



# 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,

It is always a pleasure to have fellow researchers on campus. Edwin C. King is conducting in depth research on the history of Liberty Baptist Church of Grooverville, Georgia which was established in 1843. This is another of those Georgia/Florida connections that is so interesting. The first pastor of this church was our own R. J. Mays of (Concord Baptist Church) Madison County fame and the Father of the Florida Baptist Convention. Interestingly enough B. S. Fuller, Thomas Lang, Jesse Goodman, J. B. Lacy, and W. J. Bluett also preached at the Grooverville church. Most of these men lived in Georgia and preached in Florida. We still have Georgia preachers today who cross over the state line every week and preach and pastor in Florida.

One of our work assignments is to represent the Florida Baptist Historical Society at associational meetings. Here Jerry Mae and I join DOM Gene and Geraldine Stokes and pastor Preston Gainey at the 108<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Middle Florida Association.



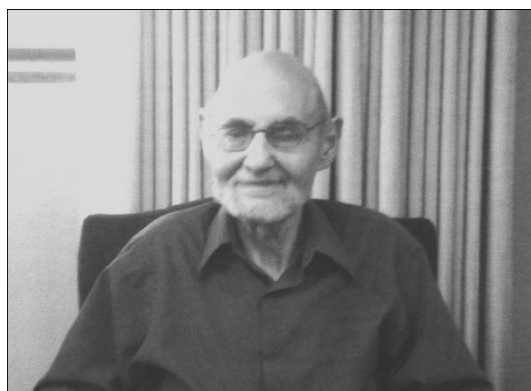
In 2009 we will be celebrating the 400<sup>th</sup> year of Baptist work. This is a picture of Don Hepburn at a Baptist seminar some of us attended at First Baptist Church Charleston, South Carolina. FBC Charleston was the first Baptist church begun in the south and it was organized in 1682.



Church secretaries are one of our finest examples of historical archiving and writing. Holly Lemons of First Baptist Church Apalachicola is pictured here with Jerry Mae Windsor. Holly is church secretary and is also doing extensive verbal and pictorial research of their church. FBC Apalachicola was organized in 1848, and is celebrating their 160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year!



Some of the finest writers are Baptist researchers. Pictured is Dr. Albert W. Wardin, author of *The Twelve Baptist Tribes in the USA*. Dr. Wardin traces the 95,000 Baptist Congregations in the USA back to 12 basic groups.



Honoring those who honor Christ,

Jerry M. Windsor  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Matthew 6:33