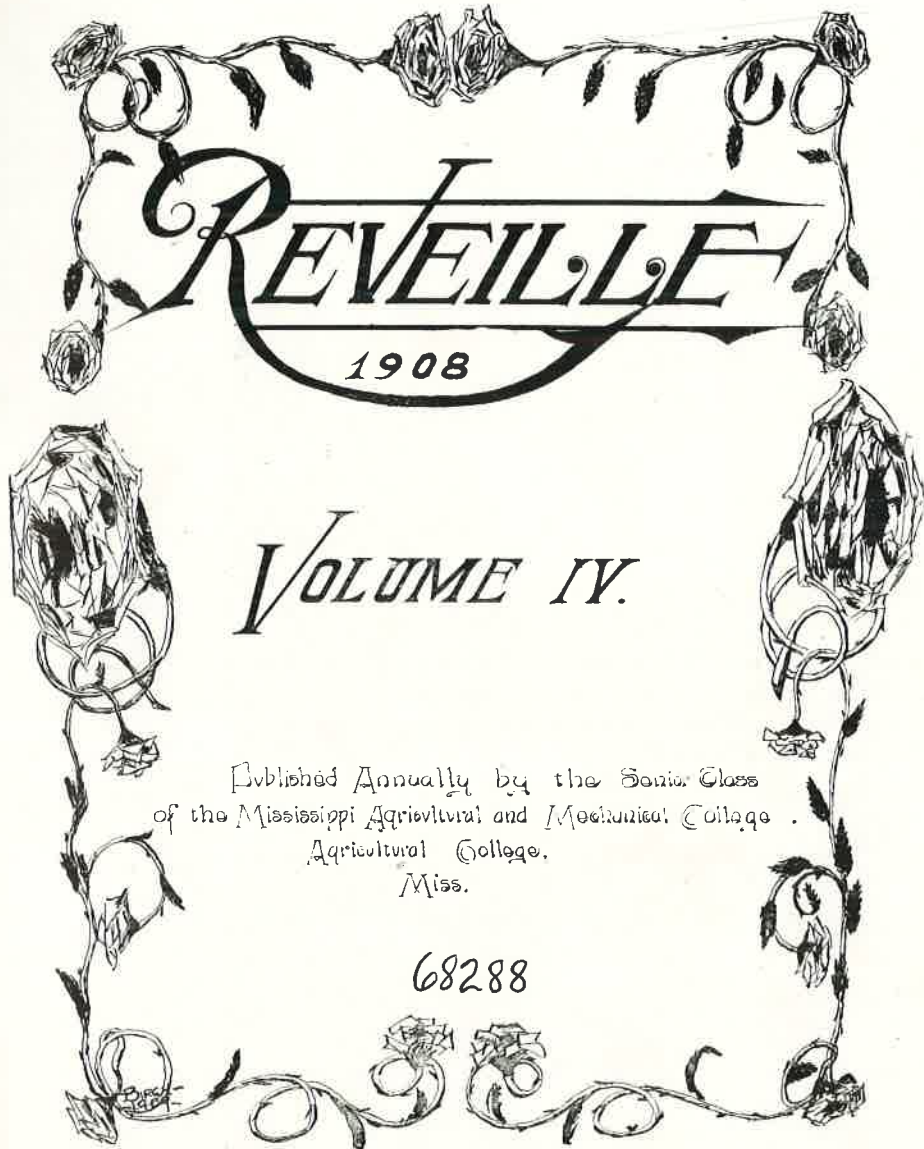


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# REVEILLE

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TO  
WILLIAM HOWARD MAGRUDER, M.A.,  
Professor of English and  
The Nestor of the Faculty  
OF  
The Mississippi Agricultural and Mechanical College

as a frail memorial of our enduring affection; as a slight testimonial of the unwavering fealty he has ever commanded from the student bodies for a quarter of a century; as an evidence of our reverence for his self-immolation and devotion to the highest ideals, and in stamping them upon the young men of Mississippi, and in leaving upon their personalities, in some degree, the replica of his own nature—too exalted for one remote or sordid touch of earth, as a token of our regard for his unselfish heart, his rich and varied gifts; his unfailing courtesy; his manifold and lavish expenditures of his life's rarest and choicest tributes in our behalf, this volume of "THE REVELLE"

IS DEDICATED.

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### Professor William Howard Magruder, M.A.

PROFESSOR W. H. MAGRUDER, the honored subject of this review, was born April 2, 1837, in Madison County, Mississippi, near Canton. His patriotic ancestors, of Scotch-English blood, on the paternal side were from Prince George's County, Maryland; on the maternal, from Fairfax County, Virginia. His father immigrated into the Territory of Mississippi during Jefferson's second administration and settled near old Washington, then the capital of the Territory and afterward the first capital of the State.

Professor Magruder was educated at home until his fifteenth year, when he was sent to a preparatory school at Woodville, Mississippi, of which his older brother was the Principal, where he was fitted for the Sophomore Class, Centenary College, Louisiana. After completing the Sophomore course, he returned to Central Mississippi, and at the age of seventeen and a half years he began his career as a teacher in charge of a township free-school in Yazoo County, Mississippi.

Having been appointed principal of the Preparatory Department of Madison College, Sharon, Miss., he received in 1857 his degree of Bachelor of Arts from that institution. He taught continuously until the beginning of the Civil War, when he enlisted as a private in Walthall's Twenty-ninth Mississippi Regiment just after the Battle of Fishing Creek, having previously been a member of the Madison Rifles from Canton, though never having been in active service. He served faithfully through the war, surrendering with Joe Johnson at High Point, North Carolina, and at that time he commanded Company B, Twenty-Fourth Mississippi Regiment. He was wounded four times; once at Murfreesboro, Tenn., once at Resaca, Georgia, and twice at Atlanta. After the surrender, he returned to his home and resumed his work as a teacher of boys at Richland, Holmes County. Removing in 1869 to Goodman, five miles away, whither the village of Richland had already transferred the most of its business and a majority of its inhabitants, he taught there until 1872, when he was elected Principal of Canton Male Academy. In 1875 he was elected principal of Canton Female Institute, in which position he remained until his election as Professor of English in the Mississippi Agricultural and Mechanical College. During his incumbency of the Principalship of Canton Female Institute, he received from Centenary College, Louisiana, the degree of Master of Arts.

For twenty-five years Professor Magruder has been the distinguished head of the Department of English at the Mississippi Agricultural and Mechanical College, and his diligent work has been crowned with marked success. In his teaching, he always presented the fundamental principles of the subject in a clear, distinct, and forcible manner, and then dwelt upon them and their application sufficiently long to produce a vivid and lasting impression. At the end of the session, one could always see how each particular part had been planned to fit nicely into its assigned place. Possessing those inborn traits of mind which have been developed by wise culture and ripened by experience, he has influenced and impressed more men with his teaching than possibly any other educator in the South. His students always remember him with admiration and pay loyal homage to him as a Great Teacher.

Since 1889, he has been the senior member of the Faculty, and, in addition to his regular duties in the Department of English, he served as acting President whenever the Executive was not on duty. He officiated in this capacity for three months at one time in 1890, during the session of the Mississippi Constitutional Convention, while General Lee was away attending it as a member, being a delegate from Oktibbeha County. And in later years the Board of Trustees appointed him as Vice-President of the College.

## SPEECH OF DR. W. H. MAGRUDER

### Made in Presenting the Bust of General Lee at Commencement, 1909.

*Ladies and Gentlemen, Members of the Corporate Authorities of the Mississippi Agricultural and Mechanical College:*

I have been asked by Mr. Blewett Lee, of Chicago, to present to the corporate authorities of this institution a bronze bust of his distinguished father. I was selected because I served during the last year of the civil war under Gen. Lee, and because, as a member of the faculty of this College and as his next-door neighbor, I was intimately associated for sixteen years with our first President. Because, I say, of this comradeship, and on account of the enforced absence of Mr. Lee on this noteworthy occasion, I am here to present this speaking likeness of our dead President, given to the College as a testimony of the son's love for a father, the descendant's pride in the achievements of a great ancestor, and the student's reverent regard for the executive of his "alma mater."

No eulogium that I could pronounce would add luster to the name of Stephen D. Lee, for language is not capable of revealing the heights of our admiration nor the measureless depths of our love for the renowned soldier, the eminent educator, the consummate statesman, the illustrious citizen, the tender husband, the loving father, the loyal friend,—the noble gentleman. But it was to his enemy that General Lee showed most clearly the nobility of his great heart. Fair to his bitterest foe, that foe could never charge him with injustice; for he fought in the open with hard blows, but was always magnanimous to the defeated, and held no vengeful malice against the foe that was successful!

In war and in peace, in every crisis of his life, our first President was found to be a great man. Whether, as at Second Manassas, saving Lee's left wing under Stonewall Jackson from overwhelming numbers by a gallant charge with field artillery on the flank of the Federal advance, or at Chickasaw Bayou with a force of twenty-five hundred men defeating Sherman's ten thousand picked troops; whether debating with George or with Walthall in the Constitutional Convention of 1890 the expediency of a measure, or directing the simple affairs of his own private life, General Lee was always the self-possessed, clear-headed man of the occasion, never allowing the decisive moment to pass, yet always keeping on the alert for every new detail until the moment for decision had arrived.

Such a character can never die; it will always be an inspiration to the citizenship of our State, and Mississippi is fortunate in having the example of this beloved leader, after which her youth may fashion their lives.

"O, iron nerve, to true occasion true!

O, fallen at length that tower of strength

Which stood four square to all the winds that blew!"

And now, gentlemen of the faculty, I give into your keeping this life-like representation of Lieutenant-General Stephen Dill Lee. Place it where for future generations the student's eye may daily behold that noble countenance, so expressive of high ideals wrought into greater deeds; place it where each member of an ever-changing faculty may find in its observant attitude a stimulus to promptness in the performance of duty; place it where every executive will be admonished to enforce discipline with that firmness and that loving kindness which always marked the administration of him whom, with the eye of imagination, I behold to-day leaning from the battlements of heaven to smile down on the wonderful success of this child of his heart—Mississippi's A. and M. College.



## Prof. W. H. Magruder As A Citizen As A Soldier And As A Teacher

By J. C. Holton

Mississippi has during her history been blessed with many distinguished sons and daughters, but in all these years she has never had a more useful citizen than the late Prof. W. H. Magruder of the Mississippi Agricultural and Mechanical College. No one has rendered the commonwealth more efficient service and his name ought to rank with the very foremost of our distinguished dead for service and goodness which he has rendered.

Prof. W. H. Magruder was born April 3, 1837, in Madison county, Mississippi near Canton. His ancestors on the paternal side were from Prince George county, Maryland; on the maternal, Fairfax county, Virginia. His father moved to Mississippi during Jefferson's second administration and settled near old Washington, then the capital of the Territory, later of the State. Here Prof. Magruder spent his early days as many other boys over the State, frolicking, romping, having a good time, and getting out of life what there is in it. He remained in this section of the State, teaching in the public schools later in the high schools, until the outbreak of the Civil War, when he shouldered the musket and answered his country's call. After serving gallantly four long years in the war he returned to his native State and took up his former work—instructing the boys and girls of Mississippi. He continued his work in Madison and Holmes counties until 1884 when he was elected head of the English department of the A. and M. College. Here he spent the remainder of his life in quietness, giving instruction, and training the thousands of young men who have gone out over this State, and most every State in the Union, as well as some foreign countries.

Dr. Magruder has lived a life of usefulness, never entering politics, or taking any great stand for any set principle of reform, but few men have of more service to their State or rendered a more valuable service. As a proof of his service and efficiency the faculty of the A. and M. College saw fit to elect him vice-president of the college, which capacity he filled with credit to himself and the institution as well as the whole State of Mississippi until his death, July 27, 1913.

At the outbreak of the Civil War when the souls of young men were tried, Dr. Magruder responded to the call, shouldered his musket and enlisted as a private in Walthall's 29th Mississippi regiment, just after the battle of Fishing Creek, having previously been a member of the Madison Rifles from Canton, though never having been in active service. He served faithfully through the long and hard struggle, never at one time finching in spite of the many hardships, when soldiers went without food or clothing, and when the hope of the South was tossing to and fro from one pivot to another, when fate seemed to be against our army, but the young soldier never lost courage, he endured the hardships life a Spartan soldier of old. He remained in service until the close and made a record that will stand as a monument to his memory for days to come, which many of our young men will take as an example for his bravery and forbearance. He surrendered with Joe Johnson at High Point, N. C., and at that time he commanded Company B, twenty-fourth Mississippi regiment. He was wounded four times, once at Murfreesboro, Tenn., once at Resuca, Ga., and twice at Atlanta. After the surrender he returned to his home and resumed his work as a teacher in Holmes county.

Prof. Magruder was educated at home until his fifteenth year, when he was sent to a preparatory school at Woodville, Miss., where he was fitted for the sophomore class at Centerary College, Louisiana. After completing the sophomore course he returned to Central Mississippi. At



the age of 17 1-2 years he began his career as a teacher in charge of a township school known as Mineral Springs Academy in Yazoo county, in Sept. 1854. He was engaged in teaching in Yazoo, and Holmes counties until the breaking out of the Civil War, having been appointed principal of the preparatory department of Madison College, where he received in 1857 his degree of bachelor of arts from that institution. After the surrender he returned to his home and resumed his work as a teacher at Richland, Holmes county, removing in 1869 to Goodman, five miles away, where he taught until 1872, when he was elected principal of the Canton Male Academy. In 1875 he was elected principal of the Canton Female Institution, which position he held until 1884 when he was elected to the head of the English department of the Mississippi Agricultural and Mechanical College, where he did a monumental work that will last through time and eternity. Since being at the A. and M. College the honorary degree of doctor of law was conferred upon him by the University of Mississippi.

Since 1889 Dr. Magruder had been the senior member of the faculty and in addition to his regular duties in the department of English, he served as acting president whenever the executive was not on duty. He served in this capacity for three months in 1898, during the session of the Mississippi Constitutional Convention, while General Lee was away representing Oktibbeha county. And in later years the board of trustees appointed him as vice-president of the college.

For the past thirty years Prof. Magruder has been the distinguished head of the department of English, and his diligent work has been crowned with marked success. In his teaching he always presented the fundamental principles of the subject in a clear, distinct and forcible manner and dwelt upon it sufficiently to produce a lasting impression. Possessing these inborn traits of mind which have been developed by wise culture and ripened by experience he has influenced and impressed more men with his teaching than possibly any other educator in the South. He shall continue to live through the thousands into whose lives he has put his. What a rich and full life not only over the river to be his, but what a life he is leaving here, for these men are everywhere, they belt the globe, in South Africa, in Siam, in Canada, and in every State in the South, and most in the North, not only everywhere but in all lines of work that enter into the life of Mississippi. We find them in every profession and in every line of industry we find them by the thousands, and by their efficiency are transforming the very life of our people. Prof. Magruder will live not only in the work of these men but in their heart of hearts. Some have said in their judgment when the final record is made up it will be found he is the greatest teacher our State has thus far produced. He was the hardest working and most conscientious teacher I have ever known, and his students always remember him with admiration and pay loyal homage to him as a great teacher. I will only say that the State had no truer son, no braver soldier, no more daring officer, and his war record is an honor to the State and the cause for which he fought as well as a cherished memory to his family and friends. But with undaunted courage he determination to secure an education in order that he might be of real service in the great task of re-instituting and rebuilding the prostrated and blundering South. This he did by devoting his life to a worthy cause—  
instructing the youths of Mississippi.







# William H. Magruder Honored BY Grad

## A Debt Of Gratitude Is Paid By Former Student

By E. B. FERRIS, '95

When one feels deeply obligated to another even though the debtor has long since passed away, the urge finally comes to pay the debt, at least in part, by expressions of appreciation. This is the attitude of many an old student of the A. & M. College toward one of its old professors, William H. Magruder, affectionately known as "Old Billy."

His was, from the very nature of conditions, the hardest task on the entire faculty, for it was his duty to take boys who may never heard the English language spoken correctly and in the course of a few years so train them by an endless grind of compositions, essays, reviews and text books at least to express their thoughts in better language and to appreciate what was in store for them in English literature. Such was a much harder task than simply to teach them the facts of history, the names of botanical or geological specimens, to work a problem in mathematics or even to explain a chemical reaction.

Professor Magruder did this to a far greater degree than would seem possible, but not without endless work and patience on his part, coupled with a driving power that made the students under him feel he had no mercy in his soul. We knew him for many years, and if he ever had any other thought or diversion than the ones of getting more work out of the boys he taught, it was not apparent on the surface. For a long time his only physical exercise was an early morning ride on a favorite horse whose gait every boy knew and many have been the times when we have heard the students say: "There goes old "Billy," even though neither horse nor rider could be seen. While few of us appreciated his efforts at the time, possibly all came later to look upon him as the one professor who had contributed most to working what might better be called metamorphoses in us, even though many of us have accomplished much less in life than his efforts deserved.

At that time the College was a much smaller institution than it has grown to be in the nearly fifty years that have intervened. The student body in 1892 possibly numbered fewer than three hundred and approximately one-third of these had to take preparatory training for one or more years before entering the Freshman class. Professor Magruder alone did all the teaching of English in the college classes and graded all papers, even a student assistant to aid in such routine having been added later. As an example of the work required, the writer during five years of study under him doing graduate and post graduate work, was required to submit no less than twenty-

five papers, possibly averaging ten pages of regulation size, double spaced and closely written. He graded every one of these and his criticism in red ink frequently numbered almost as many words as the paper itself contained written in black ink. Thus he taught or graded penmanship, spelling, grammar, rhetoric, and style, all in one fell swoop. When such work with a single student is multiplied by the thousands who studied under him during his twenty-odd years at the College, a better idea may be had of the almost super-human work required.

Besides this, he was never too busy to take time off, in his home or his office, to discuss subject matter and methods of presentation with any student interested enough to ask his assistance, even making them feel that they, rather than he, had granted the favor. Naturally one might expect to find a man so engrossed in such details somewhat narrow in his views, but quite to the contrary he looked on and taught life in its broadest aspects. He had been four years a soldier in the Confederate Army, but having been born a teacher, he perhaps followed the lead of his superior officers, Generals Robert E. Lee and Stephen D. Lee, with less effort and possibly more success. All three had laid down their swords after Appomattox to engage in constructive rather than destructive work, in teaching young men how to live in a country whose most precious ideals had so recently been destroyed. While a Chesterfield in his manner, we have occasionally seen the fire of the soldier return to him when an unthinking boy was guilty of ungentlemanly conduct.

His views of life were so broad that at one time he had been accused of being unorthodox in his religious beliefs. Yet he was the one man of the then faculty who invited the students to his section room on Sundays for religious services and to read with them the ritual of the Episcopal church. This was due to the fact that at the time such students had no local church organization. In discussing religious matters, he often said that while he once had doubts, time had changed his attitude, often quoting the familiar saying: "He who never doubted, never half believed."

He seemed to have almost an uncanny ability to separate the wheat from the chaff in his selection of the choicest literature for outside reading as well as for class room discussion. In fact, he should be classed with McGuffey, through whose school readers so many had been taught a better appreciation for the best in English literature. Not only did he read such literature to us, but insisted on his students' memorizing his selected verses from the best known poets. He taught that the Bible contained the best of all literature, even disregarding its inspired origin. To his students who, with

age begin to reflect on the past, nothing is more consoling than to recall the beautiful poems he caused us as boys to memorize. Thus, without having seen the poem since he discussed it with us more than forty-five years before, the closing lines of Thantopsis come vividly to mind: "So live that when thy summons comes to join the innumerable cavalry which moves to the mysterious realm where each shall take his chamber in the silent halls of death, that thou go not as a quarry slave at night, scourged to his dungeon; but sustained and soothed by an unfaltering trust, approach thy grave like one who wraps the drapery of his couch about him and lies down to pleasant dreams."

That he taught us an appreciation for good literature, may not have added much to our ability to make a living, a thing we deny but like religion it has been the means of soothing many an aching heart, which, without such memories, might make life harder to endure, besides the joys that comes every day with living, as it were, with the best minds of the centuries. So we are sure of voicing the sentiments of many an old student in an appreciation for what Professor Magruder did for us.

## GRIFFIN H. MCKAY, '30, HAS OUTSTANDING RECORD

Griffith H. McKay, class of '30, is another State College alumnus who is making good in his chosen profession and is making an outstanding record with his company, the Arkansas Natural Gas Corporation, with headquarters at Shreveport, La.

Two recent engineering articles appearing in The Petroleum Engineer, published monthly at Dallas, Texas, testify to "Mac's" knowledge about engineering in general and specific subjects in particular. In the November issue he wrote about "Method of Designing Charts for Determining Compressor Capacities," and in the February issue his subject was "Graphic Method Facilitates Gas Pip Line Flow Calculations."

McKay received a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Mississippi State College in 1930. Immediately after graduation he was employed by the Arkansas Natural Gas Corporation and put in its Junior Engineering Training Course and was trained in office and field operations for two years—in gas production, gas transportation, gas compression, gas distribution, oil production, oil transportation and in natural gasoline operations.

At the end of this period, seven years ago, "Mac" was placed on the general engineering staff of Arkansas Natural, and his record there does him honor and reflects credit to his Alma Mater.