

## IMAGES OF THE PAST

### THE PREACHING DIXONS

# The Dixon Group of Preacher-Orators

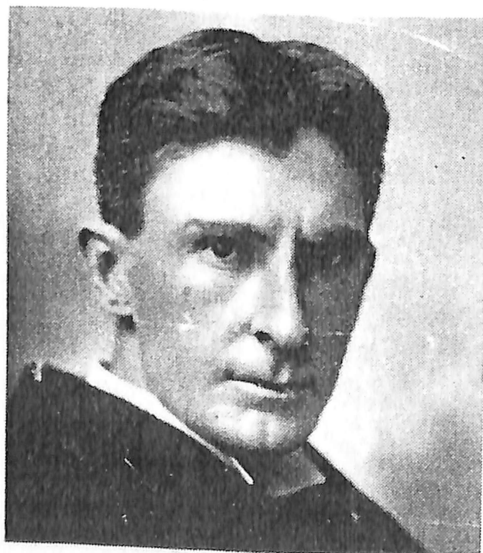
Father and Three Sons



REV. THOMAS DIXON, JR. OF NORTH CAROLINA



REV. A. C. DIXON OF BOSTON



THOMAS DIXON, JR. OF NEW YORK



REV. FRANK DIXON OF HARTFORD

The Rev. Thomas Dixon, 1820-1909, pastored churches throughout Cleveland County in a career that spanned more than six decades. While serving New Prospect Baptist Church continuously from its founding in 1854 to his death in 1909, Dixon also preached at many others, including New Bethel in Lawndale (please see History of Faith, page 1A) from its founding in 1848 to 1864.

The 1907 New Year edition of The Biblical Recorder saluted Dixon and said, "In his own county, he is the patriarch; among his people he is a prince; to meet him is to recognize a Christian gentleman of the finest type." Patriarch he was, with three distinguished sons, two of them following him into the gospel ministry.

The Rev. Amzi Clarence Dixon earned the doctor of divinity degree, served at Moody Church in Chicago, then followed famed British pastor Charles Spurgeon at London's Metropolitan Tabernacle. The Rev. Frank Dixon, the youngest, became pastor of South Baptist Church in Hartford, Conn., and a famous lecturer. Thomas Dixon Jr. distinguished himself as a lecturer and author, penning "The Leopard's Spots," "The One Woman" and "The Klansman," the basis for D.W. Griffith's classic silent film "Birth of a Nation."

This unusual photo presentation is from a portfolio of The Brockway Lecture Bureau. James Spake of Shelby found the original and other papers relating to the Dixons in a 1902 family Bible.

**Special to The Star**