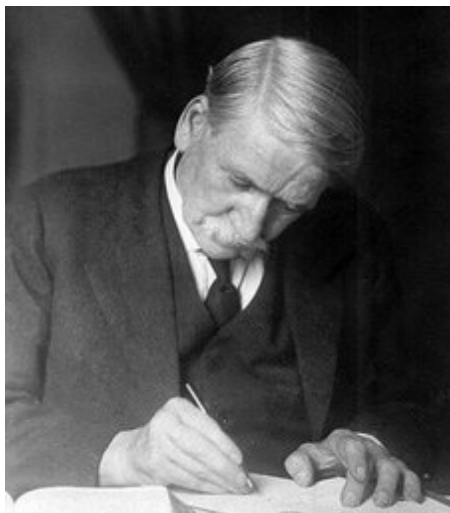


From the Archives: Leander Lycurgus Pickett- Hymns, Holiness, and Wilmore

This year marks the 160th birthday of Leander Lycurgus Pickett (1859-1928).¹ He may not be a name that is all that familiar today, but in his generation he was one of the foremost hymn writers of the Holiness Movement. Born February 27, 1859 in Burnside, Mississippi, L.L. Pickett (as he is more commonly known) would ultimately move to Wilmore, Kentucky where he would play several key roles in the religious history of the Holiness Movement and Wilmore itself, before being buried in the Wilmore Cemetery after his death on May 9, 1928.² He is an important figure for Wilmore and also for Asbury University, and so the Archives and Special Collections of Asbury Theological Seminary wants to take a moment to remember his contributions.



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Leander Lycurgus Pickett at his desk. He was a renowned speaker, leader, and hymn writer of the Holiness Movement and an important part of the history of Asbury University and Wilmore itself. (image in the public domain))

The best of all friends is Jesus, my Lord,
A wonderful Saviour is He;
He pardons my guilt and cleanses my soul,
And makes me both happy and free.

Chorus:
A wonderful Saviour is Jesus,
A wonderful Saviour is He;
I'll love Him and serve Him forever,
For He is the Saviour for me.

From *A Wonderful Saviour is Jesus*
(Words and lyrics by L.L. Pickett)
1913



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117 **A WONDERFUL SAVIOUR IS JESUS.**
 L. L. P. Copyright, 1913, by L. L. Pickett L. L. PICKETT.

1. The best of all friends is Je - sus, my Lord, A won - der - ful
 2. No oth - er like He can dwell in the heart; Re - veal - ing His
 3. He know - eth my frame, that I am but dust, Re - mem - bers the
 4. O sin - ner make haste, now come to my Lord, A ref - uge He'll

Sav - iour is He; He par - dons my guilt and cleans - es my soul,
 love to the soul; Thus mak - ing Him - self a part of one's life,
 tri - als that sweep Like bil - lows of hell down o - ver my head,
 be un - to you; He'll save you from sin, will com - fort be - stow,

CHORUS.
 And makes me both hap - py and free. A won - der - ful Sav - iour is
 And stay - ing the bil - lows that roll.
 Thank God! He is a - ble to keep.
 And prove a Re - deem - er most true.

Je - sus, A won - der - ful Sav - iour is He; I'll love Him and

Rit.
 serve Him for - ev - er, For He is the Sav - iour for me.

The son of James Cochran Pickett and Sarah Villers Walker, L.L. Pickett started his ministry in northeast Texas. According to Arthur McPhee in his book on L.L. Pickett's son, Waskom Pickett, L.L. Pickett had only five months of formal education. Nevertheless, he was fluent in his knowledge of the Bible and even mastered the reading of the Greek New Testament. This evangelist published his first book of hymns in Texas, started his own publishing company, and edited a weekly publication, the *King's Herald*. L.L. and his first wife, Mellie Dorough had two sons before she passed away. He met his second wife, Ludie Carrington Day, while preaching in Louisiana in the 1880's and they would have six sons who survived infancy.

May the fire fall from heaven today,
 Fall a sin-purging flame on each soul;
 Giving vict'ry and grace all the way,
 Bringing us where the joy-tides roll.

Chorus:

*May the fire fall, may the fire fall,
 May the sin-consuming fire now fall;
 May the fire fall, may the fire fall,
 May the sanctifying fire now fall.*

O send down the fire, send it, Lord,
 Quickly kindle a flame from on high;
 Till our souls to Thine image restored,
 Live the life that shall never die.

From *May the Fire Fall*
 (Words and lyrics by L.L. Pickett)
 1922

In 1903, L.L. Pickett's young son, Waskom entered Asbury College, the holiness college founded by John Wesley Hughes in Wilmore. The overcrowded dormitories encouraged several students to seek new housing arrangements. Two of them moved into the Pickett home with a young E. Stanley Jones sharing a room with young Waskom. Both boys were strongly impacted by a revival at the college in 1905 and would go on to become major Methodist missionary figures in India after they graduated in 1907. Bishop J. Waskom Pickett would become better known than his father, but the impact of L.L. Pickett and his holiness teachings would last throughout the lives of both Bishop Pickett and E. Stanley Jones.



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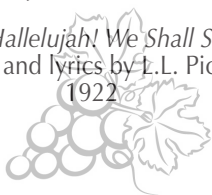


Bishop Waskom Pickett, the son of L.L. Pickett, would become a major Methodist figure in India and in the Church Growth Movement (image in the public domain))

When the Bridegroom shall come at the midnight hour,
He will call for His ready ones;
They shall rise to meet Him with a joyous shout,
And their faces be shining like the sun's.

Chorus:
We shall shine, we shall shine,
With heavenly glory we shall shine;
For we are told we shall be like Him,
Hallelujah! We shall shine.

From *Hallelujah! We Shall Shine*
(Words and lyrics by L.L. Pickett)
1922



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4. **HALLELUJAH! WE SHALL SHINE.**
 Copyright, 1922, by L. L. Pickett, Wilmore, Ky.

L. L. P. *Joyously, but not fast.* REV. L. L. PICKETT

1. When the Bridegroom shall come at the midnight hour, He will call for His
 2. He has promised that those who are His a-lone, Those who walk in the
 3. O my mind is made up, I must win the crown, With His faithful must
 4. Will you come, brother, dear, choose the lone-ly way, Walk with Je-sus, our

read-y ones; They shall rise to meet Him with a joy-ous shout, And their
 ho-ly way, Shall ap-pear with Him in king-ly glo-ry then, Hal-le-
 then ap-pear; Let it cost deep sor-row, let it try my soul, I must
 lov-er, friend; He will give sweet peace and needed strength supply, He will

REFRAIN.

fac-es be shin-ing like the suns. We shall shine, we shall
 lu-jah! what glo-ry in that day.
 walk a-mid dan-gers with-out fear.
 com-fort and keep you to the end. we shall shine,

rit.
 shine; With heav'n-ly glo-ry we shall shine; For
 we shall shine, shall shine,

rit.
 we are told we shall be like Him, Hal-le-lu-jah! we shall shine.
 we shall shine.

L.L. Pickett even entered politics, running for governor of the state of Kentucky for the Prohibition Party, despite initial opposition from his wife. Strongly opposed to alcohol and tobacco, L.L. Pickett wrote against these vices in true holiness style, while his wife helped run the Women's Christian Temperance Union in Kentucky for many years. L.L. lost his bid for governor of the state known for bourbon and tobacco, but he never lost his passion for fighting these aspects of daily life, including writing a book entitled, *My Gatling Gun, or Some Straight Shots at the Whiskey Devil*.



Ludie Carrington Day Pickett was the wife of L.L. Pickett and a leader in the Women's Christian Temperance union in Kentucky (image in the public domain))

Chorus:
*Speak Thou in softest whispers,
Whispers of love to me:
"Thou shalt be always conq'ror,
Thou shalt be always free;"
Speak Thou to me each day, Lord,
Always in tend'rest tone;
Let me now hear Thy whisper,
"Thou art not left alone."*

From *Speak To Me, Jesus*
(Words and lyrics by L.L. Pickett)
1897

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L.L. Pickett managed to write 49 books, and around 440 hymns (either words or music, or both). As a preacher, evangelist, and hymn writer Pickett had a major influence on the development of the Holiness Movement. As a publisher, the early Pickett Publishing Company would merge under H.C. Morrison to become the Pentecostal Publishing Company, and his holiness publication, *The Way of Faith* would merge with Morrison's holiness paper to ultimately become *The Pentecostal Herald*. In 1904, L.L. Pickett was one of the founding five members of the Board of Trustees when Asbury College became a formally incorporated institution of higher learning. Pickett was the principal fundraiser for the fledgling college, but was also involved in the removal of John Wesley Hughes as president and ultimately a supporter for H. C. Morrison as president of the institution.

Trust in the Lord, forever, Lean on His loving breast;
 He will sustain in sorrow, Help thee in times of test.
 There is no other refuge, Shelter in time of storm,
 Hidden within His bosom, Nothing can ever harm.

Chorus:

*Hidden, hidden, Safe in His arms are we,
 Having no fear forever, Happy we are and free.*

From *Hidden*

(Words and lyrics by L.L. Pickett)

1922



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9. HIDDEN.

L. L. P. Copyright, 1922, by L. L. Pickett. L. L. PICKETT.

1. Trust in the Lord for-ev - er, Lean on His lov-ing breast; He will sus-
 2. Forc-es of hell may gath-er, Shad-ows lay dense a - round, Bur-dens may
 3. Friends may forsake and grieve thee, Low ones may frown and scold, Christ will prove

tain in sor-row, Help thee in times of test. There is no oth - er
 pile up - on thee, Pressing thee to the ground. Sick-ness may o - ver-
 ev - er faith-ful, Nor will His heart grow cold. He will give joy and

ref - uge, Shel-ter in time of storm, Hid-den with-in His bo - som,
 whelm thee, Sor-rows may mul-ti - ply; Still He will ne'er for-sake thee,
 glad - ness, Com-fort He will im - part; Spreading in boundless full - ness

CHORUS.

Noth-ing can ev - er harm. Hid - den, hid - den, Safe in His
 Strengthen you from on high.
 Per-fect love thru thy heart. Hid-den, safely hid - den,

arms are we, Hav-ing no fear for - ev - er, Hap-py we are and free.

It is questionable if Wilmore as we know it today, and the influence of Asbury University and Asbury Theological Seminary would be the same without men like L.L. Pickett. While his hymns are gone from the hymnbooks and his writings mostly consigned to archives of the Holiness Movement, his influence was profound, not only with his own life, but in the influence of his legacy in the lives of Bishop Waskom Pickett and E. Stanley Jones. Lives such as his, should remind us of those who went before us in ministry, and also remind us that our true legacy is not in worldly fame and fortune, but in how we live our lives for Christ.

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L.L. Pickett allowed E. Stanley Jones to room in the Pickett house in Wilmore during his time at Asbury College, where E. Stanley Jones and Waskom Pickett became good friends as well as roommates.)

The archives of the B.L. Fisher library are open to researchers and works to promote research in the history of Methodism and the Wesleyan-Holiness movement. Images, such as these, provide one vital way to bring history to life. Preservation of such material is often time consuming and costly, but are essential to helping fulfill Asbury Theological Seminary's mission. If you are interested in donating items of historic significance to the archives of the B.L. Fisher Library, or in donating funds to help purchase or process significant collections, please contact the archivist at archives@asburyseminary.edu.



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End Notes

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² *The Road to Delhi: Bishop Pickett Remembered 1890-1981*, Arthur G. McPhee SAIACS Press: Bangalore, India 2005: 17-18. Much of the basic information we have on the life of L.L. Pickett comes from Dr. McPhee's research into the life of Bishop Waskom Pickett. The Archives and Special Collections of Asbury Theological Seminary houses the material Dr. McPhee collected during his research, proving that not all of the valuable materials in Archives needs to be primary documents or photographs.



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