

In Memoriam

Our friend was greatly esteemed by all. We felt that we might better pay our respects to her, if we presented her as she was last seen in the columns of our local papers

Mrs. M. Smith, Educator, Dies in Eastern Shore, Va.

[From the *Peninsula Enterprise*]

Accomac, Va.—Mrs. Mary Nottingham Smith, an outstanding leader of the Eastern Shore, died at her home here on Dec. 30. She was the wife of Robert L. Smith. Death followed a stroke which had occurred about a week before.

Mrs. Smith served as supervisor of colored schools in Accomack county from 1921 until the time of her death. A memorial service was held at Mary N. Smith High School on Jan. 3, conducted by the Rev. L. S. Roberts. Funeral services took place the same afternoon at Ebenezer AME Church, Capeville, Va., with the Rev. L. A. Stroup officiating. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Survivors include her husband, Robert Smith; a foster daughter, Mrs. Barbara H. Upshur, whom she reared from the age of three; one brother, John W. Nottingham; one uncle, five nephews, and six nieces.

Mrs. Smith was born in Townsend, Northampton county, Va. and received her educational training at Hampton Institute. While teaching at Townsend, Va. she was recommended by Hampton Institute for the position of supervisor of schools for Concordia Parish, La., where she served for five years.

D. C. Rawley, president of the County Teachers Association presided over the teachers program. The teachers led in singing the two favorite songs of the deceased, "We Will Answer Every Call" and "Let the Heavenly Light Shine on Me." Resolutions were read by Mrs. Estelle G. Smith. Mrs. M. F. Pitts sang a solo.

Remarks were made by L. H. Clark, visiting teacher; Claude W. Anderson, principal of Mary N. Smith High School, and Lorenzo C. White, executive secretary; T. C. Walker, attorney of Gloucester, Va., representing the Hampton Alumni Association; Mrs. L. A. Gates, first principal of the high school; Dr. J. Rupert Picott, executive secretary, Virginia Teachers Association; W. H. Smith, principal, Northampton County High School, and H. A. Wise, superintendent of Accomack county schools.

The deceased was an executive member of the VTA, an honorary member of the Virginia Conference Branch Mite Missionary Society of Virginia, a member of the NAACP, president of the Accomack Chapter Alumni Association, Hampton Institute, and held various offices in the Ebenezer AME Church, Capeville, Va.

In speaking of Mrs. Smith's work as supervisor of Negro schools, H. A. Wise, division superintendent of Accomack county schools said, "Mrs. Smith, one of the first Jeanes supervisors in the state, had served as supervisor in Accomack county for thirty-two years and during those years of service not only set a pattern for supervisory work in Accomack county, but in the state as a whole as well."

"The Mary N. Smith High School, established in 1932, was most appropriately named by the Accomack County School Board in honor of Mrs. Smith and as something of a recognition of the work she had done in getting a high school for the Negro boys and girls of Accomack county. It was most appropriate that her funeral service should be held in the auditorium of this high school and that pupils now in high school should have a part in the funeral service. In every Negro school in the county on Thursday morning a brief memorial service was held in memory of Mrs. Smith."

Among out-of-town persons attending the funeral were: Mrs. Mary W. Saunders, Mrs. A. B. Thurgood, Mrs. Eva Floyd, Mrs. Julia Moody, Mrs. Rosa Y. Robinson, and the Rev. L. Brooks, Norfolk; the Rev. A. B. Cooper, Suffolk; Mrs. Ellen Wright, Mrs. Esther Watson, Mrs. Luvenie Seaton, Miss Mabel Fitchett, Earl Bailey, Waldron Bailey, Mrs. Dora B. Nottingham, and Mr. and Mrs. Enoch Wedlock, Philadelphia, Pa.

Also Mr. and Mrs. George Hughes, Mr. and Mrs. V. A. Orton, Mrs. W. A. B. Jones, Portsmouth; Sgt. and Mrs. L. L. Ford Jr., Fort Hood, Texas; Lt. Enos B. Smith and Mr. and Mrs. Samuel C. Smith, Washington, D. C., Mr. and Mrs. G. M. Smith, and Miss Geraldine Bailey, Baltimore; Charles E. Smith Jr., Mrs. Minnie R. Smith, Leon Gates, Mrs. Florence Anderson and Lorenzo C. White, Hampton; and John Billups, Matthews county, Va.

Pallbearers were Waldron, Earl and Ira Bailey, Samuel and G. Mercer Smith and Richard C. Upshur.