



**BRYANT YEARLING AYCOCK**

"Human glory is often fickle as the wind and transient as a summer day, but Bryant Yearling Aycock's place in history is assured."

Mr. Aycock was born in Milam County, December 14, 1873. He completed high school in Milam County and was given an award for his academic achievement. He graduated from Prairie View College in 1898. He taught in Kaufman, Texas. In 1903, he became principal in Rockdale and held this position until failing health occurred in 1921. The school was named for him in 1904. He worked tirelessly to help students to achieve their highest academic potential. He encouraged them to go to college and in later years, many of his students became teachers. He had an abiding interest in improving the community in which he lived culturally, socially and economically. One activity that he co-sponsored was the Annual Summer Fair in which both Black and White participated. The fair's main features were exhibitions of livestock, produce and needlework. Athletic Events and other sporting activities were also included, affording opportunities for students and community citizens to be included.

He died on December 7, 1924 and was buried in San Antonio, Texas.

#### **OTHER PRINCIPALS**

**Professor S. Adams** – 1902- 1903

**Mrs. Clarissa Minnie Allen** – 1921-1923. Mrs. Allen also served as English teacher for a number of years after giving up the principalship.

**Professor D.S. Shanks** – 1923-1933. Mr. Shanks is best remembered for his **strictness**, –his firm belief in promptness and obedience, and his special fondness for "tiny" little girls and boys. He may be credited with establishing one of the unrecognized kindergarten schools during this time. He retired to Austin, Texas to open up a private business.

**Professor O.E. Wilhite** – 1933-1966. "Prof.", as he is affectionately called by all of his students came to Rockdale in 1933 from Griffin Chapel Community School. He was dedicated to the work of not only educating, but inadvertently stressed the importance of "STUDY, LEARN AND OBEY." He has been not only a great servant to the school, but to his church, the community and the entire city of Rockdale. His many achievements are listed in the Aycock History.

**Mrs. Susie E. Sansom** – 1966-1967. During the last year of the history of Aycock School, Mrs. Sansom served as head teacher. She taught in the Aycock High School for many years, teaching music, business education, and in some of the elementary grades.

## HISTORY OF AYCOCK HIGH SCHOOL

The school which bears the name "Aycock" was opened in 1902, and was known as the Rockdale Colored Public School. Its building consisted of two rooms furnished with a few battered desks, a bench or two for additional seating, a small table and chair for each teacher, two boxes of crayons, a few erasers plus a tin water pail and dipper which made up the supplies. Two outdoor toilets, one for boys and one for girls completed the building facilities. Coal and wood heaters furnished warmth during the cold weather season.

Professor S.S. Adams was principal and Mrs. Adams was assistant teacher at the close of springtime of 1903. Professor Adams resigned to accept a position with the war department at Washington, D.C.

During the administration of Professor Adams, much emphasis was placed upon the "Three R's", along with stress upon good manners, obedience, attendance, personal hygiene and respect for everyone. Tobacco chewing, gum chewing on school premises could bring suspension or demotions, were given for indolence, unnecessary absences or loudness.

In the summer of 1903, a third room was added to the two room structure. At the same time, the Board of Trustees elected B.Y. Aycock as principal, Mrs. Lula H. Moseley, first assistant teacher, and Mrs. Minnie Davis Smith (the only graduate of Prof. Adams) as second assistant. School opened on October 15, 1903. Mrs. Smith became ill and passed away in less than two months, and her vacancy was filled by Prof. J.W. Allen.

Facing an overcrowded situation in 1904, trustees rented the Masonic Hall, thus providing a fourth room. Professor S. J. Brewer was hired. The small, but dedicated faculty foresaw the need for a high school, so they organized themselves in 1904 with Prof. Aycock as President, Mrs. Moseley secretary, Prof. Allen treasurer, and Mr. Brewer as member-at-large. The faculty soon went to work to plan for a high school. During their second meeting, the idea of a library was brought about. After a brief conference, the teachers agreed to give a concert, using the best school talent available. The date of this concert was February 8, 1904, and it was indeed a success. The weekly paper known as the Rockdale Recorder (edited by R.W. H. (Dick) Kennon) gave a nice write-up about the success of the concert. It was agreed by each to bring some reading matter for the instant library. The first book, the Holy Bible, was donated by Professor Aycock, a Ladies Birthday Almanac by Mrs. Moseley, and the Weekly Record by Professor Allen. The library was the school's pride of 1904.

It was then that the faculty and student body named the school Aycock High School. Professor Aycock's tenure as principal was very enjoyable and productive. Also working under his administration were Mrs. H.K. Robinson, Mrs. Heartly, Mrs. Laura Allen Green, Miss Eva Ledbetter, Mrs. Ella Beals and Mrs. Julia Aycock. The school board and superintendent during this period were Professor Marshall, superintendent, A.H. Coffield, J.H. Perry, B. Lowenstein Sr., L. Isaaca and J. E. Longmire.

The work of Mr. Aycock can be noted by the many positions held by his students who finished high school during his administration – fields of education, religion, seamstresses and general occupations.

Because of failing health, Professor Aycock was forced to resign. Mrs. M. C. Allen filled his unexpired term. At the close of the session, Mrs. Allen was elected by the board as principal. Her work was satisfactory and she served Aycock as Principal and teacher for many years.

After the resignation of Mrs. Allen, Professor D.S. Shanks was elected. His main contribution was the Home Economics Department. He moved to Austin in 1933 to enter into private business.

The school board elected O.E. Wilhite to carry on the work. Mr. Wilhite served the Rockdale Public School system for 34 years, retiring at the end of the school term of 1965-66. Under his leadership, the curriculum was expanded to include 12 grades, an agriculture department, band, chorus, business courses and all phases of athletics. The school grew from a faculty of 5 to a faculty of 18. Many of his former students served as faculty members with him. Under his leadership, the school has turned out postal clerks, registered nurses, vocational nurses, laboratory technicians, X-ray technicians, musicians, secret service agents, teachers engineers, reading specialists, barbers, beauticians, PhD college professors, aerospace chemists, professional athletes, ministers, upholstery specialists, mechanics, plumbers, carpenters, electricians, accountants, social workers, managerial positions and professional seamstresses.

In 1953-54 a new \$240,000 school plant was erected and dedicated.

In 1955-56, the school won two state championships in football and basketball, the first in the school and the first in the city of Rockdale. Many state laurels have been won in the field of music and other literary events.

With the desegregation of the Rockdale Public Schools in 1964, the high school department was moved to the Rockdale High School and the 6th grade to Rockdale Junior High. During the term of 1966-67, the majority of elementary students elected to attend the Rockdale elementary and junior high.

To write the final chapter of the Aycock School remained 51 students and four teachers. The 51 pupils was Kenneth Bowens, Linda Parker, Cheryl Crawford, Janice Douglas, Clyde Grayson, Rosie Hardway, Clara Mitchell, Rodney Mitchell, Mathis Moore, William Petty, Everett Watson, Samuel Wilcox, Kay Green, Karen Collins, Julius Everage, Charlene Goss, Zelma Goss, Thylesa Miller, Randy Mitchell, Vanessa Pollard, James Russell, Ricky Smith, Leonard Don Wesley, Harold Bowens, Alfred Davis, Calvin Deary, Marcella Hights, Shirley Johnson, Henry Miller, Jessie Miller, Samuel Mitchell, James Petty, Harold Watson, Ronnie Green, Ardie Parker, Donald Miller, Elmo Miller, J.D. Miller Jr. Stanley Miller, Tyrone Miller, Willie T. Parker, Larry Wilcox, James Bonney, Joe Burton, Sherman Deary, Willie Russell, Rufus Miller, Billy Wilcox, Bobbie J. Tindle and James Wilcox.

Faculty members were Mrs. Lucy Battle, 15 years of service, Mrs. Ardie M. Williams, 11 years of service, Mrs. Frankie L. McDonald (deceased) 11 years of service and Mrs. Susie E. Sansom, 24 years of service, Head Teacher.

In September 1967, the Rockdale Public Schools were completely desegregated, but for those who have written the annals of the Purple and White, a fond recollection will always be imbedded within their hearts.

# TEACHERS OF AYCOCK

Principals -      S. S. Adams  
                            B. Y. Aycock  
                            Mrs. C. M. Allen  
                            D. S. Shanks  
                            O. E. Wilhite Sr.  
                            Mrs. Susie E. Sansom  
                            (last Head Teacher)

Mrs. S. S. Adams	Mrs. Bessie Carter	William Hill
Mrs. Lula H. Moseley	Mrs. Margaret Carter Powell	Mrs. Blanche Douglas
Mrs. Minnie Davis Smith	Miss Lillian F. Johnson	Mrs. Zelma L. Dykes
J. W. Allen	Mrs. Eva Nelson Walker	Mrs. Willie Dykes
S. J. Brewer	Miss Bennie E. Grigsby	Mrs. Ardie M. Williams
Mrs. H. K. Robinson	Miss Huella Grigsby	T. R. Howard
Mrs. Heartly	Mrs. Eula Mae James	Quincy Foster
Mrs. Laura Allen Green	Mrs. Ethel Seidel	Mrs. M. P. Renfro
Miss Eva Ledbetter	Miss Lillian Duval	Augustus Roberson
Miss Ella J. Beals	Mrs. Annie L. C. Ridge	Benjamin Timmons
Mrs. Julia Aycock	Mrs. Addie Pearl Cavin Owens	Mrs. Johnnie Ruth Davis
Mrs. C. M. Allen	D. A. Boney	Mrs. Nancy J. Timmons
Mrs. O. B. Passon	Frank Owens	Mrs. Christine Smith Walker
Mrs. V. L. Hogan-Howell	Mrs. Susie E. Piper	Mrs. Ruthie Mae Boney
G. L. Powell	Miss Julia Mae Edwards	Mrs. Frankie Moore McDonald
Mrs. A. F. Hutchins	Miss Gloretha Bryant	Clarence Moore
Mrs. A. M. Crayton	Mrs. Marcella L. Wilhite	Jerry L. Givens
Miss A. L. Plummer	Mrs. Hattie M. Anderson	Vandy A. Murphy
Miss Ada M. Hyson	Mrs. Flora Fair Mack	Mrs. Laura A. Burrell
Mrs. V. L. Jones McDonald	Ralph L. Johnson	Brannen Temple
Miss Ester Garrett	Mrs. Evelyn Parker	Hartwell Brown
Miss M. L. Granville	Mrs. Lucy B. Battle	Miss Eula Mae Yancy
Mrs. M. L. Boyd	Mrs. A. M. Shanks	Mrs. Mildred Maxine Lovelady

Kindergarten

Mrs. Evelyn Snelgro



### *School Song*

***"Dear Old Aycock High School"***

**"Dear Old Aycock High School"**

Of the Purple and White  
Dear Old Aycock High School  
For them we'll always fight.  
Dear Old Aycock High School

Keep your colors flying,  
Let them be our guiding light,  
Dear Old Aycock High School  
For you will always fight.

**"Dear Old Aycock High Schhol"**

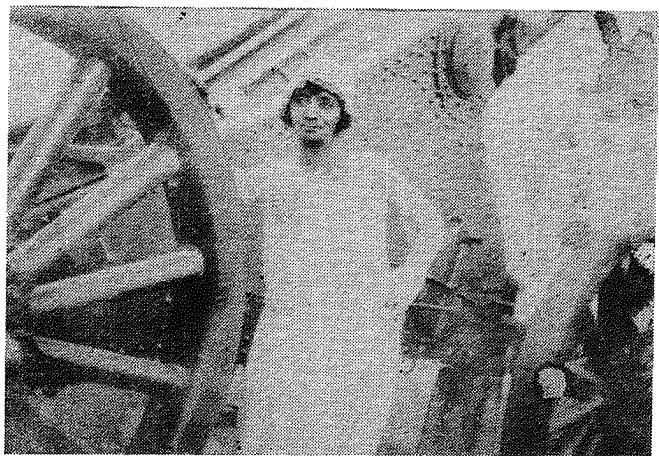
We're in love with you.  
Dear Old Aycock High School  
Say you love us too.  
Keep your Home Fire Glowing  
In your heart so true.  
Dear Old Aycock High School  
We're in love with you.

Composed-1943 S.E. Sansom

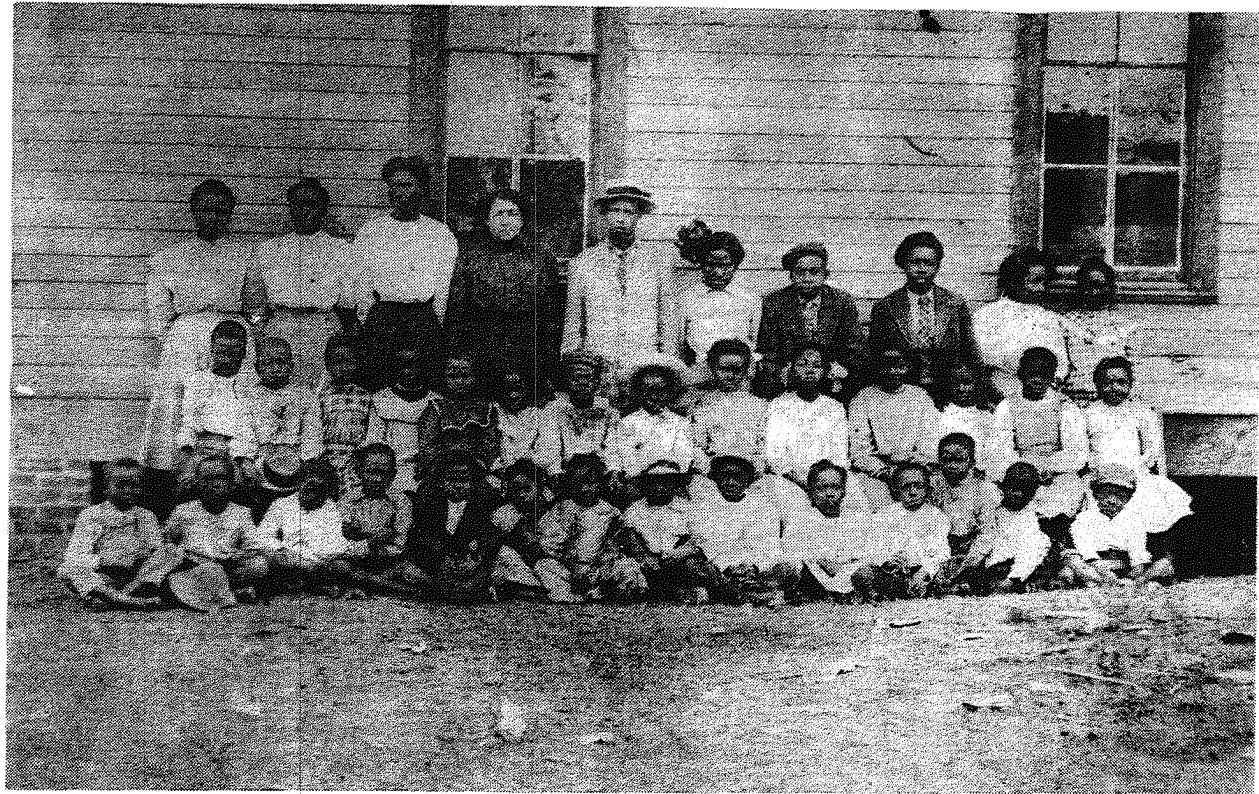
### *School Mascot Tiger*

*School Colors  
Purple and White*

**"ONCE UPON A LONG AGO"**

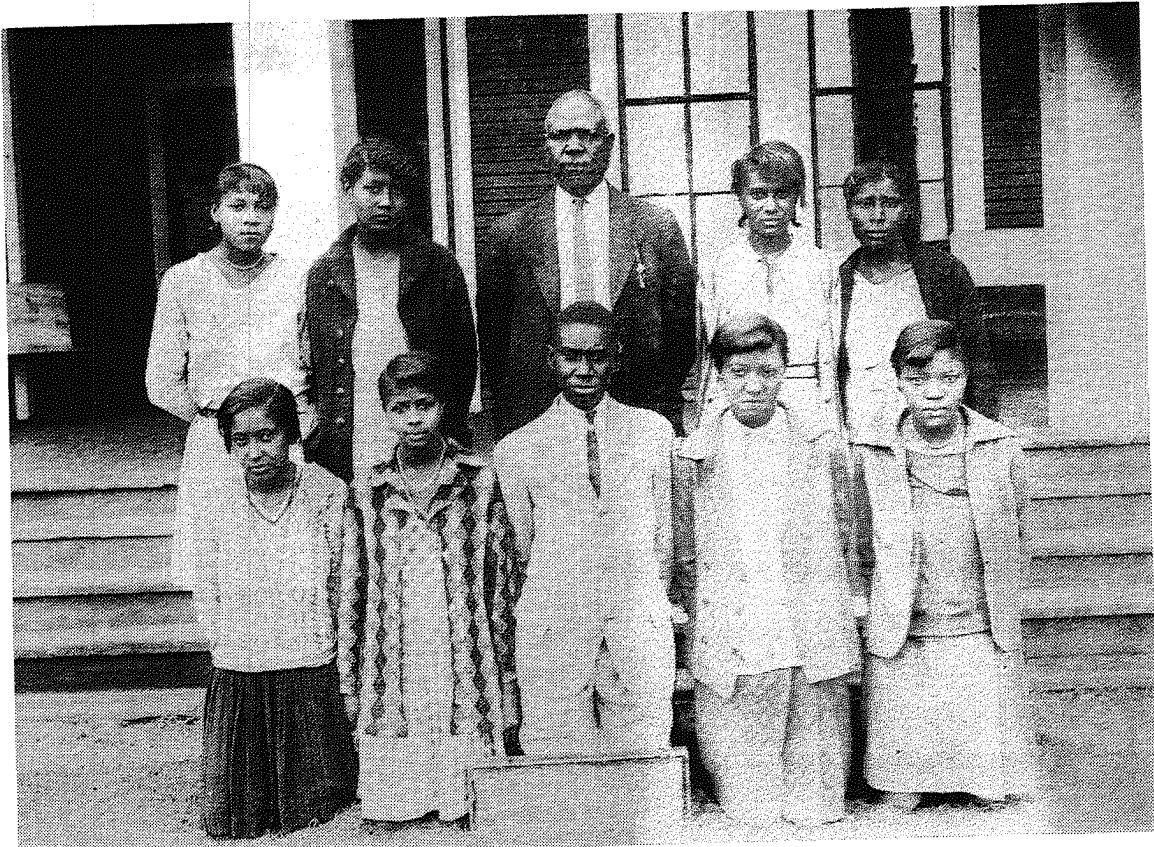


**Aycock's Oldest Living Graduate**  
From the Class of 1906  
Mrs. Bessie Beals — 93 years old

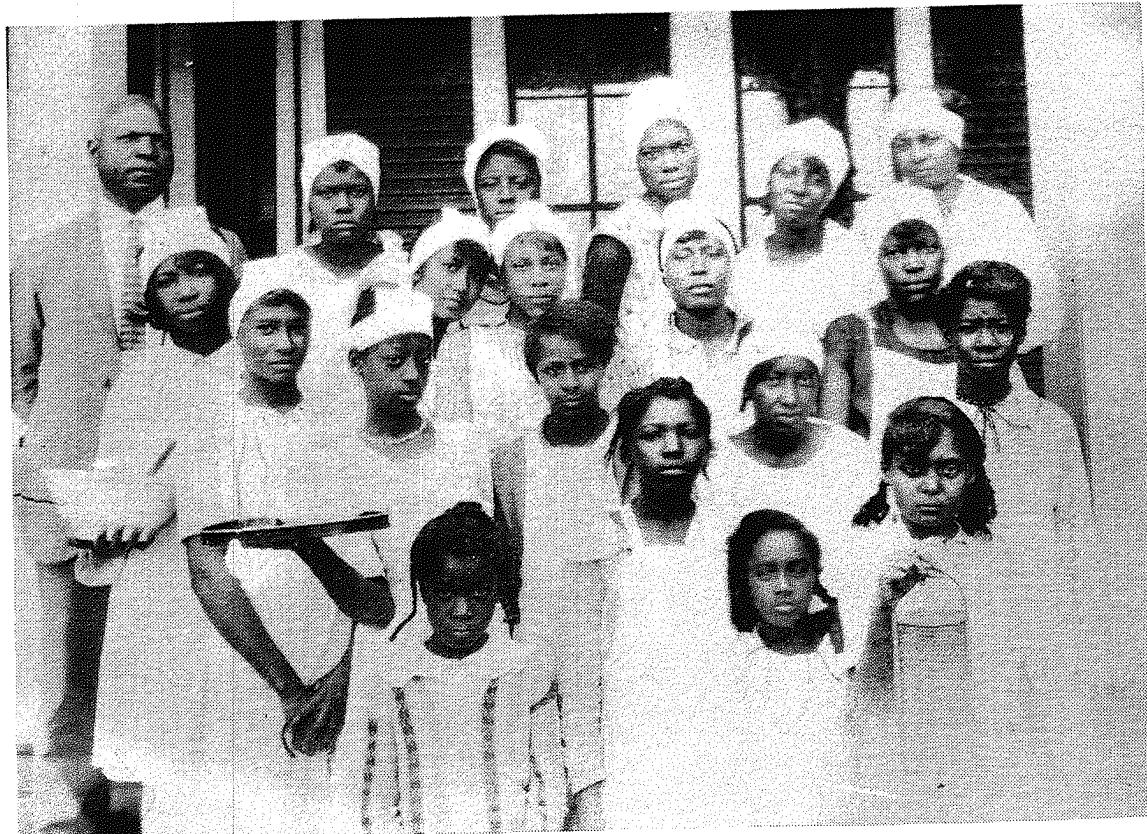


Early 1900's

**"ONCE UPON A LONG AGO"**



**Seniors of 1930**



**A Homemaking Class of the '30's**