

**ROBERT BOYTE CRAWFORD HOWELL  
COLLECTION, 1838 – 1867**

**AR 795-140**



Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives

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# Robert Boyte Crawford Howell Collection, 1838 – 1867

## AR 795-140

### Summary

Main Entry: Robert Boyte Crawford Howell Collection

Date Span: 1838 – 1867

Abstract: The R.B.C. Howell Collection consists of three bound volumes – two of sermons and the other a ministerial record book. The sermons are all handwritten, with title, scripture reference, and date. The ministerial records volume lists baptisms, weddings, and funerals that Howell conducted.

Size: .5 linear ft. (3 volumes)

Collection: AR 795 – 140

### Historical Sketch

Howell was born in Wayne County, North Carolina, March 10, 1801. He attended Columbian College in Washington, D.C., and, in 1827, he was ordained as a Baptist minister. He accepted appointments from the American Baptist Home Mission Society as missionary to the west, in 1834, and on January 1, 1835, as pastor of First Baptist Church, Nashville, Tennessee. He started The Baptist, a monthly paper, in 1835, and edited it until he gave it to the Tennessee Baptists in 1846. The Nashville church grew to a membership of about 500, whites and blacks, and constructed a new church building.

In 1850, Howell became pastor of the Second Baptist Church, Richmond, Virginia. The average addition to the church during his tenure was about fifty-seven members per year. Howell preached 2,000 sermons and assisted in the organization of five churches and the ordination of seven ministers of the gospel. He also served as a trustee of Richmond College and the Foreign Mission Board of the SBC. He also served four terms as President of the Southern Baptist Convention. The material in this collection is primarily from his pastorship at Second Baptist church. His service as pastor to the Richmond church ended when he returned to Nashville in July, 1857. Howell served the Nashville church the rest of life. He died in Nashville April 5, 1868.

For further information see:

Encyclopedia of Southern Baptists.

Horne, Linwood T.: A Study of the Life and Work of R.B.C. Howell, Th.D. dissertation, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, 1958, 2213.

Taylor, George Braxton: Virginia Baptist Ministers, Third Series, Lynchburg, J. P. Bell Company, Inc., 1912, pp. 71-75.

Robert Boyte Crawford Papers, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, AR 595.

### **Scope and Content Note**

The collection consists primarily of four items, including two bound sermon books, a ministerial records book, and a book of poems and sayings. The ministerial record book covers the period 1849 to 1855, when Howell served as pastor of the Second Baptist Church in Richmond, Virginia. It contains information on members and baptisms.

The first sermon book (binding label VII) contains 60 handwritten sermons, and the second volume (XII) includes 58 handwritten sermons. Most of the sermons are titled and dated with the original sermon date and a “transferred” date. Some sermons are numbered. The sermons follow no particular arrangement in the volume, either by date, number, or title. They are not full transcripts of his sermons, but mostly guides and notes to his sermons. Some are more complete than others. Howell often included notes about a sermon and how it was received by the congregation. They were preached to the Second Baptist Church in Richmond, Virginia, or the First Baptist Church of Nashville, Tennessee, during the 1840’s and 1850’s.

The sermons cover a wide range of interest, with most related to theological matters such as salvation, Christian living, faith, the nature of Jesus and God, funerals, and eternal life. Also included are sermons on the loyalty to country, peace, female education, the ordination for William A. Whitsitt, and dedication sermons for several Virginia churches. Howell preached these sermons on several occasions and edited the copy based on the audience and the times. Some sermons have marginal notes and sections crossed out.

### **Arrangement**

No apparent arrangement of the sermons in the bound volumes

### **Provenance**

### **Preferred Citation**

Robert Boyte Crawford Howell Collection, 1838 – 1867, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee

### **Access Restrictions**

None

### **Subject Terms**

Howell, Robert Boyte Crawford, 1801 – 1868  
Second Baptist Church (Richmond, VA)  
Baptists – Sermons – 19<sup>th</sup> century  
Sermons, American

### **Related Materials**

Encyclopedia of Southern Baptists.

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## Container List

(Note to Reader: The items within the volumes are not individually numbered)

### Volume 1 Sermon book – (VII) Sermons listed as they appear in the bound volume.

1. Final perseverance of the saints,” September 5, 1858
2. “Qualifications for the heavenly inheritance,” August 24, 1853
3. “The promises of God,” October 2, 1853 and January 24, 1858
4. “Salvation,” February 8, 1854
5. “Christ the antidote of fear,” October 2, 1853
6. “True religion does good to all men,” July 13, 1853
7. “Regeneration,” October 18, 1840
8. “The practical influence of faith,” August 21, 1853
9. “Connection between religion and civil government,” November 10, 1839
10. “The wonder of a sinner’s salvation,” August 28, 1853
11. “Sunday School,” March 6, 1853
12. “Prayer for a revival,” August 31, 1853
13. “The conditions of fruitfulness,” November 13, 1853
14. “The glory of God,” December 2, 1838
15. “Christian consolations,” September 26, 1852
16. “We set up our banners,” Leigh Street Baptist Church, Richmond. Dedication sermon, December 25, 1853
17. “Predestination,” February 17, 1839
18. “Self righteousness,” October 20, 1839
19. “The parable of the supper,” August 19, 1838
20. “The incarnation of Christ,” April 12, 1846
21. “Hope of the righteous in death,” April 21, 1844
22. “Final glory of the church,” March 31, 1844
23. “The atonement,” February 11, 1840
24. “Temptation,” November 22, 1840
25. “The duty of churches to their pastor,” June 28, 1840
26. “The faith,” April 22, 1838
27. “Qualifications requisite for church membership,” July 31, 1842
28. “A survey of Zion,” Missionary sermon, Mill Creek Baptist Church, Nashville, Tennessee, September 4, 1841
29. “Christian submission,” July 6, 1845
30. “The proof of regeneration,” August 12, 1842
31. “The power of the keys,” April 7, 1844
32. “True religion, the same in all ages,” January 27, 1839
33. “Intermediate state,” January 21, 1841
34. “Mission of Christ to our world,” April 21, 1839
35. “All flesh shall finally submit to God,” February 7, 1841
36. “The prodigal son,” August 15, 1842

37. "Relations of God and His people: parable of the vine and the branches," Sept. 20, 1840
38. "Funeral of a child," June 19, 1840
39. "Parable of the marriage feast," July 27, 1840
40. "Regeneration," May 27, 1838
41. "Christian defection," March 11, 1855
42. "The gospel a council of peace," September 7, 1845
43. "The mourner comforted," June 25, 1853
44. "The impossibility of neutrality in religion," July 24, 1853
45. "Charge at the ordination of William A. Whitsitt, Concord, Davidson Co., July 12, 1844
46. "Program for an address to the Baptist denomination in Virginia on the subject of a female seminary in Richmond," August, 1852
47. "Habitual readiness for the coming of Christ," November 4, 1856
48. "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ," October 27, 1853
49. "Children of God," March 1, 1854
50. "Christian steadfastness," November 30, 1853
51. "Manly Christianity," October 25, 1854
52. "Consideration," October 5, 1853
53. "The guarantee of life eternal," December 8, 1853
54. "Christ the sum of the gospel," October 26, 1853
55. "God teaches his people," August 6, 1854
56. "The means of salvation," November 9, 1853
57. "Christ the deliverer," November 2, 1853
58. "Christian sympathy," Outline only
59. "Object of Christ's mission," September 28, 1853
60. "The great alternative," October 17, 1852

**Volume 2** Sermon Book XII – Sermons listed as they appear in the bound volume.

1. "The true faith," November 11, 1855; October 21, 1858
2. "The signs of the times: introductory to the General Association of Virginia," Fredericksburg, June 3, 1853
3. "The efficacy of preaching," December 14, 1856
4. "The Christian stewardship," May 27, 1854
5. "Habitual readiness for another world: funeral of Mrs. Jane J. Snead," September 11, 1856
6. "Power of Christ's resurrection," July 20, 1856
7. "The evidences and rewards of the love of Christ," May 4, 1856
8. "A message from God," July 20, 1856
9. "The throne of grace," November 9, 1856
10. "Expiation of Christ," November 30, 1857; Nashville, July 26, 1857
11. "The providence of God," June 18, 1854
12. "The Christian's hope," February 20, 1848
13. "The work of the Holy Spirit in the regeneration and salvation of the soul," March 17, 1844
14. "Readiness for Christ's coming," December 7, 1852
15. "Wisdom justified by his children," July 29, 1855
16. "The final rest," October 21, 1856

17. "Accountability to God," August 31, 1856
18. "Christ is the only savior," December 4, 1853
19. "The will of the Lord," November 5, 1854
20. "Almost persuaded," November 7, 1852
21. "The religion that makes a man happy is characterized by both knowledge and obedience," September 23, 1855
22. "Faith in God's love," July 11, 1852
23. "Reprobation," August 15, 1852
24. "Religions worship," August 3, 1856
25. "Universal reign of Christ," January, 1854 (King and Queen County, Virginia – Andrew Broaddus's church)
26. "Institution of J.B. Jeter as pastor of Grace Street Baptist Church, Richmond, Virginia," September 12, 1852
27. "Reclamation of backsliders," August 8, 1852
28. "The church of Christ: dedication at Emmaus Baptist Church, New Kent County, Virginia," September 19, 1852
29. "The value of female education," an address at the anniversary of the Chowan Female Collegiate Institute, Murfreesborough, NC, August, 1853
30. "The influence of Christ's humiliation," introductory to the Southern Convention, Baltimore, May 13, 1853
31. "The glory of Christ," November 16, 1856
32. "The apostolic ministry," September 14, 1856
33. "The covenants a review," no date
34. "The danger of prosperity," May 21, 1854
35. "Prophetic office of Christ," February 18, 1855
36. "Source of confidence for the prosperity of the church," February 18, 1855
37. "Moral responsibility," October 7, 1855
38. "Seeking the Lord," September 7, 1856
39. "Death desirable," Funeral of Maj. J. Snead, September 9, 1855
40. "The law considered as a covenant of salvation," November 28, 1852
41. "Self denial," June 15, 1856
42. "Power of the gospel," July 7, 1853
43. "Salvation," October 12, 1856
44. "Baptism is a solemn profession of religion," November 27, 1853
45. "Ambassador for Christ," May 18, 1856
46. "Our country," June 29, 1856
47. "The church of Christ," preached at the dedication of Reed's Church, Caroline County, Virginia, September 30, 1853
48. "Reward of victory," February 3, 1856
49. "Condescension of Christ," September 14, 1852
50. "Salvation is confessed only on the condition of holiness," April 15, 1838
51. "Deceitfulness of error," February 2, 1853
52. "Council of peace," January 19, 1853 (reconstructed and transferred May, 1862)
53. "The love of God, the chief element of Christian prosperity," November 24, 1844 and Richmond, January 25, 1851
54. "The love of God is the principal element of spiritual prosperity," July 20, 1845

55. "The only true happiness," October 13, 1844
56. "Divine superintendence in the affairs of men," preached on a day set apart by the Mayor of Richmond, September 6, 1855
57. "Reasons for praise to Christ," October 19, 1845
58. "Backsliding," May 28, 1854

**Volume 3** Volume of membership and baptisms at the Second Baptist Church of Richmond, 1849 – 1855.

**Book 4** Book of poems and sayings, handwritten and clippings