Andrews Treasures Exhibition

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John Nevins Andrews’ Trunk

Early Adventist theologian, evangelist, author, editor, church administrator (third president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, 1889–1894), John Nevins Andrews was the first official American religious worker sent overseas by the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The battered and worn original trunk displayed in the Center for Adventist Research was used by J.N. Andrews when he left the United States in September of 1874, destined for England and ultimately Switzerland, a trip that he had lost his beloved magazine in 1872, went as a single parent with his son Charles (age 17) and daughter Mary (age 13). Only Charles would survive to return to the United States to live.

It is likely the family used more than one trunk. Andrews’ personal library numbered more than 500 volumes. When he was a missionary, he was the church’s foremost scholar. He read Greek Hebrew and Latin, and had memorized the New Testament and large portions of the Old Testament. This trunk has become a symbol of sacrifice and commitment. It points to the core values of Andrews University that combines academic excellence with world mission.

A life-size sculpture of J.N. Andrews and his children with their mission trunk stands in front of Pioneer Memorial Church on the Andrews University campus. Alan Collins used the original trunk as a model to create the sculpture.

Paper-mâché Beasts Illustrating Daniel and Revelation

These paper-mâché beasts were commissioned by evangelist W.H. Simpson in 1908 to be used in his evangelistic meetings. They cost $500, which was a significant investment at the time. Simpson was one of the first successful large-city evangelists. He used dramatic, visual images, sometimes moved across the stage with the use of wires or ropes, and spotlight during his presentations. This was before the days of computer animation and graphics.

These objects were constructed using a wire frame and overlaid using glue with many layers of plastered paper. The carefully shaped representations were then hand-painted. They are remarkably light, but have retained their color and shape for more than a century. Donated by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Ramsey.

Statue of Nebuchadnezzar

A model of the statue of Nebuchadnezzar as described in Daniel 2. It is made of translucent material and wired with lights to illuminate the various parts of the image. The original provenance is not known, but it was undoubtedly used for evangelistic purposes. Donated by L.H. Petersen.

Simpson Sanctuary Model

The sanctuary model was commissioned and donated by William Wallace Ellis. He used this for evangelistic purposes during the early twentieth century. Seventh-day Adventist evangelists used models like this to help their audience understand the sanctuary teaching, which is central to Adventist theology. The early sanctuary was a miniature model of the heavenly sanctuary, that God showed Moses on Mount Sinai. By understanding the purpose of the court and the two parts of the tent, people could better appreciate Jesus’ work in heaven, particularly just before His Second Coming. Donated in 1930 to Loma Linda Missionary College by William Wallace Ellis.

Flora Plummer Desk

Desk belonging to L. Flora Plummer (1862–1943) who served as secretary of the Sabbath School Department of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists from 1913 until 1930. She was one of the few women who served in an administrative capacity at the General Conference before 1950.

Pulpit from Wright, Michigan

This pulpit is from the historic Wright, Michigan, Seventh-day Adventist church. As one of the more important early Seventh-day Adventist churches, James and Ellen White visited it numerous occasions. Many early Adventist pioneers spoke from this pulpit.

The church was completed in 1872. It was connected to the property of Ephriam Rockwood family more close to the village. It rests on the rock property close to the church that the first general camp-meeting of Seventh-day Adventists was held September 1–7, 1868. Donated by Paul S. Howell.
Parkville, Michigan, Pew

A pew from the Parkville, Michigan, Seventh-day Adventist church, an early church in Michigan. The restored Parkville, Michigan church now stands in the Adventist Historic Village in Battle Creek, Mich.

It was on Sabbath afternoon, January 17, 1991, in this church, that Ellen White had her first Civil War vision. It was a solemn occasion because she was shown that it would be a terrible war. She stood and spoke afterwards. At one point she declared, “There are men in this house who will lose sons in that war.”

Alice Marsh Chair and Spinning Wheel

Spinning wheel and chair that once belonged to Alice O. Marsh (1808–1897). She graduated from Emanuel Missionary College in 1929 and received an honorary Doctor of Science from Andrews University in 1973.

Marsh specialized in nutrition and dietetics and played an important role in developing the field of dietetics. She joined the faculty of Andrews University in 1959 and continued in that capacity until 1981. For many years, she was chair of the Home Economics Department. Donated by William and Sylvia Fagal.

Chair from the Morning Star

Chair from the Seventh-day Adventist steam paddlewheel mission boat, Morning Star. This boat was launched down the Mississippi River and its tributaries. The ship was built in Allegheny, Mich. in 1894 and launched on the Kalamazoo River. The idea was conceived by James E. White and W.C. Palmer. This boat was the means of opening mission work among blacks in the south. E. White published basic reading primers using the Bible to teach people to read.

Popular opinion is that the 1 to 2 times forced Edson to move the Morning Star to a new location. The reason for the time at sea was ideal for maintaining a mobile evangelistic center. Donated by Edith Russ in 1972.

Dime Tabernacle Chair

This chair is from the large brick Dime Tabernacle in Battle Creek Mich. The church was dedicated in 1879 and was the leading Seventh-day Adventist church until the General Conference moved to Washington D.C. in 1903. The tabernacle had a spire that rose above the city skyline and contained a $600 Seth Thomas clock with a bell that rang out on the hour. The citizens of Battle Creek donated the clock. The building was used on various occasions as a public auditorium.

To finance the more than $20,000 cost of construction, it was suggested that each Seventh-day Adventist contribute a dime a month toward the expense, hence the name Dime Tabernacle. The building regularly seated 3,500 people but with additional chairs against the wall and platform, and with others standing, the number could reach to more than 3,500. The building burned in 1922 and the present Seventh-day Adventist church stands on the same site. Donated by Ruth P. Wight.

Battle Creek Sanitarium Chairs

These chairs, designed by John Harvey Kellogg, were intended to promote good posture. Kellogg believed that sitting on a chair was unhealthful. These chairs do discourage slouching, but are not adjustable and therefore only fit the back of certain people. Donated by Mrs. Oliver Wilson.

Uriah Smith School Desk

Uriah Smith, long-time editor of the Review and Herald and author of Thoughts on Daniel and Revelation, was also a creative inventor, woodworker and artist. In 1874, he filed a patent for a modification to the traditional American school desk. The seat folded up from the rear rather than the front. Uriah Smith also filed a patent for a modified flexible prothetic leg in 1863. Donated by Mark Boeve.

History of Editions of the Bible

The Center for Adventist Research serves as the rare materials repository for the Andrews University James White Library. It houses a wide range of materials, which include an extensive Bible collection. This exhibit showcases the Bible featuring illuminated manuscripts, to the codes and modern Bibles. The Sukkie Bible collection includes an original William Tyndale New Testament, various Torah scrolls, and a few cursive Bibles from the fifteenth century.

Ellen G. White

This exhibit provides an overview of Ellen White writings and her life. The first panel provides a brief overview of her accomplishments over 70 years of ministry. The next four panels present how she did her writing. The process was dynamic and involved voices, research and composition.

The last two panels show photographs of Ellen White's birth family (father and sisters) and immediate family (husband and children).

J.N. Andrews Family: Adventism's First Mission Family

John N. Andrews was the denomination's first official missionary from America when he and his two teenage children sailed for Europe in 1874. This exhibit shows documents, letters and publications associated with J.N. Andrews. It includes previously unknown items that were donated by great-granddaughter Jeanne (Andrews) Williams.
Fine Ivory Oriental Figurines

Beautiful matched ivory carvings of an oriental man and woman. Part of the Douglas Berson donation.

Bell of Jane Ings

Jane Ings served for many years as the matron of the St. Helena Sanitarium (now St. Helena Hospital) in California, with her husband William Ings, who went to Switzerland in 1877 to work with J.N. Andrews. In 1878 they began the first mission work in England where William was born. It is likely the bell was used in connection with Jane's work at St. Helena Sanitarium. Donated by Mrs. A. J. Wamser.

Lantern Slide Projector

During the early twentieth century, many Seventh-day Adventists used hand-colored lantern glass slides to present topics to their local communities. This projector is from the St. Otto Christensen Collection.

Various Institutional Seals

- Emmanuel Missionary College Seal
- Potomac University Seal
- Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary Seal

Investment Quilt with Names of Seventh-day Adventist Pioneers

Donated by Elizabeth Brown.

J. Edson White's Saw

The date is unknown for this saw, but it has Edson’s name stamped on the wood. Edson was the second son of James and Ellen White. He was a sometime farmer, printer, and publisher. He is best known for his missionary work in the south during the 1850s. Donated by Raymond Chatb.

1895 Communion Set

This communion set is from the Detroit Seventh-day Adventist Church in Hastings, Mich. It is one example of the style of service at the turn of the twentieth century. This communion set was made in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, by the Leuflage Individual Communion Cup Co. Donated by Paul S. Howell in 1979.

Silverware from various Sanitariums and Hospitals

Donated by Paul S. Howell.

Seventh-day Adventist Publishing Artifacts


Emmanuel Missionary College Dairy Artifacts

Milk bottles and tokens were a regular part of life on the early campus of EMC. These tokens were provided to workers and residents when financial resources were limited. Milk bottles donated by Garth "Duff" Stortz.

Various EMC Class Gift Plates

Center for Adventist Research Exhibition Catalogue
Sir Isaac Newton (1642–1727) Manuscript

This handwritten manuscript on the prophecies concerning the Second Coming of Christ was written in English and Latin with quotations in Greek and Hebrew. It contains 19,367 words, 40 pages on 5 quarto signatures. It closely follows Scripture, and the entire essay flows from text to text. The manuscript is dated to the early 1680s. It was acquired by L.E. Froman for the Advent Source Collection in 1948.

Many people do not realize that Newton was not only a scientist but also a theologian. He was an historian in his interpretation of prophecy and authored a commentary on Daniel and Revelation that in some ways was similar to the Millerite Adventist interpretation. Though a pre-millennialist, Newton was millenarian and believed in the return of the Jews to Israel in connection with a temporal millennium.

Torah Scroll

The Center has in its collection several dozen different handwritten Hebrew scrolls from the 1700s to the 1800s. Torah Scrolls contain the Pentateuch, which includes the first five books of the Bible. Part of the Sullivan Collection.

EMC College Laundry

Shirts in original tags with tags from the College laundry. Donated by Laura Meyer.

Ellen G. White Broadside

This is the only known extant original printed copy of To Those Who Are Receiving the Seal of the Living God, January 31, 1848. This is the third broadside by Ellen G. White. In many ways it is the first of her published testimonies in that it contains practical visions based on God's actual messages to the Church that would be published in nine volumes and span a period from 1845–1859. The Center for Adventist Research also has a fragment from another copy of this broadside in a notebook by Hiram Edson.

William Miller Preaching Bible

This King James Version of the Bible printed in 1829 by Oxford University Press, shows extreme wear from personal Bible study and hundreds of sermons preached by William Miller. The Hebrew wear is evident in the prophetic portions of Daniel and Revelation as well as the prophetic portions of the major and minor prophets. The New Testament has significant Marking with particular use in the Gospels. There are many marks by various books throughout the Bible.

Many do not realize that William Miller presented the prophecies of the Bible in a gospel context. He numbered his converts in the thousands with 700 being converted from deism to the Christian faith.

Hiram Edson Manuscript Fragment

Probably during the 1850s, Hiram Edson wrote this recollection of his experience after the 1844 Millerite Disappointment. It contains a total of 12 pages of a larger document that is no longer extant. He wrote of the disappointment, "Our highest hopes and expectations were blissful, and such a spirit of weeping came [sic] over us as I never experienced before. It seemed that the loss of all earthly friends could have been no comparison. We wept and wept till the day down."

The manuscript also includes his recollection of an experience in a large field where he connected the heavenly sanctuary ministry of Jesus to the 1844 experience.

Testimony for the Church by Ellen G. White

This is the first of 37 numbers of what today is compiled into the nine-volume Testimonies for the Church. Between 1895 and 1899 Ellen White published guidance she had received in vision for the benefit of the growing church. This first number was dated to December 1855, contains material from her November 26, 1855, Vision and other visions from earlier in the year.

William Miller's Lectures

Various editions (1836–1842) of William Miller's lectures which were published in Evidence from Scripture and History of the Second Coming of Christ, about the Year 1843.

Millennial Harp

The Millennial songbook that was used at camp meetings and other gatherings leading up to the 1844 expectation of the Second Coming of Jesus.

1849 Hymnal: Hymns for God’s Peculiar People

Among the first publications by James White was this hymnal. It contained 53 hymns with only words. The songs could be combined with various tunes. James White published a total of five hymn-books before the 1863 organization of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Ten of the hymns from this early publication are in the current Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal.

Joseph Bates First Sabbath Tract

Seventh Day Sabbath, A Perpetual Sign, was published in August 1845 and was instrumental in launching Sabbatharian Adventism. It was through this tract that the early married James and Ellen White accepted the Sabbath. The tract used Seventh Day Baptist arguments for the Sabbath including the Ten Commandments and the Sabbath at creation. In the second edition of this tract published in January 1867, Bates linked the Sabbath to the Most Holy Place heavenly sanctuary ministry of Jesus.
1845 William Foy Tract

William Ellis Foy (1818–1863) was a black Free Will Baptist preacher who experienced two visions in Boston, Mass., during 1842. After other subsequent visions, he became a Millerite preacher and traveled to various places sharing the soon-coming-of-Christ and the content of his visions. Ellen White believed that Foy’s visions were a true manifestation of the prophetic gift. She interacted with him and his first wife during 1845 and probably before the 1844 disappointment. Foy should not be confused with John H. Fos, who also received visions before the October 1844 expectation but refused to share them.

Painting of Adventist Pioneers and Institutions


Rembrandt Engraving

1850 Nichols Prophetic Chart

This chart was devised by Charles Fitch and Apollox Not in 1842. It was first offered for $3.50 through the J.V. Himes office in Boston. Joseph Bates, who was the chairman of the May 1842 Millerite conference held in Boston, Mass., recollected: “At the opening of this meeting, Mr. Fitch and A. Hale, of Nauvoo, presented us the visions of Daniel and John which they had painted on cloth.” Bates saw the chart as a fulfillment of Habakkuk 2:2: “Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.” See Way Marks and High Ways, 1847, 19–11.

The chart had at least three printings. The designation of the little horn of Daniel 7 is either absent or indicated in two different ways.

1843 Fitch and Hale Chart

Portrait of James White

Painted by Vic Rivera in 1994.

“Way of Life” Lithographs

This series of engravings portray the Great Controversy theme as prescribed by Ellen G. White. The first lithograph was commissioned by M.G. Kellogg in 1873 and titled “The Way of Life from Paradise Lost to Paradise Restored.” It portrayed the history of the earth from the fall in Eden to the New Earth. The Ten Commandments and the Cross of Christ were given equal prominence at the center of the picture. The eye was drawn to objectionable. James White revised the engraving in 1876 without the eye.

In 1883, Ellen White published a complete revision that placed Jesus on the cross at the center. She also retitled the lithograph “Christ, the Way of Life.” She saw Jesus and the cross as central to the entire Great Controversy theme. This engraving was copyrighted five years before the 1888 Minnesota, Minn., General Conference.

Ellen G. White Library Replication

This collection of close to 1,000 volumes is the most complete collection of similar or identical volumes that were in Ellen White’s personal and office library during her lifetime. The extant original copies of the books that belonged to Ellen White are located in the vault of the Ellen G. White Estate office at the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in Silver Spring, Md. The Center for Adventist Research also has a few dozen original Ellen White library books in the vault, which are owned by the Ellen G. White Estate.

Andrews Campus Photos

Airial photographs showing the campus of Emanuel Missionary College and Andrews University in 1932, 1939 and circa 1970s.

Reference Materials

The reference materials in the Center’s reading room include a largely complete set of bound Reser and Herald volumes, Ellen White books in English and Spanish, Bibles, encyclopedias and other books.
Desk of Uriah Smith
The desk in the reading room of the Center was designed and built by Uriah Smith, and was used by him while he was editor of the Review and Herald and wrote Daniel and Revelation. Uriah Smith was a woodworker. The Center also has other wood objects that were made by him. Donated by Mark Bovee, grandson of Uriah Smith.

Pump Organ
Pump organ, previously owned by Hattie André. She was an early missionary teacher to Pitcairn Island as well as a teacher at Avondale College and Hinsdale Sanitarium.

150th Anniversary of the General Conference
The General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is the administrative body of the world church. It was organized in 1863. This display highlights changes in church organization up to the present.

John Nevins Andrews and James White
A display that provides an overview of the life, work and families of both James White and J.N. Andrews. James White is also the namesake of the Andrews University library where the Center for Adventist Research is located.

The Center for Adventist Research is always looking for materials relating to the history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. If you have items you wish to entrust to the stewardship of CAR, please contact us at car@andrews.edu.

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