

# Mary Nottingham Smith Dies At Home Sunday, Dec. 30

Mary Nottingham Smith, age 65 years, long recognized as the leader in the advancement of education among the colored people of Accomack county, died at her home near Accomac, Sunday night, December 30, 1951.

"Mary" as she was familiarly known to residents throughout the county, will be long remembered, not only by those of her own race, for whom she fought to advance their welfare, but to hosts of the white population by whom she was highly regarded and respected.

"Mary" fought for those things, which in her own mind, she firmly believed necessary to bring improved conditions to the colored race—all of this through education. She went about her work quietly and modestly and was never questioned as to her ideals and aims in this direction. What

1930 to State College in Florida to do work with a similar group.

Her work in Accomack county has been strictly improvement every phase of school and community work. In 1934 the Accomack county School Board named the High School at Accomac in honor of her for her cooperative work with all people.

Whether in those things which meant something to her own race or in things for the general welfare of all people, Mary gave the same interest and painstaking devotion. Thursday, December 20th, when she was stricken in her car before leaving her home she was en route to the school board office on official duty. She slumped in the vehicle, never regaining consciousness.

Mary Smith was a member of the Negro Organization Society; member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored people; president of the Accomack Chapter, Alumni Association, Hampton Institute, and held various offices in Ebenezer A. M. E. Church, Capeville, where until the end she retained her membership.

Memorial services will be held Mary Nottingham Smith School at 11 o'clock this morning, conducted by Rev. L. S. Roberts, pastor of Macedonia A. M. E. Church, Accomac and funeral services will later be held at Ebenezer, Capeville, conducted by her pastor, the Rev. L. A. Stroud. Interment will be in Ebenezer A. M. E. Church cemetery.

Henry A. Wise, Superintendent of Schools for Accomack has announced that memorial services will be held in each of the colored schools between 9 and 10 o'clock this morning, and that they will be closed for the rest of the day to pay honor to the deceased.

Surviving the deceased is her husband, Robert L. Smith, a former teacher and contractor, and Mrs. Barbara H. Upshur, a teacher at Accomac Elementary School. This is a great-niece, Mary Smith reared and educated from a child of three years.

### Tribute Of Henry A. Wise County School Superintendent

The Accomack County School system has suffered a very great loss in the passing of Mrs. Mary N. Smith, Supervisor of Negro Schools. Mrs. Smith was a very capable and efficient worker.



Photo by Edwards Studio

she did for colored people she did unselfishly and with lofty motives.

Mary Nottingham Smith was born in Capeville, Northampton county, the daughter of John W. Nottingham and Fannie Nottingham. She attended local schools in lower Northampton and later Norfolk Mission College. Afterwards she went to Hampton Institute from which she was graduated.

After graduation she taught in Essex county, where for years she was principal of the home and school, where she died.

annual affair.