

American Baptist Historical Society

# PRIMARY SOURCE

Bringing our legacy to light.

Volume 21, No. 3

July-September, 2023

## Fellowship, Fun, and Facts at the ABCUSA Biennial Mission Summit in San Juan, Puerto Rico

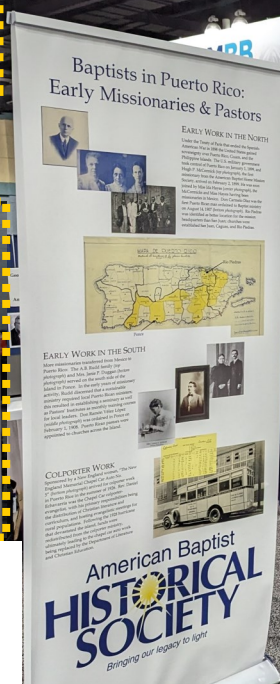
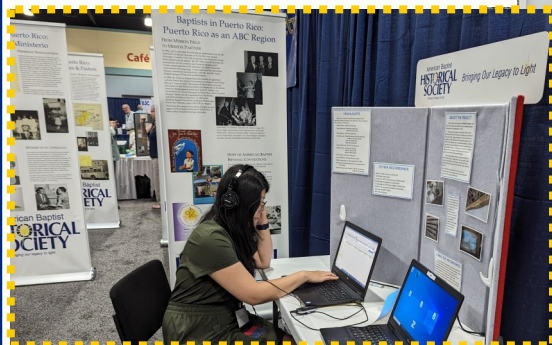
At right: Members of the ABHS Board of Managers & staff: Cheryl Price, Mariah Hamby, Garth Brokaw, Don Ng, Douglas Avilesbernal, Alan Musoke, Priscilla Eppinger, Jenny Manasco



Above: Jenny Manasco represents ABHS in a game of ABC Family Feud. Photo: Roberto Colon



Above: Mariah Hamby consults with a convention delegate. Photo: Zabdiel Santiago  
Below: Speeches from conventions of the 1950s were accessible at an ABHS listening station.



ABHS's exhibit (above) focused on Baptists in Puerto Rico. Presented in Spanish and English, panels offered facts about early missionaries, education, women in ministry, and the development of the *Iglesias Bautistas de Puerto Rico*.



## Fellowship, Fun, and Facts in San Juan

ABHS Board members (Jim Wolfe, Bill Frederickson, Felipe Candelaria, Doug Avilesbernal, Garth Brokaw) and ABHS staff



Former Board president and long-time supporter Garth Brokaw talks history with a delegate



Roshely Quiñones Rodríguez and Rev. Abigail Medina Betancourt address the ABHS/Hispanic Caucus dinner



ABCUSA president Jim Wolfe signs the ABC Presidents' Bible.

## Primary Source

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## Church Anniversaries July – September

We celebrate the faithful ministry of American Baptist congregations and their pastors! The following churches notified ABHS that they are celebrating anniversaries this quarter:

### 200 Years

Veale Creek Baptist Church, Washington, IN;  
Rev. Jim Williams, pastor

### 175 Years

Berean Baptist Church, Roaring Brook Township,  
PA; Deborah A. Loessy, pastor  
Jefferson Baptist Church, Coal City, IN; Jeff Flater,  
pastor

### 150 Years

Tabernacle Baptist Church, Hope, RI; Rev. Michael  
Mercier, pastor

### 130 Years

Antioch Baptist Church, Cleveland, OH;  
Rev. Dr. Napoleon Harris V, pastor  
Union Baptist Church, Pawtucket, RI; Rev. Lee  
Williams, pastor

### 100 Years

Watts Street Baptist Church, Durham, NC;  
Rev. Diane E. Eubanks-Hill, pastor

### 75 Years

Highland Baptist Church, St. Albans, NY; Rev. Jason  
Robbins, pastor  
Port Clyde Baptist Church, Port Clyde, ME; Russell  
LaFlamme, pastor

### 44 Years

New Omega Missionary Baptist Church, Racine, WI;  
Reverend Fred L. Richmond, Sr., pastor

### 34 Years

Forest Hills Church, Bella Vista, AR;  
Rev. Tim Schwartz, pastor

If your church is celebrating a significant  
anniversary, notify ABHS and request a  
certificate. We want to celebrate with you!

## ABHS Selected for JACS Grant

Jenny Manasco, Digital Collections Specialist

We are excited to announce that the **ABHS grant proposal to the National Park Service has been selected for funding!** This is the largest grant that ABHS has ever received, a grant of \$119,153 from the Japanese American Confinement Sites (JACS) program of the National Park Service.

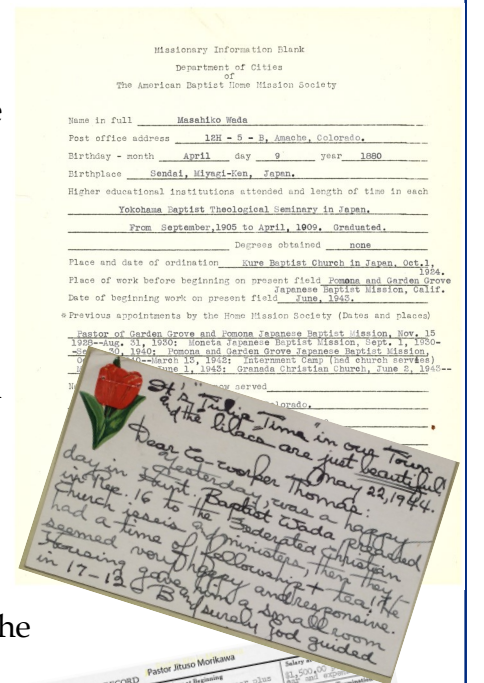
The project, *Sharing the Stories: Increasing Access to Records Documenting Japanese American Confinement and Northern Baptists' Response* proposes digitizing records that document the experience of Japanese American Baptists and the work of Northern Baptists who assisted those who were forcibly removed from their communities and incarcerated. To accomplish this, ABHS will hire a project archivist to scan and catalog the relevant records and assist in creating both a digital exhibit and a traveling exhibit.

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries Northern Baptists had developed active ministries with Japanese families in the U.S. When, following the attack on Pearl Harbor, President Roosevelt authorized the exclusion of people of Japanese descent from the West Coast, entire congregations were forcibly removed to internment camps in other states.

Some of our best known American Baptists, including Paul Nagano, Yosh Nakagawa, Herb Tsuchiya, and Jitsuo Morikawa, were incarcerated with their families. ABHS archives hold stories of those who ministered among Japanese Americans: Japanese and Japanese American pastors like Rev. Tsutomu Fukuyama, Rev. Masahiko Wada, and Rev. Jitsuo Morikawa; missionaries from the Home Mission Societies who had been appointed to serve congregations and Christian centers in Japanese American communities, like Rev. Emery Andrews and Esther McCullough; and International Ministries missionaries appointed to Japan, who returned to the U.S. during the war years and ministered among internees, like Amy Acock, Winifred Acock, Royal and Josephine Fisher, John Foote, and Ecco Hunt.

**How can you participate?** ABHS would also like to include the stories of other American Baptist families and congregations. If you or someone you know would be willing to share letters, photos, or other items related to the Japanese American experience in WWII, please let us know. You do not have to give us your family keepsakes. We will be making several trips for “Community Scanning Days” where we will set up equipment to scan personal collections. This grant is a 2-1 matching grant so we will also be looking to you to help us raise our portion (\$60,000).

at **YOUR**  
**FINGERTIPS**



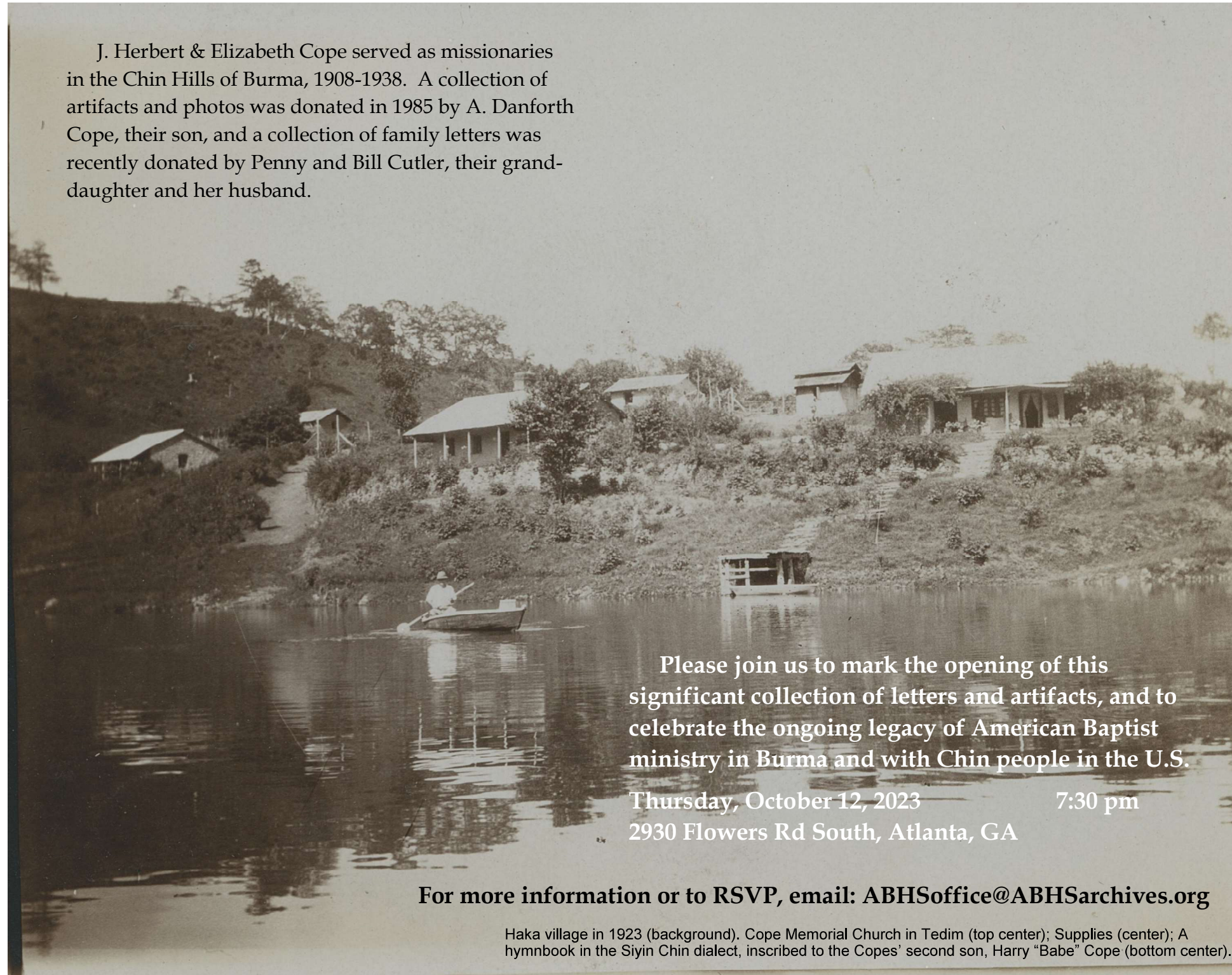
Pastor Jitsuo Morikawa			
SERVICE RECORD			
I. Position	Date of Beginning	Date of Termination	Salary at Termination
(Pastor, Assistant Pastor, Director of Religious Education, Secretary, Ministry Evangelist, etc.)	May 1940	August 1940	\$1,500.00 per year
II. Position Held	Date of Beginning	Date of Termination	Salary at Termination
(Pastor, Assistant Pastor, Director of Religious Education, Secretary, Ministry Evangelist, etc.)	May 1940	August 1940	\$1,500.00 per year
III. Position Held	Date of Beginning	Date of Termination	Salary at Termination
(Pastor, Assistant Pastor, Director of Religious Education, Secretary, Ministry Evangelist, etc.)	May 1940	August 1940	\$1,500.00 per year
IV. Position Held	Date of Beginning	Date of Termination	Salary at Termination
(Pastor, Assistant Pastor, Director of Religious Education, Secretary, Ministry Evangelist, etc.)	May 1940	August 1940	\$1,500.00 per year



## From the Archives: The Cope Collection

Mariah Hamby, Head of Archives and  
Special Collections

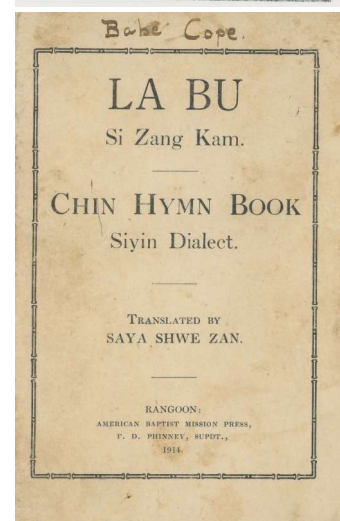
J. Herbert & Elizabeth Cope served as missionaries in the Chin Hills of Burma, 1908-1938. A collection of artifacts and photos was donated in 1985 by A. Danforth Cope, their son, and a collection of family letters was recently donated by Penny and Bill Cutler, their granddaughter and her husband.



Please join us to mark the opening of this significant collection of letters and artifacts, and to celebrate the ongoing legacy of American Baptist ministry in Burma and with Chin people in the U.S.  
Thursday, October 12, 2023 7:30 pm  
2930 Flowers Rd South, Atlanta, GA

**For more information or to RSVP, email: [ABHSoffice@ABHSarchives.org](mailto:ABHSoffice@ABHSarchives.org)**

Haka village in 1923 (background). Cope Memorial Church in Tedim (top center); Supplies (center); A hymnbook in the Siyin Chin dialect, inscribed to the Copes' second son, Harry "Babe" Cope (bottom center).



The missionary station at Tedim was the Copes' home base in Burma.



J. Herbert Cope with teachers and preachers in Haka.



Outside meal during a meeting in Falam (1925).



Boat in Sagaing



Participants, including Cope, in a tennis tournament in Falam.



# Caring for Your Congregation's Archives

## Part 4: Preserving the Records (For Part 1: Where to begin, Part 2: Gathering the Records, and Part 3: Organizing and Preserving Your Congregation's History, consult Summer '22, Fall '22, and Spring '23 *Primary Source*)

After gathering and organizing your congregation's records, you may be wondering where and how to preserve them. Should they be kept at the church, stored elsewhere locally, digitized, or given to ABHS? The many qualifying conditions make the answer to this question, "It depends."

### Initial considerations

Where should the records be preserved? Archivists strongly encourage organizations to keep records as close as possible to the people who are likely to consult them. In the case of most congregations, users are apt to be local people, and it would be best for congregational records to be held locally, by a county or state historical society or university library. However, if the greater value of the records is the larger Baptist history contained in them (and not the local community history), then the appropriate place for the records may well be ABHS.

### Duplicate Sets

In an ideal world, a congregation would keep two sets of records in two very separate places: one in a public repository (historical society or library) and the other on the church property – hopefully in a fireproof, climate-controlled vault. Preserving two sets of records prevents the total destruction of documents by a single catastrophic event – a fire, flood, or storm that destroys a building where records are stored. Thus, a first step in archival preservation is to make copies of original (paper) documents on acid-free paper, or by scanning and preserving digitally.

If you want to put some documents on display, or have them available for people to browse, make another set of copies – "access" copies – that can be handled and used for reference purposes,



saving the originals from frequent, damaging, or careless use.

### Digital Preservation?

You might think that scanning and saving documents to a cloud account solves two problems: the digitized documents could serve as both the duplicate set and the access copies. You may even be tempted to discard paper originals in favor of saving only a digital copy. *Resist this temptation!* What if the server goes down?

When using cloud-based storage for preservation, you will want to allow for ever-changing software formats. Archival standards call for saving digital documents in .pdfA format, a more stable format than word processing docs or spreadsheets. (Look for .pdfA under "Save as".)

You will also want to control access to the digital preservation folder to prevent unauthorized or unintentional revisions. Use a password manager and, to avoid a situation where the only person with the digital key is not available, ensure access by more than one person.

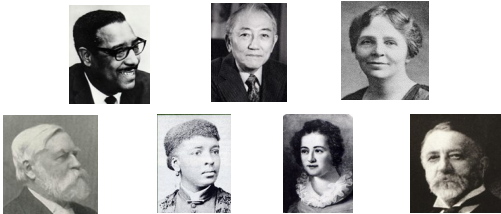
### Born Digital

Annual reports, clerk's minutes, and membership records of recent years are most likely saved to someone's computer. There is no need to print out "born-digital" documents. However, just as you have created a duplicate set of paper documents, make sure that there are two duplicate sets of digital documents stored in different accounts, on different servers. After all, "cloud" computing isn't actually in the sky, and hurricanes and tornadoes can destroy buildings holding computer servers.

Caring for the records of past ministry can strengthen church identity and enhance ongoing and future ministries in the congregation. Blessings on your work to bring your congregation's legacy to light!

# Join the Historical Society and Become a Time Traveler

American Baptist Historical Society membership circles are named for some of our significant Baptist forebears.



Membership Circles (Memberships are for the calendar year)	Annual Gift of
Ann Hasseltine Judson Circle	\$1-50
★ subscription (digital or print) to <i>Primary Source</i>	
Henry Lyman Morehouse Circle	\$51-125
★ subscription (digital or print) to <i>Primary Source</i>	
★ participation in "Time Travelers," reciprocal museum/archives program ( <a href="http://TimeTravelers.mohistory.org/">http://TimeTravelers.mohistory.org/</a> )	
Louise "Lulu" Cecilia Fleming Circle	\$126-250
★ benefits listed above, plus	
★ 1 hour of "Research-by-mail" discounted by 50%	
★ listing as donor in annual report	
Jitsuo Morikawa Circle	\$251-500
★ benefits listed above, plus	
★ pair of tickets to ABHS Biennial event	
Samuel DeWitt Proctor Circle	\$501-1000
★ benefits listed above, plus	
★ Baptist history publication -- potluck!	
★ subscription to <i>American Baptist Quarterly</i> discounted by 50%	
Helen Barrett Montgomery Circle	\$1001-5000
★ benefits listed above, plus	
★ private archives tour (subject to staff availability)	
Samuel Colgate Donors	\$5001 & above
★ benefits listed above, plus	
★ 2 hours free consultation with staff archivist	
Living Heritage Society	inclusion in estate plan
★ inclusion on a special plaque in ABHS Reading Room	



Yes! I/We want to support the American Baptist Historical Society by becoming a member.

Please Print

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Donations of \$100 or more may be given as a tribute.

This donation is given ☐ in honor of ☐ in memory of

Membership \$ \_\_\_\_\_

American Baptist Quarterly subscription: \$50/annually \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Add \$75/year for postage to Canada, \$100/year to other non-US countries

Gift to Endowment \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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**INSIDE:** Caring for Your  
Congregation’s Archives: Part 4:  
Preserving the Records

*American Baptist Quarterly*  
**Call for Papers**

ABQ is the scholarly journal published by ABHS. Both established and emerging scholars are invited to propose papers written from original research. Articles and essays should be between 6,000 and 10,000 words. If you are interested in proposing a paper for one of the upcoming issues, please contact editor Curtis Freeman ([CFreeman@div.duke.edu](mailto:CFreeman@div.duke.edu)) as soon as possible.

Upcoming Themes	Deadline for submission
Isaac Backus and his impact, on the occasion of the 300th anniversary of his birth	1 Feb 2024
Baptists, Evolution, & Creationism	1 Feb 2024

**Our Vision**  
The American Baptist Historical Society, a premier religious historical society, advances Baptist identity, promotes historical literacy, and thereby inspires spiritual and social transformation.