From Rogers to Netherton:  
A Heritage of Baptist Presidents  
The Tenth:  S. W. Tindell

“It is the purpose of the course of study to fit young men for the higher spheres of usefulness by giving them information, well trained minds, polished manners, refined feelings and tastes, pure morals, an exalted Christian character.”

(Aim of the College from the 1882-83 Carson College catalog)

Samuel Watson Tindell was born October 4, 1844 in Churchgrove (Knox County), Tennessee to Hiram (1813-1887) and Mary Harbison (1816-1902) Tindell. It was said that his grandfather, Samuel Tindell, had played a part in building the first store in Knoxville. His early schooling took place at Walnut Grove.

Tindell’s first teaching experience came briefly in the fall of 1862, but upon his eighteenth birthday he became eligible for Confederate conscription. He eventually made his way to Camp Nelson, KY and on August 14, 1863 enlisted in the Ninth United States Tennessee Cavalry and was soon promoted to sergeant. He became captain (his commission signed by Andrew Johnson) of Company G in the Seventh Tennessee Mounted Infantry in February of 1863.

On February 28, 1865, Tindell was discharged in Nashville and returned to East Tennessee where he briefly attended Walnut Grove Academy and Franklin Academy before going to East Tennessee University. In January 1869, he entered Amherst College in Massachusetts where he would graduate in 1871. He then taught one term at the high school in Upton, MA before entering Newton Theological Seminary from which he would receive his M.A. in 1874.

On June 22 of that year, Tindell married Elizabeth Ames of Sebec, Maine. In August, he was ordained by First Baptist Church, Knoxville. That same month he became principal of Franklin Academy where he would stay until October of 1875. Over the next several years he pastored several Baptist churches in Cleveland, Rockwood, and South Pittsburg (TN). Tindell also kept one foot in education during these years, though, serving as principal of the Young Ladies Institute in Cleveland and returning again to lead Franklin Academy.

Tragedy struck in the summer of 1876. Having gone to Maine to visit her parents, Elizabeth died of spinal meningitis after thirty days of illness. Tindell and his year-old daughter, Lillie, were grief stricken. Two years later, on July 15, 1878, he married Katie Chattin. They would be blessed with nine children.

Tindell accepted the offer of professorship of Greek and Latin at Carson College in 1882. He was received by letter from the Baptist church at Jacksboro by Mossy Creek Baptist on October 22, 1883. That same year he became president of the college and would begin working to improve the curriculum and see that students were well prepared to pursue advanced study in the larger eastern universities and colleges.

The college expanded its programs in 1884 to include children of Cherokee Indians, four of whom boarded with Tindell. The 1883-84 catalog notes: “The Commissioner of Indian Affairs has placed a number of Indian boys in the College at the expense of the Government. These are taught under the direction of the faculty, but they occupy separate apartment. During the past year the Indians have done well, and the faculty have great hope of doing much for them.” The program was not the success hoped for, however, as the following year’s catalog read, “The Indian Department has been suspended.”
On December 30, 1885, Special Indian Agent Eugene E. White submitted a report to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs in Washington, D.C. regarding investigating “the allegations that the Indian pupils at Carson College and the Girls Seminary at that place were not properly or sufficiently clothed and fed.”

White wrote: “Upon my arrival at Mossy Creek (December 17), I found that there was not a single Indian boy or girl at either of the schools at that place. I was informed by Prof. Tindell, President of Carson College, that all the Indian boys at that institution, and also all the Indian girls at the Girls Seminary, deserted and returned to their homes among the Eastern Band of Cherokees in North Carolina more than a year ago.”

Tindell had filed two reports in 1874 documenting the “desertion” and when questioned by White as to why they had left he “could assign no reason, except that they were homesick and averse to performing the manual labor required of them in the way of training. [He] denied that any of these Indian pupils were insufficiently clothed or fed any part of the time they were at Mossy Creek.” The college felt it best to let the students return home and White’s report ended with his recommending they not return.

Carson College recognized Tindell’s efforts in 1887 by conferring upon him an honorary D.D. degree. J. T. Henderson, President of Carson & Newman College from 1893-1903 and an 1883 alumnus wrote of him: “He is a teacher of remarkable gifts and ability; during his administration the standards of Carson College were very much improved and its ideals transformed.”

The following year he resigned and returned to the ministry, briefly pastoring Yellow Creek Church in Rhea County. In October 1891, he left to presumably concentrate on two main areas of conviction – the Anti-Saloon movement and missions.

Tindell was active in campaigning against the legal sale of whiskey and was very active in the Anti-Saloon league, serving as superintendent for the eastern district of Tennessee and as editor of the Anti-Saloon Journal from 1888-90. He also organized Anti-Saloon league branches throughout the state.

Following is a quote from an impassioned speech made by Tindell in Knoxville found in a 1902 newspaper article:

“What does it mean to take the saloons out of Tennessee? It means longer average life, a smaller per cent each year in every city in the state of mortality. It means 75 per cent less crime; 75 per cent less convicts, 75 per cent less for criminal prosecution. It means not only longer lives but less poverty, want and suffering, happier homes, better schools, more prosperous churches, more successful merchants, better fed and better clothed women and children, more mealth [sic], more and better immigrants, a happier, better state. It means getting nearer to God, more of heaven and less of hell, clearer skies, greener fields, sweeter children, prettier women, stronger, better men.

God be praised the time is coming. The forces are gathering. The victory will now be ours.”

At his ninety-first birthday party, he remarked that, “his work in connection with putting the open saloon out of Tennessee [was] probably his greatest work.”

During this time, Tindell was also heavily involved in state missions work. From 1890-1900, he worked for the Baptist State Board of Home Missions. Traveling throughout East Tennessee, he helped organize churches as well as doing revival work. In 1895, Tindell began editing the short-lived East Tennessee Baptist out of Harriman. In 1898, the paper was absorbed by the Baptist and Reflector.
stayed there until retiring in 1922. Continuing his historical pursuits, he published *The Baptists of Tennessee* with Judge S. C. Williams in 1930. In the Forward, Williams wrote: “Rev. Dr. S. W. Tindell...has for several years devoted himself to the rescue from oblivion of the facts regarding the beginnings of Baptist history in Tennessee...[He] has incorporated the results of his labors in the present volume, which itself is a challenge to others of his denomination to engage in the same much needed work – that of bringing the Baptists to a parity at least with the Presbyterians and the Methodists in making public, and in durable form, the history of the Baptist people of Tennessee.”

Tindell was to experience more sadness, though, as Katie died December 2, 1932. Seven years later, on November 16, 1939, shortly after his ninety-fifth birthday, Tindell joined the two wives and four children he had buried. He was laid to rest in the Soldiers Home Cemetery.

Former Carson & Newman president J. M. Burnett wrote of him: “Dr. Tindell was recognized as a great teacher and a thorough scholar as well as a man of the highest ideals. He was probably the leading scholar of that time in this section. He had great skill in stimulating a passion for scholarship in his students. [He] is a man of unusual ability and an untiring energy and the most exacting conceptions of scholarship and of life.”

**Baptist History Resources: J. A. Lockhart Manuscript Collection**

Bapt MSS-6 consists of twenty-five photocopied/bound volumes of journals, sermons, notes, and church records from this East Tennessee pastor.

Jesse Archibald Lockhart was born August 24, 1871 on the Lockhart farm in the Flat Gap Community in Jefferson County, Tennessee. He was the 12th of 14 children born to Jesse H. and Elizabeth Lucinda Elliott Lockhart. He attended Caldwell School, New Market Academy, Carson-Newman College and Southern Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky.

Up until his retirement in 1946, he pastored thirty-two different churches in Jefferson, Grainger, Greene, Hamblen, Knox and Sevier counties as well as serving in Cumberland Gap, Kentucky with the Home Mission Board.

Rev. Lockhart died September 7, 1969 at the age of 98.

**Baptist History Resources: Russell Bradley Jones Manuscript Collection**

Bapt MSS-10 contains a treasury of sermons and notes of this former pastor, missionary, professor, and Tennessee Baptist Convention president.

Russell Bradley Jones was born September 30, 1894 in Kentucky. He went to Georgetown College in 1913 where he received his A.B. in 1917 and later an honorary doctorate in 1928. He was ordained in 1914 and pastored several country churches while in college. He then went on to Southern Baptist Theological Seminary earning his Th.M. in 1920.

Jones pastored churches in Tennessee, Maryland, and Georgia as well as serving as supply preacher at Spurgeon’s Tabernacle in London during the summers of 1930 and 1931. From 1932-1936, he was a missionary in the Philippine Islands where he served as President of the Manila Evangelistic Institute.

In 1949, Jones was elected first vice-president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and served as president in 1950. The following year he came to Carson-Newman and was head of the Bible and Religious Education department until 1960.

Jones served as contributing editor of the *Baptist and Reflector* for several years and authored 14 books. He died July 17, 1986 in Spartanburg, South Carolina at age 91. Carson-Newman’s annual Russell Bradley Jones Lecture is given in his honor each fall.


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