

May 1951

To the Graduate Council:

I am submitting herewith a thesis written by Cecil Ward entitled "A History of Education in Harlan County." 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.

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A HISTORY OF EDUCATION IN HARLAN COUNTY

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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

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by

Cecil Ward

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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this study is to give a brief history of education in Harlan County, Kentucky from the earliest period to the present. This study is important because it will provide the people of Harlan County who are interested in education an account of the development and progress of education in their county. It will give the writer, and other interested persons an insight into the conditions of the schools, past and present. To some people it will be the organization of many important facts showing the development and progress of the schools.

The Development of elementary and secondary education, and of private, church and state schools in the county is considered.

#### Procedure

The writer began by examining all available historical data on Harlan County.

Information about certain periods isn't available, because no records were kept and some records were misplaced or lost. Some valuable sources of information are available.

The principal sources of information were the library of the University of Tennessee, the library of George Peabody



College For Teachers, private libraries of various people and the library of the University of Kentucky, the records in the County Court Minute books, and the records in the offices of the County Superintendent of Schools, City Superintendent of Schools, and records in the attendance office provided valuable information. Some data was obtained from the Harlan Daily Enterprise and from interviews with various citizens of the county.

### Organization

In Chapter II, a brief historical and geographical sketch of Harlan County will be given. This chapter will discuss the time when Harlan County was settled and formed.

Chapter III will discuss the historical development of elementary education in Harlan County from its beginning to the present.

Chapter IV, the development of secondary education will be discussed. In this chapter a history of church, private and state secondary schools will be considered.

Chapter V will discuss institutes and normal schools. This chapter will show the type of training of the teacher of the early schools.

Chapter VI gives a discussion of the present day education in Harlan County. This chapter presents a picture of

both the elementary and secondary schools. Emphasis is placed on the following: buildings and grounds, libraries, extra-curricular activities, length of term, qualifications of teachers, work of supervisors, administration of school system, financing the school program, program of instruction, improving the instructional program.

Chapter VII presents the trends in the development of education in Harlan County.

A summary and conclusion will be presented in Chapter VIII.



## CHAPTER II

### HISTORICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND OF HARLAN COUNTY

Harlan County was organized as a county in 1819 from territory then part of the area of Floyd and Knox Counties by an act of the State Legislature. The county was named for Major Lilas Harlan, a native of Berkley County Virginia, who had come to Kentucky in 1774 before it became a state. He had been active in the Indian Wars.

The early years of the history of the county were spent in building log houses, clearing small farms and in growing crops for local use.<sup>1</sup>

Before the coming of the railroad in 1910, Harlan County was almost completely isolated from the outside world. It is true that some dirt roads had been built to Hagon, Virginia, and to Pineville, Kentucky.<sup>2</sup> Teamsters would take wagons over these roads to sell produce collected at the county stores and bring back supplies.

Under such isolation, this area was self-supporting

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<sup>1</sup>John Detson, Secie Background and a Changing Education in Harlan County (Nashville, Tennessee: George Peabody College for Teachers, 1943), p. 10-11.

<sup>2</sup>Loc cit.



to a very large degree. Up to about the time of the Civil War, hogs were driven to markets at Lynchburg, Virginia and Lexington, Kentucky.

Industrial development in Harlan County was rapid. In the decade following the coming of the railroad, 1910 to 1920, the population increased from 10,566 to 31,546. Almost overnight mountaineers accustomed to a self-supporting agricultural economy were transformed into an industrial economy, where the medium of exchange was no longer produce but money.<sup>3</sup>

There were a few slaves in Harlan County prior to the Civil War, ranging in number from 108 in 1820 to 135 in 1830 and down to 127 in 1860.

Table 1, page 6 shows the population of Harlan County from 1820 to 1950. It shows that the number of slaves began to increase after 1820 and there were no slaves in 1870. It shows that the total population of Harlan County increased from 1880 to 1940.<sup>4</sup>

The entire county was originally covered with dense

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<sup>3</sup>John Dotson, Socio Background and Changing Education in Harlan County (Nashville, Tennessee: Peabody College for Teachers, 1943), p. 10-11.

<sup>4</sup>Bureau of School Service, Public Education of Harlan County (Kentucky: University of Kentucky, 1947).



TABLE I

## POPULATION OF HARLAN COUNTY 1820 - 1950

| Date | Slaves | Population |
|------|--------|------------|
| 1820 | 108    | 1,961      |
| 1830 | 135    | 2,928      |
| 1840 | 130    | 3,015      |
| 1850 | 125    | 4,268      |
| 1860 | 127    | 5,494      |
| 1870 | 0      | 4,415      |
| 1880 | 0      | 5,278      |
| 1890 | 0      | 6,197      |
| 1900 | 0      | 9,838      |
| 1910 | 0      | 10,566     |
| 1920 | 0      | 31,546     |
| 1930 | 0      | 64,557     |
| 1940 | 0      | 75,275     |
| 1950 | 0      | 72,235     |

Source: Bureau of School Service, Public Education in Harlan County (Lexington: University of Kentucky, 1947).

forest of valuable virgin timber, although this source has been greatly depleted through improper cutting and forest fires, a large part of the county remains in forest, and lumber still provides an important source of income.

Dr. Clark Bailey, County Schools Superintendent James A. Cawood, and George Ward, Secretary of the Harlan County Coal Operators Association gave a brief History of Harlan County as follows:<sup>5</sup>

The first permanent settlement in the county was begun by Carr Bailey and his two sons-in-law and their families on a hillside overlooking what is now Everts. This was in the 1790's. Dr. Bailey, former Superintendent of Schools in Harlan was a descendant of that family.

The first white settler in what is now the City of Harlan was Samuel Howard, then spelled "Hord" who settled under the cliff near the present "Y" in 1796.

A granddaughter of Carr Bailey, Nancy Turner, was the first white child whose birth was recorded in the county. She later married John Cawood and they made their home in the settlement which now is known as Cawood.

From the Civil War period until World War I, Harlan County was undiscovered by the outside world. From 1918 until 1930, the County schools faced enormous problems. The County Board of Education and its Superintendent, A. G. Jones, were unable to meet the cost of construction of school house needs in all mining camps.

Most of the coal companies built school

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<sup>5</sup>Harlan Daily Enterprise (Kentucky), March 24, 1951

buildings, which still are in use, without cost to the board. The companies did not charge for the coal used in the buildings, Cawood quoted Jones, who was Superintendent for sixteen years during this time.

The history of education and of the Presbyterian Church coincided in the county. This school was established at Evarts primarily for a secondary school. Later Elementary Pupils were enrolled. Evarts High School was an out growth of this Academy. In 1892, the American Missionary Society established what was known as the Black Mountain Academy, an undenominational school.

The first City School in Harlan was located on Second Street, with Joe Ball as Principal. Later the school was moved to what is now Cumberland Avenue, and then, in the early part of the century, to its present site of Harlan High School.

The Harlan Academy, supported by the Presbyterian Church, was built in 1894. Pine Mountain Settlement School was developed from one man's craving. Uncle William Creech gave one hundred and thirty-six acres of land to the school, to remain in its possession as long as the United States Constitution stands. Men who have served as County Superintendent are Ben Nolan, Grant Forester, Jim Forester, Wade Skidmore, W. D. Nolan, W. L. Bailey, A. C. Jones and James A. Cawood.

Ward spoke of his memories of the county before 1910.



The county had less than 10,000 people here before the railroad was built and before the great coal industry was begun.

T. J. Asher began construction of a railroad from Wasioto along the Cumberland River to his property at Tee Jay. The Louisville and Nashville Railroad Company took over there and built the line to Harlan and Cumberland. People did not realize then, according to Ward that this would lead to production of fourteen million tons of coal annually and a payroll of approximately fifty million dollars annually. A coal mining industry was not considered an industry which would support 70,000 people.

August 5, 1911 was the date of the shipment of the first car of coal from the county. Only 25,841 tons of coal were shipped at the end of that year.

It took the first World War and the post-war needs to hurry along the development of the coal industry in this county. Rapid progress was made from 1940 to 1950.

The county easily could produce fifteen million tons of coal yearly, with sufficient cars and labor, leading to an annual payroll of approximately sixty million dollars.

The county has come along steadily since 1911.

The City of Harlan is located in the Black Mountain range of Cumberland Mountains, in the extreme southeastern portion of the state of Kentucky. It is the county seat of

the county of Harlan.

The administrative organization has been slow in changing. Up to 1947, the superintendent took all the responsibility for the administrative duties. He had all the authority and tried to solve all the problems.

From 1947 to 1951 the superintendent of schools began to delegate more authority to the area principals and supervisors as is shown on page 11. At present the school organization is a cooperative affair.<sup>6</sup>

#### Present Administrative Organization of the Harlan County School System

The Superintendent. The superintendent is the chief executive officer of the Board of Education. All members of the staff carry on their duties under his direction. He is appointed by the County Board of Education and serves for a term of four years.

The Assistant Superintendent. The assistant superintendent works directly under the superintendent. He serves as a clearing house for reports from subordinate officers. He keeps the superintendent informed of the progress and needs of all departments.

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<sup>6</sup>Bureau of School Service, Public Education in Harlan County (Lexington: University of Kentucky, 1947) p. 28.

Principals. The principals of the larger schools are area principals, each one administratively responsible for all schools within his area.

Assistant Principals. An assistant principal is designated for each large school. He relieves the area principal of many of the details of administration and allows him to devote most of his time to supervision and administration affairs. Under this plan every teacher in the county have the leadership of a principal and convenient centers for faculty meetings.

This plan results in more efficient administration and supervision of Harlan County School System.

Elementary Principals. An Elementary Principal is designated for each elementary school. All the elementary principals teach except in two schools. These two schools have more than ten teachers.

Educational Objectives of Harlan County School.

1. Development of sound health practices and strong, healthy individual
2. Provisions of opportunities for creative expression:
  - (a) Growth in ability to meet life situations in ways that are new to the individual, and

- (b) Increase drive on the part of the individual for creative expression.

### 3. Development of Civic Competence

- a. Education for Citizenship
- b. Experiences in Democratic living

### Division of Instruction and Administrative Services

The division of instruction coordinates the work of supervision, aids supervisors, helping teachers, principals and teachers in their efforts to improve instruction. The director of this division is under the assistant superintendent.

Under the direction of the division of instruction are all elementary high school supervisors, all helping teachers, the coordinators of the area trade schools and of distributive education, and a materials bureau which cares for the distribution of free text books.

The director of the division of administrative services reports directly to the assistant superintendent. The department of Census and Attendance and the department of Business Affairs are under this division.

Harlan County is located in the mountain area of Kentucky in the extreme southeastern part of the state. The county is rectangular in shape with a length from east to west of approximately thirty miles and a width from north to



south of about fifteen miles. The county has a total area of 469 square miles and ranks seventeenth in size in the state.

Pine Mountain extends the entire length of the county along the northern boundary and covers about one-fifth of the total area of the county. This section of the county is very rugged, undeveloped and sparsely populated. The Cumberland Mountains extend the entire length of the county along the southern boundary. Two spurs of this mountain range cover large portions of the county. Thus the county consists of an alternation of steep ridges and narrow valleys. Three small streams flow between the ridges in the eastern half of the county uniting near the town of Harlan to form the Upper Cumberland River. Only in the narrow flood plains of rivers and creeks is there any semilevel land.<sup>7</sup>

The principal natural resources of Harlan County is coal. Almost all of the land is underlain with coal seams ranging in thickness from a few inches to about five feet. All of the coal is bituminous and almost all of it has a high commercial value because of its high B.T.U. rating

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<sup>7</sup>Ibid., p. 1.

and low ash content.

The rich coal fields in Harlan County were undeveloped before 1910. The chief sources of income of the inhabitants of the county were farming and logging. Since most of the land is poorly adapted to agriculture, farming was on a small scale. Today only a small percentage of the population depends upon farming for a living. The narrow flood plains of the Cumberland River and the creeks are still very fertile and productive.

Thus Harlan County holds an enviable position in the state in its possession of natural resources. The county produces over twenty percent of the total amount of coal mined in the state---nearly twice as much as any other county. Since 1930, the rate of production has varied from year to year, but the annual average has been well above 10,000,000 tons. The value of the coal alone insures the county a relatively high rank in terms of natural wealth.

### Occupations

Before 1910 no Harlan County residents were engaged in coal mining as a full-time occupation. By 1940, the number of persons so engaged had risen to 12,614. This figure represented two-thirds of the 19,809 gainfully employed persons of the county. The important place which coal mining holds in relation to other types of employment

TABLE II  
EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF HARLAN COUNTY RESIDENTS, 1940

| Industry in which Employed                                                                             | Number | Employed |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|----------|
|                                                                                                        | Male   | Female   |
| Coal Mining                                                                                            | 12,580 | 34       |
| Agriculture, Finance and Real Estate                                                                   | 995    | 116      |
| Professional and Related Service,<br>Natural Gas Production and Public<br>Emergency Work               | 756    | 806      |
| Retail trade (except food and dairy<br>products, motor vehicles, accessories,<br>and filling station). | 485    | 197      |
| Domestic Services and Automobile Storage                                                               | 160    | 571      |
| Railroads and Motor Vehicles                                                                           | 585    | 56       |
| Food and Dairy Products, Trucking Service,<br>Sawmills and Planing Mills and Construction              | 1,214  | 63       |
| Eating and Drinking Places and Amusement                                                               | 188    | 148      |
| Hotels and Lodging Places and Amusement                                                                | 92     | 190      |
| Wholesale Trade and Laundry                                                                            | 267    | 61       |
| Logging, Quarries, Forestry and Fishing                                                                | 223    | 1        |
| Government, Personal Service and<br>Communication                                                      | 242    | 126      |
| Manufacturing, Business and Printing                                                                   | 212    | 14       |
| Seeking Work                                                                                           | 1,782  | 689      |
| Industry Not Reported                                                                                  | 257    | 54       |
| Total Gainfully Employed                                                                               | 17,839 | 1,970    |

Source: Bureau of School Service, Public Education in  
Harlan County (Lexington: University of Kentucky, 1947).

is shown in Table II page 15.

Almost every citizen of the county is economically dependent, directly or indirectly, upon coal mining. When the mines are operating at capacity, business and service establishments prosper. When the mines are closed, almost everyone suffers.

All of the people of the county are interested in maintaining a high rate of coal production. Every citizen also has a legitimate interest in the allocation of a fair share of the income from coal to the maintenance of essential social services and modern standards of living.

#### Retail Sales

According to the United States Census Report for 1940, Harlan County ranks sixth in the state in retail sales. On the basis of per capita sales, Harlan ranks above all of its neighboring counties, but is surpassed by such counties as Jefferson, Fayette, and Kenton, which have large trading centers within their borders. The relatively high position of the county in per capita retail sales is a further indication that Harlan is not an economically poor county.

Previous to 1910, the community of Harlan was known as Mount Pleasant. In that year, the name Harlan appears for the first time in the United States Census Report and the population is listed as 657. This early village of

Mount Pleasant was founded by settlers from Virginia about the time Harlan County was established in 1819.

The chief industrial asset of the county and village in 1819 was lumber.

Building of Louisville and Nashville railroad in 1911, furnished a means of transportation of coal. Harlan became a geographical and commercial center of a great coal mining industry. "Boom days" began which lasted until 1928 and 1929. Harlan now ranks fifth in population and eighth in wealth.

From 1910-1920 the population grew from 657 to 2,647 and from 1920 to 1930 it grew from 2,647 to 4,377 according to the census. In 1950, it was 4,345. The schools of Harlan have shown a growth corresponding to growth and development of the entire community and county.

Geographically, Harlan is located in the valleys, and flats of three creeks, Martins Fork, Peer Fork, and Clover Fork which unite near the city limits to form the historic Cumberland River. The City and its suburban districts are surrounded by the mountains, which arise abruptly from the narrow valleys and provide natural barriers against the geographical expansion of the community.

#### Summary

Harlan County was organized in 1819. It was named



for Major Silas Harlan. Previous to 1910, this county was an agricultural section. Since 1910 it has been largely Industrial.

The present Administrative Organization of Harlan County Schools is a cooperative affair. Authority is delegated to Administrators.

The population of the County has grown from 1,961 in 1820 to 72,235 in 1950.

This county produces over twenty percent of the total amount of coal mined.

The county is located in the mountain area in the extreme southeastern part of the state.

The schools of Harlan, the county seat, have shown a growth corresponding to the growth of the entire community.

## CHAPTER III

### ELEMENTARY EDUCATION IN HARLAN COUNTY

1820-1951

In Chapter II we saw how the early settlers earned a living, where they came from and when Harlan was settled. A brief historical and geographical sketch of the county was presented. In this chapter an attempt will be made to show the establishment of the early schools and trace their development from the earliest period to the present.

#### Education Previous to 1840

Little is known about school life in the pioneer days of Harlan County. In 1830 there were 841 children from the ages of five to fifteen years, sixty-four of whom attended the three schools in the county.

#### Education 1840-1890

The number of schools had increased to forty-nine by 1889, seventeen with terms of five months and thirty-two with terms of months.<sup>1</sup> The average monthly salary for teachers in 1880 was \$21.71. Forty-seven of these forty-nine school buildings were log and two frame. All the teachers were men. The total value of these buildings was

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<sup>1</sup>Records from County Superintendent's Annual Report, (Frankfort, Kentucky).

\$2,060. There were no libraries, no private schools, no academies and no high schools in the county at this time.

In 1836, Federal Aid was secured. Kentucky received \$1,423,757. In 1838 the interest of \$850,000 was set aside for education.

Commissioners were appointed by the Superintendent from 1838 to 1848. No report of Harlan County was given from 1838 to 1845. The Commissioners held institutes.

#### Certification of Early Teachers

Previous to 1852, the people of Harlan County thought any one could teach school. No certification was required of the teachers. In 1852, the first certificates were issued upon oral examination.<sup>2</sup> Even then, a person who could spell a few simple words was issued a certificate. Later a written examination was required. In 1864 certificates were issued as first and second class.<sup>3</sup> Finally in 1914, the certificates were not only classified but graded.

By 1850 the common schools were fully established.

In 1869, a definite course of study and a list of

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<sup>2</sup>Act of the General Assembly, 1851-1852.

<sup>3</sup>Act of the General Assembly, 1864.

the textbooks to be used were available to all the County Superintendents.

Table III shows that all schools were three months terms before 1880. It shows the increase in attendance from 66 in 1845 to 2070 in 1890.

In 1890, a new constitution was adopted in Kentucky which provided that "The General Assembly shall by proper legislation provide for an efficient system of common schools throughout the state."<sup>4</sup>

In 1890 there were 54 teachers in Harlan County, 10 holding first class certificates, 15 holding second class certificates and 30 holding third class certificates. By 1910 there were 63 teachers, 23 holding first class certificates, 38 second class and 2 third class. In 1935 there were 202 elementary teachers, 40 college graduates above two years and 87 with less than two years. In 1947 there were 315 elementary teachers, 13 with more than four years of college, 45 with four years of college, 42 with three to four years of college.

#### Elementary Education in Harlan County 1890-1951

By 1890 there were fifty-one public schools in Harlan County and one private school. These were taught in forty

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<sup>4</sup>Kentucky Constitution, 1890--Section 183.

TABLE III

A COMPARISON OF NUMBER OF MONTHS TAUGHT  
AND ATTENDANCE OF THE COUNTY SCHOOL

| Year | No. of Months | Attendance |
|------|---------------|------------|
| 1845 | No Report     | 66         |
| 1850 | 2½-3          | 498        |
| 1855 | 3             | 536        |
| 1860 | 3             | 567        |
| 1865 | 3             | 436        |
| 1870 | 3             | 502        |
| 1875 | 3             | No Report  |
| 1880 | 3-4           | 577        |
| 1885 | 3-4           | No Report  |
| 1890 | 3-4-5         | 2070       |

Source: Bureau of School Service, A History of Public Education in Kentucky (Lexington: University of Kentucky, 1942).

three log houses and nine frame houses, having a total value of \$3,440. No teacher was a graduate of a normal school. There were 2,213 children enrolled in school. The County Superintendent was paid three hundred dollars (\$300) a year. The following year there were fifty-five schools, thirty-two with five months, six with four months and seventeen with three months. In 1910 there were fifty-seven schools in the county, ten log and forty-seven frame.<sup>5</sup> These buildings were valued at \$30,000, with equipment valued at \$2000. There were no school libraries. The average monthly salary was \$51.00 for men and \$38.00 for women. Three women teachers had attended a State Normal School or State University. One man was a college graduate. The total enrollment was 3,352 with 2,265 enrolled in grades one and two.

The authentic source of information concerning the establishment of the first public school in the City of Harlan is the first and original Minute book of the first board of school trustees in Harlan. This book is on file in the office of the Superintendent of City Schools, Harlan, Kentucky. Quoting from the Minute book page 10 concerning the first meeting of the board of trustees, we read as

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<sup>5</sup>John A. Dotson, Socio Background and Changing Education in Harlan County (Nashville, Tennessee: George Peabody College for Teachers, 1943), p. 88.



follows:

Harlan, Kentucky March 31, 1911. At a meeting of the duly elected Trustees of the Harlan Grade Common School District No. 1, this day called and held in the town of Harlan, at the Office of the County Superintendent by W. L. Bailey, County Superintendent of Harlan County, for the purpose of organizing a Grade School in Harlan, Kentucky, at which the following trustees were present: John B. Lewis, W. W. Eager, M. R. Howard and Dr. W. P. Cawood.<sup>6</sup>

By order of the above trustees the school was designated as "The Harlan Graded Common School." At the next meeting of the trustees, a tax rate of 20 cents per \$100.00 was levied on all property for the support of the school. The school district was laid out and these boundaries remain unchanged except in minor instances. This first common school of Harlan employed four teachers to direct and teach all grades, and such high school subjects as were offered. School quarters were rented until 1913.<sup>7</sup>

After 1910 the Harlan City School System began to grow rapidly. New buildings were erected and more hired. In 1950 the city school system had an enrollment of 1,600 students. There were more than 30 teachers in this school system.

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<sup>6</sup>Records of Harlan County Minute Book of City Board of School Trustees, 1911, p. 10.

<sup>7</sup>Bureau of School Service, A History of Public Education in Kentucky (Lexington: University of Kentucky, 1942).

Superintendents. A few of the superintendents in the Harlan City School System are as follows: Paul Meek, H. L. Henderson and Forrester Sharpe.

Trustees. From 1878 to 1908 Harlan County had trustees. Then sub-district trustees was adopted. These trustees did the hiring and firing of the teachers. Oral examinations were given to the teachers by these trustees. They visited the school and made reports to the Commissioner and later to the superintendent as to what were the conditions of the schools.<sup>8</sup>

The County Board of Education began in 1908. In 1921 the Superintendent was appointed by the County Board of Education.

Table IV gives the names of the superintendents in Harlan County from 1885 to 1951 and the range in salary. It shows that the salary increased from \$375 a year in 1885 to \$4,800 a year in 1951.<sup>9</sup>

### Colored Schools

The growth of colored schools in Harlan County has

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<sup>8</sup>Paul Meek, Fall and Spring Status of Harlan Elementary School Pupils (Knoxville, The University of Tennessee, 1934).

<sup>9</sup>State Department of Education, State Superintendents Annual and Biannual Reports, 1860-1950.

TABLE IV

**NAMES OF SUPERINTENDENTS IN HARLAN COUNTY AND  
THE RANGE IN THEIR SALARY 1885-1951**

| <b>Year</b>                 | <b>Name of Superintendent</b> | <b>Annual Salary</b> |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1885-1886                   | A. B. Cornett                 | \$375                |
| 1886-1887                   | Carter C. Howard              | \$375                |
| 1887-1890                   | J. S. Forrester               | \$375                |
| 1890-1894                   | B. F. Helen                   | \$500                |
| June 1894-September<br>1894 | T. H. Howard                  | No Report            |
| 1894-1898                   | J. S. Forrester               | \$500                |
| 1898-1899                   | J. S. Forrester               | \$500                |
| 1899-1902                   | W. D. Helen                   | \$500                |
| 1902-1905                   | Wade Skidmore                 | \$600                |
| 1905-1910                   | W. J. R. Howard               | \$700                |
| 1910-1918                   | W. L. Bailey                  | \$1200               |
| 1918-1934                   | A. C. Jones                   | \$3,895.76           |
| 1934-                       | James A. Cawood               | \$4,800              |

Source: State Department of Education, State Superintendents Annual and Biannual Reports, 186-1950.

been slow. In 1890 there were two colored schools with an enrollment of seventy. In 1934 there were 13 schools with an enrollment of 1,044. In 1950 the enrollment had increased to 1,296. The colored schools are located at the following places: Benham, Lynch, Harlan, Closplint, Verda, Shields, Louellen, Kildav, Cexten, Tway, Liggett, Yancy and Chevrolet.

### Cawood School

The Cawood School had its beginning down under the Hill where Finley Day's home is now built. It was a one room school with many windows and two doors. Some of the teachers that taught in this school were Miss Haynes, Miss Hill, Joe Cawood and John Cawood.

Later the school was moved to the hill which is now a little village. In the year 1928, Cawood School consisted of two separate buildings with five classrooms. James A Cawood, who is now the County School Superintendent was the Principal of this little school. The two buildings were connected and three more classrooms were added. Cawood kept growing at a rapid pace. Jess Mays of Barbourville served as Principal of Cawood School with eight teachers.

Forester Sharp, now Harlan High School Superintendent, Charles Chumley, Charles Steele, John Burkhart, Ted Poe, Edward Cawood, Everett Hopper, Virgil McGlamary, Paul Carter

and John Ellis have been principals of Cawood School.

When the parents and teachers felt the need of a larger school, it was obtained by the Superintendent and the County Board of Education with the aid of the Federal Government. A brick building was constructed and the old wooden addition was remodeled. In 1945 this building costing \$90,000 was burned by an unknown origin.

The County Board of Education has rebuilt in place of the ruins, the most modern building in the state of Kentucky. It is valued at over \$100,000. It consists of twelve classrooms, rest rooms for boys and rest rooms for girls, office, bookroom, lunchroom, auditorium and kitchen. The kitchen has all electric appliances such as electric stoves, dishwasher and refrigerators. The building is also equipped with a public address system and fire alarm in the office.

The school was named for one of our most honored settlers, Hiram C. Cawood. He served on our school board faithfully until the end.

The school has over 650 children enrolled. An old building on the outside has been brick sided, painted on the inside and used as a classroom. The auditorium stage is used as a classroom.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>10</sup>Cawood Faculty, Cawood School Annual (Louisville, Kentucky, May 1949).

In 1947 there were eighty one elementary schools in Harlan County. There were 39 one room, 13 two rooms, 8 three rooms, 5 four rooms, 5 five rooms and 10 six or more rooms.<sup>11</sup> The average monthly salary was \$158.69. The total enrollment was 12,435. Twenty-five percent of the teachers had less than two years of college. Three of these elementary schools are stone, twelve brick and fifty-six are frame.

#### Certification of teachers from 1920 to 1951

In 1920 the teachers took written examinations as they had done in the past. All applicants had to have one year of High School or Normal School.<sup>12</sup> In 1932, the examinations were eliminated. All teachers or rather new teachers needed one year of college in order to get an Elementary Certificate.<sup>13</sup> In 1934, all new teachers needed two years of college in order to get a certificate to teach in elementary schools.<sup>14</sup> Harlan County met these requirements until 1942. In 1942 was the beginning of Emergency Certificates.

In 1941, Harlan County didn't have any Emergency or permit teachers. In 1951, Harlan County has 115 emergency

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<sup>11</sup>Bureau of School Service, Public Education in Harlan County (Lexington: University of Kentucky, 1947).

<sup>12</sup>Acts of the General Assembly, 1920.

<sup>13</sup>Acts of the General Assembly, 1932.

<sup>14</sup>Acts of the General Assembly, 1934.



Some Typical Schedules  
Daily Schedule of First Grade

| <u>Time</u> | <u>Subject</u>                           |
|-------------|------------------------------------------|
| 8:00-8:15   | Devotion                                 |
| 8:15-8:35   | Reading                                  |
| 8:35-8:55   | Reading                                  |
| 8:55-9:00   | Physical Exercise                        |
| 9:00-9:10   | Number Work                              |
| 9:10-9:20   | Number Work                              |
| 9:20-9:30   | Drawing                                  |
| 9:30-9:40   | Writing                                  |
| 9:40-10:00  | Language and Health                      |
| 10:00-10:15 | Recess                                   |
| 10:15-10:30 | Word Drill                               |
| 10:30-10:45 | Word Drill                               |
| 10:45-11:00 | Reading and Seat<br>work                 |
| 11:00-11:15 | Reading and Seat<br>work                 |
| 11:15-11:30 | Songs                                    |
| 11:30-12:00 | Lunch                                    |
| 12:00-3:15  | Same subjects taught to another<br>group |

All the elementary schools have grades one through eight.

**Daily Schedule of Eighth Grade**

| <u>Time</u> | <u>Subject</u>             |
|-------------|----------------------------|
| 8:15-8:25   | Devotion                   |
| 8:25-9:20   | Reading and<br>Spelling    |
| 9:20-10:00  | Arithmetic                 |
| 10:00-10:15 | Supervised<br>Play         |
| 10:15-11:15 | Language                   |
| 11:15-11:30 | Current Events             |
| 11:30-12:30 | Lunch                      |
| 12:30-1:15  | History                    |
| 1:15-2:00   | Health                     |
| 2:00-2:15   | Supervised<br>Play         |
| 2:15-3:00   | Agriculture and<br>Science |
| 3:00-3:15   | Study                      |
| 3:15        | Dismissed                  |

teachers in elementary schools and some of whom are serving as principals of small elementary schools.

The curriculum of a large percentage of the elementary schools are rigid with very little flexibility. The days program tends to be broken up into numerous short periods. Such schedules make it difficult to do any type of teaching other than the usual textbook teaching.<sup>15</sup>

In 1947 all the elementary schools in Harlan County were increased from 7 to 9 months in length. In 1951 the schools continued their term to the same length.

### Summary

Elementary schools were slow in developing previous to 1910. Since 1910, the schools have many problems. The problem faced of housing the children has caused great concern.

In 1830 there were sixty-four children in school. In 1950 there were over 12,000.

The earliest schools were taught in log houses.

Previous to 1852 no Certification was required of the teachers.

This county had trustees from 1878 to 1908. They hired the teachers, visited the schools and made reports to the Commissioner.

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<sup>15</sup>Bureau of School Service, Public Education in Harlan County (Lexington: University of Kentucky, 1947).

In 1921, the superintendent of schools was appointed by the County Board of Education.

Colored schools have increased from two in 1890 to thirteen in 1950.

Cawood school had its beginning in a small one room house with many windows and two doors. New rooms were added until it became an eight teacher school. In 1945 this building burned. A new building costing over \$100,000 was erected in 1947.

There were eighty one elementary schools in the county in 1947.

The teachers met the state requirements for Certificates from 1930 to 1942. In 1951 there were 115 emergency teachers in the elementary schools.

The curriculum of a large percentage of the schools is rigid with very little flexibility.

The schools have improved but there is still plenty of room for improvement.

## CHAPTER IV

### SECONDARY EDUCATION IN HARLAN COUNTY

1891-1950

Chapter III, presented the establishment of the early schools and traced their development from the earliest period to the present. This Chapter will trace the development of the secondary schools from the earliest period to the present.

The early history of secondary education in Harlan County is a story of early academies. The academies were the first secondary schools in Harlan County. The high schools came later and some continued in the place where the academies had been organized.

#### Academies, Private Schools and High Schools in Harlan County from 1891-1950

The Presbyterian Church established the Harlan Academy in 1891 in Mt. Pleasant later known as Harlan. The school was discontinued in 1916. The following year a Community School was organized at Smithby the same Church. It was discontinued in 1930. The American Missionary Association of the Congregational and Christian Churches established a school on Yocums Creek about 1892. It was located at Evarts and was called Black Mountain Academy.

The present high school at Evarts is an outgrowth of the old Black Mountain Academy. The work of the academy was given up by the mission board after the coming of the railroad into Evarts in 1911. The school work continued as county work, and in 1920 the property was bought by the County Board of Education.

Benham High School. In 1920 this school had its beginning. The first class was graduated in 1924. In 1940 Benham High School, in addition to the main building, there is included a woodworking and handicraft shop, an automotive mechanic shop and a music center. The total enrollment in Benham High School in 1940-41 was 234. All of the teachers, except the teachers of woodworking and automotive mechanics were college graduates. The salaries of the teachers were higher than the Harlan County schedule and range from \$900 to \$2025.

Black Star High School and Lynch High. These schools had their beginning in 1925. they have an enrollment of 225 students in Black Star and 575 in Lynch. The coal companies at Black Star and Lynch had a part in the building of these schools. They continue to aid these schools in supplementing the teachers salaries and running club houses for the teachers.

Pine Mountain Settlement School. In 1913, Miss Ethel

de Long and Miss Katherine Pettit founded this settlement school. Pine Mountain Settlement is an endowed institution. The total funds held as of January 1, 1941, were \$336,061.63. No local group or agency had any authority in controlling its program or development. The plant consisted of twenty buildings and 335 acres of land. The facilities of the Pine Mountain Settlement School limit the enrollment of 100 boarding students. In 1942, there were twenty eight staff members. Twenty five of this group were college graduates. These without a degree were a house mother, a secretary and a bookkeeper. In 1949, this school was taken over by Berea College and the Harlan County Board of Education. The High School was discontinued in 1948. This school was made a consolidated grade school, grades 1 through 8. Four of the county grade schools were combined with the Pine Mountain Settlement School. Harlan County Board of Education hire teachers for the school. Berea College use this school as a training school. The students taking practice teaching, do their practice teaching at Pine Mountain Settlement School. The students who complete the eighth grade at this school are able to attend the school at Berea if they desire.

The Cumberland High School was initiated in 1929. In 1940-41, this school had an enrollment of 264. It has con\*



timed to grow rapidly. At present it is the second largest high school in Harlan County.<sup>1</sup>

Harlan High School. The four year senior high school in the city of Harlan was established in 1917 and was open to city and county students. For the year a total of twenty-one teachers were employed. Since 1926 this high school has been a member of the southern association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.<sup>2</sup>

Hall High School. In 1934 the owners of the property at Grays Knob gave the use of a brick commissary to the Harlan County Board of Education for a high school. A stone gymnasium was built on a vacant lot near the school in 1935. In 1939, a new building costing \$110,000 was erected near the gymnasium and the old building. In September 1940, a trade school, teaching woodwork, metal work, electricity and automotive mechanics was opened in the old commissary building. The total enrollment in Hall High School in 1940-41 was 431. All of the teachers were college graduates and each was teaching in the field of special training. The salaries of the teachers were based on the Harlan County single salary schedule and range from \$855 to \$1,500. The

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<sup>1</sup>John Detson, Socio Background and a Changing Education in Harlan County (Nashville, Tennessee: George Peabody College for Teachers, 1947), p. 147.

<sup>2</sup>Loc. cit.

school had the only public library in the area.

Wallins High School. Wallins High School had its beginning in 1937. It had an enrollment of 190 in 1940-41.

Loyal High School. Loyal High School was erected in 1939 with seventeen rooms. Another addition was completed in 1941. In 1941 all the teachers were college graduates. In this same year, the total enrollment was 703 while that of grades nine through twelve was 312.

There are nine high schools in Harlan County. Seven of these high schools are county schools and two city schools. The total enrollment in the county high schools for the year 1940-41 was 2,102.<sup>3</sup>

#### Certification of Teachers in Harlan County in 1941

Table V shows the range in training of the teachers in Harlan County in 1941. It shows that only three teachers had less than two years of college and only one below two years of college; 192 had from 2 to 4 years of college and 144 had degrees.<sup>4</sup>

In 1940-41 there was little provision made for supervisors and special subject teachers. Each school with two or more teachers had one designated as principal. Only two

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<sup>3</sup>Ibid., p. 208.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid., p. 82.

TABLE V

## COLLEGE TRAINING OF HARLAN COUNTY TEACHERS 1940-41

| Range in Amount of College Training | Year 1940-1941 |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| Below College                       | 1              |
| 0-3 Semester Hours                  | 2              |
| 32-63 Semester Hours                | 0              |
| 64-120 Semester Hours               | 192            |
| B. S. Degree and above              | 144            |

Source: John Dotson, Socio Background and a Changing Education in Harlan County (Nashville, Tennessee: George Peabody College for Teachers, 1947).

principals in the county, including high schools, do not teach. Sixty-two teach half time or more and five teach less than half time. There were two attendance officers who kept the school census, issued free books, checked teachers reports and made reports for the State Department of Education.

### Adult Education

The development of an adult education program in Harlan County has received some attention. During 1941-42, in response to the war need, and in cooperation with the Federal Government, two schools provided defense programs in automobile mechanics, welding and radio signaling. There are three mine schools for adults with a curriculum designed to help men to help men to pass the state examination for a mine foreman's certificate and to help other men become better workmen. One school has night typing classes for adults, another woodworking, and two others have home economic groups which is based on the interest of the mothers and includes such things as canning, sewing and crafts. One school has a night class in salesmanship for employed persons.

In 1946-47 the Harlan County Schools provided formal education for adults in the field of vocational training only. Vocational training is provided for veterans of World War II,

both in regular classes and on the job. The total number enrolled is around 650 but not all of these live in Harlan County; some veterans from surrounding counties, Bell, Knox and Clay are given vocational training.<sup>5</sup>

In 1942 a guidance director was employed whose duties were to supervise beginning teachers, and others who requested it, to cooperate with the Harlan County Planning Council in the annual guidance institute, to help administer a testing service designed to aid teachers and students in vocational guidance, and to work with communities on curriculum changes.

### The Curriculum

The elementary and secondary schools of Harlan County base their curricula on the state adopted course of study for rural communities although the county is almost entirely industrial, since only 5 per cent of the employed workers are engaged in agriculture.

In 1947 Harlan school system had an assistant superintendent who did some supervising in the high schools. There wasn't a guidance director in any of the high schools. Two attendance officers took care of the schools attendance reports and did some supervising in the rural schools. No

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<sup>5</sup> Records of County Superintendent's office.

high school principal did any teaching.

In 1947 the administrative organization of Harlan County School System was organized on a line and staff basis.

The superintendent of schools is indicated as the chief administrative officer, responsible directly to the board.

The position of the assistant superintendent is on the same level as that of other administrative officers, but also includes the duties of supervisor of high schools. Lines of authority and responsibility consequently do not flow from the superintendent directly through his assistant to all other educational workers. No particular person, except the superintendent is responsible for the administration of pupil transportation and for the business officers of the school system, which employs 415 teachers and spends over a million dollars annually.

Principals recommended teachers, janitors, school lunchroom managers, and substitute teachers for their schools. They were responsible for all types of extra curricular activities carried on within their schools and for the accounting of funds raised within the school and through school and community activities.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup>Bureau of School Service, Public Education in Harlan County, (Lexington: University of Kentucky, 1947).

In 1947 the enrollment in Cumberland High School had increased to 393, Benham 251, Lynch 458, Evarts 509, Harlan 413, Loyal 335, Wallins 275, Black Star 210 and Hall 465. The number of high school teachers increased to 100. Table VI shows the training of Harlan County High School Teachers. It shows that 3 teachers have less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  year college, three have 1 to 2 years college, 10 with 2 to 3 years college, 4 with 3 to 4 years, 48 with a degree, and 32 have more than 4 years. It shows that 20 or 20 per cent of the teachers are emergency teachers.

In 1947 all the high schools in Harlan County were appraised by the University of Kentucky on the basis of the following:

1. Adaptability to educational needs.
2. Safety.
3. Healthfulness.
4. Convenience.
5. Aesthetic Fitness.

The same classifications as that for sites - "Excellent", "Good", "Fair" and "Poor" was used for buildings, from the standpoint of construction, physical condition, and suitability.

Table VII shows the range of appraisal of the high schools in Harlan County. It shows that all the high schools were excellent as to the buildings, as to site one excellent,

TABLE VI

COLLEGE TRAINING OF  
HARLAN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS 1947<sup>7</sup>

| Amount of College<br>Training | Grades 9-12<br>High School Teachers |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Less than $\frac{1}{2}$ year  | 3                                   |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 year       | 0                                   |
| 1 to 2 years                  | 3                                   |
| 2 to 3 years                  | 10                                  |
| 3 to 4 years                  | 4                                   |
| 4 years (Degree)              | 48                                  |
| More than 4 years             | 32                                  |
| Total                         | 100                                 |

<sup>7</sup>Source: Bureau of School Service, Public Education in Harlan County (Lexington: University of Kentucky, 1947), p. 188.



TABLE VII

## HIGH SCHOOLS IN HARLAN COUNTY

| <u>Characteristics</u> |           |            |
|------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Site                   | Building  | Schools    |
| Fair                   | Excellent | Cumberland |
| Excellent              | Excellent | Benham     |
| Fair                   | Excellent | Evarts     |
| Fair                   | Excellent | Loyal      |
| Fair                   | Excellent | Wallins    |
| Fair                   | Excellent | Hall       |
| Good                   | Excellent | Black Star |

Source: Bureau of School Service, Public Education in Harlan County (Lexington: University of Kentucky, 1947)

one good and five fair.

The high schools of Harlan County followed the usual practice of requiring all pupils to complete certain subjects as prerequisite to graduation. The school system had not adopted a policy regarding the nature of such requirements, but had left the decision to each school. As a result, there was considerable variation in the number and kinds of subjects required. Table VIII, page 47 present the list of requirements in each high school in the county districts.

In actual practice, the variation in the subjects which all pupils must take is not so great as would appear from the statements of requirements. Most of the schools are small and have such limited offerings that no pupil can obtain the number of credits required for graduation unless he takes nearly every subject offered.

#### Central Office Supervisory Staff

The present supervisory staff of the Harlan County Schools consists of an elementary supervisor, two helping teachers and a health coordinator. In addition, the assistant superintendent serves as a part-time supervisor of high schools. The helping teachers and the health coordinator report administratively to the elementary supervisor who in turn is responsible directly to the superintendent.

TABLE VIII

REQUIRED SUBJECTS IN HARLAN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOLS  
1945-46<sup>8</sup>

| School     | <u>Subjects Required</u>                       |                                   |                                              |                                              |
|------------|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
|            | Grade 9                                        | Grade 10                          | Grade 11                                     | Grade 12                                     |
| Benham     | English<br>Health<br>Phy. Ed.                  | English<br>Health<br>Phy. Ed.     | English<br>Health<br>Phy. Ed.<br>Amer. Hist. | English<br>Health<br>Phy. Ed.<br>Amer. Gov't |
| Cumberland | English<br>Algebra<br>Gen. Sc.                 | English<br>World Hist.<br>Biology | English<br>Economics<br>Amer. Hist.          | English                                      |
| Evarts     | English<br>Gen. Sc.<br>Civics<br>Algebra       | English<br>World Hist.<br>Biology | English<br>Geometry<br>Amer. Hist.           | English<br>Sociology                         |
| Black Star | English                                        | English                           | English<br>Amer. Hist.                       | English                                      |
| Hall       | English<br>Gen. Sc.<br>Gen. Math.              | English<br>Biology<br>Algebra     | English<br>Algebra<br>World Hist.            | English<br>Geometry<br>Amer. Hist.           |
| Loyal      | English<br>Gen. Math<br>Gen. Science<br>Civics | English                           | English<br>Amer. Hist.                       | English                                      |
| Wallins    | English<br>Social<br>Studies                   | English<br>Social<br>Studies      | English<br>Social<br>Studies                 | English<br>Social<br>Studies                 |

<sup>8</sup>Source: Bureau of School Service, Public Education in Harlan County (Lexington: University of Kentucky, 1947). p.182.

A wide variety of techniques has been employed in the development of the program of supervision in Harlan County. One of the most promising of these techniques is the preschool conference which was conducted before the formal opening of school in 1946. Health education, reading, resource-use educational programs, the school library and nutrition were among the problems considered by the group.

In addition to leadership in preschool conferences and district conferences, the supervisory staff engaged in a great variety of other activities. The entire staff generally meets each Friday afternoon to formulate plans for the succeeding week. The plans include such responsibilities as visitation to individual schools and classrooms, meetings with local school faculties, arrangements for intervisitation of teachers and school faculties, and distribution occasion suggestions on specific problems, suggested units of work and illustrative art materials.<sup>9</sup>

#### Salary of High School Teachers

The average salary of high school teachers in 1945-46 was one hundred forty five dollars a month.

Harlan County opened its first high school with 6

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<sup>9</sup>Bureau of School Service, Public Education in Harlan County (Lexington: University of Kentucky, 1947), p. 191

pupils. The total enrollment of all high schools in Harlan County was 3,496.

### High School Organization

All the high schools except one have grades 1 through 12. One has grades 1 through 6, Junior high 7, 8, 9 and Senior high 10, 11, and 12.

The teachers of Harlan County High Schools are much more highly trained than the teachers in the beginning of the first high schools. During the war years, the qualifications of the teachers decreased tremendously.

### Summary

The early high schools in Harlan County were Academies. The earliest one was established in 1892.

In 1917, the first high school was established in Harlan, the county seat of Harlan County.

There were nine high schools in the county in 1950.

Adult education has received some attention. The total number enrolled in 1946 was 650.

The curriculum is based on the state adopted course of study for rural communities.

The administrative organization of Harlan County Schools in 1947 was organized in a line and staff basis.

In 1947 there were 100 high school teachers in the

county. Twenty percent of these teachers held emergency certificates.

The supervisory staff of the County Schools consists of an elementary supervisor, two helping teachers and a health coordinator.

The enrollment of the high schools has increased from 6 pupils in 1917 to 3,496 in 1951.

All the high schools except one have grades one through twelve.

The high school teachers of the county at present are much more highly trained than the teachers in the early high schools.

## CHAPTER V

### INSTITUTES AND NORMAL SCHOOLS

In Chapter IV, the development of secondary education in Harlan County was presented. This Chapter will show the important part institutes and normals played in the development of education in Harlan County.

County Institutes and Normals played an important part in the development of education in Harlan County. These Normals and Institutes gave the teachers practical training in methods of teaching and a review of subject matter.

#### Institutes and Normals

Institutes lasted a day or two while the Normals lasted from five to ten days. These Institutes and Normals were taught by local teachers or educators brought in the county to conduct the training. In some cases teachers from Harlan, Knox and Bell counties would get together and have a large Institute.

The teachers of Harlan County had no normal school for training from 1838 to 1890. The Legislature of 1869 provided for Teachers Institutes.<sup>1</sup> The fee was two dollars.

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<sup>1</sup>State Superintendents Annual and Biannual Reports (Frankfort, Kentucky: State Department of Education, 1860-1950).

The Institute was a school for teachers where common school branches were taught and where ideas and methods were presented.

The Teachers Institutes in Harlan County were well attended. In 1901 the County Superintendent stated that teachers were interested in the meetings.

These institutes were held in Harlan County once a year. At the end of the training each teacher took an examination in order to get his certificate renewed.

The County Superintendent thought these Institutes and Normals were important for teachers. A few of these Harlan County Superintendents reports are given below:

1891-1893, Harlan County, B. P. Nolan Jr., Superintendent. For the year ending June 30, 1893, schools were taught in each of the fifty white common school districts of this county, and in the two colored schools, with a better general average of attendance than any year previous. Educational interest is increasing. Teachers are making an effort to better qualify themselves, and the neglect on the part of the trustees and patrons has to a great extent, disappeared.

The people now pay the tax levied for the purpose of building a school-house readily, where but a year or so ago they paid reluctantly. So, it is hoped that within a few years there will be a comfortable and well furnished house for each district in Harlan County, and that the old log, one window, one door, backless bench, blue back speller, etc., will soon disappear.

I speak with pride of the improvement made by the teachers of this county in the last two years. I feel that in a few years they will not be surpassed by any in the state.

It is with regret that I record the destruc-



tion by fire (August 25th) of the Black Mountain Academy, which had been erected near the mouth of Yocum's Creek at a cost of \$5,000.

It was a commodious building, reared by the American Missionary Association and the citizens of that neighborhood.

The prospect for the common schools is flattering.

1895-1896 J. S. Forrester, County Superintendent, Harlan, Ky.

In addition to my statistical report, I desire to say that public sentiment in favor of the common schools is on the ascendancy in Harlan County. Some still object to what they call new methods, but, generally speaking the teachers of the County meet with no serious hindrances in applying the latest methods of instruction. I have directed my best efforts to building up a healthy public sentiment in favor of the schools and improving methods of teaching, and with the co-operation of an intelligent, wide-awake body of teachers, feel that I have succeeded admirably.

In this connection, I feel that a word is due these faithful teachers, more than half of whom spend their salaries in preparing themselves for their work. Heretofore, they have been compelled to leave the county for this purpose, some going to Williamsburg, some to Lexington, while others have gone to Tennessee. However, our young men and women may hereafter find accommodations for this purpose at our own county seat, where a handsome brick building has recently been erected at an expense of \$6,000, and a first class school opened.

Fifty-two teachers attended the County Institute 1895-96. James Ball, Harlan, Kentucky was the Institute conductor.

1899-1901 W. D. Nolen, Superintendent, Harlan County Schools.

The schools of this County are all in session, and are doing a better work than in the past year.

There are fifty-four white and two colored

districts in the county, of which forty are taught by teachers holding first-class certificates. This county now has two high schools or academies, one situated at the county seat and the other about eight miles from Harlan, at the Mouth of Yocum's Creek. The Harlan Academy is a good, brick building, and has a great corps of teachers, the normal department of which is under the supervision of Professor E. F. Disney, our most successful teacher, who is doing splendid work for the young teachers of the County. Black Mountain is a commodious frame building, and its teachers are doing a good work in educating the young men and women of the county.

We have as efficient a body of teachers as any mountain county in the state. We have about thirty good school-houses in the county, and several more under repair, and building. The Teachers Institutes and district associations the past two years, were well attended by the teachers who took a great interest in them. The parents of the county are more interested in educating their children than ever before.

1901-1903 Superintendent Wade Skidmore,  
Harlan, Kentucky.

The schools of Harlan County are all in session, having all visited by me; the work of the teachers has been found, generally, very satisfactory. There are at present over forty teachers in Harlan County holding first-class certificates.

This county has 54 white and two colored districts, with two Academies, one of the Harlan Academy, situated at Harlan, the county seat, the other at Evarts, Kentucky, about eight miles from Harlan, and known as Black Mountain Academy.

Harlan Academy is a commodious, brick structure and has a corps of efficient teachers, who are doing splendid work both for the young teachers and pupils of Harlan County.

The Harlan Academy is now under the charge of Principal A. L. Whitfield who has been employed in place of B. W. Granger, who was Principal last year, and whose death in June, 1903, was greatly lamented by the teachers and citizens of Harlan County.

Considerable progress is being made in the school work of Harlan County, and the citizens are becoming more interested in educating their children. The ability of the teachers of Harlan County is second to no mountain county in the State.

1905-1907 W. J. R. Howard, Superintendent, Harlan  
Kentucky. Harlan, Kentucky  
September 24, 1907

Hon. James H. Fuqua, Sr., Supt.  
Public Instruction  
Frankfort, Kentucky

Dear Sir:

It is a pleasure to me to report the schools of this county in a prosperous condition, with better attendance and more interest manifested than ever before. They are not what any one interested would like to have them, still we are proud of our common schools and the great and good work they are doing in this and many other counties, and look forward to the time when we may have longer terms, better salaries and more professional men and women for this great service.

Yours Very Truly,

W.J.R. Howard

1910-1911, Harlan County, W.L. Bailey, Superintendent:  
Our Institutes for the past two years has been a success and the teachers greatly benefited with Professor T.C. Nee, of Lexington as an instructor.

In 1914-1915 Teachers Institutes were held. A. R. Evans was the instructor. He received \$60.00 a year in fees for conducting these institutes.<sup>2</sup>

After 1920 no reports were given on institutes. More teachers were attending the Normal Schools at

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<sup>2</sup>Superintendents Annual Report for years indicated.

Richmond and Lexington, Kentucky.

The general plan for these institutes and normals was to give review courses in Grammar, Arithmetic, Geography and History.

At night there were speakers, musical entertainment and parties.

### Summary

Institutes and Normals were in operation in Harlan County from 1891 to 1915. They played an important part in training teachers in the county.

The County Superintendents from 1891 to 1911 thought the schools were improving. They spoke of the institutes very highly. These institutes were held annually.

The purposes of these institutes were to help the teachers review the common school branches and get an insight into new methods of teaching. Present day teachers organizations originated from these institutes.

## CHAPTER VI

### PRESENT DAY EDUCATION IN HARLAN COUNTY

Chapter V showed the importance of institutes and normals in the development of education in Harlan County. This Chapter will give a brief sketch of education in Harlan County as it is at present.

#### Administration of the Harlan County School System

The Harlan County school system is administered by a lay board of education, a superintendent of schools appointed by the board and a staff of professional workers elected by the board upon the recommendation of the superintendent.

#### Board of Education

The Board of Education of Harlan County consists of five members elected on a nonpartisan ballot at the regular November elections held in even-numbered years. One member is chosen from each of five divisions of the county for a term of four years. Two members are chosen at one election and three at the next succeeding election, so that the terms are overlapping. A candidate is placed on the ballot by means of a petition signed by not fewer than fifty legal

voters of the division and filed with the County Court Clerk not less than forty-five nor more than sixty days before the day of the election. When a vacancy occurs on the board, the other member fills it by appointing an eligible person to serve the remainder of the unexpired term.

The present Harlan County Board of Education is composed of a physician, a merchant, a farmer, a mining engineer, and a coal operator. The tenure of the present Board ranges from eleven to thirty-nine years. Only four persons, other than the present members, have served on the board since 1933.

The Harlan County Board of Education interprets its function as being that of policy formation and appraisal. Administrative functions are delegated to the superintendent and to the professional staff working under his direction and supervision.

Harlan County is served by three public school systems, one parochial elementary school. The three public school districts are the Harlan Independent School District, embracing the City of Harlan and three small adjacent communities; the Lynch Independent School District, serving the unincorporated town of Lynch; and the County School District.

Most schools of Harlan County are organized according to the 8-4 plan.

The City School of Harlan has a board of five members elected by the people.<sup>1</sup> Each member is elected for four years with two members going out of office in two years and three members going out in the next two years.

Their main duties are to set up school policies; elect teachers and adopt budgets for the schools. They also set up tax rates. The City Superintendent is elected by the Board and serves for a term of four years. Ferrester S. Sharpe is the present Superintendent of Schools.

The City Board of Education delegates authority for the execution of its policies to the superintendent of schools in reasonable accord, with modern standards of school administration and he is recognized as their chief executive. Adequate authority for the proper administration and supervision and discipline of each school is passed on to its principal by the superintendent.

#### Elementary Schools

In Harlan County, the county tax rate for the support of all schools is \$1.50. The money received in taxes is

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<sup>1</sup>Records in City Superintendent's Office.

supplemented by the state. The total expenditure for the county on education for grades one through twelve in 1949-1950 was \$1,170,140.10.<sup>2</sup>

### Buildings and Types of Schools

Table IX shows that there are eighty-one elementary schools throughout the county. Out of these eighty-one schools, sixty-six are of frame structure. Four are of cinder block and eleven of brick. Over half of these buildings are over twenty years old. There have been only four new buildings constructed in the last ten years.<sup>3</sup>

Harlan City School is composed of one central building with a large auditorium and gymnasium, four small elementary schools, a school for negroes, an athletic field and a teachers' clubhouse.

At the present time, the buildings are crowded and in need of repair.

The elementary schools in the Pine Mountain Area are inadequate in almost every respect. The sites are poor, the buildings are not well lighted or heated, and the equipment is very poor. Since a few of these schools have been con-

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<sup>2</sup>Harlan Daily Enterprise, (Kentucky), Dec. 31, 1950.

<sup>3</sup>Bureau of School Service, Public Education in Harlan County (Lexington: University of Kentucky, 1947).



TABLE IX

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BUILDINGS IN HARLAN COUNTY

| School            | Type of Building |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Chad              | Frame            |
| Coldiron          | Frame            |
| Blair             | Frame            |
| Nolansburg        | Frame            |
| Splint            | Frame            |
| Kildav            | Frame            |
| Rutherford        | Frame            |
| Cloverfork        | Frame            |
| Huff              | Frame            |
| Cloversplint      | Frame            |
| Highsplint        | Frame            |
| Shields           | Frame            |
| Dizney            | Frame            |
| Upper Jones Creek | Frame            |
| Lower Jones Creek | Frame            |
| White Star        | Frame            |
| Putney            | Frame            |
| Rosspoint         | Frame            |
| High Bank         | Frame            |

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BUILDINGS IN HARLAN COUNTY  
(Continued)

| School            | Type of Building |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Abner's Branch    | Frame            |
| Big Laurel        | Frame            |
| Creech            | Frame            |
| Divide            | Frame            |
| Green Hill        | Frame            |
| Incline           | Frame            |
| Laurel            | Frame            |
| Reuben            | Frame            |
| Salt Trace        | Frame            |
| Straight Creek    | Frame            |
| Path Fork         | Frame            |
| Kentonia          | Frame            |
| Twila             | Frame            |
| Jesse's Creek     | Frame            |
| Dixie Town        | Frame            |
| Morus             | Frame            |
| Forrester's Creek | Frame            |
| Insul             | Frame            |
| Turkey Fork       | Frame            |
| Avendale          | Frame            |

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BUILDINGS IN HARLAN COUNTY  
(Continued)

| School              | Type of Building |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Brownies Creek      | Frame            |
| Bardo               | Frame            |
| Beech Grove         | Frame            |
| Chevrolet           | Frame            |
| Cranks              | Frame            |
| Upper Cranks        | Frame            |
| Mill Creek          | Frame            |
| Elcomb              | Frame            |
| Hensley             | Frame            |
| Hurst               | Frame            |
| Johnson             | Frame            |
| Ienarue             | Frame            |
| Smith               | Frame            |
| Three Point         | Frame            |
| Little Creek        | Frame            |
| Mary Helen          | Frame            |
| Tway                | Frame            |
| Upper Hensley       | Frame            |
| Liggett             | Frame            |
| Clover Splint Negro | Frame            |

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BUILDINGS IN HARLAN COUNTY  
(Continued)**

| School            | Type of Building |
|-------------------|------------------|
| High Splint Negro | Frame            |
| Goldenash         | Frame            |
| Chevrolet Negro   | Frame            |
| Liggett Negro     | Frame            |
| Sunshine          | Frame            |
| Kitts             | Frame            |
| Redbud            | Cinder Block     |
| Black Mountain    | Cinder Block     |
| Ages              | Cinder Block     |
| Coxton            | Cinder Block     |
| Totz              | Brick            |
| Cawood            | Brick            |
| Hall              | Brick            |
| Harlan            | Brick            |
| Evarts            | Brick            |
| Cumberland        | Brick            |
| Benham            | Brick            |
| Lynch             | Brick            |

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BUILDINGS IN HARLAN COUNTY  
(Continued)

| School     | Type of Building |
|------------|------------------|
| Loyal      | Brick            |
| Wallins    | Brick            |
| Black Star | Brick            |

Source: Bureau of School Service, Public Education in Harlan County (Lexington: University of Kentucky, 1947).

solidated, some of this poor condition has been improved.

### Maintenance of Buildings

School building maintenance in the Harlan County School System presents a large problem to the administrative staff. Partially because of the shortage of manpower and materials during the way years, some of the Harlan County Schools have fallen into a deplorable state of repair.

Seventeen of the elementary school buildings are in need of repair. Twelve of these buildings are privately owned. In many instances, buildings owned by the coal and lumber companies have been neglected. In some cases, these buildings had been originally constructed to serve as Churches, and were later put to use as school buildings.

As has been indicated, the rapid increase in population in the years following the opening of the mines found the public school system unprepared to provide needed facilities. The mining companies and other private agencies constructed or converted buildings for schools. Naturally, some of the buildings were totally unsuitable for use as schools. The school officials have recognized the problems involved in private ownership of public school facilities and have been working toward a solution. In the past fourteen years, new buildings costing more than \$1,200,000

have been erected. Many of these buildings replaced structures originally erected by private concerns. The County Board of Education has acquired title to several buildings which were once owned by private companies and which will wear adequately for a number of years.

In Harlan County there are thirty-nine, one teacher elementary schools, thirteen, two teacher schools, eight, three teacher schools, five, four teachers schools, five, five teacher schools and nineteen elementary schools that have six or more teachers.

There are thirteen schools for colored pupils in Harlan County. Eleven of these schools are elementary with grades one through eight. Two are high schools, one in Benham and one in Harlan. The negro pupils are transported from various areas of the county.

#### Length of Term

All the schools of Harlan County have a school term of nine months.

#### Supervisors

There are four supervisors in the county. Two of these are women and two are men. They are college graduates and have had several years teaching experience.

The supervisory staff employs most of the usually

accepted procedures for improving the program of instruction in the schools.

Supervisors and helping teachers are considered consultants and resource individuals. The activities of these individuals are coordinated with the supervisory services of the principals. Thus county-wide supervisory personnel cooperate at all times with area principals in improving instructional programs in the various schools.<sup>4</sup>

### Libraries

All of the City elementary schools have libraries and the City of Harlan employs a City Librarian for the one in the City. Fifteen of the elementary schools in the county have a library. Seven elementary schools use the libraries in the high schools.

### High Schools

There are nine high schools in Harlan County. Five are members of Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. The high schools are located in Wallins, Loyall, Blackstar, Harlan, Evarts, Hall, Cumberland, Benham and Lynch. The principals of the high schools are as follows: Wallins; Merle Howard, Loyall; Luther Jones, Blackstar; Charles Steele, Harlan; C. H. Swafford, Evarts; Leonard

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<sup>4</sup>Records from County Superintendents Office, Dec. 1950.



Wollum, Hall; Mildred Rowland, Cumberland; Talmadge Huff, Benham; John Boyd and Lynch; H. C. Cash.

There are one hundred thirty-seven high school teachers in Harlan County. Seventy-five percent of them have completed four years of college. The average salary for high school teachers for 1949-1950 was \$180 a month. For the support of high schools, the county levies a tax which is supplemented by the state.

### Buildings

Table I shows the name of school and type of building. All the high schools are housed in brick buildings and heated with steam. The buildings are crowded. Classes are held in study halls and libraries.

The buildings of all the high schools except Hall and Evarts are used jointly with the elementary schools. Laboratory equipment and other supplies are inadequate. The schools buildings were built to take care of ninety percent of the present enrollment.

### Libraries

Each of the high schools has a library. Seven of these high schools have been improved in recent years.

The boys and girls in these seven high schools have access to a fairly adequate list of reference books and other

TABLE X

## NAME OF HIGH SCHOOL AND TYPE OF BUILDING

| School     | Type of Building |
|------------|------------------|
| Black Star | Brick            |
| Wallins    | Brick            |
| Loyall     | Brick            |
| Harlan     | Brick            |
| Evarts     | Brick            |
| Hall       | Brick            |
| Cumberland | Brick            |
| Benham     | Brick            |
| Lynch      | Brick            |

Source: Bureau of School Service, Public Education in  
Harlan County (Lexington: University of Kentucky, 1947).

works of interest.

### Extra-Curricular Activities

The pupils of the high schools take part in a great number of extra-curricular activities. Such clubs as Glee, Dramatic, 4-H add to the enjoyment and education of the pupils. All students are urged to belong to some club.

The two main sports participated in by the high school students are football and basketball. All nine of the high schools participate in football and basketball. None of the high schools have a physical education director. All have coaches and assistant coaches but they teach part of the time. The rest of their time is used in coaching.

Physical Education for all students hasn't become a reality in any of the high schools. Fewer than one-half of the pupils are engaged in supervised physical activity of any sort. In very few schools are facilities provided for indoor activity. Only a small amount of indoor equipment is available in the entire county and most of this equipment is designed and used for competitive sports. In no other important area of the curriculum are the average and below average students given so little attention. Even in the larger centers there is, except in two or three schools, no program worthy of the name of physical education. The existing program in the majority of the schools lacks,

direction and clarity of purpose. These sports are self-supporting. Only the boys take part in basketball. The schools belong to athletic leagues and play under the regulations set up by the Kentucky State Athletic Association, of which the schools are members. Other sports are provided such as soft ball, volley ball. The names of the coaches in Harlan County High Schools are as follows: Evarts, Wyatt Thurman; Hall, John Brown; Loyal, Archie Peace; Lynch, Sam Potter; Benham, Charley Davis; Cumberland, Harold Shrout; Wallins, Needham Saylor; Black Star, Earl Bradford; and Harlan, Joe Gilly.

#### Pupil Guidance

Since the Harlan County school system employs no guidance specialists, the classroom teacher has a heavy responsibility for counseling.

The overemphasis of the development of skills and academic knowledge has resulted in failure to make adequate provision for personal problems.

In the high schools of Harlan County, provisions for counseling vary greatly from school to school. In some schools, the classroom teachers are expected to provide the individual guidance. The short homeroom period provided in these schools is usually devoted to reading the Bible

and checking attendance. In some schools, teachers have a free period which they are expected to devote to individual counseling. In one school, the duty of counseling is assigned to the librarian and one other teacher. In another school, the teacher remains with a grade for two periods. In the same school, a special guidance period is provided for seniors. In another school, certain teachers are assigned groups to counsel in regard to vocational and educational plans. These teachers devote one period a day to conferences with individual pupils or groups on their plans for the future.

#### Alliance for Guidance of Rural Youth

Glynn Morris, Principal of Pine Mountain Settlement School started a Youth Guidance Institute in 1937. The purpose of this institute was to help the faculty of this school to deal with problems of the students and in that way improve their school. Consultants were brought in and phases of the school program was discussed with emphasis on pupil guidance.

In 1938 Glynn Morris asked Supt. James A. Cawood to make this institute county wide. Mr. Cawood called all the principals together and after much discussion they decided that it would be helpful.

A committee for planning the first county wide institute was appointed.<sup>5</sup>

In the years immediately preceding the war, the Harlan County schools made excellent progress toward the development of a good program of child study. Under the auspices of the Alliance for Guidance of Rural Youth, various specialists in child study and guidance came to the county as consultants. Guidance institutes held in the county were attended by many teachers and in certain instances attracted National attention. The county often was cited as an example of what could be done by schools handicapped by lack of funds and by geographic isolation.<sup>6</sup>

The Guidance Institutes sponsored by The Alliance for Guidance of Rural Youth were revived in September, 1947.

A survey of Harlan County School was made by the Bureau of School Service-University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky in 1946-47. This survey as has been indicated in this study revealed that the war and its aftermath had brought an end to much of the good work which had been started. The exodus of trained teachers from the county

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<sup>5</sup>Interview with R. H. Finchum, Superintendent, Clinton City Schools, Clinton, Tennessee, on April 3, 1951.

<sup>6</sup>Bureau of School Service, Public Education in Harlan County (Lexington: University of Kentucky, 1947).

and from the profession resulted in the discontinuance in most of the schools of the systematic effort to secure and use guidance information. Only a few schools had a coordinated program of child study. From 1947 to 1951 the institutes have been devoted to child study. Consultants have been brought in from Columbia University, University of Kentucky, State Departments of Education and various other Universities to participate in phases of the program.

During the year, the area meetings are used as a place to list the problems and discuss them. These problems are put on the agenda for clarification and discussion in the institute the following year. Some of the problems that have been discussed since this Guidance Institute was revived are as follows:

1. Keeping folders for each child.
2. What information goes in the folder, how information was collected and how to use this information.
3. Discipline-Discussions have been carried out and a number of films have been shown.
4. Guidance and its relation to the school program.
5. Use of instructional material.
6. Local, State and National resources.
7. Methods of teaching subject matter, particularly Reading.

8. Health and Physical Education Program.
9. Extra-Curricular activities.
10. Good working relations with each child.

Human and Public Relations have been the theme through the Institute.

In 1947, the seventh annual Harlan County Youth Guidance Institute was sponsored by Harlan County Board of Education, Harlan City Board, Harlan County Council of Social Agencies, Harlan County Chamber of Commerce, and Lynch Independent Schools, with the cooperation of Alliance for Guidance of Rural Youth. It was held September 29 through October 1, 1948 in Harlan City High School, Harlan, Kentucky.

#### Program for Harlan County Youth Guidance Institute

##### Wednesday, September 29

3:30 P.M. Meeting of chairmen, discussion leaders, consultants and recorders (Library-Harlan High School).

6:30 P.M. Registration (Harlan High School).

7:30 P.M. Opening General Session (Harlan High School Gymnasium).

Chairman: Mrs. Elmer Maggard, teacher; Cumberland Elementary School.

Theme: "Our Gains; Our Goals".

Invocation: Reverend Mark Andrews, First Presbyterian Church, Harlan, Kentucky.



**Music:** Peter V. Sirch, Evarts High School.

**Welcome:** For Harlan City Schools, Dr. Clark Bailey.  
 For the County Schools, Supt. James A. Cawood.  
 For Harlan County Chamber of Commerce, Dr.  
 Tracy Jones.  
 For Council of Social Agencies, Rev. C. Lynn  
 White.

**Report of Progress:** Fannie Middleton, Department of Pupil  
 Personnel, Harlan County Schools.

**Address:** "The School; Yesterday and Tomorrow", Dr. Frank G.  
 Dickey, College of Education, University of Kentucky.

**Discussion:** "New Goals", Dr. Charles R. Spain, Director,  
 Bureau of School Service, University of Kentucky (6-6 dis-  
 cussion method with entire Institute participating).

**Evaluation and Suggested Action:** Dr. Ruth Strang, Cumberland  
 University.

#### Thursday, September 30

8:45 A.M. Registration (Harlan High School).

9:00 A. M. Morning General Session (Harlan High School Gymna-  
 sium).

**Chairman:** B. B. Hedgkin, Superintendent, Kentucky State Depart-  
 ment of Education.

**Music:** Peter V. Sirch

**Theme:** "Guidance Begins with the Individual".

**Commentator:** Dr. Charles R. Stain

A. Summary of Chapter VI, Guidance, from Public Education in Harlan County, A survey report, University of Kentucky, 1947.

B. "What is Guidance?"

Dramatization of a teacher-pupil interview. This interview and what it implies will be the frame of reference for the Institute. Teachers have been urged to select a pupil for particular study during the school year and to bring to the Institute the record form provided filled out for that pupil, and problems that need solution. Ample time will be allowed for discussion of these problems. The dramatized interview and the discussion to follow have been arranged to help answer the questions raised by the teachers.

"How Can I Begin Guidance?"

C. Discussion: Dr. Charles R. Spain (6-6 Discussion method).

Evaluation and Suggested Action: Dr. Ruth Strang.

10:35 A.M. Mid-morning General Session.

Chairman B. B. Hodgkin.

Music: Peter V. Sirch.

Theme: "Clues to Better Reading".

Commentator: Mrs. Naomi Wilhoit.

A. Demonstration of the teaching of reading in a ninth grade class (Health), Dr. Ruth Strang.

B. Discussion: Mrs. Naomi Wilhoit (Leader).

C. Summary: Dr. Ruth Strang.

1:30 P. M. Afternoon General Session.

Chairman: B. B. Hodgkin.

Music: Peter V. Sirch.

Theme: "The World of Work".

Commentator: Helen Ringe, U. S. Employment Service.

A. "Vocational Guidance: Its Meaning for Us"

B. "Where does Vocational Guidance Begin?" Dramatization prepared by Harlan County Employment Office in cooperation with Harlan County Schools.

C. Discussion: Helen Ringe (Leader).

D. "Some Aspects of Vocational Adjustment", Dramatization of counseling techniques prepared by Kentucky State Employment Service in cooperation with Harlan County Schools.

E. Discussion: Helen Ringe (Leader).

Evaluation and Recommended Action: Clifford Froehlich, Specialist, Occupational and Guidance Service, U. S. Office of Education.

3:00-4:30 P. M. Group Meetings: "Guidance At Specific Points"

| <u>Group</u>                  | <u>Chairman and Recorder</u> | <u>Discussion Leader</u> |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Reading, Gr. 1-3              | Cecil Wilson                 | Naemi Wilhoit            |
| Reading, Gr. 1-3              | Carrie Fletcher              | Joyce Pritchard          |
| Reading, Gr. 4-6              | Messie Fore                  | Margaret Irwin           |
| Reading, Gr. 7-9              | Leonard Wellum               | Ruth Strang              |
| Reading, Gr. 10-12            | Rhoda Verble                 | Lucy Holliway            |
| Vocational Adjustment         | Thelma Caudill               | Helen Ringe              |
| Vocational Adjustment         | J. A. Mathews                | Viotor Shoemaker         |
| Vocational Adjustment         | (to be announced)            | L. P. Jones              |
| School Library and Guidance   | Mrs. Minnie Proffit          | Louise Galloway          |
| Health and Phy. Ed.           | Margaret Myrick              | Alice Chenowich, M.D.    |
| Health and Phy. Ed.           | Lillian Wilkerson            | C. W. Hackensmith        |
| The Home Room                 | Talmadge Huff                | J. D. Coats              |
| Guidance-Elementary Classroom | Charles Steel                | Hona Burriss             |
| Guidance, Gr. 1-12            | John Boyd                    | Clifford Froehlich       |
| Subjects as Guidance Tools    | W. R. Miracle                | Charles Spain            |
| Student Council               | Devie Jones                  | Bess Nantz               |
| School and Home               | Mildred Rowland              | J. R. Henderson          |
| Youth Roundtable              | (to be announced)            | Juanita Luck             |

These groups will seek to formulate brief, practical statements which might be regarded as the basis for increasing guidance in various phases of school life. Each school will

have as wide representation as possible in each group.

7:30 P. M. Evening General Session

Chairman: B. B. Hodgkin

Music: Peter V. Sirch

Theme: "Democracy and the Schools"

Address: Rev. Harold H. Bymann, Union Church, Berea

Discussion: Clifford Froelich (Leader) (6-6 Method)

Panel: Rev. Roscoe Douglas  
Kenvir Baptist Church

M. C. Garrett  
Harlan Daily Enterprise

Taylor Maddox  
United Mine Workers of America

Mrs. Bob Marks  
Harlan Parent-Teachers Association  
Mrs. Carrie Mayfield  
Bureau of Public Assistance

John W. Mowat  
Director of Employment Bureau, Benham

Mr. George Ward  
President, Coal Operators Association

Mrs. Johnnie Wood  
Teacher, Verda Colored School

Evaluation and Recommended Action: Dr. Ruth Strang

In 1950, the institute was devoted to mental hygiene. The emotional reactions of the child and their effect on his life were discussed.

In 1942, the superintendent of schools and his staff

saw that a number of qualified teachers were leaving the county. That fall, a workshop by the University of Kentucky was in operation in the county. This workshop was very helpful to the emergency teachers in this system. The supervisor taught a class in keeping records.

In 1945-46, Eastern State Teachers College taught some extension classes in the county.

Last year, Union College taught a few extension classes, not only helping the emergency teachers but the other teachers as well.

The county and city school system have established a city library.

A film library has been established. Audio visual aids are used throughout the county.

These means of improvements and others as indicated in the study have caused Harlan County Schools to keep abreast of the times.

#### Improvements in Harlan County Schools in 1950-51

Yancy School. Within the next few weeks, all pupils of the school will be able to use the new fountains being installed in the school. The new fountains cost nearly a thousand dollars. Each room has a clean up corner with soap, towels and mirrors; and the teachers are asking the

children to wash before lunch.

The P. T. A. has bought a refrigerator for \$236 so that children can have milk at cost. The school furnishes the milk to those who are not able to buy it.

Mrs. Ward, the camp nurse, has vaccinated practically all children for diphtheria, typhoid and smallpox. She has made several visits to the school to vaccinate the pupils. Dr. Burkhart and Mr. Ward held a clinic at the school last month with about 90 pupils receiving health examinations.

Special effort is being made on the part of the teachers to encourage the children to take care of their teeth. Daily records are being kept by the pupils to see how many brush their teeth. Several have had dental work done.

Shields. The Shields P. T. A. has raised \$400 to install water in the school.

The sixth and seventh grade pupils have painted their rooms. The second, third, fifth, seventh and eighth grade classes have purchased a new Clinical Thermometer and a medicine cabinet with first aid equipment for their rooms.

Dizney. The first grade is painting the furniture in their room, and the second grade is preparing a unit on the farm. Six film strips have been ordered for the primary grades.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup>Harlan Daily Enterprise (Kentucky), April 5, 1951.

Summary

The Harlan County Schools system is administered by a lay Board of Education and a superintendent of schools appointed by the Board. There are five members on the County Board of Education. This school board interprets its function as being that of policy formation and appraisal.

Six-six of the eighty-one elementary schools are of frame structure. Seventeen of these buildings are in need of repair.

All of the county schools have school terms of nine months.

There are thirteen schools for colored pupils in Harlan County. Two of these schools have grades one through twelve.

There are four supervisors in the county. They are considered consultants and resource individuals.

All of the high schools have libraries. Seven of these libraries have been improved in recent years.

Football and basketball are the two main sports participated in by the high school students.

Physical Education for all of the students hasn't become a reality in any of the schools.

Skills and academic knowledge are over emphasized in



the high school curriculum.

No guidance specialist is employed in the school system. The Youth Guidance Institute had its beginning in Harlan County in 1938. Through this institute, the school system developed a good program of child study. The war brought an end to much of this good work.

In service training programs have been continuous in the school system since 1942.

## CHAPTER VII

### TRENDS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATION IN HARLAN COUNTY

Reference has been made to the gradual development of elementary and secondary education in Harlan County, in response to constantly changing conditions both economic and social. Some of the trends which have been evident in elementary and secondary education include reorganization of administration, increase in school population, building program, experimenting with the program of instruction, development of a good program of child study, improving the instructional program, increasing teachers salaries, number of teachers, length of school term, number of schools, holding power of the school, adult education, informing the public, and in-service training programs.

#### Reorganization of Administration

The central administrative staff has been reorganized to relieve the superintendent of direct supervision. An assistant superintendent acts as a clearing house for the superintendent. Two service divisions work under the direction of the assistant superintendent. The Division of Administrative Service includes business affairs, maintenance and transportation.

The principals of the larger schools are area principals. They are responsible for administration of all the feeder schools. An assistant principal relieves the area principal of some of his duties. All the elementary schools have elementary principals.

The administration of all the schools is a cooperative affair.

#### Increase in School Population

The school population has increased rapidly in the past forty-one years, due to the change from an agricultural to an industrial economy. A sharper increase in enrollment may be anticipated because current indications are that the number of new families moving into the county will continue to be greater than the number moving out.

Because of the increased birth rate during the war period, the schools may expect rapid increase in enrollment in the next five years.

Increase in enrollment from 66 in 1838-39 to 15,227 in 1945-46.

#### Building Program

A building program to alleviate some of the most crowded conditions is already under way. A few buildings have had more rooms added to help the present need. Some

of the private owned school buildings have been bought and remodeled. A few club houses have been purchased, remodeled and made into school buildings.

#### Experimenting with the Program of Instruction

Providing longer periods of time for activities at the secondary level is developing in three high schools.

An effort is being made to broaden the high school curriculum.

Experimentation toward developing a core curriculum type of organization is practiced in three high schools.

#### Developing of a Program of Child Study

Harlan County Schools have made excellent progress toward the development of a good program of Child Study. Every teacher is striving to establish a satisfactory working relationship with each pupil. A systematic procedure for collecting, recording and using essential data is being devised to fit each situation.

#### Improving the Instructional Program

The director of the Division of Instruction assumes responsibility for coordination of all efforts at improving instruction.

Supervisory personnel cooperates with area principals

in improving instructional programs.

Area meetings which include group meetings and study groups are extended. All the teachers in the area are included in these meetings.

#### Increasing Teachers Salaries, Number of Teachers, Length of School Term and Number of Schools

Teachers salaries have increased from \$28 in 1838 to \$160 in 1947. The teachers have increased in number from 1 in 1838 to 415 in 1947.

The school term has increased from 2 months in 1838 to nine months in 1947. The schools have increased from 1 in 1838 to 89 in 1950.

#### Holding Power of the Secondary School

In 1925-1926, the enrollment of the secondary schools was 149. At that time, the census was about half what it was in 1945-1946. The school census in 1947 was 19,821. The enrollment of the secondary schools in 1945-46 was 1,951.

#### In-Service Training Program

In-service training programs have played an important part in the development of education in Harlan County from 1942-1951. They were held primarily for emergency teachers and new teachers. All teachers who have taken part in these programs have been helped in improving their school program

in one way or another. From 1945 to 1950, practically all teachers took part in the in-service training programs.

The number of new teachers coming in the system each year and the number of emergency teachers tend further to increase the need for continuous in-service education. These programs are being continued.

### Adult Education

The Harlan County Schools provide formal education for adults in the field of Vocational training only.

Nearly every school provides for adult participation in some educational activities. Use of school facilities by adult groups is encouraged. All of the home economic teachers work with adult groups on personal and group problems.

### Informing the Public

The trend to inform the public is increasing from time to time. Radio programs are given by different schools weekly.

Each week a large portion of one sheet of the local newspaper is devoted to news of the schools.

Lay people and professional workers are encouraged to attend the Youth Guidance Institute and participate in the program.

The people are informed of changes in the schools  
by means of the radio and newspaper.



## CHAPTER VIII

### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

It was stated in the beginning that this study is important because it brings together some of the important facts in the development of education in Harlan County.

Much of this study has been based on bits of information gathered from various sources and on personal interviews. There are several reasons why there is little information on early school history; (1) there were very few records kept on early schools in Harlan County, (2) the early newspapers have been destroyed, and (3) the early schools had school commissioners or directors and they were not required by law to keep records.

For the past four months the writer has traveled extensively in Harlan County searching for information. The writer gathered some information while teaching in the county for a period of five years from 1945 to 1950. It seems at this time about all the information available has been gathered.

The introductory Chapter of this thesis gave the procedure that was followed in making this study.

In Chapter II, a brief historical and geographical sketch of the county was given. This Chapter gives a dis-



cussion of the period when Harlan County was created. Some attention is given to these early settlers who first came to this section of the county. A sketch of the change from an agricultural to an industrial economy is given.

Chapter III gives a history of elementary education in Harlan County from its earliest beginning to the present.

Little is known about elementary education before 1836. After this date a rather clear picture can be seen of the slow growth and development of the elementary school. Some discussion is given throughout this Chapter of the qualifications of the early teachers and the increase in school population.

Secondary education is discussed in Chapter IV. A history of early secondary education in Harlan County is a history of the early Academies. There were two of these early Academies in the county. The names of these were: Black Mountain Academy and Harlan Academy. These were still in operation as late as 1910.

In 1917, the first high school in Harlan County was established and by 1930 the county had established six high schools. Today there are nine high schools in the county.

Chapter V is a discussion of institutes and normal schools. This chapter is important because it shows the type of training which early teachers received.

Chapter VI deals with the present day conditions of education in Harlan County. The elementary and secondary schools are discussed. This chapter is important because it (1) gives a picture of present day education in Harlan County and (2) it permits us to contrast present day educational conditions with any past period. A brief sketch of the Youth Guidance Institute and how it has aided in an improvement program. Other means of improvement has been presented.

In Chapter VII, trends in the development of education in Harlan County was presented. The Central Administration staff has been reorganized, the population has increased due largely to a change from an agricultural economy to an industrial, improvements have been shown in the instructional program, adult education has been provided for on a small scale, the public is being informed and in-service education is continuous in Harlan County Schools.

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