

POKE RUN ACADEMY

STUDENTS OF 1919

Mary Rubright
Florence Ralston
Ethelwyn Christy
Ruth Clawson
Mabel Ralston
Florence Speer
LeRoy McKee
Mary Schaffer
Belle Elwood
Glen Hartman
Rachel Hilty
Maude Bortz
Eugene Speer
Raymond Walter
Mabel Glunt
Blanche McQuaide

Edna Beamer
Eva Christy
Sara Waddell
Helen Stark
Lula Stimmell
Gertrude McCutcheon
Estella McKee
Odin C. Hartman
Dorothy Walker
Wilma Branthoover
Don Wiester
Vera Elwood
Josephine Watt
Tressie Hartman
Elvie McCullough
Stella Irwin

The Teachers Examination for Provisional Certificates will be held at Poke Run, July 10, 1920. Teachers must be familiar with the various systems of teaching reading which are in common use. Applicants will be tested as to their knowledge of the Westmoreland County Course of Study.

Poke Run Academy is believed to have begun as a summer school and most probably was conducted in the public school building and the church at Oakland Crossroads, today's Mamont. As early as 1864 such a school was taught by Mr. Stewart Shaw and by the Rev. John K. McKallip in 1870. Dr. Henry Bain, pastor of Poke Run Church, taught in 1871, followed by Rev. Theophilus Young in 1876, Mr. George Hugus, Superintendent of Westmoreland County Schools taught in 1877, followed by Mr. J. Patterson Wiley in 1882, 1883, and 1885. The prime purpose of these private schools was to educate students who planned to teach or continue on to college.

The name of the school changed gradually. On the annual entertainment program from July 1894 it was called the Oakland Select School; on the programs of 1895 and 1896 it was called the Oakland School, on the program of 1898 the name was Poke Run School. Mamont School, Summer Term, 1902 appeared on the outside of a two-page catalog. Later the school was called Poke Run Academy.

There were three Academies in this area all with Presbyterian Church influence and background. Laird Institute in Murrysville (formerly known as the Turtle Creek Valley Academy) founded by the former pastor of Poke Run Church, The Rev. Francis Laird, and the Markle Normal Academy organized in 1875 by the Rev. John Moulton Jones. Both of these Academies were formed by Churches that were daughter Churches of Poke Run Presbyterian Church.

Quoting from the THE PRESBYTERIAN VALLEY by William Wilson McKinney, "The last of the Secondary Schools which Presbyterians organized before the era of high schools removed the need, was the Poke Run Academy established in 1890. This Academy grew out of a summer school in the vicinity of Mamont

that was taught by Stewart Shaw and the Reverend Henry Bain, the pastor of the Poke Run Presbyterian Church. This school and later the Academy had the support of the church and it prepared young people for teaching in the public schools. The average attendance was about fifty students a term but like other Academies of its kind, it finally gave way to the high school movement. It was said of it, as could be said with equal appropriateness of all the Academies: the Academy filled a great need. In a measure it took the place of the high school, it prepared teachers when Normal Schools seemed afar off; it prepared young men and women for college. Like all Presbyterian Academies of that fruitful era, it dispensed secular learning with a Christian spirit, thereby strengthening both mind and soul." Poke Run Academy was used in this Capacity through the summer term of 1921.

The School Board of Washington Township established the Washington Township High School in 1919. There was not a suitable building for use at this time, so the Poke Run Chapel (Academy Building) became the Township's first high school. Washington Township High School continued to be housed in the Academy or Chapel building until 1928 when the new high school building was completed. It is interesting to note that the first teacher for the township's high school was Mr. Lyman N. Lemmon who was also the teacher for Poke Run Academy from 1918 thru 1921, the last term for the Academy.

The Academy or Chapel building has seen many changes over the subsequent years, with a basement being added for additional needed space. Other improvements have been made both downstairs and upstairs including the Church Library which has been moved to the upstairs of the Academy. While all these things give new life and meaning to the to the Academy or Chapel, we have to feel proud of the fact that after one hundred years this Chapel, (certainly a dream of Reverend Bain), still exists with

TEXT BOOKS

- Arithmetic—Milne's Standard.
 Grammar—Higher Lessons in English—Reed and Kellogg.
 Geography—Roddy.
 History—Montgomery's.
 Pennsylvania History—March (Pub. by American Book Co.)
 Physiology—Steele; Davison.
 Algebra—Wentworth's New School.
 Civics—Nation and State, Phillips.
 Community Civics, Dunnis.
 Spelling—Seventy Lessons in Spelling.
 Theory of Teaching—"The Teacher, the School, the Community."
 —McFee (American Book Co.)
 "How to Study and What to Study"—Sandwick.
 (Pub. by D. C. Heath Co.)
 Latin—First Year Latin—Bennett.
 Physical Geography—Houston.
 Literature—Macbeth, Evangeline--The Vision of Sir Launfal.
 (A study of the lives of these authors will receive careful attention).

TUITION

Term.....	\$12.00
Per Week.....	\$ 1.50

GENERAL INFORMATION

Mr. Lemmon is a graduate of the classical course of Franklin College and is now Principal of Washington Township High School. He has taught Poke Run Academy for the past two terms. The work in the past has been very successful. A number have made grades admitting them to the Professional Class.

POKE RUN ACADEMY STUDENTS

Ira Crooks	Gertrude Branthoover
Clara Crooks	Alta Glunt
Dolly Shaw	Florence Ralston
Eliza McQuaide	Tom Clements
Meryl Wiester	James E. Tomer
Venia Hill	Bob Stark
James H. Metzgar	Knox Clements
Florence Clawson	Homer Glunt
Ivy Hall	Jess Shaw
Nettie Young	Lloyd McQuaide
Charolette Rubright	Stewart Reed
Bob Glunt	Dave Young
Vella Bortz	Frank Peterson
Mable Culp	Marie Hill
Hilda Crooks	Isaacar Masters
Helen Rubright	Wayne Sloan
Florence McCullough	Jenny McCurdy
Jenny Masters	Edna Kerns
Dorothy Mitchell	Ethelwyn Christy
Ruth Clawson	Mabel Ralston
Florence Speer	LeRoy McKee
Mary Schaffer	Belle Elwood
Glen Hartman	Rachel Hilty
Maude Bortz	Eugene Speer
Raymond Walter	Mabel Glunt
Blanche McQuaide	Edna Beamer
Eva Christy	Sara Waddell
Helen Stark	Lula Stimmell
Gertrude McCutcheon	Estella McKee
Odin C. Hartman	Dorothy Walker
Wilma Branthoover	Don Wiester
Vera Elwood	Josephine Watt
Tressie Hartman	Elvie McCullough
Stella Irwin	Dora Christy

CATALOGUE

OF

POKE RUN ACADEMY

1920

MAY 17—EIGHT WEEKS

INSTRUCTOR

LYMAN N. LEMMON

MOUNT PLEASANT, PA.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Rev. J. W. Witherspoon
Clark Speer
H. J. Kistler
Foster Sloan
James J. Young
D. M. Young
J. B. Kearns
J. A. McQuilkin
J. E. McQuaide

James Steel
Alexander Bell
F. A. Rugh
M. J. S. Rugh
J. H. Walter
William Ralston
D. K. McKown
W. L. Young
C. W. Mitchel

COURSES OF STUDY

1. TEACHERS COURSE

This course includes thorough work in all the branches in which applicants for provisional certificates will be examined. Theory and Practice of Teaching will receive special attention. This course will be taught almost entirely from outline.

2. PREPARATORY COURSE

This course is designed for those who are looking forward to the teachers examination in the future, or are preparing to enter the Township High School. It will include Beginners Algebra.

Those desiring to take special work may communicate with Mr. Lemmon.

BOOKS

Students will furnish their own books and should secure them before the beginning of the term.

New Books—Clements and Hill, Greensburg.

Second-hand Books—Hinds and Noble, 31 West 15th street, New York.

BOARDING

Boarding can be obtained at reasonable rates. Those desiring to board themselves can obtain good rooms. Rooms may be secured by consulting Rev. J. W. Witherspoon, Mamont, any member of the board, or L. N. Lemmon, Mamont, Pa.

LITERARY SOCIETY

An active Literary Society will be conducted under the immediate direction of the Principal. Literary work will be required of all students. An Entertainment will be held at the close of the term. Those who have done especially good work in the society may have a part in this entertainment.

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its original purpose and continues to glorify God by its teaching and service to our Church Family and community.

David T, Carroll, 1989

The above information has been taken from the Washington Township history book along with the history book (both editions) of Poke Run Church. Information has also been gathered from other sources including newspapers, books, session records, and individuals. Information is still being collected so a more complete story can be told about Reverend Bain and the Academy. Any information that you might be able to give would greatly be appreciated.

The following lists are the names of teachers and students who taught and attended Poke Run Academy and the Township High School during the time it was held here at Poke Run. Limited sources have made our list incomplete, and we apologize if we have omitted people. Additional names would be appreciated.

POKE RUN ACADEMY TEACHERS

Mr. A. C. Gorden	Mr. J. M. Highberger
Mr. M. D, McCelland	Mr. W. G. Wiley
Mrs. Irma Rugh McCelland	Mr. H. W. Stewart
Mr. Joseph W. Dunbar	Mr. John Lynn Howe
Mr. R. S. Anderson	Mr. Frank Eakin
Mr. Harry S. McCutcheon	Mr. N. B. Wilson
Mr. Allen Crooks	Mr. G. P. West
Mr. A, Lincoln Wiley	Mr. James L. Jones
Mr. Robert C. Shaw	Mr. F. J. Good
Mr. Sam H. Gardner	Mr. J. Roy Walter
Mr. M. S. Bush	Mr. Lyman Lemmon
Mr. H. E. Kaufman	