

Mrs. Jackson's greatest ability was in field work. She loved people and she was never happier than when advising a group of women on the proper methods of conducting a missionary society or speaking to large numbers of people about the work of the Baptist denomination.

She was always very humble regarding her talents and the success of her work. She once said, "I never deliver orations or addresses. I just go around and talk to the women." Soon after that a dear old country brother mailed a letter to the general secretary of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and, among other things, he wrote, "We sure did enjoy hearing Sis' Jackson, the lady lecturer, when she spoke here last week." That remark brought forth some good natured teasing from her co-workers, one of whom said, "No, you don't address the women, but this letter convicts you of lecturing to the brethren." Mrs. Jackson enjoyed the joke.

Mrs. Jackson was intensely interested in the work of young people. It was during her term of office that the Sunbeam Bands, Girls' Auxiliaries, Royal Ambassadors, and Young Woman's Auxiliaries were welded together in Arkansas under a Young People's secretary. She believed in the power of prayer and it was through that medium that she secured funds to put Miss Una Roberts on the field as a Sunbeam worker. Miss Roberts afterwards became the first Young People's secretary in the state.

Many new plans and projects had their beginning during Mrs. Jackson's tenure. She established an annual Season of Prayer for State Missions similar to the Season of Prayer which WMU, SBC had originated for Home and Foreign Missions. It found favor with missionary societies and later became an annual observance and the societies began making an offering for state missions. The first one amounted to approximately \$1,000. With few exceptions, the offering has increased annually and now over \$1,000,000 each year.

It is difficult to evaluate such a person as Dixie. She had a vivid personality and a brilliant mind. She was optimistic in her outlook on life and her sense of humor carried her through many discouraging situations. She was well acquainted with the affairs of the Baptist denomination and she was diligent in promoting its interests. She was honored by her associates, both state and south wide. She was a devoted wife and mother, a loyal friend and a leader whose wisdom was unquestioned.

Late in the fall of 1928 she had an attack of something similar to influenza. During the Christmas holidays her family and friends became concerned that she was not able to throw off the effects of her illness. Very early on the morning of January 7, 1929, she died.

A memorial service was held at Second Baptist Church and she was buried beside her husband in Oakland Cemetery in Little Rock.

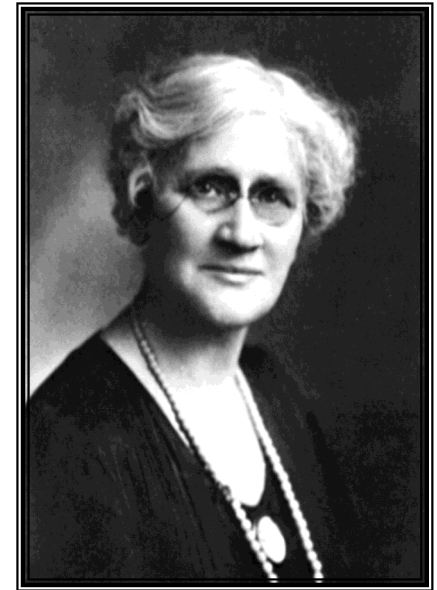
So Dixie Farrior Jackson, through humble service, had climbed the upper road to true greatness. As she came to the end of its ever ascending heights she joined "a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people and tongues...Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple." (Rev. 7:9, 15).

In 1935 Woman's Missionary Union in annual session at Fort Smith voted to name the offering in memory of Mrs. Jackson and to call it "The Dixie Jackson Offering for State Missions."

In speaking of the three Seasons of Prayer for missions, it is a coincidence that the three women memorialized were born at the beginning of three successive decades: Lottie Moon in 1840, Annie Armstrong in 1850, and Dixie Jackson in 1860.

Adapted from a Biography written by Mrs. W.D. Pye.

DIXIE FARRIOR JACKSON



A Life of True Greatness

Dixie Jackson was born great in that she was endowed with natural ability and talents, and she was born into a Christian home. Thus, from the beginning she was surrounded by love and devotion which gave her the sense of security so necessary to a well rounded development in childhood.

Dixie was born on May 6, 1860, on a plantation in Carroll Parish, Louisiana. Her parents were E.W. Farrior and Julia McIntyre Farrior. Her first name may have been given to her because of her southern birthplace.

When she was about twelve years old her parents left the plantation in Louisiana and moved to Dardanelle, Arkansas. Their home was in East and West Carroll Parishes in the northeastern corner of Louisiana, not far across the Mississippi River from Vicksburg. Since the year of Dixie's birth immediately preceded the War Between the States, it is likely that her family experienced all the difficulties and losses that accompanied the siege of Vicksburg. It may be that during the period of Reconstruction the Farriors decided to move to "greener fields" away from the recent war's black shadows. At any rate, they made a change that changed the destiny of Dixie's life.

Some Achieve Greatness

The years in Dardanelle seem to have been happy ones. During the next six years Dixie took advantage of the best educational opportunities available to a young woman of that era. All during her life she eagerly grasped every bit of knowledge which came her way and wove it into her own mental development.

She made friends among the young people, the chiefest among whom was James Green Jackson. He proved to be her "prince charming" and was the love of her life. They were married in 1878.

For more than 25 years they lived in Dardanelle. During that time two daughters and six sons were born into their home. Truly, the young wife and mother achieved greatness as she ministered to the welfare of her husband and home and to the rearing of eight children.

It was in the early years of her marriage that she changed her denomination from the Methodist Church in which she had been reared to the Baptist Church where her young husband was a member. She was always quick to assert that she did not make that change merely to please Mr. Jackson, but that she prayed earnestly and read her Bible and other literature carefully for many long hours before she took such an important step. When she could honestly say that she understood and endorsed what Baptists believe, she aligned herself with that denomination and forever afterward she adhered to its tenets.

Realizing that there were no Christian training schools for young women in Mrs. Jackson's youth, a friend once asked her where she had acquired her thorough knowledge of the Bible. Mrs. Jackson replied that she had taken advantage of every opportunity, both public and private, to further her understanding of God's Word. Then she laughed as she said, "You should have seen me using one foot to rock the cradle, while I churned with one hand and held my Bible with the other."

The years passed and in 1904 the Jackson family, for business reasons, moved to Little Rock where they became active in the religious and cultural life of the city. Several members of the family joined the Second Baptist Church, and they lived near where the present church building is located.

Mrs. Jackson was made a member of the Central Committee (now Executive Board) of Woman's Missionary Union in 1906 and later served for two years as the local chairman. For a number of years she was one of the committee's most active members.

Mr. Jackson's physical condition became alarming in a few years. After a lingering illness he died in 1912, leaving a brokenhearted family behind him. Some of the older children were already self-supporting but the youngest two had not yet completed their formal education.

Mrs. Jackson was then 52 years old. It was an age when some women would have felt that life owed them a little rest and ease. Her courage rose to supreme heights, however, and she determined to keep her home and to see that the youngest two children would have the same advantages that the other six had received under a devoted father's care. Her gentle little mother came to live in the Jackson home about that time for she needed the daughter's care and protection. Mrs. Jackson dedicated herself anew to the service of her Lord and to her responsibility for her family. The last and best known phase of her life was rapidly approaching.

And Some Have Greatness Thrust Upon Them

In June 1914 Woman's Missionary Union held its Annual Meeting in Pine Bluff. It was necessary at that meeting for the Union to elect a new corresponding secretary (now called executive director). The position was offered to Dixie Jackson and she, who had no special training for the office, heroically stepped in the position after much thought and prayer, and filled it most acceptably for nearly 15 years.

Being treasurer also for the first few years, she devised her own system of accounting and filing and between field trips she would attack the unknown and untried details of office management. She struggled alone with her problems until January 10, 1916, when the Union provided her with her own office secretary. As long as she lived she was never again without assistance at the state office of Woman's Missionary Union.