AKERSON, LEROY L.
On Friday, June 12th, 1921, a brief telegram brought the sad news of the death that day, by drowning, of Leroy L. Akerson. With the older boys and girls of his little school, the Gan English School of Poerbolango, Central Java, he had gone on an early morning hike. They crossed the river Kewaing and while brother Akerson was eating his breakfast some of the children tried to launch two bamboo rafts. In some way a lad of thirteen, Gan Koon Djin, accidentally fell into the water. As the lad could not swim Mr. Akerson went to the rescue, but owing to the presence of treacherous and deep whirlpools at that point both were drawn under and drowned. The body of Koon Djin was soon recovered by a Japanese man with a long bamboo, but that of Mr. Akerson did not rise until two days later.

In response to the telegram the superintendent of the district hastened to Poerbolango. Early on Sunday morning the body was recovered and carried to the near-by Dutch Mission hospital where Dr. Vogelsang and his assistants prepared it for burial. The funeral service was held at noon in the chapel of the hospital. The school children sang two appropriate hymns in Malay in which language the whole service was conducted. In addition to the ritual service there was a brief address based on our Lord's statement, "Greater love hath no man than this, that he gave his life for his friends." Those in attendance included quite a number of Chinese, the hospital attendants and the Regent, who is the highest native official of Poerbolango.

Interment, in accord with the wish once expressed by Brother Akerson, was in the Chinese Cemetery. Following the desires of the latter's family, Gan Koon Djin's body was disinterred and reburyed in one large grave with that of his teacher, whose body the Chinese placed in the position of honour. At the grave a second service was held and the two left to sleep together there on the beautiful hill-side until that last Great Day when all shall be summoned before their Maker.

Brother Akerson first came to the mission field in 1910, just after his graduation from Iowa Wesleyan College. He gave a year and a half of hard work to the island of Banka after which he was transferred to Poerbolango where he continued to live without a thought for himself until his unfortunate death. He was very successful in winning the hearts and confidence of his pupils, both boys and girls. His Sunday School was among the most successful in the intensive work which he did. The ideal, which he inculcated into the minds of his boys and girls will be of the in-
most value to them throughout life. His tragic death emphasized, as nothing else ever could, the unselfish character of his devotion to those in his charge.

At the time of his death he was within less than a month of the day when he expected to sail for America. His plans had long been laid to work his way through the three years of Theological Seminary, with an eye single to the needs of the work to which he had hoped and planned to return. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Jekson who were back in the old home town of Kooka, Iowa, looking forward with eager anticipation to the return of their missionary son. Instead there came a sad telegraph telling of his journey to an eternal home. To them and to the other members of the family the deepest sympathy goes out from every one who knew Lenox.

The body, which he left for an earthly tabernacle, is fast passing away; but in a most real sense his death has only caused his spirit to abide in greater power in that town where he did so much good for his Master. He lives over again in the lives of those for whom he poured his soul into death.

H. B. Manwells.

The New Klang School.

The new school building at Klang was opened on Saturday the 16th of July under the most favourable circumstances. The weather was fine and a large crowd had gathered on the grounds before the arrival of His Highness the Sultan, and the Hon. the British Resident of Selangor who formerly opened the building with the silver key which was presented to him as a memento.

These two together with the Resident's wife, Mrs. Oliver Marks, Bishop Hovey, H. Bickley, Reverend W. E. Horley, A. D. Hares, Mr. Shaw, headmaster of the Victoria Institution, Kuala Lumpur and Rev. Abel Eklund, the newly appointed headmaster of the Klang School, took their places on the platform. After a prayer by the Rev. A. D. Hares, Rev. W. E. Horley gave the address of opening which was responded to by the British Resident. Bishop Hovey, Mr. Shaw and Mr. Eklund each spoke in turn on the various phases of the work to be done in this school.

Following the programme a was set out in two or three rooms where the visitors proceeded to enjoy the tea and cake of the magnificent building.

The visitors of the Methodist Boys' School, Kuala Lumpur were received by the British Resident on his arrival and later assisted in serving tea and making the visitors comfortable.
News of the death of Leroy L. Akerson by accidental drowning June 17, 1921, reached the Board this morning (June 22), from Malaysia.

Mr. Akerson was the son of Mr. Peter Akerson of 1803 Franklin st., Keokuk, Iowa. He was born February 1, 1892. He graduated from Keokuk High School in 1911, and received his degree of A.B. from Iowa Wesleyan in 1916.

Mr. Akerson was a Student Volunteer, and was licensed to preach in 1912. August 1, 1916 he sailed for Malaysia as a contract missionary for the Board of Foreign Missions of the Methodist Church.

He was assigned to that part of Malaysia Conference which in 1919 became the Netherlands Indies Conference. He was ordained a deacon by Bishop J. H. Robinson, at Buitenzorg, Java, February 13, 1920.

Mr. Akerson at the time of his death was actively engaged in mission work in Poerbolinggo, Java.

June 22, 1921
Photographs from this file have not been included but are available upon request. For more information please contact research@gcah.org