

LIZARD LICK, WAKE CO, NC

Wendell Church THUR 29 MAY 1999 Wendell, NC

Congregation puts down roots in cotton field

Breaking ground

Contributed photo

Starting construction on the new Wendell Church of God Saturday were (from left) Chuck Gardner, Jimmy Parrish, Pastor Tim Hopkins, Marie Hinton, John Hinton and Ed Davis.



Church of God breaks ground

The Wendell Church of God celebrated the long-awaited ground breaking of its first permanent worship facility Saturday, May 22, a news release said. The pre-ceremony festivities began at noon with a time of fellowship as the church served free hot dogs, baked good, chips and drinks to members and the community. "Sammy" the clown provided entertainment for the children.

The ground breaking took place at 2 p.m., and included a time of worship and dedication. In attendance, in addition to Pastor Tim Hopkins and church members, were the Rev. Ray H. Sanders, state overseer for the Eastern North Carolina Church of God; Dewey Allen of ABCO Construction; Charles King of Dove-Knight and Whitehurst Architects; and officials from First Citizens Bank. Also in attendance were Charles and Shirley Wood, who documented the occasion on film.

Construction on the facility at 2709 N.C. 97, Wendell, should begin in approximately three weeks, after the appropriate permits are secured from Wake County.

Wendell Church of God members said they appreciate the prayers and participation of the community in this effort. Donations to the building fund may be mailed to P.O. Box 1628, Wendell 27591.

It's been a long time coming, but Saturday at 2 p.m., Pastor Tim Hopkins directed the Wendell Church of God congregation, friends and workers to break ground for a building to be erected in Lizard Lick. There was a lot of hot-dog eating and handshaking going on as a long-time dream became a reality.

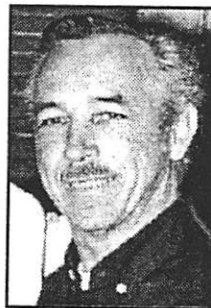
As each person stepped up and put their foot on the shovel, they were given a chance to speak. As I lifted a spade of dirt as part of the ground-breaking, I told Tim the last time I broke ground here was when we farmed the land in the mid-1950s to plant cotton. This was a different kind of seed being planted, one that will affect the community and the world, and could be harvested by anyone who so desires.

I filmed this historical event as Tim made his wife, mom and dad proud of the road he has

taken in life. He will follow in his dad's footsteps when he steps up to the podium to deliver his first sermon in a building that has its roots in Lizard Lick. We welcome the Wendell Church of God to our community.

(Charles Wood is a resident and non-political mayor of Lizard Lick who submits an unpaid column to the Record.)

By Charles Wood



Lizard Lick News

TIM HOPKINS

LIZARD LICK, WAKE CO, NC

① The Zebulon Record THUR. 2 JAN 1992 Zebulon, NC

One-room Lizard Lick school building is being preserved

By STUART OLIPHANT
Gold Leaf Farmer Staff Writer

Dressed in overalls, stained from his morning chores on the family farm, the young boy takes a seat under a huge shady oak. A few of his friends make a valiant but unsuccessful effort in trying to organize a quick game of baseball, but the midsummer heat causes the sport to lose its romantic luster.

Taking a bite of his sandwich, the boy stares at a cloud formation and ponders the cloud's striking resemblance to the African continent. He imagines what Africa is like — is it a lot different than North Carolina or is it in many ways the same. He makes a point to ask his teacher about Africa during the geography lesson.

Announcing the end of recess, the teacher rings the bell. The students pass the teacher as they enter the tiny, one-room schoolhouse in single file. Looking at his teacher before he enters, the boy pauses and asks: "Are we gonna learn about Africa today?" The teacher smiles, pats the boy on the head and tells the class to take their seats and open their Monteth's geography book to Page 34.

Today, the time of the one-room schoolhouse remains only as a memory of a much simpler time. However, despite the drastic change in education throughout

the years, there are still those who remember the days when education consisted of one teacher teaching the "three R's" to students of all grade levels in a small, one-room schoolhouse.

Mamie Dean, 93, of Wendell, is one such person. Mrs. Dean is the only surviving student of the Rhodes School, which was originally located near the Gaylee Village subdivision in Lizard Lick. In the summer of 1975, the Rhodes School was donated to the N.C. State Fair by W.H. Gay of Lizard Lick.

Oct. 18, 1976, the day the schoolhouse was dedicated to the State Fair, Mrs. Dean donated her last report card she received while attending the school as well as an essay she wrote about her fictional trip to the moon to the N.C. Department of Archives and History. Mrs. Dean's essay was written in 1904.

According to Gay, his decision to donate the schoolhouse came about after carefully considering its historical value.

In 1971, Gay purchased the property on which the schoolhouse was located; at this time the schoolhouse was in sad shape — years of neglect had eventually taken its toll. Gay's mother, [△]Stancey Gay, remembered the school and begged him to restore it.

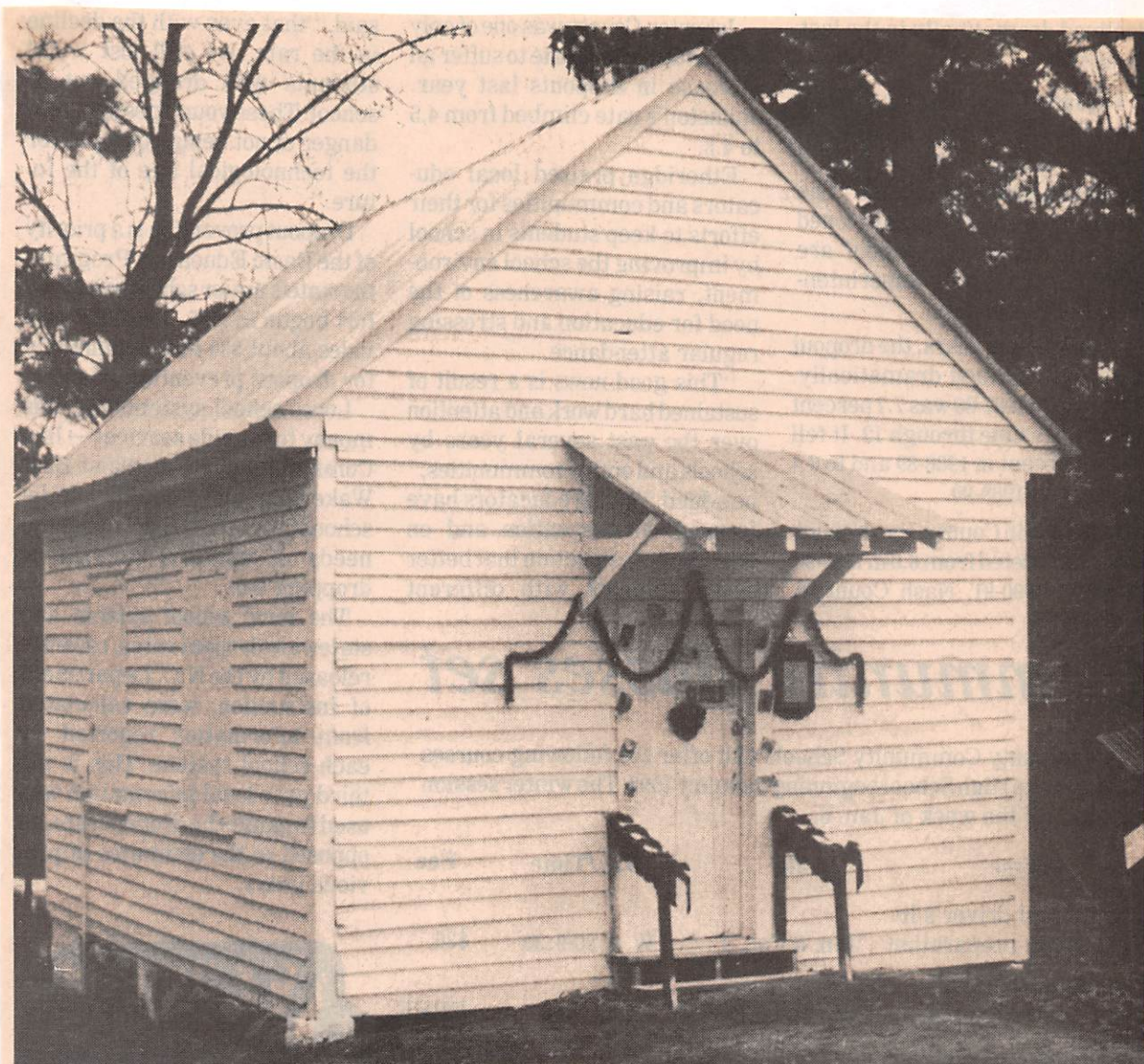
"I promised my mother I wouldn't tear it down," said Gay, "but it would have cost me a lot of money to restore the building, on my own."

Gay's quest for restoration began to see light when he and his wife, Mary Ann, saw a newspaper clipping concerning the State Fair's plans to build a "Village of Yesteryear." To add to its walk-down-memory-lane appeal, the fair needed an authentic, turn-of-the-century schoolhouse. Gay said this seemed to be the answer to restoring the building as well as preserving a peice of North Carolina history. He believes it is one of the state's oldest.

Bob Barlow, who was at this time the assistant manager of the State Fair, said that the schoolhouse was exactly what the fair had been looking for.

Closely restored to its original condition, the schoolhouse is currently on display at the State Fairgrounds. Plans were originally made to refurbish the schoolhouse with desks and other school items from the same time period. However, this has not yet been completed.

The schoolhouse was constructed of North Carolina pine and is approximately 16 feet by 20 feet. Although the first entry in the school's record book shows a date of July 12, 1886, Gay estimates that



Still standing

Contributed photo

The Rhodes School of Lizard Lick, one of the state's oldest remaining one-room schoolhouses, is being preserved at the N.C. State Fairgrounds in Raleigh.

the doors and structure itself date back to 1850 or before.

According to the first entry, 21 male and six female students were enrolled at the school. The ages of the students ranged from seven to 19. The students' names

were from the families of Todd, Rhodes, Lee, Horton, Ferrell, Whitaker, Temples, Hardesty and Underhill. Gay's grandmother, Fannie Ferrell, was among the many students who later attended the school.

The first teacher was R.P. Chamblee, who received a salary of \$24 a month. Other teachers at the school included Riley Privette, M.A. Griffin, J.M. Ferrell, S.E. Garnern, W.C. Horton and W.A. Liles.

School's ties to Lizard Lick in tact

I was appointed in 1973 to promote our community and crossroads, because the newly built U.S. 64 bypassed us, and our address changed.

I was born in Lizard Lick on Jan. 5, 1931, and have only missed two State Fairs in 55 years. For 22 years, I have written a column for the Gold Leaf Farmer as a way of keeping our crossroads alive and well-remembered as the great building boom headed our way. I knew asphalt roads and country do not mix, and things would change.

I was asked to research and write about the Lizard Lick School House, so here goes:

The first State Fair was beginning to take shape in 1853. This wasn't the only event that would make history in later years.

A small, 16-foot by 20-foot building was being constructed about that time. It would soon become Public School District No. 5 of Wake County and later would be called the Old Rhodes School after the landowner. To our community and family, it's known as the Lizard Lick School.

The schoolhouse was located 16 miles east of Raleigh on U.S. 64 near a crossroads called Lizard Lick. In 1948, I lived in this building as a tenant farmer. A room had been added to the side for a kitchen and used as a tenant house for as long as I could remember. My parents, P.W. and Pearl Carter Wood, had seven children to help farm the land belonging to Miss Pattie Lee.

Later, Willard Gay developed this property now called Gaylee Village, a residential subdivision. Gay promised his mother, Stancy

Gay, that he would not destroy this old building because of the family history. Gay's grandmother, Fannie Ferrell, and his father, Ivan Gay, attended the school.

Gay donated the school to the State Fair's Village of Yesteryear. Fair Manager Art Pitzer and Dick Ellis of the Archives Department were delighted with the gift and started to restore it immediately. Restoration was finished in 1975.

According to records available, the school started its first class on July 12, 1886, only operating for a two-month term. The first teacher, R.P. Chamblee, received a salary of \$24 per month. Students attending were from the families of Todd, Lee, Horton, Ferrell, Whitaker, Temple, Hardesty, Underhill, Gay and Rhodes. Other teachers included Riley Privette, A. Griffin, J.M. Ferrell, S.F.

Garner, W.C. Horton and W.A. Liles, each with a salary of \$30 per month. There were 21 male and six female students enrolled, ranging in age from 7 to 19.

This information was made available from the records in possession of Billy S. Liles, a member of the Wendell School Citizens Committee. He farmed and lived in Lizard Lick. The textbooks used were listed as "Swinton's Word Book," "Holmes Teacher," "Reed and Kellogg's Grammar" and "Monteith's Geography." The last recorded school classes were in 1896. It is not known if the school continued after that date.

A special thanks to Agriculture Commissioner Jim Graham and James Devine for accepting a rare photo of some students who attended the old school. My grandparents, Bertie Carter and Rosa Gay Carter, are two students who appear in the photo. It was taken inside the school at a formal dedication service on Oct. 18, 1976.



Lizard Lick reunion

Contributed photo

Gathered in 1976 are some who attended Lizard Lick School: (from left) Tommy Whitaker, W.H. Gay, Stancy Gay, Mamie Dean, Robey Morgan, Shirley Wood, Pearl Horton, Charles Wood, Bertie Carter, Rosa Carter, Art Pitzer, Pearl Wood, Lila Horton, Evie White and Frances Sargent.

By Charles Wood

Lizard Lick News

