

# Early Days

## FROM THE TAYLOR REGIONAL ARCHIVE CENTER FILES

# 100 years ago, education equalized options for women

Prior to 1880, schools were few and far between in Taylor County. There were no public schools — only a few small “subscription schools” that emerged and operated for short periods of time — funded by fees paid by parents.

In an agricultural community such as ours, families often needed their children at home — helping with farming, gardening and keeping house. Education above that of elementary reading, writing and some arithmetic was often considered a waste of time.

In 1884, the Taylor Academy was established by Captain John R. Robinson, a Campbellsville attorney. With four children — Henry, Nancy, Bettie and Joe — whom he wanted to have the equivalent of what we now call high school education, he built a school in Campbellsville at his own expense. It was a three-room, frame building on Lebanon Avenue.

At that time, there was no organized education curriculum under state or county control. Still, teachers for the Taylor Academy were carefully

selected, and their initial curriculum included arithmetic, English grammar, U.S. history and geography, Latin, drills in elocution and penmanship, elementary algebra, elements of natural science, general history, advanced algebra, English composition, history of Rome, geometry, rhetoric, psychology, Caesar, history of Greece, trigonometry, English literature, Virgil, history of England, chemistry, Cicero’s orations and political economy.

One of the academy’s early students was Robinson’s youngest daughter, Bettie. Following her graduation from the Taylor Academy, she continued her education and in 1893 became the first woman to receive a Bachelor of Arts degree from Georgetown College. She likewise completed her master’s degree from New York’s Columbia University in 1926, complete with a supervisor’s certificate.

Following the exact timing of her career is challenging, but we know that for a time, she taught first at the Buchanan Institute and then Russell Creek Academy, both in Campbellsville. She

likewise taught school in both Somerset and Lancaster.

In 1910, the Lancaster newspaper stated their school faculty would be second to none for the school year, reporting that the school board has selected Bettie Robinson of Campbellsville as its assistant principal.

The people of Lancaster loved Bettie Robinson from the moment she moved to the Garrard County town. She was constantly in the news, reporting her professional accolades and even her travels — including when she came back to her hometown of Campbellsville.

Robinson was also a woman ahead of her times. She was a consistent host and organizer of the Chautauqua Circle. In February of 1916, the topic being discussed was “Women in Industry and Commercialism.”

In August of 1925, the *Central Record* newspaper of Lancaster reported the sad news that Bettie Robinson, one of Lancaster’s “most popular teachers” had resigned to take a job teaching at the Morehead Normal School — the same school that would become Morehead University in 1966. Robinson remained on the faculty staff of Morehead until her retirement in 1942.

Still, Lancaster never forgot their beloved teacher, who reported

all the details of Bettie’s surprise retirement party — not only the guests and events of the festivities, but also the details of her entire career: three years at Somerset High School; 15 years at Lancaster High School; 17 years at Morehead College; and five years at Russell Creek Academy in Campbellsville.

Upon retirement after 40 years of teaching, Bettie Robinson came back home to Campbellsville where she lived for another nine years. She got involved in local civic activities, was active in the Baptist church and taught Sunday School. When she died in March of 1951, the *Central Kentucky News Journal* shared the details of her will, including the following sentiment: “My love to the people of my Home Town.”

Despite the fact that Bettie’s eldest brother was Campbellsville’s well-known attorney Henry Scott Robinson — who outlived her to the age of 100 — Bettie wrote her own will. She left her home on Central Avenue to her nephew, J. Robinson Young as “a love gift.” Several pieces of jewelry and silver were left to other nieces and nephews.

She set aside \$500 to defray the expense of bringing the body of her brother, Joe E. Robinson, back to Campbellsville from El Paso, Texas for



The tombstone of Bettie Robinson at Brookside Cemetery is engraved with her educational and career accomplishments.

Submitted

burial and left \$200 to Brookside Cemetery.

Betty Mildren Robinson had goals ... not only for her own education, but for the education of some 10,000 students that passed through her classrooms.

She never married. She moved away from home to forge a career and independence at a time when such a thing was rarely considered by small town women.

The death of Betty Robinson was covered in the Louisville, Lexington, Cincinnati, Owensboro, Glasgow,

Lancaster and Taylor County newspapers. She was buried next to her parents and youngest brother, Joe. Her teaching career and educational achievements are engraved on her tombstone.

Virginia Graves is coordinator of the Taylor Regional Archive Center, a non-profit organization which preserves local history and genealogy. For information, call 270-789-4343 or send an email to [info@TaylorRegionalArchiveCenter.com](mailto:info@TaylorRegionalArchiveCenter.com).

## EARLY DAYS

### TEN YEARS AGO April 2015

Taylor County High School fell to Allen County-Scottsville 9-7 in the third-place game in the Panama City Beach Bash in baseball action in Florida.

Noah Dabney, 9, killed his first turkey April 4 in Taylor County, it weighed 21.8 pounds and had a 9½-inch beard and one-inch spurs.

Christine and Clay Rogers celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with a party at Grandview. The couple have been married since April 9, 1955.

### TWENTY YEARS AGO April 2005

Jim and Missie Collison of Campbellsville announce the birth of a son, Jordan Walker, at Taylor Regional Hospital.

### THIRTY YEARS AGO April 1995

Dana Christy Agee of Campbellsville was to compete for the title of Miss Kentucky at Transylvania University in Lexington Robert “Bobby” Gray, 53, of Campbellsville died Wednesday, April 5, 1995, at Hardin Memorial Hospital after an illness.

Jeff Gumm finally did it. He won a baseball gem over his father (Larry) and his alma mater (Green County) as Taylor County improved to 6-1 with a win over the Dragons.

### FORTY YEARS AGO April 1985

Doug and Renee Bland announced the birth of a son, Christopher Douglas, on April 6.

Timmy French, son of Jay and Margaret French, celebrated his third birthday April 12 with a party at Kiddieland Day Care.

### FIFTY YEARS AGO April 1975

Ronal Wise was elected president at the Campbellsville Jaycees during a meeting at the KU building.

It was announced that toll plazas on Kentucky Turnpike at Elizabethtown were to be removed about April 30.

### SIXTY YEARS AGO April 1965

Eloise Hathaway and Ernestine Willock attended the Ice Follies in Louisville.

Mr. and Mrs. David Jones and children of Nassau, New York, visited Mr. and Mrs. Henry Jones for a few days.

Mrs. Jerry Davis left for St. Petersburg, Florida, to join her husband who is employed there.

### SEVENTY YEARS AGO April 1955

The Clark Service Station is moving its location to the site of the R.L. Eastridge Shell Station on South Columbia Avenue.

Mary Martha Chandler of Washington, D.C., arrived Saturday for a visit with her father, Mark Chandler Sr.

Mr. and Mrs. Bert Cox were weekend guests of Mr. and Mrs. Banks Woods in Jeffersonville, Indiana.

### EIGHTY YEARS AGO April 1945

The world stood still, seemingly, for several days after the passing of the world’s greatest humanitarian and the greatest international thinker, Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Funeral for John C. Williams, 47, was at the Christie Chapel Church and burial was in the Eastridge Cemetery.

### NINETY YEARS AGO April 1935

T.O. Purcell and Logan

purchased the Green Cottage Confectionary and Restaurant on Main Street from O.B. Phillips. The new owners assumed immediate control.

E.W. Rannells, head of the art department at the University of Kentucky, was scheduled to speak before the Campbellsville Woman’s Club.

### HUNDRED YEARS AGO April 1925

The interior and exterior of the Alhambra Theater have been repainted and redecorated.

Ruth May, of this county, won third place in an oratorical contest sponsored by The Courier-Journal and held at the Lebanon High School auditorium.

Mr. and Mrs. R.D. Speer and daughter, Mary Dale, who are spending the winter at St.

Petersburg, Florida, were set to return.


Mrs. Fred H. Buchanan left the first of the week for a week’s visit with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Chevront at Marion, Ohio.

### HUNDRED TEN YEARS AGO April 1925

The large barn belonging to Joe Brock, located on Elk Horn Pike, one and one-half miles from Campbellsville, burned.

The Kentucky Court of Appeals upheld the county unit of elections of last September making Shelbyville, Mt. Sterling, Georgetown and Paris dry. The county unit law of 1912 was held constitutional.

Wade Johns sold to C. Wethington of Clementsville, two tracts of land located on Robinson Creek, containing 90 acres, for \$1,300.



## LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Green Taylor Water District (“District”) plans to file with the Public Service Commission on or before April 17, 2025 to adjust certain non-recurring charges. The proposed effective date is May 17 2025 The proposed changes are as follows:

Non-Recurring Charges	Existing	Proposed	\$ Change	% Change
Returned Check Charge	\$ 10.00	\$ 12.00	\$ 2.00	20%
Deposit	\$ 40.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 60.00	150%
Field Collection Charge	N/A	\$ 16.80	N/A	N/A
Collection/Turn-on Charge	N/A	\$ 16.80	N/A	N/A
Damage to Meter Setting or Lid	N/A	Actual Cost	N/A	N/A
Deposit	\$ 55.00	\$ 85.00	\$ 30.00	55%
Tap on Charge	\$ 750.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 250.00	33%

Currently, Green-Taylor Water District assesses a \$1.50 fee for credit/debit card transactions. Green-Taylor Water District is proposing to change its tariff to state the following: “When a customer makes a payment by credit card or debit card, the processor (not the District) will assess a convenience fee for providing this service. Prior to processing the transaction, the customer will be informed of the fee amount.” The amount of the convenience fee assessed by the processor will be actual cost.” Any person may examine this tariff filing at the District office located at 250 Industrial Park Road, Greensburg, KY 42743; telephone (270) 932 4947. Any person may examine this tariff filing at the PSC located at 211 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky, Monday - Friday, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm or on the PSC website at <http://psc.ky.gov>; telephone (502) 564-3940. Any person may submit comments regarding this tariff filing by mail to the Public Service Commission, Post Office Box 615, Frankfort, KY 40602; or through its website at <http://psc.ky.gov>. The rates contained in this notice are the rates proposed by the District, but the PSC may order rates to be charged that differ from the proposed rates contained in this notice. Any person may submit a timely written request for intervention by mail to the Public Service Commission, Post Office Box 615, Frankfort, KY 40602. The request for intervention must establish the grounds for the request including the status and interest of the party. If the PSC does not receive a written request for intervention within thirty (30) days of the initial publication or mailing of notice, the PSC may take final action on the tariff filing.

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