

Thomas/Davistown School

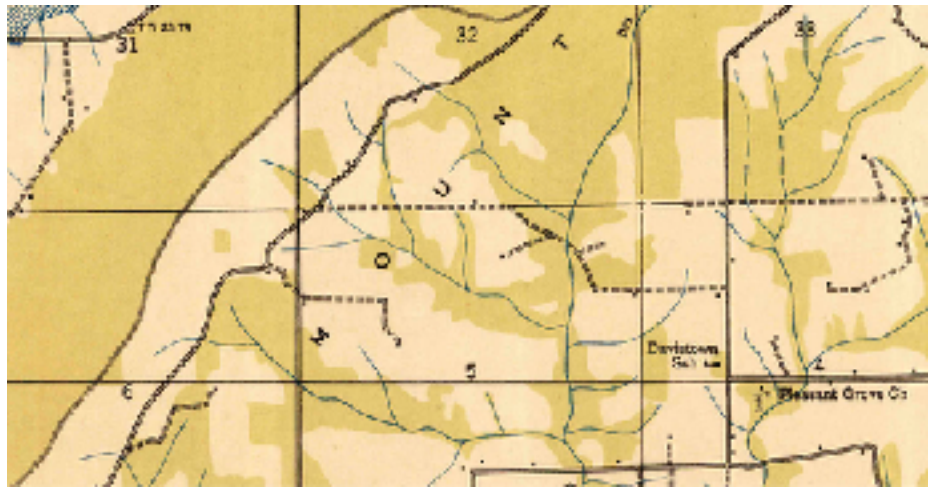
Location: West of Section

School District: 103

Teacher in 1923: M. E. Chaney

Trustees in 1923: Morgan Thomas, W. J. Ball, and J. H. Harris

Teachers in 1939: Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Southerland



Thomas School is referenced as early as 1903 but seems to be close to Gurley and Mt. Olive, so I have some doubt that the 1903-1905 references are valid. Thomas School in District 103 is found in the table of schools in the 1923 Progressive Age, but by the 1939 reference, is clearly known as Davistown. Teachers associated with this school include M E. Chaney (1923), Fannie Patrick (1929), Nina Beak (1930), and Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Southerland in 1939. This school seems to have existed between 1923 and the late 1940s. The "Thomas/Davistown" school building and two acres of land were up for auction by Superintendent Delbert Hicks in 1951, which usually meant that the school had not been held for several years previous. It had a wonderful, active PTA that held numerous fundraising activities between 1930 and 1943 that let the parents add electricity (1940) and a luncheon (1941) to the county school.

Sep 24, 1903 PA: "Payne News: Brother Gipson of Trenton opened a protracted meeting at Thomas school house Sunday, there was a large audience Sunday and Sunday night."

Oct 29, 1903 PA: "Payne News: Rev Geo Gipson, of Gurley, filled his appointment at Thomas' school house Sunday." Also Nov 25, 1903

Jun 15, 1905 PA: "A week ago there was a quarter conference at the Gum Thomas school house on Saturday and Sunday. Dinner on the ground Saturday."

Jan 31, 1929 PA: "Miss Fannie Patrick has accepted a position as teacher of the Davistown school on Sand Mountain."

Feb 6, 1930 PA: "Davistown News: We are proud indeed that our school re-opened last Monday with Miss Nina Beak as teacher. We thank Professor Hodges for his excellent selection."

Nov 29, 1930 PA: "There will be a box and pie supper at the Thomas (Davistown) Schoolhouse on Saturday night, Nov 22. The proceeds will go toward the school. Everybody come and help a good cause."

Mar 31, 1932 PA: Health education programs with movies on diphtheria, hookworm, malaria, sanitation and drainage at Davistown School on April 15th.

Dec 12, 1935 PA: "There will be a box supper at Davistown school house Friday night, Dec. 13, for the benefit of the school. Everybody is cordially invited to come and and enjoy themselves."

Apr 30, 1936 PA: Typhoid fever, diphtheria, and smallpox clinic at Davistown school May 5.

Nov 10, 1938 PA: Report from the County School Board, W. J. Ball was paid 32.75 for cutting wood for Davistown School.

Nov 21, 1940 PA: "There will be a pie supper at Davistown School Saturday night, November 23. Also fish pond and games. Proceeds go for school indebtedness for having the school building wired. Everyone come and help a worthy cause."

Dec 19, 1940 PA: "The Davistown Home Demonstration and PTA will sponsor a Negro Misterel, The Lazy Moon Minstrels, Saturday night, December 21. See article for cast.

Apr 24, 1941 PA: "Davistown School. 'Leave It to Grandmas,' Wednesday night sponsored by PTA. Friday night, 'Crowing the Queen of Flowers,' by primary grades. 'Betty's Paris Hat,' by fifth and sixth grade. Sixth grade graduation exercises."

Oct 16, 1941 PA: "There will be a box supper and pie walk at Davistown School Friday night, October 17. The Presley Band will furnish music. Everyone come and enjoy the evening. Proceeds go to finance the lunch room. Also a Fiddler's Contest (big ad) on October 25 with cash awards for best band, best violin, best guitar solo, best buck and wing dancer, best duet. Also a beauty contest with a permanent wave from Gladson Beauty Shop as the prize.

Nov 20, 1941 PA: Forestry film shown at Davistown School.

Feb 12, 1942 PA: "The 'Lone River Boys' will show at Davistown School Thursday night, February 12th, at 7:30 o'clock. There will be plenty of fun, music, and a black face comedy. Everybody come and enjoy an evening of fun. Admission 10 and 15 centers. This entertainment will be sponsored by the Davistown PTA. Proceeds for the benefit of the school."

Apr 20, 1942 PA: Local residents could register for sugar rationing at Davistown School with Mrs. Shelley Thomas.

Jul 18, 1942: Typhoid vaccination clinic at the school. Also April 3, 1944 and June 25, 1945.

Oct 22, 1942 PA: "Glenn Moss and his Lone River Boys will put on a program and a Fiddler;s Contest Friday night, Oct 23 at 8:00 o'clock at the Davistown School. A Drive will be given for the best artist. Come out and hear and Lone River Boys of WBHP Huntsville. Admission 15 cents and 25 cents."

Nov 5, 1942 PA: Farm meeting at Davistown School November 11.

Dec 3, 1942 PA: "The PTA will meet Friday afternoon, Dec 4th at 2:00 o'clock. Mrs. Ralph Stanfield will be in charge of the program. The Davistown school presented the play "Thankful Hearts" Wednesday afternoon.

DAVISTOWN NEWS

The Davistown Home Demonstration and P. T. A. will sponsor a Negro Minstrel, The Lazy Moon Minstrels, Saturday night, December 21.

The Cast:

Pappy Washington—L. C. Williams.
Mammy Washington—Mrs. Odeena Linville.
Epidemic—Rodney Thomas.
Pistaro—Winola Presley.
Walla Walla—Mrs. Lucas Stanfield.
Shadrick—Mrs. Ethel Evans.
Blackbird—Elva Carter.
Denver—Jim Presley.
Augusta—Mrs. Willie Carter.
Tacoma—Andry Norwood.
Columbia—Dann Presley.
Charlotte—Mrs. Nancy Thomas.
Mizema—Betty Thomas.
George—Mrs. Patterson.
Grace—Mrs. Mary Thomas.
Eugene—Mrs. Carvel Williams.
Sylvia—Mary Jones.
Rastus—J. M. Presley.

This play will start promptly at 7:00 o'clock. The proceeds will be divided between the school and church.

Also the school will give away a quilt. Every one come and enjoy an evening of fun as this play is fun from beginning to end.

Admission 10 and 15 cents.

Fiddlers Contest At Davistown School
SATURDAY NIGHT, OCTOBER 25th

The following prizes will be given:

Best Band	\$5.00
Best Violin	\$2.00
Best Guitar Solo	\$1.00
Best Buck and Wing Dancer	\$1.00
Best Duet	\$1.00

There will also be a Beauty Contest, the winner will receive a \$7.50 Permanent Wave Free at the Gladson Beauty Shop, located in The Farmers Building, Scottsboro, Ala.

—SPONSORED BY THE SCHOOL—

Nov 11, 1943 PA: “There will be a Thanksgiving Supper at Davistown School on Nov. 18th at 7:00 pm. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy an evening of fun. Plate lunches will be served at 25 cents each. There will be pie walks at 5 cents each. There will also be a bingo game. Come and enjoy yourself.

Feb 15, 1945 PA: Farmer meeting for farmers interested in new markets for selling their goods at Davistown school February 19.

Apr 3, 1947 PA: DPT vaccination clinic at Davistown School.

Aug 2, 1951 PA: “Sale of School Property. Notice is hereby given that the Jackson County Board of Education will accept sealed bid until 12 o’clock noon August 31, 1951 on the school property listed below....Thomas (Davistown) School Building and 2 acres of land...Signed Delbert Hicks, Superintendent of Education.”

Doug Graden had a photo taken at this school in September of 1927 at Davistown School. “My Dad, William Graden, is located to the left of the boy wearing the watch cap or as we say in the South a toboggan. Brenda Brown will identify her mother and aunt. She may know some more of the individuals. Dad would have been 8 years old. And later he wrote, “ Brenda Brown my aunt and Annie Bolt Venerable, is the girl on the left side leaning forward with the curly hair. Left of her in the "boggin" is my mother, Alma Bolt Kirby. On the right side with the arm pointing toward the front and the cap with a slotted brim is Boots Stover. “



Douglas Graden also had the photo, but it has not been determined that this is Davistown school.



John Michael Little

Davistown School was located on County Rd 337 about 1/2 mile north of the Jeff Thomas Store. According to some who attended the school, it was a three room structure (two class rooms and an auditorium with a stage). Teachers included Sarah Gibbs Paris, Era Ryan, and Mattie Thomas Lipham. Principal might have been Nigel or some name like that. Grades 1-6 were taught. Persons I spoke to attended 1935-1945.