

**HISTORY OF THE SOUTH BAPTIST  
CHURCH OF BOSTON WITH  
NOTES RELATING TO THE  
FOURTH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH**

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History of the South Baptist Church of Boston with Notes Relating to the Fourth Street Baptist Church by Francis E. Blake

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**FRANCIS E. BLAKE**

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South Baptist Church, 1899.

HISTORY  
OF THE  
SOUTH BAPTIST CHURCH  
OF BOSTON

WITH NOTES RELATING TO THE  
FOURTH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

COMPILED BY  
FRANCIS E. BLAKE

BOSTON, MASS.  
1899



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#### PREFATORY NOTE.

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The compiler of this brief sketch has thought it desirable to place it in the hands of the members of this church at this important period of its history.

He has taken pleasure in preparing it because of his membership in the church and active participation in its work and acquaintance with its history almost from his childhood. He trusts it will prove acceptable, and will quicken the interest of all the members in the welfare of this church, which our Lord has so blessed in years that are past.

BOSTON, October, 1899.





## THE SOUTH BAPTIST CHURCH.

At the time of the annexation of Dorchester Neck (now South Boston) to Boston in 1804, the population was only about sixty; and, notwithstanding the efforts of the large landholders and projectors of the annexation scheme, the growth in number of residents was for many years very slow. One bridge only (the present Dover Street) at that period afforded communication with the city proper, and it was not until the year 1828 that the second bridge (now Federal Street) was built. This somewhat stimulated the increase of the population, which in 1828 numbered about 3,000. There was not then, however, nor for years after, any public conveyance between the city proper and South Boston.

The comparative isolation of the residents here rendered the establishment of schools and churches the more important, and as early as 1810 religious services were instituted. What is now the Unitarian Church was first founded, to be followed within a few years by an Episcopal (1816), Roman Catholic (1819), Congregationalist (1823), and an unsuccessful attempt of the Methodists.

The establishment of a Baptist church in South Boston was primarily due to Mr. Jacob Flinn, because of his interest in the progress of religious work in

general and his desire to promote the Baptist belief. He had removed to South Boston as early as 1825, and very soon after his settlement established a prayer-meeting, which was held in his own house. With his excellent wife as a helper and the assistance of a few others whose interests were identified with the Baptist denomination, this meeting was maintained for more than a year, and resulted in establishing the faith of many and in the conversion of souls.

The work in the several other churches in the place was at a low ebb; and, although the discouragements which Mr. Flinn and his associates encountered were great, progress was made, so that in the spring of 1827 a Sabbath school was established and a weekly lecture arranged for by Rev. George Evans, a city missionary. This lecture by the courtesy of the Congregationalists was held in their house of worship at the corner of Broadway and A Street, and was well attended. The success of the movement and the interest manifested in the Sabbath school was such as to indicate clearly that a permanent place of worship must be secured.

On the south-west corner of Broadway and C Street there was a building which had been erected by the Methodist Religious Society for a house of worship, but was now unoccupied. With a clear vision of the necessities for immediate action Mr. Samuel Hill decided to purchase this building for the Baptists, with whom he was closely identified in all their interests. Although without money, he bought the lot of land and building in his own name, pledging to pay