



incorporating the Transactions of the
BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY
EDITORIAL

THE Annual Meeting of the Baptist Historical Society will be held at 4.15 p.m. in the Baptist Church House Library on Monday, 30th April, 1956. The speaker will be the Rev. M. E. Aubrey, C.H., M.A., D.C.L., LL.D., and his subject: "P. T. Thomson—Pioneer."

The usual business will be transacted. Attendances at these annual gatherings have been most encouraging in recent years, and we hope for a good representation of members and friends on this occasion also. For their convenience it is hoped to arrange for tea to be served at a reasonable charge.

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Through the kindness of Sir Angus Watson, J.P., we recently received, and read with enjoyment, a copy of his little book, printed last year for private circulation, *The Angus Clan, 1588-1950*. It contains much that is of interest to Baptists for although, as the author confesses, "an accident of locality" made him a Congregationalist, the stock from which he springs was predominantly Baptist. Both his parents were Baptists and, moreover, children of the manse. His father, Alexander Watson, was the son of the blind minister, Rev. James Watson, of Montrose, and nephew of Dr. Jonathan Watson, minister at Dublin Street, Edinburgh. Sir Angus's mother was the daughter of Rev. Thomas Wilkinson who spent a lifetime in the Baptist pastorate at Tewkesbury. It is here that he links up

with "The Angus Clan," for Thomas Wilkinson's mother was, before her marriage, Ann Angus. The family is traced back to the settlement in Hexham in 1584 of one Alexander Angus. Of this family, members of which have figured prominently in the life and work of our denomination, Sir Angus writes: "For centuries they have been Free Churchmen, mostly Baptists, Liberal in politics, and active in all kinds of social work." We are grateful to the author for the gift of this interesting and illuminating little book to the Historical Society's library.

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" 'Mill Yard' faces extinction " declared Pastor James McGeachey in a letter from London to the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society requesting assistance for "the old mother church," according to a report in the *Seventh Day Baptist Year Book*, 1955 (published by the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference at Plainfield, N.J.) which has recently been received by us. The Society could not, however, see its way to responding to the request. Other Baptists beside Sabbatarians would regret the extinction of this historic church which, for some years now, has been meeting "on the Sabbath, commonly called Saturday," in a room on the premises of our Upper Holloway Church in North London. But with only nineteen members (annual budget, £200) the old church does not face very bright prospects.

A membership in the U.S.A. of 6,095 is reported in the *Year Book*. There are also Baptist Sabbath-keepers, affiliated to the Conference, in Africa (1,259), Jamaica (751), British Guiana (121), Germany (299), Denmark (112), with two churches in New Zealand and one in China, in addition to the solitary church in London. Other Sabbatarians, not gathered into organized churches, also exist. Closely associated with the Conference are Alfred University, N.Y. (at whose School of Theology ministers are trained), Milton College, Wisconsin, and Salem College, W. Virginia. The Conference is affiliated to the World Council of Churches and, although not now in membership, maintains friendly correspondence with the Baptist World Alliance and was represented by a delegate at the London Congress of the Alliance last year. Among other activities there is an active Historical Society which, on the occasion of the 200th anniversary last year of Dr. Johnson's celebrated dictionary, exhibited in the Plainfield Public Library, three dictionaries of Nathaniel Bailey, which were the working basis of Johnson's 1755 compilation. Bailey was a member of the Mill Yard church.

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Amalgamation of two old-established Bedford printing firms has recently taken place. One of them is Messrs. Rush & Warwick (Bedford) Ltd., upon whose presses, for some years, this journal has

been printed. The firm has been in existence for about a century and has specialised in book and magazine printing. One important development following upon the merger is the institution of a co-partnership plan by which the employees of the Foundry Press Ltd., as the new company is called, will share in the profits. We extend our good wishes to the new enterprise.

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A manuscript, *History of the Baptist Church at Burnham-on-Crouch, Essex*, by Rev. Lionel F. Higgs has been given by the writer to the Baptist Historical Society and will be deposited in its library. The manuscript represents a good deal of painstaking work by Mr. Higgs, and the Society is grateful to him for the gift.

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