Dr. I'Anson is a native of Virginia. He has spent more than fifty years in preaching the gospel. He has held a number of important pastorates in his native State and was for eight or ten years pastor of Riverside Church in Columbia, South Carolina. While there he led in building a house of worship and many were added to the church.

In North Carolina his principal work was in the Tar River Association as pastor of Bear Swamp Church. In this church he conducted several successful evangelistic meetings and greatly endeared himself to the church and neighborhood. The late Rev. A. G. Wilcox was led into the ministry under the influence of Dr. I'Anson. Rev. B. A. Bowers, of Knoxville, Tennessee, and the late beloved Paul Bowers were converted in meeting held by him, and he may have been God's instrument in directing their minds towards the ministry. He also held evangelistic meetings in other churches in the Association. He held a series of meetings at Jackson, Northampton County, North Carolina, and organized the Baptist Church in that town.

Dr. I'Anson has had great success in winning souls and building church houses. Having lived more than three-score and ten years of suffering with high blood pressure, he is now (1921) on the retired list; but he preaches nearly every Sunday in his home city of Norfolk. He has always been a popular preacher, and his services have been in great demand as pastor and evangelist.

A HISTORY OF THE TAR RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
By: Thomas J. Taylor

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times he was pastor of the Antioch-Newville field, this being his last charge.

I have assisted him in revival services a number of times, have been with him three times at the Newville Church, and I have never helped a pastor who gave himself more earnestly and zealously to personal work in behalf of the lost. Through his personal efforts he led numbers to Christ. He was especially popular with young people.

Being so greatly interested in the welfare of childhood and youth he gave a great deal of his time and energy in his later years to the cause of public education. In 1905 he became superintendent of schools of Sussex County and later also of Prince George County, serving until 1915. For three years thereafter he was supervisor of secondary education. He then devoted two years to teaching, after which he returned to the position of superintendent of schools of Sussex and Prince George counties in 1920, resigning September 1, 1925.

At the time of his death he was principal of Carson High School. As a monument of his labors there are many splendid school buildings in these counties, and the cause of education has been worthily advanced.

In addition to this service in behalf of education he has, through his own private resources, educated six young men and women, and assisted in the education of eight others. He labored well, never sparing himself when duty called, was always loyal to his friends and faithful to his tasks. We laid his body to rest in Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond.

W. E. Gibson

Vernon i'anson
1850-1925

Though his father, Mackey Dunlap i'anson was a Baptist and a deacon of the First Baptist Church of Petersburg for almost fifty years his mother Jane Thompson Thornton was a Presbyterian, so she had her little Vernon sprinkled by Rev. Joseph R. Wilson (father of Woodrow Wilson), pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church, Petersburg; however the baby protested even fighting the preacher vigorously. This incident having come to the church, the preacher made a sermon story. When he was 1868, was baptized by Rev. James Dunlap, was licensed to preach Appomattox, having entered the Confederate College, where he was a major in this field, and was chaplain-general in the army. He was present in Richmond College semi-centennial session and he was present in T. L. Sydnor’s “Old

His long ministry to the fields in town and country in Sussex, Sidney (a part of Prince George County), Third and Grace in Petersburg, Third and Grace in Virginia. One charge pastorates and in his presence 2,500 baptisms and over 1,000 confirmations.

Under his leadership meeting-houses built. Under his leadership church and denomination Dispatch said of him and its people... He looked to the good of the family in 1880 to Miss Mattie who she was to him a source of much of his success with her and fourteen years later she was laid to rest beside her at the end of his life Dr. I’anson of Divinity from the University of an English nobleman, all in on
Incident having come to the knowledge of Rev. T. W. Sydnor, he preached a sermon on infant baptism in which he told this story. When he was eighteen, young I’Anson on April 3, 1868, was baptized by Rev. Daniel Witt and two years later was licensed to preach by the Sharon Church, Prince Edward County. Later he was ordained. As a lad of fourteen he entered the Confederate Army, serving until the surrender at Appomattox, having gone out from Hampden-Sydney College, where he was a student, with the Hampden-Sydney Howitzers of Norfolk. His three brothers, older than he, were majors in this army, and he many, many years later, was chaplain-general in the U. C. Veterans. He was a student at Richmond College in 1873 and so a delegate to the great semi-centennial session of the General Association that year, and he was present in 1923 at the centennial being one of Dr. T. L. Sydnor’s “Old Guard.”

His long ministry touched with blessing many churches and fields in town and country. Besides High Hills and Antioch in Sussex, Sidney (afterwards West Main) Richmond, and Third and Grace in Norfolk there were other fields all in Virginia. One charge of his was in South Carolina. In these pastorates and in his evangelistic services there were nearly 2,500 baptisms and one thousand other professions of faith. Under his leadership ten churches were organized and eight meeting-houses built. Nor was his service alone to his own church and denomination; at his death the Norfolk Ledger Dispatch said of him: “He took a deep interest in Norfolk and its people.... He was prominent in all movements which looked to the good of the community.” He was married in 1880 to Miss Mattie Tiller, of Emporia, Greensville County; she was to him a sympathetic, prudent, devoted wife and much of his success was due to her; she passed away in 1911 and fourteen years later, on Friday, April 3rd, his body was laid to rest beside hers in Elmwood Cemetery. To the very end of his life Dr. I’Anson (he received his degree of Doctor of Divinity from the Central University of Iowa) was erect in his carriage having the style of a Frenchman, the dignity of an English nobleman, and the urbanity of a Virginia gentleman, all in one gracious blend.
He was survived by a son, D. T. I'Anson, a lawyer, and two daughters, Mrs. Mary E. Nielson and Mrs. Annie J. Terry, all three of Norfolk, Virginia.

W. F. BRANNOCK
1855-1925

He was born December 11th, and died May 26th. On September 11, 1879, he was married to Miss M. A. Hodges, and to this union were born seven children, all save two, together with his widow, survive him. Brother Brannock united with Snow Hill Baptist Church on September 4, 1885, where he lived and kept his membership all his life. In December, 1886, he was ordained to the ministry. Until recent years he was active in the ministry, when on account of his failing health he ceased such work. But never did he lose his zeal for the cause of Christ and the church to which he belonged.

For seven years he was moderator of the New River Association, in which position he served to the entire satisfaction of the churches of the Association. His influence for good in his community at Snow Hill and in the entire bounds of the New River Association will live. Besides Snow Hill Church his other churches were Hebron and Blue Ridge. For a season he worked with our State Mission Board at Hampton Cross Roads. For years his address was Higgins, Virginia.

GEORGE LEE ROCKE
1865-1925

He was born January 27th at Woodland near Fincastle, Botetourt County, being the son of William and Mahaley Obenshain Rocke; his brothers and sister were: C. B., O. C., J. S., and Katherine Rocke. His general education was received at the public schools and at Daleville and Floyd Court House. After teaching for several years, he studied at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky. At the age of seventeen he was baptized into the fellowship of the First Baptist Church of Buchanan, Virginia. His funeral was held in Roanoke, Virginia, September 16th.

JOHN W. JOHNSON
1851-1925

He was born at "cul de sac" August 23rd, the second of six children of Stegar Hardaway. He was a farmer and a teacher. While a student at the southern Baptist Theological Seminary for two years. He became the pastor of Mt. Tabor Baptist Church January 3, 1885, and held his pastorate here of ten years. In later years, the beautiful lot he paid for and dedicated to us.

On December 5, 1885, he was married to Jennie Gaines of Buchanan, Virginia. His union proved to be a very happy one. Three were taken before infancy, Jennie Gaines was drowned in an automobile accident in the summer of 1921. His funeral was held in Roanoke, Virginia, September 16th.

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