First School In Acadia Located In Church Point

The establishment of free public schools in Louisiana in 1847 was followed closely by the establishment of the first school in Acadia Parish at Church Point. The second school was built in 1889 and was at North Rayne. At this time the Rayne Ranger newspaper wrote: "...nothing is static. It is either progression or retrogression. The importance of getting home seekers and men of brains, pluck, and wealth to come among us to help build up and improve the town and country about is one which should commend itself to all who are interested and concerned in the general and universal well-being and progress of the human family." In 1891, Iota had its first public school; however, prior to that time classes were held near the J.P. Seilian home and also in the Point Aux Loups area.

When the nineteenth century was drawing to a close, Crowley's public school was located on the corner of Avenue G and Fourth Street; a two room school building had been erected on the corner of Main and Plaquemines Streets in Church Point with a teaching staff of two; Ebenzer had a two story school; and Egan had acquired a public school which was first known as the Jonas Cove School because it was near Jonas Bayou. In the area now served by the Mier Elementary School were the Arceneaux School, the Milligan School, and the Desthotes Schools. Estherwood's first public school was held in a private home, but by this time had its own building. The first school at Morse was in a log cabin which burned eleven years later and was replaced by a four room building on the same location.

As Acadia Parish entered the twentieth century, school reports showed 1013 children enrolled, twenty-eight teachers employed for a term of six months, and an average attendance of 766 pupils. Disbursements for the year were shown to be $6216.99, of which instructors received $3198.00. There were no school buses. These made their appearance in 1906 when two horse-drawn "waggonettes" transferred students from two other schools to Ebenezer in the first consolidation of schools recorded in Acadia Parish.

Since 1887, Acadia's progress in education has received splendid leadership. Serving as Superintendents of the Parish School System since that time being: David Wilson Hoyt, 1887-1889; James Edward Barry, 1889-1906; John Hiram Lewis, 1906-1913; Jerry W. Oxford, 1913-1920; James Milton Baker, 1920-1923; Albert T. Browne, 1933-1941; Spencer D. Pollard, 1941-1946; Dr. John A. Bertrand, 1965-1984; and Dr. James M. Griffin, 1984...