

# The First Ten Presidents of the Old Dominion Boat Club

By Ray Cobean

To help our members get more acquainted with the history of our club and the men responsible for its establishment, the History Committee has written a brief biographical sketch of the Club's first ten presidents. The article containing the first five was sent out several months ago, this article contains all ten.



**First President-Edward Herbert** was elected as the Club's first president at the September 10, 1880 meeting. He was born November 28, 1830 in Prince Georges County Maryland and was the son of John Carlyle Herbert and Mary Snowden. He married Mary Barnett on January 29, 1851. Edward and Mary had one child, William Pinkney Herbert, born August 1, 1852. Edward had been a farmer in Maryland and a Major in the Confederate Army. At the time he was elected president he had moved to Alexandria and was living on Oronoco Street and was employed as an agent for the Hampshire and Baltimore Coal Company. He resigned as president at the October 6<sup>th</sup> meeting giving the reason that he planned on leaving the city the next month. Edward Herbert died in Baltimore Maryland in 1886.



**Second President-George A. Mushbach** took over in October 1880 upon the resignation of Edward Herbert and served until May 1885. He was born in May 1849 in Sussex County, New Jersey, the son of Thomas Barton Mushbach and Elizabeth Almeda Edsall, who was the daughter of Senator Joseph Edsall owner of Edsall Hill near Alexandria and for whom Edsall road is named. Thomas Mushbach died in 1857 and Elizabeth moved her family to Alexandria where George began his study of Law. George married Eva Gwynn, daughter of Bennett F. Gwynn of Baltimore, Md., on December 15, 1886 and made their home at 418 N. Washington Street. In addition to serving as President of ODBC, Mr. Mushbach was a prominent lawyer, served on the Alexandria City Council, was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates and later to the state Senate. He was also Captain of the Alexandria Light Infantry, one of the finest drill teams in the south. George Augustus Mushbach died in Alexandria on December 27, 1901.



**Third President-Francis I. Hufty** was elected President at the May 7, 1885 meeting and served until 1895. He was born June 2, 1841 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania the son of Samuel Hufty and Josephine Greble. He married Cecelia Ann Simpson, daughter of Henry Simpson and Julia Cross, in Alexandria on October 8, 1867. At the time he joined ODBC, Francis was living in Alexandria but later moved to 22<sup>nd</sup> Street in Washington, DC where he operated a clothing store on F Street and later became a real estate broker. Francis died September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1921, at Garfield Hospital in Washington, DC.



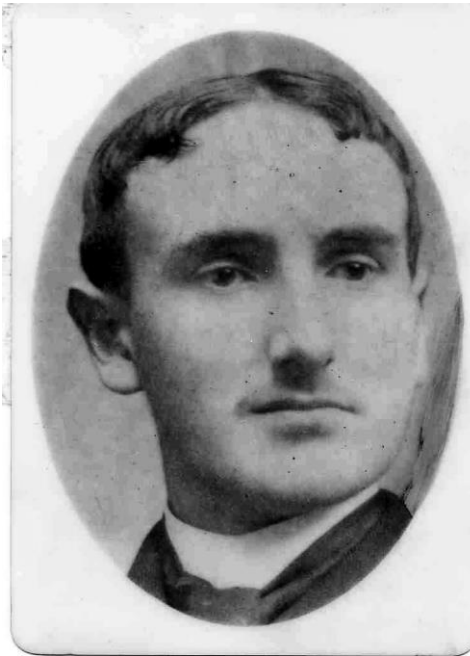
**Fourth President-Albert Bryan** served as President from 1895 to 1908. He was born in Alexandria June 29, 1855 the son of George and Caroline Bryan. He married Marian Beach, born April 14, 1860, the daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth Beach. Albert was employed by the First and Citizens Bank as a bookkeeper and resided on the Bryan Estate located at 2826 King Street. He was also very active in Alexandria politics serving on Alexandria's City Council and being Chairman of the Alexandria Democratic Party. Albert was the father of Albert Vickers Bryan, Sr. for whom the United States Federal Courthouse in Alexandria is named. Albert died July 2, 1923 and Marian died February 2, 1937. They both are buried in Ivy Hill Cemetery.



**Fifth President- Edward Hudson Kemper** was elected President at the Club's annual meeting in April 1908 and served until 1910. He was born September 12, 1866 in Alexandria the son of Kosciusko Kemper and Isabella Garrett. Edward married Fanny Lee Green, daughter of John Green and Fanny Macarthur, in Alexandria on October 22, 1890. He was employed by the Southern Railway System in 1881 and was named Comptroller in 1918. Edward's father, Kosciusko, was an attorney and later became Superintendent of Schools for Alexandria and in 1872 was elected Mayor of the City. For most of their married life Edward and Fanny made their home in the Rosemont section of Alexandria. Edward died January 30, 1932 and Fanny died February 6, 1947, they both are buried in Ivy Hill Cemetery.



**Sixth President- William L. Allen** was elected President at the 30<sup>th</sup> annual meeting held on April 13<sup>th</sup>, 1910. He was born in August of 1853 in Alexandria and was the son of William H. Allen and Mary D. Skidmore. William L. was employed by the Southern Railway System as a clerk in the main office in Washington D.C. He never married and lived with his mother at 204 Columbus Street. His grandfather, Jesse Skidmore was a house carpenter and was hired by Major Lawrence Lewis to build a wall around the vault where George Washington is buried and to make repairs to the Mount Vernon Estate. During the first year of Mr. Allen's Presidency the Club had a \$1,777.00 enlargement added. William Allen served as President of ODBC for two years.



**Seventh-President-Harry Randolph Burke** was elected President on April 12, 1912. He was born on October 14<sup>th</sup>, 1864 in Alexandria, the son of John Woolfork Burke and Martha Jefferson Trist who was the great granddaughter of Thomas Jefferson. Harry married Rosella Gordon Trist, born May 26, 1869, his 12<sup>th</sup> cousin and the daughter of Nicholas Trist and Augustine Gordon, on April 19, 1898 in New Orleans, LA. Harry and Rosella lived at 208 Lee Street with their four children. He was a partner in the Burke and Herbert Bank. Harry was a charter member of ODBC and very active in the Club's athletic affairs being a member of the four-oared gig team that won the 1887 Virginia State Championship. When he died on November 21, 1947, Harry was the last surviving charter member of ODBC. Rosella died March 3, 1945. They, along with Harry's parents, are buried in Ivy Hill Cemetery.



**Eighth President-James Sidney Douglas, Sr.** was elected President on April 5<sup>th</sup>, 1916. He was born in 1856 in Alexandria, the son of James Smyth Douglas and Harriet Frances Whittington. He married Sarah "Sallie" Wooden, born in 1861 and the daughter of William and Lucretia Wooden, in Warrenton, VA on June 6<sup>th</sup>, 1883. James Sidney was a clerk for the Citizens National Bank in Alexandria. He and Sarah resided at 913 Cameron Street. James' oldest son, James Sidney, Jr. was also a member of ODBC serving as Captain while overseeing all the regattas held during that time. James, Sr. died in Alexandria on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 1949 and is buried in the Prebyterian Cemetery.



**Ninth President-Edwin E. Carter** was elected President on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 1917. Although Mr. Carver served as President three different times, the last being in 1932, I have been unable to find much information about his personal life. He was born in 1877 in Harve De Grace, Hartford County, Maryland. His father was John E. Carver, a black smith, born in 1858, his mother's name is not known. His grandfather was Henry Carver, also a backsmith, and his grandmother was Mary Severson, both born in Maryland. Edwin married Grace (maiden name unkown) born in 1879 also in Maryland. He owned his own real estate firm in Alexandria. Edwin and Grace resided in Rosemont at 12 Spring Street.



**Tenth President-John M. Reed** was elected President in November 1923 after the resignation of Edwin E. Carver. He was elected President again in April 1927. Mr. Reed was born in 1866 in Alexandria the son of James W. and Virginia Reed. He married Johannah Paff, born in Alexandria in 1869, daughter of Frederick and Louisa Paff, on April 17, 1895. Frederick Paff owned a shoe store on King Street and in December 1880 the ODBC started meeting in the large hall over the store which at that time was located at 99 King Street. The hall was also used as a club room and later served as a gymnasium. It was on the north side of King Street and was actually in the modern 400 block of King between Pitt and Royal Streets and was at the approximate site of the current building at 421 King Street. John Reed was a merchant and owned a music store at 611 King

Street. He and his wife resided over the store.