

In 1967, 41 years ago, I did a lot of research on the Lentner School and obtained information and pictures from former students with records dating back as far as 1896.

Those records, of course, would not be available today. The School closed in 1965 so data to that date was acquired.

When former students, younger than I, wanted to have the first Lentner School Reunion in 2008, it seemed to be a good time for me to organize my information and put it together in this book before it becomes lost history. It has been quite a task but it gives me satisfaction to be able to share a piece of your school history with you. Maybe it will jog some happy recollections of your days at Lentner School.

Good memories have no expiration date!

Marjorie K Boling

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marjorie K. Boling". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the printed name.

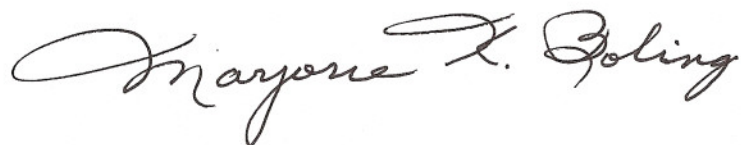
In 1967, I obtained Lentner School information and pictures from Ralph and Zelma (Noel) Dines, Irene (Wood) Smith, Russell (Nibs) Moore, Walter O'Bryan, and Beulah (Melson) Glahn. Also there were records of my mother, Pearl (Melson) Boling, who passed away in 1966. Records were copied from the Shelby County School Superintendent's office before it closed June 30, 1967. I've used records from the Shelby County Historical Society.

In 2008, many pictures of my school years have been used, and pictures have been submitted by Joyce (Leftridge) Killen, Roger Baker, and Janie (Green) Wood. Becky McCue made Mildred Gorby's scrapbooks available. Anna Jean Neill typed data.

The assistance of Kathleen Wilham, President of the Shelby County Historical Society, in getting the book printed has been invaluable and definitely helped in making the book possible.

A big note of thanks goes to all of the above mentioned. Though some are no longer living and able to appreciate the results of the use of information they gave long ago, I think they would be pleased to know that they, too, had a part in all of this.

Marjorie K Boling

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LENTNER SCHOOL
1868 - 1913
The first Lentner School building

THE LAST DAYS
Torn down 1967



LENTNER SCHOOL 1913 - 1965



• AUG • 73

Second Building

LENTNER SCHOOL

Taken from the Lentner history written for the
1972 History of Shelby County, Missouri
by Marjorie K Boling

For three and a half months, in 1849, John Byrum was bound for California to seek his fortune in gold. He made enough in mining to return and purchase a farm about a mile southwest of Lentner, settling here November 7, 1865. He served as a Judge of the County Court for several years. On November 1, 1868 Mr. Byrum and his wife, Rhoda Morris Byrum, deeded one-half acre of land on the corner of their farm to the Lentner School Board composed of James G. Glenn, Isaac Wailes, and John Byrum. This was the site of the first school at Lentner, and in the early days it was often referred to as the Byrum school. At the annual school election in April, 1912 the members of the Board, James H. Melson, Bradford Todd, and Thomas W. Noel, were directed to sell the original school site and purchase land for a new Lentner School. Land was bought in the south part of Lentner from Jacob Hardacre in 1912, and the old site was sold back to Byrum for \$25. The old schoolhouse was purchased by George Stone in 1913 and he moved it to his 40 acres one mile south of here and remodeled it for a dwelling. The building served out its last years as a granary until it was torn down in 1967 by the land owner, Mrs. Eunice Hayes. Directors at the time of the consolidation into the Shelby County R-IV School district were Thomas Todd, Adolphus Leftridge, and Curtis May. At the sale of rural schools, held in front of the Shelbina Elementary School on June 16, 1965, the second Lentner schoolhouse and the land on which it stood each brought \$100.00 and both were bought by Mr. and Mrs. Sam Gorby.

Teachers through the years have done a fine job of educating the young people of our area. Perhaps it was an education in itself for students in rural schools to hear classroom recitations from all eight grades. Even little pupils were bound to pick up some advance information from hearing the older students recite—and in a one-room building, how could one help but hear? Teachers that have patiently taught the 3 R's since our school began were Libbie Gould, Carleton Smith, Samuel Gorby, David Gray, Spencer Sparks, Amos Brownell, Agnes Grant, Jim Watkins, Lizzie Grant, E. A. Sparrow, Rebecca Austin, May McCrary, Mollie

Whitby, Will Freeland, Marvin Whitby, Nettie Livingston, Thomas E. Noel, Mollie Furnish, Libbie Smith, Nellie Chevront, Lizzie Eskridge, Bess Naylor, Jemina Bishop, Ora Kirk, Ethel Kipper, Letha Cadwell, W. F. Fristoe, Luther Fristoe, Alice Heald, Luella Yount, Opal Ashford (Ragsdale), Gladys Hopper, Florence Adams, Virgil J. Todd, Bernice Naylor (Southard), Carl Gerlich, Mildred Gorby, Elizabeth Sherwood (Caldwell), Aretha Bryant, Gilbert Whiles and Betty Lee Boling (Chinn). Mrs. Gorby taught for 20 years and during that time the Parent-Teacher Association was organized. She was teaching at the time of the consolidation. Before the advent of television and other forms of recreation, social life in a small community centered around church and school activities. Most everyone was on hand for the box suppers on crisp autumn evenings to see who bid on whose box. At Christmas they came to see the huge tree and to sing together the old-fashioned carols. Santa Claus always seemed to find his way to the schoolhouse door just as the Christmas program ended. Our efficient telephone operator, Miss Gertrude Wood, was the consistent winner of the prize for the cleverest costume at the Halloween masquerade parties. The Lentner 4H Club was chartered at a meeting at the school in 1942, and they held their meetings there the first year. The last day of school was a day of mixed emotions for some, but the basket dinner was looked forward to by young and old. At all of these functions, the stage curtains were fashioned from some of the mothers' white sheets fastened to an overhead wire by large safety pins at the top of the sheets. What was lacked in stage props was made up for in enthusiasm. Students made good showings when competing in activities with other schools. The Lentner School closed for the last time on May 21, 1965 and the next autumn pupils went to elementary school at Clarence or Shelbina.