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Women's Missionary Union

First Baptist Church (Shelby, NC)

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### WMU History Notes - Louise English

First Baptist Church Shelby

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Louise English, Mrs. George L., was President of the W. M. U. in our church in 1904. She also organized the Children's Departments in the Sunday School and was the first teacher to use pictures and children's songs and to teach on the child's level rather than for the children to attend adult classes with their parents as the custom had been. She was leader of the Sunbeam Band all the years the Englishes lived in Shelby.

Mrs. English was born Louise Bauch in Philadelphia, of German descent. She and her family - Mr. English, and three children - moved from Mt. Vernon, New York to Shelby in 1903 and joined the First Baptist Church on December 16, 1903.

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Mr. English had been a Deacon in the New York church and was automatically made a Deacon here. No doubt he was active in helping our church build a new building (the present one) completed in 1911. He also helped organize the Boiling Springs High School in 1905. In the early days, even after our W. M. U. work was pretty well established, because women were not supposed to speak out in open meetings, it was men who gave the reports on Women's work at Associational or State meetings. In the old minute books at Gardner-Webb we find that George L. English and B. T. Falls, Sr. read the reports of Women's work at First Baptist Church, Shelby, for some years.

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Mr. English was an authority on minerals, and during the time that the mining of Monazite and Mica was a thriving business in Cleveland County, Mr. English owned a Monazite Company of his own. For a time the family lived at the old Shelby Hotel, where the City Hall now stands and later lived on North Morgan Street in the house now occupied by Mrs. Packard, according to Mrs. Paul Webb. It was at the Hotel that little Kathrine, aged 11, died in \_\_\_\_\_ and Mrs. English was in deep mourning for a long time. The other children were a son, Roland and a daughter, Gwendolyn. Roland graduated from Piedmont High School in 1911 and attended Cornell University. He was the second student to win the Hoey Oratorical Medal (John Mull was the first). He later became a Professor at the University of Wisconsin. At last word from Gwendolyn, she was living in California.

Louise English was not a beautiful woman, when we think of physical beauty, as she was a little plump and had a very large, unsightly birth mark over one ~~xxx~~ eye. She was a refined, well-educated, Christian woman who gave untiringly of her time and talents to the work of the Church. She always seemed so sad after the death of her little daughter and seemed happiest when working with children in Sunday School or Sunbeams. Mr. English was so gentle and refined (was small in stature and wore a very neat little beard) and he shared Louise's love for children.

When the Government lowered the tariff on mica and minerals imported from Mexico and abroad, the mines in this county ceased to operate, and Mr. English gave up his Company. The family moved to Rochester, New York around 1915, where he became Professor of Mineralogy at the University of Rochester. Mrs. English passed away in 1921 in Rochester, and Mr. English remarried.