

Jackson, Walter Clinton ^[1]

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by Elisabeth Ann Bowles, 1988

28 June 1879–12 Aug. 1959



Students North Carolina College for Women.
1921. 21.

^[2]Walter Clinton Jackson, teacher and college administrator, was born in Hayston, Ga., the son of Albert Leroy and Jane Granade Jackson. His father was a farmer who had served in the Confederate Army; his mother was a former schoolteacher. Young Jackson received the bachelor of science degree from Mercer University in 1900 and was awarded the doctor of laws degree in 1926. After teaching in several Georgia schools, he was invited by E. D. Broadhurst to be principal of the Lindsay Street School in [Greensboro](#) ^[3] in 1902. The same year he married Mattie Redford, who had also gone to Greensboro to teach. They had three children: [Walter C., Jr.](#) ^[4], Virginia Elizabeth, and Lillian Murchison (Mrs. C. O. Hunt).

In 1903 Jackson transferred to Greensboro High School as an English teacher and in 1905 became principal.

In 1909, Jackson began his long association with the institution that later became [The University of North Carolina at Greensboro](#) ^[5]. He was head of the Department of History until 1915, when he also became dean. From 1921 to 1932 he was vice-president and department head. In the latter year he went to [The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill](#) ^[6] as dean of the School of Public Administration, a position he held for two years. In 1934, upon the retirement of [Julius Foust](#) ^[7], Jackson returned to Greensboro to head what was then the Woman's College of The University of North Carolina. He retired in 1950.

Active in civic affairs, Jackson was awarded citations by the National Conference of Christians and Jews and by the Greensboro Chamber of Commerce. He was president of the North Carolina Conference for Social Service (1925–26) and of the Southern Commission on Interracial Cooperation (1928–32); vice-president of the North Carolina Council of Churches; and a Rotarian. For many years he was a member of the board of trustees of [Bennett College](#) ^[8] and at times was the chairman. In 1949 Bennett awarded him the doctor of humane letters degree for being "a pioneer in the field of better race relations."

Jackson also served a variety of educational organizations. He was president of the [North Carolina Literary and Historical Association](#) ^[9] (1924–25) and a member of the editorial board of the [North Carolina Historical Review](#) ^[10]. He was also president of the North Carolina Education Association (1937–38) and of the North Carolina College Conference (1938); vice-president of the Southern Political Science Association (1933–34), and a member of Phi Beta Kappa. He was the author of *A Boy's Life of Booker T. Washington* ^[11]; *Poetry by American Negroes*, with [N. I. White](#) ^[12]; and *The Story of North Carolina* ^[13], with [A. M. Arnett](#) ^[14].

A junior high school in Greensboro, where Jackson died, is named in his honor, as is the main library ^[15] at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

References:

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Additional Resources:

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"W.C. Jackson Department of History." *Pine Needles*. Greensboro, N.C.: Students North Carolina College for Women. 1921. 21. <https://archive.org/stream/pineneedles1921nort#page/16/mode/2up> ^[2] (accessed May 15, 2014).

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