

Brief History of Nicholas County Schools

The educational system of Nicholas county is closely intertwined with that of the earliest types of schools in the state. But even these limited beginnings would be far reaching influence in the lives of these early settlers.

Nicholas county's education system has its roots with the home schools and private tutoring of pioneer days. Later, one-room school houses came into being with all 12 grades being taught in the same room. In the early 1800's there became a greater need for education which brought about consolidation and specialization in the schools.

The first woman teaching in the county, married children of a good education in settlements at Lower Blue Licks, Irish Station, Headquarters, Brush Fork, Ellenville, Hooktown, Mt. Pleasant, Barteville, Carlisle and Shiloh Schools as the "Writing School", "Stringing Schools", and the "Night Schools" became prominent throughout the county. These schools were of short term usually from four to six weeks. Western Military Institute. The Normal School and Carlisle Seminary were of a private nature. These schools were the first steps toward public education in Nicholas county.

The school system in the mid 1800's and early 1900's was very slow developing. A General Assembly passage of the law of 1837 was slow in materializing in our county. A clause in the law required each county to survey its school districts. At that time surveying was expensive, so Nicholas, along with many counties, postponed the laying off of districts until 1845. In that year two districts with a census of 111 pupils were reported to the State

board of education and supervised by its own superintendent. The 1900's was permeated with such occurrences as the founding of the first parent-Teacher Association by Miss Lida Gardner; a typhoid epidemic ravaging the schools in 1915 forcing them to close; night school starting in Henriville for students of all ages (enrolled were 20-84 years of age) being supervised by Miss Mare White and Miss Mary Williams.

The curriculum was limited, since only Reading, Spelling, Writing, Grammar, and very elementary Arithmetic were taught. Later Geography and History were added. Geography was quite an interesting subject when first introduced. Book 1, a very small book 8" x 9", contained about 100 pages. It was unique, in that questions with answers following immediately were the only forms of information. Thus, the student memorized the answers without much reference to thought or content. Book II, provided to be the real "bug-bear" of advanced thought, since it was composed solely of maps and questions. Here, again, the memory had to be used. To make this new subject popular classes lined up with "head and foot", that is one answering all questions remained head up for certain period of time, at expiration of the stated time - head pupil went foot and worked up again. The one receiving the most head marks at the end of the term was awarded some type of present.

Nicholas county has made excellent progress since the year 1900 by meeting and overcoming problems each year. The first tax year, circa 1908, was an excellent start whereby the power of direct control was taken from the district and invested in the county as central operating power. In 1910, the schools of the county were administered in two distinct systems, Nicholas County Schools and Carlisle Independent. Each system was governed by its own

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Carlisle High School . . . Opened for students in September 1904. The last high school class graduated in 1963. Elementary continued until 1971. Drawing by Stephen Austin for the Nicholas County Historical Society. Available in the Bicentennial Celebration Calendar.



Hildreth School . . . One room school house built about 1895, discontinued 1941. Drawing by Stephen Austin for the Nicholas County Historical Society. Available in the Bicentennial Celebration Calendar.



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The Carlisle Mercury

Is Proud To Have Had The Opportunity To Serve Nicholas County For 132 years of its 200 year existence

The Carlisle Mercury is one of the oldest newspapers in the State of Kentucky. It is also one of the oldest businesses still remaining in Nicholas County-Carlisle. It was established in 1867, by Dr. Preston Lindsay, and has served the people of Nicholas County for 132 years of the 200 years the county has existed.

Fire destroys The Carlisle Mercury

On the morning of Jan. 5, 1873, the Mercury office was completely destroyed by fire. Nothing was saved but the subscription list. Never was public sympathy more thoroughly aroused. The Kentucky Press Association hastily responded by a liberal contribution. New subscribers by the score came flocking in, offering to pay one and even two years' subscriptions in advance. Within a few days after the fire, with the purchase of a new power press and other equipment, the Mercury rose from the ashes to enter upon a new career. This office was located on the third floor of the F.M. Peale and Company Building.

This edition of The Carlisle Mercury, celebrating Nicholas County's 200th Anniversary, is submitted to our readers as a sample of what we the staff look forward to producing in the next millennium.

THANKS FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT,

JACK McNEELY, PUBLISHER • KARINA JORDAN, MANAGING EDITOR • MELISSA GARRITT • JIMMY TENCHER • DAVID JONES

Forest Retreat home of Kentucky's tenth Governor, Thomas Metcalfe

Forest Retreat Farm and Tavern
Forest Retreat Farm and Tavern, located at the junction of U.S. 68 and Ky. 32 in Nicholas County, is composed of four buildings owned by the 10th Governor of Kentucky, Thomas Metcalfe. His residence, built in 1820, the tavern, 1816, the stable, circa 1820-1830, and Daniel Boone's cabin built in 1795.

Governor Thomas Metcalfe
Thomas Metcalfe, whose nickname was "Old Stone Hammer" was born in Fauquier County, Va., in 1780. Apprenticed to an older brother to become a stonemason, in 1797 Thomas Metcalfe built the thick foundation of the Old Governor's Mansion in Frankfort. He is credited with erecting a number of stone buildings throughout the state, including the old courthouse in Greenville, which is the oldest in Kentucky, and which is still standing. Metcalfe was a Captain in command of company of volunteers in the War of 1812. He served in the Kentucky House of Representatives and was elected a member of the U.S. Congress from 1819 to 1828 and United States Senator from 1848 to 1849.

In 1828, he was elected Governor of Kentucky. However for a few days after the inauguration, outgoing Governor Joseph Desha did not allow him to move into the Governor's Mansion. Desha disliked turning it over to the stonemason who had helped build it.

Metcalfe died of cholera in 1855 at age 75. He is buried in the family graveyard at Forest Retreat. Metcalfe County, Ky. is named in his honor.

Forest Retreat House
Forest Retreat, a large story-and-a-half brick house, was built by Governor Metcalfe around 1817-1820. It was named by Henry Clay when he first visited the newly-built house. He said to

Metcalfe, "Tom, you have been a veritable Forest Retreat." Other famous visitors who stayed overnight at Forest Retreat included Andrew Jackson and William Henry Harrison.

Also originally owned by Metcalfe are the post barn and the tavern. The well-own Forest Retreat Tavern was built by Metcalfe and served as a stagecoach stop early on. On the farm and early post office. On the farm and early post office. On the farm and early post office.

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Forest Retreat Tavern . . . Tavern and Stage Coach Stop. Built about 1820 by Thomas Metcalfe, 10th Governor of Kentucky. Drawing by Stephen Austin for the Nicholas County Historical Society. Available in the Bicentennial Celebration Calendar.



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Daniel Boone's Cabin . . . Occupied by the Daniel Boone family 1795-1797 before they left for Missouri. Drawing by Stephen Austin for the Nicholas County Historical Society. Available in the Bicentennial Celebration Calendar.

The Advertiser.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1884

What a day! My young one is very well and happy. I wish to thank you for the kind words of welcome to the Holiday home office. From the Holiday home office, I wish to thank you for the kind words of welcome to the Holiday home office.

William Wiley and son Charles finished the painting of the Bible residence near Shiloh, Ky. last week. Billy Dwyer is so busy delivering lumber he gets to his customers, that he has no time to even tell what his line of business really was.

Query: How the Carlisle young ladies assist the boys in securing a fire bell for the village house.

Natural Heald is in jail here from Bath, Co. A bail writ has been granted to the freight depot.

The knif of "Jim Andy" was accused of stepping to St. Louis to get a new one. He is now working on the road and his new one is ready to be released.

The railroad was to test engine size of the tunnel in order to see if it could reach Marysville on the Kentucky road.

Thomas Reilly, brother of the late Reilly, is in jail here from Bath, Co. A bail writ has been granted to the freight depot.

Don't forget that the 18th issue of the Carlisle Mercury will still be found from this office. It is a number of the year, and number where to advertise.

Remember that W. O. Stacey, of the Carlisle Mercury, is the only one who can give you the best of the Carlisle Mercury. It is a number of the year, and number where to advertise.

"The Advertiser", 1884 -- Page 1

WHEELER & WHEELER
Sewing Machine's
REPAIRED AND WARRANTED.
By B. H. RUTLEDGE, Carlisle, Ky.

Archdeacon and Bro.,
Manufacturers of
CARRIAGES, BUGGIES
and
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WANTS 50,000 BUSHELS CHOICE WHEAT,
for which they will pay the highest cash price.
Parties desiring choice flour will please call for the
Best. (**TOWN TALK**) Persons wishing wheat
ground can be accommodated any time.
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Blue wing Select
She has changed her colors, but not her liquor.
A. J. Reed Propr.
Where you will always find **Pure**
Whiskies, wines, Brandy, Holland Gin,
Fresh Lager Beer, also Bottle beer for Family use,
Imported Irish Whisky, Cigars, Tobacco,
And every thing kept in a first class Establishment
CALL AND SEE ME,
Opposite the Passenger DEPOT.

Page 4
SUBMITTED BY
MRS. GRIMES CAYWOOD