

The first permanent settlement of which there is any record was made by Wm. Dingess in 1799, but it was 1824 before it was Logan County was created from parts of Giles, Tazewell, Cabell and Kanawha County Virginia. They named it for Chief Logan of the Mingo tribe. The county seat was on the present site and was known as "The Islands". In 1827 the name of the county seat was changed to Lawnsville. In 1852 it was again changed and this time to Aracoma to honor the Indian princess who established the tribe on the banks of the Guyandotte River. Because the post office had long been known as Logan Courthouse the city was chartered as such in 1907.

Peppal could buy and sell little. By 1823, Anthonly Lawson had established a store near the site of the Logan County courthouse. In 1850, a state road through Boone County was built connecting Logan with Charleston. This was travelled by long trains of wagons.

Books were few. The average was less than one book to a cabin. Schools in the ordinary sense did not exist. The census of 1850 gives the population as 3,533 and 677 were illiterates. At that time there were 10 schools employing a total of ten teachers and instructing 175 pupils.

In 1796 the first school law was passed by the General Assembly of Virginia. The schools in each county were to be managed by the three most able and honest men in that county. Various laws too numerous to mention were passed. Early in the 19th century, Peter Dingess erected a log cabin on the ruins of the Indian lodges on Big Island for a school. This is the island in the river near the C&O Station. When this no longer was used Lewis B. Lawson erected a log house near the mouth of Dingess Run for a school. Among the early teachers were Geo. Bryan a Mrs. Graves, the wife of a Methodist minister and a Rve. Totten, a famous circuit rider. The latter joined the Logan Wildcats and marched away to Dixie in the Civil War and never returned. The three early schools they taught in were washed away in the flood of 1861.

In 1853, the Logan Institute, an academy was established but lived only a short time. For comparison I have listed the population in 1830 which was 3,680 and in 1940, it was 67,768.

In the meantime, June 20, 1863, W. Va. was admitted to the Union. The next attention was given to free schools, In 1864, the first steps were taken. The township system started with Logan County divided into Triadelphia, Magnolia, and Hardy. In 1868 Union, Chapmanville and then Logan districts were added. For the year 1867-68 the school census was 1329 with the average attendance 182. In 1932-33 the census was 17,714 with average attendance 12,928.

Some of the teachers during the time of these early schools were Anna L. Manlon, James Chambers, Ida McDonald, John Core, and James R. Henderson. The average salary in 1868 was \$24 with the term lasting two months. The first superintendent was M. Hinchman whose salary was \$300.

The first school in what is now the city of Logan was the log house near the lower side of the Bill Ellis Hollow. One-armed Bill Sidebottom taught there. That served until 1883 when the building was built where Logan Junior High and the Central School now is. In 1877, the first school was established at Mud Fork and T.C. Whited was teachers. His salary was \$35 and his board, room and laundry cost \$6 per month. Another teacher was Hiram Dempsey, the father of Jack Dempsey who roomed with Whited and taught at Copperas Mine School -- now Holden.

In 1895, Mingo County was formed from part of Logan County. Education in Logan County remained at a low level until the coal companies and railroads appeared in 1903. In 1896, Fairview Normal School of Logan started, but fizzled in the same year. On September 9, 1904 the first train consisting of one engine and four cars was driven into Logan. With the advent of the coal companies the school terms lengthened from 2 to 3 months to 8 or 9. The one room frames became brick bldgs. The teachers salaries were supplemented by the coal companies. Roads were built and the county superintendent Log Browning (1911-1919) was the first superintendent able to visit all the schools of a county in one term.

Prior to the county unit system in 1933, there were district supervisors. In 1911 F. O. Woerner was appointed the first principal and only teacher of Logan High School which was organized in what is now the Central Grade School location. There were 16 pupils and it was a third rate school. They were taught English, Latin, algebra, general history, bookkeeping, arithmetic, physical geography and spelling by Mr. Woerner. In 1914 a four year course was first established and Logan was made a first class high school. J. A. Vickers, now prin.

In 1914 the contract was let for Triadelphus District high school now Man. In the fall of 1916, ten entered as freshmen and three were graduated in that group-- Grace Frazier (now Mrs. Vance), Charles Fr Gore, and George Queen. The present enrollment is 790 and the average graduating class has 60. W. Vance was the first principal and Everett Stollings is now principal. The present building was built in 1932 and 1937.

In 1922 Sharples High School was started, but this will be discussed later

In 1927 the 9th grade was added to the Chapmanville school and in 1929 the first class graduated and the present building was built. The first principal was Porter Dobbins, now principal of Logan Jr. High and former Assistant Superintendent, who served there for 7 years. Charles Jergensmeyer is now principal.

In 1922 Sharples High School was established by an act of the legislature. The locations for the building were all studied as to various needs, ect. and finally in 1924 a two-room building was constructed on the present site. However, before the building was constructed, a four-room dwelling located near the end of the steel bridge was used for two years. This is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Browning. In the fall of 1922, Mr. Wm. Griffith of Madison, became its first principal; although the enrollment was ten for the first month, only eight finished the first year's work the following spring.

The high school received its impetus by a small group of interested mothers who wanted their children to receive a higher education than that offered. These mothers met beneath a large beech tree on the present site of the school property and laid plans for additional grades to be taught. This movement was then taken up by the Civic Club and the Woman's Club. The first class graduated in 1926 and consisted of Alva R. Mullins, Erma Lee Epling, Opal Bias Seets, Katherine Merle Carrell, Ethel Ruth Mullins, Mabel Lee Bias, and Chris Holt. The second class in 1927 consisted of Homer Ellis, Lauretta Scholl, Arnie Barker, Opal Barker, Delmar Burgeee, and Melba Walker.

The principals have been:

William Griffith	2 terms	1922-24
A. V. McRee <i>McRee</i>	38 terms	1924-27 1928-
R. Ferguson	1 terms	1927-28
James L. Harvey	4 terms	1928-32
Elmer Browning	1 terms	1932-33
W. E. Flannery	4 terms	1933-37
Stollings DeJournett	2 terms	1937-39
E.L. Moore	1 $\frac{3}{4}$ terms	1939-41
Frank McDade	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ terms	1941-44

The present building was added constructed in 1928 by adding to the original two rooms. The cost of the building as then constructed was \$34,000. It was built to accomodate 200 students which is about the average enrollment in ordinary times, although it has reached 238 once 255 during recent years. The largest number of members of the faculty has been ten. The earliest complete list of teachers I could find was for 1928-29 and consisted of James L. Harvey, Willa Bird Tyree, Mildred Bartholomew, Arnold Chatfield, Helen Elliott.

There were various grade schools in this section, but I could not find anything about the establishment of them, although at one time

268 school in place where Steve Bell's store now is