

Evergreen School

Mrs. Robert (June) Ellisor, Secretary, Evergreen Community Association

Former students who attended school in Evergreen from 1900 till 1914 tell us their first knowledge of school was reported held in a log house near the Evergreen Cemetery on a branch. Several had to ford creeks to reach school – no paved roads or bridges. On weekends, the Methodist and Baptist Churches held services on alternate Sundays with everyone attending both.

Our forefathers attended: Nellie, Roger and Willie Hoot; Irby and George Hightower; Lloyd Risner; Laura, Ernest, Marvin, Annie and Chester Ellisor; Malvin, Alpha, Maedell, Audie, Lee and Sherman Risner; Betty, Leona and John Warren; Fannie, Wren, Sally and Tom McCants; G. W. and Emmett Dabney; Annabel, Jim, Frank, Lee and Rosa Dabney; Lydia Lay. This log schoolhouse later became the home of Mrs. Eddie Martin.

In 1918, the school was moved to the Evergreen Baptist Church location and this was the first year Vera Lay Whitmire attended. In 1920, J. L. Hoot deeded 2 acres by his home for new schoolhouse. School trustees took donations and community members built a new school. This building consisted of 2 school rooms plus a book room and cloak room. Water for use was hauled from Randolph Spring (in James Farris' pasture now). Heat was furnished by iron stoves burning wood.

Teachers in this building included: Maggie Lee Trapp, Cora Boelcher Hightower Brown; Betty, Roscoe, Irvin and Lela Popham (Albert Ellisor's sister and spouses); Maxcine Skinner Risner; Hazel Brady Dabney; Willie Hoot; Thelma Emanuel, Clarence and Norma Lee Harrell.

Some of those attending were: Albert, George E., Irene and Mary Hightower, Gladys, L. D., Doris and ElMarie Hoot; Elva, Grace, Oleta, Marlin, Willie Mae and Charley Floyd McAdams; Estell, George Hill and Malvin Lloyd Dabney; Alvin, Lee, Elma, Dora, Agnes and Gertrude Risner; Annie Lee, Marvin, Lois, Milton, Betty and Erwin Hoot; George Ed and Juanita Anderson; Sam, Minnie, Edna, Harris Jr. and Pete McCants; J. W. and Ralph Dabney; J. W. and Bernice Warren; Ida May, Robert, Elsie and Douglas Ellisor; Bernice, Ozro, Vera Lonzo and Ola Lay; Joe Ellis; Seth Dabney; Alvis and Troyce Ellisor, Vera Mae, Ruth and Vernon Ellisor; Mildred, Sam and George Robison; John Ed and George Locke Phillips.

This school was consolidated with Coldspring in the late 1930's. School trustees deeded land and contents to Methodist and Baptist Churches of Evergreen. For several years the abandoned building was used as a skating place for area youngsters. Today the building and grounds are used by the Evergreen Community members for its civic functions.