

A LOOK INTO OUR PAST

PART II OF OUR FOUNDERS SERIES



FOUNDER C. H. MCCLURE

In the second installment of our historical series of our founders, we will delve into the interesting background of C.H. McClure. In this year—our eighty-fourth—we have reason to celebrate these founders. The dream they established at Central Missouri State University will continue this fall as the torch is once more ignited in Warrensburg with the reactivation of our Alpha Chapter. This dream—the brainchild of three important men—would surely make them proud as they see the efforts by all of us on a daily basis to ensure the Tripod is not only part of our Fraternity's actions, but our personal actions as well.

In the first installment celebrating our founders, we explored the life of Dr. C.A. Phillips. Join us in continuing this celebratory exploration of our founders as we learn more about the man who was Dr. C.H. McClure.

Dr. Clarence Henry McClure was born in Columbus, Kansas, on January 2, 1873. He was the son of David G. and Mary A. (Duncan) McClure. In 1887, the family moved to Barry County, Missouri, where he attended the rural schools. He graduated from Cassville High School and then completed a two-year course at the State Normal School at Warrensburg in 1903. He received his Bachelor of Science in Education at the University of Missouri in 1909, and a Master of Arts degree in 1913. He did graduate work at the University of Chicago, and was awarded the Doctor of Philosophy degree by Peabody College for Teachers (now Vanderbilt University) in 1926.

Dr. McClure was a teacher of rural schools from 1890 to 1900; superintendent of schools at Cave Springs, 1901-1903; Hartville, 1903-1907; and Lawson and Lamar, 1907-1909. He was assistant professor of history, Central Missouri State Teachers College, 1910-1915; professor, 1915-



Clarence H. McClure

1928. He was a professor of political science and head of the division of social science at Kirksville from 1928 until his death in 1942.

He was a member of the state constitutional convention, 1922-1923. Dr. McClure was an ardent campaigner for any movement he believed in, whether that was prohibition, the Republican Party, or the Country Club. He was a left-handed golfer of some merit.

He was a member of the Presbyterian Church (elder), the Knights Templar, Rotary, Phi Delta Kappa, Phi Sigma Pi (founder), and the Republican Party.

In 1897 Dr. McClure married Mary Laidlaw. Mrs. McClure's brothers founded the publishing firm of Laidlaw Brothers, of which Dr. McClure was a stockholder. Mrs. McClure preceded him in death. They had four children: Elizabeth, Herbert, Dorothy, and Mildred. Upon the death of Elizabeth, Dr. McClure wrote a memorial volume. Among the fourteen textbooks he also wrote were: *History and Government of Missouri*, 1919; *History of Missouri*, 1920; *Our Government* (with Dr. S.E. Davis), 1921; *Government of the United States* (with Dr. H.L. Smith and Dr. S.E. Davis), a text for use in senior high schools, 1928.

After the death of his first wife, Dr. McClure married Miss Mildred Meredith, a sister-in-law of his daughter Dorothy. This was on August 8, 1942.

Dr. McClure was attending the convention of the Missouri State Teachers Association in Kansas City when he was stricken with pneumonia. He died in a Kansas City hospital at 6 o'clock in the evening on December 15, 1942, and was buried beside his first wife in Warrensburg.

Memorial services were held in Kirk Auditorium at Kirksville on January 6, 1943. His name became part of the Violette-McClure Historical Collections (the Missouriiana Library) which contains much of Dr. Clarence H. McClure's library. His portrait was hung in this library. ΦΣΠ