

**December 18, 2025**

## **Frances Jones**

Today's edition of the Daufuskie Island Museum Advent calendar honors an island resident who made significant contributions to island history, but you may not know the story behind the name you see on roads, parks and historic homes: Frances Jones.

Black children on Daufuskie in the early part of the 1900's attended school in the Maryfield Praise House and the First Union African Baptist Church. Frances Jones had completed only a few grades at the Praise House and the First Union Church before moving to Savannah to complete grammar school. She attended Beach High School in Savannah then, to be with her grandparents, came back to Daufuskie and enrolled in extra-curricular summer classes at the private school of Professor John Daniels. She attended Savannah State, and completed her education at at South Carolina State College in Charleston.

Frances began her teaching career in 1930, replacing the teacher at the Praise House/First Union Church. She moved to the Mary Fields school when it opened in 1934, teaching grades 4 through 6. In 1935, the school went to a nine month schedule and included grades 1 through 8. Until 1940, Miss Jones taught grades 5 through 8, then began teaching grades 1 through 4 , which continued until her retirement in 1969.

Books and supplies were often slow coming from the Beaufort school department, so Miss Jones created reading materials from magazines and store catalogs, and arithmetic assignments from pictures in seed catalogs (one apple plus one apple equals two apples, etc.). Teachers used whatever materials were on hand to help educate the students.

Retiring in 1969, Frances Jones left a lasting legacy, educating many children on Daufuskie during her career. Her significance as a teacher cannot be overstated, and in recognition of her impact on our little island, we see a street and a park named in her honor, and her home a featured historic site. The Daufuskie Island History Museum also has an exhibit featuring her contributions.

