

Guide to the Luther and Jennie Burtner Papers 1901-1904



Luther and Jennie Burtner Papers

1901-1904

0.23 cu. feet

gcah.ms.2189

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

Luther Olin Burtner (1858-1910) was a United Brethren Church missionary. He attended Shenandoah Institute in Virginia, and graduated from Bonebrake Theological Seminary in 1888. In 1885 he was licensed to preach by the Virginia Conference, and in 1888 he was ordained. Burtner then transferred to the Maryland Conference and began his first pastorate at Keedysville, a position he held for four years. From 1892 to 1893 he served at Walkersville.

Later in 1893, he sailed for Sierra Leone, where he was the superintendent in charge of the work of the Foreign Missionary Board of the United Brethren Church. His first furlough was taken in 1896, and while in the United States, he attended the General Conference. Burtner returned to Sierre Leone in 1897, and was one of the few missionaries to escape the massacre of 1898.

Upon his return to the United States, Burtner was appointed to the Hagerstown (Maryland) circuit. In 1898 he was named the presiding elder of the Maryland Conference.

A second missionary tour of duty began in 1901 when he arrived in the Philippines to oversee the work of the Women's Missionary Association. After three years of work, he took a furlough. Between the period of 1904 and 1909 he suffered from failing health and was only able to serve periodically in the home and foreign mission fields.

He married Jennie Light Burtner who served with him on the mission field.

Scope Note

This accession contains items from a scrapbook that has been disassembled. Photographs from Sierre Leone and the Philippines are included. None of the photographs are dated, and few are identified. There is also a photo of Luther Burtner as well as his application to become a missionary. The collection also includes a Passport issued for Burtner to leave the Philippines. There are several news clippings that make reference to the death of Joseph Caulker, an African student brought to the United States by Burtner. All are undated. His wife, Jennie Light Burtner, wrote an extensive Diary (1904) describing in detail their trip to Shanghai, Philippines, Egypt, Jerusalem, and England. There are also several notes which are inserted in the diary.

Arrangement



Material has been arranged in the following manner. The collection is arranged by record type. The folder labeled "Supporting Documents" comprises materials that was found loose in the diary.

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, Luther and Jennie Burtner 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

Burtner, Jennie Light.

Subject Names - Personal

Caulker, Joseph.

Subject Names - Corporate

Church of the United Brethren in Christ (New constitution)

Subject Topics

Missions.

Subject Geographic

Philippines.

Sierra Leone

Genre

Clippings

Diaries.

Photographs

Occupations

Minister.

Missionary

Container List

Call Number	Folder Title	Date(s)
1553-1-7:1	Diary - Jennie Burtner	1904
1553-1-7:2	Joseph Caulker Clippings	Undated
1553-1-7:3	Supporting Documents	1901-1902
1553-1-7:4	Scrapbook Photographs: Africa	Undated
1553-1-7:5	Scrapbook Photographs: Philippines	Undated