



# Here & Now

Vol. 5

An update for Florida Baptist Historical Society Board of Directors and friends

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Dear Board Members and Friends of the Florida Baptist Historical Society,

Chastain Valentine Waugh (1848-1935) made his mark with Florida Baptists in four interesting ways. He was the first paid subscriber to the *Florida Baptist Witness*. He taught at the University of Florida. He served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Gainesville and he wrote the first Florida state song.



Chastain Valentine  
Waugh

Waugh was born on June 8, 1848, in Manchester, Virginia. He was baptized in 1866, and was a self taught brilliant man. He graduated from Richmond College in 1872, and was ordained in 1873. He studied at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1874 and became pastor of First Baptist Church, Gainesville in 1876. He served off and on in that capacity until 1886. Waugh married Fannie Howard McGill of Covington, Kentucky in 1878, and became a professor of ancient and modern languages at the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical College in Lake City in 1893.



First Baptist Church,  
Gainesville

Waugh saw the need for a state song (served as principal of Walton County Junior High in 1902) and had written a poem "Florida, My Florida" in 1893. The song was presented in the state legislature in 1913, and on May 12, became the official Florida state song. The song was arranged to the German air "Der Tannenbaum," better known in Florida as "O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree." The song was officially signed into existence by fellow Florida Baptist Governor Park Trammel (1876-1936), on May 12, 1913.

Kansas has a state song. Louisiana has two, West Virginia has three and Tennessee has seven. Florida has had a wobbly existence with state songs. Waugh had "Florida, My Florida," from 1913-1935. Stephen Foster had "Old Folks at Home" from 1935-2008, and Jan Hinton now has "Florida, Where the Sawgrass Meets the Sky" as the Florida state "anthem." Interestingly enough Waugh was born in Virginia, Foster never set foot in Florida and Jan Hinton is a native of England.

State songs are an issue unto themselves. But in Florida, it all started with a Florida Baptist pastor in 1913.

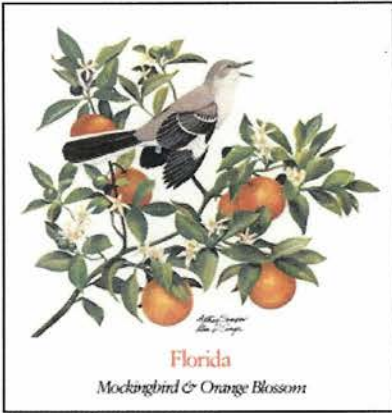
Honoring those who honor Christ,

Jerry M. Windsor  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Matthew 6:33



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### Florida, My Florida

Written by Rev Dr. C. V. Waugh

Land of my birth, bright sunkissed land,  
Florida, my Florida.  
Laded by the Gulf and Ocean grand,  
Florida, my Florida.  
Of all the States in East or West,  
Unto my heart thou art the best  
Here may I live, here may I rest  
Florida, my Florida.  
The golden fruit the world outshines  
Florida, my Florida,  
Thy gardens and thy phosphate mines,  
Florida, my Florida,  
In country, town, or hills and dells,  
Florida, my Florida,  
The rythmic chimes of the school bells  
Florida, my Florida,  
Will call thy children day by day  
To learn to walk the patriot's way  
Firmly to stand for thee for aye  
Florida, my Florida.  
Yield their rich store of good supply,  
To still the voice of hunger's cry  
For thee we'll live, for thee we'll die  
Florida, my Florida.



Park Trammel

