

Attorney General George M. Napier
Highly Esteemed Citizen of Decatur

Ask any well informed man who is the most widely known and most highly esteemed public man in the State of Georgia, and he would very probably say "George Napier".

For the past twenty years, Col. Napier has been an outstanding figure in the life of the State. A man of most pleasing personality, a profound scholar, and a brilliant orator, he has charmed and delighted audiences from one side of Georgia to the other.

George Napier was born in Walker county, and spent his boyhood on his father's plantation there.

His father was Captain Nathan Campbell Napier, a native of Troup County, who spent his boyhood in Macon and later moved to the northwestern corner of the state where he settled on a large farm.

He was a Captain in the Confederate army, was wounded and left for dead at the battle of Perryville, was taken to a hospital where he spent several months, after which he made his way to his home in Walker County to find his wife mourning him as dead. Notwithstanding he had lost an eye and been terribly wounded, as soon as he recovered his strength, he enlisted more men and returned at once to the front.

Captain Napier was a man of culture, and lover of books. After the war he engaged in newspaper work as editor and publisher of the Walker County Messenger in addition to looking after his farming interests.

George inherited his father's intellectual vigor and love of learning. He has all his life been a great reader and lover of books, and few men in the state are as widely read and as broadly informed as he.

As a boy he attended the North Georgia Agricultural College at Dahlonega and after his graduation from this institution which was at that time the leading school for boys in North Georgia, he took up the practice of law at Monroe.

After following the practice of law for a time, he spent a year at the University of Georgia, graduating with the M. A. degree.

Returning to Monroe he was made Court reporter and spent several years in that office.

He also took up newspaper work in Monroe and was later founder of the Walton Tribune.

On December 14th, 1905, Mr. Napier was married to Miss Frances Nunnally, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William H. Nunnally of Monroe.

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They have three bright and attractive daughters, and their home in Decatur is one of many enjoyable social events.

Coming from a family in which the religious stain has long been prominent, George M. Napier has been a life long and active member of the Methodist Church, and has rendered that denomination many valuable and distinguished services. He was long superintendent of the Sunday School in Monroe, and since coming to Decatur has been teacher of the Men's Bible Class, and is at present the Superintendent of the Sunday School of the Decatur First Methodist Church which is conceded to be one of the best organized and most efficient Sunday Schools in the State.

Masonry has also appealed powerfully to Col. Napier and he has given to that order much time and thought.

And it is in his Masonic activities that he is probably most widely known. He served the Monroe lodge as worshipful master, and in October 1910 was elected grand master of the State, and re-elected to that position in 1911. In 1917 he was elected potentate of Yaarab Temple, A.A.W.O.M.S.

In these various high and responsible positions Col. Napier rendered able and distinguished service to the cause of Masonry.

In 1908 he was elected president of the Commercial Law League of America, when that body met at Mackinac Island, Mich., his nomination to this position being seconded by fifteen states.

For many years Col. Napier has been in great demand as an orator and many of his Memorial Day addresses delivered at various places have been classics.

When the death of Judge Roan made a vacancy in the Stone Mountain Judgeship, Solicitor C. S. Reid was appointed judge, and Col. Napier was named solicitor general.

Following this appointment he was elected to the same office two terms in succession, and in 1920 was elected attorney general of the state. He is now serving his second term in this office which he has filled with distinguished ability, having been re-elected last year without opposition.

Friends of Col. Napier all over the state insist that he must be governor some day. In fact many have already assured him of their support for this office whenever he shall see fit to enter the race. So far Col. Napier has not discussed the matter. He is a very busy man with all his hands full with the numerous calls on his time.

But it is quite probable that at some time in the future the pressure for him to enter the race for governor will become too strong to resist and if he shall enter the race his friends predict that his election is assured.

Reference: Pages 1 and 4, First Section of the 1823 Centennial Edition of Decatur - 1923, of the DeKalb New Era.

Mr. N. C. Napier Dies at Home in Vidalia

The Decatur friends of Hon. George W. Napier and family will deeply sympathize with them in the death of Col. Napier's brother, Mr. N. C. Napier, which occurred at his home in Vidalia, Ga., Sunday night.

Mr. Napier, known to friends as "Jack", was president of the Vidalia Kiwanis Club, a Shriner, member of Alhambra temple of Chattahoochee, a member of the Methodist Church and editor of the Vidalia Advisor and owner of the Lyons progress.

He was born at Lafayette, Ga., where he spent most of his life, except a 3 year period during which time he was in Washington as secretary for Congressman Gordon Lee. The past three years he spent in Vidalia.

He is a graduate of Emory College and a member of the Sigma Nu fraternity.

He is survived by his wife and three children, James, Francis and Nathan, Jr.; four sisters and three brothers, including Attorney-General George Napier of Atlanta; Dr. Lee Napier, of Lumber City, and Dr. Augustus Napier, who is a missionary to China, at Yang Chow; the sisters are Mrs. Ledbetter of Decatur; Mrs. Adams of Philadelphia; Miss Alice of Milledgeville, and Miss Claire, of Lafayette.

Reference: Centennial of Decatur Issue of the DeKalb New Era, 20 Dec. 1923, First Section, page 1.