



Resume and Biographical Data of Annie C. Tuggle

Annie Clay Tuggle (1890-1976) is an eyewitness to this event and many others, and the title of her autobiography, *Another World Wonder* (Perris CA; private printing, 1974), is an apt description of the book and its subject. In telling her own story Tuggle tells the story of black Churches of Christ in a straightforward, unaffected, unliterary voice that does not fail to touch and rend the heart. She knows the tragedy and the triumph at first hand, and while her instincts are fully as apologetic as those of Earl West, she knows that the tragedy must not be ignored. She is circumspect about the "misunderstanding" that brought down the Southern Practical Institute in 1920, but she does not conceal her grief. Those who have the opportunity to turn the pages of this rare volume - my copy has slipped away into some other collection - have the honor to commune with a true "witness for the truth." Tuggle is not a scholar or an author, but her work is a "living testimony" and an indispensable primary source.

Sis. Tuggle became a Christian in 1908, when she was still a teenager. Since that date she has had close contact with such church leaders as Marshall Keeble, G.P. Bowser, R.N. Hogan - whom she taught in school, A.M. Burton, B.C. Goodpasture, N.B. Harderman and H. Leo Boles, to name only a few. *Another World Wonder*, is her second book. It is an autobiography of her varied experiences as a soldier of the cross over a period of 65 years. These experiences cover such events as worshipping with an as-female congregation; running away from home to attend school; being propositioned by a white man in a cottonfield in Mississippi; serving as principal of several elementary schools; teaching and working with the Silver Point Christian Institute, the Nashville Christian Institute, the Southern Practical Institute, the Bowser Christian Institute, which was the forerunner of Southwestern Christian College; establishing her own Christian school; and doing foreign missionary work alone in the West Indies.

Annie Tuggle was educated in Silver Point Christian Institute, founded by the courageous, charismatic, and completely independent George Philip Browser (1874-1950). In *Undying Dedication: The Story of G.P. Browser* (Nashville: Gospel Advocated, 1985) 105 pp) R Vernon Boyd chronicles the struggles of this indomitable and intellectual preacher, teacher, printer and editor. Browser founded and attempted to maintain several short-lived schools, working entirely - except once, in the debacle of 1920 - outside the plantation of white patronage. In 1902, 1903, or 1905 - depending on whose account one reads - Browser began publishing *Christian Echo*, a "gospel paper" for black Churches of Christ, and continued it intermittently as he was able throughout his life, finally passing the torch to his protege, Richard Nathaniel Hogan (1902-1996), in the late 1940's. Only scraps of this most precious primary source survive in libraries and private hands. Only three library collections hold any issues of the *Echo* before 1950, and these holdings begin only in 1939. This material, with an issue from 1935 the survives in a private collection, has now been preserved on microfilm by the American Theological Library Association. Study of this treasure will be necessary to an understanding of Browser and his work.

Annie C. Tuggle has had a unique, full and rich life. She has been encouraged for many years to share her life with us and future generations.