

## McCutchen's School

**Location:** S5/T5/R5E

**Funds:** \$145

1908-1939 One teacher

Consolidated with Scottsboro

**School District:** 59

**Teacher in 1923:** Glen Graham

**Trustees in 1923:** Tom Clemens, Matt Smith, and Charlie Steely

**Teacher in 1939:** Margie Bowie

School located in Scottsboro, Route 2

**Years of Operation:** Before 1897 to some time before 1949



**Some teachers:** Annie P. Harris (1897), Mattie Wynn (1915), Glen Graham (1923), Miss Martin (1929), and Margie Bowie (1939). The school shared space with a church building until 1926 when it was moved into a farm building (see below). In 1929, property was purchased from Charley Steeley to construct a school house. The school, when constructed, became the Happiness Hollow School. The original building and site were sold at public auction in 1949.

Ellie Smith writes about the McCutchen School.

The McCutchen School site is on Smith Farm property off AL Hwy 79, in vicinity present-day Living Word Ministries – and across 79 from Happiness Drive. I believe the building was both church and school. There are tales of rowdy community boys causing grief to some of the early teachers, letting coon dogs loose during a church service, etc.

Some time after the House of Happiness moved from downtown Scottsboro to the Sauta Bottom area about 1929, the Jackson County School Board is said to have asked House of Happiness founder, Miss Martin, to teach at McCutchen School. She did so for a couple of years, later seeking permission to move the school activities to a tenant house on nearby House of Happiness property. I suppose this was when McCutchen School officially closed.

The McCutchen School building is gone now, but some of its corner pads may be discernible in one of the Smith pastures today.

Here are references to the school from area newspapers.

**May 20 1897 SC:** Aspel News. School house already in existence and used as a landmark. “The young ladies have organized a Sunday-school at McCutchen’s school house, with Miss Annie P. Harris as their superintendent.”

**Jun 17, 1897 PA:** Hornet News. “M. T. Bartley conducted singing school at McCutchen’s school house, Sunday.”

**Jun 24, 1897 PA:** Hornet News. “A large number attended Sunday school at McCutchen’s school house Sunday.”

**Apr 10, 1902 SC:** Aspel News. “Messrs. Bruce Smith and Mark Kelly made a trip to McCutchen’s school house last Sunday, but were afraid the creek would get out of banks so did not stay long.”

**Sep 17, 1903 PA:** “Two weeks ago, a Baptist church was organized at McCutchen’s school house with 25 members.”

**Jun 25, 1908 PA:** McCutchen’s school house in the Happy Hollow column. On May 5, 1910, it was part of Dry Cove News. Also in 1915 in the Sauta Bottom News.

Sep 15, 1910 PA: “An ice cream supper will be given at McCutchen’s School house Saturday night September 17th.”

**May 19, 1919 PA:** Dry Cove News. “Several from this place attended the box supper at McCutchen school house Sunday night.” Also a singing school.

**Feb 11, 1915 PA:** Oak Grove News. Miss Mattie Wynn is teaching at McCutchen’s school.”

Nov 11, 1915 SC: “Miss Mae Ross left last week for McCutchen’s school house where she will teach this winter.”

**Fev 23, 1922 PA:** McCutchen School News. “There will be a pie supper at the school house Friday night. Everyone invited.

**Nov 16, 1922 PA:** “There will be a pie supper at this place Saturday night, Nov. 25th.

**Dec 7, 1922 PA:** “There will be a box supper at McCutchen’s School House Saturday night, December 9th. The money will go for the benefit of the school house. Everybody invited.”

**Jul 26, 1923 PA:** “There will be an ice cream supper at McCutchen School house Saturday night, July 28th. Plenty of good music. Proceeds go to boys ball team.”

**Jan 28, 1926 PA:** Work program for farmers orientation held at McCutchen School. Also Feb 3, 1927

**Dec 2, 1926 PA.** County School Board Meeting, “One motion permission was granted to move the McCutchen school from the church to a farm building situated on the public road temporarily until better arrangements could be made for a school building.”

**Jul 21, 1927 PA:** “There will be an ice cream supper at the McCutchen School house, July 30th, for the benefit of the church. Everyone invited.”

**Mar 29, 1928 PA:** At field day, B. Mount and H. Brownfield of McCutchen School placed second in the three-legged race.

**Jan 31, 1929 PA:** “The trustees of McCutchen’s School House were instructed to close a deal for five acres of land purchased of Mr. Charley Steeley, paid for it with the three mil tax for that district.

**Oct 31, 1929 PA:** “There will be a Pie Supper at the New Home Church. It is known as the old McCutchen School House) on Saturday night, November 2nd, for the benefit of the Church. Everybody come and bring a pie.”

**Aug 21, 1930 PA:** New Hope News. Still calling the church McCutchen School House.

**Oct 23, 1930 PA:** Ira Pegues made a political speech at the school November 5.

**Jul 13, 1933 PA:** Speakers against the repeal of the 18th amendment spot at the McCutchen School.

**Nov 25, 1937 PA:** poem from McCutchen School pupils Vedil Chandler and Addie Sherrell, both 4th graders.

**Jul 16, 1942 PA:** Typhoid vaccination clinic at McCutchen School.

**Jul 21, 1949 PA:** “The old Home Missionary Baptist Church will be sold at public auction, in front of the church building on Monday, July 25th at 10:30 o’clock. Located in Sauta Bottom, known as the old McCutchen School. Proceeds of sale will go toward the build of a new church.”



These photos of McCutchen School are from Talmadge Ray Smith, Ellie Smith’s brother. No IDs on the first picture.



McCutchen School about 1915. Left to right, Lydia Steeley, Jim Clemens, Cecil Boggus, Ira Clemens. Allie Mae Steeley, Eunice Boggus, May Keasling, Will Mount, and Claude Keasling.