

NORTH HAMPTON AND PIKE TOWNSHIP

“IN STEP WITH PROGRESS”

PIONEER DAY II

MAY 27, 1989



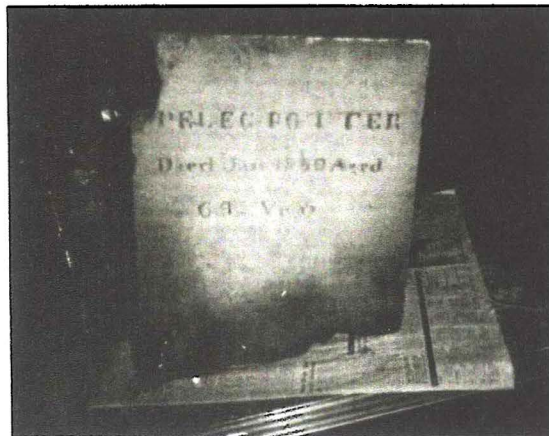
SCHOOLS

"Education shall forever be encouraged", is a statement taken from The Ordinance of 1787 which was a legal document concerning the territory north and west of the Ohio River. This territory was being developed by the government of the United States.

The law of the time provided for the division of the territory into states, counties and townships, Clark being one of them. Clark was divided into ten townships, Pike being one of them. Pike Township, located in the northwest corner of Clark County, is the only one of the ten townships to contain exactly 36 square miles as was the minimum requirement.

The first schools were either held in a home or church. No records are available as to the location of the first school or the date when schools were first organized in Pike Township. "Legend tells that Peleg Potter was the first teacher in Pike Township...other early teachers were James Black, Archie Mitchell and Mary Ebersole".

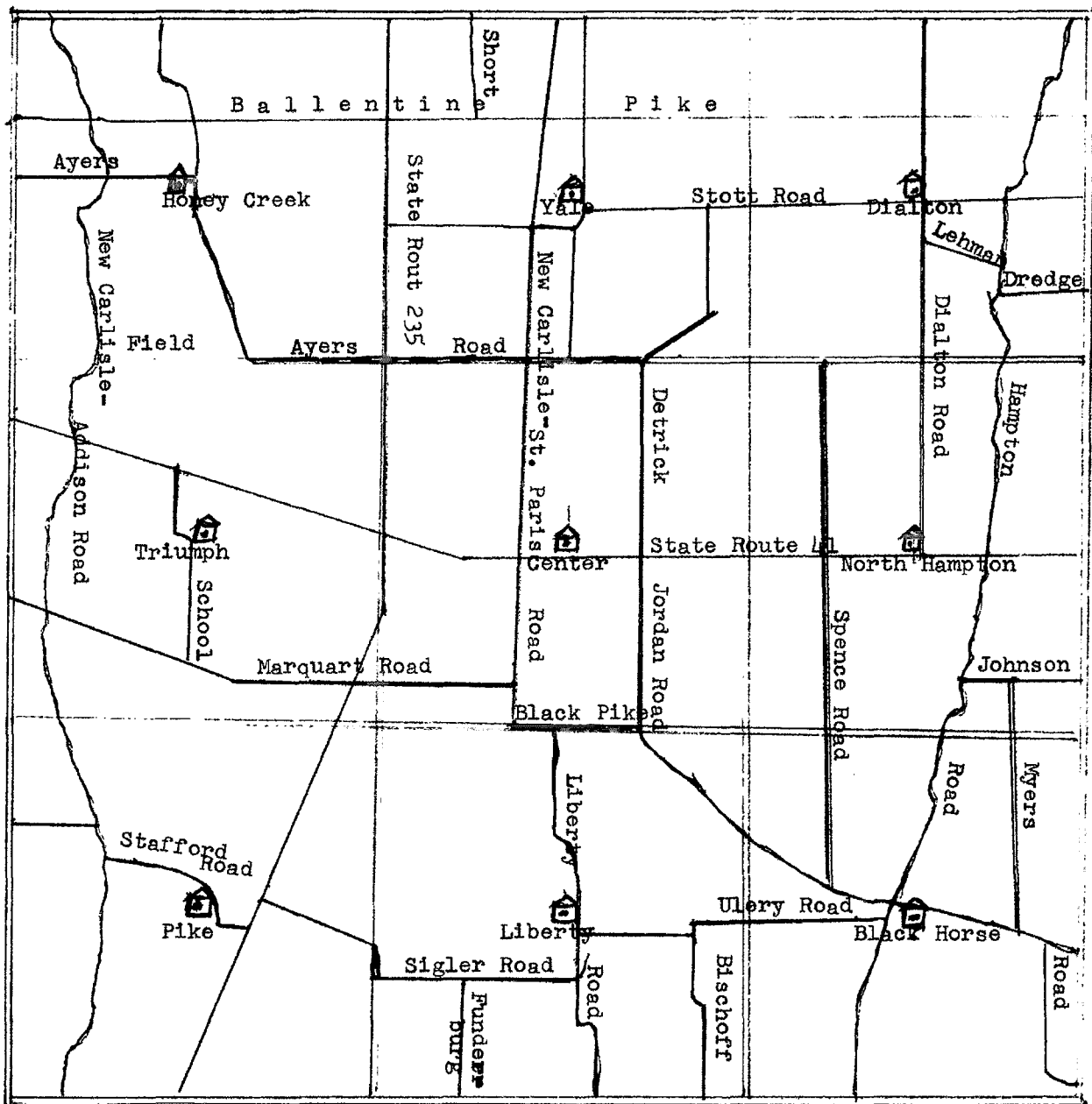
Soon after the Civil War a law was put into effect in Ohio to make schools more accessible to the rural children. Since Pike Township was square it was possible to have nine school districts, each having four square miles. (See the accompanying map). The districts were numbered according to a plan formulated by the Board of Education of the Township and were later named. Following is the list of the schools of Pike Township during the "Little Red Schoolhouse" period:



District No. 1	Black Horse	Detrick Jordan
District No. 2	North Hampton	W. Clark St. & Dialton Rd.
District No. 3	Dialton	Stott & Dialton Rds.
District No. 4	Yale	Stott & Ansbaugh Rds.
District No. 5	Center	State Route 41
District No. 6	Liberty	Ulery & Liberty Rds.
District No. 7	Pike	Stafford Rd., 1 mile west of St. Rt. 235
District No. 8	Triumph	School Rd., 1 mile south of St. Rt. 41
District No. 9	Honey Creek	Ayres Rd., 1½ miles west of St. Rt. 235

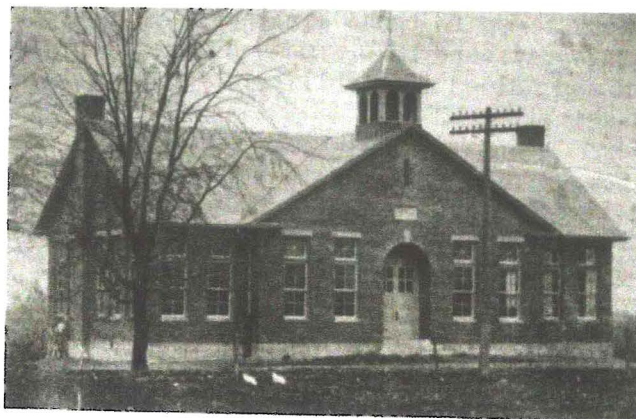
These schools were administered by a Board of Education, consisting of nine members, one from each district, elected by popular vote. Later the Board was changed to five members and a Director for each district who was also a resident. The School Board was responsible for the construction and maintenance of the schoolhouse, woodshed and toilet; determine the amount of money needed to operate the schools and establish the millage for taxes needed; determine the school calendar and the subjects to be taught; hire the teachers and secure the needed materials and equipments, such as buckets, drinking cups, chalk, erasers, books, maps etc.

PIKE TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS



Very few detailed records are available concerning individuals but Mr. Joseph Hartman kept such records. He taught at North Hampton from 1887-1890, at Black Horse for 2 years and later at Honey Creek 1894-1895. He recorded the names, ages and days of attendance for each pupil for each year, for example, in 1887-1888 at North Hampton he had a total of 73 pupils, 37 boys and 36 girls. They ranged in age from 6 to 15:

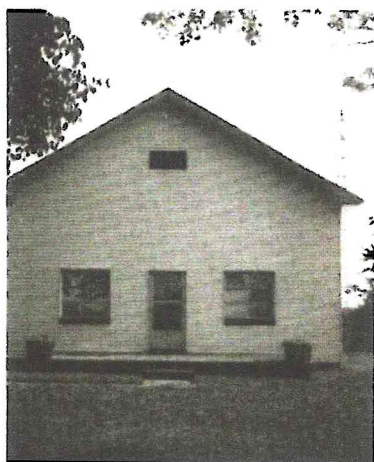
6 year olds - 14
 7 year olds - 8
 8 year olds - 8
 9 year olds - 12
 10 year olds - 11
 11 year olds - 11
 12 year olds - 4
 13 year olds - 2
 14 year olds - 2
 15 year olds - 1



OLD NORTH HAMPTON GRADE SCHOOL

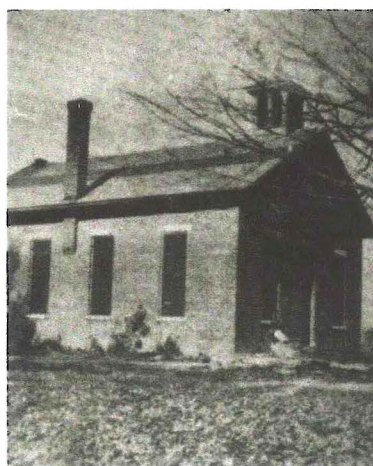
They were graded according to their ability to read. Their reading books were graded according to difficulty. For example, an older child may start to school when the harvesting was completed and drop out in April when the planting season began. When the child re-entered school, he would be placed in the reader where he left off. If he were ambitious he could advance his reading ability at home. It is reported that George Harrison Shull, a native of Pike Twp. (who later was instrumental in developing hybrid seed corn) carried a book with him as a boy and would read while the horses rested from plowing.

Another report of a teacher which could serve to illustrate some of the training and experiences of these early teachers was that of Mr. W. O. Jenkins.



BLACK HORSE

A graduate of Yale School, he completed a correspondence course for teaching. In 1894 he began teaching at Center School, at the age of 18. He taught there for 2 years, back to his home school, Yale for 2 years, to Honey Creek for 4 years, back to Center for 10 years, again to Honey Creek for 4 years and then to North Hampton as a Math teacher in grades 7 and 8.



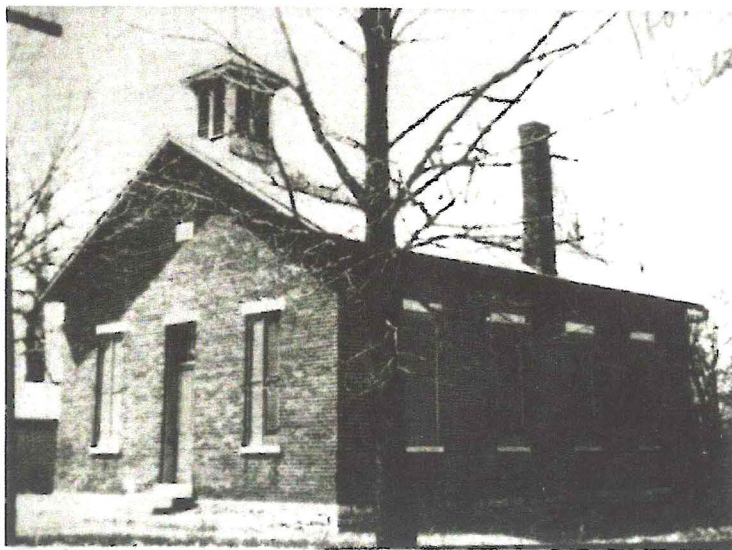
YALE

Many times in those early days, the problem of discipline made it necessary to change teachers in order to control the older boys. He was a good disciplinarian and helped to stabilize the schools. He retired in 1932 after 36 years of teaching.

Some of the following information concerning the operation of the Pike Twp. Board of Education is based on material gathered from the minutes of Board meetings from April 1876 - December 1915. This is not a complete history of the period but will give a general idea of some of the problems and happenings of the schools. Many were similar to those of today.

The community was active in the political realm as the schoolhouse at North Hampton was the only one where political rallies could be held in Pike Twp. About the same time, in the 1870's, religion was felt important as the teacher in each school was required to have a Bible class each day.

In 1877 each school had a board placed on the building giving the name of the school and the district number. After the one from Center School was stolen, they painted the information on the building in black letters on a white background. At the April 28th meeting in 1877 a resolution asked the Pike Twp. Trustees to prohibit hogs from running at large in the Township. They refused to act on the matter. Another resolution was passed requiring the Clerk of the Board of Education to take whatever legal action was necessary to require the Trustees to prohibit hogs from running at large. At the same April meeting, the Board of Education allowed \$350.00 for the smaller schools and \$400.00 for the North Hampton School, to pay the teacher's salary for one year.



In April 1879 a location was being sought for a school building in District No. 9, Honey Creek.

Health concerns were shown by such matters as a stove smoking at Center School, sanitary conditions of the seats at Yale and the well at North Hampton.

McGuffey Readers were introduced in 1880.

Policy making was required of the Board. The Director of Triumph School built a brick "privy" at the school.

The bill was paid but attached to the motion was a statement that no more "brick" privies were to be built for Pike Township Schools.

Since the "Little Red Schoolhouses" were located in the geographic center of each district, roads to them became a necessity. Three times the Board of Education petitioned the Pike Township Trustees before a road was finally constructed to Triumph School. That road is now known as School Road. The Ansbaugh Road was constructed for access to Yale School from the Ballentine Pike and the Studebaker Road made Ballentine Pike accessible to Honey Creek.

At the same time, the Dialton Community was growing and a second building was opened October 26, 1885. Pike School was built in 1888. The opening dates for many of the schools is unavailable.

Due to concern, a resolution in the minutes required the teacher to teach the harmful effects of alcohol and narcotics on the human body. About the same time, Physiology books were introduced.

Compulsory education entered the picture in 1890. A truant officer was hired and paid \$1.50 per day.



In 1892, J. R. Clark was hired as the first superintendent of schools for Pike Township. At this time the first proposal was made to organize a High School but they could not agree on a location, so no official action was taken until July 28, 1911, when a course of study was approved for a three-year High School. Before this time, anyone who graduated from the eighth grade and passed the Boxwell Examination went outside Pike Township for a High School Education. Many of Pike Township pupils attended Lawrenceville High School (the first rural High School in the State of Ohio). Others went to Springfield, New Carlisle or Bethel Township. Pike Township Board of Education paid their tuition.

Pike Twp. maintained a 3-year High School for 2 years, graduating the first class of 3 students in 1914. On May 16, 1913, the Pike Twp. (4-year) High School was formed. Mr. Arthur B. Shaffer was the first principal and received \$75.00 per month salary. An additional room was added to the North Hampton Building to accommodate the early High School. In 1917, the Pike Township High School building on W. Clark St. was dedicated.

In 1914, evidence of the forthcoming closure of "The Little Red Schoolhouses" appeared when Triumph and Pike were consolidated. Then the Pike District, which was close to New Carlisle, was transferred to Bethel Township. Due to the cost of the operation of each building, scarcity of pupils in some districts, fire at the North Hampton building and use of motorized transportation, Pike Township was consolidated for the first time in September, 1924.

The construction of an eight room building made it possible for grades 1-6 of the entire township to be housed there. Grades 7-12 were housed in the new Pike Township High School.

Much could be written about the era from 1924 to 1948 when the Northwestern Local School District was formed.

The use of school busses, the need for more variety in subject matter taught, the trend of the times toward consolidation and incidentally, the fire which destroyed the Elementary School building at

Lawrenceville were all contributing factors in this latest move.



Since 1948 three school buildings have been constructed on land between North Hampton and Lawrenceville on State Route 41, which was formerly owned by Mr. & Mrs. Charles Zehring. The Elementary Building has grades K-4, the Middle School grades 5-8 and the High School grades 9-12. These facilities make it possible for all public school pupils of Pike and German Townships to be housed at one location. (This is the only such school arrangement in Clark County where all the pupils are accommodated at one location.)

Neither time, space nor human ability make it possible to compile a complete history of Pike Township Schools. No record will ever be available of the affect that the schools of this community have had upon the history of our local community or the world at large, for that matter. But the fundamentally sound principles and the general common touch through education is immeasurable and the community will continue to be a strong and influential force as long as a top priority is given to sound educational programs.

"History at best is a beggarly gleaner in a field where Death has gathered a bountiful harvest". - Martin G. Brumbaugh

