

**Chapter – V**

**EDUCATIONAL WORK OF LADY MISSIONARIES AT**

**NAGERCOIL DIVISION**

The lady missionaries of the London Missionary Society rendered yeoman services to create social awakening in Travancore especially in south Travancore. They used women's education as an instrument.<sup>1</sup> In Travancore, as elsewhere in India the birth of a female child was looked down upon<sup>2</sup>. They were not permitted to go out of their house. Education to women was not possible during those days due to the absence of schools except the Kudipallikudams. The credit for starting female education in Travancore goes to the Lady Missionaries.

Before the arrival of the Christian missionaries educational institutions were practically non-existent in rural areas<sup>3</sup>. Absence of educational institutions in the remote villages made it impossible for the villagers to send their wards to schools<sup>4</sup>. Their parents too were unwilling to send them to school as they feared that female education would endanger the interests of their culture and civilization.<sup>5</sup> Hence the lady missionaries of the London Missionary society came forward to uplift women by encouraging

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<sup>1</sup> Agur, C.M., *op.cit.*, p. 773.

<sup>2</sup> Evangelical Magazine and Missionary Chronicle, December, 1820, p.531.

<sup>3</sup> Annual Report of the L.M.S., London, 1822, pp.83-84.

<sup>4</sup> Hacker, I.H., *A Hundred years in Travancore*, p.26.

<sup>5</sup> Naik, J.P., and Syed Nurallah, *op.cit.*, pp. 150-159.

women's education.<sup>6</sup> They vowed to put an end to the seclusion of women and their suppression in the society. The wives of early missionaries like Mrs. Mead, Mrs. Martha Mault, Mrs. Leah James Duthie, Miss Annie Lee Duthie, Miss Beatrice Jessie Duthie, Miss G.M. Harris and Miss Olive Morton did the pioneering work in this direction. Early missionaries like Mrs.Mead and Mrs.Mault rendered yeomen service to create a sense of social awakening among women and men. After they had left, their services were continued by Mrs.Leah James Duthie and others.

### **5.1 Mrs. Leah James Duthie 1859-1900**

In 1859, Mr. and Mrs. Leah James Duthie arrived at Nagercoil to continue the educational endeavours of Mrs.Mead and Mrs.Mault<sup>7</sup>. During her time the boarders got up at 6 a.m., attended morning worship at 7 a.m., did home work for an hour and went to school after breakfast. From 9 a.m., to noon, they were engaged in their studies. After a light meal, they resumed their studies. In the evening they helped in cooking.<sup>8</sup> The school at Nagercoil was divided into 4 classes. The first two classes were taught by Gnanakkan and 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> classes were taught by Thevai, the matron. The

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<sup>6</sup> Yesudhas, R.N., *London Missionary Society in Travancore*, Trivandrum, 1975, p.252.

<sup>7</sup> Richard Lovett, M.A., *History of the London Missionary society*, Vol. II, p. 166.

<sup>8</sup> Report of the Nagercoil Boarding school, Annual Report of the L.M.S., London, 1866, p. 146.

main subjects taught were Scripture, Geography, Tamil and Arithmetic.<sup>9</sup> From 1865 onwards Mrs. Leah James Dathie diverted her attention towards Thittuvilai the most backward area in the Nagercoil Mission district. In 1869 she opened a school for girls named Pochin at Thittuvilai. Under her patronage the girls of the school made good progress in their studies.<sup>10</sup> Mrs. Leah James Duthie also opened a girls school at Andithope. Seventeen girls and fifty five boys joined there. She secured money from her friend Miss Whitworth from England to run this school.<sup>11</sup>

In order to collect money for purchasing books and clothes for the poor children, Mrs. Leah James Duthie took the school children to the villages during harvest season.<sup>12</sup> They sang lyrics and Ten Commandments at the doors of both Christians and non-Christians. The women who were attracted by the sweet songs of the school presented them with paddy and sometimes money<sup>13</sup>. In the village schools lessons were taught in Tamil.<sup>14</sup> Mrs. Jones taught English to the Children.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> Report of the T.D.C. for 1862, Report of the Thittuvilai and Nagercoil District, p. 4.

<sup>10</sup> Report of the T.D.C. for 1869, Report of the Thittuvilai Mission District, p. 14.

<sup>11</sup> Report of the Travancore District Council, 1869, p.14.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 15.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>15</sup> Report of the T.D.C. for 1872, Report of the Nagercoil and Thittuvilai Mission District, p. 17.

She also conducted prayers in the early morning and taught them lessons from the Bible.<sup>16</sup> In course of time a number of village schools were established in and around Thittuvilai. By 1872 the number of village schools increased to 21.<sup>17</sup> Mrs. Jones helped Mrs. Leah James Duthie in all her endeavours connected with female education at Thittuvilai.<sup>18</sup> Almost all the girls who attended that school were very poor. Though their parents were illiterate, the missionaries made them realize the importance of education, especially female education.

In response to the request from the women Mrs. James Duthie started a night school at Thittuvilai in 1869. After the day's work the women attended the night school.<sup>19</sup> Under the direct supervision of Mrs. James Duthie, the girls school at Thittuvilai functioned with 6 Christian teacher and 256 girls.<sup>20</sup> With the support of her friend Miss Whitworth in England, she established a small library in the orphanage at Nagercoil in the year 1893.<sup>21</sup> The library possessed 300 volumes of books in English and Tamil. The library was very useful to the poor children of the orphanage.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> Report of the Travancore District Council, 1869, p.15.

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 5.

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>19</sup> Report of the T.D.C. for 1882, Report of the Thittuvilai Mission District, p. 16.

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>21</sup> Annual Report of the one Hundred and Third Report of the L.M.S., London, 1898, p. 132.

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid.*

## 5.2 Miss. Annie Lee Duthie, (Mrs. Allan) 1883-1905

As the boarding school at Nagercoil and other village schools were making steady progress, Miss. Annie Lee Duthie, the eldest daughter of Mrs. James Duthie, arrived at Nagercoil in 1880 as a missionary of the L.M.S. Since 1880 she showed keen interest in women's education and Zenana work in her father's field of work.<sup>23</sup> From the time of her arrival at Nagercoil, Miss Annie Lee Duthie continued the organized activities connected with women's education in that area. Miss Annie Lee Duthie formed the old Pupils Association.<sup>24</sup> During her time the Nagercoil girls school was divided into English and Tamil sections.<sup>25</sup> She selected some intelligent girls and put them in a class to study English. The remaining students were taught in Tamil.

The two sections came to be known as English Middle school and Tamil Middle School.<sup>26</sup> She also formed, Band of Hope society.<sup>27</sup> She conducted tuition for more than three hours daily for the girls who stayed in the boarding.<sup>28</sup> Nobody could equal her in English standard. In the lower

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<sup>23</sup> Fredrick, J.D., *Desopakari, Ed., Rev. J.A. Jacob*, Vol. XII, No. 11, Feb.1957, p. 15.

<sup>24</sup> Report of the T.D.C. for 1880, Report of the Nagercoil Mission District, p. 9.  
and

Report of the T.D.C. for 1881, Report of the Nagercoil Mission District, p. 8.

<sup>25</sup> Report of the T.D.C. for 1882, Report of the Nagercoil Mission District, p. 17.

<sup>26</sup> Report of the T.D.C. for 1883, Report of the Nagercoil Mission District, p. 18.

<sup>27</sup> Annual Report of the Directors of the L.M.S., London, 1884, p. 89.

<sup>28</sup> Report of the T.D.C. for 1890, Report of the Nagercoil Mission District, p. 15.

secondary examination her efforts produced good results.<sup>29</sup> She also formed another association called "Daughters of the Court"<sup>30</sup>. Its members worked in different fields of the Mission. Miss Annie Lee was married to Allan, a missionary in 1892.<sup>31</sup> Living in the Allan Memorial Hall Mrs. Annie Allan took keen interest in the improvement of the schools under her control, while her husband Allan worked as the superintendent of all congregations in south Travancore.<sup>32</sup>

### **5.3 Introduction of Teacher's Training School**

With the introduction of grant-in-aid to schools by the Government of Travancore it became necessary to appoint only trained teachers in the Mission schools.<sup>33</sup> The government ordered that only after the appointment of trained teachers in the village schools, Government grant would be provided.<sup>34</sup> So there was a great need for trained teachers.<sup>35</sup> To meet the requirement of the new educational code of the Travancore Government, in the year 1895, a training school for teachers was started.<sup>36</sup> Mrs. Annie Allan selected forty-eight men for training with the assistance of the mission

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<sup>29</sup> Annual Report of the Directors of the L.M.S., London 1891, p. 133.

<sup>30</sup> Hector, S.S., *church History*, part I, 1806-1907, Nagercoil, p. 83.

<sup>31</sup> Annual Report of the Directors of the L.M.S., London, 1893, pp. 3-4.

<sup>32</sup> Report of the T.D.C. for 1893, Report of the Nagercoil Mission District, pp. 1-2

<sup>33</sup> Minutes of special Meeting of the T.D.C., at Neyyoor, July 25 & 26, 1894, pp. 12.

<sup>34</sup> Annual Report of the Directors of the L.M.S., London, 1895, p. 118.

<sup>35</sup> Yesudas, R.N., *A History of women's Education in Kerala*, Trivandrum, 1975, pp. 29-30.

<sup>36</sup> Annual Report of the Directors of the L.M.S., London, 1895, p. 118.

committee. They were educated at the expense of the Mission.<sup>37</sup> With the help of Miss Askwith, the principal of the Sarah Tucker College, Mrs. Allan secured the services of two teachers from Sarah Tucker college for training them. This training school came to be known as Normal Training school.<sup>38</sup>

The Boarding school at Nagercoil was placed under the Nagercoil District Educational council.<sup>39</sup> As the native inspectors held inspections regularly, Mrs. Annie Allan introduced quarterly examinations and oral examination in all subjects.<sup>40</sup> At the end of the year to encourage the students she gave prizes to the best students.<sup>41</sup> The Boarding school was recognized as a High school by the Government on 5<sup>th</sup> September 1899 on the ground that it was one of the first Girls schools established in south Travancore.<sup>42</sup> In the year 1899 there were 183 pupils in the training school.<sup>43</sup>

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<sup>37</sup> Annual Report of the T.D.C., 1896, p. 113.

<sup>38</sup> Report of the T.D.C., for 1894, Report of the Nagercoil Mission District, p. 19.

<sup>39</sup> Annual Report of the Directors of the L.M.S., London, 1896, p. 114.

<sup>40</sup> Report of the T.D.C. for 1897, Report of the Nagercoil Mission District, p. 15.

<sup>41</sup> Annual Report of the Directors of the L.M.S., London, 1897, p. 133.

<sup>42</sup> Annual Report of the Directors of the L.M.S., London, 1899, p. 121.

<sup>43</sup> Nagercoil Girls Boarding school, English Department, Log Book I, p. 20.

#### 5.4 Boarding department's separation from school

As the number of children increased the rooms were not sufficient for accommodating them.<sup>44</sup> In order to have a separate boarding home Mrs. Annie Allan decided to purchase a plot of land. Accordingly a plot of 3 acres and 1 cent was purchased on 29.1.1898 at a cost of about Rs. 2500/- from a Latin Christian businessman called koil Pillai, son of Sudalaimadan Nadar.<sup>45</sup>

The girls school at Nagercoil got recognition as a High school in September 1899.<sup>46</sup> As a result Annie Allan could send the first batch of two girls for the matriculation examination in December 1899.<sup>47</sup> In 1902, as the number of children in the school was increasing, Mr. and Mrs. Allan bought an area of 2 acres and 23 cents of land adjoining the previous one, at a cost of Rs. 4595 from Francis Fernandez of Kunnukuzhy, Vanchiyur, Trivandrum.<sup>48</sup> This amount came from the profits earned by Mrs. Annie Allan in the lace industry. The new site was four furlongs away from the old

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<sup>44</sup> Annual Report of the One Hundred and Fifth Report of the L.M.S., London, 1900, p.174.

<sup>45</sup> Land Registration, Document No. 999, p. 174.

<sup>46</sup> Annual Report of the One Hundred and Fifth Report of the L.M.S., London, 1900, p.175.

<sup>47</sup> Mrs. Annie Allan Writes, "we are glad to be able to report that the past year has been one of the steady progress in our girls school. The school got recognition as a high school last September, 1899 and we sent up two girls for the Matriculation Examination in December. This is the first time girls from the London Mission Institution have appeared for this examination."

Annual Report of the One Hundred and Fifth Report of the L.M.S., London, 1900, p. 176.

<sup>48</sup> Land Registration, Document No. 540, Kanyakumari, 1902, pp. 1-3.

school and it came to be known as Duthie Compound.<sup>49</sup> In 1904, Mr. and Mrs. Allan constructed a new girl's home so as to accommodate two hundred and sixty one inmates of whom forty seven were orphans and destitute children.<sup>50</sup> It was attached with a well also. The expenses of the construction was Rs. 10,000/- which was met by the missionary couple without any aid from the parent society.<sup>51</sup> To raise the standard of the students, graduates were appointed teachers in the higher classes. The boarders were given vocational training so as to make them to earn by themselves once they left the school.<sup>52</sup> The school included infants class to the sixth form which prepared children for the matriculation examination. Since the missionary couple had no issues, they were closely attached to the children of the orphanage.<sup>53</sup>

### **5.5 Establishment of village schools**

While Mrs. Annie made good progress in the development programmes of the Girls Boarding school at Nagercoil, simultaneously she established village schools mainly in the non-christian villages of kottar and

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<sup>49</sup> *Duthie School Souvenir*, 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 1819-1969, Nagercoil, p. 15.

<sup>50</sup> Annual Report of the One Hundred and Nineth Report of the L.M.S., London, 1904, p.201.

<sup>51</sup> Annual Report of the One Hundred and Nineth Report of the L.M.S., London, 1904, p.203.

<sup>52</sup> Annual Report of the Directors of the L.M.S., London, 1903, p. 191.

Annual Report of the One Hundred and Nienth Report of the L.M.S., London, 1904, p.204.

<sup>53</sup> *Duthie School Souvenir*, 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 1819-1969, Nagercoil, p. 15.

Vadaseri. She was responsible for establishing Vahaiyadi School with thirty children of the silk weavers.<sup>54</sup> With great difficulties Goldsmith school was established at Vadasery. Illiteracy among women of that community was a major obstacle for the development of the Zenana work. Hence the missionaries planned to make the girls literate.<sup>55</sup> She established the school at Vadaseri, in the midst of great opposition from the caste elders of Brahmins and Chaliers. Another school was started at Putheri with twenty pupils and a women teacher.<sup>56</sup> For the benefit of the Muslim children of that area Mrs. Annie Allan started a school with twenty five children and a female teacher at Edalakudy in 1897.<sup>57</sup> Muhammedans did not like Christian teachings so their children were taken back. Hence the children of the other communities were also admitted.<sup>58</sup> In 1899 another school was started at Krishnankoil with twenty pupils.<sup>59</sup> In the same year, for the Hindu girls, another school was started with twenty pupils at Erachakulam.<sup>60</sup> In 1900, schools with 402 students functioned as compared to 3 schools with 151 students in 1890. This was a major achievement of Mrs.Allan. In course of

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<sup>54</sup> Annual Report of the T.D.C. for 1900, Report of the Nagercoil Mission District, pp. 7-8.

<sup>55</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>56</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>57</sup> Mrs. Annie Allan, village schools, Nagercoil Annual Report of the T.D.C. for 1900, Report of the Nagercoil Mission District, pp. 11-12.

<sup>58</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>59</sup> Report of the Nagercoil Mission District, pp.11-12.

<sup>60</sup> *Ibid.*

time, due to lack of funds, she gave up three village schools and three teachers.<sup>61</sup>

Mr.Allan and Mrs. Annie Allan retired in 1905 after a long and eventful period of service, and settled down at Belfield near Asaripallam.<sup>62</sup> Today the girls Boarding school at Nagercoil, the Allan Memorial Bungalow, the Boarding Home and the Duthie compound stand as the monuments of the hard work of the Allans.<sup>63</sup> On the retirement of Mrs. Allan, Miss. Bertha A. Blanchard took up the responsibility for the development of women's education, women's work and Lace Industry. Miss Blanchard served at Nagercoil till she was transferred to Neyyoor in 1911.<sup>64</sup>

### **5.6 Miss Beatrice Jessie Duthie**

The responsibility of superintending the Girls Boarding school at Nagercoil and other schools in and around Nagercoil fell upon Miss Beatrice Jessie Duthie, the youngest daughter of James Duthie, when Miss Bertha A. Blanchard left Nagercoil.<sup>65</sup> Under her the Girls Boarding school grew into a

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<sup>61</sup> Annual Report of the Directors of the L.M.S., London, 1904, p. 131.

<sup>62</sup> *Duthie School Souvenir*, 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, (1819-1969) Nagercoil, p. 15.

<sup>63</sup> Mr. Allan died on Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> September 1928 and Mrs. Annie Allan died on 7<sup>th</sup> January 1957 and buried in Nagercoil Home Church Cemetery Ibid., pp. 15-16.

<sup>64</sup> Annual Report of the One Hundred and Twelfth Report of the L.M.S., London, 1907, p. 122.

<sup>65</sup> Annual Report of the One Hundred and Third Report of the L.M.S., London, 1900, pp. 176-177.

full-fledged High school in the year 1899 with Mr. Kesari as its first headmaster.<sup>66</sup> The present High school block was built with the profits earned from the Lace Industry under Miss Beatrice Jessie Duthie.<sup>67</sup> The school was named after her, as a token of gratitude for her generous help.<sup>68</sup> The school consisted of an English High school, a vernacular school. Beatrice died at Nagercoil in 1919 at the age of 49.<sup>69</sup>

### **5.7 Miss G.M. Harris (Mrs. Eastaff) (1910-1924)**

Miss G.M. Harris<sup>70</sup> was yet another important lady missionary who became the first principal of the Duthie Girls High school, on 16<sup>th</sup> January 1911.<sup>71</sup> She had only 336 names on the rolls of the school in the year

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<sup>66</sup> *Duthie School Souvenir*, 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, (1819-1969), Nagercoil, p. 46.

Annual Report of the One Hundred and Fifth Report of the L.M.S., London, 1900, pp.176-178.

<sup>67</sup> *Duthie School Souvenir*, 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Nagercoil, 1816-1969, p. 46.

<sup>68</sup> Annual Report of the One Hundred and Twenty-Fifth Report of the L.M.S., London, 1927, p. 55.

<sup>69</sup> Miss Mathew, E., *Duthie English High school, Home Church Triple Jubilee Souvenir*, Nagercoil (1819-1969), p. 83.

<sup>70</sup> Born on 7<sup>th</sup> May, 1885 at stock port, Clapton. Miss Gladys May Harris had her education at the university college in London and at Maria Grey Training College. She worked chiefly in the Girls High School and in the evangelistic work.

James Sibree, D.D., *A Register of Missionaries Deputations from 1796 to 1923*, Westminster, 1923, p. 158.

<sup>71</sup> Annual Report of the One Hundred and Fourteenth Report of the L.M.S., London, 1912, p. 168.

1911.<sup>72</sup> But the number in the higher classes was very small. In May 1911 she added 7<sup>th</sup> class to the Elementary school so as to meet the requirements of the new code of the government.<sup>73</sup> The English school consisted of classes upto IV form.<sup>74</sup> Every girl who passed the IV form had the chance to go for higher studies, with scholarship from the mission.<sup>75</sup>

The four girls who passed the IV Form in 1911 joined the Sarah Tucker College.<sup>76</sup> It is noteworthy that Miss Harris was the first lady principal to take charge of the management of all schools including the Girls Boarding schools.<sup>77</sup>

In the year 1919 the Girls High School celebrated the first centenary. On that occasion this school was named as L.M.S. Girls High school.<sup>78</sup> By 1922, without any grant from the government the building of an Assembly Hall was completed at a cost of Rs. 3000/-<sup>79</sup>. As the school buildings in the

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<sup>72</sup> Harris G.M., Report of the Girls school, Nagercoil, Annual Report of the L.M.S., Nagercoil and Thittuvilai District, south Travancore, 1911, p. 8.

<sup>73</sup> Yesudas, R.N., "*A History of women's Education in Kerala*", p. 39-40.

<sup>74</sup> Miss Harris, G.M., Report of the Girls school, Nagercoil, Annual Report of the L.M.S., Nagercoil and Thittuvilai, District, south Travancore, 1911, pp. 8-10.

<sup>75</sup> Annual Report of the One Hundred and sixteenth Report of the L.M.S., London, 1911, pp. 113-114.

<sup>76</sup> Miss Harris, G.M., Training class, Report of the Girls Boarding School, Annual Report of the L.M.S., Nagercoil and Thittuvilai District, South Travancore, 1911, pp. 8-9.

<sup>77</sup> Annual Report of the One Hundred and sixteenth Report of the L.M.S., London, 1911, p.113.

<sup>78</sup> Annual Report of the One Hundred and Twenty-Fifth Report of the L.M.S., London, March 31, 1920, pp. 32-33.

<sup>79</sup> Annual Report of the Travancore Mission Council, Girls School, Nagercoil, 1922, p. 26.

vicinity of Home church were far from satisfactory, the Government raised its objections and so Miss Harris placed before the Mission council the question of erecting a new building.<sup>80</sup> The Mission council favorably responded<sup>81</sup> and in 1921, the construction of a new vernacular school building was started at the cost of Rs. 29, 082.<sup>82</sup> A Government grant of Rs. 6750/- was also received. The rest of the amount Rs. 22,332/- was spent from the building fund that was maintained by Miss Beatrice Jessie Duthie.<sup>83</sup> The new vernacular school building was opened by Hodgson, the Director of public Instruction, on 13<sup>th</sup> July, 1923.<sup>84</sup> The vernacular Middle school was housed in a building near the vicinity of the church. With the opening of the new building, the kindergarten and the first three classes in vernacular school were left in the old bungalow.<sup>85</sup> And the rest of the vernacular school, with the English school functioned in the new building of the Girls Boarding Home Compound.<sup>86</sup> Also she was responsible for the dynamic

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<sup>80</sup> L.M.S. Ten years of church and Mission in Travancore, 1921-1930, pp. 36ff.

<sup>81</sup> Nagercoil Girls Boarding school, English Department, Log Book, V, 13<sup>th</sup> July 1923, p.65.

<sup>82</sup> Miss Beatrice Jessie, Duthie's Lace Industry and Building fund, Appendix V, Nagercoil. Annual Report of the Travancore Mission council, August 1927, p. 19-20.

<sup>83</sup> "A Note on the Building Fund of Duthie schools", Nagercoil, L.M.S., Ten years of church and Mission in Travancore, 1921-1930, p. 50.

<sup>84</sup> Miss Mathew, E., *"The Duthie English High School"*, Home Church Triple Jubilee souvenir, Nagercoil, 1819-1969, p. 113.

Nagercoil Girls Boarding school, English Department, Log Book V, 13<sup>th</sup> July 1923, p. 65.

<sup>85</sup> Miss Olive Morton, "Duthie Girls High school" Nagercoil, L.M.S., Ten years of church and Mission in Travancore, 1921-1930, p. 39.

<sup>86</sup> *Ibid.*

administration of the Girl's Association and also for the Association of the Aged.<sup>87</sup>

When Miss G.M. Harris went on furlough in 1924, the management of the school was transferred to Rev. George Parker.<sup>88</sup> On her return from furlough she was married to Estaff and she took charge of the mission at Cannanmoolay. Miss Olive Morton, the next lady missionary took over the management of the schools from George Parker in 1925.<sup>89</sup>

### **5.8 Miss. Olive Morton**

Miss Olive Morton arrived in Nagercoil as a missionary on 5<sup>th</sup> November 1924. She took charge of the L.M.S. Girls High school from Rev. G. Parker on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1925.<sup>90</sup>

There were altogether 580 pupils with 30 teachers in the Girls High school and vernacular Middle school.<sup>91</sup> In 1924, under Miss Morton the High school building work was started and was continued with great vigor

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<sup>87</sup> Miss.Olive Morton, *op.cit.*, p.39.

<sup>88</sup> Annual Report of the Travancore Mission Council, Nagercoil, August 1924, p. 34.

<sup>89</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>90</sup> Olive Morton was born at Sheffield of January 2, 1890. She was appointed principal and Managers of the Duthie school in 1924. She was also in charge of the women's work in Nagercoil. She resigned in 1950 because of her family problems in England. Later she returned to Travancore on a local appointment and helped the Lace industry at Parasala. She passed away in 1983.

(L.M.S., Home Board File No. 1491).

<sup>91</sup> Annual Report of the One Hundred and Twenty – Nineth Report of the L.M.S., London, 1924, p. 55.

G. Parker and Devasagayam the headmaster of the English Girls High School rendered valuable help to Miss Morton in completing the work.<sup>92</sup> The cost of the building was Rs. 40363/- This amount was raised from the following sources. The Government gave Rs. 8187/-, a friend donated Rs. 1291/- and the rest of the money was taken from the building fund that was left by Beatrice Jessie Duthie.<sup>93</sup> With the object of constructing additional blocks for the Nagercoil Girls High School, Training school and vernacular school, Miss Beatrice Jessie maintained a building fund of Rs. 39491/-. This building fund, with accumulated interest had grown to Rs. 47,000/- at the time of Miss Beatrice Jessie Duthie's death.<sup>94</sup> On 11<sup>th</sup> March 1927 G. Parker dedicated the new building of the Duthie school J. Stephen and the Director of Public Instruction opened the High school building.<sup>95</sup> Homage was paid to Mrs. Allan and Miss Beatrice Duthie.<sup>96</sup> The new building was named as Duthie Girls High School, as a token of gratitude.<sup>97</sup> Also Miss Morton

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<sup>92</sup> Annual Report of the Travancore Mission council, Nagercoil, 1924, p. 34.

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Annual Report of the Travancore Mission council, Nagercoil, August 1926, p. 42.

<sup>93</sup> "A Note on the Building Fund of Duthie School", Nagercoil, L.M.S., Ten years of church and Mission in Travancore, 1921-1930, p. 50.

<sup>94</sup> "Miss B.J. Duthie's Lace Industry and Building Fund", Appendix V, Nagercoil, Travancore Mission council Minutes, August 1927, p. 17.

<sup>95</sup> Miss Mathew, E., *"The Duthie English High School," Home Church Triple Jubilee souvenir*, Nagercoil, 1819-1969, p. 113.

<sup>96</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>97</sup> Evangelical Magazine and Missionary chronicle, December 1927, p. 56.

raised the standard of the diet for the children of the Boarding Home.<sup>98</sup> As the Boarding Home, the English school and the vernacular school were in the same campus, she bought 2 acres and 99 cents of land adjoining the school on 20.11.1929 from Achuthan Thampi. This made the campus more spacious.<sup>99</sup>

The year 1927 saw another important change. Jacob, the Headmaster of the vernacular school retired and Mrs. Sigamony, the first Indian woman was appointed Headmistress in his place.<sup>100</sup> As Miss Olive Morton went on furlough in 1930, Marsden undertook the management of girls schools.<sup>101</sup> Miss Olive Morton returned from furlough at the end of 1931.<sup>102</sup> Owing to the decline in the Lace Industry, the women of Nagercoil decided to raise an endowment fund of Rs. 10,000/- for the Duthie Girls High school.<sup>103</sup> Thus she shared the burden of the parent society.<sup>104</sup>

In 1931 she introduced refresher courses to the teachers and writers in the vernacular schools.<sup>105</sup> She introduced games in the evenings. In addition

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<sup>98</sup> Annual Report of the Travancore Mission Council, Nagercoil, August, 1928, p. 27. and Annual Report of the Directors of the L.M.S., London, 1928, p. 62.

<sup>99</sup> Land Registration Document No. 2083, Trivandrum, 1929, pp. 1-3.

<sup>100</sup> L.M.S., Ten years of church and Mission in Travancore, 1921-1930, p. 42.

<sup>101</sup> Annual Travancore Mission council Minutes, February 1929, p. 9-10.

<sup>102</sup> Annual Report of the One Hundred and Thirty Seventh Report of the L.M.S., London, 1932, p. 30.

<sup>103</sup> Travancore Mission council Minutes of August 1933-1934, pp. 7-10.

<sup>104</sup> Travancore Mission council Minutes, August 1933-1934, p. 7-8.

<sup>105</sup> L.M.S., Travancore Mission council Minutes, conference, Retreat and Refresher course, August 1931, p. 14.

to badminton and tennikoit, volley ball and skipping were introduced.<sup>106</sup> As a result, thirty senior and junior girls participated for the first time in the public sports in Trivandrum.<sup>107</sup> In gardening also the boarders took active interest. On Tuesday and Friday afternoons, Music and drill classes were conducted regularly. Also she advised the girls that they should reach their home before 6 'o' clock.<sup>108</sup> She organized scripture union for the girls. The girls attended the prayer every morning in her bungalow.<sup>109</sup>

For teaching other subjects from 1927 onwards women teachers were appointed.<sup>110</sup> Under the new scheme the first E.S.L.C. Examination in the English school was conducted in 1934.<sup>111</sup> Miss Morton conducted a tour to Kottayam for the first time, which the girls enjoyed very much.<sup>112</sup> Miss Morton brought about changes in the methods of teaching and in the organization of the schools.<sup>113</sup> She started a social Band Service among the girls. During Morton's period, one of the biggest changes in the school at Nagercoil was the introduction of the 'House System' namely Mault, Sita,

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<sup>106</sup> Travancore Mission council Minutes, Duthie English High school, August 1933, p. 18-19.

<sup>107</sup> Travancore Mission council Minutes, Duthie English High school, Nagercoil, August 1934, p. 15.

<sup>108</sup> Travancore Mission council Minutes, Duthie English High school, Nagercoil, August 1933, p. 19-20.

<sup>109</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>110</sup> Travancore Mission council Minutes, Duthie English High School, Nagercoil, August, 1934, p. 20.

<sup>111</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>112</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>113</sup> *Ibid.*

Ramabai and Nightingale.<sup>114</sup> In the vernacular school she introduced co-education in classes 1 and 2 also.<sup>115</sup>

Under her guidance, the Boarding Home was reorganized with the cottage system. The whole building was divided into four cottages. Each one consisted of its own bed room, study, recreation room, dressing room, box room, store room, teacher's room, dining room, kitchen and its own social life.<sup>116</sup> A quiet room was also available to all the cottages. Cottages were looked after by the resident teachers by turns.<sup>117</sup> The fourth cottage was reserved for the teacher trainees of the school.<sup>118</sup> Adjacent to a well bath rooms were built, Electrification of the Home was carried out and a septic tank was constructed.<sup>119</sup> In addition to this a Blue Bird Flock was organized to guide the girls in cultivating close friendship among them.<sup>120</sup> Along with the girls Miss Morton visited villages every fortnight. She gave lectures on sanitation and health. It stands to the credit of Miss Morton that she proposed to upgrade the school into a Higher Grade school and secured

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<sup>114</sup> Annual Report of the One Hundred and Thirty-Eighth Report of the L.M.S., London, 1933, p. 55.

<sup>115</sup> Travancore Mission council Minutes, Duthie English High school, Nagercoil, July 1935, p. 30.

<sup>116</sup> Travancore Mission council Minutes, Girls Boarding Home, Nagercoil, Appendix II, February 1935, p. 35.

<sup>117</sup> Travancore Mission council Minutes, Report on Duthie English High school, Appendix IV, February 1935, p. 43.

<sup>118</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>119</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>120</sup> "Hostel for girls Training school," Nagercoil, Travancore Mission council Minutes, July 1935, p. 14.

permission for the same from the government. Scripture teaching, storytelling and group discussions were some of the methods used by her.<sup>121</sup>

During the time of Miss Morton, an old student of her school called Mary Isaac, gave an endowment fund of Rs. 1000/- known as the 'Allan Memorial Fund'.<sup>122</sup> She utilized the amount for purchasing character-forming books for the library. As the convener of the Education Committee, she also rendered valuable service to the mission.<sup>123</sup> As the number of the orphan children in the school increased she purchased a plot of land and built a general boarding home for accommodating the orphan children.<sup>124</sup> As she was well-versed in English, she raised the standard of children by teaching them English language whenever she found time.<sup>125</sup> After her furlough she was back again and took care of the Lace Industry at Nagercoil for a few years. The lower school was upgraded into a Higher grade school during her time. Tamil was introduced as the medium of instruction.<sup>126</sup> The services of Miss Morton to the cause of female education in Nagercoil were such that in

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<sup>121</sup> Minutes of the Travancore Mission council Nagercoil, February 1936, C.W.M.A., L.M.S., Roll No. 87, pp. 127-128.

<sup>122</sup> Nagercoil Girl's Boarding school, English Department, Log Book I, February 4, 1902, p.35.

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Travancore Mission council Minutes, Education Committee, Nagercoil, August 1938, p.15.

<sup>123</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>124</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>125</sup> Travancore Mission council Minutes, Nagercoil, September 1943, pp. 28-29.

<sup>126</sup> Travancore Mission Council Minutes of August 1946, p. 67.

1963 the English primary school attached to the Duthie Girls High School was named as the Morton English School.<sup>127</sup>

Mrs. Vera Trowell took charge of the schools, when Miss Morton was on furlough in 1939.<sup>128</sup> She took much pains to develop the buildings of Goldsmith school at Vadasery, Brahmin school at Krishnankoil and Vahaiyadi school at Kottar so as to get grant from the Travancore Government.<sup>129</sup> With assistance from the Travancore Mission council she enlarged the school buildings at a cost of Rs. 650/-

The dedicated services of the women missionaries in the field of education is commendable. They collected the slave girls, in and around Nagercoil provided board and lodging and improved their personality. The educational services of the women missionaries arose and awakened the slaves to fight for their social identity. The work of the missionaries did not stop with Nagercoil but it was extended upto Neyyoor, Martandam and other parts of Travancore.

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<sup>127</sup> Report of the Morton English primary school, silver Jubilee celebrations, Nagercoil, 1989, p. 1.

<sup>128</sup> Travancore Mission council Minutes, July 1939, p. 15-16.

<sup>129</sup> L.M.S., Ten years of church and Mission in Travancore, 1931-1940, p. 70.