

Henry Carr Pritchett

Episode 15: April 2, 2007

Adapted, by permission of *The Huntsville Item*, from: Henry Carr Pritchett. (1989, June 4). *The Huntsville Item*.

Read by Cheryl Spencer, Library Associate in Special Collections.

“Henry Carr Pritchett, president of Sam Houston Normal Institute.” Read by Cheryl Patton, Library Associate at Newton Gresham Library at Sam Houston State University.

A native of Missouri, Henry Carr Pritchett was born August 12, 1852, in Warren County, Missouri. His parents were William Ira Pritchett and Martha Ann Hubbard. Henry Carr received his education at Pritchett Institute in Glasgow, Missouri. The institute had been founded by an uncle of Henry Carr.

In 1876, Henry Carr Pritchett married Miss Kate Smith. She was the daughter of a Methodist minister, Reverend Ethelbert S. Smith. He was pastor of the Methodist Church in Huntsville. Miss Smith was a music teacher at Sam Houston Normal Institute. The Pritchetts lived for a while in San Marcos, where Henry Carr was teacher and co-principal of Coronal Institute.

In 1881, Henry Carr Pritchett became professor of mathematics at Sam Houston Normal Institute. In 1890, he was appointed State Superintendent of Public Instruction. In 1891, when Dr. Joseph Baldwin resigned as president of Sam Houston to take a post in Austin, Professor Pritchett assumed that post. He served in this position until his death in 1908.

In 1888, Mayor Tom Ball, Mrs. Sandford Gibbs, Henry Carr Pritchett, and several other citizens induced the Methodist Conference of Texas to convey the property of Andrew Female College to the city of Huntsville for a public school.

Mr. and Mrs. Pritchett had five children: Annie; Elbert; John W.; Henry Lucian; and Rufus. Professor Pritchett was a devout Methodist, serving in many lay capacities. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge. He served as Grand Master in 1887 to 1890 and 1893 to 1896. He was also a Royal Arch Mason.

During his tenure as president, the Peabody Library building was constructed. He was a teacher who inspired the youth. Professor Pritchett died in Galveston, Texas, May 9, 1908.

An editorial in the “Fort Worth Record” of May 1908 stated: “He had nothing to show; he made no pretense; he was without conceit. He was a high plateau in the world of education and in the vast reaches of human character.”