

DR. HARDY LISTON, SR.

DR. HARDY LISTON, SR. was born in Fairfield County, South Carolina, March 30, 1889. He received the degree of A.B. from Johnson C. Smith University in 1911. In 1925 he was awarded the B.S. degree by the University of Chicago and the A.M. degree from the University of Chicago in 1928.

His teaching experiences began in 1912. Subsequently he taught in Spartanburg, South Carolina; at Swift Memorial College, Rogersville, Tennessee; Kittrell College, Kittrell, North Carolina; served as dean of Winston-Salem Teachers College, Winston-Salem, North Carolina; dean of Knoxville College, Knoxville, Tennessee and executive vice president of Johnson C. Smith University, 1943-1947. He was elected president of Johnson C. Smith University July 1, 1947 and was formally inducted into the office October 20, 1947. He died October 20, 1956. Compressed within the arc of these years more than a million dollars worth of improvements were made.

Maryville College and Lincoln University conferred the degree of Doctor of Laws upon him. In 1952 the Alumni Association of the University of Chicago gave him a citation for being a useful citizen.

Dr. Liston had an atmosphere of dignified sternness about him that came from taking his responsibilities with an impressive seriousness. He always seemed too busy or absorbed in thought of his duties to give himself to trivial frivolity or diversions. He was a man of strong convictions, positive, uncompromising, sure-footed in his approaches and attitudes and of a high mind, clean and honorable motives. The admiration of his fellow-educators for him came from an understanding of his solidarity of character, his lofty conception of duty and his sense of responsibility and rigid faith in his personal and official integrity.

The college in all of its achievements during Dr. Liston's tenure, has been laid under tribute to him for his steady and energetic devotion to its progress and development.

Dr. Liston exercised an influential hand in the Church on all levels and in the community. He served whenever called upon and at no matter what personal sacrifice. He was a member of the Committee on Church Structure of the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A.; the Committee on Chaplains for the Army and Navy and Service Personnel of the General Assembly and a member of the World Alliance of Presbyterian Churches Holding the Reformed Faith.

He wrought well for the Institution, for the progressive life of faculty and students, for their abundant progress toward higher reaches of levels of living spiritually, intellectually and morally.

The McCrorey-Liston High School in Fairfield County, South Carolina was named in honor of him.



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