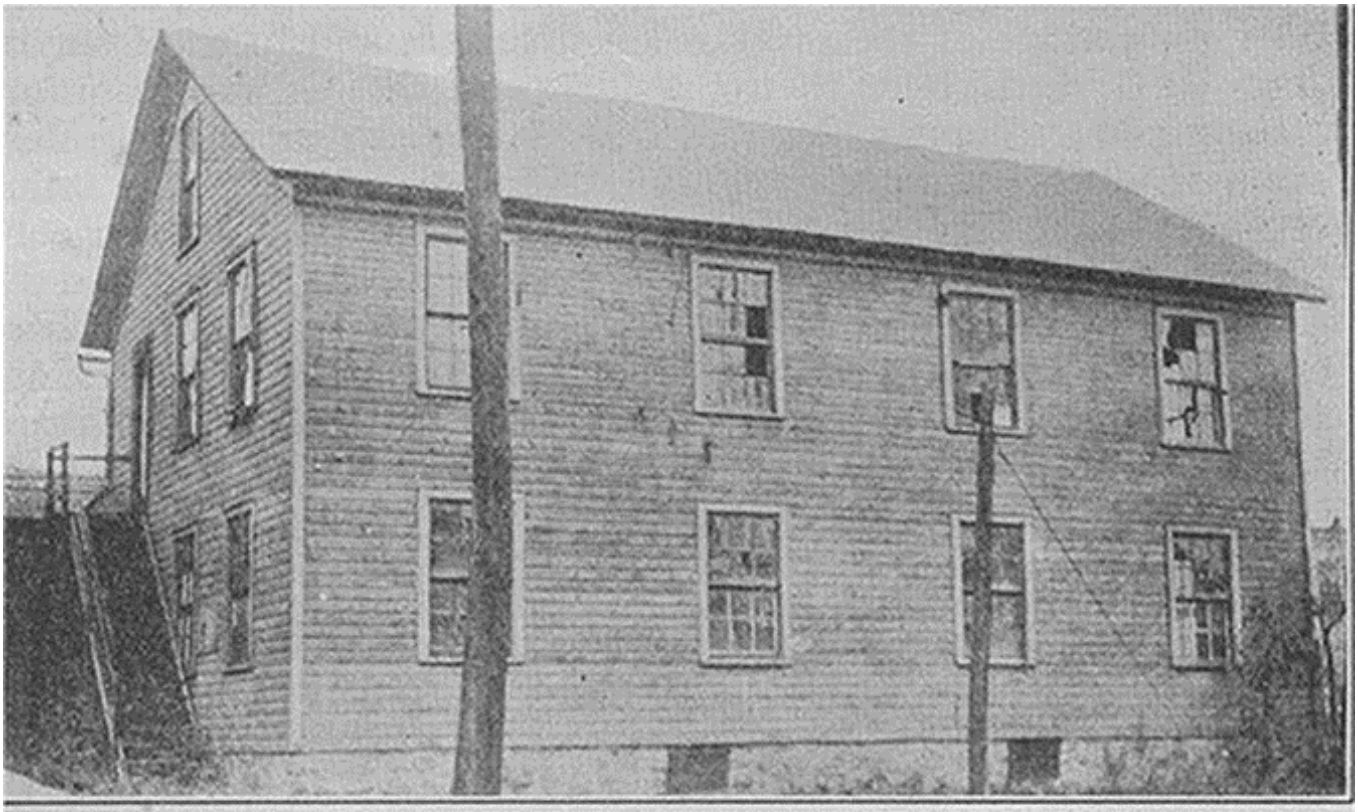
ADVENTIST EDUCATION HERITAGE



ANOTHER LANDMARK

The old building where Professor Bell conducted his first school in Battle Creek, Mich.

In 1862, eighteen years after the Millerite disappointment, an interesting dialogue between W. H. Ball and James White launched the beginnings of Adventist education.

W. H. Ball: Is it "right and consistent for us who believe with all our hearts in the immediate coming of the Lord, to seek to give our children an education?"

James White: "The fact that Christ is very soon coming is no reason why the mind should not be improved. A well-disciplined and informed mind can best receive and cherish the sublime truths of the Second Advent."

The General Conference established the School Committee in 1872 to give further study to the idea of establishing an Adventist school. Ellen White was quoted as saying, "We need a school where those who are just entering the ministry may be taught at least the common branches of education, and

where they may also learn more perfectly the truths of God's word for this time." That same year, the first Adventist school was built in Battle Creek, MI.

In the same year, James White noted that the school was inadequate. He said that the church needs to prepare "young men and women . . . to become printers, editors, and teachers." In addition, they need to be taught the "living languages," since we have "a message . . . that is to be proclaimed before many nations and tongues and peoples."

In order to fulfill the Gospel Commission, there developed a close tie between mission and education. Therefore, there were two parallel explosions in the development of Adventism in the 1890s. The enlarged vision of the church's mission to the world had a direct effect on the expansion of schools to supply an ever-increasing number of workers for expanding the worldwide work. The first collegiate institution, Battle Creek College, was established in 1874 by J. N. Andrews, followed by the first missionary school, Sanitarium Training School for Medical Missionaries, in 1889 by John Harvey Kellogg.

The chart below shows the rapid growth of Adventist schools.

Adventist Schools Around the World					
1880	1890	1900	1920	1930	Today
2	16	246	600	2,000	8,000

George Knight recently traced the aim of Adventist education through the years and concluded that Adventist education and Adventist mission are two essential parts of the same whole. Mission to the world is dependent on the ability to train the next generation for the longest and largest evangelistic event. We honor the heritage of Adventist education by staying true to this purpose.