



## **Mrs. Blanche Youngblood Collins**

In 1907 Mrs. Collins started teaching in a one-room school in Juniper, Georgia, at the age of 16. She chose to further her education at the State Normal School. Mrs. Collins paid her own way through school as a teacher and principal in Athens. She began teaching in Houston County in 1916. She had no choice but to leave the profession in 1917, when she married George Collins, as married women were not allowed to teach at that time.

When the rule was changed, Mrs. Collins returned to teaching at the Henderson School, a two-teacher school where she was also the principal. In addition, she taught at Thomas Elementary and C.B. Watson Elementary. When Bonaire Elementary opened in 1960, Mrs. Collins was a part of the original faculty, teaching first grade. She retired from Bonaire Elementary in the 1960s, but continued as a substitute for several years.

During her 53 years in the classrooms of Houston County, Mrs. Collins influenced the young minds and hearts of students such as former Houston County Superintendent of Schools David Perdue, Sheriff Cullen Talton, former City of Warner Robins Mayor Homer J. Walker, and her grandchildren, including Houston County High School teacher and coach, George Collins. The media center at Bonaire Middle School is named in her honor. Mrs. Collins passed away in February of 1985.