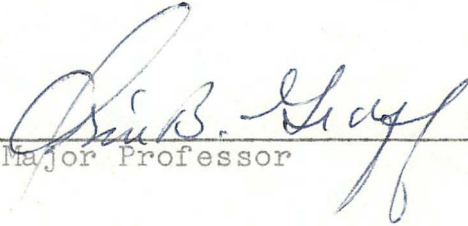


July 31, 1958

To the Graduate Council:

I am submitting herewith a thesis written by Robert Audubon Ladd entitled "The Development of Education in Roane County, Tennessee." I recommend that it be accepted for nine quarter hours of credit in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Science, with a major in Educational Administration and Supervision.


Major Professor

We have read this thesis
and recommend its acceptance:




Accepted for the Council:


Dean of the Graduate School

THE DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATION IN
ROANE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

A THESIS

Submitted to
The Graduate Council
of
The University of Tennessee
in
Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the degree of
Master of Science

by

Robert Audubon Ladd

August 1958

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I am grateful to Dr. Orin B. Graff for his patient and helpful guidance in completing this study and to Dr. Joseph M. Leps for his kind and helpful suggestions for revising the manuscript. The co-operation of the following public officials in making official records available is much appreciated: Mr. Bob Parker, Roane County Court Clerk; Mr. C. W. Roberts, Trustee of Roane County; Mr. Edward E. Williams, Superintendent of Roane County Schools; Mr. Elmer L. Eblen, Roane County Judge; and Mr. L. G. Lewis, Treasurer of the City of Harriman. Also the helpful information given to me by Mr. John M. Sparks, Loudon, Tennessee, and Mr. E. W. McKinney, retired Roane County teachers, is much appreciated. The co-operation of Mr. Walter Pulliam in making available his file of early newspapers of Roane County is appreciated. And finally I am thankful to Mr. J. F. Brittain, former Superintendent of Roane County Schools, for his kind and valuable assistance which made the preparation of this study much easier.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This thesis is the story of educational development in Roane County as revealed in available sources of information. It presents the available facts and figures pertaining to the schools and the school system of Roane County from early days of the county to the present time.

Statement of the Problem

The story of the origin and development of education in Roane County has not been written. As each year passes, the possibility of available data and information concerning schools becoming lost or destroyed increases. Since a knowledge of the past is sometimes of considerable value in determining the needs of the future, the preparation of a written history of education in Roane County may be helpful to educational leaders of the country.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to bring together, in logical and orderly form, information from widely scattered sources. This will enable persons who are interested in the history of Roane County Schools to acquaint themselves with

the aspects of it presented in this study without long and tiresome searching of many sources of information.

Importance of the Study

This study should prove beneficial in at least two ways. First it will fill a gap in the overall story of education in both Roane County and the State of Tennessee. Second, it may bring about increased general interest in the schools of the county, which could possibly result in action necessary to improve them.

Limitations of the Study

This study is limited by the availability of records and information. The development of the public school system of Roane County is the primary objective of this study. Information concerning private schools and city school systems is included only when it is closely related to or part of the development of the county system. Statistical data include only county public schools and city high schools which were reported to the state as county high schools.

Plan of Procedure and Sources of Data

Much of the available printed and unprinted, published and unpublished, material concerning education in Tennessee

and Roane County has been consulted. This includes books, official records and reports, and other documents which deal with the subject. In addition, a number of older citizens who, it was believed, could give valuable information, were interviewed.

Organization of the Study by Chapters

Chapter one includes the statement of the problem, purpose and importance of the study, the plan of procedure, sources of data, and organization.

Chapter two presents a historical, geographic, social, and economic sketch of Roane County.

Chapter three is an account of subscription schools, academies, and other private schools based on available information.

Chapter four presents available information about public schools and the public school system from their early beginnings to the year 1873.

Chapter five presents facts and figures about the Roane County Public School System from 1873 to 1958.

Chapter six is the story of the development of school transportation and consolidation.

Chapter seven is an account of the city and other independent school districts which have existed in the county.

Chapter eight includes the summary, findings, and conclusions.

CHAPTER II

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF ROANE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

This chapter presents information concerning the geographical and historical background of Roane County.

Location and Boundaries

The territory that comprises the present area of Roane County lies in the eastern valley of the Tennessee River about midway between the northern and southern boundaries of the state. The county was formed by an act of the state legislature November 6, 1801 from a part of Knox County.¹ The county was named for Archibald Roane, who was the Governor of Tennessee at the time it was formed.

As originally laid out, Roane County covered an extensive territory stretching from its present northeastern boundary all the way to the southern border of the state. It lay on the north side of the Tennessee River. Part or all of the following counties lie within the original boundaries of the county: Rhea, Morgan, Fentress, Cumberland, Hamilton, and Loudon. The first reduction in the size of Roane County came in 1807, when a large part of it was taken to form Rhea County. Next, Morgan County was formed

¹Acts of Tennessee, 1801, Chap. 45.

entirely from a part of Roane County in 1819. An addition was also made to the county in 1819 when an extensive area on the south side of the Tennessee River was annexed to the county. No further changes in the boundaries, except small adjustments with Morgan and Anderson counties in 1856, were made until 1870, when a considerable area in the northeastern part of the county was taken to form a part of Christiana County, which was almost immediately renamed Loudon County.² At the present time Roane County is bound on the south by Loudon County; on the west by McMinn, Meigs, and Rhea; on the north by Cumberland and Morgan; and on the east by Anderson and Knox Counties.

Area

The present land area of Roane County is 354 square miles. The embayment of the Tennessee, Clinch, and Emory Rivers by the Watt's Bar Dam, located on the Tennessee River a few miles below the southwestern border of the county, has created a lake of considerable area in the county. The lake and land areas together total about 400 square miles of territory.³

²Ibid., 1807, 1819, 1856, and 1870.

³U. S. Bureau of the Census, 1950, Vol. II, Part 42 (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1952.)

Topography

Roane County is crossed by the Tennessee River which enters its east central border, flows in a southwesterly direction and leaves the county near its southwestern corner. The Clinch River enters the county at its northeastern corner and flows in a generally southwestern direction until it joins the Tennessee at Kingston, formerly Southwest Point, near the geographical center of the county. The Emory River enters the county from the northwest near the present city of Harriman and flows in a generally southern direction until it joins the Clinch River a few miles above its junction with the Tennessee. The above named rivers together with other smaller streams and ridges divide the county into numerous hills, ridges, and valleys.

Early Settlements and History

The original settlers of Roane County came mainly from Virginia, North and South Carolina.⁴ Many of these first settlers had lived for a time in one of the upper East Tennessee counties before moving into Roane County. The settlement of Roane County began about 1785 around South West Point,

⁴ Worth S. Ray, Tennessee Cousins, A History of Tennessee People (Austin, Texas: Published by the author, 1950), p. 453.

now Kingston.⁵ This was immediately after the territory was opened for settlement by treaty with the Indians.

Most of the people of Roane County are of English or Irish ancestry. The 1950 census shows a very small number of foreign born persons residing in the county. The same census shows the population of Roane County to be 31,665. This is almost 14 per cent greater than the number shown in the preceding census.⁶ Figure one shows population trends and growth from 1810 to 1950.

Economic Development

For many years Roane County was essentially an agricultural area. But today less than one-eighth of the gainfully employed are engaged in agriculture.⁷ Several factors have contributed to the change from an agricultural to an industrial area. The first of these was the embayment of the Tennessee, Clinch, and Emory Rivers and other smaller streams by the Watt's Bar Dam. The lake thus formed covered much of the best farming land in the county. Next, was the Atomic Energy Development at Oak Ridge, part of which is located in Roane County. This development offers employment

⁵Ibid., p. 450.

⁶U. S. Bureau of Census, Census of Population 1950, Vol. II, Part 42 (Washington: U. S. Government Printing Office) 1952.

⁷Loc. cit.

to many of the county's working force. Next, was the building of the Kingston Steam Plant by the Tennessee Valley Authority. This installation, the largest of its kind in the world, offers permanent employment to a considerable number of people. And finally, were the growth of industries and the recent location in the county of new industrial enterprises. Presently the following industries are located in Roane County: Tennessee Products and Chemical Corporation and the Rockwood Hosiery Mills in or near Rockwood; Harriman Hosiery Company, Roane Hosiery Company and the Mead Corporation, which produces paper, in or near Harriman. These, together with other smaller concerns, provide employment for more than one-third of the gainfully employed persons in Roane County.⁸

⁸Loc. cit.

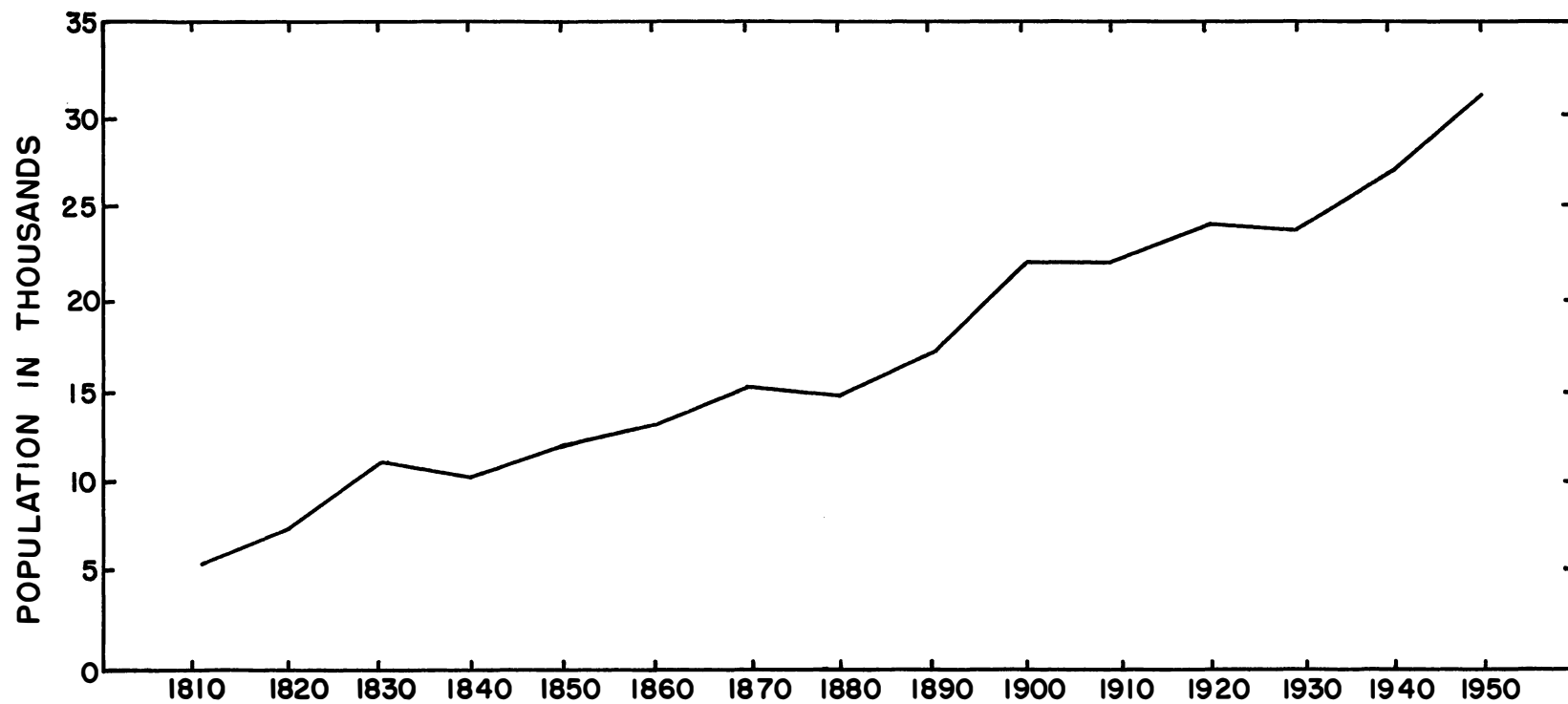


FIGURE I. POPULATION TRENDS IN ROANE COUNTY 1810 - 1950^a

^aUnited States Census of Population, 1810 - 1950.

CHAPTER III

PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN ROANE COUNTY

This chapter presents information concerning private schools which were located in Roane County.

Subscription Schools

It may be inferred from the writings of Ramsey¹ and others that private common or subscription schools were in existence in Roane County from 1801 until free public schools made them no longer necessary. Records of such schools, if any were kept, have not been found. Ramsey gives a very good description of the kind of school which he says was taught in almost every local settlement.

A country school had but two classes, Viz: the big boys and the little boys, and sometimes a third -- the girls. Again, in the backwoods vocabulary, master was a synonym with your teacher, preceptor, tutor, professor, principal, superintendent, rector or president. Academy, institute, college, and university were words not adapted to these parallels of latitude at all; and if you had spoken of a matriculation ticket, the employers and employees, parents, master and boys would all have been astounded. They expressed the same idea by a simpler form: "John Smith has signed the school article, and Jim will be here tomorrow".

The schoolhouse was, in that day, a genuine bona fide log cabin, built of unhewn logs, cut from the

¹J. G. M. Ramsey, The Annals of Tennessee to the End of the Eighteenth Century (Philadelphia: Lippincott, Grambo, and Company), p. 722, 1853.

forest in which it stood, near a spring, and was erected by the joint assistance of the "neighbors". The building was sexangular, the extreme points of the longest diameter subserving the double purpose of ends to the house and convenient appendages for commodious fireplaces, as chimneys were most significantly and appropriately called in those days of simple convenience and comfort in architecture . . .²

These schools were held during the fall for terms varying in length from six weeks to two or three months. They were often called subscription schools because the parent of each pupil signed an agreement to pay a certain amount of tuition for the term.

Teachers were usually ministers or preachers, although anyone who believed himself qualified could teach a school if he could get enough subscribers.

These schools enabled those who attended to acquire the rudiments of reading, writing, spelling, and arithmetic. This was very important both to the individual and to the society of which he was a member.

Academies, Seminaries, and Colleges

A number of schools known as academies or seminaries were organized in Roane County. They functioned for varying lengths of time, in one instance about thirty years, before closing or combining with a public school. Their existence gave opportunity to those pupils who could attend

²Ibid., p. 722.

them to advance their education beyond that available in the common schools.

The academies can be compared in general to the secondary or high school of today. However most of the academies included a primary department for the younger children, which made them somewhat comparable to the twelve-grade school of today. In the curricula of the academies were usually found subjects which are rarely found in today's high schools such as Greek, Latin, and philosophy.

Each academy operated under a charter granted by the state legislature. The charter provided for a board of trustees which controlled the operation of the school.

Following are the names and such data as is available concerning academies and similar institutions which were located in Roane County.

Rittenhouse Academy

Rittenhouse Academy was located in Kingston. The academy was established by act of the Tennessee Legislature in 1806.³ Trustees for the institution were named in the act which created it. There is no evidence that the school was in operation before 1822, when the Reverend William Eagleton was installed as principal.⁴ The institution soon

³Acts of Tennessee, 1806, Chap. 8.

⁴Ollie Martin, Article published in Harriman Record (Sept. 18, 1914).

gained wide reputation and attendance was relatively large. In 1846 there were 43 students enrolled. In 1871 the enrollment was 65. Both boys and girls attended.

Strict rules were adopted to govern the pupils. The rules required pupils to attend public worship on the "Lord's Day" and to do menial tasks if tardy or absent without an excuse from a parent. On the other hand pupils were not permitted to fight, use profane language, speak obscenely, get drunk, gamble, frequent taverns, or associate with base abandoned characters.

The subjects taught at the academy included orthography, reading, writing, arithmetic, English grammar, geography, astronomy, mensuration, trigonometry, geometry, moral, intellectual, and natural philosophy, belles-letters, the Latin and the Greek languages.

Tuition varied from \$3.75 to \$5.00 for three months and in addition each student was required to pay \$1.00 per year for fire-wood.⁵

The first building was constructed of logs and stood on Cemetery Hill in Kingston. In 1832 a brick building was erected on a lot just east of the county courthouse. In 1853 an additional wing was added to the building. Still another wing was added only a few years before the building was destroyed by fire in 1917.

⁵ Emma Middleton Wells, A History of Roane County, Tennessee, Vol. I (Chattanooga: The Lookout Publishing Company, 1927), p. 57.

Following the Civil War the building was very much dilapidated. When the county court refused to make necessary repairs the state legislature, upon request of the trustees, granted permission to sell the property belonging to the academy. A group of men bought the property and transferred it to the Presbyterian Church of Kingston with the understanding that it would be used as a public school building. The trustees of the church later turned the property over to the Roane County Board of Education.⁶

The school board continued to use the property for school purposes until the building burned in 1917. After locating a new school building on another piece of property, the school board sold the Rittenhouse lot and thus ended an early, successful, and well-known academy.

Seven Islands Academy

This school was established as a result of efforts of local citizens. The academy building was erected in 1875 on the south side of the Tennessee River about midway between the towns of Loudon and Kingston near the present community of Paint Rock. A charter for the academy was obtained in 1880.⁷

⁶Martin, Op. cit.

⁷Office of the Register of Deeds, Roane County, Tennessee, Book V, pp. 41-45, 1880.

The trustees of the academy permitted public school officials to use the academy building frequently. After the public school term ended school would continue on a tuition basis. The total length of the session, including the public school portion, was usually nine or ten months. The usual tuition was \$1.50 to \$2.00 per month. There were usually two teachers. The subjects taught included reading, writing, arithmetic, spelling, surveying, geography, history, English, and Latin. The school went out of existence after about twenty years of operation.

The above account of the Seven Islands Academy is essentially as told by Mr. John M. Sparks, a former student at the school, during an interview held June 12, 1958.

Poplar Creek Seminary or Roane College

In 1876 certain citizens in the vicinity of what later became the Wheat Community secured the Reverend John B. Dickey for a subscription school. During the next two years the three religious groups in the area co-operated by raising funds, securing land, and building a suitable schoolhouse. Thus began Poplar Creek Seminary.

The first two teachers were preachers. They were the Reverend Crawford and Doctor G. W. Butler, who was a graduate of Princeton University. Eight years later the school was chartered as Roane College. The date of the charter was January 8, 1886. The school then became a four

year college offering the B. S., A. B., and M. A. degrees. The first president of the college was the Reverend Crawford who was the first teacher of Poplar Creek Seminary.

The last class of the college was graduated in the year 1900, but the school continued under the control of the trustees until 1908 when the control and operation of it was turned over to the Roane County High School Board. The board made the school a county high school and renamed it the Wheat High School. However the trustees of the college continued to control the school property, which consisted of several buildings and 200 acres of land, until 1916, when the property was transferred to the Roane County High School Board. Thus the school which had formerly been known first, as Poplar Creek Seminary and later, as Roane College became a part of the Roane County School System.

The above account of Poplar Creek Seminary and Roane College is essentially as told by Mr. E. W. McKinney, a graduate of Roane College and a teacher there and in the Wheat High School for many years, during an interview held in September 1957.

American Temperance University

This school, which was located in Harriman, was established under the leadership of Dr. John F. Spence. Its charter was secured in 1893. Doctor Spence continued as head of the school for ten years. During this period the enroll-

ment of the school averaged about 300 and included students from many parts of the United States.

In 1903 the management and operation of the school was turned over to the Christian Church. James A. Tate served as chancellor from 1903 to 1908.

In May 1908 the management and operation of the school reverted to the old board of trustees and again became non-sectarian. The trustees secured the services of an experienced educator, William D. Mooney. During Mr. Mooney's tenure as head of the school it became popularly known as the "Mooney School". Advertised as a boarding school for boys, the school did however, accept local boys and girls as day students. After several years of operation Mr. Mooney left to establish a school in another part of the state. After Mr. Mooney's departure, about 1911 or 1912, the exact date cannot be accurately ascertained, the school did not re-open.

The American Temperance University officials and teachers placed great emphasis upon moral and Christian principles. The merits of prohibition were stressed. Strict rules were rigidly enforced. Those pupils who were not amenable to the rules and regulations were promptly expelled. The following will illustrate the above mentioned rules and regulations. All pupils were required to be in their rooms for a period of study each evening. Attendance at Sunday School and church was required. According to statements by

former pupils at the school every pupil was required to master each lesson assignment before going on to the next lesson.

Four large well-equipped buildings were owned by the university. Greenlee Hall was used for administration and classrooms. Munion Hall was the boys' dormitory. James Hall was the residence of the president. The Annex, which was located next to James Hall, was used as a dormitory for girls. All four of the buildings were within walking distance of each other and centrally located in the town.

The university maintained the following departments: Primary (through grade 5), Intermediate (through high school), Academic (college level), Teachers, Commercial, Music and Art.

The above account of the American Temperance University is based upon a copy of the Register issued by the school for the year 1907-1908 and upon interviews with several former pupils of the school.

Other Institutions

Several other academies were chartered for operation in Roane County during the 1880's. Nothing has been found concerning them other than the record concerning their charters. Following are listed the names of these academies and the date of each charter: Kingston Female Academy, 1837; Post Oak Springs Academy, 1880; Rockwood Academy, 1880; and Union Star Academy, 1881.

Concluding Statement

The private school movement in Roane County paralleled similar movements in other parts of Tennessee and the United States. Most of the private schools had either closed or been converted into public high schools by 1910.

CHAPTER IV

PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN ROANE COUNTY 1801 to 1873

This chapter presents information concerning public schools in Roane County from the date it was formed to 1873.

Schools Before the Civil War

There are no official records containing definite information concerning public schools in Roane County before the Civil War. There is, however, some indirect evidence that public schools existed in the county as early as the 1840's. The first indirect indication of public schools is the distribution of state funds for the support of common schools. This began in 1839 and continued until the beginning of the Civil War. The state funds, which were distributed to each county on the basis of scholastic population, were derived almost entirely from interest on the permanent school fund until 1854 when state taxes for schools were levied. The money derived from the interest on the permanent school fund varied between forty and fifty cents a year for each child of school age. After taxes for schools were levied the amount for each child was about doubled.¹

¹Edgar W. Knight, Public Education in the South, (Boston: Ginn and Company), p. 167.

Another indirect indication of public schools in Roane County was the presence of representatives from the county at a common school convention held at Knoxville on April 19, 1847.² The representatives were probably public school teachers, but it is not certain that they were.

Schools During the Civil War

A number of authorities state that schools in Tennessee were practically non-existent during the Civil War. The following order, which was copied in a record book used by the Trustee of Roane County during the period from 1870- to 1880, indicates the existence of a school in Roane County during two of the war years. And the order leads one to wonder if other schools were taught in the county during the same period. Here is the order from which the reader may draw his own conclusions.

To the Trustee of Roane County --- Pay to James Hickey seventy-five dollars in Tennessee money for teaching school at Kelsay's Schoolhouse, 8th Civil District of said county in 1862 and 1863.

(Signed) S. C. Simpson
G. W. Easter
Commissioners³

²Robert H. White, Development of the Tennessee State Educational Organization, 1796-1929 (Kingsport, Tenn.: Southern Publishing Company, Inc.)

³Record Book, 1870-1880, Roane County Trustee's Office, Kingston, Tennessee.

Schools in Roane County 1865-1873

The first official record containing definite information concerning public schools in Roane County is the first report of the state superintendent of public instruction which covers the biennium 1867-1869.⁴ The following data for Roane County were obtained from the report. The number of public schools was 61 and the number of pupils enrolled in the schools was 3474. The amount of state school funds received for the two-year period ending September 30, 1869 was \$10,050.29.

The records of the quarterly county court show that a county superintendent of schools was elected in January 1869, and that a tax on both polls and property was levied in 1871.⁵

The annual report of the county superintendent of schools for the 1872-73 school year gives the following data concerning the public schools of the county.⁶

Number of school districts	13
Number of schools held:	
White	Colored
31	4
Number of teachers employed:	Total
	35

⁴Annual Report of State Superintendent of Public Instruction, 1867-1869, State Department of Education, Nashville, Tennessee.

⁵Minutes of the Roane County Quarterly Court, 1871.

⁶Ibid., Book V, 1874.

	White	Colored	Total
Men	28	3	31
Women	4	0	4
Average pay per month for teachers			\$34.40
Annual salary of county superintendent			\$400.00
Number of public schoolhouses			34
Number of rented schoolhouses			3

Summary

There is no definite and positive data to prove that public schools existed in Roane County prior to the Civil War, but indirect evidence leads one to the conclusion that they did or that common schools partially free to pupils were in operation. During the war at least two schools were taught in the county. There is ample data to show clearly that public school were relatively numerous during the last three years of the period treated in this chapter.

CHAPTER V

ROANE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

1873 - 1958

The Roane County School System as it exists today is based mainly on the provisions of the state school law enacted in 1873.¹ This law provided for a centralized system of educational administration for counties. It established the position of county superintendent of schools and defined specific relationships between state, county, and district systems. It also provided for increased taxes at both the state and county levels. Subsequent state legislation concerning education has widened and added to the basic concepts of the law of 1873.

From its beginning the Roane County School System has been organized and operated within the framework of the state school laws. The first exception to this occurred in 1955² when a special act of the legislature provided for popular election of school board members.

Public School Finance

A search of the county court records has failed to

¹Acts of Tennessee, 1873, Chap. 24.

²Ibid., 1955, Chap. 20.

show any action by the Roane County Court following the state law of 1854 authorizing a tax on polls and property. In fact no record of a tax for school purposes was found prior to 1871. This was a number of years after the state itself had imposed a school tax.³ If any county taxes were used for school purposes before 1871 they were collected as a tax for the poor.

Evidently some of the school money coming into the county from the state had been used for other than school purposes because at the time the first school tax was levied in 1871, a member of the court persuaded his colleagues to insert in the record the following:

Ordered by the court that the tax levied in the foregoing list (page 628-29) on each poll, say 50¢ and the 10¢ levied on each \$100 worth of taxable property in Roane County, both for school purposes shall be applied to the sole and separate use of the common schools in said county and shall not be used for or applied to any other purposes.⁴

It is quite likely that the first county superintendent of schools, Mr. J. C. Nelson, who was elected in 1869 was instrumental both in securing a levy of taxes specifically for schools and for the prohibition of their use for any other purposes.

From that beginning in 1871 the tax for schools has continued without interruption to the present time. The

³Ibid., 1854.

⁴Minutes of the Roane County Quarterly Court, 1871.

overall trend, as Table I shows, has been an increasing levy for school purposes. However, the amount of the school tax levy has been somewhat erratic. This, in all probability, has been due to the reluctance of the county court to levy a tax for more than the amount needed to maintain a minimum school program.

Table I shows some of the taxes levied by the county court for school purposes from 1871 to 1957. This table does not give the complete tax story because records are sometimes vague and incomplete. From time to time various privileges and luxuries have been taxed for school purposes, sometimes a flat amount and sometimes ad valorem. For example, a tax was placed on each marriage license beginning in 1888, which has continued to the present. There is now in effect a 2 per cent tax on all beer sold in the county. One-third of the proceeds from the beer tax is allocated for school purposes.

Table II shows the tax rates, the total amount of money received for school purposes, the total amount spent for school purposes, the average pay per month for teachers and the average length of the school term for selected years from 1878 to 1958.

In the matter of taxation, Roane County has been rather conservative. In comparison with other counties it is somewhere near average. In view of the vital part taxation plays

in the operation, maintenance, and improvement of schools this is significant for it means we have had fair schools instead of the better or superior schools which a more adequate tax levy may well have provided.

Elementary Schools

The Roane County School System, as it was organized under the provisions of the state school law of 1873, was concerned with common or elementary schools only. Educational needs beyond the common school level were left to the private academies.

Early public schools were nearly all one-teacher schools. As late as 1888 there was only one school in Roane County which had two teachers.⁵ In these early schools instruction was largely individualized and each pupil went his or her own separate way. The teacher heard each pupil's recitation individually. Such schools were ungraded. However, early in the period treated in this chapter the matter of classification and grading received consideration on both the state and local level. The lack of properly trained administrators and teachers as well as the absence of uniform textbooks caused classification and grading of schools to progress slowly.

⁵ Annual Report of State Superintendent of Public Instruction, 1888, State Department of Education, Nashville, Tennessee.

The number of subjects taught in the elementary schools has increased gradually through the years. In early schools the subjects taught were usually reading, writing, spelling, and arithmetic. Today, in addition to the subjects mentioned above, geography, history, English, health science, art, and music are included in the program of most elementary schools.

Generally speaking, the length of a term of school during the early years of the period treated in this chapter, and in a few instances during the latter part of it, was rather short. Most schools were open for terms of two to three months each year. The length of the school term was gradually increased to its present length which for Roane County has been nine months since 1947. Table II shows the average length of the school term for selected years from 1878 to 1958. A glance at the table shows a gradual lengthening of the term at intervals throughout the period covered by the table.

Table III shows the number of schools, the number of teachers, the scholastic population, the enrollment, and the average daily attendance for selected years from 1869 to 1955. High school figures are included for those years after high schools were organized. This table is for county schools only. However, city high schools which were reported to the state as county high schools are included for those years in which they were so reported. The fact that city schools were

reported at one time and not reported at another time as part of the county system in part accounts for the wide and erratic variations in the first three columns of the table.

Tables IV, V, VI, VII, and VIII are lists of all county schools for selected years showing the number of teachers, the total enrollment, the average daily attendance, and the length of the school term in days.

Table IV, for the school year of 1921-22, shows 44 one-teacher, 13 two-teacher, and 8 elementary schools with three or more teachers in the county system.

Table V, for the school year of 1926-27, shows 33 one-teacher, 15 two-teacher, and 7 elementary schools with three or more teacher in the county system.

Table VI, for the school year of 1936-37, shows 25 one-teacher, 11 two-teacher, and 11 elementary schools with three or more teachers in the county system.

Table VII, for the school year of 1946-47, shows 17 one-teacher, 2 two-teacher, and 14 elementary schools with three or more teachers in the county system.

Table VIII, for the school year of 1956-57, shows 5 one-teacher, 5 two-teacher, and 17 elementary schools with three or more teachers in the county system.

TABLE I

CERTAIN TAX LEVIES FOR SCHOOL PURPOSES

1871 - 1958^a

Year	Poll Tax for Common Schools	Marriage License	Property Tax in Cents per \$100 Assessed Valuation	
			Common Sch.	High Sch.
1871	\$0.50		\$0.10	
1872	.50		.20	
1873	.50		.10	
1874	1.00		.15	
1875	1.00		.10	
1876	?		.10	
1877	.50		.15	
1878	1.00		.15	
1879	.50		.10	
1880	.50		.15	
1881	1.00		.20	
1882	.25		.25	
1883	.50		?	
1884	.25		.20	
1885	.25		.20	
1886	.25		.20	
1887	.50		.15	
1888	.50	\$1.00	.20	
1889	.50	1.00	.20	
1890	?	1.00	.25	
1891	.50	1.00	.20	
1892	?	1.00	.15	
1893	?	1.00	.15	
1894	?	?	.15	
1895	?	1.00	.15	
1896	.50	?	.20	
1897	.50	?	.15	
1898	.50	?	.15	
1899	.50	?	.10	
1900	.50	1.00	.10	

TABLE I

CERTAIN TAX LEVIES FOR SCHOOL PURPOSES

1871 - 1958 (continued)

Year	Poll Tax for Common Schools	Marriage License	Property Tax in Cents per \$100 Assessed Valuation	
			Common Sch.	High Sch.
1901	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$0.12	
1902	.50	1.00	.15	
1903	.50	1.00	.15	
1904	.50	1.00	.20	
1905	.50	1.00	.25	\$0.06
1906	.50	1.00	.25	.06
1907	.50	1.00	.25	.06
1908	1.00	1.00	.25	.07
1909	1.00	1.00	.25	.08
1910	1.00	?	.25	.06
1911	1.00	1.00	.25	.06
1912	1.00	1.00	.15	.08
1913	1.00	1.00	.18	.08
1914	1.00	1.00	.27	.08
1915	1.00	1.00	.27	.08
1916	1.00	1.00	.27	.12
1917	1.00	1.00	.27	.12
1918	1.00	1.00	.27	.15
1919	1.00	1.00	.32	.15
1920	1.00	1.00	.19	.15
1921	1.00	1.00	.36	.16
1922	1.00	1.00	.40	.16
1923	1.00	2.00	.42	.16
1924	1.00	2.00	.43	.16
1925	1.00	2.00	.50	.16
1926	1.00	2.00	.50	.21
1927	1.00	2.00	.55	.24
1928	1.00	2.00	.60	.25
1929	1.00	2.00	.58	.28
1930	1.00	2.00	.65	.30

TABLE I (continued)

CERTAIN TAX LEVIES FOR SCHOOL PURPOSES

1871 - 1958

Year	Poll Tax for Common Schools	Marriage License	Property Tax in Cents per \$100 Assessed Valuation	
			Common Sch.	High Sch.
1931	\$1.00	\$2.00	\$0.50	\$0.35
1932	1.00	2.00	.52	.34
1933	1.00	2.00	.52	.33
1934	1.00	2.00	.52	.38
1935	1.00	2.00	.57	.38
1936	1.00	2.00	.57	.38
1937	1.00	2.00	.57	.53
1938	1.00	2.00	.57	.53
1939	1.00	2.00	.57	.53
1940	1.00	2.00	.57	.53
1941	1.00	2.00	.65	.53
1942	1.00	2.00	.64	.55
1943	1.00	2.00	.63	.54
1944	1.00	2.00	.73	.64
1945	1.00	2.00	.63	.54
1946	1.00	2.00	.63	.54
1947	1.00	2.00		\$1.29 ^b
1948	1.00	2.00		1.29
1949	None	2.00		1.29
1950	"	2.00		1.29
1951	"	2.00		1.50
1952	"	2.00		1.50
1953	"	2.00		1.50
1954	"	2.00		1.50
1955	"	2.00		1.50
1956	"	2.00		1.50
1957	"	2.00		1.50

^aMinutes of the Roane County Quarterly Court, 1871-1957.^bSingle Tax for all Schools.

TABLE II

COUNTY TAXES FOR SCHOOL PURPOSES, TOTAL RECEIPTS
AND EXPENDITURES, AVERAGE LENGTH OF SCHOOL TERM
AND AVERAGE SALARY FOR TEACHERS FOR
SELECTED YEARS, 1878 - 1958^r

Year	County Taxes			Total Receipts	Total Expenditures	Ave. Pay Per Mo.	Ave. Length Term
	Poll	Prop.	Priv.				
1878	1.00	.15		\$ 11,705.29	\$ 7,432.25	\$ 28.00	55
1888	.50	.20	.20	29,785.04	3,696.90	27.50	65
1892	1.50	.20	.15	9,970.05	5,725.28	30.00	80
1896	.50	.20	.20	16,987.44	13,907.10	29.00	72
1900	.50	.10	.30	25,228.37	17,657.46	27.13	103
1905	.50	.25	.50	34,715.95	33,771.28	38.97	123
1910	1.00	.31	.15	61,680.77	61,680.77	43.55	138
1916	1.00	.37		79,746.74	60,970.80	46.00	153
1922	1.00	.52	.30	122,148.85	121,789.85	99.31	106
1928	1.00	.74		213,953.63	213,953.63	112.95	165
1934	1.00	.83		251,198.01	251,198.01	94.85	167
1940	1.00	1.10		185,879.62	190,266.10	99.72	167
1946	1.00	1.17		423,938.70	450,467.52	192.45	168
1952		1.50		806,950.68	807,214.79	218.09	175
1958		1.50		\$1,086,397.45	\$1,087,107.88	297.47	175

^rState Department of Education Annual Statistical
Reports for years indicated.

TABLE III

SCHOLASTIC POPULATION, ENROLLMENT, AVERAGE
DAILY ATTENDANCE, NUMBER OF SCHOOLS AND
NUMBER OF TEACHERS FOR SELECTED
YEARS 1869 to 1955^r

Year	Number of Schools	Number of Teachers	Scholastic Population	Enrollment	Average Daily Att.
1869	63	65	5735	3474	Not Given
1878	57	57	4053	2993	914
1884	64	74	6204	3794	2604
1888	82	81	6100	3927	2800
1895	88	90	7820	5200	3700
1900	97	112	8258	5557	3270
1905	80	114	8585	6298	3725
1910	80	113	7874	6596	4542
1915	61	121	8996	7554	5461
1922	71	124		4764	3613
1925	66	122	4192	4276	2922
1930	56	122	3855	4018	3033
1935	52	137	4694	4422	3470
1940	54	185	5928	5663	4801
1945	41	169	6540	6013	4854
1950	37	209	6349	6338	5569
1955	29	210	6891	6697	5908

^rState Department of Education Annual Statistical
Reports for years indicated.

TABLE IV

LIST OF SCHOOLS OPENED FOR THE 1921-22 SCHOOL YEAR
SHOWING THE NUMBER OF TEACHERS, TOTAL ENROLLMENT,
AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE, AND LENGTH OF TERM^r

Name of School	Number of Teachers	Total Enrollment	Average Daily Attendance	Length of Term in Days
(White)				
Acme	1	33	24	100
Bethel #1	1	30	19	90
Bethel #2	1	37	26	100
Browns	1	39	28	100
Browntown	1	61	47	100
Byrd's Chapel	1	43	33	100
Cooks	1	38	28	100
Clax Gap	1	45	35	100
Compromise	1	43	37	100
Caney Ford	1	32	21	100
Crystal Springs	1	57	36	100
Dogwood	1	42	31	100
Dry Fork	1	40	32	100
Dry Hill	1	54	28	100
Elverton	1	60	36	100
Eagle Furnace	1	44	28	100
Gravel Hill #1	1	33	26	100
Gravel Hill #2	1	53	41	100
Hopewell	1	41	29	90
Johnsons	1	28	22	90
Kreis	1	45	30	100
Mount Horeb	1	31	20	90
Mount View	1	29	21	100
Maggie Hall	1	35	21	91
New Midway	1	74	49	100
Oak Hill	1	50	37	100
Ors	1	62	39	100
Oak Grove	1	53	35	100

TABLE IV (continued)

LIST OF SCHOOLS OPENED FOR THE 1921-22 SCHOOL YEAR
SHOWING THE NUMBER OF TEACHERS, TOTAL ENROLLMENT,
AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE, AND LENGTH OF TERM

Name of School	Number of Teachers	Total Enrollment	Average Daily Attendance	Length of Term in Days
Post Oak	1	40	28	100
Poplar Springs	1	47	35	100
Pleasant Hill	1	26	14	90
Ponders	1	66	34	100
Sugar Grove	1	55	41	100
Tullahoma	1	72	48	90
Tennessee	1	33	26	100
Willow Grove	1	20	15	100
Woody	1	42	27	100
(Colored)				
Bazelton	1	23	19	100
Brown's Chapel	1	26	20	100
Cedar Grove	1	31	21	90
Elverton	1	11	7	100
Emory Gap	1	35	30	100
Kingston	1	50	42	100
Oliver Springs	1	54	42	100
(White)				
Bradbury	2	81	62	100
Chamberlain	2	91	69	100
Cardiff	2	81	58	100
Cave Creek	2	75	50	100
Emory Gap	2	105	81	100
French's Grove	2	71	59	100
Glenn Alice	2	92	65	100
Lawnville	2	70	58	100
New Hope	2	63	39	100
Paint Rock	2	115	100	100

TABLE IV (continued)

LIST OF SCHOOLS OPENED FOR THE 1921-22 SCHOOL YEAR
SHOWING THE NUMBER OF TEACHERS, TOTAL ENROLLMENT,
AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE, AND LENGTH OF TERM

Name of School	Number of Teachers	Total Enrollment	Average Daily Attendance	Length of Term in Days
Pine Grove	2	131	93	100
Union	2	81	74	100
Winton's Chapel	2	53	43	100
Dyllis	3	79	65	100
Eureka	3	112	91	100
Oliver Springs	4	223	190	100
Orchard View	3	121	105	100
Pond Grove	3	129	80	100
South Harriman	6	304	222	100
Swan Pond	3	140	82	100
Wheat	3	133	116	180
(White High Schools)				
Harriman	7	144	127	180
Kingston	5	94	84	180
Rockwood	7	158	135	180
South Harriman	1	28	23	160
Wheat	4	62	51	180

^rAnnual Statistical Report, 1921-22, Superintendent
Roane County Schools Office, Kingston, Tennessee.

TABLE V

LIST OF SCHOOLS SHOWING THE NUMBER OF TEACHERS, TOTAL
ENROLLMENT, AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE, AND LENGTH OF
TERM IN DAYS FOR THE 1926-27 SCHOOL YEAR^a

Name of School	Number of Teachers	Total Enrollment	Average Daily Attendance	Length of Term in Days
Elementary				
(White)				
Acme	1	34	21	160
Bethel	1	45	30	160
Caney Ford	1	35	24	155
Clax Gap	1	33	19	160
Compromise	1	28	20	160
Dogwood	1	36	24	160
Dry Fork	1	43	25	160
Dry Hill	1	32	16	140
Elverton	1	45	23	160
Eagle Furnace	1	53	30	160
Gravel Hill	1	32	12	125
Hopewell	1	38	26	160
Johnsons	1	23	16	60
Kreis	1	27	15	125
Mt. Horeb	1	36	18	160
Mt. View	1	33	18	160
New Hope	1	47	28	160
Oak Grove	1	21	13	130
Ors	1	43	20	140
Oak Hill	1	46	24	160
Ponders	1	51	24	85
Pleasant Hill	1	22	14	105
Post Oak	1	39	22	160
Poplar Springs	1	50	37	160
Sugar Grove	1	43	19	160
Shady Grove	1	39	24	160
Tennessee	1	23	17	155

TABLE V (continued)

LIST OF SCHOOLS SHOWING THE NUMBER OF TEACHERS, TOTAL
ENROLLMENT, AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE, AND LENGTH OF
TERM IN DAYS FOR THE 1926-27 SCHOOL YEAR

Name of School	Number of Teachers	Total Enrollment	Average Daily Attendance	Length of Term in Days
Tennessee Chapel	1	51	24	160
Bradbury	2	57	45	160
Cave Creek	2	60	40	160
Cardiff	2	81	56	160
Chamberlain	2	127	65	160
Dyllis	2	84	50	160
Emory	2	53	35	160
Glen Alice	2	91	56	160
Lawnville	2	73	45	160
Maggie Hall	2	100	50	160
New Midway	2	63	39	160
Pine Grove	2	82	58	160
Pond Grove	2	84	53	160
Tullahoma	2	67	46	160
Union	2	72	45	160
Winton's Chapel	2	73	46	160
Eureka	3	102	79	160
Fairview	5	166	102	160
Orchard View	3	101	72	160
Paint Rock	4	130	84	160
South Harriman	15	468	313	160
Swan Pond	3	132	74	160
Wheat	5	135	95	160
(Colored)				
Bazelton	1	25	19	140
Brown's Chapel	1	26	21	160
Cedar Grove	1	18	15	60
Emory Gap	1	32	25	160
Kingston	1	39	37	160

TABLE V (continued)

LIST OF SCHOOLS SHOWING THE NUMBER OF TEACHERS, TOTAL
ENROLLMENT, AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE, AND LENGTH OF
TERM IN DAYS FOR THE 1926-27 SCHOOL YEAR

Name of School	Number of Teachers	Total Enrollment	Average Daily Attendance	Length of Term in Days
High Schools				
(White)				
Fairview	1	17	15	180
Paint Rock	1	19	16	180
Harriman	7	142	114	180
Roane County	5	87	71	180
Oliver Springs	5	92	76	180
Rockwood	9	156	135	180
South Harriman	2	43	35	180
Wheat	4	54	50	180

^aAnnual Statistical Report, 1926-27, Office of Roane
County Superintendent of Schools, Kingston, Tennessee.

TABLE VI

LIST OF SCHOOLS SHOWING NUMBER OF TEACHERS,
TOTAL ENROLLMENT, AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE,
AND LENGTH OF TERM IN DAYS FOR THE
1936-1937 SCHOOL YEAR^a

Name of School	Number of Teachers	Total Enrollment	Average Daily Attendance	Length of Term in Days
Acme	1	31	24	160
Beech Grove	1	27	20	160
Cave Creek	1	48	38	160
Clax Gap	1	38	23	160
Compromise	1	24	12	160
Dogwood	1	23	14	160
Dry Fork	1	19	15	160
Dry Hill	1	36	21	160
Eagle Furnace	1	30	23	160
Elverton	1	57	31	160
Gravel Hill	1	48	27	160
Hopewell	1	29	20	160
Johnson's	1	38	19	160
Mount View	1	34	18	160
New Hope	1	37	25	160
Oak Grove	1	28	18	160
Poplar Springs	1	44	36	160
Post Oak	1	35	19	160
Shady Grove	1	29	20	160
Sugar Grove	1	43	24	160
Tennessee	1	43	26	160
Bradbury	2	43	35	160
Cardiff	2	62	50	160
Chamberlain	2	77	51	160
Dyllis	2	57	42	160
Emory	2	99	70	160
Glenn Alice	2	73	48	160
Lawnville	2	72	49	160
Pond Grove	2	57	40	160
Union	2	62	43	160

TABLE VI (continued)

LIST OF SCHOOLS SHOWING NUMBER OF TEACHERS,
TOTAL ENROLLMENT, AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE,
AND LENGTH OF TERM IN DAYS FOR THE
1936-1937 SCHOOL YEAR

Name of School	Number of Teachers	Total Enrollment	Average Daily Attendance	Length of Term in Days
Winton's Chapel	2	55	42	160
Eureka	3	118	107	160
Fairview	6	172	134	160
Kingston	11	522	394	160
Mary Crabtree	3	115	76	160
Oliver Springs	6	281	211	160
Orchard View	3	92	66	160
Paint Rock	7	309	229	160
Rockwood	21	851	664	160
South Harriman	16	695	545	160
Wheat	7	306	203	160
(Colored)				
Bazelton	1	36	31	160
Cedar Grove	1	22	19	160
Elverton	1	23	15	160
Oliver Springs	1	38	32	160
Kingston	2	72	63	160
Rockwood	3	94	79	160
(High Schools)				
Fairview		42	37	180
Paint Rock		44	37	180
South Harriman		62	46	180
Harriman	9	214	193	180
Oliver Springs		125	106	180
Roane County		167	137	180
Rockwood		195	167	180
Wheat	1	74	68	180

TABLE VI (continued)

LIST OF SCHOOLS SHOWING NUMBER OF TEACHERS,
TOTAL ENROLLMENT, AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE,
AND LENGTH OF TERM IN DAYS FOR THE
1936-1937 SCHOOL YEAR

Name of School	Number of Teachers	Total Enrollment	Average Daily Attendance	Length of Term in Days
Rockwood Colored	1	20	16	180

^aAnnual Statistical Report 1936-37, Office of Superintendent of Roane County Schools, Kingston, Tennessee.

TABLE VII

LIST OF SCHOOLS FOR THE 1946-47 SCHOOL YEAR SHOWING THE
 NUMBER OF TEACHERS, TOTAL ENROLLMENT, AVERAGE DAILY
 ATTENDANCE, AND LENGTH OF TERM FOR WHITE AND
 COLORED ELEMENTARY AND HIGH SCHOOLS^{1a}

Name of School	Number of Teachers	Total Enrollment	Average Daily Attendance	Length of Term in Days
(White Elementary)				
Cardiff	1	43	29	160
Clax Gap	1	28	25	160
Dogwood	1	29	23	160
Dry Hill	1	27	30	160
Dry Fork	1	42	31	160
Elverton	1	46	33	160
New Hope	1	24	19	160
Oak Grove	1	29	22	160
Poplar Springs	1	29	25	160
Post Oak	1	28	21	160
Shady Grove	1	24	18	160
Sugar Grove	1	24	20	160
Tennessee	1	33	19	160
Union	1	46	33	160
Bradbury	2	98	70	160
Cave Creek	2	54	46	160
Dyllis	3	93	73	160
Emory	5	199	165	160
Eureka	4	138	114	160
Fairview	5	162	127	160
Glenn Alice	3	117	92	160
Kingston	15	607	480	160
Lawnville	3	97	76	160
Oliver Springs	10	377	302	160
Orchard View	4	108	79	160
Paint Rock	8	347	258	160
Pond Grove	3	104	81	160

TABLE VII (continued)

LIST OF SCHOOLS FOR THE 1946-47 SCHOOL YEAR SHOWING THE
NUMBER OF TEACHERS, TOTAL ENROLLMENT, AVERAGE DAILY
ATTENDANCE, AND LENGTH OF TERM FOR WHITE AND
COLORED ELEMENTARY AND HIGH SCHOOLS

Name of School	Number of Teachers	Total Enrollment	Average Daily Attendance	Length of Term of Days
Rockwood	25	920	755	160
South Harriman	22	887	711	160
(White High Schools)				
Fairview	2	36	29	180
Paint Rock	2	30	28	180
Oliver Springs	7	199	175	180
Roane County	8	206	175	180
Rockwood	10	251	212	180
South Harriman	6	128	109	180
(Colored Elementary)				
Bazelton	1	28	28	160
Emory Gap	1	18	18	160
Kingston	1	20	18	160
Rockwood	3	83	76	160

R^a Annual Statistical Report, 1946-47, Superintendent of
Roane County Schools Office, Kingston, Tennessee.

TABLE VIII

LIST OF SCHOOLS FOR THE 1956-57 SCHOOL YEAR SHOWING THE
NUMBER OF TEACHERS, TOTAL ENROLLMENT, AVERAGE DAILY
ATTENDANCE AND LENGTH OF TERM FOR WHITE AND
COLORED, ELEMENTARY AND HIGH SCHOOLS^r

Name of School	Number of Teachers	Total Enrollment	Average Daily Attendance	Length of Term in Days
(White Elementary)				
Dogwood	1	12	10	180
Dry Fork	1	32	28	180
Post Oak	1	18	16	180
Bradbury	2	74	50	180
Cave Creek	2	50	43	180
Clax Gap	2	60	48	180
Elverton	2	50	44	180
Cherokee	10	377	316	180
Dyllis	5	163	140	180
Edgewood	8	284	237	180
Emory	5	187	146	180
Emory Heights	7	240	208	180
Eureka	4	134	109	180
Fairmont	6	210	170	180
Fairview	6	226	178	180
Glenn Alice	3	104	90	180
Kingston	16	583	500	180
Kingston Jr.	10	293	265	180
Midtown	9	342	262	180
Oliver Springs	15	522	435	180
Orchard View	5	175	146	180
Paint Rock	10	337	287	180
Pond Grove	5	190	141	180
South Harriman	17	581	502	180
(White High Schools)				
Midway	7	167	145	180
Oliver Springs	17	447	371	180

TABLE VIII (continued)

LIST OF SCHOOLS FOR THE 1956-57 SCHOOL YEAR SHOWING THE
NUMBER OF TEACHERS, TOTAL ENROLLMENT, AVERAGE DAILY
ATTENDANCE AND LENGTH OF TERM FOR WHITE AND
COLORED, ELEMENTARY AND HIGH SCHOOLS

Name of School	Number of Teachers	Total Enrollment	Average Daily Attendance	Length of Term in Days
Roane County	17	473	406	180
South Harriman	14	371	334	180
(Colored Elementary)				
Bazelton	1	24	24	180
Emory Gap	1	21	17	180
Kingston	2	45	39	180

^rAnnual Statistical Report, 1956-57, Office of Superintendent of Schools, Kingston, Tennessee.

High Schools

According to the dictionary a high school is composed of those grades above the elementary and below the college level. Examination of various local and state records indicates a rather loose use of the term, high school. Sometimes in early days it meant a school in which Latin and Greek was taught.

In 1891 the state legislature passed a law classifying schools as primary or secondary.² This law declared any school having grades above the fifth, and giving instruction in certain additional subjects, to be a secondary school. These schools were often called high schools. In 1899 an act of the state legislature authorized county courts to establish and maintain county high schools.³ Since the act was permissive and not mandatory, the Roane County Court did not immediately take action to establish a high school. Delayed action came in 1905 when the Roane County High School was established at Kingston.

The action which established the first county high school was, in all probability, brought about by two important events which occurred outside the county. First, the state superintendent of public instruction, Seymour A.

²Acts of Tennessee, 1891, Chapter 49.

³Ibid., 1899, Chapter 279.

Mynders, and Professor P. P. Claxton, Head of the Department of Education of the University of Tennessee, organized a systematic campaign for better schools. Rallies were held in all counties of the state. The resolutions approved at every one of the meetings included a state appropriation for high schools. Second, a high school was established at Farragut in near-by Knox County.⁴

The members of the Roane County Court, no doubt, concluded that, since the state would, in all probability, levy a tax for high schools, and Roane Countians would have to pay it, they would have to establish a high school if the county were to share in the state funds for high schools.

In 1908 the second county high school was established in the Wheat Community, which is in the northeastern part of the county.

Other high school now in operation in addition to the two already mentioned are: Harriman, South Harriman, Rockwood, Oliver Springs, Fairview, Paint Rock, Campbell, and Midway.

Below is a brief sketch of each of the high schools that has been organized in Roane County.

Roane County High School

The school which is now Roane County High School

⁴Charles William Dabney, Universal Education in the South, Vol. II (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1936), p. 364-5.

started as the Rittenhouse Academy in 1822. Some time before the turn of the century the property of the academy was transferred to the county school board for public school use. Whether or not academic, secondary or high school level work was offered at the school continuously has not been ascertained, because records of the school were destroyed by fire in 1917. In 1905 the Roane County Court officially declared the school to be a county high school and named it Roane County High School. Since that time the school has operated continuously. It is now the largest high school in the county system and has an enrollment of about 500.

Wheat High School

The school that was to become Wheat High School began as Poplar Creek Seminary whose history was presented in Chapter III. The seminary became Roane College after a few years of operation. The college, which began operation in 1886, continued to function until 1908. In that year the school was made a part of the county system and re-named Wheat High School. The school continued to operate until 1944 when it was abandoned because the United States Government acquired the area in which it was located for the use of the United States Army, and later the Atomic Energy Commission in the production of atomic energy.

Harriman High School

This school has always been a part of the Harriman City School System. Shortly after the city school was organized, in the early 1890's, some high school work was offered. In 1899 the city council levied a high school tax.⁵ As early as 1902 the tenth grade was taught in the school. From the above facts it is clear that the Harriman High School began during the 1890's, although it was not recognized by the state, due to the wording of the high school laws which recognized only county high schools. Beginning in 1922, the Harriman High School was reported by the county superintendent of schools as a county high school in order that it might receive state recognition. This was beneficial in two ways. First, a small amount of state financial aid was received; and more important, the graduates of the school received state high school diplomas. This arrangement continued for a number of years until state law recognized city high schools; however, during this time the control, operation, and maintenance of the school remained a function of the Harriman Board of Education.⁶

Rockwood High School

This school was established as a part of the Rockwood

⁵City of Harriman, General Ordinance #135, dated October 16, 1899.

⁶Statement made by J. F. Brittain, Superintendent of Roane County Schools, 1921 to 1956.

City School System. As a city high school it was not recognized by the state. In order to obtain state recognition the Rockwood High School was reported as a county high school by the county superintendent of schools. As in the case of Harriman, mentioned above, the Rockwood High School was first recognized as a state approved high school in 1922. In 1935, by special act of the state legislature, Rockwood High School became officially a part of the Roane County School System. This relationship continued until 1953 when another special act of the legislature made the school independent of the county system.⁷

South Harriman High School

This school was the third county high school to be created by the Roane County Court. The resolution which created the South Harriman High School was passed November 1, 1915, and it became effective January 1, 1916.⁸ At first the school had only one teacher and about twenty-five pupils. For a number of years the enrollment was barely enough to keep the school open. For at least one year the school did not operate because of insufficient enrollment. The school held its first graduation exercises in 1928. In recent years the enrollment of the school has increased rapidly. During

⁷Acts of Tennessee, 1935, Chapter 603.

⁸Minutes of the Roane County Court, Book K-2, p. 472.

the 1957-58 term about 250 were enrolled.⁹

Oliver Springs High School

This school was organized and opened in 1925.¹⁰ At this time the Oliver Springs City Schools were independent of the county school system. However, as in the case of Harriman and Rockwood, and for the same reason, the Oliver Springs High School was reported as a county high school by the county superintendent of schools. In 1935, by special act of the state legislature, the Oliver Springs Independent School District was dissolved and the schools therein became a part of the Roane County School System. Oliver Springs High School has grown rapidly in recent years. It is now the second largest high school in the county system. The present enrollment of the school is more than 400.¹¹

Fairview High School

This school was organized during the late 1920's as a two-year or junior high school.¹² The school was located about six miles south of Kingston. There never was an enrollment large enough to justify making the school a four-

⁹Annual Statistical Reports, Office of Roane County Superintendent of Schools, Kingston, Tennessee.

¹⁰Records in the Office of the Roane County Superintendent of Schools, Kingston, Tennessee.

¹¹Ibid.

¹²Ibid.

year high school. At the end of the 1946-47 school year the school was discontinued because a new four-year high school was to be established and opened nearby the next year.

Paint Rock High School

This school, like Fairview, was organized during the late 1920's as a two-year or junior high school. The enrollment was never sufficient to justify making the school into a four-year high school. This school and Fairview, mentioned above were separated by a distance of only six miles. Since the location of a four-year high school at either Fairview or Paint Rock would not have been acceptable to the patrons of the other school, the school board selected a new school site, located about equidistant from both schools, and built a new school plant to provide for the attendance area served by the two schools. Accordingly, the school board discontinued the Paint Rock High School at the same time that it discontinued the Fairview High School, and opened the new school in September 1947.¹³

Midway High School

This school, the last county high school to be established in Roane County to date, was opened in 1947. The school is located about nine miles southeast of Kingston.

¹³Records in the Office of the Roane County Superintendent of Schools, Kingston, Tennessee.

The Midway High School was established to serve the area formerly served by the Paint Rock, Fairview, and Roane County High Schools. Midway is the only rural high school in Roane County. The enrollment of the school, which was about ninety the first year of operation, has increased to about 160 at the present time.

Campbell High School

This school was organized by the City of Rockwood for negro pupils. After the entire Rockwood City School System became a part of the county system in 1935, the Campbell High School became a state-approved high school. From its beginning Campbell High has served the high school needs of negroes not only for Rockwood but also all of Roane and parts of adjoining counties. Since the negro population of the area served by the school is not large, the enrollment of the school has never been very high. The present enrollment is somewhat under one hundred. In 1953 the school again became a city school along with the other schools within the city limits of Rockwood.

Physical Facilities

During the Nineteenth Century portion of the period between 1873 and 1958 Roane County had a considerable number of log schoolhouses. All of the log and most of the other

schoolhouses were one-room structures. By 1910 the log schoolhouse had disappeared but as late as 1922 almost two-thirds of all the school buildings contained only one room. Frame buildings have been predominant in number throughout most of the period treated in this chapter. In fact, only during the last ten or twelve years have brick or other permanent type buildings outnumbered the frame buildings. In 1922 there were only four brick buildings in the county and two of them were built by the cities of Rockwood and Harriman.

Beginning in the 1920's, the school board adopted the policy of erecting only permanent-type buildings. That policy has remained unchanged to the present time. Also beginning in the 1920's the school board began to provide building space for other than classroom activities, such as libraries, laboratories, shops, and gymnasium-auditoriums. During the short period from 1926 to 1929 six auditorium-gymnasiums were built. Others have been added since to bring the total number of such structures to thirteen.

Another service for which space has been provided is the hot lunch program. Since 1949 lunchrooms have been added to existing buildings and included in the plans for new buildings at 13 school centers. In other schools, where existing space was available it was remodeled to provide adequate lunchroom facilities. Thus lunchroom facilities have been provided for almost all schools in the county.

School buildings in the county today are, for the most part, modern and adequate. However, there are still a number of centers where additional building space is needed. The construction of several new gymnasiums and a few modern buildings to replace older structures would leave little to be desired in the way of buildings for the school system.

Table number X shows the number and type of school buildings in Roane County for selected years from 1888 to 1955.

Any statement about school furniture, supplies, and equipment previous to the 1920's would be mere conjecture or inference since no records concerning these things are extant. From personal observation it may be stated that since about 1920 furniture such as desks, chairs, and tables have been sufficient in number and of good quality; and necessary supplies have been adequate most of the time. On the other hand, equipment, especially the larger more expensive pieces, has not been adequate.

TABLE IX

NUMBER OF HIGH SCHOOLS, NUMBER OF TEACHERS,
ENROLLMENT, AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE, AND
NUMBER OF GRADUATE, 1910 to 1950^a

Year	Number of Schools	Number of Teachers	Enrollment	Average Daily Attendance	Number of Graduates
1910	2	5	118	95	11
1912	2	7	152	111	11
1914	2	9	102	83	5
1916	2	2	83	74	--
1918	3	11	102	85	17
1920	3	8	335	280	49
1922	5	24	486	420	--
1924	5	26	495	404	--
1926	7	30	602	498	--
1928	8	34	666	550	91
1930	8	40	695	591	89
1932	8	41	804	646	127
1934	8	34	828	716	104
1936	9	42	889	763	125
1938	9	48	957	849	144
1940	9	51	1039	927	162
1942	9	53	1059	948	183
1944	7	45	933	780	118

TABLE IX (continued)

NUMBER OF HIGH SCHOOLS, NUMBER OF TEACHERS,
ENROLLMENT, AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE, AND
NUMBER OF GRADUATES, 1910 to 1950

Year	Number of Schools	Number of Teachers	Enrollment	Average Daily Attendance	Number of Graduates
1946	7	39	866	726	135
1948	6	44	948	846	162
1950	6	48	1197	1052	173

^aState Department of Education Reports, 1910-1950.

TABLE X

NUMBER AND TYPE OF SCHOOLHOUSES IN ROANE
COUNTY FOR SELECTED YEARS
1878-1958^a

Year	Number and Kind of Construction			Total
	Log	Frame	Brick	
1878	28	17	1	46
1884	18	30	1	49
1888	30	45	2	77
1892	10	74	2	86
1895	10	65	2	77
1900	6	70	2	78
1905	3	73	2	78
1910	0	84	2	86
1915	0	58	2	60
1920	0	68	1	69
1925	0	55	5	60
1930	0	43	9	52
1935	0	35	9	44
1940	0	36	14	50
1945	0	34	14	48
1950	0	28	21	49
1955	0	6	24	30
1958	0	4	25	29

^aAnnual Reports, State Department of Education,
Nashville, Tennessee, for years indicated.

CHAPTER VI

CONSOLIDATION AND TRANSPORTATION

School administrators, parents, and all good citizens are ever interested in improving schools. Among the many ideas and plans for improving schools consolidation ranks high. This is true because consolidation offers the pupil greater opportunities and the taxpayer more for his money.

Charles William Dabney in his comprehensive treatment of education in the south has this to say: "Without question the most important way of improving rural education was, and is, through consolidating the little isolated country schools into larger and more effective units."¹

Authorities are in general agreement that for consolidation to succeed some means of transportation must be used to get pupils who live a considerable distance away to the school center. For example, Fred B. Frazier, State Elementary School Inspector, in his report for 1911-1912 made this comment on transportation: "The proper consolidation of schools necessitates the use of transportation of pupils by means of public conveyance It is now perfectly clear that this method must be adopted in order

¹Charles William Dabney, Universal Education in the South, Vol. II (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press), p. 230.

to obtain the best results in consolidating schools
...²

In 1913 the state legislature authorized county boards of education to consolidate schools and to provide from available school funds for transportation of pupils who lived two and one half miles or more from school.³

The first effort to consolidate schools in Roane County was made during the school year immediately following the passage of this legislative act. The plan which was put into effect by Mr. E. B. Booth, Superintendent of Roane County Schools, was called the Preferential School Plan. According to Mr. Booth a preferential school was a school center with approximately a three mile radius. There on a plot of three or four acres a good three or four room building was erected. The length of the school term at this center was made eight months while the term of other smaller schools was only four or five months.⁴

Concerning Mr. Booth's Preferential School Plan, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Samuel H. Thompson made this comment in his biennial report for 1913-1914:

²Biennial Report of State Superintendent of Public Instruction, 1911-1912, Nashville, Tennessee.

³Acts of Tennessee, 1913, Chap. IV, p. 7.

⁴E. B. Booth, in his Report to State Superintendent of Public Instruction, 1916.

". . . Superintendent E. B. Booth of Roane County is the first to establish preferential schools. He has fifteen in his county The establishment of such schools has done much to stimulate educational interest in rural communities in Roane County"5

Transportation of pupils was not included in Superintendent Booth's Preferential School Plan. The fact that it was not, probably accounts for the failure of the plan. Table III which gives the number of schools in the county for selected years shows statistically that the preferential school plan for consolidation did not succeed. The table shows only 61 schools for the 1914-15 school year; yet six years later it shows 71 schools.

The next move toward consolidation was made in 1923. The plan was to get one successful consolidated school in operation and extend consolidation to other communities as desire for it grew. The site chosen for the first consolidate school is now known as the Fairview Community. There during 1922-23 a modern brick building was erected. The next year transportation from two adjoining communities was provided. From that small beginning at one school with one bus - a truck with a body built locally - the present number

⁵Biennial Report of State Superintendent of Public Instruction, 1913-1914, Nashville, Tennessee.

of fifteen consolidated schools and a fleet of almost fifty modern buses has developed. Today transportation is provided to almost every school in the county. In 1922 there were 44 one-teacher, 13 two-teacher, and 8 elementary schools with three or more teachers in the county. In 1957 there were 5 one-teacher, 5 two-teacher, and 17 elementary schools with three or more teachers in the county.⁶ These data show something of the success of consolidation in the Roane County School System. Tables IV, V, VI, and VII and VIII show the gradual increase in the number of consolidated schools from 1922 to 1957.

Much credit for the success of consolidation and transportation in the Roane County School System is due to the patience and untiring efforts of Mr. J. F. Brittain, who served as county superintendent of Roane County Schools from 1921 to 1956. According to Mr. Brittain, consolidation was not effected without opposition and many times it was impossible to convince the patrons in a community from which the little one-teacher school was to be removed, that the consolidated school would be better. The arguments most often advanced by opponents of consolidation were that the community would be weakened by the loss of its school, that travel time and distance away from home would be harder on

⁶Annual Statistical Reports, 1922 and 1957, Office of the Roane County Superintendent of Schools, Kingston, Tennessee.

the children, and that the work offered by the consolidated school would be no better than that in the local school. Mr. Brittain further stated that consolidation was effected in many cases only by putting it on a trial basis in which the affected patrons were promised a return of their small community school if they were not satisfied with the new arrangement. And in some cases the small school had to be re-opened.

Transportation

As indicated earlier in this chapter transportation is a necessary part of most successful plans for consolidation. Transportation may well be the most important single factor in any plan for consolidation. Whether or not transportation for their children is acceptable to parents depends upon a number of things. Among the things which concern parents are vehicles, drivers, and the cost, which the parent as a taxpayer must pay. Transportation of pupils in the Roane County Schools has been accepted, and is successful, because school authorities have been ever mindful of the things mentioned above.

Vehicles

Motor trucks have been used almost exclusively for transportation of pupils in Roane County Schools. A few

wagons have been used for short periods of time when roads were impassible for trucks. During the early years of transportation almost any kind of truck and bus body would meet legal and regulatory requirements for school buses. When the state began to give financial aid to counties for transportation it also began to make regulations for vehicles used for transportation of pupils. These regulations have been steadily made more stringent until today they are concerned with every part of the vehicle which affects the safety and comfort of the passengers.⁷ Since the beginning of school transportation in Roane County the school board has required all vehicles used for transportation to pass all legal and regulatory requirements in force at the time.

The first vehicle used for transportation of pupils in Roane County was county owned. After this initial venture, the school board decided to provide transportation by contract with individuals who would use their own vehicles. This policy was changed a few years later to provide for county ownership of the bus bodies. Beginning about 1935 the board decided in favor of county ownership and county maintenance of transportation equipment. By 1940 the board owned most of the school buses in use and it was providing maintenance service for all buses in use. During the past

⁷Rules, Regulations and Minimum Standards, Part V, Tennessee State Board of Education, Nashville, Tennessee, 1955, p. 82-103.

school year the school board owned, operated, and maintained 46 buses. There are still two privately owned buses which operate on a contractual basis. These privately owned buses are permitted to continue operation to make possible, at the owner's discretion, the accommodation of civic and religious groups which often request the school board to provide a school bus for transportation to recreational outings. Because of insurance restrictions, the board cannot allow the use of county owned school buses for recreational use outside the county.

School Bus Drivers

The school bus driver is the most important person in the school transportation system. He should be mature, alert, courteous, and co-operative. The driver should be physically fit and meet all other mental and technical requirements.

Roane County has been fortunate in having good school bus drivers throughout the years that pupil transportation has been provided. This is undoubtedly due to the fact that drivers have generally been selected on the basis of qualifications rather than for political or other undesirable reasons. No school bus in Roane County has ever been involved in a fatal accident and no child riding a school bus has ever been seriously injured. This is remarkable when the number of years and miles buses have operated in all kind

of weather and all kind of roads, the number of buses, and the number of drivers are considered.

Cost of Transportation

Another important aspect of pupil transportation is its cost. In spite of the many variable factors involved in the cost of transportation, the cost per pupil per month in Roane County has not varied widely. During the period when transportation was provided by contracts with individuals who owned their vehicles the cost was somewhat higher than it has been since most of the vehicles are county owned.

Table XI contains data concerning transportation for the years it has been provided for pupils in the Roane County Schools. The number of buses operated is shown for each year that buses have been operated except the first year during which time only one bus was operated on a trial basis for less than a full year. The average number of pupils transported daily is given for those years for which figures are readily available. Cost per pupil per month is given when available.

The above account is substantially as it was told by former county superintendent of schools, J. F. Brittain during an interview in July 1958.

TABLE XI

NUMBER OF SCHOOL BUSES USED, AVERAGE NUMBER OF
PUPILS TRANSPORTED DAILY, AND COST PER PUPIL
PER MONTH 1924 to 1957^a

Year	Number of Buses Used	Average Number of Pupils Trans- ported Daily	Cost per Pupil Per Month
1924	3	110	\$1.50
1925	3	103	1.72
1926	4	155	1.75
1927	6	190	2.58
1928	12	404	3.05
1929	17	715	2.30
1930	21	845	2.75
1931	24	981	2.66
1932	27	1018	2.09
1933	27	978	2.05
1934	27	1106	1.76
1935	28	1208	1.67
1936	30	1613	1.56
1937	28	1700	1.58
1938	29	1736	1.20
1939	31	2048	1.38
1940	29	2262	1.19
1941	27	2169	1.16
1942	28	2249	1.10
1943	27	1943	1.36
1944	22	1894	1.87
1945	22	2264	1.90
1946	22	2161	1.65
1947	25	2330	1.90
1952	37	3146	1.94
1957	47	4024	2.32

^aRecords in the Office of Roane County Superintendent of Schools, Kingston, Tennessee, for years indicated.

CHAPTER VII

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Independent school districts are established by acts of the state legislature for the purpose of operating schools in the specified area. The legislature has consistently required independent school districts to levy a tax exclusively for school purposes, in addition to county and state levies, on the assessed valuation of the property within the district. This special levy for school purposes is characteristic of all independent school districts and indicates that the intent of the legislature has been to make it possible for the people of an independent school district to finance school in the district at a more liberal level than would be provided by county and state school tax levies. Examination of the acts of Tennessee from the time Tennessee became a state to the present time revealed that the legislature has created or established independent school districts freely for the total number has been perhaps a thousand.

Several independent school districts have been established in Roane County. Some of these independent school districts were established under provisions in city charters while others were established by private acts of the state legislature. The Caney Ford, East Fork, and Oliver Springs

independent school districts were established by private acts of the state legislature. The independent school districts of Harriman, Rockwood, and Kingston were established under provisions in the charter of each city. Following is a brief sketch of each of the above named independent school districts.

Caney Ford

This independent school district was established by private act of the state legislature which was passed April 6, 1905.¹ The district, located on the north side of the Tennessee River a few miles below Kingston in a rural section of the county, included part of the first and fifth civil districts. No record of the organization and operation of a school in the district has been found.

East Fork

This independent school district was established by a private act of the legislature in 1903.² The district was formed from part of Anderson and Roane Counties. The Roane County portion of the district lay along the north eastern border of the county. No record of the functioning of this independent school district has been found.

¹Acts of Tennessee, 1905, Chapter 284.

²Ibid., 1903, Chapter 451.

Harriman

The organization of the Harriman City Schools as an independent system was authorized by the city charter.³ Shortly after the city was chartered in 1890 the Harriman School System was established by city ordinance.⁴ Schools have been in operation continuously since the system was established, and the enrollment has steadily increased until it is now about two thousand. For a number of years the Harriman High School was reported as a county high school on the county superintendent's annual report to the state department of education. This was by agreement between the Harriman and Roane County Boards of Education. This agreement placed the control and operation of the high school within the responsibility of the city board of education.

Kingston

The school located in Kingston became independent of the county school system in 1897 under a provision of the city's charter.⁵ The schools of Kingston, with the exception of Roane County High School which was never a part of the city system, continued to operate as an independent

³Acts of Tennessee, 1891, Chapter 49.

⁴Minutes of the Harriman City Council, 1892, General Ordinance #33.

⁵Acts of Tennessee, 1897, Chapter 315.

system until 1935 when they became a part of the county school system.

Oliver Springs

The independent school district of Oliver Springs was established by a private act of the state legislature in 1899.⁶ This act was amended in 1909 to give the town of Oliver Springs authority to levy a school tax and to elect a school board to work in co-operation with the directors of the independent school district of Oliver Springs.⁷ Under the provisions of the above mentioned acts the schools in Oliver Springs were operated as an independent system until 1935 when a private act of the state legislature made them a part of the Roane County School System.⁸ The Oliver Springs High School, as was the case with Harriman, was reported by the county superintendent as a county high school to the state department of education.

Rockwood

The organization of the Rockwood City Schools was authorized by sections ten and eleven of the city charter.⁹

⁶Ibid., 1899, Chapter 180.

⁷Ibid., 1909, Chapter 431.

⁸Ibid., 1935, Chapter 685.

⁹Ibid., 1903, Chapter 327.

From 1903 the date of the city charter until 1935 the Rockwood Schools were operated as an independent system. From 1935 to 1953 the Rockwood Schools were a part of the Roane County School System under provisions of a private act of the state legislature.¹⁰ In 1953 the Rockwood schools again became an independent school system as provided for in a special act of the state legislature passed in 1953.¹¹

¹⁰Ibid., 1935, Chapter 603.

¹¹Ibid., 1953, Chapter 56.

CHAPTER VIII

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The purpose in this study was to search out from original records and other sources data and information concerning the development of education in Roane County, Tennessee, and to organize these data into a logical account of past educational activity.

No claim to completeness is made for this study. For much of the period covered in this study few or no records were found. The persons who acted as school officials probably did not consider the keeping of records important.

The preceding chapters have presented the problem, its background, and available information and data concerning various aspects of it.

Roane County was for many years primarily an agricultural area. The Tennessee Valley Authority has had much to do with recent changes that have occurred in the county. Much of the best farm land in the county was inundated by the Watt's Bar Dam. This inundation caused many of the people who had been engaged in farming to turn to industrial occupations. As a result the county has changed from an agricultural to an industrial area.

Academies existed in Roane County from shortly after it was established by the state legislature in 1801 to about

1910. The academies filled an important educational need. They passed out of existence only when the public high school superseded them.

Public schools in Roane County developed slowly until after the Civil War. This slow development was due to two principal causes: The first, was the idea that public, or free schools, were only for those children whose parents could not pay for their education in a subscription school or an academy. The second was the unwillingness of the people to tax themselves for the support of the public schools.

Following the Civil War the idea of public schools for all was gradually accepted. Taxation for public schools in Roane County began in 1871, and has been continuous to the present time.

Early schools in Roane County were almost all one-teacher schools. Not much effort was made to combine the one-teacher schools into larger consolidated schools until about 1914. The first real effort at consolidation called the preferential school plan, failed because it did not include transportation for pupils who lived too far from a school to walk. The second effort to consolidate schools began about 1924. The plan which included transportation has been successful. The the present time very few pupils in the county attend small one or two-teacher schools.

There have been a number of independent school districts established in Roane County. At the present time

Harriman and Rockwood are the only independent school districts in the county.

The data which have been presented in this study indicate: first, that schools of some kind have existed in Roane County since its establishment in 1801 to the present time; second, that the number and size of the schools have varied considerably throughout the period of their existence; and third, that the willingness of the people to support public schools varied considerably from time to time.

The following recommendations are based upon present educational conditions in Roane County. The independent or city school districts should be eliminated and the level of support of schools in the county school system should be as high or higher than that now maintained anywhere in the county. The local tax levy for the support of schools should be brought to a level commensurate with the increased cost of operating the schools. The smaller schools of less than six teachers should be eliminated as rapidly as possible. School centers should be established in the most appropriate locations without reference to city or independent district lines. High school centers should be established of sufficient size to serve adequately pupils who are living in a changing social and economic world.

The data in this study together with the above recommendations should be considered candidly by those persons whose duty it will be to plan the future development and improvement of education in Roane County.

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