

# Rocky Ridge School

Location: Extended Woodville, Marshall County  
 District: 63 (part of Woodville)  
 Teacher in 1923: Herman Campbell  
 Grades Covered: 1 through 6



This school was active as early as 1912 because Dr. Julian Hodges, born in 1904, attended school here. It is an unusual Jackson County school because it was actually in Marshall County just south of Woodville. This most likely was a church where school was also held since reference is also made to attending church at Rocky Ridge. J. R. R. Kenamer in his *Story of Woodville* notes that J. B. Woodall sold cedar rails on his farm in Thomas Cove, and the proceeds from cedar sold was used to build the Rocky Ridge school house. In 1923, this school was partly supported by Marshall County.

In 1912, Wiley Butler was the teacher, according to the class photo. Kenamer notes in his *Story of Woodville* that W. F. Burton taught at Rocky Ridge in 1913. Herman Campbell, shown at the right, taught here in 1924. In 1930, the Jackson County School Board appropriated \$44 a month to transport students from Rocky Ridge to Woodville School. This is probably transporting students who had aged out of the shared county school to the nearest local high school, Woodville. This school was never covered on county expenditures reports in the 1920s and is definitely not in the Jackson County School Educational Directory in 1938.



The earliest picture of this school is found in the Woodville Museum and shows the 32 students identified in the photograph below with Wiley Butler as their teacher. A 1922 photo of the school also in the museum shows 25 students, many of whom are pre-teen boys with fewer Grades 1-2 students and no teacher pictured or identified. A 1924 photo shows 32 students, mostly 1-6, with an unidentified teacher in the back.



ROCKY RIDGE SCHOOL, 1912  
 Back Row - L. to R. - Wiley Butler, Teacher, Julian Hodges, Vera Hodges, Lilla Baker, Green Baker, Steve Page, Minnie Hodges, Bertha Baker, Willie Perkins, Emma Baker, and Frank Hodges - Center Row - L. to R. - Fannie Hodges, Bertha Baker, Alice Baker, Vera Page, Nell Baker, Vera Hodges, Grace Hodges, Zella Hodges, D. D. Hodges, and Minnie Hodges - Front Row - L. to R. - Willie Hodges, Bertha Baker, Ollie Perkins, Bertha Perkins, Emma Baker, Green Baker, Ollie Perkins, Thomas Page, Bertha Page, Lilla Baker, and Vera Hodges



*Rocky Ridge School  
(About 1922)*

*1<sup>st</sup> Row: Fern and Talmadge Kennamer  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Row: Albert Carlton's Daughter, Ola Gayle Vaught,  
 Olive Page Stewart, Gertrude Page Skelton, Marvin  
 Hodges, and Cecil Hodges  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Row: Beatrice Page Veron, Carlton boys, Ray Hodges,  
 Carlton boy, Verlon Hodges, and Paul Hodges  
 4<sup>th</sup> Row: Eva Hodges, Beatrice Page Phillips, Bea Page,  
 Ted Butler, Oklin Vernon, Lotus Elkins, and G.O. Thomas*

*Ca. 1924*

1st Row: Vesta Hermine Page, O'Neal Butler, Alma Adair Boshart, Wilburn Boshart, 7,7, and Lucille Keel  
2nd Row: Waylon Hodges, Talmadge Kennamer, Maylon Hodges, Clinton Adair, Bob Walls, Bertice Butler Page, and Alma Page Elkins  
3rd Row: The 5<sup>th</sup> one is Fern Kennamer Halsey. Others in the class, but not identified: Clara Mabel Hodges, Edna Barkley Keel, Oakland Vernon, Issy Jones, Garland Butler, Ted Hodges, and Vesta Hodges.



## **Newspaper References:**

**Dec 2, 1915 SC:** Woodville News. "There will be a box supper at Rocky Ridge Friday night. Every body invited."

**Apr 20, 1917 PA:** Rocky Ridge News is a standalone column. Two items about an egg hunt by the ladies of the R.R.L. society and a singing given by Vera Hodges.

**Feb 2, 1922 PA:** Paint Rock Bridge News. "Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Hodges attended school at Rocky Ridge last Sunday."

**Jan 11, 1923 PA:** Directory of Schools. Rocky Ridge is part of the Woodville District and Herman Campbell is the teacher.

**Jan 29, 1925 PA:** Rocky Ridge News. "School at this place is progressing nicely."

**Feb 5, 1925 PA:** Rocky Ridge News. "Several from here attended the play at Woodville Saturday night."

**Jun 19, 1930 PA:** Board of Education meeting of June 13. "A delegation came from the Board requesting transportation from Rocky Ridge school district in Marshal County to the Woodville School. The majority of the Board voted in favor of the proposition, E. H. Caldwell voted against it. However, a truck was employed to transfer the Marshall County pupils to Woodville at a cost of \$44.00 per month."

**Jan 17, 1939 PA:** "On Sunday afternoon January 30, the Rocky Ridge Singing Class will sing at Woodville High School Auditorium. Each and every one especially singer, are invited to attend."

**Feb 17, 1938 PA:** Singing Class at Rocky Ridge. "The Rocky Ridge singing class invited each and everyone interested in class singing to be present at the Woodville High School auditorium on Sunday afternoon, February 20, at 1:30 p.m. We have the promise of North quartets and extended this welcome invitation to all singers everywhere."

**Apr 28, 1938 PA:** Swaeringin News. The North Quartett and Rocky Ridge Singing Choir performed at the May 8 Decoration Service.

**May 12, 1960 PA:** Julian Hodges biography. "The family lived near Woodville when Dr. Hodges was old enough to start school at Rocky Ridge Elementary School."