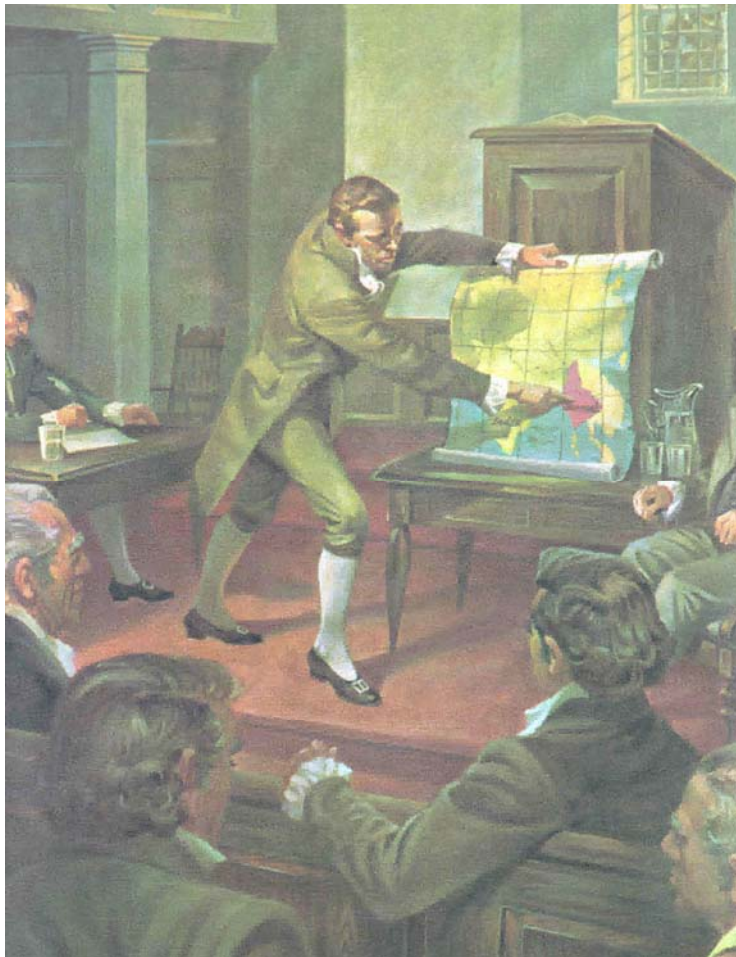


INVENTORY TO THE LUTHER RICE COLLECTION

AR 87



Luther Rice before the Triennial Convention in 1814

Prepared by: Dorothy Davis
Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives
February, 2008

Updated August, 2012

Luther Rice Collection

AR 87

Summary

Main Entry: Luther Rice Collection

Date Span: 1803 – 1986

Abstract: Collection includes material that details the efforts of Luther Rice to increase denominational sponsorship for foreign and home missions through fund raising and promotion of mission work.

Size: One linear ft. (two boxes)

Collection #: AR 87

Biographical Sketch

Luther Rice was an American Baptist missionary who was instrumental in the denomination's national organization. Born March 25, 1783, in Northboro, Massachusetts, he attended Leicester Academy, Williams College, and Andover Theological Seminary. At Andover, Rice joined the Society on the Subject of Missions that worked to coordinate mission efforts through the Massachusetts Ministerial Association. The Society's work resulted in the founding of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.

Following seminary, Rice, along with Adoniram Judson, Samuel Mills, James Richard, Gordon Hall, Francis Robbins, Samuel Loomis, and Byram Cree, received appointments from the Congregationalist Board to serve as missionaries in India. While traveling to Calcutta, he accepted the Baptist principle of baptism by immersion and was baptized by William Ward in November, 1812. Rice returned to America in 1813 to secure Baptist funding, for the remaining missionaries, after the Congregationalists withdrew funding following their Baptist conversion. Through his work with Baptists, Rice convinced leaders to create the first national convention, the Triennial Convention, in 1814. Rice traveled throughout the country to promote the needs of Baptist missionaries involved in both foreign and home missions.

After the Convention established *The Latter Day Luminary* in 1818, Rice served as the first editor. He also worked with Richard Furman and William Staughton to create a college and seminary in Washington, D. C. He supported the creation of Columbian College, today known as George Washington University. Rice died September 25, 1836, in Saluda, South Carolina.

Scope and Content Note

The Luther Rice Collection contains 1 linear foot of material in two document boxes and details Rice's efforts to increase denominational sponsorship for both foreign and home missions. The documents span the years 1803 to 1986. The collection also deals with fundraising and promotion of mission work and Rice's involvement with the founding of Columbian College (George Washington University). Materials included in the collection are copies of journals, cash accounts, and correspondence. Other materials deal with the centennial and sesquicentennial memorials of Rice's death and his birthplace in Massachusetts.

Researchers should note that the originals for some journals and correspondence are located at George Washington University in the Luther Rice Papers, 1812 – 1832. Some of the journals are available on microfilm in the SBHLA (MF 298, MF 298-2, and MF 391-2), and several are transcribed in *Dispensations of Providence: The Journal and Selected Letters of Luther Rice, 1803 – 1830*, ed. William H. Brackney (BX6495.R55 A33 1984).

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically

Provenance

Compiled by Historical Commission staff, 1970.

Preferred Citation

Luther Rice Collection, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee

Access Restrictions

None

Subject Terms

Rice, Luther, 1783 – 1836

McCoy, Isaac, 1784 – 1846

Hicks, Berryman

Williams, Nathaniel West, 1784 – 1853

Columbian College in the District of Columbia

Baptists – United States

Baptists – Missions

Missions – History

Missions – Education and promotion

Related Materials

Brackney William H. *Dispensations of Providence: The Journal and Selected Letters of Luther Rice, 1803 – 1830*, ed. William H. Brackney (BX6495.R55 A33 1984).

Luther Rice Papers, from the American Baptist Historical Society, MF 391.

Luther Rice journals, lectures, and memo books. 1803-1827, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, MF 298.

Luther Rice letters and other manuscripts, 1812-1829, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, MF 298-2.

Taylor, James Barnett. *Memoir of Rev. Luther Rice, one of the first American missionaries to the east*. Broadman Press, 1937.

Container List

Box 1

- 1.1 Article – “Luther Rice: His Virtues Engraven on the Walls of Zion”
- 1.2 Class Lecture Notes and Account Book, 1810
- 1.3 Correspondence – Chapin, Stephen, May 15, 1835
- 1.4 Correspondence – Emerson, Joseph, October 12, 1822
- 1.5 Correspondence – Glenn, Robert, January 8, 1817
- 1.6 Correspondence – Hicks, Berryman, 1815 – 1818
- 1.7 Correspondence – Lincoln, H., August 31, 1825
- 1.8 Correspondence – Luther Rice Centennial, 1936
- 1.9 Correspondence – McCoy, Isaac, February 25, 1820-January 28, 1828
- 1.10 Correspondence – Myers, Sarah, May 17, 1830
- 1.11 Correspondence – Staughton, William, 1817
- 1.12 Correspondence – Williams, Nathaniel, November 28, 1822 – May 21, 1823
- 1.13 Diary / Journal, 1803 – 1807
- 1.14 Homesite Material – Northboro, Massachusetts
- 1.15 Hudson, Robert R., “An Evening with Luther Rice, a Dramatic Monologue,” 1983
- 1.16 Journal, 1812
- 1.17 Journal, 1815 – 1817

Box 2

- 2.1 Journal, 1815 – 1819
- 2.2 Journal / Cashbook, 1819 – 1826
- 2.3 Journal of Travels and Collections for Missions and Education in Virginia, 1819 – 1820
- 2.4 Knowles, Jams D. – From *Memoir of Mrs. Ann H. Judson*, 1829
- 2.5 Love letter from Luther Rice – Deering, Ronald
- 2.6 Minutes – Columbian College (Trustees), April 26, 1826
- 2.7 Minutes – Luther Rice Centennial Commission, April 28, 1936
- 2.8 Photographs – Burial Site
- 2.9 Program – Luther Rice Centennial, 1936
- 2.10 Program – Sesquicentennial Memorial Service – Saluda, South Carolina,

September 28, 1986

2.11 Weaver, Rufus W. – The Place of Luther Rice in American Baptist Life