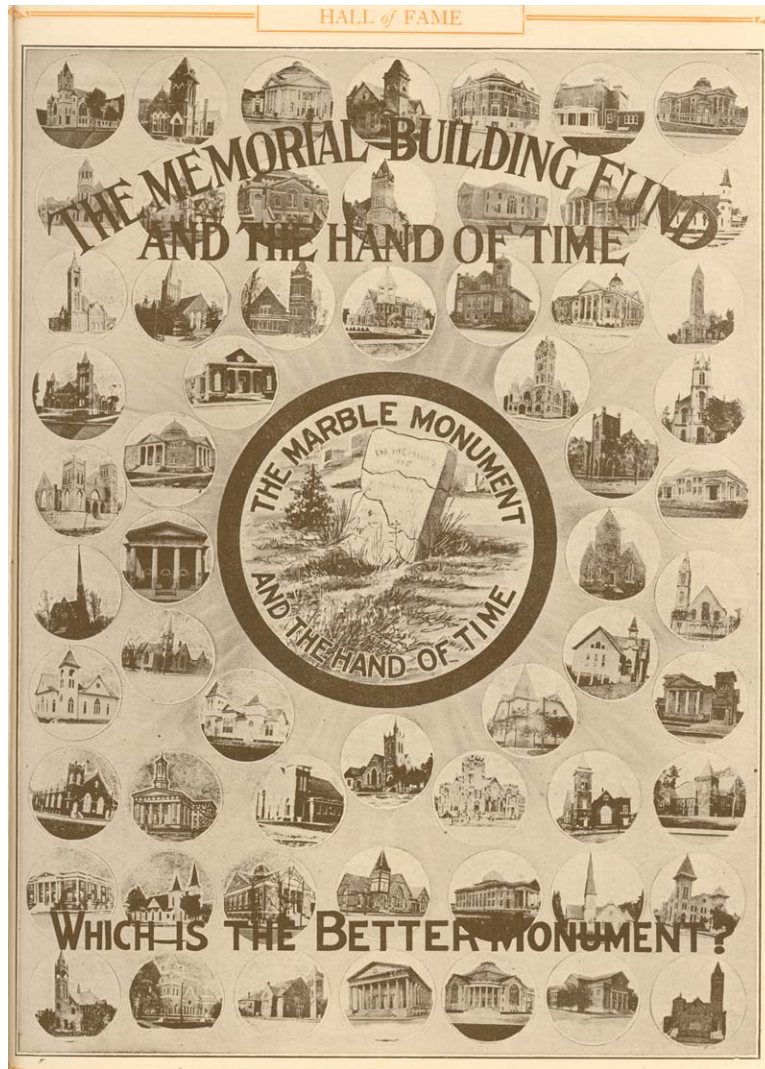


**INVENTORY TO THE BAPTIST HALL OF FAME MEMORIALS
COLLECTION**

AR 801



Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives

by Joshua Baxter

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INVENTORY TO THE BAPTIST HALL OF FAME MEMORIALS COLLECTION

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I. HISTORICAL NOTE

In 1910 it was reported to the Southern Baptist Convention that there were approximately 4,500 congregations without a building of their own. In spite of various attempts throughout the second half of the nineteenth century to raise money for a building fund for churches only \$4,100 had been raised by 1901. The Woman's Missionary Union of the Southern Baptist Convention was asked to help raise funds for this endeavor and began to work at it in 1903. The fund started by the Woman's Missionary Union became known as the Tichenor Memorial Fund in memory of the late corresponding secretary of the Home Mission Board, Isaac Taylor Tichenor. In 1912 the Southern Baptist Convention authorized the Home Mission Board to set a goal of gathering one million dollars for the Church Building Loan Fund. This task was placed under the direction of the superintendent of the newly formed Department of Church Extension, Dr. Louis B. Warren.

In 1913 Dr. Warren set forth two plans to aid in reaching the set goal of one million dollars for the Church Building Loan Fund—first, an annuity plan and secondly, a memorial fund. The first written record of the Baptist Hall of Fame is in the 1914 Annual of the Southern Baptist Convention. It was stated that a memorial could be made for a gift of \$500 dollars or more and that the pictures of the donor and those memorialized would be published in an annual. To help promote this idea Dr. Warren published a pamphlet titled "Memorial Funds" in which he asked "Which is the better monument -- a dead stone bearing the words, "At Rest," or a living Church voicing throughout the years, "At Work?" Warren stated further "The Cost of the living Church is the cost of the dead stone [\$500]." The volumes were published annually from 1913 until 1923.

II. SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

The Memorial Baptist Hall of Fame collection contains memorials made to the Church Building Loan Fund from 1913 to 1923. The memorials are divided within the publications by Woman's Missionary Union, Sunday School Board, Personal and Church memorials. Each memorial contains pictures of those being memorialized as well as how much was placed in memory of them and to what degree it would benefit the churches. The memorials include images of individuals and church buildings. In 1923 a large volume was compiled of all ten years with an index of all the names that had been memorialized. The size of the collection is .75 linear feet. The collection is arranged in chronological order.

Some of the cameo images found in the memorial volumes are located in the Photograph Collection, being transferred from the Home Mission Board.

III. REFERENCES

Annual of the Southern Baptist Convention 1913.

Annual of the Southern Baptist Convention 1914.

Rutledge, Arthur B. Mission To America. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1969.

Warren, L. B. "Memorial Funds." Atlanta : Home Mission Board. (Pam. 741)

IV. FOLDER LISTING

Box 1

- 1.1 Memorials—The Baptist Hall of Fame 1915-1916
- 1.2 Memorials—The Baptist Hall of Fame 1917-1918 (2 copies)
- 1.3 Memorials—The Baptist Hall of Fame 1920-1921 #1
- 1.4 Memorials—The Baptist Hall of Fame 1920-1921 #2

Box 2

- 2.1 Memorials—The Baptist Hall of Fame 1921-1922 #1
- 2.2 Memorials—The Baptist Hall of Fame 1921-1922 #2
- 2.3 Memorials—The Baptist Hall of Fame 1913-1923 #1
- 2.4 Memorials—The Baptist Hall of Fame 1913-1923 #2
- 2.5 Memorials—The Baptist Hall of Fame 1913-1923 #3
- 2.6 Memorials—The Baptist Hall of Fame 1913-1923 #4