



CENTENNIAL DAY

FROM MINUTES OF MISSOURI BAPTIST GENERAL ASSOCIATION 1906.



At 9:45 o'clock Wednesday morning, October 24th, the Missouri Baptist General Association assembled in the meeting-house of the Baptist church at Jackson, Missouri. Over three hundred delegates had gone by special train from Cape Girardeau to Jackson for the purpose of celebrating the centennial of Baptist organization west of the Mississippi river.

On July 19, 1806, Bethel Baptist church was organized. Its house of worship was two miles south of Jackson, Missouri, This was the first non-Catholic church organized west of the Mississippi river which remained a permanent organization.

Moderator E. W. Stephens called the meeting to order and requested Rev. Wiley J. Patrick of Bowling Green to lead in prayer.

At the request of the Moderator, Rev. J. C. Maple of Cape Girardeau presided and introduced the speakers.

Rev. T. H. Jenkins of Marble Hill, Missouri, read a paper on "Old Bethel."

Rev. W. H. Burnham of Fulton read a paper on "Domestic Life in Missouri One Hundred Years Ago."

Rev. G. W. Hatcher of Carrollton gave an address on "Home Missions in Missouri During One Hundred Years."

Rev. E. L. Davidson of Kansas City spoke on "Foreign Missions in Missouri During One Hundred Years,"

Rev. J. F. Kemper of Carthage had for his theme, "State Missions in Missouri During One Hundred Years."

Rev. H. E. Tralle of Kansas City had prepared a paper on "Sunday-Schools in Missouri for One Hundred Years." He was unable to be present but sent his paper. It was ordered that his paper should be printed in the memorial volume containing the proceedings and addresses of this meeting.

Rev. H. E. Truex of Mexico spoke on "The Baptist Trend in Missouri."

Rev. J. P. Greene of William Jewell College spoke on "The Growth of the Educational Idea Among Missouri Baptists."

Milford Riggs, C. M. Truex and Lester S. Parker were appointed as a committee to recommend a plan for preserving the addresses of this occasion.

Rev. J. T. Love of Home Mission Board, Atlanta, Georgia, offered the closing prayer at morning session.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON.

The meeting was held on the site of Bethel Church-house two miles south of Jackson.

The ground, including the cemetery lots, had been cleared and a granite monument had been erected. The occasion for holding the session here was the unveiling of this monument which had been purchased through the generosity of a number of Missouri Baptists.

Moderator E. W. Stephens called the session to order and asked Rev. S. F. Taylor of St. Louis to offer prayer.

Dr. W. G. Tyzzer of St. Louis led in singing "How Firm a Foundation." Right delightful was it to hear the vast throng gathered at this historic spot join in singing this hymn, dear to the Christian world. The old tune was used.

Rev. Manly J. Breaker moved that Mrs. E. W. Stephens of Columbia and Miss Mae Brown of Jackson, at the proper time, unveil the monument. It was so ordered.

The minutes of this meeting were recorded by the secretary as he used the monument as a desk.

E. W. Stephens delivered the address in which he set forth "The Reason for Baptist Existence and Baptist Work One Hundred Years Ago and Now." Mrs. Stephens and Miss Brown unveiled the monument.

The monument, which stands about four feet high, is of gray Vermont granite. Its base is of red granite. The inscription is: "Here stood Bethel Baptist church, the first permanent non-Catholic church west of the Mississippi river. Constituted July 19, 1806, with these members: David Green, Thomas English, William Mathews, Leanna Green, William Smith, Jane English, Agnes Ballou, Thomas Bull, Clara Abernathy, Catherine Anderson, Andersen Rogers, Edward Spears, Rebecca Randol, John Hitt and Frances Hitt.

"WHAT HATH GOD WROUGHT!"

Each person present deposited a stone at the base of the monument.

It was moved that T. H. Jenkins, M. L. Thomas and A. M. Ross be a committee to secure and preserve the Bethel Church record book.

"All hail the Power of Jesus Name" was sung. Rev. T. L. West of Carrollton led in the closing prayer.

E. W. STEPHENS, Moderator.

A. W. PAYNE, Secretary.

October 24, 1906.

The committee referred to above to recommend a plan for preserving the addresses of this occasion, reported at the night session recommending that the addresses and everything pertaining to the celebration, be published in a cloth-bound volume, and that a committee be appointed to have the matter in charge. The report of the committee was adopted, and the moderator appointed Milford Riggs, D. D., Rev. C. M. Truex, and Mr. L. S. Parker. The committee respectfully submit this volume as the result of their work.