

### MISS CARRIE C. BURNLEY

The following tribute to Miss Carrie C. Burnley was read by Superintendent James G. Johnson at a public meeting in her honor on Thursday night, July 20, 1944. McGuffey Reader, which was founded by Miss Burnley, is glad to publish this document as a matter of permanent record.

Miss Carrie C. Burnley was educated in the rural schools of Albemarle County and at the Park Street School, conducted by the Misses Howard in Charlottesville. These two ladies were sisters-in-law of Dr. William H. McGuffey for whom McGuffey School was named.

On the sixth day of September, 1883 Miss Burnley received from L. A. Michie, Superintendent of Schools of Albemarle County, a license to teach in the public schools of Albemarle County for the year ending July 31, 1884.

On the fifteenth day of October, 1883 Miss Burnley signed a contract to teach in White School No. 8 for a term of seven months. She was to open school at 9 o'clock each morning, give sixty minutes recess at twelve o'clock and close school at four o'clock in the evening. It was further agreed that the fire shall be made , or caused to be made, and the floor shall be regularly swept or caused to be swept by the said Burnley.

The building in which Miss Burnley began her teaching experience was a one-room log school house located in a lovely white pine grove one-half a mile from Mechums River station. In these early days of education the prospective applicant had to make a house-to-house canvass to get the signatures of patrons, endorsing her applica-

tion and guaranteeing the attendance of pupils. Miss Carrie secured a guarantee of the required twenty pupils, although doubt was expressed as to her ability to control them due to her youthful appearance.

From reliable contemporary information we find that the little log school house was twenty-five by fifteen feet and had four small windows, two on either side. The furniture consisted of ten desks for the larger boys and girls who could write. The smaller children were not provided with desks but had to sit on benches made of slabs. In the center of the room was the stove and either teacher or pupils served as janitor. In one corner was a small shelf for the water bucket and a nail for the common dipper. The wooden blackboard was three feet by four feet, worn sleek by years of service. The walls were not plastered and in many places the mud used a chinking between the logs was gone.

In this small building Miss Burnley in due time started a ~~small~~ Sunday School with three small children, but before many weeks had passed there were seventy-five children and adults enrolled. This Sunday School was conducted during the summer months. When the enrollment had increased to the point that there was not sufficient seating capacity within the school building, the men in the ~~neighborhood~~ neighborhood built a lean-to shelter outside the entrance door and thus classes were conducted partly in the open air.

I have in my possession a record book kept by Miss Burnley for first session she taught at the Mechums River School. A few facts taken from this book may be of interest. The enrollment for the first

month, October 15 to November 15, was 21, for the second month 27, for the third month 33, for the fourth month 33, for the fifth month 35, for the sixth month 33, and for the seventh month, beginning April 24 and ending May 21, 27 pupils were on the roll.

Those of us who were educated in the rural schools and especially those who taught in the rural schools alone can realize what an eloquent tribute these cold statistics speak in behalf of a great teacher though she had just passed the legal age for anyone to begin a teaching career.

For six years Miss Burnley carried on her secular and religious work here before resigning to accept a position in the Harrisonburg Public Schools in the fall of 1889. After teaching in the intermediate grades in Harrisonburg for three sessions Miss Burnley resigned and returned to her native locality. She conducted a private school in Charlottesville for the school years 1892 - 1893 and 1893 - 1894.

In the fall of 1894 she accepted a position to teach the seventh grade at old Midway School Building.

In due time she was promoted from the seventh to the eighth grade and made assistant Principal of the grammar grades at Midway. In 1910 she was advanced to the high school department where she continued teaching until she assumed her duties as principal of McGuffey School in the fall of 1916. She was the first woman ever elected principal of a school in Charlottesville. Her connection with the school system of Charlottesville has extended over a period of exactly fifty years and who would attempt to evaluate the faithful and efficient work that she has done for the citizens of this locality, the state and the nation?

War Records

Revolutionary Relations

Richard Durrett (ancestor of Gart-Clarke)

Relative Patrick Henry

War between the States

Uncle Horace Burnley (brother to D. W. B.) taken prisoner and in Fort Delaware prison. He carved a set of chess - white then coloring half of them with ink. Miss Carrie now has this incomplete set.

Father Drury Wood Burnley (her father) Southall's Battery, Johnson's Division (1st Sergeant).

Uncle William S. Clarke, 13th Infantry, under A. P. Hill - in Valley campaign under Stonewall Jackson.

Cousin W. R. Burnley, Albemarle Artillery

Cousins W. G. Garth  
Hugh Garth Albemarle Artillery

World War I

Nephew              Frank C. Burnley  
Nephew              James A. Burnley

World War II.

Grand-nephews        John B. Anthony, Jr. Charlottesville  
                          Thomas B. Williamson     Harrisonburg  
                          Frederick Bambridge     Waynesboro  
                          James H. Duraley         Roanoke  
  
Cousin                Charles L. Burnley. Jackson, Tenn.

Grand niece           Warren Williamson     Harrisonburg

and three great-nephews -in law.

### Religion

While teaching her 1st school at Mechum's River, she organized a Sunday School class which met in the little log school house Sunday afternoons. Starting with half a dozen pupils, it outgrew the house, and, in good weather, was meeting outside with 75 pupils.

While at Park Street School each Monday morning, the sermon of Sunday night before had to be written as part of the regular work. In those days it was church morning and night on Sunday, studying next week's Sunday School lesson in afternoon, with a walk, but only to Maplewood Cemetery..

Joined Presbyterian Church (Dr. Petrie, pastor) in 1879.

Her father was a great Bible and Shakespeare reader, and as a child she became familiar with the best of all literature, and her relaxation was to reach for a Dickens book and reread it.

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Log School

Original water color of log school house made by  
William Woodruf, son of architect for Miller School, who lived near  
Mechum's River and in sight of log school.

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MISS CARRIE BURNLEY

By Josephine Cox McPherson

Albemarle Chapter, Number One in Virginia Division, United Daughters of the Confederacy, feels justly proud of the gracious gentewomen who claim membership in the organization; and especially of one member whose professional duties have prevented her regular attendance at the monthly meetings but have given her a broader field of service than most of us have enjoyed, as she has been a teacher for sixty one years.

Carrie Cornelius Burnley, the youngest of eight children, was born in Albemarle County, January 19, 1864, at Lansdale," located on Moxon Moorman's River. Her earliest memory was of the river and boat, a picnic ground across the river, and the quarters where the slaves had lived. The family moved to "Ric" on Rivanna River when she was four years old. She never tired of hearing her older sisters, Bettie and Sally, tell how the "Yankees" came in 1865 and burned the mills and bridge at "Ric", the home there lying between the Confederate and Federal lines during the "Battle of Ric, " an account of which written by Miss Sallie Burnley, was published in The Confederate Veteran of October 23, 1923.

Miss Carrie completed fifty years with Charlottesville public schools, having taught in the seventh and eighth grades, served as assistant principal of the grammar school, taught in High School, and, when the McGuffey School was completed, assumed her duties as its principal in the fall of 1916. She was the first woman elected principal of a public school in Charlottesville, and was the founder of the school paper, The McGuffey Reader, in each issue of which ap-

appears an excerpt from one of the six McGuffey Readers.

William Holmes McGuffey was appointed, in July, 1845, to the Chair of Moral Philosophy of the University of Virginia, at which institution he taught for twenty eight years. Dr. James G. Johnson, the son of a Confederate soldier, who retires this summer after thirty six years service as Superintendent of Public Schools in Charlottesville, suggested that the new graded school, whose construction he had planned and carefully superintended, should be given the honored name of McGuffey. Members of the School Board had, like Dr. Johnson and Miss Carrie, studied McGuffey's Readers, so the suggestion was gladly received and the community gratified with the ~~hukifixxexxx~~ belief that ours is the first school ever named for the world famous teacher. While Miss Carrie does not recall ever having seen Dr. McGuffey, she knew his widow well, as Mrs. McGuffey was a sister of Misses Eliza and Anna Howard, principals of the school on Park Street from which she graduated in 1882.

A few years ago Miss Carrie and her niece, Mrs. Virginia Burnley Guinn, presented Albemarle Chapter with a chart which they had made, showing the exact location of all the graves of Confederate soldiers interred in Maplewood Cemetery. The body of John Bowie Strange, Colonel of the 19th Virginia Regiment of Infantry, rests in this cemetery. He was killed at the Battle of Boonsboro, September 14, 1862. It will be recalled that Col. Strange belonged to the first class enrolled at the Virginia Military Institute, November 17, 1839, and to him on the

very first day of his military career, came the envied honor of being the very first cadet sentinel to assume patrol duty at the arsenal in Lexington.

Miss Carrie Burnley joined the Presbyterian Church in 1879, being received into the church by Dr. George Laurens Petrie, who was pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Charlottesville for over fifty years. Dr. Petrie had been **Chaplain** of the Twenty Second Regiment of Alabama Volunteers.

Her father was an ardent student of the Bible and of Shakespeare, so from early childhood Miss Carrie became familiar with the best of all literature. In every schoolroom at McGuffey the opening exercises include the reading of the Bible and the Lord's Prayer; and Miss Carrie's old boys and girls are wont to remind her of the influence of the proverbs and quotations they have carried from her schoolroom throughout their lives.

All of Miss Carrie's immediate ancestors were Virginia born. Her father, Drury Wood Burnley, a member of Southall's Battery, Albemarle Artillery, was born at Stony Point, Albemarle County, and was a descendant of John Burnley, born in England in 1670, who came to America and located in New Kent County. John Burnley's great-grandchildren were the first Burnleys to settle in Albemarle County. Through her mother, Cornelia Winston Clarke Burnley, she has a claim to Scotch ancestry, and numbers among her cherished possessions the Clarke-Mackintosh coat of arms with its motto, "Touch Not the Cat But a Glove." Her first cousin, Paul Goodloe McIntire, returning from a trip abroad, brought

engraved with the motto which they both claim, as  
others were sisters.

The Memorial History of John Bowie Strange Camp, United Confederate Veterans, published in 1920, states, is a "History of Albemarle Chapter",

"To perpetuate the memory of our dear old veterans of '61-'65, Albemarle Chapter, U. D. C. is placing an iron cross at the grave of every soldier in the ~~various~~ city cemeteries. They have already put in hundreds of them and, as the roll is called and each old hero passes over the river, this work will go on. This suggestion was put before the Daughters by Miss Lizzie McIntire and Misses Sallie and Carrie Burnley, and is carried out by the committee in charge, Mrs. Lawson Turner, Mrs. Noble Sneed and Miss Gillie Hill."

Three of the six ladies mentioned have passed on and joined the Confederate soldiers whom they loved to honor, while Miss Gillie Hill, now ninety four years old, Mrs. Sneed and Miss Carrie Burnley continue as interested members of Albemarle Chapter.

Mr. McIntire has shown his devotion to the South by his gifts to Charlottesville of the equestrian statues of Lee and Jackson and the monuments to George Rogers Clark and to Lewis and Clark besides many other gifts, made to the University of Virginia. It seems remarkable that these first cousins, Miss Burnley and Mr. McIntire, should have given so much in service and wealth to their home town. Their interest in the individual Confederate soldier was appreciated by the veterans, and now that the last one of Albemarle's gray clad warriors has been promoted to join the great Commander, the families of these men treasure the kind consideration given them in their declining years.

McGuffey School is situated a few squares away from the Court House in front of which stands the monument honoring the men of Albe-

erended the state in '61 - '65. Jackson's and Lee's statues are, also, not far from McGuffey. For a number of years the pupils of this school have brought flowers to be used in decorating these monuments. Miss Carrie Burnley inaugurated the custom, and the Daughters of the Confederacy have asked that the pupils of McGuffey School continue this tribute each year.

Among the honors accorded Miss Burnley by her fellow citizens was the awarding to her of a silver cup by the American Legion in 1930. Judge Archibald D. Dabney, before an audience of approximately two thousand, presented the trophy as "a token and in loving appreciation of many years of most valuable service."

Many of her nephews and ~~reax~~ great-nephews answered the call to service in the First and Second World Wars as well as a large number of her former pupils, among whom was Alexander Archer Vandegrift, now Lieutenant General and Commandant of the United States Marine Corps.

W. E. Payne Woodson, a gifted teacher, a woman with rare  
estimating the worth of others, a few years ago composed a  
poem that to my mind sums up in the best possible manner a  
sixty-one years of unselfish devotion to duty.

To Miss Carrie C. Burnley

Y, today and forever,  
my toast to you  
in the lives of children  
built the good and true.

In words and deeds  
Principles broad and pure,  
Irishable assets  
my toast to you.

Honest and fearless,  
Loyal and true,  
A mother of thousands,  
my toast to you.

I shall have seen the sun  
I will not love darkness,

St. Augustine

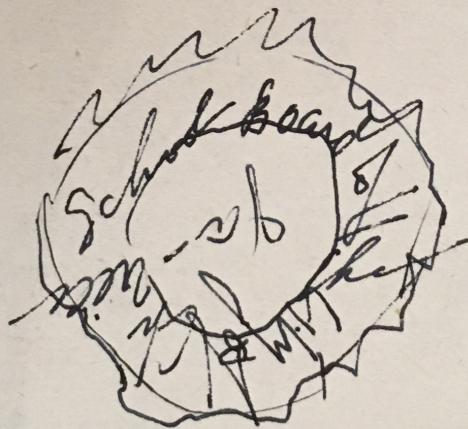
To

Carrie C. Burnley  
who through these years,  
has led so many children  
to see the sun.

September, 1894

June , 1944

The School Board of the City of Charlottesville



Presented July 20, 1944