

"Miss Lucile" was a vital force in the Clayton Community



Lucile Ellington Hocutt

It is because of the remarkable woman pictured above that the new Hocutt-Ellington Memorial Library is a reality.

Born on March 5, 1882 to the late Jesse T. and Delia Smith Ellington, "Miss Lucile," as she was known to Claytonites and hundreds of others across the state, grew up in Clayton. She lived in Smithfield for a period during her younger years when her father served as sheriff of Johnston County.

She attended the Clayton Free School, the Turlington Institute in Smithfield, private school, and the Clayton Public School. She graduated from Meredith College and later married the late Dr. Battle A. Hocutt, who was a general practitioner in Clayton for 42 years, until his death in 1946.

Because of her deep humanitarian spirit, it is difficult to single out any one contribution of Miss Lucile. She was a vital force in the Clayton community, in the county, the state, and in the southeast. Her love of people, and her desire to help them, led her into all areas of service.

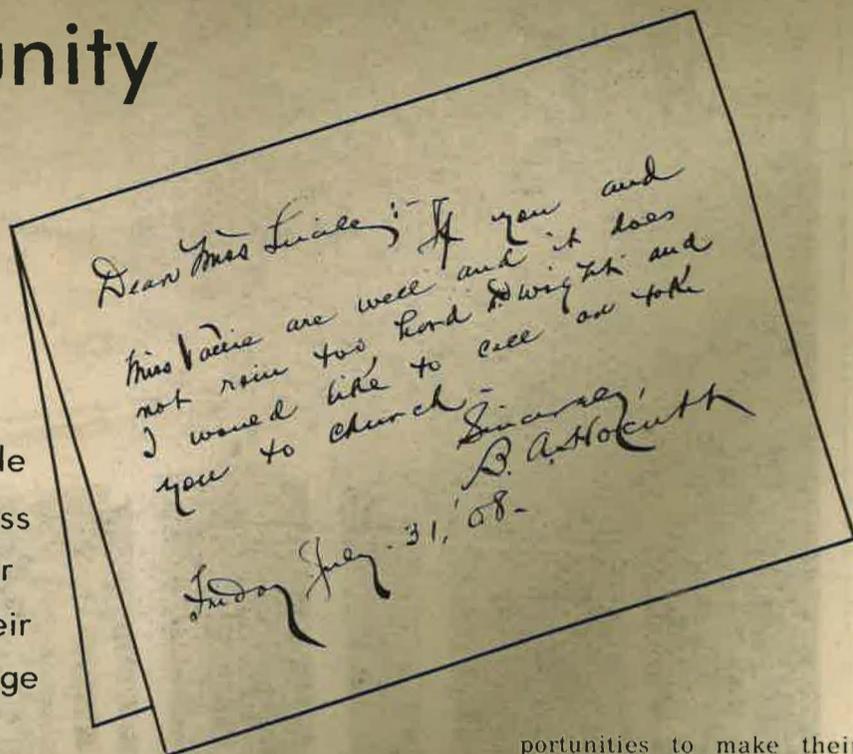
She was widely-known for her work in the Southern Baptist Convention and in the Federated Woman's Clubs. Her active interest in Clayton and its civic and church affairs led to her selection as Clayton's first Citizen of the Year," presented by the Clayton Civitan Club in 1965.

Miss Lucile served the Woman's Missionary Union both at her church, First Bap-

tist, in the Johnston Baptist Association and the State for more than 60 years, with responsibilities ranging from G. A. leader, messenger, and president, to superintendent. She served as superintendent for 14 consecutive years, as associate for nine years, and from 1913-1915 was vice-president pro-tem and YWA president. She served as chairman of the following committees: Mitchiner Scholarship Loan Fund, Heck-Jones, Training School, Stewardship, Personal Service, and White Cross.

Her zeal for missions —

A note
from
Dr. Hocutt
to Miss Lucile
written less
than a year
before their
marriage



home, state, and foreign — had far-reaching results. Clayton's Hocutt Memorial Church also became a reality through her generosity.

It was in the 1930's, during an eight-year period as president of the Clayton Woman's Club, that Miss Lucile began the drive to have a library established in Clayton, and her interest and support of the library continued until her death in 1974. She served as treasurer of the Clayton Public Library Board of Trustees for a number of years, and was a life-time member of the Board.

In May of 1965, Miss Lucile deeded her home on Second

Street, reserving life-time rights, to the Town of Clayton for a future library site. The gift was made as a memorial to her husband and her father, R. Lawrence Cooper, mayor at the time her decision was made, worked closely with Miss Lucile in arrangements for acceptance of her home.

The drive to establish a library was only one of many instigated and led by Miss Lucile through the Woman's Club. She served in all capacities in that organization on the local and statewide level. The clubhouse today holds a grandfather clock, a chair, and pictures which she contributed. In February of 1966, the Clayton Woman's Club selected her as "Outstanding Club Woman" in recognition of "faithful, honorable and creative service in various offices and projects."

While Miss Lucile worked through many organized groups, she was also a 'one-woman cheering section.' She encouraged young people in securing an education, in taking advantage of all op-

portunities to make their lives better, and in spiritual growth. The Hocutts had no children but three nieces and a nephew were reared under their guidance.

While not a natural mother, these words were used in a feature story by Belle Allen in the Raleigh Times years ago — "A lovely person, Miss Lucile has always loved people and although no children were born to her and Dr. Hocutt, Miss Lucile has many adopted children. There is probably no one more frequently remembered on Mother's Day. These children, ranging in all ages, come to her to bring a good report or to discuss a personal problem. Her interest in their problems and joys, and her willingness to share them, is known, appreciated and loved."

This love and interest is evident today — it bridges the past and the future — in the realization of the Hocutt-Ellington Memorial Library . . . a monument that will live forever, and in living provide a place of learning and enjoyment to children yet unborn.

*Her love is
evident today
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Congratulations & Best Wishes

We were happy to be your
Consulting Engineers for the Project.

**Progressive
Design Collaborative**

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