



CHOSEN FOR MISSION

Healthy Organizations

Move forward looking at the windshield
while at the same time
looking at the rearview mirror



“We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history.”

(Ellen G White, *Life Sketches*, p. 196)



May 21, 1863
A date to celebrate



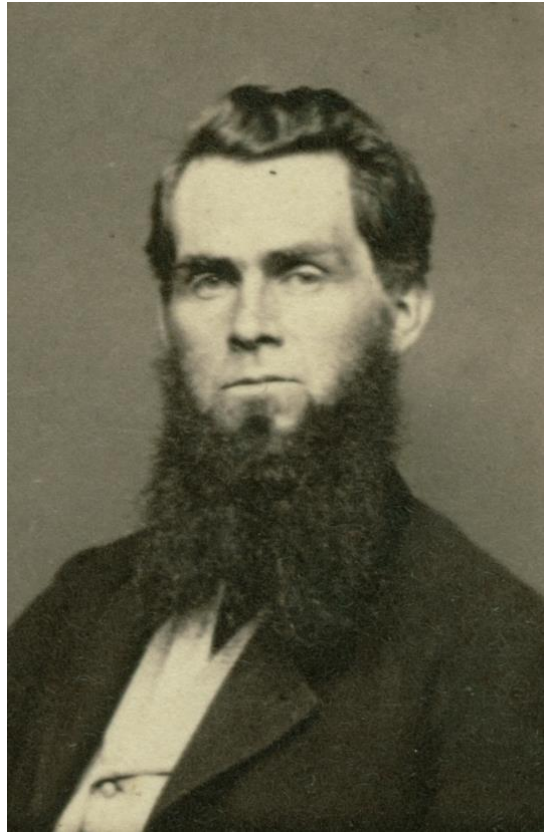
May 20, 1863

- Twenty leaders of the embryonic Seventh-day Adventist movement gathered in Battle Creek
- There were eighteen delegates from five of the six existing State Conferences: Michigan, New York, Illinois and Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa. The Vermont Conference dispatched no delegates to Battle Creek, but two delegates were sent from the Seventh-day Adventist churches in Ohio that had not yet organized a conference
- Ellen G. White and other members of the Battle Creek Church were present as observers

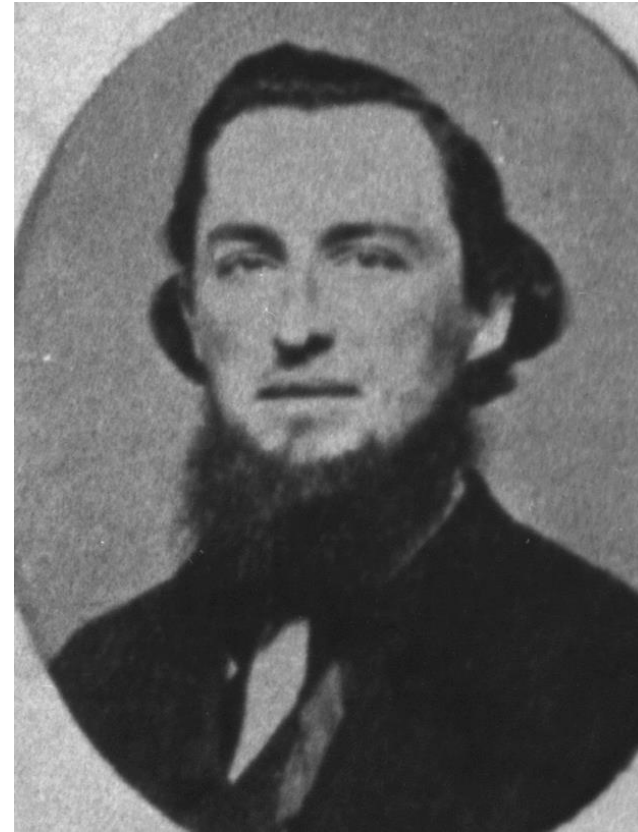


Chairman and Secretary

Jotham M. Aldrich



Uriah Smith

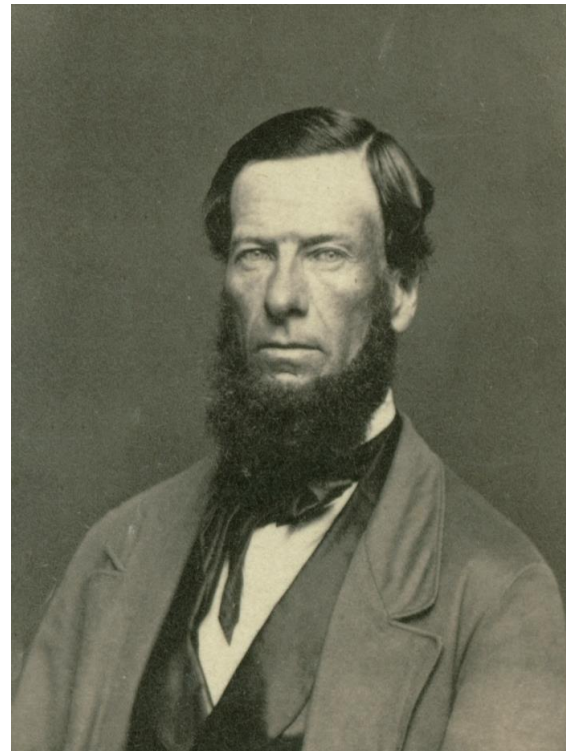


Sang hymn 223 and then a committee inspected credentials ...

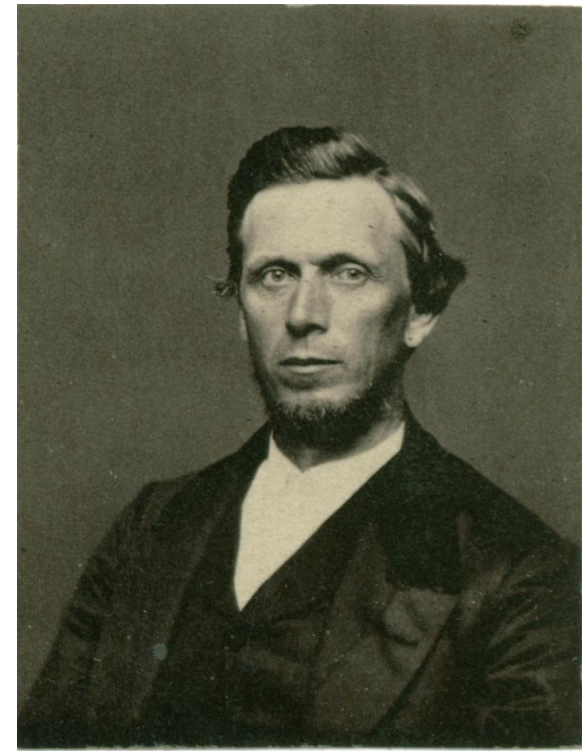
John N. Loughborough



Charles O. Taylor



Isaac Sanborn



May 21, 1863

Eight delegates were selected to draft a constitution. They reported back so promptly and with so detailed a constitution that preliminary work must have been done by a small group before the session convened.

The constitution was then approved unanimously. The General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists was thus formally founded



May 21, 1863

A permanent structure with conferences as constituency

Annual GC sessions

Three permanent officers (president, secretary, treasurer)

An executive committee of three, of which the president was one

The first GC constitution

- Preamble: “For the purpose of securing unity & efficiency in labor, and promoting the general interests of the cause of present truth”
- Article V: the Executive Committee was to have “the special supervision of all missionary labor, and as a missionary board shall have the power to decide where such labor is needed, and who shall go as missionaries to perform the same”



CHOSEN FOR MISSION

“I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the
increase.”

(1 Corinthians 3:6, KJV)



Started so small

3,500 members

6 conferences



Legacy today

- 22,234,406 Members
- 212 Countries
- 97,811 Churches
- 13 Divisions
- 139 Unions
- 753 Conferences and Missions



Legacy today

- 9,589 - Schools and Universities
- 2,064,761- Students
- 111,482 - Teachers

Legacy today

- 57 - Publishing Houses
- 22,013 - Literature Evangelists
- 22 - Food Factories

Legacy today

- 230 - Hospitals and Sanitariums
- 1,906 - Clinics and Dispensaries
- 116 - Nursing Homes and Retirement Centers
- 15 - Orphanages and Children's Homes

Legacy today

- 19 - Media Centers
- 2,972 - Radio Stations
- 82 Languages broadcasting
- 994 TV Channels
- 329 Media Centers

The past is a place of reference,
not for residence



Main Emphasis

- Unity
- Identity
- Mission

General Conference Celebration

- Articles
- Videos
- Social Media
- Projects
- Events
- Departments
- Annual Council



Divisions' Celebration

All ways possible to highlight

- Unity
- Identity
- Mission





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