

This article about **Jane Macon**, except for the small portion relegated to page 12, appeared above the banner on page 1 of *The (new) Glynn Reporter* (October 14, 1977). It was cut in order to fit as a PDF.

## SHE TAUGHT HERE 50 YEARS

# Miss Macon respected, rem

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NGR staff writer

People in Glynn County respected Miss Jane Macon.

One morning several years ago, Miss Macon set out of her Monck Street residences to embark on her daily stroll. It was fall and Miss Macon had just recently returned from her annual summer sojourn at her cottage way up in Georgia's Blue Ridge mountains.

There was nothing very unusual about that morning, but Miss Macon was immediately jarred by a change that most persons wouldn't have noticed.

It seems that while she was in Clayton, Ga., for the summer, the city fathers had decided to erect new street signs in Brunswick. So when Miss Macon looked up at the sign marking her street she did not see M-O-N-C-K, but rather the more 'Americanized' M-O-N-K.

Now Miss Macon, being an English teacher for 41 years at Glynn Academy, knew right away the new spelling wasn't proper. The streets in

Old Town Brunswick had been laid out and named when Georgia was still a British colony. And Miss Macon knew, because of a vivid interest in local history, that the correct spelling for her street was M-O-N-C-K.

So what did she do? Miss Macon marched right down to City Hall and told the city fathers just how incorrect they were. It wasn't long before the signs marking Miss Macon's street—at least the ones she saw when she took her regular strolls—were corrected to the proper spelling.

Miss Macon was not only respected, but loved by almost everyone whose life she touched.

Miss Macon came to Brunswick from her Clarke County home when she was a young woman of 21. The year was 1903, and she began a teaching career in Glynn County schools that was to last 50 years.

"She came alone," recalls long-time friend and neighbor Anna Ruth Odum. "But she certainly didn't leave alone," she adds.

Indeed, Miss Macon had almost more friends than anyone could hope

for. And she knew every one of them.

"She was the kind of person everybody liked," says another old friend, Dillard Maxwell. "She got along with everyone and could remember 'most everyone. She remembered whom she taught in school, whom they had married and even the names of the children," Maxwell recalls.

A biology teacher at Glynn Academy, Maxwell taught his first year at Jane Macon Junior High School when it opened its doors in 1958. He was instrumental in getting a portrait of Miss Macon placed inside the library of the school named in her honor.

A close friend remembers that one day after the school had been named for her, Miss Macon remarked, "You know the only things that bothers me about it is when I hear the cheerleaders yell 'Beat Jane Macon!'"

Miss Macon almost certainly taught more students than any other teacher in Glynn County history, and she was genuinely interested in every

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one of them, according to their testimonials.

"She made things like Shakespeare come alive," says former student Ed Gray Jr., who is one of two generations of the Gray family who was taught by Miss Macon. Ed Gray Sr. was both a grammar school and high school pupil of Miss Macon's. The elder Gray has often said Miss Macon could read Brer Rabbit "like nobody else."

Miss Macon received her teaching diploma from what was then called Georgia Normal and Industrial College, now Georgia College at Milledgeville. She also attended the University of Georgia, where she earned her Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees. But she was more than well-educated: she was well-read.

"I never saw a television or a radio in her house," says Dillard Maxwell. Miss Macon spent a great deal of her spare time reading, he adds.

Miss Macon was so well loved and respected by her former students that

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**MISS ALETHEA JANE MACON**

This commemorative portrait hangs in the Jane Macon Middle School.

## Miss Macon

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after she retired in 1953, many of them contributed money to buy her a vacation trip to the places she had lectured about. She taught English literature for 41 years, and was finally given a chance to see Great Britain.

"She kept up with you. She knew your whole family and she was interested in you," Ed Gray remembers.

Miss Jane Macon died at 95 after an extended illness last Saturday, Oct. 8, in Clayton, Ga., near her mountain home, "The Perch" on Screamer Ridge.