CHAPTER FOUR

Schools

At an early date the settlers of the Liberty Spring area sought to establish educational facilities. The first schools were held in churches or in homes. These were commonly termed Subscription Schools because the pupils or parents would subscribe to the school or teacher. A group of parents would determine the cost for an instructor to teach a group of the students and then solicit support from the community families. When the required money was pledged or obtained, a school could be established.

Teachers were also paid by the state for a certain number of poor students. Some records of these payments (those retained by state officials) are now located in the State Archives. In 1848, teachers were paid per pupil based on the class of their certificate: eight dollars for a first class certificate, six dollars for a second class certificate, and four dollars for a third class certificate. They were paid for as many as five students under this system. During 1856, the Pickens District Commissioners of Schools decided to change this system and pay each teacher an amount per day for each poor scholar taught. First class teachers were allocated four cents per day, second class teachers three cents, and third class teachers two cents. Teachers were tested each year by the Commissioners of Schools to determine their level of competency and then granted a first class, second class, or third class certificate.

Teachers who received money from the state for teaching poor scholars in the Liberty Spring area include the following:

Carmel School
B. Dilworth (1857)

Eighteen Mile Creek School
George W. Boggs (1817), Thomas G. Boggs (1817, 1818), M. D. Clayton (1857, 1861), W. W. Clayton (1848), James Evatt (1837), James Gaines (1837), James Gilliland (1818), Lemuel Hendricks (1845, 1848, 1849, 1855), M. D. Hendricks (1851), Adam Hill (1819), C. G. McGregor (1850), James Potts (1819), Mary Russell (1850), David C. Templeton (1838), Stephen Watson (1841), and T. I.7achery (1837).

Golden Creek School
Thomas G. Boggs (1817, 1819), J. B. Clayton (1841), James A. Evatt (1838), James Gilliland (1819), Samuel Smith (1850), and Miss P. Yates (1845).
Chapter Four Schools

Liberty School
T. G. Boggs (1845, 1849), J. B. Clayton (1845), Mary A. Clayton (1861, 1862, 1863) Daniel Grice (1851, 1852, 1855), A. R. Hollingsworth (1860), C. L. Hollingsworth (1856), John L. Kennedy (1837), A. Mullinnix (1858), J. F. Smith (1857), John O. Smith (1838), C. B. Williams (1850), J. P. Woolbright (1856), and M. A. Worthington (1848).

Near Carmel (School)
James Dickson (1817) and John McKinney (1819).

Rice School
Miss M. Clayton (1845), J. L. Howard (1838), and William H. White (1837, 1841).

Salubrity School
Allen Fuller (1849) and C. L. Hollingsworth (1857, 1860).

Thalian School
Miss F. C. McKinney (1862)

One early school building was erected about 1850, on what is today Old Norris Road near West View Cemetery, not far from Liberty Spring. Later, in 1856 Zephaniah Smith deeded the property to the school trustees specifically for the use of a school. The one-room building which served the students burned in 1869.

The Commissioners of Schools appointed three men from each division within the District to act as trustees. The board over the Liberty Spring area in 1856 included Miles Davis Clayton, Samuel J. Chamblin, Carter Clayton, and Thomas Boggs.

In July of 1858, the Keowee Courier reported that the exhibition at Liberty where students were examined was attended by approximately one thousand people. The paper further reported:

The examination was satisfactory, and the students manifested considerable zeal in the cause. The dinner was good and all participated to their satisfaction, for there was plenty. The exercises were interspersed with songs by a very small boy, which pleased everybody.

The school is an excellent one and the teacher is giving general satisfaction. The examination was thorough and satisfactory. The students are evidencing a degree of advancement of their studies, which reflected credit on themselves and the teacher, C. L. Hollingsworth.

The State Superintendent's Report in 1870 on the status of schoolhouses relates that the Liberty School House's condition is "tolerably good, constructed of logs, [and] owned by the citizens of the vicinity." The report also reveals that twenty-five schoolhouses were in Pickens County, although only thirteen of them were occupied.

Two of the schools in the Liberty area reported to the State Department of Education in 1870 were Carmel Colored School and Liberty Survivor School. The report reads thus:

Carmel Colored School. W. T. C. White is the teacher at the colored school called Carmel, District No. 4 of Anderson County. He is turning in his report of November 1, 1869 to March 31, 1870. They are receiving no aid from the state. George W. Taylor owns the schoolhouse made of logs which is in good repairs. Students include Elias Jackson, William Corness, Hester Davis, Elverson Austin, Rachel Corness, Eleanor Austin, Harriet Davis, Euninia Corress, Julia Corress, Prims Jackson, Frank Babb, Sarah Corress, Jas. Willson, Benson Allums, Mary Williams, Emma Corness, Sr., Nannie Corress, Jesse Corress, Mary Williams, Harriet Carter, Paul Carter, Harriet Rowls, Catie

**Liberty Survivor School.** Mary A. Clayton is the teacher at the Liberty Survivor School in Salubrity Township. The building is of pine logs and unfinished on land owned by Mrs. Smith. Students include Robinson Hollingsworth, Martha Hollingsworth, Julius Boggs, John Boggs, Thomas Boggs, John McWhorter, Margaret McWhorter, William Parsons, Agnes Clayton, Ella Clayton, Essie Hughes, Benjamin Parsons, Josephine Boggs, Clark Richardson, Enoch Richardson, James Parsons, Margaret Gaines, Jane Gaines, Rosa Gaines, Alice Ottis, Harriet Ottis, Bell Hughes, Adeline Hughes, Charlotte Hughes, Talitha Mullinix, Elizabeth Richardson, Thomas M. Boggs, James Clayton, Laura Ottis, Henrietta Ottis, Earle Hamilton, and Bettie Fields. (Teacher's Report of November 1, 1869 to October 31, 1870. Located in the State Archives.)

After Pickens County was created in 1868 from the eastern part of the Pickens District, the county was cut into eight areas called townships. The one in which the town of Liberty would later develop was first called Salubrity. For each of these townships, the County School Commissioner (leader of the County school system) appointed three men to act as trustees of the little schools. The source of support was twofold: the three mill tax that was instituted by the Reconstruction Legislature and donations by public spirited men and women.

During the latter years of Reconstruction, a single track railroad known as the Air Line was laid, and one or two rural stores and some homes were built near a point called Liberty Station. The residents of the fledgling town took an interest in education.

This town is only a year old, but yet she can boast of some four or five stores, a hotel, a steam saw mill, an academy, two blacksmith shops, and a wood shop.

The people of Liberty have shown commendable zeal in the cause of education by building a comfortable building for the academy, and securing the services of one so competent as Julius Boggs as principal. This is certainly a step in the right direction, and older towns might turn a useful lesson therefrom. (The Pickens Sentinel, May 4, 1876)

During the years after the Civil War some school trustees were extremely partial, and some schools received an undue proportion of public funds. In order to make the education system more equitable, the county was divided in 1893 into districts of not more than nine miles square. Liberty became Pickens County District Number 11. Its first trustees were Sam. D. Stewart, H. C. Shirley, and S. D. McClanahan.

At this time, a school existed where Dr. W. M. Long lived and where Winn Dixie is now located at 311 Front Street. The property was sold in 1896 and W. L. Boggs relates "the school house lot is worth about $75 or $80." It is uncertain whether this school was a public or subscription school. The town's colored community was taught by the Rev. G. W. Shackleford and J. N. Miller in a "log building that is not yet in good condition," reported the People's Journal in 1894. The Liberty white public school was taught by R. E. Boggs and I. M. Mauldin. Its trustees were M. A. Boggs, H. C. Shirley, and S. D. Stewart.

Information secured from older residents relates that the second school building in the Liberty area was erected at Liberty Spring after the one-room schoolhouse building there burned in 1869. The new structure built at Liberty Spring was a one-room building. Carrie Hutchins, a former Liberty librarian, remembers that Maggie Boggs taught in this
building in the 1890s. She related that Boggs taught in one end of the room and a
gentlemen taught on the other end. The third building to serve the community and the first
school building erected in the town was a wooden two-story structure. It was built in 1897
in the area beside where the high school building stands in 1976.

The fourth building constructed ultimately became the original section of a building that
served Liberty for many years. It was erected in 1905, and the first commencement in this
building was held in 1906. See Liberty High School for further information.

Adult School

In what was called Liberty Adult School, Mrs. R. E. Bowen taught twenty-six students
for two hours an evening, two or three days a week, from October to December 1927. Guy H. Hill also taught in the same school.

Students of the school were Guy Kinson, B. A. Anderson, R. C. Benjamin, Astor
Cleveland, Horace Cleveland, Lee Chapman, Bill Hitt, Clarence Kennemore, Ralph
Kennemore, G. V. Lovell, Johnnie Lovell, J. T. Lovell, W. H. Moore, E. S. McCall, T.
H. McCall, Bruce Powell, J. T. Pressley, A. R. Reeve, Norman Reeve, J. G. Rogers, J.

Another class, termed Liberty Night School, was taught by Mrs. R. E. Bowen and C.
E. Godbold from November 1929 to January 1930. The students were Clarence Wood,
Johnnie Sullivan, James Lylie, J. B. Harris, Alvin Wood, Bernice Powell, Beatrice
Powell, India Scott, W. B. Porter, Annie Lou Porter, Bruce Powell, W. H. Jenkins,
Barbara Stevens, Clifford Bolding, George Sullivan, Jan McCoy, Haskell Ackins, Ansel
James, Woodrow Sanders, Robert Whitlock, and Eva Scott.

A black adult school was conducted by A. A. Martin from February to April 1937.
Although there is no listing of students, he taught thirty-eight people who varied in age
from nineteen through sixty-six years old. Two students from this school, Miss Zora Carr
and Miss Bessie Lacey, were recommended to attend the Opportunity school at Voorhees
College.

Adult School During World War II

Adult classes in mechanics, wood, and metal work were taught at Liberty School from
June 30 to July 25, 1941, and an industrial school for adults was held at the high school in
1942. In 1945 A. C. Ware, W. A. Crowe, and H. H. Zimmerman worked in food
conservation and were paid by the State Supervisor of Agricultural Education.

Calumet Mill School

Residents of Liberty remember that two schools were located in the mill villages. One
of these schools was located on the second floor of a mill-owned two-story building near
Plant Number Two and near the corner where Calumet church stands today. Ina Callaham
taught in the school before it burned in 1926 or 1927.
Civilian Conservation Corps

The 1936 records for the CCC Camp School indicate that Edna D. Clement and Frances Stewart taught, without financial compensation, twenty-four men. Mable Cartee, who taught at the CCC Camp from January to April 1938, instructed forty-nine men from sixteen to twenty-three years of age. Cartee made the comment that the boys studied "their multiplication tables during their spare time." Essie S. Young taught men from the ages of seventeen through twenty-three. She said the boys were "eager to study or undertake any suggestion offered them."

Corner Grove Elementary School

An article by John McCravy in the October 1, 1974, issue of the Monitor states that in 1905 the residents of the Finley Store area, between Eighteen Mile Creek and Three and Twenty Creeks, decided to build a new school. The Pickens County Board of Education received a petition from Three and Twenty and Flat Rock asking for the establishment of a school to be known as Corner Grove near the boundary between Pickens and Anderson County. After the Board agreed to the request, the petitioners met in Carmel Church for additional planning. The Glenn family offered to give the land if others would erect the building. Logs were cut and carried to the saw mill, and on a given date the men of the community gathered at the school site to put up the building. The school was located on the line between Pickens and Anderson counties and just below Carmel Presbyterian Church in the Flat Rock Community.

Some of the people who attended this school were Dave Holliday, Marvin Smith, Frank Holliday, Marshall Watson, Cliff Gillespie, Claude Gillespie, Freeman Pilgrim, Bill Gillespie, Lonnie Henderson, Simeon Holliday, Harrison Owen, Mack Patterson, Jay Gillespie, Crayton Owen, Jimmy Bell, Teat Patterson, and a son of Erlanger Hackett.

Others were Malgreen Patterson, Sammie Cagill, Furman Gillespie, Dock Gillespie, Mary Holliday, Bertie Watson, Ethel Owens, Agnes Gillespie, Ruth Gillespie, Etta Bell, Sallie Watson, Eliza Black, Essie Gillespie, and Janie Patterson.

Also attending were Delia O'Shields, Ollie Owen, Stan Pilgrim, Cora Bell, Mae Watson, Irene Hackett, Ida Bell, Maude Watson, Hattie Spearman, Marie Ellenburg, Tallie Gillespie, Gertrude Hackett, Frank Durham, Person Patterson, Guyton King, Zekiel Gillespie, Andrew Gillespie, George Bell, Guin King, Oscar Gillespie, Luther Brown, Lee Gillespie, Grady Wigington, Carl King, and Gus Owen.

The teachers were Mary Lesley and Malissa Black.

Eighteen Mile Limited School

A document signed by G. L. McWhorter, provides information concerning the operation of subscription schools in the post-reconstruction years:

This paper entitles the holder to one seat in Eighteen Mile Limited School for the scholastic year 1882 and is given in consideration of a note made by the holder to me for ten dollars. The fifteenth of November 1882, which note is binding if the school is taught whether the holder of this script patronizes or not and null if the school is not
taught. (Source: Paper belonging to Ira Smith, who lived near Five Forks, probably for his son Butler Smith.)

G. L. McWhorter received part of his education by a correspondence school; he taught school and was also a surveyor. His home was one half mile from the Flat Rock School at the corner of Highway 135 and Flat Rock Road.

**Flat Rock Elementary School**

In 1870, the Leander Boggs family gave land on which to build the newly organized Flat Rock Baptist Church. About ten years later, the family gave land for the first Flat Rock School located near the intersection of Highway 178 and Highway 135. Both the new church and the school were located just across the road from the present-day Flat Rock Baptist Church. Emily Hunter was the first teacher in the school, and Luke Arial followed her. The second school was held in the Flat Rock Church.

The second school building was built by Martin Boggs near the place where Golden Grove Wesleyan Methodist Church now stands. Captain Louis Richardson was the first teacher in this building. He was succeeded by Lewis Ellison.

Corner Grove, built a mile or two from Carmel Church on the Easley Road, later joined Flat Rock. The third Flat Rock School was built near Five Forks, and the fourth school by that name was at the intersection of Anderson Highway 135 and Flat Rock Road. The land for the school and playground was given by Louella McWhorter and Sam Wilson.

The fourth building was constructed in 1914; and the "Little Building," erected in 1926, was used as classrooms for the primary grades. The 1914 building was destroyed by fire in May 1957. During the summer and fall of 1957 a new Flat Rock School was erected, consisting of five large classrooms, bathrooms, and a large room used for the heating plant and storage space. The Little Building was later used for the school lunch program and also as an auditorium.

Principals of Flat Rock were W. A. Richbourg, Leland P. Prince, J. R. Orr, M. T. Hudgens, and Leola Hill.

Teachers were Addie McWhorter Richbourg, Jennie M. Painter Parker, Frances Boggs Pratt, Maggie Orr, Mary A. Boggs, Fannie Horton Long, Elizabeth J. Reed, Clara Gibson, Jimmie E. Griffin, Katie Hendrix, Leona Hammett, M. T. Hudgens, Edna D. Clement, Alberta Poore, Mrs. Bruce Williams, Zoe K. Whitlock, Florence H. Childress, Gladys B. Finley, Dorene A. Winchester, Bonnie Henderson, and Anne Campbell (Sheriff).

Trustees were John Gillespie, J. W. Holliday, Q. F. Finley, W. F. Young, J. F. Petit, G. H. Hamlin, Ralph W. Finley, Paul Bowie, Floyd Hunt, and R. A. Taylor.

Grace Gilstrap and Faye McWhorter worked in the lunchroom. (Source: Pickens County School Records and 1958 Yearbook of Flat Rock Elementary School)

**Holly Springs School**

An acre of land was deeded in 1898 to the trustees of Holly Springs School to use for a black free school, and a log cabin was erected in 1899 on the corner of Old Liberty Highway and Rices Creek Road. Katie Hendricks states:

The first teacher, Will Thayer, had a big slate for the children to write on as no blackboards were available. The children sat on homemade benches and the windows were wooden
shutters. The building was also used as a church. The second teacher was [a] Finley. In
1919, Frank Lawton, a preacher and teacher, built one room and Leo Curry, another
instructor, added another room. Louise Wiggins was employed as an assistant, and these
were [the] instructors until 1923. William Hagood and Moriah Graham taught until 1936,
when the school was cut to one teacher and Cordelia Kirksey was employed. (Furman
University thesis)

A deed signed August 11, 1930, stated that one half of an acre of land, deeded for the
consideration of five dollars by Riley Ferguson, Bright Huster, Julian Thayer, and Will
Ashmore (Trustees of Union Methodist Church), was to be used for school purposes and
"that the children are to use the water from the church well and to use the land on the east
side of the road as a playground."

In 1949, Miss Hendricks described Holly Springs as a

... two-room wooden building, the exterior is painted white, and the interior ceiled but
unpainted. One room is used as a classroom and one is used for lunches. The classroom
has a coal stove, electric light, single desks, and ample blackboard space. The windows
have shades and yellow curtains. The toilets are of the outdoor-pit type and water is
obtained from a well. Playground space is ample, yet equipment of this type was
lacking.

She further states that only eight students were enrolled. The students had a
community club and frequently gave programs.

Teachers and principals were Charlotte Williams, L. C. Parks, R. W. Johnson, A. G.
Bowen, I. V. Manning, Mamie Copeland Norris, Fannie Manning, Nellye Black, Cordelia
R. Burgess Kirksey, Zadie Moss, Frank L. Lawton, William Hagood, Mattye Launa
Childers, and the Rev. Leo W. Curry. (See Union School)

Hunters Academy

The Pickens Sentinel stated on August 6, 1885, that the Academy, situated in a
beautiful grove, is located about one-half of a mile east of Hunters' Mill. J. A. McWhorter
was the principal of the school which was in session for ten months.

Liberty Elementary School

In 1956, the first building erected solely for elementary students was constructed on the
Boggs estate on the west side of town. The sixteen acre site on Hillcrest Street had been
used in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps as a camp. The building contained
twenty classrooms, a library, a conference room, administrative offices, a book room,
health room, a cafeteria along with a kitchen, and a boiler room. The school opened on
August 30, 1956, with seventeen teachers and five hundred twenty-one students in grades
one through six. The dedication of the school took place on November 18, 1956. Some of
the teachers comprising the original staff were Ann Phillips, Lois Evatt, Mildred Watson,
Sallie Catherwood, Mary Ware, Lois Earle, Hazel Mauldin, Roberta Black, Rebecca Eades
Davis, and Willie Grace Lesley. John Baucum was the first principal and served until
1962.
In the fall of 1958, the Reunion School located on Highway 93 near the rock quarry was closed and consolidated with the Liberty Elementary School. Carrie Gillespie joined the staff after teaching at Reunion.

When W. E. "Woody" Woodson, Jr., assumed the principalship of the school on July 1, 1962, there were sixteen teachers, four hundred seventy students, a full-time librarian and a part-time music teacher.

In the summer of 1966, Flat Rock Elementary School was closed, and the students were transferred to Liberty Elementary School. Flat Rock teachers Florence Childress and Gladys Finley joined the staff at the elementary school. This increased the staff to nineteen and the student body to five hundred eighty-eight.

The school was first accredited by the South Carolina Department of Education during the 1966-1967 school term, after the school met the State Department of Education standards for teacher certification, buildings and grounds standards, and curriculum standards.

In the summer of 1969, the Rosewood Elementary School was closed and consolidated with Liberty Elementary. Thelma Robinson joined the staff at the elementary school.

The first kindergarten program for five-year olds in Pickens County was opened in 1969 at the Rosewood facility under the supervision of the Liberty Elementary School principal. The first teacher was Ruth Lamb. The following year, the first state supported kindergarten program for five-year olds was opened at the Rosewood facility. The first teacher was Hope Irmiter. The federal program was then terminated.

Liberty Elementary School, after meeting necessary standards, was accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

A hearing impaired class was organized at the beginning of 1974-1975 school year with Ann Beacham Martin as the first teacher. A mini-bus transported children from all areas of Pickens County to the Liberty facility.

During the 1974-1975 school year, a new addition was added to the original building. It included thirteen teaching stations, a library, and several offices. After the addition of the new wing, the Cateechee-Norris Elementary School was closed and consolidated with Liberty Elementary. Staff members who joined the Liberty School were Judith Cannon, Dawn Newton, Ann Smith, and Richard Sims. Approximately two hundred students were transferred to Liberty.

The Title I federal programs in reading began in 1971 with Anne Sheriff as the first teacher. The Title I (IMS) math program began in 1977, and again Anne Sheriff initiated the program. An assistant principal, Thelma Robinson, was added to the staff during the 1976-1977 school year. She later returned to teaching and Wanda Crosby replaced her as assistant principal.

Other teachers who have taught at Liberty Elementary School include Blanche Ashley, Mary Louise Baker, Tommie S. Barnes, Esther R. Bennett, Mary Boroughs, Wanda W. Brown Crosby, Shelvie J. Buckner, Louise Carpenter, Katherine W. Cartee, Elaine Chambers, Carol J. Clark, Fred Connington, Ann Yvonne Creamer, Arbutis J. Davis, Mary Louise Earle, Kenneth Ellison, Margaret Fort, Karen Gilstrap, Nellie P. Grant, Elaine Hamilton, Willa J. Handlin, Pat Haynes, Helen Hearn, Julia B. Hill, Terry Hipp, Sandra Houk, Wilma House, Rose Huff, Sybil Humphries, Joyce Jennings, Hallie C. Land, Dianne E. Limbaugh, Ruth Lovelace, Rebecca McJunkin, Golda Noblitt, Lula O'Dell, Gwynne Pace, Margaret M. Parrish, Frances Parry, Peter Parks, Maria Rainey, E. Gary Rice, Thelma Satterfield, G. Anne Sheriff, Linda Simpson, Ann Smith, Mildred Smith, Martha Summer, Joe Tankersley, Margaret B. Taylor, Susan C. Thorsland, Bonnie Tippey, Debbie Trotter, Sharon Warren, and Jeanette Winchester.
Teacher aides were Nancy Durham, Barbara A. Folkman, Norma Garren, Dorothy Hill, Roberta James, Linda Pressley, Jean Reeves, Betty Royce, and Judy Stewart.

Secretaries were Kathlyn F. Albertson, Judith W. Bryant, Sue Foster Dyar, Ruth Y. Lewis, Shirley Owen, and Frances B. Pratt.

Custodians were Charles Koone, John Seawright, Dora Austin, and Louise Chapman.

**Liberty High School**  
**Liberty Grammar School**

The *People's Journal* reported on January 9, 1896, that “there is a movement on foot to build a new schoolhouse [in Liberty], which is greatly needed.” By July a lot had been chosen for a “commodious schoolhouse,” and by January of 1897, plans and specifications could be examined at Chapman and Callaham’s store. The contract was let to a Mr. Bell, who was to begin work on February 1, 1897. The *People's Journal* reported that Bell finished the new school on July 22, 1897. He constructed "fifty-two slightly modernized folding school desks" for the new school building, which was a two-story wood frame structure; the upper story was built by the Liberty Masons, who used it as a lodge hall.

Teachers at the facility were J. T. Youngblood, P. B. Langston, M. D. Bruce, and W. M. Baker. They were teaching the alphabet, spelling, reading, writing, mental arithmetic, written arithmetic, geography, English, grammar, South Carolina history, United States history, physical hygiene, and "higher branches."

About 1905, a new brick building was erected, and the teaching techniques at Liberty were decidedly changed. The graded and fundamental high school attracted much attention, and caused attendance to increase greatly. The first commencement in this new addition was in 1906.

In 1911, the State Superintendent of Education reported that the school had two hundred nineteen students, one male teacher and five female teachers. School lasted thirty-six weeks, and the physical plant was worth twelve thousand dollars.

Teachers in 1914-1915 were Vivian Allgood, Agnes Parrott, Edith Lenhardt, Mary Gantt, Adger F. Boggs, Frances Anderson, and Mrs. A. F. Boggs. The principal was W. S. Richbourg, and the trustees were Dr. William Long, J. C. Hunter, and Oscar F. Boggs.

In 1918-1919 the teachers were Willie Pett Chapman, Resse Boggs, Mrs. W. L. Boggs, Mrs. L. L. Armistice, and Edith Walker.

An increase in population and attendance in the elementary grades caused overcrowding and mandated additional construction. In consequence, the district voted school bonds to finance the four new classrooms added in 1920. Again on account of overcrowding, the district voted $11,500 in school bonds in 1925 and erected nine new classrooms.

The following information was available for the year 1926-1927:

**High School Teachers**: Annie Boggs, Fay Burch, P. L. Ulmer, Laura Mae Wilson  
**Grammar School Teachers**: Mrs. W. B. Glenn, Mrs. A. D. Attaway, Marie Hall, Annie Lee Boggs, Mary Henry Cook, Mrs. W. M. Long, Floy Pilkinston, Lily Boggs, Lorena Young, Mrs. R. E. Bowen, Mrs. H. B. Marlar, Mrs. W. L. Boggs, Ora Prince and Marion Pilkinston  
**Principal**: C. F. Reames  
**Superintendent**: Guy H. Hill  
**Enrollment**: 102 for grades 8-11, 498 for grades 1-7  
**Note**: Tornado winds tore roof off high school building on November 26, 1927
The following information was available for the year 1934-1935:

**High School Teachers:** Evangeline Hames, Louise Jones, Alex E. Orr, Olive Battle, Felicia Ervin

**Grammar Teachers:** Katherine Williamson, Adelaide Shumate, Janet Bolt, Anna Gregg, Sallie Lee Cromer, Genieve Wyatt, Olga Richardson, Ethel Caldwell, Agnes Ellison, Ruby Norris, Louetta Youngblood, and Annie Boggs

**Principal:** I. Y. Caughman

**Superintendent:** Joe O. Bostick

**Trustees:** R. C. McCall, L. A. Smith, W. H. Mauldin

**Enrollment:** high school 145, grammar 464

**Term:** Seven Months

The eleventh grade was added in 1922, and the twelfth grade was added in 1948.

In 1941 the school was inspected and described as consisting of an excellent one story separate building connected to the high school by a covered and enclosed brick walkway, a blacksmith shop, a domestic science area and agriculture rooms. The elementary grades moved to a separate facility in 1956. A gymnasium was added to the high school plant in 1957.

In 1967, the original high school building was torn down, and a new school was built. An auditorium was added in 1970 and dedicated to the memory of a former principal, George Philip Crotwell. He served as principal at the high school from 1955 to 1967, when he retired because of bad health. (The building serves as a middle school in 1991.)

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**Principals of Liberty School and Liberty High School**

| 1902-1903 | Palmer Dubose |
| 1903-1904 | J. A. Stoddard |
| 1904-1906 | B. S. Cogburn |
| 1906-1907 | W. C. Taylor |
| 1907-1911 | W. S. Richbourgh |
| 1911-1915 | B. C. Givens |
| 1915-1917 | W. S. Richbourgh |
| 1918-1919 | Guy Hill |
| 1919-1926 | W. M. Caldwell |
| 1926-1927 | C. E. Godbold |
| 1927-1928 | M. H. Leserne |
| 1928-1931 | I. Y. Caughman |
| 1931-1933 | E. A. Orr |
| 1933-1935 | J. W. Horne, Jr. |
| 1935-1942 | Joe D. Durham |
| 1942-1948 | George Philip Crotwell |
| 1948-1950 | A. Clark Batten |
| 1950-1955 | Oscar A. Thorsland |
| 1955-1967 | 
| 1967-1971 | 
| 1971 - |
Superintendents of Liberty District

- 1924-1926: L. N. Foy
- 1926-1927: C. F. Reeves
- 1927-1929: Guy Hill
- 1929-1933: W. B. Davis
- 1933-1939: Joe Bostick
- 1939-1941: George E. Welborn
- 1941-1943: E. R. Orr
- 1943-1955: Mike E. Herndon
- 1963-1968: Stuart R. Brown

Principals of Liberty Grammar School

- 1935-1948: Sallie L. Cromer
- 1948-1950: Margery Davis
- 1950-1954: W. F. Whitaker
- 1954-1956: John Baucum

Liberty Elementary School

- 1956-1962: John Baucum

Liberty Junior Colored School and Liberty Colored High School (Later Rosewood Elementary School)

The first school established for the black children of Liberty was located on a lot next to the New Hope Baptist Church. The property was sold by Caroline Mays to the Farmer's Aid Society for eleven dollars. Only elementary grades were offered in the building owned by this organization, and various school programs and other activities connected with the school were held in the local black churches. Betty Hendricks prepared a history of the black schools in Pickens County for her master's thesis at Furman University in 1949. She wrote that the black school in Liberty was held in 1899 in an old dwelling, which was unceiled and unpainted and had shutters for windows. There were no blackboards and the children used slates. In 1900, the school had one teacher, and was open for a twelve-week term. The black children who wanted to continue their education found it necessary to travel to Easley, Greenville, or Pendleton, where institutions for secondary education existed.

In 1913, the school had one hundred and twenty days of school, an enrollment of seventy-three, and an average attendance of forty-two. The teacher, who held a first class certificate, received an annual salary of $201.25.

During the 1920s the school opened on a six-month term, had three teachers and an enrollment ranging from 105 to 121. Teachers from the 1920s include Wilhelmina Anderson, Eva Mae Anderson, Major J. Alexander, Eva Louise Anderson Johnson,
The ninth grade was added in 1932, and the enrollment increased. In later years the school moved to the location of the present Rosewood School (corner of Main and Rosewood Streets) and was called Liberty Colored Junior High School. A frame building was erected and served the community until it was destroyed by fire on December 27, 1935. While a new school was being built, classes met in New Hope Baptist Church and at Robinson United Methodist Church. A new structure was completed in 1937, and classes began in October. Tenth and eleventh grades were added in 1945, and the twelfth grade was added in 1948, when the name was changed to Liberty Colored High School.

A report for the 1945-1946 school year gave the following information:

Liberty Junior High is on its way to Liberty High School. This year they have an added grade and an added teacher of Miss Maylee Burgess. They also have an extension of the bus line from Norris to Abel. At the present at least 38 children are transported daily to that school from Norris, Central, and Abel. Thanks to the late Superintendent of Education (Mike E. Herndon), Mr. Zimmerman, and Miss Webb for their untiring efforts in bringing this to pass. (Report in Pickens County School Records)

The building was described in 1949 as an excellent brick structure with the interior plastered and painted a cream color. It consisted of seven classrooms and a combination auditorium and gymnasium. The library had several hundred volumes secured by a donation of five hundred dollars. Two hundred fifty dollars came from the Liberty School (white), and a matching sum was received from the Parent Teacher Association of the Colored School. The science room was well-equipped with a microscope, laboratory materials, and charts. The classrooms were attractively decorated with curtains, pictures, flowers, science corners, health corners, and exhibits of children's work. The agriculture department had a separate shop where chairs and tables were made. The agriculture department converted the coal bin located in the basement of the building into space for a home economics room. The room was equipped with three Singer electric sewing machines and gas burners for cooking. The principal converted a cloakroom into an office, which was equipped with a typewriter and a duplicator. All rooms had coal stoves and electric lights. The school had running water, and the toilets were of the flush type. The school had a piano and a film projector. It also had a lunch program with two cooks employed. The playground was ample, and the equipment was good. The Liberty Colored School had a strong Parent-Teacher Association, a student council, Junior Homemaker's Association, agriculture, science, and commercial clubs. The commercial club issued a school newspaper called The Voice.

Betty Hendricks recorded that Liberty Colored School in 1949 was a seven-teacher school with twelve grades. There were four instructors in the high school and three in the grammar school. One hundred fifty-nine pupils were enrolled in the entire school--one hundred nine in the grammar school and fifty in the high school. The school had a bus; and high school pupils were transported from Norris, Central, and Calhoun. The principal taught classes in chemistry, biology, history, and agriculture.

Consolidation of schools in Pickens County took place in 1953-54, and black high school students in Liberty were then bused to Easley. Liberty Colored High School
became an elementary school, and the school name was changed to Rosewood School. It merged with Liberty Elementary School in 1969.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Black School Principals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1906-1907</td>
<td>John I. Miller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1907-1911</td>
<td>John W. Simpson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1911-1912</td>
<td>John W. Simpson</td>
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<tr>
<td>1912-1913</td>
<td>John W. Simpson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1913-1916</td>
<td>John W. Simpson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1916-1926</td>
<td>M. B. Brissie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1926-1927</td>
<td>Alexander Charles Johnson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1928-1933</td>
<td>A. A. Martin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1933-1942</td>
<td>James F. Moorer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1942-1944</td>
<td>H. H. Zimmerman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1944-1950</td>
<td>Roy Lee Bowens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1951-1954</td>
<td>Cleo Dyches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1954-1966</td>
<td>Willard R. Greene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1966-1968</td>
<td>Thelma Robinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1968</td>
<td>Black School Discontinued</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Mill School**

Residents of Liberty report that two schools were located in the mill villages. One of these schools was located near Plant Number One and one school near Plant Number Two.

There is a modest school building in the village, and the corporation contributes two-thirds of the cost of this building. The support of the school rests primarily on the county, but whatever is needed to supplement public funds and insure the running of the school for the full scholastic term, is provided by the mill company. Last year the contribution amounted to one-half of the expenses. Liberty Cotton Mills reported that the enrollment was thirty-one with an average attendance of twenty-five. The number of children under twelve in the village was fifty. (Source: *The Cotton Mills of South Carolina* by August Kohn, 1907.)

Pickens County School Records indicate that in 1913 and 1914 the Mill paid the school district one hundred dollars to operate the Company Factory School. This school, known as Easley Mill School #2 (near the mill on Beattie Street) was located in a regular house. Margaret Hagood and Ella Boggs were teachers at the mill school. Mary Hunter taught there from 1918 to 1920. When Mary Hunter's mother became ill, Mattie Lee Hunter, Mary's sister, became the teacher and taught there one year before the school closed.

**Oak Grove School**

The *Easley Messenger* states in December 28, 1883, that the Oak Grove School, taught by Mr. Boggs, near Miles Singleton's, had burned. The paper reported the citizens were rebuilding and the school would reopen in January.
Reunion School

In 1915 the Reunion School trustees were given authority to issue bonds for the purpose of purchasing a lot and erecting a school building. In 1937 the trustees were soliciting plans for a new building.

W. F. Welborn, F. F. Williams, and Mrs. P. P. Farmer were principals.

Minnie Sheriff, Mrs. Adger Boggs, Alberta Poore, Rita Mullinix, Unity Brock, Grace Boroughs, Essie Young, Mattie D. Mann, Fulton Massingill, Hattie Mae Riggins, Robert E. Bowen, Alice Hinton, Leona Hammett, and Sallie C. Catherwood were teachers.

D. Satterfield, W. D. Waldrop, A. J. Young, J. B. Riggins, and H. D. McDonald were trustees.

Roanoke School

Florence B. Haney, Essie Stewart, Nannie R. Craig, L. P. Prince, Zoe Z. Boroughs, J. R. Orr, R. T. Hallum, Sr., C. F. Copeland, G. E. Welborn and others were principals.

Essie Stewart, May Whitten Stewart, Mrs. G. G. Christopher, Florence B. Honey, Nannie R. Craig, W. R. O'Dell, Zoe Zeigler Boroughs, Claudia Kennemur, Mary Allgood, Alma D. Chapman, Miss Willis Stewart, Miss Ruth Grant, Irma H. Morris, Edna K. Richey and Annie Lou Reeve were teachers.

S. W. O'Dell, T. O. Allgood, B. F. Freeman, W. H. Grant, and H. T. Dickard were trustees.

In 1938-39 a few of the students attending Roanoke included Harold Morgan, Velma Patterson Stubbs, Leola Patterson Lesley, Hallie Revis Keever, Harry Gillespie, and Addie Mae Patterson Revis. (Article from Pickens Sentinel, October 11, 1989.)

Ruhamah School

Ruhamah Garner Neighbors gave two acres of land, two and a half miles south of Liberty to the trustees of Ruhamah Church for the purpose of building a Methodist Church. This property was given in 1872, and the deed was recorded in August 1876. It is believed that a short time after the church was built, a one-room log school was constructed on the church property a few yards southeast of the present church building. Hoyt Robinson remembers his father telling him many times about attending the log school. At the turn of the century, a one-room frame structure was built nearby, and the old log building was abandoned.

Sally Mulligan was one of the early teachers in the one-room frame school. She lived in the house later occupied by the John Black family and located about one and a half miles west of the school. She walked to school each day and would often stop by Nora Evatt Cantrell's house to chat before going home.

Records kept by the Pickens County School District reveal that trustees appointed for Ruhamah District No. 5 on July 7, 1896, were John Gary, Leander Boggs, and J. M. Rampay. The same men were approved by the County Board of Examiners on July 6, 1897, for the following year.

M. A. and N. E. Neighbors sold an acre of land for ten dollars to the trustees of Ruhamah School District on August 8, 1901. This acre lot that joined the church property was presumably purchased in order to build a larger school. The two-room school was not
constructed, however, until about 1914. John Carson of Central built the new school, located just south of the present church. Mattie Lee Hunter Fuller Winn, who graduated from Winthrop College in 1920, taught in Liberty her first year and at Ruhamah her second year. The number of students had so increased by the 1920s that it was necessary for Winn to teach grades one and two in the church. C. B. Lewis and Sally Duckworth Mann taught the other grades in the two-room school building.

Ruhamah School continued to grow, and the trustees realized that additional property and a larger school were needed. Since additional land was not available near the church site, the school trustees purchased four acres from Mrs. C. B. Hamilton on November 5, 1921. This land was located one and one-fourth miles south of the first three schools and nearer to Eighteen Mile Creek. Trustees at that time were G. F. Gillespie, E. Z. Mullinix, and J. M. Melton.

C. B. Lewis and T. L. Roper were principals in the 1920s. Roper was an excellent teacher and a good disciplinarian. Although he normally walked to school from Welborn Newton's home where he boarded, he occasionally drove his Model-A Ford. After Roper married Pearl Nicholson, they moved into a house on W. S. Smith's land.

Between 1935 and 1941, B. R. Childress was principal at Ruhamah. Childress put seats in the back of his pick-up truck and transported children who lived on his farm to school. Other principals at the school were E. A. Lewis, C. B. Lewis, R. A. Riggins, Rita L. Mullinax, Allie Newton, Mrs. George Julian, J. L. Whitlock, W. S. Smith, S. W. Newton, and W. G. Robinson.

Teachers included Zora Boroughs, Lillian Thompson McAlister, Mrs. E. A. Lewis, Lillian McAlister, Mrs. Ethridge Black, and Sallie Evatt.

Roy McCall of Easley and Dr. J. C. Hunter of Liberty were instrumental in helping arrange the first bus service for Ruhamah's graduates in order that they might attend high school.

The spacious three-room school built on the new site served the children of the area until Ruhamah school consolidated with Liberty about 1949. It is not known what eventually happened to the first log schoolhouse. The one-room frame school (the second building) was moved to the Revis home, which was later bought by Furman Gillespie, and torn down about 1931. The two-room school was sold to Samuel Robinson, and the lumber was used to build a dwelling for Robinson's family. Victor Robinson, Samuel's son, later bought the house and his descendants still live there. The three-room school on Eighteen Mile Creek was sold to Ernest Swords, who converted it into a dwelling for his family. They lived in the structure until it burned.

Education in District 5 did not begin with the Ruhamah school. Records housed in the Faith Clayton Room in the library of Central Wesleyan College reveal that before 1876 a one-room log school was located about five hundred yards southeast of Ruhamah Church near Highway 123. Worshipers met in the school before Ruhamah Church (first called Shady Grove) was established around 1876. It is supposed the old log school had the same name.

Another school of unknown name existed in the mid 1800s. It was located about one and one half miles west of Ruhamah Church near the Ethridge Black home. According to George Cantrell, his father Lawrence Cantrell first attended school in this structure. (Source: History of Ruhamah Schools by Mildred Gillespie Watson, 1989)

**Thalian Academy**

The Rev. John Leland Kennedy conducted schools at Pickens Court House on the Keowee River, Pendleton, Williamston, and Slabtown. His most noted school, Thalian
Academy (near Carmel Presbyterian Church), was located in Anderson County in the fork of Pickens, Earle, and Indian creeks. The school originated in 1832 when Colonel D. K. Hamilton assembled the leading citizens of the area and formulated plans for an educational establishment. Kennedy was chosen teacher of the school as well as pastor of Carmel Church.

An advertisement in Farmer and Planter, published in Pendleton on December 1852, tells something about Thalian Academy:

[Thalian Academy] above Anderson Court House, midway between Pendleton and Greenville, will recommence its exercises on 10th of January next, under charge of the present teachers, Rev. Messrs. J. L. Kennedy and J. B. Hillhouse. Instructions may be received in the various branches of Mathematics and other Sciences—in the Latin, Greek, Hebrew, French or German Language. Rates of tuition as heretofore. No deduction for lost time, or leaving before the end of the term, except in case of sickness. A small initiation fee will be charged. Boarding at $7 per month, including washing. By order of the Board of Trustees. Address Equality or Double Branches. T. H. McCann, Secretary.

The main wooden building was about sixty feet long and twenty-five wide. The single story building, boarded up and down with plank, contained only one large room without any dividing partitions. This room was occupied by the little girls and boys who belonged to the reading writing and arithmetic department.

The sleeping apartments of the pupils were cabins located near residences in the community. These two-room framed cabins were furnished by the owners of the property. Each cabin would accommodate from four to eight boys. Meals were furnished at the family table.

In 1891 David Sloan of Atlanta, Georgia, wrote about Thalian:

Near a little town called Slab town, was a large one-room hewed log house. This school was taught by the deservedly celebrated John Leland Kennedy, who had been a pupil of the famous teacher, Dr. Waddell. His reputation as teacher was known throughout the country, and he had a very large school, not confined to mountain sprouts and sandlappers, but boys were sent there from other states. Many unruly boys were sent to this noted school, which increased in numbers so that the house would not hold the pupils; therefore, we were sent to classes out in the grove to study our lessons under the shades of the great oaks. Mr. Kennedy sat in the door, where, with the sweep of his keen black eyes, he could command both the house and the grove.

Some of the notable students who attended the school were Colonel James L. Orr, Major Frank Whitner, General W. W. Humphries, Honorable Julius Boggs, Rev. George and Leland Boggs, Isaac Long, Samuel Wilson, George Johnson, John W. Thompson and Rev. A. Ross Kennedy.

The War Between the States commenced when Thalian Academy was attaining its greatest reputation. When many of the pupils responded promptly to their country's call and became soldiers, the school closed.

Union School

Union School was built adjacent to the Union Methodist Episcopal Church. Most of the black families who were members of Union Church and who had children of school
age were patrons of the Union school. The school had one teacher who taught all students in grades one through seven.

Some of the teachers at Union were J. H. McKissick, Sr., Mamie Norris, William Hagood, and Cordelia Kirksey. Decline in enrollment and consolidation of Pickens County Schools caused Union to close in the early 1950s. The school building, property of Union Church, was later torn down.

This school was also known in Pickens County School school records as Holly Springs School.

Unknown

The Easley Messenger in May 23, 1884, states that the citizens of Easley and Liberty were building a schoolhouse near Hamilton on E. A. Russell's farm, on the Anderson-Pickens County border. The school was eighteen by twenty-four, weather-boarded, and located on the Pickens County side of the line. They planned to open a Sunday School at the building under T. H. Russell, on Sundays at three o'clock. John Lesley played the organ, and Mr. McKinney and Mr. Brewer were the teachers.