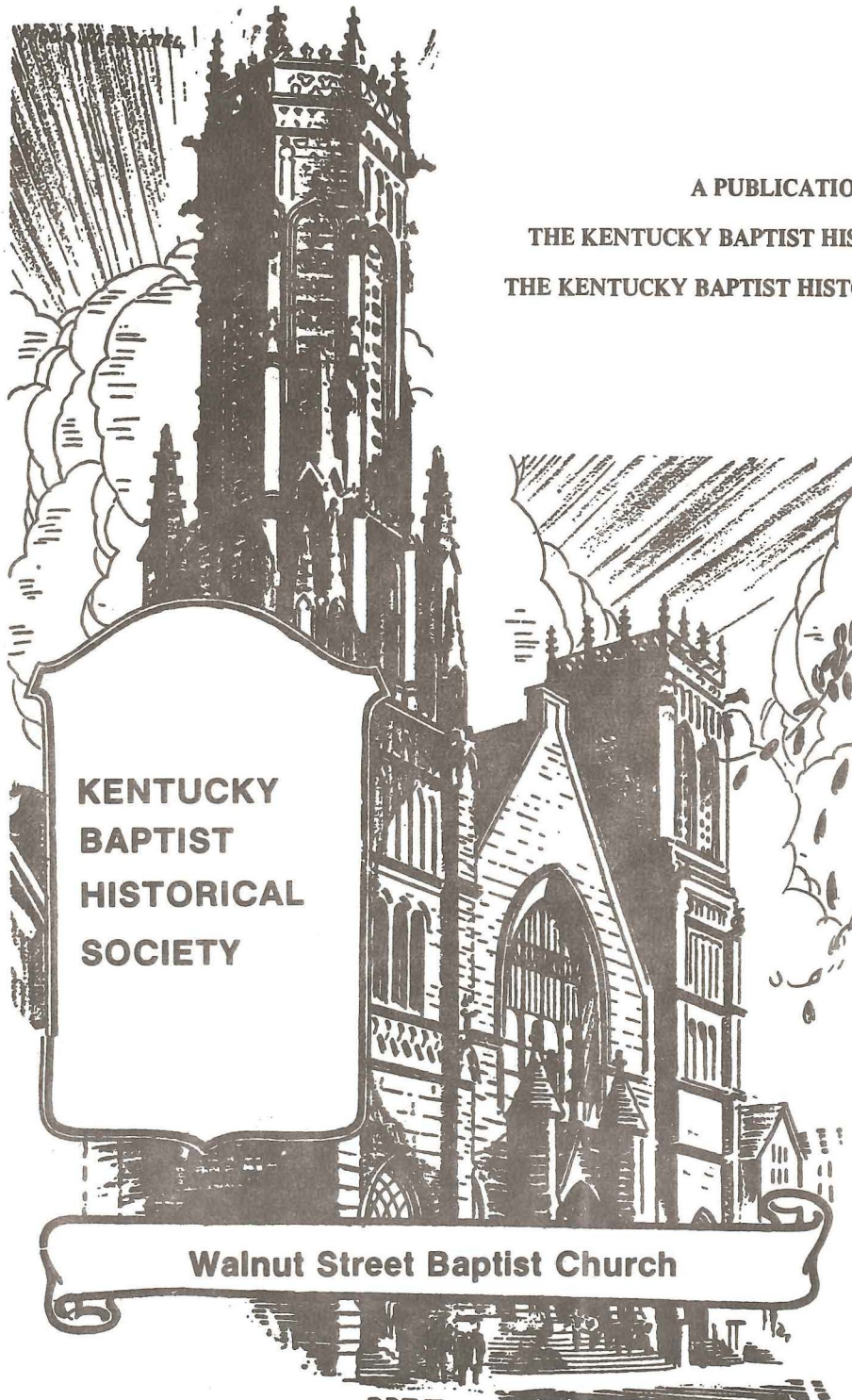


# THE KENTUCKY BAPTIST HERITAGE



A PUBLICATION OF  
THE KENTUCKY BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
THE KENTUCKY BAPTIST HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ANNUAL  
MEETING  
JULY 25, 1980  
AT  
MAYSLICK  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
MAYSLICK, KY.  
AND  
FIRST  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
MAYSVILLE, KY.

KENTUCKY  
BAPTIST  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

Walnut Street Baptist Church

### **DEDICATION TO TASK & SERVICE**

This issue of the Kentucky Baptist Heritage is humbly dedicated to Dr. Leo Taylor Crismon. He has given of his time and abilities to help the Library Ministry of the Southern Baptist Seminary at Louisville, Kentucky to become one of the foremost libraries of our time. He also given himself freely to the tasks of preserving the Historical Heritage of Kentucky Baptists through the years. We need more dedicated men like this in our Baptist ranks. May God continue to bless him with health and well being for many years to come.

## ACTIVITY IN LIVING HISTORY



After serving from November 1, 1969 to July, 1980, Dr. Robert S. Denny, General Secretary of Baptist World Alliance, will retire. Dr. Denny is a "living example" of how true history is made. He was born July 23, 1914 at Somerset, Kentucky to A. Sherman and Ada Thurston Denny. In a short time the Denny family moved to Lexington, Kentucky. The enviable industry which soon manifested itself in early youth was to be the impetus which would spawn a great career to God, to the Baptist denomination, and the world. He worked his way through school by working in a Ladies Department Store, as a janitor, as a Service station attendant, in the stockyards, and in Real Estate. He graduated from Henry Clay High School in 1932. Believing the high school commencement speaker when he said, "the commencement was only the beginning in life's journey", he went on to graduate first with a B. S. degree in Business and then, a Juris Doctorate degree in law in 1939. Three foundational steps were made in the year of 1939; (1) He graduated from the University of Kentucky with a Juris Doctorate degree, (2) his marriage to Mary Gunn Webb from Lexington, Kentucky, and (3) his acceptance of the Director of Student work at Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Religious Activities at Baylor University of Waco, Texas. In 1945 he became an Associate in the Student Work at the Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tennessee. He served in this capacity until 1956. Concurrently with the work at Nashville, he was Chairman of the Youth Committee of the Baptist World Alliance. This began the great career to which God had called him to do among Baptists of the World. With the determination to do his best, he entered into this work with a great spirit and enthusiasm. The Baptist World Alliance had truly made the right decision in obtaining his services. The next step in his career was to become the Associate Secretary of Youth for Baptist World Alliance in 1956. So well suited was he for this position that the eyes of the world and Baptist World

Alliance watched him as he moved in and out among them with dignity and ease. When it came time for the BWA to seek out a new Secretary General of their body after the death of Josef Nordenhaug that it was only natural that they would look to Dr. Denny as the best suited person to succeed in this position. He was the first American to step up to this position since 1948. In 1959, Tragedy in a personal nature struck Dr. Denny when his wife of twenty years was called home lby God "But our God who is able to supply all our needs", gave to him a new "help meet in the person of Jane Ray Beam of Nashville Tennessee. He work with Baptist World Alliance took first as the Associate Secretary of Youth to Rio De Janeiro - 1953, Toronto - 1958, Beirut - 1963, and Berne - 1968 in Youth Conferences. He also assisted in planning and directing Baptist World Alliance Congresses in London - 1955, Rio De Janeiro - 1960, Miami - 1965 and Tokyo - 1970. His accomplishments are so numerous that it would take a mountain of paper to record, his dedication to his task so commendable that thousands throughout the world stand ready to attest to the fact of his service to God, to the world and to Baptist of all Nations. This article can only be an infinitesimal portion of living history provided by Dr. Denny.

E. C. Goins

Friday, January 21, 1977 - Rocky Mountain Baptist - Page 2.

## PEOPLE WHO HAVE IMPRESSED ME

Phil Card

# BAPTIST WORLD

**BORN** IN **SOMERSET, KENTUCKY**

**DEGREED BY** **U. of KENTUCKY** and **GEORGETOWN COLLEGE**

**ASSOCIATE SECRETARY - YOUTH BWA 1956 - 1969**

**GENERAL SECRETARY Baptist World Alliance WASHINGTON, D.C. 1969**

**WORKED WAY THROUGH SCHOOL:** **LADIES GEAR STORE**, **ANNON**, **SERVICE STATION**, **STOCK YARDS**, **REAL ESTATE**

**CONFERS WITH KINGS, PRESIDENTS, AMBASSADORS, ETC.**

**MEMBER, ROTARY INTERNATIONAL**

**HOBBIES: MAKING and FIXING THINGS!** **GOLF**, **PTC**, **YARD WORK**

**ROTARY MEMBER IN UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY**

**ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD - NASHVILLE**

**DIRECTOR, BAPTIST STUDENT UNION LSU BATON ROUGE**

**1939-1941** **1941-1945** **1945-1956**

**W** **B** **A**

# ROBERT S. DENNY

Robert Denny, General Secretary, Baptist World Alliance, Washington, D.C., born, Somerset, Kentucky; Dir., Religious Activities, Baylor University; Associate, Department of Student Work, Baptist Sunday School Board; present position since 1969; Rotarian; intercedes with government leaders on behalf of 34 million Baptists in 141 nations; feels at home with people of various nationalities, social, cultural, and economic strata; friends with presidents, dictators, kings, ambassadors, as well as church leaders.

**KENTUCKY**  
**BAPTIST**  
**HERITAGE**

Kentucky Baptist Periodical

Vol VI

No. 3

E. C. Goins, Editor

Published by the Kentucky Baptist Historical and the Kentucky Baptist Historical Commission.

Published at the Kentucky Baptist Convention,  
 Post Office Box 43433

Middletown, Kentucky 40243

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Manuscripts for publication are solicited. Material dealing with Kentucky Baptists in a general or specific way should be sent to E. C. Goins, 120 Birch Drive, Nicholasville Kentucky 40356. Manuscripts should be typed, double spaced. Only those manuscripts submitted with a stamped, self address envelope, will be returned.

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## THE BOOK REVIEW CORNER

THIS IS A NEW FEATURE OF THE KENTUCKY BAPTIST HERITAGE. IT IS MY PERSONAL HOPE THAT THESE PAGES IN THE FUTURE WILL REFLECT THE BEST IN THE WRITING OF KENTUCKY BAPTISTS.

A COUNTRY BOY USED BY THE LORD; An Autobiography, by Otis Webster Yates, New York, Vantage Press.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Otis Webster Yates was born May 23, 1888 in Chatham County, North Carolina (Near Durham), a son of Joseph and Ardelaine Scott Yates. He accepted the call to preach in 1909 which was one year before his graduation from Cary High School, Cary, North Carolina. In 1914 he graduated from Wake Forest College, North Carolina with a B.A. degree. He continued his education at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky where he received the Th M degree in 1917, and the TH D degree in 1918. The Georgetown College, Georgetown, Kentucky conferred upon him a Doctorate degree in 1931. Continuing his education at the George Peabody College, Nashville, Tennessee, he received the Ph D degree in 1937. Dr. Yates has held pastorates in North Carolina, Arkansas and Kentucky. An able and capable teacher, he was Teacher, Dean and President of Bethel College, Russellville, Kentucky, Professor of history and economics, Western Teachers' College, Bowling Green, Kentucky, and Head of the Bible Department, Ouachita Baptist College, Arkadelphia, Arkansas. He occupied the position of Promotional Director of Georgetown College, Georgetown, Kentucky and was Executive Secretary of The Central Baptist Hospital, Lexington, Kentucky where he raised funds to build the hospital. In addition to the book being reviewed, he wrote another book, "A Good Solider of Jesus Christ". An interpretation of First Timothy - 1946, he wrote the Sunday School lessons for the Arkansas Baptist Sunday School Board, Little Rock, Arkansas and reviewed manuscripts and books for the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tennessee.

E. C. Goins

### Review:

For persons who are interested in Kentucky Baptist history and Kentucky Baptist Institutions this autobiography by O. W. Yates contains many incidents which will contribute to their understanding of Kentucky Baptist Life.

In addition to the contributions which Dr. Yates has made to the life and work of Kentucky Baptists he fits into a pattern of Baptists from North Carolina who have come into Kentucky and made Contributions to Kentucky Baptist life beginning with the Boone Family in the 1770's.

Also the name of Yates relates to the noted missionary to China, Matthew Tyson Yates (1819 - 1888), his kinsman, who served the Foreign Mission Board in China 1847 until his death in 1888. This Southern Baptist Missionary consciousness is characteristic also of Kentucky Baptists.

Leo T. Crismon

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**A BRIEF HISTORY**  
**of**  
**MOUNT FREEDOM BAPTIST CHURCH**

**1832 – 1976**

**by Jerry Hopkins**

The first meeting of the people of the Mt. Freedom Community, Jessamine County, Kentucky was held on the third Saturday of June in 1832. It was agreed at this time to meet the 4th Saturday and Sunday of every month, and to be constituted into a church "agreeable to Gospel Order." After deferring the organization in July, the church was duly constituted and organized on the third Friday in September, 1832. The presbytery was moderated by the Rev. John Rice, pastor of the Shawnee Run church in Mercer County, and the corresponding messengers present represented six churches – Hickman, Mt. Gilead, Boggs Fork, Tates Creek, Shawnee Run, and Mt. Pleasant. The church at this time adopted a covenant and article of faith which was orthodox and usual for a Baptist constitution for the church. The present constitution of the church is basically the one adopted here, as the church in modern times has not undertaken a revision of it. There were fourteen charter members of the church.

Several firsts were recorded in a short time. The church joined the Boone's Creek Association. Brother Isaac Minter, a charter member, was called upon to exercise "His Gift of Prayer and Exhortation" for the church and was the first to preach to the body. John Rice was the first pastor called to the church and the first one to refuse the call. Isaac Minter was the first person to whom the church granted a letter of dismissal (February 1833) and Elizabeth Payne was the first member to be received



by the church in April 1833. Communion was observed in May of 1835 in a joyous service, and the first pastor of the church accepted his charge in May of 1833. He was John Dean of Madison County. The first deacon who was elected was Isaac Chrisman who was ordained in August, 1833.

Because Mt. Freedom was a small and poor church, and because there was a tremendous lack of Gospel Ministers, the church had difficulty in securing and keeping a preacher. At this time – 1835-1837 – the male membership of the church was appointed a pulpit committee to find a preacher. The first revival meeting of the church was held in 1837 resulting in 31 whites and 7 negroes joining the church. One of the revivalists, Josiah Leake, was called as pastor, and he served until 1840. During this period of the church's life there was a great concern with church discipline of the members. Drunkenness, unsound doctrine, adultery were all causes of exclusion from the church body. More than 40 such cases of church discipline were recorded before 1860.

The financial strength of the church was weak as is evidenced by the janitor's report for 1839. Joseph Minter, a deacon and trustee, was the janitor at 25c per meeting and at his death the church yet owed his widow 87½c.

On the scene of the history of the church at this time appears a man who influenced the life of Southern Baptists significantly, James R. Graves. During the protracted meeting of 1842, Graves joined the church upon the transfer of his letter and examination of his doctrine. He played a prominent part in the community life and in the church life. In July, 1842, he served as a delegate to the Boone's Creek Association, and a full page of his script was preserved as he also served as clerk pro-tem of the church. In April, 1843, Graves and R. G. Rowland were invited to preach to the church, and he served on the committee which chose the lot on which the church hoped to erect their own building. It is recorded by special meeting of the church in October, 1858, that Graves and Rowland were ordained to the Gospel Ministry by the Church in October, 1842. By 1858, Graves was a famous preacher.

The 1840s were an exciting time for the church. It was in these pre-Civil War years that the church experienced much growth and prosperity. It was also the time of the bitter church split which was to warn the church that no good can come of a vindictive discipline. The episode can be called "the parable of the fiddle."

Mason Owens was pastor of the church when Peter Campbell objected to his recall on the charge that he had seen "a fiddle in Owens" house and had seen Owens trying to play it." The church dismissed the charge as not morally wrong, but the split was on. Owens then accused Campbell's friend, John Bradshaw, with un-Christian conduct toward Owens. The church sustained Owens and excluded Bradshaw. After several attempts to reconsider the exclusion, the church finally restored him. Owens then resigned and asked for his letter, but the church instead called in ministerial brethren to seek a solution. Bradshaw then accused Owens of falsehood and insincerity, and on strong testimony the church suspended all the privileges of Owens. In July the church excluded Owens, and as a result of the Owen's group attempting to represent the church at the 1847 Associational Meeting, his exclusion was announced to all the Association and published in the State Baptist paper. One of the sad conclusions of this episode was that Bradshaw was excluded in 1853 for bad language.

In 1848-49 the church was recuperating from the preceding episode. Several of those who quit or were excluded were restored under the leadership of T.I. Drane. In 1850 the church joined the Methodist in building a union church building. During the pastorages of Rowland, Cooke and Clark, the church was at a low ebb. Often there were too few present to conduct business. From the time of the pastorate of Elijah Neal in 1850 to 1885 the records and activities of the church are interrupted with jumps of up to 4½ years in the records. During this period several things of importance were accomplished, however.

In 1868 the church joined the Elkhorn Baptist Association of which it is now a member. In 1870 the church voted to begin a Sabbath School, although no mention is made of one meeting until June, 1887, it is assumed there was one prior to that. In 1873 the District Board of Missions was petitioned for aid in support of the church's pastor. The District group helped the church often. In November, 1883, the church bought the Methodist interest in the building for \$200. In 1884 F. H. Lowry was baptized and ordained a deacon in 1888, and John C. Cox was ordained a deacon in 1885. Both of these men became stalwarts in the life of the church in the early 1900s .

Under the leadership of B. F. Taylor the church extended "an arm of the church" to High Bridge, and saw much result from the move. In 1891 the church began a more systematic way of supporting missions in that an offering was taken every Sunday. In October, 1897, the church conferred with Clover Bottom Baptist Church about starting a church in Wilmore, and under the leadership of G. W. Wheatley the church voted, in August of 1900, by a vote of 12 to 4, to move to Wilmore. The old property was sold to J.C. Cox for \$300.

In 1904 the church began proceedings to buy pews for the building. With the aid of \$60 from sister churches they were bought and paid for by 1905.

The finances of the church were just beginning to rise in 1910. From the \$150 per year that was paid the pastor in 1840, to the \$400 paid to G. W. Telford in 1910, the church, under the leadership of Clarence Walker went full time in 1912 and the pastor's salary went to \$800. Also in 1912, George Cox was one of three deacons to be ordained. Together with F.J. Allender, who was made a deacon in 1922 and Harland Wells who was ordained in 1926, he was one of 3 deacons with over 30 years of service – being a deacon 47 years.

Electric lights were installed in the building and a parsonage built in 1913. On Missions Day in April, 1915, the interest and prosperity of the church were demonstrated with an attendance of 203 and an offering of \$123. Only recently has the church surpassed these records.

In 1918, under the leadership of A. J. Clere, the church proposed and built some Sunday School rooms at the back of the building at a cost of \$2,500. E. H. Blakeman came to the church in 1919 as the first pastor called on an indefinite call, and in that year the church began extensive improvements to the building. Estimated at a cost of \$1,200 the amount went to nearly ten times that amount before the church was through. At the same time the church accepted a \$5,000 goal to help retire the debt of the Convention. These two large responsibilities coupled with the coming years of depression in the 1930s was to lay a heavy burden on the church.

The church was experiencing large additions to its membership in these years. Prosperity was a part of the church's life and the church was in fellowship. In 1926 the church organized th BYPU

with Miss Grace Duncan as president. And in 1929 the church offered J. M. Roddy \$1,800 per year and moving expenses to come as her pastor. This was the highest amount paid the pastor until 1946 – though it often was under this amount. But during the depression years the church was under the pressure of retiring the building debt. Church sales were used and homecoming days with goals set for the building funder were also used. According to the report of older members, the parsonage was sold in 1939 and the proceeds (\$3,000) was used to retire the debt and pay the preacher's salary. C. D. Boozer was pastor at that time and served longer than any other pastor up to that time – 9 years and 11 months. In 1940, the church had the first Vacation Bible School which was recorded. It was to become an annual ministry of the church.

In 1943 under the leadership of Dudley Pomeroy, the present parsonage was bought from C.C. Glass for the sum of \$1,800.

Also in 1943 the first several attempts to sell the old church property and to relocate the church was recorded. It was stated by the vote of the church that the property was not for sale at any price and a copy of the resolution was sent to the Trustees of Asbury Seminary. The issue was raised again under the pastorate of Charles Graves, and again it was unanimously rejected by the church in 1944.

In 1945, under the leadership of John Kurtz, a new furnace was put in the church building. A song leader was employed at a cost of \$25 per month, and the issue of the selling of the church property was again brought up. B.C. Rose moved to reconsider to sell the property and George Cox spoke of possible locations but the church defeated the motion to reconsider.

In 1946 the Central Baptist Hospital drive was begun with an initial offering of \$650, and the church later accepted a goal of \$2,100 toward the project. B.C. Rose was chairman of that committee.

Under the leadership of Pastor Joseph Dick Estes, the church in 1949 adopted the six point system for Sunday School and the eight point record system for BTU. Both of these record systems remain indispensable in the progress of the Sunday School and BTU today. In 1950 the church began construction of rest rooms at the back of the church. Under the leadership of Pastors Fred Richardson and Vernon Perkins, the church progressed toward goals and work. Converts were added and classes begun. Under the leadership of A.L. Douglas, the Sunday School was partially departmentalized which was the basis for the complete grading of the Sunday School in 1959.

In 1953 the issue of selling the church property was again brought up, and a committee to investigate the prospects of selling was appointed. A called meeting was voted for April 1956, and at that meeting it was unanimously decided to sell if the right price and location could be obtained. The matter rested there, for the pastor resigned in that year.

In December of 1956, Don Manuel became the pastor. The Lord graciously led the church forward in wonderful ways in the next three years. Over 150 additions to the church were recorded and the attendance and finances of the church increased substantially. It was in the area of building that the Lord's greatest leadership was displayed, however. Acting upon the previous vote of the church and as a result of a request by the Seminary, the church appointed an investigating committee to negotiate for the sale of the building and for the purchase of a new location for the church. On January 19, 1956, the committee reported to the church in a special business meeting and as a re-

sult of the report the church voted to sell their property to Asbury Theological Seminary for \$80,000 and to buy the Lewallen property at Main and Lexington Avenues in Wilmore. The transactions were accomplished and the work on a new building was begun with an official ground-breaking ceremony in September 1958. Under the leadership of the Supervisory Committee – Henry Carl, chairman, Hardin Underwood and George Goodlett—the work progressed rapidly. J.G. Winburn was added to the committee upon the loss of Henry Carl, and Hardin Underwood was made chairman. The building was finished for dedication on September 12, 1959 – 127 years from the founding of the church. Built at a total cost of \$127,000 and adequately seating 400 people, the building represents the work of our forefathers and our dreams for our children. To God be the Glory.

Following Don Manuel came E. L. Haddix who stayed only a few months. He resigned the church to assume the pastorage of a Baptist church in Germany ministering to American military personnel.

For a time the church was without a pastor after the resignation of E. L. Haddix. Then the Lord led the church to call D. Richard Snell. Dick Snell came to the church in the fall of 1961 and was to remain with the church the longest of any pastor. He was pastor and servant among us for the longest period of any pastor. He was pastor and servant among the people for thirteen years. A significant community-wide ministry to elderly people was inaugurated under his ministry – The Golden Age Fellowship – which continues to minister.

Shortly after Dick Snell's resignation, J. D. Hyatt was called as pastor of the church. After staying only a few months, he resigned the work to go to a Florida pastorage.

In November 1975 Jerry B. Hopkins was called as pastor. He came to Mount Freedom from the Tates Creek Baptist Association and Bethlehem Baptist Church where he had been pastor on two different occasions (1966 - 1969 and 1974 - 1975).

A significant part of Mount Freedom's history has been its missionary interest and giving. The church continues in this strain today giving to all mission causes in the Southern Baptist Convention. Being a part of this great tradition of missionary outreach that extends literally throughout the whole world is exciting.

**A MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP**

**TO THE**

**KENTUCKY BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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Desiring to be a member of the Kentucky Baptist Historical Society, I hereby make application for membership.

It is my understanding that upon the payment of annual dues I will be entitled to receive all the publications of the Society for the corresponding year, as well as its other privileges.

Signed. \_\_\_\_\_

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