



Autumn 2016
Contributor
Issue

Seventh Day Baptist Council on History

History Happenings

A Special Issue for SDB History Friends, Patrons, and Legacy Partners

Wayne Maxson
honored for service



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Conference Celebrates HS Centennial

With a good Sabbath afternoon crowd at Houghton College on August 6, 2016 General Conference celebrated 100 years of the SDB Historical Society's service in preserving and communicating SDB history. On the theme "It's All About People," Director of Education and History Nicholas Kersten and the Council on History members led in remembering and honoring the dedicated individuals who worked as founders, board members and officers, librarians and historians, volunteers and benefactors.

Program highlights featured hundreds of pictures from the archives including all 18 recipients of the Society's Gold-Headed Cane award, an effort to highlight the wide variety of ways people help preserve and share our heritage as a people. Mini-stories illustrated specific contributions and events throughout the

century. As representative of many whose quiet work goes unnoticed, Wayne C. Maxson was honored for his long service in both advisory and hands-on roles from early library cataloging to the current automated library management system which puts the whole library and archives in one database allowing for computer searching and retrieval of our resources from many locations.

Society Life Members (now Patrons of SDB History) were asked to stand, then Annual Members (now Friends of SDB History), then former board members, etc. down to church clerks and people who read history or make history until all were standing to remind us that we all share responsibility to preserve and share our history.

The program closed with a five-minute video prepared to show in churches and other "live" settings as well as online.



Corliss Fitz Randolph
First Historian

Seventh Day Baptist
Historical Society

100 Years !



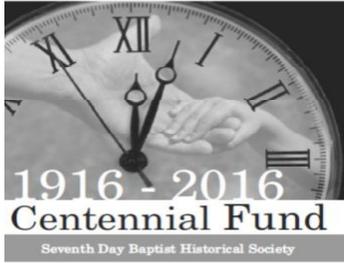
1916

2016



Nicholas J. Kersten
Current Historian

Capital Campaign Builds Centennial Fund for Future



If you are a Friend of SDB history, consider becoming a Patron.

If you are a Patron of SDB History, consider becoming a Legacy Partner-- now or any time in your future.

Throughout this centennial year we not only celebrate the accomplishments of the past 100 years. We challenge Seventh Day Baptists of this generation to invest in the future. Our centennial year research reveals what a huge share of the resources that we have for collecting, conserving, and researching the SDB story are available because 20th Century SDBs invested in the future of this story-telling work. Already, 21st Century challenges highlight the need for additional endowment as well as generous current giving.

Whether or not you were able to share in the celebration at General Conference, we hope you have been able to follow the

story as it unfolded in a series of leaflets (styled as bulletin inserts), each tracing one decade of the century. These are all available on our website (SDBhistory.org) to read there or download. It's not too late to use them all as fliers or bulletin inserts! Likewise, the series of centennial *Sabbath Recorder* articles (January, April, and one-to-come) are still available to read or download from SDB and *SR* websites.

There's more! Watch on our website for the full voice-and-picture slide show we presented at Conference and the 5-minute centennial video shown there and soon to be viewed on the SDB social media sites --and in your church if you'll show it there.



Warner Donates Book Proceeds for Fund

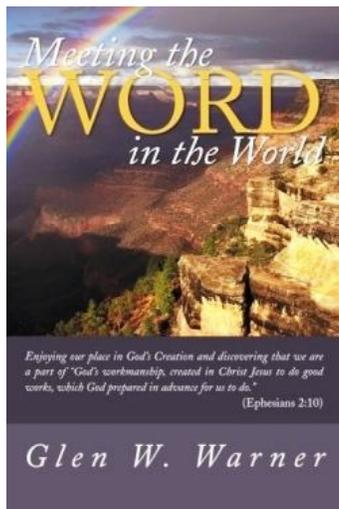
Anyone who contributes \$25 or more to the Historical Society Centennial fund before the end of 2016 will receive a copy of *Meeting the Word in the World*, a devotional book by Rev. Glen W. Warner, retired SDB pastor and long-time Patron of SDB History. Glen is donating copies of his book; thus, all the money goes directly into the endowment.

In short, two- or three page reflections, Warner asks us to step back to admire the workmanship of God, asserting that those who notice the glory of nature fully accept their place in God's kingdom. The book provides coordinates for sacred spaces full of wonder and shows how we can find peace and focus in a chaotic

world, "enjoying our place in God's Creation and discovering that we are part of 'God's workmanship created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.'" (Ephesians 2:10)."

By midyear we had received over \$25,000 toward the Centennial Fund goal of \$300,000. Over \$1,000 was added Conference week, most of it from the book promotion. Good readings for daily personal or family devotions, the books also make special gifts.

Please consider helping insure the SDB story with a cash contribution, planned giving as part of your estate, or other option. Check boxes on the back page!

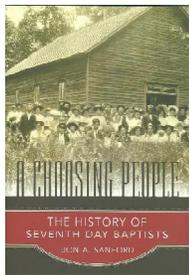


←1936

SDB
Historical
Library

2016→





A Choosing People: The History of Seventh Day Baptists

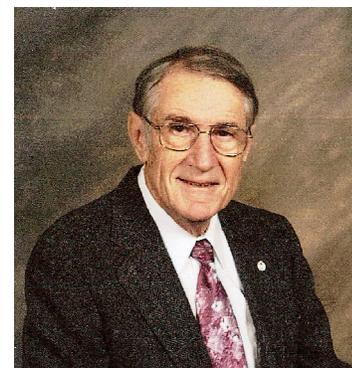
2nd edition, by Don A. Sanford

Kindle E-book \$12; Nook \$10

Hardcover: SDB Center, PO Box 1678, Janesville WI 52547 or
www.seventhdaybaptist.org (Click on “Store,” then “Books”)

\$35.00 (or \$31.50 for SDB Friends, Patrons, and Legacy Partners)

See back page to order by USPS.



Rev. Paul Green received the Gold-Headed Cane award for eighteen years service as Historical Society board member and treasurer, 1998-2016.

SDBs Enter the Digital Library World

When the microfilm reader-printer in the SDB Historical Library died just before Conference this summer, it was not as big a catastrophe as it would have been a year ago, but the event requires shifts in priorities as we adjust to changing technology.

Microfilm remains the standard format for preserving historical documents long-term, and many of our most important books and manuscripts are now on microfilm. If Joan Doe, writing her church’s history, wanted to read a specific 1923 *Sabbath Recorder (SR)* article, she could call Nick and he or the assistant would find it on the microfilm reader, print it out or scan it and send it to her. (Twenty years ago we’d have pulled the bound volume off the shelf, hauled it to the photocopy machine, etc.)

In 2015 and 2016 we had all issues of SR (1844-2015) scanned (from the microfilm by a commercial company) to create digital copies. It was a \$21,000 project. Within a year (we hope), when Joan goes to the *SR* index already on our website (SDBhistory.org) and finds more *SR* articles she wants, she will be able to find those volumes on the website, locate the articles, and read them on her own computer or print out copies. It won’t be necessary to call or e-mail Nick. He’ll have time for the more complicated questions--or for people who don’t have the computer capability.

When the Council on History had its first annual meeting last May, they devoted considerable time to brainstorming ideas of where they’d like

to be five and ten years from now: what programs, publications, celebrations (Newport church 350th in 2021), what audiences, what new resources to obtain and how to make them accessible.

The brainstorming led to revision of goals and priorities for 2017 and 2018 when they had projected digitizing of the older SDB periodicals (*SDB Missionary Magazine, Protestant Sentinel, SDB Register, SDB Memorial*)--another \$7,000 project. Death of the microfilm reader-printer confirmed delay of scanning the less-called-for periodicals. Priority now is upgrading the Website for easier use with focus on preparing the newly scanned *SR* files to be placed there and expanding the *SR* indexes there.

New strategies began to emerge for accomplishing these and other tasks as we adjust to having a part-time executive. Individual council members have begun taking responsibility to recruit and work with volunteers in specific task areas: Kim with the indexing and data base oversight, Janet with collection development and scope, Judy with church relations and communication, Tim with data conversion and Web-site management, Helmer with Hispanic resources and relationships. Think about where **you** can help!

Newport Book Announced

Mercer University Press’s Fall Catalog announces January 2017 publication of Janet Thorngate’s book, *Baptists of Colonial North America: Newport, Rhode Island, Seventh Day Baptists*. It contains the fully indexed history and annotated records of the first SDB Church in America. 512 pages, \$60. Also available from Amazon.com

SDB Council on History

Meets in May in Janesville.

Meets online 4 to 6 times a year.

Chairman--Janet Thorngate

janvanthorn@aol.com

Secretary--Judy Parrish

First Historical Society Trustees → 1916 → 2016 → Last Historical Society Directors, First Council on History



*From left:
William M. Stillman,
Corliss Fitz Randolph,
Asa F. Randolph,
Esle Fitz Randolph,
Ethel L. Titsworth
Stillman and, inset,
Frank J. Hubbard*

*From left:
Nick Kersten, Director
Timothy Lawton
Janet Thorngate
Kim Merchant
Judy Parrish
Paul Green &, inset,
Helmer Umana*



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Our Mission

“...to preserve and communicate Seventh Day Baptist history and heritage and to develop and maintain a repository for safekeeping of archival and research materials relating to the history and culture of the Sabbath and Sabbathkeeping Baptists worldwide and to take appropriate measures to make the collection available to Seventh Day Baptists and others.”

*New addition to the Articles of Incorporation of the SDB
General Conference, USA & Canada, Ltd., effective 2016*

*Remembering our past to inform the present
and envision the future*

You may also order our books from the Conference website “Store” at www.seventhdaybaptist.org



Yes, I want to partner with the SDB Council on History to ensure that future generations remember what God has done for us and through us!

Name

Address

City

State Zip

Phone Number (optional)

E-mail Address (required for special Website privileges)

SDB Church Name (optional)

Please have someone contact me regarding a current or future contribution to the Centennial Fund.

I would like to ...

- be a Friend if SDB History from now through 2016 with this contribution of \$25.00 or more \$ _____.
- become a Patron of SDB History through this one-time contribution of \$250 or more \$ _____.
- contribute to the Centennial Fund, thus generating future endowment income \$ _____ (or check the box at bottom left of this page).
- make a general contribution toward operating funds \$ _____.
- order ___ copies of *A Choosing People* (\$35 each; \$31.50 for Friends, Patrons & Legacy Partners) \$ _____.

Make checks payable to
SDB Council on History

Thank you for your help to preserve and communicate SDB History & Heritage!