

Perspectives in Baptist History and Identity

Program and Resource Guide

May 23-25, 2016

George W. Truett Theological Seminary
Baylor University
Waco, Texas



Association of
Librarians and Archivists
at Baptist Institutions



BAYLOR
TRUETT SEMINARY

Contents

Conference Sponsors; Vendor Displays	2
Board of Directors, Officers, Staff: Baptist History and Heritage Society	3
Officers: Association of Archivists and Librarians at Baptist Institutions.....	4
Conference Program	5
Award Recipients 2016	9
Breakout Sessions.....	10
Program Personalities	13
History Program Reports	
Alabama Baptist Historical Collection, Samford University.....	16
American Baptist Historical Society	17
Arizona Baptist Historical Society	17
Arkansas Baptist Archives and Special Collections Department	17
Baptist Historical Collections at Baylor University	18
Florida Baptist Historical Society	20
Free Will Baptist Historical Collection, Welch College	20
Georgia Baptist History Depository, Mercer University	21
Hunt Library and Archives of Woman’s Missionary Union, SBC.....	22
International Mission Board Archives and Records Services	22
J.H. Spencer Historical Society	23
Louisiana Baptist Convention Archives	23
Middle and East Tennessee Baptist Archives, Carson-Newman University	24
Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary Archives	25
Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission.....	25
North American Baptist Heritage Commission.....	26
North Carolina Baptist Historical Collection, Wake Forest University	27
Northwest Baptist Historical Society	27
Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary Archives and Special Collections	28
Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives.....	29
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Archives and Special Collections	30
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary Archives and Special Collections	32
Tennessee Baptist Historical Society	32
Texas Baptist Historical Collection.....	33
Virginia Baptist Historical Society.....	34
Virginia Union University Archives and Special Collections	35
West Tennessee Baptist Archives, Union University	35
Information: Baptist History and Heritage Society	36

Conference Sponsors

Association of Archivists and Librarians at Baptist Institutions
alabi.org



Association of Librarians and Archivists at Baptist Institutions

Baptist History and Heritage Society
baptisthistory.org



National Association of Baptist Professors of Religion
nabpr.org



Vendor Displays

The Baptist History & Heritage Society *Established 1938*



NURTURING FAITH

JOURNAL BIBLE STUDIES BOOKS EXPERIENCES

nurturingfaith.net

Baptist General Convention of Texas
TEXAS BAPTISTS: DEEPLY ROOTED IN FAITH



texasbaptists.org

Baptist History and Heritage Society

Board of Directors/Officers

Pamela Smoot, President
Carbondale, Ill.
2015-2017

Doug Weaver, Vice President
Waco, Texas
2015-2017

Mike Kuykendall, Secretary
Vancouver, Wash.
2015-2017

Alyson Dickson, Treasurer
Nashville, Tenn.
2013-2016

Gary Burton
Hope Hull, Ala.
2013-2016

John Pierce
Macon, Ga.
2013-2017

Aaron Weaver
Atlanta, Ga.
2015-2017

Bruce T. Gourley,
Executive Director
Manhattan, Mont.

Editorial Board

Baylor University: Rosalie Beck

Campbell University: Glenn Jonas

Campbellsville University: Joe Early

Dallas Baptist University: Michael E. Williams Sr.

East Texas Baptist University: Jerry Hopkins

Mercer University: Wm. Loyd Allen

Samford University: C. Delane Tew

University of Mary Hardin-Baylor: Carol Holcomb

Editorial Board Executive Committee

C. Douglas Weaver

Bill Pitts

Bruce T. Gourley

Michael E. Williams Sr.

Jerry L. Faught II

Staff

Bruce T. Gourley, Executive Director / Jackie B. Riley, Office Manager

Association of Librarians and Archivists at Baptist Institutions

Officers 2014-2016

Laura Botts, President
Mercer University
Macon, Ga.

Jan Ballard, Vice President
American Baptist Historical Society
Atlanta, Ga.

Jennifer Taylor, Secretary
Samford University
Birmingham, Ala.

Taffey Hall, Executive Secretary/Treasurer
Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives
Nashville, Tenn.

Conference Program

Monday, May 23

Morning / Afternoon Pre-Conference Events

ALABI Workshop and Lunch

9:30 a.m.

Lecture Hall

Armstrong Browning Library

“Count Your Blessings: Advocacy for Baptist Libraries and Archives, Ideas and Opportunities”

(Lunch \$10 / cash or check to ALABI)

.....

BH&HS Board of Directors/Officers Meeting/Lunch

9 a.m.

Heritage Room 106

BH&HS Journal Editorial Board Meeting

1 p.m.

Heritage Room 106

.....

Baylor Library Tours

2 p.m.

Armstrong Browning Library

2:55 p.m.

Keston Center and / or Texas Collection

3:45 p.m.

Riley Digitization Center and / or Poage Legislative Library

.....

Registration, Exhibits, Book Sales

3-7 p.m.

Truett Narthex

.....

Fellowship of Baptist Historians Dinner

5:30 p.m.

Keynote speaker: Thomas Kidd

Piper Great Room

Monday, May 23

Evening Sessions

Paul Powell Chapel

7:00 p.m.

Welcome from BH&HS and ALABI..... Pamela Smoot, Laura Botts

7:05 p.m.

Welcome from Baylor University and Truett Seminary Todd Still

7:10 p.m.

Welcome from Baptist General Convention of Texas Kathy Hillman

7:15 p.m.

Introduction of Speaker Bill Pitts

7:20 p.m.

Plenary Session I Doug Weaver

“Baptists and Spirit-Led Experience”

8:15 p.m.

Question & Answer Session Bruce Gourley, moderator

Tuesday, May 24

Morning Sessions

7:45 a.m.

Breakfast

Piper Great Room

8:15 a.m.

Welcome and Devotional

Pamela Smoot, Mike Kuykendall

Paul Powell Chapel

8:30 a.m.

Breakout Sessions I

9:40 a.m.

Break

9:55 a.m.

Breakout Sessions II

11:15 a.m.

Breakout Sessions III

Tuesday, May 24

Afternoon Sessions

12:40 p.m.

BH&HS and ALABI Awards Luncheon and Business Session
Piper Great Room

2:30 p.m.

Tours

Option 1: Mayborn Museum Complex, Baylor University
(general admission \$6 / traveling exhibit \$10)

Option 2: Dr. Pepper Museum, 300 S. 5th St.
(admission \$8 / transportation provided by Baylor Religion Department)

Tuesday, May 24

Evening Sessions

Paul Powell Chapel

6:30 p.m.

Welcome..... Glenn Jonas

6:35 p.m.

Introduction of Speaker Taffey Hall

6:40 p.m.

Keynote Address..... Bill Sumners
“Lessons I Have Learned and the Changing World of Baptist Archives”

7:10 p.m.

Panel Discussion..... Bruce Gourley, moderator
“Young Historians’ Views of the Future of Baptist Studies”
Joao Chaves, Andrew Gardner, Melody Maxwell, Andrew Smith

7:45 p.m.

Question & Answer Session

8:00 p.m.

Reception Honoring Bill Sumners
Truett Narthex

Wednesday, May 25

Morning Sessions

7:45 a.m.

Breakfast

Piper Great Room

BH&HS and ALABI Events

Texas Baptist Historical Collection

209 N. 8th St.

(free parking behind TBHC building)

8:30 a.m.

Fellowship and Devotional Steve Jones

8:40 a.m.

Mini-Workshop Kathryn Wright
“Identification and Care of Archival Materials: Best Practices for Archivists and Historians”

9:05 a.m.

Tour of Texas Baptist Historical Collection Alan Lefever, Naomi Tamplin

9:25 a.m.

Break

9:35 a.m.

Digital Archiving (live video presentation) Craig Kubic, Robert Burgess
“Building Your Storehouse: Cost-Effective Ways of Creating Your Own Institutional Repository”

9:55 a.m.

Question & Answer Session

BH&HS and NABPR Events

Paul Powell Chapel

10:30 a.m.

Panel Discussion
“Gender, Race, Identity, and Power in Baptist Studies”
Eileen Campbell-Reed, Betsy Flowers, Courtney Pace, Melody Maxwell, Mandy McMichael

ALABI Events

Texas Baptist Historical Collection

10:05 a.m.

Accessioning Policies for Baptist Libraries and Archives Jan Ballard

10:15 a.m.

Institution and Baptist Historical Collection Updates Jan Ballard

10:30 a.m.

Presentation of Betty Hurtt Meritorious Service Award Laura Botts

10:35 a.m.

Business Meeting Laura Botts, presiding

11:00 a.m.

Lunch

Award Recipients 2016

Presented by:
Baptist History and Heritage Society
Association of Librarians and Archivists at Baptist Institutions

Davis C. Woolley Award for Outstanding Achievement in Assessing and Preserving Baptist History

J.T. and Zelma Luther Archives at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

Presented by:
Baptist History and Heritage Society

W. O. Carver Distinguished Service Award

William Loyd Allen

Presented by:
Baptist History and Heritage Society

Norman W. Cox Award for the Best Article Published in *Baptist History and Heritage* in 2014

David Cameron

“With Their Own People”:
Mexican-American, African-American, and Anglo Baptists in Texas, 1900-1965

Presented by:
Baptist History and Heritage Society

Carolyn Blevins Meritorious Service Award

Ronald Tonks

Breakout Sessions

8:30 a.m. – Session I

A: Baptist Ecclesiology

Room 214

Moderator: John Jaeger

“‘Give Due Prominence to Spirituality Above All Outward Ceremony’:
Analyzing the Ecclesiology of J.L. Dagg”

David Erickson

“A Design to Revise Experiential Religion and Primitive Christianity”

Ron Tonks

B: 19th Century Baptist Experiences

Room 113

Moderator: Delane Tew

“The Quest for a Baptist Bible:
The Rise and Demise of the American Bible Union, 1850-1883”

Mike Kuykendall

“The Circumstances and Limits of Baptist Proto-Ecumenism
During the American Civil War”

Chris Moore

“Documenting Native Americans at the American Baptist Historical Society”

Jan Ballard

C: 20th Century Baptist Leaders

Room 107

Moderator: Doug Weaver

“Dr. William Penn Davis: A Life Given to Hope and Reconciliation”

Oren Renick

“Working with God: The Life and Ministry of a Remarkable Atlantic Baptist Leader,
Rev. Myron O. Brinton”

Allison A. Trites

“The Life of Sophia Sutton Begley (1893-1954)”

Natalie Bell

D: Baylor University
Room 115
Moderator: Aaron Weaver

“Green, Gold, and Black Gospel:
Baylor University’s Gospel Music Restoration Project”
Eric S. Ames

“Educating the Educators:
50 Years of Baylor’s Graduate Program in Religion”
Bill Pitts

“Researching the History of Baylor Sports”
Alan Lefever

9:55 a.m. – Session II

E: Southern Baptists and Conservative Causes
Room 107
Moderator: Kent Millwood

“Perpetuating Privilege:
The Republican Southern Strategy and Shifting Southern Baptist Identity “
Adam McDuffie

“Did Norris Really Win at the End?
J. Frank Norris and the SBC Controversies of the 20th Century”
Kyle Stewart

“Documenting Paige Patterson’s Legacy in the SBC Conservative Resurgence”
Jill Botticelli

F: Progressive and Moderate Baptist Voices
Room 113
Moderator: Bruce Gourley

“Baptist Identity and the Alliance of Baptists”
Andrew Gardner

“CBF and BWIM Collections at Mercer University”
Laura Botts

G: Baptists and Politics
Room 115
Moderator: Pam Smoot

“A Baptist Perspective on the Freedom of Religion”
Richard Thomas

“Pulpits and Platforms: Baylor’s Materials on Baptists and Politics”
Kathy Hillman

H: Baptist Hymnody and Baptist Spirituality
Piper Great Room

“Baptist Hymnody, Baptist Spirituality:
Some Examples from Some Experiences of Some Baptists in America”
(Creative, with music)
Paul Richardson

11:15 a.m. – Session III

I: Global Baptist Perspectives
Room 107

Moderator: Steve Jones

“Baptists: An Ecclesial Pie Worth ‘Slicing’”
Carolyn Newall

“Colombian Baptists: An Experience of Crossed Identities”
Pablo Moreno

“Illustrating the Scriptures: The Fon H. Scofield Photograph Collection”
Bill Summers

J: Russian Baptist Identities
Room 113

Moderator: Albert Wardin

“Documenting the Fight for the Right to Believe:
The History of the Soviet Union’s Evangelical Christians and Baptists”
Larisa Seago

“Oral History as a Window into the Memory, Experience, and Identity of
Evangelical Christian Baptist Women in Soviet Siberia”
April French

“On the Edge: Russian and Eastern European Baptist Resources at the SBHLA”
Taffey Hall

K: Brazilian Baptist Experiences
Room 115

Moderator: Ruth Pitts

“Brazilian Baptists in the Land of Uncle Sam:
Migration, Religiosity, and Reverse Migration among Foreign Baptists in the U.S.”
Joao Chaves

“‘Meu Pastor’: Glenn Hickey, Missionary to Brazil”
Wendy Richter

L: Researching and Writing Local Church Histories
Room 214

Moderator: Gary Burton

“Telling Church Tales: Researching and Writing Local Church Histories”
Jennifer Taylor

“Researching First Baptist Church, Raleigh, North Carolina”
Glenn Jonas

“Researching First Baptist Church, Savannah, Georgia”
John Finley

Program Personalities

Eric S. Ames

Curator of Digital Collections, Baylor University

Jan Ballard

Assistant Director, American Baptist Historical Society

Vice President, Association of Librarians and Archivists at Baptist Institutions

Natalie Bell

Journalist, Writer, Independent Researcher, Mississippi

Carolyn Blevins

Retired Professor of History, Carson-Newman University

Jill Botticelli

Archivist and Special Collections Librarian, Roberts Library, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

Laura Botts

Associate Professor and Head of Special Collections, Jack Tarver Library, Mercer University

President, Association of Librarians and Archivists at Baptist Institutions

Gary Burton

Pastor, Pinlala Baptist Church, Hope Hull, Ala.

Eileen Campbell-Reed

Associate Professor of Practical Theology, Central Seminary

Joao Chaves

Ph.D. Candidate, Baylor University

David Erickson

Professor of Theological-Historical Studies, Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary

John Finley

Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church, Savannah, Ga.

Betsy Flowers

Associate Professor of Religion, Texas Christian University

April French

Ph.D. Candidate, Brandeis University

Andrew Gardner

Ph.D. Student, Florida State University

Bruce Gourley

Executive Director, Baptist History and Heritage Society

Taffey Hall

Archivist, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives

Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Association of Librarians and Archivists at Baptist Institutions

Kathy Hillman

Associate Professor and Director of Baptist Collections, Library Advancement, and the

Keston Center for Religion, Politics, and Society, Baylor University

John Jaeger

Research Librarian, Dallas Baptist University

Glenn Jonas

Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Science,

Charles Howard Professor of Religion, Campbell University

Steve Jones

Archivist and Digital Collections Manager, Library, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

Thomas Kidd

Distinguished Professor of History, Baylor University

Mike Kuykendall

*Professor of New Testament Studies, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary
Secretary, Baptist History and Heritage Society*

Alan Lefever

Director, Texas Baptist Historical Collection

Melody Maxwell

Assistant Professor of Christian Studies, Howard Payne University

Adam McDuffie

M. Div. Student, Candler School of Theology, Emory University

Mandy McMichael

Assistant Professor of Religion, Huntingdon College

Kent Millwood

Director of Library Services, Anderson University

Chris Moore

Ph.D. Candidate, Baylor University

Pablo Moreno

Rector, Baptist International Theological Seminary, Cali, Columbia

Carolyn Newall

Ph.D. Student, University of Divinity, Melbourne, Australia

Courtney Pace

Assistant Professor of Church History, Memphis Theological Seminary

Bill Pitts

Professor of Religion, Baylor University

Ruth Pitts

Music Instructor, McLennan Community College

Oren Renick

Professor of Health Administration, Texas State University

Paul Richardson

Professor Emeritus of Music, Samford University

Wendy Richter

Associate Professor and Archivist, Riley-Hickingbotham Library, Ouachita Baptist University

Larisa Seago

Administrative Archivist, Keston Center for Religion, Politics, and Society, Baylor University

Andrew Smith

Assistant Professor of Religion, Carson-Newman University

Pam Smoot

*Assistant Professor of Africana Studies and History, Southern Illinois University
President, Baptist History and Heritage Society*

Todd Still

Dean, Truett Seminary

Kyle Stewart

Ph.D. Student, Florida State University

Bill Summers

Director, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives

Naomi Taplin

Associate Director, Texas Baptist Historical Collection

Jennifer Taylor

*Head of Special Collection, Library, Samford University
Secretary, Association of Librarians and Archivists at Baptist Institutions*

Delane Tew

Associate Professor, Howard College of Arts and Sciences, Samford University

Richard Thomas

Ph.D. Student, Brite Divinity School, Texas Christian University

Ron Tonks

Professor of History, Middle Tennessee State University

Allison A. Trites

Payzant Distinguished Professor of New Testament, Emeritus, Acadia University

Albert Wardin

Professor of History Emeritus, Belmont University

Aaron Weaver

Communications Manager, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

Doug Weaver

Professor of Religion and Director of Undergraduate Studies, Baylor University

Vice President, Baptist History and Heritage Society

David Wilhite

Associate Professor of Theology, George W. Truett Theological Seminary, Baylor University

Kathryn Wright

Archivist, Tarver Library, Mercer University

History Program Reports

Alabama Baptist Historical Collection, Samford University

For more than 50 years the Special Collection department at Samford University has gathered and preserved original church conference minutes, scrapbooks, histories, organizational minutes, membership records, financial records, state and national convention annuals, and the personal manuscripts of pastors and laity. These collections are primarily but not limited to Alabama Baptists, and are housed within the department with Alabama church and local and family collections. They include historical documents and monographs, and offer researchers a breadth and depth of resources for their study.

In addition to collecting materials, the department partners with Alabama Baptists and the Alabama Baptist Historical Commission (ABHC) to preserve records through archival microfilming. In 2015 we accomplished this with a departmental staff of three professional archivists, a paraprofessional microfilm lab manager, a part-time microfilm specialist, and student workers.

The ABHC, along with churches and associations, bring the documents to the library where the archivists prepare the material for filming. The multifaceted preservation microfilm process includes arranging, listing, filming, developing, and preparing a use copy of the film. With the master negative stored offsite, a positive is placed in the department for researchers. The original records are often returned to the church. The documents are secure but now available to researchers across the United States via interlibrary loan.

In this past academic year we preserved on microfilm 37 sets of Alabama Baptist records and *The Alabama Baptist* newspaper (2014), representing approximately 44,706 pages of records. In addition, the department processed and added 38 manuscript collections related to Alabama and Samford history. In the fall of 2014 Samford received and is now accessioning the papers of Dr. William E. Hull, consisting of 505 linear feet of manuscript materials. In addition, the department processed Dr. Ray F. Robbins' collection of 4 linear feet of materials.

The Special Collection at Samford is open to all researchers. In the past year we answered 1,567 reference requests, including 123 enquiries from Baptist entities such as churches, associations, and the Alabama Baptist State Convention. Overall, the staff in Special Collection assisted with 257 research requests regarding Baptist material. Baptist resources are used by students, scholars, and family historians along with Baptist entities.

During the past academic year the Collection welcomed 26 tour groups, with 442 participants from Alabama church groups. These tours included a 1.5-hour presentation from the staff on Alabama Baptist heritage involving materials housed in the department.

In 2015 the department explored our ability to provide more access to Special Collection materials online. We uploaded 616 digital files to the Samford instance of ContentDM. The department had previously used ContentDM for sharing Alabama Steamboats. Also in 2015 we created three additional digital collections: from the Samford University Archives, Alabama Religious Life, and the Jackson Collection of Civil War Letters. These images are freely available to all researchers and can be found by using the department's webpage or with a search engine such as Google (<http://cdm16328.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/>).

In addition, we digitized 29 early Howard College (now Samford University) student publications dating from 1858-95. These PDFs created from 810 master digital files are ready to be added to the university library's online catalog.

Special Collection continues to remain dedicated to preserving Baptist history and heritage. Whether through preservation microfilming or accessibility through digitization, the story will be preserved and shared.

Jennifer Taylor, Chair, Special Collection and University Archives

American Baptist Historical Society

Over the past year, the American Baptist Historical Society has made significant progress on several major initiatives, as follows:

- Raised approximately half of the targeted \$550,000 for the *At Your Fingertips: Archives for the 21st Century* campaign. These funds will be used to hire a digital projects archivist to manage digitized and born-digital collections
- Implemented the collection management system, ArchivesSpace, adding more than 3,500 entries including records for foreign missionary correspondence and personal papers collections, as well as digitized images (The online catalog will be launched in June 2016. For a link to the catalog, visit the ABHS website at www.abhsarchives.org.)
- Inventoried the Samuel Colgate Rare Book Collection, with the ultimate goal of online cataloging, and also constructed phase boxes for especially fragile items
- Received a grant of \$8,000 from the National Film Preservation Foundation to preserve *Crow Indians on the Jesus Trail*
- American Theological Library Association (ATLA) digitized the *American Baptist Quarterly* (and *Foundations*), published from 1958 to 1982, which will be shared with scholars through its online database.

Jan Ballard, Assistant Director

Arizona Baptist Historical Society

The Arizona Baptist Historical Society held its 27th annual meeting in Tucson on April 11, 2015, with the theme of “BSU/Christian Challenge History.” Verlyne Meck presented a memorial acknowledgment of ABHS member, Glen Crotts. Les Jennings was re-elected as president.

Marjorie Kuban, archivist/curator of the Arizona Baptist Historical Commission, reported: representation of the ABHC at all church anniversaries in the state, receipt of some materials from a disbanded church, and cataloguing of the *Baptist Beacon* and *Portraits* from 2002-2014.

Verlyne Meck, Secretary

Arkansas Baptist Archives and Special Collections Department

The Archives and Special Collections Department of Riley-Hickingbotham Library at Ouachita Baptist University serves as the official repository for records of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC). The department also collects, preserves, and makes available university-related archives, a growing body of political papers, and records of regional and local interest. As a result, researchers come from varied backgrounds, ranging from students to scholars to journalists to local historians and genealogists.

Increasing access to our Baptist holdings has been a point of emphasis, and as a result, significant improvements have been made to the Department’s website, www.obu.edu/archives. Launched on the library’s site in the fall of 2015, “Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita” became the online repository of the scholarship, creative works, and historical records of Ouachita Baptist University. Special Collections materials made up a large portion of the Commons’ initial offerings, with the Commons serving as a platform from which the Department can now easily and systematically offer access to many one-of-a-kind research resources in a digital format.

Major collections added in 2016 include the ABSC annuals from 1848-1900, digitized and indexed as a part of a project called the “Ark-ive” funded by an ALABI grant. An every-name index accompanies the documents. Other items digitized for the site include OBU yearbooks and catalogs. Additionally, Special Collections’ EAD finding aids for manuscript collections are posted to the Commons and the Arkansas Records Catalog (Ark-Cat), a “union catalog” for collections housed in repositories all across the state.

Launched last summer, another new feature improving access to holdings is the “Search Collections” tool at www.obu.edu/archives. Standard Arkansas Baptist history resources (some of which have never before been indexed) such as J.S. Rogers’ *History of Arkansas Baptists*, Arkansas Baptist State Convention annuals (1848-1900), and early association records (1820-1900) are included. Listings from the OBU student newspaper, *The Signal*, and other publications carry researchers to university-related materials. Each resource is accompanied by a brief description, including its location in the Archives and Special Collections Department. The database currently includes more than 250,000 entries, with more being added almost daily. It constitutes the largest searchable database of Arkansas Baptists available anywhere.

Additions to our Baptist holdings in 2015, beyond the ongoing acquisition of association records received for preservation, included the Robert Holley Papers, Virginia Queen Papers, and an accretion to the Livingston Harvey Mitchell Papers. Holley served a number of churches prior to joining the ABSC and becoming director of Discipleship Training, a post he held for almost 30 years. Queen and Mitchell both served OBU as music faculty for many years.

To highlight new acquisitions and draw attention to the Archives in general, a formal opening ceremony and reception held in March 2016 featured the Holley Papers, the John Knight Papers (Knight served as director of the Arkansas Department of Aeronautics), the Glenn Hickey Papers (Hickey was a missionary to Brazil), and City of Arkansas records. As a part of the Department’s ongoing work, processing of these new collections and other materials continues.

As a result of these efforts, the Archives and Special Collections Department enjoyed increases in numbers of in-house researchers and of off-site patrons who phoned, wrote, emailed, or visited the website.

Wendy Richter, Professor and Archivist

Baptist Historical Collections at Baylor University

Baylor University’s Baptist Collection does not exist physically in a single, specific location. Instead, the materials disperse among various special collections and the central libraries. In addition to the Moody Memorial/Jesse H. Jones Central Libraries containing the Crouch Music and Fine Arts Library and the Polk Rare Book Collection, these include the Texas Collection, the W.R. Poage Legislative Library, the Armstrong Browning Library, and the Michael Bourdeaux Research Center within the Keston Center for Religion, Politics, and Society.

Thus, Baylor has chosen to consolidate and present the items/collections virtually. A “Baptist Materials Collection” alternate title designation in the online catalog yields about 1,200 titles, including an overview record <http://bearcat.baylor.edu/record=b3919317~S10> highlighting archival, digital, and scholarly collections. The record also includes a link to the Baptist Studies Center for Research that provides an extensive bibliography of Baptist sources. Additionally, a search under Baptists Texas History in the Baylor Archival Repositories Database or BARD elicits a list of more than 145 archival collections.

Of particular interest are missions materials from Julia and Finlay Graham (Middle East), the Bagby and Luther families (Brazil), Joan Riffey Sutton (music missions in Brazil), James and Peggy Barley (South America), and others. Church-and-state related collections include the papers of both Foy Valentine and J.M. Dawson, political materials from the late Judge Jack Hightower and former Congressman Chet Edwards, and some items from T.B. Maston. Other Baptist-focused collections include Angus McSwain Baptist Pamphlets and the papers of Edwin Gaustad, John Baugh, William Mueller, Marvin Griffin, and Jester and Ray Summers. Information about the plight of Russian and other Eastern European Baptists under Communism can be found in the Keston Center for Religion, Politics, and Society.

Cooperative digitization projects with the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee and Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and the American Baptist Historical Library and Archives have added the *Southern Baptist Convention Annuals*; *Baptist Argus*; *Baptist World*; *Encyclopedia of Southern Baptists*; and *A Baptist Bibliography, Being a Register of Printed Materials by and About Baptists, including Works Written against the Baptists* (more commonly known as the Starr bibliography).

A recent agreement with the Baptist General Convention of Texas has initiated the *Texas Baptist Convention Annuals* project, and cooperation with Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary will provide additional materials related to George W. Truett. Across Baylor's digital collections, searching by the term "Baptist" produces more than 23,375 references (see: <http://digitalcollections.baylor.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/ml-sbcann> and <http://digitalcollections.baylor.edu/cdm/baptistandreligiousmaterials/home>).

Part of Baylor's commitment to Baptists encompasses pursuing archives, papers, and materials as donations from individuals and entities, and the University Libraries are currently in several discussions. Recently Foy Valentine's collection and Marvin C. Griffin's papers and sermon recordings have been processed for The Texas Collection. Dr. Griffin, a Bishop College graduate and the first African American to graduate from Southwestern Seminary, served as pastor of New Hope Baptist Church in Waco before becoming pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Austin where he served as the first African-American president of the Austin ISD School Board. He was the first African American on Texas Baptists' Christian Life Commission and the second African American elected as an officer of the Baptist General Convention of Texas. During the year, the Crouch Music and Fine Arts Library also obtained both purchased and donated collections of gospel songbooks that are available for use. The University Libraries further promote Baptist Collections through exhibits and events, including those outlined below during 2015-2016.

- The Keston Center hosted a public lecture "Combating God and Grandma: Soviet Anti-Religious Policies and the Battle for Childhood" by Dr. Julie deGraffenried, associate professor of history and a Keston advisory board member.
- The Keston Center mounted two exhibits: one featuring children of persecuted religious believers in the former Soviet Union and the other of hymnals. The Library also provided Soviet Baptist Samizdat (underground) publications containing family Christmas stories for the Library Fellows Christmas at Baylor reception program.
- The W.R. Poage Legislative Library hosted a "standing room only" ribbon-cutting and reception to open the Thomas Chester "Chet" Edwards U.S. House of Representative Papers. Because of the significance of his archives related to issues of church and state, those materials were processed in great depth.
- The Crouch Music and Fine Arts Library prepared exhibits on *Liber Magistri*, a fine facsimile edition of the 12th century codex that includes church music in early notation; Baptist musician Kurt Kaiser's manuscripts and recordings; early American tunebooks and sacred music from the late 1700s; and "From 45 RPM to 96 MHz: The Evolution of Sound in the Black Gospel Music Restoration Project."
- The Texas Collection displayed its recent acquisition, a Bagby family trunk from Brazil, along with family photographs and artifacts. Grandchildren and great-grandchildren of missionaries Anne and William "Buck" Bagby held a reunion at the Texas Collection during the exhibit.
- The Armstrong Browning Library hosted an exhibit and symposium titled "Religion in the 19th Century." Several speakers referenced Baptists.
- The 2016 Pruitt Symposium titled "Lift Every Voice & Sing" featured two Baptist-focused events: a panel discussion titled "Music and Worship: From Hallelujah to Hip-Hop" and a worship service with Baptist pastor/professor/keynote speaker Rev. Dr. Emmett G. Price III.
- The J.M. Dawson Institute of Church-State Studies, which partners extensively with the Libraries, hosted Brent Walker, executive-director of the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty. He spoke on "Zombie Lies from the World of Religious Liberty: Some Church-State Myths Just Won't Die."
- Additional Central Libraries exhibits included "Baylor, Baptists, and the Civil War"; "That Good Old Baylor Line: Music Down the Years"; and "1886: A Golden Year of Change" focusing in depth on Baptist changes at Baylor, in Waco, and among Texas Baptists.

Thus, Baylor University continually seeks to promote Baptist research and collections in unique and forward-thinking ways while honoring and celebrating the richness of Baptist history.

Kathy Hillman, Director

Florida Baptist Historical Society

An annual highlight for the Florida Baptist Historical Society (FBHS) is the publication of the *Journal of Florida Baptist Heritage*. Our current journal is a 127-page issue on the subject of church architecture. Volume 17, with 10 chapters by excellent writers plus an extensive reproduction of color post cards of Florida Southern Baptist churches, made this publication a keeper. Don Hepburn received the “Best Article Award” for his article entitled, “Telling the Biblical Story Through Stained Glass Windows.”

The fall 2016 journal will carry the theme of “1,000 Days in the Life of Rufus Gray.” This is a letter / journal / document presentation of the last three years of the life of the only Southern Baptist missionary to die in captivity in World War II. Gray died at the hands of the Japanese, and he and his wife and son were interred in the Philippines.

Each month 1,700 individuals and institutions in 10 states receive our newsletter focusing on some aspect of Florida Baptist history, with subjects ranging from Florida Baptists on the *Titanic* to pastors who made their living growing oranges. The next newsletter will center around Florida towns and counties named after Florida Baptists.

The FBHS published three monographs in the past year and has more than 2,000 biographical sketches of Florida Baptists on the FBHS website. The Convention Press book collection continues to grow and we now have 1,237 different titles in this very valuable grass roots Southern Baptist collection of history, ecclesiology, and theology.

The FBHS has 87 members and a budget of \$50,000.00. It is a partner of the Florida Baptist State Convention and serves under the guidance of the Florida Baptist Convention State Board of Missions.

Brothers and sisters pray for us. We are probably on the cusp of the best year we have ever had since our founding in 1894.

Jerry M. Windsor, Secretary-Treasurer

Free Will Baptist Historical Collection, Welch College

The Free Will Baptist Historical Collection is jointly maintained by Welch College and the Historical Commission of the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

During 2015 the Collection continued to make progress along the lines described in our 2014 report. Three areas are of primary importance:

- The Historical Commission applied for a grant from the Free Will Baptist Foundation to fund the purchase of a computer and microfilm reader-printer that can be used together to convert microfilm into digital, text-searchable format. A grant of \$5,300 received for this specific purpose is being held temporarily until Welch College completes its relocation to a new campus, expected in January of 2017. Initially the equipment will be used to digitize a full run (1826-1911) of the *Morning Star*, a weekly journal begun by Benjamin Randall in 1780 and published by the General Conference of Freewill/Free Baptists of New England. The *Star* currently exists only in hard copy and on microfilm. This conversion will make it possible to search the periodical electronically.
- The training of curator Robert Picirilli’s replacement, Phillip Morgan, continues smoothly. Morgan, who is nearing completion of coursework for a master’s degree in history at Middle Tennessee State University, has received training through Commission-funded attendance at a conference for historical librarians and through working with Dr. Picirilli in cataloging materials. He also assists our national office in adding scanned minutes to the website fwbhistory.com, maintained by the Commission.

- The “Minutes Project,” begun in 2014 and continuing into 2015, includes the scanning of all minutes for all associations of Free Will Baptists in the United States. This scanning yields text-searchable files that are stored in three places for safe-keeping: on the Historical Collection computer, where they are available for immediate use; on a portable, solid-state hard drive (which was purchased with last year’s Davis C. Woolley award); and on the fwbhistory.com website, where they are available to all users online. When we reported last year, we had completed all minutes of the National Association of Free Will Baptists and several other broad Free Will Baptist bodies, and of Free Will Baptist associations in Alabama. During 2015 we added the minutes of all Free Will Baptist associations in Arizona, California, and Florida. These are now available online. The project has been used successfully to promote the gathering of more minutes from the various associations of the denomination.

In a related matter, Robert Picirilli’s book *Little Known Chapters in Free Will Baptist History* was published by Randall House in 2015. The book relied heavily on the materials in the Collection and serves also to promote interest in the Collection.

In addition to these accomplishments, and to some degree as a result of them, the Collection was able to bind more than 60 volumes of minutes and periodicals during 2015.

Robert E. Picirilli, Curator

Georgia Baptist History Depository, Mercer University

Located on the campus of Mercer University in Macon, Ga., the Georgia Baptist History Depository (GBHD) collects, preserves, and makes available Baptist records that document churches, pastors, and denominational life throughout the state. An engaged team of Special Collections employees, volunteers, interns, and student assistants work with patrons both on and off campus. The department also provides books, articles, and microfilm reels via interlibrary loan and has an online repository to increase virtual access to the collection.

Archives Associate Sharon Tingley retired in the fall of 2015, and her presence is sorely missed. Library catalogers have been able to pick up her workflow, so materials are still being added to both the library system and the university’s digital repository, URSA (University Research, Scholarship, and Archives). Arlette Copeland, Kathryn Wright, Laura Botts, and three undergraduate student assistants continued the daily operations of the department. A new processing/digitization archivist should be hired in 2016; this will improve our workflow and increase our online presence.

In 2015 the department completed several Baptist projects, including the following:

- Shifted Baptist periodicals to new shelves within the archives and updating catalog records
- Merged all of the Baptist association minutes (Georgia Baptist Convention, African-American traditions Primitive Baptists, Freewill Baptists, etc.) into one alphabetical set for easier retrieval and re-shelving
- Provided research for a number of churches celebrating anniversaries and writing histories
- Updated vertical files on Georgia churches and pastors
- Assisted with research on early Woman’s Missionary Union projects
- Helped a number of genealogists locate information on Baptist family members

A recent collaboration with the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives enabled us to add 19 more years (1971-1990) of *The Mercer Cluster*, the campus newspaper, to URSA. We also uploaded all of the issues of *The Cauldron*, the Macon campus yearbook (1911-2000). Both publications are fully searchable and provide matchless insight into the life of a Baptist university during the 20th century. We hope that 2016 will not only bring a new archivist to our staff, but also bring new researchers to our doors and to our website.

Laura M. Botts, Associate Director for Special Collections

Hunt Library and Archives of Woman's Missionary Union

In 2015, the Hunt Library and Archives staff (Dianne Baker, library assistant, and I) updated our Alma Hunt Museum displays, specifically our publications. We worked with our art department to scan more items such as magazine covers, photographs of our leaders, and signage related to our anniversary celebrations through the years.

We continued to accession gifts we received, including two major (in terms of size) gifts from the North American Mission Board: an armoire used by Annie Armstrong and a desk used by Isaac Tichenor when he served as the secretary of the Home Mission Board. (We added the fact in our description that Tichenor was president of Auburn University before leading the Home Mission Board.) Our facility services and warehouse staff did a great job of putting these pieces of furniture in place and never complained. We also received a collection of Girls' Auxiliary (GA) memorabilia, including a crown, scepter, and photos of coronation ceremonies.

We received numerous research requests, mostly through email, and hosted a few on-site researchers, including a student from Samford University researching the history of WMU's good will centers.

The Library and Archives is also responsible for the records management program at WMU. In that role, we provided new employee orientation and accessioned records from our executive office, accounting department, and employees who retired.

Cindy Johnson, Librarian

International Mission Board Archives and Records Services

The International Mission Board's Archives and Records Management section maintained an active schedule for the year 2015, assisting in a wide variety of research requests and requisition needs and also accessioning donated materials to enhance both the manuscript and museum artifacts collection. Gifts received include:

- a selection of cultural artifacts from the Philippines and other countries collected by former Journeyman Linda Rollins during her service in the 1960s
- 27 boxes of materials donated by Shirley Wiest, a Richmond resident who spent time in Nigeria
- national clothing from countries in the Arabian Peninsula given by Mary E. Abernathy, granddaughter of former missionaries Bob and Betty Faith Boatwright
- 3,420 slides (now catalogued and digitized) donated by the family of Don and Helen Jones, former missionaries to East Pakistan and Taiwan

Staff responded to 397 research requests, ranging from basic questions to scholarly research inquiries and including comprehensive reviews of closed missionary correspondence files, and hosted several visiting researchers.

Staff spent part of a week in November at the former Barbados Baptist College reviewing records and boxing materials for shipment back to the United States. A total of six boxes of documents, books, and other items were preserved including an original oil painting of the college property and buildings donated to the mission when the college was founded in 1977. Staff also consulted with overseas personnel in a number of other countries concerning the preservation and shipment of records to Richmond.

Work continued on a lobby display designed to relate the expansion of Southern Baptist international missions during the administration of Executive Secretary Robert Josiah Willingham. Accompanying the display will be an online journal map of Willingham's 1907-08 journey visiting mission stations and missionaries around the globe. The journal map was completed and the link will be made available to the public in May 2016.

In addition to a number of external donations, records from various departments and international offices of the IMB were transferred to the section. These included missionary records that require filing in our archival records room, while other records are moving through the disposition process according to retention rules set forth by the board. In January we shredded 325 boxes of records that had met their retention and disposition requirements. Our staff continues scanning historical documents that are preserved on microfilm and CD media for ease of reference.

In December we celebrated the retirement of Susan Morgan who served as a record specialist in the department for more than 40 years. She is missed not only for her knowledge and expertise, which were significant, but also for her relaxed and cheerful presence.

Scott Peterson, Associate Director, Global Research Department

J.H. Spencer Historical Society

The J.H. Spencer Historical Society exists to preserve our Kentucky Baptist heritage and promote our historic Baptist distinctives. The Society held its annual meeting on Nov. 9, 2015, at the Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown, Ky. Highlights of the meeting include:

- 29 members and visitors participated in fellowship, worship, and business.
- Jeff Faggart spoke on “Exploring Baptist History.” He is the founder of the Baptist History Preservation Society that has placed 22 Baptist history memorial markers in 12 states. Faggart also conducts Baptist history tours across the U.S. on a regular basis.
- Stan Williams, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Cannonsburg, Ky., gave a presentation on “The Life and Times of John A. Broadus.”
- The secretary-treasurer of the Society reported a growing membership of 104.

In the summer of 2015 the Society produced its seventh annual journal. This 41-page journal contains helpful articles such as the following:

- “J.M. Pendleton and His Contributions to Baptist Ecclesiology” — Although Pendleton was a native Kentuckian with roots in Virginia, he refused to support slavery or the Confederacy. Subsequently, he left the pastorate of First Baptist Church of Murfreesboro, Tenn., and the chair of theology at Union University to move north. He spent the rest of his life as a pastor in northern Baptist churches and writing on issues related to theology and Baptist distinctives.
- “The Life and Legacy of J.M. Frost” — At the time of his death in 1916, Frost was called the “Greatest Living Baptist.” Many in our denomination are aware that Frost worked tirelessly to fund and provide Sunday School publications as he founded the Baptist Sunday School Board. Few know, however, that he was born in Kentucky and was the son of a longtime Kentucky Baptist pastor.
- “It’s a Small Baptist World” — Josh Davenport shows how home missionary John Mason Peck, Kentucky Baptist pastor Jeremiah Vardeman, and Walter Rauschenbusch of social gospel fame are all connected.

The Society is nearing completion of *Twentieth Century Kentucky Baptist Biographies, Volume 2*, edited by Bill Whittaker, former president of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College in Pineville, Ky. Almost 200 entries have been submitted, and Dr. Whittaker hopes to have the book ready for publication by the fall of 2016. He continues to receive entries of 350-700 words at BRWhitt@glasgow-ky.com.

The Society is looking at the possibility of publishing a daily devotional on Kentucky Baptist history. This would be similar to other devotions in the category of “Thirty Days With ...” Society members may submit stories about Kentucky Baptist history, missions, evangelism, revival, etc. We will discuss this project idea at our 2016 annual meeting.

Ben Stratton, Secretary-Treasurer

Louisiana Baptist Convention Archives

The purpose of the Louisiana Baptist Convention Archives is to help and support Louisiana Baptists in preserving, appreciating, and utilizing their heritage; and to encourage and assist them in recording church history and preserving the records for study and research.

Research materials and the archive services are designed to help individuals, churches, and associations by providing a microfilming service, facilities for research, and an environmentally controlled area in which to place donated items.

Researchers have access to Louisiana Baptist annuals, associational minutes, church histories, church minutes, and miscellaneous photographs that have been donated from church and individuals. The Archives maintain vertical files on each Louisiana Baptist church and association and on miscellaneous people of Louisiana Baptist influence.

Historical information, in many forms, helps researchers in tracing their church's history through accession lists and cross-referenced indexed lists of the archive materials. We also provide a free microfilming service to all Louisiana Baptist churches for preservation of their church's minutes.

Some books of historical interest may be obtained by calling the LBC Archives, including: *House Upon a Rock* by Glen Lee Greene, *House Upon a Rock Refurbished* by James Carter, and our latest biography *William Edwards Paxton: Baptist Historian 1825-1883* by Ken and Jeanette Durham.

Our Louisiana Baptist Convention website, LouisianaBaptists.org, gives easier access to the Archives and its research capabilities and includes historical films of the Atchafalaya missions work and historical photographs.

Karon McCartney, Archivist

Middle and East Tennessee Baptist Archives, Carson-Newman University

The Baptist Archives seeks to collect, preserve, and make available materials relating to Baptists of middle and east Tennessee and abroad. We desire to see that heritage have a lasting influence on all patrons and specifically those we serve from Baptist churches in Tennessee.

20015 Highlights

- My colleague Linda Gass and I participated in the East Tennessee Historical Society's History Fair on Aug. 15 in downtown Knoxville, promoting our pictorial histories of Carson-Newman and Jefferson City.
- I attended the annual Tennessee Historical Society's meeting in Nashville on Sept. 10.
- On Sept. 25 I gave a tour of our Special Collections to the members of the Southern Baptist Research Fellowship during their meeting held here on campus.
- We promoted the work of the Baptist Archives at the annual Tennessee Baptist Convention's *The Summit* meeting Nov. 9-11 at First Baptist Church, Millington.
- We have updated our website and transferred all its content into a LibGuides format, and have added several new links highlighting various collections (<http://cn.libguides.com/c.php?g=376453&p=2547376>).
- We have added hundreds of images to the Digital Library of Appalachia from our Appalachian and Rare Book collection, Baptist Archives, and University Archives (<http://dla.acaweb.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/Carson>).

Current Activities

- This semester we are working with a student selected for the Oxford Studies program. She is studying in England this spring but has a preliminary paper to write this semester and will be using materials in the Baptist Archives during the next few months.
- We are working on a project called "On This Day in Carson-Newman History ..." where we identify significant and interesting events for each day in the calendar.

Semester Statistics (Jan-Dec 2015)

- Appalachian & Rare Book Collection — 3,489 catalogued items added; 21 patron requests; 11 genealogy requests; 8 states represented
- Baptist Archives — 4,002 catalogued items added; 16 patron requests; 3 genealogy requests; 5 states represented
- University Archives — 85 catalogued items added; 56 patron requests; 4 genealogy requests; 8 states represented

(Patron requests from staff, students, and others came via walk-ins, email, phone, and mail.)

Al Lang, Special Collections Librarian and Archivist

Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary Archives

The purpose of the Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary Archives is to acquire, maintain, and preserve material related to the institution as an archival resource. We are working to inventory our entire collection, identify gaps in the collection, acquire missing and additional items needed, create a website presence for our holdings, and better organize our materials.

Archives holdings include complete runs of the MBTS publications: the main campus news publications titled *The Spire* (1961-1996), *The Heartland* (1997-2001), and *The Midwestern* (2002-present); academic catalogs and directories; scrapbooks from the Student Wives Fellowship; and printed copies of early convocation addresses. Our collections include old photographic negatives covering early faculty, students, trustees, campus events and visitors, and class composites.

We have two extensive collections of artifacts: (1) Dr. Lavell Seats, a former International Mission Board missionary to Nigeria and also an MBTS missions professor, donated African artifacts, paintings, and more than 35 nativity sets collected from around the world, plus hundreds of his slides. (2) Former MBTS professor Dr. William H. Morton donated terracotta lamps and other pottery from Palestine, along with ancient coins from the Roman and Byzantine era. (Approximately 200 images from our Morton Collection are online as part of ATLA's CDRI [Cooperative Digital Resources Initiative] project at <https://www2.atla.com/digitalresources/>.)

All audio recordings of our chapel services have been digitized except for those in reel-to-reel tape format, and all of our trustee minutes have also been digitized.

Kenette Harder, Library Director

Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission

Last year marked the 127th year that the Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission and/or Society has been actively involved in collecting and preserving the history of Mississippi Baptists. Of the 41 eligible churches, 26 churches selected to celebrate their significant anniversaries. Of these, 3 churches celebrated 200 years, 8 celebrated 175 years, 2 celebrated 150 years, 7 celebrated 125 years, and 5 celebrated 100 years, for a total of 3,675 years.

Other Activities

- Made concentrated efforts to obtain current associational minutes to determine which associations no longer produce an annual book of reports
- Microfilmed the records of five churches
- Prepared numerous history highlights for churches planning anniversary celebrations. (The highlights included church officers, membership and contribution statistics, and obituaries for each year of the church's existence, based on information from associational minutes.)
- Continued to index the current issues of *The Baptist Record* (now includes 1877-present)
- Provided research assistance to more than 560 individuals in person or by phone, email, or mail services
- Dedicated and renamed the Mississippi College Archives the Dr. Edward L. McMillan University Archives
- Began work on a detailed plan for churches that are closing, in hopes that their records will be preserved.
- Added all church histories and the church records we house to the Mississippi Baptist Resource Database
- Hired a new special collections assistant, Renee Hautle
- Traveled to churches to meet with church history committees

Church Anniversary Workshops

To better serve and reach our patrons we held three church anniversary workshops around the state.

- Feb. 21, 2015 — Mississippi College, Clinton
- Feb. 28, 2015 — Lauderdale County Baptist Association, Marion
- Mar. 21, 2015 — Lee County Baptist Association, Tupelo

Each workshop featured speakers from two churches that had celebrated significant anniversaries in the past couple of years, and also a speaker who had written a church history. At least 119 individuals from more than 19 churches and two associations attended the workshops.

Goals for 2016

- Intensify the effort to acquire additional church records to microfilm for safekeeping.
- Finish the guide for churches that are closing.
- Seek participation by all eligible churches in planning and presenting unique anniversary celebrations.
- Implement preservation projects that will ensure the longevity of our materials.
- Continue to work on the Mississippi Baptist Resource Database.
- Increase contact with other state Baptist collections to share significant information.
- Increase contact with public libraries throughout Mississippi to share relevant information with each county.
- Explore doing another Baptist Biographies project.
- Work with the pastor development department to organize a system to keep and preserve church by-laws and articles of incorporation.

Anthony Kay, Executive Director

Heather Moore, Librarian

Renee Hautle, Assistant

North American Baptist Heritage Commission

The purpose of the North American Baptist Heritage Commission (NABHC) is to collect, preserve, organize, display, and make accessible the treasured records and artifacts of the churches, organizations, and people connected with the North American Baptist Conference (NABC) and its work.

The NABC began as a fellowship of Baptist churches in the United States and Canada, ministering to German-speaking people. Today these churches are nearly all English-speaking. The current immigrant-based congregations represent a variety of ethnic groups and languages and are found throughout the United States and Canada.

The holdings of the Commission include North American Baptist (NAB) denominational publications, conference reports including statistical summaries, minutes of denominational committee meetings, annual directories, promos by various departments of the NAB Conference office, correspondence of key conference leaders, Triennial programs attended by people from all NAB churches, books and theses written by North American Baptists, and materials connected with former NAB seminary professors and presidents.

The Commission maintains files for all NAB churches in the U.S. and Canada and also files for NAB pastors, lay leaders, and NAB/Sioux Falls seminary alumni. Vital information on NAB churches is being added and now includes nearly all the currently active churches.

The Commission also collects materials related to the overseas ministries of the North American Baptists in Eastern Europe, Australia, Nigeria, Japan, Brazil, and especially Cameroon.

The Commission continues to work with John Siewert and Daphne Dunger in their research efforts focusing on Baptist missions in Cameroon, West Africa. Important work has been done on organizing these records for better accessibility and utility for future researchers as well as making progress on their book, tentatively titled *Making a Difference in Africa: North American Baptist Missionaries in Cameroon*.

The Cameroon collection occupies 62 linear feet of shelving of print materials plus nearly 150 archival boxes with some connection to Cameroon. The printed guide to the collection includes published materials, non-published materials, Cameroon Baptist Convention materials, book-length materials, and pamphlets. Guides are included on the website.

Major accomplishments in 2015 included purchase of a Scan-Snap scanner and completion of digitization of the following NAB publications: *Annuals* (1946-1965), *Broadcast* (1944-1971, and *Impact* (1970-2000). In addition, the stories of NAB churches founded before 1893 can be found on our website.

Planning for 2016 includes: continued work on archival box inventories and web site enhancement, developing policies and procedures to begin digitizing larger NAB periodicals with historical importance.

Jackie Howell, Director

North Carolina Baptist Historical Collection, Wake Forest University

The North Carolina Baptist Historical Collection at Wake Forest University had another productive year in 2015-2016. Activities included:

- **Religion in North Carolina Grant Project** — We completed our third and final year of the joint project with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Duke University. We submitted our final group of materials to Duke to be scanned and digitized, and then added to Hathitrust. Access is available at <https://archive.org/details/ncreligion>.
- **Digitizing Baptist Biography Files** — When completed and made available online as keyword searchable documents, we will continue work on our church and association files.
- **Processing, Reference, and Outreach** — In 2015 we accessioned 40 accretions for Baptist collections, received numerous publications for addition to our Baptist collection of monographs and serials, completed initial appraisal work on 97 linear ft. of the Dr. Olin T. Binkley (1908-1999) collection and 40 linear ft. of the Baptist Student Union Records, and acquired the George McLeod Bryan Papers (<https://zsr.wfu.edu/2016/special-collections-archives-acquires-the-george-mcleod-bryan-papers/>). Since July 2015 we have responded to 177 requests in regards to our Baptist collections. In December 2015 we hosted a reception for the family of Chaplain Ed Christman, in conjunction with an exhibit on his life and career with Wake Forest. In March 2016 we hosted visitors from the State Baptist Convention of NC History Committee.
- **Development and Grants** — SCA applied for and received an NC LSTA grant for the digitization of our church record collections, containing original archival material. The funding supports a part-time digital assistant and a metadata specialist who are focusing their efforts on digitizing and providing access to nearly 100 linear ft. of original archival records (dating back to the 18th century) belonging to 124 NC churches. Approximately 12,000 pages have been digitized, and 71 metadata records have been created. Volunteer Marcia Phillips, a member of the State Baptist Convention of NC History Committee, assisted with the re-housing of these collections prior to digitizing.
- **Future Work** — We continue to prepare for another LSTA grant intended for the digitizing of more than 3,000 microfilm reels. We have sent out a number of reels to microfilm vendors so they can assess the quality of our film and provide budget estimates for digitizing. As time permits, we will conduct 3-5 oral history interviews annually with Wake Foresters active in the Baptist faith. We completed the first interview in early 2015 with Professor Bill Leonard, founder of the Wake Forest Divinity School. Interviews with Eva and Joe Clontz are scheduled for 2016.

Tanya Zanish-Belcher, Director, Special Collections and Archives

Northwest Baptist Historical Society

The Northwest Baptist Historical Society promotes interest in Baptist history to churches of the Northwest Baptist Convention and beyond. The society seeks to record, preserve, and publish items that aid in the preservation of Baptist history in the Pacific Northwest. The society is benefitted by having a primary place at every year's state convention program. As part of its official report, the society recognizes the two newest Heritage Award winners. This award recognizes individuals and couples who have served in significant positions over a long period of time in the Northwest Baptist Convention. This year's candidates were Adrian and Nancy Hall and Galen and Jane Irby.

Adrian Hall worked for many years as evangelism director of the Northwest Baptist Convention. Nancy Hall is currently the president of the Northwest Woman's Missionary Union and also as the Northwest Baptist Convention's Women's Specialist. Galen and Jane Irby served Northwest churches for a quarter of a century, primarily in the role of associational director. With the induction of these two couples in 2015, the total number of Heritage Award winners has now reached 53 individuals and couples.

For several years the society hosted an annual meeting in the spring. This meeting was an opportunity for fellowship, food, society business, and to hear a guest speaker. Dwindling attendance, however, has prompted the society to find other avenues to get the word out on the benefits of society membership. Commencing this year, the society began meeting at the time of other scheduled meetings held in the Northwest Baptist Center in Vancouver, Wash. The society was able to set up an exhibit and promote society membership at the Youth Ministry Summit, Story Witnessing Workshop, and the Northwest Women's Summit.

The society maintains the Heritage Room where it houses and displays historical materials of interest, but also is large enough for various groups to hold meetings. The society also offers several pamphlets, booklets, and books of interest for Northwest Baptists. Some materials are free, while other items are sold for the cost of printing. The materials include biographies on significant personalities, events, and themes, and helps for church members who are interested in preserving the legacy of their churches. The Northwest Baptist Historical Society is privileged to lead and inform others in highlighting milestones for their churches.

Mike Kuykendall, president

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary Archives and Special Collections

Mission Statement

The Archives and Special Collections (ASC) in the Library at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (SEBTS) exists to procure, preserve, and promote access to rare books, personal papers, institutional records, Baptist materials and church records, and other primary sources of enduring historical value that can be used to better equip SEBTS students, faculty, and the broader research community to serve the church and fulfill the Great Commission.

Collection Policy

The ASC actively collects materials documenting the history of SEBTS; the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC); and churches, organizations, and individuals that have contributed to Baptist life and the cause of Christ. While ASC will collect broadly within these areas to support the needs of students and faculty, specific emphasis will be placed upon acquiring materials documenting the following areas:

- Christian apologetics
- Christian missions
- Church planting and revitalization
- Churches, organizations, and individuals representing Kingdom Diversity within the SBC
- Conservative Resurgence in the SBC
- Under-documented Baptist groups without professionally managed archival programs
- Baptist churches, conventions, and local associations along the Eastern Seaboard with particular emphasis on North Carolina and the under-documented regions of New England and the Mid-Atlantic

2015 Highlights

ASC staff members seek to procure and preserve collections so that the Baptist history and heritage resources in our care may be accessible for research. In 2015, ASC acquired 10 new collections or additions to existing collections (totaling approximately 10.7 cu.ft.) including a significant records transfer from the SEBTS Communications Department containing slides, negatives, and photographic prints documenting SEBTS buildings, faculty, students, and events such as mission trips, SBC annual meetings, SEBTS chapel services, and Board of Trustee and Board of Visitors meetings ranging from 1954-2003. Our staff served more than 230 patrons in the archives, over the phone, or through email. We also partnered with seminary faculty to teach four instructional sessions that introduced many students to archival research for the first time.

In support of these acquisition, reference, and instruction initiatives, SEBTS staff worked to make more of our unique resources accessible in digital format and discoverable online. We continued our work on the Francis A. Schaeffer Digital Collection, creating standardized descriptions for more than 15,800 pieces of handwritten correspondence and unique audio recordings and providing basic access to the digital collection at three research sites: the Hill House in Austin, Texas; the Francis A. Schaeffer Foundation Headquarters in Gryon, Switzerland; and on campus at SEBTS.

Additionally, our staff designed and launched the Francis A. Schaeffer Studies at Southeastern Research Guide (<http://sebts.libguides.com/schaeffer/home>) and supported the formation of the Francis A. Schaeffer Society at Southeastern (<http://sebts.libguides.com/schaeffer/society>) to raise awareness about the Francis A. Schaeffer Papers and encourage a new generation of researchers to engage with the primary sources in the collection in order to be better equipped for service as missionaries, pastors, scholars, and church members.

Interested persons may learn more about Baptist history and heritage resources available in the ASC at Southeastern by visiting our website at <http://sebts.libguides.com/archives/> or contacting our staff at libarchives@sebts.edu or (919) 761-2329.

Steve Jones, Archivist and Digital Collections Manager

Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives

Highlights

- Added: 1,969 books and pamphlets; 11,137 periodicals; 56 archival collections; 85 microfilm reels; 71 audio-visual items; 549 photograph files; 341 informational files; 244 annuals
- Coordinated the transfer of 1,300 boxes of books, periodicals, archival materials, artifacts, and Vacation Bible School material to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) building from the E.C. Dargan Library at LifeWay Christian Resources
- Processed 300 boxes of periodicals from Dargan Library and added about 9,200 volumes and issues to the collection
- Completed the arrangement, description, and finding aid production to the Richard D. Land Papers
- Completed the processing and finding aid production of the Lantern Slide Collection
- Hosted 251 on-site researchers and provided research assistance through 2,108 patron contacts
- Reviewed more than 300 boxes of records from the Home Mission Board (HMB)/North American Mission Board (NAMB) for retention and transfer to SBHLA
- Acquired approximately 90 boxes of records and two boxes of Lantern slides from NAMB
- Received a collection of early documents (1.25 linear ft.) on the *Convencion General de Iglesias Bautistas de Cuba Oriental* (Eastern Cuba Baptist Convention)
- Received the presidential papers of Fred Luter, SBC president 2012-2014
- Reviewed and awarded 16 study grants for 2015-2016
- Completed a major exhibit on evangelism and evangelists on the third floor of SBC building
- Accessioned 32 new record series/archival collections from the Dargan Library transfer of material and made additions to six existing record collections

Research Use

The collection continues to attract scholars and students from a wide range of colleges and universities. Researchers from 55 different institutions conducted research in the collection during the past year, including at least six researchers from international institutions. Visitors included 251 registered researchers, and the staff provided 2,108 patron contacts.

Acquisitions

Additions to the archives include: a collection on the early history of the *Convencion General de Iglesias Bautistas de Cuba Oriental*, which adds significantly to our already impressive collection of material on Baptist ministries in western Cuba; and the papers of Dr. Fred Luter, the first African-American president of the SBC.

The director met with members of the Research Department of NAMB and agreed on the August 2015 transfer of 10-12 boxes of material from the Research Library, including published reports and studies mostly conducted by the staff of the HMB/NAMB. The transfer of 1,300 boxes of material from the Dargan Library resulted in significant additions to the collection. The staff of the SBHLA processed and added 300 periodical and archival boxes to our holdings and catalog and added 9,200 volumes and issues to the periodical collection.

The SBHLA received a grant of \$1,350 to assist in merging of the Dargan collection into the SBHLA holdings. Beginning in March 2015, the grant included the hiring of Stephen Gateley, former librarian with the Dargan Library, to work on the project of sorting and identifying BSSB/LifeWay archival material. Along with the archivist, they identified 35 series of records in the material, which were added to existing record/collection series.

Another significant addition was microfilming of the *Negro Star*, 1936-1953, an African-American Baptist newspaper published in Kansas.

Access to the Collection

The staff put the final touches on the Richard Land Papers with the completion of the extensive finding aid. The bibliographic citation to the collection is now found in our online catalog, and the finding aid is accessible on the SBHLA website.

We processed a series of Christian Life Commission (CLC) staff correspondence, covering the late 1960s to the mid-1980s. This series of CLC records appears to be an impressive and potentially valuable collection. With the placement of Dr. Valentine's papers at Baylor University, these files fill a void in the work and life of the CLC. We also completed processing of the HMB Cuban mission work records.

We processed and catalogued the Lantern Slide Collection, consisting of 402 distinctive images. Relating most to the work of the HMB, the collection provides images of Cuba and Panama missions, mountain missions, New Orleans missions, mission work with Mexican-Americans and Indians, and numerous images of churches. The finding aid to the collection is on the website, and about half of the images have been placed on Flickr for viewing.

Outreach and Lynn E. May Study Grants

The online catalog continues to be updated with new holdings, particularly the periodicals transferred from the Dargan Library. We also added to the website the finding aids to the Richard D. Land Papers and the Lantern Slide Collection. The Digital Resources page of the SBHLA website includes the SBC Annuals, Baptist Press releases (1948-1996), and the *Tennessee Baptist/Baptist and Reflector* (1835-1922, 2000-2008). The staff of the SBHLA continues to manage the baptistheritage.com website for the Association of Librarians and Archivists at Baptist Institutions. The key feature of this website is the Baptist Digital Library

For 2015-16, the SBHLA awarded 16 Lynn E. May study grants ranging from \$400-\$700 each, for a total of \$7,800. The study grant program continues to be the most valuable outreach program of the SBHLA.

Bill Summers, Director

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Archives and Special Collections

Archival Goals Achieved 2014-2015

Acquire relevant materials that document the history and work of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (SBTS)

- Staff filled gaps in seminary publications holdings by acquiring or binding issues of the *Southern Seminary Magazine*, *Towers*, SBTS and Boyce College commencement programs, *The Southern Baptist Journal of Theology*, *The Journal of Discipleship & Family Ministry*, *The Southern Baptist Journal of Missions and Evangelism*, SBTS and Boyce College academic catalogs, campus directories, and Reports to the Board of Trustees.
- Archives acquired 112 slides from the SBTS Rec Center.
- Notable donations included 21 historic items to be used for library display/education and approximately 500 volumes related to Charles H. Spurgeon.

Preserve collections by monitoring environmental conditions in archival storage areas

- Staff recorded monthly data from HOBO Data Loggers, alerting the seminary's Energy Education Specialist for the need to lower the temperature and relative humidity in library storage rooms.
- Archives acquired a new dehumidifier and a set of digital thermometers to help preserve materials stored in the library's ground floor.
- Staff has assessed and improved the storage conditions for more than 550 linear feet of the Baptist Minutes Collection.

Reduce the backlog to make more collections available and provide them with a better storage environment

- The Carl Stam Papers (1992-2011) have been arranged, described, and placed in archival quality storage units. An online index is available.
- The SBTS Academic Records Grade Books (1912-1958) have been arranged and placed in archival quality storage units.

Increase the amount of our holdings that are publically available in digital format

- We added 92 dissertations, projects, and theses; 92 audio and video files; 10 files via digitization on demand; and 89 public domain texts.

Expand digitization on demand

- The digitization-on-demand policy yielded \$722 in miscellaneous funding for the library.
- 110 files were made publically available through this service's funding.

Support the information needs of seminary administrators and departments

- Staff supplied research, media duplication, photograph scans, and other services on several occasions for the President's Office, Academic Services, Business Services, School of Theology, Billy Graham School, Communications, Academic Records, Institutional Advancement, Institutional Assessment, Admissions, Operations, Human Resources, the Bevin Center for Missions Mobilization, Research and Professional Doctoral Studies, Energy Education Specialist, Hospitality Services, Interior Design, Southern Productions, Volunteer Coordinator, the 1937 Project, and various faculty requests.
- Staff provided photograph scans and biographical information for SBTS obituary reports for deceased seminary dignitaries.

Promote our collections through the creation of displays, publications, and tutorials

- Staff wrote 10 articles for *Towers* History Highlight section.
- The archivist contributed a feature for *Southern Seminary Magazine*.
- Staff assisted in the creation of displays in the library and the Honeycutt Campus Center.
- Staff assisted students, faculty, and visitors with microfilm reader usage.

Archives Web Presence

- Staff provided various Southern Seminary social media accounts with high resolution scans of historical photographs for usage on Twitter, Facebook, and other Web 2.0 features.
- The archivist maintains administrative control over the archives.sbts.edu website and occasionally posts updates onto the James P. Boyce Centennial Library's Facebook page.

Summary of Major Accomplishments

- Acquired 10 linear feet of physical material
- Assessed preservation concerns for 550 linear feet of the Baptist Minutes Collection
- Digitized or reformatted 206 audio-visual items.
- Processed 18 linear feet of material
- Created an Archon finding aid
- Shelved 522 items
- Assisted in the creation of exhibits in the library and Honeycutt Campus Center
- Composed 10 articles for *Towers*, the seminary's monthly newspaper, and a feature for the *Southern Seminary Magazine*
- Patron statistics: 84 registered researchers, 136 research applications, 375 actionable research requests from patrons and campus offices, 26 invoices for services rendered yielding \$722 received income for library miscellaneous funds
- Compiled 289 significant blog and online news articles concerning the seminary, its administration, faculty, and staff
- Recorded monthly statistics on visible light, temperature, and relative humidity in rooms housing collections

Adam Winters, Archivist

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary Archives and Special Collections

The J.T. and Zelma Luther Archives and Special Collections at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (SWBTS) contain more than 500,000 items. The Archives house historical information concerning the Seminary along with current information generated by the different departments of SWBTS, including personal papers of all past presidents and of many former faculty members, alumni, and friends of Southwestern who have played an active role in Southern Baptist life. Researchers come from varied backgrounds to study all aspects of Baptist history.

The Special Collections include missionary artifacts, the Watchman Cults Collection, the Breed Collection of British Baptist History, the Estep Collection of Reformation History, the Quillen Collection of Missions in Africa, and a Rare Book Collection containing volumes dating back as the 1500s.

The Archives saw substantial growth in 2015. The addition of a full-time archivist has allowed several waiting collections to be fully processed. Additions included:

- personal library and papers of former SBC president, Dr. Adrian Rogers
- personal papers and artifacts of evangelist Rodney “Gipsy” Smith
- sermon collection of former SWBTS president Dr. Robert Naylor
- papers and manuscripts of Dr. Charles W. Koller

In 2015 our major acquisition was the Adrian Rogers’ collection that includes 174 linear feet of books, papers, and personal artifacts. This collection was processed and is currently being displayed in the entry of the Archives that showcases a reproduction of Rogers’ home study and library. The addition of this highlighted area has led to increased visitor traffic and Archive tours. The collection has served as a visible manifestation of the SBC Conservative Resurgence Collection currently being developed by the Archives in cooperation with the institution.

Additional improvement was made in student/researcher accessibility to the Archives. Several new tools facilitate an online research environment including Archivesspace (a record management system) and ContentDM (an online digital repository). Concentrated efforts were also made to market the Archives to students and faculty including in-class and special event displays and social media promotion.

Archives staff continues to search for items that have historical significance to Baptist history. This year we acquired a collection of books owned by Southern Baptist scholar A.T. Robertson, a book signed by C.H. Spurgeon’s wife Susannah, and a 1659 copy of *Expositions and sermons upon the ten first chapters of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, according to Matthew* by Christopher Blackwood.

To encourage Baptist scholarship, the Archives in cooperation with the library’s digital resources department began a SWBTS digitization project to scan primary documents from the institution’s founders and digitally capture cassette tapes of chapel services. In 2015 we added 15 collections to our digital repository, allowing free access of these Baptist resources to the public.

Efforts by the current library administration and staff have shown marked increase in both campus and online use of the archive resources. Additional growth is anticipated in 2016.

Jill Botticelli, Archivist/Special Collection Librarian

Tennessee Baptist Historical Society

The Tennessee Baptist Historical Society held its annual meeting and luncheon, provided by the Tennessee Baptist Convention (TBC), on March 10, 2016, at the Southern Baptist Convention building in Nashville. The theme for the meeting was “Baptists and the Restoration Movement: Relationships and Religion,” and included a business session, a panel discussion, and a message by John Mark Hicks, professor of theology and history at Lipscomb University. Business reports included: membership of 86 and an income of more than \$6,100, which had been subsidized by an annual grant of \$5,000 from the TBC.

The TBHS produced the 17th volume of its *Tennessee Baptist History Journal* in the fall of 2015. With the theme “Tennessee Baptists and Partnership Ministries,” it included articles on Upper Volta, sports evangelism, sewing ministries, volunteer missions, the Mill Creek Baptist Church, and missionary nurse Kathleen Manley.

During the past year the TBHS conducted several outreach activities aimed at increasing its visibility and membership. The TBHS operated a booth at the TBC annual meeting in November 2015 held at First Baptist Church, Millington, where Society members provided for sale current and previous copies of the *Tennessee Baptist History Journal*. The Society established the Albert Wardin Jr. Meritorious Service Award to be given annually to an individual regarded as having provided admirable and exceptional service to the preservation and promotion of Tennessee Baptist history.

A major project of the TBHS has been digitizing the state Baptist newspaper, the *Baptist and Reflector*, which began in 1835 as *The Baptist* and was later named *The Tennessee Baptist*. The project has become a major cooperative Baptist endeavor in the state. Bill Sumners, director of the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, implemented the project, while the Tennessee Baptist Foundation granted in 2012 a gift of \$7,000 to help subsidize the cost of the project. The library at Union University in Jackson assisted in scanning large pages of the paper produced in the 20th century. A \$2,500 grant from the Tennessee Historical Records Advisory Board allowed SBHLA staff to coordinate scanning of years 1915-1939. The Society is applying for additional grants to scan and make searchable years 1940-1999. The project is proving a wonderful tool in retrieving historical material without leafing through issue after issue.

Taffey Hall, Secretary

Texas Baptist Historical Collection

The 82nd year of the Texas Baptist Historical Collection was truly a moving year, both literally and figuratively. After 30 years at its location next door to Baylor Hospital in Dallas, the Baptist General Convention of Texas (BGCT) decided to find a new home.

Baylor University purchased the Baptist building to house the Baylor School of Nursing. As part of the sales agreement, Baylor offered \$2 million to relocate the TBHC from Dallas to Waco and provide digitization services for portions of the Collection.

Renovations began in the fall of 2015 on a mutually agreed-upon building (close to 12,000 square feet) in downtown Waco. The TBHC director and associate director were involved in every aspect of the renovation and remodeling process, which resulted in a practically new building including new electrical wiring, elevator, plumbing, HVAC, security and fire suppression system, and design layout.

The building, located at 209 N. 8th St., includes: office and reception space for four staff members; three large storage areas for archival and library materials; space for vertical files, microfilming, digitization, and museum displays; and a conference room with video and teleconferencing capabilities.

The TBHC moved to its new location in January 2016, and received the final transfer of stored historical documents in March. Whereas the 1998 move of the TBHC required the use of two small trucks, this fourth move required eight 18-wheelers.

The first major event at the new offices will be an open house during the BHHS/ALABI meeting in May 2016.

In addition to designing the new location in 2015, the TBHC staff prepared the Collection for its pending relocation. The task of weeding the holdings (the first significant weeding in decades) resulted in more than 600 linear feet of de-accessioned material, including redundant documents and useless financial information. Even as material was de-accessioned, new material was added to the Collection. BGCT departments and personnel transferred records including information on new Texas Baptist churches, material related to the BGCT and its affiliated institutions, and the personal papers of its former executive directors William Pinson, James Landis, and T.A. Patterson.

In the midst of the move the TBHC staff began a new project to make the holdings and content databases of the Collection more available to its users. The associate director and a software engineer are developing a new platform that allows the TBHC to consolidate its databases of the Collection's holdings and content, providing staff and researchers faster and more concise access to TBHC information. The TBHC also began what it hopes is a strong and lasting partnership with Baylor University for the digitization of Texas Baptist material, beginning with BGCT annuals. The annuals of the Baptist State Convention and the Baptist General Association, the two major state bodies that merged to form the BGCT, are included in this initial digitization project.

The TBHC staff also continued improvements to the Texas Baptist Historical Museum at Independence, Texas, with the construction of a small blacksmith shop behind the museum to illustrate what life was like for early Baptist settlers. Doors to the shop are branded with the ranch brands of families in the area.

Although the TBHC was consumed with the impending move for much of 2015 and officially closed to research since June 2015, the staff answered more than 300 requests for information. The staff also continues its efforts to preserve and record the history and heritage of Texas Baptists through its ongoing programs for churches, institutions, and church libraries.

Alan Lefever, Director

Virginia Baptist Historical Society

Over the last four years the Virginia Baptist Historical Society emphasized the 150th anniversary of the Civil War and Emancipation, showing how both events dynamically impacted Virginia Baptists. Its “*free indeed!*” project commemorated the anniversary of emancipation while showcasing the trials and triumphs of Virginia’s enslaved. Hundreds of visitors toured the exhibit, while others used the registry of African-American names found in the antebellum church records. Many people secured a copy of the book “*free indeed!*”

With the conclusion of the Civil War anniversary, it was time for the Society to explore a topic that had never received its due attention: the subject of reconciliation between the North and South following the war and the role played by the Baptist General Association of Virginia. It was the BGAV that undertook the first acts of religious reconciliation among Baptists.

At its annual meeting in May 2015 the Society explored the theme of “Towards a More Perfect Union.” For the first time a speaker presented the northern Baptists’ post-war role. David Laubach, an accomplished historian among American Baptists, USA, spoke on “Baptist Boundaries: Northern Missionaries in the South.” Fred Anderson, executive director of the Society, offered the Virginia Baptists’ overtures for reconciliation. Adam L. Bond, professor of church history at the Proctor School of Theology of Virginia Union University, presented an overview of VUU’s history in a speech titled “Reading Freedom in History.” Paul Dakin, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Lynchburg, presented the stories behind several Civil War hymns and the audience enjoyed singing the old hymns.

The Virginia Baptist Register, the Society’s annual journal, included in its 2015 issue expanded versions of speeches delivered at the annual meeting. The journal also carried a lead article titled “To See a World” by Fred Anderson. The article carries the same theme as a new exhibit that opened in the Heritage Gallery in January 2016. The theme explores 19th century travels by Virginia Baptists and how their experiences and impressions helped fan the missions sentiment within the BGAV.

The Society’s church records repository increased to 4,084 church record books from more than 500 Virginia Baptist churches. The records preservation service is an important part of the ministry of the Historical Society, and churches and researchers constantly use the collection. During 2014-15 about 400 researchers used the Baptist collection.

An exciting addition to the Heritage Gallery is a collection of paintings of historical Virginia Baptist churches. Franklin T. Fowler, a retired medical missionary, asked to undertake a project of painting church buildings representative of various architectural styles and historical significance. He completed the gallery of 27 paintings in time for his 98th birthday. In earlier years Dr. Fowler created models of historical Baptist buildings for the Society’s teaching gallery.

During 2015 the Society’s companion organization, the Center for Baptist Heritage & Studies, published *Strength for the Journey: Feminist Theology & Baptist Women Pastors* by Judith Anne Bledsoe Bailey. The book includes an historical survey of attitudes about gender among Baptists in the South and also interviews with numerous Baptist women pastors. The Center also published a booklet intended to reach high school and college-age youth on the subject of Baptist history and heritage: *In Search of the Heroic*, written by Andrew B. Gardner who as a college student had been one of the Center’s Heritage Fellows and now is pursuing doctoral studies in church history.

Fred Anderson, Executive Director

Virginia Union University Archives and Special Collections

In the 2014-2015 academic year, Virginia Union University Archives and Special Collections filled 134 research requests. Archivist Adam Zimmerli continued working on the digitization of correspondence from the Richmond Theological Seminary Collection, completing the years of 1867-1875. Zimmerli also started a beta test project for the digitization of Virginia Union University yearbooks. He completed the 1997 yearbook, which is accessible on the Archives webpage.

Archives and Special Collections served on the planning committee for Virginia Union University's 150th Anniversary events and activities. On Oct. 28, 2014, the Archives Department in collaboration with students from the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology presented a program for VUU's 150th anniversary, titled *Telling Our Story: Voices from the Past*. Graduate students read excerpts from Orations of Richmond Institute students from the 1880s. Segments from the event were featured on Virginia Currents, 88.9 WCVE Radio, and online. The department curated related exhibits in the library: *Letters from Lagos: Correspondence of Richmond Theological Institute Students Abroad, 1878-1884* and *Correspondence from Richmond Theological Seminary* (October 2014-May 2015).

In April 2015, as part of the Richmond's Journey End of Civil War commemorative events, Virginia Union University participated in the pop-up museum tents designed as part of the visitor experience. The Archives focused on life after emancipation and the 1870's curriculum of the Richmond Theological Institute for Freedmen. Archivists Selicia Allen and Adam Zimmerli, along with history professor Dr. Raymond Hylton, answered visitors' questions about what freedmen learned to become educated ministers. Visitors were provided with an interactive quiz card to test their knowledge on arithmetic, Latin, Greek, theology, spelling and writing. The Archives highlighted its Richmond Theological Seminary Collection, its 1877 student registry of short biographies and signatures of early students and notable faculty.

Selicia Allen, Archivist and Special Collections Librarian

West Tennessee Baptist Archives, Union University

The West Tennessee Baptist Archives seeks to preserve the history of Baptists in West Tennessee and beyond. We collect associational and congregational histories and records and make them available to researchers interested in Baptist heritage.

This past year has been exceptionally busy and exciting. On Nov. 6, 2015, we officially dedicated The Logos library at Union University. The move from our old space was very successful, and the move of archival materials went smoothly.

Our current collection is 742 linear feet, with 381 linear feet of growth space. This does not include shelving for our archival book collections. We also have a well-appointed reading room with a new microfilm/fiche digital scanner, and functional space for scanning, processing, and storage. The archives hours are M-F, 1:00-4:00 pm and by appointment.

All issues of the *Baptist and Reflector* have now been digitized, and final processing on the files is in progress. When the files are web ready, they will be transferred to the SBHLA for posting to the internet. With student worker hours increased to 24 per week, this project should be completed by the end of summer 2016.

A few books from the Dargan library, mostly biographies of Baptist figures, remain to be cataloged into the Heritage Collection

Library director, Anna Beth Morgan resigned in January 2016 to take a position as head of libraries for the Mayo Clinics. Melissa Moore is the interim director, and a search is underway to fill the position.

Reference questions in 2015 included: 8 on the Baptist collection, 28 on the university archives, and 4 on the special collections.

Jenny L. Manasco, Archivist and Instruction Librarian

Baptist History and Heritage Society

The BH&HS is 78 years old. For 65 of those years, it had a different name: Southern Baptist Historical Society® (hereafter SBHS). Organized in Richmond, Va., in 1938, the SBHS elected three key individuals as officers: W.O. Carver, head of the Department of Comparative Religion and Missions at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, president (a position he held for 15 years); Rufus W. Weaver, executive director of the District of Columbia Baptist Convention (who was instrumental in forming the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs), vice president; and Hubert I. Hester, head of the Department of Religion at William Jewell College, secretary-treasurer (Hester served as secretary for 38 years — until 1976).

The SBHS functioned from 1938 to 1951 in various relationships with the Southern Baptist Convention (hereafter SBC). In 1951 the SBC created its Historical Commission. The SBHS's original charter had been issued in Kentucky, but in 1952 the SBHS was rechartered in Tennessee as an auxiliary to the commission. That relationship continued until 1995 when the SBC decided to eliminate the commission (which it did in 1997). That decision prompted the SBHS in 1995 to become an independent organization, and it remains so today.

The SBHS voted in 2001 to change its name to BH&HS. The primary purpose of that change was to make it possible for the BH&HS to relate more effectively to various Baptist bodies and historical programs nationwide and worldwide. The BH&HS performs all its work around the following mission statement: "Helping Baptists discover, conserve, assess, and share their history."

Presidents and Executive Directors

The BH&HS has had 39 presidents, including 33 men and five women. Presidents served multiple-year terms in 1938-70, single-year terms in 1970-95, and two-year terms in 1995-present. Many names on this list comprise a virtual who's who among Baptist historians. The presidents include: William Owen Carver, 1938-52; Richard N. Owen, 1952-54; Bailey F. Davis, 1954-58; Richard N. Owen, 1958-68; Loulie Latimer Owens, 1968-70; George Gaskins, 1970-71; Spencer B. King, Jr., 1971-72; F. Wilbur Helmbold, 1972-73; Rollin S. Armour, 1973-74; R.A. McLemore, 1974-75; Walter B. Shurden, 1975-76; John S. Moore, 1976-77; Stan B. Rushing, 1977-78; H. Leon McBeth, 1978-79; Paul D. Brewer, 1979-80; W. Morgan Patterson, 1980-81; David O. Moore, 1981-82; J. Glen Clayton, 1982-83; Robert G. Gardner, 1983-84; John R. Woodard, 1984-85; Flynn T. Harrell, 1985-86; J.M. Gaskin, 1986-87; Carolyn D. Blevins, 1987-88; Lee N. Allen, 1988-89; G. Thomas Halbrooks, 1989-90; Adrian Lamkin, 1990-91; E. Earl Joiner, 1991-92; Fred Anderson, 1992-93; Hargus Taylor, 1993-94; Albert W. Wardin, Jr., 1994-95; Rosalie Beck, 1995-97; Alan Lefever, 1997-99; Merrill M. Hawkins, Jr., 1999-2001; Dan Gentry Kent, 2001-03; Glenn Jonas, 2003-05; Carol Crawford Holcomb, 2005-07; Jerry L. Faught II, 2007-09; Michael E. Williams, Sr., 2009-2011; C. Delane Tew, 2011-2013; Bill Pitts, 2013-2015; and Pamela Smoot, 2015 to present.

Four persons have served as executive director of the society since it asserted its independence in 1995: Albert W. Wardin, Jr., 1995-96; Slayden A. Yarbrough, 1996-99; Charles W. Deweese, 1999-2009; and Bruce T. Gourley, 2010-present.

Office Locations

Society offices have been located in the following places historically: at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. (1938-52); in the Historical Commission, SBC, offices in the SBC Sunday School Board in Nashville, Tenn. (1952-84); in the Historical Commission, SBC, offices in the SBC Building in Nashville, Tenn. (1985-97); at Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, Okla. (1997-99); at the Baptist Center of the Tennessee Baptist Convention in Brentwood, Tenn. (1999-2007); in the Administration and Conference Center of Mercer University in Atlanta, Ga. (2007-2011). Since 2010 the society has been transitioning to virtual offices in place of one central office. Currently the society is operating out of Macon, Ga. (the general office), and near Bozeman, Mont. (the executive director's office).

Annual Meeting Dates, Themes, and Locations, 1969-2015

For 41 years, the BH&HS has either sponsored or co-sponsored annual meeting programs to which both members and the Baptist public were invited. The society and the Historical Commission, SBC, jointly sponsored such meetings held in 1969-1995. Beginning in 1996 and continuing into the present, the society has served as the primary sponsor of its meetings, although other organizations have served as hosts and co-sponsors in recent years. The following list provides the years, themes, and locations of these meetings:

2015—Seeking Justice: Baptists, Nashville and Civil Rights (Nashville, Tenn.)

2014—Exploring the “Other” Baptists (Sioux Falls, S.D.)

2013—Faith, Freedom, Forgiveness: Religion and the Civil War, Emancipation and Reconciliation in Our Time (Richmond, Va.)

[Held in conjunction with the Virginia Baptist Historical Society and the Center for Baptist Heritage and Studies]

2012—Baptists and Theology (Raleigh, N.C.)

2011—Baptists and Education (Dallas, Texas)

2010—Baptists and Revivalism (Georgetown, Ky.)

2009—Baptist Contributions, 1609-2009 (Huntsville, Ala.)

2008—Baptists and First Amendment Issues (Atlanta, Ga.)

2007—African Americans in Baptist History (Campbellsville, Ky.)

2006—The Contributions of Baptist Public Figures in America (Washington, D.C.)

2005—Women in Baptist History (Birmingham, Ala.)

2004—Baptist Footprints in the Northwest (Vancouver, Wash.)

2003—Baptists on the Frontier (Belton, Texas)

2002—Baptists and Diversity (Jefferson City, Tenn.)

2001—Baptists and World War II (Pensacola, Fla.)

2000—Reflections on Baptist Life in the 20th Century (Savannah, Ga.)

1999—Baptist Theological Education (Liberty, Mo.)

1998—Texas Baptists and the Southern Baptist Convention (Dallas, Texas)

1997—Baptists and the Civil War (Richmond, Va.)

1996—Two Ways To Be Baptist: J. Frank Norris and George W. Truett (Nashville, Tenn.)

1995—The Spirit of Southern Baptists, 1845-1995 (Augusta, Ga.)

1994—Ministries of Baptist Laypeople (Memphis, Tenn.)

1993—Baptists and the News Media (Nashville, Tenn.)

1992—World Missions: Two Centuries of Baptist Achievement (Birmingham, Ala.)

1991—Religious Education in Southern Baptist Churches (Nashville, Tenn.)

1990—Southern Baptists and Relationships with Other Denominations (Nashville, Tenn.)

1989—Baptists in America: 175 Years of National Organization (Nashville, Tenn.)

1988—Ordination in Baptist Heritage (Nashville, Tenn.)

1987—Women in Southern Baptist History (Birmingham, Ala.)

1986—Baptist Church Music Heritage (Nashville, Tenn.)

1985—Baptists and the History of Church-State Relationships (Nashville, Tenn.)

1984—The Role of the Bible in Baptist History (Nashville, Tenn.)

1983—Ethnic Southern Baptist Heritage (Nashville, Tenn.)

1982—Southern Baptists Nationwide (Charleston, S.C.)

1981—Black Southern Baptist Heritage (Nashville, Tenn.)

1980—Southern Baptist Theologians (Louisville, Ky.)

1979—Baptist Polity: A Look at Church Order (Nashville, Tenn.)

1978—The Heritage of Baptist Thought (Fort Worth, Texas)

1977—Communicating Baptist History Through Contemporary Media and Art Forms (Nashville, Tenn.)

1976—Baptists and the Struggle for Religious Liberty in Early America (Richmond, Va.)

1975—The Role of Baptist Oral History (Nashville, Tenn.)

1974—Baptists and the Bicentennial (Nashville, Tenn.)

1973—The Role of the State Baptist Historical Society (Birmingham, Ala.)

1972—Baptists and Social Revolution (Nashville, Tenn.)

1971—Libraries: Archives and Indexing (Nashville, Tenn.)

1970—125 Years of Southern Baptist Convention History (Nashville, Tenn.)

1969—Writing Baptist History (Nashville, Tenn.)

A Summary of the Society's Publications to Date

Baptist History and Heritage is the society's journal. The society jointly published this journal with the Historical Commission, SBC, in 1965-1997; released it as the sole publisher in 1998; published it in cooperation with the Center for Baptist Studies at Carson-Newman College in 1999-2003; published it in cooperation with the Center for Baptist Studies of Mercer University in 2003-2009; and has published it in cooperation with Baylor University and Dallas Baptist University from 2010 to the present.

The society has published its newsletter, *Baptist Heritage Update*, since the fall of 1997. Prior to that time, beginning with the spring 1985 issue, the Historical Commission, SBC, published this newsletter for members of the society.

In 2001 the society jointly published, along with the Whitsitt Baptist Heritage Society, the nine-pamphlet series titled "The Baptist Style for a New Century."

In 2002 the society released the 120-page *A How-to Manual for Your Church's History* that offers guidelines for church history committees.

In 2003 the society released five booklets in "The Baptist Heritage Library" series. Titles included: *Who Interprets the Bible for Baptists? Issues Testing Baptist Polity*, *Women's Place in Baptist Life*, *Challenges Confronting Baptist Missions*, and *Religious Liberty and Church-State Separation*. The society later added 10 other booklets to the series: *The Crafts of Preaching and Writing Baptist History* (2004), *An Introduction to Baptists* (2005; rev. ed. 2008), *An Introduction to Baptist Principles* (2005), *Freedom: The Key to the Baptist Genius* (2006), *A Short History of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Movement* (2006), *Baptist Prophets: Their Lives and Contributions* (2006), *The Meaning of the Baptist Experience* (2007; including a New Baptist Covenant edition in 2008), *Baptist Theology: A Really Short Version* (2007), *Baptists and the Lordship of Christ* (2008), and *Music and Worship: The Emerging Experience of Baptists* (2009).

In 2005 the society, jointly with Mercer University Press (MUP), published two books: *Courage and Hope: The Stories of Ten Baptist Women Ministers*, edited by Pamela R. Durso and Keith E. Durso, and *Women Deacons and Deaconesses: 400 Years of Baptist Service*, by Charles W. Deweese.

In 2007 BH&HS and MUP co-published *No Armor for the Back: Baptist Prison Writings* (soft cover and hard cover editions), by Keith E. Durso. BH&HS and Fields Publishing have published other books through the Baptist History Book Publishing Program, such as *In Every Good Work: A History of First Baptist Church, Greensboro, North Carolina* (2009), by Scott P. Culclasure; *Leading for 200 Years: The Story of First Baptist Church of Huntsville, Alabama* (2009), by Bruce Gourley; and *The Twelve Baptist Tribes: A Historical and Statistical Analysis* (2007), by Albert W. Wardin Jr.

The society also has published on its own *The Story of Baptists in the United States* (2006), by Pamela R. Durso and Keith E. Durso; eight pamphlets in the "Baptist Origins" series (2006); *No Longer Ignored: A Collection of Articles on Baptist Women* (2007), edited by Charles W. Deweese and Pamela R. Durso; *Henry Clay Vedder: His Life and Thought* (2008), by Dwight A. Honeycutt as part of the Baptist Dissertation Series; *A Capsule History of Baptist Principles* (2009), by William H. Brackney; *A Capsule History of Baptists* (2010), by Bruce Gourley; *Seminary in Crisis: The Strategic Response of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary to the SBC Controversy* (2010), by William E. Hull; *On Mission With God: Free and Faithful Baptists in the 21st Century* (2011), edited by Pamela Durso and William O'Brien; and *An Experiment in Christian Internationalism: A History of the European Baptist Theological Seminary* (2013), by Carol Woodfin.

Currently the society works in partnership with Nurturing Faith Publishing to produce local church history volumes in a coffee table book format.

In addition, the society's digital publications include: *The Baptist Studies Bulletin* (monthly, 2010-present); *Baptists and the American Civil War: In Their Own Words* (www.civilwarbaptists.com), a daily five-year digital project created and written by Bruce Gourley (2011-15); and *Church-State Separation: A Historical Primer* (www.wallofseparation.us) (2011-present).

Fellowship of Baptist Historians

In 2000 the Fellowship of Baptist Historians created itself as an auxiliary to the BH&HS. Fellowship bylaws and a list of charter and more recent members appear at www.baptisthistory.org. The fellowship meets annually prior to the BH&HS meeting, offers a program, elects officers, and conducts other business.

How you can invest in the future through the Baptist History and Heritage Society

The scope of the work and ministry of the BH&HS is dependent upon the generous financial support of Baptist individuals who are committed to the future of their faith.

Annual giving to the BH&HS is an investment in the growth of your faith identity and values.

An investment at the giving level with which you are most comfortable enables the Society to communicate your faith identity and values to current and future generations.

- Patrons (\$100-\$499)
- The Advocates Club (\$500-\$999)
- The Freedom Club (\$1,000-\$4,999)
- The Legacy Club (\$5,000-\$9,999)
- The Founders Club (\$10,000-\$14,999)
- Partners in Heritage Advancement (\$15,000-up)



Beyond any one year, your faith legacy can forever be advanced through planned giving to the Baptist History and Heritage Society. BH&HS Executive Director Bruce Gourley will be happy to talk with you about how a significant annual gift or long-term planned giving to the Baptist History and Heritage Society is an investment in an informed, vibrant, and compelling Baptist future. Contact Bruce at:

(406) 599-1754
brucegourley@baptisthistory.org

To make a *tax-deductible* donation ...

Mail a check to:
Baptist History and Heritage Society
151 Broadleaf Dr.
Macon, GA 31210

Or, donate at:
www.baptisthistory.org

*An investment in the Baptist History and Heritage Society
... is an investment in the future of your faith identity and values.*

Baptist Identity Resources



[CASH & CARRY]

*CHECKS ACCEPTED / \$25 MIN. CC PURCHASE

\$5

A Capsule History of Baptist Principles (Brackney)
A Capsule History of Baptists (Gourley)
A How-to Manual for Your Church's History (Deweese/etc.)
The Story of Baptists in the United States (Durso/Durso)

\$10

A Festschrift in Honor of Carolyn DeArmond Blevins

\$5 / \$10 / \$15

Miscellaneous books published by Mercer University Press

[ORDERS ONLY]

***SEE SAMPLES AT BH&HS CONFERENCE DISPLAY**

\$10

An Experiment in Christian Internationalism (Woodfin)

\$125

[CASE OF 14]

The Story of Baptists in the United States (Durso/Durso)

\$20

The Twelve Baptist Tribes in the USA (Wardin)

\$5

(SEE BELOW)

- (10) Baptist Heritage Library booklets
- (2) Baptist History & Heritage journals (through 2015)
- (50) Baptist Origins pamphlets
- (50) Baptist Style pamphlets
- (1) Baptists in Europe: History & Confessions of Faith (Parker)
- (1) Henry Clay Vedder: His Life & Thoughts (Honeycutt)
- (1) No Longer Ignored: A Collection of Articles on Baptist Women (Deweese/Durso, eds.)
- (1) On Mission with God: Free and Faithful Baptists in the 21st Century (Durso/O'Brien, eds.)

**To receive these special prices, take this sheet to the BH&HS conference display!*

****All display samples will be available for either purchase or to give away at 11 a.m. on Wednesday.*

2017 Baptist History and Heritage Society Conference
June 1-3 / Augusta, Ga.

*Biographies and Narratives:
Baptist Experiences and Convictions*

*Hosted by:
First Baptist Church
Augusta, Ga.*

