

**The
Little Red Schoolhouse
and the beginning of the
Maple Shade Historical Society**

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Acknowledgements-

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I thank the Maple Shade Historical Society for an old scrapbook containing old newspaper clips.

Much of the information in this book was obtained from the Maple Shade Progress newspapers on microfilm at the Burlington County Library in Westampton, NJ.

Anything in this book, from newspaper articles to photos, is available in scans.

-Dennis Lee Weaver

Introduction-

Maple Shade, NJ has a township initiated historical society, started to be caretakers of a historical place. The place is the Little Red Schoolhouse on the north side of West Main Street near Coles Avenue.

The general agreement over the years is the township owns the lot and the schoolhouse and takes care of the grounds. The school has been leased for 1 dollar rent each year and maintained by the historical society. Up until the past year they have also paid the utility bills but now the township takes care of that.

I am a fairly good historian and it's time for everyone to learn. Mistakes, or rather false historical statements, are given in these old newspaper articles. I did not correct any errors. The reader must not blindly assume statements are correct without proper judgement.

The school was built in 1811 as the deed dated December 16, 1811 from Joseph Burrough states- "all that lot or piece of land & premises lying being and situate in the Township of Chester in the County of Burlington whereon is erected a new school house"

This isn't a complete book about the Little Red Schoolhouse as it is concerned with the third life of the school and the start of the Maple Shade Historical Society. The school was once a school, then a dwelling and various businesses and now it is a historic shrine for Maple Shade.



Elizabeth B. Haig and school children
at the Little Red Schoolhouse.



Visiting the Little Red Schoolhouse in 1976

Chap 5 171



10/12 14/16 20/23 25/27 30/32 35/36
12/14/15/17/19/21/24/26/24/29/31/34 37/38

1 DOROTHY BROADWATER	14 HARRIET APP	27 IRENE BURNS
2 ELIZABETH STILES	15 CHARLES BURNS	28 JAY OWEN
3 JOSEPH BERG	16 THOMAS DUGAN	29 RETTA BOYD
4	17	30 ETHEL McELWEE
5 HARRY APP	18	31
6 THOMAS MURPHY	19	32
7	20 FRICILLA	33
8	20 & 25 GARDNER TRAINER	34
9 EDWARD CUTLER	22 REBECCA STILES	35 CHARLES FULK
10 CLINTON McELWEE	23	36
11 JENNIE BERG	24	37 MARGARET FAHR
12 RICHARD HARBOROUGH	25 LILA GILBERT	38 ANNA BERG
13 CLAYTON APP	26 LORETTA DUGAN	





Nathan Perkins' children



① Laura
Wintemier
and
② Charles
Faber
are
married

③ Mary
Faber is
Mrs. Cutler

The Fabers
and Cutlers
are in
Maple Shade

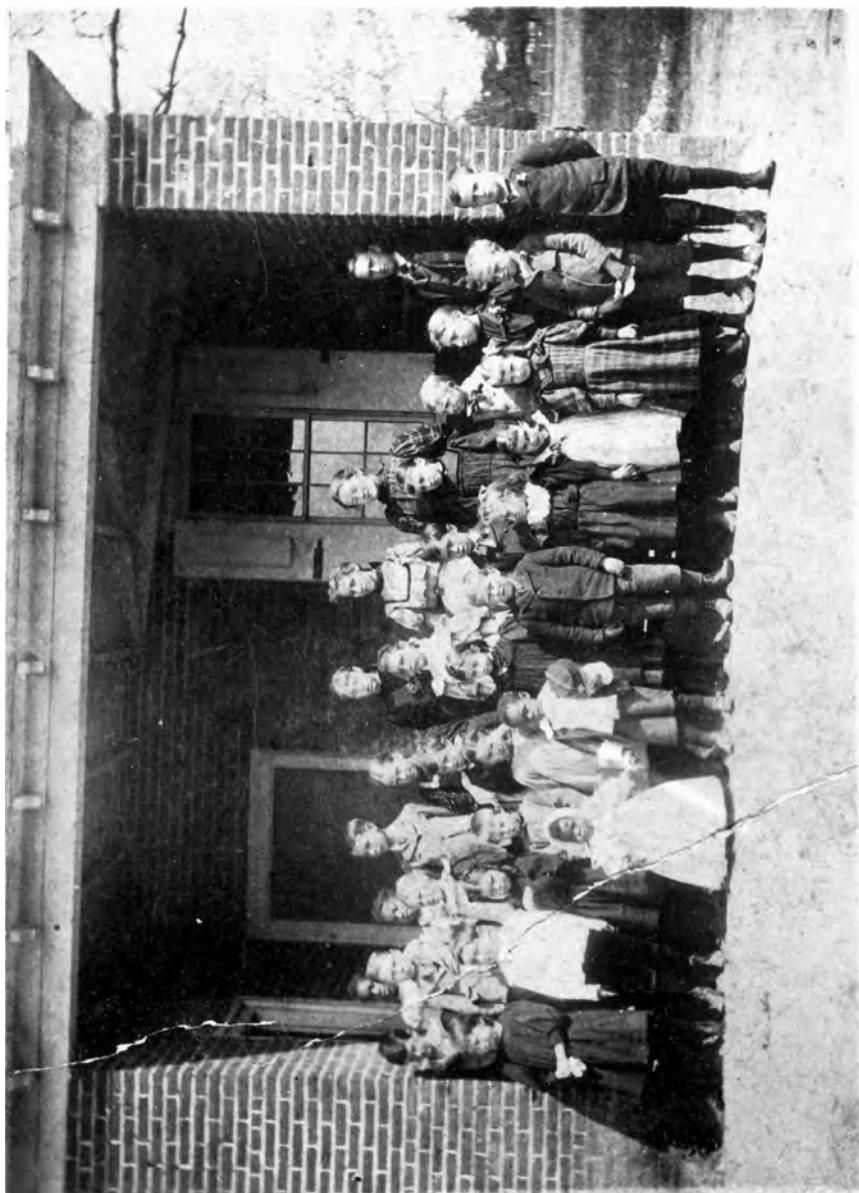
9
Pupils in Maple Shade - one room school.
This picture taken before I went to school.
Those numbered were my pupils, the following
year.



This was a one room school. Many of
the one-room schools have been taken
down, but this school house has been
restored and is to be kept as a historic
site.

Harry King (No. 11) worked on a farm and had
to get up very early to milk the cows, so
by the time he got to school, he was sleepy
and I

From Martha Lippincott Davis' "Teacher's Scrapbook"



The Little Red Schoolhouse in Maple Shade, NJ

The schoolhouse was built in 1811 and deeded by Joseph Burrough to the neighborhood which was farms. (Both sides of the Pennsauken Creek into Pennsauken and Cherry Hill as well) The flag hung outside is an 1812 flag and would be the flag of the time of the first year of the school. The school was named the Chesterford School.

In 1871 came the “Free Schools Law.” (Public School system) Before some people could afford to go to school and some couldn’t. Now everyone could go to school. (Ideally. Some might still keep them home to work.) But it was not actually “free.” This meant people would be taxed. The school then became a district school (tax districts) of Burlington County- Chesterford School District No. 27.

During the 1860s the NJ State Board of Education addressed in their annual reports that many schools did not have cloak rooms, some had poor ventilation and some did not have outhouses and the children were having to go out in the bushes, and this was needing correction. It was perhaps sometime after the school became a district school of Burlington County that the front cloak room addition was added to the school.

In 1894 came the “Township Act.” It was now a tax district school of Chester Township, then including Moorestown, and was- School No. 1. Around that time or

soon after it became Maple Shade School No. 1. Also in 1894 was the “Free Text Books Act.” Before this some could not afford books. Now everyone had books.

The desks in the school are from the Poplar Avenue School which replaced this school in 1909 when the village of Maple Shade began to be suburbanized and wasn’t just farms. In early years children had slates to write on as today you could write on paper then throw it away but back then you didn’t waste paper. Paper was used with ink pens but not as much as later on.

Cross stitch samplers were made by school girls. Women had to know how to sew in the 1800s as most of your clothes except your shoes could be handmade.

After 1909 when the school was no longer used as a school it was returned to Burrough family descendants because of a deed stipulation that the building was for school purposes. It then became a residence. The house with added additions was seized by the Township during the Depression.

The Maple Shade Historical Society began in 1956. The building had begun to be restored back to a schoolhouse by the Township. They were formed to complete the project and use it as their headquarters. The bell on top of the school is not the original bell but it was once at Maple Shade’s first firehouse on South Poplar Ave.

Dennis L. Weaver
President of the Maple Shade Historical Society

Little Red Schoolhouse Chain of Title-

(Property owners do not denote who was living there.
Example- Arthur G. Tippett lived there in 1916)

The Township of Chester
took title on August 12, 1935
under deed book 844, page 129
sold by Horace Roberts and Elizabeth Page Hooton
Roberts, his wife

sum of one dollar to avoid foreclosure proceedings

All that certain tract or parcel of land... being known as
the "School House Property" on the Plan of Evergreen
Terrace.

Horace Roberts of Moorestown
took title on March 10, 1930
under deed book 748, page 317
sold by Thomas Tomlinson (widower) of Merchantville

Thomas Tomlinson and Elizabeth Tomlinson, his wife,
of the Township of Delaware
took title on June 21, 1923
under deed book 618, page 79
sold by Charles R. Wright and Anna Mary Wright, his
wife, of Maple Shade

Charles R. Wright and Anna Mary Wright, his wife
took title on December 24, 1917
under deed book 541, page 155
sold by Horace Roberts and Elizabeth Page Hooton
Roberts, his wife

Horace Roberts of Moorestown
took title on February 15, 1917
under deed book 532, page 261
sold by Arthur G. Tippett and Ada Tippett, his wife

Arthur G. Tippett and Ada Tippett, his wife
took title on February 14, 1917
under deed book 532, page 259
sold by William V. Fisler (single man) of the City of
Camden

Lydia S. Fisler of the City of Camden
took title on September 15, 1910
under deed book 464, page 49
sold by Heirs of Joseph Burroughs, deceased

“granted and conveyed... as a school lot and for no
other purpose whatsoever, and the said lot having been
since ceased to be used for school purposes the same
reverted to the previous grantors as grandchildren and
great grandchildren of the said Joseph Burrough.”

Samuel Rudderow and Others
took title on December 16, 1811
under deed book X, page 303
from Joseph Burrough of the Township of Waterford

"for the natural love and regard which Joseph Burrough
hath for literature and divers other causes."

“all that lot or piece of land & premises lying being and
situate in the Township of Chester in the County of
Burlington whereon is erected a new school house”



Detail from the 1907 G.M. Hopkins
Atlas of the Vicinity of Camden, N.J., Maple Shade map
showing the schoolhouse area



Lydia Burrough sampler, 1814
Chesterford School





Martha Lippincott teacher, Bottom photo- April 1897



PUBLIC SCHOOL, MAPLE SHADE, N. J. (Pub. by Pettit's Drug Store)

Maple Shade School No. 1
North Poplar Ave.
Built in 1909 and replaced the Little Red Schoolhouse



7-15-34



The following article is from the Maple Shade Progress newspaper, August 1, 1940-

History Of School Is Interesting

Built About 1812, Former

Pupils Recall Happenings During School Days

FIST FIGHTS RECALLED

“Reading and ‘riting and ‘rithmetic, taught to the tune of the hickory stick.” that is the ditty the folks used to chant to show how tough school was in their student days.

But it is all a myth according to William Frech, who went to Maple Shade's little red school house more than a half century ago.

And Frech should know plenty about that old school since he later married a school teacher, the former miss Lottie Martyn, of New Egypt, who taught there.

“Going to school was a vacation then,” he recalled, “a vacation from work on the farm. School started in the Fall when most of the farm work was over and as soon as the weather was warm enough for planting, about the middle of April, the school had to close because all the children went back to work on the farm.”

The original school building, one of the first in the vicinity and estimated to be at least 125 years old, still stands at 412 West Main Street. The tiny one-room brick building has led a varied existence. Wings and frame sections were added and it has been used for commercial purposes and as a gasoline station and dwelling.

Restoring Old Building

Now after years of abuse and neglect the township is restoring the revered old building as it originally stood. Committeeman Edwin F. D'Ancona, director of the township real estate and property committee, revealed that it will be made into an historical shrine, and may be able to give added years of service housing the free library now located in cramped quarters in the Municipal Building.

D'Ancona will be able to guide in the reconstruction work since he was a pupil there. The building was not used for school purposes after 1908 when another and larger school was erected.

While the actual age of the building is not known, George H. Sipp, of Cherry avenue and Fellowship road, has in his possession copies of a deed for the property, "on the Mt. Holly Stage road, as a school lot and for no other purpose whatsoever." It is dated December 16, 1811, and is made from Joseph Burrough to Samuel Rudderow, Thomas Rudderow, William Rudderow, Joseph Burrough Jr., Isaac Stiles, William Stiles, Emmanuel Beaggery, John Osler, Joseph Plum, Samuel Burrough and Reuben Burrough.

Mrs. Irene Burns Keim, of North Forklanding road, who went to the school as late as 1905, recalled that it was topped with a belfry with sound effects by an old bell.

In the center of the single room was a wood stove and there were 40 seats, two to a desk. Most of the written work was conducted on six blackboards on the walls.

During her first two years her teacher was Gertrude Buzby, and in the last two, Priscilla Gardiner.

Frech, founder of William Frech & Company, body works, and one of the town's leading citizens, had good reason to remember the little belfry, now vanished.

“One Sunday when I was going down to look at the railroad bridge then being built across the North branch of the Pennsylvania creek, I stopped with several other boys to take pot shots at the school bell.

“There were two Broadwater boys and one of the Brubakers with me and we had no trouble making the bell ring. So we looked for something harder and tried the knob on the front door. One of the boys finally heaved a brick which not only broke the knob but smashed the door. We fled.

“Next morning there was a big rumpus about somebody trying to break into the school. My mother suspected I had something to do with it from the way I was acting. She asked me what I knew about it and I told her.

“Then she made me go to all the members of the board of education and tell them. One of them was the son of ‘Black Sam’ Burroughs. He lived in what was recently the Hollywood Inn.

“The board, evidently alarmed at the ‘attempted robbery,’ had already commissioned my father, a blacksmith, to reinforce the door with iron. They rounded up all the boys involved and their parents had to chip in to pay for the cost of the work.

“I always remember that trip because ‘Black Sam’s’ son lived in Camden county. Incidentally, ‘Black Sam’ was a white man. They just called him that to differentiate from another Sam Burroughs in the town. ‘Black Sam’ and his son went to the little school.

County Lines Ignored

“I guess there must have been some agreement between the two counties or perhaps the county lines had nothing to do with school districts then. I remember the largest single group attending school were the children of Joe Errickson who had a farm in Colwick, also in Camden county. There was Bill, Aida, Gertie, Matie, and one other girl. Bill, I believe, was the father of Patrolman Charles Errickson, of Moorestown.

“All the children came from farms. There were only three houses in ‘town’ when I was born in what is now a portion of Mennell’s Inn on Main Street. Why the woods came right up to our back door. I used to hunt rabbits there.

“It was some sight to see that bunch of young farmers coming to school. At that time, the girls as well as the boys worked the farm. I started to work when I was six, dropping corn. Most of the children had high button or laced shoes. My pride and joy was a pair of knee-high leather boots with brass tips on the toes. In bad weather the farmers would drive their children to school. There was a drive going right up to the open portico and they could step right from the wagon to the school without getting wet.

“While the school only went to what would approximate the fourth or fifth grade, we had farmer boys there up to 18. One time two of them got in a fight but they were such big bruisers that nobody dared to separate them. One was Al Kent, and the other, a colored boy, Joe Johnson. Kent was getting licked so he picked up a basin and beat Johnson over the head. It ruined the basin but it didn’t bother Johnson a bit. They finally wore themselves out and quit.

“The fight was in the cloakroom, the little room in the front of the building. There was also a pump in there. In the center of the school room was a large whitewashed, pot-bellied stove with a black metal ledge around the middle. In the Winter we used to stretch our feet on the ring to get them warm after walking to school. There were two closets across the two front corners of the room. They were used for stores and for bad boys. The teacher would put them in those and shut the door. She did not have much trouble, though.

“The first teacher I had was Cora Jameson. She came every day on a stage coach from Fellowship. That was the coach that carried the mail to Philadelphia. It would return about 3 p.m. and the driver would ring a bell for Miss Jameson.

“She was there my first two years. Then came Mary Jameson, a sister or some relation. She came by train from Mt. Holly and had to wait until 5 p.m. for a train back. That meant that she could keep us after school. About the worst punishment we got was a slap on the palm with a ruler.

Scared of Superintendent

“There was a Mr. Haas, the county superintendent, who used to come around by horse and buggy once in a while. We were scared to death of him. He used to check up on the teacher’s work by giving us oral examinations.

“Instead of being in grades we were rated by readers; first reader, second reader, and so on up to the fifth. We had to buy our own books, too. The subjects were arithmetic, algebra, spelling, geography and etymology. The etymology was in conjunction with our readers. On each page where there was a new or difficult word it would be printed across the top of the page with its meaning and origin.”

Entering the original building, a cloak room was situated on the left, while four rows of double desks provided the entire seating capacity for the eight grades. In later years, before the opening of the Poplar Avenue School No. 1, in the early 1900’s, there were but four grades, members of the higher grades commuting back and forth to Moorestown, after the advent of the first trolley car through Maple Shade in April, 1901.

According to some of the oldsters of Maple Shade who attended the school, the feature of the wintry season was furnished by Ben Stiles, whose forebears occupied the Stiles farmhouse on Stiles avenue, back in the days when Maple Shade was first known as Stiles Crossing. Stiles was the owner of a big old-fashioned high-backed sleigh and he would round up all the pupils and drive them over the then sparsely settled country-side to school.

A huge pot-bellied stove occupied the centre of the big room and the pupils would pursue their studies while seated in a circle around the stove on cold winter days. George Megargee was supervising principal at that time, as Maple Shade was then under the old Chester Township which took in all the Moorestown area.

Some of the early teachers included Mrs. Lottie Martyn Frech, deceased, one of the pioneer residents here; Mr. Whitcraft, Mrs. Martha Lippincott Davis, Miss Gertrude Andrews, Miss Buzby and Mrs. Priscilla Gardiner DeCou, who will be remembered as the former Miss Priscilla Gardiner.

Pupils Who Attended

Some of the pupils who attended the school included William Frech, local wagon builder; Henry Broadwater, whose father, William, is believed to have been Maple Shade's first station agent; Jesse Brubaker Sr., local clothing manufacturer; Mrs. Chester J. Rhine, Harrisburg, Pa., formerly Miss Sarah Burns; Mrs. Irene Keim, Maple Shade, the former Miss Irene Burns; Charles Burns, Maple Shade; William Burns, Westmont; Robert Burns, New York; Benjamin Whitcraft, present address unknown; Thomas Jefferson; Mrs. J. Oldnow, Philadelphia, the former Miss Edith Brubaker; Mrs. Charles Shoemaker, formerly Miss Mae Brubaker; Mrs. Russel Lewis, East Merchantville, formerly Miss Margaret Fahr, of Maple Shade;

Miss Anna Stiles, Miss Rebecca Stiles and Miss Elizabeth Stiles, formerly of Maple Shade, one of whom married Aaron Burtis and now resides along the Mt. Holly-Jobstown road, known as Chambers Corners, Mt. Holly. They who resided at the site of the silk mill were the daughters of Benjamin Stiles that now stands on Stiles avenue.

Mary Hintermeier Dudley, Maggie Hintermeier Lathon, Carrie Hintermeier Lokan and Cassie Hintermeier Dudley, all of whom resided at Fork-Landing between here and Palmyra; Glennie James, Wilson Witherow, George Pestridge, Anna Benson May, Tille Benson, Helen Gambles, Joe Wyncoop, deceased; Jane Etris, Edwin Harbough, Richard Harbough, Anna Pestridge, John Butler, Ethel McElwee, Clinton McElwee, Thomas Murphy, John Murphy, Will Murphy, Thomas Dugan, Elva Haines Holt, Carrie Haines Holt, Ben Horner, Robert Broadwater, Elizabeth Broadwater Heffner, Emily Cox, Mrs. Loretta Dugan Fitzgerald, Mrs. Charles Fahr, the former Miss Laura Hintermeier; Mrs. Arthur Cutler, Maple Shade, formerly Miss Mary Fahr; Mrs. Alfred Brooks, Maple Shade, formerly Miss Rachael McElwee; Mrs. Charles North, Camden, formerly Miss Anna McElwee; Charles Spencer, Camden; Mrs. J. Sleesman, Maple Shade, the former Miss Martha Spencer; Charles Pulk, Maple Shade; William Fahr, Merchantville, and Mrs. William Fahr, who was formerly Miss Mary Dugan; Mrs. William Sparks, Drexel Hill, Pa., formerly Miss Kathryn Dugan; Harry Everett Gilbert Jr., Palmyra; Mrs. Harry Rohrer, Maple Shade, the former Miss Gertrude Brubaker; Harvey Rudderow, Fellowship; Wilbur Mauer, address unknown; Miss Bessie Agnew, Wildwood; Miss

Florence Agnew, Collingswood; Frank Ida and Bertha Cox, whose addresses are unknown; George Hintermeier; J.W. Owen, Mercerville; Mrs. Earle W. Johnson Sr., Maple Shade, the former Miss Lila Gilbert; Alexander Mecray, deceased; Mrs. Sue Wagner, New Hope, Pr., the former Miss Sue Mecray; Francis and William Barr, present addresses unknown; Mrs. Earle Makin, Maple Shade, formerly Miss Christine Broadwater; Mrs. Donald Thompson, Mt. Holly, the former Miss Dorothy Broadwater; Mrs. Risdon Plum, Moorestown, formerly Miss Mabel Oldershaw; Raymond Brubaker, and Miss Grace Oldershaw, Atlantic City.

Names in addition to those published last week, include Albert Marker, deceased; Miriam Marker and Edward Marker, all of Collingswood; Bennett and Arthur Gilbert, of Haddonfield; Harriet, Kathryn, Harry and Clayton App, whose present addresses are unknown.

Raze East Wing

Razing of the wing on Maple Shade's first schoolhouse was completed last week. The work was done by Lumadue & Son, of Springside, Burlington, who offered the township \$15 for the materials contained in the wing.

Committeeman Edwin F. D'Ancona, director of the Real Estate Department, said that it is planned to restore the old building as near as possible to its original appearance and to make it a historic shrine for Maple Shade. It is planned to have lawns surrounding it with walks and shrubbery adding to its appearance. The Chester Township Shade Tree Commission may be housed there and a library opened in the building.

The following article is from the Maple Shade Progress newspaper, August 15, 1940-

How Maple Shade's First School Will Be Restored



Maple Shade's first schoolhouse, located on the north side of Main Street just west of Coles avenue, as it appeared when it was being used. As far as can be learned, the picture was taken about 1900. The school was probably built in 1812 and was used until 1908 when the center section of Poplar Avenue School No. 1 was erected. It is planned to restore the building to its original form and to house a library and the Chester Township Shade Tree Commission there. The teacher is Mrs. Priscilla Gardiner DeCou, who will be remembered as the former Priscilla Gardiner.



Framed photos of Priscilla E. Gardiner,
Maple Shade Historical Society

The following article is from the Maple Shade Progress newspaper, May 22, 1941-

Maple Shade's First Schoolhouse To Be Restored;
Pupils Of The Class Of 1884 Still Reside Here



Plans to restore Maple Shade's first schoolhouse located on Main Street west of Coles avenue, are progressing. It is expected that actual work will be started in two weeks. The picture was loaned to the Maple Shade Progress by Charles Henry Broadwater, who moved from Maple Shade last month to live in Mt. Holly after residing here for 61 years.

The picture shows the Class of 1884 standing on the east side of the old schoolhouse. There are eight grades in the class as was the custom during the days of the one-room school houses. Shown in the picture are several Maple Shade men and women who still reside here. Among them

are Jesse Brubaker Sr., of North Forklanding road, who operates a uniform shirt factory here and William Frech, of Mecray Lane, who operated one of the town's oldest business firms until it was gutted by fire last year. William Shepherd (first from the right) became a millionaire in the west dealing in hides. He is now dead.

Reading from left to right (counting the heads of the persons shown); Joseph Johnson, Wesley Brown, Charles Henry Broadwater, Aloysious Carey, Charles Robinson, Robert Broadwater, Eugene Casey, Jesse Brubaker Sr., teacher, Miss Mary Jamieson; William Frech, Rufus Brubaker.

(Standing): Mary Sauselein, George Sauselein, Belle Robinson, Clara Sauselein, Ada Ericson, William Shepherd.

(Girls seated): May Brubaker, Ida Sauselein, Mattie Ericson, Hattie Robinson, Nelie Slack, Emma Sauselein and Cora Slack.

The pane of glass was broken by a stone thrown by one of the boys shortly before the picture was snapped 57 years ago. As far as can be learned, the school was probably built about 1812.

After living in Maple Shade 61 years, Charles Henry Broadwater, 67, formerly of Spruce avenue, moved to the outskirts of Mt. Holly in April to live with his daughter, Mrs. Donald Thompson.

Broadwater came to Maple Shade in 1880, when there really was no town here. He attended school in the old school house which is to be restored. He at one time was a member of the Moorestown police force when Moorestown was still a part of Chester Township. He and his brother, the late Robert Broadwater, who died recently in Cape May Court House, were the organizers of Independent Fire Company No. 1. Robert was the first president and Charles was the company's first treasurer. At one time they worked at the old William Frech Company's plant, which was gutted by fire last year.

The following article is from the Maple Shade Progress newspaper, May 29, 1941-

WORK BEGUN HERE ON OLD SCHOOL

Work on Maple Shade's first schoolhouse at Main Street west of Coles avenue, was begun this week. The 1812 structure is to be restored as a historic landmark. The work has been started by Conrad Maurer, of Mill road, who has been serving as janitor at the Municipal Building.

Frank J. Thiel, of 16 East Linwood avenue, is taking Maurer's place as janitor. He is busy this week scrubbing the window frames and doors on the exterior of the building.

The following article is from the Maple Shade Progress newspaper, July 24, 1941-

‘Little Red School’ Praised For Value

Whitman House Curator
Recalls Happy Days As
Maple Shade Teacher

BOOKS READ ALOUD

The “little red school house” with its one room offered better educational possibilities than the regimented departmental schools of today.

That is the contention of Mrs. Martha Lippincott Davis, a former teacher in Maple Shade’s century-old brick school house now being restored after years of disuse.

Mrs. Davis, curator of the Walt Whitman House for the City of Camden, taught in the little school on Main Street near Coles avenue, for two years. She has retained her interest in children and keeps abreast if not ahead of educational methods.

“A real educator, given the freedom to work out ideas in an ungraded school, can do more for the pupil- both a student and an individual- than is possible in the rule-bound cut and dried ‘modern’ classes,” she declared.

Job For Educator

“But it takes an educator, someone with a knowledge, understanding and love of children, not just book learning. That is why the little red school house offered the best- and the worst- in education.

“One room school houses have played a large part in American history, and many of our great men have been pupils or teachers in ungraded country schools. When I taught at Maple Shade it was part of the Moorestown township school system.

“Teaching in the little school was a happy experience. There were not more than 30 pupils and personal attention could be given to each child. We had much freedom. The older pupils often helped the younger ones.

“The Board of Education was helpful and parents were co-operative and kind. George Megargee was supervising principal. He too had taught in a one-room school.

Calls Megargee Great Teacher

“Mr. Megargee was a really great teacher. His pupils will never forget his fine teaching, his personal interest and his loving kindness. To have had such a teacher is one of life’s blessings.

“Many residents of Maple Shade will remember the old brick school with the big stove in the center of the room, the big oaks in the school yard and the pail of drinking water, with one dipper for all. The water had to be carried.

“We began the school day with a few chosen words from the Bible, the Lord’s prayer and some songs. We earned the money to buy a school organ. May Brubaker, the oldest pupil, was our organist. She was always a big help. She is now Mrs. Miller and lives in Camden.

Books Read Aloud

“There were books that were read aloud, a few pages a day. Kingsley’s ‘Water Babies’ was one of them. Nature study was a school hobby. All children love nature and it is an important subject. Those who become thoroughly interested in it, do not destroy birds and trees and wild flowers, and it gives them pleasure all through life.

“Stockings were hung up at Christmas time and some of the young folks from Moorestown went to the school in the evening to help fill them. And some of the kind men in Moorestown helped with the expense. They were not asked; they volunteered.

“Certain things were taught and practiced in that school. Among them were ‘consideration for the comfort of others,’ and ‘respect for the property of others.’

Personal Problems Worked Out

“Sometimes a pupil would stay after for a quiet talk. There were personal problems that had to be worked out. When a child was tired or not feeling well, a little nap with the head on the desk was granted.

“Children love to do things with their hands but there was very little handiwork in the schools at that time except drawing. The pupils, however, had plenty of hand work at home. They were all country children and many lived on farms.

“Times were different then. None of those children ever had a toy gun. I am not sure that toy guns were in existence then. Toys play a large part in the life of a child. I hope there will come a day, when the sale and manufacture of toy guns and other toys that put destructive ideas into the subconscious minds of little children, will be forbidden. This has already come to pass in some countries.

Things Of Childhood

“Children were children in those days and were not taking part in the problems of grown-ups. Today we have moving picture and radio and many children are constantly in touch with adult problems, instead of learning and seeing the things that belong to childhood.

“There are many fine parents today and many sweet natural children who go to bed early and only see moving pictures and hear radio talks which they should see and hear.

“Through the years I have kept in touch with many of the Maple Shade pupils and some day I hope we may meet together in the little old school house.

“Some, however, will not be with us for they are no longer here- Carl Davis, Alexander Mecray and Charles Zane.

“There never was a spirit of conflict, discord, or discipline. I shall always remember the school house as the place of my greatest happiness.”

The following information is from “The Little Red Schoolhouse in Maple Shade” book written by Emma Brooks. The book contains short stories about Miss Grady the teacher and Rachel and Anna McElwee who lived on the farm near the tollhouse at Coles Avenue.

Anna and Rachel were given the chore of bringing water to school every day from the pump at the tollhouse.

The day was always started with the teacher reading the Bible and the class repeating the Lord’s Prayer.

“Making manners” to the teacher: it was customary to say good morning to the teacher and to curtsey or bow when entering the classroom in the morning.

Chores were jobs assigned to pupils.

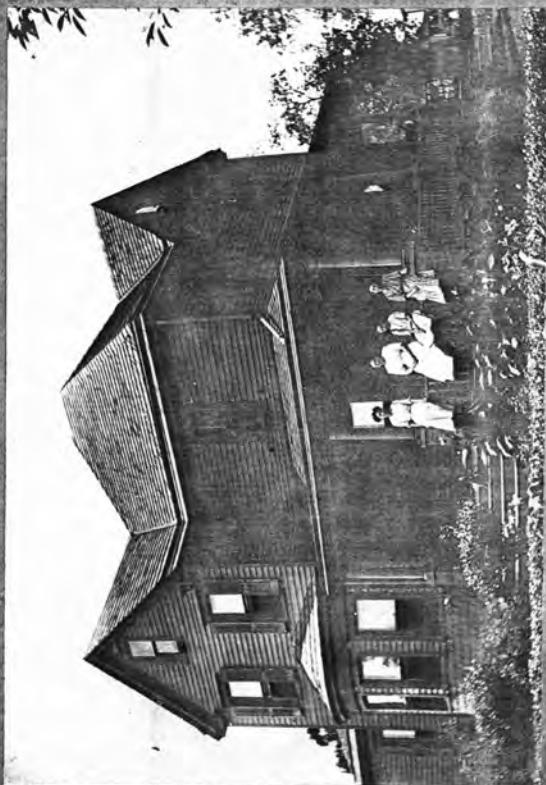
Bonnets were always worn by the girls to keep their faces from getting sunburned; also, aprons were worn over their dresses.

Miss Grady was a teacher in the Little Red Schoolhouse in Maple Shade in the 1800’s.

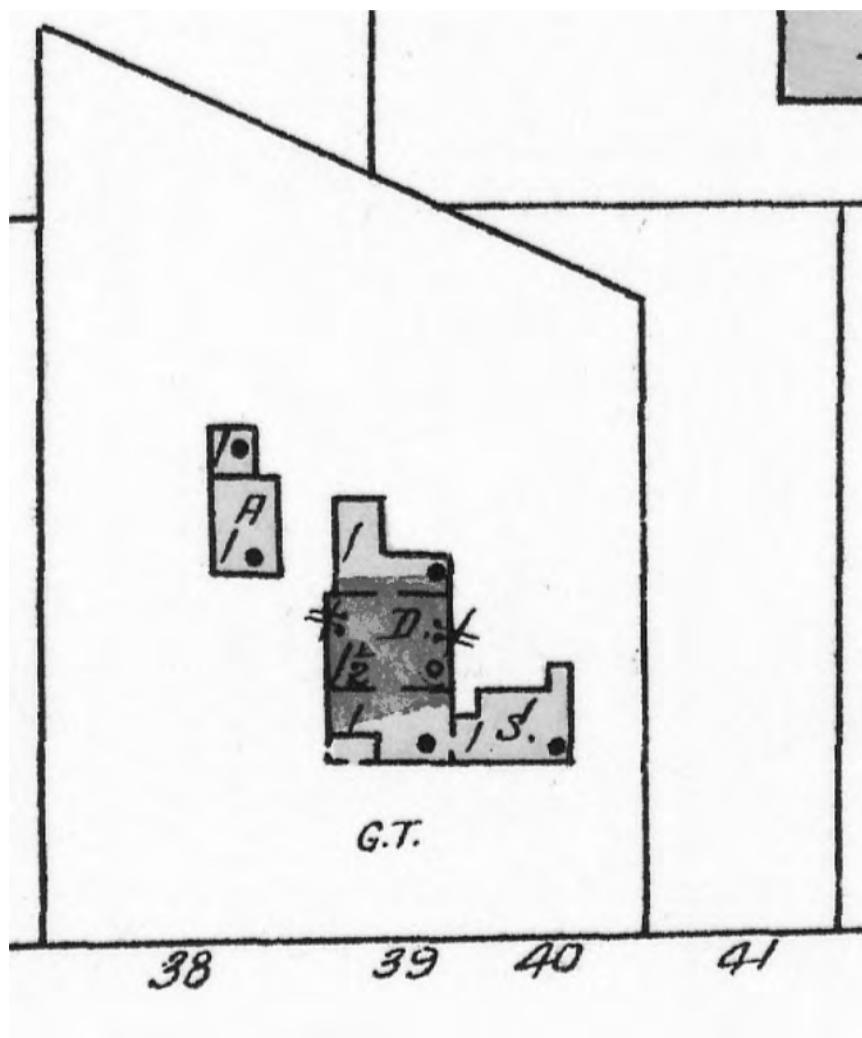
The McElwee sisters did attend the Little Red Schoolhouse in the late 1800’s.



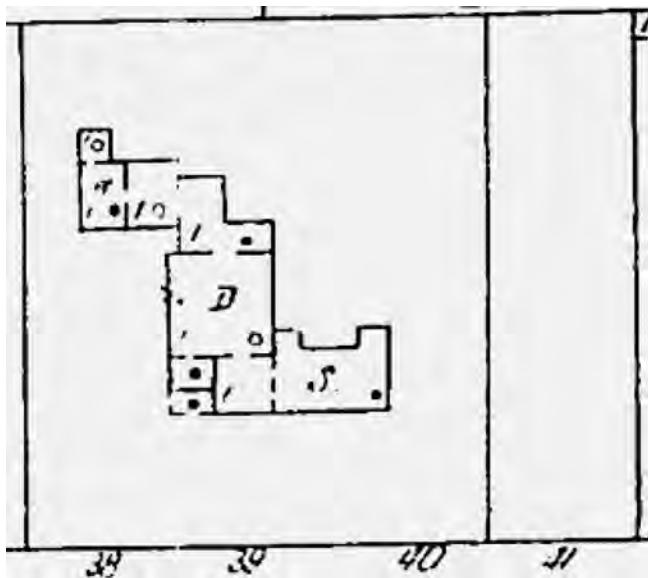
Rachel S. McClure
as an Honorable Testimony for Regular Attendance
Good Department and Good Recitations in the
Maple Shade School
during the term ending May nineteenth 1890.
Given at New Egypt State of New Jersey
This eighteenth day of May 1890
Anna M. Clark Teacher
Ex. Secy. City of New Egypt



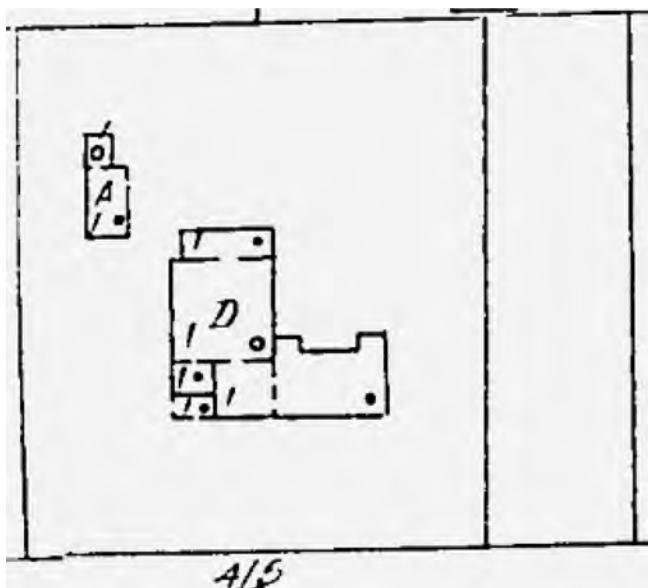
Home of MC ELWEE - 313 W. MAIN ST.
(from LEFT TO RIGHT) RACHEL, MARY, ETHEL, ANNA



Detail from a 1923 Sanborn map
"D" stands for dwelling. "A" stands for automobile.
"S" stands for store. "G.T." stands for gas tank.



Detail from a 1929 Sanborn map



Detail from a 1944 Sanborn map

We would have to think that the 1944 Sanborn map is incorrect as the 1940s newspaper articles state a wing was removed and if they were restoring the schoolhouse to its original appearance removal of the front east wing would seem paramount in priority.

The following photo and caption are from the Maple Shade Progress newspaper, July 18, 1940-

Maple Shade's First Schoolhouse



Maple Shade's first schoolhouse as it looked about ten years ago before it was used as a service station. The building, which is to be restored as a historic shrine of Maple Shade, is located on the north side of Main Street near Coles avenue. A frame wing on the building is being razed which will leave the original brick building still standing.

The following is a segment of an article called “Town’s First School To Be Restored” written by Earle W. Johnson Sr. from the Maple Shade Progress newspaper, July 25, 1940.

The article is not in this book in its entirety because it is repetitious or lacking of the Maple Shade Progress newspaper, August 1, 1940 article in which William Frech shares his recollections.

Raze East Wing

Razing of the wing on Maple Shade’s first schoolhouse is being completed this week. The work is being done by Lumadue & Son, of Springside, Burlington, who offered the township \$15 for the materials contained in the wing. Lumadue’s bid was the only one received by the Chester Township Committee when the committee advertised for sealed bids to raze the east wing of the old schoolhouse.

Committeeman Edwin F. D’Ancona, director of the Real Estate Department, said that it is planned to restore the old building as near as possible to its original appearance and to make it a historic shrine for Maple Shade. It is planned to have lawns surrounding it with walks and shrubbery adding to its appearance. The Chester Township Shade Tree Commission may be housed there and a library opened in the building. The surrounding grounds will be made into a park.

The schoolhouse, which hasn’t been used as a school since about 1907, will be improved and made a historic spot in the community. Until recently it had been used as a dwelling.

The main part of the building, which was the old schoolhouse, is of brick. This was not razed. The frame wing is all that was demolished.

Another article which is repetitious of the Maple Shade Progress newspaper, August 1, 1940 article but does not include teacher and former student's names is called "Old schoolhouse served many purposes" and is written by John G. Briggs. It is in the Courier Post newspaper, May 3, 1981, page 7G.

Here are a few segments-

The Township decided in 1940 to restore the building as a historic monument. Sealed bids for renovating the structure and landscaping the grounds were opened in the municipal tax office on July 16, 1940. The Maple Shade Historical Society was formed to care for the venerable schoolhouse.

When restoration was just getting under way in 1940, William Frech, founder of a Maple Shade body building firm, recalled what school in the old building was like.

"School was a vacation then." Frech said, "a vacation from work on the farm. School started in the fall, when most of the farm work was over. As soon as the weather was warm enough for planting, about the middle of April, the school had to close because all the children went back to work on the farm."

THE SMALL ROOM at the front of the building, to the left of the entrance, was the cloakroom, Frech said. At two corners of the school-room were closets. They were used for school supplies and bad boys. When students misbehaved the teacher would put them in a closet and shut the door.

The school was heated by a pot-bellied stove with an iron ring around its center. Frech recalled that in winter he and his classmates used to put their feet against the ring to get them warm after walking to school.

How could one teacher cope with a classroom full of pupils at different learning levels? Frech said that instead of being in grades, pupils were rated by the readers from which they were studying- first reader, second reader and so on up through fifth reader. Subjects taught were arithmetic, algebra, spelling, geography and etymology. The etymology was in conjunction with reading. On each page where there was a new or difficult word, it would be printed across the top of the page with its meaning and derivation.

In 1956, when the “baby boom” was crowding school classrooms all over the country, it looked for a while as if the Little Red Schoolhouse might return to active service. Maple Shade school superintendent Lambert H. Reynolds sent a letter to the township committee on Feb. 25, 1956, asking permission to use the building the following school year if necessary. Using the old building would be quicker than building new class-rooms, Reynolds said.

Fortunately, the baby boom didn't last and Maple Shade's existing schools were able to take care of it.

1956

It would seem that the request of school superintendent Lambert H. Reynolds to use the Little Red Schoolhouse for extra class room space brought the school back into the spotlight.

Arthur N. Cutler, a long time Maple Shade realtor, celebrated 50 years of being in the real estate business in 1955 and wrote up a history of the township of Maple Shade which appeared in the Burlington County Realtor magazine, Spring issue.

The township turned to him to give some history of the Little Red Schoolhouse

We might be assuming too much but probably not. In October of 1956 the Maple Shade library was expanded in the Municipal Building. This is one of the uses for the schoolhouse brought up in 1940 to use the schoolhouse for a library. Now what to do with the building?

It might have been just like that. In November of 1956 Donald F. MacBride, a member of the Maple Shade Township Committee, asked if people would be interested in organizing a Maple Shade Historical Society

to further restore the schoolhouse and use it as their headquarters.

When the Maple Shade Historical Society was formed Arthur N. Cutler was chosen as the first president.



Featuring . . .

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

By ROMEO F. VENTURA

MAPLE SHADE

By ARTHUR N. CUTLER, Realtor

EDITORIAL

"A MASTER PLAN FOR ZONING"

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

By COL. CHAS. V. DICKINSON

MORTON S. KLINE

New Vice-President, 5th District



Original Field Office of Edward H. Cutler Company, Used later as Police Headquarters and Borough Office. (Other Pictures of Same Spot See Page 5.)

(Courtesy Cutler Agency)

BUSINESS MEETING AND DINNER, THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH, AT 6:30 P.M.

AT MANOR HOUSE, MOORESTOWN, NEW JERSEY



**SPRING ISSUE
1955**

The following article is from the Maple Shade Progress newspaper, March 1, 1956-

Little Red Schoolhouse May Be Used For Classes

Need For Classroom May Force Use Of
Town's First Schoolhouse; Twp. Committee
And School Board To Study Problem

By Marge Conover

Public interest in the Little Red School House at 415 W. Main St. was aroused this week with the possibility that it may have to be used again for class-room space after being out of service as a school for 47 years.

To get some data about the building which was erected in 1812, Maple Shade's unofficial historian, Arthur N. Cutler, owner of the Cutler Agency, 104 E. Main St. was consulted.

For a number of years, he had believed that the land was deeded by the Coles family to the school board, and that a condition of the deed was that the building could be used for no other purpose than as a school building.

The question raised by the request of Lambert H. Reynolds, school superintendent, to the Township Committee for permission to use the building created a doubt in Cutler's mind, and he wondered why the school

board needed to ask permission to use property which was probably theirs in the first place?

He came upon some surprising information, mainly that the Coles family was not the original owner. Instead, it was Joseph Burrough and it was he who, on Dec. 16, 1811, deeded about one-half acre of land on the north side of Main St. just west of Coles Ave. to the following group of men who later built the school house.

Samuel Rudderow, Thomas Rudderow, William Rudderow, Joseph Burrough Jr., Isaac Stiles, William Stiles and Emanuel Beaggary, all of Burlington County, John Osler, Joseph Plum, Samuel Burrough and Reuben Burrough, all of Gloucester County. Now Camden County.

The brick school house was erected the following year, in 1812, and was used for school purposes only until 1909 when a school was erected on Poplar Ave.

Finding the school building not being used for the designated purposes and abandoned, the heirs of Joseph Burrough went to the courts to have the lot revert to the previous owners. The court findings were as follows-

“Said lot having since ceased to be used for school purposes, the same shall revert to the original grantors, as grandchildren and great-grandchildren of the said Joseph Burrough.”

On Feb. 14, 1917 William F. Fisler, a descendent of the heirs deeded the lot to Arthur G. and Ada Tippett. Tippett

built a frame addition to the school and occupied the building for several years.

He moved to Canada and for a while a tenant conducted a watch repair shop in the former school.

Tippett failed to pay the taxes and officials of the township foreclosed and took title to the property.

About 1938 the building was restored as nearly as possible to its original state.

Cutler recalls there was a spring in the yard and the children were assigned the chore of bringing buckets of water from the spring for drinking purposes. Sanitary facilities, of course, were outdoors.

The walls of the building were whitewashed and in the center of the room stood a pot bellied stove.

Priscilla Gardner was recalled by Mrs. Cutler, the former Mary L. Fahr, as the last school teacher in the building, and moved with her students to the “big school” (originally two rooms) on Poplar Ave. This was in 1909.

By 1926 the Poplar Avenue School was too small and two wings, of four rooms each, were added. The Mill Road School was built in 1927.

The one-room school now is being used as a meeting place by the Knights of Pythias and the Pythian Sisters, and as a polling place on election days.

The following article is from the Maple Shade Progress newspaper, March 15, 1956-

Old School Bell Was Fire Bell

Little Red School-House Has Old Bell In Tower

The history of the bell which hangs in the tower of the Little Red School House on W. Main St. came to light last week, it was the property of Independent Fire Company No. 1.

According to Moore, the bell originally was in the old fire house at S. Poplar Ave. and was the first means of summoning fireman in emergencies.

When the company moved to the Municipal Building in the 20's the bell was stored in the old highway garage.

During the reconstruction of the school under William MacFarland, then chairman of the Maple Shade Township Committee, he asked the firemen to give permission for the bell to be placed in the belfry where it would be kept until such time as the Fire Company should want it back.

Believing that the school of the past and the bell of the past belonged together, the firemen consented and Moore along with other workmen from the road department, moved the bell and installed it in the reconstructed belfry.

Moore said that the agreement was that if at any time the building should be demolished or sold, the bell is to be returned to the Fire Company. It will then be placed, along with the first hand pumper the company ever had, in the new fire house as a relic.

The hand pumper is stored in the basement of the Municipal Building and will be moved to the new fire house when it is completed.

The following selected paragraphs are from the Maple Shade Progress newspaper, October 18, 1956-

Official Opening Of New Library

**‘Open House’ To feature Ceremonies At
Re-Opening In New Quarters On First Floor
Of Municipal Building Next Thurs.**

Maple Shade’s library, which is now located in the rear of the Municipal Building, will open officially next Thurs. Oct. 25, according to Township Committeeman George H. Dolby, director of Finance, Real Estate, and the General Services Departments, which include library, welfare and building inspector.

Moving from upstairs under the remodeling program which has been underway for several months under the guidance of Committeeman Donald F. MacBride, the new

library will be in the former ambulance room with an entrance off Maple Ave.

Mrs. Lucca said it will be five times the size of the cramped space upstairs...

(Note- An addition was added to the front of the library in the rear of the Municipal Building in 1963.)

Did the new library have anything to do with starting a Maple Shade Historical Society in 1956? Well, they were no longer planning on having a library at the schoolhouse.

Donald F. MacBride was the Township Committeeman in charge of public buildings.

In the Maple Shade Progress newspaper, September 20, 1956, An article entitled "**Police Dept. Moves Into New Quarters**" explains that the Police are moving to where the Fire Dept. was and the Tax Office is moving to where the Police were, etc.-

We learn that Donald F. MacBride, is the Township Committeeman in charge of public buildings, street lighting and sanitation. Back then each Township Committee person was in charge of a department or several departments such as the Road Department.

From the book "**Maple Shade A Story of 300 Years**" by the Cutler family, page 60-

The Maple Shade Historical Society was organized in December 1956. Donald F. McBride, chairman of the property committee of the Township of Maple Shade, called a special meeting of all townspeople who might be interested in preserving and restoring the Little Red School House at 415 W. Main Street and any other places of historic interest in existence in the township. The society was organized with twenty charter members and Arthur N. Cutler was chosen as president.

First attention was given to the need for restoring the Little Red Brick School which had fallen into serious disrepair during the years since 1909 when it was no longer a school and had been used in the passing years for various purposes. To raise money for repairs three Old Home Nights were organized. The first one was held in February 1957 attracting more than seven hundred people. Many Maple Shade old timers had come some distance to be present. The second occasion was May 1958 and the third, May 1959. All the meetings were held in the Steinhauer School auditorium.

The program was a presentation of many slide pictures of old Maple Shade collected by Arthur N. Cutler. The show was very popular and still exists with the title "Maple Shade Past and Present" having been expanded and updated by Charles C. Cutler.

The money raised by the three programs provided funds for work on the school.



Schoolhouse before it was turned into a house

The following article is from the Maple Shade Progress newspaper, November 15, 1956-

Planning Organization Of Historical Society

Donald F. MacBride, a member of the Maple Shade Township Committee, is sponsoring the organizing of a Maple Shade Historical Society and is seeking the assistance of interested townspeople.

An organizational meeting will be held on Wed. Nov. 28 at 8 P.M. in the Municipal Building, and citizens are invited to attend. They may contact MacBride before that date at his home, 364 S. Maple Ave.

The following article is from the Maple Shade Progress newspaper, November 29, 1956-

Historical Club Is Organized Trustees Chosen At Meeting In Town Hall Wednesday

The new Maple Shade Historical Society held its first meeting on Wednesday evening and voted to incorporate as a non-profit organization.

Primary objectives of the organization, according to Township Committeeman Donald F. MacBride are to add to the cultural background of Maple Shade, and to restore and preserve the Little Red School House on W. Main St., the last site of historical importance remaining in the possession of the township.

The following trustees were elected and officers will be selected from the group at a later date:

Mayor George A. Senior, Arthur N. Cutler, John S. Bagg, Mrs. Irene Luft, Robert C. McHenry, Mrs. Mary Weidman, Joseph Murray, Mrs. Lila Johnson, Frank Weir and MacBride.

The group included representatives of the Maple Shade Kiwanis Club, the Woman's Club of Maple Shade and the Maple Shade Businessmen's Association.

Cutler, one of Maple Shade's pioneer citizens and a realtor here for more than 50 years, showed slides of what Maple Shade used to be. Bagg briefed the group on some of the history of the town from notes which he has kept over the years.

A meeting of the board of trustees is scheduled for Wed. Dec. 12 in the Municipal Building, MacBride said.

The following article is from the Maple Shade Progress newspaper, December 20, 1956-

History Group Elects Officers

**Arthur N. Cutler
Named President Of New Society**

Arthur N. Cutler, of S. Lippincott Ave., local Main St. realtor for the past half century, was named president of the Maple Shade Historical Society at a meeting held in the Municipal Building last Wednesday night.

Other officers include John Bagg, of Lenola, vice-president; Anthony DiBabbo, recording secretary; Mrs. Irene Luft, corresponding secretary and Frank Romano, treasurer.

The Society will hold its future meetings in the Little Red School House on Main St., west of Coles Ave., which is one of the town's historical landmarks.

It is planned to make the building a local shrine. Meetings will be held on the fourth Wednesday of each month.

An "Old Home Night" is being planned for Sat. Feb. 23, and will be held in the Maple Shade Junior High School gymnasium, according to Cutler.



The following article is from the Maple Shade Progress newspaper, December 27, 1956-

Society President



Arthur N. Cutler who has been elected president of the Maple Shade Historical Society. Head of the Cutler Agency, 101 E. Main St., he has been in business here for more than 50 years and probably knows more of the history of the town than any other living resident.

‘Old Home Night’ Planned for Feb.

**Historical Society
Affair To Depict Old Maple Shade
By Marge Conover**

Arthur N. Cutler has been elected president of the recently organized Maple Shade Historical Society which was organized by Township Committeeman Donald F. MacBride.

Other officers elected include John S. Bagg, principal of the Maple Shade Junior High School, vice president; Anthony DiBabbo, secretary; Mrs. Irene Luft, corresponding secretary and Frank Romano, treasurer.

The fourth Wednesday of each month was set for a meeting date, with meetings to be held at the Little Red School House on Main St., west of Coles Ave.

Cutler suggested at a recent meeting that Maple Shade plan an “Old Home Night” for Feb. 23 in the Junior High School auditorium.

Tentative plans were made for the affair with Bagg named as chairman. Ralph Gale was appointed in charge of decorations, Mrs. Lila Johnson, refreshments, and DiBabbo, publicity.

The Affair is being planned primarily to acquaint the people of Maple Shade with movies and pictures of what Maple Shade was like in by-gone days.

“Anyone interested in joining the society or assisting with “Old Home Night” is requested to contact the president or any officer,” DiBabbo said.

The following photo caption is from the Maple Shade Progress newspaper, February 13, 1958-

Members of the Maple Shade Historical Society are shown erecting sign on the Little Red School House, Main St. west of Coles Ave. identifying the landmark as the home of the society which was founded 14 months ago.

The sign, which is of colonial design and reads "Home of Maple Shade Historical Society" with the date of meetings as the fourth Wednesday of the month, was made by Frank Romano, treasurer, and lettered by Anthony DiBabbo, recording secretary.

From left to right are Joseph Pasqueriello, a society member and vice chairman of the Maple Shade Board of Education; Arthur N. Cutler, historical society president; on the ladder, Donald F. MacBride, a member of the Maple Shade Township Committee and founder of the society; DiBabbo, Romano, Mrs. Irene Luft, corresponding secretary, and Mrs. MacBride, a member. John S. Bagg, principal of the Maple Shade Junior High School and vice president, was not present.

A "new and different" Old Home Night is being planned for some time in March and as soon as weather permits, the society plans to erect a fence around the Little Red School House. The structure is one of the prime concerns of the society which was founded for the purpose of preserving and restoring one of Maple Shade's first public buildings. Membership in the society is open for 1958, with an entire family eligible for membership for \$5.

The following photo caption is from the Maple Shade Progress newspaper, February 28, 1957-

History Of Town Depicted In Pictures At 'Old Home Night'

**First Annual Affair Sponsored By The
Maple Shade Historical Society Attracts
Large Crowd At Junior High Sat. Night;
Many Old Residents Renew Acquaintances**

By Earle W. Johnson Sr.

Over 600 persons filled the Junior High School auditorium last Saturday night when the first annual Old Home Night was held by the Maple Shade Historical Society.

The affair opened with a trumpet trio by Gwen Campbell, Edgar Miller and Edmund Storer, titled, "Trumpet Voluntary," with Jean Gillespy as accompanist.

The address of welcome was given by John S. Bagg, principal of the Junior High School, who served as general chairman of the affair. Following was a vocal number, "By the Light of the Silvery Moon," by Marian Kercher and Gwen Campbell, and several selections by the Junior High Glee Club, under the direction of Miss Dorothy Blank.

Township Committeeman Donald F. MacBride, one of the prime movers in getting the Society underway, gave a brief outline of what the Society has in mind, namely the perpetuation of the Little Red Schoolhouse on Main St., west of Coles Ave., and to make it an historic shrine.

The schoolhouse was erected in the early 1800's.

Then came the highlight of the evening when some 200 pictures, comprising the most complete pictorial history of Maple Shade, was flashed on the screen. There were many "Oh's" and "Ah's" as many in the audience saw their pictures in many of the earlier classes at the Little Red Schoolhouse back in the days of yesteryear. Then, too, many classes at Poplar Ave, School were shown which were more recent. Many of the not-too-old could easily distinguish themselves in the pictures.

An edition of the first Maple Shade Progress, a 4 by 8 inch four page paper was flashed on the screen.

Many in the audience, with the exception of many old-time residents, never knew of the existence of a saw mill on Forklanding Rd. just east of Route 73, but a picture flashed on the screen showed a thriving industry in which boats came up the creek from the Delaware and loaded and unloaded.

The town's first motion picture house, Loux's Palace Theatre, located on Forklanding Rd. just south of Main St. brought forth a round of laughter. Among the popular films being shown at that time was "The Great Lover," starring Rudolph Valentino.

Many homes of Maple Shade's first settlers were shown, along with the town's principal industry, which was the Wm. Frech Wagon Works on Spruce Ave., destroyed in a disastrous fire. It was here that the first cut-under truck shelving was built, and many hundreds of the gayly decorated circus wagons were built right here in Maple Shade.

As if by one accord, a simultaneous round of hand clapping went up as a full sized portrait of the late Clarence L.E. Ward, Maple Shade's first chief of police, was flashed on the screen.

Some of the old timers remembered that whenever there was a heavy snow, Chief Ward would get out his white horse and hitch it to a wedge shaped snow plow and clear off all the sidewalks in town, so that the children might get to school.

Arthur N. Cutler, president of the Society, and realtor here for over a half century, served as narrator, and gave many of the names of the class pictures of the early schools here, namely the Little Red Schoolhouse and the Poplar Avenue School. It was not for several years that the Chestnut Avenue School became a part of the local school system.

It was one of the greatest collections of pictures making up a complete pictural history of Maple Shade ever shown and the entire audience sat enthralled as early scenes were flashed on the screen. There were the tennis courts in front of the railroad station.

In the early days Maple Shade was known as Stiles Station, so named after Henry Stiles who owned a lot of the farm land where Maple Shade now stands. The railroad station was erected in 1867, and the name was changed to Maple Shade.

Following the showing of the pictures, there was a violin duet, "Through the Years," by Charlotte Hoehn and Thomas Andl.

A "Get Together" and renewal of old acquaintances, brought together many of the old timers who probably had not seen each other for the past half century.

To leave any one out would be an injustice, so this reporter will say that there was no end of old time residents dating back to the early 1900's that got together and had an old time gab-fest over refreshments of cake and coffee.

It was like turning the pages of time back a half century to talk with many of the former residents, who are graying at the temples, but who still retain their interest in the old town where many first saw the light of day.

On the stage was a replica of the Little Red Schoolhouse, Complete with belfry and bell, while underneath the speaker's rostrum was an artist's conception of what the Society hopes to accomplish in the way of improving the Little Red Schoolhouse.

Incidentally, the replica of the Schoolhouse was made by ninth grade pupils and not a detail was missed in its making.

Evidently, the gathering was heartily in favor of making an historic shrine of the schoolhouse, for a total of \$203.67 was collected when the baskets were passed.

Mrs. Earle W. Johnson Sr., headed a committee on providing refreshments for the vast gathering. Assisting were Mrs. George Hardy, Mrs. Fred Young, Mrs. Raymond Klaus, Mrs. Earl Dunhour, Mrs. Philip A. Smith, Mrs. Donald McLure, Mrs. Jesse Brubaker Jr., Mrs. Irene Luft and Mrs. Norman Brubaker.

There was a bevy of usherettes attired in evening gowns, including the Misses Lynn MacBride, Beatrice Kantela, Karen Kartie, Helen Berlinghof, Karen Barrett, Sandra Mendel and Elaine Kohl.

Artistic decorations were under the direction of Ralph C. Gale, assisted by Joseph DelRosi and Carl Arzillo.

Officers of the Society include Arthur N. Cutler, president; John S. Bagg, vice-president; Anthony R. DiBabbo, recording secretary; Mrs. Irene Luft, corresponding secretary and Frank Romano, treasurer.

A board of directors include John S. Bagg, George H. Barbour, Arthur N. Cutler, Mrs. Earle W. Johnson Sr., Mrs. Irene Luft, Robert C McHenry, John J. Murray, George A. Senior, Mary E. Weidman, Frank Weyer and Donald F. MacBride.

Incidentally, the showing of such a collection of pictures which depicted Maple Shade's early history, still has "the whole town talking," and those who were not present surely missed a real treat. Some of the youngsters could not even imagine that trolley cars once ran on Main Street, but there they were. They began operating in the early 1900's.





Back of “tree planting” photo, people’s names-

415 W. Main St. Little Red School

Mrs. Harry Keane, whose husband was chairman of Maple Shade’s first Shade Tree Commission, Mr. Arthur N. Cutler, Mrs. Thomas R. Lawrence, Mr. Charles Girard, Mrs. Horace J. Shippee, Mr. James J. D’Arcy, Mrs. Earle W. Johnson Sr. and Mrs. Arthur N. Cutler.

From the book "**Maple Shade A Story of 300 Years**"
by the Cutler family, page 60 and 61-

The entire building was rewired by the firm of Dickman and Hansen at cost, their contribution to the restoration. The tin roof and belfry were given two coats of red paint, the foundation was repaired, walls and ceiling replastered, and members of the Lions Club contributed their service to paint the exterior woodwork and the interior walls and woodwork.

The first open house for the restored building was held July 4, 1963. The school room was furnished with a pot belly stove with coal scuttle and shovel, some old school desks from the Elizabeth Haig School on N. Poplar Avenue plus many other objects of interest that would have been in use in a school, workshop, or on a farm during the period 1812- 1909 when the school was open.

In 1970 Charles C. Cutler, who was born in Maple Shade, became president of the society. During his term of office, heat and modern lighting together with a new roof were

installed. The ceiling was replastered and insulated and the floor scraped and refinished.

Boy and Girl Scout Troops repainted the interior walls and woodwork. A Cub Scout Troop planted a dogwood tree. A Senior Girl Scout Troop contributed money to landscape one of the three original fire hoops installed on the school lawn. The Town Council contributed a bronze identification plaque.

Today, the Historical Society maintains the building and is constantly adding to the collection of memorabilia of Maple Shade's past.



Bicentennial July 4th celebration
A well-attended ceremony was held at the Little Red Schoolhouse.

The following photo and article are from the Burlington County Times newspaper, August 11, 1977-

The man who tends to history



BCT Photo by Joel Schwartz

Since 1969, Charles Cutler has occupied the president's desk in the Maple Shade Historical Society's little red schoolhouse. He took over from his uncle, Arthur N. Cutler, the society's first president whose photo is displayed on the desk. At 70, the younger Cutler is still going strong, attending talks, leading tours, even cultivating the center's flowers.

By Carl Rotenberg of the BCT Staff

MAPLE SHADE- Charles Cutler claims he isn't much of a conversationalist unless he knows a lot about a subject or is "het up" about it.

But for more than two hours on a recent summer morning, the 70-year-old president of the Maple Shade Historical Society talked enthusiastically about the pride of the volunteer organization- the little red schoolhouse on Main Street.

Cutler straddled an antique “shaving horse” to demonstrate the proper way to shave wooden roof shingles, explained the uses of many tools displayed in the small brick building and pointed out many of the artifacts collected by the first president of the society, Arthur N. Cutler, his uncle.

The building was built in 1811 and was used as a schoolhouse for eight grades and up to 35 students until 1909. From then until 1956, it housed a shoe repair shop, a service station, a store and an auto repair shop.

The township took over the property in 1956 when the original owners couldn’t pay their taxes, according to Cutler. It has been rented to the historical society for a dollar a year since then and has been used as a museum.

“Yours truly,” takes care of the flower beds on the one-acre lot, Cutler relates with a grin. He opens the museum for visitors every Saturday during the summer and regularly hosts groups of school children during the school year.

The historical society has collected so many antiques used from 1800 to 1900 that Cutler has found it is difficult to find space in the school house to display them.

He was elected president in 1969 when his uncle decided he didn't have enough energy to continue as president. "I've been carrying on ever since," said Cutler.

He and his wife, Edith, remain active by attending the meetings of several local historical societies. They belong to the Pennsauken, Moorestown, Medford and Burlington County Historical Societies. Cutler also belongs to two camera clubs in Moorestown and Haddonfield.

He takes photographs of historical buildings and flowers. The historic photographs are used by the couple in a slide show they present to local charitable groups. They also have a slide show of funny photographs which Edith calls their "histericals." She said the groups only ask to see the histericals.

The couple take short trips to visit historic sites such as the Sleepy Hollow restoration near Tarrytown, N.Y. The 22-acre estate was made famous by Washington Irving, the author of "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow." They recently toured several historic homes in West Virginia on a three-day trip.

CUTLER

On August 11, 1977, Charles C., beloved husband of Edith P. (nee Parker) of Maple Shade, N.J. Age 70 years, died.

The above newspaper article appeared in the newspaper the same day that he died.

Ellen F. Shiplee became the third President of the Maple Shade Historical Society in the fall of 1977-

The following article is the Maple Shade Progress newspaper, October 6 to October 12, 1977-

School House To Open Again

Maple Shade's Little Red School House Open Saturday By Historical Society

The Little Red School House in Maple Shade will return to the fall schedule of openings this Saturday, Oct. 8, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Thereafter the school will be open the second Saturday of each month.

At a recent meeting of the Board of Directors of the Maple Shade Historical Society Mrs. Horace Shiplee, former vice-president of the society, was appointed to fill the position held by the late president, Charles C. Cutler.

The third annual meeting of the Maple Shade Historical Society will be held Monday, Nov. 21, in the Maple Shade Lions Club Building, 37 N. Lippincott ave., at 8 p.m. The business meeting will concern the election of officers for the year 1978 and the presentation of new by-laws governing the activities of the society. A program of general interest has been planned to follow the business meeting, Mrs. Charles C. Cutler, vice-president, points out.

Presidents of the Maple Shade Historical Society-

Arthur N. Cutler, 1st President
December 1956- 1968

Charles C. Cutler, 2nd President
1969- 1977 (Died)

Ellen F. Shippee, 3rd President
Fall of 1977- Early 2003

Elizabeth (Betty) Procopio, 4th President
2003- June 2023

Dennis L. Weaver, 5th President
June 2023- Present

(The above dates are ballpark times.)

Other notable people-

Donald F. MacBride was the founder of the Maple Shade Historical Society in 1956.

Edith Cutler (wife of Charles C. Cutler) was Vice President for a while. Edith finished up Arthur Cutler's book about Maple Shade. Edith talked to school children visiting the Little Red Schoolhouse.

Items that would be at a 1800's one room schoolhouse-

teacher's desk

teacher's schoolhouse hand bell

Bible

globe

student's desks

textbooks and slates

ink pens and ink wells

blackboards on the walls

pot-bellied stove

American flag

portraits of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln

maps

regulator clock

possibly an organ or piano

windows for light and ventilation

outhouse

cloakroom

bucket of water, brought in from a nearby well

The following photo and caption are from the Courier Post newspaper, May 28, 1964-



—Courier-Post Photo by Arthur C. Jarvis

Little Red Schoolhouse, now the home of the Maple Shade Historical Society, holds memories for Mrs. Alfred C. Brooks Sr., the former Rachel McElwee, as it does for several other older residents of Maple Shade who attended the school until its last class in 1909. Mrs. Brooks (above), whose father was the tollgate keeper on the turnpike, often carried water from the tollhouse to the school.

Notes-