

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTION

AR 651



Norman W. Cox and Church Historian, W.W. Barnes

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Southern Baptist Historical Society Collection

AR 651

Summary

Main Entry: Southern Baptist Historical Society Collection

Date Span: 1937 – 1952

Abstract: The collection contains the files of H. I. Hester, Secretary-Treasurer of the Southern Baptist Historical Society, and correspondence related to society meetings and business.

Size: One linear ft. (2 boxes)

Collection #: AR 651

Historical Sketch

The Southern Baptist Historical Society was founded in 1938 under the leadership of William Owen Carver. Its officers and directors were members of the Southern Baptist Committee on the Preservation of Baptist History, which made annual reports to the Southern Baptist Convention. From 1938 to 1952, the Society was located at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. During these years, it promoted the history interests of Southern Baptists; stimulated the work of state historical organizations; and collected an impressive collection of Baptist material, managed by the Society's curator, Leo T. Crismon, Librarian at Southern Seminary.

In 1947, the Society gained official status by the Southern Baptist Convention, but it had to make changes to conform to convention policy. In 1952, the Historical Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention was organized as the history agency for Southern Baptists, and its offices were moved to Nashville, Tennessee. The Society then took auxiliary status to the Commission until 1997, when it organized as an independent historical organization.

Scope and Content

This collection of society records is primarily the files of H. I. Hester who served as Secretary-Treasurer of the Society during its formative years. Hester was a professor at William Jewell College in Liberty, Missouri. The collection includes correspondence related to society meetings and business. Significant correspondents included: William Owen Carver, James B. Chapman, E. C. Routh, and Leo T. Crismon. Also included is information on the acquisition of historical material for the Society's collection and matters related to membership in the Society. The collection includes some early minutes of the Society and the Committee on Baptist History of the Southern Baptist Convention. Three accession books for the library collection are a part of the records.

Arrangement

Arranged in alphabetical order by folder title.

Provenance

Donated by H.I. Hester.

Preferred Citation

Southern Baptist Historical Society Collection, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee

Access Restrictions

None

Subject Terms

Carver, Williams Owen, 1868 – 1954

Chapman, James Burton, 1881 – 1969

Rough, Eugene Coke, 1874 – 1966

Crismon, Leo Taylor, 1906 – 1986

Southern Baptist Historical Society – History

Southern Baptist Convention. Committee on Baptist History

History – Societies, etc.

Related Materials

Additional records of the Society are located in the records of the Historical Commission (AR614), the papers of Rufus Washington Weaver (AR 99), James Burton Chapman, (AR 639), and William Owen Carver (76).

Container List**Box 1**

- 1.1 Accession book – Library, 1948 – 1949
- 1.2 Accession book – Library, 1949 – 1952
- 1.3 Accession book – Library – Pamphlets, 1938 – 1940.
- 1.4 Correspondence – Membership – H. I. Hester, 1938 – 1939
- 1.5 Correspondence – Membership – H. I. Hester, 1940 – 1941
- 1.6 Correspondence – H. I. Hester, 1942 – 1946
- 1.7 Correspondence – H. I. Hester, 1947 – 1948
- 1.8 Correspondence – H. I. Hester, 1949
- 1.9 Correspondence – H. I. Hester, 1950
- 1.10 Minutes – Committee on Baptist History, 1938 – 1941

Box 2

- 2.1 Minutes – Southern Baptist Historical Society, 1937 – 1951
- 2.2 Library acquisitions, 1941 – 1949
- 2.3 Library acquisitions, 1941 – 1950

