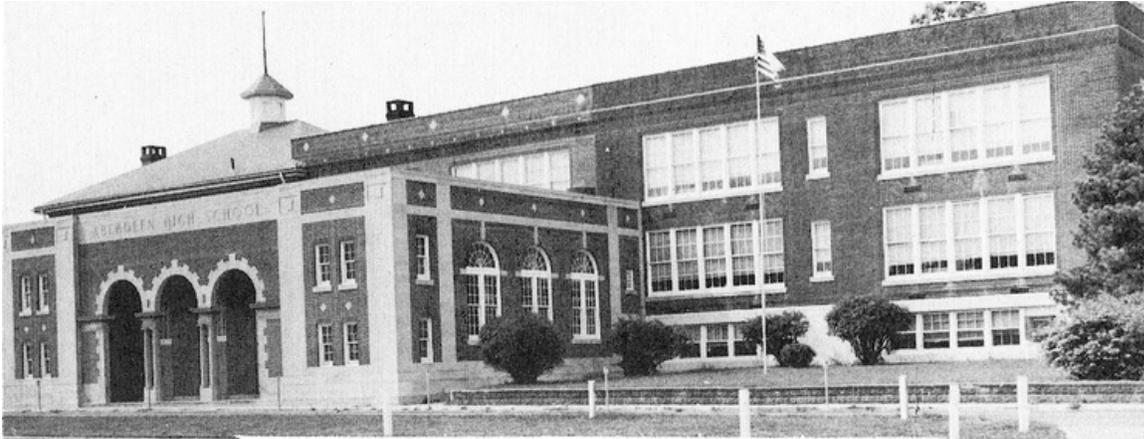


We walk in the Footsteps of Generations Past

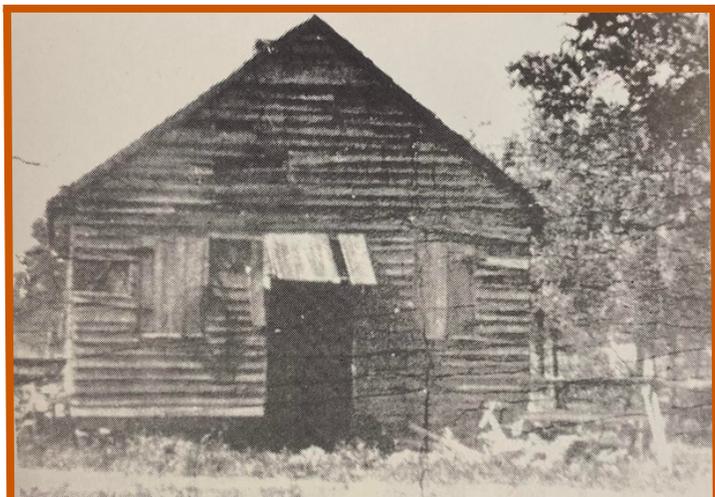
The History of Aberdeen High School



Before the Civil War, most education in Aberdeen was tied to religion. School was mainly held in church, and clergyman served as teachers. Education was afforded to well-off white children, as most Blacks and the poor didn't have the opportunity to attend classes.

This changed after the Civil War, when Maryland established a new state constitution that mandated a public school system, which still stands today.

In Harford County, log cabins were replaced with one-room schoolhouses and official schoolteachers were hired.



This is a picture of the first school in Aberdeen, which was built in 1835 by Ephraim Arnold on Beard's Hill Road.

In 1873, a 1-room public school was constructed on Broadway (now known as Rt. 40), a dirt road which ended about a block north of the school. For almost 30 years, grades 1 to 9 would gather to attend class.

As the population of Aberdeen increased, it became necessary to build a high school. The original Aberdeen High School, located next door to the original school, was constructed in 1908. It was built with a basement and steam heat, but due to the desire to conserve finances, plumbing and electricity were omitted. In 1924, an 8-room elementary school was constructed next door to the high school, and an auditorium-gymnasium unit connecting the elementary and high school was built in 1935.

The 1950s were an interesting time for Aberdeen High. The class of 1951 was the first class to have a 12th grade, as in previous years, students graduated after 11th. In the following year, the Aberdeen High School building on Paradise Road was constructed, with its initial student body actually being comprised of elementary school students!

A new junior high school for seventh and eighth graders was constructed next to the high school and first opened its doors in 1965. It was complete with a planetarium to serve the county system.



Side view of the Aberdeen Junior High building with a planetarium.

In 1954, the Supreme Court heard the case *Brown v. Board of Education* which marked the end of legal segregation. This decision opened doors for colored students of Havre de Grace Consolidated School and Oakington Elementary (now Roye Williams Elementary) to attend Aberdeen schools.

After 43 years, the high school building on Paradise Road was demolished. However, like a phoenix rising from the ashes, a new and improved school emerged on the same site in 2007. This school is home to the Science and Math Academy, which attracts students from all across Harford County. Aberdeen High now has over 1400 students walking its halls.

This photograph, taken in 1890, captures the only school in Aberdeen at the time.

It occupied the same site where a portion of the old high school building stands today, at the intersection of Rt. 40 and Franklin Street.



In 1890, this single-room school accommodated nine grades. Later in 1891 and 1895, additional classrooms were constructed to meet the growing population of Aberdeen.

The group of children in the photograph represents the entire student population of Aberdeen at the onset of the 1890s, which was about 45 students.

This photograph, believed to have been taken around 1910, provides a glimpse of the Rt. 40 building much as it appeared when first opened in 1908. This new school building, located on the land



formerly owned by the local Methodist Church, featured eight classrooms.

By 1910, Aberdeen High School had expanded its offerings to provide four years of state-accredited high school education which included grades 8 to 11.

Remarkably, this building still stands today as the oldest section of the former high school building on Rt. 40.



These pictures showcase the two expansions undertaken by Aberdeen High School, one in 1924 and the other in 1935. In 1924, a separate brick structure was constructed approximately 75 feet away from the original 1908 building. This new building served as an elementary school. In 1935, the two buildings were connected with the addition of an auditorium and gymnasium, along with several extra classrooms. However, by the end of the 1940s, Aberdeen High School faced a massive overcrowding issue. As a result, classes had to be conducted in the USO building (now where City Hall stands), located just one block behind the high school on Parke Street.



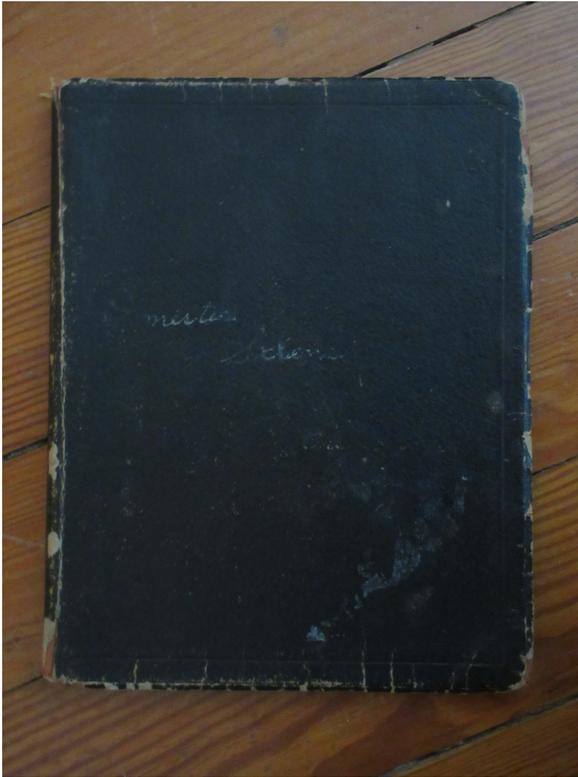
The Construction of the 1953 School





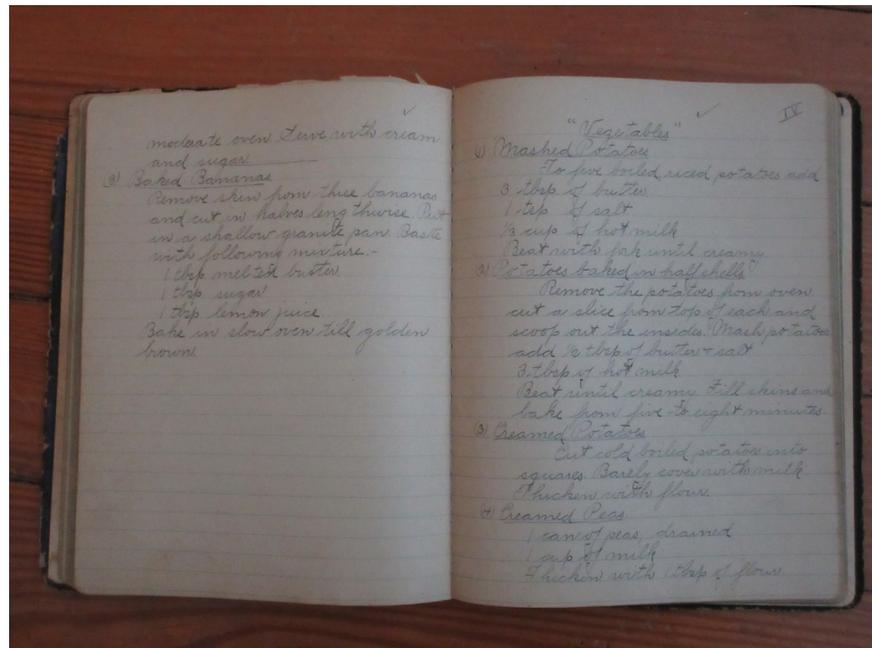
Back then, students were still going to school even as it was being constructed!

Elizabeth Pyle's Notebook

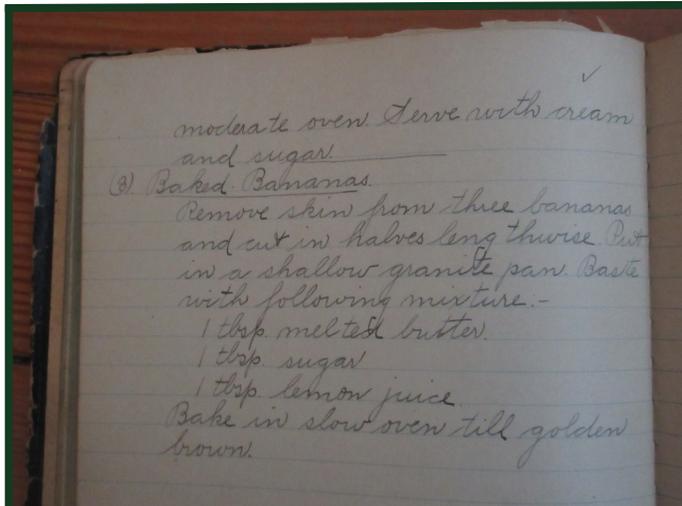


Elizabeth Pyle, Aberdeen High School class of 1914, used this notebook for her Domestic Science class, known today as Home Economics. In the 1900s, students were taught various home skills, such as cooking, sewing, and because it was the 1900s, the duties of a good housewife. The notebook is leather-bound with stitched pages, meaning its contents were to be preserved for use for many years.

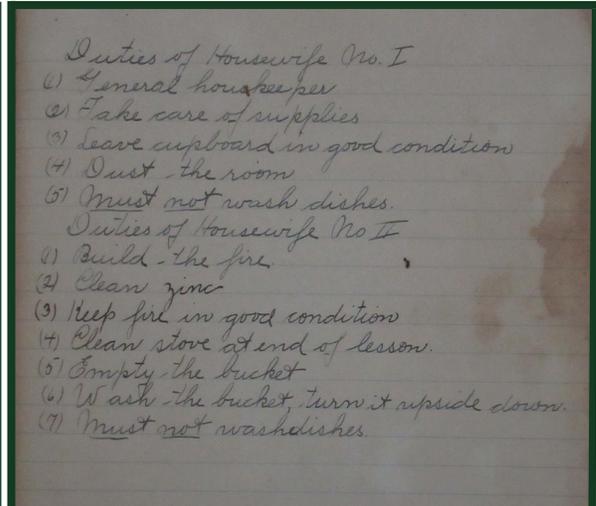
Elizabeth Pyle was surely a studious individual, as she took detailed notes ranging from different recipes, ways to identify edible foods, and the macronutrients needed for a nutritious meal.



Elizabeth Pyle's Notebook



This is the original text from which we derived the recipe on the next page!



When looking at the page describing the duties of a good housewife, one must note duty #7: **"Must Not wash dishes."** Of course, this deviates from the typical picture of a housewife in the 1900s, so we believe it's the class's inside joke.



Rudy Jacobs' Uniform

Correction: On last month's newsletter we incorrectly stated Rudy Jacobs' full name as Laurie. His correct first name is LaRue. We apologize for this mistake.



Baked Bananas

From the Domestic Science notebook of Elizabeth Pyle,
Aberdeen High School class of 1914

Ingredients

- 3 bananas
- 1 Tbsp. melted butter
- 1 Tbsp. sugar
- 1 Tbsp. lemon juice



Instructions

1. Remove the skin from the bananas and cut in halves lengthwise. Put bananas in a shallow ovenproof dish.
2. Melt butter in a microwaveable cup. Stir in sugar and lemon juice. Brush bananas with this mixture.
3. Bake uncovered at 300 degrees for 25-30 minutes.

Enjoy!

Authors Notes:

- Bananas need to be ripe with a few leopard spots.
- We added a sprinkle of cinnamon and walnuts to the bananas before baking.
- You may want to experiment with substituting honey for the sugar.
- Is gently sweet and may be served as a side dish or light dessert. For a richer dessert, add a scoop of vanilla, chocolate, or peanut butter ice cream.

You can find this recipe and many other delicious ones in the Aberdeen Museum Library.



Ask Mr. History

Q

How did Bakerfield Elementary School get its name?

A &

Bakerfield Elementary School, located on Baker Street in Aberdeen, was built on a former farm field belonging to the C. W. Baker family, one of Aberdeen's most prominent canners of sugar corn. Eventually the Baker family sold their canning business and no longer needed a large piece of their property that had once been one of their fields.

In March of 1950, the Gilbert family then sold it to the Harford County Board of Education. The first school to be built on the property was Aberdeen High School (1953), followed by Bakerfield Elementary (1959) and Aberdeen Junior High (1965).

The elementary school was given a name that paid tribute to the land's original owner and Aberdeen's foremost canners.

The row of older, 2-story homes across from Bakerfield Elementary on Baker Street were originally tenant homes for the workers in the

fields and canning house. The two buildings on the corner of W. Bel Air Avenue and Baker Street (417 and 413 W. Bel Air Avenue) were originally the Baker canning house and warehouse. Many of the grand older homes along W. Bel Air Avenue were built by the Bakers and their descendants.

Therefore, Bakerfield Elementary School was named as such to honor the Baker canning family that brought jobs and wealth to the newly-established Town of Aberdeen in the late 1800's and early 1900's. The former Baker field now produces young people growing in knowledge and skill.



Workers for the Baker cannery husk sugar corn in the area now known as Baker Street. Workers' houses are just beyond the white picket fence on the right, and Bakerfield Elementary School was later built on the land on the other side of the fence on the left.

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