

July 30, 1973



THE CHARLES HOLBROOK LIBRARY  
OFFICE OF THE LIBRARIAN

J. Phillip Arnold  
15327 St. Cloud Ave.  
Houston, Texas 77058

Dear Mr. Arnold:

At last, the day before vacation, at 5 p.m., your letter has finally reached the top of my pile. I am sorry for the delay in answering your letter of May 7. That is awful, isn't it!

I think you have chosen a very large subject for a Master's thesis, so trim it down if you can, is a suggestion I have. I can see I must suggest to you materials I have at home, about tidbits of information I have gleaned from various books about various SDB churches in England in the 1600's and 1700's. I will be glad to do this when I get back the end of Aug.--hope I can make myself fit it into my work!

As far as I know Tillam's group in the Palatinate did not connect up with the Ephrata community in Pa. of German SDB's. Those people apparently came to the Sabbath independently. About their connection with the Noble people around Philadelphia, I am curious, but I am not at all knowledgeable about data.

There are a few references to SDB's around Philadelphia (and I can get you page numbers) in two SDB record books of London churches: the "Mill Yard Church" and the "Pinner's Hall Church". Both of these are on microfilm, and Al Rogers perhaps can make these available to you from the SDB Hist. Soc. in Plainfield.

About American SDB's, Al Rogers is the expert; about English SDB's I think I know more, and that is why he referred ~~me~~ you to me! (Pardon the haste.)

Basic to research on this is the Baptist Historical Society. Transactions, published around 1900-10 or so, in about 7 volumes, and their successor, the BAPTIST QUARTERLY (London). I have notes on much of these, so can aid in your search if you wish. But I have never had access when I had time, to the early volumes of the BQ. I have used most or all of the BHS. Tr. In these, about 1950 you will find a church list of about 1690 from a Baptist Welch record book--a church list of SDB churches in the British Isles. There is some data in the first volume of SEVENTH DAY BAPTISTS IN EUROPE & AMERICA, but the article is poorly done--conclusions are leaped to, which are not warranted. 1. Al Rogers and I both believe in the 1650's is the beginning of organized SDB churches in England, not 1617, when there were a few individuals. 2. Just because several people lived in a place does not prove there was a SDB church there. 3. Use is made of a list of about 8 churches from the will of Joseph Davis. One of these is assumed to be the county in which the previously named

(continued)

Arnold 7-30-73

town is located. But the Welsh list shows there was a church in that county, without town name, Buckinghamshire, I believe. I have worked these lists of ministers through various sources like Baptist histories in England, and of counties in England, and the State Papers, Domestic Series from Charles II.

In the BHS. Tr. or BQ, there is somewhere the church records of a church in London of which Chamberlen was a member. The article shows it was not a Sabbath-keeping church. Last winter I read a microfilm of a 17th century SDB book (Southern Bapt. Convention microfilm) which mentions meetings in London about 1657?? which seem to have just started--I can get you the data later. That may be the beginning of the "Mill Yard" church. One assumes that group became or was the group of which John James was a pastor, 1671, when he was executed for being a Fifth Monarchy man. One assume this group continues .. and is the church in the record book of the group which in the 1690's located in Mill Yard.

There is in the BQ, about 1950-55 an article on Tillam. I assume you have used Whitley's BAPTIST BIBLIOGRAPHY.

Until I can give you a more adequate reply, best wishes, work hard, and I am very pleased you are doing this. I hope you will eventually get a copy of your thesis either to me or to Al Rogers for the SDB Hist. Soc.

Sincerely,



Oscar Burdick  
Librarian

Have you used Morgan Edwards, MATERIALS TOWARD A HISTORY OF BAPTISTS IN PA. (approx. title)--much material on the Noble movement.