



HERREN'S CHAPEL SCHOOL

(1929-1956)

Source: Heritage of Putnam County Tennessee -2008

(Pictured: This photo of the Herren's Chapel School, located on the corner of Hancock Road and Herren's Chapel Road just off Old Baxter Road, was provided by Charlie Haller, who went to school there in the 1940s and 1950s. Notice the school bell on top of the leaning post to the left of the building and the well on the right side of the picture. The building is now a private residence. Picture featured in the Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: Sunday 18 August 2013, pg. C5 in the 'Way Back when Section' by Bob McMillan).



Herren's Chapel School was located in a rural community on Herren's chapel Road in Putnam County. According to the records in the Putnam County School Superintendent's office, the first school year was July 29, 1929 – March 14, 1930. It met in the Church of Christ meeting house. It had grades 1-5 and Mrs. Frazier Jaquess (Jimmie) was the teacher. The next year 1930-31 another teacher was added, Rubye Tallent. Mrs. Jaquess was the teacher through the school year 1935-36. A second teacher, Rubye Tallent, also taught in 1931-32, 1934-36. Avela Shanks Puckett taught with Mrs. Jaquess 1932-33.

Madgety Lawhorn was the second teacher in 1933-34.

The first school year in a new brick building was 1933-34. It had two large classrooms with a stove in each room. Large windows on one side provided the light. The rooms were divided by a large chalkboard which could be raised for special programs to accommodate crowds attending programs, especially at Christmas and end-of-school programs. There was a built-up stage in the primary room. An inset porch in front of the building gave access to classrooms. The 1-4 classroom door on the right and 5-8 door on the left. The water bucket and dipper were located on this outside porch during nice weather. Students brought their own drinking cups. Although I do remember seeing students from time to time hold their drinking cup with the left hand and drink from the dipper with the right hand. They forgot they were not home. The dirt basketball court was located across campus in front of the school building. (Description as of 1936-1938).

In 1936-37 Miss Cleo Sliger was principal/teacher of grades 5-8. Because of a death in our family, I entered Herren's Chapel School in the 4th grade, and Cleo, (my first cousin and caregiver) and I moved into the home of Otna and Argenia Shanks in November 1936. Since Cleo was assigned to Herren's Chapel



Basketball Team 1934

School we were there though the school year 1937-38. During this year Mrs. Hannah Hall was the second teacher, although another teacher, Ruby Meadows, completed the school year. There was no reason given for change of teachers. I, Mabel Joyce Austin Moore, have fond memories of nearly two years spent in the Herren's Chapel Community. Some of the family names I remember are: Roberts, Herren, Maxwell, Whitefield, Whitehead, Lindsey, Carr, Gambrell, and Phillips. I can recall first names to go with the last names listed.

Mrs. Mattie Burton was the teacher from the fall of 1938 until the end of the year 1942. Lois Herren (Phillips) was the second teacher until 1941-42 when Carlos Herren became the second teacher. He and Mrs. Burton switched places and Carlos taught grades 5-8 and Mrs. Burton grades 1-4.

The school year 1941-42 was the last year as the two-teacher school. School attendance was dropping and in 1942-43 Herren's Chapel became a One-Teacher school with Lois Herren (Phillips) as principal/teacher, also 1943-44. Teachers of other years were Grace James 1944-45; Sammie Foutch, 1945-46; Mary Elizabeth Maggart, 1946-47. In 1947-48 Sammie Fouth was again the teacher. This

is the year the school term was lengthened from an 8 month school term to a 9 month term. In 1948-49 Sammie Foutch was the teacher again.

Mary Sue Sadler was the teacher at Herren's Chapel School from the fall of 1949 until the end of the school year her records show that a drinking fountain and sink had been installed.

Beatrice Craighead was assigned to teach at Herren's Chapel 1953-55. Mary Sue Sadler returned for the school year 1955-56. the average daily attendance was only 23 for the year. Again with Mary Sue Sadler as teacher school began August 9, 1956 with only 17 students in average daily attendance. The school was officially closed September 7, 1956.

Tommy Roberts also a former student recalls being a part of the last class of Herren's Chapel School. The students, along with their teacher, Mary Sue Sadler were transferred to Boma School. This is where Tommy Roberts complete the 8th grade.

Submitted by Mabel Joyce Austin Moore, Sparta, TN & Tommy Roberts, Silver Point, Putnam Co., TN. (Former students).

*Read more about the schools of Putnam Co., TN at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>