

Gosneyville School (Paradise)

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Source: Mr. and Mrs. Collins F. Kindred collection

The first school house was a small one-room log structure surrounded by timber on the now James Stewart farm, about a mile north of Paradise. The windows were made by omitting one log and replacing it with glass for the full length of both sides.

Miss Missouri Wood, who later married Ed Tinney, was an early teacher. Other teachers were Mr. Sidenstricker, Miss Mattie Bernard and Miss Sue Wilhoit, who married Eben Kennedy and lived at Holt for many years. The school house was moved a mile north to the corner of the Richardson Hulse farm and was known as Garner School. Thomas J. Fry attended this school.

The next school house was located south of town and from the original document we quote:

This document dated January 1, 1851 between William Dunigan and Margaret Jane Dunigan, party of the first part, to parties of the second part, Trustees: David Gentry, Fleming B. Dale and Evan G. Parks, of District 1, Township 3, for and in consideration of one dollar, have given, granted, bargained and sold and their successors forever, one acre to be taken in square form from the North East corner of the North East Quarter of Township 53, Range 32 to have a track for the use and purpose for a School House. If any future time not to be used or occupied, their successors in office for school, shall revert back to the grantors or their heirs after a space of two years.

This building was used until 1886 when a new two-room frame school was built on the present site. Some of the teachers there were: E.P. Griffin, Prof. H.H. King, J.W. Oliver, Henry Esler, Prof. Sherry, Mrs. Creighton, Miss Arabelle Warren and Miss Jean Dale. Miss Cordia Bullock taught the primary room in 1912 and Miss Nell Parks the Upper Grades. Charles Norris and Miss Gertrude Lizar taught Paradise School in 1914; Alice Paulson and Meldon Aker in 1922.

The present school house was erected in 1928. In 1965 the Smithville School District was enlarged and all of the Paradise District was voted into the Smithville District. The pupils are transported by busses to both grade and high school. Mrs. Eleanor Britt was the last teacher to teach in the Paradise School and she continues to teach in the Smithville Schools since the annexation.