

At the outset, let me first explain why this one-room school marker sign has two names on it; it actually had three names through the years! It is clear that its first name was Jetmore, the most prominent name in old newspaper articles until about 1904. Beginning in 1905, the names Lacy and Lacey show up as the name for this school, perhaps about equally, maybe Lacy more common in earlier years and Lacey more common in later years. The school was adjacent to a farm owned by H.D. Lacy, or H.D. Lacey – just like with the school, his name is listed on plat maps and legal documents with about equal use of the Lacy and Lacey spellings – of four documents from the county courthouse, the first (1902) and last (1917) show Lacy, and the two in between (1913 and 1917) show Lacey! More about this later in this story, with documentation and examples of names with dates. And at the outset, it is interesting to me that the school took on the Lacy/Lacey names, from the owner of the farm across the road east from the school, rather than the name of the man who owned the land on which the schoolhouse sat. Hmmmm.

1. Facts.

District number: 15

Legal location: Southeast corner of the southeast quarter of section 19-24N-7W in Keowee Township

Location description: ½ mile east and 1 mile south of the turnoff from Keowee Road to the current town of Hillsdale; also easily accessible from the west from Hwy 132

Modern “street” address: on the northwest corner of the intersection of West H. Holden Rd (E0330 Rd) and North 2820 Rd; what was the school ground now appears to be one acre of hay storage

GPS coordinates: 36° 32’ 10” North, 97°, 58’ 46” West

First year of classes: No information, presumably soon after the Land Run

Last year of classes: No definitive information, but 1936-37 is the last year for which the school shows up in teacher lists or newspaper stories; I will keep searching for consolidation dates; can anyone help?

Fate of building: Hoping Joe Bowen or someone can help me with this

Known teachers: An extensive list is provided later in this story

2. Special thanks:

- for their donations for school marker signs and for allowing their donations to be shared among all of the Hillsdale school marker signs: Steve Hoffsommer, Monty Hoffsommer, Jeff Hoffsommer, Kent and Mary Shaklee, Suzy Shaklee Horvath, Quintin Jessup, Tom Seng, and Dale Hayes. [Additional donations are still welcome; we always end up using some of our own money to cover the bill for the signs.](#)

- for their help with stories, documents, and photos: Monty Hoffsommer for sharing his copy of Marion Hoffsommer’s Hillsdale history book, and to Marion!; Kent Shaklee for multiple photos; [and hopefully more to come!](#)

- for allowing us to put up the sign on their farm: Charles Welker family and Russell Schieber

- to my brother Arrel, as with all of these school stories: for his interest and encouragement, his careful editing, and help with all aspects of this project — especially the work on the school location marker signs

2. Location of the school and the school grounds.

A 1901 commercial plat map marking the location of School #15 (no name on the maps) is shown to the left below, and a 1906 government plat map is shown to the right below. The school location is highlighted in light blue; the current Hillsdale Blacktop, Keowee Rd, E0320 Rd (east-west) is shown in darker blue and Hwy 132 (north-south) in dark green to aid with visualizing the location of the school. Note the separate towns of Coldwater and Hillsdale on the 1901 map. Also note that both of those towns were on the very north edge of Garfield County, the Garfield-Grant County line. Highlighted in yellow are other area schools -- #11, Hillsdale School, but not in the "town" of Hillsdale; #12, Coldwater School, but not in the "town" of Coldwater; and #14, Berry School, on the Berry farm; all of these four schools three miles apart. By the 1906 map, the town of Coldwater has been relocated, because of the route chosen by the railroad, to the site of current Hillsdale. Note that there is no railroad running through sections 6, 7, 18, and 19 in 1901, but it is there by 1906, and just a half mile west of Lacey school. By 1906, the "town" of Coldwater is gone from its 1901 location and moved the current location of Hillsdale. Note that there is no railroad running through sections 6, 7, 18, and 19 in 1901, but it is there by 1906, and just a half mile west of Lacey school. By 1906, the "town" of Coldwater is gone from its 1901 location and moved the current location of Hillsdale. Note that there is no railroad running through sections 6, 7, 18, and 19 in 1901, but it is there by 1906, and just a half mile west of Lacey school. Between April and September, apparently after the 1906 plat map was made, the Coldwater #11 schoolhouse was moved into the town of Coldwater and enlarged. In December, 1909, the Hillsdale rural school #11 merged with the Coldwater town school. And shortly after, in June 1910, and with many complications, it was voted to change the name of the town and post office from Coldwater to Hillsdale. All of the other area one-room schools remained separate and independent for many more years. More on each of those other schools in their own stories!



SO – let’s get back to Jetmore-Lacy-Lacey! But while we are here with the maps, note that the farm just east (right) from school #15 is indicated as owned by H.D. Lacy (no “e”) on the 1901 map but as H.D. Lacey (with an “e”) on the 1906 map. Also note another Lacy, H.C. Lacy, in section 8 on the 1901 map.

Below are two aerial photos of the school grounds, the left from 1937, the right from 1954. The left (1937) photo shows multiple buildings on the grounds, in addition to the schoolhouse. There is a small building at the west edge of the grounds, and I think a second “matching” building just below the trees at the upper left – I think it is most likely that these are the boys’ and girls’ outhouses, as far back from the building as possible. There are additional buildings at the top (north) edge of the grounds and at the top of the east (right) edge of the grounds, very close to the road. Most likely one of these was a stables for the horse and buggy days, perhaps the building closest to the road; no good ideas on the other building. The black pentagon shape is the shadow from the school building; there appears to be another building just below this shadow, lower left (southwest corner) of the school building, which I can only guess might have been the building for storing coal for heating the school. All of this is speculation from what I have learned from other schools. There appears to be a sidewalk or path at least coming to the front of the school from the east, but it also appears that the major entryway to the school grounds may have been from the northwest corner of the intersection, allowing easy entry from both roads. The 1964 image is much sharper and gives a very clear view of the layout of the schoolhouse, running east to west. Some of the trees surrounding the grounds remain, but nothing else besides the schoolhouse itself.



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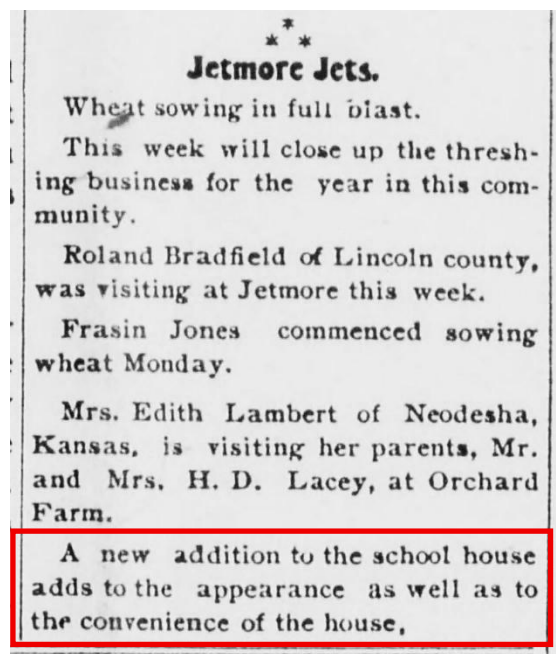
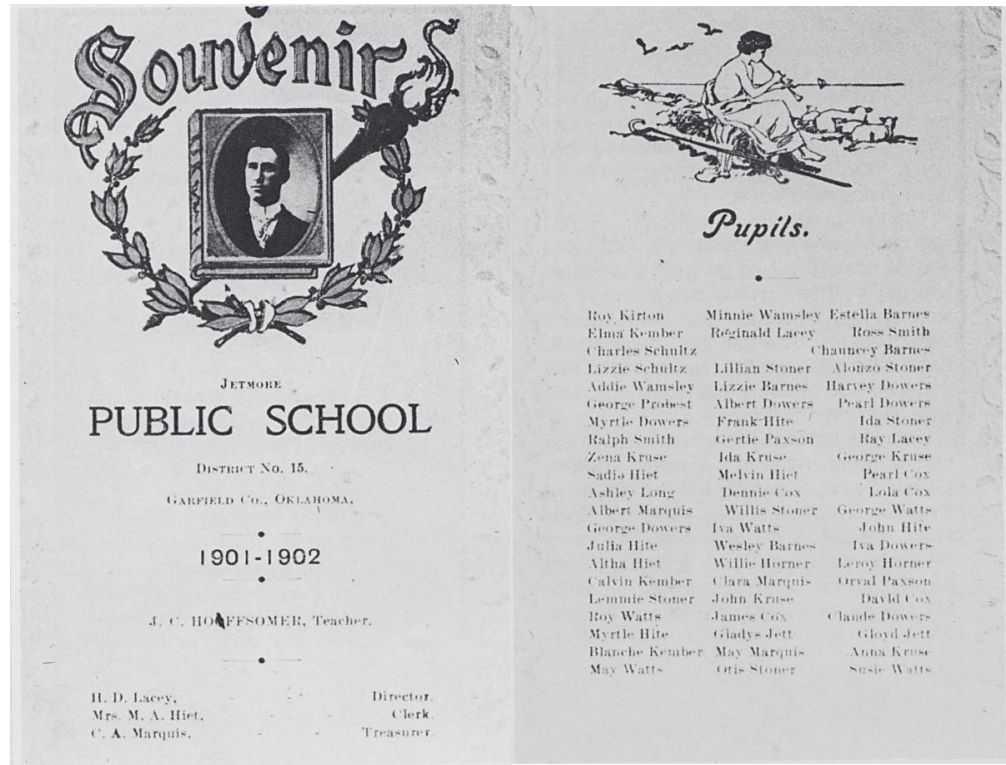
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3. Jetmore school years

Our earliest memento from this school is the souvenir booklet to the right, from 1901-1902, copied from the Garfield County History books. It is clear that the school thought of itself as the Jetmore School at this time, and District #15 is confirmed on the cover. J. C. Hoffsommer is the teacher. I believe that this is Jacob C. Hoffsommer, listed on the 1900 US Census as a teacher. This is NOT the James C. Hoffsommer who many of us knew as Hillsdale Superintendent in the 1960s. Also note that H. D. Lacey (with an "e") is the director of the school or school board. All of the school children are listed also, including several Lacey (with an "e") children. Remarkably, there were 62 children this school year, for only one room and one teacher!

The article to the right, from September 1899, is one of the first newspaper articles referring to the school. As highlighted in the red box, a new addition to the school is the news of the day, but with no indication of what that addition was. I included this entire news article from Jetmore, because it shows for me that Jetmore at this time was more than just an isolated schoolhouse – the second paragraph refers to Jetmore as "this community", and the third paragraph has a man visiting "at Jetmore", I am pretty sure referring to perhaps a blossoming or hoped-for village?

Note that this addition being done by late September would have likely been in plenty of time for the start of the school year. In these days, schools usually or often started late September or October, perhaps after wheat sowing was done, and school years were often 6 months or even less, dismissing for the year perhaps in March or for sure April.



Garfield County Democrat, September 28, 1899

The article to the right is from a couple of months later than the one above; it again mentions the enlarged school, the teacher (Prof. Purcell), and him having over 50 pupils.

I was intrigued by topics that were discussed at the "literaries" held at Jetmore. The article to the right says that the questions of "the Negro and the Indian" and of "Columbus and Washington" were still unsettled. How nice it would be to know just what "the question" about these issues was!

For sure my favorite of Jetmore literary topics is the one to the right, discussing the resolution that "it is preferable to live with a mean, clean woman than it is to live with a good, dirty one"! We await with anxiety the decision! Yep, the good old days!

More evidence of early Jetmore's aspirations to be a town, from 1896. Mr. N. L. Huling is petitioning not only for a post office but to set up a grocery store in that post office. Sounds like where I grew up in Kremlin, OK, in the 1960s! He intends to name "the child", the new post office, Jetmore; note that he lives at Columbia, OK, at the time he is working for a post office in Jetmore. Lower right is a similar article, from a different paper, indicating Mr. Huling will be at "the piehole" of the new post office. And below is an article indicating success and that the Jetmore post office will receive its first email early in June of 1897. How long the post office and the attempt to make Jetmore a town lasted is not well-documented.

The Jetmore school house is enlarged and Prof. Purcell has over 50 pupils-

Literary at Jetmore every Thursday night. The question of the "Negro and the Indian" and "Columbus and Washington" are still unsettled.

Garfield County Democrat, November 30, 1899

The question for discussion at next meeting of Jetmore literary is: "Resolved that it is preferable to live with a 'mean, clean woman' than it is to live with a good, dirty one." We await with anxiety the decision.

Kremlin Journal, December 9, 1904

Mr. N. L. Huling, of Columbia, Oklahoma is circulating a petition for a post office in this neighborhood. He has named the child Jetmore, and intends to supply the people with groceries in connection. Hope you'll be successful Bro. Huling. We are needing just those two things, if chinch bugs and kafir corn will go.

Enid Daily Morning News, February 12, 1896

The new postoffice at Jetmore will receive its first mail this week.

Enid Event, June 3, 1897

We are going to have a new postoffice by the name of Jetmore with Mr. N. L. Huling at the pie counter.

Enid Weekly Eagle, February 27, 1896

Getting back to the proper focus of this story, on the school, the four articles below, all from the Kremlin Journal from 1904-1905, talk about activities at Jetmore school. The Kremlin Journal editor at this time, or perhaps the Jetmore reporter, seems to like to “wax eloquent” in their writing. The teacher is called “ye pedagogue” and “Professor” Griffith, and he is not just teaching but “wielding the birch”, for punishment, we presume.

Jetmore school is progressing finely under the supervision of Prof. Griffin.

Kremlin Journal, October 28, 1904

Prof. Griffith ye pedagogue at Jetmore school has inaugurated government in the school this winter. Something that has been sadly neglected heretofore. The pupils do not exactly endorse it, but the patrons generally do.

4.

Kremlin Journal, November 25, 1904

sixteen new scholars were enrolled at Jetmore school Wednesday. Prof. Griffith must be establishing quite a record as pedagoguer

Kremlin Journal, December 9, 1904

Prof. Griffith is again wielding the birch at Jetmore Academy.

Kremlin Journal, January 20, 1905

Lacy/Lacey School Years.

The two articles to the right, from August, 1905, seem to talk about a completely new schoolhouse being built rather than just an addition or renovations. And note that here, by the 1905-06 school year, the school is no longer Jetmore, but has become Lacy (no “e) in the Coldwater Star article, or Lacey (with an “e) in the Kremlin Journal article.

The new Lacey school house under the supervision of architect Paxson and Bailey is nearly completed.

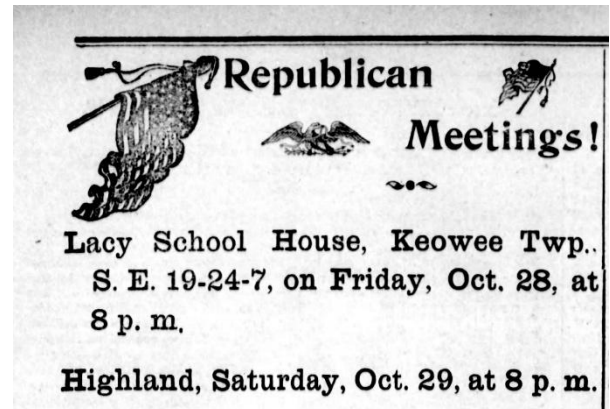
Kremlin Journal, August 25, 1905

The Lacy school house, that is being built by Mesrs. Bailey, Paxson and Taylor, is being plastered, which is usually about the the last important work on a building.

Coldwater Star, August 31, 1905

The Republican Meetings ad to the right is just to show that it was sometimes the Lacy School House earlier too, here already in 1899.

Garfield County Democrat, November 30, 1899



This is perhaps the right place to insert a new question that popped into my mind in writing this story – Where did these Lacey children go for high school? Marion Hoffsommer’s book says that the first high school class to graduate at Hillsdale was 1919, so Hillsdale for high school would not have been an option until about 1915. Did these students all go to the North West Academy at Carrier, a private subscription school, meaning pay your way if you want to go there. Or was there a high school closer somewhere in southern Grant County? Or Enid High? Or perhaps most just did not go to high school? [If anyone has good information about this, please let me know!](#)

Here is an odd little story about “trouble” at Lacey school in August 1905, with two sides to the story. But maybe I should not include it, since I know nothing more. Note that this is the same time as the new school was being built, so perhaps the disagreement between the two sides was which shade of white to paint the school?!

There appears to be considerable trouble in the Lacey school at this time. As we have not heard both sides we withhold our opinion.

Coldwater Star, August 31, 1905

Below is a decent photo of the front of the Lacy schoolhouse, from 1926, and from Kent Shaklee. The building had a raised porch, but not a covered entryway porch like many of the schools. There is a window above the single door, which I assume was facing east, to let in some light from that direction. Some of the last names of students are indicated, though not which is which. From another version of this photo, it was thought that A might be Glen Shaklee, 13 y.o., B might be Art Shaklee at 10 y.o., C might be Herman Winter, and D might be a Conner or a Bowman. Kent and Suzy Shaklee's dad and all of his siblings went to Lacey, but their dad was only 5 at the time of this photo so not included. [Any help with further identification of these students would be much appreciated!](#)

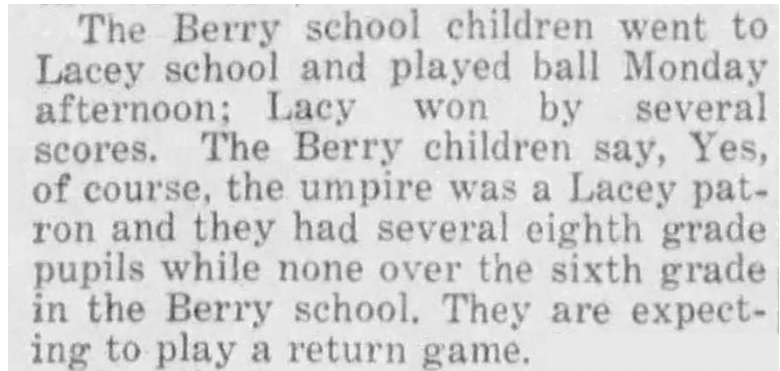


Below is another useful photo of the school, from 1933, also from Kent Shaklee, this one taken on the side of the building, my guess is the south side because the students are maybe squinting a bit. The windows on the side of the school are shown, with their metal screening and curtains; I would guess that there was at least one more window behind the yellow label; 3 side windows was "the general rule" back in those days.

Again, only last names of students in the photo are marked; and the labeling seems to suggest that they are all from five families. Note how many fewer students are in the school in 1933 compared to the 1926 photo. My teachers' list indicates that the teacher would have been Alma Hartman, if spring of 1932-33 year, or Alma Hartman Beck, if fall of 1933-34 school year. See the list of all of the known teachers further below.



And this is for me a fun story to end the story part of this school. It describes a baseball game between two adjacent one-room schools, Lacey and Berry, 3 miles apart, from May of 1928. There must have been many of these that did not make it to the paper. Lacey won, but Berry says the umpire was from Lacey, so of course; and Lacey had eighth graders and Berry had none over sixth grade.



The Berry school children went to Lacey school and played ball Monday afternoon; Lacy won by several scores. The Berry children say, Yes, of course, the umpire was a Lacey patron and they had several eighth grade pupils while none over the sixth grade in the Berry school. They are expecting to play a return game.

Enid Events, May 17, 1928

And it is also a fitting end to this tale, because it is the Lacey school (with an “e”) in the first part of the story; then Lacy (without an “e”) in the next part; and then back to Lacey (with an “e”) in the next sentence; all in one article. Thank goodness Berry is always Berry, and never Barry, or Bury!!

Go to the next page to see the list of all known teachers at this school!

5. Jetmore/Lacy/Lacey teachers. My subscription to Newspapers.com gave me access to many articles from Enid and other newspapers listing all of the teachers for all of the one-room “rural” schools for either the coming year or the past year, from the County Superintendent’s office, making it easy for me to start a massive spreadsheet of schools, years, and teachers. Additional searching for individual school teachers gave me more names. Perhaps some of you will see names that are familiar. [If anyone knows of any more teachers, please let me know.](#)

Key for sources of teacher names: EMN, Enid Morning News; EDMN, Enid Daily Morning News; EE, Enid Events; EWE, Enid Weekly Eagle; KJ, Kremlin Journal; GCH, Garfield County History book set; GCD, Garfield County Democrat

Before 1898	No teachers known	
1898-99	Louis Ranney (Kanney), 6 mo	EWE 2-23-99; EE 12-29-98; GCD 3-16-99
1899-00	Mr. Louis Ranney	GCD 1-19-99; EWE 2-23-99
1900-01	Teacher(s) unknown	
1901-02	J. C. Hoffsommer	Marion Hoffsommer Book; GCH
1902-04	Teacher(s) unknown	
1904-05	Prof Griffith (2x), Griffin (1x)	KJ 1-20-05, 10-28-04, 12-09-04
1905-06	Arthur Tarr, from Coldwater	EE 10-26-05; KJ 10-27-05
1906-12	No teachers known these 6 years	
1912-13	Sam Warren	KJ 4-18-13
1913-14	Mary Glahn	KJ 1-16-14; EMN 9-7-15
1914-15	Mary Glahn	EMN 9-7-15
1915-16	Teacher(s) unknown	
1916-17	Mrs. C. M. Jones, Hillsdale	EDE 9-19-16; EMN 9-24-16
1917-18	Mr. Fitzgerald starts year, resigns, J.C. Hoffsommer takes over	EE 11-22-17
1918-25	Teacher(s) unknown	
1925-26	Marie Horner	EMN 8-23-1925; EE 3-6-26
1926-27	Leva (or Geva) Conner from Hillsdale	EMN 7-22-26; EE 9-30-26
1927-28	Leva Conner from Hillsdale	EE 8-18-27; EMN 8-14-27
1928-29	Melva Horner	EE 7-5-28; EE 6-6-29
1929-30	Melva Horner	EE 8-29-29
1930-31	Melva Horner, Hillsdale	EE 9-4-30
1931-32	Alma Hartman	EE 3-17-32
1932-33	Alma Hartman	EMN 9-11-32
1933-34	Alma Hartman Beck	EMN 9-3-33
1934-35	Imogene Crouse	EMN 9-2-34
1935-36	Imogene Crouse	EMN 8-7-35; EMN 4-11-36
1935-36	Imogene Crouse (Clause)	EMN 5-17-36
1936-37	Imogene Crouse	EMN 9-6-36; EMN 4-8,9-37