

HISTORY OF BENJAMIN L. PERRY , SR. AND FAMILY

Benjamin L. Perry, Sr.

Born January 8, 1888 in Bullock County, Union Springs, Alabama. Died in Tallahassee, Florida December 21, 1949.

Mr. Perry was born on a farm in Union Springs, Alabama. At an early age he was forced to accept the responsibility of his mother. He later moved to Tuskegee. He was a loyal student of the late Booker T. Washington and was imbued with the spirit of performing well any assignment.

His educational experiences were as follows:

*Diploma - Tuskegee Inst 1912
BS - Tuskegee Inst 1932
MS - Iowa State College 1935*

Hungerford Academy, Eatonville, Florida-- He served as instructor in charge of agriculture from 1912 to 1918. He found it necessary to assist the institution in raising funds for its operational expenses. He directed a men's choral group and on several occasions walked with them to neighboring town of Winter Park and Orlando in order to sing before philanthropic groups.

He also served as the first mayor of the town and was instrumental in installing the first street lights in the city of Eatonville. As a pioneer politician, he served in many capacities since the town could not afford a paid staff of workers. Most of the work was performed by citizens on a volunteer basis.

Florida Agricultural and Mechanical College-- He moved to Tallahassee to accept a position as instructor in agriculture. He also served in capacities as county agent, Jefferson County and state 4-H club agent (1918 to 1919)

Florida Normal and Industrial Institute-- St. Augustine, Florida. 1920-22

President Collier personally appealed to Mr. Perry to come to St. Augustine to assist with the development of that institution. Mr.

Perry accepted the position of teacher of agriculture. He also served as supervisor of grounds and Counselor for Boys.

Georgia Normal and Industrial Institute (1922-24) (Albany, Georgia)

Was employed as teacher of vocational agriculture. He was very successful in developing the college farm and inspiring students of vocational agriculture.

Florida A. & M. University 1925. Mr. Perry was invited to return to Florida A. & M. College by President Young and the Board of Control. as instructor of agriculture and with the specific challenge to develop the college farm as a laboratory for students and to also provide supplementary foodstuff for the boarding department.

Mr. Perry served in multiple capacities in the division of agriculture from 1925 to 1928 after which he was made Dean of the division. He was noted for his organizational ability; his ability to inspire the vocational agriculture students and his "green thumb" with the university laboratory farm. Teaching by precept and example was the philosophy followed by him and his staff.

He served in the capacity of Dean until he retired in June, 1947.

Publications Many unpublished materials were sent to teachers of vocational agriculture, County agents, and others working toward the improvement and beautification of homes.

Two major publications were published in national magazines:

Improving Instruction in Vocational Agriculture Academy of Political
and Social Science

Status of Seventeen Negro Land Grant Colleges -- Educational Record

Other Major Accomplishments:

Mr. Perry was successful in organizing an agricultural division that gained national recognition for its course offerings and practical agricultural laboratory as well as public respect for the graduates released.

He served as a member of the Executive Committee of Florida A. & M. College which as the major policy-making body under the Lee administration.

Mr. D. E. Williams, Supervisor of Negro Education, State Department of Education, invited Dean Perry to travel throughout the state visiting struggling high schools where he assisted principals and others in planning for school beautification and encouraging clean-up and beautification campaigns in Florida communities.

Dean Perry was truly a pioneer in the State of Florida having served in the developing of several institutions. He also made significant civic and religious contributions to the Tallahassee Community

ANNIE L. PERRY

Annie L. Gordon married Benjamin L. Perry, Sr., June 21, 1917. They met while in school in Tuskegee. Mrs. Perry was born in Columbia, Tennessee, March 3, 1891. Her early education was received in the public schools in Columbia. Other educational experiences were as follows:

Diploma	Tuskegee Institute, 1913
Normal Teaching	
Diploma	Florida A. & M. College 1941
B. S.	" " " " 1945
M. S.	" " " Univ. 1956.

Along with her husband Mrs. Perry was a pioneer worker in education. She served as the first Jeanes Teacher Supervisor for Leon County under the sponsorship of the Julius Rosenwald Foundation. By soliciting funds from the Leon County community and the School Board she was successful in obtaining matching money from the Rosenwald Fund to construct the Ocklawaha Elementary School and the Lake McBride School.

Her travels by horse and buggy and later by automobile took her through every segment of Leon County. She prided herself in being able to interest boys and girls in handicraft in the rural community; parents

in home beautification and cleanliness projects, and rendered assistance to teachers in classroom methods and record-keeping.

She retired from Leon County in 1950 due mainly to the grief of the loss of her husband. Later finding it necessary, she returned to teaching and accepted work in Thomas County, Meigs, Georgia. After teaching two years, she was selected by her colleagues as the Teacher of the Year.

Along with other pioneer citizens, the record should show that Mrs Perry and her husband contributed significantly to the growth and development of the Tallahassee community.

Benjamin L. Perry, Jr.

To the union of Benjamin L. and Annie L Perry was born one son, in February 27, 1918 in Eatonville, Florida, while the father was employed at Hungerford Academy. B. L. Jr. joined his father at Florida A & M. College in 1919 and since that time has established his permanent address in the Tallahassee community.

B. L. Jr., as he was called, received his early training at the Fla. A. & M. Demonstration School where he earned his high school diploma in 1936. He matriculated at Fla. A. & M. College and completed requirements for the B. S. degree in 1940.

During the period of his undergraduate training he became a partner with his father in a poultry and truck farm project. Much of his time, when not in class, was spent in supervising and developing this project.

In 1941, with the advent of World War II, the project was discontinued because of a condemnation suit for the National Defense Program. B. L. Jr. selected to return to school where he registered at Iowa State College. He received the M. S. degree in 1942. Ten days after earning the degree he entered the Army as a private and served fifty-two months. He was discharged a first Lieutenant in 1946.

Since that time he has served as;

Teacher of Veterans, McIver High School, Littleton, N. C. 1946-47

Teacher of Veterans, Stevens High School, Quincy, Florida 1947-49

Admitted to graduate school Cornell University where he earned the Ph. D. degree in 1954

Professor of Economics, Fla. A. & M. University, 1950

Dean of Men, Florida A. & M. University 1950-1954

Dean of Students " " 1955-1962

Joined the Michigan State University faculty and a member of the advisory team to the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Eastern Nigeria, West Africa where he served as Dean of Student Affairs 1962-64/

He returned to the Florida A & M and accepted the position as professor of economics and other special assignments made by the president

Assigned the position Director of Research and Grants, July 1, 1964

ROBERT HAYES

The 1964 Olympics brought fame to Florida and Florida A & M through the success of Bob Hayes in winning the 100 meter dash 0.10 to equal the world record, and to make a world record in the 400 meter relay-0.39. Hayes returned to A & M after the Olympics and reported to the football field and finished the season out in grand style after which he headed for the majors. He has made quite a record for himself with the Dallas Cowboys. He can easily be classed as one of the greats in pro football. While Hayes did not get his degree, he is an inspiration to FAMU football team. His address is: Dallas Cowboys Football Team, Dallas, Texas.