

African American college students, 1906

Second Annual Catalogue of the North Carolina State Colored Normal Schools for 1905-'06 (Raleigh: E. M. Uzzell & Co., for the North Carolina State Board of Education, 1906), pp. 25–26.

As you read...

This list was part of a report published in 1906 about the education of African Americans in North Carolina. This page showed the economic circumstances of many of the African Americans who attended the state's Colored Normal Schools. It also provided brief biographies of a handful of students who worked to pay for their own schooling.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. What were the most common types of occupations for African Americans living in north Carolina in 1906?
2. Who paid the tuition of the students who attended college?
3. What were some of the ways students supported themselves while they attended college?
4. How old were the men and women who attended college?
5. Why do you think the editors of this report chose to include information about whether students' parents were living?
6. How long did students attend college before they graduated?
7. Why do you think this information was of interest to North Carolinians? What do you think the purpose of this report might have been?
8. For comparison, a list of some graduates and their present (1906) occupations begins on page 27 of the report (see <http://digital.lib.ecu.edu/historyfiction/viewer.aspx?id=ncc>). How does this compare with the occupations of students' parents?
9. What can we learn from this report about the value that African Americans placed on education?

Record of Pupils, 1905-'06.

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Total number of pupils	79	241	320
Occupation of Parents.			
Pupils whose parents are farmers	43	84	127
Pupils whose parents are preachers	5	16	21
Pupils whose parents are merchants	3	11	14
Pupils whose parents are butchers	1	3	4
Pupils whose parents are carpenters	3	12	15
Pupils whose parents are fishermen		3	3
Pupils whose parents are teachers	5	2	7
Pupils whose parents have some other occupation	19	50	69
Self help.			
Pupils whose parents own their own homes	25	124	149
Percentage whose parents own their own homes	32.0	51.4	46.5
Pupils who pay all their expenses at school	20	30	50
Pupils who partly pay their expenses at school	50	211	261
Pupils whose parents pay all their expenses	9		9

Some self-supporting students 1905-'06.

1. George T. Jones, born in Lewiston, Bertie County; age, 23; attended public school eight terms; entered State Normal School 1902; was janitor, mail-carrier and did other work for school; during vacation worked in furniture store and drug store; taught two Sunday-school classes, sang in choir and paid all his school expenses; father dead; graduated 1906.
2. Moses Collins, born, 1882, in Washington County; attended public school eight terms; worked on farm; attended State Normal School five terms; during vacations worked at saw-mills and on farms; graduated 1906; parents dead; paid all his own expenses.

3. Emily O. Piland, born Gates County, 1880; father dead; worked on farm to educate herself; attended public school ten terms; entered State Normal School at age 18; continued working on farm during vacations; graduated 1906.
4. Clarkie Hinton, born in Pasquotank County, 1886; worked on farm; attended public school nine terms; during vacations worked on father's farm; graduated 1906; has teacher's certificate.
5. Willie Person, born in Northampton County twenty-two years ago; works on farm and at saw-mill; pays own expenses; attended public school ten terms; attended Garysburg High School two terms; entered State Normal School 1905; will graduate 1907; parents living.
6. Lewis Person, born in Northampton County twenty years ago; works on farm and at saw-mill for support; attended public school eight terms; attended Garysburg High School two terms; entered State Normal School 1905; parents living; will graduate 1907.
7. James H. Rowsom, born 1884, in Washington County; attended public school eight terms; works on farm; pays own schooling; mother dead; entered State Normal School 1902; graduated 1906.
8. Mary E. Bonner, born 1884, in Brunswick County, Va.; moved to Northampton County at five years of age; attended public school in Northampton and assisted parents on farm; entered State Normal School 1904; will graduate 1907.
9. Rosia Toomer, born in Chatham County, 1888; father dead; mother owns little farm; works on farm to support family and educate herself; left school this spring to begin farming; attended public school; wants to teach to help her race; entered normal in 1906.
10. Mamie L. Cheek, born twenty years ago; father owns farm; she works on farm; attended public school; entered normal 1906; honest and faithful.
11. Enolia L. Davis of Warren County, 17 years of age; father dead; mother owns home and farm; works on farm; attended public school; entered normal 1906.

On the web

African American college students: Classroom activity

<http://www.learnnc.org/lp/pages/6508>

In this lesson plan, students will read a primary source document about African American college students in 1906 and answer a series of questions as they assume the role of a young African American woman in the early 20th century.

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