

A Step Back in Time

By Bobbie Sue Shelton-Lonas

BUNKER HILL SCHOOL IN 1898

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In the late 1800's and early 1900's the Eagleville Community like most rural communities had several small schools scattered in different areas. At this time it wasn't uncommon for children to walk or ride horses several miles to the school closest to their home. At this time there were several one-room schools in this area with one teacher that would teach all grades. The Eagleville community was fortunate to also have a private school during this time but these schools charged a tuition to attend, so most of the children in the area around Eagleville attended the one-room or very small country schools.

The BUNKER HILL SCHOOL was located near Eagleville in the Bunker Hill area. The original school building was located on property now owned by the Manier family. Professor Walter Cole was the teacher in 1898. Mr. Aub McClaran was the last teacher in the original schoolhouse. The new Bunker Hill School was built down the road from the old one next to the drive leading to the present home of Ray Frost, previously known as the Ralston home place. Mr. Bryson taught in the new school and in 1914, Miss Annie Wilson, daughter of John Wilson was the teacher. According to Mrs. Mary Pearl Taylor and Allen Hudson who attended the Bunker Hill School, the recess was the favorite time of the day. They boys would play ball or pitch horseshoes. The girls would make playhouses out of rocks. Each child carried their lunch for the day. The teacher would often go home and spend the night in the children's home. Allen Hudson remembers a Miss Pomeroy staying at their home one night. Allen and his brothers went to school in the spring wagon that

day because she was going home with them. One of the boys thought it would be fun to give her a fast ride. She was on the seat with Puckett Hudson, the driver. He got the horses going pretty fast and Miss Pomeroy got pretty upset them. I'm sure their parents weren't too happy about this incident but the boys had a good laugh. When Bunker Hill School was closed, most of the students in this area went to Rover and Eagleville Schools.

In 1914 Miss Annie Wilson was the teacher and W. J. Owens, Officer of Bunker Hill School. That year, Miss Wilson gave all her students a "School Souvenir" booklet that included a "School Days" poem, list of students and a message from the teacher. This program belonged to the late Eth "Teet" Rowland, one of her students in 1914. Students of Bunker Hill School in 1914: Allie Boyce, Jenine Mai Boyce, Maude Boyce, Eva Carlton, Willie Carlton, Roy Cook, Bruce Epperson, Carson Epperson, Carrie Epperson, Johnnie Epperson, Robert Epperson, Richard Epperson, Willie Epperson, Allie Mai Freeman, Eula Freeman, Edna Freeman, Richard Freeman, Avo Freeman, Jimmie L. Hogan, Clarence Holton, Willie D. Holton, Audrie Holton, Albert Hudson, John William "Cuttie" Hudson, Lena Mai Hudson, Jessie Hudson, Jessie Hartley, Blier Hartley, Lytle Kelton, Charlie Leverette, Bettie Sue Morgan, Minnie Belle Morgan, Joe Pope, Sallie Pope, Edgar Pugh, Giles Ray, Jessie Ray, Etta Rowland, Rosa Lee Rowland, Eth "Teet" Rowland, Oscar Rowland, Clarence Rowland, Willie B. Rowland, Bertha Mai Sanders, Frank Taylor, V. T. Taylor, Emmett Taylor, Dora Underwood, Julia Underwood, Nannie Lou Underwood.



Front Row L to R: Gran Williams, Guff Lorance, Dick Hudson, Lillian Burton, Lela Beasley (Mrs. Jim Ghee). 2nd Row: Professor B. W. Cole, Emma Epperson (Mrs. William Cullen Taylor), Mary Beasley (Mrs. Lee Hudson), Jennie B. Burton (Mrs. Don Merritt), Jim Taylor, Babe Lorance, Lee Hudson, Joe Taylor.