OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION:

Creator:
Title: Judson, Adoniram - Papers
Date:
Quantity: 4 Boxes
Location: C.S. Mss.
Adoniram Judson was born in Malden, Massachusetts, August 8, 1788. He graduated from Brown University in 1807 and from Andover Theological Seminary in 1810. While at Andover, he became a member of a student group, The Brethren, which was organized to encourage interest in the foreign missions movement. He was a leader of the group of students who petitioned the General Association of Massachusetts for financial support in missionary work, a move which later resulted in the formation of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (now United Church Board for World Ministries/United Church of Christ).

In 1811 he was appointed one of the first five missionaries sent from the United States. He married Ann Hasseltine, February 5, 1812, and the following day was ordained at Tabernacle Church in Salem. Later that month Adoniram and Ann left for India with Samuel and Harriet Newell.

During the voyage Judson studied the question of baptism. After further study of the issue in India, the Judsons became convinced of the validity of the Baptist tenet of believer baptism; and both Adoniram and Ann were baptized by English missionaries. After months of frustration in dealing with authorities of the East India Company and after a brief layover in the Isle of France, the Judsons finally arrived in Burma in 1813 under the sponsorship of Baptists in the United States.

Judson's entire missionary service was in Burma. He is credited with focusing Baptists in this country on the importance of supporting the work of foreign missions. In addition to published works on baptism and the missionary cause, Judson is well-known for a translation of the Bible into the Burmese language and publication of an English-Burmese dictionary. The Burmese-English portion of the dictionary was unfinished at the time of his death, and was completed by Edward A. Stevens, a missionary colleague.

In April, 1850, Judson died during a sea voyage.

Scope and Content

The Adoniram Judson Papers, 1811-1888, document the professional work of Judson. In addition to 13 letters, there are two manuscripts of his Burmese-English dictionary. One is a gift of Emily Judson and is a part of the New England Baptist Library collection; the second manuscript is the dictionary with editorial remarks of Edward A. Stevens.

Microfilm: negative #99
Positive #98
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*item not on microfilm
BOXES 2-4

Literary manuscripts
Burmese-English dictionary*
Burmese-English dictionary, edited by Edward A. Stevens*

BOX 1

Miscellaneous manuscripts
Leaf from dictionary
Grammatical notices of the Burman language*
Preliminary remarks-A grammar of the Burmese language
Remarks before the American and Foreign Bible Society, New York
Salutation in Burmese and English*

Judson family correspondence

No date
Emily Judson to Mrs. Stevens

1809
Jul 20
A. Judson [Sr.] to General Goodwin

[1820]
no date
Ann H. Judson to Mrs. Carleton

1822
Nov 2
Ann H. Judson to Mrs. Baldwin; from Bradford, MA

1851
Dec 5*
Gardiner Spring to Mrs. Emily Judson; from New York, NY
Dec 14
Heman Lincoln to Emily Judson; from Boston, MA

1852
Jun 27
Emily Judson to -- ; from Hamilton, NY
Oct 4*
I. T. Fields to Mrs. Judson; from Boston, MA

1853
Jan 10*
F. Wayland to Mrs. E. C. Judson; from Providence, RI
Apr 4*
Edward Bright, Jr. to Mrs. Judson; from Boston, MA

*item not on microfilm
Association items
Letters
No date
Nov 22 W. Carey to Rev. Hough

1812
Jun Harriet Newell to Mrs. Hannah Carleton

1845
Nov 10* John H. Raymond to G. R. Bliss; from Hamilton, NY

1866
no date Isaac Colburn to his mother; from Amherst, Burma

[1875]
no date Isaac Colburn to his daughter (fragment)

Booklet
Described by Judson as "first Karen writing and printing"; note dated Nov 1822

Memorabilia
Related to Judson centennial celebrations

*item not on microfilm