

**Guide to the Obee Methodist
Protestant Japan Mission Photographs
1910-1925**



ARCHIVES & HISTORY

General Commission on Archives and History

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Obee Methodist Protestant Japan Mission Photographs

1910-1925

0.64 cubic feet

gcch.ms.gcch5955

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

Ernest Isaac Obee (1874-1952), Methodist Protestant Church missionary and minister, was born at Whitehouse, Ohio on October 15, 1874. Obee attended Adrian College and upon graduation in 1904 was quickly accepted as a missionary to Japan with support by the Christian Endeavor Society. Just before his missionary appointment he married Lotta Shields in August. Eventually they gave birth to five children. Together they spent twenty-four years in Japan before returning to the Ohio Annual Conference to pastor various local churches.

While in Japan Obee's duties included President of the Nagoya Boys Middle School, Mission Treasurer and District Missionary. Under his administration the Boy's School would eventually enroll over one-thousand students. Upon returning to the United States in 1928 he would become the pastor of the following Methodist Protestant congregations: Lewistown, Arlington, Rush Creek and Mount Cory. By 1940, the annual conference granted him superannuated status (retirement) but Obee continued to be a short-term supply pastor to various local churches when needed. Many of these churches were considered to be home mission charges.

Unfortunately, Ernest and Lotta were not able to enjoy their retirement together because of her untimely death in 1940. Two years later Obee married Paula Smelser who would outlive him. Obee died in Lima, Ohio, on March 20, 1952. His funeral took place at the Allentown Church on April 2 and subsequent burial was at the Whitehouse cemetery.

Scope and Content Note

There are five matted photographs illustrating both Obee's and Methodist Protestant Church work in the central region of Japan. There are three photographs documenting the Yokkaichi church, one of First Church in Nagoya and a group photograph of teachers and graduates from the Tokyo School for the Blind. The photographs approximately measure 10.75 x 8.5 inches sans matting.

Arrangement

Material has been arranged in the following manner. Arrangement is by record type.

Related Material

Microfilm Edition of the Mission Biographical Reference Files.



Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions regarding this collection.

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, Obee Methodist Protestant Japan Mission Photographs, 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
Missions

Geographic Terms

Japan

Added Names - Persons

Obee, Lotta Shields

Subject Names - Corporate Bodies

Methodist Protestant Church

Genre Terms

Collodion process
Photographs

Occupation Terms

Minister
Missionaries

Table of Contents

Container List

Call Number	Folder Title	Date(s)
1607-3-4:1	Teachers and Graduates of Tokyo School for the Blind - March 29	1925
1607-3-4:2	Conference at First Church, Nagoya, Japan	Undated
1607-3-4:3	Yokkaichi Church	1910
1607-3-4:4	Yokkaichi Church - Built in 1921	Undated
1607-3-4:5	Interior of Yokkaichi Church	1921