

Mid 20th Century Haywood County
African American Teachers
Dorothy Granberry, Geneva Miller Historical Society

By 1952 teaching in the public schools had been a career option for local African Americans for eighty-six years. As the county's school aged population increased so did the number of required teachers.

There were 130 men and women employed as teachers in 1952. Some ninety-nine of them taught in schools scattered about the county such as Hess School off Highway 54, Sampson Green off the Stanton-Somerville Road, Pilgrim Rest off Highway 76, and Bailey School off the Brownsville-Covington Highway. These county educators organized themselves as the Haywood County Teachers Association. Their motto was taken from an inscription at the Penn State Education Building "Education for all the people is America's noblest contribution to civilization". The officers of the Haywood County Teachers Association were: Ms. E. Wyllene Burton, President; Ms. Larue Cleaves, Vice-President; Ms. Ethel O. Perkins, Secretary; Mr. Walter Lee Fouse, Treasurer; and Ms. Algee C. Outlaw, Supervisor.

The remaining teachers, pictured in the accompanying photograph, taught at Carver High School and were organized by Mr. Roy Bond, Principal of Carver. Pictured are from left to right First Row: Ms. Ruby Jacocks, Ms. Clara Bond, Ms. Zelma Rogers, Ms. Geneva Miller, Mr. Roy Bond, Ms. V. C. Brooks, Ms. Everlena Williams, Ms. J. Ingram, and Ms. M. Jones; Second Row: Mr. Luther Brooks, Ms. Sadie Anderson, Ms. Annie Wheeler, Ms. Ola Hunt, Ms. Aurelia Batchelor, Ms. Estelle Lockert, Ms. Ernestine Jeffries, Ms. Justine Shaw, Ms. Stella Bond, and Mr. Otis Sangster; Third Row: Mr. James Ashworth, Mr. Raymond Watkins, Ms. Katherine Taliaferro, Mr. W. A. Powell, Ms. Crenna Barksdale, Ms. Nancy Lyons, Ms. Willie Bond, Ms. Doris Grimes, and Mr. Dorias Flagg. Shown in inserts are: Mr. Melvin Harris, Ms. Robbie Rucker, and Ms. Mary Maclin.

In a message to the West Tennessee Educational Congress upon the 50th anniversary of this organization of educators, Mr. Bond noted that during the 50 year existence of the Educational Congress the school in Brownsville had been known as Dunbar School, then Haywood County Training School and in 1952 was known as Carver High School in honor of the noted scientist, Dr. George Washington Carver.