

## Augusta Lawrence

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Read by Cheryl Spencer, Library Associate in Special Collections.

"Augusta Lawrence." This is Cheryl Spencer, Library Associate at Newton Gresham Library Sam Houston State University.

Augusta Lawrence was born in Smith County, Texas, near Tyler, August 5, 1867. Her parents were Dr. Michael Jackson Lawrence, a prominent physician of East Texas, and Martha Graybill Lawrence. Her parents came from Milledgeville, Georgia, to Texas just before the War between the States. Augusta Lawrence received her early education at home and in small schools in and near Tyler.

She was graduated from Peabody Normal College, 1888; received her B.S. degree from George Peabody College for Teachers, Nashville, Tennessee, her M.A. from the same college, 1920.

She took courses in Texas-Colorado Chautauqua, the New York Chautauqua, the University of Tennessee, and Harvard University.

She taught in the high school at Tyler, Texas, 1888-1890; was principal of the high school at Henrietta, 1890-1894. In 1894 she began teaching in Sam Houston Normal Institute and continued to teach through its development into Sam Houston State Teachers College. In 1937, she resigned her place as teacher of English in the college and began to work as assistant in the library, in charge of the Texas Room.

She taught a college class in the First Baptist Church of Huntsville (except for brief intervals), from 1894 through 1932. In 1934 she became superintendent of the Young People's Department of that Sunday School.

She helped to organize the Texas State Y.W.C.A., and for several years was a member of the State Board of Directors, then a member of the Southwestern Board of Directors. She helped to organize the college group of Y.W.C.A. and for several years was Faculty Director for that society.

She contributed articles to the Southwestern Journal of Education, Texas School Journal, Texas Outlook, and various newspapers.

She was a life member of the Texas State Teachers Association and was a member of the National Educational Association. She was also a member of the local chapter of Sigma Tau Delta.

Miss Lawrence and her sister, Miss Ida Lawrence, lived at 1804 Avenue I. Miss Ida taught history and geography at Sam Houston. Miss Ida died in 1934.

Miss Augusta wrote a history of the First Baptist Church. She had a weekly column in the *Houston Post*, analyzing the Sunday School lesson. Miss Augusta died September 5, 1952, in Tyler, at the home of her niece. A scholarship was established in her memory at Sam Houston, by Mr. Orville Bullington of Wichita Falls, Texas.