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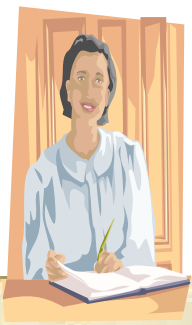
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Long Ago but Not So Far Away: Memories of Lyons School of Barren County, Kentucky

By
James H. Richey



I want to take this opportunity to begin writing a few lines about a special time in my life and in the life of our local community. I was born in 1935 and though it has been almost 64 years since I first entered the door of the Lyons School house, I have never forgotten what it has meant to me. This writing will not be hard but it will be a labor of love. I also wish to thank the following people for all their help in this effort: my wife, Olene, James and Emogene Button, Charlesdean Frances Greer, Herman Hume, my cousin, Nancy Richey Marshall, and for special assistance in finding the photographs, Ella White Combs Morgan. I have tried to be as accurate as possible in naming persons and dates. If the reader finds verifiable mistakes, please contact me, and I will be happy to correct them. I may be reached by telephone at 270-427-2473 or at my home address, 9033 Tompkinsville Road, Glasgow, KY 42101 or email: olejam@scrtc.com

I began my research by writing down the names that I remembered of the students of Lyons, and the names of some of the older pupils that I had heard my father, Millard Richey and my Uncle, Ish Richey, who both taught at Lyons School, mention. I also noted the names of the ones that my grandfather, Jim Richey, had talked about. He was a trustee of the school also. Additional trustees for Lyons, District No. 30, were: Jo Earrican, Sol Lyons, John Francis, H. M. Jones, F. M. Cable, W. C. Jones, John A. Lyons,

C. W. Childress, J. L. Howley, Willie Scott, J. R. Burgess, B. D. Hughes, Theodore Adkerson, M. E. Lyons, Crit Mayo, A. M. Welty, and J. L. Burgess. Trustee records covering the period of 1897-1923 show that the community elected one to three trustees to serve a three-year term at each school. The duties of the trustees included: hiring the teacher, overseeing the schools progress, problems and condition, and obtaining the needed supplies. Items for each year would include new chalk, the water bucket and dipper. There was no pay for the trustees but they would occasionally sell firewood to the school. The earliest student records that are available at the Barren County Board of Education are from 1922. Earlier records were thrown away. I regret that I have started too late on this research for if my Dad were still living it would have been much easier.

I have made inquiries into the time that the Lyons School was built. According to the records, William Lyons deeded the land to the Barren County Board of Education in 1872. There is a stipulation to the record stating that when the county was through using the land it was to be returned to the heirs. This was done in the early 1960's. I know of one woman, Maye Lyons Cooksey, who did receive her part of the repaid monies. Her daughter, Margaret Cooksey in March of 2004, told this to me. The school

was located off Highway 63 on the first road beyond Skaggs Creek to the right.

James Button, of Mt. Hermon, Kentucky, told me that the last Lyons School was built in 1928-29. He had attended the previous school in 1928, his first year, and then attended the new school the following year.

Lyons most beloved teacher was Mrs. Hannah Kinslow Greer. She taught for 42 years in Barren County Schools. She began teaching at Lyons in 1919 at a salary of 38 dollars per month, and would teach there for a total of 27 years. In an article written about Mrs. Greer, she says, “We were like a big family, played together, learned together, worshipped together and shared each other joys and sorrows. There were spelling bees, ciphering matches, ice cream suppers and Christmas entertainment in which the entire district took part. I loved children and I don’t think I ever taught a bad child. I found good in all of them. Sometimes, (not often) I’d have to look awhile but I’d always find something good about them. I was proud of all my students.”

In the beginning of the one room school system, the term ran six months, from July to Christmas. Afterward, it was extended to seven months.

I started at Lyons in 1941. My dad had attended Lyons and was taught by Miss Greer during her first year of teaching in 1919. My son, Tony, also was taught by Miss Greer in his first years of school, 1959-1961. Three generations having the same teacher and the same school is unusual especially when one of her students would become a teacher himself at the same school. My sister, Virginia Ann, also went to Lyons. Our parents were Millard and Alta Davis Richey.

Millard, Joe, Ish and Jessie were the sons of Jim and Nellie Richey. They also had daughters, Mary and Maggie, who I am sure attended Lyons.

I will record first a listing of the teachers that I have been able to determine. The list is as complete as I can make it, with scarce records and fading memories.

1917 – Mrs. J. S. Lyons	1924-25 – Ish Richey
1918 – No Record	1925-26 – Emma Proffit
1919 – Hannah Kinslow Greer	1926-1928 – Millard Richey
1920 - Mrs. Claude Price	1929-30 – Perrin Edwards
1921 - 22 – Eleanor Hammer	1930- 31 – Thelma Higdon Young
1922 - 23 – Estella Bullock	1931-32 – Ish Richey
1923-24 – Ella Armes	1932-33 – Ish Richey

1933-34 – Hannah Kinslow Greer

1934-35 – Hannah Kinslow Greer

1936-37 – Jesse Cummings Powell

1938-41 Hannah Kinslow Greer

1942 - Lucy Flowers

1942-43 – Lucy Weaver, Marjorie
Flowers, Walter Davis.

We had three teachers this school year.

1944 – Katherine Burks

1944-1962-Hannah Kinslow Greer

The average attendance for the school was 39 pupils in the fifties and sixties.

Lyons was the last one room in Barren County to close in 1962.

Next, I will list the pupils and their parents, as I was able to determine them.

Child

Parents

<u><i>Anderson</i></u> , Rex	Haskel and Verda Anderson
<u><i>Anderson</i></u> , Zelma, Haskell, Verda,	Jonah and Minnie Anderson
<u><i>Anderson</i></u> , Mary Edith, Martha, James, Luther	Jonah and Verda Anderson
<u><i>Anderson</i></u> , Clifton, Dorothy	Bedford and Verda Anderson
<u><i>Arterburn</i></u> , Bobby Joe	Delma and Evelyn Arterburn
<u><i>Beam</i></u> , Mary J.	?
<u><i>Berge</i></u> , Lester	George Berge
<u><i>Bishop</i></u> , Ruby, Eva Rose, Bobby Joe, James Gleason (John), Edna Ruth, Betty Ann, Rachel Louise	Reval and Elizabeth Bishop
<u><i>Bowman</i></u> , Earlene, William (Bill), Willis, Wanda, Wendell, Wallace, Barbara, Garnett,	George and Nora Bowman
<u><i>Bray</i></u> , Thomas	W. and T. Bray
<u><i>Brown</i></u> , Lyndal, Mary Lou, William, Beulah Sue, Charles,	Pleze and Rettie Brown
<u><i>Burgess</i></u> , Willard, Edith,	Ewell and Pearl Burgess

Clifton, Cleveland, Lucile,

Burgess, Clayton, Hazel, Clarence

Burgess, William, Alma, Pauline
Jewell, Mitchell, Hannah Marie,
Gladys

Burgess, Eloise, Randal, Joe,

Burgess, Delano

Burgess, Guy, Luree,

Button, Marshall, Velma, Elizabeth,
Lorene, James,

Button, James Howard, Jeanie,
Jeanette, Janet Sue,

Carter, Lena

Carver, Ferrell, Brenda, Gary,

Centers, Clara, Margie

Combs, Mary Lou, Donald Ray,
Gary, Jimmie, Johnny, Mike,
Linda, George,

Combs, Shirley, Randy

Combs, Ella White, Maxey, Joe,
Charles,

Cooksey, Vera, Nola,

Cooksey, Winfred, Angie, Loureid,
Leroyce, Nina, Margaret

Lump and Maime Burgess

Babe and Etta Burgess

Will E. and Lizzy Ella Burgess

Darius and Iva Burgess

James and Annie Pearl Burgess

James and Lillian Button

James and Emogene Button

Filmore Carter

D. L. Carver and Bearice Carver

Claudia and Viola Centers

Rex and Laverne Combs

Budge and Annie Combs

Dick and Patty Combs

John and Eddus Cooksey

Lewis and Maye Cooksey

<u>Cooksey</u> , Julius	Wesley and Blanche Cooksey
<u>Crowder</u> , Ozina, Carl, James,	Garland and Pearl Crowder
<u>Davis</u> , Teddy	Cornelius and Blanche Davis
<u>Davis</u> , Billy, Scarlet, Steve,	Harold and Margaret Davis
<u>Davis</u> , Edith, Marie	J. H. and Frances Davis
<u>Eatman</u> , Ola, Hollis	Earon and Caren Eatmon
<u>Elmore</u> , Billy, Betty, Brenda,	Garnett and Minnie Elmore
<u>Elmore</u> , Era, Arnold,	Jepp and Flossie Elmore
<u>England</u> , William, Hazel,	Jim England
<u>Fields</u> , Arlis,	Evans and Mae McCauley Fields
<u>Fisher</u> , Eloise, Roy, Earl, Harold,	Ewell and Verda Fisher
<u>Flowers</u> , Jo Ann	Marjorie Flowers
<u>Frances</u> , Howard, Vera Nell, Patricia, Helen, Jean,	Hack and Ovie Frances
<u>Frances</u> , Wilma?	
<u>Frances</u> , Charles Dean	Jessie Frances
<u>Frances</u> , Wendell	Price and Addie Frances
<u>Frances</u> , Hack, Elbert, Jack,	Hase and Lilly Frances
<u>Frances</u> , Clifton, Curtis,	Jack and Della Frances

Clarice, Cleveland, Clarence,

Garmon, Levy, Terry, Phillip,

Garrett, Janice, Jimmie

Garrett, Viola, Mary Lou,
Ottie,

Garrett, Shirley, Mike,

Geralds, George

Gosser, Cecil, Robert, Ralph,

Greer, Emogene, Paul,

Greer, Laverne

Grider, Alyne, Rondal, Lerron,

Hale, Joe

Harlow, Earl

Higden, Andrew

Houchens, Eugene, Evelyn,

Houchens, Ruby Lee, James,
Biggers, Jack Taylor, Alec,

Houchens, Geraldine

Gosnell, Maxwell

Jackson, Emma, Willie May,

Key, Annie Alice, Ethel, Golden,
William, Herman, John,

Guy and Christine Garmon

Marvin and Tressie Garrett

Millard and Bertie Garrett

Archie and Annie Pearl Garrett

Bennie and Ida Gosser

Euge and Maude Greer

Hilary and Mary Greer

Joe Hale and Viola Hale Centers

John Harlow

Jack and Arlene Higdon

Moss and Minnie Houchens

Tom and Florence Houchens

Bart and Tamage Houchens

Dollie Gosnell

Paul and Pernie Jackson

General and Lottie Ida Key

Joe, Paul, Ruby, Beatrice,

Jackson, Lulu, Carry, Charlie,
Booker,

Jones, Lera, Maud,

Jones, Jack J.,

Jones, Jesse

Kinslow, John William, George

Kinslow, Howard, Delmar Lee,
Ralph Taylor, John Henry
Mary Ellen, Lavern, Lucille,
Emma Jean, Anna,

Kinslow, Dorothy, William,

Jennings, Rosa, Emerson, Geneva,
Louise, Ish,

Martin, Harold Mitchell,

Mayo, Kenneth, Betty,

Mayo, Rossell

Martin, Ruby Lee

Matthews, Christene, Willie,
Evelyn, Wilma,

McClard, Kent, Allen, Rachel,

McClard, Ader

McCauley, Angeline, J. W.,

John and Sullie Jackson

Erv and Leann Jones

Raut and Earlene Jones

Winford and Pearl Jones

Leon and Vera Kinslow

Delmar and Mary Lilley Kinslow

Harden and Ella Kinslow

Godfrey and Pernie Jennings

Josh and Lula Martin

Rossel and Nell Mayo

Crit and Betty Mayo

Sam and Bonnie Martin

Brent and Elmer Matthews

Ader and Wonda McClard

Jim and Mary McClard

Evans and Mae McCauley Fields

<u>McDonald</u> , Glenda, Billy, Karen,	Charlie and Virginia McDonald
<u>McGuire</u> , Glen	Wallace and Joe Chris McGuire
<u>McGuire</u> , Virgil, Riley, Zada,	Roscoe and Pernie McGuire
<u>Mills</u> , Daisy, Earnest,	George and Alice Mills
<u>Mills</u> , George	Ed and Sally Mills
<u>Mizel</u> , Jennie, William, Glen,	Bluford and Virge Mizel
<u>Nabors</u> , Stanley, Lou Annie,	Jimmie and Minnie Nabors
<u>Nuckols</u> , Phillis, Barbara Ann,	Willard and Clotel Nuckols
<u>Nuckols</u> , J. C.	Chris and Nell Nuckols
<u>Oliver</u> , Katherine, Maxey,	Herbert and Frankie Oliver
<u>Oliver</u> , Helen, Lois, Hartsel,	Argus and Elsie Oliver
<u>Oliver</u> , Margaret, Leo, Jr., J. C., Daryl,	Leo and Bethel Oliver
<u>Payne</u> , Vera Nell, Rachel,	Loy and Velma Payne
<u>Perkins</u> , Hollis, Foy,	Ormal and Wanitta Perkins
<u>Pitcock</u> , Irene	Frank and Mary Pitcock
<u>Proffit</u> , Margaret Jean	Stanley and Golda Proffit
<u>Redford</u> , Roger, Steve,	Wilbur and Mollie Redford
<u>Rhoton</u> , Jewue, Jerolene, Clource,	Amo and Myrtie Rhoton
<u>Richey</u> , Ish, Millard, Jesse, Maggie Mary, Joe	James and Nellie Richey

<u>Richey</u> , James, Virginia Ann,	Millard and Altie Richey
<u>Richey</u> , Cletus, Christene, Nell, Dicie Ruth	John and Gertie Richey
<u>Richey</u> , Roy, Robert, Raymond, Ralph, John, Ruel (Gig), Ruby, Rondal (Butch), Reid Howard (Josh), Joe Richard, Mary Alice Ruth (Patty) <i>They lived next door to the school.</i>	Joe and Beulah Richey
<u>Richey</u> , Albert, Jesse Merlene,	Jesse and Mildred Richey
<u>Riddle</u> , Dean, Junior,	Walter and Ima Riddle
<u>Rigney</u> , Arnold, Wilmer, Hazel	Buford and Cora Rigney
<u>Ritter</u> , Myrtle, Angela, (Ethel, Geneva, Ernest)?	Ben Ritter
<u>Ritter</u> , Frankie Maye, Mary Ellen, Richard, Julian,	Fred and Grace Ritter
<u>Sewell</u> , Charles	Frank and Roxie Sewell
<u>Smith</u> , Beatrice, Tommy,	A. B. Smith
<u>Smith</u> , Cecil, Eagle Lloyd, Randal	Ader and Ida Mae Smith
<u>Smith</u> , Joy	Wilton and Mary Lizzy Smith
<u>Smith</u> , Sarah Ann, James, Rebecca, Eugene	Roger and Nolia Smith
<u>Smith</u> , Louis, Leland,	John and Betty Smith
<u>Thomas</u> , Linda, Glen	John and Virginia Thomas

<u>Thomerson</u> , Gladys	Jack and Lillie Thomerson
<u>Tinsley</u> , Edith, Lucille, Mary Amos	Jeff and Dora Tinsley
<u>Troxall</u> , Annie Pearl	Willie and Emma Troxall
<u>Turner</u> , Hubert	? Turner
<u>Underwood</u> , Caroline	Howard and Viola Underwood
<u>Underwood</u> , Howard, Wilma, Rondal	Will and Lula Underwood
<u>Waller</u> , Margaret Helen, Jean, Clifton Howard, Eva Joyce, Nell	Lee and Jewell Waller
<u>Waller</u> , Della, Lee, Sam	Bill and Eliza Waller
<u>Weaver</u> , Lucille	Tom Weaver
<u>Wood</u> , Gordon, Evelyn, Earl, Russell, Sylvia, Jeanette, Johnny	Paul and Annie Lee Wood
<u>Woods</u> , Inez, Edgar, Jimmie, Bonnie,	Virgil and Alta Woods
<u>Woods</u> , Oberia, Geraldine, Opal,	Everett and Lillian Woods
<u>Word</u> , Lucy Lee	

In the *Glasgow Republican* each term, there were also notes that listed Honor roll and perfect attendance. I have found the following one which is a

sample of the information that the teachers provided.

Lyons School Notes for the First Month Dated August 23, 1934

Honor Roll-

Lorene and Elizabeth Button
Clara Center,
Nina, Angie, and Margaret Cooksey
Marie Davis
Elois Fisher,
Viola Lou Garrett
Ottie Garrett
Ruby Houchens
Kenneth Mayo
Betty Mayo
Willa and Christine Matthews
Katharine Maxey
Wilbur Oliver
Irene Pitcock
Jesse and John Richey
Anna Pearl Troxall

Perfect Attendance-

Mary Anderson
Sara Anderson
Luree and Guy Burgess
Lorine, Elizabeth and James Button
Clara and Margie Center
Nina, Angie, Margaret, Julius and Leroyce Cooksey
Marie Davis
Elois and Roy Fisher
Viola, Mary and Ottie Garrett
Joe Hale
Ruby and Alec Houchens
Willa, Christine, Eveline and Wilma Matthews
Kenneth And Bettie Mayo,

James, Wilbur, Katherine, Maxey and Margaret Oliver
Irene Pitcock,
Robert, Raymond, Ralph, John, Jesse, Cleadis, Christine, and Nell Richey
Myrtle, Ethel, Ernest, Geneva, Mary, Julian and Frankie Ritter,
Anna Troxall
Howard Underwood

Highest Grades-

1st Mary Anderson, Christine and Willa Matthews, Marie Davis
2nd Mary Ellen Ritter
3rd Robert and Christine Richey
4th Myrtle Ritter
5th Cleadis Richey
6th Anna Pearl Troxall
7th Elois Fisher
8th Katharine Oliver

Lyons School Notes for 1933

Honor Roll-

Nina and Leroyce Cooksey
Ella White Combs
Eliose Fisher
Wendell, Francis, Kenneth and Bettie Mayo
Katherine and Wilbur Oliver
Willa Dean, Christine, Eveline and Wilma Matthews
Irene Pitcock,
Nelle Richey
Anna Pearl Troxall

Perfect Attendance

Lou Reid, Nina, Angie, and Leroyce Cooksey
Ella White Combs

Eliose, and Roy Fisher
Charlesdene and Wendell Francis
Kenneth and Bettie Mayo
Willa Dean, Christine, Eveline and Wilma Matthews
Katherine, James and Wilbur Oliver
Irene Pitcock
Cleadie, Christine, Jesse and Nell Richey
Anne Nabors
Lorene Button
Anna Pearl Troxall

Highest Grade for the Year

1st Wendell Francis and Mary E. Ritter
2nd Ruby Lee Houchens
3rd Kenneth Mayo
4th Roy Hatcher Fisher
5th Irene Pitcock
6th Eloise Fisher
7th Katharine Oliver
8th Lou Anne Nabors

The pictures that follow are ones that I had and others have been given to me. I will try to identify the ones that are known. Since Miss Hannah taught for so long and educated so many pupils, I will include these photographs of her.



Mrs. Hannah Kinslow Greer about 29 years old.

When Miss Hannah started teaching, I was told that she walked to school. She lived over at the Dick Combs place. Rain, snow, winter, summer, she and most others would walk. Some that could have gone to Etoile, and some that were in the Murray school system would walk twice as far just so they could have Miss Hannah as a teacher. After she married Hilary Greer, he had a little coupe that she drove. All the Combs kids would ride to and from school with her. I know there would be about 5 to 6 and more in that little

Plymouth coupe. When Tony started in 1958, she stopped and picked him up every day. She really was quite a lady!!

After we all arrived at school, Miss Hannah, would ring the little bell and sometimes she would let us ring it. We marched in each morning carrying the flag and then said the Pledge. As we called it, we took up books at 8:00 am. Then we would have a recess at about 9:00 am and again at about 1:00 pm. Each period of recess would last 15 minutes. Usually, the 1:00 hour was for lunch, and we stayed till 4 pm. This was the routine.

Now some of the kids would stay over to beat the erasers to remove the chalk dust. Sometimes, we would rub them on the floor where it had been oiled so the dust wouldn't fly all over. We then would clean the blackboard getting it ready for the next day.

We had many special events in the community that took place at the schoolhouse. The visits of a well-known entertainer from our community are especially memorable. He was Noble "Uncle Bozo" Carver. He and his brother, Warner had a band called the "Carver Boys" and they had quite a reputation on radio and records. The Bowman family that I grew up have also shared some special memories of Miss Hannah. Mary Wanda Bowman recalls about Christmas time, "You know, I guess I really do not remember Christmas being such a big thing, except at Lyons School. We got to be

actors in the plays and we knew then that we would get presents.” I would agree that Miss Hannah knew how to put on a good Christmas play.

Wendell Bowman also remembers that he got to play the wind once in a play. “I got to stand by the side and blow the sounds. Sounded real good too!”

Miss Hannah really was the best. She had progressive ideas for our little rural school and she really cared about teaching us our lessons and other things. Willis Bowman says, “She would make us wash our hands before lunch and now they say, of course, that that is the best way to avoid the flu by keeping our hands and noses clean.” I guess it really wasn’t something that we were taught at our homes.

I had the pleasure of carrying our washing and drinking water from my Uncle Joe Richey's old pump. The water was so rusty; it would taste awful. But, I would like it because it would give me a break from the classes. And I remember the soft pink soap we used. I think she melted down Lifebuoy soap. Why, we had fancy liquid soap a long time before the stores thought of it! Wallace Bowman recalls, “You had to bring your own towel. She did furnish that soap, melted in a jar. The water was heated on the coal stove. We also had to bring our own drinking glass. She really was like a mother. We all had our duties to such as getting coal and water. Some of

us would stand at the door and hand out the towels or the soap. She would also each morning check your fingernails and ask, “Did you comb your hair and brush your teeth?” She would also march us in after playing ball and we would get the same routine check. These are wonderful memories. I loved playing ball. We marched in and out to the piano. I also loved the bookmobile and ciphering days. She really taught us manners and cleanliness for sure.” Barbara Bowman adds, “ Don’t forget, she also handed out bananas or in my case I helped myself! I remember that Miss Hannah had her set ways and rituals that she rarely strayed from. One of these was her lunch eating ritual. She would eat the same way over and over, starting with laying out a clean napkin on her desk and then opening her metal lunch box. She would then take out her thermos and begin to eat. She usually had a banana. She would, with great flare, slowly peel each side of the banana and hold it off to the side of her face as she very carefully and thoroughly chewed each bite. She was always telling us to chew our food slowly. I was standing behind her this day, and could smell that banana. Oh, what a treat they were. Well, I couldn’t help myself, so as she leaned the banana away from her face to chew her bite, I came in from behind her and took a bite myself!”

Miss Hannah also kept our minds clean with good stories such as the Uncle Wiggly series. Every day after lunch we heard about Uncle Wiggly and his flying machine. This kept us quiet and entertained so we wouldn't be too noisy. But we were always pretty good. We didn't mess with Miss Hannah much! Wallace remembers "I got a whipping on my hand one time from Miss Hannah. Joe Richard and I were drawing pictures and sending them to each other across the room."

We seemed to celebrate lots of holidays at school more than at home. I can still remember Mama and Daddy walking down the road to Lyons School on holidays. I remember the time they came on Easter and the parents hid the eggs. It seems that Daddy or Mama was trying to get one of us to find the prize egg. I think Daddy hid it. But, I never did find a prize egg. Garnett Bowman adds, " Yes, I remember Daddy and Mama being at school sometimes too. I also remember practicing my speech while we stripped tobacco. It was a long one! And also, I know she should have "kelp" me after school and "thought" me to "speel!" I do know if you spell Hannah backwards it's still the same. Ha! Ha!"

She did teach us "ciphering." We did that about every Friday afternoon in the winter and played town ball in the summer. And also, I remember Railroad Spelling; we pecked liked chickens on that board!

Wallace Bowman writes, “ I remember one certain day. Oh, no, we had overslept. My older brother yelled that it was storming outside too. I reckon that is why we slept so well! We walked to school, sleet, rain, all kinds of weather and I remember my hands and feet feeling numb sometimes by the time we got there. This day it was raining so hard and I was looking everywhere for my cap. Where is my cap!!! We got our lunch fixed, (salad dressing and crackers), and Daddy was already in the barn milking, and I was still looking for my cap! I was crying over that lost cap. We walked on to school and it finally stopped raining for a bit, but then it came another big rainstorm. We got wet all the way through and were tardy. Miss Hannah saw how wet were and she let us stand around the potbelly stove and do our reading or spelling until we dried. The heat from that stove sure did feel good. The other kids looked at us funny because some had parents who had brought them to school in cars. More coal was added to that stove, and the water bucket was already heating up so that we would have hot water to wash our hands in before lunch. That wet, old day finally ended. On the way home, the rain had stopped but the ditches were running full with muddy water. A toad frog looked out of the water, as if to make a face at me and croaked! I threw a rock at it, and headed quickly home. I wanted to take a bath or wash my hair that night and hope that I could find

that darn cap! What a good teacher we had in Miss Hannah. She was like a mother to us; getting our clothes dry, and things for our own mother had passed away. THANKS, MISS HANNAH!!

Bill Bowman recollects, "I remember Joe Richey making molasses while we were in school at Lyons. He wanted some buckets to put the syrup in, so one day I took him all I could carry. My Mother said she wanted 5 cents for some and 10 cents for the better ones. He said how much for the buckets and I said a nickel apiece. I remember Mama scolding me for not getting anymore than I did. I also remember there being a big beech tree out in back of the school, where we all ate our lunch in the summer time, and then in the fall, we would eat the beechnuts. And I remember stopping by James Henry's house to see his mother when she was sick. This all was in about 1942, I think.

Garnett recollects this story from about the same time. "Everyday, we would go to school through the Oliver place and on the way get us a piece of salt off of the old cow's salt block. Now, remember, they had been licking and slobbering on it. But, we would live and make it to school anyway!

My daddy bought Bill and me a new pocketknife. Boy, were we proud! One day at school, someone wanted to trade me all their marbles for my pocketknife, so I traded and I had two pockets full of marbles and had to

hold my pants up the whole time. My Daddy didn't like it one bit that I had traded off my new pocketknife.

In the eighth grade, I went back to that same school and there were lots of pretty girls there, and Shirley Combs was one of the prettiest. I had a crush on her but I was too bashful to let her know. So one day at school, she passed a note to me and my heart seemed to stop beating for a while, but as I read, I realized all she wanted to know was if I have heard Butch Richey say anything about her. I use to ride my bicycle by her house hoping to see her. She had an old dog that would bark loudly and chase cars and bicycles and that darn dog wouldn't let me go by without trying to bite me. But still, all in all, they were the good old days.”

She was a major part of our childhoods and shaped our lives, physically and spiritually. We are all better men and women for having known her. A poem I found illustrates our honor of her.

GOD MADE TEACHERS . . .

God understood our thirst for
knowledge, and our need to be led
by someone wiser;
He needed a heart of compassion,
of encouragement, and patience;
Someone who would accept
the challenge regardless of the
opposition;

Someone who could see potential
and believe in the best in others . . .

So He made Teachers [like Miss Hannah.]



My mom died when I was seven years old and I had no one to fix my lunch and I would go down to my aunt Beulah Richey's as often as I thought I was welcome to get something to eat.

But sometimes, I would feel like I was a bother to her and would not go. Later she told me she never thought about me not being welcome. My aunt Beulah was very good to me; she even washed my clothes.

I guess Miss Hannah noticed that I would never bring any lunch to school and would sometime slip me a lunch bag, so no one would notice. She knew that the kids would make fun or become envious. She wanted to spare my feelings. I did not have a lot of different teachers, because I went to Lyons all my primary years in school, and Miss Hannah was my teacher most of those years. Another story that illustrates what she taught me is the following.

One day after lunch at school, we were playing town ball, a little ballgame like baseball except we made the rules as we went along. I had made it to first base and standing there

I didn't have a wristwatch and I decided to pick it up, even though I knew who the owner was. I put it in my pocket and went on my way. Miss Hannah took up books and I had settled in for the rest of the day, but I kept thinking about that watch and knowing it did not belong to me. I had been taught not to steal and not to lie by my Mammy and Pappy Richey along with Miss Hannah, and my conscience started to bother me.

I raised my hand so I could be excused to go out, and I did go outside and kick a few rocks and kill a little time, and finally I went back inside and took the watch and laid it on Miss Hannah's desk and told her I had found it. It was returned to J.C. Oliver and my mind was clear. This has been more than 60 years and I will never forget how proud I was of myself to have returned that watch to its rightful owner. I cannot forget Miss Hannah for instilling in me the meaning of honesty. Far be it from me to criticize a woman that was somewhat my mom, my advisor, my teacher, and my good friend. I know that there are good and wonderful teachers all over the world, but I dare say there will never be another Miss Hannah (Kinslow) Greer. There are so many memories of this time in my life that I could share. They were made happier in part because of her.



Mrs. Hannah Kinslow Greer ca. 1960



Lyons
School in
1925

Lyons School ca.
1930 with teacher,
Thelma Higdon
Young
First Row sitting: --
-----, Jesse
Richey,





Lyons School 1937

First Row kneeling L-R: Earl Fisher, Gig (Ruel) Richey, Ruby Richey, Elizabeth Button

Second Row standing: L-R: Jr. Oliver, Maxey Combs, Margaret Cooksey, Lucille Kinslow



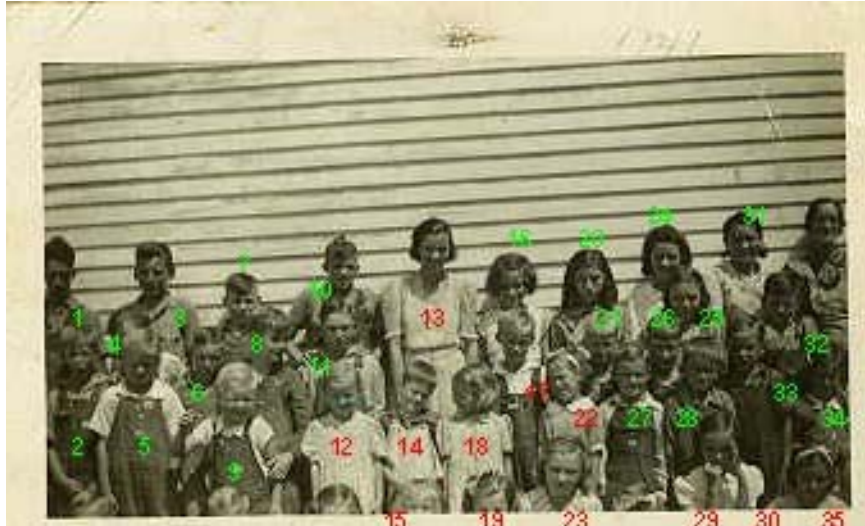
Lyons School ca. 1936

Standing L-R:

Leroyce Cooksey, Mary Lou Garrett, Margaret Oliver, Margaret Cooksey,
Ella White Combs, Wilbur Oliver, James Smith

Sitting L-R:

Rebecca Smith, Sarah Ann Smith, Nell Richey, Helen Frances, Lucille
Kinslow, Emma Jean Kinslow, Leo Oliver, Jr., Marie Rhoton, Elizabeth
Button



Lyons School 1941

The children identified in the photo are as follows:

1. Leroyce Cooksey
- 2.
3. Clifton Burgess
- 4.
- 5.
6. Jr. Oliver?
- 7.
- 8.
9. James Henry Richey
10. Edgar Woods
11. _____ McClard?
12. Bonnie Woods
13. Ella White Combs
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
17. Jimmie Woods
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
21. Emogene Kinslow
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
25. Lucille Burgess

- 26. J C Oliver?
- 27.
- 28.
- 30. Lois _____ ?
- 31. Margaret Cooksey
- 32. Delmar Kinslow
- 33. Cleveland Burgess
- 34. Joy Smith
- 35.
- 36. Hannah Kinslow Greer (teacher)

This information came from Lindy Cooksey <lindy@wico.net> from a website at <http://www.geocities.com/lindycooksey/lyonsschool.html>

The photographs that follow were taken minutes apart.

Lyons School ca. 1930



1. Katherine Oliver
2. Loureid Cooksey
3. Anna Key
4. Velma Button
5. Thelma Hidgon
6. Edith Tinsley
7. Alice Key
8. Marshall "Bub" Button
9. Lou Anna Neighbors
10. ?
11. Roy Richey
12. Joe Keys
13. Zelma Anderson
14. Hazel Burgess
15. Winford Cooksey
16. Ethel Ritter
17. Anna Pearl Troxall
18. Myrtle Ritter
19. Juanita Perkins
20. Eloise Fisher
21. Lorene Button
22. Eveline Houchens
23. Charles Dean Frances
24. Nina Cooksey
25. Lucille Tinsley
26. James Oliver
27. Stanley Oliver
28. Herman Key
29. Margaret Oliver
30. Christene Richey
31. ?
32. Ralph Richey
33. Cleadis Richey
34. Buster Houchens
35. Raymond Richey
36. Roy Hatcher Fisher
37. James Button
38. Clarence Burgess
39. Wilbur Oliver
40. Maxey Oliver
41. Willard Burgess
42. Kenneth Mayo
43. Virgil McGuire
44. Howard Underwood

The man in the middle of the right door was the boyfriend of Hazel Burgess and no one could identify him.



Lyons School ca. 1942

First row kneeling L-R:

Rondal (Butch) Richey, Helen Oliver, Mary Lou Brown

Second row standing L-R:

Joe Combs, Jack Jones, Lyndal Brown, Delmar Lee Kinslow



Lyons School ca. 1947

Front row L-R:

Jue Rhoton, Geraldine Rhoton, Shirley Combs, Darrell Oliver, Curtis
Frances, James Richey, Harold Fisher

Second row L-R:

Dicie Ruth Richey, Margaret Helen Waller, Steve Redford, -----
Cleveland Burgess, Kent McClard, Arlis Fields



Lyons School ca. 1940

L-R: Joe Combs, Jack Jones, Helen Oliver, Ruby Richey, -----, Marie Rhoton, -----, Delmar Lee Kinslow

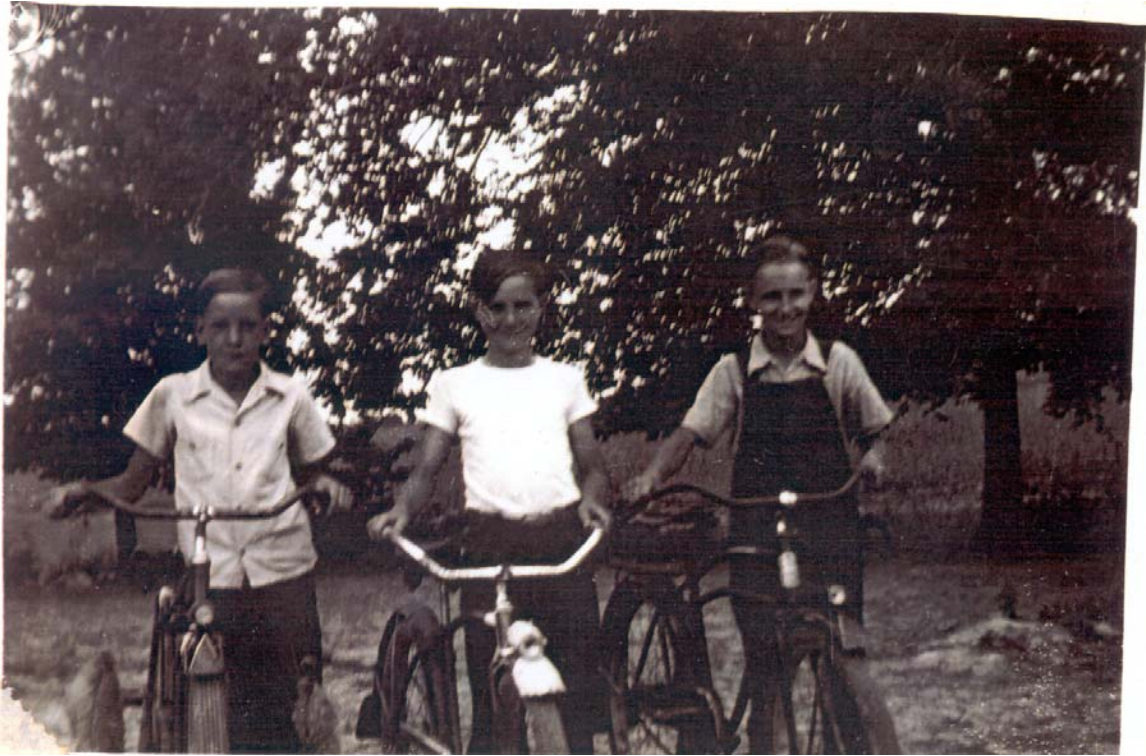


Lyons School ca. 1945

First Row kneeling L-R: Lyndal Brown, Allan McClard, Charles Brown, Darrell Oliver, Mary Lou Brown??

Second Row standing L-R: Harold Fisher, Curtis Frances, James Richey, ---, -----, Shirley Combs

Third Row: Charles Combs, Kent McClard, Earl Fisher, Jr. Oliver, Margaret Jean Proffit,



Lyons School Boys ca. 1946

L-R:
Cleveland Burgess, Steve Redford, Clifton Frances



L to R – Top Row:

Hannah Greer, Charles Sewell, Shirley Garrett, Levy Garmon, Eva Joyce Waller, Joe Richard Richey, Wanda Bowman, Cleveland Frances, Clarice Frances

2nd Row L-R:

George Combs, Phillis Nuckols, Doral R. Combs, Billy G. Elmore, Glenda McDonald, John William Kinslow

3rd Row L-R: Brenda Elmore, Wallace Bowman, Edna Ruth Bishop, Willis Bowman, Vera Neal Payne, George E. Kinslow, Mary Alice Ruth (Patty) Richey, Joe Bishop, Mary Lou Combs,

4th Row L-R: Clifton Howard Waller, Allan McClard, Barbara Bowman, Randy Combs, Wendell Bowman, Mary R. McClard, J. C. Nuckols, Clarence Frances