

Francisco School

Location: S6/T1/R4E

Funds: \$187.20

School District: 76

Teacher in 1923: Stella Reid

Trustee in 1923: J. E. Green

Teacher in 1939: Miss Lucille Bostic

Enrollment in 1898: 60, expected to reach 100

1902: School burned.

1925: School burned.

1928: Enrollment Dropped and the school lost one of its two teachers.



Wendell Page said in his One Hundred Schools document “The school Beech Grove, was in Tennessee. A few Alabama students attended. Franklin County, TN and Jackson County, AL paid the one teacher and paid the rest to the church buildings owners. About 1950, Beech Grove was consolidated with Huntland High School. One former student lived with relatives in Scottsboro and graduated from JCHS. LWP” See all “Beech Grove School” entry.

Long-time resident Fred Green wrote a history of the Francisco Community in the March 22, 1926 *Progressive Age* and had this to say about early school houses, which starts before newspaper accounts are available and agrees with what can be found by searching newspapers. This full article is reproduced at the end of the school sketch.

“The school houses were crude log houses with open fire places. The house where most of our grandparent went to school stood where the cemetery now is. In the there have been school houses in different parts of the community. The old one that stood in the cemetery was used for religious worship.” After the Civil War, “Education got to a very low ebb. many of our grandparents cannot read and write. In 1880, a school house was built on Tennessee and Alabama State line by moderns plans. In 1902 a more modern schoolhouse was built on the same ground which burned down the latter part of 1925. In 1926 the present building was erected on the same ground.”

A number of teacher names are associated with this school: “Mollie Keith and Minnie Neal (1893), Prof. Hudson (1898), Mr. Hackworth (1901), Ellen Fincher (1913), Mary Cunningham and Stella Reid (1923), Gordon Pogue and Allene Mason (1928), and Louise Bostic (1939). A more comprehensive list of teacher is found at the 1938 teacher reunion recounted below. A list of students can are found in 1913 honor roll lists.

Here are references to this school from newspapers.

Oct 14, 1886 SC: Francisco News. “The school at this place closed on the 24th ult.”

May 5, 1893 PA: Francisco, Ala. Column “Miss Mollie Keith organized a class in instrumental music at the school house here last Monday morning. Miss Minnie Neil’s school is progressing nicely, she is giving satisfaction to pupils and patrons.

Jan 13, 1898 PA: “Prof. Hudson opened a school here Monday.”

Feb 3, 1898 PA: Quite a breeze of excitement reigned at the school house at this place a few days ago for a few minutes, caused by an alarm of fire being raised. The fire caught from a

defective flue and was rapidly gaining headway in the roof of the building when it was discovered, but fortunately there happened to be a sufficiency of water on hand at the time, to extinguish the fire before it did much damage.”

Jul 21, 1898 PA: “Francisco. Professor Hudson opened up school at this place on the 11th inst., with about 38 students which have been increased to about 60, and will run up near the 100 market when everybody gets their crops laid by....Rev. Coleman delivered a lecture to the students of Prof. Hudson’s school on Friday afternoon, on the importance of education, and he also preached two able and instructive sermons on Sunday at 11 am and 4 pm. Mr. Coleman is blind and has been so from his birth.”

Aug 1, 1901 PA: Francisco News. “Mr. Hackworth’s school at this place is progressing nicely.”

Jul 3, 1902 PA: Francisco News. “The new school house is fast nearing completion and will soon be ready to use.”

Jul 17, 1902 PA: Francisco News. “The school house here has just been completed and is not receiving the finishing touch with the paint brush. It is one of the best country school houses in the county.”

Jul 10, 1913 PA: “Honor Roll of Francisco School. The following pupils have so conducted themselves as to be placed on the honor roll for the month of June 2013: Anna and Ollie Hill; Leona and Alton Hall; Leona, Sallie, Eugenia, Velma, Jennie, Arnold,, Floyd, Clayton and Charlie Green; Mary and Thompson Larkin; Lizzie, Sallie and Parker Erwin; Louise, Charley and Granville Payne; Jessie and Mary Jane Kilpatrick; Girlie and Adie Burks; Stella Reed. Rose Stovall. Winston Graham, Jim Thomas Hinshaw, George Groce. Emma Fincher, Prin.”

Aug 21, 1913 PA. “Honor Roll of Francisco School. Anna Hill, Dewey Hill, Sallie Erwin, Parker Erwin, Cornelia Green, Bobbie Green, Jennie Green, Eugenia Green, Floyd Green, Clayton Green, Mark Larkin, Louise Payne, Sue Pogue, Jimmie Pogue, Jessie Kilpatrick, Girlie Burks, Myrtle Matthews, Myrtle Henshaw, Lou Belle Henshaw, Jim Henshaw, Stella Reid, Nora Groce, Lucille Groce, Laura Green, Newton Gattis, Jack Payne, John Larking, Ollie Payne, Leona Payne, Vivian Payne, Rena Fanning. Emma Fincher, teacher.”

Mar 30, 1917 PA: Francisco News. “A very interesting program was rendered on last Friday and Saturday nights at the Francisco school house at the close of Prof. Smith’s school.”

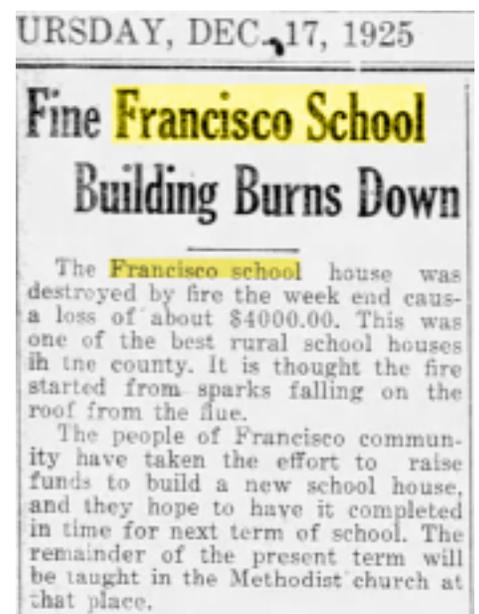
Feb 15, 1923 PA: Francisco News. “School at this place was suspended last week on account of the snow and ice.”

Nov 8, 1923 PA: Francisco News. “Miss Mary Cunningham, of the teachers at the Francisco school, attended the institute at Scottsboro last week.”

Jul 30, 1925 PA: Francisco News. “Gordon Pogue is teaching school at this place.”

Dec 17, 1925: Francisco school house burns at a loss of \$4000 and “one of the best rural school houses in the county.” See article.

Jun 20, 1928 PA: The vote on the 3 mil tax was called. Results



now known. See article.

Dec 1, 1927 PA: Francisco news. "Quite an interesting and amusing program was rendered at the Francisco school on Thanksgiving day. The part of the program of greatest interest was a speech by Rev. Angel of Huntland. The next thing of interest was three basket ball games one by the Francisco boys and the Liberty School boys in which they Francisco boys was the winner....Then came the funny part which was some foot races in which quite a number in each class took part. The winner in the boys race was Fred Green. The girls race was won by Lila Green and the married womens race was won by Mrs. Myrtle Green. The distance ran in each race was 100 yards.:"

Dec 29, 1927 PA: Francisco News. "In a recent contest by the pupils of the Francisco School as to who could write the best history of Francisco and vicinity the winner to receive \$1.00. Miss Pauline Green and her cousin, Fred Green, tied, each one drawing 50 cents....The Francisco School had a nice Christmas tree last Friday afternoon."

Apr 5, 1928 PA: "A move has been started to add two more districts to the Francisco district and make the Francisco school a Junior High School. This move if carried to a successful finish will fill a long felt want and will meet the hearty approval of this whole community. A neat little sum of money was taken at the Pie Supper at Francisco School last Saturday night, which will be used for the benefit of the school."

Aug 9, 1928 PA: Francisco News. "School opened at this place on the 16th of July with Gordon Pogue and Miss Allene Mason as teachers."

Sep 27, 1928 PA: Francisco News. "On account of a decrease in attendance in the Francisco school, Mr. Gordon Pogue and the Jackson County Board of Education have put the school under the direction of the assistant, Miss Aline Mason."

Dec 20, 1928 PA: Francisco News. "The Francisco School is planning to have a Christmas tree on the afternoon of Dec 24th."

Mar 31, 1932 JCS: Health education program on diphtheria, hookworm, malaria, sanitation and drainage at the school.

Nov 4, 1937 PA: County School Financial Statement. William Green was paid \$16.00 for providing wood for Francisco School.

Apr 28, 1938 PA: "We are having a get together of all the former teachers and pupils of the Francisco School at the school building Sunday May 15. Each one is asked to bring lunch. Ada Green, Eugenia Green, Committee."

This get together was later reported in the Nineteen Years Ago column of the May 23, 1967 PA: "A large crowd attended the reunion of school teacher and pupils of the school at Francisco on

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that a special election will be held in
Francisco District No. 76,
at regular voting place
Jackson County, Alabama, on the
26th day of July 1928, for the purpose of determining whether or not a special tax shall be levied and collected annually, at the rate of 30 cents on each one hundred dollars worth of taxable property in
Francisco District No. 76,
in said county, and to be continued for a period of two years from September 30, 1928, the same to be for the support of the public schools within said district. The boundaries of said district are as follows:
Beginning at the NW corner of section 3, Tp 1, R 3 east; thence east 6 miles; thence south 3 miles; thence west 4 miles to Madison County line; thence with said Madison County line to SW corner of section 3, Tp 1, R 3; thence north to point of beginning. Said district contains sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 16, 17, 18, Tp 1, R 4; also sections 1, 2, 3, 11, 12, 13, Tp. 1, R 3 and that part of sections 10 and 14, Tp 1, R 3, lying north and east of Madison Co., line. All of said district being in Jackson County, Alabama.

The following officers are appointed to hold said election:
S. L. Huskey, C. C. Green, J. E. Green, ins; I. B. Hill, Willie Hinshaw, clerks; E. J. D. Kennedy, R. O.
R. S. Skelton, W. W. Trice, W. H. Cox, Raymond Bradford, Members, Board of Commissioners, Jackson County, Ala., M. C. Thomas, Sheriff of Jackson County, Ala.

Sunday, May 15. S. J. Erwin extended a word of welcome to those who had been away and presented the teachers that were there and each of them made a short talk. They were: George Larks in Francisco; J. W. Reid of Altus, Okla.; Mrs. Alice Armor Hall, Mrs Lyda Bert Pritchard, Mrs. Ruth Steed McDowell, of Winchester, Tenn.; Gordon Pogue of Bean's Creek, Tenn.; Mrs. Ruby Hall Robertson of Swaim; Mrs. Mable Ayers Latham and Miss Vera Mason, of Maxwell, Tenn. Mrs. Everett Hardison of Beans Creek, Tenn. was there in the afternoon. Miss Jessie Lee County, one of the teachers for the coming year, was there."

Nov 10, 1938 PA: County School Financial Statement. William Green was paid \$16.50 for providing wood for Francisco School.

Jun 8, 1939 PA: "There will be a former teacher and pupils reunion at the Francisco school house Sunday, June 18th beginning at 10 o'clock A. M. Each one is asked to bring lunch."

Apr 30, 1942: Register for sugar rationing with C. C. Green at the Francisco school.

Jun 21, 1945 PA: Typhoid vaccination clinic at Francisco School on June 27. Also held in April 1947.

Jul 8, 1948 PA: Tuberculosis screening at Francisco School.

1950: School closed and students were consolidated into Huntland, Tennessee school



(Wendell Page).

Junior Prestwood drove through the area in 2021 and made this pictures. He was told that the building below where most recently there Green family has lived had been used as the school house for the Francisco community and that the small building in front had been the post office. Other Facebook participants confirmed that this was true.

Here is the article that Fred Green wrote in 1926 about this history of Francisco. This information, which cannot be independently confirmed.

<h2 style="text-align: center;">History of Francisco and Community</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">BY FRED GREEN</p>		Education got to a very low ebb. Many of our grandparents cannot read and write. In 1889 a school house was built on Tennessee and Alabama State line by modern plans. In 1902 a more modern schoolhouse was built on the same ground which burned down the latter part of 1925. In 1926 the present building was erected on the same ground.
<p>I have no authentic record further back than 1775. At that date Francisco was a vast wilderness with a Cherokee trail here and there. We have proof of Indians by the flint arrowheads found in various parts of the country.</p>	<p>Larkin, in honor of him this cove and creek were named.</p>	
<p>The first graves in the cemetery were children named Lucker, killed by the Indians.</p>	<p>The settlers cut down the forest and built crude log cabins with stick and dirt chimneys. The woodman's axe and the whir of the spinning wheel were heard on every side.</p>	<p>Francisco was named by Esquire George Grimmett in honor of Capt. Francisco Rice of Civil War fame in 1874. M. H. Rice served as postmaster for two years, then W. E. Green was appointed as postmaster. He served 30 years. In the early days we had mail once a week and the postmaster's salary was \$3.00 per year.</p>
<p>At the place where the post office stands was then a great canebrake. Beech Grove hill was also covered with cane. Deer, bears, wildcats and ferocious animals ran at large. David Crockett hunted all over the country and killed several bears here. He cut his name on beech tree that still stands near the Kennedy Spring.</p>	<p>The nearest trading post in those days was Salem, Tenn. There were no railroads at that time.</p>	<p>In 1856, Gen. Joseph Wheeler, who won world wide fame in both Civil and Spanish American wars, visited this community and told them they should have daily mail. At that time they had mail two times a week. It was then carried on horseback from Huntland to Paint Rock. It then changed from Huntland to Princeton which brought mail twice daily.</p>
<p>Later came the first settlers, one of them whose name was William</p>	<p>The school houses were crude log houses with open fire places. The house where most of our grandparents went to school stood where the cemetery now is. In time there have been school houses in different parts of the community. The old one that stood in the cemetery was used for religious worship.</p>	<p>It is now carried to Swain, on Huntland with a gravel pike most all the way.</p>
	<p>Then came the great Civil War that revolutionized the whole South.</p>	<p>In 1877 the present Methodist Church was erected on Beech Grove Hill. The present Baptist church was erected in 1882. It is also called Beech Grove Baptist church.</p>
	<p>In 1908 a new store was erected at Francisco and is now owned by J. C. Pease who has built a new dwelling near.</p>	
	<p>Alabama did first pike road work here in 1921. Tennessee surveyed the Cedar Ridge road in 1919 but not completed.</p>	
<p>Francisco has always been a center country hamlet nestled among the Cumberland hills of North Alabama. Out of the host of people who grew up in its confines, some made lawyers, doctors, preachers, in fact, there are people from Francisco in every walk of life. Twice has it answered liberally to the call of arms. Francisco is and will always be to many a hallowed spot.</p>		