

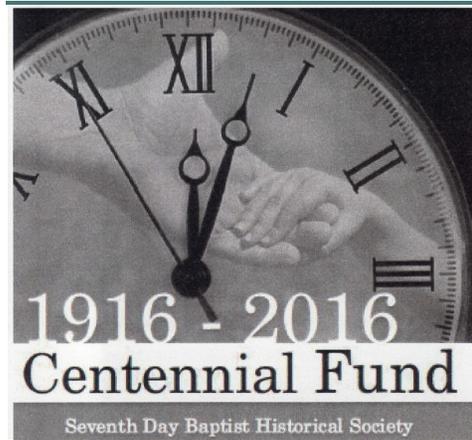
Handing Down Our Story

1916-1925

The Seventh Day Baptist (SDB) Historical Society will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2016. In honor of this milestone and to preserve our churches' and members' stories, the Historical Society created the Centennial Fund. Learn about the goal and the details of the Centennial Fund in the Centennial Fund flyer available through your church or the SDB Historical Society (www.sdbhistory.org).

The Historical Society wants to whet your appetite for stories from our rich heritage over the next months by sharing a few interesting tidbits from the Society's history one decade at a time. Let's start at the beginning: The Historical Society was incorporated on June 28, 1916, "to collect and preserve all available books, papers, documents, and other objects and articles of historical value and interest to Seventh Day Baptists."¹

Early additions to the Historical Society collection included the Julius F. Sachse collection of historical materials relating to German SDBs in Pennsylvania. (Hopefully, you have visited or plan to visit the Ephrata Cloisters!) If you have more interest in museums than libraries, the Historical Society also acquired the chair of Elder Thomas Hiscox (1686-1783) in its first decade. Elder Hiscox's father, William, was the first pastor of the Newport, RI, SDB Church. Thomas became the pastor of the Westerly, RI, SDB Church in 1727.



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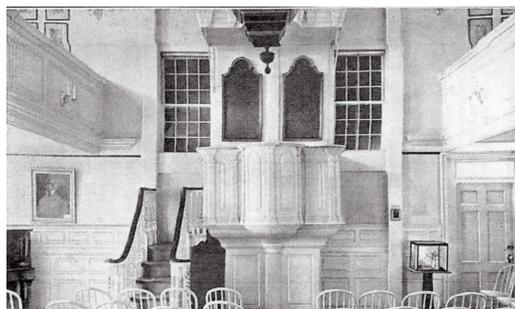
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The Newport church received much attention in the first decade of the Historical Society. The first SDB church in America celebrated its 250th anniversary in 1922. In that year, 300 General Conference delegates and friends traveled by railroad and steamer from Ashaway to Newport for a special commemorative session.



Interior of
Newport SDB
Church (1922)

(The Newport church continues to be important in our denominational history. Janet Thorngate, the current Historical Society president, just completed a book that includes the Newport church records and describes the church in its larger historical context. The book, expected to be published later this year, is part of a series on colonial Baptist history.)

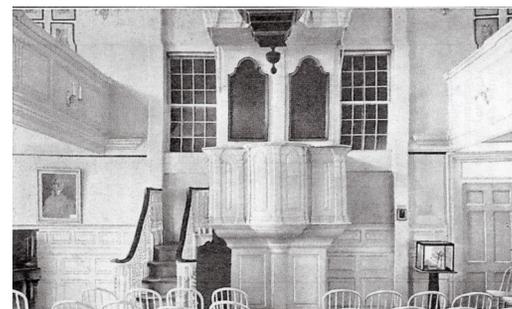
In 1924, the Historical Society completed the sizable task of distributing copies of *Seventh Day Baptists in Europe and America*, a two-volume book, to 135 libraries around the world. We shared our history across six of the seven continents—only Antarctica has an excuse for not knowing about Seventh Day Baptists!

In that first decade, the Historical Society struggled to establish the physical location of the library and museum in the new denominational headquarters in Plainfield, NJ. As stated in its 1923 report, “the income of the Society is small, at best.”² Today the income of the Historical Society is still small, at best, to cover a library and museum collection that has grown exponentially since 1923. Please consider a gift to the Centennial Fund to help ensure that our SDB history is preserved!

¹ Randolph, Corliss F. “Report of the Committee on Denominational History.” 1917 SDB Yearbook (1917): 35. Print.

² Randolph, Corliss F. “Report of the Committee on Denominational History.” 1923 SDB Yearbook (1923): 44. Print.

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