



Then & Now

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A monthly update for Florida Baptist Historical Society Board of Directors and friends

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Dear Board Members and friends of FBHS,

Two books need to be brought to the attention of all those who are interested in Florida Baptist history. These books are not particularly enlightening as it relates to worship, statistics, or denominational migration, but they do fill in gaps that can't be understood otherwise.

Rose Cottage Chronicles is the Civil War letters of the Bryant-Stephens families of North Florida. The slaughter of war and the day-to-day lives of Florida slaves come to the surface real quickly. This book is well documented and was published by the University of Florida Press from sources in the P.K. Yonge Library and the personal collections of relatives.

Baptist Faith in Action was published by the University of South Carolina Press. It is the diary and personal papers of Maria Baker Taylor—the granddaughter of Richard Furman. The family moved to the Ocala-Gainesville area in 1853, and they attended Baptist church services. By the way, they bought a 1,300 acre plantation in 1852 (Osceola) at Ocala and paid \$3 an acre. How would you like to have some of that action? This book is a talking encyclopedia of how the rural woman/plantation overseer lived. Day-to-day toils and trials make this volume a must read to understand how the members of our early Florida Baptist churches lived and died. Their hard work, abiding faith, and confidence in our Saviour was documented day after day.

The Florida Historical Society meeting in West Palm presented the opportunity to network with other Florida historical members and visiting scholars. Nick and Deborah Wynn are collecting and publishing valuable materials that give wonderful background and presence for our own Baptist work. If you are in the Cocoa area make sure you go by the library at 435 Brevard Avenue. Nick, Deborah, Miss Alma, Bob, and Speedy will make you welcome.

The trivia question last month was: What was the first church in the state to have televised worship services? The answer is: the Northwood Baptist Church in West Palm Beach. In 1958 they had a 30 minute program each Sunday.

For our photograph identification this month see if you can name the World War II veteran who reached the rank of Lt. Colonel. He later served as pastor of four Southern Baptist churches in Florida and made a tremendous contribution to the work of the Florida Baptist Historical Society. He died in 1970 and he and his wife, Frances, had four children. If you can name this Florida Baptist call me at (800) 328-2660, ext. 428; or email me at jmw@wfeca.net and receive a unique prize.

Honoring those who honor Christ,

Jerry M. Windsor
Secretary-Treasurer
Matthew 6:33



1946 photo