

The Romance of Emily Chubbuck Judson

Beginning in 2012, Baptists around the world will be celebrating the bicentennial of the Judson mission to Burma. The Historical Society is kicking off the celebration just a little early with a public event September 23rd at 7 p.m. on Mercer University's Atlanta campus. The featured speaker is the Rev. Dr. George Tooze, who will present some of the work that has gone into his edited edition, *The Life and Letters of Emily Judson*, published by Mercer University Press.

As was true during the Historical Society's breakfast program at the biennial convention of American Baptist Churches (*see p. 4*), Dr. Tooze will present selections from his work, will have everyone crying and laughing from the stories portrayed in the letters. Dr. Tooze will sign copies of his books at a reception to follow.

A special guest appearance by Emily herself (as portrayed by actress Carol Anderson of *Acts of Renewal*, www.actsofrenewal.com) will be an added treat.

"Making history come alive to the present generation is an enormous thrill for a historian," said Dr. Deborah Van Broekhoven, ABHS's executive director. "On the eve of a three-year, world-wide celebration of the lives and mission of Adoniram, Ann, Sarah, and Emily Judson, ABHS will give Baptists and non-Baptists alike the opportunity to learn about the Judsons and their work in Burma. We'll provide a deeper insight into the legacy of their work on Baptist values and the societies in which they lived."

The ABHS Board will also honor recently retired archivist Betty Layton. For more information, about the event, call us at 678/547-6680 or email abhs@abhsarchives.org.



Dr. George Tooze (pictured here at the ABHS breakfast during the ABC Biennial this June) will have participants laughing and crying during the ABHS annual Baptist History Celebration, Friday evening, September 23.

www.Judson200.org

What is Judson200?

Drawing on its large collections of Burma missionary correspondence and artifacts, the American Baptist Historical Society is launching a new website this fall, Judson200.org. The website and larger project will commemorate the role of Ann and Adoniram Judson, as well as Burmese Baptists and missionaries, in the launching of the modern mission movement in the early 19th century.

While the Historical Society is kicking off the bicentennial this September 23rd with a public lecture and celebration in Atlanta, the official celebration will begin in February, 2012, with commemorations of the missionaries' commissioning and sailing. The bicentennial will continue in 2013 with celebrations of the Judsons arrival in

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Judson 200

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Burma (now Myanmar), and will conclude in 2014, two hundred years after Triennial Convention—the first national organization of Baptists in the Americas, organized for the purpose of supporting the Burma mission.

Resources for Churches

One purpose of the *Judson200* project is to provide resources to assist those seeking to establish, preserve, and encourage greater understanding of the heritage of the present-day Burmese immigrant congregations from Myanmar. ABHS staff will expand its outreach by working with

Time-tested values

established by the Judsons—

- *the importance of literacy,*
- *education,*
- *leadership development,*
- *religious liberty,*
- *respect for native cultures and immigrants,*
- *women in ministry, and*
- *the interdependence of foreign and home missions.*

representatives of these immigrant congregations and the established American churches hosting them, as well as scholars of the Burmese culture and church history. With advice from all these partners regarding which documents are of greatest interest to them, ABHS staff will develop the *Judson200.org* website. Currently active but “barebones,” the *Judson200* website provides a taste of what is to come over the next three years and invites the collaboration of those sharing an interest in the Judson heritage.

Online Exhibits

Judson200 will also be an ABHS collections-based digital exhibit comprised of scanned images, along with translations/transcriptions, relevant to the history of Baptists of Myanmar

descent – a history that traces its spiritual roots back to the mission work of Ann and Adoniram Judson.

The project will draw on ABHS’s extensive collection of original Judson- and Burma-mission materials, including correspondence, journals, rare Burmese-language books, hymnbooks and other printed items, maps, prints, artifacts, and more.

Object selection will be grouped around themes that reflect the values established by the Judsons, e.g., the importance of literacy, education, leadership

ABHS invites collaboration from interested scholars & church leaders.

development, religious liberty, respect for native cultures and immigrants, women in ministry, and the interdependence of foreign and home missions.

Archivist Jan Ballard is taking the lead in creating the website, with the technical skills of former ABHS intern Rachel Trent, and aided by scholars who have been reading and analyzing Judson and Burma documents for many years. These scholars include Rosalie Hunt, author of the best-selling, *Bless God and Take Courage*, George Tooze, editor of *The Life and Letters of Emily Chubbuck Judson*, a seven-volume labor of love, and Dr. Will Womack, an expert on Burma and Karen history and recently named an ABHS Research Associate.

Also assisting the project is the Rev. Rothangliani Chhangte, who serves with our partner, the American Baptist Home Mission Societies. As part of her work, she has already brought a group of Burmese pastors to visit ABHS. The website will also provide information and links to celebration events across the U.S. and in Myanmar.

Burma/Myanmar Tour & Conference in 2013

ABHS is a partner in planning two events for 2013. A tour following the footsteps of Adoniram Judson in Burma/Myanmar, Jan. 17-31, will be led by Rosalie Hunt, author of *The Judson History and Legacy*, published by Judson press. In November, a Judson bicentennial conference for scholars and congregations will be held on the Atlanta campus of Mercer University. Planners include ABHS staff, McAfee School of Theology faculty, and ministers from immigrant Burmese congregations. *Information about these and other Judson events will be at www.Judson200.org and www.abhsarchives.org.*

Lower Providence Baptist Church Receives 2011 George D. Younger Award for Excellence in Local Church History

Lower Providence Baptist Church, Eagleville, PA, received the 2011 George D. Younger Award for Excellence in Local American Baptist History for projects marking the congregation's bicentennial. The Rev. Cornelius (Neil) Jones, the church's historian, accepted the award on behalf of the congregation during the Historical Society's breakfast on June 23, part of the American Baptist Churches' Biennial meeting held in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

"The quality of research and planning that went into monthly special events, publications and community outreach was outstanding," noted this year's judges. "Participants praised the programs and community leaders commended the church's efforts."

With the theme, *Celebrating 200 Years of God's Faithfulness, 1810-2010*, activities ranged from writing a new history of the church, guest speakers and special exhibits that included a bicentennial quilt, displays of artifacts, and a 200-year timeline.

In a letter to the Historical Society, Rev. Robert French Jr., senior minister, remarked, "In some ways, this is a reward for the members of our congregation who have served Christ faithfully and sacrificially, but there is now for us the challenge to be that 'worthy' Baptist witness into the future immediately in front of us."

Community involvement, an important component of the Younger Award, was encouraged through newspaper stories and special invitations to community leaders; a gospel fest for area choirs and a joint performance of the congregation's choir and that of a local Korean congregation; a demonstration by Civil War re-enactors invited to the church for a Memorial Day ceremony; research

shared with state park staff regarding the location of the congregation's earliest site; a joint service (and meal) with a Burmese congregation from New Jersey, the nucleus of which had been assisted in their resettlement by the congregation.

The histories, bulletins, photographs and DVDs submitted documented the initiatives through the year and the special events featured for each month in 2010. As one judge noted, "The combination of events presented a unique package....worthy of the George Younger Award."



Rev. Neil Young, church historian, accepts the award for the congregation during the ABHS breakfast.

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*Rev. Robert French Jr.
Senior Pastor*

The Younger Award honors the Rev. Dr. George D. Younger (1926-2001), an historian, minister, ecumenical leader, and lifelong enthusiast for Baptist history. Along with his parish and regional ministry in New York City and New Jersey, he served as editor-in-chief of the ABHS journal, *Foundations* (predecessor to the *American Baptist Quarterly*), represented the Baptist World Alliance at the United Nations, and taught Baptist history and polity at Princeton Theological Seminary, New Brunswick Theological Seminary, Drew Theological School, and Union Theological Seminary.

The biennial award honors Dr. Younger's career of mentoring and achievement and continues his legacy of encouraging others to share their own part in Baptist history.

ABHS at the American Baptist Churches 2011 Biennial June 24-26, San Juan, Puerto Rico

1. Resources. A delegate opens up the Baptist history timeline, *Pilgrimage of Faith*. **2. Exhibits.** Staff member Betsy Dunbar and ABHS volunteer Doris Farnsworth enjoy an old scrapbook about ministries in Puerto Rico. **3. Excitement.** Visitors spread the buzz about Judson200. (*That's our own Kay Eland 2nd from right*) **4. Live Demonstration.** The Rev. Paul Reeder figured out a way to get his book repair materials to Puerto Rico and worked diligently throughout the conference. **5. Sharing.** Past ABHS president Rev. Esther Irish shares a moment with Dr. Louis George, from West Lebanon, NH, while he gets his temporary tattoo. **6. Food & Friendship.** ABHS Board member Joe Stoner (standing) greets ABC friends at the ABHS Breakfast. **7. Pride** An ABHS friend shows off her ABHS temporary tattoo.



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History in Ponce, PR: A Place of Sorrow and Joy

ABHS Exec. Director Dr. Deborah Van Broekhoven and her husband, Dr. Harold Van Broekhoven (chair of the Religion Department at Denison University), stayed in Puerto Rico after the Bienial, to see the beautiful countryside outside San Juan while also learning more about Puerto Rican Baptist history.

As the guests of Rev. Miriam Gutiérrez and the Rev. Dr. Roberto Dieppo-Baez, Executive Minister of the Baptist Churches of Puerto Rico, they enjoyed a backstage tour of the region's older records, previewed the building in which the region hopes to locate the records and research center – and heard about a rare early film of Baptists in Puerto Rico that had just been discovered in the island's archives.

The Sunday after the convention, they attended Primera Iglesia Bautista (First Baptist Church) of Ponce, on the southern coast of the island. The church was celebrating a week of Vacation Bible School... with the overwhelming majority of the students being first-time participants. You can see a video online of one class presentation on YouTube. Simply search for [ABHSarchives](http://www.youtube.com) at www.youtube.com.

Protestant missionaries were not welcome on the island until after the Spanish-American War of 1898, when Dr. Augustus B. Rudd (1861-1944), founder of the Ponce church, came as the first Baptist missionary in the area. In the same year in which he organized the congregation, Dr. Rudd's four-year-old daughter, Rachel, died. In hopes of finding that gravesite, the Van Broekhovens followed directions to the cemetery.

No longer an active burial ground, the cemetery is now a city museum, with beautifully kept grounds dotted by the remains of elaborate tombstones. At the very back corner was the grave they sought, complete with a modern granite marker for young Rachel Rudd, who had died September 30th, just weeks before the Ponce church was organized that November. The historic marker on Rachel's grave explains the im-



Above: While at the Puerto Rican region office, Deborah Van Broekhoven takes notes from an old scrapbook, while Revs. Dieppo-Baez and Gutiérrez identify a photograph. Left: The grave marker of Rachel Rudd, 1895-1899, the only marker saved from developers in the Protestant corner of a historic cemetery.



portance of Dr. Rudd, noting that he was a grand reformer of society. Most notably, the marker records, Dr. Rudd contributed to the secularizing of services of the state and was an ardent defender of separation between church and state.

"We learned from a park ranger why the cemetery survives," recalled Deborah. "Civic leaders in Ponce literally stopped the bulldozers of developers as they were knocking down walls and markers, beginning in the Protestant corner of the cemetery."

Back in Atlanta, Deborah found in ABHS records that Dr. Rudd was not only a leader in religious and social reform in Puerto Rico, but was also a leader in Mexico, where he became the president of the Baptist seminary in Mexico City, an institution that continues to this day. After retirement, he taught Bible at the University of Richmond and wrote three volumes of commentaries on the New Testament epistles – in Spanish.

Documents by and about early missionaries and church leaders in Puerto Rico make up a significant portion of the collections of the American Baptist Home Mission Societies at ABHS, with correspondence of Dr. Rudd, Jennie Dugan, another early missionary in Ponce providing rich information about those early pioneer ministries.

Arthur and Laura Carson were pioneer missionaries to the Chin hill tribes in Burma. (Arthur served from 1886-1908; Laura from 1883-1920) Like the Judsons in Burma, the Carsons – as one Chin minister noted – “are forever highly honored and respected,” especially by those who remain in Myanmar and those who make up Chin congregations in the U.S. The Carsons created alphabets for two of the Chin dialects, translated scripture, wrote curriculum, hymnbooks and other literature, provided medical clinics, evangelistic services, and established schools. Rev. Carson

even built with his own hands – sawing wood and baking bricks – the buildings needed: “Mission dwelling house, school house, preachers’ house and all necessary out-houses.”

This letter, dated November, 1885, comes from his missionary candidate file and was written to the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society while Arthur Carson was a student at Shurtleff College (a Baptist school in Illinois). Seeking appointment to the Chin Hills, Carson had been deeply disappointed in April when it was recommended he remain in school longer.

Upper Alton, Nov. 10, 1885

Dr. Lawson:

My dear brother:

It is not a year since there was impressed in my mind the hope that this year would see the realization of my life cherished hopes. That I might in the present time be at least nearing the field of work to which I know the Lord has called me. It was then that I felt that the long weary years of preparation and self denial necessarily practiced would soon end ... in the so much hoped for appointment. God saw fit to lead minds of the examining committee to reject me. (and) [sic] He only knows my hearts restrained agony. I think no night of my life was ever so dark as the night of April 17” last.

I felt then that it was a final decision. But I have done as advised by them. This year I graduate in Theology from Shurtleff. I am also taking Hebrew with Dr. Harper of Morgan Park and if he can furnish our instruction sheets fast enough (which in his last he said on acct of some unlooked for difficulties he doubted) I will finish at least three of his courses before Sept. 1” next year.

Rev. Dr. Henson on behalf of [the] committee told me there they found no fault with my examination in Theology, simply they thot I should take a fuller course ere I went.

Since [then] I have been ordained



Laura and
Arthur Carson

Now Dear Brother will I be sent next year? Will [I] need a reexamination? Can I know anything definite about it? I know God has called me. I will go sometime if He will give me strength if [I am] not sent. I will go at my own expense. This would take years. My heart longs to give the Bread of life to the people of darkness. Perhaps you remember that I asked to be sent to the Chins. Is there any hope that I will. I have heard ... since that it was written there that I was kept home on acct of lack of funds. Will that keep me back again? I hope not.

I am strong physically. In my most active and best working years I do hope they will let me give the best of my life and not keep me till I wear out in trying to get funds to go. —————

I send you another dollar for the debt. It is not the first neither will it be the last. May God prosper you in your work.

Arthur E. Carson

For the Love of Walter and Winifred



One of the best things about working at ABHS is getting to meet our researchers. They are one of the reasons ABHS needs your support.

Elizabeth A. Morgan has been studying Walter Rauschenbusch and his views of women in the church and society. For the past two years, she has used the Rauschenbusch Family Collection, studying not only Walter's sermons and lectures, but his correspondence, especially with his daughter Winifred. While Dr. Rauschenbusch was famous for his progressive ideas on the role of Christians in society, his views of personal faith and family life were much more traditional. Winifred, on the other hand, was a roaring 20s kind of gal – a decade *before* those turbulent times. While loving each other dearly, they often didn't understand the other.

Through her research, Elizabeth has been helping staff increase their knowledge of the breadth and depth of the collection, which up until now has had only the most rudimentary finding aid of four pages – for a collection of approximately 107 linear feet of shelving.

Because of its importance, the number of researchers using the collection, and the need for preservation (most of the paper, made at the turn of the century, is yellowed and brittle, crumbling with each use) the Rauschenbusch Collection has been identified for immediate processing work. "Arguably, the Rauschenbusch Family Collection is our most significant personal paper collection, said ABHS archivist Jan Ballard. "It is also huge and will be expensive to process." Jan estimates the archival supplies needed – including for unusual items (wax cylinders from an old dictating machine, large, brittle scrapbooks and artifacts) – will alone cost \$2,000.

The goal is to complete work on the collection by the end of this year. Elizabeth has just been named an ABHS Research Associate for her voluntary assistance to staff as we process these papers.

Will you help us raise the money to fulfill our mission? When we preserve the collection, we'll be able to share it with researchers for decades to come.



Annual Fund

Yes! I/We believe in a Ministry of Memory and enclose a gift of \$_____ to support the American Baptist Historical Society.

- Use this gift for archival supplies in honor of archivist emeritus Betty Layton
- Giving online at www.abhsarchives.org
(click on the "Donate Now" button)
- Charge to my Visa MasterCard

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Make checks payable to ABHS and mail with this form to ABHS, P.O. Box 851, Valley Forge, PA 19482-0851. (Yes, the VF address is correct for donations.) Questions? Call Kay at 610/768-2269.

Contact Us

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Phone: 610/768-2269 *American Baptist Quarterly* subscriptions or accounting questions.

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Celebrations!*

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Us on* 

@ABHSarchives will be tweeting about Baptist history finds from our collections, including Judson facts during the Judson200 celebration.

No Twitter account needed. To get our tweets as text messages on your cell phone, simply text **Follow ABHSarchives to 40404.**

Want to talk about Baptist history in more than 140 characters? Board president, Dr. Trinette McCray, moderates a discussion site at www.historymatters.ning.com. It's free to join, and you can start or join conversations, post pictures, and enjoy being a part of a great community.



Do you have a **Facebook** account because of your grandchildren? You can share your faith with them in a unique way by being a fan of our page. Click the **Like button** on our website (www.abhsarchives.org) or Facebook page, and you'll get our posts about events and Baptist history finds from our collections.

Celebrate the Judson Bicentennial! *& the launching of the modern missionary movement*

- 1812/2012 Commissioning & Setting Sail for India
- 1813/2013 Arrival in Burma
- 1814/2014 The First Triennial Convention

ABHS Annual Baptist History Celebration, Atlanta, GA

Friday, Sept. 23, 2011, 7pm Contact: ABHS 678/547-6680
Dr. George Tooze, *The Life & Letters of Emily Judson* and actress Carol Anderson. Laugh and cry as you learn background information about the Judson family

Salem Baptist Association, MA, Events in 2012

Contact: Rev. Renee Keels, pastorkeels@comcast.net, First Baptist Church, Salem, MA, 978/744-3780
Saturday, Feb. 4 Opening Ceremony & Reception
Sunday, Feb. 5 Service on commissioning of first missionaries, historical exhibit, and dramatic presentation of Ann Judson at Tabernacle Congregational Church
Saturday, Feb. 18 Bus Tour to Malden, Bradford, Salem and Plymouth
Sunday, Feb. 19 Worship & Mission Symposium, First Baptist Church, Salem
Monday, February 20 Sailing Commemoration, Salem Wharf
Tour of Burma/Myanmar, Jan. 17-31, 2013
Sponsored by ABHS and led by Rosalie Hunt