

# Betty Woolfolk

**Contents: Documents featuring the Yazoo City teacher Betty Woolfolk**

- 1. 1927-07-05 - Yazoo Herald - Obituary of Betty Woolfolk**

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310 N. Main Street, Yazoo City, Mississippi 39194**

Obituary Paraphrased from Yazoo Herald July 5, 1927, p2

## Betty Woolfolk

Betty Murdock spent her life in Yazoo City. She was the only daughter of Adeline Murdock and had been trained well in the Culinary arts by the late Mrs Mary Murdock. Training <sup>and discipline</sup> from her mother had been handed down to Bettye that gave her an insight into what real citizenship really was.

Bettye did not have the opportunity that boys & girls have today, but she studied every minute and every hour that she could applying herself diligently. She had an ambition of becoming a teacher in the public school of Yazoo. She finally reached her goal and after a few years of teaching she married Johnson Woolfolk. They lived together for a long time ~~and~~ both she and her husband were considered ~~her~~ nothing less than honorable people.

She was preparing to take a vacation to visit her children who had married and moved away when an old ~~load~~ postal was resurrected, went off, and killed Bettye almost instantly.

Her life was well spent in an earnest and quiet effort to do what she could to lead her people to a better plane of life. In addition to her school work, Bettye took a special interest in her Church affairs.

During the flood period, she was especially active in Red Cross work. To her children she has left a priceless legacy - a good name. She served as a splendid example for those to come after her.

1905 City Directory:  
 409  
 lived on Ridgerow (sp.)  
 teacher pub. school #2  
 Johnson H. Woolfolk (her husband)  
 was a barber at City Barber Shop  
 713 City Directory:  
 Woolfolk, Bettie,  
 teacher, City Public  
 School  
 husband Johnson  
 Woolfolk was a  
 barber at Marshall  
 & Dean  
 They lived at  
 409 Ridge Rd.

Bettie Woolfolk  
 born:  
 7/04/1869  
 died:  
 7/02/1927  
 buried: Glenwood  
 Cemetery  
 Columbus  
 Robinson  
 Addition - Black

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## Splendid Negro School Teacher Is Accidentally Shot

Friday morning when the news was spread in the city that Johnson Woolfolk had accidentally shot and killed his wife, Betty, there were general expressions of regret.

Betty Murdock Woolfolk had spent her life in Yazoo City, being the only daughter of Adeline Murdock, who had been carefully trained in the culinary arts by the late Mrs. Mary Murdock, one of the most charitable and intelligent women of Yazoo City.

To her daughter, Bettie, Adeline handed down the careful training and discipline which had been given to her and the girl grew into a young woman with ideals that gave her an insight into what real citizenship means.

Betty did not have the advantages that the present day colored children have for acquiring an education, but being ambitious and understanding, and as an example to her own people, she spent few idle hours a day and applied herself diligently to the task of preparation that she might be able to accept a position in the city public school for her race. She finally reached her goal and after a few years at this work she married Johnson Woolfolk, and they lived together for a long time, there being no time when either was accused of anything that is dishonorable.

Betty did not remain out of school work long as she was again elected to a position in the city schools for colored children, and for over twenty years she held this position and her work was always of the highest order.

Her own children having married and moved away, she was preparing to take a vacation to visit them. She and her husband were packing up their effects to visit their children for a few weeks when the old pistol was resurrected, and, like all unloaded guns, it went off, killing Betty almost instantly, and thus made her vacation a long one, from which no traveler has returned.

Her life was well spent in an earnest and quiet effort to do what she could to lead her own race to a better plane of living and her tragic death is a distinct loss to her race and to the city.

In addition to her school work Betty took especial interest in church affairs. During the flood period she was also especially active in Red Cross work.

To her children she has left a priceless legacy—a good name—and her children are reflections of the splendid mother who bore them.

A negress whose heart was white, a type of colored citizen who will serve as a splendid example for those to come, Betty Woolfolk will be sadly missed by the people of her own race as well as many of her white friends.

F. C. Chitty and Mr. Ryan were visitors to Biloxi this past week end.

## Civil War Should Rai

Elnathan T. Beaufort, president of the project for old Confederate widows by the

Mr. Tarrt more money for "thin grey line" is raising a presented to Thad B. Lam financier, is the interest of are rapidly th

In our opinion at least pay the sum of their remain this petition old office by interested may so they may proper time.

## Thrilling Depict Old

Said to be one of the most thrilling and thrilling five years is a sea picture of Elinor Fair, V Coghlan, whic Yazoo Theatre is an absorbing glorious days War when the reigned trium

The story of a young seaman vented the des "V"-shaped sails the vessel in search of Winslow meet ship captain similar missile accompanied by Jocelyn, and other from a bit engaged to a who proves h and cad.

At a dinner chant, it is as "The Yankee by Winslow Isle," owned carry cargoes that the vessel have the mon

Yazoo Herald  
 July 5, 1927  
 p. 2

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