

Jehnsani Were there any other colored children around your age?

What was their outlook?

Bethune: There was nothing for them to aspire to - it was an incentive

to me, and of course, many followers after that. Many boys and girls

the community. A new life came into the district. Sunday afternoon

I would take the farm children for miles around - I would give them what

ever I had learned during the week . . Poetry, reading, songs, etc. . .

I would give to them as often as I got. As I got I gave. They gave me

a broader capacity for taking in and I feel that up to today, I feel it

in all things, and I feel that as I give I get.

Of course I became a very definite favorite in the family - my

mother, father, sisters and brothers, people in the community all loved

me. I never had difficulty getting people to follow me. Never, from

the start. They seemed to realize the seriousness and unselfishness

of my motives. When I got so I could do the counting, all the papers--

of both the whites and colored people -- were put into my lap--the papers

showing the weights of ^{the} cotton, and how much . . . from the weighing of

the cotton. When we went to pick cotton for white people they said,

"Let Mary Jane put down the number of pounds. I became useful . . I won

the respect and admiration. I made my learning, what little it was, ju

School
organizer

Labe
B
Learning
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organizer

Needs
followers
Ben Nelson

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