

## ASTON SCHOOLS

A special Thanks to Pat Smith of Aston for her help

### #1 Stony Bank School

On March 9, 1796 Thomas Pennell of Concord, Deed (I-108) two acres and four tenths of a perch to four Trustees. This was a 999-year lease at a cost of twenty pounds per year. The trustees were: Daniel Sharpless of Middletown Twp. and Jacob Pyle, Abraham Sharpless and Emmor Williamson of Aston Twp. The trustees were required "to build a sufficient stone schoolhouse for the purpose of a school". This school was known as the Stoney Bank School and was given to the school board in 1836. This school was used until about 1855. No deed has been located regarding the sale of this property. The property may have been given back to the owner when the school closed. This school stood about 500 feet north of Baltimore Pike and 75 feet east of Stoney Bank Road. In 1936 ruins of this school could still be seen. This school would now be in Chester Heights Borough. The site would be about 300 feet north of #15 Stoney Bank Rd. on the east (Media) side of the road.



### #2 Village Green School, School #4

This property of one acre was deeded (F-439) by Samuel Hewes, carpenter and Sarah, his wife on May 11, 1802 for \$30.00. The property was sold to three trustees: Jacob Richards, Thomas Dutton and William Pennell. The deed lists the names of the school subscribers (27) and the amount of money they gave to have the school built. This school was known as the "Village Green" School. On December 27, 1820 the last surviving original trustee, Thomas Dutton, gave (P-246) the new trustees the school in trust. The original school was octagon, but no picture of the first school is known to exist. Ashmead states there were two teachers in the school and speak of upper and lower rooms. The original building may have been two stories. The current school was built in the summer of 1866 on the same site.

July 13, 1866 – Chester, Pennsylvania (Delaware County)

DELAWARE COUNTY REPUBLICAN

Advertisement

PROPOSALS – Proposals will be received until Saturday, the 21<sup>st</sup> instant, for Building a School House, at Village Green, in Aston Township. Plans and specifications may be seen by call on ELLWOOD TYSON, Secretary.

This second school is a one-story stone structure that was used until 1952. The school was sold (2290-619) to Aston Township on April 19, 1965 and restored in 1976. The school stands on a one-acre lot on side of Pennell Rd. in the 3000 Block opposite old Pennell Rd.



### #3 Martin, Logtown or Chester Heights School

On April 15, 1813 Benjamin Martin sold (L-44) 40 square perches of land for one dollar with a building “for the use of a school and no other purpose”. The property was sold to four trustees: William Peters, Joseph Pennell, Charles Lungren and Enos Williamson. This school was originally a one-room school and was known as "Martins" or the "Logtown" school. This subscription school was given to the Aston School Board in 1836 at \$2.00 a month rent. (Ashmead) This building was replaced in 1906 by the current two-story stone structure. The architect was William B. Vaux from Philadelphia. By that time the school was known as the Chester Heights School.

August 16, 1906 - Chester Times

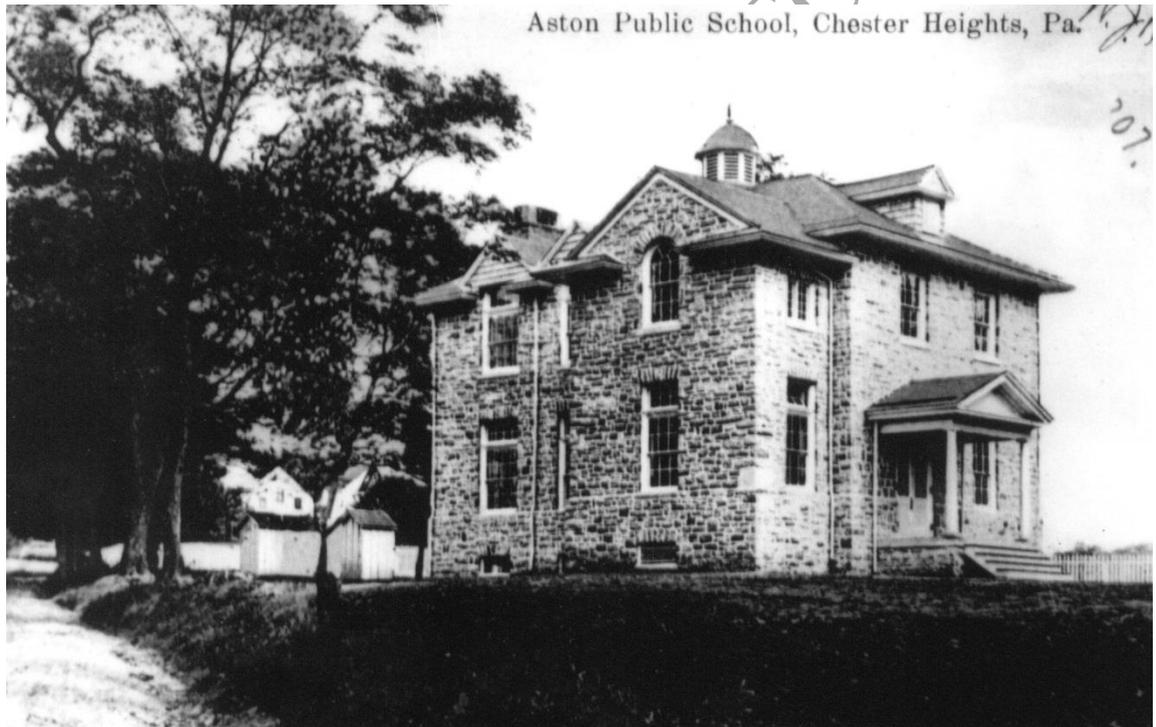
ASTON SCHOOL BOARD STAGGERED BY HIGH BIDS - Contractors Estimating on New Building for Chester Heights Surprise the Directors

A special meeting of the Aston School Board was held in the Rockdale school house

on Tuesday evening, when bids were opened for the building of the new school house at Chester Heights. The plans submitted by the architect, William S. Vaux of Philadelphia, suggest an ideal school house, modern and thoroughly up-to-date and one that would be a credit to Aston Township for all time. The bids, however, were all high, and quite staggered the directors. There were nine bids received ranging from eight to ten thousand dollars. As the Board expected to erect the new building for about six thousand dollars, they could not act on the bids at this meeting, and decided that some of the coveted up-to-date appliances would have to be cut out.

The matter was referred back to the architect, who will confer with the two lowest bidders as to what can be eliminated or to see if the price can be brought nearer to the limit of the school board's spending money. Another special meeting will be held soon to act on the result of the conference between the architect and the builders.

This school was given (1392-340) to the school district of Chester Heights on November 3, 1947 by the Aston Twp. School District. The school still stands at the southeast corner of Valley Brook Rd. and Llewellyn Rd in Chester Heights and is now used as a Day Care Center. The building is #221 Llewellyn Rd.



#### **# 4 Rockdale #1**

On December 13, 1841 John McGonigal sold {V-356} property for \$25.00 to the Aston School Board. This property consisted of a quarter acre by land of Richard Smith. A small schoolhouse was built and used until 1859. This school in Rockdale took the place of a rented school building. The property was sold (F2-638) on October 24, 1859 to Thomas Tanner for \$125.06 with the school house included. This school was taken down prior (destroyed by fire) to 1914. A brick house was built on the site and is now #658 Mount Rd. reached by a long drive from Mount Rd.

### **# 5 SCHOOL #3 CROZERVILLE OR ROCKDALE**

On June 30, 1859 John P. Crozer sold (F2-523) 2100 square feet to have a school built. This property was located on the road leading to the West Branch Mill and cost one hundred dollars. This school of two-story stone was at Rockdale and replaced a smaller school building that the Aston School Board had owned at the rear of the Hotel Mountain House on Mount Road. The school board originally rented a building in 1836 when the Aston School District was organized and rented it till 1841 when a school (4) was built.

Friday, June 12, 1891 C.T.

Aston School Report

The following named pupils of Aston school, No. 3, have been present every day during the present month: Mary E. Vail, George Goldie, Ella Cobourn, Frank Simpson, Mattie Allen, George Shubrook, Martha Scott, John Dwyer, Willie Galloway, Aaron Spencer, and Arthur Griffith. Those who missed a day or a part of a day are: William Ewing, Mary Levis, Anna Cumberland, Sadie Townsend and Sallie Allen.

Thursday, April 4, 1895 C.T.

Crozerville School Report

The following pupils of Crozerville Primary School, Elizabeth C. Clayton, teacher, were present every day during the month ending April 1, 1895: Horace Peirce, Leonard Long, Frank Journey, Thomas Johnson, Eddie Johnson, John Albany, Samuel Spencer, George Ashworth, Willie Cobourn, Lottie Hoskins, Bertha Vance and Rachel Griffith.

Those absent one day or one-half day are: Hugh Rea, Eddie Carr, Daniel Sohn, George Scott, John Peacock, Louisa Beaumont and Lizzie Smith.

Average attendance for the month 41 percent of attendance 91.

This new two-story stone school was known as the "Crozerville or Rockdale or School #3" School and opened in the fall of 1859. The original school was torn down and replaced by a six-room school that was dedicated on June 14, 1917.

May 7, 1917 – CHESTER TIMES - CORNER STONE LAID AT ROCKDALE - Ceremony in Connection with the Erection of the Pretty New Public School Building

Impressive exercises were conducted Saturday at Rockdale in observance of the cornerstone laying for the new public school. Several hundred citizens of Aston Township attended the ceremonies and the threatening skies failed to dampen the ardor of the enthusiastic gathering.

The various local societies combined with the school directors, teachers, and pupils in arranging and carrying out the program, and it was an interesting family gathering. The stone, donated by the contractors, Flounders Brothers of Media, was cut and carved in order at Hummelstown, Pa. A platform was erected for the exercises.

The Rockdale band opened the ceremonies with a number of patriotic and popular airs, after which the following numbers were given. Singing "The Star Spangled Banner" by the assemblage, led by the band, invocation, Rev. G.W. Tovey, pastor Crozerville, M.E. Church; history of the new school movement, Howard Hannum, Esq., who gave a glowing resume of the necessities and spirit which led to the progressive step taken by the Aston School Board and proclaimed that the new building would place Rockdale in the forefront of up-to-date communities. His eloquent discourse was cut short by a shower of rain when the crowd adjourned to Rockdale Hall, close by.

Prior to leaving the site, however, the corner stone was securely laid by Edward Watterson, master mason on the operation and a tin box placed therein by County Superintendent

A.G.C. Smith, who explained that the contents of the box consisted of a program of the day's exercises, two American flags, a copy of the Rockdale Herald, lists of names of the directors, teachers, scholars, names of the builders and the architect. Also, the different coins of money now in circulation.

In the Hall, the school children sang several patriotic songs, a recitation was given by Don Griffith, a solo by Sarah Griffith, and an interesting address was delivered by County Superintendent Smith, in which he explained the growing importance of advanced education and congratulated the school directors and the people of Aston Township, who had made the new school possible.

The benediction was pronounced by Rev. John F. Bagley, rector of Calvary Church, Rockdale, after which there were some musical selections by the band. The audience sang "America," and was dismissed.

The directors are: Robert A. Habbersett, president, A. S. Gay, secretary; George M. Hoskins, treasurer; Arthur B. Griffith and Samuel C. Spencer.

The school board and the teachers were assisted in the arrangements by representatives of the Odd Fellows, Loyal Patriots of America, Red Men Ancient Order of Hibernians, Junior Mechanics, P.O.S. of A. and the P.O. of A. of Rockdale.

This school was closed by the Aston School District in the 1950's and sold (1877-588) on May 15, 1958 to the Our Lady of Rosary Home Association for a dollar. This former school still stands at 656 Mount Rd. and is a business.



#### **#6 Aston Mills, Llewellyn, School #5 & #6**

On May 29, 1872 Salkeld Larkin sold {E3-298} one acre of land to the Aston School District for \$150.00. This school stood on the road from Rhodes Mill to Village Green. Although

the deed wasn't transferred till 1872, the school was built in the fall of 1870. {Penna School Reports 1871} The date stone on the school states "Aston School #5 1870".

September 21, 1870 – Media, Pennsylvania (Delaware County)  
DELAWARE COUNTY AMERICAN  
Advertisement

BIDS FOR THE IMMEDIATE ERECTION of a brick school house, in Aston Township, (near Llewellyn Mills.) will be received by the secretary, up to 9 o'clock, Monday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1870. Plans and specifications to be seen at the Secretary's Office, Village Green. (Lime and stone to be omitted in furnishing estimate.) The board reserves the right to reject any or all bids not deemed satisfactory. C.C.V. CRAWFORD, M.D., Secretary, Aston S. Board, Village Green, Delaware County, Pennsylvania.

This one story brick school was known as the "Aston Mills School, Llewellyn or School # 5 and #6" and is now gone, the school closed in 1960 when the Penn Delco Union was formed. It stood opposite #843 Aston Mills Road at the top of a small hill just right of Ellston Rd. The school was torn down about 1981. This school was sold to Aston Township on August 7, 1980.



## #7 Bridgewater or Brookside School

The Bridgewater School was built in the summer of 1879. Samuel Haigh of Phila. etal. on July 3, 1879 sold (T4-377) one acre for a dollar to the Aston School Board. A one story two room brick school was built on what is now Bridgewater Rd. This school was known as the "Bridgewater School". This school was sold (763-160) on January 19, 1928 to the PBW Railroad for \$500.00. and was used as a residence for a number of years. Today the school is gone and no ruins are evident. Note 1896 newspaper article mentions a "Brookside" school that maybe another name for this school.

### May 24, 1912 – CHESTER TIMES - VILLAGE GREEN ONCE HAD FAMOUS SCHOOL RECENT DEATH OF HEADMASTER AWAKES FLOOD OF MEMORIES - BUILDING STILL STANDS

Classroom is Now Used as a Country Store, But Exterior is Unchanged

A short paragraph printed in an obscure corner of the papers last month brought sorrow to many, for it told of the death of the old schoolmaster, Rev. J. Harvey Barton, founder of and one-time preceptor in the Village Green Seminary, a boarding and day school of the Civil War times says the Philadelphia Press. The old building, which housed many who were to become famous in later years still stands almost forgotten at the forked roads which lead to Chester. Knowlton and Lenni, opposite the old inn of the Seven Stars, which at one time housed Lafayette, on a spot said to be the highest in Delaware County.

Glen Riddle is the nearest railway, though in the old days it was necessary to travel by stage from Chester, or make a tedious trip from Media by wagon to reach the school. For it was back in '55 when Mr. Barton first opened his doors to the boys and girls who flocked to him for training and it was not long before they were coming from all parts of the country. The catalogue of 1859, printed four years after the school had even opened, gives references from many cities, Washington and Baltimore being included. Rev. Charles Cellins, president of Dickinson College, was one of those who recommended the school.

### LITTLE CHANGE IN THE EXTERIOR

The exterior of the building looks much the same as it did in the old days, as it stands by the side of the white Baptist Church, its red brick is slightly dimmed, perhaps but the wooden benches at each side of the door are in their accustomed places, and if it were not for the sign swinging above one would almost expect to see Mr. Barton appear or hear the voice of Schoolmaster Troutman or Miss Kate Scout. But on entering the building a returning pupil would be amazed at the changes, for though the proportions of the school room are the same, the furnishing are of an entirely different character. Gone are the neat rows of benches and the spot where once stood the desk of the preceptor is occupied by a show case, in which is displayed post cards, candies and soaps while the rest of the room is crowded with all the appurtenances of a country store. A dentist's chair in one corner does duty as a barber shop with a rickety table beside it holding the bay rum bottles and other articles.

One is greeted by the cheerful shopkeeper who has many a tale to tell of his visitors for, he says that seldom a month passes that some statesman, actor or other famous personage does not wander in to look at the building where he spent many of the happiest days of his youth.

The merchant points with pride to a cracked pane in the window, where dimly discernible are the initials W-A-S-H. Perhaps they are the work of Frank Lutz, who with his

brother came to the school from Washington. He will be remembered by his follow students as the little boy who grew so homesick that he ran away one morning without hat or coat to make his way back home. Great was the excitement when his absence was discovered and there were not many lessons learned that day. Finally a telegram arrived for Mr. Barton, for in those days, the telephone was unknown, and the excitement increased as old Caesar, the family horse, was harnessed and Mr. Barton departed to find his runaway pupil.

#### THEN HE WAS A HERO

What a hero little Frank was when he returned, for he had reached Newark, Del., before he became too weary to go further, and Mr. Hood, the instructor of the Girls' Seminary there, had taken him in. The girls were delighted with their new playmate and made much of him, so he was loath to leave his refuge, but the hero worship which he received on his return quite made up for his loss. Frank himself learned to laugh at the escapade before the term ended and next year had his turn laughing at the new little homesick boys.

The old stove which occupies the center of the room might almost be the one which George Berrel covered with pepper long ago. How the boys did cough and sneeze, even Mr. Hallowell, who was head of the school at the time, was affected. It was around this stove the boys gathered on winter evenings and vied with each other in telling hair-raising tales of adventure and weird ghost stories. In the next room is the pump, a big wooden affair, where the boys doused their faces and washed their hands before breakfast. The old pump is still in use, though it has had several coats of paint since the old days.

From the pump room one can see the Chester Creek and the swimming hole near the Presbyterian ford. Further down is Trout Run, where the little boys paddled and took their first lessons in swimming. If one's eyes are good and the foliage is not too thick one can see the ruins of the Ridley Mills which nestle at the other side of the creek. Samuel Rhodes was at one time a pupil at the school.

Those were the good old days. The time when the pupils gave plays and entertainments are remembered most vividly by the old scholars. Sometimes the entertainments were held, in the Media courthouses, five miles away, but more often they were given in the school room. They were merry times, indeed, when the families of the boys and girls rode through the starlight nights to come to the plays. If the family carriage was not large enough to hold the numerous children, all crowded into the hay wagon and arrived rosy and laughing.

In war times the entertainment took on a martial spirit and warlike pieces were spoken, drills given and patriotic songs sung. The future Dr. Gassaway spoke on liberty and unions, using in the program the name of Mynheer Snob, as these pieces were given character. After one performance there was a flag presentation by the girl pupils of the school to the cadet company, while another entertainment was given for the benefit of the soldiers. Here in the schoolroom during the stirring times of the Civil War a company of women used to assemble to pick lint do other kind of services.

In these far off days, when one did not travel about as easily as we do now, many of the scholars spent the Christmas holidays at the school. At these times, there was a tree, rich in home-made Decorations but most important of all was the Christmas play. There was always some scholar who had an important part in the theatricals. That the players were considered very clever was not through leniency on the part of the audience at John Drew was one of the boys as well as cousins. Frank and Charley, George Barton Berrel, the hero of the pepper incident; William Stuart as well as many other embryo actors took part in the performances.

Mr. Barton encouraged the boys and aided them in their preparations, as he was very fond of the theatre and all things theatrical and always enjoyed a good play. His old pupils tell how he would walk two to three miles to the station to go to town to see a performance, and then coming back at midnight walk home again through the winter's snow.

## A ROMANCE

He did not keep his enjoyment to himself, however, for he would tell his pupils the story of the play, oftentimes acting portions to give them clearer insight as to how matters were explained. His young wife helped him in his, and she enjoyed it evidently as much as her husband, for between them they would often improvise costumes and scenery to give the desired effect. There is quite a romance connected with this wife of Mr. Barton's. As little Emma Clayton, sister of the esteemed Judge Clayton, who presided on the bench of Delaware county many years, she attended the Village Green school, and when the time came for her to have the schoolmaster found it would be difficult to part with his favorite pupil, so after a time she returned to the school as its mistress.

It is strange how the personality of Mr. Barton has made itself felt during all these years, for his former pupils are always glad to talk of him and were delighted when chances gave them an opportunity of seeing him again. IN the last few years before his death, Mr. Barton lived in Philadelphia and often revisited the scenes of his past labors. He is buried at Mt. Hope Cemetery within a short distance of the school he loved. He was a learned man, a Dickinson graduate, by the way, and he was familiar with many languages, having taught Latin, Greek, and French as well as philosophy. The school was well equipped for those days, having as an old catalogue States, philosophical apparatus, including an electrical machine, pneumatic apparatus and even a magic lantern.

## THEY TALK OF OLD DAYS

The former scholars enjoy talking of the old days and many of the friendships made then are still firm. It was only two years ago that Dr. James M. Gasnaway, little Jim, that was stationed at Chester, for he is now a noted surgeon in the marine service. When here, he revisits the school house, and as many of his former school fellows as he could find. Every actor who owes a part at least of his early training to the quaint old school may be assured that one or two of his former comrades will be in the audiences when he plays in Philadelphia.

It is not only in this city that the school is noted, for the well-known Dr. Frazier, of Baltimore – as Jimmy Frazier – attended the school with his brother and distant Arkansas can look to Village Green as the early home of Mr. Powell Clayton, one-time Governor of his State and later United States Senator. Sketchley Morton for whom the town of Morton was named, also sent his son to the school.

In 1866 when Rev. Samuel W. Hallowell decided to take the Village Green School, Mr. Barton found that he could realize his desire and see the West. He lived on a ranch several years, but returned to Delaware County shortly before the death of his wife.

Mr. Hallowell, who was rector of Christ's Church, in Media, changed the rules and regulations of the school, giving it a military regime. Major Eckndola of Pennsylvania came regularly to inspect the boys and the plays gave place to drills and soldierly exhibitions.

## CHANGES COME

Now as before there were good boys and naughty ones; they performed all kinds of pranks the rich boys bought the desserts of the poor ones, they all stole Mrs. Hallowell's jam and chickens and ate them at midnight in the same old way. In 1868 Mr. Hallowell found that his combined duties of rector and school master were too arduous so it was decided to abandon the school. Mrs. Eleanor Stroud, wife of the Judge, purchased the school from Mr. Barton and owned it while Mr. Hallowell taught.

When the school was closed the building was used as a summer hotel, but this enterprise proved unprofitable, and for many years it remained idle. It was only a few years ago that the old school house was purchased by Mr. Neeld, who now owns it and who opened the general store.

August 29, 1856 Chester, Pennsylvania (Delaware County)

DELAWARE COUNTY REPUBLICAN

Education

NOTES OF SCHOOL – ASTON.

First, then, let us take a peep into our friend, Mr. J. Berstler. He rules as supreme head and governor, in a kingdom composed of about seventy willing subjects. His territorial limits are somewhat restricted, but sufficiently extended for the purpose – occupying, as he does, the lower room of the church, about forty by twenty-five feet, more or less, well lighted, clean and comfortable – though some of the seats are too high to be entirely so for the little fellows who are required to sit upon them. The art of government seems to be pretty well understood here – not perfect quiet, but perfect order being preserved; and brought about too less by coercion, than by appeals to the conscience. – There seems to be no watching for opportunities to work mischief, which indicates a healthy tone of public sentiment. The instruction given seems to be pretty well adapted to the class of mind taught, no unwarrantable fights being attempted. It is hoped that this may be the case after a little more than a commendable school, and great things may reasonably be expected from it. 2d. Logtown School, taught by Mr. Palmer. This is our friend's first experience in the art – pedagogical. To all appearances it will be a successful attempt. Industry and Energy seem to be leading characteristic here; but there seems also, to be a loss of time and pains, in the giving of separate attention to pupils, and in passing from one thing to another too quickly. This is the result of inexperience. When practice shall have taught our friend the great advantages of class instruction in all branches, and the necessity of impressing a subject, by several modes of imparting instruction in it, we shall expect to see pupils more interested in their school, and rapid progress made. As this is to be our friend's profession in future, we have no doubt there will be great improvement made. 3d. We have permitted to look for a short time only, upon the plan of operations in Mr. Stephen Hall's, having been detained by the severe rain of the 19<sup>th</sup> inst. We were introduced upon entering, and taking a back step, while closing an umbrella, by stepping below the common level of things, directly through the floor. Fortunately, 'Terre Firma' was not far removed, and our pride, which had fallen, rose again. We have hardly a doubt that the teaching art is well practiced in this school; but we could discover many hindrances - not the least of which is a very inconvenient, uncomfortable school room and furniture throughout. But the school has occasionally, what, by far the greater number of our schools have not, parental visits. Our friend Stephen thinks though, that in his case they are not of much account. He does not think the advice given him upon one or two of these occasions, in reference to school government, altogether orthodox. We are inclined to think that they may result in good after all. We say, let the teacher manage his school when he manages it as well as this appears to be. Some attention given to standard authors on the art of teaching, seem to be of great advantage to our friend, in making thorough work. A class in Grammar recited well. They appeared, though but in the elements self-reliant and were intent at listening to the instruction which the teacher mingled with the recitation. Almost the only redeeming feature of the school room and furniture is two large hemisphere maps which were purchased last year by the pupils themselves. This speaks well for the little boys and girls of Rockdale and its vicinity. How many now will follow their example? All, I am sure, could do it as well as them. I am happy to say that the Directors of this district intend building next season a new school house about midway between this and the Logtown School, intended for the accommodation of both. It is to be sincerely hoped that they will execute this incipient plan. A school can then be organized with two or three teachers, as the case may require, upon the 'union graded plan,' now acknowledged as the best of any, giving the whole in charge of one competent teacher. His experience and ability can be made available in all its departments, through the assistance and introduction he can furnish to the assistants. We shall look confidently for this great improvement in Aston. The people demand it, and their officer stand ready to execute their will. Fourth and last, is the school of Mr. Griffith, a

stranger among us, but who appears at home already. We have but little doubt that our friend will make this a full middling school. Much is needed to make it such. – A little better order, and more system in classification, &c., should be brought about. – Still a school cannot be expected as well or to be so well managed in one of those right square temples of learning – the most exceptionable of all other forms of a school building. Teachers are frequently prevented from making improvements by circumstances – books, houses four feet square, blackboards, &c; but in Aston we think they can make the following, though many of these things are in the way: - 1. Spelling less from spelling book, and more from reading lessons. 2. The instruction of Mental Arithmetic as a regular class exercise devoting one half hour each day, following Stoddard, Colburn, Greenleaf, or some other systematic and copious author. 3. Thorough classification in Arithmetic, mental and written. 4. Oral instruction in Grammar.

March 17, 1854 – Chester, Pennsylvania (Delaware County)

DELAWARE COUNTY REPUBLICAN

Education

BOARDING SCHOOLS – We (are) pleased to see that several more of those institutions of learning are being established among us. The old pioneers in the good work – Sharon Female Boarding School at Darby, one of the best in the Union, and Aston Ridge Seminary, are among the most flourishing literary institutions to be found in Pennsylvania. Our advertising columns give notice of the establishment of a new Boarding School under the charge of Mr. Isaac Gray, whose testimonials as a teacher are of the highest order. Mr. G will, in a short time, open the Crozer Academy in this Borough, and we predict for him a full complement of scholars. The Academy is beautifully situated on the banks of the Delaware, a location noted for its healthfulness and the beauty of the surrounding country. The Female Boarding School of Miss S. M. Kirke in Bethel, is also worthy of the attention of those who have children to educate. Miss K.'s school combines all the comforts of a home with the advantages of obtaining a good English education. Thomas Griffith, a successful teacher in our public and private schools, will open a new Seminary at Media, shortly. Mr. G. has had much experience with youth, and in the various branches of an English education has few superiors as an instructor. Whatever he undertakes will be done thoroughly and well.

Thursday, April 4, 1895 C.T.

Crozerville School Report

The following pupils of Crozerville Primary School, Elizabeth C. Clayton, teacher, were present every day during the month ending April 1, 1895: Horace Peirce, Leonard Long, Frank Journey, Thomas Johnson, Eddie Johnson, John Albany, Samuel Spencer, George Ashworth, Willie Cobourn, Lottie Hoskins, Bertha Vance and Rachel Griffith.

Those absent one day or one-half day are: Hugh Rea, Eddie Carr, Daniel Sohn, George Scott, John Peacock, Louisa Beaumont and Lizzie Smith.

Average attendance for the month 41 percent. Of attendance 91.

School Summary of Aston

On March 9, 1796 Thomas Pennell deeded what became known as the "Stoney Bank" School. (#1) This is the first official notice of a school in Aston. The next school was the "Village Green" School (#3) whose one acre was deeded on May 11, 1802. The third school was deeded on April 15, 1813 and was known as "Martins or the Logtown School". This school later

became the Chester Heights School. These three schools became part of the Aston School District in 1836. Ashmead appears to have had access to school records that longer exist. His Aston School History is too detailed not to have had access to the School Minutes.

Ashmead mentions a fourth school "then being erected by John P. Crozer at West Branch" and a "house expected to be built at Rockdale". The house at Rockdale wasn't built till 1841, and Ashmead states a schoolhouse was rented at the rear of the Hotel Mountain House and used till about 1853. This rented school appears to be wrong unless it was prior to 1841. On December 13, 1841 John McGonigal sold property at the rear of the Mountain House for a school. (#3) The Delaware County Republican on August 29, 1856 did an article on Aston Schools. There were four schools in Aston at that time Rockdale #3, Village Green #1, Logtown #2 and the last school was in a church basement exact location unknown. The "Stoney Bank School"#1 had already closed the students probably going to the Logtown School #3. School #4 was sold in 1859 and replaced by School #4 the "Rockdale, Crozerville School" on Mount Rd. The school in the church basement was probably closed in 1859 with the building of the Rockdale School 3. The Aston Mills School, a one room brick building, was built in 1870 although the land itself wasn't transferred till 1872.

KEITH LOCKHART COLLECTION