

**SAMUEL F. LOWE PAPERS  
1912 – 1953**

**AR 751**



**Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives**

**Updated May, 2012**

# Samuel F. Lowe Papers 1912 – 1953

## AR 751

### Summary

Main Entry: Samuel F. Lowe Papers

Date Span: 1912 – 1953

Abstract: The Samuel Franklin Lowe Papers contains outlines of more than 1300 sermons preached by Lowe at Inman Park Baptist Church in Atlanta. It also contains material related to his broadcasting work, including correspondence, Radio Committee minutes, notes, articles, and pamphlets. There is also material on the Home Mission Board, race relations, the temperance/prohibition movement, and audio cassette tapes containing oral history information.

Size: 8 linear ft. (20 boxes)

Collection #: AR 751

### Biographical Sketch

Samuel Franklin Lowe was born in Houston County, Georgia, June 6, 1890. He made a profession of faith in 1904 and was baptized at Hardison Baptist Church in Houston County. Lowe received his high school diploma from the Locust Grove Institute in 1911 and graduated from Mercer University in 1914. Lowe married Maude Hammock of Crawford County, Georgia, December 26, 1914, and they had three sons and one daughter.

Lowe received a Master of Theology degree in 1918 from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. He served as the pastor of several churches: First Church, Tennille, Georgia, 1918 – 1920; First Church, Dawson, Georgia, 1920 – 1924; First Church, Enterprise, Alabama, 1924 – 1927; Fifteenth Avenue Church, Meridian, Mississippi, 1927 – 1931; and Inman Park Church, Atlanta, Georgia, 1931 – 1944. During his tenure at Inman Park, Lowe demonstrated a keen interest in progressive race relations and chaired the Committee on Inter-racial Cooperation of the Atlanta Baptist Association from 1935 to 1938. He also served as president of the Atlanta Ministerial Association, was a member of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, and, in 1938, served as its vice-president.

Lowe held primary responsibility for involving Southern Baptists in the new field of religious broadcasting in the late 1930s. From 1938 to 1944, he chaired the Radio Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention while serving as pastor of Inman Park Baptist Church. He developed a radio

program called “The Baptist Hour,” which was first broadcast in January, 1941. Under Lowe’s leadership, the committee focused on bringing the SBC to commit itself fully to the work of religious broadcasting. At the annual meeting in San Antonio in 1942, the Convention allocated \$30,000 in operating funds to the Radio Committee and authorized it to hire a full-time director. In 1944, the Committee was renamed the Radio Commission, and Lowe left his pastorate to assume the directorship. The following year, he published a guide entitled Successful Religious Broadcasting, and, in 1946, he established the Religious Radio Center in Atlanta, which purchased and maintained equipment for network broadcasting and recording. The SBC owned the equipment but made it available to all member organizations.

Lowe devoted the last eighteen years of his life to promoting quality religious broadcasting. He lectured and wrote on the subject but continued to focus his efforts on directing the work of the Radio Commission, renamed the Radio and Television Commission not long before his death. In the first year of “The Baptist Hour’s” existence (1941), thirteen programs were broadcast on seventeen radio stations. At the time of his death, October 4, 1952, 325 stations in the United States and five other countries were carrying the program on a weekly basis.

### **Scope and Content**

The Samuel F. Lowe Papers, dated 1912 –1953, are organized by document type and subject. The bulk of the collection consists of outlines of more than 1300 sermons preached by Lowe during his tenure as pastor of Inman Park Baptist Church (1931–1944). The sermons are organized by numbers assigned by Lowe that place them approximately in scripture-reference order. Lowe’s papers also contain material related to his work in broadcasting, including correspondence, minutes of the Radio Committee, notes and writings by Lowe, and articles and pamphlets by other authors. The remainder of the collection is comprised of biographical materials compiled by Lowe’s children, a small amount of correspondence, materials related to Lowe’s service on the Home Mission Board (1935 – 1937), and a file of clippings, articles, and tracts on subjects of interest to Lowe, especially race relations and the temperance/prohibition movement.

### **Arrangement**

Arranged by document type and subject

### **Provenance**

Donated by Lewis Lowe in 1991

### **Preferred Citation**

Samuel Franklin Lowe Papers, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee

### **Access Restrictions**

None

### **Subject Terms**

Southern Baptist Convention. Home Mission Board  
Southern Baptist Convention. Radio and Television Commission

Radio in Religion  
 Radio Broadcasting  
 Race Relations – Religious Aspects – Baptists  
 Temperance – History  
 Prohibition – United States

### **Related Materials**

Baptist Hour Sermons, 1942 – . AR 695, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives.

Southern Baptist Convention. Radio and Television Commission Records, AR 713. Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives.

### **Bibliography**

Baergen, Darrell. A History and Evaluation of the Radio and Television Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, 1938 – 1964. Ph.D. dissertation, University of Denver, 1964.

Daniell, David Eric. A Programming History of the Radio and Television Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, 1919 – 1976. Ph.D. dissertation, Kent State University, 1978.

Lowe, Lewis C. and Martha E. Lowe. Sam F. Lowe, Man with a Mission: A Personal Biography. Augusta, Georgia, 1991. In Baptist History File, under S. F. Lowe.

### **Container List**

#### **Box 1**

##### Biographical

- 1.1 Anniversaries, 1965, 1978, 1991
- 1.2 Articles, 1948, 1953, 1977, 1988
- 1.3 Interview Questions, 1990
- 1.4 Interview Transcript – Ellis, Elmo, 1990
- 1.5 Interview Transcript – Fifteenth Avenue Baptist Church, Meridian, Mississippi, 1990
- 1.6 Interview Transcript – Hobbs, Herschel, 1990
- 1.7 Interview Transcript – Hoffman, Johnnd
- 1.8 Interview Transcript – Jordan, Dupree, 1990
- 1.9 Interview Transcript – McCall, Duke, 1990
- 1.10 Interview Transcript – McElveen, Myrtis, 1990
- 1.11 Interview Transcript – Porter, Hattie, 1990
- 1.12 Interview Transcript – Smith, Lois, 1990
- 1.13 Lowe, Maude (Mrs. S. F.), 1953
- 1.14 Miscellaneous, 1917, 1948, 1991
- 1.15 Obituaries and Remembrances, 1952 – 53, 1966, 1971
- 1.16 Pictures (photocopies), 1948 – 1952
- 1.17 Radio and TV Commission Groundbreaking, June 3, 1964
- 1.18 Reminiscences (children)
- 1.19 “S. F. Lowe, The Man and the Mission,” by Lewis Lowe and Martha Lowe, 1991

## Correspondence

- 1.20 1929, 1936
- 1.21 Maude Hammock, 1912 – 1913, 1917
- 1.22 Maude Hammock and Arthur Flake, 1949, 1951

## Home Mission Board Service

- 1.23 Financial Reports, 1935 – 1937
- 1.24 Lawrence, Una Roberts, 1936
- 1.25 Minutes, 1937
- 1.26 Notes
- 1.27 Reports, 1936
- 1.28 Southern Baptist Home Missions, 1934 – 1935, 1937

## Miscellaneous

- 1.29 Speaking Engagements

**Box 2**

## Pastorates

- 2.1 Correspondence, 1918, 1935, 1937, 1940 – 1942, 1944
- 2.2 Fifteenth Avenue Baptist Church (Meridian, Mississippi), 1928 – 1929
- 2.3 Inman Park Baptist Church (Atlanta) – Deacons, 1942
- 2.4 Inman Park Baptist Church (Atlanta) – Finance, 1933 – 1944
- 2.5 Inman Park Baptist Church (Atlanta) – Misc., 1935, 1937 – 1938, 1944, 1946, 1951
- 2.6 Inman Park Baptist Church (Atlanta) – Roll, 1933

**Box 3**

## Pastorates – Sermons (see Appendix in Collection File for item-level titles of sermons)

- 3.1 Not numbered (1 of 6)
- 3.2 Not numbered (2 of 6)
- 3.3 Not numbered (3 of 6)
- 3.4 Not numbered (4 of 6)
- 3.5 Not numbered (5 of 6)
- 3.6 Not numbered (6 of 6)

**Box 4**

## Pastorates – Sermons

- 4.1 1 – 15
- 4.2 16 – 34
- 4.3 36 – 56
- 4.4 57 – 77
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- 4.6 93 – 111

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## Pastorates – Sermons

- 5.1 112 – 130
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- 5.4 161 – 176
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#### Pastorates – Sermons

- 6.1 211 – 234
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- 6.4 272 – 287
- 6.5 288 – 309
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#### Pastorates – Sermons

- 7.1 320 – 331
- 7.2 331 – 350
- 7.3 351 – 370
- 7.4 371 – 394
- 7.5 395 – 415

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#### Pastorates – Sermons

- 8.1 416 – 438
- 8.2 439 – 461
- 8.3 462 – 474
- 8.4 475 – 495
- 8.5 496 – 519
- 8.6 511 – 534

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#### Pastorates – Sermons

- 9.1 535 – 554
- 9.2 555 – 576
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- 9.4 601 – 623
- 9.5 624 – 634
- 9.6 635 – 655

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#### Pastorates – Sermons

- 10.1 655 – 676

- 10.2 677 – 697
- 10.3 698 – 714
- 10.4 715 – 737
- 10.5 738 – 760

### **Box 11**

#### Pastorates – Sermons

- 11.1 761 – 781
- 11.2 782 – 805
- 11.3 806 – 826
- 11.4 827 – 851
- 11.5 852 – 870
- 11.6 871 – 895

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#### Pastorates – Sermons

- 12.1 896 – 918
- 12.2 919 – 942
- 12.3 943 – 964
- 12.4 965 – 987
- 12.5 988 – 1007
- 12.6 1007 – 1029

### **Box 13**

#### Pastorates – Sermons

- 13.1 1029 – 1050
- 13.2 1050 – 1070
- 13.3 1071 – 1100
- 13.4 1101 – 1123
- 13.5 1124 – 1146
- 13.6 1147 – 1165

### **Box 14**

#### Pastorates – Sermons

- 14.1 1166 – 1184
- 14.2 1185 – 1202
- 14.3 1203 – 1224
- 14.4 1225 – 1246
- 14/5 1247 – 1269
- 14.6 1270 – 1292

### **Box 15**

#### Radio

- 15.1 Baptist Hour – Church and Associational Bulletins, 1945

- 15.2 Baptist Hour – Clippings, 1945
- 15.3 Baptist Hour – Correspondence, 1944, 1945, 1951
- 15.4 Baptist Hour – Messages, 1944, 1950, 1951
- 15.5 Baptist Hour – Messages, 1952
- 15.6 Baptist Hour – Miscellaneous
- 15.7 Correspondence, 1937, 1941 – 1943
- 15.8 Notes, 1942
- 15.9 Notes – Psychology of Radio
- 15.10 Notes – Radio Evangelism
- 15.11 Notes – Radio Units, 1930 (from 1930 Census)
- 15.12 Notes – Southern Baptists and Radio, 1940
- 15.13 Notes – Southern Baptists Utilizing the Radio, 1941
- 15.14 Publications – The Broadcaster, 1951
- 15.15 Publications – “How to Use the Radio,” 1938
- 15.16 Publications – “How to Use the Radio,” 1941
- 15.17 Publications – Miscellaneous
- 15.18 Publications – “The Paradox of Radio,” by Franklin Durham, 1936
- 15.19 Publications – “Radio,” by Irwin Stewart, 1929
- 15.20 Publications – “Radio Bibliography,” 1941
- 15.21 Publications – “Religious Broadcasting,” by E. Jerry Walker, 1945
- 15.22 Publications – “Spiritual Radio,” 1922
- 15.23 Publications – “The Word of God: Fifteen Years of Religious Broadcasts,” 1941
- 15.24 Publications – “Working for Radio,” 1942
- 15.25 Radio Committee Minutes, June 23, 1942

## **Box 16**

### Radio

- 16.1 Radio Stations – Notes and Correspondence, 1940 – 1942
- 16.2 Resolutions
- 16.3 SBC Baltimore (1940) – Correspondence – General, 1940
- 16.4 SBC Baltimore (1940) – Luncheon Conference, June 13, 1940
- 16.5 SBC Baltimore (1940) – Pastor's Conference, June 11, 1940
- 16.6 SBC Baltimore (1940) – Radio Committee Meeting, June 12, 1940
- 16.7 SBC Baltimore (1940) – Supper Conference, June 12, 1940
- 16.8 SBC Executive Committee Minutes, September 1, 1941
- 16.9 Scripts and Transcripts – Church of the Air, 1944 – 50
- 16.10 Scripts and Transcripts – Dr. Harold W. Tribble on Philippians
- 16.11 Scripts and Transcripts – Unidentified

## **Box 17**

### Radio

- 17.1 Writings by Lowe – “Religious Broadcasting,” ca. 1942/43, copy 1
- 17.2 Writings by Lowe – “Religious Broadcasting,” ca. 1942/43, copy 2
- 17.3 Writings by Lowe – “Religious Broadcasting,” ca. 1942/43, copy 3
- 17.4 Writings by Lowe – “Religious Broadcasting,” ca. 1942/43, copy 4



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## Scrapbook

- 18.1 Scrapbook, ca. 1946 – 53 (1 of 2)
- 18.2 Scrapbook, ca. 1946 – 53 (2 of 2)

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- 18.3 African Americans
- 18.4 African Americans – Education
- 18.5 African Americans – Lynching
- 18.6 Baptist World Alliance, Atlanta, 1939
- 18.7 Baptists
- 18.8 Bible
- 18.9 Bible, History of
- 18.10 Books
- 18.11 Catholicism
- 18.12 Children
- 18.13 China
- 18.14 Choices

**Box 19**

- 19.1 Christmas
- 19.2 Church Bulletins and Programs
- 19.3 Death
- 19.4 Divorce
- 19.5 Doctrine
- 19.6 Education
- 19.7 Encouragement
- 19.8 Episcopalians
- 19.9 Evangelism
- 19.10 Famous Men
- 19.11 Foreign Missions
- 19.12 Foreign Missions – Life of Judson, 1936
- 19.13 Heroism
- 19.14 Holidays
- 19.15 Home
- 19.16 Home Missions
- 19.17 Home Missions – Carnes Embezzlement Case, 1929
- 19.18 Jehovah's Witnesses
- 19.19 Jokes
- 19.20 Judaism
- 19.21 League of Nations
- 19.22 Miscellaneous
- 19.23 Money

- 19.24 Morals
- 19.25 Mothers
- 19.26 Poetry
- 19.27 Prayer
- 19.28 Presbyterians

**Box 20**

## Subject File

- 20.1 Religion (general)
- 20.2 Religious Liberty
- 20.3 Russian Bible Society
- 20.4 Sabbath Observance
- 20.5 Separation of Church and State
- 20.6 Sermons
- 20.7 Sin
- 20.8 Stewardship
- 20.9 Sunday School
- 20.10 Temperance/Prohibition (1 of 2)
- 20.11 Temperance/Prohibition (2 of 2)
- 20.12 Temperance/Prohibition – Alfred E. Smith, 1928
- 20.13 Temperance/Prohibition – Allied News, 1932
- 20.14 Tracts and Pamphlets
- 20.15 War
- 20.16 Woman's Missionary Union

**Box 21**

- Oral history – audio cassette tapes
- Ellis interview, November 18, 1990
- Hobbs interview, October 3, 1990
- Hoffman interview, October 8, 1990
- Jordan interview
- McIntosh interview
- Porter interview, 2 tapes
- Willingham interview