



Here & Now

Vol. 8

An update for Florida Baptist Historical Society Board of Directors and Friends

No. 9

September, 2016



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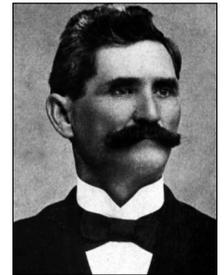
Penny Baumgardner
Administrative Assistant

Dear Board Members and Friends of the Florida Baptist Historical Society,

Every year since the beginning of the Florida Baptist State Convention in 1854, the body of messengers has elected a person to serve as the president of the FBSC. The first person to serve was Richard Johnson Mays, an ordained minister from Madison, Florida. Since that time there have been 92 presidents of the Florida Baptist State Convention, seventy-six of these were ordained ministers and 16 were lay persons. Today I would like to share with you a little about these sixteen faithful lay Baptists who served as Florida Baptist State Convention presidents. In chronological order they are:

C. A. Carson (1862-1920) served in 1910-1914. Carson was a businessman and officer of the Florida State Convention. Carson served as a member of the State Board of Missions as well as on the board of trustees for Columbia College. He served as a Florida State Senator from 1897-1903.

N. A. Blicht (1844-1921) served in 1914 and 1916. Blicht served in the Florida House of Representatives for Levy County in 1883, and from 1887-1891. He was a Florida State Senator from 1893-1903. In 1907, Blicht was elected to serve on the Railroad Commission for the State of Florida, a position he held from 1907 until his death in 1921. Blicht was a member of First Baptist Church, Tallahassee.



N. A. Blicht

Frank Bentley (1864-1932) served in 1917-1918. Bentley was president of Bentley Gray Dry Goods Company in Tampa until his retirement in 1930. Bentley helped organize the Tampa Y.M.C.A. and in October, 1931, Governor Doyle E. Carlton appointed him harbormaster. He served as a deacon at First Baptist Church, Tampa.

O. K. Reaves (1877-1970) served in 1919-1920. Reaves was a lawyer, a member of the Florida State House of Representatives in 1911, and Judge of the Sixth Judicial Circuit Court from 1915 to 1921. In 1907, Reaves helped organize the Florida State Bar Association and served as its president in 1920.

A. A. Murphree (1870-1927) served in 1922-1923. Murphree was a college professor and university president. Murphree had the distinction of serving as the president of two state universities, Florida State College (now Florida State University) from 1897 to 1907, and the University of Florida, from 1909 to 1927.



William Sims Allen

E. C. Collins served in 1932-1933. Collins was a lawyer and judge of the Criminal Court of Record for Dade County. He was an active member of First Baptist Church, Miami.

William Sims Allen (1888-1951) served in 1942. Allen was a teacher, writer, and educator. He served as acting president of Baylor University, from 1931-1932. Allen was president of Stetson University from 1934 until his retirement in 1947.

Doak S. Campbell (1888-1973) served in 1948. Campbell was a chemistry teacher and later President of Central College in Conway, Arkansas. In 1938 he became Dean of the Graduate School at George Peabody College for Teachers. Campbell accepted the role of presidency of Florida College for

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Women (now Florida State University) in 1941, where he served until his retirement in 1957. Campbell was author of *When do Teachers Teach* and *The Florida Baptist Association. The first hundred years, 1842-1942*.

Cecil B. Carroll (1910-1970) served in 1955. Carroll worked from 1930 until his death in 1970 for Independent Life and Accident Ins. Co. He served on the Florida State Board of Missions and on the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention. Carroll was an active member of Southside Baptist Church, Jacksonville.



J. Ollie Edmunds

J. Ollie Edmunds (1903-1984) served in 1961. Edmunds was a lawyer and a Duval County judge and businessman. Edmunds served as president of Stetson University in Deland, Florida from 1948 until his retirement in 1967. Edmunds also served as a member of President Eisenhower's Committee for Scientists and Engineers.

Thomas Maxwell Johns (1898-1977) served in 1966. Johns was a school teacher and served as Superintendent of the Florida Baptist Children's Home from 1932-1968. He led in the relocation of the Children's Home from Arcadia to Lakeland in 1945, and introduced the idea of vocational training, casework services, foster care, and family-style cottages.

Doyle I. Carlton (1908-1998) served in 1969. Carlton was a citrus grove owner, businessman and banker. Carlton dedicated his life to the service of church and community, having a key role in the growth and development of Merritt Island. He was a deacon at First Baptist Church, Merritt Island. Doyle Elam Carlton (1885-1972) was a faithful Baptist who served as Florida's twenty-fifth governor (1929-1933). Doyle E. Carlton did not serve as a Florida Baptist State President.

Virginia R. Parker (1912-2014) served in 1974. Parker was a homemaker and dedicated pastor's wife. She has the distinction of being the only woman to serve as president of the Florida Baptist State Convention. Parker's husband Henry Allen (1913-1994) also served as Florida Baptist State Convention president in 1969. This would make the Parker's the only couple to have both served as president of the Florida Baptist State Convention. Virginia was an active member of First Baptist Church, Orlando.

Barney B. Burks, Jr. (1930-) served in 1977. Burks was a business owner and served as Mayor of Pensacola from 1973-1977.

Edwin L. Mason (1916-2016) served in 1980. Mason served during World War II in the U.S. Navy. After the war he returned to Miami to practice law and served as Justice of the Peace, Judge of Small Claims Court and Legal Coroner of Dade County in 1948. Mason also served on the Dade County Commission and in 1959, he was appointed to serve on the Florida Railroad and Public Utilities Commission. Mason and his wife Violet, served as Foreign Mission Board volunteers to Ethiopia, Kazakhstan and Albania. Mason was a deacon at First Baptist Church, Tallahassee.

O. G. "Tim" Locher (1939-) served in 1993. Locher was a U.S. Navy fighter pilot before becoming a pilot for Delta Airlines. He served on the State Board of Missions, and was City Commissioner in Hollywood, from 1976-1978. Locher was a member of Sheridan Hills Baptist Church, Hollywood.

Let us be thankful for all Florida Baptists willing to give service to the Lord.

Honoring those who honor Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Penny Baumgardner".

Penny Baumgardner
Administrative Assistant
Florida Baptist Historical Society