

Historical Sketch of Purcellville School

Public schools in Virginia were first established on a permanent and state-wide basis by Act of Assembly of 1870 and the system was inaugurated in November 1870. The earlier attempts at public education date back to 1796 but on account of lack of appropriations or the indifference of the people these efforts were mostly ~~frank~~ fruitless.

The first public school in Purcellville established in 1884. Mr. Joseph Dillon gave the land, a lot which had one corner on the pike and was what is now the site for the new Methodist Church.

The building was of the fast disappearing box-car type and had one-room.

This house was used for fourteen years. The school board then built the first two rooms of the recently abandoned building in 1898. The new lot was acquired by a trade of the old building and house to Joseph Dillon for the new site and one hundred dollars.

An additional room was first provided in this building in 1903 by a partition across one room. This proved unsatisfactory and an outside addition of one room was built in 1910. The fourth teacher was accommodated in the old Gaver cottage on the Bush Meeting grounds for one or two years and then the fourth room was built in 1917.

The efforts to get the present new building have covered a period of several years. The site of five and one-half acres was purchased last year from J. D. Dillon for \$25000 upon the recommendation of a special committee. The town contributed \$750.00 of this amount. The funds for the buildings were secured by a loan author-