

Ohio's  
State  
Common  
School  
Funds  
to each of



Fulton  
County  
Twp.  
Districts  
to

Pike  
Twp.  
Six  
Sub-  
Districts



## **In The Beginning**

by Mary Whitcomb

Through research it was discovered that the state of Ohio was instrumental in helping to establish the educational needs of the early settlers of Ohio. Governor Bob Tat was then contacted by letters for possible information about the Pike Township, Fulton County, Ohio School, and in particular about the Howard School. He referred our request to the Ohio Historical Society at Columbus, Ohio, and we received two replies as follows.

Your letter to Governor Bob Taft that contained a request for information on Howard School in Pike Township, Fulton County was forwarded to the Ohio Historical Society, assigned reference letter number 98819, and given to me for reply.

*Your letter to Governor Bob Taft has been forwarded to the Ohio Historical Society and specifically to my attention for a reply. The Ohio Historic Preservation Office maintains information about historic properties across the state through the Ohio Historic Inventory and the National Register of Historic Places. In checking those files, I did not find any information about a one-room schoolhouse in Pike Township, Fulton County. However, I can provide you with general information about the history and development of one-room schools in Ohio.*

*One of the hallmarks of the settlement of the Northwest Territory is the provision for setting aside section 16 in each township for public education purposes. However, the responsibility of building schools and developing an education system has for the most part been a local responsibility. Some of the earliest legislation to this end dates to 1825 that established a property tax to support public schools and required townships to form school districts. This source of funding was not always adequate to build schools and offend the earliest schools within a county were the result of property taxes and community labor, often built by the farmers who owned the land and then used for school purposes. This local building process became more formalized with 1853 legislation that created a position of state commissioner of common schools and a state tax was created that went into a school trust fund. The responsibility for building and maintaining schools was still at the local level with the creation of township school boards.*

### **Excerpts from the letter signed by Barbara Powers, Department Head, Inventory and Registration, dated August 3, 2005**

The letter below, although received prior to the above letter, relates information in much more detail, and later dates

From Ohio Historical Society

*Under Ohio School Laws that were in effect in 1889 each Ohio Township was a school district. The township school districts could be divided into sub-districts. The minimum number of students needed to make up a sub-district was 60. Each township was administered by a board of education. The board of education included the township clerk and directors of the sub-districts. Voters in each township sub-district elected the directors. The board of education established sub-district boundaries, prepared a map of the district, and numbered the sub-districts. The State of Ohio played no role in establishing school districts or school district boundaries.*

*Ohio School Laws contained provisions for a State Common School Fund to support public education in Ohio. Money came to the State Common School Fund from the collection of a state tax on real and personal property and sale or rent of salt lands, swamp lands, and lands designated by the United States Congress as school lands. The Auditor of State transferred funds from the State Common School Fund on a semi-annual to Ohio counties. Dollar amounts that were transferred to the Ohio counties were based on enumerations of students that were done in each school district and sent to each county auditor. Each district board of education prepared a report by the end of May that estimated the amount of funds needed to operate the district for the next school year. County auditors used the school district reports to apportion the dollar amounts from the State Common School Fund to local school districts. The State of Ohio played a limited role in the distribution of State Common School Funds to local school districts.*

*Under Ohio School Laws each school district board of education was empowered to build, enlarge, repair, and furnish school buildings. The school district was responsible for all contracts that were entered into to build, repair, enlarge, or furnish schoolhouses. The State of Ohio played no role in the building or maintenance of local school district schoolhouses.*

***Excerpts from the letter signed by Thomas J. Rieder,  
reference archivist, dated May 31, 2005***

Through the State of Ohio helping to organize the processes of developing a uniform educational system, as per Ohio School Law, throughout the state, counties, townships, and sub districts, and funding them accordingly, schools seemingly became a priority to the early settlers, and their descendants.

Consequently, Pike Township in Fulton County, Ohio became the possessors of six one room schools. The Pike Township, Fulton county, Ohio map of 1888 shows these schools (circled) in the sub district lines approximately two miles apart in both directions.

It should be noted that the Whitcomb School #3 (M-12) was originally located one mile south (L-12) but was later relocated to be in line at the corner of (M-12).

The Hoxie School #6 (J-7-2) burned and the students were moved to the Maple Grove #7 (K-8) School, which had been vacant for a time, probably due to the sub-districting process, as it was out of line with the other schools. (Ref to Delta, Ohio Area History, pages 159-160).

However, this also reveals some elementary schools were functioning prior to the sub-districting of the Township Schools.

Perhaps that justifies the fact that there were schools on the same site prior to the Howard School #4 (J-12) as researched and described in the Howard School records that follows.



#1 Swamp Angel  
Corner M-8

#2 Lasalle  
Corner M-10

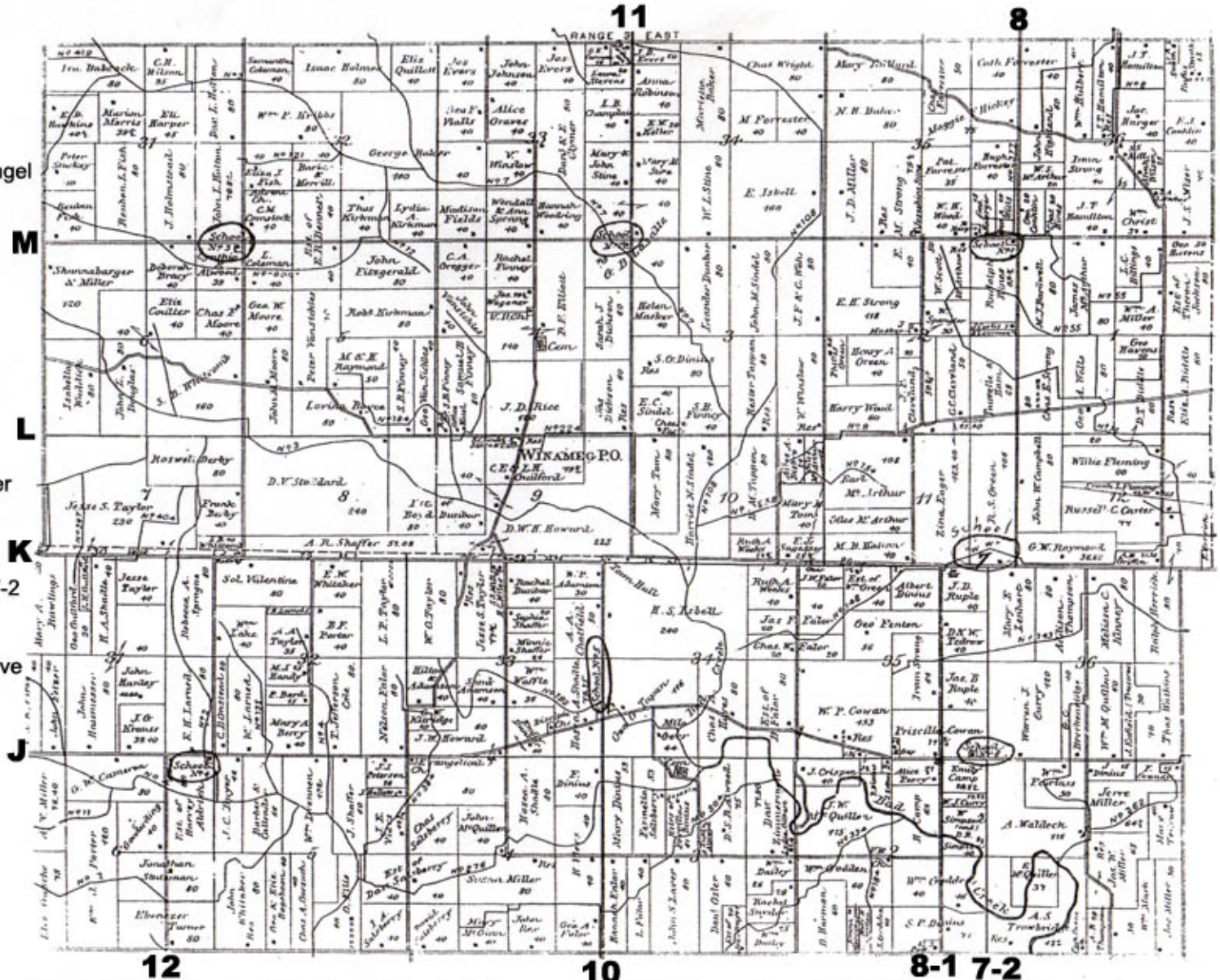
#3 Whitcomb  
Corner M-12

#4 Howard  
Corner J-12

#5 Pike Center  
J Road 10

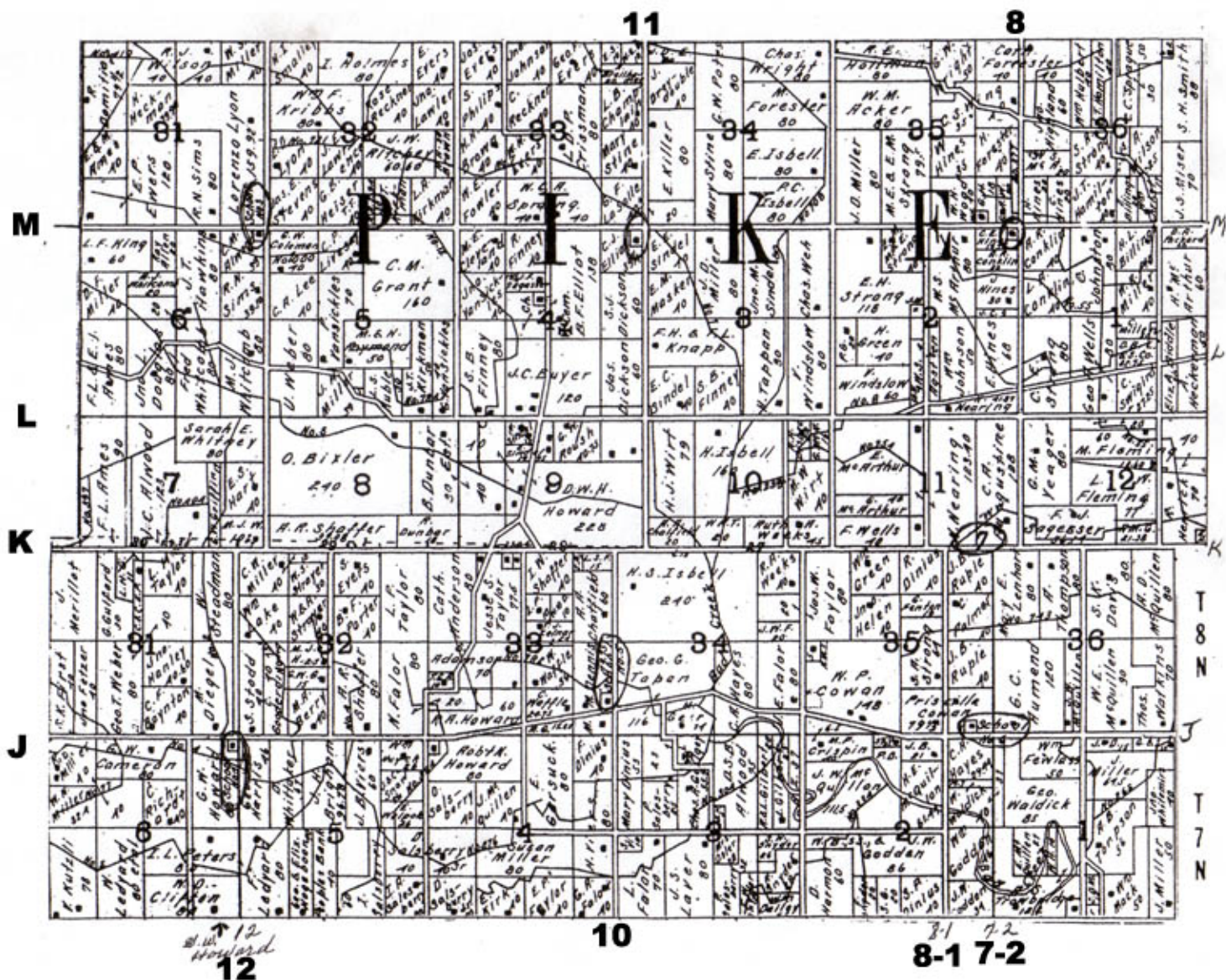
#6 Hoxie  
Just west of 7-2  
burned

#7 Maple Grove  
Road K-8



# 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, were Pike Twp Schools that were consolidated, and the students then went to the newly built Pike School at Winameg, Ohio in the Fall of 1938





Pike Township School, Fulton County 1903