

MRS. GEORGIE DAVIS TYLER

Mrs. Tyler was an Isle of Wight County native born to William H. and Amy Louise Davis and the fifth of eight children. Her father was a farmer and merchant and her mother, a graduate of Hampton Institute, was an early teacher in the county. Her early years of schooling were in a one-teacher school known as "Jordan's Lawn School". After completing sufficient study she went to Petersburg to Virginia Normal and Collegiate Institute (Virginia State College) and graduated in January 1912.

In 1912, Mrs. Tyler first began teaching at Muddy Fork, one-room school at a salary of \$25 a month and an enrollment of 100. After three months a notice was received saying "Close school at once, funds exhausted". For two winters she taught at Bloming Light Hall School. Mrs. Tyler then taught with Mr. George Gwaltney at the new, two-room Windsor School also known as Sugar Hill. After three years (1917) she was appointed a Jeanes Supervisor, her salary was supplemented with funds from the Quaker endowment and increased to \$85 monthly by 1924-25. She attended summer school sessions until she was able to receive a Collegiate Professional certificate. She visited the 27 Negro schools then open, twice a month (no gas was given); provided training and guidance to teachers, parents and children. Her work covered everything from starting Parent Leagues in each school to helping locals with personal issues as writing their wills. Since new schools could not be built on private property, she suggested that purchasing land and sharing the costs with the county could improve schools. Fifteen new buildings, some with Rosenwald funds, including Isle of Wight Training School, were opened during her tenure. She was censured for the suggestion, but the results were huge.

Having been a registered voter for many years, in 1942 she was commissioned by then Governor Colgate Darden to serve on the Selective Service Boards #28 and #61. She received a Certificate of Appreciation signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, a much-prized possession.

She continued to be an advocate for education with a life membership in the State Teachers Association (Virginia Education Association). Mrs. Tyler retired in 1946 and celebrated with a trip to Niagara Falls and Canada. She continued to keep busy with her fraternal ties including past Grand Senior Matron of the Order of the Tents, District Deputy of Daughters Of Elks, Associate Matron, Order of Eastern Star.

As a child she was a member of the Union Bethel Church. After marriage she joined her husband's church, Morning Star Baptist Church, Windsor, Va., and was actively involved in church and Sunday school.

In 1950 a new elementary school was built in Windsor and named for her. In 1956 four more grades were added and it became a full high school.

Bibliography

King, Helen Haverty, and others. **Historical Notes on Isle of Wight County, Virginia**. Isle of Wight, VA: Isle of Wight County Board of Supervisors, 1993.

Division Superintendent's Report of Teachers Contracts

Compiled by Sandra M. Lowe