



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,

There is no greater blessing in this business than the "fellowship of the saints". I enjoy research, writing and publishing. Yet none of that compares to the experience of meeting new friends and receiving counsel from fellow believers. The Directors of State Baptist Historical groups met in Nashville on June 29th and the meeting outcome was interesting, informative and productive. Bill Sumners, of the Southern Baptist Convention Library and Archives, served as meeting host and every person brought good ideas to the table. Jim Baird (Broadman Holman) met with the State Baptist History researchers and Albert Wardin (Tennessee) assisted us in direction and goals. Laura Botts (Georgia) has been kind to Florida Baptists again in offering some second hand books, papers and resources we needed. Marlin Hawkins (Oklahoma) gave us a great overview of their history and works and Alan Lefever (Texas) reminded us of the potential benefits of all of us partnering with the Archivists, Librarians in Baptist Institutions (ALIBI). Lonette Berg (Alabama) gave us fantastic ideas on connecting with the local Baptist churches in our state conventions and her use of an Alabama Baptist history coloring book for children is brilliant. Edward McMillan (Mississippi) has studied history, taught history, researched history and made history. His comments on Baptist heritage and legacy were dead on. This fellowship/network meeting was so very helpful for each of us. I want to thank Bill Sumners for helping us pull it all together.

Virginia C. Love is now a favorite person at the Windsor household. Jerry Mae and I met and interviewed Virginia on our way to Nashville. Virginia is an attorney in the law offices of Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell and Berkowitz, PC in Chattanooga, Tennessee. She would be best known to Florida Baptists as the daughter of Marian Peeler Gray Cowherd, of Southern Baptist Foreign Missionary service. Marian was the wife of Rufus Gray of Fort Pearce, Florida, who was tortured to death by the Japanese in an internment camp in World War II. Rufus was the only Southern Baptist Missionary killed in a concentration camp in World War II. Marian and son, Billy, were freed by American soldiers in 1945 and returned safely to America. Marian then married Charles Cowherd (first Southern Baptist missionary couple to Indonesia) and Virginia was a child of this marriage. She is writing and researching material on the life of Marian Peeler Gray Cowherd. Our plans are to publish this as a monograph.

Thanks to Penny Baumgardner and Ashley Lain for their joining our office part-time team. No one could replace Jan Cunningham and her excellent work, but Penny will be our "Miss Jan" until we can get things worked out in the fall. Penny had worked with us part-time already, so much of the office routine is known to her.

Thanks to Judy Jolly for more preacher biographies and The Heritage of Escambia County, Florida, Volume II. Thanks to Tom Kinchen for a history of FBC White Springs.

Last months trivia question was: Name the Florida Baptist preacher who was pastor of a large Baptist church in Jacksonville and Atlanta; wrote, preached, lectured and lived evangelism...and was a physician. The answer: Len G. Broughton. He was pastor of FBC Jacksonville (1923-1928) and started a church and hospital in Atlanta.

The trivia question for this month: Who was the Florida Baptist preacher, baseball team chaplain in Spring Training for the Dodgers, Royals, Rangers and Expos, who sketched a picture of each player and then gave them a Bible verse? If you know the answer, call 850-263-9028 for a nice gift.

Honoring those who honor Christ,



Jerry M. Windsor
Secretary-Treasurer
Matthew 6:33



In July, 2007, Loren Mercer became pastor of Greenwood Baptist Church in Greenwood, Florida. Loren is the great-great-great grandson of Joshua Mercer (1788-1869) who was the first pastor of the Greenwood Church in 1845. Joshua Mercer was a brother of Jesse Mercer (1769-1841) of Georgia Baptist service and Hermon Mercer (1784-1854) of Georgia and Florida fame.