I might mention one other development, a new Ellen G. White book called "Understanding Ellen White." It will be a succinctly written work on issues relating to Ellen White’s life and prophetic messages. It will be useful in many ways, but I am looking forward to using it as a reader in my “GSEM 534: Issues in Ellen G. White” class.

This is a busy semester for me. Besides teaching two seminars and a distance learning class, with more than 125 students, I will have a busy travel schedule. I will do a weekend series in the Netherlands, and at Newbold College in England as well as BRCOM in Loma Linda for the first meeting of the ADL board around General Conference Spring Meeting time.

**Genealogy Research**

By Kevin Burton

How much do you know about your ancestors? What do you know about the lives they lived? Were any of them Seventh-day Adventists (SDAs)? If you are interested in genealogy and have Adventist connections, you will find the Center for Adventist Research (CAR) to be a great resource. Many of the benefits CAR offers are freely accessible online at http://www.centerforadventistresearch.org.

The SDA Obituary Index is an invaluable tool for locating obituaries that were printed in SDA periodicals. You are able to search for these records by keyword, name, date, or periodical title. Let’s say I decide to search by name for my great-grandfather’s first wife. I enter “Hopkins, Violet” in the search bar and click the search button. From the results I learn that there is an obituary that appears in the Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, March 29, 1923. Though this information appears as a link it will not take me to the obituary if I were to click on it. At this point, it is necessary to go to another website to actually find the obituary.

So, I open a new window and go to https://www.adventistarchives.org. Once I am on this site I use the reference I found in the SDA Obituary Index to search the “Online Archives” for the periodical that contains the obituary I want to find.

Another valuable tool on CAR’s website is the SDA Periodical Index. The searching capabilities for this feature are similar to the Obituary Index. In May 2013 I used the Periodical Index to find articles written by my grandpa, Marvin Gunter. My search yielded 12 hits, which I was able to find on the Adventist Archives website just like in all the obituaries. My mother and I really enjoyed going through these articles and reading about my grandpa’s involvement in various projects and ministries.

One other beneficial feature available on CAR’s website is the photos. The photographs are completely different from the obituary and periodical indexes. There is a search box in the upper right-hand corner of the window. If you search for a word in this box it will search multiple fields for key words. You can be more specific, however, by using “quotation marks.” When searching, it is also important to keep in mind that names are usually given “last name first, first name, middle name last” in periodicals.

In other words, when I searched for a picture of my wife’s grandfather, I typed “Gane, Erwin R” in the search bar and clicked the search button. From the results I learned that there is a picture of Grandpa Gane when he was president of his graduating class at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary in the 1960s. After this, I clicked on the link to download the “Full Resolution Image” so I could have a nice copy.

About 170 years have passed in the Adventist movement and many people have ancestors who were part of this history. Therefore, CAR is not only for theologians and historians, but also for all that like to learn more of their family’s history. Stories abound in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, stories of which your ancestors were a part. Are you ready to make new discoveries and put these stories back together? If so, your quest begins at http://www.centerforadventistresearch.org.

Kevin Burton, Staff Assistant / Shops for Adventist history on ebay in his spare time.

Ezechiel Philip, Duane and Nancy Anderson donated several items related to Pitcairn Island which had belonged to Nancy Anderson’s father, Mr. Robert M. Littel II. He made the model of H.M.S. Bounty himself by purchasing a boat and modifying it to more closely resemble the Bounty. As no one else in the family is interested in Pitarin history, the Andersons thought to donate the materials to the Center for Adventist Research.

The H. M. S. Bounty has a storied history. Many know the tale from the movies and books written about this true adventure of the mutiny of the sailors who took refuge on Pitcairn Island.

In the 1890s as part of a Sabbath school fund raising campaign a mission boat was built. The ship was named Pitcairn and it was launched November 25, 1890. For ten years the Pitcairn sailed the south Pacific with missionaries on board. Pitcairn Island was a regular stop on its route.

Here is an extract from a letter from a Pitcairnarian, which shows an interesting light upon the life on Pitcairn Island:-

“H.M.S. — came in yesterday. Sabbath, the captain came ashore and attended the Sabbath school. He offered the opening prayer, reviewed the primary division, and at the close gave a parting address to the whole school. He expressed himself as highly pleased with our school system, and was so glad that all the people attended. He said our school is the best organised school he ever saw, and he had seen many, for when at home in England he was superintendent of a Sunday-school. He is a really Christian man,” (The Pitcairn Truth (UK) August 2, 1894, p. 496/7).

The Seventh-day Adventist church now has a worker and a nurse who come from Australia to serve two-year terms on Pitcairn Island.

The photographs from the Pitcairn collection can be viewed at http://www.centerforadventistresearch.org/photos/special-collections/Pitcairn%20Collection/. They include photographs of the missionaries, the two-masted schooner, as well as various people connected with the collection.
As the Seventh-day Adventist church grows and becomes more diverse and distant from the culture and language at its beginning, a challenge has arisen in teaching an understanding of the church’s unique identity. There is a lack of knowledge of Adventist heritage among many in the Seventh-day Adventist church.

Wendy Halder, Collections Associate-Periodicals, reflected on the times she has received help from Camille. “She helps me figure out where to go to look it up. Sometimes she just knows. Often I don’t, and when I don’t I end up at the use of the library catalog. Careful cataloging is especially important at the Center, because the Center employs a restrictive policy. This means patrons are not allowed to browse them but must request items by call number. The more accurately the patron can search the library’s catalog, the better their search results will be. And in the end cataloging is about providing a service to the end user.”

Merlin Burt, director of the Center, said, “Cataloging is a source for rich new research. It benefits the academic community because students and researchers will be interested in the information you’ve found. Cataloging is a way of preserving. It’s a way of organizing.”

The Center provides a curated collection of Adventist-related materials which contains thousands of items. Even though the Center’s holdings are narrower in scope than the James White Library no one would be able to effectively find information without the use of the library catalog. Cataloging is especially important at the Center, because the Center employs closed stacks, which means patrons are not allowed to browse through them. They must request items by call number. The more accurately the patron can search the library’s catalog, the better their search results will be. And in the end cataloging is about providing a service to the end user.

By Julie Johnson

This winter has seen many tweaks to the concept and planning of the Adventist Digital Library (ADL), scheduled to launch in early 2016. We’ve been in talks with K3 Integrations, a software development company that does projects for the Adventist community, most recently the Adventist Learning Community. K3 is confident that they can provide us with the user interface needed to deliver our digital content across the world with a platform current to today’s digital needs and one that is easy for any user type to navigate.

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One example of how the Center's cataloging backlog is being worked on is the workflow in the White Document File. The White Document File is an extensive and valuable collection of assorted information—articles, clippings, quotations, letters, pamphlets. Megan Channer, also a student worker, checks to see if we have them already. There are hundreds of these.

Camille is a diminutive woman with a vibrant personality. When you ask her about her work, she’ll say “no one will find what I do interesting.” There are thousands of items waiting to be put into the workflow. They rest for a while on the corner of her desk while she keys in the pertinent information that will allow patrons to find material. In her office are floor to ceiling shelves that contain odds and ends patiently waiting in the queue. Among them are Adventist produced felt sets, religious periodicals; Salle Alger is working on those. There are thousands of cassette tapes. There are two large boxes of pamphlets from the Peruvian Union. That first collection I worked on was one on the Peruvian Union. That one was really interesting. It had all the correspondence, the letters from the workers. They came from the United States, because they went to Peru to start the work. It was interesting reading about their interactions with the locals. The murders—not that I am happy they were murdered, but it was interesting reading. That collection was four boxes. I spent a year on the Adventist Heritage Ministry collection. That one is a living collection, because it is an organization that still exists. Stan Hieckner, Annotation Editor for the White Estate, works closely with AHA, and he kept bringing me boxes to add to the Zenod library. Which was hand for a task-oriented person like myself. I like to see the goal, and the end point kept shifting because the collection continued to grow while I was processing it. That collection is currently 14 boxes.

“Bound-withs” are a pain to catalog,” Jim Ford tells me as he leans back in his chair and elaborates on the mechanics of creating library catalog item records. Most recently he has been working on creating the record for the new John N. Loughborough Collection. This collection contains materials pulled from seven different sources within the Center, some of which have never been processed.

A manuscript or personal papers collection can take up to an hour to catalog.” Jim Ford tells me as he leans back in his chair and elaborates on the mechanics of creating library catalog item records. Most recently he has been working on creating the record for the new John N. Loughborough Collection. This collection contains materials pulled from seven different sources within the Center, some of which have never been processed.

Polish Bible links two Early European Missionaries

While doing some research in the Center’s vault Merlin D. Burt recently discovered that one of the Bibles in the John Nevin Andrews library had Czechowski’s signature in it. A native Polish speaker, Darius Jankiewicz, gave us a translation of the handwritten note as follows: “As a keepsake (or memento) for Brother Julian Stawicki, on June 7, 1862.” In other words this is a gift for Julian to remember Czechowski. Stawicki now owns the Bible. So it must have been a gift from Czechowski. A paraphrase would be: “A gift so that Brother Julian Stawicki remembers me.” This was an interesting and not widely known fact, so it was decided to post some pictures of the Bible on Facebook. Denis Kaiser, a fan of the Center’s Facebook page and worker at the Center, found further information on Czechowski and Stawicki. Stawicki was one of Czechowski’s converts to the Seventh-day Adventist faith in New York in 1860. See M. B. Czechowski, “The N.Y. Mission,” Review and Herald, Sept. 4, 1860, 124, 125; Julian Stawicki, “From Bro. Stawicki,” Review and Herald, Aug. 26, 1862, p. 103.

Like all good research projects, this additional information by Denis has answered some questions but raised others. It is an interesting connection between these two pioneer missionaries to Europe. A former Catholic priest, Czechowski joined the Seventh-day Adventist church in 1857 and some time later asked the General Conference to sponsor him to be a missionary to Europe. The fledging denomination did not feel it was the right time, and said no. However Czechowski was not deterred and left in 1864 as a missionary to Europe. There he worked for several years sharing the Adventist message. He died in Vienna in 1876. Andrews left for Europe as a missionary in 1874. The story of how this Polish Bible with Czechowski’s signature arrived in the personal library of J. N. Andrews is one yet to be discovered.

In the summer of 1861 Czechowski moved from New York City to Enosburg Falls, in the northern part of Vermont near the Canadian border. It may well be that Czechowski gave this Bible to Stawicki upon his departure. The date in the Bible (June 7, 1861) could actually help date Czechowski’s departure more precisely than just summer 1861.

Of course, that doesn’t explain how it got from Stawicki to Andrews. It is, however, interesting that Stawicki’s name appears only in the Review and only in 1861 and 1862. Further research has to be done to discover more about Stawicki’s whereabouts after 1862. Maybe he defected from the faith, as there doesn’t seem to be anything for him in church periodicals.

Czechowski. Stawicki now owns the Bible. So it must have been a gift from Czechowski. A paraphrase would be: “A gift so that Brother Julian Stawicki remembers me.” This was an interesting and not widely known fact, so it was decided to post some pictures of the Bible on Facebook. Denis Kaiser, a fan of the Center’s Facebook page and worker at the Center, found further information on Czechowski and Stawicki. Stawicki was one of Czechowski’s converts to the Seventh-day Adventist faith in New York in 1860. See M. B. Czechowski, “The N.Y. Mission,” Review and Herald, Sept. 4, 1860, 124, 125; Julian Stawicki, “From Bro. Stawicki,” Review and Herald, Aug. 26, 1862, p. 103.

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**CREATING A VIRTUAL MUSEUM**

By Julie Johnson

Surrounded by thousands of pieces of Adventist history, there are days when I despair of completing the task that has been given me. So many handwritten secrets, so many everyday objects, so many printed words that have been forgotten. How will I ever be able to share the feeling I have when I hold in my hands a diary written by a pioneer of Adventism, a love letter written shortly before the Great Controversy in 1844, or a photograph of a building that no longer exists? My job has filled me with excitement, and at the same time, terror of failing to preserve the artifacts of our rich history. But at the same time I ask myself, what is the point of collecting historical items if we hide them away in a vault in a small town in America?

The Center for Adventist Research has collected historical items for years, beginning as a small archive on the campus of Andrews University, then expanding by merging with one of the branch offices of the Ellen G. White Estate. Our digitization program has begun to tackle the mountain of historical items we house, scanning them to share across the world. The Adventist Digital Library is the newest avenue we have for our goal of sharing these resources with the rest of the world. And with documents and photographs, we are succeeding. But what about all the other types of material? What about William Miller’s pen, William Ward Simpson’s beasts, and the entire run of Mission Spotlight? Should not these items also be preserved and made available to people? Aren’t these the items that most people want to see, the items held by our pioneers, things that remind us of our story? How can we make Adventist history come alive?

Recently we fully digitized the William Ward Simpson Collection. Among these items are the large papier mâché beasts that are on display in our museum at the Center. A large group of the staff at the Center was involved in trying to digitally photograph the beasts and use free software to stitch together the images into a 3D model. Wendy Halder, Katy Wolfer, Kevin Burton, and Henry Gomez worked together on setting up a backdrop, lighting the stage, and photographing one of the beasts at all angles. Although the project was “definitely more fun than other day’s activities” as Wendy described, the struggle of getting the lighting correct using the little amount of equipment on site, not having a tripod that could extend over the top of the beast correctly, and the challenge of getting the angle of the shot exactly the same for each turn of the base made the task too difficult. It was decided that this home grown solution did not give us the quality that we needed.

With a 3D scanner, not only would we be able to provide these images of items within the collection of the Center for Adventist Research, but we would be able to take the scanner around the world and digitize artifacts from other institutions or archives, thereby creating a digital Adventist “Smithsonian.” In this virtual world, the stage can be set so that items are given focus based on current events, and the ability to guide visitors through an exhibition will give these objects a power they do not hold on their own.

With emerging technology has the answers for us. Many museums and historical archives have used digital photography and scanners as a means of giving people a 2D image of the items in their collection. But with the advent of 3D scanners and printers, new possibilities are suddenly available. If we were able to scan our artifacts directly into 3D, users across the world would be able to interact with them, turning them side to side, upside down, to fully “see” the item that lives inside a box or in a vault. Teachers would be able to display items in the classroom. Students would be able to see Uriah Smith’s violin, a piece of the anchor of the HMS Bounty, and Edson White’s chair from the missionary ship **Menginian**. Then our collection of treasures would truly be available to anyone.

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As with all new initiatives, funding and time holds us back. not only will we be able to share these items with the world, but scanning them in 3D gives a measure of preservation to these beasts will not survive forever. But if we are able to document them through photography and 3D imaging, people in the future will still be able to see them. And I will be able to wrap up one more artifact of Adventist history without the fear that I will be the last to see it.

Julie Johnson, Assistant Director / Has been spending her spare time typing out her parent’s letters home from Singapore where they were stationed as missionaries in the 1970s.