

Some Highlights of the Life of **Stephen Nelson Haskell** (1833-1922) (www.APLib.org)

See "Stephen N. Haskell, a Pioneer in Missionary Promotion," *Lest We Forget*, Vol. 7, No. 2, pp. 3-6

<i>Date</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Event</i>
1833/04/22	0	Born in Oakham, Massachusetts, of parents who were members of the Congregational Church
1841	8	Signed a temperance pledge
1848	15	Converted, and joined parents' church

Learned the soap-making trade, and was also hired by an old farmer named How to help manage his farm.

1850	17	Married Mary How (daughter of farmer How), a lady twenty years older than he, who was in poor health, after promising her father to care for her after he died
1852	19	Heard first Advent sermon, and was so enthusiastic about the subject he was challenged to preach, which he began along with his soap-selling
1853	20	Learned of Sabbath from William Saxby in Springfield, Massachusetts, shortly before a trip north into Canada to preach to Adventists; Saxby apparently gave him the tract "Elihu on the Sabbath;" shortly he began keeping the Bible Sabbath

ELIHU. - This is the signature of an old tract entitled, "Solemn Review of the Sabbath," which we published in the REVIEW of June 23rd. Several brethren call for it in Tract form; but none of their calls came till after the type was distributed. We think of getting out a large edition of the Tract, soon. - If 5000 copies should be called for, we could furnish it for \$1 per hundred. Those who wish quantities of the Tract will please send their orders. We will furnish it at cost. {August 11, 1853 JWe, ARSH 56.20}

The Sabbath by "Elihu" - 16 pages - price 1 cent - postage 1 cent. {November 8, 1853 JWe, ARSH 144.36}

1854	21	Attended an Advent Conference in Worcester, Massachusetts, to share the Sabbath; convinced the Thomas Hale family of Huberston; Bates came and visited with the Haskells and shared all the teaching of the third angel's message, which the Haskells accepted, and ordered every tract the <i>Review</i> office printed
------	----	--

ONLY a few months, since we were living wholly regardless of "The Sabbath of the Lord our God," and without ever having had our attention called to its claim. But blessed be God, "even the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ," he has enlightened our minds, and we are now endeavoring to yield the most implicit obedience to the demands of his holy commandment, "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy." {February 6, 1855 JWe, ARSH 175.4}

The paper and tracts which Bro. and Sr. Haskell sent for, (see Review, No. 22,) have come to hand, and they are reading with interest, and ask why it is, that we have never seen the light on these important subjects before. They are anxious to have all the tracts that teach our Bible position, and in another place you have their names for the Review, and Youth's Instructor. My labors close here this evening. From this I think of proceeding northward to Vt. and N. H. JOSEPH BATES. Hubbardston, Mass., Feb., 12th, 1855. {March 6, 1855 JWe, ARSH 192.2}

1864	31	Moved to South Lancaster, Massachusetts
1869	36	Organized the first Tract and Missionary Society

In South Lancaster, Elder Haskell not only supervised the conference but gathered the sisters of the local church together and formed them into a prayer band whose burden was, first, their children. In the beginning there were four members; then, as the church grew, there were ten, and presently forty five. In 1869 they organized themselves as the Vigilant Missionary Society. {1947 AWS, FOPI 14.1}

1870	37	Elected president of the newly-organized New England Conference (New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut)
1871/11	38	James White visited New England Conference, and observed that "under the well-directed efforts of Brother Haskell, our people are in advance of those in any other part of the field, in systematic, energetic action for the advancement of the cause of truth."
1874	41	General Conference formed the General Tract Society, and invited Haskell to travel to all the conferences to promote and organize the local activities
1876	43	Largest camp meeting ever held at Groveland, Massachusetts

1879	46	Was absentee president of California Conference (to 1887)
1882	49	Founded South Lancaster Academy

On April 19, 1882, the "New England School," yet unnamed, opened its doors. Nineteen students started classes and five more joined these a few days later. S. N. Haskell was the founder and builder of the school; Goodloe H. Bell was the first principal. In 1883, the school was named South Lancaster Academy. In 1885, the school expanded to include college preparatory. Teacher training was added in 1886, with development of a "normal school," J. T. Browning Missionary and Industrial School. In 1918, the school name was changed to Lancaster Junior College. In 1922 Atlantic Union College began to operate on the senior college level. (*LWF*, p. 2)

1882	49	Traveled to Europe for six months; God's providence opened the way for distribution of publications to passengers on ships to London and for shipment of tracts to other parts of the world; visited France and Switzerland, seeing J. N. Andrews who was in poor health, but whose French publications were making work among the French a success
1884/03/11	51	Report on first two years of South Lancaster school

As we look back over the past two years we can truthfully say that God has dealt with us in great mercy, and has given us largely of his Holy Spirit. Quite a large number have been converted and baptized.... There are also at least twelve active laborers in the cause today in different Conferences, a number of whom came to the school without any idea of engaging in the work of God.... For these things we thank God and take courage....¹

1885	52	Led first group of missionaries to Australia and New Zealand; brought the Hare family into the message
1887	54	Traveled to Norway for first European camp meeting and Council; met Hetty Hurd at Bible Instructor's Training School in London
1888	55	Was temporary chairman, Minneapolis General Conference
1889	56	Traveled to Europe, South Africa, India, China, Japan, and Australia; accompanied by P. T. Magan as his assistant; baptized first convert in China and in Japan
1891	58	Was president of California Conference a second time (to 1894)
1894	61	First wife, Mary, died and was buried in Napa, California
1896	63	To Australia again; helped establish Avondale College
1897	64	Married Hetty Hurd, second wife; honeymooned in a tent on Avondale campus
1901	68	Published <i>The Story of Daniel the Prophet</i>
1903	70	Organized effective city work in New York City

He "captained a diverse corps of workers in the country's metropolis [New York City], set forth a plan for the comprehensive and well-articulated city campaign. It contained the following.... That house-to-house literature work be conducted, opening doors for Bible studies by competent instructors; that health service and education be given through vegetarian restaurants, hydropathic treatment rooms, and lectures; that when the groundwork had been sufficiently done, there follow evangelistic meetings; that all these workers be united, and so far as feasible resident, in a central workers' school, in charge of the director of the city work."²

1905	72	Published <i>The Story of the Seer of Patmos</i>
1908	75	Was president of the California conference a third time (to 1911)
1914	81	Published <i>The Cross and its Shadow</i>
1915	82	Preached at Ellen White's funeral service
1922	89	Died; buried next to his first wife in Napa, California

Elder Haskell was a pioneer in missionary promotion at home and abroad. He believed the third angel's message with all his heart and soul, as Christ's last message to men; and the one business of Seventh-day Adventists, to his mind, was to give this message to the world. He found this truth on the road, as a salesman, and until age crept upon him he was ever on the road, carrying the treasure of truth to others.³

Footnote:

1. *Review & Herald* of March 11, 1884, p. 165.

2. Spalding, A. W., *Origin and History of SDA's*, Review & Herald Publishing Assoc., 1962, p. 114

3. Spicer, W. A., "A Long Life Spent for God," *Review & Herald* of December 14, 1922, p. 7