The following have joined the Baptist Historical Society during the past quarter:

Mr. R. Wilson Black, J.P.  Mr. W. R. Russill.
Mr. W. Cunningham, J.P.  Mr. C. W. B. Simmonds
Mr. F. Cursons, J.P.  Rev. R. W. Thomson.

BELLE CASTLE CHURCH, JAMAICA.

On the 14th August, 1938, the Baptist Historical Society was linked with the Belle Castle Church, Hector’s River, Jamaica, in a ceremony whose message will literally go ringing down the years. When the secretary was in Jamaica twelve months ago, the minister, the Rev. F. Wilson Coore, lamented that the Belle Castle Church, unlike other Baptist churches, lacked a bell. Here, he plaintively remarked, was his church at Hector’s River, in a most beautiful situation high on a hill overlooking the sparkling waters of the Caribbean, serving the people of two or three valleys, but possessing no bell with which to call them to worship. Shortly after the secretary’s return to England, the minister wrote earnestly reminding him of the need; and, in the spring of this year, he wrote again, and this time suggested that the bell should be given in connection with the Emancipation Centenary Celebrations.

The need was mentioned to a few members of our Society who forthwith subscribed the cost, with the result that the bell was specially cast, transported across the Atlantic, and dedicated at a special service at which our member, the Rev. Henry Cook, M.A., was the preacher, and another member, Mr. C. W. B. Simmonds, among those present. At the close the people gave themselves to the joyful task of ringing the bell one hundred times to welcome the second century of Emancipation, the first “ring” being pulled by Miss Mauvis King, daughter of Dr. Gurnos King, Principal of Calabar College and of Calabar Boys’ High School. Very joyously our friends at Belle Castle entered into the spirit of the verse—

Whene’er the sweet church bell
Peals over hill and dell,
    May Jesus Christ be praised;
As joyously it rings,
    O haste, to what it sings,
    May Jesus Christ be praised.

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