



# Then & Now

Vol. 3

A monthly update for FBHS Board of Directors and friends

No. 9

**September 2004**

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Jan Cunningham, Sec.

Dear Board Members and friends of FBHS,

This is a very busy time in our office. Jan Cunningham and Melissa Campbell are juggling three big projects as they carry on the day-to-day office work.

Our Fall journal should go to press on October 1. We have our FBHS Board meeting in Jacksonville on November 8 and our Sesquicentennial Celebration at Madison on November 20. Busy times in deed.

The ongoing research and recording of Florida Baptist history is an hour-by-hour and project-by-project saga. We now have over 1,300 biographical sketches in our data base—each one of those individuals is an interesting entity unto themselves.

Have you ever thought of how many medical doctors we have had to serve as Florida Baptist pastors and missionaries? This month I thought I would highlight three of these special people.

Joseph S. Baker (1798-1877) was one of the most remarkable Baptist ministers to ever serve in Florida. He was a man of education, wealth, and great faith. He served as medical doctor and pastor in Jacksonville and Monticello.



Joseph Baker

Franklin Washington Abbott (1845-1895) was a medical doctor, pastor who had a wonderful influence upon Baptist work in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties. His aunt Lizzie Abbott was also a medical missionary and gospel singer in West Florida.



Louise Fleming

Louise Cecilia Fleming (1862-1899) was a Baptist medical doctor and one of the most remarkable Florida women of the 1800s. She was born near Green Cove Springs—the daughter of a slave mother. She was educated at Shaw University and was appointed as the first black missionary of the American Baptist Convention. She served in the Congo and died of African Sleeping Sickness. Her life, service, and commitment have influenced hundreds of Baptists down through the years.

Dual occupations are not all that unusual. Faithful Baptist teachers, lawyers, farmers, salesmen, construction workers, and others have served as pastors, staff members, missionaries, and denominational workers from 1854-2004. We salute this month just three medical doctors who stepped over the line in dual calling and commitment.

Honoring those who honor Christ,

Jerry M. Windsor  
Secretary-Treasurer  
*Matthew 6:33*

**Last month's Trivia answer:** Payne Stewart

**New Trivia Question:** Who was the only person to serve as an interim Florida Baptist Convention executive director?