

Negroes getting an education at that time?

School
Scotia
" Bethune: They thought it was folly; that we did not need an education and that our part was to do chores on the farm... But I thought it was remarkable the way they accepted me when I came back--- how they used me to put down their figures for them... sent me... seemed then that every Negro boy and girl who could read and write could be of great service on the farm, You see I became a help. We kept on growing. The majority of schools kept on growing. I thank God for the Presbyterian church and from whom so many little county schools were begun.

Johnson: Who was the person who came in and told you about that school?

Miss Emma
Bethune: The Presbyterian church sent a woman, Miss Emma Wilson, a very far Negro--- couldn't tell her from white-- she was the first person in the... we knew to call "Miss". She was employed to start school in Sumter County near Maysville. She had gone to Scotia and had gotten some education. Came from Manning, South Carolina.

Johnson: Describe the mission as you remember first going into it.

To school
Bethune: It was a small church. There were some home-made benches, a little table, and desks, a little pulpit, a little wood stove in the corner. The first morning... had a blackboard on the wall... The first morning I went in, Miss Wilson was standing at the door and received me. There was a crowd of boys and girls - most of them very crudely dressed.. just as you find in any rural school today. We had our little singing that morning, prayer, Bible lesson. We were started on our way to learning!

" The things that affected me most about Miss Wilson were her patience and her tenderness and kindly way in which she handled us. The beautiful smile which was always kept on her face. We were not afraid of her.