

Among the members who withdrew to form a new church were Jesse Leasure, his mother, wife and two children, John Moss and wife, John Strawser and family, Michael Metzler and wife, Sarah Jones, Susan Dresbach and Jacob De Long, seventeen in all.

Rev. Jacobs was followed by Rev. Brice, an able and attractive speaker. Under his energetic leadership a large congregation was gathered and in 1859, a new and larger church was built on the ridge north from the old church.

A Sunday School was supported by the Presbyterian and United Brethren together. It was held in Swamp church, one sabbath and in the Presbyterian, the next and so on alternately.

Mr. Brice was succeeded by Rev. Thomas. He was a man of ability and sound learning, but the interest lessened after the withdrawal of Mr. Brice and the attendance grew smaller until after two years of service by Rev. Dent and Rev. McWherter, the preaching ceased altogether.

The church still held its organization and reported through its clerk, A. G. Hinton, to the Presbytery, though no services were held for two years.

The Cumberland Presbyterian denomination finally abandoned the church and it was sold to the United Brethren. This is the present Colerain Church, although it has been remodeled and turned around facing the north. The remodeling was done during the pastorate of Rev. Welsh in the year 1919.

It is interesting to note that the frame work of this building was made of hewn timber all hewed out by hand. It is related at the time of the house-raising the women and children went along, took the dinners and made it a great jubilee.

I can imagine the most of the crowd walked or perhaps the whole family was loaded into the spring wagon or farm wagon as they made their way to the meeting house.

Among the names of the early pioneers of the church, these are worthy of mention, Uncle John Hinton, Jesse Leasure, Henry Hall, Addison Black, John Moss, Michael Metzler, Jacob De Long, John Strawser and Susan Dresbach.

Other pastors who have not already been mentioned are: Rev. Hass, Rev. Deaver, Rev. Price, Rev. Cornet, Rev. Turban, Rev. Mathias, Rev. Martin, Rev. Woodward, Rev. Everhart, Rev. McLaughlin, Rev. Windom, Rev. Dickson, Rev. P. L. Hinton, Rev. Walter Shaw, Rev. Davis, Rev. Mrs. Shields, Rev. Elliott and the present pastor, Rev. Hopper.

It is worthy of mention that the preachers who preached on the Hallsville charge also conducted services at the Colerain church.

## OUR CEMETERIES

By Ada H. Cryder

There are four cemeteries located quite near Hallsville. The Throckmorton Cemetery about one mile north is no longer in use. Here lies many of the pioneers of the community. The Dawson Cemetery to the east on the Diehl farm has been abandoned for many years and but a few graves remain. The Hickle Cemetery on the South on the Herman Dresbach farm was the private burial plot of the Hickle family. The earliest interment recorded is 1829, the latest 1845.

An old burial plot is recalled by the older inhabitants of this day. It was located on the Joe Hough property, just north of the house. These graves were never removed, but time has obliterated all trace of them.

The second oldest burial plot in the Township, located one mile west of Hallsville was first used in 1811, when Jacob Strauser was

buried there. He was killed at a barn-raising on the Martin Dresbach farm nearby. This site was used for a burying ground from that time forth but was not laid out until 1844, and was then used in connection with the U. B. Church of the village. The burials were in rows, as Infants' Row, Dresbach Row, with no places reserved. The land was donated by Martin Dresbach and it was commonly called the Dresbach Cemetery. In 1903 additional ground was purchased and the Hallsville Cemetery Association formed. Mrs. K. B. Hosler, Grant Dresbach and John Towers were the committee in charge with I. T. Jones, Matthew Moore, M. L. Buchwalter, Herman Dresbach, Grant Dresbach, R. B. Hosler, J. S. Towers, Rev. J. W. Martin and Jacob Hickle signing the Articles of Incorporation of the Hallsville Cemetery Association on May 30, 1903. Lots in the old part are still used free of charge but the new part was surveyed and lots are purchased therefrom. The name chosen was Maple Grove Cemetery, in recognition of the memory of a grove of maple trees which originally stood on the front of the burying ground. These however have long since been removed. Many familiar pioneer names are recorded on the markers here. Common usage decrees the names "Dresbach" or "Hallsville Cemetery"—but few residents ever heard of the "Maple Grove" cognomen.

## HALLSVILLE SCHOOLS

By Franklin E. Dresbach

Hallsville School District has been noted from early days for its interest in education. Its people have stood as one in their efforts to secure the best of teachers and facilities for the training of their children. As a result of this, many of the scholars have gone out and been prominent in the affairs of the country.

The earliest schools of Hallsville community were Subscription Schools. The first school was held in a log house, which had been built for a private home, but in the early days it served not only as a school house but also as a church. This building stood as near as can be ascertained just across the road from where the frame school house later was located.

The first real school house was built in 1827 between the two creeks east of Hallsville on the south side of the road. This school house was constructed of logs.

The oldest living person in this vicinity who attended that school was Mrs. Susan Cryder. She tells us her first teacher was Mr. Thad Minshall. The subjects taught were reading, writing and arithmetic. The seats were planks with auger holes drilled in them for the legs. Parents had to pay tuition for children attending this school.

The second school house was a frame structure which was located between Hallsville and first creek east (very close to first creek) and on the south side of the road. Some of the teachers who taught in this school and are remembered by their old scholars are Capt. Rufus Hosler, Keziah Bookwalter, (Mrs. Hosler) Alice Holsey and Carrie Jones, also Lyman and John Throckmartin.

Mrs. Jane McKittrick Deems remembers one morning at the start of the Civil War that Mr. Rufus Hosler stood before his school and said, "Children, war is declared, I will have to go, school will have to close."

Attendance in these early schools was irregular, especially as for the boys, who had to wait till the fall work was done before they could start and in the spring were kept out of school for spring plowing.

After a number of years this building became inadequate for the purpose for which it was built. It was decided to locate a school

building in the east side of Hallsville. While the construction of the building was under consideration Ephriam Dresbach agreed to give eight hundred dollars for its erection providing the building be made strong enough for a second story. The request was complied with. A one room school building was constructed of brick about 1875. This was what is now known as the "big room."

After a time this building would not accommodate all the students and it was decided an addition would be made. A room was constructed to the west of the big room. The brick for the construction of this addition was burnt in a brick plant just over the hill on the west side of town. Miss Mollie Buchwalter was the first teacher in the new section.

About this time due at least in part to the efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Hosler and Mr. Amos Leist, father of Mrs. Harley De Long, who carried the matter to Ohio Legislature, Hallsville school was changed from a Township School to the Hallsville Special District. This gave the school added educational advantages.

The two room school served as a grade school for several years then one year of high school was given. In 1907 Mr. Whiteside arranged for the first commencement to be held in Hallsville.

At the completion of the eighth grade a pupil could take a test called the Boxwell Examination which when passed, showed the pupil capable of going on to some other school where a four year high school course was given.

Later when a Centralized School was accessible close by, the Hallsville school changed their schedule and let the two rooms serve as a grade school only at the completion of which the pupils were to go to the centralized school for the four year of high school. Hallsville school was discontinued in favor of Centralia in 1934.

Some of the teachers who have taught at Hallsville are: Miss Abby McCarty, Miss Bruce, Miss Mariett Barker, Judge Middleton, Ella Ortman, Florence Yaple, Charley Lanis, Miss Etta Carnal, Pearl Drummond, Dewalt Macklin, Mr. Wachs, Miss Ella Floyd, Mr. Charles Simms, J. F. Warner, J. M. Burroughs, Mr. Browning, J. C. Whiteside, Mr. Barnhill, Hirst Armstrong, Paul Redfern, Eugene Redfern, Trilba Redfern, Joe Archer, Harold Strous, Leoca Hoy, Miss Penina Pickel.

Hazel Cryder, Alice Hickle, Rella Hickle, Laura Hickle, Laura Diehl, Mrs. Lane, Mrs. Arthur Hinton, Mr. Dillon, Charlie Randall, Frank Hinton, Kate Dresbach, Louise Carr, Mr. Zigler, Bess Pontious, Ada Miller, Mr. Shepherd, Beamen Bitzer, John Throckmartin, Lyman Throckmartin, Mr. Gire, Chas. Lively, Louise Elliott, Ethel Hinton, Mabel Maag, Helen Roll, Mr. Puffinbarger, John Michaels, John Gardner, Susie Hughes and Jonathan Throckmartin.

## THE HALLSVILLE SCHOOL AS I KNEW IT

By Miss Pickel, 813 13th St., Crete, Nebraska

When asked, last fall before leaving Hallsville, to write a history of the Hallsville schools as I knew them, for some reason I consented. I don't know why for I should have known how poor I was to write a paper on any subject.

When I tell you I came to Hallsville in the spring of 1887 just 50 years ago last March you will pardon mistakes due, in part, to forgetfulness.

I had just closed a country school when I heard there was a vacancy in the Primary Department of the Hallsville school and I put in my application.

Mr. J. F. Maag, Mr. M. L. Buchwalter and Mr. S. P. Buchwalter were members of the Board.

I was advised to go see the members of the Board which I did. I

stopped at the Harness Shop of Mr. J. F. Maag and he told me he was authorized by the other members to hire the teachers and I need not go farther so I was hired as teacher of the Primary Department. Miss Ella Jones (Mrs. Doane Ortman) was teacher in the Elementary Department.

Miss Mariette Barker, a very excellent teacher, had preceded me as teacher in the Primary Department and left the school in a very good condition, so it was very easy to follow her. To her good work, I no doubt, owe a part of my success.

The schools were then a part of the Township with a salary of \$35 a month.

The first eight years of my teaching, there were several changes in teachers in the Elementary Department as the teachers felt the work was too heavy and looked for schools where they would have easier work.

As the Hallsville District had considerable taxable property the patrons felt if we could have a Special District we could have better schools, pay better wages, have better equipment and do more for the pupils generally.

Thru the leadership of Captain and Mrs. Hosler, who stated the situation to our Representative at Columbus, and he told them how to proceed and it was made a Special District thru the Legislature.

Finally the Board of School Examiners at Chillicothe were asked to recommend a teacher for the Elementary Department and they recommended our noble and worthy teacher, Mr. J. F. Warner, with whom I was associated very harmoniously for eleven successive years teaching.

Thru his untiring efforts and with the little assistance your humble servant could give and thru the cooperation of the patrons of the District, made the Hallsville schools the outstanding Elementary schools in the County.

Our Boxwell graduates were highly complimented for thorough work and neatness of papers of which fact we were proud.

The books used in schools were McGuffey's Readers and Spellers, Ray's arithmetics, Harvey's Grammar, Ridpath's History.

The library was started in the District with Mrs. Rufus Hosler as one of the prime movers, with the support of practically all the patrons in the District. At first we were asked for donations of books from our own libraries or if we didn't feel like giving, to buy a book or two, which many of us did; then the School Board set aside a certain amount each year and we gave entertainments to add to that amount and bought books.

Later, we got installments of books from the State Library and finally from our County Library. The books were selected with very great care and in this way the pupils of the schools and community at large were supplied with the very best reading matter.

Music was introduced into the schools, with Miss Susie Sargent of near Toledo as teacher and many voices were developed which otherwise would not have been. It proved to be quite an uplift to the community as music always is.

The schools took a very live interest in the social affairs of the community and village and were always ready to lend a helping hand to anything that was to promote the welfare of society.

The Churches and the school were unanimous in their work. When the churches needed the assistance of the schools they willingly helped and when the schools needed the churches they helped as willingly.

I hope you will have a fine time at your Celebration. I would like to be with you, if possible, to see the faces of the many who were my pupils in former days but the fates have ordered otherwise however, I will be thinking of you.

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## HISTORY OF MY SCHOOL DAYS IN COLERAIN TWP.

By B. F. Wharton, 129 Pleasant St., Circleville, O.

Fifty-five years ago, in the spring of 1882, I left my home in the hills of Vinton county on horseback to find myself a school in Ross county. I had met Mr. Homer Flanigan, who told me to come to Abernathy. This I did, starting in early morning and riding 25 miles to the home of Samuel Karshner by noon. Here I was invited to stay for dinner and horse feed. I gladly consented. Mr. Karshner gave his consent to my application for the school then I visited the other two directors, Wm. A. Strawser and Jacob Pontius, who also consented so I was hired teacher of the Abernathy School at the salary of \$35 a month. How glad I was!

I went back home, returning in September to begin my school. The smaller children started first, the older ones remaining at home until some of the fall farm work was finished. In all I had 62 pupils. As I knew no one, Mr. Wm. Strawser took me to board for two weeks until I could find a steady place. There I located in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Patterson, who had 3 children, Samuel, Mazie and Hattie in school then. J. Miley Patterson, another son, was a young man at that time. I boarded here for three years.

The next spring I went to school in Adelphi, taught by Prof. I. M. Jordan, where I met for the first time Miss Penina Pickel, a young woman, who was teaching there. She afterwards taught in the Hallsville school 23 years and also in the surrounding districts. To the best of my knowledge Miss Pickel and I are the only teachers now living who taught in Colerain township at that time. But three of the parents who sent children to this school at that time are still living. They are Mr. J. L. Bowsher, Mrs. Susanna Cryder and Mrs. Hester Hinton. The little boys and girls are all now well past sixty years of age.

I taught at Abernathy for 13 years and many were the fine times we had with our spelling matches and exhibitions, and last-day-school programs which were well attended by parents and friends. This was a splendid community.

Then I went to the Bullcreek School, where I taught 9 years, having about 46 pupils. Later I taught two years at the Brimstone School, then in the year 1906 I moved with my family to Hallsville and lived in the home now owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Herman Dresbach. My three girls named the place "Meadow Brook Farm" because of the little brook that ran through the meadow. I understand the farm still retains this name today. I was hired to teach the Dresbach school, 1 mile west of Hallsville. I've always enjoyed my years of teaching and at this place I received the only present I ever got from my pupils. This was a fine rocking chair which I found at the school house steps addressed to me, when I opened the door one morning to build the fire and sweep the school room. I kept that chair for years. I taught at Dresbach for three years and then went to the Oak Lane School and taught one year, 1909.

We then moved to the Swamp Neighborhood and I taught the Swamp or Rock Hill school from 1910 to 1913. I found at this place a fine bunch of pupils, always biddable and kind. I would love today to see some of the beautiful trees we planted in the yard.

I suppose a great number of the older population of Colerain Township are former pupils of mine. How I would like to meet them all, but cannot. I would especially like to come to your Centennial Celebration at Hallsville, but I am kept bedfast for two years now, with a broken hip, and cannot walk a step. Tell Miss Pickel I wish her many more years of life and pleasure. This is the greeting of one old teacher to another, as we I believe, are the only two teach-

ers left who began in Colerain. I have taken the "Border News" quite a while—55 years in all. Wishing you all a happy time at the Hallsville Celebration, I am,

Respectfully yours,

B. F. Wharton,  
129 Pleasant Street,  
Circleville, Ohio.

#### POSTMASTERS OF HALLSVILLE, ROSS COUNTY, OHIO

Secured from Post Office Department at Washington, D. C. Following are postmasters and dates they were appointed of the Hallsville Post Office:

William Hall, appointed Sept. 30, 1830. (Established). Russell D. Rockwell, appointed Sept. 21, 1833; John D. Harmon, appointed April 30, 1833;

This office was discontinued October 14, 1833, and was re-established again February 15, 1834.

Jacob G. Will, appointed February 15, 1834; Ephriam Dresbach, appointed July 10, 1841; Samuel D. Buchwalter appointed July 29, 1845; Henry C. Kroell appointed August 8, 1856; David H. Sain appointed July 2, 1861; Norris Reed appointed November 14, 1864; Andrew J. Wiggins appointed August 10, 1885; Irvin T. Jones appointed June 13, 1889; Isadore Reynolds, appointed June 13, 1893; Irvin T. Jones, appointed July 20, 1897; William C. Boecher appointed November 22, 1912; Otis W. Drum appointed (Acting) May 8, 1917; Sanford H. Clark appointed September 10, 1917; Joe H. Clark (Acting) appointed July 24, 1930; Joe H. Clark appointed September 11, 1930.

#### THE HALLSVILLE TOWN HALL

By Pearl Buchwalter Maag

In 1854 the Cumberland Presbyterian denominations erected a church in Green township, three miles west of Hallsville, on the Adelphi pike. This church stood directly opposite the German Reformed church which is still standing. As both were painted white, they were given the name of The White Churches. The first pastor of this church was Rev. Jacobs.

For a time it flourished, but as time went on the members died and moved away, so at last services were discontinued. Rev. Michael Dent, of Adelphi, was the last pastor. For years this church stood just as an old land mark, until some of the enterprising citizens of Hallsville decided to buy it, move it to the village and convert it into a Town Hall, a community gathering place for amusements.

This they did in the summer of 1891. The church was torn completely down and moved by wagons, some of the timbers being so long that it was necessary to hitch one wagon behind another and have them drawn by four horses. All of this was volunteer work.

The constitution was drafted by Mrs. K. B. Hosler, Mr. Gideliah Dresbach and Mr. Nelson Dresbach and the deed was recorded in February of 1892. A company was then formed, each taking shares according to the amount donated.

Many were the good times enjoyed in this old Town Hall by the older people of the village, and quite a few now past middle life can look back and recall the time when an ice cream social was quite an event.

As the older people passed away and the younger generation lost interest, these shares were eventually bought by Mr. Frances Bowsher until he owned the entire building. This he sold in the fall of 1929 to the two churches of the village, and it is now known as the Parish House.

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## THE COLERAIN TELEPHONE CO.

By A. L. Maag

The Colerain Telephone Company was organized by three local business men of Hallsville, Ohio, in 1904. It was incorporated August 4, 1904, and intersected with the Home Telephone Company in Chillicothe, Ohio, and the Citizens' Telephone Company in Circleville, Ohio.

Officers and members of the Colerain Telephone Company were: Dr. R. D. Robinson, President; A. L. Maag, Vice President and Manager; S. H. Clark, Secretary and Treasurer.

Years later this Company dissolved and ownership passed into the hands of strangers.

At the present time the sole owner is Gaylord Kellenbarger, a local man.

## THE HALLSVILLE BAND

Hallsville's first band was organized about 1888 or 89 with Mont Long as instructor. The members were Thaddeus Binkley, Douglas and Cliff Walker, Wm. and Frank Strawser, Dennis and Chauncey B. Pontious, Edward and Luther Maag, Luther and Ellis Jones, Ellerslie Dresbach, Frank De Vitta, B. C. Reed, Andrew J. and Orley Wiggins. From that time to this there has been a musical organization of this nature in the community.

Today many of the younger folks are members of the school band at Centralia, while an organization made up of the older generation is still in effect. These members are: David, Orville and Damon Pontious, Ellerslie Dresbach, Chas. Gildersleeve and son, Eugene, Amos and F. M. Bowsher, Raymond Hedges, John Turner, Earl Patterson, Pearl, Curtis, John, Herman and Arthur Hinton, Howard Bookwalter, Raymond Clark and Richard Fox, while still others including Lloyd Russell Pontious are members of Loring Hill's Scout Troop and are members of the Scout Drum Corps.

The band is always much in evidence during the Memorial Day Services and the civic pride displayed on this occasion is a matter of note among the strangers who visit with us then. The services rendered by the Hallsville Band have always been appreciated by the entire community.

## A TRIBUTE TO OUR PIONEER MOTHERS

By Bertha Kerns

Much has been said of our pioneer fathers and, while we have the utmost respect for them, yet it should be remembered there were pioneer women, too, who should be given a place of honor in the 100th Birthday Celebration of our little village of Economy. The pioneer mothers were neither ashamed or afraid to take up their axes and go into the forest (for such this neighborhood might be called at that time) to assist in the cutting of the logs from which their new home was to be built. These usually consisted of one room, with a large fireplace, while tallow candles served for lights. Quite a contrast to the modern homes of today, with gas, electricity, radio and other conveniences.

Then, when the children of the family needed new clothes, they were made from the wool of the sheep, which our mothers helped to raise. The sheep were sheared, the wool was picked, washed, carded and spun into yarn by these mothers, then woven into cloth, from which the suit was made by hand, worked with neat tiny stitches.

Then, ability to perform any and all labor was indeed a virtue. All of this required a great deal of time, but the sound of the spinning wheel took the place of the radio of today, and we can readily see why most of the earlier houses boasted of a front porch running the full length of the house.

In the olden days the daily preparation for school was indeed a

task. Many of the pupils lived two or three miles from the school house, and everybody walked, crossing thru creeks, woods and plowed fields. This necessitated early rising on the part of the mother, who needed to prepare breakfast and also put up lunches for her hungry group. Today's school children find a bus awaiting them at their very door, while almost every school building is equipped with a cafeteria. These are but few of the many changes that might be mentioned.

Although church buildings were far apart, and the mode of travel quite different from that of today, we still find our pioneer parents were church going and God fearing people, who often walked many miles to hear the word of God.

What would they have thought of the airplanes, which daily circle over our heads, or of the automobile which we constantly use? Yet the God we worship today in the beautiful buildings which we now have, quite different from the one-roomed log structures of a century ago, is the same God which sustained our forefathers and mothers through the hardships they certainly had to endure. But mothers were content to labor shoulder to shoulder with their men. They had faith too, believing that labor was dignified and not in vain, and now most of them have passed on to their reward.

Our pioneer Mothers—God bless them!