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## MRS. ETHEL CROUCH MERCER

1888 — 1961

Mrs. Ethel Crouch Mercer was born February 3, 1888, Washington County, Tennessee, into a large, loving family. Her mother and father were Nacissus and Martin Shipley Crouch. Mrs. Ethel Crouch Mercer died September 13, 1961, after a critical illness



of six weeks, at which time she was a patient in Washington Medical Center, Washington, D. C. In her last illness she was most tenderly cared for by her sister, Julia Crouch of Arlington, Va., Mrs. Marion Carr, her niece of Johnson City, Tennessee, and her nephew, Dr. William H. Ferguson, who is associated with the Washington Medical Center. She is also survived by another nephew, Louis Young. The body of Mrs. Mercer was returned to her old home for burial in the family plot of Monte Vista Cemetery in Johnson City.

Mrs. Mercer was educated in Johnson City and then went into training to be a nurse. She became a graduate nurse of Baptist Hospital in Memphis and worked there for a number of years. Later she was surgical supervisor at Barnes Hospital in St. Louis, Mo. She was also associated with Memorial Hospital, Johnson City, Tennessee, in her later years and worked there until her retirement.

Mrs. Ethel Crouch Mercer met the Reverend Saul E. Mercer while both were vacationing at Lake Junaluska. Both of them being Methodists and very active, they had many mutual interests. After the Reverend Saul E. Mercer was appointed to serve the Washington District as Presiding Elder, as it was then called, they were married December 12, 1925, in Nashville, Tennessee, by Dr. J. L. Cuninggim, president of Scarritt College. The bride was a tall handsome picture of loveliness in a beautiful blue outfit.

It was my good fortune to have Mother Grace, as we called her, for my second mother. She took on the duties and joys of a parsonage home and she and my father traveled together to every appointment, sometimes three a Sunday. She loved to entertain the preachers and their wives and also my young friends. The district parsonage was a truly happy home to all of us.

After my father's sudden death in the summer of 1928 she returned to her former home in Johnson City and soon renewed her spirits and energy by serving others once again as a nurse. She was most thoughtful of others and especially on holidays when she would volunteer for duty and allow others to be with their loved ones.

When failing health would no longer allow her active duty she retired at the age of seventy-one and went and made her home with her sister in Arlington, Va. At the last she wrote me, "I find it so hard to let others do for me, but I am learning."

I will cherish the memory of this capable, loving, Christian woman as long as I live and my brothers, her step-sons, Almon Mercer and Linwood E. Mercer of Washington, N. C., join me in this wonderful memory.

## LORD, LEAD US STILL

Along the varied paths of life,  
Through hours of joy and sorrow keen,  
In grim temptation's mortal strife,  
In doubt or confidence serene;  
Lord, lead us still,  
O lead us still.

Through all the changes of the years,  
Whate'er of good or ill betide,  
In laughter gay or bitter tears,  
O keep us ever at Thy side;  
Lord, lead us still,  
O lead us still.

And when at last the tale is told,  
The victory won by Thy good grace,  
May we Thy glory, Lord, behold,  
In that blest Homeland see Thy face;  
Lord, lead us still,  
O lead us still.

—MRS. JANE MERCER APPLEWHITE

## MRS. MARY FOUST HOLMES

1866 — 1961

Mrs. Mary Foust Holmes, a daughter of the late John and Angeline Snipes Foust, was born April 29, 1866, near the Bethel Methodist Church in the Southern part of Alamance County, N. C. She was married to the late Reverend George W. Holmes, who for many years was prominent in educational and church circles in the former Methodist Protestant Church. Mrs. Holmes passed away December 16, 1961. Funeral services were held at the Bethel Methodist Church by her pastor, the Rev. K. E. Halcott, assisted by the Rev. Harry Wood of the Leaksville Baptist Church and Rev. T. J. Whitehead, pastor of the First Methodist Church of Graham. Mrs. Holmes was laid to rest by the side of her late husband who had preceded her in death by twenty-four years. Burial was in the family plot in Bethel Church cemetery.



Mrs. Holmes is survived by the following children: Mrs. George B. Robbins, Miss Minnie Mae Holmes, Ralph W. Holmes, and George W. Holmes, Jr., all of Graham, N. C., Joseph W. Holmes of Burlington, N. C., and James E. Holmes of Leaksville, N. C. A daughter, Mary Holmes, and a son, John Albert Holmes of Eden-ton, N. C., preceded Mrs. Holmes in death.

Mrs. Holmes was reared in a devout Christian home, and early in life became an active member of Bethel Church which she loved and served as occasion permitted throughout her entire life. She held dear the missionary society and its objects, also other phases of the Christian service program. She was a church attendant as often as her health and other factors permitted until after she passed her ninetieth birthday.

She was married to the late Reverend George W. Holmes, also of Alamance County, on March 23, 1887. Her husband at the time of their marriage was the principal of Bethel Academy. In the year 1890 Mr. Holmes became the president of Yadkin College located in Davidson County, owned by the North Carolina Conference of The Methodist Protestant Church, and a forerunner of High Point College. Mrs. Holmes was active in her close associations with many of the college students, especially with the young women students. Her friendly counselling, and constant efforts to provide comfortable homelike and pleasant social surroundings in a Christian atmosphere made many friends for her among the student body. Some of these friendships lasted throughout her lifetime.

In the year 1900 Professor and Mrs. Holmes with their family returned to Alamance County where Mr. Holmes established in Burlington, N. C., a private academy, and continued in the teaching profession another year. Brother Holmes had felt a strong