

# LENA VALINDA LAIR COLLECTION

## AR 886



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# Lena Valinda Lair Collection

## AR 886

### Summary

Main Entry: Lena Valinda Lair Collection

Date Span: 1950 – 1974

Abstract: The collection is mainly correspondence to Lair from other missionaries regarding personal issues such as Lair's health. However, the letters contain references to events in Nigeria, such as the civil war and the Nigerian Ministry of Education.

Size: .25 linear ft. (one box)

Collection #: AR 886

### Biographical Sketch

Lena Valinda Lair served as a Southern Baptist missionary to Nigeria, West Africa from 1935 to 1967. Involved primarily in religious education, Lair taught at the Baptist College in Iwo and Ogbomosho and was the Principal of the Baptist Women's Elementary Training Center in Ile-Ife beginning in 1957. She also worked in the administration of the schools in the 1960s. Lair occasionally returned to the United States in the 1950s and 1960s for medical reasons before taking permanent leave in May, 1966.

Lair was born April 24, 1900, in Anna, Texas. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Baylor University and a Master of Missionary Training Degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. In 1960, she completed her Doctorate of Religious Education also at Southwestern Seminary.

### Scope and Content Note

The Lena Valinda Lair Collection contains .25 linear feet, with eighty-five letters divided into five folders, which are arranged chronologically. The letters are to Lair from other missionaries, teachers, and former students in Nigeria. The correspondence deals mainly with personal issues, such as inquiries about Lair's health. But the letters also make general references to larger events, such as developments with the Nigerian Ministry of Education and the Nigerian Civil War, also known as the Biafran War (July 6, 1967 – January 13, 1970). The names of individuals with whom Lair frequently corresponded are noted in the folder listing below.

Researchers should note that there are additional correspondence files from Lair in the Foreign Mission Board Missionary Correspondence Files, AR 551-2, Box 147.

The International Mission Board donated the Lena Valinda Lair Collection to the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives in 2006.

### **Arrangement**

Folders are arranged chronologically

### **Provenance**

Donated to the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives in 2006 from the International Mission Board

### **Preferred Citation**

Lena Valinda Lair Collection, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee

### **Access Restrictions**

None

### **Subject Terms**

Southern Baptist Convention. Foreign Mission Board – History  
 Southern Baptist Convention. International Mission Board – History  
 Missions. Foreign  
 Baptists – Missions  
 Missions – Correspondence, reminiscences, etc.  
 Missions – Nigeria – History  
 Nigeria – Church history

### **Related Materials**

Southern Baptist Convention. International Mission Board. Missionary Correspondence Files. AR 551-2. Lair, Lena – Correspondence. Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Box 147.

### **Container List**

#### **Box 1**

- 1.1 Correspondence, 1950 – 1957
  - E. O. Fagbongbe
  - P. Omodara Dada
- 1.2 Correspondence, 1963 – 1966
  - Emogene Harris
  - Stella Austin
  - Ann Bradford
  - Grace Carson
- 1.3 Correspondence, 1967 – 1969
  - J.O. Opakunle
  - Julie Obakeye

- 1.4 Correspondence, 1970
  - Titus E. Onyuelo
  - J. O. Falade
  - Emogene Harris
  - Sarah Lou Henley
  - Helen Masters
  - Gabriel U. Balogun
  - Pauline Martin
  - Moses Egbelakin
- 1.5 Correspondence, 1971 – 1974
  - Titus E. Onyeulo
  - Edgar H. Burks
  - S. O. Foyake
  - J. O. Falade
  - L. O. Nasimi