



# Here & Now

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

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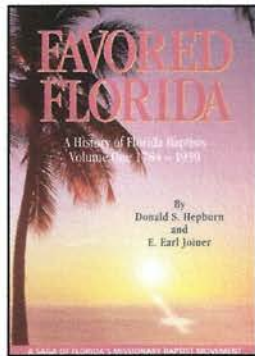
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Dear Board Members and Friends of the Florida Baptist Historical Society,



*Favored Florida: A History of Florida Baptists Volume One 1784-1939*, by Don Hepburn and Earl Joiner, is now published and will be for sale at the FBHS booth at the Florida Baptist State Convention meeting in Jacksonville, November 10-12, 2013. This brand new book on the history of Florida Southern Baptists is hard back with 466 pages of narrative, photographs, lists, sidebars, indexes, graphs and charts. The book is \$39.95 and can be purchased at our FBHS display booth by cash, check or credit card. After the state convention meeting the book may be ordered online at [www.favoredflorida.org](http://www.favoredflorida.org) for \$39.95 plus shipping and handling. This book is exciting history written in an enjoyable style about the people and places we love as Florida Baptists. The plan now is to publish volume two in 2015, and that publication will cover 1940-2015.

This wonderful book appeals to me for a number of reasons. My favorite part is the sidebars. Time, research and energy was exerted to highlight movements, structures, people, trends and organizations. When you get your copy may I suggest a top ten best sidebars to check out.

**John Leland** (p.47). An Erwin M. Hearne drawing is used to show Leland encouraging James Madison to be a standard bearer for religious freedom in the United States Constitution.



John Leland

**FBC, Campbellton** (p. 79). I spoke to their brotherhood last Sunday morning. My friend, pastor Luther Pumphrey, and his family are a fantastic family, and the whole church fellowship has a sense of their own historical place and destiny. This oldest Southern Baptist Church in Florida is only seven miles from my house.

**Joshua Mercer** (pp. 88-89). "Father Mercer" was born in Georgia in 1788, but he and members of his family cut a large Baptist path in Georgia and north Florida. This photograph was found at the Greenwood Baptist Church and put on loan to the Florida Baptist Historical Society.



Joshua & Mary Mercer

**Clifton Mansion** (p.111). The sidebar drawing by Seeber Fowler just makes me wish so much the fire that destroyed the dwelling could have been avoided. The Florida Baptist Convention was organized there November 20, 1854, and the desk where the papers were signed is in our office building, in the Heritage Village of the Baptist College of Florida.

**Indian Springs** (p. 126). What a beautiful unique church building. Pastor Greg Roberts and his people hosted our 2012 FBHS meeting and we shared wonderful fellowship and received a great overview of the church and its grand architecture style.

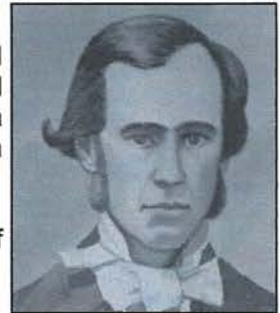




Concord Baptist Church

**Concord** (p.127). Walking around Concord Baptist church and grounds makes one feel that it is Baptist Smithsonian South. They have a grand heritage, a beautiful facility and a cemetery of Florida Baptist Who's who. In 2004, they were a major host for our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Florida Baptist work.

**T. J. Bowen** (p. 137). When you read about Thomas Jefferson Bowen you feel like you are on holy ground. Bowen was a Florida missionary before there was a Florida Baptist Convention.



T. J. Bowen

**"Cuba for Christ"** (p. 204). Only 90 miles off our Florida coast the spiritual needs of Cuba have long been on the hearts of Florida Baptists.

**E.H. Rennolds** (p.269). Hepburn and Joiner were recipients of the Great Gathering of Florida Baptist History led by Tennessean Rennolds. His family in Chattanooga still stay in touch with FBHS and are always helpful.



E. H. Rennolds

**Frank and Daisy Fowler** (p. 371). Our great admiration for this wonderful couple is exceeded only by our love and respect for their son and daughter-in-law, Dr. Franklin Fowler and Dorcas Fowler of Richmond, Virginia. Frank Fowler was the first Florida native to be appointed by the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. His son Franklin is a retired medical doctor, missionary, and friend. This sidebar is full of missions, commitment, and sacrifice.

Am I delighted about this new history of Florida Baptists? You can count on it. It's good information, interpretation, and inspiration. My wife has already bought the first copy. I plan to buy three more for Christmas gifts for friends out of state.

Come by our display booth at the Florida Baptist Convention meeting next week and pick up a copy. Investing \$39.95 in sound doctrine, interesting history, and delightful stories is a good investment.

Honoring those who honor Christ,

Jerry M. Windsor  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Matthew 6:33



Frank and Daisy Fowler