

EAST TENNESSEE STATE NORMAL SCHOOL  
JOHNSON CITY

SIDNEY G. GILBREATH,  
PRESIDENT

December 16, 1914

Mr A B Ketron  
Arcadia  
Tenn

Dear Mr Ketron:

Without any desire to interfere in the management of the public schools of Sullivan County as exercised by the County Court, I beg to call your attention to the following facts:

1. Sullivan County is one of only six counties in East Tennessee that has made no provision for public high schools, the other five counties being Grainger, Hamblen, Sevier, Unicoi, and Union. The County Court should not permit this condition to remain, but should provide for a public high school tax levy.

2. Sullivan County has the lowest elementary school tax levy of all the East Tennessee Counties. Your levy does not put you in the class of counties receiving State aid for equalizing purposes. An addition of only five cents for elementary schools will meet the requirements of the State in this particular. The County Court should certainly levy this additional elementary school tax.

3. I think your poll tax rate is only \$1.50. This is the lowest poll tax levied in any East Tennessee county, and will not permit you to share in the State equalizing fund, the two conditions for sharing in this fund being an elementary school tax of at least forty cents, including the State levy of fifteen cents, and a poll tax of \$2.00. Sullivan County should share in this equalizing fund and can do so when it increases its elementary school tax five cents on the one hundred dollars, and makes its poll tax \$2.00.

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4. Great care should be taken in the election of the county superintendent of schools, because on the intelligence, ability, and progressive spirit of this official depends in a large measure the welfare of the biggest industry of the county--its public schools. In the selection of this official political conditions should have no weight above that given to efficiency.

The Normal School has enrolled a very large number of Sullivan County teachers. These teachers have petitioned your honorable body for relief. May I not hope that this relief, which means so much to every child in the county, will be heartily granted at the coming term of the Court?

Sincerely yours,

g<sup>nd</sup>

*Sidney G. Gilbreath*

EAST TENNESSEE STATE NORMAL SCHOOL  
JOHNSON CITY  
OFFICE OF PRESIDENT



Mr A B Ketron

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