Guide to the Forman Family Papers

RG 110



Compiled by Martha Lund Smalley

2002, 2010, 2014, 2015

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Yale Divinity Library

409 Prospect Street New Haven, CT 06511 (203) 432-5301

divinity.library@yale.edu

http://web.library.yale.edu/divinity/special-collections

CALL NUMBER: RG 110

CREATOR: Forman, Charles W., 1821-1894

TITLE: Forman Family Papers

DATES: 1808-2015

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 6 linear feet (15 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Letters, writings, notes, and collected material document the life and work

of three generations of the Forman family. Charles William Forman was an American Presbyterian missionary in North India from 1847 to 1894. His son, Henry Forman, served as a missionary in North India from the 1880s to 1924. Charles W. Forman, son of Henry and grandson of Charles William, taught at a seminary in India for five years prior to beginning his career as professor of missions at the Yale Divinity School, where he served from 1953 to his retirement in 1987. An addendum includes information about the Frederick Marsh family, into which Douglas Forman, grandson of Charles William

Forman, married.

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Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box

f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Charles W. Forman

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Preferred Citation

Forman Family Papers (RG 110), Special Collections, Yale Divinity Library.

Biographical / Historical

Charles William Forman was born on March 3, 1821 in Washington, Kentucky. After entering the family business manufacturing hemp, he was converted at a revival meeting when he was twenty years old. He felt burdened for the salvation of slaves on Kentucky plantations and tried to establish a ministry for them, but without success. He attended Centre College in Kentucky and then Princeton Theological Seminary. He was ordained as a Presbyterian minister on July 7, 1847 and on the same day started his journey to India as a missionary under the Presbyterian Foreign Mission Board.

Charles William Forman arrived in India in 1847 and two years later settled in Lahore in north India (now Pakistan). He was the founder of the Rang Mahal School in Lahore, the first Anglo-vernacular school in north India. This school added a college department in 1865, which was later known as Forman Christian College. Forman was very influential in developing the educational system of the Punjab area. He served on nearly every committee on education appointed by the Punjab government during his lifetime. According to the *Biographical Dictionary of Christian Missions*, Forman was theologically conservative, but "favored adaptation of Christianity to Indian custom on matters such as polygamy and he wrote appreciatively of the Sikhs and their founder. He was a friend of all, walking the streets to and from school and talking with the people daily for forty years."

Charles William Forman's first wife was Margaret Newton, with whom he had seven children, including Henry. Following the death of Margaret, Charles married Georgina Lockhart, with whom he had three children, two surviving. Charles' children Henry, John, Charles, Mary, and Emily all became Presbyterian missionaries to India. Charles died on August 27, 1894 in Lahore.

Henry Forman, son of Charles William and Margaret Newton Forman was born in 1860 in Lahore. Following his college education at the College of Wooster in Ohio, he returned to India as a Presbyterian missionary, serving stations in north India from the 1880s through 1918. He was Principal of the Sardars' School in Gwalior from 1921 to 1924, when he retired and returned to Ohio. Henry's first wife was Alice Eliza Bird. Following her death, he married Constance Newton, with whom he had a son, John Newton Forman. Following her death, he married Sarah Taylor on December 30, 1915, and had three children with her: Charles, Mary, and Robert. Henry Forman died in 1946.

John Newton Forman (1863-1917) was a Presbyterian missionary in India and one of the founders of the Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions.

Mary P. Forman (1866-ca.1952) was the head of a Presbyterian girls' school in Uttar Pradesh. Emily Forman (1867-1931) also headed a girls' school in India.

Charles W. Forman, son of Henry and Sarah (Sallie) Taylor Forman, was born in Gwalior, India in 1916. He received his B.A. and M.A. from Ohio State University, a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin, and a B.D. and S.T.M. from Union Theological Seminary in New York. Following his marriage to Helen Janice Mitchell, he went as a Presbyterian missionary to India and taught at North India United Theological College in Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh from 1945 to 1950.

Charles W. Forman was the successor to Kenneth Scott Latourette as professor of missions at Yale Divinity School, serving on the faculty from 1953 until his retirement in 1987. He was Acting Dean of the Divinity School from 1961 to 1963. He was chairman of the Theological Education Fund of the World Council of Churches from 1965 to 1971, chairman of the Commission on Ecumenical Mission and Relations of the

Presbyterian Church from 1965 to 1971, chairman of the Foundation for Theological Education in Southeast Asia from 1970 to 1989. Following his retirement from YDS served as visiting professor at seminaries in Egypt, and in the Pacific.

Charles W. Forman died on November 23, 2014.

The March family represented in the Addendum were relatives of the Formans by marriage. Douglas N. Forman, Sr., son of Charles Forman and grandson of Charles William Forman, married Amy March. Douglas Forman was a medical missionary in India for twenty years and later was executive secretary of the Christian Medical Council for Overseas Work, Division of Foreign Missions of the National Council of Churches.. Frederick William March sailed for Syria as a Presbyterian missionary in October 1873, in company with Henry Harris Jessup, whose papers are held in YDSL Record Group No. 117. March and his wife Jennie served the Syria Mission and were stationed in Syria and Lebanon, including Zahleh [Zahle], Tripoli, and Beirut. March engaged in evangelistic tours and literary/translation work and was principal of the Near East School of Theology from 1921-1927. See his autobiographical writing in Series VIII for more information.

Scope and Contents

This collection provides valuable insight on the life and work of three generations of an American Presbyterian missionary family. These personal papers complement the information found in the archives of the Presbyterian Mission Board found in Film Ms. 11.

Series I, Family Correspondence, is primarily the correspondence of Charles William Forman, dating from 1842 until his death in 1894. Additional early correspondence of to and from Charles Wiliam Forman's parents and siblings provides interesting detail on the family and on life in Kentucky from as early as 1808. The early letters of Charles William Forman are written from Kentucky and Princeton, New Jersey, prior to his going to India in 1847. Letters to his mother and siblings from 1847 to 1884, as well as regular letters to his children from 1878 to 1894, describe his life and work in India. Added in 2011 are several letters of Sarah (Sallie) Taylor Forman, second wife of Henry Forman, written on her voyage to India and from Gwalior.

Series II, General Correspondence, is primarily the non-family correspondence of Charles William Forman, but also includes non-family correspondence of Henry and other family members. The elder Forman's correspondence with Dr. Irving, Dr. Gillespie, and Dr. Lowrie from 1851 to 1886 consists of typed report letters to the Foreign Mission Board detailing the progress of Forman's work in India and issues related to the health and support of his family.

Series III, Research Materials and Notes, includes documentation gathered and notes written by Charles William Forman and Henry Forman about the Presbyterian mission in India and the life of Charles William Forman. The Writings of Henry Forman in Series IV are largely drawn from these materials and include an unpublished biography of Charles William Forman, material related to the mission in Lahore, the Indian Famine Commission, and reconstruction efforts of the North India Mission.

Series V, Personal Items and Memorabilia, includes biographical information related to Charles William and Henry Forman; material related to Charles W., son of Henry and grandson of Charles William, is found in Series VII.

Series VI, Material Related to Forman Christian College, includes booklets and other publications related to the College.

Series VII, Papers of Charles W. Forman (1916-), is divided into six sub-series: Writings, Organizational Activities, Material Related to Communism, Collected Material, Biographical Information, and Slides. The Writings include both published and unpublished articles, papers, drafts, and lectures. The Organizational Activities document Forman's work with the Foundation for Theological Education in Southeast Asia, the Theological Education Fund, COEMAR, and the International Missionary Council. See "Intellectual Trajectories" - the transcript of autobiographical talk given at Henry Koerner Center for Emeritus Faculty at Yale for an overview of Forman's work.

Series VIII is an addendum that includes material related to Charles William Forman, John Newton Forman, Mary P. Forman, and the March family.

Arrangement

- I. Family Correspondence
- II. General Correspondence
- III. Research Materials and Notes
- IV. Writings
- V. Personal Items and Memorabilia
- VI. Material Related to Forman Christian College
- VII. Papers of Charles W. Forman (1916-)
- VIII. Addendum

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b. 1, f. 2	CWF to sister Jane	1856 Aug - 1884 Apr
b. 1, f. 3	CWF to sister Annie	1845 Nov - 1869 Dec
b. 1, f. 4	CWF to brother George	1842 Apr - 1883 Nov
b. 1, f. 5	CWF to other brothers	1853 Jan - 1876 Nov
b. 1, f. 6	CWF to wife Margaret	1877 Jun - 1879 Jun
b. 1, f. 7	CWF to niece Mary	1871 Apr - 1880 Dec
b. 1, f. 8	Margaret Forman (first wife) to Mrs. Ezekiel Forman and niece	1861 Sep - 1870 Mar
b. 1, f. 9-19	CWF to children	1873 Mar - 1894 May, n.d.
b. 1, f. 20	Georgina Forman (second wife) to children	1891 Mar - Jun
b. 1, f. 20a	Miscellaneous letters of family members, incl. Ezekiel Forman (father of CWF) to Joseph Forman, business letters written to George Forman, letters of Whiteman, Tilly, John, Ezekiel Jr., Mary Ann Forman (siblings of CWF) to their mother and other family members	1808-1850
b. 1, f. 20b	Miscellaneous letters of family members, incl. Ezekiel Jr. and Thomas to brother George; from John Newton, Jr. (brother-in-law of CWF) to brother of Charles re. CWF children; to Henry from sister and cousin	1840 Apr – 1845 Jul; 1876; 1907– 1908
b. 13, f. 7-8	Sarah (Sallie) Taylor to Mary Wood Taylor re. voyage to India via Hawaii, Japan, China, Hong Kong, Singapore	1915 Nov-Dec
b. 13, f. 9	Sarah (Sallie) Taylor Forman to Mary Wood Taylor re. her marriage on December 30, 1915, and life in Gwalior There is a photo of several unidentified women enclosed with the letter of 12 March.	1916 Jan-Mar
b. 13, f. 10	Sarah (Sallie) Taylor Forman to Mary Wood Taylor from Paris on way home from India	1924 Oct

Series II: General Correspondence, 1837-1947

b. 2, f. 21-22	CWF to Dr. Irving	1865 Sep - 1880 Dec
b. 2, f. 23	CWF to Dr. Gillespie	1892 Jul - 1894 Jul
b. 2, f. 24-26	CWF to Dr. Lowrie	1851 Mar - 1891 Aug
b. 2, f. 27	CWF to various; Mohamed Abdullah to CWF	1858 - 1894
b. 2, f. 28	Henry Forman to/from various; Eugene Weld to Sarah Taylor Forman following death of Henry, evaluating his role in the work of the North India Mission; Sarah Taylor Forman to Aunt Mary Wood	1917-1947
b. 2, f. 29	John Newton (brother-in-law of CWF) to Walter Lowrie, secretary of Foreign Mission Board and to Dr. Irving, corresponding secretary	1844, 1877-1878
b. 2, f. 30	Georgina Forman to Dr. Gilliespie, incl. re. death of CWF; J. C. Ewing to Dr. Gillespie	1892-1894
b. 2, f. 31	Miscellaneous, incl. E. P. Newton to Lowrie, C. Thiede to Lowrie	1837-1895, n.d.
b. 13, f. 10	Letter from Maharani of Gwalior to Sarah (Sallie) Taylor Forman following the death of the Maharani's husband	1925 Jul

Series III: Research Materials and Notes

b. 2, f. 32	Early missionaries to India (1813-1840), incl. John C. Lowrie and John Newton
b. 2, f. 33	Early difficulties and adjustment, incl. re. native workers, climate, missionary personalities
b. 2, f. 34	Health problems and death in 1840s
b. 2, f. 35	Culture and religion, incl. re. the Hurdwar Mela and Allahabad Mela, 1840s
b. 2, f. 36	Political and historical events, 1837-1840s
b. 2, f. 37	Education, 1837-1840s
b. 2, f. 38	Missionary salaries and finances, 1837-1840s
b. 2, f. 39A	Statistics of religion in India, 1911-1914
b. 2, f. 39B	Relations with English community
b. 2, f. 40	General, incl. excerpts from diary of John C. Rankin, re. compound and village system, 1836-1842
b. 2, f. 41	General, incl. re. A. Rudolph, re. journey to Hurdwar by J. Newton, re. preaching at religious fairs, 1841-1891
b. 2, f. 42	General, incl. "A Short Account of the House Rang Mahal" by A. J. Wilson; Program 1949, n.d. from 100th anniversary of founding of Rang Mahal Mission High School
b. 2, f. 43	Mission to Afghans, 1855-1860s, incl. Loewenthal on Kashmir, Bible in Pushtu
b. 2, f. 44	Mission policy proposals, 1869
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b. 3, f. 61	Re. CWF, incl. re. discussion with leading Maulvi, women's work, compensation grants after mutiny, 1862-1863
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Series IV: Writings

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Series V: Personal Items and Memorabilia, 1847-1947

b. 4, f. 75	Forman family tree; clipping from New Orleans newspaper re. Forman family:"An Historical Family"	1894, n.d.
b. 4, f. 76	Diary of C. W. Forman on his sea voyage to India, 1847-1848 (199 handwritten pages); autobiographical material by CWF, ca. 1891	1847-1848, 1891
b. 4, f. 77	Obituaries and tributes: for CWF, John Newton, Sr., John Newton Forman, Henry Forman	1891, 1894, 1917, 1947
b. 4, f. 78	Memorial booklets for CWF; Resolution for CWF Memorial Fund from native community of the Punjab	1894
b. 4, f. 79	Marriage certificate for Henry and Alice Forman	1889
b. 4, f. 80	Bookmark with verse, blank postcard	n.d.
b. 4, f. 81	Photographs: portrait of CWF; "old tomb on outskirts of Lahore, early home of CWF"; "Synod of the Presbyterian Church meeting at Fatehgarh (1886); Punjab Presbytery (n.d.); North India Mission of Presbyterian Church USA, incl. Henry Forman (ca. 1900); Henry Forman and wife Alice Bird	1886-1900, n.d.
b. 5, f. 82	Bound volume: "Report of the Punjab Missionary Conference held at Lahore in December and January, 1862-1863" (Lodiana: American Presbyterian Mission Press, 1863)	1863

Series VI: Material Related to Forman Christian College, 1854-1964

b. 5, f. 83	Booklet: "The History of the Forman Christian College; Selections from the Records of the College 1869-1936"	1936
b. 5, f. 84	Booklet: "Commemoration Exercises of the Founding of Forman Christian College at the Quarter-Centenary Celebration" (1911); Issue of The Forman Christian College Monthly re. CWF (1921)	1911, 1921
b. 5, f. 84	Booklet: Forman Christian College Founders' Day: Address by Dr. F.M. Velte	1959
b. 5, f. 85	Forman Christian College Notes, "The Anniversary of the Birth-Day of Dr. Forman"	1913
b. 5, f. 86	Forman Christian College Magazine: Pictorial Number	1925 Mar, Apr
b. 5, f. 87	The Folio: F.C.C. Magazine: Jubilee Number	1936
b. 5, f. 88	The Folio: Centenary Number	1964
b. 13, f. 1	Photocopies of original lease and deed of sale of land for Rang Mahal School Rang Mahal School added a college department in 1865 that was later known as Forman Christian College	1854, 1862

Series VII: Papers of Charles W. Forman (1916-), 1947-2011

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b. 12, f. 4	Circular letters from Charles and Janice Forman while serving under Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, including at United Theological Seminary, Saharanpur, U.P., India	1945-1953
b. 12, f. 4	Circular letter from Janice Forman while in Auckland, New Zealand	1967 Mar
b. 12, f. 5	Circular letters from Formans while living in CT	1973-2001
b. 12 , f. 6	Miscellaneous, including letter from DeVerne Reed Smith re. Modekngei movement in Palau, letters from Raymond Arnold, J. T. Hardyman	1961, 1979
b. 12, f. 6	Circular letter written by Rev. E. Y. Campbell, American Presbyterian Mission , Jullundur City, East Punjab, India re. visit to villages of Jullundur District	1948 Sep
b. 12, f. 6a	Correspondence with Tougaloo College while Forman was chair of YDS Development Committee	1975–1976
F	Published writings	
b. 5, f. 89	Bibliography of published writings	
b. 5a, f. 89a	Abandon Missions to Moslems? The Christian Century, 4 Feb 1949, pp. 128-130.	1949
b. 5a, f. 89a	Afraid of Evangelism, First United Presbyterian Church Newsletter.	n.d.
b. 5a, f. 89a	The Berlin Battleground, Christian Century, 24 Dec 1952, pp. 1499-1501.	1952
b. 5a, f. 89a	The Challenge to Christian Exclusiveness, Religion in Life, 27/3, Summer 1958, pp. 352-361.	1958
b. 5a, f. 89a	Chiefly Because of Our Faith in God: A Tribute to Kenneth Scott Latourette, 1884-1968, Foundations, 12/3, Jul-Sep 1969, pp. 208-212.	1969
b. 5a, f. 89a	The Christian Confronts the Communist, Crossroads, 4/4, 1954, pp. 39-49.	1954
b. 5a, f. 89a	Christian Missions in the Ancient World, Propaganda and Communication in World History, Vol. I, 1979, pp. 330-347.	1979
b. 5a, f. 89a	Christianity and Communism, Crisis strategy - Paper Number Two.	n.d.
b. 5a, f. 89a	Christianity in the Pacific Islands. Encyclopedia of Religion, Mercea Eliode, ed. pp.1-9.	n.d.
b. 5a, f. 89a	The Church and Castro's Cuba, Signs and Times of the Yale Divinity School, I/6, 9 Dec 1960, pp. 2-4.	1960
b. 5a, f. 89a	The Church in Areas of Social Revolution, Yale Divinity News, 59/1, Nov 1961, pp. 3-8.	1961
b. 5a, f. 89a	The Church Under the Cross, The Christian Century, 13 Aug 1952, pp. 923-924.	1952
b. 5a, f. 89a	Crisis in Egypt, Reflection, Jan 1984, pp. 6-9.	1984

Published writings (continued)

b. 5a, f. 89b	The Difficulty of Understanding Church Growth in Madagascar, Exploring Church Growth, 1983, pp. 3-11.	1983
b. 5a, f. 89b	An Ecumenist's Reply, Missiology: An International Review, Jan. 1981, pp. 77-79.	
b. 5a, f. 89b	The Essential Service of the Church, Yale Divinity News, 62/2, Jan 1965, pp. 3-5.	1965
b. 5a, f. 89b	The Evangel in To-day's World, Canadian Council of Churches, 19-20 Feb, 1959, 23 pp.	1959
b. 5a, f. 89b	Evangelization and CivilizationII. The Americans, International Bulletin, $6/2$, pp. 54-56.	n.d.
b. 5a , f. 89b	Excerpts from the 1992 Convocation Dinner Address. YDS in the 1960s. Spectrum. A Report to Graduates and Friends of Yale Divinity School, October 1992, pp.34-35.	1992
b. 5a, f. 89b	A Faith for the Nations (Korean Translation), 1962, 136 pp.	1962
b. 5a, f. 89b	Finding Our Own Voice: The Reinterpreting of Christianity by Oceanian Theologians, International Bulletin of Missionary Research, July 2005, pp. 115-122	2005
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	b. 5b, f. 90b	The Ecumenical Era in Missions (Manuscript), c. 1980.	1980
	b. 5b , f. 90b		1959 Feb

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b. 13, f. 11	An Experiment in Inner-City Living	n.d.
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b. 5b, f. 90b	An Historical Case Study: Polarization in Mission (Manuscript), 11 pp., annotated.	n.d.
b. 5b, f. 90b	The impact of Western culture on Asia and Africa: Study Fellowship lecture	1957
b. 5b, f. 90b	"Intellectual Trajectories" - transcript of autobiographical talk given at Henry Koerner Center for Emeritus Faculty at Yale	2006 Mar 27
b. 5b, f. 90c	Marxist Image of Man (Manuscript), 14 pp.	n.d.
b. 13, f. 11	A Memoir of the Partition	n.d.
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b. 5b, f. 90c	The Missionary Message Today (Manuscript), 14 pp.	ca. 1975
b. 5b, f. 90c	The New Situation: The Mission Since 1945 (Manuscript), 1978.	1978
b. 5b, f. 90c	"Other Gods", Summary of lectures on, 1955(?), 3 pp.	ca. 1955
b. 5b, f. 90	Religion, Mr. Toynbee, and the Study of History (Manuscript), 1958.	1958
b. 5b, f. 90	Religious Knowledge Among the Christians of Oceania (Manuscript) for ASAO meeting, Feb 1978, 18 pp. with bibliography.	1978
b. 5b, f. 90	The Role of Mission Studies in Theological Education (Manuscript) ca. 1970, 24 pp.	ca. 1970
b. 12, f. 3	The Study of Pacific Island Christianity. Achievements, Resources, Needs	n.d.
b. 12, f. 3	Theological Education in the South Pacific Islands: Report of a Study Team	1984
b. 5b, f. 90e	Tomorrow's Missiology, (Manuscript), 15 pp.	
b. 5b, f. 90f-g	Town and Gown, a report submitted to the India Council of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, 96 pp. (STM thesis)	1947
b. 5b, f. 90h	The Travail of Religious Liberty (Manuscript), 1980, 21 pp.	1980
b. 5b, f. 90h	What Has Become of Foreign Missions? (Manuscript), 1955, 6 pp.	1955
b. 13, f. 12	Miscellaneous notes on missions from Asian and African churches	n.d.
b. 8, f. 124	Forman Committee Report re. improvements in Yale / New Haven relations, from Yale Bulletin	1978 Feb
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Douglas and Amy March Forman family

Douglas N. Forman, Sr.

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Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Communism and Christianity
Education -- India
Missionaries
Missions -- India
Presbyterian Church -- Missions -- India

Names

Forman, Charles W., 1821-1894 Forman, Charles W., 1821-1894 Forman, Henry, -1946

Corporate Bodies

Forman Christian College (Lahore, Pakistan) Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. North India Mission Yale University -- Faculty

Contributors

Forman, Charles W., 1821-1894 Forman, Henry, -1946