

**Notes**

- James Madison Stephenson (1841-1925)
- The Teacher

□ James was born in De Kalb County and was six years old when his parents moved to Carroll County, Georgia. When he was ten years old, "white swelling" developed following an injury to his knee. For more than a year he was bed-ridden and when he recovered he was left with a stiff knee. This handicap later influenced him to choose teaching as his life work.

□ James volunteered for service in the War Between the States, but was rejected on account of the stiff knee. However he served where he could, taking food to soldiers in camp, and he was always invited to the Soldiers Reunions after the war.

□ Southern Colleges were closed during the war, but afterwards James entered Bowden College, Georgia, and graduated with A.B. degree in 1871. He did post-graduate work at the University of Georgia and became an honored member of the University of Georgia Alumni Association. He was a teacher and principal in several secondary schools in Georgia and Alabama, then taught two years at Grangers College, Jacksonville, Alabama. For seventeen years he was professor of Mathematics at Oxford College, Alabama. He next taught four years at Bowden College, and was Associate President there when he retired in 1910. After sixty years in the teaching profession his pupils were numbered by the thousands. Among them were many men and women who occupied prominent walks in life, many preachers, teachers, lawyers and Congressmen, and a vast host who held humbler but no less useful places in life.

□ Eudora also taught in the literary schools of two states. She taught Sunday School at the Carrolton First Baptist Church and attended Sunday School in Virginia on the day of her death.

□ After retirement, James built his home in Carrollton, Georgia (on Longview). The timber for that house was cut from the best old growth long leaf pines that could be found still growing on the place his father bought in 1848. He had so much love and sentiment for his boyhood home that, in the settlement of his fathers estate, he had bought the interests of the other heirs. There was a sort of halo about that house he built for his old age -- as though it were a part of himself. In retirement, he was never without private pupils whom he coached for special work.

□ In this house, James and Eudora, held their "Golden Wedding" Anniversary on August 6, 1921. It was a gala occasion, with Mrs. Beavers and Miss Dorothy Watkins presiding at the punch bowl; Miss Ruby Burns and Miss Mildred Stephenson at the registration desk. Their son, Mell M. Stephenson was master of ceremonies and toastmaster. Also attending were sons, G.F., and G.B. Stephenson and daughters, Mesdames M.L. Watkins, T.J. Jones, E.L. Shelnut and Mrs. J.M. Stephenson, Jr., also grandchildren, Mr. and Mrs. Sumner J. Smith, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Jack Stephenson, Miss Elizabeth Stephenson, Miss Dorothy Watkins, Mel and Mildred Stephenson, Margaret Jones, Ruth, Hazel, Virginia and Charlotte Shelnut and one greatgrandchild, Robert Smith.

□ James was a Christian from his early youth. His religion was very real to him. The Bible was a genuine lamp for his feet and prayer a privilege he did not neglect. He was a man of sterling character, truth was his watchword and honesty the Keystone of his life. His strict adherence to his lofty ideals were an inspiration to his pupils and his children.