

**#A-1 1939- 1974 Mrs. ANNIE ELIZABETH COWARD SALTER
 – 32 Years of Teaching and Mentoring!**

Thank you Mrs. Salter – We Love You!



Picture from 1963 High School Annual

Schools	Years
Smyrna High School	16
Beaufort High School	7
East Carteret High School	
➤ Taught	3
➤ School Librarian	5
Down-East School	
➤ Speech-and-Hearing Instructor	1
(traveling among the Down-East schools)	

BIO

I am a native of Goldsboro, NC, my home until coming to Carteret County to teach at Smyrna in the fall of 1939. My mother was Lula Ipock, her Swiss family having come to New Bern in 1710 with Baron De Graffenried, the city's founder. To this day there are many of this name in the New Bern area, though the name is scarce in the U.S. general population. A cousin from the mountains once visited me and confessed that she had ripped out all the pages of Ipocks in the New Bern phone book to show her sons that they were not the only people in the U.S. with that name!

My father, Allen Coward, a native of Lenoir County, was of English ancestry. As very early names usually indicated the geographical area or trade name of the family, this name originally came from "cow herder." In French, the same name was "Bouvier," as with Jackie Bouvier Kennedy!

My father was a railroad man for over fifty years, on a run usually from Goldsboro to Beaufort. He was a crewmember on the first train to Beaufort in 1907, and he was the conductor on the last passenger train to leave Morehead, March 31, 1950. His conductor's uniform is on a mannequin just inside the door of The History Place, in Morehead. The room behind this figure also features a bulletin board with other train memorabilia.

ANNIE ELIZABETH COWARD SALTER *Continued*

I was educated in the Goldsboro Public Schools, in the years when we had only eleven grades. In high school, I was mainly involved with publication of the school paper (We had a journalism class.) and with participation in debating. Debating was an activity as popular in those days as are some sports today.

My college days were spent at Meredith College, an all-girl Baptist School in Raleigh, NC. There I majored in English and history, both subjects which I later taught for many years. I learned what intense study really was, and I made lifelong friends. Not all was study, however. Boys were everywhere! State was just down the street, while our brother college. Wake Forest, was only a few miles away, as were Carolina and Duke. The Forties was the era of the Big Bands, most of which came to play the college towns. If you were lucky enough to have relatives in town, as I had, you visited them and got to attend dances.

While at Meredith, for all four years, I was active in dramatics. Upon my graduation, my college drama teacher, Frances Bailey, recommended me for a summer spent at Trask Barn Theater in Plymouth, Mass. I didn't make Broadway, but I did have a rewarding experience!

In the fall of 1939, my stepmother's sister, then matron of the Smyrna teacherage, got me an interview with Eugene Gaskill, my first principal. I was hired for Smyrna and came to live in the old teacherage. Among other things, the county superintendent, Mr. Allen, assigned me the Glee Club. He knew that I played piano, but had no idea whether or not I could carry a tune! Teachers are often given activities to sponsor for which they have had no previous experience, but you learn fast! My first check was for \$96.00 a month. From this, I had to repay some college debt.

As the school term was for nine months only, if you were single, you had to find other work for the summer. The summer of 1940, I worked at Ted Hilton's Hide-A-Way on the Salmon River in Moodus, Conn. There I played piano, called Bingo games, planned treasure hunts and other recreation. This was a favorite vacation spot for "Yankees."

The summer of 1942, I worked as a waitress in the old Atlantic Beach Hotel, and lived on the beach. By the summer of '43, I had married Lionel Salter of Marshallberg. This courtship was a matter of instant attraction on the part of both.

We were attending a ball game at Smyrna School when I spotted my future husband sitting on the stage of the old gym. When I asked his identity, my seatmate replied, "That's Lionel Salter, from Marshallberg, but there is no use noticing him. He works away on a boat." I later learned that on that same night, he had asked my principal, "Who is that new girl sitting down there with seniors?" Principal Gaskill replied, "That is our new teacher, Miss Coward."

It took Lionel about a week to arrange for an introduction. We married about a year later — a marriage that lasted 44 1/2 years until his death in 1987. We have two daughters, Carolyn S. Mason and Barbara S. Gates. We have three grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

ANNIE ELIZABETH COWARD SALTER *Continued*

My teaching career lasted thirty-two years: sixteen at Smyrna, seven at Beaufort, eight at East Carteret, and one traveling among the Down-East schools as a speech-and-hearing instructor. This last position came after graduate work at East Carolina. I retired from East Carteret High School in 1974. My last five years there I was school librarian, after returning to East Carolina to receive my certification in that field.

After my retirement, I was privileged to travel in Europe several times. I got to see all the famous places and monuments that I had so often talked about in my world history classes: the Parthenon, in Athens; the Louvre, in Paris; the Swiss Alps; Buckingham and Windsor Palaces (I saw Queen Elizabeth ride by); the Anne Frank house, in Amsterdam; the Kremlin, in Moscow, and so on. As I have a tendency to linger too long at sites interesting to me, I was several times separated from my travel groups. This provided some scary experiences!

In Leningrad, our group was touring the Peter and Paul fortress when I attempted to find the tomb of Rachmaninoff, the composer of my high school piano recital piece. An elderly couple kept me from going out with my group, and when I emerged from the building, I saw that it was getting dark. I faced about a dozen tour buses, all just alike! After boarding two or three and seeing no familiar faces, I heard someone in the street screaming my name. That person was my friend and Beaufort fellow-teacher, Gerry Beveridge. She had found me!

Since retirement, I have volunteered at The History Place for several years. My interest in history led me also to years of research into family history; in addition, I keep the Marshallberg Cemetery records up-to-date. I am a member of Marshallberg Baptist Church, where I have been organist for forty years.

I have always belonged to my professional teaching organizations, and regret to see that many young teachers feel no need to join, though gains in salary and teaching situations have come mainly through our lobbyists in Raleigh. As for my profession, I have never regretted my choice. I have always enjoyed working with high school students, as I remember my own high school years so very well. I felt enthusiastic about the subjects that I taught.

On the whole, I can say that I have had good, respectful students. Once in a while, I would see the general love of learning shine in someone's eyes! To a teacher, this is a real reward. The rewards of teaching continue over the years as you again meet students in the grocery store, see them at class reunions, or read about their achievements in the paper.

Though I have spent several "all-nighters" grading exams, read and marked hundreds of papers, played for many graduation marchers, and toiled over many a Junior-Senior banquet, I would not have had it otherwise.