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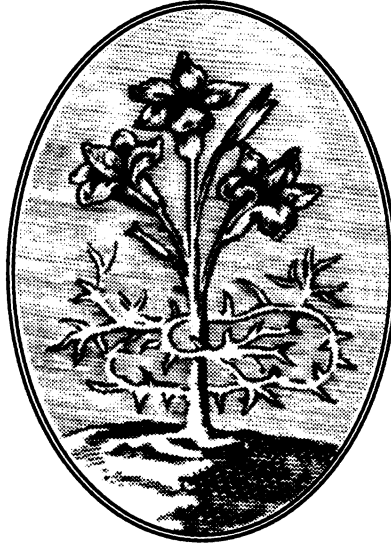
Number 8



History of the Baptist Denomination in Georgia

Volume 1 of 2

Samuel Boykin



Sicut liliū inter spinas sic amica mea inter filias

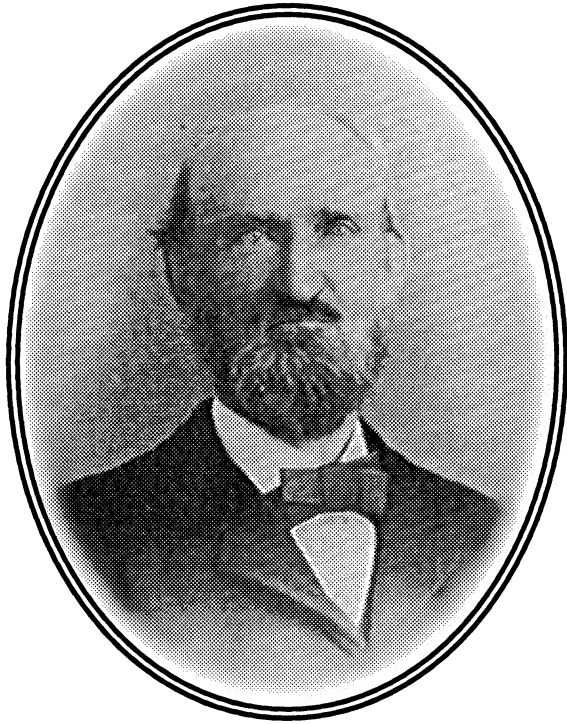
On The Cover: We use the symbol of the “lily among the thorns” from Song of Solomon 2:2 to represent the Baptist History Series. The Latin, *Sicut liliū inter spinas sic amica mea inter filias*, translates, “As the lily among thorns, so is my love among the daughters.”

HISTORY

OF THE

Baptist Denomination in Georgia

Vol. I



SAMUEL BOYKIN
1829-1899

HISTORY

OF THE

Baptist Denomination in Georgia

WITH

BIOGRAPHICAL COMPENDIUM AND PORTRAIT GALLERY
OF BAPTIST MINISTERS AND OTHER
GEORGIA BAPTISTS.

I WILL GIVE YOU PASTORS ACCORDING TO
MINE HEART, WHICH SHALL FEED YOU WITH
KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING.
- *Jeremiah 3:15*

COMPILED FOR THE CHRISTIAN INDEX.

VOL. I

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Thou hast given a *standard* to them that fear thee;
that it may be displayed because of the truth.
-- *Psalms 60:4*

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THE WALDENSIAN EMBLEM

lux lucet in tenebris

“The Light Shineth in the Darkness”

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Note. This book, though
anonymous, was actually written
by Dr. Samuel Baykin, as is proved
by what he wrote on the fly leaf
of a copy, and signed, now in
the vault of the Dargan - Carver
Library. - J. L. Grice

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PREFACE.

One hundred and fifty years ago, Georgia was not settled. And one hundred years ago, there were but few Baptists in the State. We had then not half a dozen churches here, and no District Associations at all. Now, counting Missionary and Anti-Missionary Baptists, we have eighty-five white Associations, 1,800 white churches and 120,000 white church members. In addition, there are, among the colored people, over thirty Associations, about 900 churches and 110,000 church members. The adherents of our faith, therefore, make a grand total of 230,000. The history of the rise and progress of a denomination containing such large numbers should be interesting and certainly is worthy of investigation. In truth, it appears but a simple matter of justice and propriety, that a connected historical account, even though brief, of the Baptists of Georgia should be compiled.

This attempt to present the main facts attending the origin and growth of Baptist sentiments in Georgia, is, necessarily, a compilation. It embodies, however, the results of an investigation of a large amount of materials collected from various sources. Among them we may mention complete files of the Georgia Baptist Convention and the Georgia Association; the volumes of *THE CHRISTIAN INDEX* since its removal to Georgia; and all the collections of the Georgia Baptist Historical Society, embracing the series of Minutes of District Associations in the State, preserved by successive clerks of the Convention; as also files of Association Minutes which friends have loaned us, and excerpts of the most important facts contained in them, which they have kindly written out for us. Beside these, the works of Benedict, Campbell, Mallary, Mercer and Marshall, have been of great service. The Analytical Repository, published at Savannah, by Dr. Holcombe, in the beginning of the century, has furnished valuable information. But the most weighty assistance, perhaps, has been rendered by the writings of Dr. Adiel Sherwood—especially the series of articles on “Jesse Mercer and his Times,” prepared by him, twenty years ago, for *THE CHRISTIAN INDEX* much of which has never seen the light. We were so fortunate, also, as to secure the papers pertaining to Georgia Baptist History, collected by Dr. David Benedict, and deposited by him with the American Baptist Historical Society, Philadelphia; among which was the manuscript history of Georgia, by Dr. Sherwood, referred to by Dr. Benedict in the notes to his History of the Denomination.

These materials, and many more, have been employed to construct this brief History of Georgia Baptists, and for the purposes of the Biographical Compendium. All suitable facts have been used, wherever found, nor have we deemed it necessary always to quote our authority. It has been our great object to

gather and connect together, as well as could be done in a limited space and within a short period, the main features, so far as they are ascertainable, of the history of our denomination in the State. We have aimed to present them in a compact and popular form—to make plain and clear statements; and therefore we have not sought after the embellishments of style, nor the mere graces of composition. We have striven especially to be accurate. Such facts only are given as we believe to be entirely reliable, and for which we have what commends itself to us as good authority; and we are confident that the reader may rely on the correctness of the record. If, occasionally, the same incident is mentioned more than once, this happens because different lines of research and narrative touch or cross each other, and it will be found that such dual notice, while it vindicates the truth of the statement, helps to fix the fact noticed in the mind.

To return thanks one by one to the brethren who have placed us under obligation by kindly assistance in this work, and to tell over their names from first to last, would be a sheer impossibility. But while we cannot thus mention all, there are some to whom special acknowledgment is due. We are indebted to Rev. J. H. Kilpatrick for files of the Georgia Baptist Convention and the Georgia Association; to Rev. W. L. Kilpatrick, for documents collected by him as Secretary of the Georgia Baptist Historical Society; to Rev. S. Boykin, for valuable services in the preparation of the History and many of the Biographical Sketches, and to Dr. Shaver, Rev. C. M. Irwin, and his wife, for diligent and faithful work on the Compendium. To these, and to all who have furnished us records or facts, we tender our most grateful thanks for their aid in placing on permanent record so many incidents fraught alike with interest and with profit. It is largely through their generous help that our fathers stand before the present generation on these pages, live over their lives among us, and incite us, in holy emulation, to live as they. We can say without affectation, and, we hope, without immodesty, that a desire to accomplish good animated us in the inception of this enterprise, and has sustained and guided us through all its stages. If the cause of Christ is promoted, and the readers of the volume now committed to the public are strengthened for more vigorous service to that cause, we shall feel, even in the absence of all other reward, that our "labor has not been in vain in the Lord."

THE INDEX PUBLISHING COMPANY.

Atlanta, Georgia, 1881.

“A HISTORY of the Baptists should be understood in its objects and aims; and cleared, in the beginning, of misapprehension and perversion. It is not the history of a nationality, a race, an organization, but of people, *traced by their vital principles and gospel practices*. The unity to be exhibited and demonstrated was not brought about by force, by coercion of pains and penalties, by repressive and punitive Acts of Conformity; but by the recognition and adoption of a common authoritative and completely divine standard... the WORD OF GOD.”

Dr. J. L. M. Curry (1825-1903)

President of Howard College,

Professor of English & Philosophy at Richmond College,

Trustee of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and

United States Ambassador to Spain

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