



History Happenings



Meet our Stars and Join the All-STAR Team!

One of the library's challenges, faced by many specialized libraries, is how to make our materials available to online researchers. In the olden days, researchers expected to travel to the library, pull out a card catalog drawer and rifle through index cards to search for their subjects. In these modern times, researchers assume that they will be able to complete their inquiries online.

Samantha Fick is our charter STAR volunteer. She has singlehandedly entered 775 records so far. Hooray, Samantha! At General Conference this summer, the Council on History issued a call for more STAR volunteers. More than a dozen volunteers signed up. The All-STAR team now includes Fran August, Justin Camenga, Madge Chroniger, Sandy Clare, Leigh Anne Crouch, Nathan Crouch, Samantha Fick, Dean Fox, Heather Gadd, Dianne Hibbard, Diane Merchant, Tom Mitchell, Gabriela Parra, Jewel Poole-Williams, Marva Shears, Raakeli Watt, and Jean Wynter-Barrett.

Historians and genealogists find *The Sabbath Recorder*, dating back to 1844, to be a valuable resource. The surname index is currently available on our website in a searchable PDF format. That is a good start but researchers still have to virtually rifle through scanned images of the original index cards.

We would love to have you join this All-STAR team. All you need is a computer with an internet connection. We ask for a minimum commitment of four hours per month but you set your own schedule. For more information about becoming a volunteer (including its perks!), check out the "Latest Updates" section of our website (<http://www.sdbhistory.org/>) or e-mail Kim Merchant at kmerchant150@gmail.com.

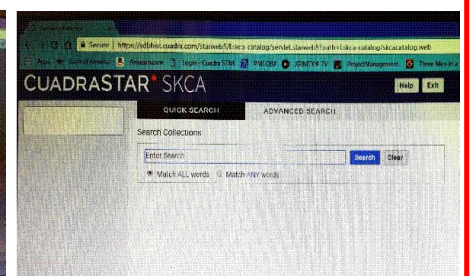
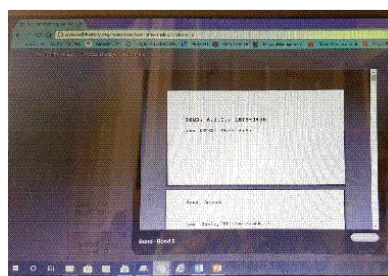
We are thankful for a burgeoning team of volunteers who are expanding our online catalog/index, CuadraSTAR, to include *The Sabbath Recorder* surname index. These STAR volunteers are currently creating records for each *Sabbath Recorder* issue to build the framework to house the surname index. Once this foundational task is complete, the fun challenge of simultaneously transferring and standardizing the surname index will begin.

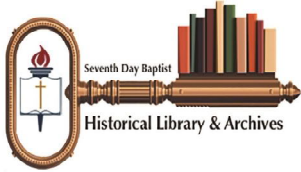
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PAST: Card File
PRESENT:
Scanned Cards to
leaf through online.
FUTURE:
Enter search word or
name to see list of
all articles, books,
photos, etc.





Every issue of the *Sabbath Recorder* is now in digital format--1844 to 2017. They are on the website www.sdbhistory.org. You can read them there or download to your own computer.

SDB Historical Library Comes to You

Digital Scanning Project On Track: Everything on microfilm, now also digital!

Yes, that's a **gigantic 1870s *Sabbath Recorder*** (at left) next to a full-sized laptop computer. You could now read it on your own computer. Just open it on our library website (www.sdbhistory.org) and read all nine columns of pages 1, 2, 3, and 4--or just the article you found in the SR index about your church's anniversary celebration in 1873. To locate an issue: Click on *Resources*, Click on *Sabbath Recorder*; Click the volume number (year), then the issue number, and begin reading. No cost involved. If you want to use the surname or churches-places-subjects indexes, you need to be a "Friend" (\$25 a year) or a "Patron" (\$250 lifetime) and request your pass code from nkersten@seventhdaybaptist.org. It will give you access to the indexes and the full library catalog. If you have problems with any of this, ask Tim Lawton for help: historywebhelp@seventhdaybaptist.org.

Once Tim has the rest of the *Recorders* up, he will be putting up the *SDB Yearbooks* (1802-present) and the earlier SDB periodicals (*SDB Missionary Magazine*, *Protestant Sentinel*, *SDB Register*, *SDB Memorial*). These and all other microfilm holdings have now been scanned. Next we will begin to scan some of the classic SDB books. Some can already be accessed through the website: Go to *Links* under *Resources*.



Some of the 300 books now in other libraries.

De-Accessioned Books Finding New Library Homes

Of the 600 books recently removed from the SDB Historical Library, more than half have already found new homes. Our book de-accession committee, after thorough investigation, had determined that the books do not fit our scope--are not helpful in studying or understanding the Sabbath or SDB history. The full Council voted in May to remove them. The goal then was to find a library or museum where they will be made available to researchers as part of an active collection. We did not have to look far for a start. The Wisconsin State Historical Society in Madison, one of the foremost American history and genealogical libraries in the country, selected 240 volumes which will be added to their extensive collections.

About 60 of our several hundred Bibles had earlier found homes. The remaining books will likely go in smaller batches to specialized libraries. Space is freed up and new needed projects uncovered! For more on the de-accession process see last fall's *Happenings* at www.sdbhistory.org



Council on History meets in May in the SDB Historical Library: from left, Tim Lawton, Kim Merchant, Director Kersten, Judy Parrish, Elon Sinclair, & Special Consultant Elizabeth Camenga. Chairman Thorngate Janet hides behind the camera.

Volunteers do much of our history work. We are happy to introduce our new genealogy volunteer, **Gay McRoberts**, a resident of Janesville and member of the Albion WI church. Gay especially enjoys researching church records (will do it for churches too!) but also other materials not yet accessible on our website.



Email Gay at genhelp@seventhdaybaptist.org

Thank you to the 53 churches who responded to our request to update the photo archives by sending a current picture of your pastor and of your church meeting place! Didn't do it? Please send good quality paper or digitals to Nick!

Ruth Burdick Receives Gold Headed Cane Award

At General Conference Kenosha, Wisconsin Director Nick Kersten presented the 21st Gold Headed Cane award to Ruth Burdick of the Seattle Area SDB church, honoring her for more than 25 years of service including 20 years as a Director of the SDB Historical Society and another five years on the five-person Futures Task Force that led through the complicated transition from Society to Council on History of the Conference. Now as a lifetime Patron of SDB History, Ruth continues to respond to calls for special service with interest and enthusiasm. Thank you, Ruth!



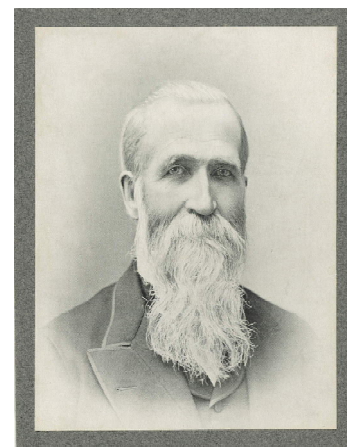
Current Pastors Learn from Early Newport Pastors on the Spot

What can 21st century pastors learn from 17th and 18th century ones? Quite a bit, it turned out as those attending Pastors' Conference in Ashaway, RI last April discovered on their afternoon in the restored 1729 SDB Meetinghouse in Newport, RI. Historians Nick Kersten and Janet Thorngate led them in a workshop on mentoring and ministering techniques used by five of their Newport forebears. Highlight of the afternoon, however, was their own a cappella singing in that ancient, sacred space.



Treasure Found and Preserved: Address on Slavery

In the late 19th century librarians often bound small pamphlets together as a "book" to preserve them. They could be stood up on library shelves. Many such volumes are in our library: tracts, published speeches, sermons, etc. Sometimes the "book" has a theme such as Sabbath tracts or sermons about baptism, but some have no relationship to others they are bound with. One example was the only known copy of an 1856 address on slavery to Alfred Academy students by SDB pastor and seminary professor Darwin E. Maxson (1822-1895). It was bound with pamphlets which have no relationship to SDBs or to slavery. Through a generous gift from one of our Patrons we had the too-tightly-bound book professionally dismantled, the speech scanned, and safely archived.

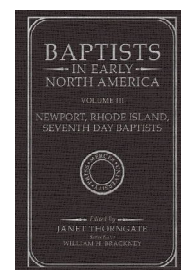


Darwin E. Maxson (1822-1895), pastor, professor, abolitionist.

Old Church Records Still Yield Surprises

Recent publication of Janet Thorngate's history of the Newport SDB Church and her transcription of the church's records has triggered additional research in other recently transcribed and published 17th and 18th century resources. See the May, June, and October *Sabbath Records* for what we've learned about Native American and African American members in our first American church. It may surprise you!

Order from us
(See back page) or
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501 Mercer Univ. Dr.
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SDB History Students Do Useful Research--Their Papers Soon Come to the Library

- ☞ SDBs in the Temperance Movement
- ☞ 1970s Commitment to Growth: Description & Evaluation
- ☞ New Push in the Old Frontier: New York City and Philadelphia SDB Churches
- ☞ Samuel Wheeler: Founder of the Boulder CO SDB Church
- ☞ Women in SDB History
- ☞ History of Shepherd's Fold Ministry SDB Church: A Lesson in Faithfulness & Persistence
- ☞ History of the Union Station/Bradenton SDB Church
- ☞ Biography of Robert B. St.Clair
- ☞ Forty-Four Churches and Fellowships Organized Since 1970 Still Meeting

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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.”

*Articles of Incorporation of the Seventh Day Baptist
General Conference, USA & Canada, Ltd.*

*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 Friend/ Patron 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 History Advocate in my church receiving information and materials to share.

I would like to ...

- be a Friend of SDB History in 2019 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).
- order ___ copies of *Newport RI SDBs* (\$60 each; \$54 for Friends & Patrons).
- order ___ copies of *A Choosing People* (\$35 each; \$31.50 for Friends & Patrons).
\$ _____.

Make checks payable to
SDB Council on History

Thank you for your help to preserve and communicate SDB history & heritage!