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## **MS 76 Box 21 Notebook 13 - History of education in Cabell County**

Fred Bussey Lambert

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MS 76  
BX 21  
NBK 13

History of Education  
in  
Cabell County.

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MS 76  
BX 21  
NBK 13



length of the term of office. One recommendation was made for a term of six years but it was never realized.

#### Office for County Superintendent.

Benjamin S. Morgan, 66 recommended in 1888 that "The county Superintendent should be furnished with an office by the county and live at the County seat". Virgil A. Lewis, 67 likewise asked for a county office for the Superintendent in 1896.

Not until 1933 did the Legislature enact a law which required the County Board to provide a suitable office for the County Superintendent at the County seat.<sup>68</sup>

#### Summary and Conclusions.

The data in Tabular Summary X show that a total of thirty-six recommendations concerning the county superintendents were made by the State Superintendents from 1863 to 1941. Of these, thirty-three became law with but few modifications, and three failed to be enacted. The average length of time from the recommendation until enactment was 12.1 years.

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66. Biennial Report, State Superintendent, 1887-1888, p.10

67. Biennial Report, State Superintendent, 1895-1896 p.12

68. Acts of West Virginia, 1933, Ex.Sess. Chap.8  
Art. 4, Sec.7.

See Law File 85

Case of P. Keenan  
vs

Samuel Hinch

For a School Contract, dated 1815. Very  
Interesting

Copy Contract back of same,  
with all names.

3

## Schools Truant Officers.

There were no truant officers in the early schools. If a pupil decided to go fishing he went, and the teacher could go too, if he wished.

Teachers' salaries were ridiculously low, hence, teaching positions were merely stepping stones, to other professions, as law, medicine, or preaching.

After the preacher, on Sunday, read the prayer meeting, on Wednesday night, and taught the neighborhood school during the week.

1.  
School Commissioners Book of Records  
of Cabell County. 1819-1860.

According to the minutes of the meetings,  
the Board of Commissioners met, usually, once  
each year, at the Cabell Co. Court House.

(p. 1) Present - Nov. 23, 1819.

Commissioners - Patrick Keenan, Wm.  
Buffington, John B. Hereford, John Laidley,  
John Samuels, appointed by County Court of  
Cabell at October meeting 1819.

John Laidley appointed Treasurer, and  
John Samuels appointed clerk.

Ordered that each and every one of the  
School Commissioners be authorized to draw  
by order upon the Treasurer for any expen-  
ditures incurred for the books and tuition  
fees for the education of poor children.

(p. 3) Tuesday, Nov. 28, 1820 - Treasurer allowed  
\$10.00 annually, for trouble and expenses last  
year. Clerk allowed \$5.00 annually last year  
for services. Other Commissioners allowed  
\$2.00 each, for trouble and expenses last year.

(p. 4) Mon. Nov. 26, 1821. William Morris replaced  
John Hereford as Commissioner.

Disbursements of 1820 as reported by Treasurer,  
J. Laidley were \$658.73 $\frac{1}{4}$ . Treasurer allowed  
\$15.00, and Clerk Samuels \$5.00. Buffington \$5.00,  
Hereford \$2.50 and Keenan \$2.00.

Nov. 24, 1823. Commissioners present.  
 William Buffington, Patrick Keenan, Solomon  
 ( ) Thornburg, John Samuels,  
 S. Thornburg appointed Treasurer — P8 —  
 J. Samuels appointed Secretary.  
 Treasury disbursements reported for last year  
 \$86.05½.

(p.10) Jan. 8, 1824. Commissioners were allowed to  
 subscribe the following amounts in their  
 assigned districts: Buffington \$30.00; Thornburg  
 \$24.00; Keenan \$24.00; Hannan \$24.00. (Including Stationary)

(p.11) Nov. 28, 1825. Commissioners John Samuels,  
 Solomon Thornburg, Patrick Keenan & John Hannan.

(p.13) Nov. 27, 1826. Commissioners present Buffington,  
 Keenan, Thornburg and Samuels.

Ordered That there be allowed at the rate  
 of \$10.00 per annum for the tuition of poor  
 children for the Barbourville District, and  
 also in the other districts of this county like sum,  
 provided teachers will not undertake for less.

(p.14) March 27, 1827. Commissioners present —  
 Solomon Thornburg, John Samuels. p. 14, p. 15, p. 16 —  
 6 districts were laid out in the County, but  
 not named. — p. 16 — Ordered That each one  
 of the commissioners of the school be restricted  
 in laying out more than \$100.00 in one year  
 commencing from this time. Commissioners  
 were assigned to following districts: 1 John  
 Hannan; 2, S. Thornburg; 3, Wm. Buffington; 4,  
 Peter Fulkerson; 5, Wm. Morris; 6, Patrick Keenan.



P. 17. <sup>T.</sup> Oct. 22, 1827. Commissioners present -  
Buffington, Thornburg, John Samuels.

(p. 8) Mon. March 24, 1828. Commissioners present  
J. Hannan, W. Buffington, P. Fulkerson, Andrew  
Barrett, S. Thornburg, J. Samuels.

Peter Fulkerson was allowed to spend \$111.50 in  
Dist. 4. John Hannan allowed to spend \$128.62½ for  
Dist. 1. Wm. Morris \$42.82 for District 5.  
S. Thornburg, \$40.96 for Dist. 2. Andrew Barrett,  
\$43.50 for Dist. 6. W. Buffington \$61.69 for Dist. 3.

(p. 19) Oct. 27, 1828. Commissioners present - J. Hannan,  
Wm. Cleario, Peter Fulkerson, S. Thornburg, J. Samuels.

(p. 21) May 19, 1829. Wm. Buffington appointed president.

(p. 23) Oct. 26, 1829. Ordered That The Treasurer of the  
School Commissioners of The County do buy for  
the use of The poor children \$8.00's worth of  
stationary and to distribute same equally  
among The Commissioners.

(p. 26) Comm. present. A. Barrett, Benj. Drown,  
S. Thornburg, J. Samuels.

(p. 28) Commissioners were allowed following amounts  
for education of poor children in given Dist.  
Buffington \$33.00; Samuels \$73.00; Hannan \$14.00  
Barrett \$36.00.

April 30, 1834.

Ordered That the Treasurer of the School Commissioners of this County purchase \$15<sup>00</sup> worth of books, paper etc. and distribute the same equally among the six Commissioners.

(p.33) Oct. 24, 1835. Comm. present Buffington, Samuels, Thornburg and William Love.

(p.34) Aug. 28, 1837. Comm. present - Samuels, Brown, Thornburg, and Joseph Fulkerson.

p. 35) Oct. 23, 1837. Wm. Love appointed Pres. of Comm.

(p.36) June 25, 1838. Unanimously ordered that the surplus revenue of the Literary fund for the County of Cabell for the year 1838, and which by the Act passed March 22, 1836 was added to the fund granted to the primary schools be applied to Marshall Academy in said County of Cabell and that the ----- of the literary fund pay the same over to the order of the Treasurer of Marshall Academy in said County.

(p.38) Oct. 22, 1838. Ordered That each one of the school Commissioners confine themselves to the amount of \$50<sup>00</sup> in their expending up to March next.

(p. 42)

Nov. 22, 1841. It was ordered by the board that the sum of \$67.20 (sixty seven dollars and twenty cents) be hereafter withdrawn from the amount of the surplus portion of the literary fund now appropriated to the Marshall Academy and that the clerk of this board transmit a certified copy of this order to the Superintendent of the literary fund. School Commissioners present were Buffington, Barrett, Samuels, Thornburg, Hiram Chadwick, & James Russell.

(p. 43) Oct. 24, 1842. Comm. present - Love, Samuels, Thornburg, and James McComas. James McComas was appointed president of the board.

County laid off into 5 Districts. (described p. 43, 44, and 45.)

(p. 48) Oct. 27, 1845. Andrew Barrett appointed president.

(p. 49) March 26, 1846. John Hannan appointed president.

(p. 52) Nov. 25, 1846. First Supt. appointed to the board. Thomas Thornburg (Provided by Act amending primary School System passed (Mch. 5, 1840)

(p. 55) Nov. 23, 1847. John Samuels appointed president.

(p. 59.) Commissioners present - Laidley, Harvey Barrett, Thos. Thornburg, Thomas Brandon, Harvey Barrett appointed president.



Here are some of our ancestors who fought for  
our freedom in the Revolutionary War: - Thos. Chandler,  
Robert Rutherford, Wm. Steele, Edward Burgess, Thos. McGee,  
James Anderson, Daniel Davis, Thos. Laidley, John McComas,  
Henry Peyton, Isaac Roberts, Thos. Roberts, John Everett,  
Asher Crockett, James Gillenwaters, William Meade,  
John Adkins, Peter Sullivan and Thomas Chandler.

Tanawha Co, from which Cabell was taken, was organized in 1782. Cabell County, our own local territory, was named in honor of Wm. Cabell, a governor of Virginia was taken from the large county of Tanawha in 1809. In 1809 our Grandfather was born in Germany.

Men were selected to find a location for a county seat. They chose a piece of land owned by Thos. Buffington where Guyandotte now stands. This new county was bounded on the north by the Ohio river, and Cabell was a large territory then compared with now, for from it has been taken Wayne, Lincoln, Putnam, Logan and Boone. The earliest settlements were made on the Savage grant of land which took in 28,627 acres, and was made in 1796 at Green Bottom. Then a settlement was made about where Guyandotte is now by Thomas Buffington.

Another early settler was Elisha McComas, a well known man, about 1800; Edmund McGinnis, 1802; Jacob Hite 1808; James Beckett 1810; Wm. Buffington; Thomas Ward who later became the 1st Sheriff.

Barbourville, was declared a town in 1813 by a legislative act. It was laid out on land owned by Wm. Merritt. The town became the county seat until moved to Huntington. The trustees were Edmund Morris, Elisha McComas, Edmund McGinnis, Sampson Saunders, Thomas Hatfield and Manook Dostie.

Huntington was incorporated in 1871. It was named in honor of Collis T. Huntington its founder in 1870. It is now one of the largest cities of our little "Mountain State". Marshall College, one of our great colleges, is located in Huntington. Marshall Academy was incorporated in 1838.

Milton is an important town in Cabell Co. When white settlers came to this County, they found many kinds of wild animals that were used for food. Buffalo, elk, bear, deer, wolf and panther. Wild birds - The pheasant, wild pigeon, wild turkey. Many smaller wild animals helped feed the pioneer. Raccoon, opossum, rabbit, squirrels. The fox hides helped in clothing. The rivers were full of fish, so the pioneer had plenty meat.

Other necessary tools were brought over the mountains on the pack-horses, if possible, such as a mattock for grubbing; the frow, for splitting boards, when time permitted, otherwise split logs were used as roofing.

Cracks being chinked with chips and dried grass, then daubed with mud. The auger was brought along when possible, for boring holes for wooden pins because nails couldn't be got. Seeds had to be carried over the mountains and these were carefully kept.

10  
Spelling was a favorite accomplishment of the pupils, and there was no higher honor than to get the greatest number of head-marks, or to stand up longest in a spelling match.

There was no supervision of the schools, the teacher being supreme boss. An early teacher was Mr. William Algeo, but by no means the earliest in this section.



## Education.

13

We have read that the children west of the Alleghenies had no permanent schools, unless the parents of a community banded together, and employed the services of such teachers as were available. These school terms were short, instruction very poor, and the conditions very unsatisfactory all around.

My own father said that he got to attend school nine days. However, my mother had the good fortune to have an Uncle who came direct from England, and settled in the community where she was raised, he having married her father's sister, and he had a fair English education, therefore she and her sisters and brothers were fortunate in getting much from this Uncle. One of her brothers acquiring enough of an education to pass an examination and got a teacher's certificate, and taught a few years.

So my mother taught my father enough in reading, writing and arithmetic that he could hold his own in ordinary life as a farmer. He enjoyed reading very much, and believed in education, and was ready to make any sacrifice he could, that his own children should receive an education.

In later years, subscription schools were taught in a community by some "educated man" coming in from a distance, and getting subscribers for about a six weeks term, at about a dollar and a half a term per pupil.

I can remember the grater used to make meal when the men folk were too busy in the harvest field to go to mill. This grater was a piece of tin pierced full of holes and the tin nailed to a board substantial enough to keep the tin solid & steady.

The corn was grated on it before it was dry enough to be shelled from the cob. It was only in very busy times that the grater was resorted to, but good corn bread was made from this meal.

The nearest grinding mill was at Dusenberry, <sup>where Martha now is on the Guyandotte River</sup> Dam. Another one was the Howell Mill on Mud River. These were patronized by the farmers of many miles.

There were very few slaves in this county. Not many of the farmers were financially able to own slaves. The Dusenberrys, Morrisises, Loves, Witches, Moores, were some owners of slaves.

Indians were gone before the whites came to this part of Virginia. Therefore the early white settlers were not molested by Indians.

In the early days a person could afford only one pair of shoes a year. I have seen grown young people on their way to Church carrying their shoes. They would stop a short distance from the Church and put their shoes on. This seems an exaggerated statement, but I saw such in Lincoln County when I was young.

There were shoe-makers or cobblers who could make better looking shoes than the pioneer himself could make, so he was called on to make Sunday shoes. The women and girls knit the socks and stockings from the wool they spun into yarn, or the linen thread from the flax they raised. Of course these socks and stockings lasted a long time and stood much hard wear. Two pairs would last a child until it outgrew them. Then they were handed down. New feet could be knit to the legs of these for several years. Through necessity people took care of such things. The women wove their shawls, and kerchiefs for their shoulders and heads, and an old woman was seldom seen without them.

Corn shucking, log rolling, rail splitting, board splitting etc. brought the few people of a community together. The families taking time about having these. In this way they helped each other with the work, and kept alive the social spirit. Sometimes a house-raising or a barn raising brought them together.

The women had quiltings in later years, that were welcome get-togethers. Old familiar songs were sung such as "Lord Lovel" and these brought back fond memories of by-gone days that either brought smiles or tears to the face.

16  
My mother had both large and small spinning wheels and the loom. She used all these in making cloth - carpets, blankets etc when I was a child. Chairs were home-made and were called split-bottom chairs.

Most families had geese as well as sheep. The feathers from the geese were stuffed into home-spun linen ticks, and these placed on a straw tick, that was filled with either oat or wheat straw, made a wonderful bed on a cold winter night. Sometimes the feather bed was used as a cover. Where sheep were kept, there were good woolen blankets, ~~and~~, maybe to sleep on.

There was a deer-lick in a hollow near where my father lived, and men would go close to it, hide and watch for deer to come to lick the salt that oozed out from underground and would then shoot the deer for their meat.

Honey was secured by cutting bee-trees.

Many wild fruits could be gathered in their seasons. Berries of different kinds, wild plums, grapes, crab apples, and nuts of different kinds. Streams were full of fish, so the pioneer's table could be well supplied if he could take time and had energy enough to gather in supplies.

The sun being just as hot then as now, grain and fruits could be dried and saved for winter use. Hominy could be had at all times if the pioneer raised the corn, for the ashes to make the lye, by pouring water over the ashes catching it in something, then boiling the corn in the lye until the husk would slip off, washing the ... then to make the lye made a fine dish.



The first houses in this community were built of unhewn logs, with cracks between logs, filled with mud, or short slabs or chips pounded in, and then the daubing of mud to finish the filling of all cracks. Generally there was but one room with a "lean to" as kitchen, or utility room. Not many had a stove (step-stove was the first kind) in those early days, so cooking was done at the open fire-place. Good bread could be baked in the big iron skillet that had an iron lid.

Some hot coals were pulled out from among the logs, or from under the "fore stick," the skillet set on it. The dough for the bread put in, the heavy iron lid put in place on the skillet, hot coals shoveled onto the lid, and soon delicious bread was ready for the table. Corn-bread, biscuits and light bread were baked. Potatoes - both irish and sweet were roasted.

All fire-places were immense, and back-logs that would last a week, could be rolled into place.

The doors to these cabins were generally so low that grown folks would have to stoop to get in.

The ceilings of split logs were low too, and where more than the one room was required for sleeping purposes, the loft was used. This was reached by either a ladder or pegs driven in the wall to climb up by. If a "posted" bed could be afforded there was a "trundle bed" that was shoved under the posted bed when not in use, and indeed was extremely convenient for the children. I've slept in the "trundle bed," home-made at that.

At a meeting of the Board of School Commissioners at  
the Court House of Cabell County on 26th Oct. 1847

Present:

John Morris

John Laidley,

John Samuels,

Thomas Thornburg,

James McComas.

Ordered that John Morris be appointed Presd't pro tem.

Thomas Thornburg, the County Superintendent this day presented the Board and account of his expenditures, as such, which, upon examination by the Board, was found to be correct, leaving a balance in his hands, unexpended of one hundred and ninety-nine dollars & 6 cents, which is ordered to be certified to the Clerk of the County Court of Cabell.

(Signed) John Morris P.T.

At a meeting of the Board of School Commissioners for Cabell County, held at the Court House on Monday the 3rd day of November, 1857.

Present:

President

John Laidley,	(	
H.J.Samuels,	(	
Thos. Thornburg,	(	Commissioners.
John S. Wilkinson,	(	
Wm.Hinchman,	(	

A majority being present, the whole number being seven, proceeded to elect a County Superintendant for the year 1858. The final vote of such election resulted as follows. For Thomas Thornburg

John S. Wilkinson,

Henry J. Samuels,

John Laidley

Wm.Hinchman

and it appearing that Thos.Thornburg was duly elected, entered into bond, together with John Laidley and H.J.Samuels as sureties, conditioned as the law directs.

Ordered that the Board now adjourn.

Wm.Hinchman, P.

20

At the annual meeting of the Board of School Commissioners of Cabell County, held at the Court House of said county on the 4th day of October, 1858.

Present:

H.J.Samuels,

President.

John Laidley,

(

John S. Wilkinson,

(

Commissioners.)

Thos. Thornburg,

(

John Morris

(

Ordered that H.J.Samuels appointed President Thomas Thornburg, County Superintendent of Schools for the County, this day presented to the Board his ~~present~~ usual account of receipts and disbursements showing a balance in his hands of \$526.31¢ disbursements which, being seen and inspected by the Board, was found to be correctly stated and supported by proper and legal vouchers which was ordered to be certified to the Clerk of the County Court.

The report of the Commissioners and Superintendent were each read and adopted and ordered to be accepted to the President of the Literary Fund.

Ordered that the Board now adjourn to the 1st day of November County Court.

(Signed) H.V.Samuels, Pres't.

21

At a meeting of the Board of School Commissioners of Cabell County at the Court House of Cabell County on Wednesday 7th November 1860.

Present:

H. J. Samuels,	President,
John S. Wilkinson,	(
Thos. J. McComas,	(
Thomas Thornburg,	( Commissioners.
D.D. Smith,	(
E.C. Rece	

who compose a majority of the Board, the whole being seven  
Ordered that we now proceed to the election of a County Superintendent of schools for said County for the year 1861, the final vote of such election resulted as follows:

Thomas Thornburg

D. D. Smith,  
E.C. Rece,  
John S. Wilkinson,  
Thos. J. McComas,  
H.J. Samuels.

And it appearing that Thomas Thornburg is elected, entered into bond, together with H.J. Samuels his sureties, conditioned as the law directs.

Ordered that the Board now adjourn.

(Signed) H.J. Samuels, Pres't.

At the annual meeting of the Board of School Commissioners of Cabell County, held at the Court House of said County on Monday the 3d day of October, 1859.

Present:

Henry J. Samuels,

President

John S. Wilkinson, (

John Morris, ( Commissioners.

Thomas Thornburg (

Thomas Thornburg, County Superintendent of Schools of Cabell County, this day presented to the Board his a/c of receipts and disbursements, showing a balance in his hands of \$616.85½ cents which, being seen and inspected by the Board, was found to be correctly stated, and supported by legal and proper vouchers which is ordered to be certified to the Clerk County Court.

The report of the Commissioners and Superintendent have been each read and adopted, and ordered to be certified to the Clerk County Court.

(Signed) H.J. Samuels, Pres't.



25

At a meeting of the Board of School Commissioners of Cabell County held at the Court House thereof, on the 24th March, 1847.

Present:

John Hannan,

President.

John Samuels,

John Laidley,

Thomas Thornburg.

Thomas Thornburg, who was appointed Superintendent of this Board, entered into bond, together with John Laidley and W.C. Miller, his securities, conditioned as the law directs.

Ordered that the Marshal Academy continues to receive the amount heretofore allowed them, as it was not their intention to deprive that Institution of the same.

Ordered that John Hannan be appointed President of this Board.

Know All Men by these Presents: That we, Thomas Thornburg, William C. Miller, & John Laidley are held and firmly bound unto the President and Directors of the Literary Fund and their successors in office in the just and full sum of two thousand dollars, to which payment well and truly to be made to the said President and Directors of the Literary Fund their successors in office we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors and administrators jointly and severally firmly by these presents, sealed with our seals and dated this 24th day of March, 1847.

The condition of the above obligation is such that

0

Whereas, the above bound Thomas Thornburg was, on the 25th day of November, 1846 by the School Commissioners in and for the County of Cabell appointee Superintendent of Schools for said County under an Act amending the present primary school system passed March 5th, 1846 now of the said Thomas Thornburg shall faithfully apply and account for all moneys which may come to his hands by virtue of his office; and shall do, perform and execute all and every act and thing appertaining to his office, according to law during his continuance therein, then the above obligation to be void, or else to remain in full force and virtue.

Thos. Thornburg (Seal)

W.C. Miller (Seal)

John Laidley (Seal).

This bond was approved and accepted and ordered to be transmitted to the President and Directors of the Literary Fund. And it was ordered further, that a copy thereof and this certificate be entered on the Minutes of the Board of Commissioners.

(Signed) John Hannan, Pres.



25  
At a meeting of the Board of School Commissioners of  
Cabell County, held at the Court House of said County on the 1st  
day of November 1858.

Present:

H.J.Samuels,

President.

John S. Wilkinson (

Thos.Thornburg, (

John Morris, (

Commissioners,

D. D. Smith (

A majority being present, the whole number being seven,  
proceeded to elect a County Superintendant of schools for the  
year 1859. The final vote of such election resulted as follows,  
viz:

For Thomas Thornburg

H.J.Samuels,

D.D.Smith,

Wm.Morris,

John S. Wilkinson ,

and it appearing that Thomas Thornburg is duly elected, entered  
into bond together with H.J.Samuels his securities,  
conditioned as the law directs.

Ordered that this Board be adjourned sine die.

(Signed) H.J.Samuels, Pres't.

History of the First School House  
in  
Cabell County.

E

This house was built some time in the forties, after 1844, and before 1848, by John Bryan, William Bryan, and Nimrod Bryan, and Lawrence Bryan.

It was built by them for a school house, and also for Sunday School, and Church services. I am speaking now, of course, from history and tradition of matters occurring before 1869. The house is now dismantled.

I have no way, at present, to give names of the teachers who taught the first several schools but a Mr. James Hamman, uncle to the Hamman Brothers, business men of Huntington, I am told, taught the last school, shortly before the war between the States. Mr. William Bryan, son of the above William Bryan was teaching there, in 1861, or 1862, and was captured by the "Home Guards", and taken to Camp Chase, Ohio. He procured his freedom, however, and returned and taught the school out.

These were stirring times, and E  
men, for miles around, would  
meet, at night, in this house,  
to debate, in friendly way, the  
subjects uppermost, in the minds  
of them all, the division of the  
Methodist Church, in 1844, and  
war clouds hanging ominously,  
in 1858, to 1860. During the  
war, this school and church  
ceased, in a large measure,  
to function.

When this house was no  
longer used as a school house,  
a very substantial building, in  
the yard of Nimrod Bryan, the  
loom house, was re-modelled,  
and turned into a comfortable  
School building, where school  
was held continuously, till  
the public school law became  
operative, and a new school  
was built, in 1868, or 1869,  
on the Nimrod Bryan place,  
which is still standing, though  
used for a tenant house. These  
houses were all built upon the  
farm of Nimrod Bryan, now owned  
by ~~Nimrod~~ J. J. Bryan, of Huntington

## Land Grants

Lincoln County.

Samuel Smith took up the first grants in Lincoln County. It starts at mouth of Big Creek on Guyan River, crosses Big Ugly, just above Broad Branch. See record at Court House. It included much of Lincoln County. Takes in part of Putnam part of Cabell and about half of Wayne.

Peter Smith had a grant running on both sides of Mud River in a long string taking in the bottoms. It was 4 or 5 miles long. It starts in Jefferson District and follows Mud River down to the mouth of Upper Big Creek. The date was 1813. This is oldest grant in Union Dist.

### Other grants.

David Adkins - 1850 - 1000 A. on very head of Big Creek in extreme S.W. of Union District.

Goldsbury Adkins 1849 - 104 A. 1849 Just down creek from above.

Robert Hager - 1858 - 783 A. - Both sides just below.

Hiram Adkins - 1856 - 325 A. - Head Secon Fork and mostly to left (going down)

" " - 1857 - 315 A. - Includes all head of first fork.

J.C. Black - 1858 - 65 A. - N.W. of David Adkins' 1000 A.  
Holley and Black - 3350 A, 1855. Just over the line in Laurel Hill District.

William E. Feasel 1856 - 150 A. Adjoining Hiram Adkins' N.W.  
~~Lusher and McComas 1850 - 250 A. Head of Feg Creek,~~  
~~NE of Lusher and McComas 1000 A.~~

Lusher and McComas - 1850 - 250 A. Adjoining William E. Feasel - N.W.

Lusher and McComas - 1850 - 150 A. N.W. of above tract

Joseph Adkins - 1849 - 50 A. - Head of Feg Creek N.E. of Lusher & McComas 250 A. tract

Joseph C. Black and J.A. Holley, 1855 - 3350 A. N. of Lusher & McComas and Joseph Adkins.

William Porter - 1833 - 180 A. N. of James C. Black and J.A. Holley 3350 A tract.

Notes from "The Educational  
Development of Tyler County. by  
Donald K. Cobb, of Marshall College.  
July, 1952.

The University of Henrico established  
in 1619, near Richmond was the  
earliest school in Virginia, destroyed  
by Indians in a Raid, March 22, 1622.  
See Callahan - Hist of W. Va. 1923 -  
Vol. 1 p. 278. See this.

See B. S. Morgan and J. F. Cork,  
Hist. of Ed. in W. Va. 1883 p. 1, 4  
& 5.

See Wm Berkeley said - See  
Lewis, Hist of Ed. etc. p. 204

Morgan & Cork p. 2 also p. 5  
" " p. 10

Callahan p. 270

Myers p. 49, Vol. 2

Also p. 42

Miller & Cork p. 15 - on Aldermanic

Acts 35th Session, 1811 p. 8.  
Law of 1829.

Acts of 1829 p. 13

Miller & Maxwell p. 560.



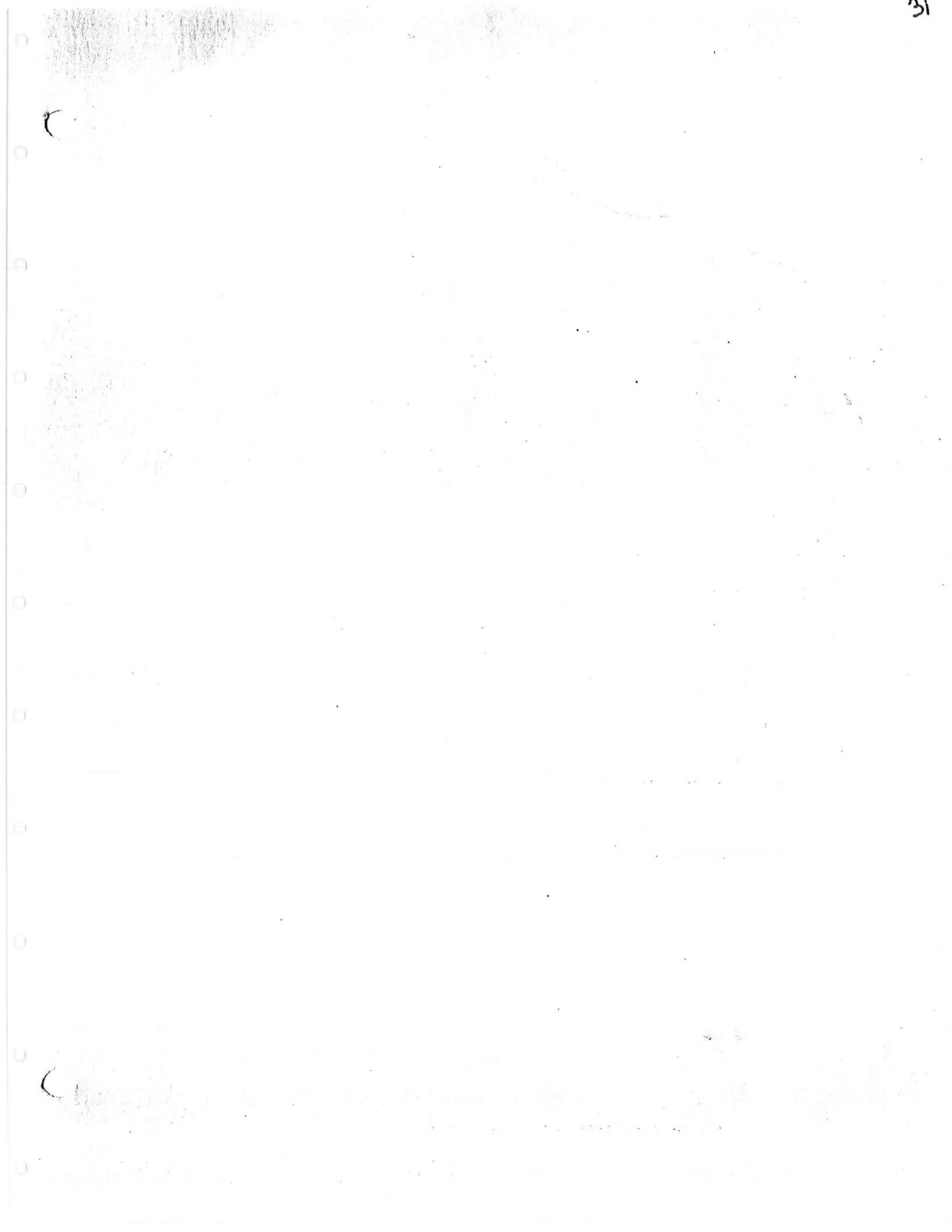
"People east of the mountains favored public aid to colleges and preparatory schools; people west of the mountains wanted a free school system open to all without distinction." They were not strong enough to dominate the Legislature, hence had no control of their school system until they became a new State, in 1863. (Miller & Maxwell)

See Miller & Maxwell p. 568

The Constitutional Convention of 1861, President John Hall of Mason Co., Nov. 27, 1861, appointed a committee to study & report on the educational needs of the State - It was the basis of our Free School system of 1863. They finished their study Feb. 4, 1862.

See Acts of the Legislature of W. Va., First Session, 12-10-63, pp. 245-6.

See Ambler p. 135.



50

A HISTORY OF VINSON HIGH SCHOOL.

A Thesis submitted to the Department of education of Marshall  
College in partial fulfillment of the requirements  
for the Degree of Master of Arts.

By

Rebedene Nunnally Kinnaird.

Marshall College  
August, 1952.



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## CHAPTER I.

### THE PROBLEM AND SOURCES OF DATA AND METHODS OF PROCEEDURE

#### Purpose of the Problem.

The purpose of this investigation was to provide a history of Vinson High School, which is one of six highschools in Huntington I, and the only high school in the part of Huntington that lies in Wayne County.

This section of Huntington, called Westmoreland and shown in Figure 1 was found to be a small community of approximately three thousand people in the extreme west end of the city. According to an income area map issued by the Huntington Chamber of Commerce, this area had an average income of less than \$5,000.00 in 1941. There were one thousand, four hundred ninety-five dwelling units in 1950, and one thousand, forty-four, or 69.8 per cent of these units were owner occupied, with an average value of \$7,860.00.<sup>2</sup>

A cross section of employment was represented by such occupations as accountant, Advertising manager artificare, baker, bookkeeper, cabinetmaker, carbuilder, caseman.

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1. "Huntington" West Virginia State Magazine, 11. (March, 1951), p. 6.

2. Block Statistics, Huntington, West Virginia, 1950. Prepared under the supervision of Howard G. Burnsman, Chief, Population and Housing Division, (United States Government Printing Office, 1951), P. 3.

2



chemist, clerk, conductor, contractor, custodian, doctor, driver, engineer, factory workers, fireman, foreman, gasoline station owner, glassworker, inspector, laborer, lawyer, machine operator, machinist, mechanic, nurse, pharmaceutical salesman, pharmacist, printer, purchasing agent, shipping clerk, store manager, teachers, telephone operator, and watchmaker. These occupations indicated the type of hardworking Americans who were responsible for establishing Vinson High School.

#### Importance of Investigation.

A complete History of Vinson High School had never been written; and an attempt was made to gather all the available information to put into the investigation. This history was needed for the community and the school.

#### Previous Related Studies

Histories of Cabell and Wayne Counties and histories of education in Cabell and Wayne Counties made reference to Vinson High School, but did not give a history of the school itself.

#### Sources of Data and Method of Procedure.

Data was obtained from the Minutes of the Boards of Education in Wayne and Cabell Counties; from the records of the County Court of Wayne County; from the school records of Vinson High School; from the Acts of the Legislature of West

Virginia; from the Huntington Chamber of Commerce; from unpublished Master's theses, Marshall College Huntington, West Virginia; from the 1950 Housing Census report; from Histories of Cabell and Wayne Counties; and from personal interview. The method of procedure was to gather information from the sources given and to arrange it in historical order after proper weighing and elimination of data obtained.

#### Statement of Organization.

Vinson did not become a High School until 1934. but presentation of events leading to this was necessary in order to give a complete picture of the school, and recording of subsequent events was necessary to finish the history.

Vinson, or Westmoreland, as it was originally called, was first under the Board of Education of Ceredo District, of Wayne County, and this information is found in Chapter II. The school, during the next phase of its history was under the Westmoreland District Board of Education, and this is related in Chapter III. During the third phase, the school was under the Huntington Independent Board of Education, and this is covered in Chapter IV. The final phase was under the Wayne County Board of Education, and this is taken up in Chapter V.

## CHAPTER II.

## CEREDO DISTRICT.

In 1863, by an Act of the Legislature of West Virginia, a system of free schools was established, and every township constituted a school district, to be confided to the care and management of a Board of Education.<sup>1</sup> This was amended in 1881 so that every magisterial district in each of the Counties of the State of West Virginia became a school district, to be divided into sub-districts, as nececeary for the sonvenience of the schools therein.<sup>2</sup>

Wayne County is divided into seven magisterial districts, which are Butler, Ceredo. Grant, Lincoln, Stonewall, Union and West moreland.<sup>3</sup>

One of the early magisterial districts, that known as Ceredo District, included the schools which formed the background for the Vinson High school.

Mary Vinson Clark recalled that there was a one room school built of logs located on James River turnpike almost at the mouth of Kraut's Creek. This school was destroyed by an explosion at the Dupont Powder mill, on Burlington Road, and Magazine Avenue

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1. Lewis, Marie Nelson, "An Historical survey of the public schools of Cabell County, West Virginia," (Unpublished Master's thesis, Marshall Collge, Huntington, West Virginia, 1944), p. 12

2. Acts of Legislature of West Virginia, 1881, p. 168.

3. Myers, J. Howard, Editor West Virginia Blue Book, XXXV, (1951), p. 580.

around 1896. This school was replaced by a one room, frame structure about one mile east, on James River Turnpike, and later, a frame building referred to as Westmoreland School was constructed on Hughes Street. This Building burned some time in the early twenties.<sup>4</sup>

After the fire in the early twenties, the children of the Westmoreland Community were scattered throughout the area in temporary locations. A residence on Hughes Street, a laundry building on Camden Road, a storeroom on Piedmont Road, and various locations were used.

Ceredo District embraced a district that was mostly urban, and this was reflected in the way the schools in the district were supervised. The schools were operated on an eight months basis, and teachers were hired by a Board of Education that represented a rural community. The citizens of Westmoreland chafed under this supervision, and desired schools for their children that were under a Board of Education with an urban viewpoint. Accordingly, they worked hard and diligently to bring this about. They realized that if they could become a part of Huntington, proper, their schools would be under the Huntington Independent Board of Education.

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<sup>4</sup> Clark, Mary Vinson, Member of Ceredo District Board of Education, 1923; Westmoreland District Board of Education, 1924; and Wayne County Board of Education, 1933.

Dr. W. F. Burns, Wayne County representative in the House of Delegates, stated that the people of Westmoreland realized that Wayne County could not be cropped, and therefore they asked for incorporation into the City of Huntington. Dr. Burns was responsible for amending the action to provide that Westmoreland, even though incorporated into Huntington, would remain a part of Wayne County.<sup>5</sup>

The citizens of the community worked with the members of the State Legislature to make Westmoreland a part of Huntington; and on April 25, 1923 the corporation limits of the City of Huntington were extended to include Westmoreland, but no provision was made for bringing the schools under the Huntington Independent District Board of Education.<sup>6</sup>

The part of Huntington that lies in Wayne County, or that section known as Westmoreland, was in a peculiar situation. The community, itself, was a part of Huntington, but the schools were under the Ceredo District Board of Education, due to the Acts of the Legislature. The Wayne County Court was no longer subject to the expense of building roads, and the valuation of property in Westmoreland increased. Westmoreland secured the paved streets, sewers,

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5. News item in the Wayne (West Virginia) County News, May 10, 1923.

6. Acts of the Legislature of West Virginia, Session 1923. pp. 342-43.



fire protection, police protection, and electric lights which were so badly needed; but the very thing the people had been working for in becoming a part of Huntington had not been accomplished.

The school board ordered schools closed on April 26, 1924, because funds were not sufficient to finish the term. 7. However, the teachers taught the rest of the term, and the School Superintendent of Wayne County, J.H. Beckley, informed the Board of Education that there were enough funds to pay the teachers for the eighth months.

Even though the Legislature had failed to bring the schools of Westmoreland under the Huntington Independent Board of Education, the people did not give up. If anything, they were more determined than ever to have the control of their schools separated from the Ceredo District Board of Education. Their next line of attack was to get the Wayne County Court to make Westmorland a Magisterial District, and thus provide a Board of Education for their community. Again the citizens had a long, difficult siege. It took months to bring about the establishment of a new Magisterial District, which was necessary in order to float a bond issue to build a much needed new school.

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7. Minutes of the Board of Education, Ceredo District, Wayne County, West Virginia, April 25, 1924, p. 154.

8. Ibid, June 7, 1924, p. 159.



Finally, the citizens, taxpayers, and residents of the Wayne County area of Huntington were able to file a petition with the County Court of Wayne County praying for the creation of a new Magisterial District; and on May 7, 1924 the Magisterial District of Westmoreland was created from a part of Ceredo District.<sup>9</sup>

Superintendent J.H. Beckley appointed the members to serve on the Board of Education that was automatically provided with the creation of the new Magisterial District, according to law, and papers of appointment were filed by J.H. Prose, President; C.A. Howell, Commissioner, and Mary Vinson Clark, Commissioner, on June 7, 1924.<sup>10</sup>

end

Thus, the people of the extreme west of Huntington, by their action in having the Magisterial District of Westmoreland created lead their schools into a new phase, which is covered in Chapter III.

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<sup>9</sup> Commissioners Record No. 19, Wayne County, West Virginia, p. 295.

<sup>10</sup> Minutes, op. cit., p. 160.

## CHAPTER III

## WESTMORELAND DISTRICT.

The first meeting of the Westmoreland District Board of Education was held June 14, 1924 with J.H. Prose, President, and C.A. Howell and Mary Vinson Clark, Commissioners, present. Robert S. Flint was appointed Secretary of the Board, and he was also employed as District Supervisor of Westmoreland District for a period of twelve months, beginning June 14, 1924.<sup>1</sup> Although Mr. Flint was employed as District Supervisor, he was thereafter referred to as Superintendent.

The boundaries of the newly created Westmoreland Magisterial District were as follows:

Beginning at Wayne-Cabell line at Fred Zillman orchard; thence along dividing ridge between Four Pole and Bob's Branch to an intersection of the dividing ridge between Bob's Branch and Haney's Branch to the mouth of Bob's Branch leaving out the Boy Scout camp and Sam Ward property. All territory between the Ohio River on the North and Twelve Pole creek on the west is included in the new Magisterial District, to be known as Westmoreland Magisterial District.<sup>2</sup>

The schools included in the Westmoreland District were Sugar Hill, located at the mouth of Hubbard's Creek and James River turnpike; Stewart's Branch, located near the present site of the United States Veterans Hospital; Bob's Branch, located near Camp Mad Anthony Wayne; Kellogg, located on Piedmont Road; and Westmoreland, scattered about in various, temporary locations.

~~1. Minutes of the Westmoreland District were Sugar Hill, located at the mouth of Hubbard's Creek and James River turnpike; Stewart's Branch, located near the present site of the United~~

1. Minutes of the Board of Education of Westmoreland District June 14, 1924, p. 3.

2. Commissioner's record No. 19, Wayne County West Virginia p. 295.

Since a school building was needed, the Board decided to consider bids for the construction of six temporary school buildings Westmoreland.<sup>3</sup> These bids were:

The Westmoreland Realty Co.,	\$ 8,520.00
O. M. Frasher	8,370.00
Virginia School Supply Co.,	7,079.00
J. A. Hughes	6,540.00

The bid from J. A. Hughes was accepted as the lowest and the best.<sup>4</sup>

The bond of J.A.Hughes, in the amount of \$13,080 for building these six temporary rooms was accepted at a meeting on August 4, 1924,<sup>5</sup> and the three school buildings were completed in short time. Mr.Hughes was paid the contract cost of the six new rooms <sup>6</sup>, and an additional sum of \$933.40 for extra material and work outside of his contract.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Minutes of the Board of Education of Westmoreland District, July 7, 1924, p. 5.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid, July 15, 1924, p. 7.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid, August 4, 1924, p. 13.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid, September 9, 1924, p. 23.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid, September 15, 1924, p. 27.



These six temporary rooms, two each in three frame buildings on Vinson Street, are still being used as a part of the Westmoreland Grade school.

Due to the lack of buildings and equipment the Board of Education decided to send all junior high and high school students to the Huntington Independent District schools. Although this entailed payment of tuition and transportation charges, it meant a saving of approximately \$2,500.00 for the District. 8

In order to purchase more land in order to build and properly equip schools, a special election of the voters of the Westmoreland District was called for September 13, 1924, 9. As a result of this election, school bonds in the amount of \$109,000.00 bearing interest at the rate of 5-1/2 per cent, and payable from two to thirty years, were issued. These bonds are listed in Table 1.

As soon as the special election was over, and the legalities involved in issuing the bonds had been ironed out, plans for the building that now stands at 3609, Hughes Street were submitted by architects; and those of the firm of Meanor & Handloser were accepted. 10

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8. Ibid, July 21, 1924, p. 9.

9. Ibid, August 12, 1924, p. 16.

10. Ibid, September 19, 1924, p. 29.

According to Mr. Handloser, planning for a school of this type ordinarily required about three months; but his firm completed the work within fifteen days by putting their entire force on the job. 11.

The Board of Education received thirteen general bids for the construction of the new Westmoreland school building, and the bid of V.E. Taylor in the amount of \$88,356.12 was accepted as being the lowest, responsible one. 12.

After considerable difficulty, lots 6 and 7, Block M. Hughes Street, and Lots twenty-four, twenty-six and twenty-seven, Block M. Chase Street, were purchased by the Board for a total of \$5,107.44 13 This land was adjacent to that already owned by the Board, and the site where the building that was burned was located.

Architects Meanor & Handloswe were paid \$4,000. for their services, 14 and the contract with Colubus Heating & Ventilating Company for the heating plant in the new Westmoreland building was \$11,990. The total for building, land, architects, and heating plant was \$104,455.56.

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11. Handloser, Edward J., Architect.

12. Minutes, op. cit., October 30, 1924, p. 41

13. Obid, October 30, 1924, p. 41, and November 19, 1924, p. 49

14. Obid. November 19, 1924, p. 49, and p. 86.

The Secretary of the Board was instructed to make arrangements with Masonic Lodge No.32, Ceredo, West Virginia, to lay a corner stone bearing the names of the members of the Board, Superintendent, architect, and the name and number of the Lodge of ~~Excm~~ Ceredo, with such other inscription as was customary.<sup>15</sup> However, the corner stone on the building read:

Westmoreland School

Board of Education.

J.H.Prose, Pres.

C.A.Howell

Mary Vinson Clark

R.S.Flint, Supt.

— — —

Meanor & Handloser, Architects

V. E. Taylor, Contractor

1924.

In November of 1924, new members were elected to replace those appointed by Superintendent Beckley. These new members were H.T. Tucker, President; Mrs.W.H.Peters, Commissioner, and Mrs.Roland Patrick, Commissioner. <sup>16</sup>.

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<sup>15</sup>. Ibid, October 25, 1924, pp. 39-40.

<sup>16</sup>. Ibid, November 25, 1924, p. 52.



Until February of ~~1895~~ 1925, school affairs ran smoothly, and then things began to happen, again. The people of Westmoreland had succeeded in getting the control of their schools away from the Ceredo District Board of Education by having the Westmoreland Magisterial District created and providing their own Board of Education; but they had not reached their ultimate goal, that of bringing their schools under the Huntington Independent Board of Education.

They continued to work with the Legislature to have their schools made a part of Huntington; and in January of 1925, an Act was passed to cover this. On February 21, 1925 the Board voted to surrender books and official papers to the Huntington Board, due to the passage of a Bill by the Legislature annexing the District to the Huntington Independent School District.<sup>17</sup> However, C.W. Ferguson, Prosecuting Attorney of Wayne County, advised the Board not to turn over the books to the Huntington Board, because he considered the bill unconstitutional, due to the fact that the citizens of Westmoreland had not voted upon the issue.

Having a goal within reach, and then having it pulled away by a technicality in the law did not stop the determined citizens of Westmoreland. They again besieged the Legislature in order to

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17. Ibid, February 12, 1925, p. 65.

18. Ibid, February 23, 1925, p. 66.

achieve their purpose, and this time they were successful. The Legislature passed a second Act on March 19, 1925, extending the boundard lines of the Huntington Independent School District to include the Westmoreland Independent School District; and this time provision was made for the voters to decide if they wanted to become a part of the Huntington Independent School District. 19.

Before the election, however, an injunction was served upon the Board, which now consisted of R.C.Taylor, President, Mrs.W.H. Peters, Commissioner, and Mrs. Roland Patrick, Commissioner.<sup>20</sup> J.L. Stewart sued for himself and on behalf of all o her citizens and tax payers of the Westmoreland School District of Wayne County, West Virginia, to prohibit the Board from hiring teachers or transacting any business. 21

The injunction was upheld by the Court. In none of the cases of this kind was a decision rendered that conflicted with Legislative enactments, since the litigation usuall grew out of the ignorance of the people in their understanding of the

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19. Acts of the Legislature of West Virginia, 1925, pp. 413-15.

20. Minutes, op. cit., April 11, 1925, p. 82.

21. Chancery Orders No.21, Wayne County Circuit Court, West Virginia, p. 223.

provisions of these Legislative Acts.<sup>22</sup> The election was conducted April 16, 1925, and the records of the Westmoreland District Board of Education were conveyed to the Huntington Independent Board of Education. A copy of the ballot used in the election is shown in Figure 2.

The end of the Westmoreland District Board of Education brought the schools into the third phase of the history which is covered in Chapter IV.

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22. Graham, Hershell Clifford, "Status of the Independent School District in West Virginia, from 1863-1933," (Unpublished Master's thesis, Marshall College, Huntington, West Virginia, 1945), p. 94.

## FIGURE 2.

6

VOTE  
THURS., APR. 16

- ( ) For Huntington School District  
( ) Against Huntington School District

By this vote you give your boys and girls the  
best school system in West Virginia.

You give them nine months school instead of eight.

You reduce your taxes.

You increase the value of your property.

BE SURE TO VOTE.

6

SAMPLE BALLOT USED IN ELECTION APRIL 16, 1925.



## CHAPTER IV.

## HUNTINGTON INDEPENDENT DISTRICT.

By September, 1925, the Westmoreland building at the corner of Vinson and Hughes Street was ready for occupancy, and Robert S. Flint was the first Principal in the new building. In addition to Mr. Flint and his Secretary, Jannette Hatch, there were eight teachers for one hundred, thirty-three students in the new Junior High School. 1

The school boundary was given as , "The line coincides with the boundary of what was formerly Westmoreland District, or all of that portion of the <sup>Huntington</sup> Independent School District which lies in Wayne County." 2

George S. Wallace stated that after the voters of Westmoreland had approved becoming a part of the Huntington Independent School district, the Vinson Junior High School was established there. 3

The Westmoreland School building was dedicated November 14, 1925; and Mrs. James A. Hughes, when inviting the Board to the dedication, suggested the name of Vinson for the new school. The

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1. Directory of the Huntington Public Schools, 1925-26, p. 22 and p. 62.

2. Ibid, p. 57

3. Wallace, George S., Cabell County Annals and Families, (Richmond: Garrett & Massie, 1935), p. 146

The Board voted in favor of naming the school the Sam Vinson school.<sup>4</sup>

Later Mrs. J.H. Prose and others presented a petition against the change of the name from Westmoreland School to Vinson school. Mrs. Donald Clark and James A. Hughes urged the Board to let the name of Vinson school stand. As a result the Board went into executive session and voted that the Junior High School would be Vinson Junior High and rescinded its action in naming the present Westmoreland school building the Vinson school and restored the name of Westmoreland.<sup>5</sup> As a result of this action, the elementary grades were referred to as Westmoreland.

During the eight year period that Vinson Junior High school was under the Huntington Independent School District, there was an average of 9.5 teachers and 159.5 students a year. On this basis there was an average of 16.79 students for each teacher a year. Table II showed an upward trend in enrollment until the school year 1932-33.

The passage of the County Unit Bill in 1933 brought about another change in the history of Vinson school, and this is covered in Chapter V.

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4. Minutes of Huntington Independent Board of Education, November 9, 1925, p. 191.

5. Ibid, December 14, 1925, p. 200.



TABLE II.

TEACHERS AND SCHOOL ENROLLMENT  
FOR VINSON JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL  
1925-1933.

School Year	Number of Teachers	Number of Students.
1925-26	8	133
1926-1927	9	149
1927-28	9	147
1928-29	9	144
1929-30	9	164
1930-31	11	162
1931-32	11	196
1932-33	10	181
Average	9.5	159.5

## CHAPTER V.

## WAYNE COUNTY.

In 1933 Governor H. G. Kump proposed a bill which made the County the unit for school government. In Huntington this caused considerable agitation, because the people felt that it would operate to the disadvantage of the city schools. However, this County unit bill was passed by the Legislature May 22, 1933; independent school districts were abolished, and the schools in the Westmoreland District of Huntington passed to the control of the Wayne County Board of Education.<sup>1</sup>

A county Board of Education was appointed by Governor Kump in 1933 for Wayne County, and the members were H. Fisher Fry, County Superintendent and Secretary of the Board; J. T. Lambert, President and Mary V. Clark, H. J. Stark, Andrew J. Fry and J. C. Thompson, members. The tenth grade was added to Vinson Junior High School, the enrollment increased to two hundred, six, and there were thirteen teachers.<sup>2</sup>

Vinson was made a High School in 1934, and Dean L. Ricketts was the first Principal with thirteen teachers. At this time Vinson became a first-class high school and included grades

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1. Wallace, George S., Cabell County Annals and Families, (Richmond: Garrett & Massie, 1935), p. 147

2. Annual Report for Junior High Schools, Vinson Junior High school, 1933-34.

seven through twelve. 3. It became an accredited school in the North Central Association in 1938. 4

The first graduating class of Vinson High school was in 1935, and the members of the class were Fred Compston, Dorothy Humphries, Ruth McCloud, and Charles Wilson.

The flood waters of the Ohio River reached the school in January of 1937 and did some damage. Mr. F.M. Carey, who was Principal at that time, remembered that there were thirty inches of water in the building and about six or seven feet of water in the school auditorium. The school could not be used for about three weeks, but the teachers were paid, even though they were not in school. 5

On January 12, 1946, the Wayne County Court purchased lots and dedicated them to the War Memorial for Westmoreland District. The cost of this memorial was approximately \$21,000.00, and the Memorial was to be used for an athletic field, according to J.G. Lambert. 6 This stadium is located on Hughes Street, between Lucien and Lee Streets. The Westmoreland Athletic Association was responsible for the permanent bleachers in the stadium, and the

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3. Wayne County school directory, 1934-35.

4. Classified High Schools and approved Junior High Schools, School year 1951-52, p. 40.

5. Carey, F.M. Principal, Buffalo High School, Wayne County, West Virginia.

6. Lambert, J.G., Deputy Clerk Wayne County Court, Wayne, West Virginia.

temporary bleachers were obtained by help from the school and the citizens of the community.

Vinson has an enrollment of four hundred, fifty-nine for the school year 1951-1952. There were twenty teachers, twelve females and eight males; and seven of the total number held Master's degrees and thirteen held Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degrees.

The school year 1951-52 was the fifty year for the National Honor Society, sponsored by Mrs. Maxine Stewart. It had a membership of twenty-six, or 5.7 percent of the total school enrollment for that year. Nine seniors, three girls and six boys, and seventeen juniors, seven girls and ten boys, comprised this group. Membership was based upon character, scholarship, leadership, and service, and the members had an average of "B" or better based upon grades beginning with the ninth year.

Other clubs for the school year 1951-52 were:

The Y-Teens, sponsored by Mrs. Charles M. Campbell, with a membership of forty-five high school girls;

The Future Teachers of America, sponsored by Mrs. Madge Matthews, with a membership of fifteen, thirteen girls and two boys;

The Glee Club, sponsored by Miss Jane Ellen Queen and Mr. John Filkins, with a membership of fifty-two, thirty-four girls and eighteen boys;

The Student Council, sponsored by Mr. George Shirley, with two members elected by each class, grades seven through twelve, and a President elected by the entire student body;



The Varsity club, sponsored by Coach Robert Hartley, with a membership of sixteen high school boys;

The Newspaper Staff, sponsored by Mrs. Nadge Matthews, with fourteen members, nine girls and five boys;

The Latin Club, sponsored by Mrs. George Shirley, with a membership of twenty-five, nineteen girls and six boys;

The Girl's Athletic Association, sponsored by Mrs. Marjorie Fisher, with a membership of thirty-seven high school girls.

The Vinson Band, directed by Mr. John Filkins, had a membership of fifty-five students, thirty-four boys and twenty-one girls, and a drum major, Ronald Maynard. The Majorettes were Wilma

Duncan, Betty Joe Smith, Sandra Earls, Faye Bailey, Libby Stephens, Joan Jordan, Shelia Wiseman, and Norma Reynolds. The cheer leaders were Doris Carrico, Lorita Adkins, Patty Bentley, and Sherrill Adkins. The Band Boosters association was largely responsible for obtaining uniforms and instruments for the band and the majorettes.

Gordon Dale Boyd represented the most unusual and able individual who has graduated from Vinson High School. He was valedictorian of the of the graduating class of 1952; a member of the National Honor society; President of the Student Body his senior year; Student council member from the seventh through the eleventh grades; member of the class play his sophomore, junior and senior years; member of the Annual Staff, the Glee Club, the Varsity Club, the football and the baseball teams; Captain of the ~~xxxxxx~~ basketball team his senior year; Member of the All State Football team

his junior and senior years; member of the all Southwestern Conference Football team his junior and senior years; member of the all West Virginia Football team; and member of the All American High School football Team. He was awarded the Heisman Trophy (Kennedy Award) for having been the most outstanding football player for the 1951-52 season, and received a trip to New York city, with all expenses paid. This was the first time a boy from a Class B school ever received this award, and the first time a Huntington student was thus honored. In addition, Dale received the Princeton award, and he was the first Vinson student to obtain this honor. Among the colleges and universities that that offered him scholarships were Marshall College, Huntington, Huntington, West Virginia; West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia; Bethany College, Bethany, West Virginia; Virginia Polytechnic University, Blacksburg, Virginia; William and Mary College, Williamsburg, Virginia; Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Virginia; Michigan University, Ann Arbor, Michigan; North Carolina University, Chapel Hill, North Carolina; Duke University, Durham, North Carolina; Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio; Ohio



University, Athens, Ohio; Kentucky University, Lexington, Kentucky; Princeton University, Princeton, N.J.; Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut; Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts; Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn; United States Military Academy, West Point, New York; United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland; and Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas. Dale chose Duke University and enrolled, preparatory to entrance in September of 1952.

Marylin Mae Means, another outstanding example of Vinson High school graduates, , was Salutatorian of the graduating class of 1952; member of the National Honor society; Treasurer of the graduating class of 1952; Editor of the newspaper, Staff; member of the class play her junior and senior years; and a member of the Latin Club, the Glee Club, and Future Teachers of America.

Evelyn Batten, Girl Honorarian of the graduating class of 1952, was a member of the National Honor society; Secretary of the newspaper, Staff; Editor of the Class Annual; member of the Latin Club; and a member of the class play her sophomore and junior years.

Don Kenneth Hastings, Boy Honorarian of the graduating class of 1952, was President of his senior class; a member of the class play his sophomore and junior years; Member of the Annual Staff; Vice-President of the Varsity Club; a member of the football and basket ball teams, a member of the All State Football teams his junior and senior years. and a member of the All Southwestern

football team his junior and senior years. In 1952 Dan received the Vinson Service Award, one of the highest honors of the school.

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In May of 1950, an extended, three year levy was passed by the voters of Wayne County. Under this levy, provisions were made to build a new high school in Westmoreland. Frampton and Bowers were the architects for this building, which was started by H.A. Bragg, Contractor, in 1951 and should be ready for occupancy in September of 1952. This building, located on Piedmont Road about two blocks west of the of the present building will take care of grades nine through twelve in its eleven class rooms, and will be called Vinson High School.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Albert Gallatin Jenkins was born November 10, 1830, on the plantation at Greenbottom which his father, William Jenkins, had owned and occupied since 1825. Between the ages of fourteen and ~~nix~~ eighteen, he attended Jefferson College, at Canonaburg, Pennsylvania. After his graduation there, in 1848, he entered upon the study of law at Harvard University, and, in 1850, was admitted to the bar. In 1856, he went as a delegate to the National Democratic convention held in Cincinnati; and, from 1857 to 1861, he represented his District in the 26th and 37th Congresses. In April, 1861, he resigned his seat in Congress, feeling impelled to ally himself at once with the Confederate cause.<sup>2</sup>

Jenkins performed illustrious service as a leader of cavalry, in the border warfare that was waged in Western Virginia. An English writer regarded him as a romantic border chieftain who had led his people in swift and inexplicable forays to wrest their freedom from an invader.<sup>3</sup>

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His military experience was extended by fitting recognition and promotion. The Confederate high command called him to assist in carrying out their purposes in other theatres of war, on one occasion choosing him above all other Confederate cavalymen for a service of major importance. The following paragraphs will attempt to trace the trend of this man's Civil War career, to give an account of some of his exploits, to present an estimate of his character as a soldier, and as an implement in the Confederate cause.

## II. 1861.

After leaving Washington Jenkins returned to his home, at Greenbottom, where, on April 20, 1861, he was elected Captain of a band composed of one hundred and one riflemen from Cabell and Mason Counties. Jenkins converted the members of his company into cavalymen, and gave them the name of Border Rangers. On May 29, 1861 they were sworn in as Confederate soldiers.<sup>4</sup>

Jenkins immediately identified himself with the Virginia forces who were fighting to defend the Kanawha Valley. In the latter part of June, he advanced from Charleston to Point Pleasant, with a party of fifty men. There he captured several ~~several~~ prominent citizens who had been active in the movement for the partition of the State. Colonel J.S. Norton, of the First Regiment of Ohio State troops, at Gallipolis, crossed the river and made an attempt to

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4. Sedinger, James D., Dairy, p.1

overtake Jenkins. Having failed in this, the Ohio officer ordered his men to make a thorough search for secessionists. The Ohioan found thirty of these, whom they held as hostages. This raid brought Jenkins to the attention of the public.<sup>5</sup>

On June 17, at the Battle of Scary creek, the action of Jenkins made possible a victory, which was the first success for the Southerners in an open fight, and did much to restore their confidence. Colonel George S. Patton, of the Twenty-second Virginia Infantry, tried to defend his position on Scary creek against superior numbers and equipment. With the wounding of Patton, panic seized the Virginians, and many of them fell back. Jenkins and others restored order, but shortly afterward a second panic succeeded. At that point Jenkins, himself, took command, a rally followed, and the Federals were driven back and forced to re-cross the Kanawha River.<sup>6</sup>

After the Battle of Scary, Jenkins was made Colonel of the Eighth Virginia Regiment of which his original command, the Border Rangers, became Company "E".<sup>7</sup>

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5. The War of the Rebellion: Official records, Ser.1,11.757

6. Off. Rec. Ser.1,11, 221-92; also White, Robert, West Virgin Virginia (In Confederate Military History, 11, 29)

7. Seding, Op. cit., p.2.



On August 25, 1861, Jenkins' Cavalry was defeated at Hawk's Nest, near Piggott's Mill, by an infantry ambushade. This was the result of his "incautiously advancing" and re-placing the guards of General Henry A. Wise, who was taking every precaution for the defense of his lines. By this act of interference unnecessarily imperilled his men, several of whom were wounded.<sup>8</sup>

On the night of November 10, 1861, Jenkins, with seven hundred men, made a swift surprise attack upon the Regiment of Ninth Virginia Infantry, then in process of formation, at Guyandotte.<sup>9</sup> Of the one hundred and fifty, at that time, comprising the body, only those escaped who fled, or concealed themselves, at the outset, and Jenkins captured all their papers, books, and rolls. The next morning the Steamboat BOSTON came up from Portsmouth, Ohio, bringing two hundred of the Fifth Virginia Regiment. These soldiers turned the cannon upon the town, and afterward burned the most valuable property in Guyandotte.<sup>10</sup>

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8. Off. Rec., Ser.1, V, 115-16, 157, 816

9. Guyandotte was the Western terminus of the James River and Kanawha Turnpike, and was one of the most important river points in Western Virginia. In the burning of the town, two de luxe hotels appropriate for the accomodation of fashionable travelers, were destroyed. (See Ambler, Charles Henry, "A History of Transportation in the Ohio Valley, p. 138; Wallace, George Selden, "Cabell County Annals and Families", pp.326-36 et passim.)

10. Off. Rec., Ser.1, V. 411-12



From there, the Jenkins command went into winter quarters, at the camp meeting ground, in Russell County, Virginia.<sup>11</sup>

By this time Jenkins had reduced the territory lying between the Guyandotte and Big Sandy rivers, to a state of anarchy. In December, 1861, a petition, drawn up at Wheeling and signed by Governor Francis H. Pierpont requested Abraham Lincoln to send a strong official who would be capable of stamping out rebellion in that region. The petition informed the President that it was through the highways of the Guyandotte and Big Sandy valleys that the Confederates had, from the beginning transported supplies to their armies.<sup>12</sup> Also, in December, 1861, Jenkins was endorsed for the Commission of Brigadier General.<sup>12</sup>

IIII, 1862.

While serving thus as a soldier in his native borderland Jenkins had been elected to represent the Fourteenth Virginia Congressional district, in the first Congress of Confederate states. He served as Congressman only from the opening date, February 18, 1862, until August 6, 1862, for at that time, he was issued the Commission of Brigadier General, and went back to the battle field.<sup>14</sup>

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II, Seding, op. cit. p.3

12. Off. Record Ser.1, V. 674-75

13. Ibid., pp. 1001, 2.

14. Off. Rec., Ser.4, III, 1189.

In August and September, 1862, Jenkins performed his most brilliant military exploit, a raid into West Virginia and Ohio. Major General William W. Loring, commanding Department of Western Virginia, sent him out with about one hundred and fifty cavalrymen, with orders to sweep around the north-east, by the Cheat Valley, destroy the Ohio and Baltimore railroad, and fall upon the rear of the enemy, in the Kanawha ~~Valley~~ Valley, about September 8.

Jenkins left the Salt Sulphur springs in Monroe County August 22, marched through the Great Sewell settlement of Pocahontas County, over the mountain and down the headwaters of the Tygart's River valley. He had expected to surprise Beverley, but upon hearing that it had been heavily re-inforced, decided to not make the attempt. Crossing Rich Mountain, by a trail leading through thirty miles of wilderness, Jenkins finally emerged from the fastness and entered the Buchanan River valley. The home guards of that region fired upon him constantly; but he drew near <sup>to</sup> the Buchanan, and by a skilful arrangement of his cavalry, defeated his enemy and took possession of the town.

At Buchanan, Jenkins equipped his men with valuable rifles and other supplies from the stores he captured, and then destroyed the remainder, including five thousand stand of arms and ordnance stores and clothing, in large quantities. At Weston, the next morning, August 30<sup>th</sup>, the Sixth West Virginia regiment escaped in the fog, leaving only a few men. Jenkins destroyed all the public property, in Weston, and marched on to Glenville, from which he drove the Federal guard with a single round of fire.

21

THE CIVIL WAR RECORD OF ALBERT GALLATIN JENKINS

A Problem Report Submitted to the Graduate Council of Marshall  
College in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for  
the Degree of Master of Arts

By

Flora Smith Johnson.

Marshall College  
May, 1944.

THIS CANDIDATE WAS RECOMMENDED FOR THE MASTER OF ARTS  
DEGREE ON MAY 19, 1944 by a Committee consisting of the follow-  
ing:

(Signed) G. E. Hedrick,  
Chairman.

A. Conn Klinger

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

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After leaving Washington Jenkins returned to his home, at Greenbottom, where, on April 20, 1861, he was elected Captain of a band composed of one hundred and one riflemen from Cabell and Mason Counties. Jenkins converted the members of his company into cavalymen, and gave them the name of Border Rangers. On May 29, 1861 they were sworn in as Confederate soldiers.<sup>4</sup>

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In August and September, 1862, Jenkins performed his most brilliant military exploit, a raid into West Virginia and Ohio. Major General William W. Loring, commanding Department of Western Virginia, sent him out with about one hundred and fifty cavalrymen, with orders to sweep around the north-east, by the Cheat Valley, destroy the Ohio and Baltimore railroad, and fall upon the rear of the enemy in the Kanawha Valley, about September 8.

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On September 2, at Spencer Court House he surprised and captured Colonel J.C. Rathbone and his entire command, the Eleventh West Virginia Regiment. Jenkins paroled his prisoners and rode on to Ripley. There he found a defenseless paymaster, from whom he took funds to the amount of \$5,425.00. Moving on to Ravenswood he rested his men there; and on the evening of September 4, forded the Ohio and set up the flag of the Confederate Government on Ohio soil. On a march of some distance in Ohio, Jenkins took pride in treating the citizens with consideration. He captured Racine, and there re-crossed the river.

General Loring pronounced this expedition a great success. He said that Jenkins had executed all but the destruction of the railroad in the time required, had marched five hundred miles, mostly within hostile lines, and had accomplished these things: Capture and parole of three hundred prisoners of war; a thousand enemy casualties; reclamation of forty thousand square miles of territory for the Confederate government; destruction of many home guard garrisons, , and the records of the Wheeling and Federal Governments in many counties; seizure of many valuable arms for his men and destruction of five thousand stand of small arms, one piece of cannon and immense stores; an advance of not less than twenty miles through the



State of Ohio, in which his policy of humane warfare won many friends for the Confederacy; weakening of the hold of the Federals by arriving on time in their rear. 15.

After his expulsion from the Kanawha Valley on October 21, 1862, Jenkins was assigned to work in Greenbrier, Pocahontas, and Nicholas counties. 16.

In December, 1862, at the request of General Lee, he left the Department of Western Virginia and reported for duty in the Shenandoah Valley. There, in the winter of 1862-63 Jenkins and others constituted the "Valley Defenses." During the winter of 1862-63 Jenkins also had charge of finding foraging places in Virginia and North Carolina for the horses and mules of that Department. Moreover, he established a line of couriers between the Valley and General Lee's headquarters, and guarded the passes of the mountains. 17

#### IV. 1862 and 1864.

On March 18, 1862, Jenkins started with a part of his brigade in another raid across Western Virginia. At Hurricane Bridge March 27, he arrogantly ordered the Union guard to surrender. A fight of five hours duration came to an end with the sullen withdrawal of Jenkins and his men. On March 30, 1862 he surprised the

15. Off. Rec., Ser.1, XII, Pt.2; pp.756-61; Sedinger op. cit p.5

16. " "., Ser.1, XIV, Pt 2; p. 890

17. Ibid., p. 879.

garrison at Point Pleasant. Although he succeeded in driving these men into the Court House there, he lacked equipment adequate to dislodge them. After a few hours Jenkins ~~retreated and~~ crossed the Kanawha River.<sup>18</sup>

In June, 1863 he was called to the Shenandoah Valley at the opening of the Gettysburg campaign and assigned to co-operate in a plan made by Major General R.E. Rodes, as follows: Simultaneous attack on Winchester and Berryville; the subsequent attack on Martinsburg, and move on into Maryland. Other decisions were to attack and reduce Winchester. At Berryville Jenkins drove in the cavalry but the artillery held his brigade at bay; he demanded the surrender of Martinsburg June 14, 1863, but the Federal held him in <sup>for</sup> check several hours before retreating. The fall of Martinsburg cleared the Shenandoah Valley of United States forces.

On June 16, 17 and 18, 1863 Jenkin's cavalry helped the quartermasters and commissaries to obtain supplies for their departments. Although he had been carefully instructed about transacting this business by regular purchases, Jenkins did not require his men

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<sup>18</sup>. Off. Rec., Ser.1, 11, Pt.1: p. 178

to account for large numbers of horses which they seized and kept. 19.

Thus Jenkins led the way into Pennsylvania. 20 Arriving at Greencastle, he took up his residence at the home of the editor of the Repository. In those clover fields he pastured his horses. 21. Next, he occupied Chambersburg, which he had been ordered to hold until the arrival of the Rodes Division. But, upon hearing of the approach of Federals in superior numbers, Jenkins promptly withdrew, leaving supplies that would have been highly valuable to the Southern troops. Re-occupying Chambersburg June 22, he found that the coveted stores had been removed or concealed after his departure. On June 27 his cavalrymen were at Carlisle and before the concentration at Gettysburg they had reached Harrisburg, where Jenkins had made a reconnaissance of defenses with a view to an attack by Rodes. 22

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19. Off. Rec., Ser.1, XVII, Pt.2: pp.17, 442,547, 550

20. While attending college in Pennsylvania (supra) Jenkins was a founder and charter member of the Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity. It is claimed by members of this order that certain city officials, members of a rival fraternity, asked to be spared the rigors of war on the strength of a common alma mater; but that Jenkins replied in the negative, adding that they did not "wear the Delta badge." (See History of Phi Gamma Delta, II, 323.)

21. Bates, S.P., Martial Deeds of Pennsylvania.  
(Extract p. 1.)

22. Off. Rec., Ser.1, XVII, Pt.2: p 551.



Jenkins was wounded on July 2, in the Battle of Gettysburg. His brigade was taken by Colonel M.J. Ferguson and commanded temporarily by him. 23 In the organization of the Army of Northern Virginia for the battle the Jenkins Brigade is listed as included in the Division of Major General J.E.B. Stuart, and as consisting of the Fourteenth, Sixteenth, and Seventeenth Regiments, and the Thirty-fourth and Thirty-sixth Virginia Battallions. 24. The loss of killed, wounded, or missing is not of record. 25 General Rodes mentioned Jenkins as one of nine Confederates who had won distinction in the Gettysburg campaign. 26.

General Lee stated that the members of the Jenkins command were affected by a spirit of localism. In presenting a re-organization plan for the Cavalry, Lee said he had not separated these men, since they claimed to have been raised for special services in Western Virginia. 27. It was late in the fall of 1863 before Jenkins had recovered; and, in the meantime, his brigade had been on detached service in the Department of Western Virginia and Tennessee. 28

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23. Ibid., p. 638.

24. " n. 290,

25. " p. 346.

26. " n. 559,

27. " pt. 3: pp 1068-69.

In 1864 Jenkins was again at his mountain work in the Department of Western Virginia. On February 11 he was organizing a large cavalry corps, to be used in Western Virginia in the coming spring.<sup>29</sup> On February 21 he was again at Callahan's Station with five thousand men. On February 24 Jenkins, and others had a command of seven thousand at Franklin, in Pendleton County.<sup>30</sup>

By the month of May, 1864, Jenkins had been appointed Commander of the Department of Western Virginia, with headquarters at Dublin. Upon hearing that Brigadier General George Crook, commanding Second Infantry Division, Department of West Virginia, had advanced from the Kanawha Valley with overwhelming numbers, Jenkins took up a position five miles from Dublin, on Lloyd's Mountain. The battle known by that name, a bloody defeat for the Confederates, was one of the principal events in a Federal expedition against the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad made between May 2 and May 19, 1864.

The fighting began early in the morning of May 9. Crook found that the Southerners had settled upon a wooded spur, three-quarters of a mile beyond the summit of the mountain. The Second Brigade engaged the forces of Jenkins. Crook then ordered a charge of the First and Third Brigades across an intervening meadow. As they charged, the Confederates fired heavily upon them, throwing

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29. *ibid.*, XVIII, 352-53.

30. " "., p. 592.

part of the third into temporary disorder.

Crook's men arrived at the foot of the spur upon which Jenkins had stationed his troops the preceding day. Moving steadily upward and approaching the formidable breast works on the crest, the Federals rushed upon Jenkin's men, put them to rout, and killed and wounded them in great numbers.<sup>31</sup> Jenkins, himself, fell, seriously wounded and was captured.

Colonel John S. McCausland, who had delayed departure from Dublin in order to join his forces with those of Jenkins for the battle, then took charge and effected an orderly retreat. Jenkins died on May 24, 1864, at Dublin. On May 27 McCausland was given the Commission of Brigadier General, and assigned to command the Jenkins Brigade.<sup>32</sup>

#### V. CONCLUSION.

General Jenkins then, accomplished much for the Confederate fortunes in Western Virginia, both by arduous mountain marches and by raids and forays that served to demoralize the enemy in strategic regions. He was prominent, both for the campaign for the Kanawha Valley and in the attempt to destroy the Baltimore and Ohio

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31. *Ibid.*, Pt.1: pp. 723-24

32. pp. 9-11, 44, 56, 721, 747.

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Railroad. By reason of his success, he reached the position of Commanding Officer of his department. He played a vital part in the Shenandoah Valley campaign and assisted materially in the invasion of Pennsylvania. He was a brilliant, brave and clement leader, who exemplified the highest ideals of the proverbial Confederate cavalryman.

## APPENDIX.

1. Major Achilles James Tynes wrote May 24, 1864:

'No more on his proud steed shall he sweep o'er the plains,' cheering his men by his ringing voice and flashing eye his struggling cavaliers to deeds of daring, breasting with the foremost the storm of battle.

2. Major S.M.Gaines wrote on June 14, 1923 to Miss Nargaret Virginia Jenkins:

Your father commanded a brigade of cavalry which he raised and organized. It was composed of the 14th, 16th and 17th Regiments, and 24th and 26th battallions, (sic) all cavalry. He was a brilliant man, and one of the most talented and attractive men I ever knew. He had great personal magnetism---was wonderfully winning. He served under General Stuart in the Gettysburg campaign. His command was known as Jenkin's Brigade.

General Lee had a very high opinion of his skill as a Commander, as was shown by the fact that when General Lee decided to invade Pennsylvania in 1863 he selected your father in preference to all other cavalry officers to command the force, which was first to enter Pennsylvania, and cleared (sic) the way for the rest of our army. This he did with great skill and success. He sometimes commanded several brigades---a division.

3. E.F.Chapman, in the Huntington Herald, June 22, 1900, has given the following account of Jenkins:

That General Jenkins was a brave man is fully attested by the circumstances of his death. During the Battle of Cloyd's Mountain his brigade was charged by two Hio Regiments of Federal troops, and repulsed. Then came the charge of 91 C.V.I. and 9th W. Va., I, under command of General Duval, of Brooke County, this state. Jenkins' brigade was broken and began a hasty retreat. The General headed the 45th Virginia, and, with drawn sword was encouraging the men to stand and cover the



retreat of the other regiments of the brigade. They too, fled, leaving the General alone, when he was shot from his horse, and picked up by the Federal troops. He was taken to the house of Mr. Cloyd (or Guthrie), and all possible was done to aid his recovery, but he died on the above date.

All in all, Cabell County never produced a more illustrious son, and well may those of his comrades who still survive, feel justly proud of their leader and military chieftain, who, had he lived, would have furnished material for some of the brightest pages of our state and national history.(sic)

4. In a letter written from Salem, Virginia, January 28, 1863, to Zebulon V. Vance, Governor of North Carolina, Jenkins says: -----In thus distributing these animals after overstocking almost every part of Virginia, it becomes a matter of necessity to send some of them to portions of North Carolina, where both grain and long forage were abundant. But, unfortunately, there is great indisposition on the part of the people there to sell their produce for the Confederate money at any price, and I desire to ask relief at your hands in the form of authority of some kind for impressment. This authority you can limit with such restrictions as will make it entirely certain that no injustice will be done to your people. If some step of this kind is not taken promptly, and we should be compelled, in this portion of Southwestern Virginia, to bring the horses in the service of the Government back to this section, and thus consume the forage which is essential to the wants of our armies elsewhere, it is manifest that the most serious detriment to the public service must occur.

Knowing your disinterested patriotism, not only from your public character, but also from a personal acquaintance which I had the pleasure of having while we were both members of the old Federal Congress, and your full and entire devotion to our cause--which is not the cause of a State, but of the whole South, I have taken the liberty of addressing you upon the subject. . . .

## 5. Correspondence of Jenkins with Colonel B.F. Smith:

Headquarters Camp near Martinsburg,  
June 14, 1863.

The Commanding Officer U.S. Forces near Martinsburg:

Sir:

I herewith demand the surrender of Martinsburg. Should you refuse, you are respectfully requested to notify the inhabitants of the place to remove forthwith to a place of safety. Small arms only will be used for one hour upon the town after your reception of this note. After that, I shall feel at liberty to shell the town, if I see proper. Should you refuse to give the necessary notification to the inhabitants, I shall be compelled to hold your command responsible.

Very truly yours, (sic)

A. G. Jenkins,  
Brigadier General, &c.

P. S. An immediate reply is necessary.

Headquarters U. S. Forces,  
Martinsburg, W. Va. June 14, 1863.

A.G. Jenkins, Brigadier General, &c.  
General:

Martinsburg will not be surrendered. You may commence shelling as soon as you please. I will, however, inform the inhabitants of your threats.

Very respectfully yours, (sic)

B. F. Smith, Colonel  
Commanding U.S. Forces.

## 6. James D. Sedinger, a Border Ranger, has written as follows in an account of the Regiment's activities while on duty in Tennessee:

- - - - We stayed in Tazewell and Mercer Counties, Virginia until October 7th, '63, when we were ordered to Abingdon, Virginia, to report for duty to General Wm. E. Jones. The regiment was sent to Bristol, Tennessee with orders to do picket and scout on all roads leading to Bristol -----

One day, while moving out with part of the Company under Lieut. Thompson our Orderly Sergeant, Daniel Ruffner, who had been drinking, struck a citizen with his revolver. The man who was armed, shot the orderly and killed him. He made his escape and was hid by his friends. We never could find him.

On another occasion, 8 of the boys went on a little scouting expedition of their own into Sullivan County, Tennessee. There was an old gentleman of well known Union sentiments in that part who had some pretty daughters and some old apple brandy. The boys slipped through our pickets in a round about way and struck the road about 1/2 mile from the Yankee guard, and came up and charged the old man's house about 12 o'clock at night, waking the gentleman and all his family. He, thinking we were Yanks, ordered the whole family to get up and give the best the house afforded. We had a splendid supper, and plenty of fun with the girls. He gave us all the brandy we wanted, and filled our canteens when we left. He told us to call at any time we was in that part of the country, and each one of us should have one of his daughters, as they should not marry anyone but a Union soldier. We thanked the old gentleman, kissed the girls, and left, going the way we came, toward the Yankees. I don't think he ever knew any better.

On November 6th we were ordered to prepare three days' rations and March to Rogersville, Tennessee. On the morning of the 8th the old company was ordered to the front, and told to form by fours, as we were to charge a house that was full of Militia, and Company "A" was to support us. We formed with our revolvers in our hands, and started, ready for action at any time. On topping a little hill, we found ourselves within twenty feet of a company of Yanks.

Captain Everett ordered a charge, and at them we went head foremost. They started to run, and it was a horse race for three miles in the mud. We did get them all but the Captain: his horse was too fast for us, or we would have gotten him. They were the muddiest set of Yanks when we went back to see how many there were of them, we think, that was ever captured. We re-formed after the charge, went into Rogersville, and gobbled about all of them that was there. Our captures that morning amounted to 800 prisoners and one battery of artillery and a large amount of stores. The boys were pretty well clothed and shod when we had finished up for the day. We had plenty to eat for a Confederate soldier: sardines and hardtack. Several of them had their haversacks well filled---and the canteens were not forgotten - - - - (sic)

7. T.B. Summers, of Milton, in a poem called "Cabell County's Hero", has written the following lines:

19.

Where the Ohio gently flows,  
Lived a man, as history knows,  
Full of life, and at his ease;  
Yet he chose to give up these,  
And bestir himself in might,  
Planning for the seeming flight  
That was hovering o'er the land,  
Seeming peace could not command.

Wild the tempest of the day,  
Telling of the coming fray,  
When the sons of North and South  
Would each face the cannon's mouth.  
In the Blue or in the Gray,  
As the surge held forth it's away,  
Then no heart could fail to swear  
Both to Do and bravely Dare.

Then, four years of Strife and Strain,  
Brave old Heroes without stain,  
Back again, to friends and home,  
But so many could not come,  
In the battle they were slain,  
So, could never come again.  
By Ohio's rippling shore,  
Gen. Jenkins walks no more.

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  2. Major S.M. Gaines to Miss Margaret Virginia Jenkins, written from Brookland, D.C., June 14, 1925. (Reproduction. See Cook's Collection, supra.)

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( Copy )

West Hartford 7, Ct.

54 Maplewood Ave.,

Nov. 20, 1952.

My dear Mr. Lambert:

Several weeks ago I mailed you my "family tree" (The Dundas family), and I trust you received it. Shortly after I rec'd your letter I received a letter from Mr. Benjamin Dundas, Hot Springs, South Dakota, wanting me to give him data on the Dundas family, for he was writing a history of that family, too. I thought maybe, you might want to write him, and so I've given you his address. I'll give you a few dates of my own family that may help you, somewhat. I have no way of knowing what names and data you have; so I'll try and bring the births and deaths up to date, since the publishing of the book I mailed you.

Connellsy Simmons Love (my dad) born Dec. 10, 1858; died Nov. 4, 1941, at Crestwood, Ky.

Mary Justine Dundas Love (my mother) was born at Blue Sulphur Springs Jan. 3, 1862; died May 19, 1943, at Crestwood, Ky. Was married June 9th, 1886, at Blue Sulphur Springs, I think. They lived near Barboursville for many years, on a farm on Guyan River, then moved to Barboursville so we could have good schools. Then, eventually, we moved to Huntington, where we lived for many years before we finally moved to Crestwood, Ky. and their farm there in Kentucky was known as "Poplar Heights" There were four of us children: I was the eldest.

Madge Everett Love, born March 16, 1887, at Elmwood, W. Va.--this was the name of our Post Office--where she lived on farm near Barboursville. She was married to Clyde Raymond

Salmons Sept. 6, 1911 at Huntington, W. Va. of Winfield, W. Va.  
born May 24, 1887.

We had three children:

Clyde Raymond Salmon, Jr.; born Sept. 10, 1913, at Buffalo, N.Y. Graduated at Kentucky Military Institute June, 1931. He is now married to Ruth Evelyn Kanopaska, born Aug. 27th, 1914, at East Hartford, Ct. They were married Sept. 15th, 1942, at Tula-homa, Tenn. an army camp, by Rev. Peter M. Dennis, at St. Barbabus Episcopal Church. They have two children: Robert Allen Salmons, born Oct. 29th, 1946, at Hartford Hospital. (They were living in East Hartford then). Robert was baptized and christened in Burn-side Congregational church, East Hartford, May 11, 1947.

The second child, Barbara Ann Salmons, born July 9th, 1951 at Kobe, Japan. Clyde, Jr. is a Lieutenant and has been over there for three years, in the "Occupation army". The army is his career, and he had his family with him. They just arrived back in America Aug. 17th, 1952. He is First Lieut. in the Air Corps, an air photog-rapher.

Our second boy, John Grant Salmons, known as Jack, born June 26th, 1920, at Cincinnati, Ohio. Went to Riverzide Academy at Gainesville, Ga., but did not graduate. He married Lucille Emogene Hicks March 21, 1947. Lucille was born May 10, 1927 at Willard, Ky. Divorced April 6, 1951. I'm not the least proud of this report of Jack. Do not know if you want this information, or not. Jack is a traveling salesman, with headquarters in Hart-ford.

I hope this information will help you out a little bit.  
If there is anything else you would like to know I would be glad  
to give you any information that I can.

My husband's date is in that "Family tree" I sent you, but  
I'll give it to you, anyway:

Dr. Clyde Raymond Salmons--he is a dentist-- born May 24,  
1887, Winfield, W. Va.

In looking back over this letter, I see I gave you his name  
and birthday date.

Will close for now---and call on me again if I can help.

Sincerely,

(Signed) Madge Love Salmons, (Mrs. C. R.)

P. S. Please return my family tree book as soon as you finish with it  
for Mr. Berry Dundas wants it as soon as you get through  
with it. Thank you...

## TABULAR SUMMARY XII

## RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING TEACHER'S SALARIES

Dates	Superintendents	Recommendations	Date Passed
1865	White	Increase salaries	1882
1872	Pendleton	" "	1882
1874	Bryne	Boards should employ and fix salaries of teachers	1879
1886	Morgan	Prompt payment.	1891
1888	"	" "	1891
1890	"	" "	1891
1894	Lewis	\$30 minimum for first grade Empower boards of education to increase salaries where justified	1901
1898	Trotter	Prompt payment	1903
1900	"	Increase salaries	1901
1902	Miller	\$40 for first grade	1908
1904	"	\$40 " " "	1908
1906	"	Others increased accordingly \$50 for first grade	1915
1908	"	\$50 for " "	1915
1910	Shawkey	\$5 increase for first and second grades	
1912	"	\$5 for first and second grades	1915
1914	"	Substantial increase	1915
1916	"	Increase salaries	1919
1920	"	" pay	1921
1922	Ford	No increase, but pay on a twelve months basis	Never
1924	"	State supply 1/2 to 1/3 of Teacher's salaries.	1933
1926	"	State pay 1/2 to 1/3 of Teacher's salaries	1933
1932	Cook	Do not cut salaries	Failed
1934	Trent	Increase for college graduates	1941

(Continued on next page)

RECOMMENDATIONS OF STATE SUPERINTENDENTS IN  
WEST VIRGINIA AND SUBSEQUENT LEGISLATION.

A Thesis Submitted to the Graduate Council of Marshall College  
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements  
for the Degree of Master of Arts.

By

Roy F. McClanahan

Marshall College  
January 1943.



THIS CANDIDATE WAS RECOMMENDED FOR THE MASTER OF ARTS  
DEGREE ON January 15, 1943, By a committee consisting of  
the following:

(Signed) Roy C. Woods,  
Chairman

J.B.Shouse

H. G. Toole

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CHAPTER II  
COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT.

Introduction.

The committee report of February 4, 1862, by Gordon Batelle,<sup>1</sup> Chairman of the "Constitution Committee to Incorporate Free Education into the New State" contained provisions for a County Superintendent for each county. The Constitution Committee complied with the recommendation by making it a part of the first West Virginia Constitution of 1863, 2 and the first legislature was quick to act and the "Free School" law of 1863 made compulsory the election, by the voters of each county, of a county superintendent, who was to execute a bond of five hundred dollars and enter office on the tenth day after election for a term of two years. The law further provided that "the county superintendent shall be liable to removal by the Board of supervisors for any palpable violation of law or omission of duty"; and the the Board of Supervisors provide an annual salary for the county superintendent of "not less than one hundred, nor more than five hundred dollars." No qualifications were enumerated for the incumbent for the first five years, but a provision was included which read as follows:

Five years from the passage of this Act, no

### Method of Study

The writer sought data from the original sources of information--the first annual reports; and, later, the biennial reports of the State Superintendent of Schools and the Acts of the Legislature for the period covered by this work.

Use of Michine's code of West Virginia law of 1937 and the 1939 supplement thereto was made in determining the year in which a particular Act was passed pertaining to the subject of the Superintendent's recommendations.

After the writer had listed the recommendations to the Legislature and the Acts finally passed, the problem then was to show the interrelation of such commitments and the legislation finally enacted, noting what superintendent's suggested certain changes.

### Limitations of the Problem.

That the state superintendent has been the only influence exerted upon the legislature for the passage of any one law would be too much to contend; for the various influential groups together

with the Governor and the State Education Association, seem to have exerted effective pressure very frequently.

Therefore, this study is limited to the enumeration of such recommendations, and whether they were ever acted upon.

#### Organization of Data.

Since most of the recommendations were made many years before enactment, and the number was so large the only method of Organization that seemed to lend itself readily to the solution of this problem was to divide the thesis into chapters, with each pertaining to some special phase of education, and to develop that phase from the time such was proposed until the present--1941.

Each chapter is divided according to the various phases of the subject to be considered. It is further sub-divided into the recommendations to the Legislature, followed by the Acts of the Legislature pertaining to the same; and finally, a chapter summary interpreting their relation to each other.

The last chapter of this thesis is devoted to a summary and conclusions reached.



## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION.

The initial problem of this study was to determine the coincidental relationship existing between the state superintendent's recommendations to the legislature and the school laws that have been enacted from 1863 to 1941 in the State of West Virginia.

#### Definition of Terms

The term "superintendent" is used in this study to mean the state superintendent of schools of West Virginia.

The term "Acts" refers to the Acts of the Legislature of West Virginia.

#### Purpose of the Study.

The problem arises out of a desire to know to what extent, if any, the state superintendent's recommendations to the legislature coincide with the school laws that have been enacted.

There is an ever-increasing demand on the part of our more prominent educators that public school teachers, principals, supervisors and superintendents organize in a united effort to develop an interest that will result in progressive school legislation.

Have the school laws enacted since 1863 received the sanction of the state superintendents, or have they been initiated and passed without regard for his contentions?

## LIST OF TABULAR SUMMARIES

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## TABULAR SUMMARY

- I. Recommended qualifications for county  
superintendents \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- II. Qualifications for county superintendents as  
set by statutory law in West Virginia \_ \_
- III. Recommendations concerning compensation  
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- VII. Recommendations concerning penalties on  
county Superintendents \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- VIII. Offenses and penalties for county superintend-  
ents ~~summarized~~ enacted \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- IX. Recommendations concerning county superintend-  
ents summarized. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- X. Summary of recommendations concerning county  
superintendents.
- XI. Recommendations by superintendents \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

person shall be eligible to the Office of county superintendent who shall not have received such professional certificate.<sup>3</sup>

The Acts of 1864 set the date for the first election of school officers "on the fourth Thursday of April next."<sup>4</sup>

#### Qualifications

The first mention of the prerequisite qualifications a county superintendent should possess was promulgated by W.R.White in 1865, thus:

I anticipate another difficulty in regard to a section which declared that "from and after the passage of this Act, no person shall be eligible to the office of County Superintendent who shall not have received such professional certificate."<sup>5</sup>

Superintendent White does not seem to have been adverse to the requirement of a professional certificate, but was merely calling attention to the difficulty that would arise because of the lack of trained men at this early date. Two years later, the Legislature of 1867 passed a law eliminating this requirement and

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3. Acts of West Virginia, 1863, Chap. 137, Secs. 18, 19, 25, and 35.

4 Acts of West Virginia, 1864, Chap. 36.

5. Annual Report, State Superintendent, 1865, p.10.

prescribing only "good morals, literary acquirement, and skill and experience in the art of teaching," and one who had been loyal to the Government of the United States and of the State of West Virginia. 6

Superintendent A.D. Williams suggested a change in 1870:

No man, however, should be eligible to that position unless he can procure a State Professional Certificate. 7

This suggestion never became law, for as the data in Tabular Summary II indicate, no certificate was required for that office until 1911, when a law was passed requiring the applicant to possess a first grade certificate, or its equivalent, in addition to having had teaching or supervising experience.8 A prior law of 1908 prescribed that the applicant must have held a first grade certificate, without requiring one during his term of service as superintendent;9 and even the law of 1911, cited above, gave one a chance to eliminate the certificate requirement, for "its equivalent" could be interpreted to suit the occasion. Finally, an

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6. Acts of West Virginia, 1867, Chap. 98, Sec. 51.

7. Annual Report, State Superintendent, 1870, p. 42.

8. Acts of West Virginia, 1911, Chapter 65, Sec. 117.

9. Acts of West Virginia, 1908, Chap. 27, Sec. 117.

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enactment of 1919 required a supervisor's certificate, standard normal, or a first grade certificate issued prior to 1922 on which the applicant had taught ten years.<sup>10</sup>

It is evident, when one considers the data in Tabular Summary IV, why the early county superintendents, finding it impossible to subsist upon the meager income received from that office, taught during the regular school term. This did not make for the best service in the office, and, as Tabular Summary I shows, four Superintendents from 1864 to 1897 recommended that the county superintendents be prevented from teaching. Bernard L. Butcher was the first in 1884 with a plea that the county superintendent's salary be increased and that they "be prohibited from teaching between the first day of September and the first day of May of each year."<sup>11</sup>

Two years later Benjamin S. Morgan<sup>12</sup> advocated the same thing. Virgil A. Lewis voiced his sentiments, 1894, by, "Entire time of the county superintendent must be given to supervision and not to teaching."<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>10</sup>. Acts of West Virginia, 1919, Chap. 2, Sec.31

p.8 <sup>11</sup>. Biennial Report, State Superintendent, 1883-1884,

n.16 <sup>12</sup>. Biennial Report, State Superintendent, 1885-1886,

p. 114. <sup>13</sup>. Biennial Report, State Superintendent, 1893-1894.



J.R.Trotter<sup>14</sup> likewise recommended that the county superintendent be prohibited from teaching public or private schools during his term of office.

Accordingly, the Legislature of 1901 passed an Act stating that the county superintendent should not teach in any school, public or private, during his term of office.<sup>15</sup> The law of 1919 shown in Tabular Summary II provided further, that he should devote his entire time to his duties. <sup>16</sup>

Study of Tabular Summary I reveals that a total of six recommendations were made concerning the qualifications of the county superintendent; five passed, and one failed. The average length of time elapsing between the recommendation and the passage was 8.6 years.

#### Compensation.

Sixteen times the superintendents from W.R.White, 1868, to George M. Ford, 1924, recommended substantial increases in the salaries of county superintendents of the State of West Virginia.

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14. Biennial Report, State Superintendent, 1897-1898, p.14

15. Acts of West Virginia, 1901 Chap.69, Sec. 53.

16. Acts of West Virginia, 1919, Chap. 69, Sec.53.

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As early as 1868 W.R.White 17 recommended better salaries for the incumbents. A.D.Williams remarked in 1870 as follows:

Our county superintendent has not produced the best results, probably through incompetency or the indifference of some of the incumbents, but there is a serious difficulty in that the compensation is not sufficient to enable them to devote all their time to their work, and the service required is altogether too much to enable them to follow some other avocation for a livelihood.<sup>18</sup>

Twelve years elapsed before Bernard L. Butcher suggested in 1882 that the salary be further increased, but he did not fail to commend the Legislature of 1881 by saying that "The increase in the duties and compensation of the county superintendent was a wise move."<sup>19</sup> Again, in 1884 he repeated his conviction that the salary should be increased.<sup>20</sup> Benjamin S. Morgan requested an increase in 1886, 21, 1888,<sup>22</sup> and 1892, 23.

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17. Annual Report, State Superintendent, 1868, p. 15.

18. Annual Report, State Superintendent, 1870, Pp. 41-42.

19. Biennial Report, State Superintendent, 1881, 1882, p.5

20. Biennial Report, State Superintendent, 1883-1884, p.8

21. Biennial Report, State Superintendent, 1885-1886, p.16

22. Biennial Report, State Superintendent, 1887,1888, p.10

23. Biennial Report, State Superintendent, 1891-1892, p.9

With his recommendation of \$100. a month for county superintendents while school was in session and require them to spend each day in performing the duties connected with that office, Virgilia A. Lewis 24 became the first superintendent to suggest a specific salary. Again, in 1896 Lewis said, "The county superintendent should be paid a salary sufficient to justify him in giving his entire time to the work of supervision." 25.

J.R.Trotter, 26 in agreement with former superintendents, suggested that the Legislature increase the salary.

Thomas C. Miller 27 made a radical departure, 1902, when he offered a graduated scale, with the compensation varying from \$600 to \$800 according to the number of schools in the county as follows: counties having from 50 to 75 schools \$600.00 annually; those having from 75 to 100 schools \$700.00; and all having more than 100 schools \$800.00. Not content that all counties containing more than 100 schools should be classed in the same category, he further advocated the following revised schedule, in 1904; Counties having from

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24. Biennial Report, State Superintendent, 1893-1894 p.77

25. Biennial Report, State Superintendent, 1895-1896, p.115.

26. Biennial Report, State Superintendent, 1897-1898 p. 14

27. Biennial Report, State Superintendent, 1901-1902. p.29.

from 50 to 75 schools \$350.00 annually; those having from 75 to 100 schools \$425; those having from 100 to 125, \$575.; from 125 to 150 schools, \$650.00; from 150 to 175, \$725; from 175 to 200 schools \$800; and all counties having more than 200 schools \$850. annually.

28. Relinquishing his requests somewhat in 1908, Miller 29 merely suggested that such salaries be paid as would command the services of the best workers.

Morris Purdy Shawkey asked for a small salary increase in 1910 and a further advance in 1920.<sup>31</sup>

George M. Ford 32, requested in 1924 that county boards be empowered to lay a small levy to supplement the salary of the county superintendent.

In spite of the many requests for higher salaries, increases came very slowly. The first law of 1863 allowed the Township Boards of Supervisors to determine the salary of the County Superintendent from \$100 to \$500 annually.<sup>33</sup>

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28. Biennial Report, State Superintendent, 1903-1904 p.100

29. Biennial Report, State Superintendent, 1905-1906, p.10

30. Biennial Report, State Superintendent, 1909-1910 p.11

31. Biennial Report, State Superintendent, 1919-1920

32. Biennial Report, State Superintendent, 1923-1924 p.12

35. Acts of West Virginia, 1863, Chap. 137, Sec.25

When this seemed too high, the legislature reduced the account to \$50 to \$500 in 1866.<sup>34</sup> The year of 1873 saw a maximum of \$300 established.<sup>35</sup> No further change was made until 1879 when a schedule was made establishing an annual salary of \$75 for counties having less than 50 schools.<sup>36</sup> In 1881 the law was changed so \$300 was paid the county superintendents in counties having more than 100 schools.<sup>37</sup> Again, in 1901 an advance came, setting the salary from \$300 to \$500 (the maximum being the same as 1863) but the incumbents were penalized \$3 for each school not visited.<sup>38</sup> A minimum of \$500 and a maximum of \$1200 was established in 1907.<sup>39</sup> The next year, 1908 saw the minimum increased to \$700 and the maximum to \$1500.<sup>40</sup> The law of 1913 left the schedule the same as 1908, but added \$75 additional minimum for services as county financial secretary.<sup>41</sup> A considerable advance came in 1919, when the minimum was placed at \$1200 and

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34. Acts of West Virginia, 1866, Chap. 74, Sec. 41.

35. Acts of West Virginia, 1872, Chap. 123, Sec. 54.

36. Acts of West Virginia, 1879, Chap. 74, Sec. 54

37. Acts of West Virginia, 1881, Chap. 15, Sec. 53

38. Acts of West Virginia, 1901, Chap. 69, Sec. 63

39. Acts of West Virginia, 1907, Chap. 58, Sec. 53.

40. Acts of West Virginia, 1908, Chap. 27, Sec. 120

41. Acts of West Virginia, 1913, Chap. 62, Sec. 149 a.



the maximum at \$2100. 42 The last increase came in 1835 when the annual compensa~~ation~~ rates were established, from \$800 to \$3000, exclusive of state aid, which was, in no case, to exceed \$2,000. 43.

It may seem from the data in Tabular Summary III that the Superintendents from W.R.White to Benjamin S. Morgan repeatedly asked for advancement in the County Superintendent's salary ~~from~~ but were never very specific. From 1863 to 1893 each Superintendent saw the salaries getting lower and lower. In 1894 Virgil A. Lewis recommended a \$100 minimum for each month school was in session. This figure seems to have been prohibitive, but the advance had already begun in 1893. Not until 1907, when the maximum of \$1200 was established by law, was Lewis' suggestion realized. Thomas C. Miller offered his graduated ~~xxxx~~ salary scale based upon the number of shools in a county with some apparent success, for \$2.00 was added to the basic salary in 1907 for each school over 125. Although M.P.Shawkey asked for an increase in both 1910 and 1920, he seemed vague and reluctant to suggest the minimum and maximum basis. Tabular Summary III shows that sixteen recommendations were made concerning salaries. Fourteen became law with few modifications; two failed; and the average length of

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42. Acts of West Virginia, 1919. Chap.2, Sec.34.

43. Acts of West Virginia, 1933. Ex. Sess.Chap.8

### Election

The law of 1863 established a precedent in the election of the county superintendent by popular vote.<sup>44</sup> No State Superintendent prior to M.P. Shawkey, <sup>45</sup> 1912, recommended a change. Nevertheless in his biennial report of 1911-1912 he suggested that the county superintendents be appointed by county Boards of Education if the county unit were adopted. In 1916 <sup>46</sup> and 1920 <sup>47</sup> Shawkey further asked that both State and County Superintendents be appointed. George M. Ford followed in the footsteps of his predecessor and requested in his reports of 1924,<sup>48</sup> and 1926, <sup>49</sup> that a county Board of Education be established with the power to appoint the county superintendent.

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44. Acts of West Virginia, 1865, Chap. 137, Sec. 18

45. Biennial Report, State Superintendent, 1911-1912, p. 14

46. Biennial Report, State Superintendent, 1915-1916 p. 12

47. Biennial Report, State Superintendent, 1919-1920, p. 8

48. Biennial Report, State Superintendent, 1923-1924 p. 12

49. Biennial Report, State Superintendent, 1925-1926.

With this reorganization of the school system in West Virginia, 1933, the county boards of education were provided for and delegated ~~to~~ the authority ~~to~~ appoint the county superintendent for a term of one year.<sup>50</sup>

Thus twenty-one years after the first recommendation and seven years after the last, Shawkey's dream of a board elected County Superintendent became an actuality. Five recommendations were made; and the average length of time between the suggestions and the enactment was 13.4 years.

#### Penalties for Neglect of Duty

The Legislature of 1863 saw the need for a County Superintendent, but many succeeding educators and legislators apparently did not. Such incompetence was shown that as early as 1865 W.R. White<sup>51</sup> asked that the Legislature enact a law making a penalty on the county superintendent for neglect of duty and transfer his power to the Board of Education to prevent injudicious selections. The contest grew so fierce that in 1872 W.K. Pendleton<sup>52</sup> reminded the Legislature that the County Superintendent was a necessary

<sup>50</sup>. Acts of West Virginia, 1933, Ex. Sess. Chap. 8, Art. 4, Sec. 1.

<sup>51</sup>. Annual Report, State Superintendent, 1865, p. 11

<sup>52</sup>. Annual Report, State Superintendent, 1872, p. 23.

agent between the State Department and the District schools. Benjamin S. Morgan, 53, said, 1888, that a penalty should be prescribed for his failure to faithfully execute his duties. Virgial A. Lewis 54 further recommended, 1894 that he be removed from office for failure to perform duties and make accurate reports. Realizing the need J.R.Trotter 55 asked better county supervision and severe penalties on the County Superintendent for failure to discharge his duties.

The law of 1863 made the county superintendent "liable to removal by the Board of Supervisors for any palpable violation of law or omission of duty" 56. The year of 1866 saw a fine not exceeding fifty dollars added to that of 1863. 57.

Fifty-three years passed and the law of 1919 made it possible for the State Superintendent of School or any officer or citizen of the county to file complaint against the county superintendent "for immorality, misconduct in office, incompetency, wilful neglect of duty, or other good and sufficient cause."

53. Biennial Report, State Superintendent, 1887, 1888, p.9

54. Biennial Report, State Superintendent, 1893-1894, p.39

55. Biennial Report, State Superintendent, 1897-1898 p.14.

56. Acts of West Virginia, 1863, Chap.137, Sec.12.

57. Acts of West Virginia, 1866, Chap.74, Sec.31.

Whereupon, the State Board of Education might remove the incumbent by giving him ten days written notice, and a chance to defend himself.<sup>58</sup>

With the adoption of the county unit and the appointment of the County Superintendent the law of 1933 stated, "The Board may remove Superintendent for cause in its judgment and discretion."<sup>59</sup> This left the Board with absolute power and the county superintendent with little protection. Accordingly, in 1937 the legislature put the following into effect:

The board may remove the superintendent from office for immorality, incompetency, insubordination, intemperance, or wilful neglect of duty; but the charges shall be stated in writing, and the Superintendent shall be given an opportunity to be heard by the Board upon not less than ten days' notice . . . .<sup>60</sup>

It should be noted that four state superintendents recommended penalties upon county superintendents for neglect of duty in the years of 1865, 1888, 1894 and 1898, all of which have been cited above and shown in Tabular Summary VII. Notwithstanding, the law of 1863 had already provided for removal, and that of 1866, added a fine of fifty dollars thereto, as may be seen by Tabular Summary VIII. Tabular Summary VII shows that four recommendations were made; four passed; and the average length of time between the recommendations and enactment into law was 19.5 years.

~~Term of Office~~  
 58. Acts of West Virginia, 1919, Chap. 2, Sec. 32.  
 In 1888 Benjamin S. Morgan faced with demands by many to  
 59. Acts of West Virginia, 1933, Ex. Sess. Chap. 8 Art. IV, Sec. 3  
~~decrease the term of the county superintendent~~  
 60. Acts of West Virginia, 1937, Chap. 34, Act. IV, Sec. 3  
 It would be far better to make the term six years instead of  
 leaving it two; great care should then be taken to elect  
 competent officers.<sup>61</sup>

The law of 1863 set the term of office of the county  
 superintendent at two years, <sup>62</sup>. This remained in effect until 1893,  
 when the term was increased to four years, <sup>63</sup>, but in 1933, with the



### Term of Office.

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It would be far better to make the term six years instead of leaving it two; great care should then be taken to elect competent officers. 61

The law of 1863 set the term of office of county superintendent to two years. 62 This remained in effect until 1893, when the term was increased to four years; 63, but in 1933, with the advent of the county unit, the office was made appointive, and the term reduced to one year. 64 The last change, of 1937 made the term begin July 1 for not more than four years at the discretion of the County Board of Education. 65

Tabular Summary VI enumerates the laws concerning the

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61. Biennial Report, State Superintendent, 1887, p/10

62. Acts of West Virginia, 1863, Chap. 137, Sec. 18

63. Acts of West Virginia, 1893, Chap. 26, Sec. 2

64. Acts of West Virginia, 1933, Ex. Sess, Chap. 8.

65. Acts of West Virginia, 1937, Chap. 34, Art. 4.

TABULAR SUMMARY LIV, Continued.

MISCELLANEOUS LEGISLATION

Acts of West Va.

Legislation

1939

Primary aid increased to 9 months

1939

Bus regulations amended.

## TABULAR SUMMARY LIV, Continued.

## MISCELLANEOUS LEGISLATION

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Acts of West Va.Legislation  
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1939            Primary aid increased to 9 months.

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RECOMMENDATIONS OF STATE SUPERINTENDENTS IN  
WEST VIRGINIA AND SUBSEQUENT LEGISLATION

A Thesis submitted to the Graduate Council of Marshall  
College in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements  
for the Degree of Master of Arts

By

Roy F. McClanahan

Marshall College  
January 1943.

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CHAPTER XI  
SCHOOL TEACHERS

In 1863 the West Virginia Legislature enacted a measure which required teachers to file their certificates of qualification in the Office of the Clerk of the Township.<sup>1</sup> The teachers were to keep daily registers.<sup>2</sup> In addition, they were to be responsible for the following:

- - - piety, morality, and respect for the laws and government of their country; and - - - that moral training - - which shall contribute to 3 securing good behavior and virtuous conduct - - - - -

In 1866 an Act was passed requiring the county superintendent to aid teachers in professional improvement by encouraging county teacher's association, teacher's institutes, and public addresses.<sup>4</sup>

In the same act the following paragraph was written:

No college diploma or certificate, or recommendation from the president or faculty of any college or academy, shall be taken to supercede the necessity of examination by the county superintendent.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Acts of the Legislature of West Virginia, December 10, 1863, p. 250.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., February 26, 1866, p. 84

<sup>5</sup> Ibid., p. 66

In 1879 the legislature further encouraged teachers institutes by a law requiring a five day institute each year, the instruction of which was to be employed by the superintendent.<sup>6</sup>

In the same year the legislature enacted a measure authorizing three grades of certificates: one, two, and three, according to the teacher's merit on examination.<sup>7</sup> No normal school diploma was to supercede the necessity of examination.<sup>8</sup> At first, teachers were at the mercy of district superintendents. Anyone who could be elected by the voters and execute a five hundred dollar bond could be superintendent. Not until eighteen years later were there any legal requirements concerning the qualifications of superintendents. In 1881 the following measure was passed by the Legislature:

The county superintendent of schools shall be a person of good, moral character, of temperate habits, literary acquirements, and skill and experience in the art of teaching. <sup>9</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Ibid., March 5. 1876, p.39.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid., March 6, 1879, p. 144

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid., March 8, 1881, p. 195

By 1866 teachers of West Virginia were at the mercy of trustees elected by popular vote, regardless of qualifications.<sup>10</sup> The trustees appointed teachers and fixed salaries, dismissed teachers whom they judged to be incompetent, cruel, negligent, or immoral, and directed "branches of learning".<sup>11</sup>

In 1879 the Board of Education was authorized to appoint "an intelligent and discreet person as trustee for each sub-district of their district".<sup>12</sup> However, there was no evidence that the Board of Education was capable of ascertaining intelligence and discretion, for each board member was elected by popular vote, regardless of qualifications. Table LII shows the number of teachers employed in Cabell County, from 1865 to 1940.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Ibid., February 26, 1866, p.56.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid., p. 60.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid., March 8, 1879, p. 138

<sup>13</sup> See Appendix A, p.26.

Salaries. High salaries do not insure good teaching, but psychologically teachers seek more pay. Hence, the boards of education paying the highest salaries probably received the most applications from which they could choose the best qualified teachers. Thus, salaries are important in the discussion of teachers in Cabell County.

Since State aid has played such an important role in salary provisions, it may well be considered at this time as introductory to salary regulations within Cabell County

In 1863 the first legislature authorized the District Boards of education to fix teachers' salaries. <sup>14</sup> In 1866 this authority was transferred to trustees. <sup>15</sup> In 1879 the district boards were again empowered to fix salaries "according to grade of certificate", but according to this legislation the teacher could contract for a less salary than that

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<sup>14</sup> Acts of the Legislature of West Virginia, December 10, 1863, p. 247.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid., February 26, 1866, p. 60

fixed by the Board.<sup>16</sup> But, in 1881 the authority again reverted to the trustees.<sup>17</sup>

In 1882 a minimum salary law was enacted. It authorized the boards to establish a salary schedule for first-second-third grade certificates at twenty-five, twenty-two, and eighteen dollars monthly, respectively, <sup>18</sup> In 1901 the minimum salary for first and second grade certificates was raised to thirty and twenty-five dollars, respectively. <sup>19</sup> In 1905 the minimums were increase to thirty-five, thirty, and twenty-five for the three grades of certificates. <sup>20</sup> The minimum became five dollars more in 1908.<sup>21</sup> In 1915 the first grades were to receive fifty dollars, second grade forty, and third grades thirty. <sup>22</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> Ibid., March 8, 1879, p. 138.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid., March 8, 1881, p. 170.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid., March 15, 1882, p. 297-298.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid., February 20, 1901, p. 155.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid., 16, 1905, p. 478. February 16, 1905.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid., February 18, 1908, p. 112.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid., " 20, 1915, p. 384.

In 1919 the minimum monthly salaries became seventy-five, sixty, and forty-five dollars. 23

In 1921 the legislature fixed the minimum salaries for collegiate, standard normal, short course, first grade, second grade, and third grade certificates at 110, one hundred, ninety, eighty-five, sixty-five, and fifty dollars monthly, respectively.<sup>24</sup>

In 1932 the legislature reduced the salaries about fifteen per cent.<sup>25</sup> However, in 1934 the 1921 minimum was again effective.<sup>26</sup>

In 1939 the legislature established a minimum of 120 dollars for teachers holding Master's degrees. 27.

In 1941 the monthly minimum salaries for teachers holding Doctor's degrees, Master's degrees, Bachelor's degrees, three year collegiate course, two-year collegiate courses, short courses, and first grade certificates were 140, 135, 120, 110, 105, ninety, and eighty-five dollars,

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23 Ibid., February 21, 1919, p.65.

24 " April 20, 1921, p. 13-14

25 " August 26, 1932, p.46

26 " February 21, 1934, p. 71.

27 " March 11, 1939, p. 298.



Respectively. 28

In 1943 the minimum salaries were increased twenty-five dollars, each. 29

The legislative establishment of minimum salary laws did not effect the salaries paid by all of the districts of Cabell County at all times. However, the following action indicates that the minimum fixed by law became the maximum in some cases:

On motion - - - it is ordered that the salaries that the salaries of the principals --- shall be --- the maximum allowed by law. 31

Even as recent as 1934 all teachers employed in Cabell County were paid the minimum salary prescribed by the state legislature. 32.

However, in most cases the districts and, later, the county boards paid higher salaries than those minimum fixed by law.

In most cases principals were paid more than

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28  
Acts of the Legislature of West Virginia, March 3, 1941, p. 174.

29  
Ibid., March 3, 1941, p. 173.

30  
Ibid., March 13, 1943 p. 156.

31  
Minutes of the Meetings of Barboursville District Board of Education, July 19, 1924, p. 81.

32  
Minutes of the meetings of Cabell County Board of Education, May 7, 1934, p. 76, v. 1.

teachers equally qualified because of more responsibilities. The following illustrates the responsibilities of one principal:

The Board appointed William Wiley Givens, of Kingwood, W. Va., to be principal of Milton High School, at a salary of \$250. per month for 12 months. Said employee was to be put in the Voag System of Agriculture in said High School and was to stay on the job the entire 12 months except for one month's vacation.<sup>33</sup>

The following salary schedule indicates that the Principal of Oley school was paid almost twice as much as the teachers in 1894:

On motion by Commissioner Archer duly carried, it was ordered that the following salaries for High School positions be paid:

<u>Oley School</u>		<u>Month</u>	<u>Year</u>
Mrs. N. Everett, Prin.	High School	\$76.50	\$812 00
Miss Addie R. Hay	9th Grade	45.00	360.00
Miss Lessie Lakin	8th "	45.00	360.00
Miss Sue B. Ware	7th "	31.50	252.00
Miss Lillian Isbell	6th "	30.00	240.00
Miss A. Blanche Enslow,	5th "	45.00	360.00
Miss Cora M. Talley	4th "	38.25	206.00
Miss Martha Wyatt,	3rd "	38.25	206.00
Miss Ethel W. Lallance,	2nd "	30.00	240.00
Miss Jennie L. Rece,	1st "	45.00	360.00
32			

33

Minutes of the Meetings of Grant District Board of Education March 28, 1924, p. 123, v. 1919--1928.

34.

Minutes of the Meetings of Huntington Independent District Schools, June 7, 1894, p. 121, v. 1.

By 1912 the salaries had increased as indicated by the following:

On motion by Commissioner Archer, duly carried, it was ordered that the following salaries for high school positions be paid:

Principal	\$150.00	
Vice-principal	105.00	
Science teacher	142.00	
Mathematics teacher	57.00	
Latin teacher	95.00	
French "	95.00	
German "	95.00	
Commercial teacher	90.00	
Latin and English	90.00	
Science	92.50	
English and Mathematics	85.00	
Athletic Director	111.11	
Supervisor of Writing	142.50	
" " Music	110.00	35

The following constituted the salary schedule for Huntington Independent District in 1917:

I. Salary Schedule-

No.3 Certificate with no previous teaching experience \$40. per mo.

No 2 " with no previous teaching experience 45.00 " "

No.1 " " " " " " 50.00 " "

No.1 Certificate with 2 years professional training and no previous teaching experience 55.00 " "

2. Maximum Salary-

No.3 Certificate - - - - - 45.00 " "

No.2 " 55.00 " "

No.1 " if in first grades 80.00 " "

No.1 " if in grades 7 and 8 85.00 " " 36

35

Ibid., June 3, 1912, p. 305, v. 2.

36

Ibid., June 5, 1917, p. 342, v. 3.

Further evidence that the principal was paid more than the teacher equally qualified is recorded as follows:

The Committees on Salaries and Superintendent Wright recommended that the Principals of the Summer Schools be paid \$90.00 per month, and the teachers be paid \$75.00 per month. 37

In 1941 Cabell County Board of Education established a detailed salary schedule for principals. 38 The principal holding a Standard Normal certificate received an annual salary of \$1016.40 for two rooms and \$1852.00 for twenty. If he held a Bachelor's degree he ~~held~~ received \$1142.40 for two rooms and \$1942.00 for twenty. Principals holding Bachelor's degrees were entitled to \$1,280.00 for two rooms and \$2,262.00 for twenty. Those having Principal's certificates received \$1,421.00 for two rooms, and \$2,411.00 for twenty. In each case of more than twenty rooms the principal received two dollars monthly per room.

In addition to receiving more pay than teachers, principals have been employed for longer terms. In 1919 the Huntington

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37

Ibid., June 16, 1919, p.469, v. 3.

38

See Appendix B. p.23,24.

High School principal was employed for eleven months at a monthly salary of 250.00 dollars.<sup>39</sup> In 1920 J.G.Graham, Huntington High School principal, was employed for twelve months at four thousand dollars.<sup>40</sup>

In 1922 the Principals of the senior high and the junior high schools and the senior high school assistant principals were employed for twelve months at 4200, 3800, and 2400 dollars, respectively.<sup>41</sup> In 1926 E.Q.Swann was employed as principal of the senior high school for twelve months at 4500 dollars.<sup>42</sup>

In some cases, especially in Guyandotte District, rural school teachers were paid more than urban teachers. In 1927 teachers of one-room schools who traveled "two miles going, and returning from school on the dirt road each day" were allowed thirty dollars more per month.<sup>43</sup>

Table LIII indicates the salaries paid rural teachers of Cabell County in 1941.<sup>45</sup>

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39

Minutes of the Meetings of Huntington Independent District Board of Education, May 5, 1919, p.459, v. 3

40

Ibid., May 10, 1920

41

Ibid., July 10, 1922, p. 339, v. 4

42.

Ibid., December 13, 1926, p. 255, v. 5.

43

Minutes of the Meetings of Guyandotte District Board of Education, June 25, 1927, p. 9, v. 1927-1933.

44 Ibid., July 2, 1928, p. 55 v. 1927-1933.

45 See Appendix A. p.63.

In 1911, 1919, 1920, and 1933 Huntington Independent District established detailed salary schedules, during which era the minimum salary varied from forty to one hundred dollars per month.<sup>46</sup> In 1940 the salary scale of Cabell County indicated that the salaries paid were a maximum of sixteen dollars per month more than the state minimum requirement by Law.<sup>47</sup>

In 1943 the County Board authorized a five-dollar monthly increase to "all school people except the superintendent, his assistant, and the comptroller".<sup>48</sup>

This term, 1943-1944, teachers are receiving thirty dollars more per month than they received last year as the result of increased state minimum salary prescription, plus the increased county allotment.

Qualifications. In the discussion of salaries the author has already described the legal duties of a teacher as those prompting him to breed piety, moralit, patriotism, and virtuous conduct within his pupils.<sup>49</sup> In the same year, 1763, the county superintendent was given legal authority to examine candidates, withhold, or issue their certificates and revoke them.<sup>50</sup> Each teacher was required to file his

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<sup>46</sup>

See Appendix B. p.26-32.

<sup>47</sup>

Ibid., p. 33.

<sup>48</sup>

Ibid., April 14, 1943, p. 152, v. 3.

<sup>49</sup>

Acts of the Legislature of West Virginia, December 10 1863, p. 250.

<sup>50</sup>

Ibid., p 251.



certificate in the office of the Township Clerk. "No college diploma or certificate, or recommendation from the president or faculty of any college or academy" relieved a teacher from the county superintendent's examination. Evidently, colleges were not highly acceptable by school men. Instead of urging teachers to attend school, a legal requirement forced them to institutes. Institutes, according to the law passed in 1879, were short reviews conducted by county-superintendent-appointees for five days.<sup>52</sup> Institutes were not legally abolished until 1931.<sup>54</sup> In brief, the teacher's qualifications depended upon the superintendents of Cabell County as well as those of other counties in West Virginia. Too boards of education influenced the appointment of teachers. In 1890, for example, Huntington Independent Board of Education adopted the following resolution:

That hereafter in the appointment of teachers for the city schools all things being equal, we will give the preference to graduates of the public schools of the city over all the other competitors. <sup>55</sup>

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<sup>51</sup>  
Bid., p. 250

<sup>52</sup>  
Ibid., February 26, 1866, p. 66

<sup>53</sup>  
Ibid., March 5, 1879, p. 39.

<sup>54</sup>  
Ibid., March 13, 1931. p. 30-31.

<sup>55</sup>  
Minutes of the Meetings of Huntington Independent District Board of Education, July 3, 1890, p. 38, v. 1.

In 1897 Huntington Independent District Board of Education adopted some standards for the examination and certification of teachers.<sup>56</sup> For a third grade certificate each teacher was required to make an average grade of seventy per cent in twelve subjects. In order to merit a first grade certificate the teacher had to make seventy per cent in three subjects. By 1920 this board formulated a broader statement of its policy, to include high school, junior high school, and elementary levels<sup>57</sup>.

Also, Boards of Education influenced teacher appointments by specifying the number of teachers needed. For instance, in 1926, Barboursville board estimated "that they have and will employ 20 teachers during the coming school year"<sup>58</sup>.

The most inclusive statement of the Board's influence on teachers is included in the contract form drawn up in accordance with the resolutions adopted May 9, 1932, and amended May 26, 1932.<sup>59</sup>

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56. See Appendix B. p.34

57 Ibid., p. 35--38.

58 Minutes of the Meetings of Barboursville District Board of Education, July 5, 1926, p. 120.

59 See Appendix B. p. 39--41.

In addition to the superintendents and boards of education trustees appointed teachers and fixed salaries.

Physicians more recently influenced the appointment of teachers. In 1917 Huntington Independent District Board of Education resolved to enforce the following regulation of the State of West Virginia:

No person shall be entered as a teacher, employee, or pupil any school in the state without having first presented to the principal in charge, or the proper authority a certificate from a competent, licensed, physician of this state, certifying that the said teacher, employee, or pupil has been successfully vaccinated against smallpox; or in lieu of a certificate of successful vaccination, has ~~xxxxxxx~~ been done in a proper manner, or proof of immunity by reason of having had the small pox. 61

In 1935 Cabell County Board of Education adopted the following health regulation for teachers:

1. Each teacher will report to the examiner named in a letter to be sent to him or her from the office of the superintendent of schools. this examiner of course, to be one of those on the list to be approved by the Board of Education.

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60 Acts of the Legislature of West Virginia, March 8, 1879, p. 138.

61 Minutes of the Meetings of Huntington Independent District Board of Education, December 4, 1917, p. 375, v. 3.

2. The examining physician will report a certificate of health clearance to the superintendents of schools.
3. If the teacher is reported by the examining physician to be a "suspect", such teacher will be returned to Dr. I.I. Hershman, Chairman of a Special Board (composed of three members) of Examiners.
4. The Special Board will report on such persons to the superintendent's office, with recommendations.
5. The recommendation of such Special Board will be final.<sup>62</sup>

In 1940 the same board recommended the following:

- - - That all teachers employed in Cabell County furnish a certificate from their family physician showing that they are free from all communicable diseases on, or before November 1, 1940. The form to be used by all of the physicians will be furnished at the Central Office, and when properly filled out by the family physician, will be placed on file with the teacher's contract.<sup>63</sup>

The citizens of Cabell County may have influenced the appointment of teachers. The following communication was addressed to the Huntington Independent District Board of Education and signed by Byrd Prillerman, of Institute, West Virginia, dated May 26, 1920:

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<sup>62</sup> Minutes of the Meetings of Cabell County Board of Education, May 20, 1935, p. 133, v. 1

<sup>63</sup> Ibid., September 26, 1940, p. 254, v. 3.

I notice by the paper that you have re-elected Prof. J.W. Scott Principal of the Douglass High School, in your city. I hereby express my appreciation and approval for your retaining Mr. Scott in this position.

For several years I have made it a custom to visit the Douglass High school at least annually. I have visited nearly all of the High Schools in this state for the education of negro youth, and I am sure it would be difficult to find a higher class principal than is Prof. Scott. I have been associated with him for several years in religious and educational work and I know that he has the full confidence and respect of the members of his race throughout the state.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the West Virginia Sunday School Association in Clarksburg, November 25, 1919, Mr. Scott was made a member of the state committee on the Work among the Negroes. When this committee met in Charleston on December 13 to organize, Mr. Scott was made Chairman. For more than fifteen years he has been Secretary of the West Virginia Baptist Sunday School Convention, and was re-elected at the annual meeting at Hinton, May 28, 1920.

He is the Chairman of the High School Principals of this state, and has frequently conducted in Charleston what I regard the highest class conference ever conducted in this state, in the interest of Negro Education.

It is indeed regrettable that there are any citizens in Huntington who are not able to appreciate Mr. Scott's valuable services to that Community. In the long time I have been associated with him I have not known him to say, or do anything unbecoming a Christian gentleman. 64

Another evidence that the citizens may have been

greatly concerned about teachers is expressed in the following letter:

To the Honorable Board of Education of Barboursville District, Cabell County, West Virginia:

Gentlemen:

We, the citizens and parents of children attending the Pea Ridge School, Sub-District No. beg lief to file with you complant against John M.M.Plymale, teacher of said school, which complaint is filed under the Statute of West Virginia, Chapter 45, Section 57, as follows:

- (1) Incompetency in the management, control, and general conduct of the school.
- (2) Wilful neglect of duty, in not assigning lessons to the children and hearing their classes and assisting them in their school work.

We rezeptfully pray your Honorable body that you grant the privilege to us to be geard by you and show cause why the said John M.M.Plymale should not be dismissed as teacher of said school. Given under our hand this 2nd day of February, 1928.

Nina Call  
W.H.Duff,  
Mrs. L.L.Douthat  
H.B.Thornburg  
K.B.Harless,  
Mrs. W.V.Watson  
Harry Gibson  
A. Adkins,  
A.J.Lawson  
Edward Edens 66



The teacher offered his resignation, which the Board accepted.<sup>67</sup> However, the board found the accused not guilty of the charges.<sup>68</sup>

Even pupils may have had an influence on the teachers who served the schools. Many old timers relate stories of overgrown pupils and how they scared teachers out of the neighborhood by fighting and threatening violence. In 1905 the Principal of the High School in Huntington presented a letter of resignation to the Board of Education, stating that he could not maintain discipline. In turn, the pupils petitioned the board to refuse his resignation, pledging their support "in the maintenance of proper discipline".

The most recent influence on teacher qualifications involves the war. In January, 1943 R.B. Marston, Executive Secretary of the State Education Association, stated the following:

- - -the war effort as well as the state education system is being impaired by the loss of able teachers to other states and to industries.

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67. Ibid., February 28, 1928, p. 152.

68 Ibid.

69 Minutes of the Meetings of Huntington Independent District Board of Education, April 6, 1905, p. 4, v. 1.

70 The Huntington Advertiser, Wednesday evening, January 6, 1943, p. 1.

In January, 1944, the following article expressed the trend of the teacher shortage in the states:

An increase of approximately 40% in the number of emergency teachers certificates issued this year, as compared with a year ago reflects the drain on West Virginia's teacher supply by the draft, said Superintendent W. W. Trent said today.

Trent, explaining the certificates were issued on a one year basis to persons qualifying to teach temporarily in the absence of regular instructors, said the number of permits had jumped from 801 for the entire 1942-1943 school year to 1,434 thus far in 1943-1944 term.

Of the current certificates. Trent said 496 had been issued to high school instructors, which compared with 275 issued to persons teaching in the secondary grades throughout the previous school year.

He reiterated that the "situation in our schools may really become acute" if the draft continues to take male teachers. Only the fact that some men and women have obtained the emergency certificates has prevented a critical shortage before this, Trent reported. 71

In September, 1943, Mr. O. C. Nutter, Superintendent of Cabell County Schools, appeared before the teachers in a meeting and asked them to be loyal to their "essential jobs". He pointed out that there were enough qualified teachers in the county at that time, but Assistant Superintendent R. F. Brooks said, the turn-over had been astonishing in the previous year. Mr. C. N. Fannin, Head of the Maintenance and Transportation Department, expressed a hope

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71.

The Herald-Advertiser, Sunday morning, January 23, 1944.

that "we will work together and make the best of things". 72

Under the influence of County Superintendents, boards of education, citizens, trustees, pupils, and war, or perhaps in spite of them, teachers have risen from "ignorance of the lowest type" 73 to the maximum of Master's Degrees in Cabell County.

Ethics. Closely associated with the qualifications of teachers are their ethical standards. In 1863 teachers were delegated to teach morals. 74 The implication is that one who teaches morality must have knowledge of it. However, moral standards are so flexible and various that the author must refrain from discussing the teachers personal application of his knowledge of morality. However, as late as 1930, a teacher, Mr. Calvin Reynolds, was arrested on charges of having intoxicating liquor in his possession. 75 The Superintendent of Huntington Independent District released him, temporarily. 76

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72

The author attended the teachers' meeting.

73.

Lambert, op. cit., p/10.

74

Acts of the Legislature of West Virginia, December 10, 1863 p. 250.

75

Minutes of the Meetings of Huntington Independent District Board of Education, October 21, 1930, p.36, v. 6.

76

Ibid., November 24, 1930, p. 41, v. 6.

The Huntington Independent District Board of Education may have considered professional ethics when it adopted the following resolutions:

That no teacher, principal or supervisor - - - - - engage in any other gainful occupation while under contract with the Board of Education. 77

The principals of the schools in Huntington, in a letter dated January 14, 1924, asserted their ethical attitude toward the conduct of the administrators as follows:

We, the undersigned principals of the Public Schools of the City of Huntington, beg to submit herewith a few specific things that we respectfully ask you to investigate at your earliest convenience. If you find that we are right in the matters herein set forth, we trust that you will immediately take steps to give us relief. If we are wrong, and you find in this departure of ours a serious breach of ethics, in any sense, we submit that you hold us jointly to immediate account for same, even to the extent of asking for resignation in a body.

We submit, first, that the working conditions in the schools are far from satisfactory, in that both Principals and Teachers are hampered in their duties by arbitrary typewritten lists of instructions that not only serve to destroy the initiative of the working forces of the individual schools, but destroy the zest for the work in the hearts of both Principals and Teachers.

That children to the number of sixty, or more, are being crowded into single rooms with single teachers, thus destroying all possibility of efficient and satisfactory work.

That Principals and Teachers are unduly burdened with work that detracts from their individual duties, such work being in the nature of unnecessary reports,

the attending of unnecessary meetings, and the serving on unnecessary committees.

That effective supervision in the schools has been practically destroyed. And let us say to you here that while we would guard carefully against over-supervision, we unhesitatingly favor a wise, judicious, economical supervision in the schools, especially in the subjects that require technically trained teachers.

That glaring favoritism has been shown in the matter of faculty assignments, and that a proper reward of merit has, in many cases, been sacrificed for personal reasons.

That, because of these and other things that might be corrected, there is a general feeling of unrest and dissatisfaction among the Teachers of the City, so much so that many of our better teachers are planning to withdraw from the system when the opportunity affords.

That, in a word, the schools of the city are not going forward, and that we, as Principals do not want to be held responsible for a condition that seems beyond our power to correct.

May we submit to you, too, at this time, that we believe in economy---economy judiciously and equitably administered, and that we are in full accord with the economic policy your Honorable Board has inaugurated. But we are not in favor of lowering the high standard of the public school system of Huntington, for we see in it the City's greatest asset, in that what it is must determine largely what the future citizen-ship of this community shall be.

May we submit further that in this movement not a single one of us has any personal ax to grind. We are seeking better working conditions and a chance to do our best---this and this alone. 78

The author found no specific code of ethics recorded.

Yet the teachers have been described as people who "had to walk

the straight and narrow path of righteousness" in Cabell County. 79

Methods In 1904 the Superintendent of Cabell County schools Ira F. Hatfield, described the transition from the formal routine to the informal and constructive methods of instruction as follows:

Teachers are becoming alive to the more important use and ultimate aim of education. The old system of routine mechanical reciting, devitalized memorizing of text books has given place to the modern method of teaching, in which pupil is placed more upon his own responsibility, learning to put emphasis on thought, on observation, and on objects, thus realizing that in learning we find the ability for construction and combination, rather than repetition and imitation, as of the old system. 80

Table LIV-LVII illustrate the methods used in a majority of Cabell County schools which are rural, in 1941. 81 Tables LVII-L-X indicate parent-teacher relationships which are so often essential to pupil-teacher understanding in the classroom.

Fred B. Lambert described pupil-punishment as follows:

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79

Miss Jennie Wood, teacher of Cabell County schools for forty-eight years and present Principal of Buffington.

80

Biennial Report of the State Superintendent of Free Schools of the State of West Virginia, 1903-1904, p/197

81

See Appendix A. p. 64--66

82

Ibid., p. 67-70.



Punishments were frequent, and well applied. Teachers unable or unwilling to wield the rod were considered either derelict of duty, ignorant, or non compos mentis. A boy who had never been whipped in school was certainly robbed of his birth-right.

Nature study had its practical application in hunting withes and chopping firewood, one of the incidental duties of the teacher and large boys. 83

In 1922 The Huntington Independent District Board of Education resolved that "Paddles, clubs and canes will not be countenanced by the Board". 84

In 1929 the same board adopted the following resolution: That corporal punishment be discouraged, and kept down to a minimum, but in cases deemed necessary, the same shall be referred to the Principal and the punishment given by the Principal or in his presence. 85

Table LXI illustrates the methods of pupil-punishment executed by rural teachers, 1941, which constituted the majority of Cabell County teachers. 86

The United States Bureau of Education, 1929, attributed increased pupil-promotion to better teaching in Huntington. The following explanation given for

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83

Lambert, op. cit., p.15.

84

Minutes of the Meetings of Huntington Independent District Board of Education May 29, 1922, p.320, v. 4.

85.

Obid., October 2, 1929, p. 380-381, v. 5.

86

See Appendix A., p. 71

Table LXII:

In 1918-1919 comparatively few of the elementary school teachers had completed two years of normal school work. This was the case up until 1920-1921. Since that time, better trained teachers have been maintained, the reduction in the number of failures may be attributed to better teaching. 88

In 1931 C.L. Wright, Superintendent of Schools of Huntington Independent District, explained the advantage of better teachers and more assurance of pupil promotion.<sup>89</sup> Table LXIII indicates the number of pupil promotions in the rural schools of Cabell County, 1941. 80

Supervisory Teachers. In 1892 it is highly probable that supervision was delegated to the Principals of the various schools of Huntington. The Board of Education adopted a recommendation "that the principals of the different buildings be required to make monthly reports of the standing of the teachers in their buildings to the superintendent." 91

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87

See Appendix A, p. 72.

88

"Report on the school expenditures of Huntington, West Virginia", United States Bureau of Education, 1929, p.41.

89

See Appendix B, p. 42--44.

90

See Appendix A., p. 75.

91

Minutes of the Meetings of Huntington Independent District Board of Education, June 2, 1892, p.88, v. 1.

By 1910 there were music and writing supervisors employed at a monthly salary of one hundred dollars and \$133.33, respectively, in Huntington. 92 In 1911 the salaries became 105 and 142 dollars, respectively. 93

In 1914 four supervisors were employed: Music \$125; writing \$155.55; manual training \$135; domestic science, one hundred dollars. 94 By 1918 there were ten supervisory teachers in Huntington. 95 Before 1933 the number had been reduced to nine, and included art, commerce, music, manual arts, assistant music, mathematics, physical education, writing, and primary supervisors in Huntington Independent District. 96

In the meantime, there was a district supervisor in Guyandotte. In 1929 the Guyandotte District Board of Education took the following action:

On motion - - - it was ordered that the District Supervisor be, and he is hereby required to give  $\frac{2}{3}$  of his time to the supervision of the Junior High school and  $\frac{1}{3}$  of his time to the supervision of elementary schools, and that he be paid from the respective high school funds accordingly. 97

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92

Ibid., insertion on the back of v. 3. "Teachers Pay Roll, Month ending December 2, 1910".

93

Ibid., May 7, 1911, 232, v. 2.

94

Ibid., July 3, 1914, p.461, v. 2.

95

Ibid., July 15, 1918, p. 411-417, v. 3.

96

Ibid., Insertion at the back of v. 5.

97

Minutes of the Meetings of Guyandotte District Board of Education, July 13, 1929, p.99, v.1927-1933.

In 1931 the Board altered its order slightly, as indicated by the following appointment:

On motion - - - R.F. Brooks was appointed District Supervisor for Guyandotte District, for a term of ten months, to be maintained from the High School Teacher s Fund - - - All of his time is to be given to the Junior High Schhools if necessary. If he has any available time he is to give it to the Elementary Schools, without additional salary. 98

In 1932 the legislature abolished supervisors. Thereafter, Cabell County Board of Education replaced the supervisors with so-called visiting teachers. In 1937 they consisted of the following:  
100

Teacher	Field	Annual Salary.
1. Clara Brown	Art	\$1,618.50
2. Claren Peoples	Music	1,706.50
3. Margaret Leckie	Reading	1,706.50
4. Mary Titus	Physical Ed.	1,706.50
5. Ed Crow	" "	1,706.50

Table LXIV shows the means by which administration and supervision were initiated, 1941, in the rural schools of Cabell County. 101 Table LXV shows the help preferred by rural school teachers. 102

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98

Ibid., February 28, 1931, p. 127, v. 1927-1933.

99

Acts of Legislature of West Virginia, August 26, 1932, p. 47.

100

Minutes of the Meetings of Cabell County Board of Education, September 7, 1937, p.278, v. 1.

101

See Appendix A. p. 74.

102

See Appendix A. p. 75.

At the present time, 1944, supervisory teachers are listed as directors of special subjects. 103 They are the following:

Director	Subject
1. Leland S. Arnold	Orchestra and Band
2. John L. Brickels	Physical Education
3. Clara G. Brown	Art
4. H.C.Lantz	Coach
5. Margaret Leckie	Reading
6. H.A.Lightner	Industrial Education
7. Claren N. Peoples	Vocal Music
8. H.C.Shadwell	Instrumental Music
9. Estelle Tabor	Nutrition.

Sex. In many instances sex has been considered in teacher placement and employment. In 1907 the Huntington Independent District Board of Education resolved that a male should be elected Principal of Oley School. 104 In 1913 the same board resolved ~~that~~ that "the maximum pay of female teachers in the High School be \$100.00 per month - - - when the work of the teacher is entirely satisfactory and receives the endorsement of the superintendent and principals. 105

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103

"Directory Cabell County Public Schools, 1943-1944". p.3.

104

Minutes of the Meetings of Huntington Independent District Board of Education, September 7, 1907, p. 79, v. 2.

105

Ibid., June 10, 1913, p. 308, v. 2.

In 1915 this board took the following action:

On motion, duly carried, Mrs. Dulcie Shelton Williams was elected as a teacher in the City schools at a salary of \$50.00 per month. Mrs. Williams, having been a teacher in the city schools for two years, but having married during the last school term, certain circumstances brought to the attention of the board concerning her personal affairs, they felt authorized to arbitrate in her favor the practice of the board against employing women teachers living with their husbands. 106.

In 1918 the Huntington Independent District Board of Education increased the salaries of J. R. Miller and H.C. Wilson five and ten dollars per month, respectively "owing to the scarcity of men teachers ----"107

The next year the same Board adopted the following resolution:

Resolved that it be the policy of this Board of Education employ no married woman as teacher who is wholly or partly dependent upon her husband for support. 108

In 1930 women teachers were still a problem for the Board in Huntington, as indicated by the following decision:

Since the Board of Education has before it requests from several married women teachers and employees for temporary leave from service because of expected child birth, and since such grants of leave bring considerable public criticism upon the

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106

Ibid., September 7, 1915, p. 140, v. 3.

107

Ibid., September 9, 1918, p. 430, v. 3.

108

Ibid., May 5, 1919, p. 458, v. 3.



Board in granting them, be it resolved by the Board that such leaves be no longer granted, but that such teachers and employees be requested to present their resignations, and that such teachers may thereafter, at some time later present applications for employment. 109

In 1932 that the Huntington Board resolved that all male teachers who did not depend on their salary solely, for support were to be released from their positions. 110

In 1934 that the Cabell County Board of Education approved a plan whereby pregnant teachers must have a leave of absence four months before child-birth and year following unless the child died. 111.

At the present time, 1944, the board of education is more liberal in its consideration of sex among teachers. About 6/6ths of the 691 teachers at the present time, 1944, are women. 112. Approximately one-half of the women are married. 113

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109

Ibid., November 10, 1930, p. 38, v. 6.

110 " April 18, 1932, p. 218, v. 6.

111

Minutes of the Meetings of the Cabell County Board of Education, August 15, 1934, p. 97, v. 1.

112.

"Directory Cabell County Public Schools 1943-1944" In a few cases the author could not tell whether the names were applicable to male or female.

113.

Ibid. The author counted those who were listed as "Mrs." In some cases they may be widows or divorcees.

Table LXVI indicates that rural parents prefer women teachers. 114 Table LXVII shows that furthermore, they prefer married women as teachers. 115.

Retirement. In 1919, the Legislature of West Virginia passed a Retirement Act, authorizing district and independent district boards of education to maintain a "retirement fund" "out of the teachers fund". 116. The first evidence that Cabell county took advantage of the Act was recorded in 1923. The Huntington Independent Board of Education placed Mrs. Mary Staten, who had taught thirty-six years, on an annual salary of seven hundred dollars, without assignment. 117 In 1927 Barboursville District Board of Education agreed to pay Henry Lambert, who had taught about sixty years, 504 dollars annually. 118

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114

See Appendix A. p. 76.

115

Ibid., p. 77

116

Acts of the Legislature of West Virginia.

117

Minutes of the Meetings of the Huntington Independent District Board of Education, May 8, 1923, p. 455, v. 4.

118

Minutes of the Meetings of Barboursville District Board of Education, June 25, 1927, p. 132-134; August 9, 1927, p. 139.

By 1932 Huntington Independent District Board of Education was paying pensions as follows twelve months each, per year. 119

Carrie L. Reese	\$55.
Sallie Spurlock	55.
Mary Staten	55.
Julia Wilcoxon	60.
E. A. Viney	65.
O.J. Walburn	50.
A.S. Lee	75.
Emma McClintock	50.

In 1936 Cabell County Board of Education authorized the retirement of Miss Julia Merritt, on a monthly salary of fifty dollars. 120.

In 1941 the "State Teachers' Retirement System" was established by legislative enactment. The following portion of the Act is a general statement of its value to all pupils, schools teachers in West Virginia:

Any member who has attained the age of sixty years or who has had thirty-five years of total service as a teacher in West Virginia, regardless of age, shall be eligible for retirement allowance. No new entrant nor present member shall be eligible for retirement allowance, however, if either has less than five years' service to his credit.

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119.

Minutes of the Meetings of Huntington Independent District Board of Education, August 2. 1932, p. 258, v. 6

120

Ibid., January 23, 1936, p. 183, v. 1.

121

Acts of the Legislature of West Virginia, March 6, 1941, p. 171.

In addition to the privilege of retirement with pay, teachers of Cabell County have had "one day sick leave" with pay per semester since 1935. At the present time the sick leave is cumulative, making it possible to be out of school two days consecutively. The author does not wish to discuss the merits of the system, but Mr. Nutter, Superintendent of Cabell County schools, has remarked a few times in teachers meetings that the same teachers are invariably absent two days each year because of illness. He is opposed to the system, because the Classroom Teachers Association favors it enthusiastically. 123

Another convenience reserved for Teachers in the right of leaves of absence as expressed in the following paragraph:

The Board of Education looks with favor upon the practice of granting leaves of absence to staff members whose absence is incurred because of health, because of intent to pursue professional training and for other purposes which promise immediate or future advantages in school service. Requests for leaves of absence, not justifying themselves in these terms, will in general, be looked upon with disfavor. This includes particular reference to requests for leaves of absence which are prompted by advantages accruing solely to the teacher rather than shared by the teacher and the pupils. 124

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123

The author was a member of the Classroom Teachers Association during the school term 1942-1943.

124

Minutes of the Meetings of Cabell County Board of Education, August 30, 1934, p. 105, v. 1.

Substitutes. The following discussion of "sick leaves" and "leaves of absence" implies the need for substitute teachers. Cabell County Board of Education, hence, for the sake of efficiency and understanding, adopted the following procedure for employing new teachers:

The Board may prefer for its Executive Officer and Staff to select a larger number of candidates than is needed for filling vacancies, and after consideration approve such list. This list would, according to this plan, be regarded as the Official list of approved substitutes, and from it could be drawn, without additional work on the part of the Board teachers to fill vacancies as these vacancies arise. 125

In 1934 the same Board adopted more detailed regulations affecting substitutes. 126

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125

Ibid., August 15, 1934, p.99, v. 1.

126

See Appendix B. p.45, 46.

AN HISTORICAL SURVEY OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF  
CABELL COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA.

A Thesis Submitted to the Graduate Council of Marshall College  
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements  
For the Degree of Master of Arts.

By

Marie Nelson Lewis

Marshall College  
August, 1944



THIS CANDIDATE WAS RECOMMENDED FOR THE MASTER OF ARTS

DEGREE ON: July 27 1944.  
MONTH DAY YEAR.

Roy C. Woods

Chairman

J.B.Shouse

C.E.Hedrick

## PREFACE

The purpose of this thesis is to assemble and classify available data which indicate the development of free schools in Cabell County, West Virginia. The period of 135 years since the formation of Cabell County has been an era of great vicissitude in the schools. Subscription schools and tutors have been almost entirely replaced by a county system of free education.

Little history has been written concerning the schools and few documents have been preserved. Annual and Biennial reports of the state superintendents from 1866 to 1942, Acts of the General Assembly of Virginia, and Acts of the Legislature of West Virginia are filed among the archives of the State capitol. The minutes of the Cabell County board meetings from 1819 to 1860 are in possession of Mr. Fred B. Lambert, Superintendent of the Barboursville District schools in 1910. Mr. Lambert also has a summary of the Barboursville District schools up to 1910. At the present time he resides in Barboursville. Other minutes of board meetings, financial reports and miscellaneous data, 1899-1944, are stored in the business office of the Cabell County Board of Education. Many records have been lost, and some of the available records are so old and worn that they are hardly legible.

## CHAPTER I

### THE FORMATION AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS OF CABELL COUNTY, VIRGINIA.

The Formation of Cabell County, Virginia. Cabell County was created more than 134 years ago, but it was the birthplace of interesting history long before 1809. In the treaty at Fort Stanwix, 1738 the Six Nations of Mohawk, Oneida, Seneca, Onondaga, Cayuga, and Tuscarora Indian tribes ceded a large area of land, including the present Cabell County, to King George III of England.<sup>1</sup> In 1777 the General Assembly of Virginia formed Greenbrier County from Botetourt and Montgomery counties ceded by the Six Nations.<sup>2</sup> In 1789 Kanawha County was created from Greenbrier and Montgomery Counties<sup>3</sup> On January 2, 1809 Cabell County was formed from Kanawha County by an Act of the General Assembly of Virginia.<sup>4</sup>

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1. Virgil A. Lewis, History of West Virginia (Philadelphia: Hubbard Brothers, 1889), ch. VII.
  2. Ibid., p.520. Index to Enrolled Bills of the General Assembly of Virginia, 1776 to 1910, p. 178. Enrolled Bills of the General Assembly of Virginia, p. 43, v. 1777.
  3. Lewis, op. cit., p.570 Index to Enrolled Bills of the General Assembly of Virginia, 1776 to 1910, p.226 Enrolled Bills of the General Assembly of Virginia, p.5 v. 1778.
  4. Lewis, op. cit., p.626. Index to Enrolled Bills of the General Assembly of Virginia, 1776 to 1910, p.64 Enrolled Bills of the General Assembly of Virginia, p. 15 v. 1808-1809.

The Educational Program of Cabell County, Virginia.

At least five years before the formation of Cabell County there were schools in that area. The earliest available reference to Cabell County schools was as follows:

Thomas A. Morris was born April 28, 1794, in Kanawha County, Virginia, five miles above Charleston, on the West side of the Kanawha River. His parents, John and Margaret Morris, were both natives of Virginia---the former of Culpepper, and the latter of Augusta County. They belonged to the first band of heroic and enterprising pioneers who settled on the Great Kanawha river, about the year 1785, where, besides the ordinary difficulties incident to new countries, they passed through all the perils and excitement of an Indian war, in the progress of which many of the whites were killed by the savages. Wayne's treaty, in 1795, at length gave peace to the settlers---

When Thomas was ten years old, the family removed from this beautiful home to a place about forty miles west, in Cabell County, on the State road leading to Kentucky - - - - -

The means of education were very limited at that early day ~~xxx~~ throughout the Western States and territories, and especially in the north-western part of Virginia, where the Morris family resided. Teachers were few in number, and for the most part, ill qualified for their work; nor were the most competent of them in very good demand, for many of the early settlers of that wild region cared little for books, so they could obtain plenty of fresh land, good range

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for their stock, and an abundance of game. Still there were schools; not continuing, however, longer than one-quarter of the year, and that always in the winter, when boys could best be spared from the farm.. By such limited means the the children of that time, on the frontier, obtained what little knowledge of books they possessed; nor was it generally deemed important that the course of studies be very expensive or thorough. To master Dilworth's Spelling Book, learn to read the New Testament, cyphur to the rule of three", and write a fair, rojnd hand, was regarded as quite an accomplished education, and ample for all the practical purposes of life. This curriculum Thomas had passed through creditably by the time he reached his eighteenth year. About that time he became a member of the first grammar class ever organized in Cabell County. It was taught by Mr. William Payne, a native of England, a thoroughly competent teacher, and an earnest Methodist. This worthy old gentleman, besides performing his professional duties, gave his pupils many sound moral moral lessons, and though gathered to his fathers long ago, his memory is cherished fondly by all his surviving students. 5

Cabell County was created in time to take advantage of the "Literary Fund" established by the General Assembly of Virginia.6 In 1919 five commissioners had been appointed by Cabell County Court to get ~~the~~ share of forty-five thousand dollars appropriated by

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5. John F. Marlay, The Life of Rev. Thomas A. Morris, D.D. (Cincinnati: Hitchcock and Walden, 1875), 10-12

6. Acts passed at a General Asse,bly of the Commonwealth of Virginia, 1810, p. 8,9. On February 2, 1810, the "Literary Fund" was created on the Auditor of Public Accounts' record to show money collected as fines, escheats, forfeitures, &c. The collections were to be used to further the education of indigent children.

the Assembly in 1818.<sup>7</sup> At a meeting of the Commissioners, September 23, 1819, they ordered

-----that each and every one of the school commissioners be authorized to draw by order upon the Treasurer for any expenditures incurred for books and tuition fees for the education of poor children.<sup>8</sup>

The treasurer reported the total disbursements for 1820 as as \$658.73 $\frac{1}{4}$ , twenty-nine dollars and fifty cents of which was paid to the commissioners. The expenditures for 1821 amounted to \$336.08 $\frac{1}{2}$ .<sup>10</sup> For the next year the treasurer's report indicated an expense of \$86.05 $\frac{1}{2}$ .<sup>11</sup>

In 1821 the commissioners resolved to support not

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7

Ibid., 1818, p. 12-13. On February 18, 1818, the Assembly ordered that sum of forty-five thousand dollars be appropriated and divided among the Counties for the purpose of educating indigent children and that from five to fifteen commissioners be elected by the County Courts to allocate the money in each of the counties.

8.

"School Commissioners Book of Record 1819-1860," November 23, 1819, first page from the front.

9. Ibid., November 26, 1821, fifth page from the front.

10.

Ibid., November 25, 1822, seventh page from the front.

11.

Ibid., November 24, 1823, eighth page from the front.



more than twenty-five pupils in the county. The subscriptions were to be financed and distributed as follows:

In precinct number one, six scholars shall be subscribed, and the price paid for their tuition shall not exceed ten dollars. In precinct number two, four scholars shall be subscribed for at the rate of eight dollars per annum. In precinct number three, seven scholars shall be subscribed for at the rate of eight dollars per annum. In precinct number four four scholars shall be subscribed for at the rate of eight dollars per annum for each one of the scholars subscribed, the precincts being laid off and described in a paper filed among the vouchers this day produced by the Treasurer, and that the resolutions contained on said paper be adopted. 12

In 1826 the Commissioners ordered

- - - -that there be allowed at the rate of ten dollars per annum for the tuition of poor children for the Barboursvills District, and also in the other districts of this county the like sum, provided teachers will not undertake for a less sum.13.

In 1827 six districts were prescribed in the county, and the following commissioners were assigned one district each: John Hannan, Solomon Thornburg, William Buffington,

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12. Ibid., November 26, 1821, fifth page from the front.

13. Ibid., November 27, 1826, thirteenth page from the front.

Peter Fulkerson, William Morris, and Patrick Keenan. 14

In 1829 the commissioners ordered

- - - - that the treasurer of the school commissioners of the county do buy for the use of the poor children eight dollars worth of stationery, and to distribute the same equally among the commissioners. 15

In 1834 the commissioners ordered

- - - - that the treasurer of the school commissioners of this county purchase fifteen dollars worth of books, paper, &c. and distribute the same equally among the six commissioners. 16

In 1846 the first county superintendent, Thomas Thornburg, was appointed to the Cabell County Board of Commissioners in compliance with an Act passed May 5, 1840, designated to re-organize primary school administration. 18

During the same decade another pioneer step was

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14.

Ibid., March 27, 1837, the sixteenth page from the front

15. Ibid., October 26, 1829, twenty-third page from the front

16. Ibid., April 30, 1834, thirtieth page from the front

17

Ibid., November 25, 1846, fifty-second page from the front

18

Acts passed at a General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia, 1840, p. 134.

Taken by Cabell County educational leaders. Dr. Roy Bird Cook described the building erected for the first free school in Cabell County as follows:

This house was built some time in the forties after 1844 and before 1848 by John Bryan, Laurence Bryan, and Nimrod Bryan. It was built by these men for a school house and was used, also for Sunday School and Church ~~worshipes~~. I am speaking now, of course, from history and tradition of matters occurring before 1869. The house now is dismantled.

I have no way at present to give names of the teachers who taught the first several schools, but Mr. James Hannan, (Uncle to the Hannan brothers, business men of our city) I am told taught the last shortly before the war between the states. Dr. William Bryan, son of the above William Bryan, was teaching there in 1861 or 1862 and was captured by the "Home Guard" and driven to Camp Chase, Ohio. He procured his freedom, however, and returned and taught the school out. These were stirring times and men for miles around would meet nights in this house to debate in friendly way the subject uppermost in the Church in 1844 and war clouds hanging ominously in 1858 to 1860. During the war the church and school ceased in a large measure, to function.

When this house was no longer used as a school house, a very substantial building in the yard of Nimrod Bryan, the loom house, was remodeled and turned into a comfortable school building where school was held continuously till the public school law became operative and a new school was built in the year of 181868 or 1869 on the Nimrod Bryan place which is still standing, though used as a tenant house.19

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19.

Dr. Roy Bird Cook gave the report and photograph to Miss Jennie Wood, Principal, and West Virginia history instructor of Buffington School. Dr. Cook signed the report in the presence of the author and other witnesses. As an historian he has edited The Family and Early Life of Stonewall Jackson, Washington's Western Lands, Lewis County in the Civil War, and Annals of Fort Lee.

It is logical to assume that the Presidents of the boards were leaders and hence important in the early history of Cabell County schools. Table I lists the names of the presidents of boards of commissioners in Cabell County, Virginia, from 1830 to 1860, and indicates the dates of their services.

## CHAPTER II

### EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS OF WEST VIRGINIA.

After West Virginia attained statehood Cabell County was a portion of the new state. West Virginia legislature enacted as Article XII of the state constitution the first substantial foundation upon which free schools of Cabell County could become significant. The constitution not only established free schools; it provided the County Superintendents and "such other officers as may be necessary", designated a state superintendent as supervisor of schools, indicated the source of financial support, and enacted regulations governing school districts. 1

The following quotation, Section twelve, is a summary of the democratic principles upon which the educational system of West Virginia were founded:

The legislature shall foster and encourage moral, intellectual, scientific, and agricultural improvements; it shall, whenever it shall be practicable, make suitable provisions for the blind, mute and insane, and for the organization of such institutions of learning as the best of such interests of general education in the state may demand.

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1. Francis Newton Thorpe, American Charters, Constitutions and Organic Laws, 1892-1908 (Compiled and edited under the Act of Congress of June 30, 1908), v. 7, p. 4059-4061.

2. Ibid., p. 4061

The legislature began immediately to enforce the laws and to pass new ones which directly, or indirectly affected Cabell County public schools. The school system of the State has progressed at a rapid pace. Tables II to 2I indicate the growth of West Virginia public schools from 1865 to 1942. 3

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3. See Appendix A, p. 2-11



### CHAPTER III

#### SCHOOL DISTRICTS

In 1863 the Legislature of West Virginia passed the following law:

-----a system of free schools is hereby established,--  
and every organized township within the several counties of  
this state, or which hereafter be organized within the same  
is hereby constituted a school district, to be confided to  
the care and management of a board of education - - - -I

In the same session the ~~new~~ legislature delegated the school commissioners to divide their districts into convenient sub-divisions, assigning to each not less than fifty youths between the ages of six and twenty-one years, "except in cases where, in the opinion of the boards, it is necessary to reduce the number." 2

In 1881 the legislature amended its former enactments, enabling the magisterial districts to become school districts divided into sub-districts.<sup>3</sup> However, Cabell County had previously organized its school districts according to

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1. Acts of the Legislature of West Virginia, December 10, 1863, p. 245.

2. Ibid., p. 247

3 Ibid., March 8, 1861, p. 168

this plan or in 1869 T.B.Kline, Superintendent of Cabell County schools, reported the school buildings of the County as follows: Barboursville District, four; Grant District, four; Guyandotte District, seven; McComas District, five; and, Gideon District, eight.<sup>4</sup> There is no available evidence that the magisterial districts of Kyle and Gideon were ever organized as school districts. Tables XII, XV, XVI, XVII, XVIII illustrate the progress of Barboursville, Grant, Guyandotte, McComas, and Union School District, respectively, <sup>5</sup> Records are not available for data in the Tables from 1881 to 1896. Tables XIII and XIV supplement Table XII describing the progress of Barboursville District. <sup>6</sup>

In the meantime the towns of the county chose to be independent of the district school system. Hence, Barboursville, Guyandotte, Huntington and Central City became independent school districts.

In 1867 Barboursville Independent School District was authorized by the Legislature of West Virginia.<sup>7</sup> Table XIX illustrates the progress of the district. <sup>8</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Annual Report of the State Superintendent of Free Schools in the State of West Virginia, 1889, p. 12.

<sup>5</sup> See Appendix A. p.12, 15-18.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid., p. 13, 14.

<sup>7</sup> Acts of the Legislature of West Virginia, February 12, 1887, p. 23.

<sup>8</sup> See Appendix A. p. 19.

In 1882 Guyandotte Independent School District was authorized by the Legislature of West Virginia.<sup>9</sup> Table XX illustrates the progress of the district.<sup>10</sup> In 1913 Guyandotte Independent School District was divided between Guyandotte School district and Huntington Independent District.<sup>11</sup>

In 1889 Huntington Independent School District was authorized by the Legislature of West Virginia.<sup>12</sup> Table XXI illustrates the progress of the district.<sup>13</sup> In 1909 it absorbed Central City Independent school district.<sup>14</sup> In 1913 it absorbed a portion of Guyandotte School District.<sup>15</sup> In 1925 it absorbed Westmoreland of Wayne County.<sup>16</sup>

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9

Acts of the Legislature of West Virginia, March 9, 1882, p. 568-570.

10

See Appendix A. p. 20.

11

Minutes of the Meetings of Huntington Independent District Board of Education, June 2, 1913, p. 362-363.

12.

Acts of the Legislature of West Virginia, February 7, 1889, p. 3--11

13.

See Appendix A, p. 21-23.

14. Minutes of the Meetings of Huntington Independent District Board of Education March 22, 1909, p. 127-128.

15.

Ibid., June 2, 1913, p. 362-363, v. 2.

16.

Ibid., February 2, 1930, p. 408 v. 5. Report by Superintendent Wright inserted.

In 1901 Central City Independent school district was authorized by the Legislature of West Virginia,<sup>17</sup> but in 1919 the district was abolished and absorbed by Huntington Independent District.<sup>18</sup> Table XXII illustrates the progress of the District.<sup>19</sup> In 1933 all of the school districts of Cabell County were abolished, in compliance with the following legislation:

A school district shall include all the territory in one county. Existing magisterial school districts and sub districts and independent districts are abolished. <sup>20</sup>

For many years Cabell County school administrators have debated the merits of a county-unit school system. As early as 1876 D.S. Duncan, Superintendent of Cabell County schools wrote the following:

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<sup>17</sup>. Acts of the Legislature of West Virginia, February 19, 1901, p. 282- 290.

<sup>18</sup> Minutes of the Meetings of Huntington Independent District Board of Education, March 22, 1909, p. 127-128 V. 2.

<sup>19</sup> See Appendix A. p. 24.

<sup>20</sup>. "An Act of the Legislature of West Virginia, Senate Bill No. 3," passed May 22, 1933. Art.1, Sec.3, p. 3.

The impossibilities of obtaining correct reports from the district secretaries and many other serious difficulties might be avoided by abolishing the District Boards of Education, and erecting in their stead one County Board of Education.<sup>21</sup>

In 1917 the Guyandotte District Board of Education passed the following resolution:

Resolved that the Board of Education of the Independent District of Huntington record itself as being opposed to House Bill No.281, introduced in the House of Delegates and known as the County unit bill for the following reasons:

First, this district is now levying what is probably the highest tax for educational purposes of any district in the state.

Second, it would be manifestly unfair to saddle with an additional burden of taxes which would mean an additional expense to our District of something like \$12,000 per year.

Third, the method of distribution of the taxes to be raised under the bill is inequitable and works a hardship on this district.<sup>22</sup>

In 1926 the State Superintendent of schools, George M. Ford, attempted to introduce the county-unit system.<sup>23</sup> In the Huntington Independent District Board of Education authorized the

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21

Biennial Report of the State Superintendent of Free Schools of the State of West Virginia, 1875-1876, p. 10

22.

Minutes of the Meetings of Guyandotte District Board of Education February 12, 1917, p. 324, v. 3.

23.

Minutes of the Meetings of Huntington Independent District Board of Education November 8, 1926, p.251, v. 5

Finance Committee to "look after any new school legislature matters before the incoming legislature detrimental to our present school system".<sup>24</sup> The Huntington Independent District Board of Education expressed its opinion in a resolution 1933, as follows:

That we go on record as objecting to the passage of of any county unit bill embracing Independent districts wherein such bill omits granting the privilege of home rule. A bill providing for a vote of the people in independent district as to whether they go in or stay out will not be objectionable. <sup>25</sup>

It was not until 1933, during the national financial depression that the majority of people in West Virginia voted for the centralization of power in the fifty-five counties. At that time one Central Cabell County Board of Education assumed control over Cabell County. Tables XXIII - XXV illustrate the progress of schools in Cabell County since 1932 under the County Unit system, 1933-44 <sup>26</sup>

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<sup>24</sup>

Ibid., January 10, 1927, p. 256, v 5

<sup>25</sup> Ibid., April 7, 1933, p. 325, v.6

<sup>26</sup>.

See Appendix A. p. 25-27.



CHAPTER IV  
SCHOOL BOARDS

In 1863 the legislature of West Virginia provided for Boards of Education as follows:

-----the qualified voters of the several townships shall elect three school commissioners, of whom the one having the highest number of votes shall hold his office for the term of three years; the one having the next highest number of votes shall hold his office for the term of two years, and the one having the next highest number of votes shall hold his office for the term of one year; and annually thereafter - - - one commissioner shall be elected who shall hold his office for a term of three years.

The commissioners so elected, - - - together with the Clerk of the Township, shall constitute the Board of Education in their proper township. 1

(1) Enumeration of youth; (2) Sub-division of districts  
(3) Management of school buildings; (4) Appointment of teachers; (5) Prescription of salaries; (6) Prescription of text books (7) Prescription of "branches taught"; (8) Supervision of schools; (9) Payment of school expenses; (10) Expulsion of pupils; (11) Settlement with township of treasurers; and (12) Presentation of Annual Reports to the State Superintendent were duties delegated to the boards. 2

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1  
Acts of the Legislature of West Virginia, December 10, 1863  
p. 246.

2.  
Ibid., p. 247-248,

In 1877 the boards were authorized to appoint a Trustee for each sub-district, or a term of three years.<sup>3</sup> Two years later the enactment was changed so that "one intelligent and discreet person" was to be appointed by each board for the sub-districts for a term of two years.<sup>4</sup> The position of Trustee was abolished in 1933.<sup>5</sup> As late as 1904 Ira F. Hatfield, Superintendent of Cabell County Schools, described the school administrators as follows:

Some of the school offices of the county are filled with very incompetent men, men who are ignorant and easily biased by political influence or personal gratification. This give rise to the appointment of many Trustees who are in no way, fit for the place.<sup>6</sup>

In 1881 the Legislature of West Virginia established the Boards of Education as two commissioners and a president.<sup>7</sup> This was applicable to magisterial district and not to Independent District Boards of Education, for the charters of the Independent School Districts include regulations concerning their boards.

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid., February 28, 1877, p. 105

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., March 8, 1879, p. 138.

<sup>5</sup> "An Act of the Legislature of West Virginia, Senate Bill No. 3," passed May 22, 1938, Art. 5, Sec. 31, p. 25

<sup>6</sup> Biennial Report of the State Superintendent of Free Schools of the State of West Virginia, 1903-1904, p. 179.

<sup>7</sup> Acts of the Legislature of West Virginia, March 8, 1881, p. 168.

The four independent school districts: Barboursville, Guyandotte Huntington, Central City, elected by popular vote the number of members prescribed in their charters. In 1867 legislative enactment delegated the Council of Barboursville as Board of Education.<sup>8</sup> It was composed of a Mayor, recorder, and five councilmen who together formed a "common council" and Board of Education of seven members. In 1882 the legislature provided a president and two commissioners as the three board members of Guyandotte Independent School District.<sup>9</sup> In 1889 the West Virginia Legislature delegated six commissioners to serve as the board of education in Huntington Independent School District.<sup>10</sup> In 1901 the Legislature designated five members to serve on the Board of Education of Central City Independent School District.<sup>11</sup> The terms of office vary from one year to five years. The seven members of Barboursville Independent School District were to be

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<sup>8</sup> Ibid., February 12, 1867, p. 21.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid., March 9, 1882, p. 569.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid., February 7, 1889, p. 2.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid., February 19, 1901, p. 282.

elected annually;<sup>12</sup> the three of Guyandotte, Biennially;<sup>13</sup> the six of Huntington every three years;<sup>14</sup> and the five of Central City every five years. <sup>15</sup>

Each Independent district board of education was responsible for the maintenance of free schools. Huntington Independent School District was required to maintain eight months of instruction annually.<sup>16</sup> Central City was to have at least seven months of school each year.<sup>17</sup>

Incidental to the maintenance of free schools, many powers and duties were delegated to the independent district boards. However, the members of only one of them were compensated. Central City Independent District Board of Education was legally entitled to one dollar per member per meeting attended. <sup>18</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> Ibid., February 12, 1867, p.21

<sup>13</sup> Ibid., March 8, 1882, p. 569

<sup>14</sup> Ibid., February 7, 1889, p.3.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid., February 7, 1901 p.262

<sup>16</sup> Ibid., February 7, 1889, p.7

<sup>17</sup> Ibid., " 19, 1901, p.289

<sup>18</sup> Ibid., p. 284.

The powers and duties of the Barboursville Independent District Board of Education were the same as those prescribed for regular school districts according to the legislative enactment of 1863 already described in this chapter. 19

The legislation dealing with the powers and duties of the independent district boards of Huntington and Central City were more definite. The powers and duties delegated to both were as follows:

20. (1) Purchase of school property; (2) Sale of school property; (3) Reports to county superintendent; (4) Election and removal of teachers; fix salaries; (6) Election of Secretary of the Board; (7) Election of President of the Board; (8) Appointment of two people to serve with the Superintendent on the examining committee; (9) Settlement with the Sheriff who collects and disburses taxes; (10) levy of taxes for school purposes;

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19. A

Ibid., February 12, 1867, p. 21

20

Ibid., " 7, 1889, p. 3--10, Huntington Independent School District; February 19, 1901, p. 282 --289, Central City Independent District.

(11) Regulation of the admission and expulsion of pupils; (12) Prescription of text books; (13) Distribution of free books and supplies to indigent pupils; (14) Establishment of high schools; 915) Establishment of colored schools; (16) Prescription of branches to be taught.

In addition, Huntington Independent District Board of Education legally, assumed the following duties and powers: (17) Enumeration of youth;<sup>21</sup> (18) Initiation of school loans; (19) Prescription of the number of days in the school month.<sup>23</sup>

The names of some of the early board members before 1900 are of historic interest. In 1865 Joel K. Salmon, David Smith and David Harshbarger were members of the Barboursville District Board of Education.<sup>24</sup> By 1867 Albert Herrenkohl had replaced David Harshbarger.<sup>25</sup> In 1871 Thomas Thornburg, L.J. Hoback, and John A. Cox were the members.<sup>26</sup> Ten years later George W. Childers, Greenville Harrison, and A.T. Herrenkohl were members of the Barboursville District Board of Education.<sup>27</sup> In 1866 George Ross, Saunders Cremeans, and Joshua K. Heath were members of the McComas District Board of Education.<sup>28</sup>

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21. Ibid., February 7, 1889, p.5

22. Ibid., p.6

23 Ibid., p. 8

24 Deed Book 17, p.152

25 Ibid., p.155  
26 " p 157

27. Deed Book 28, p.47  
28. " " 17, p.154



In 1867 John L. Thompson, Moses Hatfield, and Malorie M. Childers were the members.<sup>29</sup> By 1871 Milvil M. Childers, J.T. Thompson, and Joseph Gill were on the board.<sup>30</sup> In 1893 A.S. Hatfield, Dan Swan, and Major Midkiff were members of McComas District Board of Education.<sup>31</sup> In 1869 the members of the Union District Board of Education were John Dennison, James H. White, and Jesse Templeton.<sup>32</sup> By 1871 they were Thomas Spurlock, Jesse Templeton, and John M. Blake.<sup>33</sup> In 1897 W.B. Miller, William Weed and Gabriel Bryan were members of the Union District Board of Education.<sup>35</sup> In 1871 the members of Guyandotte District Board of Education were B.D. McGinnis, John L. Johnson, and

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29

Deed Book 15, p. 529.

30 " " 17, p. 197.

31. " " 46, p. 227

32. " " 17, p. 159

33 " " 22, p. 515

34 " " 45, p. 329

35 " " 52, p. 124

John R. Flowers.<sup>36</sup> In the same year the members of Grant District Board of Education were Joseph N. Blackwood, Robert Wiley, and Alexander Peyton.<sup>37</sup> The first Cabell County Board of Education was comprised of John T. Blackwood, Rolla D. Campbell, Ira J. Kail, Walter M. Parker, and P. A. Vallandingham.<sup>38</sup> The present Cabell County Board includes W. T. Toney, President; B. F. Beaman, G. W. Carter, H. B. Daniel; and Harry Dodson.<sup>39</sup>

Since the formation of the educational system in West Virginia the boards of education have delegated their duties to specific personalities such as Trustees in the districts and standing committees in the independent districts. Probably the most extreme case of trustee authority was exemplified in 1919 when Grant District Board of Education appointed three trustees for each of its twenty-six schools.<sup>40</sup> Perhaps the best

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<sup>36</sup>  
Deed Book 17, p. 194

<sup>37</sup>  
Ibid., p. 188

<sup>38</sup>  
Minutes of the Meetings of Cabell County Board of Education, July 3, 1933, p. 1, v. 1.

<sup>39</sup>  
"Directory Cabell County Public Schools, 1943--1944" p. 1.

<sup>40</sup>  
Minutes of the Meetings of Grant District Board of Education, July 7, 1919, p. 1, v. 1919-1928.

perhaps the best example of an extreme number of standing committees was presented in 1912 when Huntington Independent District Board of Education appointed the following eight standing committees: Finance, teachers and salaries, buildings and grounds, supplies, course of study and text books, insurance, transfers, and library. 41

One problem which particularly concerned Huntington Independent District Board and the early Cabell County Board was that of liability.

In 1925 the following action was taken by the Board:

On motion by Commissioner Hinerman, duly carried, it was ordered that the Doctor's bill of Bert O'Dell, for services rendered his daughter who was hurt during a fire drill at the Cammack, Jr. High School by the breaking of a glass in one of the exit doors, amounting to \$58.00 be paid by the Board. 42

In 1926 the following similar action was taken:

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41

Minutes of the Meetings of Huntington Independent District Board of Education, June 10, 1921, p. 307, v. 2.

42

Ibid., January 12, 1925, p. 118, v. 5

The surgical bill of \$25.00 rendered by Dr. R.J. Wilkinson to Mr. Hamilton for treating his son, Fred Hamilton, when his finger was cut off while engaged in a manual training class was referred to the Teacher's Committee and the Superintendent, with instructions to investigate and report at next meeting 43

The Board's attorney was authorized to make adjustment and settle ent in the preceding case. 44

During the same year E.A. Williams requested that the Board pay Dr A.S. Jones \$584.50 for treatment of his son, who was injured at Cammack. 45 The Board's attorney declared that the board was not liable. 46

I n 1927 the Huntington Independent District Board of Education took the following action:

On motion duly carried, it was ordered that the Committee on Finance be authorized to pay the medical bill of Mr. and Mrs. John Barrows, amounting to \$116.00, if the same can be paid legally, which bill was occasioned by one of their children being injured on the playgrounds of the Emmons School. 47

There is no available evidence to indicate the decision of

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43. Ibid., February 8, 1926, p. 209, v. 5.

44 Ibid., March 8, 1926, p. 219, v. 5,

45 Ibid., May 10, 1926, p. 224. v. 5

46 Ibid., June, 1926, p. 234, v. 5

47 Ibid., August 8, 1927, p. 271, v. 5.

the attorney in the preceding case. Four years later the attorney advised that the board was not liable for loss of clothing in any school. 48

In the same year the Board refused to pay the hospital bill of Tom Dangerfield, who was seriously injured in the gymnasium of West Junior High School. 49

In 1932 the Board refused to pay Dr. Moore and Beckner for services rendered Austin Day for an eye injury sustained while he was working for the Board. 50

In 1932 Cabell County Board of Education paid Dr. M.B. Moore thirty-five dollars for services rendered to Scott Bowen who was hurt while working at Huntington High School. 51 However, the Board clearly stated that only reason for assuming the debt was that the business manager of the Board of Education had called the doctor for the emergency case.

In 1931 the Huntington Independent District Board of Education adopted two articles which constituted the first available

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Ibid., May 11, 1931, p. 79, v. 6.

49 " December 14, 1931, p. 180, v. 6

50 " February 1, 1932, p. 198, v. 6.

51

Minutes of the Meetings of Cabell County Board of Education, September 24, 1935, p. 170, v. 1.

set of rules governing "Order of Business" and General Rules".<sup>52</sup> During the same year the Huntington adopted a resolution of ethics applicable to the employment of members of its school system, and abolished the committee system. <sup>53</sup>

In 1911 all district boards of education were abolished, and one county Board of Education was to be elected.<sup>54</sup> Cabell County Board of Education and all other County Boards of Education were to consist of five members, each a citizen of the county and elected by the voters of the county for a term of four years.<sup>55</sup>

Each member was to receive five dollars per meeting for a maximum of twelve meetings annually, in addition to traveling expenses incurred by permission of the Board.<sup>56</sup>

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<sup>52</sup>

See Appendix B, p. 1,2.

<sup>53</sup>

Ibid., p. 3

<sup>54</sup>

An Act of the Legislature of West Virginia, Senate Bill No.3, passed May 22,1933, Art.5, Sec. 5, p.11

<sup>55</sup>

Ibid., Art.1, Sec. p.5

<sup>56</sup> "

" 5, Sed.4, p. 10



In case a board member moved out of the district or accepted a position as teacher he was to vacate his office 57 Only two members may be residents of the same magisterial district.58 A recent appeal was made to the State Supreme Court by Francis D. Calley and A.W.Damron over the question of residence in magisterial districts. 59

The powers and duties of Cabell County Board of Education include the same as those which were delegated to Huntington Independent District Board of Education which have already been enumerated in this chapter.60 In addition, other powers and duties include the following: (20) Provision for health and cleanliness of the pupils;61 (21) Provision

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57 Ibid., Art.5, Sec.4, p.10

58 Ibid., art. 5, sec.1, p. 9

59 See Appendix "B", p 4.

60 "An Act of the Legislature of West Virginia, Senate Bill No.3", passed May 22, 1933

61 Ibid., art.5, sec. 10, p.13

if desirable, for medical and dental clinics; 62 (22) Establishment and maintenance of high school, jointly with another county 63 (23) Consolidation of schools; 64 (24) Transportation of pupils; 65 (25) Purchase of insurance against negligence; 66 (26) Establishment of kindergarten; 67 (27) Establishment of high schools and extension classes; 68 (28) Establishment of Libraries; 69 (29) Prescription of regulations for care of text books; 70 (30) Purchase and display of United States flag at each school building. 71

One of the most progressive legislations affecting the school board members was passed in 1941, whereby the

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62

Ibid.,

63 " art.5, sec. 11, p. 15

64

Ibid., art. 5, sec. 13, p.17

65

Ibid.,

66 Ibid.

67 Ibid., art.5, sec.19, p.19

68

Ibid.

69

Ibid., art.5, sec. 20, p. 19

70

Ibid., art.5, sec. 21-25 p. 21

71

Ibid., art.5, sec. 24, p.22

members were to be elected "without reference to political party affiliations."<sup>72</sup> Yet, not enough time has elapsed since the passage of the ~~law~~ act to indicate its merit.

Although three non-partisan members were elected in 1942, two for six years, and one for four years, there remain two partisan members to be re-elected or replaced in the general election of this year, 1944, as non-partisan.<sup>73</sup> As the mentioned terms expire, "this office shall be filled for six-year terms."<sup>74</sup>

At the present time, 1944, the board of education, elected by the voter controls the organization of the administration of Cabell County Schools.<sup>75</sup>

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<sup>72</sup> Acts of the Legislature of West Virginia, March 1 1941  
p. 188

<sup>73</sup> Ibid., p. 189

<sup>74</sup> Ibid.,

<sup>75</sup> See Appendix "A", p. 28

## CHAPTER V.

### SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

In 1863 the Legislature of West Virginia provided for a school superintendent in the following measure:

-----the voters of each county shall elect a county superintendent of free schools, whose terms shall be for two years. He shall - - - execute a bond - - - in the sum of five hundred dollars, with approved security; - - -1

In 1881 the legislature passed another Act requiring the superintendent to be "a person of good moral character, of temperate habits, literary acquirements, and skill and experience in the art of teaching". 2

Table XXVII names the superintendents of Cabell County schools and lists their terms of service.3

In 1889 the legislature authorized the Huntington Independent District Board of Education to appoint its own superintendent4 The superintendent was to be on the teacher-examining committee with two other persons appointed

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1 Acts of the Legislature of West Virginia, December 10, 1863, p. 252

2 Ibid., March 8, 1881, p. 195.

3. See Appendix "A", p.29

4. Ibid., February 7, 1889, p.9.

by the board 5 Table XXVIII names the superintendents, their terms of service, and their annual salaries. 6 In 1901 the legislature authorized Central City Independent District Board of Education to appoint its superintendent. 7 In 1908 the legislature delegated the district boards of education to appoint their superintendents. 8 In 1933 the legislature delegated the county board of education to elect a county superintendent 9 and prescribed his required qualifications. 10 It also specified the powers and duties of the county superintendent. 11

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5  
Ibid., p. 10

6  
See Appendix A, p. 30-32.

7.  
"Acts of the Legislature of West Virginia, ~~Senate Bill~~  
~~House Bill~~ February 19, 1901, p. 284.

8.  
Ibid., March 2, 1908, p. 176.

9.  
"An Act of the Legislature of West Virginia, Senate Bill No. 3", art. 4, sec. 1, p. 7.

10  
See Appendix B. p. 5

11  
" " 8, p. 6-7

Since 1953 assistant superintendents have been necessary to help the county superintendent exert his powers and fulfill his duties. The first assistant superintendant appointed was H.A.Rice, who received forty-five hundred dollars annually.<sup>12</sup> Olin C. Nutter was the second superintendent appointed.<sup>13</sup> In 1937 H.E.Berisfird and Olin C. Nutter were appointed assistant superintendents under Superintendent Marston.<sup>14</sup> At the present time, 1944, Olin C. Nutter, superintendent, has two assistant superintendents, R.F.Brooks and C.N.Fannin.

There is no conspicuous recorded evidence that the superintendents have been either negligent or progressive. However, there are a few reported examples of their conscientious efforts. In 1867 William Slgeo wrote, "No

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<sup>12</sup> Minutes of the meetings of Cabell County Board of Education, July 3, 1933, p. 1, v. 1

<sup>13</sup> Ibid., July 7, 1933, p. 2, v. 1.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid., July 6, 1937, p. 257, v. 1.



definite report can be made. We are all beginners and make very slow progress".<sup>15</sup> William R. White, State Superintendent of Schools, wrote the following as a foot note to excuse the inadequate report presented by William Algeo:

This gentleman manifests great zeal in his work. He walked forty miles to attend the meetings of the county superintendent at Boone Court House. A good report is expected of his next year. <sup>16</sup>

In 1869 County Superintendent T.B.Kline wrote:

I regret exceedingly that I am compelled to make such an unfavorable report of the conditions of school affairs in our county, Being an enthusiastic friend of the system, and an officer under it, my inclinations would be naturally, to make as favorable a report as possible. Had I the gift I would love to draw it in glowing colors, and paint it in beautiful pictures, that all might look upon it with pleasure and delight; but candor compels me to speak the truth  
-----17

The only available, recorded evidence of friction between the Board of Education and superintendent was dated 1934. Fuller L. Austin was appointed assistant superintendent for 1934-1935, at an annual salary of five thousand dollars. <sup>18</sup>

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15. Annual Report of the State Superintendent of Free Schools of the State of West Virginia, 1867, p. 23.

16. Ibid.,

17. Ibid., 1869, p. 14-15.

18 Minutes of the meetings of Cabell County Board of Education, July 5, 1934.

Two weeks after his employment he was dismissed because of neglect of duty and regarded as unqualified for the position.

He had been out of the State for several days, and none of the school authorities knew how to get in contact with him.<sup>19</sup>

When he returned, and learned that he had been dismissed because of neglect of duty and incompetency, he appeared before the Board, enraged. He demanded that the clauses stating he was incompetent be erased from the Minute Book, and he agreed to resign his position for \$1,350.00. The Board acquiesced.<sup>20</sup>

The progress of the schools in Cabell County in the past may not be attributed wholly to the Superintendents, Boards, or any particular individuals or groups. However, the advance of education in Cabell County since 1933 has been more dependent on the superintendent than ever before, as the result of the enlarged scope of powers and duties delegated to him.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>19</sup>. Ibid., July 19, 1934, p. 87, v. 1.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid., July 30, 1934, p.91, v. 1

<sup>21</sup> See Appendix "B", p. 7-8.

CHAPTER VI  
SCHOOL BUDGETS AND BONDS

Budgets. In 1863 the legislature of West Virginia passed the following measure:

It shall be the duty of the board of education of each township of the state to submit to a meeting of the qualified voters of their township, at the regular township meeting, an estimate, as near as practicable, of the amount of money necessary for the purpose of prolonging the schools in the districts, after the state funds have been exhausted, so that free schools shall be continued in every district, for the term of six months at least, in each year; and said meeting shall proceed to assess not exceeding ten ~~xxx~~ cents upon the hundred dollars valuation, as aforesaid.<sup>1</sup>

The next legislation concerning budgetary levies was enacted in 1887. It legalized the 1865-1866 taxes levied by Guyandotte Township Board of Education for the purpose of constructing school buildings.<sup>1</sup>

In 1919 the legislature required the boards to publish estimates of the levies, subject to the challenge of citizens in the respective districts.<sup>3</sup> Examples of some accounts included in the budgets of the Boards of Cabell County are shown

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1. Acts of the Legislature of West Virginia, December 10, 1863, p. 258.

2 Ibid., February 26, 1867, p. 90.

3. Ibid., February 13, 1919, p. 443.

in Tables XXIX-XXXII. 4

In 1933 the Sheriff was authorized to "receive, collect and disburse all levies, and other school money for the district". 5 Table XXXIII shows the total cost of education indicated by budgetary proceedings. 6

Bonds. Bonded indebtedness has been a common element in the Districts of Cabell County. Those bonds concerning which adequate data are recorded are described in Table XXXIV. 7

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4 See Appendix A. 33-39.

5 "An Act of the Legislature of West Virginia, Senate Bill No. 3", passed May 22, 1933, art.9, sec. 3, p.34.

6. See Appendix A. p. 40.

7. Ibid., p. 41--44.

