

FIVE MEN AND A BOY STEPPED BRISKLY FROM THE eastbound Southern train at a telegraph station called Terrell, eighteen miles east of Asheville, North Carolina. After watching the last car disappear in a swirl of smoke into Swannanoa Tunnel at the crest of the Blue Ridge, they turned around to get their first view of nearby hills and distant mountains, of tall, green trees and dark undergrowth, of rich, blue sky and a few clouds just rising from rest in the early August morning. Not far from the tracks they saw a deserted stage-coach house beside a rutted road, and a few other scattered buildings.

All the morning they roamed the wild forest by way of a few mountain trails to clear bubbling springs, along steep slopes, and to the crest of Swannanoa Gap itself—2,300 feet above the sea. They were appraising a tract of land recommended as the site for a Southern Baptist assembly. Finally, they discovered the stream which now flows into Lake Dew. Dr. H. W. Battle, of Kinston, took off his hat and delivered an address announcing that they had found the exact spot for the center of the assembly ground.

Four months later in December, 1906, North Carolina Baptists accepted the report of their

committee “without assuming any financial responsibility” and recommended “that the Baptists of the South be invited to join the movement” to establish what is now nationally known as *Ridgecrest*.

It all began in the mind of a man—B. W. Spilman—a big man in every way, with vision and patience for helping others learn how to teach the Bible to the multitudes. He first had the dream in 1895 just before he began promoting Sunday school work in North Carolina. In 1905 as a field secretary for the Sunday School Board he offered the resolution which sent him and his committee to “the land of the sky.” Also on the committee were Hight C Moore, pastor in Kinston, J. H. Tucker, lawyer and Sunday school superintendent of Asheville’s First Baptist Church, and N. B. Broughton, part owner of the *Biblical Recorder*.

(Source: “The Ridgecrest Story,” by the Editor of Broadman Press, 1955.)

# The 5 men who gathered at the stream, which fed into Lake Dew:



**B. W. Spilman**



**Henry Wilson Battle**



**W. H. Moore**

**J.H. Tucker, Member of First Baptist Church, Asheville, NC, and Member of the Board of Trustees, Wake Forest College.  
(1888-1911)**



**Needham Bryant Broughton,  
Editor of The Biblical Recorder  
newspaper.**