

Tolu relics, stories preserve history

From some school history written by Mrs. Edna Taylor and Mrs. Annabelle Guess, the first school in the area began about 1874 at Coon's Point in a log cabin. Charlie Bozeman was the teacher. In the next couple of years Mrs.. Anna Isabel taught in a log church near Hurricane and Bob Bruce began teaching in a little school on Mr. Jose Guess's farm. This too was a log school building with only one room. Around 1888 the first school in the town of Tolu was built. Teacher was Prof. S. A. Moore.

As early as June 1891, they placed advertisements in The Crittenden Press to encourage families to send their children to school. The ad stated: The course of instruction embraces the Common School course, history, literature, rhetoric (the study of using language effectively), elocution (the study of public speaking), book-keeping, mathematics, natural science, Latin and German. The Fall Term would be 5 months, beginning September 1891 and the Spring Term 4 months beginning Feb. 1, 1892. The teachers for this year would be Mina Wheeler and Tinnie Wheeler.

In January 1910 the town of Tolu had before the first term of the Crittenden County Court a petition for a new school for their children. Whereas, H. J. Myers and others filed with the Clerk of this court, and in open Court on the 8th day of November 1909, a petition signed by 10 of the legal white voters of Tolu Common School District, No. 10, for white children in Crittenden County; which petition was endorsed by a majority of the Trustees of said District, and by the Superintendent of Common Schools for said County; and said petitioners being tax payers in said Common School District, praying the judge of the Crittenden County Court, to have an order made on his order book, ordering the Sheriff, whose duty it is to hold Elections, to open a poll,

or cause it to be done, at the next regular State, Town or City election, for the purpose of taking the census of the legal white voters in said School District upon the proposition as to whether a Graded Common School shall be established and maintained by the Levy and collection for that purpose of a Tax of 50 cents on each One Hundred Dollars worth of property in said District. And a Poll Tax of \$1.50 on each white inhabitant therein over 21 years of age, for the purpose of maintaining a Graded Common School for white children in said District and for the erection and repairing of suitable buildings thereof. This enabled the people to built a new two-room school building inside the town.

First High School
First high school was in the year of 1919. This was taught by Prof. J. A. B. Wathers of Golconda, Ill. Prof. Wathers was assisted by Misses Clara Love and Vaida Cain.
In 1922 Prof. R. S. Belt, a Smith-Hughes teacher, came to us as superintendent of Tolu Graded and High School. This was the first year as a fully accredited four-year high school.

The following are some of the things that were accomplished during this time. When Mr. Belt came in 1922, the high school had a small student body. This was built up to almost twice the previous enrollment. The school building had only three rooms. Bonds were voted and the agriculture room was added. This was the first model of its kind in the state. Plans of this room were included in the state publication as a model room for that purpose. A complete library built up to state standards and sewing equipment were added.

The greatest publicity the school ever received was through the basketball team. Tolu, which had been unknown, became known throughout the state. All state papers carried articles about the famous little town on the banks of the Ohio.

November 1935 – Tolu School News

Our school is progressing nicely. Great effort has been expended in order to give the students enjoyable exercise. A new tennis court, and croquet ground has been added to our playground. In the near future we hope to add other improvements for both the high school and the grades.

Coach W. B. Fisher reports that he is well pleased with his athletic department. Only a few games of baseball were played but in each game Tolu was victorious. The basketball team has only played three games this season and has been victorious in each of these.

Tolu School Opens, Sept. 8, 1939

Tolu school opened its 1939-40 school year with a boom by adding a new room to the building. The Junior and Senior classes have already elected class officers for the year. The senior class has for its president Louise Easley; vice president, Rowena Curnel; secretary-treasurer, Mildred Sherer and school news reporter, Mary Charles Clarke.
The Junior class selected Ollie Bill Lowery for President, Mary Lee Wright for vice-president and Reed Porter for secretary-treasurer.

Cheerleaders were chosen because "they can make more racket than anyone in



These rare Tolu Indians emblems from the school's early days belonged to the late Joe Morris who played basketball from 1941-1943.

school" are Rome Hardesty, Nell Wyatt and Mary Charles Clarke.

Commencement Week Activities, April 1940

Commence week activities of Tolu High School open Sunday night as Rev. J. M. Dameron, Marion Baptist Church-delivers the baccalaureate sermon.
Wednesday evening at 7:30 class night program begins with the president's speech by Louise Easley followed by class roll call under direction of Roy Little. Rome Hardesty, salutatorian, is to deliver an address followed by the class history by Jesse Sherer.

A solo by Mary Charles Clarke preceeds the optimist's report of Mildred Sherer and next is that of the pessimist, Nina Harden.

The Class Prophecy is to be given by Max E. Station and the mantle oration by Louise Sullenger.

A song featuring Aline Conrad, a poem by Frances Hardesty, Nell Wyatt and Carlin Hill, giftorian orations

will be by Trilby Curney which will precede the valedictory of Rowena Curnel.

Tolu Commencement, March 1, 1943

Tolu High commencement is to be Thursday night, March 25, beginning at eight, according to Mrs. Maude Steele, sponsor of the graduating class. Hollis C. Franklin is to deliver the address. Graduates to receive diplomas are Wincell Damron, Robert Terry Guess, Thomas S. Croft, William Ollie Brown, Mary E. Rodgers, Lillian Yates, Joe E. Morris, and Lloyd Brazell, Jr. Wincell Damron is Valedictorian and Salutatory went to Lillian Yates.

Baccalaureate sermon is to be delivered Sunday night at Methodist church by Rev. A. H. Alexander. Mrs. Ollie Phin Croft is in charge of music.

The annual junior-senior trip last Friday took the class to Western State Teachers College, Bowling Green, and concluded with a

show at Hopkinsville.

Tolu Gymnasium, 1947

In September 1947 Tolu School purchased three buildings from the Army Air Field at Sturgis. With these building the Tolu gymnasium was built from the lumber. Tolu had its first needed gymnasium.

Tolu's Emblem

Recently donated to the Crittenden County Historical Museum are the rare, one of a kind, emblems of those early Tolu basketball days when their school emblem was the Tolu Indians. These wonderful items were donated to the Museum by Jay Morris, formerly from Marion, who now lives in Princeton. His father, Joe Morris, a graduating student listed as a March 1943 graduate, lived at Tolu and went to Tolu High School. These items came off of his red Tolu sweater. The sweater had deteriorated through the years but these emblems, including chevrons indicating he played basketball for three years, were still is excellent shape. They make another wonderful addition to the Tolu school display.

Oops on me. I made a mistake in my article of "Origins of Road Names" in the July 9, 2026 edition of The Press. I had the Cochran log house was built in 1879 and remodeled in 1902, it should have been "built in 1797, and remodeled in 1802."

(Brenda Underdown is chair of Crittenden County Historical Society and a member of Crittenden County Genealogical Society. Much more local history can be found at OurForgotten-Passages.blogspot.com.)

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ADVERTISEMENT
Crittenden Livingston County Water District
RE: 200,000 Gallon Clearwell Wet Inspection

The **Crittenden Livingston County Water District** will receive separate, sealed Proposals for their **Water System Improvements Project** until **1:30 p.m. local time, Monday, August 24, 2026** at the District's Business Office, 620 East Main Street Salem, KY 42078 at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud.

The contract involves the wet inspection of the District's 200,000 gallon clearwell. Bids will be received for a single prime Contract. Bids shall be on a lump sum basis as indicated in the Bid Form.

The Issuing Office for the Bidding Documents is: McGhee Engineering, Inc., at P.O. Box 267, 202 South Ewing Street, Guthrie, Kentucky 42234 or by calling (270) 483-9985. Perspective Bidders may examine the Bidding Documents at the Issuing Office on Mondays through Fridays between the hours of 8:30-4:30 pm, and may obtain copies of the Bidding Documents from the Issuing Office as described below. Plans must be ordered by visiting www.mcgheeengineering.com and clicking "**Bid Opportunities**". Plans will be sold with an option of Digital only OR Printed Set w/ Digital copy. Bids will be accepted only from registered contractors holding approved bid forms provided by the Issuing Office. Plan holders may be viewed at www.mcgheeengineering.com.

All bidders shall submit with their bid an acceptable bid bond or a certified check in the amount of five percent (5%) of the bid, payable to the Owner. The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities or to reject any and all bids. No bidder may withdraw their bid after the date of the bid opening. The award of this project will be to the lowest, responsive, responsible bidder. The Bidder awarded the contract shall substantially complete this project within **25** calendar days. Liquidated damages will be assessed at **\$500** per calendar day. This project is funded with funds provided by Community Development Block Grant program plus the Kentucky Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) with federal funds provided by the Environmental Protection Agency. SRF requirements and provisions must be met by the Bidder and all subcontractors. Bidders must comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Anti-Kickback Act, and the Contract Work Hours Standard Act. Bidders must comply with the President's Executive Order No. 11246 as amended, which prohibits discrimination in employment regarding race, creed, color, sex or national origin. This project will be in compliance with Executive Order 11246 (Equal Employment Opportunity) as amended. Contractor/Subcontractor will comply with 41 CFR 60-4, in regard to affirmative action, to insure equal opportunity to females and minorities and will apply the time tables and goals set forth in 41 CFR 60-4. Bidder will make positive efforts to use small, minority, women owned and disadvantaged businesses. Procurement will be subject to DOW Procurement Guidance and **CDBG requirements including the Davis-Bacon Act; all as signed by the Crittenden Livingston County Water District 2026.**

Preparation of Bid for CDBG Funded Project:

Each bid must be submitted on the prescribed form and accompanied by Certification of Bidder Regarding Equal Employment Opportunity, Form 950.1; Certification of Bidder (Contractor) Concerning Labor Standards and Prevailing Wage Requirements, Form 1421; & Certification of Bidder Regarding Section 3 and Segregated Facilities. All blank spaces for bid prices must be filled in, by ink or typewritten, in both words and figures, and the foregoing Certifications must be fully completed and executed when submitted. Attention of bidders is particularly called to the requirements as to conditions of employment to be observed and Davis/Bacon Act prevailing minimum wages to be paid under contract, Section 3, Segregated Facility, Section 109, and E.O 11246 and Title VI. Minority bidders are encouraged to bid. Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities or to reject any or all bids.

Published by the authority of the
Crittenden Livingston County Water District

Dated: August 2026