

MS. MINNIE OWENS

When her parents came to Dickinson, "Miss Minnie" remained in Kansas teaching until the end of the school year. Upon arriving, she found that Dickinson had no county supported school and no paid teachers, so she decided to apply for the post. In order to apply, she had to pass the State Board examination, which was given in Galveston. She made the trip to Galveston on a schooner owned by Mr. Holmes, a family friend. Her application was accepted, and she became the first teacher to be fully paid with county funds.

In 1901, a two-story frame building was built across the street from the Methodist Church. In 1903, their first two-teacher school year began.

She met Charlie Owens, School Trustee and Sunday School Superintendent at the Methodist Church. His visits to the school became more frequent after she arrived, and finally they married in 1894.

Her husband owned a store in town, "General Merchandise and Fancy Groceries." The storm lifted the roof off of the store and ruined most of his merchandise. He did not seek bankruptcy but kept careful record of his debts and paid them off over the next few years.

There were now three children. When the proprietress of the local boarding house passed away, Minnie became a boarding house operator. The boarding house was the only restaurant in town, too. She housed and fed her now four children and the boarders (mostly young single men, teachers and salesmen called "drummers" who came in on the GH&H in search of business). When her husband, general store owner, a school trustee and the postmaster, died in 1910, she took over the post office.

A daughter, Beulah became a teacher at the Dickinson Elementary School. She married R.J. (Jack) Hughes, who operated the Oaklawn Fernery on the south bank of the bayou for years.



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