



WETMORE STUDENTS in 1893 were never very sure about their school—when it would start and how long it would last. Winter weather and the available funds were always a factor.

According to the available school records, the Wetmore area once had six school districts, three on Hardscrabble Park in Fremont county and three in Custer county. Each district had one building. In Custer County there were the Wetmore, Greenwood, and the Blake Districts. In Fremont, the Porter, Jennings, and Tribble. This picture, taken in 1893, was loaned to the Daily Record by Mrs. Lela Walters Morgan, former postmistress of Wetmore.

Students that could be identified are, front row, starting left: No. 1—Jay Bernard, 3—Grettle Vaughn, balance of row unidentified. Second row, starting left: No. 4—Eva Betts, 6—Kate Vaughn, and 8—Od Looney. Third row, No. 1—Albert Coleman, 2—Earl C. Bernard, 3—Lizzie Breece, 4—Gertie Heath, 5—Alice Betts, 6—Livera Bowers, 7—Millie Looney, 8—Ethel Heath and 10—Agnes Coleman. Back row, starting left: No. 1—Fred Walters, No. 2—Mamie Bernard, 5—Mamie Harmon, 6—Willie Bernard, 7—Frank Turner, 9—Belle Heath, and 10—Charlie Essmeier.

The records are vague and show only school board meeting a year and that was for the purpose of deciding a mill levy and electing officers. The board members were apparently elected at board meetings. The first record of district No. 9, Wetmore, was in 1883 with W. H. Wetmore as secretary. On May 29, 1884, the voters approved bonds for a new school house 14-9. J. A. Betts was elected president. In 1889 S. W. Bernard was named president and W. A. Watson, secretary. Mrs. Anna Sweetin, assistant teachers was paid \$25 per month. Thomas Bernard, a teacher, was paid \$55 per month in 1891.

Some early Teachers - Wetmore school
No. 9 - 1883

Mr. Bock
Mr. Lutterell
Mr. Lester Boncraft
Mr. William Yost

The secretary apparently supervised all school activities. There was no record of special meetings. In 1890-91 Alfred Durfee was principal and Susie A. Hannon, assistant. Other officers serving from 1893 to 1906, were: W. P. Coleman, J. A. Kelley, Mrs. W. S. Harmon, B. M. Sudrain, J. M. Miller, and Fred Walters.

Albert Leher was named president of the board in 1907 and Mattie Sanders, secretary, Robert Billington, Dr. Clark, and Melven Haynes was appointed to select a site for a new school house. Jay Bernard was treasurer.

The first meeting of record for the Greenwood School, District 10 was May 2, with William Duncon, president and A. I. Monroe, secretary. Other officers mentioned during the next few years were: H. C. Blakeman, James S. Lewis, Mrs. David Westheffer, Charles Royster, John Riggs, John Kyle, John F. Sanders, Mrs. Nannie Dickson and George Funderbunk. There were notations occasionally such as: "school will be 3 months summer and 3 months winter." "School closed because of weather" or "Mrs. Edwards paid 15c for window that Edgar broke." "Paid \$25 for organ and \$3 freight."

The first recorded meetings of School District No. 11, the Blake School was in 1891. Florence Wright was elected president and La Rue Barton, secretary. Blanche Warner was appointed the teacher. Others serving as officers were: C. H. Blake, Mrs. A. G. Peason, Peter Bob, K. G. Snyder, L. B. Lowell, Dollie Blake, Joe Calmett, George Baker and Laura A. Blake. School was closed during 1918 because of severe weather. Other notations were: "School opened—Treasurer refused to sign warrants—school only 3 months." In 1918, "could not open—could not obtain teacher."

School district No. 7 on Hardscrabble Park in Fremont County, was formed about 1878. The school was later named the Jennings School because of the many years of service of the Jennings family serving more than 75 years as secretary. W. Robert Jennings, father of Lester Jennings, Florence, served until his death in 1907. Mrs. Jessie Jennings Dickson served until 1920 when Lester Jennings served until the school was consolidated with the Florence School District Re-2 (J). Others serving as officers were O. W. Jones, IRA Porter, John Tribble, Johnathan Sikes, L. R. King, E. E. Dickson, Fred Beam, John Kelly, and Harold Porter.

Records of the other two school districts on the Hardscrabble have not been located but is believed those districts, the Porter and Tribble Schools, were established at about 1878.

Jack McFall