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Then & Now

Vol. 5

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

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Dear Board Members and Friends of FBHS,

Congratulations to Olive Baptist Church of Monticello, Florida upon the celebration of their 175th anniversary! Olive Baptist Church of the Middle Florida Association was actually already meeting in 1831 when court house records show that land was deeded for a church building. Pastor Harold Reams and his people had a wonderful day of celebration on July 9, 2006.

It was at this same Olive Church in 1853 that a resolution was passed requesting the formation of the Florida Baptist Convention (1854). Olive was in the Thomas County, Georgia Association before joining the Middle Florida Association.

Special appreciation is extended to the American Baptist Historical Society for their wonderful kindness and cooperation in permitting us to research "Florida materials" in their grand holdings at Rochester, New York, in July 2006. The Florida Baptist Historical Society has fewer than 2,000 holdings. The American Baptist Historical Society probably has over 1,000,000. Samuel Colgate gave over 250,000 items for their historical collection at one time. They have Florida Baptist and Florida Southern Baptist materials not found anywhere else. I found a hand written copy of the history of Eden Baptist Church of Hernando County written by John Tucker (pastor in 1848). They have copies of the Florida Baptist State papers that I had never seen before, such as: *The Florida Evangelist*, *The Southern Witness*, and the *Southern Baptist Witness*. They have a full collection of Columbia College catalogues (our Florida Baptist College from 1907-1918, that was located at Lake City). They also have the oldest Florida Associational Minutes I have ever seen including the 1839 Suwannee Baptist Associational Minutes. Betsy Dunbar was the research host for Jerry Mae and myself as we worked five days in the Colgate-Rochester-Crozer Library where the American Baptist archives are housed.

We want to thank the good people of First Baptist Church Polk City for sending us a copy of their church history, 1926-2006.

We continue to receive Convention Press books. You may go online and find our Convention Press holdings on our Florida Baptist Historical Society website.

Honoring those who honor Christ,

Jerry M. Windsor
Secretary-Treasurer
Matthew 6:33



Harold Reams, pastor, Olive Baptist Church in Monticello, FL



Betsy Dunbar, American Baptist Historical Society, standing in front of Colgate-Rochester-Crozer Divinity School.