

TIMELINE OF ROGERSVILLE CITY SCHOOL

1849 – Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) purchases a 66 acre parcel in January on which to build a school. The land was purchased from Joseph Rogers' daughter-in-law Matilda Nall Rogers. The property once contained the peach and cherry orchards of Joseph Rogers.

1849 – IOOF lays the cornerstone of the new Rogersville Female Institute on July 4th. The cornerstone was laid to solemn music. After a prayer, flowers were cast upon the stone. It was a "great and glorious day" according to the speakers of the day.

1850 – Rogersville Female Institute opens Sept. 1850 --116 pupils.

1853—West and East wings added. East Wing interior was unfinished.

1863—The East Wing interior was completed.

1892 – Rogersville Synodical College opens.

1904-05 – The school did not operate during the 1904-1905 school year.

1914-19 – The college took in local grammar and high school students after McMinn Academy closed.

1916 – The Synodical College closed, but grammar and high school pupils continued here.

1919—The Town of Rogersville borrowed \$10,000 from King College to purchase the school & ~52 acres at a foreclosure December 1, 1919. Grammar & High students continue to attend.

1921 – Small fire inside of the school. The building is not in good shape.

1922—The old Synodical College is torn down and new construction begins.

1923 – \$125,000 --Dedication of a New School Building--July 4th (built on the foundations of the College) 10,000 people filled the streets for the ceremonies. Speakers included Governor Austin Peay, General Tyson, who broke the Hindenburg line in WWI, and Major George Berry – President of the Pressmen's Union. Rogersville Grammar School and Rogersville High School are housed here.

1928 – The school burns to the ground on a cold, wintry night, after 10 P.M., near record breaking Temperatures, January 3, 1928. Water was freezing up, and the citizens could only stand and watch. 580 students resumed schoolwork in 4 local churches, 430 grammar students and 150 high school students. Faulty wiring above the furnace room was at fault.

1929 – \$65,178--The new school is rebuilt as almost an exact duplicate of the 1923 school. The Foundations, Front, and East Walls were used in restoring the new building.

1955 – \$122,380 , 14,000 sq ft West Wing added with classrooms and a cafeteria.

1970 – \$366,542 , 20,656 sq ft East Wing was added with classrooms and a library. The Rogersville School Board voted unanimously on October 15 to name the library after their principal of 21 years -- "Ben A. Cunningham Library" ---Cunningham had no idea about this. A full color portrait of Cunningham was brought in and hung on the South Wall of the Library under a light.

2000 – \$7,000,000 , 46,000 sq ft addition to the South side, built 1998-2000, with a Sept. 7 opening. Student began school this year in September and ended in June 2001 due to the delayed opening of the new building.

2023 – Celebrating 100 years of Rogersville City School – October 28th

