

# Kings Mountain Baptist Association Collection: Finding Aid

University Archives; Gardner-Webb University



## Descriptive Summary

**Repository** – University Archives, Gardner-Webb University

**Title** – Kings Mountain Baptist Association Collection

**Quantity** – 14 boxes (5.88 linear feet)

**Language of Materials** – English

**Abstract** – The King’s Mountain Baptist Association was established in Cleveland County, North Carolina in 1851. Starting with 13 churches and slowly growing over the years to include 80 churches in 2001. Originally part of the Broad River Baptist Association, the founders split from that organization in 1851 due to travel difficulties posed by the many creeks and rivers present in the area during the meeting times. Since then it has burgeoned into a substantial religious organization, keeping meticulous records on their work, internal politics, and service to the community. In 1903 the Association initiated a movement to form an educational institution. In 1905 they combined efforts with the Sandy Run Baptist Association to form Boiling Springs High School which would later become Gardner-Webb University. In 2002 The Kings Mountain Baptist Association changed its associational name to The Greater Cleveland County Baptist Association. To view items related to associational history from 2002 to the present, view The Greater Cleveland County Baptist Association Collection.

## Processing Information

**Processed** – 2014 – 2015

**By** – Daniel Sprinkle, Natalie Edwards Bishop

## Acquisition Information

As a founding body of Boiling Springs High School, later to become Gardner-Webb University, the Kings Mountain Baptist Association has maintained close ties with the University. It has been and continues to be a standing practice for the association to donate copies of the associational minutes to the University Archives.

## Access Restrictions

Unrestricted

## **Preferred citation for publication**

Kings Mountain Baptist Association Collection; item description, date. Series, Subseries, Item #, University Archives, Gardner-Webb University, Boiling Springs, NC.

## **Arrangement & Inventory**

The arrangement of this collection was imposed in the absence of an original order. This collection is arranged in 7 series.

### **Series 1 – Minute Books**

Box 1 – 1851 – 1907 (1865 minutes are available at Wake Forest University, a digitized copy is available on the Internet Archives)

Box 2 – 1908 – 1919

Box 3 – 1920 – 1930

Box 4 – 1931 – 1940

Box 5 – 1941 – 1947

Box 6 – 1948 – 1952

Box 7 – 1953 – 1956

Box 8 – 1957 – 1960

Box 9 – 1961 – 1966

Box 10 – 1967 – 1975

Box 11 – 1976 – 1985

Box 12 – 1986 – 1995

Box 13 – 1996 – 2001

### **Series 2 – Reports**

#### **Subseries A – Advance Reports**

2.A.1 – Advance Report, 1966

2.A.2 – Advance Report, 1967

2.A.3 – Advance Report, 1969

#### **Subseries B – Book of Reports**

2.B.1 – Book of Reports, 1992

2.B.2 – Book of Reports, 1993

2.B.3 – Book of Reports, 1994

2.B.4 – Book of Reports, 1995

2.B.5 – Book of Reports, 1996

2.B.6 – Book of Reports, 1997

2.B.7 – Book of Reports, 1998

2.B.8 – Book of Reports, 2000

2.B.9 – Book of Reports, 2001

### **Subseries C – Reports on Education**

2.C.1 – Report on Education, 1903

2.C.2 – Report on Education, 1904

2.C.3 – Report on Education, 1996

### **Subseries D – Committee reports and handouts from the 2001 biannual session**

## **Series 3 – Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the Association**

## **Series 4 – Associational History**

### **Subseries A – Associational History Books**

4.A.1 – Associational History Book, 1851 – 1951

4.A.2 - History with handwritten annotations

4.A.3 – Associational History Committee

4.A.4 - *Visions of Faith: The sesquicentennial history of the Kings Mountain Baptist Association 1851 – 2001* by Lansford Jolley

### **Subseries B – “A Pageant of Baptist Progress” Kings Mountain Baptist Association Centennial**

“A Pageant of Baptist Progress” is a pageant of the formation of the Kings Mountain Baptist Association by Santford Martin, Jr. in celebration of the 100 year anniversary of the Association.

### **Subseries C – Double Shoals Baptist Church history**

A church history for Double Shoals Baptist Church written in 1930 by J. W. Costner. The account includes church history back to 1899.

## **Series 5 – Associational Publications**

### **Subseries A – The Beacon**

5.A.1 – Complete editions for The Beacon, 1996, 2000-2002

5.A.2 – Partial editions for The Beacon, 1959 – 1974, 1998 - 2000

### **Subseries B – Resource Manual**

5.B.1 – Resource Manual, 1998 – 1999

5.B.2 – Resource Manual, 2000 – 2001

5.B.3 – Resource Manual, 2001 – 2002

### **Subseries C. Vital statistics of Kings Mountain Baptist Association Churches**

5.C.1 – 1995

5.C.2 – 1996

5.C.3 – 1997

5.C.4 – 1998

### **Subseries D. Pamphlets and Flyers**

A variety of advertisements and flyers for Associational programs and events.

### **Subseries E. Church and Pastor Directories**

**Series 6 – Cash Receipts and Disbursements – 1957**

**Series 7 – News clippings, 1917 - 1997**

### **Scope and Content**

The Kings Mountain Baptist Association Collection includes associational meeting minutes, reports, associational histories, publications, and news clippings documenting the history and actions of the association. Documents in the collection primarily consist of recorded minutes of the meetings of the association, held annually at different member churches. There are two associational history books, one focusing on the centennial (1851 – 1951) and the other sesquicentennial (1851 – 2001) anniversaries of the association. The arrangement of this collection was created by the archivist.

**Series 1. Associational Minutes.** Includes minute records of the association from 1851 – 2001, when the association changed names to The Greater Cleveland County Baptist Association. Minutes reflect the accomplishments and struggles faced by the Association in each year of their work. Topical issues appearing in the minute records include temperance beliefs among local churches and the community, relationships with other local Baptist associations, local and foreign missions, and missions related to local soldiers during the Civil War. Records are complete with the exception of the 1855, 1865, and 1998 minute records. The 1855 minutes a partial booklet exists. The 1865 and 1998 minutes are missing entirely. The 1865 minute book is available through Wake Forest University's archival collection.

**Series 2. Reports.** Includes several series of reports created by the Association.

**Subseries A – Advance Reports** contain a preliminary agenda for the annual meeting and series of committee reports. Advance Reports were shared with attendees prior to the annual session. Examples of committee reports include: Baptist Hospital report, Biblical Recorder report, Gardner-Webb College report, Brotherhood report, and a variety missions reports. **Subseries B – Book of Reports** functioned in the same capacity as the Advance Reports. As the committee structure of the Association grew considerably, there are an increased number of committee reports. Newly added

committee reports include: WMU reports, Christian Life, and Music Ministry. **Subseries C – Reports on Education** focused on the Association’s interest in developing denominational public education institutions within the local community. These reports refer both to high school and higher education level institutions. **Subseries D – Committee reports and handouts from the 2001 biannual session** include loose reports and handouts from the biannual meeting that were not bound with the official 2001 minute books. As this collection of documents mirrors the content of the Advance reports, a program agenda is also included with the reports.

**Series 3. Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the Association** includes a copy of the 1997 Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the Association document. This document was filed with the Cleveland County Clerk of Court 1997, DEC 4.

**Series 4. Associational History** includes several histories of the Association, local churches, and committees tasked with collecting associational history. **Subseries A** contains two published histories of the Association and materials associated with the development of those publications. This book, containing a synopsis of the first 100 years of meetings, is invaluable to research. It contains summaries and highlights of the meetings that took place and can be used as a makeshift table of contents for the first century. This can alleviate handling of the original minutes, preserving the older minutes from over-handling. Due to the paper quality and age, many of the early minutes booklets are in fragile condition. **Subseries B** is a pageant of the formation of the Kings Mountain Baptist Association by Santford Martin, Jr. in celebration of the 100 year anniversary of the Association. The play was produced and dramatized by the Gardner-Webb College departments of Public Relations and Dramatics, with Ben C. Fisher and J. Y. Hamrick acting as directors. The pageant was performed 1950, OCT 19 at Double Springs Baptist Church, the hosting church of the first Associational meeting in 1851. **Subseries C** is a church history for Double Shoals Baptist Church written in 1930 by J. W. Costner. The account includes church history back to 1899.

**Series 5. Associational Publications** contains materials published and distributed by the Association. **Subseries A** contains both complete and partial editions of the Association newsletter *The Beacon*. **Subseries B** are a series of Resource Manuals provided to members of the community with a list of programs and resources provided by the Association. These include meal programs, educational opportunities, and children’s programs. **Subseries C** are published vital statistics of churches within the Association. These are similar to the annual tabular chart included in the Associational Minutes. **Subseries D** are a variety of advertisements and flyers for Associational programs and events.

**Series 6. Cash Receipts and Disbursements** includes several pages of Associational financial records from 1957.

**Series 7. News clippings** includes a series of news clippings pertaining to Associational events dating from 1917 to 1997.

### **Additional Authors, Titles, & Subject Headings**

The following entries represent persons, titles, and subjects documented in this collection.

#### **Authors**

The Kings Mountain Baptist Association

Jolley, Lansford

Suttle, Joseph

Logan, J. R.

Martin, Santford

#### **Titles**

*Visions of Faith: The sesquicentennial history of the Kings Mountain Baptist Association 1851 – 2001*

“A Pageant of Baptist Progress” Kings Mountain Baptist Association Centennial

Associational History Book, 1851 – 1951

The Beacon

#### **Subjects**

Kings Mountain Baptist Association (N.C.)

Baptist Associations – North Carolina

Baptists – North Carolina – Cleveland County

Shelby (N.C.)

Cleveland County (N.C.)

Cleveland County (N.C.) – Church History