

EARLY SCHOOLS - The first three schools of the county were those located at South Lowell, Jasper and Democrat. The latter was located between Dora and Summitt and served a large territory, a Mr. York being the first teacher and one Mr. Robinson another early teacher. In 1857 David Manasco became the first County Superintendent of Education for Walker County. Among the early teachers of the county also were Shepherd, McDale, Morris, Amiss, Lamar and Scott. Perhaps this picture of school conditions in the earlier days of Walker County is worth preserving to compare with present day educational conditions:

"The schools had a very slim chance in those days. They had school in a log house. They split the open in the middle and turned the flat side up for the floor. They had very little means to run the schools and the building was very cold. The patrons hired the best educated man to teach school. They had no school books to study, so they used the Bible instead of school books. About two months of the year was the longest school term. The children had to walk from two to ten miles to school. Usually the children sat on the floor, but a little later they used long benches without backs, made of the halves of logs with pegs for supporting legs. The school day was from about eight in the morning to four or four-thirty in the afternoon."

Compiled from extension class memo prepared for J. J. Doster in 1928-29.

Walker County has a number of streams. The Big Sandy River, the Middle...