

'Southern Apologist' Thomas Dixon Is Dr. Zeb Wright's Dissertation

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J. Zeb Wright, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lee Wright of Route 6, Shelby, has been awarded the Doctor of Philosophy degree by George Peabody College for Teachers in Nashville, Tenn.

Subject of Dr. Wright's dissertation was: "Thomas Dixon: The Mind of a Southern Apologist". Dixon was a Cleveland native who rose to fame just after the turn of the century for his many novels, with "The Clansman" the most famous of his literary efforts.

Dr. Wright, a major in social history, is now in Charleston, W. Va. where he is supervisor of social studies with the West Virginia State Department of Education.

His Ph. D. degree was conferred on August 20 at Peabody's 189th commencement when graduates from 36 states and 14 other counties were awarded.

The 34-year old Cleveland county educator received an A. A. degree from Gardner-Webb College and an A. B. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. At UNC he was an O. Max Gardner Scholar and majored in social science. He received an M. A. from Peabody where he was a teaching assistant in 1960-62. In 1959-60, Dr. Wright taught at the American Dependents School in Gelnhau-

sen, Germany. The educator also taught at South Gastonia School in Gastonia in 1956-58.

Since 1962 he has been social studies teacher and team chairman involved in teaching the gifted with the Evanston Township High School in Evanston, Ill. The Evanston Township School is one of the nation's well-known schools.

While in Evanston, Dr. Wright was a consultant for other demonstration centers in Illinois, particularly at Sterling Township High School. He also appeared in a movie shown nationally by the National Broadcasting Corporation, "To Build A School House", with Chet Huntley as announcer. Dr. Wright appeared teaching honor students in the movie. In 1964, he also was on the program of the National Council of Social Studies at its meeting in Miami, discussing the Evanston Township High pioneering programs of instruction.

At Peabody, Dr. Wright served as president of Kappa Delta Pi, a coeducational society for senior college and graduate students with high educational standards and scholastic achievements, was a member of Phi Delta Kappa, professional educational fraternity for graduate men, and Pi Gamma Mu, social science fraternity open to students who have

done outstanding work in their field.

While in Evanston ,he served as president of the Greater Chicago Peabody Alumni Association.

Dr. Wright is married to the former Sara Sue Grosmaire of Nashville, who holds the B. A. and Master of Library Science degrees from Peabody. They will reside at 1525 Clark Road in Charleston, W. Va.