

# Ray Nichols Moore 1914 - 1975

In the spring issue of 1975, Volume 33 Number 1, editor Herbert Poole expresses sorrow at the loss of longtime librarian Ray Moore. Ms. Moore had a 42-year career as a librarian, including 21 years as the librarian of the Stanford L. Warren Public Library in Durham and 9 years as assistant director of the Durham County Library System. Learn more about the expansion of library services under Moore at the [History of the Durham County Library](#) and [The History of the Stanford L. Warren Library](#) webpages.

Ray Moore also served on the editorial board of *North Carolina Libraries* and was chair of the Intellectual Freedom committee for 1974-1975. After her death, the North Carolina Library Association's executive committee authorized the establishment of the Ray Moore Award to recognize the best article on public librarianship published in *North Carolina Libraries*. The Ray Moore Award is presented at each Biennial Conference of the North Carolina Library Association. Find recent winners online at [https://www.ncl.ecu.edu/index.php/NCL/Moore\\_Award](https://www.ncl.ecu.edu/index.php/NCL/Moore_Award).



## Dear Reader

Ray Moore is dead. She passed away during the evening of March 23rd following an illness of several weeks. Our sense of loss is profound, and the sadness of knowing we will not see her again in this life evokes long moments of silence.

Ray was a native of Georgia, the youngest of twelve children. She attended high school in Chattanooga and graduated from Spelman College in Atlanta in 1930. Fifteen years later she graduated from North Carolina College (where her husband served as Dean of the School of Library Science) with a library degree.

Ray's career as a librarian spanned forty-two years. She served as a teacher librarian in the public schools of Chattanooga County, Georgia, as well as in the city schools of Concord and Durham, North Carolina. In 1945, she became the librarian of the Stanford L. Warren Public Library in Durham, a position which she held until 1966 and her appointment to the assistant directorship of the Durham County Library System.

Ray was active within her profession not only as an administrator, but also as a diligent and able committee person, as a contributor to the professional literature, and as a dedicated and loyal member of the editorial board of *North Carolina Libraries*. Unfortunately for all of us, fate would require her loved and loving spirit elsewhere, just at the zenith of her career. Perhaps it is best, as Robert Ingersoll observed, just at the height of one's morning when the flower of success is in fullest bloom to crash upon the unseen rocks and sink beneath the waves of the farther shore.

As a proper and lasting tribute to Ray, the North Carolina Library Association has authorized *North Carolina Libraries* to solicit the general membership for contributions which will be used to establish an annual writing competition known as the Ray Moore Award for the best article on public libraries submitted to your journal for publication. Each gift to such a fund is tax-deductible. NCLA will appoint a panel to judge the contest. Within a few days each of you will receive an invitation to help NCLA, *North Carolina Libraries*, and yourself by assisting with a lasting memorial to a North Carolina librarian whom history should record as a great lady.

Those of us who knew Ray loved her. Please help preserve her memory.