

Handing Down Our Story

1996-2005

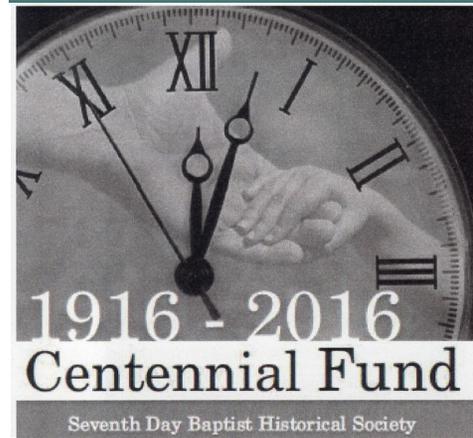
In this centennial year of the Seventh Day Baptist (SDB) Historical Society, we are highlighting the activities of each decade of the society one bulletin insert at a time. The decade from 1996 to 2005 included a number of partnerships with non-SDB organizations that provided opportunities to share SDB beliefs and the roles of SDBs in American history.

In 1997, the historian, Rev. Don Sanford, assisted the Milton (WI) Historical Society with its process to have the Milton House, business of SDB town founder Joseph Goodrich, listed as a national landmark station in the underground railroad. Among the materials that Rev. Sanford unearthed were news articles of the imprisonment of Pardon Davis, an SDB sentenced to 20 years in prison for aiding runaway slaves in Louisiana.



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Gov. Samuel Ward, 1725-76

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The association picked Rhode Island because it was the only colony with a Baptist governor and a majority of Baptists in the legislature. The legislators included SDBs and the Baptist governor was actually a Seventh Day Baptist—Samuel Ward. Because of SDBs’ involvement in the association, Dr. Kenneth Smith and Dr. Ernest Bee of our denomination were invited to participate in the planning of the 300th anniversary celebration.

The Historical Society partnered with the Brazil SDB Conference to translate into Portuguese and publish *Conscience Taken Captive*, the condensed history of SDBs. The society also raised funds to paint the interior and repair the plaster ceiling of the SDB meeting house in Newport, Rhode Island.

After Rev. Sanford became historian Emeritus in 2005, the Historical Society and new historian Nick Kersten began the process of automating the library catalog and established a website, providing a new means to share SDB history with a worldwide audience of SDBs and non-SDBs.

In 2005, Mr. Kersten presented a paper at the annual meeting of the Baptist History and Heritage Society on the life and ministry of U.S. Senator Jennings Randolph titled, “Jennings Randolph: Servant, Statesman, and Seventh Day Baptist.

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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