

Curiosity Corner

Treasures from the FCS Archives

Welcome to **Treasures from the FCS Archives**, a repository of resources for teachers and history enthusiasts! Every month, we are sharing photos, artifacts, documents and other treasures for you to review, discuss and discover. We encourage you to click the links, scan the photos and dig deeper into these treasures, all of which can be found in the Fulton County Schools Archives. Enjoy!

LONG V. WELLS: “LEST WE FORGET”

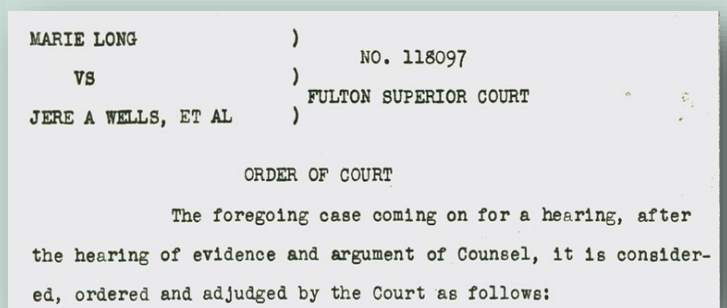


Scrapbook, Kathleen Mitchell, 1939. FCS Archives 1939.pers.7

What do a legendary civil rights judge, a pioneering U.S. Congresswoman and a former Georgia governor all have in common? Could it be that they all had an interest in a school teacher from College Park who was fighting for a right she had no intention of exercising?

The answer is yes.

For decades through 1938, the Fulton County Board of Education enforced a policy that prevented female teachers from getting married. If a female teacher got married during the school year, she would be dismissed at the end of the term. This policy applied to female principals, as well, and was rooted in a belief that a woman’s place was in the home. Once she became a wife, it was her duty to serve her family instead of pursuing a career. By the end of 1938, however, a little known court case—filed by an unknown teacher who had no intention of getting married—had reversed the rule and furthered the cause of [women’s rights](#) in Georgia.



This month’s *Curiosity Corner* is a celebration of this impactful court case, [Marie Long v. Jere A. Wells, et al](#), and its victory for women’s rights, as illustrated by this detail from the cover of a [scrapbook dedicated to Kathleen Mitchell](#), housed in the Fulton County Schools Archives. It was a triumph shared by many women, such as Mamie Collins Aydelotte, Jessilee Sims Shaddix and Mary Jones Hughie, who had all been affected by the rule. As you explore this important court case, you will also discover a few iconic Atlantans that helped move the case along, many of which went on to make an impact on both state and national politics.

Curiosity in the Classroom: A Closer Look

Click on the image above for a higher resolution jpeg. Ask students to carefully and quietly study the image.

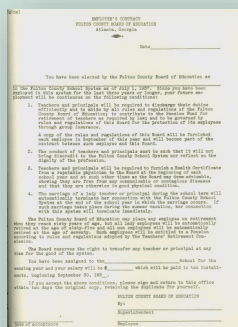
Ask students:

- What do you see? What text do you see?
- Who might have made this? For whom did they make it?

Now, click on the image below. This is a FCS teacher/principal contract from the 1930s. Ask students to carefully study this document.

Ask students:

- What do you see?
- How does this contract relate to the image above?
- What do these two primary sources tell you about life in the U.S during the 1930s?
- How might technology play a role today in motivating and recognizing civic action?



Lesson Ideas & Links: Connecting to

- [Elementary School Connections](#)
- [Related Primary Sources](#)
- [Middle School Connections](#)
- [Ask the Teaching Museum](#)
- [High School Connections](#)
- [Additional Online Resources](#)



For more information and resources or to connect with staff at the **FCS Archives**, contact us at archives@fultonschools.org

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