

INVENTORY TO THE  
LOUIE DE VOTIE NEWTON  
COLLECTION

AR. 12



Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives

# LOUIE DE VOTIE NEWTON PAPERS, 1946-1948

## AR. 12

### I. Biographical Sketch

Louis De Votie Newton was a Southern Baptist pastor and denominational leader from Georgia. He was born in Screven County, Georgia in 1892. He was a graduate of Mercer University and Columbia University in New York.

As a young reporter for the New York World, he refined his writing skills through interview with John D. Rockefeller, Thomas A. Edison, Charles Evans Hughes, and Rudyard Kipling. Those skills later aided him as publicity director for the Southern Baptist Convention's "75 Million Campaign" to pay debts owed by hospitals, schools, and agencies. The same year, 1919, Georgia Baptists purchased the Christian Index from private interests and named him editor.

Following the death of his pastor at Druid Hills Baptist Church, Newton, who as chairman of the deacons, was offered the ministerial post. He became pastor on April 1, 1929. Newton became an influential pastor and exerted power on political and social issues.

He was chairman of the SBC's finance committee for 25 years and vice president of the Baptist World Alliance. He also was a co-founder of Americans United for Separation of Church and State. He served as president of the Southern Baptist Convention from 1946-1948. He retired as pastor in 1968. He died in Atlanta on June 3, 1986.

### II. Scope and Content

This collection of papers were compiled during Dr. Newton's tenure as president of the Southern Baptist Convention, 1946-1948 and consists of correspondence, pamphlets and a copy of an address "Hitherto Hathe the Lord Helped Us." Also materials relating to the naming and dedication of Louie D. Newton Hall, Mercer University, Macon, Georgia, February 24, 1978.

The correspondence is primarily with Duke McCall, Executive Secretary of the Executive Committee, SBC. The correspondence covers such topics as: the meetings of the Executive Committee, the Commission on Race Relations, world relief, expenses, Negro Baptist Hospital, the Cooperative Program, ambassador to the Vatican, conscientious objectors. A folder with copies of Newton correspondence was added to the collection in 1993 and focus on Newton's interest in Baptists in Russia. It includes letter to John H. Rushbrooke, O. K. Armstrong, W. O. Carver, Francis C. Stifler, Andrei A. Gromyko and other Russian Baptists.

For additional information related to Louie D. Newton see the records of the Executive Committee, SBC (AR.627). The oral history interview with Dr. Newton is also available in the Archives (R222t and R95t).

The collection was donated to the Historical Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention from Louis D. Newton, April 24, 1979.

### III. Folder Listing

1. Biographical Sketch from Meet the Presidents, by Porter Routh, pp. 87-90
2. Correspondence - Related to Baptists in Russia, 1944-1946
3. Correspondence -- Duke K. McCall -Louie D. Newton, May 31, 1946- September 8, 1948.
4. Correspondence -- Executive Committee, Southern Baptist Convention, January 1, 1946- June 6, 1948.
  - Re. Election of Duke K. McCall
  - Re. J. B. Lawrence and Home Mission Board
  - Re. Conscientious Objectors
  - Re. Miscellaneous Denominational Affairs
5. Materials relating to Naming and Dedication of Louie Newton Hall, Mercer University, Macon, Georgia
  - a. News clipping from The Atlanta Constitution, April 28, 1982
  - b. Dedication Program, February 24, 1978
  - c. The Mercerian, Magazine for Mercer Alumni, January 1978
6. Program honoring Newton -- Jefferson Avenue Baptist Church, East Point, Georgia, Tuesday Evening, October 18, 1977
7. Sermons -- "Hitherto Hath the Lord Helped Us"  
(Excerpts from address by Louie D. Newton, Southern Baptist Convention, May 15, 1946)
8. Sermons -- "Southern Baptist -Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow"  
(Presidential address, St. Louis, May 7, 1947, Southern Baptist Convention.)