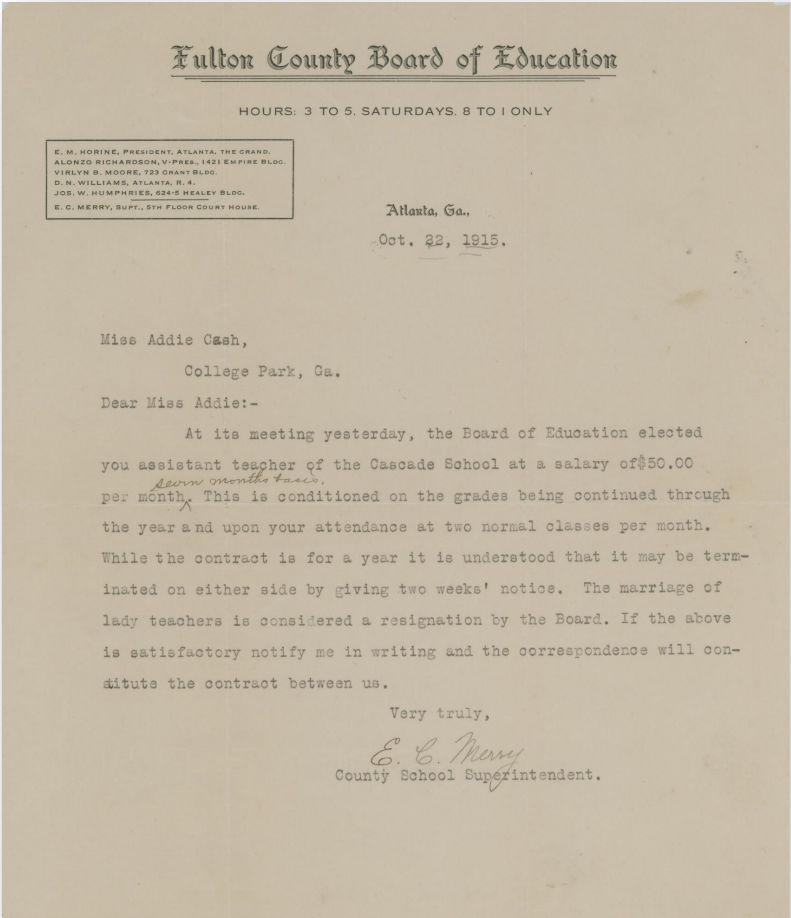


Curiosity Corner

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!

LETTER TO MISS ADDIE CASH: A CAREER WITH FCS



This month's **Curiosity Corner** introduces a century-old letter from Fulton County Schools Superintendent Edwin C. Merry to “Miss Addie Cash of College Park”. This letter, a part of the [Cash Family Collection](#), is housed in the FCS Archives. In 1915, Cash was just beginning a teaching career with Fulton County Schools that would last until 1951, when she finally retired as the principal of Ben Hill School—her alma mater.

By examining this letter, we can observe a few changes between teaching a hundred years ago and teaching today. The seven-month school term—common for the more rural schools of the early twentieth-century (see our [August 2017](#) edition for more on this topic) —seems modest by today’s standard, almost as modest as what Miss Cash, and other [teachers](#) like her, were paid.

The contract also reveals how the school district sought to regulate teachers’ private lives to an extent that would be unthinkable today. These details help us come to some understanding about life in Atlanta for a young woman with a career and a long future ahead of her during the time we now call the Progressive Era.

Finally, explore how this letter to Addie Cash helped establish [a family legacy](#) of teaching in Fulton County that started in 1871, a story of service to our own community that continues today.

The Fulton County Schools Archives now invites you back to [the year 1915](#), to a time that is often described as “simpler” but was, in fact, quite complex.

[Correspondence, 1915](#)
[Superintendent E. C. Merry to Miss Addie Cash](#)
[1915.B34.4.6.1](#)



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Curiosity in the Classroom: A Closer Look

Click on the letter above for a larger image. Project or distribute copies of the letter. Ask students to read the correspondence and note anything interesting or surprising. Ask students:

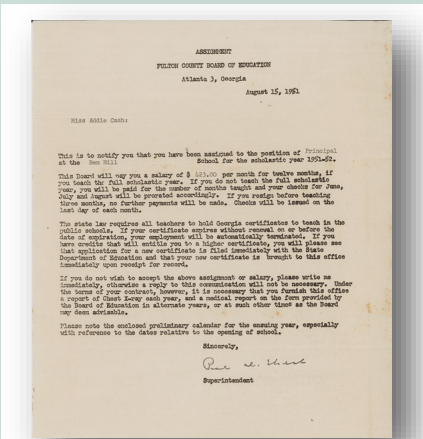
- What does this letter tell you about Fulton County Schools during 1915?
- What does it tell you about the United States during 1915?

Have students compare this 1915 contract with Ms. Cash’s 1951 contract. (Click on the thumbnail to the right for a larger image.)

- What is similar between these documents? What is different?
- What does this 1951 contract tell you about the United States during this time period? What were important issues of the time?

Now, compare these two contracts with a [teacher contract from 2016](#)—for Addie Cash’s great grand-niece, Erin Clarke, currently a teacher at Mountain Park Elementary. Ask students:

- While there are many differences between these three contracts, how are they similar?
- What does Ms. Clarke’s contract tell you about the United States and important issues today?



[Principal Contract, Addie Cash, 1951.](#)
[FCS Archives, 1951.B34.4.6.10](#)

Lesson Ideas & Links: Connecting to Standards

[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 Teaching Museum, contact us at archives@fultonschools.org