

Some Highlights of the Life of **George Washington Amadon** (1832-1913) (www.APLib.org)

See "An Ordinary Man?" *Lest We Forget*, Vol. 6, No. 3, pp. 1, 4-6

<i>Date</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Event</i>
1832/08/30	0	Born in Sand Lake, New York

[Lived in early years with his grandfather who owned a tavern on the outskirts of Boston, fixed his grandfather's toddy every day, but never partook though frequently urged to do so. Attended Oberlin College, southwest of Cleveland, Ohio. Worked as a horse driver on the Erie Canal.]

1853/09	21	Heard Present Truth message from J. N. Loughborough in Clarkson, New York (west of Rochester) while visiting his uncle; accepted it and was baptized by Loughborough, who recommended him to James White to work with <i>Review</i>
1854	22	First article published in <i>Youth's Instructor</i> , "Abide in Christ"
1855	23	Moved with <i>Review</i> to Battle Creek, Michigan
1857	25	Case of erysipelas (acute streptococcus bacterial infection of the dermis); healed after Ellen White prayed for him; left him with a scar
1858	26	Editor of <i>Youth's Instructor</i> (till 1864)
1860/11/24	28	Married to Martha Byington
1861	29	Vice-president of the SDA Publishing Association
1862	30	On the General Conference Committee
1864	32	Young John Harvey Kellogg worked with Amadon till 1868 (age 12-16)
1866	34	Daughter Kate born; George had case of typhoid fever
1870/03	38	Took leave of absence from his job, to go to the Byington farm in Newton
1870/04/06	38	Battle Creek Church disfellowshipped all but 12 members, George and Martha included; Ellen White felt such severe discipline was unnecessary

[In 1870 Ellen White published *Appeal to the Battle Creek Church* which gave reproofs of various kinds. She named Amadon along with Uriah Smith and others.]

Their light could so shine that others by seeing their good works, would glorify our Father in heaven; or they could so conduct themselves as to encourage self-love, selfish interest, love of the world, and a relish for its exciting pleasures. I saw that great changes must be wrought in the hearts and lives of these men before God can work in them by his power, in the salvation of others. They must be renewed after the image of God in righteousness and true holiness. {PH011 71.2 & 72.1}

[All disfellowshipped members could be reaccepted pending repentance, reform living, and request for readmittance. George requested to be readmitted the following Sabbath but was refused.]

1871/01/28	39	Readmitted to membership at Battle Creek Church
1871	39	Began foreign languages publishing, starting with German, then Danish and later other languages
1872	40	Daughter Grace born

[Ellen White in *Testimony to the Church at Battle Creek* (1872):]

Bro. Amadon was connected with the work of God in the Office years ago. He was deficient in many respects, yet his interest and heart have been in the work. He has been devoted to the work, and labored hard and unselfishly. He has had the fear of God before him, and has worked to the best of his ability, yet he is not now as well qualified to bear responsibilities in the work as he was years ago. The enemy has worked through sister Amadon, and her influence has been such that it has worn upon her husband until he is almost unfitted for the work. Bro. Amadon is a one-idea man. He cannot take in many things at a time. He has not powers of discrimination. He does not take a course which commands respect of the hands in the Office. George is not qualified for the responsible position he occupies. But as there has not yet been a man raised up for the place, it has seemed necessary for him to work in the department he has. The position George now occupies should be filled by one of experience, who has a well-organized mind, that can see the many things requiring attention at a glance, and who is not easily confused; one who is unselfish and discriminating, courteous, kind, yet firm and decided to carry out the regulations of the Office. The care and responsibilities that George now bears are wearing his mind, for he is not adapted to the work. It would be far better for George to take some position where he has not to direct, or have the charge of others. {PH123 29.1}

1893/06/15	60	Letter from Ellen White
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I received and read with deep interest Brother Amadon's letter. I sincerely thank you for writing so fully in regard to our old hands. I thank you any time that you can write; I shall be glad to hear from you. I am sorry, so sorry for Katy. Oh that God may touch the heart of Fred, for he will need a Saviour by and by. Tell Kate to keep her hand in the hand of Jesus and He will hold her that her feet shall not slide. . . . {5MR 168.3}

Oh, how thankful I am that Jesus has revealed Himself unto you in Battle Creek! I hope and pray that the church in Battle Creek may follow on to know the Lord until they shall know His goings forth are prepared as the morning. Light, precious light, is to shine upon God's commandment-loving people. Satan meditates their destruction, but Jesus has thoughts of mercy upon them. Then let there not be one doleful note sounded, for the church is the special object of His care and of His love. Talk faith; always talk hope; talk courage.--Letter 103, 1893, pp. 1, 2. (To Brother and Sister Amadon, June 15, 1893.) {5MR 168.4}

1902	70	Publishing house burned down
1904	72	Ordained minister of the gospel, and began doing personal visits, helping little church in Benton Harbor, conducting the Lord's supper, performing weddings ¹
1907	75	Interviewed J. H. Kellogg along with A. C. Bordeau to seek reconciliation; unsuccessful and in November Kellogg was disfellowshipped
1912/12/15	80	Last letter from Ellen White; his daughter Grace reported this was the 44 th letter he received from her ¹ ; the EGW Letter index records 12

We received your letter, and I have only encouraging words to write you in reply. I can sympathize with you in your feelings of doubt and perplexity; for there are times when Satan seeks to bring to me the same trouble of mind; and I have to guard myself, that the tempter may not gain the advantage. When these times of doubt come to you, my brother, remember that the Lord Jesus is your friend and keeper. He has not forsaken you. You must not despond; you must not grieve the dear Saviour by cherishing unbelief or distrust of Him. {5MR 170.1}

We must not allow our faith to decrease; it must continually increase. Repeat to yourself the words, "The Lord is my keeper." Put your trust in Him. Call to mind the love He has shown you, the care He has had for you, the assurance you have had in the past that He has accepted you and blessed you. He is not only the author, but the finisher of your faith. Again and again your case has been presented to me as of one who is cared for and guarded against the power of the enemy by heavenly intelligences. {5MR 170.2}

Brother Amadon, rest in the promises of God. When your mind is clouded because of physical weakness, do not try to think. You know that Jesus loves you. He understands your weakness. You may do His will by simply resting in His arms. {5MR 170.3}

He who took humanity upon Himself knows how to sympathize with the sufferings of humanity. His hand is outstretched in pitying tenderness to every suffering child of His. And those who suffer most have most of His sympathy and pity. He is touched with the feelings of your infirmities. {5MR 171.1}

He desires you to lay your perplexities and troubles at His feet, and to leave them there. When temptations assail you, when darkness seems to surround your soul, look to the place where you last saw the light. Rest in Christ's love, and under His protecting care. {5MR 171.2}

Let your mind dwell on the goodness of God, on the great love wherewith He has loved you. If he did not love you, He would not have given Jesus to die for you. His everlasting arms are underneath you. In all your afflictions He is afflicted. Then lift your eyes to Him. When doubt would sweep over your soul, continue to look to Jesus, casting your helpless soul on Him. He ever liveth to make intercession for you. You are precious in His sight. {5MR 171.3}

I will not write you a long letter, but I send these words to you in the hope that they may bring courage and faith to your heart. Christ is all-merciful; and He is your Redeemer. He has not forgotten you. You and your wife may win the crown of life if you will learn the lesson of overcoming by the blood of the Lamb and the word of your testimony. Be of good courage in the Lord. {5MR 171.4}

1913/02/24	80	Died
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"He was the complete exemplar of a good printer in his supervision of publications in many languages—beloved by all his church and business associates, and revered with the utmost cordiality by all his family for his sincerity, his faith, his justice, and his abiding sense of humor." — Harry L. Gage. (eldest grandson)¹

Footnote: 1. "George W. Amadon," Grace Amadon, *The Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, July 6, 1944, pp. 9, 10