

Flora Fisher Allen proves education defines opportunities

After the Civil War, African Americans viewed education as a necessity – not only to secure their freedom long term – but to achieve economic independence and citizenship rights. They hoped it would be a tool to combat systemic racism which in turn would enable former slaves to transition from forced labor to better economic opportunities.

Born in 1875, Mary McLeod Bethune became a Black American educator from South Carolina who would later become a philanthropist, humanitarian, civil right activist and an active proponent of the education of African American girls and women. She established African American schools, started Black women's organizations and eventually served as the first Black woman to lead a federal agency under President Franklin Roosevelt. But in 1920, early in her career, Bethune published a paper geared toward African Americans called "A Philosophy of Education for Negro Girls."

She wrote: "For the past 70 years, the Negro has experienced various degrees of free-



VIRGINIA GRAVES

dom. That which was given him in the early years of emancipation ... and that which today he must take."

She firmly believed that a great deal of this new freedom rested upon the type of education which a Black woman would receive in the years to come.

When Mary Bethune penned this article in 1920, Flora Fisher was only 10 years old. It may have been much later before young Flora

became aware of the fight for educational opportunities for Black women, but Flora's instincts seem to get the message.

Born on April 21, 1910, Flora was the youngest daughter of Henry and Virginia Fisher. It is unclear when and where Flora received her early education. She could have attended the original Durham School that was short lived or she could have attended Lincoln Institute at Lincoln Ridge or Central High School in Louisville along with other Taylor County black students determined to continue a higher education.

But like Bethune, Flora and her family recognized how an education would enhance her



Flora Fisher Allen was a local educator for 50 years.

future and the future of her children.

The July 25, 1929, edition of the Central Kentucky News-Journal reported that 19-year-old Flora Fisher was the new teacher for the Old Pittman Black school. The 1930 census likewise confirmed her profession as a teacher in Taylor County.

In August of 1930, the Taylor County Colored Teachers' Association had been organized and Flora became the chairman of the program committee. In October of the same year, the CKNJ reported on the meeting of the Colored Teachers Association.

Flora Fisher had taught a class on the "Best Method for Teaching English."

In 1937, it was reported in the newspaper that the city school board had decided to build a high school (Durham) for Black students. Both Ruth Hodgen and Flora Fisher were re-elected as teachers.

By the 1940 census, Flora's parents were deceased and she was living on Fisher Street in Campbellsville with several of her siblings and other family members. An interesting note captured by the census taker was that by 1940, Flora had completed two years of college. Later information known about Flora was that she was a graduate of Kentucky State College (now University) in Frankfort. By the 1950 census, Flora is married to Frank Allen.

In the history of Durham High School, Mrs. Flora Fisher Allen was spoken of highly. "The school was a family and each teacher assumed the role and was given the authority of a parent. The first prom was sponsored by Mr. Ivery and the music was a special feature given by Mrs. Allen who was also the choir director. Mrs. Allen's talents appeared in every aspect of school life."

The Durham High School

Song was also written by Flora Allen.

Flora Fisher Allen taught in the Campbellsville school system for more than 50 years, having moved from segregation to integration. Greatly loved by her students, Allen was named the Kiwanis Club and CKNJ Citizen of the Month in August 1978.

Allen had been a long member of First Baptist Church where she was a faithful pianist and choir director. She was a member of the Retired Teacher Association and Homemakers Club. She likewise continued teaching piano lessons until she became ill.

Allen was known as a remarkable woman who touched many lives. Her obituary read, "She was strong, yet gentle ... and had a special way that warmed the hearts of all who knew her."

Flora Allen died in 2003 at the age of 92 and is buried with her husband, parents and siblings in the Odd Fellows Cemetery in Campbellsville.

Virginia Graves is coordinator of the Taylor Regional Archive Center, a non-profit organization which preserves local history and genealogy. For information, call 270-789-4343 or send an email to info@TaylorRegionalArchiveCenter.com.

EARLY DAYS

TEN YEARS AGO

February 2016

Campbellsville Independent School District has a new free mobile application for students, parents and community members to stay up-to-date on what is happening in the District, directly from their smartphone or tablet.

David Sloan scored 17 of his 20 points in the second half while Quentin Goodin added a triple-double as Taylor County edged highly rated Lexington Paul Laurence Dunbar 55-54 at home in basketball action.

Michael Ray Spear, 57, of Fallbrook, California, formerly of Campbellsville, died Saturday, Feb. 6, 2016, in California.

J. Lynwood Kessler, 94, of Campbellsville, died Feb. 6, 2016, in Campbellsville.

TWENTY YEARS AGO

February 2006

Russell Overstreet was recognized Pitman 124 Masonic Lodge for 40 years of membership.

Michael Green and Crystal Rooker, representing the senior class, were named 2006 Taylor County High Home-

coming King and Queen.

Elizabeth Rogers and Lera Williams celebrated double birthdays on Feb. 9. Rogers turned 6, while Williams was 106.

THIRTY YEARS AGO

February 1996

Melanie Gray Stone of Taylor County is among 558 students at Eastern Kentucky University named to the president's list for the fall semester.

Black History Month was recognized during a special program, which looked at lessons of the past and how they affect us today.

FORTY YEARS AGO

February 1986

Mark Woodrum, a senior at Taylor County High School, has been named chapter winner of the Courier-Journal and Louisville Times FFA Contest.

Lewis Hansford, Plainview Subdivision, celebrated his 90th birthday, Sunday, Feb. 16.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Eastridge have returned home after spending several days with their son and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. J.D. Eastridge, in Clearwater.

ter, Florida.

David Wilcoxson of Cincinnati, Ohio, visited his mother, Peggy Wilcoxson and grandmother, Doris Grammer, the weekend of Feb. 16.

FIFTY YEARS AGO

February 1976

Mr. and Mrs. C.W. Campbell Sr. celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Sunday, Feb. 22, with a reception at Palestine Church.

Gwen Robinson celebrated her 19th birthday Jan. 24 with a few of her friends in the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Allen Robinson, Cherry Street.

Mrs. W.G. Cave entered Baptist East Hospital in Louisville for surgery.

SIXTY YEARS AGO

February 1966

David Gillsippe, who teaches at Taylor County High School, was runner-up for the Outstanding Young Educator Award in the state of Kentucky.

A high wind hit the Meadow Creek section of Taylor and Green counties last week, demolishing a 22x84 storage

building on the property of Sheriff Paul McCubbin.

The Rev. George K. Bowling, 45, pastor of Campbellsville Catholic Church, is the News-Journal Man of the Week.

SEVENTY YEARS AGO

February 1956

Maj. Gen. Virgil L. Peterson, the Army's inspector general in World War II and a longtime friend of President Dwight Eisenhower, died Feb. 15 of a heart ailment at Walter Reed Hospital in Maryland. He was 73. He was a native of Mannsville and retired from the U.S. Army in 1946.

Ben H. Settles, son of the Rev. and Mrs. B.E. Settles, Columbia Avenue, was promoted to colonel in the United States Air Force.

Cadet Capt. Roger Monson, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Monson of this city, recently participated in the Kentucky Military Institute's annual Valentine Parade in Venice, Florida.

EIGHTY YEARS AGO

February 1946

Robert Kerr, well-known

native and former resident of Harrods Creek near Louisville, drowned. Mr. Kerr, 49, was fishing with friends when he fell from a motor boat and, due to heavy clothing, drowned before his companions could reach him.

More than 500 cans of food have been collected for the United Nations Rehabilitation Relief to date, Mrs. Emmet Ramsey, president, stated.

NINETY YEARS AGO

February 1936

A truck driven by an unknown person hit the car of N.H. Smith, which was parked on the street Saturday night and tore up the front end of the car. Damages were estimated at \$75. The radiator was torn up badly, the bumper and fenders crushed.

An electric machine is being used by the West Virginia Water Co. to thaw frozen pipes throughout the city. Many pipes that have been frozen for almost a month are now in working condition.

HUNDRED YEARS AGO

February 1926

G.R. Holt, who has been sick for the past three years, was back in town where he met many of his old friends. Mr. Holt was manager of Singer Sewing Machine Co. for 29 years.

HUNDRED TEN YEARS AGO

February 1916

Fred Faulkner has been granted a license to practice law. At the February term of the Circuit Court at LaGrange, he stood the examination well and was given as a result a license to practice in Kentucky.

Miss Ethel Moss, who has been with the Rosenthal Slean Millinery Company, in St. Louis has accepted a position at Merigold.

In a double-ring ceremony, Miss Lettie Read and Lennie Farmer and Miss Bertha Farmer and John Tungate were united in marriage by the Rev. J.W. Marrs.

History buffs visit the past during 2 events in E'town

BY KODEE BRINEGAR

PAXTON MEDIA GROUP

When visitors entered Pritchard Community Center on Saturday, it was like taking a step back in time.

Two events in Elizabethtown hosted under one roof – the Bucksnort Longhuners 18th Century Market Fair and the Ancestral Trails Historical Society Book Fair – offered a history buff's delight.

Vendors and guests dressed in 18th-century clothes and admired hand-crafted textiles, flintlock rifles and pelts, among other items.

Gary McCleese of Bardstown said he collects 18th-century items and came looking for gun parts and accessories from the time.

"This is kind of like a time period when (Daniel) Boone would come across through the Cumberland Gap to explore, survey the land," McCleese said. "This is all the goods and stuff they would use when they came across. It's important to keep our history alive in any way we can."

Amanda Park said she was excited to look for history books to add to her shelf at home.

"Reading about history offers a better understanding of what happened in the world," Park said. "Reading requires active, critical thinking to evaluate information, making it more stimulating than passive, casual conversation."

TAYLOR COUNTY DISTRICT COURT LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Rhonda Gayle Phillips of Campbellsville, Kentucky has qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Norman P. Phillips, of Campbellsville, Kentucky on this day January 22, 2026. All creditors must file claims by July 22, 2026. Fiduciary represented by Hon. Angela M. Call of Campbellsville, Kentucky. Susie Skaggs, Taylor Co. Circuit Court Clerk.

Campbellsville, Kentucky. Susie Skaggs, Taylor Co. Circuit Court Clerk.

John D. Bertram, Executor, of the Estate of Larry Charles Jessie has filed FINAL Settlement this January 19, 2026. A hearing for confirmation and approval will be held on February 25, 2026. Any exception to such settlement must be filed before that time. Susie Skaggs, Taylor Co. Circuit Court Clerk.

Barbara Lynn Freemann, Executrix, of the Estate of Rebecca Ann Mann has filed FINAL Settlement this January 19, 2026. A hearing for confirmation and approval will be held on February 25, 2026. Any exception to such settlement must be filed before that time. Susie Skaggs, Taylor Co. Circuit Court Clerk.

Erin Dawn Lee, Executrix, of the Estate of Francis Lee has filed FINAL Settlement this January 20, 2026. A hearing for confirmation and approval will be held on February 25, 2026. Any exception to such settlement must be filed before that time. Susie Skaggs, Taylor Co. Circuit Court Clerk.

Lori A. Rawlings, Administratrix, of the Estate of Kevin Michael Rawling, Jr. has filed FINAL Settlement this January 20, 2026. A hearing for confirmation and approval will be held on February 25, 2026. Any exception to such settlement must be filed before that time. Susie Skaggs, Taylor Co. Circuit Court Clerk.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Cheryl K. Mings of Campbellsville, Kentucky has qualified as Executrix of the Estate of Sandra Marlene Hunt of Campbellsville, Kentucky on this day January 29, 2026. All creditors must file claims by July 29, 2026. Fiduciary represented by Hon. Mackenzie D. Smith of Campbellsville, Kentucky. Susie Skaggs, Taylor Co. Circuit Court Clerk.

Melvin Roy Mosley, Executor, of the Estate of Brenda Park

has filed FINAL Settlement this January 22, 2026. A hearing for confirmation and approval will be held on February 25, 2026. Any exception to such settlement must be filed before that time. Susie Skaggs, Taylor Co. Circuit Court Clerk.

Jimmy Hunt, Executor, of the Estate of Lula Mae Farmer has filed FINAL Settlement this January 30, 2026. A hearing for confirmation and approval will be held on February 25, 2026. Any exception to such settlement must be filed before that time. Susie Skaggs, Taylor Co. Circuit Court Clerk.

Michela Larimore, Executrix of the Estate of Diana Troy has filed FINAL Settlement this February 3, 2026. A hearing for confirmation and approval will be held on February 25, 2026. Any exception to such settlement must be filed before that time. Susie Skaggs, Taylor Co. Circuit Court Clerk.

Larry Bell and Karen Reliford, Co-Executors of the Estate of Carolyn S. Bell has filed FINAL Settlement this January 30, 2026. A hearing for confirmation and approval will be held on March 4, 2026. Any exception to such settlement must be filed before that time. Susie Skaggs, Taylor Co. Circuit Court Clerk.

John D. Bertram, Executor, of the Estate of Steven Gene White has filed FINAL Settlement this February 2, 2026. A hearing for confirmation and approval will be held on March 4, 2026. Any exception to such settlement must be filed before that time. Susie Skaggs, Taylor Co. Circuit Court Clerk.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Greta Jo Smith, of Campbellsville, Kentucky has qualified as Executrix of the Estate of Lura Alice Nance of Campbellsville, Kentucky on February 3, 2026. All creditors must file claims by August 3, 2026. Fiduciary represented by Hon. Jeremy Wood of

Campbellsville, Kentucky. Susie Skaggs, Taylor Co. Circuit Court Clerk.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lori A. Rawlings, Administratrix, of the Estate of Kevin Michael Rawling, Jr. has filed FINAL Settlement this January 20, 2026. A hearing for confirmation and approval will be held on February 25, 2026. Any exception to such settlement must be filed before that time. Susie Skaggs, Taylor Co. Circuit Court Clerk.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lori A. Rawlings, Administratrix, of the Estate of Kevin Michael Rawling, Jr. has filed FINAL Settlement this January 20, 2026. A hearing for confirmation and approval will be held on February 25, 2026. Any exception to such settlement must be filed before that time. Susie Skaggs, Taylor Co. Circuit Court Clerk.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lori A. Rawlings, Administratrix, of the Estate of Kevin Michael Rawling, Jr. has filed FINAL Settlement this January 20, 2026. A hearing for confirmation and approval will be held on February 25, 2026. Any exception to such settlement must be filed before that time. Susie Skaggs, Taylor Co. Circuit Court Clerk.