

HISTORY MATTERS



THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE
AMERICAN BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*"Remember the former things, those of long ago;
I am God, and there is no other...I make known the
end from the beginning, from ancient times what is
still to come." Isaiah 46:9-10*

- * *Creating the Space*
- * *Ensuring the Vision*
- * *Sharing the Dream*

American Baptist
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Bringing Our Legacy to Light

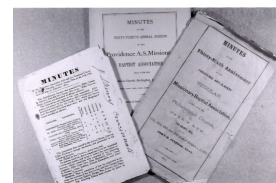
The Society's Beginnings

The American Baptist Historical Society (ABHS) is the oldest Baptist historical society in the United States and holds the largest and most diverse collection of Baptist materials in the world. It was established in 1853 at a meeting of the American Baptist Publication Society. The motion to organize was offered by John Mason Peck, pioneer Baptist home missionary. Those present resolved *"That the eminent labors of the early Baptists of this country, their self-sacrifices and their noble devotion to the cause of truth, and the important principles which have always distinguished the denomination, make it sacredly incumbent on us to associate for the preservation of all documents which can furnish to us and to posterity, the fullest possible record of their sentiments, their sufferings, and their success."* In 1862, ABHS was chartered under the laws of Pennsylvania.

Treasured Holdings

The Historical Society holds artifacts, books, periodicals, pamphlets, and manuscripts that fill four miles of packed shelves. These rare materials include:

- An original printing of the London Confession of 1644, the first statement of Baptist principles,
- Manuscript letters written by missionary pioneers Adoniram Judson, Ann Judson, Sarah Judson, and Emily Judson – as well as their children,
- African-American Baptist association minutes as early as 1829,
- Official denominational minutes and publications for ethnic Baptists, including Danish, Norwegian, Swedish, German, Italian, and Slovakian immigrant congregations,
- Official records of the Baptist World Alliance,
- Records of missionary Marian Boehr, letters of Lott Carey and Luther Rice, and the ex-slave narrative of George M. Horton.



These resources enlighten:

- Scholars from around the world,
- Family members of former missionaries, ministers, and denominational leaders,
- Individuals and churches interested in mission education,
- Denominational staff,
- College and seminary students,
- International leaders.

Out of the Ashes

The resilience of the Historical Society was demonstrated on February 2, 1896, when a fire destroyed the ABHS collection, then housed in the office building of the Publication Society in Philadelphia. Many responded to the Society's appeals for replacement materials, and soon the collection was larger than ever. Meanwhile, Samuel B. Colgate, a Baptist layman and successful businessman, and former president of the American Baptist Home Mission Society, had begun to worry about the danger of fire to his extensive personal collection of Baptist materials. In 1896 he gave this collection of Baptist historical documents to Colgate University, and it was later moved to Colgate Rochester Divinity School in Rochester, New York. When the Historical Society moved to Rochester in 1955, the Samuel Colgate and Historical Society collections were united in the custody of the Historical Society.

Bringing our Legacy to Light

Now, more than a century after the 1896 conflagration, and more than 50 years after the merging of the two great collections of Baptist materials, the American Baptist Historical Society has two locations: the American Baptist Archives Center in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, and the American Baptist-Samuel Colgate Historical Library at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School in Rochester, New York. These partnerships have been beneficial, resulting in publications, conferences, and educational initiatives. Today's challenge is to stabilize financial support and reduce overhead while raising more dollars for outreach.

Today's Compelling Call

In these early years of the 21st century, our vision is to make our collections easily available for all who are interested in the Baptist legacy. Seeking God's guidance in how to fulfill that vision, the ABHS Board of Managers during 2005 and 2006 thoroughly studied a variety of options. It became obvious that the materials under the safekeeping of ABHS needed to be consolidated to a single location. After consulting with various Baptist leaders and visiting a number of sites, the Board overwhelmingly decided that the new location would be on the Atlanta, Georgia campus of Mercer University, an institution that has retained its Baptist distinctives since its founding in 1833.



Taking this step of faith will offer more opportunities for the Historical Society to serve an ever-expanding community who understand that history is important – in short, history matters. **History Matters** in strengthening Baptist mission and identity and in growing 21st century ministries from Baptist roots. **History Matters** in decision-making, public policy development, and the educating of young leaders. **History Matters** in revitalizing church ministries and in giving leaders knowledge of the rich tradition of Baptist evangelism, church-planting, and other mission work.

The consolidation of our collections and operations will ensure that Baptist **History Matters** and that information on Baptist contributions to church and society is readily available. At one location, visitors will be able to search Baptist records as a means to more effective ministry, stronger identity, and a deeper understanding of American culture at home and abroad.

To provide this kind of ready access, ABHS needs to secure the financial resources to continue expanding our mission to preserve *and* share Baptist history. Through digital technology and the Internet, there are almost limitless possibilities for creating virtual history exhibits and online resources for churches, scholars, and pastors. Also, materials placed with us in an earlier century need more intensive care, which can be provided at the same time electronic resources are created to answer today's compelling call to the matters of Baptist history.

Publications, like our respected *American Baptist Quarterly*, give scholars worldwide access to the treasures within our collections. Moreover, developing special lectures or conferences on Baptist mission history will bring leaders and institutions together from a multitude of disciplines.

There is an urgency to collect the history of our elders, the Baptist saints who lived out their faith through the Second World War (including on the home front, in Japanese-American internment camps, and the military), the Civil Rights era, or the years of the Spanish-American Baptist Seminary in California. All of these critical efforts, of course, take physical resources and knowledgeable personnel.

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Today's Faithful Response

Our new partnership with Mercer University will preserve our American Baptist identity and increase our prominence in serving more diverse audiences. Provided through a generous fifty-year lease agreement, the new ABHS location is truly a gift from God! In addition, Atlanta offers numerous other institutions with a strong interest in Baptist and religious history: The Inter-denominational Theological Center, Atlanta University, Spelman College, Emory University, Morehouse College, Clark-Atlanta University, The Jimmy Carter Presidential Library, The Georgia Historical Society, The Georgia State Library, and a regional repository for the National Archives. The presence in Atlanta of the Martin Luther King Jr. and Howard Thurman Papers will make the Historical Society more visible and accessible to international researchers and further enlarge our capacity to influence future generations of leaders in church and society.



The Campaign

In order to be successful, this future-oriented vision will require significant resources. Therefore, the ABHS Board of Managers decided to conduct the **History Matters** capital campaign. This endeavor will ensure the availability of Baptist historical resources, including those yet to be given to ABHS, so that future generations of church leaders and the general public will gain the knowledge that the past provides.

The **History Matters** campaign has a goal of \$4 million. Because the space presently devoted to ABHS in both Rochester, N.Y. and Valley Forge, Pa. is to be used as soon as possible for other ministries, the relocation of the archives has the highest priority. Consequently, gifts are urgently needed at the beginning of the three-year campaign in order to finance the relocation costs. Additionally, pledges and gifts will provide for the endowment of two staff positions, the preservation of specific records, and the funding of new educational programs.

History Matters Goal

Staffing Endowments	
<i>Curator of Collections</i>	\$1,100,000
<i>Archivist for American Baptist Churches</i>	1,100,000
Relocation of the Archives	800,000*
Preservation Projects	
<i>Rauschenbusch Family Records</i>	500,000
<i>Association Minutes</i>	100,000
<i>Baptist Missionary Training School</i>	100,000
Educational Programs	100,000**
Campaign Expenses (estimate)	<u>200,000</u>
	\$4,000,000

* moving specific sections of the archives @ \$5,000-\$50,000

** 5 programs funded for approximately \$20,000 each

Creating the Space

Relocation of the archives -- \$800,000

The **History Matters** campaign will secure funds needed to move the archives from Rochester and Valley Forge, and prepare the new offices and facilities in Atlanta. \$800,000 of initial funding will be needed early in 2008, the year in which we project consolidation will be completed. The campaign will cover the actual cost of shipping our archived materials (estimated to fill 16 moving trucks) plus staff, volunteer support, temporary staff, insurance, and other necessary incidentals related to the move.

To accomplish this goal, ABHS is trusting God for pacesetting leaders who will donate the first twenty percent of this \$4 million campaign.

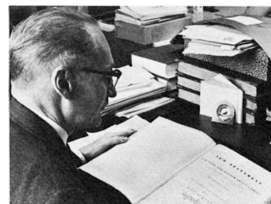
Ensuring the Vision

Of equal importance to the ABHS relocation is the establishment of endowments for archival staff who will ensure the proper care and access of collections and the development of new programming.

Curator of Collections -- \$1.1 million

The Curator of ABHS collections will be responsible for acquiring, caring for, and making available documents of Baptist mission history. Also included will be the documentation of mission initiated at the congregational, state, regional, national, and international levels, along with an emphasis on the legacy of such missionaries as Adoniram and Ann Judson and their influence on home and overseas mission efforts. The curator will have primary responsibility for bringing to light mission stories, through such means as:

- Preparing collection-finding aids,
- Developing website and physical exhibits on mission history,
- Arranging an annual lecture on mission history,
- Planning publications or exhibits related to the annual lecture.



Archivist for American Baptist Churches -- \$1.1 million

The Archivist will be responsible for the care of all major collections, with duties to include:

- Advising individuals, congregations, and other Baptist organizations about preservation of their historical materials,
- Supervising the care and preservation of collections, with particular attention to the collections of organizations that make up the American Baptist Churches, USA,
- Advising and assisting visiting researchers,
- Administering policies on the use of collections,
- Preparing collections for exhibit, with emphasis on collections that document the history of the American Baptist Churches, USA.

Sharing the Dream

What makes this goal possible? We believe God has placed friends among us who want to share the dream for generations to come. These friends have the commitment and the capacity to provide gifts over the next three years according to the chart below:



Capital Campaign

Goal: \$4 Million

Gift Categories	Gift Level	Gift Required	Total Gifts	Cumulative Total	Approximate % of Total Goal
Leadership Gifts	\$1,100,000	2	\$2,200,000	\$2,200,000	55%
	\$500,000	1	\$500,000	\$2,700,000	67%
Major Gifts	\$250,000	1	\$250,000	\$2,950,000	73%
	\$100,000	2	\$200,000	\$3,150,000	78%
	\$50,000	4	\$200,000	\$3,350,000	83%
Special Gifts	\$25,000	7	\$175,000	\$3,525,000	88%
	\$20,000	8	\$160,000	\$3,685,000	92%
	\$10,000	10	\$100,000	\$3,785,000	94%
Support Gifts	\$5,000	20	\$100,000	\$3,885,000	97%
	\$1,000-\$3,000	45	\$115,000	\$4,000,000	100%
Totals		100	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000	100%

The above is provided as an illustration. Gifts in any amount will be greatly appreciated.

Named Giving Opportunities

Within the **History Matters** campaign, there are opportunities to provide a gift in honor or memory of a loved one, your own family, your church or organization, or your company. Some examples include:

Endowments

- Curator position \$1,100,000
- Archivist position \$1,100,000



Preservation Projects

- Rauschenbusch Family Records \$500,000
This includes preservation, finding-guide creation, microfilming, and digitizing. This is the largest manuscript collection needing preservation, particularly because most of the paper is fragile and brittle, and the collection is used frequently.
- Baptist Missionary Training School \$100,000
Preservation and indexing these records will provide crucial help to researchers interested in women's history and especially the role of women in envisioning and promotion of home and overseas mission projects
- Association Minutes \$100,000

Educational Programs

- Lecture Series and Exhibit Opportunities \$100,000
 - ❑ Annual lecture series
Focused on one area of Baptist history (such as women's work, black Baptists, social gospel ministries and theology, mission history)
 - ❑ Internship for graduate and undergraduate students (3 possible)
A semester or year-long program in which the student works in the library, processes a collection, and is mentored by the ABHS curator or archivist, along with a sponsoring faculty member
 - ❑ Exhibit series on-site or virtual exhibits on our website
 - ❑ Travel grants for scholars, seminarians or pastors (10 possible)
A grant could have a focus in social gospel, black church history, women's history, ethnic Baptists, and home and overseas evangelism.
 - ❑ Baptist history pieces for congregations, pastors, children, and youth

Archives Relocation

\$800,000

- Sponsor the move of a section of archives with a designated gift of \$5,000 - \$50,000
You cannot plan to lift boxes for the relocation, but you can make sure that a specific archival record group – like state and association minutes from your region, church school curriculum, rare books, etc. – is boxed, moved and re-shelved with appropriate care and professional staff supervision

THE CAMPAIGN

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www.abhsarchives.org

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