

**INVENTORY TO THE  
GEORGE WASHINGTON BOULDIN PAPERS**

**AR. 193**



**Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives**  
Processed by: Marian M. Keegan  
Date Completed: 2-9-68

**Revised October, 2011**

# GEORGE WASHINGTON BOULDIN COLLECTION

## AR. 193

### Summary

Main Entry: George Washington Bouldin Collection

Date Span: 1881 – 1967

Abstract: Collection consists of biographical material, correspondence, diaries, Chinese and Japanese dictionaries, sermons, teaching records, notes, information about Japan, information about his pastorates, writings, and a history of the Tennessee River Baptist Association (Alabama). Bouldin was a Southern Baptist missionary to Japan, 1906 – 1941 and served as Dean of Seinan Gakuin Seminary, Fukuoka, Japan.

Size: 5 linear ft.

Collection #: AR 193

### Biographical Sketch

George Washington Bouldin was born September 28, 1881 in Larkin, Alabama. He was one of 14 children of John (a carpenter) and Mary Ann (Collins) Bouldin. George was converted in 1895 and baptized in 1896 into the fellowship of Freedom Baptist Church. He attended Tri-State Institute in Scottsboro, Alabama, Winchester Normal College in Winchester, Tennessee, the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, and thought of being a lawyer. He soon knew that he ought to preach. He attended the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, earning the Th.B. and Th.M. George was appointed as Southern Baptist Convention missionary to Japan in 1906. He married Margaret Alice (Maggie) Lee in Winchester, Tennessee June 14, 1906. They had one daughter, Mary Janette, who was born May 3, 1909 and died August 11, 1909.

George was ordained to the ministry in July, 1906 and sailed from San Francisco to Japan in September. He was a Southern Baptist Missionary to Japan from 1906 to 1933. Most of time the family lived in Fukuokaa, Tokyo, and Yokohma, and George's main work was that of teaching in Baptist Seminaries in Japan. When the family came to the U. S. on furlough in 1913, George earned an A.B. from Howard College in Birmingham, Alabama. In 1915, the Bouldins, along with Mrs. Bouldin's mother, Mrs. Lee, sailed back to Japan. George earned his D.D. from Howard College – now Samford University – in 1919. He was Dean of Seinan Seminary in Fukuoka, Japan from 1919 until 1933. In 1921, George took health leave to the U. S. for part of the year. In 1926, he was the first foreigner to broadcast an address in Japanese over station JOAK in Tokyo. George did post-graduate work at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary from 1927 till 1928 when he was home on furlough. He went back to Japan in 1928 and became President of Seinan Gakuin, in

Fukuoka. He was pastor of Seinan Gakuin Baptist Church, interpreter for the Charles Lindberghs, and promoted self-support of Christian groups among rural groups in Japan. While on a trip to the U. S., George pastored a Baptist church in Tracy City, Tennessee. Back in Japan, he was pastor of the English-speaking Union Church in Yokohama from 1937 to 1941.

He returned to the U. S. in 1941 to stay. He was missionary-pastor of the Ashland City, Tennessee, Baptist Church, taught Japanese and worked in the Military Intelligence Division of the U. S. War Department, pastored the Ballston Baptist Church in Arlington, Virginia, and was pastor of Central Baptist Church in Skyline, Alabama. He and his wife taught in public schools in Alabama, and, in 1954, retired and moved to Summerville, Georgia, where agriculture was of great interest to him. The family moved back to Scottsboro, Alabama in 1966, where George died February 13, 1967.

### **Scope and Content Note**

These are the papers of George Washington Bouldin (1881-1967), Southern Baptist missionary to Japan. He was a pastor and teacher. He taught in the Seminary in Fukuoka, Japan, and also in Alabama. His pastorates were in Japan as well as the U.S. Mrs. Bouldin taught in elementary schools in the U.S. as well as mission schools in Japan. Part of the time the Bouldins were in Japan, they were self-supporting. Mr. Bouldin believed that the Japanese Christians and their churches and institutions should become independent of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board financial support as soon as possible.

The collection was turned over to the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives in 1967 by Joe M. Berry, a great nephew of Mr. Bouldin, according to the wishes of Mrs. Bouldin. The papers are arranged in categories that will facilitate searchers in using them. Some of the correspondence is arranged alphabetically and occupies five linear feet of shelf space – approximate number of items: 2112 (ca. 10,000 pp.) Literary rights are restricted by the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee.

These papers show the Bouldin's deep convictions about and devotion to missions, especially in Japan. The extensive correspondence from Japanese students and friends shows how much the Bouldins were loved and appreciated.

The family correspondence is a large section of this collection. There is a meaningful group of biographical materials, mainly on the Bouldin family. Bouldin's date books, diaries, and journal are interesting and add to the biographical information materials. The following books are of particular interest: A Greek New Testament, a Chinese dictionary, a Japanese dictionary, and his translation from Japanese into English of the Ten Buddhist Virtues.

There are about 100 slides about Japan in this collection. Under the category "Japan Christian Mission Work," one can find good information on missions in Japan in the 1920s – 40s. Mr. Bouldin gave the printed matter he had gathered about the history of Missions in Japan to Howard College (now Samford University) library.

There is a large section of sermons. Inclusive dates of the collection are 1904-67. The main subject headings are: (1) Biographical materials; (2) Buddhism; (3) Foreign Mission Board of SBC; (4) Gotemba Club; (5) Japan; (6) Japan Mission work; (7) Oxford Group Movement (in

correspondence with fellow-missionaries); (8) Sermons; (9) Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; (10) Tennessee River Association, Alabama; (11) War conditions in 1941 in Japan (correspondence with fellow-missionaries and Japanese friends).

Some of the correspondents are: (1) William Axling, Earl Best, W. O. Carver, O. C. Carmichael (president of U. of Ala., 1956), Baker James Cauthen, C. K. Dozier, Edwin B. Dozier, John D. Freeman, Maxfield Garrett, A. L. Gillespie, J. Edgar Hoover (item 201), John W. Inzer, Toyohiko Kagawa (Box 3-7 and Box 4-7), Charles A. Leonard, C. E. Maddry, Allen J. Moon (dean of Wm. Jewel College 1928-45), J. Frank Norris, Richard N. Owen, Charles W. Pope, Hermon S. Ray, T. B. Ray, A. Hamilton Reid (ex. secretary of Ala. Baptists), J. R. Sampey, U. S. Senator John Sparkman (Box 4-8), Elizabeth Watkins, and Thomas J. Watts.

### **Arrangement**

Arranged in alphabetical order by folder title.

### **Provenance**

Donated in 1967 by Joe M. Berry, great-nephew of George Bouldin

### **Preferred Citation**

George Washington Bouldin Collection, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee.

### **Access Restrictions**

None

### **Subject Terms**

Bouldin, Maggie Lee, 1882 –  
 Tennessee River Baptist Association (Alabama)  
 Seinan Gakuin Seminary (Fukuoka, Japan)  
 Missionaries – Correspondence, reminiscences, etc.  
 Buddhism  
 Baptists – Sermons  
 Missions – Japan

### **Related Materials**

*Japan Baptist Advance : 80 years of Southern Baptist related work, 1889-1970.* Pam. 6076

Parker, Calvin. *The Southern Baptist Mission in Japan, 1889-1989.* BV3445.2 .S59 1991

Kanamaru, Eiko. *George Washington Bouldin and his missionary struggle with Southern Baptist denominationalism in Japan: 1906-1933.* BV3457.B68 K36 1999

## Container Lists

### Box 1

- 1.1 Correspondence and general information re: G. W. Bouldin collection
- 1.2 Account books
- 1.3 Address books
- 1.4 Ashland City, Tennessee Baptist Church, 1941 – 43 – correspondence and other information arranged chronologically
- 1.5 Ballston Baptist Church, Arlington, Virginia, materials
- 1.6 Baptist Foundation of Alabama materials, 1951
- 1.7 Bibles (one of them a Greek N.T.)
- 1.8 Biographical materials – C. K. Dozier, Elizabeth Watkins

### Box 2

- 2.1 Biographical materials – autobiography of G. W. Bouldin
- 2.2 Biographical materials – Bouldin Family
- 2.3 Biographical materials – Bouldin family
- 2.4 Book Ms – a biography of Kimura, a Japanese Christian
- 2.5 Books – Diamonds in the Rough by Rev. L. V. Snead re: mountain school (Appalachian), My Daddy Told Me by Sarah Ellen Dozier, Missions in the Bible by J. B. Lawrence, Points for Emphasis, 1943, by H. C. Moore.
- 2.6 Buddhism – G. W. Bouldin's translation of Ten Buddhist Virtues
- 2.7 Chinese dictionary

### Box 3

- 3.1 Clippings – miscellaneous
- 3.2 Correspondence – family
- 3.3 Correspondence – family
- 3.4 Correspondence – family
- 3.5 Correspondence – family
- 3.6 Correspondence – fellow missionaries and American friends in Japan
- 3.7 Correspondence – fellow-missionaries and American friends in Japan
- 3.8 Correspondence – Japanese students and friends

### Box 4

- 4.1 Correspondence – Japanese students and friends
- 4.2 Correspondence – Japanese students and friends
- 4.3 Correspondence re: trip to U.S. in 1936
- 4.4 Correspondence – general A-B
- 4.5 Correspondence – general C-F
- 4.6 Correspondence – general G-I
- 4.7 Correspondence – general J-M
- 4.8 Correspondence – general N-Z

### Box 5

- 5.1 Date books – 1908, 1913, 1914, 16, 18, 21, 26, 28, 29

- 5.2 Date books – 1930, 32 – 34, 37 – 39, 44, 59
- 5.3 Diaries – 1907, 11-13, 17, 19 – 20
- 5.4 Foreign Mission Board – 1936 report and pictures of ex. secretaries
- 5.5 German grammar
- 5.6 Gotemba Club and Ni No Oka property
- 5.7 Gotemba Club and Ni No Oka property

**Box 6**

- 6.1 Japan – books and materials including Outline of Ancient Japanese Literature
- 6.2 Japan – Christian mission work, including materials on Seinan Jo Gakuin
- 6.3 Japan – Christian mission work, including materials on Seinan Jo Gakuin
- 6.4 Japan – Christian Mission work, including proceedings of 13th annual meeting or Japan Baptist Convention. August, 1959 – news releases re: 70th anniversary of Southern Baptist work in Japan, 1959; minutes of mission meeting July 15 – 18, 1928; minutes of ex. committee meeting of Japan Mission, 1927
- 6.5 Japanese dictionary

**Box 7**

- 7.1 Slides (ca. 100)

**Box 8**

- 8.1 Japanese language study notebook
- 8.2 Japanese marriage customs (letter)
- 8.3 Japanese newspapers
- 8.4 Kanto school – American Baptists
- 8.5 Maps
- 8.6 Miscellaneous
- 8.7 Notebooks
- 8.8 Notebooks

**Box 9**

- 9.1 Pamphlets, misc.
- 9.2 Pastoral call
- 9.3 Personal
- 9.4 Personal including his resignation as a foreign missionary and a copy of message to the U.S. State Dept. for permission for passengers of the ship Tatsuta Maru to land in San Francisco in 1941.
- 9.5 Pictures
- 9.6 Poems
- 9.7 Reports, mission – Japan, 1924, 1929
- 9.8 Sermons

**Box 10**

- 10.1 Sermons
- 10.2 Sermons
- 10.3 Shinto studies

- 10.4 Southern Baptist Theological Seminary materials, including 1904 – 05 faculty and student yearbook and 1905 – 06 annual catalog
- 10.5 Study notes – seminary student days
- 10.6 Teaching records and notes

**Box 11**

- 11.1 Tennessee River Association, Alabama – historical sketch and Skyline Baptist Church materials
- 11.2 Writings – some are about the Far East
- 11.3 Writings – clippings
- 11.4 Yokohama Union Church, Japan materials. In a separate package: journal, Gotemba Club's treasurer's book, a copy of the United Nation's Charter