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## Ladies' Aid Society

An organization for supporting the work of the church in many Disciples of Christ congregations during the last quarter of the nineteenth century and the first quarter of the twentieth century. Society members usually paid dues, participated in a process of initiation, and were added to an official membership list.

The work of the Aid Society was mostly financial support of the congregation. The Society would hold bake sales, community dinners, or bazaars in order to fund the congregation's work or pay for new building projects. The purpose of the Aid Society was not, however, purely financial. Many Aid Societies were also involved in benevolence, visitation, and evangelism.

Organizational development mirrored that of missionary societies in the Movement, and in the early twentieth century Ladies' Aid Societies began to unite in larger endeavors. The Ladies' Aid Societies of Southern California united their efforts to help the Christian Missionary Society of Southern California establish new churches and erect new buildings.

See also Women in Ministry

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DERRICK DOYLE

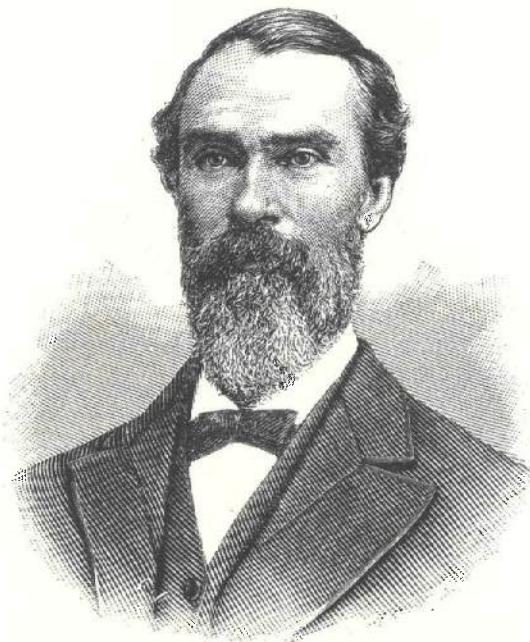
## Lamar, James Sanford (1829-1908)

Preacher, editor, and scholar of biblical hermeneutics in the second generation of the Stone-Campbell Movement.

J. S. Lamar was born in Gwinnett County, Georgia, May 18, 1829, the second son of Philip and Margaret Anthony Lamar. He studied at the LaHatt academy

and was admitted to the bar in Columbus, Georgia, in 1850. John Tillery, who had studied at Franklin College, studied with Lamar concerning the Movement's restorationist principles. Later John Reeves, a Freewill Baptist minister, baptized Lamar.

After his conversion, Lamar enrolled at Campbell's Bethany college in 1853 and graduated in July 1854 as valedictorian of a class of seventeen. Alexander Campbell, Isaac Errett, D. S. Burnet, W. K. Pendleton, and Robert Richardson ordained him at Bethany. The same year he began to preach for the



James S. Lamar (1829-1908) authored *The Organon of Scripture* (1860), which became a virtual handbook of "inductive" biblical hermeneutics in the Stone-Campbell Movement. Courtesy of Bethany College

## Lappin, Samuel Strahl

First Christian Church in Augusta, Georgia. Before long, with A. G. Thomas, he began publishing a paper called the *Christian Union* that was critical of *The American Christian Review* and the *Gospel Advocate*.

Lamar received the M.A. degree from Bethany College in 1859 and was chosen a trustee of Bethany the same year. Also in 1859, Lamar was elected one of the vice presidents of the American Christian Missionary Society at its annual meeting in Cincinnati. In 1866 he was influential in the beginning of the *Christian Standard*, with Isaac Errett as the first editor. By 1869 he became the associate editor of the paper. Lamar later became the biographer of Isaac Errett.

In 1860 Lamar published *The Organon of Scripture*, a handbook of biblical interpretation that enhanced his reputation throughout the Stone-Campbell Movement. Aspiring to break through the prevailing "mystic" and "dogmatic" traditions of interpretation, Lamar invoked "Lord [Francis] Bacon" as the author of his theological method, by which he expected to establish pure facts of Scripture as "objects of precise and certain knowledge." He argued that when Christians gave up theories and creeds and accepted "Scriptural facts," the Bible's impeccable internal logic, then unity among Christians would occur and the church would be restored to its primitive purity. Lamar's *Organon* effectively systematized the grammatical-critical model of interpretation advanced by first-generation leaders like Alexander Campbell and Walter Scott. It exuded enthusiasm that at last the Bible would be liberated from the ecclesiastical and theological powers that had inhibited its authority in and for the church.

In later years, however, in his own preaching and exegetical labors, Lamar backed away from some of the rationalism of his earlier work and became more of a realist about the difficulties of interpreting Scripture and the role of theology. He moved increasingly from a "No Creed but the Bible" to a "No Creed but Christ" position, arguing that the simple confession of Jesus as Christ and Lord was the only true foundation for Christian unity.

Lamar married Mary Rucker, with whom he had three children. Two children died of tuberculosis. The oldest child, Joseph Rucker Lamar, became an associate justice of the United States Supreme Court in 1910. Lamar ministered to Christian Churches in Georgia throughout his life.

*See also* Bible, Interpretation of the; *Christian Standard*, *The*; Errett, Isaac; Hermeneutics

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TIM SENSING

## Lappin, Samuel Strahl (1870-1960)

Preacher, professor, author, and editor in Christian Churches/Churches of Christ.

Samuel Strahl Lappin was born on September 20, 1870, in Wayne County, Illinois; he died December 29, 1960, at Bedford, Indiana. Lappin had studied at Eureka College in Illinois, and went on to serve churches at Toluca, Washburn, Paxton, Atlanta, and Stanford, Illinois; Erlanger, Kentucky; Bethany, West Virginia; and Bedford, Indiana. Lappin joined the editorial staff of the *Christian Standard* in 1909 and served as the editor from 1909 to 1917. He was a professor at Bethany College in West Virginia, 1918-19. He wrote five books: *Where the Long Trail Begins*, *Wren's Nest*, *The Training of the Church*, *Lappin's Sermon Outlines*, and *Run, Sammy, Run*. Two of his four siblings were also minister-scholars in the Stone-Campbell tradition: John, a professor at Phillips University, in Enid, Oklahoma; and William, professor and dean at Johnson Bible College.

GARY E. WEEDMAN

## Lappin, William Otis (1877-1966)

Preacher, college professor, college president, and dean.

William Otis Lappin was born on July 20, 1877; he died April 21, 1966. Lappin had studied at Eureka College in Illinois and received an M.A. degree in 1918 from the University of Chicago. He had a twin brother, John, who was also a preacher and professor, and three other siblings, one of whom, Samuel, was a preacher, professor, and editor. Lappin began preaching in country churches in Southern Illinois in May 1898. He served as professor at Atlantic Christian College in Wilson, North Carolina, from 1913 to 1918; president of Morehead Normal School from 1918 to 1923; professor at Milligan College from 1923 to 1928; and professor and dean at Johnson Bible College from 1928 to 1959. He served as acting president of Johnson Bible College for several months following the death of President Alva Ross Brown in March 1941.

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