

# BAPTIST FEATURES

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## Civil War Centennial And Church Records

Interest in microfilming records of churches more than 100 years old has been speeded up by the centennial observance of the Civil War. Centennial commissions have been set up in many states to discover and microfilm all the old records available for research.

Microfilm programs have been in operation in several states to photograph the minutes of all churches more than 100 years old. This interest in old records has aroused new interest in church minute books on the part of many Baptist churches. Steps have been taken to preserve old record books and to write histories of churches because of this Civil War centennial observance.

Baptist churches having their minutes microphotographed by centennial commissions have been asked to present a print of the film to the Baptist historical society of the state and the Historical Commission, Southern Baptist Convention. The churches may maintain copies of the films and deposit their old books in the state Baptist historical society for safe keeping.

In event a church has not had a centennial commission to microphotograph the minutes, steps should be taken immediately to have the records preserved in this manner, historical commission leaders advise.

Information will be released soon regarding a co-operative project of the Southern Baptist Historical Commission and the Baptist Sunday School Board microfilm unit for microphotographing church minute books. The church administration department of the Sunday School Board will promote the project.

Church records should be microphotographed in order to assure their safe keeping, and to share their historical information with history students.

The small expense involved is not to be compared with the value of the records preserved. In many instances, the cost for a microfilm print is not as much as the rent on a safety deposit box at the bank for keeping the records. The old books may be deposited with the state Baptist historical society for safe keeping in a fireproof building without charge to the church. The microfilm copy can be used by the church when needed.

January 23, 1960

**Baptist Leaders Get  
Woman's Viewpoint**

NEW ORLEANS--(BP)--A state executive secretary's wife will give the lady's viewpoint in an address to the state Baptist leaders at their meeting here Feb. 15-17.

The Baptist officers, administrative heads of state Baptist conventions and associations affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention, meet each winter.

Mrs. Searcy S. Garrison of Atlanta, Ga., will have 25 minutes to tell of "The Significance of the Secretary's Home Life." Her husband is executive secretary of Georgia Baptist Convention.

The state executive secretaries' group has no official standing but, having many common interests in administering Baptist state missions and related work, their discussions here assume significance.

Ralph A. Phelps, Jr., president of Ouachita Baptist College, Arkadelphia, Ark., will lead a session on "An Examination of the Denominational College." Except for seminaries, Southern Baptists' higher education is carried on through state Baptist organizations.

Southern Baptist Hospital, an institution of the Southern Baptist Convention located in New Orleans, will be host at a luncheon during the session. General host for the entire three-day gathering is Louisiana Baptist Convention.

Following custom, the secretaries meet at the same time and place as the Southern Baptist Press Association, which includes state Baptist paper editors and other journalists employed by Baptists. With the exception of one or two joint fellowship meetings, the secretaries and editors hold separate conferences.

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**2 Agencies Sponsor  
Conference On Aging**

(1-23-60)

LOUISVILLE--(BP)--Carver School of Missions and Social Work here and the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention will jointly sponsor a conference on the aging here April 11-13.

Theme of the conference will be "Southern Baptists' Ministry with and for Older People."

Invitations to the conference will go to all secretaries of state Baptist groups affiliated with Southern Baptists. The state secretaries will be invited to attend and to bring their denominational staff who are employed in this phase of work.

An increasing number of state Baptist groups have established homes for the aging or have created committees to study such a program. An attendance of at least 100 is expected.

Several aspects of a religious ministry to the aging will be considered. This includes both the institutional approach, carried on by a state Baptist group, and activities in local Baptist churches carried on for the elderly.

Among those present for the three-day conference will be superintendents of homes for the aging already operated by Baptists. Resource conference personnel will include nationally-known leaders in the field, sponsors announced.

Nathan C. Brooks, Jr., Louisville, is president of the host school, and A. C. Miller, Nashville, is executive secretary of the Christian Life Commission.

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The Christian Life Commission has held conferences on the subject in 1956 and 1957 and the recreation department of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville recently led a conference on recreation for older people.

The commission expects to conduct two regional conferences later in 1960.

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Illinois Authorizes  
Student Center Plan

(1-23-60)

CARBONDALE, Ill.--(BP)--Directors of Illinois Baptist State Association here authorized start of construction of a long-awaited student center at Champaign as early this year as possible.

Champaign is home of the University of Illinois. Southern Baptists through Illinois association have a chair of Bible, teaching courses in religion, and a Baptist Student Union.

The center will be constructed on the unit plan with about 60 per cent of the building to be erected in the first construction phase. Baptist state leaders believe the completed building will run about \$750,000.

The state association already owns a \$120,000 building site. Construction will be financed through a loan.

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Arkansas Acquires  
New Building Site

(1-23-60)

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.--(BP)--The site for a new office building for Arkansas Baptist State Convention has been secured in West Little Rock, S. A. Whitlow, executive secretary of the convention's executive board, has announced here.

The 1½-acre plot is in the 6400 block on W. Markham, just across the street from the entrance to the multi-million dollar new Plaza shopping center.

The only contingency is that the site be re-zoned for business purposes. The property was purchased from Dr. H. C. Berry.

The new building is expected to be erected in the next two or three years.

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CORRECTION:

Spelling of name in Baptist Press (Nashville) story of 1-16-60 "New Mexico Reopening Remote Medical Center" should be Dabbs, rather than Babbs as sent. Please make this change in name of doctor called to the center.

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