

THE HISTORY OF DOCTOR JAMES HENRY CARLISLE.

Dr. James H. Carlisle was born in Winnsboro, S.C. at the corner of Washington and Zion Streets in a pretty one-story house with six colonial columns holding up the symmetrically-designed piazza and he first saw the light of day on May 4, 1825. He died in Spartanburg, South Carolina, on October 21, 1909. He ended his years after a most fruitful and greatly useful religious life that was known over the United States as that of the "Grand old Man of South Carolina, of the South."

Of Covenanter belief passed down from the Carlisles and Rays of Ireland, and Scotland, and from his father, Dr. William Carlisle, a Thompsonian doctor, who practiced his skill for 30 years and a man versatile in several fields of practical endeavor born in Ireland July 26, 1797; and with solid Presbyterian Christian training, from his mother, James Henry Carlisle was well equipped to make an outstanding life and wield great influence wherever he touched the hearts and minds of other men.

Taking on the responsibilities of Christian guidance in his selected fields of teaching young men, he died with the gratitude of hundreds of his pupils and their parents for his firm persuasion that these pupils in youth and young manhood while within his care work to be the highest type of manhood through the development of the natural talents with which they were endowed. It was said by the parents of his pupils "I am sending my son to Dr. Carlisle". William Carlisle, his father, died in Winnsboro March 28, 1867; Mary Ann Buchanan Carlisle, his mother, was born in Ireland, June 19, 1818 and died in Winnsboro, June 19, 1858. The progenitor of the Carlisle family came to Winnsboro in 1818, when Captain John Buchanan brought to Fairfield his mother, his brother William's widow and her four children - Mary Ann, who married her first cousin, Dr. William Carlisle, John R., who had a number of political offices in Fairfield and is buried in the Methodist churchyard where lie Dr. William Carlisle and his wife, Mary Ann; both the churchyard and church that stood there, and the house donated to Mary Ann Carlisle next door were given by her uncle, Captain John Buchanan. Another daughter, Rachel, married McCreight, and Nancy married John Lewis and moved to Florida. The older Carlisles first settled about 3 miles north of the town of Winnsborough, some remain there.

Dr. James H. Carlisle was the second of 4 children. And it is judged the strongest influence of his boyhood was his mother. The foundation of his education was laid at her knee.

Later he was prepared for college under James W. Hudson of Mt. Zion Academy at Winnsboro, S.C., and entered the Sophomore class at S.C. College in 1841. He graduated second in his class. The next nine years he taught first in the Odd Fellows School, and then in the Columbia Male Academy there.

In 1848 he married Margaret Jane Bryce, who was a devoted companion until her death in 1891. Four children died in youth, two survived, James H. Carlisle, Junior, and Sara Herbert; the latter never married.

After filling the chair of several departments in Wofford College, Spartanburg, Dr. James H. Carlisle became president of the college 1873. In 1902 he resigned and was named President Emeritus of the college.

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He was honored over the country as an outstanding speaker. He was presented decorations, one in 1870 being the honorary degree, Doctor of Laws, by Southwestern University of Georgetown, Texas. Time and time again he was sought for the presidency of other colleges over the country. He was a member of the General Conference of the Southern Methodist Church from the time of laymen placed in this office.

Deeply religious with the highest spirituality of character shining in all he did and said, he was greatly loved. His tall, imposing figure, the vibrant eloquence of his speech, his personal love, the perfection of his Christian ideals made a student ejaculate "Under him I learned to be a man."

His patriotism was shown in his having been one of the signers of the Ordinance of Secession. He was a representative in the last Confederate legislature, 1864,-65. No man was a more liberal friend of the negro. No man made a greater effort to rid South Carolina of the stigma of illiteracy.

The subject of this sketch loved good books, the best in everything. The beauties of the earth his God gave him, he loved along with deep devotion to his fellowman as he gave his life to make him more perfect.

In the addresses written in book form of his ^{grand-}father's history, John H. Carlisle gave them in full from original papers and below is the list of the fortunate that heard him talk on profound subjects:

- 1-Graduating valedictory address -graduating speech at South Carolina College December 2, 1844.
- 2-"Character of Shellys Writings," at South Carolina College, December 2, 1844.
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- 3-"Dangers of a Student's Life", Address at Graduation, Academy of Cokesbury, July 1854.
- 4- "The Study of Mathematica", Address at Wofford Commencement, June 27. 1855.
- 5- Address at Reidsville Academy, delivered at opening of the Academy. 1850.
- 6- "Some of the Characteristics of the Present age as Illustrated by the Progress of Astronomy during the last Few Years."
- Address before the Preston and Calhoun Societies, July 11, 1860.
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- 7-Some of the Mistakes that a Young Teacher May Make."
- Address before the Educational Institute of South Carolina. December 21, 1870.
- 8-"Let Your Life be Quiet and Let Your Life Leave its Memorials."
- Address before the young ladies of Wesleyan Female College, Macon, Georgia, 1875.

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- 9- Address as Fraternal Delegate from the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Delivered at General Conference held in Cincinnati, May 1880.
- 10- "Madame De Stahl ". Address made at Columbia Female College, Columbia, S.C.
- 11- "On the Death of D.E. Converse ". Address at the funeral, October 1899.
- 12- The Proper Literature of Sunday School Libraries. "
- 13- "The South Carolina Judge." Lecture before the Teachers' Summer School, Spartanburg, S.C. June 20, 1901.
- 14- "William C. Preston."
Lecture before the Teachers' Summer School, Spartanburg, S.C. 1901.
- 15- John Belton O'Neal. "
Lecture before the Teachers' Summer School, Spartanburg, S.C. 1901.
- 16- "George McDuffie".
Lecture before the Teachers' Summer School, Spartanburg, S.C. 1901.
- 17- Regrets of an Old Teacher".
Lecture before the Teachers' Summer School. Spartanburg, S.C. 1901.
- 18- "Mark XV- I-15."
Address before the graduating class of Wofford College, Spartanburg, S.C. June 5, 1904.

On June 11, 1926 at the commencement exercises of the University of Colorado Doctor Wallace Butterick, /of the General Educational Board late chairman founded by Rockefeller said in his address" There is a college in the South, in South Carolina that has turned out an unusual number of strong men. This phenomenon can be traced to the influence of one remarkable man. He is known as the maker of men. He counseled, guided them and gave them a glorious vista, a view of the delightful journey upon which they had embarked. He was a scholar, a philosopher; he was a lover of good books, and of good and great men. His influence cannot be measured.

Note-- In the Fairfield Library is a book called "CARLISLE MEMORIAL VOLUME by Watson Boone Duncan.