

Deaf Culture Question of the Week - May 18-22, 2009

Bill Newell, Principal Washington School for the Deaf

Who was the first woman to be appointed superintendent of a deaf school?

- a. Gertie Galloway, New Jersey School for the Deaf
- b. Jane Mulholland, Oregon School for the Deaf
- c. H.T. Poore, Tennessee School for the Deaf
- d. Anne Potter, Austine School for the Deaf

Scroll down for this week's answer.

Answer: "c" "In September, 1921, Mrs. H. T. Poore, a native Knoxvillean, became the new superintendent, following Mr. Walker's resignation in June. She was unusually well-qualified for her position because of her knowledge of the deaf and her familiarity with the work of the school, through her experience as an educator and her educational training. Her life with two deaf sisters had made her proficient in the use of the sign language. After her graduation from the University of Tennessee in 1913, she was a teacher for three years before becoming county superintendent of education in Lewis County, Tennessee. She held this position for five years. With her appointment to the superintendency of the Tennessee Deaf and Dumb School, she won the distinction of being the first woman superintendent of a state institution in Tennessee. Likewise, she won the very great distinction of being the only woman superintendent of a state institution for the deaf in the nation with an enrollment as large as that of the Tennessee school."

http://www.knoxcotn.org/schools/tsd/schoolhistory_chapt3.htm