

Parks Campground School

Location: S8/T5/R5E

Funds: \$124.80

Teacher in 1923: Johnnie Young

Trustee in 1923: W. P. Jenkins

One teacher school consolidated with
Scottsboro in 1908-1909

Latitude: 34.6273407

Longitude: -86.015812

Photo below was taken in 1895 and belongs to
Julian Clemens.

Ann Chambless and J. C. Clemons write about the
Parks Campground Church and School for the
Chronicles in April 1992:

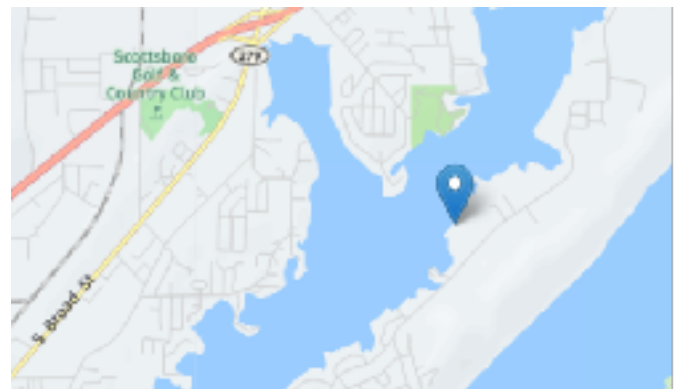
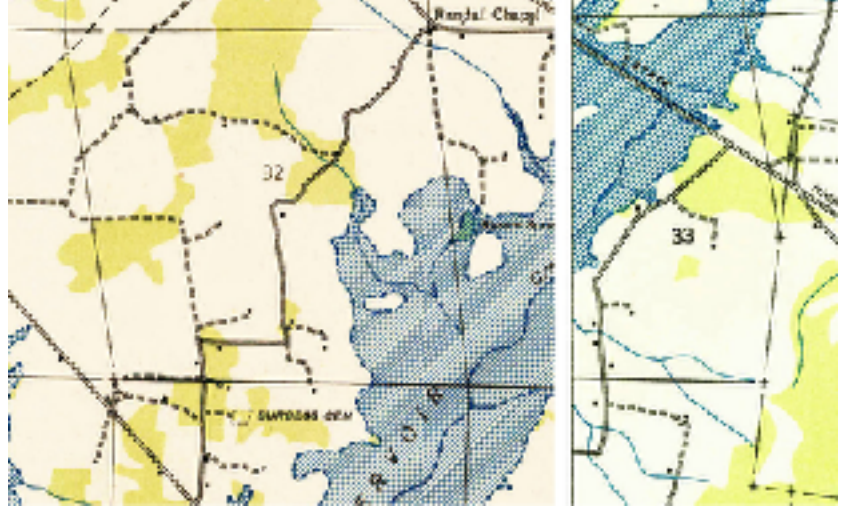
In 1821, the Tennessee Methodist Conference
organized a new circuit in the Tennessee River
District which included the Jackson Circuit. At the
close of 1821, the Jackson Circuit reported 150
white members which proves the early interest in
religion in a then sparsely settled new country. The
Conference sent Richard Neely to Jackson County
in 1822. Cut to the large area Neely supervised,
he would have needed a great deal of local
assistance. John Parks became an active lay
preacher during this time and strongly supported
the cause of his neighborhood.

Almost sixty years later the Scottsboro Citizen
(March 28, 1879) provide insight into John Parks'
contribution to the early Methodism movement in
Jackson County as follows:

Capt. W. D. Parks of this place heard Dr. (J.B.)
McFerring in Nashville preach his first sermon
50 years ago (1929). There was no church houses
in Jackson County at that time and the then
young preacher made his first effort in the
residence of Capt. Parks' father (John Parks)
near Scottsboro. Dr. McFerrin has since made
a name that is also the synonym of Methodism,
and he is known all over the country. (SC,
Mar 28 1879)

Methodist history records that camp meets
were held each year after the crops were
"laid by." Entire families camped out for
up to two weeks. Great revivals broke out.
The Jackson Circuit quadrupled in its first
ten years.

Parks Campground was the name given a site
where the annual meeting was held. It was
located near a large, blue spring, and people
for miles around attended. At first they built
brush arbors. Later a log building was
constructed on the site donated by John
Parks. On June 4, 1868, The Jackson County
Herald reported "Divine services will be
held at Parks Camp Ground on Sunday,
June 7, 1968, at 10 o'clock a. m. by Rev.
Robert Frazier."



The first church site was about 300 yard north of the site after 1870-. It was on the west side of the old Section Ferry Road (now Clemons Road) and about one-quarter mile east of Dry Creek. With the exception of a few square feet, the original site is now flooded by the Guntersville Reservoir.

After 1870, the site was defined as being in the Northwest corner of the Northeast quarter of Section 8, Township 5, Range 6 East. The west boundary was the old Section Ferry Road, The north boundary was the section line of Sections 5 and 8. It was described as one acre with 165 feet on the section line, thence 264 feet south, then 165 feet west and 265 fee north along Section Ferry Road. The site is about three and one-half miles southeast of Scottsboro.

The earliest minister was probably John Parks. His son, Thomas B. Parks, also ministered here. Later the Methodist Conference supplied preachers, In the beginning the church was of the Northern Methodist Conference. When the church was discontinued in 1938, the membership merged with Randalls Chapel which became a United Methodist Church about the same time.

Ministers who served Parks Campground in the 20th century included Tommy Johnson, Joe Pace, Newton Gorman, and Tom Inglis. The building was shared with Baptists 1920-30, and two of the Baptist ministers were Tom Caves, and German Webb. The last church service was conducted in Nor mer or December, 1938. The building was moved just west of the Burgess Cemetery in January, 1939, to property purchased by TVA from W. L. Coulson. This particular tract is now owned by heirs of Julian T. Clemons, as he later purchased the tract inn effort to keep the building and to enlarge the Burgess Cemetery.

Nondenominational church services were conducted here until the late 1950s. Roy Beard was Sunday School superintendent. Tommy Johnson, Judson Phillips, Pat Quinn, Cecil Looney, Tom Inglis, Frank Sharp, and possibly others supplied the pulpit. The building burned about 1975. Arson was suspected, but it was never investigated.

There are no known church minutes or membership rolls but a picture made circa 1912 shows a large congregation and the Reverend Thomas B. Parks with his long, white beard. The building in the picture was built in 1910. The only people in the picture who can be positively identified.

The first Parks Campground School was conducted in the first log building. The seats were pieces of spit logs mounted on legs. The names of four teachers prior to 1900 are known. Two of them are sons of John Kirby and Ruth (Burgess) Childress. The Scottsboro Citizen reported on June 7, 1883, that Alonzo Childress had been employed to teach public school at Parks Campground. By 1888, Parks Campground was the largest school in Jackson County. One January 20 1888, the Progressive Age reported, "Mr. S[ilas] P[arsons] Childress who has charge of the public school at Parks Campground, reports that he has about 90 pupils enrolled and that two assistants are requirements. This is the largest public school in the county."

On July 18, 1895, the Scottsboro Citizen reported that Mr. Dick Williams had a fine class of boys and girls at Parks Camp Ground. Stella Spencer also taught at Parks Campground in 1895. After 1900, some of the teachers were Eleanor Boyd, Miss Houston, Mary Arendale Thomas, Johnnie Young, Jewel Smith Wheeler, and Tempie Clemons, though not necessarily in that order. Miss Temple Clemons and her pupils were transferred to the Scottsboro School System in January 1939.

A Parks Campground School picture made in 1895 was shared by J. C. Clemons. His father, Julian T. Clemons, was a student of Ms. Spencer's in 1895, but Mr. Julian missed the picture because he was absent that day as he had hurt his foot the day before.

Alabama School Register

REVISED EDITION

School Camp Ground
 District 2
 County Jackson
 Teacher Miss Mary E. Thomas
 Grade Third Year 1921-1922

NOTICE

This Register is the property of the County Board of Education of this County and must be returned to the office of the County Superintendent of Education before closing for the last month of the session is paid.

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Page Two

Daily Record of Camp Ground School

TEACHER Miss Mary E. Thomas

FOLLOW DIRECTIONS GIVEN OPPOSITE FIRST NUMBER GRADE MARKS
 FIRST MONTH BEGINNING 07.07.21 AND ENDING 06.01.22
 MARKS TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS COLUMN DO NOT WRITE FULL ABSENT AFTER
 WITH MARKS. MARKS INDICATED BY "A".

NAMES	Grade	FIRST MONTH IN MONTHLY LATE LINES OF BOARD												Present	Absent	Drops	Totals
		M	T	W	T	F	S	S	S	S	S	S	S				
Ruth Beard	T 7	4															
Henry Johnson	F 4	10															
Leonard Tiffin	F 4	12															
Nellie Jenkins	F 7	10															
Lutie Bradley	F 7	11															
Dot Sealbolt	F 4	12															
Corey Coulson	E 7	9												9	1		
George Jenkins	F 4	12												5	0		
Thermon Hillman	F 7	14															
Edna Johnson	F 7	14															
Lucy Johnson	F 7	14															
Beattie Tiffin	F 7	10															
Edna Tiffin	F 4	12															
Robert Tiffin	F 4	12															
L. D. Bradley	F 7	14															
Charley Sealbolt	F 4	12												10	0		
Kathleen Jenkins	E 7	9															
Bertha Johnson	E 7	10															
Lennie Sealbolt	E 7	14															
Claudia Ray	F 7	14															
Robert Ray	F 4	12															
Ray M. Kelly	F 4	12												16	0		
Edna Ray	F 4	12															

DETAILS FOR PAGE	BOYS					GIRLS				
	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Boy Paid (shown for extra see end of list)	9	1	0	2	2	1	1	0	0	1
TOTAL DAY SCHOOL CHILDREN	20	9	0	14	10	1	10	0	0	10
TOTAL DAY SCHOOL CHILDREN	9	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
TOTAL TIME (see page 1)	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

To locate Parks

Page Number _____

School _____

Daily Record of _____

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NAMES	SEX	AGE	GRADE	FIRST MONTH BEGINNING _____ AND ENDING _____							TOTAL	AVERAGE	REMARKS
				M	T	W	T	F	S	S			
Trabel Johnson	F	6	1										
Sarah Deakott	F	6	1										
William Deakott	F	7	1										
Call Ray	F	5	1										
Clyde Ray	F	5	5										
James Coulson	T	8	7										
John Mc Bride	T	8	1										
Clifford Mc Bride	T	8	1										
William Thompson	T	8	1										
Agnes Thompson	T	8	1										
Edw. Mc Bride	T	8	1										
Miss Reed	T	9	4										
Robert Reed	T	9	4										
Jim Reed	T	9	4										
Georgia Johnson	F	8	7										

TOTALS FOR PAGE _____

SEE PAGE OPPOSITE THIS PAGE FOR MORE DETAILS.

Page Twenty-two

School _____

Daily Record of Camp Ground

Teacher Miss Mary Stewart

FOLLOW DIRECTIONS GIVEN OPPOSITE FIRST INLINE COVER PAGE. FOLLOW DIRECTIONS GIVEN OPPOSITE FIRST INLINE COVER PAGE. FOLLOW DIRECTIONS GIVEN OPPOSITE FIRST INLINE COVER PAGE. FOLLOW DIRECTIONS GIVEN OPPOSITE FIRST INLINE COVER PAGE. FOLLOW DIRECTIONS GIVEN OPPOSITE FIRST INLINE COVER PAGE.

NAMES	SEX	AGE	GRADE	FIRST MONTH BEGINNING <u>Oct. 12</u> AND ENDING <u>Oct. 20</u>							TOTAL	AVERAGE	REMARKS
				M	T	W	T	F	S	S			
Walter McHenry	F	6	1								100	0	
William McHenry	F	8	1								100	0	
Hugh Miller	F	8	1								100	0	
Walter Jenkins	F	6	1										
David Hart	F	6	1										
William Smart	F	7	1										
William Shelton	F	8	1										
Granville Smart	F	9	1										
Gordon Hart	F	7	1										
John Shelton	F	8	1										
Walter Clemons	F	7	2								140		
Walter Ray	F	7	2										
Winnie B. Mc Lee	F	7	2										
Thomas Harris	F	8	1										
W. C. Clemons	F	7	2								910		
Clarence Swafford	F	8	2										
David Mc Clure	F	9	2										
Gouverneur Thompson	F	8	1										
Samuel Dredley	F	7	2										
Mary Dredley	F	7	2										
Walter Jenkins	F	7	2										
Walter Jenkins	F	7	2								1000		
Cordelia Shelton	F	7	2										

TOTALS FOR PAGE _____

SEE PAGE OPPOSITE THIS PAGE FOR MORE DETAILS.



Campground school using these two 1936 USGS maps, locate Burgess Cemetery and across the original Dry Creek.



Caption: Parks Campground Church in 1912 (new building): Thomas Benton Parks (center with white beard) with his wife Elizabeth Hornbuckle Parks and daughter Evie Hornbuckle. To Rev. Parks' left, Jesse Wrote. George Baker, Bob Ray, and Dave Sabot. Douglas Law on the extreme right in the back.

Caption: Parks Campground School in 1895:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1.Kate Seabolt (Johnnie Woolsey's mother) | 22.Unknown Pignes |
| 2.Ida Gold | 23.Della Tiffin |
| 3.Martilia Tiffin Green | 24.Parks Kirby |
| 4.Tina White Thomas | 25.Della Kirby |
| 5.Myrtle Young | 26.Nan Kirby |
| 6. Myrtle Jenkins McKelvey | 27.Billy Seabolt |
| 7.Johnnie Young | 28.John Jenkins |
| 8.Lucy Gold Jenkins | 29.Milt Young |
| 9.Ada Gold | 30.Jess Gold |
| 10.Dow Young | 31.Lewis Young |
| 11.Floyd Young | 32.Ed Snodgrass |
| 12.Unidentified | 34.Byrd Jenkins |
| 13.Dave Clemons | 35.Benton Parks |
| 14.James Jenkins | 36.Sally Snodgrass Henderson |
| 15.Arthur Tiffin | 37.Vashti Jenkins Parks |
| 16.Andrew Tiffin | 38.Carrie Snodgrass |
| 17.Clyde Kirby | 39.Mamie Pignes |
| 18.Jude Tiffin | 40.Hortense Jenkins Coffey |
| 19.John Pignes | 41.Unidentified |
| 20.Jimmy Sabot | 42.Eliza Young |
| 21.Jim Pignes | 43.Sella Spencer, Teacher |

Newspaper References

The first mention of Parks Campground School is found in the 1888 *Scottsboro Citizen*, where on **October 18, 1895** the paper announced, "Mr. B. H. Green, of Kentucky, will begin a public school at Parks' Campground about the first of December. For the present Mr. Green is devoting his time to reading law in Capt. Ashley's office. Mr. Green is a clever and intelligent young gentleman."

On **April 25, 1895**, the *Citizen* reported that "Dick Williams, son of Major Jere Williams, who has been teaching school at Parks' camp-ground near Scottsboro, has returned to his father's home near Bridgeport. But he returned in July. "Mr. Dick Williams has a very interesting school of bright-eyed girls and boys at Parks' camp-ground," the July 18 paper reported.

The **October 1, 1896** *Citizen* reported that "Prof. Hodges, who has been teaching school at Parks' camp-ground, will begin a school with Guy Kirby at Hangar, DeKalb county, Monday," The December 10 paper noted that Will Rudder, of Section, was attending school at Parks' camp-ground.

On **December 1, 1898**, the *Progressive Age* reported that "Miss Cynthia Watson opened school at Parks' Campground last week."

The school must have outgrown the log cabin building shown in the 1895 photo because on **August 30, 1900**, the *Progressive Age* reported that "There will be a Public Lecture at Parks' Campground September 1st at 3 o'clock p. m. Ice Cream will be served later in the evening. Proceeds will go toward completion of the school building. Everybody is cordially invited to attend."

On **November 6, 1902**, the *Citizen* noted that "Joe Hackworth of Stevenson, brother of our Jim, will begin teaching the public school at the Parks' camp-ground next Monday." In September 1903, an ice cream supper was held at the school, and \$36.50 was raised for "the Missionary cause." The school superintendent and his sister opened the school for five months starting in November 1903. "Supt. W. S. Bridges is teaching the public school at Parks' Campground a few miles from town. It will be a five months' term. Mr. Bridges and his sister, Miss Cordis, have taken boarding at the residence of Miss Young, Will Street," the *Progressive Age* report November 5, 1903.

The term completed successfully. On **March 31, 1904**, the *Citizen* reported, "Prof. Bridge and his accomplished sister, Miss Cordia, finished teaching school at Parks' Camp-ground last Friday. They gave general satisfaction and the patrons of the school were well pleased with them as teachers."

There is no further mention of Parks' Campground school. Parks Campground is mentioned as the destination for a box and pie supper in 1933. The school seems to have become known simply as Campground School. The school board paid D. S. Clemens .40 to buy brooms for Campground school, the November 10, 1938 school board account noted in the *Progressive Age*.