

The Scott Museum

When searching the past, questions often prompt additional inquiry in a quest for accuracy. Written records usually establish a more enduring picture than verbal stories lost to the wind. History is important, but it is often lost, unless a concerted effort saves those records for the future. From great art to literature to humans endeavors we need those documented accounts so we don't lose the *Who, When, Where, and Why*.

I can only answer some of those questions about Miss Ollie Eubanks Scott. Miss Ollie Eubanks Scott spent years educating children in northern Benton County. After retirement she and her husband operated Scott Museum in Garfield, Arkansas. Born December 24, 1905 in Jenkins, Missouri. She was the youngest of seven children. Her father was a farmer, school teacher and taught music and singing school.

Her mother raised a big garden, dug a big hole and filled it with potatoes and turnips, then covered it with pumice and dirt to keep it from freezing. She made sauerkraut in 50- gallon wooden barrels and dried apples and peaches for pies in the winter. Cane made molasses for sweeteners in cakes, candy and popcorn balls. She would knit dresses, sock and gloves for the family and she made quilts.

In 1912 they headed for Arkansas, a trip of more than two weeks, and camped in school yards along the way. In Garfield they lived in a hotel and later rented a house. Her dad worked for the railroad. She attended school in Garfield for the first four years but in the fifth grade they moved to the Ozark community, about a mile east of Ruddick cemetery and Ollie attended Ozark School for 3 years. She attended Garfield School in 1922 when they added the ninth grade Ollie was the first girl to attend high school there.

The following year, she moved in with an older sister who was attending the University of Arkansas and complete grades 10 through 12 in Fayetteville. Her brother attended law school at the University of Arkansas, and they traveled home on weekends in his new Ford roadster. It was dirt road all the way. After completing high school, she received her teaching certificate.

In 1925 she began her first teaching job at Coal Gap School. Her salary was \$75.00 a month. She worked at the Glade store after school and on weekends to earn room and board at the home of the store owner, Simon McGinnis. She went home once a month.

In 1927 Miss Ollie Eubanks taught 22 pupils at Elkhorn School No. 14. She was 22 and single. The building had been constructed in 1908 for \$500. She kept the wood stove going, bandaged hurts and settled fights. There were two outdoor toilets and a well. Each student had a cup.

She taught seven different classes of reading and arithmetic. There were no second graders that year. She taught Writing, Spelling, Geography, History, Arkansas History, Civics, Physiology, Hygiene, Grammar, Language and Agriculture. She allowed 10, 15, or 20 minutes per class, an hour for noon, and two 15-minute periods for recess. Study periods were assigned.

The last day of school on March 16, 1928 was the last of Elkhorn School. The district changed and students were annexed to Garfield District No. 114. Miss Eubanks was meticulous in her record keeping and they were housed in the office of the Benton County School Supervisor.

In 1927, she married Wallace Scott of Elkhorn. "We lived in a little house near the tavern." He farmed and milked cows, and she taught school at Brightwater, Freedom, Central, Walnut Hill, Ozark, Corinth, Liberty and Bayless. She wrote, "My wages were \$50.00 to \$125.00 per month." Teaching school in those days included cooking and serving the food, and the janitor work. Her teaching career ended in 1950.

A student from 1927 wrote, "She would arrive at the school in her Model T roadster. In the cold weather Felix and Barney O'Neal would drain the water out of the radiator and block to keep it from freezing. Then just before she went home they would heat water on the woodstove and refill the radiator and block."

She helped her husband on the farm for the next ten years when the Pea Ridge National Military Park took the farm. "We moved to Garfield and started the Scott Museum, she wrote. They closed the museum because of his health. She died August 25, 1993 and is buried in the Pratt Cemetery at Garfield, Arkansas.