

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PRINTING BULLETINS

**Note: Print half as many lasers as needed since each sheet of paper has 2 bulletins.
Printing on a light tan or cream colored paper will provide a more historical look.**

If using a printer which prints 2-sided:

Print page 2 on the front side and page 3 on the back side—landscape (horizontal) printing.

If using a printer which prints 1-sided:

Print page 2, then flip paper, place back in tray and print page 3—landscape (horizontal) printing.

After printing, cut printed bulletins in half. A swing-arm cutter works best.

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CELEBRATING 400 YEARS OF BEING BAPTIST *Separate Baptists*



*Kiokee Baptist Church
Oldest Baptist church in Georgia*

The First Great Awakening, a revival movement that began in the 1720s, was a turning point for Baptists in America. Prior to 1720, Baptists had established only 32 churches with 1,699 members. Initially ignoring or opposing the awakening, most Baptists eventually warmed to and then later completely embraced the revival spirit. As a result, by 1790, Baptists had 978 churches with 67,320 members.

Among those who embraced revivalism were the Separate Baptists. Unlike the Particular Baptists (strong Calvinists), Separate Baptists (more moderate Calvinists) emphasized evangelistic preaching, boisterous worship services, and emotional conversion experiences. They were also known for a greater openness to women's leadership, and some Separate Baptist women served as deaconesses and elders. Others preached and prayed in public worship.

The best-known Separate Baptist woman is Martha Stearns Marshall. Along with her husband, Daniel, Martha converted to Christianity during the First Great Awakening. The couple eventually migrated from New England to Virginia, where they were introduced to Baptist beliefs. Concluding that scripture taught believer's baptism, they were soon baptized and joined a Baptist church, and Daniel was licensed to preach. But both Marshalls were preachers, and Martha's zeal apparently equaled that of her husband.

In 1755, the Marshalls, along with Martha's brother Shubal Stearns and his small congregation in Virginia, moved to North Carolina. The group settled at Sandy Creek and established a Baptist church, which became the most influential Separate Baptist church in the South, and Martha often stood alongside Shubal to preach at church meetings. A few years later, the Marshalls moved to nearby Abbott's Creek and founded a new church, and in 1771, they moved to Columbia County, Georgia, where they established in Kiokee the first Baptist church in Georgia.

In all these churches, Martha provided excellent leadership, and in 1810, Virginia Baptist historian Robert Semple wrote: "Mr. Marshall had a rare felicity of finding in this lady a Priscilla, a helper in the gospel. In fact, it should not be concealed that his extraordinary success in the ministry is ascribable in no small degree to Mrs. Marshall's unwearied, and zealous co-operation. Without the shadow of a usurped authority over the other sex, Mrs. Marshall, being a lady of good sense, singular piety, and surprising elocution, has, in countless instances melted a whole concourse into tears by her prayers and exhortations!"

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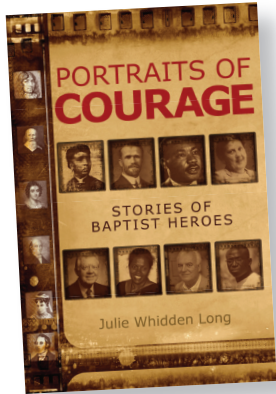
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by Julie Whidden Long
128-page book designed for
younger youth and older children



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\$12.80

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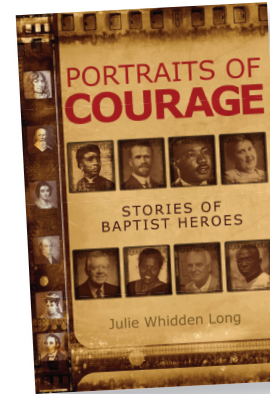


This bulletin insert is the second of twelve to be provided monthly during 2009 by the Baptist History and Heritage Society and The Center for Baptist Studies. The article was written by Pamela R. Durso, associate executive director-treasurer, Baptist History and Heritage Society.

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