

NEWS SERVICE OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

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BAPTIST PRESS

Theo Sommerkamp, *Assistant Director*

July 29, 1959

First History Writers Conference Reported

RIDGECREST, N. C.--(BP)--The first history writers' conference sponsored by the Southern Baptist Historical Commission was held this year at Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly. The leaders of this conference were Robert A. Baker, Fort Worth, professor of church history at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Lynn E. May, Jr., Nashville, director of research for the Historical Commission.

The conference was held in conjunction with the Baptist Sunday School Board's writer's conference and the Foreign Mission Board's annual week at the summer assembly.

The conference was designed especially to assist those who were interested in writing histories of Baptist churches, associations, or conventions. The workshop-type of program was followed, giving those who were in attendance the practical "how-to-do" approach in historical writings.

During the past five years, interest in Baptist history-writing has increased and a larger number of people are becoming aware of the need of a written record of our churches, associations and institutions, according to Commission leaders.

This increase in interest, they added, is in a large measure due to the publication of the two-volume Encyclopedia of Southern Baptists in 1958. About 900 writers were enlisted in the production of the Encyclopedia and many of them have continued their interest in writing.

This interest, it was reported, has spread and those becoming interested writing historical sketches have expressed need for guidance. This writer's conference was designed to meet such a need.

Most of those attending were interested in a particular project of history-writing and sought specific assistance. Others were generally interested in seeing that history is written, and attended the conference for inspiration.

Baker, who has written several volumes on Baptist history, cited his experiences and furnished background and practical help. May pointed out the techniques of research and writing that complemented Baker's addresses.

Represented in the more than 30 who enrolled for the 1959 conference of history writers were college presidents, history teachers, missionaries, associational and church historians, institutional historians, and other representatives, and others.

-30-

Wake Forest Graduates 60 Summer Seniors

WINSTON-SALEM, N. C.--(BP)--James W. Mason of Laurinburg, one of the state's prominent Baptist laymen and a former member of the state Senate, will address the Wake Forest College summer school commencement Aug. 8.

About 90 seniors in four categories will receive degrees in the following categories: bachelor of laws, arts, science and business administration.

About 600 students are attending the summer session. In addition more than 60 teachers from 11 states attended a six-weeks summer institute for high school teachers of science and mathematics that ended July 24. The institute was sponsored by the National Science Foundation.

Registration for the fall term will begin Sept. 14 with classes beginning Sept. 16. Freshmen and transfer students will arrive on the campus Sept. 10 for a four-day orientation period.

-30-

July 29, 1959

2

Baptist Press

Indiana Budget
Calls For Expansion

PLAINFIELD, Ind.--(BP)--A recommended budget in the amount of \$134,150.00 for 1960 has been approved by the Executive Board of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana in its meeting on Saturday, July 25 according to Executive Secretary E. Harmon Moore.

The budget will be presented to the Convention for final adoption in its annual session in November.

The 1960 recommended budget maintains a division of funds between the state and Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program with 25 per cent for SBC causes and 75 per cent for state purposes. There are no preferred items in the budget.

The new budget calls for two additional missionaries for the area program of missions for 1960. This will bring to six the total number of missionaries.

A further recommendation to the Convention calls for a nine-member Long Range Planning Committee. This committee will formulate recommendations for the convention's program for the next twenty-five years.

-30-

ATTENTION EDITORS, Correction:

Baptist Press release dated July 26, "North Carolina Elects Brotherhood Secretary," second paragraph, "NAME BARNES" should be NANE STARNES.

Baptist Press

-30-