

Mary Althea Anderson Papers

1866-1977



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0.45 cubic feet

gcah.ms.5608

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

Mary Althea Anderson, Methodist Episcopal Church Missionary, was born on March 14, 1879 on the British Island territory of Mauritius to missionary parents. Anderson's father had Scottish ancestry, while her mother was a descendent of French Huguenots. Despite familial ties to Britain, her family never lived there and considered France to be their native home. In addition to her mother's familial ties to France, her father, S.H. Anderson, worked in the McCall mission in Paris. Mary Anderson was educated in France, attending the Lycee Moliere in Paris. She also went to school at Bunbank/ missionary training Home in Glasgow, Scotland. Anderson trained as a student nurse in Alloa County Hospital, Scotland.

Anderson carried out her work as part of the Women's Foreign Missionary Society, First Church, New Castle. She began her service in Algeria in October 1908. During her time as a missionary, she was associated with Emily Smith and Dora Welch in their work among the Kabyles. Anderson was also a poet, who wrote about religion and African history.

Though Mary retired on June 1, 1948, she remained in El Bier (Algiers), Algeria because "there was no home or family in France to which (she and her sister) could return" as a result of the Second World War.

By July 7, 1959, Anderson and her sister were in bad health. Ruth Lawrence, of the Women's Division of the General Board of Global Ministries, recommend that she be eligible to receive medical help for retired missionaries, it indicates that perhaps she was not considered retired as she was not recognized as living out her retirement in her "native country."

In 1962, Anderson traveled to England because of her declining health in order to be closer to a relative, possibly her cousin Ralph J. B. Anderson. Mary died on May 29, 1963, in the French Hospital, London, England.

Scope and Content Note

Mary Althea Anderson's personal letters and other record types illustrate her work and life both within and beyond the church. Correspondences from her father, S.H. Anderson, as well as Agnes Anderson, and Nellie Anderson. The former two were also involved in missionary work.

The papers focus primarily on her and her family's missionary work. There are other documents related to family that predate her service. Even though her family never lived in Britain and considered France to be their native home, her notes, documents, and letters are in primarily in English because of familial ties to Britain through her paternal line.

However, her mother was descendant of a French Huguenot family. As a result, letters and documents written in French are also within the collection.

Mary Anderson was an active Poet, and as a result, many of her original manuscripts exist within her collection. Much of her poetry reflects her missionary work. In addition to those that contain religious themes, many of Anderson's poems are written about North Africa, its history, and its people.

Also within the collection are a few noteworthy photographs depicting African peoples wearing western style dress, as well as one depicting a traditional indigenous African scene.

Arrangement

Material has been arranged in the following manner. basic

Related Material

Microfilm Edition of the Mission Biographical Reference Files

Records of the Women's Division of the General Board of Global Ministries

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions on the Mary Althea Anderson Papers.

Use Access

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, Mary Althea Anderson Papers, 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.

Index Terms

Subject Terms

Missionaries

Geographic Terms

Africa
Algeria
France

Added Names - Persons

Anderson, Agnes
Anderson, Nellie
Anderson, S. H.

Container List

Call Number	Folder Title	Date(s)
1584-4-1:1	Correspondence: Agnes Anderson to Mother	1891-1936
1584-4-1:2	Poetry: Mary Althea Anderson	1900-1941
1584-4-1:3	Correspondence: Mary Anderson to Mumsie	1897-1935
1584-4-1:4	Correspondence: Nellie Anderson to Papsie	1901-1911
1584-4-1:5	Correspondence: S. H. Anderson to His Wife	1900-1918
1584-4-1:6	Documents: Mary Althea Anderson	1929-1945
1584-4-1:7	Photographs: Mary Althea Anderson	circa 1890-1977
1584-4-1:8	Correspondence: Mary Althea Anderson's Father and Grandfather	1866-1870
1584-4-1:9	Miscellaneous	1871-1920s
1584-4-1:10	Correspondence: Esther Anderson to Mother and Father	1900-1923