

JESSE BOARDMAN HARTWELL COLLECTION

AR 884



J. B. HARTWELL
MISSIONARY TO CHINA
1858-1912

Prepared by: Dorothy Davis
Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives
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Jesse Boardman Hartwell Collection

AR 884

Summary

Main Entry: Jesse Boardman Hartwell Collection

Date Span: 1855 – 1921

Abstract: Collection includes ten volumes of letter books and some additional writings from Hartwell, a travel journal, a mission report, history of his mission work in north China, and events such as the Tai Ping Rebellion and uprisings and resistance to mission efforts.

Size: 4.5 linear ft. (five boxes)

Collection #: AR 884

Biographical Sketch

Jesse Boardman Hartwell, Jr. served as a missionary in northern China from 1858 – 1875 and from 1889 – 1912. From 1875 to 1889, Hartwell worked with the Chinese in California, as Superintendent of Baptist Missions in San Francisco, and organized the first Chinese Baptist church in the United States. After graduating from Furman University in South Carolina, he taught mathematics at Mt. Lebanon University, where his father served as president. Hartwell became a missionary, in 1858, and left for China, where he served in the Shantung (Shandong) Province. In 1861, he began the first Protestant church in China, north of Shanghai, and assisted refugees during the Tai Ping Rebellion (1851 – 1864). Hartwell also served as president of the Bush Theological Seminary, later North China Baptist College, in Hwanghsien.

Jesse Boardman Hartwell, Jr. was born in 1835 in Darlington, South Carolina, to Jesse Boardman Hartwell and Margaret Foreman Hartwell. He married Eliza H. Jewett of Macon, Georgia in 1858. Eliza died in Tengchow, China, in 1870, and left four children, Jesse, Nellie, Anna, and John. Hartwell married Julia C. Jewett, Eliza's sister, in December, 1871, and she died in 1879 in San Francisco, California. In 1881, Hartwell married Charlotte E. Norris of Baltimore, Maryland, while Hartwell worked among the Chinese in San Francisco, California. He and Charlotte had three children – Charlotte, Charles, and Janie. After living in China for ten years, Charlotte died in 1903. Four of Hartwell's children, Nellie, Anna, Lottie, and Charles, also worked in China missions. Hartwell died in 1912 in Chefoo (Yantai), China.

Scope and Content Note

The Jesse Boardman Hartwell Collection contains 4.5 linear feet of material, in 5 boxes, and documents Hartwell's work as a Southern Baptist missionary to China from 1858 to 1912, with an interval as Superintendent to Baptist Missions in San Francisco, California

from 1875 – 1889. The collection has two series: personal papers and official papers, and dates from 1855 to 1921, with the majority of the documents from 1874 – 1911. Each series is arranged chronologically. Letter press books in the collection are extremely fragile.

The first series, personal papers, dates from 1855 to 1906, and primarily includes correspondence. In addition, there are clippings, Eliza Hartwell's obituary, and a journal with excerpts from personal letters. The letters are from Hartwell to his family, including his father, mother, and sisters, although his main correspondence is with his mother and sisters, Ellen C. Edwards and Mary Helen Gibbs. In the letters, Hartwell addresses family matters, with mention of his mission work, other events such as the Tai Ping Rebellion, and references to uprisings and resistance to mission efforts.

The second series, official papers, dates from 1874 – 1921, and contains ten volumes of letter books with approximately 7,000 pages. Each letter press book contains an alphabetical index. Names of frequent and prominent correspondence are noted in the folder listing. Other material in this series includes writings from Hartwell, a travel journal, a mission report, and history of the mission work in north China. Also included are letters to T. P. Crawford, William H. McIntosh, Lottie Moon, C. W. Pruitt, I. T. Tichenor, and R. J. Willingham.

There is another collection of Hartwell Family Papers at Yale University, in the Divinity Library Special Collections, that overlaps the contents of this collection. The Hartwell Family Papers date from 1849 – 1972 and include materials from other members of the Hartwell family, in addition to Jesse Boardman Hartwell, Jr. The collection includes correspondence, personal items, and memorabilia.

John Schaffet donated the first series in 2007, and the SBC's International Mission Board donated the second series, in 2005, to the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives.

Arrangement

Two series, each arranged chronologically

Provenance

First series donated by John Schaffet in 2007. Second series donated in 2005 by the SBC International Mission Board to the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives

Preferred Citation

Jesse Boardman Hartwell Collection, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee

Access Restrictions

None

Subject Terms

Curry, Jabez Lamar Monroe, 1825 – 1903
 Crawford, Tarleton Perry, 1821 – 1902
 Hartwell, Charlotte Norris, 1849 – 1903
 McIntosh, William Hillary, 1811 – 1890
 Moon, Charlotte Diggs (Lottie), 1840 – 1912
 Pruitt, Cicero W., 1857 – 1946
 Tichenor, Isaac Taylor, 1825 – 1902
 Stephens, Peyton, 1865 – 1950
 Willingham, Robert Josiah, 1854 – 1914
 Southern Baptist Convention. Foreign Mission Board
 American Baptist Home Mission Society
 Missions – China
 Baptists – California
 Missionaries – Correspondence, reminiscences, etc.
 China – History – Tai Ping Rebellion, 1850 – 1864

Related Materials

Southern Baptist Convention. Foreign Mission Board. Missionary Correspondence Files.
 Jesse Hartwell Correspondence. AR551-2. Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives.

Container List

Box 1

- 1.1 Clippings
- 1.2 Family Correspondence
- 1.3 Family Correspondence, 1855 – 1868
- 1.4 Family Correspondence, 1870 – 1899
- 1.5 Family Correspondence, 1900 – 1906
- 1.6 Obituary – Eliza H. Hartwell
- 1.7 Incidents and Events in the Hartwell Family, 1897 – 1921
- 1.8 Letter – Mrs. Hughes (Post Mistress, Fresno, California), March 13, 1890

Box 2

- 2.1 Letter Book, February 2, 1874 – May 16, 1881
 - Rev. T. P. Crawford
 - Rev. William H. McIntosh
 - Rev. R. A. Paterson (President American Bible College for Young Ladies)
 - Reports for the Home Mission Board (Southern Baptist Convention)
 - Rev. Winfield Scott
 - Rev. E. Z. Simmons
 - Rev. H. A. Tupper
- 2.2 Letter Book, May 16, 1881 – January 3, 1884
 - Rev. R. H. Graves
 - Mrs. S. J. Holmes

- Rev. William H. McIntosh
 Miss Lottie Moon
 Mrs. Frances M. Potter
 Report to Home Mission Board (Southern Baptist Convention)
 Secretary of State – Sacramento
 Rev. H. A. Tupper
 Mrs. E. L. Wilson (Alameda)
- 2.3 Letter Boo, January 3, 1884 – November 4, 1886 (1 of 2)
- Rev. G. S. Abbott
 Rev. J. C. Baker
 Rev. C. C. Bitting
 Miss M. G. Burdette
 Watkin Davies
 Rev. D. H. Drake
 Col. George M. Edgar (President Arkansas Industrial University, Fayetteville)
 Rev. A. J. Frost
 Rev. R. H. Graves
 Rev. J. A. Henry
 Rev. F. C. Hickson
 Rev. N. R. Johnson
 Rev. Henry L. Morehouse
 Mrs. F. M. Potter
 Rev. C. W. Pruitt
 Mrs. J. L. Sanford
 Miss Lillie Stilwell
 Rev. I. T. Tichenor
 Rev. H. A. Tupper
 Miss Eliza Willsie
 Mrs. E. L. Wilson
- 2.4 Letter Book, January 3, 1884 – November 4, 1886 (2 of 2)
 See folder 2.3.
- 2.5 Letter Book, November 4, 1886 – October 11, 1887
- Rev. C. C. Bitting
 Mrs. M. T. Huntting
 Rev. H. L. Morehouse
 Miss Mary E. Shouse
 Rev. Abner Webb
 Miss Eliza Willsie
- 2.6 Letter Book, October 15, 1887 – May 8, 1889 (1 of 2)
- Rev. G. S. Abbott
 Rev. R. S. Bailey
 Miss Mary G. Bardette
 Rev. C. C. Bitting
 Miss Ida Borroughs
 Mrs. J. R. Bradway
 Robert J. Burdette

Miss Grace Carter
 E. P. Coleman
 Mrs. Amanda Egli
 Rev. J. Hemdon Garnett
 W. P. Haber
 Rev. Dr. J. E. Hopper
 Mrs. E. A. Howard
 Mrs. M. T. Huntting
 Rev. J. C. Jordan
 Rev. W. H. Latonvette
 Chan Lum
 Rev. Henry L. Morehouse
 Miss S. E. Pickett
 Winfield Scott
 Rev. E. Z. Simmons
 Rev. Alanson Smith
 Miss Sallie Stein
 Mrs. E. L. Wilson (Alameda)
 Mrs. Mary E. Wilson

Box 3

- 3.1 Letter Book, October 15, 1887 – May 8, 1889 (2 of 2)
 See folder 2.6
- 3.2 Letter Book, May 8, 1889 – March 20, 1890 (1 of 2)
 Rev. G. S. Abbott
 Rev. C. C. Bitting
 Rev. T. R. Bowles
 Mrs. J. R. Bradway
 Miss Mary G. Burdette
 E. P. Coleman (Treasurer)
 Mrs. Laura A. Davault
 Mrs. Amanda Egli
 Funk & Wagnalls
 Rev. J. Hemdon Garnett
 Mrs. Christina Goodwin
 Rev. John Gordon
 Rev. R. H. Graves
 W. P. Haber
 Mrs. L. P. Huntsman
 Mrs. J. Smith Irvine
 Rev. William M. Kincaid
 Rev. W. H. Latonvette
 Miss S. S. Le Fevre
 Chan Lum
 Rev. Henry L. Morehouse
 A. W. Palmer (Ed. Cal. Bapt.)

- D. W. Perkins (Assistant Corresponding Secretary Home Mission Society)
 Miss S. E. Pickett
 Miss Nellie K. Read
 Miss Elsie M. Smith
 J. A. Snelling (Treasurer)
 Miss Sallie E. Stein
 W. R. Strong
 Rev. H. A. Tupper
 Rev. K. B. Tupper
 Rev. Juan Vane
 Miss Claudia J. White
 Deacon D. W. Williams
 Miss Eliza Willsie
 Mrs. E. L. Wilson (Alameda)
- 3.3 Letter Book, May 8, 1889 – March 20, 1890 (2 of 2)
 See folder 3.2
- 3.4 Letter Book, December 11, 1890 – December 17, 1892 (1 of 2)
 Rev. C. C. Bitting
 Mrs. J. R. Bradway
 Mrs. Emma Bullard
 Miss E. A. Byers
 Miss M. E. Clark
 Rev. Frank Dixon
 Mrs. M. L. Driggs
 Mrs. Amanda Egli
 Mrs. Emma Fitch
 Man Fung
 Funk & Wagnalls
 Rev. J. Hemdon Garnett
 Rev. R. H. Graves
 Mrs. L. P. Huntsman
 Rev. W. H. Latonvette
 Rev. Chan Lum
 Rev. H. L. Morehouse
 Rev. S. B. Morse
 E. C. Smith
 C. S. Somerville
 Miss S. E. Stein
 Miss M. E. Thompson
 Wai Sun Tsang
 Mrs. K. B. Tupper
 Rev. H. A. Tupper
 Miss Eliza Willsie
- 3.5 Letter Book, December 11, 1890 – December 17, 1892 (2 of 2)
 See folder 3.4
- 3.6 Letter Book, October 14, 1892 – February 22, 1895 (1 of 2)

Board of Trade (President)
 Mrs. M. L. Driggs
 Mrs. A. Egli
 Miss Ida May Egli
 Rev. George Fitch
 Rev. R. D. Grant
 Rev. Rosewell Graves
 Miss Anna B. Hartwell
 Rev. J. Q. A. Henry
 Rev. C. H. Hobart
 Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corporation
 Rev. W. H. Latonvette
 Rev. H. L. Morehouse
 Rev. Thomas J. Morgan
 Miss R. S. Norris
 North Carolina Baptist Missions
 Mrs. J. S. Norvell
 Rev. Ray Palmer
 Rev. C. W. Pruitt
 Rev. Timothy Richards
 Miss F. E. Russ
 Miss Annie Sanderson
 Rev. W. H. Sears
 Lai L. W. Sing & Co.
 John Smith
 J. G. Snelling
 Miss S. E. Stein
 Rev. Peyton Stephens
 Mrs. F. L. Sullivan
 Rev. E. F. Tatum
 Miss Lizzie Thompson
 Miss M. E. Thompson
 Rev. H. A. Tupper
 Miss Claudia J. White
 Rev. R. J. Willingham
 C. A. Woodydy

Box 4

- 4.1 Letter Book, October 14, 1892 – February 22, 1895 (2 of 2)
 See folder 3.6
- 4.2 Letter Book, February 22, 1895 – December 17, 1903 (1 of 2)
 T. W. Ayers
 Miss E. Burton
 C. J. M. (Treas.)
 Rev. Hunter Corbett
 Cornabe & Co.

Rev. George Cornwell
 Rev. George F. Fitch
 Mr. R. C. Forsyth
 Mr. John Fowler (U. S. Consul, Chefoo)
 Girls' School Account
 Miss Elizabeth Hanbury
 Charles N. Hartwell
 Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corporation
 Rev. Jonathan R. Hykes
 Walsh Kelly & Co.
 Yang Lan
 Rev. J. W. Lowe
 Rev. H. W. Luce
 Professor F. McCarthy
 James McMullan
 Miss Lottie Moon
 North China Mission Afc.
 Presbyterian Mission Press
 C. W. Pruitt
 Rev. William H. Sears
 Dr. W. F. Seymour
 Lai Sing, L. W. & Co.
 Rev. Peyton H. Stephens
 Rev. J. S. Whitewright
 Jonathan C. Williams
 Rev. R. J. Willingham

4.3 Letter Book, November 24, 1903 – March 9, 1907

T. W. Ayers
 Rev. George Cornwell
 John Fowler
 Miss Lottie H. T. Hartwell
 Rev. Jonathan W. Lowe
 Rev. W. C. Newton
 Miss Rebecca S. Norris
 Rev. J. C. Owen
 C. W. Pruitt
 Presbyterian Mission Press
 Rev. William H. Sears
 Tai Sing, L. W. & Co.
 Rev. Peyton Stephens
 Rev. R. J. Willingham

Box 5

5.1 Letter Book, February 25, 1907 – September 25, 1911
 Presbyterian Mission Press

- Rev. C. W. Smith
Rev. Peyton Stephens
- 5.2 Travel Journal, New York to Hong Kong, 1858
 - 5.3 Report for the Year, 1895
 - 5.4 Jesse B. Hartwell – Biographical Sketches
 - 5.5 Jesse B. Hartwell – Miscellaneous
 - 5.6 History of the North China Mission
 - 5.7 “Hold Up to the Light – We all are Well” – Jesse B. Hartwell
 - 5.8 “Who Will Go For Us” – Jesse B. Hartwell