

April 26, 1959

Commission Elects
Davis C. Woolley

NASHVILLE--(BP)--An Alabama Baptist historian and educator has been elected executive secretary-treasurer of the Historical Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention here.

He is Davis Collier Woolley, director of extension for Christian education at Howard College, Baptist school in Birmingham, Ala.

Woolley will succeed Norman W. Cox of Nashville when Cox retires Aug. 31. J. P. Edmunds of Nashville, Commission chairman, announced the election.

The executive secretary-elect has a background of experience in several areas of Baptist life. A graduate of Howard College, where he majored in history, Woolley subsequently attended Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He received the doctor of theology degree in 1945.

During his seminary days, he was pastor of Waddy, Ky., Baptist Church for four years. Prior to attending Southern Seminary, he was secretary of Baptist student work on the campus of Alabama Polytechnic Institute, Auburn, Ala., from 1935-1940, and state Training Union and Baptist student secretary for Alabama Baptist State Convention, Montgomery, Ala., 1940-42.

After graduating from the seminary Woolley was pastor of First Baptist Church, Palatka, Fla., from 1946-1953.

In his position at Howard College, Woolley has directed the college's adult education program conducted in various communities throughout Alabama. The "Howard Plan" of adult Christian education has been a pattern for other states.

He also has been noted for his activity in Baptist historical circles. Recently, he was among the leaders of a Baptist History Writers' Workshop in Alabama, held on the Howard campus. It was the first of its kind in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Woolley wrote several monographs about Alabama Baptists for the Encyclopedia of Southern Baptists published last year.

Cox, present executive secretary of the Historical Commission, described his successor as having "through the years . . . shown an absorbing interest in securing the basic materials of Baptist history. He has proved himself a gifted writer on historical subjects."

Edmunds said, "After much study, discussion, prayer, and a personal interview with him, we confidently believe that Davis C. Woolley will be a worthy successor to Dr. Cox and will make our Commission a capable and efficient executive secretary."

Woolley is a native of Tuscaloosa, Ala., born Sept. 22, 1908. He married Miss Kate Fristoe Wilkins of Greensboro, N. C., in June, 1942. They have five children.

Mrs. Woolley, who has a master's degree, taught for six years in the women's division, University of North Carolina, before their marriage.

Woolley was president of the Southern Baptist Extension Education Association in 1956-57.

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TO BAPTIST EDITORS:

We regret that no picture is available immediately, either from the Historical Commission office in Nashville or the publicity office of Howard College. We expect to have one in the very near future to supply your need.

Baptist Press

Little Rock Men Take
School Responsibility

ARKADELPHIA, Ark.--(BP)--Full control of Baptist High School in Little Rock was transferred to a board of seven Little Rock, Ark., business men by trustees of Ouachita Baptist College meeting here.

H. L. Winburn, former member of the Little Rock school board and a member of the City Council, is chairman of the seven-man group.

Other members are B. T. Harris, Frank Shamburger, John Shamburger, A. B. Witherington, Charles Bolton, and Bert Treadway.

The school has been an extension program of Ouachita College.

Since last November when Ouachita trustees asked them to accept responsibility for the school's financial operation, the seven prominent Little Rock men have handled this phase while the college supervised the academic program. Action of the college trustees placed the academic program of the school as well as the financial under the businessmen's control.

Ouachita will be available to assist in an advisory capacity if needed, Ralph A. Phelps, college president, pointed out.

"When we established the high school last October to provide temporary schooling for senior high students who apparently were not going to have any public schools opened to them this year, it was our intention to withdraw our relationship from the school after we had done all we could to put it on a sound basis," Phelps stated.

"Now that the school has been granted a Class 'A' rating and is functioning satisfactorily, we believe that control of it would be more effective if in local hands completely."

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Predict Senate Okay
For Hays' TVA Office

WASHINGTON--(BP)--Capitol Hill observers here predicted quick confirmation by the U. S. Senate of the nomination of Brooks Hays as a director of Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA).

President Eisenhower announced he would nominate the former Arkansas Congressman, now serving as president of the Southern Baptist Convention, to fill an unexpired term running about one year.

Hays would succeed Frank J. Welch of Lexington, Ky., who resigned before the end of his term. It was not known whether Hays would seek reappointment to a full nine-year term on the TVA board in 1960.

In the position on the three-member TVA board, Hays' office would be in Knoxville, Tenn. Since his Congressional term ended earlier this year, Hays has devoted his time to private law practice here, frequent lectures throughout the country, and his responsibilities as SBC president.

He emphasized to his Baptist friends that the TVA appointment would not impair his service in Baptist office. His term as president of the Southern Baptist Convention expires May 22 and there will be very little overlapping of time between his TVA and Baptist offices even with fast Senate confirmation.

During his 16 years of Congressional service, Hays was noted for his interest in the welfare of the nation that transcended his party (Democrat) allegiance.

The TVA director-nominate recently returned to the United States from a visit to Latin-American nations where he toured Baptist mission points. Last year he made a brief non-political trip to Russia to communicate with Soviet Baptists.

During the past year he has been active in helping Baptists of America seek ways they can work toward world peace. At his suggestion the Southern Baptist Convention last year named a Committee on World Peace. The Committee, of which Hays is a member, will report May 22 to the 1959 session of the SBC at Louisville, Ky.

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Another member of the peace committee has been Sen. Albert Gore (D., Tenn.), who comes from the heart of the TVA region. Gore, also a Baptist, said of Hays' TVA nomination, "I believe he is a friend of the TVA concept. He is a man of ability and integrity."

Rep. J. Carlton Loser of Nashville, Tenn., a member of the Baptist Sunday School Board, said Hays "will undoubtedly make a very fine director. He is thoroughly familiar with TVA's operations."

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