BE00106.56

Stapleton School

Located about 10 miles south of Bay Minette, Stapleton School is situated on Baldwin Avenue just two blocks east of County Road 59. The campus is bordered on three sides by the Methodists Church, Baptist Church and Community Park.

The people of Stapleton met together in June, 1892 to build the first school house on land donated by Mr. Walter Sibley. The school was known as the Walter Sibley School.

However, in order to have the school more centrally located, the people decided to build another school near where the Primitive Baptist Church now stands. Mr. Charlie Trawick donated the land and the school was built, but the location did not prove satisfactory. Several children had to cross a branch in order to get to school, and during rainy weather they could not get across. This caused the children to miss too much school, so the parents of the children on the other side of the branch objected.

Mr. Erwin Ward donated some land, and a one room school was built. At this time Mr. Shumore Lambert was appointed Superintendent of Education, the first for Baldwin County. Then Mr. Tharp was Superintendent and he had two rooms built on to the school, one on each side of the original school room.

Stapleton presently serves K-6 grade students. The facility's grounds contain 10 classrooms, two resource rooms, a library, computer lab, gym and cafeteria.

BE00106.56

STAPLETON

The people of Stapleton met together in June, 1892 to build the first school house on land donated by Mr. Walter Sibley. The school was known as the Walter Sibley School. The teachers were paid by the parents of the children that attended school. The first teachers at this school were Mr. Owens, Miss Helena Sibley, and others.

In order to have the school more centrally located, the people decided to build another school near where the Primitive Baptist Church now stands. Mr. Charlie Trawick donated the land and the school was built, but the location did not prove satisfactory, as several of the children had to cross a branch in order to get to school, and during rainy weather they could not get across which caused them to miss too much time out of school, so the parents of the children on the other side of the branch objected. Mr. J. O. McHathey took his mule, wagon, and ax, went over and knocked the planks off the school building and hauled them out to Stapleton. Mr. ~~Erwin~~ Hiram Ward donated some land, and a one room school was built. Miss Ella Rogers was the first teacher. Mrs. Leila Mckinley and others. Mr. John Dean was appointed trustee of the school, then Mr. McHathey served for five years. During the time when he was trustee, he got up a petition to get an election for a district tax (3 mill tax). The election was granted and the tax law passed, which greatly helped the school. Mr. Shumore Lambert was appointed Superintendent of Education, the first for Baldwin County. Then Mr. S.M. Tharp was appointed Superintendent. He had two rooms built on the school, one on each side of the original school room, and three teachers were added instead of one. A cloak room was turned into a kitchen in order to serve their plate and ate at their desk. Later a lunch room was added. The Butane gas system was installed by Mr. H.V. Harroll and paid for by

BE00106.56

donations from the patrons of the community. An electric pump was bought by the Board of Education and installed by the patrons. Also, drinking fountains were put in all the rooms. A new brick building was added, also sanitary rest rooms.

BE00106.56

Stapleton School Cafeteria

I started to school here in 1940. We had three grades to a classroom. The rooms were heated by a stove that burned coal or wood. At the time, the school did not have a cafeteria. Mrs. Taylor would make a big pot of vegetable soup for her 1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders. She would put the pot on the stove and cook it so we could have a hot lunch. She believed that if kids had a hot lunch they could study better.

In the 1941-42 school year, a cafeteria was started. It was located in two small rooms in the old wooden school. Mrs. Susie Howard Byrd and Mrs. Annie Sibley were the cooks. They cooked in one of the rooms on a kerosene stove and served the food in the other room. We would come by and pick up our lunch and go back to our room to eat. The government supplied the food which was commodity food like canned meat, canned vegetables, flour, lard, and grits. I believe the lunches cost five cents. After World War II they built a cafeteria which is still here today. It is the wooden building behind the present cafeteria.

BE00106.56

I have several fond memories of the cafeteria. Emma Jean Baggett, Winnon Overstreet, and myself were suppose to sweep the our classroom so we could eat lunch. Instead of sweeping, we were caught leaning on our brooms singing. Mrs. Overstreet made us sing while the entire school came through to get their lunch. I will never forget that!

Isabelle Howard Mosley

BE00106.56

The people of Stapleton met together in June, 1892 to build the first school house on land donated by Mr. Walter Sibley. The school was known as the Walter Sibley School. The teachers were paid by the parents of the children that attended school. The first teachers at this school were Mr. Owens, Miss Helena Sibley, and others.

In order to have the school more centrally located, the people decided to build another school near where the Primitive Baptist Church now stands. Mr. Charlie Trawick donated the land and the school was built, but the location did not prove satisfactory, as several of the children had to cross a branch in order to get to school, and during rainy weather they could not get across which caused them to miss too much time out of school, so the parents of these children wanted to move the school house over to where it now stands, but the parents of the children on the other side of the branch objected. Mr. J.O. McHathey took his mule, wagon, and ax, went over and knocked the planks off the school building and hauled them out to Stapleton. Mr. Erwin Ward donated some land, and a one room school was built. Miss Ella Rogers was the first teacher. Mrs. Leila McKinley and others. Mr. John Dean was appointed trustee of the school, then Mr. McHathey served for five years. During the time when he was trustee, he got up a petition to get an election for a district tax (3 mill tax). The election was granted and the tax law passed, which greatly helped the school. Mr. Shumore Lambert was appointed Superintendant of Education, the first for Baldwin County. Then Mr. S.M. Tharp was appointed Superintendant. He had two rooms built on the school, one on each side of the original school room, and three teachers were added instead of one. A cloak room was turned into a kitchen in order to serve lunches to the children. They passed by the cloak room, got their plate and ate at their destk. Later a lunch room was added. The Butane gas system was installed by Mr. H.V. Harrell and paid for by donations from the patrons of the community. An electric pump was bought by the Board of Education and installed by the patrons. Also, drinking fountains were put in all the rooms. A new brick building was added, also sanitary rest rooms.

BE00106.56

JR Byrd [redacted] w [redacted]
P.O. Box 583
Stapleton AL 36578

Royce Jerkins
14035 Baptist Ball Park Rd. [redacted]
Stapleton AL 36578 cell

Melba Banning [redacted]
35860 Pine Rd N
Stapleton, AL 36578

Peggy Trawick Harvill [redacted]
812 East 9th Street
Bay Minette AL 36507

Isabelle H. Mosley [redacted]
P.O. Box 88
Stapleton, al- 36578

BE00106.56

Royce Jerkins

— Old Methodist church mound
by mules & logs —

Peggy Tramich Harvill
born in little hen

Jr. Byrd — lived in teacherage

Isabelle Mosley —

BE00106.56

Ganeys taught here.
wrote cornerstone stuff in cornerstone
at Sp Ft Shopping center

Royce's photo 1910 - new school -

ref from Venda Bass (was a Hinman)

Stapleton

✓ Junior Byrd at Chuck Steven Ford
937-2961

✓ Royce Jerkins - [redacted]
Bernice [redacted] cell

Cristal Menas's Mom Isabelle Moseley
Boyce J.C. & Isabelle Moseley 937-8489

Melba Banning [redacted]

Mrs. Say notaline

watch for railroad track

referred by Mrs. Bass, cafe manager

Stapleton 9:30 Thurs. Oct 13

Junior (I B) Byrd – Chuck Stevens [redacted]

I. B. Byrd } customers for 30
Leona Byrd } worked at school
– cook for 30 yrs

Royce Jerkins – [redacted]
(wife is Bernice
works at school)
used to be Postmaster –
memories start 1945-1946
– moved from Hamick Rd ends) in early 1900s
Calvin ~~Jr~~ Cunningham principal came back after WWII
stayed as principal –
certain pulled in old school
pot bellied stove

Cunningham's daughter
Jane Barnes

Isabelle Mosley [redacted]
(Crystal Means's)
went to school
mothers was one of first cooks –
former teacher Blanche Taylor – 1st – 3rd for
many yrs
Had coal heaters
Beverly Broadus – works in office

BE00106.56

BE00106.56

WW II Teacher who lived in teacherage was Mrs Shaw, prin during war son ~~Melvin~~ Walter Melvin

---

Melba Banning — went to school

grad. 55 / 50th reunion

---

old house left on 39, left on Pine — on right surrounded by fields

---

Linda Phillipi — [redacted]

did a history but lost hard copy — does not know where any pictures are

Lisa Ledford's mom did a drawing

at one time school went thru 9th grade —

Royce told potato story — initials

Mrs. Taylor
Virginia
Her mother in law

Randy Davis — his mother was from Stapleton House — Wards came from Greenville, opened up a still

Wooden water tower
Lisa Comer has photos of old water tower coming down

1st school was around a turpentine still — wooden water tower

six-room wing and annex. Once reopened, the facility expanded to 10 new classrooms, a library, modern cafeteria, gym and office space. Eight additional classes were recently created to better serve the 400 K-8 children attending the elementary and middle school site.

NORTH BALDWIN CENTER FOR TECHNOLOGY

Situated in the hub of Bay Minette, the North Baldwin Center for Technology offers a broad range of technical education courses. Located at 505 W. Hurricane Road, the Vocational Center opened in the fall of 1971 with Mr. Byron M. Nall as its first administrator and counselor. At that time, students could choose from Power and Diesel Mechanics; Air Conditioning and Refrigeration; Radio-TV Electronics; and Horticulture and Floriculture, to name a few.

The Vocational Center was fortunate to have qualified faculty proficient in designing blueprints, as well as supervising the construction of several campus buildings. In 1981, Marketing/Distributive Education was added to the curriculum.

After 12 years as administrator, Mr. Nall retired in 1983. Upon his retirement, Mr. Thomas B. Rhodes, III, became the administrator and served until he was appointed Director of Vocational Education in 1991. Following many personnel changes, Mr. Clovise Parker stepped in as administrator in 1998. The center also employs a secretary, bookkeeper, 13 teachers, two aides and three maintenance personnel.

The Technical Center currently offers certification in 11 courses: Child Care and Elder Services; Marketing Education; Health Care Services Computer Electronics; Masonry; Building Construction; Manufacturing Technology; Automotive Technology; Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration; Cosmetology; and Landscape Technology.

Career Academics helps the career-bound student to strengthen their studies and overall learning experience. Impact Program, a non-traditional approach to earning a high school diploma, assists students in meeting the core requirements.

During 1998-99, "Vocational Education" was changed to "Career Technical Education."

BAY MINETTE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

As a response to accommodate the growing attendance of Bay Minette Elementary School, the county's Board of Education members went forward with plans to create a sister facility. Established November 1991, Bay Minette Intermediate School provides instruction to the area's 4 and 5 classes. Its elementary pioneer continues as a K through 3 site.

A year after the board split the schools, the Intermediate facility was relocated to its current location on Shedrick Hardy Parkway, once the site of the reintegration Douglasville High School and late Bay Minette Middle School. The new Intermediate serves students from three North Baldwin community elementary schools – Bay Minette, Pine Grove and Vaughn.

BE00106.56

STAPLETON SCHOOL

Located about 10 miles south of its Bay Minette neighbor, Stapleton is a growing rural community. County Highway 59 (State Highway 31) divides the community into two sections. Because Stapleton was developed as a farming and timberland community, homes were spread out over a large area.

Many of the timberland estates were recently subdivided and sold to small-business markets, with the remaining parcels being purchased by families. This phenomenon prompted a growth trend in the Stapleton community. Two subdivisions are presently in the construction.

Opportunities for daycare/preschool in Stapleton are limited. However, a small home daycare recently opened. Most working parents must transport their children to other areas if a relative is unable to care for them. Because of the distance, many childresn entering school have no prior preschool experience.

Stapleton School is situated on Baldwin Avenue just two blocks east of County Road 59. The campus is bordered on three sides by the Methodist Church, Baptist Church and Community Park.

The first school in Stapleton was established in 1892. During its lifetime, it had been moved four times. The last time it was relocated to a more central location. Land was donated and the community raised $434.10 to construct a painted-white, wooden two-room school. Originating in 1912, the present school is located on the same campus. A wooden cafeteria now serves as the library.

In the 1940's, a brick building with two classrooms and indoor restrooms, was added. Later, the campus was expanded by an additional brick structure, consisting of six classrooms, an office and restrooms. Also at this time, the original brick building was renovated and became the present cafeteria. The latest addition took place in 1997 with the addition of six classrooms and a gym. This included additional office space and expanded cafeteria seating.

Stapleton School presently serves 164 K-6 grade students. The facility's grounds contain 10 classrooms, two resource rooms, a library, computer lab, gym and cafeteria.

BAY MINETTE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The residents who settled the areas of north Baldwin County during the late 1800's did not forget to plant the seeds of education. Roots of the area's public school system were first sprung amid a surrounding wilderness. The physical site was often sparse, and children were generally taught in homes that bordered stagecoach lines.

A single-room schoolhouse established along Old Daphne Road became the area's first public school, where children received lessons until the turn-of-the-century when Bay Minette became the County Seat. The education center was then moved to a two-story building, now the site of Community Kids' Park (Lee Smith Park).

In 1903, students began attending classes in the six-room facility, which also contained a belfry and large auditorium. The massive bell in the cupola high above the building was reported to have taken 25 horses to lift into position, and many boasted that it could be heard for more than three miles on a clear day. School transportation began in 1924 when an 8th-grader drove a load of students to class in a Model-T Ford.

The present site of Bay Minette Elementary School (originally Bay Minette Grammar School), located on Blackburn Avenue, was opened September 11, 1929. Built on the north end of the grounds where the former Baldwin County High School had operated eight years earlier, the new site consist-