

# Old Ox Hill School Hit By Fire 1871

One of the most famous pupils of Ox Hill School in South Mahoning Township was John S. Fisher, who rose to be governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Although the school was closed in 1959, many people have received their elementary education there.

In the plot of ground leased from Joseph Pierce, the original school stood until it burned to the ground in 1871. It was located on the land now known as the Jay Kuhn farm.



Mrs. Amanda Kirkpatrick

After the building burned, a new structure was erected on the other side of the road. In 1882, the building was moved to its present location on the hill.

Believed to be the only person still living today who attended the old Ox Hill School is Mrs. Amanda Mary (Allison) Kirkpatrick, now in her 93rd year. The daughter of Robert and Mary Caroline Allison, she was born and raised in South Mahoning Township.

Mrs. Kirkpatrick is the mother of Mrs. E. S. Lydic, 216 South Third street, Indiana.

It was in the time of the oats harvest in 1863, that Ox Hill School received its name. Zachariah Spencer and his sister were driving an ox team up the steel hill with a heavy load of oats when a violent storm broke.

The young people, terrified by the violence of the storm, and fearful of getting the oats wet, urged the oxen beyond their strength and both animals collapsed and died on the hill.

The shock to the boy was so great that he went to bed and died a short time later. At the father's request, the school was named Ox Hill.

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