

The Florida Baptist Historical Society seeks to **preserve the legacy** of Florida Baptist pastoral leaders and laity, the past and present functioning Baptist churches, the State Convention's cooperating ministries and milestone events that were historically significant to Florida Baptists. The Society's mission is accomplished through a variety of ministry services provided to Florida Baptists. To underscore this emphasis the Society's monthly newsletter, LEGACY, seeks to highlight the legacy endowed by the people, churches and events in Florida Baptist history. During the next several months this newsletter will feature those persons whose legacy in Florida Baptist life was achieved in part, by their service as president of the Florida Baptist State Convention.

As noted in previous issues of LEGACY, since 1854 (excluding the seven years at various times the State Convention did not meet), the persons elected as president have included 78 pastors and 16 laypersons. The first two issues of LEGACY featured brief profiles on those 16 laypersons. Continuing this month, we provide brief profiles on selected pastors who served as State Convention president.

J. Dean Adcock, President 1934, 1935 and 1936

Jarrell Dean Adcock (b. 1876; d. 1944) was a pastor, music evangelist, church builder, missions advocate and denominational leader who represented a new era of pastoral energy and leadership skill that evolved out of the Great Depression. Prior to moving to Florida in 1909, Adcock served as pastor of three churches in Louisiana. His Florida pastorates included First Baptist Church, Tallahassee (1911 – 1919), First Baptist Church, Orlando (1919 – 1937), and Fifth Avenue Baptist Church, St. Petersburg (1937 – 1943).

Adcock's pastoral leadership resulted in his election for three consecutive terms as State Convention president. During the 1934 and 1935 annual meetings messengers approved the continued distribution of Cooperative Program income with 45 percent earmarked to the Southern Baptist Convention and the balance retained to support Florida mission endeavors. In a related action the messengers agreed that missions' promotion expenses be taken "off the top" of all Cooperative Program income before the division of funds occurs. The Children's Home at Arcadia was authorized to conduct special offerings in local church Sunday School classes to benefit the ministry of the Home.



J. Dean Adcock



Charles H. Bolton, President 1940 and 1946

Charles Houston Bolton (b. 1886; d. 1973), after graduating from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, served as pastor of churches in Alabama, Georgia and Florida. The Florida pastorates included First Baptist Church, West Palm Beach (1927 – 1939); Riverside Baptist Church, Miami (1944 – 1949) and First Baptist Church, Avon Park (1953 – 1959). Bolton also served ten years in denominational work. Although elected as president of the State Convention 1939, he resigned to become associate executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Relief and Annuity Board, until 1941. The State Board of Missions elected Bolton as executive secretary-treasurer, a post he held from 1941 – 44. It was during his pastoral tenure at Riverside Church, Miami, that he was elected as State Convention president to serve in 1946. A few years later, Bolton accepted the position of executive secretary of the newly organized Southern Baptist Foundation, a post he held between 1949 – 1953.

Charles H. Bolton

Among his contributions working for the State Board of Missions, Bolton negotiated a new plan of rural and city mission work in partnership with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board that provided for a cooperative 50-50 funding of the mission endeavor. And he was instrumental in leading the State Convention to pay off the debt on the six-story administrative office facility known as the Rogers Building.

Thomas Hanson, President 1945 and 1946

Thomas Hanson (b. 1897; d. 1964), was a native of Asbanras, Denmark, who moved to the United States at age 16 and was naturalized as a U.S. citizen at age 21. He attended the Divinity School of Des Moines (Iowa) University and the University of Florida. Hanson served four Florida Baptist churches during his ministry, which included: First Baptist Church, Newberry (1920 – 1925); First Baptist Church, Starke (1925 – 1926); Main Street Baptist Church, Jacksonville (1929 – 1950); and twice served the First Baptist Church, Ft. Lauderdale 1928 – 1929 and 1950 – 1962. He served two separate terms (1940 – 42; 1948 – 53) on the State Board of Missions including one year as Board president. That high-profile role resulted in Hanson being elected for two consecutive terms (1945, 1946) as State Convention president.

The State Convention approved a study committee on the Children’s Home at Arcadia with the intent to expand the ministry and relocate the facility to another part of the state. A report on the status of a proposed hospital to be built in Pensacola noted delays because of the lack of availability of quality construction materials due to World War II. Although the State Convention was not the sponsor of the hospital, the Convention agreed to provide additional funds to supplement construction funds.



Thomas Hanson



Children at the Children’s Home, Arcadia

C. Roy Angell, President 1949

Charles Roy Angell (b. 1889; d. 1971), was a dynamic preacher and prolific writer of books that featured antidotes and sermons on living the Christian life abundantly. Between 1936 and his retirement in 1962, Angell served as pastor of the Central Baptist Church, Miami, which he led to start 18 churches and 9 missions. Before going to Miami, he served as pastor of the First Baptist Church, San Antonio, Texas. Angell’s prior service included pastorates in Louisiana, Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina. In part due to his growing popularity as a writer and folksy preaching style, Angell was elected president of the State Convention to serve in 1949.

The messengers approved a plan to permit the Baptist Bible Institute, a ministry of the South Florida Baptist Association, to solicit contributions directly from churches in the 17 associations in South Florida region. The authorization was a waiver to longstanding policy restricting solicitation of churches beyond Cooperative Program promotion. In a commitment to underwrite mission efforts among university students, the State Convention authorized special allocations of \$25,000 each to First Church, Tallahassee and First Church, Deland.



Faculty 1946-47 with
Dr. C. H. Bolton



C. Roy Angell

The sequential order of State Convention Presidents between 1930 and 1949:

William D. Nowlin, 1930 – 1931

E. C. Collins, 1932 – 1933

J. Dean Adcock, 1934 – 1936

Thomas V. McCaul, 1937 – 1939

Charles H. Bolton, 1940, 1946

J. Harrison Griffin, 1941

William Sims Allen, 1942

J.E. Martin 1942 – 1943

Thomas Hanson, 1945 – 1946

Wallace R. Rogers, 1947

Doak S. Campbell, 1948

C. Roy Angell, 1949

A six member board, appointed by the State Board of Missions, governs the ministry and mission of the Florida Baptist Historical Society, which is a fraternal organization of the Florida Baptist State Convention [2019]

JERRY CHUMLEY
BRISTOL

THOMAS GREEN
JACKSONVILLE

DAVID LEMA
HIALEAH

ADMINISTRATIVE MINISTRY
ASSISTANT
PENNY BAUMGARDNER

DAVID ELDER
ST. AUGUSTINE

DONALD HEPBURN
JACKSONVILLE
SECRETARY-TREASURER

ROGER RICHARDS
GRACEVILLE