

99TH AND 100TH ANNUAL REPORT
SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY
1ST REPORT OF THE COUNCIL ON HISTORY
OF THE SDB GENERAL CONFERENCE
FOR THE YEAR 2015-16

“Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way...” (*Deuteronomy 8:2*)

VISION STATEMENT

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

MISSION STATEMENT

Within the total mission of Seventh Day Baptists, we believe we are called to provide perspective for current experience and for future planning through fuller understanding of and appreciation for where we have come from and how and why, through God’s leading in the past.

In order to do this we shall:

1. Maintain a library and archives for safe-keeping of and easy access to significant artifacts, documents, pictures, recordings and other materials relating to the history of the Sabbath and of Sabbathkeeping Baptists worldwide;
2. Provide for continuing research into the roots and history of the Seventh Day Baptist movement;
3. Communicate the history of Seventh Day Baptists through personal contacts and presentations, publications, and creative use of other effective media.

**SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY
(AND SDB COUNCIL ON HISTORY)
2015-2016**

OFFICERS (THROUGH APRIL 4, 2016)

PRESIDENT.....	JANET THORNGATE SALEM, WEST VIRGINIA
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT.....	KIM MERCHANT ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT...	HELMER UMAÑA WOODBIDGE, VIRGINIA
SECRETARY.....	JUDY PARRISH BATTLE CREEK, MICHIGAN
TREASURER.....	PAUL GREEN MILTON, WISCONSIN

DIRECTORS

JANET THORNGATE (CHAIR).....	TERM EXPIRING 2020
PAUL GREEN.....	TERM EXPIRING 2016
HELMER UMAÑA.....	TERM EXPIRING 2017
KIM MERCHANT.....	TERM EXPIRING 2018
JUDY PARRISH.....	TERM EXPIRING 2019

STAFF

NICHOLAS J. KERSTEN.....	DIR. OF EDUCATION & HISTORY
RINALD J. KERSTEN.....	LIBRARY ASSISTANT

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Deuteronomy 32:7- Remember the days of old; consider the generations long past. Ask your father and he will tell you, your elders, and they will explain to you.

Remembrance suggests obedience to what is remembered, the Word of God; to think of again for attention and consideration, producing appropriate action.

The vision statement of the Historical Society calls one to remember: “Remembering our past to inform the present and envision the future.” Seventh Day Baptists have been stirred to action throughout our history. We are fortunate indeed to have elders and fathers of old who recorded our past and yet speak to us today to explain the sacrifice, perseverance, and faithfulness to the Gospel of our SDB forefathers. To be strong and vigorous, a denomination needs the consciousness of great traditions. By highlighting our past, the Historical Society and its successor Council on History hope to inspire enthusiastic and devoted builders of our future. With this challenge before us, the 100th Annual Report of the Historical Society is herein presented.¹

Centennial Year and Centennial Fund

In 1863 General Conference created a Historical Board to preserve SDB history. Its work was later merged into that of the SDB Historical Society, incorporated in 1916 in order to purchase Julius Sachse's collection of Ephrata German Seventh Day Baptist materials. Since that time numerous artifacts have been collected and conserved, books and other materials have been written, milestone occasions have been remembered and celebrated, and enormous amounts of research have been done or facilitated in response to requests by SDBs and other individuals and agencies from around the world. Now, throughout the year 2016, we commemorate the Society's achievement of 100 years of dedicated service.

In response to Conference's urging, Director of Education and History Rev. Nick Kersten and Director of Communications Jeremiah Owen produced a Centennial video to illustrate the history and work of the Historical Society. It will be part of our program at General Conference and will be made available to the churches and in social media.

In letters to each church we sought History Advocates to advance awareness of our SDB heritage in their church, this year highlighting the Historical Society's work and promoting the Centennial Fund. To draw attention to this anniversary year, Directors Kim Merchant and Judy Parrish

¹ Last year's annual report (labeled the 98th) actually covered the Society's 99th year and part of the 98th because of the change in Conference's reporting year, from the fiscal year to its session-to-session year. Thus, the Society's last report, covering its 100th year, is labeled 99th and 100th so that the complete 100-year record actually appears to be complete.

prepared bulletin inserts from material found in the annual Society reports. Containing decade-by-decade highlights of Society work, the first and second inserts and the Centennial Fund brochure were mailed to History Advocates and churches, and posted on our website after an initial announcement on the SDB blog.

Subsequent inserts are posted on our website; those desiring print copies may contact Director of Education and History Nick Kersten.

The SDB Historical Society Centennial Fund brochure developed for that project in 2014 continues to be used in mailings and promotions, and is now available on our website to promote increase in our endowment to secure our mission for the future. We have attained approximately \$25,000 toward our \$300,000 Fund goal, including the proceeds of a life insurance policy from a generous donor. We also look forward to receiving the proceeds from the sale of the 2nd edition of Glen Warner's devotional book *Meeting the Word in the World*, which he has graciously offered to the Fund.

Publishing

Articles published in the *Sabbath Recorder* this year have included accounts of the founding of Fouke, Arkansas and the SDB church at Green End, Rhode Island, as well as recapping the award of the Morton Gold-Headed Cane to Rev. Dr. Paul Manuel at General Conference 2015. To highlight our centennial, articles have focused on the early trustees of the Society, on Dr. and Mrs. Alfred S. Burdick whose major endowment has supported Society work for over fifty years, and on librarians and historians of the Society.

Society President Janet Thorngate continues final work on her book *Newport, Rhode Island, Seventh Day Baptists* which Mercer University Press plans to publish in January 2017. It will be Volume 3 in the series *Baptists in Early North America*, Dr. William H. Brackney general editor. In over three hundred pages, it includes the history of the church in its historical context and the complete church records with extensive notes. Watch for spin-off *Sabbath Recorder* articles in 2017.

We continue pursuing a translation into Spanish of *Conscience Taken Captive: A Short History of Seventh Day Baptists*. We hope to have it available in the near future. The special November 2013 English/Spanish issue of the *Sabbath Recorder* on SDB history is still available. Copies may be ordered through www.seventhdaybaptist.org.

Education/Presentations/Meetings

The Library hosted the SCSC team of Elianna Chroniger and Josiah Lynch at the SDB Center in Janesville in 2015. Under Project Director Nick Kersten, they processed the many recent board and agency records into the archives in addition to their camp work and leadership training.

Director of Education and History Nick Kersten taught the online portion of the SDB History Institute course in early 2015 with Janet Thorngate assisting during the one-week section at the Center in August. Five seminary students and pastors were in the class.

Online video meetings using the Conference Fuze account were started in February 2016 and are held approximately every two months. The first meeting of the Council on History of the

Seventh Day Baptist General Conference was held at the Center in Janesville April 30-May 1, 2016.

From March 28 through April 8, 2016 Director Kersten taught SDB history as part of the
Zambian
TIME program under the auspices of the SDB Missionary Society to fourteen students.

Personnel/Volunteers/Facilities

We continue to be very appreciative of the valuable services of Library Assistant Rinald Kersten. His experience with library resources has enabled him to help much with reference assistance as well as library processing. We are pleased that the General Conference has employed Brittany Kersten as a part-time virtual administrative assistant to Directors Kersten, Pethel and Owen, releasing them to more primary tasks.

Rev. Justin Camenga and Rev. J. Paul Green have been working as volunteers on a photo labeling project. Since space is a continual issue for an archive that must expand year-by-year, a deaccessioning subcommittee is working to identify and appropriately dispose of items that do not fit our library and archives scope. Others have volunteered to assist in various library tasks.

The files were culled from the former offices of the Tract and Communication Council and the Council on Ministry at the SDB Center, and historically relevant materials were identified to be archived. In addition, the Board of Christian Education archives were brought to the Center for entry into the collection.

Library Services

The two-year project to digitally scan all 171 years of the *Sabbath Recorder* is scheduled for completion by the end of 2016, making them eventually available on our website (www.sdbhistory.org) so that our members can go there, search the index, find specific articles, and read or print them. The completion of this conservation for future generations and time saver for library staff was delayed by the need to first clean the microfilm from which they were scanned. That also added to the cost of the project. We still plan to digitally scan the earlier SDB periodicals, dating from 1825, and all SDB Yearbooks.

Reference assistance was rendered to Conference President Rev. Dr. Ken Chroniger; Pastor Carl Green; the Ephrata Cloister; Dr. Jeff Bach, Director of the Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies at Elizabethtown College; Tom Turick of the Burlington CT Historical Society; and Associate Professor of History and Africana Bibliographer at Michigan State University Dr. Peter Limb, who, in researching early 20th century Nyasaland/Malawi, was seeking a newspaper that no longer existed except in our collection.

Merger:

The SDB General Conference in 2015 voted to accept the plan, earlier accepted by the Historical Society membership (87-6), by which the SDB Historical Society would merge with the Conference. As of March 31, 2016 the merger was complete. Part of the Core Values Statement of the General Council references our heritage, guaranteeing a continued appreciation of the historical mission within the broader SDB context.

The sale of the Sachse collection to the State Archives of Pennsylvania, on long term loan to them since 1982, was not finalized by the time of the merger; but the Society directors approved the draft legal contract and added language to the merger document to provide for its completion. Remuneration comparable to the Historical Society's original outlay was included in the sale, we maintain access to the collection, and we retain ownership of about twenty-five items such as the Snow Hill illuminated hymn books, *Martyrs Mirror* book, and Sabbath books published at Ephrata. Correspondence with Ft. New Salem, West Virginia to transfer twelve items on long term loan to them was completed before the merger, with no financial consideration.

The SDB Historical Society concluded its business at the online meeting of March 20, 2016, voting that

“the minutes of this meeting show that this is the last meeting of the Seventh Day Baptist Historical Society Directors, thus closing the records of that Society at the end of 100 years. ...It is with humble appreciation for the service of the many people before us who have contributed to the Seventh Day Baptist historical work in that one hundred years that we look forward to continuing it when we meet on Sabbath night, April 30, 2016, as the Seventh Day Baptist Council on History of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference, USA & Canada, Ltd.”

The membership categories were converted due to the merger. All previous Life Members are now named Patrons of SDB History (see list attached), eligible for the same discounts and privileged access to resources as before. New Patrons will be named for a donation of \$250. For a contribution of \$25 or more others are designated Friends of SDB History and receive the same benefits for one year. A new category, Legacy Partners, honors those who contribute \$5000 or more to the preservation of SDB history. We invite all who value our SDB heritage to partner with us.

The Council on History desires that people have an understanding of its place in the denomination. We need a continued awareness of the meaning and significance of our heritage, not just storage space for it. Remembering, keeping alive the stories of past generations, and recalling the promises and challenges our forefathers embraced, will guide us on our own path and stir us to advance SDBs for the Kingdom of God, resulting in not only His glory, but in more narratives to inspire future generations.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY LIFE MEMBERS/PATRONS OF SDB HISTORY

DATES REFER TO YEAR JOINED

<p>1975 Wayne Maxson</p> <p>1982 Diane Merchant Thomas L. Merchant</p> <p>1983 Donna Harris Kenneth E. Smith Dale D. Thorngate Janet M. Thorngate</p> <p>1984 Victor W. Skaggs</p> <p>1985 Louise Crump</p> <p>1987 Bernard Yurke Jeanne Yurke</p> <p>1988 Calvin P. Babcock Meleta Babcock James Ayers</p> <p>1989 John D. Bevis Denise Crandall Jeff Crandall Patricia S. Curran Ronald Davis Denise Green J. Paul Green David Hauber Dorothy Lawton Gordon P. Lawton Kathryn Maltby Ronald Maltby</p>	<p>1989 (con't.) Melvin F. Stephan</p> <p>1990 Beverly B. Thorngate Stephen Thorngate</p> <p>1991 Marylene Tuck</p> <p>1994 Bonnie Mitchell</p> <p>1995 Gregory Smith</p> <p>1997 Donald Rudert Norma Rudert</p> <p>1999 Glen Curtis</p> <p>2000 Kevin Butler</p> <p>2001 G. Kirk Looper</p> <p>2003 Kim Merchant Rolleesa M. Phillips Paul Davis</p> <p>2004 Tim Bancroft Kenneth Burdick Ruth Burdick Marjorie Jacob Doug Clarke</p>	<p>2005 Terry Durst Allen Hauber</p> <p>2006 Matthew Berg Andrew Camenga Kristin Camenga Debbie Hargett Jeff Hargett John Pethtel Ruth Rogers*</p> <p>2007 Kurt J. Berg Janet Butler Sandy Clare Anne Lastinger Norma MacLuskie Judy Parrish Martha A. Shaw Jacinta Sterling Joyce M. Stillman</p> <p>2008 George L. Barber Leon Clare Robert Davis Dean Fox Susie Fox Teresa Kersten Mary Jane McPherson Myron McPherson Berwin Monroe Winifred Monroe Jacqueline Payne Joan Pierce Stephen Pierce Eric Rudert</p>	<p>2008 (con't.) Laura Streich Glen Warner Lawrence Watt</p> <p>2009 Ronald Bond Dorothea Givens Carl E. Polan John Rymer James A. Skaggs</p> <p>2010 Larry Brannon Faith Burdick Donna Bond Harold Burrows Nathanael Lawton Lisa Moore Kevin Palmiter Bill Probasco David T. Sheppard Augustus Tucker II Patricia Voyce</p> <p>2011 Mae Bottoms David Fox Ruby Hambleton</p> <p>2012 Jim Goodrich Ralph Hays Nadine Lawton Paul Manuel William Palmer Renee Sanford Brenda Lee Stickel Irene Tucker</p>	<p>2013 Cheri Appel Jean Jorgensen JoAnne Kandel Timothy Lawton Philip Lawton Jane Lewis Jean Lewis Alcott Lynch* Helmer Umaña Marie Zwiebel</p> <p>2014 Elizabeth Camenga C. Justin Camenga Nola Mae Gray Randy Kersten Jeff Lawton Mark Lewis</p> <p>2015 Rob Appel Jim Lyke Jasmine Lynch Sylvia Nida Worrall</p> <p>2016 Elizabeth Green Frank Green Doris Kennedy Wilma Sanford Douglas Wheeler</p> <p style="text-align: right;">*died in 2015/2016</p>
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IN MEMORIAM

In honor of those Historical Life members and Patrons who have departed this life.
(year inducted into life membership in parenthesis)

William D. Arthur (1989)	Emma C. Monn (1942)
Sherman E. Ayars (1917)	Anna C. North (1979)
Muriel R. Babcock (1969)	Charles H. North (1977)
Arlene Bee (1984)	Elizabeth M. North (1977)
Ernest K. Bee, Jr. (1984)	Etta N. O'Connor (1982)
Lelia Bishop (2008)	Muriel Osborn (1989)
Rena R. Bond (1939)	Paul B. Osborn (1989)
S. Orestes Bond (1917)	Gloria Palmer (2012)
Florence B. Bowden (1974)	Ruth H. Parker (1980)
Ruth R. Brooks (1974)	Clayton Pinder (2006)
Ella B. Burdick (1948)	Marie H. Prentice (1981)
Hannah S. Burdick (1975)	William A. Prentice (1981)
Margaret L. Burdick (1988)	Asa F. Randolph (1951)
Charles C. Chipman (1944)	Corliss F. Randolph (1916)
John A. Conrod (1976)	Else F. Randolph (1919)
Almeron M. Coon (1949)	Franklin F. Randolph (NY) (1919)
Ben R. Crandall (1961)	Franklin F. Randolph (WV) (1919)
John H. Crump (1985)	Greta F. Randolph (1969)
Elizabeth Daland (2000)	Jennings F. Randolph (1976)
Duane L. Davis (1988)	Jesse F. Randolph (1918)
Jean Davis (1989)	Lois F. Randolph (1951)
Ernest O. Davis (1918)	Mary F. Randolph (1919)
Karl R. Davis, (1967)	Marion H. Randolph (1919)
S. Kenneth Davis (1987)	Mildred F. Randolph (1919)
Sylvia Davis (1989)	Albert N. Rogers (1975)
C. Harmon Dickinson (1985)	Janette Rogers (1987)
Ethel D. Dickinson (1986)	Ruth Rogers (2006)
Elizabeth J. Green (1973)	Don A. Sanford (1989)
A. Mildred Greene (1969)	Ilou Sanford (1989)
Golda W. Gerat (1971)	Harriet L. Saunders (1981)
Clora S. Harris (1976)	Edwin E. Shaw (2007)
Everett T. Harris (1976)	Ardale C. Skaggs (1984)
Evelyn Hauber (1987)	Venita Soper (2012)
Frank J. Hubbard (1917)	Evalois St. John (1968)
William C. Hubbard (1919)	Yvonne L. Stephan (1989)
Kenneth V. Hulin (1981)	George S. Stillman (2007)
Mary R. Hulin (1981)	Karl G. Stillman (1976)
Benjamin F. Johanson (1961)	William M. Stillman (1916)
Leon R. Lawton (1989)	Robert Stohr (1991)
Nathan E. Lewis (1959)	Alfred A. Titsworth (1919)
Dortha Loofboro (2012)	Violet D. Trainer (1945)
Alcott Lynch (2013)	George B. Utter (1955)
Virginia R. MacIntyre (1949)	Daniel C. Waldo (1956)
Dr. Lewis H. V. May (2004)	Jessie B. Whitford (1917)
Terry Mendiola (1995)	Ruth W. Williamson (1949)
Marilyn Merchant (1995)	

LEGACY PARTNERS OF SDB HISTORY

In honor of those who have made lifetime financial contributions
of \$5,000 or more to the preservation of SDB history.

Mr. & Mrs. A. S. Burdick

Charles A. Chipman (in memory of Charles C. Chipman)

A. Mildred Greene

Asa Fitz Randolph

Greta F. Randolph

Norma MacLuskie

Mr. & Mrs. C. H. North

Julius Friedrich Sachse