

TAYLOR UNIVERSITY

Kittie Smith

1908-1909 Student

“She writes very well with her feet, is quite skillful in the art of drawing, in pyrography and in embroidering. She also dexterously uses the hammer and saw, having made a writing desk, table, and a number of other useful articles.”

-1909 Gem

Katherine Maria Smith, known as "Kittie", lost her arms to abuse at the age of 9.

After the tragedy, Smith was given the opportunity to get specialized education in order to learn how to live as independently as possible. As a young adult, Smith published her autobiography in 1905, resulting in thousands of donations. As a Taylor student, Smith was described as energetic, lighthearted, and talented student who strove to model the Gospel message. After leaving the university, Smith founded and taught at an institution for disabled children in Chicago near her home. This institution was praised for its emphasis on cultivating personal individuality.