

THE OKLAHOMA BAPTIST CHRONICLE

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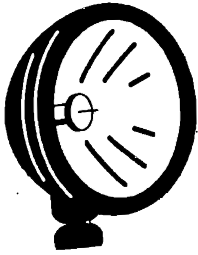
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Spotlight on Marks' Writings

The Diaries

What a blessing we received this year from the L. W. "Whit" Marks family of Edmond. As some of you may have heard, earlier this year we received two diaries written by L. W. Marks. The diaries are dated 1898-1901 and 1902-1903. The works were collected and put in typed form by one of Mark's grandson's, Bro. Charles F. "Freddie" Marks of Lawrence, Kansas. In a recent conversation with the grandson, I discovered L. W. Mark's also compiled other diaries. According to Freddie, the writings from 1904 have apparently been lost. He is currently computerizing a journal of the 1905-06 years.

The Marks family has a long history of involvement in Baptist work. To understand the Marks family structure requires some basic information. L. W. Marks, the grandfather, was a pastor, missionary, and historian. He was commonly called "L. W." and was the first of the three L. W. Marks. His son L. W. Marks II went by the name of "Luther." One of the four grandsons, L. W. Marks III goes by the name of "Whit." The five children of "Luther" (L. W. Marks II) have compiled a vast history of work for the Lord through their lives. That history is too lengthy for this quick spotlight.

Freddie Marks says that his grandfather kept his daily notes in small booklets approximately 2 ½ by 4 inches. Most often he made his entries late each evening or on some occasions two days at a time. What an invaluable addition these two dairies are to our collection. We all must be grateful for this extensive compilation of materials by Charles F. "Freddie" Marks.

The Book

For years researchers in Oklahoma Baptist History have desired to see the original writings of L. W. Marks for his book entitled *The Story of Oklahoma Baptists*. J. M. Gaskin, who served for over 45 years as historical secretary for the BGCO has often commented that Marks' book is the one primary source of early history of Oklahoma Baptists that far exceeds all others in its wealth of material. This unpublished and undated work was written early in the 1900's, and is the one distinct link between our history prior to and after the state of Oklahoma was formed. While the writing cannot be dated with certainty, page 124 refers to a "new meeting house" that was "thoroughly well-built, and has been in constant use up to the present time, 1913."

I am pleased to announce the L. W. "Whit" Marks III family has given written permission for the Oklahoma Baptist Historical Commission and Society to print that rare book. Owing to financial considerations, the historical commission and society have agreed to have the book serialized and printed in the *Oklahoma Baptist Chronicle*. The publication will require at least six issues (and maybe as many as eight) beginning with the Spring 2014 *Chronicle*. Every life member and paid-up annual member of the Oklahoma Baptist Historical Society will receive the entire book by simply collecting the *Chronicles* from 2014-17. Others may purchase the *Chronicles* as they appear, or after the serialization is completed. Owing to the thickness of the *Oklahoma Baptist Chronicle* due to the Marks' book inclusion, those *Chronicles* will most likely have a higher cost to purchase.

The Display

Because of the renewed interest in the L. W. Marks materials, the historical commission display at the BGCO annual meeting which was held November 10-13, 2013 featured several writings regarding Marks. Included were the two typed diaries, a copy of Marks original history of Oklahoma Baptists and a book by Al Turner entitled L. W. Marks: *A Baptist Progressive in Missouri & Oklahoma, 1862-1943*.

Haskell Dudley Beck

Inducted 2013

Haskell Dudley Beck and his twin sister, Hattie, were born in a half dugout on a quarter section of land northwest of Thomas, Oklahoma on December 29, 1907 to Amos Augustus Beck and Lula Inez Davison. Haskell was named in honor of the brand new state's first governor, Charles N. Haskell.

At an early age his family moved to Muskogee, Oklahoma. He was



12 years old when the Lord saved him on the steps of Muskogee's First Baptist Church while he was waiting for the Baptist Young People's Union to begin. He felt the call to gospel ministry during his junior year in high school and began leading church singing while only 17.

After he graduated from high school he attended Oklahoma Baptist University. While at OBU he led music in scores of revival services. Often while leading the song service he would step down to the congregation and lead someone to faith in Jesus. Even at this young age his evangelistic fervor was well evident. He was licensed to preach by the North Baptist Church of Shawnee in 1927.

After graduating from OBU in 1931 with a BA degree he entered Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas where he studied for three years. During this time he was part of a team that conducted over 100 revivals. The first half of his time in seminary was given to studying music as he felt this was his calling.

However, during a revival service in Woodward, Oklahoma he surrendered to preach the gospel. He was ordained to the gospel ministry in October 1934 by the First Baptist Church of Minco, Oklahoma pastored at the time by J.A. Haley.

In September 1934 he entered his first full-time pastorate at the South Persimmon Baptist Church near Sharon, Oklahoma. Shortly afterwards he was introduced to a Miss LaVada Gorrell when she and he sang the hymn "Face to Face" as a duet during an area revival. They were married on March 1, 1936 – a union that lasted nearly 50 years. To this home were born two sons, D. Norman and Judson.

To follow the steps in which the Lord led Haskell reads like the book of Acts and the missionary journeys of the Apostle Paul. The trail of joyful service ran from Oklahoma to Arkansas, then to Arizona and Texas up to Kansas and then finally back to his native state. He planted dozens of missions and new churches across this large region. In every pastorate he developed many mission points, out in all directions, conducting Sunday Schools and worship services on Sunday afternoons. Untold are the number of personal evangelistic encounters he had where he led many to faith in Christ.

In later years he moved back to Oklahoma and served as a chaplain in the Veteran's Hospital in Oklahoma City while also evangelizing the area's African American population through his work as an educator at the Baptist Education Center. Then toward the end of his active missionary life the Lord led him back to northwestern Oklahoma where he served as the Director of Missions for the Salt Fork Baptist Association. He retired from vocational ministry in October of 1980 but remained active in door-to-door evangelism as long as his health allowed. After a lengthy illness and affliction with Parkinson's disease he joined the church triumphant on May 17, 1985.

His passion in serving God was rooted in Romans 11:14: "If by any means I may provoke to emulation them which are my flesh, and might save some of them" then it was worth it all.

Submitted by Lynn Gray

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Dr. H. Truman Maxey

Inducted 2013

“Children are my business”

Truman Maxey was a pioneer in the area of child care in Oklahoma. Thousands of lives have been changed because of his influence. Hurting children in Oklahoma have had their lives made easier because of the work of Dr. Maxey. He served the Lord for more



than 50 years as pastor, educator, and administrator. He was considered a champion of children's causes and was chosen by the National Association of Homes for Children to receive their Distinguished Service Award at their national meeting in St. Louis, in 1985. He was responsible for an Educational Trust Fund, which made it possible for any child in the Baptist Children's Home to further their education. Church attendance was a priority of his, and he made it possible for children in the Orphans Home to attend four different Oklahoma City churches.

Maxey often said that he got into the child care business because his wife told him to. “We had a one year old son, and she was pregnant with our second child when I told her she could have as many girls as she wanted, but I wanted nine boys so I could have a baseball team. She told me to go get a children's home.”

Henry Truman Maxey was born in Indian Territory, near Duncan, on May 2, 1904. He attended and graduated from school in Lawton,

Oklahoma. He attended Oklahoma A & M College, (now Oklahoma State University), in Stillwater, earning a BS degree in 1926.

Truman was ordained and licensed to the ministry by his home church, the First Baptist Church of Enid, Oklahoma in 1929. He then enrolled at Union University in Jackson, Tennessee, where he was excited about taking New Testament Greek from Dr. Charles B. Williams. He taught there while attending classes and earned his BA degree in 1931.

Truman returned to Oklahoma where he was called as pastor of the First Baptist Church of Forgan, and he pastored there from 1931 to 1933. While he was in Forgan, he married Alice Horner on May 6, 1932, in the home of Dr. Andrew Potter, who was the pastor of the First Baptist Church of Enid. He was an elementary teacher in Forgan, as well as a pastor.

He was called from Forgan to the First Baptist Church in Carmen in 1933 and served as pastor in Carmen from 1933 to 1935. While there, their first son, Paul, was born to them.

On January 1, 1935, the family moved to Oklahoma City, where Truman accepted the position of associate superintendent at the Oklahoma Baptist Orphans Home. Another son, Henry, was born to them in 1935. A daughter, Barbara, completed the family in 1942.

Truman entered a special ministry to dependent and neglected children, many of whom had been orphaned by the loss of one or both parents. The Oklahoma Baptist Orphans Home consisted of a 40 acre campus, three dormitory type buildings, utility buildings, horse and cow lots, chicken yards, orchards, and pasture. All of this was located just five miles from downtown Oklahoma City. The Orphans Home housed one hundred thirty-five children and eight workers. Their annual budget was just under \$22,000.00.

Truman worked his way to resident manager and then superintendent. In 1956 he became the Executive Director of the Department of Child Care for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma. He remained in that capacity until his first retirement in 1970. Boys Ranch Town was also placed under his direction. He was known for his careful administration and imaginative planning and his ability was recognized outside of Oklahoma.

Truman was the founder and charter member of the Southern Baptist Executives of Homes for Children, which was organized during the 1948 Southern Baptist Convention at St. Louis. He later served the group as public relations chairman.

In 1949, he was inaugurated as the first president of this group, meeting in Jackson, Mississippi. He served as president of the Southwestern Association of Executives of Homes for Children until 1957. He initiated the child care newsletter, "Care 'N Share" and edited it for many years.

In 1955, he attended the Baptist World Congress in London and visited the Holy Land. He organized and served as chairman of the Workshop Planning Committee for the first five Annual Workshops for Personnel of Homes for Children, meeting at the University of Texas. This workshop provided training for child care staff coming from eight surrounding states in the southwest.

Dr. Maxey helped organize the Oklahoma Association for Children's Institutions and Agencies in the late 1950's. He served as a representative of the State of Oklahoma at the White House Conference on Children and Youth in 1950 and again in 1960. In 1957, Oklahoma Baptist University awarded him the Doctor of Humanities Degree.

In 1969-70, Dr. Maxey served as President of the Oklahoma Health and Welfare Association, which was composed of 1,000 members statewide. From 1962-1974, he was a member, then chairman of the Oklahoma State Child Care Advisory Committee. This committee developed regulations, standards, and licensing for day care, foster care, and institutional care of children in Oklahoma.

Truman Maxey left child care but continued the Lord's work on the opposite end of the age scale. When Dr. Maxey retired from child care in 1970, he moved into the Baptist Foundation of Oklahoma office where he served as a consultant for wills and estates. He averaged writing 100 wills per year for ten years. In 1980, he became administrative assistant in Personal Trustee Services. He retired from that position in 1984.

Dr. Maxey has had such an influence on child care in Oklahoma and around the United States, that he was considered a legend in child

care. He passed away on August 19, 1998, in Oklahoma City, but his work with orphaned children in Oklahoma lives on.

Dr. Maxey said, "Child by child, we lose or build a civilization. We teach our children an orderly way of life, believing in a religion of the Word manifested by deeds for we are God's workmanship. We believe in preaching the Word with words, but we back it up with missions of mercy. When the gospel is preached and practiced, then the doctrine of compassion comes to full flower."

When one has touched the life of a child, one has changed the world. Dr. Truman Maxey has definitely changed the world.

Submitted by Martha A. Ray

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The Daily Oklahoman

"Care 'N Share Newsletter"

Samuel William Scantlan

Inducted 2013

Samuel William Scantlan stood in the pulpits of nearly every Southern Baptist Church in Oklahoma and, with fervor and conviction, preached the truths of The Bible. He preached about God's love, about sin, about God's wrath, God's salvation and eternal life. He preached about missions and Christian witness. He preached about stewardship and about taking and sending The Gospel around the world.

These are words that easily describe Sam Scantlan:

Christian, Steadfast Faith, Missionary, Encourager, Pastor, Preacher, Peace-maker, Friend, Bible Scholar, Benefactor, Comforter, Writer, Dedicated, Poet, Zealous, Prayer Warrior, Soul-winner, Laborer, Christian Convictions, Fun-loving, Husband, Dad, Granddad, Great-Granddad, Uncle, Generous Giver, tender hearted, fighter for what is right



On February 24, 1901, Sam Scantlan was born in a two-room log cabin in a farming community in the Missouri hills near Cuba, Missouri. He was the second-born of five children in the household of Samuel Jeremiah and Edna Bell Key Scantlan. Sam learned his hard work ethic on the farm. His dad turned the team of horses to him when he was 12 and from that age he and his brother did the farm work. *Early in life, Sam learned responsibility, reliability, and diligence.* Dr. Sam often illustrated his sermons with his farm experiences.

He said that he grew up as a wicked young man who did not know or understand The Gospel. When he was 21, he fell in love and became engaged to Naomi Ruth Britton. Sam and Naomi attended a week-long Baptist revival meeting at the Shepherd Hill School House where Sam had gone to school through the eighth grade. One night during the revival, Sam and Naomi both trusted Christ as personal Savior...*and began learning the joy of Christian living and Christian service.*

In 1921, Sam and Naomi, in a horse driven buggy and through a driving rain, drove to Steelville, Missouri, the County Seat, and were married. Both of them grew up in dysfunctional families. When they married, they vowed that they would have a Christian marriage and a home full of love and happiness. A vow they kept for sixty years.

They moved to Dr. Cox's Ranch where Sam was the ranch Foreman and *learned to direct and manage a crew.* Three years later, Sam and Naomi had twins sons who died just hours after their birth. The young married couple learned, through their heartbreak, *to trust God in every circumstance of life.*

In 1927, Sam and Naomi decided to leave Missouri and move to Chandler, Oklahoma, where his brother lived. Sam had never driven a car, hadn't really seen very many cars, but he went to town and purchased his first automobile, a Model T Ford, for \$346 and drove it home! Trusting The Lord, Sam and Naomi packed the car with all their earthly goods and drove to Oklahoma over the unpaved, dirt highways. In Chandler, Sam was hired as a truck-driver for Magnolia Oil Company.

Sam and Naomi became faithful members of First Baptist Church of Chandler and became loyal Southern Baptists! Sam became an avid student of The Bible. Always, when driving his truck, His Bible was on the dashboard. Soon, he was ordained as a deacon. He taught a Sunday School class of young men. Four of them later became Oklahoma pastors. Sam confessed, "I felt God's call to preach, but I argued with the Lord and told him, I have only an eighth-grade education and I can't preach! Besides, I have a good paying job in the middle of the economic depression. I have a wife and baby to support!" But, he caught himself preaching as he drove his truck over Oklahoma roads.

One summer evening, Sam parked his truck at Mr. Sayler's gas sta-

tion in Davis, Oklahoma, and accepted the loan of Mr. Saylor's car. Over the rugged mountain road, he made his first trip to a worship service at Falls Creek Baptist Assembly. From that time on, he loved Falls Creeknot realizing that some day he would be in charge of it!

Sam was transferred to St. Louis, Oklahoma where he and Naomi were active in the First Baptist Church and Sam was a deacon. In 1928, one day, while driving his truck, he finally surrendered his life to the ministry. He told Naomi and said that he planned to drive a truck during the week and preach on Sundays. Naomi said, "Sam. if you are going to preach, then you should quit your job, go to school, and be the best you can be!" His fellow truck drivers thought he was crazy to leave a good paying job in the middle of the economic depression, move to Shawnee, and go to school at Oklahoma Baptist University! But with faith in God's guidance and provision, at age 28, Sam started to OBU as a high school freshman. In six years, he graduated from OBU with a bachelor of arts degree. Sam Scantlan loved OBU.

While a student, Sam became a hard-working, beloved pastor. He began his ministry by pastoring half-time at Avery Baptist Church and half-time at Rock Creek Baptist Church, near Shawnee. Both churches grew to need a full-time pastor. Both churches invited Sam to be their pastor. Sam accepted the pastorate at the Rock Creek Baptist Church.

Later, he went as pastor at the First Baptist Church of St. Louis, Oklahoma, the church that had licensed and ordained him to preach. Then, when Fairview Baptist Church, near Shawnee, called Sam as pastor, Sam, who considered himself a "Country Preacher," vowed to lead the Fairview church to be a model of what a great country church could be.

In the midst of that thriving church program, Dr. Andrew Potter, the executive director of the BGCO and Dr. T.P. Haskins came to the Scantlan home to invite Sam to be the Convention's State Missionary. Sam was shocked and honored, but declined, saying, "I am just a country preacher and my heart is in building a great country church." Dr. Potter told Sam that, as a state missionary, he could help *many* country churches. After several weeks of soul-searching and prayer, Sam and Naomi, again answered God's call. Sam became Oklahoma's state missionary and moved his family to Oklaho-

ma City. Sam loved his work with Baptist churches, pastors, and Associations across Oklahoma.

One day, the pulpit committee of Capitol Hill Baptist Church in Oklahoma City called to make an appointment with Sam at his office. Knowing that they were searching for a pastor, Sam began to pray for guidance in recommending men the committee might consider as pastor. But the committee came to invite Sam to be their pastor. His intention was to continue to be an Oklahoma missionary, but after much prayer and seeking God's will, Sam, the self-proclaimed "Country Preacher" accepted the call to be the pastor at Capitol Hill Baptist Church, at the time, the third largest church in Oklahoma, where he felt he would stay to the end of his active ministry. But, once more, God had other plans!

After four years of a successful pastorate, the BGCO again came, this time to invite Sam to be the Superintendent (Director) of the Convention's Missions Department where he faithfully served for nearly 25 years. While strengthening Oklahoma Baptists' world-mission efforts through the Cooperative Program, associational missions, language missions, and new-church starts, Sam encouraged and helped churches, pastors, church staff people and lay leaders. He drove hundreds of miles, preached in nearly every Oklahoma Baptist church, large and small, while also serving on the Home Mission Board and other Boards and Agencies and committees of the Southern Baptist Convention. But, he never forgot his commitment to support and help undergird country churches.

Realizing many small churches in Oklahoma had pastors who did not have the opportunity for a college education, Sam enlisted the cooperation of Oklahoma Baptist University and began his dream of "The Summer School for Preachers" at O.B.U. Hundreds of pastors have been blessed and have earned college credit at The Summer School. For a time, the school was discontinued, but, thankfully, it is again being offered at O.B.U.

During his tenure as Missions Director, Sam was asked to also become the Interim Director of the Oklahoma Baptists' Boys Ranch Town. Sam loved children and yearned for every Oklahoma child to have the best Christian care.

He was asked to lead the Oklahoma SANE Organization's fight to

keep liquor and alcohol out of Oklahoma. He accepted. As a child, he had learned first-hand what alcohol does to persons and families. Even though his life was threatened several times, he led the campaign, refused police protection, and labored long and hard against what he called "the devil's crowd." Along with his work in the Missions Department, came the request for Sam to become the non-resident manager of Falls Creek Assembly (now Falls Creek Conference Center). From his Oklahoma City office and with frequent trips "to the Creek," he worked closely with resident managers. Several times, he was chosen as the morning preacher during youth weeks. With limited finances available, Sam struggled to upgrade the Falls Creek grounds, the roads, and the needed equipment. His dreams included a large enclosed tabernacle, lovely buildings, a modern water and sewer system and a first-class, year-round conference center. His dream is coming true! He loved Falls Creek and prayed diligently for those who attended.

One of Sam Scantlan's proudest moments was when Oklahoma Baptist University bestowed on him the Doctor of Divinity Degree. From that day, he became "Dr. Sam" to Oklahoma Baptists and to everyone who knew him.

He was an avid and prolific reader and writer. From the beginning of his ministry until his death, he kept a daily journal. He wrote many articles for Baptist and other publications. He had a weekly newspaper column in *The Davis News* and in the *Missouri Steelville Star*. He wrote literally thousands of poems and loved to study the Bible, poetry, and literature. He wrote adult Sunday school lessons and articles for the Baptist Sunday School Board (now Lifeway). He wrote hundreds of letters of encouragement to pastors, fellow workers, and friends. He wrote letters to U.S. Presidents and leaders of all political parties....and received personal letters in return. He wrote four books: *A Baptist Associational Manual*, *Andrew Potter Baptist Builder*, *T.B. Lackey The Man and An Epoch*, and a book of poetry entitled *Through God's Revolving Doors*. He was listed in *Who's Who in OKC*, *Who's Who in Oklahoma*, *Who's Who in International Poetry*, and *Who's Who in International Authors*. He wrote the lyrics to several songs for which Gene Bartlett and others wrote the music.

In 1966, when Dr. Sam retired, he and Naomi were asked to move to Falls Creek for two years to "span the gap" to new Falls Creek leadership. At the end of the two years, they bought a home in Da-

vis and continued as active members of the First Baptist Church. Dr. Sam served as chairman of the Davis Chamber of Commerce, president of the Lion's Club, was on civic committees and projects, and became a revered member of the Davis community.

At age 70, Dr. Sam was elected and served two terms as the President of the B.G.C.O. After his retirement, Dr. Sam preached nearly every Sunday in Oklahoma churches and was interim pastor in several churches. He then became pastor, until he was 80 years old, at Beaty Baptist Church near Pauls Valley.

Naomi died in 1980. She was a wonderful wife and mother and grandmother. Sam continued to live in Davis. When he was 95, in order to be near his daughter, he moved to a health center in Oklahoma City. That day, in big bold black letters across the front page of *The Davis News*, was the headline, DR. SAM MOVES TO OKLAHOMA CITY. On his 95th birthday, a caravan drove from Davis to Oklahoma City to celebrate with him at his birthday party.

Late evening, when he was 97, a nurse asked if Dr. Sam would go down the hall and pray with a fellow who needed encouragement. Dr. Sam, nearly blind, took his Bible, visited with the man, shared a scripture and prayed with him. On the way back to his room, he stopped, at her request, and prayed with a lady. He went to his room and quickly went to sleep after telling the nurse good night. At 2 a.m. God honored him by peacefully taking him home as he slept.

At his memorial service, every pew in the worship center at First Baptist Church, Davis, was filled and a large crowd of people stood during the service. Dr. Sam and Naomi are buried in the Davis cemetery, "because it is near Falls Creek!" The epitaph on Dr. Sam's tombstone reads, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

Addendum

During the Great Depression, Sam was at OBU and pastor at Rock Creek Baptist Church. One day, he came home doubled up with pain in his right side. Because Sam was unusually healthy and had never complained of being ill, Naomi was alarmed and insisted that she should drive him to the hospital. Sam protested and, writhing in pain, went to bed. He said, "I can't go to the hospital. No one is admitted to the hospital without paying \$5.00 and we don't have \$5.00!"

Naomi heard a knock on the front door. When she answered it, one of the church's deacons asked, "Is the pastor here. I need to see him." Naomi told the deacon that Sam was ill and experiencing severe pain. "I'll take him to the hospital," the deacon said, but Naomi, against Sam's wishes, said that they didn't have the \$5.00 hospital admittance fee. The deacon replied, "I wish I had \$5.00 but I don't." The deacon left, but soon returned with the three other church deacons. Among the three of them, they had \$5.00. With Sam protesting, those deacons carried him to a car and took him to the hospital in Shawnee. Sam was immediately taken to surgery for an appendectomy. Dr. Baxter later told Naomi that as he began the operation, Sam's appendix burst. Because it was 1930s, he would probably have died if he hadn't been taken to the hospital.

The surgery saved his life! All the time that Sam was in the hospital, and during his recuperation at home, he worried about paying the hospital and doctor bills. When he got well enough, he put on his suit and tie and went to Dr. Baxter's office. When Sam entered the office, the doctor was leaning back in his chair behind his desk. Sam said, "Dr. Baxter, I have come to find out how much I owe you and how much I owe the hospital." Dr. Baxter leaned toward Sam, looked him in the eye, and said, "Sam, I own this hospital. You don't owe me or the hospital one penny!! But, Sam, hear this! From now on, any sermon you preach, and person you lead to the Lord, and good thing you do.....I have a part in it."

Sam and Dr. Baxter served The Lord until Sam died in 1998 at the age of ninety-seven! Dr. Sam's influence is still alive and well in the hearts and lives of many people.

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When he was 95, Dr. Sam was in the hospital for three weeks. One evening, his granddaughter, Angela, came to the hospital and insisted that she would stay with granddad so that Lyle and Willa Ruth could have some time away from the hospital. While Angela was sitting by Sam's bedside, she asked, "Grandad, since you grew up at the turn of the century and in the horse and buggy days, and now you have seen automobiles, airplanes, space flights and so many changes. What is the biggest change you have ever seen?"

Without hesitation, Dr. Sam raised up in his hospital bed and answered, "Honey, the biggest change I have ever seen is the change God can make in the life of an ungodly man."

Submitted by Willa Ruth Garlow, Dr. Sam's daughter

Distinguished Service Award

Carolyn Ellenbrook

Who has worked with three DOMs over 30 years, served as a State of Oklahoma child welfare caseworker, served four years on the Baptist General Convention's board of directors and a five year ex-officio term, served five years as Oklahoma Baptists WMU president,



served one year as president of the Lifeway sponsored associational religious education organization, served a three-year term on the Oklahoma Baptist Historical Commission, and is a LIFE member of the Oklahoma Baptist Society having just completed a term as secretary of the Society? Carolyn Ellenbrook, that's who!

Carolyn has served as a volunteer for the WMU leadership team for the BGCO, as a pre-school volunteer consultant for the BGCO

Sunday School team, member of the Comanche-Cotton assist team for many years, leading conferences in churches, and served on the CCBA WMU Council for over 20 years.

In addition to serving over 47 years in her church's children and pre-school ministry, she has been involved in the PTA in Lawton. She has a wonderful knowledge of history. She often helps with holiday tours at the Mattie Beal Home, dressing in period costume as she relates some of the history of that home with visitors.

Her understanding of people of different cultures was enhanced by travels to other countries while being raised in a military family. She had a desire to go to many areas to share with others about her Lord. Places such as mission trips to Hawaii, Arizona, and Texas to lead conferences to establish communication and better equip teachers. The Dakotas, Mexico and Malawi were other areas where Carolyn shared her love of the Lord.

Perhaps her greatest mission field is the Lawton area where she ministers to those sent to her...as the Lord directs.

Thank you, Carolyn for following His Path.

By Freida Sheldon

Excerpts taken from CCBA Newsletter, July, 2012

IN MEMORY OF

HELEN GASKIN

We will sincerely miss the blessings and influence of Helen Gaskin, wife of Dr. J. M. Gaskin who served for 45 years as historical secretary for the BGCO. Helen Isom Gaskin was born May 15, 1920 in McAlester, Oklahoma. She was the oldest daughter of Roy and Carie Isom. Her mother was the organist at the First Baptist Church, Crowder, Oklahoma, and introduced Helen to music at an early age. Helen began playing the piano at church when she was 11 years old and never ceased serving in some music capacity after that time.

In 1938 she married J. M. Gaskin, her high school sweetheart. The couple quickly became a team as J. M. became the pastor and Helen served as organist at the First Baptist Churches of Coalgate, Tonkawa, Heavener, and Durant. Helen, in answer to a desperate need, served as organist at the First Christian Church in Durant from 1977 until 2011.



Helen played at countless local events and for many years was pianist for the Durant Kiwanis Club where she was honored as their first female member. She enjoyed her membership in Chapter DJ, P.E.O. Sisterhood and at Durant's Fortnightly Study Club. In 1992 Helen and Dr. Gaskin endowed a church music scholarship at OBU.

She is survived by her husband J.M. Gaskin of Durant, one son Ray Gaskin, and his wife Suzanne, of Pottsboro, Texas, three grandchildren, two great grandchildren, a sister, and several nieces and nephews.

Dr. Gaskin's work as historical secretary was greatly enhanced by his wife. For example, when the extensive indices to the *Oklahoma Baptist Chronicle* were prepared in 1979 and again in 1983, it was Helen who worked many hours on their home typewriter compiling the thousands of entries.

Dr. Gaskin's sense of humor regarding his wife and their marriage was always refreshing and complimentary. On Helen's serving for over 34 years as organist at the First Christian Church, Dr. Gaskin commented, "She was a Baptist a long time before she became a Christian."

There is no doubt, the work of Dr. Gaskin and the Oklahoma Baptist Historical Commission and Society would have been very different if Helen had not been such a good helpmate. She left for heaven on July 31, 2013 and we will miss her, but heaven is rejoicing with her presence.

By Eli Sheldon,
Historical Secretary, BGCO

Excerpts from the funeral service

The Baptist Messenger, August 15, 2013

Robinson, James, pastor of Durant, First Baptist, message remarks

**Minutes of the
Oklahoma Baptist Historical Society
October 12, 2013
Shawnee, OK, OBU Campus**

The Oklahoma Baptist Historical Society met for their yearly meeting on Saturday, October 12, 2013, in the Mabee Suite of the Noble Complex for Athletics on the campus of Oklahoma Baptist University. Martha Ray, President of the Society, called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

Jane Cluck read Psalm 111 and then L.M. Woodson led the group in prayer. Dr. David Whitlock, President of Oklahoma Baptist University, gave a brief welcome and history of OBU intertwined with his personal testimony.

The business session began. Moderated by Martha Ray. Items of business were:

1. Archives Committee Report – Commissioner L.M. Woodson
 - Reported that a committee made up of members of the Historical Commission had toured the archives located in the Mabee Learning Center at OBU.
 - He reported that there is a need to purchase additional equipment that can be used to help digitize our archived material to help with the preservation of the material and to make it more accessible to the public.
2. Presentation: “Archives As Ministry” – Dr. Paul Roberts, Dean of Library Services, OBU
 - Dr. Roberts shared his vision for how the archives can be used to support the work of Oklahoma Baptists reminding the group that “history is the record of God’s work among His people.”

- He also shared his personal testimony, conducted a brief question -and-answer-time and led in prayer.
3. Historical Secretary's Report – Dr. Eli Sheldon – Historical Secretary, BGCO
- Bro. Eli shared a brief report of his activities over the past year. He shared that two historical markers are being re-furbished, the memorial park at Falls Creek has been re-done, and he is often asked to come to churches celebrating their anniversaries to present certificates of recognition. He also shared how a coloring book he has developed is being used to help teach children the history of Oklahoma Baptists and that he continues to do research on Baptist ethnic work in Oklahoma.
4. Presentation: "The Future of the Gaskin Archives" – Dr. Paul Roberts, Dean of Library Services, OBU
- Dr. Roberts gave a second presentation and showed how old church records and pictures could be scanned and made available in the internet. He also shared that many of the materials in the archives were in fragile condition and often had been improperly repaired.
5. Old Business – Martha Ray
- The commissioners had discussed a request to move the annual meeting to coincide with the Annual Meeting of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma. The commissioners recommended that this action not be taken due to several factors.
6. New Business – Martha Ray
- a. Next year's Oklahoma Baptist Historical Society meeting will be held at First Baptist Church of Dewey, Oklahoma on October 11, 2014. The commissioners are searching for a location for 2015 with the possibility of meeting at Falls Creek.

- b. The commissioners had looked into the possibility of reprinting the book by L.W. Marks, the "History of Oklahoma Baptist". They have decided that this book will be reprinted in six installments in the next six issues of *The Baptist Chronicle*.
- c. The 2014 officers for the Baptist Historical Society will be:

Chairman	Bill Rains
Chairman Elect	Michael Dershem
Recording Secretary	Jane Cluck

A motion and a second were made that this be approved.
Motion passed by a voice vote.

- d. The commissioners recommended raising yearly dues for membership in the Oklahoma Baptist Historical Society. Currently, the yearly dues are \$5.00 which does not cover the cost of the circular letters, *Oklahoma Baptist Chronicles* and other materials which are mailed to each member. The commissioners recommended that the yearly dues be raised to \$10.00 with a life-time membership being \$100.00. This motion was made, seconded and passed.
- e. Commissioner L.M. Woodson took the floor and asked that the Society begin an effort to purchase the equipment that will be needed to digitize the materials in the archives. He asked that the officers of the Society meet with Dr. Paul Roberts to discuss what was needed to purchase this digitizer. He also emphasized that there might be some present in the meeting who would want to start this funding drive with a gift. There was much discussion concerning possible funding avenues including asking Oklahoma Baptist University to pay half the cost and inquiring about the use of Edna McMillan funds. A motion was made, seconded and passed that the officers meet with Dr. Roberts to

determine the cost of the digitizer and to began an effort to raise funds needed.

Following a brief intermission, the society continued with its awards and induction ceremonies.

Church History Award – Weldon Foster

The committee reviewed several church histories and recommends the history of Hendrix Baptist Church receive this year's reward. The contributors were Kathryn Langston, Donna McLaren and Paulette Blankenship.

Distinguished Service Award – Bill Rains

The committee recommends that Carolyn Ellenbrook of Lawton be given this recognition.

Oklahoma Baptist Hall of Fame monographs–Dr. Bob Haskins

Haskell D. Beck - written and presented by Lynn Gray

H. Truman Maxey - written and presented by Martha Ray

Sam W. Scantlan - written and presented by Willa Ruth Garlow

Various family members also shared comments and stories about the inductees. Del Allen led in a time of prayer following the induction ceremony giving thanks for the influence on Oklahoma Baptists of those inducted.

Martha Ray was presented a certificate thanking her for her leadership and service to the society during her terms as president-elect and president.

The group was reminded that following lunch, they could tour the Gaskin Archives at the Mabee Learning Center. Bill Rains led in a closing word of prayer and the 2013 meeting was adjourned. There was an approximate crowd of 55-60 present.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Dershem
Recording Secretary,
Oklahoma Baptist Historical Society

2012 Church History Award Hendrix Baptist Church Hendrix, Oklahoma



**From the left, Kathryn Langston, Donna McLaren
and Paulette Blankenship**

About a year prior to the 100th anniversary of their church in 2012, Kathryn Langston mentioned the anniversary was approaching. Donna McLaren suggested doing something to commemorate the event. Paulette Blankenship was the third member interested. These three ladies began the task of compiling information that would become their church's history:

Hendrix Baptist Church Centennial.

Kathryn, a family historian and researcher, shared her desire to compile biographical and historical information regarding the pastors who had served the Lord through our church over the years. Donna came along side her gleaning historical information from the minutes, annual reports, and personal remembrances of members

both present and past. Paulette designed the cover and put together the picture collage of the book.

Donna and Paulette have belonged to Hendrix Baptist since childhood, and Kathryn married into a family that had roots in the church's beginnings in 1913. The church was formerly known as Kemp City Baptist.

Any church activity from the nursery to being church clerk, would find one or more of these ladies involved. Donna's granddaughter is a sixth generation member of the church.

We thank God to have served Him in this capacity and the award is His. All we gave was a little of our time. **To God be the Glory!**

The Hendrix Church History Committee

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.

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, Sallisaw;
Given by Del and Ramona Allen

E. Farrell Dixon, Tulsa;
Given by Curtis and Betty Dixon

Donald R. Dunn, Chickasha
Given by Jimmie L. Dunn

Betty Farris, Muskogee
Given by Del and Ramona

Virginia Ann Fry, Claremore;
Given by Lemuel Ball

Helen I. Gaskin, Durant
Given by Patricia Roberts

Joseph Alexander Gaskin, Cartersville;
Given by J. M. Gaskin

Jim Glaze, Montgomery, Alabama;
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

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

Charles Mackey, Durant;
Given by Mrs. Robert Mackey

Robert Mackey, Durant;
Given by Mrs. Robert Mackey

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

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

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

William G. Tanner, Belton, Texas;
Given by Marlin and Patsy Hawkins

James Timberlake, Atlanta, Georgia
Given by Kathryn 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

ATTENTION ! !

A N N U A L M E M B E R S ! !

**Is it time to renew your yearly
membership?**

The Oklahoma Baptist Chronicle, beginning with
the spring issue of 2014, will serialize the Book
The Story of Oklahoma Baptists.

LIFE members and paid-up annual members
will receive all installments. See page 6 of this
issue for more information.

Annual membership is \$10.00 yearly.
LIFE memberships are a one-time \$100.00.