

### **FLOSSIE MARTIN: a biographical sketch**

Flossie Martin, the first of three children born to Wilson Columbus and Frances Cornelia Eaton Martin, was born August 21, 1890, in the small community of Cana, near Mocksville, Davie County, North Carolina. Her father, a physician, moved his family into Mocksville when Miss Martin was small. There she attended Miss Mattie Eaton's private school, known as Sunnyside.

In 1910, she was graduated from Salem College, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, with a Bachelor of Arts degree. In 1921, she earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Columbia University, New York. In 1944, Miss Martin earned a Master of Science degree in education from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



Flossie Martin became a science teacher of some renown, teaching at R.J. Reynolds High School, Winston-Salem, North Carolina until 1947, at which time she returned to Mocksville, teaching science there until her retirement at age 70 – the North Carolina mandatory retirement age for teachers. Many of Miss Martin's science pupils were inspired through her teaching to seek careers in science and related fields and became very successful.

During her years in Winston-Salem, Miss Martin resided in the home of Dr. Adelaide Fries, noted genealogist and historian. From her Miss Martin learned the fine points of genealogical and historical pursuits. In 1960, her career of teaching science ended at Davie County High School, Mocksville, and at once a new career unfolded as she began – as a volunteer – to collect local history and genealogy material. Two or three filing cabinets evolved into a sizeable room. During Miss Martin's tenure, the Davie County Public Library's history/genealogy room acquired books, periodicals, maps, pictures, photographs, artifacts, original documents, and a microfilm collection. The biography files lure researchers from all over the United States. Miss Martin was instrumental in the collection of local church and cemetery records. Her vertical file collection included oral history transcriptions, local government and election records, and the history of education in Davie County. Miss Martin also collected the history of communities within the county, cataloged the growth of types of businesses and industries in Davie County, and indexed with volunteer help many old books and ledgers. She used all of this material to assist local, state, and national researchers.

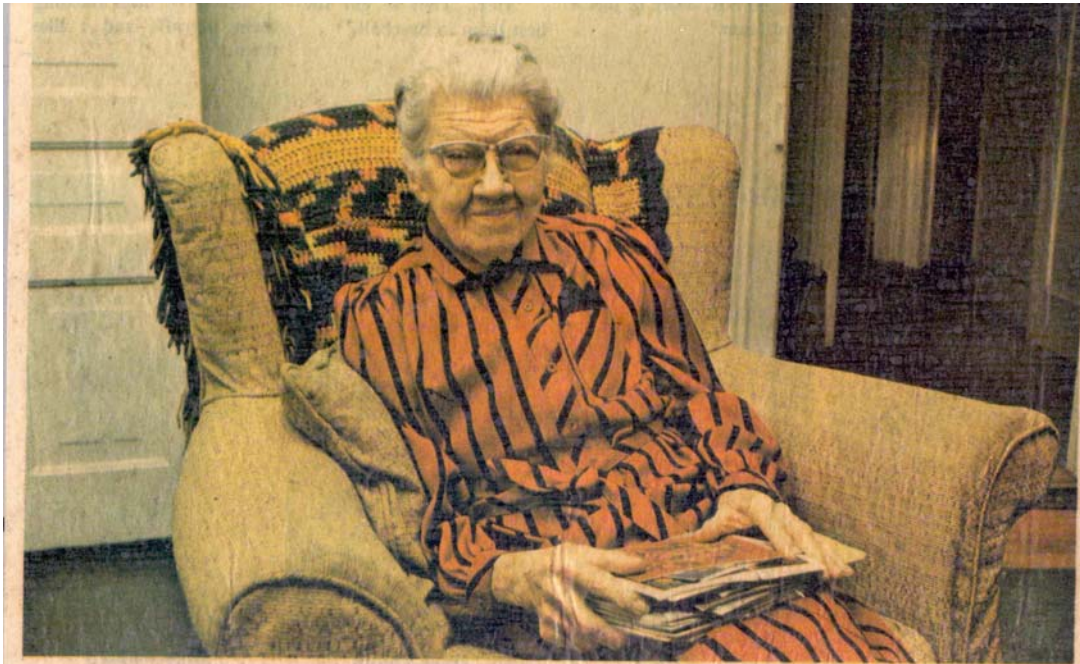
All the while, Miss Martin also found time for active participation in her church, Mocksville's First Baptist Church. In October 1951, she assumed the duties of church

Davie County Public Library  
Mocksville, North Carolina

clerk, a post she filled until 1971. From 1971 to March 1974, she acted as assistant church clerk.

Flossie Martin died February 11, 1993 at the age of 102.

As a dedicated science teacher Miss Martin contributed significantly to society, but the history/genealogy room at the Davie County Public Library represents her lasting gift to all of Davie County and beyond, because it was her inspiration, labor, and dedication that created a collection of local history that preserves Davie County's past for the enlightenment of the future.



MISS FLOSSIE MARTIN of Mocksville has dedicated much of her life to researching the history of Davie and its families. Please turn to page 2-F for a story on Miss Flossie, and sec-

tions D, E and F for more the Enterprise Record's special Sesquicentennial edition.

— Photo by James Barringer