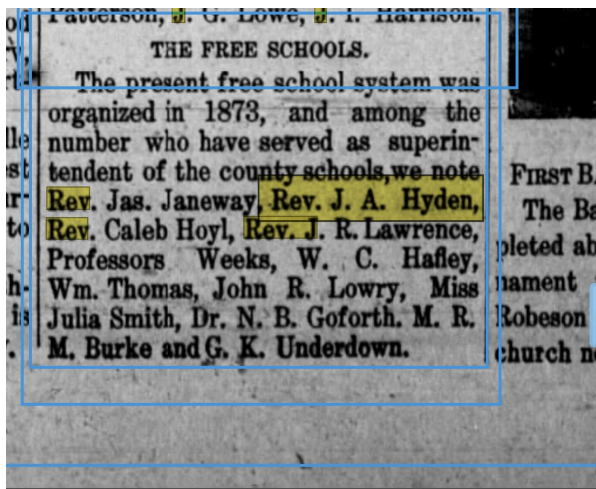


Freedman Bureau School

Predicted to have been located where the J.L Cooke High School had been.

Ms. Mary E. Truesdale is listed as the teacher and main communicator between the school and FB Superintendent of Education Board.

Other teachers such as Albert Hydon and two possible people who provided the land.



| March 29th, 1867. No 231 * | Truesdell, M.E. Teacher. Filed |
Athens Tenn March 25th, 1867. States that he has at present a
comfortable schoolhouse at Athens Tenn. Wishes the State
Superintendent to give him some day notice when he will visit his
place. ||

| Feb 8th 1869 No 1007 * | Johnson Jas. M. D.O. of Claims Filed |
BRF & AL. Chattanooga Tenn Jan 31 1869 Forwards enclosed
Report of the Freemans School at Athens, McMinn County, Tenn. |
|

Athens Nove 9th 1866

Mr Burt

Your kind letter of Nov 3d is received and the poor Freedmen wept for joy at the hope it expressed I question who owns the building and is the title a good one

The Freedmen have by Contributed Money and labors Secured it New and good 2d I was commissioned by the N F Aid but they withdrew their aid last Spring the pupils who are able pay and the sons of Relief pay me part tuition for persons not able top au and I throw off half these as no one been excluded on a count of poverty 3d At least one hundred good pupils can be had if I can have a good house 4th My estimate of \$273 does not include labors it is to procure materials 5th The Freedmen are very poor and unable to work for nothing yet they instruct my to say by endeavoring some [[?]] they can build the House and they will not ask for any more than the 273 dollars If some compensation was granted it would be thankfully Received 6th I will teach the school this winter If I have a house and life and health is spared PS The Freedmen can get a good sight with a good title

and when I say one hundred pupils I put it at the lowest estimate and Mr Burt if you could get me some School Books and common paper at a cheap rate it would help the poor children. Paper the poorest kind is not less than two cents per sheet and steel pens are in uprising prices I trust what is done will be done soon our best pupils are a bout shong their fall work and anxious to go to school Mr Burt one ~~H~~ Honable Arnold will hand you this he wants to get advice about secureing a child from a nocount mother Please let me know the result soon

I am respectfully

Mr E Truesdell

Athens Jan 10th 1867

Mr Burt

Dear Sir I received
yours of Jan 5th and let me
say Mr. Ware has not come yet
now Mr Burt if you will please
urge him a little we will be
under still more obligations
there is many things you ask
me in your last which I will
answer at another time. I trust
you will come and see how
we are getting along I fear Mr
Ware will leave and work till
the last if you do not urge
him save he is Revenue
Collecter and for sometime
could not pay much attention
to us

Respectfully,
Mr E Truesdell

0124
151

Nov 14 6

Capt. Morris H Church
Supt &c at Chattanooga

I am instructed by Gen Lewis to direct you to visit Athens &
investigated the case laid before us through you by this Mrs.
Truesdale.

The points on which I want accurate information are

1. Do the colored people own a lot on which there is a building
that can be repaired & made suitable for school? It seems from
Mrs. Truesdales letter that she is asking us to build a new
building. We have no authority to do this. But if they can secure a
frame with a roof on it, we can fit it up. Or we can do any work of
the kind of a shell of a building, if it can come under the head of
repairs. If this plan cannot be adopted,

2. Can a building be rented for one year which we can repair
arranging that the repairs shall be applied on the rent?

4. If the Freedmen own the lot, is there title good?

Bureau Refugees Freedmen and A. Lands
Counties of Bradley Polk and McMinn
Supts Office Cleveland Tennessee
January 16th 1866

Mr. D Burt
Supt Education Tenn,
Nashville Tennessee

Dear Sir

Thus of the 12th just as at hand and in reply would respectfully state,- that I have just returned from, Athens, McMinn Co.; While there I made a contract for the immediate repairing of the Building you speak of. And, I think the House will be ready in a very short time. Immediately upon the receipt of the Order. I proceeded to Athens to carry it into effect. And was not at home when your communication arrived or I would of answered sooner.

Yours Truly
James Ware
Supt Bureau RF&AL
Counties of Bradley Polk and McMinn
State of Tennessee

To the Friends of Education.

The Educational Society of McMinn county will meet in Athens May 21st. As Chairman of the Executive Committee, we take this method of inviting the public to attend the meeting. All friends of education, ladies and gentlemen, are cordially invited. The Committee have taken great pains in securing men of experience and learning to bring forward productions and deliver lectures. We flatter ourselves that we have secured a literary treat for all who may attend. We wish to give the educational interests of this county a grand forward movement, and it can be done only by the hearty co-operation of all. Come, friends, and aid in this grand work by your presence.

J. ALBERT HYDEN,

May 13, 1874.]

Chm'n Ex. Committee.

L.R. No. 70.

Athens Tenn

Nov 9. 1866

Truesdale H.E.

asks help to the amount of \$273 for erecting a school house.

Think 100 pupils can be had. Will teach herself. Wants paper and books &c.—

Recd Nov 12. 1866

but any teacher of freedmen was subject to abuse.

One of the earliest points of attack against freedmen's schools was in East Tennessee, where a general repugnance existed toward the Negro, slave or free. The teacher of the United Presbyterian Mission school in Greenville reacted to the threat of violence against him by closing his school and going to Knoxville.¹⁹⁸ At Athens, Mrs. Mary E. Truesdell, teacher of a freedmen's school, reported that her schoolhouse was burned by enemies on December 26, 1865. A second building was erected, and it also was destroyed by fire, but she said this might have resulted from accident. In 1867, David Burt referred to Mrs. Truesdell, who was then in her third building, as an "invincible woman."¹⁹⁹ Strangely, in 1868, when prejudice was at its height in other parts of the state, Samuel Walker, Bureau agent, reported that in the Knoxville district there was little prejudice toward the establishment of Negro schools.²⁰⁰

In the fall of 1865, Fisk optimistically believed that the white Southern hostility toward freedmen's

¹⁹⁸R. J. Creswell to Fisk, October 4, 1865.

199 Burt to Carlin, May 14, 1867.

²⁰⁰Carlin to Howard, May 11, 1868.

[illegible]

Monthly Report / **FREEDMEN'S SCHOOL** of *Wauzarguine, Senegal*
For the Month of July, 1865

12th To ascertain one *Calender* Month, and to be forwarded on some as possible after the close of the month.

13th A school under the closest control of our teachers, or of a teacher with assistants, provided the school is graded, to be so reported on our school.

Location of your school? *Wauzarguine, near the Senegal River*

Name of Principal? *E. J. Harris*

When did your present session commence? *July 1st*

How many teachers in the school?	1000 ⁰ White	100	Colored	200
How many pupils?	150	Male	75	Female
Was certified for report?	15	Male	18	Female
How many pupils left school?	1000	Male	500	Female
How left school this month?	10	Male	5	Female

Average daily attendance? *115*

How absent present? *15*

How absent present? *15*

Average age? *11.75*

No over 18? *1000*

No in Alphabet and Primer? *1000*

No in First Reader? *1000*

No in Second Reader? *1000*

No in Third Reader? *1000*

No in Fourth Reader? *1000*

No in Fifth Reader? *1000*

No in First Lesson of Geography? *1000*

No in Primary Geography? *1000*

No in Second Part Geography? *1000*

No in Third Part Geography? *1000*

No in Moral Arithmetic? *1000*

No in Written Arithmetic? *1000*

No in Grammar? *1000*

No in Algebra? *1000*

No in Penmanship? *1000*

No in Composition? *1000*

No in Drawing? *1000*

No in Needlework? *1000*

Amount paid by Parents? *1000*

Grand total of expense in all parties? *1000*

No. Night Pupils? *1000*

Average attendance of night pupils? *1000*

Students retained? *1000*

Teachers. *1000*

Pupils. *1000*

Given at *Richville Senegal*
E. J. Harris Principal
1000 Assistant

coming to the farms
 of the people they had
 to keep their children
 home to assist around
 the farm