



MISS EDNA ETHEITTA BROWN,  
Rev. Powhatan Bagnall's Bride.

Mrs. Bagnall nee Miss Edna Etheitta Brown, is a native of Dover, N. H., and is very prominent among the lyric artists of New England. Her fine musical powers and many accomplishments have formed the theme of frequent praise. For the last five years she has been engaged as teacher of voice culture in Boston and Dover, N. H., also soloist and directress in the choir of the Free Will Baptist Church of that city, where her fine singing and charming manners rendered her deservedly popular with the members and attendants of the church mentioned—people of Christian culture. Mrs. Bagnall will be of great assistance to her husband in his church work. She is a sister of Mrs. Nellie Brown Mitchell and Edward Everett Brown the prominent lawyer of Boston.

#### EDITOR H. H. THEWATT.

Successful Artisan—School Teacher—Principal of Industrial School—Delegate to Business League.

Probably no graduate of Tuskegee is more proud of the fact than the subject of this sketch, and probably that school has not sent out a graduate, who has done and is doing more effective work. Mr. H. H. Thewatt is a successful man, because he has worked for success; he is an effective worker because he labors for results. His work as a teacher for near twenty years has been seen and felt for the better part in Alabama,



HIRAM H. THEWATT.

Georgia and Virginia. At each point he has brought good results out of seeming ruins.

His good work as an editor, who sought to teach the people purity, morality and common sense combined is a good part of his industrious career as well. The Black Belt was one of the great agencies that led to the betterment of Mr. Thewatt's people in that part of Alabama, which is known too as the Black Belt. Educated for an artisan and having that uppermost in his mind, is hardly the reason you can assign for his present position. The re-

sult of continuous accidents, which hindered and beset him, led the young man to devote himself to teaching.

Mr. Thewatt work today in Thomasville, Georgia, is felt "along the line," and of the numerous industrial schools, his stands out pre-eminently as one deserving of praise and lift—because his work is one sincere, and his time—every inch of it—is exerted in carrying on what he has undertaken. The school at Christianburg, Virginia, is succeeding today and more credit is due Mr. Thewatt for that success, than probably any one else.

He was born June 11th, 1864. He was born of one of the most respectable colored families in Tuskegee, Ala., the home of the great Tuskegee school, Raymond and Lucinda Thewatt. At five years old Hiram was sent to private schools which were taught by Yankee teachers. The teachers at this time, the Yankees, being an exception were very inferior, hence Hiram's early education was necessarily poor. His father was a contractor and builder of carpenters work and when Hiram was not in school his father had him on the house laying shingles or doing other such work as his ability would allow. While working with his father at 14 years old a house fell on the little carpenter and broke his right thigh about 4 inches above the knee. At 17 years when Tuskegee opened her doors he was one of the first students to register in the great school of which Booker T. Washington is principal. In 1882 while assisting his father to erect Porter Hall, the first building erected for Mr. Washington's school. Young Thewatt fell from the building 46 feet to the ground and broke the same leg, with other minor bruises, that he had broken 6 years before. This time, however, the bone was broken in two places above the knee. This time his injuries maimed him for life. Previous to the last misfortune Hiram intended to follow his father's trade, but this last accident made him believe that the Lord intended that he do something else. In 1885 after four years of hard study at the age of a little less than 21 years Mr. Thewatt graduated out of a class of ten with the first honors of the institution. This was the best class of Tuskegee.

After leaving school his ambition was to be a lawyer, but the outlook for a colored lawyer being as he thought, so poor, he relinquished the idea and be-

gan his career as a teacher in La Fayette, Ala., where he did efficient work. In 1887 he became editor of the "Black Belt," which while it was running was the special enemy to the vicious who led our people wrongly and excited the wrath of the then black usurpers, so much so that a notice was served on the young editor: "The editor of the Black Belt need not be surprised should his head come in contact with some hard substance." Mr. Thewatt did not stop the good work because of his threat but treated it with more than silent contempt. His consistent life finally won over his enemies and they were his most ardent admirers and supporters. The paper business got him greatly in debt to the normal school where it was published, so he suspended it and took up the saw and plane and worked for the school till every cent of the debt was paid. This is only one incident of the man's life. In '88, '89 and '90, he taught alternately at Shelley Springs and Cusseta, Ala., doing effective work. In the fall of '90 '91 and '92 he taught the boys carpentry in Clay Street school, Thomasville, Ga., of which he is at present. In '91 Mr. Thewatt married Miss Jancie E Hunter of Opelika, Ala., the daughter of Rev. Glenn Hunter of the A. M. E. Church. Three promising children, Lillian Chace, Desdemona Osgood, and McKinley Hobart have blessed their union. Mrs. Thewatt has been Mr. Thewatt's working right hand partner in his school work ever since their union. Much of his success in his school work has been due to "my wife's never failing assistance."

In October, 1892, he took charge of Brewton Academy, Brewton, Ala. In 1893 he was asked by Prof. Washington to take charge of Christianburg, Institute, Christian, Va., which position he held till 1896, when on account of the severe climate, resigned to take charge of his present work at Thomasville, Ga. Mr. Thewatt has held many positions of honor during his career as a leader. He was once nominated as a candidate for the legislature of Alabama but declined the honor; appointed as one of the Virginia Commissioners to the Atlanta Exposition in 1896; is at present trustee of Wilberforce University, superintendent of the largest Sunday school, colored, in Thomasville; delegate from southwest Georgia to the International Sunday school Convention which met in Atlanta in 1899; appointed as a commissioner for the State fair of Georgia, but declined the honor on account of his school work, and has had many other recognitions tendered him. All of these duties he executed with credit to himself and race. In deed his career has been full of sacrifice for the uplifting of his fellowman. He is now trying to build up a creditable moral, industrial and literary school at Thomasville, Ga., for his people.

Mr. Thewatt naturally expects all lovers of humanity, who are able, to aid him in his undertaking, to assist him. He believes that the salvation of the Negro is the same that has saved other races, namely: moral, religious, industrial, and literary training. "There is nothing outside of these four developments peculiar to the Negro any more than to other races that have become powerful." July 6, 1900, Mr. Thewatt left Thomasville to go North in the interest of his school. Before leaving he was asked by the business men of Thomasville, to represent them in the Negro Business League that met in Boston August 23 and 24, which he did. Mr. Thewatt is an active member of the National Educational Association. His present efforts at Thomasville have the endorsement of both white and black.

Mr. Thewatt never tires when laboring for his people. His work is an evidence of the man's fitness for his great task. Booker T. Washington pronounces him one of the most "tireless workers in the vineyard," and often to his thousands of students at Tuskegee assembled, point to Mr. Thewatt with selfish pride. The possibility has never been a question with him, but the discharge of the duty is unquestionably a trait of the man. The people, white and black of Thomasville are justly proud of him and his work, and recommend him to passing visitors as well as to the outside world. Mr. Thewatt is a christian man, ambitious, though in its broadest sense, and is among the host who must eventually solve this perplexing, troublesome problem, which is alike a part of the North and a part of the South.

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