

NEGRO LEADERSHIP
1870 - 1970



1859 - 1918

“A man is as great as the truth he speaks; as great as the help he gives; As great as the destiny he seeks, As great as the life he lives . . .”

FOREWORD

An account of the contribution of the Negro to the life of West Point during the past one hundred years would of necessity include the Allens.

Beverly Allen, who died in 1918 after being a school teacher and principal some thirty-five years, was a pioneer in the field of education for the Negro citizens of West Point. I do not remember him but I did know his wife, who taught for many years after his death.

One of my boyhood memories is of Mrs. Alice Allen, whom I came to know soon after I came to West Point in 1924. I recall her as a lady of quiet dignity whose bright eyes sparkled with merriment and whose lips easily formed a smile. I remember wondering if this patient, gentle woman ever managed to become angry.

Mrs. Allen was the sort of woman who earned admiration and respect from others without having to ask for it. She had a cultured air about her that never seemed like something acquired and was as natural to her as breathing.

During the years that Mrs. Allen lived among the people here and taught school the theory of a "generation gap" was unknown, either to the young people or to their elders. In those days youngsters were taught to have good manners and to respect their parents and teachers. Mrs. Allen would probably be aghast today at the blunt "no" and "yes" heard everywhere, except in the armed services.

I suspect that if Mrs. Allen were troubled with a generation gap, she would face that problem calmly and effectively as she faced the various problems of her day. She ended a twenty-five year teaching career in 1939.

It is very fitting that Mrs. Allen's granddaughter has prepared this history of Negro leadership in West Point.

Charles A. Loving

Dedication

This historical booklet is dedicated to the memory of our pioneer forefathers who gave of their ideas, time, work, and dreams to make West Point what it is today. Pioneers need not always be those who are past and gone. Let us who live in West Point today also be "pioneers," by "cutting new trails," and contributing something new each day ...

Mrs. Alice L. Reid, Compiler

This booklet was prepared for our Centennial so we would have "something tangible" to remind us of the past.

We sincerely hope you will enjoy it.

John H. Lee
Miles A. Reid
Alice L. Reid

GREATNESS

A man is as great as the dreams he dreams.
As great as the love he bears;
As great as the values he redeems
And the happiness he shares.
A man is as great as the thoughts he thinks,
As the worth he has attained;
As the fountains at which his spirit drinks,
And the insite he has gained.
A man is as great as the truth he speaks;
As great as the help he gives;
As great as the destiny he seeks,
As great as the life he lives.

- Selected



The Life of Beverly Allen Jr: Personal



Beverly Allen, Jr.
1859-1918



Alice C. Allen
1869-1949

With a deep sense of humility, I now begin the awesome task of "re-constructing" the history of my grandfather, Beverly Allen, Jr. Mingled with my feeling of humility is a feeling of sadness when I begin to realize how long we all have been so unaware of so distinguished a gentleman. I have no special abilities in the field of creative writing as such, but when one thinks about it, writing is not so difficult after all. A person who can think thoughts can write; a person who can dream dreams, can write; a person who would dare venture into the past to uncover hidden and forgotten secrets can write. It is with this spirit that I make public my grandfather's contributions to the town of West Point.

The King William Courthouse records show that on January 17, 1870, Beverly Allen, Sr. purchased from the West Point Land Company, Lot No. 105 at the cost of \$135.00. He is recorded in the court house records as Beverly Allen, Sr., a free man of color. The deed was produced March 28, 1870, and was reproduced, March 15, 1887 because the county's records were destroyed by fire, January 18, 1870. In 1892, Beverly Allen The first Negro home built on Sr.'s household equipment was valued at \$800, Third Street, and his fishing nets and equipment were valued at \$30.

The information above is important, but not as important as what I found out about him as a person. By interviewing older residents of King and Queen County, (who heard their parents speak of him,) I learned that Beverly Allen, Sr. was God-fearing, very good natured, very humble, had long straight black hair, and deep eyes that seemed to search your very soul. He lived to be nearly 90 years old. Beverly Allen, Sr. worked on Robinson's farm in King and Queen County, and stayed on as a hired servant a few years after the War Between The States.



This booklet is centered around Beverly Allen, Jr., but how can we separate the two? The following story was related to this writer by a King and Queen resident, John Reed in May, 1970. Mr. Reed's story recalls how Beverly Allen, Jr. got his start.

Beverly Allen, Sr., had an old coat which he prized very much. I would like to think it was the first coat he purchased as a free man. Shortly after moving to West Point, he began to think of his son's future. So secretly he found a unique and unusual way to save money for his son's college training. His wife, Harriet, was a mid-wife and was away from home quite of-

ten during the day. While sitting home alone watching the thriving town of West Point and wondering about his son's future, Beverly Allen, Sr., began to sew patches on his coat . . . and in it he placed his week's earnings. Some weeks it was \$3.00 — the next week it might have been \$5.00. When Beverly Allen, Sr. decided to give this coat to his son, he did not tell him of its significance, and Beverly Allen, Jr. put it aside, thinking I'll get to use this later, maybe. Just by luck one day Beverly Allen, Jr. decided to take a closer look at the coat — for it really was the only thing he had left to remember his father by — His father served on the first West Point town council according to "Recollections of Early West Point," by Mary Lipscomb. As Beverly Allen, Jr. began to examine his coat, later, he was startled and touched when he found his father's weekly earnings. Perhaps, Beverly Allen, Sr. in concealing the significance of the coat taught his son a "lasting meaning" of the importance of "discovery." — this meaning of "discovery" lasted for a life-time — for he unlocked many new secrets during his lifetime — secrets hidden away in the depths of knowledge — secrets of moral values and secrets of religious values — For the money hidden away in his father's unusual savings account was well enough to get Beverly Allen, Jr. started in the new mission school at Hampton Institute.

Could this story have Biblical significance? This writer would like to think so — for in Biblical times, Jacob gave his favorite son a "coat of many colors," for his father knew he was destined to be a great leader.

At Hampton Institute, Beverly Allen, Jr., established a friendship with a famous ex-slave, Booker T. Washington. After completing his work at Hampton Institute, 1881, Beverly Allen, unlike his famous classmate, returned to West Point, his hometown, to help those around him. (Booker T. Washington went to Alabama and founded the now famous Tuskegee Institute.) Beverly Allen, Jr., taught in the public schools of West Point for thirty-five consecutive years. On the pages that follow, you will find copies of certain letters and other documents in his handwriting.

Beverly Allen, Jr. had one sister, Sallie Allen Sampson of King and Queen County, who has a daughter, Mrs. Sadie S. Taliaferro, a son. Gilie Sampson and several nieces and nephews still residing in King and Queen.

Beverly Allen's wife, Alice C. Allen, a native of Harrisonburg, Virginia, was also a teacher and worked alongside her husband for many years. When Mr. Charles Loving came to West Point around 1924, he remembers meeting my grandmother, and was so impressed by her winsome and charming personality, and her dedication in carrying out the work started by her husband, Beverly Allen, Jr.

Both Beverly Allen, Jr., and Alice C. Allen are buried in what is now called Memorial Garden in West Point.

Living in Baltimore, Md. is the oldest daughter, Acte A. Sturgis, who has two daughters teaching in the Baltimore Public Schools: Mrs. Gloria S. Stokes, a Music Supervisor; and Mrs. Lili S. Boston, a teacher of Spanish and French. A son, James Allen, resides in Newark, N. J. along with another daughter, Chrystal Allen Carson. Her only son, Edward Carson, Jr., resides in Montclair, N. J. Nydia Lee, a third daughter, has six living children: Three in Philadelphia, Gilbert, Submarine Division of the Naval Ship Base; Beverly, a hospital laundry supervisor; Delores, a secretary; one in Hampton, Va., Dr. Ralph N. Lee, (a surgeon who was reared in Newark, N. J. by his aunt, Mrs. Crystal Carson); John H. Lee, who is a music instructor at Central High School in King and Queen; and Mrs. Alice L. Reid, a teacher at King and Queen Elementary School. (Pictures of the descendants can be found in this booklet.)

Beverly Allen: As Remembered By Former Pupils:

Mr. Beverly Allen was one of the best instructors I ever went to in my whole life. The principles and ideals which I gained from him and also his dear wife, I shall never forget. There were only two teachers in that old school on 11th Street at that time. First I went to Mr. I. S. P. Robinson, and in time I was promoted to Mr. Allen's class where I remained as long as I was allowed to attend school in West Point. At that time as near as I can remember, there were only six grades, although it was not a thoroughly graded Mrs. Charity Boyd school. Richmond, Virginia



Mrs. Charity Boyd
Richmond, Virginia

Mr. Allen, a native of King and Queen County, and a graduate of Hampton Institute really gave his pupils the benefit of his knowledge. He even taught us about Astrology, the names and positions of the stars, and he gave us a thorough course in physical geography. He also taught us English and gave us plenty of mathematics. He was considered the most brilliant man in that area at that time.

The pupils who went out from under him were asked, "what type of teachers do they have in West Point?" When I entered Hartshorn Memorial College in Richmond, now Virginia Union University, many of the subjects offered there I already had knowledge of because of Mr. Allen's thoroughness. He also liked sports, fishing, watching the stars at night, and other things.

I deemed him "ONE OF WEST POINT'S CHOICE PRODUCTS"

“MR. BEVERLY ALLEN,” written after a conversation with Mrs. Marion Harris, King and Queen County. Mr. Allen always loved good books, and in his spare time could be found reading and memorizing long passages. All the pupils looked forward toward getting in Mr. Allen’s classes. No one graduated without his approval. He never had “discipline problems.” He seemed to develop within his pupils a sense of “self-discipline,” and then too, the pupils seemed to sense they were in the presence of a great teacher and every advantage should be made of this. He gave each pupil individual attention, keeping those with specific weaknesses back in the afternoon for special help. When I finished Beverly Allen’s sixth grade class, I went to Baltimore and because of my thorough background of knowledge in the basic subjects, I was skipped to the eighth grade.

Mayor Bell once said of Beverly Allen, “why, he has read more books than I have seen,” and he chuckled, “I’ve seen a many a book.”



Mrs. Marion Harris
King and Queen County



Mrs. Alberta Hill Epps
Long time admirer and scholar of Beverly Allen.
Also a great reader of poetry and prose.

DESCENDANTS OF BEVERLY ALLEN



Seated L-R: Wayne Stokes, Gloria Stokes, Allen Stokes, Oliver Sturgis (deceased) Acte Sturgis, Juan Boston, Lili Boston, Jose Boston

Standing L-R: Ernest Stokes, Joseph Boston



Chrystal A. Carson



Maria and Maya Boston



Edward Carson, Jr.

History of the West Point Colored School

Later The Beverly Allen High School: Named February 1942

As Recorded by Mrs. B. C. Flournoy Gravely

“Pioneer Graduating Class”

Principal 1921 - 1942



“Pioneer Graduating Class”

Row-1 Lois Stubbs, James Custis, Mary Harris, Leon Stubbs, Grace Muse

Row-2 Eudora Parley, James Epps, Mrs. B.C. Flournoy, Louise Page,

Lottie Stubbs, (Not shown — Hazel Phillips)

This paper is designed to give to its readers a knowledge of the origin and the development of the only Negro School in West Point, Virginia.

The school had its beginning about 1868, not many years after the Civil War, when the days of Reconstruction were rife with uncertainties, and the eager, restless minds of the colored populace began to realize a need, and a desire for learning. There arose a clamor for a school and a teacher; so that the Negro children might have the light and knowledge that were denied their parents. Thus, through the agency of the Freedman's Bureau, white teachers were sent from Boston, Mass., and a small school was established in a little room near the corner of Third and E Streets, on a part of the lot, then owned by Mr. Beverly Allen, Sr., an ex-slave; who after the War, was the first Negro to own a home in the small, and destined to be, in later years, it seemed, a thriving town, nestling

almost in the bosom of the York, West Point.

There, on his lot, the foundation for the Colored Public School of West Point was laid.

The first school in West Point was taught by two white teachers: a Mrs. Randall, and a Miss Chinn, who taught the children during the day, and the older people at night. These white teachers lived in the home of Beverly Allen, Sr. It was surprising to see the number of persons who after a day of hard toiling would be wending their way with eager faces, and anxious minds to the night school, trying with might and main, to learn; read, write, and cipher. It is gratifying to note that some few gained sufficient knowledge to enable them to engage in small business ventures, that ultimately led to success. The day school grew steadily, the attendance increased so rapidly that the little school could no longer accommodate the large number attending. Thus the school was moved to the old Seminary Building at the corner of Second and D Streets.

The following teachers were employed: A Mr. Haley, a Miss Ophelia Kelly, Mr. Haler Coles, (white,) Mr. Spencer, (white,) Miss Henrietta Hucles, Mr. Jeffry Hill, and Mr. William Carter. Under their tutorship, many pupils were turned out well drilled in the rudiments of education. The town of West Point was duly incorporated in 1870, and the officials began to awaken to their responsibilities. In 1875, they purchased a building at the west end of Eleventh Street, and furnished it to accommodate nearly a hundred pupils. In 1876, a Rev. Jones came on the scene, and served as principal for a short period; he was followed by Beverly Allen, Jr., a Hampton Institute graduate of 1881. Mr. Allen served as principal of the school for thirty-five consecutive terms, until his death in 1918. Mr. I. S. P. Robinson also taught with Mr. Allen. In the meantime, this last building became unsafe and unsanitary, therefore, a site for a new building was selected on Thirteenth Street; its present site. A neat, comfortable two room structure was erected in the early 1900's. Later, it was found to be overcrowded, and a third room was added with the assistance of the School League, which had been organized to assist in school work and school development.

We must not fail to mention the names of other men and women who have worked and labored arduously in training the young minds to higher and nobler thoughts, and ideals. Namely: Misses Hattie Smith, Carry Murry, Lucy Woodson, Arminta Harris, Eva Christian, Susie Scott, Mary Washington who is now teaching at Dunbar School, South Richmond, Va.; Mesdames Bell, Briggs, Misses Hazel Dillard, Annie Mosby, Mamie Belford, now Mrs. Mamie Whiting Cook, who resides in New Kent County, Williams-burg. Then, Mrs. Virginia Hill, Mr. G. W. Eldridge, now

deceased who up until December 1941, taught in King and Queen County; Rev. O. B. Simms, deceased, who up until February 6, 1941 pastored in Richmond, Va.; Mrs. Alice C. Allen, the widow of the late Beverly Allen, Jr., who taught here for many years, and gave up the work here June 1939, and later resided at her home on the corner of Third and E Streets where the school had its beginning; Miss Maude E. Brown, later Mrs. Stanton; Mrs. Bertha C. Flournoy Gravely, principal from September 15, 1921 to June 3, 1942; Mr. W. R. Bowie, Miss Lillian White, Mrs. Rebecca Jeffries, the widow of the late Rev. L. V. Jeffries who at one time pastored in West Point, Mrs. Maude Allen Clark, Mrs. Leah F. Wilson, Mr. Beecher Jones, Miss Helen Cauthorne, and Miss Arimenta Jones Lomax and Mr. Junius Jeffries.

Under the present administration, the school has developed from a sixth grade school to a four year high school, and plans are already made for further development and progress.

Before 1921, very few children continued their education beyond the sixth grade. The new principal with her two other workers, created a feeling of dissatisfaction among the pupils and patrons, especially the School League, Finally, the School Board and the Town Council worked with us, and added a grade at a time, a teacher occasionally, and rooms with other facilities and equipments until the school developed into a four year high school. The attendance continued to grow, reaching as high as two hundred pupils; but now the attendance has had a decided drop.

The last five grades were added as follows: Seventh Grade, September 1924; Eighth, September 1927; Ninth, September 1930; Tenth, September 1934, and the Eleventh or fourth year of high school, September 1938.

On June 7, 1939, the colored populace of West Point, witnessed for the first time in the history of the school, the first graduating class from a four year high school: three boys and seven girls, namely, James Epps, James Custis, Leon Stubbs, Eudora Parley, Mary Harris, Louise Paige, Hazel Phillips, Grace Muse, Lottie B. Stubbs, and Lois Stubbs. This class of young people is considered the pioneer class of this high school, because it was this group that asked the officials for the Eleventh Grade while they were pursuing their work in the Tenth Grade.

This school is at present maintained by the following very efficient faculty: Mrs. M. A. Clark, Mrs. Ruby Smith, Mrs. Gladys Taylor, Mr. Oakley Holmes, Mr. J. H. Scott, Jr., and Mrs. B. C. Flournoy, with general supervision by an energetic and efficient Supervisor, Miss India Hamilton.

There have been about eight school board chairmen. These school boards and their chairmen have played a very large part in the development of the school. At present, the new building which has been prom-

ised for many years is in the process of completion. The progress of the school has been somewhat slow in reference to the physical plant, but the faculty has been composed of some of the best teachers in the state in point of qualification and experience, and the work done has compared favorably with that done in the larger and far better equipped schools in the state and elsewhere. Some of the students who have done work at this school, have done well in college, three of whom have completed their college work and have come back to their alma mater and have served on its faculty; one of whom is here at present: Mr. John H. Scott, Jr., who is our very efficient science teacher and athletic coach, and who later became head teacher.

At the present time, we are proud to relate that this school has five of its graduates pursuing work in college, they are as follows: Misses Mary and Florence Scott, class of '41 at St. Augustine College, Raleigh, N. C., Miss Mary L. Harris, class of '39 who is a junior at Virginia State College, then the Misses Hortense Tuppeonce, class of '40 and Leola Tuppeonce, class of '41 who are attending Bennett College at Greensboro, N. C. From information received from the registrars of these schools, these young people are making a name for themselves and their school here in West Point.

In September 1943 during World War II, Washington T. Henry assumed principal-ship at the school, and remained until June 1948. The faculty consisted of Mrs. Maud Clark, Mrs. B. C. Flournoy, Mrs. Ruby Smith, and Miss Pearl Scott. In January, Mrs. Katherine Ready of Richmond, Va. was added to the faculty.

A private bus from King and Queen brought a large number of pupils which added to our small enrollment.

In 1944, Mr. Charles Williams, Miss Augusta Smith, and Mrs. Agnes Smith were added to the faculty. Miss Pearl Scott left us. That year King and Queen County ran a county bus, thus increasing still our ever growing school enrollment. In fact, the school became too small for the number of students attending.

During this time our P. T. A. was very active. The following presidents served: Mrs. Elias Smith, Mr. Silas Tuppeonce, and Rev. John Scott. We purchased a movie projector and lights were installed in the school. In 1946, Mr. John Scott, Jr., returned from the armed forces and served on the faculty. Doris Byrd, Alice Lee and Eula M. Dobbins won the public speaking contest consecutively.

Gordon W. Robinson became head teacher of Beverly Allen in September of 1949. Typing and home economics were first offered at the school this year. Other teachers for that year were Mesdames M. A. Clark,

A. T. Smith, R. J. Smith, Miss Cornelia D. Freeman and John H. Scott, -Jr. Mrs. Mary S. Robinson served on a part-time basis.

The year 1950-51 saw only one change in teaching assignments, when Miss Freeman was replaced with Miss Gladys M Owens, now Reading Specialist in Richmond public schools.

When Gordon W. Robinson resigned in 1951 to accept the principalship of the new Central High School in King & Queen County, John H. Scott became head teacher. Serving with Mr. Scott were Mesdames Clark, A. Smith, R. Smith and M. S. Robinson, and Miss G. Owens.

In 1954, through a reciprocal agreement between the School Boards of West Point and King and Queen, high school students from Beverly Allen were transported to Central High School. (Since 1952, students and their parents, had refused to accept being transported to Hamilton-Holmes High School.) This action resulted in the discontinuance of the high school at Beverly Allen.

Teachers who remained in the elementary school at Beverly Allen for the next twelve years were Mrs. Clark (untill 1955 - when because of health, was replaced by Mrs. Robinson.) Other faculty members remaining at Beverly Allen were Mrs. R. Smith, Mrs. A. T. Harris, (who was married to Mr. C. H. Harris during this time,) and John H. Scott, Jr.

With total integration coming into focus, Beverly Allen was completely phased out at the end of the 1965-66 session, thus beginning another era of public education in WEST POINT. The structure below is now used as an annex to the West Point Elementary School with Gerald Tudor serving as principal.



ALMA MATER

(In tune of The Bells of St. Mary)

1. Beneath the bright sunshine stands Beverly Allen High.
The true love for our Alma Mater will never die.
Each brick that has formed the dear school of our choice.
We show thee our gratitude by lifting our voices.
2. We hail thee dear BA the prize of our land,
We swell with great pride to whisper thy name.
We cannot forget what great joy you have brought.
We remember the thrill that you gave to our hearts.

Chorus

Beverly Allen we love you, our dear "Alma Mater."
We cherish and honor then until the end.
We praise them forever, forget thee, no never.
Our love for you shall always — stand for ever more.

John H. Lee '51
(Officially adapted, 1950)

LATER EDUCATORS IN WEST POINT (Poems of Dedication)

HUMILITY

(Dedicated to Mrs. Alice C. Allen)

Lord, let me do the little things.
Which may fall to my lot,
Those little inconspicuous ones.
By others, oft forgot,

A staff, for others to lean upon.
Strong hands to help the weak,
A loving heart with open door.
To all, who solace seek.

To hold my tongue, when hot
words arise,
Speak kindly ones instead.
Nor harshly judge my fellowmen.
In what they've done, or said.

To share another's heavy load,
By word, or courage given.
To help a fallen brother rise.
And bring him nearer Heaven.

If, like the Master, I can give.
Myself, for those I love,
Rich joy, and peace, shall come to
me,
Sweet rest, in Heaven above.

I know not, when today shall close.
But when life's curfew rings,
I want my Lord to find me then.
Still doing little things.

Selected by — Your Granddaughter
Alice

THE BUILDER

(Dedicated to Mesdames Maud
Brown, Rebecca J. Galloway, Miss
Helen Cauthorne, and all princi-
pals and teachers who followed.)

A builder builded a temple,
He wrought it with grace and skill;
Pillars and groins and arches
All fashioned to work his will. Men
said, as they saw its beauty,
"It shall never know decay;
Great is thy skill, O Builder!
Thy fame shall endure for aye."

A Teacher builded a temple
With loving and infinite care,
Planning each arch with patience.
Laying each stone with prayer.
None praised her unceasing efforts.
None knew of her wondrous plan,
For the temple the Teacher builded
Was unseen by the eyes of man.

Gone is the Builder's temple,
Crumpled into the dust;
Low lies each stately pillar,
Food for consuming rust.
But the temple the Teacher builded
Will last while the ages roll,
For that beautiful unseen temple
Was a child's immortal soul.

"To know her is to love her." This happened to first and second genera-
tions of many families who entered the first grade at Beverly Allen School
and met Maude Allen Clark.

Mrs. Clark had a profound insight into the emotional and social prob-
lems of each student. With such knowledge she was able to shape their
character development and personality growth.

Mrs. Clark was the type of teacher who took a personal interest in all
of her pupils. By so communicating with them she knew where to start
and how to fill the gaps.

The teacher-pupil relationship is a tightrope to be walked. Mrs. Clark
was able to walk it because she knew how to choose words, gestures, to
understand the balance between friendliness and familiarity, dignity and
aloofness.

"To know her is to love her," for love is growth. It is the ultimate com-
mitment. It imposes obligations; it risks pain. Love is what Maude Allen
Clark gave all her pupils.

— Mary Scott Robinson

I REMEMBER MRS. CLARK

Most of us will remember Mrs. Clark as a teacher, but I remember her
best as my friend. She is a friend to many of us, but I remember her as my
friend.

My friend? But what is a friend? A friend is a person who has shared
with you the joys and sorrows of growing and living these many years.
But through all these years of growth and life — while we've grown older,
she's remained young in heart.

There was a time when I thought I was too busy for friendship, and I
would travel back and forth past her house doing this and that, going here
and there, being always too busy in my own business to stop and even say
hello! Then one day, a card came to my house, to interfere with my "busy
business;" in this card was a poem "My Friend." This poem was to tell me
that Mrs. Clark was always and still my friend, but it truly told me that I
had been failing to be a "true" friend. My business had gotten in the way.
With Mrs. Clark, this never happened, our friend, has never been too
busy to be a friend to all of us, and we love her for this.

Yes, I remember Mrs. Clark, as my friend; we remember Mrs. Clark as
our friend.

The few lines of this poem by Edgar A. Guest so vividly express my
feelings:

"Friendship like the flight of birds.
Can't be put in written words
Never yet has poet penned
All it means to have a friend . . ."

Thank you Mrs. Clark for our lasting friendship.

— Eula Dobbins Spratley
Public Health Nurse



Mrs. Maude A. Clark



Miss Helen Cauthorne

I join the compiler of this History in dedicating the poem "The Builder" to Miss Cauthorne and others. It best summarizes what the teachers at old Beverly Allen tried to do for us.

Miss Cauthorne impressed me as having a thorough knowledge of the subject matter she taught.

In addition to giving her students a thorough background of knowledge, Miss Cauthorne always took a personal interest - never too busy to give advice and counsel. She frequently talked to us about our life's work, and ambition, always urging us to aim high.

We consider ourselves fortunate for having been taught by such a great lady.

Leon and Hazel Stubbs

ARDENT RELIGIOUS & CIVIC LEADERS



Rev. John Scott, who established St. Paul's, retires

(Digested from an old edition of Tidewater Review)

Twenty-seven years ago the Rev. John H. Scott, a native of Richmond, came to West Point and established St. Paul's Episcopal (Mission) Church. He had but one member. The first of January, 1952, Mr. Scott retired and the count of the church membership was a proud 107.

Bishop Gibson was present on the day Mr. Scott ended his long career as rector of the church, and he praised the Rev. Mr. Scott for the fine work he had done.

On that day, January 20, the church was crowded to overflowing, and five members were confirmed.

Before coming to West Point Mr. Scott headed religious work in Essex County. While a student at the Bishop Payne Divinity School, he established the work under the auspices of the late Rev. Thomas D. Lewis, at Millers Tavern, Va., in 1905. In 1909 he was ordained deacon, and in 1910 priest by the late Rt. Rev. Robert A. Gibson, D. D., Bishop of the Diocese of Virginia, and took charge of the unorganized mission,

which developed into Grace Episcopal Church.

A few years later, he organized another mission which was known as St. Andrews Church, Upright, Va. He also organized Sunday Schools at Tappahannock, Beas-ley, in King and Queen, and at Sparata, Caroline County.

It was through his efforts that a parish school was established in 1909 which finally developed into the John Moncure High School.

It was in September, 1924, that Mr. Scott came to West Point, having been sent here by the Rt. Rev. William Cabel Brown, Bishop of the Diocese, to start a mission. He reached the retiring age some time back.

Mr. Scott is a graduate of St. Paul's Normal and the Industrial School, Lawrenceville, and the Bishop Payne Divinity School, Petersburg.

He and Mrs. Scott have eight children: John H. Scott, Jr., head teacher of the Beverly Allen High School; William Scott, with the Veterans administration, Phila.; Thomas Scott, West Point; Mary S. Robinson, faculty of Beverly Allen; Florence S. Lewis, member of the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania; Estelle Custalow, West Point; Martha Scott, student at St. Paul's Institute, George Scott, Senior at Central High School, King and Queen.

(Rev. Scott died in 1956.)



Rev. U.G. Wilson (deceased)

Maintained a pastorate for many years at Mt. Nebo and Zion Baptist in Portsmouth, Virginia. Vice-President of Virginia Council of Churches.



Mrs. Florence W. Edwards

"Plenty of roses, stars, sunsets, rainbows, brothers and sisters. Aunts and cousins, but only one rare personality like Mrs. Edwards, a friend to so many ..."

Ending with 30 years of untiring service as Mt. Nebo's organist.



Mrs. Maude A. Clark
Mr. Charlie Harris
Mrs. Cecilia Whiting Reid



Historical Pageant of Mt. Nebo (A Church is Born)

"OUR CHURCH" 1866-1966, a historical pageant written and directed by Mrs. Alice L. Reid, a member of Mt. Nebo Baptist Church, June 1966.

History tells us that our first church began 100 years ago in an old toolshed when a group of humble railroad workers and their families gathered to pray. But I can't help but feel that our "real church" began long

before that. It began out in the fields at the setting of the sun where our forefathers gathered, and cried out:

First Solo: "Nobody knows the trouble I've seen
Nobody knows but Jesus :
Nobody knows the trouble I've seen.
Glory Hallelujah . . ."

Yes, when the sun had set, and work was done, and all was quiet, our forefathers would leave their huts and steal away to Jesus.

Second Solo: "Steal Away, Steal Away, Steal Away to Jesus . . ."

In the year 1866, a group of railroad workers and their families met in an old toolshed to sing and pray. We don't know what songs they sang, or what prayers they prayed, but this is what I'd like to think happened:

Chorus of "Old Time Power"
"Gimme That Old Time Religion"

Soft Music: "I Will Trust in the Lord" (as little Eliza comes down aisle)

One of the first converts we can remember is Eliza King Edwards who promised when she was eleven years old that she would trust in the Lord. She said as she came up, I will trust in the Lord, I will trust in the Lord, and she continued, I will trust in the Lord 'til I die . . . And we know that she did just this, too, because many of us right here watched as her steps slowed — we watched as her hair turned as white as snow — but she still found her way to church. As she sat over in her special corner, her face grew dearer to us every day.

Music: "Lead Me, Guide Me"

Soon after that, a daily boat began to run from Baltimore to our town. On this boat came dock workers, cotton pickers, oyster shuckers and sailors. Also on this boat came a man called Quaker Brown who purchased the first organ for our church.

(A group of men enter on stage here.) There they are now - dock workers, sailors, oyster shuckers, cotton pickers, and that looks like Quaker Brown. They seem to be stopping near the boat. I guess they're wondering just what the future holds for them - They might be wondering if they'll find homes and new friends in the new town. I can't help but think that somebody in that group had a prayer on his heart — That prayer might have been this: (First soloist — Lead Me, Guide Me . . .)

Many of the people on that boat became members of our church, and soon the saints of old found their way to the Mattaponi River for their first baptism. Do you hear singing in the distance?

Music: "Wade in the Water"

(Railroad workers come back down the aisle, with converts in the front.) Railroad workers should return to rostum for first communion next.

Music: "Let Us Break Bread Together"

After the baptizing, everyone gathered in the church for the first communion.

Music: "God Be With You"

Our church has had its sad moments too. One of the saddest days in

the church's history was the time so many of the members left to find work at "Pinnars Point" near Portsmouth, Va. Some of the members had been friends for years — their children had played together — and now they had to part. Here is how it might have happened.

Music: "In Times Like These"

Yes, that was a sad day, but the church members who were left should not have wept — for our church was built on a firm foundation. There's Deacon Silas Tuppence left to help carry the work on — and little Alberta Hill Epps, and Mrs. Alice Allen — and Mrs. Ida Smith and later still, Mr. Charlie Harris. They would all be there to help carry the work on — And God has always sent fine ministers to Mt. Nebo — Rev. W. W. Harris served for twenty years. Then came Rev. Julius Ward, Rev. Pinkney, and Rev. Shafford. They all brought messages of hope to our people. Let us listen to the message they might have brought: (Three solos by former ministers:) Rev. W. W. Harris, Rev. Pinkney, and Rev. Shafford.

Music: "Blest Be the Tie"

Yes, our church has had a long line of great ministers - Rev. O. B. Simms, Rev. L. V. Jeffries, Rev. U. G. Wilson, Rev. C. J. Washington, and Rev. F. W. Black. Here they are now having a reunion at one of the state conventions. That's where ministers always gather each year. They seem to be so glad to see each other, and they have so much in common — they all served Mt. Nebo. They all had some special plan in mind for the church when they were here. The fellowship of men who serve the same God — who think the same thoughts — who share the same goals is like to that above. And when they left us to serve other churches, it gave us inward pain — but we still are joined in "heart" and hope to meet again.

Music: "Something Within Me" (Chorus only for soloist and choir)

Does that gospel hymn sound familiar to you? It was the favorite of Rev. M. Williams of Little Rock, Ark. And so many times, after preaching, he would ask the organist to play it for him. Tonight he is many miles away, somewhere in Arkansas at some other post — but we can't help but think of him tonight as we hear the song he loved so well. (Soloist — Mr. Sterling Edwards sings here)

Music: "Have Thine Own Way, Lord" (softly hummed)

Our church was without a minister for some time, but during that period somebody prayed, some at church, some at home — and while they were praying, God already had the prayers answered — for in Gloucester there was a young minister who early in his life said, "Have thine own way, Lord . . ." God felt Rev. S. F. Harris was the one for our church and sixteen years ago he became our leader.

Music: chorus of "How Great Thou Art"

Yes, 100 years ago, where we now stand was an empty spot — and now THIS IS OUR CHURCH. As we close our pageant, what more can we say then: "TO.-GOD BE THE GLORY, GREAT THINGS HE HATH DONE. . ."

Music: "How Great Thou Art" Miles A. Reid.

MOMENTS TO REMEMBER



1924



Spring, 1932



1926



Jan. 18, 1935



1926



1930



West Pointers in All Walks of Life

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Dr. Warfield Clark - Surgeon - Washington, D. C. Dr. Ralph N. Lee - Surgeon - Hampton, Va.

RESEARCH

Mrs. Florence Scott Lewis - Director of Cancer Research University of Penn. Phila.

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Mrs. Jasper Bingham Williamson - Teacher — Norfolk, Va.

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Mr. Miles A. Reid - Principal - King and Queen

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Mrs. Elizabeth Tuppence Bridgeford - Teacher - N. J.

Mr. James Johnson — Teacher — Newport News, Va.

Mr. Charles Tuppence - Teacher - Hackensack, N. J.

Mr. James L. Winston - Teacher, Washington, D. C.

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Mrs. Lili Sturgis Boston - Teacher - Balto., Md.

Mr. Fred Black - Guidance Counsellor - Richmond, Va.

Mrs. Alice Lee Reid - Teacher - King William School Division

Mrs. Alice Thornton Edwards - Teacher - Cleveland, Ohio

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