

AYRES, HARRIET

Miss Harriet L. Ayres

MISS HARRIET L. AYRES was born near Hillsboro, Ohio, March 18, 1864. At fifteen years of age Miss Ayres united with the Methodist Church at her home where her parents and six brothers and sisters were already members. Later this church was disbanded and Miss Ayres, grown indifferent to church matters, did not take her letter with her parents to the church immediately in Hillsboro. At last in 1892 her interest was again aroused on the second Sabbath of December through the sermon of her pastor, Dr. Ketchum, and she felt a clear, strong call to foreign missions. But Miss Ayres had determined not to obey this call; there seemed something fanatical to her in a girl's leaving family and friends for work in distant lands, and when Miss Loyd, now her beloved co-worker in Mexico, gave herself to the foreign field, Miss Ayres wondered at such a lack of wisdom in one she had ever admired. In the Spring of 1883 she taught school and returned

to her high school work in the Autumn. At length in the New Year, 1884, she gave up the unhappy struggle, and by the chair at which her mother had taught her her childish prayers, promised God she would do the work for which she was needed, wherever it should be. After another period of summer teaching, she entered Hillsboro Female Seminary of which Miss Loyd's father was President, and in December, 1886, she went to Mexico under the auspices of the Cincinnati Branch. In the January Conference she was appointed as assistant of Miss Loyd in Mexico, where she is now doing noble and successful work. A few months in 1890 and 1893 have been spent in her own country.

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Dear Missionaries, or Friends of Missionaries of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist-Episcopal Church

The task of revising and bringing up to date the "Roll Call" of our Missionaries has been assigned to me. This necessitates your prompt assistance. To all missionaries living, whose addresses we can secure this will be sent—otherwise to friends. Please remember that delay on your part means delay here, so give this little blank proper consideration. This is only a skeleton. If you will write fully concerning yourself or your friend, as to why you went, your preparation, the work you have done, giving some interesting incidents of redeemed lives, you will make it possible for me to present a living picture, not a catalogue. Please do not confuse this with the blank sent out from headquarters in New York and think you have already complied. Anticipating your very hearty and prompt response, I am

Yours in the service,

Miss Kate E. Moss,

3021 Park Ave., Kansas City, Mo.

FILL OUT THE FOLLOWING:

1. Name in Full. *Harriet L. Ayres*
2. Date and place of Birth. *Near Hillsboro, Ohio, March 18th 1864*
3. Name of Father and Mother. *Thomas Burge Ayres, Deborah Jones Ayres*
4. Nationality and Religious Faith of Same. *American, Methodist (mother was Baptist ^{in name} before)*
5. Present Residence *Father: Hillsboro, Ohio mother entered into rest July 14, 1894*
6. When Did You Become a Christian? *March 20th 1879*
7. When Did You Join the Methodist-Episcopal Church? *March 28th 1879*
8. What Led You to Become a Missionary? *A direct call from God ^{fighting could not shake off,} which 14 months of bitter*
9. Your Education—What and Where Secured. *First, in country school, next Hillsboro High School, then*
10. Have You a Specialty—If So, What?
11. Date of Appointment *leaving Dec 6th 1886*
Date of sailing
12. From What Branch? *Cincinnati*
13. Positions Held Before Going.—When, What, Where? *Teacher as teacher in schools near my home*
14. Positions Held in Foreign Field—When, What, Where? *For 1 1/2 years, assistant to Miss Loyd, filling her*
place as Principal of school & treasurer of W. F. M. S. in her absence and for a
year after her death; since then city missionary.
15. Dates and Lengths of Furloughs. *1887-89, 7 months; 1894-10, 10 months; 1898-4, 4 m.; 1894-5, 14 months*
16. Items Concerning Your Work.
17. Send Picture from Which "Cut" Can be Made to Me
18. Is this Extract from the "Roll Call" Correct so far as it Goes? *In all essentials, correct*

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7. When Did You Join the Methodist-Episcopal Church? ... *11 years ago*
8. What Led You to Become a Missionary? ... *A direct call from God which I was fighting could not shake off.*
9. Your Education—What and Where Secured ... *First, in country school, next Hillsboro High School, then Hillsboro Female College*
10. Have You a Specialty—If So, What?
11. Date of Appointment ... *leaving Dec 6th 1886*
12. From What Branch? ... *Cincinnati*
13. Positions Held Before Going.—When, What, Where? ... *For 1 1/2 years as teacher in schools near my home*
14. Positions Held in Foreign Field—When, What, Where? ... *For 1 1/2 years, assistant to Miss Loyd, filling her place as Principal of school & Treasurer of W. F. M. S. in her absence and for 1 year after her death; since then city missionary.*
15. Dates and Lengths of Furloughs. ... *1891-2, 6 months; 1894-10 months; 1898-4 m.; 1894-5, 14 months*
16. Items Concerning Your Work.
17. Send Picture from Which "Cut" Can be Made to Me.
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Autumn of 1895, a serious attack of fever obliged her to return home for recuperation. -

MISS GRACE STEPHENS is an Eurasian by birth and was discovered by Dr. and Mrs. Rudisill in their work in Madras. In April, 1886, Miss Stephens began woman's work in that great city and has developed into an ideal missionary. It is Miss Stephens who not only has found women behind the purdah, but persuaded them in many cases to come out. After working some time she became a deaconess, and in our Deaconess Home in Madras is doing invaluable work. Her

servant, she escaped with but a slight wound from a terrible death. The nervous shock and the experience of the following days, made it advisable that she return home as soon as possible. She reached this country in September, 1895, for a year's furlough, doing excellent service as a speaker in the home field during her sojourn in America.

MISS ELLA C. SHAW of Morrisville, Ind., sailed for Nanking, China, June 23, 1887, under the auspices of the Northwestern Branch. After five years of evangelistic service she returned to this country, spending most of her time in the Chicago Training School. Sept. 17, 1894, she returned to the old post at Nanking, where associated with Miss Mitchell

Ayres, Harriet L.

see

Picture- Woman's Missionary Friend, Nov. 1931, p. 303

Photographs from this
file have not been
included but are
available upon request.
For more information
please contact
research@gcah.org