

Flat Rock School

Nov 23, 1911 PA: "County Superintendent C. S. Brewton visited the Sulphur Springs public school Wednesday night and will visit the Flat Rock school Thursday a.m. the Rosalie School Thursday p.m., the Pisgah School Friday a.m., and Chalybeate Springs school Friday p.m. He will also attend public land sales at Dutton Saturday.

"A School for the Mountaineers"

In 1904, Bishop Wilson, on the recommendation of the Presiding Elders in cabinet session, appointed Dr. Frank H. Gardner, who had just returned from the Mission Fields in Mexico, to the Methodist's Flat Rock Mission. He was assigned to organize the work of the mission and to establish a mission school for the mountaineers.

In 1905 a primary school was organized in a small wood frame church building that stood at the then-intersection of Highway 71 and County Road 81, across from the Flat Rock Cemetery. Mr. Tom Hardy gave an acre of land for the church and one-fourth acre for the cemetery. School was held in this church building.

By autumn 1907, Flat Rock High School was established in the old Methodist church, a wooden structure with one large room and one small room. The school was the property of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, overseen by a Board of Trustees and managed by the school's principal.

Enrollment at this time was 13 pupils, all in grades one through five. The teachers in this early school were N.H. Price, W.O. Wrencher and Miss Mary E. Lee.

Mrs. Gardner taught music in her home which was close enough to the school to accommodate the pupils who wished to avail themselves of this opportunity. All six of the Gardner children finished high school at Flat Rock and went on to higher education, becoming preachers and teachers.

Later, when a wooden building with one large room and two smaller rooms was erected, the two-room building was used for elementary grades. This three-room high school building also housed church and Sunday school services. This new school stood exactly where the Health Clinic building was built.

Some of the teachers at this time were I.T. Carlton, R.H. Hartford, W.W. Rutland and Miss Nancy Holt. In 1916 this high school building was converted into a dormitory. Eventually the school had three dormitories, all later destroyed by fire.

In 1914 Dr. Gardner began construction of a new stone building with Grover Houser as the architect. A.J. Hogue (Dimple's grandfather) donated the stone for the building. The cost of the building was about \$12,000, with a great deal of labor donated.

Since Flat Rock was a mission school, a donation of \$50,000 from the Centenary Campaign was made for building purposes and endowments.

The principal's home was built on forty acres secured by Dr. Gardner. The house stood where the present Community Center now sits. A library was built between the principal's home and the Stone Building.

G.W. Floyd was the first principal after school started operation in the Stone Building. He was a good school man and very successful in managing the boys and girls. Later principals were L.G. Alverson and Marvin McDonald. Roy G. Ellis was the first vocational teacher.

Flat Rock offered the only high school in this area and attracted students from many states, even Cuba and Central America. A very wide-ranging curriculum was offered—with a choice of Classical or Scientific concentrations, all pupils could study English, Mathematics, Science, History, Bible, Spanish, Latin Music, Physical Education, and Vocational Studies.

The students were privileged to work their way through school. The school owned 292 acres of land for farming, livestock, dairying and poultry raising. The school also owned a sawmill, grist mill and planer which furnished employment for some of the boys. When boys and girls were finished at Flat Rock High School they had learned the value of education and were eager to go to college or otherwise make good in the great adventure of life.

The pupils were religious without being fanatics and no compulsion was needed to get the students to church services or take part in the church's Epworth League (later called the M . Y. F.) The auditorium of the Stone Building housed worship services and was always filled to capacity.

The church school became inactive in 1929 but the church continued to use one room on the ground floor as a chapel until the present Methodist Church was built in 1947 under the guidance of Rev. David N. Hutto.

After the school ceased to function, due to financial difficulties, culties, classes were taught in the Stone Building for some time. Some of the principals, who had never known or cared how the people in the community had struggled to have a school, took no interest in the building and let it deteriorate. Windows were broken out. One school principal even allowed lumber from the auditorium stage floor to be removed.

Fortunately in 1963 a local boy, Mr. Ulyses Bowman, became Flat Rock's principal. He had finished high school here, class of 1926, and loved the school. With his leadership and the cooperation of the surrounding communities we were finally able to get some encouragement from the Board of Education and the final "go-ahead."

It was astounding to know the amount of money and labor donated by every method available for the restoration of our landmark Stone Building. Patrons of the school, even people without children in the school, rolled up their sleeves and acquainted themselves with paint brushes, hammers and what-have-you in the line of labor.

The Stone Building was restored at the cost of about \$20,000.

Note: There is much more information in this source.

From Not Forgotten by Hampton and Crowell

Nov 11, 1909 "The Flat Rock High school is progressing nicely under the management of Prof. Wm. O. Rencher. New students are expected to arrive when the dormitory is finished. Most every old student is striving hard to win the Gold Medal, which has recently been offered to the most studious one and whose department is perfect....Mr. D. Moore, of Henager, has recently purchased a lovely home here, and moved his family here for the benefit of the high school,"



Flat Rock School 1913/1914
 1 James Gardner. 2 Burtan Bennett
 Joseph Gardner 4. Herbert Moore 5.
 Rex Slower 6. Alva Lyda 7. Dan Cameron
 8. 2nd row 9. Lou Rogers (Puckette) 9. Mary
 Barnard 10. Martha Hunsicker 11. Elsie
 Rogers 12. Jennie Barnard (Manning) 13.
 William (Gardner) 14. Bonnie Moore (Pugg)
 15. Mamma Cameron (William) 16. Rennie
 Parvish 17. Mrs Bonnie Gardner (Manning) 18.
 3rd row 18. Mrs Ruth Lyda (Cook) 19. Bill Cant
 20. Opal Hogue (Blavin) 21. Etta Moore (Carmel)
 22. Bimph Hogue (Carroll) 23. Lexie Burkhalter
 24. Helman Moore 25. Florence Shankler
 26. Ruth Porter 27. Beatrice Thornberry
 28. Annie Rogers 29. Lora Handley 30. Paula
 Caperton 31. J. J. Carlton (Principal) 32. L.
 4th row 33. Pearl Shankler 34. Hugh Wright
 35. Dan Porter 36. David Burkhalter 37.
 Ed Moore 38. Claude Houser 39. Johnny
 Houser 40. Emory Lyda 41. Bill Champs
 42. 2 43. 2 44. Hazel Handley 45. Roy
 Carlton
 (Chair: Burkhalter & Houser)
 (The reporter and other boys in
 By Mamma C. Williams Nov. 14 1980
 42 Emory Higginbotham

Flat Rock High School
 ON SAND MOUNTAIN
 Rev. R. H. Hartford, Principal.

Fifth Session Begins Wednesday, August 23, 1911.

A Strong Faculty of College Trained Teachers.
 Prepares Boys and Girls for entrance into the best colleges.
 Also offers courses in Agriculture, Pedagogy, Music and Edu-
 cation.

Specifically Christian Influences. Careful Discipline.
 Athletics. Literary Societies. Special advantages to ex-
 ceed young men and women upon their own resources.
 Board in private families 85 to \$10 per month.

Write for catalogue

F. H. Gardner, M. D., Supt.
 ROUTE 1. FAHUS, ALA.

KNOW YOUR SCHOOLS

This is one of a series of articles on Jackson County Schools



FLAT ROCK SCHOOL

Flat Rock School is located on north central Sand Mountain, across the Tennessee River from Stevenson. Flat Rock is a junior high school and serves Overlook, Liberty Hill, Christian Home and Fabius communities. The trustees are J. S. Liles, J. A. Davis and Lewis Wheeler. The faculty is as follows: Agce Strickland, principal, ninth grade; Miss Belle Austin, English, social studies and seventh and eighth grades; Mrs. Frances Whited, sixth grade and science; Mrs. Florence Burkhalter, fifth grade social studies and health; Mrs. Frances Campbell, fourth grade; Mrs. Dinale Cordell, third grade; Mrs. Alma Moore, second grade; and Mrs. Inez Moore, first grade.

The Flat Rock lunchroom began operation Dec. 1, 1949 under the management of Mrs. H. B. Fuller and Mrs. L. M. Odell.

The school is served by four buses. One bus makes two trips and one carries senior high school students to Pisgah. The bus drivers are Marvin Burkhalter, Hoyt Duncan, Ira Kenimer and Dick White. The school janitor is John McCloud.

The total enrollment is 244 with the enrollment in the grades as follows: first grade, 31; second grade, 39; third grade, 41; fourth grade, 34; fifth grade, 27; sixth grade, 22; seventh grade, 16; eighth grade, 12; and ninth grade, 12. For the first

two months of school our percentage of attendance was 91. About 87 per cent of our children are farm children and about 77 per cent are transported. The number of pupils eating in lunchroom is about 60 per cent.

The school has fifteen acres of land, has an electric pump which furnishes water for its three buildings. The frame building has the classrooms and a small room which is now being used for classroom. The stone building has four classrooms and an auditorium. The auditorium has an elevated floor and is too small for a gymnasium. A few years ago the old stone building was purchased from the Methodist conference by the state and classed as a temporary building. The vocational building is now being used for lunchroom and by GI farm training classes. We have one of the best baseball diamonds in this section. We have several books which are kept in the different classrooms, but we do not have a central library. Most of our desks are old and worn out, and our teachers' desks are home-made tables.

We do not have a P-T-A.

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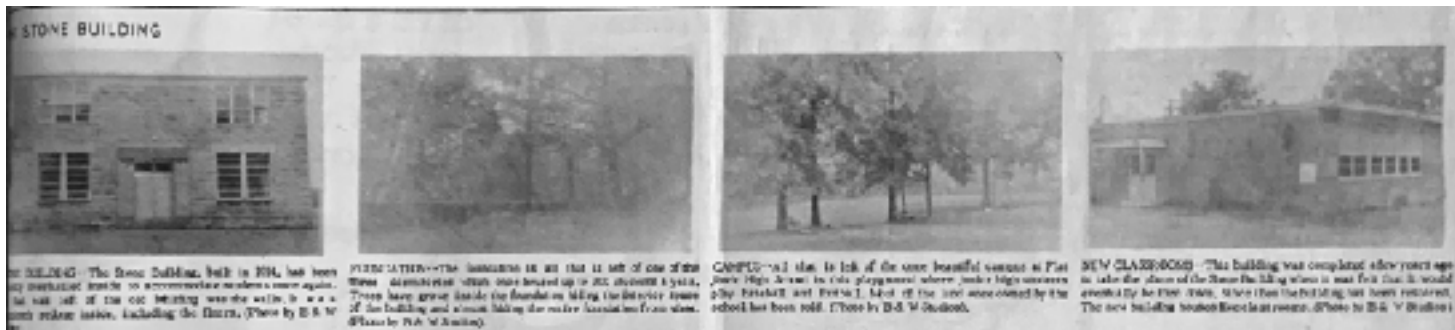
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but we do not have a central library. Most of our desks are old and worn out, and our teachers' desks are home-made tables.

We do not have a P-T-A. The needs of the school are many but the greater needs can be summed up by saying we need a new building with equipment and a gymnasium.





STONE BUILDING—The Stone Building, built in 1914, has been the headquarters for the 30+ generations of students who have attended Flat Rock High School. It was one of the first buildings on the campus and is a fine example of early 20th-century architecture. (Photo by D. W. Hight)

PERSPECTIVE—The building is not that tall, but it sits on a hill that has been excavated into a level. This view shows the building from the side, highlighting the entrance and the surrounding landscape. (Photo by D. W. Hight)

CAMPUS—This is a view of the Stone Building from the campus. The building is a central part of the school's history and is surrounded by other school buildings and greenery. (Photo by D. W. Hight)

NEW CLASSROOMS—This building was completed eleven years ago and is one of the newer buildings on campus. It is a modern structure with large windows and a clean, bright interior. (Photo by D. W. Hight)

Old Schoolhouses Never Die; They Are Just Forgotten

The school building, when it is old and run down, often has a strange reputation. It is often called the "old schoolhouse" and is often the subject of jokes and stories. It is a symbol of a bygone era and a reminder of the past. It is a building that has seen many changes and has been a part of the lives of many generations of students.

Alabama is the first. Students came to learn their Latin, French, Geometry, and so study the past and so give us the future. Students came to learn in one of the three forms on the campus of the school, the first of which is the stone building. It was built in 1914 and is a fine example of early 20th-century architecture. It was one of the first buildings on the campus and is a fine example of early 20th-century architecture.

The building consisted of one room, the former class being used for classrooms and the big hall as a cafeteria. The building was a simple structure, built in 1914 and is a fine example of early 20th-century architecture. It was one of the first buildings on the campus and is a fine example of early 20th-century architecture. It was a building that was built for a time and has since been replaced by newer buildings. It is a building that has been forgotten by many people, but it is still a part of our history and a reminder of the past.

The first principal of Flat Rock school in 1914 was the Rev. J. B. Lee. He was a man of great character and a fine educator. He was the first principal of the school and he was a man of great character and a fine educator. He was the first principal of the school and he was a man of great character and a fine educator. He was the first principal of the school and he was a man of great character and a fine educator.

There is a large and beautiful campus, in many buildings and in fine educational buildings. The school property has been maintained in a fine way and is a fine example of early 20th-century architecture. It is a building that has been forgotten by many people, but it is still a part of our history and a reminder of the past.

With the devotion and loving kindness of the people of Flat Rock this school will not be forgotten and left to the past. It will be used once again to house young people and to prepare them for the world they will have to face. We hope that you will join us in our efforts to make this schoolhouse a better place and to make it a better place for the people of Flat Rock.

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1920s Flat Rock High School Basketball Team



1925-26 Flat Rock High School Football Team





View southeast to Flat Rock High School 1911



Library Building
Flat Rock High School
1911



Early photo of the Administration Building of
Flat Rock High School, 1911 and 1917 Flat Rock, Alabama



Administrative Building of the Flat Rock School
in Fayetteville, Pa. 1918



Photo of diploma received by Wanda Conrad in the
class of 1919, Flat Rock High School graduate.



Administrative
Building, Flat Rock High School
1920

Photographic History
of
FLAT ROCK HIGH SCHOOL
FLAT ROCK, ALABAMA

Created and Sponsored by
**THE NORTH ALABAMA CONFERENCE OF THE
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH**

1911-1929



Elizabeth M. Reed
Flat Rock High School
1919-20



Administrative building
Flat Rock High School
1920



Administrative Building
Flat Rock High School



First Building of Flat Rock
High School in 1911



W. Marshall Williams
Flat Rock High School
1920-21



Photo of South entrance of the building that
is Flat Rock High School. Administration building
in 1920.



Photo of current Flat Rock High School Administration Building
as seen in 2000. 13 year construction. In use since 1997
with newly restored offices.



Historical marker provided by the National Association for Historic
Sites, 2000. The marker was installed July 25, 2000.



Photograph of Flat Rock United Methodist Church, 1920-1921



Photo of Flat Rock High School
in 1911. Flat Rock High School
was built in 1911.





Flat Rock High School 1924-25
Declamation & Reading Contestants



Flat Rock High School 1924-25 Graduating Class



Girls' Dormitory at Flat Rock High School in 1920s



Flat Rock High School
Boys' Basketball photo.



Historical marker erected on the campus of Flat Rock School on June 26, 2020 and dedicated on July 26, 2020.





Peggy Hampton


February 24



Flat Rock School, 1940-41. My mother, Jean Houser, is the girl in second row on right, seated, with the dark hair & bangs. Not sure of any other photo ID.





FLAT ROCK HIGH SCHOOL 1911-1929





The First High School Faculty


| | |
|------------------|------------|
| 1. Mr. E. J. ... | 2. Mr. ... |
| 3. Mr. ... | 4. Mr. ... |
| 5. Mr. ... | 6. Mr. ... |















1920-21 Flat Rock High School Football Team









Flat Rock High School
Administrative Building

1. Mr. ...

2. Mr. ...

3. Mr. ...

4. Mr. ...

5. Mr. ...


6. Mr. ...

7. Mr. ...

8. Mr. ...


9. Mr. ...


10. Mr. ...





Flat Rock High School
Faculty


| | |
|------------|------------|
| 1. Mr. ... | 2. Mr. ... |
| 3. Mr. ... | 4. Mr. ... |
| 5. Mr. ... | 6. Mr. ... |





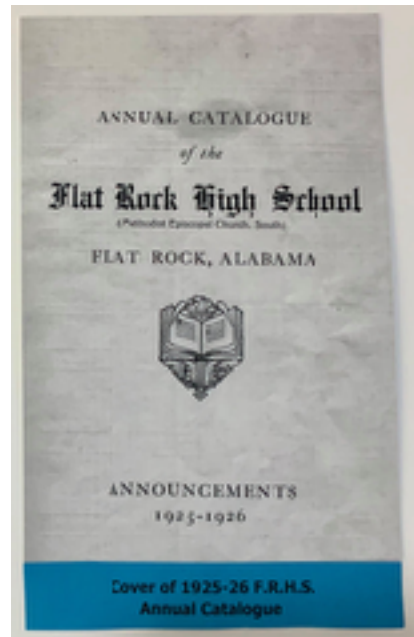
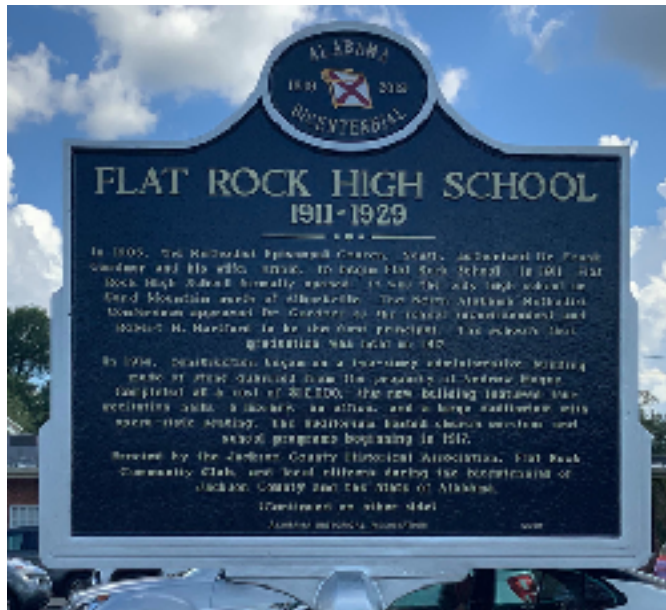








Early photo of the Administrative Building of



Flat Rock High School

1911-1929



Students of Flat Rock School in the early 1900s.



ANNOUNCEMENT OF OPENING OF FLAT ROCK HIGH SCHOOL IN THE EARLY 1900s

On the 10th of June, 1911, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, purchased the Frank Goodner and his wife, Annie, to establish the school. In 1911 Flat Rock High School formally opened. It was the only high school in the Mountain South at this time. The Rev. Arthur Methodist, Mountain opened the school to the local community and Robert H. Hartman is the first principal. The school's first graduates was held in 1915.



The Flat Rock High School students in the early 1900s.

Flat Rock School was established by the North Alabama Conference of Methodist Episcopal Church, South.



A group of people sitting on the ground outdoors.



A group of people sitting on the ground outdoors.



An Oating Party on Flat Rock Creek in the Early 1900s.

Front Row: Allie Fields, Francis Hunkapiller, Daisy Pickett. *Second Row:* Myrtle Jones, Will James, Alma Starkey, Harry Hogue. *Third Row:* John H. Hays, John Edwards, Harold P. L. Jones, Matt Brown, Louise Parker. *Other:* M. H. Hays, Emma Fields, Ella Patton, Mrs. W. J. Hays, Mr. Hall, Harrison Kenimer, Mrs. Clara S. Anderson, Megan.



Students at Flat Rock School in the Early 1900s

Names identified by number are: 2 - Howard Shelton, 3-Mark Moore, 4-Lee Shrader, 5-James Frazer, 6-John Rutland, 7- Leon Austin, 8- Annie Ruth Austin, 11-Martha Jane Rutland, 14-Irene Fields, 26- Lily Koger; *Top row:* (L to R) Edward Austin, Russell Jones, Robert Moore, Carl Jones, Millard Jones.



A Photo Made About 1910 at Flat Rock School

First Row: (L to R) Samba Glover, Rex Glover, Earl Glover, Arthur York, Grady Fields, Joseph Gardner, Ethel Rogers, Annie Rogers, Alice Brown, Charide Barkhaiba, Lou Rogers, Alberta York, Mary Little, Ella Gardner.

Second Row: Della Burkhalter, Frank Gardner, Charlie Kenimer, Joe Smith, Adam York, Etelene Nogue, Ethel Feltis, Cord Brown, Lewis Hunkapiller, Bry James, Ida Little, Bess Sapp.

Third Row: Dewey Kenimer, Harry Kenimer, Frank Ladd, Jasper Little, Emma Brown, Myrtle Rogers, Almira York, Opal English, Ida Sims, Ida Kay.

Fourth Row: Victor Jones, John Givens, George Starkey, Abner York, Mills Rogers, Alma Starkey, Beulah Hunkapiller, Ruth Parks, Dusty Pickett.

Fifth Row: Charlie York, Emma Berkholder, Harry Andis, Billy Parton, John Burkhalter, Lizzie Fields, Myrtle Jones, Allie Fields, Professor R. H. Price.

A GATHERING OF CITIZENS IN FLAT ROCK, ALABAMA IN THE EARLY 1900S.

Front Row: M. C. Fields, Mr. Breckenridge, Ike Sampson, Emma Sampson, Rula Kenimer, Bertha Hunkapiller, Ruby Hogue, Johnny Starkey, Tally Cox, Walter White, Bessie Hunkapiller, Beulah White, Mary V. Sampson, Burton Kenimer.

Second Row: Dr. F. H. Gardner - the founder of Flat Rock School, Mr. Sampson, Mrs. Eliza King, Robert Bloom, Bessie White, Isom Fields, Harrison Kenimer, Jim Loveless.

Third Row: Mrs. Fannie Fields, Mrs. Grady White, Mrs. Sampson, Mrs. Edna Hogue, William Moore, Pete Sampson, Lucinda Hunkapiller, Rev. L. P. Hunkapiller, Crawford Hunkapiller, Mrs. Maggie Kenimer, Hob(?) Owens, Harley Fields, Gertha Hunkapiller, Ethel Fields, Clara Taylor, Mrs. Audie White, Tennie Sampson, Jim Sampson, Ethel Sampson, Staff Cox, Alma Starkey, Allie Fields, Bascom Moore, Jim Owens, Dave Hogue, Lizzie Fields, Arles Fields.



Students Photographed at Flat Rock School in Flat Rock, Alabama during early 1900s



Flat Rock High School students, circa 1914-1916, at old Flat Rock Methodist Church Building

Bottom Row (L to R) Herman Moore, Johnson Darden, Emory Lyda, Rex Glover, Herbert Moore, Cecil James Cecil Loyd, David Burkhalter.

Second Row: Ethel Fields, Mary Thornburg, Charise Burkhalter, Diaple Hogue, Naomi Pritchett, Lou Rogers, Berne Moore, He Moore, Annie Bond, Oool Hogue, Ella Gardner, Ruth Parden, Nora Thornburg, Mae Hawkins, Kathleen Hites, Lela Jones, Anna Lewis, Lexie Burkhalter, Mae Williams Bernice Grass, Annie Rogers, Miss Mary E. Lee, Eva Hites.

Top Row: Ernest Inglis, Jim York, Professor I. T. Carter, Professor N. H. Price, Emory Higginbotham, Clarence Rogers, Frank Gardner, Hugh Wright, Claude Hawkins, Robert Moore, Virgil Lyda.

h
 end:
 s. Annie
 Gardner,
 Hogue,
 Pritchett,
 Beulah
 Lexie
 ry Little,
 Locke,
 Rogers.
 Frank H.
 Kenimer,
 Frank
 Dusky
 gers.
 Aida, Alexa
 Stella
 Pritchett.



Numbered individuals
 1. Mr. H. Homer Price, Teacher and later Principal
 2. Dr. Frank Houston Gardner, First Superintendent
 3. Mrs. Annie Gardner, Teacher; 4. Pearl "Dimple" Hogue;
 5. Opal Hogue

st Quarry
 1914
 J. Hogue
 score
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 Burkhalter
 Rogers
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 Higginbotham
 Steele
 Bloor
 Anderson
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- 11. James Anderson
- 12. Joe Strale
- 13. Boyd Jenkins
- 14. John Palmer



The building was being built in voluntary labor. The reconstruction is now standing, 103 years later, in the middle of the Flat Rock Elementary School campus in Flat Rock, Alabama.

Photo of Flat Rock School Students, circa 1910-1914

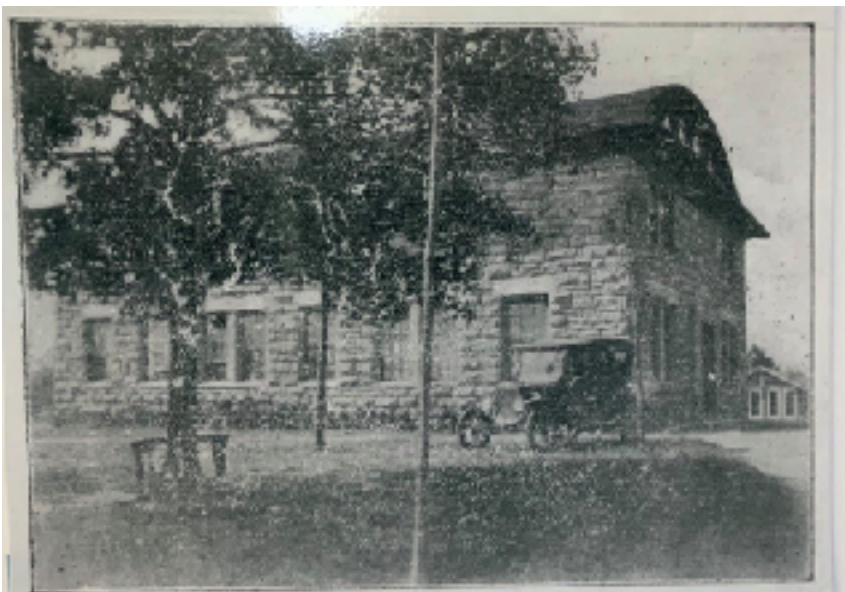


- 1. Essie Rogers
- 2. Ruby Ingram
- 3. Eva Lee Jones
- 4. Roy Moore
- 5. Middleton Cuzzort
- 6. Bertha Huntapiller
- 7. Ella Kemmer
- 8. Carl Jones
- 9. Marie Lyda
- 10. Marvin Burkhalter
- 11. James Garner
- 12. Eason Herndon (Teacher)
- 13. Mable Burkhalter
- 14. Gody Fields
- 15. Alva Lyda
- 16. Elbert Lyda
- 17. Barton Kemmer
- 18. Mae King
- 19. Beatrice Cowart
- 20. Robert Sloan

Flat Rock School Photo [circa 1907-1909] made at Flat Rock Methodist Church
 Taken by Tom Lewis, in front of grounds Earl Gover, Joseph Gordon.



Administrative Building
 Flat Rock High School
 1920s



**Administrative Building of Flat Rock High School
as it appeared in the 1920s.**



Girls' Dormitory at Flat Rock High School in 1920s

Flat Rock High School:
The Installation of an "A-Grade" Library in 1927. Rev. Martin



By Carol K. Barnes

Presented to the North Alabama Conference Historical Society
The United Methodist Church
Flat Rock High School Auditorium
April 20, 1997

Presented May 1, 1997





Students Photographed at Flat Rock School in Flat Rock, Alabama during early 1900s.

**Flat Rock School Photo
[circa 1907-1909] made at
Flat Rock Methodist Church**

(L to R) Two boys in front on ground:
Earl Glover, Joseph Gardner.

First Row: Miss Mary E. Lee, Mrs. Annie Gardner, James Gardner (in top), Ella Gardner, Etsel Fields, William Gardner, Dimple Hogue, Virgie Locke, Burton Kenimer, Dazy Pritchett, Ruth Parton, Millie Rogers, Opal Hogue, Beulah Burkhalter, Lizzie Pritchett, Ida Little, Lexie Burkhalter.

Second Row: Ruth Pritchett, Mary Little, Charles Burkhalter, Lew Rogers, Nettie Locke, Naomi Pritchett, Lela Pritchett, Ethel Rogers, Annie Rogers, Vina White.

Third Row: Professor R. H. Price, Dr. Frank H. Gardner, Jake Overeager, Charlie Kenimer, Dewey Kenimer, David Burkhalter, Frank Gardner, Henry Kenimer, Jasper Little, Desky Pritchett, Leonard Parton, Myrtle Rogers.

Fourth Row: Lizzie Fields, Emma Fields, Alma Starkey, John Burkhalter, Lucie Lons, Della Eason, Brunson Burkhalter, Dorcas Pritchett.





FLAT ROCK SCHOOL

Labourers of Quarry
circa 1914

1. Andrew J. Hesse
2. Luther Moore
3. Andy Hagan
4. Masie Burkhalter
5. Luther Rogers
6. Gus Moore
7. Bruce Carter
8. Emory Higginbotham
9. Louise Moore
10. Robert Beeson
11. Sumter Anderson
12. Joe Stevie
13. Boyd Jenkins
14. John Palmer



Men Working at Quarry

This photo shows a group of community men quarrying sandstone from the property of Andrew J. Hesse for the construction of Flat Rock High School's Administration Building. The quarry was located approximately 1.2 miles north of the school on the left side of Arkansas Hwy. 71, near the beginning of County Road 817. The architect of the building was Gerver House. Construction was started in 1914 and completed in 1917. The cost of the building was about \$12,000 plus many hours of voluntary work. The administration building is still standing, 103 years later, in the middle of the Flat Rock Elementary School campus in Flat Rock, Alabama.



1. Essie Rogers
2. Ruby Hagan
3. Iva Lee Jones
4. Ray Moore
5. Middleton Cozzart