

THE NABRIT FAMILY

By J. Reuben Sheeler

The wedding was a simple one on May 5, 1899. It was in Cuthbert, Georgia, with Rev. J. W. Jackson performing the ceremony. There is no doubt that few, if any, persons witnessing the marriage of the store keeper's daughter of Cuthbert, Georgia to the well digger's son of Atlanta, realized that there was a union that brought together strong mental forces that would influence not only the state of Georgia, but the whole of America. James Madison Nabrit of Atlanta, Georgia, was the son of Clarke Nabrit, and Margaret Petty Nabrit. Clarke Nabrit is said to have been an excellent well digger. Since the water supply for most families before the days of public water service was to come from the wells, it was important to have the services of experienced well diggers who knew where to dig in order to strike the fresh water veins deep down in the earth. Such a person was Clarke Nabrit, who was born and grew up as a youth in slavery. On being emancipated, young Nabrit pursued the well diggers trade to provide for his family an honorable and honest living.

Margaret Petty Nabrit was a housewife with two definite interests. One of these was the welfare of her household, and the other was the future of her son, James Madison Nabrit, who was born September 3, 1878. She saw great promise in the mental capability of her son and was ambitious for his education. It was chiefly through her interest that James Madison Nabrit was started on an educational career. Mrs. Nabrit did all that she could to keep her boy in school. On reaching college level training, young James Nabrit began teaching school in the country between terms and between cotton planting and picking time in order to earn money to further his training. Finally, in 1898 he was in the second college graduating class of Morehouse College in Atlanta.

In college, James Madison Nabrit was considered the greatest catcher to don the moleskins in the game of

baseball. At bat he was a dangerous hitter. In general he may have been considered a semi-professional baseball player. Along with his college play at Morehouse College, he was also catcher for the Atlanta Black Debbins. Even to the last years of his life Dr. James Nabrit was a baseball fan. Often in his travel through the larger cities he would arrange stop-overs so that he might see good professional baseball games. On the completion of his studies at Morehouse College Mr. Nabrit pursued theology at the Virginia Theological Seminary and then at the Chicago Theological Seminary.

Shortly after completion of his study at Morehouse College James Madison Nabrit was married to Gertrude West who was the daughter of Henry and Ella West of Cuthbert, Georgia. Henry West was a store keeper who operated a small grocery in Cuthbert. During his early life Henry West had been a slave who enjoyed special status. He held a

pass that permitted him to move around rather freely in his section of the state. This privilege was not generally enjoyed by slaves.

While they were living in Atlanta, where Mr. Nabrit was a baker, Mr. and Mrs. Nabrit were to become the youthful parents of their first son, James Madison Nabrit, Jr. In 1903 the family moved to Macon, Georgia where Mr. Nabrit taught in the Central City College and served as pastor of the Baptist church in Forsythe, Georgia. In Macon there were two more children born, Margaret Elizabeth and Samuel Milton. After four years of service at Macon, Reverend Nabrit moved his family to Americus, Georgia where he became pastor of the Bethesda Baptist Church in 1907. He continued to serve the Forsythe Baptist Church after he had moved to Americus. Two more children were born into the family during the period of residence there. These two children were Ann Elyse and Gertrude Lurlene. While in



Dr. and Mrs. James Madison Nabrit

Americus the family experienced a very sad and almost fatal incident for one of its members. It was the occasion when Margaret Elizabeth, the second child was severely burned. The morning was rather cold that winter and little Margaret was trying to reach upon the mantle over the open fire place to get a shoe buttoner to fasten the many buttons on her high tip shoes when her gown caught fire. She was burned rather severely before the fire could be extinguished. Forced to stay out of school for one year Margaret found herself behind her class, but a child with her pluck could not rest until she had finally caught up in every way with her class in school. During their childhood Margaret Elizabeth always considered herself as the defender of her younger brother Samuel whom she felt was a bit too shy in self expression.

In 1912 the Nabrit family moved to Augusta, Georgia where Reverend Nabrit became the pastor of the

Springfield Baptist Church and taught at Walker Baptist Institute. In Augusta there were two more children born into the family. These were Henry Clarke and Lois Ellen. At Walker Baptist Institute Reverend Nabrit was to teach two of his own children. They were Margaret and Samuel who were reaching the high school level. By this time James had gone to Atlanta where he was attending high school and then college at Morehouse. Samuel was taught Latin, Greek, and physics by his father at Walker Baptist Institute.

While Reverend Nabrit was its pastor the Springfield church celebrated its 125th Anniversary. This church is an offspring of the oldest Negro Baptist church in America and is one of the oldest Negro Baptist churches in the United States.

James, Junior and Samuel have long held a secret in common of their experience while the family lived in Augusta, Georgia. At least it was one of those incidents never

made known to Reverend and Mrs. Nabrit. On one summer day James, Junior and Samuel walked across the Savannah river to Hamburg, South Carolina. Joined by other boys they decided to go swimming in an old brickyard pond. Possessing more of the spirit of adventure than the skill to swim, James went out too far. Down he sank in a desperate effort to get back to shallow water. With quick thought and action the boys were able to rush out in a boat to rescue James, Junior when he came up. The boys kept the secret. So did James and Samuel. Father and mother Nabrit never knew about it. It was felt that had they known about it, there might have been punitive measures against both Samuel and James.

In 1921 the Nabrit family moved to Atlanta where Reverend Nabrit accepted the charge at the Mount Olive Baptist Church. After the family had moved to Atlanta there began a new life for several of the chil-



STANDING, LEFT TO RIGHT: Mrs. Margaret Nabrit Curry, Dr. Samuel Milton Nabrit, Dr. James Madison Nabrit, Jr., Reverend Henry Clarke Nabrit.

SEATED: Mrs. Lois Nabrit Clark, Mrs. Constance Crocker Nabrit, Mrs. Gertrude Nabrit Thomas, Mrs. Cecelia Nabrit Adkins, and Mrs. Vernice Smith Nabrit.

Mrs. Ann Elyse Nabrit Young is the only member missing.

dren. Entering the schools and colleges afforded by the city they began to enjoy a fullness of educational advantages despite life in the framework of segregation. In the general educational climate the children took advantage of the cultural life at Morehouse and Spelman Colleges. It was in Atlanta that the eighth and last child, Cecilia Antoinette was born. In 1923, James, Junior was graduated from Morehouse College. Margaret Elizabeth was graduated from Spelman in 1924, while Samuel Milton was the following year graduated from Morehouse College. Ann Elyse completed both high school and college work at Spelman and was graduated in 1929. Gertrude Lurlene completed her high school work and three years of college work at Spelman and persuaded her father to permit her to spend a year and graduate from Talladega College in Alabama in 1932. In 1937 Henry Clarke was graduated from Morehouse College. It was in 1937 that Dr. James M. Nabrit was appointed to the presidency of the American Baptist Theological Seminary at Nashville, Tennessee. When Dr. Nabrit moved to Nashville his family consisted of himself, Mrs. Nabrit, Lois and Cecelia. Lois entered Fisk University and Cecelia entered Pearl High School in Nashville. In 1939 Lois was graduated with highest honors (Summa Cum Laude) at Fisk University to be the first to achieve such a record at Fisk in twenty-five years. Cecelia followed her sister with a similar record graduating in 1943. Both girls were granted Rosenwald Scholarships which they each rejected and got married.

While serving as president of the American Baptist Seminary on White Creek Road at Nashville, Dr. Nabrit was active in Baptist affairs of the National body. He founded the National Baptist Missionary Training School while there. He also served as Secretary of the National Baptist Convention, a position that he held for 15 years. He had previously served as president of the Georgia Baptist Convention for 25 years. A visit to the seminary and a refreshing talk with Dr. Nabrit

was always inspirational. At this time he was seeing the last of his children complete their college careers in a surge of high scholarship to follow the pace set earlier by the older members. It was then that a word about the successes of his children seemed to reflect a sense of pride beneath Dr. Nabrit's modest smile. It was while living in Nashville that Dr. and Mrs. Nabrit were to see the last two children married and their household revert to what it was in 1900 when the two had set up house keeping in Atlanta.

With the last of their children through school and all of them charting the way of their own families, Dr. and Mrs. Nabrit one year later left Nashville to make their home in Memphis, Tennessee. Dr. Nabrit accepted the pastorate of the First Baptist Church on Lauderdale Street in Memphis in 1945. Dr. Nabrit served this last charge only two years. The ministerial career that had started nearly fifty years earlier in Atlanta was brought to a close by his death on April 16, 1947. One could have easily described his career briefly in the words of the dramatic Shakespeare, "His life was gentle, and the elements so mixed in him that nature might stand up and say to all the world, This was a man!"

After the passing of Dr. Nabrit, Mrs. Nabrit spent her last years in Knoxville with Dr. and Mrs. John H. Clarke, her daughter, Lois. On September 9, 1952 Mrs. Nabrit passed.

Glancing briefly at the accomplishments of the eight children of Dr. and Mrs. James M. Nabrit, one must readily admit that there was some strong force of inspiration in the home that spurred each to take cognizance of a responsibility to society. For in each career there is reflected that sense of man's responsibility to man and his obligation to his God. It is not a common occurrence that in a family so large as that of Dr. Nabrit's, that one would find every child so deeply inspired. Nor is a common occurrence that their accomplishments would be achieved and recognized in such far flung distances across America as from New York to Texas, and from the

Great Lakes to the Gulf. The career of James Madison Nabrit, Junior is one that touched legal and educational circles deeply in the sensitive question of civil rights in American life.

James Madson Nabrit, Junior, the oldest child of the Nabrit family, went to Morehouse College for both his high school and college study. While a student there he participated in athletics and debate. As a debater he never lost a decision in the Pentagonal League. In football he played end, while "Zip" Gayle played the same position on the opposite end of the Morehouse line. In baseball he was the Morehouse short stop. After graduating with honors from Morehouse in 1923, James Nabrit, Junior entered Northwestern University to study law. At Christmas time in 1924 he was married to Norma Walton of Jacksonville, Florida. In 1925 the young law student dropped out from his study at Northwestern and began teaching at Leland College in Baker, Louisiana. There he taught political science and coached football and debate teams. It was after two years of teaching at Leland that James M. Nabrit re-entered Northwestern to complete his Doctor of Jurisprudence degree with highest honors and was elected to the Order of Coif. In the fall of 1927, Dr. James M. Nabrit, Junior was appointed as dean of Arkansas A. M. & N. College at Pine Bluff, Arkansas to serve with Dr. John B. Watson, then president. In addition to his deanship, the youthful administrator also coached football and taught political science. Failure to secure a release from Arkansas State accounted for his not going to Howard at that time. 1930 saw Mr. Nabrit opening law practice in Houston, Texas along with John Austin Atkins and Carter Wesley. During the next six years Mr. Nabrit was to become involved with his first experience in civil rights cases. Attorney Nabrit has participated in most of the Civil Rights relating to Negroes since 1936. He argued the Harris County Primary cases. He has either argued or served on briefs of many cases since, such as the Restrictive Covenant Cases, the Education Cases, Transportation

Cases including *Gaines v. Missouri*, *Sipuel v. Oklahoma*, *McLaurin v. Oklahoma*, *Lane v. Wilson*, *Sweatt v. Painter*, *Briggs v. South Carolina*, *Bolling v. Sharpe*, *Johnson v. Kentucky*, *Rice v. Elmore* and other cases involving civil rights for Negroes. Mr. Nabrit argued *Lane v. Wilson*, an Oklahoma "grandfather clause" case, *Terry v. Adams*, a "Texas Jaybird Primary" case, *Bolling v. Sharpe*, a District of Columbia Public School case. He was on brief in all the state cases affecting public school education. Though Mr. Nabrit was not to handle all these cases in Houston, his start in this direction was in Houston, Texas. While living in Houston, Texas Mr. and Mrs. James M. Nabrit, Junior were to become the parents of their only child, a son, James Madison Nabrit, III.

James M. Nabrit took a position on the faculty of the Law School at Howard University in 1936. where he has since taught for the past twenty years. At Howard he taught numerous legal courses and organized the first course in Civil Rights to be taught in an American Law School. In 1939 he was appointed Secretary of Howard University, and on November 1, 1955 was named Director of Public Relations.

Mr. Nabrit has written numerous articles for legal and educational journals. He has served on a large number of boards and has recently been active in the re-organization of the Executive Branch of the Government of the Virgin Islands. There are sketches of the life of James Madison Nabrit, Junior in *Who's Who in the East*, *Who's Who in the Southwest*, *Who's Who in Colored America*, and in *Who's Who in American Education*.

During these years in Washington, Mr. Nabrit has seen his son, James Madison Nabrit, III develop in the footsteps of his father. James Nabrit, III is a graduate of Mount Hermon, Bates College and the Law School of Yale University. He was married in 1956 to Roberta J. Harlan. Mrs. Roberta Harlan Nabrit is a great-great-grand-daughter of John Mercer Langston, who was the first president of Virginia Normal & Collegiate

Institute (now Virginia State College), Dean of the Law School and acting president of Howard University, Member of Congress, and holder of various diplomatic positions.

Margaret Elizabeth Nabrit Curry was born in Macon, Georgia. After graduating from Walker Baptist Institute of Macon, she was graduated from Spelman College as salutatorian in 1924. She went to the University of Michigan and secured the master of arts in history and political science. She returned to Michigan for further study in history as she served as professor of history and political science at Spelman College. She was married to Thirster Curry in October, 1926. Mr. Curry is an insurance representative in Atlanta. Serving as the Dean of Students, Mrs. Curry lived on the campus until 1953 when she moved back to her home on White House Drive in Atlanta.

Mrs. Curry has served at Spelman College under the administration of President Taplev. Miss Florence Reed. and President Albert E. Manlev. She was chairman of the committee for the inauguration of President Manley in 1954. and was chairman of the Seventy-fifth Anniversary Committee for Spelman College in 1956. Her services as a teacher have been entirely at Spelman College, her alma mater, since her graduation.

Samuel Milton Nabrit was born in Macon, Georgia. He completed his high school studies at Walker Baptist Institute in 1921 as valedictorian just before the family was moved to Atlanta. When the family moved to Atlanta, Samuel entered Morehouse College. Though not as active in athletics as his brother, he kept the scholastic pace while charting a different academic path. Pursuing the study of science, Samuel Milton Nabrit was one of the first five bachelors of science from Morehouse College, graduating in the class of 1925.

In the summer of that year Samuel entered the University of Chicago. He returned to Morehouse College in the fall to become the head of the department of biology. The following summer he returned to Chicago for further study. The school term

of 1927-28 saw the young biologist pursuing studies on a General Education Board fellowship toward an advanced degree at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island. There he received the Master of Science degree in 1928. The next term President John Hope would not consent for Mr. Nabrit to return to Brown for further study. On August 8, 1927 Mr. Nabrit was married to Miss Constance Crocker of New London, Connecticut. Miss Crocker was valedictorian of her class at Boston University in 1925, and was the ninth and youngest child of the Reverend Thomas Crocker, a Baptist minister.

The next term found Mr. Nabrit unable to return to Brown according to his plans on account of the illness of his wife. Mr. Nabrit did research at Woodshole, Massachusetts every summer from 1927 to 1932. It was not until the 1931-32 term that Mr. Nabrit was able to return to Brown University and complete the Doctor of Philosophy degree in biology as the first Negro to receive the Ph. D. at Brown. Until that time no Morehouse graduate had received the Ph. D. degree.

During the next twelve years Dr. Nabrit studied at Woodshole alternate summers. In 1947 he became a member of the corporation. Prior to Dr. Nabrit there had been only one Negro scientist holding membership in the corporation and that was Dr. Ernest Just. That year Dr. Nabrit was appointed also as the first Dean of the Graduate School of Atlanta University. In 1944 Dr. Nabrit was to study one semester at Teachers College, Columbia University on a General Education Board grant, and in 1948 he became a member of the Carnegie Foundation Faculty Grant-in-aid Program, whose interest was keeping faculty people alive in research and teaching. This program disbursed around \$50,000 annually to various colleges approved for its assistance. In 1946 Dr. Nabrit along with "Skip" Hazzard and Dr. H. B. Couch founded the National Institute of Science, an organization whose purpose was bringing together Negro scientists to deal with their mutual problems and research. In

on Education. During the same year he was appointed to the Administrative Committee of the Southern Fellowship Fund which improves southern faculty persons. Dr. Nabrit served in a science workshop at Columbia University in 1945 and for a similar type of workshop at Prairie View in 1946 and again in 1955. During the summer of 1955 Dr. Nabrit taught in the Hampton Institute program in the Virgin Islands. This program was sponsored by the Ford Foundation for the purpose of upgrading teachers on the islands. It was during the time that he was in the islands that Dr. Nabrit was named second president of Texas Southern University. This meant a change of office location for him, for during all these years he had occupied the same office in the Atlanta University system despite any change of position. On October 3, 1955 he was honored in the columns of the *Houston Post* as a "Titled Texan." President Eisenhower appointed Dr. Nabrit to the National Science Foundation May 10, 1956. Listings of Dr. Samuel Milton Nabrit may be found in *Who's Who in America*, *The International Blue Book*, *American Men of Science*, *Directory of American Naturalists* and *Leaders in Education*.

Ann Elyse Nabrit, born in Americus, Georgia, completed high school studies at Spelman College and was married to Samuel A. Young one month before her graduation from college. She was salutatorian of her class in 1929. She began her graduate study at the University of Michigan, but did not complete a degree because the birth of a son, James Nabrit Young, interrupted her study. During the Second World War Mrs. Young began work as a clerk in the Detroit postal service. In this job she has continued work along with her husband who is also a postal clerk.

Her son, James Nabrit Young, was an honor graduate of Morehouse College and a graduate student at Atlanta University in political science. At Morehouse he was a varsity debater. He was married to Etta Webb of Cleveland, Ohio. Young

has served with the Voice of America in public relations.

Augusta Gertrude Lurlene Nabrit Thomas was born in Americus, Georgia slightly over a year before the family moved to Augusta. As a child in Augusta she was inspired by the voluntary work of her mother among the poor to become a social worker. It was also in Augusta at the age of six that Gertrude Lurlene met the boy, Joseph N. Thomas, who was to become her husband some twenty years later. She attended elementary school at the Walker Baptist Institute. When the family moved to Atlanta she completed high school at Spelman College as salutatorian. As a scholarship student she maintained a high scholastic standing and was the first Spelman student accepted for the joint bachelor and master of arts degree program in social service. However, Gertrude preferred to go to Talladega College her senior year and avoid extensive physical education requirements. She was graduated cum laude in 1932 after one year there. Thus, Gertrude was the first Nabrit girl to graduate from a college other than Spelman, and the first one to refuse to teach. After graduation Miss Nabrit secured a job at U. S. Post Office, Station 10, where she worked two years before matriculating at the Atlanta School of Social Work. She was graduated in 1936 with the highest record made up to that time. On invitation she wrote an article for the *Crisis Magazine* entitled, "Uncle Sam to the Rescue," an article on the Social Security Act.

Miss Nabrit worked in the case-work field with Child Welfare Association in Atlanta. When she went to Washington, D. C. to work with Children's Protective Association, she was soon married to Dr. Joseph Nathaniel Thomas on April 29, 1939. Dr. Thomas, a Wilberforce and Meharry Medical College graduate, was then an interne at the Freedman's Hospital.

Gertrude Nabrit Thomas served as traveling field representative for the Atlanta University School of Social Work. After her husband went into practice in New York, Mrs. Thomas served with Queen's Red Cross and

then eleven years in case work with Riversdale Children's Association. More recently Mrs. Thomas has been appointed to the position of community relations worker with Riversdale Children's Association. Her work here covers a wide range of relationships with the public and numerous speaking engagements.

In addition to her job Mrs. Thomas serves on numerous community boards and in social and civic clubs. Dr. Thomas is equally active in medical and civic as well as church affairs. A member of the American Medical Association, he is on the courtesy staff of both St. Joseph's and Rockaway Beach Hospitals, and is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. Dr. and Mrs. Thomas have no children.

Henry Clarke Nabrit, the youngest son of the family, was born in Augusta, Georgia. He was educated in the public schools of Atlanta, graduating from Booker T. Washington High School. Immediately after finishing high school, Henry Clarke pursued the bachelor of arts degree in history and political science at Morehouse College where he graduated in 1937. He then went to Crozer Theological Seminary where he received the B.D. in 1942. During 1942-43 Rev. Nabrit served as professor of church history at American Baptist Seminary in Nashville with his father. In 1943 he went to Beckley, West Virginia as pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church. He then became director of Negro Work in Education for the Northern Baptist Convention in 1945.

On the death of his father, young Rev. Nabrit took the charge at First Baptist Church on Lauderdale Street in Memphis, Tennessee in 1947. Along with his pastorate, Reverend Nabrit is Editor of the Young Adult Quarterly of the Sunday School Publishing Board, National Baptist Convention, U. S. A., Inc. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Sunday School Publishing Board, Assistant Dean of the Memphis Sunday School and B. T. U. Congress, member of the Board of Directors and Financial director of the Tennessee Baptist State Missionary and Education Convention and an in-

structor in the Tennessee Leadership Education Congress.

Reverend Nabrit is married to Mrs. Vernice Smith Nabrit who is a librarian at Booker T. Washington High School in Memphis. Mrs. Nabrit is a graduate of Lemoyne College and holds library certification from Tennessee State University.

Reverend Nabrit is the father of three children, Henry Clarke, Junior, Barbara Ann and Charles Madison Nabrit.

Lois Helene Nabrit Clarke also was born in Augusta, Georgia, the seventh child of the family. Shortly after her birth the family moved to Atlanta. Lois Helene attended the Oglethorpe Elementary and Atlanta University Laboratory High Schools. In 1940 she was graduated from Fisk University (Summa Cum Laude) and set a record not reached in twenty-five previous years at Fisk. As a student at Fisk she was active with Stagecrafters, Student Council, Women's Senate, Fisk Herald, Alpha Kappa Alpha, and Sigma Upsilon Pi.

In November, 1948, Miss Nabrit married Dr. John Hubert Clarke of Knoxville, Tennessee. Dr. and Mrs. Clarke remained in Nashville three years while he did internship and further study in surgery and Gynecology. In 1943 the Clarkes moved to Knoxville where Dr. Clarke began practice while Mrs. Clarke was to become active in civic and religious affairs. She was a Girl Scout Troop Leader, member of Girl Scout Board of Directors in Knoxville; first Negro member of Knox County Advisory Committee to Tennessee Welfare Department; President of Monday Book Review Club; President of Knoxville Doctor's Wives; Bureau speaker for National Council of Christians and Jews; member of Garden Study Club, and East Vine Avenue M. E. Church.

Since September, 1955, Mrs. Clarke has been assistant Librarian at Knoxville College. During the summer of 1956 she studied English and maintained an A average toward the Master of Arts at the University of Tennessee.

Dr. John Hubert Clarke, the son of Dr. S. M. Clarke of Knoxville, Tennessee, did his undergraduate

study at Clark College. He practiced in Knoxville where he was a member of the City Planning Commission; past president of Voluntary State Medical Association; member of the Board of Trustees of the Vine Avenue M. E. Church, and a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. Dr. Clarke was a hard worker at his profession and devoted much time to his patients. Over-taxed with heavy responsibilities in his profession and civic affairs, Dr. Clarke met sudden death in July of 1955 as a result of a heart attack. Dr. and Mrs. Clarke were the parents of two children, Cynthia Cecelia, now a tenth grader with a straight A average; and John Hubert, Junior, a seventh grader.

Cecelia Antoinette Nabrit Adkins is the eighth and youngest child of Dr. James M. Nabrit's family. She was born in Atlanta, Georgia. Her elementary education was at Oglethorpe School in Atlanta. She had begun study at Laboratory High, but when the family moved to Nashville, Tennessee Cecelia entered Pearl High School. There she graduated in 1939 as Valedictorian of her class. In the fall she entered Fisk University on a Gabriel Scholarship, awarded to the Freshman with highest scholastic average. At Fisk she was a member of Sigma Upsilon Pi, Honor Scholastic Fraternity, and listed in Who's Who in American Universities and Colleges. She was a member of the Women's Senate, Student Council, Faculty-Student Judiciary Committee, Stagecrafters, "D. L. V." and "Quacks." She served as Associate Editor of the Fisk Herald, staff member of Student Cooperative and as student assistant in the Department of History. In 1943 Miss Nabrit graduated from Fisk Summa Cum Laude. Shortly after graduation, she joined the Accounting Department of the Sunday School Publishing Board. Turning down a Rosenwald Scholarship, she went to Chicago to study high accounting for a diploma from the International Accountants Society. In May, 1944, she was married to J. W. Adkins, a Nashville mortician.

Promotions were easily gained by a person of Mrs. Adkins initiative and energy at the Sunday School

Board. Though youthful, she has reached the position of chief accountant and Director of Personnel. She is director of a church choir and serves as lady attendant for the undertaking firm operated by Mr. Adkins.

In naming Mrs. Adkins "The Woman of the Year" in 1955, the Nashville Press and Radio Club was highly impressed by the contributions she had made to the community in civic, business, and religious affairs. She renders outstanding service to the YWCA program in Nashville, the Phyllis Wheatley Home, the Fisk Club and the NAACP.

Mrs. Adkins is found taking active and lively part in the community affairs of Nashville. A member of the National Council of Women, Mrs. Adkins is often in demand as a speaker, especially in Women's affairs. There are no children in the Adkins family.

Despite the large number in the Nabrit family and the small income earned by a Baptist minister of moderately small churches, not one member of the family found this an excuse for mediocrity. Thus it might be said that, with more well disciplined persons, we can have more orderly and educated families; with more orderly and educated families, we can have a happier and greater nation; with happier and greater nations, there can be a better and more peaceful world.

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