

## A Chronological History of Schoolhouses -

### Quincy Township, Franklin County, PA 1837- 1963

The information presented in this document was gathered from Roger C. Mowrey's book, *Quincy PA Schools*, published in 1978, and from the digital archives of the Waynesboro Record Herald and the Chambersburg Public Opinion Newspapers.

#### Why were Quincy's Early Schoolhouses Built Atop Hills?

## Quincy School Houses Built Atop Hills

### Early Schoolhouses Built Where Land Was of No Value

The city of Rome, Italy, is built on seven hills. The highest is known as the Capitoline hill where the capitol was built.

In Quincy township, Franklin county, most of the schoolhouses were built on hills with local names.

In the western part of the township there were the following schools: Grove Hill, Oak Hill, Pigeon Hill, Opóssum Hill, now Ryder's, Rock Hill, Polk Hill, Fox Hill, Shoe-string Hill, Snow Hill (burned and was closed), Fairview, Tomstown, Blue Rock, named for a ledge of rocks at the school building, and the Gap at Besecker's Gap in the mountain.

The Gap building was built to last for generations to come. It is built of native sandstones, has walls two feet thick. On top of the South Mountain stands the New Baltimore schoolhouse with its walls of concrete blocks. It was built by W. H. Heefner of Mont Alto while he was a member of the township schoolboard. The early schoolhouses were mostly built in the woods and where the land was of little or no value. The matter of playgrounds was not considered necessary. Rock Hill and Blue Rock were built on rock ledges, that is, the first buildings were, little or no thought being given to the planning.

The Rock Hill building has the entrance at the west side toward the cold.

Polk Hill and Fox Hill have no playgrounds worthy of the name.

Three schoolhouses were built at Pigeon Hill in forty years, the first in 1851 and the present one in 1891, built by A. B. Good when he was a director. It will outlast the other two by many years. It has stood 46 years already.

## 1. Opossum Hill

### *There is no image available for the Opossum Hill School*

The Opossum Hill School construction began in November, 1837 as a Washington Township school and was completed in March, 1838 as a Quincy Township school, Quincy Township having been carved out of Washington Township in that year. The land for this building, just shy of one acre, was purchased from George Cook on October 4, 1837 for \$10.00. The schoolhouse was located on the Waynesboro- Chambersburg Road. The school got its name because of the large population of Opossums in the area.

The only item existing from the board minutes regarding the Opossum Hill School sites this 1881 disturbance... *“the gathering of unauthorized persons in the building on Sundays to play.”* The board minutes fail to clarify whether the “players” were children or adults, but the board took action to ban any further use of the building for these Sunday playtimes.



## 2. Ryder's

On April 13, 1893, the directors passed a resolution to build a new building on the Opossum Hill site. In August of the same year, and after much negotiation, a decision was reached to abandon the schoolhouse at Opossum Hill and build a second school on a new site. Nearly one acre of land was purchased for \$137.00 from Mr. and Mrs. Adam Ryder. The deed is dated September 23, 1893. **The new school was named “Ryder’s” in honor of the Ryder family.**





### 3. Blue Rock

Blue Rock is almost certainly the first school to be constructed after Quincy Township separated from Washington Township in 1838. The land for the school, 0.2 acres, was purchased from Solomon and Mary Sechrest on September 27, 1838 for \$10.00. ***The image above, a frame structure, is of the second schoolhouse built on the site.***

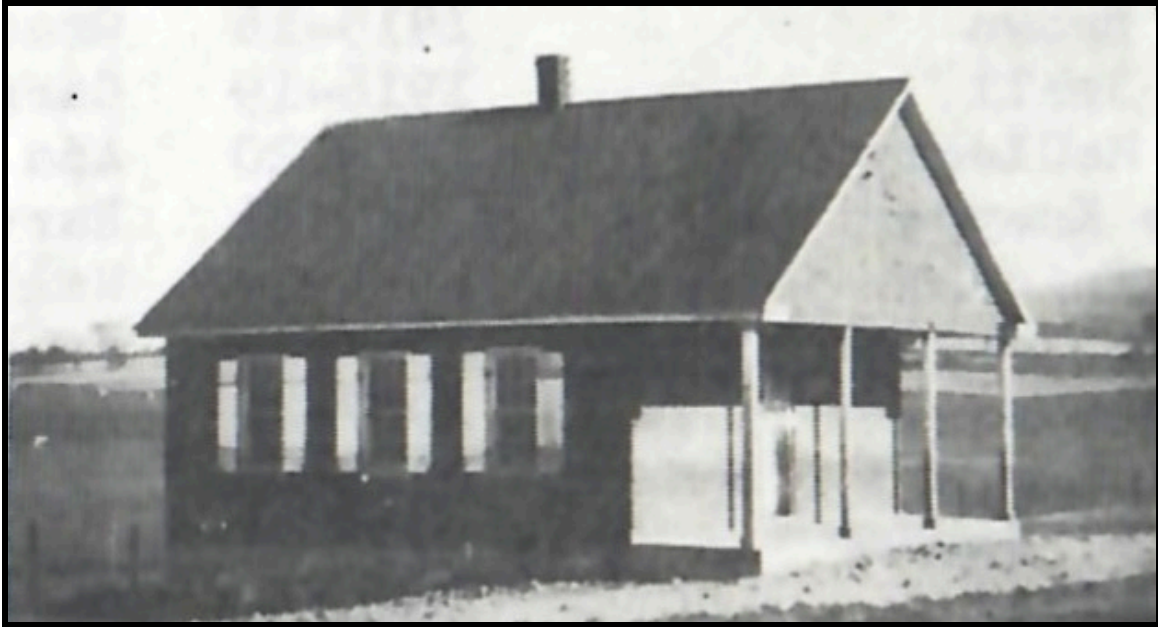
The original school, built of native blue rock in 1838, was in service for 29 years. In 1885, a committee of directors was appointed to investigate the condition of the school and it was declared to be in good shape. Because of population growth, however, it was decided to build a second school. On June 19, 1886, a second school was built at the Gap. During the summer of 1889, the stone school, although less than thirty years in use, was raised and the frame structure (pictured above) was built on the old foundation. Additional land of .07 acres was purchased from Sara Sechrist.

By 1918, enrollment diminished to the point that the Blue Rock school was abandoned and pupils were divided between the Gap and Tomstown. However, in 1920 during the school term, the Snow Hill school at the Nunnery burned and Blue Rock reopened to receive the students from Snow Hill for the remainder of the 1920 school term. In a reorganization of the the grades of the district in 1946, grades 1-3 were assigned to Blue Rock until the school was permanently closed in 1955. The building was sold to Mr. and Mrs George Monn for \$1,005.00 on June 21, 1995.

## 4. Clay Hill

### *There is no image available for the Clay Hill School*

The Clay Hill School, built around 1840, was operated jointly by Quincy Township and Antrim Township. Located on the Shady Grove-Grindstone Hill Road, a parcel of land was donated to the townships on September 20, 1842 by Henry Wagner. The building was used for many years as a place of worship by "The Church of the United Brethren in Christ in Franklin County." On November 5, 1921, Quincy transferred its rights in this school property to the Antrim Township School District.



## 5. Polk Hill

The land for the school, about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an acre, was purchased from Daniel and Elizabeth Dull in September 1844 for \$10.50. Located on Slabtown Road at the intersection of Barkdoll Lane, the school was built to provide a place of education for the children of local families and also for the influx of workers' families at the Mont Alto Iron Works. The first sessions at Polk Hill were in the middle of November, 1844, just after James K. Polk had been elected eleventh President of the United States. Some have supported the theory that Polk Hill was named in honor of the recently-elected president, while others have been proponents of the idea that the site was already known as "Poke Hill" because of the large numbers of Pokeweeds on the hilltop, and that the name, "Polk Hill", is a concocted invention that completely ignored local history. *There is no reference made to "Polk Hill" in any Chambersburg or Waynesboro Digitally Archived Newspaper before the year 1875, and that's 31 years after the supposed naming event. Also, no school district records could be found that verify the "Polk Hill" naming event.*

**The image above is of the second and current building on the site.** This second Polk Hill Schoolhouse was built in 1877 with additional land having been purchased from George Benedict. In the reorganization of the grades in the district in 1946, Polk Hill served the district needs as follows: Grades 1-4 (1946-47) and 1950-52 Grades 2-4 1952-53 Grades 4-5 (1952-53). On November 9, 1955, the Polk Hill school building was sold at auction to Mr. and Mrs. Oram P. Miller for \$1,001.00 at auction.



## Poke Hill or Polk Hill?

In the hundreds of references to "Poke Hill" and "Polk Hill" in both the Chambersburg and Waynesboro digitally archived newspapers, the terms are at times used interchangeably. However, there are no articles that contain either name for the years 1844-1845 when the Polk Hill School was built and supposedly named "Polk Hill School" in honor of the recently- elected President of the United States, James Knox Polk, who served from 1845-1849.

### References to "Poke Hill"

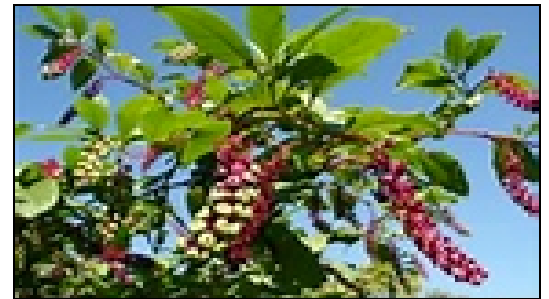
**Chambersburg Area Newspapers - 1795-2021**  
**16 References: Earliest, 1872 - Most Recent, 1940**

**Waynesboro Area Newspapers - 1851-2021**  
**15 References: Earliest, 1932 - Most Recent, 1967**

### References to "Polk Hill"

**Chambersburg Area Newspapers- 1795-2021**  
**193 References: Earliest, 1875 - Most Recent, 2010**

**Waynesboro Area Newspapers - 1851-2021**  
**449 References: Earliest, 1882 - Most Recent, 2005**



Confusion has arisen over the years concerning the Pokeweed Plant. Some have erroneously referred to it as "Polkweed," which has in part been the source of the uncertainty about both the name of the area and of the schoolhouse itself.

### Quincy Township Teachers 1883

The Quincy School Directors have selected the following teachers for the ensuing six months term: Fox Hill, Miss Edith B. Wertz; Poke Hill, B. V. Monn; Pigeon Hill, W. T. Hess; Opossum Hill, Miss Lizzie Knepper; Snow Hill, J. C. McCleary; Oak Hill, Harvey Wingert; Rock Hill, Charles W. High; Quincy Graded, Ezra Wile; Quincy Primary, Harry E. Snyder; Fairview, George C. Walk; Tomstown, E. B. Gunder; Blue Rock, Miss Katie Manges; Gap, J. C. Terman; Forge, John A. McCleary; Wharf, D. M. Singer; Alto Dale, graded, I. S. Wingert; Alto Dale primary, C. C. Funk; Mont Alto graded, Miss Aggie R. Small; Mont Alto primary, John E. Slaybough; New Baltimore, Miss Irene Riley.

Public Weekly Opinion - 18 AUG 1883

### Teachers' Monthly Salaries 1898

#### Corps of Township Teachers Elected by School Boards This Week.

The School Board of Quincy township several days ago met, organized and elected the teaching corps for the coming term. The term was reduced from 6½ to 6 months and the teachers chosen from 30 applicants were as follows: Quincy graded, G. C. Walk, \$34; primary, H. E. Snyder, \$36; Fairview, B. V. Monn, \$34; Tomstown, E. B. Gunder, \$35; Blue Rock, Charles High, \$34; Gap, Miss Irene Reilly, \$35; Snow Hill, J. C. McCleary, \$35; Wharf, S. A. Friedley, \$34; Oak Hill, H. G. Wingert not examined; Rock Hill, W. T. Hess, \$35; Ryders, Robert Bonner, not examined; Fox Hill, E. Oyler, \$33.25; Polk Hill, John E. Slaybough, \$34; Pigeon Hill, Miss Lula Helman, not examined; New Baltimore, Bayard Beatty, \$31.12; Mont Alto graded, Miss Agnes Small, \$35; intermediate, Ezra Wile, \$34; secondary, Miss Laura Eiker, \$32.50; first primary, C. C. Funk, \$34.

Franklin Repository - 22 JUN 1898

GRINDSTONE on steel frame. Can be easily attached to electric motor. Inquire Archie Harmon, **Poke Hill**, across from schoolhouse, between 5 and 10 p. m.

Record Herald - 3 SEP 1952

Miss Ida E. Shoekey, youngest daughter of Lewis Shoekey, and William E. Gossert, **Polk Hill schoolhouse**, Quincy township, were married in Hagerstown Nov. 3d at the home of and by the Rev. W. S. Reichard.

Franklin Repository - 12 NOV 1898

**PUBLIC SALE**  
Of Personal Property  
Saturday, Sept. 12, 1959  
1 O'Clock P.M.  
**Poke Hill**, located ¼ mile north-east of Quincy, on Road to Mont Alto Forestry, off Route 997.

Record Herald - 4 SEP 1959

SLABTOWN NEAR  
**POKE HILL**, GETS  
INTO LIMELIGHT  
Because One of Its Residents  
Would Bathe in Public View

Public Opinion - 12 DEC 1925

**Quincy Township Teachers.**  
The Quincy township school board met Saturday and elected the following teachers: Quincy Graded, H. E. Snyder; Primary, Geo. C. Walk; Snow Hill, Chas. W. High; Willow Grove, Harvey Wingert; Oak Hill, Wm. T. Hess; Rock Hill, Sadie Besecker; Ryder's, Bayard Beatty; **Pigeon Hill**, Norris G. Benedict; **Poke Hill**, Lulu Helman; Fox Hill, B. V. Monn; New Baltimore, Edwin Cook; Mont Alto, Principal, Agnes Small; Grammar, Ezra Wile; Intermediate, John Slaybaugh; Primary, C. C. Funk; Tomstown, E. B. Gunder; Blue Rock, Arthur Fortney; Gap, Irene Riley. Term, seven months.

Public Weekly Opinion - 11 JUN 1900

**Mrs. Ephraim Dull of **Poke Hill** is also very poorly at present.**

Franklin Repository Daily - 9 OCT 1895

★ **Livestock** **22**  
RIDING HORSE, 10-year-old Palomino. Charles Riffle, off Slabtown Road at **Poke Hill**

Record Herald - 26 MAY 1967

Mrs. Mark H. Anderson Jr. and son Dale, Tucson, Ariz., and Mr. and Mrs. George W. Mueller, Roslyn, were recent guests of Mr and Mrs. O. E. Miller at their summer home, **Poke Hill School House**, Quincy **Mr and Mrs. N. G. Kepner**, 303 Fairview Ave, were also hosts to the visitors.

Record Herald - 18 AUG 1960

The December attendance of the pupils at the **Polk Hill school** was very good. The percentage for the girls was 99 and for the boys it was 93. The girls present every day during the month were: Lois Benchoff, Virgie Peters, Gladys Reed, Charlotte Reed, Josephine Shaffer, Anabel Staley, Mae Ansley, Clara Triesh, Elinor B endy and Betty Leeking were absent one day because of illness. Of the boys, Harold Staley, Ellwood Staley, Paul, Ralph and George Smetzer were present every day. Arden Benchoff, Wrenice, Kenneth and Junior Kauffman were absent each one day, Guy Mills eight days and David Mills four days. The Mills boys are quarantined because of a contagious disease that has afflicted David.

Record Herald - 4 JAN 1932

\*NOTE: The author of this article, having been born and raised near the school, and having had many relatives who attended there, affirms that the locals preferred to call it "Poke Hill School."





### **6. Shoestring Hill - also called Quincy**

A parcel of land was purchased from John and Dinah Monn, Jr. for \$50.00 in 1846. **The image above is of the second schoolhouse built on the site in 1880 by Wm. B. Raby for \$769.**

Waynesboro Record Herald, July 2, 1937: "Mr, Raby was the leading builder in Quincy in the decade between 1850 to 1860 and later. He built the Quincy schoolhouse. It is a substantial building but without modern conveniences, It has outside toilets and an egg stove for heating. Some years ago the school board had a cellar excavated under the south end for storing coal and kindling. Each teacher is also the janitor of his or her room."

The building on Shoestring Hill closed for regular classes as the 1954-55 school term ended. For several years following, the building was used by the township for special education classes"



## 7. Tomstown

The earliest deed for a land purchase by the school directors in the Tomstown community (also known as Franklin at the time) is dated October 23, 1850. Property for the school, about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an acre, was purchased from John and Nancy Mentzer for \$25.00. Soon outgrown, the building was replaced in 1877. The original building was razed to its foundation and the new structure built on its foundation walls. Jacob Smetzer, head carpenter, and George A. Rock, head mason, each made \$1.75 per 11-hour day. Helpers, Samuel Pentz and Joseph Coffman, each made \$1.00 per 11-hour day. Plasterers George Kinsel and Andrew Resser made \$15.00 and \$15.88 respectively for a completed job.

By 1910, because of continued growth, a petition was granted to construct a new two-room building next to the original. However, a two-room addition (as seen above) was added to the rear of the original building instead. Contractor, Jacob Mentzer, won the bid for this new construction at \$989.00. Also in 1810, more land for a playground, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre, was purchased from Samuel and Catherine Mentzer.

In 1923 the schools in the Fairview-Tomstown community were combined into one attendance area.





### **8. Rock Hill**

Until 1856, the northwestern section of Quincy Township was served by the school at Opossum Hill. In that year the citizens of the area petitioned for a facility more convenient. At that time, school buildings cost between five and six hundred dollars and took about a month in construction. A plot of  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre was purchased from John Essick for \$25.00 on September 17, 1856. In 1878, the original building was thoroughly repaired by John Cluggston at a contract price of \$80.00. It has been documented as a "fault" in the construction of this structure, that it is oriented west to east, that is, the entrance faces west. Most school buildings of the period had entrances facing east as this orientation allowed for the morning sun to warm the interior and provide strong light throughout school hours.

In the reorganization of the grades in the district in 1946, grades three and four were assigned to the Rock Hill School until it was closed permanently in 1955.



### **9. Pigeon Hill**

The first public school in this area, supported by recollections of early residents and former teachers, was constructed in 1851. There are no deeds or land records available for that year and the school is supposed to have been located about ½ mile south of this later building.

In 1860, a new building was erected on land, about ¼ acre, sold by Daniel and Elizabeth Benedict for \$25.00 This building was in use for 31 years. In 1876 a new stove was purchased and in 1883, new furniture.

In 1891 the building seen above was constructed on land, about ⅓ acre, purchased from Daniel M. and Belle Benedict for \$18.00.

In the reorganization of the grades in 1946, grades five, six and seven were housed here from 1947-48 and then grades five and six from 1949-1955 when the school was permanently closed.

On March 17, 1970, the Waynesboro Area School System approved the sale of the building to Robert W. Frye for \$500.00.



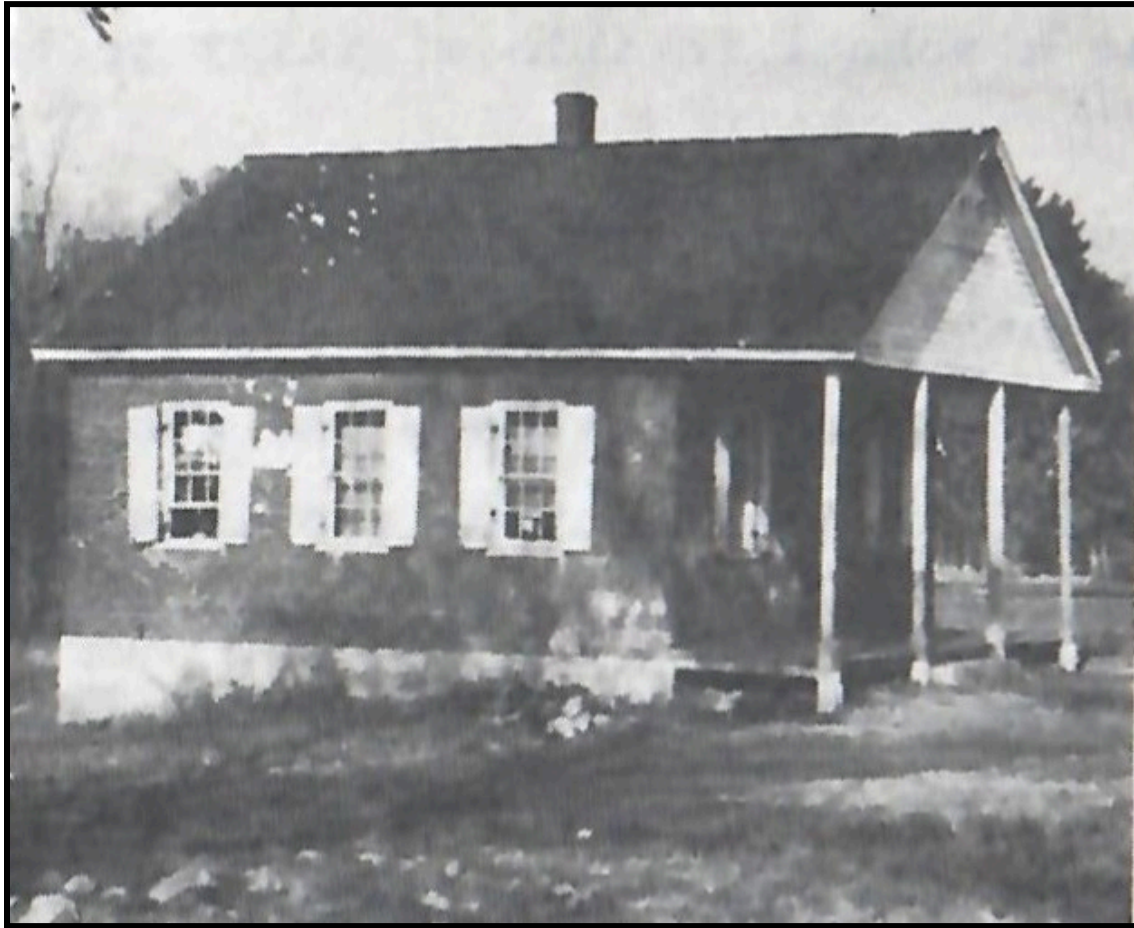


### **10. Grove Hill (Formerly Wharf)**

From a study of the history of the area, a conclusion may be reached that there was a public school in this area in about 1865. **The name “Wharf” likely arose from the fact that the schoolhouse was situated near a dam across the creek below the school.** In 1892 the citizens of the district petitioned for a new school since the old Wharf School was in extreme disrepair. By action of the directors a new structure was built and, to the displeasure of many, named it Grove Hill School.

However, the new name was not acceptable to many of the taxpayers in the area. For the many years to come, the schoolhouse was called both, “Grove Hill” and “Wharf.” This reluctance on the part of some to accept the new name is evidenced even in the official board minutes of the of the time. **In 1908, the board again took action to officially name the school “Grove Hill.”**

In the reorganization of the grades in the district in 1946, grades seven and eight were assigned here until the permanent closing of the building in 1955. On August 5, 1955, Mr. and Mrs. Paul N. Fahrney purchased the building at public auction for \$1050.00.



### 11. Fox Hill

There is no discoverable evidence of the first schoolhouse on Fox Hill although it is assumed by many that there was a school building in the vicinity as early as 1850. **The image above is of the schoolhouse that was constructed in 1878.** For its construction, just over ½ acre of land was purchased for \$50.00 from D.W. Thompson.

Contractor fees for the construction of the school were as follows: Mason, George C. Rock, was paid \$1.50 for a 10-hour day. David Miley, carpenter, was paid \$1.50 per 10-hour day. Assistant carpenter, Jacob Smetzer, was paid \$1.40 per 10-hour day. An additional carpenter when needed was paid \$1.25 per 10-hour day. Andrew Geeseman, contracted to do the painting for \$1.00 per 10-hour day. Jacob Stull was awarded the plastering contract at \$14.00 for a completed job.

In the reorganization of the grades of the district in 1946, differing combinations of grades from 1-6 were assigned at Fox Hill until the school was permanently closed in 1955.

Mr. and Mrs. B. Franklin Cordell purchased the building on July 13, 1955 for \$1230.00..



## **12. New Baltimore (Guilford)**

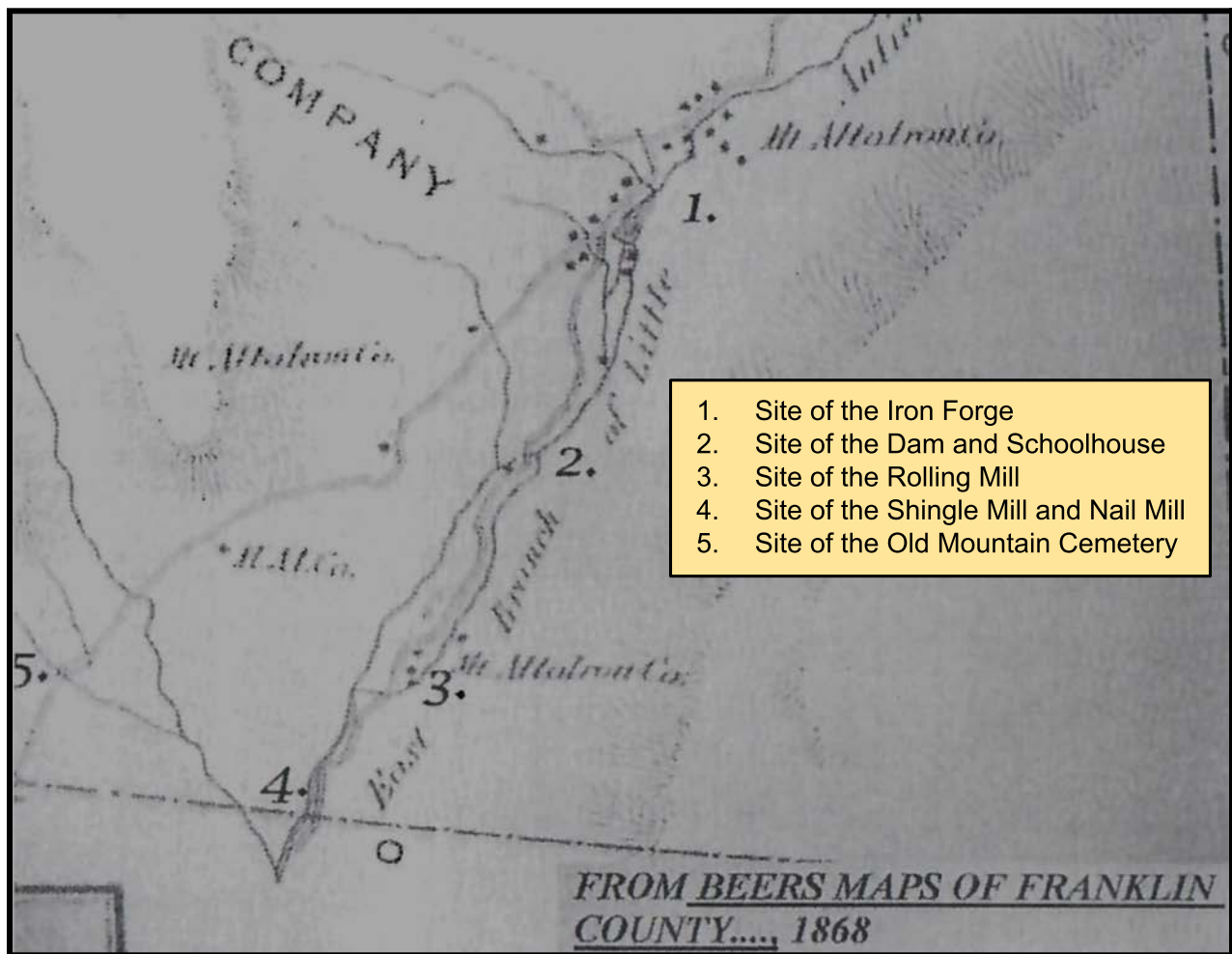
This old schoolhouse on South Mountain was built in 1881. Although it rests in Guilford Township, it was reopened and annexed by the Quincy Township School District in 1953 for local students to attend while a new and modern facility, New Baltimore Elementary School was being built. Students in grades 1-6 on South Mountain attended this school for the 1953-54 and 1954-55 terms.

In 1892, a second school was built on South Mountain, this time in Quincy Township, and was also called New Baltimore School. Much detail has been lost as to the specifics of its construction and cost. It is known the Jacob Smetzer was placed in charge of construction but all township records immediately following 1893 have gone missing.

Because there are three different townships intersecting the crowded space of South Mountain Village, getting to school has always been a problem.

**The Current Situation on South Mountain: New Baltimore Elementary School, built in 1955, was closed in 1985. All students in all grades in both Quincy Township and Guilford Township are bussed to Waynesboro Area School System facilities. All students in all grades in Hamiltonban Township are bussed to Fairfield Area School System facilities.**





### 13. Old Forge

*There is no image available for the Old Forge School*

The school called Old Forge had the shortest existence of all the regularly established schools in the district. **It was constructed for one specific purpose - to provide education for the children of the Mont Alto Iron Company.** In 1881, a proposal to build a school was defeated by a vote of 5 to 1. Three years later, on June 2, 1884 a motion was again put forward at the directors' meeting. This time the motion was carried unanimously. On July 26th of that year plans were made specific.

The schoolhouse was to be of native stone with walls twenty-two inches thick; the dimensions were to be twenty-six feet by thirty-four feet; the building was to be erected by contract. On August 9, 1884, Theodore Weisner was awarded the contract on his low bid of \$650.00. When the building was finished \$680.00 was paid to Weisner, the extra money for a coal house that he built which was not part of the original contract.

Just 10 years later in 1894, the last school sessions were held and the building abandoned. The school was notoriously unpopular for teachers. A different teacher was assigned for each year of the school's ten years in operation.



#### 14. Gap

By the 1880's, the population in the Blue Rock-Gap district had increased to such a degree that the Blue Rock School House was filled to capacity. The citizens of the area were in favor of demolishing the Blue Rock school and building a new, larger schoolhouse on the site. This idea was rejected and plans were approved for the construction of an additional building in the vicinity of the Blue Rock Methodist Chapel at **Mentzer Gap**.

In 1886, the contract for the construction of the Gap School was won by George G. Rock whose bid was \$595.00. One tenth of an acre of land was purchased from John B. and Martha J. McKain for \$40.00. The building was of native stone - the walls being 2 feet thick.

The Gap School was in service for nearly 70 years and was closed permanently in 1955. On June 21, 1955, the Gap building was purchased at auction by Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Burgess.

## 15. Greendale - also called Hess

### *There is no image available for the Greendale/Hess School*

In the western part of the township there was no school in the vast space between Ryders and Oak Hill. Many families sent their children to the nearer Antrim Township school, Clay Hill School. As a result, There was constant dispute over the tuition bills. In 1908, a decision was made to construct a new school building. Nearly an acre of land was purchased from Alice Greenawalt for \$78.75. The building was constructed by H. A. Good at the construction price of \$1,300. Originally called Greendale School, the name was changed to Hess School in 1912. This was the last one-room school built in Quincy Township. The school was closed at the end of the 1946-47 19 school term. The building was sold on June 24, 1954 to Mr. and Mrs. David R. Wisler for \$402.00.

## 16. Snow Hill

### *There is no image available for the Snow Hill School*

The first and only school building at Snow Hill was located at the top of Nunnery Hill along the road from Quincy to Waynesboro. A 1.05 acre property was purchased from the Seventh Day Baptist Monastical Society of Snow Hill on October 12, 1875 for \$25.00 The building was a frame structure and continued until February, 1920, when it was destroyed by fire. The school was never replaced. The pupils were transported to Blue Rock until a new building was erected at Good Siding. The property was transferred to the Snow Hill Society on December 4, 1920.

The name, "Snow Hill," was taken from the first settlers of the region, the Schneebergers, also called the Snowbergers. The land on which the school was located was transferred from the Quincy Township Directors to the Snow Hill Society on December 4, 1920.



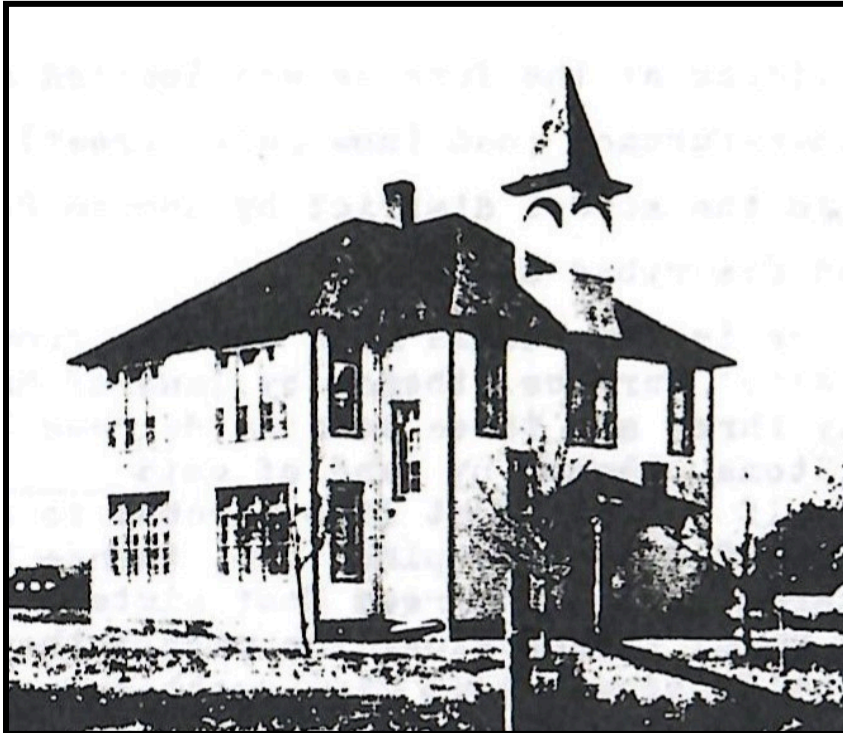
**Snow Hill Cloister showing Sisters' House (left)  
Kitchen Area (center) and Brothers' House (right)**



## 17. Altodale (Funkstown/Mont Alto)

*There are no images of the several early schoolhouses constructed in this region.*

The earliest public school in the town, constructed of logs, was located on a plot purchased from Peter and Nancy Knepper for \$20.00. This tract was on an alley east of the main street near the southern edge of town. The construction of this log schoolhouse occurred in November of 1847. In 1874, another school was constructed in this same area on property purchased from William Krone. A third two-room school was built on property sold by the E. J. Small heirs in 1875. This two-room building in the southern section was abandoned and **a new four-room, two-story facility was erected in 1897 (see image below)**. Another earlier school, informally known as the Furnace School, was located near the Mont Alto Iron Works. This school closed at the end of the 1897-98 school term. In 1913 Mont Alto was reorganized as a borough with the accompanying authority to administer its own school system independent of Quincy Township. Quincy Township had been established in 1838 when it separated from Washington Township.



**This very modern four-room, two-story schoolhouse was built in Altodale in 1897 and was later known as Mont Alto School. It is listed here as a Quincy Township because it was built before Mont Alto Borough was established in 1903. If it were standing today, it would be in Mont Alto Borough.**



### **18. Quincy High School 1903-1928**

During the winter of 1902-03 there was much discussion regarding the advisability of establishing a high school in the community. At this time, Metal Township High School in Fannettsburg was the only rural high school in Franklin County. A committee of citizens was formed to meet with the school board directors on June 13, 1903 to set about the business. One acre of ground was purchased from H. A. Good for \$25.00. Good was also named the builder with his bid of \$1,390.00. This joint committee established the teachers' salaries at \$50.00 per month.

### **19. New Baltimore - Quincy Township**

By 1910, a new (third) school building was needed in the South Mountain area. One acre of land was purchased from Isaac and Joanna Riddlesberger for \$65.00. The building was constructed by J.H. Kauffman Co. at the contract price of \$1,305.00. In 1816, a north wing, as seen in the image below, was added to the school by contractor W. A. Pentz for \$1,865.00. The school served the community until 1955 when it was sold to Edward Carbaugh for \$2,700.00.



**This old schoolhouse serves today as the headquarters of the Preserving our Heritage Archives and Museum operated by C. Roy and Lee Daywalt.**

## 20. United Brethren Orphanage School

The photo below shows the orphanage Industrial Building on the left and the school building attached perpendicular to the right.



The United Brethren Orphanage at Quincy, PA was established in 1903. In 1913, ten years after its establishment, the trustees of the institution erected a school building on the grounds for the the orphans. The new building was the first modern school construction in the township. The building contained six classrooms with a capacity for 200 pupils. It was two stories in height, had running water and indoor toilet facilities...an innovation in the township at the time.



## 21. Fairview School - 1918-19

Fairview, known as Mt. Airy for some years had two schools that burned. The first school was built in 1869 on  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre of land purchased from Frederick and Ellen Houff for \$20. By 1887, the community was calling for an additional school building but no action was taken. The old school was in disrepair and the families were instructed to send their children to Tomstown. The Fairview school was burned and arson suspected. A reward of \$200,00 was offered for information but with no result. The school was rebuilt of stone 1889 but this structure also burned in 1918. Immediately, the new two-room structure (above) was erected at a new location under a contract with A. R. Warner for \$13,509. The new site was a plot purchased from Mary Rock and Mrs. (Nellie) Rock for \$500.00. In 1923, the Fairview School and the Tomstown School (page 7) were combined into one attendance unit.





## 22. Quincy High School - 1928-1963

The first class was graduated from Quincy High School in 1906 from the original High School building constructed in 1903 (see page 17). There was no commencement in 1928 when the four-year course was initiated. Seniors in the 1928 class from the old high school with its 3-year curriculum, were required to repeat their senior year at the new high school where a 4-year curriculum was now in place. **From 1906-1963, 1,416 young men and women from Quincy Township were granted diplomas from Quincy High School.** On July 24, 1963, Quincy High School was renamed **Quincy Junior School** for use by the 7th and 8th grades. In 1971, the old building was put into service for grades 5 and 6 and was renamed **Mowrey II Elementary.** *In 1991, the building was destroyed by a fire that left only the gymnasium standing. Pennsylvania State Police inspectors determined the fire to be accidental in origin. Their conclusion was that the fire was caused by a faulty electrical outlet.*



## 23. The Winter School - 1954, on the United Brethren Orphanage Grounds

During this period in which the township directors were constructing modern facilities in the district, the Orphanage trustees, through the generosity of **Jacob C. Winter**, a York County businessman, erected a modern six-room school building which included a gymnasium-auditorium. Mr. Winter also contributed an additional \$200,000 to build and furnish a playground for the new school. A capital outlay for the interior equipment of this new school was divided equally between the Orphanage and the Quincy school district. **The Winter School opened in 1954** and became fully operational one year before the new and equally modern school buildings, Quincy Elementary and New Baltimore Elementary.



St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Quincy was utilized for the 1953-54 school term while the new Quincy Elementary School was being built. Mrs. Sara Price's first grade class met in the church's activity hall.



### **24. Quincy Elementary School - 1955**

During the early 1950's the one-room and two-room schools in the district had become so obsolete and their capacity had been expanded to such extreme that the school directors laid plans to modernize the complete township. In addition to the Winter School (page 19) which opened in 1954 on the Orphanage grounds, two elementary schools of a total of 18 rooms were constructed in 1955; one of 12 rooms in the Good Siding area (Quincy Elementary) and one of 6 rooms in South Mountain, the New Baltimore Elementary School. Ground-breaking for the Quincy Elementary School was June 27, 1954. The new school opened for classes on September 12, 1955. The total construction cost for the new school building was \$243,972.30.

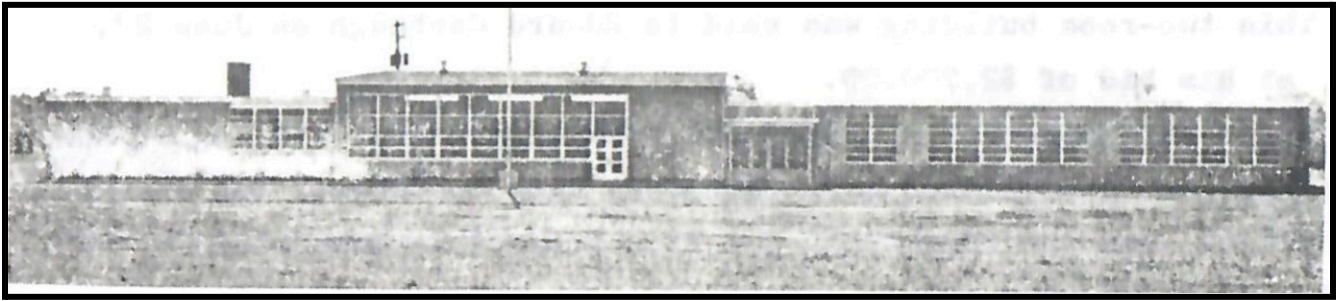
### **Quincy Elementary School Renamed Mowrey Elementary School -1964**

**In Honor of Father and Son, Raymond G. Mowrey and Roger C. Mowrey  
for their combined nearly 100 years of meritorious service to the Quincy Township and  
Waynesboro Area School Systems (See pages 23-25)**



### **Mowrey Elementary School, 1964**

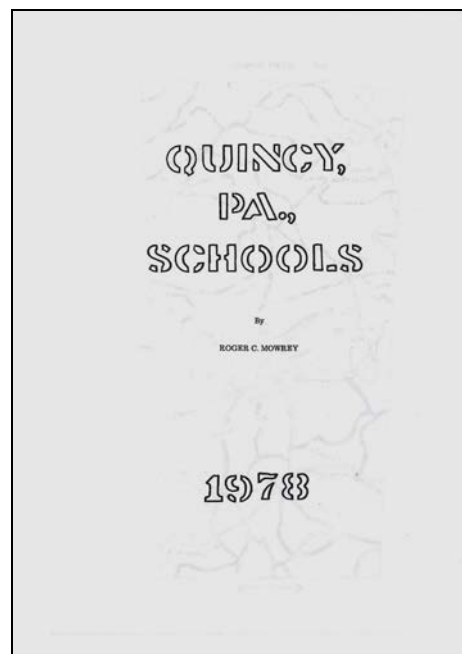
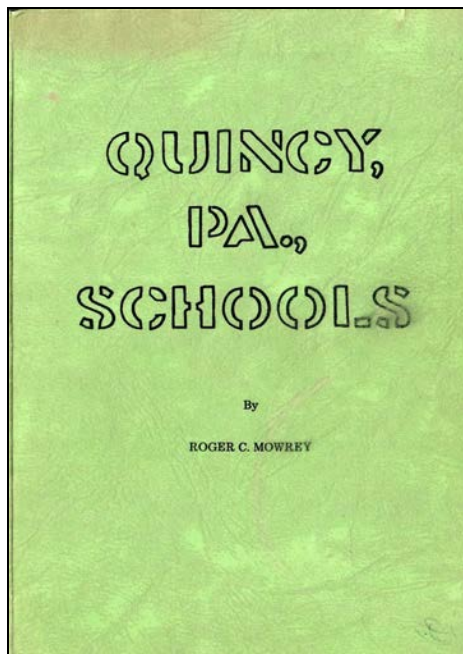
**This image shows the school building in 1989 following a nearly five million dollar renovation.**



## 25. New Baltimore Elementary School, 1955 - 1985

In 1953, several tracts of ground along the South Mountain-Mont Alto Road near the South Mountain Village summit were purchased from L.D. Kauffman for the construction of a new and modern elementary school. More property was purchased (some before construction and some after) from Lewis D. Kauffman in 1953, Daniel Mentzer in 1953, Andrew Kauffman in 1953, George Fox in 1956, John Gossert 1956, and John Freeman in 1959. The total cost for the construction of the New Baltimore Elementary School was \$202,808.74. The new school was opened for classes on September 12, 1955 and closed in 1985.

**In May of 1963, the Quincy Township School District was merged into the Waynesboro Area School System.**



1978, Roger C. Mowrey published a remarkable, and now extremely rare little book on the history of Quincy, PA Schools. This 109 page book has preserved photographs and statistics on the various township schools that may have been forever lost except for his zeal and foresight. He was educated in the Quincy Township School System, beginning in the first grade at Polk Hill School in 1920. It is because of Mr. Mowrey's sense of history that this valuable information is today made available for our enlightenment and historical research.



Quincy Elementary Renamed Mowrey Elementary School  
Record Herald - August 7, 1964

1.

Quincy Township's "first family in education" has provided a new name for the Quincy Elementary School.

By unanimous resolution of the members of the Quincy Merged School Board, the building was renamed the "Mowrey Elementary School" last night.

Honored by the board's action were Raymond Guy Mowrey, retired county superintendent of schools, and his son, Roger Conwell Mowrey, presently assistant superintendent of the Waynesboro Area Schools.

Last night's action was initiated at the June 12<sup>th</sup> Quincy High School Alumni Association banquet when a unanimous resolution had asked the directors to name a school in the township "The Mowrey School."

#### 'UNSELFISH SERVICE'

The alumni group's resolution had cited the Mowreys, father and son, "for approximately 100 years of cumulative, meritorious and unselfish service and dedicated devotion to the need for better schools and better education."

Paul Barkdoll, alumni association president, appeared before the directors last night to deliver the association's resolution and found they had anticipated his action.

2.

The directors were prepared with a resolution carrying out the wishes of the association, naming the Quincy Elementary School the "Mowrey Elementary School."

Roger C. Mowrey, who attends Quincy board meetings, retired from the room when Barkdoll appeared and stated the purpose of his appearance.

He was called back after the board adopted the resolution and responded by saying "this is an honor deeply appreciated, I know it is the biggest honor ever bestowed on my father and me, I hope our efforts will continue under those to follow"

The elder Mowrey closed a 48-year career in public education when he retired as county superintendent of schools in 1954. He had served as superintendent for 20 years, and before that, 12 years as assistant superintendent.

He had embarked on his educational career in 1906 when he began teaching in a one-room school in Lurgan Township, receiving \$35 a month.



RAYMOND G. MOWREY, 1885-1974



ROGER C. MOWREY, 1909-1995

He moved into the Quincy system as a teacher, served as

high school principal from 1912-1917, was field secretary of the Quincy Orphanage and Home for two years and was Washington Township High School principal for three years before being elected assistant county superintendent in 1922 under the late John L. Finck.

His son, Roger C. Mowrey, began his career as a high school teacher at Fannettsburg in 1928, taught at Washington Township High School 1932-33 and served as elementary teacher and principal at the Quincy Orphanage and Home from 1933-36 when he was elected Quincy High School principal.

He was elected supervising principal of the school district in 1945 and in 1961-62 was president of the Pennsylvania Association of Supervising Principals.

Following Quincy's entry into jointure he was named assistant superintendent of the Waynesboro Area Schools in 1963.

Directors agreed last night to consult the architect who designed the building, L. P. Kookin, for guidance in selecting metal letters to carry out the



Mowrey name.

Although the building had been called the Quincy Elementary School, it never carried any letters bearing that name.

In other action last night the Quincy directors formally recommended to the Waynesboro Area Schools' joint committee that the full 63 acres offered from the Dowd property be purchased for school purposes.

The board had indicated informal approval of the purchase at its June meeting.

One item on the agenda was tabled. It concerned advance reorganization of the area school system into a merger prior to the mandatory July 1966 organization. President Earl Mentzer asked Superintendent Lee S. Ellsworth to prepare a statement listing the advantages to Quincy of advance reorganization.

The board agreed to meet Tuesday, August 11 at 7 p.m. to consider a file of some 900 delinquent per capita tax accounts. The file will be reviewed and will be turned over to Attorney Roy S. F. Angle for collection, serving as executor of the estate of the late Charles S. Baer, former tax collector. Some of the delinquent accounts extend to 1959.

Present were directors Earl G. Mentzer, Thomas H. Haugh, Carl L. Monn, S. Gilson Monn, William E. Noll and Daniel Rosenberger, as well as Ellsworth and Mowrey.



## **Samuel Lane and an Early Subscription School Near Mont Alto, PA**

The first schools in the Quincy-Mont Alto area were "Subscription Schools." These schools were built on private property whose owners wanted to do their part in creating an opportunity for educating the children in their neighborhoods. One of the earliest such school was the Union Church School near the old Quincy Cemetery and administered by the Lutheran and German Reformed congregations. John Zimmerman was the first teacher in the Quincy area, teaching in both English and German. Patrons of the school paid for their children to attend. These payments paid for the building and its upkeep as well as the teacher's salary, firewood, equipment, materials, etc.

Mr. Samuel Lane came from Somerset County to Franklin County in the 1790s. He settled in Funkstown and married Anna Barbara Bittinger, daughter of a wealthy land-owner in the town. Mr. Lane was solicited by the Hughes family to superintend the construction of their iron furnace and the Hughes Mansion, later to be named Wiestling Hall during Col. George B. Wiestling's tenure as owner-operator of the Mont Alto Iron Works. The Lanes established a 600-acre property near the Iron Works naming it "Laneton Plantation." On this property they built a homestead, "Lane Farm," in 1818. The mansion house built by the Lanes still stands near Mont Alto at 7165 Slabtown Road in Quincy Township. As of this writing, the house is 205 years old. (*This farm was the childhood home of Gregory Jay Mills. Various members of the Mills Family owned the farm for a combined total of 68 years.*)

A Subscription School was built in 1808 somewhere between Quincy and Mont Alto. Samuel Lane tops the list of subscribers to this school with his four children registered to attend (see page 27). The Lane family was residing in the Hughes Mansion at this time while Mr. Lane was supervising the construction of the Iron Furnace.

**Following is an excerpt from Roger C. Mowrey's 1978 Book, *Quincy PA Schools*. Here are described the responsibilities of those citizens who chose to have their children educated in a local Subscription School.**

Nead, in his book, WAYNESBORO, cites the details of a subscription school without definitely locating the school. This writer believes that the evidence is strong enough to place it in Quincy Township, probably between Quincy and Mont Alto. The following is the complete "Articles of Agreement":

"Made and agreed upon by and between Francis McKeon school-master of the one part of the State of Maryland and the subscribers Hereunto of the Part State of Pennsylvania.

"WITNESSETH That the said Francis McKeon on his part engages to teach such children as are subscribed for Spelling, Reading, Writing, and common Arithmetic during the term of Six Months from the date hereof. And We the subscribers In Consideration of the same on our Parts promise to pay Unto the said Francis McKeon the sum of two Dollars Per Quarter for each Scholar to be paid at the expiration of three Months from the date herein Mentioned. We also promise to repair the House wherein the said Master is to teach and furnish him witha Sufficient quantity of Good firewood cut suitable to the stove for the Use of scholars in general and any person not complying shall pay for such Neglect a sum Not Exceeding seven shillings and six pence to be put in the provision of wood. In Witness hereof We have subscribed our Names this 12th Day of Sept., In the Year 1808.

"N. B. - McKeon reserves every second Saturday to himself.

"Subscribers' Names	Sums		
	L	s	d
Saml. Lane, 4 scholars		6	
David Knepper	3	4	10
Daniel Forman	1	1	10
George Snyder	2	3	
Catherine Wertz	1	1	10
Jacob Wagoman	½		15
Christopher Piper	2	3	
John Shull	1	1	10
Tho. Robinson	1	1	10
John Obermyer	1	1	10
John Heefner	2	3	
John Knepper	2	3	
Abraham Knepper	3	4	10
Henry Dicker	1	1	10
Joseph Dull	½	2	5
Frederick Liber	1	1	10
Ditto Obermyer	1	1	10

"School Began on Monday the 12th Day of Sept., 1808."

Every name in those articles of agreement is a definite Quincy name

with all but two or three concentrated in the Mont Alto section. The Obermyers were noted ironworkers at the furnace. Samuel Lane was the builder of the Mansion House for the Hughes family in 1808 and 1809. The Kneppers and the Heefners were settlers along the West Branch of the Little Antietam. The Foremans were residents. A Catherine Wertz belonged to the Wertz family. Shull is probably Stull, and Liber may be Leiper, both Quincy names. Dicker is probably Decker. The Dulls were early in the area. Pipers are buried in the Quincy cemetery. Snyder and Robinson are Quincy names. Without a doubt this subscription school was located in what is now Quincy Township.

Another early teacher was Matthew Dobbin, who made his home with the Wertzes, he having come to the township in 1839, where he remained until the year of his death, 1856. He was particularly interested in the slavery discussions and was long associated with Hiram E. Wertz in the conduct of the "Underground" station in Quincy. Another teacher of that period was Leander Brown.

Beginning about 1840 subscription and church schools gradually gave way before the free public schools which had been established by State law in 1834. However, this law was laxly administered in the beginning, and there was to be no indication that it was necessary for a district to