

Jan Ballard Begins Work as New Archivist

The search for a new archivist is over! Jan Ballard began her work at the American Baptist Historical Society the first week in January.

Board members and staff who participated in the search process are excited about the rich array of experiences and skills that Jan is bringing to ABHS. As the archivist, her first priority is to familiarize herself with the record groups housed on six miles of collection shelving—and to learn as much as possible from senior archivist Betty Layton, who will retire March 31st.

Ballard will then be responsible to procure, care for and share collections documenting the vast spectrum of Baptists in the United States and their contribution to American and world history.

“I couldn’t wait to start work,” said Jan. “It’s a great honor for me to keep the documentary record of Baptist missions and ministry, and to have the opportunity to share that inspiring heritage with others.”

The pool of candidates was so rich that the search committee, judged three of the four finalists “highly qualified.”

“What tipped the scales toward Jan Ballard,” explained executive director Dr. Deborah Van Broekhoven, “was her great range of library and archival experiences, including grant-writing, cataloguing rare books and handling artifacts.

“Like the other candidates, she is first and foremost a trained archivist. She is knowledgeable and appreciative of Baptist history and she has a passion for working with the array of missionary and church records at ABHS.”

Most recently Ballard was executive director of the Jacobsburg Historical Society in Nazareth, PA, where she was responsible not only for the archives



New ABHS archivist Jan Ballard works with new materials for the Ralph Elliott collection.

but also the day-to-day operations of an early American industrial plantation, including a long-rifle museum, and an 1834 historic house museum. Her previous positions included work with the archives of Moravian College and Moravian Theological Seminary; and Moravian Academy in Bethlehem, PA; and the Lehigh County (PA) Historical

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*You Are Invited!
A Retirement Celebration
for ABHS Senior Archivist
Betty Layton
Friday, April 1
Two o'clock in the afternoon
American Baptist Mission Center
Valley Forge, PA*

RSVP 610/768-2269 or ABHS, P.O. Box 851, Valley Forge, PA 19486-0851

Baptist Pastor to Tell the Emily Judson Story

The Rev. Dr. George Tooze will tell the story of Emily Judson at the ABHS Biennial Breakfast June 26 in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

A retired American Baptist pastor, he is the editor of a seven volume set, *The Life and Letters of Emily Chubbuck Judson*. The third wife of Adoniram Judson, Emily was already an accomplished author under the pen name "Fanny For-ester," when she met the famous missionary who changed her life.

Booksigning Event

Also during the American Baptist Churches Biennial convention, Dr. Tooze will be available at the ABHS booth to autograph copies of the first three volumes in the set, published by Mercer University Press (www.mupress.org).

"This research will be of immeasurable help to scholars," said Dr. Deborah Van Broekhoven, ABHS executive director, "and to all those interested in mission history. Readers will find Emily's life and writing funny, poignant, and insightful."

Ballard

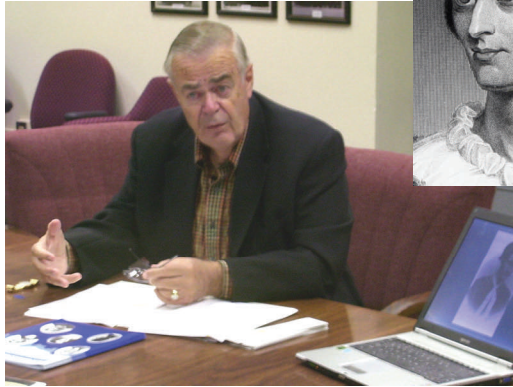
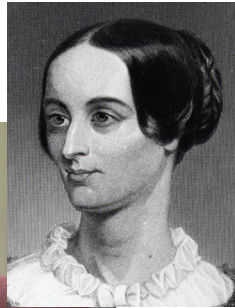
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Society. She also served as an archival consultant for the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission.

She earned her master's degree in library science from Drexel University, with a concentration in rare books and archives. Further education has included training in museum administration from the Smithsonian Institution, and she will begin classes this semester toward a Masters of Archival Studies at Clayton State University. The program, directed by the noted Richard Pearce-Moses, a recent past president of the Society of American Archivists, focuses on the use of the Internet and other new technologies in archival work.

At Adoniram's request, Emily turned from fiction writing to become the Judson family historian, writing the tragic stories of Ann and Sarah, Adoniram's first and second wives, who died in Burma.

"Even those already familiar with the Judsons as icons of mission history will be inspired by these newly available, first-hand accounts of sacrifice and service of this family of pioneer missionaries," said Van Broekhoven. "Between the documents and the superb documentation provided by editor Tooze, readers will be treated to a fresh perspective on the Judsons, including what it took for them to lead a movement that changed the course of history."



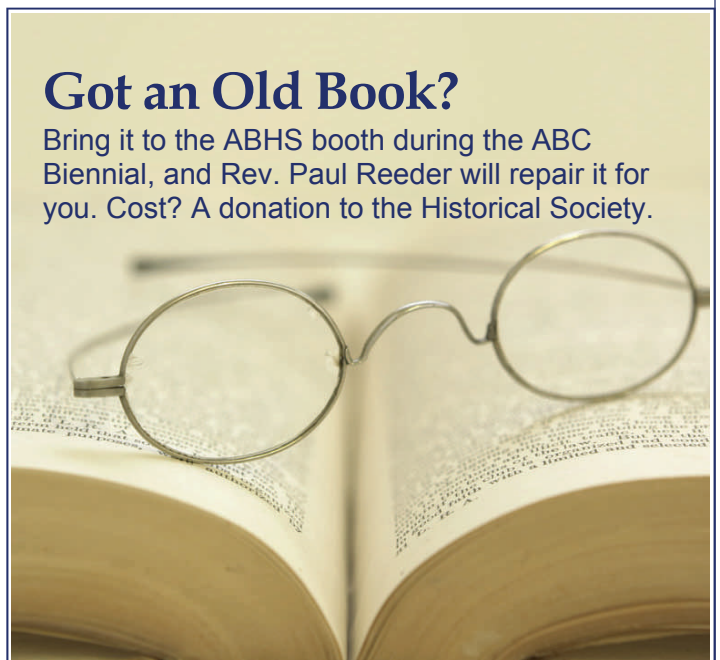
George Tooze shares his research on Emily Chubbuck Judson [inset] during an ABHS-sponsored "Lunch & Learn" at the Atlanta campus of Mercer University.

Judson Bicentennial

The subject is timely as the Historical Society looks to a three-year celebration of the Judson Bicentennial, beginning with Adoniram and Ann's sailing in 2012, continuing with his conversion to the Baptist faith in 2013, and concluding in 2014 with the founding of the Triennial Convention and its focus on the Judson mission to Burma.

Got an Old Book?

Bring it to the ABHS booth during the ABC Biennial, and Rev. Paul Reeder will repair it for you. Cost? A donation to the Historical Society.



Betty Layton to Retire after 22 Years of Ministry

It was *supposed* to be for a short-term, part-time project. Years later – 22 years, in fact – Betty Layton is retiring at the end of March.

A graduate of Houghton College, Houghton, NY, Betty's first career began with teaching middle and high school students in Pennsylvania and Massachusetts, while she was also pursuing graduate work in library science.

When she moved with her family to Pennsylvania, the place of her childhood roots, she began her second career, employed in 1986 as a library assistant with ABHS. That temporary job led to regular part-time employment in 1988 at the Archives Center at Valley Forge, where in 1996 she was named Archivist. Most recently,



Archivist Betty Layton enjoys combining her love of music and history, playing the portable pump organ used by colporters at the ABHS exhibit during the 2003 Biennial in Richmond, VA.

Betty has been recognized for planning and executing the move of the collections from their two previous sites (Valley Forge, PA and Rochester, NY) to the Society's new facility in Atlanta.

Those who use the collections have voiced their appreciation for her ministry, both for her knowledge of Baptist mission and history and for her expertise on the many missionary records archived at ABHS. "Not only have we been blessed over the years with Betty's knowledge and care of the collections," Dr. Van Broek-



Betty took on the enormous task of overseeing the safe move of thousands of materials when the Society consolidated its facilities in 2008. Here she works with the moving company manager to label each and every shelf for its new home.

hoven notes, "but we have also been blessed with her willingness to jump in to work wherever needed and her interest in working with researchers from around the world, whether doctoral students, denominational staff, or senior scholars.

"Most of all we have been blessed with the amazing fact of her character. Betty's calm, insightful non-hurried – nor harried – way of going about her work and life has been an inspiration to us all.

"We will miss her, but we are not saying 'Goodbye.' We plan to continue to see her occasionally as a special projects archivist. Perhaps most importantly for ABHS, Betty has graciously agreed to continue as a consultant, when needed, sharing her expertise with archivist Jan Ballard."

Retirement Celebration April 1

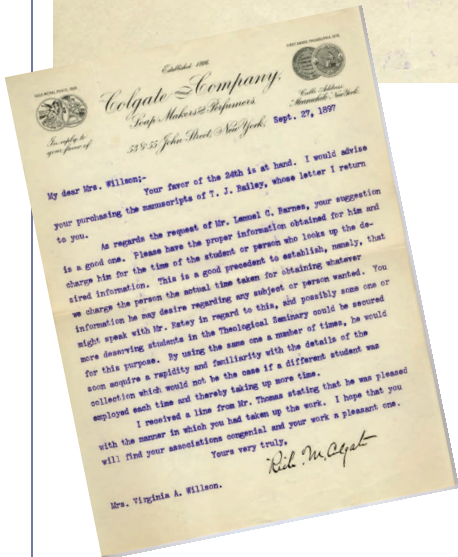
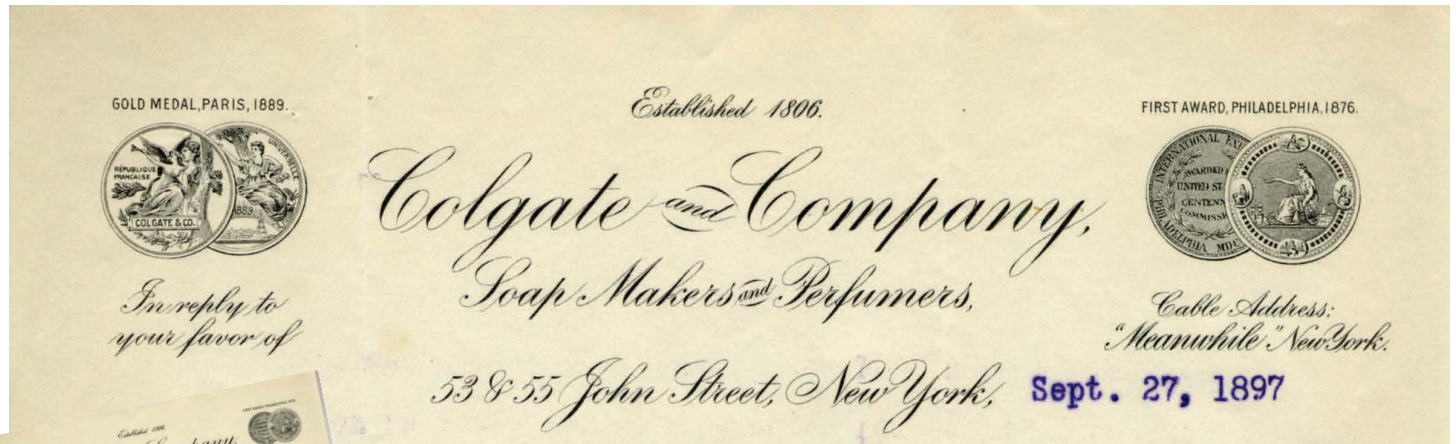
No honors that ABHS can offer will sufficiently match the level of skill, dedication, and wisdom Betty Layton has shared with so many over her years at the Historical Society. Words and tokens of appreciation, however, will be offered on the afternoon of April 1st when family and friends are invited to a retirement party at the ABC Mission Center in Valley Forge, PA.

Readers who have known and benefitted from Betty and her wisdom are encouraged to write a word of greeting or appreciation that can be shared with her on this occasion. Letters, cards, or notes should be emailed to bdunbar@abhsarchives.org or mailed to ABHS, 3001 Mercer University Dr, Atlanta, GA 30341.

From the Archives

In 1897 Samuel Colgate gave his Baptist library to Colgate University. He also provided for a fulltime archivist, Mrs. Virginia Willson, a member of his NJ congregation. Richard Colgate continued the family's oversight of the collection, with this letter sent shortly

after Mrs. Willson relocated to Hamilton, NY. Like our retiring archivist, Betty Layton, and our new archivist, Jan Ballard, Mrs. Willson acquired manuscripts, cared for the collections, helped researchers, and trained student assistants.



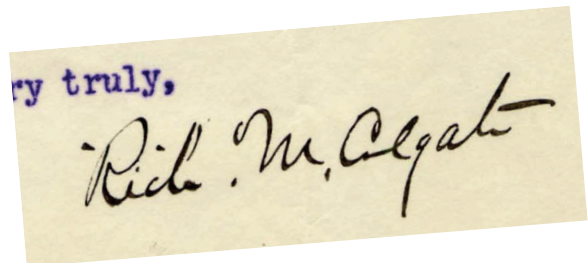
My dear Mrs. Willson;-

Your favor of the 24th is at hand. I would advise your purchasing the manuscripts of T. J. Bailey, whose letter I return to you.

As regards the request of Mr. Lemuel C. Barnes, your suggestion is a good one. Please have the proper information obtained for him and charge him for the time of the student or person who looks up the desired information. This is a good precedent to establish, namely, that we charge the person the actual time taken for obtaining whatever information he may desire regarding any subject or person wanted. You might speak with Mr. Estey in regard to this, and possibly some one or more deserving students in the Theological Seminary could be secured for this purpose. By using the same one a number of times, he would soon acquire a rapidity and familiarity with the details of the collection which would not be the case if a different student was employed each time and thereby taking up more time.

I received a line from Mr. Thomas stating that he was pleased with the manner in which you had taken up the work. I hope that you will find your associations congenial and your work a pleasant one.

Yours very truly,
 [signed] Rich. M. Colgate



New Student Staff Serve as Assistant Archivists

Beginning last fall, ABHS has been able to hire students through the Mercer Work/Study Program. The program subsidizes student on-campus salaries by 75 percent, allowing ABHS to hire five students, each working from 10 to 15 hours per week.



Surrounded by archival boxes, Billy Roberts, a McAfee School of Theology student, processes the papers of Reuben Nelson, the first General Secretary of the Northern Baptist Convention.

Besides necessary everyday tasks of answering mail, email and phones, the students have become assistant archivists, working on a wide range of projects, including creating finding guides for personal papers collections and creating special exhibits.

“For example,” explained senior archivist Betty Layton, “Mather-related materials can be found in several collections based on their origin, such as the Women’s American Baptist Home Mission Society, or the school itself.

“To complement the interest in Mather School generated by the preservation of the film, *Good News*, Jermaine Thomas, a McAfee School of Theology student, has created a finding guide, noting not only what we have, but where it is located in the collections. The result is not just a piece of paper.



Rev. Jermaine Thomas, also a McAfee student, returns a call.

ABHS now has better intellectual control of the breadth of materials within its collections that pertain to Mather, and decades from now, this effort will still be available for future staff and researchers.”

You Can Help Our Archivists!

Your gift to the Annual Fund provides the archival supplies staff need to do their jobs. Help us celebrate senior archivist Betty Layton’s retirement with a donation in her honor.



Annual Fund

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

- Check Enclosed
- Giving online at www.abhsarchives.org (click on the “Donate Now” button)
- Charge to my Visa MasterCard

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 Exp. Date ____/____ Security Code _ _ _

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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

- Website:** www.abhsarchives.org
- Baptist History Network:** www.historymatters.ning.com Discussions with Baptist history lovers.
- On Facebook:** Use the Facebook search box to find “American Baptist Historical Society.” Click the “Like” button on our page.
- Phone:** 678/547-6680 Research appointments, collections donations, general questions.
- Phone:** 610/768-2269 *American Baptist Quarterly* subscriptions and/or accounting questions.
- Mail:** 3001 Mercer University Dr., Atlanta, GA 30341
- Shipping:** 2930 Flowers Rd. S., Suite 150, Atlanta, GA 30341
- Email:** abhs@abhsarchives.org For all the above.

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INSIDE
*In Celebration
of Archivists!*

ABCOTS Annual Session in Atlanta **ABHS to Hold Open House**

The American Baptist Churches of the South will hold its 41st Annual Session in Atlanta this year, and ABHS will be open special hours.

ABCOTS and its auxiliaries will meet March 29-April 2, with the full convention kicking off with the Family Reunion Dinner on Mar. 31, when Mrs. Juanita J. Abernathy will speak.

For attendees, ABHS will provide tours from 1-4 pm on Wednesday, March 30, and again on Saturday afternoon, April 2, 1-4. Church groups and individuals are asked to RSVP (678/547-6680 or abhs@abhsarchives.org) to help us plan for your arrival.

In addition, Friday, April 1, ABHS Board of Managers member Dr. Adam Bond will once again lead the popular workshop, "History Matters," offering information on how congregations can do their own church history. ABHS *Doing Church History* kits will be available for sale.

Upcoming Events

Feb. 26 South Carolina Premiere of 1949 Mather film, *Good News*. Mather Day at Technical College of the Low Country, Beaufort. www.abhsarchives.org.

March 19 Greensboro, NC ABHS Board member Dr. Beverly Mitchell keynotes the symposium "Racial Persecution and the Assault on Human Dignity," at NC A&T, sponsored by the U.S. Holocaust Museum.

May 20 Texas Premiere of *Good News*. Baptist History & Heritage Society annual conference, Dallas. www.baptisthistory.org.

ABHS Biennial Breakfast. Sunday, June 26, 2011 7:00-8:30am, San Juan, Puerto Rico

Enjoy fellowship, good food and Baptist history. Held during the American Baptist Churches, USA, Biennial Meeting, the event is open to Baptists and non-Baptists alike. Tickets are available through the Biennial registration www.celebrate2011.com or through the ABHS office by phone 610/768-6680 or email abhs@abhsarchives.org.