

Sulphur Springs School

Location: S1/T3/R8E

Funds: \$166.40

School District: 7

1909-1909 One teacher

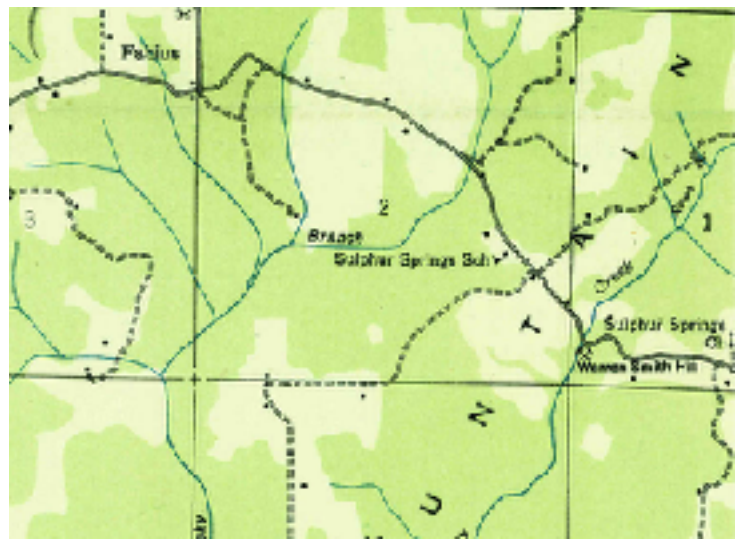
1918-1919 Two teacher units.

Consolidation unknown.

The school was active and functioning as early as 1881, when it was run by teacher Charles Roach. The school taught grades 1 through 6, though competing in inter-school sports indicates that at some times during its tenure as a school, it covered grades 1 through 9. In 1923, J. W. Thompson and Anniebel Buckner were the teachers, and J. A. Goforth, Mansell Smith, and Sam Keys. The school is located in Fabius. Some teachers associated with this school include: M. G. Pratt, Vestal Burel, John Lee Buckner, Annie Bell Buckner, J. W. Thompson. Take care not to confuse this location with White Sulphur Springs, which is in DeKalb County and many other places as well.

Peggy Hampton and Kathy Crowell in their book *Not Forgotten: Early Memories of Flat Rock, Alabama* wrote this about the history of Sulphur Spring church and school and provided the 1910 school picture with IDs below.

Considered to be possibly the oldest church in Jackson County, Sulphur Springs is on County Road 81...Established in 1848 as a Methodist and Baptist meeting place, it is currently a Baptist church. The original Sulphur Springs Church was a one room building on 40 acres of land donated by S. W. Norwood. Originally a Methodist church, it later became a union church in order to also serve the members of the Baptist community. At that time the building also hosted a school for local children. Some of the early teachers were Mrs. Vestal Burel and Mr. John Lee Buckner. In 1917, the school was relocated a short distance from the church. The present church was constructed when this original church needed repairing. The new church was built closer to the road, on land donated by L.A. Wheeler. The original 40 acres were returned to the original owner. Pat Buckner of Stevenson sent this photo.



The first mention of this school in the newspaper is 1881

Jul 14, 1881 SC: ‘Rev. Charles Roach will take charge of the school at Sulphur Springs in a few days He is said to be an able teacher.’

Jan 31, 1889 PA: The Farmers’ Alliance was represented in the Sulphur Springs community by A. M. Allen of Fabius.

Jul 12, 1894 SC: Hon. William Richardson spoke at Sulphur Springs on July 25, and Virgil Bouldin spoke the same day. There was a similar informational session on July 21, 1896.

There are many social column mentions of Sulphur Springs during this period, but nothing about schools.



A Sulphur Springs church group photo from around 1910.

First row: Jerome Houser, Josephine Barnes, Flora Eaton, Ruth Buckner, Annie Bell Buckner, unidentified, unidentified, unidentified, Martha "Sweet" Houser, Margie Houser, Helen Houser, Lizzie Smith

Second row: Bertha Smith, Stella Eaton, Corine Wheeler, unidentified, Pearl Hawes, Ethel Cox, unidentified, Elizabeth Wheeler, Vera Eaton, Mrs. Tom Barnes & baby, Tennie Sampson

Third row: Vesta Buckner, Corrine Cox, John Lee Buckner, Johnny Hawes, unidentified, unidentified, unidentified, Claude Houser, Lee Cox & Tennie Sampson, Effie Eaton, Myrtle Hawes, Kate Houser, Arthur Sheeler, unidentified, Fred Hawes, Bruce Eaton, unidentified Buckner

Fourth row: Anderson Hawes, Frank Hawes, Tom Barnes, Reed Keys

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.

Apr 8, 1915 SC: “The Sulphur Springs school closed Friday.”

Jan 20, 1927 PA: Jackson County School report for 1926: Peaslee Gaubert Paint Company was paid \$37.37 for paint for Sulphur Spring school.

Jan 19, 1928 PA: School Page. Student Terrell W. Houser wrote page editor Haynes about their school and their teacher, Mr. M. G. Pratt and Miss Margaret, the primary school teacher. See article.

Dec 12, 1929 PA: Jessie Cargile was listed on the honor roll at Sulphur Springs School for November.

Jan 16, 1930 PA: Fabius News. "Those on the honor roll in Sulphur Springs School for the past month are: Moody Westbrooks and Nelle Marie Carlton, first grade; Mansell Smith, Jr., fourth grade. To make the honor roll a pupil must be perfect in attendance and make a grade above 90 per cent on every subject for the month."

Dec 18, 1930 PA: Fabius News. Sulphur Springs school gave a Christmas program on December 19th at 1 pm in which they following children performed: Derrick Wheeler, Viola Young, Estelle Davis, Elizabeth Buckner, June Carlton, and Francis Miles. Teacher L. B. Mays read the Luke Christmas Story, and James H. Bucker offered the prayer.

Aug 6, 1931 PA: The health department held a clinic at the school.

Mar 10, 1932 JCS: "A 4-H club was organized at the Sulphur Springs school house on Friday, March 4th, with an enrollment of twenty-six members. The following officers were elected. President, Annie Ruth Morris; vice-president, Mansell Smith, Jr.; secretary and treasurer, Stella Driskell; song and yell leaders, Raymond Lance; report, Jessie Cargile; club leader, Miss Annie Bell Buckner. Miss Buckner made an interesting talk on "What the 4-H club means and the advantages a child has when he belongs." As Friday was cloudy we waited until Monday to get the group pictures of our members. Ten of the club members have certificates for one year's club work. We are planning and interesting and profitable year's work."

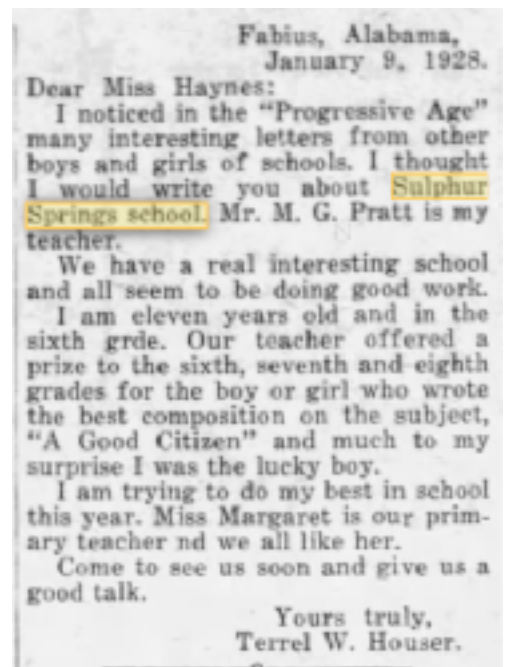
Mar 17, 1932 PA: Letter to Adele Rivers. "Sulphur Spring School, Fabius, Alabama, February 23, 1932 Dear Miss Rivers: We are going to have two weeks general review for the county examination for six grade. We feel like this will help us make a better grade. Sincerely yours, Williiie F. Cargile."

Jul 28, 1932 PA: DPT vaccination clinic held at the school. Also Aug 13, 1936.

Dec 28, 1933, PA: "Quite a number attended the Christmas entertainment and Christmas tree at the Sulphur Springs School here."

Mar 22, 1934 PA: "The popular p[lay "Two Days to Marry" will be given at Sulphur Springs school, near Fabius, Saturday March 24. This is a three act comedy features two negro characters. Come and bring someone with you. Admission 10 and 15 cents." Also March 29.

Nov 26, 1936 PA: News from the school. School buildings and teacher age repaired. Box supper and beauty contest fundraisers held. School closed first month with 13 on roll. See article for names.



Nov 4, 1937 PA: Board of Education report for 1937. James Ladd reimbursed 2.50 for chairs for the school, H. J. Cox reimbursed \$3.40 supplies for the school.

Feb 10, 1938 PA: "Deacon Dubbs, a play, will be presented at Sulphur Springs school, Fabius, Ala. Saturday night February 12, 1938. Admission 10 and 20 center. Time: 7:30. Proceeds will go for the benefit of the school."

Nov 10, 1938 PA: Financial report for the County Board of Education for 1937-38 Fiscal year. H. J. Cox was reimbursed \$1.00 for supplies he bought for Sulphur Springs.

Dec 1, 1938 PA: County Agent Mr. Odom talking to the farming community on November 25 at Sulphur Springs School.

Feb 24, 1939 PA: Meeting to discuss the 1938 Agricultural Adjustment Program discusses in a series of meetings. The meeting was held March 1 at Sulphur Springs school.

May 25, 1939 PA: DPT vaccinations at the school.

Jul 4, 1940 PA: Forest fire educational program presented at the school July 26.

Feb 19, 1942: "The 4-H Club of Sulphur Springs school met Wednesday, February 11th, with the president in charge. The following program was given by two club members: "Why Should We Produce More Poultry and Eggs?" by Imogean Cox and "When and What Kids of Chicks to Buy" by Eugene Machen. We were highly honored by having Miss Elizabeth DeLony, the state director of F-H Club girls, with us. She gave a talk on taking care of our soil which we enjoyed very much and we hope she will come again in the near futures. Also also enjoyed the interesting talks by Miss Conner and Mr. Pettis. Our next meeting will be in March. Fosteen Thornhill, New Reporter."

April 30, 1942 PA: Area residents could sign up for sugar rationing with Miss Patty Smith.

Nov 5, 1942 PA: Informational meeting for farmers at the school on November 12.

Dec 2, 1943 PA: The 1944 Soil Building payment program explained to farmers at Sulphur Springs on December 9.

Aug 6, 1944 PA: Typhoid vaccination clinic at the school.

Feb 15, 1945 PA: Farm meeting at the school on February 23.

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

Jul 8, 1948 PA: Tuberculosis screening conducted at the school.

SULPHUR SPRINGS SCHOOL NEWS

Sulphur Springs school has a fine enrollment this year. Everything progressing nicely with several new pupils entering last week.

The school building and teacherage which was under repair is now being completed.

A fine time was enjoyed by all at a box-supper last Saturday night at the school auditorium. Several dollars were taken in by the box-supper and a beauty contest. The two contestants, Marguerite Houser and Juanita Hawes, were selected by the school. A close race was run with Miss Hawes winning 688 to Miss Houser's 565 votes. Both, the contest and box-supper brought \$36.1. The proceeds will go for athletics and other school needs.

Last week closed the first month of school with 13 on roll.

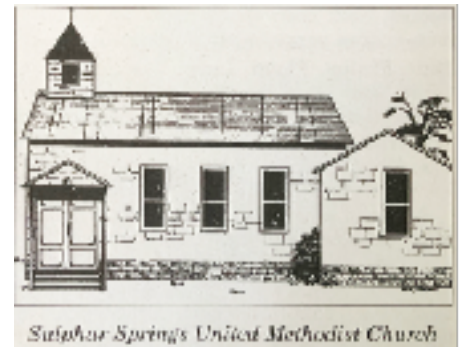
Honor Roll—Grade Six: J. V. Buckner, James L. Claspell, Juanita Hawes, Marguerite Houser. Grade Five: Mildred Claspell, Flora White. Grade Three: Frankie Poshee, Gerald Hawes, Gladys Hawes, Betty Smith, Orilee Stone. Grade Two: Jane Guess, Lorine Guess.

Sep 29 and Oct 13, 1949 PA: Sealed bids accepted by Superintendent Delbert Hicks for “All saleable timber located on the Sulphur Spring School land.”

School Series, 1950s JCS and PA: Sulphur Springs School is located on upper Sand Mountain between Flat Rock and Stevenson. It is a one-teacher school with an enrollment of 23 students. The trustees are Sam Goforth, Mr. Stone, and Early Bowen. The teacher is Mrs. Melissa Holloway. Students after completing sixth grade are transferred to Flat Rock. The school building is adequate, but many items of equipment are needed such as desks, library books, and other teaching equipment.

From *The Heritage of Jackson County, Alabama*, based on Upper Sand Mountain Parish records.

The old church building was erected some time just before or soon after the Civil War, it is believed, and stood on a hill several hundred yards north of its present site. A short distance below was a spring which gave the church its name, “Sulphur Springs.” Nearby stood a small log cabin, used as a parsonage for many years. The church owned 40 acres.



The building was used as a church, should and gathering place for people of this area for forty years or more. In 1907, a cornerstone was laid for a new building at the present site. It was financed by members of the Methodist and Baptist churches and members of the Masonic Lodge, who used the second story as a meeting place. The new building was also used as a school until around 1920, when “Sulphur Springs School” was erected nearby.

Land for the new church had to be deeded to the church by a neighboring farmer. This deed is unique in that it provides that at any future time the church ceases to function as a church, the land reverts back to the original owner, his heirs or assigns.



Later, the old church was torn down. Some time after 1940, the church building was renovated, the second story removed, and classrooms added to the rear. Members of the Masonic Lodge moved their memberships over to Ider after the renovation.

For a number of years, an annual Homecoming Day has been observed by members and friends of the church.

A photo from Sulphur Springs church, about 1940.



Front row: Charlie Stoner, Claude Houser, Cox Keys, Tally Cox, Oliver Fuller, John Goforth, Napoleon Fuller.

2nd row: Sabra Vaughn, Maude Keys, Flora Williams Wheeler, Flora Eaton Smith, Bessie Cox Hart, Georgia Menton Goforth, Bulah Overdeer Stoner, Martha Hawes Houser.

Back row: Margie Westbrooks Cox, Margie Houser Colley. In window: Bobbie Hart Smith.

Photo & ID given to Peggy Hampton in 2007 by Stella McCoy Houser

