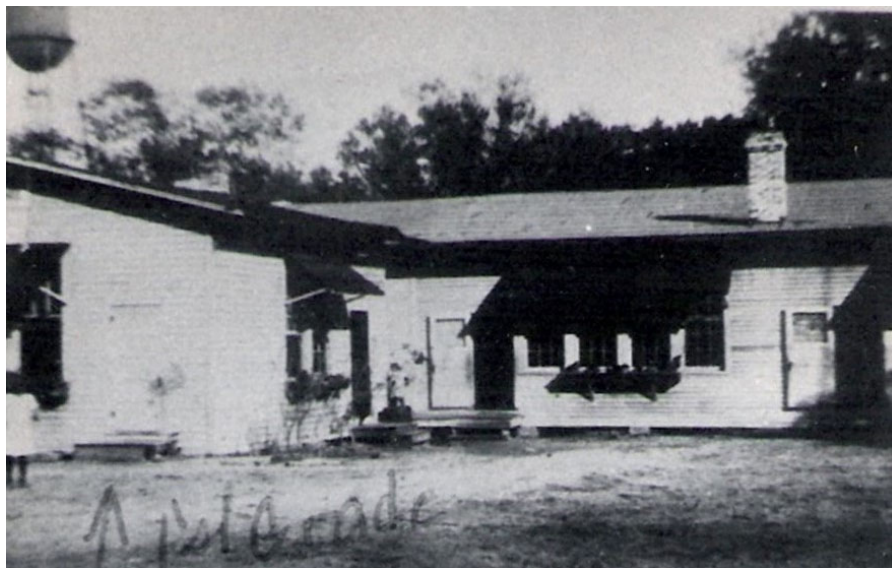


Early History of the Crescent City Schools

Part 2, Compiled by Cherie Nelson Register, Edited by B.J. Laurie

The number of pupils soon became so great that it was not large enough. The Village Improvement Association (which is now the Woman's Club) rented the little building on the north side of the Turner House for the purpose of forming a class of younger pupils. This building had previously been used in connection with a private school under the direction of Mrs. Burton. The Turner house was formally known as the Burton house. This building was located on the east side of what is now M.A. Rims & Tires, across from the Parker House.



Building rented by the V.I.A. for the use of the younger students.

Although these two buildings were more centrally located for the students living in Crescent City, it made attending school more difficult for those outside of the city.

About the same time as the school was built in town, "Squire" Harp was responsible for the building of the Grovesdale School in 1879, to make it more convenient for the students living in that vicinity. This school was in the Union Ave. and Huntington area which was located near his home. Professor Lovelace, a very capable teacher, was the principal of the Grovesdale School.

At the Crescent City School, following Mr. Williams, came Professors (for this is what the teachers were called at that time) Johnson, Simpson, Dounse, and Howden. Mr. Wakefield succeeded Mr. Howden. Mr. Wakefield made some progressive changes in the school. He introduced graded books, divided the groups into classes and employed two teachers, Mrs. Carlos Preston (Ed Preston's grandmother) and Miss Maggie Bard.

In 1880 a room was added. This improvement was perhaps due to the efforts of M.H. White and C.S. Williams, who was the father of Miss Bessie Williams. As Mrs. Charlie Chamberlain, mother of the late Lucy Hardy recalled, "Crescent City was proud indeed of this newly improved school. An object of pride before, it was now even more spacious and comfortable."

Professor Simmons followed the progressive Wakefield and after Simmons came Moffet. The school at that time had a routine that was like a lot of schools. It opened at 8:30 a.m. There was a morning devotion consisting of Bible reading and singing. During the morning there was a 30-minute recess period. Although school opened at 8:30, on cold or rainy mornings the students were sometimes unable to get to school before 10:00 or 11:00 a.m. There we see the veracity of the rhyme "a diller a dollar, a ten o'clock scholar."

Such was not the case however of Miss Florence Cash, who, her mother tells, sat on the front steps all morning waiting for the others to arrive, only to return home and find out it was Washington's Birthday.

(Continued next time)