

## Winchester Elementary Schools

The Winchester community hosted three amazing elementary schools: Willard, Baker, and Morton. To this day, many kids and teachers still attend Baker and Willard, however Morton Elementary School does not still run anymore, but the sign is still standing on Residence Street. A sad truth for the previous oldest school in the Randolph Central School Corporation.

Morton building had 3 stories with a red brick structure, which was located on Residence Street. Morton was named after the “Civil War Governor, Oliver P. Morton.”<sup>1</sup> Morton had many activities for both boys and girls, such as basketball, track, student council, Little Hoosiers, science fair, spelling bee, musical, outdoor education, P.H.R. essays, holiday parties, and many more. The Morton PTO was a group who supported the idea of fundraising and the annual ICE Cream Social both to support the students and community. “Morton Elementary School was all about the community, they followed the traditions and the legends from the older years that were passed down.”<sup>2</sup>

Willard is still up and running today. From past research made for the remodeling of Willard Elementary School, it states that to make the class a better environment for the students to be in a newer class setting. It is also more energy efficient for not only the students but for the school administrators too. In the older Willard where the computer lab sat is now where the library stands. There were a total of only 12 computers in the lab at the time that were used on a daily basis. Most of the fifth graders were using the computers to publish the school news, which was published as a newspaper.

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<sup>1</sup> Historical and Genealogical Society of Randolph County, Randolph County, Indiana (Turner Publishing Company, 1991), pg.350.

<sup>2</sup> Historical and Genealogical Society of Randolph County, Randolph County, Indiana (Turner Publishing Company, 1991), pg350.

There were playgrounds added on May 5, 1912 at the Francis Willard School. Willard loved to celebrate kids who had perfect attendance. There were 36 students that held perfect attendance during the school year. That is one of the highest of many years of attendance for Willard. Willard's ending days... Willard school administrators transferred students from the old building to the modern building structure. Before the holiday break students moved all belongings to the new building, so when they came back class could continue as normal.

Many schools have been given continuous commission. Baker was given continuous commission in 7-8-1964. "Baker elementary school at Winchester has been granted a continuous commission following inspection earlier this year."<sup>3</sup> Baker has been up for many years and has taught many students throughout its years. Baker was built in 1959 and when built it was the most modern elementary school in Winchester. Baker today holds grades from kindergarten through 2nd grade. Baker was named after a respected local, Oscar R. Baker.

Chris Milligan was a student at Baker in 1968, he placed first for the looks of his displayed project, for the fourth graders. His Science Fair project was over Rocks. The Science of sports was presented to the judge from another student that attended Baker in 1968. This student received a reward by Tim Passmore, placing third in the whole fourth grade. The town committee consisted of two women and four men. The committee was a part of a program for Randolph County Sesquicentennial celebration It was held at Union City in the Public Library. The librarian was Mrs. C.C. Keffer. The library board president was Dr. C. C. Keffer, and Prof. Ray C. Brumfield.

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<sup>3</sup> Baker School Given Continuous Commission. Randolph County Historical Society Baker Binder.7-8-64

Willard, Baker, and Morton have served so many years. Even though Morton is now just history it helped so many kids. These elementary schools helped Winchteser become what it is today.