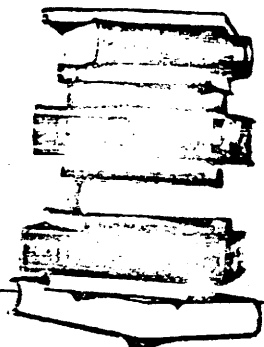


PROPRIETOR OF

ELLEN G. WHITE Publications



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Office Address:

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20012
November 12, 1973

Pastor D.J. Handysides
914 Queensdale Avenue
Oshawa, Ontario, Canada

Dear Pastor Handysides,

Greetings from one ex-African to another. Elder White is allowing some of us secretaries to help with his mail, which is very heavy.

You ask whether the funerals of Ellen and James White were conducted on Sabbath. James White's funeral was held on Sabbath, Aug. 13, 1881, at 2:30 in the afternoon. I am enclosing a Xerox copy of the article in the REVIEW describing the service.

Ellen White's funerals are a little more complicated, since she had three of them. The first funeral was on Sunday, July 18, 1915, on the lawn in front of her California home, "Elmshaven." "The following day a second service was held at Oakland, Calif." (RH Aug. 5, 1915) Actually this was at Richmond, an Oakland suburb, and a camp meeting was going on. There were "fully one thousand persons in attendance."

The third and final funeral service . . . was attended by a large congregation. It is estimated that four thousand persons were present, crowding the Tabernacle to its very doors." (RH Aug. 5, 1915) "Some of our churches in the near vicinity suspended their services, and attended in a body. . . . The services at the sanitarium were suspended, and many of the physicians and nurses came to the Tabernacle." . . . "From eight o'clock until half past ten Sabbath morning friends were given opportunity to look upon the familiar face." This was Sabbath, July 24, in Battle Creek.

I think in those days they had no problem with Union Grave-diggers' Associations who demanded time and a half to open and close a grave on weekends. Beyond that we in this office see no problem to a Sabbath funeral, especially with the above distinguished precedents.

With personal greetings to you and your family from Virgil and me, I remain, Yours most sincerely,

(Mm) Alvin Robinson