

CECIL COUNTY MARYLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

1850 - 1958



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By

Ernest A. Howard

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THE CECIL COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

With the Approval of:

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CECIL COUNTY

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FOREWORD/INTRODUCTION

In keeping with the spirit of the Bicentennial the members of the Cecil County Retired Teachers Association wished to make available to the public an historical document. On file in the Historical Society of Cecil County there was such a document, titled Cecil County Maryland Public Schools 1850-1958, compiled by Mr. Ernest A. Howard.

By and with the consent of the Historical Society we have reproduced Mr. Howard's unique study exactly as he prepared it. Mr. Howard's information came mainly from land records in the Court House, from different school superintendents in years gone by, and from his many personal friends and acquaintances over a long lifetime.

Mr. Howard has expressed his own views concerning the political situations of some of the superintendents and school boards over the past one hundred years. These comments represent Mr. Howard's opinions and are not necessarily the facts as seen by the officials of the Board of Education and others in the field of education, nor do they reflect the opinions of many members of the Cecil County Retired Teachers Association who were directly involved in education at the time.

This study, although very factual, is not complete in all details and some errors are apparent. However, no attempt has been made to correct these slight errors; otherwise we would not be reproducing Mr. Howard's work.

We believe that Mr. Ernest A. Howard has given the citizens of Cecil County a real gift, and a gift that will be more appreciated and more valued in years to come.

The Cecil County Retired Teachers Association wishes to express its deepest thanks and appreciation to The Historical Society of Cecil County for permitting them to reproduce this study in its entirety. It is our feeling that we will all be the richer for this joint effort.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF CECIL COUNTY

INTRODUCTION

The historical articles and pictures on the following pages describe the eighty-three (83) old schools which constituted the public school system of Cecil County for 100 years between 1859 and 1958. They have been compiled with a view to preserving the history of an educational era for the benefit of future generations when the old schools will have been forgotten.

The information herewith has been obtained from various sources including newspaper reports of School Board meetings which are no longer made public, from interviews with former teachers and pupils, and from personal knowledge.

The pictures (unless otherwise noted) were taken by Mr. Morton F. Taylor, whom I accompanied on numerous tours of the County during the summer of 1970 in search of the locations of the old schoolhouses. If no picture appears with the sketch of the school, it is because the building has been torn down or burned and no picture is available.

The closing of the small rural schools was viewed with regret by many patrons and pupils because it meant a change in the educational process, the loss of direct contact between the patrons and teachers, and the passing of a familiar neighborhood institution.

October 15, 1970

Ernest A. Howard



1ST DISTRICT

No. 1 was the Grove Neck school. It was located on the east side of Stemmer's Run road where it crosses Pond Creek, about three miles west of Earleville. It was called Grove Neck school on the map of 1858; it was also sometimes referred to as Stumptown College.

This was one of 59 independent schools functioning in Cecil County when the unified school system was established on January 1, 1859. Prior to that date the schools were built by voluntary contributions of materials and labor, and the subscribers selected a board of trustees, usually five in number, who were vested with power to hire and dismiss teachers, prescribe the studies to be pursued, and to supervise the schools and teachers.

The early schools were usually small, inadequately equipped with furniture and books, and poorly heated in the winter months. For the year 1873 the County Examiner reported the number of schools was 77: frame, 42, brick, 24, stone, 8, and log, 2.

The first trustees of Grove Neck school were John Veazey, Thomas V. Ward, John Wroth, James W. Morgan, and John Husfelt.

The schoolhouse was sold to Mrs. Mary A. Pierce on May 6, 1941, for \$137.50, and salvaged for its lumber.



1ST DISTRICT

No. 2 - The Fingerboard school was one of the well known and very old schools in the county. The name was acquired because the first fingerboard in the county was near the school, which stood on the west side of Glebe road about one mile west of St. Stephen's Church.

Stephen H. Ford conveyed a lot for the school on December 30, 1845, and it was first known by his name. Thomas Gale was the first of 25 teachers who served Fingerboard school during its 95 years of existence. Other teachers were:

Belle Veach (1872)
Effie Titus (1873)
Ella M. Staats
Mary Sherman
Helen Hasson
Jennie Packard

Emma Marley
John W. Cavender
Lelia M. McCoy
Millie Watts
Isabelle Galbraith (1893-1915)
Alverda Ferguson (1916-1939)

The first school was razed in the summer of 1873 and supplanted by a new building which was constructed by Amos Wilson in July 1873 for \$922. It was 28' x 30' and had 84 square feet of blackboard. This school was burned on December 15, 1914. Insurance of \$500 was collected, and the school was rebuilt by James A. Smith & Son for \$979.48. It was re-opened on March 15, 1915.

Miss Ferguson was the last teacher prior to its closing in May, 1939. It was sold for \$150 and converted into a dwelling which was occupied by Mr. Willard Knock, Jr.



1ST DISTRICT

No. 3 - This was the school in Fredericktown. It is a one-room frame building with vestibule which still stands on a bluff on a side road near the approach to the Sassafras River bridge.

A former schoolhouse in Fredericktown was destroyed by fire on Monday morning, November 29, 1880, Miss Maggie Griffith being the teacher at that time. A new building was erected by Jackson Bros. in the spring of 1881 at a contract price of \$634. New desks were supplied for the school at an additional expense of \$44.80.

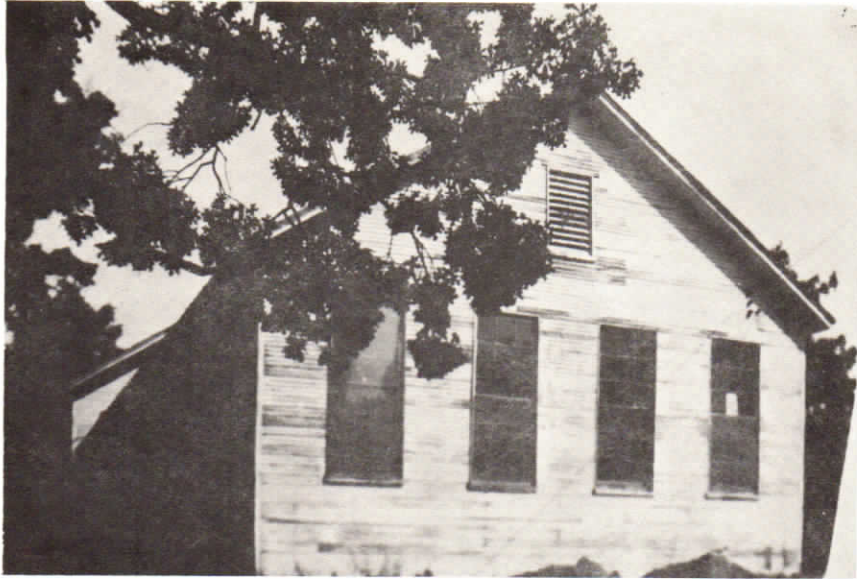
The teachers at Fredericktown included

Frank Kirk
Annie Jones

Arrie McCoy
Gladys Riffin

The average number of pupils was 35 and seven grades were taught.

The schoolhouse was sold to W. E. Frazer on April 9, 1924, for \$290. It later became the property of the Holiness Christian Church of Fredericktown. When visited on June 19, 1970, the building showed signs of neglect and deterioration.



1ST DISTRICT

No. 4 - This was the Cecilton school. A private school in Cecilton as early as 1840 was conducted by Samuel Hayes and was attended by Judge David Davis and George Biddle, who was later County Superintendent. In 1816 a lottery was authorized by the General Assembly to build a schoolhouse in the town. The managers were to raise \$20,000 to erect a building and support an academy, but there is no evidence that the money was ever raised or a school opened.

The first public school in the town was a frame building on the southeast edge of Cecilton; it was later used as a colored school and as a cannery. The second building was a frame school 24' x 48' on a half-acre lot on the main street deeded by Samuel Allen on July 9, 1878. In it was held the first high school established in Cecilton in 1901. Miss Lelia N. McCoy was the principal and Miss Marion Clark the high school teacher. This property was sold on September 23, 1916 for \$1,200.

The George Biddle High School, a brick building, with granite base, 58' x 60', costing \$9,000, was opened Sept. 6, 1909. It was sold to James D. Stradley on November 14, 1944, for \$3,100. One half of it was converted into a hardware store and the other half was used as a moving picture house.



1ST DISTRICT

No. 5 - The Ward Hill school was a frame building on the south side of Ward's Hill road about 2.5 miles east of Cecilton just after crossing Duffy Creek. The lot for this school was deeded on February 5, 1859, by Arthur Johns (Liber WHR #2, folio 154).

Teachers at Ward's Hill were:

Mr. Weber (1870-1890)
Isabelle R. Galbraith
Edna McCoy
Emma Johns
Effie M. Husfelt
Helen J. Wright

Ellen A. Price (1901)
Helen Ellison
M. Frances Griffith
Reba M. Burris
Grace E. Burris

The school was closed in 1916 and sold. It was converted into a dwelling by George E. Pierce.



1ST DISTRICT

No. 6 - The first schoolhouse in Warwick was a log cabin situated on the northwest quadrant of the "Four Corners" of the town. This was superseded by the former academy building which still stands on the east side of Church road a short distance from its junction with the main street. A marble plaque over the front door bears the inscription: "Warwick Academy - Instituted and Built A. D. 1859". This was an all-white school, but it was transformed into a colored school when a new two-room frame building was erected on the main street by Levi Patterson in 1890 for \$1400. The first teacher in the new school was Miss Ella M. Staats. The old brick academy was subsequently used for housing purposes and on June 19, 1970 was the domicile of a colored denizen named Henry Brooks.

The frame school building was sold on June 19, 1940 to James W. Johns for \$500 and remodeled into an attractive dwelling, which is directly opposite the Methodist church in Warwick.

In 1910 the trustees of Warwick school were J. H. R. Price, Samuel G. Wilson, and Thomas F. Devine. The principal was Guy Johnson and Miss Myrtle Stradley was his assistant.



1ST DISTRICT

No. 7 - The Pearce's Neck or Rowandale school was a frame building, 28' x 30', about two miles from Reynolds' wharf (now Crystal Beach) on the south side of the road leading to Earleville. It was built in June, 1873, by Amos Wilson, of Warwick, at his bid of \$922, on a half-acre lot bought from Harry Rowan, by whose name it was first known.

The teachers at Rowandale included:

Sarah W. Broomall (1877)
Cora D. Anderson (1902)
Bertha Knock (1910)
Kathryn D. Taylor (1912)

Leona B. Yates (1914)
Belle V. Price
Dorothy Miles (1927)

This schoolhouse was sold to John D. Reed for \$375 on June 19, 1940 and converted into a dwelling which was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Frank J. Hines on May 5, 1970.



1ST DISTRICT

No. 8 - Known as Branch College, this school was located on Duck Run on the "Rounds", the estate of Judge David Davis on the left bank of the Bohemia River. It was also called the George Biddle school, because it was close to Myrtle Grove, the farm on which Mr. Biddle lived before he became County Examiner in 1892 and moved to Elkton. These farms are on Light Lane, which is the first paved road bearing to the east after crossing the Bohemia River bridge.

The lot for this school was donated by Judge Davis in 1881, with the usual reversionary clause, and in the fall of 1882 a frame building 24' x 32' was constructed by Edward and George Jackson for \$394.

Some teachers at Branch College were

M. Rebecca Lynch (first)	Ella Cannan (1906)
Clara B. Piser	Grace E. Burriss
Katharine Budd	Reba Boulden
Emily Price	Mamie Walters
Mrs. Minnie Brockson	Elsie Manlove

The schoolhouse was sold to Wroth Manlove on May 14, 1924, for \$200, and used as a clubhouse by duck shooters, who permitted it to fall into disrepair.



1ST DISTRICT

No. 9 was the Earleville school, which was opened in the fall of 1888 in the town of Earleville. It was built in the summer of 1888 at a cost of \$840 on a lot purchased from Mr. Duncan Veazey. The greatest number of pupils was 66 in 1897-1900, requiring two teachers to work in the same room.

The first teacher was Mary Price, and succeeding her were:

Emily (Queen) Deshane
Amos Mattox
Nora Finley

Helen Spear
Ethel Duhamell
Olive C. Oldham.

The trustees in 1910 were Mrs. Mary S. Duhamell, William Husfelt, and John R. Taylor.

Miss Oldham was the last teacher prior to the closing of the school in May, 1939. The frame building was sold to Mrs. Duhamell for \$570 on June 19, 1940. Thirty years later it was the home of Joseph Dixon, Jr.



Photo by William Price III

2ND DISTRICT

No. 1 was Middle Neck school on the south side of Middle Neck road one mile west of Sandy Branch cross-roads, and sixty yards from a large white oak tree which is still standing. It was built in 1869 on a lot of one and one half acres donated by William Flintham "for a school for white children only". The school room measured 20 by 30 feet, with a ten-foot ceiling, and the building was whitewashed both inside and outside. The attendance ran from 10 to 15 pupils.

On April 6, 1930, the schoolhouse was blown off its foundations during a violent windstorm. It was thereafter abandoned and the pupils were transported to Cecilton.

The teachers at Middle Neck were:

Emma Clark
Ella M. Staats
Elizabeth Anderson
Emma Vinyard
Ethel K. Price

Margaret Price
Josephine Stearns
Mary Fillingame
Myrtle L. Stradley
Marie Price (last)

The building was sold to Mrs. Samuel B. Collins on July 8, 1930, for \$50, and was salvaged for its lumber. The ground reverted to the farm from which it was originally taken, according to Mr. Flintham's stipulation.



2ND DISTRICT

No. 2 - This was the St. Augustine school, a one-room frame building about one half mile east of Churchtown on the south side of the road to Middletown, Delaware. There is evidence of an early school at St. Augustine because it was one of the 30 independent schools represented at a convention held in Elkton on January 8, 1850 to consider formation of a county system of public schools.

A contract to build a new schoolhouse was awarded to John Conrey on November 13, 1880, at his bid of \$488.

Teachers at St. Augustine included

Addie C. Ford (1876)	Ethel Vinyard (1901)
Clara McCoy (1881)	Eva S. Dean (1902)
Arrie A. Duhamell (1894)	Stella M. Bishop (1910)
Evelyn Kibler	Katie Loveless (1917)
Helen Larzalere (1899)	Ada Davis

The average attendance was 12 to 15 pupils. Two of them received a weekly assignment to carry drinking water from a well on the Spear farm. The trustees in 1910 were Mrs. Chas. S. Ellison, Robert B. Ford, and F. Edgar Bishop.

This schoolhouse was sold to Mrs. Myrtle B. Wilson on November 14, 1923, for \$300, and later occupied by negro tenants.

On April 26, 1966, the Teachers Association of Cecil County erected a marker on the old building designating it as a typical rural one-room schoolhouse of the County.



2ND DISTRICT

No. 3 was the school at Cayot's (originally Hudson's) Corner. It was a one-room frame building standing on the south side of the St. Augustine road about 400 yards east of its intersection with the Augustine Herman Highway. The lot was purchased from the trustees of Bohemia Manor M. E. Church, of which the Rev. T. A. H. O'Brien was pastor, on July 26, 1886.

Some of the teachers at Cayot's school were:

Clara McCoy	Myrtle Templeman
Elizabeth Satterfield	Helen S. Davidson
Charlotte Warner (1907)	Katie Loveless (1917)
Stella M. Bishop (1910)	Emma Haller (1918)

The school was closed on November 9, 1923 and sold to G. Harry Davidson on August 13, 1924, for \$501. The site is now occupied by a store and filling station operated by Charles Bailey, who used part of the old school for an office.

The trustees in 1910 were J. T. Warner, W. Harry Jones, and A. Lindell Beaston.



2ND DISTRICT

No. 4 - The Town Point school was a one-room frame building standing on the left side of the road close to the angle where the road to Port Herman branches from the Town Point road about three miles from the Augustine Herman Highway. This school superseded an earlier one which was in existence when the County system was inaugurated on January 1, 1859.

The lot was conveyed to the School Commissioners for \$50 by deed from Joshua Clayton, dated July 2, 1877, and 15 days later a contract was given to E. and George Jackson to build a school for \$420.

The teachers at Town Point included:

Susie Schofield (1902)	Elma Taylor (1914)
Arrie McCoy	Gertrude Manlove (1922)
Ella Cannan (1910)	Alice R. Hager (1923)

A flag was raised over the Town Point school on May 12, 1922, and the Hon. Henry M. McCullough made an address.

The trustees in 1923 were Arthur Purner, William Fears, and Howard Pyle.

The building was sold to F. J. Colby for \$166 on April 12, 1938. After a grocery store had been conducted in it by Charles Bailey for several years, it was bought by Miss Anna Brown and converted into a dwelling.



2ND DISTRICT

No. 5 - Chesapeake City came into existence with the excavation of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, and when a Methodist class was organized there in 1840 the members received permission to hold their meetings in a schoolhouse on Canal Street. There were no blackboards in this school and the pupils used quill pens. They sat on benches with no backs.

In 1851 a one-room frame schoolhouse was built on Bohemia Avenue on the site where Trinity Methodist church now stands. The teacher in this school was a Mr. Noland.

In 1854 the old "Academy" was erected at the corner of Biddle and Hemphill streets. It was a two-story frame building with one class-room on each floor. The principal was a Mr. Seale, who conducted his classes on the first floor.

A new school costing \$5,000 was built south of the canal in 1886, and thereafter the "Academy" housed only the first three grades until 1913, when it was abandoned. About 1919 the vacant building was sold to David Secor, who sold it to James A. Kirk a year later. Mr. Kirk conducted a grocery store on the first floor until 1935, when he built the bungalow shown above, which stands on the site of the old "Academy".

A partial list of the teachers at the "Academy" included:

John W. Cavender (1875)	Miss Sadie T. Nicoll
Miss Carrie P. Wright	Miss Lula N. Bryson
Miss Laura Jones	Miss Lula Brown
Mrs. Emma Willis	Miss Mary C. H. Walters

2ND DISTRICT

No. 6 - The Pivot school took its name from the Pivot bridge which crossed the Chesapeake & Delaware Canal near the front of Bethel Methodist Church. Johnston's History states that in the fall of 1772 Bishop Francis Asbury preached in a schoolhouse called Thompson's which stood quite near the site of Bethel church. This would make it one of the earliest schoolhouses in Cecil County.

A new one-room frame building was erected by Jackson Bros. in August 1882 for \$700. It was located in a wooded area across the road from Bethel cemetery.

Some teachers at the Pivot school were:

Ida Staples (1878)	Anna B. Buckworth (1902)
Maggie W. Jenness (1888)	Lelia M. Thornton (1910)
Millie V. Walmsley (1894)	Marguerite C. Potts (1919)
Mamie Black	Mary E. Fillingame (1925)
Sadie T. Nicoll	Carmen Price (1926)

The trustees in 1910 were Mrs. Tabitha Thornton, Henry George, and Charles A. Kirk.

The Pivot schoolhouse has been dismantled, and no vestige of it now remains.



2ND DISTRICT

No. 7 - In 1886 a new two-story brick building with two rooms on each floor was erected on Third Street in Chesapeake City where the high school was later built. School was opened here in the fall of 1887 for the 4th to 6th grades with Frank E. Williams as the first principal. He was followed by Martin Eaton, Thomas D. Bowers, Milton S. Harper, and Hugh W. Caldwell, who was appointed in 1898. In 1900 the Board of Education instituted a high school in Chesapeake City with Mr. Caldwell as the principal and Miss Alice Perry as assistant. They both taught in the same room. The enrollment in 1901 in the elementary school and the high school was 236.

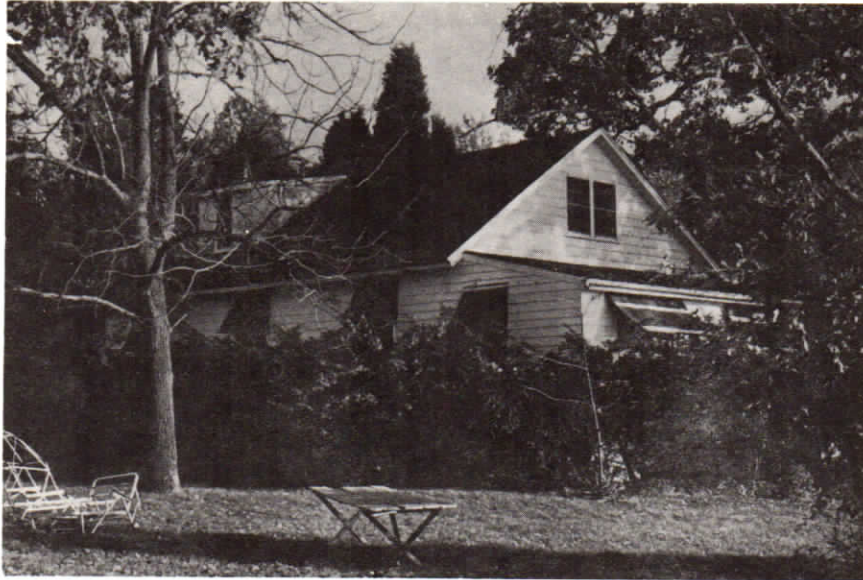
In 1902 two rooms were added to this building, and the high school then occupied two rooms, while the elementary school had four rooms. The teachers in the elementary school were Missea A. Laura Jones, Carrie P. Wright, Bessie Walworth, Alice B. Steele, and Emma Willis.

In 1908 a commercial department was established under the direction of Miss Helen H. Windle.

In 1913 two more rooms were added to the building in order that the teaching of three grades in the "Academy" could be discontinued and the entire public school united in one building.

The trustees in 1910 were James S. Hopper, John M. Reed, and J. W. Johnson. Mr. Caldwell was appointed County Superintendent on August 1, 1916, and was succeeded as principal of the Chesapeake City High School by Robert Lee Bates, a graduate of West Virginia University.

In 1939 a new brick building was erected directly behind this old schoolhouse. Upon its completion both the High school and the Elementary School moved in. Mr. Edwin B. Fockler was then principal of the High School. During that summer the old schoolhouse was demolished.



2ND DISTRICT

No. 8 - The school in Back Creek Neck was on the road to Welsh Point and about 1.5 miles west of the Augustine Herman Highway. The deed to the school lot which contained 76 square perches of land is recorded in Liber DS No. 10, folio 173.

The schoolhouse was a very small structure and was reputed to be one of the oldest in the County. No one seemed to know when it was built. It was situated in the midst of a group of tall pine trees and from this fact it acquired the name of "Pine Tree College", by which it was generally known.

The building was originally constructed of rough-hewn logs but was later covered with weatherboards and plastered on the inside. Drinking water was obtained from a small run near the school.

On Saturday morning, January 16, 1915, the old building caught fire and was burned to the ground. A contract to rebuild the school was given to J. Frank Simperts on February 9, 1915, at his bid of \$394. The new school was opened on April 5, 1915, with Miss Augusta B. Egee as the teacher. The average attendance was 18-20 pupils. Other teachers were

Hannah F. Harlan (1876)	Mattie M. Warner
Jennie Packard	Flora A. Davis
Mary E. Milburn	Belle V. Price
Lottie Warner	Sarah E. Cavanaugh

The school was closed in May 1918. It was sold to Taylor W. McKenney on August 24, 1920, and moved to his farm near Locust Point. After being used for several years as a bungalow, it was removed to Locust Point and incorporated in the residence of Mr. Thomas B. Snyder.



3RD DISTRICT

No. 1 - This was the Mitchell school, adjacent to Crouch's Chapel, about 1-1/2 miles south of Elkton on Augustine Herman Highway. It was named for Dr. H. H. Mitchell, who was a large landowner in the neighborhood. A half-acre lot for the school was bought from John Mayer on July 7, 1887, for \$100, and the building was erected by N. T. Lackland in August 1887 for \$790. The new school replaced one designated on the map of 1858 as Hickory Run. This earlier one was also known as the Frazer or Turnpike school because it was on the Frenchtown-New Castle Turnpike.

Some teachers at Mitchell school were:

Mary E. Walmsley
May Morrison
Eloise Walmsley

Hannah C. Hartnett
Mary Otis Terrell
Ethel E. Graves

This frame school building was sold on January 11, 1933, for \$525 and converted into a bungalow which was occupied by George C. Sheldon.



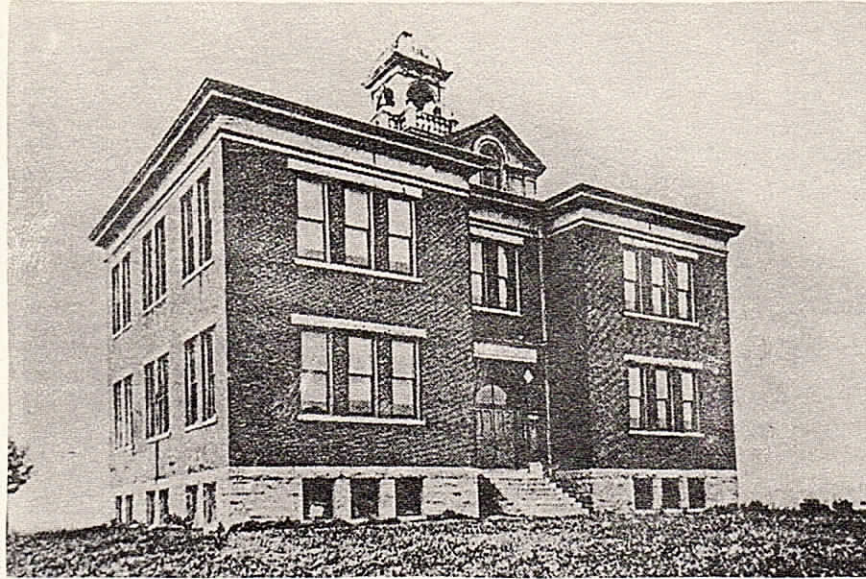
3RD DISTRICT

No. 2 was the Johnson school. This was a one-room frame building on Penny Hill road directly opposite Jones' Chapel in upper Elk Neck. Jacob Pearson and Nicholas Thomas Johnson (for whom it was named) executed a deed on February 16, 1852, conveying a lot of 35 square perches and a schoolhouse thereon to John Bryson, Nicholas Lotman, and Nicholas Larzalere, trustees, for the sum of \$5. On the map of 1858 it was called Mill Creek school.

The trustees in 1911 were Alfred Wetherill, Oliver G. Jones, and John Racine. Some teachers at Johnson school were:

Caroline Stuart Larzalere	Ethel C. Graves
Katharine G. Miller	Flora L. Marshbank
Mary H. Smith	Sarah E. Cavanaugh
Nellie P. Reed	

The building was sold to Luther F. Jefferson on October 10, 1939, for \$207.50 and converted into a dwelling which was later the home of Mr. C. Wendell Racine.



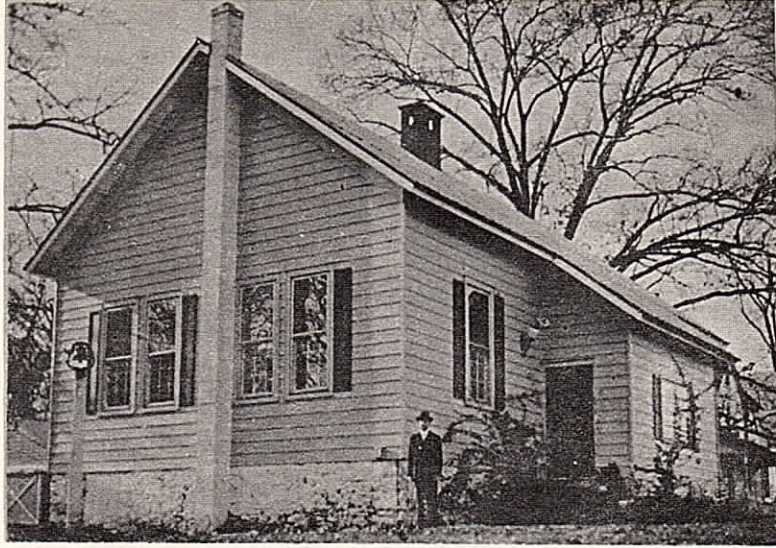
3RD DISTRICT

No. 3 - This number was assigned to three class-rooms for elementary grades on the first floor of the Cecil County High School at Osage and Mackall streets in Elkton.

The contract for building the County's first high school was awarded to Charles W. Wilson, of Rising Sun, at his bid of \$8,175, and the cornerstone was laid by Commissioners Everist and Ash and Superintendent Biddle on July 9, 1896. It was a two-story brick building with granite base with three class-rooms on each floor. The ground was enclosed by a high picket fence. The construction work was not completed until October 1896, and in the interim classes were held in Odd Fellows Hall in Elkton until it was ready to be occupied.

The first teachers in the elementary grades were Misses Eloise Walmsley, Bessie Squier, Emma Lewis, and Harriet Evans.

The high school building was destroyed by fire on Sunday morning, May 5, 1946.



3RD DISTRICT

No. 4 - The first schoolhouse at New Leeds was a small stone structure which stood in one corner of the old cemetery. It was built about 1816 by the Rev. John Wilson, whose daughter, Miss Sarah Wilson, was probably the first teacher. By a deed dated January 21, 1822, Mr. Wilson conveyed the schoolhouse and lot to three trustees for the sum of 25 cents current money of the United States. The deed is recorded in Liber JS 19, folio 443. The lot was 25 feet square and was part of a two-acre tract known as "Frisby's Venture".

On account of the large enrollment and consequent need for an assistant teacher, the School Commissioners on September 18, 1872, appropriated \$300 to repair and enlarge the New Leeds school and to furnish it with new desks. The extension doubled the size of the structure and it served for the next twenty years.

In July 1892 an acre of ground south of the present Leeds church was acquired for \$125 for the erection of a new and larger schoolhouse. (Liber JTG 2, folio 41). In the late summer of 1893 a two-room frame schoolhouse with vestibule was built by Levi E. Patterson for \$1,400, and school was opened in one half the new building on November 13, 1893. The teacher was Miss Helen A. McCauley and 31 pupils were present on the first day.

The schoolhouse at Leeds was used continuously for 65 years and during that period there were numerous appointments and resignations involving at least 40 teachers. It was one of the last schools in the County to succumb to the principle of consolidation and an era in the history of education was ending when it was closed on May 29, 1958. After being offered at public auction, the schoolhouse and lot were sold on May 7, 1960, to Samuel A. Kirkpatrick for \$3,600. He remodeled the building and occupied it as a dwelling.

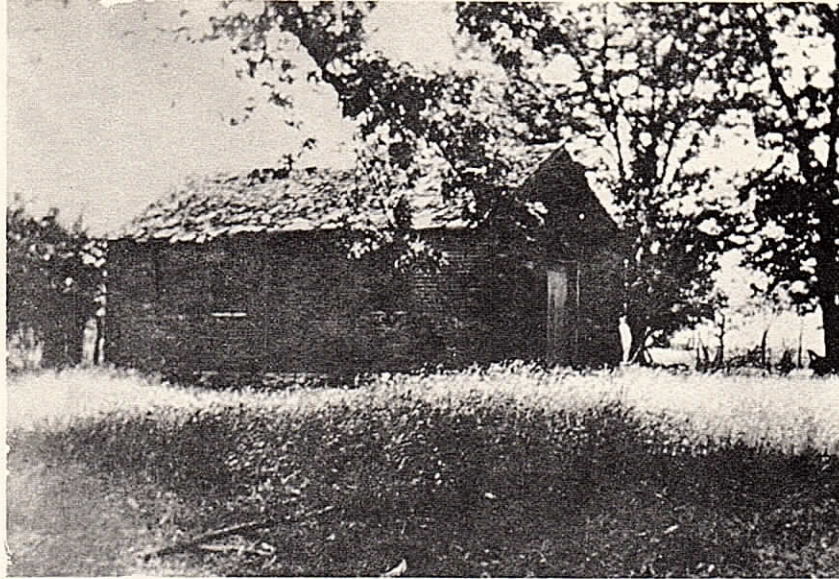


Photo by Thos. M. Cloward

3RD DISTRICT

No. 5 was known as Southampton school. The origin of this name defies explanation. It was a small brick building 16' x 35' one mile west of Leeds on the road to Boulden's Chapel. It was built prior to the Civil War and appears on the map of 1858. The lot was donated by John Weston Holt and the school was often called Holt's.

Among the teachers at Southampton were:

Lizzie W. Sherer
Emma V. Layman
Sarah F. Keech
Teresa Gallaher
Rachel Harlan
Mary A. Cosgrove

Mary Cook
Marion E. Money
Sarah R. Miller
Victoria H. Janney
Anna E. Mahoney
Ethel Taylor

George A. Steele began his teaching career at Southampton after graduating from St. John's College in 1881, and is said to have walked daily between the school and his home near Cowantown--a distance of eight miles.

The trustees in 1910 were John F. Holt, John Y. Daniels, and Armstrong Jackson.

The Rev. William Ralph was the teacher when the school was closed in May 1922.

The location of this old school is now marked by a pile of rubble.



3RD DISTRICT

No. 6 - This was the Pierson Grove school located by the side of Ricketts Mill road about .4 of a mile east of its junction with Maryland 280 below Singerly station. It superseded an earlier school known as the Ricketts school which stood on the Harry Biddle farm near Elkton. Miss Mary E. Wingate was the teacher in the Ricketts school in 1868.

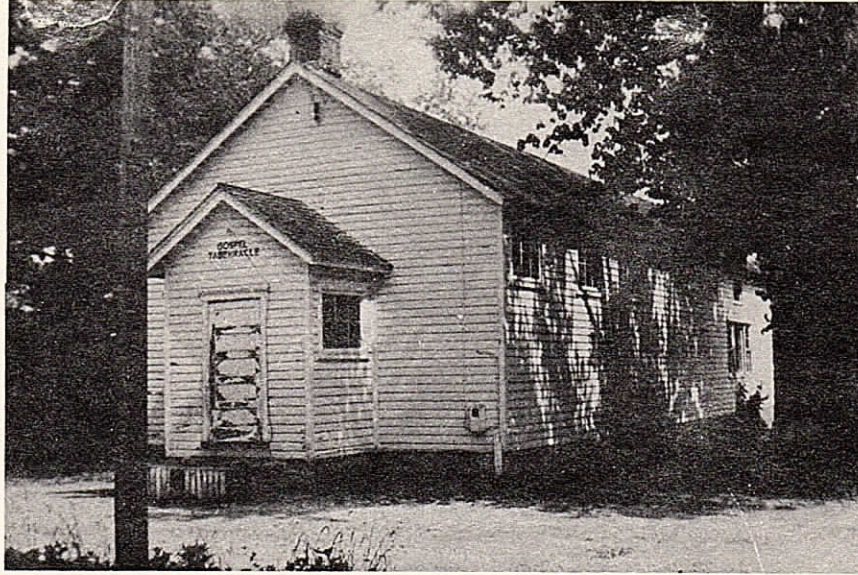
The lot for a new school was leased on September 25, 1869, from Mrs. Beulah A. Pierson, whose name it took, and the building was erected in November 1872. The lease agreement with a reversionary clause is recorded in Liber DS No. 10, folio 211.

In the early 1900's a Sunday School was conducted here by the Presbyterians of Elkton. The trustees in 1910 were Miss Margaret Gilpin, Robert Jacquette, and George Ricketts. Some teachers were

Anna L. Foster (1876)	Helen A. McCauley
Martha Jacquette	Belle V. Price (1910)
M. Letitia Burke	Sarah A. Cavanaugh

Miss Cavanaugh was the teacher when the door of Pierson Grove school was closed on May 26, 1916. It was the first casualty in the 40-year crusade to eradicate the small public schools. The one-room frame building was sold to Brown & Bartley on August 24, 1920, for \$100, converted into a dwelling, and moved to the Singerly road. In July 1970 it was the residence of Mr. Ernest Sheldon at 706 Bridge Street in Elkton.

A 45-star American flag and a small hand bell from this school were presented to the Historical Society of Cecil County by Mrs. Evelyn Pierson Nocke, a former pupil



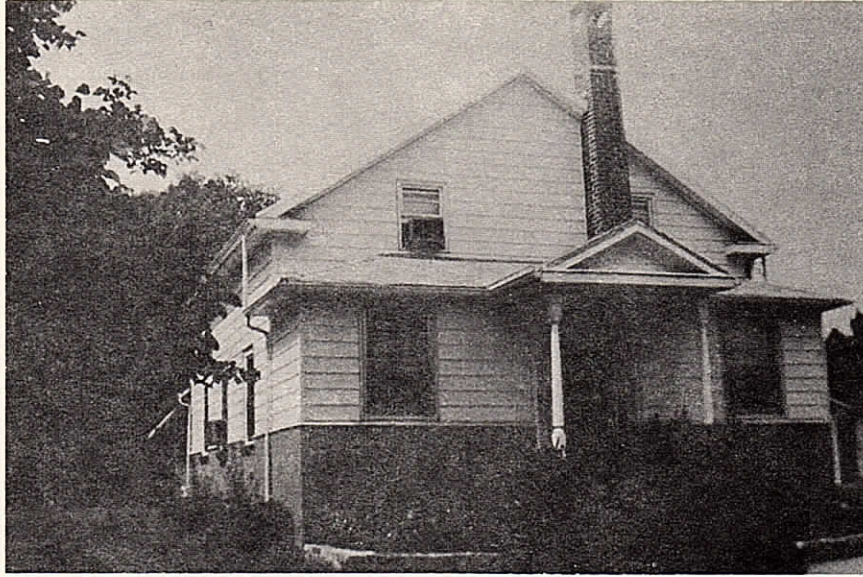
3RD DISTRICT

No. 7 - The Pleasant Hill school was in the village of that name which is suggested by its altitude of 392 feet. The remodeled building stands on the southeast quadrant of the intersection of Providence and Blue Ball roads. It was built in October 1888 by Matthew G. Scarborough for \$739, and replaced a log school of pre-Civil War days located 150 yards west of Blue Ball road.

This second building was frame with four shuttered windows and a belfry. It had two rows of two-pupil desks which enveloped a coal stove and there was a water bucket with dipper at the rear. A long bench seated the pupils for recitations. The average attendance of 50-60 required two teachers.

Miss Effie M. Husfelt was principal 1901-1908 and Miss Mamie Thornton 1908-1910. The assistants were Lulu Smith, Mary O. Terrell, and Sarah L. Scott.

The Pleasant Hill school was closed May 29, 1958, and sold to the Rev. Robert Hall for \$2600. After alterations it was known as the Gospel Tabernacle.



3RD DISTRICT

No. 8 - The West Amwell school was about two miles northeast of Elkton on the old Newark road. The first school was built in 1854 and took its name from the West Amwell rolling mill nearby. In 1862 a Sunday School was organized at West Amwell which met in the school from that date until the Perkins Memorial Chapel was built in 1898.

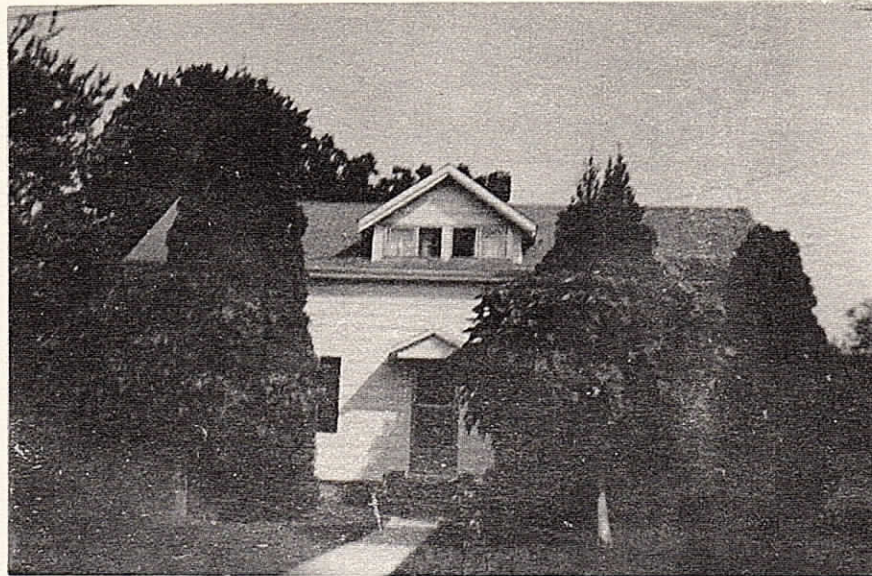
The first school was built of brick. It served until August 1906 when A. M. Strickland was given a contract to build a new frame school for \$1338. The bricks from the old one were used in laying the foundation for the new building.

Two early teachers at West Amwell were Sallie A. Yearsley and Sarah Campbell; later teachers were

Harriet Evans
Reba H. Miller
Ethel J. Graves

Flora A. Davis (1908-1923)
Estella Wood (1923-1926)
Alice Todd

Miss Todd was the last teacher at the closing of the school on December 31, 1931. The building was sold on June 14, 1932 to Mrs. Nellie Chevrivil for \$510 and remodeled into a dwelling.



3RD DISTRICT

No. 9 - This was Warburton's school. An early log school which stood on the left side of the road near Marple's hill between Union Church and Warburton's dam is shown on the map of 1858 and is called Union school, probably because of its proximity to Union Church. Two teachers in this school were Elijah Reynolds and Lillie E. Kirkpatrick.

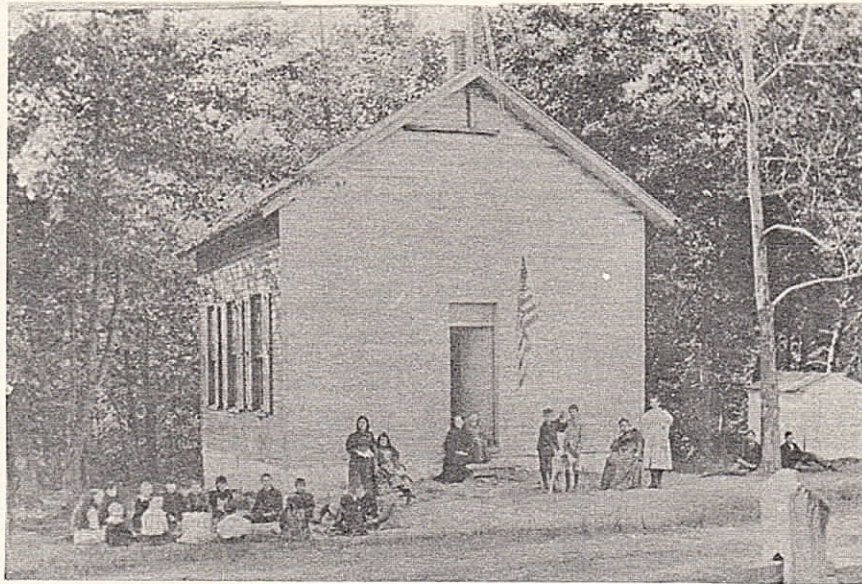
On November 13, 1877, a contract was awarded to Ed and George Jackson to build a new frame school 20' x 45' for \$410. It was located on the west side of Swamp road .7 of a mile west of Union Church. Wm. T. Warburton donated the lot and other patrons hauled stones and lumber. The new school was called Warburton's. Attendance in 1890 averaged about 33 pupils.

The teachers at Warburton's included:

Ellen P. Mahoney
Maggie E. McVey
Lottie A. Gamble
Mary A. Cosgrove
Maude Brown
Eliza Grier

Hattie I. Mahoney
Helen Pierson
Ellen Shannon
Blanche E. Ford
Emily Scott
Priscilla Larzalere
Mary J. Mahoney

Miss Elizabeth Warburton was the last teacher prior to the closing of the school on May 27, 1934. It was sold on August 14, 1934 to Wm. T. Booth, Jr. for \$50. It was later moved to the east side of Swamp road and on June 29, 1970 was the well-cared-for home of Mr. and Mrs. Walter E. Kemether.



3RD DISTRICT

No. 10 - Wilna school was a frame building standing on the west side of Blue Ball road almost opposite the entrance to the Seminary Farm. The lot was donated to the School Commissioners on January 8, 1877, by Lewis T. Roberts, and the school was erected in the summer of that year by Charles Hargan for \$460.

The Roberts school, as it was first called, opened on November 16, 1880, with Miss Helen Hasson as the first teacher and with 32 pupils. The first trustees were Daniel Harvey, Samuel Miller, and James Davis.

Miss Annie Cook was the teacher on April 11, 1894, when the Junior Mechanics Lodge, of Childs, presented a flag to the school, and the Hon. John E. Wilson, of Elkton, made an address.

The teachers at Wilna included

Helen Hasson	Nettie B. Gallaher
Annie Cook	Bertha H. Moore
Alice R. Harvey	Isabel L. Davis (1911)
M. Letitia Burke	Hester B. Miller (last)

The school was closed on May 31, 1918. The building was sold to Dr. C. P. Carrico for \$300 on March 23, 1920, used for a time as a dwelling, and finally moved to the Seminary Farm for utility purposes.

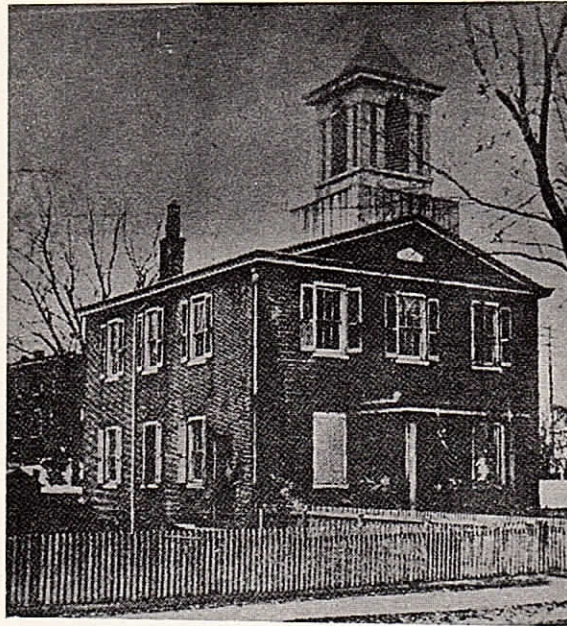


3RD DISTRICT

No. 11 - The educational needs of Elkton in early days were partially supplied by private establishments until 1861, when the School Commissioners acquired the old Methodist Church on Back Street and made it into a public school, in which Miss Caroline Moore appears to have been the first teacher. She was succeeded by her sister, Anna R. Moore (Mrs. R. H. Tuft), who with Miss Susan Foard had conducted a private school in the basement of the Court House in 1863.

The next step was erection of the school on Howard Street on land conveyed to the Commissioners in 1868 by Jacob Ash Howard, which indicates about the time it was started and also how it acquired its name. It is a two-story brick building with two class-rooms on each floor. Principals of the Howard Street school were George A. Steele, Mrs. Reuben H. Tuft, Miss Addie C. Ford, Miss Katharine Budd, and Miss Hannah C. Hartnett.

After its use for primary grades was discontinued, the building was made into offices for the School Board and class-rooms for retarded children. In July 1970, the structure was declared unsanitary and unsafe, and it was ordered vacated.



3RD DISTRICT

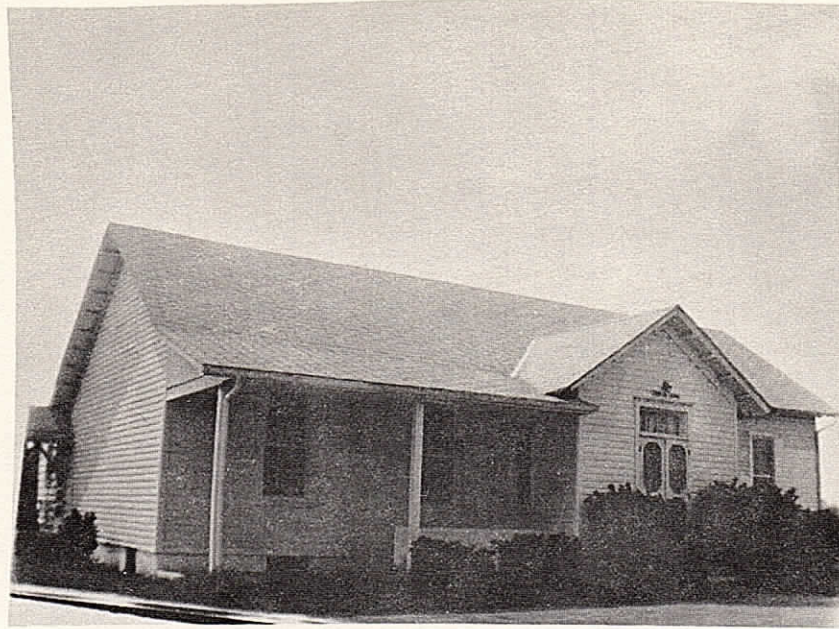
No. 12 - This was the elementary school on the west side of North Street in Elkton which had formerly been the old Elkton Academy. It stood on the site now occupied by Singerly Fire Company.

On May 12, 1787, Col. Henry Hollingsworth conveyed by his deed of that date one acre of land in the center of his plantation to a board of seven trustees "to promote and encourage a good school and a place of Divine worship". Authorities agree that a building of some sort was on the lot when Col. Hollingsworth deeded it to the trustees. Construction on a new two-story brick building was commenced, but evidently not immediately completed, for in 1807 the Legislature passed an Act authorizing a lottery to raise \$3,000 to finish "The Town's School", but the lottery was never carried out.

In 1818 the school was erected by the Legislature into the Elkton Academy of Cecil County and an annual stipend of \$300 was authorized for its support. In the early days the Academy was the center of the educational, religious, and social activities of the town, but in 1843 the trustees decided that thereafter it should be used only as a schoolhouse.

The original building was burned on February 21, 1854, during a snowstorm. It was immediately restored by a new building erected by Rambo and Smith at a cost of \$3,400. The building was 32' x 40' with yellow pine floors. It was reopened on November 27, 1854, with Dr. Edward Arnold as principal and an enrollment of 35 boys and 28 girls.

The Academy was used for advanced classes until the opening of the high school in Elkton in the fall of 1896. It was then used as an elementary school and finally closed in 1921. The bell on the old academy was rung for the last time on April 14, 1938, when a memorial service was held prior to the razing of the venerable structure.



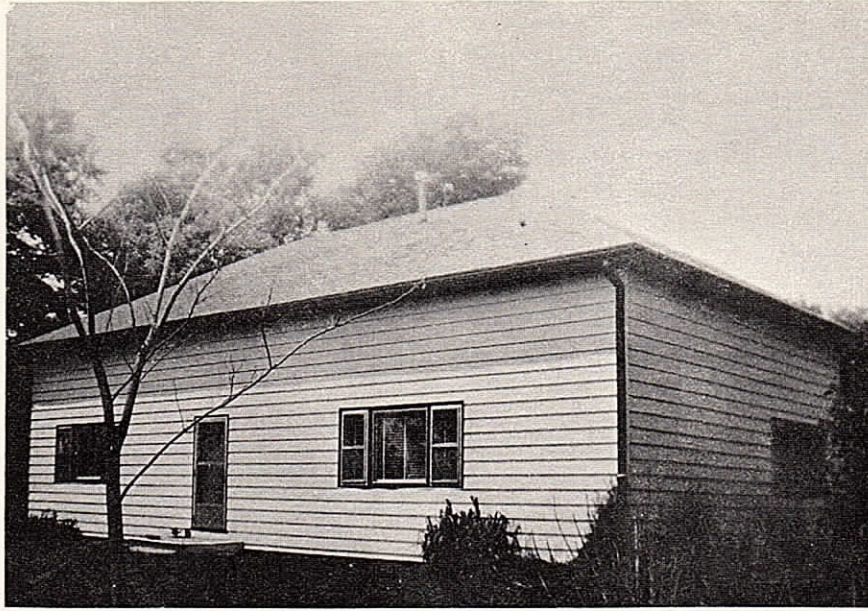
4TH DISTRICT

No. 1 - The first schoolhouse in Cherry Hill was a one-room frame structure built in 1839 on the east side of the Fair Hill road. The entrance was in the gable end which faced the road.

In the summer of 1896 George Jackson built a new two-room frame school with vestibule on the same lot at a cost of \$1300. The old school was sold to Richard C. Porter who moved it across the road and elevated it as the second story of a dwelling which is still standing.

In 1890 Emma B. Jacquette succeeded Martha Biddle as principal and remained 33 years. Mary Evans Harlan was appointed assistant on August 26, 1890 and taught until her retirement December 31, 1929.

The school was sold to Cherry Hill Methodist Church for \$3500 and after renovation for use as a recreation center was dedicated as the HARLAN HOUSE on September 17, 1961.



4TH DISTRICT

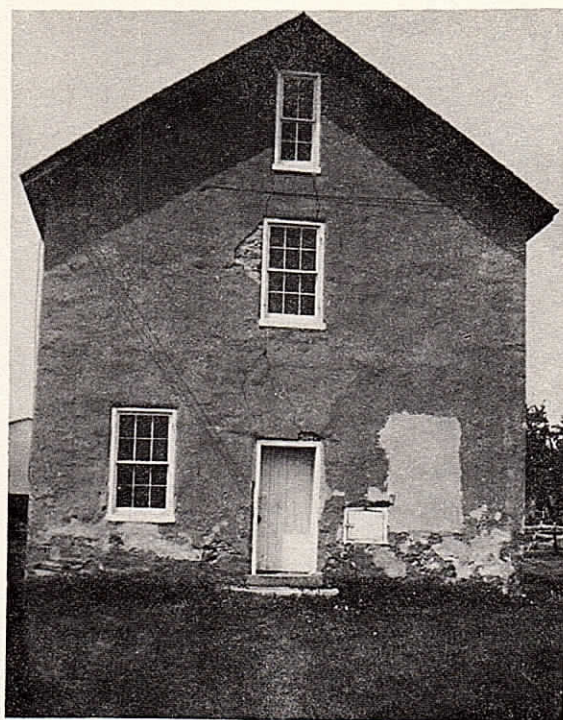
No. 2 - The Elk Mills school was situated on a high bank on the north side of the road about midway between Elk Mills and Miller's Corner. Contract to build this new school was awarded to A. M. Strickland on August 4, 1906, when additional facilities were found necessary to relieve crowded conditions at Barksdale, which was unable to serve the growing population in that vicinity.

The new school cost \$2,085 and was first occupied in February 1907. This was a two-room frame building with a vestibule and cloak-room. The teachers at Elk Mills included:

Bessie M. Gallaher
Minnie B. Bouchelle
Helen L. Brown
Minnie Gillespie
Gertrude Ferguson
Miriam Alexander
Isabel A. Scott
Susie Dean
Ruth Horn

Mary Conner
Mary Worth
Lillian Russell
Mrs. Gilbert Turner
Elizabeth Maloney
Evelyn Graybeal
Ruth Lawrence
Josephine Cochran
Sarah Cavanaugh

After the school was closed the building was sold and converted into a dwelling. It stands not far from the Cecil Manor Elementary School near Miller's Corner.



4TH DISTRICT

No. 3 - The Jackson Hall school was conducted on the first floor of the hall of that name standing on the north side of Schoolhouse road .8 of a mile northwest of Cowantown. Jackson Hall is a two-story stone building which the capstone attests was erected in 1870. The name perpetuates a tradition that the father of President Andrew Jackson once lived near the head of Persimmon Run just east of Cowantown.

The second floor was used as a Sunday School room and as a community meeting center. The first floor contained a large class-room, a coal bin, and a vestibule where wraps and a water bucket were kept. The assistant teacher had classes in the vestibule when weather permitted.

Miss Libbie M. Hayes taught at Jackson Hall for 27 years. Other teachers were:

Ruth A. Tuft
Helen Hasson
Emma Henderson
May West
Bertha Biddle

Edith Robinson
Nora Finley
Evelyn T. Kimble
Ethel Reynolds
Etta Bouchelle

The building is still standing, but the former class-room with its blackboard intact is now used only for storage purposes.

4TH DISTRICT

No. 4 - Known as Union school and also as Appleton school, No. 4 was on the west side of the road 3/4 of a mile due north of Fox Chase at the first cross-roads. On October 10, 1876, J. W. McCardell was given a contract to build a one-room frame school house 24' x 30' for \$649 in place of an old brick building.

Some teachers at the Appleton school were

Lizzie W. Martin
Arthur W. Mackey
Evelyn T. Kimble

Jennie R. Anderson
Ida L. Kimble.

This school has been razed and there is no evidence of its existence.

Miss Jennie R. Anderson died at her home at Fair Hill on February 3, 1915. She was a daughter of Robert Anderson and a veteran teacher.



4TH DISTRICT

No. 5 - Fair Hill school was a frame building which stood on the brow of a hill on the south side of the road about midway between Fair Hill and Rock Church. A contract to build this school at a cost of \$700 was awarded to Cornelius C. Brokaw in November 1869.

Teachers who served Fair Hill school were:

William H. Brokaw
Frank Thompson
Belle Jackson
M. Helen Scott
Lera White
Ella Mackie

Martha Phillips
Mary Miller
Sylvia Slack
Margaret McVey
Mary Anderson
Elizabeth Mackey

When a Fourth District high school was opened at Kenmore, the upper grades from Fair Hill were moved there and the lower grades were transferred to a new school opened at Providence in September 1911.

The trustees in 1910 were John Quein, Samuel G. Bye, and J. A. Holland.

The school was sold in 1912 and remodeled into a dwelling by J. Horace Ewing, florist.



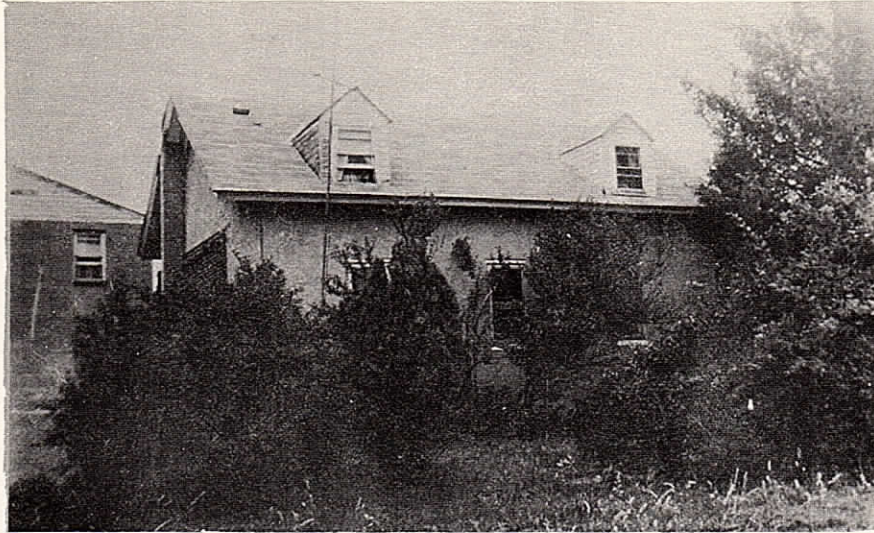
4TH DISTRICT

No. 6 - Historic Center school was east of Sharp's cemetery on the right side of a dirt road leading to Strahorn's mill on Big Elk Creek, and about one half mile below the Mason & Dixon Line.

It was here that George Johnston, County historian, taught in 1849. Some later teachers were:

Jennie Anderson (1885)	Annie Vansant
Harriet Gatchell (1890)	Clara Mannon (1910)
Edna McCoy (1894)	Evelyn T. Kimble
Helen S. Tuft (1898)	Bertha H. Moore (last)

This old stone schoolhouse was closed in 1915, but it still stands in partial ruins on the estate of the late William duPont in a thicket of tangled vines and bushes. Its walls are 24" thick, and the outside dimensions are 25' x 30'. The door is in the south end and there are two windows in the north end and three on each side, all with shutters. The windows are four feet high and 2-1/2 feet wide. A location for a schoolhouse could hardly have been more inaccessible than Center now appears to have been.



4TH DISTRICT

No. 7 - The Big Elk (or Taylor) school was on the west side of Gallaher road exactly .375 of a mile below Big Elk chapel at Flounders' Corner. It took the name of Big Elk Creek a short distance to the east.

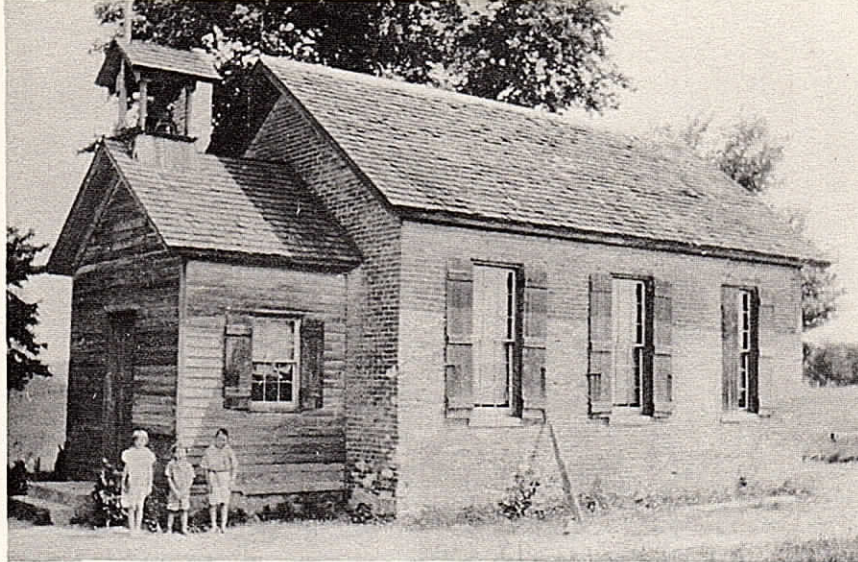
A quarter-acre lot for a schoolhouse was sold to the School Commissioners by Tobias Peterson and wife on May 18, 1859, for \$10.

The teachers at Big Elk included:

Nora Henderson (1866)	Bessie M. Gallaher
Ettie A. Kirk (1867)	Harriet G. Gatchell
Sylvia Slack (1875)	May Kimble
Ella M. Henderson (1891)	Mary Hinchman
Emma Henderson	Laura J. Ward

The trustees in 1910 were E. H. Gallaher, David T. Devlin, and John T. Egnor.

This was a brick schoolhouse which was sold to J. Leon Nowland on February 10, 1932 for \$100 and converted into a dwelling which he occupied.



4TH DISTRICT

No. 8 - The Fairview (or Kansas) school adjoined Moore's Chapel at Blake. On November 29, 1856, John A. McCallister deeded a school lot containing .4 acre to John Ewing, Wm. M. Reynolds, and William G. Alexander, Trustees, for the sum of \$10. (Liber HHM #7, folio 492).

This school is shown on the map of 1858. It is a brick building which originally had two floors, the upper one being used for religious meetings. This floor was removed after the Methodist Protestants built the church in 1871.

Teachers at Fairview included:

John H. Kimble (1873)
Alfred B. McVey
Mary J. Mahoney
Ella Cann

Ethel Miller
Harvey Anderson
Lulu L. Wooden
Florence R. Scott

The schoolhouse was sold to the Moore's Chapel congregation on October 1, 1941, for \$370, and subsequently transferred to the Blake Community Association. It was enlarged by the addition of another room, and the vestibule and belfry were preserved. The building now houses a Sunday school and serves as a community center.



4TH DISTRICT

No. 9 - This number was originally assigned to a unique octagonal stone schoolhouse at Carter's Bank, known as the 8-Corner or Carter's school. It was built in 1820 by Robert Carter. Samuel Hartshorne was an early teacher at Carter's school.

Due to a shift in population it was superseded in 1886 by a two-room frame school on the west side of the road at Andora built by William H. Spratt for \$725. The half-acre lot for the new school was deeded to the School Commissioners by Franklin M. Gallaher and wife, Maggie A. Gallaher, and Elizabeth B. Groome, mortgagee, on August 31, 1886, for \$50. The deed is recorded in Liber JAD No. 13, folio 117.

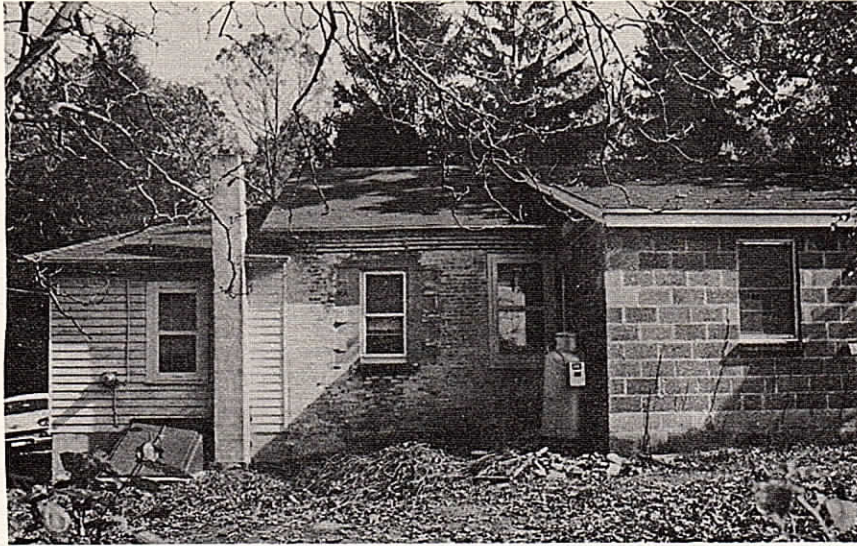
Teachers at Andora were

Jennie R. Anderson
 Laura M. Bryson
 M. Sophia Miller
 Irene E. Foster
 Margaret Wiley
 Charlotte Warner
 Charlotte E. Cann
 Bessie A. Wiley

Emily A. Scott
 Carrie Vansant
 Lulu Moore
 Sarah L. Ewing
 Edwina Wright
 Charlotte McAllister
 Edwin B. Fockler
 Helen Scott

The trustees in 1910 were Daniel T. Arbuckle, Ernest Brown, and Henry H. McFadden.

The Andora schoolhouse and lot were sold on March 10, 1925 to Wm. T. McAllister for \$503, and the building was converted into a dwelling. On May 22, 1970 the occupant was Mr. Bruce Diebold.



4TH DISTRICT

No. 10 - The Barksdale school was .375 of a mile north of Miller's Corner on the west side of the road to the village of Barksdale, which derived its name from a way station on the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad. The deed conveying a half-acre lot for the school is recorded in Liber WHR No. 3, folio 388. The schoolhouse was an old brick building in which Robert M. Hayes taught in the 1850's and Miss Rachel Harlan in the 1880's. Some later teachers were

Bertha Biddle
Margaret D. Campbell
Ida L. Kimble
Bessie M. Gallaher
Minnie B. Bouchelle

Mary Otis Terrell
Sarah E. Scott
Helen Cooper
Isabel A. Scott
Lillian Russell (last)

In 1910 the trustees were George M. Campbell, James M. Casho, and William R. Hayes.

The normal attendance was 50, which dropped to 20 when Elk Mills school was opened one mile away. The Barksdale school was closed in May 1917 and sold to William R. Baldwin on August 24, 1920, for \$225. It was completely remodeled into a dwelling, of which only a small portion of its original brick wall is now discernible.



4TH DISTRICT

No. 11 - When the higher grades were transferred from nearby schools to Kenmore High School an elementary school was opened at Providence in September 1911, with Miss Blanche E. Ford as the first principal.

For use as a schoolhouse the Commissioners on April 26, 1910, acquired from the Trustees of the Christian and Missionary Alliance for the sum of \$5 a half-acre lot and the building thereon formerly used as a church. It stands on the left side of the road near the bottom of the hill from Kenmore to Providence mill.

Some other teachers who served this school were

Elizabeth Mackey
Emily Scott
Nellie A. Mackie

Edith E. Zebley
Lulu M. Moore

The building was sold to John W. Henderson on May 6, 1941, for \$275, and converted into a dwelling.

THE CECIL COUNTY FREE SCHOOL

A plan to advance the cause of public education in Maryland was initiated in 1723, when the General Assembly passed "An Act for the Encouragement of Learning, and Erecting Schools in the several Counties within this Province".

The Act provided that one school should be built at some convenient place in each of the twelve counties that had been erected in Maryland up to 1723. A board of seven visitors was appointed in each county. The members were to hold office during life and were empowered to hold land, to sue and to be sued, to perpetuate the board by filling vacancies which might occur, and to purchase 100 acres of land for school purposes.

The visitors were to meet four times a year, adopt by-laws, and were invested with full power to employ teachers who were to be "members of the Church of England and of pious lives, and capable of teaching well the Grammar, good Writing, and Mathematicks". As compensation for their services, the school masters were allowed use of the grounds and dwelling erected thereon, together with a salary of 20 pounds sterling per annum.

The board of visitors for Cecil County was composed of Col. John Ward, Major John Dowdall, Col. Benjamin Pearce, and Messrs. Stephen Knight, Edward Jackson, Richard Thompson, and Thomas Johnson, Jr. In accordance with the Act of 1723 they purchased 100 acres of land in Sassafras Neck on the south side of Bohemia River, which included the point immediately above the Bohemia River bridge. It has ever since been known as "Free School Point".

It is believed that a school was started there, but no authentic record of its achievements has been found or is known to exist.

The Free School in Cecil County sustained a mortal blow in the November session of the General Assembly in 1787, when an Act was passed requiring the construction of an almshouse for benefit of poor people, who were placed under supervision of a board of nine trustees. All free school property of every nature was ordered to be turned over to this board. In pursuance of this Act, the trustees met in Elkton on June 11, 1788, and received from James Hughes a payment in cash and corn for rental of the school farm and labor of the negroes attached to it.

In 1791 the property at Free School Point, including the human chattels involved, was sold by the trustees of the poor to Robert Milligan for the sum of 1200 pounds. The board of visitors created by the Act of 1723 and the Cecil County Free School thus passed out of existence.

CECIL COUNTY'S FIRST HIGH SCHOOL

During the January 1864 session of the General Assembly of Maryland an Act was passed providing for the establishment of three high schools in Cecil County. The first steps to comply with this requirement were taken by the Board of School Commissioners at a meeting on June 24, 1864, when committees were appointed to explore the situation.

At a subsequent meeting Board members Brokaw, Glacken, and Stubbs were delegated to arrange a system for establishing the schools. This committee visited Baltimore where they conferred with the Secretary and two members of that city's School Board. The Committee was advised that since it was clearly an experiment, it would be wise to attempt no more than one school at a time and to model it as circumstances dictated and make it a guide to be followed when the Board found itself able to establish other high schools.

After digesting the information and suggestions obtained in Baltimore, the Cecil County Board resolved to establish one high school in Elkton and to set aside funds for schools in Port Deposit and Rising Sun at such time as the Board might find it feasible to institute them.

The Board adopted a four-year course of instruction for the high school system and divided the school year into four quarters of eleven weeks each. The Board also set the following tuition rates per quarter, payable in advance: For the first year \$3, the second year \$3.50, the third year \$4, and the fourth year \$5. Pupils from outside the State were to be accepted on the same basis as Maryland residents. The salaries of the principals at Elkton and Port Deposit were fixed at \$150 a quarter and at Rising Sun at \$125 a quarter. The last two named schools were non-existent, but the Board hoped to provide them at some future date. The sum of \$1,000 was appropriated for support of the Elkton project.

This school was opened in the old Academy building on North Street in Elkton on November 7, 1864, as the Male and Female High School of Cecil County. William H. Zimmerman was the first principal and 22 pupils were enrolled.

Thus Cecil County had the distinction of establishing the first high school in any county of Maryland.

The high school in Elkton held its second commencement on July 20, 1866, under direction of Prof. Zimmerman. Masters Joseph L. Wells, Robert C. Thackery, and Edward Jamar gave declamations and the Misses Bratton and Scott read essays. A local newspaper expressed regrets that the exercises were poorly attended.

In September 1866 Prof. Zimmerman was succeeded by Walter S. Drysdale. The latter submitted his resignation at the end of the school year after a dispute with Francis A. Ellis, President of the School Board. After this unhappy incident the high school was deactivated and the Academy building was thereafter used as a public school.

In 1869 an effort was made to revive the high school in Elkton. A petition was presented requesting the School Board to re-open the high school, but no action was taken on the petition, and the high school movement in Cecil County then languished for the next 30 years.



5TH DISTRICT

No. 1 - The Wilson school was a one-room frame building on the west side of Route 272 exactly .3 of a mile below St. Mark's AUMP Church in lower Elk Neck. The school was so called because it stood on a lot belonging to the farm of William J. Wilson. An earlier school shown on the same location by the map of 1858 was called Sandy Hill school.

A new building 18' x 24' was erected by George Jackson in November 1880 for \$449. It served patrons from Turkey Point Lighthouse to the Wilson farm, which is now owned by Camp Chesapeake Boy Scouts.

Some teachers at Wilson school were

Mary H. Bond (1891)
Beulah Creswell (1903)
Ethel C. Graves (1906)

Beulah C. Wilson (1908)
Annie G. Arrants (1914)
Nancy Stuart (1916)

The school was closed in May 1916 because of lack of attendance and the few pupils were transported to North East. The building was sold on August 11, 1926 to Henry H. Mitchell for \$456, and still stands in good condition in a clearing in the woods.



5TH DISTRICT

No. 2 - This was Hart's school, which bears the name of Hart's Church in Elk Neck. The first school stood on the east side of Maryland 272 at the foot of the hill north of Mr. Wm. S. Wood's residence. It was opened in the fall of 1880 with Mary A. Tammany as teacher and with 27 pupils. This was a frame building 16' x 24' with a ten-foot ceiling and had no outbuildings. The furniture was new and it contained 15 square feet of blackboard and a large map now owned by Mrs. Wood.

In August 1890 a larger frame building was erected by Levi E. Patterson at a cost of \$800. This schoolhouse stands on the same site as the old one, which was moved to Mr. Ernest Wood's farm and used as a carriage shed.

The following list of teachers at Hart's has been supplied by Mrs. Wm. S. Wood:

Florence E. Johnson 1882	Georgia Gifford 1904-06
Emma Johnson 1883	Katherine Holt 1906-08
Priscilla Carroll 1883-85	Helen A. McCauley 1909-11
Jennie R. Anderson 1885-87	Florence Wood
Sue Ferguson 1887-88	Alice Hall
Webster White 1889	Edna Moore
Florence R. Clark 1894-95	Elizabeth Maloney
Frank Gardiner 1894-97	Katherine Keeseey
Marjorie Rutter 1897-00	Margaret Bouchelle
Laura Lambert 1900-02	Jennie Burlin
Mary Thompson 1902-04	Anna May Hutton

Miss Elizabeth Simperts was the last teacher when the school was closed in May 1947. It was sold to A. C. Litzenberg on January 11, 1951 for \$1.120, and is now used as a dwelling.



5TH DISTRICT

No. 3 - This was the Racine school which was about eight miles below Elkton on Racine School road west of Oldfield Point road and about one mile from Elk River. The school grounds adjoined the farm of Charles D. Racine and the school took its name from that fact.

The lot for the school was deeded to the School Commissioners by James T. McCullough on September 14, 1886, for \$50, and the building was erected by N. T. Lackland in October 1886 for \$785. The trustees in 1910 were I. Lumsden Holt, Chas. D. Racine, and J. W. Arrants.

For the fall term of 1904 Miss Mearns Carhart reported 17 pupils and was paid \$82.30 as salary for ten weeks of professional service.

This was a one-room frame building which was sold to the Willing Workers of Wesley Chapel on October 12, 1932, for \$50 and is now used as a place for holding ham and crab cake suppers.



5TH DISTRICT

No. 4 was known as the Wesley school. It was on the right side of the old Elk Neck road about six miles below Elkton and one half mile beyond Wesley Chapel (built 1830), from which it acquired its name.

It was built of upright weatherboards overstripped at the seams and had six shuttered windows and an outside coal bin. The attendance was 15-20. Some teachers at Wesley school were

Sadie T. Nicoll (1902)	Bessie Guthrie (1918)
Marjorie Rutter (1908)	Florine Hunter (1921)
Florence Shivery (1910)	Clara D. Racine (1922)
Isabel L. Davis (1911)	Marie Price (1923)
Viola Finn (1917)	Rose Ricupero (last)

The trustees in 1910 were George Bedwell, William F. Stanley, and Theodore Holden.

The schoolhouse was sold to Perry A. Gibson on April 14, 1942, for \$75, and was later dismantled.

5TH DISTRICT

No. 5 - In 1752 Dominie Fanning was allowed to keep a school in the vestry-house of St. Mary Anne's Church, and the first schoolhouse in North East was a small brick building in the churchyard on the present site of the Coudon burial plot. It stood until 1850.

The second school was on the north bank of Arundel Creek. Parrow Davis was the teacher in this school.

In the fall of 1888 a new schoolhouse was built by George W. Jackson at a cost of \$725. The citizens of North East donated a bell for use of the school when it was opened in October 1888.

In addition to the public school, several private institutions were conducted in the town. There was a rectory school of which Miss Mary Amsden was the principal. A school was also kept in part of the Simcoe house by Mr. Cazier, while another was carried on by John Galbraith in the basement of a house at the corner of Cecil Avenue and Main Street. The North East Classical Seminary was opened in September 1867 in a building on land given by the Rev. John H. Johns. This school was later sold to the North East Fire Company.

In 1905 Sarah M. Ford and her brother, Isaac H. Ford, donated a lot 200' x 300' on Cecil Avenue on which A. M. Strickland built a new schoolhouse (the 4th in the town) costing \$9,000. It was opened on March 20, 1906. This building housed all grades until 1932 when a high school was completed and the old building was used solely for elementary grades. The Cecil Avenue school was torn down in 1957 to make way for modern facilities.



5TH DISTRICT

No. 6 - The remodeled Shawnah school is on the south side of the old Elk Neck road where it joins the present Maryland 272, and is 2.8 miles below St. Mary Anne's Church in North East. The section of the building which was the former schoolhouse is indicated by the ridge on the right of the above picture.

The Shawnah school perpetuated the name of a tribe of Indians who inhabited that part of Elk Neck before the coming of paleface settlers. Shawnah is shown on the map of 1858. Some teachers included

Frances M. Cleaves (1908)	Mildred Reynolds (1919)
Helen T. Clark (1909)	Evelyn F. Cavender (1923)
Sara Ewing (1917)	

The trustees in 1910 were William J. Clark, George Wingate, and J. A. Rutter.

Shawnah was consolidated with North East on September 1, 1932, and the building was sold to Charles F. Shifflet on March 3, 1939, for \$100. On June 19, 1970, the owner was Eugene A. Moore.



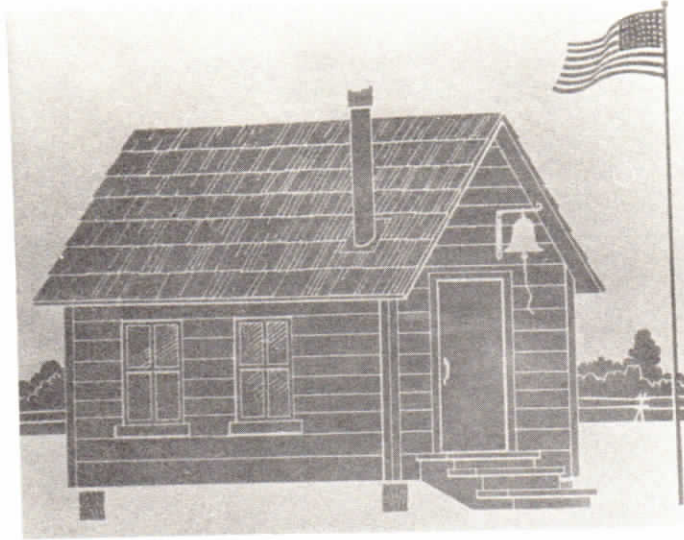
5TH DISTRICT

No. 7 - This was the Union Grove school which is not far from Bethel Methodist church and is on Red Toad road about 1.5 miles north of U. S. 40. On the map of 1858 this school was called Reed's, although it was always referred to as the Red Toad, which is said to have been the name of an old tavern in the vicinity.

The lot on which the present school stands was purchased by the School Commissioners from Thomas Logan on September 25, 1858, for \$10. A new school was built by George Jackson in October 1888 for \$750. It was sold to Bethel church for \$150 on July 11, 1939, and now serves as a church house.

The trustees in 1910 were William A. Dennison, E. K. Davis, and Abel C. Cameron.

At Red Toad school Miss Isabele R. Galbraith began her unusual career as a teacher on February 1, 1864, at age 16. She taught for the remainder of her life and died in harness on January 8, 1916, at the age of 68. During the intervening 52 years "Miss Belle" taught at 15 different County schools and established a record for length and continuity of service which has never been equalled.



5TH DISTRICT

No. 8 was the Union or Leslie school, originally known as Burns's school. It was a frame building between Leslie and Bay View on a side road about 300 yards west of Marysville. The lot was bought from Matthew Russell and deeded to the School Commissioners for \$100 on April 21, 1859 by Bryan Fields, Samuel D. Maffitt, John B. Russell, William Reed, and Joseph Benjamin, Trustees.

The records show that Charles A. Benjamin, a trustee, appeared before the Board of Commissioners on June 12, 1900, and made a strong plea for a new schoolhouse. The Board took the matter under consideration and deferred action.

On April 29, 1910, when Miss Margaret V. Hartnett was principal, an American flag was raised to the top of a fifty-foot pole donated by Victor Benjamin.

The schoolhouse was sold to Mrs. Mary E. Gray on August 30, 1930, for \$100, and some time later was destroyed by fire.





5TH DISTRICT

No. 9 - The Marion school was in the woods on the east side of Red Toad road about 1.5 miles southeast of Principio in what could be considered a secluded location. The origin of the school's name is not now known.

The first school was a square brick building which appears on the map of 1858. The desks in this school were made of wide pine boards and enclosed a stove in the center of the room. The brick school was replaced in the fall of 1885 by a frame building with improved desks and seats. It was built by George Jackson at a cost of \$690. About 1890 the Rev. Enoch K. Miller, of North East, held Sunday evening services in the school house for two years.

The teachers at Marion included

Elijah Reynolds	Susie Jackson
John Janney	Annie Williams
Belle R. Galbraith	Ruth Cameron
Mary Murray	Blanche Ford
Mollie H. Williams	Kathryn Yerkes
Harriet Lambert	Priscilla Larzalere (1909)
Margaret Lackland	Jean C. Abrams (1914)
Carrie Keilholtz	Ella Gibson (1915)
Eva Brickley	Victoria Janney (1916)
Maude Thompson	Ethel M. Teague (1922)
Annie E. Jackson	Mary E. Burlin (1932)

Some of these teachers were obliged to walk two miles each way every day on account of the inaccessible location of the school.

The building was sold to Wilbur Harter, of Port Deposit, on November 12, 1949, for \$50, and then used for a few years as a dwelling.

When the site was visited May 27, 1970, the only visible trace of a building was a vine-covered section of the stone wall foundation.



5TH DISTRICT

No. 10 - The Washington school, originally known as the Washington Academy, was about two miles northwest of Bay View, on the east side of Schoolhouse road and just off Route 274. It was named in honor of the first President of the United States and was one of the few stone schoolhouses in the County.

Washington school was built about 1847 by Elijah Janney, who gave the stones and other building materials. Among its long list of teachers were the following:

Mary L. Stephens
Susie Smith
Elsie R. Gamble

Annie E. Jackson
Carmen Price
Elsie Rea

The trustees in 1910 were Robert Trimble, R. Harry Logan, and J. T. Armour. George A. Welsh, a former Federal Judge of Philadelphia, was a prominent alumnus of this school.

The building was sold to J. Randolph Janney on January 11, 1933, for \$106, and after extensive additions became the residence of Mrs. Charles A. Barron.



5TH DISTRICT

No. 11 was Oak Grove school. Originally known as South Milford, this was a one-room stone schoolhouse near a cross-roads on Lum's road between Mechanics Valley and Leslie. The 1/4 acre lot on which it still stands was donated by Joseph Lort and the stones were given by Timothy V. Rose, who furnished the masons to construct the building. It was built about 1857 and conveyed to the School Commissioners by deed executed March 15, 1859, by Thomas Terry, William Reed Mearnes, William R. Mahoney, Waldon Reed, and Joseph Lort, trustees.

Mr. Rose's grand-daughter, Mrs. E. Kirk Brown, who taught at Oak Grove in 1910, states he also built the stone wall around the yard of Elkton jail. Other teachers were Arrie M. Nowland (1892), Fannie Mahoney, and Elsie Guiberson.

The schoolhouse was sold to E. T. Walbeck on March 12, 1940, for \$75, and in July 1970 was being used as sub-standard living quarters.



5TH DISTRICT

No. 12 - This was known as the Carpenter's Point school and also as the "Cottage School". It was a one-room frame building situated on the right side of the road from Charlestown to Carpenter's Point Neck on a lot deeded by George Simcoe. It was constructed of upright clapboards with two small windows on each side and had no vestibule.

The school was opened sbout 1860 with Miss Helen Hasson as the first teacher. Following her were

Hannah Chapman
Jennie Johnson
Jennie Heisler
Sena White
Mary J. Mahoney
Eva S. Dean

Helen H. Wells
Ethel Reynolds
Minnie B. Bouchelle
Clara W. Mannon
Blanche Reynolds

The school property was sold to Joshua Clayton, agent, on October 9, 1923, for \$75, and is no longer in existence.



5TH DISTRICT

No. 13 - The earliest school in Charlestown was held in a small stone building which Sheriff Patrick Hamilton had constructed as a jail shortly after that town was made the county-seat in 1782. Five years later Head of Elk was made the county-seat and the jail was converted into a schoolhouse. The teacher un 1824 was Nathan C. Brooks, a graduate of St. John's College, who was selected from 55 applicants to become principal of Baltimore City High School in 1839.

On July 17, 1877, the School Commissioners awarded a contract to Jackson Bros. to build a new schoolhouse at a cost of \$800. This was a tworoom frame building in which some teachers were

J. Wesley Falls
Ella M. Staats
Emma Mearns

Margaret Holt
Helen J. Wright
Bessie Wingate

The trustees in 1923 were Percy Morrison, Penrose Cooper, and John L. Pfost.

The building is still standing in good repair and is Charlestown U. S. Postoffice 21914.

5TH DISTRICT

No. 14 - A school was opened at Bacon Hill in September, 1910, but the attendance did not justify its continuance. No information is available regarding this school except that the teachers were Miss Marguerite Diggs (1910) and Miss Blanche M. Reynolds (1911).

Until about 1893 parents of pupils had the option of buying textbooks for their children or of renting them from the County for \$1 a term, which was payable invariably in advance. This fee was very difficult to collect and it was finally abolished and books were supplied without cost. The program of studies in a country school consisted of reading, spelling, copy-book writing, grammar, arithmetic, history, geography, and sometimes algebra. The textbooks used were Butler's Readers and Spellers, Harvey's Grammar, Eggleston's History, Milne's Arithmetic, and Mitchell's Geography.



6TH DISTRICT

No. 1 - The early residents of Rising Sun and surrounding community obtained their education at the old Stone school a short distance east of the town on the road to Brick Meeting House. It was built in 1780 and stood for 116 years as a monument to its builders. It had 18 desks each seating two and sometimes three pupils. In this schoolhouse the Methodists held their meetings before the first church was built in Rising Sun in 1854.

The Stone school was torn down in 1896 despite vigorous protests and replaced by a two-room frame building which was given the name of Pleasant Meadows. It stands on the northwest corner of the intersection of Maryland 273 with the road to Farmington.

The school was closed in May 1920, sold to Clement D. Way for \$785 on August 24, 1920, and converted into a dwelling.

6TH DISTRICT

No. 2 - Franklin school (one of two of that name in the County) was one mile west of Farmington on the north side of the road to Barnes Corner. The half-acre lot on which this frame building stood was conveyed by John M. McCullough and wife to Jehoaikim Brickley, Thomas Maxwell, and William Cameron, Trustees, by deed recorded in Liber HHM #1, folio 486.

A teacher at Franklin in the 1880s was John A. Calhoun, a native of North Carolina, who was the author of a number of letters to the CECIL WHIG criticizing the quality of text books supplied the County schools, for which he was cited to appear before the Board of School Commissioners.

Later teachers were

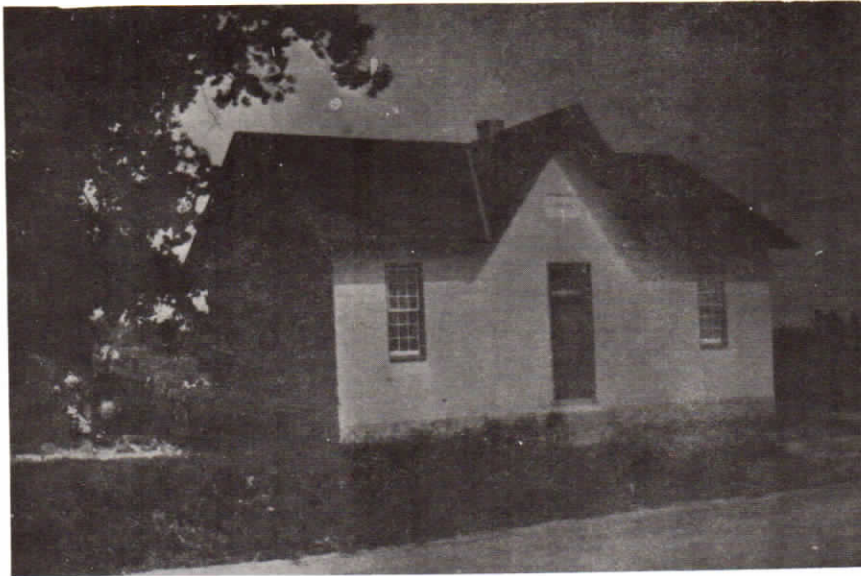
Blanche M. Bond (1894)

Olive E. Jackson (1911)

Minnie Brickley (1902)

Virginia Maxwell (1914)

This schoolhouse was sold to Mrs. L. G. White in 1923 for \$300 and has since been demolished.



6TH DISTRICT

No. 3 - This was the Jefferson school which was about one mile from Hopewell Church on the north side of the road at Cather's Corner. The first school was a small, brick building, and one of two County schools to be named for a President of the United States. It had two shuttered windows on each side and in front, and a blackboard extended the entire length of the rear wall.

There is factual evidence to show that this school was in existence or soon after the administration of President Jefferson (1801-1809), because Dr. Robert Brookings, who was born in 1807, attended Jefferson school. He married Mary Carter and they were the parents of the noted economist, Robert Somers Brookings.

At a later date the old building was replaced by a new one-room frame schoolhouse which differed from the conventional design by having the door in the side instead of in the end. Drinking water was obtained from the Cather farm. The normal attendance was 25 pupils, and some teachers were

Clara Guy (1875)	Ada Logan
Rachel R. Rittenhouse	Helen J. Thompson
Mary A. Palmer	Sarah Kidd
Annie E. Jackson	Gladys Payne (1932)

The trustees in 1910 were George Campbell, H. H. Kirk, and John S. Cullen.

The schoolhouse was sold to Clarence Hammer on November 12, 1943, for \$700, and converted into a dwelling.



6TH DISTRICT

No. 4 was the Chapel school on the north side of Dr. Jack road about .25 mile from its junction with the Jacob Tome Memorial Highway, and near Cummings' Tavern at Battle Swamp. It derived its name from a chapel of ease to St. Mary Anne's church in North East which was built by the Church of England about 1733. An early school concerning which very little is now known was succeeded by a frame building erected by Lewis D. Pusey in October 1888 for \$880.

A former principal recalls that the usual pot-bellied stove sat in the middle of the school-room and a warped platform supported the teacher's desk. Drinking water was carried in a tin bucket from a fine spring called the Indian Spring in the woods back of the school-house.

Some teachers at Chapel were

Martha Biddle
Blanche H. Bond
Belle H. Vanneman
Annie Williams

Ruth R. Miller
Helen E. Shepherd
Mary E. Durgin
Helen J. Wright (last)

The school-house was sold to Walter B. Robinson on October 1, 1941, for \$202 and converted into a neat bungalow which is adjacent to a trailer camp covering part of the site of an old graveyard where a few ancient tombstones may still be seen.

A pioneer teacher at "Chapel Hill" was Miss Martha Biddle, who began her pedagogical career in 1853 and taught in the public schools continuously until her retirement in 1896. She was then granted a pension for the remainder of her life by a special Act of the Legislature which related that she had "imparted instruction to more than 4300 pupils of both sexes". The amount of her pension was \$10 a month. She died on Sept. 4, 1906, at the age of 72 years.



6TH DISTRICT

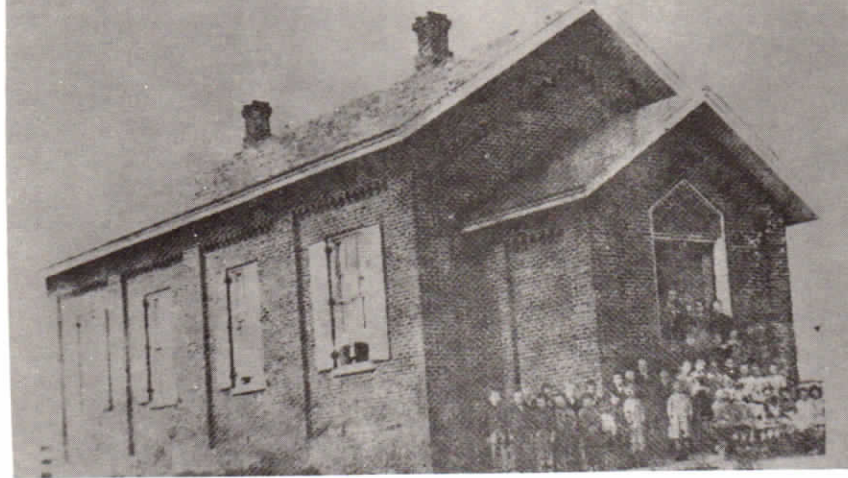
No. 5 - This was the Monroe school standing on the west side of the road one half mile north of West Nottingham on the road to Harrisville. Contrary to popular belief, it was not named for President James Monroe but for the Rev. James Munro, who became pastor of West Nottingham Presbyterian Church in August 1786 and was a large land owner in the area.

The first school was said to have been erected as early as 1800. Basil R. Hanna was a well known teacher here. In the days when people created their own entertainment debating societies flourished in some communities. These societies met in school-houses and Monroe was one noted for its debates.

The trustees in 1911 were J. J. Hanna, Isaac Yocum, and Samuel D. Fryer.

The school-house was sold to Miss Bertha M. Tyson on June 13, 1923, for \$375, and converted into a well-kept dwelling.

First Public School in Rising Sun, erected
1864 on Pearl Street



6TH DISTRICT

No. 6 - The first mention of a school in Rising Sun is a frame building which dated from 1830 and was erected on a lot donated by Jacob Reynolds.

On April 27, 1866 the School Commissioners received a petition from the citizens of Rising Sun declaring that the school was unfit for use and offering to contribute the sum of \$300 toward the cost of a new one and to haul sufficient stones and bricks to build it. This proposal was accepted and the school was built on Pearl Street under the supervision of Dr. Slater B. Stubbs, who was then Commissioner for the 4th School District.

The first teacher was William Topham, an Englishman, who became non grata to his patrons by drilling the boys in military tactics during the noon-hour. Later teachers were John A. Reynolds, Charles C. Pyle, Basil R. Hanna, Ada I. Haines, Hannah Louise Owens, Rev. William G. Koons, and Walter D. Lindsay.

No trace of this school now remains.



6TH DISTRICT

No. 7 - This school, the second Oak Grove in the County, stands at the point of juncture of an old road running north from Harrisville (now abandoned) with a paved road one mile due west from Red Pump road. It is one-half mile below the Mason & Dixon Line and the same distance above Stone Run.

The school-house was built by J. W. McCardell in March 1877 for \$659. It was an admirable location for a school with an ample playground amid a grove of oak trees.

Among the teachers were

Ella Haines
Pearl Gorrell (1904)
Eleanor M. Jenness

Anna B. Gehr (1909)
Maude A. Fell (1911)
Lillian Grubb (1914)

The remodeled school-house is now owned and occupied by Burton M. Boyd, a former pupil, who bought it on December 9, 1931, for \$90. The altitude is 415 feet above sea level.



6TH DISTRICT

No. 8 - The New Bridge school was in a secluded spot on Horseshoe road off U. S. 1 two miles north of Mace's Building Supply store, and just beyond the bridge on New Bridge road to Rock Springs.

It is a well preserved frame building about 30' x 45' with three shuttered windows on each side and a flight of eight concrete steps to the front door, which faces the Octoraro Creek across the road.

The building was sold to G. C. Delp on April 12, 1938, for \$451, and was standing vacant on June 8, 1970.

Still sits the school-house by the road,
A ragged beggar sleeping;
Around it still the sumacs grow,
And blackberry vines are creeping.

Within, the master's desk is seen,
Deep scarred by raps official;
The warping floor, the battered seats,
The jack knife's carved initial.



6TH DISTRICT

No. 9 known as Hickory Grove school stood among some hickory trees on the north side of McCauley road about one mile west of Vinegar Hill. A building lot containing 65 square perches was conveyed to the School Commissioners on October 4, 1867, by Robert H. Nesbitt, with the customary reversionary clause, and first session was held in the new schoolhouse in the fall of 1868. For many years West Nottingham Presbyterian Church sponsored a Sunday School in the Hickory Grove schoolhouse.

Edwin S. Quigley was the first teacher, and later teachers were

Emma Moore
Davis Richardson
John A. Nesbitt
Nona Dean
Margaret Trimble
Mabel Wiley

Rose Graham
Roberta Graham
Sarah R. Miller (1909)
Bertha C. Astle (1919)
Blanche M. Hill (1922)
Margaret E. Craig (1923)

The frame building was sold to Miss Mildred Nesbitt on December 19, 1929, for \$100, and converted into a bungalow which was occupied on June 8, 1970.



6TH DISTRICT

No. 10 - The school at Liberty Grove was on the west side of a hill on Mt. Pleasant road (Route 269), just above Basin Run and the P&BC railroad track. It was built in October 1880 by S. M. McCardell for \$734 and opened on November 22nd of that year.

Among the teachers were

Belle Nesbitt
Kathryn Keesey
Grace Rawlings

Elnora Martindale
Estelle M. Wood (1931)

The schoolhouse was sold to the Church of God, the Rev. C. E. Mundy, pastor, in March 1954, for \$1,420.

The word school comes from the Greek schole meaning "leisure", for only leisure classes could apply themselves to education. The Greeks were the first to organize schools. They had private teachers to whom the boys were taken by family slaves who were called "paidagogos", from which we derive the word pedagogue or teacher. The girls received no formal education.



6TH DISTRICT

No. 11 was known as the Love Run school, which stands on the west side of Lippincott road about one mile north of Colora. Love Run, from which the school took its name, is a small stream nearby flowing into Octoraro Creek.

This school was conveyed to the School Commissioners by deed executed March 24, 1859, by Torbert Morrison, John T. Richards, and Thomas Fryer, trustees of Octoraro Temperance Hall.

The teachers included

Bessie Thompson (1904)	Maud M. Reynolds (1922)
Beatrice A. Riley (1908)	Carmen Price (last)
Lena M. Fulton (1914)	

Love Run was closed on May 31, 1923, and the pupils transported to Colora. The brick building was sold to Miss Deborah A. Jackson on May 14, 1924, for \$101, and converted into an attractive dwelling.



6TH DISTRICT

No. 12 - The first school in Colora to serve the general public was Waring's Friends' School. The minutes of Nottingham Preparative Meeting record that on the 14th day 3d month 1854 William Waring and wife conveyed to the Meeting trustees a lot containing 110 square perches of land (.7 of an acre) on which a schoolhouse had been erected and in successful operation for several years. A duplicate deed for this lot was recorded in 1868 in HRT Liber #13, folio 198.

The Colora Friends' School survived until 1908, having been carried on up to that time as a private school for the children of Friends. The first public school was opened in 1890 in the parish church just north of Colora which was rented by the School Commissioners for \$75 a year.

The first public school in Colora was erected by S. M. McCardell in the fall of 1898 for \$1,150. Among its first teachers were

Annie R. Jackson
Hannah Owens

Leora Tosh
Annie Fryer.

The original frame building contained only one room which was later divided into two rooms. It was closed on May 29, 1958 and sold on October 19, 1959 to the First Church of Christ in Cecil County for \$5,700.



7TH DISTRICT

No. 1 - Whitaker's school was on the north side of the old Post Road (route 7) near the residence of George P. Whitaker at Principio Furnace. At different periods three structures have served for school purposes. The first of these was a little red building which the Methodists in the area used as a meeting house as early as 1843.

The second was a frame building which still stands in dilapidated condition close to the highway. It was used as a band-room and latter as a cottage after a new two-room building was erected in August 1890 by Lewis D. Pusey at a contract price of \$1,275.

When the two-room school was finally closed one side was used as a lodge room and the other side served as a community center. The trustees in 1910 were John A. Hartenstine, N. Munson Jackson, and Oliver Sentman.

Miss Roberta J. Graham was a teacher at Principio Furnace for many years, and her association with the school was kept alive by an annual reunion which she held with her former pupils.

When visited on May 27, 1970, the old schoolhouse had become Grace Baptist Church.



7TH DISTRICT

No. 2 - The first "Perryville school" was north of the town, near Frenchtown, close to the bank of the Susquehanna River. It was a frame building with vertical type of weatherboarding. Samuel J. Tammany was an early principal. In this schoolhouse the earliest services of the Presbyterians of Perryville were conducted by the Rev. John Squier, of Port Deposit. In the 1880s it was sold to Mr. Noah Keesey, who occupied it as a dwelling. This building is still standing in good condition.

A new frame schoolhouse was built in the town which stands on Susquehanna Avenue. Theodore W. Carrier was a principal of this school, and some teachers were

Martha Biddle

Sallie Nickle

Lary Patton

Belle H. Vanneman

Hannah C. Whitelock

Isabel McCay

In September 1909 a brick school for all grades was opened; after two subsequent additions it was used as an elementary school. The third schoolhouse, a new high school, was opened in January, 1929.



7TH DISTRICT

No. 3 was at Blythedale. The first school here was a square stone one-room building with a stove pipe through the center of the roof. It was known as "The Partridge Trap" and also as "Jackson's Schoolhouse", because it was built by members of the Jackson family and used as a private school before being taken over by the County School Commissioners. In it the Methodists held meetings before Asbury Church was built in 1830.

When the stone school was torn down it was replaced by a two-room frame building in which classes were held for the first time in the fall of 1889. The contractor was George W. Jackson. Teachers at Blythedale included

Edward Coale	Lillie E. Buchenhart
William Rogers	Hannah Whitelock
Alexander Jackson	Belle Husfelt
Theodore W. Currier	Ellen A. Price
Mrs. Theo. W. Currier	Ella G. Lynch
Niles B. Haynes	Mary A. Cosgrove
Oliver Currier	Annie E. Patterson
Ella M. Staats	Pauline Kirk

The building was sold to Edward Jackson on December 10, 1929, for \$707 and enlarged into a dwelling in which a small store is operated.



New Blythedale school of 1889

7TH DISTRICT

No. 4 - This was the second Franklin (or Independent) school which stood on the east side of the road from Port Deposit to Battle Swamp near what was once the farm of the late Frank S. Everist, but is now in the center of the Bainbridge Naval Training Station.

The location of this school is indicated in the County Atlas of 1877. The attendance declined on account of the proximity of Jacob Tome Institute, and it was closed on May 31, 1911, Miss Benigna Hohn being the last teacher. The trustees at that time were Lucius G. White, Lewis Todd, and Samuel Whitelock.

The schoolhouse was a frame building which was still standing when the area was acquired by the United States Government in 1942.

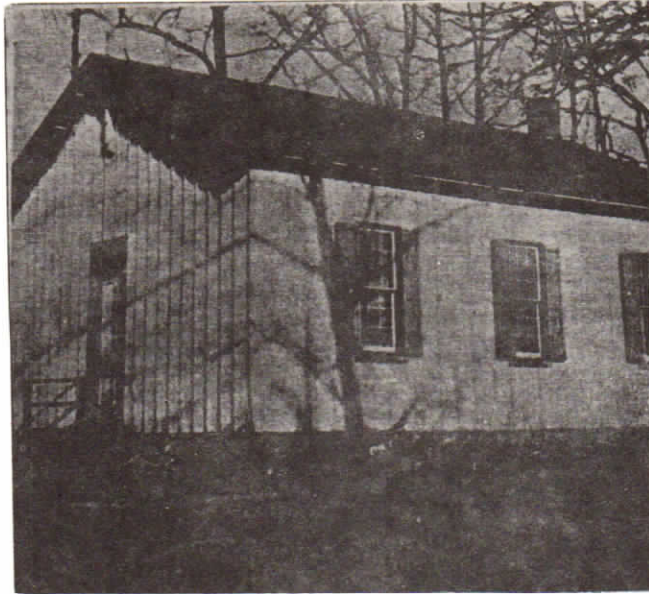
7TH DISTRICT

No. 6 - Was known as the Linwood school. The significance of the name is not apparent. It stood on the east side of the road from Port Deposit to Liberty Grove (Maryland 269) not far from the home of the late Dr. W. G. Jack.

The lot for this school was sold to the School Commissioners on January 25, 1869, by William T. Patton and Albina Patton, his wife, for the sum of \$50.

Linwood school was closed on May 31, 1911, because of lack of attendance caused by the competition of Jacob Tome Institute. Miss Beatrice A. Riley was the last teacher, and the last trustees were William T. Patton, John H. Kimble, and Edwin H. Rowland.

The building was sold to Mr. Patton on April 10, 1917, for \$10, and consigned to extinction.



7TH DISTRICT

No. 7 - This was Chestnut Grove school, often referred to as "Tick Ridge". It was near Woodlawn camp-meeting ground on the north side of the road from Fisher's Run to Jenness's mill. It was opened in September 1869 with Mollie R. Williams as teacher for 28 boys and 15 girls. Her salary was \$90 for a term of ten weeks.

The schoolhouse was a long frame building of upright weatherboards with a large closet for coats, dinner-pails, and other paraphernalia. The boys carried drinking water from a spring about 1/4 of a mile distant.

The teachers at Chestnut Grove were

Mollie R. Williams	Annie Jackson
John Turner	Annie Williams
John M. Campbell	Beulah Creswell
Bertha (Kidd) Terry	Ella G. Lynch
Maggie Davenport	Helen J. Thompson
Jennie McCall	Elizabeth Tyson
Ella M. Staats	Mrs. Ella Gibson
Ella Thompson	Agnes McCommons (last)

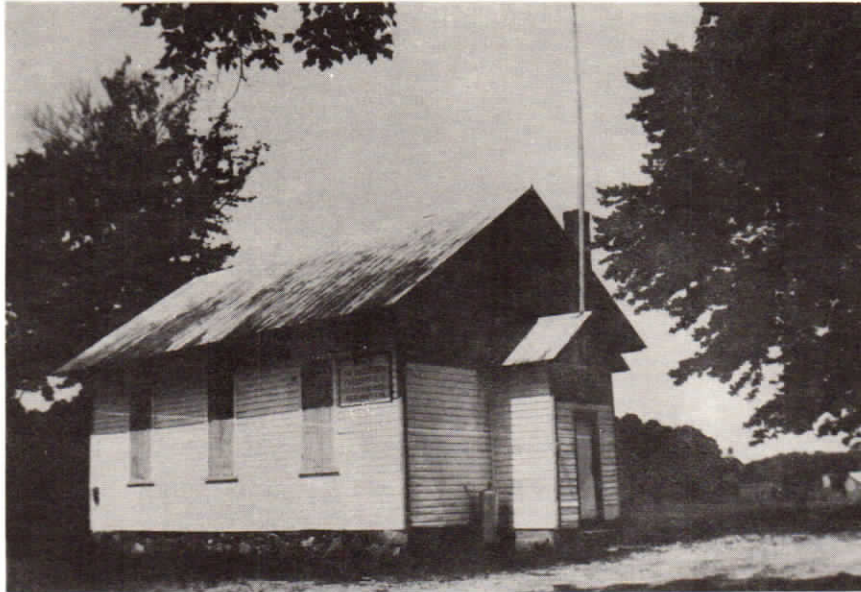
The school was closed May 27, 1927, and the building was sold to Hugh Falls on June 24, 1930, for \$50. It is no longer in existence.



8TH DISTRICT

No. 1 - Rowlandville school was on the east side of a hill above Octoraro Creek on the road leading to Kilby's Corner. The lot for a school was deeded to the School Commissioners by William B. Rowland and is shown on the map of 1858 as Rowland's school. The property was sold on November 12, 1923 to Clarence E. Hammer for \$1,100.

Examinations to determine the qualifications of those desiring to teach were held once a year in June. Applicants for teachers' certificates were required to be at least 18 years old and to present letters testifying to good moral Character. First and second grade certificates were granted, but only those holding second grade certificates were eligible to take first grade examinations.



8TH DISTRICT

No. 2 - The New Valley school was one-half mile southeast of Rock Springs on Connelly road and one mile north of Porter's Grove Baptist Church. The usual school lot containing one half acre was conveyed to the School Commissioners by Joseph Preston and wife by deed dated June 25, 1860. In 1382 a new schoolhouse was built by S. M. McCardell for \$715. It is a frame building 24' x 32' with three shuttered windows on each side and a small vestibule surmounted by a flag staff.

The teachers at New Valley included

James J. Hanna (1885) Estelle M. Wood (1926)
Naomi Vandegrift (1904) Etta E. Gamble (1931)
Ada A. Brown (1909)

The New Valley schoolhouse was sold to the Rock Springs Friendship Club on May 23, 1955, for \$1,000. A marker on the building proclaims it is the home of that Club.



8TH DISTRICT

No. 3 was a large frame building with a belfry at the southwest corner of the cross-roads intersection in Pilottown. The school came into the County system on May 31, 1859 when George W. Gillespie sold to the School Commissioners for \$10 a 3/4 acre lot.

Some teachers at Pilot school were

Ellen B. Shannon (1900)	Marguerite Zimmers (1919)
Beulah Creswell (1909)	Edna S. Pierce (1926)
Erma V. Smith (1910)	Dolly King (1927)
Jessie Bruce (1914)	Eula Lee Bartlett

Miss Bartlett was the last teacher prior to the closing of the school on May 28, 1954. The building was sold to James L. Dishman on May 23, 1955 for \$1,150. It was in fairly good condition and appeared to be occupied on June 8, 1970.

When the Pilot school was closed the last one-room school in Cecil County disappeared and an era in the history of education ended.



8TH DISTRICT

No. 4 - This school was originally known as the Log Cabin school. It is about .25 of a mile east of the cross-roads in Oakwood on the right side of Route 273 leading to Richardsmere. The teacher for many years was Jacob C. Warner, a veteran of the Civil War, and one of his pupils was a future Governor of the State, Austin L. Crothers. The trustees in 1910 were William A. Hill, Oscar Harlan, and Thomas Weaver.

A high school department of two grades was established at Oakwood in September 1923, but it was discontinued February 1, 1925, and the eleven pupils who had enrolled were transported to Rising Sun. Mrs. Helen Wells Wright was appointed principal on February 11, 1925.

The Oakwood school was sold on January 30, 1946 to Ernest A. Burlin for \$1,175. It is a large frame building which has been enlarged and was occupied as a dwelling on June 8, 1970.



9TH DISTRICT

No. 1 - The Grove Hill school at Bay View was a one-room frame building located on the north side of the road about midway between Shelemiah church and the bridge at Gilpin's Rocks. It was probably given this name because it stood on rising ground in a wooded area.

An earlier school which appears in the Atlas of 1877 was replaced in 1892 by a new and larger building, with Miss Fannie Mahoney as the teacher. Later teachers at Grove Hill were

Sue Gamble Shermer
Cora Burns

Mary J. Mahoney

The trustees in 1910 were J. P. Burns, J. W. Abrams, and W. Scott Benjamin.

The school was closed in May 1932 and after being rented to the Bay View Homemakers' Club for several years was sold to that organization for \$165 on July 11, 1939. The Club could not maintain the building and since 1960 it has been occupied as a dwelling in badly run-down condition.



9TH DISTRICT

No. 2 at Zion was known as the Grove school. It was located to the east of the town on a side road leading to the Dr. Miller road. Any grove of trees from which the school might have acquired its name is no longer in existence. Ground for the first school was bought from John Carhart and his wife, Nancy, on March 1, 1834.

An American flag was raised at Grove school on Sept. 12, 1893 by the American Mechanics Lodge of North East while en route to Calvert to participate in a celebration on the 79th anniversary of the battle of North Point. The flag was accepted by Miss Sarah R. Miller, who was the teacher at that time. Later teachers were

Ethel M. Miller (1902)	Ida C. Cameron
Etta M. Wiley (1904)	Estelle M. Wood (1920)
Naomi Vandegrift (1910)	Lillian Russell (1924)
Mabel Barber (1914)	Rose M. Kshir (1925)
Ruth Murray (1914)	Agnes McCommons (last)

This schoolhouse was sold to the Rev. J. W. Prettyman on April 12, 1938, for \$101.50, and converted into a dwelling.

9TH DISTRICT

No. 3 - This was the Victoria school on the west side of the road from Pleasant Hill to Blue Ball, near Kirk's mill on Little North East Creek. The frame schoolhouse was built in 1885 on a lot donated by Samuel M. Kirk, and was named in honor of his wife, Mrs. Victoria B. Kirk.

The teachers at Victoria school were

Ruth Sidwell	Harriett Gatchell
Lera White	Mabel Leonard
Eva Vinsinger	Bessie Squier
Annie Ramsey	Bessie Wiley
Eva Foard	Lois E. Garey
Annie Williams	Bessie C. Hartnett
Elinore Nesbitt	Anna M. Murray (last)
Margaret Wiley	

The number of pupils was from 40 to 50. The trustees in 1910 were George S. McVey, George Demond, and A. H. Mendenhall.

The building was sold to Henry Kinslow on May 7, 1939, but was burned before transfer of the title, and the insurance was collected by the School Commissioners.



9TH DISTRICT

No. 4 - The Butler school at College Green was a one-room frame building with a belfry and flag staff. The ground on which it stood was deeded by John Slicer to Thomas J. Slicer, Elisha Kirk, and John Crothers, trustees, on October 15, 1825, for one silver piece of the value of twenty-five cents. The survey of the lot began at a stone called the "Butler" stone near William Kirk's fulling mill, and from this circumstance the school derived its name.

Among the teachers at Butler were

M. Etta Wiley (1902)	Florence E. Warner (1910)
Helen H. Wells (1904)	Muriel E. Dean (1914)
Harriett V. Miller (1908)	Emma Haller (1920)

The trustees in 1910 were Alfred Kirk, B. M. McVey, and James E. Crothers.

The building was sold to Harvey E. Simmers on December 13, 1932, and is now occupied as a dwelling.



9TH DISTRICT

No. 5 was the Rosebank school. The first public school at Brick Meeting House was conducted on the first floor of the Hall which was built about 1845 and stood in the center of the present Rosebank cemetery. In order to enlarge the cemetery the Hall was moved in 1883 across the road, and after being used for Grange meetings it was eventually razed to make way for the Calvert Manor Nursing Home.

A new frame schoolhouse, 24' x 38', was erected on the south side of Nottingham Road directly opposite the home of the late Mrs. Louise Fitzgerald. The contract for this building was awarded to Nathan T. Lackland at his bid of \$1,187. Mrs. Ettie Martindell Simperts was the first teacher in the new school.

Rosebank school was closed when the Calvert Agricultural High School was opened on November 5, 1906, and the former schoolhouse is now the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Paul England.

MARYLAND'S FIRST AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL



AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL CALVERT, MD.

The first Agricultural High School in Maryland opened October 1st 1906 at Calvert, one of the most fertile sections of Cecil County. The building had 3 rooms and was surrounded by 14 acres of land.



9TH DISTRICT

No. 6 - This was called the Cherry Grove school. It stands southwest of Sylmar on the north side of Wilson Hatchery road, .6 of a mile off Route 273. It is one half mile below the Mason & Dixon Line.

The lot for the first school was conveyed to the trustees by deed of June 19, 1847 from William McCullough et ux. It was a brick building 20 feet square with a ten-foot ceiling. On the map of 1858 this school appears under the name of Cherry Grove, which was probably so called because the deed described the bounds of the lot as beginning at a cherry tree in Knight's field "on the north side of the road from Brick Meeting House to Bald Friar".

A new frame schoolhouse 24' x 32' was built in the fall of 1881 by Jackson Bros. for \$680. Salvaged bricks and stone from the first building were used in its construction.

The early teachers were

Norville C. Brown	Annie M. Tyson
Mary F. Carhart	Ida R. Brown
Jennie L. Stephens	Mary E. Passmore
Carrie E. Keilholtz	Lera White

For the fall term of ten weeks in 1879 Miss Norville Brown received a salary of \$78 for teaching 14 boys and 15 girls.

This school was closed on October 24, 1931, and the pupils transported to Calvert. The building was sold to Paul M. Cameron on April 12, 1938, for \$270. The owner of the well-kept schoolhouse on August 4, 1970 was Leon A. Chapman.

The register of this school for the years 1879-1886 has been presented to the Historical Society of Cecil County by Clarence W. Brown, Esq.



9TH DISTRICT

No. 7 - The Wood Valley school stood on the east side of Shelton road just above Buckwheat Run, and about one half mile southwest of Lombard.

On October 10, 1902, while classes were in session, Miss Mabel Leonard being the teacher, the roof caught fire and the schoolhouse and contents with the exception of one desk were totally destroyed. Insurance in the amount of \$300 was collected and a new schoolhouse was erected by J. Frank Simperts at a cost of \$949. This included a special appropriation of \$20 for a belfry.

The trustees at that time were Milton Hasson, James H. Lynch, and David B. McDowell.

This schoolhouse was sold to Raymond M. Cameron on November 14, 1923, for \$300.

This was a very desirable location for a school, and when visited on June 29, 1970, a modern brick dwelling had been built on the site.



9TH DISTRICT

No. 8 was the White Oak school which was a one-room frame building about one mile southwest of Brick Meeting-House on the road to Port Deposit. The half acre lot was conveyed to Joseph Harris, Mark Brown, and William Kirk, trustees, by Amassa Churchman and wife by deed recorded March 14, 1853 in HHM Liber #1, folio 516.

A large white oak tree which stood on the playground gave the school its name. The tree was blown down during a wind-storm on June 12, 1911.

Some teachers at White Oak were

Mary Paul
Mary Cameron
Lera White
Ella Griffith

Lillian C. Hartnett
Helen Wells Wright
Ruth Crothers
Lavenia Edwards

The trustees in 1910 were Webster White, James E. Crothers, and J. T. Cameron.

This school-house was sold on May 14, 1924 to Charles Trail for \$225 and remodeled into an attractive dwelling which was owned and occupied on May 27, 1970 by Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Dollenger.

THE SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

According to a new school law approved by Governor A. W. Bradford on March 24, 1865, Cecil County was laid off into five school districts, each under the supervision of a Commissioner. The Commissioners with their respective districts were:

<u>Commissioner</u>	<u>School District</u>	<u>Election Districts</u>
James Ford	No. 1	Nos. 1-2
Francis A. Ellis	No. 2	Nos. 3-4
Wm. T. Richardson	No. 3	No. 5
Slater B. Stubbs	No. 4	Nos. 6-9
Jefferson Ramsay	No. 5	Nos. 7-8

These Commissioners held their first meeting on July 11, 1865, and organized by electing Mr. Ellis President. The Rev. William Torbert was elected Secretary at a salary of \$500 per annum.

Mr. Torbert had served as a Judge of the Orphans' Court for sixteen years from 1839 to 1855. He was a Justice of the Peace during the Civil War and for many years was President of the Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Cecil County.

Mr. Torbert served until May 5, 1868, when he was succeeded by the Rev. John Squier, a Presbyterian minister. Mr. Squier was born in Buchlyvie, Scotland, in 1823, and was brought to America at the age of 7. He was graduated from Lafayette College and from Princeton Theological Seminary.

The task of laying a solid foundation for the public school system devolved upon Mr. Squier, and he worked unremittingly to that end during the 24 years he filled the office of School Examiner and until his death on November 26, 1892.

The vacancy in the office was filled on December 13, 1892, by the election of George Biddle to succeed the Rev. Mr. Squier. Mr. Biddle was born in the First District on August 20, 1836. He was graduated from Delaware College at the age of 19 with the honors of his class. He was appointed a School Commissioner in 1872 and resigned that position to accept the office of School Examiner, which title was later changed to Superintendent. Mr. Biddle was an earnest advocate of public schools and devoted his best energies to the cause of education. He was President of the Maryland State Teachers' Association at the time of his death on December 14, 1909.

Following Mr. Biddle's death, Miss Katharine Budd acted temporarily until William D. Bratton assumed the office of Superintendent on February 9, 1910. He was a graduate in civil engineering from Princeton University in 1889 and was editor of the Cecil County News. Mr. Bratton served for a little more than two years and failed of re-appointment because of a change in the political complexion of the Board of School Commissioners.

On July 9, 1912, Joseph Miller McVey was elected County Superintendent. Mr. McVey was born at Mechanics Valley on August 21, 1882. He was graduated from the Cecil County High School in 1900 and from Delaware College in 1904, and had taught mathematics at the University of Delaware for four years.

Mr. McVey resigned on July 31, 1916, on account of his military service on the Mexican border.

He was succeeded by Hugh W. Caldwell, a graduate of Jacob Tome Institute, who had been principal of the Chesapeake City High School for 19 years. He was Secretary of the Maryland State Teachers' Association for many years. He filled the office of County Superintendent with ability until his untimely death on August 4, 1926, at the age of 49.

Following Mr. Caldwell's death, the office of Superintendent was vacant until February 3, 1927, when Howard T. Ruhl was elected to that position. He was a native of Baltimore and had served as Superintendent of Schools in Calvert County for six years. He was a graduate of St. John's College and held a master's degree from Cornell University. He resigned in December 1935 on account of ill health.

Mr. Ruhl was succeeded by Henry Ellsworth McBride, who was elected by the Board on May 27, 1936. Mr. McBride was a native of Frederick County and had been principal of Chesapeake City High School for six years. He was a graduate of Gettysburg College and held a master's degree from the University of Maryland.

The next Superintendent was William S. Sartorius, who assumed office on August 1, 1948. Mr. Sartorius was a graduate of Amherst College and had been Superintendent of Schools in his native county of Worcester. He resigned to accept the office of County Superintendent in Baltimore County.

Mr. Sartorius was followed by Morris W. Rannels, who became Superintendent on October 1, 1952. He was a native of Lancaster, Pa., where he was born in 1917. He was a graduate of Millersville State Teachers College and of the University of Maryland. He had been a Supervisor with the Board of Education in Anne Arundel County. Mr. Rannels resigned to accept a supervisory position with the State Board of Education.

He was succeeded by Robert A. Gibson, who was elected to the office of County Superintendent on July 12, 1960. Mr. Gibson was born in Rising Sun in 1919, and after graduating from the North East High School had received a bachelor's degree from Springfield (Mass.) College and an A. M. from Columbia University.

Mr. Gibson's administration was beset by problems caused by inadequate funds, low teacher morale, and by public insensitivity to the County's educational needs. He finally submitted his resignation effective July 31, 1971.

Mr. Gibson was succeeded by Walter J. Finn, who had been administrative assistant in the County system since 1966. He was a graduate of Clearfield (Pa.) High School and of Indiana State College and had taught for 12 years in public schools in Connellsville, Pa. He received a master's degree from the University of Pittsburgh and came to Cecil County as general supervisor of high schools in 1960.

PHOTOGRAPHIC CREDITS

Morton F. Taylor : District 1, No. 2, 3, 4, 6, 9
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District 3, No. 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11
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District 5, No. 1, 2, 6, 10, 11
District 6, No. 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11
District 7, No. 1
District 8, No. 2
District 9, No. 1, 2, 5, 8

Thomas Clonard : District 3, No. 9

George Hipkins : District 1, No. 5
District 2, No. 4, 8
District 4, No. 10
District 5, No. 7, 13
District 6, No. 1, 12
District 7, No. 2, 3
District 8, No. 1, 3, 4
District 9, No. 6

Omar E. McCoy : District 1, No. 1

Reba Boulden : District 1, No. 8

Mrs. Patrick J. Coyle : District 3, No. 10

Mrs. Thomas Hutchins: : District 9, No. 7

Note: Credits for other photographs have not been established.

Photographs were not available for the following schools:

District 2, No. 6 - Pivot
District 4, No. 4 - Union-Appleton
District 5, No. 14 - Bacon Hill
District 6, No. 2 - Franklin
District 7, No. 6 - Linwood
District 9, No. 3 - Victoria

ADDENDA

It was decided by our Association to enlarge the list of names of those teachers who taught in the respective schools mentioned and who were not included in Mr. Howard's study. This list, although certainly not complete, is as follows:

DISTRICT 1

School No. 1	-	Grove Neck	-	Olive C. Oldham Mable Connor Pearl Short
School No. 3	-	Fredericktown	-	Ella Cannan Grace Burris
School No. 6	-	Warwick	-	Annie Redgrave Josephine Stearns
School No. 7	-	Pearce's Neck or Rowlandale	-	Mamie Burris Annie Redgrave

DISTRICT 2

School No. 1	-	Middle Neck	-	Miriam Biddle
School No. 3	-	Cayot's	-	Anna Luthringer
School No. 4	-	Town Point	-	Carmen Price
School No. 8	-	Back Creek	-	Alice Hutton

DISTRICT 3

School No. 1	-	Mitchell	-	Emma Minster Ella Maloney
School No. 4	-	Leeds	-	John Lord Catherine Kirkpatrick Carmen Price
School No. 5	-	Southampton	-	Ethel S. Taylor
School No. 7	-	Pleasant Hill	-	Marie Price Lillian Kibler Kathleen Reynolds Charlotte McFadden
School No. 8	-	West Amwell	-	Agnes Merritt Alice Hutton
School No. 9	-	Warburton's	-	Madelyn Boulden

DISTRICT 4

School No. 1	-	Cherry Hill	-	Hilda Gifford Louise McCauley Agnes Coslett Josephine Ramsey May Buckworth Florence Scott
School No. 2	-	Elk Mills	-	Evelyn Craig Blanche Graybeal Charlotte McFadden
School No. 5	-	Fair Hill	-	Florence Smith Evelyn Preston

DISTRICT 5

School No. 1	-	Wilson	-	Estelle Wood
School No. 2	-	Hart's	-	Kathryn K. Ryan Anna Levina Crouch Mary Hutton
School No. 3	-	Racine	-	Ruth Biddle
School No. 4	-	Wesley	-	Clara Racine (Clay) Rose Ricupero
School No. 6	-	Shawnah	-	Edna Miller Jesse Cook
School No. 7	-	Union Grove or Reeds	-	Martha Connor Violet Jones Elsie Hurford
School No. 8	-	Union or Leslie	-	Anna Logan Sara Miller Blanche Ford Clara Morris Linda Ewing
School No. 10	-	Washington W. Academy	-	Miriam E. Haines
School No. 11	-	Oak Grove South Milford	-	Anna Logan Evelyn Cavender Elsie Hurford Naomi England Clara Racine Rose Kusher
School No. 13	-	Charlestown	-	Ruth Biddle

DISTRICT 6

School No. 1	-	Rising Sun Stone School	-	Adelaide Bradley
School No. 3	-	Jefferson	-	Jean C. Abrams
School No. 7	-	Oak Grove	-	Evelyn Preston Maude Yokum Virginia Shea Madelyn Payne John Lord Clara Racine (Clay)
School No. 8	-	New Bridge	-	Blanche Ford Audrey Abrams
School No. 9	-	Hickory Grove	-	Bessie Hansen Maxwell
School No. 10	-	Liberty Grove	-	Kathryn K. Ryan Miriam E. Haines
School No. 12	-	Colora	-	Helen Reynolds Kathryn Thompson Grace Armour Kathryn K. Ryan Hazel Graybeal Wilson

DISTRICT 7

School No. 1	-	Whitaker's	-	May Logan
School No. 7	-	Chestnut Grove "Tick Ridge"	-	Paul Van Dyke

DISTRICT 8

School No. 2	-	New Valley	-	Helen Gifford Sara Taylor
School No. 4	-	Oakwood	-	Annie Grubb Marie Price Edith Zebley Ruth Horn Hilda Boulden

DISTRICT 9

School No. 1	-	Grove Hill	-	Mildred Keim Ruth R. Haddock Hazel Graybeal Wilson
School No. 2	-	Grove	-	Lena White Nella Kite Amelia Blanchfield Evelyn Reed

School No. 4	-	Butler	-	Louise Spear Arrie Duhamell Helen McGrady Ethel Teague
School No. 5	-	Rosebank	-	Lena White Katie Loveless
School No. 6	-	Cherry Grove	-	Mildred Russell Sara Kidd Naomi WorriLOW England
School No. 7	-	Wood Valley	-	Helen Brown Isabelle Steele Ruth Murray Louise McDowell Evelyn Martindale Lizzie Mackey Blanche Dean

