

The SOUTHERN INDICATOR

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L. MORGAN, MANAGER

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Friday, June 13, 1914.

Editorial Correspondence.

Greenville, June 6.—I am at the Baptist State Convention, which met in the Springfield Baptist church on Wednesday. It is composed of a fine body of men. The program was too full to give satisfaction. Some of the visitors, I among them, would be given but a few minutes to speak to the Convention. Dividing my time between the Convention and THE SOUTHERN INDICATOR subscribers, I have been more than ordinarily busy. As the Rev. Mr. Watkins, the Secretary of the Convention, says, he will forward to us for publication a full account of the proceedings of the Convention, I shall omit a detailed statement of what transpired. All the old officers were re-elected. This is said to be one of the best sessions in the history of the Convention. It was also one of the best attended. The Springfield Baptist church is a handsome, modern brick structure, capable of seating comfortably about 750 people. It looked, Thursday and Friday nights, as though 1,000 persons were packed in it.

Woman is becoming quite a factor in the Baptist Convention, more so than in any of the other religious bodies, except the Presbyterians.

One can easily observe that the Baptists are making rapid strides along the path of education. The number of scholars as well as eloquent men is on the increase. Dr. Goodwin, our host, appears to be doing a splendid work in Greenville. His entertainment of the Convention seems to give general satisfaction. The night of my arrival I was entertained at the home of Mr. and Mrs. B. B. Martin and had as my companions our Columbia Dr. Goodwin and Deacon Goode, of Second Calvary. We talked one another to sleep. The next morning my long-time friends Mr. and Mrs. "Phil" Parker, whom I had known for 37 years, and to whose home I had been assigned, took charge of me till I left. Mr. and Mrs. Martin are excellent people, and entertained us in fine style. THE SOUTHERN INDICATOR has been going to their home regularly for some time. No one in Greenville can entertain better than Mr. and Mrs. Parker and Miss Parker. Thirty-seven years ago the last of this month, immediately after my graduation from the South Carolina University, with no definite plan for my future, I went to Greenville to find something to do. I found a country summer school and a home in a Baptist family among whom I found life-long friends. Two years later I became the principal of the Greenville public school. I made it a graded school. I took it with 160 pupils. Ten years later, when I left Greenville to become pastor of the Silver Hill M. E. church and later principal of the Spartanburg public school also, I left two schools, of the larger of which I was principal, and, I think, over 600 pupils. I want to speak of four of the teachers (two of whom had been my pupils also) whom I had with me there—Mrs. Georgia Gantt Johnson, Mrs. Mamie Poole-Sloan, Mrs. Katie Fair-Goodwin and Miss Emma Johnson. I knew Mrs. Johnson when she was Georgia Gantt. She was one of the handsomest girls in Greenville county and one of the most modest and ladylike. She has raised a family of boys and girls, two of whom, Dr. Charlie Johnson and Miss Lucile Johnson, have more than a State-wide reputation. Mrs. Mamie Poole-Sloan is the daughter of Rev. Gabriel Poole, the founder and first pastor of the Springfield Baptist church. It is no flattery to say that she was one of the quietest, gentlest and most pious women I had ever had the pleasure of being associated with. Mrs. Sloan still sings in the church choir and teaches school.

Katie Fair was the recognized leader in social, educational and religious matters in Greenville. I have met but few women like her anywhere. She was a born leader. Her uncle, who was also her adopted father, was in good circumstances and spared nothing to give Miss Katie and his eldest daughter,

Miss Myra, a good education and to fit them for social position.

What Katie said and did in the home or what Katie said and did in the Sunday School or in the literary society usually went. Twice married, and now a widow with four children, every one a credit to her, having had to drink deep from the cup of sorrow, and yet with grace and submission, and faith in God. She is at her post in the same school where I found her and where I left her when I moved to Spartanburg. Miss Emma Johnson is in a class by herself. She was never fond of male society. She loved music and loved her books. She loved little children, and is one of the best primary teachers in the State. For a time she was an inmate of my home. She was always a devout Christian. She is still teaching where I left her. She is in feeble health, and I learn, has an assistant, receives half pay, and is at liberty to stay at home whenever she feels unable or indisposed to come to school. If she were a white teacher the school authorities would retire her with an allowance sufficient to give her a reasonably comfortable support. Her salary has never been large and I doubt seriously if she has saved anything worth mentioning.

During my principalship in Greenville a revival broke out in the school, and scores of the pupils were converted. Mrs. Georgie Johnson was the only unconverted teacher among us. She, too, got under conviction at the school. The three other teachers whom I have named and one other, Miss Annie Arnold, and myself, converted the school into a meeting house, and got around her and the other mourners among the larger scholars, and sang and prayed with them. It was hard work. My recollection is she became so sick—sin sick—that she had to stay home on a Friday and "got religion" on Saturday. Sunday, when she came to church we church folks (Wesley M. E. church) had one of the biggest shouts Greenville had ever seen. Soon after that the brethren told me I was called to preach. I kicked like a Texas pony, but I finally caved in, and I became a preacher.

I wish I had time to speak of some of the former pupils and patrons, and other friends whom I have met. In the language of Col. Roosevelt, I have certainly had "a bully time."

Of course, I had to go to see our two Greenville correspondents, Mr. Butler and Miss Glasgow. Miss Hattie is going to take a new start in her efforts for THE INDICATOR, and Mr. Butler will not be a whit behind her. I find THE SOUTHERN INDICATOR very popular in Greenville. Mr. Butler and Miss Glasgow will make the subscribers very populous in Greenville.

This letter has been written under difficulties I need not burden the readers with mentioning. I can only say in the language of a young colored gentleman of slavery days who had gone to his young master to have him write a love letter for him. After the aforesaid young boss had written about as much as I have, he wearily said, "Well, Sam, is that all?" Sam replied, "Well, Boss, just close by saying 'please scuse bad writin' and spellin'!"

Just the Thing for Teachers.

The State Summer School, advertisement of which appears in another column of this paper will be largely attended by teachers from all portions of the state. The State College at Orangeburg is an ideal place for this gathering of teachers, being splendidly equipped for agricultural and vocational work, which will be attractive features of the courses outlined. Some of the leading and most experienced instructors of the state have been invited to places on the faculty and facilities for their work have been provided for in appropriations by the Legislature and the Slater Fund. The State Department of Education has given its hearty endorsement to this project, and several of the county superintendents have signified that they will not re-issue certificates to teachers who do not attend. These incentives should largely increase the enrollment, and it is hoped that all progressive teachers will make arrangements to be on hand when the roll is called on June 29th. The school will last four weeks.

School Closing Concert.

There will be given at Jones Chapel A. M. E. Zion church on Blossom Street, A School Closing Concert, Monday night June 15th

at 8:30 o'clock. The manager is leaving no stone unturned to render a high class entertainment which is bound to delight and inspire all who attend. The music is in charge of Mrs. Stella McQuarters, Misses Pearl Archey and Florence Benson. Delicious refreshments will be on hand for sale. Admission, adults 10 cents; children under 12 years old 5 cents. Mrs. E. Hall, Manager.

State Federation of Women's Clubs to Meet.

The State Federation of Women's Clubs will meet in annual session at Sumter, June 17th to 19th. A splendid program of work and pleasure has been arranged, and delegates from all portions of the State will be on hand. The public interest in these meetings is solicited, as it is hoped that much good will result therefrom. The Federation will be entertained by the One More Effort Club, of which Mrs. Anna Andrews is president. Delegates should make an effort to be present at the first meeting, which will be held the afternoon of the 17th. (Mrs.) M. B. WILKINSON, Pres.

Phone 1488

Notice of Moving.

On and after June 1st, Dr. A. B. Johnson's office will be at the corner of Harden and Gervais Sts., over Chappelle's Drug Store. Phone 3035 for him.

Schedule.

SEABOARD AIR LINE.
Schedules effective April 27, 1914.

Arrive:	North and East	Depart:
12:15am	North and East	6:50am
12:30pm	Hamlet Local	6:55pm
11:50am	Hamlet Local	7:45pm
8:10pm	Hamlet Local	4:00pm
8:45pm	Savannah and Florida	12:20pm
6:30pm	Savannah and Florida	12:10pm
11:50pm	Savannah Local	7:00pm
10:00pm	Savannah Local	5:00pm

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12-1 p. m. Office Phone 2412
3-4 p. m.
6-7 p. m.

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