

warded when they won first place in the Governor's (then Gov. Busbee) Project Competition with the Community Service Plaque.

At one time, the entire building was used as the school, but only one school room remains in the same condition as it was when it was open for classes long ago. The building has also been used as a Community Center for a number of years.

---

### **The Butts County Historical Society**

It is our hope is to renovate the structure and foundation of the Flovilla Schoolhouse. In addition, the plumbing for the kitchen and bathrooms need to be updated, plus the electrical system, general maintenance, and painted inside and out.

Future plans would be to conduct tours on a scheduled basis, use as a theater for community productions, mainly children, and possibly develop a community theater group of all ages. The kitchen, could be used for catering the various community functions. There is also a start of a museum.

In order to accomplish these goals, we hope to be able to secure some grants, but we will need volunteers, like you, who are also willing to help. If you would like to make a tax deductible contribution to help with the costs, please mail it to the address below and know that we appreciate your generosity.

The society looks forward to this opportunity and we hope that you will join with us to help make a difference. There is much to be done, so we welcome your interest, enthusiasm, and ideas.

For information or if you are interested in membership, special events, or how you can help, please contact us at 770-775-2493 or e-mail to [buttscountyhistoricalsociety@yahoo.com](mailto:buttscountyhistoricalsociety@yahoo.com).

For inquires, membership, and donations, our address is:  
Butts County Historical Society  
P.O. Box 215  
Jackson, GA 30233

*Source: History of Butts County, Georgia 1825-1976 Compiled by Lois McMichael and the Flovilla Steering Committee.*

# **Old Flovilla School House**



**1885 - 1932**

**I**n the beginning, the Flovilla school started in a small house owned by Captain Heard. Later, another school was constructed on the western edge of town and was also used as a church.

In 1884, the Flovilla School House was erected by a group of public-spirited men in a stock company, who established a fund. At first, Butts County did not provide the school with any financial aid. For support, the students paid \$1 tuition per month in advance. It is not known when the county came into possession of the school, but the first record was found in 1917 with an enrollment of 60 students. In the minute book of the Board of Education for the years 1917-1928 enrollment was 75 students. The first teacher was Professor D.F.C. Timmons, from Monroe, GA, who was the Principal in the Spring of



1885. Students were enrolled from Monticello, Indian Springs, Cabaness, Juliette, and Forsyth.

Take a step back in time to 1885. Imagine when the girls in pinafores and the boys in overalls arrived for school each day to this

vintage turn-of-the-century school room to learn the three “R’s” of reading, ‘riting and ‘rithmetic. Along with other required subjects the students were also taught piano, voice, art, expression, music, and violin.

Composition books, pencils & text books were provided by the school. The PTA sponsored Halloween carnivals & chicken dinners to raise money for other needs.

All the two-seater desks with their sunken inkwells are the original ones that were used in the school. Craved writing by the students still remains on the desks.

Examples of diplomas, report cards, class schedules, bookmarks, class pictures, etc. are framed and hung around the room. In addition, there are samples of handwriting and memorabilia of the times, along with some old pictures, etc. of locations that existed near Flovilla during that time. Some original primers, report cards, lunch pails, etc., have been donated by former students.

The original 19th century blackboards were fashioned on the wood wall & painted black.

There are several lunch pails in the school on the shelf above the place where the students hung their coats. The coat hangers look like wooden spools of thread that were nailed to the wall.

The schoolbooks range from copyright year 1867, which was the “Art of Prose Composition” to the “Studies in Conduct,” copyright year 1929. There is a schoolbook with a homemade book cover made from material. We believe that some schoolbooks were do-

nated by former students that continued their education in other schools and colleges, but represent the studies of the times.

Once, Flovilla had a library and the school house contains these early books, also. The oldest book, “Last Days of Pompeii,” has a copyright date of 1834 or is over a 170 years old. The most recent book is “Harth’s Women,” copyright 1960.



The pot-bellied stove in the center of the room was used for heat during the cold winter months. A student, Sara Duke remembers that one teacher served hot cocoa to the students. Another student remembers in 1930-1932 when a teacher, Mrs. S.M. Cown, would put a big pot of water on the pot-belly stove, let it boil and then add meat & vegetables to make soup for the students that didn’t have anything to eat. This could have been the beginning of the school lunch program.

There is a picture of William Jennings Browning, who was a candidate for President in 1896 & 1900 for the Democratic Party. He was defeated. Later, he became Secretary of State under President Woodrow Wilson. In 1915, he made a speech about the sinking of the giant passenger lines, “Lusitania.” He was a famous orator of that era.

The Flovilla School house was open from 1885 – 1932. There is a replication of the school in the room, that represents the period when the school opened. In 1920, the high school students were transferred to Jackson High School. The elementary students were moved to Indian Springs School in 1932.

In 1979, our thanks to the citizens of Flovilla, who decided to save the “Old Flovilla School House.” They wanted to do more than just rescue the building, they also wanted to preserve it’s history. A year later, their commitment and hard work was re-