

## **Cruikshank, Margaret Mordecai Jones** <sup>[1]</sup>

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By [William S. Powell](#) <sup>[2]</sup>, 1979

**13 Oct. 1878–26 Dec. 1955**

Margaret Mordecai Cruikshank, teacher and college president, was born in Hillsborough, the daughter of Halcott Pride Jones and his wife, Olive Echols. She attended the Nash-Kollock School in Hillsborough and was graduated from [St. Mary's Academy](#) <sup>[3]</sup> in [Raleigh](#) <sup>[4]</sup> in 1896. She then taught at [St. Mary's](#) <sup>[3]</sup> for three years before entering [The University of North Carolina](#) <sup>[5]</sup> for the session of 1901–2. Returning to St. Mary's to teach for three more years, she also studied in Chapel Hill and at Teachers College, [Columbia University](#) <sup>[6]</sup>, traveling in Europe in the summers. She was graduated from [Columbia](#) <sup>[6]</sup> in 1911 and on 17 June married Ernest Cruikshank, business manager of [St. Mary's](#) <sup>[3]</sup>.

Mrs. Cruikshank continued to teach at St. Mary's until 1921, when her husband became president of Columbia Institute in Tennessee. He died the following year, and she succeeded him as president. She held the position until 1932, when she was elected principal and academic head of St. Mary's Junior College, as the first woman to head the institution; the alumnae apparently played a significant role in her selection. In 1937 she earned a master's degree at [Duke University](#) <sup>[7]</sup>. She continued to serve as head of St. Mary's until her death from a heart attack.

During her teaching career, Mrs. Cruikshank's specialties were mathematics, astronomy, German, and the Bible. She was a Democrat and an Episcopalian. She was survived by a son, Ernest, and two daughters, Mary Pride (Mrs. Frank Clark) and Olive (Mrs. Robert T. Foss).

#### **References:**

Daniel L. Grant, *Alumni History of the University of North Carolina* (1924)

*Raleigh News and Observer*, 8 Apr. 1932, 27 Dec. 1955, 1 Jan. 1958

*Who Was Who in America* (1960)

#### **Subjects:**

[Biographies](#) <sup>[8]</sup>

[Educators](#) <sup>[9]</sup>

[Women](#) <sup>[10]</sup>

#### **Authors:**

[Powell, William S.](#) <sup>[11]</sup>

#### **Origin - location:**

[Orange County](#) <sup>[12]</sup>

[Wake County](#) <sup>[13]</sup>

[Raleigh](#) <sup>[14]</sup>

#### **From:**

[Dictionary of North Carolina Biography, University of North Carolina Press.](#) <sup>[15]</sup>

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