

# Guide to the Willard Edwin Graves Papers 1903-1964





## Willard Edwin Graves Papers

1903-1964

0.84 cu. feet

gcah.ms.1336

The purpose of this finding aid is to help you understand the nature of this collection and to assist you in the retrieval of material from this collection. The following pages contain a brief biographical history of the person, or persons, who created or collected these papers, followed by a general description of the collection in the scope and content note. If more detailed information is warranted then series descriptions also appear. The container listing appears last and is the listing of material in each box, or container, of this collection. To request material you need to turn to the container listing section. It is essentially a listing of file folders, or artifact items, in the collection. Each folder, or item, has a call number associated with it. Each folder also lists the inclusive dates of the material in the folder. On the material request form list both the call number and the folder, or item, title. Use a different line for each folder, or item, requested. When your request sheet is complete, or full, bring it to the archivist and the material will be retrieved.

### Biographical Note

Willard Edwin Graves (1880-1966), an American missionary and educator, was born in Oak Hill, Clay County, Kansas, on April 5, 1880. His wife, Almyra Alford Graves was born in Beloit, Kansas, on May 31, 1884. Both graduated in June 1907 from Kansas Wesleyan University and were married that same month.

Willard and Almyra Graves were commissioned by the Board of Missions of the Methodist Episcopal Church to serve as teaching missionaries in Rangoon, Burma beginning in 1908. Willard taught and later served as principal of the Methodist Episcopal Church School for Boys in Rangoon. Almyra suffered ill health and returned home for a year. She returned to Burma, but her health deteriorated again, which necessitated their final departure for the United States in 1913. She died on July 7, 1914.

Following his wife's death, Graves earned his master of arts degree at the University of Chicago. He never returned to the mission field, though he remained an ardent supporter of missions all of his life. He married Edna B. Murphy in 1915. They had four children. He continued to teach in Kansas and Colorado, and later became a sales representative for a company that published textbooks in New York. He died in Milwaukee on December 10, 1966.

### Scope Note

The collection contains mostly letters, some publications, artifacts, photographs, and personal documents (1903-1913). The letters cover all phases of their lives in Rangoon and are addressed primarily to "the folks at home," which makes them both personal and informative. There is some later correspondence dated 1951 to 1964 between Graves and persons he knew in Burma. The collection contains original letters as well as photocopies.

### Arrangement

Material has been arranged in the following manner. The over-arching arrangement is by record type. Within each folder the materials are arranged chronologically by calendar date when possible.

### Related Material

Missionary File Series, Board of Missions, Methodist Church.

### Access Restrictions



There are no restrictions regarding this collection.

## Restrictions on Use

Detailed use restrictions relating to our collections can be requested from the office of the archivist at the General Commission on Archives and History. Photocopying is handled by the staff and may be limited in certain instances. Before using any material for publication from this collection a formal request for permission to publish is expected and required.

## Preferred Citation

When citing material from this collection please use the following format: Direct reference to the item or its file folder, Willard Edwin Graves collection, United Methodist Church Archives - GCAH, Madison, New Jersey. Do not make use of the item's call number as that is not a stable descriptor.

## Subject Terms

### *Additonal Creators - Personal*

Graves, Almyra Alford.

### *Subject Names - Corporate*

Methodist Episcopal Church

### *Subject Topics*

Methodists, Burmese  
Missions.

### *Subject Geographic*

Burma.

### *Genre*

Artifacts  
Correspondence  
Photographs.

### *Occupations*

Educator.  
Missionary

## Container List

Call Number	Folder Title	Date(s)
1581-4-1:1	Correspondence	1903
1581-4-1:2	Correspondence	1906
1581-4-1:3	Correspondence	1908
1581-4-1:4	Correspondence	1909
1581-4-1:5	Correspondence	1910
1581-4-1:6	Correspondence	1911
1581-4-1:7	Correspondence	1912
1581-4-1:8	Correspondence	1913
1581-4-1:9	Correspondence, writings and publications	1905-1964
1581-4-1:10	School, marriage and travel records	1904-1910
1581-4-1:11	Photographs	Undated
1581-4-1:12	Photographs and negatives	Undated
1581-4-2:1	Handpainted silk certificate with English translation of Farewell Address	1913
1581-4-2:2	UA Valedictory Address with English translation	1913
1581-4-2:3	Handpainted rice parchment "Modes Live Forgives"	Undated
1581-4-2:4	Handpainted rice parchment "Legal and Political Rights"	Undated
1581-4-2:5	Group photograph	Undated
1581-4-2:6	Building photograph	Undated
1581-4-3:1	Photocopies of correspondence	1908-1913