

The History of McAfee School

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Contributing Writer

Introduction: During research for the 2016 Cornishville School Reunion, I located an article featuring five of Mercer County's six high schools in the June 12, 1936, "Harrodsburg Herald." Recently Jim Miller of the Harrodsburg Historical Society scanned the pictures of the schools and the graduating classes included with the original article. This month we are featuring the history of McAfee School as it was written 80 years ago by Alice C. Harned, principal.

The history of the McAfee School is one of which its makers may well be proud. Taking its name from the famous pioneers—the McAfee brothers—and standing in a community rich in historic traditions, the school has played a large part in the development and advancement of the county.

Very early in pioneer days, a school was established in the McAfee community. The building was of logs and, together with the first church of the community—the original Providence Presbyterian Church—stood in what is now the Providence cemetery.

Later a brick building was erected on the present site, and became a typical Latin Grammar school like many of those in New England, but far in advance of type generally existing in Kentucky at the time. Then the school passed through the academy stage numbering among it teachers and students many splendid men and women.

The history of the McAfee School has always been closely connected with that of Providence Church. In fact, the property on which the school is now located was deeded by the church to the education system of the county.

With the establishment of schools by the state, the McAfee School continued as a part of that system and has the distinction of being the oldest county high school. This was brought about in 1923 due to the hearty cooperation and work on the part of the community and school authorities. High school rooms were added to the old building and an auditorium was built and equipped.

Miss Lucile Sharp, now Mrs. W. N. Brown, became the first principal and served very efficiently in

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Photo Submitted

Pictured above, the McAfee School as it appeared in June 1949.

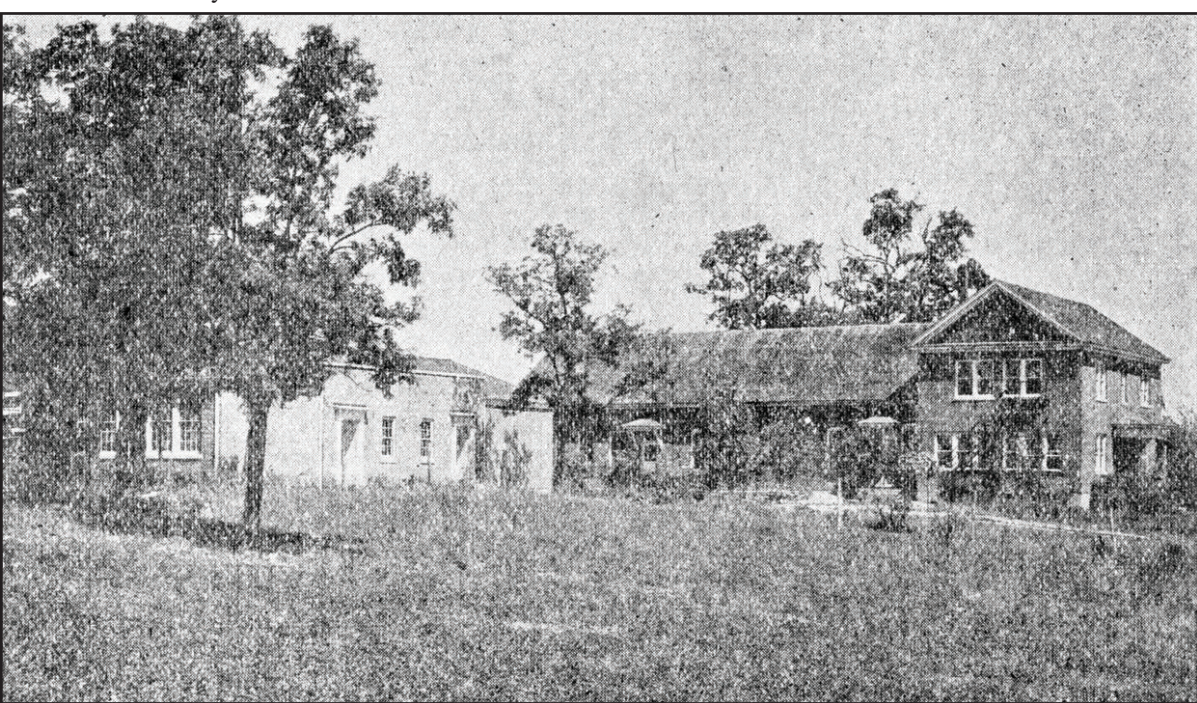


Photo Submitted

Pictured above, the McAfee School as it appeared in June 1936. The school was later owned by Mayes and Sims Implement Company.



Photo Submitted

The 1936 graduating Class of McAfee School in alphabetical order: Wilma M. Bunnell, Oneth P. Buntun, Miller B. Dean Jr., Roy E. Davenport, James G. Dismuke, Hugh James, Thomas E. Jones Jr., Madeline Parker, E.P. Robinson, Wilma V. Taylor and Elmer Walters.

Precious Memories:

GETHSEMANE, MOUNT OF OLIVES, BETHANY, AND BETHLEHEM

Ruby Bishop Ingram
Contributing Writer

The Field of Blood, or Aceldama, was bought with our Lord's blood money—30 pieces of silver—and the field is located along the Eastern wall of Jerusalem, with the Eastern Gate standing in the center of the wall.

The Field of Blood began as a burial place for paupers, and it still may be. Our Arab guide, Elijah, who was a native of Bethlehem, picked up a square rock, about an inch square, as we walked through the cemetery and handed it to me. Elijah said the rock was the kind the Romans had played with in their games. I still have the rock.

Below the Field of Blood was a road, the Kidron Valley, and the Brook Kidron, which flows toward and ends, at the Dead Sea. Near the brook, was a memorial to Absalom, a favorite son of King David, who died while trying to overthrow his father and assume the kingship. Just beyond was the Garden of Gethsemane, and I was surprised how near it was to Jerusalem.

When reading the Bible, it's hard to picture distance. Gethsemane was just around 1,000 feet or so from the Eastern Gate of Jerusalem. Ancient olive trees grew in the Garden, with perhaps some of them there during Jesus' time. Left to grow, an olive tree rarely dies. In order to cut an olive tree down, one has to have authorization from the Israeli government. There were pretty flowers abloom everywhere in the Garden.

A church had been built around and over the stones in Gethsemane, with a big stone near the altar that was almost flat. It was encircled with wrought iron crowns of thorns, with birds between each wreath. Perhaps this is where Jesus prayed before they took Him away to be crucified. The church was called "The Church of All Nations," and

it had many windows and the ceiling had 12 domes that were beautiful alabaster blue with clear stars. The walls of the church had some scars that it had received during the "Six Day War" in 1967, with battles fought right down the Kidron Valley. There was a Russian Orthodox Church just up the way from Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives, called the Church of Mary Magdalene and was so impressive, but we didn't visit it.

Behind the Garden of Gethsemane was the Mount of Olives, which I could see from my hotel room at Saint George's. Atop the Mount was a memorial in honor of Jesus, where His feet last touched, as He ascended to Heaven. A cloud covered Jesus, as He ascended, and He said that He would come again in like manner. This is where He gave the Great Commission, which we find in the concluding chapter of Saint Matthew. Jesus said for His disciples (and that is for all Christians) to "Go ye into the world and preach the gospel to every creature, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. And, lo I am with you always, even to the end of the world".

Bethany, the little village where Mary, Martha and Lazarus lived, is just down the road from the Mount of Olives. It was just like I had pictured it in my mind from reading about it in the Bible. The houses there looked somewhat like cracker boxes with flat roofs. Jesus loved to visit Mary and their brother, Lazarus, in their home in Bethany. I saw the tomb where it is said that Lazarus had lain when Jesus raised him from the dead. The people there probably didn't know where he was entombed after his second death. However, I am curious about this.

We went to Bethlehem after leaving Bethany, and we passed by ruins that perhaps had been the

inn, known as the Good Samaritan Inn, for it was located on this road. Remember the man who was wounded by thieves on this road? No one cared for the wounded man, who was a Samaritan. Even a Priest, who passed by on the other side and likewise a Levite came and looked on him and passed by on the other side. Then the wounded man was aided by the Good Samaritan, a man who was hated here, but he had a compassionate heart. "He bound up the man's wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And, on the morning when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, take care of him, and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee."

On down this road was Bethlehem, which is built on a hillside close by the Field of Boaz. The village looked as traditional as Bethany. This is where our guide Elijah lived. He was married to a Lebanese woman, and they had seven sons and three daughters. Elijah had been Billy Graham's guide when Brother Graham visited there. Elijah was a Christian and loved his work as a tour guide.

The buildings in Bethlehem were built of stone, like all the buildings in the places we visited. What a shock though when we saw a neon star in the church square. This church was built over the Nativity and had a door that was called the Eye of the Needle. The door was so low we had to stoop over to walk through. This was to keep marauders from riding through on horses and camels. Now, the scripture, "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven," became easier to under-

Mercer's Magazine

Mercer's Magazine is published as part of *The Harrodsburg Herald* on the first Thursday of each month.

It includes the writings of current or former Mercer County residents and reflects their individual styles and memories of everyday life in this community or other subjects. Opinions of the writers are not necessarily those of *The Harrodsburg Herald*.

The magazine may also include stories and other content compiled by *The Herald* staff. Molly Hogan (mhogan@harrodsburgherald.com) is the magazine editor. Community writers in this issue include:

- Jerry Sampson
- Kandi Adkinson
- Ruby B. Ingram
- Gary P. West
- Jacob Sanders
- William Robinson

Submissions to the magazine should be mailed to Mercer's Magazine, P.O. Box 68, Harrodsburg, Ky. 40330 or emailed to mhogan@harrodsburgherald.com.

The deadline for the August 4, 2016, issue of *Mercer's Magazine* is July 21, 2016. *The Herald* reserves the right to accept, reject and/or edit all submissions.

The Harrodsburg Historical Society cordially invites you to

Tuesday, July 12
ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL
220 S. CHILES STREET (MORGAN ROW)
7:30 P.M.

Speaker: Julie Wagner, Executive Director of Harrodsburg First
"Building Detective – uncovering the genealogy of Main Street's buildings"



All meetings are free and open to the public.
Light refreshments served.

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