

To Rebecca Leach Dozier  
From Doris Harris Carroll  
Granddaughter of the  
author, G. Ellis Harris  
August 8, 1995

North Carolina Constitu-  
tional Reader

*To be  
Harris  
Handbook  
authored  
by*

# North Carolina Constitu- tional Reader,

Being a  
Hand Book for Primary Use

IN ONE PART  
BY  
G. ELLIS HARRIS,  
Principal of Old Town-Field Public School,  
Littleton, N. C.

Raleigh:  
Printing Office  
St. Augustine's School  
1903



To Be  
Primo  
Ghande  
author  
Nypa

Entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1901 by  
G. Ellis Harris,  
In the Office of the Librarian of Congress at Washington.

## INTRODUCTION.

To the many thousands of colored men in North Carolina who are unable to read and write and especially to the youth of the State is this little book dedicated.

It has been the aim of the author in preparing this volume to make an assistant to the primary Spelling, Reading and Writing.

The author has labored patiently and very carefully to make ready a Primary Reader that the unlearned man and lad may commence with the Alphabets and learn step by step to spell, and to read and write any section of the State Constitution.

Short lessons in alphabetical spelling, and sentences containing words of one, two or more syllables, taken from the Constitution have been placed in such a manner as to be of very much help to beginners in preparing themselves for the obligations that will be required of most colored men who apply for registration before December 1, 1908 and of all men who apply thereafter.



## INTRODUCTION

The author has endeavored to arrange alphabetically every word of the Constitution, divided and accented all words of more than one syllable, in convenient columns that any one of them may be readily found, spelled and pronounced with ease.

It is confidently hoped that diligent study of this book from beginning to end of the Constitution will prepare the illiterate voter for that imperative obligation found in the amendments: "Every person presenting himself for registration shall be able to read and write any section of the Constitution in the English language."

All necessary words in the Constitution are accented so that the reader may be more able to pronounce them.

Having been teaching in the Public Schools for more than twenty years, the author is not yet willing to retire from the important duty, especially at this time, when education is so very essential, to impart to the colored youth the proper instructions that will place them in the attitude of an elector ere they come to years of maturity.

Every colored man who cannot now read and

write and who contemplates casting a ballot at any future election in North Carolina is most humbly requested to prepare himself by studying some primary speller and reader or some such treatise as this one.

G. E. HARRIS.

Littleton, N. C. April, 1901.

4  
Lo  
Frank  
G  
Shan  
autha  
My

## Suggestions to My Colored Brethren.

The thought of being deprived of the right to vote should be very humiliating to the illiterate young man who used his time at school in idleness, uselessness and frivolity, while his educated colored friend is prepared to cast his vote intelligently for his choice of candidates to administer the affairs of the country.

I most respectfully request my fellow teachers and learned citizens, and the mothers and fathers to see that the boys do not grow up in ignorance of the necessity of becoming good intelligent citizens of North Carolina.

It is suggested that night schools should be established in every locality in the State where there is need of such that, the old men and young ones too, who can not read the Constitution, may be taught therein.

It is every one's duty who has the privilege to train the boys to impress upon their minds the importance of obtaining an education while they are

7  
**SUGGESTIONS**

young.

Some of our ancestors carried their blue back spellers in their pockets and at convenient places and times would study lessons therein, thereby manifesting a great desire to become intelligent, notwithstanding they were slaves.

It is now suggested that the carrying of books in the pockets be resumed and inasmuch as this one is of convenient size and can be easily carried, that it be taken and at all opportunities you learn step by step to spell, read and write correctly.

It is further suggested that you, who are in doubt about being able to read and write, do not apply for registration before such doubt is removed by hard and persevering study.

The history of the Negro Race in this country began at Jamestown in Virginia in the year of our Lord 1619 when a Dutch trading vessel gave fourteen of our grand-fathers in exchange for food and supplies, and in one half a century the number increased to nearly 3,000, and as the number continued to increase by importation and otherwise their desire for education became obvious till now, there are more than 6,000 professional men among the race.



## SUGGESTIONS

During their history the race has accumulated \$920,000,000 of real estate and personal property and more than \$50,000,000 of church property and yet there is need of improvement along religious, educational and financial lines, for thousands and thousands are eliminated from voting on account of their educational inability.

However do not give up in utter despair but maintain your homes in the southland where you have become acclimated, remembering the darkest hour is said to be before dawn, and as light removes darkness so does education disperse all apprehension of being able to cast his vote according to the requirements of the organic law of our commonwealth.

Your political future, dear brother, may seem dark, weary and dreary, but also remember after the storm comes the quietness and after the darkest cloud the brightest sunshine.

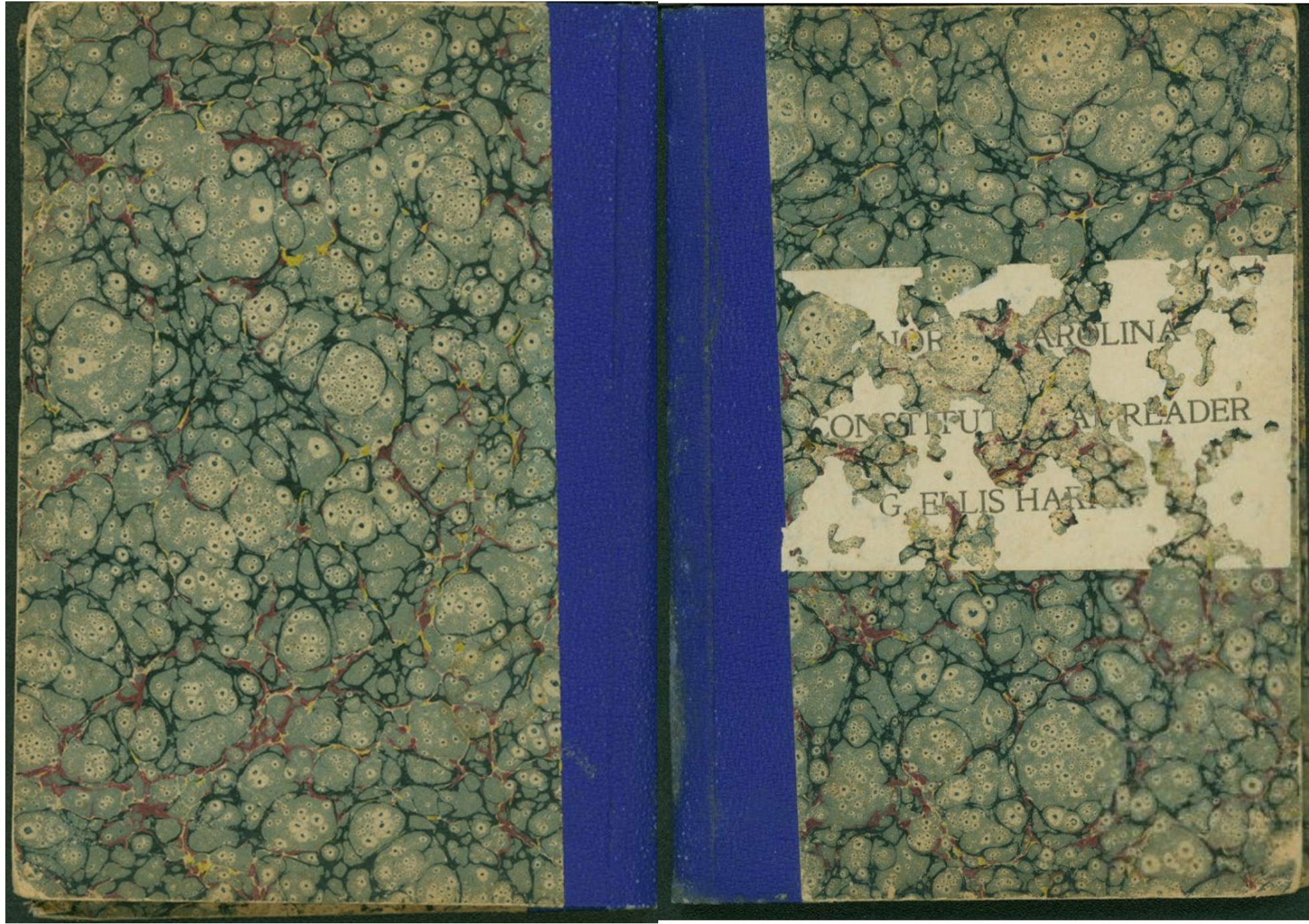
The political storm has passed over and we find ourselves adrift upon the unknown political sea without a pilot or rudder and know not where the billows will land us, but let us pray the great Deliverer to enable us to glide swiftly and smoothly into the haven of progress, where we will not be fearful of domination

## SUGGESTIONS

of politicians and of being hitched "Outside and come in;" into that haven of brotherly love where we must maintain a hope for looking after our religious, educational and financial interests instead of political aggrandizements.

Be thrifty, every one of you, accumulate property, build homes, educate yourselves and children, rear religious families and then let's go to the ballot box and cast our votes as intelligent citizens, for our own choice of good men, irrespective of party affiliations.





G. Ellis Harris, *North Carolina Constitutional Reader*, Raleigh: Printing Office, St. Augustine's School, 1903, VC.25, State Archives of N.C.