

4911 HISTORY

OF THE

AMERICAN NEGRO

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SOUTH CAROLINA EDITION

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EDITED BY

A. B. CALDWELL

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ORIGINAL EDITION

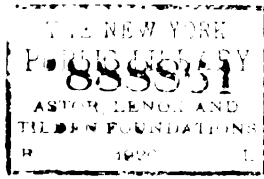
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1919

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On Sept. 30, 1902, he was married to Miss Arral Leone Cobb, a daughter of Frank and usan Cobb. They have six children, Deceal F., Susan W., Gilbert M., Olyus F., Thelma B., and Osborne W. Hood.

Mrs. Hood was educated at Franklinton, N. C., and has for years been an accomplished teacher.

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## IRBY DUNKLIN DAVIS

REV. IRBY DUNKLIN DAVIS, A. B., A. M., D. D., of Sumter, is said to have the biggest Negro Presbyterian county congregation in the South. While he looks like a man of forty, he was, as a matter of fact, born June 18, 1858. His father, Nelson Davis, was a local preacher, and his mother before marriage was Sarah Anderson. Dr. Davis' father was brought from Virginia to South Carolina. His maternal grandparents were Humphrey and Sallie Mills.

On December 19, 1880, Dr. Davis was married to Miss Emma C. Griffin, a daughter of William and Nancy Griffin, of Laurens county. Of the six children born to them, the following are living: Dr. T. B., now in the army with rank of First Lieutenant; Nannie I., and First Lieutenant Irby D., Jr., also in the army. Dr. Davis gave all his children a college education. He himself attended the public schools of Laurens county after the war, working on the farm in the meantime, until he reached a point where he himself could teach the summer schools which then prevailed. He began teaching in 1874, and has been identified with school work as a grade teacher or superintendent from that time down to the present. He has lived to see many of those who went to school to him in his earlier days grow up to be heads of families and useful citizens. He went to Biddle University, winning his Bachelor's degree in 1881. Later, the A. M. and D. D. degrees were conferred upon him by the same institution.



**IRBY DUNKLIN DAVIS.**

He decided to take up the work of the ministry in 1880, and was, the next year, ordained by the Presbytery of Cawtaba, Charlotte, N. C. His first pastorate was at Lincolnton, N. C., where he remained for six years, teaching in connection with church work. From that point he went to Winnsboro, S. C., where he taught and preached for four years. He then removed to Sumter, where he has since resided, and has charge of a splendid religious and educational work at Maysville. He is chairman of the Foreign Mission committee of the Synod of Atlantic, also of the Committee on Church Erection of the Fairfield Presbytery and ex-Stated Clerk of the same. He represented his presbytery at the General Assembly of the Presbyterian church, U. S. A., which met at Omaha, Neb., Saratoga, N. Y., Philadelphia, Pa., and Los Angeles, Calif. One would think that these were sufficient to occupy all of a man's time, but Dr. Davis is, in addition, active in secret order work. He is grand secretary of the Independent Order of Good Samaritans and Daughters of Samaria, which position he has held since 1913; grand treasurer of the Free and Accepted Masons for South Carolina; grand director District Grand Lodge No. 13 of the G. U. O. of Odd Fellows and the Court of the Grand Calanthe. He is also identified with the Pythians and Past Grand Masters' Council M. V. Patriachie, the Shriners and Knights of the Wise Men, and is Most Noble Governor of the Household of Ruth No. 3728.

Dr. Davis has one of the most attractive homes in Sumter, and has accumulated a comfortable fortune for a man engaged in religious and educational work. He is a pleasing and forceful speaker, a good leader and a safe business man.

Next after the Bible his favorite reading is history and biography and current literature. He has large farming interests in Sumter county. Mrs. Davis passed away August 18, 1916, and on June 19, 1918, Dr. Davis was married to Miss Olive C. Shelton, of Columbia, where she was an accomplished teacher in the Columbia graded school. Mrs. Davis was educated at Benedict college.