

Tupelo School

Location: S23/T3/R5E (Ten miles NW of Scottsboro about a half mile north of Tupelo Store)

School District: 53

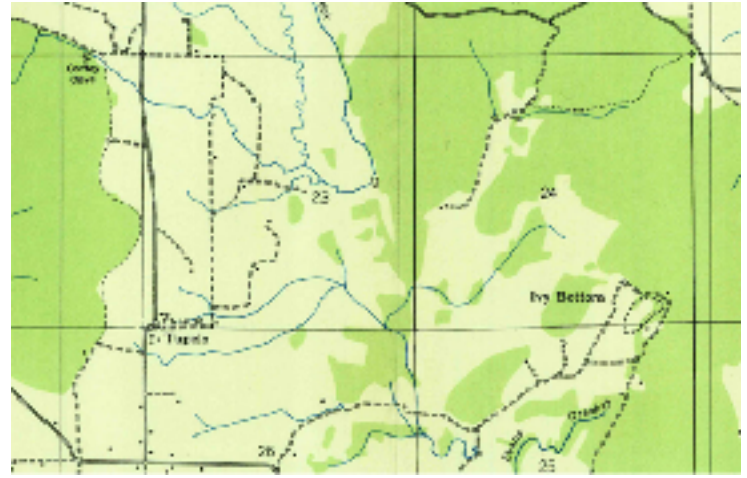
Teacher in 1923: Mrs. Canna Elkins Lee
Trustees in 1923: H. M Cunningham, J.C.C Cornelison, and W. N. Proctor

Teacher in 1939: Mrs. Nola Simmons

Grades Covered: 1 through 6

Opening Years: Documented 1894 to 1911 (as Unity, one teacher) 1928-? as Tupelo (three teachers)

Enrollment: 48 students in 1950



KNOW YOUR SCHOOLS
This is one of a series of articles on Jackson County Schools

TUPELO SCHOOL

Tupelo School is located about ten miles northwest of Scottsboro and about one-half mile north of Tupelo store. The first six grades are taught.

The trustees of the school are Clyde S. Matthews, W. M. Ferguson and Clyde Cornelison. The teachers are Mrs. Ida Dean, who has the fourth, fifth and sixth grades, and Miss Marcelle Shelton, teacher of the first, second and third grades.

During the first two months of school we had 9 pupils in the first grade; 5 in the second grade; 14 in the third grade; 4 in the fourth grade; 5 in the fifth grade and 8 in the sixth grade, making a total of 48 on roll. The average daily attendance for these two months was 46. All the children are farm children. After they complete the sixth grade, these children are transferred to Jackson County High School.

The building is a three-room frame building. The campus contains five acres of land which gives ample space for a basketball court, baseball diamond and plenty of play area for the games of smaller children.

The library consists of 50 books most of which are badly worn. The school is served by the Regional Library of Huntsville. The school sponsors elementary and junior 4-H Club work.

The school needs are many. Some of them are better drinking and handwashing facilities, small desks or chairs, paint job inside and outside building and toilets repaired. Classroom equipment, such as books for reference materials, maps and other visual aids, and playground equipment. Other needs could be listed, but these are most urgent to safeguard the health and welfare of the children and teachers.

Building Description: Second school was a three-room frame building.

Unity school:

As Unity School,

Location: S23/T3/R5E

Funds: \$208

District:

1908-1909 One teacher

1936-1937 Three teachers

The earlier school on this site was known as Unity school, and events were taking place in the "Unity school house" as early as 1894. Historian Ann Chambless recalls: "I think this school was in Tupelo area of Maynards Cove." Teachers associated with this school include J. Lee Morris (1898), Prof. E. H. Fincher, Mrs Canna Elkins Lee (1923) and Miss Pearl Cunningham (1920s), Mr. and Mrs Jarnigan and Mrs. L. Kennamer (1930s) Mrs. Leonard Precise was substitute teacher at this school. The school trustees in 1923 were H. M. Cunningham, J. C. C. Cornelison, and W. N. Proctor.

This photo of the school is from the 1950 education supplement in the *Jackson County Sentinel*.

Apr 27, 1894 PA: "Tupelo, Ala. "A literary society was organized at Unity school house on Saturday night last.

May 4, 1894 PA: Tupelo, Ala. News. "Prof A. J. Lowery is getting along nicely with his school."

Dec 1, 1898 PA: “Tupelo: Prof. J. Lee Morris opened school at Unity school house last Monday. He moved here yesterday.”

Jul 20, 1911 PA: “We are glad to announce to the people that our ice cream supper was a success. Notwithstanding the gloomy evening we cleared \$19, which will go to repair the Unity school house.”

As Tupelo:

Nov 8, 1928 PA: “Prof. E. H. Fincher, principal of the Tupelo School, announces a box supper



to be held at Tupelo School house Saturday night, Nov. 17th. They will have a fish pond and several forms of amusement and all are invited to come and enjoy the evening. The school is attempting some splendid improvement on the school building and the funds derived from the supper will be used for this purpose.

Dec. 6, 1928 PA, Tupelo News Column: “School at this place is progressing nicely with Mr. E. H. Fisher and Miss Pearl Cunningham teachers. Several needed improvements to the school building have been made and we still have other improvements under consideration. We have prospects for the best school we have ever had. Let’s all work together and it will be an impetus to get a new school house.”

Feb 7, 1929 PA: "Notice to Patrons of Tupelo School. Supt. J. H. Wheeler will be at Tupelo school house on next Friday afternoon, Feb 8th, at 2:30 to make a speech regarding the building of a new school building. We are asking that all patrons and citizens in the district be present. Our need has become chronic, as we are having eighty to ninety-eight every day. We also invite representatives of the Pikeville school to be here. 'Let's come with school spirit.' E. F. F."

This early photo of Tupelo school students was donated to the Heritage Center and contributed by Jennifer Petty. No IDs have been found. This seems to be the old school building.

Mar 21, 1929 PA: "Regardless of the threatened rain and the overflows of waters all over the county, Hunt Field was crowded on the last Friday, Jackson County Field Day at Hunt Field in Scottsboro. Sand Mountain schools were cut off during the morning and many were not able to attend the meet from other places in the county. The program began promptly at 10 o'clock and every minute throughout the day was filled with thrill contests entered into by the various schools. Tupelo won the \$30 library offered by J. S. Benson for the school making the best record of attendance. Only five children enrolled in the school were absent. This was a find record and Prof. Fincher, principal of the Tupelo school, is to be congratulated."

In the "Tupelo News" column of the same paper, "Tupelo School was well represented at Field Day last Friday. There were 112 enrolls and 107 were there. Thirteen cars and one truck furnished transportation. Everyone enjoyed the day and earned a library also. The faculty will attend the Alabama Educational Association at Birmingham this week end. There is a splendid school spirit in this community. We will soon have our money raised for a new school building. Let's boost it."



Apr 4, 1929 PA: "We are sorry to hear that the Tupelo schools comes to a close Friday." And also, "Tupelo school has done many wonderful things this year but we have saved the best for the last. Friday evening, April 5th, at 8 o'clock, the school and faculty will give "A Poor Married Man," a comedy-drama in two acts playing eight character including one of the best farce pieces ever written. We have arranged for one of the best string bands to furnish music between acts. You would pay 75 cents to see this play at the best theaters but you can see it at our school for 10 cents and 20 cents. Don't forget the date and place. F."

Apr 11, 1929 PA, "Maynard Cove News. Tupelo school c closed Friday night with a nice program. Mr. J.S. Benson made a good talk to the children and citizens of the Tupelo community. He said he had his cap set for a new school house at Tupelo and he was cheered at the close of his talk. The program was continued to Saturday night when a play, "A Poor Married Man," was presented and it was highly enjoyed by a large crowd. \$22.00 was taken in to pain the Tupelo church house."

Dec 12, 1929 PA: "Tupelo News: The new school house has been under construction for the past three months has been completed. It is modern in every respect, and the people are looking forward to a successful school year....The pupils of Tupelo School are looking forward to a Christmas tree."

TO MY FRIENDS

On the 25 of Feb, 1932 I was thrown from a porch at the **Tupelo school** where I was teaching and very seriously crippled. For six months I was not able to raise myself up in bed. Since then I've been able to walk a very little with the aid of crutches, it brings a very painful undertaking.

Like most of farmers and teachers my financial affairs are in a very dejected condition. I've not been able to meet my hospital and doctor bills and many other obligations I should meet.

I am still on the teaching force, but as my affliction makes school work much more difficult for me than formerly, I have after careful consideration decided to enter the race for tax assessor, not entirely because I need the salary the office pays; but I can, and will if elected make you a careful honest, painstaking official.

My people, the Card family have been residents of this county for more than seventy five years, my father, the late J. T. N. Card and an uncle, the late B. F. Card having come from middle Tennessee to this county sometime between 1835 and 1858. Capt. A. C. Card came here several years later.

During these years, no member of our family has ever asked for any political office.

Any help anyone may see fit to give me, will surely be appreciated.

At the proper time I shall make the required official announcement.

Respectfully,
Mrs. Canna Card Elkins

Apr 24, 1930 PA: "There will be a box supper at Tupelo School House Saturday night, April 26th. The proceeds will be used to be new library books. J. E. Henshaw, teacher"

Nov 27, 1930 PA: "School is progressing nicely at this place."

Dec 11, 1930 PA: "School is progressing nicely at this place with a large attendance."

Jan 29, 1931 PA: "Remember there will be a ball game here at the Tupelo school house Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Fairfield boys and girls will play Tupelo boys and girls, everybody come."

Mar 5, 1931 PA: Several enjoyed the Basketball game at Tupelo school Friday afternoon." And later "Tupelo News: We are all sorry that school closed Friday."

Feb 11, 1932 PA: Health department program at Tupelo School

Feb 18, 1932 PA: Student report on studying Holland

Mar 3, 1932 PA: Teacher Canna Card Elkins injured during a student play (see article). Later "The play at Tupelo school was enjoyed by a

large crowd last Thursday night." Mrs. Elkin fell from a porch and was subsequently disabled. This column appeared in the *Progressive Age* April 27, 1933.

Jul 28, 1932 PA: Health department vaccination clinic at Tupelo School

May 31, 1934 PA: Teacher for this year were Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Jarnagin and Mrs. L. Kennamer, who took the children to the picture show at the Bocanita in Scottsboro to celebrate the closing of a successful seven-month term where all the children were promoted to the next grade.

May 2, 1935 PA: Fish and Game Association meeting at Tupelo School

Apr 9, 1936 PA: J. C. Bishop won the Bird Contest for best composition

Nov 4, 1937 PA: H. M. Cunningham paid \$100 interest on a note in Board of Education report

MRS. ELKINS SUSTAINS SEVERE INJURIES

Mrs. Canna Elkins, one of the most efficient members of the teaching force in Jackson County is in the HODGES HOSPITAL WITH a broken and crushed hip and bruises all over the body as a result of a peculiar accident which happened last Thursday night.

She was assisting in getting on a play given by the PUPILS of the **Tupelo school** and while marching the children to the stage passed across a porch to the school house. Three men rushed out of the room, ran over her knocking her violently to the ground and all three falling on her. Her suffering was so intense that night she could not be brought to the hospital but was given medical attention that night and brought to the hospital the next morning. She is suffering intense pain and her many friends over the county are grieved to learn of this terrible accident.

1 of 1

TUPELO SCHOOL NEWS

Our school closed May 29 after a successful term of seven months. Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Jarnagin and Mrs. L. Kennamer were our teachers. The following pupils were present every day: Daisy Brandon, Rupert Proctor, J. C. Quinn, Naomi Winninger, Elva Quinn, Annie Winninger, Delphia Cornelison, and Cephus Harrison.

Quite a number missed only one or two days.

As a gift to those of us who remained in school until the closing Mrs. Jarnagin and Mrs. Kennamer presented us with a free trip to the picture show at Scottsboro. We enjoyed the trip and the show very much. We especially thank Mr. Bobo and Mrs. Snodgrass for the splendid picture and for showing Turnan for our benefit as we read it in the comic section of the daily papers.

We appreciate to the fullest extent the kindness and patience of our faithful teachers.

All the pupils who attended the required number of days and did sufficient work were promoted to higher grades. Since our teachers have served us so faithfully we ask that they be our teachers again next year.

**Nov
10,**



1938 PA: W. L. Johnson reimbursed \$.75 for school supplies in the Board of Education report

May 11, 1939 PA: Pie supper to benefit the base ball club.

Nov 27, 1939 PA: Play presented. See article below.

Sep 23, 1943 PA: "Bond Sale at Tupelo School Saturday Night: There will be a Bond Sale rally at Tupelo School House Saturday night, Sept. 25th, beginning at 8 o'clock. There will be speaking and a free picture show by the Scottsboro Coca-Cola Bottling Co. The people of Tupelo are urged to be present.

Apr 6, 1944 PA: Typhoid clinic at Tupelo School

Mar 8, 1945 PA: Pie Supper at Tupelo School to benefit the ball team.

Aug 8, 1946 PA: Box supper to benefit the baseball team.

Sep 19, 1946 PA: Syphillis testing clinic at Tupelo School.

Nov 21, 1946 PA: Box supper at the school to benefit the church.

Apr 3, 1947 PA: DPT Vaccination Clinic at Tupelo School

Apr 7, 1955 PA: Mrs. Leonard Precise, president of the Tupelo club, babysits and serves as a substitute teacher at Tupelo School, featured in the Home Demonstration column.

PLAY TO BE AT TUFELQ SCHOOL

The **Tupelo** P. T. A. is sponsoring a play, "A Fortunate Calamity" to be given Saturday, April 29, at 7:30 P. M. at the **Tupelo school**.

Admission 5 and 10 cents. Proceeds go for benefit of school. The P. T. A. quilt will be given to the lucky person.

Cast:

Mrs. Marion Merkle—Mrs. Josie Cornelison.

Atta Merkle—Ora B. Cornelison.

Euth Merkle—Sallie Ruth Precise.

Kate Van Lyle—Louise Brandon.

Dinah Johnsing—Margie Proctor.

Rastus Johnsing—Mrs. Mary Pearl Proctor.

Joe Brown—Lester Precise.

Bernard Gulbon—Clyde Matthews.

Albert Campbell—Jim Brandon.

Many years ago, I was shown a copy of this photo and told there was a 3-teacher school in Tupelo/Maynards Cove by someone who had attended school there in the late 1920s. Most likely, the two older females and one older male on top row were the 3 teachers when this photo was made.

Deanna Knoblach: I think if you ask Frank Adkins that lives in Hollywood he might can tell you some history. The baseball pictures were posted by Deanna. Picture at bottom, 6th grade graduation, Tupelo School 1940, from Reflections II.