

Roper Pupils Write Biographical Sketch of Miss A. C. Carstarphen

By Ardie Woodley Blount

Bernard Shaw has said, "He who can do, does; he who can't, teaches." That is not true of "Miss Gussie" Carstarphen. She was a successful milliner for several years and is an excellent cook. Her super excellent reasoning ability would have made her a good executive and what a splendid secretary for a professional man. She has stored her mind with useful facts and unlike most people, she can usually recall them at will. To me "Miss Gussie" is the epitome of a "good neighbor." She is always willing to share her time, her talents, and her material wealth is at the disposal of a friend, or an enemy, if he really needs them.



BELOVED TEACHER

During the days that I was a teacher in the County, I met "Miss Gussie" at county institutes. Usually she was the star pupil, especially in history and mathematics. Her unflinching sense of humor and willingness to enlighten others endeared her to everyone.

To me Roper has always meant "Cousin Ida and Miss Gussie." That old home is the asylum for my mental depressions.

Her life has been a blessing to the entire community. I often think of her as one.

"Who through long days of labor, And nights devoid of ease Still hears in her heart The music of wonderful melodies."

Chapter I—Ancestry
By Eva Chesson and Elsie Knowles

"Miss Augusta C. Carstarphen, or 'Miss Gussie' as she is called by all who know her, was born in Columbia, Tyrell County, North Carolina, on October 4, 1859. She had three sisters and four brothers. She is proud of her pure Scotch ancestry. How her eyes flashed and her lips smiled when she told about her Scotch forebears. Her mother's people hailed from Edinburgh, Scotland. Her father was William Daniel Carstarphen and her mother, Louisa Duguid, in Scotland, the name was Carstarphen but was later changed when her great-grandfather, Robert Carstarphen, surgeon to Prince Charles in Halifax, Scotland, escaped to America during a Scottish upheaval.

Her mother's name, formerly spelled Duguid, was also changed in America. Noted among her relatives was her grandfather, James Carstarphen, who was a lieutenant in the Revolutionary War. "Miss Gussie" also had two uncles—one of them gave his life to the cause—who fought in the War between the States.

Chapter II—Youth
By Virginia Spruill and Edith Lewis

When "Miss Gussie" reached the first of the teen years, she left Columbia—"The garden spot of the world," as she says it was called—to stay with a maternal uncle in New Bern. There she attended New Bern Academy, the oldest academy in North Carolina.

"Miss Gussie" did not graduate from college. In fact, she did not attend college formally. She supplemented her education from time to time by attending four or five summer schools at Raleigh—where she saw her first automobile—and two sessions at Chapel Hill. Later on she attended special courses held in Eastern Carolina. She took and passed with honor the state examination. She knew Dr. McIver; Dr. Alderman, whom she admired greatly; and Dr. J. Y. Joyner, whom she entertained in her home on several different occasions.

Youthful sports which she enjoyed were croquet, cat-ball, and "tight-rope walking"—which really was

For over half a century, Miss A. C. Carstarphen, known to three generations of Roper students as "Miss Gussie," has been a school teacher. The accompanying biographical sketch, with the exception of the preface, was written by students of the Roper school and constitutes a remarkable testimonial to the esteem in which their beloved teacher is held.

walking on a rail across a ditch filled with water. Later on in life, she enjoyed tennis. Her favorite hobbies then were reading, solving mathematics, and studying history, especially Indian and ancient history.

Always has "Miss Gussie" been an active and earnest church worker. After finishing her studies at New Bern Academy "Miss Gussie" went to live in Plymouth, where her family had moved. There she joined the Methodist Church, to please her mother, at the age of eighteen, but later she joined the Episcopal Church, the church of her choice. She has taught Sunday school for the past 50 years. At present, she is superintendent, secretary and treasurer of the St. Luke Episcopal Sunday School in Roper. For the past five years she has been treasurer of the church as well. That, she confesses, is a trying office, for collecting the pastor's salary is no easy task.

Chapter III—Public Life
By Jane Windley and Joe Cox

In 1876 at the age of seventeen "Miss Gussie" began her career. Hers has been approximately sixty years of service to the State of North Carolina. Publicly and privately she has instructed and tutored four generations of children in Washington County. Her influence on these lives is immeasurable. With pride she remembers most of them, telling how she has been able to give good references for almost everyone of her students. Often has it been related that she upon observing mischievous lads at their studies, reminded her pupils that their fathers had similar tendencies.

Outstanding among her pupils is the Rev. Joseph Latham, born and reared in Plymouth, now a Methodist preacher in the Virginia Conference. She taught potential lawyers, doctors, insurance agents, county sheriffs, and housewives. Carl Bailey, lawyer, his brother Dr. Clarence Bailey, optometrist specialist, were her pupils. John McAllister and George Reid grew up

to be county sheriffs. Mr. Peter Swain and Mr. Luther Ambrose are Disciple preachers. Mr. Jack McAllister, Mrs. Teddy Blount, Mrs. Jim Leary, Mrs. John Chesson's daughters, Mr. John and Henry Williams—all prepared lessons for "Miss Gussie."

"Miss Gussie" taught in a private home for one year at Saints Delight and fifteen years at the Walker Woods Schoolhouse.

When Mr. Richard Peacock, trustee of the school, told "Miss Gussie" that her services as teacher were desired, he was more concerned about her skill as a fighter than he was interested in her qualifications for a teacher. He had a logical argument: "If you don't fight, you can't teach."

"Miss Gussie" was undaunted. She remembered the advice of a summer-school instructor. He advocated using three whips. The teacher was to give a whip to each of the fighters, and she was to keep the third. If the fighters stopped whipping each other, she was to begin. That broke up fighting, and she had little difficulty with discipline.

Her descriptions of the schoolroom of her early teaching years is enough to arouse deep appreciation for our present system, which is improving steadily. Her school day began at 8 o'clock and ended at 5, sometimes after 5. There were two hours for lunch. Public school had to be in the summer time with two weeks out for the pupils to strip fodder. "Miss Gussie" had 70 pupils in one room. The room had no windows, only wooden blinds which had to be shut when it rained. There were no blackboards, no chalk. Moss and saliva were used to erase the figures and "notes" on slates. There were two rows of benches the length of the room on each side of a middle aisle. All the pupils had to sit or stand simultaneously or the benches would upset. "Miss Gussie" reports that she had little trouble, though; for she gave specific instructions about sitting and standing. There were often no books except those provided by the teacher.

The nearest well was about half a mile from the school house. "Miss Gussie" relates how the boys found a snake curled up under the water bucket one day when they started for some water. The boys often nailed strips across the wide cracks in the floor.

Despite all these hardships, the students learned, perhaps more thoroughly than they do today. The motto then was, to quote "Miss Gussie": "You get this lesson, or you get this rod." Among the books used then were Davies' Arithmetic, Kellogg's and the traditional Blueback Speller. The words had to be spelled and pronounced in syllables and about 50 or 60 were assigned daily. The Spencerian Writing Book with a maxim or proverb written at the top of the page was the writing book used.

"Miss Gussie's" hobby is teaching. She enjoys it. Secondary hobbies are cooking and helping others.

Chapter IV—Roper As Miss Gussie Knew and Saw It
By Ruth Hassell, Hermon Myers, Earl Spruill and Julian Davenport

Who is qualified to relate the story of Roper better than "Miss Gussie"? She has boarded or lived in Roper for the past 50 years. At the present time she is living in the second oldest house in Roper.

Washington County, named for George Washington, was formed in 1799. At one time Roper was the county seat. Thomas Blount, who was the first settler, owned a sawmill and a grist mill. He died and his widow married a Mr. Lee. From his name is derived Lees Mill Township.

The Roper Lumber Company, which developed Roper, first came to Plymouth; but the owners could not obtain the right of way, so they came to Roper, where two or three men gave the right of way. They began building the company before 1890 and the town grew to 1,200 population about 1910.

There was a legend about "Miss Gussie's" home. It was then an old store that was used as barracks for workmen. The owner's husband died, and she married a man who was so cruel that her children left home. Before she died, she made a will that was never found. The story goes that "Miss Narcissa" came back to look for it.

One night 15 or 20 people were sitting in front of the house. A woman went into the house and came out screaming that she had met "Miss Narcissa" at the door. One of the men did not believe her and went to discover the truth. He returned, saying he had seen the ghost, too. "Miss Gussie," no believer in the supernatural, went in to see for herself. She came back laughing and exploded their ghost story by declaring that what they saw was their own shadow from the fire that was burning in front of the house.

From 1890-1922 Roper was a boom town. Roper flourished for thirty or forty years until the depression came after the World War and the owners of the mill died and their successors sold out.

Until a few years ago people were moving away and houses were being ruined. Then it began to build up again. In 1922 because of bad management the Roper bank failed, and Roper became a rural community.

In the winter of 1895-1896 Roper was shut in from communication with the outside world by severe weather. Transportation was impossible. The Albemarle Sound was frozen to such an extent that men could walk across it to Edenton.

An interesting personality described by "Miss Gussie" was Edward Buncombe, for whom Buncombe County is named. Mr. Buncombe lived where Mr. Edgar Spruill lives now. Over his gate there was an arch with these words: "Welcome All To Buncombe Hall." Mr. Buncombe was a very

COMPLETE FIRST YEAR IN NEW BUILDING



The Plymouth Motor Company this week is observing the first anniversary of its occupancy of the new building pictured above. J. R. Manning and J. B. Willoughby, partners in this progressive firm, can always be counted upon to do their full part in supporting all undertakings for the betterment of the community.

wealthy man. When the Revolutionary War broke out, he equipped 1,000 men and took them to fight in Philadelphia. His four daughters married New Yorkers. He died and is buried in Philadelphia.

"Miss Gussie's" story of Roper would not be complete if Mackeys were omitted. Mackeys gets its name from a Mr. Mackey, who owned and operated the ferry boat from this side of the Albemarle Sound to Edenton.

One day a slave owner went to Edenton, taking three slaves with him. When the ferry was about halfway across the Sound, the slaves killed their master and threw him overboard. They were caught, taken to Roper, and hung on a tree growing on what is now the present school campus.

Later the Norfolk and Southern Railroad built a bridge, and in 1907 ran the first train across the Sound. In the following years the descendants of Mr. Mackey lived at Mackeys, and his great grandson, Mr. Durward Chesson turned the bridge for the ferry until he became too old to work.

On August 25, 1939 the Albemarle Sound Bridge was opened formally, making the ferry from Mackeys to Edenton no longer necessary.

Today "Miss Gussie" is an energetic personality, whose interest in teaching and people is keen and understanding. Unless one had been told, he could not guess that Miss Augusta Carstarphen will be eighty years old October 4, 1939.

She has two pets—Polly, a parrot, and Lassie, a mixed water spaniel and coach dog. She got the parrot in February, 1907, when he was about six months old. In the 32 years that she has had her, she has been, "a perfect nuisance sometimes, and a lot of company at others." "Miss Gussie" does not like the way Polly tries to monopolize conversation when company is present. One of the highlights of Polly's career was when she appeared this year in a play given by the fifth grade. She was very garrulous at the time.

Her dog, Lassie, was given to Miss Gussie's sister by a lady in Washington City. Lassie is a nuisance about barking; and "Miss Gussie" fears that she is non-religious, for she is

Plymouth Motor Co. Completes Year in New Building Here

Firm Has Grown From Small Beginning To One of Largest in Section

This week marks the first anniversary of the Plymouth Motor Company's occupancy of the newest and largest garage in Washington County, and members of the firm are taking the occasion to thank their customers and friends for the patronage which has enabled them to show a steady growth ever since they went into business here.

Starting in business here about five years ago in a small way, J. R. Manning and J. B. Willoughby have brought the concern a long way, and it is now recognized as the oldest au-

tomobile agency in the county, carry-over of parts and accessories in the eastern part of the state, regardless of the size town.

Mr. Willoughby looks after the repair department, and Mr. Manning heads up the sales and administration ends of the business. They have the largest personnel of any dealership in the county, comparing favorably with those in much larger towns.

The concern carries a complete line of the Ford V-8 and Mercury cars, in addition to dependable used cars and maintaining an up-to-date repair service.

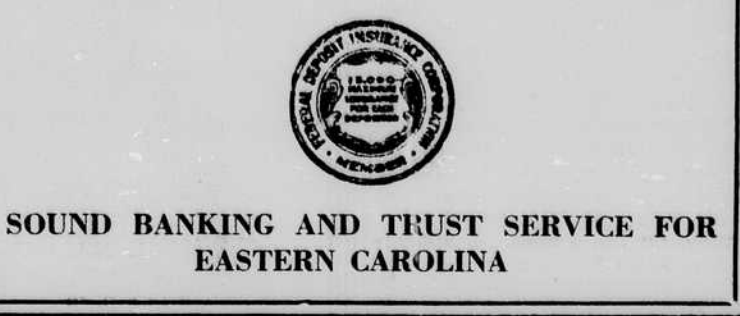
They boast of the fact that the owners and all employees live in Washington County, where the bulk of their business is done. Local people have watched with interest as the company has grown from a small business in a rented building to the point where they now occupy their own handsome new building, constructed a year ago.

Condensed Statement of Condition of Branch Banking & Trust Company

"THE SAFE EXECUTOR"
Plymouth, N. C.

At the Close of Business March 29, 1939

RESOURCES	
Cash and due from banks	\$7,433,250.04
Obligations of the United States	7,108,970.24
Federal Land Bank bonds	710,842.39
Federal Home Loan Bank debentures	175,369.38
North Carolina Bonds	304,589.20
Municipal and other marketable bonds	1,384,479.58
Loans and discounts	\$17,117,500.83
Accrued interest and accounts receivable	2,732,805.52
Banking houses, furniture and fixtures, and real estate, less depreciation reserve	88,303.57
TOTAL	\$20,175,945.86
LIABILITIES	
Capital Stock—Common	\$ 400,000.00
Capital Stock—Preferred	324,960.00
Surplus	400,000.00
Undivided Profits	708,237.06
Reserves	286,312.40
Unearned Discount and Other Liabilities	94,367.55
Deposits	17,962,068.85
TOTAL	\$20,175,945.86



SOUND BANKING AND TRUST SERVICE FOR EASTERN CAROLINA

LIST YOUR Property Now!

Time Has Been Extended a Few Days According To Following Schedule:

Plymouth May 6, 8, 9, 10, 11
S. D. DAVIS AT COURTHOUSE

Roper May 6 and 8
A. R. PHELPS, ROPER

Skinner'sville May 6 and 8
WALTER W. WHITE

Creswell May 6
P. B. BELANGA

ABSOLUTELY
No Further Extension

Unless your taxes are listed before the books are closed, you will be subjected to a heavy penalty.

FARMERS MUST TURN IN THEIR FARM CENSUS

E. F. SWAIN

SUPERVISOR OF TAX LISTING
County of Washington

Holding High the TORCH of PROGRESS

On the first anniversary of our occupancy of our handsome new building, we pause a moment to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to the people of Plymouth and Washington County, whose liberal patronage has made it possible for us to show steady progress ever since we have been in business here.

We have demonstrated our faith in this section by investing in this new building, creating jobs for local people and adding to the tax income of the town and county. As we continue to grow, we will continue to reinvest our earnings in our business here, as we have no outside interests. When you spend a dollar with us, that dollar stays here to work for the good of Washington County.

In addition to all this, we appreciate your business, and the quality and dependability of our work and products are not surpassed by any like business anywhere.

Let's Go Places—With Ford and Mercury

TODAY, AS IT HAS FOR OVER 20 YEARS, THE WORD "FORD" MEANS THE MOST YOU CAN POSSIBLY GET FROM YOUR AUTOMOBILE DOLLAR. WE WILL ALSO BE GLAD TO DEMONSTRATE THE MERCURY OR A DEPENDABLE USED CAR FROM OUR STOCK, WITHOUT OBLIGATING YOU TO BUY ANYTHING. GIVE THE "HOME-TOWN BOYS" A CHANCE.

PLYMOUTH MOTOR COMPANY

J. R. MANNING "The Home-Town Boys" J. B. WILLOUGHBY



Complete One-Stop Expert Repair Service
WORK GUARANTEED — THE BEST MECHANICS