

# Rev. Henry Ward dies at 102

The Rev. Henry Ward, retired Minister of the United Church of Jamaica and Grand Cayman died in the Nuttall Memorial Hospital on Tuesday. He was 102.

Born in Golden Grove, St. Ann, he received his early education at Clapham Primary School and at St. George's Primary School, Guy Hill, where he passed the Pupil Teachers' Examination with distinction, thus gaining for himself an Exhibitioner's Scholarship to the Mico Teacher Training College from where he graduated in 1900 as the Honours Man of the Year. From 1900-1910 he was headmaster of the Ebenezer Primary School, Manchester, where the Inspector of Schools hailed him as a perfectionist. The academic achievement of his school gave evidence of this, for in the Pupil Teachers' Examination in one year all the top places in the island were awarded to this Manchester School.

In 1910 the teaching fraternity, in admiration and recognition of the work and worth of their fellow teacher, and confident in his ability of leadership, voted Mr. Ward at the age of 31, president of the Jamaica Union of Teachers.

From 1911-1913 Mr. Ward entered the Presbyterian Theological College, at Woodlands, South Manchester, to be prepared for the Church's Ministry and was ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacraments in the Presbyterian Church. That said year he was invited by the Foreign Mission Committee of the Church

of Scotland to fill the position in the Teacher Training Department of the Hope Waddell Institute, Calabar, Nigeria. He was later appointed to serve as Educational Missionary 1916-1923 at Calabar.

When he returned to Jamaica in 1923 he was assigned to the Salem Presbyterian Church, Islington, St. Mary. His period of Ministry there lasted from 1923-1967, when he retired from active service - a period of 44 years.

He built the present Church edifice in 1932 and during that period he ministered to the Castleton, Rose Bank, Hampstead and Zion Hill congregations.

The Rev. Henry Ward was four times Moderator of the former Presbyterian Church of Jamaica and Grand Cayman and the first Moderator of the United Church of Jamaica and Grand Cayman. He served at various times at other Courts and Committees of the Church.

He was chairman of the West St. Mary School Board from 1940-1955, and member of the Board of Education for 25 years. He was instrumental in the founding of St. Andrew School for Girls, Meadowbrook High School, Knox College, and Grand Cayman High School.

For many years Mr. Ward was the unofficial but undisputed, "agricultural Extension Officer" in St. Mary. He formed the Islington Credit Union, initiated the Islington Tomato Growers' Co-operative, pioneered onion growing in Jamaica. A banana grower himself, he

was director of the Jamaica Banana Producers' Association, and director of the Jamaica All-Island Banana Growers' Association. He pioneered one of Jamaica's first Basic Schools as well as a Community Training Centre, where various craft items were taught to girls and unemployed mothers. The Nutfield Land Settlement and the Nutfield Housing Scheme, one of the earliest schemes of its type in Jamaica became a reality, through his untiring effort.

He played an active role in political affairs. He was a Lay Magistrate and for a period was a member of the old Parochial Board in St. Mary.

In 1963 he was given the SPECIAL MERIT AWARD FOR GOOD HUMAN RELATIONSHIP by the Jaycees of St. Mary.

In 1972 THE DISTINGUISHED

SERVICE AWARD by the Kiwanis of St. Mary.

In 1972 THE ORDER OF DISTINCTION was bestowed on him by a grateful government.

In 1975 THE WARD SCHOLARSHIP was established by the Jamaica Banana Producers' Association.

In 1978 CERTIFICATE OF HONOUR was given him for meritorious service in the field of education in Jamaica, by the Jamaica Catholic Education Association.

In 1978 THE HENRY WARD SCHOLARSHIP tenable at Gordon

Cornwall Theological Seminary.

In 1979 on the threshold of his 100th year, the Mico Old Students' Association cited him for living up to the highest ideals of his Alma Mater and bestowed on him the MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD.

He was twice married and the father of two daughters by his first marriage. His wife and one daughter predeceased him. He is survived by his second wife, Eva, whom he married in 1962, and a daughter and her family.

Funeral service for the Rev. Henry Ward will take place at Salem United Church, Islington, St. Mary at a date to be announced.



Rev. Ward