

## HISTORY OF HINTON HIGH SCHOOL

Copied from *The Independent Herald Hinton, WV* 2 July, 1925

This interesting article, prepared by Superintendent J.B. Hickman, formed part of the data placed in the corner stone of the new Hinton High School building last Saturday:

At the formation of the district, then Greenbrier, Hinton had no school. In 1872, the first school in the said district was erected, consisting of one room. In the year 1874 the number of children had increased until it was found necessary to have a two-room building and W. W. Adams, C.A. Fredeking, M. V Calloway and A.C. Sperry were appointed a committee to provide suitable specification and let the contract for a schoolhouse which was erected for E.A. Week at the price of \$675.00 and this school was the foundation of the present High School. The first teacher in this new building was W. R. Thompson in the fall of 1875, with Miss Anna Hoge as assistant. W.R. Thompson was succeeded by Harvey Ewart and Miss Lydia French as assistant, next was Rufus Alderson and Miss Hoge, who are followed by John J. Cabell

and Major J.S. Rudd, with Miss Anna Hoge, Jennie Hamer and Nannie McCreery. These were followed in succession by:

Judge Frank Lively 1885  
 J. H. Jordan 1886, 87-88  
 Wm. H. Sawyers 1891-1898  
 T.G. Gwinn 1898-99  
 Miss Salome Johnson 1899-1904  
 Hunter Mattics 1904-06  
 W.H. Sasser 1908-09  
 John Heflin 1910-11  
 E. F. Vangilder 1911 to 1914  
 J.D. May 1914-16  
 Miss Fannie Eagan 1916-17  
 J. Peters 1917-19  
 F.H. Tomkies 1919-21  
 J.S. Duncan 1921-22  
 W.E. Arnold 1923-28  
 S.J. Thompson 1924.

The following is a list of Superintendents:

John D. Sweeney, 1900-01  
 H.F. Fleshman 1901-04  
 I.B. Bush 1904-09  
 W.H. Sasser 1909-10,  
 1916 H.F. Griffey 1916-19  
 J.S. Bonar 1919-21  
 F.H. Tomkies 1921-24  
 J.H. Hickman 1924.

The following is a number of graduates, according to the most

complete records obtainable:

1897 – two  
 1898 – one  
 1899 – none  
 1900 – none  
 1901 – six  
 1902 – two  
 1903 – seven  
 1904 – seven  
 1905 – seven  
 1906 – five  
 1907 – none  
 1908 – four  
 1909 – six  
 1910 – four  
 1911 – three  
 1912 – eleven  
 1913 – fifteen  
 1914 – fifteen  
 1915 – twenty-one  
 1916 – seventeen  
 1917 – twenty six  
 1918 – forty  
 1919 – thirty nine  
 1923 – fifty three  
 1924 – fifty nine  
 1925 – fifty eight.

On June 8, 1924, a bond issue was authorized by a vote, 1696 for, 90 against of the people for a new high school building.

At the time of laying this corner stone, the four-room brick grade building in the West End of town, known as the Riverview School, is practically completed, and

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will be available for the opening of the school term, September 7, 1925.

The Lincoln High School and Grade Building (Negro) consisting of eight classrooms, auditorium, gymnasium, manual training and domestic science rooms, has the walls completed and the roof on. This building will be completed by the 7<sup>th</sup> of September, at the opening of the school year, 1925.

On June 27, 1925, the Hinton High School building has the steel framework completed, the rough floors laid, and the walls completed to a height of about ten feet. This new building will not be ready for use until after the holidays of the school year, 1925-26. We hope to move in after Christmas.

When this new high school building is fully completed and furnished it will contain about 15 classrooms, an auditorium, domestic science and art rooms, manual training rooms, library, study hall, the High School Principal and Superintendent's offices and costing approximately \$180,000.

### HINTON'S BUILDINGS

The Independent School district of Hinton has had but four permanent brick building until this writing. This of course does not include some five or six small frame structures. The first brick built was a four-room structure erected upon the same ground where the Hinton High School now stands. By the year 1898, the school population had outgrown it. Then it was proposed to erect the present building now occupied by the Junior and Senior High Schools. The Board raised, by a bond issue, twelve thousand dollars. This was supplemented by a sum of two thousand dollars in addition that was the time in the New Building Fund. These fourteen thousand dollars put up the building. Mr. J.B. Lavender, a member of the Board, was employed as the General Superintendent of construction. He was paid three dollars per day for his services. Common labor was secured for one dollar per day, the stone masons at two dollars and a half per day. The contract price for common brick, the only kind used, was \$4.50 per thousand placed upon cars at Central City.

The C. & O. railroad, in order to help the people, improve their school facilities, donated one half of the freight charges on all materials for construction that was shipped into the town. The amount donated in this was about \$1,200. The twelve thousand dollars in bonds was paid off in about ten years.

One interesting incident in connection of the voting of the bonds was this. There was some doubt as to the favorable outcome. Whereupon the board hauled telephone poles and placed them as braces against the building. This had the desired effect of convincing the people that the old building was about to fall. When the voting was over, the bonds had carried nicely.

In 1907 a bond issue had again successfully floated. With the proceeds of which the present Greenbrier Building, a modern 10 room structure housing about 400 pupils was built and equipped. By some oversight, the board had not provided a sinking fund to meet the principal on the bonds when they

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matured., though the board had been paying the interest regularly. An election was called to reissue the bonds, but it failed of its purpose. And, as one of the board members said, "There was nothing else to do but 'Sock-it-to-em'" So, they laid a sufficient levy to wipe out the indebtedness in one year. The cost of the Greenbrier Building was approximately \$28,000 not including the lot which cost \$8,000. The people have to remember that levy and insist on providing new buildings in the same way that is by direct levy.

In 1922, there being no outstanding indebtedness and a pressing need for additional room, an election was called for a \$90,000 bond issue. This lacked 21 votes of securing the three fifths majority to float the bonds. Immediately after the board set the New Building Fund Levy at the maximum 40 cents. This was approved by the State Superintendent of Schools. The modern four room brick building at Bellepoint was built with the money thus raised. Supplemented with a

similar amount the following year. The Bellepoint building and equipment cost approximately \$27,000. It was occupied about the first of January 1924 for the first time.

To bring this matter up to date, a bond issue election was held June 3, 1924, and a bond issue of \$150,000 was ratified by a very large majority. In addition, the Board has available \$12,000 in the New Building Fund. At a mass meeting of the citizens held some months ago, the board was encouraged to lay a full 20 levy in the New Building Fund for a sufficient number of years to cover additional cost of installing heating plants in the three buildings being erected. It is estimated that the three buildings when completed will cost approximately \$190,000 of which sum, approximately \$125,000 will go into the new High School building. This bond issue had the support of Rotary Club, Ministerial Association, Wednesday Club, Chamber of Commerce, Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, Kings Daughters, the Lincoln Parent Teachers

Association and the American Legion.

List of County Superintendents of Summers County:

John Pack 1871-75  
 C.L. Ellison 1872-77  
 D.G. Lilly 1877-81  
 James H. Miller 1881-88  
 H.F. Kesler 1888-85  
 C.A. Clark 1885-87  
 V.V. Austin 1887-89  
 J F. Lilly 1889-91  
 George W. Lilly 1891-93  
 J.M. Parker 1893-95  
 George W. Leftwich 1895-99  
 H.F. Kesler 1899-1903  
 George W. Lilly 1903-06  
 J.E. Keadle 1907-11  
 W.T. Ball 1911-15  
 Lee Harper 1915-23  
 L.A. Dodd 1923-

Brief History of Hinton High School, School Activities and Statistics of the Independent District for school year 1924-25:

Central Grades – Minnie Cox, Principal, number of teachers 15, Enrollment 553, number promoted to High School 41, raised \$124.00 for Library.

Greenbrier Grade School – Edgar W. Webb,

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Principal, number teachers 10, enrollment 439.

Avis Graded School – Daisy Miller, Principal, number of teachers 4, enrollment 126. Bellepoint Graded School – Alice Corker, Principal, number of teachers 4, enrollment 132. Bellepoint has a Parent Teachers Association and a good library.

Lincoln (Negro) Graded School – E.G. Wood, Principal, number of teachers 6, enrollment 152. The Lincoln schools have a library of 525 volumes and an active Parent Teacher Association.

Hinton High School – S.J. Thompson, Principal, number of teachers 18, enrollment 259. Total number of teachers in all schools 51: total enrollment 1661.

General items of interest 1924-1925:

Organization of a Parent Teacher Association, Mrs. J.E. King, President, Mrs. Lula Earley Meador, Secretary.

The Parent Teacher Association gave a number

of entertainments for the benefit of the High School Library, contributing about \$400.00.

Altogether, about nine hundred volumes were added to the High School library this year.

The New River Valley Round Table met at Hinton in October 1924 for a two-day session.

The High School publishes an annual, *The Dart*, at an approximate cost of \$1,250.00; edits a paper, *The Orange and Black*; has a football team; girls' and boys' basketball team; a letter club; is a member of the West Virginia Interscholastic Press Association and enters contestants in the State Literary and Athletic contests at The State University of Morgantown.

Ours is a First-Class High School and a member of the Southern Accrediting Commission of Secondary Schools.

With the completion of the present building program, the Independent District schools will be housed in seven buildings, six of

which will be modern brick structures.

The present Board of Education consists of W.E. Price, president; W.J. Martin and O.P. Vines, commissioners; A.D. Lilly, secretary.

Mrs. J.M. Meador and Robert Keller will become members of the Board after June 30, 1925, taking the places of O.P. Vines and A.D. Lilly.

J.H. Hickman is Superintendent of the City Schools.

The city has a public library donated partly by Andrew Carnegie.