



FRIENDS OF THE ANGUS

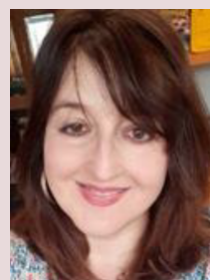
Newsletter Spring 2025

GREETINGS FROM THE ANGUS LIBRARY TO ALL OUR FRIENDS!

Welcome to another newsletter from the Angus Library, Regent's Park College, University of Oxford. We hope you find plenty to interest you in what follows.

THE Angus Library and Archive

Correction - in the previous newsletter it was stated that Anne Steele was left with 9 children to raise, when in fact it was Mary (Mary Steele Tomkins Bompas).



Angus Librarian:

Emily Burgoyne

Address:

Regent's Park College
Pusey Street
Oxford OX1 2LB

Email:

fota@regents.ox.ac.uk

Twitter:

Angus Library and Archive [@RPCAngus](https://twitter.com/RPCAngus)

Facebook:

Angus Library and Archive

Website:

<http://theangus.rpc.ox.ac.uk>

BAPTIST UNION HANDBOOKS



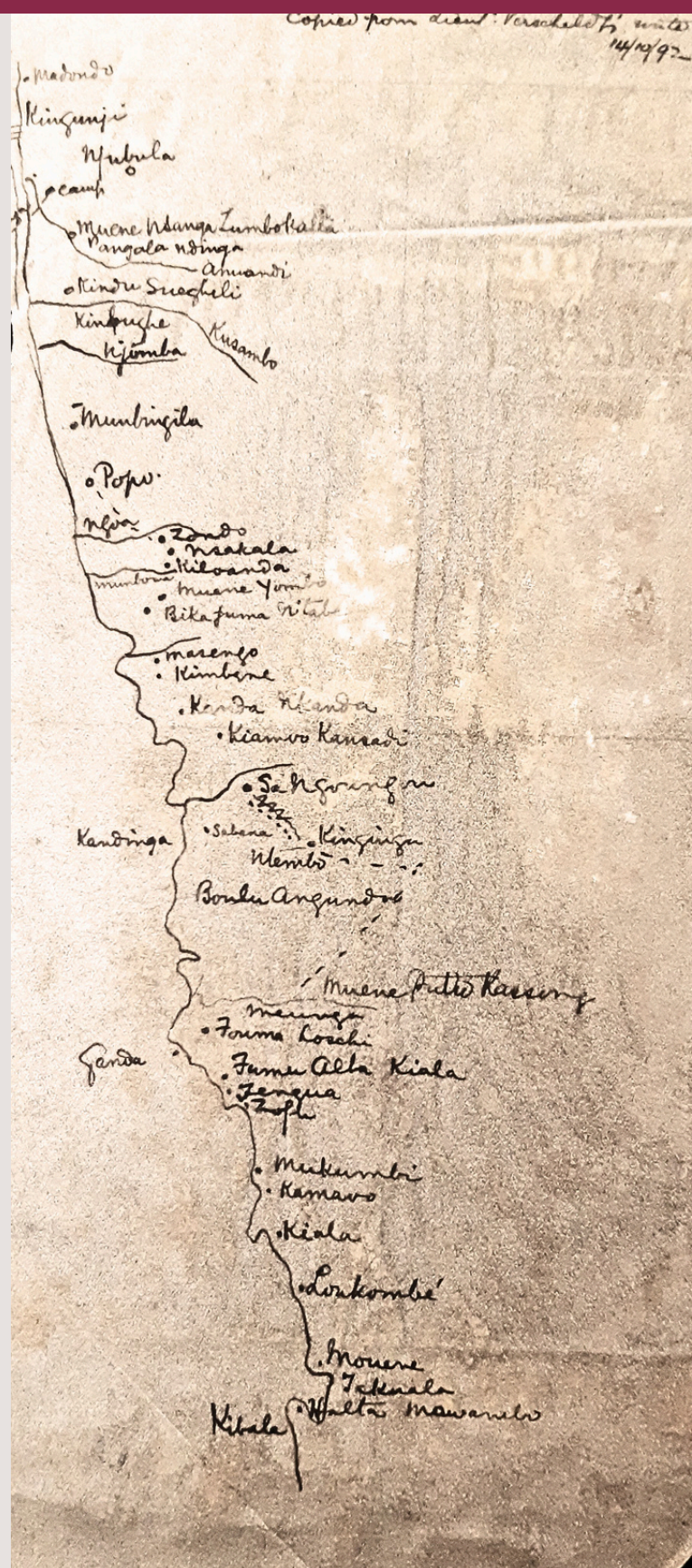
The Baptist Times 1905

In exciting news for 2025, digitisation of the Baptist Union Handbooks covering the years from 1832 to 1955 and the volumes of the Freeman/Baptist Times for the period 1855-2011 is now nearing completion and we hope to have them available online at [Find My past](#) and the [British Newspaper Archive](#) very soon. This will mean that you'll be able to access the rich sources of information contained within the handbooks and the Times for a small charge from the comfort of your own home. The date will be announced on our social media pages and we hope it will encourage even more research of Baptist and nonconformist history.

We're also about to begin the process of digitising material from the archive of the Baptist Missionary Society for the Science for Seminaries project. A selection of fascinating material relating to three key Baptist figures, all missionaries who contributed to their scientific fields will be digitised and made available online. Documents will include the maps and star charts of explorer, navigator and geographer George Grenfell; the diaries and journals of Dr Ellen Farrer, pioneering female doctor and founder of the Farrer Hospital in Bhiwani, India and the manuscript correspondence concerning horticulture and botany of William Carey, known as the "Father of Modern Missions", but also the founder in 1820 of India's Agri Horticultural Society.



Picture of Northern Celestial chart used by Grenfell



A map sketched by George Grenfell

CONSERVATION

The small volume which belonged to Elizabeth Gurney, philanthropist and social activist containing a selection of anti-slavery tracts printed and sold by her aunt Martha Gurney, the leading female seller of abolitionist pamphlets in London, has now been beautifully repaired and stabilised thanks to the generous donations of the Friends of the Angus for which we are very grateful. This is a very important and unique volume and we are delighted that it has now been conserved for the future.



Martha Gurney's Book of tracts after conservation

PURCHASE OF MANUSCRIPT

-Barak was employ'd, but first spirit'd up by
 orah; & after all, Saira fell by the hands of a Woman
 - So, Gideon, was a mighty Man of Valor, but
 first dispirited - & God reduced his Army to a
 small N^o before he gave Midian into their hands
 - So David in his Combat with Goliath &c
 - While in many other Instances God appe
 without employing human Aid at all -
 As for Jehosaphat - Hezekiah &c
 ¶ And thus in the times of Zech. & these next
 God succeeded the Mides & Persians agt Babylon, &c
 the Death of Darius, induced Cyrus to give the Jews leave
 return, & stir'd up their spirits to embrace the proper
 The same Obstacles intervened even during the libe d. Co

John Ryland's sermon notes

In fabulous news, the library was alerted to the sale of an important manuscript containing notes on Zechariah iv.6, written by John Ryland (1753-1825) minister of Broadmead Chapel, Bristol, president of Bristol Baptist College and founding member of the Baptist Missionary Society. These were used in the sermon given by him at the historic Nottingham Association meeting in May, 1792 on the afternoon after William Carey had given his sermon, Expect Great Things from God which inspired the formation of the Baptist Missionary Society at Kettering. With the financial help of the BMS and the college, the library was able to purchase this historically significant item and it will make an important addition to the archive.

FIND OF THE MONTH

On opening the 19th century 2-day Marine Chronometer belonging to George Grenfell, aforementioned missionary, geographer and explorer recently, we were amazed to find the mechanism, still working, ticking away keeping accurate time, as good as new! This ingenious piece of equipment would have allowed Grenfell to measure time at a fixed location in order to calculate the difference from his ships position, thus enabling accurate navigation. Grenfell's chronometer is housed in a beautiful wooden box, complete with brass plates and a tiny key. A Chronometer Rate card contained within confirms that it was "gaining five tenths" as of the 18th of July, 1911, 5 years after Grenfell's death in 1906. What a beautiful piece of machinery still working after well over a century!



Grenfell's Marine Chronometer



Abraham Booth

In October, Dr Saptarshi Mallick, gave a great talk for the Friends of the Angus about **William Carey and Sati**.

Our next talks will take place on the **6th of March**, when Dr Zachary Williams, of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and last year's recipient of the Brackney Angus Travel Bursary will present '**A "capital part" of Salvation: Abraham Booth on the Necessity of Holiness in the Christian Life**' based on his research on Abraham Booth, minister, opponent of slavery and founding member of the Baptist Education Society.

On the **2nd of April**, Paloma Miravet Llorens of Jaume I University, Castelló will present **"We, the principal inhabitants of this town". Gender and agency in colonial societies (Fernando Po, 19th century)**' about her research on Spanish Colonialism in Fernando Po (now Bioko, Equatorial Guinea).

Both talks will take place online at 7:30pm. Registration for our seminars is free via TicketSource, and you will then be sent the Zoom login details.

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/centre-baptist-studies>

Visit: **[our webpage](#)** or contact: **fota@regents.ox.ac.uk** for more information about our forthcoming events.



SOCIAL MEDIA

The Angus has left X and we are now using Blue Sky as our social media platform as well as continuing with our Angus Facebook page. We posted a daily advent calendar in December which was very popular. Please follow us for new and posts at:

<https://bsky.app/profile/anguslibrary.bsky.social>



SUPPORTING THE ANGUS LIBRARY

We hope you have found this newsletter interesting and useful. If you'd like to donate towards our conservation and digitisation projects please go to: **<https://theangus.rpc.ox.ac.uk/friends-of-the-angus/>** where you can find out more about giving to the Angus.



**Regent's
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UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD



FRIENDS OF THE ANGUS

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