**Post Office**

The records of the Post Office Department in the National Archives show that a Post Office was established at Dyer on July 20, 1885. The names of the Postmasters who served at this office and their dates of appointment through September 30, 1971, are as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Walter A. Dyer John W. Moss Tilghman M. Layton Robert N. Anderson John S. Chastain Stephen M. Dyer John S. Chastain Marion T. Rhodes Hiram M. Bennett William C. Creekmore Walter D. Patton Kate Rogers Marion T. Rhodes H. Clay Cottrell Mrs. Lucille Moss William J. James H. Clay Cottrell H. Clay Cottrell  |  July 20, 1885 July 31, 1886June 20, 1887June 07, 1888June 15, 1889June 29, 1893 Jan 08, 1898 Apr 07, 1904 Jul 19, 1918 Jan 03, 1919 Feb 14, 1921 Jul 08, 1921 Sep 09, 1921 Jun 01, 1940 (assumed charge)  Sep 08, 1942 (assumed charge) Dec 12, 1943 Feb 28, 1946 (Returned to duty from military) 1976 |

Someone sent in data that Shelton Chastain would meet the river boat and get the mail. Deliver mail at Riverside and bring out the Dyer mail to the Post office.

The Post Office was moved from store to store, depending on who was the Postmaster. First in Stephen Dyer Store when Walter Dyer was the Postmaster. In 1886 in the John Moss store. Think the next two were in the little store next to the John Moss store. Then moved across the street to the Chastain store when he was Postmaster. Then in the shop where Roe Cottrell Barber Shop is today. And in T. J. James store when Marcet Bonnet was Post Master. About 1912 Terrell Rhodes said he would build a building for the Post Office so that it would not be moved around, and it has remained in that building until 1975 when a new Post Office was built in the South side of town on property owned by Ernest Cottrell. Clay Cottrell is the Postmaster today.

**Depot**

This is the third building for the Depot in Dyer. It was moved to the East crossing in 1913 and closed in June 24, 1936, with William A. McNeely the last station master and removed in 1936. Retired the Mail Crane April 1962.

It was about the year 1928-1930 that the teachers went without their salary for a year unless they sold their vouchers to someone who then would hold them until maturity to cash in the entire price. Some teachers had to cash in and of course lost a certain percent of their salary. Then in about 1937 teachers taught for a few months without pay and they traveled around to homes with students to spend the night or a week for their board. because THE SCHOOL WAS SHORT OF MONEY.

**September** always meant that it was time again for the school bell to ring and call students back to the "Little Red School House" and little girls had several new dresses to wear to school and looked forward to a new teacher and new friends or seeing the old friends and a former teacher.

**1929**: Oliver Kirk, of Van Buren, a member of the class of 1929 of John Brown College in Siloam Springs, Arkansas, has been chosen president of the Sophomore class this year.

Miss Thelma James will teach the second grade at Alma this next school term.

The eight grade met January 27 and organized their class and elected officers. Bernice Tomlinson and Troy Selby were in charge of the organization. President, Leslie Morse; Vice-President, C. B. Hunter; Secretary, Mildred Morse; Class leader, Wilma Johnson; Class Name: "Willing Workers". Motto, "Onward and Upward". Colors: Blue and White. Flower: the Red Rose.

Dyer has employed a staff of teachers for the following term of school which will not begin until the first of November. Faculty is Mr. Homer Mitchell; Mrs. T. W. Moss ***[aka Dora Belle Haydon Moss]***; Mrs. Hallet Floyd; and Miss Cooper.

Last week was mid-term examination at the Dyer High School. The following students made 100 in spelling on a test of fifty words: Wanda Ruth Rhodes and Madge Chitwood.

The two highest grade for the eight grade as follows: Mildred Morse and Charlie Moss, Jr.

Ernest Cottrell in the Ninth grade made 100%.

Chester Thomas of Dyer enrolled in the CCC Camp in the state of Washington. He and Bill Spillers of Mulberry wrote back a letter as follows: "We will try to tell you what the Northwest is like. We are located in the Mt. Rainier National Park in western Washington. We are in the Ohanapecosh area. There are all kind of wild animals in this park. Three bears come to the camp every day and we feed them. There are three kinds of trees in the park: Douglas Fir, Noble Fir and Western Red Cedar. The cedars are large trees and range from 6 to 12 feet in diameter. There are hot Springs here like in Hot Springs, Arkansas, with a bath house and a big hotel where people come from all over the Country to spend their vacations. There is a big camp ground where tents may be put up."

**1983 May 20**: Total of 119 Diplomas at Annual Alma High School graduation ceremony in Airedale Stadium. Among the 119 seniors those from Dyer were: (Couldn't find who they were, sorry).

**1931 April 12**: Commencement program of Alma High School is announced by T. J. Lax, Superintendent. Commencement sermon was given by C. M. Reves from Tulsa Sunday evening, May 3, at the High School Auditorium. Those from Dyer who received diplomas were Guthrie Moss, Ruby E. Cottrell, and Henry Clay Cottrell.

Fannie Strine, later Floyd Loomis's wife, attended school in the old Valley School in 1867 when she was 6 years of age. She married Floyd Loomis of New York in 1879.

This school was one small room built of logs, the floor was puncheon with the slat side turned up and split logs with no backs to them when she attended school. This school stood there until I was married to Artie Bennett (Florence Bennett).

In the **1915** on the last day of school the teachers would take us to the mountains on a picnic and we would roam over the mountains and wade in the branch until time for our picnic lunch.

On Friday nights once a month there were Literary Society meets at the school. The program would be singing by parents and children, one act plays, stories, Sketches, Drills, spelling matches, ciphering matches. Once Ada Burrough was in a ciphering match and she was working so hard to beat her opponent that her skirt slipped down from her blouse but she just kept on ciphering until she had finished the assignment then she laughed and pulled up her skirt.

Miss Vesta Furlow would prepare us for a program which we charged a small price to attend and the money was used to purchase a bookcase and some books for us to read.

Flying Jenny's and See-Saws on the school ground to play with at Recess.

One of the teachers put Arlis Renfro under her desk and forgot him when school was out. He had fallen asleep and awoke in the night. .He went to the window and raised it and cried out for someone to get him out. Uncle Dan Chitwood heard him and found someone to open the school and let the child out.

Coal was used to heat the school and the coal pile was on the North side of the building.

And there was a fire escape on the East side of building from the second floor to the ground.

Drinking water was carried by students from Grandmother Sula Moss's across from stores. A big girl and a small girl would go for the water. And everyone wanted to dust the erasers, and I wonder why?