

Dr. Hardy Liston
1889-1956

Dr. Hardy Liston served as the sixth president of Johnson C. Smith University from 1947 until his death in 1956. He was born on March 30, 1889 in Fairfield County. He graduated from Biddle in 1911. He received a Bachelor of Science Degree in 1925 and a Master of Arts Degree in 1928 from the University of Chicago. He received honorary degrees from Johnson C. Smith and Lincoln Universities and Maryville College.

Liston taught in the public schools of Spartanburg from 1912 to 1913. He was the administrative assistant and math teacher at Kittcel College in North Carolina and went on to teach at Slater Normal School, where he was a member of the faculty for 16 years. Also he served as dean from 1925 until 1931. He moved to Tennessee and served as dean of Knoxville College from 1931 until 1943.

In 1943, he became the Executive Vice-President of Johnson C. Smith University, upon the retirement of McCrorey in 1947, he was also from Fairfield County. Dr. Liston became President of Johnson C. Smith University. A position he held until his death in 1956. He had made plans to retire at the age of 70 and return to Fairfield County to live in the home his father built. Unfortunately, he died at the age of 67.