

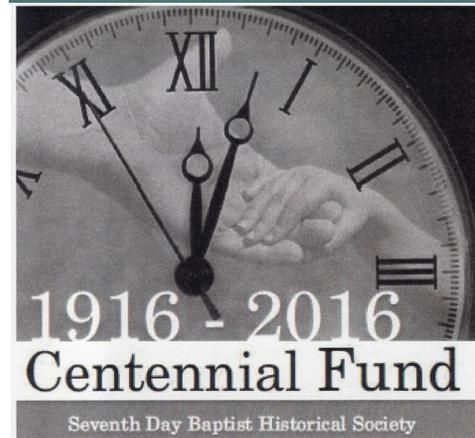
Handing Down Our Story

1936-1945

This third installment of the Seventh Day Baptist (SDB) Historical Society's decade-by-decade history of its first 100 years covers a pivotal period in United States history—the end of the Depression and World War II.

President Franklin Roosevelt established the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in 1935 to provide employment to millions of people. Although mostly remembered for infrastructure projects (highways, bridges, parks, airfields, etc.), the WPA also managed writing, art, and theatre projects. The scope of the Federal Writers' Project covered historical research, including that of SDBs! In 1939, the SDB Historical Society librarian, Corliss F. Randolph, and library assistant, Evalois St. John, responded to numerous WPA information requests. In addition, a corps of WPA workers spent three months in the SDB Historical Society library gathering notes about SDB history and cataloging historical materials. The WPA used the information that they collected in several books. For example, Tour 29 in [The WPA Guide to New Jersey: The Garden State](#) lists stops in Marlboro and Shiloh, the descriptions of which include SDB history and contemporary observations like this of Shiloh: "All Shilohites keep Saturday as their Sabbath; on Sunday all business places from the post office to the blacksmith shop are active, and the weekday wash adorns lines in backyards."¹

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Corliss F. Randolph and Evalois St. John working in SDB Historical Society office (1938)

In 1938, SDBs were “urged to send historical material to the society for safe-keeping and use.”² We make this same request today. The SDB Historical Society library collects and preserves publications and primary source materials (organizational records, correspondence, memoirs, etc.) dealing directly with SDB churches and associations, and the Sabbath (history, theology, and practice of Sabbath-keeping).

Learn more 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).

¹ Federal Writers' Project. *The WPA Guide to New Jersey: The Garden State*. San Antonio, TX: Trinity UP, 2013. American Guide Ser. *Google Books*. Google, 2013. Web. 28 Feb. 2016.

² Norwood, J. Nelson. “Report of the Council Committee on Denominational Outlook Concerning the Report of the Historical Society.” 1938 SDB Yearbook (1938): 23. Print.

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