

# PEYTON STEPHENS PAPERS

AR 602



Chinese family, whose children were taught by Mary Stephens, ca. 1910

Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives

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# Peyton Stephens Papers

## AR 602

### Summary

Main Entry: Peyton Stephens Papers

Date Span: 1890 – 1941

Abstract: Collection of material related to Peyton Stephens, Southern Baptist missionary to China. Collection contains material relating to Stephens' missionary work in North China from 1893 – 1923, including correspondence, sermons, photos, Chinese documents, and a Chinese Bible.

Size: 1 linear ft. (2 boxes)

Collection #: AR 602

### Biographical Sketch

Peyton Stephens was born June 7, 1865 in Callaway County, Missouri. He attended the University of Missouri and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and was appointed as a missionary to North China, March 18, 1893, by the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. He married Mary Thompson August 15, 1893, and they sailed for China later that year.

The Stephens spent their early years of service in Hwanghsien, except for language study in Chefoo. They were active in evangelistic work and were in charge of the Hwanghsien Boarding School for Boys and day schools in the area. In 1906, the couple moved to Chefoo to reopen earlier missionary efforts, engaging in field evangelism and directing two day schools and an academy. Mr. Stephens was designated to begin work in Manchuria in 1912, while continuing to live in Chefoo. They visited Manchuria periodically where Mrs. Stephens helped with evangelistic work among women.

The Stephens remained in the Chefoo area until 1923, when they returned to America for rest before retiring in 1924. The couple settled in Columbia, Missouri where they participated in schools of missions and worked with rural churches. Mr. Stephens died in 1950, and Mrs. Stephens remained in Columbia, Missouri until her death in 1963.

### Scope and Content

The collection documents Peyton Stephens' missionary work in North China from 1893 to 1923. The material also illustrates much of his life and work in China. The collection includes autobiographical material, notes on China, a Chinese Bible and other Chinese documents, a few letters, diplomas, the charter organizing the Chefoo Baptist Church

(1895), photographs, and sermon notes. Also included is a handwritten booklet entitled, "Glimpses and Echoes," that details the last days of China missionary Charlotte Hartwell. The collection spans the years 1890 to 1941 and contains approximately 1 linear foot of material. The folders are arranged alphabetically by folder title.

In September, 1983, the Historical Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention acquired a collection of papers and photographs on the Stephens and their work in China, donated by their daughter-in-law, Mrs. Fleeta Stephens, of Columbia, Missouri.

**Arrangement**

Arranged in alphabetical order by folder title

**Provenance**

Donated to the Historical Commission (SBHLA) by daughter-in-law Fleeta Stephens in September, 1983

**Preferred Citation**

Peyton Stephens Papers, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee

**Access Restrictions**

None

**Subject Terms**

Stephens, Peyton, 1865 – 1950

Stephens, Mary Thompson, 1865 – 1963

Hartwell, Charlotte Norris

Chefoo Baptist Church (Yen-t'ai shih, China)

Southern Baptist Convention

Baptists – China

Missions, American – China

Baptists – Missions

Baptists – Clergy

Women missionaries

China – Churches and religious affairs – Baptist missions

Yantai Shi (China)

Charters

Sermons

Autobiographies

Photographs

## **Related Materials**

Peyton Stephens Files. Southern Baptist Convention. Missionary Correspondence Files, AR 551-2. Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives.

Jesse Boardman Hartwell Collection. AR 884. Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives.

## **Container List**

### **Box 1**

- 1.1 Autobiography of Peyton Stephens. Handwritten document including copies of articles and letters
- 1.2 Autobiographical notes with general notes and stories
- 1.3 China Notes
- 1.4 Chinese Bible of Peyton Stephens with many handwritten notes
- 1.5 Chinese Documents (3)
- 1.6 China notes by Mrs. Stephens
- 1.7 Clippings by Mrs. Stephens
- 1.8 Correspondence (4) copies and originals
- 1.9 Diary (2) of Mrs. Stephens detailing work in Cancer hospital in Columbia, MO, 1940 – 1941 and 1936 Women’s Missionary Union Convention
- 1.10 Diplomas – Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
- 1.11 Donaway, J.U. – Eulogy by Stephens (1946)
- 1.12 Hartwell, Charlotte N. “Glimpses and Echoes from the bedside of Mrs. Charlotte N. Hartwell, September – October, 1903.” Handwritten book with 2 photographs.
- 1.13 Hendrick, J. P. – Eulogy by Stephens (1941)
- 1.14 Historical Notes on Manchuria
- 1.15 Hwe Ching (Chefoo) Baptist Church organizing document, Oct. 27, 1895.
- 1.16 License to gospel ministry, Peyton Stephens, November 11, 1890, by the Prairie Grove Baptist Church in Boone County, MO.

### **Box 2**

- 2.17 Manual of Forms for Ministers: Includes notes by Stephens and a record of marriages and funerals conducted, 1930s and 1940s.
- 2.18 Photographic Scrapbook – North China Baptist Mission, Reminiscences. Present to Stephens from the members of the mission, 1923. Includes photographs and some narrative.