

How Long Might Coronavirus Persist on Library and Archival Materials?

COVID-19 has created many challenges for everyone. One concern at the American Baptist Historical Society relates to the persistence of virus on archival materials. When public health conditions permit us to reopen to researchers we want to ensure the health and safety of both staff and visitors. To that end we are following a project being conducted by the [Online Computer Library Center \(OCLC\)](#). In May, OCLC initiated their [Reopening Archives, Libraries, and Museums \(REALM\)](#) project, working in partnership with the [Institute of Museum and Library Services](#) and [Battelle](#). The project includes tests on core museum, library, and archival materials that could be contaminated by the COVID-19 virus to determine how long the virus

survives on books and other library materials. OCLC will use the information gleaned to create a toolkit of resources that support reopening. “The project will draw upon the research to produce authoritative, science-based information on how – or if – materials can be handled to mitigate exposure to staff and visitors.” (OCLC website)

OCLC is a global library cooperative that provides shared technology services, original research, and community programs for its membership of libraries in more than 100 countries and the library community at large. (ABHS joined OCLC this year. See the related article on p. 3.)

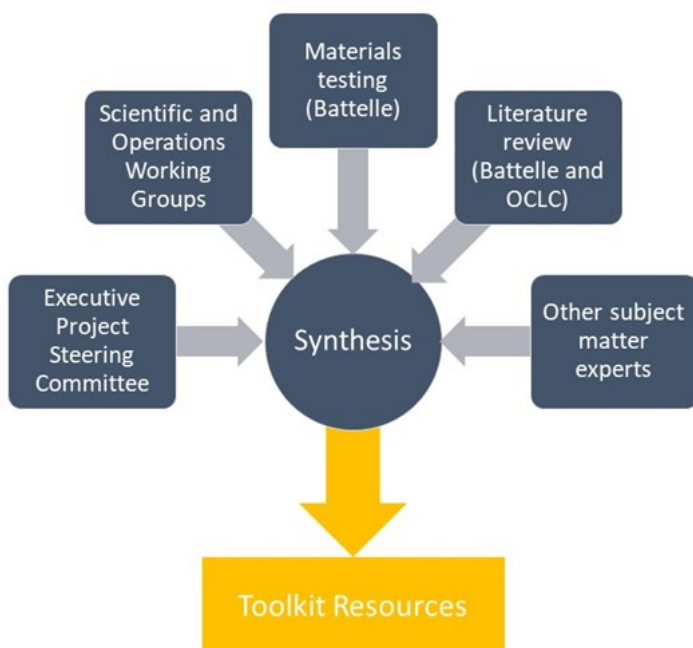
The Institute of Museum and Library Services is a federal agency whose mission is “to advance, support, and empower America’s museums, libraries, and related organizations through grantmaking, research, and policy development.” (IMLS website)

Battelle Memorial Institute, founded in 1929, is conducting the research for the REALM project. Battelle’s vision

is to be a major force in science and technology discovery and in the translation of knowledge into innovative applications that have significant societal and economic impacts.

Steel industrialist Gordon Battelle provided for the Battelle Memorial Institute in his 1923 last will and testament after a career devoted to the idea that science and research can solve problems in business and society as a whole. (Battelle website)

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ABHS Webinar Series: SOS: Saving Our Stories

The American Baptist Historical Society has prepared a series of six webinars designed to help church leaders ensure that the story of their ministries can be told well into the future.

What happens to all of the worship services you have recorded over the past many months? Who ensures the preservation of the oral history of your congregation? Where is the record of the founding members of your church, its pastors, and its ministries? Missionaries' letters disseminated via a blog, video recordings of pastors marching in a protest, electronically-mixed performances of choirs whose members were singing in different locales, "Zoom" Bible studies and prayer groups, discussions about how to celebrate communion when we are not co-located: all of these records will illuminate the historic time we live in. How might you ensure the preservation of the history of your congregation or of your own ministry?

The webinar series covers identifying materials for archiving, arranging and describing collections, and preserving and storing records; each session has a different focus. (Check the ABHS website for [full descriptions](#).) Presented weekly in real time from Sept 1- Oct 6, webinar recordings will later be available via the ABHS website for watching on-demand.

Join Head of Archives and Special Collections

Jill Sweetapple and Digital Collections Specialist Jenny Manasco as they present best practices for saving *your* story. Contact the ABHS office to ask about registering for remaining webinars.

1. Organizational Records: What documents tell your story?
2. Personal Papers: What documents tell your story?
3. Arranging & describing: Analog Records
4. Arranging & describing: Digital Records
5. Preservation & storage: Analog Records
6. Preservation & storage: Digital Records

Church Anniversaries

July – September

We celebrate the faithful ministry of American Baptist Congregations and their pastors! The following churches mark anniversaries this quarter:

225 years

First Baptist Church, Middletown, CT;
Rev. Willis J. McCaw, pastor

150 years

Altamont Baptist Church, Harlan, IA; Rev. Gary Golike, pastor
Badger Grove Community Baptist Church, Brookston, IN; Rev. Roger Strunk, pastor
First Baptist Church of Traverse City, MI

135 years

Monumental Baptist Church, Elmira, NY;
Rev. Corey Cooke, pastor

125 years

New Hope Baptist Church, Danbury, CT;
Rev. Leroy G. Parker, pastor

100 years

First Baptist Church, Pittsburg, CA; Dr. Henry L. Perkins, pastor
Sanctuary of Faith and Glory Church, Windsor, CT; Rev. Dr. Felton O. Best, pastor

75 years

Community Baptist Church, New Haven, CT;
Rev. Philippe E. C. Andal, pastor

If your church is celebrating a significant anniversary, request a certificate from ABHS.

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reference desk, general questions: (678) 547-6680 or
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Digital Archives Update: Book Catalog Online

In addition to the expansive archival collections ABHS holds, we also have 55,000+ volumes of published [books](#) and [pamphlets](#). In the past year we have made two big changes that enable you to discover at least some of those titles online. We converted an older inventory of pamphlets and loaded it into our archives catalog, ArchivesSpace. While this is a simple list of authors and titles, it does allow discovery of almost 7200 pamphlets.

The other big change was to join OCLC, which gives us access to the millions of catalog records in [WorldCat](#), the largest online public access library catalog in the world. With an additional subscription to WorldCat Discovery, we began cataloging some of our materials, beginning with the oldest. We were pleased to discover that a cataloging project in the 1980s had cataloged about 2000 of our titles in WorldCat, including many of the Baptist periodicals we hold.

A serendipitous meeting brought retired rare book cataloger Denise Hanusek to us. Since January, Denise has worked on our 16th- and 17th-century items, cataloging over 350 books and



Denise Hanusek catalogs books using a specialized software platform

pamphlets published between 1500 and 1650. This has given us a renewed appreciation for the quality and

uniqueness of this collection. Of the 2295 items currently cataloged in WorldCat, 47 show as “unique” items. While this does not necessarily mean each is the only copy in the world, it does indicate that these are rare items, often the only cataloged copy in the United States. Such is the case with Martin Luther’s *Ein Sendbrieff an die ersamen und weysen Herrn Burgermeyster, Rhatt und gantze Gemeyn der stadt Mülhausen*, published in 1524.

WorldCat shows that 5 libraries in Germany and 1 in France also hold copies. Or Menno Simons’ *Een gants duytlijck en[de]*



bescheyden antwoort, which is held by 6 libraries in the Netherlands. In both cases, ABHS is the only library in the United States that holds a print copy. For other works, we do seem to have the *only* known copy of a title. One example is Thomas Lambe’s *Christ Crucified*, published in 1646. A search in WorldCat turns up only one other record, a “print reproduction,” i.e. a photocopy, in the University of Adelaide Library in Australia. No other library, anywhere in the world, shows a copy in an online catalog. Search our collection from the link on the ABHS website.

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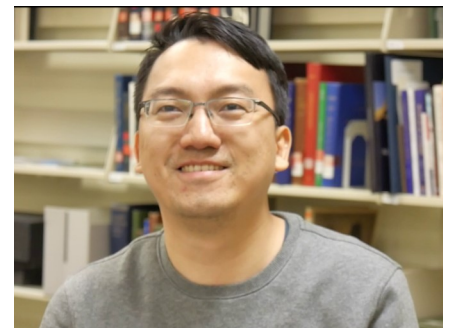
at YOUR
FINGERTIPS

Research Snapshot – Zhang Ke

[Dr. Zhang Ke](#) is Associate Professor of History at Fudan University in Shanghai, China. While a visiting scholar at the Harvard-Yenching Institute (2019-2020) he came to Atlanta to research Baptist missionaries in east China in the 19th and early 20th centuries. He was particularly interested in Winfield Scott Sweet, who in 1899 founded the high school Zhang attended in Shanghai.

Dr. Zhang noted that when the Japanese army invaded China in 1937, this Baptist academy became a center for displaced persons. He was pleased to find correspondence and other documents that illuminated missionary principal Edward Clayton’s ministry to war refugees.

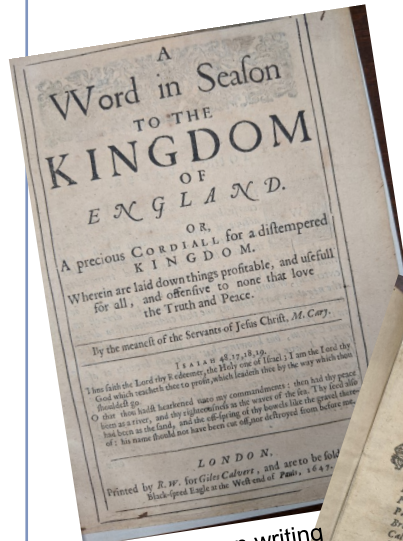
Correspondence and personal papers in ABHS collections offered much information about American Baptist missionaries’ good relationships with Chinese local people.



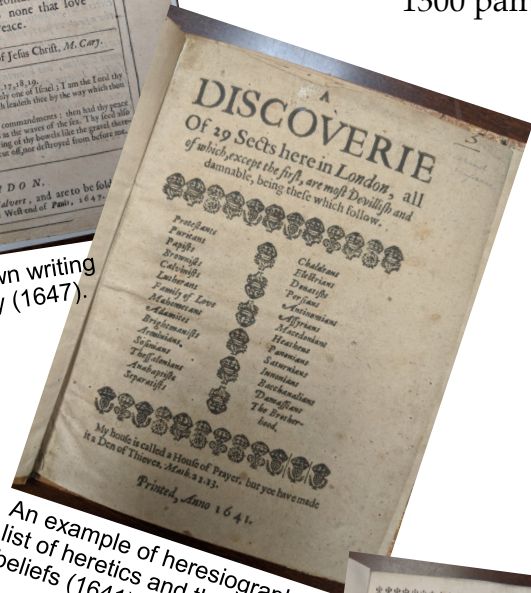
From the Archives

Rare Items from the Samuel Colgate Collection

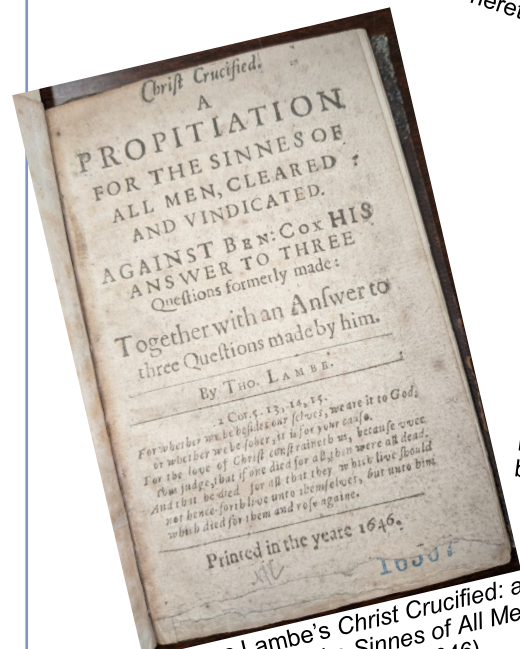
In the 17th century our forebears were sometimes called “Anabaptists,” meaning re-baptizers. This referred to the practice of believers’ baptism, in contrast with the prevalent practice of child baptism. Many of those baptized as Baptists had been baptized as infants, hence the claim (or accusation) of rebaptism. We hold an estimated 1300 pamphlets from the 17th-19th centuries arguing for and against believers’ baptism.



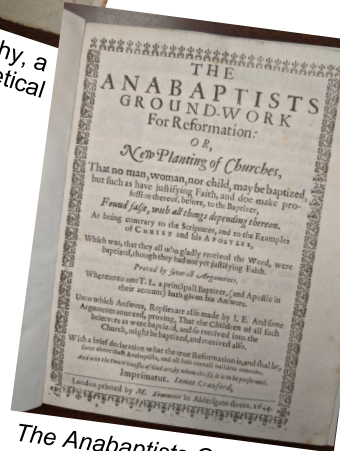
Earliest known writing of Mary Cary (1647).



An example of heresiography, a list of heretics and their heretical beliefs (1641).



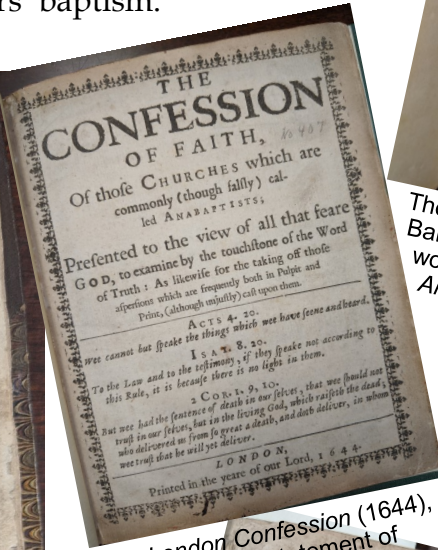
Thomas Lambe's Christ Crucified: a Propitiation for the Sinnes of All Men, Cleared and Vindicated (1646).



The Anabaptists Groundwork For Reformation (1644), arguing against Lambe, and in favor of infant baptism.



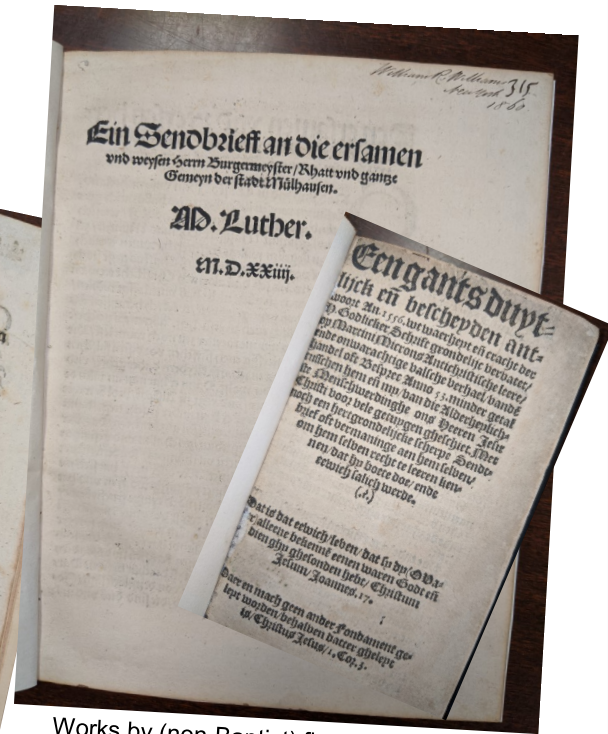
Frontispiece of Daniel Featley's *The dippers dipt. Or, The Anabaptists duck'd and plung'd over head and ears, at a disputation in Southwark* (1645). The disputation was with Baptist minister William Kiffin.



The London Confession (1644), the first Baptist statement of faith.



Thomas Nutt's 1644 response to Thomas Bakewell's equally wordy and pun-filled work titled (in short) *A Confutation of the Anabaptists*.



Works by (non-Baptist) figures significant in Christian history: Martin Luther's letter (1524) sent to the leaders of Muhlhausen at the time of the Peasants' War; a 1580 reprint of Menno Simons' debate with Marten Micronius in 1554, first published in 1556.



A Paterne of True Prayer (1605), by John Smyth, commonly acknowledged as the first pastor in the modern Baptist tradition.

(Continued from page 3)

Why is any of this important? Many of our older library materials are part of the Samuel Colgate Historical Library. Colgate and those who were entrusted with building the collection after his death took great care to obtain and preserve important works related to Baptist history. He actively collected associational minutes from Baptists across the country and his curator scoured international bookseller catalogs for relevant works. (See the article about Samuel Colgate in the Spring 2019 *Primary Source*.) As a result, ABHS holds the most extensive collection of Baptist records in the country.

We also have a world class library collection of works on Anabaptist history and early English Baptists, as well as Baptists in the United States. ABHS assumed responsibility for this collection upon the Society's relocation to Rochester in 1955. In today's world, preserving is only half of the job. We must also make sure that researchers know what we have, which requires online discovery tools. Membership in OCLC and fees for WorldCat Discovery cost us nearly \$3000/yr. Your membership and contributions to ABHS allow us to grow and maintain this online catalog.

(Continued from page 1)

REALM is planned in three phases:

Phase 1: Preparing for Reopened Libraries: Research on High-Priority Materials and Workflows (May 2020 – August 2020)

Phase 2: Additional Research to Support Operations of Libraries, Archives, and Museums (June 2020 – October 2020)

Phase 3: Monitor, Update, Communicate (October 2020 – September 2021)

A report was issued June 22 on a first round of materials testing. Materials included hardback book covers, softback book covers, paper pages inside a book, a plastic book covering, and a DVD case. Results determined that the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which causes COVID-19, was not detectable on any of the materials after **three** days of quarantine.

Round 2 looked at the survival of the virus on Braille papers pages, glossy paper pages like

those in a coffee table book, magazine pages, a children's board book, and Archival folders. This time the viral samples were placed inside the items, then the items were shelved as they would be in library storage areas. Results were released on July 20. After **two** days, the archival folders were safe to handle. It took **four** days for there to be only a trace amount on the braille pages, glossy book pages, and board book. The magazine pages showed a trace amount of virus at four days, when the testing ended in this phase of the project.

Round 3 is underway, testing viral degradation on USB drives, acrylic (as used in display cases and partitions), flexible plastic storage bags, and rigid storage containers, like those used to store or transport items.

While not all of the materials tested are commonly used here at ABHS, getting information on the survival of COVID-19 on a

variety of materials helps us to determine safety for staff and patrons. We are grateful for the work OCLC is doing to protect all of us during this unique time in history.



(Images courtesy of OCLC.)

Join the Transcription Project!

In the archives we have numerous congregational record books dating from the late 17th to early 20th centuries. Because they are handwritten they are not searchable electronically, so finding information can be a laborious task. This is where you come in: We invite you to help us transcribe these records using the crowd-sourcing platform [Zooniverse](https://www.zooniverse.org). You'll see images of the pages and type in your transcription. This work will result in a version of the records that can be searched for names or keywords, helping genealogists and other researchers in their work.

The only requirements for participating in this project are a computer (it will not work on phones) and the ability to read cursive handwriting. Come transcribe online: bit.ly/ABHS_transcription_project.

Ways to Support ABHS

We know that many people would like to support the work of the Historical Society, but don't have discretionary money available. There are ways to support ABHS outside of your current funds.

1. If you make your philanthropic gifts via a donor-advised fund, add the American Baptist Historical Society to the organizations designated to receive a gift from your DAF!
2. Legacy giving is another way of supporting ABHS with future giving. Let us know that you have included ABHS in your will, and we'll add you to the Living Heritage Society.
3. Donations of stock are always welcome. Have your broker contact us for transfer instructions.

Join the Historical Society and Become a Time Traveler

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



Yes! I/We want to join the American Baptist Historical Society.

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Under what name(s) would you like your
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American Baptist Quarterly subscription:
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Add \$75/year for postage to Canada, \$100/year
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Gift to Endowment \$ _____

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To use a credit card go to our website:
www.ABHSarchives.org and select "Give Now."

ABHS is a 501(c)(3) organization; your
membership is tax-deductible to the full extent of
the law.

ABQ subscriptions are not tax-deductible.

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Ann Hasseltine Judson Circle	\$1-50
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Henry Lyman Morehouse Circle	\$51-125
* subscription (digital or print) to <i>Primary Source</i>	
* participation in "Time Travelers," reciprocal museum/ archives program http://timetravelers.mohistory.org/	
Louise "Lulu" Cecilia Fleming Circle	\$126-250
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Samuel DeWitt Proctor Circle	\$501-1000
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* benefits listed above, plus	
* private archives tour (subject to staff availability)	
Samuel Colgate Donors	\$5001 & above
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Living Heritage Society	inclusion in estate plan
* inclusion on a special plaque in ABHS Reading Room	

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INSIDE

Did you know that ABHS holds
a collection of rare books from
the 16th-17th centuries?

American Baptist Quarterly Call for Papers

ABQ is the scholarly journal of the American Baptist Historical Society. Both established and emerging scholars are invited to submit 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) as soon as possible.

Upcoming Themes

The Vocation of Christian Laypeople

Theological Reflections on Pandemic

Christian Responses to Global Climate Change

Seeing the Sacred in a Secular Society

21st-Century Reformations: New Forms of Ministry for a Changed World

Bible Translations, Old and New

Our Vision

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