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- President - Lisa Clark Diller
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- Secretary/Treasurer - Edward Allen
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- Member-at-large - Phillip Warfield
- Editor(s) - Katharine Van Arsdale & Howard Munson

ASDAH Newsletter

2024

The Newsletter of the Association of Seventh-day
Adventist Historians

Posted February 2024



ASDAH conference panel, April 2023



McArthur Lecture (left) and ASDAH conference meal (right), April 2023

From the ASDAH President

Dear Adventist Historians,

I'm still basking in the joy of having seen so many of you at the conference here at Southern in April 2023. Thanks for taking time from your schedule to join us, to share your work, and to plot ways we can develop historical understanding in our classrooms and in our church.

We keep running into each other at other events as well, which reminds us of how wide-reaching our work is and allows us to support each other and learn from each other. Many of us were involved in study abroad this summer, helping with tours, doing research, presenting our scholarship, and just learning from the places we traveled. I know I was able to see some folks while studying in England and Spain, and others of you will no doubt be reporting on your own international experiences.

Our own Michael Campbell organized the NAD Women in Adventist History conference in October, and this was a great time for ASDAH folks to contribute. The women clergy and other women in church leadership expressed how valuable it was to find their history and contributions being highlighted and documented. The WAU and Southern students who attended (and many WAU students also presented their research) also reported that they hadn't realized how interesting Adventist history was (women make everything more interesting!) and how much support there had been and was in the present for women in our church.

A few more of us met up at the Sixteenth Century Conference in Baltimore in October and many of you see each other at the American Society for Religious Studies. Hopefully those of you at the AHA/ASCH conference in January can connect, and I'll be recruiting more of you to join us at Samford Alabama Oct 12-14 for the Conference on Faith and History.

We live in exciting times for the study of history, with the constant need for context, and an increasing audience of folks who are interested in our work. It's a great chance to think about what we have to offer our publics, especially the community of faith. Our church needs our work, and we can encourage each other and expand the audience for our writing and speaking.

As you think about your schedule and priorities for the coming months, consider what online meetups would be useful. Let me know if you're willing to host discussions of books you've written or read, issues of pedagogy, or strategies for scholarship and bringing support to the study of history for our institutions and communities.

Prayerfully,

Lisa Clark Diller

Announcements

Preserving the Legacy of a Pioneer

By Nicola Palmer, Public Services Librarian, Eva B. Dykes Library, Oakwood University.

Information provided by Dr. Barbara Stovall, Oakwood University Archivist.

Previously published in *ASDAL Action* Volume 43, No. 1, Fall 2023.

The Eva B. Dykes Library at Oakwood University has embarked on an historic undertaking in partnering with two other institutions to coordinate and digitize works by and about Eva B. Dykes. Dr. Dykes was the first faculty member of Oakwood to hold a doctorate and was instrumental in assisting the college to gain full senior college accreditation in 1958, by chairing the accreditation committee. In 1946, Dr. Dykes founded and directed the now world-renowned musical group, The Aeolians, and gave the choral group its unique name. Eva B. Dykes has the distinction of being the first black student to graduate with a doctorate from the then Radcliffe College and the first black female in America to receive a Ph.D. in English Philology.

Through collaboration with the Radcliffe Institute at Harvard, Oakwood library was able to collect and itemize materials about Dr. Dykes. This process was initiated by Dr. Alexandria Russell, while she served as Digital Humanities Research Fellow with the Legacy of Slavery Project at Harvard University. Working in tandem with Oakwood University Archivist Dr. Barbara Stovall and local historian Dr. Mervyn Warren, the entire Dykes collection now resides with Oakwood. The other aspect of the collaboration will see the Adventist Digital Library at Andrews University digitizing aspects of the collection, thus making these invaluable archival gems available to researchers and the public.

Special commendations are due to Oakwood University Archivist Dr. Barbara Stovall whose dedication to preserving the legacy of Dr. Eva B. Dykes, (after whom the university library is named), ensured that this project gained momentum. Dr. Mervyn Warren, adopted son of Dr. Dykes, served as the faithful guardian of the collection, and it was he who handed over more than 200 artifacts to the University's Archive for preservation. Oakwood University Archives stands to be enriched by the addition of this resource to its collection and we are assured that legacy of this pioneering woman will be accessible for years to come.



l-r Drs. Mervyn Warren, Alexandria Russell, Barbara Stovall

with items from the Eva B. Dykes Collection



l-r Drs. Russell and Stovall view painting of Dykes

receiving her degree

Report from the Adventist Digital Library and Seventh-day Adventist Periodical & Obituary Index

By Katharine Van Arsdale, Digital Librarian

In June 2023, the Seventh-day Adventist Periodical & Obituary Index (SDAPI) launched its new website on the Adventist Digital Library (ADL) platform. This move signals a new era for SDAPI, which began in the 1970s as a print index of articles published in

Adventist English-language periodicals.

On the ADL platform, SDAPI gains features that transform the index into a true database of Adventist articles, both popular and scholarly. Features include advanced and faceted search, peer review filters, a citation export widget, and the addition of keyword searchable full text article PDFs. From May 2023 to the present, all article citations now

include the article PDF, where publishers grant permission or make their periodicals publicly available. Articles are also being appended to previously indexed citations. As a result, the complete run of the Journal of Adventist Education is now available through SDAPI; other titles are underway.

The Adventist Digital Library's new library site is available in beta with plans to fully launch in 2024. Over 30,000 works are available on the new ADL as of the end of 2023, with over 90,000 additional works in the queue. New material loads every day to the beta site, and incoming additions include much sought after collections such as Oakwood University's Eva B. Dykes Collection and periodicals including *Insight*, *Youth's Instructor*, and *Signs of the Times*. Many never-before-digitized periodicals have been recently scanned and processed by ADL from the library holdings of Atlantic Union College. Meanwhile, the legacy ADL site continues to serve researchers while content loads into the new ADL.

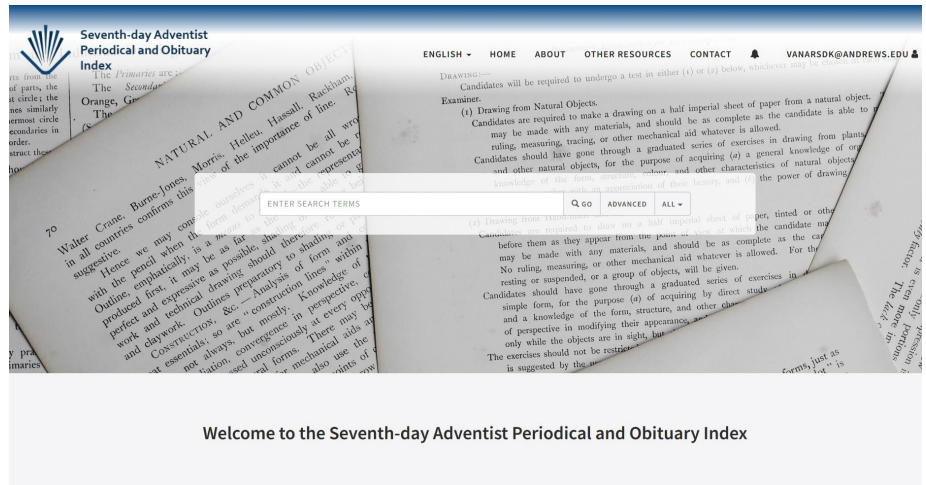
In 2023, ADL offered two new features to partners: on-site digitization services and fully hosted institutional repositories for subscribing colleges and universities. AdventHealth University, the Center for Adventist Research at Andrews University, Walla Walla University, and Washington Adventist University have now launched sites through their partnerships with ADL. Other institutions are invited to inquire about this feature.

Feedback, questions, or comments are welcome. Please write to content@adventistdigitallibrary.org.

Seventh-day Adventist Periodical & Obituary Index <https://sdapi.adventistdigitallibrary.org/>

ADL (beta) <https://adl.b2.adventistdigitallibrary.org/>

ADL (legacy) <https://adventistdigitallibrary.org/>



Report from the Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists (ESDA)

By Dragoslava Santrac, ESDA Managing Editor

Thank you, all the Encyclopedia contributors and readers, for making the ESDA a sought-after resource on Adventist history. In 2023 the ESDA website has reached 40,000 unique visitors per month, and the numbers



continue to grow. The ESDA is freely available at encyclopedia.adventist.org and contains more than 4,000 articles, 11,000 images, and hundreds of videos. Check the new searching options for Biographies in Advanced search for easy access to subcategories such as “Women,” “Educators,” and “Died in Mission Field”. “Filter by language” provides quick access to articles with versions in languages other than English,

including Portuguese, Spanish, Russian, French, and Korean.

Much progress has been made since the ESDA launch in 2020 thanks to many ASDAH members, among others. However, hundreds of articles remain to be written, and we need your help. Please give thought to joining the wonderful community of ESDA authors and peer reviewers if you have not already done so. If you are an ESDA writer, consider taking on some new entries. We also welcome qualified volunteers to assist us with translations to make the ESDA articles available to more people worldwide. To contribute to the ESDA, don't hesitate to contact the ESDA main office at encyclopedia@gc.adventist.org.

Institutional News

General Conference Office of Archives, Statistics, & Research

David Trim and Roy Kline visited the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division headquarters in August for an accreditation of the division archives and records center. The accreditation was successful, this being the fourth division to be successfully accredited. David Trim gave the plenary address at the 2023 triennial meeting of the Association of Seventh-day Adventist Historians, at which Dragoslava Santrac and Ashlee Chism gave papers. Ashlee Chism and Dragoslava Santrac gave papers at the North American Division-sponsored “Women in Seventh-day Adventist History Conference” held at Washington Adventist University October 12-14, 2023.

Washington Adventist University

The fifth annual Adventist Archives Lecture was held on Tuesday October 24, 2023, at Washington Adventist University's Weiss Library. The lecture, which is co-sponsored by the General Conference Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research and Washington Adventist University Honors College was given this year by Dr. Michael W. Campbell, director of Archives, Statistics, and Research for the North American Division. His subject was Irwin H. Evans and the Founding of the North American Division.

Conference Reports

Triennial Conference of the Association of Seventh-day Adventist Historians

Report by Lisa Clark Diller

Southern Adventist University hosted the Triennial ASDAH Conference in April 2023. It was a lot of effort for the 60 plus attendees to get to Collegedale, and to present papers, but I'm so very grateful. I felt the Holy Spirit's encouragement and support through our communing as scholars and believers. Thank you for spending your money and time to inspire, educate, and strengthen each other.

For the first time we were able to partner with the NAD to honor and affirm those who have served us—Brian Strayer and Joan Francis were 2023's awardees. We remembered and eulogized historians who have died in the last year: Emory Tolbert, Bert Haloviak, Harry Leonard, Mark Peach, and Floyd Greenleaf. On Friday night David Trim, Christie Chow, Ben Baker, and Phillip Warfield spurred us on to find ways to publish and research and cultivate new young scholars.

My favorite collective time was Sabbath morning when Michel Lee, Seneca Vaught, and Joan Francis led us in thinking through our calling to forgive and reconcile while telling the Truth in history. We also played a Reacting to the Past game Friday afternoon, and I'd love for that to become a tradition at ASDAH events in the future.

Saturday night's business meeting was lively. We elected leadership and defined directions for the future. Walla Walla was confirmed as the host of the next conference in **Rosario Beach Sept 2025**. We want to have more frequent online forums for discussion and encouragement between our triennial meetings, and to include international folks who can't always come to the meetings. We want to begin an intentional initiative to ensure the security of positions for historians in our SDA institutions and to remind our church members and leaders of the vitality of history for confirming identity. The ASDAH leadership team will be meeting to intentionally plan ways to encourage collaboration between historians and to support the humanities in the years between our triennial meetings.

Conference on Women in Adventist History

Report by Michael Campbell

From October 12-14, 2023, about 150 individuals participated in the Conference on Women in Adventist History with representation from most NAD Adventist colleges and universities as well as from other divisions around the world church. The conference included historians who teach history or are active with ASDAH and is the very first research conference as an initiative of the North American Division Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research (the plan is to have an annual research conference each year on a variety of themes). This particular conference included keynote presentations by Anneke Stasson and Laura Vance, prominent voices who have written widely from outside Adventism, as well as a number of Adventist scholars including Ella Simmons (retired General Conference Vice-President), Ann Roda (Adventist Health), DeeAnn Bragaw (NAD Women's Ministries), Heidi Olson Campbell (Ph.D. candidate at Baylor University), Celeste Ryan Blyden (Columbia Union Executive Secretary), and Laura Wibberding (Assistant History Professor at Pacific Union College). Altogether the more than 40 presentations will be gathered into a forthcoming book that we hope to have out in 2025.

Sixteenth Century Society's Annual Conference

Report by David Trim and Lisa Clark Diller

Greg Dodds, Rachel Byrd, Lisa Clark Diller, David Trim, and Heidi Olson Campbell all participated in the Sixteenth Century Conference in Baltimore in October 2023. Greg presented on the longterm-influence of Erasmus, David presided over a panel titled "English Personalities and Cosmopolitan Culture" which focused on three members of the circle of the great English poet Sir Philip Sidney, Rachel Byrd analyzed Shakespeare's Catholic influence in King Lear, Lisa Diller shared her work on Catholic families, and Heidi Campbell assessed the way women showed up politically in St. Paul's Cross sermons.



Historians at lunch, October 2023

American Society of Church History Conference

Photographs by Michael Campbell

Adventist historians enjoyed keen scholarship and friendly fellowship during the ASCH Conference in San Francisco in January 2024. Michael Campbell and the NAD office of ASTR hosted a meal for Adventist scholars at the meeting.



ASCH Conference panel



NAD meal for Adventist scholars at ASCH

People News

Though retired from Union College, **Ed Allen** continues to be involved in a number of historical projects. With Michael Campbell, he is completing work on an SDA Church History textbook. The manuscript goes to the publisher by the end of April. Ed also continues to write articles for the Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists. The recent conference on Women in Adventist History brought to his attention the work of Mrs. B. Miller in China. She is an important figure and has long been overlooked. Ed hopes to produce an ESDA article about her and an article for a scholarly journal since her work is well described in archived periodicals and is one of perhaps a few well-documented descriptions of a woman doing women's work in China during the period. Ed was inspired to explore her life as a result of partnering with the China Historical Christian Database [For information, see <https://chcdatabase.com/>]. Ed has submitted to them all the SDA workers from 1902 to 1908 (though this data is not yet on the site) and hopes to eventually provide an accurate and full accounting of SDA work in China in their database through 1950.

Erika (Weidemann) Bravo has continued her postdoctoral research work in the History Department at Texas A&M University. Through her partnership work with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), an agency of the Department of Defense that locates and identifies missing U.S. service personnel, she has created a variety of research opportunities for students. Three years ago, Bravo designed a History Research Internship and has since supervised over 45 interns. Interns use primary source databases and online archives to conduct research on Texans missing in action from World War II and the Korean War. She also leads a grant-funded project where students digitize World War II and Korean War medical logbooks. Because each person's clavicle is unique, the DPAA has begun to use chest radiographs to help with identifications of those still unaccounted for. The medical logbooks, containing names and x-ray numbers, will help scientists connect the radiographs to service personnel. This November, six of Bravo's students had the opportunity to present their research at the "Never Forgotten: Conflict Archaeology and Military History" symposium. Bravo's own research for the DPAA includes compiling a World War II casualty list of Americans who served in the Netherlands East Indies (Indonesia) and a digital humanities project that translates and identifies Allied crash locations in German *Luftgaukommando* records.

Lisa Clark Diller taught two new courses in 2023 and integrated Reacting to the Past Games each semester into at least one of her classes. She and Michael Weismeyer combined their classes this fall to play Rage Against the Machine which allowed students to experience the Industrial Revolution. She took a research trip to the UK to complete the first stage of her book on Catholic families in the 17th century and their advocacy for parental rights.

Kris Erskine has been awarded a four-month research grant by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Taiwan to research the history and culture of vegetarian food in that country. Taiwan has more vegetarians and plant-based practitioners than any country except for India, with about 14% or 15% of the population claiming a vegetarian or plant-based eating lifestyle. During the summer of 2024 Kris will travel around Taiwan, meeting with a spectrum of people, from chefs at upscale restaurants to food truck vendors, from the local Taiwanese to the foreigners who open plant-based cafes. Kris hopes to enjoy eating local plant-based cuisine from the islands to mountain villages, from coastal village regions to the larger cities. Although much of the plant-based lifestyle

in Taiwan is connected to religious practice there is a discernible shift over the last few decades and new plant-based adherents are motivated by factors other than religion. From this research Kris hopes to run a brief podcast series and publish an article. Kris continues to teach full-time, history and history education, at Athens State University, but he also works as the Chief Academic Officer for an Adventist-owned educational group that opens American curriculum diploma-granting programs within existing non-religious private schools in China, all of which follow the Adventist curriculum as closely as the Chinese government will permit. Current projects where Kris will be working in throughout 2024 are located in the northeastern city of Dandong, and in Wuhan.

At the ASDAH conference in April 2023, **Joan Francis** and **Brian Strayer** received recognition from the North American Division for their lifetimes of service to the history profession.

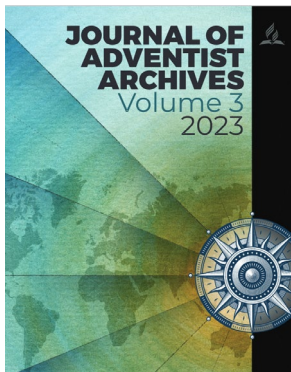
During 2023, **Andrew Howe** published an article on post-World War II motel culture in *Pacific Coast Philology*, as well as book chapters on *Jaws*, the Australian mini-series *Kings in Grass Castles*, and the Chinese film *Raise the Red Lantern*. He also presented a paper at the annual meetings of the Pacific Ancient & Modern Languages Association, on land ownership and its relationship to justice in *Longmire*.

Brian Strayer gave scholarly presentations on Hiram Edson at the ASDAH Conference at Southern Adventist University in April 2023; at the Michiana Adventist Forum meeting at Andrews University in October 2023; and at churches in Michigan and California. He is currently researching the life of Joseph Harvey Waggoner preparatory to writing his biography in 2024. In July 2023, Brian enjoyed a two-week Southern Adventist University tour of Norway, Sweden, and Denmark led by Dr. Bill Wohlers, revisiting sites from which his ancestors, the Vikings, originally came.

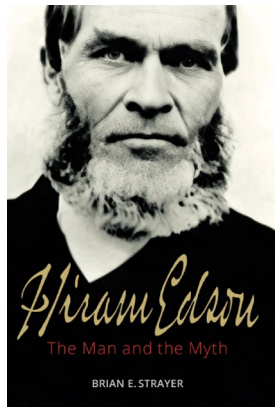


Joan Francis and Brian Strayer received lifetime recognition awards at the ASDAH Conference, April 2023

New & Forthcoming Publications



In September, volume III of the *Journal of Adventist Archives* was published; it can be accessed [here](#).



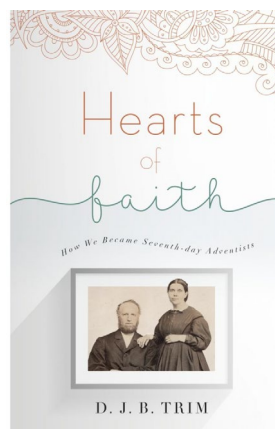
Brian Strayer, *Hiram Edson: The Man and the Myth* (Oak & Acorn Publishing, 2023).

<https://www.amazon.com/Hiram-Edson-Myth-Brian-Strayer/dp/BOC8RFBX5Y>



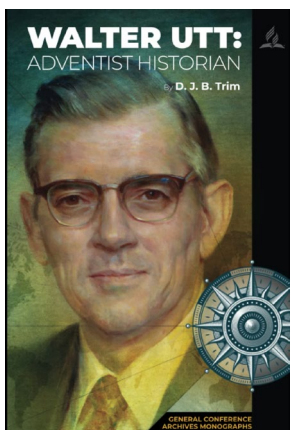
Brian Strayer, *Our USA: We'll Ever Love Thee* (Union Springs Academy Alumni Association, 2003).

This centennial history of Union Springs Academy in upstate New York is available at Union Springs Academy.



D.J.B. Trim, *Hearts of Faith: How We Became Seventh-day Adventists* (Pacific Press Publishing Association, 2022).

<https://adventistbookcenter.com/hearts-of-faith-how-we-became-seventh-day-adventists.html>



D. J. B. Trim, *Walter Utt: Adventist Historian* (General Conference Archives Monographs, 2023).

<https://www.amazon.com/Walter-Utt-Adventist-Conference-Monographs/dp/1736989472>.

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McAdams Grant Scholarship

All scholars of Adventist history are invited to submit applications for research funding through the McAdams grant, which is intended to fund significant projects in Millerite and Adventist history that will result in publication. Scholars holding a Ph.D. in history (or related field) or who have demonstrated competence in the field of Adventist history are eligible to apply. Grants are not intended to aid research for completion of doctoral work, although funding may be available for scholars who are revising completed dissertations for publication. Grants will ordinarily be in the range of \$3,000 to \$10,000. Follow-up grants for large projects may be available.

Applicants should complete the application form (included here but also found at the ASDAH website, under [Research Funding](#)), which asks for a short description of the project. If a project is judged to be promising, the committee will ask for a fuller statement (1,200-2,000 words), including a proposed budget. Application letters should be sent to Steve Jones at Southwestern Adventist University.

The grant application form is on the following page.

McAdams Research Grant Application

Name _____

Institutional Affiliation _____

Project Title _____

(Please attach a 1200-1500 description of your project, its significance for Adventist history, the nature of your research, a time frame for the completion of your project, and how the grant will be used)

Amount Requested:

Estimated Breakdown of Expenses:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)
- 6)

Will this grant be in addition to institutional funding you will receive for this project? _____

Other comments about the project you may wish to add:

Signature: _____

Date: _____