



PLEASANT GROVE SCHOOL
1933 - 1953

PLEASANT GROVE COMMUNITY CENTER
1992

HISTORY

A tract of land, consisting of 3 acres, situated east of Highway 301 was purchased October 28, 1933 for \$50 by the Trustees of Clarendon County School District No. 27 to build the first public school for Blacks in this community. Prior to this, Blacks were taught in Neighboring churches namely, St. Mark A.M.E. Church, Harmony Elizabeth Pres. Church, and Mt. Olive Baptist Church. The parents were not satisfied with the scattered locations of the schools and the idea was born to consolidate into one centrally located school building. This is how Pleasant Grove School began.

To construct the building, fund raising activities were the major and driving force. Some donated hogs to sell barbecue after school on Friday evenings. Some sponsored special suppers, raffles, and contests. there were also candy and cookie sales.

The school opened in the fall of 1934 with Mrs. Estelle Samuel as the principal and approximately 4 teachers. Shortly thereafter additional teachers were added.

The County Agricultural Agent, Mr. Willie Thompson, came once a week to teach agriculture and organized the 4-H Club.

Space was set aside for athletic activities such as baseball and other games. The baseball team played

other schools and was transported by Mrs. Samuel and the other volunteer drivers.

Each parent was asked to purchase a desk for \$1.25. Each student was asked to bring a plant for the yard decorations. The children gladly responded by bringing plants from their flower gardens to make their "new" school beautiful.

The "Hot Lunch" program was added later to the school. Mrs. Sally Davis was the first Cook and she prepared delicious hot biscuits, hamburger, soup, and lots of other goodies.

The Pleasant Grove School facilities were used for many other community activities. There were picnics and baseball games during the summer months and on Saturdays. Also the YMCA Lodge and other groups used the facilities for meeting and other gatherings.

**A TRIBUTE TO THE LATE
ESTELLE EDWARDS SAMUELS**

Mrs. Estelle Samuels, first and only principal of the Pleasant Grove Elementary School, was a very kind and understanding person. She was loved and respected by all that came in contact with her. She was a hard working teacher and the children enjoyed having her as their teacher.

She taught at June Burn School, St. Mark, Trinity, Mt. Olive, Pinewood Rosenwald (Santee Cooper) as well as Pleasant Grove School. As a dedicated and loyal educator, she returned to her community with all that she gained in knowledge. She received her early education in the public schools of Clarendon County. She earned a B.A. degree from Morris College and the University of S.C.

Sitting under her teaching was an enjoyable experience. Each morning she began her class with a song, prayer, and a bible verse. Her characteristics were described as compassionate, mature, personable, self confident, neat, and perceptive. Her Christian life was an example to the children entrusted to her care. She exemplified a classroom teacher and a principal in every respect.

Students at Pleasant Grove graduated after the 7th year. She would have a baccalaureate service. The class song was "God of Our Father"; devotional song was "sing Wondrous Love of Jesus".

She retired after 45 years of teaching. After the closing of Pleasant Grove, she was assigned to Alcolu

Elementary School. In her loving memory we will always cherish her dignity, her loyalty, and her outstanding service to the community in which she served.

**FORMER ADMINISTRATORS OF
PLEASANT GROVE ELEM. SCHOOL**

Mrs. Estelle Samuels, Principal

TEACHERS:

Mrs. Josephine E. King *

Mrs. Ellen Richburg Croker *

Mrs. Elsie Miller

Mrs. Serena Blanding *

Mrs. Eloise Munsford

Mrs. Mabel Givens *

Mrs. Precious Tindal

Mrs. Edith McBride

Mrs. Amisha Brogdon *

Mrs. Bessie Leibeiter

* Honorary Citizens

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS OF THE PLEASANT GROVE

COMMUNITY CENTER COMMITTEE

Johanna Scott
Marie McFadden Hampton
Ernestine Durant Owens
Daisy McFadden
Irene Evans Gamble
Louise McFadden
Denise C. Scott
Virginia McFadden Tucker
Mary Burgess
Robert Evans
Dorothy Scott
Standley Durant
Charles Wilson

Margie Hodge Wilson
Harry Colclough
Elease S. Reynolds
Odell Peterson
Ada Davis Smith
Annie McFadden
Charlie Owens
Ester Lacey
Hestine Nelson
Eutus Colclough
Julius Wilson
Carol Davis Nicholson
Mattie & Leroy Newman

Rebecca Scott, Chairlady

REBECCA SCOTT

Her work speaks for itself. Seven years ago, God gave her the strength and wisdom to repair and revamp the old Harmony Cemetery. Many discouragements came her way but she triumphed over challenges. With her determination and effort, the cemetery is a beautiful and well maintained place for our many loved ones who have passed on.

Today, we give Honor where honor is due. We are paying homage to a woman of our time who is among us and capable of carrying out a task. This special occasion is not a mere celebration but it is also an event of historical significance. She not only foresaw the need to refurbish this old school house as a memorial for those who attended but also for the children and grandchildren and the future generations as a reflection in the mirror. It reflects our past achievements and reminds us of our future aims and goals. We must never let these historical achievements go unnoticed.

TO REBECCA: Thanks for giving us a look at our heritage and a lesson in teaching us how to take small things and turning them into worthwhile causes. Your strength and endurance will last forever. Give you the fruits of your hands and let your own works praise you in the gates.

REBECCA SCOTT

Proverbs 31:10-31 "Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies."

If we had to answer this question, we could certainly say *Rebecca Scott* is one of them. Here are some of her qualifications:

a. The heart of her husband, August, doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.

b. She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands.

c. She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from as far as N.Y. to S.C.

d. She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her neighbors and friends.

e. She considereth an old building, the Pleasant Grove School, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard of love and memories for the years to come.

f. She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms.

g. She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night.

h. She layeth her hands to the sewing machine, and her hands hold the distaff.

i. She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.

j. She is not afraid of growing old: for her household are covereth with prayer.

k. She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple.

l. She maketh hats, scarves, dresses, baked cakes, pies and selleth it; and delivereth them unto her neighbors and friends.

m. Strength and honour are her clothing: and she shall rejoice in time to come.

n. She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.

o. She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.

p. Her children (Johanna, Joe Louis, Irene, Lloyd and August Jr.) arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her.

q. Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou **REBECCA** excellest them all.

r. Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised.

s. Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.