm on FM 247 in the Island Community. About 1.5 miles S of the T-intersection of Hwy 247 N and FM 1428. S of Ferguson State Prison Farm. The

cemetery is off of Hwy 247 a few-hundred yards, on small dirt road.

From Volume I: Hopewell Cemetery is in the Island community, one mile south of the Ferguson unit of Farm Road 247. The oldest marker reads: Elvira Tucker, born in 1830, and died April 30, 1873. It is believed the school was in close vicinity of the cemetery. Daniel Bailey taught school for 33 years. He taught 27 years in Madison County in the Hopewell, Midway, Madisonville schools, and taught in Dallas for six years at George Washington Carver and James Madison Middle School, where he retired in 1972.

BACK TO SCHOOL, part eight, August 25

► JENKINS, Submitted by Elvie Jenkins Bates

A two-acre corner in the Larrison Survey, the land was donated to the community to be used for a school and church by Jasper Jenkins and Sarah Emma Larrison Jenkins, on July 3, 1885. The church was to be used by all denominations.

The first building was furnished with hewn logs for seats. Joel Milton Jenkins, age fourteen, and his mother, Sarah Emma, hauled moss to build a “stick and dirt” chimney to warm the building. At first, there was a need for only one teacher, but as the years passed more people moved into the community, and there was a need for a three-teacher school. Grades one through ten were taught.

Most children walked to school, some as far as three or four miles; a few rode horses that were tied to trees. The school began at eight in the morning and was dismissed at four in the afternoon. Playing some type of ball was the sport enjoyed by most students. Sometimes the softballs were made of men’s socks. They would unravel the socks and wind the threads until they made a ball, then sew it to keep it from unwinding. Friday was always a day to be looked forward to because that meant Jenkins would be playing ball with another school. Every year there would be a “County Meet” at Madisonville where all schools in the county would compete in athletic and literary events

In 1929, Carroll H. and Leola McFarland opened a store located about two miles west of the school on the corner of Highway 21 and FM 2346, too far for the children to walk for candy and soda water during their lunch hour at school.

► KICKAPOO – DUGAN, Submitted by Ruby Waller Michael, and Lucille Bates

It is bordered by Willowhole on the west, Union on the east, and Cottonwood on the north. It was named for the Kickapoo tribe of Indians who once lived in this locality. The Kickapoo School had a dug well. It not only furnished water for the students, but people of the community hauled water from there to drink and to use for washing clothes. The teachers were Ed Batson, Dana Manning Kelley, Ruth Hibbetts, Roger Knight, Ray Epps, Tyler Hicks, and others. School picnics and baptizings were held at Whitfield Lake. Consolidated with Willowhole in 1934-35.

► LARRISON PRAIRIE SCHOOL, Submitted by Thedora Green

Luellian Green was born in Madison County, on April 3, 1890, the son of Elijah Green and Mittie Jordan Green. Elijah was one of the seven boys and seventeen girls born to Davy and Jane Green. He gave land to the first school which was the Larrison Prairie School. He also gave land to the Methodist Church. (2022) It’s located in the Connor Community on FM 1428, eight miles east of Madisonville, and down a dirt road a bit to get to the school. This school also went by the name of South Bethel.

► **LIBERTY – OLD LIBERTY**, *Submitted by Lillian Nell Webb*

The first school in the Center community was called Liberty or “Old Liberty,” located on Ira Webb Bailey’s place north of the Edgar Batson place; what is now the Oak Ridge Country Club. One record list Miss Pearl Wycough (later Mrs. J.M. Brownlee) as a teacher in about 1894. It was the meeting place for the church in the beginning, but the schoolhouse fell into such bad condition that the school was moved and the membership built a new church located in the Union community, close to Elmer Bailey’s place. Liberty consolidated with Midway in 1934-35.

► **LONE OAK**, *Madison County Library*

The attached picture was found at the library. Written on the back was, “Lone Oak School, Madison County, TX”. We could not find any additional information about this school.

► **MADISON ACADEMY - MADISON COLLEGE - ALLEN ACADEMY**, *from TSHA and MCHC Vol. II*

Allen Academy, a private school in Bryan, traces its beginnings to 1886 when John Hodges Allen became the principal of Madison Academy, at Madisonville. After nine years of successful operation of Madison Academy, Allen requested and received a charter from the state to establish Madison College, a secondary school. Several Madisonville businessmen—Mr. Florence, Dr. Westmoreland, and Dr. John Morris built a two-story school house and rented it to Allen. The remains of the old Madisonville school building were added to the back of the new schoolhouse and the students referred to it as “the kitchen.” John Allen, with his brother Rivers, promoted an excellent school. Students came from great distances to attend.

Monthly tuition was determined by grade level as follows: 1st – 2nd, \$1.50; 3rd – 4th - \$2.00; 5th – 6th, \$2.50; 7th – 8th, \$3.00; 9th – 10th, \$4.00. Music cost \$3.00 per month. Room and board could be had at boarding houses and in private homes for \$8.00 - \$10.00 per month.

In 1899 the Allens decided to reorganize Allen Academy as a private boarding school for boys. The Academy later moved to Bryan, Texas. In 1896 the name of the school was changed to Allen Academy.

BACK TO SCHOOL, part NINE A, August 26 ONE OF TWO TODAY!!

► **MADISONVILLE BLACK SCHOOL**, *Submitted by Alice Lee Gooden and Oma L. Guess*

In the early years of Madisonville’s history, its Black population was small. In 1920, there were 110; in 1930, 181; in 1940, there were 142; and in 1948, there were 927. According to a survey by the senior class of Madisonville Colored High School in 1948, two important events caused Madisonville’s Black population to increase: the depression years and World War II.

The first Black school, Chapel Hill, built in the county was in High Prairie in 1868, and in Madisonville, the first Black school was built in 1880. Teachers in the rural area earned higher salaries in 1947, the county schools received state aid, and the city school operated on an independent basis.

The first teacher in Madisonville was Spencer Davis who taught in a box house in the northeast part of town. In 1885, the school was established on the west side of town where most of the Blacks lived. The land for this school was given by Neal McCloud. After the one room was constructed, Neal McCloud became the first teacher. One of the first students of Mr. McCloud was Mr. T.B. Mott, the father of Mrs. O.L. Guess. According to an interview Mr. Burnis Gooden had with Mr. Mott, in the

preparation of Mr. Gooden's Master's Thesis, Mr. Mott and his father hauled the lumber for the construction of the school. Mr. Mott entered the first grade and the school term was from three to five months. Teachers during this time were also preachers. Mr. McCloud attended Hearne Academy, which was exceptional because most teachers took county examinations for certificates.

Until early 1947, the Madisonville Colored School held no accreditation with any college. If a student wanted to go to college, he had either to take an entrance exam or attend some school out of town, at an additional expense, that had State recognition. The first graduates to continue their college training were Burnis R. Gooden, Jack C. Gooden, Marshall V. Brown, and Phineas Ashley. The year was 1926.

MADISONVILLE, Texas State Historical Commission: The first Black school in the community was constructed in 1880. By 1896, the population had risen to an estimated 700, and 187 White and 68 Black pupils were enrolled in the two local schools.

► **MARIAN ANDERSON**, *As written on the Historical Marker*

In 1880, Madisonville's first school for African American students was established on the northeast side of town in a one-room schoolhouse. Spencer Davis served as the first teacher. In 1885, the school was moved to this site, on land donated by the Rev. Neal McCloud, who taught the school's 40 students. Other early teachers included Ministers.

Despite the difficulties students and educators faced, the school continued to grow. By the 1920s, a new facility was needed. Funded by the Julius Rosenwald Foundation, a new schoolhouse opened in 1926. It had a cafeteria and eight classrooms, some of which could be opened together to form an auditorium. The school was the site of interscholastic events, proms, parent-teacher association meetings, and special programs. Citizens also gathered at the school for the community Juneteenth celebration. In addition to its regular curriculum, the school offered woodwork, painting, and general repair training, as well as facilities for canning and a farmers' shop during the Great Depression.

In the 1940s and 1950s, several rural schools consolidated with Madisonville Colored High School. During the 1950s, the school district constructed new facilities at this site, and the students voted to change the school's name to Marian Anderson High School, in honor of the world-renowned contralto.

Madisonville was one of the last school districts in the state to integrate, and Marian Anderson High School closed in December 1970, serving later as an intermediate campus. An alumni group continues to meet, raising funds for scholarships to benefit Madisonville's youth and working to preserve the history of the city's African American Community. (2004)

BACK TO SCHOOL, part NINE B, , August 26 TWO OF TWO TODAY!!

► **MADISONVILLE ISD**, *Submitted by Vivienne Chambless*

The Madisonville Public Schools probably existed as far back as the 1850s but there is no documentation, until the latter part of the 1870s. At that time George Henry Hubbard and William Viser each had their private school. Viser's small school building was on or near the present site of the First Methodist Church. These schools were subsequently joined by Reverend Wilmer, who had

been a professor of mathematics at the University of Florida. After he died in 1879 or 1880, Misses Julia and Susan Smithers and Lillian Otie, of Huntsville, taught school on the site of the old grammar school (more recently the garment factory, which has been demolished).

In 1886, John H. Allen began teaching in Madisonville, after being persuaded by three businessmen, Mr. Florence, Dr. Westmoreland, and Dr. John Morris. They promised to build him a new school building and to rent it for a very small fee. The old building was purchased and added to the newer structure. Mr. Allen was later joined by his brother, Rivers Allen, at the Madison Academy.

During the twelve years of his principalship in the community, the school enrollment grew from about one hundred to approximately three hundred and fifty. The school building was enlarged to five rooms and an auditorium and the school term was lengthened from five to seven and one-half months. The curriculum was expanded to increase the number of courses offered, with special emphasis on the sciences.

For several years Allen tried to interest businessmen of Madisonville to back him to establish a private boys' school. In 1899, he moved to Bryan and established Allen Academy. As a result, Madisonville lost two excellent educators, and it was not until 1919, that the school began to make advancements again. In that year, John Conn became the county's first County Superintendent. As a result of the consolidation of the county schools and his worthwhile efforts, the school began a steady growth.

Presently, the Madisonville Public Schools are located on four campuses. Madisonville Elementary has been at its present location since 1955. The Madisonville Intermediate was created in the fall of 1981 and is located at the site of the old junior high school, which was earlier Marian Anderson High School. The new Madisonville Junior High campus was constructed in 1981 and is located behind the high school campus. Madisonville Senior High School was built in 1966 and integrated with Marian Anderson High School in 1972. There are approximately 1700 students enrolled in kindergarten through twelfth-grade programs.

OF INTEREST: Look at the picture of the Madisonville Elementary School, the bottom floor was built below ground, making the bottom of the windows were level. This school was on the property where Ace Hardware is currently located. (2022)

BACK TO SCHOOL, part ten, August 27

► MECCA, Submitted by Maibel Cole and TSHA

Mecca means a place sought by numbers of people on foot in wagons from several states about 1850. During the early 1900s, the town had a drugstore, a barbershop, a millinery shop, a blacksmith shop, two cotton gins, and a gristmill. Its population was an estimated fifty in 1933. The land for the school was donated by Jessie Heath, an old settler. In 1935 the local three-room schoolhouse held classes with three teachers and thirty-seven White pupils; at that time most of the thirty-seven Black pupils in the Mecca school district attended Chapel Hill School, three miles southeast. We played basketball, both boys and girls. The schools we played were: Hollis, Ten Mile, and George. We had big picnics at the close of school. We participated at the "county meet" every spring. We played baseball too. Some of the teachers were Texas Lee, Jim Hollis, Loula Malone, Weaver Hill, Wiley and Lizzie Coleman, Mobley and Perryman Shannon. Children walked to school. During the early 1940s, the Mecca School was consolidated with the North Zulch Independent School District.

Submitted by Melba Jean Hooper Butler (2022)

I was given this photo of Mecca School 1924 by Mother, Allie Orene Hannah Hooper. She, her older brother Floy Hannah, and their cousins, Katheryn and Claude Hannah are also in the photo. Mother loved the picture, having grown up with everyone in it and she wanted it framed. Her good friend and sister-in-law, Nancy Ford Hooper (Nannie Ford in the photo) helped her remember the names of almost all in the photo. My parents moved away from Mecca when I was about three and my sister, Reba Hooper Hussey was about one. But the Mecca School was used for Christmas parties and other get-togethers for many years after it closed. I remember going there one Christmas, about 75 years ago, and everyone received gifts of fruit and peppermint sticks. Good times! Great memories!

► **MIDWAY**, *Submitted by Lucille Bates, and TSHA*

Professor Joseph A. Clark moved from Midway, Kentucky, to the growing community in 1855. He was a minister, an educator, and a man of great character. Clark was permitted to name the settlement. Many residents have always considered that Midway received its name because it was located between two specific places, which is not the case. Clark named the community for his hometown, Midway, Kentucky.

The first school in Midway was taught in 1856, by J.A. Clark. Mr. Clark and his sons, Addison and Randolph, later built a college at Thorp Springs, Texas which later grew into Texas Christian University at Fort Worth, Texas. A statue on campus was erected in their honor. Among the famous educators and teachers who served the Midway school was Mrs. Tommie Nolley Goree, wife of Major Thomas J. Goree, who headed the Texas state penal institution for several years. Other members of the school faculty were Major William W. Viser, Dr. John Masterson, and Mrs. Francis Riley Masterson. Mrs. Masterson's son later became Dean of the Law School at the University of Missouri. James F. Cox also taught at Midway and subsequently became the President of Abilene Christian College. John W. Thomas, a grandson of Major T.J. Goree, became a famous artist and author. The Thomason room in the library of Sam Houston State University is named in his honor. John and Rivers Allen also taught at Midway and later founded the preparatory institution of Allen Academy in Bryan, Texas.

During the Civil War, the school was closed. Soon after the war, the school began again and had enough students to fill two rooms. In 1896, there were 107 pupils and three teachers in this school; at this time there was also a school for black students, with eighty pupils and one teacher. Major William Viser and Mrs. J.T. Goree were teachers. Other teachers succeeded these through the years, but no record is found again until 1902.

By 1912, Midway school had a large two-story frame building with three classrooms and a large assembly room upstairs. In 1934, a new brick building was erected on land directly across Highway 21. The new school was located several hundred yards from the road. Mrs. E.A. McCorquodale Jr. (Miss Annie) organized the Midway Dramatic Club in the nineteen-twenties and directed plays for several years. They were staged in the auditorium of the old two-story Midway High School building. All receipts over expenses were donated to the school. The productions usually played to packed houses. In 1960, the Midway school was consolidated with the Madisonville ISD because it did not have a sufficient number of students.

Albert V. Lee received his B.A. and B.S. degrees from Prairie View A&M. He taught school in Madison and Leon Counties before becoming the principal of the Midway High School in 1926. He taught school in Madison County for forty-two years and served as principal of the Albert Lee High School that was named for him for about thirty years.

In 1948 Elwood's schools were consolidated with the Midway Independent School District.

► **MIDWAY ACADEMY**, *Austin American Statesman*

On October 5, 1871, The Texas House passed a bill, "Incorporating the Midway Male and Female Academy, of Madison County, Texas. We could not locate any additional information.

► **MT. MARIAH BAPTIST CHURCH & SCHOOL**, *as recorded in Madison County deed No. 28, page nine*

On October 29, 1920, William Franklin Donaho and his wife, Edna gifted Jim Duncan, Deacon of the church, one acre of land for purposes of building a church and school. We can find no other records on this school.

► **MT. TABOR**, *Submitted by Christeen Evans Andrews and Ruby Ward*

The cemetery and school are located on the top of such a high hill that people called it "Mt. Tabor." When Bill Scott owned the land, he grazed a herd of white goats there, and some of the old-timers began to call it "Goat Hill." Most who still live here call it Goat Hill today.

The first school was a one-room building located on the place owned by Mrs. Willie Duncan Hawks. Miss Lucy Tinsley Kent was the teacher. This must have been before the cemetery on the hill because there are two graves near the location of the old school. In 1883 J.H. Robinson gave two acres of land for a free school. Another schoolhouse was built. Church services were held in the one-room school with members taking their kerosene lanterns for light. Logs sawed into blocks were used for many of the seats. Bottles filled with kerosene and rag wicks were used for light. Baptisms were held in Tom Dorman's gin tank.

During school months the older boys and girls played baseball or basketball during recess, but the smaller ones played marbles, hopscotch, drop-the-handkerchief, or jump rope. The school has been consolidated with Madisonville Independent School District and the children are bussed to town

BACK TO SCHOOL, part eleven, August 28

► **NORTH ZULCH**, *Submitted by the North Zulch Independent School District*

In 1908, when progressive citizens banded themselves together to organize a public school, classes were held in the Freewill Baptist Church with a faculty of W.S. Barron, now District Judge of Bryan, and Miss Irene Morgan, now Mrs. George Mabry of Houston, as teachers. A building was ready for occupancy by spring. It was a two-story frame building with four classrooms on the first floor and an auditorium

on the second floor. It was located on the same grounds as the present building.

In 1924, a modern two-story brick building, consisting of eight classrooms, a library, and an office was built. There was a fire escape from the second floor on the east side of the building.

1935-1937, marked great improvements in the North Zulch educational program. The original frame structure was torn away to be used in home economics and agricultural building, located across the street from the main building. The course of instruction known today as "home economics" at first was

called something else. This program in public high schools was started in 1900, in San Antonio and went under the title of "Manual Training for Girls."

Nearby, a stucco building was constructed to be used as both gymnasium and auditorium. In recent years modern dressing rooms and showers have been added to this building.

The territory of the school district has been extended by the addition of the Oak Grove, Bundic, and Willowhole School Districts. The school was named North Zulch High School for the town which was named in 1849, for Julius Zulch who came to Texas from Germany in 1848, settling about two miles south of North Zulch.

The class of 1937, published the first annual known as "The Bulldog." Records show there was one published yearly through 1940, but then none until 1955. This 1937 class also edited the first school paper called "Zulch Hi-Light." 1937 was the year the school was transformed from an unaccredited, unclassified institution into a fully accredited first-class high school. This distinction has been an incentive through the years for the higher endeavor.

In 1955, a one-story building was connected to the old building by a covered walkway. A feature of the construction was a circular drive for buses which allowed the loading and unloading of students and patrons without their being exposed to unfavorable weather conditions. The present gym (2022-now called the elementary gym) was started on August 14, 1975, and completed on December 19, 1976. The bond was \$150,000. The new high school building was begun in the spring of 1980, and we moved in in 1982. (2022-now the elementary school) In 2007, the old two-story brick building was torn down and a new high school was built.

. In 1970, an election was held to consolidate North Zulch and Lola School Districts. The proposal was rejected by a vote of, 190 against, and 41 for consolidation.

► **OAK GROVE**, *Submitted by Myrtle Powell, Corine Lang, George Boswell, and Lucille Bates*

The Oak Grove Community was named for the many beautiful post oak trees in the area. Located approximately a mile and a half north of Oak Grove was an old school named Shepherd's Prairie. It is believed by "present-day" residents that it was the first school in the community.

The church was organized in 1889 with a total of twelve members. It was named Shepherd's Prairie Baptist Church. Reverend Barb was the first pastor, and W.L. Zulch was the clerk. In 1912, the church was moved to Oak Grove.

Henry E. Boswell donated the land for the Oak Grove Church and school. The first teacher at Oak Grove was Irene Lawler. Other early teachers were Mrs. Lizzie Taylor and her sister, Mrs. Mary Lefevere. Mrs. Taylor and her son, Luel, came by horse and buggy from North Zulch every day. Mrs. Mesa Hill Andrews was a teacher who made every minute count. She enrolled 137 pupils one year, taught all classes in all grades, and school was let out every day at four o'clock.

In 1915, a new two-room school building was constructed with A.D. Blount as the carpenter. The Oak Grove School was consolidated with the North Zulch Independent School District several years ago.

► **PLAINVIEW**,

The "two-storied" house that John Windsor built was near the middle of his acreage, and he often

said, "Everything I have is in plain view." Thus, the name Plainview prevailed in the community.

► **POOLE'S CHAPEL CHURCH & SCHOOL**

Little is known about this school. Burnice Gooden's first teaching position was at Poole's Chapel, in a one-room building that was also the Poole's Chapel Baptist Church. He traveled to school each day on horseback. Later, he came to the Madisonville Colored High School where he was a teacher, the coach for the basketball teams, and finally principal.

► **ROCK PRAIRIE**, *Submitted by Lois Hibbetts Hicks*

It was so named because a clearing was found in the wilderness and the soil was of such rocky consistency that when buildings began to be erected the place was called Rock Prairie. The first structures built were the school and church buildings. Some of the first teachers were Athna Banks Mize, Lemma Hollis Longbotham, Lurlie Poteet Smith, and Lillie McGill Peters.

The school was moved to Hollis in 1911 because Hollis was the center of activities for the area.

BACK TO SCHOOL, part twelve, August 29

► **ROCKY HILL**, *Submitted by Alice Lee Gooden and Oma Lee Guess*

Like most of the small communities in Madison County, the church and the school were in the same building.

Some of the pioneering families of Rocky Hill were: Thomas Glovers, Alex, Vina Carter, Denison, Porter, Cotton, Mattie Webber, Sol Rigsby, the Sanches', Will Brisby, Jessie Glover, Hattie Houston, and Jake Henry Chamberson. Solen Glover is one of the remaining families. His father, Willis Glover, was born there, as well as Solen and his children. His grandparents, Thomas and Mary Glover, were brought here as slaves from Louisiana. Some of the teachers of the school in Rocky Hill were: Annie Grace, Abbie Grice, Corine Dixon, Alva Viser, W.D. Mott, Carrie Byrd, Ozelia Banks, Bernice Washington, Dora Gooden, Adene Byrd, and Viola Perry.

► **SHADY GROVE**, *Submitted by Leslie Hibbetts and Lucille Bates*

The Shady Grove community was about three and one-half miles northeast of the site which later became North Zulch. J.R. (Jake) Cole said that his father, A.F. Cole, attended the Shady Grove School in 1883.

The children were taught by the following teachers: Missie Shannon Arthur, Texas Lee, Loula Malone, Lizzie Lee Taylor, and Lillie Long. The Shady Grove School was moved to North Zulch in 1908. About one hundred feet from the school was the church. Both buildings were on land formerly owned by W.F. Payne.

► **SHAW PRAIRIE** – *Submitted by Thedora Green*

(2022) The Black Shaw Prairie School was NEAR The Island. The Island is near the Ferguson Farm, part of the Trinity River Area

► **SHEPHERD'S PRAIRIE**, *Submitted by Myrtle Powell, Corine Lang, George Boswell, and Lucille Bates*

Located approximately a mile and a half north of Oak Grove was an old school named Shepherd's Prairie. It is believed by "present-day" residents that it was the first school in the Oak Grove community.

► **SOUTH BETHEL – LITTLE ROCK**, *Submitted by Thedora Greene*

In the early years, there was a building located near where we call Sonny Brown's land which served as a church and school. Some of the early teachers in the school were Mrs. Ella Josey, Mrs. Janie Nauls, and Mr. Judge McCloud. Mrs. Callie Davis, who was born in this community remembers Mrs. Lillie Randolph as her first teacher. In later years David Green gave an acre of land for the school and another plot of land for a Methodist Church. The school was called South Bethel School. A few yards away a Baptist Church was constructed and named Little Rock Baptist Church. (2022) Mrs. Green said this school was also called Larrison Prairie.

In later years David Green gave an acre of land for the school and another plot of land for a Methodist Church. The school was called South Bethel School. A few yards away a Baptist Church was constructed and named Little Rock Baptist Church.

► **SWEET HOME** – Little is known about this school. It was a Black school located seven miles northwest of Madisonville. Narvis Spencer and his wife were teachers. John Thomas and Viola built their home in the Connor community where they owned 80 acres. He was a farmer and a community-minded man. He was elected school Trustee Commissioner of Sweet Home District One from July 1, 1898, to June 1, 1900. This document is signed by R. Wiley, County Superintendent. Also, he was elected to the same position from 1909 until 1911.

A report from May 5, 1950, Madisonville Meteor describes a horrible accident between the homemade bus used by this school and a tractor-trailer. In addition to the bus driver, Mrs. Spencer, sixteen children were aboard, and tragically, seven were killed in the accident. (See photo)

► **TANYARD**, *Submitted by Edgar Mae Sueing*

There are two stories "handed down" as to how this community got its name. One is that it was a place where hides were tanned. The other is that there was a place in the neighborhood where a good supply of clay could be found. Water and moss could be mixed with the clay and baked or "tanned" into bricks to be used in building chimneys.

The teachers who taught in the Tanyard School were Isabell Green and Eliza Washington. All classes were held in the same room and taught by the same teacher. The older boys and girls played basketball, baseball, and volleyball. The younger children enjoyed "Hide and Seek" and other games. The young people looked forward to school plays, county meets (contests), and "box suppers."

► **TEN MILE**, *Submitted by Ida Hannah Bledsoe and Thelma Bledsoe Mitchell*

The Ten Mile community is located ten miles from the Madison County Courthouse. Therefore, the name, "Ten Mile." The first school building was two or three hundred yards west of the present church. It was near the Farrar branch or "gulley." Later a new school was built directly across the road from the present church. This land was given by J.J. Bledsoe and his wife, Irene, on June 10, 1914. On January 11, 1941, after the schools were consolidated, the land was deeded to the Union Baptist Church by J.T. Harrington, A.M. Bledsoe, and Jim Earl Farrar.

The old school was used for church services until the present building was completed. Then it was sold, torn down, and moved away, and the land was unused until trustees and deacons of the church sold it to Colvin Walker in 1975. Some early teachers were Miss Madama Donaho, who later married Charlie Martin; Jim Hollis; Mr. Steele; Miss Letha Mattney; Miss Simington; Mr. Wimberly; and O.H. Simms; Mrs. Bertha Rumfield; Agnes Bledsoe; Elmer Shannon; Vallie Bledsoe Taylor and Theodore

BACK TO SCHOOL, part thirteen, August 30

► **UNION**, *Submitted by Sam Standley*

There was a school and Methodist Church. It was a one-teacher school until 1915. Then there was a new two-teacher school built. Mary Heath was the first teacher I ever had there in January 1910, just before I was six years old. Miss Maybell Brooks taught from 1910-1911 and Miss Lizzie Andrews from 1911-1914. This was about the time the school enrollment declined. They no longer needed two teachers. By 1940, there was no school at all at Union. Schools were at Madisonville and North Zulch, and it's still that way.

► **UNION HILL**, we have no information on this school, and have been unable to verify if this is the same school as Union.

► **WILKERSON**, *Madison County Library*

The attached picture was found at the library. Written on the back was, "Madison County, TX". We could not find any additional information about this school.

► **WILLOWHOLE ISD**, *Submitted by Ruby Dowell Magness*

The only story that I have heard through the years is that Willowhole was a spring-fed water hole surrounded by willow trees. The first school I went to was located in front of Bob and Willie Payne's land (next to McNair's). We walked by Mr. J.M. McWhorter's land to get to school, and I remember those times as being especially fun. All the children would walk together to and from school. I never saw a fight, nor did I hear an ugly word. The only time we needed assistance was when the water rose in Turkey Creek. Then my father would meet us and carry each of us, one at a time, across the creek on his horse.

The school was a wooden, rustic building. The benches and desks were made by local citizens. Of course, it was a one-room, one-teacher school, but we had good instruction. Mr. Jim Conn was the teacher about 1900 when classes only went through the eighth grade. We were taught reading, writing, arithmetic, history, and geography. I do remember there were spankings administered with a switch.

We all took sack lunches and had an hour for lunch plus our recess time. Although there was no playground equipment, we never lacked plenty of things to do. One of the fun games we played was "stealing wood." It was our free time when the natural leaders evolved. Some of the teachers I remember besides Mr. Conn were Miss Mary Bailey, Miss Walthall, Miss Lula Malone, and Mrs. Alice Mosely. Teachers could begin teaching after passing an exam and receiving a certificate; college training was not mandatory.

In 1906, a new school building was built on the corner of Mr. Payne's place, just one big room. My sister, May, and I were sent to Normangee to school at this time. It was too far for us to walk, and my father would have had to provide transportation. I then returned to school in Madisonville, then North Zulch, where I finished high school in 1911.

--*Submitted by Edward R. Wachholz*

Julius Zulch built a school that served as a church whenever an itinerant preacher came. Being

from a Lutheran background, Julius gave five acres for a church, deeded on November 5, 1890. His wife was a Baptist so he gave the school building to the Freewill Baptists for their church.

--Submitted by Florence McMahon Campbell

It was a one-room school. Later it was moved to the prairie on a portion of the A. A. Mosley land. Here a two-story wood building was erected. It had four classrooms with the auditorium upstairs. Two more rooms were added later. In 1935-36, a new brick one-story building was erected. It had eight classrooms, a library, offices, and a gymnasium. This building was demolished when the school was consolidated with the North Zulch and Madisonville School Districts.

BACK TO SCHOOL, part fourteen, August 31

SCHOOL TEACHERS OF MADISON COUNTY

12 September 1929 - The Madisonville Meteor

Through the courtesy of County Superintendent S. F. Hoke, we can furnish a list of the Teachers of Madison County who have been engaged to teach in the public schools for the coming term. The teachers and the schools they teach together are as follows. All are listed except those of you in the Madisonville Independent School District:

1. CONNOR - Neal Heath, Principal; Christine Connor; Allie Mae Whitley
2. FORREST RANCH - Virgie Kelton, one teacher
3. ELWOOD - F. J. Rumfield, Midway principal; Mrs. F. J. Rumfield; Modine Pearson; Mary Willie Gibson; Leslie Robinson
4. CONCORD- Miss Loula Malone, Principal; Mrs. Andy Orrick
5. FELLOWSHIP - Fred Gibbs, Principal; Daisy Bell Hale
6. HIGH PRAIRIE - Leo Martin, Principal; Mrs. Clyde Farrie
7. GREER - Mildred Scott, Principal; Mrs. W. W. Waldrip
8. TEN MILE - Thurman Dowell, Principal; Pearl Boswell
9. PLAINVIEW - T. S. Hollis, Principal; Myrtle Berry, Maude Moore
10. UNION - Ruby Gustine, one teacher
11. OAK GROVE - George Whiteside, Principal; Mrs. Whiteside
12. WILLOWHOLE - O. V. Robinson, Superintendent; Rosa Bell Floyd, Principal; Mrs. O. V. Robinson, Mrs. Louella Payne, Irene Post, Aubrey Dowell
13. GREENBRIAR - E. P. Shannon, Principal; Mrs. E. P. Shannon
14. LIBERTY - Mrs. Effie Johnson, one teacher
15. HOLLIS - Clifford Brown, Principal; Pearl Hannah, Eunice Manning
16. GEORGE - Mr. Smith, Principal; Mrs. Smith, Miss Jenkins
17. JENKINS - Dean Robinson, Principal; Marjorie Holliday, Ruby Dawson
18. COBBS CREEK - Eula Kessner, one teacher
19. MECCA - B. M. Risinger, Principal; Mae Belle Fannin
20. BUNDIC - Aubrey Ferrell, Principal; Carolyn Keefer
21. MT. TABOR - D. F. Brown, Principal; Sybil Ross, Idelle Floyd
22. KICKAPOO - J. Woody Hambrick, Principal; Artie Smoot
23. BRUSHY - Mr. Starks, one teacher
24. CENTER - Theodore Bledsoe, Principal; Rosalie Ethridge
25. COTTONWOOD - Mrs. Jessie Lee, Principal; Mrs. Octavia Bailey
26. PEE DEE - Nellie Fuhlberg, Principal; Ophelia Thornton

27. NORTH ZULCH - R. F. Hoke, Superintendent; Mrs. R. FH Hoke, Principal; Mr. & Mrs. Uel Taylor, Texas Lee, Lola Casey, Miss Payne
28. MIDWAY - J. A. Thompson, Principal; Miss J. O, McCorquodale, Miss Alexander McCorquodale, Mrs. Ethel Blackwell, Alma Shannon
29. MADISONVILLE – Teachers were not listed in The Meteor

BACK TO SCHOOL, part fifteen, SEPTEMBER 1ST

We will close this back-to-school segment with an excerpt from a 79-page thesis completed in 1936.

TITLE: Educational Survey of Madison County Schools with Plans for Reorganization

By: *Herman Wren, MA Thesis, UT Austin, 1936*

At present (1936) Madison County contains twenty-three common school districts and three independent school districts (Madisonville, North Zulch, and Willowhole). Within these districts are 25 white schools and 13 colored schools. All districts are under the supervision of the elected County Superintendent. In addition to the County Board of Education, there are 98 board members responsible for the employment of only 124 teachers and the education of 3,598 school children.

There were no consolidations during the 20 years ending in 1933. During the 1934-35 school year, Cobbs School was combined with Elwood. Antioch, Liberty, and Herring Common Schools were grouped with Midway. Kickapoo joined Willowhole ISD.

The lengths of terms for the schools vary from 80 to 180 days with an average of 149 days. The average elementary pupil-teacher load ranges from 5.5 in Mecca to 39 in Elwood. Nine elementary schools have pupil-teacher loads averaging less than 15, while both Madisonville and North Zulch have loads of 35 and 40 respectively.

In some schools, teachers must prepare for, and teach from 8 to 12 different subjects per day. In two common school districts, a total of eight teachers are forced to teach ten days each year, one half of a school month, without pay.

Sixteen school busses are operating in the County, transporting 961 pupils over routes totaling 341.5 miles per one-way trip, or a total of 683 miles per day.

Several schools need complete rebuilding. A large percentage of schools need roof repairs and paint. Very few have water systems or are equipped for fire protection. Several schools are equipped with rudely constructed benches instead of pupil desks.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The County should be administered as one educational unit, under one Superintendent assisted by one principal over each elementary and high school in the County
2. Attendance areas should center around Madisonville, Midway, and North Zulch following the general lines of the three respective trade territories. The districts whose inhabitants trade primarily in Normangee should be assigned to that school. These include the Plainview, George, Mecca, and Ten Mile Common School Districts.
3. A minimum number of schools should be maintained. Fifteen of the County's present 38 schools would remain.
4. Each attendance area should be covered by a network of bus routes

5. There should be a county bond issue of approximately \$102,000 to cover the cost of needed additions and repairs.
6. All property should be assessed at its true value to equalize the financial burden of education across the County
7. Every school should be offered a chance to attend a nine-month free school term.
8. Teachers' salary schedules should be set as high as the County budget will allow since this will make possible the employment of better-trained teachers.
9. Vocational training should be offered to every school child because agriculture will probably continue to be the principal occupation of its inhabitants
10. No one teacher should be allowed to teach more than three grades or enroll more than thirty-five pupils in one section.

We hope you enjoyed traveling back to school with us over the past couple of weeks. We will close this segment with some articles of interest. If you have any information, pictures or stories about our schools, we'd love to hear from you!

NOTES AND QUESTIONS

Park Cemetery John and Elizabeth Kellett Park buried her brother, Thomas Jefferson Kellett, on their land at this site in 1852. Thomas Kellett was born in South Carolina and served in the Army of the Republic of Texas. John Park's brother Andrew, also a native of South Carolina, was buried on the family land in 1855. When John Park died in 1860, Elizabeth buried him near their brothers. She later deeded 207 acres including the burial ground to Saxton Tarpley. Tarpley deeded three acres to his son, the Rev. B. Tarpley, and four other trustees for a community cemetery and school in 1870. WHICH SCHOOL WAS THIS???

Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church The Rev. N.C. McCloud organized this church in 1885 and served as its first pastor. Many of the congregation's initial members were former slaves. Early services were held in the area's school for African Americans until 1902 when the congregation built its first church building at this site. WHICH SCHOOL WAS THIS??? he Rev. N. C. McCloud organized this church in 1885 and served as its first pastor. Many of the congregation's initial members were former slaves. Early services were held in the area's school for African Americans until 1902 when the congregation built its first church building at this site. Educational facilities were added about 1940.

Where was Poole's Chapel school?

Volume I references the communities of: Burnsville, Crossroads, Fraley Settlement, Searcy, and French which was the name of the post office in Midway

ANTIOCH – see Antioch School & Church V1-p54

BLACK OAK – Connor Community

BRICK FLAT / PEE DEE

BRUSHY

BULLARD – About 1921, kids were transferred to Center

BUNDIC – Consolidated with NZ 1942

CEDAR LAKE – Consolidated with Midway in 1920

CENTER – Began 1894. In 1933, 8th, 9th & 10th grades were transported to Madisonville. Consolidated with Mville late 1940s

CHAPEL HILL – Black School, High Prairie Community

COBBS CREEK / DINGERVILLE – ABT. 1901, Consolidated with Elwood 1933

CONCORD - Consolidated with Madisonville 1939

CONNOR – Annexed to Mville 1963

COTTONWOOD – 1885 to 1944

EAST LIBERTY / HIDEOUT

ELWOOD – Consolidated with Cobb Creek 1933. Then consolidated with Madisonville in 1948

FORREST RANCH -

FELLOWSHIP –

GEORGE – Consolidated with Normangee ____?

GREENBRIER – the 1850s until Consolidated with Mville 1941

GREER

HERRING COMMON SCHOOL – grouped with Midway 1934-35

HIGH PRAIRIE – Laceola, White School.

HOLLIS – consolidated with Jenkins 1910

JENKINS – consolidated with Hollis 1910
 KICKAPOO
 LARRISON PRAIRIE SCHOOL
 LIBERTY – OLD LIBERTY, Became Center School
 LONE OAK
 MADISON ACADEMY - MADISON COLLEGE - ALLEN ACADEMY
 MADISONVILLE COLORED HIGH SCHOOL, later Marian Anderson
 MADISONVILLE ISD, Bedia consolidated with Mville in 1960
 MARIAN ANDERSON - Consolidated with Mville 1972
 MECCA – Consolidated with NZISD early 1940s
 MIDWAY – Consolidated with Mville 1960, WHAT WAS THE NAME OF THE BLACK SCHOOL? A.V. Lee?
 MIDWAY ACADEMY, WHAT IS THIS?? State of Texas passed a bill incorporating The Midway Academy in Madison County,
 Oct. 1871
 MT. MARIAH BAPTIST CHURCH & SCHOOL – established in 1920, near NZ
 MT. TABOR - Consolidated with Mville
 NORTH ZULCH ISD
 OAK GROVE - Consolidated with NZISD
 PLAINVIEW
 ROCK PRAIRIE - Consolidated with Hollis 1911
 ROCKY HILL
 SHADY GROVE – abt 1883. Consolidated with NZISD 1908
 SHEPHERD’S PRAIRIE – first school in Oak Grove community
 SOUTH BETHEL – LITTLE ROCK
 TANYARD –
 TEN MILE – consolidated 1941
 UNION – UNION HILL, School was consolidated with _____ by 1940. IS THIS THE SAME AS UNION HILL??
 WILKERSON,
 WILLOWHOLE - Consolidated with NZISD _____?

UPDATE: 8.26.2022, 6:30 pm. Big thanks to Laura Ann Cannon for reaching out to Mrs. Theodora Green who solved the mystery! Have you ever heard of The Island? It's near the Ferguson Farm, part of the Trinity River Area. She said that the black Hopewell school and church was on The Island. She said that the Shaw Prairie School was near The Island.