

Carpenter/Long Island School

Location: S10/T1/R9E

Funds: \$208

District: 1



There is no information in the 1908-1909 minutes for Carpenter School nor for the year 1918-1919. The school had one teacher for 1923-24. By 1938, the two-teacher school had been renamed Long Island.

Later the school was consolidated with Bridgeport.

Sep 21 1922 PA—Long Island School played New Hope in Baseball

Fall 1922: The 3 mil tax was voted on by this school district and defeated, failing by only one vote.

Jan 11, 1923 PA—No teacher (summer school); trustees W. L. James, John McCutchen, and Joe Beene, Long Island

Aug 6 1925 PA—meeting “Business side of farming” at Long Island School

Mar 1, 1928 PA—Board of Education reported that R. L. Glover appointment to Board of Trustees for the Long Island School District

Nov 15 1928 PA—Pie supper held to benefit school. Nov 28, “a box supper was given at the Long Island School house Saturday night for the purpose of raising funds to buy fuel for the school.”

Dec 6 1928 PA—Thanksgiving program at the school

Jan 3 1929 PA—Pie supper

Jan 17, 1929 PA: “The pie supper given by the school was a success, proceed going to buy window shades for the new building.”

Feb 14, 1929 PA—“The Long Island School has enrolled 116 and the average attendance for the month was 82 in spite of the fact that several pupils were ill with the flu.”

Apr 4 1929 PA—“The Long Island School boys and girls rendered a very interesting program Friday afternoon, although the weather was unfavorable there were a few visitors out to see them perform. They will also give an egg hunt next Friday and a large crowd is expected to be present.”

May 16 1929 PA—“The Long Island School closes, May 24th. A program will be given in the afternoon at the close, Supt. J. H. Wheeler will award diplomas to the sixth grade class and the Jr. III class.

Aug 8, 1929 PA—Miss Annie Mae Woosley has gone to teach in the Long Island School.

Aug 7, 1930 PA—Health department held a clinic at the school at referred to it as “Long Island Cove School.”

Apr 21, 1932 PA—People who attended closing exercises of the Long Island school.

Apr 5, 1934 PA—“The following pupils have been perfect in attendance for the past school year. Orvill Smith, John Berry Metcalfe, and Ruth Searcy. John Berry has been perfect in attendance e for the past three years and Ruth Searcy for the past five years. This is certainly a very commendable record for these students.”

Nov 4, 1937 PA—A. S. Hill in county expenditures report purchased a chair for Long Island school

Nov 10, 1938 PA—L. D. Whitfield county expenditures purchased wood for Long Island School.

Jul 20, 1939 PA—Bus Routes defined. “Beginning at Bryant’s store, thence to Long Island, then to John Ladds place 1/4 of a mile below Reeces Ferry, returning on the same road to one

mile North of the Long Island turnoff. The County Board will require a new truck with 157 inch wheel base. This contract will be let for four years.

Jan 2, 1941 PA—School picture schedule

Apr 30, 1942 PA—Sugar rationing at school, Mrs. Allyne Cates

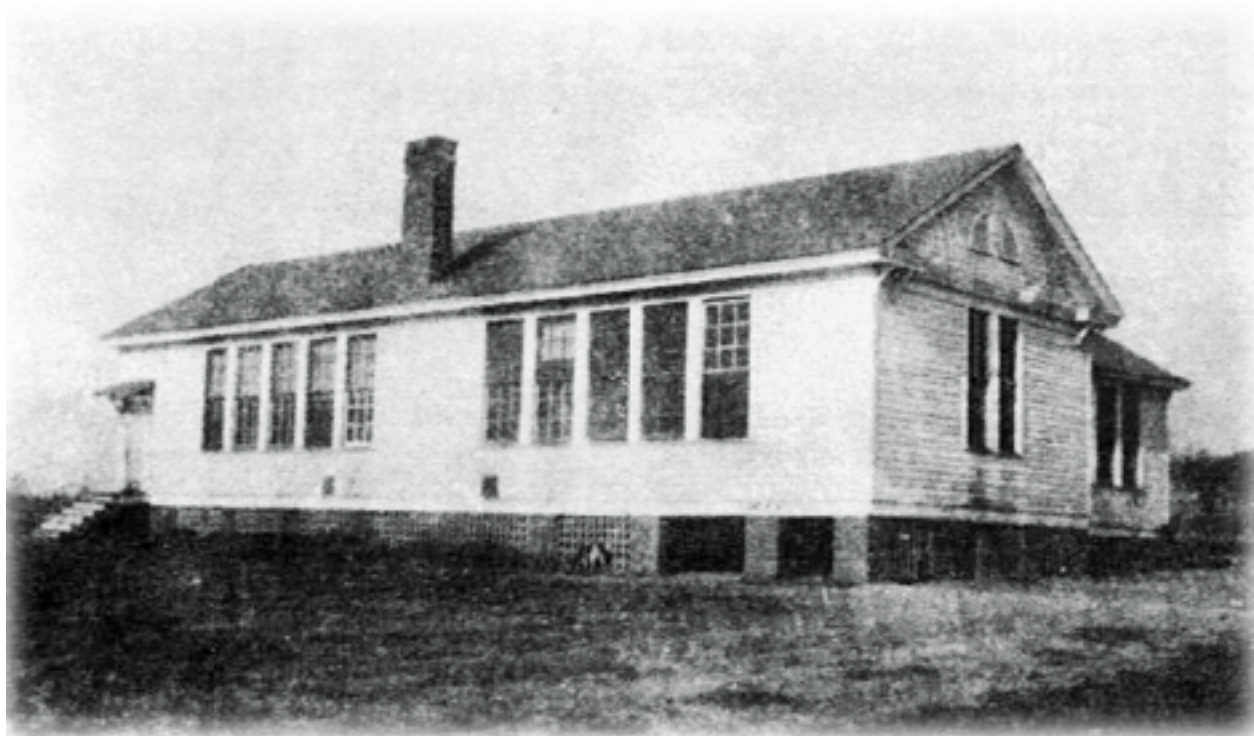
Feb 7, 1946 PA—Lt. Jack Knox, B-17 navigator killed in war. Was principal at Long Island school for one term and filled a vacancy at the High School in Princeton, Ala.

Sep 19, 1946 PA—Syphilis screening clinic

Dec 3, 1953 PA—Harvest king and queen, Billy Bynum and Billy Jean Peoples

Jan 7, 1960 PA—Mae Gardner past illness and returns as Long Island teacher

Aug 26, 1962 SentinelAge—school starting at Long Island School



Oct 6, 1963Sentinel: “Mrs. Ada Bynum, mother of four grown sons, is currently serving her tenth year as principal at the Long Island Elementary School, one of the smaller schools in the Jackson County education system. Mr. Bynum, who resides at Long Island, teaches all subjects in the first, second, third and fourth grades at the school.”

From *The Hog Jaw Valley is my Home* by John Hembree. Photo caption says, “This was the old three-room schoolhouse in Long Island. The 1st and 2nd graders were in the room at the extreme right (two windows). The nearest room was the third through 5th grades. The far room (with the steps) was for the sixth and up grades. The well was drilled to the near left of the picture. Photo courtesy of Betty Gothard Murray

John Hembree’s Chapter on Schools in *Hog Jaw Valley In My Home*

Information for this chapter was gleaned from the minutes of the County Board of Education in Scottsboro and stories related to me by family and friends who attended school in Hog Jaw

Valley and Long Island. I have added the events and personalities from my days there from the 2nd to 6th grade at Long Island in the 1930s.

Most families moved into Hog Jaw Valley and the surrounding communities in the early 1800s. The oldest deed I can locate for our family is dated 1842. Mrs. Wilson says the Moore family arrived 1831. The Lawson family arrived in Island Creek Cove in 1850. While pioneers were known to value education, no record of early formal education for the children of early settlers exists in the valley.

There may have been incidents of personal tutoring among the wealthier families, but the records, if any, are sparse. In earliest time, it was not uncommon for communities to build a building, which would serve as a church and school combined.

That was the case with Harris Chapel. In 1870, William Moore Jr. donated the land for a church and school with sufficient land for a cemetery. It is not clear when the original building was built, but James Marion Howard said he attended school at age seven (born 1842) two miles from his home. He was born in Hog Jaw Valley, he does not name Harris Chapel, but it was the only school in the Valley at that time. He said his teacher was John Montgomery. A news article from the Bridgeport News Graphic dated 1895 from a reporter in Carpenter says, "Miss Lucy Lloyd of Bridgeport taught at school #3 in the community." County records do not identify school #3. Records designated the Long Island School and Harris Chapel as District 1 and made no distinction to identify each school.

My father, Gordon Hembree, his brothers', Robert (Bob) and Isaac Shilo, Jr. (Ike), used to tell stories of attending Harris Chapel (that would have been from the year 1915-1920 as my dad was born in 1903). I have related Bess Metcalf's description of the classroom in the Harris Chapel chapter. Clinton Smith's mother, Lettie, and other O'Neil family members were students at the original school also.

The school board records do not record when the school was moved from Harris Chapel to the school at Long Island. The record does say that a "Mr. Searcy" from Long Island did appear before the board in 1925 and requested a school at Long Island. That was probably Mr. John Searcy, our vet, or his son, Atwood, who lived with his family in the Long Island Community.

In any event the board did investigate and contracted for a three-room school "near the depot at Long Island." The contract amount for the building, including ventilating heater, paint and blackboard was for \$3,890. The building was finished in 1928. No records exist specifying an official transfer from Harris Chapel of students and teacher to the new school.

The grades at Long Island School ran from the first through the 12th, but most students dropped out by the 8th or 9th to help on the farm.

Each school district appointed local men as trustees. In May 1920, trustees from the Long Island School were W. L. James, J. B. Stewart, and B. T. Stokes. The board required 75 pupils for three-room school. Mr. and Mrs. Glover came before the board in the fall of 1928 and requested a truck to haul children. The truck was to run between Island Creek to the south and the intersection with the South Pittsburg road to the North. Walker Glover was hired and paired one dollar a day for his service.

When mentioning Long Island School, most former students recall the well which was drilled on the schoolyard in the late 1930s. Prior to the well, the boys carried a bucket of drinking water from either a "wet-weather" spring near the school or Gentry's well some one-fourth mile west of the school. No running water and only "out-houses" for the boys and girls existed. Students were thrilled, then dismayed, when the county drilled the well on the schoolyard. The

first drink of water from the well was so strong with sulfur odor, and the taste made everyone gag.

In 1930, the school term was extended to seven months. That year "cotton picking" vacation was to start July 15 and reconvene the 1st Monday in September. The trustees approved for "Carpenter"/ Long Island School were W. L. James, W.W. Metcalf and J.H. Walraven. In addition, a school board motion was approved saying, " No high school pupils would be allowed to ride school bus with less than two and one half miles to school."

In 1929 the school bus stopped at Glover Branch in Hog Jaw Valley until the road was improved. The Glover branch crosses Hog Jaw Valley Road (Co. Road 91) near the south end of Carpenter Ridge.

The record of early teachers at Harris Chapel and Long Island is incomplete. Some people recall teachers that are not in the official records. James Marion Howard said his teachers were John Montgomery and Hugh Cameron (at Harris Chapel) around 1850. A news article in 1895 names Lucy Lloyd as a teacher in Carpenter. County Judge Robert Gentry who lived at Long Island said A.S. Hill walked the three miles from Bridgeport to teach at the Long Island School.

He recalled that other teachers who taught there were Annie Mae Osley, Lois Hicks, Ella Glover, Helen Summers, and Mrs. Ada Bynum who lived in the Long Island Community.

Most of the teachers who taught at Long Island boarded with Mrs. Bessie Maxwell who operated her boarding quarters in the old James House just past the railroad in the Long Island Community.

In the official records for October 10, 1914, District 1 (probably Harris Chapel), Thalia Turell was authorized \$45 per month (number of months not indicated). October 16, 1915 Beulah Carter was authorized \$50 for four months. June 9, 1917 Myrtle William was authorized one month at \$50. September 1921, Sue Smith was hired for two months at \$60. November 20, 1923, Mrs. Ada Wallace contracted for six months at \$90. October 31, 1924, Mrs. Ada Wallace was hired for six months at \$90 and Rachel Rowe, six months at \$60. Allen L. (Lucky) Know Jr. writing in "River and Rails, true and Tales of Stevenson, Alabama" said that in the school year 1932-33 the state ran out of money to operate schools. The next year schools were opened.

In the late 1930s, apparently Mrs. Maxwell closed her boarding house, the three teachers at Long Island boarded at our house. They were Hugh Jack Rudder from Stevenson who was the principal. Also from Stevenson was Miss Elize Mae Briscoe. Miss J. V. Outlaw was from Section, Alabama. They packed lunches and boarded the school bus up the valley with all the students.

In the 1960s, the Long Island school was consolidated with the Bridgeport schools. The students were collected and bussed down the Valley to ride the Bridgeport Ferry across the Tennessee River. They were then transported by bus into the Bridgeport schools. Citizens of Long Island and Bryant became concerned about the safety of the Bridgeport ferry. In 1943 and 1944, we were bussed by way of South Pittsburg ferry into Bridgeport. The South Pittsburg ferry was cable secured across the river and it made for a safer operation. The old school building at Long Island was abandoned and later burned.

During the years the school students were crossing the ferry, it was not uncommon for us to have a change of plans. The ferry was frequently "broken down," or the river was too rough to risk a crossing. The bus would carry us back up the Valley to catch the train at the Long Island Depot for the ride over the river to the Bridgeport Depot. From there we would walk to our schools.

