

Plyler, Alva Washington ^[1]

Plyler, Alva Washington

by Louise L. Queen, 1994

14 Sept. 1867–28 June 1956

Alva Washington Plyler, Methodist minister and editor, was born in [Iredell County](#) ^[2], the son of Robert Conrad and Mary L. Kimball Plyler and the identical twin of Marion Timothy Plyler. He married Grace Davis Barnhardt on 20 July 1911, and they became the parents of three daughters, the eldest of whom died at birth. Mary, the second child, also died at an early age. Helen married Richard Maxwell, Jr.

A. W. Plyler was educated at [Trinity College](#) ^[3] and pursued graduate studies at the [University of Chicago](#) ^[4]. Honorary degrees were conferred on him by [Asbury College](#) ^[5] and [Duke University](#) ^[6]. He entered the ministry in 1892 in the Western North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Plyler served pastorates at [Hot Springs](#) ^[7], [Pineville](#) ^[8], [Winston-Salem](#) ^[9], [Waxhaw](#) ^[10], [Asheboro](#) ^[11], [Weaverville](#) ^[12], [Charlotte](#) ^[13], [Lexington](#) ^[14], [Wadesboro](#) ^[15], and [Greensboro](#) ^[16]. He also was presiding elder of the [Asheville](#) ^[17], [Salisbury](#) ^[18], and Greensboro districts.

Plyler became editor of the *North Carolina Christian Advocate* in 1921 and was joined by his brother as coeditor in 1928. He served in this capacity until his retirement in 1945. He was a member of the Editorial Council of the Religious Press of America; a member and president of the Southern Methodist Press Association; a member of Omicron Delta Kappa, Phi Beta Kappa Associates, and Duke University Varsity Club; a trustee of the Lake Junaluska Methodist Assembly and [Brevard College](#) ^[19]; and a member of the joint board for the sesquicentennial celebration of American Methodism. He represented the Western North Carolina Conference as a delegate at six General Conferences of the church, the Ecumenical Methodist Conference in Atlanta, and the Uniting Conference in 1939.

He was the author of *The Iron Duke of the Methodist Itinerancy* ^[20] (1925) and coauthor of four other literary productions.

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