

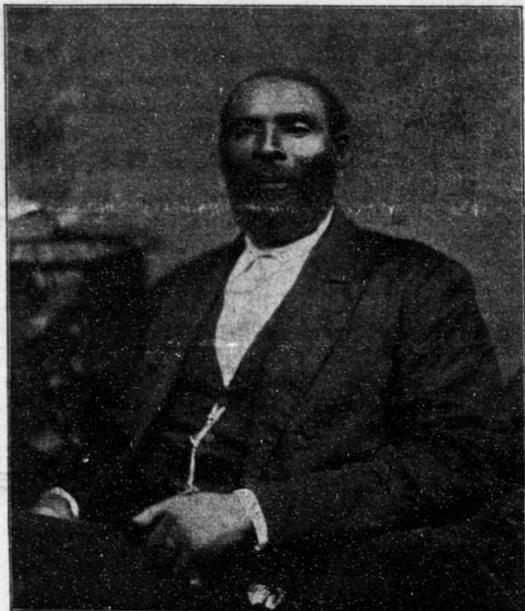
NO HITCH

REV. JOHN JASPER PASSES AWAY.

THE GREAT BAPTIST PREACHER IS NO MORE.

The Funeral at the Sixth Mount Zion Church.
Rev. A. S. Thomas Delivered the Address.

EULOGIES OVER THE REMAINS.—FUNERAL DIRECTOR HAYES MANAGES THE AFFAIR—NO HITCH NOTICEABLE.—LAID AWAY FOREVER



Rev. John Jasper died at his residence, 1112 St. James street, Saturday, March 30th, 1901, at 10:55 A. M. His funeral took place Thursday, April 4th, at 11:30 A. M. It laid in state from Monday morning last and was viewed by thousands.

THE FUNERAL MOVES.

Promptly at 11:20 a. m. Federal Director, A. Hayes arrived at the home, preceded by a handsome funeral carriage drawn by four black horses. The pall-bearer, honorary and active alike, and awaited the pleasure of the family.

They left the house laden with floral offerings, the remembrance of many friends.

The casket was a magnificent one, and had the designation of state. The top was hinged so as to raise up and down by a silk cord. It had pillar corners and was heavily draped with silk and velvet tassels. It contained heavy silver extension bar-handles. Inside it was a wealth of satin loveliness, skillfully arranged. The inside of the top was arranged so that the folds of satin terminated at the center.

Inside, partly raised was the tall form of the celebrated divine. He was somewhat emaciated, but his sleep was peaceful.

He was attired in a fine ministerial suit of broad-cloth and patent-leather shoes. This rested on the draped foundation which was in keeping with the rich somberness of the casket.

One of the striking features of it all was the presence of a medium sized pleasant-faced divine, who sat upon the front seat with bowed head. This was Rev. Richard Wells, the retired pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist Church, who had been the subject of many discourses by the distinguished dead.

All animosity, all rancor, all bitterness, was buried at the grave, as Rev. Wells marched a mourner to the pew.

The church presented a remarkable appearance. Previous to the entry of the funeral cortege, Rev. S. C. Burrell had made his announcement while the stillness of death pervaded the spacious edifice. The part reserved for white people was filled. Outside was a sea of humanity.

"Come Let us Renew" sang the

choir. Then entered Deacons A. Burleigh, and Willis Wines, Sr., W. P. Burrell, Rev. W. F. Graham, D. D., Rev. A. Ferguson, Rev. W. H. White, Rev. A. Binga, Jr., D. D., Rev. R. O. Johnson, Rev. Z. D. Lewis, Rev. P. J. Wallace, Rev. J. E. Jones, D. D., Rev. Tunstall Banks, Rev. Willis Wines, Jr.

THE DIVINES WHO WERE PRESENT.

Rev. R. Wells, Rev. Jacob Turner, Rev. D. H. Chamberlayne, Rev. E. A. P. Cheek, Rev. J. B. Johnson, Rev. W. S. Cary, Rev. Wm. Fox, Rev. Peter Stewart, Rev. P. O. Cobba, Rev. Ben Jammin Braxton, Rev. L. Sears, Rev. D. A. Williams, Rev. George F. Holmes, Rev. W. L. Weatherless, R. v. R. C. Kemp, Rev. S. A. Clay, Rev. M. B. Hughes, Rev. J. T. Rines, Rev. Samuel Lomas, Rev. W. R. Collins, Rev. G. O. Coleman, Rev. C. H. Phillips, Rev. James H. Burks, Rev. R. J. Bass, Deacon E. A. Washington, Rev. Thomas H. Briggs, Rev. W. M. Robinson, Rev. Alexander Gordon of Philadelphia, Rev. G. W. Morris, Rev. B. J. Jackson, Rev. Robert Watkins, Rev. J. E. Griffin, Rev. W. W. Young, Rev. W. H. Harris, Rev. J. C. Braxton, Rev. J. H. Binford, Rev. L. E. Miller, Rev. W. W. Christie, Rev. R. M. O. McCargo, Rev. P. H. Graves, Rev. R. M. Monroe, Rev. R. O. Johnson, Rev. J. E. Jones, Rev. W. E. Lewis, B. D., Rev. W. M. Mosby, Rev. John R. West, Rev. Frank Davis, Rev. F. W. Coleman, Rev. Nelson Brown, Rev. W. H. Stokes, Rev. Lee R. Frayer.

Honorary pall-bearers: Revs. W. F. Graham, Z. D. Lewis, Archer Ferguson, R. O. Johnson, Tunstall Banks, Holland Powell, A. Binga, Jr., D. D., Davis, W. H. White, W. W. Wines, Jr., W. E. Cooper, Percy Wallace, W. H. Hatcher.

Active: Deacons T. S. Burleigh, chairman; A. O. Garnett, Geo. Mimms, Quinn Shelton, Delaware Bowles, A. W. Parham, George Preston, W. H. Woodson, Charles Branch and Deacon Fields.

Guard of honor for Wednesday night at the church: George W. Fryer, Van Washington, Moses Burton, J. R. Holmes, Alexander Minor, Richard Nichols, William Jackson, Andrew Johnson, William Fride, Nathan Sayles.

Guards: William Dandridge, chairman; Lee Anderson, Samuel Randolph Nathan Sayles with the horses.

Decoration committee: Sallie Harris, Mildred Johnson, Mary E. Wines, A. W. Parham, Eva Wren, Eleanor Watkins, W. H. Woodson, Martha Fryer, chairman; W. P. Burrell, supervisor.

Flowers committee: Mildred Johnson, chairwoman, Olivia Robinson, Lula Fields, Georgiana Mimms, Deacon W. W. Wines, Alice Grammar, Anna Rhoads.

The third Sunday afternoon in March was the last Sunday he was at his post of duty. He asked the Lord for strength to preach to his people on Monday. His subject on this occasion was "Regeneration." Text: "You must be born again."

Ushers at church: Joseph Myers, chairman; Robert Smith, Andrew Johnson, John T. Hughes, John T. Anderson, William Dandridge, A. L. Woolfolk, E. A. Preston, Lee Anderson, Thomas Archer, William H. Preston, Edward Hall, Philmore Scott, Charles Lemus, Horace Miles, George L. Preston, J. E. Holmes, E. J. Johnson, Robert Thompson, Willis Thompson, William Patterson, Charles Robinson.

On the rostrum were: Rev. Willis Stephenson, Rev. J. E. Jones, D. D., Rev. Jacob Powell, Rev. M. McVicar, D. D., Rev. W. E. Hatcher, Rev. A. S. Thomas, Rev. George Cooper, D. D., Rev. W. F. Graham, D. D., Rev. Alexander Gordon of Philadelphia, Rev. A. Binga, Jr., D. D.

Deacon W. W. Wines, Sr., it is stated had charge of the entire affair.

Rev. S. C. Burrell officiated. It was 12 o'clock before the services were well under way.

The lower rostrum was one bank of floral offerings and the draped sacred desk stood forth as a sombre sentinel.

Rev. Dr. J. E. Jones lined the hymn, "Servant of God, well done."

The choir was under the leadership of Brother W. H. Woodson, while Miss Fanny Fox was organist. Brother George W. Lewis, 2d leader.

The scriptures were read by Rev. Wm. Stevenson, Rev. John Jasper's assistant. A most impressive prayer was delivered by Rev. Holland Powell, pastor of the Fifth Baptist Church.

Capt. Frank W. Cunningham (white) sang "We Are Waiting by the River." It was sung with a richness of voice and mellowness of delivery which penetrated every nook and corner of that spacious edifice. It reached the hearts

of the audience and stirred their souls. When he slowly sank into his seat a feeling of regret was felt that he completed the song so quickly.

Rev. W. L. Taylor entered at this point.

The letters of condolence were read by Rev. J. B. Johnson from the following: Colored Baptist Ministers' Conference, 2nd Baptist Church, Rev. G. H. Simms, of New York, Baptist Ministers' Union of Philadelphia, the New York Baptist Ministers' Conference, R. D. Wynn, president, 19th St. Baptist Church of Washington, D. C., Baptist Ministers and Deacons' Conference of Richmond, Va., Rev. W. F. Graham, D. D., president.

At this point, Rev. Dr. Graham read the resolutions himself. It brought forth many words of approval.

Loyal St. Baptist Church, Danville, Va., Rev. W. M. Moss, pastor; Bible St. Baptist Church, Norfolk, Va., Rev. R. H. Bolling, pastor; Union Baptist Church, Beaver Dam, Va., Rev. C. H. Phillips, pastor; Pine Street Baptist Church, S. Folk, Va., Rev. M. B. Hule, pastor, and Resolutions from the Sixth Mt. Zion Baptist Church.

Rev. S. C. Burrell then read the following letter.

THE WIDOW'S LETTER.
RICHMOND, VA., April 4, 1901.

Dear Brother:
You are requested to preach the funeral of my husband, Rev. John Jasper, who departed this life on last Saturday, the 30th of March, at 10:55 minutes to eleven o'clock in the morning. He was in the 89th year of his age and had been a consistent Christian 62 years.



REV. A. S. THOMAS,
Pastor of Sharon Baptist Church.

Ever since the day of his baptism in February, 1840, and until within a few days of his death, he steadily in season and out of season, preached the word of God with force and conviction. He was the father of all Baptist Ministers, as there are none living now who commenced to labor for the Master as early as he did. In all this time, he has been a true leader in Israel, living up to the doctrines and lessons that he taught.

Thousands have been convicted under his teachings and brought to a knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

He has been married four times and I am his fourth wife. As a husband he was loving and kind, providing at all times the necessities and proper comforts for the well-being of his family.

By his former marriage, he leaves three children and a host of grandchildren.

He was an agreeable neighbor and an upright, law-abiding citizen. He believed strictly in the Golden Rule and all his actions were characterized by it.

The community will miss him, his church will miss him, and lastly but not least, I shall miss him.

I know that I shall meet him in heaven above about which he has preached so long and often. I know that there will be no sorrow, neither parting, and that God shall wipe away every tear.

Yours in Christ,
MARY JASPER.

REV. THOMAS' ABLE DISCOURSE.

The divine stated that it was not his custom to write out his thoughts in a funeral discourse and he felt that it was best set forth however to do so now on paper. Texts Gen. 25: 8.

"Then Abraham gave up the ghost, and died in a good old age, an old man and full of years; and was gathered to his people."

And Timothy, 4: 7: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."

The history of the church in every

age shows that God has had some renowned leaders among His people, true representatives of His cause in the full sense of the word.

Men who lived the truth, preached the truth and died for the truth.

This state of affairs in the church militant will continue under the providence of God until the world comes to an end.

He discussed God and his goodness, told of Abraham's love of God and his efforts to obey Him.

If history could repeat itself to the extent that we might be permitted to live in the days now under consideration, the way and manner of pleasing God would be laughed to scorn by a saying world.

Moss, forty days and nights on Mt. Sinai talking with God would be considered a good subject for the insane asylum.

Jeremiah, weeping over the sins of the people, would be called that mourning preacher.

Daniel, in the den among dangerous lions that hypnotized doctor having the power to subject the king of beasts to his own will.

Isaiah, with coals of fire upon his tongue, clothed with the glory of God, watching Jehovah as he darts along the burning skies, would be styled "that man who preaches on the old order."

Ezekiel at the command of God, standing in the valley preaching to the wind would be called that old foggy and advised to go to school.

But let it be clearly remembered and not soon forgotten that God has chosen that which the world calls foolish to confound the wise, and the weak things, to confound that which is mighty.

When Feience and the Bible failed to agree, Jasper simply held on to the word of God.

Philosophers said the sun is stationary, God says the sun moves.

The Almighty God, even the Lord hath spoken and called the earth from the rising of the Sun, unto the going down thereof.

Brother Jasper claimed that God made the sun, moon and stars; that He holds the destiny of nations in His hands; that He is the universal benefactor; that He breathes in every wind, thunders in every storm; that He rides upon the wings of the wind, and that the clouds are His chariots.

Hence his conclusion was simply this: God knows more about the sun than philosophers do, and here he rested his case.

Rev. John Jasper may be justly classed among the patriots and prophets. He was Oriental somewhat in his manner, bearing and trend of thought. He believed in serving God on a patriarchal and prophetic order.

In those days men walked and talked with God in open vision and through sanctified imagination, which



A. HAYES,
FUNERAL DIRECTOR

was according to thee, thus saith the Lord.

Brother Jasper was a man who took God at His word. He believed all that God said and believed it to be true and immutable.

He never was known at any time to ask God, the second time, "What saith thou, Master?"

He said that God understood himself, and knew His business, and that which was obscure, God would make plain at His own appointed time. He believed in personal acquaint-

ance with God and preached that men should know God in regeneration.

That they should seek the Lord and call upon His name, and by faith and acceptance make friends with God and become heirs to eternal life through the plan of salvation, given to the world by Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.

For 61 years, Brother Jasper was in battle on his pilgrimage. He fought his way through on the word of God only.

He was born July 4th, 1812 served in the army of sin and satan 28 years.

In 1840 Captain Jasper passed by on his white horse and Jasper joined in under His flag and has been an untiring and faithful soldier ever since.

God told him then that no man should exceed him in his day. That He would make him a Moses to this people, and that he should answer the in- deed.

He preached 21 years longer than Moses.

As for Jonah, Joel, Amos, and some others, they must be called and sent again before they can overtake Jasper in duration of his ministerial career.

John Jasper stood foremost as a preacher in the days of slavery with his race.

Some are present, who heard him preach 40 and 50 years ago.

DEVIL IN HEAVEN.

Rev. Jasper was well versed in the Bible and in historical theology. He showed plainly again and again, that much of the 12th chapter of Revelation is figurative language and that it has reference to the fall of Catholicism, and the onward march of the church under the covenant of grace.

John Jasper was interested in the affairs of state. He often prayed for Governors, Presidents, and rulers in this and other countries.

He had progressive ideas, and he believed in the onward march of both church and state. He had well merited the confidence, best wishes and respect of our white brethren, and most especially those who live in the South.

They often visited his church, not to criticize, but to hear him preach, because they really enjoyed his style and manner of presenting the word of God.

One of our Northern journals made a very unfavorable criticism on Rev. Jasper some time ago. But one of our Southern white papers came to his rescue.

Rev. Jasper, in the columns of this paper was complimentary spoken of as an honest, upright preacher of the gospel, standing in the front ranks as a leader among his people. This speaks volumes.

It tells me that if we conduct ourselves aright, that our best friends are with our white brother who lives in this Southland.

John Jasper believed in education. He often advised the young men to enter school and get all the education they possibly could, and he also truthfully claimed that something else is necessary in order to be a successful preacher of the gospel.

One said he must be called of God and qualified spiritually before he can be a true messenger for Jehovah.

The orations of Demosthenes, the philosophical genius of Socrates, the arguments on the immortality of the soul by Cicero, the profound metaphysical investigations of Plato, the descriptions of great battles written by Julius Caesar, the physical training of Euripides among the Athenians and the orations of Homer and Shakespeare, the mere recital of these in the pulpit was not preaching to John Jasper.

He believed in putting the truth so it could be easily reached and plainly understood. He was always more interested in the thought and the delivery of his message than he was in the homiletical arrangement of his sermon.

His great aim in the pulpit was to preach that sinners might be saved from hell, and to cheer God's wayward saints on their pilgrimages.

John Jasper was a philosopher. He was a deep reasoner, and independent thinker. He was a great warrior for his Lord and Master.

By his orders, he engaged in many battles and when the smokes and noise had passed away, he was found to be a continuous conqueror. He was bold as a lion, but harmless as a dove.

He has been reported as being dead 63 times, but he is not dead yet, but simply sleep in Jesus.

A TELLING EFFORT.

Rev. A. S. Thomas, wrought up the congregation to a high pitch of excitement which expressed itself in words of approval.

He spoke of his offering to pray for Rev. Jasper upon the occasion of his visit when he said that he could pray,

but so far as he was concerned his trunk was packed, he was waiting for orders.

He had prepared for this 61 years ago. He would soon draw up his feet in that bed and go the way of all the earth. "As for death," said he "I do not fear him any more than I do a house fly."

With these words the divine concluded his eloquent sermon and resumed his seat.

The choir then sang, "Rest, Rest."

Throughout the service, the wallings and weeping of the devoted members of the congregation could be heard.

DR. GRAHAM'S SPLENDID TRIBUTE.

Rev. Dr. W. F. Graham announced that he would not confine himself to the subject assigned him as he was not advised of the subject until after he had prepared a few thoughts for the occasion.

He referred to his preaching of sermons for Rev. Jasper during the week and then delivered a ringing eulogy of this prophet of God, this sun of thunder.

He paid a glowing tribute to the Southern press.

He declared that Rev. Jasper did not believe in church councils. He believed that there was no appeal from a church meeting at which he presided, as to his own church.

Dr. Mac Viner, (white) president of the Virginia Union University, said that he had labored in the church of Christ upward of 50 years. When he came to live here he decided to make the acquaintance of Rev. Jasper, and he in company with his wife spent the evening with him.

He declared him to be a great man, a great spirit.

REV. DR. LEWIS' STIRRING EULOGY

Rev. Z. D. Lewis, D. D. discussed Rev. Jasper as a Baptist. He spoke of this visit to the Sixth Mt. Zion Baptist Church when he first came to Richmond. He declared Rev. Jasper to be his ideal of the Baptist minister. He declared him to be a Baptist in the blood, a Baptist to the core.

Rev. Jasper did not believe in taking babies into the church, or that of taking persons in the church on probation, hoping that they would become regenerated.

He spoke at length and was skillful in defining the peculiarities and virtues of the distinguished servant of the Lord.

He spoke 20 minutes, but made a profound impression.

DR. HATCHER'S REMARKABLE UTTERANCES

Rev. W. F. Hatcher, D. D., (white) then spoke of Rev. Jasper as a Citizen. He declared that the subject was a surprise. He had thought of him as a man and as a minister, but he had never thought of him as a citizen.

The greatest compliment that he has paid to himself as a citizen was his quiet unobtrusive manner.

The man who attends to his own business is a model citizen.

In the calling to which he belonged, he did so well that he became one of the foremost citizens.

He told of his dining with Mr. Spurgeon, the great London preacher. He said, "Tell me about the colored preacher of the South."

He told them there were men of scholarship but John Jasper, while not being as enthusiastic in deconvictional zeal was the most remarkable of them all.

He said he had heard the colored preacher, but he believed that he had been helped more in his spiritual life than any other man in the world.

THE ASCENT ON ELIJAH.

He told Mr. Spurgeon that John Jasper was a genius, a God made preacher.

He had a fervid imagination.

I was telling Mr. Spurgeon some things that he had heard John Jasper say.

He spoke of Jasper's description of the ascent of Elijah, remarks stirred the congregation and many moments occurred before quiet was restored.

Rev. S. P. Robinson, Supt. of Sixth Mount Zion Sunday School delivered a eulogy on Rev. Jasper.

Rev. W. L. Taylor spoke of Rev. Jasper's interest in country churches. He told of his visits to the country and his kindness in dealing with the humble.

The closing prayer was offered by Rev. George E. Motley.

The streets through which the funeral procession passed were lined with a sympathetic throng; every window, porch and doorway had its occupants.

Route of the funeral procession was from the church, (at St. John and Duval, down Duval to list, out first to the Hans' cemetery.

Here, standing room was at a premium in one end of this large cemetery. Here the funeral procession formed with the choir of the church at their head and sang several hymns during the simple service of depositing the remains in their last resting place. The grave was then bricked up. Rev. Jasper's section adjoins that of the late Deacon V. P. Vandervall.

Mr. J. C. Farley, the photographer took several views of the procession.

Funeral Director, A. Hayes' management of Rev. John Jasper's funeral has been the subject of much favorable comment.

The body was kept in an excellent state of preservation for six days and the arrangements both at the church and burial ground was well-nigh perfect. The grave was bricked up.