SUMMARY INFORMATION

Title:  Rev. Dr. W.H. Tipton Family Papers
Accession #:  2004-018
Creators:  Tipton, Rev. Dr. W.H. [William Henry], 1875-1950
          Tipton, Mary Greenlee Bryson, 1878-1963
          Tipton, Mary Alice Hoeing, 1915-2004
Physical Description:  2.59 linear feet (10 boxes)
Languages:  Collection material in English, with Chinese.
Processing:  Julia A. Cowart processed the collection in 2016 and updated the finding aid in 2018.
Summary:  Correspondence, diaries, photographs, travel literature, artifacts, books, clippings, and printed matter documenting the activities of the Rev. Dr. W.H. Tipton Family during their time as Baptist missionaries to China, 1907-1959; Mary Alice Tipton’s trip to Japan, Hong Kong and China in 1988; and the activities of the Hoyt Bible Class, Greenville First Baptist Church 1958-1974.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Acquisition:
The Rev. Dr. W.H. Tipton Family Papers were donated by Edith Hoeing, sister of Mary Alice Hoeing Tipton, on July 1, 2004.

Biographical Sketch:
William Henry Tipton was born in Talbott, Tennessee on December 22, 1875. He graduated from Carson-Newman College in 1900 and after being ordained in 1901 by Mt. Olive Baptist Church, he entered the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and graduated in 1903. Tipton received an Honorary Doctor of Divinity degree in 1934 from Carson-Newman College.

Tipton married Nelle Gray Roberts of Talbott, Tenn. on October 4, 1900. Tipton was pastor at First Baptist Church, Elizabethton, Tenn. in 1903. Tipton left for China in 1904 to be a
missionary through the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, taking his wife and two children. The Tipton’s studied Chinese in Canton, China for six months before transferring to Wuchow.

The Tipton’s had four children: Pauline Roberts (1901-1961), Mary Ruth (1904-1992), William Roswell (1906-1949), and Mildred Louise (— 1907). Nelle Tipton and daughter Mildred died in China in 1907. W.H. Tipton brought the remaining children back to the U.S. to stay in the Margaret Home in Greenville, S.C., opened in 1905 by the Woman’s Missionary Union (WMU) for children of missionaries who were overseas. In 1909, Tipton came back to the U.S. and married his second wife, Mary Greenlee Bryson of Bryson, N.C. The Tipton family returned to China that year. [Henry] Bryson Tipton was born in 1911.

Mary Bryson Tipton taught the Bible in English in a boys’ high school and in 1918 became, in addition, principal of the Wang To Girls’ School. She also worked as a teacher and evangelist to women. In addition to his mission work, W.H. Tipton began working for the China Baptist Publication Society in 1914 publishing Sunday School literature.

W.H. changed from field evangelism work in 1920 to devote his full time to writing and publishing, and after becoming editor, the Tipton’s transferred in 1922 to Canton, the headquarters of the China Baptist Publication Society. Mrs. Tipton taught at Pooi To Academy, edited the Women’s Missionary Union (WMU) literature, and was WMU secretary for South China.

In 1926, the Society’s publishing plant—and, consequently, the Tipton’s—were compelled to move to Shanghai due to communist influence in South China. The Japanese took over control of Shanghai in 1937. Mrs. Tipton continued helping her husband with the publication work, editing Kind Words for five years and translating Beginner, Primary, and Junior Sunday School lessons. She also taught part-time in the North Gate and Shung Tak girls’ schools.

When the U.S. government issued a call for repatriation of all women, children and non-essential men from China in 1940, Mrs. Tipton chose to stay in the field and was evacuated to Manila until February 1941. Tipton returned to China and became a prisoner of war under the Japanese in Shanghai after the outbreak of hostilities between Japan and the U.S. Although he was first allowed to stay in his home, Tipton was later placed in a Japanese concentration camp in Shanghai in February 1943. In September 1943 the Japanese agreed to send Tipton home along with thousands of other civilian prisoners and they arrived in the U.S. on December 1, 1943.

In 1944 the Tipton’s moved to Nashville, Tenn. to work with the Foreign Mission Board’s Schools of Missions program in the States. In 1945 they began work among the Chinese through First Baptist Church, Houston, Texas. The Tipton’s retired to Black Mountain, N.C. in 1946. W.H. Tipton died in 1950 and Mary Tipton died in 1963.

Bryson Tipton married Mary Alice Hoeing in 1938. They lived in Greenville, S.C., operated the Pen Shop in Greenville and were members of First Baptist Church of Greenville. After her
husband’s death in 1982, Mary Alice Tipton continued to live in Greenville. She traveled to China, Hong Kong and Japan in 1988. Mary Alice died on January 31, 2004.

Sources:

USING THE COLLECTION

Access Restrictions: None.

Preferred Citation: [Identification of item], Rev. Dr. W.H. Tipton Family Papers, [Box #, Folder #], Special Collections and Archives, Furman University, Greenville, S.C.

ARRANGEMENT


Each series is arranged by material type.

Series 1: Tipton Family Papers, 1907-1959
- Box 1. Correspondence, 1907-1943 and undated
- Box 2. Diaries, 1910-1950 inclusive
- Box 3. Other Papers, 1931-1950 and undated
- Box 4. Photographs
- Box 5. Artifacts
- Box 6. Books
- Box 7. Oversize, 1932-1935 and undated

Series 2: Mary Alice Tipton travels, 1982-1988
- Box 8. Travel Literature, Trip to Japan, Hong Kong and China, Mary Alice Tipton and Polly Abercrombie
- Box 9. Photographs, Japan, Hong Kong and China Travels, Mary Alice Hoeing Tipton, 1988

Series 3: Hoyt Bible Class Records, 1958-1974
- Box 10. Hoyt Bible Class, Greenville First Baptist Church
SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection spans the years 1873 to 1988, with the bulk of the material concentrated in 1932-1950, 1982-1988. The collection consists of correspondence, diaries, photographs, travel literature, artifacts, books, clippings, and printed matter documenting the activities of the Rev. Dr. W.H. Tipton Family during their time as missionaries to China; Mary Alice Tipton’s trip to Japan, Hong Kong and China in 1988; and the activities of the Hoyt Bible Class, Greenville First Baptist Church.

Within the collection is a variety of material including early photos of the Tipton’s and Mary Alice’s photos of her travels to China and Japan, the Tipton’s’ correspondence, articles written by and about the Tipton’s, books owned by Rev. Dr. and Mrs. W.H. Tipton, and records of the Hoyt Sunday School class.

COLLECTION INVENTORY

Series: Rev. Dr. W.H. Tipton Family

Box 1: Correspondence

- Folder 1. Postcards, 1907, 1911, 1936, and undated
- Folder 2. Tipton, Mary Bryson: Correspondence regarding missionaries interred in China, 1941-1943
- Folder 3. Tipton, W.H.: Correspondence to children, 1940-1941

Box 2: Diaries

- Tipton, Mary Bryson: Dailyaide: The Secret Secretary journal, 1944-1945
- Tipton, W.H.: The Missionaries’ Anglo-Chinese Diary, 1910
- Tipton, W.H. and Mary Bryson Tipton: 1950 Desk Diary [W.H. Tipton until 15 June, Mary Bryson Tipton begins 20 June, he passes June 28]

Box 3: Other Papers

- Folder 2. Tipton, Mary Bryson: Missionary Album, Southern Baptist Convention, 1959
- Folder 3. Tipton, Mary Ruth: Bridal Memories book, documenting the marriage of Mary Ruth Tipton and James Blaine Laughlin at Spartanburg, S.C., 1940.
- Folder 4. Tipton, W.H. and Mary Greenlee Bryson: Biographical Information
Folder 7. Writings, undated

**Box 4: Photographs**
- Folder 1. Glass plate negatives, circa 1907 [possibly Nelle and Mildred Tipton]
- Folder 2. Mission work-related photographs
- Folder 3. Buildings in Canton, China related to Tipton family, undated
- Folder 4. Mary Greenlee Bryson Tipton
- Folder 5. Pauline “Polly” Tipton
- Folder 6. Tipton family
- Folder 7. W.H. Tipton

**Box 5: Artifacts**
1. Currency: Japanese Invasion money, 1942-1943
2. Greeting card and paper-cut artwork
3. Lapel pin – Foreign Mission Board, Southern Baptist Convention
4. Picture frame, oval, bone or ivory
5. Octagonal folding decorative box

**Box 6: Books**
1. *A Pocket Dictionary (Chinese-English) and Pekingese Syllabary* – “Property of W.H. Tipton; Shanghai, China; Jan. 25 1942”
2. Chinese [?] dictionary in green box
4. *Holy Bible* – “Mary Bryson Tipton, 1941”
5. *My Lantern* by Michi Kawai, inscribed to Pauline R. Tipton, daughter of Rev. Dr. and Mrs. W.H. Tipton (first wife, Nelle)
6. *Seeing China Through a Porthole* – Mr. and Mrs. W.H. Tipton; Canton, China
8. *The Student’s Cantonese-English Dictionary* – “Personal Property of W.H. Tipton; Shanghai, China; 1940”

**Box 7: Oversize**
- Folder 1. Charcoal drawing, undated
- Folder 2. Silk fabric mounted on cardboard for framing - Great Wall of China
- Folder 3. Silk fabric mounted on cardboard for framing – coastal scene
- Folder 4. Photo of a group of men (includes W.H. Tipton), undated
- Folder 5. Photo – “at Xn Service, Group of Cantonese in Nauking on July 24, 1932”
Folder 7. Photo of W.H. Tipton with group from Shanghai, dated summer 1934
Folder 8. Photo – “Dedication Nauking Baptist Church, Jan. 1, 1935”
Folder 9. Photo – “Nauking Baptist Church, Dedicated free of debt, Jan. 1, 1935”
Folder 10. Photo – back labeled “Nauking Baptist Church, Dedicated Jan. 1, 1935”
Folder 11. Photo – back labeled “Pastor’s Meeting in front of home in Wuchow, China.”
   [W.H. and Mary B. Tipton in front row, possibly with their children]

Series 2: Mary Alice Hoeing Tipton Trip to Japan, Hong Kong and China, 1988

Box 8: Travel Literature
Folder 1. Maps and articles about China, 1982-1983
Folder 2. Postcards to Mary Alice Tipton, 1982, 1985-1987
Folder 3. Scenic postcards – Beijing, Hangzhou, Nikko Toshogu Shrine, and Todaiji Temple
Folder 4. Travel notes, first dated March 31, 1988
Folder 5. Trip to Japan, Hong Kong, China: Maps, brochures ephemera, April 1988

Box 9: Photographs
Folder 1. Photographs, China, 1988, file 1
Folder 2. Photographs, China, 1988, file 2
Folder 3. Photographs, China, 1988, file 3
Folder 4. Photographs, Japan, 1988
Folder 5. Photographs: Roll #1, Tokyo, 1988
Folder 6. Photographs: Roll #2, Japan, 1988
Folder 7. Photographs: Roll #4, Hong Kong 1988
Folder 8. Photographs: Roll #5, China 1988
Folder 9. Photographs: Roll #6, China 1988
Folder 10. Photographs: Roll #7, China 1988
Folder 11. China/Japan 1988 photos from Mrs. John L. Cotton to Mrs. Mary Tipton

Series 3: Hoyt Bible Class, Greenville First Baptist Church

Box 10:
Hoyt Bible Class materials, kept by treasurers Cassie A. Boozer (Mrs. S.E. Boozer) and Mrs. R. B. Morris
Folder 1. Hoyt Bible Class Deposit Stubs, 1969-1972; Check Stubs, 1966-1974
Folder 2. Hoyt Bible Class correspondence, 1967-1975
Folder 3. Hoyt Bible Class Bank Statements and Treasurer’s Book, 1958-1966
Folder 4. Hoyt Bible Class Bank Statements and Treasurer’s Book 1968-1972
Folder 6. Hoyt Bible Class members, 1968
Folder 7. Hoyt Bible Class name buttons