

By Bobbie Sue Shelton

Little Rock School was located on Little Rock Road about three and ½ miles northeast of Eagleville on land owned by James E. Jackson, great grandfather of Johnny Taylor of Eagleville. The school building was directly across the road from the Jackson home (later home of Rush Sr. and Audrey Taylor). This school was established about 1884. The two-room building was weather boarded with shutters hinged on the outside for the windows. The play area was large enough for ball games. Water was carried in buckets from the Jackson home to the school. Located nearby in an adjoining field was the Tiling Factory, (where clay water drainage pipes was made). The property on which the school and tiling factory was previously located is now owned by Johnny Taylor. A store was also located in the same area at the intersection of Little Rock Road and North Lane. The original building burned and was rebuilt in the same location. The re-built store with additions is presently a farm implement business owned and operated by Ronnie and Steve McDaniel. In the early 1900's the store was a local gathering place for the men of the community at night. They would set on the porch and catch up on all the news of the day.

Lizzie Garrett Dyer taught in the Little Rock School about 1890. In 1902 the teachers were Tom Floyd and Susie Stegall Lewis. Others who taught about 1900 were Wate Lowe, Leonard Landis (about 1905), Lottie Ralston and Minnie Myrtle Ralston Owens. Others who taught later were: Bessie Buchanan, Era Steele, Kate Love Collier, and Jimmie Manier. Georgia Lee Marable (Pate) was teacher for the 1921-22 school year. Mary McKnight Manley was the last teacher at this school. At the time that Bessie Jackson Buchanan taught, about 1911, she was the only teacher and she had so many students she had to teach during recess to get all the classes taught. When Jimmie Manier was scheduled to be hired in about 1916, as a second teacher, the enrollment lacked one student to meet the requirement to warrant another teacher so Margaret Scott, age 5 at the time, stayed with her aunt Jimmie Manier to attend the Little Rock School for that year. She made the extra student needed for the school to have two teachers.

When the Little Rock School was closed in 1923, the building was torn down and the lumber was moved and used to build the Pleasant Hill School.

The late Mary Sue "Mammy" Maupin Perrell, a life long resident of the Eagleville area attended Little Rock School while growing up. She and the late Mrs.

LITTLE ROCK SCHOOL - 1900

Front Row: John Love, Ora Mai Love Jackson, Daisy Underwood Maupin, Audrey Jackson Taylor, Higgins Brown, Fender Ralston, Charles Ralston, Rush Taylor Sr., Alex Ralston, Dave Underwood, Ed Brown, Sam Rutledge. **Second Row:** Bess Jackson Buchanan, Bess Brown Calhoun, Carrie Sims Ralston, Johnnie Burns Hale, Maude Manier Scott, Willie Jackson, Luna Simmons Smotherman, Jimmy Manier Powers, Allie Mai Manier Scott, Emma Love Neal, Florence Walls Reeves, Bessie Read, Alta Reed, Guffee Lorange, Willie Sims, Bee Rutledge, Ed Rutledge. **Third Row:** Susie Stegall Lewis, Teacher Wayhat Ralston, Kate Love Foster, Macy Lee Ralston, Willie Ralston, Kate Brown, Jim Alcorn, Fannie Giles Killough, Crawford Ralston, Julia Morgan Smithson, Tom Floyd, Principal. **Fourth Row:** Mary Alcorn Victory, Lemmie Dick Smotherman, Oma Gregory Musgrave, Jodie Ralston, Nash Ralston Reed, Sadie Brown.

Audrey Jackson Taylor were best of school-friends and that friendship carried over to their adult years. Several years before Mammy Perrell's death, her children recorded some of her memories, which included her school days at Little Rock and surrounding community. The following were her comments:

Question: How old were you? Answer: I don't know. Oh five years old I guess. I started to school when I was five years old. Mr. Manier went to school up there.

Question: Where? Answer: Little Rock. That's up here where Rush Taylor, you know Audrey Taylor lives. There use to be an old store there. When the store burnt up they built a new store and then a lot of the old men, they wanted to skate. They put the skates on Mr. Joe Jackson and Mr. Ralph Jackson, both of um was big and fat and couldn't stand up. They was all down in the floor. Pappy (her father, George W. Maupin) used to go out there at the store, like men will for a while at night and there was an old man, his name was Jackie Alcorn and they kept a barrel of red pepper. This old man didn't have no teeth and Pappy said he'd eat stick candy or anything anybody would give me. Pappy got some stick candy and rubbed it all in that red pepper and give it to him. Pappy said he just licked and slobbered. He was about a hundred years old.

Question: Who was your teacher? Answer: Aw, there was two rooms there and for a while they had two teachers and finally they just got down and had one teacher, Miss Kate. Aw Mr. Landers was my first teacher and then I had Miss Kate Love and then Mr. Manier's sister was my last teacher that I had up there you know at Little Rock.

Question: What did you study in school? Answer: Aw, we just had arithmetic. We first was on the chart like a calendar, hanging up on the wall and they had a big stick. The teacher did and he'd turn this over you know and he'd point out you know and all of us young'uns would stand around him you know and tell him what it was, and then after we got down off the chart we went into a primer and then from the primer you see, then we went into the first grade and then the second grade and you know on down like that.

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LITTLE ROCK SCHOOL - 1916

First Row: Howard Ralston, Sircy Ralston, Richard Williams. **Second Row:** Lula Mai Ralston Burns, ___Freeman, ___Freeman, Ruby Turner Lenz, Unknown, ___Ralston, Mary Sue Maupin Perrell, ___Ralston, Bessie Williams, ___Freeman, ___Freeman. **Third Row:** Miss Lottie Ralston, Teacher, Unknown, Bertha Turner Snow, Audrey Jackson Taylor, Jose Lee Williams Brown, Julie Freeman, Emma Lee Williams O'Keefe, Cora Ralston Williams. **Back Row:** Dickie Williams, Marvin Rutledge, Ivan Taylor, Willie Gray Williams, Elmer Vaughn, John Turner, Buford Ralston, Clara Maupin Kelton, Elaine Taylor Landis.