ABHS Partners with Denison

The Historical Society is partnering with Denison University to bring to light more information about Burma missionaries. Archivist Jan Ballard will be working with Jonathan Moore, Assistant Professor of Religion at Denison University, and Joshua Finnell, Humanities Librarian in the William Howard Doane Library, who have been awarded an *Ohio 5 Andrew W. Mellon Digital Scholarship: Projects & Pedagogy Grant*. The Historical Society will be working with the Denison Museum, the Center for Burma Studies at Northern Illinois University, the Yale Divinity Library, and Axis Maps, to assist Dr. Moore and Mr. Finnell in constructing a digital, cartographic narrative of American Baptist missionary activity throughout Burma in the 19th and 20th centuries.

This pilot project will focus specifically on Denison-affiliated missionaries such as Ruth Mather, Chester Leroy Klein, Gordon Seagrave, Lewis Ezra Hicks, and Helen Hunt. Digitizing and geolocating personal letters, diaries, journals, official meeting minutes, photographs, and artwork will allow for a spatial, textual and visual analysis of evangelical missionary engagement with Burma during the country’s transition under British Colonial Rule. In addition, the project will invite 21st century students to inhabit and study the worldview of 19th century Denison-affiliated missionaries, transforming Denison University’s institutional history into a robust pedagogical platform with a multiplicity of narratives.

This past fall, Mr. Finnell spent his sabbatical visiting the libraries and archives of partner institutions, identifying and digitizing important missionary letters and documents. Deborah Van Broekhoven and Jan Ballard met with Finnell to discuss project workflow and identify relevant materials in the American Baptist Historical Society’s collection.

This spring, Mr. Finnell and Dr. Moore will begin building the digital infrastructure of the project, working closely with Axis Maps. The project team hopes to have a beta version of the map publicly available by the end of summer 2015. To learn more about the grant and receive updates: [http://missionaryburma.wordpress.com](http://missionaryburma.wordpress.com) Twitter: @baptistsinburma
Thanks for Your Generosity

The American Baptist Historical Society thanks all those listed below for their generosity in 2014 towards our ministry of memory. Thanks also to the many who supported this vital mission of preserving and sharing Baptist history with smaller amounts throughout the year. “Without those friends, we would not be able to preserve and share Baptist history with researchers from around the world,” said Executive Director Dr. Deborah B. Van Broekhoven. Every gift is important. We understand the demands on everyone’s budget, and we know that every dollar represents your conviction that Baptist history matters!”

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From the Archives

Photographs displayed here are from the Emery Andrews (1894-1976) Papers, recently donated by his son, Brook Andrews. Both Emery and Brook Andrews served as pastors of the Japanese Baptist Church in Seattle, Washington. Emery Andrews pastored the church from 1919 until 1942, when the United States began incarcerating persons of Japanese descent following the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

When the majority of his congregation was imprisoned in the Minidoka relocation center in Hunt, Idaho, Andrews moved with his family to nearby Twin Falls in order to be close enough to continue his ministry. After the war, in 1945, Andrews returned to Seattle and re-opened the Japanese Baptist Church.

During the summers of 1949 and 1951, he worked as a volunteer for “Houses of Hiroshima,” a private relief organization established by noted Quaker pacifist and author, Floyd W. Schmoe, to rebuild homes for the victims of the atomic bomb. The recently received Emery Andrew Papers document his work with “Houses for Hiroshima,” and include his Hiroshima diaries, as well as a scrapbook, photographs, and memorabilia.

Torbet Prize
Deadline September 1

American Baptist Historical Society is seeking submissions for the Torbet Prize for the best essay in any area of Baptist History.

An award of $500 will be given and the essay will be published in the American Baptist Quarterly. Deadline for submissions is September 1, 2015

For more information, see our web site, www.abhsarchives.org

Submit essays to ABHS@abhsarchives.org.
Above: Floyd Schmoe plastering walls for a house in Japan.

Below: Houses for Hiroshima volunteers Ruth Jenkins and Daisy Tibbs mixing straw and mud for house walls in Japan.

Emery Andersen and Daisy Tibbs hauling supplies in Japan.
INSIDE
New Donations to ABHS
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Breakfast At the Biennial
Marilyn Whiteley will be the featured speaker at the Biennial Mission Summit ABHS breakfast in Overland Park/Kansas City, June 26-28. She will be providing a window into the life of home missionary Isabel Crawford and her work with native Americans. For more information about this event email abhs@abhsarchives.com or phone 678 547 6680.

Are Your Well-Loved Books Showing Signs of Wear and Tear?
Bring Them to Paul Reeder for Much-Needed Repair!

Paul will once again be demonstrating book bindery and repair at the ABHS booth at the Biennial Mission Summit. For a small donation to ABHS Paul will mend your cloth-bound or paperback books and Bibles. Plan now to bring a favorite old book to the Biennial and watch Paul work his magic!