

**LOUIE DEVOTIE NEWTON  
COLLECTION**

**AR 12**



Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives

Updated July, 2012

# **Louie DeVotie Newton Papers**

## **1946 – 1948**

### **AR 12**

#### **Summary**

Main Entry: Louie DeVotie Newton Papers

Date Span: 1946 – 1948

Abstract: Collection contains material related to Newton's tenure as President of the Southern Baptist Convention, 1946 – 1948. Included are correspondence, addresses, Executive Committee material, programs, and information on Newton.

Size: .5 linear ft.

Collection #: AR 12

#### **Biographical Sketch**

Louis DeVotie Newton, a Southern Baptist pastor and denominational leader, was born in Screven County, Georgia, in 1892. He was a graduate of Mercer University and Columbia University in New York

As a young reporter for the New York World, he refined his writing skills through interviews with John D. Rockefeller, Thomas A. Edison, Charles Evans Hughes, and Rudyard Kipling. Those skills later aided him as publicity director for the Southern Baptist Convention's "75 Million Campaign" to pay debts owed by hospitals, schools, and agencies. That same year, 1919, Georgia Baptists purchased the Christian Index from private interests and named Newton editor.

Following the death of his pastor at Druid Hills Baptist Church, Newton, who was chairman of the deacons, was offered the ministerial post and became pastor April 1, 1929. Newton was an influential pastor and exerted power on political and social issues.

He was chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention's finance committee for 25 years and vice president of the Baptist World Alliance. He was also a co-founder of Americans United for Separation of Church and State. Newton served as president of the Southern Baptist Convention from 1946 – 1948 and retired as pastor in 1968. Newton died in Atlanta June 3, 1986.

#### **Scope and Content Note**

The collection of papers was compiled during Dr. Newton's tenure as president of the Southern Baptist Convention, 1946 – 1948, and consists of correspondence, pamphlets, and a copy of an address, "Hitherto Hath the Lord Helped Us." There is also material related to the naming and dedication of Louie D. Newton Hall, Mercer University, Macon, Georgia, February 24, 1978.

The correspondence is primarily with Duke McCall, Executive Secretary of the SBC Executive Committee. The correspondence covers such topics as: Executive Committee meetings, the Commission on Race Relations, world relief, expenses, Negro Baptist Hospital, the Cooperative Program, and conscientious objectors. A folder with copies of Newton's correspondence was added to the collection in 1993 that focuses on Newton's interest in Baptists in Russia. It includes letters to John H. Rushbrooke, O. K. Armstrong, W. O. Carver, Francis C. Stifler, Andrei A. Gromyko, and other Russian Baptists.

For additional information related to Louie D. Newton, see the records of the Executive Committee, SBC (AR 627). The oral history interview with Dr. Newton is also available in the Archives (R222t and R95t).

The collection was donated to the Historical Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention from Louis D. Newton, April 24, 1979.

**Arrangement**

Divided into five series of material – Biographical, Correspondence, Addresses, Programs, Louie Newton Hall – Mercer University

**Provenance**

Donated to the Historical Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention from Louis D. Newton, April 24, 1979

**Preferred Citation**

Louie DeVotie Newton Collection, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee

**Access Restrictions**

None

**Subject Terms**

McCall, Duke K., 1914 –  
Lawrence, John Benjamin, 1871 – 1968  
Southern Baptist Convention – Presidents  
Southern Baptist Convention. Executive Committee  
Southern Baptist Convention. Home Mission Board  
Conscientious objectors

**Related Materials**

George W. Truett Collection. Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, MFC 119.

Newton, Louie De Votie. Oral history interviews, 1973-1981 / interviewed by A. Ronald Tonks. R222t (transcript available). Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives.

Southern Baptist Convention. Christian Life Commission. Administrative Files. Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, AR138.

## Container List

1. Biographical Sketch from Meet the Presidents, by Porter Routh, pp. 87-90
2. Correspondence – Related to Baptists in Russia, 1944 – 1946
3. Correspondence – Duke K. McCall to Louie D. Newton, May 31, 1946 – September 8, 1948.
4. Correspondence – Executive Committee, SBC, January 1, 1946 – June 6, 1948.
  - a. Election of Duke K. McCall
  - b. J. B. Lawrence and Home Mission Board
  - c. Conscientious Objectors
  - d. Miscellaneous Denominational Affairs
5. Material related to Naming and Dedication of Louie Newton Hall, Mercer University, Macon, Georgia
  - a. News clipping from The Atlanta Constitution, April 28, 1982
  - b. Dedication Program, February 24, 1978
  - c. The Mercerian, Magazine for Mercer Alumni, January, 1978
6. Program honoring Newton – Jefferson Avenue Baptist Church, East Point, Georgia, Tuesday Evening, October 18, 1977
7. Sermons – “Hitherto Hath the Lord Helped Us” (excerpts from address by Louie D. Newton, Southern Baptist Convention, May 15, 1946)
8. Sermons – “Southern Baptist – Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow” (Presidential address, St. Louis, May 7, 1947, Southern Baptist Convention)