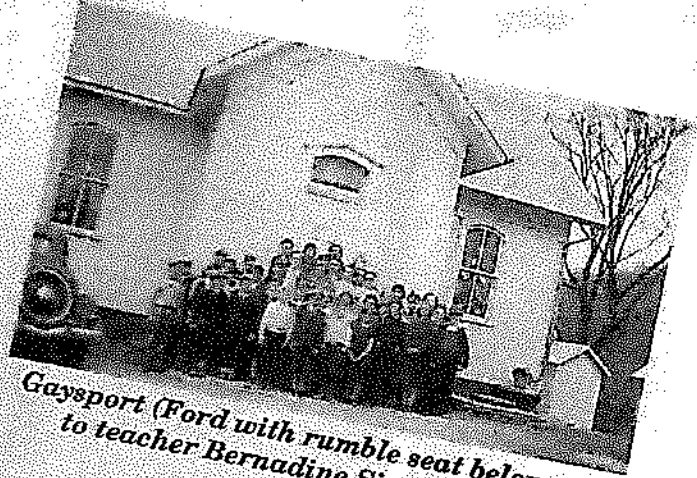


# BLUE ROCK



1937 Spelling Bee  
Marguerite Roberts, Bernadine Watts,  
"Sam" Hatfield, Robert Barelay, Harold Fuller



Gaysport (Ford with rumble seat belonged  
to teacher Bernadine Simms Watts)



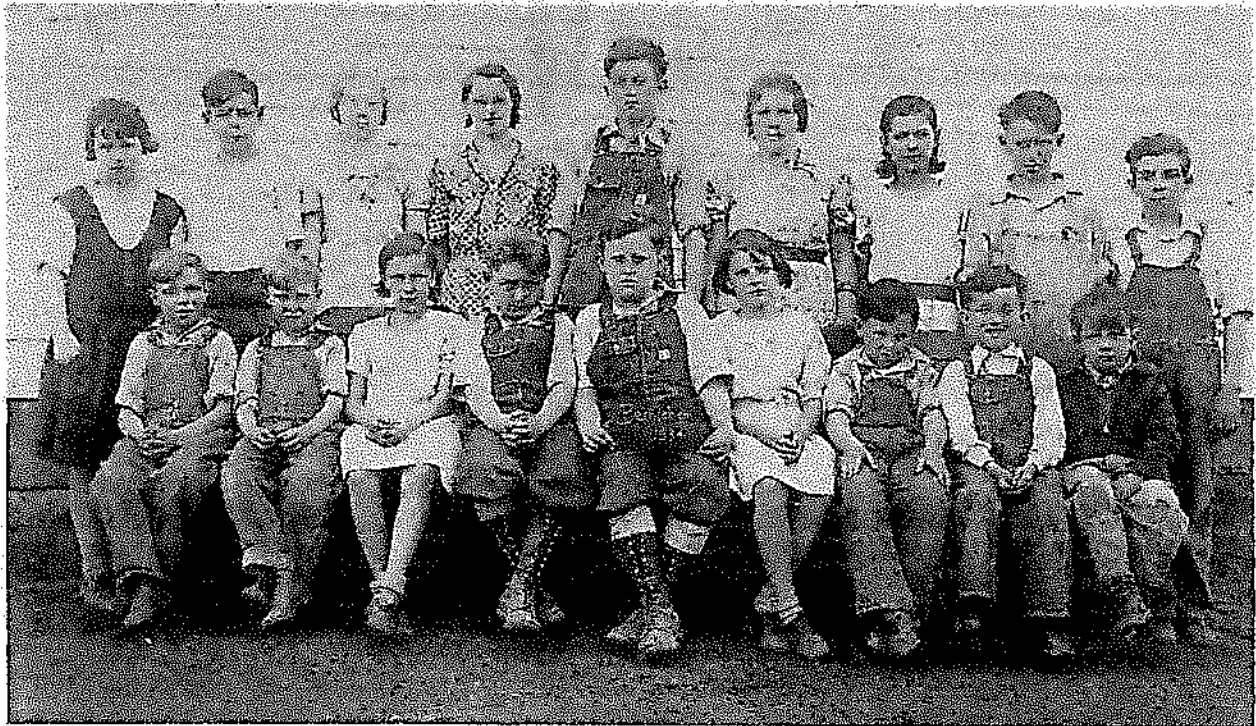
Rural Dale, 1932



Museville, 1986



Bethlehem School, 1934



Bethlehem Students, 1934

arrived at the school and all was well. The young teacher, however, decided to pursue another vocation.

When the school closed in 1922, B. A. Dilley was the teacher; he was sent to Duncan Falls to teach. Some children went to Duncan Falls and some were sent to Gaysport.

The building collapsed in the later years and the large cut stones used for the foundation were moved to the Keith Dilley Farm where they were used to make a wall around their garden.

#### No. 4 / Gaysport

Gaysport School, previously called No. 4, was located on Gaysport Hill and is still standing. It is now a family dwelling. The building was built on ground donated by the Gay family in the early 1800's.

The year 1921 found John S. McGinnis as county superintendent and D. A. Watson as district superintendent. The school was closed in the spring of 1940 and the pupils were transferred to Duncan Falls Elementary School. The late Chauncey Swingle was serving the district as superintendent at that time, and Victor O. Martin was the last teacher.

The schools of the township held a spelling bee each spring starting in 1936. The five remaining schools brought their best spellers to the Gaysport School for the elimination because it was the largest of the five buildings. For teachers and students, this was an exciting and memorable day and the winners were given a prize and advanced to higher elimination. All children participating were remembered with a memento from the teacher.

In the winter months, a hot lunch was often prepared and provided by the teacher, Bernadine Simms Watts. It consisted of hot chocolate, a variety of home-made soups, and occasionally soup beans with corn pone. The pupils provided a tin cup or bowl and were responsible for cleansing them and placing them in a cupboard made from a large wooden box constructed by the teacher's father.

The building sat on the peak of a hill. It was heated with a pot-bellied stove in the center of the room and outdoor, two-hole toilets were the bathroom of the day. This was true of all other school buildings. A playground was not available because of the location of the building; it was necessary to go down a large embankment, across Buttermilk Road to find a level spot to play. Many well-organized baseball games were won in that field. Such fun! Wonderful memories!

When Gaysport School closed in 1940, the last teacher, Victor O. Martin, was given an assignment in the Duncan Falls Elementary School.

#### No. 9 / Museville

Museville School, sometimes called "Toadtown", was located on the east end of Blue Rock Township, not far from the Meigs Township line. This is situated on Rockville Road not far from the village of Museville.

The school was established in the early 1800's and served the area children until 1928, when the school closed. The children were transferred to West School in Meigs Township and to another Museville School in Meigs Township which was moved nearer to the village of Museville.

The building is still standing in its original location. It has been recently sold by the present owners, Walter and Eloise Sutton, to a petroleum company which uses it for storage. Grover Roberts was the last teacher to teach at Museville when it was closed in May, 1928.