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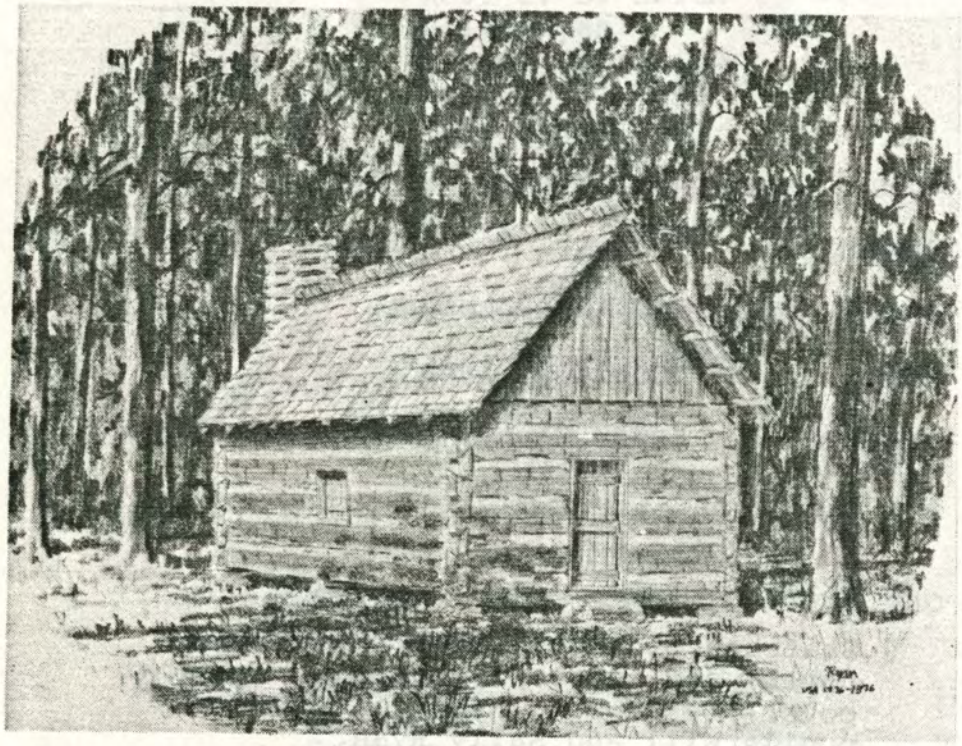
Program given by the Records and History Committee of the Church for our Sesquicentennial program: Jonnie Allen McCall, Charline Weimer Ryan, G. Franklin Weeks, Jr. and Norma Ryan Weeks.

Ryan Chapel as a Public School

ALMOST FOUR DECADES OF PUBLIC EDUCATION
FROM BEFORE 1870 UNTIL 1907.



"First Building"

Saturday, November 1, 1986
Ryan Chapel United Methodist Church
Diboll, Texas

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A FEW OF THE TEACHERS AT RYAN CHAPEL SCHOOL:

Rev. W. D. Wright
Rev. C. B. Smith
Riley Ryan
Monroe Fairchild
Rayford W. Weeks
W. D. McMickle
J. P. Willis
Robert L. Weeks, Sr.
Wiley F. Weeks, Jr.
J. R. Richie
Will Agee
W. A. O'Quinn
Florence Arrington
Emma Sproul
Mattie McCall
W. A. Dunn
H. G. Stegall
John Dearburn Bourrous

SOME OF THE FAMILY NAMES OF THOSE WHO ATTENDED WERE:

Arrington
Ashworth
Buffalo
Crager
Forsythe
Fairchild
Johnson
Knight
Landrum
Otis
Perkins
Ritchie
Ryan
Sanders
Stovall
Waller
Waltman
Warner
Weeks
Weisinger
Williams
Wright

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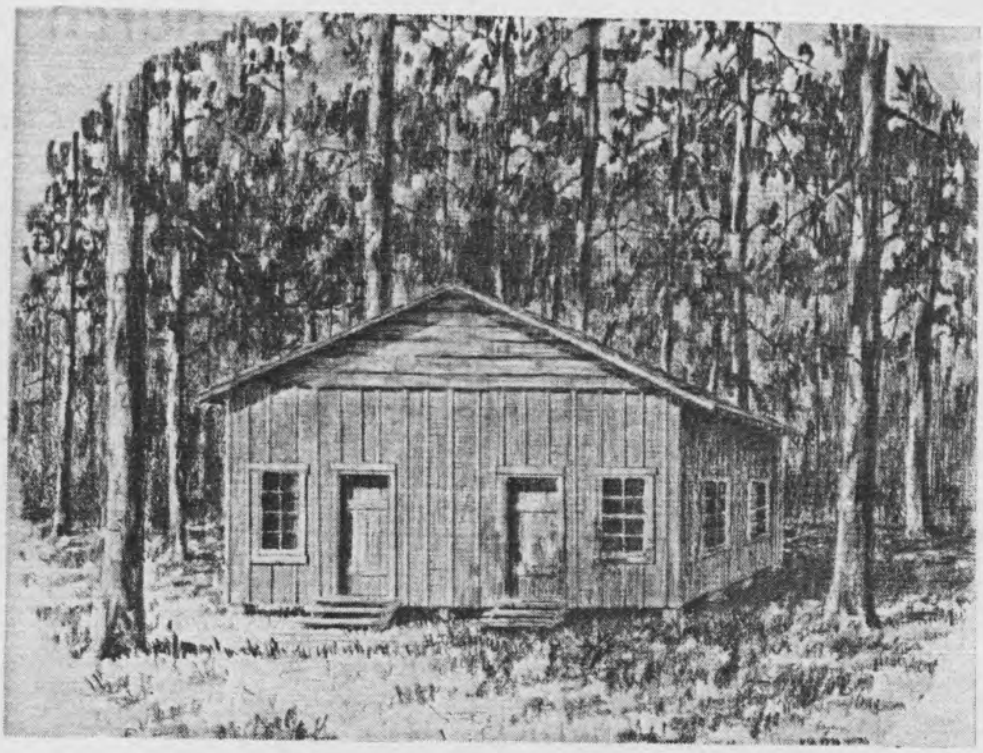
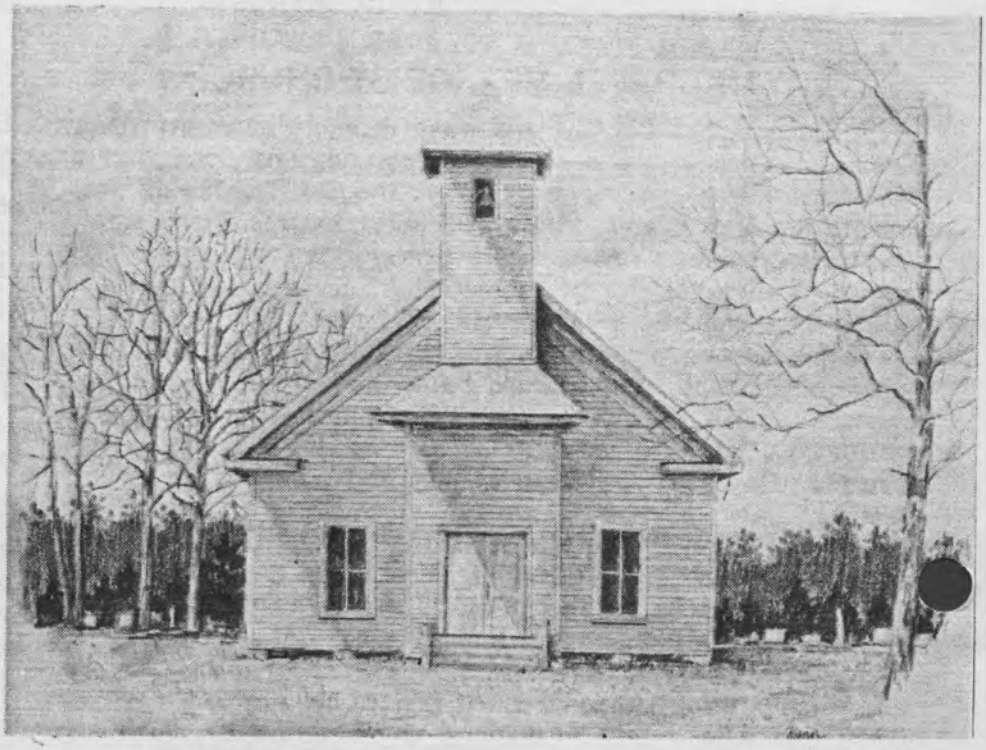


Second building served as church and scho[illegible] until about 1898.



Third church building (built about 1898) also served as school until 1907.

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R Y A N C H A P E L A S A P U B L I C S C H O O L

Remembrances of teachers and pupils
shared by relatives and friends.

Song	"Old Time Religion"
Prayer	Rev. Bud Bonner
Registration and Announcements	
Song	"Good Old Days"
Program	"Ryan Chapel as a Public School"

Sketches of original building (front cover) and succeeding buildings (back cover) by Raymond Ryan, grandson of pupils Will and Sally Ryan.

* * *

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the many friends and relatives who contributed memories and photographs which made this program possible.

A great deal of our information comes from three former pupils of this school; Mr. Wesley Ashworth, Mrs. Tellie Arrington Rush and Rev. W. Millard Forsythe. Our very special thanks go to them.

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Ryan Chapel School

Those who registered were:

Bee Burkhalter - Rt. 1, Box 446 A Diboll	Neice of Rayford & Bob Weeks
Louis Phillips Rt. 2, box 164 Huntington	Grand-dau of Tura Weeks Bell
Charles A. Bell Rt. 2, Box 164 Huntington	Son of Tura Weeks Bell
Ethel Bell " " "	Dau-in-law of Tura Weeks Bell
Harold B. Weeks 2701 Old Union Lufkin	Grand-son of John W. Weeks
Mildred Weeks " " "	Wife of Harold
Charles E. Weeks Rt 2 Box 144 Diboll	Grand-son of Charley Weeks
Edythe H. Weeks " " "	Wife of Charles er
Mary Nelson P.O.Box 1 Diboll	Grand-Dau of Mary Frances Ryan Balleng
H. E. Nelson " "	Husband of Mary
Gussie Stovall Wright Rl,B 478 Diboll	Widow of Floyd Wright
W. R. Wright Rt 1 Box 478 Diboll	Son of " "
Mrs. W. R. Wright " "	Wife of W. R. Wright
Rachel Wallace 4218 S.Chestnut Lufkin	Dau of Floyd Wright
Catherine Lee Rt 2 Box 118 A Diboll	Dau of Tellie Arrington Rush
Barbara Pletcher " "	Grand-dau of Floyd Arrington
Ruth Morris Rt 1 Box 470 A Diboll	Dau of Bell Waller Stanaland
Preston Morris " " "	Husband of Ruth
Joyce McKithern 5602 Apgan Houston 77032	Gr-Dau of Bell Waller Stanaland
J. R. McKithern " " "	Husband of Joyce
Mary Morris Wells Rt 1 Box 470 Diboll	Gr-Dau of Bell Waller Stanaland
Glenn Wells " " "	Husband of Mary
Glenn Preston Wells " "	Gr-Grand-Son of Bell Waller Stanaland
Stephen Wells " " " " " "	
James Henry rt 2 Box 142 Diboll	Son of Callie Weeks Henry
Velma Henry " " "	Dau of Callie Weeks Henry
G. Franklin Weeks 1024 McGregor Lufkin	Son of George F. Weeks, Sr.
Norma Ryan Weeks " " "	Wife of G. Franklin
Kathi Weeks Jordan Rt 1 Box 479 Diboll	Gr-Dau of George F. Weeks, Sr.
Mary Alice Weeks Copeland Rt 2 Box 55 Diboll	Dau of George F. Weeks, Sr.
John Copeland " " "	Husband of Mary Alice
Iris MCCarty Rt 2 Box 113 Diboll	Gr-Dau of J. B. Williams
Mildred S. Celestine Rt 2, Box 49 Diboll	Gr-Gr.Dau of J. B. Williams
Mandy Celestine " " "	Gr-Gr-Gr-Dau of J. B. Williams
Milton W. Celestine " " "	Husband of Mildred
Betty Bush 308 Chandler Wilmor TX 75172	Mother of Alice
Kenneth Ryan Rt 10, Box 9680 Lufkin	Gr-son of Will & Sallie Ryan
Christina Kendra Ryan " "	Gr-Gr-dau of Will & Sallie Ryan
Alice Bush Ryan " "	Wife of Kenneth
Bobbie Weeks Rt 2 Box 133 B Diboll	Dau of Will & Sallie Ryan
Cecil Ryan Rt 2 box 138 Diboll	Son of Will and Sallie Ryan
Frances Ryan " " "	Wife of Cecil
Morris Ryan 200 Ashworth Diboll	Son of Will and Sallie Ryan
Pauline Ryan 200 Ashworth "	Wife of Morris
Iva Hodges P.O.Box 343 Diboll	Dau of Will and Sallie Ryan
Curtis Hodges " "	Husband of Iva
Wayne Hodges 1710 Allendale Lufkin	Gr-Son of Will & Sallie Ryan
David Hodges Rt 8 Box 2940 Lufkin	Gr-Son of Will & Sallie Ryan
Glena McBride Hodges " "	Wife of David
Seth Ryan Hodges " "	Gr-Gr-Son of Will & Sallie Ryan
Jeremy Hodges " "	Gr-Gr-Son of Will & Sallie Ryan
Sterling Hodges " "	Gr-Gr-Son of Will & Sallie Ryan

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Eugene Baker 1510 Lee Street Lufkin	Gr-son of Monroe Fairchild
W. J. Baker Rt 1, Box 500 Diboll	Gr-son of Monroe Fairchild
Ruth Baker Huntress 1013 McGregor Lufkin	Gr-dau of Monroe Fairchild
Jimmy Huntress " "	Husband of Ruth
Edna Crager 420 Dogwood Lufkin	Widow of Cruso Crager
Josie Feazell Rt 1 Box 557 Leander 78641	Dau of Cruso Crager
Ed Feazell " " "	Husband of Josie
Vernon Crager 420 Dogwood Lufkin	Son of Cruso Crager
Edgar D. Crager Rt 1 Box 297 Lufkin	Son of Cruso Crager
Margaret Crager " " "	Wife of Edgar D.
Curtis W. Dunn 1621 E. Lufkin Lufkin	Grand-son of John Dearmond Bourrous
J. F. Bourrous 4004 S. First Lufkin	Son of John Dearmond Bourrous
Marlene Bourrous " " "	Wife of J. F.
Pauline Sanches Lufkin	Dau of John Dearmond Bourrous
Dock Read 2800 Old Union Rd Lufkin	Son of Sadie Ryan Read
Lanet Keen Read " " "	Dau of Cora Arrington Keen
Isie Waltman 408 Pondresoa Lufkin	Widow of Walter Waltman
Edith Horton Rt 2, Box 209 Diboll	Dau of Lou Ella Waller Gibson
Ruell Stanaland Rt 2 Box 208 Diboll	
Jossie Stanaland " "	
J. C. Jordan Rt 2 Box 143 Diboll	
Eula Mae Jordan " "	
Edgar E. Smith 500 Carter Dr. Diboll	
Florene Smith " " "	
Wilma Rector Rt 2 Box 58 Diboll	
Eugenia Kizer " "	
Maurine Weimer Rt 1 Box 66 Diboll	
Charline Weimer Ryan	
Melissa McCall Rt 1 box 466 Diboll	
Lottie Jo Bobbitt 500 Burke Diboll	
Jonnie McCall 504 Burke Diboll	
Bud Bonner Rt 4 Box 5840 Lufkin	
Vernell Bonner " " "	

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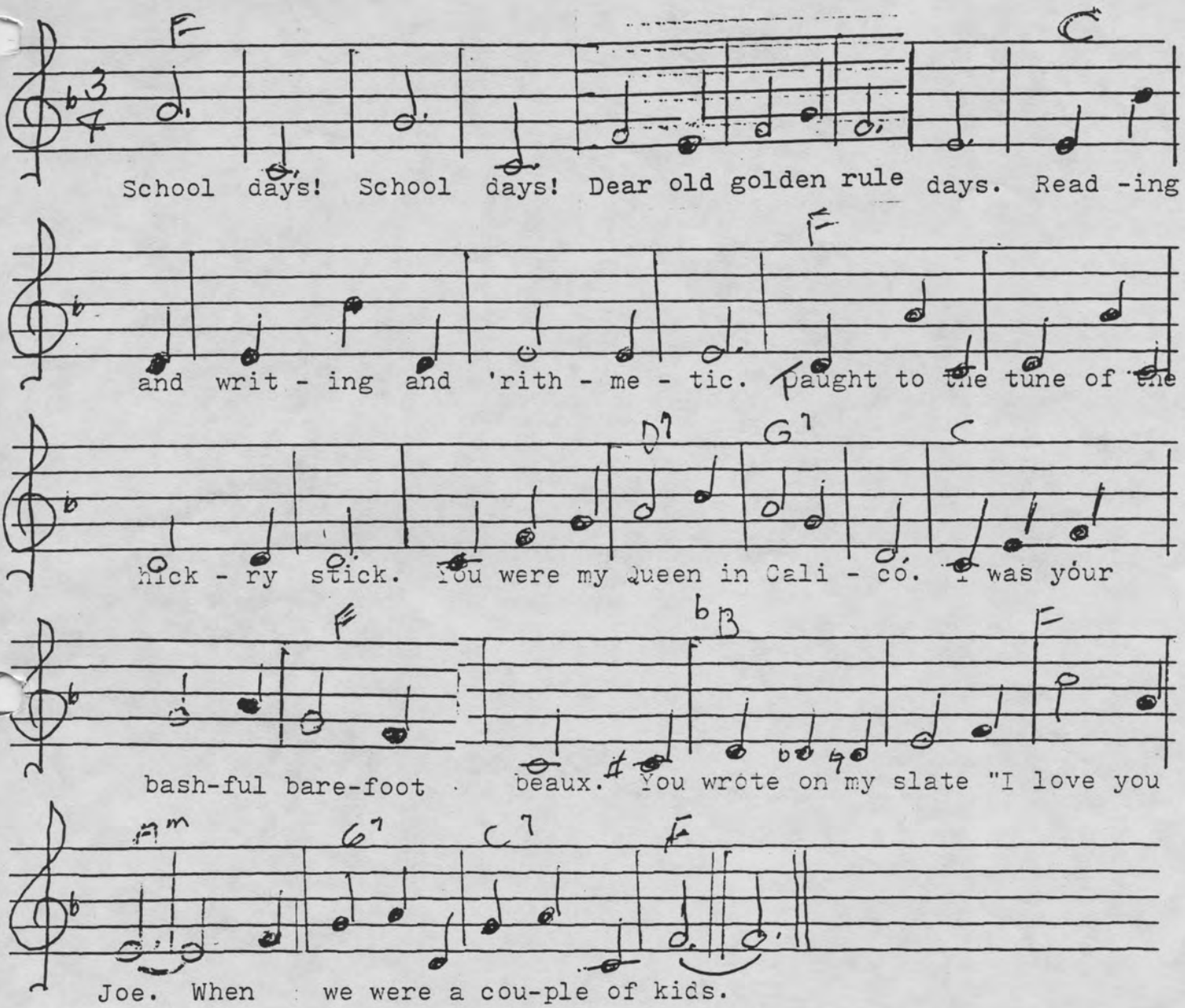
SCHOOLDAYS



This was written for our program by Pauline Barbay Oct 1986

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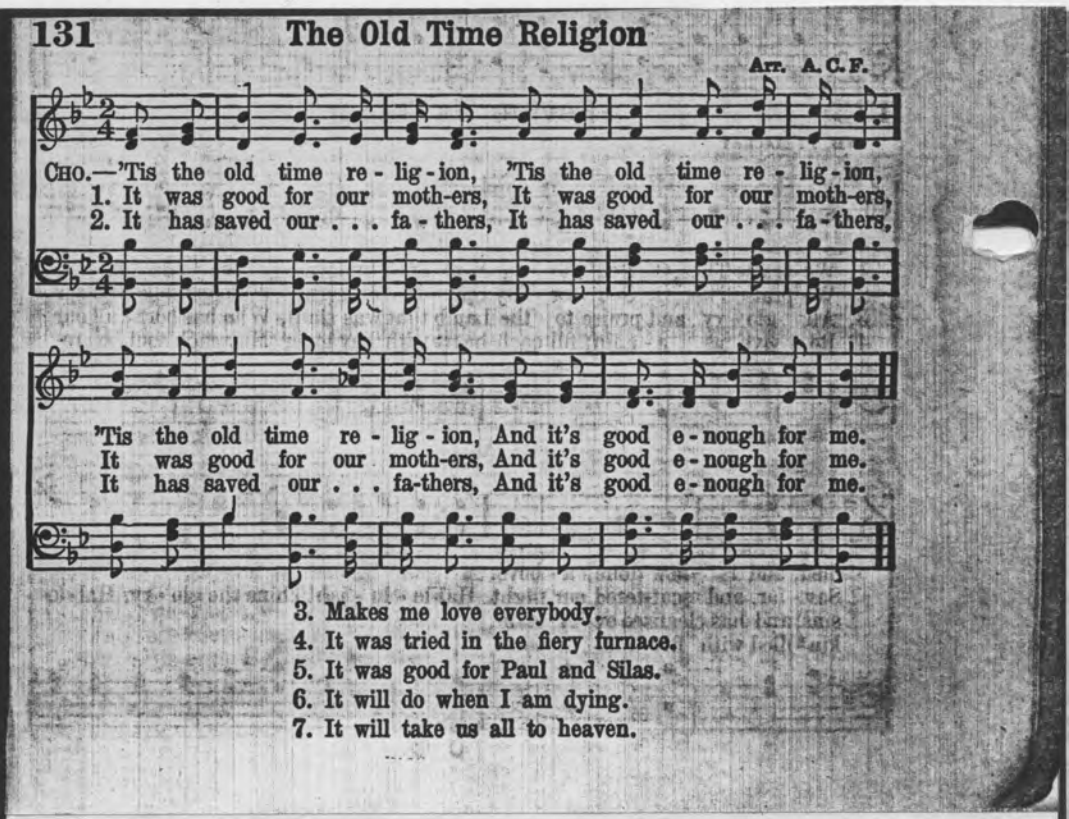

131 The Old Time Religion

Arr. A.C.F.

CHO.—'Tis the old time re - lig - ion, 'Tis the old time re - lig - ion,
1. It was good for our moth-ers, It was good for our moth-ers,
2. It has saved our . . . fa - thers, It has saved our . . . fa - thers,

'Tis the old time re - lig - ion, And it's good e - nough for me.
It was good for our moth-ers, And it's good e - nough for me.
It has saved our . . . fa-thers, And it's good e - nough for me.

3. Makes me love everybody.
4. It was tried in the fiery furnace.
5. It was good for Paul and Silas.
6. It will do when I am dying.
7. It will take us all to heaven.

The Old-Time Religion

Chorus: Tis the old time religion, Tis the old time religion, Tis the old time religion
It's good enough for me.

1. It was good for our mothers.
2. Makes me love everybody.
3. It has saved our fathers.
4. It was good for the Prophet Daniel.
5. It was good for the Hebrew chilaren.
6. It was tried in the fiery furnace.
7. It was good for Paul and Silas.
8. It will do when I am dying.
9. It can take us all to heaven.

GOOD OLD DAYS

School days, school days
Dear old golden rule days
Reading and riting and rithmetic
Taught to the tune of a hickory stick
You were my bashful barefoot beau
I was your queen in calaco
You wrote on my slate
I love you Jo
When we were a couple of kids.

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This presentation was made by G. Franklin Weeks. He attended Burke School through the fifth grade and then to Diboll Public School where he graduated in 1932.
He received a B.S. degree from S.F.A. in 1937 and taught school at Redland for 3 years.

RYAN CHAPEL AS A PUBLIC SCHOOL

Tonight we are assembled to get a look at history that occured on this hill in years past. My Father told me thru the years that he attended school at Ryan Chapel. I have always assumed the teachers were paid by funds raised by parents in this region for a private school.

Only this year was I convinced, we did have a public school here. So many are we indebted to for information furnished. We have heard "The Half Has Not Yet Been Told" We do look forward to getting more information on pupils, teachers, and events at this school.

Public schools or state supported schools began in Texas in 1853 from the selling of school lands. This fund was then used to support the Civil War effort and was started up again in about 1866.

Often the schools were taught by the preachers. The community needed to supply the pupils and a building - which was usually a church or sometime a room in a home.

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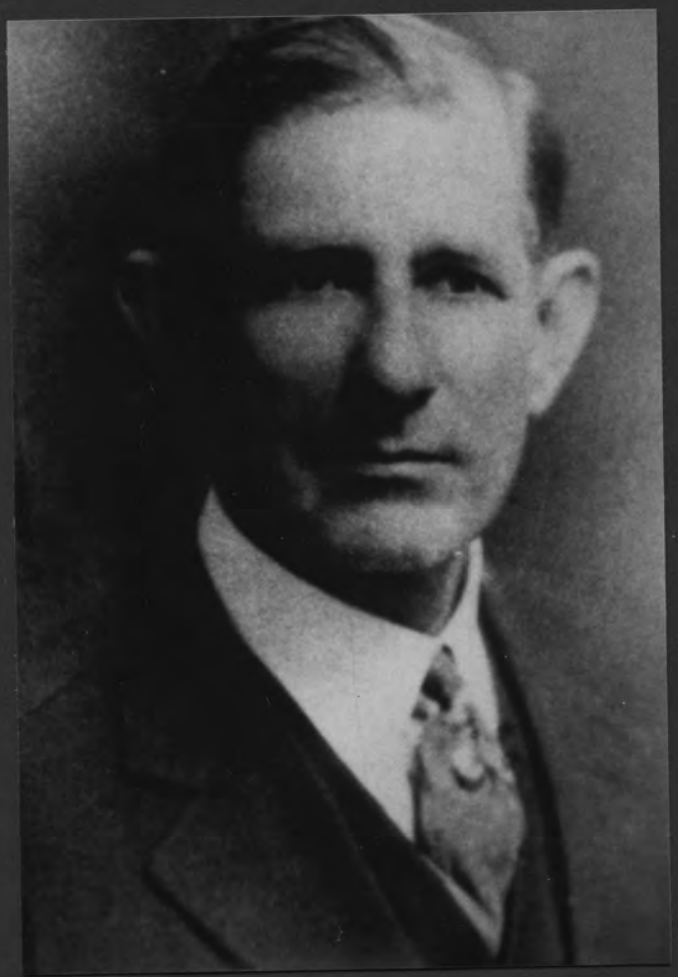
The John Weeks Family aided the teaching at Ryan Chapel public school.

Rayford Weeks (below) awoke one morning at the age of 21 to the fact that all the younger children were learning to read and write; and he could not. He went to school for one year at the Chapel - went to the county seat at Homer and passed the exam to receive his teachers certificate. The next year he returned as teacher - teaching several of his younger brothers and sisters. He continued teaching until his death.





Robert L. Weeks had a rather brief career as a teacher. Also, the son of John Weeks and a brother of Rayford Weeks. Bob Weeks then worked for Southern Pine in Diboll and Pineland for many years.

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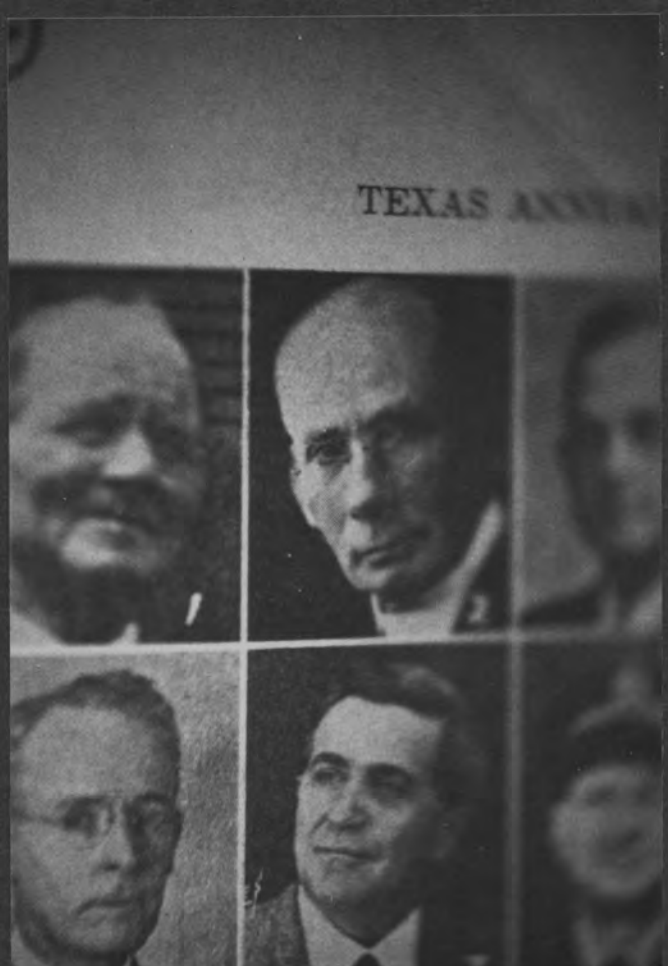
W. D. McMickle is the first teacher we found recorded in the court house records for 1885. He received $40.00 per month and taught 5 months. He had 24 scholastics. The trustees were Coke Keen, R. J. Waltman and G. W. Warner. McMickle married Bettie Henry in 1885. He appears on the church record in 1885. Served as Post Master at Rhodes from April 1885 until March 1886. He also appears on the Board of Examiners for the County School System for 1885. Then disappears - not to be found again in Angelina County.

J. P. Willis taught January 1886 or the winter term.

Wiley F. Weeks, Jr. taught many terms here from the mid 1890's until the early 1900's. Many of us are honored to be able to call him Uncle Wiley. Many not related also called him Uncle Wiley. We know that many of our parents were students of him and were well trained in "Reading, Riting and Rithmetic" and hard to turn down in "Spelling".
Later in the program we'll point out a pupil that excelled in music.
Could we just say this word about this man? "Uncle Wiley, Eternity will be a happier place when we can hear that lovely voice singing those grand old hymns that only you could sing!"
In about 1902, we find in the county records where Wiley F. Weeks had had his teaching certificate for 18 years.





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Will Agee taught school here during the school year of 1900-1901. This picture was taken of W. H. Agee and Jonnie Wood in May 1902. The following day they were married.
To those that knew Mr. Agee as a druggist in the Commissary at Diboll, or as an active member of his church in Diboll, or as a loving member of the Agee family, we do know the pupils at Ryan Chapel had a good teacher.



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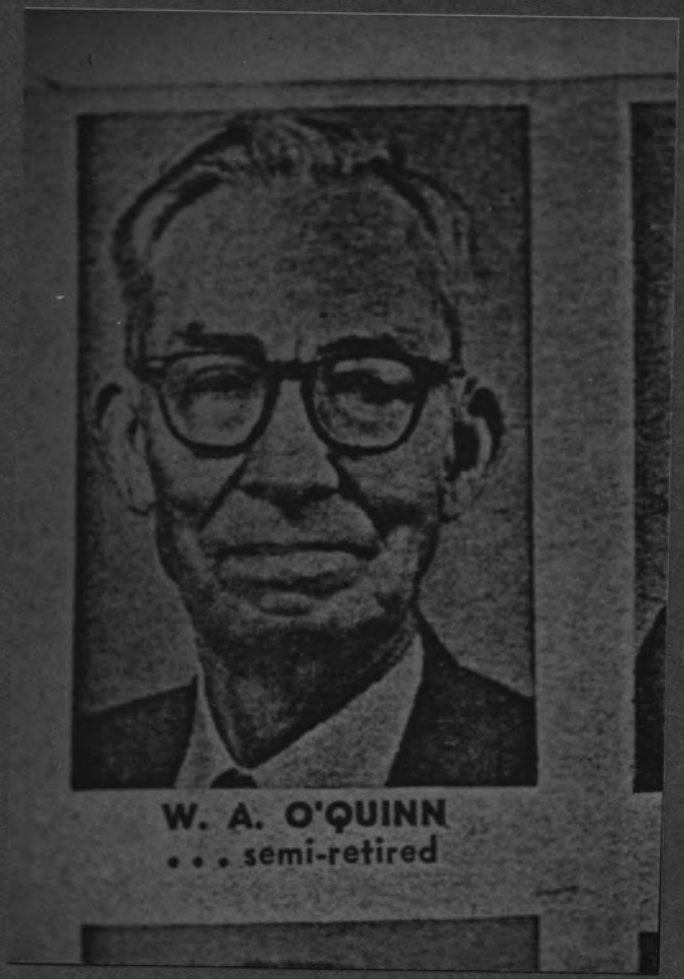
W. A. O'Quinn was another teacher here that is recalled with admiration. He was called Mr. Allen then and in later years called Professor O'Quinn. I was attending Burke School in the 4th or 5th grade when County Supt. Allen O'Quinn visited the school. He wrote a difficult problem in math on the black-board and challenged anyone to come forward that could solve the problem. Gordon Simmons did just that and was highly complimented by the County School Supt.



W. A. O'QUINN
. . . semi-retired



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Morris Ryan and Cecil Ryan - These two men of this area had a Grandfather Riley Ryan who came to this community in 1866 as a young man from Miss. where he had received more schooling than most for that period in history. He was crippled and had been sent off to school. He was one of the early teachers.





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Another of the very early teachers was Monroe Fairchild. He taught school here in the first building which had a dirt floor and puncheon seats. We have a family picture of Mr. Fairchild and his wife when they were advanced in years - surrounded by family members.





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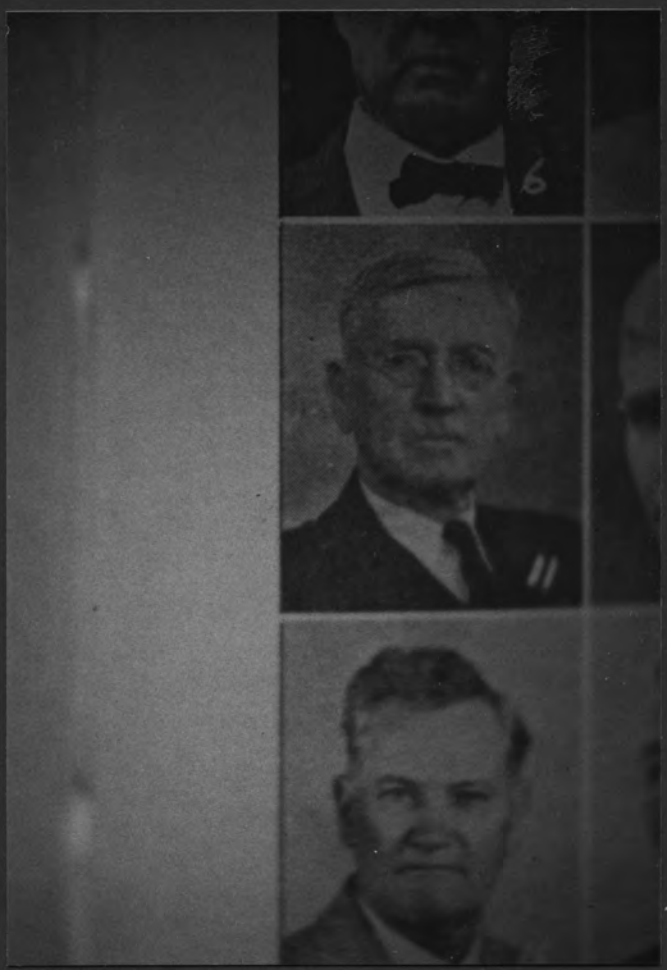
J. R. Ritchie taught here several terms before and after 1898. He taught at many schools in the county including Gilliland Chapel near Zavalla. Here is another teacher that could have given his pupils an extra reward from coming to school. He wrote the obituary in 1893 for a young mother who had attended school here. He did this through the years as he wrote the obituary for former teacher Wiley Weeks, Jr. in 1936.
J. R. Ritchie died 9-18-1943. This shows him writing for papers for more than 40 years.
Both J. R. Ritchie and Wiley Weeks, Jr. taught school in Angelina County for 15 or more years before going on to become full time Ministers.



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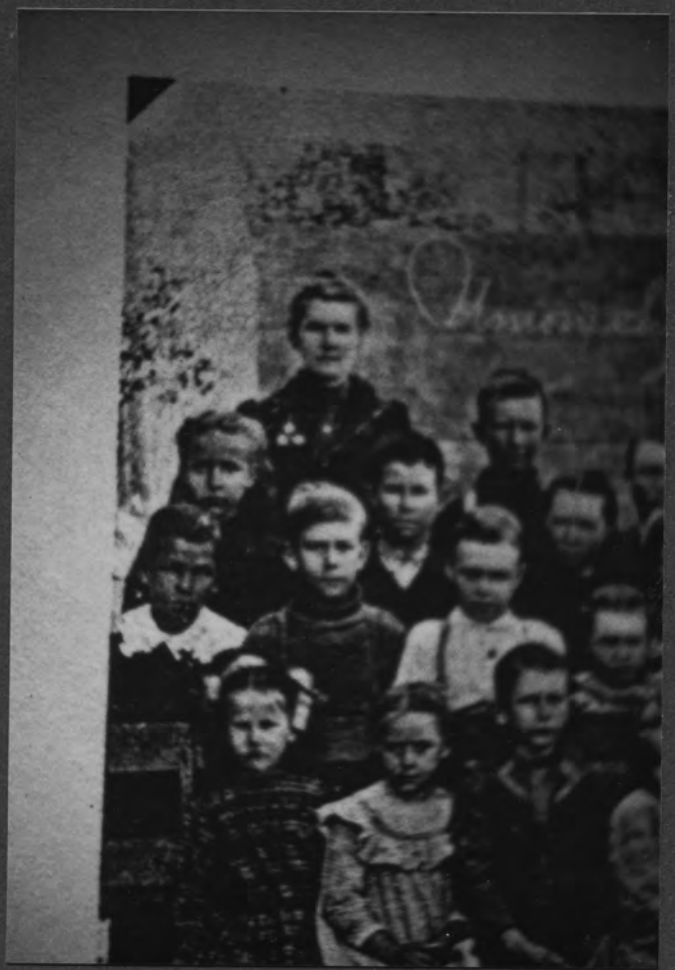
Miss Emma Sproul is reported to have taught here. This picture is taken when she was teaching at Bug Tussle or Union Springs - December 3rd 1901. Miss Emma's name is found at many schools and was very active in Teacher County Institutes.



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Just a bit about the schools.

According to a written record of Mr. Howard Walker, the teacher would have a small - home made table for the teacher's desk. Very likely, in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Dock Read is just such a desk used at this school.
Also, the chair provided for the teacher was made of oak with a cowhide bottom.
The pupils furnished their own books. The blue-back speller might have belonged to their parents or grand-parents that was brought here from another state.

Also, of interest to me, is an article in "Texas Trails" April 1974 written by Mrs. Julia Burris under the title, "Early Schools in Angelina County."

1. Teachers furnished own chair.
2. The boys cut pine knots for kindling, and split logs for fuel.
3. Boys would be on one side of room and girls on the other.
4. A supply of hickory switches was kept in the corner - later - we shall show two of the men who had these switches used on them.



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Mary Frances Ryan came to this region from Miss. in 1866. Maybe we have no record of any pupil before this girl. She could have gone to school in more than one of the buildings. Mary Frances Ryan married Frank Ballinger. This couple lived in this community during the early days of their marriage.



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Floyd Wright and his brother Fred both went to school here. Fred told his children that he carved the initials on the back of a church pew. His and the girl's that he admired at that time - F.W. and E.W.
Floyd's wife said that Floyd got so busy playing down on the branch he didn't hear the bell. Professor Wiley Weeks used one of those hickory switches on him for being late from recess.



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Joe Wright family



Bell Waller Stanaland and
Annie Waller Tull

Bell's teacher was j. D. Bourrous. Her children seemed to be wherever Pro. Bourrous was or vice-versa Ryan Chapel, Pine valley, Prairie Grove or Fairview. The following children were all pupils of Mr. Bourrous at one time or other.

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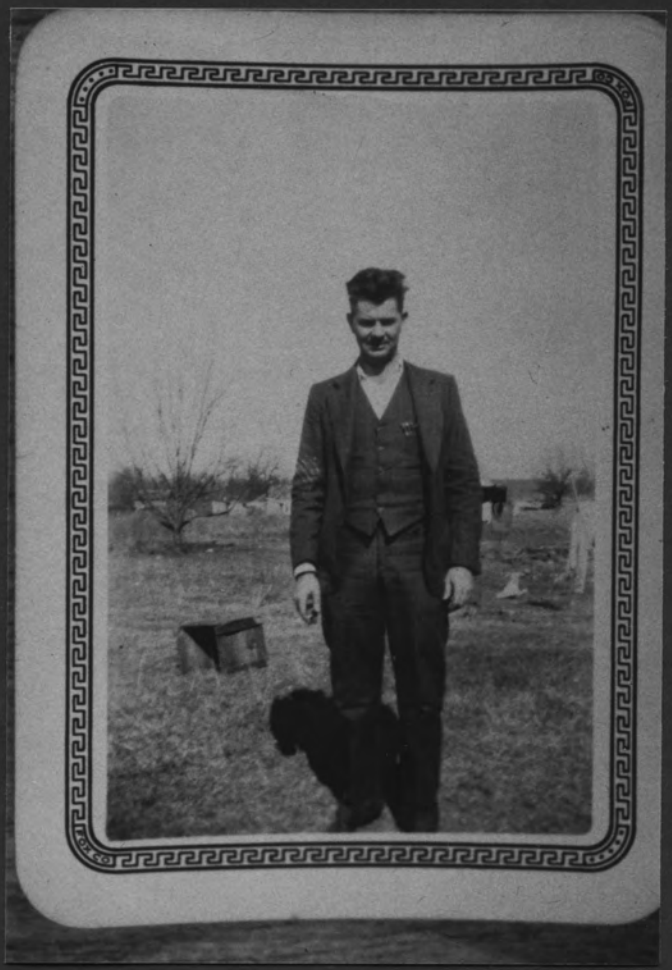
Belle Waller Stanaland



Arnett Stanaland

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Eula Stanaland



Ruth Stanaland

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James Stanaland



Ruth's husband Preston

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Other members of the Wallers that attended the Ryan Chapel School were:
Berry and Addie Johnson
Ella Waller Gipson
William Waller
Robert Waller
David Waller





Ella Waller Gipson

William Waller



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Robert Waller



David Waller

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John and Rebecca Souyres Ryan family
John and Aunt Becky may have attended school here - Frank, Ira, Theory, John, and Neva did.

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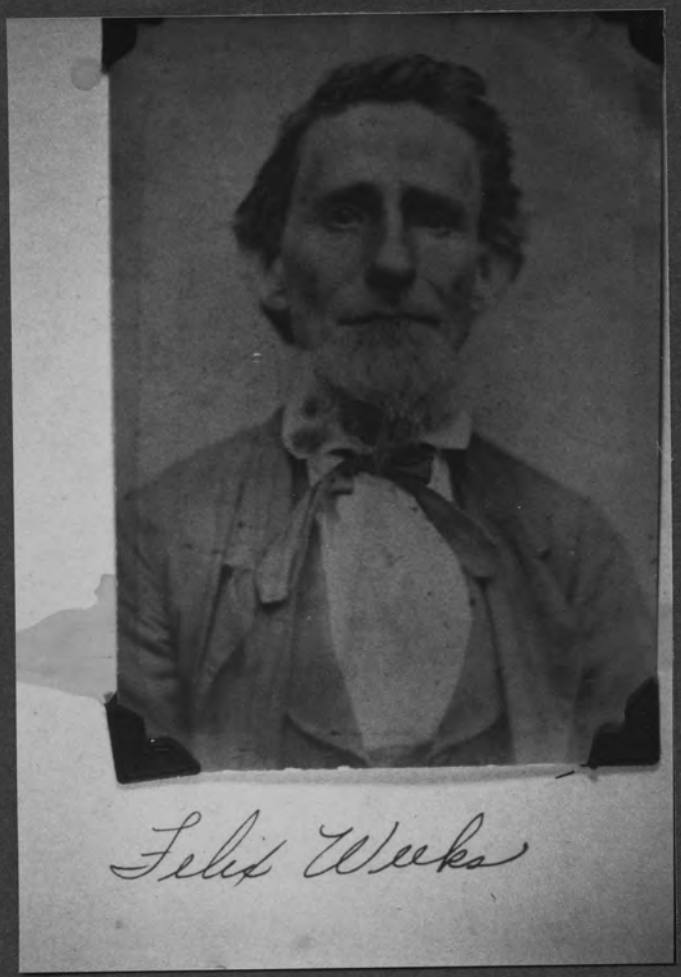

Felix Weeks and

the Felix Weeks Family

This family lived very close to the school here.
Jim
John
Wiley
Jack
Charley
Jane
Josie
Dora
Lydia
Elizabeth Dalley - Elizabeth is the great-great-grandmother of Nolan Ryan.
A. J. McNeeley



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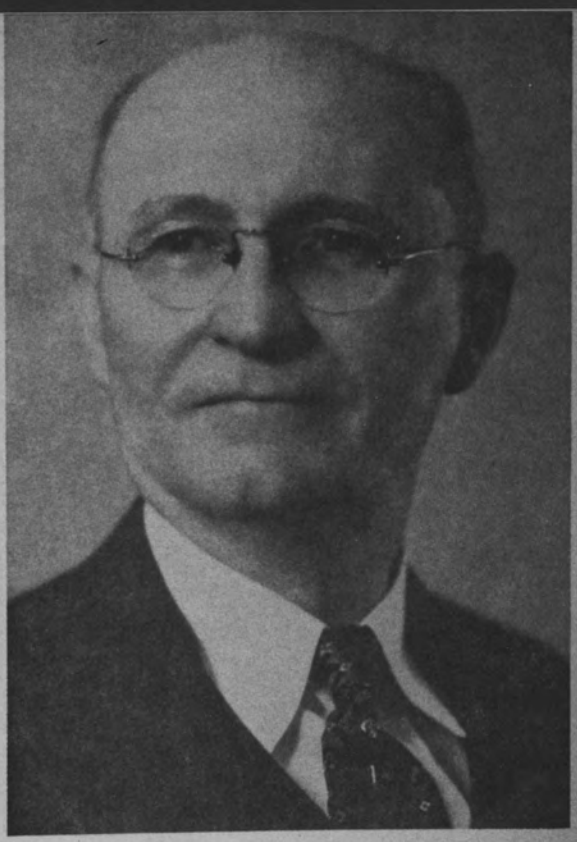

REV. A. J. WEEKS, D.D.
MAY 31, 1869 — DECEMBER 12, 1939

Jack Weeks



In 1897, we have a school picture taken here with Wiley Weeks as the teacher. Some trustees can be spotted with their entire family.

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Walter Waltman

Many of us remember a pupil by the name of Walter Waltman.
We see vim, vigor and vitality written all over his face. It was said that Walter would get on the campus and heckle a certain man that was all dressed up as he passed by:
A ten cent chain
a two-bit watch
I'll give you two guesses
Tom Williams is his name!!

Walter mastered all the skills and more that was taught at the school. Professor Ritchie must have instilled the desire to compose letters to the editors. When commercial fertilizer was first introduced in these part, Walter wrote to a large farm magazine and called it "Doodle Bug Dust."



Walter Waltman
Walter was attending the Stamps Quartet School of Music in Waco for two Summer Normals.
Professor Wiley Weeks perhaps instilled the desire to sing.

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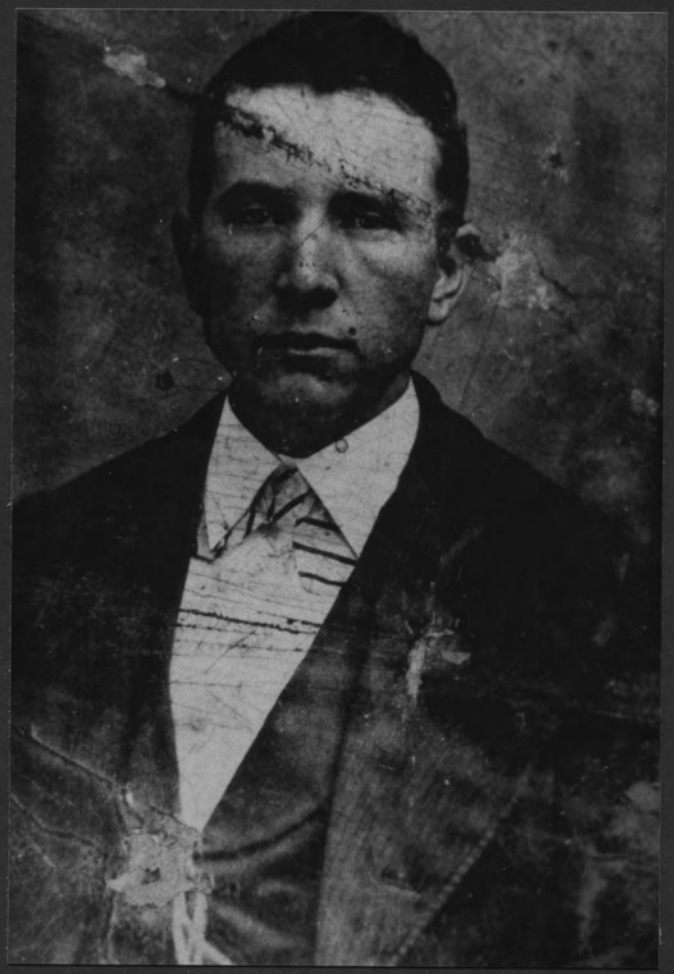

Tom Stovall was a pupil here in the very early years. Two or more of his daughters taught school in the County.

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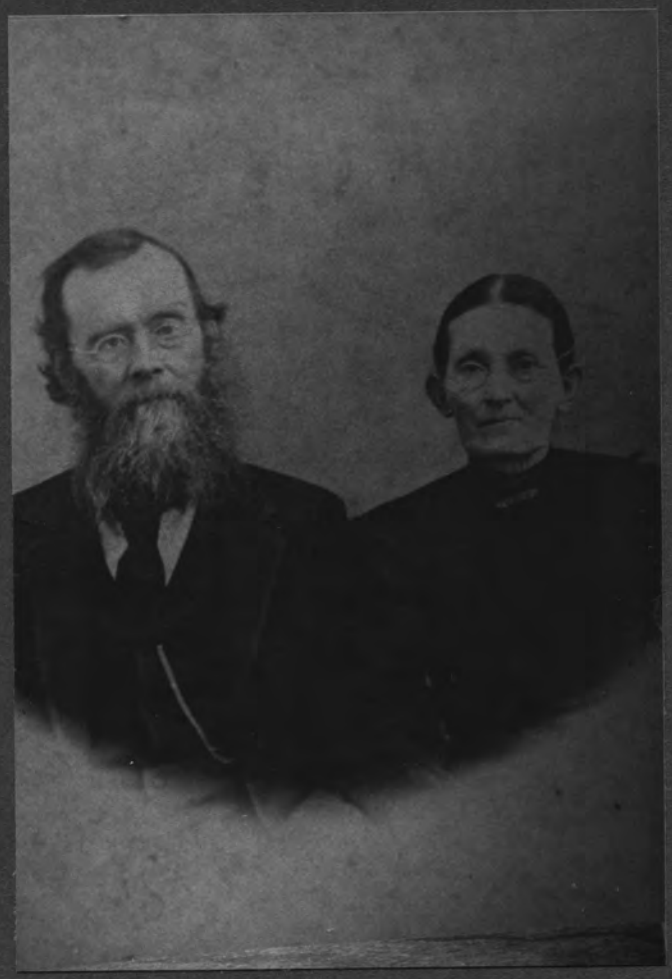

George Washington Warner and wife Jane Perkins Warner.

George W. Warner was was a very early trustee of the school and most if not all his children went to school here.



Nancey Warner Stovall and Mary Frances Warner Weeks

They attended perhaps in the 1870's.

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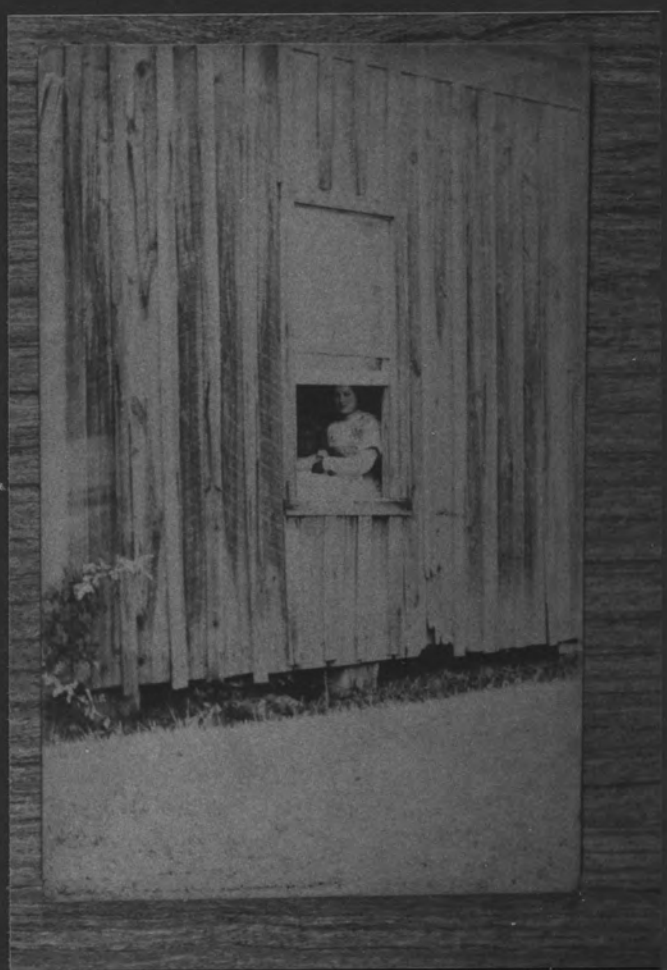
All the children of the James Monroe Weeks family attended school here.

Sallie
George
Callie
Mamie

George F. Weeks, Sr.

One of the first Dentist, if not the first, to have offices in Diboll.



Mamie Weeks Brannen

She is sitting in one of the early buildings, used for school.

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Three former pupils

Neva Ryan Weeks
Callie Weeks Henry
Mamie Weeks Brannen

This picture was taken March 1966.



Sadie Ryan Read

This was taken a few years before she started to school here. Do you think she was thinking about the 3 R's??

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Ben Knight

Oh Yes! Ben was the son of Tom Knight. Ben had one of those hickory switches or two used on him by Mr. Dearburn Bourrous. This paddling according to Wesley Ashworth. Wesley nearly brings the wall down with laughter when he tells the story.

The J. B. William's family attended school here until it ceased to exist. Mr. J. B. Williams was perhaps a trustee here . He certainly was at both the Crager school and Pine Valley.

Willie Williams with Wesley Ashworth



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Ed and Viola
Sanders Williams



Ausbon Williams

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Ausbon Williams and
Robert Crager



Cinthia Ashworth and
Zula Williams Crager

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Walter Crager and Zula Williams - and that man that got around Walter Waltman and Evie Crager



Vernon and Emma Sanders

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The Williams children - Ollie, Ausbon, Emma, Ed, Zula, and Ida



Lillie Williams
Irma Lee Williams
Ollie Williams

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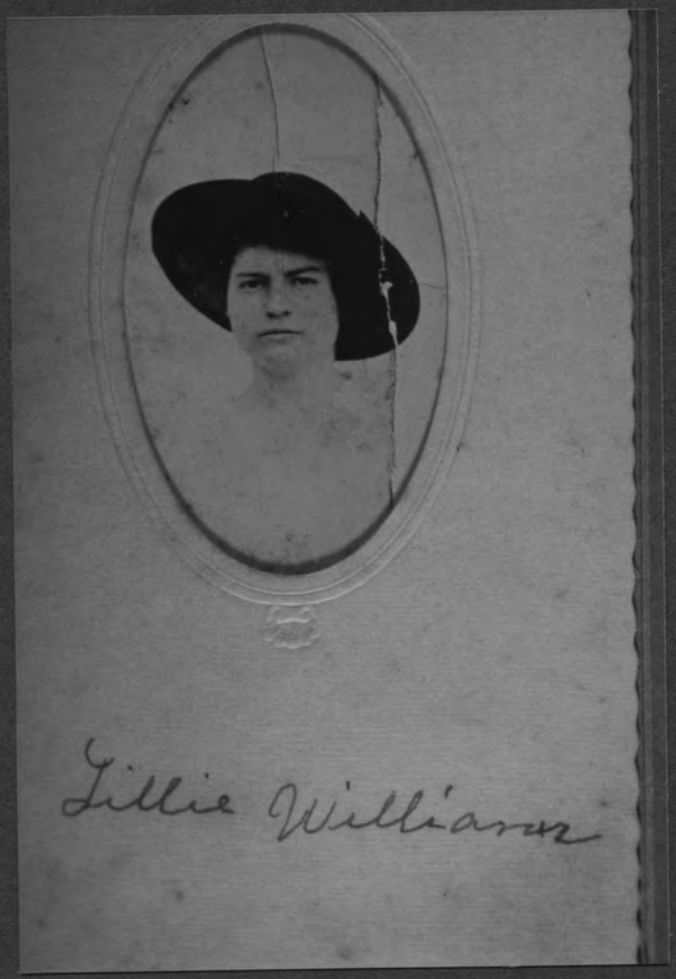

Lillie Williams



Emma Williams
It is reported Mr. Agee would tell her years later that she would priss up to the front of the class, recite her lesson, and priss back to her seat. He said she was a beautiful girl - and indead she was !!

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Ed Williams



Evie Crager Williams

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Walter Waltman

Wiley Crager and his wife Mattie Stanaland Crager

Wiley must have been involved in the school here. It is possible to stand at Pine Valley Church and draw an imaginary line to the old Pine Valley School. Then go to the home of Earl Smith and draw a line that hits the first line. At this point, was the Wiley Crager home in 1908. We had Crager School District #35 in 1908 with trustees J. B. Williams, Frank Ryan, and P.F. Sullivan with no Pine Valley School that year. In 1909, we had no Crager School, but we had Pine Valley School #35 with trustees J. B. Williams, Frank Ryan and W. A. Forsythe.



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Cruso Crager
Cruso loved to talk about Ryan Chapel School. He went one day. My father George F. Weeks often told about going to Burke school for one whole day. He didn't like it because it was a graded school, so he came back to the Chapel which was un-graded.



Cruso Crager
Cruso would tell about coming to the Chapel for only one day.

The day his younger brother Arnel was born 9 January 1907. His mother sent him to school with his older brother Walter.

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What good would reading, riting, rithmetic and spelling do without boys looking across the room to see girls that they would later court and marry ??

We have pictures of a few who did.
Tom Stovall and Nancy Warner. James M. Weeks and Mary Frances Warner. Ira Ryan and Emma Weisinger. Charley Weeks and Neva Ryan. Frank Ryan and Lou Buffalo. William Ryan and Sally Weeks.

Tom Stovall and Nancy Warner walked to the home of Rev. Frances Crager to be married.



James M. Weeks and Mary Frances Warner

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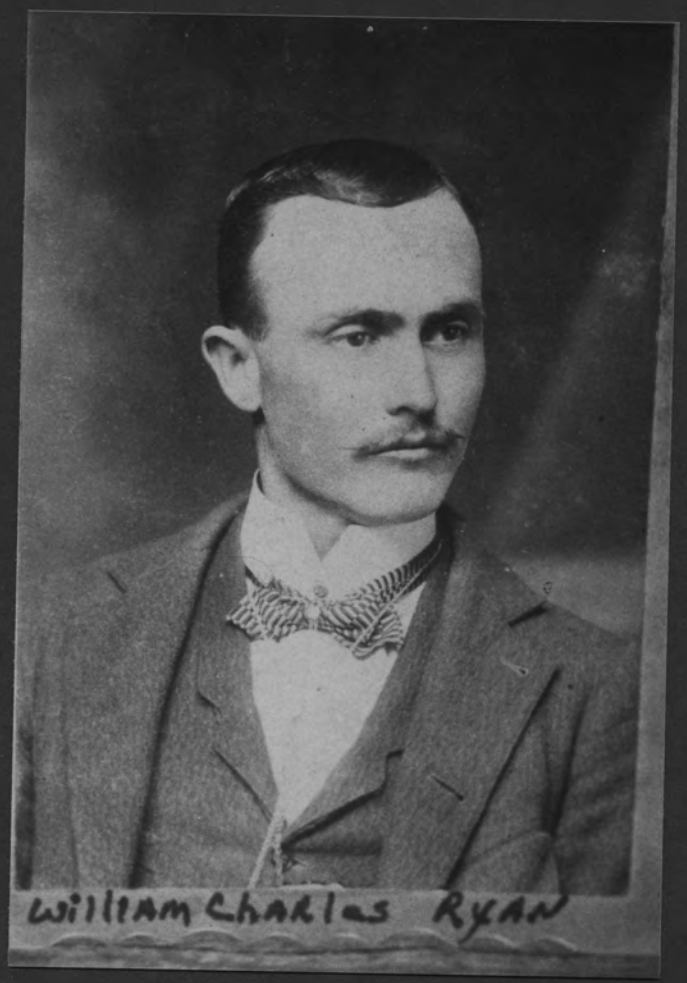

William Charles Ryan
and Sally Weeks



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We found three former pupil living in this area Mrs. Tellie Rush Rev. Millard Forsythe and Mr. Wesley Ashworth.



Members of one family had plenty vim, Vigor, and vitality. We often call on Mrs. Tellie Rush for information. She tells the story that the Arrington children were attending the Burke school and a difference of opinion between her father and teacher H. G. Stegall, came up. He sent all the children walking to Ryan Chapel School. They lived right close to the Burke school.

Berry, Floyd, and Artie Arrington. Geneva Arrington Saxton, Cora Arrington Keen, Tellie Arrington Rush & Addie Arrington Hutson.

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Miss Mattie McCall Kingsolving taught here in 1903 - 1904 and perhaps other terms.
This lovely lady on the left devoted her entire life to teaching.
She taught my father George F. Weeks, Sr. here at the Chapel. She taught my sister at Burke, and she was still teaching at the time a third generation was in school.
Never was there a more dedicated classroom teacher in Angelina County.
On the right is her sister Miss Eva McCall Burke that taught school at Fairview and perhaps other places in Angelina County prior to her Marriage. Could we say of these ladies, "You and your families have served Angelina County well!"



W. A. Dunn, H. G. Stegall and Miss Florence Arrington are reported to have taught here a various times. I am sure many wonderful things should be told about these three. As of now, little is known by this committee. Some of the dates they taught, may be found in the Archives Room in the County Court House.

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John Dearburn Bourrous taught here during the school year 1906-1907. Two of our pupils that live in this area were going to this school when Mr. Rourrous taught here. Both, Wesley Ashworth and Rev. Millard Forsythe had kind words for their teacher.
You see this popular teacher getting on his horse with the Chapel in the background. When Wesley Ashworth was told of this - he pointed his finger at me and said, "That horse's name was Dobbin." He said Mr. Bourrous knew, as far as he was concerned, Dobbin was as good a horse as anyone would ride in the 20th century.
This next picture shows Mr. Bourrous, perhaps here at school, in a scene of the "Brideless Wedding" - maybe a school play.
Other ajoining communities had erected school buildings and the day for Ryan Chapel as a public school had come to the end.
Many pupils came here from Pine Valley community. Mr. Bourrous continued his teaching career at Pine Valley. He also taught at other places including Prairie Grove and Fairview.





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Ira Ryan and
Emma Weisinger



Frank Ryan and
Lou Buffalo

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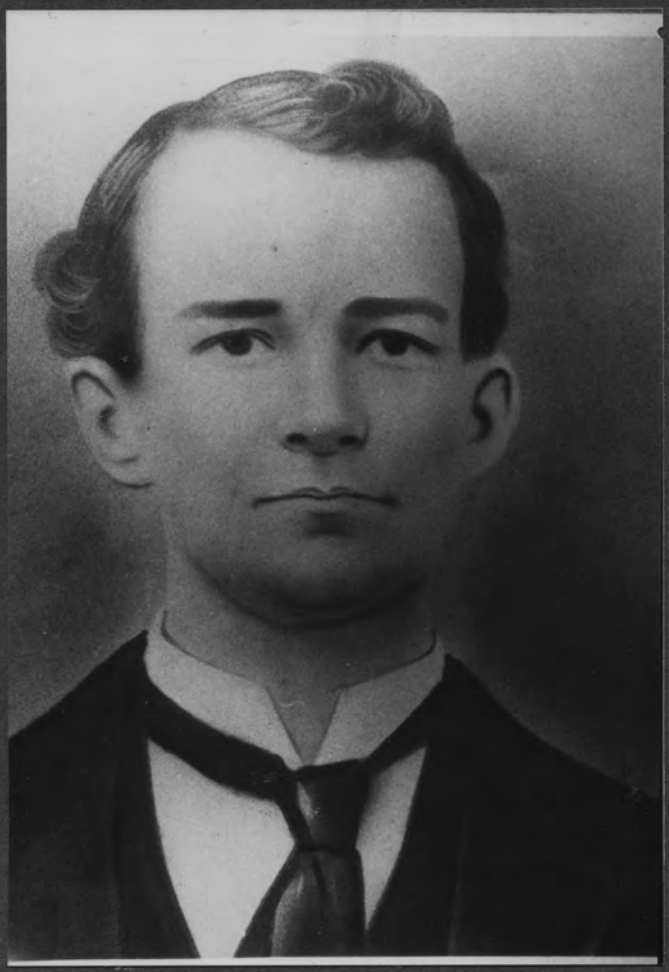

Charles Emory Weeks
and Neva Ryan



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Then we have Rev. Millard Forsythe that went to school here to Mr. J. D. Bourrous. Without a doubt his mother, Alice Darenda Landrum Forsythe, went to school here as a young girl - that is not Bro. Millard standing with his Mother.



W. A. Forsythe
Sent his children to Ryan Chapel School until the end. He then served as trustee the first year we had a Pine Valley School.



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Mrs. Alice Forsythe
and her children.
Most, if not all,
went to school here.

Willard, Rachel,
fanny, Theda.
(back row)
Janey, Hester and
Millard.

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And then there was
Wesley Ashworth!!!!!

Over a period of months Wesley has told me many of his happy memories about coming to school here. Wesley has been in the nursing home in Diboll for some time with his body so affected with arthritis he is continualy in pain, but when school is mentioned a happy smile radiates total relief and joy. Wesley would tell about all the Williams, Ryans, Cragers, and Warners that would nearly fill the third church building. He said that on Friday afternoon after recess, the pupils would sweep the church and clean the campus for services on Sunday.
The school had the Ashworths from near the beginning up to the very last year.

Howard Walker
Mr. Walker a long time County School Supt. and good friend has had a lead role in making this and other materials available in the Archives Room on the third floor of the Angelina County Court House. So. Very, very much comes from the written redords. The amount of scholastic maney per pupil from the state was $5.50. Today the state's apportionment per pupil is about $1600.00. Every one has been so co-operative in furnishing pictures and information about the school. Much of it is stories told and re-told by parents and grand-parents.



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From: Howard Walker
13 June 1986

Order Establishing School Communities

County Judge's Office, State of Texas, County of Angelina. Be it known, that on this the 1st day of August, 1885, a a petition was filed by Coke Keen, R.J. Waltman and G. W. Warner and others , in my office , praying that a School Community be organized at Ryans Chapel; said petition has been examined , and it is hereby ordered that the signers to said petition are constituted and recognized as Ryans Chapel School Community No. 40. It is further ordered , that the sum of $175.20 be credited on the books of the County Treasurer, for the benefit of said Community, to be applied to the maintenance of their Public Free School.

It is further ordered that Coke keen, R. J. Waltman and G.W. Warner be and are hereby appointed Trustees for said School Community.

Signed J. T. Maroney, County Judge

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From: Howard Walker
12 June 1986

The first schools of the county was taught in the homes of the early settlers. The teachers were not required to have teacher's ceritficates. Most anyone was allowed to teach in the early schools, however, some of the early settlers were well educated and were teachers. The early teachers were paid out of a county consolidated fund based on the number of scholastics in that school or district. This fund was derived from the state apportionment sent to the county based on the total number of scholastics in the county. This fund was supplemented by private donations or tuition charged. The salaries ranged from $25.00 per month to $40.00 per month.

The early school buildings were built and furnished by the people of the community and were used for both school and church purposes. All community meetings were held at the school or church buildings which was the community center. Schools developed along with churches and the churches developed along with the schools. The first school or church buildings were built of logs, equipped home-made black boards, home-made benches, a small home-made table for the teacher's desk. The chair provided for the teacher was made of oak with a cow hidebottom. The children had no desks, they had to keep their books on their laps or on the floor

The first move made by county officials regarding publis schools was on May 16, 1854. The county was divided into 16 districts, within many of the districts there were several schools. The boundaries of these districts were very indefinite. At various times new school districts were approved by the

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commissoner's court. The greatest number of schools approved by the county at any one time was 105. In 1885 the county judge received orders from the State Department of Education to set up the school districts of the county stating the number of scholastics in each district, giving name of school, Trustees and ect.



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of William Parish 320 acre pre emption Sur;

Thence S 630 vrs, Samuel Parish line;

Thence W 300 vrs, Saml Parish N.W. cor.

Thence S 300 vs, a stake fr. wh. a Red Oak 20 in dia brs N 15 W 5 vs, a dogwood 4 in dia brs N 32 W 6 vs;

Thence W 768 vs, a stake fr. wh; a pine 20 in dia brs N 42 E 5 vs, a do 20 in dia brs N 29 W 7 vs;

Done at the City of Austin on the Tirteenth day of January, in the year of our Lord, One Thousand eight hundred and Sevty-Three. (L.S.) (L S)

Jacob Kuehler, Commissioner of the Gl. Ld. office,

Edmund J. Davis,
Governor.

The State of Texas, I
County of Angelina, I, the undersigned authority, hereby certify that the above Patent was filed for record at 8 o clock A.M. April 22, 1874, and duly recorded same day at 9 oclock A.M in Book "H" of Records of Deeds &c. on Pages 46 & 47.

(L S) Witness my hand and official Seale at Homer, on the 22 day of April, A.D. 1874.

E.H.F. McMullen, Clk. Dist Court,
Angelina Co.

L.H.W. Guinn to M.E. Church.

State of Texas, I
County of Angelina, I KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS; That I, L.H.W. Guinn, for and in consideration of the love I bear for cause of Christ and for an earnest desire to promote his heritage on earth, do give and grant and by these presents convey unto the Methodist Episcopal Church South, for the benefit of Church and School purposes to be applied as the Trustee of church of Homer circuit East Texas conference

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From: Howard Walker
10 June 1986

Schools in Angelina County during the period 1902-1911

Homer	Lufkin (col)	Hudson
Alabama	Gann Ridge	Robinson
Biloxi	Tram Grove	Bodan
Havard	Sulphur Springs	Oak Flat
New Port	Cedar Grove (col)	Union Star (col)
Lufkin	Sandy Creek	Crawford Creek
Burke	Keltys	Boynton
Harmony Hill	Salem	Clawson
Julia Creek	Grant (col)	New Center -
Prospect (col)	McKendrie	Clawson (col)
Shawnee Prairie	Prairie Grove	Davis (col)
Center	Liberty	Massingill Chapel
Plum Ridge	Smith	Crain
Rocky Hill	Providence	Powell
Gin Creek	Cordaway Springs	Cross Roads
McAdams	Zavala	Shawnee Creek
Harmony Springs	Graham Creek	Odell
Bayou Springs	Monterey	Boykin
Treadwell	Ryans Chapel	Huntington
Baird	Dunn	Pollok
Bethlehem	Manton	Clear Springs
Standley Creek	Bee Ridge	Fisher
Fair View	Emporia	Diboll
Durst (col)	Amity	Poskey
Beulah	McCalvery (col)	Persimmon Grove
Big Creek (col)	Burnham	Johnson
Emporia	Lindsey Springs	Trevathan

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From: Howard Walker
10 June 1986

Saron	Platt	Procella
Ora	Fuller	Berry
Red	Union Star (col)	Crager
Grimes	Retrieve	Gum Ridge
Bowles	Mineral Springs	Gann Ridge
Pine Grove	Brush Prairie	Mound Moriah
Union	Gilliland Chapel	Lambert Chapel
New Liberia	Olive Branch	New Hope
Refuge	Renfro	July Creek
Grant	Carlise	Copperas Springs

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From: Howard Walker
10 June 1986

Angelina County Schools - 1885

District No.	Name of School	Remarks or location
1	Homer	Homer
2	Free Will	Homer - Negro
3	Wallace Chapel	1½ miles W. Hudson School
4	Temperance Grove	Stanley Creek below Ora
5.	Center	Center Church - Rocky Springs
6	Robinson	Gibsonville -W. of Zavalla
7	Pine Grove	W. of Beulah
8	Friendship	N. of Bud Hinson place - N. 69
9.	Bodan	Homer & Alto Road - 2 mi. SW Pollok
10	Havard	Havard home-W. of Manning
11.	Sulphur Springs	Sulphur Springs - S. of Zavalla
12.	Oak Flat	Huntington-Oak Flat Rd.
13	Procella Creek	J.B. Allen place- S. Tucker homestead
14	Cedar Grove	Negro - near Keltys Mill
15	Union	Near Chancey Farm -Negro- Knighton place
16	Lufkin	Lufkin
17	Cedar Creek	P.J. Eddings place - 94
18	Crawford Creek	SW of Clawson - Calhoune place
19	Bradley Prairie	Burke
20	Bakers Wells	E. of Huntington
21	Hickory Grove	S. of Huntington - near old Salem
22	Harmony Hill	Harmony Hill - FM 58
23	Homer High	Homer
24	Homer	Homer - Negro
25	Davis Chapel	Negro - Lufkin Moffett Rd. Wilkerson place
26	Free Union	Negro - Ewing Farm
27	Prospects	Cheeseland or Simpson
28	McKendree	McKendree -E. of Paper Mill
29	Red	S. of Simpson - W. of Cordaway Springs
30	Shawnee Prairie	N. of Manning - Shawnee Prairie
31	Renfro Prairie	Beulah -
32	Mound Moriah	Boykin -S. of Zavalla
33	Homer	Elementary
34.	Liberty	Redland
35	Gann's Chapel	Central School 69 N.
36	Sandy Creek	NE Concord- Hensarling place
37	Smith's	W. H. Smith place - W. of Burke - Naraway
38	Grimes - SW Manning	- Old Belview
39	Rocky Hill	Sims Chapel - Rocky Hill
40	Ryan's Chapel	Ryan's Chapel - NW of Diboll
41	Calhoune	Calhoune Church - Julia Creek
42	Lambert Chapel	Lambert Chapel - S. of Manning - near Crain Scho
43	Cordaway Springs	Redtown - Durham Church
44	Cross Road	Between Huntington and Ora
45	Berry	Near Moffett
46	Crawford Creek	Negro - Near Bonner Farm
47	Carlisle	Peavy Swith - W. of Lufkin
48	Independence	S. of Zavalla- near Sulphur Springs
49	Shawnee Creek	Off 69 S. near Shawnee Creek
50	Fairchild	Fairview - FM 58
51	Robb's Ranch	Negro - Old Jonesville -W. of Zavalla
52	Bee Ridge	E. of Zavalla near Concord
53	Bayou Springs	Near old Concord -
54	Crooked Creek	Near old Concord - E. of Zavalla
55	Odell Creek	NE of Huntington - Arnett place
~~56~~		

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13 June 1986

Order Establishing School Communities

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It is further ordered that Coke keen, R. J. Waltman and G.W. Warner be and are hereby appointed Trustees for said School Community.

Signed J. T. Maroney, County Judge

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30 October 1986

Franklin

Here is the certificate issued to Sudie Mantooth in 1890.

She was the daughter of Albert & Pelly Mantooth and a sister of my father Eddie Mantooth. She died in 1892 2 years after getting this Certificate at age 21.

I cannot tell who the first Trustee was that signed this certificate.

Annie Jewel Royle

Your article on the Ryan School and church was excellent. I told you my father went to school there and boarded with the McCall family.

Former Community.

CONTRACT

BETWEEN

Trustees of School Community

No. 23

Angelina County, Texas,

AND

Sudie Mauldin

Teacher.

NOTE.—This contract should be made out in triplicate—one copy to be retained by the President of the Board of Trustees, one by the teacher, and one to be delivered to the County Superintendent [ex officio].

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OFFICE OF

PRESIDENT BOARD OF TRUSTEES,

School Community No. 23 County of Angelina

Homer Texas, October 4th 1890

This is to Certify, That the Board of Trustees of School Community No. 23 of Angelina County, Texas, have employed Miss Susie Mantooth holding a First grade Certificate, to teach a Public Free School for said Community, according to law and the regulati[illegible] of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and in conformity with the regulations of the Cou[illegible]y Superintendent and School Trustees of said Community, for the term of Four months, commencing Oct 6th 1890, and e[illegible] 1890, at Twenty five Dollars per month. For pupil[illegible] or under scholastic age, tuition at the rate of [illegible] per month has been agreed on by the Trustees. The same shall be paid to the Teacher.

T J Selman
I S Thompson

Trustees of School Community No. 23 Angelina Co., Texas.

Agreed to. Sudie Mantooth
Teacher.

Approved this the 4th day of Oct. 1890 J. T. Maroney County Superintendent [ex officio] Angelina Co.

NOTE.—Salaries allowed by law, to be paid from State and County School Fund.

1st Grade Certificate, not exceeding $75 per month, and not exceeding $2.50 per registered pupil within scholastic age.
2d " " " " $50 " " " " " $2.00 " " " " " "
3d " " " " $30 " " " " " $1.50 " " " " " "

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REPORT.

1. Name of School ..... 2. Date of Visit.....

3. Name of Teacher..... 4. Address.....

5. Appearance of school grounds .....

6. School room:

(1) Well kept and clean .....
(2) Floor dirty .....
(3) Seats properly arranged .....
(4) Window shades properly adjusted .....
(5) Room well ventilated .....
(6) Coats and wraps neatly put away .....
(7) Books neatly arranged .....

7. Evidence of good health among pupils .....

8. Improvements since school opened .....

9. The Teacher:

(1) Personal appearance .....
(2) Alertness .....
(3) Voice .....
(4) Interest in pupils .....
(5) Enthusiasm for work .....
(6) Member of T.S.T.A. .....
(7) Prepare questions for 7th grade examination .....
(8) A member of Interscholastic League .....

10. Pupils:

(1) Active .....
(2) Inactivity, or physical inactivity .....
(3) Conditions causing inactivity .....
(4) Causes of mischievous activity .....
(5) All pupils at work .....
(6) Conduct of pupils .....
(7) Absentees (attendance) .....

From Howard Walker 10 June 1986

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11. Records and Reports:

(1) Registers well kept .....
(2) Shows all information concerning each pupil .....
(3) Teacher makes report promptly and accurately .....
(4) Book Invoice made .....
(5) Any books needed .....
(6) Any Surplus Books on hand .....

12. Community Activities:

(1) Parent Teachers Association .....
(2) Community Fair .....
(3) Literary society .....
(4) Number of Box Suppers ect.....
(5) Other clubs or organizations .....
(6) Activities in which teacher takes part .....
(7) School programs .....

13. Teaching:

(1) Evidence of preparation by teacher .....
(2) Evidence of preparation by pupils .....
(3) Teacher has definite aim in lesson .....
(4) Explanations:
a. Clear .....b. Diction simple.....
c. Illustrations simple .....
(5) Assignments:
a. Definite .....b. By topic .....
c. By Pages .....
d. Explanation of difficult points .....
e. Evidence of having planned assignments .....

14. Remarks:

.....

.....

.....

.....

County Superintendent.

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From Howard Walker
13 June 1986

OFFICE OF COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

From 1846 to August 12, 1907, the school business affairs of the county was taken care of by the County Judge. The County School Superintendent's office was created by an act of the Legislature. The office was not a Constitutional office. The office of the County School Superintendent of this county was abolished in 1972.

OFFICERS

G.W. Largent -	8-12-1907 -1908
T. M. Anderson -	1908-1910
H. B. Stegall -	1910-1912
J. O. Satterwhite -	1912-1914
J. Wright Dunn -	1914-1916
J. O. Satterwhite -	1916-1920
W. A. O'Quinn -	1920-1926
Howard Walker -	1926-1930
Frank Moffett -	1930-1934
Howard Walker -	1934-1938
E. E. Sheffield -	1938-1942
T. J. Wilroy -	1942-1958
Ernest Balch -	1958-1960
Mrs. Ernest (Doris) Balch	1960-1972

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From: Texas Trails by Julia Burris Aug 1986
Vol 1 April 1974 No 2.
July



BUG TUSSLE SCHOOL

Although it was always called "Bug Tussle," the real name of this school was Union School. The name was a compromise to Renfro Prairie and Emporia; the school was built between them. The log school building was located to the right of the picture.

Standing in the back is Mrs. Emma Spruiell, the teacher. The students are numbered from the back row beginning on the left.

1. Isaac Daughtery
2. Thomas Harris
3. Lee Weeks
4. Ettie Vansaw
5. Lola Weeks
6. Aley Daughtery
7. Francis Harris
8. Alta Renfro
9. Emmie Vansaw
10. Ola Daughtery
11. Elowese Daughtery
12. Lydia Weeks
13. Tom Vansaw
14. Port. Vansaw
15. P. D. Renfro
16. David Harris
17. Rachel Harris
18. _____ Daughtery
19. Ella Collins
20. Burbon Renfro
21. Ocie Renfro
22. Carter Renfro
23. Frank Weeks
24. Algie Childress
25. Casper Harris
26. Baylor Collins
27. Fred Childress
28. Mrs. Emma Spruiell

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Pollock, La.
April 22, 1907.

Mrs. Stella O'Quinn,
Clawson, Tex.

My dear Stella,

I feel so sleepy that I'm sure this will not interest you, but I'll do my best.

First, I'll say that this is the ugliest, nastiest, and lonesomest place on earth. I would not live in Pollock if it is always like it is to-day, for a big sum of money. If you were only here, it would be different.

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I've just returned from talking with Prof. Warner, and he seems very anxious for me to take the school, and do you know, that they have over $700 dollars for that little old place. They have more school money here in a month than in Six months in Texas. He wants to hold me at that same place for the fall but not at the same price understand. He says that he can pay me as much here, after the summer school, as I

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have been getting in Texas and can work at least eight months in the year and may be nine. Louisiana is short 800 teachers now, and school money is collecting at these little schools.

I'm going to get a team and go out to that place to-morrow morning early, and see what I think of it, and see what can be done in the way of a house or board. Prof. Warner says that rent will be very reasonable,

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if we can get a house at all, and he says, also, that if I get one it will be a very common one. I'll see tomorrow, and I'm going early and try to get home Wednesday or Thursday.

Stella, the summer normal that I'll have to attend will be held at Baton Rouge, but understand, you are going to go with me. I can soon make back what it will cost us while there, and there is nothing like seeing

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some of this ugly country. Board will cost us $3.50 per week or $7.00 for us both,-a total of $21 for the six weeks. Tuition is free and railroads give reduced rates to the teachers. In other words, if I take the school, we will go there in June.

Oh, I'm so lonesome, you can't realize how I do want to see you. I would not be satisfied at any place on earth without you.

The weather is very threatening to-day and Louisiana is already soaking wet.

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Have been taking those Bromo quinine tablets, and am feeling all right. I'll tell you all when I come. Can't advise you about preparations for moving, as I do not know yet what I will take the job.

I send you all my love, and can realize how dear you are to me when away from you.

Yours,
Allen.

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Pelton & Crane

P.O. BOX 241147 • CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA 28224 • 704/523-3212 • TELEX 57-5192

RALPH TOLAND
3150 LaQuinta Dr.
Missouri City, Texas 77459
A/C 713 437-8831

Dear Mr. Weeks,

I hope that the picture, letter and newspaper article will be of some help to you.

In the picture you will find: Papa O'Quinn, his daughter Elizabeth and her husband Keith Crouch and their children Patricia and Pat (twins) This picture was taken in 1943. The bank picture (newspaper) was in 1960.

I hope your program will be a success and thank you for remembering Papa.

Sincerely,
Patricia Crouch Toland

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REPORT.

1. Name of School ..... 2. Date of Visit.....

3. Name of Teacher..... 4. Address.....

5. Appearance of school grounds .....

6. School room:

   (1) Well kept and clean .....
   (2) Floor dirty .....
   (3) Seats properly arranged .....
   (4) Window shades properly adjusted .....
   (5) Room well ventilated .....
   (6) Coats and wraps neatly put away .....
   (7) Books neatly arranged .....

7. Evidence of good health among pupils .....

8. Improvements since school opened .....

9. The Teacher:

   (1) Personal appearance .....
   (2) Alertness .....
   (3) Voice .....
   (4) Interest in pupils .....
   (5) Enthusiasm for work .....
   (6) Member of T.S.T.A. .....
   (7) Prepare questions for 7th grade examination .....
   (8) A member of Interscholastic League .....

10. Pupils:

   (1) Active .....
   (2) Inactivity, or physical inactivity .....
   (3) Conditions causing inactivity .....
   (4) Causes of mischievous activity .....
   (5) All pupils at work .....
   (6) Conduct of pupils .....
   (7) Absentees (attendance) .....

From Howard Walker 10 June 1986

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11. Records and Reports:

(1) Registers well kept .....
(2) Shows all information concerning each pupil .....
(3) Teacher makes report promptly and accurately .....
(4) Book Invoice made .....
(5) Any books needed .....
(6) Any Surplus Books on hand .....

12. Community Activities:

(1) Parent Teachers Association .....
(2) Community Fair .....
(3) Literary society .....
(4) Number of Box Suppers ect.....
(5) Other clubs or organizations .....
(6) Activities in which teacher takes part .....
(7) School programs .....

13. Teaching:

(1) Evidence of preparation by teacher .....
(2) Evidence of preparation by pupils .....
(3) Teacher has definite aim in lesson .....
(4) Explanations:
a. Clear .....b. Diction simple.....
c. Illustrations simple .....
(5) Assignments:
a. Definite .....b. By topic .....
c. By Pages .....
d. Explanation of difficult points .....
e. Evidence of having planned assignments .....

14. Remarks:

.....

.....

.....

.....

County Superintendent.

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minutes P M in Book M record of Deeds &c of Angelina county Texas, on Pages 322 323 and 324

(Seal) Witness my hand and seal of Office on this the 5th day of December A D 1888 J C Everett clerk county court Angelina County Texas

The State of Texas } Know all men by these presents: That I
County of Angelina } George W. Warner of Angelina County and State of Texas for and in consideration of the Sum Dollar One, and other valuable considerations to me in hand paid, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged have bargained, sold, released and conveyed and by these presents do bargain sell release transfer and convey unto John Mosongill John Weeks and V M Courtney School Trustees of school community No 40 at Ryans Chapel of Angelina county and State of Texas and their successors as such Public Free school community in Fee Simple all my right title and interest in or to the following described tract or parcel of land to wit: One acre of Land off of an Eighty acre block of land bought by me from J. S. Copes the same being a part of Juan Prado League of land in said County and the one acre of land hereby conveyed being situated about the centre of said Eighty acres of Land for description of which reference is made to the record of my deed to said 80 acres of Land from said Copes of Record in the county clerks office of said county and being the land to include the present School house now situated there together with all and singular the rights members, hereditaments and improvements to the same belonging or in anywise incident or appertaining, thereto, to have and to hold, all and singular the premises above mentioned unto the said School Trustees and their successors as such. In testimony whereof I hereunto set my hand this the 28th day of November A D 1883

G. W. Warner

The State of Texas }
County of Angelina } Before me J. C. Everett clerk county court Angelina county Texas Personally appeared G W Warner Personally known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing deed or instrument in Writing bearing date on the 28 day of November A D 1883 and acknowledged that he had subscribed and executed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed [illegible]

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Franklin

Nov 1, 1986

RYAN CHAPEL AS A PUBLIC SCHOOL

Tonight we are assembled to get a look at history that occured on this hill in years past. My Father told me thru the years that he attended school at Ryan Chapel. I have always assumed the teachers were paid by funds raised by parents in this region. Only this year was I convinced, we did had a public school here. So many are we indebted to for information furnished. We have heard "The Half has Not Been Told". We do look forward to getting more information on Pupils, Teachers, and events at this school.

Public Schools or State supp rted schools began in Texas in 1853 from the selling of school lands. This fund was used then to support the Civil War effort and was started up again in about 1866. Often the schools were taught by the preachers. The community needed to supply the pupils and a building - which was usually a church or sometime a room in a home.

Mr. Joshua Ashworth born in 1842 told his son, Wesley , the Rev. W. D. Wright who was the first appointed preacher here at the Chapel in the 1860's taught school here as well as Rev. C. B. Smith, also a preacher here.

picture #1 #2

Morris Ryan and Cecil Ryan -- These two men of this area had a Grandfather Riley Ryan who came to this community in 1866 as a young man from Miss. where he had received more schooling than most for that period of time. He was crippled and had been sent off to school. ~~He was the father of Will Ryan, who was a pupil of this school.~~

picture #3 (2-Views)

One of the very early teachers was Monroe Fairchild. He taught school here in the first building which had a dirt floor and puncheon seats. We have a family picture of Mr. Fairchild and his wife when they were advanced in years - sorrounded by family members.

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#4 The John Weeks Family aided the teaching at the Ryan Chapel Public School.

#5 Rayford Weeks awoke one morning at the age of 21 to the fact that all the younger children were learning to read and write; and could not. He went to school one year at the Chapel - went to the County Seat at Homer and passed the exam to receive his teachers certificate. The next year he returned as teacher - teaching several of his younger brothers and sisters. He continued teaching until his death.

W. D. Mickle is the first teacher we found recorded in the Court House records for 1885. He received $40.00 per month and taught 5 months. He had 24 scholastics. The trustees were Coke Keen, R. J. Waltman and G. W. Warner. McMickle married Bettie Henry in 1885. He appears on the church record 1885. Served as Post master at Rhodes from April 1885 until March 1886. He also appears on the Board of Examiners for the County School System for 1885. Then disappears - not to be found again.

J. P. Willis taught Jan 1886 or the winter term.

#6 Robert L. Weeks, had a rather brief career as a teacher, Also, the son of John Weeks and the brother of Rayford Weeks, Bob Weeks then worked for Southern Pine in Diboll and Pineland for many years.

#7 Wiley F. Weeks, Jr. taught many terms here from the mid 1890's until the early 1900'S. Many of us are honored to be able to call him Uncle Wiley. Many not related also called him Uncle Wiley. We know that many of our parents were students of his really were well trained in"Reading Riting and Rithmetic" and hard to turn down in "Spelling2. Later in the program we'll point out a pupil that excelled in music. Could we just say this word about this man? "Uncle Wiley, Eternity will be a happier place when we can hear that lovely voice singing those grand old hymns that only you could sing." In about1902, we find in the county redords where Wiley F. Weeks had had his teaching Cert- for 18 years.

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#8 Will Agee Taught school here during the school year of 1900-1901. The picture that you see on the screen is of W. H. Agee and Jonnie Wood - taken in May 1902. The following day they were married. To those that knew Mr. Agee as a druggist in the Commissary at Diboll, or as an active member of his church in Diboll, or as a loving member of the Agee family, we do know the pupils at Ryan Chapel had a good teacher.

#9 W.A. O'Quinn was another teacher here that is recalled with admiration. He was called Mr. Allenthen and in later years called Professor O'Quinn. I was attending Burke School in the 4th or 5th grade when County Supt. Allen O'Quinn visited the school. He wrote a difficult problem in

#10 math on the black-board and challenged anyone to come forward that could solve the problem. Gordon Simmons did just that and was highly complimented by the County School Supt.

No finer man ever worked at the First State Bank than Allen O'Quinn.

#11 J. R. Ritchie taught here several terms before and after 1898. He taught at many schools in the county including Gilliland Chapel near Zavalla. Here is another teacher that could have given his pupils an extra reward from coming to school. He wrote the obituary in 1893 for a young mother who had attended school here. He did this thru the years as he wrote the obituary for former teacher Wiley Weeks, Jr. in 1936. J. R. Ritchie died 9-18-1943. This shows him writing for papers for more than 40 years.

Both J. R. Ritchie and Wiley Weeks, Jr. Taught school in Angelina Co for 15 or more years before going on to become full time Ministers.

#12 Miss Emma Sproul is reported to have taught here. This picture shown is taken when she was teaching at Bug Tussle. Miss Emma's name if found at many schools and was very active in teacher County Institutes.

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W. A. Dunn, H. G. Stegall and Miss Florence Arrington are reported to have taught here at various times. I am sure many worderful things should be told about these three. As of now, little is known by this committee. Some of the dates they taught, may be found in the Archives Room of the County Court House.

#13 One of the teachers in later years was Miss Mattie McCall Kingsolving Prior to her marriage Miss Mattie taught here in 1903 - 1904 and perhaps other terms.

This lovely lady on the left devoted her entire life to teaching. She taught my father Geo. F. Weeks here at the Chapel. She taught my Sister at Burke, and she was still teaching at the time a third generation was in school. Never was there a more dedicated classroom teacher in Angelina Co.

On the right is her sister Miss Eva McCall Burke that taught school at Fairview and perhaps other places in Angelina County prior to her Marriage. Could we say of these ladies - you and your families have served Angelina County well.

#14 Mr. John Dearburn Bourrious taught here during the school year of 1906 - 1907. Two of our pupils that live in this area were going to this school when Mr. Bourrous taught here. Both, Wesley Ashworth and Rev. Millard Forsythe had kind words for their teacher.

You see this popular teacher getting on his horse with the Chapel in the background. When Wesley Ashworth was told of this - he pointed his finger at me and said, "That horse's name was Dobbin". He said that Mr. Borrous knew, as far as he was concerned, that Dobbin was as good a horse as anyone would ride in the 20th Century.

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#15 This next picture shows Mr. Bourrous, perhaps here at school, in a scene of the brideless wedding - maybe a school play.

Other ajoining communities had erected school buildings and the day for Ryan Chapel had come to the end as a public school. Many pupils came to Ryan Chapel from the Pine Valley community . Mr. Bourrous continued his teaching career at Pine Valley. He also taught at other places including Praire Grove and Fairview.

Slowly show pictures of schools.

#16 Just a bit about the schools.

According to a written record of Mr. Howard Walker, the teacher would have a small - home made table for the teacher's desk. Very likely in the home of Mr. & Mrs. Dock Read is just such a desk used at this school. Also, the chair provided for the teacher was made of oak with a cow-hide bottom.

The pupils furnished their own books. The blue-back speller might have belonged to their parents or grand-parents that was brought from another state. #17

Also of interest to me is an article in "Texas Trails" April 1974 written by Mrs. Julia Burris under the title, "Early Schools in Angelina County.

#18

L. Teachers furnished own chair.

2. The boys cut pine knots for kindling, and split logs for fuel.

3. Boys would be on one side of room and girls on the other.

4. A supply of hickory switches was kept in the corner - later we shall show two slides of men that had these switches used on them.

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#19 Mary Frances Ryan came to this region from Miss. in 1866. Maybe we have no record of any pupil before this girl. She could have gone to school in more than one of the buildings. Mary Frances Ryan married

#20 Frank Ballinger. This couple lived in this community during the early days of their marriage.

21 Floyd Wright and his brother Fred both went to school here. Fred told his children that he carved the initials on the back of a church pew. His and the girl's that he admired at that time F.W. & E.W. Floyd's wife said that Floyd got so busy playing down on the branch he didn't hear the bell. Professor Wiley Weeks used one of those hickory switches on him - for being late back from recess.

22- Joe Wright family

23A Bell Waller's teacher was J. D. Bourrous. On the slide is another pupil Annie Waller Tull. Bell Waller Stanaland's children seemed to be wherever Pro. Bourrous or vica versa - Ryan Chapel, Pine Valley, Prairie Grove and Fairview. The following children were also pupils of Mr. Bourrous at one time or other.

23B ✓ 1. Arnett Stanaland

24 ✓ 2. Eula Stanaland

25 ✓ 3. Ruth Stanaland

26 ✓ 4. Ruth's husband Preston

27 ✓ 5. James Stanaland

Other members of the Wallers that attended school here were:

28 1 — Bery & Addie Johnson ✓

29 ✓ 2 1. Ella Waller Gipson ✓

30 ~~2. Addie Waller~~ XX

~~3~~ 30 3. ~~William Waller~~ William Waller ✓

31 4. Robert Waller ✓

32 5. David Waller ✓

~~20 through 38 missing~~ found!!!

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John and Rebecca Sauyres Ryan family

33 John and Aunt Becky may have attended school here - Frank, Ira, Theory, John, and Neva did.

34 Felix Weeks family really lived very close to the school. All attended

35 school here. Jim, John, Wiley, Jack, and Charley, Jane, Josie, Dora, and Lydia Weeks and Elizabeth Dalley. (Elizabeth is the great-great grandmother of Nolan Ryan.

36 Jack Weeks

37 In 1897, we have a school picture taken here with Wiley Weeks as the teacher. Some trustees can be spotted with their entire family.

38 Walter Waltman Many of us remember a pupil by the name of Walter Waltman. We see vim, vigor and vitality written all over his face. It was said that Walter would get on the campus and heckle a certain man that was all dressed up as he passed by:

A ten cent chain
a two-bit watch
I'll give you two guesses
Tom Williams is his name!!!!

Walter mastered all the skills and more that was taught at the school. Professor Ritchie must have instilled the desire to compose letters to the editors. When commercial fertilizer was first introduced in these parts, Walter wrote to a large farm magazine and called it "Doodle Bug Dust."

39 Professor Wiley Weeks perhaps instilled the desire to sing. The next Picture shows Walter as he attended the Stamps Quartet School of Music in Waco for two Summer Normals.

40 Tom Stovall was a pupil here in the early years. Two or more of his daughters taught school in the County.

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41 George Washington Warner am early trustee, and wife Jane Perkins had children in school here.

42 Nancey Warner Stovall and Mary Frances Warner Weeks attended perhaps in the 1870's

The children of James Monroe Weeks family.

43 George F. Weeks

44 Mamie Weeks Brannen in one of the old buildings

45 Callie, Mamie Weeks with Neva Weeks

Sallie Weeks

46 Sadie Ryan Read perhaps was not thinking about the 3 R's a short year or two before starting to school.

47 Oh yes! Ben Knight, son of Tom Knight had one of those hickary switches or two used on him by Mr. Dearburn Bourrous. This paddling according to Wesley Ashworth. Wesley nearly brings the wall down with laughter when he tells the story.

The J. B. William's family attended school here until it ceased to exist. Mr. J. B. Williams was perhaps a trustee here and he certainly was at both Crager and Pine Valley. We have

48 Willie Williams with Wesley Ashworth

49 Ed and Viola Sanders Williams

50 Ausbon Williams

51 Ausbon Williams and Robert Crager

52 Cinthia Ashworth and Zula Williams Crager

53 Walter Crager and Zula Williams - that man that got around Walter Waltman and Evie Crager

54 Vernon and Emma Sanders

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55 The Williams children Ollie, Ausbon, Emma, Ed, Zula & Ida Williams Wilkins

56 Lillie Williams, Irma Lee Weisinger & Ollie Williams

57 Lillie Williams

58 Emma Williams = Mrs. Agee

59 Ed Williams

60 Evie Crager Williams

61 Walter Waltman - that man again

press up to the front of the class recite her lesson and press back to her seat and that she was a beautiful girl - and indeed she was!

The Crager Family:

62 Cruso Crager loved to talk about Ryan Chapel School during his lifetine. (My father Geo. Weeks often told about his experiences of going to the Burke school for 1 whole day. Graded & ungraded.

63 Cruso also told of coming to Ryan Chapel for only 1 day. The day his younger brother Arnel was born January 9, 1907. His mother sent him to school with his older brother Walter.

The Wiley Crager Family must have been involved in the School prior to it's closing in 1907. Pictured on the screen is

64 Wiley Crager and his wife Mattie Stanland Crager. It is possible to stand at Pine Valley Church and draw an imaginary line to the old Pine Valley School. Then go to the home of Earl Smith and draw a line that hits the first line. At this point, was the Wiley Crager home in 1908. We had Crager School District # 35 in 1908 with Trustees J. B. Williams, Frank Ryan, and P. F. Sullivan with no Pine Valley School that year. In 1909, We had no Crager School, but we had Pine Valley School, with trustees J. B. Williams, Frank Ryan and W. A. Forsythe. #35

As you go home tonight you figure out where many of our pupils went to school after this school no longer was a school. Call me, I want to know too.

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What good would reading, Writing and Rithmetic and spelling be to without boys looking across the room to see girls that they would later court and marry.

65 Tom Stovall and Nancy Warner walked to the home of Rev Frances Crager to be married.

66 James M. Weeks and Mary Frances Warner

67 Ira Ryan and Emma Weisinger

68 Charles Emory Weeks and Neva Ryan

69 and Neva Ryan

70 Frank Ryan and Lou Buffalo

71 William Charles Ryan and Sally Weeks

72 Sally Weeks

73 Some former pupils that we have found in this area that have vim, vigor, and vitality:

We often call for information from Mrs. Tellie Arrington Rush. She tells the story that the Arrington children were attending Burke school and a difference of opinion between her father and teacher H. G. Stegall, came up. He sent all the children walking to Ryan Chapel. We have pupils, Berry, Floyd, and Artie Arrington. Geneva Saxton, cora Keen, Tellie Rush and Addie Hutson.

Then we have Rev. Millard Forsythe that went to school here to

74 J. D. Bourrous. Without a doubt his mother Alice Darienda Landrum Forsythe went to school here as a young girl - that is not Bro Millard standing with his mother.

75 Also on screen is W. A. Forsythe that sent his children here and later served a a trustee the first year we had a Pine Valley School.

Then we have a picture of

76 Mrs. Forsythe and her children Willard, Rachel Fanny, Theda, (back row) Janey, Hester, and Millard Forsythe.

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And there was

Wesley Ashworth!!! Oven a period of months Wesley has told me many of his happy memories about coming to school here. Wesley has been in the nursing Home in Diboll for some time with his body so affected with arthritis he is continualy in pain, but when school is mentioned a happy smile radiates total relief and joy.

Wesley would tell about all the Williams, the Cragers, the Warners, the Ryans that would nearly fill the third church building. He said that on Friday afternoon after recess, the pupils would sweep the church and clean the campus for services on Sunday. The school had the Ashworths from near the beginning up to the very last year.

78. Mr. Howard Walker a long time County School Supt ahd good friend has had a lead role in making this and other materials available in the Archives Room on the third floor of the Angelina Co. Court House. So very, very much comes from the written records. The amount of scholastic money per pupil from the state was $5.50. Today the state's apportionment per pupil is about $1600.00.

Every one has been so co-operative in furnishing pictures and information about the school . Much of it is stories told and retold by parents and grandparents.

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A CENTURY IN EAST TEXAS: 1906-1097

Individual schools dot Angelina County

Editor's note: This is one in a year-long series of stories looking back on a century in East Texas.

By ZACH MAXWELL
Staff writer

Between 1902 and 1911, Angelina County was dotted with more than 100 individual schools.

Schools with names like Gin Creek, Tram Grove, Salem and Liberty. And already with names like Lufkin, Central, Diboll and Huntington.

Seven decades after one of them closed, historian Franklin Weeks told the story of Ryan Chapel Public School to the Angelina County Historical Forum. The school was long closed before Weeks was born, but his father and three aunts attended classes in the one-room schoolhouse northwest of Diboll.

"They called those type of early schools ungraded schools," he said. "My father went to a graded school in Burke, and after a day he didn't like it and went back to Ryan Chapel."

Weeks assembled dozens of photographs, papers and letters on the subject of Ryan Chapel and other small schools in the county for a 1986 presentation. Weeks was fortunate to have two of the school's last surviving pupils — Wesley Ashworth and Rev. Millard Forsythe — at the time of his 1986 presentation.

"I told the story in pictures," he said. One is of a relative, Wiley F. Weeks Jr., who taught at the school and is remembered by Weeks as "one of the best singers I ever heard."

Another family member, Rayford Weeks, was illiterate at age 21. As the family legend goes, he went to Ryan Chapel School for one year, passed a test to obtain a teaching certificate in Homer, and taught classes at Ryan Chapel for the rest of his life.

But a season of change was upon Ryan Chapel.

"Other adjoining communities had erected school buildings and the day for Ryan Chapel as a public school had come to an end," Weeks wrote in his presentation. The year was 1907.

In April of that year, Ryan Chapel teacher and Lufkin banker Allen O'Quinn trekked to Pollock, La., and Weeks showed a copy of a letter O'Quinn wrote to "My Dear Stella," his wife. He was writing on the discrepancies of spending on education between Louisiana and Texas.

"They have over $700 for that little old place (the school)," he wrote. "They have more school money here in a month than in six months in Texas."



Photo courtesy Franklin Weeks

JOHN D. BOURROUS taught at Ryan Chapel Public School during its last years, 1906-07. The school can be seen behind Bourrous in this photo. When Ryan Chapel ceased instruction, Bourrous moved on to nearby Pine Valley School.

Some things never change.

School affairs in these parts were handled by the county judge until 1907, when a county superintendent office was created. G.W. Largent was first superintendent of the 100-plus schools. That office was abolished in 1972.

Weeks keeps a page with the names of the 100 schools of the time period. Cross Roads, Persimmon Grove, Poskey and Renfro schools, as well as the 10 "colored" campuses, are gone now.

"Every school on that page has a story to tell," Weeks said.

Of Ryan Chapel, his wife added: "We got this one's in the nick of time."

The Alumni Association

Stephen F. Austin State University

has conferred on

G. Franklin Weeks

Class of 37

the Honorary

Golden Anniversary Diploma

In Witness Thereof: this diploma duly signed has been issued by The Alumni Association SFASU. Issued this 16th day of May, A.D. 1987.

William R. Johnson

President

S.F.A.S.U.

Mike McWhite

President

The Alumni Association

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