

MISSOURI BAPTIST BIOGRAPHY

A SERIES OF LIFE-SKETCHES INDICATING THE
GROWTH AND PROSPERITY OF THE

BAPTIST CHURCHES

AS REPRESENTED IN THE LIVES AND LABORS
OF

EMINENT MEN AND WOMEN
IN MISSOURI

PREPARED AT THE REQUEST OF THE MISSOURI
BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BY

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in his sixty-sixth year, clear of mind, and safe in judgment, but the close of his period of active usefulness was at hand. He suffered a shock of semi-paralysis from which his friends were hopeful that he would recover, to continue useful work, though in a more limited sphere; but a recurrence of the attack put an end to these hopes, and he returned to Liberty in 1891 to spend his remaining days in the care and companionship of loving relatives and friends. For thirteen years he lived the dying life of a paralytic, a patient, uncomplaining Christian, preaching through his trustful resignation to the will of his loving Father, quite as eloquently as he had ever done in active ministry.

He never lost his interest in what was going on in the world, and particularly within his own immediate circle. Often when the writer would drop in to see him, in indistinct utterance, he would greet him lovingly, and then say: "Sit right down and tell me all about it."

In the last year of his suffering life, he was called upon to bear the anxiety and sorrow incident to the failure of the health of his beloved wife. From this lingering illness, she was relieved only by death. They had lived together fifty-three years, and the decree of their heavenly Father was that the continuance of their united lives should not suffer a long suspension. He passed away just thirty days after her departure. They are now reunited for an eternity of bliss. He died July 30, 1914, eighty years, eight months, seven days of age. His remains repose in the beautiful Fairview Cemetery, Liberty, Missouri, with those of his family who preceded him to that bourne whence no traveler returns.

A short calendar of the outstanding dates in his life may not lack interest to those who knew him.

Born	1833	Member Board of Trustees Wil-
Converted	1853	liam Jewell College, 1867-1914
Licensed to preach.....	1856	Life Member General Associa-
Ordained	1859	tion
Graduated	1860	Curator Stephens College, 1874
Married	1861	Board Ministerial Educa-
Became an invalid.....	1901	tion
Died	1914	Financial Agent Min. Educa-
		tion
		Degree Doctor of Divin-
		ity
		1887

REV. J. M. C. BREAKER, D. D.

1824-

Religious Activity in Missouri 1870-

J. C. M.

It is no easy task to gather from obituaries written for the weekly papers, the facts of any man's life. Such notices are generally written by intimate friends of the deceased, and are more in the form of eulogies than good judgment permits this series of biographies to become.

It is the desire of the Missouri Baptist Historical Society to preserve the facts of the lives of the Lord's servants, and to let their works proclaim their great and good characteristics.

The two obituaries, of Dr. Breaker, furnished me, are admirably written and contain many facts connected with his life and work.

From these two obituaries, written by his intimate friends, the following sketch is gleaned:

He was born in Camden, South Carolina, in 1824.

"He was the youngest son of L. F. Breaker, of Camden, South Carolina, who was both a merchant and a planter, and one of the most faithful Baptist deacons of the state."

It would, no doubt, be both interesting and helpful, if we could know how large a per cent of ministers are sons of faithful deacons. It seems to me that there is here a fulfillment of the words of the Apostle, "They that have used the office of a deacon will purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus."

When the youngest son was not yet five years of age, the father moved to Key West, Florida. The surroundings at the place were not favorable to the development of the character desired in the son; he was therefore sent back to Camden and given a home with his cousin, Rev. C. M. Breaker. Here better educational advantages were offered and the influences of a Christian community would environ him. June 4th, 1840, he was baptized by his cousin into the fellowship of the Camden Baptist church. There soon came into his brain and heart a conviction that he must preach the gospel.

The Furman Institute had been established at Winsboro, South Carolina, and here he began his literary and theological training. In 1846 he completed the studies, at that school, required for graduation, and began work as assistant pastor in Chesterville.

He was ordained by a Presbytery consisting of Rev. J. C. Furman, Rev. E. Grant, and Rev. W. Nolan. In a short time he was called to the pastoral care of the church in Greenville, South Carolina.

This church, was then, and still remains, one of the most prominent in the state. For a number of

years the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary was located in Greenville. It has from early days been known as a place of refinement and culture. The people demanded and always secured the very best talent for their pulpit.

In 1848, while pastor at Greenville, he was married to Miss Emma J. Juhan. She belonged to those heroic families of the French Huguenots who fled to America, from Romish persecution. Mrs. Breaker was a near relative of Dr. W. B. Johnson of Edgefield, S. C., who was the first president of the Southern Baptist Convention. In every way she proved a helper to her distinguished husband, in all his long and varied career as a gospel minister.

In 1849 Dr. Breaker became pastor at Newbern, North Carolina. After two years' service in this pastorate, he accepted the presidency of the Newbern Female Seminary. Giving two years to educational work he became pastor for one year at Grahamville, in the same state.

He then accepted a call given by the church at Beaufort, South Carolina. Here Dr. Richard Fuller, the most eloquent Baptist of his day in North America, had been for some years pastor and was succeeded by his nephew, Rev. Robert Fuller. J. M. C. Breaker was able to sustain himself, and the reputation of that pulpit did not suffer by his ministrations. There was a great revival among the people while he was pastor. I remember well reading in the Baptist papers, many years ago, of one occasion, when he baptized 225 converts in a single day.

Though he made no undue haste in administering this sacred ordinance, he averaged two baptisms every minute and thereby proved that the twelve apostles

could easily have baptized the three thousand converts in one day if it can be shown that all those who were converted on the day of Pentecost were on that same day baptized.

Among the many others who entered upon the Christian life under his ministry in this city, was Rev. A. W. Lamar, who was an eminent Baptist minister and at one time pastor of the First Baptist church in Galveston, Texas.

In 1859 Dr. Breaker became pastor in Columbia, South Carolina. And after the close of the civil war he located in Spartensburg, in the same state. Dr. Breaker began work in Missouri as pastor of the Park Avenue church, St. Louis. After a short pastorate here he moved to Liberty, Missouri, where he became pastor in this college town, in January, 1870, at a salary of fifteen hundred dollars. The church membership was at that time 197. William Jewell College was not then as great a school as it is now, (1911) but the faculty was made up of men who had made the highest attainments in scholarship, and the pastor was not inferior to any of them. He was progressive and strongly favored the use of the organ in the services of the church. He had not been on this field long when the first Church at St. Joseph, Missouri, desiring the "best gifts," persuaded him to locate in that growing city.

After a few years of effective work here, he found that the winter winds, sweeping over the treeless plains, to the north and west, were too cold for his body, which had been accustomed to the weather in the mild climate of the Carolinas.

The Baptist church, in Houston, Texas, was seeking a pastor, who could bring harmony among the

membership and lead them out of lethargy, and aid them into the aggressiveness needed in that growing city. They were directed, no doubt, by the Lord of the harvest, in choosing Dr. Breaker.

I have written of him as **Doctor**, through this brief sketch, but will here mention the fact that it was during his pastorate at Saint Joseph that the degree of D. D. was conferred upon him. This honor he merited by his learning, his great sermons, and his distinguished ability as a writer.

When, some years before this, a prize was offered for the best essay on the Communion question, he wrote upon the subject and his production was by competent judges decided to be the best out of many articles presented. He wrote upon other themes, but none of the fruits of his pen are now at hand and cannot be mentioned.

The church at Houston was increased in members and efficiency. "Among other important achievements he succeeded in building a most beautiful and commodious house of worship which stands today as a monument of his skill, perseverance, and self-sacrificing spirit."

Having closed his labors in Houston, he went to California, but soon learning that he preferred Texas as his home, returned to the Lone Star state and located in Marshall.

Here again it was found necessary to build a larger and better house of worship. But his zeal was consuming the strength of his vigorous body and his health gave way under the constant strain. Hoping to regain his health, he went to San Antonio. But even here, the pure air and the best skill of the learned

medical fraternity were vain. He had not rested soon enough to recuperate.

The time of his departure had come. The long years of toil must end. Surrounded by numerous friends and attended by his loving family, he heeded the Master's call, and went to the home above for rest.

The best service that J. M. C. Breaker rendered to Missouri Baptists was in the gift of his son, Manly J. Breaker. This noble son of a distinguished sire, having been trained by a mother, as true and great as her husband and son, deserves to be honored by all those who were helped to a better life by the two Breakers.

After the death of Dr. Breaker, Dr. J. H. Luther, then living, wrote of him: "I never knew a man who was more loyal to his convictions, more tenderly thoughtful of his churches, more studious in his preparation for the pulpit, and more exemplary in all the relations of life. The nobility of his manhood was seen in the well rounded character which good men recognized as the image of his Master."

His body rests in the beautiful Glenwood cemetery at Houston, Texas. The Buffalo Bayou runs through this cemetery. And in its waters Dr. Breaker "buried in baptism" many who thus proclaimed their faith in the "buried but risen" Christ.

REV. MANLY JUHAN BREAKER, D. D.

1850-1908

Religious Activity in Missouri 1872-1908

J. C. M.

M. J. Breaker was the eldest child of Rev. Jacob



REV. MANLY JUHAN BREAKER, D. D.

Manly Canty Breaker, and his wife Emma Juliette Juhan. He was born at Newbern, N. C., while his father was pastor of the Baptist church in that city. He came into this world on March 9th, 1850.

When their first born was about three years old the parents moved to Beaufort, South Carolina, where the father did a great work in advancing the Kingdom of Christ. In 1859 another change of residence was made and the father became pastor at Columbia, South Carolina. He was here during the time of the war between the states. At the close of the civil strife the home of the family was changed to Spartensburg in the same state. Here began the education and spiritual development of the son. He was then about 15 years of age, and began his studies in a college located in that city. This institution was under the control of the M. E. Church, South, and was presided over by men of true piety and of large mental culture.

The lives and character of these good men confirmed in the youth the impressions made upon his brain and heart by the training in his home. It is very evident to those who knew Manly Breaker in his prime, that he manifested in early life that he was endowed with a strong and brilliant intellect.

He now united with the church, of which his honored father was pastor. He gave evidence then that he had been made a "new creature" in Christ Jesus, and his after life proved the genuineness of his conversion.

"On a bright spring Sabbath morning in April, 1866, Manly Breaker and a class-mate, Edward Bomar, were baptized in a beautiful mill pond, near the city in which they lived. One can scarcely imagine the pleasure it gave the father to officiate on that solemn

occasion. Both these young men became prominent and useful ministers of the gospel.

Only two days after his baptism young Breaker was asked to lead in prayer in a public meeting, and responded to the request, and one who loved him wrote, "from that moment until he was called up higher he was an active and faithful servant of his Lord and Master Jesus Christ."

Near the end of the year 1869, J. M. C. Breaker was induced to move to Saint Louis and engage in mission work in the southern part of that city. There were then about 60,000 people living in that part of the city and not a protestant church located among them.

His son Manly remained at Spartensburg to continue his studies in Wofford College. But the following summer joined the family in Saint Louis.

In the following autumn he entered Washington University, still settled in his purpose to prepare thoroughly for a life of usefulness. He now formed the acquaintance of Dr. J. H. Luther, then editor of the Central Baptist. The influence of this Godly man confirmed young Breaker in the conviction that it was his duty to become a gospel preacher. A change was therefore made from Washington University to William Jewell College.

After a year or two of dilligent study here he entered the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at Greenville, South Carolina. He is said to have been the first "William Jewell boy" to enter the Seminary. If so, he led the way followed by an honorable host, who have since that day, completed their preparatory work for the ministry in that great Seminary. While pursuing his studies in the Seminary he was pastor at Clear Springs and Standing Springs, two country

churches in Greenville County, South Carolina. He received his license to preach from the Standing Springs church, in 1872. During the lapse of these years his father had become pastor of the First Baptist church in Saint Joseph, Missouri, and the son was upon the call of his church ordained in the fall of 1872. The son then returned to the Seminary and continued to preach to the same churches until he had completed his studies there.

As the arrangements had been completed to move the Seminary to Louisville, Kentucky, he was a member of the last class to graduate at Greenville. His first pastorate in Missouri was at Glasgow. He was soon chosen president of Mount Pleasant College at Huntsville, and for a time was both teacher and preacher. Giving up the college work, he was for a time, pastor in Huntsville. It becomes necessary here to pass over a number of years rapidly and give only a hurried review of his work.

He became pastor in Fayette and not only was the membership enlarged but a substantial house of worship was erected. He was then pastor at Marshall, Moberly, Gallatin (where he was also a teacher in Grand River College) and at Independence. On all these fields he proved himself an able expositor of the word of God and an industrious and faithful under shepherd.

We now approach the time when Dr. Breaker began his greatest work in Missouri. He had been in all his pastorates an earnest and intelligent advocate of missions. He did not permit his own people to remain ignorant of the great work going forward in all parts of the world.

Dr. Armstrong, in Central Baptist, wrote of Dr. Breaker:

"In the General Association he was the originator and active in the inauguration of the 'Missouri Plan,' and did more than any other man to put it into effect. He was prime advocate of a still closer correlation of our agency forces and chiefly through his advocacy there was a consolidation of the secretaryships. The Home and Foreign Board believed he was the man to make the measure a success."

Dr. Breaker began work as Secretary of the Home and Foreign Board, immediately after the meeting of the General Association in 1896. His first year's work brought to the two Boards \$11,761. This was not quite equal to the collections the preceding year when there were two secretaries. But from this time forward the amounts steadily grew, until the last year of his work the total amount was \$50,711.35.

From the very beginning of his Christian life he had been in all the processes of brain and heart an enthusiastic missionary. At one time he was moved to offer his services for the foreign field. And now when this work was thrust upon him, he saw visions of what could be done if the whole Baptist denomination in Missouri could be made to see the opportunities the age afforded.

Dr. Breaker served as secretary of the Home and Foreign Board for twelve consecutive years.

During all that time Hon. E. W. Stephens, of Columbia, was president of the Board, and therefore had full opportunity to be familiar with every part of his work. And lest someone might imagine that the writer, as a minister might show too much partiality to

another minister, I will here let this layman speak of Dr. Breaker's work:

When the report of the committee on obituaries was made to the General Association at Moberly in 1908, Mr. Stephens, the Moderator, said: "No event more tragic, more pathetic, more impressive, more suggestive, has occurred in the history of our General Association, as far as I know, than the sudden taking away of Dr. Breaker, just on the eve of this meeting here today."

"While he was yet in the midst of his service, with his armor on, pushing his work faithfully, full panoplied in his work, he was suddenly stricken down."

The "Missouri Plan" is peculiar in that there is but one agency for four mission boards. The Foreign Mission Boards of Boston and of Richmond, and the Home Mission Society of New York, and the Home Board of Atlanta, Georgia. All the Boards having agreed to accept a certain pro-rata division of undesignated funds, and to bear the expenses of the agencies upon the same terms, the Baptists in Missouri agreed to have but one secretary for these Boards and thereby avoid all conflicts between rival interests.

And so Mr. Stephens says, "He was not only the author of that plan but events showed he was the one man who could forcefully and permanently put it into effect."

"His ability, resourcefulness, energy and devotion carried into effect the plan, as his had been the ability of authorship."

"Few of you know the difficult work he had to perform; how he had to steer between dark breakers, conflicting interests, and contending sections. I was

close to his side all the time. I never knew a braver or a fairer man.

"I think—I am absolutely sure—that never at any time was he otherwise than entirely just between the sections, and he achieved magnificent results.

"When he took charge the contributions were about ten thousand a year. His books, closed the night before his life closed, and he laid his burdens down, show a total of more than fifty thousand dollars, or four and a half times above the receipts at the beginning of his secretaryship.

"But that had not been the only achievement. He has done more for the unification of the Baptists of this state, for the present condition of harmony, than any other man.

"He worked practically without reward of a financial nature. He left little or nothing of earthly goods. He lived a large life. He lived in continents and oceans. He gave himself to the human race and to God, and he left behind him an example of consecration, and of large faithfulness and devotion that ought to be an inspiration to all of us to whom he has left the magnificent heritage of his name and life.

"Dr. Breaker will live in history as the projector of a new idea in the mission work of a great state.

"Among those who will occupy a front rank among Missouri Baptist leaders he is justly entitled to a permanent place. He was an accomplished scholar, an able preacher and a wise counselor.

"He was courageous almost to a fault. By tongue and pen he was an out-spoken and persistent defender of his convictions. His resourcefulness was remarkable. Rarely did anyone oppose him who was not discomfited in the contest.

"In neither secular nor religious life have I known any man who possessed higher capacity for taking care of himself, or concerning whom his friends felt less anxiety in time of controversy.

"While his aggressive methods provoked opposition and made him the target of attack and criticism, I have never known a man of a more forgiving nature or a sweeter spirit. He cherished malice to no man. He was well named "Manly;" it is typified in his character. He forgave as well as fought and he did both splendidly. He was of heroic mold—the embodiment of Christian Chivalry.

"He died as every hero wants to die, and should die, with his armor on. He was in the thick of the fight, and in the flush of triumph.

"God grant that we who follow may be enabled to carry forward the work which he began and so nobly led.

"If any man ever had an abundant entrance into the realms of the redeemed, he surely has had such an entrance. As much as any man I ever knew he lived the full life.

"His sense of duty was as high as heaven and as broad as the human race. He was the very incarnation of the spirit of missions. His soul was aflame with the love of Christ, and glowed with the spirit that sought the salvation of all men.

"To this end he consecrated his life with an industry and persistence that was to the last degree strenuous.

"To it he sacrificed his life, for his physical energies at last succumbed to the strain. He died a martyr to duty."

That the picture of his devotion to missions may

be complete, mention must be made of his abiding interest and constant helpfulness to the work of Godly women who labor to advance the Kingdom of Heaven.

He knew and appreciated the genuine, sincerity of these bands of noble women, who use great industry and exercise self-denial that the world may have that same gospel that has made their lives free and happy.

He was just as earnest in the support of the organized work among the Christian women of our state before he became Secretary of Home and Foreign Missions as he was when he gave his life and all his energies to this work. As a pastor he encouraged and aided his own churches to diligence and consecration to carry the gospel to all nations.

He made no distinction between the work on the home field and the world-wide mission of the churches of the Lord Jesus.

The Missouri Baptist General Association, meeting at Sedalia, in 1909, decided to erect a memorial building to Dr. Breaker's memory at Shanghai, China, as a part of the union college and seminary under the northern and southern boards. The building thus designated to fittingly commemorate the work of the great Missouri Secretary is the Seminary building, containing class and lecture rooms and dormitory rooms for the ministerial students.

Subscriptions were received from the Baptists of the state, plans were finally agreed upon and a superb brick building with tile roof was ultimately constructed as "The Manly J. Breaker Memorial."

It was completed in 1915, fully paid for. It is "one of the units of equipment contemplated by the Judson Centennial Fund." Thus the life and work of

Dr. Breaker is having an ever and ever broadening influence in the orient. Dr. John E. White is the president of the Shanghai College and Seminary.

With the end of September, 1908, he completed his report for the coming meeting of the General Association. And then on the morning of the first day of October the call came that his work on earth was ended and now the time of rest was at hand.

He had completed twelve years of strenuous services. And the Lord he loved and faithfully served with a consuming zeal, saw that he had finished the task assigned to him, and called him to lay aside his armor and exchange the cross for the crown.

He died at his home in Saint Louis, October 1st, 1908. On the following Thursday his body was put away in the beautiful Cemetery at Fayette, Missouri.

Dr. Breaker was twice married, and is survived by his second wife and five children. To them he leaves the greatest inheritance, a good life well spent in the service of God and humanity.

At the meeting of the General Association, in Moberly, Mo., less than a month after his demise, the entire Baptist denomination in Missouri, as represented there, expressed in earnest words the feeling that a great loss had fallen upon them, but that a noble worker had gained his release from toil and been awarded an abundant entrance into the joys of heaven.

When Dr. Breaker engaged in the work of Home and Foreign Missions he made a thorough study of the whole field.

He made himself familiar with every part of the world where missionaries were located. He knew the people, their ignorance, superstitions and their religion. He had in his mind the whole sad scene of all

the woes and hopeless gloom that beset them on every hand.

He learned, too, how the enlightening influence of Christianity had opened their understanding, and brought into their lives hope for the future and blessings in their home life.

He learned what had been done for these nations bound in chains of darkness, and saw that only a small beginning had been made in the regeneration of the human race.

This all filled his heart and brain with visions of what possibilities are in the future for these peoples. And, therefore, with faith in God and in the power of the gospel, he gave himself wholly to the effort to arouse the redeemed hosts in the home-land to a realization of what might be done if every Christian would do all in his power to supply the means to carry forward the work of redemption. He realized the force and truthfulness of the words:

"If every lamp was well lighted, and steadily
blazed in a line
Oh what a girdle of glory 'round the whole world
would shine."

So wide was his information that he found no necessity to repeat the same address upon every occasion. He had so much to say that new speeches were made almost every day. The variety of his appeals amazed those who had long been accustomed to hear the leading advocates of missions at all our great anniversaries.

Then, too, his enthusiasm was such that every one who had appreciation of true eloquence saw that his whole being was consecrated to this one work.

Yet it was the one work of all the ages of Christianity. It was truly world-wide because he saw the whole world's needs and heard the cry of millions calling for the "Light of Life."

He was therefore literally, as Hon. E. W. Stephens said "a martyr to his work." He gave his life to the work and surrendered his life for it.

The language of the great apostle of the Gentiles, "This one thing I do," might well be applied to him in the fullness of his consecration to world-wide missions.

The children now living are: Mary (Mrs. L. W. Baker); Emma Hornby (Mrs W. C. Lambert); Paul Timmes Breaker; Ernest Robert Breaker; and Hon. George Juhan Breaker.

REV. JOHN HENRY CLARK

1812-1869

Religious Activity in Missouri 1839-1868

J. C. M.

Since I began writing biographies of worthy Missouri Baptists I have written about one hundred sketches. But I claim the privilege here of saying that no name has been mentioned that starts in my memory more sincere love and gratitude than the one that stands at the head of this article.

When on the third day of July, 1857, I landed from a steamboat at Cape Girardeau, Mo., an entire stranger, just from college, the welcome extended by Rev. John H. Clark and his excellent wife did much to overcome the loneliness of the young preacher. After