William and Claude Kitchin Taught by LeRoy W. Bagley

Wields Influence

Known as State's Grand Old Man

By CAREY B. TAYLOR

"He is one of North Carolina's grand old men, one of that type that is all too rapidly passing away. He has been a wonderful power for good in the building of future leaders for our commonwealth."

The foregoing is a tribute paid to LeRoy W. Bagley, who spent sixty years of his life, the years that were his best, in the service of his State by Judge John H. Kerr, Representative in Congress from the Second North Carolina District.

And men who served not only their mother State but their nation as well and went down after their work had been completed, paid homage at the feet of this patriarch, the man who brought well who constructed foundations upon which these men laid out their life's work. For few other men stand in the same position as does L. W. Bagley today. It's doubtful if there has lived another just like him.

Some of the greatest men North Carolina has produced since the Civil War owed the goal they reached to the foundation he laid for them. Men rose to heights in the halls of Congress, presided over the destinies of the Old North State as Governor, climbed to the topmost rounds as leaders of church from the lowly positions following the light placed in their hands by Mr. Bagley.

For hardly have two brothers wielded such a powerful influence over the time in which they lived as William Walton Kitchin and Claude Kitchin, and both have forgotten the days they climbed the winding pathway to the little schoolhouse in Scotland Neck, over which Bagley, the pedagogue, presided. It was in those days when their young lives were being moulded, when characters were being formed, when foundations were being laid upon which these two men were to stand in their future greatness that they had wrapped about them the magnetic influence of a man who not only taught them the fundamentals of education but taught them what it meant to follow the footsteps of his Master by the daily life he lived himself.

And not only does North Carolina know what the lives of William and Claude Kitchin mean to growing history but the nation came to know them as among her outstanding leaders. If they were living today they would perhaps bow at the feet of their teacher and declare next to their mother they owed what they were to him.

For LeRoy Bagley was born and raised at a time when it meant a mighty struggle for mere existence.
Born in Smithfield, down in Johnston County, on February 6, 1843 of parents who lived in humble and honest home he was reared to know what it meant to till long and hard. And these days spent down in Eastern Carolina when a little brown dirt building well for future life.

Thomas Bagley, the father of LeRoy, was for several years clerk of the courts of Johnston County, but a position like this in those days was not too remunerative and the moles of living for them was simple. Thomas Bagley married Treanna Pike of Wayne County whose father kept the tavern on the stage road and lived in the route selected for constructing the old Wilmington and Weldon Railroad, now a portion of the Atlantic Coast Line system. The name of Pikeville, a small Wayne County village, came from the family name of LeRoy Bagley's grandfather.

Young Bagley was reared on a farm eight miles northeast of Salma. His father died at the age of 32 and his mother married a second time and he then went to his grandfather's home to live. He was sent to the schools of the neighborhood, both private and public, such as they were at that time,

At the age he had to begin building for the future. Until he reached 13 years of age he was instructed by a teacher who came from New Hampshire. Then went to the village on Stan tonsville in Wilson County where he was under Prof. Thomas Marshall and followed him he was taught by P.B. Williams at old Hopewell Academy in Stan tonnville.

While at Hopewell Academy President Abraham Lincoln declared war on the Southern States and young Bagley saw the larger boys leaving for the fields to fight. He was too young and small for service but he saw the troops as they went away, some never to return. Boys out of school went away, some came home with empty satchels, some came on crutches but numbers were left sleeping beneath the soil on the fields of Virginia and other states. While the North and South were engaged in that bloody struggle, young Bagley went to New Garden Boarding School, which was superintended by John Carter and when peace was declared he having reached the age of 17, began teaching in the little neighborhood school. After two or three years he appeared at Wake Forest College, then under the presidency of Samuel Watts, the college president. After a couple of months illness forced him back home, he came back a year hence he found the course in study. Just before entering Wake College, he taught at Nahunta and Wayne County, now the town of Fremont, while there he was associated with Charles Brauntz, who was destined to be one of North Carolina's famous Governors, in the year of Bagley and Aycock, connected by marriage, by marriage, Aycock marrying Aycock's aunts and Aycock marrying Aycock's uncle, after graduating he spent years as tutor at the college. He went to Scotland Neck where he spent some of the best years of his life.

In his graduating class he was beside himself, John R. O. Saunders, Hugh R., Thomas Carrick, W. C. Brewer, W. Jenkins, M. D. Phillips, and W. Phillips. Out of that class three are living today, L. W. Bagley, Thomas Carrick, and Hugh R. Scott.


SPOTS ARE UNSIGHTLY
We specialize in removing unsightly spots that mar the beauty of a garment.

Our "Individual" method of cleaning does the trick.

Bondurant Dry Cleaning Co.
"The Individual Cleaners"
Phone 3024 211 Marshall Street
Sallie M. Brewer, a granddaughter of Samuel Walke, president of the college, Charles E. Brewer's older brothers, were taught in the college preparatory school. But realizing the need for better foundation, the father sent Charles E. to Scotland Neck to be taught by Mr. Bagley. For years Charles E. Brewer was professor of chemistry at Wake Forest College and wielded a great influence over many hundreds of young men. Today he is president of Meredith College at Raleigh, this denomination's outstanding college for young women in this State.

While at Scotland Neck Professor Bagley went with Dr. Richard T. Vann over to Murfreesboro where they assisted Dr. John Brewster in conducting the Chowan Baptist Female Institute.

Leaving Murfreesboro he moved to Littleton where he conducted his own school building and for many years operated a private school. And among his students was H. W. Spillman, who is today one of the greatest Baptist ministers in the South. A few Sundays ago Dr. Spillman preached his 40th anniversary sermon in Littleton, where he preached his first one. Professor Bagley was urged to be present on this occasion, but he was unable to attend. Other students at Littleton Professor Bagley's who have made their mark in life are J. A. Adams, W. H. Land of Statesville, M. E.

On entering Wake Forest Mr. Bagley was taught that Latin and mathematics were the fundamentals on which every man's education should be founded. And he was grounded in the truth.

While there he came under the influence of Professor W. B. Yar pharmacology. A great soul who has stamped into him a love for thousands and hundreds of young men who have attended Wake Forest College. Maybe that is something to do with young men's future success.

He not only learned well under a Godly man but came out with a soul, touched, by his life.

While at Wake Forest he was a low student of Furnifold, Mordecai Simmons, from down in the little fellow this time; but who grew in power till today, the senior Senator from North Carolina, is ranked as one of the nation's strongest men.

Another student with whom Bagley came in contact at college was Henry A. Brown, who in after years became the first Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Winston-Salem, later one of the Baptist denomination's greatest powers. In these years Frank M. Jordan had come from Winston and organized a church in the courthouse with the labor of a great pastor and for forty years he led
Newsom and T. M. Green of Durham and Raleigh. Daniel of Weid. D. W. Newsom was for many years registrar at Trinity College. (now Duke University). The others are well known throughout the State.

After the union of Professor Bagley and Miss Sallie Brewer were born: John A. Bagley, now professor of textile engineering at A. & M. College of Texas; Mrs. G. T. Lumin, of Winton-Salem; and S. W. Bagley of Raleigh, with the Etris Fitzgerald Paper Company.

After he felt his teaching days were over at Littleton, Professor Bagley went to Thomasville where he was connected with the Baptist Orphanage for nine years and because of his wife's ill health gave up his work and moved to Suffolk, Va., in 1922.

Professor Bagley saw his teaching days come to an end at Walthour when the school was turned from a denominational to a private school. This was in 1928. And the day he closed his books and tucked them under his arms for the last time and walked out of his school room brought to an end one of the most glorious teaching careers the State of North Carolina records and now after having spent sixty years of his best life, he made the great State on whose altar he sacrificed all his younger days with no provision for aged teachers. Not that Professor Bagley needed any pension from the State that gave him birth and gave him protection for nearly three-quarters of a century, but it brings forcibly before the public's mind the fact that North Carolina and its teachers do not provide for those who are facing the setting sun after a half century or more spent in her service.

Professor Bagley is now making his home with his daughter-in-law, Dr. G. T. Lumin, superintendent of the Baptist Hospital in this city. A visit to his room carried one back to the golden days of the long ago. On the wall is a small brown basket presented to his family by Mrs. Matthew T. Yates, wife of the North Carolina Baptist, most beloved missionary to China. The basket was made in China.

(Continued on Page 7-B)
Adorning the walls of the bedroom are photographs made from 25 to 50 years ago. Various members of the Brewer family, the Bagleys, fellow students at Wake Forest College during the period of 1870 to '77, and other friends and relatives. And in an old cherished album, kept safely among his valuables in a dresser drawer, he keeps photographs of the families in their boyhood days, when small children and on up to manhood and womanhood.

"And now in my declining years," he said, "I find my greatest joy in my church, for I have witnessed its struggle through the trying years of its life in the State.