

# **APPENDIX E**

**WILMINGTON SCHOOLS**

### Education for Wilmington African Americans

Prior to 1898, Wilmington's African American community had benefited from a progressive educational system. Not only were there publicly supported schools available to blacks in various sections of the city, but there were also several highly respected privately funded schools. The first concerted efforts to establish schools for blacks were those initiated at the end of the Civil War by the Freedmen's Bureau. Following on the heels of the Freedmen's Bureau schools were those established by other northern benevolent interests such as the American Missionary Association (AMA). The Freedmen's Bureau sought to turn operation of schools over to local interests and that was done about 1870 with funding provided by philanthropists. Such schools became the core of the city's school system. Although African American schools continuously experienced low financial support from the city and county both before and after the 1898 coup and violence, the change over time, from 1898 until into the 20<sup>th</sup> century, was one of continuous reduction in public financial support for the city's African American schools.

One of the leading schools was the Peabody School, named for benefactor George Peabody. Opened soon after the Civil War by northern interests, Peabody was located in Brooklyn and was operated with the assistance of local African American leaders. By October, 1898, Peabody boasted 454 students. In that year it was leased to the city for 25 years for the education of black students in its district.<sup>1</sup> After the turn of the century, the school continued to benefit from the benevolence of the fund created by George Peabody despite cuts to its overall budget by the city. In 1914, the Wilmington Colored Institute, the nonprofit body of African American leaders which managed the school fund, offered to donate the school building to the New Hanover County Board of Education provided that the county construct a new brick building to replace the older wooden structure. The Board refused the donation, indicating that "any public funds at their discretion" would be spent on Williston across town. Three years later it was reported that the school had been repaired and painted and facilities upgraded to benefit the students. Again, in 1919, the school was offered to the county school system. At that time, the deal was consummated and the property turned over to the county and a new school building constructed.<sup>2</sup> The school became a source of pride for the community and black leaders regularly pressed the Board of Education for improvements to the school facilities.<sup>3</sup>

Williston Graded School was another school that had lasting impact on the city. Managed by the American Missionary Association after the Civil War, Williston was

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<sup>1</sup> Reaves, *Strength Through Struggle*, 148.

<sup>2</sup> Reaves, *Strength Through Struggle*, 149.

<sup>3</sup> Peabody closed in 1985 after the construction of a new school nearby. The building is currently adapted for other uses, including serving as headquarters for a Head Start Program. Reaves, *Strength Through Struggle*, 151.

sold to the city in 1873, making it the first African American school in the city's system, one bound to emerge as a leading institution for black students. The school suffered several fires over its lifetime, including three arson attempts in 1897. As an example of the school's importance to the community, its commencement exercises for 1902 were held in Thalian Hall. The school benefited from professional staff and excellent teachers and throughout the first decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the city dedicated funds regularly to improvements to the school's facilities. The school thrived and, in 1914, a new school was constructed as the Williston Primary and Industrial School, one which served elementary students as well as older students offering classes on agriculture, science, and building trades. New facilities were built subsequent to the 1914 building and the school prospered as a site for improved educational opportunities for black students throughout the South. The school closed amid controversy in the 1970's only to be reopened later as an integrated school.<sup>4</sup>

Another prominent school for African Americans in Wilmington was Gregory Institute. Gregory also was sponsored by the American Missionary Association after the Civil War. It emerged as the single school to which the AMA dedicated the bulk of its funds locally over the years. After Williston was sold to the city in 1873, the AMA continued its work at what would become Gregory Institute. During the 1870's the school was funded entirely by the AMA and averaged around 100 students who paid a monthly tuition of one dollar. By the 1880's the school had grown to 200 students and a new building was constructed near the new Congregational Church. The school was named in honor of benefactor J. J. Howard Gregory who donated funds for construction and teacher salaries. The AMA maintained its connection to the school and sought to staff the school with bright, young teachers from northern cities. Since the school was privately owned and operated, it continued to prosper whereas the public schools were forced to occupy dilapidated buildings and provide lower pay to teachers. The school sought to produce teachers for other schools or to prepare its students for collegiate study elsewhere and became known as Gregory Normal School. Despite appeals by local leaders and others from throughout the country, the school closed in 1921. At that time, there were as many as 2,500 black school-age children in the county but only 800 were served by the school district.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Reaves, *Strength Through Struggle*, 155-164; Timothy B. Tyson, *Blood Done Sign My Name* (New York: Crown Publishers, 2004), 257; John L. Godwin, *Black Wilmington and the North Carolina Way: Portrait of a Community in the Era of Civil Rights Protest* (Lanham, Maryland: University Press of America, 2000) 225, 236.

<sup>5</sup> Reaves, *Strength Through Struggle*, 164 -169.

## Wilmington Educational System (Districts Divided by Race)

Districts 1 and 2 for both races fell under title "Wilmington Public Schools" in 1897-1903 City Directories

### White Districts

- 1 Hemenway (5<sup>th</sup> Near Chestnut)  
Hemenway Annex (4<sup>th</sup> Brooklyn)
- 2 Union School (Corner of 6<sup>th</sup> & Ann)  
Union Annex (5<sup>th</sup> Corn Nun)
- 3
- 4 Masonboro

### Black Districts

- 1 Peabody (6<sup>th</sup> bet. Red Cross and  
Campbell)
- 2 Williston (7<sup>th</sup> bet. Ann and Nun)
- 3
- 4 Masonboro

Information on teachers, pay, and other details from Minutes of the County Commissioners, 1897 – 1903; Wilmington City Directory, 1897, 1900, 1905; New Hanover County Miscellaneous Records, School Vouchers; North Carolina Department of Public Instruction Records, Special Staff Services, Treasurer's and Superintendent's Reports, 1897-1903.

### November 1898 White

District Number	Teachers Per District	Average Pay	Total Expenses
1	17	33.52	785.20
2	16	40.16	930.83
3	1	35.00	35.00
4	-	-	9.00
5	2	35.00	71.45
6	1	35.00	70.00
7	-	-	-
8	-	-	-
9	-	-	-
10	1	30.00	30.00
11	1	35.00	38.44
Totals		34.81	246.24

For Wilmington City Only: Average Pay was 36.84 per teacher and \$858.02 per school

### November 1898 Black

District #	Teachers Per District	Average Pay	Total Expenses
1	10	34.00	564.31
2	11	37.27	482.00
3	-	-	-
4	1	30.00	33.15
5	-	-	2.95
6	1	25.00	60.00
7	-	-	3.00
8	-	35.00	35.00
9	-	30.00	30.00
10	-	-	-
11	2	35.00	70.00
Totals		32.32	142.27

Average for Wilmington City Schools was 35.64 per teacher and \$523.16 per school

**White Districts, January 1899**

District #	Teachers Per District	Average Pay	Total Expenses
1	16	40.13	824.61
2	17	40.29	319.00
3	1	35.00	70.00
4	1	40.00	40.00
5	2	35.00	82.00
6	1	35.00	35.00
7	1	35.00	70.00
8	1	25.00	33.00
9	-	-	-
10	1	35.00	45.35
11	3	35.00	140.00
Total		35.54	165.90

Average for Wilmington City was \$40.21 per teacher and 571.81 per school

**Black Districts, January 1899**

District #	Teachers Per District	Average Pay	Total Expenses
1	11	33.64	465.13
2	11	38.18	438.53
3	-	-	-
4	2	30.00	67.20
5	3	35.00	113.00
6	2	30.00	60.00
7	1	35.00	35.00
8	1	35.00	35.00
9	1	30.00	30.00
10	1	35.00	35.00
11	-	-	-
Total		33.54	127.89

Average for Wilmington City was \$35.91 per teacher and \$451.83 per school

**White Districts November 1899**

District #	Teachers Per District	Average Pay	Total Expenses
1	17	37.65	784.45
2	15	42.00	1033.70
3	1	35.00	82.25
4	1	35.00	57.51
5	2	35.00	70.00
6	2	35.00	70.00
7	1	35.00	35.00
8	-	-	-
9	-	-	-
10	1	35.00	61.20
11	-	-	.74
12	-	-	-
13	1	35.00	76.86
14	1	35.00	37.90
Total		35.97 avg. per teacher	209.96 avg. per school

Average for Wilmington City was \$39.83 per teacher and \$909.08 per school

**Black Districts November 1899**

District #	Teachers Per District	Average Pay	Total Expenses
1	10	30.50	358.50
2	10	35.00	474.50
3	-	-	-
4	1	30.00	66.70
5	1	30.00	30.00
6	1	30.00	30.00
7	-	-	10.00
8	1	30.00	30.00
9	1	25.00	25.00
10	-	-	9.25
11	-	-	2.26
12	1	30.00	67.79
13	1	30.00	55.44
14	1	30.00	51.50
Total		30.05 avg. per teacher	93.15 avg. per school

Average for Wilmington City was \$32.75 per teacher and \$416.50 per school

**White Expenses by School District,  
January 1903 (Teachers not itemized)**

District #	# Teachers	Average Pay	Total Expenses
1			1362.52
2			1871.99
3			46.90
4			46.30
5			-
6			41.00
7			40.00
8			50.00
9			-
10			52.90
11			40.55
12			-
13			42.35
14			50.35
15			66.00
Total			309.24 avg. per school

Average for Wilmington City was  
\$1617.26 per school district

**Black Expenses by School District,  
January 1903 (Teachers not itemized)**

District #	# Teachers	Average Pay	Total Expenses
1			382.09
2			385.20
3			-
4			34.70
5			-
6			35.00
7			31.00
8			30.00
9			25.00
10			30.00
11			60.00
12			43.45
13			25.00
14			60.00
Total			95.12 avg. per school

Average for Wilmington City was  
\$383.65 per school

Average funds spent per Wilmington City School by race and year

	Nov. 1898	Jan. 1899	Nov. 1899	Jan. 1900	Nov. 1900	Jan. 1901	Nov. 1901	Jan. 1902	Nov. 1902	Jan. 1903	Nov. 1903	Jan. 1904
<b>White</b>	858.02	571.81	909.08	887.41	964.22	938.60	866.54	1025.88	1299.94	1617.26	1073.84	1131.56
<b>Black</b>	523.16	451.83	416.50	408.11	384.50	398.70	371.50	365.55	402.37	383.65	382.95	374.77

Wilmington Teachers										
Teacher First Name	Teacher Last Name	School Race	1897 CD & Address	1900 CD & Address	January 1899 Pay	November 1899 Pay	School District #	October 1898 Pay	November 1898 Pay	Notes
Nancy	Adams	b	NL	NL	5	15	1			
Hattie E.	Adams	b					1			Principal Peabody, 1903 CD
Kate	Alderman	w	315 (Mulberry) Grace	315 (Mulberry) Grace			2		40	
Belle	Anderson	w	NL	224 N 3rd			2		40	
Anna	Auston	b	700 Campbell	NL	30	30	2		30	
Gertrude	Bagby	w	NL	NL			2		50	
Mary B.	Barclay	w	NL	909 S 5th			3	35		had 37 students 10/29/09
Mary	Bernard	w	101 N 7th	20 N 5th (boarder)			1	45	45	
Catherine F	Blount	b	1229 Charlotte	NL	35	35	1	35	35	
Rev. James	Bonner	b	712 Chestnut	NL	40	45	1	40	40	Chestnut St. Pres.
Hattie E	Bowman	b	811 S 5th	811 S 5th	40	45	1	40		Principal Peabody, 1902 CD
Bessie N.	Boyd	b	510 Nixon	NL	30	30	1	30	30	
Mrs.RK	Bryant	w	NL	NL			11	35		
Miss Leo B	Cameron	w	909 S 5th	909 S 5th			2		40	
Matilda B.	Carter	b	1016 Market	1016 Market	40	35	2		40	
Nellie	Chesnutt	b	114 N 8th	114 N 8th	40	40	2		40	
Joshua J	Clemmons	b	608 Ann	608 Ann	35	30	6			

Wilmington Teachers										
Teacher First Name	Teacher Last Name	School Race	1897 CD & Address	1900 CD & Address	January 1899 Pay	November 1899 Pay	School District #	October 1898 Pay	November 1898 Pay	Notes
Mary E	Cook	w	602 Walnut	602 Walnut			2		60	Principal, Union Sch.
Mary	Cronly	w	215 S 3rd	215 S 3rd			1	40	40	
Demmie	Dixon	b	NL	209 S 11th	30		4	30	30	
Susie	Dudley	b	1001 Rankin	NL	50		1	50	50	Music
Maggie	Edens	b	112 N 9th	NL	40	35	2		40	
Mary Howe	Geyer	b	NL	NL		30 (2x)	4	35		
EJ	Green	b	NL	NL			1		40	
Alice	Green	w	NL	406 S 3rd			2		30	
Carrie	Green	b	720 Church	720 Church	40	35	1	40	40	
SE	Harriss	w	NL	NL			1		40	
Sophie	Heins	w	820 McCumber's Alley	118 S 6th			1	40	40	
Julia	Hill	w	NL	no address listed			2		22 1/2	
Louisa	Hill	w	303 Chestnut	303 Chestnut			1	40	40	
John A	Holt	b	In County	NL	40	35	2		40	Principal Williston, 1902 CD
Sarah	Hooper	b	NL	NL			5	35		
Mary W.	Howe	b	301 Queen	301 Queen	50	45	2		40	Principal 1897
Leonora T.	Jackson	b	NL	NL	40		1	30		
Mary A.	Jackson	b	202 Walnut	NL	35	35	2		40	

Wilmington Teachers										
Teacher First Name	Teacher Last Name	School Race	1897 CD & Address	1900 CD & Address	January 1899 Pay	November 1899 Pay	School District #	October 1898 Pay	November 1898 Pay	Notes
Katie	Johnson	w	602 Walnut	602 Walnut			1	40	40	
Maggie	Jones	w	311 S Front	205 S 3rd			2		45	Principal Union 1902 CD
Susie	Kennedy	b	701 Red Cross	NL	35	25 (Dist. 1)	2		35	
Helen	Mabry	w	NL	NL			1		50	
Mary J	Mallette	b	616 Campbell	NL			1	40	40	
MA	Matthews	b	NL	NL	35 (Dist. 5)		11		35	no longer teacher, 1900, grocer?
Maria L	McLeod	w	322 N Front	407 N Front			1	50		Principal 1897
Sarah K.	McLeod	b	NL	NL	25		6			
Maud	McLeod	w	NL	NL			1	15	15	
Carrie	McNairy	w	NL	NL			1	50	50	
Sarah	McRae	b	609 N 8th	NL		25 (Dist. 9)	6		25	
Adelaide	Meares	w	712 S Market	712 Market			2		40	
Eliza	Meares	w	118 S 4th	118 S 4th			2		40	
CB	Merrick	b	NL	NL	35 (Dist. 5)	30 (Dist. 13)	11		35	
Maggie	Moffit	w	311 S Front	205 S 2nd			2		35	
Carrie	Moffit	w	311 S Front	205 S 2nd			2		40	
Levy	Nixon	b	NL	NL	30	30 (Dist. 12)	9		30	
Lillie	Nixon	b	NL	NL	35		10			
Estelle	Norwood	b	NL	NL	35	30	5	35		

Wilmington Teachers										
Teacher First Name	Teacher Last Name	School Race	1897 CD & Address	1900 CD & Address	January 1899 Pay	November 1899 Pay	School District #	October 1898 Pay	November 1898 Pay	Notes
M. Ellen	Noyes	b	1014 N 7th	NL	25	25	2		25	
Jennie T.	Oldham	w	NL	NL			5	35		had 35 students 10/31/98
Winnie	Oldham	w	NL	NL			10	30		
Susan	Parsley	w	NL	312 S 2nd			1	15	15	
Farinda	Payne	w	711 Market	513 Market			2		40	
ML	Robinson	b	NL	NL			1	10	10	
Eva	Rodgers	w	NL	NL			6	35	35	
Julia	Sadgwar	b	NL	NL		10	1			
Susan G	Sampson	b	312 S 4th	NL	40	35	2		40	
Mary	Shepard/Shepherd	w	208 S 4th	208 S 4th			1	30	30	
Grace	Smallbones	w	NL	NL			2		30	
Rosa	Spruell	b	512 Dickinson	512 Dickinson	35		7	35		no longer teacher in 1900, grocer
Thomas	Sterling	b	616 N 7th	616 N 7th	35	30	8		35	no longer teacher, 1900, painter
Matty	Strauss	w	1012 N 4th	1012 N 4th			1	15	15	
Minnie T	Strout	b	613 Nun	613 Nun						Gregory Normal
Hester	Struthers	w	418 Market	418 Market			2		40	
Katie	Telfair	b	615 Walnut	615 Walnut	40	35	2		40	same household as Rev. Telfair 1897
Pattie	Thorne	w	NL	NL			5		35	
Maggie	Thurber	b	NL?		15	25	1	15	15	nurse?
Daisy	Waite	w	20 S 5th	NL			2		50	High School

Wilmington Teachers										
Teacher First Name	Teacher Last Name	School Race	1897 CD & Address	1900 CD & Address	January 1899 Pay	November 1899 Pay	School District #	October 1898 Pay	November 1898 Pay	Notes
WJ	Walters	b	NL	NL	40		1			
Lina	Wiggins	w	NL	114 S 2nd			1	15	15	
Alice M	Williams	b	715 Red Cross	NL						In CD as Peabody teacher 1897
T. Leonora	Williams	b	NL	NL	40	40	1	40	40	
Florence	Willis	w	112 N 7th	address not listed			1		10	
Jennie D	Wood	w	201 Chestnut	201 Chestnut			1	35	35	
Floria	Worth	w	NL	NL			1	50	50	
Kate	Yarborough	w	224 N 5th	224 N 5th			1	40	40	