

Kevin Burton Presents *Apocalyptic Abolitionism*

Kevin Burton will speak on *Apocalyptic Abolitionism: How Millennialists Helped Abolish Slavery and Reform America* at 3 p.m. Monday, August 3, 2026, at the Smithfield Community Center, 5255 Pleasant Valley Road, Peterboro NY 13134. Dr. Burton studies the relationship between minority religions and evangelicalism in the antebellum United States, particularly in reference to politics, race, and gender. He has presented papers and published articles on the subject, and *Apocalyptic Abolitionism*, published in June, is his first book.

Drawing from rare and overlooked sources to create a database of biographies of nearly 2000 people to track their religious affiliations and activism over time, Burton offers valuable data to develop a robust framework for understanding apocalypticism, evangelicalism, and social reform politics of the nineteenth century. Burton uncovers the untold story of how apocalypticism helped drive anti-slavery abolitionism and inspire progressive social reform in nineteenth-century America.

Burton further explains that the revival fires of the Second Great Awakening (c. 1790-1840) did not drive most evangelicals to progressive social reforms like abolitionism. Rather, before the Methodist and Baptist denominations split along sectional lines, most abolitionists, particularly members of the Adventist movement, had already left their churches in what was likely the largest mass exodus from mainstream evangelicalism in American history, precisely because most evangelicals opposed radical social reform movements. Burton also highlights Millerite Adventists, who played a crucial, often forgotten role in the American anti-slavery movement between 1840 and 1844. Burton states that “the book will be particularly relevant for this region because it helps explain why Gerrit Smith became a Millerite and shows how that religious movement naturally fit with abolitionism.”

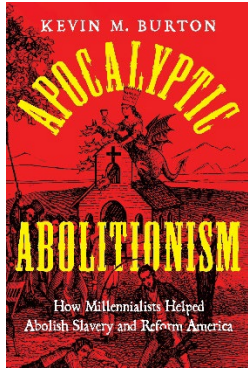
Kevin M. Burton (Ph.D. 2023, Florida State University, Religion) has served at Andrews University as the Director of the Center for Adventist Research and Assistant Professor of Church History at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary. He teaches graduate courses on American religious history, historiography, and research methods. He has previously taught American religious history at Florida State University and American history at Southern Adventist University. He is also *President Elect*, *Association of Seventh-day Adventist Historians*.

Kevin is in Peterboro again this year due to the New England Adventist History Study Tour from Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan. Andrews is a private Seventh-day Adventist college founded in 1874 as Battle Creek College. Andrews was the first higher education facility started by Seventh-day Adventists.

This program is free and open to the public.

Apocalyptic Abolitionism books will be available for sale and signing.

For more information: www.PeterboroNY.org info@gerritsmith.org and 315.308.1890



<https://nyupress.org/author/kevin-m-burton/>

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https://www.andrews.edu/services/library/1_about/car/kevin_burton.html

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