

LEVEL GREEN ACADEMY  
( by Georgia Gentry)

The Level Green Adademy was established ~~in~~ about the year 1888 by Professor Jasper Newton Brown and continued until his death in 1905. When he began the school Mr. Brown had in mind the education of his large family, and his relatives and friends of the community, but the strength of his great mind reached much farther and young men and women of Laurel, Pulaski, and Lincoln counties, as well as Rockcastle, attended his school. Many of these lived in Mr. Brown's home, doing light chores about the farm and home for their keep.

The Academy was mainly for the purpose of training teachers and Mr. Brown was so skilled in the art that those who really applied themselves never failed in the county examinations which they had to pass before being allowed to teach. Higher mathematica and music were taught, as well as all common school subjects.

Friday afternoons were spent ~~in~~ debating the subjects of the day, or in spelling matches. The spelling book used then was known as "The Blue Back Speller" by Noah Webster. Mr. Brown was a real good speller, and his nine children followed in his footsteps and all became teachers except one, but the sons, like many others who attended school there, used teaching as a stepping-stone to other professions, one is a minister of the gospel, one is a judge, one a businessman, one a rural route mail carrier, and the other was a lawyer.

There are many still living who date their happy school days, and success in life back to the Level Green Academy.

Mr. Brown had his own private school building on his farm near his home which consisted of two large rooms, part of which is still in use.

For many years Mr. Brown was known to the readers of the Signal as Buck Varnon and headed his news as Possum Hollow.