

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

One year ago, students and teachers in the Graham Digital Academy, a charter conversion virtual school sponsored by Graham Local Schools, began the extensive process of interviewing and compiling reflections from Graham graduates, teachers, parents, and community friends who remembered the growing pains of consolidation.

In 1951, the State Department of Education in Ohio advised small, rural school districts to consider consolidation. As a matter of timeline, America was involved in the Korean conflict. In 1952, three small rural schools in our county, Concord, St. Paris, and Westville/Terre Haute, conducted a community survey concerning consolidation. By 1954, representatives of the aforementioned school boards took final action on adopting a petition of consolidation. The decision was not easy.

The name “Graham” was chosen for the new consolidated school in honor of the 4-H Clubs of America’s founder, Albert B. Graham, and the Graham board was then officially organized. Sixty-two acres of land were purchased in 1956 and the construction of Graham High School began. The new school would house grades 9 through 12, and the three former school buildings would retain elementary and junior high students. In 1957, Graham High School opened its doors for the first time with a total enrollment of 315 students and a faculty of 19. Graham High School’s graduating class of 1958 was the beginning of a new era in our community.

Later, Christiansburg-Jackson and Rosewood joined the consolidation and today, 50 years afterward, we celebrate the opening of yet another Graham school, the Graham Elementary School. *Foxfire at Graham* is a story about real people who dared to join forces with families and students from “rival” school districts to become one, united educational institution, inculcating their students in the best educational methods and modes man had and has to offer.

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If Gilbert Chesterton was correct and education is simply the soul of a society as it passes from one generation to another, shouldn't our students and the students yet to come meet those generations? It was our desire to involve our students and blended community in a project that would allow us to reflect on the past and emphasize the strength that comes from the present and future. Ours is a unique community of diverse families. We trust our students will be lifelong learners, reveling in the joy of exploration and remembering forever how their school district came to be.

We acknowledge the Graham Digital Academy students and parents, and the Graham Local Board of Education. We thank Mr. James A. Zerkle, Graham Local Schools' Superintendent, for his continued support. We are indebted to student chairman, Miss Cecilia Burns, and student reporters Laura Simpson, Nicole Lockard, Debra Schoepflin, Jessica Noble, Sarah Keller, and Emily Switzer; and parent Mrs. Michelle Switzer. We thank Laura Simpson for creating the striking cover art. We appreciate technical assistance from Graham technicians Don Burley and Steve Coates. We are indebted to the editing and layout expertise provided lovingly by Graham Board of Education member Michelle Whitley Turner and by home-schooling parent Mrs. Kris Webb. Graham Digital Academy teachers Mrs. Lisa Bowman and Mrs. Jessica Stickley have been flexible and continued supporters of our school project, and we thank them. The assistance provided by Mrs. Becky Burroughs and Andrew Schoepflin is also greatly appreciated. We thank the Graham Digital Academy Board of Directors as well. We are grateful to the *Urbana Daily Citizen* for kindly sharing their photos with us.

We thank all participants who have shared their memories of consolidation in the Graham schools. It is a story our students have been honored to hear and tell! How proud we are to be part of this heritage! Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Graham Local Schools!

MARCIA BALMUT WARD  
PRINCIPAL, GRAHAM DIGITAL ACADEMY  
GRAHAM LOCAL SCHOOLS  
WARDMA@GRAHAM.K12.OH.US

*Foxfire at Graham* is dedicated to all who believed in the concept of consolidation! Six small, rural schools joined to become the Graham Local School district: Christiansburg, Concord, Rosewood, St. Paris, Terre Haute, and Westville. We celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> year of service to the community...1957 - 2007.

“As Superintendent of the Graham Local Schools, I am so very proud of everyone in our district.”

As Superintendent of the Graham Local Schools, I am so very proud of everyone in our district and of all of those whose voices are heard in this amazing *Foxfire at Graham* book and of those who took the time to listen to those voices and to share them with the rest of us.

The thrust of our Foxfire project was communication and cooperation amongst students and community members, past and present. A definite objective in our district is to foster pride in the community and a sense of ownership. Within the Graham Local School district, this is a major undertaking given its enormous (189 square miles comprised of six small, rural consolidated schools) and orientation to six economic centers away from the center of the district.

This industrious project spanning one year attempted to actively involve and communicate with parents, former and present students, teachers, board members, and community. It provided an avenue for students to be personally involved with the project via interviewing, compiling, and organizing a permanent written memorial of who Graham was when it was referred to as Christiansburg, Concord, Rosewood, St. Paris, Terre Haute, and Westville.

We plan to continue to seek out reflections and add them to this hard-copy compilation via online communication as we celebrate fifty years of serving the educational needs of our school district. It gives us all the opportunity to share in the strength of diversity while reveling in the individual traits of the respective districts.

To this end, we had six display cabinets built into the new elementary building and have dedicated their use to the alumni of the six original schools, so we may always reflect and remember the values and community standards that are embedded in our community.

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Characteristic of *The Foxfire Book* dedicated to the Appalachian “people of these mountains in the hope that, through it, some portion of their wisdom, ingenuity, and individuality will remain long after them to touch as all,” we, the Graham Community, will long remember the decisions, struggles, and discussions that led to our consolidation and a strong, rich heritage of serving our community members in the educational arena. Our students will never forget the process, and our community will be energized to continue the support and dialogue needed to provide strong education in the year 2007. It will serve as a catalyst to remind us where we have been and indeed, where we are going.

Thank you for supporting education in Graham Local Schools. You make all the difference to our district.

JAMES A. ZERKLE  
SUPERINTENDENT  
GRAHAM LOCAL SCHOOLS

In celebration of Graham's 50th Anniversary, the Graham Digital Academy students in conjunction with teachers Mrs. Lisa Bowman and Mrs. Jessica Stickley created an acrostic representation of this auspicious event.

**C**hampaign County

**O**hio

**N**ineteen Fifty-Seven

**S**eparate schools with

**O**ne goal: Educational Excellence!

**L**eaving their home schools behind, they

**I**ntegrated their knowledge and

**D**efined the meaning of community

**A**nd now in

**T**wo thousand seven, that one goal is reached...

**Educational Excellence!**

“Our new elementary building may be the final act of bringing all of the old consolidated schools together.”

As the President of the Graham Board of Education, I am pleased to acknowledge the Graham Local Schools’ fiftieth year of educational service to the community.

I graduated in 1956 from DeGraff High School. There were thirty members of my class and half of us were from farm families. We had a strong work ethic and learned that from our parents. I went on to attend and graduate from The Ohio State University in 1959. I finished my degree in ten quarters and majored in agricultural education and science.

I taught my first year at Chuckery Darby School in Unionville Center, east of Milford Center. There were sixteen graduating seniors that year. When Milford Center and Chuckery Darby consolidated, I knew it would be a one-man department. At that time, I was teaching agriculture, driver’s education, and geography. I also taught science at McGuffey School at Upper Scioto Valley for one year and then spent two years, 1962-1964, teaching science, agriculture, and physical science on the island of Guam. I remember that a typhoon hit the island and one of the two schools on the island was completely demolished.

After my two-year contract was up, I returned to the states. My brother, Dale Baughman, was teaching at Graham when I returned from Guam and told me the high school was hunting a teacher, so I began teaching at Graham in 1964. Dale stayed at the high school for five years and then taught one agriculture class while serving as assistant high school principal. I retired after thirty years in 1994, having taught agricultural education and having advised the FFA. It also has been my pleasure to be the “Voice of Graham Football” for forty-two years, starting in 1966. Buck Bair began running the chains at the same time and he is still active on that line as well.

When I began teaching at Graham, Keith Shaffer was a senior. He spent his freshman year at Christiansburg-Jackson. All of the ninth graders attended Christiansburg that year.

Some classes stick out in my mind: 1964, 1968, 1973, and 1976. The highlight of my teaching at the high school was always working with the individual students. I remember one young man who was never happy with a 99%. He had to have that perfect score. Another former student—I won't mention names—was in the agriculture program and rose against many challenges to be one of the best ag mechanics in the area. He worked for Chuck Sanders in the parts department and went on to become a working mechanic. He was a real success story and still has an impact in the industry.

That is what teaching and school is all about: working with the individual student and the family to build a work ethic and a successful life. It is important for a good teacher to always consider the home environment of each student. You wonder what we would have become if we had had the challenge of growing up in the city. Students need good role models at home and at school.

Graham has learned to work together. There are probably persons in the south end of the district who never venture north, and possibly persons living in Christiansburg who shop in Troy, while those in Springhills travel to Bellefontaine. We have added Hi-Point, work study, PSEOP, and now the Digital Academy to our many curricular offerings. Our new elementary building may be the final act of bringing all of the old consolidated schools together.

I am proud of serving as a board member and of being a teacher in the district. I have served on the Graham Local School Board for the last eight years and am running for another term. I remember that Florence Hostetler was the first female member of our board and that Jim Burroughs was the first Graham graduate to serve.

As board members, we encourage our administrators to work hard on teacher evaluations and to hire the best teachers out there. Hav-

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ing teachers mentor other teachers is important as well. The biggest mistake administration can commit is not making effective evaluations. We need to encourage our young teachers and our students.

I remember Donzil Hall told his baseball players that not all of them might play great baseball every game but that they could all dress like great baseball players every game, follow the rules, and have good sportsmanship. He encouraged those boys to be the best they could be and look the part. We need to do that for teachers as well.

We are seeing the culmination of many years of hard work and planning by many people. It is the combination of coming together as one community. We are sharing together in the new elementary building. The six display cases in the new building will be an opportunity to share who we were as well: to remember from where we came.

CLIFF BAUGHMAN  
GRAHAM SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT  
FORMER GRAHAM HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER  
DEGRAFF HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 1956  
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY  
CLASS OF 1959

“After the consolidation, it became very easy to take pride in the accomplishments of all Graham students and to mourn the tragic things that have happened to some.”

When consolidation was mentioned, I was envious of the opportunities Graham students were going to have, but I really had appreciated the close relationships with the high school students at St. Paris. Each of us knew everyone attending our school. After the consolidation, it became very easy to take pride in the accomplishments of all Graham students and to mourn the tragic things that have happened to some. If the students are from GHS, they are partly ours. Their parents may not be aware, but they share them with the entire community.

Mrs. Ruth Peirson was a favorite teacher. The music program and the opportunity to participate in music contests and programs were wonderful. I thought it was special when I stayed after school for practice or something we were working on and I got to go to Johnny Blakeman's for a Coke and Mumford's Chips. I probably paid twenty cents for both! This was a rare treat because I rode the school bus every day throughout my senior year

Twenty years after graduating, I returned to college to become a vocational teacher. In addition to touching the lives of many students, I was able to support our own Graham graduate in his pursuit of an electrical engineering degree at the University of Cincinnati.

Education is important. Students need the kind of education that will keep them competitive. I believe the purpose of Graham schools is to constantly improve to help students keep pace. Commitment to change and improvement will be critical in the future.

LINDA ZERKLE THACKERY  
JOHNSON-ST. PARIS HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 1957

“Most were concerned because they didn’t want to lose the high school that had served as the center for their neighborhood.”

I taught at Rosewood from January of 1953 until the consolidation in 1961. While there, I served as teacher, bus driver, principal, and superintendent (1960-1961) in the Rosewood school. I remember when Donzil Hall was teaching at Rosewood after he first moved to the district before the consolidation. He was told he would be teaching seventh-grade English. Although this was not really Donzil’s favorite subject, he complied with the principal’s assignment. It was a real challenge for him, but he gave it his best, working as hard as the students did. He told me he learned more English that year than he ever had. We had a good laugh about that.

Parents in general were skeptical about the consolidation and change. Most were concerned because they didn’t want to lose the high school that had served as the center for their neighborhood. I had enjoyed teaching in the smaller school because it provided close teacher, parent, and student relationships. In the time I spent at Rosewood, it became possible to know most of the parents in the school district as well as all of the students.

I went to Graham when the consolidation became effective to teach industrial arts and to supervise the transportation program. At the completion of consolidation, Graham had accumulated 34 school buses, and a change in the school transportation became necessary. Before this time, the transportation program was a series of routes coming to designated buildings with shuttle runs to get students to their buildings. This method was time-consuming and many pupils were required to ride two or more buses to get to their buildings. Some students were on the bus an hour or even longer.

After the new addition at GHS was done, the attendance areas were reorganized, with grades nine to twelve attending the high-school

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building. The St. Paris building became the junior high, housing grades seven and eight. Rosewood and Christiansburg became Graham North and Graham South, respectively.

With this reorganization came changes in the transportation program. A system of dual routing was being promoted by the State Department of Education. This system required changing the arrival and dismissal times at the high school and elementary buildings, which would allow the buses to run multiple routes. One hour was established between the high school, junior high, and elementary buildings. With these changes, a dual routing plan was drawn up and approved by the school board. This program was accomplished with only twenty buses. All students were transported directly to the building of attendance, and no student was on the bus more than one hour, with most students arriving within forty-five minutes or less.

I left Graham in April of 1966 to work as an area coordinator with the State Department of Education (Division of School Finance) for the next sixteen years. My position at Graham was taken over by Mr. Lee Ludlow, who did an excellent job for many years.

DUDLEY LEE  
FORMER GRAHAM TEACHER  
AND TRANSPORTATION SUPERVISOR  
MOREHEAD STATE UNIVERSITY  
CLASS OF 1953

“Rosewood was really the pioneer in consolidation as we had consolidated with Springhill much earlier than the Graham consolidation.”

Rosewood was really the pioneer in consolidation as we had consolidated with Springhill much earlier than the Graham consolidation. Many students were not happy at first because they wanted to graduate from Rosewood rather than Graham High School. It was gradually accepted and people knew it had to be.

When I was in school, I loved my English teacher, Kathryn Kohlmeyer. Christine Miller was a good teacher as well. I remember that I was on the honor roll.

I also played basketball in high school. We played Concord, Westville, and St. Paris during basketball season, and our coach was Coach Geuy. After school, I was kept busy working on the family farm.

When I was fifteen, our home burned down, and I remember Verabel Geuy's father gave me a flour sifter, no charge, from his hardware store in Rosewood. We lived in Verabel's grandmother's home for a while after that. When I was older, I enjoyed my years in the kitchen at the high school. A cookie was a nickel. The children loved the cinnamon rolls we made from scratch; they also loved the pizza. We made that, too.

We were proud of our school at Rosewood and at Graham. My dad, O.D. Clark, always told us to never vote against a school levy. Never! I am also proud of my great family. I have three children; Kay Shaffer Storts graduated from Graham. Good luck to all of the Graham school children and the cooks.

MARCELLA CLARK SHAFFER  
ROSEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 1935

“It was a great sacrifice and the community voted to make it happen for the good of all of the children.”

When the consolidation was beginning to be discussed, I was on a committee to meet with Riverside and Graham. I voted for Graham! We lucked out!

I can remember the sale at Westville school when they sold their furniture. It was a great sacrifice and the community voted to make it happen for the good of all of the children. I know it wasn't easy to close the school.

During my time as a student at Concord, I had a second-grade teacher, Verabel Geuy, who was a favorite of mine. Concord built a new gym at that time and it was exciting. My Dad, Ray S. Dill, was on the Concord school board. Once while in the third grade, my teacher sent me in the hall for something I had done (or she perceived that I had done). Mrs. Geuy saw me and said, “Why are you out here?” I told her and she said, “You won't be here long!” And I wasn't!

My parents later moved to Rosewood and I went there the rest of my school years. My favorite teacher was Ralph Friend, a great coach and teacher. We won the County Basketball Championship in 1941. John and Don Van Horn, Ray Maurice, Charlie Roesser, and I were the starters. Our coach was Mac Ralph Friend. When school was over, we made hay and cultivated our crops. It was a busy time.

Years later, I ran for school board at Graham after we were voted in as one of the consolidated schools. I was elected to represent Rosewood serving two terms. My wife and I had three children who attended Graham schools: Doug, Debbie, and Dennis Dill. While I was president of the school board, I got to present a graduation diploma to Doug and to Katha Calland, who later married Doug. That was a thrill. I loved the school!

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At Graham, our children enjoyed all of their teachers. They received what was needed to contribute to life. I am proud to say I am in the Graham School District yet today. I work for and support all of the levies that have made the school as great as it is. We all work together to make the school the best ever.

As a farmer, I believe good agricultural teachers make a difference. The friendly people who live in our district also make it special. We loved being friends to the parents of students who attended Graham. This year, it was wonderful to see all of the Ward family cheering for my granddaughter when she was crowned Fair Queen. It is good to share happiness with others.

I believe that Graham schools are the greatest schools in the county. We have great educators for our students, who then go on to college and are successful. Our school buildings are wonderful! Just look at our new elementary building.

I was on the school board when we hired George Dallas as our superintendent. He was a great guy, and now I look forward to touring the new building. Students need a good education to learn how to meet the public and select a vocation. We want to help all students find a vocation and a good job.

*Note: While this interview was being conducted, Louise Barger Ferryman, who graduated from Rosewood in 1947, happened to sit down in the Graham Schools fair booth. She said, "He rode my bus, and we just loved that the high school boys were on our bus. They were so nice to all of us."*

KERMIT DILL  
FORMER GRAHAM SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER  
ROSEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL  
(ATTENDED CONCORD FOR 10 ½ YEARS)  
CLASS OF 1941

“No one can ever take the knowledge you gain in school away from you...never.”

In the beginning, we all believed that the Graham consolidation was too big, too many miles to cover for the buses. We thought it would never work. But it did. The attitude of the people in the Graham schools is what makes us different. I hope that they can save the old school IF it is safe. If they can repair it economically, it would be great. But if not, so be it. I am 97 years old this year.

I graduated from Rosewood in 1928 and remember Waldo Zerkle as a great teacher and administrator. I also remember when milk was a dime for the entire week at school. We had spelling bees and deciphering bees every Friday. We went to the blackboard and had math and spelling contests. It was such fun and great practice. I started school in Cable, but spent my childhood in Rosewood, where I had a teacher named Harlena Friend. She taught first and third grade, and made all students feel welcome. I still remember that after all of these years. I played piano at school for the school quartet, and Mr. Harbaugh was the music teacher. He wrote the Rosewood school song.

After graduating, I attended the Dayton Teacher's College and earned a two-year degree. I taught first grade for 35 years at Concord, Urbana, and in Quincy in Logan County. I am so proud of my family including my son, Dean, who works for Graham schools. I have more than 40 grandkids, great-grandkids, and great-great grandkids.

No one can ever take the knowledge you gain in school away from you...never. You must have wisdom to know how to use the knowledge you learn in school. I encourage every student to take advantage of each and every opportunity throughout life.

VERABEL HOFFMAN GEUY  
ROSEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 1928

“Most people thought the school district would be too big, and they could not justify this type of move.”

When the consolidation was first discussed, I was on the initial discussion committee from St. Paris. Most people thought the school district would be too big, and they could not justify this type of move. The transportation was a problem for everyone. We wondered how we would transport all of those children so very far to a high school away from their home community. Most of our families gradually accepted the consolidation with open arms.

It was an exciting time! When they were building the new high school, we would ride out after supper and watch the progress. My husband, Hank, and I took our girls to allow them to see the building grow into a grand school.

The Graham consolidation brought strong families together, and it was good because the majority of the people and their ideals were similar. We all agreed on what made a strong family and a good life.

As a student, one of my fondest memories was running home to 444 East Main Street each day for lunch. I could even hear the first bell ring in the morning from my back porch, run to school, and make it in time for class. I do remember all first graders had to be six before school started. Back then, there was no kindergarten. If you were not six, you had to wait until the next year. Marjorie Apple got to start school with me, Margery Zerkle. I was always on the end of the alphabet class list, and Marjorie Apple was always at the beginning. We were good friends for twelve years.

I loved all of my classes as well as my teachers. My first-grade teacher was Norma Sarver Rushaw, and Mrs. Josephine Shank was my second grade teacher. I loved Miss McBeth because she made all of her classes interesting. In first grade, Karl Leasure, who was killed in the

war, and I were good friends. We wrote a note that said, "I love you" and the teacher found it. She sat me in the hall for it. I was so mortified! She told me that she would call my mother and that my parents would be very sad and upset. Karl and I were only in the first grade and were just little school friends. When I got home, I was so scared, but my mother never mentioned it. I don't know if the teacher called her or not, but I never forgot it.

I played basketball in school, but I wasn't very good. I was better at the violin and was first chair in the county orchestra. I played the piano and organ as well. When we played basketball, we wore our galoshes all day so our feet and legs would be light during the game. I think Mr. Burrey was our coach. He taught science, and we all wanted to be in his class because he took all of the students, boys and girls, outside at night to study the stars. That was a first for us; it was different and exciting.

After school, all of the kids in my class would walk uptown, but I had to go home walking east. I was so sad about that. I never ever got to walk uptown with the gang. It felt devastating then, and I still can remember that feeling.

Later, I worked at Nellie's and waited table. I got paid fifteen cents an hour until Nellie was in the hospital and then I earned ten cents an hour. Nellie's was where Tom Roush had his barbershop downtown next to Kite Chevrolet (what is Thornton's Carpets now). Ida Clem Jordan made the pies fresh every morning. Nellie Clem made all of the Coke syrups herself. If you wanted a chocolate coke, Nellie would squirt the chocolate syrup into the Coke; the same with vanilla or cherry. I used to remember those recipes. Most of the customers ordered the ground-beef steak and fries. We would peel potatoes ahead and have them in big jars of water so we could cut them and fry them quickly. We used a big tin pan for the potatoes. We made our own slaw as well. The Top Hat was open, and the Knulls owned that.

I was a good student; my homework and studies came easy for me. I placed first in the county academic tests and was first in my class. The only memorabilia I have of that accomplishment is a letter from

Reader's Digest saying I would receive a free subscription for the magazine because I was the top academic student in my class.

Because of WWII, though, we did not have a formal graduation. We didn't even get graduation diplomas. It was a difficult time. The unknown was frightening. You must remember that it was wartime; there were more important things to think about.

There was no more school after we declared war in December of 1941. All of the boys in our senior class and all over the country either joined the service or got a job or worked on the farm to provide food for everyone. I remember the day war was declared. We were sitting in the study hall listening to FDR on the radio when he said, "This day will go down in infamy!" Our teacher, Richard Putnam, looked at me, and we knew that my boyfriend (later to be my husband, Henry Balmut) and Richard himself would be going to war. We all grew up overnight, and life was never the same for a long, long time. We sat in study hall for quite some time. There were no words!

We had strong teachers in all of the schools: St., Paris, Westville, Terre Haute, Concord, and later Christiansburg-Jackson and Rosewood. Those teachers were the catalyst, the beginning of our strong academic system. They set the tone for what is Graham today. Once we were having a meeting at our house, and my husband, Henry Balmut, was playing cards on the floor with our daughters, Marcia and DiAnne. When math teacher Bertha McBeth entered the house, she said, "Don't get up. I think playing cards is one of the greatest exercises for students. They become good math students when they can play cards. It is great practice."

I think there is more progress in Graham now...more than we saw in the early days. I was the secretary for several of the high school principals and found Mr. Shank to be one of the very best. Along with my newspaper reporting, I covered all of the school-board meetings and really got a feel for who was supportive of the school district. People today are very serious about learning, not as stubborn in the belief that there is only one way to learn. We seem to be more accepting of diverse ways of learning.

I am proudest of marrying Hank Balmut and having my children and grandchildren all grow up in this area. The values that we learned from our early childhood and families carried over to today. Our daughters, Marcia Ward and DiAnne Doss, both graduated from Graham, one in 1964 and one in 1967, and then they both graduated from Wittenberg. Some of my grandchildren—Katie, Vincent, and Anthony Ward— also graduated from Graham, and now my great-grandchildren will be going to Graham. My great-grandson, Anders Setty, will be in the first grade this year in the wonderful new building and will graduate in 2019! What a legacy!

We are very proud of the Graham schools and wish them a wonderful anniversary!

MARGERY ZERKLE BALMUT  
JOHNSON-ST. PARIS HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 1942

“I am the last living member of the class.”

I graduated from Rosewood in 1929. With twenty-eight members, my class was the largest class that graduated from Rosewood. That's hard to believe with the size of graduating classes today. I am the last living member of the class.

When I was in school, we did not have a gym. We practiced basketball outside when weather was fit, and then if it wasn't, we played above John Huffman's feed store that later was X-Cel Feed Mill. We had to play all of our games at other schools. One time when we were playing above the store, I fell against a window and cut my arm. I still have the scar today.

My favorite teacher was Harvey Loudenback. He inspired his students to care about their educations. Years later, I drove the school bus for twenty-five years, but the name of the district changed over the years: Rosewood, Harrison-Adams, and Graham.

DALE BENHAM  
ROSEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 1929

“The consolidation was inevitable as the small schools were being threatened by the state board of education.”

Congratulations to the Graham Local Schools! I served on the very first Graham Local School Board from 1954 until 1960. I also served on the Champaign County School Board in 1961 for seven years and was a County Commissioner for eight years. I am very pleased to have been a part of the Champaign County Transit Service. Tom Botkins wrote a grant with the data from my survey, and it was accepted and went through. This system provided transportation within the county via small transit bus for persons who had no other way of traveling.

I attended Terre Haute for eleven years and Westville for one year, my senior year. I then received two diplomas when I graduated. My personal favorite subject in school was history when I was in grades three to six. One of my favorite teachers, Dovie Collin, died at the age of one hundred. She was a great lady and teacher. When I was in school, there was no time to do anything but work. There was not much social life but plenty of work to do on the farm.

The consolidation was inevitable as the small schools were being threatened by the State Board of Education. They were going to be closed, with their charters revoked if they did not consolidate. I knew our children would receive a better education if we could join ranks with St. Paris and Concord. We knew we had to offer more courses and diversify to support students and their interests. I wanted to see all the children together and offer them the best we could. It is good to see that Graham still offers more and varied courses each year.

Christiansburg and Rosewood decided not to consolidate the first time we talked. Bob Ward and I represented Westville, Woody Hagans represented Concord, and Don Solt and Don Finlay represented St. Paris. The first Graham Local School board members were Don Finlay, Don Solt, John Hite, Robert Pond, Merrill Johnson, and me.

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Some people continued to object to the consolidation. St. Paris and Westville took the lead and spearheaded the mission. We bought 36 acres from Mr. Gene Printz for about \$8,000, and today that is the high school at 7800 W. St. Rt. 36, just east of St. Paris.

I was also involved with the hiring of our first superintendent, Carlton Bricker. There was a vote for either Hank Campbell from Westville or Mr. Bricker from Weston. The board vote was split 50/50. I was the last to vote, and I cast my vote for Mr. Bricker. County Superintendent Harvey Loudenback supported this decision as well. We selected the name "Graham" in honor of A.B. Graham, teacher and founder of the 4-H Clubs of America. Other names such as Blue Ridge and Shawnee were discussed, but Graham just seemed to fit.

I have the highest respect for Graham Local Schools. I hope I have helped make them great. The families of our area are good, strong people who support education year after year. We have a close-knit community. Our reputation was earned from the beginning, and we have tried to live up to that. Great education will only continue if we have strong, fair discipline. That must be enforced.

It is my hope that the Graham schools will continue to be competitive in all areas: academics, wrestling, football, basketball, baseball, and all of our sports. We have a strong rural heritage to maintain, and I know we will continue to be an excellent school system.

MARVIN STEVENS  
MEMBER OF FIRST GRAHAM LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD  
TERRE HAUTE HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 1936  
WESTVILLE SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 1937

FRANCIS STEVENS  
TERRE HAUTE HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 1933  
WESTVILLE SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 1934

“Some of my dearest friends were from those other schools.”

I attended St. Paris until we moved to the high school in 1960, and I graduated from Graham in 1964. At first, I felt that St. Paris was better than the other schools and we would remain in our own cliques. WRONG! Some of my dearest friends were from those other schools.

I have many fond memories: 4-H; slumber parties; parties at Linda Massie's, Sondi Howell's, and Sally Wickham's houses; summers at Harmon Park; Fall Festival; the fair; Lakewood Beach; and all my great friends. There were school musicals, homecoming and prom, and my homeroom buddies. I'll never forget the class trip with Mr. and Mrs. Hall and Mr. Shank's morning announcements. My favorite teachers were Mrs. Pauly in English and Mrs. Peirson in music.

At school, we liked to talk, pass notes, and participate in music programs. After school, we attended sporting events, and went to the local restaurant after school to drink soft drinks and play the jukebox. We would sneak into the drive-in and go to Paul's Pizza in Urbana.

Graham is a great community. Everyone knows and cares about everyone. Some of the former classmates still keep in contact and get together at least once a year. You don't see that happen in larger schools. Most of the staff from school even knew our families and our backgrounds. All of my family lived in the area, and I am proud that I was involved in service to others both then and now.

Family, education, and religion are the foundation of what we become as adults and form us for our adult life. From what I hear and read, Graham has a very good future providing excellent education.

CINDY MCCULLA SNIPES  
GRAHAM HIGH SCHOOL  
(ST. PARIS)  
CLASS OF 1964

“Later when a booster club was formed, the people forgot about Westville, St. Paris, and Concord. It was now GRAHAM.”

As I remember, it was agreeable with most people to consolidate with St. Paris and Concord. Later when a booster club was formed, the people forgot about Westville, St. Paris, and Concord. It was now GRAHAM.

My memories of working in the kitchen were special to me. I spent 24 years in the kitchen along with working all of the Booster’s Banquets. I loved it and made many friends.

One of my special memories was the sports area. I was and still am a sport’s fan of Graham. As grandparents of four boys, my husband, Philip, and I attended as many baseball and soccer games over the years as we could.

The great number of students who have gone on to college and graduated with honors and made a place in the world with their knowledge shows that Graham has been an influence in their lives. Although I didn’t go to school at Graham as a student, I still thought that Mr. and Mrs. Pickering were wonderful teachers and that Ruth Peirson was a great music instructor.

Graham is a great community. The addition of Christiansburg-Jackson and Rosewood made the west side of the county one big community of friendly people concerned for the future of the students. I’m proud to say my children, Dennis and Patty, graduated from Graham and four of my five grandchildren graduated from Graham.

The future of Graham looks very good with the new elementary opening soon and the high school and middle school going great. The education of the students is the main purpose of the school, and we pray it continues to be the best school in the county. At eighty-one,

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I am still a loyal fan of Graham. When the band plays at fair or any place, I'm one of the first to stand and applaud them!

RUBY KITE KAUFFMAN  
WESTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 1943

“There were definitely some hard feelings about the choice of direction and how we should proceed. Those feelings have completely healed now.”

I was on the Harrison Adams school board in 1961 when the Rosewood school consolidated with the Graham District. There were definitely some hard feelings about the choice of direction and how we should proceed. Those feelings have completely healed now.

One of my fondest school memories of my school years was being able to participate on the Rosewood baseball team as a freshman and play all through high school. My favorite subject in school was history. William Gaver was our high school superintendent, and he also taught different academic subjects. When I graduated, I was valedictorian of my class.

Education is important and is the foundation for every walk of life. Teachers who have a real interest in their pupils, compassion, and a desire to promote moral purity are equally important. I had that when I was in school.

CHARLES MOORE  
ROSEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 1940

“There was no political gain in the rural community. It was just unselfish service.”

My wife, Bonnie, and I have been supporters of the Graham Schools from the beginning. I served as the Graham treasurer in 1964 when Art Buzzard was superintendent. I also served on the Graham School Board in 1968 and later served to complete the term of another board member. Our son, Greg, and his wife, Marcia Balmut, graduated from GHS in 1964, while our daughter, Sally Ward Pickarski, graduated from Graham in 1968.

My first memory of the consolidation was the issue of the location of the new school. The community wanted a central location on a well-traveled road. The initial discussions started with Concord, Westville, and St. Paris. Everyone knew we had to consolidate. Christiansburg and Rosewood joined the consolidation later after the state told them they had to.

The feeling of community was established early. Respect for the schools is still there and we are proud of that. It was a common thing to be critical of the school and the board of education, but the board members wanted to help students. There was no political gain in the rural community. It was just unselfish service. When I look back at all of our schools and their histories, singular and conjoined, I believe we have an amazing facility.

There was a drive to educate the student, to serve the family. Regardless of the buildings you have, you could not give an education to the student; you had to provide the opportunity, and then all parents, students, teachers, and administrators had to work together to make it happen. An example of this was the Graham Boosters Club, which was started by the parents in the very beginning of the consolidation. It really brought everyone together then. Over the years, the quality of the school board members, teachers, and administrators have brought us to where we are today.

I graduated from Westville in 1940. There were 24 students in my graduating class, the largest Westville class to graduate at that time. When I was in school there, Al Hughes, the seventh- and eighth-grade coach, was a great person. He was the first male teacher I had ever had and he had a great interest in athletics. He was fair, accepted no foolishness, and was strict. He really left his mark on me.

As students, we worked before going to school. We went to school and came home and worked after school as well. There was no time to do much else.

Mr. Price was the Superintendent of Westville and Terre Haute for 37 years. Westville had grades one to twelve, while Terre Haute had grades one to eleven. If you wanted to graduate, you could go to Terre Haute for eleven years and then finish the last year at Westville. There was only one school board for both schools. Mr. Price was a stabilizing factor for Westville and Terre Haute. He lived next to the school in Westville, but every summer he moved his family to the hill country in southern Ohio, near Gallipolis. He wrote poetry there and contemplated his life and educational philosophy.

Lowell Stevens would prepare the school and have it ready for students and Mr. Price in the fall. He oiled the floors and had everything spic and span for the return of the students and teachers. It was a very special time and place, and now our consolidated schools continue this legacy. Graham has become a special community because of our knowledge of the five communities—Westville and Terre Haute, Concord, St. Paris, Christiansburg-Jackson, and Rosewood. There was strong commitment and pride. It has continued to make our school strong. Each of our feeder-school areas still maintains pride in its community.

Today, I am especially proud of our Graham Community Foundation. We have more than \$86,000 now in 2007 and realized the first \$10,000 in 1991. It is money dedicated to allowing students to further their education and comes from all of the consolidated schools. Our children furthered their education and earned their college de-

FOXFIRE AT GRAHAM: WE COME TOGETHER

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grees. We are pleased to be able to help students of today continue to gain knowledge with help from their community.

Bonnie and I are proud to be part of the Graham Schools.

L. DOW WARD  
FORMER GRAHAM LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER  
AND GRAHAM LOCAL SCHOOLS TREASURER  
WESTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 1940

“My fondest memories are of my classmates.”

I graduated from Westville. My fondest memories are of my classmates. I loved to play baseball at school. My favorite teachers were Florence Tipper, J.R. Price, and Dolly Steinberger. I am proud of my family that I raised.

ROBERT A. FROST  
WESTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 1945

“I believe that combining the three original schools — Westville/Terre Haute, St. Paris, and Concord — taught us about unity and getting along with one another.”

I attended Terre Haute from second through eighth grades and Westville for all four years of high school graduating in 1957. At the time of the consolidation, I remember we were asked to send suggestions for the name of the new school. We really did not want to lose our school at Westville, but I believe that combining the three original schools—Westville/Terre Haute, St. Paris, and Concord—taught us about unity and getting along with one another.

I am very proud that I graduated from high school. One of my favorite teachers was Mr. Waldo Zerkle at Terre Haute. He made us feel great about school because he really cared for his students. We had many friends there as well. After school hours we played baseball, basketball, and just messed around. My favorite thing was gym.

I see a lot of promises filled in the Graham schools today both by teachers and students. During our 50th reunion, we were asked what to do about future reunions as our class was the last class to graduate from Westville. I think we should start holding an open class reunion. In other words, not pick out any special year, but just invite all classes to the reunion. Instead of reading off the names of classmates, have all the classes stand up, one class at a time. This would help bring attendance up and also show which class still has the most pride.

FRANK KEIFFER  
WESTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 1957

## “Life has been good!”

My school years in this area began in the second grade with Lillian Hartzler’s class. In high school, I remember that Mrs. Faye took her lunch period to teach me trigonometry. She loved math and I struggled in this subject, but she felt I should take it for my entrance into college. She was great and so sharing. Without her confidence in me, I probably would not have done as well as I did. What a great teacher and friend!

After school, we all went home to work on the farms. We had no choice! Hugh and I sang a lot. We had a good family life: church, grange, youth groups, 4-H. Most kids wouldn’t even know what these are today!

Even though we were living in the 50’s, girls could not attend school while pregnant. Miss Leedom and Mr. Sager let one of our senior girls do the homework and be homeschooled to allow her to finish her credits and graduate. She was not permitted to participate in the activities, but they felt she deserved to get her certificate by working on her own. She would bring the work in after school. Education was important then and it is important now.

I liked many subjects and all of my teachers while I was in school: Miss Leedom, Mrs. Wilgus, Mr. Sager, and Mrs. Peirson. I completed college, took graduate courses, and have reared seven children.

Life has been good!

ELSIE ANAPLE  
CHRISTIANSBURG-JACKSON HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 1950

“Education is vitally important and we should instill the desire to do the best in all students.”

These were rather unsettled times with students shuffled all over. Consolidation was really not discussed in my home. My father and mother, Kenneth and Mevaline Purk, supported the movement totally. Mother worked at the high school as a study hall monitor. My father was a farmer.

Hailing from St. Paris, I attended “K” at the Lutheran church under the tutelage of Mrs. May. I attended St. Paris through the fifth grade, went to sixth grade at Rosewood, seventh and eighth grades at St. Paris, and then went to the high school.

My first-grade teacher, Mrs. Winnenberg, thought I talked too much. I asked lots of questions. She was rather punitive in nature. I always felt the best teaching philosophy was, “Each one, teach one.” Mr. Bob Bowlin was one of my favorite teachers. He was my junior-high math teacher: young, good looking, and my first male teacher. Classes were homogeneously grouped and he moved at my pace. I also loved Mr. and Mrs. Pickering. They knew everyone and our families.

I remember going to football and basketball games, Mr. Kaylor, listening to the Beatles, seeing *Dr. Zhivago*, dances in the gym after games, long weekends, the Empire Restaurant, Michael’s Pizza, and Burger Chef. We had so many good times.

Our community had a small-town atmosphere in those days, and there were many farm families. Everyone knew everyone! Mother always used to say, “Always do it well!” I was a good student and was tapped into the A. B. Graham chapter of the National Honor Society my freshman year. My senior year, I became pregnant and ended up leaving school. Some of the teachers were supportive, but I was asked not to participate in the National Honor Society that year. It

was a hard time for my parents. I later earned my GED, and at the age of thirty, went to Community Hospital to earn my nursing degree.

Now, I am the director of Student Health Services at Urbana University. I am married to Allen Parks and consider my greatest accomplishment the birth of my son, Quinn, a GHS graduate in 1994.

Education is vitally important, and we should instill the desire to do the best in all students. Don't forget they are so young, and we don't want to pigeonhole anyone. Graham does a wonderful job of planting seeds, but we do need more diversity!

NADYNNE PURK PARKS  
GRAHAM HIGH SCHOOL  
COMMUNITY HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF NURSING

“Education is a tough business, but a very good business! Work smart and hard!”

Although neither of us was in the area when the consolidation took place, expanding educational opportunities for students is one of our fondest memories. When Richard was an administrator in the district, he worked for two good administrators, Art Buzzard and George Dallas. Buzzard sold the Terre Haute and Westville School buildings. He also consolidated all seventh and eighth graders into one building. As an administrator for many years in various school districts, Richard enjoyed creating an atmosphere that would allow beginning teachers professional growth.

While in school, Dick Wisma was Richard’s favorite teacher. He helped during Richard’s first year in college. May Phillians was Mary Ann’s favorite teacher, and her favorite subject was English. After school we attended sporting events. Mary Ann especially enjoyed fun nights, cheerleading, and attending movies. Mary Ann is proudest of raising her seven children; Richard was proudest of raising a decent family.

We believe that it is a very competitive world, and, with the growth of India and China, it is going to become even more competitive. We need to start teaching Chinese! We also need to raise academic standards every year as we identify our weak areas. A new course educating students to plan for their own retirement income is essential.

Education is a tough business, but a very good business! Work smart and hard! Good luck!

MARY ANN STICKLEY VAN HORN  
WESTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 1954

RICHARD VAN HORN, FORMER GRAHAM JUNIOR HIGH PRINCIPAL  
WESTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 1953

“It just took a lot of people ‘agreeing to agree’ to make the consolidation happen.”

I remember that when the topic of consolidation began to circulate among the people of our school, there were many meetings. Most people agreed that we had to join ranks with Concord and St. Paris. It seemed everyone really got along well after the decision was made. It just took a lot of people “agreeing to agree” to make the consolidation happen. When Graham finally consolidated, we got to know new people we had never met before; it was good to know others and make new friends. We were very proud of that new high school.

One of my fondest memories of my school days was meeting my husband, Paul. He played baseball for Terre Haute, but I met him when he came to Westville his senior year. It was love at first sight for me. We usually went to the movie in Urbana for our dates. He was a wonderful man.

My favorite teacher then was Al Hughes, my sixth-grade teacher. He was interested in every student and made us all feel special. We all just loved him. Years later, I played girls’ basketball varsity for four years. Coach Hughes, who coached the boys’ and girls’ basketball teams, had started dating and then married Eve Myers. In my senior year, Paul gave me a diamond ring (most girls didn’t go to college then), and I would allow Mrs. Hughes to wear my diamond while I played basketball. I knew my ring would be safe with her. We won all four of the county tournaments! We were happy about that.

I also loved music. My senior year I was selected for the lead in the senior musical. I couldn’t believe it!

My sister, Ruby Kite Kauffman, graduated in 1943, and my husband, Paul Hill, graduated from Westville in 1937 after attending Terre Haute for eleven years. Our son, Allen, graduated from Graham High School in 1963. Later we moved to Urbana and our son,

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Philip, graduated from Urbana High School. Before we moved, I remember Philip would take a stick, put a nail in the end of it, and after football games, he would walk around the football field and pick up trash. It was his way of helping make our school even better. We are proud of our boys and so glad they experienced Graham schools.

Education is one of the most important things in all of our lives because our future depends on it. I am so proud of Graham and remember my days there with happiness.

BETTY KITE HILL WOODS  
WESTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 1939

“The local people thought they were going to lose their school; it was a difficult decision, but I voted in favor of the consolidation. It was a unanimous vote to consolidate.”

Joyce Reed Luse, Graham High School Class of 1958, remembers fondly her first football game at Graham. Leaving Westville High to join in the consolidation at Graham High School wasn't easy. Neither was learning the ABC's of football, a sport none of the consolidating schools, Concord, St. Paris, or Westville had been able to afford.

Mrs. Luse (Joyce married Eddie Luse) remembers that Judy Hooley, PE teacher at GHS, taught the fundamentals of football daily in her class. Mrs. Hooley thought it was important that the crowd understand the fundamentals so she took it upon herself to impart those. Mr. Harold P. Shank, the first GHS principal, approved.

Mr. and Mrs. Luse, Eddie and Joyce, recalled the last day at Westville High School in the spring of 1957. The principal, Harry Hoover, reminded the students they would all be together in a bigger and better school next year. Mrs. Luse said, the students cried that last day and found it hard to believe that their recent foes would soon be classmates. “It was strange to think of it,” she imparted.

D. Junior Luse, Eddie's father, now 91, was on the school board at Westville Schools for ten years. He remembers that when the consolidation was brought to a vote, “The local people thought they were going to lose their school; it was a difficult decision, but I voted in favor of the consolidation. It was a unanimous vote to consolidate.” D. Junior was born in Clark County and attended Cedarville High School. He graduated in 1933. He attended Clifton School first through eighth grade, and after a consolidation in that area, he attended Cedarville High School. He said, “I thought school was a complete

waste of my time. I didn't have a favorite subject because they didn't offer an agricultural class back then. English was okay, though." Junior, a cheerleader in his school, was elected to that position by the student body three years in a row. He said, "I wore a white shirt and red pants and my favorite cheer was our 'Hello' cheer: 'Hello, Ross! Hello, Ross! Cedarville says HELLO!'"

"I had 33 students in my graduating class and 25 of them went to Cedarville to become teachers. They were promised \$90 a month for nine months of the year. That was a good salary!" Junior laughed.

Mr. Luse married Ione Eckman, who had graduated two years ahead of him. She had eleven students in her class at Cedarville High School. D. Jr. and Ione had two sons: Eddie, who graduated from Graham in 1958 and Don who graduated in 1964. Ione taught school for 25 years at Donnelsville, Terre Haute, Graham South, and in the Urbana schools. Her final salary was \$5,700.

Eddie graduated in the first GHS graduating class in 1958. While at Westville, livestock judging was a big part of his high-school life: "We took lots of field trips with Mr. Whitney, our Ag teacher. I think we took more field trips than we were in class. After class, I worked at the Newtons and at home." Eddie attended OSU for one year, and then worked for Huffman Heating until he later purchased the business from Al Huffman. He was interested in quarter horses and continues to be involved to this day. He was a member of the Champaign County School Board and the Hi-Point School Board.

Mrs. Luse (Joyce Reed) also graduated in the 1958 GHS class. She had one older sister, Janice. "I loved school and cried my eyes out at graduation. There were 58 students in our graduating class in 1958. When I entered GHS, I thought the fun would be gone. I was wrong! Our class created deep and lasting friendships and still meet after all these years. We bonded and are one happy class. Our friendships and school memories molded our beings, who we are today. English and foreign language were my favorite classes. Mrs. Phillians was our Latin teacher and English teacher at Westville and again at GHS." Mrs. Luse later attended Urbana College and OSU and has been a teacher

for more than 20 years. Mrs. Luse said that she “feels that the greatest people are those who raise children in a positive manner and are peacekeepers. It is so very important. I believe education is much better, so much better, now!”

D. Jr. Luse shared, “When I was in school I had a class with poles in the room, and there were seats around these poles. That was in third and fourth grade with Mrs. Knott. You were not supposed to lean back. If you did, you could get your head cracked. I wasn’t one to want to study. I did play the violin and often played it in the minstrel shows. When I graduated from there, there were no tears. I laughed all the way home because I had made it and gotten out!”

The Luse family agreed that many of the families in the Graham schools today are landowners who came from families of landowners, and they came to stay. Some left and came back, came home to live and be involved in their home community. Their heritage as landowners and our consolidated communities live on forever in our schools.

D. Junior muses, “Sometimes I wonder if we should have stayed small because there would have been many more opportunities for leadership roles, but I know it wouldn’t have worked. We had to consolidate and it was the right thing to do. I remember one winter before the consolidation, Westville School was almost out of coal. Alton Gentis, Clell Oberly, Kenneth Stickley, and I formed a truck convoy and drove down to southern Ohio to buy coal to keep the school warm. That coal cost six dollars a ton. My truck held two tons and the school paid us all back.”

D. JUNIOR LUSE  
FORMER MEMBER WESTVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
CEDARVILLE HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 1933

JOYCE REED LUSE  
EDDIE LUSE  
GRAHAM HIGH SCHOOL  
(WESTVILLE)  
CLASS OF 1958

“It was a real experiment, and as students, everyone was anticipating the move with excitement.”

“We all remember the consolidation and looked forward to attending the new Graham High School,” agreed Dan and Janet Schwarm Stickley, Greg Ward, and Gary “Gus” Wilson.

Dan admitted that “Many of the adults were not sure the consolidation would really work, but the students hit it off within a week.” Gus said he was excited about the entire endeavor. He added, “It was more than sad when in 1956 Concord and Westville had their last graduations. Westville had 16 students in their class that year.”

“The world in these small rural schools was a small one, soon to become much bigger,” Greg continued. “It was a real experiment, and as students, everyone was anticipating the move with excitement.”

While reminiscing, Gus recalled that the Concord gym was a great gym especially since Westville and St. Paris both had issues with theirs: low ceilings not conducive to playing basketball. Concord had the premier gym in the area and many of the county tournaments were played there. Janet remembered the wonderful ninth-grade band and that while students rode the bus to and from football games, they began to compose the Graham “Fight Song” that is still used today.

Gus also recounted a memory from his eighth-grade year; he spent that summer at Mt. Rainer National Park in Seattle, Washington with Mr. and Mrs. Tom Rogers. Gus remembered walking 20 miles out of the temperate deciduous rainforest from base camp to Mt. Olympus with Mr. Rogers...and he had plenty of blisters to prove it happened.

Bessie Reeves was mentioned as a very special teacher. Dan said that Howard Pickering and Ruth Peirson were also favorite teachers at

GHS. He recalled that once Mr. Pickering had to remove him from the gym during a pep rally because he was acting foolishly. “Mr. Pickering,” he laughed, “meant business!” Gus’s favorite teacher, May Phillians, taught English. He claimed he could never get higher than an A- in her class no matter how hard he worked. Greg’s favorite teacher was also Howard Pickering who taught math and “made the subject alive and interesting.”

Spending time in St. Paris at Johnny Blakeman’s was a great part of after school life. A cherry Coke (a nickel) and hamburger never tasted better. Hap’s Corner was also a hangout as well as Top Hat. Gus remembered eating lots of meals at the Balmut’s, Stickley’s, and Schwarm’s. Greg usually had to go home after school to milk cows and bed the barn, but he often stayed after school to participate in sports (and to have a break from the farm work). One summer, Gus, Dan, Joe Dill, and David Shaffer went to Bear Lake, Michigan. They remembered that experience happily as well as the maturing and joy of sharing experiences like that one with friends.

Greg remarked that the Graham community has many grass-root families that were well established in the feeder school districts: “ This was one of the incentives mentioned by Honda and KTH for coming into this area to build their businesses.” The strong work ethic and efficient workers were seen in the schools as well. He added, “The Graham community has involved parents who really strive to help their children mature and grow to be fine citizens. They spend time fishing, golfing, and being a family.” All agreed they were proudest of their children while Janet fondly added that marrying Dan was another milestone in her life.

The group of Graham graduates believes that the district always drew strong people. The original three schools – St. Paris, Westville, and Concord – created a wonderful foundation for the Graham Local Schools.

As to what the future holds, Dan remarked that the district has come so far in the last few years: “It will be interesting to see where we are going.” Janet added that keeping up with all of the new technology is

not easy. She is amazed at how the students are so capable and eager to accomplish that task. Greg said the new buildings will provide the facilities, but the teacher and the student are the deciding factors.

All agreed that they were very fortunate to have grown up and experienced life at Graham in these formative years. They maintain that “The work ethic from this rural community has taken us far,” and they all hoped that we (the community) can maintain this approach and philosophical stance for years to come. All have a vested interest in it as their children and grandchildren will be here as well.

DAN STICKLEY  
GRAHAM HIGH SCHOOL  
(ATTENDED WESTVILLE)  
CLASS OF 1960

JANET SCHWARM STICKLEY  
GRAHAM HIGH SCHOOL  
(ATTENDED ST. PARIS)  
CLASS OF 1961

GARY “GUS” WILSON  
GRAHAM HIGH SCHOOL  
(ATTENDED CONCORD)  
CLASS OF 1961

GREG WARD  
GRAHAM HIGH SCHOOL  
(ATTENDED WESTVILLE)  
CLASS OF 1964

“I was the first in my family afforded the privilege to graduate.”

I remember very little about Graham’s consolidation, but I do remember my school years at Westville. I was the first in our family who was afforded the privilege to graduate.

My typical day was class, including looking at girls, pranks, and jokes. Sports and baseball and swimming were of interest. My favorite teachers were J.R. Price (math), Mrs. Carroll (chemistry), and Gretchen Tyndall.

For work, I mowed grass for the residents at Nettle Creek and Myrtle Tree Cemetery. I also helped farmers cut corn, make hay, and do farm chores during the peak season. One of my favorite school memories was being a part-time, temporary janitor during my senior year.

It seems many people shape and hold the community together. Westville High School provided education for me and many others. I had steady employment from May 1947 to 2002, except for six months.

I am most proud of my graduation and education.

DARRELL FROST.  
WESTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 1947

“In the beginning there were some adults who harbored ill feelings regarding the consolidation, but we did not see that in the students.”

Congratulations to the Graham Local Schools on fifty years of serving our students and families!

I began teaching at Rosewood in 1958, later, I taught history, physical education, and driver's education. I coached at Graham High School, retiring as Graham's Athletic Director after thirty-three years of teaching in the district.

After my graduation from Spencer High School in West Virginia, I was drafted in the military during the Korean War. After the war was over, I attended Marshall University on an athletic scholarship and graduated in 1958. Maxine, my wife, and I began teaching at Rosewood in 1958. She was a high-school English teacher.

After the consolidation was agreed upon, the new board wanted me to move to the new high school. They felt knowing the students at Rosewood so well would be helpful for the students' transition to the bigger school. I was head baseball coach and assistant football coach and, of course, had my teaching responsibilities: social studies, physical education, and driver's education.

In the beginning, there were some adults who harbored ill feelings regarding the consolidation, but we did not see that in the students. They did not wear their old letter jackets from the old schools. Quickly they began to know they belonged to a great new school. It was a very smooth transition with no complaints that I can remember.

One of my greatest memories of my coaching years was winning the state baseball championship in 1973. Those young boys were a dedi-

cated bunch, and to win the state AA Championship was a fitting end to their hard work! We beat Columbus Waterson (7 to 3) and then bested Woodville-Elmore (6 to 1). It was a wonderful season!

Another memory I cherish is when Maxine and I were advisors for the great graduating class of 1964 and took them on their class trip the summer of 1963. We traveled by train to Washington, D.C. and New York City. Seventy-two students with two teachers and we didn't have the first bit of trouble. It was a life experience that we all still remember: China Town, the boat trip around Manhattan, seeing President Kennedy in a motorcade, almost losing Steve Lush and Sue Roush on the subway, playing cards on the train. It was a great opportunity for the students, and we enjoyed it as well. I think about it today: 72 students in NYC with two teachers. I can't believe we did it!

I enjoyed establishing the first driver's education class at GHS. I liked teaching that and also my P.E. classes. For the driver's ed class, I went to Mr. Kite at Kite Chevrolet in downtown St. Paris, where Thornton's Carpets is today, and asked the salesman, Chuck McCulla, if they would supply our automobile. He loaned us a standard shift car to use for the driving lessons. I thought it was important that the students learn to drive a standard shift auto. We traveled all over the district; Runkle Road and Troy Hill were favorites.

Kenny (Hill) says I didn't want our students to be shiftless, and there is truth in that as well. Most of our students, though, were from farming families and knew how to drive tractors and farm equipment. They were good drivers of cars as well. The girls didn't like the shift, but they learned quickly.

When I remember my own childhood school, I think of the one-room school, Hillgrove, back in West Virginia. Mr. Brannon was my favorite teacher. He was in great physical condition and wanted all of his students to be in good physical condition as well. He had been in the military and that impressed his students very much. He taught us so much about health. Back then, I walked to school 2 ½ miles each way and had perfect attendance all 12 years of public school. I also

had perfect attendance in college. I taught 33 years in the Graham district and had perfect attendance during those years, too.

I always have been blessed with good health. In high school, I played baseball, basketball, and football. While in college, I played football and baseball. I guess you might say athletics has been a love of mine for a long time. I was an All-American in baseball at Marshall and earned three varsity letters in both football and baseball. It was an honor to be inducted into the Marshall Hall of Fame. My lifetime batting average was .395 and I was selected for the All Mid-American Conference team three years in a row. Athletics have played an important part in my life and how I approach and work with students.

Maxine attended West Virginia University while I was attending Marshall. She had taught one year when Rosewood's Jim Lovejoy, after a visit to Marshall, asked us to consider teaching there. When we came to visit the school, we thought we might find a motel in Rosewood; of course, that did not happen and we spent the night in Urbana. We laughed about that later.

We accepted the positions and made this our home. The people in the district were very much like our family and friends in West Virginia. We found our Graham students and their families to be hardworking and full of pride for their school. We loved this community and adopted it as our own. Our daughter, Bianca, was born in 1965 and she graduated from Graham. After Maxine passed away, I married Nancy Scott.

Today, more and more courses and opportunities are being made available to our students. I look at the schools now and think how far we have come. There used to only be 150 students in our high school back then; today we have more than seven hundred. Things continue to grow and get bigger, and we have to stay ahead of it. Advanced technology has entered the picture as well, and now we have that as part of the education equation.

FOXFIRE AT GRAHAM: WE COME TOGETHER

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It has been an honor to work in the Graham district and I will never forget those great memories and the students and teachers.

DONZIL HALL  
FORMER ATHLETIC DIRECTOR OF GRAHAM HIGH SCHOOL  
FORMER GRAHAM HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER AND COACH  
SPENCER HIGH SCHOOL, WEST VIRGINIA  
CLASS OF 1950  
MARSHALL UNIVERSITY  
CLASS OF 1958

“From the heart, we say ‘Keep up the good work, Graham! The future is up to all of you!’”

Congratulations to Graham on this milestone!

In the beginning, the consolidation was a tough sell. The smaller schools were popular and many were opposed to the consolidation. I ran for the Graham School Board in 1976 and served for eight years. We were very involved with the Boosters Club and I served as its president. I am extremely proud of being involved with the Graham Boosters. I was president when we designed the first Falcon flag in 1976-77 that carried the slogan, “Triumph with Honor.” I remember Rita Zerkle made the first Freddie Falcon mascot suit. We had started the Freddie Falcon mascot and also worked on the new baseball diamond. It was an exciting, productive time in GLS history.

Years ago, one of our favorite teachers was Mrs. Hartzler at West Liberty Salem. She taught both the second and third grade. She was a wonderful teacher. Kathleen Leedom, who taught English and literature at C-J, was excellent as well. She was fair and explained everything. Another favorite was Richard Putnam at C-J. He taught biology and was a real hands-on person. He moved all over the classroom sometimes even jumping on the desk to make a point. He expected hard work, and used the blackboard a lot.

Today, we are proud to have raised our family and sent our children to school. Our son, Bob Little, graduated from GHS, and our daughter, Debra Little, graduated from C-J. We felt confident in the schools and the community we lived in.

When I was president of the SW Ohio School Board Association, people knew who Graham was and the quality of education we were providing our youth. We had many important decisions to make; one of them was whether to join Hi-Point in Bellefontaine or the

local JVS. We chose Hi-Point and felt it was the right decision. D'Wight Peirson, Gene Hess, Bobby Ward, and Lynn Geuy were on the board then. We also consolidated all bus types around that time and went to diesel for the entire fleet.

Graham has a reputation as a good school. It is the absolute best school in the state! Most of the community in the early days was made up of farmers. I remember talking to every teacher in the district when I served on the board; there were no lazy teachers. We had many staff and management meetings in those days. Once we came close to having a school bus driver's strike. I think that was in 1977. Bus drivers are so important because they are the first people from the school that children meet and see daily and the last one they see in the afternoon. They can set the tone for the child. We greatly appreciate our bus drivers.

We are in a new century having moved from an agrarian society, from the railroad and steam to the automotive era, and then the first computers. Now there is the Internet and the technical side of education. Digital classes are now incorporated in the schools, and this is just great! It is the future right here for our youth. The community is not only local, but it is all around the world. Graham will be sending great students to populate this planet.

From the heart, we say, "Keep up the good work, Graham! The future is up to all of you!"

ED CORWIN  
FORMER GRAHAM LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER  
BELLEFONTAINE HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 1944

PAT CORWIN  
CHRISTIANSBURG-JACKSON HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 1952

“Although I did not attend Graham Consolidated Schools, one of my fondest memories from Concord was the camaraderie and friendships developed that have withstood the test of time.”

I remember watching and hearing the elder population express all the negatives regarding the Graham consolidation. Their lack of understanding and fear of the unknown were normal reactions when this type of change takes place.

Although I did not attend Graham Consolidated Schools, one of my fondest memories from Concord was the camaraderie and friendships developed that have withstood the test of time. I enjoyed math the most in school and my favorite teacher was Mr. Harold P. Shank.

We were all sports crazy in school. Everything revolved around basketball and baseball. In 1952 with twenty-eight boys in grades nine through twelve, Concord won the Champaign County Basketball Championship. After school, there was an abundance of work on the farm. Work was our life! Because of the rural setting, we had no choice but to develop a work ethic that I will definitely carry with me forever.

Unfortunately, I did not realize the need or importance for further education until two or three years after my graduation, and now realize that education is essential if the United States is to lead the world into the next phase of evolution. The Graham schools appear to be on track to be a model for other districts to emulate.

Graham is a strong community because we are a group of people working together. I ask that Graham students, administration, par-

## FOXFIRE AT GRAHAM: WE COME TOGETHER

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ents, and community continue to go forward while always treating each other with respect and dignity. We must strive at all times to maintain that inner decency and cooperative attitude that I believe the Graham population has! We must continue to exhibit passion and excitement about life in general, and, at all times, improve ourselves through education.

GENE DIBERT  
CONCORD HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 1952

“There is just no way to be successful without some type of formal education.”

I was not living in St. Paris as I was attending college when the Graham consolidation was taking place, but I do remember Rosewood and Jackson did not want to consolidate.

While at school, my favorite teacher was Bertha McBeth. She never was too busy to explain any problems we experienced in her math classes. Miss McBeth even helped me in college. St. Paris had great teachers. After school, we students hung out at Johnny's! I also liked to go to Clark's Drugstore. My crowd met at each other's homes when we weren't at those places.

I am fortunate to have lived in St. Paris since I was three years old. Many of my dearest pals are folks I've known since a very early age. I feel I am grounded and having my life this way makes me happy. Although I love to travel to different countries, it is always great to drive back into St. Paris.

There is just no way to be successful without some type of formal education. I am so thrilled and proud that our Graham Community voted to have new school buildings. Additionally, I am very proud of the creation of the Graham Scholarship Fund. Another accomplishment I am proud of is being an educator for 42 years. I loved it!

FONDA LOU EATON  
JOHNSON-ST. PARIS HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 1953

“I remember that in 1973 there were still some hard feelings regarding the consolidation, but there was also much support for the new consolidated district.”

I have been an educator for thirty-one years, sixteen of those years in the Graham Local Schools beginning in the fall of 1972.

I served as the junior high school principal for one year. Tom Jess, Steve Fine, Duane Tron were all on staff, and we had seven new teachers that year. I came to Graham after Richard Van Horn left. In 1973, I moved to the high school principal's position and remained there for four years. I spent two years in Sidney after that and came back in 1979 as the high school principal. In 1985, I served as Graham's assistant superintendent with Joe Steele; I was named superintendent in 1986, and retired in 1990.

I remember that in 1973 there were still some hard feelings regarding the consolidation, but there was also much support for the new consolidated district. We joined the Hi-Point Joint Vocational School at that time and there were those who supported that move and those who were opposed. We worked on creating a comprehensive high school that would offer a broad, abundant list of course choices for boys and girls. We added calculus, English, and history to our Advanced Placement offerings that initially were only chemistry and biology. There was a great respect among the students, the teachers, and the families.

I enjoyed being the high school principal more than being the superintendent. We took lots of grief for purchasing the land that the middle school and new elementary sit on. We bought 120 acres in 1988 for \$2,000 per acre. The board consisted of Keith Shaffer, Tom Bair, Lynn Geuy, Dick Current, and John Chambers. It was the right move and history shows that.

While I was superintendent, we had the fire at Graham South. We only lost two days of school. That took great effort to get things back to normal. Steve Fine was at the junior high at that time. Years later, I substituted as principal for Dan Eagle when he had his hip replacement. We were trying to pass a levy then. It was a challenging time. The children were wonderful, the staff as well.

My fondest memories are student-related. I remember once I had suspended a girl at the high school numerous times for smoking. She had so many detentions. One night I saw her as I was leaving school, and we sat out front of the high school for a long time talking about her potential. I told her she was about to become an adult and asked her if she wanted to graduate. She said she did, so I told her we would make a deal. She was to get her act together, and I would help in any way I could. She graduated! Years later, I saw her; she was very appreciative and smiling, so happy that she had listened, changed, and received her diploma. That happened a lot with other students, and that is what educators should be all about.

During my own school days, my favorite subject was math. My ninth-grade algebra teacher, Mr. Myron Hurley, was my favorite teacher. I got interested in math in his class. Elvis Presley and the Mickey Mouse Club were all big in the 1950's. Sharon, my wife, and I went to the Indian Lake Roller Rink during high school; we were high-school sweethearts. Next year, we will celebrate our 50th year of marriage.

I enlisted for four years in the Air Force right out of high school. I had a four-year football scholarship, but decided on the Air Force instead. Sharon and I got married, and, in 1960, I entered Heidelberg College graduating in 1964. There was a recession then and I took a job in the Sidney schools teaching math.

I am proudest, though, of getting a teaching degree and my years working at the high school. It has been good to be an educator for these many years. It was not easy getting the degree. My wife, Sharon Lyman, worked hard to send me through college. She was the secretary to the Dean of Girls at Heidelberg. I worked as a night manager

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at the local Frisch's from 5 pm until midnight, then went home and studied, and then went to school.

The Graham community has taken a great interest in their students, K – 12, and their schools. The district has weathered much together. The challenges have allowed the district to work together with the community. We have had and continue to have a strong staff, administration, treasurer, and board. Parents have taken a real interest in their children's education. The board is the boss and our boards have been steady: good board members composed of different types of people. We have the facilities now so nothing should hold us back!

I am very happy to live here and look forward to the future. Our boys, Brian and Brent, graduated from Graham High School in 1979 and 1983 respectively. They attended and graduated from Miami University. Now both boys are working with Cardinal Health. I am very proud of them.

Education is the backbone of our country. Without it, we would be a third-world country. It was a teacher who trained all of our doctors, lawyers, engineers, teachers. Teachers are the first step and education is a must! The digital technology is an absolute need, a tool, but we still need the great teacher! And I think we have them.

FRANK FOCHT  
FORMER GRAHAM HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL  
AND SUPERINTENDENT  
BELLEFONTAINE HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 1956  
HEIDELBERG COLLEGE  
CLASS OF 1964

“All of the schools coming together made Graham very different from other schools.”

I had attended school in Westville prior to the consolidation. We had fifty-eight members in our class back then. I remember we all voted on the School name – Graham – and selected our school colors – black and white. All three of the new schools were involved in that. By-the-way, I miss the old falcon on the high school; that needs to come back!

It was an exciting time although I didn't like taking the bus since I just lived the first home east of the new school. I remember walking across the front of the stage as it was being built and Mrs. Pickering who was my favorite teacher. Nellie was a tough teacher. She did not put up with anything, but when you were finished with her class, you knew what you had to know. She had me read the book, *Tolerance*. I have never ever forgotten it. I wish I could find it and would love to read it again. It left a mark on me. She and Howard, her husband, were our chaperones on the class trip. They were teachers at Westville before they came to Graham, and we were very fortunate to have them at GHS.

School was a very special time in my life. I loved music, mixed choir and working on the yearbook. Nancy Laughman Boggess was a dear friend, and I think of her a lot.

I am very glad we consolidated. The old rivalry between Westville and St. Paris in basketball quickly disappeared. All of the schools coming together made Graham very different than many schools.

I have never lived far from Champaign County. All of my friends from Graham High School are close by as well. My daughter, Abby McGowan, graduated from Graham in 1978 and her daughter, my granddaughter, Cecilia Cohn, will graduate in 2008.

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I am proud of my wonderful family and thankful I could raise them in this community where I was married in August of 1958. I didn't go to college, but I knew and believe today that education is very important.

JUDY VULGAMORE MCGOWEN  
GRAHAM HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 1958

“We had organized meetings and teachers were told to watch for trouble spots, fights, and various general problems. We never had the first problem...not one. That was the beginning of an absolutely wonderful merger of our schools.”

Congratulations to Graham on fifty years of service to our students and families!

Before arriving in Champaign County, I served three years in the Army after high school. Wounded in duty, I came home and attended Eastern Kentucky University followed by the College of Music in Cincinnati where I graduated with a BS in Music Education in 1950. I then became a graduate student at Hamma Divinity at Wittenberg University where I was interested in church music and earned my Masters in Divinity. Carolyn, my wife, and I met at Wittenberg and were married in Springfield in 1955. We both were very interested in folk and square dancing

In 1952, I began teaching K–12 music part-time at Concord. Students in each grade had music four times per week at that time. In 1956, I began instrumental lessons at Westville and Concord in preparation for the new Graham High School band.

I became the half-time librarian my first year at the high school and taught music half-time at Westville and Concord. I also helped direct the Boy's Chorus with Mrs. Ruth Pierson. In 1958, I became a full-time librarian at the high school and the first librarian for the school. The first library was a small room that later became my office in the 1960's. The newer library in the 1960's had originally been the study hall.

At one point in the early history of the library at the high school, Mr. Bricker, the superintendent, told me there would be no increase in the size of the library. He said there were other priorities and the library was not one of them. I decided to resign, and in 1961, I took a year's leave of absence and taught in Enumclaw, Washington. Except for that one year, my entire teaching career was in the Graham School District.

Though Mr. Shank urged me to stay, I declined; however, when Mr. Buzzard replaced Mr. Bricker as the new superintendent, Mr. Shank wrote asking me to come back to Ohio. I agreed, left Washington, and remained at Graham until I retired in 1980.

Carolyn's principal at Concord, Mr. Daryl Whitehead, was a good administrator. Carolyn played for all of the school musicals and taught thirty-six students in her first grade without aides. There was no kindergarten at that time. The traditional reading primer with Dick, Jane and Spot was used. Carolyn remembers that Mike Ludlow, former Graham Athletic Director and GHS librarian, was in her class at one time. Teachers were with their students all day long: throughout lunch, recess, and class time. There was no special education in those days. The children were seated at tables as there were no desks.

My wife also had Shirley Scott, the current GHS German teacher, in her class where Ms. Scott early showed the sense of organization and process needed to be a great teacher. We remember those early students with great fondness. Carolyn retired with ten years of teaching.

At the time of the consolidation, we did not live in the Graham District. I was not really aware of the discussions that were being held. I did realize that Alden McDaniel, the treasurer at Concord, was no longer signing my paycheck. This was a sign that change was upon us. Mr. Bricker, our superintendent, seemed rather aloof and removed from the mainstream.

Our first year at Graham High School, the faculty were busy moving into the new school.

We were all amazed at the length of the hall. It was so much longer than any of us had been accustomed to traveling. Howard and Nellie Pickering became the unofficial “guards” of that long hall. Later when we added to the building in the 60’s, the hall became even longer. The Pickerings were undaunted in their pursuit of order and dignity and took this unofficial responsibility very seriously, and, of course, that paid off in a fine display of good citizenship from our students. I can still see them watching the halls or hear Mrs. Pickering marching down to the office from the west business wing.

We were also very apprehensive, as was Mr. Shank, that students would be argumentative and form cliques with their former school chums. We were just very concerned that student rivalry would create an atmosphere of unrest since St. Paris was a bit more worldly and cosmopolitan than Westville and Concord. We had organized meetings and teachers were told to watch for trouble spots, fights, and various general problems. We never had the first problem...not one. That was the beginning of an absolutely wonderful merger of our schools. Students made no moves to be argumentative and really did not have much comment about sitting next to or playing sports with former rivals.

One of my favorite memories after the consolidation took place when Mr. Bricker told the entire faculty that the most important things would be covered first! His concern was that there was no mascot for the school. No one had given that much thought while preparing the school and the curriculum. Mr. Bricker wanted the mascot selected immediately and nominations were taken. I thought “Crackers” would be a novel choice, but the “Falcon” was selected.

I can remember in about 1963 or maybe later, the Agricultural Department and possibly the Industrial Arts Student Committee asked for a dress code. Mrs. Pickering had already invoked such a regulation in her business classes: no culottes were allowed, only skirts. I believe the students wanted this to also include no blue jeans. Needless to say, it was never adopted, but it was interesting that students requested it.

There were periods of adjustment. Our fifth period lunch became a nightmare in the beginning. We were trying to feed six students every minute to get everyone through the lunch line and back to class on time. We just couldn't get that line moving that quickly; the entire year it was a major problem. There were long lines in the hall and then we snaked it up the steps and around the second tier of the gym. Students were always late to class.

I remember once some very adventuresome students decided to drop a stink bomb in Cordelia Snarr's Latin or English class. Unknown to the students was the very distinct fact that Mrs. Snarr could not smell. The "bomb" was planted and there was no response from Mrs. Snarr. Only the students suffered with that prank.

In the early days of Graham High School, there was a prayer spoken each and every morning over the intercom. It was written out and students or faculty would read it. Mr. Shank approved of it and sometimes student senate would deliver it. We recited the "Pledge of Allegiance" daily as well, and we had the infamous student newsletter "The TeleGraham." Everyone took great pride in that form of public relations, and Mrs. Pickering was determined that her reporters would have their stories in on time and written in the King's English. If the story did not end in "30" it went back to the reporter for correction.

Part of my responsibility as librarian was to be in charge of AV (audio visual) equipment. I was in charge of filming all of the football games. As there were no bleachers erected yet, I took the movies from the top of a school bus. As the game progressed up and down the field, we would move the bus accordingly. Our football lights were very poor and dim, but those have greatly improved over the years.

While President of the Graham Education Association, I often attended the school board meetings. I also received much information on the books that were being banned in schools across the United States. I often made a point to buy them and found there was very little if anything inappropriate in them. It was a matter of common sense in reading and understanding. I recall once a parent complained

about a book to Kermit Dill, a GLSB member. Mr. Dill asked his son, Doug, if there was anything inappropriate about the book. Doug responded that there was not, so I ordered them.

For 15 years, Carolyn and I spent our summers at Mt. Rainer, and I was the Trail Foreman, directing a crew of five to eight. Our job was to inspect the trails to keep them open and safe. We were fortunate to take many Graham students with us on those great summer experiences: Doug McDaniel, Gary (Gus) Wilson, Carolyn Snarr, Ralph and Carl Prince, and Charlie Carter. We loved Washington and Mt. Rainer and were fortunate to share it with many local students.

During my career, I was amazed at the power held by the grass-root families, and at how quick they were to exercise that power if it were for the good of the students. In one such instance, Mr. Bricker indicated that my contract would not be renewed. He said a librarian was not a necessity. We were living at Granny McDaniel's at that time, and I surely believed I would not be back at Graham. At that point, Alden McDaniel, Mr. Merrill Lash, and Weldon Snarr paid a visit to Mr. Bricker. My contract was renewed.

Graham was a unique community and Carolyn and I chose to live here and become a part of it. It reminded me of my hometown, Hebron, Kentucky, in many ways. In fact, the majority of the new faculty moved here permanently and made it their home. Parents truly cared about their child's education here; they were most willing to embrace the broad spectrum of learning that their children wanted to experience. We all knew and loved our families, and they respected the faculty and administration. It was a special time to be in public education: mutual respect was a daily event.

A. B. Graham came to the high school twice, and I was fortunate to meet him. When he came to GHS to speak to the students in the late 50's, he was over ninety years of age. Mr. Shank, our principal, asked that the students be seated in chairs on the gym floor rather than in the bleachers because he thought the students would be more attentive if seated as a group on the floor.

## FOXFIRE AT GRAHAM: WE COME TOGETHER

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When Mr. Graham spoke, he reminded all that schools are very important. He said whether you attend school in a corn crib, a one-room school, or a modern school like Graham, you should be thankful and feel a respect for what the school represents. Mr. Graham said, "That is why no matter what type of school it may be, when I enter that building, I remove my hat!"

THOMAS WESTON ROGERS  
FORMER GRAHAM HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARIAN  
HEBRON HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 1943  
COLLEGE OF MUSIC, CINCINNATI  
CLASS OF 1950  
HAMMA DIVINITY, WITTENBERG UNIVERSITY  
CLASS OF 1955

CAROLYN RIKEL ROGERS  
REIDLAND HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 1952  
WITTENBERG UNIVERSITY  
CLASS OF 1966

“The pizza recipe that the students and teachers loved was from the government file, but the cinnamon bun recipe was Bertha Newton’s.”

At first when consolidation was discussed, no one was in favor of it. We eventually knew that all of these little schools would be closed. It was a little confusing before consolidation because if you wanted to earn a twelve year diploma and you went to Terre Haute, you had to go to Westville since Terre Haute only had eleven years of school. You could graduate from Terre Haute and from Westville.

My association with the Graham schools began when I was employed in the kitchen at Westville. Marvin Stevens encouraged me to take that job and from there I moved to the new high school and was head cook, later to become the GLS supervisor for all school kitchens. I one time I was supervising five kitchens when Terre Haute and Westville were still serving students.

After high school, I worked at Hobarts and was married in 1943. We lived on a farm north of Lena. After my sister was killed in an automobile accident, my husband Millard and I adopted her two daughters, Karen and Martha. We later adopted a son, Doug. We moved to West Liberty where we were farming, but times were tough. I really wanted to work and decided to take a cook’s position at Westville. I was there one year, but that’s where my association with the Graham schools began.

When Marvin Stevens became president of the new Graham Board of Education, he encouraged me to come to Graham High School. I wrote a small letter and asked to be considered for head cook. Mr. Bricker was the superintendent. I was awarded the cook’s position and earned \$1400 that first year! Years later, I became head cook and then GLS supervisor for all school kitchens. At one time, I was super-

vising five kitchens when Terre Haute and Westville were still serving students.

When I saw the new kitchen at Graham, I thought it was an absolute dream! I was astounded by the new, big equipment. The big steam jacketed kettle was a great piece of equipment in the kitchen. We could cook noodles, sauces, soups and other foods in it. It was both scary and very challenging, but I wanted to do this so badly. My mother always told us to do a little more than was expected of a job so I did just that, arriving at school about 6:30 a.m. and sometimes leaving after 5 p.m. On some nights, it would be 8 pm. I wanted it all to be done right. I was never tired! I thrived on the hard work and the service. I wanted to do a great job for the children and the school. We were so proud of Graham. I was head cook there for five years.

When I started there, we offered a "Type A" school lunch. I had absolutely no idea what that was. Bertha Newton was at the junior high then as a cashier and she helped me. I think lunch cost 40 cents in the beginning. I wanted to do it right and it was fun. Byford and Lottie Zerkle owned Farm View Meat Market then (where the Chalet Bakery was and now is the St. Paris Grill). They would get up early on Monday and bring the meat to the schools. It was fresh from our area farmers. Hamburger and hot dogs were on the menu weekly and for the Booster Club dinners they would cube the steak a special way.

I learned what I had to do by doing it, the best way to learn. I learned so much especially in that first month! I wanted to make the menus consist of food the children would like. We were all about pleasing the children. We were good at it because we had the best cooks; they get all of the credit. Our cooks were Pauline Sarver, Mary Spurgeon, Mary Stevenson and Ruby Kauffman was the dish washer. Margery Balmut was our cashier for quite awhile. Emma Lyons worked in the kitchen too. Jerry Carlson still tells me the greatest peach cobbler was ours. He says he can remember those big pans of peach cobbler but he would only get a little serving. I think that is great that he still remembers it. It was challenging to design a good menu. We had lots of Booster suppers.

We made all of our pizza and cinnamon rolls from scratch every week. I bought the government FILE recipes and used the government commodities as best I could even though they gave the ingredients for recipes that served one hundred. The pizza recipe that the students and teachers loved was from the government file, but the cinnamon bun recipe was Bertha Newton's. We started baking those rolls by 6:30 a.m. each morning. We used government flour, powdered milk and bought the yeast and eggs. I also joined the National School Lunch program and they sent us a magazine. I took lots of menu ideas from that as well, and it was challenging to design a good menu. We wanted to satisfy the children and their families, to feed them right.

One thing I'll never forget happened on the first day of school when I noticed that the dirty trays were beginning to stack up. I realized I had forgotten to hire a dish washer. It was frightening! One on top of the other, those trays just kept stacking up and up. I just about flipped! I called Ruby and she started right away. We were a family and I felt those children at school all belonged to me. We wanted to feed them right. I think lunch cost 40 cents in the beginning.

Another memory is of another dessert. We had lots of Booster Club suppers then and I tried to keep our supplies separated. One morning I was making sour cherry topping for cake and cooked it in a big pan on the stove. There had been a Booster dinner the night before and someone had put salt where the school's sugar should have been. I used salt in those cherries and ruined the entire pot of cherries. We had cake with no topping that day!

I credit the Booster's Club for bringing all of the families together in a common goal. We had a close feeling at those suppers, serving so many other organizations and working together. Each feeder school had a Booster Club supervisor who called and recruited help. I managed the kitchen and wanted it all cleaned up and ready for the next day after a supper.

At that time, many of our children were in school together in the class of 1964. All of the parents would sit together at the ball games,

cheering for the teams. We got together after the games and had wonderful times. We had our own adult cheering section: the Goddards, Kauffmans, Hills, Storts, Bakers, and the Bishops. We loved the students and they seemed to appreciate our support.

Now all of the retired cooks have a breakfast now and then. We meet at Castle's or Lyon's or the Airport Café. We usually have fourteen to sixteen cooks show up. I think we all dedicated ourselves to the job. We were always finding new ideas we thought the students would like. I never had a frown from any cook about anything...really! They all wanted to please as well.

Once I baked Mr. Dallas a birthday cake. It was cornbread, three round layers, with onions and dried beef between the layers. I iced it and it looked lovely. He was so surprised...and even more so when he cut it and attempted to eat it. We had lots of fun. I used to make refreshments for the board meetings. One time I cooked turkey and made turkey sandwiches. I glued the turkey bones together and wrapped them up in a box. They got a good laugh out of that. Our kitchens were NEVER in the red. All of the cooks and I tried to prepare what the students liked. We were forever thinking of that.

Our **school homemade pizza** was always a hit. Here is the recipe. We used government surplus foods in the pizza – non-fat dry milk, all purpose flour, ground beef, and cheese. This recipe was for a pan about 15 x 10, baked at 425 for about 15 minutes. For the crust we used ¼ oz. or 1 pkg. of active dry yeast, ½ cup lukewarm water, 1 T. nonfat dry milk, 1 t. sugar, 1 t. salt, 2 cups flour, 2 T. oil, melted. We dissolved the yeast in the warm water, mixed the dry ingredients, added the yeast paste and oil to the flour. Mixed until well moistened. We kneaded the bread and rolled it into a thin sheet. The cooks lined the greased sheet pan with rolled dough.

The pizza topping was 1 pound of ground beef, 6 oz. of tomato paste, 2 oz. ketchup, 1 t. oregano, ¼ t. garlic powder, 1 T. dehydrated onions, 1 T. Worcestershire sauce, 2 t. salt, 2 t. sugar, and 2 cups of shredded cheese – mozzarella. We browned the beef and drained the fat. Mixed the tomato paste, catsup, and seasonings and added to

the ground beef. Mix it well and placed it on the dough, spreading evenly. Bake for about 10 minutes at 425. Remove from the oven and top with cheese, return to oven for about 5 minutes. The children loved this pizza...and would buy extra. We never had any left.

They also loved the **Fruit-Spice cake** we made with the mystery ingredient. We never told the children the mystery ingredients were prunes. We had lots of prunes to use from the government so we experimented until we came up with this recipe. It was really a great cake..but if we had called it prune cake...they would never have eaten it. This would serve 100 students.....3 cups of creamed shortening and 3 pounds of sugar. We then added 12 eggs and beat all until it was light and fluffy. We blended in 4 pounds of prunes – after they were cooked and chopped. We sifted 3 pounds of flour, 3 T. of baking soda, ½ t. nutmeg, 2 T. cinnamon, 2 T. cloves, 2 T. salt, and 2 ½ cups of sour milk. We added to the creamed mixture alternately with sour milk. Poured the batter into 2 baking pans – about 12 x 20 x 2 - lined with paper and greased. We baked those cakes at 350 F. for about 45 minutes. They were delicious...but the children NEVER knew they were eating prunes. The secret is out now....

The other favorite was **Bertha Newton's Cinnamon Rolls!** Everyone loved them and we did too! This recipe made 19 dozen rolls – one pound of dough made 1 dozen rolls – 2 ½ inch square. Here are the ingredients:

¾ cup active dry yeast  
1 ½ qt. warm water  
1 cup dry milk  
3 1/3 cup dried eggs  
3 1/3 cup water  
20 whole eggs  
1 ½ pound of sugar  
1 ½ pound of butter  
¼ cup salt  
1 T. lemon flavoring  
8 ½ pounds of flour – 1 quart  
Nutmeg – optional

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We dissolved the yeast and dry milk in the warm water. We reconstituted the eggs if dry ones were used. We then added the reconstituted eggs and remaining ingredients. We mixed the dough until it was smooth and allowed it to rest for 10 minutes. Then the cooks would roll the dough into balls. We allowed it to rise and bake at 400 F. Then we brushed with the syrup when the rolls were taken from the oven and iced when slightly cool. The dough could also be used for coffee cake or doughnuts.

We could not make them fast enough, and the whole building would smell like these rolls! We had a lot of fun!

PEARL MAXSON BAKER  
GRAHAM LOCAL SCHOOL SUPERVISOR/FOOD SERVICES  
LENA-CONOVER HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 1936

“What an influence they were on our young lives! How do you ever repay teachers for that unconditional love?”

My name is Marcia Balmut Ward. I currently serve as principal of Graham Digital Academy, one of the first virtual charter conversion schools in Ohio. My prior assignment was teaching high school biology and human anatomy/physiology. After graduation, I continued my education at Wittenberg University majoring in biology, graduating in 1968, and completed my master's degree in complementary health education at Antioch McGregor in 2005. After teaching in inner city Columbus and at Miami East, I returned to Graham Local Schools in 1974.

Graduation from the eighth grade at St. Paris in 1960 was a bitter sweet promotion. The class of 1964 was soon to embark on four years at Graham High School, joined by new classmates from Westville, Terre Haute, and Concord. Students from Christiansburg and Rosewood would join us one year later. Consolidation was an adult challenge and most students were busy with other matters...walking up town to Mrs. Clark's drugstore, stopping at Johnny's, or going to the Gem Theatre. We were confident if we continued ice skating at Clem's Pond and riding our bikes around town, the adults in our lives would make the right decisions regarding our future education. Westville, Concord, and St. Paris schools hosted 'get to know you' parties at the close of 8th grade. It was exciting and scary! How would rivals be as classmates? Alden McDaniel, St. Paris teacher and father of Doug, eighth grader at Concord, was quick to assure us it would be "the greatest of times". He was right! I remember the Westville party hostesses were Betty Bishop, Pearl Baker, Bonnie Ward and Dorothy Storts. They had created small heart-shaped bread cut-outs with Philly cream cheese and olives. It was very elegant! I knew consolidation would be an adventure!

My teachers at St. Paris set the stage....Mrs. Ruth Wickham, Mrs. Mabel Argabright, Mrs. Helen Leffel, Mrs. May Bush, Mrs. Mary Apple,

Mrs. Katherine Thomas, Mr. Milton Lewis, Mrs. Norma Pauley. Mr. Herman Walborn, and of course, Mrs. Ruth Peirson for choral music and band. A strong staff built confident students! Our principal, Mr. Kelly Bell, was a decisive leader. We knew exactly who was in charge. On numerous occasions when my talking placed me in the principal's office (now Mr. Zerkle's office), Mr. Bell would point out my mother was just across the street and one phone call home would land me in deep waters. I tried to heed his warning.

My grandfather's meat market, Farm View Meats, where the Chalet Bakery used to be, was the purveyor of meat for the Graham Local schools. Grandpa and Grandma (Byford and Lottie Zerkle) loved serving the community. They called everyone "Sir" and "Ma'am". Grandpa arrived at the meat locker on Monday by 5 a.m. to have the week's meat for the Graham schools boxed and ready for delivery. When we cubed steak for the Booster dinners, he made me run it through the "cuber" six times...to make sure it was extra tender. Work ethic was taught by our family and our community.

As prospective freshmen we wanted to belong to Graham ...and waited for our turn at the modern school on one floor. No more steps...no running in the rain to the cafeteria...and a gym that had a ceiling high enough to shoot a ball and have clear passage to the net. These were exciting times! Mrs. Peirson colored our lives with music...and as a piano student of both she and her husband, D'Wight, I was fortunate to accompany our choirs and ensembles as well as sing in them. Donzil and Maxine Hall were our teachers, class advisors, and our dearest, dearest friends. What an influence they were on our young lives! How do you ever repay teachers for that unconditional love? They were balcony people from day one! When Bianca was born, she was OUR baby, too!

We had many strong role models to emulate! It is no wonder our class maintains yearly gatherings and cares deeply for each other. The incredible life lessons we learned from Don Grant, Kenneth Hill, Gladys Huffman, Ruth Peirson, Jerry Scanlin, Donald Overly, Carol Skeen, May Phllians, Richard Dellapina, Mrs. Ford, Mrs. Cordelia Snarr, Maxine and Donzil Hall, Ted Richter, Nellie and Howard Pickering, John

Slesinger, John Wilson, Dorothy Sommers, Willis Pond, Gene Ray, Milton Lewis, Dale Baughman, Kenna Layfield, Paul Keeran, Dudley Lee, Jan Ebert, and D'Wight Henn ...and of course, Harold Shank, our peaceful and dignified principal. My membership in the Bazenne Brothers with Sherry, Gus, Larry, Bussy, Keith, and Ray was special! We had four fantastic years of learning, maturing, and "living" the current events of the time...our President's assassination and the Viet Nam war. Somehow we survived it...even the loss of our beloved classmate, Phil Grieser, in Xuan Loc, Long Khan Province.

I remember Harry Davis, our St. Paris custodian, driving the school bus to Concord for the county basketball tournament. He stopped one night on Eris Road, made us all get out of the bus, and observe the Northern Lights. I remember Mrs. Pauley assigned a night class in the schoolyard to watch Russia's Sputnik streak across the sky. I recall Mr. Henn's insistence that I enter the Science Fair with a genetic project. Most of my fruit flies (*Drosophila melanogaster*) died but he encouraged me to try again! I can smell the sweet rolls our precious cooks used to make at Graham high school. I can see Joe Brunke standing humbly while the entire student body gave him a standing ovation! It was thunderous and continued for minutes! Mr. Henn honored him for his sheer courage and prowess at football. I remember attending the first ever GHS wrestling match and watching Bobby Jordan quickly pin his opponent. Did we know we were witnessing the start of a dynasty? And what about the big trampoline on the gym floor where the lighter weight guys would jump into the rafters...no kidding!

Chorus competitions...music programs...doing it the best ever for Mr. and Mrs. Peirson. Making sure the newspaper article you turned into Mrs. Pickering was correct or she would send you packing. Baptist Youth Fellowship at the St. Paris Baptist church filled us with faith and joy! Sunday school was a must! Jumping off the stage to start our favorite cheer...Now Here's a Cheer for Graham High, All for the Falcons, Stand up and Cry...and turning around to see not only the entire student body standing...but the other side of the gym, full of parents and community, standing and cheering as well. School

spirit was at a zenith! Lifesize memories of Lakewood and the Coconut Lounge linger yet today! Who needed Dick Clark & American Bandstand when you had Herb McBride and the greatest names in rock and roll right in your own school district every Saturday night...The Four Seasons, The Beach Boys, Lou Christie, The Crystals, Paul and Paula, The Dovells, the Orlons, and more! We all could dance the Coconut Stomp and loved doing it! Allen Hill was the best dancer by far!

This is what makes a community! Caring about each other! We worked as a team for the Booster's Club while serving dinners in the traditional black and white. We helped with Pioneer Rural Electric Day at the high school. We spent hours on 4-H projects and understood full well why A. B. Graham was such an influential man. He said, "A skill well learned lasts a lifetime!" I would have to say a skill well taught lasts forever as well.

Greg and I are thankful to have been students at Graham....to have been parents in this district and now grandparents. Wallace Hale, a St. Paris teacher and later Westville principal, introduced me to my husband at a basketball game in the 8th grade. He said, "I think you would like this young man at Westville...his name is Greg Ward!" Well, he was right! It was as if everyone was looking out for everyone...and that feeling can and does exist yet today. You really felt you DID belong!

The Graham Schools have accomplished much in their fifty years of service to the community. I am confident they will continue to do so. Our administrative leadership has been strong, futuristic, unselfish. Our treasurers have counted the pennies and have been frugal. Our teachers have worked diligently to provide the right information with multiple supports. Our bus drivers, custodians, and cooks want the job done right! Our school board has spent long hours and made tough decisions. Our students all have gifts and are waiting on us to assist in defining them! Parents are the first and most important part of this web. Yes, tools needed for learning may change! Computers and the amazing information network will definitely play a major role in the paradigm shift. But nothing can replace the sense of commu-

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nity we feel as young students when entering a brand new school! We knew years ago it had been paid for by our parents, grandparents, and friends. It was a trust...and we attempted to be worthy of it. It is true today as well. There were dedicated teachers who arrived early, stayed late, advised and created for the love of teaching and the student. And now history repeats itself fifty years later...with our new Graham elementary school.

My parents, Henry and Margery Zerkle Balmut, bought an empty lot across from the St. Paris school after WW II because Daddy wanted to build our home close to the school. He and Mother were so proud of Graham and the dream they realized to send their daughters to college. Greg and I have seen our three children, Katie, Vincent, and Anthony, graduate from Graham and continue their educations. We are thankful that our parents instilled the love of learning in our hearts...and that teachers who shared our lives were committed to the same endeavor. To be a life-long learner should be a goal for each and every one of us. I hope I have instilled that in my children as well as in my students. How do you thank everyone who played a role in this amazing experience called Graham? Maybe you simply support your schools, love all children, and make sure each and every single Graham student...belongs!.

MARCIA BALMUT WARD  
PRINCIPAL, GRAHAM DIGITAL ACADEMY  
GRAHAM HIGH SCHOOL  
(ATTENDED ST. PARIS)  
CLASS OF 1964  
WITTENBERG UNIVERSITY  
CLASS OF 1968  
ANTIOCH MCGREGOR  
CLASS OF 2005

“We laughed and talked...and it began to build our new community.”

My name is William L. Slutz but they call me Bill. I graduated in 1946 after serving in the Marine Corp from East Sparta high school here in Ohio. I am 82. I moved to Rosewood in 1949.

I was always interested and active in sports. I remember when consolidation was first mentioned. Christiansburg-Jackson wanted to join with Miami East while Rosewood was thinking of becoming part of Quincy/DeGraff. When the consolidation was decided and the work began, many persons felt that the Booster's Club helped pave the way to a smooth transition. We served a lot of banquets in the early days of the group. We selected one person from each of the feeder school areas. This “key” person was responsible for bringing more people to the meetings and to help serve the banquets. After the dinner had been served, we would sit and eat together. We laughed and talked...and it began to build our new community. The students that worked stayed and ate as well. We all dressed in black and white. It was a good time. We lined up, filled the plates of the people waiting for food, and walked in a line to serve everyone. We were organized.

I came from a family with 8 brothers and one sister. When my first wife, Margaret, died in 1968. I married Susie Wren...that was in 1969.

Mr. Miller was our principal at St. Paris. Greg, my son, started to school in the St. Paris building. When Mr. Miller retired, the community here bought him a new Chevy.

I have worked with people from all over the area but I think Graham Local Schools have special folks. The bus drivers have a lot of responsibility. I am really proud of them and used to be one for seven years.

We cannot afford NOT to vote for school levies when the state of Ohio pays for 56% of the new facility. Someone paid for our educa-

tion and now it is our turn to pay for these young people ..they belong to all of us.

I am proud to have been one of the original Booster members. I loved working with them on their projects. We all worked great together as we had a common goal...something to create unity. ...Ginny Lush's husband, Bill Dailey, was our first president. Ned Baker was the V-P. We built the first set of bleachers at Graham football field and I helped. I remember the Boosters had \$5,000 but we needed \$16,000. We invited Jack Fansler from the bank to talk to us. He was a local banker in St. Paris. Chuck Stabler was President then and I was the V-P. He agreed to loan us half of the money, \$5,500, from First Central in St. Paris while Farmer's Bank in Christiansburg with D'Wight Peirson loaned us the rest. I can still see Chuck and me co-signing on that note with eight other people.

I always pay to get into the games. I know I don't have to at my age but I want to support our programs. I go to every football game and enjoy each second of it. When we paid off the note on those first bleachers, I lit the match that started that note burning. We did it in two years.. that was a lot of banquets. I remember our high school principal then, Ron Pawloski, was watching the progress on the bleachers. We were all struggling to pick up a section and right it in place. Ron walked over and just picked one up and placed it where it needed to be. He played professional football and you could tell it. Donzil Hall, our AD, said every school in the state was envious of our support group. We never used tax payer money to put those bleachers in place...and many other projects the Boosters have supported.

For 28 years I purchased all of the food for the Booster's concession at the football games. I would buy the candy bars, etc...they sold for 5 cents and we made a penny on each bar. Pearl Baker made the coffee and the hot chocolate in the school kitchen and then we would carry it down to the stand. Others came early to pop the corn...we couldn't keep up with the need for the pop corn. I bought every thing in the beginning at Donald O'Connors in Urbana. Then I started buying in Springfield at the Lobby Shoppe. I usually bought enough

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for two games each trip. I counted the bars after each game to see what would be needed for the next time.

I loved the kids and wanted to do it for our community. That is why I drove the bus for seven years. I enjoyed talking to the children...and getting to know them. It is important.

We have a very good school with many people who have supported it from the beginning. The Boosters are still strong and are seeing to it that the legacy continues. I am taking Pearl to the football homecoming game this year...just to remember old times!

WILLIAM "BILL" SLUTZ  
EAST SPARTA HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 1946  
GRAHAM BOOSTERS VICE PRESIDENT

“When Graham consolidated we knew we wanted our children to attend Graham schools.”

My name is Dorothy Dix Sommers. At 86 I am glad to talk about my years of teaching at Graham High School. I attended Brown high school in Kilbourne, Ohio, graduating in 1939. Our teachers at Brown were excellent teachers and most had their Master's as Ohio Wesleyan had a teacher training center nearby. One of my high school teachers, Eloise Green, later became Dr. Green and was my college professor. I waited one year after high school before attending OSU where I graduated in 1944 with a degree in Home Economics. I met my husband, John Sommers, there.

I had not planned to continue teaching after my first year in the classroom. I lived with my brother, Bob, in Hebron, Ohio, and he allowed me to use his car. I had home visits to make and I taught 7th-grade English, 8th-grade math, and Home Ec. After I got married in 1945, my Dad said I should use my education and teach. We moved to Champaign County and I began subbing at Urbana Local. In 1955 I taught half the year. We lived in Salem township at the time and we were right on the line. When Graham consolidated we knew we wanted our children to attend Graham schools. Our son, Jack, started at Concord in 1952. I began teaching Home Ec and advising our FHA in 1960. Jack started his freshman year at Graham high school and I started teaching, I taught 25 ½ years before I retired and all of our children graduated from Graham.

Margaret Faulkner began teaching part time in 1972. The Home Ec department had a strong Future Homemaker's of America club. The department grew quickly and we went from two teachers to four teachers when we hired Brenda Cook Uhl and B. J. Adams. In 1969 I began the Home Ec Job Training program and we had Adult night classes. The students enjoyed this so much and the social time was important to them as well. Later we hired Emily Simpson. We were a close-knit group.

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In the beginning Mr. Shank was the principal. He came from Concord and we all felt very comfortable with him. He lived in St. Paris and therefore knew many people from the two feeder school areas. I worked for several principals but I really liked Mr. Focht. He was wonderful. He was there for the students and spent much time with them... not in his office. My personal favorite teacher in high school was my history teacher, Miss Carpenter. She was very supportive of the group training concept and used that in class during high school.

Graham had a strong farm, rural background. There were many farm families in the beginning and they had so much in common. They were active people and wanted to be part of the new school. I was very proud of my students and how well they adjusted to work in the community. We had a strong relationship with almost all of our students. I remember one young girl in the work study program who did a fine job at Wellington in the kitchen. Another young boy who began working for Howard Caven as a meat cutter ended up a state meat inspector. Another former student is now the mayor of DeGraff. I felt it was important to be interested in their lives outside of school as well as in school. If there were needs, I tried to assist with those.

When I was in high school, not many girls went on to college. I worked hard on the farm and didn't have much time for playing after school was over. My father raised Percheron horses and showed them in Ohio and out of state. There were six children in my family. My mother passed away when I was young and my dad had three children to raise. When I was 14 he remarried and my stepmother had three children so then there were six of us. Education is something we need to promote for all people. I cannot see anyone not graduating from high school and now, even college. It is difficult today to find employment without a good education. I am happy for the Graham schools and their 50-year celebration.

DOROTHY DIX SOMMERS  
GRAHAM HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER  
BROWN HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 1939  
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY  
CLASS OF 1944

“There is no way to repay the hundreds of people associated with Graham who in so many ways gave me the strength to grow and move forward.”

Consolidation was great for me! It was the end of summer, 1957, and I would not be going to Concord High School in September. I would be going to Graham High School, the result of a consolidation of Concord, Westville, and St. Paris school systems. My father, his two brothers and sister, and my older brother Bill had all gone to Concord High School. Interestingly, my mother, Anna, and her sister, Virginia, had been outstanding high-school girls' basketball players at Westville High School! I had always hoped that someday, like my brother, I would play basketball for and graduate from Concord.

At Graham I would have to compete against some really good players from St. Paris and Westville to make the basketball team, an important goal for me at that time. But there was another obstacle. Graham had FOOTBALL! What was that? Concord, Westville, and St. Paris did not offer football as a competitive sport in the school system. I had seen the Cleveland Browns play on television and I knew that Ohio State had good football teams. Even though I had not played the game, it looked like fun and I decided I would try it.

I was fortunate enough to be elected President of the first freshman class to attend the new school that fall. However, while at basketball practice later that winter, Coach Cliff Rose and my fellow teammates noticed red blotches all over my skin. My doctor sent me on a high-speed trip to Children's Hospital in Columbus. Once at the Hospital, I lapsed into a coma as a result of internal bleeding throughout my body and brain. Miraculously the medical team on duty diagnosed the blood condition known as purpura, performed emergency surgery to remove my spleen, stopped the bleeding, and saved my life. Many weeks would pass before the final residual effects of the pur-

pura and the surgery would subside, but they did and gradually I returned to school.

I went on to be a member of Graham's starting football team three of my four high school years, two as quarterback and as fullback my senior year. I also made the basketball team.

The academic and athletic programs, coaches, teammates, teachers and boosters of Graham High School as well as others from the county, came together my senior year to help me obtain a full athletic football scholarship to Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. I earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Government from Miami, and I believe "Consolidation" made this possible.

I received cards, letters, visits, prayers and get well wishes from people all over the country who had either lost loved ones or still had loved ones who had never fully recovered from the condition I had survived. But, nothing was as strong a force in my recovery and my life as the well wishes, visits, phone calls, cards, letters, and prayers I received from the people of the "Consolidated" Graham Local School District and the surrounding communities. To this day, I cherish a handmade scrapbook assembled and dedicated by Tom Rogers and his Library staff with input by fellow students and teachers and given to me in the hospital. There is no way to repay the hundreds of people associated with Graham who in so many ways gave me the strength to grow and move forward. What I wanted to do with my short story was to express my deepest and most heartfelt thanks for being who you are and for being the greatest collection of people I have had the privilege to know.

I am proud of taking advantage of the scholarship opportunity developed within the Graham Community and provided by the Miami University athletic department by completing the curriculum for and receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in Government that served as the foundation of a thirty-plus year career in government and public affairs. While at Graham I would have to say we worked very hard at finding humor in and enjoying every day and every minute, whether responding to a question in a class, pulling a prank on a classmate or

instructor, practicing for an athletic team, or just having a coke with peanuts in it at Roy Shirk's filling station in Westville while telling stories amongst friends.

Education is what enables individuals to contribute to and benefit from the very best aspects of our society. The quality of one's life is dependent upon the quality and duration of their education. If possible, I believe one should never stop learning.

I perceive that Graham Schools have grown consistently, positively, and enormously from that first year in the fall of 1957 when I walked through the door. Athletic opportunity for boys as well as girls appears almost boundless, academic excellence continues to be achieved by students, new concepts for education have been incorporated into the learning process, and my impression is that Graham Schools can compete with the best of the best across the country in preparing young people for our future. Those who want to learn have total access to that opportunity and many appear to be taking it.

GARY "GUS" WILSON  
GRAHAM HIGH SCHOOL  
(CONCORD)  
CLASS OF 1961

“A better school did not exist...and it is still true today.”

My name is James Rogan and I am 79 years of age. I graduated from Concord in 1946 and reside in Urbana. I remember that the consolidation to me was a good thing and I supported it.

I remember fondly that many people in the Concord community praised me as a young man and encouraged me to make something of my life. They went out of their way to make me feel good...by 50,000 miles. Mr. Harold Shank was one of the greatest men and teachers. He helped me so much. I love Mr. Shank and spoke briefly at his funeral.

Mr. Waldo Zerkle and many students also went out of their way to make our family feel part of the community. Other persons who helped our family were Phil Russell, Mr. Dibert, Violet Scott, and Clarabelle Taylor. When people are good to you and try to help your family, you never think you can own up to what they expect of you. All of the teachers at Concord were helpful as well. Leo Roush was a person I remember well.

My dad worked for area farmers and the WPA. I helped Dad when I could and stayed home from school if he let me. We were one of the few Afro-American families in the district. Wimpy Russell (Bob) was always there for us. If we needed something, he was always willing to help. We rented a house that I eventually bought...along with a car, washing machine, refrigerator, and stove. I had electricity installed.

After my father died, I was the head of our family at the age of fifteen. I loved baseball. I am proud that I could help take care of my family. I will go to my grave glad that I stayed in school. Mr. Shank and Mr. Zerkle helped me graduate after my dad died and I had to work. I didn't quit and was in school 2 ½ - 3 days per week. My parents, Tom and Truelove, taught us to respect all people, tell the truth, and do what you do to the best of your ability. My parents

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would be upset if we didn't do our best. We were a poor family and there were four boys and four girls.

Graham is a good district because families are dedicated to the community. Graham schools have excellent buildings and a supportive community. Concord was a great place to live. We were like one big family. God entered my life when I was just a kid. A better school did not exist...and it is still true today. The families and students in the Graham schools are special.

I used to sing a special song at church... "Sing it so low you can't hear it!" That always brings a chuckle!!

JAMES ROGAN  
CONCORD HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 1946

“I look at Graham and feel it’s going in the right direction.”

My name is JoAnn Kellenberger. I attended Christiansburg-Jackson during my first three years of public schooling and then went to Rosewood until I was a junior. I live in Urbana and had many thoughts about the consolidation. My first thought was a long time ago when I was in school. We had first through twelfth grades in Rosewood. They wanted to put all of the schools together and have one high school. The more I thought about it, it sounded like a very good idea.

My fondest memories were when I was playing basketball. I was a cheerleader also. I had many favorite teachers: Mrs. Yoder, Mrs. Ford\*, Miss Cassbolt, Mr. Friend, and Mrs. Duer. My favorite subject...well, I liked sports the best. I look at Graham and feel it’s going in the right direction.

I wish now I would have listened harder – studied harder – and then today, I would be a lot better in all the subjects – spelling, reading, and arithmetic. When I was young, I went home on the bus to the farm where I worked milking cows (by hand) and feeding the chickens and gathering eggs. We moved to Rosewood and then I had lots of friends. The thing I remember the most when I lived on the farm was this: The last day of school a girl and boy and I all decided we were going to walk home. So we started out. I think I was in the 5th grade. We went to the boy’s home first because he lived between Rosewood and Springhills. The girl and I started on down the road. We got to what we called the Gravel Pit and here came this truck. Her father and mine were in it. Well, needless to say, that was the worst whipping I ever got.

One Sunday, Dad took me into Springhills to get a paper. Well, in that paper the boy that had walked home with us that day was killed while riding his pony. Someone had hit him. To this day I am so glad I went with him and this girl and walked home. The spanking I got didn’t hurt at all any more.

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Education is so very important. I am one that wishes I would have taken it more seriously. The future of Graham is all great! They have gotten all of the schools close together, which will save on gas and many other things, too! I hope and pray they don't tear down the other schools, Rosewood or Christiansburg. This is our past and there are so many memories.

JOANN KELLENBERGER  
ROSEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 1950

“Everyone in the community had a vested interest in me and how I was doing.”

I'm Judy Estep Harp. I live in Sidney, Ohio but graduated from Rosewood in 1954. I remember the consolidation efforts although it was long after I graduated. It was the subject of many conversations because it affected my sister's kids who lived and still live in Rosewood: the Harmon family. I have lots of fond memories of school like basketball games with St. Paris, homecoming, the junior/senior reception, freshman initiation, and last-day-of-school picnics. I still remember the long tables of food.

Dorothy Duer was a major teacher in my life. I loved reading and English. My favorite teacher had to be Lena Hostetler. I learned the most when in her 5th grade. She had 5th and 6th together. I took in all the 5th grade stuff and the 6th grade came through as well. I got a running start on the 6th grade. She was terrific! Dry sense of humor!! She liked boys best but I was a tomboy so I benefited as well.

Everyone in the community had a vested interest in me and how I was doing. I tried my best not to screw up. I wanted everyone, not just my parents but everyone, to be proud. I am proud of my work ethic and raising three children who graduated from college. I did not think I could afford to go and I have regretted that decision. I would have liked to have been a teacher. My daughter is one.

While in school we liked to pull pranks and have fun. We thought we were horrible and no doubt the teachers agreed but we were pretty tame and harmless. One thing we used to do was get the key from the janitor and play basketball or dodge ball in the gym on weekends. That would never happen today. We never abused the privilege because we wanted to keep getting that key.

Education is not only important, it is vital. I see reading as the most important subject. If you can read, you can do anything. As for the future, we need to have faith in our young people. They are blessed

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growing up in a rural community where “everybody knows your name.” It is like extended family. They excel because everyone BELIEVES in them.

I do hate to see Rosewood torn down. I attended there from first grade to graduation. Out of 21 who graduated, I think there were 14 or 15 who started out together. Twelve years is a long time to be together: lots of memories, lots of fun.

JUDY ESTEP HARP  
ROSEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 1954

“The mood on the ride home depended somewhat on whether we won or lost the game.”

I was in the eighth grade the first year of the consolidation. My classmates and I were feeling just a little left out, especially those of us girls whose boyfriends had moved on to the high school. When football season came around, some of us got a surprise. It seemed there were not enough students in the high-school band to make a good showing as a marching band. A call came to the junior high for eighth-grade band members to join the high-school marching band. Needless to say, most of us jumped at the chance. We not only got to skip our last period class to practice, but we got to mingle with the “older” kids, as well as being a part of the very first Graham Falcon Marching Band (no, the band didn’t dance in those days!).

My favorite times were the ‘away’ games. The bus ride was always such fun. On the way to the games everyone was laughing, cheering, and singing. If I remember correctly, the Graham Fight Song was conceived on one of those bus rides. The mood on the ride home depended somewhat on whether we won or lost the game. It was always quieter if we lost.

I feel lucky to have been one of the few people to have been in the Graham high-school band for five terrific years.

JUDY DOVEL KIZER  
GRAHAM HIGH SCHOOL  
(ST. PARIS)  
CLASS OF 1962

“We think our community is now a consolidated community...and we think “Graham” when we think school...not St. Paris, Westville, Terre Haute, or Concord.”

We are so happy to be talking to you about Graham. My name is Judy Smith O’Harra and Wilma Sloan Lewis. We attended St. Paris schools prior to the consolidation and in fact, all twelve years of school were at good old St. Paris. We had 67 class members in our class when we began attending Graham high school in 1960 with Concord and Westville.

Many of our parents were not going to allow us to attend the new school with students from Westville and Terre Haute. They were opposed to the consolidation. They felt the school would be too big...and they were scared to death to allow us to leave St. Paris. It was a huge topic of discussion at all times. They were more concerned than the students were.

Some of our fondest memories during those years were made at Lakewood Beach, the Coconut Lounge, riding around in our cars, and heading for Lyons’ in Urbana for a burger. It was a special, special time in our lives. We had cake walks at our ball games “and then there was Ron,” said Judy! We even made dresses in Home Ec at the new school. There were no bleachers at Graham, and we watched some parents actually yell at each other. That type of commotion quickly disappeared. The students got along quite well. We weren’t having many parties then because the parents were still trying to learn how to accept one another. We found out that our new friends were friends forever. We realized this consolidation would allow us to meet and have even more friends. We all became best friends forever. We had the Top Hat, hot dogs, and just so much fun with each other.

Twelve to fourteen of our class members still meet four or five times a year. The entire class meets once a year and we have a big reunion every five years. There were five Judy's in our class...Judy Hoffman, Judy Smith, Judy Henderson, Judy Conrad, and Judy Anderson. Our favorite teachers were Mr. Richards who came from Westville, Cliff Rose, and Gene Ray in government. Wilma was our Girl's State delegate and really liked government. Mrs. Faulkner was our Home Ec teacher and she was wonderful. Bertha Newton was part of the faculty as well.

We think our community is now a consolidated community...and we think "Graham" when we think school....not St. Paris, Westville, Terre Haute, or Concord. St. Paris is just an address to us now but Graham is our school community. We think the Graham churches had a lot to do with that as well. The preachers worked together and that was good. We are so proud of Graham, more proud of Graham than I think we were of St. Paris. I think about those awful gyms we had at St. Paris and Westville...and then we looked at our new gym at the high school. It was so amazing to have the new school building...it brought pride to the area.

One of our proudest moments was realizing our dreams. Judy became a teacher and just couldn't believe it. She was teaching cosmetology at Hi-Point and really enjoyed that experience. Like Mrs. Peirson used to say, "Let's go and get this done right..." We wanted to be people just like that. When Wilma married Milton Lewis, it was a wonderful moment and her proudest accomplishment.

Wilma said, "I was nineteen on our first date and Milton was twenty-six. I was working in the office at St. Paris School and Milton was a teacher. Every day he came into the office and said, "May I save your Life today?" And then he would give me a Lifesaver candy! It was the beginning of a very beautiful relationship, and I love him."

There were five of us who were pals...Della McKeever, Carol Hagens, Judy Anderson, and Wilma and Judy. After school we would drive to Urbana to get hamburgers at Charlie Lyons'. We would sit and talk...or cruise Urbana. Gas was 50 cents a gallon then. If we ran out of gas,

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we would just push the car until we got some more. We voted on our Falcon mascot and our black and white colors. St. Paris had been the Tigers while Westville were the Cowboys and Concord was the Bruins. Christiansburg-Jackson was the Jets.

Our Senior Play was “Act Your Age” and Mrs. Peirson was the director and advisor. Once Dan Stickley pretended to be sick on stage and used a plastic “puke” patch. Mrs. Peirson thought he was really sick at first but then we all knew it was just one of Dan’s jokes. We used to call the guys “Jellybeans” back then.

You bet education is important! It is needed to learn how to love one another. Graham has grown and continues to be the best school in the area. You know, people want their children in our school district even when they don’t live in the district. The new elementary building and the new middle school are wonderful! It is truly something that we have been able to pass the levies and build these new schools. We have DONE IT RIGHT!

Our teachers instilled this desire in us to do it right! They wanted us to put our minds to it...to see that the future lies in good education. We need to teach our students to embrace this philosophy. We wanted more for our lives...and we were blessed to be at Graham when they consolidated. We are FOREVER FRIENDS!

JUDY SMITH O’HARRA  
GRAHAM HIGH SCHOOL  
(ST. PARIS)  
CLASS OF 1960

WILMA SLOAN LEWIS  
GRAHAM HIGH SCHOOL  
(ST. PARIS)  
CLASS OF 1960

“It was a wonderful group of students. We instructed them to meet us at a certain location at a specific time, and every single student was there.”

My name is Kenneth Hill and my wife, Irene, and I taught in the Graham Local Schools for many, many years. I attended Woodline High School in Whitley, Kentucky and graduated in 1953. I was very interested in basketball in high school and, of course, girls. I also attended college to continue by basketball. I attended Cumberland College on a basketball scholarship and graduated in 1961 with a degree in business. I earned my master's at Wright State in 1970. I also was in the Air Force for four years and played basketball for the Air Force as well.

I accepted a job at Graham in 1961 as a business education teacher and retired from Graham in 1991. It was a great place to be, and my wife agreed. We were not here during the early days of the consolidation discussion but have loved this district and lived here a long time. The centralization of the district was important. The joining of the elementary buildings now is a wonderful move and will add to the success of our students in the future. My wife taught at North, East, and South Elementary Schools and, at one time, closet debris fell on her books. It was time to move out of the old buildings.

One of my fondest memories was enjoying the success of our business students at Graham High School when they ranked high in the state scholarship tests. I was very proud of them. I taught a business block of classes to students at the high school interested in entering the world of business after graduation. Our Intensive Office Education and Office Simulation were important and innovative. Students played different roles and had independent study. We started the Apex Paper Company and the students ran that business as if it really existed. It was a class ahead of its time and allowed our students an

exciting course of study. They were independent to make decisions and work at their pace, similar to what I see in the GDA lab today.

Once I remember walking down the GHS hall and observed Mr. Hall and Mr. Hollingsworth having a very academic conversation. There may have been other teachers there as well. I said, “Hmmm..we are decking the Halls with Holly!”

In 1965, my wife and I, along with Richard and Shirley Snarr, chaperoned a group of our high-school students on a trip to New York and Washington, D.C. We also visited the World’s Fair. There were over seventy students and we had no mishaps. It was a wonderful group of students. We instructed them to meet us at a certain location at a specific time, and every single student was there. That was the quality of students we had at Graham.

My favorite teacher was Mrs. Campbell back in Kentucky. She was a classy person and the catalyst that made me want to be a teacher. I really enjoyed the English and business courses in high school. After college and basketball were partially out of my system, I loved teaching accounting. When Mr. Hall and I were teaching together at the high school, we shared many jokes and stories. Donzil and I never wanted our students to be “shiftless”...and that is why Donzil requested a standard transmission car for driver’s education.

My wife, Irene, and I both graduated from college in 1961 and we wanted to find a teaching job together. A superintendent from Triad had come to Cumberland to interview business teachers. My wife and I wanted to teach in the same school...and therefore we were looking for a school that had a business position and an elementary position. Mr. Buzzard, the Graham superintendent, called and interviewed us. We were hired on the spot. We immediately loved the parents of our students and this community. Forty-seven years later we are still living in the Graham district. We even purchased our cemetery plots locally...this is home forever. Everyone is friendly: parents, teachers, students, businessowners...and we love getting feedback from our students. It is great to hear from them. Our own children graduated from Graham.

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Once my brother was in from Toledo, right after we first moved here, and we were in Cain's Market, now Howard's. He could not get over that everyone knew my name and spoke to me. They said, "Hi, Mr. Hill" and that makes you feel that you belong. We were the recipients of a toilet papering and did not understand this was a friendly gesture, a way of saying you belong to the area. I called the sheriff and then later understood that this was not really a prank but was more of a friendly joke.

Education is vitally important to all children. It not only helps the student financially, it helps set the standard of life they will have. Without education, the jobs will be far and few between. College costs have increased over the years. When I went to school, almost anyone could afford it. Technology is changing the way we learn forever...education is a necessity and that will never change!

KENNETH HILL  
GRAHAM LOCAL SCHOOL TEACHER  
WOODLINE HIGH SCHOOL  
KENTUCKY  
CLASS OF 1953  
CUMBERLAND COLLEGE  
CLASS OF 1961  
WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY  
CLASS OF 1970

IRENE HILL  
GRAHAM LOCAL SCHOOL TEACHER  
CUMBERLAND COLLEGE  
CLASS OF 1961

“Graham’s reputation speaks louder than words.”

Nan and I were married in December of 1953. We moved from Columbus to Rosewood in 1957, and cricket sounds replaced sirens and the traffic of the city. There were employment opportunities for graduate engineers with the District 7 Ohio Department of Highways office in Sidney. Rosewood Superintendent of Schools, John Fazzini, was our neighbor. Lena Yoder, who as “Miss Hostetler” had been my fifth and sixth-grade teacher, was still teaching at Rosewood. We were comfortably anticipating that our daughters would be enrolled at the same school I attended for 12 years. We were looking forward to having our family educated in the Harrison-Adams school system.

Graham Local had been established with the consolidation of the Concord, Johnson-St. Paris and Westville districts. In the 1950’s, the Ohio State Department of Education was pressuring smaller local school districts to consolidate just as had been done 40 years earlier with the State Legislature’s 1914 Education Act. In 1911, the forward-looking Adams Township School Board, influenced by Superintendent Asa B. Buroker, who almost single-handedly sold the consolidation concept to the voters, constructed the original Rosewood building. This move brought all of Adams Township school facilities under one roof. Adams Township thus became one of the first rural school districts in the State of Ohio to completely consolidate their one-room school districts.

In the late 1950s, there was much discussion with many varying opinions about which new district, if any, Rosewood should join. There were four possible directions to go: join with Green Township from Shelby County, join with Quincy and DeGraff from Logan County, join with Salem Township and West Liberty, or join with the recently established and operating Graham Local District. We were finally convinced to drop the opposition charade and became strong supporters of the Graham consolidation. The community voted to join Gra-

ham Local and in the fall of 1961 our eldest daughter, Patricia, started attending the first grade at Graham North Elementary (same Rosewood building, new name). The transition was not without problems. In the fall of 1960, the 1961 senior class, the last to attend Rosewood, insisted that their diplomas carry the Harrison-Adams School name. They threatened to boycott Graham School their Senior year, and many Rosewood students made plans to move to other districts. Fortunately, cooler heads prevailed, a compromise was made, and their 1961 diplomas carried the names of both Graham Local and Harrison-Adams School.

I have many fond memories of school picnics during the early 1940's. They were always a happy community feast with all kinds of covered dishes, fruits, salads, and more pastries than a growing boy could imagine. On the last day of school celebration, 1944, I think, a major storm struck at noon. Just as the serving lines were started, all of the lights went out and it was quite dark while the storm raged. The Rosewood baseball field, pride of the community, was exceptionally well kept and had modern lights for night games. Every light pole was broken off by the wind. The lights were never replaced.

I remember seeing the 1941 Champaign County Championship basketball team with Kermit Dill and my uncle, Ray Maurice, both starters. I also saw John VanHorn on both the 1941 and 1942 championship teams stand in the center circle of the gym floor, shooting through a roof truss with very few missed baskets. More of my memories include Miss Fanny Bossler, third-grade teacher, whose exceptional aim with chalk or eraser was the first major experience we as a class had with "corporal" punishment; the annual Farmers' Institute; and Miss Hostetler, later Mrs. Lena Yoder, who had very few problems with discipline in her 1940s fifth- and sixth-grade classes that she taught both in the same room for many years. She later was principal of Graham North Elementary for several years. She used her so called paddling machine only twice during the two years I was in her classes. The person receiving punishment was required to stand at the front of the class, bend over, clasp and hold their ankles while the entire class lined up and filed by. As they passed, each student was required

to give the offender one swat with a yard stick. With the two classes totaling 35 to 40 students, one swat from each was sufficient to get the offender's attention and reinforce their memory. Requiring use so rarely certainly proved the efficiency and effectiveness of this method. It would not work today! Not politically correct.

I remember Mrs. Ford (Abe – her maiden name was Lincoln), Miss Estelle Marshall, Mr. Elton Miller, Mr. Robert Sanders, Mrs. Dorothy Duer, Mr. Herbert Wert, and Mrs. Vivian Calland. I met my future wife, Nan, in fall of 1951 at a Friday night dance in the St. Paris gym, followed by a Saturday night community Halloween dance held in the Rosewood gym. Schools in the 1950s were centers of social activity.

My favorite subjects were math, science, and history. My favorite teachers were Mr. Robert Sanders, chemistry and math; and Mr. Elton Miller, business. My brother-in-law, Neil Lantz, graduated with Graham's first senior class in 1958. My youngest brother, Joe Geuy, graduated with the Graham seniors in 1962. Our five children graduated from Graham with a good education and are leading successful lives in their chosen careers. I have met many newcomers who moved into our community because of the educational opportunities provided by our school. Graham's reputation speaks louder than words.

By 1969, Graham was feeling the statewide school funding crunch and had lost a major ballot issue for operating funds. Many school functions were cut back, and our community joined in the same discussions about how to best fund our schools being held across the state. At one such meeting, I voiced the opinion that it appeared the Graham administration was trying to sell a Cadillac to a group of farming taxpayers who are accustomed to making repairs with bailing wire and that if the large proposed tax levy was presented in two separate proposals, possibly one would pass. The next election, the proposed levy was presented as two issues and both passed.

In 1971, I completed Kermit Dill's term on the Graham Board of Education and spent the next 25 years observing Graham's positive community growth from the unique prospective of a school-board member. In 1971 practically everyone spoke of the Christiansburg

building, the Concord building, the Rosewood building, or the St. Paris building. Only the high-school building was called Graham. Finally, in the late 1980s, they became known as Graham South, Graham East, Graham North, and the Graham Junior High.

When I first joined the board, our school problems seemed overwhelming, but after attending a few state and national school board conferences, I found our problems small compared to some of the larger cities. Although we are in a rural setting, the Graham district has always tried to be on the cutting edge of educational technology. Whether it's new modern buildings with the latest bells and whistles or even every teacher with a Ph.D., we never reach the ultimate perfect solution. The situation will always be fluid and you will have to think outside of the box.

During my board tenure from 1971 to 1996, the Graham Board of Education was involved in and authorized many changes for the benefit of the taxpayers and their children. Some were indeed controversial. Some of those events included all-day kindergarten, dual-bus routing, purchase of the board office, first all-weather track in Champaign County, the fire at South, closing East Elementary, advanced placement courses, and the purchase of the Bodey Farm. This purchase was probably the most controversial action by the board during this period. Many in the Graham community thought the board was crazy for paying so much for a future school site and compared the price paid per acre to farmland prices in the area. The more vocal left no doubt as to their personal opinions of the board members. The legislature's new biannual budget had earmarked generous additional funds for schools statewide. This created an available surplus balance of funds for Graham Local. The board had no doubt that this was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, so they made the unanimous decision to purchase the entire farm with these surplus funds. Criticism of the board became very intense and continued unabated after the purchase was completed. The board then voted (four to one) to sell, at auction, that portion of the farm lying south of SR 36. It sold for considerably more per acre than the farm had cost. This action quieted most of the more vocal complainers but eliminated chances for developing any future school athletic fields south of SR 36. You can

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view the results of this purchase today as you drive by the Graham Middle School and the Graham Elementary School, both on the retained part of the old Bodey Farm.

The members of the first 1950s Graham Local School Board are the unsung heroes of our community. They are the ones who had to make the really tough decisions to locate and purchase land for the new high school, hire an architect, build a new building and organize a completely new facility with teaching faculty while keeping taxpayers from three former highly competitive districts happy.

Graham Local School District is very near the “Cadillac” of schools I accused the administration of trying to sell to the community in 1969. Much has changed since then. Farmers are now accurately controlling field operations with GPS technology and using computers to keep records. Employers ask if applicants are computer literate. Our children need to be educated in the use of rapidly developing technology. Our community can rightfully be proud of our school system.

With the modern new elementary, the middle school, and funding for the high-school renovation in place, major construction work should be completed in the next two years. The Graham Local School District presently has the best infrastructure in its history. Our dedicated, experienced staff now have adequate tools to meet the future. The next step depends on our elected legislators’ ability to provide an untouchable, dedicated, dependable funding source for public schools. With the volatility of fossil fuel prices, the future possibility of geothermal heating and cooling for the buildings should be investigated.

WALLACE LYNN GEUY  
FORMER GRAHAM LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER  
ROSEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 1951  
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY  
CLASS OF 1956

NAN ELLEN LANTZ GEUY  
JOHNSON-ST. PARIS HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 1953

“My fondest memory is of Mrs. Carolyn Rogers reading aloud to us in first grade. We felt safe, secure, and special as she read to us.”

My class was the first to attend Graham Local Schools all 12 years. My first grade year was 1957-58, the first year for Graham. I attended Concord grades 1-6. Our class was the first to go to combined junior-high classes in St. Paris. I went to orientation for first grade in Westville but I started school at Concord. Concord was eight grades until after my sixth grade year. At the end of that year, we were told we would attend combined classes for seventh grade in St. Paris the next year. We got on the bus the next fall and went to the “new” junior high. Somehow we not only survived but thrived among our many new classmates from the far corners of Rosewood, Christiansburg, Spring Hills and other unknown places. I don’t ever recall seeing Rosewood or Christiansburg as a student.

I recall going to the new Graham High School as an elementary student. Everyone went for their polio vaccines! My father, Lee Ludlow, was always involved with sports teams and both of my parents were active with the Boosters. I remember the basketball teams of the early sixties – Dad kept the clock for games at home and the scorebook on the road. I got to ride the bus as a kid and go to the varsity games. I remember every coach from Gene Ray on. One somewhat unpleasant memory for me was the resistance and dislike for the new school by some of our peers and their parents who felt they had been forced to consolidate and had their old school taken away. There was a good bit of this for awhile, especially after the second consolidation.

My fondest memory is of Mrs. Carolyn Rogers reading aloud to us in first grade. We felt safe, secure, and special as she read to us. She had a soothing Southern accent and made “Tar Baby” and “Three Billy Goats Gruff” something magical. Each year she came back to substitute and we could hardly wait to have her read to us. We had a 50-

year reunion of our first-grade class recently and nine class members attended with Mrs. Rogers. Yes, she read to us and we loved it!

My favorite subject is history, especially American history. I had many excellent, caring teachers at Graham. Tom and Carolyn Rogers and Jan Ebert were special. Mrs. Rogers was my special first-grade teacher while I had the good fortune of learning from Tom on many levels. He was our music teacher in elementary school. In high school he was the librarian. I learned a great deal from him while serving as a student librarian, but also while doing research as a member of National Honor Society, and folk dance club. He encouraged me to read more, especially in the summer. I had the added reward of coming back to Graham as a teacher and gained valuable help from him as a colleague. I followed him as librarian when he retired. Jan Ebert was band instructor for some of my junior-high and high-school years. She pushed me to get better with the cornet and promoted Ohio State as a loyal alum. Her enthusiasm and energy were unbelievable. I had a great time in band at Graham and because of Jan, I was able to go to Ohio State and make the marching band there.

Graham is a community because the school is one common thing we share. The school is the focal point of much that goes on in the area. Everyone is connected in some way, be it as a student, parent, grandparent, alum, sports fan, band fan, teacher, staff member, friend, or taxpayer. The geography and history make Graham unique. Covering nearly 200 square miles, it touches a large number of people. We have begun to use the name of the school to identify the whole area for other things such as youth sport's teams, church confederations, and the geographical area.

Graham schools have shaped me immeasurably. I received an excellent education and participated in activities that influenced me throughout life. I sort of "grew up" in the Graham schools. My father, Lee, worked there as a substitute custodian and as a bus driver and then many years as transportation and maintenance supervisor. He was in his 21st year of service and just 50 years old when we lost him to a stroke. My mother, Leah, worked at school as a bus driver for 39 years. I used to get a dime for sweeping out the bus. They were very

active in many areas. They were big supporters of the Booster's Club and therefore so was I, along with my sister Faith and brother Larry. I recall picking up trash after football games under the old green wooden bleachers. We sometimes cut our fingers on the old coarse grass under there. My friends and I got drafted at the fair to sell pop in the grandstand as Dad and Mom headed that project for the Boosters for 17 years. We spent hours in the summer of 1965 putting bolts and nuts in the new stadium the Boosters put in.

I began my 35-year teaching career at Graham as a summer maintenance employee in the summer of 1969 and 1970. I came back "home" to teach high-school social studies after graduating from Ohio State in 1973. I was blessed to have known and worked with many wonderful students, parents, and fellow teachers, coaches, and staff. I started teaching across the hall from Mrs. Lash, one of the most respected teachers when I was a student.

I vividly recall Mrs. Pickering coming into my classroom during my first year of teaching to firmly remind me that my students should be in their seats between dismissals! After several years of teaching, and some very successful track teams, I was tempted to look into the "greener" pastures of a larger school district. I looked around and saw teachers and coaches such as Donzil Hall, Milt Lewis, Kenny Hill, Cliff Baughman, Jack Wood, and Tom Rogers who had spent most of their careers at Graham. It became my goal to do the same. I taught social studies for 7 years, was librarian for 11, and was athletic director for 16. I coached track for 29 seasons, cross country for 16, and basketball for one.

Graham shaped me as a parent. When Amy graduated in 1993 and Ben in 1996, they joined me and my wife, Janie, class of 1973, as alums who attended all of their years at Graham. We are "Falcons" through and through. I was most proud of my accomplishments in track. I set school records in the 400 and 800 as a senior, won both events in the conference, and qualified to the regionals in the 400.

As a staff member, I cherish most the relationships with students, athletes and parents. My most satisfying accomplishment is the body

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of work – teaching and coaching all those kids and building relationships with them and their parents. I am proud of the improvements I helped make in facilities at Graham, including the cross country track, the all-weather track, and Dallas Stadium.

We had a blast at school and had good friends in cross country, basketball, track, and band. We had school dances after every home football and basketball game, nothing fancy, just clear the gym, turn down the lights, turn on the music, and stand around and try to work up the courage to dance with someone.

Education is the foundation of everything else. As an educator, my perspective may be a little prejudiced, but how does any other occupation exist without education? I see the future of Graham Schools as promising, every changing, and vital to the community. The new buildings are fantastic: student/staff-friendly, well built, and in a nice location. The high school update that is coming is much needed.

We continue to have many great teachers and staff. We have innovative programs to meet the demands of today; GDA under Marcia Ward's leadership is a prime example. I think we are very fortunate to have all of this and I am thankful for the community and my grandchildren.

MIKE LUDLOW  
GRAHAM HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER, LIBRARIAN,  
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR AND COACH  
GRAHAM HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 1969  
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY  
CLASS OF 1973

JANIE BUTTS LUDLOW  
GRAHAM HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 1973

“We all wanted all of the students to shine and tried to get the best from everyone.”

I remember vividly many persons were divided on their opinion of the consolidation in the beginning. After they began to grow accustomed to the idea, they joined together in the effort to make the schools the best. Overall, there was a common goal and it was later easier to join forces and put that common goal above all else. They all had the same goals with a different philosophy. BINGO – three different schools who joined forces and it just happened. I taught in the Graham Local Schools for 35 years, and it was great!

We started with the three schools, Westville/Terre Haute, St. Paris, and Concord, and then added Christiansburg-Jackson and Rosewood. It pulled out the best in everyone. I attended Wilmington College and graduated in 1959 with a degree in PE, business, econ, and social studies. I needed two more hours and would have had a degree in English as well. I began teaching at Graham in 1959. Kelly Bell was the principal at St. Paris School. I taught World Geography, Ohio History, and World History. St. Paris was housing grades 1-8 then.

I remember the first exam I prepared I wrote it out longhand. I forgot to take the paper from the middle of the ditto master and the test paper was blank. I had to redo that exam but I never let that happen again. I learned my lesson! I remember I signed my contract with H. M. Bricker at his home at the breakfast table. He was a rough superintendent but you always knew exactly where you stood with him. If you had something to say, you could say it and he did the same. I loved teaching junior high, especially designing the noon lunch program for intermurals. We had teams and games during lunch with softball, basketball, and volleyball. In regular athletics, we tried not to allow one school to dominate after we merged. We all wanted all of the students to shine and tried to get the best from everyone.

The junior-high staff was a great bunch of teachers with Kelly Bell, Mrs. Pauley, Mrs. Thomas, Mr. Walborn and others. Miss McBeth

was my favorite teacher when I was in high school. She would explain something over and over and over until you mastered it. If you did your best, you were at the top level in her eyes. If an 85 was the best you could do, it equaled an A to her and she made you feel that way. But if you scored a 90 and it should have been a 98, she let you know that, too! She had a bonus system as well.

Our class was really close. We all ran around together and would ride around in our cars, and play the ukulele. There was Tannehill, Bob Ball, Fairchild, Houston, Clem, Brown, Wilkins, Poling, Knull, Jones, and Purk. I hope I didn't forget anyone.

During band class with Mrs. Peirson, we had to march to the cemetery and back in that one class period. That was an experience.

When the five different schools were forced to band together, we had to learn to live together as one school. It wasn't always easy and we tried not to have nitpicking. We wanted to succeed in this experiment and banded together to get the best results. When I started teaching in 1959, I was at the St. Paris Jr. High. Later I went to Graham South where all of the 9th graders were. I taught basketball, general business, PE, and bookkeeping. When I moved to the high school in the afternoon, I taught sociology and econ. I had twenty minutes to drive from South to the high school. I also taught business and world history and government.

Donzil Hall had most of the PE but I started the golf team after the Lakeland Golf Course was built by Johnny Blakeman. I at one time or another coached high-school basketball, golf, football, and girl's softball, and track.

I guess I am proudest of starting the Occupational Work Experience (OWE) program at the high school. We were the 33rd program to begin in the state of Ohio. Mr. Pawloski was the high-school principal then. I had sixteen students in the first class with one girl, Elsie. They all completed and graduated. We took the kids to Marietta one summer for three or four weeks where they worked on designing the texts the state used in the program. I was asked to begin the pro-

gram but I was coaching then as well. I had to make a decision: stay in as head coach or design the OWE program. I wanted to stay here locally but had job offers to help Wayne Wiseman at South High or go to Norwalk. I wanted to impact students locally. And Wilma, my wife, and I wanted our children to attend the Graham schools. I also had an offer to be a state sales director in the insurance business. I would have had to move with that job as well. One day I had my daughter, Missy, with me at the high school. When she said “Dad, you mean Graham wouldn’t be our school anymore?” and was so sad, I knew it was over. We did not move and I started the OWE program.

Our Graham athletes played as a team and really for the most part didn’t build up individual sport kings. The kids were close friends and worked together well. We put those Westville Cowboys, Concord Bruins, St. Paris Tigers, Rosewood Indians, and the C-J Jets together...and they were a great bunch. I had a high school coach I dearly loved, Chet LaBuda! If I could give to coaching what he gave to me, I knew I would be successful.

I graduated from St. Paris and wanted to go to Ohio Northern. I didn’t go though and started working at Johnson’s in Urbana. I worked with Wilkins, Brown, and Poling...and Judy Rucker worked across the street at Marvin’s. We all rode to work together..it was a blast. I visited Wilmington one time with Don Easton and ran into John Murray from North Lewisburg. He encouraged me to come to Wilmington and play sports...so I did..

When Ron Pawloski was the Graham high-school principal I would speak to him each morning but often he wouldn’t speak back. So I thought, ‘Okay, I won’t bother to speak, either.’ One morning Ron said, ‘Hey, you haven’t been speaking to me or saying hello in the morning.’. I said, ‘Communication is a two-way street!’ I gave him some of his own medicine and he didn’t like it...and he began speaking every morning! Once Mr. Pawloski said we couldn’t have basketball practice because of something else in the gym. I told him we had to have that practice, and he finally agreed.

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I remember one time when I was coaching basketball at the high school in the 80's, Ron Atkinson bought basketballs for the team. When the guys were District champs, we remembered we started working with those kids in the 4th grade. It paid off to start early.

I think the most important part of being a teacher and a coach is to be, Number One, honest and sincere. Give it your all and dedicate yourself to the profession. It isn't your personal gain...it is that of the student. Be as good as you are capable of being. Teach those students to learn by themselves. They need to know how to think..how to make decisions in their lives as they grow and mature. They don't need a talking head all day long, standing in front of them. I had a great time at Graham...and love that school and every memory. I hope I touched some kids. Happy Anniversary, Graham!!

I remember one time Donzil, Gene Wray, Kenna Layfield, and John Slesinger and I were all doing summer painting for the schools. John fell asleep on a break on one of the tables in the industrial arts room. When he woke up, he was stapled to the table. We had a lot of fun but we took our educational jobs seriously and loved those students.

MILTON LEWIS  
GRAHAM HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER AND COACH  
JOHNSON-ST. PARIS HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 1953  
WILMINGTON COLLEGE  
CLASS OF 1959

## “Education gives people choices.”

Graham has had a huge influence on my life since 1970. I graduated in 1963 from Gateway Senior High School in Monroeville, Pennsylvania. I also graduated from Indiana University of Pennsylvania with a degree in elementary education in 1967.

When I served on the Graham School Board in the 70s, people were still relating separate areas of the district as having been their roots. Teaching at Graham South and the lifelong friendships that had their beginnings there are some of my fondest memories. Graham has had a huge influence on my life since 1970. I taught a mixed second- and third-grade class at Graham North for half a year and then moved to the first Title I teaching position at Graham South. In the mid 1970s, I was the first female elected to the Graham School Board. I served one term. Since then, I have taught yoga to many high-school students and Graham faculty members.

All three of my children graduated from Graham, which resulted in my continued involvement in their respective schools and activities. I believe that education gives people choices. I have not used my teaching degree since 1972. Knowing I had my degree and could return to education if I chose gave me choices. I believe Graham continues to be great due to the combination of excellent staffing and dedicated volunteers.

I am absolutely delighted that my husband and I landed here and stayed put.

E. LEE HENDERSON  
FORMER GRAHAM LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER  
AND TEACHER  
GATEWAY SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL, PENNSYLVANIA  
CLASS OF 1963  
INDIANA UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA  
CLASS OF 1967

“I felt consolidation was a good idea so that curriculum offerings could be increased and that it would be financially more efficient.”

My name is Elcena (Ellie) Zerkle Barnes. I live in Paulding, Ohio now but I graduated from St. Paris High School in 1954. I was one of two or three students on the “study committee” discussing the possibility of consolidation. Building space was evaluated and possible uses of old buildings were discussed. I personally felt consolidation was a good idea so that curriculum offerings could be increased and that it would be financially more efficient.

Academic competitions, music performances and competitions, parties, church youth group activities, going to athletic events, 4-H, and babysitting my nieces and wrestling with them were some of my fondest memories. I also love to sing, especially the song “Indian Love Call.” I enjoyed dating as well. At school, we learned but at the same time enjoyed each other and, believe it or not, our teachers. After school, we attended sports events, hung out at Johnnies, walked around the block on Saturday night, had parties, rode our bikes to Kiser Lake and swam, and went on dates. I could write a book!

Math, science, and music were my favorite subjects. Miss McBeth and Ruth Peirson were my favorite teachers because of their “command” of the subject, their dedication to excellence, and demand for discipline. Both were inspiring because of their enthusiasm for their area of expertise. I really can’t remember a teacher who I really didn’t like or that did not teach me something important.

I have not been a part of the Graham community except through relatives and friends for a long time. I don’t feel Graham itself has shaped who I am, but I do feel that the consolidation was wise and that it was “done right” therefore creating cooperation and respect for each school district from which it originated.

I am proud of my family. I am also proud of having been an educator, hopefully in the same tradition of the above-mentioned teachers. I tried to emulate their knowledge of their subject, their discipline, their expectation of excellence and their enthusiasm.

I hope that Graham continues to be a great learning environment for ALL students, including the MOST able, fairly. Education is important for obvious reasons, such as employment and “making a living”. Even more importantly as a starting point from which we can continue to learn, think, develop opinions, try to understand our lives and our world, it makes what we read, see, and hear more understandable, and makes us better parents, friends, decision makers, and voters.

ELCENA (ELLIE) ZERKLE BARNES  
JOHNSON-ST. PARIS HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 1954

“Our class motto was ‘Divided we came, united we leave,’ and that is the absolute truth.”

I graduated in 1964 with your famous teacher, Mrs. Ward, and her adorable husband, Greg. We had and have the most awesome class that has ever walked the hallowed halls of Graham High School. Our class motto was “Divided we came, united we leave” and that is the absolute truth.

In the first consolidation, I was 12 years old and scared to death. You see, my Father, Francis Massie, and all his brothers and sisters went to Westville and we lived in St. Paris. It was a big, and I mean BIG, rivalry with fights breaking out between the two schools all the time. And, more times than not, some of my aunts and uncles were involved. So, you can see why they were so against the consolidation because that would mean they HAD to fraternize with the enemy. But my youngest uncle, Jerry Massie, still had two years of school, so when he got on the basketball team, they naturally had to support him and everything did work out in the end. Although, I think they still eyed each other with hostility for a while. HA!

When Rosewood and Christiansburg came into the system, we were freshman when we heard this was going to happen. I was so excited about it because that meant my best friend, Cindy McCulla Snipes’ two cousins, Phil Grieser and Sharon Heaston Wert from Christiansburg, would be going to school with us all in the same grade. As it turned out, they came kicking and screaming, but in the long run, it turned out very well. That summer I had a beatnik party and invited some of those people that would be going to school with us plus all my buddies from St. Paris, Westville, and Concord. I don’t remember who showed up and who didn’t, but whenever a bunch of us get together, someone still brings it up and we all have a good laugh. We were the first graduating class to go through all three years together (10-12 grades), which was considered the high school at that time. The freshmen were considered junior-high students.

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My favorite subject was any business class; I was born to be an administrative assistant! My favorite teacher was Mrs. Maxine Hall, because I didn't have any classes with her and because she was our class sponsor. I also loved Mr. Harold Shank, our principal. He was the most easygoing administrator I have ever known.

School activities were anything extra curricular we could get into and after school was any church activity we could get into. That meant following the boys' athletic teams to each and every game they had, come sleet, hail, rain, or dead of night. We were there for them!

I was the Falcon mascot my senior year. It was a Falcon head made out of papermache and chicken wire, and it was hot and hurt like crazy. I had to put a cushion in it to get it to stay comfortably on my head and shoulders.

Thank you for allowing me to share my thoughts and feelings with you. Friendships made during school years are to be treasured. Getting an education along with all that fun is a just a perk.

LINDA MASSIE COLEMAN  
GRAHAM HIGH SCHOOL  
(ST. PARIS)  
CLASS OF 1964

“I am very grateful and blessed by the friendships that began at Rosewood school and have continued for 50 years!”

My siblings and I grew up in Rosewood. We walked to school every-day, home for lunch, and back again to school. I don't recall many times being driven to school because of the weather.

We graduated with the classes of '53, '55, '57, '58, and '60. Our dad had a garage in Rosewood at one time, Baughman's Garage, which is now the Rosewood Fire Department. I graduated with the class of 1957 as salutatorian. In my speech at graduation, I recalled the time one of our class members crawled out the window onto the adjoining roof to retrieve her sweater that had been thrown out there by another classmate. That classmate shut the window on her and we held all the windows shut so she couldn't get back in. The teacher walked in and caught us. We opened the window and let her back in. No one got in trouble but we did get caught. (This member later became a teacher). Our class motto was “Life is like a picture; so paint it well.” Our class flower was the pink carnation; our class colors were pink and silver.

The only time I remember the school being closed was during the blizzard of 1950. I believe it was closed for a week.

Miss Hostetler was our sixth-grade teacher. She came across as a stern “no nonsense” person. We were out playing softball one afternoon and I was up at bat. Just as I started to swing, Kay Putnam stepped in front of the bat and I hit her in the head. I was so scared; I was sure Miss Hostetler was going to kill me. She never said anything but it was awfully quiet. When I reminded her a few years ago at alumni about the incident and how I thought she was going to kill me, she gave a hearty laugh and said she didn't remember the incident. She married Avon Yoder in 1954 and they moved out to a farm north of Rosewood.

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During the big snow of 1972, I think, 90 students at Graham North had to be kept at school overnight. We lived just north of St. Paris at the time and I was sure my two children wouldn't want to spend the night at school. I called my parents, who lived in Rosewood, and asked my dad to go down to the school and get them. He made it to the school and they spent the night at my parents' house. Later, they told me they would rather have stayed at school, as everyone who stayed had a fun time. Mrs. Yoder took good care of the kids during that time. In her memoirs, she told how they didn't have enough food to feed the kids. They got a big truck from the mill and she got in and drove out to her farm and brought back bacon and eggs to feed the kids. They all slept in the cafeteria and were up at 6:00 in the morning shooting baskets. She said they all enjoyed it and said, "Let's do it again!"

A few years back, we toured the school building before our annual alumni meeting to see what kind of shape the building was in. I was amazed to see the clock in what was our old study hall was still there and still working. It had been donated by one of the classes in the 1940's. The school didn't seem as big as when we left in 1957. Our class had 20 graduates and two have passed away.

We have a group of classmates who meet periodically for lunch and to visit. We call ourselves the "Purple Pals." Quite often one or more of us will show up wearing purple. We try to keep in touch and used to plant pink flamingos in each other's yards to let everyone know they were having a birthday. The flamingos eventually wore out!

I am very grateful and blessed by the friendships that began at Rosewood school and have continued for 50 years!

MARILYN (BAUGHMAN) MASON  
ROSEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 1957

“How well the students got along after the consolidation is a credit to their kindness and love for one another.”

I remember vividly the many arguments about consolidating, pro and con, and the great benefactor who made it possible to place the new school in the center of the district. How well the students got along after the consolidation is a credit to their kindness and love for one another.

I remember fondly that Tom Stickley and I were the Westville Cowboys. We listened to the World Series on the radio during study hall. It was fun going to Urbana to visit with friends on Saturday night and singing in a group of boys at school and in the community. I think the group consisted of me, Bud Rice, Don Insley, Lamar Baker, Tom Stickley, Fred Kauffman, and there may have been others. My favorite teacher was Mrs. May Phillians, who taught English. We are a great community because of many families who have lived here for so many, many years. Those roots are still strong. The community has also welcomed new families and has made them feel at home.

I am proud of earning a college education, serving my country in Korea, and serving my county and state in elected and appointed offices. A solid basic education is more important now than ever. It is very important that Graham prepare students for secondary education. This basic education is just as important for those attending trade schools or two year schools as it is for those attending four year colleges. I see more high tech programs in the future but we must not forget to teach the basics. Graham Digital Academy is a great example of higher technology.

JOHN STEINBERGER  
WESTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 1951

“You might say that I liked all my teachers; I had no favorites.”

I attended school at Christiansburg-Jackson, and I graduated in 1959. We had 22 or 24 students in our graduating class. I don't remember too much about the consolidation. You see, when I graduated, it still was Christiansburg-Jackson High School.

My fondest memory was taking drivers' education in my senior year. I still remember what was taught then. You might say that I liked all my teachers; I had no favorites. I left the area in 1960, and haven't been back much over the years.

As for school, I just attended school and got average grades. I was an average student. You might say that the proudest thing for me was making it through school in 12 years without flunking or being held back.

One of the things I liked was going down to the restaurant after school and having a Pepsi when I wasn't playing softball with the neighborhood kids.

RON MUMFORD  
CHRISTIANSBURG-JACKSON HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 1959

“The three of us ‘threw the switch’ at the first football game of the season. What a thrill that was for all of us!”

The school year 1966 was exciting because at vo-ag class time, we would go out and start tearing down the original “old bleachers” that were replaced that year. By the time the fall football season rolled around, we had our “first” set of new bleachers, which held more people! That was a privilege indeed!

I graduated in 1966, and that summer I and a few others worked for the school system. One of my jobs was to go around and mow all of the grass that Graham owned. While mowing at the Westville building, I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Price, who had been the principal and superintendent of that building, and he shared his love for that building. He lived across the road and would come over and pick up sticks and tidy the grounds up . He had so many memories, and you could see it in his eyes and hear it in his voice as he spoke of the “Old Girl”: “his” building! I felt honored to receive so much personal information from him.

What a GREAT guy Lee Ludlow was! Lee was so dedicated and was such a joy to work with as he would take his time and patience to show us boys what he wanted done to the buses. We would clean them and get them ready for the state inspection that all buses went through before the next school session. When Lee passed away, the Graham system lost a great man and a wonderful human being. I guess that is why we named the track and stadium facility after him. There are not enough words to tell all there was about Lee. I know he made a lasting impression on me and made me a better person, and for that I am eternally grateful!

I was a Booster member back in the 70’s/80’s era and was a big part of taking down the old incandescent lights on the football field, which were the originals, and putting up the “new” quartz fixtures that have

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since been replaced with even newer lights. Gloria Current was the president and Frank Focht was superintendent. The three of us “threw the switch” at the first football game of the season. What a thrill that was for all of us!

I came to the Graham system in the fall of 1958 from the Miami East system. I began the fifth grade at the St. Paris building, which at the time had K through 8th grades. Those were special times. We had milk in class every day in “glass” bottles! That was a great treat in those days. There are so many good memories I would not know where to start, with so many great teachers long gone. Time passes very quickly but we have our memories that we can play over and over in our minds. Isn't that great?

I found a photo of Milt Lewis standing in his athletic attire in the gym at the St. Paris building with the tiger head on the wall at the south end of the gym. Later it was covered over with the falcon. I made some copies and took them to him. Before I gave them to him, we talked for a while and I told Milton that he was one of the greatest teachers I had ever had but I didn't appreciate him back then. I just wanted him to know of the tremendous appreciation and respect I had for him and how he had helped mold me into the person I am today. Teachers do not get enough respect or recognition but my hat is off to the entire profession. I told him I had a piece of his history and I wanted him to have it. When he saw the picture, his eyes welled up with tears and he sat there for the longest time, looking and thinking and reminiscing. I'm not sure what went through his mind but he told me that was a picture of his first year at St. Paris and it brought back so many memories. I was just glad I took the time to take it to him.

Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of this historical part of the Graham schools!

DOUG DOWTY  
GRAHAM HIGH SCHOOL  
(ST. PARIS)  
CLASS OF 1966

“Mr. Shank was definitely the right man for the job as our first principal at Graham High School. He was a perfect fit at the time for this important position.”

My name is Ruth Zuiderhoek Peirson, and I reside in Christiansburg. I graduated from Lima Shawnee High School and Bluffton College in 1944. My first teaching job was at Christiansburg-Jackson in 1944. I taught there two years and my salary was \$1,400 per year. I moved to Lostcreek in Miami County for one year. Mr. Willis Pond convinced me to come back to St. Paris school in 1948 where I taught music to students in grades 1-12.

I recall the consolidation quite vividly. Mr. Carlton Bricker, our first superintendent, told all students and teachers that if anyone wrote on the new desks or placed chewing gum on them, they would “own those desks”! Everyone was quite proud of the new school and the furniture and no one abused them. The Graham Booster’s Club was started early by the parents to support the school and athletics. Mr. and Mrs. Alden McDaniel were parents who spearheaded this effort. They were very active and all of the parents refused to reflect on negativity. The Boosters supported the schools in many ways and drew people together from all of the consolidated schools.

With the consolidation, my daily schedule was to teach choir at the high school first period of the morning. Then I would travel to Christiansburg-Jackson for the rest of the day and work with students in grades 1-8. I would travel to Rosewood, Terre Haute, Westville, Concord, and St. Paris on various days of the week. Later Mrs. Gross was hired to teach at C-J, better known as Graham South. St. Paris students made up the nucleus of the choir in the beginning. The Concord and Westville students were excellent, and we had a very good choir. I also taught band in St. Paris from 1944 to 1957.

One morning I was traveling from Concord to the High School and hit a patch of ice while driving my car in Eris. I ended up in a field but eventually got the car back on the road and went to school. The school reimbursed me \$35 per week for gas to travel to all of the schools. One morning I was at the high school early and saw Mr. Pickering ushering some very mortified students to the office. They had been standing at their lockers hugging and Mr. Pickering reminded them that he did not believe in love between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. in the building!

Traveling was not easy as I didn't get to know the students as well as I did when I was in one building all day. D'Wight, my husband and a musician as well, often came in to assist when I was preparing for a concert or musical. One such morning he was in the gymnasium and did not realize that the sound system was on and connected to all rooms in the building. He shouted "STOP" to a student who was singing off key and did not realize that his command was heard throughout the building, even in Mrs. Pickering's shorthand class that was taking a timed test. The students stopped working, to Mrs. Pickering's dismay. She quickly marched to the gym and informed D'Wight of his interruption. Those in the gym and in that class long remembered the incident with a smile on their face.

My personal favorite teacher when I was in school was our principal, Mr. Pugh. He had a great personality and was a very "fired up" teacher and administrator. His positive attitude was a catalyst for my class and for me. He tragically died very young; he was a great educator.

I retired after thirty-five years of teaching and had a wonderful career in the Graham Schools. The Graham Local Schools have created a great community of support. The public relations in the paper are so thorough and share what is happening in the schools with everyone. D'Wight was on the Graham school board in the 1960's and our interest never waned. I am very pleased with the musicals we were fortunate enough to present to our community. I loved *The Sound of Music* and *Fiddler on the Roof!* *Oklahoma* was our first musical and was attempted upon the suggestion of Howard and Nellie Pickering, long

time GHS teachers. They had seen another high school production of Oklahoma and encouraged me to try it. Bob Errett was Curly, Patti Everson was Laura, the Motchman boy was Jud. It was a memorable time! All money we made was placed into the music account at that time. I could never have had the amazing success with our musicals and operettas without my husband, D'Wight. I would send my top students to him and he would work with them, help them develop their talent, and then allow that talent to shine in our musicals.

Students worked very hard to learn their lines. We competed in many local and state contests. One year I remember the Girl's Choir took a Superior at State. One of the songs they sang was "Snow Legend". In the early days of GHS we had chapel assemblies once a month. A life lesson would be shared by different ministers from the Graham community. The community pulled together with the churches all working in unison. Mr. Shank, our principal, supported this endeavor that was held in the gym. The choir would perform as well. A rather humorous incident occurred one day in the staff lounge. Mr. Shank entered and ask the teachers, "Do you remember me telling you to ...?" None of the teachers responded, and because I was traveling between buildings, I of course had not heard his request. Everyone just sat at the table and did not respond. I quickly said, "Yes, I remember!" although I did not have the foggiest idea of what he was referring to. Naturally the other teachers viewed me with questioning glances as they knew full well I had missed that meeting.

Many students tell me that they learned so much in our music classes. Those were very successful years. Families were more than supportive. Many students have written or come to visit and share how they use their music in their communities, their church choirs, and in their lives. I remember Ruth Scott sharing those sentiments with me on one occasion. I retired in 1979 and began teaching private lessons at that time. I still have several students that I see on a weekly basis. The ARTS are an important part of education. You can often touch a student through their music. There is a creative moment and thrill of singing together in a group. You learn to work together...to get along in a group. Mr. Shank was definitely the right man for the job as our first principal at Graham High School. He was a perfect fit at the time

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for this important position. I firmly believe the consolidation worked at the high school because of him. He was a peacemaker...honest, intelligent, and sincere in his love of the students.

RUTH ZUIDERHOEK PEIRSON  
GRAHAM LOCAL SCHOOLS MUSIC TEACHER  
LIMA-SHAWNEE HIGH SCHOOL  
BLUFFTON COLLEGE  
CLASS OF 1944

“Our class exhibited the faint beginnings of the anti-establishment characteristics that would take full force during our college years. . .”

I will relate one remembrance from 1966. However, after 37 years as a teacher and four years as a student and with the long-term memory I have for anecdotes and experiences, it is difficult to choose just one.

It was the last day of school for the seniors of my class, the Class of 1966. We put on the annual Senior Assembly, a tradition that would frighten me in 2007! As Vice-President of my class, I had organized a part of the program during which we would give funny awards. Our class exhibited the faint beginnings of the anti-establishment characteristics that would take full force during our college years; these actions were tolerated by some of the really young teachers (some adventurous seniors called them by their first names, but mostly not to their faces!), but not at all by the veteran teachers who were practically institutions.

The principal, Mr. Pawlowski, who was new but very conservative, had trimmed our original awards list, but we were still permitted to give the Brown Nose Award (the 1966 equivalent of “sucking up”). We made a big cardboard nose and painted it brown. I clued in the recipient, Larry Snavely, ahead of the assembly that he was receiving the award. For those who know or remember Larry, he was an interesting combination of verbosity and laconicism. Fearing that he would revert to the latter while accepting his award, I urged him to say a few words of thanks for his award.

The awards part of the assembly concluded with the Brown Nose presentation, and Larry dutifully loped his way from the audience to the podium on the stage. I handed him the “Nose,” and he began to deliver the acceptance speech I remember to this day:

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“I could not have won this award without the help of a few people. I would like to thank Dick and Shirley (Snarr, young government and chemistry teachers), Ed and Ralph (Marman and Furguson, young English teachers), Howard and Nellie (Pickering - Yikes!), and last, but not least - Cordelia (Snarr, the Latin teacher - Yikes! Yikes!).”

We were still allowed to graduate!

SHIRLEY SCOTT  
GRAHAM LOCAL SCHOOLS TEACHER  
GRAHAM HIGH SCHOOL  
(CONCORD)  
CLASS OF 1966  
OTTERBEIN COLLEGE  
CLASS OF 1970  
MARYGROVE COLLEGE

“The Graham community has shaped me by teaching me to love school, to establish high educational standards, and to love life.”

I attended Concord prior to the consolidation. Our class was the first class to graduate from GHS and complete all four years in the new Graham High School building. When I was in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, I remember we moved books via the school bus from Concord School to the new Graham School. I think we did this in one afternoon. All of the Concord students participated.

My favorite memories were the activities offered by being a member of the high school chorus led by Ruth Peirson. I loved participating in the school musicals, school events, and appreciated the opportunity to compete with other school choruses. My favorite subject was public speaking I also loved doing speeches and debates. I remember seeing Richard Nixon on the campaign trail on a trip to Springfield with teacher Mrs. Brace. My favorite teacher and friend was May Phillians who taught me two years of Latin.

The Graham community has shaped me by teaching me to love school, to establish high educational standards, and to love life. Graham is a community because it encompasses all of the west side of the county! At the time I attended Graham, I felt that it was the best school in the county, educationally speaking. Graham taught by very high moral and intellectual standards. Two of my teachers, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Pickering, taught us to distinguish right from wrong. Mr. Gene Ray, my government teacher, dispersed adequate corporal punishment! I am still grateful!

I was very proud to participate and work on the school paper, “The Tele-Graham.” I know the choir helped me appreciate and enjoy music. All four years of high school, I worked several hours a week for Mr. Rogers in the school library. One very worthwhile skill and the most practical was learning keyboard typing. Because I rode the bus

home all four years, I did not do much with friends after school. However, we did a lot of chatting while standing in the daily lunch line, and, of course, I loved attending basketball games in season. I respected my school bus drivers and they became trusted friends. I think that we all became friends forever especially since other teens we had previously met in 4-H and athletics now were part of Graham and became very special friends indeed.

Education develops the person, and no one can ever take away what you have learned or accomplished in school! Your education provides you with the skills necessary for success in living life.

I feel that Graham Schools will be able to provide a timely education for future students. I also appreciate Graham having the Digital Academy. I think it provides students “timely training” that leads them to confidence and independence.

MARY TOWLER YOCUM  
GRAHAM HIGH SCHOOL  
(CONCORD)  
CLASS OF 1961



Dedication photograph taken at  
Graham High School on December 15, 1967.

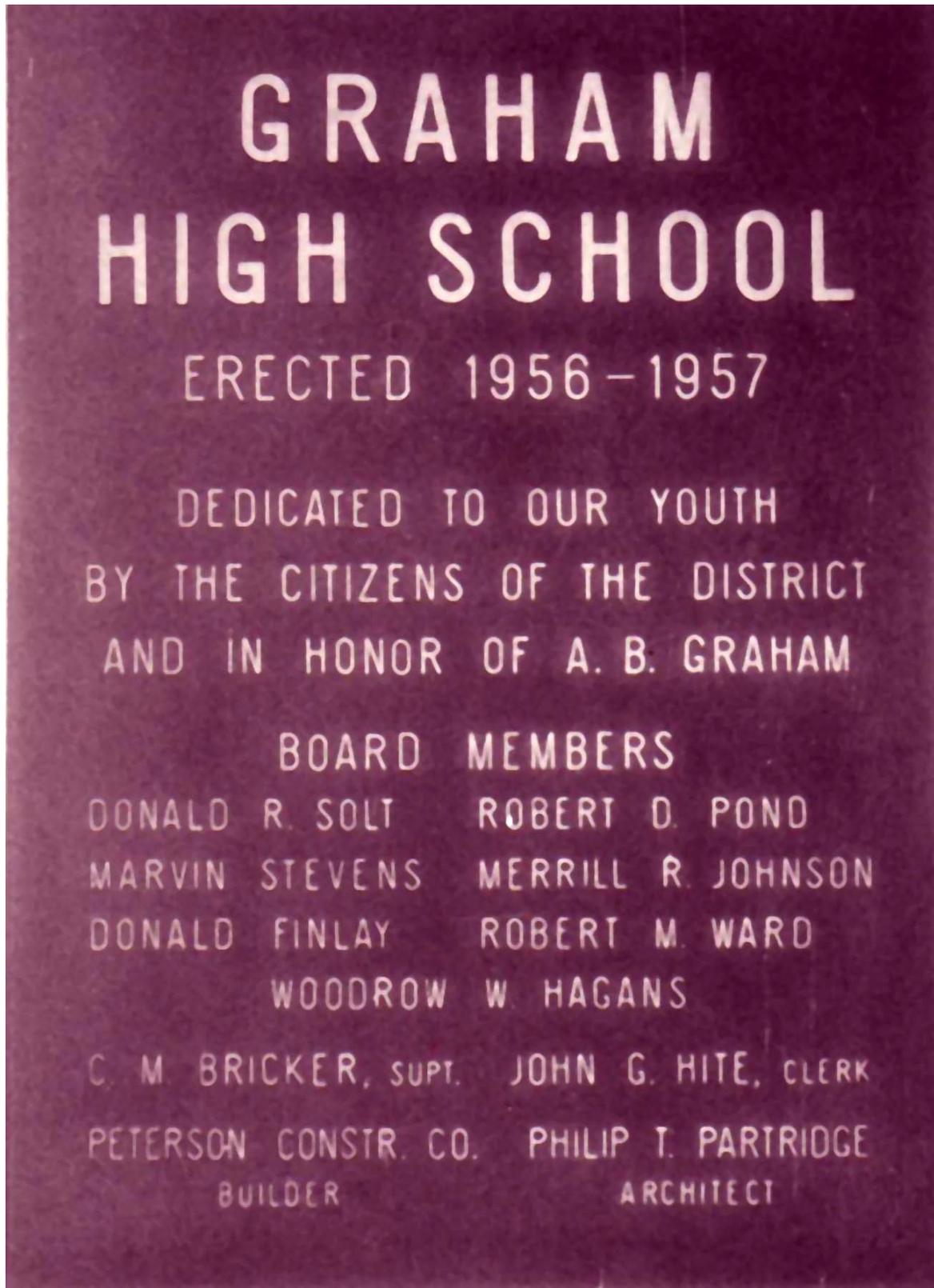
L to R - Marvin Stevens, GLS board vice-president; Harvey Loudenback, former county superintendent; Donald Solt, GLS board president; Don Finlay and Robert Pond, GLS board, general contractor Chester Peterson; Superintendent GLS Carlton M. Bricker; A.B. Graham; Robert Ward, GLS board; board clerk John Hite; board members Woodrow Hagans and Merrill Johnson; heating-ventilating-plumbing contractor Paul Grimes; architect Phillip Partridge; and electrical contractor Wayne Willis.

*Thank you to the Urbana Daily Citizen for kindly allowing us to use this historic photograph.*



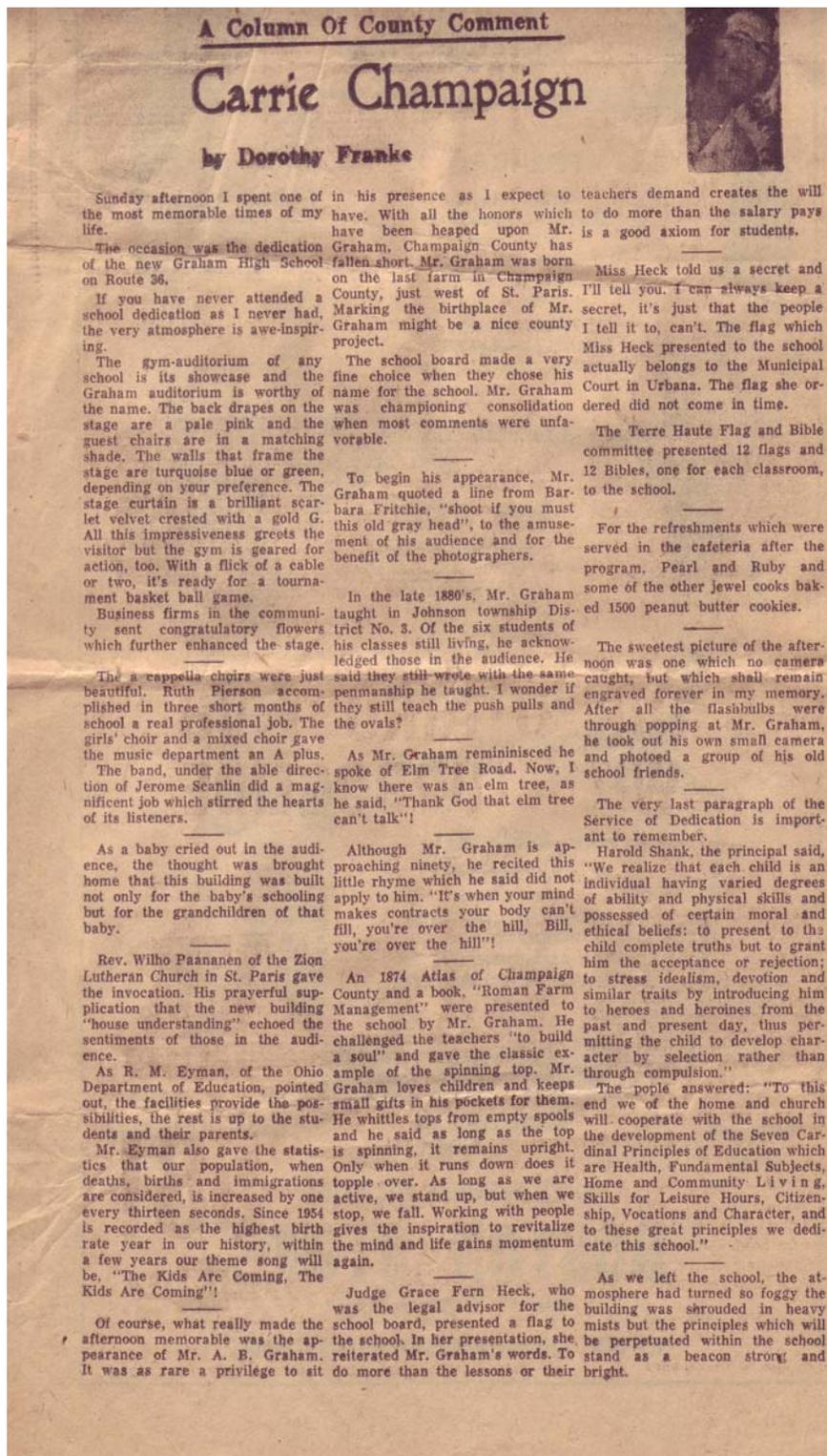
Mr. A.B. Graham speaks at the dedication.

*Thank you to the Urbana Daily Citizen for kindly allowing us to use this historic photograph.*



*A mark in our time.*

# FOXFIRE AT GRAHAM: WE COME TOGETHER



As it happened.

*Thank you to the Urbana Daily Citizen for kindly allowing us to use this historic photograph.*