

## THOMAS DIXON DIES; WROTE 'CLANSMAN'

Book Was Basis for 'Birth of a Nation,' Provocative Film—  
Supported Ku Klux Klan

HE HAD HELD PULPIT HERE

Also Was Lawyer, Lecturer  
—'White Supremacy' Was  
Subject of His Novels

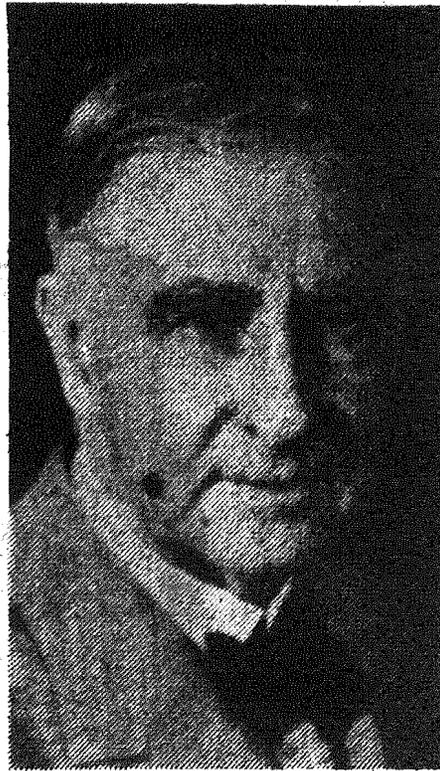
RALEIGH, N. C., April 3 (AP)—Thomas Dixon, the Baptist minister from whose brain came the story of the first million-dollar movie, "The Birth of a Nation," died here today at the age of 82. He had been in ill health for several years.

### "Reactionary Individualist"

A large part of the voluminous writings of Thomas Dixon was devoted to upholding the "purity" of the white race against what he described as the dangers of Negro encroachment through social equality and miscegenation. In his own words a "reactionary individualist," Mr. Dixon derived his greatest publicity from his novel of the Civil War and Reconstruction, "The Clansman," a sensationallly written work published in 1905, on which was based "The Birth of a Nation."

Produced in 1915 and directed with infinite skill by David Wark Griffith, "The Birth of a Nation," despite the highly controversial nature of its theme, was widely regarded by film experts as a landmark in cinematic history.

The picture ran for many years and grossed more than \$18,000,000, breaking all box-office records for the film industry. Its production cost \$500,000. It depicted Civil War fighting and the war's aftermath, with emphasis on the alleged Galahad-like qualities of the first Ku Klux Klan of which Mr. Dixon's



THOMAS DIXON

The New York Times, 1941

## NOTABLES AMONG 300 AT SHELDON FUNERAL

More than 300 persons, many of them important literary and theatrical figures, attended a funeral service for Edward Brewster Sheldon yesterday noon in St. James Episcopal Church, Madison Avenue and Seventy-first Street. Mr. Sheldon, who was the author of many dramatic plays that were successful on Broadway, died in his home at 35 East Eighty-fourth Street on Monday at the age of 60. The Rev. Dr. Horace W. B. Donegan conducted the service.

The playwright's mother, Mrs. Mary Strong Sheldon; a brother, Theodore Sheldon; two nephews, Edward and Alexander MacArthur, and a niece, Mrs. Henry B. Gardner, were present.

Honorary pallbearers were Clarence Auchincloss, Dr. Carl Binger, Van Wyck Brooks, Philip Boyer, Dr. William Brown Doherty, Arthur Driscoll, Dr. Stuart Craig, Dr. Gustav Eckstein, Dr. John D. Kernan, Charles MacArthur, Austin Strong, Dr. Kenneth Taylor, Thornton Wilder and John H. Wheelock.

Among the others present were Mrs. Winthrop Ames, Edward

## HARRY CROSS, 64, BASEBALL WRITER

Sports Reporter for 41 Years,  
Expert in Many Fields, Dies  
—On Tribune, Times, Post

Harry Cross of The New York Herald Tribune, a sports writer in New York for the last thirty-seven years, died yesterday in his home at 805 Riverside Drive, after a long illness. His age was 64.

Mr. Cross was not only expert in writing about baseball, football and boxing, but he was an authority also on the lesser known sports of curling, figure-skating, polo and rowing. In fact, he was considered an authority in virtually every sport, except golf and tennis.

A familiar figure at the Polo Grounds, Yankee Stadium and Madison Square Garden as well as at other events in New York and elsewhere, Mr. Cross had planned to cover the spring training trip of the New York Giants in Florida, but was prevented by a serious operation last February from which he never recovered.

Born in New Britain, Conn., Mr. Cross attended Naugatuck (Conn.) High School and then went to Harvard College, which he left in 1905. He became a sports writer on The Waterbury (Conn.) American that autumn and four years later joined the sports department of THE NEW YORK TIMES, where he remained for twelve years, covering baseball and other sports. In 1920 he was made sports editor of The New York Evening Post.

In 1924, Mr. Cross returned to THE TIMES for two years, and then joined the sports staff of The Herald Tribune. He served briefly as sports editor in 1927.

Mr. Cross was president of the New York Chapter of the Baseball Writers Association of America in 1944 and 1945. Last February he was named a member of Baseball's Hall of Fame Committee, which supervises the balloting for baseball immortals to be enshrined in the Hall of Fame at Cooperstown, N. Y. He was also a member of the Football Writers Association.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Julia E. Cross, whom he married in 1940; a stepson, Charles Cruess, and a sis-

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Its world premiere was made here on March 3, 1915, and THE NEW YORK TIMES review said:

"'The Birth of a Nation,' an elaborate new motion picture taken on an ambitious scale, was presented for the first time last evening at the Liberty Theatre. With the addition of much preliminary historical matter, it is a film version of some of the melodramatic and inflammatory material contained in 'The Clansman' by Thomas Dixon. A great deal might be said concerning the spirit revealed in Mr. Dixon's review of the unhappy chapter of Reconstruction and concerning the sorry service rendered by its plucking at old wounds."

#### Film Revived in 1922

In 1922, when the film's showing had been revived, a reviewer for THE TIMES wrote that it "comes closest to historical truth when it is furthest from Thomas Dixon." In a letter the author averred the truth of "The Clansman."

Although in the Nineteen Twenties Mr. Dixon repeatedly denounced the second Ku Klux Klan as bigoted and in no way resembling its predecessor, he said that he regarded whites as "superior" to Negroes. However, he said that it was the duty of the whites to "lift up and help the weaker race." Discussing the Klan's attitude toward other minorities, he called persecution of Jews "idiocy," pointing out that Christ's mother was Jewish, and he lauded the loyalty and good citizenship of Catholics.

Interviewed in 1905, the year "The Clansman" was published, Mr. Dixon spoke proudly of his ancestral connections with the first Klan, saying that "the circumstances of its birth were among my alma mater's most cherished traditions."

Evidence that his opinions did not fundamentally change through the years was given by Mr. Dixon in 1936, when, at an anti-Roosevelt Democratic meeting in Macon, Ga., he called the National Association for the Advancement of Colored

people, Sheldon, two nephews, Edward and Alexander MacArthur, and a niece, Mrs. Henry B. Gardner, were present.

Honorary pallbearers were Clarence Auchincloss, Dr. Carl Binger, Van Wyck Brooks, Philip Boyer, Dr. William Brown Doherty, Arthur Driscoll, Dr. Stuart Craig, Dr. Gustav Eckstein, Dr. John D. Kernan, Charles MacArthur, Austin Strong, Dr. Kenneth Taylor, Thornton Wilder and John H. Wheelock.

Among the others present were Mrs. Winthrop Ames, Edward Childs Carpenter, Gertrude Lawrence, Richard Aldrich, Raymond Massey, Ruth Gordon, Arthur Hopkins, Peggy Wood, Helen Hayes, Cornelia Otis Skinner, Alden S. Blodget, Owen Davis and George Middleton.

Mr. Sheldon will be buried at Lake Geneva, Wis.

## LIONEL ROYCE

Became Vienna Stage Star After Hoax Fooled Reinhardt

MANILA, April 3 (AP)—Lionel Royce of Hollywood, Calif., character actor, died at Subic Bay Naval Hospital on Monday, the Navy announced today. He was a member of a USO show, "Rosalinda." His wife was with him when he died.

It was through one of the greatest theatrical hoaxes in the history of the European stage that Mr. Royce became Vienna's reigning male star in 1934. Although he had been an actor for years, he received only small parts. Suddenly he disappeared. When he returned to Vienna he had dyed his hair and beard blond and pretended to be a Tyrolese peasant.

Seeking out Max Reinhardt, he told the producer he had never been in a theatre, but wanted to act. He succeeded in getting an audition and played the mad scene from "Macbeth."

Mr. Royce so impressed Reinhardt that the producer proclaimed him the find of the century. His success on the stage led Louis B. Mayer to sign him and bring him to America. He appeared in several motion pictures, among them "Marie Antoinette."

## HIKOTARO ICHIKAWA

Japanese Ex-Minister to Iran Dies Delivering Speech

TOKYO, April 3 (AP)—Hikotaro Ichikawa, former Japanese Minister to Iran, died of apoplexy while delivering a speech at a liberal rally, the Kyodo News Agency reported today. His age was 51.

Mr. Ichikawa was Japanese

as sports editor in 1927.

Mr. Cross was president of the New York Chapter of the Baseball Writers Association of America in 1944 and 1945. Last February he was named a member of Baseball's Hall of Fame Committee, which supervises the balloting for baseball immortals to be enshrined in the Hall of Fame at Cooperstown, N. Y. He was also a member of the Football Writers Association.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Julia E. Cross, whom he married in 1940; a stepson, Charles Cruess, and a sister, Miss Mary Cross, both of New York, and three brothers, Charles Cross of Washington, D. C.; Arthur B. Cross of Naugatuck, and William Cross of New York.

## DR. JAN D. H. DE BEAUFORT

Ex-Secretary of the Netherlands State Council Dies at 65

THE HAGUE, April 3 (Netherlands News Agency)—Dr. Jan D. H. de Beaufort, former secretary of the State Council and Privy Councillor Extraordinary, died today at the age of 65.

Dr. Beaufort received a law degree from Utrecht University in 1907 and a Doctorate of Political Science two years later. He was appointed secretary of the State Council in 1921, resigning early this year to become a Privy Councillor.

Greatly interested in sports, Dr. Beaufort participated in the Olympic Games in Stockholm, Paris and Amsterdam as a fencer and a jury member. He held the decoration of Knight of the Order of the Dutch Lion.

## ROME L. FENTON

Concert Singer, Voice Teacher Toured With Sarah Bernhardt

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N. Y., April 3 (AP)—Rome L. Fenton, concert singer and voice teacher, who toured the country as tenor soloist with Sarah Bernhardt before the first World War, died today after a seven-week illness. His age was 60.

Born in Saratoga Springs, Mr. Fenton studied at the Metropolitan Opera School and was on various occasions a soloist in New York churches. He toured the Keith vaudeville circuit in 1925 and later conducted voice schools in Easton, Pa., and Saratoga Springs.

He leaves a widow, the former Charlotte Warner.

## ANDREW G. ECKLES

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

ELIZABETH, N. J., April 3—

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Evidence that his opinions did not fundamentally change through the years was given by Mr. Dixon in 1936, when, at an anti-Roosevelt Democratic meeting in Macon, Ga., he called the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People the "worst Communist organization in the United States," attacked the Wagner-Costigan Anti-Lynching Bill as "infamous tyranny and accused Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt of encouraging the Southern Negro to embrace the tenets of collectivist philosophers.

#### Used Actual Persons in Story

In 1939 his novel, "The Flaming Sword," appeared. In a preface Mr. Dixon reversed the usual disclaimer of the use of actual persons as characters in his story and had one of his characters say, "What the South stands for alone against the world is the integrity of the white race."

His score of novels sold more than 5,000,000 copies. He wrote also nine plays and six motion pictures, and his share of the profits amounted to \$1,250,000. However, in 1934, he said he was penniless.

Mr. Dixon was born in Shelby, N. C., son of the Rev. Thomas Dixon and the former Amanda Elizabeth McAfee. He received an A. M. degree from Wake Forest College, N. C., in 1883, studied at Johns Hopkins University in 1883-84 and received an LL. B. from the Goldsboro (N. C.) Law School in 1886.

At 21 he joined the State Legislature, a year later resigned to become a Baptist minister and over night became celebrated. His handsome appearance, his deep, musical voice attracted large congregations that listened to his sermons, many of which were fiery. After ten years of preaching in New York, he had become so famous that he decided to tour the country as a lecturer. This venture was likewise successful.

His novels included "The Leopard's Spots," "The One Woman," "The Traitor," "The Southerner," "The Victim," "Foolish Virgin," "The Black Hood," "The Sun Virgin," "The Love Complex" and "Companions."

Mr. Dixon married Miss Harriet Bussey in 1886. She died in 1937. Three children were born of that union. He married Miss Madelyn Donovan in 1939.

"Marie Antoinette."

## HIKOTARO ICHIKAWA

### Japanese Ex-Minister to Iran Dies Delivering Speech

TOKYO, April 3 (AP)—Hikotaro Ichikawa, former Japanese Minister to Iran, died of apoplexy while delivering a speech at a liberal rally, the Kyodo News Agency reported today. His age was 51.

Mr. Ichikawa was Japanese Minister to Teheran when British and Russian troops were in that city during the recent war. On April 14, 1942, he and his staff received one week's notice to leave the country. Iran broke off diplomatic relations with Japan because, it was said, the Japanese Legation was a center of subversive activity directed against the Allied Powers.

## MISS E. C. SEARS DIES, 100

### Ridgewood Resident at One Time Was Church Organist

RIDGEWOOD, N. J., April 4 (AP)—Miss Emily Couch Sears, who celebrated her 100th birthday on Dec. 30, died here today in the home of a niece, Miss Emily Lee, at 45 Godwin Avenue.

Born in Sharon, Conn., Miss Sears was the daughter of Benjamin and Emily Couch Sears. At one time she was organist of the Congregational Church there. After a brief residence in Sharon she returned here and became organist at the Unitarian Church.

Surviving besides Miss Lee is a nephew, Edwin Sears Williams of Washington, D. C.

## CHARLES J. BAER

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

ROSELLE, N. J., April 3—Charles J. Baer of this place, sales manager of the Jones Baking Company of Hillside, N. J., and at one time a pitcher with the Newark Bears of the International Baseball League, died last night at the Elizabeth (N. J.) General Hospital after an illness of three months. His age was 55.

## REV. IVAN OTIS WILSON

The Rev. Ivan Otis Wilson, pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Fairview, Pa., who for many years was a Presbyterian missionary at Teheran until his resignation in 1934, died on March 22 at Erie, Pa., at the age of 59, it was learned here today.

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Born in Saratoga Springs, Mr. Fenton studied at the Metropolitan Opera School and was on various occasions a soloist in New York churches. He toured the Keith vaudeville circuit in 1925 and later conducted voice schools in Easton, Pa., and Saratoga Springs.

He leaves a widow, the former Charlotte Warner.

## ANDREW G. ECKLES

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

ELIZABETH, N. J., April 3—Andrew G. Eckles of 128 Reid Street, a department head of the Diehl Manufacturing Company's plant in Finderne, N. J., where he was employed for thirty-nine years, died today at his home after an illness of several months. His age was 62. Born in New York, he had resided here for forty years.

He leaves a widow, Elsie Thiel Eckles; a son, Andrew C. Eckles, treasurer for the Elizabeth Trust Company; two daughters, Mrs. Rudolph Wimmer of Elizabeth and Mrs. Alfred Horning of Westfield, and six brothers, George, Gustave, Theodore, Sebastian, John and Louis Eckles, all of New York.

## MRS. RICHARD THURSTON

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

SCARSDALE, N. Y., April 3—Mrs. Jeanie Reid Thurston of Epon Lodge on Garth Road, near here, wife of Richard H. Thurston, former lawyer in Elmira, N. Y., and New York, died yesterday in a nursing home at Oceanside, L. I. Her age was 81. Also surviving are a son, Richard H. Thurston Jr. of Bronxville, N. Y.; two daughters, Mrs. Bryan S. Davis of Scarsdale and Mrs. Waring Mikell of Staatsburg, N. Y., and a sister, Miss Clara Reid of Elmira.

## GEORGE H. HOYT

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

YONKERS, N. Y., April 3—George H. Hoyt of 302 Mile Square Road, this city, a former local bowling champion, died last night in his home. His age was 57. He belonged to the Boni Cives Club. His mother and a sister, Mrs. Bert J. Williams, survive.

## EDMUND L. NEMMERT

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

UNION, N. J., April 3—Edmund L. Nimmert of Union, a production manager with the Diehl Manufacturing Company in Finderne, N. J., with which he was associated for thirty years, died last night at the Presbyterian Hospital, Newark, after a brief illness. His age was 50.

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