

A Historical Outline

of the

Diocese of Lexington

for the

CELEBRATION OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

of the

ORGANIZATION OF THE DIOCESE OF LEXINGTON

and of the

CONSECRATION OF ITS FIRST BISHOP, THE

RT. REV. LEWIS W. BURTON, D. D.

and also of the

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE FIRST SERVICES

held on the site of the present Christ Church Cathedral

LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY

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## A HISTORICAL OUTLINE OF THE DIOCESE OF LEXINGTON

The Diocese of Lexington was erected in 1895. The organization was begun December 4th and 5th at a Primary Council held in Christ Church, Lexington, when the name of the Diocese was chosen, and the Rev. Lewis William Burton, Rector of St. Andrew's Church, Louisville, Kentucky, was made Bishop-elect. He was consecrated in his own parish church, January 30th, 1896.

These figures, and this data, much abridged, are on our diocesan corner-stone, marking one side of an imaginary monolith. The other three sides are marked with prime events one hundred and twenty-five years back, when the Rev. James Moore was Rector of Christ Church, Lexington, from 1796 until July 22, 1814, making by his ministry foundations firm and sure.

The Rt. Rev. Lewis William Burton, D. D., completes today twenty-five years of arduous toil amid many discouragements and some great triumphs. We are here today to thank God for all that has been wrought during this time, and especially that the Bishop has been granted health and strength to push his beginnings to a comparative success. We pray that he may be allowed to fulfill his heart's desire.

There are certain events, that churchmen must never forget. One of these is that the first public religious service held in our State, of which record survives, was under a wide spreading elm, near the Kentucky river, at Boonesboro, on Sunday, May 28th, 1775. The Rev. John Lythe, of Harrodsburg, as Chaplain to the First Proprietary Legislature, then and there, conducted services from the Prayer Book of the Church of England. The churchmen and churchwomen of the Diocese of Lexington, have a heritage which must never be forgotten. Each generation must recite to its children the stirring story of the daring and privations of the people who came over the Wilderness Road, bringing their Prayer Books and Bibles. There was a sore temptation to them to forget their earlier Church affiliations, in the absorbing

