

## CHAPTER VIII

### SCHOOLS

#### A SCHOOL SYSTEM IS FORMED

by

James S. Thornton

When elections were held to fill the county offices probably the person with the greatest task before him was the superintendent of schools in Brantley County. He had to organize a school system with very little financial aid and try to conduct and continue the education of the students of the area.

The elections produced what was called a Hoboken ticket and a Nahunta ticket. Mr. Everett Knox was chosen to run on the Nahunta ticket and Mr. R. D. Thomas was chosen to run on the Hoboken ticket for the position of superintendent of schools. Everyone had to go to Hoboken to vote because it was the originally proposed county seat. The Nahunta area patrons secured a train to carry the voters to Hoboken to vote, and as a result, the Hoboken ticket was defeated and Mr. Everett Knox became the first superintendent of schools for Brantley County.<sup>1</sup>

Mr. Knox was the son of Wiley F. and Nancy Johns Knox. He was born into a large family consisting of four boys and four girls. The Knox family lived in the Hickox area near the Satilla River in what was formerly Wayne County. Everette Knox later married Grace Herrin, the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Levi Herrin. Grace bore him three children: Virgie, Clara, and Joann.

Mr. Knox was educated in the schools of what was then Wayne County. He later attended the Georgia Normal School at Douglas, graduating in 1916 and then returning home to teach. The Georgia Normal School offered three courses of study: a teacher course, a commercial course, and a scientific course. These courses usually lasted about ten months.<sup>2</sup>

1. Author's taped interview with R. D. Thomas, Nahunta, Georgia, February 7, 1969.
2. Author's taped interview with Lizzie Knox Herrin, Hickox, Georgia, March 1, 1969.

Although Mr. Knox was only twenty-four when he was elected, he and Mr. Thomas were probably the two best qualified men to seek the position of superintendent. Very few people in the county had been educated beyond grade school, and it was very unusual for a person to attend one of the normal schools which were located throughout the state during this period.

The first meeting of the Brantley County Board of Education was held Saturday, January 15, 1921, at Hoboken. The Board consisted of the following members: J. H. Mattox, W. T. Strickland, Talmadge Middleton, Walter Thomas, and M. E. Dowling.

The meeting was held to plan the program for the current year's work. The Board immediately decided to open the schools. The first school term for the county was set at six months, with two months of instruction during the spring and four months in the fall beginning around the first of September.<sup>3</sup>

In other action taken at the first meeting of the Board of Education Mr. Knox was bonded for the sum of \$4000.00 by the American Surety Company. The Board also set the superintendent's salary at \$1,200.00 per annum, including his salary as attendance officer. The superintendent was instructed to open schools as early as practicable and to begin special examination for teachers if it became necessary.<sup>4</sup>

Certificates to teach were issued by the State Superintendent of Schools under authority of the State Board of Education. The County Superintendent could issue temporary certificates good until the next examination, but these certificates could be of no higher rating than third grade. (This does not refer to the third grade of school. A third grade certificate was the lowest classification issued.) Teachers could receive certificates by examination or by a certification of proficiency from approved schools and colleges.<sup>5</sup>

When the county was formed thirty-eight schools were located within its boundaries. Listed below are the thirty-eight schools and the county from which each came.

3. The Nahunta Banner, (Friday January 21, 1921)
4. The Nahunta Banner (Friday January 28, 1921)
5. The Nahunta Banner (Thursday, March 13, 1924)

Wayne County

1. Atkinson School
2. Bamboo School
3. Buffalo School
4. Burnt Bay School
5. Dowling School
6. Drury School
7. Fending School
8. Gibson School
9. Hickox School
10. Hortense School
11. Knox School
12. Linda School
13. Lulaton School
14. Nahunta School
15. Pinebloom School

16. Raybon School
17. Rozier School
18. Satilla School
19. Saw Grass School
20. Stewart School
21. Strickland School
22. Wainright School
23. Waynesville School

Charlton County

1. Bachlott School
2. Davison School
3. Roddenberry School

Pierce County

1. Broadway School
2. Calvary School
3. Cascade School
4. Corinth School
5. Hoboken School
6. Manor School
7. New Hope School
8. Pierce Chapel School
9. Schlatterville School
10. Shady Dale School
11. Shuman School
12. Tiger Bay School

A total of 1,873 school children were received from the three counties involved.<sup>6</sup> The Board of Education adopted the policy that a school must have a daily average of 45 students to have two teachers, 80 students for three teachers and 115 students for four teachers.<sup>7</sup> Salaries were fixed at a minimum of \$35.00 per month and rose from there, depending on the type certificate held.

The schools in which the early teachers taught were of wood type construction. The schools were usually located on one acre land plots with unimproved playgrounds. Many of the school houses did not have bathroom facilities and usually, if they were available, they would be in poor condition. Almost all the schools were one teacher schools with most of the supplies being furnished by the teacher. The equipment usually consisted of only long benches and blackboards.<sup>8</sup>

In the early years of the school system, the Board of Education found it difficult to finance the schools. The Board of Education had to secure a loan from the Old National Bank of Battle Creek, Michigan to begin operation of the schools.<sup>9</sup> During the first months of operation, the schools had to close for two varied reasons. One was the dire financial condition of the system. The other was the fact that school attendance was usually poor during April since it was a busy month on the farm.<sup>10</sup>

6. The Nahunta Banner (March 11, 1921), p. 1.

7. The Nahunta Banner (November 19, 1921) p. 1.

8. Educational Survey of Wayne County Georgia, State Department of Education, 1916.

9. The Nahunta Banner (February 11, 1921) p. 1.

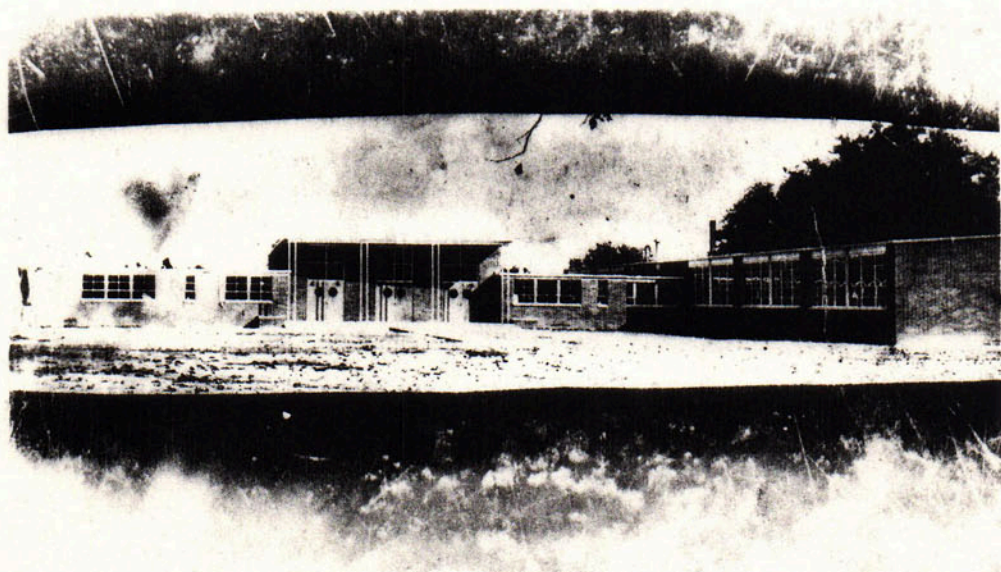
10. The Nahunta Banner (February 25, 1921) p. 1.

The county was divided into districts and each district was responsible for running its schools. Three local trustees were elected from each district. The Board of Education did not handle district funds. When the tax collector collected the taxes of a district, he would in turn give to the local trustees the millage appropriated for their schools.<sup>11</sup> The total value of all property in Brantley County according to the 1920 returns was \$3,318,943.<sup>12</sup> Over half the property that was taxed was owned by the railroads and other corporations; therefore, the school districts located near the railroads would receive the most money. State funds were channeled through the Board of Education and were allotted to the local school districts on a per diem basis of pupils.

In 1924, a rate of 15 mills was adopted for county tax purposes with  $4\frac{1}{2}$  mills included for education.<sup>13</sup> Each district then had its own millage rate which was paid to support education in each local district. If schools were built, a bond issue was voted on in that particular district, and the citizens of the district were responsible for paying the bonded indebtedness.

The method of distribution to the various districts stayed basically the same until the adoption of the new State Constitution in 1945.

# Hoboken School



by

James S. Thornton

During the period of 1921-1928, consolidation of schools progressed at a rapid pace. Many of the schools were consolidated, because the people of the districts wanted to come into a larger school, but the major reason was because they were located in a district with a low tax base and did not have the funds to operate their schools. Even in the early years, you could see a movement toward the districts that had railroads, therefore a higher tax base and more funds for educational purposes.

During the period 1921-1928, fourteen schools had consolidated, all under the administration of Mr. Everett Knox as County School Superintendent.

The year 1928, brought to a conclusion the administration of Everett Knox, as Superintendent of Brantley County Schools. Mr. Know contributed greatly to the educational system of Brantley County. He started and developed a school system operating with very meager funds, in a period of our history that it was very difficult to exist and provide the necessities of life. During his administration we see schools consolidated from 38 to 22. We also see five new brick schools built during his administration, which was not only difficult, but almost impossible. We see school bond elections accepted by the people totaling \$103,000 in a rural area where very few people possessed money except from the crops they harvested and the money they received from their turpentine. This was a period in which the state was spending only \$5.35 a year per Georgian on education -- 8/10 of one percent of the total income of her people, or to make it more vivid, eight cents out of \$10.00. Georgia was spending less for education per inhabitant than any other state in the south.<sup>23</sup> Could another man have succeeded in this situation as Mr. Knox did? I can not answer this question, but I know that Mr. Everett Knox did succeed. (Mr. Knox died in a car accident near Callahan, Florida, November 23, 1936).<sup>24</sup>

The Beginning of the Thomas Era

Mr. Everett Knox decided not to run for the position of Superintendent of Brantley County School in the election of 1928.

23. Brantley Countian (September 3, 1925) p. 1.

24. Authors taped interview with Lizzie Knox Herrin, Hickox, Georgia, March 1, 1969.

25. The Brantley Enterprise (Jan. 26, 1928) p. 1.

Two men entered the political race, R. D. Thomas and Perry A. Shuman. Mr. Thomas easily defeated Mr. Shuman by a vote of 795 for Thomas and 287 for Shuman.

Mr. Thomas had opposed Mr. Knox in the election of 1920, but had chosen not to run in 1924. The first two superintendents of Brantley County came from the same family. Mr. Thomas's mother was the sister of Mr. Everett Knox's father.

Mr. Thomas was born the son of Banner M. and Peggy Knox Thomas on October 3, 1887. He came from a very large family. Both his mother and father had lost their respected spouse before marrying each other. His mother had one son, Arthur Jones, prior to this marriage and his father had four children: Henry, Martha, Mary, and Jim. The Thomas-Knox marriage produced the following children: Ira, Banner, Walter, Lillie, Eliza, Ruth, Bessie and R. D. Thomas, the older of this last group of children.

Mr. Banner M. Thomas, father of R.D. (Bob) Thomas, was a prominent citizen of the county and was a former representative of Pierce County. Mr. Banner M. Thomas owned 1700 acres of land in Brantley County and was a prominent farmer in the area.

When a son in the Thomas family became of age, it was customary for the father to give him 100 acres of land and a mule. Henry and Jim took the offer, but when Mr. R. D. Thomas came of age, he had other plans. Mr. Elbert Lewis, a teacher in the local system, influenced Mr. Thomas to go to school. Instead of taking the offer of the land and mule, Mr. R. D. chose the opportunity to go to school.

In 1906-1907, Mr. Thomas attended high school in Jesup, Georgia, because there was not a high school located in the near area. He later, in 1908-1909, attended Georgia Normal College in Abbeville, Georgia. The college was later moved to Douglas, Georgia, and Mr. Thomas graduated there in 1911 with the 10 months course in teacher training.

Mr. Thomas was then elected Superintendent of Pierce County Schools, and served in this capacity during the period 1912-1919. He later became one of the few men elected to the position of Superintendent in two counties.

While serving as superintendent, he married Miss Willie Upton, whom he had met at Douglas, while attending the Georgia Normal School.

Mr. Thomas later attended summer school at Valdosta, the University of Georgia, and Georgia Teachers College; graduating from G.T.C. in 1939 with a B.S. Degree in Education, becoming the first Superintendent in the county to obtain a college degree.

The career of R. D. Thomas in education would span 54 years as a teacher and administrator. He would serve 23 years as superintendent of schools, with seven of these years in the Pierce County System.

In 1958, the Brantley County Unit of the Georgia Education Association placed a bronze plaque in the Brantley County Courthouse honoring him as the "Father of Education in Brantley County." The plaque is engraved as follows:

Father of Education in Brantley County

R. D. "Bob" Thomas

In honor of the fifty years of his life that  
were devoted to educating youth in South Georgia

#### Consolidation of Schools 1929-1936

During the period 1929-1936, while Mr. Thomas was superintendent, the following schools were consolidated:

1929 Broadway School with Hoboken School  
Stewart School with Hortense School

1930 Tiger Bay School with Nahunta School

Mr. Thomas stated in an interview that one of his greatest problems while superintendent of schools was consolidation and the people not wanting to give up their schools to consolidate. Mr. Thomas stated, "he tried to work with the people to get them to see the need of consolidation, but did not try to force them."<sup>32</sup>

#### The Schools During the Depression

In 1928, the first high school graduation in Brantley County was held at Nahunta Consolidated School. A class of three students, Ada Mae Stewart, Marvin Strickland and Wessie Jones received their diplomas.<sup>33</sup> J. Marvin Strickland later went to Berry College and became the first college graduate that had completed high school in Brantley County.

April 1929, Nahunta High School became the first institution in Brantley County to be added to the list of accredited high schools in Georgia.<sup>34</sup> In 1931, its position on the accrediting

32. Authors taped interview with R.D. Thomas, Nahunta, Georgia, Feb. 7, 1969.

33. The Brantley Enterprise (April 11, 1929)

34. Ibid. p. 1



list was threatened, because the Board of Education was forced to reduce the school term to six months. The State of Georgia was in arrears with school funds totaling several thousand dollars. Mr. R. D. Thomas pleaded the case before the accrediting commission and Nahunta remained as the only accredited school in the county. <sup>35</sup>

During this period, the Hoboken and Nahunta Schools were the most outstanding. Such subjects as Chemistry, Home Economics, and Civics are recorded as being taught. <sup>36</sup> Both of these schools had a band, and when the band played at the schools, this was considered a great community attraction.

The Nahunta School was considered as the only high school in the county. During the school year 1931-32, its name was changed to Brantley County High and this plan existed until 1938, when Hoboken became a high school.

The depression years brought many financial crises to the educational system in Brantley County and to the State of Georgia. At the beginning of the school year 1931-1932, Mr. Thomas assured the teachers they would be paid. Students were instructed to exchange textbooks rather than purchase them. Textbooks were purchased by the students during this period. Mr. Thomas began the school year not knowing how long the term would run, but Mr. Thomas and the Board of Education planned to operate the schools as long as funds were available. <sup>37</sup>

When funds were almost depleted, Brantley County received \$13,300.00 from the equalization fund of the State. To receive these funds, the county had to levy a local tax of 5 mills on all taxable property and employ an attendance officer.

In August of 1931, a group of citizens petitioned the Board to reduce teachers salaries, therefore reducing taxes, because money was very short. The Board refused and offered the explanation that if the county did not pay the required 5 mills, the county would not receive state funds. At this time approximately one half of the taxpayers had not paid their taxes. <sup>38</sup>

April, of 1932, saw another crisis come to the Brantley County School System and other systems across Georgia. The school term had to be suspended because of a shortage of state funds. This was to be effective April 15, 1932.

R. D. Thomas, Brantley County School Superintendent, received authority from W. L. Downs, State High School Supervisor of Georgia, to conduct alone the graduating eleventh grade class of Brantley

35. The Brantley Enterprise (May 28, 1931)

36. The Brantley Enterprise (Dec. 24, 1930)

37. The Brantley Enterprise (Aug. 20, 1931) p.1.

38. The Brantley Enterprise (Sept. 3, 1931) p.1.

County High School. If he did not do this, the 11th grade would fail to graduate because they would not have completed the 9 required months.

Mr. Thomas volunteered to teach free the balance of the term. He substituted for four teachers. This sacrifice of the county school superintendent was received with acclaim throughout the county. The Brantley Enterprise, the local newspaper, asked the question: "Where in the State is another superintendent who takes this much interest in the young boys and girls of his county?" This enabled 32 students to graduate.

The Brantley County Board of Education met July 6, 1932. Thinking in view of the depression and a tax digest slump, teachers salaries were reduced as follows:

Teachers making \$150 to \$200 cut 10%  
Teachers making \$75 to \$90 cut 7½%  
Teachers making \$45 to \$65 cut 5%. 39

The Board of Education actually ended the fiscal year with \$3,000 dollars available instead of being short as most boards in Georgia were at this time. At the conclusion of the meeting ending the fiscal year the Board adopted their theme song, "Happy Days Are Here Again." Franklin Delano Roosevelt had been nominated at the Democratic Convention in Chicago.<sup>40</sup>

M. D. Collins, State Superintendent of Schools sent a letter in March of 1933, commending the teachers of the state of Georgia for working without pay. Some of these teachers had not been paid since 1932. The sacrifices made in education were not only made in Brantley County, but all over the state and nation.

When Mr. Thomas was elected in the election of 1940, he had been promised by many of the people that supported him, that if he would run for superintendent in 1940, he would not have an opponent in 1944.<sup>58</sup> His supporters were true to their promise, thus he became the first superintendent of the county to not have an opponent. He ran unopposed in the election of 1944.

### Consolidation of Schools 1941-1948

This period in the educational history of Brantley County saw a major emphasis on consolidation. Many of the people of the county, in the different districts, began to see that the one and two room school house had outlived its place in educational history. The following schools were consolidated during this period.

- 1941 Pierce Chapel with Hoboken School
- Raybon School with Nahunta School
- 1943 Calvary School with Hoboken School
- Cascade School with Hoboken School
- Corinth School with Hoboken School
- 1941 Schlatterville School with Hoboken School

After this period, those schools still existing were Nahunta, Hoboken, Hortense, Waynesville and Hickox.

### The Schools 1941-1948

The Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation was established in 1935. This encouraged many local boards to establish lunchrooms. During the early history of the lunchroom, classrooms were converted to kitchens and dining areas. By 1940, hot lunches were being served in the county at Hoboken, Waynesville, Nahunta and Hickox Schools. The lunches cost 5¢ and if a child did not have the money, he could bring food from home and then he was given tickets for lunches in exchange for the food.<sup>59</sup> In 1946, we had the National School Lunch Act which made federal school lunch aide a permanent policy.

During the war years many teachers left the teaching profession in Georgia. By 1943, over 4500 school teachers left the schools for other jobs or to join one of the branches of service. In the United States over 100,000 teachers left the profession.<sup>60</sup>

In education, both the local and state governments were not doing enough in education. In 1945, Brantley County's tax millage was set at 8 mills. One hundred fifty-two counties in Georgia had

58. Authors taped interview with R.D. Thomas, Feb. 7, 1969.

59. The Brantley Enterprise (Jan. 11, 1940) p.1.

60. The Brantley Enterprise (June 24, 1943) p.1.

a higher millage rate. Forsyth County was paying 32 mills during the same period. <sup>62</sup>

In December of 1945, Superintendent Thomas made a report to the Board of Education concerning the teacher shortage in Brantley County. At this particular time, there were nine degree teachers in the county; four teachers with three years college training; eighteen with two years of college training; eight with one and less years of college training; and twenty with no college or professional training. <sup>63</sup> The teacher shortage in Brantley was critical.

### Schools Under the New Constitution

M. E. Thompson, Executive Secretary to Governor Ellis Arnall, informed superintendent R. D. Thomas that a new constitution (voted on Aug. 7, 1945) had been ratified by a majority vote of the people and had been proclaimed the Constitution of the State of Georgia. The tax levy for Brantley County would have to be made under and according to the provisions of the New Constitution. According to the Constitution, a county could levy a tax for the purpose of education on not less than five mills nor greater than 15 mills. <sup>64</sup> Mr. Thomas recommended a tax millage of 15 mills for educational purposes, plus millage to reduce bonded indebtedness that had occurred in several districts. This was approved and adopted by the local commissioners.

The Grand jury sitting at the September session of the Brantley Superior Court and acting under authority of the New Constitution, appointed the following members to the Brantley County Board of Education: J. L. Miles, J. F. Larkins, A. S. Mizell and Theodore Thrift. <sup>65</sup> These five men were appointed, as specified under the provisions of the Constitution, with staggered terms.

### The End of The Thomas Administration Era

Mr. R. D. Thomas resigned as superintendent of Brantley County Schools in May, 1948. Mr. M. D. Collins, State Superintendent of Schools, accepted the resignation of Mr. Thomas. The resignation would become effective September 1, 1948. <sup>66</sup>

This ended the R. D. Thomas administrations as superintendent of Brantley County Schools, but did not mean that he had retired from education in South Georgia. He continued in education, as a

62. The Brantley Enterprise (Feb. 15, 1945) p.1

63. Minutes of the Brantley County Bd. of Educ. (Dec.4, 1945) p.1

64. Merritt B. Pound and J. Thomas Askew, The Government of Georgia (Harlow Publishing Corp., 1959) p.369.

65. Minutes of the Brantley County Board of Educ. (Sept. 4, 1945)

66. Minutes of the Brantley County Board of Educ. (June 1, 1948)

teacher and principal, until he had served a total of 54 years of his life devoted to education.

### The Election of 1948

When Mr. Thomas resigned as Superintendent of Brantley County Schools, it became necessary for the Board to appoint an acting superintendent until another superintendent could be elected by the people. This was the only time in the history of education in the county that a superintendent was appointed. The Board selected Mr. Hershel W. Herrin.

### The Herrin Administration 1948-1961

When Mr. Herrin became superintendent, many educators in Georgia were concerned about the educational program we were offering the boys and girls of Georgia. Their concern was over whether the schools were doing enough for our young people.

In 1949 Georgia's educational soul and conscience were brought into the practical realities of life. On February 25, 1949, the legislature of the State of Georgia, passed its first minimum foundation program for education.

The Minimum Foundation Program was due largely to the efforts of Dr. O. C. Aderhold, then Dean of the College of Education of the University of Georgia, and later President of the University.

The minimum foundation act carried an attachment that stated the law would become effective only when funds were available. Funds were not available and Herman Talmadge, in his campaign for governor in 1950, had promised that there would be no more taxes, sales tax or other kinds, if he were elected. The sales tax had the most support as being the means of financing the Minimum Foundations Program. When the governor saw that he would lose more public support by opposing a sales tax, therefore killing the minimum foundation program, he agreed not to veto the bill if it was passed, but refused to work for its passage. The law was passed and signed by the Governor in 1951, but the program did not actually begin to function until 1952.

One of the outstanding provisions of the minimum foundation law was that capital outlay funds would be made available to local systems for the construction of badly needed schools. The Brantley County Board of Education preceeded immediately to take advantage of this provision. Upon motion and second, a resolution was passed requesting the State Department of Education to assist the board in making a survey of school plant needs, with the expressed view of school planning and providing better educational opportunities for all children of Brantley County.

The report of the reviewing committee contained the following recommendations:

### Negro Schools

1. There should be one permanent elementary center in Brantley located in Nahunta.
2. Because of the few Negro high school students in the county a good center could not be feasibly provided so it was recommended that the board make arrangements with adjacent counties to provide for their education. (This was done in July of 1951 when superintendent H. W. Herrin reached an agreement with the Waycross City System to educate the Negro high school students).

### White Schools

1. There should be one permanent high school center in Brantley County. (This would involve the consolidation of Hoboken and Nahunta High Schools).
2. There should be three permanent elementary centers in Brantley County and should be located as follows: one center at Nahunta, one at Hoboken and one at Hortense.

One main objection was raised, by some of the people in Brantley County, concerning the consolidation of Nahunta and Hoboken High Schools. This objection prompted the Board of Education to pass a resolution in March of 1952, to the effect that the Brantley County Board of Education would maintain two high schools in Brantley County.

The Brantley County Board of Education and Superintendent H. W. Herrin made plans for four new school buildings in the county contingent on securing funds from the state building funds as provided under the Minimum Foundation Program. The buildings would consist of a 20 room building at Nahunta and a 10 room building at Hoboken to house the high schools. A 7 room building would be constructed at Nahunta as the Negro School and a lunchroom would be constructed at Hortense.

With construction of these schools only five schools existed in the county. In Nahunta, was located a white high school, a white elementary school and a negro elementary school. Hortense had an elementary school while the Hoboken school consisted of grades 1 through 12.

In 1955, the Southern Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges evaluated the high schools at Nahunta and Hoboken and placed them on their accredited list.

Mr. Herrin, while superintendent of Brantley County Schools, saw more growth in the total construction of buildings than any of his predecessors. In 1947 he saw the legislature authorizing the expenditure of public school funds for the support of 12 years of education and in 1952 he saw the graduation of the first students of Brantley County, with a 12 year education. He saw the much needed minimum foundation law passed in Georgia to help rural counties in Georgia, when many were not helping themselves. He saw the schools in Brantley County consolidated until there were only five schools in the county and surely a better education was being provided the students. Mr. Herrin served longer than any of his predecessors as superintendent of Brantley County Schools. He served a total of 12 years and four months.

#### The Moody Administration 1961-1969

Mrs. Moody was opposed by Mrs. H. W. Herrin in the election of 1964 and she defeated Mrs. Herrin. Mrs. Moody ran unopposed in the election of 1968.

When Mrs. Moody assumed her position as Brantley County School Superintendent, there were five schools located in the county, Nahunta had three of these schools including the Nahunta High School, the Nahunta White Elementary School, and the Nahunta colored Elementary School. Hoboken had one school, the Hoboken High and Elementary, while Hortense contained an elementary school including grades 1-8. The elementary schools, except the colored school, were on the Georgia Accrediting list while the two high schools were on the Southern Association Accrediting list. In 1961, the two high schools in the county were re-evaluated and continued on the accredited list of the Southern Association of Schools and Colleges.<sup>97</sup>

In June of 1951, a reviewing committee had visited the schools of Brantley County and recommended that the two high schools in Brantley County be consolidated.<sup>98</sup> The board chose not to consolidate and two new high schools were erected under the Minimum Foundation program. The first high school had existed in Nahunta until 1938, and this school was called Brantley County High School. Hoboken had its first high school graduation in 1938.

In May of 1963 the superintendent was asked by the board to write the State Department of Education inquiring about the necessary procedure to merge the high schools of Brantley County.

In reply, a letter was received from Dr. Allen C. Smith, Associate State Superintendent of Schools. He requested that boards of education take immediate action, if such boards anticipate building needs due to school consolidation because state funds were available for this purpose.<sup>99</sup>

97. Brantley Enterprise (November 9, 1961) p.1.

98. Brantley County School Plant Report (June 8, 1951)

99. Minutes of the Brantley County Board of Education, May 11, 1964.