

# *Greene County*

MAGAZINE

## The Early Days of Education



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## THE EARLY DAYS OF EDUCATION

Brian Crawford (6-7 grade)

Education has been an important part of Greene County's history. Since the first one room school houses till now, Greene County has depended on the schools to produce leaders.

I interviewed Mrs. Irene Detamore, who is an 88 year old native of Greene County. I also interviewed Mrs. Juanita Shifflett, who is also a native of Greene County, to find out what schools were like from 1908-1942.

First I talked to Mrs. Detamore who went to school from 1908-1915. She attended the Shifflett Hollow School. She went to school five months a year. The hours were 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. She walked eight miles to school every day. She said that during the winter, the boys had to go outside and get wood for the wood stove. The children would bring their lunch in tin buckets and go to a house near the school to get water. She said, "we were always sick because everybody drank out of the same dipper." Mrs. Detamore quit school at age 13 because of her Mother's death. She went to live with her grandparents, and they didn't think school was important.

Next I interviewed Mrs. Shifflett. She went to school from 1930-1942. She rode a green bus with no heat. It had wooden benches on each side, and the driver was Lawrence Wetzel. She went to Ridge School.

## HISTORICAL ESSAYS

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It had 3 rooms. One room was First through Fourth grades. The room in the middle was where they kept their coats and things. The other room was Fifth and Sixth grades. Each room had one teacher.

She also told me that one couldn't teach if one was married. Back then, they thought that if one was married, the man could support the wife and that one didn't need the money from teaching. From 1928-1930, a woman's teaching salary was \$608.00 a year.

In grade school one took the following subjects: Math, Reading, Writing, Spelling, Hygiene, Geography and Crafts. In high school one took Math, Algebra, Science and Biology.

She said when a child did something wrong, he/she had to write "I will behave" about 1,000 times. He/she had to write this during recess, and one had to have it done by the end of the day.

Mrs. Shifflett graduated in 1942. By then most people went on to graduate. Sherman Garth, who was one of Mrs. Shifflett's classmates, later became Commissioner of Revenue.

The high school had four rooms and four teachers. Grade school and high school were all in the same building. Mrs. Nellie Wampler started the cafeteria. Mrs. Shifflett said she could remember them building the cafeteria.

Talking to Mrs. Shifflett and Mrs. Detamore told me much about the old schools. They told me how they traveled to school and what subjects they took. I enjoyed talking to them, and I learned a great deal.

Greene schools have given the county important people who are leaders of Greene. From then till now schools will probably produce many leaders needed to run the county.

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Brian included three prints of schools unsuitable for reproduction. One was of the William Monroe School in 1925; a second of the William Monroe School in 1962. The third picture was of the Kinderhook school building.