

Hill, Daniel Harvey, Jr. ^[1]

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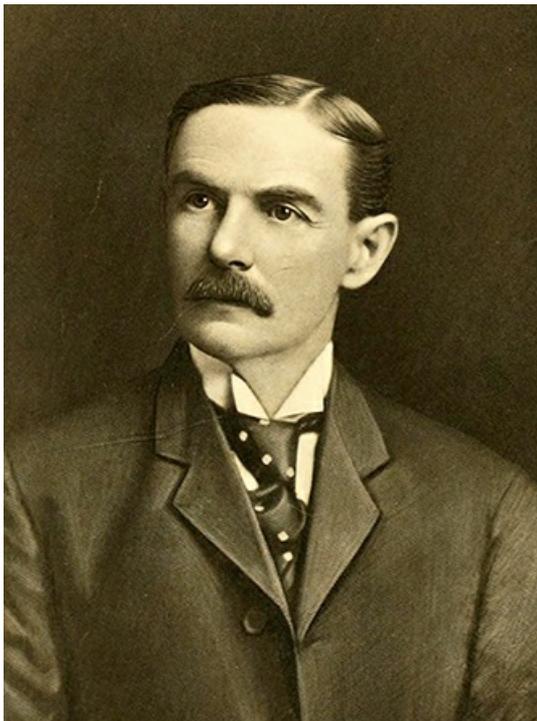


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Hill, Daniel Harvey, Jr.

by I. T. Littleton, 1988

15 Jan. 1859–31 July 1924



An engraving of college president Daniel Harvey Hill, Junior, from the 1906 North Carolina College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts yearbook.

^[2]Daniel Harvey Hill, Jr., college president, teacher, writer, and historian, was born at [Davidson College](#) ^[3], the son of Isabella Morrison and [Daniel Harvey Hill](#). ^[4] His father was an outstanding lieutenant general of the Confederate Army, president of Arkansas Industrial University and of the Georgia Military and Agricultural College, and a mathematics teacher at Davidson College. His great-grandfather was Colonel [William Hill](#) ^[5] of the Revolutionary War. His maternal great-grandfather, General [Joseph Graham](#) ^[6], also served in the Revolutionary War; and his maternal grandfather, the Reverend [R. H. Morrison](#) ^[7], was president of Davidson College.

Young Hill received a bachelor of arts degree from Davidson College after preparatory work at the [North Carolina Military Institute](#) ^[8] in Charlotte and at [Horner](#) ^[9] and Graves Military Academy in Hillsborough. Also from Davidson he received a master of arts degree in 1885 and a doctor of literature degree in 1905. [The University of North Carolina](#) ^[10] awarded him a doctor of laws degree in 1910.

After graduating from Davidson in 1880, Hill accepted a professorship of English at the Georgia Military and Agricultural College in Milledgeville, Ga., which he held for nine years. In 1889 he was elected professor of English in the original faculty of the newly established North Carolina College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts (now [North Carolina State University](#) ^[11]) in Raleigh. The young professor made many contributions to the academic life of the new college. Under President [Alexander Q. Holladay](#) ^[12] he served as professor of English and bookkeeping, secretary of the faculty, and bursar. He took charge of the library in its formative years and served as its first librarian on a part-time basis for ten years. In 1905, as his reputation as an educator grew, he was elected vice-president of the college by the board of trustees. Three years later he became the school's third president, upon the retirement of Dr. [George T. Winston](#) ^[13].

Hill served as president from 1908 until 1916, a time of significant growth for the college. By the purchase of two adjacent tracts of land, the size of the campus was enlarged and several major new buildings were added, including the Nineteen-eleven Dormitory, the Engineering Building (renamed Winston Hall), the Dining Hall (renamed Leazar Hall), the YMCA

Building (renamed King Religious Center), and South Dormitory (renamed Syme Hall). There were also dramatic increases in both student enrollment and faculty. The student body nearly doubled, increasing from 446 to 723. At the time Hill became president, the college had a staff of nine. At the time of his resignation, the faculty consisted of 20 full professors, 6 associate professors, 8 assistant professors, and 28 instructors. The Agricultural Extension Service^[14], which has become an important channel for communicating research findings to the state's agricultural community, began on 1 July 1909.

During his tenure at the college, Hill did considerable historical research and writing. He was the author of the volume on North Carolina in the twelve-volume *Confederate Military History*, edited by Clement Anselm Evans and published in 1899. His *Young People's History of North Carolina*^[15] first appeared in 1907. With Charles William Burkett and Frank Lincoln Stevens, he wrote *Agriculture for Beginners*^[16], a widely used textbook, and edited *The Hill Readers*, a series of five volumes published in 1906.

After serving the college for twenty-nine years, Hill resigned as president to accept an offer by the North Carolina Historical Commission^[17] to write a history of North Carolina troops in the Civil War. The project was conceived and promoted by J. Bryan Grimes^[18], secretary of state of North Carolina and chairman of the North Carolina Historical Commission; it was funded by the Ricks Foundation, created in 1916 by Robert Henry Ricks^[19] of Rocky Mount. Hill planned to write four volumes, but illness and death intervened and he completed only the first two. The two-volume work, entitled *Bethel to Sharpsburg: North Carolina in the War Between the States* was published in 1926 by Edwards and Broughton of Raleigh, two years after Hill's death. His research was exhaustive and meticulous. For his writing he collected between five and six thousand volumes relating to the Civil War, an exceptionally fine working library on the subject which was later turned over to the North Carolina Historical Commission.

Hill became a member of the North Carolina Historical Commission in 1904 and served as its secretary from 1921 until his death. He was chairman of the North Carolina Council of Defense during World War I, and at various times served as president of the North Carolina Folklore Society, the North Carolina Teachers Assembly, and the North Carolina Literary and Historical Association^[20].

On 22 July 1885 he married Pauline White, of Milledgeville, Ga., daughter of Dr. Samuel G. White, a surgeon in the U.S. Navy. They had five children: Pauline, Daniel Harvey, Samuel White, Elizabeth (Mrs. Max Abernethy), and Randolph Isabel. Hill died in Blowing Rock, where he had gone with relatives in the hope that the mountain air would help restore his health.

In 1926 the new library at North Carolina State College was appropriately named the D. H. Hill Library. The original library building has been renamed Brooks Hall, but the present library building, which was built in 1954 and expanded in 1971, retains the name of the college's first librarian and third president.

References:

Daniel Harvey Hill, *Bethel to Sharpsburg*, vol. 1 (1926).

David A. Lockmiller, *History of the North Carolina State College of Agriculture and Engineering of the University of North Carolina, 1889–1939* (1939).

Alice E. Reagan, *North Carolina State University: A Narrative History* (1987).

Additional Resources:

"Hill, D. H. (Daniel Harvey), 1859-1924." NCSU Libraries. North Carolina State University. <http://d.lib.ncsu.edu/collections/names/61-hill-d-h-daniel-harvey-1859-1924>^[21] (accessed July 24, 2013).

"Daniel Harvey Hill." *The Agromeck* 4. Raleigh, N.C.: Senior Class of North Carolina College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts. 1906. 9-10. <https://archive.org/stream/agromeck1906nort#page/n15/mode/2up>^[22] (accessed July 24, 2013).

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Subjects:

Biography^[23]

Educators^[24]

Historians^[25]

UNC Press^[26]

Writers, journalists, and editors^[27]

Authors:

Littleton, I. T.^[28]

Origin - location:

Davidson^[29]

North Carolina State University^[30]

From:

Dictionary of North Carolina Biography, University of North Carolina Press.^[31]

1 January 1988 | Littleton, I. T.

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