



Phyllis

Hamner Room

321 South 4th Street
Ironton, Ohio 45638

Hours:

Monday—Thursday
9:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Friday & Saturday
9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Closed Sunday

Spirited School Histories

School can bring back many memories...first loves, favorite teachers, school spirit, football games, and friends. Preserving those memories are very important to a school history. Schools are not just brick walls...they are memories of days gone by.

To start any research project, write down what you know.

1. Where is the school located? Be very specific if the school is located outside of a city, since road names change often.
2. Is the school building still being used? Is it still a school? Is it being used for another business?
3. What does the building look like? Is it brick? One story? Two story?
4. When was the building built? Who was the builder?
5. Did it replace another school building? What one?
6. When did the first students attend classes there?
7. When did the last students attend classes there?
8. Who were the teachers?
9. Was it remodeled? What was done and when?
10. Did the school have a reputation for something special? Sports? Musical talents? Famous alumni?

These questions are just a starting point. You do not have to know the answer to every question in the beginning. Leave blanks where you need and fill them in later.

Remember, always use pencil when filling out forms and genealogy information. You can erase mistakes and make corrections easier.

Talking to Alumni

Did you attend the school you are researching? Then, you need to write down all the information you remember about the school.

Next, you need to talk to other students and school faculty. If you are not from the school system, you can search old yearbooks for former students.

Here are some sample questions to ask?

- ◆ What years did you attend school at (Name of School or Building)?
- ◆ Who were your teachers?
- ◆ Who was the principal?
- ◆ What are your fondest memories of the school?
- ◆ Do you have any photographs that I can copy for my records?
- ◆ What did the building look like?
- ◆ Describe the layout of the school. Where were the classrooms, the cafeteria, gymnasium, etc?
- ◆ Do you remember any stories about the school from siblings, parents, faculty, etc.?

Photographs are very important. They will tell a lot of history, so be sure to ask people you are interviewing about getting copies or you might be able to use a digital camera to take a picture of the original.

Talking to School Board and School Administration

Past and present school board members and school administration may be able to shed some light on a school's past. Most importantly, they may be able to tell exact dates of construction, remodeling, consolidation, etc. More importantly, they may be able to explain why changes were made. However, keep in mind, these people are very busy and may not always be able to take time to assist your research.

The best approach is to contact your local board of education. Ask them to see if they have the types of records you are looking for and if you can see them. Individual school records will be off limits because of privacy issues.

Talking to Local Historians and Residents

Another source of information is people who lived near the schools and those interested in local history. Some libraries have contact information on local historians.

You should also talk to people who lived near the school. Often, they attended or their children may have attended school there. Plus,

you might find an untapped source of information. This search would particularly helpful in rural areas where records may be more scarce. In small communities, talk to the local library staff, “mom and pop” business owners, and post office employees.

Resources Located in the Phyllis Hamner Room

The Phyllis Hamner Room had a variety of sources to help in your search.

Books

Our First 100 years: Coal Grove History: This book covers Coal Grove’s history from it earliest roots. It covers the establishment of the schools and it history for the village’s first 100 years.

Lawrence County History Books Volume 1 and 2: These two books have articles written on a variety of topics including schools. It also lists the authors of various articles, which can be a way to find people to interview.

Lawrence County, Ohio Plat Book 1988: This book might show where the schools were located.

A History of South Point Village: This book is an excellent source on schools in the South Point area.

Lawrence County, Ohio Early Memories & Historical Miscellany Volume 1: This book may contain information about some of the early schools. It is primarily articles written by people from Lawrence County’s past, but schools might be covered.

Remembrances of Ironton, Ohio 1949 to 1999: Like other sources, this book contains some information on Ironton’s schools.

Historic Preservation Survey of Lawrence County: This two binder set contains information on historical buildings in Lawrence County. Some schools are included.

The Distribution of Schools in Lawrence County, Ohio 1816-1994: This book will help you locate schools within the county.

Bits and Pieces of Blackfork by R. D. Null: Contains information on schools in the Blackfork area.

So That Was Waterloo by R. D. Null: This large book has information on the Waterloo school and Waterloo Wonders.

Superior! Lest We Forget by R. D. Null: Mr. Null wrote this book and interviewed many people. You will find information on schools that were located near Superior, Ohio.

Waterloo Wonders binder: This binder was compiled by the Phyllis Hamner Room staff. It contains copies of articles, pictures, and books.

Hanging Rock Schools 1929-1960: The Golden Years: This book was compiled by Lowell Mullins has great information on the Hanging Rock Schools including pictures.

Yearbooks

This list is current as of August 2008. We often have yearbooks donated throughout the year, so the list may not be up to date. The list is alphabetical by school name. The years covered is listed after the name. Class reunion books are shelved with the yearbooks as well.

Blackfork School—1950
Carnegie High School—1946
Chesapeake High School—1925, 1947, 1952, 2001-2002
Dawson Bryant High School—1933, 1937, 1939-1942, 1946, 1948, 1952-1954, 1962-1969, 1974 -1977, 1982, 1987-1995, 1997-2003
Dawson Bryant Reunion—1933-1939 (one book)
East High School—1981
Elizabeth Rural High School—1937-1939
Fairland Junior High School—1994
Green High School—1992
Hanging Rock High School—1936, 1937-1939
Ironton High School—1910-1914, 1917-1918, 1920, 1922, 1924-1927, 1929-1933, 1936-1942, 1946-1950, 1959, 1960-1968, 1987, 2002
Ironton High School Class Reunion—1922, 1940 (with St. Joseph), 1950
Dedication of Ohio Historical Marker—Tanks Memorial Stadium from 1926
Ironton High School Commencement 1963
Ironton Junior High— 1963, 1960, 1966-1967, 1969-1971, 2000-2001
Ironton Middle School— 1997, 1988
Kitts Hill High School—1936, 1939-1942, 1946-1947
Louisa High School—1963
Lawrence County Teachers Association 1950
Marshall University—1964, 1966-1967, 1969-1970
Supplement to Chief Justice—1970
Open Door School—1997
Pedro High School—1946
Rio Grande College—1916-1917, 1934-1935
Rock Hill High School—1952, 1956, 1959-1963, 1966-1970, 1981, 1983-1984, 1991, 1993, 1996, 1999, 2003-2005
Rock Hill High School Reunion—1955 (35th), 1970 (30th)
Rock Hill Middle School—1989-19993
Rome High School—1938, 1949
Rome High School Reunion 1945 (30th)
Russell High School—1964
South Point High School—1964
St. Joseph High School—1927-1929, 1935, 1937-1941, 1946-1950, 1952, 1954-1955, 1960-1964
St. Joseph High School Reunion—1940
St. Joseph High School Graduation—1940
St. Joseph High School Christmas—1938
St. Joseph High School Fall—1938
Symmes Valley High School—1963-1966
Bridges: Poems of Symmes Valley Students (3 volumes)

Waterloo High School—1948-1949, 1951-1961
Winsor High School—1952-1961
Xavier University—1948-1950

Name of School: _____

Address or Location of the School: _____

Name of the School System: _____

When was the school built? _____

Who was the builder? _____

Who or what was it named after? Why? _____

How many floors does the building have? _____

How many rooms did the school contain? _____

In the boxes below, draw the layout of the building.

1st floor

2nd floor

Did the building replace another school building? Yes or No

Why One? _____

Are there any other buildings associated with the school? Yes or No
Which ones and what were they used for? _____

When did the first students attend class in the building? _____

When did the last students attend class in the building? _____

Was the building ever used as something other than a school? Yes or No
What? _____

Who were the principals?

Principal Name	Years as principal

Was the building ever remodeled? Yes or No When? _____
What was done? _____

Is this school associated with a significant person, place, event, etc.? Yes or No

Explain: _____

This history was compiled by _____ (date).
(your name) on _____ (date).