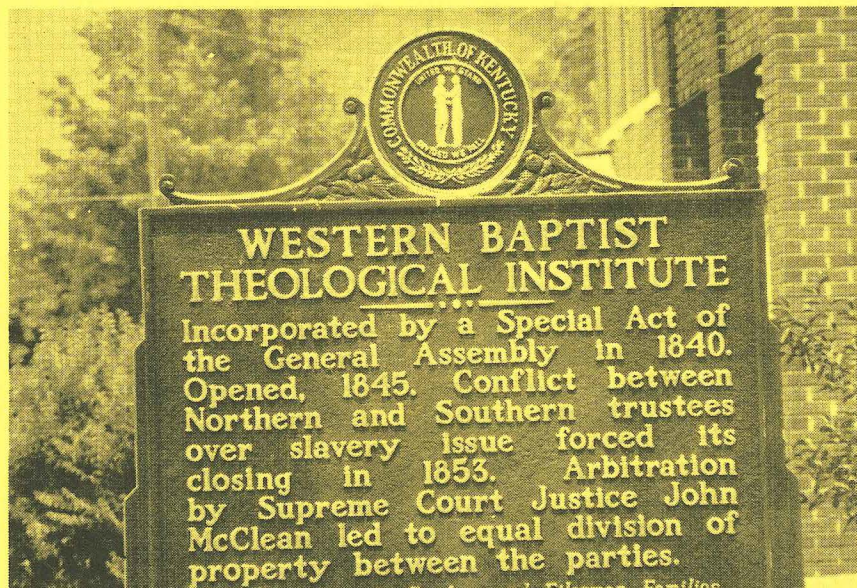


THE
KENTUCKY BAPTIST
HERITAGE

A PUBLICATION OF
THE KENTUCKY BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY



THE PRESIDENT'S HOME



WESTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE
1026 RUSSELL STREET
COVINGTON, KENTUCKY

KENTUCKY BAPTIST HERITAGE RESUMES PUBLICATION

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COVER PHOTOGRAPHS

The cover photographs are of the President's house of the Western Baptist Theological Institute.

This is the only identified building remaining from the first theological school west of the Alleghenies.

See Orie S. Ware's article beginning on Page 4.

After nearly three years, the Kentucky Baptist Heritage, a publication of the Kentucky Baptist Historical Society, has resumed publication. It might be of interest to the reader to spell out what the Heritage hopes to accomplish and how it will be published.

The present editor lacks the extensive background in Kentucky Baptist History, nor does he have at his disposal such a vast quantity of materials and information as the past editor.

Therefore, the Heritage will be published only once a year -- at least at the beginning. It is hoped that this one issue will be of sufficient size and quality to make it a suitable source for information about Kentucky Baptists specifically, and religion in general in the Commonwealth as it affects Baptists.

But at this point, the editor needs your help. Good quality manuscripts relating to churches, associations, institutions, individuals, state conventions, Baptist papers, etc., would be more than welcomed. We do not pay any honorarium; we only seek to publish information about our denomination.

If you have a good manuscript, please send it to the following address for consideration.

Jim Taulman
Fort Mitchell Baptist Church
Silver Avenue and Dixie Highway
Fort Mitchell, Kentucky 41017

Please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your manuscript if you wish it to be returned to you.

JET

KENTUCKY BAPTIST BICENTENNIAL VOLUME

The volume commemorating the 200th anniversary of the first preaching in the State of Kentucky is nearing completion. Edited by Leo Crismon, the volume will emphasize the many aspects of Kentucky Baptist history as they relate to preaching.

The chapters and writers are as follows:

1. James Cox, "Baptist Preaching In Kentucky"
2. W. Morgan Patterson, "Other Baptist Groups In Kentucky"
3. C. R. Daley, "Baptist Papers In Kentucky"
4. Leo T. Crismon, "Kentucky Baptist History, 1950-1976"
5. Leo T. Crismon, "Theological Education In Kentucky"
6. James E. Taulman, "Baptists and Disciples In Kentucky"
7. H. E. Nutter, "A Brief History of Negro Baptists In Kentucky"
8. C. Ford Deusner, "Baptist Child Care In Kentucky"
9. Carl Fields, "Baptist Education In Kentucky"
10. Wayne E. Ward, "Early Revivals and Evangelism Today"
11. Mrs. George R. Ferguson, "The Influence of Women"
12. Harold G. Sanders, "Kentucky Baptist Heritage"
13. Harold G. Sanders, "Kentucky Baptists Facing A Third Century"
14. Walter C. Jackson, "Kentucky Baptist Hospitals"
15. Leo T. Crismon, "Kentucky Baptists In The Nation"
16. Leo T. Crismon, "Kentucky Baptists In Literature"
17. Leo T. Crismon and C. R. Daley, "Kentucky Baptist Association"

The volume will be ready for distribution by the November Convention which meets at Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown, November 11-13, 1975.

KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION MEETINGSTO FEATURE BAPTIST HISTORY

Three meetings sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention will feature Baptist history as we celebrate the Nation's Bicentennial and recognize the 200th anniversary of the first Baptist preaching in the State of Kentucky.

The Annual Kentucky Baptist Convention will meet at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown, on November 11-13, 1975. At this session, the Bicentennial Volume will be presented and the various theme interpretations will deal with Baptist history.

"A Day of Preaching," sponsored by Hicks Shelton and the Evangelism Department, will be conducted in Harrodsburg on April 19. This will be a joint venture between the General Association of Baptists and the Kentucky Baptist Convention to commemorate the 200th anniversary of William Hickman's first sermon in Kentucky.

Originally, the Kentucky Baptist Convention had planned to meet in Harrodsburg in 1976, but that has been changed because of limited motel accommodations to this one single "Day of Preaching."

The Kentucky Baptist Convention will meet in Lexington for the 1976 Convention. Plans are now underway for a fitting celebration of the Bicentennial and the observance of our own Baptist history.

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ANNUAL MEETING

KENTUCKY BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Frankfort

August 1, 1975

The Kentucky Baptist Historical Society has received an invitation from Rev. Herman Bowers and the First Baptist Church, Frankfort to meet with them on Friday, August 1.

The proposed agenda for the afternoon and evening is as follows:

4:00 P.M. (EDT) -- Tour of the area. This will include the Frankfort Cemetery where Daniel Boone and his wife, Silas Mercer Noel, and John Gano are buried. Those wishing to see the Kentucky Historical Society Library and museum in the Old State House are urged to arrive prior to 4:00 P.M. (or 3:00 P.M. if attending the Commission meeting).

6:00 P.M. (EDT) -- Dinner served by the First Baptist Church.

7:00 P.M. (EDT) -- Society Meeting
 Welcome - Herman Bowers
 Reading of the Minutes -
 Jim Taulman
 Financial Report -
 Franklin Owen
 Report on Bicentennial
 Matters - Leo Crismon
 and Others

(continued)

KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION
HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Frankfort, August 1, 1975

The Historical Commission of the Kentucky Baptist Convention will meet in conjunction with the Historical Society in Frankfort on August 1.

The meeting will convene at 3:00 P.M. (EDT) at the First Baptist Church, according to Leo T. Crismon, Chairman.

The members of the Commission are as follows:

Terms Ending 1975:

Southwestern Region: O. C. Markham,
 Mayfield
 Central Region: W. D. Martin,
 Louisville
 State at Large: Mrs. Lemuel Felts,
 Louisville

Terms Ending 1976:

South Central Region: David C. Greene,
 Richmond
 Southern Region: Mrs. Kenneth Crocker,
 Franklin
 Northeastern Region: Casey Morton,
 Jackson

Terms Ending 1977:

Western Region: Wesley Hanson,
 Hartford
 North Central Region: Jim Taulman,
 Fort Mitchell
 Southeastern Region: John David Broome,
 Williamsburg

Permanent Members:

Curator of the Collection: Leo T. Crismon,
 Louisville
 Kentucky Member of the Southern Baptist
 Convention Historical Commission:
 Leo T. Crismon,
 Louisville

(agenda continued)

Historical Sketch of First
 Baptist Church, Frankfort
 Election of Officers
 Appointment of Nominating
 Committee for 1976
 Other Business
 Adjournment

(The following address was presented by Mr. Orie S. Ware at the 1974 meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Historical Society. On December 16, 1974, Mr. Ware died, completing a life of 93 years. See the attached biographical note.)

* * * * *

WESTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

HISTORICAL REVIEW

By ORIE S. WARE
Covington, Kentucky

In November, 1833, the question of the establishment of a theological school west of the Allegheny Mountains was discussed at a convention of Western Baptists in Cincinnati. A committee was then appointed to investigate and consider ways and means, as well as the advisability of such an institution, and in November, 1834, they reported in favor of the establishment of a theological school for the common benefit of the Baptists of the West, and the Western Baptist Education Society was formed to prosecute the design and carry out its purpose.

The Western Baptist Education Society decided to locate the school immediately back of the City of Covington, on the South side of the Ohio River, and proceeded to purchase land for that purpose. This particular place was then a part of Campbell County (Kenton not having been formed) and Alexandria was the county seat. A search of the records at Alexandria would no doubt reveal some interesting facts concerning the early history of this institution, but this narrative is confined to such information as is disclosed by the records kept at Independence after the creation of Kenton out of the territory of Campbell County by an act of the General Assembly of Kentucky on January 29, 1840.

On May 28, 1835, Alfred Sandford, one of the sons of General Thomas Sandford, sold to the Trustees of the Western Baptist Education Society 28-3/4 acres of land lying adjacent to the City of Covington, which had been incorporated as a city on the 22nd day of February, 1834. The parcel of land was a part of the farm of General Thomas Sandford, who was the first member of Congress from this part of the

state, and while yet a young man, was drowned in the Ohio River in 1808. On December 10, 1835, what was known as the "Fowler Farm," consisting of 193 acres, and which is described as joining the Sandford and Riddle Farms on the North, the Richard Southgate Farm on the South and Licking River on the East, was conveyed to the Trustees of the Western Baptist Education Society. About the same time these Trustees obtained a deed to the "Kyle Farm," consisting of 120 acres of land, lying adjacent to the first described parcels of land. The corporate limits of the City of Covington on the South were then about where Eighth Street is now located and these tracts of land so acquired, now within the heart of our city, constituted an aggregate of nearly 350 acres of land, which in a general way covered a territory beginning at what is now Saratoga Street and the Licking River; thence westwardly along Saratoga Street and the alley so-called to the present location of Banklick Street; thence southwardly to Eleventh Street; thence westwardly to Holman Street; thence southwardly with Holman Street to a point near Fifteenth Street; thence in a direct line to a point near Sixteenth and Madison Streets; thence in a direct line to Byrd and Garrard Streets; thence northwardly with Garrard Street to Eleventh Street; thence eastwardly to the Licking River; and northwardly with the river to the beginning. This general description of the large tract of farm land, as it was at that time, gives us an idea of the magnitude of the tract that is now the most populous part of the City of Covington.

All of this land was afterward conveyed by the Trustees of the Western Baptist Education Society to the Trustees of the Western Baptist Theological Institute in May, 1840, and these deeds are of record at Independence in this county, Kenton County having been created in the meantime. The Western Baptist Theological Institute, which was to carry on the educational work of training men for the Baptist ministry, was incorporated by a special act of the General Assembly of Kentucky on February 5, 1840, just exactly one week after the date of the act creating Kenton County, and thus title to all these lands came into the possession of the Institute. Some of the Trustees of the Educational Society, who conveyed this land to the Institute, were Ephraim Robins, John Stephens, Isaac Colby, Samuel W. Lynd, John B. Cook, Noble S. Johnson, Henry Miller, and Aaron Gano. All this land

as now improved represents, perhaps, one-fourth of the assessed valuation of the property of the City of Covington.

Cave Johnson, Henry Wingate, Ephraim Robins, J. L. Holman, S. W. Lynd, John Stephens, and Thatcher Lewis (seven in number) were instrumental in getting the charter and were designated as Trustees of the Western Baptist Theological Institute, vested with the usual corporate powers and authorized to establish an institution of learning in or near the City of Covington for the promotion of education in the Baptist denomination in the western states, to hold and transfer property, and were empowered to appoint its President and Professors and fill vacancies in its own Board of Trustees.

Two amendments to the charter were made by acts of the General Assembly of Kentucky, the first in 1841, increasing the number of Trustees to thirteen, and later in 1845 by increasing the Board of Trustees not to exceed twenty-one in number.

The land which had been conveyed to the Trustees was a beautiful tract upon parts of which forest trees were still standing, with deep ravines here and there, down which coursed spring-fed streams on their way to the Licking River on the one side and on the other side to Willow Run, and thence to the Ohio River, which sometimes roared when swollen by heavy rains.

With excellent judgment, where the tract attained its greatest elevation, about twelve acres, extending from east to west, eight hundred and sixty feet, and from north to south six hundred feet, and bounded by four principal streets, Madison on the East, Russell on the West, Robbins on the North, and Eleventh on the South, were set apart for the college grounds, campus and buildings, and the work of improvement was commenced.

The buildings erected for the immediate use of the institution were the ones used for hospital purposes on the south side of the tract (which was on the north side of Eleventh Street) and a President's residence on the west side, to which was afterwards added a home for one of the theological professors upon the southwest corner of the tract. The main building was known as St. Elizabeth Hospital until 1916, when it was torn down.

The President's house, a large structure of the southern type, with a wide porch in front, was ideally situated in a little grove of forest trees, and added charm was given to it by a blue-grass lawn, luxuriant climbing roses, and beds of old-fashioned flowers. It still stands on the east side of Russell Street.

The rooms upon the first floor of the college building were set apart for lecture and class rooms, while those upon the upper floors were used as dormitories for the students.

The art of landscape gardening lent itself to the improvement of the college grounds and transformed them into an attractive little park, around which, upon good sized lots purchased from the Trustees, citizens of the nearby town of Covington, began to build for themselves comfortable suburban homes.

A Department of Theology and a good classical school which drew pupils from Cincinnati and the surrounding country, were the first established by the Trustees, whose intention it was to supplement by a Collegiate Department, and the little city of Covington began to look forward to the time when it would become a seat of learning, the home of cultured society, and a resort for students from all parts of the country.

But influences had commenced their work, which were destined not only to disrupt the incipient institution of learning and to change the future of Covington, but to overturn the economic system of one-half of the United States and to sweep away the political and constitutional theories upon which that system rested.

In Kentucky, before the agitation was begun in the North by Benjamin Lundy, William Lloyd Garrison, and their associates, in favor of the immediate and unconditional abolition of slavery, whether it resulted in the destruction of the Union or not, slavery, was regarded by a large proportion of its people as indefensible on moral grounds, and a system which should be gotten rid of as soon as it could be done with due regard for the safety and economic interests of the white population of the States.

As a result of the agitation in the North and of the establishment and maintenance of the underground systems for the purpose of aiding

slaves to escape, public sentiment with reference to slavery, had begun to undergo a change in Kentucky, as well as in the states further south. Those who had been its apologists became its defenders. The institution had been attacked upon moral grounds and it became necessary to place its defense, if it was to be successfully maintained, upon the same grounds.

That public sentiment upon the question of slavery had undergone a change in Kentucky is best evidenced by the election to select delegates to the Convention held in the year 1849 to frame a constitution for Kentucky, when the candidates of the party favoring a system of gradual emancipation were defeated by overwhelming majorities. The provisions of the new constitution of 1849 concerning slaves are also evidence of the same fact.

It is hard to believe that the originators of this undertaking in the City of Covington would permit the great cause in which they were interested to be thwarted by political or slavery questions. But the institution soon began to suffer from the personal views held by its Trustees and President. Staunch in their convictions concerning slavery, not even this promised seat of learning should stand in the way of their open and avowed expression on the subject.

The Western Baptist Theological Institute had been organized and put into operation in 1845, and Rev. R. E. Pattison, D.D., of Massachusetts, was elected President. The election occurred while the "Alabama Resolutions" (which demanded that slave holders should not be discriminated against in their right to preach, hold office, etc., in the Baptist church) were under discussion by the Baptist Board of Foreign Missions, which was a branch of and subordinate to the American Baptist Publication and Sunday School Society, and Dr. Pattison was a member of the Board of Foreign Missions. The American Baptist Publication and Sunday School Society at this time had numerous smaller associations in the several states as auxiliary to it, and through them flowed into the treasuries of the Principal Board benevolent contributions from the denomination in all parts of the United States. In a publication of the Society, which then included all north and south alike, there appeared articles indicating that slavery should not be tolerated in the denomination by its officers or representatives in church work, and this article was soon attributed to Dr. Pattison.

It is given in Spencer's Baptist History that Dr. Pattison as early as 1846 was under suspicion of seeking a sale, privately, of all the property of the institution in Covington and removing it to the north of the Ohio River, and such suspicion was by subsequent investigation fully confirmed. This historian says: "He tried to kidnap the institution." It may not be out of place to remark here that the writer of this history was a Southerner and his criticism of Dr. Pattison at the time he wrote was due to a feeling of resentment for what he termed the "iniquitous course" of Dr. Pattison.

At the Alabama State Convention of Baptists in 1844 it had passed the famous resolutions referred to before, avowing that slave holders and owners were entitled to the privileges and immunities of their several unions and to receive any appointment or office in the General Baptist Association of America. The Board of Foreign Missions, of which Dr. Pattison was a member, met shortly after this time and by a resolution of the Board declared: "If any one should offer himself as a missionary, having slaves, and should insist on retaining them as his property, they could not appoint him. One thing is certain, we can never be a party to any arrangement which would imply approbation of slavery."

Upon publication of this action of the General Board of Foreign Missions, the Board of Foreign Missions of the State of Virginia met and passed resolutions condemning the action of the General Board, and called a meeting of delegates from the churches and associations of the southern states to convene at Augusta, Georgia, in May, 1845, to consider these questions which were about to break asunder the ties of the Baptist denomination and its several associations in the north and south. The American Baptist Mission Society anticipated the meeting of the churches and associations of the southern states, and met in Providence, Rhode Island, in April, 1845, and resolved that: "In our opinion, it is expedient that members now forming the Society should hereafter act as separate organizations in the north and in the south in promoting the objects which were originally contemplated by the Society," and recommended the appointment of a committee to carry out the purposes of dissolution between the states not inconsistent with the preservation of the rights of its members.

As a result of the Virginia resolutions, delegates from Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, Kentucky, and the District of Columbia, assembled on May 8, 1845, in Augusta, Georgia, and after due deliberation the Southern Baptist Convention was organized and it still continues.

These movements completely severed the Baptists of Kentucky from northern intercourse with the denomination in governmental church work.

While these conditions were developing, there was internal trouble manifesting itself in the Board of Trustees of the Western Baptist Theological Institute. The activities of Dr. Pattison in all these denominational affairs, as herein mentioned, caused strong feeling against him as "being in sympathy with the abolition fanaticism" that characterized a majority of the members of the Board of Trustees of the institution, and he was called upon to define his position publicly on the subject, which he declined to do, whereupon at a meeting of the General Association of Kentucky Baptists, held at Georgetown in October, 1845, a resolution was adopted: "That in the opinion of the Association, the Western Baptist Theological Institute ought not, under present circumstances, to receive the support of the Baptists of Kentucky."

The controversy resulted in the severance of Dr. Pattison's connection with the institution. Dr. S. W. Lynd was elected to succeed him as its President, and at a meeting of the General Association of Kentucky Baptists, held at Bowling Green in October, 1848, the election of Dr. Lynd was approved and the work and activities of the theological institute commended as successful, and Dr. Lynd was to enter upon his duties January 1, 1849. In the words of the resolution of the Association, "It is now in the hands of men who will conduct it in a manner worthy of its noble object." But this action could not stem the tide that soon was to carry the institution against the rocks of destruction.

In view of the changes of sentiment in Kentucky with regard to slavery and the disorganization in the governmental affairs of the denomination in the north and south, it was unfortunate that only a few years after the incorporation of the new institute, and before it had organized all of its departments, at a Board meeting of the Trustees, held shortly

before January, 1848, a resolution was introduced by a member of the Board, declaring that it was the sense of the Board that "slavery was divinely instituted and should be so regarded." The resolution received, however, only four votes.

The advocates of the resolution did not propose to submit to defeat. They went to the General Assembly of Kentucky, at its next ensuing session, and without the knowledge of their fellow-trustees, procured the passage of a bill, which was approved and became a law, January 28, 1848, which added sixteen Trustees to the number then in office, and appointed by name the sixteen additional Trustees.

The act also provided that in making future appointments of Trustees under the charter, the persons appointed should be citizens of Kentucky; that no appointment should be made except at a regular meeting of the Board when a majority of all the Trustees should be present; and that no sale should be made of the lands of the institute except by the order of the whole Board at a regular meeting.

The object of the act and its hardships were perfectly apparent. The funds which had been used for the purchase of the land of the institute, the erection of its buildings and its endowment had been largely raised in the northern states. Kentucky had contributed little toward its endowment. The professors and teachers of the institute, with the exception of one, who was a Scotchman, were men of northern birth.

The act, if valid, would have frustrated the purposes of the institution. Their object was to promote the education of persons of the Baptist denomination in the western states, and it was intended that all of the western states should partake of the benefits of the institute and representation upon its board. The original design of the founders was to locate in Ohio, but that purpose had been changed, and it was located in Covington. At a regular meeting of the Board in March, 1848, the act purporting to amend the charter of the institute was presented and rejected. The persons named in the act as Trustees then presented themselves and demanded seats, but the Board refused to recognize them, and adjourned by a vote of ten to four. After the adjournment the persons named in the act as Trustees, with the four recalcitrant members of the old Board, met, organized as a

Board, appointed a chairman pro tem, abolished the office of General Agent, then held by Rev. O. S. Sage, and ordered him to deliver to them the books, choses in action and assets of the institute which were in his custody. Sage refused to obey, and delivered the books and papers to the Chairman of the regular Board of Trustees, who, apprehending violence from the clamorous behavior of the Trustees appointed by the legislature, concealed or removed them from the state. Thereupon, the new Trustees and their allies among the old Trustees began suit in the Kenton Circuit Court against Sage and the majority of the regular Board of Trustees to compel a delivery to them of the books, papers, choses in action and assets.

The action resulted in a judgment by the lower court by which Sage and the old Board were directed to comply with the demands of the organization of new Trustees named in the last act of the General Assembly. An appeal was prosecuted to the Court of Appeals of Kentucky from the judgment of the lower court, and after much delay, on January 18, 1854, the Court of Appeals reversed the judgment of the lower court and reinstated the old Board as originally constituted and declared the act of the General Assembly of January, 1848, to be void.

By this time the lack of sufficient support, withdrawal of financial assistance from many sources, division of men and members of the denomination in their opinions upon questions of slavery then about to precipitate the war that was soon to follow, and the disintegration following the long litigation, soon caused the Trustees to abandon the purposes of the institution, and in 1855, the Trustees deemed it wise to sell the property and divide the same equally between the north and the south. A portion of the fund falling to the south was appropriated to the theological training at Georgetown, Kentucky, College, and a portion went to the Fremont Theological Institute in Ohio.

The property was sold in lots, and most of this area of land in the heart of Covington is today known as the Western Baptist Theological Institute subdivision. The college grounds and building were used as a hospital during the Civil War and afterward sold, and the main building on Eleventh Street is that referred to as owned by the Sisters of the Poor of St. Francis, wherein the St. Elizabeth Hospital was located for many years, and which

was razed in March, 1916. Thus ended the effort to building in Covington a great and magnificent institute of learning for the west.

The cornerstone of the college building on Eleventh Street was laid in 1840, and bore the following inscription -- "Western Baptist Theological Institute -- Founded A.D. 1840." The building was razed in March, 1916, and the writer, with the consent of Rt. Rev. Ferdinand Brossart, Bishop of Covington, with some members of the press, on a cold, bleak and windy day in March, watched the contractors remove the bricks covering the stone, and when it was removed no deposit of any kind was found in the stone, and nothing of interest comes from that source. The cornerstone was removed to the First Baptist Church, and later sent to the Southern Baptist Seminary in Louisville, where it now remains as a relic in its musuem.

Such is a brief history of this institution, which is not only of interest to the members of the Baptist denomination, but also the citizens generally as a part of the early history of Covington.

ORIE S. WARE

Originally prepared by Mr. Ware on September 1, 1914. Page 14 was revised in November, 1925.

ORIE SOLOMON WARE

Funeral Service
 First Baptist Church
 Covington, Kentucky
 Thursday, December 18, 1974

Rev. John Astles, Lakeside Presbyterian Church
 Fort Mitchell, Kentucky

The subject to which I address myself on this occasion is one which brings both sadness and joy to our hearts. Sadness, because we have lost a good and honored friend. Joy, because as Christians we are here in loving tribute to a great man who has lived among us.

Orie Solomon Ware was no ordinary man. Even those who knew him only casually realized they stood in the presence of a unique person, one who had attained excellence in his profession, and one who commanded the respect of all men. Long before his death he was recognized as a sage and as a living legend.

Born May 18, 1882, in Pendleton County, Orie Ware's keen mind turned to an absorbing interest in the law. On March 11, 1903, he was graduated from the Cincinnati Law School and began a brilliant legal career which has spanned more than three score and ten years.

His life has been lived in the most exciting period in the history of man. He has witnessed the discovery and use of electricity, the invention of the automobile, telephone, radio, and television. He witnessed the advent of undreamed of technological advances. He lived to see men travel in space and walk on the face of the moon. Yet in the midst of all these scientific marvels, Orie Ware became a marvel in his own right, for he walked across the face of the earth with integrity, exemplifying the noblest ideals and virtues of man at his best.

Orie Ware was no ordinary man. He was, above all else, a gentleman. He honestly believed that all men are equal. The rich and the poor, the educated and the illiterate, the young and the old, the high and the low, all received from him the same courteous respect and attention. His kind and gentle ways marked him as a man of sympathy and compassion.

Orie Ware was no ordinary man. He worked hard to achieve his high distinctions. As the poet expressed it:

The heights by great men reached and kept
 Were not attained in sudden flight.
 For they, while their companions slept,
 Were toiling upward in the night.

His arduous attention to the details of his profession quickly brought to him the recognition as a lawyer's lawyer. His positions of high responsibility were many. Permit me to mention just a few.

In 1914 President Woodrow Wilson appointed him Postmaster of the City of Covington.

In 1921 he resigned that position to enter the race for Commonwealth's Attorney of Kenton County. He ran against, and defeated, Stevens L. Blakely and Lou Brown and served as Commonwealth's Attorney for a period of five years.

Before the end of his full term he ran again for political office -- United States Congressman. In the Democratic primary of 1926 he ran against, and defeated, the Honorable Brent Spence and Mrs. Nora Layne, and became his Party's standard-bearer in the general election of 1926. In that election he ran against, and defeated, his Republican opponent, Emmett Daugherty, a Ludlow banker.

He took office as United States Congressman on March 4, 1927, and represented the people of his District for one full term. At the end of that term he chose not to run for re-election.

The years that followed were important ones to Orie Ware. He returned to his first love, the practice of law, and was regarded as one of the most outstanding and distinguished lawyers in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. These were busy and happy years for he was engaged in the practice of his profession with his two beloved sons, William O. Ware and James C. Ware.

On May 1, 1957, during the last illness of the late Judge Joseph P. Goodenough, he was asked by the Chief Justice of the Court of Appeals of Kentucky to serve as Special Judge of the Kenton Circuit Court, Criminal, Common Law, and Equity Division. He served in this position with dignity and distinction until his resignation on January 14, 1958. His last official act was to administer the oath of office to his successor, the Honorable Melvin T. Stubbs, as Judge of that Court.

Throughout his long career Orie Ware was an inspiration to his fellow lawyers, one to whom they turned for guidance and counsel. He was a lawyer's lawyer.

Orie Ware was no ordinary man. His remarkable, if not phenomenal, memory was a source of delight and amazement to all who knew him. In his mind there was a built-in memory bank that enabled him with almost total recall to give the dates, facts, and figures of significant events that occurred in his life time. Many of us have been astonished as he has recalled to us some of the important events of our own lives.

Orie Ware was no ordinary man, and it is our unshakable faith as Christians that his spirit has survived the shock of physical death, and he now lives in God's nearer presence as one of his special children.

MINUTESKENTUCKY BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

July 19, 1974

The Kentucky Baptist Historical Commission met at Fort Mitchell Baptist Church, Fort Mitchell, Kentucky, at 3:00 P.M. (EDT).

Following the Commission Meeting a tour of various places important to Baptists was made at 4:00 P.M. Places reviewed included Linden Grove Cemetery, perimeter of the Western Baptist Theological Institute, First Baptist Church, Covington (Black), and the President's Home, Western Baptist Theological Institute.

The Hostess Committee of the Fort Mitchell Baptist Church served dinner at the church at 6:30 P.M.

1. The Kentucky Baptist Historical Society was called together at 6:30 P.M. by President Leo T. Crismon. There were twenty-nine persons present.
2. A welcome was given by Pastor Jim Taulman.
3. George Raleigh Jewell read the minutes of the 1973 meeting and they were approved.
4. Dr. Frank Owen, Treasurer, gave his report. (See attached report.)
5. Dr. Owen also called attention to the Bicentennial Celebration in 1976. To emphasize our Baptist History, he urged that we have a brochure on our history available to distribute to the Convention meeting at Harrodsburg in 1975. The Society did give its approval to the publication of such a brochure by the Middletown staff.
6. Dr. Ronald Deering presented the Nominating Committee report:

Dr. Leo Crismon, President
 Rev. Wendell Rone, Vice-President
 Dr. Frank Owen, Treasurer
 Rev. Jim Taulman, Secretary

Mr. Jim Ware moved that these officers be approved. Motion carried.

7. Dr. Crismon conveyed the invitation of Rev. Herman Bowers, First Baptist Church, Frankfort, to meet with them on August 1, 1975. This was accepted unanimously.
8. Jim Taulman made an announcement regarding the Kentucky Baptist Heritage and urged that manuscripts for publication on Baptist History be sent him at Dixie Highway and Silver Avenue, Fort Mitchell, Kentucky 41017.
9. Mrs. Samuel B. Felts announced that a historical marker was to be erected on Shelbyville Road, Louisville, commemorating the site of the Bear Grass Baptist Church, the first Baptist church in the Louisville area. The church was later taken over by the Campbellism movement.
10. Dr. Ron Tonks, Assistant Executive Secretary of the Southern Baptist Historical Commission, Nashville, Tennessee, spoke briefly on (a) Baptist Information Retrieval System (BIRS) which is a computerized information system; (b) Oral History -- He stated that the Southern Baptist Convention Historical Society is taping oral interviews with former Convention presidents. To date, H. H. Hobbs, K. O. White, and L. D. Newton have been interviewed; (c) Baptist History and Heritage now has a circulation of more than 1550.
11. Jim Taulman introduced Mr. Orie Ware, a long time member of the First Baptist Church, Covington, who presented a paper on "The Western Baptist Theological Institute." (The paper will be published in the next issue of The Kentucky Baptist History and Heritage.)
12. Mrs. Samuel Felts recognized George Raleigh Jewell's valued service as secretary for the Historical Society for over thirty years and spoke of the contribution he had made to the Society.
13. Dr. George Jones, Executive Secretary of the Northern Kentucky Baptist Association, spoke of the involvement of the Ware family in Kenton County and Baptist life over the years.
14. Membership dues of \$37.50 was received.
15. The meeting was adjourned to meet at Frankfort, Kentucky, August 1, 1975.

KENTUCKY BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY FUND

September 1, 1973 through June 30, 1974

Balance, August 31, 1973	\$369.33
Additions:	
Membership Dues (Eddleman, Schuermeyer, and Harrison @ \$2.50)	7.50
Short-term Interest Earned	26.17
Deductions:	
Postage (June, 1974)	<u>(16.50)</u>
Balance, June 30, 1974	\$386.50

HISTORY OF NEW BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH

Verona, Kentucky

"Whereas the brethren living in the neighborhood called the Stephenson Settlement and belonging to New Salem Baptist Church meet according to a former appointment and after praise and prayer proceeded to their business." Their business being that constituting a new church to be called the New Bethel Baptist Church of Christ. This being the desire of the brethren because of the distance and old age of some.

"Be it therefore long remembered that on Saturday, the twenty-second of June in the year of our Lord, 1840, at the home of Zadock Stephenson twenty-five (25) members laid before a council composed of representatives from four (4) churches, namely: Mt. Zion, Poplar Grove, New Salem, Ten Mile, their written covenant and confession of Faith. These being accepted, those 25 charter members were:

"Dudley Stephenson, Nancy Stephenson, Zadock Stephenson, Delphia Stephenson, John T. Alexander, Margaret Alexander, Johnson L. Ballard, Hiram Ballard, Katherine Ballard, John Tindall, Martha Tindall, Nancy Vest, Sarah Hutchinson, William L. Brumback, Elender Brumback, Mary Ann

Brumback, Thomas Stephenson, Nancy Stephenson, Lewis Morris, Jane Morris, Margaret Bowling, Rhena Simpson, David Obee, Joshua Francis, and the clerk."

The new church evidently met in the Settlement until 1880, when they decided to build the brick construction over on the hill from Verona. This building was built at a cost of \$2,036, including the pews which were \$246, counting freight. The money was made up by subscriptions. While building, the brethren met at the Methodist Church in Verona.

One of the faithful pastors to be remembered was Rev. Laffe Johnson. All together, Bro. Johnson served a total of 37 years.

In 1926 the church purchased the Walton Methodist Church building in Verona. The price was \$1,000. This building served as a House of Worship until it was torn down in the summer of 1950. The new building which was built in 1950 and was dedicated the 29th day of October, 1950, now stands on the same site.

During the 131 years of glorious history, approximately 30 ministers have held pastorates. Starting with 25 members and services once a month in 1840, at the present time we have 448 members and full time services.

WHAT IS THE KENTUCKY BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY?

The Kentucky Baptist Historical Society is composed of men and women from all over the state who have joined together to record, preserve, and dispense information about the history of Baptists in Kentucky.

We need members. We need you. Our history as Baptists in Kentucky is rich and significant, and we must record and preserve it. The Kentucky Baptist Historical Society is the only organized group that is regularly recording and preserving the history of Kentucky Baptists. Your support of, and membership in, the Kentucky Baptist Historical Society is an assurance that those who follow us will be able to know the rock from which they are hewn.

Membership in the Society is open to any person -- Baptist or non-Baptist, Kentuckian or non-Kentuckian. Institutions and churches are encouraged to become members.

Annual dues: \$ 2.50

Lifetime dues: \$25.00
(Individual or institutional)

This membership provides you with a copy of the Kentucky Baptist Heritage. Dues are payable July 1 of each year. Please use the application form below for membership application, mailing to:

Jim Taulman
Dixie Highway and Silver Avenue
Fort Mitchell, Kentucky 41017

Make all checks payable to "Kentucky Baptist Historical Society."

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

THE KENTUCKY BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Street or Box Number

City and State

Zip code

Dues enclosed for _____ years at \$2.50 per year.

Dues enclosed for _____ lifetime or institutional dues at \$25.00.

Membership in the Society entitles one to receive each issue of The Kentucky Baptist Heritage.

Please detach application and mail to: Jim Taulman, Dixie Highway and Silver Avenue, Fort Mitchell, Kentucky, 41017. Make checks payable to: "The Kentucky Baptist Historical Society."

THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

of the

KENTUCKY BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY - 1871

- I. This organization shall be known as the Kentucky Baptist Historical Society.
- II. Its object shall be the collection, preservation, and publication of Baptist historical material; the stimulation of interest in our history; and the diffusion of a fuller knowledge of the past of our denomination and its leaders.
- III. There shall be an annual meeting of the Society in connection with the sessions of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, or at some other convenient time, when one or more addresses on historical subjects shall be delivered.
- IV. Any person may become a life-member of this Society on the payment of Twenty-Five Dollars (\$25.00); or an ordinary member by paying an annual fee of Two Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$2.50). The payment of the annual fee will entitle the members to all the publications of the Society for the corresponding year, and to its other privileges.
- V. The officers of the Society shall be a President, a Vice-President, and a Secretary-Treasurer, who shall be elected annually by the members of the Society. These officers shall constitute the Executive Committee of the Society, together with the other members elected annually. The President shall preside over the meetings of the Society, superintend the work of publication when ordered by the Society, and in general, promote the interests of the Society. The Secretary shall preserve the records of the Society, and in general, promote the interests of the Society. The Custodian of the Archives shall act as custodian of the materials gathered.
- VI. The Executive Committee shall have charge of all the business of the Society in the interim, order the disbursement of all funds, prepare the programs for the annual meeting, make arrangements for the publication of historical materials, etc. Either the President or any two members of the Executive Committee can call a meeting of the Committee, of which three shall constitute a quorum.
- VII. The Library of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky, shall be the depository of all historical materials collected.
- VIII. This constitution can be changed only after one year's notice and a vote of a majority of the members present.

BAPTIST INFORMATION RETRIEVAL SYSTEM

A Computerized Information Service

Lynn E. May, Jr.

Did you ever need information on certain subjects in preparing a sermon, a speech, an article, a term paper or an assembly program but not know where to find it? Library card catalogs readily guide you to books on the topics of your interest, but what about relevant materials in periodicals, newspapers, and other sources? A reference tool like the Southern Baptist Periodical Index, an annual subject and author index to forty-seven periodicals published by Southern Baptist Convention agencies, is a helpful guide to the periodicals included. On the other hand, if you wish to locate something you read in a state Baptist newspaper, a Baptist Press release, or even a convention annual last year, how can you find it without searching numerous sources page by page?

For years Southern Baptists have been publishing press releases, newspapers, associational and convention annuals, periodicals, newsletters, and many other sources as well as creating and filing unpublished records and manuscripts which become valuable resources in Baptist libraries and archives. Information needed by program leaders, pastors, denominational personnel, students, professors, and other researchers is often hidden away in these sources and never found and applied where it could do the most good in meeting current information needs. Countless hours are spent turning through endless pages of these materials searching for data relevant to particular subjects in which the researcher is interested. Even the best of researchers sometimes fail to locate information that could be most helpful to them. Whether you are seeking information on bus ministry, glossolalia, women's liberation, or a myriad of other subjects, the Southern Baptist Periodical Index is a useful guide to selected sources, but now there is more: the BAPTIST INFORMATION RETRIEVAL SYSTEM.

This centralized computer system being developed by the Historical Commission, SBC, with the assistance of several other Baptist agencies and institutions, is designed to provide reference information on a myriad of subject areas of concern to Baptists. The Baptist Information

Retrieval System (BIRS) pilot project launched January 1, 1974, is one of the most significant and far reaching ventures ever undertaken by the history agency of Southern Baptists. Already the project has resulted in the development of a Thesaurus (authority list of subject headings for indexing), the standardization and coordination of procedure for indexing materials, the development of a BIRS data base containing 41,438 data entries from 54 Baptist periodicals, newspapers, and other sources, and a retrieval program capable of retrieving data from the system by specific subject or person's name as the primary search field. Inquirers can narrow their search by adding to the primary search field one or more of the following delimiters: source document, publication date, author, media type, data originator, geographical area, and chronological period. By the end of 1975 when the pilot project is completed, the BIRS data base should contain a minimum of 75,000 subject and author entries from more than 80 different sources including such media types as manuscript collections, vertical files, annuals of associations and conventions, research reports, and photographs, as well as periodicals, newspapers, and other materials. During the last nine months of the year extensive retrieval tests will be made to examine thoroughly the capability of the system for information retrieval.

Primarily a bibliographic reference system, BIRS will direct users to specific articles, records, manuscripts, or other documents containing data by authors or on subjects in which the inquirer is interested. The broad availability of massive reference data through such a system can save countless hours of research time, eliminate much duplication of research effort, and provide coverage of much greater depth and breadth than is now possible. Students, educators, writers, pastors, denominational workers, and others desiring background and contemporary information on Baptists may submit queries to the Historical Commission and secure reference information in a relative short time when the system is fully operational. During the pilot project, however, printouts of reference data will be provided on request to organizations participating in the pilot system first and to others second within time and budget limitations. A study of retrieval costs during the pilot project will enable the Commission to establish a service charge for handling inquiries in an ongoing Baptist Information Retrieval System.

Participants in the pilot project who are indexing their materials and preparing data for entry into the system include the Alabama Baptist Historical Society, North Carolina Baptist Historical Collection, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (which are indexing for BIRS the Baptist state papers in Alabama, North Carolina, and Texas respectively), the Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board, Sunday School Board, Woman's Missionary Union, Brotherhood Commission, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, the Executive Committee, SBC, and Historical Commission, SBC. Other Southern Baptist agencies whose publications are included in the Southern Baptist Periodical Index are indexing for BIRS, but they not direct participants in the project. The Historical Commission is indebted to these and to all BIRS participants for their cooperation and assistance in this important project.

The Historical Commission staff and Wilbur Helmbold, Samford University librarian and BIRS consultant, have worked closely with Smith-Murray and Associates, a Birmingham computer firm, in designing and perfecting the program for Baptist Information Retrieval System. Belden Menkus, professional consultant, and others have also assisted. Participating agencies have assisted the Historical Commission in financing the operational costs of the pilot project. Smith-Murray and Associates are to be commended for their excellent work in program design and implementation. Problems have been encountered in the process of entering, filing, and retrieving data, as expected in developing a new system, but these are being resolved. Further refinement and perfection of the system will be accomplished during the remaining months of the pilot period. During the first year of operation, author and subject entries from the 1973 and 1974 issues of periodicals included in the Southern Baptist Periodical Index were filed in the BIRS data base. Over 19,000 data base entries from the three weekly Baptist newspapers came from the 1974 issues only. Further expansion of the data base in 1975 will broaden the scope of information available for study and research. The Baptist Information Retrieval System will prepare camera-ready copy in a cap and lower case format for the Southern Baptist Periodical Index-1974, thus eliminating the long, tedious task of manually compiling data, filing cards, and typing the manuscript for this annual publication. BIRS will produce this year a 1974 index to each of the three Baptist newspapers included in the BIRS data base. Printouts of bibliographic information in the data base on particular individuals

and/or subjects will be made in response to specific inquiries.

This innovative and far reaching project is demonstrating BIRS to be workable and viable as an ongoing, computerized information retrieval system for Southern Baptists. The principles and programs developed for BIRS are likewise applicable to the needs of other denominations and organizations for similar information systems.

BIRS will be able to make contemporary, historical, biographical, and other types of data readily available to church and denominational leaders in current planning, as well as to assist scholarly research in the future. All inquiries for information from BIRS on specific subjects or persons should be sent to the Historical Commission, SBC, 127 Ninth Avenue, North, Nashville, Tennessee 37234. Responses to search requests will be made in the form of computer printouts of bibliographical reference data from sources included in BIRS. Preference must be given to BIRS participants and their patrons, but the Commission will welcome your search requests and will handle as many as staff time and BIRS budget limitations permit during the pilot project.

