Liberty School served the community from the mid-1800's to the time of its consolidation with the Fair Grove school district in the fall of 1951. The school was located next to Liberty Baptist Church, organized 1845. This community needed a school and there is verification of a school board in 1895 that accepted an acre of land deeded for the school next to the church on what is now Farm Road 66. The exact date the school was established has not been confirmed, but it is believed to be between 1879-1881.

The Gray/Campbell Farmstead— which depicts life in the middle 1800's with the oldest home built in Greene County and other buildings from that era—is working to move Liberty School to the farmstead at Nathaniel Greene Park. The goal is to show the public, especially fifth graders when they visit for historical field trips, what school would be like in a one-room school that their ancestors might have attended. There are many lessons that can be learned from understanding the past.

A committee is working on this project with the Springfield-Greene County Park Board. Members of the project committee are looking for other former students, or their family and friends still living, who would like to support the preservation of the school. The current owner of the school is willing to donate the building but it has to be moved. Planning and engineering is underway to determine the best way to move. The only limitation for this project is a lack of money. A fund has been set up with the Community Foundation of the Ozarks to receive monies to be used toward this project.

A tax deductible gift for the moving and restoration of Liberty School should be made to CFO with Memo to Liberty School Foundation. Mail to Community Foundation of the Ozarks, 425 E. Trafficway, Springfield, MO 65806 or online at www.cfozarks.org. We want to recognize your donation, so please complete this form and include it with the check/money order.

NAME_______________________________________________________________________
ADDRESS________________________CITY__________________STATE_____ZIP_______

You may want to include a memoriam or honorarium to someone, so please give us that information which will also be included in our newsletter.

In memory/honor of:__________________________________________________________
Address to send acknowledgement to:__________________________________________
Memories Shared by former Students at Liberty School

I have a vague remembrance of at least one pie supper that seemed to my young mind to be a rip-roaring affair, with lots of yelling and laughter; and the smell of potatoes baked in the ashes of the monstrous wood heating stove. Those smells — dry leaves, new leather shoes, #2 lead pencils, potatoes in the fire — always take me back to my four years at Liberty.

Celia (Miller) Sutherland
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I remember heated dodge ball and kick ball games at recess and who could forget the little house out back? I had the same teacher from Grades 1-8: Evelyn Price Putman. She was a super teacher & friend.

Mary Jo (Vaughn) Schmittou
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Spelling bees & math contests at the chalkboard were some of the learning games I remember. Walking to and from school even on the coldest days and reading library books in the corner behind the big wood stove. Spring graduation for the eighth-graders with daffodils and hyacinths are all memories I cherish.

Mary Frances (Breshears) Freeman

WILL YOU HELP MOVE AN HISTORIC SCHOOL?

Liberty School
Currently located at 3551 E. Farm Road 66
(by Fellows Lake)
Consolidated into Fair Grove School District R-10
1951

Gray/Campbell House
Circa 1865

Nathanael Greene Park and the Gray/Campbell Farmstead
2400 S. Scenic, Springfield, MO

Proposed site for Liberty School

For more information, contact Norma (Breshears) Tolbert by email at norma_l_tolbert@yahoo.com at (417) 833-2352. More information can be also found online at http://graycampbellfarmstead.org or at Facebook, search for The Gray Campbell Farmstead.

Program Assistance Also Provided By
UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI Extension
and the Ozarks Country School Association.
http://extension.missouri.edu/greene