ANOTHER MADISON FOUNDER HONORED

Albert Dittes

Sallie V. Sutherland, wife of Edward A. Sutherland, was one of seven teachers to first connect with the newborn school at Madison in 1904.

Because of Sallie’s dedication to the work of her husband and unheralded sacrifices she made for the success of the school, the Madison College Alumni Association commissioned a portrait of her and has placed it in the Heritage House along with the well-known founders E.A. Sutherland, Percy T. Magan and M. Bessie DeGraw.

"It didn't seem fair to have the pictures of the others without her," said Mavis Sutherland, granddaughter-in-law of E.A. Sutherland and initiator of the project. "She lived in a chicken coop during the first summer when Dr. Joe was a baby because there was no other place to stay. She supported everybody else behind the scenes and didn't have her due."

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RECOLLECTIONS OF WILLIAM SANDBORN

At the last Alumni Association board meeting, some suggested inviting Survey readers to share memories of their favorite teachers at Madison.

The present alumni generation did not know the founders, so it was thought best to start with William Sandborn, who served as president and dean among other things when many of the present alumni were in school.

According to the Survey index, Dr. Sandborn was active on campus for half the history of Madison College, starting out as a student, then becoming a teacher, department head, dean and finally president. He gave continuous service to Madison between 1930 until resigning as president in 1961, with two years off to start a self-supporting treatment room in Quincy, Ill., and another year as principal of nearby Highland Academy in Portland, Tenn.

A native of Michigan, Dr. Sandborn initially studied nursing at Madison College, then earned a degree in history and later did graduate work in Industrial Education. "He bore heavy responsibility in the construction of the Madison Foods, Williams Hall, the Library and other buildings," according to the Dec. 30, 1947 Survey.

He wrote a history of Madison College as part of earning a doctorate in Educational Administration at George Peabody College for Teachers in Nashville.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

* * SAVE THE DATE IN 2011 * *

Madison College Alumni, June 24th, 25th, and 26th. Ernie Plata (Vespers Speaker) Tui Pitman (Church Speaker)
THE YOUNG PERCY MAGAN  
Albert Dittes (Editor)

At last year's alumni reunion, I conducted an early Sabbath morning meeting on 19th century articles in the Review I had found about Percy Magan before he was Percy Magan.

Several people asked if I planned to write about that, and so I thought I would share it with you in this column.

These articles and news stories showed Magan as a dedicated young man on his way to becoming one of the most interesting Adventists who ever lived.

Percy Magan, born in Ireland in 1867, became an Adventist while a teenager after having immigrated to Nebraska. The first mention of him in the Review is in 1887, when he was about 20 years old. The Lincoln Mission was sponsoring a seminar to train Bible workers. The person writing the notice asked for a representative from each church, the names to be sent to Percy Magan of Lincoln, Neb.

Later on that year, in the November 22, 1887, Review, another news note from Nebraska said that Magan and a Brother Harr were holding lectures about three miles out in the country from Grand Island as a followup to a successful camp meeting there. "Brother Harr left recently to join the General Conference party, and Brother Magan continues the work alone," the note said.

After that, young Magan went to Battle Creek College to finish his education and roomed with Edward A. Sutherland during the 1887-88 school year, according to the record.

He then received an unusual honor for such a young man, that of traveling around the world with pioneer minister S.N. Haskell to evaluate Adventist work and mission. He chronicled this trip in a series of articles for the Review.

In the Sept. 3, 1889, edition he wrote about China and Japan, noting only one worker, a Brother Abram LaRue, working as a self-supporting missionary to reach their teeming millions.

"The third angel's message has already been carried to Europe, and beyond to Siberia, and its rays have gladdened the hearts of many in the islands of the seas," he concluded. "But the message must be pushed farther; these countries must be reached."

The diversity of races in South Africa impressed him, and he saw some strains of Christianity in them. "Here are a people possessing many noble qualities, some of which many professed Christians would do well to pattern after," he observed, writing from Cape Town. "But just how they shall be reached with the warning message is a problem that is difficult to solve."

The Dec. 10, 1889, Review listed him as being appointed Editorial Contributor to the Youth's Instructor. His name first appeared on the masthead of that magazine on April 2, 1890.

His stop in India impressed Magan with the role of medical missionary work in reaching that vast Hindu and Moslem population. He had no way of knowing that he would someday be dean of the Adventist medical school at Loma Linda. He even wrote about a Scottish physician who went to India at great personal sacrifice and made a big impact there.

Young Magan parted company with Elder Haskell in Australia and returned home, arriving at Oakland, Calif., in time for the dedication of the first Adventist missionary ship, the Pitcairn, in the harbor there.

"Brother Magan arrived from Australia just before the meeting closed, and spoke of the work to be done in untvried fields, giving a brief review of the trip he has had with Elder Haskell, the missionary interests found, and the avenues which the hand of the Lord has opened to every clime, so that the glad tidings of the soon coming of the Saviour can be heralded to all the nations of the earth," wrote O.A. Olsen, president of the General Conference in the November 4, 1890 Review.

Percy Magan, at the age of 23, already had a world view of the Adventist mission.
SALLIE SUTHERLAND HONORED

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

When the founders selected the Ferguson Farm as the site for their new school in mid-1904, the sellers retained the main house until October. That left only the chicken coop to house those preparing for school to start, during a long, hot summer. Some called it Probation Hall.

A glance at the index to Madison Survey articles about Sallie Sutherland shows that she did indeed pay the price and did more than her share of the work. In addition to being one of the first teachers on campus, she initially occupied the old plantation house and supervised the Home Economics Department at Madison for many years as well as served as dean of women.

Sallie Sutherland worked equally hard off campus. She taught classes in dietetics, healthful living, cookery, home economics and related topics at camp meetings, conferences, workers meetings and other institutes as well as evangelistic meetings.

In the community, she served as president of the Woman’s Section of the Middle Tennessee Agricultural Society, president of the Home Makers’ Section of the Middle Tennessee Farmers’ Institute and chairwoman of the Women’s Department of the Farmers’ Conference of Middle Tennessee.

If that were not enough, she managed the vegetarian cafeteria Madison College operated in downtown Nashville from 1922-27 and earned a Masters degree in English at George Peabody for Teachers in August, 1933. Her thesis, “Newspapers of Nashville, Tennessee,” is in the Heritage House. It starts with the newspapers before 1840 and continues on through the Civil War and beyond, giving a complete chronological listing at the end.

What a life!

Sallie V. Bralliar was born March 28, 1871, in Richland Iowa, to W.G. and Martha Hornbeck Bralliar. Her younger brother, Floyd Bralliar, taught science at Madison for many years.

She met Edward A. Sutherland at Battle Creek College in Michigan, and the two married in 1890. They went to Minnesota Academy, he as principal and she as matron, and then back to Battle Creek College, she as head of the Arts Department and teacher of German. The Sutherlands spent the next five years at Walla Walla College, then seven years at Battle Creek College and its successor, Emmanuel Missionary College in Berrien Springs, Mich. They headed Madison College for 42 years. She traveled extensively with Dr. Sutherland after the General Conference appointed him secretary of the Commission on Rural Living upon his retirement from Madison College. Her health started failing in 1947, and she spent the last four years of her life bedfast, dying on March 18, 1953.

“She was a brilliant woman, an outstanding teacher whose influence entered into the character building of hundreds of students during her long professional career,” stated the eulogy read at her funeral service.

A PART OF ADVENTIST HISTORY

Elder Steven Norman, editor of the Southern Tidings, came to the Heritage House to photograph pictures of the Madison founders Bessie DeGraw, Sallie and E.A. Sutherland, Percy T. Magan, Nellie Druillard and Lida Scott as part of a teacher in-service presentation he was preparing on early Adventist education. He also plans to add them to a historical photo database he is developing.
WILLIAM SANDBORN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

One of the board members, Charles P. (Buddy) Harris, Jr., shares this recollection of Dr. Sandborn, and we invite other acquaintances of his to do the same.

"I came to Madison in August, 1944, and Mr. Sandborn was the principal of the academy. He was a very fine principal and a favorite of mine to the point that when he was hired by the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference to be the principal of Highland, I transferred with him in the fall of 1946.

"Many of the Madison Academy students were a pretty bright bunch as they were children mostly of the faculty. I recall one day while on a break between classes of being in the chapel room and at least 15 of us were gathered around the piano and Buddy Blair was at the keyboard. He was playing "Boogie Woogie" with all of the gusto that he was able to put into it. We knew that it was against the rules to play such songs so we had a sentinel out in the hallway looking towards Mr. Sandborn's office for we were sure that he would be coming out most any moment to break up the fun. Sure enough out he came charging down the hallway towards the room where the sounds were coming from. As soon as he opened the door from his office to head down the hall, word was relayed to Buddy and immediately he changed the song to 'When the Roll is Called Up Yonder.' Mr. Sandborn turned and went back into the office. He was not fooled by us.

"Another time one of the bigger boys, who weighed around 170 pounds was about 6'1" tall and pretty wiry and strong, rebelled against something Mr. Sandborn asked him to do. Mr. S. told him to go inside but he refused to obey and immediately grabbed Mr. S. around the neck. There was quite a scuffle. Mr. Sandborn was a pretty big man himself and a little on the heavy side. He was not just a principal and teacher but in the afternoons he led out in the construction of the new surgery wing at the hospital, so he was used to hard work. It did not take him long to subdue the rebel. I figured he would send the kid home and maybe expel him, but instead, he ordered him to go back to class and behave himself and he went without a word of backtalk. Many years later a son of this young man became a minister of the gospel.

"Even though he had an Industrial Arts degree he was quite an educator. We had some very interesting chapel talks and he instructed us on how to get the best out of our education and how to think and study. He was a very good history teacher and interesting in his presentation. He gave us all I.Q. tests but did not think it best to reveal our scores figuring that if our scores were high and we knew it that we might not think it necessary to study hard. If our tests were low then we might be discouraged and quit. He said he did not know what his own score was. I am sure it was on the high side.

"One summer afternoon, I reported to work with Mr. Walker to work on the grounds, which was my usual responsibility. I liked my work but generally had to work by myself and I preferred to work with someone else. Before getting started Mr. Walker said to report to the farm as we had urgent work to do that afternoon. When I got there we were told that there was a lot of hay on the ground to get up and haul to the barn because it was due to rain late that day. It was during World War II and we did not have many male students. The ones that were recruited were, Howard Welch, dean of the college, Dr. Cyrus Kendall and his father, William Sandborn, Jim Blair, Jerry Boynton, Buddy Blair, Wally Welch and myself, the [latter] three of us in the academy. Wally drove one of the wagons, Buddy worked at the barn using the mule tied by rope to the hay needle to pull the hay from the wagons up into the barn. Most of us had pitchforks. It was hot and dusty but a wonderful experience to work with several of the faculty. Mr. Sandborn did not mind hard work and he could hold his own with the best."

(After growing up under William Sandborn, Charles Harris went on to become an accountant and spent his career working in various financial positions for the church. He and his wife Ruth (Dysinger) retired in Centerville, Tenn.)

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING,
SEPTEMBER 19, 2010

A recently commissioned portrait of Sallie Bralliar Sutherland, first wife of E.A. Sutherland, was unveiled at the September 19, 2010 board meeting of the Madison College Alumni Association. All members were pleased with the portrait, which will stand in the Heritage House along with that of the other Madison founders. Jan and Patsy Rushing will install a frame on it in their shop, along with another portrait of William Sandborn, at no cost. The board paid $800 to the artist from the Bob Sutherland Memorial Fund.
The board also was pleased with a new banner for display at conventions at a cost of $400. The designer, Brenda McClaren of Madison, donated the time for producing it.

All members felt the Survey appearance had improved with the addition of George Stilwell and Glenda Clark to the production staff. A new feature idea was to invite people to send in reminiscences of their favorite Madison teachers, starting with William Sandborn. The Survey will continue to promote alumni weekends and the Madison heritage.

All felt the 2010 alumni weekend went well. Plans for 2011 include Ernie Plata as vespers speaker, Tui Pitman to speak for church and a Sabbath School consisting of three 15-minute reports from Madison Academy, the School of Anesthesia and the Madison Campus Church. Vincent Mitzelfelt has agreed to provide music for the weekend.

The Heritage House still needs upkeep. The board voted to hire someone to fix a water problem at the south of the building and was taken care of at a cost of $200, thanks to a contact by George Stilwell. Other problems are a deteriorating plumbing drain under the house and a roof with shingles blowing off in storms and in possible need of replacement. Volunteers, some of them living far away, mow the lawn for now.

The board decided to give some study to the outdated bylaws. Mickey Rabuka presented a shorter edition, and it was agreed to get some outside help to make sure the bylaws are in line with requirements for a non-profit corporation.

A letter from the state warned the association of losing its non-profit status due to not doing yearly filings. Jim Culpepper has since completed the IRS filing for 2007, 2008 and 2009 and paid the late filing fee of $100 and $150 for each of these three years. The Board was unaware of this change in regulations.

There was some discussion about the alumni association leadership. Mickey Rabuka, not wanting to move up to be president, resigned as vice president but agreed to continue serving on the board. Some alumni have expressed concern about Albert Dittes serving as president for so many years but never attended school at Madison. Finding a president is difficult. Another vice president, George Stilwell, did not want to be president.

Revising the bylaws will give attention to this situation as well as spell out specific duties for the president, vice president and secretary-treasurer, possibly not requiring the president to live in the Madison area.

The next board meeting will be on March 27, 2011 at 2 p.m.

**RESTING UNTIL THE RESURRECTION**

Alice Straw, 96, a cofounder of Little Creek Academy near Knoxville, Tenn., died on Oct. 10, 2010. She had been a resident of the nursing home on campus.

She was born on Nov. 15, 1913, in Evansville, Ind., to Samuel Bayard and Clara Goodge. "Evansville was still a relatively small place and my mom and dad were well known, so my birth was announced in the paper--'Welcome Alice,'" she wrote in an autobiographical sketch.

Her parents, a Presbyterian couple, became Adventists when Alice was about 11 years old. She described Evansville public schools as "excellent schools--times were so different."

"The church there was small so my limited musical skill was needed, so I practiced to be prepared," she continued in her autobiography. "I also was needed as a Sabbath School teacher. I don't ever recall sitting in a Sabbath School class in Evansville as they let me teach in the cradle roll or as leader of the junior age group. I couldn't wait until Sabbath came and use my charts and gold stars."

Her parents moved to Madison when she started her senior year in high school at the age of 15. "At Madison there were many opportunities," she recalled. "I played for the orchestra and chorus so I never felt lonely or left out."

She met her future husband, Leland Straw, through being musically active and married him in September, 1933, "when I was almost 20."
They taught music at Madison until leaving to start Little Creek Academy in the summer of 1940. Her parents joined them there in 1942.

Her brother Roger went to Little Creek in 1941 and another brother, Dr. Bayard Goodge, joined the group there in 1947.

Alice Straw taught English, piano, organ, Bible, music 1 and vocabulary at Little Creek through the years. Her niece Ann Goodge described her as "a great teacher in all aspects of life and work."

She also "had a bottle band" as well as "integrated astronomy and fine arts into her daily classes." With her husband Leland, a violinist with the Knoxville Symphony for 25 years, she performed many two-piano programs at Madison and Little Creek.

The Goodge and Straw families operated Little Creek Academy for many years, with Leland Straw serving as president and principal and Roger Goodge as vice president and sanitarium administrator from 1965 to 1989.

Alice Straw outlived them all.

Surviving her are two sons, Leland Stanford (Janet) Straw., Jr., of Knoxville, Tenn., and Kenneth Edward (Sharon) Straw of Berrien Springs, Mich.; four grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and a sister, Sarah Ann Goodge McNeilus of the Little Creek community.

"As I've taught through the years I've always tried to give our students this experience to develop their leadership skills--speaking, story telling, music--but never felt I reached my goal," she wrote in summing up her life. "But I guess all teachers feel that way."

Harold Wayne Keplinger, a former principal of Madison Academy for the 1962-63 school year, died on Sept. 12, 2010, in Keene, Texas.

He was born on May 12, 1924, in Jasonville, Ind., the third of four children, to Myrtle Edith Barth and John F. Keplinger. He attended Jasonville Grade School for the first five years of his schooling. He then moved to Bloomfield, Ind., and attended Camp Ground School where he would build the fire and do janitorial work to help pay his tuition. He attended Bloomfield High School for three years and then Indiana Academy boarding school his Senior year. He worked in the dairy and on the farm to pay his tuition.

Harold served in the 76th General Hospital unit during World War II from 1942 to 1945 (30 months) as a medic, his occupation being an ambulance driver carrying the wounded out of harms way. He served in the Battle of the Bulge and the invasion of Normandy Beach as well as other areas in England, France, Belgium, and Germany. He received the EAME Theater Ribbon with three bronze stars, a good conduct medal and a Victory Medal as a result of his World War II service.

He met Nina Maxine Neidigh during his Indiana teenage years at the Bloomfield SDA Church. After World War II ended, they married on March 10, 1946 and stayed together 62 years until she died. Harold then went to Southern Missionary College near Chattanooga, Tenn., where daughter, Linda Kaye, was born, and earned a Bachelor's degree in Industrial Arts in 1950. He then taught Industrial Arts at Madison College for 11 years, earning a Masters degree at George Peabody College in 1957. Two more children, Stephen Wayne and Sheila Jean, joined the family at Madison.

When Madison College closed he taught public school in Nashville for three years and at Pioneer Valley Academy in Massachusetts, Southwestern Adventist College in Texas, and Ozark Academy in Arkansas.

Survivors are two daughters, Linda (James) Connors of New Hampshire, and Sheila (Billy) Gilmore of Texas; and one son, Stephen (Cheryl) Keplinger of Kentucky; five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. His wife died before him.

His daughter Sheila wrote "that she learned what God will be like through her father. He was loving, forgiving, compassionate, caring, honest and upright. He would always put others before his needs."

Lyle Marie (Wallace) Stockdale passed away at her home in Loma Linda, Calif., on Aug. 19, 2010, after a long illness resulting from injuries received in a car accident in June, 2007.

Lyle was born Jan. 28, 1926, to Marguerite and Lew Wallace. Her family moved to Madison around 1928. Dr. Wallace practiced medicine at the
hospital, and Mrs. Wallace taught nursing. Her Wallace grandparents had helped start the Chestnut Hill unit of Madison near Portland, Tenn., in 1908.

After her Madison childhood, the Wallaces moved to Fletcher, N.C., with two sons and a daughter. Lyle finished academy there and went on to Southern Junior College, Collegedale, Tenn., and graduated from Pacific Union College in 1948.

She married John C. (Jack) Stockdale in 1949 and spent most of her adult life in the Loma Linda area, being especially active in children’s ministry at church.

Survivors are her husband, Dr. John C. Stockdale of Loma Linda; four children, Robert (Linda) Stockdale, a dentist in Riverside, Calif.; Scott Stockdale, a realtor in Loma Linda; Jeanne Stockdale, a social worker in Redlands, Calif.; and John (Jay) Stockdale, a dentist in Riverside, Calif.; two brothers, Dr. John Harvey Wallace of Newport, Calif., and Dr. George Carleton Wallace of Corona, Calif; and her sister Lou Ann Strachan of Paradise, Calif.

(Janet Kay Jenson Hamstra, who trained over 800 nurses during her teaching career, passed away on May 11, 2009.

She was born on Aug. 29, 1937, in Nashville, Tenn., and attended elementary school at Madison, graduating from Madison Academy in 1955. She earned a nursing degree from Madison Hospital and went to Andrews University to work on her Master’s, and she married Robert Hamstra in 1961.

Janet taught in two schools of nursing in Grand Rapids, Mich.—Butterworth Hospital for two Years and Blodgett Hospital for 17 years until it closed and attributed her success in these places to her Madison training. Both hospitals merged into the Spectrum Health Systems. She worked several years as a Home Nursing Supervisor and then as a Nurse Supervisor for a major insurance company as well as played the piano and organ for church.

She struggled with a respiratory illness the last four years of her life.


Juanita (Coon) Steffens, 80, passed away on Sept. 5, 2010, after a brief illness.

She was born in Trinidad on Feb. 25, 1930, to missionary parents, Elder Glenn and Ethyl Coon.

Upon becoming pastor of the campus church, Elder Coon moved his family to Madison College, where Juanita and her brother, Glenn, attended school. Overcrowding resulted in some of the members organizing the Madison Boulevard SDA Church under his leadership in the early 1950’s.

Survivors are her husband, Charles Steffens, of Collegedale, Tenn.; a daughter Rita Steffens Baez and son Dr. Randal Steffens; her brother, Glenn Coon II and six grandchildren.

After leaving Madison, she studied nursing at Greenville, Tenn., and worked in nursing homes as well as volunteered at various organizations such as animal rescue.

Paulina Lucas, 94, died on Dec. 12, 2009, after nearly a month in a Brunswick, Ga., hospital.

She was born in Oregon on Aug. 16, 1915, and studied nursing at Madison College from 1944 to 1948. She later worked as a private duty nurse at Hinsdale Sanitarium and Hospital in Illinois and other places.

Surviving her are two daughters, Phyllis Shrock of Brunswick, Ga., and Carol Proctor of Dells, Wisc., and five grandchildren.
Marvin Henderson Burris of Lead Hill, Ark. died on, August 3, 2010 at Apple Ridge Health and Rehabilitation Center in Harrison, Ark.

He was born Oct. 16, 1920, in Phoenix, Ariz. to Ben and Clara Burris, the youngest of five boys and one younger sister – all are deceased.

Growing up in Phoenix, Marvin attended the Arizona Academy where he graduated. There he met his sweetheart, Gloria Silva, and she became his wife in 1940 after attending Madison College for two years. He taught World History, Algebra and Spanish for a short while at Pine Forest Academy in Chunky, Miss. After finding out that they were going to have a baby, they returned home to Phoenix.

Carol was born Aug. 8, 1941, Janet and Judy March 10, 1943 and Barry Feb. 16, 1945. Later on in 1945 Marvin was drafted into the army, where he served his country for six months, stationed in San Antonio, Texas and Washington. He loaded supplies that were sent to the war.

In 1953 the family moved to a small town close to Auburn, Calif., where the children grew up. Then in July 1973 they moved to Lead Hill, Ark.

Most of his life he worked as an auto parts man and retired from O’Reilly’s at age 65. He enjoyed gardening, raising flowers, mowing and reading his Bible. He also had a beautiful tenor voice and loved to sing hymns. He sang in the church choir and in a men’s quartet.

He belonged to the Harrison Seventh-day Adventist Church in Arkansas for 37 years, where for years he mowed and took care of the church yard.

He is survived by his four children – Carol Griffith (Earl), Janet Hunt (David) both of Lead Hill, Ark., Judy Brown (John) of Little Rock, Ark., and Barry Burris (Geraldine) of Hot Springs, Ark.; nine grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

He is now waiting for our Lord’s soon return. We are looking forward to that wonderful day!

The deadline for articles to be put into the next issue of the Survey is February 12th, 2011. Please email any articles you wish to be in the Survey to:

gleorge.stilwell008@comcast.net

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