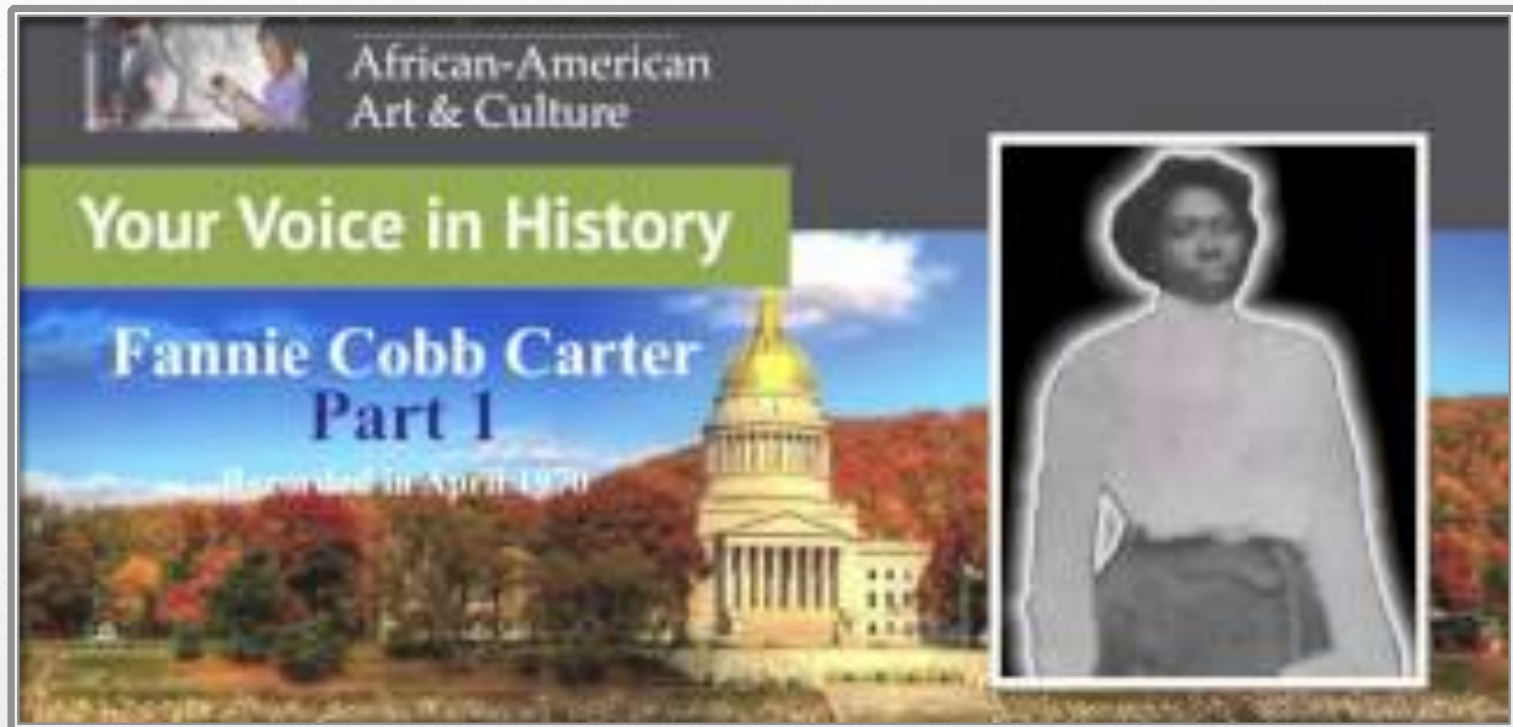


An Advocate for Those in Need: The Life and
Career of Fannie Cobb Carter (1872 – 1973)

James L. Spencer
Professor of Psychology (retired)
West Virginia State University



Fannie Cobb Carter ca. 1900

The source of this photograph is unknown.

Beginnings

From Rosedale to Harper's Ferry

1872 – 1891



Holly Grove

Only significant surviving building of Rosedale, where Miss Fannie was born.

Booker T. Washington

A Mentor to Miss Fannie

Her uncle, A. H. Irving, who financed her education, was a longtime friend of Mr. Washington.





Storer College

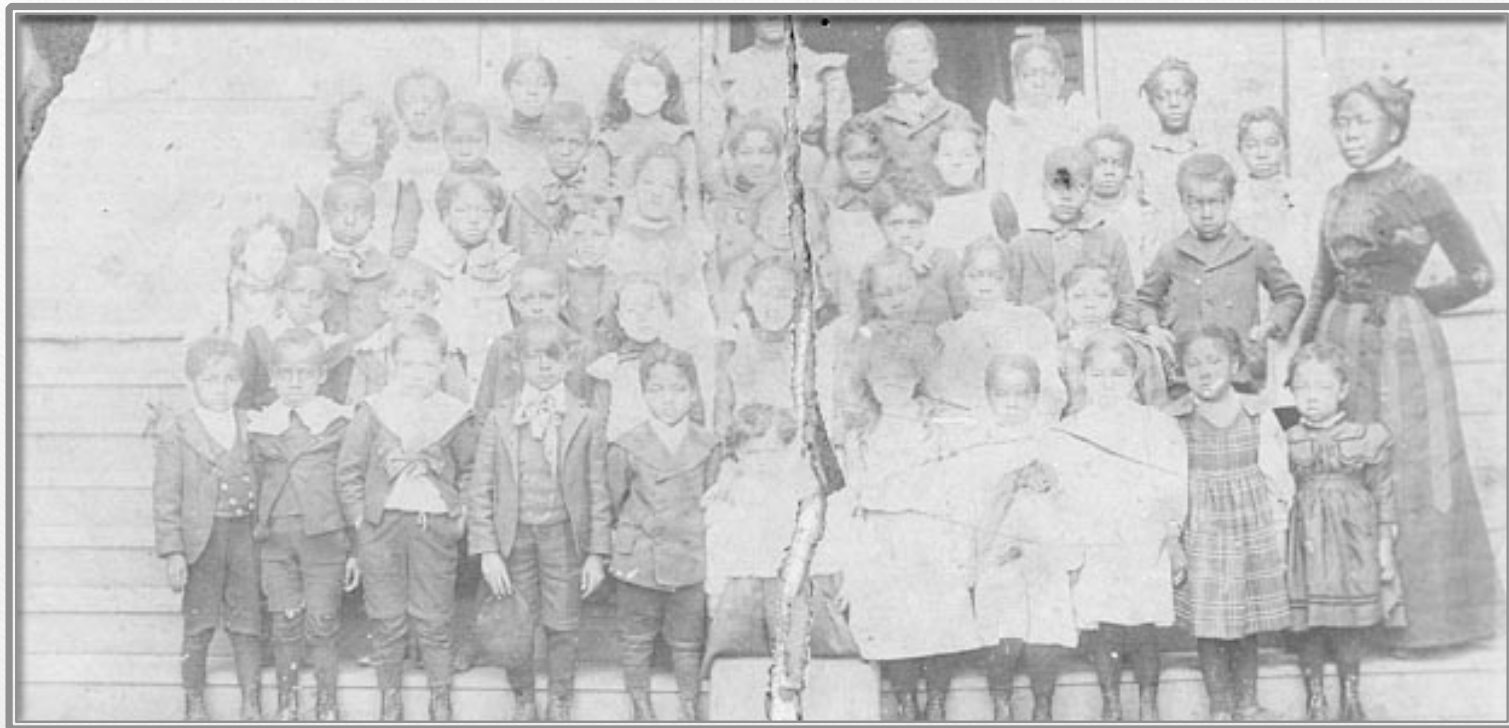
Fannie Cobb Carter graduated from Storer in 1891, and later became one of its trustees.

Evolution of a Dream

Charleston, WV: (1891 – 1908)

Instructor, Kanawha County Schools

- Miss Fannie began teaching locally, according to her, in 1901. Records indicate it was more likely 1895.
- The latter is likely correct, as there was a bit of a controversy that someone so young and inexperienced should be teaching school children.



Boyd School, ca. 1900

Contributions

- Reporter, *WV Beacon-Advocate* and *Charleston Daily Mail*
- (dates unknown, likely late 1890's to 1908)
- Miss Fannie was very possibly the first black woman reporter in the state of WV.



Woman's Improvement League

“Lifting as We Climb”

Additional Education

(dates and specifics unknown)

- Oberlin College
- University of Chicago
- Columbia University
- Ohio State University
- Hampton Institute

The Institute

(1908 – 1920)



West Virginia Colored/Collegiate Institute

Miss Fannie spent 12 years in the Normal Department (1908 – 1920), where she established the Teacher – Training Program.

The Week at Institute (ca. 1916)

• THE DAILY SCHEDULE

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| • | | • | |
| • | | • | Library 12:45 - 1:15 |
| • | Rising Bugle 5:30 a. m. | • | |
| • | | • | Recitations 1:30 -4:10 |
| • | Breakfast 6:30 | • | |
| • | | • | Military Drill 4:15 - 4:45 |
| • | Study Period 7:00 - 8:00 | • | |
| • | | • | Supper 5:00 |
| • | Chapel 8:15 | • | |
| • | | • | Evening Study Period 6:30 -9:30 |
| • | Recitations. 8:30 - 12:00 | • | |
| • | | • | Lights Out 10:00 |
| • | Dinner 12:15 | • | |
| | | • | WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYER MEETING 6:30 |
| | | • | LITERARY SOCIETY FRIDAY EVENING 6:30 |

TEACHERS' TRAINING COURSE

The purpose of this course is to train teachers for the public schools of the State.

That "teachers are born, not made," has been so fully accepted until the present century, that a study of subjects, without any study of principles or methods of teaching, has been deemed quite sufficient. Modern educational thought and modern practice, in all sections where the best schools are found, confirm the belief that all educational methods are based on underlying principles of education, and that a careful study of these principles and their application under guidance is essential in making fit the individual born to teach.

In the Training Course educational principles and theories are studied; educational problems are developed.

The work is divided into two parts: (a) The science of teaching, and (b) the art of teaching. In the science of teaching is included:

1. Psychology as a basis for principles and methods.
2. Methodology as a guide to instruction.
3. School Sanitation to make the teachers intelligent on the conditions under which their work should be done.
4. Study of the best writers on education, which gives breadth of view.

The art of teaching is best gained (1) by observation of good teaching, and (2) by practice teaching under criticism in the practice school.

- The text at left was the description for the Normal Course at WVCI throughout Miss Fannie's tenure in Institute.
- She was also active in the West Virginia Teachers' Association.

I Serve as Needed (1920 – 1926)

- Bluefield College
- Suffragette
- Real estate magnate
- Tapioca pudding maker (for her husband, Emory Rankin Carter, who passed away in January, 1925, at age 50)

“Remove those bars...”

State Industrial Home for Girls (1926 – 1936)



Industrial Home for Girls, Huntington, WV

Established in 1926, for “wayward” African – American girls.

Miss Fannie was its first superintendent

Retirement 1

(1937 – 1945)

“Spare this life, Governor”

To the Nation's Capital

National Professional and Trade School (1945 –
1962)

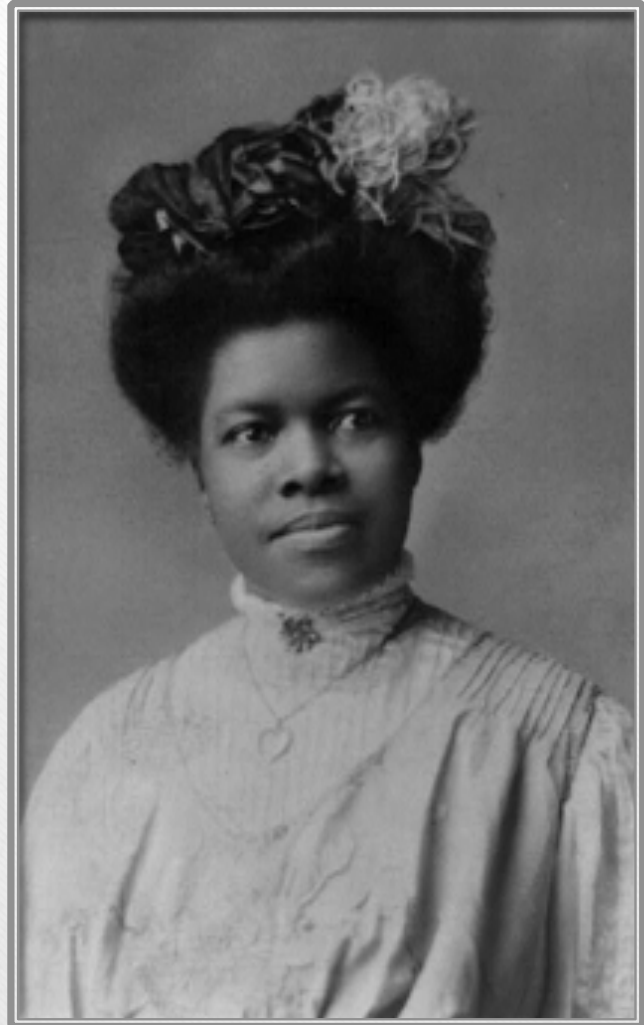
Nannie H. Burroughs

Founder and Director

National Trade and Professional School

Washington, D. C.

1901 – 1961





National Trade and Professional School

Date unknown

Retirement redux

My Home and Native Land (1962 – 1973)



Mattie V. Lee Home, Charleston, WV

Established in 1920, Miss Fannie resided here for the last several years of her life. The home, named for Charleston's first African – American female physician, was in some ways a predecessor to the State Industrial Home. It is currently utilized by Prestera Mental Health Services.

Quotable quotes

- “Right is right if nobody does it, and wrong is wrong if everybody does it.” (Miss Fannie’s version of the Golden Rule, her guiding principle in life)
- “I think (Jay) Rockefeller will make WV a garden spot if he is given a chance. He can’t be blamed if he was born rich and white. He would make a fine official for WV.”
- “I don’t think his heart is in the right place.” (Regarding Senator Byrd)
- “We used to know how to dance and sing, but now it seem that all we know how to do is raise hell.” (Regarding modern black culture)
- She preferred, “Just people” instead of black and white. “We need desegregated hearts.”
- “I would rather see little children playing on the hillsides. And I like to see cows and horses there.” (Regarding strip mining)

Remember me thus

Miss Fannie (center) celebrates
her 100th birthday (1973)

One of several celebrations of Miss
Fannie's life and career.

Note she is 100 years old and does not
wear glasses!



A tribute from a friend

- State of West Virginia Office of the Governor
Charleston 25305
- MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR
- I am happy to join with West Virginians from across the state in paying tribute to the life and work of Mrs. Fannie Cobb Carter.
- Mrs. Carter was a close friend and a source of inspiration to me. She and I communicated frequently over the years, and I was always intrigued by, and impressed with, her philosophy for living and the heights she attained in her many long years of service to the community at large. She crammed four careers into one productive lifetime, and was promoting brotherhood among blacks and whites at a time when it was not the most popular thing to do. She once said, "Life is like a piano. It has two kinds of keys, black and white. If you don't play both of them, you will never get harmony."
- An inspirational lady, she.
- I am proud to have known her and am happy to join, on behalf of all West Virginians, in paying tribute to her.
- Sincerely,
- [Signed Jay Rockefeller]
- John D. Rockefeller IV

Fannie Cobb Carter Day

June 11, 1977, by proclamation of John
Hutchison, mayor of Charleston.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

CITY OF CHARLESTON

PROCLAMATION

By the Mayor

WHEREAS: Mrs. Fannie Cobb Carter grew up in Charleston, West Virginia in the 1880's; and

WHEREAS: Mrs. Fannie Cobb Carter made a significant contribution to her Black American heritage and became an educator and humanitarian and

WHEREAS: Mrs. Fannie Cobb Carter will be honored by The Association for the study of Afro-American Life and History, Inc. by having a plaque placed in the Science and Culture Center for her distinguished service to mankind.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John G. Hutchinson, Mayor of the City of Charleston, do hereby proclaim June 11, 1977, as "Fannie Cobb Carter Day". I ask the people of this community to join me in honoring her memory.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused this seal of the City of Charleston to be affixed this 11th day of June 1977.



John G. Hutchinson

“My name, my place and my tomb – all
forgotten, the long space of time well and
peaceably run, so let me pass away
peacefully, silently, only remembered by
what I have done.”



Thanks to:

Ellen Ressmeyer, Janice Young, and Bill Spencer