

Inventory to
Edgar L. Morgan
China Recollections

AR. 842



Edgar and Leah Morgan

**Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives
Nashville, Tennessee**

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Summary

Main entry: Morgan, Edgar L. – China Recollections

Date span: 1950-1997

Abstract: Collection of 151 original sketches, written by Edgar L. Morgan and published in the *News-Herald*, an Owen County, Kentucky weekly newspaper. Morgan and his wife, Lelah May, served as Southern Baptist missionaries to North China from 1905 to 1927. These sketches document their missionary experience in China and Christian ministry.

Size: .25 linear ft. (1 document box)

Collection #: AR 842

Biographical Sketch

Edgar L Morgan was born August 16, 1878 in the rural part of Fayette County, Missouri. Both of his parents were school teachers, and his father also ran a store. The family eventually moved to Georgetown, Kentucky where he attended a Baptist Academy and Georgetown College. After graduation, he taught school at the Laurel Baptist Academy, in the hills of Kentucky, for two years before he heard God's call to special service and entered the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. At seminary, he met the sister of his best friend's wife, and, in 1904, married Lelah Carter of Georgia.

In 1905, after graduation, the Morgans, with the support of the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, sailed for China. They started their mission work at Hwangshien, an inland China location. They served in Chefoo and Laichow in the Shantung mission. In 1913, they moved to Pingtu, working with Peyton Stephens and his wife at a training school for boys. After their second furlough in 1919, they were sent to Tsingtao and worked developing Christian literature and the China Baptist Publication Society. In 1927, the Morgans left China and never returned as missionaries. In 1933, in the heart of the financial depression, Edgar and his wife felt God leading them back to South Carolina, where years before they had built a farmhouse. Thus began a ministry of Bible conferences, prayer retreats, ministers' meetings, outside meetings, and writing. This ministry continued for the next twenty-five years of Edgar's life. He died after a short illness in 1965.

Lelah May Carter was born November 18, 1878 in Atlanta, Georgia. She grew up in a committed Baptist family and attended school in Gainesville, Georgia at Brenau College. Lelah continued her studies in art in Baltimore where her brother attended medical school. In Louisville, she visited her sister who had married Emmet Stephens, a young minister preparing for mission work in China at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Lelah decided to stay and take some classes on Bible at the Seminary. It was there she met Edgar Morgan. They married in 1904, and Lelah worked along side her husband in mission and ministry until his death. She died in 1983.

Scope and Content note:

The collection consists of 151 sketches which originally appeared in the *News-Herald*, a weekly newspaper in Owen County, Kentucky. The sketches are entitled, “China Recollections” and are written, not as history or biography, but rather as Morgan’s interpretation of the realities of life in the North China Mission during the first quarter of the 20th century. The sketches were originally in the form of newspaper clippings and carbon copies. This material was transcribed to its current format by Carter Morgan, the son of Edgar and Lelah Morgan.

The sketches are numbered and tend to follow a chronological order based on the mission experiences of the Morgans. The articles relate stories of mission activities, events, and, in particular, people. The stories cover their time at Southern Seminary to the end of their mission activities in 1927.

Arrangement

The sketches follow a numeric order.

Provenance

Donated by Carter Morgan, Westminster, SC, in 2005.

Preferred citation

Edgar L. Morgan China Recollections, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee

Access Restrictions

None

Subject Terms

China - Religion
Crawford, Tarleton Perry, 1821-1902
Hartwell, Jesse Boardman, 1835-1912.
Missionaries – China - Biography
Missions – China – 20th century
Moon, Lottie, 1840-1912.
Morgan, Edgar L., 1878-1965
Morgan, Lelah Carter, 1878-1983
Newton, William Carey, 1873-1966

Pruitt, Cicero W., 1857-1946
Southern Baptist Convention. Foreign Mission Board.
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
Stephens, Silas Emmet, 1874-1926
Stephens, Peyton, 1865-1950.

Related Sources

Morgan, Edgar L. – Missionary Correspondence. Southern Baptist Convention. Foreign Mission Board. Missionary Correspondence Files. AR. 551-2 (Box 74)

Container listing

Box 1 of 1

Folder 1 Biographical information – Morgan, Edward, 1878-1965

Folder 2 Biographical information – Morgan, Lelah Carter, 1878-1983

Folder 3 Sketches 1-20

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|---|--|
| 1. Transition Remarks | From Kentucky Memoirs to China Recollections |
| 2. Dawn of a Compelling Idea | Influences: Broadus, Cody, C. T. Studd, Hudson Taylor |
| 3. Surrender to What? | “Christ as Lord” |
| 4. Missionary Writers & the Public | Amy Carmichael: “Things As They Are: |
| 5. Kindling Holy Fires Half a Century Ago | Mussel Shoals Prayer Service |
| 6. Forming a Critical Acquaintance | Student Volunteer Convention – Cleveland 1898
Robert E. Speer, John R. Mott, Robert P. Wilder
F. B. Meyer, & new friend, Emmett Stephens |
| 7. Whoso Findeth a Wife | Lelah Carter introduced by Mrs. Emmet Stephens |
| 8. And She Said “I will go” | |
| 9. The Wedding I Nearly Failed to Attend | September 21, 1904 |
| 10. Seminary Atmosphere 50 Years Ago | Dr. A. T. Robertson, Dr. Mullins |
| 11. “Old” Married People | “The Big Four” – beginning of women’s training school
Rena Groover (Mrs. John W. Shepard – Brazil)
Clemmie Ford, Alice Huey, Ella Jeter |
| 12. Before the Foreign Mission Board | April 4, 1905 appointment |
| 13. We Go a Sailing | N. Georgia deputation, Drs Dinsmoor rough seas |
| 14. Down to the Sea in Ships | Cynthia Miller, Honolulu, Japan – one month |
| 15. Unto Their Desired Haven | Chefoo in a storm, S. E. Stephens First Sunday
Dr. Mateer and Baller |

16. Inns, In Into the Interior	Travel to Hwanghsien, The shentza the inns
17. What Wonderful Grapes	Farms and vegetation of Shantung
18. First Big Event:	Chinese Association and Mission Meeting W. B. Glass, Dr. & Mrs. Ayers, W. H Sears, John Lowe, Miss Lottie Moon, The Peyton Stephens, Dr. Hartwell, Miss Thompson, W. C. Newton, Dr. Pruitt
19. "Hello, Missouri"	W. H. Sears, Miss Moon, Miss Taylor, Jeter, Miller
20. John Swordson	Sears' engagement
<u>Folder 4 Sketches 21-40</u>	
21. In the Name – I Baptize Thee	Dr. J. B. Hartwell instructed for first baptism
22. Our First Christmas	Tengchow: Hartwells, Pruitts, Newton, & Miss Moon Warning from the Consul Fowler of impending danger
23. A Funeral Very Secret	Dr. T. W. Ayers, Miss Jessie Pettigrew, Miss Moon Hospital skeleton buried
24. Open Thou My Lips	Language study
25. A Barnabas Sort of Man	Dr. C. W. Pruitt
26. Tongues and a Tongue	Language Study
27. The Labor We Delight In	Language Study: Revision Committee of Mandarin N.T Dr. Chauncy Goodrich, Dr. Allen, Dr. T. W. Mateer Dr F. W. Baller, Dr Sydenstricker (Pearl Buck's father)
28. Phonetics and Progress	Language Study: Bishop Scherschewski (Wen li Bible) Mandarin N.T. Phonetic edition of Mark. Mrs. J. W. Holmes & Mrs. T. P. Crawford & the Trimetrical Classic, & a catechism; booklet 20 hymns
29. Can't You Go a Notch Higher?	Dr. Calvin Mateer's funeral; John L. Nevius introduced fruit culture to Shantung Peninsula. Corbett on Temple Hi Goodrich asked to pray for Mateer
30. I Can Laugh About This Now	Dr. J. B Hartwell scholar and friend
31. What Would You Have Said?	Two Roads – where is my mother?
32. A Day of Humiliation	Mr. & Mrs. Peyton Stephens – opening Chefoo Station
33. They Went to "The Work"	Credit to the pioneers
34. 90 Next Birthday	Mrs. Peyton Stephens
35. Shantung's First Christian Martyr	John Landrum Holmes
36. "Weaning – Like a Weaned Child"	Foods not available – substitutes

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|---------------------------------|--|
| 37. Spoiling of Possessions | Broken Wedding Gifts |
| 38. No Cake and No Meal | |
| 39. Suffering Precedes Reigning | Dr. Oxner, Pingtu. Missionary sickness. Leave field? |
| 40. Why this Waste? | Gertrude Abernathy, Eula Hensley, Dr. J. M. Gaston |

Folder 5 Sketches 41-60

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| 41. Infant Mortality | Maurice & Fanny Huckaby – Personnel losses |
| 42. What is Mission Work? | |
| 43. Realities of Life and Death | Attitude toward death |
| 44. Will Making | Consul ordered. Emmet Stephens; the Cornwalls died |
| 45. Willing Reluctant Friendship | Opposition to reopening Chefoo station |
| 46. Have you got Enough to Last | CIM Chefoo School. George Sears. Dr. Hogg |
| 47. Fragrance of Personality | John McCarthy – CIM Pioneer |
| 48. Wait till you are 70 | Missionaries from Europe |
| 49. Important Visitors – V.I.P. | Dr. R. J. Willingham, Dr. T. B. Ray, Dr. W. O. Carver
Miss Kathleen Mallory, Miss Lottie Moon, W W Adams |
| 50. “Ye’ll Tak’ the High Road” | Crawfordism, H. B. Hartwell, T. P. Crawford,
C. W. Pruitt, Stephens, Sears, Lowe, Owens & Miss
Moon, J. R. Graves |
| 51. “You’ll Need a Wife” | Crawford appointment, Martha Foster, J. B. Taylor
(1852), Hampton DuBose |
| 52. The Big Event of 1907 | Centennial – Robert Morrison, C. W. Pruitt, S. E.
Stephens, Morgans, & others from N. China |
| 53. Other Conference Impressions | 1907 Martyrs Memorial Hall, D. E. Hoste, H.C. DuBose
Calvin W. Mateer, Timothy Richard, Arthur H. Smith
Chauncy Goodrich, J. B. Hartwell, R. H. Graves,
C. W. Pruitt, Mrs. Martha Crawford (“among the
Honored ancients”), Mrs. Arthur H. Smith |
| 54. Baptist Conference of 1907 | Issue of Unionizing Movement. H. C. Mabie, Miss Clara
Bonnell |
| 55. The Visit That Changed Things | Mr. & Mrs. John Carter (Gainesville, GA), Mrs. T. J.
Telford |
| 56. Greatness – What is It? | F. B. Meyer, ref. to Graham Scroggie, Keswick Convention
J. Hudson Taylor, Mrs. William Booth |

57. My Birthday – 1909	Ref: A. H. Strong, Andrew Murray, F. B. Meyer, John Hyde, R. A. Torrey, Moule, Pierson
58. How Did You Do It?	F. B. Meyer – Chefoo Conference Personal Experience
59. What Do the Dying See	J. B. Hartwell, Dr. Greene, Peyton Stephens
60. Peace That Passeth Understanding	Mr. & Mrs. C. K. Dozier, Edwin Dozier, Japan Visit
<u>Folder 6 Sketches 61-90</u>	
61. Delivering the Goods	Montgomery Ward, other suppliers, Miss Jones W. W. Adams, Miss Moon, Floy White – bride
62. Chinese New Year – 1910	The Stephens – his weakness; traditional celebrations
63. He That Keepeth	Neither Slumbers Nor Sleeps: Country travel – night storms, Dr. Gaston
64. Black Cats, Black Beans	Black Death. Dr. Gaston, Plague, quarantine.
65. Marriage of Cinnamon Cloud	Wedding customs, adopted daughter
66. A Poser – Can you Answer it?	Relationship of parents of bride and groom.
67. Tonsorial Artistry	Haircuts, mouse at prayer meeting, Mrs. Gaston
68. Furloughs	Ship letters, Mussel Shoals, deputation, health
69. Bride & Groom Not Hidden	Boat to Europe
70. Incognito No Longer	Funeral at sea
71. Scotland – Land of Our Fathers	
72. England and London	Gravestone – David Livingstone
73. Leaving Old England	Hearing Dr. F. B. Meyer; train across Siberia to China
74. Sadness – Farewell Miss Moon	Dr & Mrs. Gaston, Dr T. O. Hearn, Miss Cynthia Miller
75. A Good Angel Lost & Never Found	1913 Hospitality from a stranger
76. When Through Deep Waters	I Call Thee to Go: Dr. Charles Scott – Tsingtao, Dr. & Mrs. William Fleming – Rain & Wars travel
77. Carey Daniel	Wed to Jewell (Leggett) by Emmet Stephens, Drowned Mrs. Pruitt went to console Baby Carey
78. When it Rains – Does it Pour?	Return of Malaria; C. A. Leonard; Japanese occupation
79. World War I – In Season & Out	Pres. Wilson advised missionaries to remain at post
80. Grace McBride and Y. W. A's	Miss Cynthia Miller; McBride died with A.E.F. Siberia
81. For Non Belligerents	War is No Fun: Dr. Gaston defends home

82. A Wartime Story – 1914 – 1915	Personal: C. K. Dozier
83. Little David, Play on Your Harp	Mongolian Pony. Summer trip with C. A. Leonard
84. Their Angels Do Always Behold	Runaway horse: Irene Stephens & Carter
85. A “Pointed” Sermon	Miss Huey, Carter, shrines, idols
86. Coffins and Old Temples	Tale of old couple who owned only one coffin
87. Perils – Small Pox	Miss Ida Taylor, Newton, Miss Moon, Dr. Seymour
88. Missionary Builders	A church bell: Miss Moon, Stephens’ 8-sided house A church bell from Gainesville, GA
89. Swamp Water Biscuit	Emmet Stephens, rural evangelism
90. Root-pulling and Mountain-moving	Dr. Gaston, R. A. Torrey, prayer
<u>Folder 7 Sketches 91-130</u>	
91. An Excluded Man	Witness of a non-church member
92. Old Wine Bottles	New Bottles for new Wine; Christian Weddings; Miss Alice Huey organist
93. Itineration – Sowing the Seed	J. W. Lowe, Miss Huey, Mrs. Lin, Dr. Gaston
94. Heavenly – Road Clothing	A Baptism
95. Church Polity & Practice	In Primitive Conditions: 2 wives?
96. Not Good for Man to be Alone	After a nagging wife.....!
97. Wrestling Not With Flesh & Blood	Evil spirits
98. Realities in Pagan Religion	Miss Miller, spirit problems, “Jesus Loves Me”
99. Travel mode & Inconveniences	Shentza, donkey, bicycle, motorcycle, wheelbarrow
100. Thy Servant has Never -	Something New and Different: bedbugs
101. Beggars, Poverty, & Famine	Famine relief work. Miss Moon.
102. Sunshine and Shadows	Death of Yocum baby. Stephens wood shop.
103. Baptist Medical Work	I Bury a Fellow Worker. Dr. J. M. Oxner, W. D. King Cable “King is Dead”, Dr. Mary L. King, Harriet King Dr. Ayers, Peyton Stephens.
104. I’ll Get Me Another Wife	1880 – Dr. Kenneth McKenzie, one Schofield, Tale of woman who resisted mission surgery
105. Our Good Doctor	James McFadden, Gaston and wife, Dr. & Mrs. E. M.

	Huckaby, John W. Lowe, Dr. R. A. Torrey
106. My Work is Not Yet Finished	Mr. & Mrs. W. W. Adams, Miss Moon, Dr. Gaston, Illness.
107. What Price?	How Much is a Man Worth? Taoist monks. Dr. Gaston
108. A Friend that Sticketh Closer Than a Brother	Dr. & Mrs. Gaston, Miss Miller, Mayfield Tyzzer Hospital
109. We Called – He Answered	Irene Carter Stephens
110. Went Not – To the Work	Ref. to Amy Carmichael. Over-work. Prayer life. W. C. Newton and Stephens
111. God’s Best Gifts	Are They Wanted? Jonathan Goforth
112. Pioneering – Breaking Ground	John Lowe, Mary D. Willeford, Mr. Lin, Miss Huey, Mrs. Morgan
113. Value of a Little Book	Mr. Lin Kien-Ch’ing, John Lowe, Miss Willeford – ref To “Twenty Hymns”
114. Climbing Heaven’s Ascent	Through Peril, Toil, and Pain (Lin Family)
115. I Came to Cast a Sword and Fire into the Earth	Mrs. Lin
116. Shall I East of This Harvest I Know Not	Death of Evangelist Lin, 1926. Testimony of Mrs. Lin at the funeral
117. “I Will Seek”	Old Mrs. Kia
118. At Last – I have Found the Way	Conversion of Mrs. Kia
119. “My Little Old Knees”	Transformation of a Believer
120. “The Love of God is Brave”	The witness, suffering, and influence of an old convert
121. “A Juicy Christian”	A flower out of rocky ground – Mrs. Kia
122. My Funeral – Come See Me Buried	Pastor Li Shou T’ing – W. H. Sears Associations
123. An Ancient Worthy – E. Z. Simmons	Founder of China Baptist Publication Society
124. Two Men of Vision	R. E. Chambers, E. Z. Simmons. William Ashmore, Jacob Speicher, R. H. Graves, J. B. Hartwell, C. W. Pruitt, J. F. Love, C.B.P. Society
125. Letter Writing – A Model Writer	Mary D. Willeford joined Lows beginning Laichow
126. A Blessing Unwanted	1916 – 1917 Overwork, nosebleeds Japan, J. C. C. Newton

127. Missionaries and Reading	Reading: bridge to the world
128. Teeth in Mission Work	
129. Lend Me Your Hat	Magic expected from a missionary hat
130. My Lost Shirt	Mission meetings, Budgets, Famine funds, Lowe
<u>Folder 8 Sketches 131-151</u>	
131. Does It Harm? Is it Expedient?	Tobacco abroad and at home
132. A Load Around My Neck	China Baptist Publication Society, 1919 – Visit to Canton, locating in Tsingtao, John Lake, R. E. Chambers, P. H. Anderson, Jacob Speicher
133. Six Eventful Years	1920 – 1927 – Wen-li to Mandarin, Devotional paper, Team of writers, Pastor Ting Li Mei
134. “The Trivial Round – The Common Task”	“I am a gap-filler,” Mission treasurer, buying land, building, meeting travelers and newcomers, pasturing a church, filling for S. E. Stephens
135. Morning Cometh – Then the Evening Comes	Opening the Tsingtao Station, dealing with property, government – builders, board without funds, weakening of S. E. Stephens – Death 15 March, 1925
136. The Good Die Young – Or Do They?	Memorial to Silas Emmet Stephens
137. Irene Carter Stephens	A memorial
138. My Last Journey with William H. Sears	A memorial
139. I Like to Hear That Man Pray	George Nicholl – came to China with Taylor’s 2 nd party
140. She Lived in a Cave	Grace Stribling
141. In a Cave	War years inside China
142. Christmas – Let Joy Be Unconfined	Tsingtao – German – Japan – China – U. S. Navy
143. Does Your Chimney Smoke?	House, home, and church building
144. “We Must Pray Hard”	Bible Conferences in China – logistics – results
145. Shadows and Lights	Reuben Torrey, Sears, Charlie Hartwell, S. E. Stephens, Baby girl – Constance Morgan
146. Extraterritoriality	(“A fire not yet extinguished”) – Problems of “justice” under Chinese law!!!
147. “When the Roll is Called”	1927 – Leaving China forever

148. "Filth Washed Away"

Miss Monson and the N. China Revival

149. A Backward Glance

Writings: Encyclopedia Americana, Family Histories,
Cobbs of Owen County, Carters of N. GA, Infant Baptism

150. What I have Written I have Written

Review

151. An Arresting Question

Why should anyone hear the gospel twice before everyone
has heard it once?