

# MARION PROGRESS

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## TEACHERS FOR NEXT TERM

Mr. S. L. Sheep Succeeds Mr. I. C. Griffin as Superintendent—Resolutions—Fine Record.

At the regular annual meeting of the Graded School Committee held on May 5, the Committee was re-organized by the re-election of the following officials: Chairman, Mr. B. B. Price; Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. Geo. I. White. Supt. I. C. Griffin, having tendered his resignation as superintendent of the Graded School in order that he might accept work elsewhere, the following resolution was offered by Dr. Geo. I. White and unanimously adopted by the Committee:

Whereas, Supt. I. C. Griffin has tendered his resignation as superintendent to the Graded School Committee, and

Whereas, The Committee is unwilling that Supt. Griffin should give up his position as superintendent without some adequate expression on the part of this Committee for the faithful services he has rendered the Graded School, therefore be it Resolved,

1. That the Committee deeply regrets the resignation of Supt. Griffin:

2. That he has been a faithful superintendent and friend of the school and that he has discharged with ability and zeal the duties pertaining to his office;

3. That the Committee hereby commends Supt. Griffin to the people whom he will serve in the future and wishes for him much success in his new field.

4. That the Committee wishes to call attention to the progress the Marion Graded School has made during his administration of five years as indicated by the statistics attached hereto and now in the file in the Secretary's office.

5. That a copy of this resolution be spread on the minutes of the Graded School Committee and published in the Marion Progress.

The Committee, upon the strong recommendations of Dr. J. Y. Joyner, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Prof. N. W. Walker, State Inspector of High Schools, and other well known school men, elected Supt. S. L. Sheep, of Helena, Ark., to succeed Supt. Griffin. Teachers for the ensuing year were elected as follows:

First grade—Section A.—Mrs. W. P. Craig.

First grade—Section B.—Miss Elizabeth Swindell.

Second grade—Miss Margaret Winslow.

Third grade—Miss Kate Mae Streetman.

Fourth grade—Miss Eva Keeter.

Fifth grade—Miss Martha Decker.

Sixth grade—Miss Ethel Crawford.

Seventh grade—Miss Mary McCoy.

High School—Miss Elsie House, English and Physical Geography; Miss Grace Finley, Latin and Mathematics; Mrs. J. L. C. Bird, History, Household Economics, Arithmetic, Writing; Miss Clara Laidlaw, Commercial Subjects.

Miss Hudgins who has been a teacher in this school for fifteen years, from the date of its organization, resigned her position. Her forthcoming marriage to Col. Witherspoon of Murphy, has al-

ready been announced. The Committee in recognition of her long and faithful services, presented Miss Hudgins with a set of Riley's Poems handsomely bound, at the commencement exercises.

Miss Ellen Carson, who was the assistant teacher of the first grade last year, did not apply for re-election. She will go to college next year in order to complete her course.

Miss Nettie Brogden, who had charge of the department of English in the High School, has accepted the principalship of a High School in the eastern part of the state. Miss Elizabeth Swindell, who takes Miss Carson's place, comes to us from the Peabody Normal College, Nashville, Tenn. Miss Kate Mae Streetman, the new teacher of the third grade, is well and favorably known. She graduates at the State Normal College of Greensboro in this month where she has made an excellent record. Miss Mary McCoy is a well known teacher of McDowell County, having had charge of the East Marion School last year.

The new superintendent, Mr. S. L. Sheep, of Helena, Ark., was superintendent of the Elizabeth City, North Carolina, schools for a number of years. He is well and favorably known by the entire school profession and comes to us with the very highest recommendations.

**FIVE YEARS OF PROGRESS, 1911-16.**  
Enrollment 1911-12: Boys 186, girls 145; total 331. Enrollment 1915-16: Boys 236; girls 236; total 472. Attendance 1911-12: Boys 138, girls 128; total 266. Attendance 1915-16: Boys 163, girls 178; total 341. Enrollment high school 1911-12: Boys 25, girls 31, total 56. Enrollment 1915-16: Boys 46, girls 57; total 103.

Teachers and grades. 1911-12, nine teachers and ten grades; 1915-16, twelve teachers and 11 grades.

**PHYSICAL GROWTH.**  
Buildings: In 1911-12, 9 class rooms, heated by stoves, building worth approximately \$5,000; 1915-16, 12 class rooms, all heated by steam and lighted by electricity, approximate value \$25,000.

Grounds. Only those who have witnessed the improvements made on the school grounds have any idea of the progress made along this line.

**RATING OF THE SCHOOL.**

In 1911-1912 only a ten grade school, and all grades were conditional upon entrance to a standard college; 1915-16, a standard State high school requiring 14 units for graduation, and all full graduates accepted at any standard college without examination or conditions, and every graduate prepared to earn a living.

For 1915-1916 departments of Household Arts and of Commercial Courses and of Teacher Training are successfully maintained and operated. Graduates from the Commercial and the Teacher Training departments have been successful in their chosen occupation.

The Southern Railway officials advise that in deference to the protests of various towns along the line, the schedule of No. 35 will not be changed. It had been planned to change the schedule so as to have this train arrive here about 6 a. m. instead of 12:35 a. m.

## GRADED SCHOOL CLOSING

Interesting Commencement Exercises on Thursday and Friday Nights—Nine Graduates.

The Marion Graded School held its closing exercises on the evenings of May 4th and 5th. On Thursday evening the annual contest for the reciter's and declaimer's medal took place. The four girls contesting rendered their selections with such great credit to themselves that the consensus of opinion in the audience was that a decision could scarcely be reached. The judges had a hard task before them, but their purpose was a decision and the ballots showed two votes for Gertrude Jones, one for Mary Griffin. Following is the program:

Lillian Michael—Heard on the Beach.

Mary Griffin—The Clatter Pate.  
Gertrude Jones—Making Up Stories.

Sarah Hudgins—Daisy's Music.  
The declaimer's contest was of equal interest. The six boys contesting won at once, not only by their manner of delivery, but also by their appearance upon the stage, the approval and close attention of the entire audience. All the young men spoke with a decision, a forcefulness and an earnestness that showed careful training, and reflected great credit upon their teacher, Miss Hudgins. The ballot of the judges showed two votes for Chas. A. Laughridge and one vote for Grayson Neal. Below is the declaimer's program:

George Streetman—Regulus to the Roman Senate.

Ernest Corpening—Blennerhassett.

Charles Laughridge—Emmett's Defense.

Joe Story—The Death Bed of Benedict Arnold.

Richard Atwell—Signing the Declaration of Independence.

Grayson Neal—Ancestral Ideals.

Three choruses, directed by Mrs. J. L. C. Bird, and sung by the grades, were given. In sweetness of tone and rendition, these songs were especially attractive.

Graduates always attract attention and have the interest of their own people, as well as the people in general, drawn to them. So a very full house had gathered in the school auditorium at 8:30 Friday evening to witness the graduating exercises of the first eleven grade ever graduated from Marion High School.

Following an impressive invocation by Rev. L. D. Thompson, Supt. Griffin introduced the president of the class, Mr. Harold Griffin, who gave his address, calling to the minds of the class their happinesses and responsibilities of the past, referring them to future duties, and thanking them for the honor conferred upon him as president. He then introduced the class historian, Miss Alma McCarry, who in an especially charming manner, detailed the history of the class in the Marion school, from the time they were initiated into the mysteries of the A. B. C.'s up through the present high school work.

The president next introduced the dainty, dreamy, brown-eyed poet of the class, Miss Edith Laidlaw, who read a poem of her own com-

position, "Carpe Diem," or "Seize the Day," which is the class motto. In this poem the class was exhorted to be ready to seize opportunities for life whenever they presented themselves.

The class statistics was next in order, an amusing account of general and personal details of the class as a whole and as individuals, given by the class statistician, Miss Dewey Denton. After the audience had laughed over the fact of who was tallest, shortest, and prettiest, biggest flirt and greatest grumbler, etc., they were ready to hear the last will and testament of the class by Miss Katie Huffman, who in very legal terms and interesting manner consigned, willed and bequeathed all the exclusive property of the class, from Supt. I. C. Griffin to the Nebo Impetigo germs to people who would hold them in proper care.

Interest was at its highest when the president, drawing aside the folds of a small tent, introduced the class prophet, Miss Pearl Hoover, who, dressed in gypsy costume, told each member of the class, as they knelt by her side, just what particular life fate the future had in store for all.

After the singing of a beautiful class song, composed by Miss Iris Ruth, the class musician, Mr. J. W. Pless spoke for a short while to the graduating class. Then also in behalf of the Marion Graded School Board of Education, Mr. Pless publicly thanked Mr. Griffin, who with the closing of this term leaves Marion to take work elsewhere—for the splendid record he had made for the school, the beautiful school building for the erection of which he is responsible, and for the progressive spirit and work in educational lines that he has brought into our county. Not only this county, but the state of North Carolina recognizes Mr. Griffin as a prominent and progressive educator and McDowell county loses much in Mr. Griffin's departure from among us.

Diplomas were then awarded to the members of the class. Also certificates in stenography and typewriting were awarded to the following members: Misses Katie Huffman, Pearl Hoover and Dewey Denton, and Harold Griffin. The following scholarships were announced: For Trinity College, Miss Katie Huffman; for the State Normal, Miss Edith Laidlaw; for Davidson College, Mr. Harold Griffin. It is hoped that these young people will take advantage of these scholarships.

Prizes were given in spelling to Miss Mayo Laughridge, of the seventh grade, who made no mistakes in seven months, and to little Helen Franklin, of the second grade, who made only two mistakes in 115 days.

The following is the record of names for perfect attendance:

First grade—Mary Reid  
Second grade—Lloyd D. Thompson, Lucius Gibson, Helen Franklin.

Third grade—Rowe Mauney, Minnie J. Landis, Ida Rader, Alma Link, Anna Reid, Thelma Clay, John Sullivan.

Fourth grade—Elizabeth Reid, William Neal, Margaret Justice, Paul Steppe, Whitfield Gibson.

Fifth grade—Roena Neal, Ruby

## NEWS FROM THE COUNTY

Brief Mention of Some of the Happenings in McDowell County—Items About Home People.

**THOMPSON'S FORK.**  
Thompson's Fork, May 8.—Mr. and Mrs. Verno Harris were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Brown Saturday and Sunday.

Ferman Simmons made a business trip to Marion one day last week.  
Joe Hensley of Harmony Grove was here one day last week.

Vanus Brown of Glenwood was a visitor here Wednesday.  
D. C. Brown made a trip to Patton one day last week.

Fletcher Simmons, who has been in school at Round Hill, has returned home.  
Mrs. Maggie Janes is quite ill with appendicitis.

Miss Zelda Yelton has returned home from Asheville where she has been engaged in work.  
D. C. Brown was in Marion one day last week.

Mr. and Mrs. William Tony and daughter, little Arminta, visited relatives at Nebo, Sunday.

Ab. Buff of Linville is visiting his sister, Mrs. M. D. Browning.

Lloyd Simmons has returned from Pennsylvania where he has been engaged in work.

Millard Gettys of Dysartsville, was a business visitor here Monday.

**STROUDTOWN.**  
Stroudtown, May 8.—Mrs. S. M. Gibson has returned home after spending a fortnight with her sister, Mrs. S. C. Roberts, at Marion.

Mrs. Wm. Clark is visiting relatives in Washington, D. C.

Oscar Lail is erecting a new residence near the school building.

Wesley Stroud is still on the sick list. Mr. and Mrs. Will Stroud and two daughters spent Sunday at Glenwood.

Mrs. Will Earley who has been on the sick list for some time, is improving slowly.

**Road Bill Passed by Senate.**

Washington, May 8.—The bill to provide Federal aid in the construction, improvement and maintenance of rural roads passed the Senate today. In the apportionment of the \$25,000,000 provided in this measure North Carolina will be entitled to \$1,766,000 for the five year period; \$116,400 for the first year; \$262,800 the second; \$349,200 the third; \$465,600 the fourth; and \$582,000 the fifth.

President Wilson will speak in Charlotte May 20th.

**Michael.**

Seventh grade—Alma Rader, Albert Blanton, Coy Laughridge, Herbert Laidlaw, Mayo Laughridge, Leo Clay.

Eighth grade—Edna Rader.

Ninth grade—Sam Story, Ida McGuire, Mary Sweeney.

Tenth grade—Joe Story, John Poteat, Blanche Finley.

Mr. Griffin then asked Rev. Wm. H. Moore to come to the front and speak in behalf of the school board for a special privilege that they wished him to perform. Mr. Moore spoke for a few minutes then called Miss Margaret Hudgins to the stage, and in behalf of the Board of Education presented Miss Hudgins with a complete set of Riley's poems. For her long and splendid record as a teacher in the Marion school Miss Hudgins is much in the hearts of the people for her service to their children. In the past 14 years Miss Hudgins has taught at least a thousand children in the Marion school, and the school loses a great worker in her absence.