



POPLIN'S CROSS ROADS SCHOOL

By Shirley Williams

A group of former students of the Poplin's Cross Roads School recently met for lunch and a visit to the one room schoolhouse where grades one through eight were taught. The school was located in the Unionville community of Bedford County and established in the 1800's. Mrs. Jonnie Whitworth Russell was the teacher in 1948 when the school was closed and all students were transferred to Community School in Unionville. Some other former teachers were Mrs. Maude Molder Crowell, Mrs. Jessie Roberts Russell, Mrs. Beatrice Dickens and Mrs. Grace Whitworth. Several years after the school closing, it was moved to a location on the Halls Mills Road. It is now located on the property of Coby Crowell, grandson of Mrs. Jonnie and the late Houston Russell.

A great big thanks to Coby for all the mowing and clearing a path for us to make the trip to the schoolhouse once again. A lot of memories, good and bad, came back for us, especially the hard palm-hand spankings that Mrs. Jonnie could dish out. I might add that she would tell us about the hand spankings the day before so that we would have the night to worry about how bad it was going to "sting".

Pictured at left, L-R: Emogene Crowell Paschal, Lorene Russell Rigsby, Shirley Russell Williams, Emma Russell Molder, Hazel Smith Bolden, Lucille Russell Moore, Alene Russell Hall and Betty Smith Lemons.