

# Archives, Statistics, and Research (ASTR)

Newsletter - Issue # 2 (Winter 2019)



Merry Christmas from the ASTR office! We wish our readers a wonderful new year!

Please enjoy in this issue:

- Amalia and Aleksei Galladzheva-Löbsack
- Help Us Tell the Story!
- More than a Dime: The Christmas Offering at the Dime Tabernacle in 1888
- Mission Offering Nugget
- J. N. Loughborough On the Move
- New Archive Journal Forthcoming!

## Amalia Galladzheva-Löbsack: Carrying on the Mission in Perilous Times

Adventist history is full of stories of sacrifice and courage. One of them is the little-known story about Amalia Galladzheva-Löbsack, an Adventist worker in the Soviet Union. Amalia and her husband, Aleksei Galladzhev, were pioneer workers in Georgia and Armenia. Amalia Galladzheva-Löbsack represents many women from the Soviet Union who served the church in trying times and whose names are not familiar to many of us today. The following account was adapted from a longer article written by Daniel Heinz and Dmitry O. Yunak that will appear in the forthcoming *Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists* online (July 2020).

Amalia Galladzheva-Löbsack was born May 5, 1891, to Heinrich Johannes and Maria Katharina Löbsack, in the village of Frank in the region of Saratov in southwestern Russia. Heinrich Löbsack was a leading Adventist minister and missionary in Russia and the former Soviet regions. Amalia, the oldest of five siblings, grew up knowing the many hardships common to missionary and pastoral families striving in places that opposed religion. She and her brother, Georg Samuel, studied at the

Friedensau Adventist Mission Seminary in Germany. After graduating as a nurse, Amalia worked in Leipzig and in Pforzheim, Germany.

In 1920, at the request of her father, Amalia left her promising career in Germany and returned to Russia to serve as a secretary and Bible worker, taking the place of her sister Rahel (Rachel) who had died of typhoid that year in Kiev at the age of 20.

In 1928, Amalia married Aleksei Georgievich Galladzhev, an Adventist pastor of Armenian background. They served in the city of Tbilisi, Georgia, that had little Adventist presence. Childless, the Galladzhevs adopted in 1935, five-year-old Rosanna.

Little is known about the everyday trials of the Galladzhevs in Georgia. Yet there is no doubt that Adventist workers experienced serious challenges in the Soviet regions. The *Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook* did not report much on the Adventist Church in USSR from 1931 to 1950 "because of certain conditions," referring to the challenging circumstances in Russia at that time. In 1939 Aleksei Galladzhev was arrested on charges of "religious propaganda." This left Amalia alone

**"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." – Romans 15:13 (NIV)**

*"Let there be recorded in the heavenly books such a Christmas as has never yet been seen, because of the donations which shall be given for the sustaining of the work of God and the upbuilding of his kingdom."—(EGW, Review and Herald, Dec. 9, 1884.)*

## Amalia Galladzheva-Löbsack's story (continued)



**Aleksei and Amalia  
Galladzheva-Löbsack**

with Rosanna. Along with being a caring single mother, Amalia continued to support her arrested husband for almost two years by taking him food. Amalia's mother moved to be with her daughter. Amalia's father was no longer alive, having become a victim of religious persecution.

In the face of such adversity, some people would consider it wise for Amalia to live a secluded life and care for her young child. However, Amalia now cared for the spiritual welfare of the small Tbilisi Adventist congregation. This was typical for that part of the world. During Stalin's persecution in the 1930s, when most of the pastors were arrested, women took care of churches and continued to do what needed to be done to keep a church alive. By doing that, these women risked persecution and imprisonment like their husbands. Yet Amalia and many other women never considered abandoning ministry.

Possibly because she was an Adventist worker and also due to her family ties to Germany, Amalia became a target of the NKVD (i.e. KGB). The final pretext for her detention was found when in 1941 she got a letter from the German Consulate in Tbilisi regarding her brother's (Georg Samuel, a wealthy

journalist in Germany) inheritance. Although Amalia refused her brother's inheritance, she was arrested the same day, accused of being a German spy, and sentenced to a long term of imprisonment in a forced labor camp. Little Rosanna and her grandmother were left behind with little or nothing to live on. Soon after, they were deported to Soviet Central Asia near the city of Tashkent.

After several years of imprisonment, Aleksei Galladzhhev was released while the fate of Amalia, at first, remained unknown. He took Rosanna in while Maria Katharina Löbsack moved to live with her youngest daughter Martha.

In 1946, Aleksei requested information about his wife from the KGB headquarters in Lubyanka. He was informed that his wife Amalia was executed by shooting near the city of Tbilisi on February 4, 1942.

It can be safely said that Amalia Galladzheva-Löbsack became a martyr whose unyielding faith and dedication served as a valuable encouragement for church members during the times of severe religious repression in the Soviet Union. She is an example of God's faithful children who chose service and sacrifice over safety and complacency.

Dragoslava Santrac, PhD

## Help Us Tell the Story!

We want to tell the Adventist story, to inform and to inspire church members to renewed commitment to the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. You can help us to tell the story in two ways:

**First**, help us to preserve the story: your stories and the church's story! Letters and other documents, memoirs, photographs, tape recordings, audio and video cassettes, films, and historic books and magazines: all enable us to recover the story of how, in the words of Ellen White, "the Lord has led us . . . in our past history" and of how God has worked in the lives of individual church members. They are the raw materials from which Adventist history can be researched by scholars and without which parts of that history will be lost. So please, send us your family's documents, photographs, and other historic materials so that they can be preserved and used to help the great Second Advent Movement fulfill its prophetic mission.

**Second**, help us to conserve and to share the story—to pass it on to the next generation.

Historic Adventist photographs and movies allow us to connect with our past in a way nothing else can, because we look into the eyes of those who sacrificed to make this church. We want to digitize those precious resources, scanning them electronically so they can be accessed on the internet, on Facebook, Twitter and other social media—so they can be watched on a computer, on an iPad, iPhone or Android.

We especially want to connect with young people who may wish to watch on their smartphone or tablet. By digitizing photos and movies, we can help them to understand "the way the Lord has led us and His teaching in our past history"—we can help them to connect with our pioneers and be inspired to service.

**So please, at this time when we commemorate God's greatest gift, consider giving to ASTR (see following page for details):**



## Your gift of \$20 could:

- Digitize 100 feet of film = five minutes viewing time
- Conserve, digitize, and display an historic Adventist photograph
- Contribute to our continuing effort to preserve and digitize rare Adventist books, pamphlets, and magazines

Whether it is historic materials or funds, you will be helping us to preserve the Seventh-day Adventist story — and to inspire a new generation.

## Two ways to Donate:

### 1) Mail your remittance to:

GC Office of Archives,  
Statistics, and Research  
12501 Old Columbia Pike,  
Silver Spring, MD 20904

### 2) Donate Online by visiting:

[www.AdventistArchives.org](http://www.AdventistArchives.org)

Click the **"Donate"** Link on the Homepage

## More than a Dime: The Christmas Offering at the Dime Tabernacle in 1888

On December 25, 1888, Adventists gathered at the Dime Tabernacle in Battle Creek, Michigan for a Christmas program. They reported in the Review that they put up "a good-sized model of a light-house...erected upon the rostrum, from the lantern of which a bright light beamed, showing the dangerous reefs on the shore beneath. Over this was the motto, 'Thy word is a light unto my path;' and over this a painting of a large open Bible—designed to illustrate the fact that the Bible is the great light of the world."

In fact, you can see this lighthouse and everything else from the display described in this photograph which resides in the Archives and has recently been digitized. If you study the photo carefully, you can just make out that the 'dangerous reefs' are (in no particular order) Selfishness, Stealing, Sabbath Breaking, Envy, Lying, Disobedience, and Intemperance.

Though the photo is spotted with time (after all, it's nearly 132 years old!), it still gives us a window into that long-ago Christmas program. From our research, it seems that the Battle Creek Tabernacle Christmas program was regularly mission-focused, and the 1888 program was no different. It ended with an offering call for the support of foreign missions—those at the program donated \$2,483.16, with an additional \$1,100 donated on December 26, exceeding the previous year's donation by \$600. That's a total of \$3,583.16. That may not seem like a lot of money today, but adjusted for inflation, the amount is just over \$100,000.



**The Dime Tabernacle in Battle Creek, Michigan, December 25, 1888**

This money, of course, was used to further the foreign mission work of the church, just as financial donations to the Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research furthers the work we do in preserving and presenting your history—the story of the Seventh-day Adventist Church—as well as remembering what God has done in our past history.

Ashlee Chism, MSI

## New Journal of Adventist Archives (JAA)!

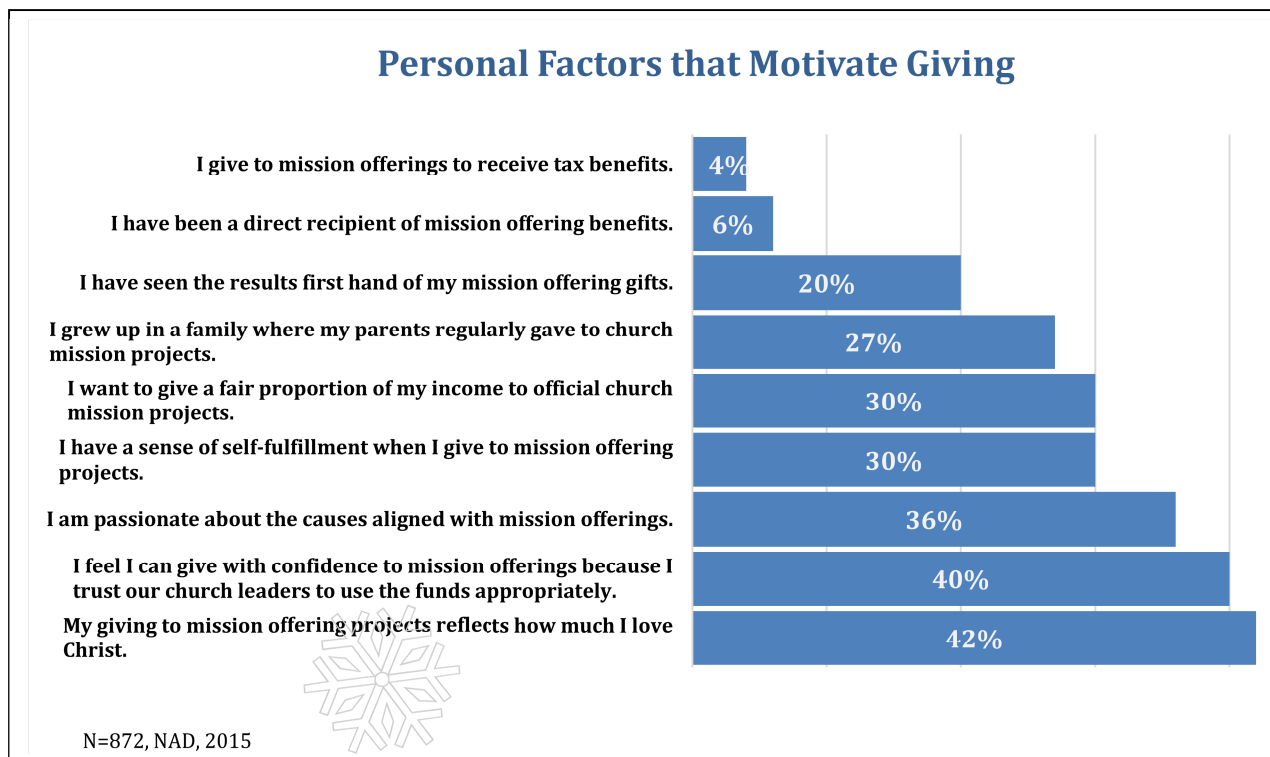
One of the new initiatives the office of ASTR has recently undertaken is the development of a new journal for scholars and students of Adventist history, with the first issue expected sometime next year. The JAA will be a scholarly, peer-reviewed journal, with its articles focusing on primary source materials related to Adventist history; while we are especially interested in articles focusing on collections located at Church-affiliated institutions (including the GC archives), we also welcome articles based on sources in government, academic, or private archives and libraries.

Two different kinds of articles will appear in the JAA—1) The announcement of relevant new accessions, or newly opened collections, at any location, as well as the announcements of new or extraordinary finds, with brief summaries of their significance. 2) In-depth peer-reviewed articles exploring and detailing the content and significance of research relying on primary source materials. Such articles may take many forms, from topical or thematic studies, to new biographical accounts, to chronological studies of the development of the Church's institutions, policies, and theology, insofar as they rely on primary sources located at archival locations. We warmly invite those engaged in research in Adventist archival material to submit their articles to us!

## What Motivates Giving to Church Mission Offering Projects?

From 1874, Adventists have had a keen interest in mission projects. And, traditionally, many of them also share special offerings and donations at the end of the year. Have you ever wondered what factors influence people giving toward official church mission offering projects? The Mission Offering Study conducted in 2015 in the North American Division by Drs. Petr Cincala, Rene Drumm, and Duane McBride, under ASTR supervision, identified several important personal factors that impact people's decisions (see graph below). Interestingly, the researchers also found that higher givers have two personal characteristics: they are more generous in general and they grew up in families where parents used to give to Church mission offerings.

Galina Stele, DMin



## Loughborough on the Move in Delta, Colorado (1895)

Many of the photographs in the Archives reveal Adventists on the move—this photograph is of John N. Loughborough on a train station's platform, probably on October 14, 1895, when he was departing from Delta, Colorado, after attending a camp meeting for the Adventists in the western slope of the state. The meeting was important for the people living there, Loughborough reported to the Review, because for them to travel to any camp meeting held on the eastern side would be "only at great expense for railroad fare."\* Loughborough was the only church worker from outside the state of Colorado to attend the camp meeting held at Delta.

Interestingly, Loughborough spoke on Adventist history at the camp meeting! He wrote: "It was refreshing to see the eagerness with which these people listened to instruction in the Christian life, the early days of the cause, the rise of this cause, and the place the Gifts of the Spirit of God have in the work."\* You can read Loughborough's 1905 work on Adventist history, *The Great Second Advent Movement*, on our website, at <http://documents.adventistarchives.org>, by navigating to the Books section.

Ashlee Chism, MSI



**John N. Loughborough (center-left) in Delta, Colorado, on October 14, 1895**

\* John N. Loughborough, "District No. 5", *Review and Herald* October 29, 1895, 72:44, 700/19.