

Rash School

Location: S9/T2/R7E

Funds: \$291.20

School District: 40

Teachers in 1923: Pearl Colvard and Mae Allison

Trustees in 1923: Charlie Coffey, J. L. Sentell,
W. D. Rorex

Teachers in 1939: Mrs. Opal Coffey, Faye Ridley, and Mrs. Pearl Sentell

School Location: Rash

Years of Operation: 1908-1962

1908-1909 One teacher, 5 months at \$60

1923-1924 Two teachers

1938-1939 Three teachers.

1939: New building completed

1940: Electric pump added

1950: Trustees in 1950: John Coffey, Brooks Bell, and Charley Allen. Stanley Green was principal.

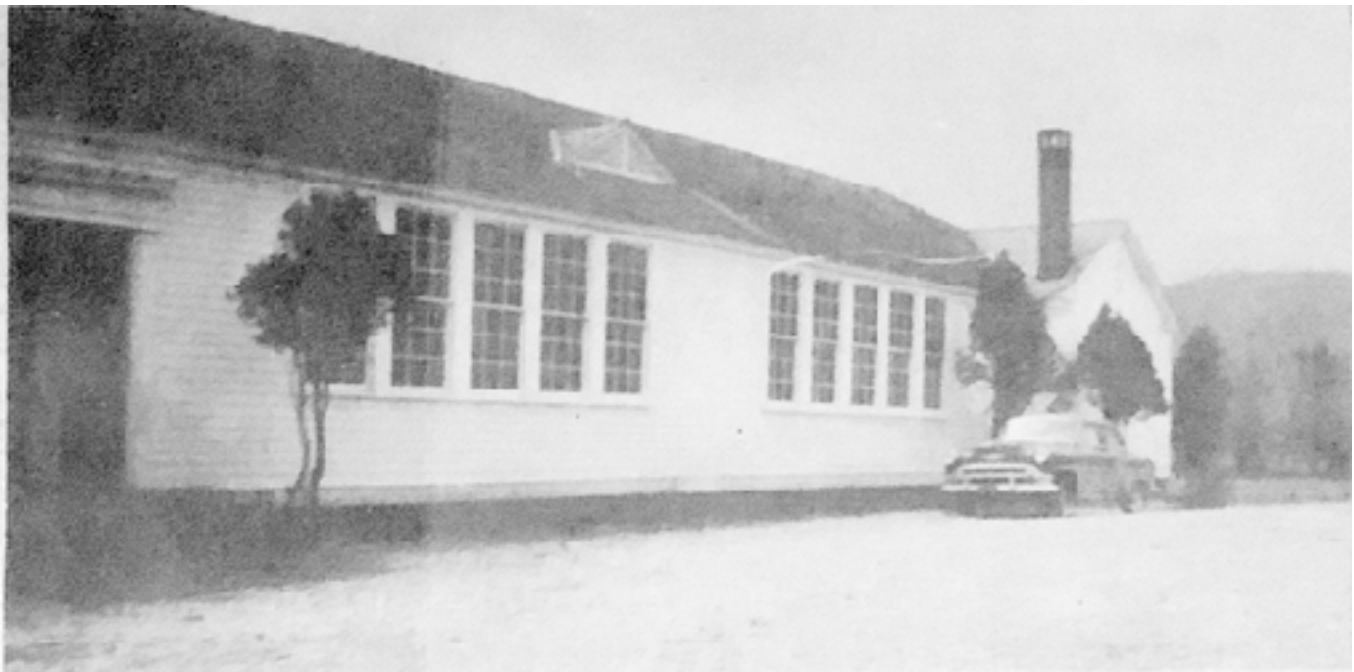
1951: Cafeteria added

1962: Consolidated with Stevenson. Rash Consolidated School created from joining Rash with Cave Spring and White House.

1997: School building burned

Eliza Woodall's list from *The Stevenson Story*: The school at Rash was formed in the early 1900s. Some of the teachers have been: H. J. Porter (1908-1909), Ilah Lovelady (1911, 1913), Winnie Kirby (1912), Ethel Walker (1913), Allie Roden (1914), Mae Allison and Pearl Colvert (1923), Esther Tate, Mary Norwood, Pearl Barbee, Evelyn Coffey, and David Cargile (1924).

Photo below from the 1956 yearbook



History of Rash School 1938-1961

by: Pearl Sentell (date unknown, possible 1954)

In 1938 we saw the need of new buildings at Cave Springs, the White House and Rash schools. Through the cooperation of the three communities, they were consolidated, and a new four room school was constructed at Rash.

The first principal of the new school was Mrs. Pearl Sentell, with Mrs. Lee Coffey teaching 3rd and 4th grade. Mrs. Fay Ridley Hale teaching 1st &* 2nd grade. Mrs. Sentell was principle for many years. Miss Kate Steele, Mrs. Ester Rudder, Miss Evelyn Coffey, Mrs Francis Allison, Mrs. Ilah Wynne, Mrs. Loweata Davis teaching with her.

Mr and Mrs Preston Brown, Mr and Mrs Cecil Butler, Mr. Stanley Green, Mrs Brooks Bell, Mrs Bennie Lee Summers, Mrs. Mae Gardner and Mr. Boston Vaughan have taught here also. Mr. Vaughan, Mrs Gardner and Mrs Allison are the faculty now and have been the faculty for many years.

In April of 1939 the building was completed, ready for classes. the first graduating exercises was given May 1939. The class was addressed by Judge W R Bogart of Stevenson, Alabama.

Many girls and boys have graduated from Rash School in the last 17 years. They are now engaged in all kinds of occupations in the U. S. , France and Germany.

The school has progressed and grown. In 1940 an electric pump was added. The next year a piano was purchased. A rhythm band was organized under the direction of Mrs. Clyde Bell. Piano lessons were given to 15 pupils. In 1951 a cafeteria was added.

Six grades are taught by three teachers. Most of the students are brought to school by bus. The students participate in various activities that take place in our county. One event they look forward to is 4-H club Rally Day at the county seat each April. The year of 1943 and 1944, our 4-H club won the banner for having the highest percentage of record book completed.

A small library has been added to the school. Mr. Vaughan bought a good set of Encyclopedia year books, map charts and wall maps. The building has been repainted inside this year. The painting has improved the looks and added more light to all rooms.

Betty Allen added this information when the school was profiled in *The Heritage of Jackson County, Alabama*. After the school was closed and consolidated with Stevenson, the building was used for a community center, boxing club, hunting club and a variety of other things. Many of the community folks would meet for a week-end ball game. In 1995 plans were started to raise funds to restore and refurbish the old building that had fallen into disarray. In 1996 new windows had already been installed, the roof patched, etc.

Then one fateful Sunday night, February 23, 1997, the sky lit up for miles around - the old school house was on fire and burned to the ground leaving nothing but a pile of

ashes and bricks and the memories in the hearts of former students and community members that can never be taken away.



These three photos come from James Sentell's mother Pearl, who was principal at this school. They were taken between 1938 and 1942.



Newspaper References

Jul 18, 1912 PA: "Miss Winnie Kirby left Saturday for Rash where she will teach school."

Mar 26, 1903 PA: Pisgah News. "Miss Venus Meeker has closed her school at Rash and returned to her home here."

June 25, 1914 SC: "Miss Allie Roden's school is progressing nicely....Mis Ora [Devers] will teach as an assistant in our public school later on."

Nov 17, 1937 PA: "There will be a pie supper at Rash School House on the night of Nov 23, 1927. Everybody is cordially invited."

Nov 4, 1937 PA: In the County Board of Education Statement, the Coffey Brothers were reimbursed \$5.76 for supplies for Rash School.

Nov 3, 1938 PA: The County Broad of Education Statement reflects the new building built for Rash. The statement list \$4800 as "a part of cost for Rash School" and budgeted 5.00 to Garrett Hagan for "making deed for Rash School."

May 4, 1939 PA: "A negro play, 'The stealing of a Turkey in Watermelon County,' will be presented at Rash School House Sunday night, May 6th. Will have also string music. Proceeds go to the school. Admission 10 and 15 cents."

Nov 16, 1939 PA: Lots of news about the school in the Rash News column. See article.

May 9, 1940 PA: Forestry film show at Rash School. Also May 16.

Jun 13, 1940 PA: DPT and smallpox vaccination clinic held at Rash School.

Jul 4, 1940 PA: Forrest fire education program at Rash School.

Sep 19, 1940 PA: "There will be a pie and box supper at the Rash school house Saturday night, September 21. Proceeds will be used to buy a piano for the school. Everyone is invited to come."

Dec 19, 1940 PA: "There will be a musical program at Rash school Friday night, December 20th. String music and rhythm band by local talent. Admission 10 and 15 cents. Everyone is invited."

Jan 16, 1941 PA: Mattress program initiated by the county agent explained at Rash School.



Friday November 10, 1939 the **Rash school** went to Scottsboro to see the show and we went through the new jail. We all had a nice time.

Carl Champion of Florence spent the week end with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Champion.

Mr. and Mrs. Elbert Champion have returned from Chattanooga after a week's visit with their relatives.

Mrs. Balle Hicks is at the bedside of her mother, Mrs. R. E. Sanders of Gurley, who is very ill.

There will be a Rash 4-H Club meeting at the Rash school Wednesday November 15. There are 38 members in all.

Tuesday, November 7th, Jack Savage and his Texas Farm Boys and Girls were at the **Rash school** house.

Mrs. Pearl Sankel spent last week end in Chattanooga.

Feb 6, 1941 PA: "Radio Starts to be at Rash. Red Anderson and son, Raymond with other radio stars will give an interesting program at the Rash school Tuesday night, February 11th. Admission 15 and 25 cents. Come and enjoy a good program."

Mar 13, 1941 PA: "There will be a program at Rash School, Saturday night, March 15th. Two plays, a negro play, "Cortin That Counts" and "Welcome Miss McGregor," also band music. Proceeds for benefit of school. Come and have lots of fun. Admission 10 and 25 cents.

Nov 20, 1941 PA: Forestry movie shown at Rash School.

Jan 8, 1942 PA: Rash School raised \$2.06 for the Red Cross.

Jan 15, 1942 PA: Cotton insurance program for farmers explained at Rash School.

Feb 5, 1942 PA: Registration of eligible men for World War II held at Rash School.

Feb 12, 1942 PA: Jackson County farmer urged to plant 7,000 acres of peanuts. Information meeting at Rash School.

Apr 30, 1942 PA: You can register to receive your sugar ration with Mrs. Pearl Sentell at Rash School.

Jun 11, 1942 PA: G. W. Lovelace is awarded the school bus route between Walnut Grove and Rash school.

Aug 4, 1942 PA: Forestry movie shown at Rash School.

Nov 5, 1942 PA: Farm meeting at Rash School.

Dec 2, 1943 PA: Community meeting to elect 1944 AAA Community Committeemen held at Rash School.

Apr 6, 1944 PA: Typhoid vaccination clinic at Rash School. Also Apr 3, 1947.

Mar 1, 1945 PA: Honor Roll. See article. Also April list published.

May 32, 1946 PA: "A good program at Rash School May 4th at 8:00 o'clock. A blackface comedian, an electric guitar player and five other musicians. They broadcast five times a week. Come and have lots of fun. Admission 25 cents and 50 cents."

Sep 19, 1946 PA: Syphilis blood testing at the school.

Aug 21, 1947 PA: "The Rhythm Boys from Fort Payne will give a concert Friday night. Aug 22nd at the Rash School. Come and hear good music and enjoy clean fun."



RASH SCHOOL FEBRUARY HONOR ROLL	
First Grade, all A's—	Billy Clyde Allen, Johnny Hugh Lovelady, Rayford McCrary, O. B. Phillips, Forestine Allison, Nina Bradford, Annie Ruth Hastings, Mary Lou Lovelady, Marie Purdy, Mary Ruth Summers, Nellie Marie Talley.
A's and B's—	J. T. Matthews, Hay McCrary, Charisie Matthews, Myra Carolyn Matthews, Charlotte Matthews, Betty Louisa Smith.
Second Grade, all A's—	The Progressives: Lawrence Bell, Sam Alton (Scottsboro)
old Matthews, Anne Allison,	Nancy Lee McCrary, Betty Jo Matthews, Bobby Jean Matthews.
Second Grade, A's and B's—	Bobby Allison, Kenneth Arnold, Jimmy McCrary, Homer Purdy.
Third Grade, all A's—	Nancy Carolyn Gamble, Ann Allison, Jewell McCrary.
Fourth Grade, all A's—	Bettye Faye Wynne, Mary Lynn McCrary, Aileen Keller, Ora Bell Vinson.
Fourth Grade, A's and B's—	Lizzie Goins, Tom Wynne, Charisie Davis.
Fifth Grade, A's and B's—	Addie Ruth Smith, Mary Lou Summers.
Sixth Grade, all A's—	Martha Faye Wisc, Aileen Steele, Charles Matthews, Mack Gambel.
Sixth Grade, A's and B's—	Maudie Thornton, Jimmy F. Bell, Billy Vinson, Carolyn Allison.

Mar 11, 1948 PA: "There will be political rally and box supper at Rash school Saturday night, March 13. The public is invited. We express a special invitation to all candidates. Proceeds will go to the school. Come and have a good time.

Jul 8, 1948 PA: Tuberculosis X-Rays performed at the school. Testing is required.

Nov 18, 1848 PA: "There will be a music entertainment at Rash school, Wednesday, Nov. 24 at 7:30 p.m., presented by the Leach Brothers and the Walker Brothers. Admission 25 cents and 40 cents. The public is urged to attend."

Nov 17, 1949 PA: "There will be a box supper at Rash School No. 19 at 7:00pm. Other attractions will be a fish pond and music by a string band. Everyone is invited to attend.

Feb 2 1950 JCS: Rash School profile. 101 students from Rash, Big Coon, and Little Coon. Stanley Green was principal and taught 6th grade (20). Mrs. Brooks Bell taught 4th and 5th (23). Mrs. Bernie Lee Summers taught 3rd (22). Mrs. Frances Allison taught 1st and 2nd (36). See article.

Feb 16, 1950 PA: "The pupils of Rash School under the leadership of Prof. S. H. Green will be at Heltons Memorial Baptist Church Sunday Feb. 19, at 2 pm to sing. The public is cordially invited to come and hear this fine group sing."

Mar 30, 1950 PA: Diphtheria and typhoid inoculation clinic at the school.

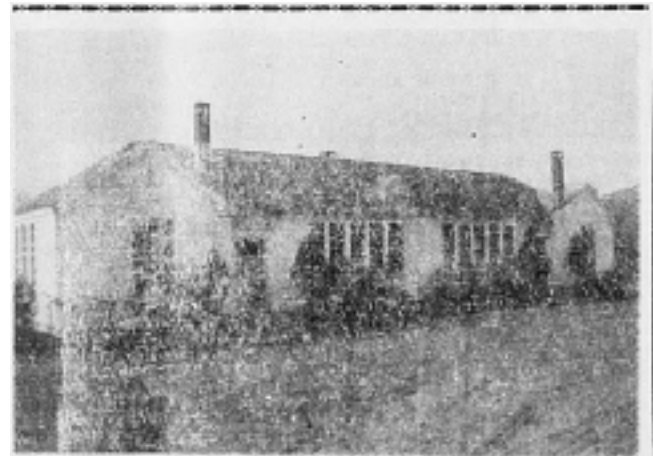
Aug 10, 1950 PA: Meeting between farmers and county agent.

Aug 17, 1950 PA: Health clinic. Blood test for syphilis and diabetes; chest x-rays for tuberculosis.

Oct 5, 1950 PA: Rash School raised \$3.60 for the crippled children's fund.

Oct 12, 1950 PA: "Singing at Rash School. The Alabama Farm Boys, Cave Spring Quartet, and the Womack quarter will be at Rash school Friday night, Oct. 13th t 7 o'clock. This is being given for the benefit of helping the school to build a cafeteria. Everyone who enjoys good singing be sure and come and bring the whole family. Spend an evening of fun and also help the school program. Admission 25 and 40 cents.

Jan 11, 1951 PA: There will be a chicken supper at Rash school Friday, Jan. 12, at 6 o'clock, 50 cents per plate. Cakes and pies will also be sold. Proceeds to go for equipment of the new cafeteria. Everyone cordially invited." Also on March 8, 1951.



RASH SCHOOL

Rash School is located at Rash and teaches from the first through the sixth grades. It serves the communities of Rash, Big Coon and Little Coon.

The trustees are John Coffey, Brooks Bell and Charley Allen. Stanley H. Green is principal of the school and teaches the sixth grade; Mrs. Brooks Bell teaches the fourth and fifth grades; Mrs. Bennie Lee Summers teaches the third grade; Mrs. Frances Allison teaches the first and second grades. The bus drivers

are Truett Davis and Jim Wynn. The student body consists of 101. 35 are in the first and second grades; 22 are in the third grade; 23 are in the fourth and fifth grades; 20 are in the sixth grade. The average percentage of attendance is 91. 95 percent is transported.

The school plant consists of one main building, with about an acre of play ground in use.

The school building needs repainting on the inside. It also needs an additional drinking fountain.

Apr 5, 1951 PA: "Radio Stars at Rash School Night of April 7. Charlies Evans and the Alabama Farm Boys, WCRI radio stars, will appear in a program at the Rash School on Saturday night, April 7th at 7 o'clock. An admission of 25 and 50 cents will be made for the show. The program lasts an hour and a half and the school will sell cakes and pies during the evening. Everyone invited."

Nov 8, 1951 PA: "There will be a pie supper at Rash School Saturday night, Nov. 10 at 7 o'clock. Proceeds are for the benefit of the school. Everyone please come."

Mar 13, 1952 PA: There will be a political rally at Rash school Friday evening, March 14. Supper will be served beginning at 6 o'clock. Proceeds are for the benefit of the school. Come and enjoy a good chicken supper, meet your friends, and hear the candidates speak."

Mar 27, 1952 PA: Typhoid vaccination clinic at school. Ran throughout April 1952.

Nov 13, 1952 PA: "There will be a pie supper at Rash school on Wednesday evening, Nov 19th, at 7 o'clock. Proceeds are for the benefit of the school. Everyone is invited to attend and her a worth cause."

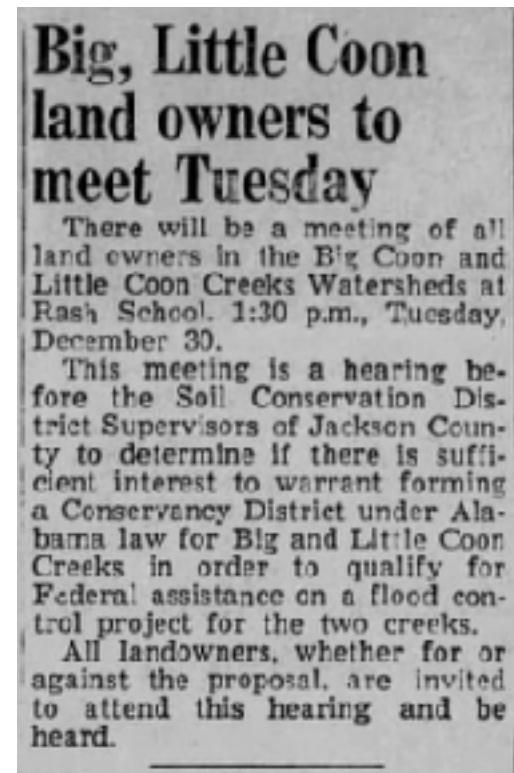
May 7, 1953 PA: "The Alabama Ramblers will be at the Rash School Thursday night, May 7th, at 7:30. The proceeds go for the benefit of the school. Everyone invited."

Feb 1954 PA: Political rally at Rash school.

Nov 24, 1955 PA: "There will be a pie supper at Rash school on Thursday evening, December 1, at 7 o'clock. Cake and pies will be sold. The proceeds go for painting the inside of the school building. Everyone is urged to come."

Feb 28, 1957 PA: DPT inoculation clinic at Rash school.

Dec 25, 1958 PA: "Big, Little Coon land owners to meet Tuesday. There will be a meeting of al land owners in the Big Coon and Little Coon Creeks Watersheds at Rash School, 1:30 pm, Tuesday, December 30. This meeting is a hearing before the Soil Conservation District Supervisors of Jackson County to determine if there is sufficient interest to warrant forming a Conservancy District under Alabama law for the Big and Little Coon Creeks in order to qualify for a flood control project for the two creeks. All landowners for or against the proposal are invited to attend this hearing and be heard." See article.



Aug 17, 1961 JCS: Listing of all schools and teachers in the county for upcoming school years. "Teachers at Rash School are Mrs. Kitty P. Cloud, fourth through sixth grades; and Mrs. may Gardner, first through third grades." Same two teacher next year (Aug 26, 1962 *Sentinel Age*).

Sep 23, 1962 SA: Deer permits checked at a station at Rash School.

Jul 28, 1963 SA: "A request by a group of citizens in the Rash school community to keep the school open and not consolidate it with the Stevenson school was turned down by the board, after it was explained by Supt A. A. Clemens that such a move was not feasible due to new teacher unit and student attendance rules of the state department of education. It was noted during the discussion that the Rash school did not qualify for but one teacher under the new ADA ruling, and that the student load would be too great for one teacher."

Dec 12, 1963 SA: School continued to be used as a community center. Turkey shoot in December.



Photos are from the 1956 Rash yearbook, courtesy of James Sentell and includes some photos of earlier schools and years.



