

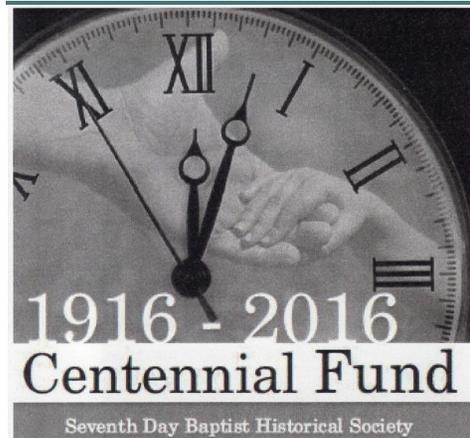
Handing Down Our Story

1966-1975

With this installment of the history of the Seventh Day Baptist (SDB) Historical Society, we enter the second half of the society's history. In 1966, the Historical Society celebrated its 50th anniversary by telling the story of its inception. The society also helped commemorate another anniversary during this decade—the 300th anniversary of SDBs in America. Tacy Hubbard (the first Sabbathkeeper in America), her husband Samuel, and Stephen Mumford established the Newport, RI, church in 1671. The Historical Society helped produce a play titled “Freedom for Faith” to bring their story to life. Summer Christian Service Corps (SCSC) members comprised the cast and performed at several New England churches including a special presentation at the Newport church for General Conference attendees.

In this decade, Al Rogers, the historian, and several contributors completed the third volume of Seventh Day Baptists in Europe and America. The first two volumes covered SDB history up until 1900. The third volume related the history of SDBs from 1900 to 1955. Together these three volumes comprise a comprehensive history of the first 280 years of our denomination in Europe and the U.S. They include histories of our churches and biographical sketches of our leaders.

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trustee for even longer. The society acknowledged Mrs. Stillman's contributions upon her passing in 1965.



Another woman who devoted many decades to the Historical Society retired from her librarian post in 1969. Evalois St. John started as an assistant to Corliss F. Randolph, the society's founder, in 1937. In 1954, Ms. St. John became the librarian. Ms. St. John did not fully retire in 1969; she continued to serve the society as a part-time consultant.

Evalois St. John

The year 1973 marked the first presentation of a gold-headed cane to recognize someone for his assistance to the Historical Society. The society presented the cane to Rev. John Randolph for his contributions to denominational history and genealogy.

SDBs have a rich, vibrant history. The Historical Society recognized the importance of completing library tasks to enable the sharing of that history with researchers around the world. Consequently, during this decade the society kept busy indexing and microfilming The Sabbath Recorder, adopting the Library of Congress classification system, and listing its collection for bibliographies. The library even provided audiovisual services by mail: churches could borrow color slides and taped scripts. These audiovisual sets covered topics such as the China mission, special communion sets, the Ephrata Cloister, and pioneer SDB families.

Please help the Historical Society continue to share the denomination's dynamic history with SDBs and non-SDBs alike. 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).

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