

. . . . Dr. R. H. Griffith came to North Carolina in 1849, and labored for several years as a missionary in the counties of Stokes, Yadkin and Davie. He afterwards settled as pastor and teacher in Charlotte and spent seventeen or eighteen years in this city. He was twice pastor of Tryon Street Church, once for eleven years and after an interval for four years; and he had associated with him while head of the Academy here, at one time, Armistead Burwell, who is now an associate justice of the supreme court of North Carolina. He was universally known and as universally beloved while he lived here; and as an old citizen said of him, since his death, "He was everybody's pastor". I have known him since 1850, nearly half a century. The first time that I saw him was at his cottage home in Yadkin, when he was on top of a log chopping it in two. His wife whom he had found in New Jersey, was lovely in person and character, and I shall never forget the cordial hospitality which they extended to the college boy who called to see them. During all these long years I have honored and loved this man of God, and was gratified to know that he had not only a wider field of usefulness in South Carolina, but that he had grown mentally and spiritually as Providence had imposed larger responsibilities upon him. It was a great grief to me that I was not at home to have participated in his funeral services which were largely attended by the older citizens of Charlotte, of all denominations. I would have esteemed it a privilege to have spoken some words of loving affection in his honor, and to have mingled my tears and prayers with those of his loved ones.

T. H. PRITCHARD

BAPTIST COURIER

June 28, 1894

Page 2:5

MARRIED

December 23d, in the Baptist Church in Mt. Holly, N. Y., by the
Rev. Wm. M. Collom, the Rev. RICHARD H. GRIFFITH of Virginia, to
Miss ELIZA A. SLACK, of Mt. Holly.

RELIGIOUS HERALD
January 29, 1852
Page 3:4

Note: The Reverend Richard H. Griffith was married in Mt. Holly, New
Jersey and not Mt. Holly, N. Y. The American Baptist Register
states that Rev. Wm. M. Collom was pastor of Mt. Holly, N. J.
Baptist Church in 1852. (BHC Staff)

MARRIED

In Chester, S. C., March 21st, by Rev. L. C. Hinton, Rev. RICHARD
H. GRIFFITH, of Charlotte, N. C., and Miss MARY A. COLEMAN of
Chester, S. C.

RELIGIOUS HERALD
April 11, 1867
Page 3:5

Information taken from THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CHARLOTTE -
ITS HERITAGE by Frances Fielden Eppley . (286.175676/Ep7)

- Page 30 - The entries in the Church Book show the spiritual leadership of Rev. Griffith. "Wednesday night, 17th-March 1858. Bro. R. H. Griffith and wife Elizabeth Griffith present letters of dismission from Union Hill Baptist Church, Davidson County, N. C., and were cordially rec'd into the full fellowship of this church. Bro. R. H. Griffith was then installed Pastor of this church by Bro. Hill of Chester District, S. C.
- Page 38 - Another death which came at the end of the war and which brought much sorrow to the church was that of Elizabeth A. Griffith, the wife of the pastor. There were no entries made in the church record from March 29, 1865, until November. When the war ended in April, there was looting and turmoil in the city until May 5, when order was restored by the arrival of Federal troops. Five days later on May 10, 1865, Eliza Griffith died, leaving the pastor with two small daughters.

OBITUARIES OF THE CHILDREN OF

REV. RICHARD H. GRIFFITH

Died in Charlotte, N. C., February 22d, of Inflammation of the Brain,
RICHARD HENRY, infant son of Rev. R. H. and E. A. Griffith, aged
seven months and four days.

"The Lord gave and the Lord hath
taken away: blessed be the name of
the Lord".

BIBLICAL RECORDER
March 5, 1862
Page 3:5

Died in Charlotte, N. C., October 30th, of membranous croup, at the age
of 4 years and six months, IDA MAY, youngest daughter of Rev. R. H. Griffith.

BIBLICAL RECORDER
November 6, 1867
Page 3:2

Died, February 27th, in Chester, S. C., of membranous croup, in the fourth
year of his age, ARTHUR FLEET, son of Rev. Richard H. and Mary A. Griffith
of Charlotte, N. C.

RELIGIOUS HERALD
March 19, 1874
Page 3:6

. . . Miss Kate Griffith, daughter of Rev. Dr. R. H. and Mrs. M. A. Griffith, of Gaffney City, S. C., died of pneumonia last week, and was brought to Charlotte, N. C., the former home of her parents, for burial. Our dear brother and sister have the sympathy and prayers of all who know them in this sad bereavement.

BIBLICAL RECORDER, December 23, 1891, p. 2:5.

school, however, and after a year's hard work he was prepared to enter Furman University, in September, 1872. After studying three years in the University he entered the Seminary and took a three years' course in that institution, graduating in the English course in May, 1878.

He preached and taught school during his vacations. In the summer of 1877 he was engaged in teaching and preaching for Bethel church, Sumter county. This church asked for his ordination, and on Sunday, June 24, 1877, he was ordained in the Baptist church at Bennettsville. Rev. J. O. B. Dargan preached the sermon, the venerable W. Q. Beattie offered the prayer, J. A. W. Thomas delivered the charge, and J. H. Edwards presented the Bible.

His first pastorate was Bethel and other neighboring churches. He continued in this field, preaching to a number of churches, till a few years ago when he accepted the call of the Union church and several other churches in Union county. In the early part of 1893 he accepted the call of the church at Greenville, Miss., but on account of his health he returned and accepted the pastorate which he held at the time of his death, Summerton, Calvary, Bethel and Wedgefield. He came back to die among a people who were devoted to him and whom he dearly loved.

Bro. Lampley was eminently successful as long as his health enabled him to work. He loved to preach, and he preached well. He never shrank from hard work. His churches were, in some instances, far apart, and this necessitated long drives and great exposure. This, no doubt, helped to hasten the end. He did not consider any place too small. He was unselfish and seemed to have this one aim, God's glory and the salvation of the people. He loved his denomination and was alive to all denominational interests and developed his churches in general benevolence. He loved his brother ministers, and never spoke evil things of them. He magnified his office, and it greatly grieved him when he saw a brother minister fall below the high standard he had set before him. Never was there a truer friend—faithful, loyal, sincere, tender, affectionate, sympathetic.

We had few better men than Bro. Lampley. He never sounded his own praises, and he never sought prominence, and was never known as a place hunter. He was plain and unassuming, rather modest in his general bearing. He was not so well known, perhaps, as some of our pastors, but he was greatly beloved, trusted and esteemed by those who knew him best.

His death was gloriously triumphant. He retained consciousness to the last, talked freely to all around and sent loving messages to absent brethren. By his own request his body was taken to the town of Union for burial. A great concourse of people attended the funeral. They all felt that in his death they had lost a true friend.

RICHARD H. GRIFFITH

Died at his home in Yorkville, S. C., June 17, 1894.

From the most reliable sources at hand we learn that Dr. Griffith was born in Henrico county, Virginia, on the 7th day of October, 1825. His father's home was in King and Queen county, but on account of business his parents spent some months in Henrico county, where Richard H. was

born. The family subsequently moved back to King and Queen county. He was educated in Richmond and Washington. After graduating at Columbian University he spent several years in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Virginia, teaching and preaching. He subsequently moved to North Carolina, where he lived for a number of years, preaching as a missionary and teaching school. For several years he was pastor in the town of Charlotte, N. C., where he did a fine work, laying a good foundation upon which other pastors have wisely built. After he resigned the Charlotte church he continued to live in that city while he preached to churches in Chester county, this State. While thus engaged he was elected agent of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville, and travelled extensively in Virginia, North and South Carolina, collecting funds for endowment. In this work he met with singular success.

In 1882 he was elected Corresponding Secretary of our State Mission Board and continued in this work till the first of January, 1886, when he entered upon the work of Financial Agent of Furman University. He gave up this work in the early part of 1891 and became co-principal of Cooper-Limestone Institute, which position he held till the beginning of the present year, when he took charge of the York Baptist High School.

His work as Corresponding Secretary and Financial Agent cannot be overestimated. As Corresponding Secretary he visited most of the churches in the State, and attended the meetings of the Associations, in addition to the office work. He succeeded in making friends for the work and in bringing into sympathy and active co-operation with State Missions many churches that had hitherto been lukewarm. He left the work in splendid condition when he turned it over to his successor, Dr. Bailey. As Financial Agent of Furman University his labors were, if possible, even more abundant and arduous. He travelled all over the State, visiting churches, Associational meetings and individuals, making friends for the institution and collecting money for the endowment and hunting students. Much of the time he travelled by private conveyance, making long, wearisome journeys, suffering great exposure, both from cold and heat. He would never spare himself, and no doubt he pushed on the work at times when he ought to have been taking rest. All things considered, his work in behalf of the University was the most difficult he ever undertook, and, so far as we can now see, it was the most fruitful, both in immediate and far-reaching results, to the denomination.

Dr. Griffith was a conscientious worker. The denomination put upon him hard tasks, and he entered upon those tasks in a conscientious way. He was anxious for immediate results, but he was far more concerned to do the work well and leave it well established, in many cases willing to await results, knowing that the best fruits would be seen in after years. He was a collector of funds for various purposes, but he never pursued such methods as would prejudice the cause he represented. As a secretary or agent he had few equals.

Much of Dr. Griffith's life was spent in doing foundation work. In the early years of his ministry he preached in mission fields, both in country and town. The work he did in the town of Charlotte was largely pre-

paratory, but the church in and laborious foundation work.

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paratory, but the church in that city to-day is a monument to his wise and laborious foundation work.

Dr. Griffith was not only a successful agent and organizer and wise executive officer, but he was also a fine preacher. He loved to preach. His preaching was strong, earnest, persuasive, logical. He loved to expound the Scriptures. He sometimes took very unfamiliar texts, and from these he would preach remarkably striking and original sermons. Many of his sermons will never be forgotten, and they are frequently spoken of by those who heard them years ago.

Much of Dr. Griffith's time was devoted to educational work. In his early life he taught school, preaching on Sunday and teaching through the week. He struggled when a youth for an education and he sympathized with struggling and aspiring youth.

His work for the Seminary, the University, Cooper-Limestone, and the York Baptist High School, will tell for years to come. These institutions are greatly indebted to him, and few of us properly appreciate his efforts in the cause of higher Christian education. His best thought and his most exhaustive labors were expended in this cause.

As the earnest, affectionate, amiable, consecrated, wise, broad-minded, liberal man of God, he will never be forgotten by those who knew him and who enjoyed his labors.

We cherish his memory, and we are better for having known such a model Christian gentleman and wise worker. It will be a long time before we shall see the equal, in every respect, of Richard H. Griffith.

JOHN STOUT

Died on the 17th of June, 1894, in the city of Dallas, Texas, where he had gone to attend the meetings of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Bro. Stout was born in Mobile, Ala., March 12th, 1842, being in his 53d year at the time of his death. For twenty-four years he had labored in the ministry, having been ordained at Hartsville, Darlington county, May 12th, 1870. The first years of his young manhood prior to his conversion and entrance upon the work of the ministry, were spent in the camp and on the battlefield. Though young when the war between the States broke out he enlisted and served as Adjutant of an Alabama regiment. In battle near Atlanta he received a severe wound, the effects of which continued with him during the remainder of his life. At the close of the war, having given himself to the Lord, he decided to give his life to the gospel ministry. With a view to fitting himself for the responsible duties of pastor and preacher he entered Furman University and prepared himself for a theological course, which was begun in the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1868, and completed in 1873, taking the diploma of full graduate.

Bro. Stout's first work in the pastorate was at Newberry—1871-73—about two and a half years. In January, 1874, he took charge of the Welsh Neck church, Society Hill. Here, with this old historic church, he spent more than eighteen years of his useful life; and here, within a few yards of the church building, quietly sleeps his dust, awaiting the morning of the resurrection, when the dead in Christ shall rise first.

RICHARD H. GRIFFITH, D.D.

The news of the death of this honored brother carried genuine sorrow to many hearts. He had not been well for several months, and we had for some time apprehended the sad issue. Our readers will find an account of his last illness in the letter of Bro. Langston in another column. We had hoped that an abler pen than ours would have written more at length of his early years, and subsequent labors. For the past fifteen years he was a prominent figure among South Carolina Baptists, and although he was known by comparatively few of our people previous to that time, yet for several years past no man in the State was more widely known or more sincerely loved.

From the most reliable sources at hand, we learn that Dr. Griffith was born in Henrico county, Virginia, on the 7th day of October, 1825. He was educated in Richmond and Washington. After graduating at Columbia University he spend several years in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Virginia, teaching and preaching. He subsequently moved to NORTH Carolina, where he lived for a number of years, preaching as a missionary and teaching school. For several years he was pastor in the town of Charlotte, N. C., where he did a fine work, laying a good foundation upon which other pastors have wisely built. After he resigned the Charlotte church, He continued to live in that city while he preached to churches in Chester county, this State. While thus engaged he was elected agent of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville, and traveled extensively in Virginia, North and South Carolina, collecting funds for endowment. In this work he met with singular success.

In 1882 he was elected Corresponding Secretary of our State Mission Board and continued in this work till the first of January, 1885, when he entered upon the work of Financial Agent of Furman University. He gave up this work in the early part of 1891 and became co-principal of Cooper-Limestone Institute, which position he held till the beginning of the present year, when he took charge of the York Baptist High School.

His work as Corresponding Secretary and as Financial Agent cannot be over-estimated. As Corresponding Secretary he visited most of the churches in the State, and attended the meetings of the Associations, in addition to the office work. He succeeded in making friends for the work, and in bringing into sympathy and active cooperation with State Missions many churches that had hitherto been lukewarm. He left the work in splendid condition when he turned it over to his successor. Dr. Bailey. As Financial Agent of Furman University his labors were, if possible, even more abundant and arduous. He traveled all over the State, visiting churches, Associational meetings and individuals, making friends for the institution and collecting money for the endowment and hunting students. Much of the time he traveled by private conveyance, making long, wearisome journeys, suffering great exposure, both from cold and heat. He would never spare himself, was devoted to the work, felt that necessity was laid upon him, and no doubt he pushed on the work at times when he ought to have been taking rest. All things considered, his work in behalf of the University was the most difficult he ever undertook, and, so far as we can now see, it was the most fruitful, both in immediate and in far reaching results, to the denomination.

Dr. Griffith was a conscientious worker. The denomination put upon him

hard tasks, and he entered upon those tasks in a conscientious way. He felt his weakness, he underestimated his own ability, and yet he ever tried to make the best and wisest use of his time and opportunities. He was anxious for immediate results, but he was far more concerned to do the work well and leave it well established in many cases willing to await results, knowing that the best fruits would be seen in after years. He was a collector of funds for various purposes; but, he never pursued such methods as would prejudice the cause he represented. As a secretary or agent, he had few equals.

Much of Dr. Griffith's life was spent in doing foundation work. In the early years of his ministry he preached in mission fields, both in country and town. The work he did in the town of Charlotte was largely preparatory, but the church in that city today is a monument of his wise and laborious foundation work. The wise worker looks to the future. Dr. Griffith knew that others were to come after him and take up the work which he laid down, and he sought earnestly to leave it well established and in such condition that his successors could more easily carry it towards perfection.

Dr. Griffith was not only a successful agent and organizer and wise executive officer, but he was also a fine preacher. He loved to preach. Many of us well remember how, at times, he longed for the pastorate. When engaged in general denominational work he was sometimes tempted to throw it up and accept churches. He never allowed churches to call him, when he could not accept. His preaching was strong, earnest, persuasive, logical. He loved to expound the Scriptures. He sometimes took very unfamiliar texts, and from these he would preach remarkably striking and original sermons. Many of his sermons will never be forgotten, and they are frequently spoken of by those who heard them years ago.

Few men had finer social powers. He drew the people -- men, women and children -- to himself. He seldom repelled. If any were ever repelled he did not intend it and was not himself to blame. Entertaining his conversation, well informed, genial, cheerful, with a larger vein of humor, he was a welcome member of any circle. Whether in the homes of the cultured and refined and rich, or in the homes of the humble, illiterate and poor, he was equally at home and he had the happy faculty of winning and pleasing and uplifting all. Wise, prudent, discreet, thoughtful, he was never presumptuous, officious or forward. He traveled widely over this State and other States, going into hundreds of homes, and yet we venture to say that the inmates were always glad of his early return. In the homes of the people, as in the pulpit, his powers were used to help and lift the people to higher ideas. As a minister of the gospel, as a servant of Christ, as the representative of his denomination, at all times and all places and under all circumstances, he magnified his high office.

Much of Dr. Griffith's time was devoted to educational work. In his early life he taught school, preaching on Sunday and teaching through the week. He struggled when a youth for an education and he sympathized with struggling and aspiring youth. He loved children and young people and they loved him. He was a loving, true friend of young people, and was always glad to speak words of encouragement. They felt free to advise with him and confide in him. His work for the Seminary, the University, Cooper-Limestone, and the York Baptist High School, will tell for years to come. These

institutions are greatly indebted to him, and few of us properly appreciate his efforts in the cause of higher Christian education. His best thought and his most exhaustive labors were expended in this cause.

In speaking at the memorial service in connection with the Commencement of Furman University a few days ago, Dr. T. M. Bailey well said that Dr. Griffith's monument will not be confined to Charlotte, N. C., where his body rests. But, his monument is to be found in Virginia, North Carolina, and all over South Carolina. The work he did in the cause of State Missions, in the homes of the people, and in so many of our pulpits, this work is the monument he erected, a monument more enduring than marble or bronze. He built an enduring monument in his life and labor, wherever he lived and labored. As the earnest, affectionate, amiable, consecrated, wise, broad-minded, liberal man of God he will never be forgotten by those who knew him and enjoyed his labors. While we bow in humble submission to the will of our Heavenly Father, we thank him for the life and work of his consecrated servant. We cherish his memory, and we are better for having known such a model Christian gentleman, and wise worker. It will be a long time before we shall see the equal, in every respect, of Richard H. Griffith.

BAPTIST COURIER

June 28, 1894

Page 2:2-3

NAME: Griffith, R. H.

DATA: Photograph

SOURCE: THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CHARLOTTE: ITS HERITAGE by Frances Fielden
Eppley (286.175676/Ep7)

NAME

Rev. B. H. Griffith

b.

d.

Ancestry

Married

b.

d.

Ancestry

Record

Salisbury - Charlott, 1854

See

Brown River - Union p 61

Black
~~before 1854~~

File No.

(Over)

DR. RICHARD H. GRIFFITH

Sickness and Death of Dr. Griffith

Dr. Griffith had been in failing health for a long time. It dates from his later experience at Greenville. But during the Commencement at Limestone last October he went out bare head to show some of the brethren to bed in one of the dwellings on the campus and contracted a cold which developed into a severe case of the grippe. He came to Yorkville sick. He was never well after this attack but went on with his work. About the middle of April he was taken with dysentery. This took away the little remaining strength he had, and we almost despaired of his life. However, he rallied and we saw him once more able to go out. But again he was prostrated with Bright's disease of the Kidneys. He suffered much from difficulty of breathing. He could not lie down at times. Often he would have to get up in order to recover breath. On last Saturday he became much worse and we knew the end was near. Sunday night he suffered much. I was in an adjoining room and could hear what proved to be his dying groans. He could not lie down but sat on the side of the bed with his head upon some pillows on a chair before him. After making an effort beyond his strength he bowed his head upon the pillow before him and, held in the arms of his son Reginald, died in a moment. His remains were carried to Charlotte and buried. He was helpful to the last and was very tenacious to life. His head was set upon the permanent establishment of the Yorkville Baptist High School. He longed to live to accomplish this work. The last sermon he preached as in the Yorkville Baptist Church in April. His text was Heb. 12:1 and 2. All bear witness to the gracious words which he uttered. Some of us felt that it would be his last; and so it proved to be.

W. J. LANGSTON

BAPTIST COURIER

June 28, 1894

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