

EEH: The Stampede of Court Street Baptist Church

00;00;00;17 - 00;00;04;00

Hello, listeners, and

00;00;04;00 - 00;00;08;04

Welcome to Elisha's Eerie History.

00;00;08;04 - 00;00;11;01

EHHHH!

00;00;11;01 - 00;00;17;18

[Song "Elisha's Eerie History" by Sydney followed by drum break.]

00;00;22;21 - 00;00;23;28

EHHHH!

00;00;23;28 - 00;00;28;03

Today, I have a special guest star,

00;00;28;14 - 00;00;31;23

as I say every time, and friend of the pod.

00;00;32;02 - 00;00;34;24

Today we have my twin sister.

00;00;34;24 - 00;00;36;11

Brittany.

00;00;36;11 - 00;00;38;26

Yep. Hi, Elisha!

00;00;38;26 - 00;00;41;26

There's going to be applause
in the background.

00;00;42;20 - 00;00;45;07

Brittany, tell us a little bit about you.

00;00;45;07 - 00;00;47;04

I know you've been listening to the pod.

00;00;47;04 - 00;00;47;23

You love it.

00;00;47;23 - 00;00;50;05

You give me feedback every time. Yes.

00;00;50;05 - 00;00;51;19

You liked the Bunny Man Bridge.

00;00;51;19 - 00;00;53;21

That was her favorite episode
so far, right?

00;00;53;21 - 00;00;54;27

Yes, yes. No.

00;00;54;27 - 00;00;57;08

I think that will make a great DND
monster.

00;00;57;08 - 00;00;58;17

Bunnyman Bridge Man.

00;00;58;17 - 00;00;59;20

Okay. Yeah.

00;00;59;20 - 00;01;01;18

Brittany's big into DND.

00;01;01;18 - 00;01;03;16

What else would they know about you?

00;01;03;16 - 00;01;05;00

You're a cool cat.

00;01;05;00 - 00;01;06;25

I'm your twin. You're my twin. It's.

00;01;06;25 - 00;01;08;13

We're celebrating our birthday today.

00;01;08;13 - 00;01;13;09

It was last week, but we're celebrating today because I was busy last week.

00;01;13;10 - 00;01;16;20

Yeah. Time. Time constraints. It is fine.

00;01;16;24 - 00;01;17;24

We busy people.

00;01;17;24 - 00;01;18;12

Yeah.

00;01;18;12 - 00;01;21;21

So Mom

and Brittany wanted to be on the pod,

00;01;21;21 - 00;01;25;04

but I told mom that Brittany gets priority because it's her birthday this week.

00;01;25;26 - 00;01;28;23

Although mom will probably be more fun when she's on here.

00;01;28;23 - 00;01;29;16

Well, don't say that.

00;01;29;16 - 00;01;30;06

You don't know.

00;01;30;06 - 00;01;33;03

Well, it's not about being fun, although it is about being fun.

00;01;33;03 - 00;01;35;11

Mostly we're trying to be educational.

00;01;35;11 - 00;01;36;05

Educational.

00;01;36;05 - 00;01;40;12

Okay. So, I- I want you to say
insightful things.

00;01;40;14 - 00;01;43;25

We're going to talk
about a topic in Lynchburg.

00;01;43;25 - 00;01;47;13

So if you know anything geographically,
our you been there our anything?

00;01;47;27 - 00;01;50;19

Well, we grew up here,
so. Yeah- grew up in Lynchburg,

00;01;50;19 - 00;01;53;25

so I sure hope I know
some of the geographic area in Lynchburg.

00;01;54;02 - 00;01;56;04

If you know anything, add to it.

00;01;56;04 - 00;01;59;06

Try to be insightful,
but honestly, there's no pressure.

00;01;59;10 - 00;02;02;06

We have 30 minute episodes
but I usually talk about history

00;02;02;06 - 00;02;03;23

for like 36 minutes.

00;02;03;23 - 00;02;06;04

Okay, okay, cool.

00;02;06;04 - 00;02;07;06

So Brittany,

00;02;08;11 - 00;02;10;05

I have a boilerplate today.

00;02;10;05 - 00;02;12;15

Do you know what that is? A boilerplate?

00;02;12;15 - 00;02;14;17

A boilerplate,

00;02;14;17 - 00;02;19;18

It's like the opening
that supposed to spark curiosity.

00;02;19;18 - 00;02;23;04

I knew what boiler plate was
in, like, machinery.

00;02;23;07 - 00;02;24;05

Yeah.

00;02;24;05 - 00;02;27;26

Have you ever been lost in a large crowd?

00;02;27;26 - 00;02;29;28

Ever been in an audience?

00;02;29;28 - 00;02;35;12

And suddenly you're so close to someone,
you're suffocated by their armpit smell?

00;02;36;07 - 00;02;38;21

People often feel social anxiety

00;02;38;21 - 00;02;41;29

and overwhelmed amidst large crowds.

00;02;42;14 - 00;02;45;24

Is this perhaps your brain
giving you a warning sign?

00;02;46;19 - 00;02;50;16
Chicago nightclubs, sports games
and even Astroworld

00;02;50;16 - 00;02;53;24
have fallen victim
to crowd surges and stampedes.

00;02;54;08 - 00;02;55;28
These events are terrifying,

00;02;55;28 - 00;02;58;25
and can often lead to a loss of life.

00;02;58;25 - 00;03;02;12
Today we will be discussing the stampede

00;03;02;19 - 00;03;05;27
of Court Street
Baptist Church in Lynchburg, Virginia.

00;03;06;18 - 00;03;07;20
Eerie music.

00;03;07;20 - 00;03;10;11
No no no no no no no no no no no.

00;03;10;11 - 00;03;12;18
Don't bother that.

00;03;12;18 - 00;03;16;05
so have you heard of the stampede of Court
Street Baptist Church?

00;03;16;15 - 00;03;19;07
Not until you told me. Okay. Yeah.

00;03;19;07 - 00;03;22;02
I told Brittany a little bit earlier
because Brittany was being nosy and

00;03;22;02 - 00;03;25;06
wanted to know about the topic
before we record it, but,

00;03;25;06 - 00;03;26;05
I am curious.

00;03;26;05 - 00;03;29;26
I always bug
you about your next topic on the podcast.

00;03;29;27 - 00;03;31;03
True, true.

00;03;31;03 - 00;03;34;05
And I think this is a good topic for you

00;03;34;05 - 00;03;38;00
because you're someone who don't do
large crowds per se.

00;03;38;09 - 00;03;43;25
So, I mean, considering I've gotten lost twice in DC
and that's basically a large city crowd.

00;03;43;27 - 00;03;44;17
Yeah.

00;03;44;17 - 00;03;48;01
So I think this is a good episode
you could probably relate to,

00;03;48;05 - 00;03;51;13
you know, the feelings of anxiety in large
crowds.

00;03;51;13 - 00;03;52;22
I know I at least I,

00;03;52;22 - 00;03;57;06
I'm person who's always in large crowds

and I still get anxious in them.

00;03;57;06 - 00;04;01;25

Today we're talking about this
stampede of Court Street Baptist Church.

00;04;01;25 - 00;04;04;01

But first, you know what we always do?

00;04;04;01 - 00;04;05;17

We do the Google reviews--

00;04;05;17 - 00;04;07;25

Google reviews. Okay, okay.

00;04;07;25 - 00;04;11;26

We have 4.9 out of five stars
on the Court Street Baptist Church.

00;04;12;09 - 00;04;16;06

The first star is Jesse Westscott.

00;04;16;12 - 00;04;19;26

She gave it five stars,
and she said or

00;04;19;26 - 00;04;21;13

Jesse, you dude.

00;04;21;13 - 00;04;23;14

Could go either way with how it's spelled.

00;04;23;14 - 00;04;26;22

Okay, so. Let's just call them a they.

00;04;26;22 - 00;04;30;23

A they, they said "Great historic
church! A real beauty!"

00;04;31;21 - 00;04;34;12

Penny Burford says

00;04;34;12 - 00;04;37;00

this church helps
a lot of people with their food pantry.

00;04;37;00 - 00;04;38;26

She also gave them five out of five stars.

00;04;38;26 - 00;04;42;03

So congrats to this church Court Street
Baptist Church.

00;04;42;03 - 00;04;43;24

Ya'll do a great job.

00;04;43;24 - 00;04;45;01

Whoa. Yeah.

00;04;45;01 - 00;04;49;09

The building I showed you
was is the new Court Street building.

00;04;49;10 - 00;04;50;16

Okay? Okay.

00;04;50;16 - 00;04;54;21

The building the story is about
is the previous

00;04;54;27 - 00;04;57;27

Court Street Baptist Church building.

00;04;57;27 - 00;05;02;21

That the reason there's a new one
is the reason this story happened.

00;05;02;22 - 00;05;05;26

The church was actually
in deplorable conditions.

00;05;05;26 - 00;05;07;11

The time-

00;05;07;11 - 00;05;14;03
this event happened,
the stampede was in 1878.

00;05;14;12 - 00;05;18;12
And to give context for
are not super history buffs.

00;05;18;20 - 00;05;23;18
The Emancipation Proclamation
happened in 1863,

00;05;23;19 - 00;05;28;23
reconstruction
ended in America in the South in 1876.

00;05;29;02 - 00;05;30;11
So this is actually two years

00;05;30;11 - 00;05;33;22
after reconstruction
that the stampede of Lynchburg happened.

00;05;33;22 - 00;05;35;05
Okay. Okay?

00;05;35;05 - 00;05;37;26
So on October 16th,

00;05;37;26 - 00;05;41;13
1878, over 2000

00;05;41;13 - 00;05;46;02
people stood in what is now called
the Old Court Street Baptist Church.

00;05;46;16 - 00;05;51;17
This was for the event and the wedding
of Jack Averett and Mary Rives.

00;05;51;23 - 00;05;55;21

There's another news article that claims
it was a different family getting married,

00;05;55;26 - 00;05;59;22

but most of the news articles
say Jack Averett and Mary Rives.

00;05;59;22 - 00;06;00;20

So we're going to go

00;06;00;20 - 00;06;04;03

that they got married,
but potentially there were two weddings.

00;06;04;23 - 00;06;07;00

I mean with 2000 people.

00;06;07;00 - 00;06;08;13

There might have been two weddings.

00;06;08;13 - 00;06;09;28

That's a lot of people.

00;06;09;28 - 00;06;10;10

Yeah.

00;06;10;10 - 00;06;12;00

So, um- A wedding to-

00;06;12;00 - 00;06;14;05

Damn, they must have been popular.

00;06;14;05 - 00;06;16;28

According to the New York Herald
an eyewitness said,

00;06;16;28 - 00;06;20;20

“the marriage ceremony had been completed
and the bridal party

00;06;20;20 - 00;06;24;17
had just retired, followed
by at least one half of the congregation.

00;06;25;04 - 00;06;28;20
Otherwise, the loss of life
would be much greater than it was.”

00;06;29;11 - 00;06;32;14
The wedding had ended
and religious service had commenced.

00;06;32;21 - 00;06;35;28
A prayer had been offered
when the sound of breaking glass

00;06;35;28 - 00;06;41;19
and a cry from the gallery came
that said, “The church is falling!”

00;06;41;19 - 00;06;46;17
A man at this point jumps from the gallery
on the heads of those in the audience,

00;06;47;05 - 00;06;51;06
and for those who don't know, I'm
assuming the gallery is the balcony.

00;06;51;06 - 00;06;53;14
I'm assuming that too. If he jumped.

00;06;53;14 - 00;06;56;17
A man then yells, “Make your escape!”

00;06;56;17 - 00;06;58;19
The front is falling!”

00;06;58;19 - 00;07;01;08
And then a large exit of people

00;07;01;08 - 00;07;04;20

fled, for
they thought the building was falling.

00;07;04;27 - 00;07;07;20

Now there are two

00;07;07;20 - 00;07;10;20

editorializations of this story.

00;07;11;00 - 00;07;15;23

One story is that what we just heard
was that a kid or man,

00;07;15;23 - 00;07;19;19

they think it was a kid, broke some glass
and then screamed,

00;07;19;19 - 00;07;22;18

“The building was falling,”
and made everyone panic.

00;07;22;18 - 00;07;24;08

The other story goes, that

00;07;24;08 - 00;07;24;26

The other story goes, that

00;07;24;26 - 00;07;26;02

plaster, on the building fell
while the congregation

00;07;26;02 - 00;07;28;22

plaster, on the building fell
while the congregation

00;07;28;22 - 00;07;32;14

was singing and rejoicing,
and it scared the s*** out of people

00;07;32;28 - 00;07;34;09

and they started rushing out.

00;07;34;09 - 00;07;37;11

When this happened, people freaked out

00;07;37;11 - 00;07;40;12

and they started rushing to the exit.

00;07;40;12 - 00;07;43;14

Once people
got to the exits of the church,

00;07;43;14 - 00;07;47;14

some of them turned around
and fought against the surge of people

00;07;47;14 - 00;07;50;26

to find their children or friends
that didn't exit with them.

00;07;50;26 - 00;07;54;29

This event is an example of a crowd surge
or stampede.

00;07;54;29 - 00;07;58;05

That's why I talked about Astroworld
and nightclubs in the beginning.

00;07;58;28 - 00;08;01;23

The paper then says that people jumped
from the second

00;08;01;23 - 00;08;04;20

and third stories of the church
and could not escape.

00;08;04;20 - 00;08;08;11

A lot of people blame
the crash of glass on two boys

00;08;08;11 - 00;08;12;17

who are playing around and pegging them
responsible for this event.

00;08;12;25 - 00;08;15;29
This event and the crowd surge,

00;08;16;16 - 00;08;20;14
leads to the deaths
of multiple women and children.

00;08;20;15 - 00;08;25;28
The author of one of the primary articles
I read insinuates that men crowded

00;08;25;28 - 00;08;29;16
over the women and crawled over the women
and weren't very like--

00;08;29;16 - 00;08;32;29
Gentlemen-y, save women, children
first type deal. Yeah.

00;08;32;29 - 00;08;37;25
And then this was backed up by Frank
Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper.

00;08;37;25 - 00;08;41;16
However, comma, the news articles

00;08;41;16 - 00;08;45;11
were written by white people,
from what I could tell.

00;08;45;11 - 00;08;51;06
So I think this is a case of trying
to make the black population

00;08;51;08 - 00;08;54;28
seem inferior and like
or like they're not respectful or,

00;08;54;28 - 00;08;57;19
you know, just in general, not good vibes.

00;08;57;19 - 00;09;01;16
So I don't know that that happened,
but that was the report.

00;09;01;29 - 00;09;06;17
Those in the front of the crowd
that were crushed underneath,

00;09;06;17 - 00;09;11;08
all the people rushing out
say that they had the weight of people

00;09;11;08 - 00;09;15;18
squeeze them until they thought
they would die, and some people did die.

00;09;15;29 - 00;09;18;22
So after all of this crowd rushing, nine

00;09;18;22 - 00;09;22;18
people were killed
and 20 to 30 were wounded.

00;09;22;18 - 00;09;24;14
Those that were killed
include

00;09;24;14 - 00;09;27;08
Maria Wilson, Maria Ransom,

00;09;27;08 - 00;09;32;02
Millie Ward, Mary Henry, Virginia Robinson, Emma Brown,

00;09;32;10 - 00;09;35;24
Arena Cox, and two unidentified bodies.

00;09;35;27 - 00;09;39;08
Another report claimed

that 14 people were trampled to death.

00;09;39;08 - 00;09;43;08

The reason for this,
discrepancy of numbers is probably due

00;09;43;08 - 00;09;47;14

to the fact that nine people died
on scene, many sustained

00;09;47;14 - 00;09;51;01

injuries that later in the week
in coming months, led to their death.

00;09;51;02 - 00;09;57;27

So imagine you're part of a crowd stampede
and you get you survive it,

00;09;57;27 - 00;10;01;10

but you're very injured,
and then you die weeks,

00;10;01;16 - 00;10;04;27

days, or months later
due to a crowd injury

00;10;04;27 - 00;10;07;02

at church after a wedding

00;10;08;06 - 00;10;08;13

Yeah

00;10;08;13 - 00;10;11;13

That ain't a very happy wedding anymore.

00;10;11;21 - 00;10;15;10

A man named Pascal Horton
died of his wounds.

00;10;15;10 - 00;10;17;03

He was the only man to die.

00;10;17;03 - 00;10;18;11

And he died on 2 a.m.

00;10;18;11 - 00;10;20;22

October 8th, two days after the event.

00;10;20;22 - 00;10;25;26

After this case of crowd surging,
the fire department comes upon the scene.

00;10;26;06 - 00;10;30;21

Alarms were sounded by people
who had houses neighboring the church

00;10;30;27 - 00;10;32;17

and everyone came.

00;10;32;17 - 00;10;36;09

obviously, you know,
nosy southern people everyone

00;10;36;17 - 00;10;39;26

everyone's coming out of their house
being like, what the hell's going on?

00;10;39;26 - 00;10;41;25

What's going on? Are you okay?

00;10;41;25 - 00;10;42;14

Yeah.

00;10;42;14 - 00;10;46;21

This obviously
put a huge damper on the night.

00;10;47;01 - 00;10;52;27

It was really hard on the community,
you know, get past this because,

00;10;53;15 - 00;10;57;29

I wrote down the hearts
and the minds of the black population,

00;10;57;29 - 00;11;01;27
this was a telltale sign
of the lack of safe accommodation

00;11;01;27 - 00;11;07;25
and the struggle of being able to worship
safely, persecution by lack of safety.

00;11;07;25 - 00;11;10;20
We just experienced reconstruction.

00;11;10;20 - 00;11;13;20
But there wasn't reconstruction
of the South for everybody.

00;11;13;26 - 00;11;16;27
Yeah, it was reconstruction of the South
for white people.

00;11;17;10 - 00;11;18;22
two boys were blamed.

00;11;18;22 - 00;11;22;10
I can only imagine what those boys
were thinking as they were blamed

00;11;22;10 - 00;11;26;01
because no one knows who started it,
which is the worst part.

00;11;26;01 - 00;11;29;11
Yeah, well,
it's like some people think plaster fell.

00;11;29;11 - 00;11;31;26
That glass was broken.
It was blamed on other people.

00;11;31;26 - 00;11;34;17

There are eyewitnesses
that say plaster fell.

00;11;34;17 - 00;11;38;16

So I like to believe the plaster
fell. Yes.

00;11;38;16 - 00;11;40;23

Multiple articles said that.
And I would like to believe that.

00;11;40;23 - 00;11;46;19

I would more like to think glass broke
on the rush and exit out.

00;11;47;00 - 00;11;49;14

And then that was just blamed on the boys.

00;11;49;14 - 00;11;53;09

And I don't think it ever lists
the boys names, but I don't know.

00;11;53;09 - 00;11;57;20

That also seems like a case
to be of like racism, of just trying to.

00;11;57;23 - 00;11;59;07

Find blame on somebody.

00;11;59;07 - 00;12;01;18

Yeah, put blame on someone.

00;12;01;18 - 00;12;03;23

You might have just heard the dog
in the background.

00;12;03;23 - 00;12;06;04

I'm glad you're on the same page
about that as I am.

00;12;06;04 - 00;12;08;04
So we're going to get into the history

00;12;08;04 - 00;12;11;19
of Court Street Baptist Church
and what it means for Lynchburg.

00;12;12;15 - 00;12;15;00
but the disclaimer is we're talking

00;12;15;00 - 00;12;18;00
about the modern Court Street
Baptist Church,

00;12;18;00 - 00;12;21;09
but this story is about the old Court
Street Baptist Church.

00;12;21;09 - 00;12;25;18
But nonetheless, the congregation
and the community around

00;12;25;18 - 00;12;28;11
this church is still it's
the same community.

00;12;28;11 - 00;12;31;27
This church migrated from
that old building to the new building.

00;12;32;05 - 00;12;33;27
And here they are today.

00;12;33;27 - 00;12;35;20
Okay, okay, okay.

00;12;35;20 - 00;12;37;19
So history of the church.

00;12;37;19 - 00;12;40;05
Court Street Baptist Church stands

00;12;40;05 - 00;12;44;11
as a testament of the black
Christian community of Lynchburg.

00;12;44;11 - 00;12;45;28
And that was a quote,

00;12;45;28 - 00;12;48;24
the building that resides
there has entertained the likes

00;12;48;24 - 00;12;53;02
of many black evangelicals,
including Martin Luther King Junior,

00;12;53;11 - 00;12;55;14
Reverend Cessar L. Scott

00;12;55;14 - 00;12;58;03
of the Baptist General Convention
of Virginia,

00;12;58;03 - 00;13;03;20
and Reverend N. S. Walker, where over 1000 March for Civil
Rights in Lynchburg, Virginia.

00;13;04;05 - 00;13;06;02
Founded in 1843,

00;13;06;02 - 00;13;08;19
originally named
the African Baptist Church,

00;13;08;19 - 00;13;11;25
this is one of the premier
black churches in Lynchburg, Virginia.

00;13;11;25 - 00;13;15;17
In fact, some of the first black children
to be integrated

00;13;15;17 - 00;13;19;14
into white schools
in Lynchburg attended this church.

00;13;19;17 - 00;13;22;26
The building today is one of the tallest
objects in Lynchburg,

00;13;22;26 - 00;13;28;00
becoming a iconic part of this medium
sized city skyline.

00;13;28;12 - 00;13;32;17
Standing over 16ft tall,
the belfry of this church demonstrates

00;13;32;17 - 00;13;35;24
the impact
it has had on the culture of Lynchburg,

00;13;35;24 - 00;13;40;11
and I still think it's
a pretty influential church community.

00;13;40;11 - 00;13;41;28
in the area.

00;13;41;28 - 00;13;44;09
Yeah,
it has a nice little point, like a castle.

00;13;44;09 - 00;13;46;18
For those
who don't know where the belfry is.

00;13;46;18 - 00;13;50;23
The building,
the new building that is, was built

00;13;50;23 - 00;13;55;07

by, well, the architectural plans
were by an ex Confederate soldier.

00;13;55;07 - 00;13;56;13
Can you believe that?

00;13;56;13 - 00;13;59;12
And his name was R.C. Burkholder.

00;13;59;12 - 00;14;02;15
The Court Street Baptist Church
that currently exists

00;14;02;15 - 00;14;05;22
was purchased
after the old building was condemned.

00;14;06;03 - 00;14;11;02
It was written down in 1879
that the previous building was condemned

00;14;11;02 - 00;14;16;13
a few months after the incident,
on Wednesday, March 5th, 1879,

00;14;16;13 - 00;14;19;28
the old Virginia announced
that the Court Street Baptist Church,

00;14;19;28 - 00;14;22;27
at which the calamity occurred
last fall, is being pulled down.

00;14;22;27 - 00;14;24;04
The material will be used in a new church
building, corner

00;14;24;04 - 00;14;26;13
The material will be used in a new church
building, corner

00;14;26;13 - 00;14;28;05
of Court and Sixth Street.

00;14;28;05 - 00;14;31;28
The land was purchased by a private citizen
who bought the land for the church

00;14;31;28 - 00;14;33;23
and then donated it to the church.

00;14;33;23 - 00;14;37;01
Originally,
the white population of Lynchburg

00;14;37;01 - 00;14;41;13
when the church was condemned was trying
to, like, completely stop

00;14;41;22 - 00;14;46;07
the congregation from buying property
downtown for the church.

00;14;46;07 - 00;14;50;08
This congregation overcame,
purchased a privately, and was able

00;14;50;08 - 00;14;51;24
to have their church downtown.

00;14;51;24 - 00;14;55;16
Otherwise they were trying to have
the black population commute

00;14;56;01 - 00;14;59;01
to the other side of town,
essentially to go to church.

00;14;59;03 - 00;15;02;26
After the lot was purchased,
the cornerstone was laid, and in reporting

00;15;02;26 - 00;15;06;09
that occasion, the Virginia informed
its readers that this, we understand,

00;15;06;09 - 00;15;09;20
is to be the handsome structure
and one of the largest in the state.

00;15;09;20 - 00;15;10;07
By Mr.

00;15;10;07 - 00;15;14;03
R.C. Burkholder is the architect
to be finished by October 1st.

00;15;14;09 - 00;15;18;03
While the congregation selected ex
Confederate soldier Burkholder

00;15;18;03 - 00;15;21;01
to design their church,
they had no need to go outside

00;15;21;01 - 00;15;23;23
of their membership
to find builders and contractors.

00;15;23;23 - 00;15;28;18
Perhaps the historian has overstated
the case, an assertion that in 1879,

00;15;28;26 - 00;15;32;04
all construction of homes
and public buildings was done

00;15;32;04 - 00;15;35;15
by Negro contractors,
carpenters, brick and stone masons.

00;15;35;27 - 00;15;38;14
But at least

there are plenty to do this one job.

00;15;38;14 - 00;15;41;19

So the church had no issue
finding people to work on,

00;15;41;22 - 00;15;45;11

and they had a huge following.

00;15;45;11 - 00;15;46;06

They had one of the most

00;15;46;06 - 00;15;49;06

influential congregations in Lynchburg,
from what we can tell.

00;15;49;07 - 00;15;51;28

That's not easy feat for a church in this.

00;15;51;28 - 00;15;52;23

In Lynchburg.

00;15;52;23 - 00;15;56;17

John Wilson, a member of the congregation,
assumed the responsibility

00;15;56;17 - 00;15;59;17

of the head contractor while other workers

00;15;59;18 - 00;16;01;04

worked beneath him

00;16;01;07 - 00;16;05;14

They did not finish, on the October
1st, 1879

00;16;05;14 - 00;16;06;29

deadline that the Virginia had given.

00;16;06;29 - 00;16;11;10

However, the building was completed

and dedicated in July 1880.

00;16;11;20 - 00;16;14;10

Prior to its completion,
the new church was described

00;16;14;10 - 00;16;17;29

in the press as one of the finest
religious structures in the South.

00;16;18;13 - 00;16;19;24

I love that phrase.

00;16;19;24 - 00;16;22;15

When I read that,
I could just hear the person being like

00;16;22;15 - 00;16;24;14

“One of the finest religious structures
in the South.”

00;16;24;14 - 00;16;27;14

“One of the finest religious structures
in the South.”

00;16;27;20 - 00;16;29;16

Yeah. Added a bit more twang to that.

00;16;29;16 - 00;16;32;18

Another account describe the exterior
of the single paragraph

00;16;32;18 - 00;16;35;21

as externally the building as symmetrical
and imposing.

00;16;36;00 - 00;16;40;06

The foundation walls are of solid stone,
60 by 101ft.

00;16;40;19 - 00;16;43;08

The walls of the superstructure
are of brick.

00;16;43;08 - 00;16;46;08
The front face has been made
at the Richmond Kilns.

00;16;46;19 - 00;16;50;16
The granite steps to the main entrance
will come from the quarry,

00;16;50;23 - 00;16;52;10
also at Richmond.

00;16;52;10 - 00;16;56;14
The spire, which is by far
the tallest in the city, is surmounted

00;16;56;14 - 00;17;01;00
by a copper ball 9.5ft
in circumference and weighs 34 pounds.

00;17;01;09 - 00;17;02;07
It's impressive.

00;17;02;07 - 00;17;07;05
The Court Street Baptist Church is on
the National Register of Historic Places.

00;17;07;05 - 00;17;09;26
As of June of 1982.

00;17;09;26 - 00;17;12;10
That is the history
of the current building.

00;17;12;19 - 00;17;18;09
I wanted to provide all that context
to give respect to, you know, our black

00;17;18;09 - 00;17;21;27

community here in, Lynchburg and to,

00;17;22;02 - 00;17;25;11

provide a impact on our listeners

00;17;25;11 - 00;17;29;13

of the significance of this congregation
and this church on the community.

00;17;29;20 - 00;17;33;02

I'm really questioning
how they constructed it, because

00;17;33;03 - 00;17;34;21

of, like, how tall it was.

00;17;34;21 - 00;17;36;05

And the belfry and everything.

00;17;36;05 - 00;17;40;12

But there are legit ways
to construct things without modern machinery.

00;17;40;12 - 00;17;41;05

I know that.

00;17;41;05 - 00;17;42;06

I just

00;17;42;06 - 00;17;46;18

I'm just curious on like, those specifics
because that always seems impressive.

00;17;46;27 - 00;17;49;06

I mean, this is right
after reconstruction.

00;17;49;06 - 00;17;53;03

Enslaved people built
most of our structures around here.

00;17;53;16 - 00;17;58;22

It is no surprise that they had the skills
to build their own place of worship.

00;17;58;25 - 00;18;03;03

and it's no surprise
either that they did it with such zeal

00;18;03;03 - 00;18;05;16

and to make the tallest structure
in Lynchburg.

00;18;05;16 - 00;18;07;10

Yeah, considering the time. Yeah.

00;18;07;10 - 00;18;09;05

Making the tallest structure in Lynchburg.

00;18;09;05 - 00;18;11;04

Considering the time, that's hard to do.

00;18;11;04 - 00;18;14;11

You know, it wasn't a good thing
what happened.

00;18;14;20 - 00;18;19;00

Unfortunately, you know, people had to
die, and the building had to be condemned

00;18;19;05 - 00;18;24;07

for the black population of Lynchburg
to get a church that was safe.

00;18;24;09 - 00;18;26;20

But, it is a cool story because now they
have the tallest building in Lynchburg.

00;18;26;20 - 00;18;28;16

But, it is a cool story because now they
have the tallest building in Lynchburg.

00;18;28;28 - 00;18;31;02

Good things can come out of tragedies.

00;18;31;02 - 00;18;32;12

As what we've learned.

00;18;32;12 - 00;18;38;15

I have the funeral records,
the people that died at Stampede.

00;18;38;25 - 00;18;41;12

One of the adults that died.

00;18;42;22 - 00;18;47;04

It cost about \$30
to get them fully buried in 1878.

00;18;47;04 - 00;18;50;24

Okay, so, Brittany,
you're someone who doesn't like crowds.

00;18;50;24 - 00;18;53;18

Have you ever been stampeded in a crowd?

00;18;53;18 - 00;18;58;08

I mean, not to this extent, but have you
ever been in a rush situation in a crowd?

00;18;58;09 - 00;19;02;17

Does game count when you're playing with,
like, a bunch of people

00;19;02;27 - 00;19;04;22

and like 20 people or a game
you're playing,

00;19;04;22 - 00;19;07;16

and then they're all like, we gotta go
this way!

00;19;07;16 - 00;19;08;22

In the game. Yeah.

00;19;08;22 - 00;19;10;23

And you kind of,
they kind of just sweep you up in it.

00;19;10;23 - 00;19;11;24

Does that count?

00;19;11;24 - 00;19;13;03

I don't think so. Okay.

00;19;13;03 - 00;19;15;07

I'm not going to say it counts personally.

00;19;15;07 - 00;19;18;00

Okay. I have never been rushed in a crowd
to this extent.

00;19;18;00 - 00;19;21;23

However, I have been in a crowd
when there is like an emergency

00;19;21;23 - 00;19;26;08

exit situation and I lost my flip flops
in it like it was like

00;19;26;08 - 00;19;29;22

everyone was rushing to one side
and I lost both of my shoes.

00;19;29;22 - 00;19;33;15

Let's get into what causes a stampede

00;19;33;15 - 00;19;36;15

so stampedes
can occur for various reasons.

00;19;36;26 - 00;19;40;09

Some of the most common hazards
include overcapacity, poor

00;19;40;09 - 00;19;43;29
crowd control, poorly planned event spaces
with no clear exit.

00;19;44;06 - 00;19;47;15
Narrow spaces are bulky,
or dangerous structures,

00;19;47;23 - 00;19;50;13
in this case of the Lynchburg Stampede.

00;19;50;13 - 00;19;54;28
It was probably a case of overcapacity,
poor crowd control,

00;19;54;28 - 00;19;59;02
and I don't know if it was poorly planned
exits or what, but.

00;19;59;07 - 00;20;03;10
Probably the bad structure
since that building was condemned.

00;20;03;29 - 00;20;09;04
Clearly, the population that was in this
church did not have the safest structure

00;20;09;12 - 00;20;12;19
and was not, given safe accommodation.

00;20;12;19 - 00;20;15;19
Do you know why
someone dies in a stampede?

00;20;16;01 - 00;20;17;07
Well, what would be your guess?

00;20;17;07 - 00;20;19;11
Why would you think someone died
in a stampede?

00;20;19;11 - 00;20;22;23

Well, they're getting trampled,
so probably blunt force trauma.

00;20;22;23 - 00;20;24;17

Blunt force trauma- Is one,

00;20;24;17 - 00;20;29;29

and then if you are aren't able to if
you keep getting ran over at some point,

00;20;29;29 - 00;20;32;22

you're not going to be able to breathe
if you're just being stepped on.

00;20;32;22 - 00;20;33;13

Okay. Yeah.

00;20;33;13 - 00;20;35;13

So you're exactly right.

00;20;35;13 - 00;20;42;09

Compressive asphyxia is the most
common reason for death during a stampede.

00;20;42;20 - 00;20;47;07

So what happens is people get trampled,
trampled to the ground

00;20;47;07 - 00;20;48;12

during the stampede.

00;20;48;12 - 00;20;54;05

Compressive asphyxia is a condition
that happens when breathing is prevented

00;20;54;05 - 00;20;58;07

by external pressures on the body
during a stampede,

00;20;58;07 - 00;21;01;09

people who are stuck in the crowd crush
against one another.

00;21;01;12 - 00;21;03;11

And this means there is no room to move.

00;21;03;11 - 00;21;06;22

This limits
the diaphragm, a major muscle responsible

00;21;06;22 - 00;21;09;22

for respiration
from contracting and flattening,

00;21;09;22 - 00;21;12;22

which means air cannot enter
or leave the lungs.

00;21;12;22 - 00;21;13;10

So you're right.

00;21;13;10 - 00;21;15;21

Suffocation essentially is what happens.

00;21;15;21 - 00;21;18;18

Compressive asphyxia is dangerous,
but does not always result

00;21;18;18 - 00;21;22;09

in death with timely intervention
due to first aid such as CPR,

00;21;22;10 - 00;21;26;03

people suffering from compressive
asphyxia can be saved.

00;21;26;06 - 00;21;27;10

Yeah, so you're right.

00;21;27;10 - 00;21;31;22

And the reason this happens
more commonly to women, in a crowd

00;21;31;22 - 00;21;35;11
is because women
have more happening at top.

00;21;35;27 - 00;21;37;19
And so when they get crushed.

00;21;37;19 - 00;21;38;08
What.

00;21;38;08 - 00;21;38;27
It's true.

00;21;38;27 - 00;21;43;16
It's part of the research said that
it's women have more happening at the top.

00;21;43;19 - 00;21;47;02
So when they get crushed they're like-
So, we're blaming boobs.

00;21;47;02 - 00;21;48;18
We're blaming boobs, guys.

00;21;48;18 - 00;21;53;05
Boobs are the reason women
get compressive asphyxia in a crowd.

00;21;53;05 - 00;21;58;01
Secondarily, if you're a child
or a small woman. You're just tiny-

00;21;58;01 - 00;22;00;29
Yeah.
And there's six feet men running around.

00;22;00;29 - 00;22;04;12
You're more likely to, you know,

get pulled to the ground or fall over.

00;22;04;12 - 00;22;08;23

Now we're going to go into tips
for staying safe in a large crowd.

00;22;08;23 - 00;22;12;13

So this does not happen to you
or any of our listeners.

00;22;13;00 - 00;22;16;08

So the first step is check
the weather forecast.

00;22;16;08 - 00;22;21;12

If it starts to rain, crowds
tend to surge and start to panic seeking

00;22;21;18 - 00;22;24;17

shelter, dress appropriately
and be ready for when it happens.

00;22;24;17 - 00;22;28;19

So in the case when I was on the beach,
I did check the weather,

00;22;28;19 - 00;22;31;02

but we just went to the beach
for the concert anyways.

00;22;31;02 - 00;22;33;23

And then I lost my flip flops,
which should not be considered

00;22;33;23 - 00;22;35;28

a good thing
because had some of my flip flops

00;22;35;28 - 00;22;37;02

and I felt I could have been crushed.

00;22;37;02 - 00;22;40;19

Another way to stay safe in large crowds is do not go alone.

00;22;40;27 - 00;22;44;16

Attend the event with a friend or partner and look out for each other.

00;22;44;26 - 00;22;46;25

Buddy system.

00;22;46;25 - 00;22;48;27

Third, wear bright colored clothes.

00;22;48;27 - 00;22;52;06

This helps to stand out in a crowd and make it easier for others to identify

00;22;52;06 - 00;22;54;26

you during an emergency, which this doesn't really make sense

00;22;54;26 - 00;22;58;15

for the event of a church, but let's say you're at a concert or a festival.

00;22;59;08 - 00;22;59;28

You your bestie.

00;22;59;28 - 00;23;01;26

You might want to wear the bright colors.

00;23;01;26 - 00;23;03;21

That way if you get separated,

00;23;03;21 - 00;23;06;08

you can help identify them and pick them up off the ground.

00;23;06;08 - 00;23;06;26

If they're lying

00;23;06;26 - 00;23;11;03

there, make a mental note of all exits
like you would on an airplane.

00;23;11;03 - 00;23;14;23

Should an emergency arise, you may not
be able to get to the nearest exit.

00;23;14;23 - 00;23;18;09

Plan your route to the next exit
and leave the venue as soon as possible,

00;23;18;28 - 00;23;22;08

and then lastly hold railings for support
if available.

00;23;22;08 - 00;23;25;18

Hold on to railings
when going upstairs or escalators.

00;23;25;18 - 00;23;31;06

That is how to survive
a stampede may it not ever happen to you.

00;23;31;06 - 00;23;33;04

Hopefully. Hopefully.

00;23;33;04 - 00;23;36;19

So yeah, that's the end of our story
and our safety briefing.

00;23;37;06 - 00;23;38;09

You have the whole story.

00;23;38;14 - 00;23;39;17

What's your take?

00;23;39;17 - 00;23;41;20

What's your feeling?

00;23;41;20 - 00;23;43;18
Do you have anything.

00;23;43;18 - 00;23;46;05
Anything resonating with you
about this story?

00;23;46;05 - 00;23;48;14
I think this story does give
introverts

00;23;48;14 - 00;23;51;13
a more reason
to stay away from crowds, though.

00;23;52;01 - 00;23;54;21
Because, dang, don't no

00;23;54;21 - 00;23;57;11
one want be caught up in a crowd surge. Yeah.

00;23;57;11 - 00;24;02;07
So 1 to 10 EHHs. One being not very scary,
ten being really scary.

00;24;02;23 - 00;24;05;23
How scary is the stampede of Lynchburg?

00;24;06;01 - 00;24;10;02
I would say about a two

00;24;11;03 - 00;24;14;29
A Two?! Because yeah, because stampedes are scary

00;24;14;29 - 00;24;18;14
in that moment, but it's not like

00;24;19;09 - 00;24;21;27
it's not like the Bunnyman
which has a chainsaw,

00;24;21;27 - 00;24;25;07

is going to chase you
through the forest at nighttime type deal.

00;24;25;26 - 00;24;28;10

it's literally something that can happen.

00;24;28;10 - 00;24;29;25

Anywhere. Anytime. Yeah.

00;24;29;25 - 00;24;31;19

And most people aren't going dwell on that

00;24;31;19 - 00;24;34;20

because that means you're ever
leaving the house.

00;24;34;20 - 00;24;38;23

I'd say I give like,
crowds surging, probably like eight EHHs.

00;24;39;06 - 00;24;43;21

But I'm not going to tell our listeners
to be scared and not leave their house.

00;24;43;21 - 00;24;46;12

That's just a risk.
You gotta take when you go into a crowd.

00;24;46;12 - 00;24;47;25

So I say, live your life.

00;24;47;25 - 00;24;52;10

It's going to be scary in the moment,
but like, just remain calm.

00;24;52;10 - 00;24;53;10

Yeah.

00;24;53;10 - 00;24;55;05

Do what you got to do. Exit safely.

00;24;55;05 - 00;24;56;20

Yeah. Always know your exits.

00;24;56;20 - 00;24;57;09

That's just good.

00;24;57;09 - 00;25;00;11

In any situation in life,
just knowing where

00;25;00;14 - 00;25;03;10

the exit is so you can walk out.

00;25;03;10 - 00;25;06;26

Well that's all
I had not a super long episode.

00;25;07;00 - 00;25;09;19

Thank you for coming.
Thank you for joining us today.

00;25;09;19 - 00;25;14;02

Thank you for listening to Elisha's Eerie History!

00;25;14;02 - 00;25;16;14

EHHHHHH!

00;25;16;14 - 00;25;23;23

[Song "Elisha's Eerie History" by Sydney followed by drum break.]

00;25;29;28 - 00;25;32;23

Hey, you're still here.

00;25;32;23 - 00;25;36;07

Thank you so much
for staying to the end of the episode

00;25;36;07 - 00;25;40;16

and going on a history journey
with me, it means a lot to me.

00;25;41;03 - 00;25;44;29

If you haven't yet,
please like, subscribe, rate and review.

00;25;45;00 - 00;25;46;04

Let me know what you like,

00;25;46;04 - 00;25;48;28

what you didn't like, what you hated,
why you're obsessed.

00;25;48;28 - 00;25;50;21

All those things.

00;25;50;21 - 00;25;51;29

If you give me a five star review,

00;25;51;29 - 00;25;55;13

I would love to give you a free sticker.

00;25;55;13 - 00;25;57;13

And thank you for your support
and being a part of this this journey.

00;25;57;13 - 00;25;59;19

My email is about to pop up
on the video screen,

00;25;59;19 - 00;26;07;28

but if you're not watching, go to E-L-I-S-H-A-R-Y-P-K-E-M-A

00;26;07;28 - 00;26;10;29

my first and last name
elisharypkema@gmail.com

00;26;10;29 - 00;26;13;28

That's Elisha Rypkema @ gmail.com.

00;26;14;07 - 00;26;18;10

If you haven't yet, please check out

our YouTube channel @elisharypkema

00;26;18;19 - 00;26;21;29

Also, if you want to keep in touch
with what's going on behind the scenes

00;26;21;29 - 00;26;24;25

where we're headed to next, please
visit

00;26;24;25 - 00;26;28;12

@elishaseeriehistory on Instagram.

00;26;28;16 - 00;26;30;29

And if you haven't yet and you really,
really want to see more, go to

00;26;30;29 - 00;26;34;03

And if you haven't yet and you really,
really want to see more, go to

00;26;34;03 - 00;26;35;29

elisharypkema.com

00;26;35;29 - 00;26;37;22

That's going to be my website.

00;26;37;22 - 00;26;40;12

There you'll find the transcripts
for every episode.

00;26;40;12 - 00;26;42;10

What's going on with me?

00;26;42;10 - 00;26;45;10

some cool stuff is in there.

00;26;45;19 - 00;26;48;05

Thank you so much for joining me today.

00;26;48;05 - 00;26;49;15

And if you stay tuned, I'm

00;26;49;15 - 00;26;52;15
going to give you the sources
for the episode you just listened to.

00;26;53;00 - 00;26;56;04
Our sources are Wikipedia.

00;26;56;13 - 00;26;59;14
Obviously. A classic source. Classic.

00;26;59;14 - 00;27;03;03
I did the Court Street
Baptist Church website.

00;27;03;03 - 00;27;06;18
They have a lot of history
on their church, which is fabulous.

00;27;06;19 - 00;27;09;19
Even about this event. Wow.

00;27;09;28 - 00;27;15;04
the New York Herald, the Frank
Leslie's illustrated newspaper,

00;27;15;10 - 00;27;18;14
the Alexandria Gazette, the Critograph,

00;27;18;14 - 00;27;21;23
which is the Lynchburg College newspaper,
had something I referenced.

00;27;21;28 - 00;27;25;11
And then the last place
I got some resources

00;27;25;11 - 00;27;28;29
from were a place
called Appetite for History.

00;27;29;10 - 00;27;32;23

And then the last, last place I got things

00;27;32;23 - 00;27;36;23

from was the D-I-U-G-U-I-D

00;27;37;12 - 00;27;42;26

Diuguid? Diuguid? Diuguid?

00;27;43;13 - 00;27;44;06

Diuguid?

00;27;44;06 - 00;27;44;26

Diuguid?

00;27;44;26 - 00;27;50;23

Anyways, that was a funeral home
and they were involved in this story.

00;27;50;23 - 00;27;54;02

Their records are readily available online

00;27;54;02 - 00;27;58;13

in the Lynchburg Old City Cemetery
has their records available.