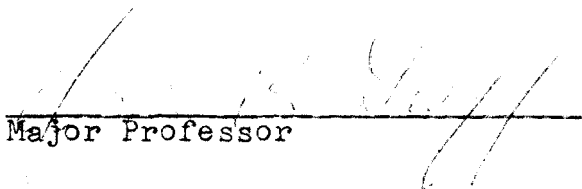


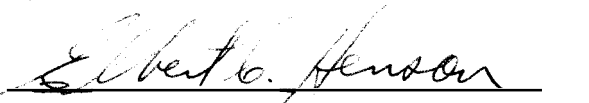
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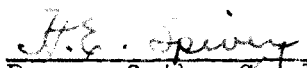
I am submitting herewith a thesis written by Thomas F. Guthrie entitled "The Development of Education in Rhea County, Tennessee." I recommend that it be accepted for nine quarter hours credit in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Science, with a major in Educational Administration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


Major Professor

We have read this thesis and
recommend its acceptance:

Accepted for the Council


Dean of the Graduate School

THE DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATION IN
RHEA COUNTY, TENNESSEE

A Thesis
Presented to
the Graduate Council of
The University of Tennessee

In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Science

by
Thomas F. Guthrie
December 1960

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This thesis reports the evolution of the Rhea County School System from 1806 to 1960. The development of education begins with the early history of the county. The study shows the rise of private schools and academies. The beginning and growth of free elementary schools and the beginning and development of secondary schools and colleges are shown.

There is no organized recorded history of education in Rhea County. There are very few early records pertaining to the development and operation of the schools in the county and those in existence are not readily available for use. As time passes, the possibility of the available information concerning the schools being lost or destroyed increases.

A. PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

Knowledge of the past is sometimes of considerable value in meeting the needs of the present; therefore, the preparation of a written history of education in Rhea County may be helpful to the educational leaders of the county.

The purpose of the study was to give a concise account of the educational development in Rhea County, Tennessee, and find facts upon which to base plans for the future. Facts related to the development of education and their relation to

the progress of the county are provided. The study includes summaries of Private Legislative Acts passed by the Tennessee Legislature and how some of the Acts affected the Rhea County School System.

B. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

The prime sources of information used in this thesis were Rhea County records found at Dayton, Tennessee, in the Register's Office, County Court Clerk's Office, Circuit Court Clerk's Office and Superintendent of Rhea County Schools' Office. The background material was obtained primarily from library sources which included the University of Tennessee, William Jennings Bryan College, Tennessee State Library and Archives, the Rhea Central High School Library, the newspaper libraries of the Dayton Herald and the Chattanooga Times, and the writer's private collection of books. In addition to this the writer held interviews with people who were familiar with the history of Rhea County. These interviews furnished information that in all probability would not have been found elsewhere.

C. IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY

The information here recorded is of importance and benefit to the teachers of Rhea County who are responsible for the teaching of the history of the county and state. It

will give the personnel in charge of school administration in Rhea County knowledge and insight into the conditions under which the Rhea County Schools have operated in the past as well as the present, and the present structure of the Rhea County School System. For other persons it will depict facts, incidents, statistics, statutes and court decisions of historical significance.

D. METHOD OF ASSEMBLING INFORMATION

Since the writer has served as a teacher in a one-room mountain school, a two-room isolated school, the largest high school in the county, Superintendent of the Rhea County School System for the past two years, and has practiced law in all the local Courts, he has been able to acquire loosely connected facts pertaining to the school system over the past twenty-two years.

The data were obtained from the sources previously mentioned by reading and personal interviews. The information collected was reduced to notes. When the notes were analyzed much of the information was discarded and the remainder organized for presentation along chronological lines.

E. LIMITATIONS OF STUDY

This study is limited by lack of availability of records and information. The development of the Rhea County

School System is the primary object of the study. Statistical data were available for county public schools only.

F. ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY BY CHAPTERS

Chapter I includes the introduction, statement of the problem, purpose of study, sources of information, methods of obtaining information, limitations of the study, and organization of the study.

Chapter II gives a brief geographical picture of the county and includes information pertaining to economic development of the county.

Chapter III presents the historical background of the area, the state, and the county. The chapter discusses the original owners of the land, when the county was settled and under what conditions, the type of people, governmental organization, and growth.

Chapter IV presents information pertaining to the first school and how the school was supported by the Federal Government and the Presbyterian Church. The history of academies is given and how the common school fund was at times used to support the academies. The chapter shows how these institutions attempted to meet the needs of the people and how they ceased to exist when the state and county accepted the responsibility of furnishing educational opportunities for all

the people. A brief account of the founding and growth of the William Jennings Bryan College, formerly William Jennings Bryan University is given also.

Chapter V presents information about public schools from their beginning to 1873. How the public school system originated, the need for public education, and attempts to provide educational opportunities are given. The attitude of some of the people toward public education is also shown.

Chapter VI shows the development of the Rhea County School System from 1873 to 1960. The chapter gives information about the general school organization, consolidation and transportation, finance, training of teachers, and some private legislation affecting the administration of public education in Rhea County

Chapter VII gives the summary and conclusions.

CHAPTER II

A GEOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF RHEA COUNTY

A. LOCATION AND BOUNDARIES

Rhea County is located on the western side of the Tennessee River in East Tennessee and is divided between what is generally called The Valley of East Tennessee and the Cumberland Tableland. That part of Rhea County located on the Cumberland Tableland is on Walden's Ridge and constitutes approximately one-third of the area of the county.¹

The county is bounded on the east by the Tennessee River which has now been converted into lakes by the Tennessee Valley Authority. The southern part of the eastern boundary is now named Chicamauga Lake which was created by the construction of the Chicamauga Dam in Hamilton County in the 1930's. The northern section of the eastern boundary is now the west shore land of Watts Bar Lake which was created by the construction of Watts Bar Dam by the Tennessee Valley Authority in the 1940's. The western boundary is located approximately in the center of Walden's Ridge.

The northern boundary of the county is White's Creek which flows eastwardly to the Tennessee River. The southern

¹History of Tennessee (East Tennessee edition; Nashville: Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1887), p. 817.

boundary line is Roaring Creek at the southwest corner of the county and thence is a surveyed line that intersects the Tennessee River on the west side immediately south of the mouth of the Hiwassee River that empties into the Tennessee River on the eastern side. The counties adjoining Rhea County are Roane, Meigs, Hamilton, Bledsoe and Cumberland.

B. TOPOGRAPHY

The Cumberland Tableland section of the county, better known as Walden's Ridge, is comparatively level and has sandy soil. The Tableland section rises to an altitude of approximately 1800 feet above sea level. The valley area of the county averages 800 feet above sea level.

The division between Walden's Ridge and the valley immediately eastward is an escarpment that extends the entire length of the county. Between the escarpment to the west and valley ridges to the east lies a narrow valley extending almost the entire length of the county. In addition to this there are a series of broken knobs or ridges to the east that separate the river valley from the remainder of the county.

Prior to the formation of Chicamauga Lake and Watts Bar Lake the eastern part of the county was a highly productive agricultural area of river bottom land. This part of the county is now covered by water which removed most of the usable agricultural land from use.

The drainage streams lead from the mountain section on the west across the county to the Tennessee River on the east. The principal streams are White's Creek, Piney River, Clear Creek and Richland Creek.

The City of Cincinnati, Ohio, owns a railroad right-of-way that runs the entire length of the county. The Cincinnati and Ohio-Texas Pacific Railroad Company operates a railroad over the right-of-way. This railroad is a part of the Southern Railway System.

United States Highway Number 27 is almost parallel with the railroad. Tennessee Highway Number 68 crosses the northern part of the county, while the southern part of the county is served by Tennessee Highway Number 30 and Tennessee Highway Number 60.

The county is served by a small privately owned airport, and a municipal airport is now being constructed by the City of Dayton.

C. AREA OF RHEA COUNTY

The county is rectangular in shape and presently is approximately thirty-five miles in length and has an average width of approximately ten and one-half miles. The total area is said to be 360 square miles.² This figure probably

²T. J. Campbell, Records of Rhea (Dayton: Rhea Publishing Company, 1940), p. 23.

includes land that is now covered by water. The land area is 335 square miles.³ The area of the county has been changed twenty-one times by Legislative Acts since the county was created in 1807.⁴

Originally Rhea County was a part of Roane County and extended from near White's Creek on the north to the Georgia and Alabama State lines on the south.⁵ Part of the following named counties at one time were a part of Rhea County: Hamilton, Roane, Bledsoe, Cumberland, and Meigs.⁶

No change has been made in the area of the county since the Legislative Act of 1903. The greatest alteration of the area of the county came in 1836 when the land located east of the Tennessee River was removed for the creation of Meigs County.⁷

³United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census, County Data Book, A Supplement to the Statistical Abstract of U. S. (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1947).

⁴Acts of Tennessee: 1807, Chapter 9, 20; 1815, Chapter 75; 1815, Chapter 202; 1817, Chapter 13; 1819, Chapter 3; 1821, Chapter 73; 1821, Chapter 169; 1833, Chapter 16; 1837, Chapter 259; 1850, Chapter 82; 1855, Chapter 6; 1858, Chapter 83; 1860, Chapter 211; 1867, Chapter 23; 1879, Chapter 137; 1887, Chapter 143; 1889, Chapters 25, 140; 1903, Chapter 41.

⁵Acts of Tennessee 1801, Chapter 45; 1807, Chapter 9; Emma M. Wells, A History of Roane County, Tennessee, Vol. I. (Chattanooga: Lookout Publishing Company, 1927), p. 9.

⁶Acts of Tennessee: 1801, Chapter 45; 1821, Chapter 169; 1850, Chapter 82; 1855, Chapter 6.

⁷Campbell, op. cit., p. 20.

D. NATURAL RESOURCES AND PRODUCTS

The land located along the Tennessee River and its tributaries is very fertile. This potentially productive land induced the early immigrants to settle in the area. Much of this land is now covered by lakes created by the construction of Chicamauga Dam and the Watts Bar Dam on the Tennessee River in the 1930's and 1940's.

The county was originally covered with virgin timber, but this has been removed. Some lumber is still produced, but the current timber activities consist primarily of the production of wood used for the manufacture of paper.

The most important agricultural products today are strawberries, milk, beef, vegetables, and some grain.

Limestone, sandstone, potter's clay, fuller's earth, iron ore, and coal are found in commercial deposits in and near the Walden's Ridge escarpment and under the Walden's Ridge plateau.

There are several factories in Rhea County that manufacture hosiery, cloth, underwear, play or sports clothes, concrete building supplies, gas stoves, furnaces, and other heating equipment.

The most valuable and important product and export of Rhea County is its young people who leave yearly to prepare for and enter almost all the trades and professions in other parts of the country.

E. SUMMARY

Rhea County is located in East Tennessee. The county is bounded on the north by Roane County, on the east by Meigs County, on the west by Bledsoe and Cumberland County, and on the south by Hamilton County.

The western part of the county is part of the Cumberland plateau. The eastern half is in the Tennessee River valley. The county has a good transportation system consisting primarily of one United States Highway, three State Highways, one railroad, the Tennessee River, and a small privately owned airport. Rhea County is rectangular in shape, with an area of approximately 360 square miles.

The most important agricultural products are strawberries, vegetables, milk, beef and some grain. There are commercial deposits of coal, limestone, sandstone, potter's clay, fuller's earth and iron ore. Hosiery, underwear, cloth, sport clothes, concrete building supplies, gas stoves, furnaces and other types of cooking and heating equipment are manufactured in the county. The most important product and export of Rhea County is its young people who leave yearly to prepare for and enter almost all the trades and professions in other parts of the county.

CHAPTER III

A HISTORICAL SKETCH OF RHEA COUNTY

A. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND TO 1807

The East Tennessee Valley where Rhea County is located originally was the property of the Cherokee Indians. Prior to 1805 the United States government recognized the claim of the Cherokees to this land. However, this property was within the territory claimed by the State of North Carolina, and North Carolina claimed the area had been released by a previous treaty and proceeded to issue grants to land located within the Indian territory. One of these grants by the State of North Carolina was made to Stokley Donelson, July 20, 1796.¹ The grant purported to convey 19,000 acres of land which was all the valley land located in the present First, Second, Third, and part of the Fourth Civil Districts of Rhea County. Over three-fourths of the valley land of the present county was included in the grant.

Even before the grant was made to Stokley Donelson, white people had entered upon some of this area and had built homes without legal authority. After Donelson received the grant, parts of the land were sold and traded to several people,

¹State of North Carolina, Grant Number 275 (copy), County Court Clerk's office, Dayton.

with result white people were living in this area prior to the creation of the State of Tennessee in 1796 and prior to the treaty with the Cherokees in 1805.

In October 1805, Return J. Meigs and James Robinson acting as Commissioners for the United States negotiated two treaties with the Cherokee Indians by which land including the present Rhea County was released by the Indians. The consideration for all the land was \$17,000 cash and \$3,000 annually forever. In addition to this agreement for a cash consideration there was a secret agreement made with the Indian Representative, Chief Dsugueladegi or "Doublehead" whereby he retained a tract one mile square for himself and his family at the mouth of the Hiwassee River.²

The information about the secret treaties with Doublehead became known, and the Indians refused to accept the terms of the treaties and considered the whole treaty arrangement as a betrayal of Cherokee interest because Doublehead's action had not been sanctioned by the National Council.

In 1806 the United States began to exercise authority over the large tract of land that had been released under the treaty with Chief Doublehead. The government constructed a fort one mile north of the mouth of the Hiwassee River in what

²Fourth Treaty of Tellico (copy), October 27, 1805, State of Tennessee Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee.

is presently Rhea County and named the fort Hiwassee Garrison. The Hiwassee Garrison was staffed with soldiers and Return J. Meigs was placed there to represent the United States Government in dealing with the Indians.³ Meigs duties included paying annually the \$3,000.00 that was provided for the Indians in the treaty.⁴

On October 29, 1807, a bill was introduced in the Tennessee Legislature to reduce the size of Roane County and to create therefrom one of which later became Rhea County.⁵ This bill was passed by the Legislature November 30, 1807.⁶ Governor John Sevier signed the bill on December 3, 1807.⁷

B. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND FROM 1807 TO 1960

Although the State of Tennessee recognized the treaties entered into by Return J. Meigs and James Robinson in 1805 as

³Penelope Johnson Allen, "Leaves from the Family Tree," Chattanooga Times, April 29, 1934.

⁴John P. Brown, Old Frontiers (Kingsport: Southern Publishing Company, 1938), pp. 451-453; History of Tennessee (East Tennessee edition; Nashville: Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1887), p. 817.

⁵T. J. Campbell, Records of Rhea (Dayton: Rhea Publishing Company, 1940), p. 12.

⁶Acts of Tennessee, 1807, Chapter 9.

⁷Campbell, op. cit., p. 14.

being valid, the Cherokee claim to the land which is now Rhea County was not fully extinguished until the Treaty of New Echota was obtained by threats, force, coercion, and whiskey in 1835.⁸

For many years prior to 1805 white people had lived within the area now known as Rhea County although it was Indian territory. The United States government had tried to prevent the "Squatters" from taking the Indian lands for their own use but had been unable to enforce the terms of the treaties that had been made in this regard.⁹ These original settlers were mainly from Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. They were primarily of Anglo-Saxon extraction.¹⁰

Some of these people including James Campbell, Jonathan Fine, Abraham Howard, John Henry, Joseph Brooks, Daniel Rawlings, and William Long met at the home of William Henry located approximately four miles north of the present town of Dayton on present United States Highway 27, on January 25, 1808, for the purpose of organizing the new county that had authorized by the State Legislature. The above named people

⁸Brown, op. cit., pp. 472-498; Campbell, op. cit., p. 13.

⁹Campbell, op. cit., p. 21.

¹⁰Worth S. Ray, Tennessee Cousins, A History of Tennessee People (Austin, Texas: Published by the author, 1950), p. 453.

were elected Justices of the Peace and James Campbell was made Chairman of the Court. Other county officials were elected also at this time. The Henry home was made the temporary County seat, in which capacity it served for approximately four years.

The following year a commission was selected by the County Court to make a survey and select a site for the location of the new county seat. There were sizeable settled communities at the time, and it was necessary that a site be selected and developed. One of the sites investigated in 1810 was at the mouth of Richland Creek where it empties into the Tennessee River, about four miles north of where the Hiwassee Garrison had been established. This site was not approved, probably because one of the group was drowned in Haley's Pond located near the site.¹¹

In 1812 the commission that had been appointed to select the location for the county seat selected a site consisting of forty-seven acres located one mile from the Tennessee River on Spring Creek. The new county seat was named Washington. The greater part of the land was divided into lots and sold to obtain funds to finance the construction of a courthouse and jail. The Tennessee Academy was established there prior to 1819. The Monmouth Presbyterian Church

¹¹R. G. Waterhouse, 1775-1827, "Diary," Carmack Waterhouse, Dayton.

was established in 1820. John B. Hood established the first newspaper in the county at Washington in 1825.¹²

Washington and Rhea County grew rapidly in population until 1836 when Meigs County was created out of that part of Rhea County lying east of the Tennessee River. This was the reason the population of Rhea County dropped from 8,186 in 1830 to 3,985 in 1840. The population again increased yearly until it reached 15,410 in 1910. In 1911 the blast furnaces at Dayton were closed causing an exodus of people. The population in 1920 was 13,812. The population of the county did not exceed the population of 1910 until the construction of Watts Bar Dam in 1940.¹³ Table I shows the population of Rhea County at ten year intervals from 1810 to 1960.

In 1870 the City of Cincinnati constructed a railroad line from Cincinnati to Chattanooga. The railroad was opened for traffic February 12, 1880. The name of the village of Smith's Cross Roads was changed to Dayton when a municipal government was organized in 1895. The opening to railroad traffic made it possible for the iron and coal deposits to

¹²Campbell, op. cit., pp. 25-28; Penelope Johnson Allen, op. cit., October 28, 1934.

¹³United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census, Census of the United States (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1950).

TABLE I
POPULATION OF RHEA COUNTY FROM 1810 TO 1960^a

Year	Population	Increase or decrease
1810	2,504	
1820	4,215	1,711
1830	8,186	3,971
1840	3,985	- 4,201
1850	4,415	430
1860	4,991	576
1870	5,538	547
1880	7,073	1,535
1890	12,647	5,574
1900	14,318	1,671
1910	15,410	1,092
1920	13,812	- 1,598
1930	13,871	59
1940	16,353	2,482
1950	16,041	- 312
1960	15,850 ^b	

^aUnited States Bureau of Census, U. S. Census of Population 1810-1940 (Washington: Government Printing Office).

^bDayton Herald, May 23, 1960.

be mined on a commercial scale. Almost immediately after the construction of the railroad, industrial development began to appear. Blast furnaces for the manufacture of iron were built and operated at Dayton. The height of the iron production was from 1890 to 1910. Dayton became the largest town in the county after the county seat was moved there from Washington in 1890.¹⁴

C. SUMMARY

In 1796 the State of North Carolina granted most of the land where Rhea County is now located to Stokley Donalson. The Indian claim to the land was removed by the Fourth Treaty of Tellico in 1805. Rhea County was created out of a part of Roane County by the Tennessee Legislature in 1807. The Rhea County Government was organized in 1808.

The town of Washington was established in 1812 and the county seat was established there. In 1890 the county seat was moved from Washington to Dayton.

The population of Rhea County has fluctuated widely. Part of the population fluctuation was caused by Meigs County being created out of part of Rhea County in 1836, and the closing of the blast furnaces at Dayton in 1911.

CHAPTER IV

PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN RHEA COUNTY

A. FIRST SCHOOL

The first known school in Rhea County was located near the Hiwassee Garrison that was built near Hiwassee or Jolly's Island in 1806. Reverend Gideon Blackburn, with the assistance of the United States Government, established the school under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church and then served as the first teacher. The school probably lasted until 1815.¹

Cherokee Chief "Doublehead" wanted the school established for the Cherokees, and it was through his influence that permission was granted to build it. When the negotiations were completed, he approached the missionaries and suggested that they present him with a bottle of whiskey for his aid in putting through the project.

The operation and maintenance of the school was organized under the direction of the Presbyterian Church by a Presbyterian minister for the benefit of white people and Indians. The school was under the protection of the United States Army at the Hiwassee Garrison and was supported

¹T. J. Campbell, Records of Rhea (Dayton: Rhea Publishing Company, 1940), pp. 10-42; John P. Brown, Old Frontiers (Kingsport: Southern Publishing Company, 1938), pp. 167-468; Robert Sparks Walker, Torch Lights to the Cherokees (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1931), p. 16.

financially by the Presbyterian Church and the United States. This was in violation of the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States which provides for the separation of the Church and the State.²

B. SUBSCRIPTION SCHOOLS, ACADEMIES,
NORMAL INSTITUTES, AND COLLEGES

Subscription or Private Common Schools

Ramsey and others indicated that private, common or subscription schools were in existence in this area from 1801 until free public schools were established.³ The earliest known subscription school in Rhea County was the Walnut Grove School located where the Spring City High School building now stands.⁴ The schools were held by any person who could attract and hold students. In the beginning free public schools were operated for very short terms. At the end of the term the patrons would sometimes pay the teacher to provide additional instruction so that a better education for their children might be obtained.

²Brown, op. cit., pp. 467-468.

³J. G. M. Ramsey, The Annals of Tennessee to the End of the Eighteenth Century (Philadelphia: Lippincott, Grambon, and Company, 1853), p. 722; Robert A. Ladd, "The Development of Education in Roane County Tennessee" (unpublished Master's thesis, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, 1958), pp. 10-11.

⁴Campbell, op. cit., pp. 75-76.

The records indicated that it was difficult to obtain a common school education during the formative years of the county and almost impossible to obtain an education in any professional field. One of the first physicians, Dr. John Hoyal, walked from Rhea County to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in order to obtain medical education and training.⁵

A number of schools known as academies were established in Rhea County. Most of the academies were chartered by the legislature and were eligible to receive support from "The Common School Fund" of the State; however, there was no record that such support was received. These schools existed for some time in Rhea County before closing or being superseded by the public schools. No record showed clearly the curriculum that was offered in each Academy, but the Legislature in setting out the duties of the State Superintendent of Instruction made it his duty to see that orthography, reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, grammar, Constitution of Tennessee, and the Constitution of the United States were taught.⁶

The Legislature of the State passed in excess of one hundred Legislative Acts in an attempt to create and distribute a common school fund for the support and maintenance

⁵Ibid., p. 156.

⁶Acts of Tennessee, 1866, Chapter 26 (Passed March 5, 1867).

of students in schools who would otherwise be deprived of a common school education.⁷ As stated before no record was found where students in Rhea County actually received any benefit.

Tennessee Academy

Records showed that the first recognized Academy established in the County after it came into existence was the Tennessee Academy in 1809. The State Legislature passed an act appointing two trustees for the Tennessee Academy. The school was established three years later in Washington. The Legislature of 1822 provided that the proceeds from the sale of school lands in Rhea County be appropriated for the support of the Tennessee Academy for ten years.⁸

In 1819 Henry D. F. Roberts was authorized to engage teachers and to fix their salaries. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Roberts resigned and William Johnson was selected to succeed him as Principal of Tennessee Academy with jurisdiction over

⁷Acts of Tennessee, 1822, Chapter 139; 1829, Chapters 54, 17, 92, 152; 1832, Chapters 41, 42, 61, 79; 1833, Chapters 34, 54; 1837, Chapters 107, 190; 1837-1838, Chapter 148; 1839, Chapters 20, 38, 39; 1841, Chapters 47, 180, 159, 165; 1843, Chapters 54, 77, 60, 221, 231; 1845, Chapters 54, 60, 100, 112; 1847, Chapters 110, 175, 206, 207, 61; 1849, Chapters 133, 147, 151; 1851, Chapters 68, 113, 120, 129, 133, 150, 165, 204, 250, 281, 296; 1853, Chapters 46, 8, 61, 71, 83, 273, 316.

⁸Acts of Legislature, 1809, 1822, Chapter 139.

both the male and the female Academy.⁹ Thus, from this early beginning opportunity was given women to obtain an education. In 1852, the Legislature passed an Act that required all County Academies to receive female as well as male pupils and teach them in the several branches as "are now taught in said institutions."¹⁰

In referring to the Tennessee Academy, Campbell and Hamer gave information about the institution probably descriptive of the academies that later existed in other parts of the county.

From the foregoing it seems plausible that the first permanent building for the Academy was not completed, may not even have been begun, until 1823, the year Reverend McAlpin was elected principal. It is set out in the Minutes of 1826 that the board voted to contribute one-third of the cost of a rail fence around the school building. It was ordered that William Farnsworth be allowed \$3.50 for each seat made by him and that any teacher be considered who would bring the highest list of students to the school for one year. The building was still termed "new" in 1829, when Samuel Frazier was President of the Academy and Ralph Locke was Professor of Mathematics. . . .

In 1830, on motion of William Locke, it was advertised that "The Academy House of Washington is open and free to all people worshipping the Almighty God in a peaceable and Christian manner when not in use for school purposes. . . .¹¹

⁹Penelope Johnson Allen, "Leaves from the Family Tree," Chattanooga Times, October 28, 1934.

¹⁰Acts of Tennessee, February 1852, Chapter 186.

¹¹Campbell, op. cit., p. 61.

Some conception of these changes may be gained from the advertisement of the Tennessee Academy at Washington in Rhea County, in 1819. Tuition ranged from twelve to thirty-six dollars per year, and board amounted to one hundred dollars per year. . . .¹²

The State Legislature in 1849 authorized the Tennessee Academy to use a portion of its funds for the purpose of purchasing a lot and to construct thereon suitable buildings for academy purposes.¹³ In 1854, the need for larger accommodations was keenly felt, and a new building was erected for the Academy on the lot that had been purchased. The new building was a two story structure and was considered a model building in its day.

The new building burned in 1868. A small building was erected on the north edge of town to replace it. By this time the exodus of citizens to Chattanooga was in full swing, and a large building was not necessary.¹⁴

Campbell's writings inferred that this academy continued to exist on a small scale until a central high school came into existence in 1906. However, it was rechartered and named Washington Academy Association in 1879.¹⁵

¹²Philip M. Hamer, Tennessee, A History (New York: The American Historical Society, 1933), Vol. I, page 361.

¹³Acts of Tennessee, 1849, Chapter 136.

¹⁴Campbell, op. cit., pp. 61-63.

¹⁵Office of the Tennessee Secretary of State, Nashville, Book B, p. 508.

Mars Hill Academy

This institution similar to the Tennessee Academy was chartered by the State of Tennessee in 1850. The school was located approximately four miles north of Spring City in what is now known as the Mars Hill Community. According to available evidence the buildings consisted of the Academy, a boys' and a girls' dormitory, and a hotel. The cost of food for a student was \$2.00 per week. One hundred twenty-one students attended the Academy during the school year 1858-1859. Mars Hill Academy closed in 1875.¹⁶

Tennessee Valley College

This school was chartered by the State of Tennessee on January 20, 1881.¹⁷ The school was located at Darwin's Station which is now Evensville. It operated initially as an elementary and secondary school, but soon after Rhea Central High School was established at Dayton in 1906, it was converted to an elementary school and renamed Evensville Elementary School. At the time the school was renamed, it was placed under the supervision and jurisdiction of the Rhea County Department of Education.¹⁸

¹⁶Campbell, op. cit., p. 62.

¹⁷Office of the Tennessee Secretary of State, Nashville, Book B, p. 109.

¹⁸Campbell, op. cit., p. 63.

Grandview Normal Institute

In 1880 an eastern missionary society wanted to locate a school in the south and chose a site on Walden's Ridge which was five miles northwest of the present town of Spring City. In recognition of the magnificent panorama which spreads eastward into the East Tennessee Valley of the Tennessee River, the school was given the name Grandview. The charter of incorporation for this institution was issued March 28, 1881.¹⁹ The name was later changed to Grandview Normal Institute. The school grew very rapidly and was instrumental in educating hundreds of people in the area. In 1925 part of the school property was conveyed to the Rhea County Department of Education for the maintenance of an elementary school, and the Grandview Normal Institute was closed.

Graysville Academy

In 1892 the Graysville Academy was established by Elder G. W. Collard under the sponsorship and direction of The Seventh Day Adventist Church. The institution was originally established to meet the needs of the members of the Seventh Day Adventist Church in this area, but it grew rapidly and was patronized by students from several states.

¹⁹Office of the Tennessee Secretary of State, Nashville, Book E, page 87.

In 1916 the upper grades of the school were moved to Junior College at Collegedale. The name was later changed to The Southern Missionary College. In 1960 Graysville Academy, grades one through ten, had an enrollment of approximately fifty students.

William Jennings Bryan College

In 1925 the Legislature of Tennessee passed an act known as the "Tennessee Anti-Evolution Act."²⁰

Teaching of Evolution Prohibited--It shall be unlawful for any teacher in any of the universities, Teacher's Colleges, Normal Schools, or other public schools of the State which are supported in whole or in part, by the public school funds of the State to teach any theory that denies the story of the divine creation of man as taught in the Bible, and to teach instead that man descended from a lower order of animals. Any teacher violating this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and fined not less than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) nor more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) for each offense.

John T. Scopes, a biology teacher at Rhea Central High School at Dayton, Tennessee, fully admitted the violation of this law. In order to create a case to test the constitutionality of this statute, Scopes was prosecuted.²¹ The case immediately became world known when Clarence Darrow, a famous criminal lawyer, was secured as defense council, and William Jennings Bryan, former Secretary of State, agreed to

²⁰Acts of Tennessee, 1925, Chapter 27.

²¹Scopes v. State, 154 Tennessee, 105.

assist in the prosecution. Scopes was found guilty by the jury, but the jury did not assess the fine of \$100.00 as required by the Constitution of the State when the required fine is in excess of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00).²² On appeal the Trial Court was reversed on this technicality with the suggestion given by the Tennessee Supreme Court to the Attorney General that the peace and dignity of the State would better be conserved by the entry of a nolle prosequi being entered in this cause; thus, a final opinion on the facts was not rendered.

Bryan, during the progress of the trial which lasted eleven days, indicated the need of a Christian Institution of higher learning in this area. Soon after his death, which occurred in Dayton three days after the end of the trial, local people began the organization of the William Jennings Bryan University. This institution began operation in 1930 in the old Rhea Central High School building which was furnished free by the Rhea County Board of Education.²³ The institution exists today as William Jennings Bryan College.

This college located adjacent to the City of Dayton had a financial struggle for many years but recently has made

²²Constitution of State of Tennessee, Section 14, Article 6.

²³Minutes of Rhea County Board of Education, January 11, 1960, Dayton.

rapid progress financially. Recently the State Department of Education recognized the college as a teacher training institution. In 1960 there were fifteen teachers in the Rhea County school system who received all or part of their college training at the institution.

In 1960 William Jennings Bryan College was a four year institution granting B.A. and B.S. degrees. The institution had a student body of 217 with a teaching staff of fifteen members.

Other Institutions

Some other academies, schools, and so called colleges were chartered by the State or recognized as private schools, but very little accurate information pertaining to their operation was found. Some of these institutions included Richland Academy at Dayton, Dayton Masonic College at Dayton, and the Luminary School near Evensville.

C. SUMMARY

The academy school movement in Rhea County fulfilled the educational needs of the area that were not provided by public institutions during the nineteenth century and early part of the twentieth century. When the State and local governments accepted their responsibilities for furnishing all the people with primary and secondary educational opportunities and furnished a reasonable amount of financial

support, most of the private schools were discontinued. Some were converted into public elementary schools when Rhea Central High School was established in 1906 and Spring City High School was established in 1909.

CHAPTER V

PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN RHEA COUNTY 1806 TO 1873

A. GENERAL SCHOOL ORGANIZATION

Chapter V presents information concerning public schools in Tennessee and Rhea County and the support of public education by the people from the time the county was formed until 1873 when an acceptable General School Law was passed.¹

Public schools in Tennessee had their origin in an agreement entered into by the United States, North Carolina, and Tennessee regarding public lands. The agreement was known as the Compact of 1806. Unfortunately for the development of public education in Tennessee, the United States made no provision for reservation of lands for schools in the Southwest Territory as had been done in other territories. Rhea County was formed out of a part of the Southwest Territory. An attempt was made in the Compact of 1806 to correct this defect. As one of the conditions of the surrender of the United States of her claims to these public lands it was provided that Tennessee should reserve in this region, where existing claims would permit, one square mile out of each thirty-six square miles for the use of schools for the

¹Acts of Tennessee, 1873, Chapter 24.

instruction of children forever.² Unfortunately for the schools in Rhea County practically all of the land that was fit for cultivation had already been granted to Stokley Donelson.

In 1825 the Legislature of Tennessee directed that all school lands be sold and the proceeds from the sale to be preserved as a permanent school fund for all the common schools in the State. The interest from the fund was to support the public schools. When the school lands were sold, it was found that the interest from the common school fund was not sufficient to support the schools.³

The lack of financial support of public free schools resulted in much illiteracy in the area. According to the memorial prepared for the Legislature from the Common School Convention held in Knoxville in 1847, one-fourth of the white people in the area were unable to read and write. Attempts to supplement the income from the school fund of the state by taxation were repeatedly made, but they were rejected by the Legislature until 1853. In that year Governor Andrew Johnson sent a strongly worded recommendation to the Legislature. Governor Johnson wrote:

² Philip M. Hamer, Tennessee A History 1673-1932 (New York: The American Historical Society, 1933), Vol. I, p. 353.

³ Ibid., p. 354.

It must be apparent to all that our present system of common school education falls far short of coming up to the imperative commands of the Constitution. If the law establishing our system of common schools had been perfect in all details, the common school fund would be wholly inadequate. . . . If we are sincere in what we profess for the cause of education, we should . . . provide means to accomplish it. There is one way . . . that the children of the State can be educated . . . that is to levy and collect a tax from the people of the whole State, or to authorize the County Courts separately to do so . . . sufficient in amount when added to our present school fund, to give life and energy to our dying or dead system of common school education.⁴

The Legislature passed an act for the levying of a State tax of two and one-half cents on each one hundred dollars of assessed value of property and each county was permitted to levy a tax.⁵

B. RHEA COUNTY SCHOOLS BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR

No local official records were found that showed that public schools or free schools existed as such in Rhea County prior to the Civil War. The State attempted to create a fund for the support of public or common free schools in 1823. The funds available for the support of such schools were derived from the interest on the common school fund that had been created by the State from the sale of school lands. It appeared from circumstantial evidence that Rhea County did

⁴Ibid.

⁵Ibid., pp. 357-358.

participate in the distribution of the common school fund, but the revenues may have been used by the academies that furnished educational opportunities to the people. Two acts of the Tennessee Legislature supported this conclusion.

Section one and two of an act passed in 1822 were as follows:

Section 1: Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, That the proceeds arising from the school lands in the County of Rhea shall and may be appropriated to the support of the Tennessee Academy in said county for a term of ten years from the first of January next.

Section 2: Be it further enacted, That the said school lands shall be under the control of the Trustees of said Academy for said term, and anything in any law to the contrary notwithstanding.⁶

Section two of an act passed by the Legislature in 1824 stated:

Section 2: Be it enacted that portion of the money which shall be allocated to the citizens of the Hiwassee District included within the counties of Rhea and Roane, shall be transmitted to the Agents of said counties respectively, at Kingston, and Washington, to be loaned to the citizens of that part of the Hiwassee District exclusively, under the same terms and rules and conditions governing the other agencies in the State.⁷

The money derived from the interest on the common school fund varied between forty and fifty cents a year for each child of school age. After state taxes for school purposes were levied in 1854, the amount available for each child was almost

⁶Acts of Tennessee, 1822, Chapter 139.

⁷Acts of Tennessee, 1824, Chapter 26.

doubled. The Rhea County scholastic population was 2,034 in 1860.⁸

C. SCHOOLS IN RHEA COUNTY, 1861-1873

The writer was unable to locate any information which showed that organized public schools were operated in Rhea County from 1861 to 1868. According to the Register for Rhea County, part of the records pertaining to schools and other county affairs were destroyed by fire in the courthouse at Washington about 1890. Still other records were misplaced when the county seat was transferred from Washington to Dayton in 1890.⁹

Governor William G. Brownlow stated that the common school fund was used to finance the Army of Tennessee during the Civil War. Governor Brownlow in his address to the joint meeting of the Senate and House of Representatives on April 6, 1865, indicated that illiteracy had increased during the war years. While discussing schools and taxes he said:

. . . The common school system will in this connection demand your attention. The fund appropriated for this purpose has been squandered by bad men and the dishonest functionaries, who fled on the approach of the old flag. What shall be done to replace this loss? At no period in the history of this state has

⁸Edgar W. Knight, Public Education in the South (Boston: Ginn and Company, 1922), p. 167.

⁹Statement by Miss Marchie James, Register of Deeds, Courthouse, Dayton.

the young rising generation appealed so effectively for legislative aid. Practically denied all scholastic advantage during the past four years, and deprived, as thousands have been of their natural protectors, if they are not soon provided for it will be too late for them. Indeed, not a few have already passed beyond the age to attend school, hopelessly illiterate. . . .¹⁰

No act was passed for the support and maintenance of public schools at that session of the Legislature.

On March 5, 1867 the Legislature passed an Act which provided for free public schools in the State. The Act directed the state superintendent to appoint a county superintendent for each county. The state superintendent was given the authority to withhold payment of funds from the State until the county superintendent conformed to the requirements set out by the state superintendent.¹¹ Since this was during the reconstruction period after the Civil War, the State was slow in getting the educational plan in operation, and there was not sufficient income from the taxes to carry out the program.

In 1867 the Rhea County Superintendent of Schools pointed out to the State Superintendent of Schools the attitude of the citizens of Rhea County toward public education.

¹⁰William G. Brownlow, Public and Private Acts of Tennessee, 1865, p. 9.

¹¹Acts of Tennessee, 1866, passed March 5, 1867.

In March 1868 H. C. Rogers wrote:

Many of our people have no faith in the new system of free schools; believing, as they do that there will be no help from the State. But if we can get the amount of money now legally due us, confidence will be restored at once, and all opposition will speedily die out.¹²

In the later part of 1868 County Superintendent H. C. Rogers wrote a second letter to the State Superintendent of Schools in which he stated:

If I could have received our share of the school money (wherewith to pay teachers) four weeks sooner, there would have been a far better state of feeling in the county. There has been strong opposition from the foes of education of the people.¹³

Eighteen free schools attended by 612 students and taught by eighteen teachers existed in 1869.¹⁴

D. SUMMARY

The writer was unable to locate positive evidence to prove that public schools existed in Rhea County prior to the Civil War. There was evidence that some State funds for educational purposes were available and that State funds were

¹²Letter from H. C. Rogers, Rhea County Superintendent of Schools to State Superintendent of Schools, March 28, 1868, State Department of Education, Nashville, Tennessee.

¹³Letter from H. C. Rogers, Rhea County Superintendent of Schools, to State Superintendent of Schools, November 30, 1868, State Department of Education, Nashville, Tennessee.

¹⁴Records, State Department of Education, Nashville, Tennessee.

used for the support of the Tennessee Academy, a quasi public institution.

The data indicated that during the Civil War public schools were not in operation. In 1868 Rhea County was operating public schools under the General Education Act of 1867 but was encountering opposition from local people who were opposed to free education.

CHAPTER VI

RHEA COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS 1873 - 1960

A. GENERAL SCHOOL ORGANIZATION

The Rhea County Public School System was based primarily on the provisions of the General Education Act of 1873.¹ This Act was the first workable law pertaining to education on a state wide basis. The principal provisions of the law made an appreciable amount of state aid available to the individual school systems and provided for local taxes for the local school systems. The Act created an organizational set up that provided for the position of county superintendent of schools and set out the obligations of the state, county, and school district.

Almost every session of the Legislature since that time has made some additions or modifications to this basic law. One of the most comprehensive revisions was made in 1925 when Chapter 115 of the Public Acts of the Legislature was signed by Governor Austin Peay.² The act reorganized and reestablished a system of public education for the state consisting of elementary schools, high schools, three teachers

¹Acts of Tennessee, 1873, Chapter 24; Senate Bill No. 45, 1873, State of Tennessee Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee.

²Acts of Tennessee, 1925, Chapter 115.

colleges, the Polytechnic Institute and the Agricultural Industrial Normal College for Negroes. Provisions of the Act included the administration of it by the State Commissioner of Education, the State Board of Education, the County Superintendent, and the County and City Boards of Education; the establishment of an equalization fund and minimum salary schedule, and certification and approval of all teachers, supervisors, and superintendents by the State Department of Education. The minimum length of the term for elementary schools was set at eight months, and nine months for high schools.

The Rhea County School System is presently functioning exclusively under Private Acts of the Legislature in regard to the election of the school board, the election of the superintendent, and the administrative affairs pertaining to purchases of materials and payments of funds. The school board consists of seven members who are elected every two years. One member is elected from each of the four civil districts by the voters of the respective districts, and three are elected by the voters of the entire county.³ The superintendent of schools is elected by the people for a term of four years.⁴ All purchases and payment for same are made

³Private Acts of Tennessee, 1953, Chapters 167, 581.

⁴Private Acts of Tennessee, 1953, Chapter 568.

through a purchasing and finance commission established by a Private Act in 1955.⁵

B. FREE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

The first free schools in Rhea County were elementary schools. However, it was the custom for each child to study that which was selected by him or his parents. In many instances the actual subjects studied were determined by the books available within the family or those books that could be borrowed. The schools were not graded and the classification of a student was determined many times by the "book" he was studying.

The General Education Act of 1873 retained the same provisions about the subjects that were to be taught as were in the General Education Law of 1867. The subjects selected by the legislature to be taught were orthography, reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, grammar, Constitution of Tennessee and Constitution of the United States.

In the beginning the free schools were referred to as "pauper schools" because they had attempted initially to furnish free educational opportunities to only orphans and those who were unable to pay. The Act of 1873 provided for free schools for all students and the pauper stigma was removed.

⁵Private Acts of Tennessee, 1955, Chapter 313.

The early free schools in Rhea County were one teacher schools located within walking distance of the students' residences. The schools grew rapidly in Rhea County after a local tax was assessed for the support of free schools in 1875.⁶ In 1895 there was a total of fifty-nine free elementary schools with sixty-four teachers and a total enrollment of 3,582. This was an average of approximately fifty-six students per teacher.

The number of elementary schools was reduced to forty in 1910. With the introduction of public transportation of students in 1922, the number of schools continued to be reduced. In 1960 there were twelve elementary schools in the Rhea County School System.⁷

Table II shows the number of elementary schools, number of teachers, total enrollment and average daily attendance for five school years, 1922-23, 1929-30, 1939-40, 1949-50, and 1959-60. Additional information pertaining to elementary schools is found in Tables IX-XVI in the Appendix.

C. HIGH SCHOOLS

The State in 1891 defined primary and secondary schools. Secondary schools as defined by the Legislature

⁶Tax Receipt Book for 1875, Trustee's Office, Dayton, Tennessee.

⁷Annual Statistical Report for 1960, Rhea County Superintendent's Office, Dayton, Tennessee.

TABLE II

NUMBER OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS, NUMBER ELEMENTARY TEACHERS,
TOTAL ENROLLMENT AND AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE
FOR SELECTED YEARS^a

Year	Number of elementary schools	Number of elementary teachers	Total en- rollment of elementary students	A.D.A. of elementary students
1922-1923	48	83	3340	2341
1929-1930	41	92	3448	2110
1939-1940	40	83	2963	2181
1949-1950	29	93	2925	2380
1959-1960	12	63	2275	1905 ^b

^aSource: Annual Statistical Reports, Rhea County
Superintendent's Office, Dayton, Tennessee.

^bSeventh and eighth grades were removed from seven
elementary schools and placed in Rhea Central High School
in 1958.

were established in different parts of the state and were often called "high schools." In 1899 an Act that authorized counties to establish secondary schools was passed by the Legislature.⁸

Rhea County did not establish a county high school until 1906. Prior to this time academies and private schools attempted to fulfill the need of the people for a secondary school education. The academies were not publicly owned and payment of tuition was required from the students. This caused some of the people not to have the opportunity to obtain a high school education.

Table III shows the number of high schools and the number of high school teaching positions during four year intervals 1924 to 1958. The average daily attendance is shown for each four years beginning in 1927. The increase of 148 in the average daily attendance between 1958 and 1959 was partially caused by Rhea Central High School being changed from a four year high school to a six year high school. The number of high schools has remained almost constant. The number of teaching positions has increased from sixteen in 1924 to fifty-one in 1960.

⁸Acts of Tennessee, 1891, Chapter 49.

TABLE III

NUMBER OF HIGH SCHOOLS, NUMBER OF HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS,
ENROLLMENT AND AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE
FOR SELECTED YEARS^a

Year	Number of county high schools	Number teaching positions	A.D.A.
1924	6	16	
1927	3	18	390
1931	3	15	347
1934	3	14	322
1937	3	16	409
1940	3	21	493
1943	3	21	482
1946	3	25	498
1949	3	29	571
1952	3	33	709
1955	3	41	828
1958	3	46	881
1959	3	50	1023 ^b
1960	3	51	1110 ^c

^aSource: Annual Statistical Reports, Rhea County
Superintendent's Office, Dayton, Tennessee.

^bRhea Central High School changed from four to six year
high school at end of third month.

^cRhea Central High School was six year high school and
included seventh and eighth grades.

Rhea Central High School

Acting under the authority granted to the counties by the Acts of 1891 and 1899, the Rhea County Quarterly Court authorized the organization of the Rhea Central High School at Dayton and provided for the construction of a brick building to house the institution.⁹ The building was a two story brick building and was located near the rear of the present physical education building at Rhea Central High School. The construction of the building was completed in 1906, and the first free high school in Rhea County was placed in operation.

The Rhea County Quarterly Court at its January meeting in 1906 levied a property tax of ten cents per one hundred dollars assessed value of property within the county for funds for the operation and maintenance of Rhea Central High School.¹⁰ During the early years of this high school, a dormitory was constructed on Second Avenue where the Downey and Cooley Buildings are presently located. The construction of the dormitory represented the first attempt by the county government to make available secondary school education for students who lived in the remote areas of the county where

⁹Minutes of the Rhea County Quarterly Court, January 1, 1906.

¹⁰T. J. Campbell, Records of Rhea (Dayton: Rhea Publishing Company, 1940), p. 63.

the roads were almost impassable during several months of the year.¹¹

In the 1930's a large school building was constructed; thirteen classrooms were added in 1958. When new classrooms were completed two additional grades, seventh and eighth, were included in the school making it a six year high school. Seventh and eighth grade students from all of the elementary schools in the Third and Fourth Civil Districts of the County were transported to the school. In 1959 a new physical education building was constructed. During the 1959-60 school year, the school had a teaching staff of thirty-two teachers and an enrollment of 950 students.¹²

Spring City High School

The Spring City High School was authorized in 1908, but class work did not begin until 1909 when a new building was completed. The school was the outgrowth of the Walnut Grove School, a subscription school that was established prior to 1850 and operated until 1908.¹³ The building that was completed in 1909 was destroyed by fire in 1928. The present section of the Spring City High School building was

¹¹Ibid.

¹²Annual Statistical Report for 1960, Rhea County Superintendent's Office, Dayton, Tennessee.

¹³Campbell, op. cit., p. 75.

constructed in 1930. Additional land area was purchased for the school in the 1950's. In 1956 a vocational education building was constructed which included classrooms and a shop. In 1959 a large physical education building was constructed. This building included a cafeteria and music department. In 1960 the school had an enrollment of 313 students and a teaching staff of fifteen teachers.¹⁴

Carver High School

The earliest evidence found about the operation of a county high school for colored persons was the statistical report for the year 1930. The school was identified as "Dayton High School (Colored)," and was reported as a member of the Rhea County School System.¹⁵ However, the Annual Statistical Reports did not include the school again until 1937.¹⁶ A high school for colored persons has been operated within the City of Dayton by the Rhea County School Board of Education since 1937. In 1953 a new building was constructed and the name of the school was changed to Carver High School. In 1960 there was a student body of fifty-two students. The

¹⁴Records in the office of Rhea County Superintendent of School, Dayton, Tennessee.

¹⁵Annual Statistical Report for 1930, Rhea County Superintendent's Office, Dayton, Tennessee.

¹⁶Ibid., 1937, p. 24.

teaching personnel consisted of four regular teachers and a music teacher employed on a part-time basis.¹⁷

Other High Schools

Three small high schools, designated second class high schools, were established and operated from 1912 until discontinued or consolidated with one of the present high schools. The Graysville High School was the last of this type of school. It was closed in 1927.¹⁸ The other two second class high schools were Carp and Grandview. Table XVI in the Appendix shows the number of high schools that existed in the county from 1924 to 1960 as well as the number of teaching positions and average daily attendance each year from 1927 to 1960. The table shows the average daily attendance increased from a low of 316 in 1933 to 1110 in 1960.

D. TRANSPORTATION AND CONSOLIDATION

In 1910 school administrators in three county schools initiated a limited program of pupil transportation services in order to provide educational opportunities for those children who could not attend school because of excessive walking distance.¹⁹

¹⁷Ibid.

¹⁸Annual Statistical Report for 1927, Rhea County Superintendent's Office, Dayton, Tennessee.

¹⁹Tentative Handbook for School Administrators on Pupil

In 1913 a statute that authorized the local school departments to consolidate schools and pay for the transportation of students from public school funds was enacted by the Tennessee Legislature.²⁰ However, Rhea County did not pay transportation costs for students until nine years later.

The first evidence of students being transported at public expense in Rhea County was found in the Minutes of the Rhea County Board of Education for the year 1922. A claim of \$352.50 was paid to J. R. Mansfield for transporting students during the school term, 1921-1922.²¹ Mansfield operated a covered wagon and transported students approximately four miles to the Graysville High School from Back Valley north of Graysville. One of the students reported that, prior to wagon transportation furnished by the county, she and her brother rode a mule to school. She stated that the covered wagon was a great improvement although the roads, at times, were almost impassable.²²

Table IV shows the type of vehicles, number of vehicles, average number of pupils transported, and average costs of

Transportation, Superintendent's Study Council, Committee on Buildings and Transportation, 1960, p. 1.

²⁰Acts of Tennessee, 1913, Chapter 4.

²¹Rhea County Board of Education Minute Book for 1922, Superintendent of Rhea County Schools Office, Dayton, Tennessee.

²²Statement Juanita Mansfield Green, personal interview.

TABLE IV

NUMBER AND TYPE OF PUPIL CONVEYANCES, PUPILS TRANSPORTED, COST PER YEAR
AND AVERAGE COST PER MONTH PER CHILD TRANSPORTED FOR CERTAIN YEARS^a

Year	Number of cars or station wagons	Number of wagons	Number of buses or trucks	Average number pupils transported daily	Cost per year	Average cost ^b
1922		1			\$ 352.50	
1925			2	30	-	\$ 3.00
1928		18	8	240	-	3.50
1931	(No transportation this year)					
1934			1	108	-	1.85
1937			11	400	6,632.60	1.84
1940	8		9	724	11,447.19	1.76
1943	11		11	1413	27,288.75	2.15
1946	3		12	1316	35,393.67	2.99
1949	11		22	1677	65,322.00	4.33
1952	1		28	1774	52,128.91	3.26
1955			29	2002	64,308.00	3.57
1958			29	2071	74,827.90	4.01
1960	1		28	2099	78,279.40	4.14

^aSource: Annual Statistical Reports, Superintendent of Rhea County Schools Office, Dayton, Tennessee.

^bAverage cost of transportation per child, per month.

transporting each child per month. Where the information was available, the total cost of transportation for each year is shown. Rhea County made rapid strides in providing transportation for students until 1931. During the school year, 1930-31, no public transportation was provided for students. The schools were without funds for part of the previous year, and there were numerous county school warrants that were unpaid. The evidence showed that the school board, in order to open the schools, curtailed all transportation and used the money to meet current operation expenses and reduce the outstanding indebtedness of the schools. Since 1934, there has been an annual increase in the number of students transported. During the school year 1959-60, approximately two-thirds of all students in the county schools were transported at a cost of \$78,279.40 or \$4.14 per student per month.

A comparison of the 1960 bus inspection report with earlier reports showed that better, newer, and larger vehicles were transporting the students. However, the administration of transportation for students in Rhea County was probably one of the weakest in the area. The transportation was by contract, and the system did not have a transportation supervisor. Additional information pertaining to transportation is found in Table XVII in the Appendix.

The Superintendent and the Board of Education spent more time on transportation problems than any other single

item connected with their official duties. These problems occurred primarily because of the lack of policies pertaining to transportation. In 1960, the Rhea County School Department was attempting to send buses to all school patrons' homes where the request was made. The lack of established written policies and supervision was probably the most significant factor in causing Rhea County to have a transportation cost of \$32.31 per child transported in 1957, while the state average for the same year was \$24.84.²³

With the beginning of student transportation in 1922, consideration was given to the consolidation of schools, but it was thirty-six years before all one-room schools were dissolved.

Table V shows the number of one, two and three or more teacher schools for selected years, 1924 to 1960. The table also shows the total number of elementary schools, number of teachers, enrollments, and average daily attendance. In 1924 there were twenty-seven one-teacher schools, sixteen two-teacher schools, and six three or more teacher schools, or a total of forty-nine elementary schools. The number of one-teacher schools had been reduced to fifteen by 1930. In 1936 the transportation of students was curtailed due to the

²³James Gibbs, Director, Public Education in Tennessee, Survey Report, Grades One Through Twelve (Nashville: State Department of Education, 1958).

TABLE V

NUMBER AND SIZE OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS, NUMBER TEACHERS, ENROLLMENT AND
AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE FOR SELECTED YEARS^a

Year	Number one teacher schools	Number two teacher schools	Number three or more teacher schools	Total number elementary schools	Total number elementary teachers employed	Enrollment	Average daily attendance
1924	27	16	6	49	83	3297	2297
1928	18	20	8	46	86	3049	2107
1932	15	17	10	42	(Records not complete)		
1936	28	12	4	44	71	3074	1915
1940	22	10	8	40	82	2963	2131
1944	11	11	10	32	77	2636	1891
1948	6	12	12	30	99	2997	2304
1952	5	8	9	22	79	2994	2236
1956	2	5	9	16	78	2797	2252
1960	0	2	10	12	65	2275	1905 ^b

^aAnnual Statistical Report, Office of Superintendent of Rhea County Schools, Dayton, Tennessee.

^bRhea County High School converted to six year high school. Seventh and eighth grades from seven elementary schools transferred to high school.

economic condition of the county. As a result, thirteen one-teacher schools were reactivated in order to furnish educational opportunities for elementary students. In 1940 the financial condition of the county had improved, and the Rhea County Board of Education continued with its consolidation program. By 1958 all the one-teacher schools had ceased to exist, and only one two-teacher school was in operation. The total number of elementary schools was reduced from forty-nine in 1924 to twelve in 1958. The same number was in operation in 1960. In 1959 the Rhea Central High School was converted into a six-year school, and the seventh and eighth grades from the seven elementary schools in the southern section of the county were transported to the school. The removal of the two grades from the elementary schools caused Walden's Ridge School to become a two-teacher school. In 1960 there were no one-teacher schools but two two-teacher schools were operated. One of the two-teacher schools was a Negro school. Desegregation of the schools is expected to remove the need for this school in the near future.

Table V also shows the enrollment in the Rhea County elementary schools dropped from 1924 to 1944. From 1944 to 1960 the enrollment was rather constant. The average daily attendance when compared to the enrollment showed improvement in the percentage of attendance.

Tables IX - XVII, inclusive, in the Appendix give additional information pertinent to the consolidation of schools in Rhea County.

An excellent road system and increased mobility of the citizens have produced a definite trend on the part of the people to send their children to schools located in the more densely populated areas of the county. This trend was not recognized when the school building program was planned and implemented. During the 1959-60 school year, there were two vacant classrooms in the Walden's Ridge School, one vacant classroom in the Spivey-Garrison School, one vacant classroom in the Grand view School, three vacant classrooms in the St. Clair School, and one vacant classroom in the Wolf Creek School. New buildings for each of these schools, except the Wolf Creek School, were constructed between 1952 and 1957. The building at Wolf Creek was built in 1943. In addition to these schools, there were four vacant classrooms in other rural elementary schools or a total of twelve vacant classrooms in the county. Unless there is a vast increase in population most of these rooms will never be used for teaching purposes.

Rhea County does not have a high school with sufficient students in the ninth, tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grades to

meet the minimum number recommended for a comprehensive high school in the Conant Report.²⁴

During the existence of public schools in Rhea County, there have been at least forty independent school districts. The City of Dayton School System is the only independent district now operating.²⁵ The system consists of Dayton City School and Dayton Colored School. The system had a total enrollment of 563 elementary students and a teaching staff of twenty teachers during 1959-60.²⁶

E. TRAINING OF THE TEACHERS IN RHEA COUNTY SCHOOLS

Table VI shows the training of teachers who taught in the Rhea County Schools during the years, 1923, 1930, 1940, 1950, and 1960. The information is based on all of the teachers employed in each of the stated years shown without regard to the length of term of their employment.²⁷ In some instances the information is not fully descriptive of the

²⁴James B. Conant, The American High School Today (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., 1959), pp. 37-77; Annual Statistical Report, 1960, Office of Superintendent of Rhea County Schools, Dayton, Tennessee.

²⁵Private Acts of Tennessee, 1899; Private Acts of Tennessee, 1921, Chapter 370.

²⁶Annual Statistical Report, 1960, Office of Superintendent of Rhea County Schools, Dayton, Tennessee.

²⁷Ibid.

TABLE VI
ACADEMIC EDUCATION OF ALL TEACHERS EMPLOYED
IN RHEA COUNTY IN SELECTED YEARS^a

Stages of training reached by teachers	School year ending 1923	School year ending 1930	School year ending 1940	School year ending 1950	School year ending 1960
College graduate	6	18	29	35	75
Five years college or Master's degree			5	4	9
Doctor's degree					1
Three years college		6	12	11	16
Two years college		19	52	48	23
One year college		33	17	11	1
Partial college or less than one year	19			34	3
Normal graduate	7				
"Partial" normal	15				
Academic normal	2				
High school graduate	45	44	10		
High school three years		5			
High school two years		2			
High school one year		1			
High school "partial"	21		2		
Elementary	11				

^aSource: Statistical Reports for 1923, 1930, 1940, 1950, 1960, Superintendent of Rhea County Schools Office, Dayton, Tennessee.

actual college preparation of the teachers. This was especially true for the year 1923 and for several years thereafter. During those years, a teacher with less than a college degree was reported as having "partial college" training and no record showed the actual amount of college training possessed by these teachers.

There was gradual improvement in the training of teachers from 1923 to 1950. During the years from 1950 to 1960, the amount of training of teaching personnel almost doubled. The reason believed to have caused this was a better salary schedule which included uniform increases in salary for increased training.

F. FINANCING PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN RHEA COUNTY

Almost from the beginning of the State in 1796, the people of Tennessee, acting through their State Legislature in conjunction with the Federal Government, attempted to create a State Common School Fund, the interest from which was to provide educational opportunities for its people. The original disbursement of the lands in the Southwest Territory did not provide for schools, but the Compact of 1806 provided that one square mile in each thirty-six square miles be set aside for school purposes in areas not previously granted.²⁸ Later,

²⁸Acts of Ninth United States Congress, Statute I, April, 1806.

schools for the orphans and poor were established.²⁹ This caused the public to refer to such schools as pauper schools.³⁰ In the beginning the proceeds from the use and sale of lands set aside for school purposes were to go into the Common School Fund. In 1854 counties were granted the power to levy taxes for common school purposes.³¹

During the Civil War the Common School Fund of the State was depleted.³² In 1873 the Legislature passed a general school law that was practical because it furnished a framework for operation and a reasonable way to obtain support for public education through taxation both at the state and county level.

Table VII shows that the first tax levied against private property for school purposes was in 1875 when the Rhea County Court levied a school tax of seven cents per one hundred dollars assessed value of property. The school tax on property in the county was collected for sixty-six years or until 1940, before it reached a one dollar rate per one hundred dollars assessed value. Since 1940 it has increased to the present rate of \$2.55. Additional pertinent information pertaining to taxation for schools is in Table XVIII in the Appendix.

²⁹Acts of Tennessee, 1815, Chapter 49.

³⁰Compilation of Common School Laws, Tennessee Acts of Legislature, October 3, 1853-March 6, 1854, Original edition.

³¹Acts of Tennessee, 1854, Chapter 171.

³²Public and Private Acts of Tennessee, 1865, p. 9.

TABLE VII
CERTAIN TAX LEVIES FOR THE SUPPORT OF RHEA
COUNTY SCHOOLS FOR SELECTED YEARS^a

Year	Poll tax	Marriage license	Property tax in cents per \$100 assessed valuation		
			Common school	High school	All county schools
1875	-	-	.07		
1880	.50	-	.10		
1890	1.50	4.00	.10		
1900	1.00	4.00	.20		
1910	1.00	4.00	.40	.15	
1920	2.00	4.00	.40	.09	
1930	2.00	4.00	.50	.40	
1940	2.00	4.00	.57	.40	
1950		4.00			1.97
1960		4.00			2.55

^aSource: Records, County Court Clerk's Office, and
Trustee's Office, Dayton, Tennessee.

In 1948 the retail sales and use tax of the State came into existence. As a result of the tax, funds for school purposes in Rhea County were almost doubled. This is reflected in Table VIII where total expenditures for the year ending June 30, 1946 amounted to \$237,364.49 while the expenditures were \$412,895.69 for the year ending June 30, 1951. In 1960 Rhea County received approximately 65 per cent of the funds for the support of public schools from the State, 30 per cent from the county and 5 per cent from the Federal Government.

The vast increase of funds available for school purposes in 1958, 1959, and 1960 resulted from the sale of bonds for the construction of buildings at Rhea Central High School and Spring City High School. Part of these bond funds was expended during 1960 to restore a gymnasium at Carver High School destroyed by an incompetent, unbonded, uninsured contractor who attempted to enlarge the building. The contractor had been employed by the Central Purchasing and Finance Commission over the protest of the Rhea County Board of Education and the Superintendent.³³

During the past thirty-two years, the smallest amount expended for public education in Rhea County was \$48,375.63 in 1933. The largest amount expended in any one year was

³³Rhea County Board of Education Minute Book II, pp. 163-164, Superintendent of Rhea County Schools Office, Dayton, Tennessee.

TABLE VIII
EXPENSES OF OPERATING RHEA COUNTY PUBLIC
SCHOOLS FOR CERTAIN YEARS^a

Date year ending	Elementary school	High school	Total expenditure
June 30, 1922	\$61,213.55	\$18,573.14	\$ 79,966.69
June 30, 1926	64,039.71	26,412.25	90,451.96
May 30, 1931	65,203.14	27,092.23	92,295.35
June 30, 1936	47,437.90	24,034.32	71,472.22
June 30, 1941	73,241.93	36,409.86	109,651.79
June 30, 1946			237,364.49
June 30, 1951			412,895.69
June 30, 1956			555,097.84
June 30, 1960			879,494.81

^aSource: This information taken from best available evidence. The 1922 and 1926 data obtained from records of warrants issued by Board of Education at Superintendent's office, Dayton, Tennessee. The 1931 data obtained from Rhea County Trustee's office, Dayton, showing warrants paid. There was no record found of expenditures for June, 1931. The data for years 1936, 1951, 1956, and 1960 were obtained from annual financial reports of the Rhea County Superintendent of Schools Office, Dayton. Expenditures for elementary and high schools were combined beginning 1944.

\$1,068,769.04, during the height of building construction in 1959.

Rhea County, except for the depression years, constantly increased expenditures for public education. Between 1922 and 1960, the amount expended increased almost nine times while the enrollment of students and the population increased very little. A comparison of taxation for school purposes in Rhea County with surrounding counties of comparable size and population showed that Rhea County was near average or above.

Table XIX in the Appendix shows school expenditures in Rhea County from 1922 to 1960.

G. PRIVATE LEGISLATIVE ACTS AFFECTING RHEA COUNTY SCHOOLS

Rhea County was predominantly a Republican County almost surrounded by counties that had a Democratic majority. The Ninth Senatorial District, of which Rhea County is a member, was about equally divided between the two parties in the past, but for the past several years the State Senator from the District has been a Democrat. Since the Civil War, Rhea County has been represented in the Tennessee House of Representatives by a floterial representative elected from Rhea and Meigs Counties. The majority of the voters in Meigs County were Democrats, and many times a Democrat nominee was

elected to represent predominantly Republican Rhea County in the General Assembly.

In 1927 D. C. Kemmer, a leader of the Democrat Party, was the Floterial Representative of Rhea County and Meigs County. Grover C. Harris, a Democrat, was the Senator representing Republican Rhea County in the General Assembly of the State. Walter White, a leader of the Republican Party in Rhea County, was the Superintendent of the Rhea County Schools, having qualified for the position by obtaining a superintendent's certificate by examination and having been elected to the position by the Quarterly County Court. D. C. Kemmer introduced a bill in the legislature that later became Chapter 547 of the Private Acts of 1927,³⁴ wherein the election of the Superintendent of Schools of Rhea County was changed from the County Court to the people. The Act also fixed the annual salary of the superintendent at \$1500.00.

In 1928 incumbent Walter White was elected superintendent of schools by the people as provided for in Chapter 547 of the Private Acts of 1927. His term was for four years.

In 1931 Grover C. Harris, a Democrat, was the Floterial Representative of Rhea and Meigs Counties. Grover C. Ault, also a Democrat, represented Rhea County in the General

³⁴Private Acts of Tennessee, 1927, Chapter 547.

Assembly. Harris introduced a bill that later became Chapter 636³⁵ of the Private Acts of 1931, wherein Chapter 547 of the Private Acts of 1927 was repealed, thus changing the election of the county superintendent of schools of Rhea County back to the County Court. The Act took effect from and after its passage, and White was removed from office by legislative act. He did not have sufficient support in the Quarterly County Court to be elected to the superintendency.

In 1932 Walter White was elected as Floterial Representative from Rhea and Meigs Counties. In the following year, he introduced a bill that later became Chapter 729 of the Private Acts of 1933,³⁶ wherein the election of the County Superintendent was again transferred to the people. The Act also gave the county superintendent of schools the power to nominate all teachers, janitors, bus drivers, and other school personnel to be elected by the school board. White was elected to the office of superintendent of schools under the Act he had been instrumental in passing in the Legislature.

In 1949, Robert Kemmer, son of D. C. Kemmer and a Democrat, was elected Senator for the Ninth Senatorial District, and Miss Mary Shadow, a Democrat and reformer, was

³⁵Private Acts of Tennessee, 1931, Chapter 636.

³⁶Private Acts of Tennessee, 1933, Chapter 729.

elected as Representative from Rhea and Meigs Counties. Mr. Kemmer introduced a bill in the Senate that later became Chapter 33 of the Private Acts of 1949, whereby Chapter 729 of the Private Acts of 1933³⁷ was repealed placing the election of the county superintendent in the people. The Act took effect from and after its passage, and White was again removed from office by legislative act.

Walter White's superintendent's certificate originally was obtained by examination and was renewed or extended by Chapter 152 of the Private Acts of 1933,³⁸ Chapter 431 of the Private Acts of 1937,³⁹ and Chapter 145 of the Public Acts of 1941.⁴⁰ The 1941 Act was an amendment of Chapter 152 of the Public Acts of 1933.

Other private legislation that has affected the Rhea County schools was the creation of special school districts. Chapter 386 of the Private Acts of 1899 created School District Number Forty.⁴¹ The Dayton City School System is now the only special school district in operation in the county.

³⁷Private Acts of Tennessee, 1949, Chapter 33.

³⁸Private Acts of Tennessee, 1933, Chapter 152.

³⁹Private Acts of Tennessee, 1937, Chapter 431.

⁴⁰Public Acts of Tennessee, 1941, Chapter 145.

⁴¹Private Acts of Tennessee, 1899, Chapter 386.

Since 1919 there have been seventeen private acts passed by the legislature that directly affected the Rhea County School Board. The acts included the appointment of the board by legislative act,⁴² authorized the superintendent to appoint members of the school board,⁴³ gave the board the power to fix the compensation of its chairman,⁴⁴ and gave the board power to borrow money.⁴⁵

Citations and summaries of eighty Private Acts of the State of Tennessee that directly affected the maintenance, operation, and administration of the Rhea County schools from 1917 to 1955 are included in the Appendix.

H. SUMMARY

The Rhea County School System was based primarily on the General Education Act of 1873 as amended. One of the most important amending reorganization acts was passed in 1925. Private Acts in 1960 provided for the superintendent and the school board to be elected by the people. All purchases were made by a central accounting and purchasing commission as set out by Private Act.

⁴²Private Acts of Tennessee, 1953, Chapters 167, 581.

⁴³Private Acts of Tennessee, 1945, Chapter 164; 1921, Chapter 868.

⁴⁴Private Acts of Tennessee, 1941, Chapter 464.

⁴⁵Private Acts of Tennessee, 1941, Chapter 63.

The early schools were generally one-room schools. In 1895 there were fifty-nine schools with sixty-four teachers. In 1960 there were twelve elementary schools with 128 teachers. At one time there were six high schools; in 1960 there were three.

Transportation of students at public expense began in 1922. Transportation of students and the consolidation of schools grew rapidly until the depression in the 1930's. In 1940 the program again began to move forward. In 1960 two-thirds of all students were transported at public expense. The cost of transportation per child transported in Rhea County was above the average for the State. Three causes for increased costs were the lack of adequate supervision of transportation, transportation furnished all patrons who made the request, and transportation purchased by private contract.

In 1960 there was a definite trend for the students to attend schools located in the more populated areas. There were twelve empty classrooms in rural school buildings.

At one time there were forty special school districts in the County. In 1960 the City of Dayton Schools was the only special school district.

In 1923 there were only six college graduates who taught in the Rhea County School System. There were eighteen in 1930, and by 1940 the number had increased to thirty-four. The total number of college degree teachers doubled from

1950 to 1960. During the 1959-1960 school term, eighty-five of the total number of teachers employed in the system held college degrees.

In 1806 certain public lands were reserved for school purposes; income was inadequate. In 1854 a tax was provided for the support of public schools, but the income was inadequate. In 1873 a workable public school law was enacted. Two years later, Rhea County assessed a school tax of ten cents per one hundred dollars of assessed value of private property located within the county. The local school tax was collected for sixty-six years before the rate was above \$1.00. The 1960 rate for school purposes was \$2.55. During that year, the Rhea County School System received approximately 65 per cent of its funds from the state, 5 per cent from the federal government, and approximately 30 per cent from county revenue.

Eighty Private Acts of the Legislature that directly affected the Rhea County schools were passed between 1917 and 1955. The legislation included changes in the method of electing the superintendent, extension of the county superintendent's certificate, and the appointment of board members.

CHAPTER VII

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

A. SUMMARY

The purpose of the study was to show the evolution of education in Rhea County, Tennessee. Effort was made to locate and bring together important facts about the Rhea County schools. Preceding chapters have presented the problem, the background of the problem, geographical characteristics of the county, historical background of the county and state, and a discussion of the educational program that existed between 1806 and 1960. The writer does not claim completeness of this study since many records pertinent to the development of education in Rhea County have been lost or destroyed.

Rhea County was settled by white people who were interested in establishing homes and developing farm lands along the flood plains of the Tennessee River and its tributaries. Adequate transportation has brought about industrial development within the county as well as in the adjoining areas. Rhea County has changed from an agricultural area to an industrial, residential and recreational area. The effects of the Tennessee Valley Authority have contributed to these changes.

Rhea County was created out of a part of Roane County in 1807. The county grew rapidly until 1836 when Meigs County was created out of the section of the county located on the east side of the Tennessee River.

The first school in the area was established by a Presbyterian Church missionary with the aid and assistance of the Federal Government. Academies flourished from the early days until 1906 when their need was removed by the opening of Rhea Central High School at Dayton and later Spring City High School, at Spring City. The William Jennings Bryan College, located at Dayton, was organized in 1930.

The Compact of 1806 reserved land for educational purposes and represented the first attempt to provide free schools. There was evidence that some of the proceeds from the public lands were used for the support of an academy, but there was no evidence that any of these funds were used to support public schools in Rhea County. The data indicated that no public schools were in operation in Rhea County during the Civil War; however, public schools existed in Rhea County in 1868. Eighteen free schools attended by 612 students and taught by eighteen teachers existed in 1869.

Hundreds of school laws were enacted by the legislature before a workable education act was passed in 1873. The General Education Act of 1873 provided a system of taxation for school purposes and defined the obligations of the

state, the county, and the school district. Since its enactment the law has been extended and improved many times. The public school system developed rapidly after a local property tax for school purposes was assessed.

The first county high school was organized in 1906. A second high school began operation in 1909. A high school for colored students was operated by the City of Dayton until 1937 when the school was absorbed by the county system. In 1960 there were two high schools for white students and one for colored students in operation in the county.

Rhea County began transporting public school students in 1922. With the exception of the depression years, the transportation system of the county showed continuous expansion. In recent years the expense of operating the transportation system has increased rapidly. The cost for transporting each child is more than the average in the state and is increasing each year. In 1960 there were few established policies that pertained to transportation. The school board devoted more of its time to transportation than any other problem. The transportation system was carried out under the private contract system without proper planning and supervision.

In 1895 there were fifty-nine public schools in the county. The development of better roads and a transportation system reduced the number of elementary schools to twelve and

the number of high schools to three in 1960. There were no one-teacher schools in 1960, and only two two-teacher schools existed. One elementary school and one high school will be closed when integration is introduced into the Rhea County School System.

During the 1959-1960 school year, twelve comparatively new classrooms in rural schools of the county were not utilized. There is a definite trend on the part of the people to send their children to schools located in the three populous areas, Graysville, Dayton, and Spring City.

There have been many special school districts in the county. In 1960, the City of Dayton was the only independent school district in the county.

There were six college graduates teaching in the Rhea County School System in 1923; by 1940 the number had increased to thirty-four. The number of college graduates engaged in teaching in the Rhea County schools doubled between 1950 and 1960.

Since 1875 when the first property tax for school purposes was passed financial support of public education has increased with minor exceptions. In 1960 the tax rate for school purposes was \$2.55 per one hundred dollars assessed value of local property. An analysis of funds expended for public education during the 1959-1960 school year showed that approximately 65 per cent of the funds came from the state,

approximately 5 per cent from the federal government, and 30 per cent from the county.

Eighty Private Acts passed by the legislature since 1917 have directly affected the Rhea County School System. One of the county superintendents extended or renewed his county superintendent's certificate three times by legislative act. In 1960 the selection of the superintendent of schools and the school board was provided for by Private Acts of the legislature. All purchases were made by a purchasing and finance commission as authorized by Private Act.

B. CONCLUSIONS

The data which were presented by the study indicated that: (1) schools have been in existence since the establishment of Rhea County; (2) financial support of public schools has varied from time to time but has continued to improve; (3) the number and size of the schools have varied considerably throughout their existence; (4) planning, policies and supervision were needed to improve the transportation system; and (5) if the current trend continues, the schools in the more populated areas will become larger and the schools in the rural areas will become smaller or cease to exist.

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APPENDIXES

APPENDIX A

Tables IX-XIX

TABLE IX

LIST OF SCHOOLS OPENED FOR 1922-1923 SCHOOL YEAR SHOWING
THE NUMBER OF TEACHERS, TOTAL ENROLLMENT, AVERAGE
DAILY ATTENDANCE AND LENGTH OF TERM^a

Name and kind of school	Number of teachers	Total enroll- ment	Average daily attendance	Length of term
Elementary (white)				
Bonham	1	17	14	120
Bogles Chapel	1	30	25	120
Byrd's Chapel	1	47	27	120
Concord	1	52	30	120
Cove	1	44	23	120
Garrison (1st District)	1	63	42	120
Hickory Grove	1	17	8	120
Iron Hill	1	47	27	120
Johnson's Stand	1	20	13	120
Kelly Grove	1	60	30	120
Kiuka	1	43	28	120
Liberty Hill	1	35	19	120
Limestone	1	52	38	120
Mars Hill	1	47	28	120
Maple Springs	1	54	38	120
Mt. Sulpher	1	20	12	120
Norman	1	24	15	120
Oak Hill	1	63	44	120
Ogden	1	38	24	120
Pleasant Hill	1	45	34	120
Salem	1	32	21	120
Smyrna	1	71	35	120
Valley Institute	1	69	38	120
Five Points	2	132	80	120
Garrison (4th District)	2	73	57	120
Goat Knobb	2	69	33	120
Meadow View	2		51	120
Montague	2	129	102	120
Grandview	2	65	50	120
New Union	2	85	61	120

TABLE IX (continued)

Name and kind of school	Number of teachers	Total enrollment	Average daily attendance	Length of term
Pennine	2	64	38	120
Pine Grove	2	89	38	120
Roddy	2	73	53	120
Rhea Springs	2	74	43	120
Shady Grove	2	68	51	120
St. Clair	2	81	57	120
Walnut Grove	2	68	38	120
Washington	2	83	48	120
Wolf Creek	2	90	56	120
Carp	5	155	126	120
Evensville	3	118	79	120
Graysville	4	214	168	120
Spring City	8	341	253	120
Morgantown	4	213	146	120
Elementary (Negro)				
Hickory	1	20	14	120
Euchee	1	35	23	120
Evensville	1	21	13	120
Spring City	2	54	50	120
White High Schools				
Grandview	2	22	18	180
Graysville	3	51	45	180
Rhea Central	7	194	140	180
Spring City	5	111	80	180

^aSource: Annual Statistical Report, 1922-23, Superintendent's Office, Rhea County Schools, Dayton, Tennessee.

TABLE X

LIST OF SCHOOLS SHOWING NUMBER OF TEACHERS, TOTAL ENROLLMENT,
AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE, AND LENGTH OF SCHOOL
TERM FOR 1929-1930^a

Name and kind of school	Number of teachers	Total enroll- ment	Average daily attendance	Length of term
Elementary (white)				
Beech Grove	1	43	25	160
Bogles Chapel	1	28	20	160
Bonham	1	14	9	145
Cove	1	39	25	155
Hickory Grove	1	13	10	100
Johnson Stand	1	23	15	125
Liberty Hill	1	27	19	160
McDonald	1	20	12	150
Norman	1	22	14	160
Oak Hill	1	48	26	155
Ogden	1	47	27	160
Pine Grove	1	28	17	155
Smyrna	1	42	25	160
Clear Creek	2	83	39	160
Concord	2	59	37	160
Garrison IV	2	85	48	160
Grandview	2	47	34	160
Iron Hill	2	62	38	160
Kelly Grove	2	67	37	160
Maple Springs	2	62	35	160
Mars Hill	2	50	27	160
Montague	2	52	36	144
Morgan Springs	2	65	42	160
Pennine	2	74	45	160
Rhea Springs	2	56	42	160
Roddy	2	91	51	155
Shady Grove	2	67	44	160
Spivey Grammar	2	54	33	160
St. Clair	2	60	42	160
Wolf Creek	2	66	37	160

TABLE X (continued)

Name and kind of school	Number of teachers	Total enroll- ment	Average daily attendance	Length of term
Vaughn Grammar	2	57	35	160
Washington	2	82	58	160
Wasson	2	48	32	140
Carp	4	143	105	160
Evensville	4	94	67	160
Frazier Grammar	5	165	116	160
Graysville	8	228	170	160
Haggard Grammar	5	199	127	160
Spring City	9	346	269	160
Walnut Grove	3	107	66	160
Elementary (Negro)				
Spring City	1	49	25	160
Hickey		36	29	160
High Schools (white)				
Rhea Central High	9	226	194	180
Spring City High	7	203	170	180
High Schools (Negro)				
Dayton High School	1	14	10	158
Spring City High	1	10	7	158

^aSource: Annual Statistical Report of 1929-1930,
Superintendent's Office, Rhea County Schools, Dayton, Tennessee.

TABLE XI

LIST OF SCHOOLS SHOWING NUMBER OF TEACHERS, TOTAL ENROLLMENT,
AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE, AND LENGTH OF SCHOOL
TERM FOR 1939-1940^a

Name and kind of school	Number of teachers	Total enroll- ment	Average daily attendance	Length of term
Elementary (white)				
Bogles Chapel	1	42	27	160
Bonham	1	30	22	160
Clear Creek	1	48	33	160
Concord	1	25	17	160
Cove	1	55	34	160
Hickory Grove	1	18	15	160
High Point	1	31	19	160
Kelly Grove	1	59	47	160
Liberty Hill	1	31	19	160
Maple Springs	1	29	19	160
Mars Hill	1	25	18	160
Norman	1	20	16	160
Oak Hill	1	49	33	160
Ogden	1	45	32	160
Pennine	1	40	25	160
Pine Grove	1	30	23	160
Pleasant Dale	1	37	22	160
Salem (McDonald)	1	22	15	160
Walnut Grove	1	33	22	160
Wasson	1	39	30	160
Garrison	2	80	64	160
Iron Hill	2	58	42	160
Morgan Springs	2	82	55	160
Rhea Springs	2	70	45	160
Roddy	2	65	54	160
Shady Grove	2	58	46	160
Spivey	2	80	45	160
St. Clair	2	51	39	160
Valley Grammar	2	68	45	160
Wolf Creek	2	76	50	160

TABLE XI (continued)

Name and kind of school	Number of teachers	Total enroll- ment	Average daily attendance	Length of term
Carp	3	93	72	160
Evensville	3	119	80	160
Frazier	5	170	137	160
Grandview	3	111	77	160
Graysville	7	280	200	160
Morgantown	5	199	145	160
Spring City	11	463	334	160
Washington	3	86	67	160
Elementary (Negro)				
Euchee	1	11	10	160
Spring City	1	45	36	160
High Schools (white)				
Rhea Central High	10	280	241	180
Spring City High	8	261	212	180
High Schools (Negro)				
Dayton High School	3	56	40	180

^aSource: Annual Statistical Report of 1939-1940,
Superintendent's Office Rhea County Schools, Dayton,
Tennessee.

TABLE XII

LIST OF SCHOOLS SHOWING NUMBER OF TEACHERS, TOTAL ENROLLMENT,
AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE, AND LENGTH OF SCHOOL
TERM FOR 1949-1950a

Name and kind of school	Number of teachers	Total enroll- ment	Average daily attendance	Length of term
Elementary (white)				
Bogles Chapel	1	32	21	179
Hickory Grove	1	23	19	179
High Point	1	30	22	179
Liberty Hill	1	25	19	179
Pennine	1	44	19	179
Pine Grove	1	46	33	179
Clear Creek	2	52	45	179
Concord	2	63	42	179
Cove	2	52	37	179
Mars Hill	2	51	44	179
Morgan Springs	2	73	53	179
Oak Hill	2	54	48	179
Ogden	2	66	55	179
Roddy	2	81	66	179
Spivey	2	65	54	179
St. Clair	2	69	57	179
Valley	2	48	38	179
Walnut Grove	2	43	31	179
Carp	3	87	73	179
Evensville	3	95	80	179
Frazier	6	196	168	179
Garrison	3	96	81	179
Grandview	5	152	129	179
Graysville	7	238	192	179
Morgantown	10	311	268	179
Spring City	17	553	456	179
Washington	3	80	61	179
Wolf Creek	4	147	119	179

TABLE XII (continued)

Name and kind of school	Number of teachers	Total enroll- ment	Average daily attendance	Length of term
Elementary (Negro)				
Spring City	2	53	50	179
High Schools (white)				
Rhea Central High	16	378	349	178
Spring City High	11	265	244	179
High School (Negro)				
Dayton High School	3	60	57	175

^aSource: Annual Statistical Report for 1949-1950,
Superintendent's Office Rhea County Schools, Dayton,
Tennessee.

TABLE XIII

LIST OF SCHOOLS SHOWING NUMBER OF TEACHERS, TOTAL ENROLLMENT,
AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE, AND LENGTH OF SCHOOL
TERM FOR 1959-1960^a

Name and kind of school	Number of teachers	Total enroll- ment	Average daily attendance	Length of term
Elementary (white)				
Evensville	5	175	152	175
Frazier	4	135	119	175
Grandview	3	164	140	175
Graysville	6	228	177	175
Morgantown	8	309	246	175
St. Claire	4	130	114	175
Spivey	3	111	95	175
Spring City	20	673	570	175
Walden's Ridge	2	69	65	175
Washington	3	122	101	175
Wolf Creek	3	120	91	175
Elementary (Negro)				
Claiborn Calloway	2	39	35	175
High Schools (white)				
Rhea Central	31	881	781	175
Spring City High	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	313	282	175
High School (Negro)				
Carver High	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	56	47	175

^aSource: Annual Statistical Report for 1959-1960,
Superintendent's Office Rhea County Schools, Dayton, Tennessee.

TABLE XIV

NUMBER OF WHITE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS, NUMBER OF TEACHERS,
ENROLLMENT, AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE FOR SELECTED
YEARS FROM 1924 THROUGH 1960^a

Year	Number of one teacher schools	Number of two teacher schools	Number of three or more teacher schools	Number of elementary teachers	Enroll- ment	A.D.A.
1924	24	15	6	24 30 29	942 1096 1172	587 706 854
1926	17	17	7	17 34 34	604 1114 1311	390 706 898
1928	13	20	8	13 40 41	358 1184 1412	221 781 1034
1930	13	20	7	13 40 33	394 1284 1283	244 796 899
1932	11	17	10	11 36 45 ^b	415 1070	263 657
1934	21	15	6	21 30 26	769 1057 1137	459 665 790
1936	26	12	4	26 24 19	1047 1037 860	602 660 607
1938	19	13	5	19 26 21 $\frac{1}{2}$	672 841 919	440 596 704
1940	20	10	8	20 20 40	708 688 1511	488 485 1112

TABLE XIV (continued)

Year	Number of one teacher schools	Number of two teacher schools	Number of three or more teacher schools	Number of elementary teachers	Enroll- ment	A.D.A.
1942	12			12	442	298
		10		20	663	438
			9	48	1927	1307
1944	11			11	397	278
		8		16	497	356
			10	48	1673	1205
1946	6			6	136	104
		13		26	774	541
			10	57	1941	1470
1948	6			6	171	127
		11		22	639	479
			12	69	2123	1646
1950	6			6	200	133
		12		24	714	570
			10	61	1959	1627
1952	5			5	172	132
		7		14	507	386
			9	58	2186	1673
1954	4			4	146	104
		2		4	135	122
			10	68	2488	1998
1956	2			2	40	35
		4		8	336	244
			9	66	2371	1928
1958	0					
		0				
			11	72	2603	2033

TABLE XIV (continued)

Year	Number of one teacher schools	Number of two teacher schools	Number of three or more teacher schools	Number of elementary teachers	Enroll- ment	A.D.A.
1960	0	1	10	2 61	69 2167	65 1805 ^c

^aSource: Annual Statistical Report for years indicated, Superintendent's Office Rhea County Schools, Dayton, Tennessee.

^bFrazier record not complete.

^cRhea Central High School converted to six-year High School from four-year High School with seventh and eighth grades being removed from Graysville, Walden's Ridge, Spivey, Morgantown, Frazier, Washington, and Evensville and transported to Rhea Central High School.

TABLE XV

NUMBER OF COLORED ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS, NUMBER OF TEACHERS,
ENROLLMENT, AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE FOR SELECTED
YEARS FROM 1924 THROUGH 1960^a

Year	Number of one teacher schools	Number of two teacher schools	Number of elementary teachers	Total colored elementary enrollment	A.D.A.
1924	3		3	59	40
		1	2	68	43
1926	3		3	57	37
		1	2	48	34
1928	5		5	95	71
1930	2		2	75	54
1932	4		4	87	67
1934	3		3	63	55
1936	2		2	59	46
1938	2		2	60	43
1940	2		2	56	46
1942	2		2	35	23
1944		1	2	69	52
1946		1	2	62	54
1948		1	2	64	52
1950		1	2	57	53
1952		1	2	50	45
1954		1	2	66	62
1956		1	2	50	45
1958		1	2	37	33
1960		1	2	39	35

^aSource: Statistical Report, Rhea County Superintendent
of Schools Office, Dayton, Tennessee.

TABLE XVI

NUMBER COUNTY HIGH SCHOOLS, NUMBER TEACHERS POSITIONS FILLED
AND TOTAL ENROLLMENT FOR CERTAIN YEARS^a

Year	Number of county high schools	Number teaching positions main- tained and filled	Average daily attendance
1923	4	-	-
1924	6	16	-
1925	4	14	-
1926	4	15	1
1927	3	18	390
1928	3	18	391
1930	4	18	388
1931	3	15	347
1932	3	18	344
1933	3	14	316
1934	3	14	322
1935	2	14	337
1936	2	16	367
1937	3	16	409
1938	3	18	443
1939	3	20	488
1940	3	21	493
1941	3	22	524
1942	3	25	510
1943	3	21	482
1944	3	29	467
1945	3	29	456
1946	3	25	498
1947	3	29	550
1948	3	29	537
1949	3	29	571
1950	3	31	650

TABLE XVI (continued)

Year	Number of county high schools	Number teaching positions main- tained and filled	Average daily attendance
1951	3	31	696
1952	3	33	709
1953	3	33	733
1954	3	35	744
1955	3	39	786
1956	3	41	828
1957	3	43	851
1958	3	46	881
1959	3	50	1023 ^b
1960	3	51	1110 ^c

^aSource: Annual Statistical Reports, Superintendent of School's Office, Rhea County, Dayton, Tennessee.

^bIncreased from four to six year high at Rhea Central at end of third month.

^cRhea Central six-year high school.

TABLE XVII

NUMBER SCHOOL BUSES AND OTHER CONVEYANCES USED FOR TRANSPORTATION OF STUDENTS, NUMBER PUPILS TRANSPORTED, COST PER YEAR FOR CERTAIN YEARS AND AVERAGE COST^a

Year	Number of cars	Number of wagons	Number of buses or trucks	Average number pupils transported daily	Cost per year for transportation	Average cost of transportation per child (mo.)
1922		1			\$ 352.50	
1923		2		32	399.00	\$ 6.00
1924					48.00	
1925			2	30		3.00
1926		3	7	174		3.75
1927		4	10	275		3.75
1928		18	8	240		3.50
1929	(No statistical report for this year)					
1930		5	15	313		2.90
1931	(No transportation shown this year)					
1932		1	9	233		2.07
1933			3	127		1.56
1934			1	108		1.85
1935			3	132		1.55
1936			3	126		1.78
1937			11	400	6,632.60	1.84
1938			10	(Part of record missing)		
1939	1		9	613	8,244.00	2.19
1940	8		9	724	11,447.19	1.76
1941	8		9	1005	17,600.00	1.95
1942	8		11	1156	22,911.25	2.20
1943	11		11	1413	27,288.75	2.15
1944	6		11	1312	28,583.91	2.42
1945	4		12	1206	29,280.00	2.70
1946	3		12	1316	35,393.67	2.99

TABLE XVII (continued)

Year	Number of cars	Number of wagons	Number of buses or trucks	Average number pupils trans- ported daily	Cost per year for transportation	Average cost of transportation per child (mo.)
1947	4		14	1498	\$ 40,981.68	\$ 3.04
1948	11		18	1638	54,180.00	3.68
1949	11		22	1677	65,322.00	4.33
1950	1		27	1687	58,269.20	3.18
1951	1		28	1655	51,819.50	3.48
1952	1		28	1774	52,128.91	3.26
1953			29	1981	60,494.00	3.39
1954			29	2041	61,246.00	3.33
1955			29	2002	64,308.00	3.57
1956			29	2031	65,619.40	3.59
1957			29	2070	69,583.00	3.73
1958			29	2071	74,827.90	4.01
1959			28	2076	77,558.67	4.15
1960			28	2099	78,279.40	4.14

^aSource: Annual Statistical Reports for years shown, Superintendent of Rhea County Schools Office, Dayton, Tennessee (found by adding total cost of amounts paid transportation contractors for the years 1937 through 1960; years 1923 through 1936 from summary of transportation given in Statistical Reports).

TABLE XVIII
CERTAIN TAX LEVIES FOR SUPPORT OF RHEA COUNTY SCHOOLS^a

Year	Property tax in cents per \$100 assessed valuation			High school
	Poll tax	Common school	Single property tax rate ^b	
1875		.07		
1876		.10		
1877				
1878	.50	.35		
1879				
1880	.50	.10		
1881	.50	.10		
1882	.50	.10		
1883	.50	.10		
1884	.50	.10		
1885	.50	.10		
1886	(Total tax for all purposes .55) ^c			
1887	.55	.10		
1888				
1889		.10		
1890	.50	.10		
1891	.50	.10		
1892	.50	.10		
1893	.50	.10		
1894	1.00	.10		
1895	2.00			
1896	2.00			
1897	2.00	.10		
1898	2.00	.25		
1899	2.00	.10		
1900	2.00	.20		
1901	2.00	.15		
1902	2.00	.15		
1903	2.00	.15		
1904		.37		
1905	2.00	.45		
1906	2.00	.43		.10
1907	2.00	.43		.10
1908		.40		.10
1909		.40		.15
1910		.40		.15
1911		.40		.15
1912		.40		.15

TABLE XVIII (continued)

Year	Property tax in cents per \$100 assessed valuation			
	Poll tax	Common school	Single property tax rate	High school
1913		.45		.15
1914		.43		.15
1915		.40		.15
1916		.40		.15
1917	1.00	.40		.15
1918		.40		.15
1919	2.00	.60		.15
1920	2.00	.40		.09
1921		.50		.15
1922	2.00	.50		.15
1923	2.00	.50		.15
1924	2.00	.50		.15
1925	2.00	.44		.23
1926	2.00	.50		.25
1927		.50		.32
1928		.50		.35
1929		.50		.40
1930		.50		.40
1931		.65		.33 $\frac{1}{2}$
1932		.58		.29 $\frac{1}{2}$
1933		.58		.31
1934		.58		.32
1935		.58		.37
1936		.57		.40
1937		.57		.40
1938		.57		.40
1939		.57		.40
1940		.57		.40
1941		.57		.45
1942		.65		.51
1943		.75		.60
1944		.91		.63
1945		1.12		.84
1946		1.12		.84
1947			1.96	
1948			1.80	
1949			2.00	
1950			1.97	

TABLE XVIII (continued)

Year	Poll tax	Property tax in cents per \$100 assessed valuation		
		Common school	Single property tax rate	High school
1951			1.97	
1952			2.00	
1953			2.07	
1954			2.07	
1955			2.00	
1956			2.00	
1957			2.15	
1958			2.15	
1959			2.35	
1960			2.55	

^aSource: Records Rhea County Trustee.

^bSingle property tax rate for elementary and high schools.

TABLE XIX

EXPENSES OF OPERATING RHEA COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR
CERTAIN YEARS

Date year ending	Elementary school	High school	Total expenditure
June 30, 1922	\$ 61,213.55	\$18,573.14	\$79,966.69
June 30, 1923	56,284.89	19,094.44	75,379.33
June 30, 1924	57,045.47	19,641.36	76,686.83
June 30, 1925	65,003.73	19,975.31	84,979.04
June 30, 1926	64,039.71	26,412.25	90,451.96
June 30, 1927	60,522.51	15,960.35	76,482.86
June 30, 1928	69,329.40	30,664.35	99,993.75
June 30, 1929	80,625.27	31,482.02	112,107.29
June 30, 1930	61,565.95	27,352.54	88,918.69
May 30, 1931	65,203.14	27,092.23	92,295.37
June 30, 1932	72,155.54	35,453.76	107,609.30
June 30, 1933	32,189.36	16,186.27	48,375.63
June 30, 1934	57,795.08	22,931.35	80,726.43
June 30, 1935	49,146.35	21,065.00	70,211.35
June 30, 1936	47,437.90	24,034.32	71,472.22
June 30, 1937	49,350.26	28,312.84	77,663.10
June 30, 1938	66,648.49	30,155.14	96,803.63
June 30, 1939	65,011.43	27,729.27	92,740.70
June 30, 1940	88,076.66	34,106.19	122,182.85
June 30, 1941	73,241.93	36,409.86	109,651.79
June 30, 1942	78,596.48	38,424.92	117,021.40
June 30, 1943	90,153.43	51,748.96	141,902.39
June 30, 1944			170,736.13
June 30, 1945			177,630.43
June 30, 1946			237,364.49
June 30, 1947			214,313.23
June 30, 1948			427,895.62

TABLE XIX (continued)

Date year ending	Elementary school	High school	Total expenditure
June 30, 1949			\$ 592,640.05
June 30, 1950			497,657.37
June 30, 1951			412,895.69
June 30, 1952			418,532.21
June 30, 1953			436,817.76
June 30, 1954			525,786.17
June 30, 1955			517,998.23
June 30, 1956			555,097.84
June 30, 1957			732,481.76
June 30, 1958			719,109.23
June 30, 1959			1,068,769.04
June 30, 1960			879,494.81

Note: The information was from the evidence available, but in some instances it is believed that the table is not entirely accurate. The information for 1922 through 1926 was obtained from the bills approved for payment by the school board in its minutes for the respective years. These expenditures were made by the issuance of school warrants by the Rhea County Department of Education, but it does not necessarily follow that they were paid by Rhea County in the year in which they were issued. The expenditures shown for those years do not include the expenditures made by the Special School District, the City of Dayton.

The information for the years 1927 through 1931 was obtained from the Trustee's ledger and includes the City of Dayton's pro rata share of the funds collected for school purposes. Only expenditures for eleven months were found for the year 1931. During the years between 1927 and 1931 no accurate information could be found of the warrants drawn by the school board for those years, nor the total of outstanding warrants at the end of each of the years.

The information pertaining to the years 1932 through 1960 was obtained from the financial statements made by the Superintendent of Schools and the County Trustee for the respective years.

APPENDIX B

Citations and Summaries of Private Acts of Tennessee
Affecting Rhea County Schools from 1917 to 1955

Citations and Summaries of Private Acts of Tennessee

Affecting Rhea County Schools from 1917 to 1955

- 1917 Chap. 351 (M. White-H) To provide for retirement and pension of teachers over 65 who have taught for 30 years in any county in the state, @ \$10.00 per month.
- 1919 Chap. 171 (Haston-S) To fix compensation of Chairman of County Board of Education and High School Board of Education @ \$60.00 per year. Repealed by Chap. 15, Acts of 1949.
- 1921 Chap. 370 (Foague-S) Created Special School District to be known and designated as the City School of Rhea County to be established in City of Dayton with the following boundaries: (area west of railroad) and providing for Board of Trustees to be elected and serve in conjunction with school Board of the City of Dayton in control of new school district.
- 1921 Chap. 960 (Poague-S) Provided for City of Graysville School District to issue \$20,000 in bonds for school building.
- 1921 Chap. 868 (Green-H) County Superintendent authorized to fill vacancies on High School Board of Education until following January 1st. Repealed by Chapter 13, Acts of 1949.
- 1921 Chap. 699 (Green-H) Provided for retirement of teachers over 70 years of age who have taught for 30 years or more, @ \$25.00 month.
- 1921 Chap. 546 (Green-H) Authorized \$75,000 in school bonds to pay "floating" debt of schools, both high and elementary, to be retired one-fifth each year over five year period.
- 1921 Chap. 574 (Hilleary-H) Authorized borrowing of \$20,000 per year for school purposes. Repealed by Chap. 20, Acts of 1949.
- 1925 Chap. 341 (Hill-S) Authorized \$177,000 General County Bonds (funding) provided approved by people in referendum.
- 1925 Chap. 342 (Hill-S) Authorized \$35,000 High School Bonds (funding) provided approved by people in referendum.

- 1925 Chap. 474 (Hill-S) Authorized \$100,000 elementary school bonds (funding) provided approved by people in referendum.
- 1927 Chap. 547 (Kemmer-H) Provided for election of County Superintendent of Schools by the people; 4 year term; \$1500.00 annual salary. Repealed by Chap. 656 of 1931.
- 1927 Chap. 787 (Kemmer-H) Authorized \$50,000 Bond Issue for construction and equipping high school at Dayton, subject to referendum of voters.
- 1927 Chap. 669 (Kemmer-H) Abolished office of School Attendance Officer and placed duties in the probation officer of the Juvenile Court at salary of \$140.00 per month during school term.
- 1929 Chap. 585 (Lee-S) Authorized issuance of up to \$8,000 in bonds to pay cost of completing 1928-29 term of high school.
- 1929 Chap. 3 (Lee-S) Authorized \$150,000 Bond Issue for elementary and high schools to pay judgments and outstanding warrants.
- 1929 Chap. 10 Authorized \$25,000 Bond Issue for City of Dayton schools.
- 1931 Chap. 434 (Ault-S) Authorized issue of \$25,000 in Bonds to pay off high school warrants.
- 1931 Chap. 537 (Ault-S) Authorized issue of \$55,000 in Bonds to pay off outstanding elementary school warrants.
- 1931 Chap. 469 (Ault-S) Authorized issue of \$195,000 in Bonds to cover county outstanding warrants, except school warrants.
- 1931 Chap. 467 (Ault-S) Created Budget Commission for county to set budget, except not to set school budget.
- 1931 Chap. 656 (Harris-H) Repealed Chap. 547, Acts of 1927, which had provided for election of School Superintendent by the people (thus returned election of Superintendent to County Court).

- 1933 Chap. 152 (Walter White-H) Provided that County Superintendents who have taught or served as County Superintendent for at least 40 years and who hold a twelve-year certificate obtained in 1920 or since, and who have served as County Superintendent at least four years may have the certificate renewed from date of expiration for another twelve years without examination.
- 1933 Chap. 102 (White-H) Set up retirement of \$15.00 per month for teachers with 25 years experience in the public schools.
- 1933 Chap. 210 (Hutchings-S) Amended Sec. 2438 of Code of 1932 (being Chap. 115, Sec. 8 of Public Acts of 1925) so as to except application to Rhea County (abolished office of Attendance Officer).
- 1933 Chap. 613 Amended Chap. 469 of Acts of 1931 authorizing \$195,000 in County General Bonds so as to extend period of warrants to be covered by bonds additional two years.
- 1933 Chap. 614 Amended Chap. 537 of Acts of 1931 authorizing \$55,000 elementary school bonds similar to above.
- 1933 Chap. 615 Amended Chap. 434 of Acts of 1931 authorizing \$25,000 high school bonds similar to above.
- 1933 Chap. 541 (White-H) Validated certain claims of teachers and school employees for school year 1931-32: Margie Smith, Carp, 5 months \$225.00, J. N. Ewing, Clear Creek, 5 mo. \$460.00, Hazel Knight, Oak Hill, 1 mo. \$67.50, Beulah Gentry, Evensville 3½ mo. \$262.50, Cecile McCabe, Graysville, 5 mo. \$300.00, Bessie Jewell, Garrison, 5 mo. \$375.00, E. A. Lowry, Montague one-fourth mo. \$20.60, Queen Trentham, Concord, 5 mo. \$350.00, Rega Johnson, Graysville, one-fourth month \$23.10, Nola Edwards (col.), Spring City, one and one-fourth mo. \$62.50, W. J. Bean, bus driver, Graysville, \$175.00, W. J. Bean, bus driver, high school, \$72.72.
- 1933 Chap. 729 (White-H) Provided for election of County Superintendent for four-year term, to be elected by people at August, 1934, election; (incumbent to serve until September 1, 1934). County to pay \$500.00 of salary; Superintendent to have right to nominate all teachers, janitors, bus drivers, and other school employees. Repealed by Chap. 33 of Private Acts of 1949.

- 1935 Chap. 362 (Dodson-S) Amends Chap. 537, Acts of 1931, Repeals Chap. 614 of Acts of 1933; authorizing \$55,000 elementary school bonds to take up outstanding warrants, judgments, etc.
- 1935 Chap. 363 (Dodson-S) Amends Chap. 434, Acts of 1931, Repeals Chap. 615 of Acts of 1933; authorizing \$25,000 high school bonds.
- 1935 Chap. 364 (Dodson-S) Amends Chap. 469, Acts of 1931, Repeals Chap. 613 Acts of 1933; authorizing \$195,000 county general funding bonds.
- 1935 Chap. 40, Extra Ses. (Hicks-H) Authorized \$440,000 Bond Issue for City of Dayton for funding and re-funding of all indebtedness including schools.
- 1937 Chap. 780 (White-H) Created office of Attendance Officer at salary of \$140.00 per month during school year; election to be by County Court. Repealed by Chap. 443, Private Acts of 1939.
- 1937 Chap. 619 (White-H) Validated claim of Walter White, former Superintendent of Schools for \$327.00 and 6 per cent interest from January 1, 1932 for salary from August 31, 1931 to December 19, 1931 (alleging White had wrongfully been deprived of such salary during law suit over who rightfully was county superintendent).
- 1937 Chap. 862 (White-H) Created Budget Commission for Rhea County, members to draw \$75.00 annual salary, and naming E. M. Williamson, Mrs. Daisy Morgan, W. R. Spivey, Creed Cunningham and Mrs. Ethel England as first members.
- 1937 Chap. 348 (Tollett-S) Appropriates from State Treasury \$327.00 for same claim of Walter White, Superintendent as covered by Chap. 619 above. Act recites that White was elected in August, 1928, to go into office on January 1, 1929 for four year term; and served until November 27, 1931 when he was deprived of his office as the result of being legislated out of office.
- 1937 Chap. 431 (White-H) An act to provide for the extension of certain certificates authorizing holders to serve as County Superintendent; provided that 12-year certificate of qualification be renewed for 12 years from date of expiration, provided holder had served an aggregate of four years as superintendent during the

life of the first certificate. Repealed by Chapter 31, Private Acts of 1949.

- 1937 Chap. 36, 2nd Ex. Ses. (White-H) Made it the "duty" of County Board of Education to place on Teachers Pension Roll any person engaged in school work in Tennessee for thirty years, and in county for fifteen years, at \$30.00 per month out of school fund. But teacher must retire and apply for pension.
- 1937 Chap. 23, 2nd Ex. Ses. (White-H) Fixed compensation of school board members at \$75.00 per year payable out of school funds. Repealed by Chap. 30, Private Acts of 1949.
- 1937 Chap. 24, 3rd Ex. Ses (White-H) Authorized committee for county to make settlement with minor (Max Harwood) who had been injured in the manual training department of Spring City High School.
- 1939 Chap. 443 (Greer-S) Repealed Chap. 780, Acts of 1937 (which had created office of Attendance Officer for schools).
- 1941 Chap. 213 (White-H) Validated Bond Issues for Rhea County in amounts of \$1,175,000 refunding and \$75,000 funding.
- 1941 Chap 62 (White-H) Authorized the Board of Education to borrow money for school operations from time to time with limits of \$6,000 for High School and \$15,000 for elementary schools outstanding at one time; to be evidenced by notes signed by Chairman of Board of Education and County School Superintendent; to draw 6 per cent interest; not to be general obligations of County. Repealed by Chap. 27, Private Acts of 1949.
- 1941 Chap. 474 (White-H) Authorized the Board of Education to fix compensation for Chairman of Board of Education. Repealed by Chap. 29, Private Acts of 1949.
- 1941 Chap. 443 (White-H) Provided that election of County Superintendent of Schools be by the County Court; 4 year term. Repealed by Chapter 28, Private Acts of 1949.
- 1941 Chap. 8 (White-H) Provided that legal interest (6 per cent) be paid on all outstanding school warrants on and after registration of such with County Trustee. Repealed by Chapter 26, Private Acts of 1949.

- 1943 Chap. 199 (White-H) Permits School Board, at its discretion, to pension school teachers with twenty years experience, and fifteen in county, at \$20.00 per month.
- 1945 Chap. 164 (Tollett-S) Authorized Superintendent of Public Instruction to fill vacancies on County Board of Education until next regular meeting of County Court. Repealed by Chap. 37, Acts of 1949.
- 1945 Chap. 415 (Tollett-S) Authorized traveling expense for Superintendent of Schools @ \$62.50 per month (\$750 annually) for travel "to and from schools on school business." Repealed by Chap. 23, Private Acts of 1949.
- 1945 Chap. 599 (Tollett-S) Requires Board of Education to prepare School Budget in June and submit to County Court in July. Repealed by Chapter 24, Private Acts of 1949.
- 1949 Chap. 14 (Kemmer-S) Repeals Chap. 874, Acts of 1921, authorizing chairman of county court to appoint three additional members to County Equalization Board.
- 1949 Chap. 13 (Kemmer-S) Repeals Chap. 868, Acts of 1921 authorizing County Superintendent to fill vacancies on high school Board of Education.
- 1949 Chap. 15 (Kemmer-S) Repeals Chap. 171, Acts of 1919, which fixed salary of Chairman of County Board of Education, and High School Board of Education.
- 1949 Chap. 23 (Kemmer-S) Repeals Chap. 415, Acts of 1945, fixing travel expense allowance for Superintendent.
- 1949 Chap. 24 (Kemmer-S) Repeals Chap. 599, Acts of 1945, fixing time for School Board to prepare school budget.
- 1949 Chap. 26 (Kemmer-S) Repeals Chap. 8, Acts of 1941, which authorized the payment of interest on school warrants.
- 1949 Chap. 27 (Kemmer-S) Repeals Chap. 63, Acts of 1941, which authorized County Board of Education to borrow money for school operation.
- 1949 Chap. 28 (Kemmer-S) Chap. 443, Acts of 1941, which provided for election of County Superintendent of County Court.

- 1949 Chap. 29 (Kemmer-S) Repeals Chap. 474, Acts of 1941, which authorized County Board of Education to fix compensation of Chairman of Board.
- 1949 Chap. 30 (Kemmer-S) Repeals Chap. 23, Acts of 1937, 2nd. Extra Session, fixing compensation of members of Board of Education.
- 1949 Chap. 31 (Kemmer-S) Repeals Chap. 431, Acts of 1937, providing for extension of certain certifications and authorizing holders thereof to serve as county superintendent.
- 1949 Chap. 33 (Kemmer-S) Repeals Chap. 727, Acts of 1933, providing for election of Superintendent by the people.
- 1949 Chap. 36 (Kemmer-S) Repeals Chap. 159, Acts of 1945 providing for fees, compensation and postage for certain county officers.
- 1949 Chap. 37 (Kemmer-S) Repeals Chap. 164, Acts of 1945, providing for Superintendent of Education to fill all vacancies on County Board of Education until next regular meeting of County Court.
- 1949 Chap. 355 (Kemmer-S) Validates loans made to cover deficits in Public School accounts for Rhea County for 1948-1949, in the amounts of \$30,000 at Dayton Bank, and \$20,000 at Spring City Bank.
- 1949 Chap. 356 (Kemmer-S) Authorized county tax anticipation notes for school and general county operation.
- 1949 Chap. 630 (Kemmer-S) Regulated issuance of school warrants by requiring counter signature of Chairman of Purchasing and Finance Commission after approval of commission.
- 1949 Chap. 632 (Kemmer-S) Authorized transfer of Sales Tax Overage from Building, Maintenance and Transportation fund to General Public School Funds for general operation expenses; the transfer to be made by the County Court.
- 1949 Chap. 861 (Kemmer-S) Authorized contracts with adjoining counties for operation of Negro high schools, either in Rhea County or in such other county.

- 1949 Chap. 317 (Shadow-H) Reorganized fiscal affairs of Rhea County by creating Purchasing and Finance Commission, elected by County Court, three members, three-year staggered terms; Budget Commission (Repealing Chap. 862, Acts of 1937, Budget Law); creating Highway Supervisory Committee; setting out duties, power and authority of above bodies, including (a) assessment of taxes; (b) levy and assessment of property taxes, licenses, fees and charges; (c) handling of all funds; (d) accounting system (e) codes for builders, electricians, plumbers outside cities; commission to handle all purchases and contracts following requisition from department or officer authorized to request; also commission controlled wages and salaries of Road Department employees. Repealed by Chap. 47, Acts of 1953.
- 1953 Chap. 47 (Fischesser-H) Repealed Chap. 317, Acts of 1949 which had created Purchasing and Finance Commission (actually 1949 Act was succeeded by Chapter 48, Acts of 1953).
- 1953 Chap. 48 (Fischesser-H) Act to centralize, consolidate and reorganize the county administration of affairs in Rhea County, create a Central Accounting and Purchasing Commission, prescribe powers, duties and authority and compensation; authorize commission to employ all subordinate officials and provide salaries; divest County Court of certain administrative and appointive powers and vest same in Commission; to provide for membership election and qualifications; repeals all laws in conflict.
- 1953 Chap. 167 (Fischesser-H) Provided for five member Board of Education, one from each old civil district, one from county-at-large; all to be elected by the people; two-year term. Names School Board: E. C. Coleman (1), S. H. Smith (2) George Dawn (3), Glenn Spivey (4), Harold (Buck) Collins, (5), county-at-large. Amended by Chap. 581, Acts of 1953.
- 1953 Chap. 581 (Fischesser-H) Amends above Chap. 167, Acts of 1953, so as to provide for election of three members of School Board from County-at-Large, and naming two additional members to serve until 1954 election.
- 1953 Chap. 568 (Fischesser-H) Provides for election of County Superintendent by popular vote, beginning at August election, 1954; four-year term beginning September 1 following election.

- 1955 Chap. 255 (Colvard-S) Repeals Chap. 48, Acts of 1953 (Fischesser's Central Accounting and Purchasing Commission).
- 1955 Chap. 313 (Colvard-S) Reorganizes fiscal affairs of Rhea County; recreates Purchasing and Finance Commission practically the same as under Chap. 317 Acts of 1949; but does not remove commissioners elected under Chap. 48, Acts of 1953, until expiration of their term, August 31, 1956 (note effect of 1954 Constitutional Amendment prohibiting removal of elected officials until end of term); all school purchases are made by commission and all payment is made by or through the commission.

Special Public Act Affecting Rhea County Schools

- 1941 Chap. 145, Public Acts (White-H) Amended Chap. 152, Public Acts of 1933, which had provided for renewal or extension of certain classes of county superintendent of schools certificates, by substituting in Section 1 the figure "30 years" for previous "40 years."