

BAIR, BLANCHE ROSA

Seoul, Korea
March 14, 1938.

Dear Captain Swinehart,

Just four days ago since Blanche went to be with her Lord. It was all so sudden that I cannot believe yet that she will not appear at my door any moment. But such is life, we are here today and gone tomorrow.

She has been not well since last summer and in the fall while I was in the hospital with my broken leg, she came to Pyeng Yang and while her purpose in coming was to see me, I insisted that she have a thorough goingover. They found ameba cysts and some other minor difficulties but nothing which indicated anything serious. But when I came to Seoul just before Christmas I noticed a very decided change in her. It seemed to be difficult for her to make decisions and act upon them. She was not strong but kept on as actively as ever. She had complained for many years of head aches and this fall they seemed to be worse than ever. She was under the doctor's care since about the first of January. The doctor was a nerve doctor and since that seemed to be the trouble and the other doctors in Pyeng Yang had pronounced her physically well, it seemed the logical thing to put her under a doctor who was a nerve specialist.

Last week Monday evening, while she had been in bed most of the day, she got up and went to teach her conversational class at the Japanese Y.M.C.A. and after she had gone to bed I went in to see her and asked her how she had gotten along. She said the class was not very long so she had come home early. The next morning I had sent word to Suwon that I would be there, just before I left I went in to Blanche's room and found that she had been vomiting. I went on knowing that the doctor would meet me at four thirty after I had come back since I had asked him to come for consultation. When I reached home she seemed much worse, but the doctor felt that my worry was unnecessary, and said that she would be alright after she got over this spell. The next morning she seemed about the same and after the doctor's call she entered the hospital for more examinations. He especially wanted to test the spinal fluid. Every reaction was normal, her blood test was alright, the spinal fluid revealed nothing and yet she was in a stupor. I went to see her Wednesday afternoon, she was unusually flushed and seemed to be too tired to talk. When I suggested leaving she said "Don't go" but when I explained to her that it would be hard for me to go later alone and that I would come back in the morning, she agreed to my going.

The next morning before I reached the hospital she had gone to her reward. The going was very sudden. Just what happened as yet I do not know. The doctor was as amazed as we were and of course I was much upset. He told me before he left me that he appreciated the fact that I did not blame him, and suggested that they could not tell the real cause without an autopsy. I did not say anything at that time, but about an hour afterward he came back and asked for permission for an autopsy. Under the law it could not be done within twenty four hours, and so they did it Friday morning, and found what he suspected after the death a silent tumor on the brain. It was located just above the right eye and was as large as a hen's egg.

It was hard, and had practically absorbed the brain on the right side above the eye. Dr. McLaren came and talked to me the evening after the operation and said nothing but a good Christian experience and character could have kept her from losing hold morally. The medical profession say that to have that part of the brain destroyed where the centers are located which control the highest thinking invariably results in a moral breakdown, and yet Blanche to the last kept up her spiritual fervor and life.

Just how to go on alone after these many years of companionship and comradeship is more than I can see, but the same loving Father who has led thus far I am sure will open up the way before me.

The body was brought to the house the afternoon after the post mortem, and she looked so quiet and so peaceful that my own heart was helped. The ladies of the community covered the box that was made of hardwood by one of my best Korean friends. It was covered with gray silk and it looked beautiful. Her friends from far and near came. When Tuksammy the cook whom she has had off and on for twenty four years came in and wept with me I knew that he truly loved her.

The funeral was two days later and the large First Methodist Church was filled with friends although her work was seventy five miles away, and it might be expected that there would not be so many. For nine years she had worked in the Social Evangelistic Center and friends are many who knew her then. She has continued at various times to teach in the Japanese Y. M. C. A. English night school and I want to share with you the tribute paid to her by Mr. Y. Kasaya at the funeral.

"The day before yesterday Miss Starkey came to our Japanese Y. M. C. A., carrying the very sad news of Miss Bair's death. We who were present in the office at that time could not believe our ears, - we doubted the evidence of our senses. But, alas! the serious, sad, sorrowful face and voice of Miss Starkey, forced us to believe it to be true. We never dreamed that she would go to heaven so suddenly.

On Monday of this week, she came out to night school just on time as usual. She gave her examination in conversation, and went back home, promising to bring us the grades on this Saturday, that is today. And three days after that she died in Chosen, far, far away from her native land, but where she was devoting the best of her lifetime to the building of the Kingdom of God.

The relation between Miss Bair and our Japanese Y. M. C. A. began in 1929, when she became one of the teachers of our English night school. She was earnest, kind and obliging in teaching. All the boys and girls who were taught by her, have been deeply impressed by her precepts, her kindness to them, and her earnestness in teaching.

We heartily thank her, that she always concerned herself about our Japanese Y. M. C. A., especially about our night school. But, above all things, we are deeply touched in having had her last service on earth.

We can never forget that when she was really too ill to go out, she arose from her sick bed to come to our night school, saying, "It is my duty. I must go."

Such devotion to duty will be an example and inspiration to all her students and fellow teachers in our school, which she served so faithfully to the very last. I pray that God may make us all worthy of her memory and help us to truly follow her beautiful, devoted example to the end of our lives."

The funeral was very lovely. The floral tributes were as beautiful as you would find anywhere in America. And the tributes that were paid to her by both foreign and Koreans were quite likely more than she would have been willing to accept. Dr. Rhodes spoke using Mark 14: 3-9 as a basis for what he said. He said she came and she had given her all just as the woman who had come with the alabaster box, that she had done what she could. Dr. Helen Kim sang "No Night There" and afterwards as she talked to me she said that at the service she had experienced a spiritual uplift. We felt that we were all a little nearer the other land because she had just gone, and yet we still felt her presence here.

Many things that I should like to write you about but this must suffice for this time,

Yours in His Service,

Anna Pinckney

P.S. I found an envelope addressed to you among her papers - A.B.?



Woman's Foreign Missionary Society
of the Methodist Episcopal Church

(To be filled out by accepted candidates and sent to the General Office, Room 710, 150 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.)

1. Full name. **Miss Blanche Rosa Bair**
2. Home address.
3. Place and date of birth. **Manning Iowa, January 26, 1888**
4. Names and addresses of nearest relatives in the United States, for convenience, in case of emergency. **Mrs. Ruth B. Green, 56 Bryn Mawr Ave. Trenton, N. J.**
5. Education:

Names of Schools.	Periods of Study.	Dates of Graduation.	Degrees.	Honors.
Ladora High School	1903-1906	June 1906	Diploma	
John Fletcher College	1906-1911	June 1911	B. A.	
" "	" "	June 1910	Certificate in music	
" "	" "	June 1911	Diploma in Public	
Biblical Seminary of New York		June 1921	Diploma. speaking	
6. Positions in America occupied before appointment. **Col Univ. M. A. degree in August 1928.**
7. Church relationships:
 - a. Date of joining church, denomination, location. **1900 Methodist Protestant
1907 Methodist Episcopal, Oskaloosa, Ia.**
 - b. Record of Christian work engaged in before leaving U. S. A.
Evangelistic Singing and Personal work in Methodist Episcopal Church during vacations for five years before leaving for missionary work in Korea.
8. Date of appointment. **Jan. 1914**
9. Branch. **Des Moines**
10. Appointment on the foreign field. **1914 Kongju District work
Haiju District and school work**
11. Daughter of missionary? **No**
12. Social Evangelistic Center, Seoul, Korea.
Student volunteer? Yes.
13. Remarks.

NOTE.—It is important that the General Office be notified of changes in addresses of missionaries and their relatives. Each missionary is requested to send two photographs of herself to the General Office.

Died March 10. 1938



Woman's Foreign Missionary Society
of the
Methodist Episcopal Church

MISSIONARY BLANK: TRAVEL EXPENSE ACCOUNT

Before filling out Blank please read the information noted below.

Blanche Bair Missionary Des Moines Branch
From Seoul, Korea to Oskalesia, Iowa
(Domicile when outgoing; station when returning home.) (Station when outgoing; domicile when returning home.)
Date of Departure Nov. 24, 1933 Date of Arrival Dec. 15, 1933
(When returning home, give date when field work ceased.) (When outgoing give date when field work began.)
Routes (Give names of railroad and steamship lines and names of steamers between all connecting points.)

S.S. Lines and Steamers	Railroads	Connecting Points	Dates
<u>Korea Straits</u>	<u>Korea</u>	<u>Seoul - Fusan</u>	<u>Nov 25, 1933</u>
		<u>Fusan - Shimonoze</u>	<u>" 25-26</u>
		<u>Shimonosaki - Kobe</u>	<u>" 26 -</u>
		<u>Kobe - Los Angeles</u>	<u>Nov 27 - Dec 15</u>
<u>President Taft</u> <u>Dobson Steamship</u> <u>Line</u>	<u>Los Angeles - Oskalesia</u> <u>So. Pacific - C.R.T.</u>		<u>Dec 21-25</u>

Received from <u>Miss Troxel</u>		
In tickets furnished (give cost in United States currency)		
In cash (give value in United States currency)		
Total received		<u>372 78</u>
Total expended		<u>242 68</u>
Balance (or deficit) reported: <u>Balance</u>		<u>130 10</u>
To mission treasurer (when outgoing)		
To Branch corresponding secretary (when returning home)		
Salary account:		
Received foreign salary (to what date) <u>Nov 24, 1933</u>		
Received home salary (to what date)		

Foreign salary is paid from the date on which field work begins.

Home salary is paid from the date on which field work ceases.

The following are the maximum allowances for travel:

\$2.00 per day for meals on trains in the United States.

\$5.00 per day for room and board at hotel, not more than two days at port being allowed, except where emergencies require a longer time.

400 pounds of personal baggage and 40 cubic feet of freight.

Expenses of additional baggage, freight, duties and of unnecessary delays will be met by the missionary herself.

The following are personal expenditures, to be paid from salary, and should not be entered upon this blank:

All expenses of tickets, sleepers, and meals in excess of cost according to the above allowances, by the most direct route.

All tips, taxicab fares, telegrams, laundry, and other personal expenses.

In cases where there is not a fixed residence within the Branch, a missionary's domicile shall be determined in consultation with the corresponding secretary.

In itemizing expenditures state number of days in ports and in each place where stops are made. In case of delays write particulars.

Fill out blank and return promptly to

Date Dec 21, 1933

Corresponding Secretary Miss Mary J. Lewis Branch

New York office.

Apply to Branch Corresponding Secretary or Secretary of General Office for Missionary Credentials.

Send duplicate of this account to the Secretary of General Office, Room 710, 150 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

EXPENDITURES

Enter cost of all tickets furnished and items of cash expenditure separately and in detail.

1933 Date	ITEMS	Tickets	Hotels and Meals	Baggage and Freight	Miscellaneous	Total in Dollars and Cents U. S. Currency
Nov 24	Seoul - Kobe	10 ⁰⁰				
" 25-27	Board in Kobe 2 days Deck Chair		3 ⁰⁰		2 ⁰⁰	
Nov 27-Dec 15	Kobe - Los Angeles Traveler's checks	170 ⁰⁰			2 ⁷⁵	
	Los Angeles to Okaloosa Okaloosa to Chicago	28 ⁰⁸ 3 ¹¹				
	Mechon trains		3 ⁰⁰			
	Clergy Permits 300/20				6 ⁰⁰	
	1 Western 1933					
	2 " 1934					
	3 Eastern 1934					
	Baggage 			14 ⁷¹ 6 ⁰⁰		
TOTAL EXPENDED				20 71		248.68
TOTAL RECEIVED						372.75
BALANCE						124.10

November 18, 1918

Mrs. J. Wesley Masland
6701 North - road - street
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Mrs. Masland:

I received your letter about I have written to Mr. ...
I have seen Mrs. ... I think ...
... other than ... I will check ... if
... I will ...

I have ... I will ...

Did you get ... I will ...
... I will ...
... I will ...
... I will ...

I have ... I will ...

It was just ... I will ...

It won't be long until I will ...
Since I,

Bair, Blanche R,

see

Woman's Missionary Friend, June 1938, p.177
Picture-Nov. 1938, p.303

Bair, Blanche R.
obit
Woman's Miss Friend June '38 p.177

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