



October 7, 2016      Note on colored supervisors

- **1921-22. Ms. Mary A.E. Penniston.** Colored and colored supervisor. Educated at Hampton Normal. Her certificate was issued in 1915 and expired in 1921, then was endorsed by the Superintendent on Feb 20, 1922. She came to the position with 16 years of experience<sup>1</sup>. Ancestry.com indicated she may previously have been a public school teacher in Richmond, Virginia. Barton Heights School, No 9. (Superintendent of Schools 1946).
  - **Penniston** (also spelled Peniston) graduated from Hampton Normal Institute in 1903, then taught in Virginia for five years before going to Snow Hill Normal and Industrial Institute, Snow Hill Alabama for six years. Note. Snow Hill became a public school in 1924, then closed in 1973 when Wilcox County de-segregated<sup>2</sup>. She then went to Kittrell College, North Carolina, serving as Matron. Kittrell was associated with the African Methodist Episcopal Church<sup>3</sup>. From there, she worked in Fairfax and Prince William counties, Virginia before working for Loudoun County Public Schools. According to the 1920 and 1921 Southern Workman, a publication of the Hampton Institute, (Editorial Staff 1920) (Editorial Staff 1921) Penniston was a supervisor in Loudoun from at least 1920 through 1921. The 1920 Southern Workman described her title in Loudoun as "industrial Supervisor." That tracks with Emerick's April, 1920 Report.
- **1930-32. Mrs. Mary T. McCoy<sup>4</sup>** was a "colored" Rural Supervisor. There was also a white Rural supervisor for the same period. (Superintendent of Schools 1946)
- **1938-1941: Miss Gertrude Alexander (colored), served from 1938/39 until 1940/41.** Alexander graduated from Winston-Salem Technical College in 1937 and then Atlanta University in 1938. Mrs. Alexander was the Colored Student Superintendent for 1939/40. Not much is known about her except that she was a major force for positive change and for obtaining a high school for African-Americans in Loudoun (Superintendent of Schools 1946)
  - **School year 1938-39 for Gertrude Alexander.** Address: 708 S Road Street, Elizabeth City, NC. Grade of Certification: College Professor—Eng, Hist, Elem. When Issued or renewed: 1938. When expires: 1948. Years Experience: 3. Where Educated: Atlanta University—Winston-Salem. Under "School Taught": "Supervisor" is listed

<sup>1</sup> Penniston lived at 11101 Argyle Avenue, Baltimore Maryland.

<sup>2</sup> See <http://www.wilcoxareachamber.com/2012/02/27/snow-hill-institute/>

<sup>3</sup> See <http://ncpedia.org/kittrell-college>

<sup>4</sup> Attended Virginia Union University [www.vuu.edu](http://www.vuu.edu).

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- **1941-1949: Mrs. Ruby Gilford Vaughan (colored)** <sup>5</sup> was Supervisor from 1941/42 until 1948/49. Vaughan graduated from Virginia State College in 1937 and achieved her Masters Degree at the University of Wisconsin (date unknown). She was born January 13, 1913 and died in 1949. (Superintendent of Schools 1946)
- **1946: Cora P. Campbell** was also listed as an Elementary Supervisor and appears to have been an African-American.
- **1949-1951.** Miss Marian J. Sands was Jeanes Supervisor.
- **1952. Helen MN. Cauthorne** was listed as an Elementary Supervisor and appears to have been an African-American (O. Emerick, Certification of Supervisors and Teachers 1952, March 4) Continued until 1955.
- **1955.** LCPS could not find a colored teacher to take the post, so asked the White Elementary School supervisor to do the job. That was **Mrs. Ruth Schulke**.

## Bibliography

- Editorial Staff. 1920. "Graduates and Ex Students." In *Southern Workman*, Volume 49, by Editorial Staff, 482. Hampton: Hampton Institute.
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- Emerick, O.L. 1952, March 4. *Certification of Supervisors and Teachers*. Edwin Washington Catalog. 4.8.(b) Director of Instruction: John Gibson Caleb, Leesburg: LCPS.
- Superintendent of Schools. 1946. *Superintendent's Record of Teacher's Certificates, 1915-1946 (Green Binder)*. Section 4.4 of Edwin Washington Catalog, Purcellville: LCPS.

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<sup>5</sup> Vaughan was married to James Kelly.

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