

PRIMARY SOURCE

American Baptist Historical Society
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INSIDE
Come see us
at the Biennial in
Virginia Beach!

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American Baptist Historical Society PRIMARY SOURCE

Bringing our legacy to light.

Volume 17, No. 2

Spring, 2019

Progress Report on Digital Archives Project Funded by *At Your Fingertips* Campaign

At Your Fingertips was geared toward increasing accessibility of ABHS collections. The first step in making archives accessible is cataloging, so that researchers may know what records are held in the archives. Since January, detailed inventories of fifty-seven collections have been added to the ABHS online catalog. In at least six cases, researchers have made appointments to consult specific documents within 2 weeks of those catalog records being uploaded to ArchivesSpace.

ABHS made our first major equipment purchase using *At Your Fingertips* funds: a NextScan FlexView microfilm conversion scanner. The FlexView allows us to convert microfilm versions of some of our most fragile and unique collections, such as International Ministries missionary correspondence, while preserving the original letters. Other microfilm collections include records from ABHMS, 19th-century Baptist periodicals, and some congregational records. Once digitized, these documents can be quickly and easily accessed and shared. Digitizing from microfilm is quicker and less labor-intensive than digitizing the original documents, and allows us to continue to protect the originals.

ABHS also received a gift of two new computers and wide-screen monitors. One of the computers is currently powering an Archivists' Quill book scanner on loan from Mercer University Libraries and a flatbed scanner for photographs. The second computer will be set up as a media scanning station to convert audio and video recordings. We are looking forward to the exciting discoveries that await as these collections become more accessible.

Early Records of First Baptist Church of Philadelphia Available Online

Early records of First Baptist Church of Philadelphia held by ABHS are now available online at PhiladelphiaCongregations.org. Their digitization has been done as part of an archival project spearheaded by Christ Church Preservation Trust that provides new portals into the relationship between religion and politics in the 18th and early 19th centuries, perhaps offering more insight into colonial America than any other published body of work. The documents in the project date from 1708-1870.

Funded by a Digitizing Hidden Special Collections and Archives grant in the amount of \$385,205 from the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR), over 41,000 records from Philadelphia's oldest congregations, found in the archives of the American Baptist Historical Society, Christ Church, St. George's Methodist Church, Gloria Dei, Mikveh Israel, African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas, Episcopal Dioceses Archives, Presbyterian Historical Society, and St. Peter's Episcopal Church, are now being digitized. (The CLIR grant is funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.)

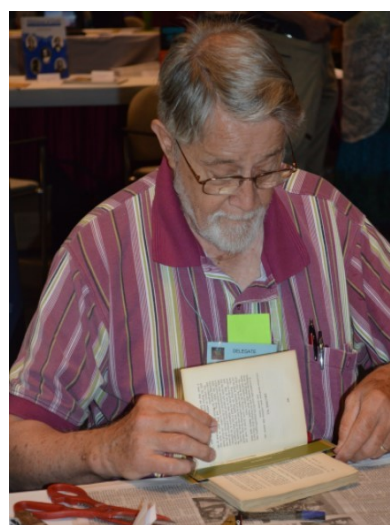
Much of the congregational
(Continued on page 2)

at YOUR FINGERTIPS

American Baptist Quarterly Call for Papers

ABQ is the peer-reviewed journal of the American Baptist Historical Society. Both established and emerging scholars are invited to submit papers written from original research. Articles and essays should be between 6,000 and 10,000 words. If you are interested in submitting a paper for one of the upcoming issues, please contact editor Curtis Freeman (CFreeman@div.duke.edu) as soon as possible.

Upcoming Themes	Submit by:
On Foreigners and Neighbors: biblical, theological, ethical, and historical perspectives on immigration and hospitality	June 1, 2019
Baptists in Rhode Island	June 1, 2019
The Fundamentalist Fight in the Northern Baptist Convention	Dec. 1, 2019



Book Repair at Biennial Mission Summit, June 21-23

Paul Reeder has again offered his services to benefit the American Baptist Historical Society! Bring your treasured, but battered, hardback books to the ABHS booth in the Hall of Ministries at Virginia Beach for him to repair.

Church Anniversaries

April – June

We celebrate the faithful ministry of American Baptist Congregations and their pastors! The following churches and pastors mark anniversaries this quarter:

275 Years

First Baptist Church of Saybrook a/k/a
Winthrop Baptist Church, Deep River, CT;
Rev. Amy Clawson Hollis, pastor

250 Years

First Baptist Church, North Attleboro, MA;
Rev. Stephen Trimble, pastor

200 Years

First Baptist Church, Randolph, MA; Rev.
Dr. Roger Haber, pastor

175 Years

Old Cambridge Baptist Church, Cambridge, MA;
Rev. Dr. Cody Sanders, pastor

161 Years

Ebenezer Baptist Church, Richmond, VA;
Dr. James E. Leary, Jr. interim pastor

150 Years

First Baptist Church, Atlantic, IA; Rev. Ray
McCalla, pastor
North Billerica Baptist Church, North Billerica,
MA; Rev. Jana Yeaton, interim pastor

Third Baptist Church, Springfield, MA;
Rev. Nathaniel Smith, pastor
Calvary Baptist Church, Lowell, MA; Rev. Dr.
Atuba Jamir, pastor

120 Years

Japanese Baptist Church, Seattle, WA;
Rev. Samuel Kim, pastor

100 Years

Dubois Community Baptist Church, Dubois, ID;
Warren Cuppy, pastor
Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, Springfield, MA,
Mark Flowers, pastor

75 Years

Alden Baptist Church, Springfield, MA; Dr. L.A.
Love, pastor
Macedonia Baptist Church, Great Barrington,
MA; Mattie Conway, pastor

25 Years

New Jerusalem Baptist Church, Framingham,
MA; Rev. Percy Garrett, pastor
Eglise Baptiste Evangélique, West Roxbury, MA;
Lionel Joseph, pastor

If your church is celebrating a significant anniversary, request a certificate from ABHS.

(Continued from page 1)

information has remained “hidden,” inaccessible due to technological and funding limitations, but these important records function as transcripts of a time before census takers and city directories. Church records provide information on individuals living in the nation’s first capital. Pew registers provide a wealth of information about status within the community and social ranking within churches. Minutes and correspondence highlight the diversity of religious thought and religious toleration and illustrate how freely individuals moved between historic congregations.



Title page of one of the FBC, Philadelphia collection records

Join the Historical Society and Become a Time Traveler

American Baptist Historical Society membership circles are named for some of our significant Baptist forebears.

Membership Circles (Memberships are for the calendar year)	Annual Gift of
Ann Hasseltine Judson Circle	\$1-50
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * subscription (digital or print) to <i>Primary Source</i> 	
Henry Lyman Morehouse Circle	\$51-125
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * subscription (digital or print) to <i>Primary Source</i> * participation in “Time Travelers,” reciprocal museum/archives program http://timetravelers.mohistory.org/ 	
Louise “Lulu” Cecilia Fleming Circle	\$126-250
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * benefits listed above, plus * 1 hour of “Research-by-mail” discounted by 50% * listing as donor in annual report 	
Jitsuo Morikawa Circle	\$251-500
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * benefits listed above, plus * Baptist history publication -- potluck! * pair of tickets to Biennial breakfast 	
Samuel DeWitt Proctor Circle	\$501-1000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * benefits listed above, plus * subscription to <i>American Baptist Quarterly</i> discounted by 50% * pair of tickets to an invitation-only event 	
Helen Barrett Montgomery Circle	\$1001-5000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * benefits listed above, plus * private archives tour (subject to staff availability) 	
Samuel Colgate Donors	\$5001 & above
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * benefits listed above, plus * 2 hours free consultation with staff archivist 	
Living Heritage Society	inclusion in estate plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * inclusion on a special plaque in ABHS Reading Room 	



Yes! I/We want to join the American Baptist Historical Society.

Please Print

Name _____

Email _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Birthdate _____

Under what name(s) would you like your donation to be acknowledged?

Membership \$ _____

American Baptist Quarterly subscription:
\$50/annually \$ _____

Add \$20 for postage to Canada, \$40 to other countries

Gift to Endowment \$ _____

Gift to *At Your Fingertips*
Campaign \$ _____

Total enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to ABHS and send to:
ABHS, P.O. Box 851, Valley Forge, PA 19482-0851.
To use a credit card go to our website:
www.ABHSarchives.org.

ABHS is a 501(c)(3) organization; your membership is tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. *ABQ* subscriptions are not tax-deductible.

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Location: 2930 Flowers Road South, Suite 150, Atlanta, GA 30341

Membership Circle: Samuel Colgate



Industrialist, business leader, and devoted Baptist layman, Samuel Colgate left a legacy of historical records that formed the basis for the American Baptist Historical Society's historical library. Born in New York on March 22, 1822, he was son of

industrialist soap maker and founder of the Colgate Company, William Colgate. Samuel Colgate took the reins of Colgate & Company in 1857 and served as its president for forty years.

Colgate became interested in Baptist missions and education. He served as a board member of the American Tract Society, president of the board of the New York Education Society and President of the Society for the Suppression of Vice in New York. From 1885 to 1888, he served as president of the American Baptist Home Mission Society. He also served for nineteen years as a member of the board of trustees of Madison University, which later became Colgate University in recognition of the family's many contributions and support of the University through the years.

In 1887, while doing research in preparation for a speech on women's missions, Colgate discovered that most historical material on Baptist women's mission societies had not been saved. From this experience, he began to collect materials

on Baptist history and missions from throughout the world. This became the Samuel Colgate Baptist Historical Collection, which by 1892 contained 25,000 documents and 8,000 bound volumes. In his personal diary dated February 3, 1896, Colgate wrote: "I was pained this morning in reading of the destruction by fire of the American Baptist Publication Society . . . including the Baptist Historical Collection. I suppose the loss is total. If so it is irreplaceable as many volumes and reports cannot be replaced. This leaves my Collection as the only large one in the United States. I regret the loss as it cannot be replaced." (People from across the country sent documents to the Historical Society, and the collections ended up greater than before the fire.)

Colgate died April 23, 1897 at his home in Orange, New Jersey. Per his will, the Samuel Colgate Historical Collection went to Colgate Rochester Divinity School. The American Baptist Historical Society was entrusted with the management of this extensive collection in 1955; the combination of the Colgate collection and ABHS's collections form the largest collection of Baptist materials anywhere. Now located on the campus of Mercer University in Atlanta, Georgia, the American Baptist Historical Society continues the work begun by Samuel Colgate in preserving stories of Baptist mission and ministry.

Research Snapshot

In preparation for centennial anniversary celebrations, Carlos Estevez and Alvaro Pleites came from El Salvador to research the early history of the *Colegio Bautista* in Santa Ana and the *Colegio Bautista* in San Salvador, both founded by the Woman's American Baptist Home Mission Society.

They found information about the women who were the first missionaries, the fundraising efforts of women in the U.S., and the reasons they decided to start schools so far from the United States. [Estevez and Pleites](#) were delighted to find information and records here that are not available in El Salvador.



ABHS at Virginia Beach:

Friday – Sunday: Find ABHS in the Exhibit Hall

Members, stop by the ABHS booth to get a sticker for your nametag identifying you as a supporter of the Historical Society!

If you're not yet a member, be one of the first 50 to join ABHS at the Biennial and get a free T-shirt!

Pick up a sample *American Baptist Quarterly*.

Consult with the Digital Archivist. Bring your treasured, but battered, hardback books for Paul Reeder to repair.

Watch for a special celebration of *At Your Fingertips* on Saturday afternoon!

ABCUSA Biennial Academy, Saturday, 3:45-

5:00pm: Making Sure 'Born-Digital' is 'Born-Again': The Salvation of Your Church's Story: Today's

church records—annual meeting minutes, clerk's and treasurer's reports, membership rolls, newsletters, etc.—are "born-digital" in MSWord documents, spreadsheets, websites, social media posts, digital pictures, digital recordings, and other formats. But all of these digital records are more fragile than the paper of the past. Come find out what basic digital preservation steps you can take to ensure these records can be "born-again" (accessed in the future). The salvation of your church's story is at stake!

This workshop will be led by Dr. Jenny Manasco, CA, DAS.



Sunday, June 23, 7:00-8:45am: American Baptist Historical Society Breakfast:

Celebrate with us the successful conclusion of the *At Your Fingertips* campaign. The program will honor major donors to *At Your Fingertips* and highlight the nascent digital archives project funded by the campaign. It's not too late to contribute to *At Your Fingertips*! [Donate online](#) or send a check to ABHS.

There are a dozen entries for this year's George D. Younger Award for Excellence in Local or Regional Baptist History; the Award will be presented at the ABHS breakfast.

Purchase your ticket for the American Baptist Historical Society Breakfast when you register for the Biennial.

From the Archives

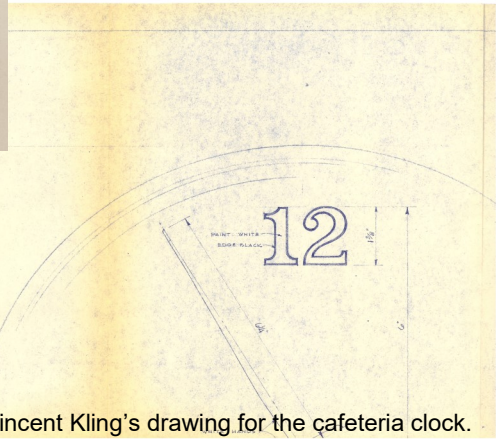
Construction of Headquarters at Valley Forge

The American Baptist Mission Center at Valley Forge, fondly known as the Holy Donut, has been the home of most American Baptist agencies since the 1960s.

Now, however, ABC-affiliated organizations are moving to quarters with more updated facilities. Here is a pictorial history of the building's beginning.



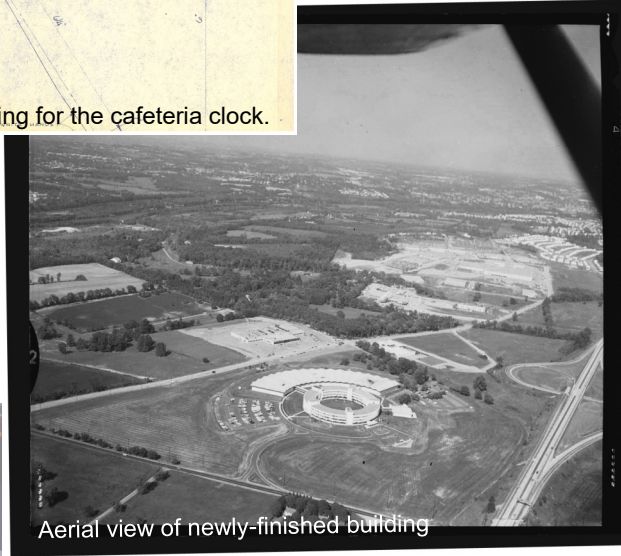
Vincent Kling's rendering of an executive office.



Portion of architect Vincent Kling's drawing for the cafeteria clock.



Ground Breaking July 5, 1960



Aerial view of newly-finished building



Staff members inspecting the construction progress.



A luncheon held in the cafeteria



Dedication Ceremony, May 25, 1962



November 2018 photo of the building from the 'donut hole.'



Panoramic image of dedication day, taken by the architect, Vincent Kling.