

A Step Back in Time - Cedar Grove School

By **Bobbie Sue Shelton**

On July 27, 1901, Deacons of the Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Church; R. S. Hendrix, J. A. Hendrix, _____ Jordan, George Hughes, Sam Swancy and Ned Hayes signed a deed to the School Directors for ½ acre of land for a school. The first schoolhouse was located across the road from the church at the intersection of Rocky Glade Road and John Windrow Road. It was a one-room frame building with one door and four or five windows. The school was for grades first thru eighth with one teacher for all classes. Some of the teachers who taught at the old Cedar Grove School were: Fred Jordan, L. T. Glanton, Henry Osborn, Mr. Rideout, Fruzzie Holford, Florence Holford, Charlotte Burns, Polly Smith, Henry Isom, Sally Blackman, Miss Jones, Edith Ransom, Ida Bracey, Viola Rouser, Stella Douglass, Marie Bright, Littie Mae Puckett, Lydia Jackson, Richard North, Willie Lee Freeman, Margaret Smith, Wintonia Green, Miss Hamilton and Lydia Glanton.

Modena Glenn, a much loved and respected citizen of the Rockvale community, attended the first school at Cedar Grove. She remembers she was about 13 years old and it was Monday, December 8th, 1941. A neighbor to the school, Mrs. Jim Bracey came to the school and notified them that Pearl Harbor had been bombed the day before. This was a very scary time for the adults and children as



well. After completing the eighth grade at Cedar Grove School, Modena attended Holloway School in Murfreesboro.

On October 4, 1952, Freeland Bracy, Elam Bracy and wife Mary signed a deed to the Rutherford County School Commission for five acres of land for a new school. The new school built in 1952-53 was located on John Windrow Road about ½ mile north of the intersection with Rocky Glade Road. Cedar Grove School became a two-teacher school at this time with grades first thru eighth.

The school building was constructed of concrete blocks. It had a porch in the center front and classrooms with windows of small panel glass. This building is still standing. (See picture). In February 1953, Beech Grove School in Eagleville closed and the teacher, Alice Cleora Washington and students were transferred to Cedar Grove School. Teachers of the new Cedar Grove School were: Margaret

D. Smith and Alice Cleora Jordan Washington. In 1953, Mrs. Annie W. Huddleston replaced Margaret Smith and Miss M. L. Lawrence taught in 1963. In 1967, the school was closed and the students were consolidated with Rockvale and Eagleville Schools. Some of the family names of students included; Sheffield, Jordan, Johnson, Dotson, Carney, Patton and Bracey.

On April 12, 1977, the Rutherford County Board of Education signed a deed to William E. Bracy and wife, Addie L., for the Cedar Grove School property.



Modena Glenn in 1930's