

**Inventory to the
Mary and Donald Langford
Collection**

AR 800



Don and Mary Langford, Foreign Mission Board Photo Album, 1965

Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives

January, 2019

Inventory to the Mary and Donald Langford Collection AR 800

Summary

Mary and Don Langford Collection

Date Span: 1935-1990

Abstract: Collection of letters and other material related to the missionary work and family life of Mary and Don Langford, Southern Baptist missionaries to Hong Kong, 1963-1991. Includes correspondence of all family members to Mary's parents, Mr. and Mrs. B.M. McCrary. The letters describe family life and missionary work in Hong Kong and the medical mission work of Don in the Hong Kong Baptist Hospital. The material was collected and organized into chronological scrapbooks by the McCrary's.

Size: 1.25 linear ft. (3 document boxes)

Collection #: AR 800

Biographical Sketch

Mary and Don Langford served as Southern Baptist missionaries to Hong Kong from 1963 to 1991. Mary Alice McCrary was born January 1, 1935 in Nacogdoches, Texas, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. B.M. McCrary. She completed her high school education in Shreveport, Louisiana. She then attended Baylor University and then transferred to Louisiana State University, where she completed her B.S. degree in January, 1956. In June of that year, she married Donald Langford, who was completing his third year of medical school training at the LSU School of Medicine in New Orleans. They were both feeling the call of foreign mission work. Mary did additional course work at Tulane and the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. In 1963 the couple was appointed as Southern Baptist missionaries to Hong Kong.

Charles Donald Langford was born December 23, 1931 in Memphis, Tennessee. He spent most of his youth in Gibsland, Louisiana, where he finished high school. He attended Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge from 1950 to 1953 as a pre-med student. He continued his medical studies at the LSU School of Medicine in New Orleans and completed his medical degree in 1957. He completed 30 hours of classwork at the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in 1962-63. In 1963 he and his wife were appointed as missionaries to Hong Kong. Langford would service in a variety of medical positions in the Far East, including service in the Hong Kong Baptist Hospital. The couple continued as missionaries until 1991. The couple had five children, John, James, Paul, Donna, and Devra.

Scope and Content Note

The material in the collection was collected by Mr. and Mrs. B.M. McCrary and assembled in to annual notebooks, which included correspondence, cards, clippings, and a few photographs. The chronological order with the scrapbooks was followed in the arrangement of this collection. The compiling of the scrapbook using adhesives presented some preservation concerns for the material. These adhesives were removed when possible, but all could not be totally removed.

The Mary and Donald Langford Collection (1.25 linear ft.) consists of numerous letters written by family members to Mary's parents Mr. and Mrs. B.M. McCrary. The majority of the letters are written from Mary to her parents. The majority of the letters are handwritten. The correspondence covers a wide range of topics, but are mostly personal and include topics related to family members and family activities. The letters provide a good view of missionary life with children and ministry in their local church in Hong Kong. The collection also documents the family life of the missionary couple, with visits back to America and furlough activities and travels. The correspondence does include correspondence of the grandchildren to the McCrary's.

The collection also includes additional information on Mary McCrary, clippings, greeting cards, and some family photographs.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in chronological order.

Provenance

Donated by Mr. and Mrs. B.M. McCrary, 1990.

Preferred Citation

Mary and Donald Langford Collection, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee.

Access Restrictions

None

Subject Terms

Langford, Mary Alice McCrary, 1935-

Langford, Charles Donald, 1931-

McCrary, B. M.

Hong Kong Baptist Hospital

Baptists – Hong Kong

Missions – Hong Kong

Missions, Medical – Hong Kong

Missionaries, Medical – Hong Kong

Related Materials

Southern Baptist Convention. Foreign Mission Board. Mission minutes and reports, 1849-2005. AR 551-1. See material related to Hong Kong.

Container List

Box 1

- 1.1 1935 – Record of birth certificate – Mary Alice McCrary
- 1.2 1952-1953 – Class admission and grade cards – Mary Alice McCrary
- 1.3 1952-1956 – Clippings
- 1.4 1952-1955 – Correspondence
- 1.5 1957 – Graduation invitation – LSU School of Medicine – Don Langford
- 1.6 1959-1960 – Correspondence
- 1.7 1959, 1962 – Birth announcement (John and James)
- 1.8 1961-1962 – Correspondence
- 1.9 1961 – Clippings
- 1.10 1962 – Clippings
- 1.11 1963 – Correspondence
- 1.12 1963 – Clippings
- 1.13 1963 – Travel authorization – Foreign Mission Board
- 1.14 1964 - Correspondence
- 1.15 1964 – Clippings
- 1.16 1965 – Correspondence
- 1.17 1965 – Correspondence (photocopies)
- 1.18 1966 – Correspondence
- 1.19 1966 – Clippings
- 1.20 1966 – Photographs
- 1.21 1967 – Correspondence
- 1.22 1967 – Baptist Hospital Hong Kong – Brochure
- 1.23 1967 – Message from Mary Langford to Louisiana Baptist Student Convention
- 1.24 1968 – Correspondence
- 1.25 1969 – Correspondence
- 1.26 1969 – Clippings

Box 2

- 2.1 1970 – Correspondence
- 2.2 1970 – Clippings
- 2.3 1971 – Correspondence
- 2.4 1972 – Correspondence
- 2.5 1973 – Correspondence
- 2.6 1974 – Correspondence
- 2.7 1974 – Photographs
- 2.8 1975 – Correspondence
- 2.9 1976 – Correspondence
- 2.10 1976-1977 – Clippings and poems
- 2.11 1977 – Correspondence
- 2.12 1978 – Correspondence
- 2.13 1979 – Correspondence
- 2.14 1979 – Cards
- 2.15 1979 – Clippings, articles, etc.

- 2.16 1980 – Correspondence
- 2.17 1980 – Clippings
- 2.18 1981 – Correspondence
- 2.19 1981 – Clippings and miscellaneous material
- 2.20 1981 – House diagram and layout

Box 3

- 3.1 1982 – Correspondence
- 3.2 1982-1983 – Clippings and misc. material
- 3.3 1982-1982 – Cards
- 3.4 1983 – Correspondence
- 3.5 1984 – Correspondence
- 3.6 1984 – Cards
- 3.7 1985 – Correspondence
- 3.8 1985 – Cards
- 3.9 1985 – Clippings
- 3.10 1986 – Correspondence
- 3.11 1986 – Graduation invitation – Devra Langford
- 3.12 1987 – Correspondence
- 3.13 1987 – Clippings, programs
- 3.14 1988 – Correspondence
- 3.15 1988 – Clippings, programs
- 3.16 1989 – Cards
- 3.17 1989-1990 – Correspondence