

J. G. Richards, Former S. C. Governor, Dies

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Had Served as Member Of
State Tax Commission Since
1935; Hold Funeral Today.

SUCCUMBS



JOHN G. RICHARDS.

LIBERTY HILL, S. C., Oct. 9—John Gardiner Richards, governor of South Carolina from 1927 to 1931 and member of the state tax commission since 1935, died today at his home here after several months of illness. He was 77.

Funeral services will be held at the home at 3 p. m., tomorrow. Interment will follow at the Liberty Hill cemetery. Active pallbearers will be Richards' nephews and honorary pallbearers will include the two remaining tax commissioners.

As Governor, Richards signed the \$65,000,000 highway bond act which resulted in the development of the present state highway system, recognized as one of the finest in the nation. He also sponsored a movement to develop the State's natural resources, and South Carolina became known as the "Iodine State" while he was in office.

CANDIDATE 3 TIMES.

He was the first Governor elected after the State constitution was amended to increase the term from two to four years and to declare the incumbent ineligible for reelection.

The early part of the Richards administration is remembered for his efforts to enforce the State's antiquated blue laws. A profound and devout church member, he tried hard to halt Sunday sales of gasoline and Sunday amusements but met with little success.

Richards sought the governorship three times before he finally won election over eight other candidates. He ran in 1910, 1914, and 1918.

After his term expired, he retired to his farm and boyhood home but was soon back in public life when Governor Olin D. Johnston appointed him to the tax commission.

Ironically, Richards advocated the abolishment of this commission during his administration (he said in later years, however, that he made a mistake).

The son of a Presbyterian minister, Richards was born at Liberty Hill, Sept. 11, 1864. He attended school here and then went to Bingham Military institute at Mebane, N. C.

His public career began in 1892, when he was elected magistrate. In 1898, he was elected to the House of Representatives from Kershaw county. During his legislative service, which lasted until 1909, he was chairman of the ways and means committee and a member of the Clemson college board of trustees.

ON RAILROAD BOARD.

In 1910 Richards was elected to the State Railroad commission (now the Public Service commission). He remained on that body for eight years, during which he was chairman of the National Association of Railways and first president of the Southeastern Association of Railroad Commissioners. In 1922 he returned to the commission and served until elected governor four years

later. At the time of the World war Richards was a member of the executive committee of the State Council of Defense.

An admirer and close friend of the late Senator Benjamin Ryan Tillman, Richards was the foremost leader in the movement to erect a monument to Tillman on the State house grounds. He was chairman of the Tillman Memorial association and one of his last public appearances was at the monument's unveiling in May, 1940.

Although a staunch prohibitionist Richards, as a member of the Tax commission, helped to administer the state's liquor law.

He served both as a deacon and elder in the Presbyterian church here and often filled the pulpit if the minister was absent.

Richards was always interested in the outdoors and was a fox-hunting enthusiast.

Survivors include the widow, who was Elizabeth Coates Workman of Camden, and nine daughters. His only son, Stephen M. Richards, died at an army camp during the World war.

Richards Sisters Give Scholarship

If all Alumnae Honor Scholarships have interesting histories behind them, surely the unique one is the annual \$200 scholarship given by the Richards sisters in memory of their father and mother.

All nine sisters, the daughters of the late Governor and Mrs. John Richards, attended Winthrop and each today has an active interest in her alma mater's welfare.

Perhaps the only other institution which can claim equal interest from the sisters is the Presbyterian Church, for each is still a member of that church and quite active in it.

The nine sisters, who grew up in Liberty Hill, went to Winthrop, and then went their separate ways, had one brother whom they lost in World War I.

Of the nine, seven are married and have families of their own. Two of the weddings took place in the Governor's Mansion in Columbia between the years 1927-1931.

Oldest of the sisters is Kitty Richards Todd (Mrs. John W.) of Laurens who did graduate work at Winthrop. Mrs. Todd has two sons and a daughter.

Sadie Richards McCrea (Mrs. Tom '13) still lives at Liberty Hill and is a teacher of junior high students at the Heath Springs School. She is the mother of three children, one of whom, John Richards McCrea, is a well known musician.

Miss Bettie Richards ('18), who lives with her sister in Laurens, is the social service director for the J. P. Stevens Mills in Watville. She is quite active in church and civic affairs there.

A first grade teacher in Camden, Rekah Richards Francis (Mrs. Austin '20) is one of the sisters who was married in the Governor's Mansion. She is the mother of two sons and has served as president of the Women of the Church in her Presbyterian Church.

Miss Margaret Richards ('22), a musician, was just recently honored by Columbia College for her service of over 25 years. Her active interest in education has led to her serving as an officer in the National Education Association.

The mother of a son and a daughter, Virginia Richards Sauls (Mrs. Morgan '24) lives in Manning where she is active in church and garden club work.

The only sister living outside

South Carolina is Mildred Richards Francis (Mrs. Chester '27) of Tallahassee, Fla. She has also been president of the Women of the Church and teaches private music lessons in her home. The mother of a daughter and a son, she is married to the brother of Rekah's husband.

The most closely associated with Winthrop today is Jean Richards Roddey (Mrs. John '29) of Rock Hill, who is the hostess at Joynes Hall. The mother of two boys and a girl, she is the other sister who was married in the Mansion. All three of her children attended Winthrop Training School.

Youngest of the sisters, Johag'y Richards Bankhead (Mrs. Boyce '34) lives in Chester. She has two sons and a daughter and is a science teacher at Chester High School.

Together, the sisters have contributed a full scholarship each year since the program began. Separately they are outstanding women who are proud of their Winthrop background. Proof of that is the fact that each of their daughters has attended Winthrop at some time during her schooling.

WINTHROP ALUMNAE NEWS

APRIL, 1961

Dr. Richards, 93, Davidson Professor, Dies

The Rev. Charles Malone Richards, 93, of Davidson, N. C., formerly of Columbia, died Friday morning in a Charlotte Hospital.

Dr. Richards was born in Liberty Hill, son of the late Rev. and Mrs. J. G. Richards. At an early age he joined the Liberty Hill Presbyterian Church, of which his father was pastor. He was graduated from Davidson College, class of 1892, and Columbia Theological Seminary, then in Columbia, class of 1895. In 1896 he was ordained as a Presbyterian minister and served as an active pastor until 1926. In 1926 he became full time professor of Bible at Davidson College, where he remained until his retirement in 1944. During his ministry he served pastorates in South Carolina, Statesville, N. C. and Davidson College Presbyterian Church. After retirement Dr. Richards continued to serve as supply pastor for many churches. He received the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity from Davidson College. He was a member of the Kappa Alpha social fraternity, a member of Omicron-Delta Kappa and Phi-Beta Kappa. He was also a Mason.

Surviving are two daughters, Miss Mary James Richards, Davidson, and Mrs. R. T. L. Liston, Bristol, Tenn.; a son, Dr. J. McDowell Richards, president of Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, Ga.

His wife, Mrs. Janie McDowell Richards, died in 1953, and a daughter, Mrs. J. C. Bailey Jr. died in 1963.

Funeral service will be at 10:30 a.m. Monday in Davidson College Presbyterian Church conducted by the Rev. Curtis P. Harper. Interment will be in Sumter Cemetery, Sumter, at 3 p.m.

Nephews will serve as active pallbearers. Church officers and faculty members of Davidson College will serve as honorary pallbearers.

Davidson College and Columbia Theological Seminary are suggested to those wishing to send memorials.