

Shook's Mill School

Location: S29/T3/R7E

Funds: \$248.50

1908-1909 One teacher, 3 1/2 months at \$46.56

1923-1924 Two teachers, 6 months at \$100

1938-1939 Two teachers, 6 months at \$75

No further information

School District: 25 (called Shooks)

Teachers in 1923: George Jennings and Mrs. George Jennings

Trustees in 1923: J. T. Brzaelton, W. H. Holder, and Richard Pace

Teacher in 1939: Mrs. J. H. Jarnigan

Location: Hollywood Route 1



Shook's Mill is a place name in Jackson County at least as early as its first reference in the January 2, 1896 *Scottsboro Citizen*. The February 27 Citizen notes that "Pack St. Clair has charge of Rev. R. D. Shook's mill above old Bellefonte. It is said that Pack is one of the best millers in the county." This provides at least a rough location of the community.

The next year, H. M. Holder is visiting his mother there, and on March 18, 1897, the *Citizen* reported that "the barn of A. J. Baker, near Shook's mill, was struck by lightning, killing two horses instantly." The *Progressive Age* on November 11, 1897, noted that "Road Williams was up Monday looking after the new road that is being opened from the White City to Shook's Mill." In 1898, R. D. Shook moved his wife to Sulphur Springs for her health. In 1900, Shook's Mill was one of the 18 places in the county where politicians spoke about selecting delegates for the constitutional convention. It must have been a picturesque location since in June 1901 "the colored people will give a picnic at Shook's Mill on the 4th" and later that month "the young people enjoyed a picnic at Shook's Mill recently." In October, the Fackler column noted that "Amiens and the children had a delightful outing last Sunday—went in the big wagon to the Old Baptist Association near Shook's Mill. Crowds and crowds of people there, but the gathering of the Primitive brethren was small on account of smallpox at Hollywood. The hospitality of these good people is unbounded."

The mill pond at Shook's Mill was used for baptizing on August 25, 1904, the *Progressive Age* reported. A "big basket picnic" was held at Shook's Mill on August 14, 1909. "Everybody is invited to come. There will be a fine band of music and four speakers of note. Plenty of amusement of different kinds, all free. Come everyone and have a good time." The committee held the picnic was made up of R. L. Wilson from Stevenson, Joe McCrary, J. M. McGuffey of Fackler, Hunt Stuart, and A. Burch of Hollywood. Mary Du Kyle's Methodist Sunday School class had a picnic there in June 1910. A party of young ladies camped at Shook's Mill in June 1917, chaperoned by Mrs. D. D. Gibson. The Methodist Sunday School picnicked there in 1925.

The school is mentioned by name in the August 5, 1926 *Progressive Age* "Baptist Notes" column: "The Men's Class will be guests of the folks at Martintown—they will be services at 3:00 p.m in Shook's School House, the Scottsboro Quartet will sing." It is mentioned again in the November 25, 1926 *Progressive Age*; "There will be a pie supper at the Shook School house (Martintown) on Saturday night. Proceeds for the benefit of the school. All are invited."

June 14, 1928 meeting of the school board reported in the PA: "A committee from Fackler was present asking for truck for the High School pupils of Carnes, Fackler, Wannville and Shook's Mill. A truck was promised them if it was found at all practical to finance."

May 8, 1930 PA: A typhoid clinic was held in the town of Shook's Mill but held at Martin's Store. But the health department presented movies and public information sessions about Diphtheria, Hookworm, and Malaria at the Shook's Mill School on March 8.

Wendell Page puts this school just north of Martintown on his schools map.