

KENTUCKY BAPTIST  
CENTENNIAL MEMORIAL.

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

ARTHUR PETER, CHAIRMAN,  
W. F. NORTON, Treasurer.  
J. L. BURROWS, COR. SEC.  
J. S. LONG, REC SEC,  
G. W. BURTON,  
S. L. HELM,

OFFICE—LOUISVILLE, KY.

At the meeting of the "General Association of Baptists in Kentucky," held in Frankfort, May 21—25, 1874, a committee was appointed "to prepare a full programme, and select the time and place of holding a memorial celebration, and report the same to the General Association in Louisville, in 1875." "Brn. Green Clay Smith, Henry McDonald, L. B. Woolfolk, J. M. Weaver and James B. Evans were appointed the committee."

This committee (with some changes of names, on account of absences) presented a report to the General Association held in Louisville, May 19—22, 1875, which, after full discussion and sundry amendments, was unanimously adopted, as follows :

### REPORT.

Your committee, to whom was referred the matter of suggesting some plan to successfully celebrate the Centennial Anniversary of Kentucky Baptists in May, 1876, and of securing a memorial fund for those grave interests which lie at the foundation work of this body and of the whole Baptist Brotherhood of the State, deem it not improper at this time to express the opinion that no occasion since the organization of the Baptists in Kentucky has been fraught with such profound interest as the one upon which we now enter.

One hundred years ago, less twelve months, and two months before the Declaration of American Independence, the first Baptist sermon was preached at Harrodsburg. From that day forward to the present time, this peculiar people of God have been faithful to the teachings and doctrines of God's Holy Word : and through all the trials, difficulties and adversities of the Revolution, the changes, troubles, and wars that followed, the Baptists have maintained their religious integrity, brotherly union, and missionary spirit ; and securing, as we trust, the divine approval, have grown from a mere handful to the large number of one hundred and one thousand white and thirty thousand five hundred colored membership. Notwithstanding this wonderful increase in numbers, it seems the work is just beginning properly to develope, calling for redoubled energy, more earnest prayer, a deeper consecration, and a far more liberal spirit in the dissemination and support of the pure Word of God, that all the people may hear and know the truth, and learn of Christ, "whom to know is life eternal."

While a great work has been done, for which all should be pro-

foundly thankful to God, not as much has been accomplished as might have been. The opportunity is now offered, once in a hundred years, for every Baptist to do something, nay great things for the Master's cause.

1. The increase in population in the State, the large membership of the churches, the thousands brought under Baptist influence, and the thousands who might be reached, call for more ministerial labor. We want more preachers in the field, and we want them prepared and well qualified to understand and teach the gospel, in the midst of so much error, to the acceptance and honor and glory of God, and the further increase and upbuilding of His kingdom in our midst. To this end we would make the Centennial and Memorial Celebration a means of sufficiently increasing the endowment fund to the Greenville Seminary, as to place that institution on a sure financial basis at the city of Louisville, where our young men, poor in the things of this world but rich in grace and love of our Lord Jesus Christ, can be so educated as to go forth and sow the seed which will bring forth fruit to the glory of God.

2. Our State Mission cause seems to move slowly ; it needs an impetus, and this memorial occasion is the time to give it a forward movement, inspirit the whole people and let them learn how much they can give, and how much they ought to give. They want to be shown that if, with the meager contributions heretofore given, we have, under God, carried our number from a few dozen to almost one hundred and fifty thousand, there can be no estimate scarcely placed upon the figures we may reach in a very short time, by a liberal, free, and large contribution for the year 1876. Let the people see what they can give, and then let them know what it accomplishes in one year, and there will be no lack, we believe, of means in the future. Let the mission work be taken out of the dragging groove in which it has been running during the past, and let it be done as it should be, and there will be no material falling off in the future.

3. Our Colleges also need our attention and more of our money. The number of young men throughout the state is very great who desire to obtain and are capable of taking a thorough education. These young men are without the means to secure this end, but they must not be neglected. The prosperity and success of our religious interests depend very greatly upon the advancement of these young

men. We would therefore arouse the people to a sense of their duty and make our Centennial instrumental in lifting our Colleges very greatly from embarrassment and placing them on a more solid foundation.

4. We must not overlook the interests of the Sunday-school: its objects and purposes must be fully discussed, and the children learn that their welfare and eternal salvation lie near every Baptist heart.

5. We must not forget the Orphans of our church and the little ones placed under our Christian care. This institution should be remembered in prayers and liberal donations.

Now, that the demands of these various interests may be realized, it is suggested:

1st. That each district association be requested to hold, during this year, a mass meeting at the time and place of its regular assemblage, to give one day, or such portion of time as may be necessary, to the objects proposed in this Centennial celebration, and that the churches and people be requested to give according as God hath prospered them. And further, that all contributions designated for any particular object be applied according to the direction of the donor; and that contributions undesignated be devoted to the object of education, which is to be the primary aim of this Centennial—one-half of all the undesignated funds to go to the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and the remainder to be equally divided between Georgetown and Bethel Colleges.

2d. That the circulars setting forth the purposes of the Centennial be published and mailed to every pastor and teacher and church in the State, asking their hearty co-operation in this great work; and that each pastor and preacher be constituted and appointed a special agent to collect funds and report the same, together with the names of the donors, to an executive committee to be appointed by this Association.

3d. That the Western Recorder be requested to secure an article for each week's issue, bearing on this subject; and also to present whatever else may be of interest to a successful celebration.

4th. That Rev. L. B. Woolfolk and Dr. B. Manly, Jr. be appointed to prepare and deliver, at the next meeting of this Association, a history of the rise and progress of the denomination in this State; the proceeds of the sale of which shall be for the benefit of the objects herein mentioned.

5th. That a committee of five be appointed, to be known as the Executive Committee of the Centennial and Memorial Celebration, vested with power to appoint county, church, district, and associational committees to further this work, to employ as best they can such aids as may be required otherwise, and do whatever in their judgment may be deemed best.

6. That the celebration be held in the city of Louisville, at such time as the Committee of Arrangements may designate, and that a committee of three be appointed to secure such place as may be best adapted for the purpose; to make arrangements with the railroads, steamboat and stage lines for the transportation of delegates to and from the anniversary, and with hotels, boarding houses and other places of entertainment.

7. That whereas, God in his mercy has spared to the denomination and State, our fathers in the ministry, Elders Wm. Vaughan, R. T. Dillard, E. G. Berry, B. Kemper, Jno. Halliday, Wm. Cross, and others, hereafter to be mentioned—men full of years and good works, but now almost ready to be gathered home—this Association will most sincerely pray our Heavenly Father to preserve them in life yet a little longer; and should they be alive a year hence, the church and brethren where they may reside be requested to convey them comfortably to the celebration, and this Association do most cordially and affectionately invite them to be present.

8 That the Executive Committee be instructed to invite brethren of other states to be present and unite with us in the Memorial Celebration.

GREEN CLAY SMITH.

HENRY M'DONALD.

J. M. WEAVER.

J. M. FROST,

A. F. BAKER.

In accordance with item 5th of the above report, the undersigned were appointed "The Executive Committee of the Centennial and Memorial Celebration."

In pursuance of the duties thus devolved upon them, the committee beg leave to lay before the Baptists of the State the following considerations and suggestions.

The great object of this movement is to raise a Memorial to commemorate the goodness of God—The Sovereign Father, the Redeeming Saviour, The Guiding Spirit, the one only living and true God, whom we worship and adore—toward our fathers and toward our churches.

We propose to raise a Memorial that shall express our *faith* in the doctrines and principles taught by our fathers, our *adherence* to them and our *love* for them. We would thus re-assert and honor those special tenets which have distinguished our Baptized Churches from all other religious sects, viz. Absolute spiritual freedom; personal conversion as essential to proper church membership; and the *direct* Mediatorship of Christ Jesus as essential to pardon and to heaven.

In this hundredth year since these doctrines began to be proclaimed in Kentucky we would raise an "Eben-ezer, saying, Hitherto hath the Lord helped us."

That we may see, as at one glance, the progress of these principles, peculiar to the Baptists, since Thomas Tinsley and William Hickman began to preach them in this territory, we append the following approximate statistics:

1776.	IN KENTUCKY.	1876.
No Association,		51 Associations,
No Church,		1118 Churches,
2 Ministers,		517 Ministers,
Not 30 Communicants,		136,700 Communicants,
No College,		2 Colleges,
No Academy or School,		16 Academies and Seminaries,
No Sunday School,		500 Sunday Schools.
1776.	IN NORTH AMERICA.*	1876.
4 Associations,		955 Associations,
250 Churches,		23,500 Churches,
180 Ministers,		15,000 Ministers,
30,000 Communicants,		2,100,000 Communicants,
1 College,	}	9 Theological Seminaries,
2 Academics,		34 Colleges,
	}	50 Incorporated Academies

\* The latest statistics published in the "Baptist Year Book" were for 1874. By adding the average annual increase of the past ten years to those tables we have the above figures for 1876. These statistics are therefore estimated as approximate, but we think not exaggerated.

What kind of a Memorial shall we raise ?

This has been a subject of deliberate thought and consultation among our wisest brethren in all parts of the country. The conclusion reached is that the fittest Memorial we can raise is a permanent Fund, the interest from which shall be forever devoted to the defense and elucidation of these evangelical principles we hold, in connection with the intellectual training of the youth of our own and of all future generations. Our educated men and women greatly influence and direct the public sentiment. Let the essential principles of evangelical truth be incorporated with our methods of higher culture, and popular opinion will be guided, along most useful and beneficent channels. Our main design, then, is to permeate our educational systems with our religion.

These, it seems to us, are more lasting and useful Memorials than granite shafts or bronze statues could be. These time will corrode and destroy. Significant and admirable they might appear. But to provide Memorials that shall be as moulds to shape the minds and hearts of future generations promises highest practical utility for supporting and spreading those principles we commemorate.

It is a grand conception! The more widely and thoroughly it is carried out the more beneficial and lasting will be the results. Those who furnish the best facilities and helps, in their schools, for intellectual culture will have the largest share in moulding and controlling the principles and sentiments of the people of the coming generations.

For reasons like these, more numerous and potent than can be set forth in a paper so brief as this must be, we invite universal cooperation in this grand Centennial endeavor. Can any one, with a Christian, Baptist heart, decline his aid in securing ends so full of promise and of power.

## METHODS.

1. To bring this whole subject directly to the attention of every Church in the state, and to solicit a contribution to this Memorial from every member.

2. To secure a sum, equal at least to an average of

ONE DOLLAR,

from every member of every Baptist Church, and from each indi-

vidual of their families, and from every regular attendant upon a Baptist congregation in the State.

3. To solicit more liberal contributions from those to whom the Lord has been liberal in His Providence, "according as God hath prospered him."

4. To carry out the recommendation of the General Association—that this whole subject shall receive prominent attention at the meeting of every District Association, and that every Pastor explain and give opportunities to the Churches to participate in this Memorial Celebration.

5. Roll Books will be furnished by this committee to each church desiring to co-operate in the movement, containing engraved certificates, one of which will be presented to every individual contributing ONE DOLLAR;—and Family certificates, enrolling the names of a household. In the margin of the books will be blanks, corresponding to the certificates, to be filled up with the names and amounts of each contributor to be returned to the committee, and to be preserved in the Library of one of the Colleges or of the Theological Seminary.

6. The Pastor, Clerk, or one of the Deacons to whom this circular may be sent, is earnestly requested to read it to the Church, and request the appointment of a small committee of Brethren and Sisters, whose duty it shall be, to correspond with this Executive Committee in Louisville; obtain from them Roll-books, Certificates, documents, &c.; arrange for one or more public meetings, secure speakers, and canvass the congregation for contributions.

7. Each donor may designate to what special purpose he desires his contribution to be appropriated. All undesignated funds, by direction of the General Association will be divided, one half to the Theological Seminary, and one fourth to each of the Colleges at Georgetown and at Russellville.

In behalf of the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky.