

Masons to Erect Marker at Grave of Gov. Ben J. Smith

Colorful Career of Former Governor Recalled by Plans of North Carolina Masons; Unveiling Next Month.

By HENRY L. ANDERSON

The glamour and romance of an age long past recall themselves vividly with the announcement that the Masons of the state are to erect a marker at the long obscured grave of Governor Benjamin Smith down in historic old Brunswick County.

Soldier, governor, fifteen times State Senator, thrice Grand Master of the Masons—this briefly sums up the brilliant public career of Governor Smith. He was one of the first group of trustees of the University, and his gift of 20,000 acres of land marked him among the most generous. He is often referred to as the University's first benefactor. Yet, when he died, he was penniless and a debtor. His body was stolen when his creditors held the remains for payment of his debts, and as a result his burial place was long a mystery.

It was a brilliant and varied career. His poverty resulted from un-failing generosity and trustfulness in endorsing notes for unworthy friends and reflects no discredit save that of a nature too kind and trusting. His name is an illustrious one, and the honor the Masons are now to bestow is regarded as a fitting tribute to the great North Carolinian.

Unveil Marker Next Month
The unveiling of the tomb will take place in Old St. Phillips' Chapel the middle of June. The marker will be a two or three foot wall surrounding his grave with a marble slab resting on the wall bearing the inscription "To the Memory of Benjamin Smith—Soldier and Statesman—Born 1747—Died 1826."

It will be a fruition of Governor Smith's wishes. In his will he requested that if he died in North Carolina he be buried in Brunswick and that a tombstone similar to the one over his wife's parents' graves at Brunswick be erected over his. Governor Smith's body, when it was located, was reinterred with Masonic rites at the old chapel and now the erection of the marker will complete the carrying out of Governor Smith's last wish.

Aide-de-Camp to Washington
Even in youth, Benjamin Smith was outstanding. His impetuousness led him into many quarrels, and his desire for adventure and romance caused him to enter military life at an early age. He served heroically in the Revolutionary War and was raised to the rank of Colonel. He had the distinction of being personal aide-de-camp to Washington and was at his side at the memorable retreat from Long Island. Because of his outstanding valor and distinction in the quest for American Independence, he was awarded certain lands in Tennessee which he gave to the University of North Carolina in 1790 at the first meeting of the Board of Trustees, of which he was a member. This land was later sold, by the authorities of the University, for \$14,000.

When war was threatening with France in 1796, he arose, sword in hand, and with his fiery tongue aroused the men of his home county, Brunswick, to flock to his banners. As a single unit and under Smith's command, the militia of Brunswick offered their services to the distinguished Washington.

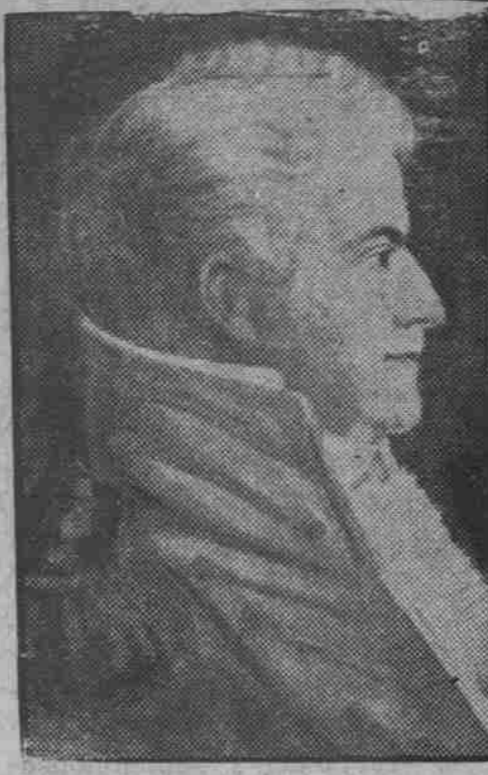
Elected Governor in 1810
Not only in a military way did he serve his state, but time after time he was elected to represent his county in the State Senate. After having been elected fifteen times as Senator from Brunswick he was chosen to the highest state office of Governor in 1810. He served his people well, and deserved well the titles of General, Governor, and the affectionate "Mars" Ben.

In 1852, many years after his death, the Board of Trustees of the University of North Carolina paid tardy honor to his memory by naming Smith Hall in his honor. This building at one time housed the University Library, later the School of Law, and is now used as the home of the Carolina Playmakers.

He was a typical gentleman of the Cape Fear, open and free handed, highminded and chivalrous, and was noted for his generosity. There is an old story which is told of his kindness to some officers of a stranded vessel. These men returned, several years later, and presented him with a grape vine which today bears the name of his lovely wife, Isabella.

Had Many Verbal Combats
His fiery nature often led him into many verbal combats which resulted in duels. In all of these, we are told, "he conducted himself with courage and magnanimity." In one of these duels he was wounded by Jacob Leonard, a noted politician of

Ex-Governor



Brunswick, and as a result carried a pistol ball in his hip for the remainder of his life.

The natives of the County of Brunswick thought so much of their distinguished representative that they named the capitol of their county in his honor, Smithville. Later, because of the influence of a northern railway interest, the name was changed to Southport. However, Governor Smith's name still survives in a bleak island which juts its triangular shape into the ocean at the mouth of North Carolina's greatest river. This island is known as Smith's Island.

Although Colonel "Benny" Smith was ably fixed for bestowing the bounteous gift upon the University of North Carolina in 1790, he was a pauper at his death. No dishonor is reflected upon the name of this gallant Carolinian by mention of this; rather it raises him higher than ever in popular esteem. For his poverty came as a result of the endorsement of notes of friends. With his generous spirit he had cared for others better than for himself; and when, in his 79th year, the old warrior was laid to rest, "he who had given a princely territory to the State University hardly had where to lay his head."

Body Claimed for Debts
An interesting legend is connected with his burial. Because of his debts and in accordance with the law of that day it became necessary for the deputy sheriffs to remain in possession of his body until his friends could satisfy his creditors. His remains were to be removed to some house inhabited only by the minions of the law, but by some device, his friends managed to lure the authorities temporarily from the body. Upon their return the coffin had disappeared. They searched high and low but no coffin could they find.

According to an old story, two negroes had been hired for five dollars apiece to bury Governor Smith's body in Old St. Phillip's churchyard in Brunswick. As the story goes, these negroes received the body in a boat on the Cape Fear river at the witching hour of midnight. As time elapsed and one of the negroes died, the other, also near death, confessed to his sins. According to his tale, after they had received the body and started down the river, they reconsidered their offer of five dollars for the burial. Thinking that the "hants" made the graveyard at that time of night no place for a "nigger," they carefully eased the "Guvnor" into the waters of the Cape Fear. For many years no trace of the body of Governor Smith was found and this story was accepted as authentic.

Later Miss Mary Stuart of Southport disproved this theory by the discovery of Governor Smith's grave near Southport. Much investigation proved that this was the real grave of Governor Smith, as the pistol ball which he carried in his hip was found among the ashes.

R. B. House to Talk To Philosophy Club

R. B. House, Executive Secretary of the University of North Carolina, will address the Philosophy Club in the Bull's Head Bookshop next Monday evening at 7:15. The topic of this discussion will be Benedetto Croce's "Philosophy of History." The public is cordially invited to be present at this meeting.

Y. M. C. A. To Hold Hillside Meeting Sunday

The annual Hillside meeting of the Y.M.C.A. cabinets will be held tomorrow in Kenan Stadium at 4:30. All officers and heads of committees of the past year will be expected to have reports on the activities of the year. Every member of the three cabinets are requested to be present.

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Grads Of 1879 To Meet Latest Grads Of U. N. C.

(Continued from first page)

a retired jurist and author. Francis D. Winston, of Windsor, is a jurist and former Lieutenant-Governor. William L. Hill, of Warsaw, is a business man and truck shipper. Dr. Richard B. Henderson, of Franklinton, is an expert physician. Alva C. Springs, of Charlotte, is a railroad manager and broker.

The class entered the University 43 strong and many of those who did not graduate are expected back for the reunion. Among these are: Frederick P. Barrow, of Portsmouth, Va., cotton business; A. W. E. Capel, of Troy, retired manufacturer; L. C. Clifton, of McKinney, Texas; Robert H. Davis, of Louisville, merchant; Captain Isaac Emerson, of Baltimore, manufacturer; M. R. Griffin, of Elizabeth City, banker; C. W. Hunter, of Enfield; F. G. James, of Greenville, lawyer; Henry Lloyd, of Selma, Ala., hotel man; R. B. Parker, of Enfield, farmer; J. H. Sherrod, of Hamilton, farmer; H. T. Spears, of Lillington, banker; E. D. Steele, of High Point, lawyer; and Harry W. Stubbs, of Williamston, lawyer.

Many interesting sidelights of the days of '79 are expected to be told during the commencement. Judge Francis D. Winston is to deliver the remembrance address, and alumni who have been hearing Judge Winston's commencement addresses in the past have come to regard them as an institution on the program. The judge has promised to out-do himself at this fiftieth year reunion. Judge James S. Manning is to preside over the '79 ceremonials.

P. H. Daggett To Become Dean Of Engineering At Rutgers University

(Continued from page one)

and ranking dean at Rutgers. He is to direct a large program of extension and expansion of the institution which is located on the edge of the greatest industrial center in the country.

A native of Boston, where he was born forty-four years ago, Professor Daggett was educated at the Boston English High School and Phillips Exeter Academy and at Harvard, where he was graduated in 1907. He

was assistant in the Electrical Engineering Department at Harvard in 1908 and an engineer with the American Telephone and Telegraph Company the following year.

He came to the University in 1910 as associate professor of electrical engineering, being appointed full professor and head of the department in 1913. He was Acting Dean of the School of Applied Science in 1915-16 and Acting Dean of the School of Engineering during the fall quarter of 1924.

Professor Daggett is president of the North Carolina Society of Engineers and of the North Carolina State Engineering Council. He was president of the National Council of State Boards of Engineering Examiners in 1925-26. He has been a member of the State Board of Registration for Engineers and Land Surveyors since its organization in 1921 and secretary since 1925. He is a member of the administrative board of the University Graduate School and was for many years a member of the executive committee of the faculty.

During the war Professor Daggett served as Acting Educational Director for the Southeastern District of the Students' Army Training Corps, being appointed to that position following the death of the late President Edward K. Graham, who often sought the counsel of Professor Daggett and considered him one of the most valuable men on the faculty.

Professor Daggett's hobby is music, and he is that rare combination of engineer and musician. He has written the score and composed the lyrics for several musical comedies staged by University students and has published two Harvard football songs.

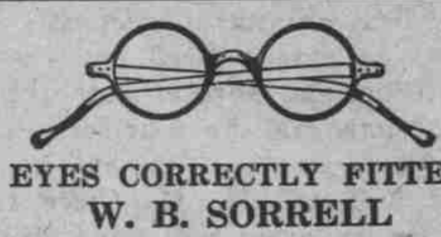
Phi Kappa Delta announces the pledging of W. A. Sherril of Granite Falls.

College Art Group Announces Awards

(Continued from page one)

gurn and Miss Eleanor Freer of Barnard. Another popular subject was "The Sources of Rodin's Style," selected by four contestants: Mr. John G. Phillips, Jr., of Harvard, Miss Elsie Traunstein of Barnard, Miss Janet Townsend of Smith, and Miss Helen Hays, of Radcliffe. "Buddha and Christ: The Development of their Artistic Representations" was taken as subject for the essays of Miss Adelaide Hammand of Radcliffe and Mr. Phillip R. Adams of Ohio State. "Renaissance Movements in Art" was taken by Mr. Perry B. Cott of Princeton and Miss Edith Bozyan of Smith College. "The Greek and Roman House" was chosen by Mr. F. W. Robinson and Mr. H. L. Jenkins, both of Princeton. Miss Catherine Quigley of Oberlin wrote on "Lombard and Toulousian Schools of Romanesque Sculpture," Miss Carol Simons of Chicago on "English Landscape Painting in Watercolor," and Miss Elizabeth Packard of Bryn Mawr on "The Development of Church Facade Design in the Italian Renaissance."

The general and factual examinations were given in April and the Reading and Examining Committee has just held its meeting for final determination of the awards. It reported a tie between the two students standing highest in the competition, namely, Miss Elsie Traunstein of Barnard and Mr. L. P. Roberts of Princeton.



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ton, between whom, therefore, the first and second prizes will be evenly divided. In addition, honorable mentions were awarded to Mr. Perry B. Cott of Princeton, Miss Ruth S. Mägurn of Barnard, and Mr. F. W. Robinson of Princeton.

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Went out for a walk one day.
I happened to pass when they met
on the street
And I overheard them say,
Said Old Man Trouble, "She's as
wrong as she can be,
There ain't no fun in anything to
me, why
I was just talking' to Old Man
Sorrow,
And he says the world will end
tomorrow."
Then Old Man Joy he started to
grin,
And I saw him bring out that
OLD BLUE TIN,
Then OLD JOHNNY BRIAR was
next on the scene,
And he packed him full from the
OLD BLUE TIN,
And I heard him say as he walked
away,
"You have to have a smoke screen
every day.
When a man gets the blues, and he
needs a friend,
He can find consolation in the OLD
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And I jist don't believe on all this
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There's a thing that'll match good
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