

History of Schools of Cross Roads

The first school of any known record was a Log school house about one mile southeast of the present school. A Miss Pricilla Seaman taught in this school in 1890.

In the year of 1898, or about, a school was organized toward Hurricane. This school was called Mount Nemo. It was started by L. J. Hill, Orrie Hall, Orrie Hall, W. Y. Jernigan, and T. B. Wilkerson. These families were among the early settlers in this community. The exact knowledge of how long this school lasted is not known.

In 1905, or about that time, school was taught at Carpenter's. This school was in the home of a family by the name of Carpenters. A Miss Cible Carpenters taught there.

Some time during this time there was a disagreement among the communities and the school was split up and a school started at Red Hill. No school was known of in the immediate community of Cross Roads between 1905 and 1910.

In 1910, the Durant Chapel Church and School was built. This was a one room structure, which served as a school and church. This served the community until 1920-1921, when the present school was built. The present school was at first a two room structure. Then later added to until today we have three class rooms, three teachers, a cafeteria, and an auditorium.

The Bromley community, which now is consolidated with Cross Road School, had a school near where the present church is now. This was about 1897. Later the school was taught in a home. In about 1920, a one room building was built for a school. In 1936 this school was consolidated with Cross Roads and the pupils were brought in by bus. The school was bought for a church, now known as Cooks Chapel Presbyterian Church.

History Of Cross Roads Schools

First Cross Roads School Was Of Logs

The first school of any known record at Cross Roads was a log school house about a mile southeast of the present school. Miss Priscilla Seamon taught in this school in 1890.

About 1898, a school was organized toward Hurricane, called Mount Nemo. In about 1905, school was taught at Carpenter's. About this time, there was a disagreement among the communities and the school was split up, with a new school started at Red Hill. There was no school in the immediate community of Cross Roads between 1905 and 1910.

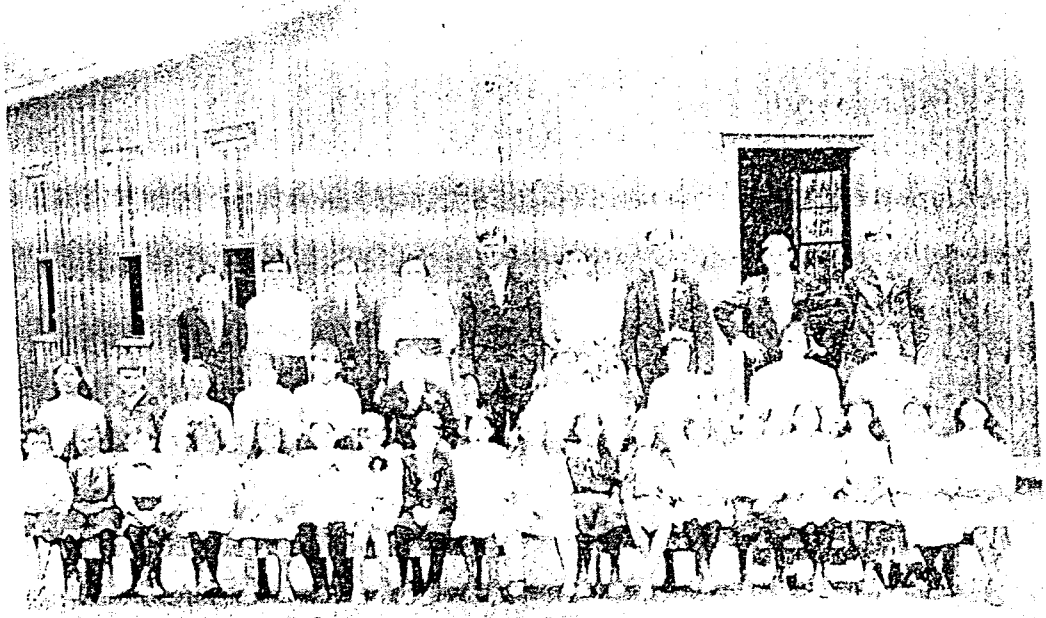
In 1910, the Durant Chapel Church and School was built, a one room building which served as both school and church. This served the community until 1920-21 when a two room school was built, and later added to. In 1953, there were three classrooms, three teachers and a cafeteria and auditorium.

The Bromley Community in earlier years had a school of its

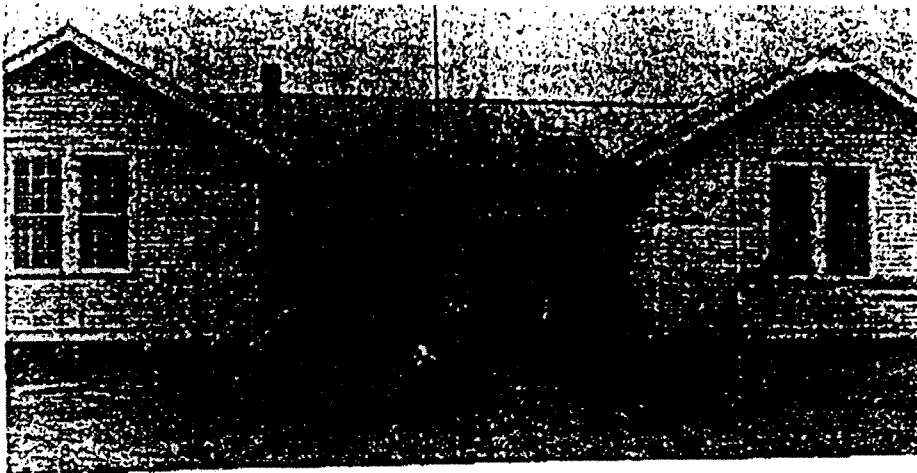
own in about 1897. Later, school was taught in one of the homes, and in about 1920 a one room

building was constructed for a school. In 1936 this school was consolidated with Cross Roads

and pupils were brought in by bus. (next Daphne Junior High).



Old Durant Chapel Church And School



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Cross Road School was built in 1920 and has four rooms, auditorium and cafeteria. Children of the neighborhood attend here through the sixth grade, then attend school at Bay Minette. Mrs. Sarah Harville is principal.

Cross Road School

Cross Road School is well named, not only from its geographical location but also for the several old schools which preceded it. Mrs. Sarah Harville, principal, gave us the following information:

About the year 1890 there was one of the first schools in the area, located at the present site of Joe Durant's home. Mrs. Priscilla Seaman was the teacher.

Mount Nemo was a school started by L. J. Hall, Orrie Hall, N. Y. Jernigan and T. R. Wilkerson. It was located across the road from the present Gary Roberts home in Hurricane, about 1898.

Miss Lolo Holliday taught a school in a home near Hurricane about 1890. The Carpenter house at Carpenter's Station was used as a school about 1900. Miss Sybil (?) Carpenter was the teacher. The first school in Bromley was about where the present church is located. A Mrs. Durant was the teacher in 1897. Byrnes Chapel, a church and school, was built near the old Byrnes cemetery. This was about 1900. Durant Chapel was built in 1910 and was used as a school until the present school

built in 1920 and was consolidated in 1935 with the present Cross Road School.

Today Cross Road School has four rooms, auditorium and cafeteria and teaches children through the sixth grade. In 1920 when it was built there were only two rooms.

Mrs. Harville attended school here at Cross Road, when grades ran through eighth. Mr. McGowan, county superintendent of education was her eighth grade teacher. Thirteen years as teacher and principal at Cross Road, she is a graduate of Bay Minette High School. with two years at Daphne Normal and two years at Troy. Her fellow teachers are Mrs. Ruth Brannon and Mrs. Annie Lou Ruple.

We are going back to see her some day. She has a great fund of historical information about the Cross Road area which we think would be interesting to Baldwin Countians.

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Located about seven miles southwest of Bay Minette there is a rural area consisting of four communities. These communities are Cross Roads, Hurricane, Bromley, and Carpenter Station. A historic battle ground of the Civil War and once the thriving city of Blakely is also in this region not far from Bromley.

In this essay I will attempt to tell some of the history of this area.

Long ago before any of the land was settled the Choctaws, Chickasaws and Creeks used this part of Baldwin County as their hunting grounds. During the fish and oyster season they came in great numbers from the interior to the rivers and bays of the section to get food.

Indian relics and Indian mounds may be found in many places. Near Blakely is an Indian mound and ~~there~~ ^{there are} also near Hall's Springs.

South of Blakely there are some shell banks, which the Indians built while they were hunting and

fishing here. The shell banks are made up of deposits of the shells of clams and oysters which the Indians threw there.

While Baldwin County was under Spanish rule from time to time until 1813 when it became part of the United States, portions of the land was granted to various people by the Spanish king. These Spanish Land Grants border the Tenno River from Spanish Fort to Hucricane. From old maps and deed at the Courthouse in Bay Minette records may be found of the Gerald Byrne, Thomas Byrne, Wilkins, Fisher, Dubson and other land grants of this area. Many people from Crowley to Hucricane now own Old Spanish Land Grants.

In 1820 a stagecoach connected Blakely and Montgomery and from Montgomery continued to Georgia. The stage was run regularly between Blakely and Pensacola. At post houses stationed about six to ten miles apart houses were kept.

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lines are buried is not known. It is believed that a trench was dug at Hospital Ridge, once a hospital for the soldiers which is located between Blakely and Saluda Hills and the bodies were buried there.

All that remains of Blakely today is Washington Avenue, marked by its mossy oaks, a pile of bricks marking the site of the courthouse and its cemetery among the pines.

Saluda Hill is a short distance from Blakely. There is only a cemetery here with one enclosed family burial place with a few scattered graves. It is here that the only Revolutionary war soldier known to be buried in Baldwin County is buried. His name was Zachariah Godbold.

The Louisville and Nashville Railroad has been passing Baldwin County since

1881. The L & N bought the Mobile & Great

in which served this area from about 1850
when the first railroad was built

1881 in this area, there was a trestle
as of at Hurricane until bridges were

It is believed that one of these post houses or an inn was located in Cross Roads and the stage road passed near the present school.

Blakely, once the county seat of Baldwin County was founded in 1815 by Josiah Blakely. At one time it was a beautiful and prosperous city with factories, hotels, beautiful homes and a shipping point for all kinds of products. The town had broad straight streets named for famous men such as Washington and Franklin. The cross streets were named for trees, shrubs and flowers. From three thousand to four thousand people lived there from 1818 to 1828.

Because of an epidemic of yellow fever in 1828 and again in 1829, the people that were left moved to Mobile and other places.

Blakely was one of the battlefields during the Civil War. On April 9, 1865, Fort Blakely surrendered after a brave defense. The exact spot place where the soldiers ^{who} lost their

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built across the Mobile, Tensas and other rivers to connect the railroad to the one in Mobile. Until these bridges were built there were docks at Housseine on the Tensas River where boats met the train and carried the passengers and cargo to Mobile.

This railroad remained neutral during the War Between the States but suffered a great deal of damage by the burning of bridges from both sides.

The L. & N. has been the main line of transportation and furnishes employment for many people.

The community of Bramley received its name from a family named Bramley who lived there long ago. Their small son was drowned in Bay Minette Creek and it is said that this is the reason that Bramley was so named.

Originally, Bramley was known as Sibley Mill which is situated on the head of tide water formed by the junction of White House and Bay Minette Creek.

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Origen Sibley settled there and dammed the two creeks and built an old upright sawmill. He ran this for several years. Later his sons, Origen and Charles built a more modern plant with circular saws. The logs were floated to the mill by a ditch they dug. They also owned barges which they used to transfer their timber to Market in Mobile.

The mill stopped operation in 1887. The Sibleys brought a cotton mill but it did not pay so they sold it to a company from Boston. This company built about 15 houses and a 46 room boarding house. None of these are standing now. The old Bromley house and the boarding house burned in 1890.

In 1909 or 1910 the cotton mill was torn down and moved to Mobile.

There were several turpentine stills in the community. The names of the owners are as follows: Harford and Quinn; Walker, Taylor, Crosby and Whitley. Their products were

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The ~~History of Cross Road and Surrounding Communities~~
shipped to Mobile by water.

Browley today is a quiet community
with none of the industries of the
past. The residents of today, farm,
work in the forest industries or
travel to Mobile to work.

Carpenter Station was named
for Samuel Carpenter who lived there
about 1730.

At one time there were large
plantations with many slaves. There
was also a sawmill run by the
water in Honeycutt Creek and a
Bank Massey. A race track was
located in Carpenter Station too, and
The Spanish Trail passed through there.
There was a post office there until
about 1914 or 1916.

It ~~was~~ got its name because
the Carpenters had a station there
to furnish wood for the trains.

Hurricane was supposedly
named by the Indians after a severe
storm.

Hurricane, at one time was a

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thriving sawmill community. Between the years 1900 - 1910 there was a prison camp there and the prisoners worked in the sawmill. Later the sawmill was sold and moved away.

Today, Hursicane is a quiet place with few families living there.

The Cross Roads Community is so named because of the roads which cross there. One road leads from Highway 31 to Hursicane. The other road goes from Carpenter Station to Bramley.

There are no industries in Cross Roads today and it too is a quiet community.

One of the first schools of this area was in a log house taught by a Mrs. Deenan about the year 1890.

Mount Nemo, a school located in Hursicane was started about 1898.

Some schools were taught in the private homes.

The first school in Bramley was begun about 1897.

Byones Chapel, a church and

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a school was built about where the
old Byrnes cemetery is about 1900.

^ Bromley school, built in 1920,
was later consolidated with Cross Roads
School. The school building is now a
church.

Durant Chapel Church was built in 1910. It was used as a school until the present school was built in 1920.

The Presbyterian Church at
Brandy was organized in 1933. It
was name "The James Cook Chapel" after
its first pastor.

The land for the Church of God, in Crossroads was obtained in 1941 and the building of the church was begun. Later Sunday School rooms and a parsonage was built.

Durant Chapel, a Baptist Church in Cross Roads was organized in 1910. The church has been enlarged through the years and today has a large auditorium, basement, ~~nursery~~, office and many classrooms.

In 1946, the U.S. Maritime

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Hinton, Cross Road, Bromley, Hursley, Blakely.
Administration Reserve Fleet was
moved into Texas River. There
were more than 300 ships of the
Liberty and Victory type cargo vessels.
These can be outfitted for use within
five to ten days. The Reserve Fleet has
given many residents of the preceding
communities and other places employment.