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Spreading College Fraternalism

Newport News, Va., March 18, 1919.

*Mr. Robert A. Smythe,
Atlanta, Georgia.*

Dear Brother Smythe:

Just a short letter to let you know what fraternity men are doing at one of Uncle Sam's ports of debarkation in the way of spreading college fraternalism throughout this section.

A few weeks ago one of our daily papers, *The Times Herald*, edited by a brilliant alumnus of Hampden-Sidney College and *Kappa-Alpha*, called for every college man on this Virginia peninsula to register with that paper in order to get the sentiment of the college men and to arrange for a future "get-together" meeting of the "Greeks." *Over one hundred and twenty-five responded to the invitation*, which goes to show how anxious college men are to renew their college days, both old and young.

At the suggestion of the paper one afternoon, it was decided to call a meeting at the Hotel Warwick, which, by the way, was well attended by every fraternity known on the map, and at that meeting plans were laid for "bigger times," which happened to fall on St. Patrick's Day, and, incidentally, the formation of our present Pan-Hellenic Club at Newport News, Va.

George A. Blackburn, D. D.

THETA

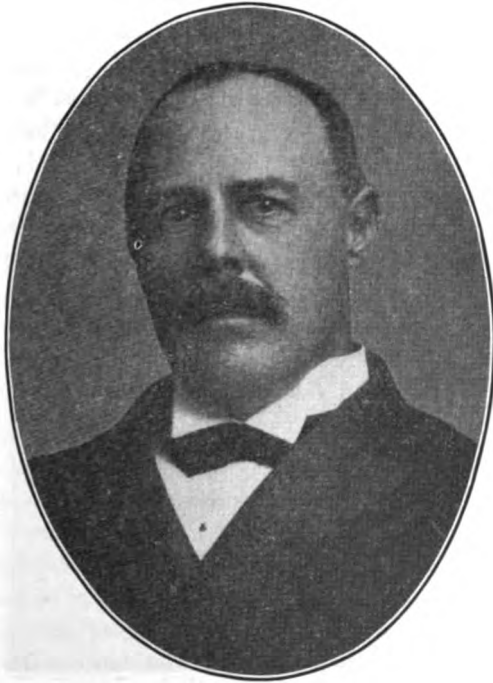
George Andrew Blackburn, D. D., was born in Greene County, Tenn., October 16, 1861. He was the son of John Melson Blackburn, a Presbyterian minister who held a number of pastorates in the State of Alabama. He received his preparatory school education at his home, his collegiate and seminary course at the Southwestern Presbyterian University and Columbia, S. C., Seminary, graduating from the latter with the Class of 1886. He was soon afterward installed pastor of the McConnellsville, S. C., church, which he held for fifteen months, resigning to accept the call to the Arsenal Hill Church of Columbia, S. C., as the successor of the late Dr. John L. Girardeau, its founder. He held this charge continuously until called to his reward May 25th, 1918, having served the church as pastor for over thirty-one years. It was during this time that he received the degree of Doctor of Divinity from the Presbyterian College of South Carolina.

On April 7, 1886, he was married to Annie Williams Girardeau, daughter of John L. Girardeau, D. D., and this union was blessed with four children, all of whom survive him. They are Mrs. Johnson Hutchinson, of Auburn, Ala.; Misses Chauncey and Laura Blackburn, of Columbia, and Rev. John C. Blackburn, pastor of the Darien and St. Mary's group of churches.

The work of Dr. Blackburn centered largely around the building up of the Arsenal Hill Church, but he was very active in all of the work of the Southern Presbyterian Church, in whose courts he was regarded as an able advocate, a wise, conservative, and safe counsellor.

He was a charter member of Congaree Presbytery, and faithful in attendance upon its sessions when able. His knowledge of Presbyterian law and practice had much weight in the utter-

ances and decisions of Congaree Presbytery. As a member of the Committee on Theology, he usually conducted the examinations of candidates for the ministry, because of his comprehensive grasp of the whole Calvinistic system. As chairman of the committee on the Sabbath, his reports were always full of appeal for a proper and scriptural observance of the Christian Sabbath.



He was largely instrumental in the organization of the Columbia Ministerial Union, and was one of the few charter members in the city at the time of his death. He is also regarded as a pioneer in the tithe movement among the churches of Columbia, and in the Southern Assembly. His rigid scriptural stand on the sanctity of the Sabbath is also well known.

Simplicity of worship, which was rigorously advocated and maintained by Dr. Girardeau, was made a permanent feature of the ministry of Dr. Blackburn.

As a man, he was genial and pleasant; as a friend, he was loyal, sympathetic and helpful to those who came to him for counsel. A man of firm convictions and courage, he was unwilling to compromise where it meant yielding of principle. He was especially a friend of the poor, the needy, and the out-cast, among whom he did a great work, greater than most are aware of, since he never paraded his good deeds.

Among his greatest works to the church at large may be mentioned "The Life and Work of John L. Girardeau, D. D.," which was completed and published a short time before his death. In his failing health his desire and prayer was that he might live long enough to finish this book, which prayer God graciously answered.

During his last illness, he said to some friends who visited him, "I only know I am on the earth and not in heaven when my friends visit me. I am holding sweet communion with my Lord every moment." So through days of anxious watching and waiting he finally received the call of God, and entered peacefully into his rest and reward May 25, 1918; and his body was laid to rest in Elmwood Cemetery, attended by a host of sorrowing relatives, friends, and church members.

"Servant of God, well done!
Rest from thy loved employ;
The battle fought, the victory won,
Enter thy Master's joy.

"Soldier of Christ, well done!
Praise be thy new employ;
And while eternal ages run,
Rest in thy Saviour's joy."

The announcement of the death of this minister at Columbia, S. C., on May 25, 1918, will make the hearts of many heavy. There was not another exactly like him in all the church.

His father was a Presbyterian minister, an elder who entered the ministry when advanced in years. His younger brother, Dr. Asa Blackburn*, died while pastor of the Church of the Strang-

*Member of Theta Chapter also.

ers, in New York. His nephew, Rev. J. Nelson Blackburn, is pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Houma, La. His son, Rev. John C. Blackburn, has just completed his course in the theological seminary, and is taking charge of the Presbyterian Church at Darien, Ga. And his son-in-law, Rev. T. J. Hutchinson, is pastor at Auburn, Ala.

Dr. Blackburn was born at Greenville, Tenn., and the family moved to Athens, Ala. He took his literary course at the Southwestern Presbyterian University, and his theological course at Columbia, S. C., where he had such distinguished men as Dr. Girardeau, Dr. Woodrow, Dr. Tadlock, Dr. Boggs, and Dr. Hemphill for his instructors.

On finishing his preparation for the ministry, he married Annie, the youngest daughter of Dr. John L. Girardeau, and took charge of Olivet Church at McConnellsville, S. C. He did not remain but one or two years in this charge, when he was called to the Arsenal Hill Presbyterian Church in Columbia, where he continued pastor to his death—a period of about thirty-one years.

He was a great preacher. Strong in argument, clear in exposition, often gorgeously rhetorical, and sometimes rising to the very heights of true eloquence. He had a fine figure and a commanding presence. He was genial and jovial with his friends, but impatient with everything which he thought faithless to the truth, or inconsistent with Christian ethics.

He lived and died passionately devoted to the Arsenal Hill Church, and had no ambition for any other monument. He had been more widely famed had he been less consecrated to that particular charge.

R. A. WEBB.

Louisville, Ky.

Another faithful soldier of the cross has been called home, and entered into rest—the well-earned rest of the Kingdom of God. With the full force of his intense nature he stood for the

tithe system—God's plan, simplicity of worship—no instrument in God's house, the sanctity of the Sabbath. Years ago, with almost prophetic utterance, he said by the side of a sick friend. "We have lost our Sabbath." Those of us who look around, seeing the desecration of God's Holy Day, realize more and more the truth of those words.

He is now reaping the rewards of well-fought battles—fought with all his manhood's strength of conviction, and often stood almost alone in the fight. The future will prove just how necessary they all were to the advancement of the Kingdom of God, whom he loved with all the force of his intense nature.

We envy him his peaceful rest after years of struggle for the truth of his convictions, carried on during all the weariness of ill health, during his declining years. God help us to be more earnest, more faithful students of God's word, that we may see more clearly God's plan for His church on earth, whatever that may be—the church that we are expected to love and work for as God would have us.

ONE WHO VALUED HIM.

In Memoriam

REV. GEO. ANDREW BLACKBURN, D. D.

Theta

Whereas, God in His infinite wisdom has seen fit to call from the walks of men our beloved brother, George Andrew Blackburn; and

Whereas, The Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity, in the death of Brother Blackburn, has lost one of its most loyal and conscientious members; and

Whereas, The Southern Presbyterian Church, in the death of Brother Blackburn, has lost one of its most loyal and scholarly ministers; and

Whereas, The members of Theta Chapter do appreciate the good that he has done for the chapter, the fraternity, our country, and the church; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the members of Theta Chapter, realizing the loss of the bereaved family, extend to them their deepest and most sincere sympathy.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the family of Brother Blackburn; that they be published in THE SHIELD AND DIAMOND; and that they be recorded in the minutes of Theta Chapter.

SAMUEL J. LINDAMOOD,
PERCY L. ARMSTRONG,
For Theta Chapter.