

Inventory to the
Robert Boyte Crawford Howell Collection

AR. 795-140



Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives

Robert Boyte Crawford Howell

Collection, 1838-1867

AR. 795-140

I. Historical Sketch

Howell was born in Wayne County, North Carolina on March 10, 1801. He attended Columbian College in Washington, DC. A year later in 1827 he was ordained as a Baptist minister. In 1834 he accepted an appointment as a missionary to the west from the American Baptist Home Mission Society and pastor of the Nashville church, effective January 1, 1835. He began The Baptist, a monthly paper, in 1835, and edited it most of the time until he gave it to the Tennessee Baptists in 1846. The church in Nashville grew to a membership of about 500, whites and blacks, had constructed a new church building.

In 1850, Howell became pastor of the Second Baptist Church, Richmond, Virginia. The annual average addition to the church during his tenure was about fifty-seven members. During these years he preached 2,000 sermons, 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 Southern Baptist Convention. He served four terms during this period as President of the Southern Baptist Convention. His service as pastor to the Richmond church ended when he returned to Nashville in July, 1857. The material in this collection is primarily from his time at Second Baptist in Richmond.

Howell served the Nashville church the rest of life. He died in Nashville on 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.

II. Scope and Content

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 from 1849 to 1855 when Howell served as pastor 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. The sermons are not full transcripts of his sermons, but mostly guides and notes to his sermons. Some sermons are more complete than others. He often includes notes about the sermon and how it was received by the congregation. These sermons were primarily 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 of the sermons related to theological matters such as salvation, Christian living, faith, the nature of Jesus and God, funeral sermons, and eternal life. Also included are sermons on the loyalty to country, peace, on female education, the ordination sermon for William A. Whitsitt, and the dedication sermons for several Virginia churches.

Apparently, 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.

III. Description

Folder 1.

Sermon book - (VII) Sermons listed as they appear in the bound volume.

"Final perseverance of the saints" September 5, 1858

"Qualifications for the heavenly inheritance" August 24, 1853

"The promises of God" October 2, 1853 and January 24, 1858

"Salvation" February 8, 1854

"Christ the antidote of fear" October 2, 1853

"True religion does good to all men" July 13, 1853

"Regeneration" October 18, 1840

"The practical influence of faith" August 21, 1853

"Connection between religion and civil government" November 10, 1839

"The wonder of a sinner's salvation" August 28, 1853

"Sunday School" March 6, 1853

"Prayer for a revival" August 31, 1853

"The conditions of fruitfulness" November 13, 1853

"The glory of God" December 2, 1838

"Christian consolations" September 26, 1852

"We set up our banners" Leigh Street Baptist Church, Richmond. Dedication sermon, December 25, 1853.

"Predestination" February 17, 1839

"Self righteousness" October 20, 1839

"The parable of the supper" August 19, 1838

"The incarnation of Christ" April 12, 1846

"Hope of the righteous in death" April 21, 1844

"Final glory of the church" March 31, 1844

"The atonement" February 11, 1840

"Temptation" November 22, 1840

"The duty of churches to their pastor" June 28, 1840

"The faith" April 22, 1838

"Qualifications requisite for church membership" July 31, 1842

"A survey of Zion" Missionary sermon, Mill Creek Baptist Church, Nashville, Tennessee, September 4, 1841

"Christian submission" July 6, 1845

"The proof of regeneration" August 12, 1842

"The power of the keys" April 7, 1844

"True religion, the same in all ages" January 27, 1839

"Intermediate state" January 21, 1841

"Mission of Christ to our world" April 21, 1839

"All flesh shall finally submit to God" February 7, 1841.

"The prodigal son" August 15, 1842

"Relations of God and His people: parable of the vine and the branches" September 20, 1840

"Funeral of a child" June 19, 1840

"Parable of the marriage feast" July 27, 1840

"Regeneration" May 27, 1838

"Christian defection" March 11, 1855

"The gospel a council of peace" September 7, 1845

"The mourner comforted" June 25, 1853

"The impossibility of neutrality in religion" July 24, 1853

"Charge at the ordination of William A. Whitsitt - Concord, Davidson Co.,
July 12, 1844

"Program for an address to the Baptist denomination in Virginia on the
subject of a female seminary in Richmond" August, 1852

"Habitual readiness for the coming of Christ" November 4, 1856

"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ" October 27, 1853

"Children of God" March 1, 1854

"Christian steadfastness" November 30, 1853

"Manly Christianity" October 25, 1854

"Consideration" October 5, 1853

"The guarantee of life eternal" December 8, 1853

"Christ the sum of the gospel" October 26. 1853

"God teaches his people" August 6, 1854

"The means of salvation" November 9, 1853

"Christ the deliverer" November 2, 1853

"Christian sympathy" Outline only

"Object of Christ's mission" September 28, 1853

"The great alternative" October 17, 1852

Folder 2

Sermon Book XII -- Sermons listed as they appear in the bound volume.

"The true faith" November 11, 1855; October 21, 1858

"The signs of the times: introductory to the General Association of
Virginia" Fredericksburg, June 3, 1853

"The efficacy of preaching" December 14, 1856

"The Christian stewardship" May 27, 1854

"Habitual readiness for another world: funeral of Mrs. Jane J. Snead"
September 11, 1856

"Power of Christ's resurrection" July 20, 1856

"The evidences and rewards of the love of Christ" May 4, 1856

"A message from God" July 20, 1856

"The throne of grace" November 9, 1856

"Expiation of Christ" November 30, 1857; Nashville, July 26, 1857

"The providence of God" June 18, 1854

"The Christian's hope" February 20, 1848

"The work of the Holy Spirit in the regeneration and salvation of the
soul" March 17, 1844

"Readiness for Christ's coming" December 7, 1852

"Wisdom justified by his children" July 29, 1855

"The final rest" October 21, 1856

"Accountability to God" August 31, 1856

"Christ is the only savior" December 4, 1853

"The will of the Lord" November 5, 1854

"Almost persuaded" November 7, 1852

"The religion that makes a man happy is characterized by both knowledge
and obedience" September 23, 1855

"Faith in God's love" July 11, 1852

"Reprobation" August 15, 1852

"Religions worship" August 3, 1856

"Universal reign of Christ" January, 1854 (King and Queen County, Virginia
--Andrew Broaddus's church)

"Institution of J.B. Jeter as pastor of Grace Street Baptist Church,
Richmond, Virginia. September 12, 1852

"Reclamation of backsliders" August 8, 1852

"The church of Christ: dedication at Emmaus Baptist Church, New Kent
County, Virginia" September 19, 1852.

"The value of female education" An address at the anniversary of the
Chowan Female Collegiate Institute, Murfreesborough, NC, August,

1853

- "The influence of Christ's humiliation" Introductory to the Southern Convention, Baltimore, May 13, 1853
- "The glory of Christ" November 16, 1856
- "The apostolic ministry" September 14, 1856
- "The covenants a review" no date
- "The danger of prosperity" May 21, 1854
- "Prophetic office of Christ" February 18, 1855
- "Source of confidence for the prosperity of the church" February 18, 1855
- "Moral responsibility" October 7, 1855
- "Seeking the Lord" September 7, 1856
- "Death desirable" Funeral of Maj. J. Snead, September 9, 1855
- "The law considered as a covenant of salvation" November 28, 1852
- "Self denial" June 15, 1856
- "Power of the gospel" July 7, 1853
- "Salvation" October 12, 1856
- "Baptism is a solemn profession of religion" November 27, 1853
- "Ambassador for Christ" May 18, 1856
- "Our country" June 29, 1856
- "The church of Christ" Preached at the dedication of Reed's Church, Caroline County, Virginia, September 30, 1853
- "Reward of victory" February 3, 1856
- "Condescension of Christ" September 14, 1852
- "Salvation is confessed only on the condition of holiness" April 15, 1838
- "Deceitfulness of error" February 2, 1853
- "Council of peace" January 19, 1853 (reconstructed and transferred May, 1862)
- "The love of God, the chief element of Christian prosperity" November 24, 1844 and Richmond, January 25, 1851
- "The love of God is the principal element of spiritual prosperity" July 20, 1845

"The only true happiness" October 13, 1844

"Divine superintendence in the affairs of men" Preached on a day set apart
by the Mayor of Richmond, September 6, 1855

"Reasons for praise to Christ" October 19, 1845

"Backsliding" May 28, 1854

Folder 3

Volume of membership and baptisms at the Second Baptist Church of Richmond,
1849-1855.

Folder 4

Book of poems and sayings, handwritten and clippings.