



Then & Now

Vol. 6

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

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Dear Board Members and Friends of FBHS,

The heart and soul of any historical society would have to be its personal papers. Books, data, monographs, microfilm, pictures and documents are vital for research but nothing increases the heartbeat of a true historian like the personal papers of an individual.

Now for two very important personal acquisitions. Dr. Bill Gray of Asheville, North Carolina and Virginia Love of Chattanooga, Tennessee have given the personal papers of Rufus Gray (1915-1942) and Marian Peeler Gray to the Florida Baptist Historical Society. These seven boxes of letters, diaries and pictures will no doubt be the source of academic research and missions publication for years to come. How grateful we are for these family items that have such rich Baptist lineage.

On November 13, 2007, Judy Jolly of Pensacola gave the FBHS the richest trove of church histories and ministerial biographical sketches we have ever received from one person. Through her dedicated and pain staking research Judy has donated 157 biographical vignettes and the histories of 154 churches. There are actually over 350 file folders of brand new material on Florida Baptist history and personalities from the western region of north Florida. Judy: thank you for your hard work and marvelous gift.

The second acquisition was from Mary Margaret Duncan Jones the daughter of Dr. Pope Duncan (1920-2003). Mary Margaret presented to the FBHS a copy of her fathers memoirs taken from his diaries and personal collections. She also gave us a volume of poetry written by her mother. What a joy! These volumes greatly enhance our collection of observations of the Florida Baptist Convention in the 1980's-2000 that is invaluable.

We had a great FBHS board meeting in Daytona Beach. Chair Carolyn Melton of Greensboro guided us carefully through our agenda and made two important presentations at the convention meeting. Dr. Pope Duncan was awarded the Heritage Award, received by his daughter Mary Margaret and Elaine Cox received the local Church History award for the Hillcrest Baptist Church in Pensacola.

The Trivia question for last month was name the Florida Southern Baptist Association that had foot washing as an ordinance in its constitution until 1927. The answer is the Lafayette Association. They had foot washing as an ordinance from 1891-1927.

Honoring those who honor Christ,

Pictures from FBHS Fall 2007 board meeting and FBSC.



Judy Jolly and Reginald Walters at Fall 2007 FBHS board meeting.



Carloyne Melton says thank you to Reginald Walters for his service with the FBHS.



FBHS Board members at the FBHS Fall 2007 board meeting. From L to R Don Hepburn, R. C. Hammack, Carolyne Melton (standing), Reginald Walters, Frances Shaw (standing) and Judy Jolly.



Mary Margaret Duncan Jones, Elaine Cox and Carolyne Melton at the 2007 FBSC where Carolyne made presentations.



Mary Margaret Duncan Jones at FBHS booth at the 2007 FBSC meeting in Daytona Beach.

