Through a series of ten bulletin inserts, the Seventh Day Baptist (SDB) Historical Society highlighted the history of the society decade by decade. As an encore, this insert reprints a portion of the 1979 Historical Society annual report.

From the 1979 annual report…

In an open letter to the American Historical Association and the Organization of American Historians, David A. Clary, chief historian of the U.S. Forest Service, has written: “Our children believe Abraham Jefferson threw a cherry tree across the Mississippi.” Can similar statements be made concerning Seventh Day Baptists’ knowledge of their history?

1. Did A.J.C. Lewis establish the Mill Yard SDB Church in Newport, Rhode Island in 1801?

2. Was G.H.F. Davis our first missionary to Nyasaland?

3. Are you proud of your heritage?

Turn over to check your answers (to the first two questions!).
1. A.J.C. (Ahva John Clarence) Bond was a 20th century SDB leader: dean of our School of Theology from 1935-56, and heavily involved in ecumenical affairs.

Another leader known by his initials was A.H. (Abram Herbert) Lewis, the driving force of the Sabbath reform movement at the turn of the 20th century.

The Mill Yard SDB Church was the first SDB church of record, established in London in the mid-1600s.

The Newport, RI, church was the first SDB church in America, organized in 1671.

1801 was the year that our General Conference was organized.

2. G.H.F. (Gideon Henry Fitz) Randolph was a missionary to China from 1888-93, as was D.H. (David Herbert) Davis from 1880-1920.

Our first missionary to Nyasaland (Malawi) was Joseph Booth, who went there in 1899.

Are you proud of your heritage?
Do you know your heritage?
Won’t you join us in the stewardship of this sacred trust, this precious heritage, our SDB history?