

The Oklahoma Baptist Chronicle

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Jesse Marvin Gaskin, 'Mr. Oklahoma Baptist History' Passes away at age 101

>> by Bob Nigh, Historical Secretary, Director of History

Jesse Marvin (J.M.) Gaskin, founding member of the Oklahoma Baptist Historical Society—an auxiliary of the Oklahoma Baptist Historical Commission—and Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma (BGCO) Historical Secretary for 45 years (1953-1998), passed away at the age of 101 January 8 following a brief illness.

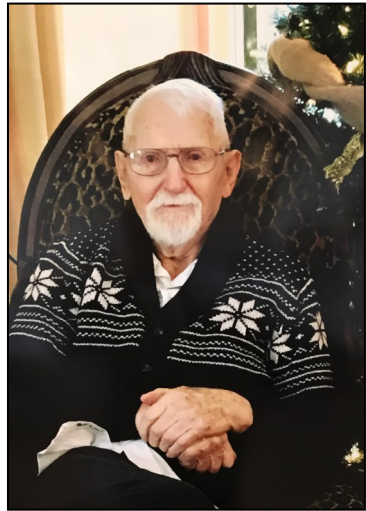
Born on August 30, 1917, near Spiro, the native of Bokoshe was raised a Methodist, but during a Southern Baptist revival, felt the call to preach while still in his teens. After graduating from Crowder High School, where he met his future wife, Helen Isom, he attended Oklahoma Baptist University (OBU), graduating in 1941.

His first full-time pastorate was in Coalgate. That preceded a nine-year stay at Tonkawa, First. He also was pastor of Heavener, First from 1953-1962 before coming to Durant. Gaskin served as pastor of Durant, First from 1962-1976. After retiring from the pastoral ministry in 1976, he began a second career with the BGCO, serving in various capacities, particularly in the area of historical preservation. He authored 30 books, including a memoir titled, *Route 1, Cartersville, History, Autobiography, Legend and Lore*.

In the preface of his memoir, Gaskin explains why he finally wrote it after several others had urged him to do so.

"There were many facts of historical value in the churches, communities where I lived and the denomination which would have been lost forever if I did not put them down in the record," he wrote.

"History is simply a record and interpretation of the tracks people have made in the sands of time."



J.M. Gaskin

Gaskin was awarded an honorary doctor of divinity degree from OBU in 1959. For many years, he was editor of the *Oklahoma Baptist Chronicle*. Three scholarships at OBU were established in the names of Gaskin and his wife, Helen, who passed away in 2013. The Oklahoma Baptist history collection housed in the Mabree Learning Center at OBU is named the J.M. and Helen Gaskin Baptist Historical Library and Archives.

During his years in Durant, Gaskin was a member of the Ministerial Alliance and was active in many civic organizations, as was his wife, who was the first woman inducted into the local Kiwanis chapter. Among his fondest memories were summer youth camps at Falls Creek Baptist Assembly near Davis, which also was "born" in 1917.

Gaskin was well known as "Mr. Oklahoma Baptist History," a moniker given him in February 1954



The Heritage Room at Durant, First Is named in honor of J.M. Gaskin.

by OBU librarian Lee Spencer, who spied Gaskin as he arrived at the library to do some research for a revised edition of his book, *Trail Blazers of Sooner Baptists*.

Other books by Gaskin followed, including *Baptist Milestones in Oklahoma*, *The Falls Creek Story*, *Black Baptists in Oklahoma*, *Baptist Women in Oklahoma*, *A Prophet in Ebony*, *Sights and Sounds of Falls Creek*, *Walking with God (A compilation of Sermons)*, *The Sage of the Hills*, *The Baptist Witness*, *Baptist Heroes in Oklahoma* and a memoir titled, *Route 1, Cartersville*, among others.

In the preface of his memoir published in 1999, Gaskin wrote, "This book is history, autobiography, legend and lore. The title comes from where I was born, grew up, attended school, and had my first pastorate. Giving the book this title, *Route 1, Cartersville*, did not come about as a coincidence. It happened after many years of trying to find the right title. I wanted something which would be comprehensive about my life, culture of the hills, happenings in the times of prosperity, depression, war, social revolution, tears and triumphs,

and the flow of time as I moved with it.”

The autumn 2006 issue of the *Oklahoma Baptist Chronicle* was dedicated to Gaskin by then Historical Secretary Marlin Hawkins. That issue celebrated both the 100th anniversary of the BGCO and the 50th anniversary of the Oklahoma Baptist Historical Society.

Hawkins wrote, “No listing of well-deserved accolades could adequately express appreciation to this great Christian, pastor and historian for his dedication to the recording and preservation of Oklahoma Baptist history.”

In 2017, a 100th birthday celebration was held for Gaskin at Featherstone Retirement Center in Durant, where he continued to reside until his passing. He is survived by one son, Ray Gaskin of Pottsboro, Texas, Ray’s wife, Suzanne, a brother, Arthur Choate of Springfield, Ore., three grandchildren, and numerous great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

A memorial service celebrating Gaskin’s life was held on Sat., Jan. 19 in the Youth Worship Center Durant, First. Speakers included retiring OBU President David Whitlock, who had a lifelong friendship and association with Gaskin.

Whitlock recounted that, “The first meeting I ever had with “Mr. Oklahoma Baptist History” was held just outside of Durant at the intersection of Washington St. and U.S. Hwy. 75. It was beside the pumps at a gas station as we both fueled our vehicles. Within minutes, this genteel and refined fellow was telling me the history of my grandfather and great-grandfather, both of whom served as pastors in Oklahoma Baptist churches.

“He told me of my great-grandfather A.F. Whitlock’s call to the ministry, and how he had served as an Associational Missionary in western Oklahoma. I thought I knew my great-granddaddy fairly well, and had even heard him preach when he was more than 100 years old at Fletcher, First. But, Gaskin was telling me new things about my own family’s history.

“A few weeks later, I received in the mail a copy of a cassette recording. The tape was an interview Gaskin conducted with my grandfather. I listened as Gaskin had pastor Whitlock retell the story of how God called him into ministry, learning so many new things from the efforts of this man to preserve our history. To this day, that

“No listing of well-deserved accolades could adequately express appreciation to this great Christian, pastor and historian for his dedication to the recording and preservation of Oklahoma Baptist history.”

recording—now digitally saved—is one of my prized possessions. Thus began a lifelong friendship with and admiration for J. M. Gaskin. And thus began my own deep appreciation for our history as Baptists and in particular as Oklahoma Baptists.”

Also remembering his mentor at the memorial service, former BGCO Historical Secretary Eli Sheldon commented, “Gaskin’s books are like a treasure chest containing jewels of history. I think of him and how he had the ability to present these jewels of history for us to keep. He did that and, because of his life and legacy, he still does.

“Gaskin was one of the most fascinating speakers I have ever known. At any meeting or event one could simply say to him, ‘Tell us about . . .’ and out would come a vast treasure of historical information from memory . . . but each time, the events, images and people would become so alive that time ended and you sat still hoping to hear more. Often, his narrative and writings would join with others and the end result would be true experiences, biblically sound, with occasional humor woven into a beautiful tapestry of literature.

“While I was historical secretary, we talked about every two or three weeks by phone. We usually called each other regarding some matter of historical value and before we ended our conversation, he would begin a new story. I would be ready with pen and paper and would write as fast as possible to get an accurate record of that particular event.”

'75 Million Campaign' in 1919 set stage for Cooperative Program

>> Compiled by Bob Nigh, Historical Secretary

After the signing of the Treaty of Versailles in the Hall of Mirrors in the Palace of Versailles, France on June 28, 1919, the United States welcomed the members of its American Expeditionary Forces—also known as Doughboys—home and turned its eyes toward a new season of prosperity at the dawn of what would come to be known as “The Roaring Twenties.” The Versailles Treaty effectively ended the hostilities of World War I, “The War to End all Wars,” and the document—which included 15 parts and 440 articles—became effective on Jan. 10, 1920.

The 1920s in the United States were called “roaring” because of the exuberant, decadent popular culture that characterized the decade. The Roaring Twenties was a time when many people defied Prohibition, indulged in new styles of dancing and dressing, and rejected many traditional moral standards. It was a decade of economic growth and widespread prosperity, driven by recovery from wartime devastation and deferred spending, a boom in construction, and the rapid growth of consumer goods such as automobiles and electricity. The economy of the United States, which had successfully transitioned from a wartime economy to a peacetime economy, boomed and provided loans for a European boom as well. Some economical sectors did stagnate, especially farming and coal mining, but the US became the richest country in the world per capita.

From 1919 to 1924, Southern Baptists participated in an unprecedented giving campaign that became the foundation for today's ongoing Cooperative Program. Prior to that time, special fund drives were

The Southwide 75,000,000 Dollar Campaign

The Eight Days of Baptist Destiny
75 Million in Cash and 5-Year Pledges

To Be Used for Christ and a Lost World

IN MISSIONS: Association, State, Home, Foreign...\$43,000,000
IN EDUCATION, ORPHANAGE, HOSPITALS in
the Homeland 26,825,000
In Caring for Our Aged Preachers..... 5,000,000
Other Good Causes 175,000

Key Words now: “GET GOOD READY” and “Create Everywhere the “WILL TO WIN.”

The Maximum of Strength in Prayer, Faith, Co-operation, Enthusiasm and Money from 3,000,000 Southern Baptists

Put this Mighty Movement in your Prayers, Plans, Preaching, Programs, until it Masters your Soul.

We are to Win through Unified Co-operation, Mobilized Enlistment, Enlightened Publicity, Enthused Organization, Sacrificial Giving and the Power of God

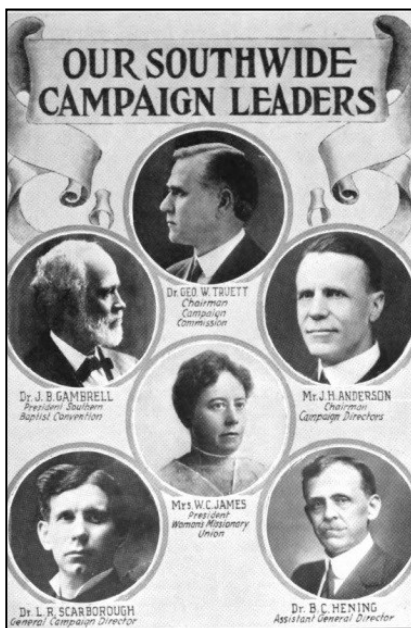
The 8 Immortal Baptist Days Ahead—The Unified Drive for \$75,000,000

LET'S GET READY TO DO IT for OUR MASTER

L. R. SCARBOROUGH, General Director
Nashville, Tennessee

common twice a year, one for Southern Baptist Convention causes and the other for needs in the states. Founded in 1845 essentially to promote missions both foreign and domestic, the Southern Baptist Convention reaped capricious support in the South until the end of the 19th Century. By 1919, the ambitious and aggressive \$75 Million Campaign urged the convention's three million members to support the fundraising drive. The campaign also marked a turning point in SBC history by beginning a new trend by which the Convention itself collected money and disbursed it among its different agencies according to a centrally-determined budgetary system.

In turn, the Cooperative Program would become Southern Baptists' unified plan of giving through which cooperating Southern Baptist churches give a percentage of their undesignated receipts in support of their respective state convention and Southern Baptist Convention missions and ministries.



But in 1918, the pressing physical and spiritual needs of post-World War I Europe, as well as other missions, education, and benevolence causes led the Convention to look for new models of cooperative funding. In the face of worsening financial difficulties, SBC President J.B. Gambrell challenged Southern Baptists at the 1919 Convention "to adopt a program of work commensurate with reasonable demands upon us." (*SBC Annual*, 1919). The 4,200 messengers voted, without dissent, the undertaking of the Baptist 75 Million Campaign, during which members in every church were asked to sign pledge cards and fulfill those pledges over a five-year period.

"We aim to raise the \$75,000,000, but there is something more and better than that large sum; it is the deepening of spirituality, the broadening of vision, the renewed consecration (and) the enlargement of the heart necessary to get it," Gambrell wrote in a promotional brochure, *Facing a Worthy Task in a Worthy Way*. "The task before us first calls us to get ready to succeed by self-conquest and by a new alliance with all the spiritual forces of Him who has all

power and has promised to be with us.”

Leaders such as George W. Truett, pastor of Dallas, First, and L.R. Scarborough, president of Southwestern Seminary, played key roles. WMU accepted \$15 million as its campaign quota, and appointed Mrs. W.J. Neel of Georgia as its campaign director. The 18 State Conventions each accepted goals ranging from \$250,000 in New Mexico to \$16 million in Texas (The Oklahoma goal was \$2.5 million). When the pledges were totaled at the conclusion of the weeklong “Victory Week” pledge drive in early December, an amazing \$92,630,923 had been committed, far surpassing the original \$75 million goal.

But, due to economic problems (For example, cotton dropped from 40 cents a pound to 10 cents a pound) and controversies, when the campaign drew to a close in 1925, actual receipts totaled only \$58,591,713. But, that amount given over a five-year period represented between 80 and 90 percent as much as Baptists had given in their first 74 years of existence since 1845! For example, the Foreign Mission Board had collected \$12.5 million in its previous 74 years of history, yet almost matched that during the five-year campaign with \$11.6 million allotted. Likewise, the Home Mission Board was supported to the tune of \$6.6 million during the campaign, just less than the \$8.2 million received in its 74-year history.

In addition, October 1919 services for “calling out the called” resulted in more than 20,000 volunteers for ministry and mission service. About 3,000 new churches were organized, and eight new foreign mission fields were entered.

Because Southern Baptist agencies had begun planning and spending according to the amount pledged in the campaign rather than actual receipts, leaders were soon forced to consider a successor plan to the 75 Million Campaign. They had reason to do so with optimism. The unprecedented cooperative giving from 1919-1924 had raised the sights of Southern Baptists, giving them a vision of what autonomous churches could do together for the cause of Christ. They had experienced the spiritual blessing that sacrificial giving brings and developed a pattern for ongoing cooperation.

In addition, an economic boom in the South resulting from World War I—including a significant increase in cotton prices—made Southerners optimistic about the future and even more willing to pledge more than ever before to support the convention’s missions efforts. Also, the success of war bond drives made convention leaders recognize the potential of a concerted, large-scale fundraising effort.

When Southern Baptists met in Memphis in 1925 and formally launched the Cooperative Program, it was in effect a way of continuing the ongoing benefits they had experienced during the Baptist 75 Million Campaign.

That heightened awareness of stewardship would play an essential role in the development of what has become Southern Baptists' landmark ministry support vehicle—the Cooperative Program.

As was true with most state conventions, the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma enthusiastically supported the concept of the 75 Million Campaign. Information printed in the 1919 BGCO Annual Report reflected that attitude.

“The State Mission work of Oklahoma has developed into a great departmental organization,” reported state missions chairman S.J. Porter. “It embraces six property holding institutions and six departments of work under the leadership of competent men But in connection with this and as the original program of our State Mission work, we have supported two hundred men on the field as evangelists, general missionaries, associational missionaries and pastors of weak churches.

“Our program for the year was laid out on a basis (budget) of \$65,000. The result of our year's work has produced 5,242 baptisms and 4,053 additions by letter, or a total of 9,295 additions. For every \$12 invested in State Mission work, there has been a baptism.

“The work for the present year embraces the 75 Million Campaign. No greater effort has ever been made by Baptists than this great Campaign. The results of the work of this gigantic task must be told not only in the \$2,500,000 of Oklahoma's quota, but (also) in a Baptist membership in this great commonwealth of at least 125,000 at the close of the Campaign.

“We recommend as the greatest task of our State Mission work for the coming year the enlistment of our forces in the realizing of the ideals of this great Campaign.”

The report on Home Missions by Thomas M. Smith indicated that “B.D. Gray, Corresponding Secretary of the Home Mission Board, makes a request of your committee with which we are glad to comply in opening this report. It is that we shall call attention that the Board unreservedly throws its whole heart and every effort into the purposes of the \$75,000,000 Campaign.

“This Campaign is the biggest uplift effort ever made by Southern Baptists. It is the first time we have set ourselves as a whole to do our very best by our gifts for every object by which Baptists seek to honor and serve our Lord Jesus Christ. The very heart-blood of Home Missions is co-operation, and this great co-operative effort should teach us better than we have ever known how to work together to help every cause Baptists support.

“A great program of denominational Home Missions is the mightiest organized force Baptists can possibly support to help

keep religion free in America, and the present un-American activities against this Constitutional guarantee are a trumpet call to us to enlarge our Home Mission support.

"While these cunning wiles of the Evil One challenge God's people to clear thinking, importunate praying and great Home Mission giving, we are still confronted by startling needs and blessed opportunities in the field of evangelism. In the South are 20,000,000 souls, our own people, who have made no profession of religion. Through Home Missions these invite our denomination, which has led America in evangelism, to a far larger support of its Home Mission Board, which has by far, and all the while, led all American Home Mission Boards in soul-winning."

Additionally, T.M. Hunter, E.A. Howard and W.W. Chancellor writing in their Foreign Mission Report, said, "The parting words of our Master were 'Go ye into all the world, make disciples of men, baptizing them, teaching them to observe all things I have commanded you.' We are happy to note the Foreign Mission Board is charged by the Southern Baptist Convention with propagating the Gospel in Japan, China, Africa, Italy, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina and Chile. On these fields human beings are almost countless, they mount into the hundreds of millions and are of various hues and colors, but all of them are objects of God's love.

"We want to urge that our Foreign Board be provided adequate resources for the cultivation of these extensive fields. These multitudes, whether in pagan or papal lands are handicapped by ignorance, by superstitions, by physical suffering and above all by aggravated sin for which they have found no remedy. If there is any pity in the Christian heart it ought to be provoked by the deplorable conditions under which millions of our fellow beings on these mission fields are spending their lives, while we enjoy the blessings of the Gospel and the Christian civilization which it has provided.

"We shall not properly appraise foreign missions if we overlook the fact that it includes the evangelization of the lost, the education of the ignorant, training the saved, healing the sick and housing the feeble churches. Indeed, all we are doing at home through state mission boards, home mission boards, educational boards, orphanages, and all the rest, we are doing through the Foreign Mission Board. No adequate provision can be made for a work so extensive, so varied and comprehensive, if we put Foreign Missions on a parity with any single Christian enterprise which we are conducting at home.

"There is another fact, and a great fact it is, which must be taken into consideration, if we are to meet our obligations to this great work at this time. The war immeasurably enlarged our international

Christian duty. The extraordinary world situation which we have created with our guns lays upon us the most serious responsibility to send the Gospel into all nations.

"The Convention at Atlanta in May recognized the new obligations which this world situation laid upon Southern Baptists and authorized the Board to undertake reconstruction work in all Europe, to hasten with the Gospel into disturbed and endangered Russia and other war-stricken countries. The world fields are ripe unto the harvest, but much of the binding grain will be lost if we do not quickly thrust in the sickle. The Macedonian call has never rung out so loud and clear as at this very moment, so then let us, one and all, rise up and give to the 75 Million Campaign our unqualified, faithful, and enthusiastic support that our Foreign Board may comply with the parting Savior's charge."

The submission in the 1919 BGCO Annual Report by the Committee on Christian Education (Consisting of A.N. Hall, W.D. Mooror, D.N. Curb, G.R. Naylor and R.A. Rushing) highlighted how the 75 Million Campaign would benefit Oklahoma Baptist University.

"The Baptists of Oklahoma count themselves fortunate in the fact that their entire interest and strength can be given to one great school, centrally located, that stands for the ideals and principles of our great denomination," the report read. "In these days of easy and quick communication it is easily accessible to every student in our state. One great school with adequate equipment, sufficient endowment and loyal patronage will supply the educational needs of our people."

"The interests of the Baptist University of Oklahoma are vitally bound up with the Baptist 75 Million Campaign. If victory week shall bring to us the fruition of our hopes and the success of our plans, we will see such buildings and equipment, and such throngs of students, as will make our hearts sing for joy."

The report of the OBU Trustees was presented by OBU President Joshua A. Tolman:

"We rejoice in the share that Oklahoma Baptist University will have in the \$75,000,000 Campaign. We wish that we were to receive a million instead of \$566,666.66. However this amount will enable us to build permanently for the future," Tolman said. "At least \$200,000 must be set aside for a permanent endowment. This will nearly take care of the deficit and enable us to meet the requirements for admission into the North Central Association of Colleges. The boys' dormitory and gymnasium must be completed and paid for. A new unit to the girls' dormitory with capacity for at least sixty girls should be completed before the opening of college in the fall of 1920. The demand for rooms has been far beyond the number and

a large number have gone to other schools because we have not been able to accommodate them. Half of the nonresident girls living in private boarding houses has made a very perplexing problem of discipline. Parents do not want to send their daughters to a school where they will not be under the close supervision of the lady principal.

"A fully equipped science building, with laboratories for physics, biology and chemistry should be constructed. Science and religion are thoroughly in harmony and science can only be taught correctly by those who believe in God as the Supreme Scientist of the universe. A library and chapel building should be added as soon as possible. At least \$25,000 should be set aside for beautifying the campus, and \$12,000 for a president's home. An additional story should be added to the present main building.

"With this equipment, Oklahoma Baptist University can go forward and take her place among the leading schools of the South. This great war has taught people to appreciate the value of Christian Education and the challenge before the Baptist people of Oklahoma is to stand back of this school that young men and women may obtain such training as will enable them to be efficient, well prepared workers trained in soul, mind, heart and body."

Reports from other BGCO departments or agencies in the 1919 BGCO Annual Report also expressed enthusiasm and confidence that the 75 Million Campaign would be successful and enhance their ministries in the years to come. Some examples follow:

BGCO Board Report

"When the Southern Baptist Convention met in Atlanta, . . . there was a deep conviction in the Convention that an unprecedented forward step should be taken. Day by day this conviction increased, and faith increased, until the Convention, by unanimous vote, authorized its Executive Committee and a Special Commission of Fifteen, together with the Boards of the Convention, to undertake to raise 75 Millions of Dollars to be divided among seven objects, namely: Foreign Missions, Home Missions, Christian Education, State Missions. Aged Minister's Relief, Orphans Home and Hospitals. L. R. Scarborough, President of the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, at Ft. Worth, was elected as General Director of the Campaign. Thousands of churches are, this moment, anxiously awaiting the arrival of the morning of the 30th of this month (November), the beginning of Victory Week, confidently expecting that by the close of that week, December 7, the Baptists of the South will have subscribed more than the 75 Millions of Dollars undertaken."

In concluding their report, J.C. Stalcup, President; F.M. McConnell, Corresponding Secretary and M.A. Summers, Recording Secretary, wrote:

"We feel that this Convention is closing a distinct era in the history

of Baptists of this state and of the world. After Victory Week, November 30 to December 7, Baptists will plan their work on a vastly enlarged basis. News from Foreign Mission fields gladden our hearts, because our churches there are making a campaign and are planning for a greatly enlarged work. The sun has arisen on the Baptist day. The nations of the earth are waiting for our message. The heart of the world is ready for Baptist doctrine. We have greater reasons to thank God than any people ever had in all the world. We pray that this Convention may go forward with its work in a manner commensurate with the Baptist purpose for the world. We trust that during the year, just beginning, all of our institutions may be greatly strengthened, that thousands may be baptized by our missionaries and that the beginning of the new day may fill all the Baptists of Oklahoma with deep consecration, humility and renewed zeal."

Women's Work

In her report to the Convention, Mrs. C. Stubblefield wrote concerning the 75 Million Campaign, "We most heartily endorse the Baptist seventy-five million campaign. Realizing we are in the greatest moment of Baptist history, we glory in our woman's task in the five year forward movement. All the strength of our organization we pledge to its accomplishment, and in accordance with the S.B.C. plans, we do pledge further one-fifth of the total, \$2,500,000.00 shall be given by our membership."

Indian Churches

"The Baptists of the South have long cooperated in giving the gospel to our Indian brethren. It is with special pleasure that your Board is able to report that much progress has been made by the Indian churches this year. The spirit of enlistment and liberality has taken hold of our Indian brethren in a remarkable way. One of them, Jackson Barnett, has subscribed \$200,000 on the 75 Million Campaign. It is certain that all the Indian churches will meet their apportionment for the 75 Million Campaign in full. Many of them will go much over their apportionments."

Orphans' Home

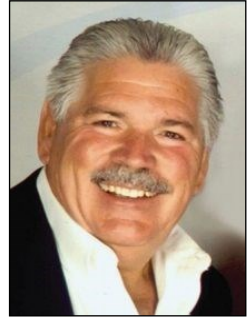
F.M. McConnell, Superintendent, wrote, "We confidently expect that within the five-year period covered by the 75 Million Campaign we will be able to care for a family of 250 dependent orphan children. We will have a dairy herd, a farm, well equipped shops, and our Home will equal in efficiency and equipment the very best.

Initially celebrated as a great victory in giving, and still regarded as such despite the failure for all pledges eventually to be fulfilled, Southern Baptists, including Oklahoma Southern Baptists, gained a vision of how God can bless a cooperative effort through the 75 Million Campaign.

May 3, 1999 tornado outbreak was Porter's 'baptism of fire'

Twenty years ago, Sam Porter had barely been on the job for a year as Disaster Relief (DR) Director for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma (BGCO) when the state was devastated by an outbreak of tornadoes that left lives and communities shattered.

During May 2-8, 1999, 154 tornadoes touched down, more than half of them on May 3 and 4 when activity reached its peak over Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, Texas, and Arkansas. The most significant tornado first touched down May 3 southwest of Chickasha, and became an F5 before dissipating near Midwest City. The tornado tore through southern and eastern parts of Oklahoma City and its suburbs of Bridge Creek, Moore, Del City, Tinker Air Force Base and Midwest City, killing 36 people, destroying more than 8,000 homes, and causing \$1.5 billion in damage. With a total of 72 tornadoes, it was the most prolific tornado outbreak in Oklahoma history.



Sam Porter

The outbreak of storms prompted a massive response from Oklahoma Baptist DR volunteers and other organizations involved in disaster response.

"When I came on board in 1998, we had 300 volunteers, a feeding truck and a trailer and people with an awesome heart to serve," Porter said. "Since that time, God has continued to give us a heart to serve and has expanded our array of volunteers and equipment."

Ten years after the event, Porter described how the storms impacted his ministry.

"The 92-mile stretch became known as the path of the most powerful tornado ever recorded on Earth—spinning at the rate of 301 m.p.h., yet traveling across the landscape at only 19 miles per hour, grinding up the earth and everything in its path like a giant quarter-mile-wide blender," he recalled.

"Almost 50 individuals were ushered out into eternity, and scores of people were injured; 6,000 homes were destroyed in the Oklahoma City metro area alone. That does not include Mulhall or many other communities such as Bridge Creek, Dover, Stroud and most of the suburbs east and southwest of Oklahoma City. Five Oklahoma Southern Baptist church buildings were destroyed."

On May 4, 1999, Oklahoma Southern Baptist DR volunteers set

up five mobile kitchens across the tornado track.

“Many of the 34 BGCO churches with members who had been impacted by the storm began to serve in scores of ways, such as food distribution and debris cleanup,” Porter said. “Moore, First, which was hit, but not destroyed, became the city Disaster Operation Center for police, fire, and emergency management, as well as Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD).”

During the next five weeks of recovery, 25 Southern Baptist state conventions across the nation sent DR teams to Oklahoma to assist in the recovery. Eight states sent chain saw teams. At that time, Oklahoma had no chain saw teams. Donations totaling \$750,000 came in from all over the country to assist the victims and churches.

“We gave thousands of dollars of assistance immediately,” Porter said. “Every Baptist family whose home was destroyed received \$500.”



Path of F5 tornado crossed I-44.

Oklahoma Baptists now have trained volunteers ready to do meal preparation, emergency temporary child care and chain saw and mud-out work, as well as providing property damage assessment, portable shower and laundry service, and chaplains' support.

“We also have water purification teams and a state-wide Incident Command Team equipped to coordinate multiple DR ministries and all agencies involved to restore order and normalcy to a community,” Porter commented. “Baptist Disaster Relief has become a major evangelistic ministry across the nation to serve hurting people when their world falls apart. As I tell DR workers often, ‘We become the hands and feet of Jesus Christ when we minister to people in disaster recovery. We do DR in the name of our Lord to earn the right to share the Gospel with others.’”

On July 11, 2017, Porter answered the call to become the DR director for the entire Southern Baptist Convention. After Porter announced his move to serve the national Convention, BGCO Executive Director-Treasurer Anthony L. Jordan said, “Sam has been instrumental in training more than 9,000 Disaster Relief volunteers. When disaster strikes, these men and women move into action with speed and expertise. These volunteers know what to do, and they do it with excellence. Oklahoma Baptist DR has won the admiration of people across the nation and world.”

Churches invited to help digitalize reel-to-reel tapes; Commission seeks nominations for awards

Members of the Oklahoma Baptist Historical Commission voted during their Spring meeting on March 5, 2019 at the Baptist Building in Oklahoma City to begin the process of helping to digitalize hundreds of reel-to-reel tapes in the holdings of the Gaskin Baptist Archives in the Mabee Learning Center at Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee.

According to OBU's special collections librarian Rachel Hawkins, there are nearly 800 audio and video tapes, many of them recordings of meetings, services, special events and other activities at Falls Creek Baptist Conference Center from as far back as 1946, housed in the Archives.

"Digitalizing these tapes will help preserve the information on them and make them more accessible to researchers and others interested in the tapes' historical value," Hawkins said. "The digital versions will be placed in the digital repository on campus, and, as soon as possible, be made available to the general public for listening or viewing."

The cost to digitalize the tapes is \$100 apiece, Hawkins added.

Commission members voted to begin with a list of approximately 25 tapes to be digitalized during this year. The cost of that process will be paid for by money in the Gaskin Forever Fund endowment. Commission members Luke Holmes and Leona Marion are working



Reel-to-reel tapes are stored on shelves in the Gaskin Baptist Archives at OBU.

with Historical Secretary Bob Nigh to compile the initial list.

"We believe this is a very important project and necessary to preserve the images and sounds on these tapes," Holmes said. "It certainly would be unfortunate to have them deteriorate to the point that the information is lost."

Commission members agreed that such a project will be daunting, and are hoping churches and other groups across the state will recognize the importance of completing the project and be willing to sponsor one, two—or even several—tapes to be digitalized.

Churches or groups interested in participating in the digitalization project are urged to call Historical Secretary Bob Nigh at 405/990-0123, or email him at okbaptisthistoryman@gmail.com.

In addition to the reel-to-reel tapes project, Commission members are in the process of selecting persons to be inducted into the Oklahoma Baptist Hall of Fame and those to be honored this year with the Distinguished Service Award.

Each year, up to five persons will be nominated by the Commission's Hall of Fame Committee, approved by the Historical Commission, and submitted to the Oklahoma Baptist Historical Society for formal induction. Nominees to the Hall of Fame must have been deceased for at least seven years to be eligible for inclusion. Following approval of nominees, the Historical Commission shall publish biographical monographs for each one in the *Oklahoma Baptist Chronicle* for preservation in the Gaskin Archives. Induction will be held during the annual Oklahoma Baptist Historical Society meeting in September. The names of the honorees also are announced during the Historical Secretary's report to the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma's annual meeting.

At the annual meeting, Hall of Fame and Distinguished Service Award recipients (Or members of their family, if the honoree is deceased) receive a certificate in recognition for outstanding service to Oklahoma Baptist history or work.

Nominations for inductees into the Hall of Fame and recipients of the Distinguished Service Award may be sent to the Historical Commission, 3800 N. May Ave, Oklahoma City, OK 73112.

Historical Commission elects Officers, forms committees

>> by Bob Nigh, Historical Secretary/Director of History

Andy Latta, Tahlequah, First, was elected chairman of the Oklahoma Baptist Historical Commission during the Commission's regular Spring meeting March 5 at the Baptist Building in Oklahoma City. Richard McCullough, Perkins, Immanuel, was named vice-chairman, and Leona Marion, Oklahoma City, Trinity, was selected secretary. Other members of the Commission are Michael Dershem, Yale, Fellowship; Chris Gordon, Hennessey, First; Luke Holmes, Tishomingo, First; Lawrence Gresham, Marlow, Lakeside; Bill Haggard, Oklahoma City, Putnam City and Terry Brooks, Lindsay, First.

The report from the Historical Secretary follows:

Overall Report. Induction of two persons into the Oklahoma Baptist Historical Society Hall of Fame (HOF) and the presentation of distinguished service awards highlighted activities of the Oklahoma Baptist Historical Society and Commission during 2018.

Inducted into the HOF during the Society's annual meeting at Oklahoma City, Trinity in September were Wallie Amos (W.A.) Criswell, Jr. and Albert McClellan.

Receiving Distinguished Service Awards posthumously during the Historical Secretary's report to messengers at the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma (BGCO) Annual Meeting at Edmond, First in November were well-known childhood ministry specialist and author Willa Ruth Garlow and Pastor John Bisagno, both of whom passed away earlier in the year.

The Gaskin Church History Award for 2017 was presented to Shawnee, Immanuel. *Immanuel Baptist Church: 100 Years of Serving God and Serving Man* was written by John Nichols, who accepted the award during the BGCO Annual Meeting.

The Historical Secretary provided anniversary certificates to 16 BGCO-affiliated churches during the year, and he and his wife personally presented the certificates on several occasions. Churches recognized in 2018 included Antlers, First (125th Anniversary); Bethany, Macedonia (25th); Blair, First (125th); Chandler, Southern (40th); Covington, First (100th); Fort Gibson, South Ridge (25th); Guymon, Grace Southern (25th); Lawton, Northside (75th); Midwest City, Soldier Creek (75th); Oklahoma City, Exchange Ave. (100th); Perry, First (125th); Porum, Friendship Chapel (25th); Sallisaw, Hanson First

(125th); Skiatook, Lakeview Southern (25th); Tecumseh, First (125th) and Velma, First (125th).

This year (2018) marked the 60th anniversary of the *Oklahoma Baptist Chronicle*, the Society's semi-annual publication begun in 1958. An article highlighting the publication was printed in the autumn 2018 issue, along with an article outlining the purpose of and holdings in the Gaskin Baptist Archives housed at Oklahoma Baptist University.

Quarterly Board Reports

February 2018.

The Oklahoma Baptist Historical Commission and Oklahoma Baptist Historical Society met Oct. 6-7 at Oklahoma City, Portland Ave. The Commission—convening the evening of Oct. 6—approved a recommendation to offer two categories in the Gaskin Church History Award competition—Churches with 250 and under in average attendance, and Churches with more than 251 in average attendance. They also approved a recommendation that the Necrology section in each spring Issue of the *Oklahoma Baptist Chronicle* include only current and former Oklahoma pastors/staff, missionaries, BGCO and affiliates' staff and their immediate family members.

The Commission also elected officers for 2018: Ron Fannin, chairman; Andy Latta, vice-chairman and Leona Marion, secretary.

Wayne Childers, a member of Mustang, First, was elected president of the Oklahoma Baptist Historical Society for 2018 as the group met Oct. 7 at Oklahoma City, Portland Ave. In addition, Luke Holmes, pastor of Tishomingo, First, will serve as president-elect and Michael Dershem, pastor of Yale, Fellowship, was re-elected secretary. There were eight persons in attendance.

The Historical Secretary and his wife presented a booth at the 2017 BGCO Annual Meeting, Nov. 14 at Oklahoma City, Quail Springs. The Historical Secretary also gave the annual report of the activities of the Historical Commission and Historical Society during the annual meeting. Highlights of the report were the presentation of the Gaskin Church History Award—which went to Binger, First—and the Distinguished Service Award—which was presented to former Baptist Foundation of Oklahoma President Robert L. Ross, also the author *The Two Became One*, A History of the Convention.

May 2018.

The Oklahoma Baptist Historical Commission met March 6 at the Baptist Building in Oklahoma City. After some discussion, the Commission approved a recommendation to reduce the number of years a person must be deceased to be included in the Oklahoma Baptist Hall of Fame from 15 years to seven years, effective this year

(2018). Approval of this recommendation by the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma Board of Directors' Operations Committee is requested. Each year, nominations are made by the Historical Commission's Hall of Fame Committee to the Oklahoma Baptist Historical Society for the formal induction of proposed honorees.

During the 2017 BGCO annual meeting two new members were elected to serve with the Historical Commission beginning this year. They included Chris Gordon, pastor of Hennessey, First; and Lawrence Gresham, pastor of Marlow, Lakeside.

The Commission's Gaskin Baptist Archives Committee and a few others visited the archives at Oklahoma Baptist University on March 29 for an annual survey. The group had a positive meeting with Rachel Hawkins, Director of Library Collections and overseer of the Archives, and Paul Roberts, OBU Dean of Library Services. Discussion included the possibility of the Historical Commission helping to fund the cost of retaining a student, (part-time) to help with digital conversion efforts of documents in the archives and library collections. This includes converting historic Falls Creek reel-to-reel audio tapes to digital files.

Of specific note this spring is the donation of Edna McMillan's personal library by Bristow, First to the archives. The 130-volume collection was delivered to the archives on March 29 by Historical Secretary Bob Nigh.

The spring 2018 *Oklahoma Baptist Chronicle* was mailed the second week in April.

September 2018.

During their March 6 meeting at the Baptist Building in Oklahoma City, members of the Oklahoma Baptist Historical Commission approved a recommendation to allow for some flexibility in choosing recipients of the annual Distinguished Service Award (DSA). Historically, the Oklahoma Baptist Historical Commission/Society has presented one DSA annually during the Annual Meeting of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma in November. Commissioners approved a recommendation to present multiple awards, if merited. Each year, nominations are made by the Historical Commission's Distinguished Service Award Committee to the Oklahoma Baptist Historical Society for the formal induction of proposed honorees. Approval of the recommendation will be sought from attendees of the 2018 meeting of the Society on Sept. 29 at Oklahoma City, Trinity.

The autumn 2018 issue of the *Oklahoma Baptist Chronicle* is being compiled, and will be mailed to Historical Society members in October.

The Fall 2018 meeting of the Historical Commission will be held

Sept. (8:30 a.m., at Oklahoma City, Trinity) The 2018 Oklahoma Baptist Historical Society meeting will be held from 10 a.m.-Noon, Sept. 29 at Oklahoma City, Trinity following the Commission meeting. A tour of the historic Oklahoma City church complex is being planned.

Update since Jan. 1, 2019.

Since Jan. 1, donations to the Gaskin Archives have included about 25 books from Mrs. Henry Gold, Durant, First; two books by J.M. Gaskin (Baptist Milestones in Oklahoma and The McConnell Years) from Onis Cox, Edmond; and a large quantity of Sunday School records from the Salt Fork Association, including association annual reports for the years 1966, 1969, 1972-74, 1976, 1978 and 1982, and Sunday School reports from Carmen Church from 1954-1962.

Jesse Marvin (J.M.) Gaskin, founding member of the Oklahoma Baptist Historical Society—an auxiliary of the Oklahoma Baptist Historical Commission—and Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma (BGCO) Historical Secretary for 45 years (1953-1998), passed away at the age of 101 January 8 following a brief illness.

Donations Received for Archives:

Matt Stewart, BCM Director at Oklahoma City University, of *The Little Evangel* song book. By Robert H. Coleman of Dallas, Texas. Published in 1925 by the Sunday School Board of the SBC.

2018 Annual Reports for Muskogee and Frisco associations.

Scrapbook containing items from many churches, including Clinton, First; Fairview; Oklahoma City, Olivet; Oklahoma City, Crown Heights; Shawnee, First; Durant, First; Seminole, First; Thomas; Lawton, First; Oklahoma City, Immanuel; Frederick, First; Grove First; Altus, First and Norman, First.

Also in the scrapbook: the 1950 SBC Baptist Training Union Calendar; March 15, 1951; *Thinking Evangelisticly* (sic) *Thoughts on Evangelism*, by the BGCO Evangelism Dept.; *Fifty-Fifty by 1950*, a Baptist Ideal Adopted by the SBC at Memphis, 1948; *The Budget Plan of Church Finance* by the SBC; *A Practical Stewardship Program for a Baptist Church*, for the BGCO by Anson Justice; *Rules for Falls Creek*; *Every Baptist A Tither*, by the SBC Executive Committee; *SBC Sunday School Program and Calendar of Activities*, October 1950-October 1951.

Many church records from churches in Salt Fork Association, including Annual Reports for the Association in 1966, 1969, 1972-74, 1976, 1978, and 1982.

Carmen, First Sunday School reports for 1954-1962. History of Carmen Church 1903-1978.

NECROLOGY

Jan. 1–Dec. 31, 2018

Editor's Note: To clear up any confusion and establish firm guidelines for inclusion, the Oklahoma Baptist Historical Commission, acting in its Oct. 6, 2017 meeting at Oklahoma City, Portland Ave., passed a recommendation stating, "That the Necrology listed in each Spring *Chronicle* include only current and former Oklahoma pastors/staff, Missionaries, BGCO and Affiliates staff and their immediate family members." The recommendation was approved by then BGCO Executive Director-Treasurer Anthony Jordan on Jan. 8, 2018. Obituary information routinely is taken from the pages of the *Baptist Messenger*.

Bass, Bob died Aug. 17. He was basketball and baseball coach at Oklahoma Baptist University. He was NAIA basketball coach of the year in 1967 after leading the Bison to the national championship.

Bisagno, John died Aug. 5. He was an itinerant evangelist before becoming pastor of Del City, First Southern, and later, Houston, Texas, First. He was president of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1972.

Bowen, Alice Marie died Dec. 11. She was the widow of long-time state pastor Ray Bowen, mother of Tim Bowen, Bryan Association director of missions, sister of state pastors Cliff, John and Wayne Fite, and served as a house parent along with her husband at the Oklahoma Baptist Children's Home in Oklahoma City.

Bowen, Richard "Dale" died Sept. 18. He was a retired state pastor.

Brooks, Robert Earl died Feb. 2. He served for 48 years on the staff of 10 churches in Oklahoma and Texas, most recently at Oklahoma City, Exchange Ave. and Duncan, First.

Cantrell, Bill G. "Pete" died March 30. He served on the boards of the Baptist Foundation of Oklahoma and Oklahoma Baptist University.

Comer, Betty died Feb. 7. She was the widow of state pastor Jack Comer.

Conley, Jim died June 24. He was active in Disaster Relief and Campers on Mission.

Crawford, Beverly died June 11. She was the wife of pastor Ralph Crawford.

Crawford, Ralph A. died July 29. He was pastor of Oklahoma City, Olivet for more than 25 years and also pastored at Enid, Trinity; Ryan, First; Ada, Trinity and Del City, First Southern.

Cuevas, Gerardo died Aug. 12. He was the son of Navor Cuevas, pastor of Ada, Trinity, Hispanic.

Denny, Anna died March 28. She was the widow of Bob Denny, who pastored Ahloso Church near Ada; Prague, First; Porter, First; Minco, First and Elk City, First.

Dilbeck, Ford Ellis died Jan. 17. He was the newborn son of Leighton and Carley Dilbeck and the grandson of BGCO executive director-treasurer Hance Dilbeck and his wife, Julie.

Dye, Robert died July 7. He was the retired pastor of Chickasha, Michigan Ave.

Edmondson, Donnie died Sept. 27. He was recent interim pastor at Verden and former pastor of Anadarko, Virginia Ave.

Farmer, James died Jan. 24. He was pastor of First Indian Church in Muskogee Association.

Freeman, Johnny Douglas died March 11. He pastored at Newalla, First; Oklahoma City, Southwest Friendship; Ninnekah, First; Walters, First; Chickasha, Sharon; Minco, Canaan; Gracemont, SpringCreek and planted Chickasha, Southern Hills, where he was pastor for 27 years.

Garlow, Willa Ruth died Feb. 19. She was an author, spokesperson and longtime leader in children's ministry with the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma and widow of Lyle Garlow, retired BGCO senior associate executive director.

Garman, Marilyn died Aug. 19. She was the Disaster Relief childcare team coordinator and wife of DR vehicle coordinator and assistant facility manager Jim Garman.

Garrison, Alvin Lee died Dec. 21. He was a state minister for 80 years.

Green, James died Jan. 2. He was pastor emeritus at Newalla, New Life and served at churches in Oklahoma, Illinois, Missouri and Texas. He and his wife, Ruth Ann, also served as IMB missionaries in East Africa and the Caribbean.

Hall, Shane Benjamin died Feb. 16. He was pastor of Del City, First Southern and had pastored Canute, First; Hobart, Washington Street; Tulsa, Calvary; Clinton, First and Lawton, First. He served on the board of the BGCO and the Nominating Committee and Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Higle, Tommy C. died July 23. He was pastor of Marietta, First for 34 years and served 49 years in full-time ministry at churches in Oklahoma and Arkansas.

Jarvis, Gerald died Sept. 9. He was pastor of Rocky, Salem.

Lamb, Norman died Jan. 5. He was a board member for the Baptist Foundation of Oklahoma and served on the SBC Committee on Committees in 1990.

Lanier, Gail died Dec. 18. She was the retired BGCO WMU secretary.

Lillard, Toots died Nov. 20. She was the mother of Charles Lillard, retired BCM director.

Lind, Norma died April 14. She was the mother of Randy Lind, BGCO music ministries specialist.

Lipscomb, Deborah Jo died June 27. She and her husband of 44 years, Bobby, served in Baptist Collegiate Ministries as co-directors, including 18 years at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah and 15 years at Northeastern A&M College in Miami. She also served as camp director at Camp Nunny-Cha-ha.

Little, Mark Anthony died Aug. 27. He was the brother of Ben Little, BGCO Native American Strategist.

Lowry, Jon W. died May 21. He served as a bi-vocational pastor for 34 years.

Martin, Bob died Nov. 2. He was a long-time music minister in the state and the father of Tim Martin, youth minister at Lawton, First East and Robin Bowen, wife of Bryan Association director of missions, Tim Bowen.

McMullen, Gary died April 11. He was the father of state pastor Rusty McMullen.

Moody, Paul died Dec. 6. He was a member of the board of the BGCO Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

Onley, Ernest Edward, Jr. died Oct. 23. He was a retired pastor and North American Mission Board missionary.

Parker, David died Feb. 2. He was the son of long-time Oklahoma minister of education John C. Parker.

Paxton, William Thurmond died Jan. 29. He was the father of Casey Paxton, pastor of Mangum, First.

Penna, Greg died Sept. 1. He was former pastor of Ninnekah, First, a church planting group strategist for the BGCO and worked for the North American Mission Board.

Peters, William died Feb. 10. He served Baptist churches in Oklahoma, California, Arizona and Texas.

Powell, Benny Ray died July 1. He served as pastor in Oklahoma, Missouri, Montana and Texas during his 45-year ministry.

Richardson, Russell Gene died May 30. He pastored churches in Oklahoma, Illinois, North Carolina and Tennessee and was director of evangelism for Illinois, Colorado, New England and Oklahoma associations.

Ringer, Peggy died Feb. 14. She was the mother of Danny Ringer, director of missions for Great Plains Association.

Sanders, Brenda died Aug. 15. She was the mother of Todd Sanders, BGCO Student Ministries & Education Specialist.

Scott, Earl Dean died Jan. 8. He served in several Oklahoma

churches and as director of missions in Craig-Mayes Association. **Shirley, Ben** died March 25. He had been pastor of Overbrook, Marsden and also pastored at Wilson Zaneis (37 years); Mannsville, Russett and Wapanucka, First.

Schock, Elisabeth died Nov. 15. She was the mother of BGCO executive director-treasurer Hance Dilbeck's wife, Julie.

Skipper, Bart died March 5. He was pastor of several Oklahoma churches, including Cookson, and was named Chaplain of the Year by the BGCO in 2005.

Smith, Joe N. died Feb. 16. He was a bi-vocational pastor in Oklahoma and Texas.

Spain, Cathy died Sept. 17. She was the wife of Bill Spain, retired pastor of Midwest City, Sooner.

Stone, Glen died March 6. He was track and field coach at OBU.

Sutterfield, Dessie died March 23. She was the wife of Oklahoma pastor O.C. Sutterfield.

Thompson, Dan died Oct. 18. He was pastor of Moore, Emmanuel for more than 30 years and founder of Moore Christian Academy.

Stuart, Sharon died July 27. She was the wife of Sunny Stuart, recently retired pastor of Little Axe, First.

Thayer-Jones, Dorothy died Jan. 29. She was children's and WMU director at Midwest City, First and Mission Friends and Girls in Action consultant in the BGCO WMU Department for more than 18 years.

Toombs, Cerita died Jan. 30. She was the mother of Danny Toombs, BCM director at Cameron University in Lawton.

Wilsie, Jim died April 15. He was the chief financial officer for the Baptist Foundation of Oklahoma for 15 years.

Zimmer, Richard died May 14. He pastored several churches, including Hydro, First and Shawnee, Rock Creek.

Memorial Gifts

On September 8, 1998 by vote of the Historical Commission, a memorial fund was established whereby a gift of \$25 or more may be made to the Gaskin Historical Archives and Library Forever Fund in memory of a deceased relative or friend.

Ramona Allen, Wilburton

Given by John and Pat Hart

Ramona Allen, Wilburton

Given by Delmer, Charity and Tim Allen

James Ball, Claremore

Given by Lemuel Ball

Margie Ball, Claremore

Given by Lemuel Ball

Bob Burrows, Amarillo, Texas

Given by Marlin and Patsy Hawkins

Pluma Cantrell, Wilburton

Given by Del and Ramona Allen

Rose Chronister, Sallisaw

Given by Sans Bois Baptist Association

E. Farrell Dixon, Tulsa

Given by Curtis and Betty Dixon

Donald R. Dunn, Chickasha

Given by Jimmie L. Dunn

Jack Everhart, Oklahoma City

Given by Del and the late Ramona Allen

Betty Farris, Muskogee

Given by Del and Ramona Allen

Virginia Ann Fry, Claremore

Given by Lemuel Ball

Helen Isom Gaskin, Durant

Given by Patricia A. Roberts

Joseph Alexander Gaskin, Cartersville

Given by J. M. Gaskin

Jesse Marvin Gaskin, Durant

Given by Del Allen

Jim Glaze, Montgomery, Ala.

Given by Marlin and Patsy Hawkins

George Hill, Coalgate

Given by Margaret Hill

George Hill, Coalgate

Given by J. M. Gaskin

Mrs. Carrell Hooper, Durant

Given by J.M. and Helen Gaskin

Carleen Jones, Oklahoma City

Given by Marlin and Patsy Hawkins

Norma Jordan, Bartlesville

Given by Oklahoma Baptist Historical Commission

Nadean Justice, Oklahoma City

Given by J. M. Gaskin

Murray Leath, Plano, Texas
Given by Marlin and Patsy Hawkins

Dick Lovelady, Bethany
Given by Marlin and Patsy Hawkins

Clara Luedecke, Weatherford, Texas
Given by Marlin and Patsy Hawkins

Burl Mackey, Edmond
Given by Jonell Crawford

Carl Mackey, Kingfisher
Given by Jonell Crawford

Charles Mackey, Durant
Given by Mrs. Robert Mackey

Robert Mackey, Durant
Given by Mrs. Robert Mackey

Bob Maxwell, Fayetteville, Ark.
Given by Del Allen

Lee McWilliams, Durant
Given by Patricia Roberts

Maye McWilliams, Durant
Given by Patricia Roberts

John H. Morton, Durant
Given by Bill J. Morton

Emma L. Shoemate Morton, Durant
Given by Bill J. Morton

Wenonah Willene Pierce, Fayetteville, Ark.

Given by Oklahoma Baptist Historical Commission

Wenonah Willene Pierce, Fayetteville, Ark.

Given by Del and Ramona Allen

Marie Ratliff, Wilburton

Given by Center Point Baptist Church

John D. Riggs, Durant

Given by J.M. Gaskin

Todd Sheldon, Dallas, Texas

Given by the Oklahoma Baptist Historical Commission

Todd Sheldon, Dallas, Texas

Given by Marlin and Patsy Hawkins

John L. Smith, Marlow

Given by Winfred Knight

Cathy Spain, Midwest City

Given by Winfred T. and Grace L. Knight, Jr.

Max Stanfield, Oklahoma City

Given by Winfred T. and Grace L. Knight, Jr.

William G. Tanner, Belton, Texas

Given by Marlin and Patsy Hawkins

James Timberlake, Atlanta, Ga.

Given by Kathyryne Timberlake

Thelma Townsend, Oklahoma City

Given by Marlin and Patsy Hawkins

Lawrence Van Horn, Oklahoma City

Given by Marlin and Patsy Hawkins

H. Alton Webb, Anadarko

Given by J.M. and Helen Gaskin

Almeda Welch, Durant

Given by J.M. and Helen Gaskin

Hazel Marie Williams White, Wilburton

Given by Del and Ramona Allen