MISS IDA ANDERSON

Spring is here, flowers are blooming and birds are singing, but one of the sure signs of the vernal season will be sadly missed.

We won't be seeing the frail, slender, white-haired figure of Miss Ida Anderson working in her front yard flower garden on North State street.

Miss Ida has gone to a far-off land where flowers are always blooming and birds are always singing.

For forty full years Miss Anderson served her God in one of the most exalted and self-sacrificing forms of human labor — a Christian missionary in China. Her labors were fruitful and thousands in that land now so sorely troubled knew and loved her.

In 1926 — more than a quarter of a century ago — ill health forced Miss Anderson to retire. Since then she had made her home with two spinster sisters, Misses Irene and Rosa Anderson, who welcomed her home with loving arms.

In an ante bellum dwelling on North State street near the corner of Fortification, these three sisters dwelt happily together. Miss Ida's hobby was the old-fashioned flowers her mother and grandmother so dearly loved. On any fair day, bright morning or sunny afternoon, she could be seen in the front yard garden working among flowers that filled the air with strange and wonderful fragrance and so brightened the little garden plot that passersby often paused to admire and enjoy.

To the saintly soul of this sweet-faced woman flowers carried a voice that told her of life eternal. She well knew that the seed sleeping beneath the drifted leaves of autumn and winter the flower seeds were sheltered and they would ere many months pass burst forth in faith and glory and bring fragrant flowers to brighten the landscape.

Flowers as pure and tender as her own soul silently spoke to her. Each petal was a pulpit and each leaf a book. She knew the language of flowers as well as she knew her native tongue and the voices of the people among whom she so lovingly labored for two score years.

There is a vacant room and a vacant chair in that ante bellum house on North State street and there is an aching void in many hearts and minds, but those old-fashioned flowers Miss Ida Anderson so tenderly cared for are putting forth the blooms of springtime. In silence they will continue to tell passing by what their mistress so well knew. They say with fragrant words that to cultivate a garden is to walk with God; that flowers are the only perfectly beautiful things on earth — joyous, innocent, holy-tinged messages scattered by the hand of God over the face of the earth.

—From the pencil of Mary S.
Field of Service: Mining, Mission

Home address of nearest relative:

Date of birth: ___________  Present Age: ___________

Age when you reached field for first time: ___________

Date of reaching field the first time (Month and Year): ___________

Number of years in continuous service: ___________

Have there been any breaks in your service other than regular furlough periods? If so, explain: ___________

I was in the service from 1904 to 1909.

When did you return to the field after your last furlough: ___________

What is your desire regarding service on the field between your sixty-fifth year and the furlough nearest your sixty-seventh birthday, if the Board, the Mission, and the Bishop approve? ___________

I desire to return to the field in the summer of 1933.

Further expressions of desire: ___________

Signed: ___________
Missionary
Dear Mr. McLeod,

I have just returned from China, where I spent the past six months working on various projects. I am pleased to report that my work was well received and appreciated by the local authorities.

I am currently working on a new project that involves the restoration of ancient Chinese architecture. I believe that this work will not only contribute to the preservation of our cultural heritage but also provide valuable insights into the history of China.

I am very much looking forward to our future cooperation on this and other projects. Please let me know if you are interested in discussing any potential collaborations.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

P.S. If you are interested in the details of my recent trip to China and the restoration work I conducted, I am more than happy to provide you with a detailed report.
...interval before ...them alike.

She found that ...day...
live at Shanghai, since it was her
unusual ability that
saw me through and
allowed me to
muster the strength to
continue on. I was
unable to
clarify the
specifics of the
situation, but I trust
the
information will be
made clear in time.

In the meantime,
I must
continue
my journey,
prepared for
whatever may
come my way.
...
The incident, as it occurred, is briefly described in the following:

On the evening of the incident, Mr. Smith, a respected member of the community, was walking home from work. He was carrying a briefcase containing important documents. Suddenly, he noticed a figure lurking in the shadows. The figure was wearing a coat that blended well with the dark surroundings.

As Mr. Smith approached, the figure stepped out from behind a tree and began speaking. The voice was raspy and indistinct, making it difficult to understand the words. The figure then approached Mr. Smith, pushing him against a nearby wall.

In a moment of slogans and threats, the figure demanded Mr. Smith's briefcase. Mr. Smith, in a moment of fear and uncertainty, handed over his briefcase without resistance.

Following the theft, Mr. Smith immediately notified the police and provided them with a detailed description of the incident. The police have initiated an investigation, and measures are being taken to ensure the safety of the community.
Shanghai, China.
(May 23, 1876)

Dear Mr. McCormick,

I wish I might know as I regard this letter that you were restored to your accustomed health! Miss Baggot wrote in her last that you were better. I am looking for a letter from you by the next mail. I am now with this sincere

The financial statement


I am a Christian.

Christian experience and record of service in this ordination to the work of a well-grounded, to bring into the work, this since He has given the well-grounded work. He had also this in a sufficient measure.

Miss Anderson is dearly loved by us all. So far as I know.

And you will have your California curve as subject.
In case Miss A. is back—could you cable "A," to:

would be much obliged with

the rest of us too! etc.

Mrs. Smith,

she will be in

with regards.
Shanghai, China  
May 19, 1893  

Dear Mr. Garrod,  

The second part here speaks of you. I often, too, it does not seem strange to me, to feel that in writing to you, that I am not writing to a stranger, although I am a stranger to you.  

One year ago, last October, I came over with my Uncle (Rev. J. C. Burrows) who was working a brief stay in the valley, to teach his little boy. The first year was a very pleasant one, but at the end of that time, my health was not good, I think probably not much from -
My father was a hard worker and he always wanted to provide for his family. He had a small farm where he grew crops and tended livestock. He taught me how to work and take care of animals. I remember spending long hours in the fields, but it was worth it to see the fruits of our labor. Eventually, we were able to expand our farm and it became successful. That's something I am very proud of.
To you have my experience in a nutshell.

I hope some day that I shall know you personally, and I do hope that you have entirely recovered from your recent illness.

The life out here has been very pleasant to me, and if one is well it is a field for a great deal of usefulness.

I hope this will meet with your approval, and that it may be of service in your Board.

Very sincerely,

The recipient.
Questions to Candidates.

1. Do you feel that your heart is ready for the Holy Spirit to take upon you the work of a foreign missionary? I feel confident that the Holy Spirit is leading me to offer my services for this work.

2. Are you a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church South? Yes, at Newnan, Ga.

3. How long have you been a member? Twenty years.

4. Do you subscribe to the doctrines of this Church? Yes.

5. Do it your desire and intention to make the work of Foreign Missions your life's work? I so very desire to do so.
5. Have you been to go to
any fields? Yes, there was a
matter of course, prefer China.
6. Have you had experience
in Christianity? None. Only
a very limited experience.
7. Have you had English
education? Yes, I was educated at the Public
Schools in Atlanta, Ga.
8. (a) Have you studied any
ancient or modern languages?
(b) Do you have any
interest in literature?
I have studied Latin
and Greek, both of which I
acquire with ease.
9. Have you been to school,
college, and what courses
were taken or the most
interesting and the most
beneficial.
References: (to be included...).
10. Can you teach music, vocal or instrumental? What is the condition of your health? Almost perfect, until I came to China, but for the past year I have not been ill. This is my second year to live, and hence may begin to hope that when I am accustomed I shall be well again. I came out to teach in my uncle's family, the house of Beine, into the house, and now in a community in China, but circumstances have much influenced it. Am you sure.

11. Are you predisposed to any physical weakness? I am.

13. Have you ever applied to other Mission Boards or Societies? No.

15. Will you promise to keep the following conditions: If you labor with us in the Lord's vineyard, it is needful that you should do that part of the work which we advise at those times and places which we judge most for his glory? I am willing to be guided.

16. Do you agree to conform to all the requirements of the Mission Board, while in its service? I do.

I, do

[Signature]
DEPARTMENT OF WORK IN FOREIGN FIELDS

STAFF MINUTES

February 17, 1953

Present: Misses Colony, Evans, Lee, Gibson, MacKinnon, Twinem

Miss Colony led in prayer.

For the record:

In memoriam: Ida Anderson, China, (retired), February 16, 1953

Arrived: Catherine Justin, India, February 17, 1953

Murden Woods, India, February 17, 1953 (Term completed)

For action:

RECOMMENDED that the following medical bill be approved:

Wildred Pierce, India, $68.40

RECOMMENDED that the following medical bill be paid from Retirement Provision:

Relief:

Lois Witham, China, $206.32

VOTED that the following educational grants be approved:

Pearl Pesnot, China, Colombia University $270

Helen C. Moore, Japan, Columbia University $20

VOTED that $347.43 be paid from Educational Grants, Candidates, for the Woman's Division share of the expenses of the evening seminar held at Yale Institute of Far Eastern Languages for those candidates preparing for Japan and Korea.

RECOMMENDED that the term of Laura Heist, India, be extended to May 1954, subject to medical approval.

RECOMMENDED that Charlotte Taylor be, and she hereby is, appointed field treasurer in Southern Congo of the Woman's Division of Christian Service of the Board of Missions and Church Extension of The Methodist Church, and that she be given authority to handle funds and to operate the bank accounts in Southern Congo of The Woman's Division of Christian Service of the Board of Missions and Church Extension of The Methodist Church.

RECOMMENDED that Joan Varneka be approved as field correspondent of the Southern Congo Conference.
Miss Ida Anderson died on February 16, 1953 at her home in Jackson, Mississippi at eighty-five. She had broken her arm three weeks before, but the day previous to her death she felt so well that she stayed up until ten o’clock. The next morning she just didn’t wake up. Dr. Selah, the minister at Galloway Memorial, was assisted in the funeral services by Dr. J. R. Counts, a retired Methodist minister and an old friend of Miss Anderson. He said that her death reminded him of what a preacher once said of Enoch. "He walked so constantly with God that one day as they were walking, they realized that they were nearer God’s house than Enoch’s - and God took him on home with Him."

In an editorial in the Jackson newspaper it was said: "We won’t be seeing the frail, slender, white-haired figure of Miss Ida Anderson working in her front yard flower garden on North State Street. Miss Ida has gone to a far-off land where flowers are always blooming and birds are always singing. In the ante-bellum dwelling on North State Street near the corner of Fortification, the three Anderson sisters have lived happily together. Miss Ida’s hobby was the old-fashioned flower garden her mother and grandmother so dearly loved. On any fair day, bright morning or any afternoon, she could be seen in the front yard working among flowers that filled the air with strange and wonderful fragrance, and so brightened the little garden plot that passersby often paused to admire and enjoy."

Miss Anderson was educated in Atlanta, Georgia. At the age of twenty-five she went to China to be governess for the children of her uncle, Dr. D. L. Anderson, the first president of Soochow University. In 1902 she was accepted as a missionary under the Woman’s Missionary Council. She served for a while in Huyshe School in Shanghai, but the greater part of her missionary life was spent in Jush, an industrial city between Soochow and Hankin. The letters in her file show the constant growth of the work in this station from small beginnings to a center that ministered to hundreds of children and women. She was especially interested in developing leadership among the young women and saw to it that one of the choicest young women in the center, after graduating from Ginling College in Nanking, was sent to the United States for preparation as a social-evangelist worker.

Miss Anderson worked quietly but very effectively. Her nice sense of humor made her very good company.

When she was about ready to leave China for retirement she wrote to the China secretary, "Truly these are days of mixed feeling. Sometimes I feel that I have stopped thinking—it’s something like coming in and going out with the tide. Very precious are these last days of forty years in China." Miss Anderson was retired March 1931 and so was privileged to live with her sisters in Jackson, Mississippi for nearly twenty years. In 1943 she wrote the China secretary, "I am sending under separate cover five bonds which I have invested for China, to be cashed whenever China needs them, and to be used when the need is greatest." Never once in her long life did she forget her beloved Chinese friends.
Sent to All East China Missionaries (Retired) and here in the U.S.

WOMAN'S DIVISION OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE OF THE
BOARD OF MISSIONS AND CHURCH EXTENSION
OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

150 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK 11, N. Y.

LOUISE ROBINSON
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
CHINA

February 10, 1923

Dear Friends:

Louise Robinson is out of town so I am writing to tell you of the
home-going of Clara Danielson on February 8. Miss质量问题 sent the follow telegram to relay:

"Dad Anderson died this morning. Though she had broken
for over three weeks ago she was feeling well yesterday
and stayed up until ten last night. This morning, she
just didn't take up. The funeral will be Tuesday morning
at 10:30."

As you probably now, she lived with her two sisters, Mrs. J. Kane,
as 522 North State Street, Jackson, Indiana.

I know that all of you who knew and loved her in China are grieved
for her love and her abiding influence.

Louise Robinson has gone to torture or the region of the west
central jurisdiction. I am leaving next week for the southeastern jurisdiction in Jackson. We enjoy living together, and in the Illinois we
have all of our friends. They in your dear housing home with me also know
at the scenes you have to find time to time from me.

As you probably know, I am in China and Africa from early July
until nearly Christmas. It was a great experience, as I believe that only
East African persons in Africa are in China and Miss Helena in France.
The other thing you can is that we have lived in Africa.

I am in Paris. Paris is beautiful.

I am in Paris. Love to.

Your friend,

Alice Ann Robinson
Miss Ida Anderson died on February 16, 1953 at her home in Jackson, Mississippi at 85. She had broken her arm three weeks before, but the day previous to her death she felt so well that she stayed up until ten o'clock.

The next morning she just didn't wake up. Dr. Selch, the minister at Allaway Memorial, was assisted in the funeral services by Dr. J.R. Countiss, a retired Methodist minister and an old friend of Miss Anderson. He said that her death reminded him of that preacher once said of Lnoch, "We walked so constantly with God that one day as they were walking, they realized that they were nearer God's house than Lnoch's — and he took his on home with him."

In an editorial in the Jackson newspaper it was said: "We won't be seeing the frail, slender, white-haired figure of Miss Ida Anderson working in her front yard flower garden on North State Street. Miss Ida has gone to a far-off land where flowers are always blooming and birds are always singing.

In the sweet-bellied swallownest street near the corner of Fortification, the three Anderson sisters have lived happily together. Miss Ida's house was the old-fashioned flower garden her mother and grandmother so dearly loved. On any fair day, bright morning, or sunny afternoon, she could be seen in the front yard watering some flowers that filled the air with strange and wonderful fragrance, and to brighten the room interior that Providence often graced with a smile and enjoy."

Miss Anderson was educated in Atlanta, Georgia. At the age of twenty-five she went to China to be governess for the children of her uncle, Dr. E.L. Anderson, the first president of Soochow University. In 1902 she was accepted as a missionary under the Board's Missionary Council. She served for a while in Louth School in Shanghai, but the greater part of her missionary life was spent in Soochow, an industrial city between Soochow and Hankow. The letters in
her file show the constant growth of the work in this station from small beginnings to a center that ministered to hundreds of children and women. She was especially interested in developing leadership among the young women and saw to it that one of the choicest young women in the center, after graduating from Sinling College in nursing, was sent to the United States for preparation as a social-evangelistic worker.

Miss Anderson worked quietly but very effectively. Her nice sense of humor made her very good company.

When she was about 89, to leave China for retirement she wrote to the China secretary, "I truly shall be a free bird. Sometimes I feel that I have stopped thinking — it's something like coming in and going out with the tide. Very precious are these last ten of forty years in China." Miss Anderson was retired in Nov. 1938 and it was privileged to live with her sister in Jacksonville, Mississippi, for nearly twenty years. In 1943 she wrote the China secretary, "I am sending under separate cover five parcels which I have invested for China, to be suited after war China needs them, and to be used when the need is greatest." Never once in her long life did she forget her beloved Chinese friends.
IDA ANDERSON

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From Shanghai, China
May 3, 1878

Dear Miss Salmond,

I have been eagerly waiting for the mail for I knew you would be glad to hear that I want to re- cast my lot with God’s workers in this land.

I know the life in Shanghai was not best for me, and then my health was not good. Though if I had been strong I would have continued to teach the boys.

How I wish you were here and I could talk it over with you! I think you could understand how I feel about it.
Until I came out here and you talked to me, no one had ever spoken to me personally about religion. I was grooving in the dark, trying to do what I could, and with an intense longing to help others. God had a God, but not a living God to me. I think that for one of my temperament, to be among the people, and to see their need of a Savior, would make you feel that you must have a living, present Savior in order to help them. It is pitiful to see the degradation and suffering one sees out there. I only hope to be able to talk and get out among them.

On account of my health I only ask to join the Board for five years, but I am confident that it will be a permanent engagement in my part, for I am not at all downhearted about my health.

I am staying at Mrs. Tyrw Home. It is delightful there. Everybody is so nice, and one cannot be with such lovely people without growing.

Miss Richardson has been so kind to me, and has helped me so much. She is so much nicer.
so much to give, because she has so much of God's love, that she seems to always be overflowing. I like to be where she is and get some sprinkling.

Mrs. Gaither is as dear and lovely as ever.

Miss Nate is doing better. She suffers so much with her head. We are all sorry for her.

Miss Reynolds and I are rather missing you. If you will excuse the expression, I love her very much.

Now if you were here all of the finishing touches would be in
this home. We are counting the days until you do come. Don't let the days be long, Andy.

I suppose that you have heard that Mrs. Hearn has a little boy. She named him Walter Anderson, after Dr. Walter and Aunt Mamie.

Mrs. Bank has a little boy, and Mrs. Reid, a little girl. Both born this morning. They are both doing nicely.

The Harts leave in five for their own mission. I have found them so pleasant. Dr. Hark is such an earnest Christian gentleman.
been a true brother to me. Everyone is pleased with Dr. Fearn. He is a fine man.

I have found Miserables so satisfactory. She so ironical, and has her whole heart in her work.

I have just finished reading Les Miserables. One little thought, in it, "From nothingness to God." Some think of the utter nothingness of some of these miserable people, and how much it would mean to them to know God. Oh, how they need him.

I have thought of you so often Miss Lown. I wanted to write to you but I felt that your time was too precious.

I can never cease to be thankful that I am there. I feel very insignificant with these things. I have grown so much, and I know that I can grow too.

Give my love to Clara and Miss Bonnett.

Won't you use your influence to let us stay?

Now I won't write any more except to send a steamer box of love & mean a heartfelt.

Write love,

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