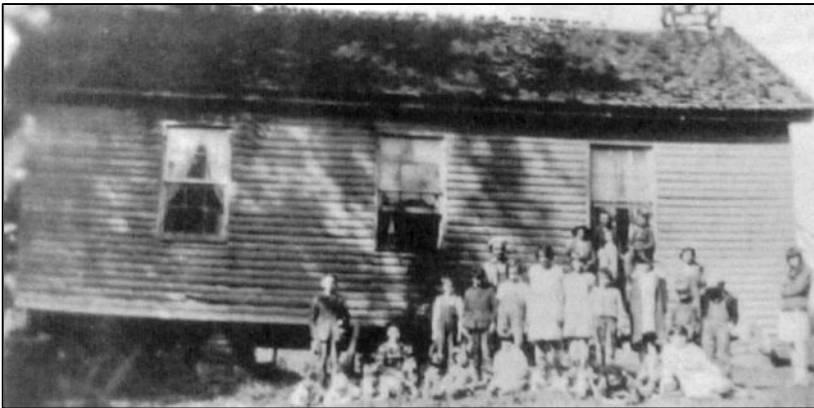


BROWN'S MILL SCHOOL

Source: 'Upon This Rock' A History of
Caney Fork Baptist Church; Stone Association of Baptist;
Brown's Mill School; Brown's Mill Cemetery;
Other old family cemeteries and Pioneer Families
Sponsored by Lola Belle Brown McCormick.

<http://www.ajlambert.com>

During the late 1800's and early 1900's, school was taught in the Caney Fork Church building. The official name of the school was Brown's Mill School. There is no documented record of school being taught earlier than the late 1800's. However, some people believe that school was taught in the meeting place as early as the 1840's.



Some teachers who actually taught at Brown's Mill School and the approximate years they taught as follows.

(Brown's Mill School in 1928-29).

Pansy Brown, 1893.
Relatives say that Miss

Brown, who was a popular teacher, got sick one Sunday morning in 1893 and was not able to attend church. When the family returned home, they got her out of bed and into a chair. Just as soon as they got her into the chair, Miss Brown slumped over and was declared dead, at the age of 19. (*Pansy Brown, b. 3 November 1874, Putnam Co., TN – d. 27 August 1893, Putnam Co., TN, d/o Hiram Allison Brown (1834-1889) & Elizabeth Bettie Bartlett (1842-1933), all buried in Brown's Mill Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN.*)

Communications were so bad in those days, the other teacher of the school did not know that Miss Brown had died until school started the next morning.

Luvennia Hunter, 1893. She was the other teacher who had been teaching with Miss Brown.

Hugh Hunter, years unknown. Mr. Hunter would always tell about having to cross the river on a foot log to get to the school and how young students would fall into the water and have to be pulled out.

Dibrell Walker, years unknown. Hillery Essex, 1912. Mr. Essex always rode a mule to school. Melvin Huffine, 1919. Bessie Miller, 1922. Minnie Buck, 1922. Pansy Phy, 1924-25. Sally Walker, 1925-26. Elise Huddleston, 1928-29. Aaron Huffine, 1929-30. Grady Nichols, 1930-31.



(This 1924 picture shows teacher Pansy Phy with a group of students standing on the old steel bridge. State Highway Department records show that this old steel bridge was replaced with a “modern” concrete bridge in 1929. Pictured, from left, are Beecher Brown, Cordell Hunter, William Robert Walker, Flavis Gentry, Frank L. Brown, Lola Belle Brown McCormick and Pansy Phy, teacher).

In Brief: Interesting notes about Brown’s Mill School:

Avery Trace was the first real road passing through near the Caney Fork area.

Some people believe that Braxton Dudley Hunter, the first Putnam County School Superintendent probably taught at Brown’s Mill School.

In 1931 Brown’s Mill School and Dry Valley School consolidated and were moved into a new building about half-way between the two former schools.



Brown’s Mill School taken about 1895. Students identified are from left, from row (beginning with the girl holding the book), the eighth person is Fred Henry; beside him is Lou Mansell, Mayme Farley, Pansy Watson; and the 14th on the end is Ann Watson. Second row, (beginning with the man holding the hat), the second person is Albert Bartlett; fourth is Ab Walker; sixth is John C. Watson; ninth is Lou Bohannon and eleventh on the end is Florence Watson. Third row, first Bob Clouse, second, Willie Mae Watson; fifth is John Randolph Watson, sixth is Callie Dowell (facing her left); seventh, Alvin Walker, wearing large white collar; and boys ninth and eleventh are believed to be Mansells.