

Mrs. Cora Wilson Stewart Originator of Moonlight Schools

Being interested in everything that tends to the upbuilding of our town and county interests, our Commercial Club, thru its secretary, wrote the originator of Moonlight Schools in Rowan county asking for information on the subject. Mrs. Stewart was Superintendent of schools for two terms and during that period established "Moonlight" schools, so called because held at night and could be attended when the moon shown, at the various school houses, most of the teachers volunteering their services. The purpose was to teach every person in the county, no matter of what age, to read and write. The undertaking was a success beyond expectations. Many students between the ages of 50 and 80 years were eager attendants and the record shows that now but 23 persons in that county are unable to read and write; there being some 1200 or more before the work was undertaken.

Mrs. Stewart is now on a lecture tour of the State. She lectured at Danville Monday evening last.

Many people thruout the state, favor the movement to nominate and elect this great educator for the position of State Superintendent of Schools.

Below is copy of reply to Commercial Club's letter under date of Louisville, Ky., March 24th 1914:

Dear Mr. Maret:—

It seems very unfortunate that such good letters as yours should have to wait so long for a reply, but I have been traveling over the State and since have been ill and this is my first opportunity to reply. I appreciate your interest sincerely.

Replying to your question will say that the only pamphlet now issued is that of the United States Bureau of Education Bulletin No. 20. I shall have a book out on the subject in the early summer entitled "His Mark" and dealing with the blighting power of illiteracy and the remedy for it.

It is entirely possible to conduct this work in any county. We shall soon have organized a Kentucky Illiteracy Commission for the organization of the entire State for moonlight schools. I feel that we can count on you and the Mt. Vernon Commercial Club to see that your section comes to the front in this matter.

Thanking you for your interest and encouragement and congratulating you upon the evidences of intelligent boosting of your section which I see on your envelope and letterhead, I am

Yours sincerely,
CORA WILSON STEWART.