From Rogers to Netherton: 
A Heritage of Baptist Presidents
The Third: Dr. Samuel Anderson

In the summer of 1853, Dr. Samuel Anderson succeeded R.R. Bryan to become the third president of Mossy Creek Missionary Baptist Seminary. Though his presidential tenure only lasted until 1857, Anderson served during a pivotal time in the college’s history.

Anderson was born October 15, 1824 and like Bryan, was also a native of Jefferson County. He attended Tusculum College where he received his B.A. and M.A. After graduating in 1847 he taught mathematics for four years at Tusculum. During this time he must have completed his medical training, having become a qualified physician.

Also in 1847 Anderson married Julia M. Doak. She was the daughter of Samuel W. Doak, then president of Tusculum College. They would go on to have nine children: Mary Jane, William Coleman, Samuel Doak Newman, Sarah Lourinda, Smith Pleasant, Joseph James, Julia Emma, Alexander Eckel, and Josephine Houston.

In 1853 Anderson and his family left Tusculum to take over the presidential duties as well as continue teaching at the fledgling Mossy Creek Missionary Baptist Seminary. Up until this time, the school had relied on local residents to house its students. This policy was changed and plans were made to construct two dormitories and implement a boarding program.

In August of 1855 the new dormitories were ready to house 84 young men. W.C. Newman had been responsible for their construction. Through the donations of money (much of which came from Mr. Newman) and labor from local citizens committed to the education movement, the buildings were constructed at a cost of $10,840.00. One of these buildings had a kitchen and dining room attached.

In the spring of 1855, one of the most significant events in the college’s history took place. The first degrees were given to W.T. Russell and Richard Scruggs. Russell went on to the ministry while Scruggs became a physician.

Later that year in December, a development took place that reflected the school’s academic progression. The name of the institution was changed to Mossy Creek Baptist College. This was done to more accurately reflect the expanding curriculum and breadth of liberal arts courses being offered.

Newman Dormitory, No. 1
Among the courses offered to the 167 students enrolled were Latin, Greek, literature, philosophy, mathematics, history, and natural sciences.

In late 1857, Anderson left Mossy Creek and returned to Tusculum to continue teaching. In 1860 he came back to Mossy Creek to assume a full-time professorial role. He would remain here until 1862 when the college was forced to close due to the Civil War. Due to its devastating effects, the school’s doors would remain closed until 1868.

It is here that we lose track of Anderson’s activities for a time. However, records show that in 1872 he was acting as principal of the Mount Horeb Institute, located “in a neighborhood proverbial for health and morality.” The school was established by the community church in 1841. It underwent remodeling in 1861 and then was rebuilt in 1889 after being destroyed by fire the year before.

Mrs. N. E. Gass was his assistant and together they made up the faculty. The flyer boasts that “[t]he long and favorable connection of the Principal with the Colleges of East Tennessee, and the ripe experience of his colleague in teaching, is a sufficient guarantee to parents that all things will be done well.”

During this time Anderson donned another educational hat and took on the responsibilities of Superintendent of Public Instruction for Jefferson County. Records show he served in this position from at least 1873-1878.

The final record we have of Samuel Anderson places him in Cocke County, TN at the time of his death in 1885. While the historical record is unfortunately not more complete, we are able to catch a glimpse of yet another Baptist educator committed to the cause of Christian, liberal arts education in East Tennessee. He provided leadership during a crucial time of development and expansion from the college’s founding until the devastating days of the Civil War.

Baptist History Resources: 
Southern Baptists: A Historical, Ecclesiological, and Theological Heritage of a Confessional People
By Slayden A. Yarborough

“This book presents concise and important information about the largest non-Catholic denomination in the United States. Chapters trace the history of Baptists, focus on Southern Baptist organization and various agencies, and show how Baptists live out their theology. The Southern Baptist Convention controversy and restructuring in 1979 – 2000 receive careful attention. The book concludes with a significant analysis of the denominational identity of Southern Baptists.”

The book contains the following chapters:
Ch. 1 A Historical Heritage: Foundations, Beginnings, and Developments
Ch. 2 An Ecclesiological Heritage: Agencies, Institutions, and Denominational Structure (1845 – 1997)
Ch. 3  A Heritage of Conflict:
The “Controversy” and the Restructuring of the Southern Baptist Convention
Ch. 4  A Theological Heritage:
A Confessional People
Ch. 5  Southern Baptists:
A Denominational Identity

This book is available from the Baptist History and Heritage Society for $15.00 plus $3.00 shipping and handling. Orders may be placed by phone (800) 966-2278, fax (615) 371-7939, or by mail. Please find the mailing address on the back page. Checks may be made out to “Baptist History and Heritage Society.”

Baptist Archives Goes to the Tennessee Baptist Convention

For the second straight year, the Baptist Archives set up its display in the exhibit hall during the Tennessee Baptist Convention. This year we traveled to First Baptist Church in Germantown, TN for the three-day convention held November 13 - 15, 2000. Once again it proved a valuable time to meet other Baptists and promote the work of the archives in the preservation of Baptist history.

The Carson-Newman Baptist Archives gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and Dr. James Porch. Without their assistance we would not be able to carry out many of the projects we have undertaken to build the archives into an active, growing repository of historical Baptist materials.

The Baptist Archives will again set up its display this November 12 – 14 at First Baptist Church, Concord here in East Tennessee. Please stop by and see us!

Southern Baptist Historical Society Gets New Name

At its annual spring meeting the Southern Baptist Historical Society changed its name to the Baptist History and Heritage Society. Carson-Newman College will host the Society’s first annual meeting under its new name June 20 – 22, 2002. Charles Deweese continues in his role as Executive Director and Treasurer. Officers are President Dan Kent, retired professor of Old Testament at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; Vice President Glenn Jonas, chair of the religion department at Campbell University; and Secretary Carol Holcomb, assistant professor of religion at the University of Mary Hardin – Baylor. Look for more details regarding the meeting in upcoming issues of the Carson-Newman Baptist

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BAPTIST HISTORY AND HERITAGE SOCIETY
Formed in 1938 under the leadership of W.O. Carver at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, the Society functioned from 1951 to 1995 as an auxiliary of the Historical Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention. When the SBC decided in 1995 to eliminate the Commission, the Society became an independent organization. Today, the Society operates on its own, does not receive Cooperative funds, and is self-supporting. The Society is a voluntary, non-profit organization whose primary purpose is to provide leadership and direction for the study, preservation, and communication of Baptist history and heritage. Membership entitles members to receive the journal Baptist History and Heritage, the Baptist Heritage Update newsletter, a 10% discount on other Society publications and products, and reduced fees for participating in the annual meeting.

For more information, contact Charles W. Deweese, Executive Director & Treasurer.
Mailing address: BHHS, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024-0728
Phone: (800) 966-2278
Membership: $25/1 yr. $45/2 yrs. $60/3 yrs. $15/1 yr. (student) $20/1 yr. (senior 60+)
Email: cdeweese@tnbaptist.org Website: www.baptisthistory.org

TENNESSEE BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY
The Tennessee Baptist Historical Society is composed of individuals, churches, associations, institutions, and other organizations that are willing to share their resources and interests for the cause of Baptist history in Tennessee. Membership ($15 per year) entitles members to receive publications of the Society and attend the annual meeting that is usually scheduled in conjunction with the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

For more information, contact Albert Wardin, Jr., Treasurer.
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