

Yale University Library
Yale Divinity Library

Guide to the George and Mary Schlosser Papers

RG 19



Compiled by Dineen Dowling and Martha Lund Smalley

1989

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Collection Overview

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

CALL NUMBER: RG 19

CREATOR: Schlosser, George, 1875-1936

TITLE: George and Mary Schlosser papers

DATES: 1901-1988

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 5 linear feet (13 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The papers document the work of the conservative Free Methodist Church in central China. Both George and Mary Schlosser was active in evangelistic work in the countryside and came in close contact with the Chinese people. Famine relief work, societal routine, and the disruption of Chinese society during the period 1908 to 1949 are documented. George and Mary Ogren Schlosser were missionaries under the Free Methodist Church Foreign Missionary Board. Stationed primarily in Henan (Honan) Province, George served from 1908 until his death in 1936. Mary served from 1909 to 1936, and then returned to China from 1939 to 1940 and 1946 to 1949. In the years between her missionary work she was a pastor in North Dakota and South Dakota.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.019>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.019>.

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

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Frances Schlosser Scherer.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Preferred Citation

George and Mary Schlosser Papers (RG 19), Special Collections, Yale Divinity School Library.

Processing Information

Place names were modernized in the description, with the name originally used in the collection material or in an older version of the finding aid in parenthesis: e.g. "Beijing (Peking)" or "Benin (Dahomey)".

Biographical / Historical

Date	Event
1875	○ George Donald Schlosser born in Clinton County, Missouri, son of John and Drusilla Schlosser
1885	○ Maria Christina (Mary) Ogren born in Jamestown, New York, daughter of J. Peter and Anna Maria Ogren
1896-1898	○ George Schlosser attended South Dakota Agricultural College.
1898-1899	○ George Schlosser joined First South Dakota Infantry of U.S. Volunteers and saw action in the Philippines.
1905 January	○ George Schlosser entered Greenville College, a Free Methodist college in Greenville, Illinois.
1905 September	○ Mary Ogren entered Greenville College, joined Student Volunteer Band, met George Schlosser who was Band's leader.
1906 November	○ George Schlosser left Greenville to serve in South Africa under the Foreign Missionary Board of the Free Methodist Church.
1907	○ George Schlosser and Mary Ogren engaged
1907 fall	○ George Schlosser received permission to switch his field from Africa to China, his first choice and Mary Ogren's strong preference.
1908 March	○ George Schlosser arrived in China, took responsibility for an orphanage in Qingjiangpu (Tsing Kiang P'u), Jiangsu (Kiangsu) Province. Orphanage was financed by <i>Christian Herald</i> magazine.
1909	○ Mary Ogren graduated from Greenville College.
1909 December-1911 January	○ Mary Ogren stationed in Chengchow for language study.
1911 January 13	○ George Schlosser and Mary Ogren married. Children: Frances, Mary Winifred, John, Anabel. Frances later served as a nurse for Yale-in-China.

Date	Event
1911	○ Civil war forced evacuation of missionaries to Shanghai; George Schlosser returned to Qingjiangpu (Tsing Kiang P'u) for famine relief work.
1914-1918	○ Schlossers stationed in Kaifeng and Kih sien, Henan (Honan) Province; Mary was active in evangelistic work among women while George had administrative as well as evangelistic duties.
1918-1919	○ Furlough in U.S.
1919-1927	○ Stationed in Kih sien, summers spent in Jigongshan (Chikungshan)
1927-1928	○ Furlough in U.S.
1928-1936	○ Stationed in Kih sien for one year, then in Jungtseh, Henan (Honan) Province
1936 December 9	○ George Schlosser died in St. Louis, Missouri, while family was on furlough.
1939-1940	○ Mary Schlosser in China for one year before disruption of war caused her return to U.S.
1942-1944	○ Mary Schlosser served as pastor of Free Methodist Church in Valley City, North Dakota.
1946-1949	○ Mary Schlosser returned to China, stationed first in Kaifeng and then in Chongqing (Chungking).
1951-1952	○ Mary Schlosser served as pastor of church in Brookings, South Dakota.
1955 April 18	○ Mary Schlosser died in Kansas.

For additional biographical information see: *George and Mary Schlosser: Ambassadors for Christ* in China by Frances Schlosser Scherer

Scope and Contents

The Schlosser Papers are a valuable addition to the China Records Project collections at the Yale Divinity School Library from a number of standpoints. Their documentation of the work of the conservative American Free Methodist denomination in central China is a useful balance to documentation in other records of more mainline, liberal, and educational work. (Widespread mainline encouragement of medical work in China, for example, is countered by George Schlosser's statement: "The medical work in China, unless it can be a means toward soul saving is in no sense a blessing as I see it, but may even be a curse" Letter to Winifred, 1934 Nov 22) The Schlosser Papers provide useful insight into the dynamics of a missionary family, demonstrating the intimacy and the strains fostered by their chosen lifestyle. The documentation of Mary Schlosser's intensive involvement in evangelistic work provides interesting comparison with other missionary wives who were more exclusively involved with their nuclear family and household responsibilities. Finally, detailed descriptions in the letters and diaries of this manuscript group supplement the body of documentation available at Yale regarding famine relief work, societal routine, and disruption in China during the period 1908 to 1949 and the daily routines of missionary life. Because they did not live on a college campus or in a mission compound, the Schlossers came in closer touch with the common Chinese people than did most Westerners in China. Vivid descriptions of rats, centipedes, and mosquitoes, of idol worship, the night sounds of a Chinese village, dramatic encounters with soldiers, and the suspense of parents separated from their children during a chaotic period of Chinese history enable one to visualize the context in which the Schlossers strove to present the Gospel. ((Letter of Mary to Frances and Winifred, 1934 Mar 4; Letter of George to Mary, 1908 Dec 13.)

Series I is divided into Family Correspondence and General Correspondence. Family Correspondence forms the bulk of the series and consists primarily of letters exchanged between George and Mary

Schlosser during the period 1906 to 1912 and letters to and from their children during the period 1929 to 1954. Personal or family news is interspersed with descriptions of events and activities. Interesting documentation of the children's life at boarding school and summer vacations in Jigongshan (Chikungshan) is available. The family letters are candid regarding discouragements and discomforts suffered by the Schlossers and also give good indication of the strong spiritual basis of their work. The General Correspondence section includes letters to and from the siblings of George and Mary, as well as letters exchanged with colleagues in China and with the Free Methodist Missionary Board. Substantive report letters written by George and Mary for circulation among members of their denomination are in Series III, WRITINGS. Additional correspondence of the Schlossers' daughter Frances Schlosser Scherer is available in the records of the Yale-China Association held at Sterling Memorial Library.

Series II, DIARIES, consists of seven volumes of the five-year variety, covering the periods 1912-1935 and 1950-1952, and one journal dated 1944. Six of the seven volumes were used primarily by Mary Schlosser. The entries are brief and factual, with little introspection. The diaries provide valuable documentation of the everyday routines of the Schlossers' work, particularly for the 1913 to 1930 period not covered by family correspondence.

The WRITINGS of Series III include report letters and articles written by the Schlossers for publication in denominational periodicals. Two issues of the *Praise and Prayer* magazine published by the American Free Methodist Mission in China provide an overview of the Mission's work, setting the context for the Schlossers' activities. Minutes of the Free Methodist China Annual Mission Conference for 1934, found in Series IV, supplement the denominational documentation of Series III. Frances Schlosser Scherer's *To Be A Pilgrim*, 1988, describes her work with Yale-in-China. Also of interest in Series III is an unpublished, undated account by George Schlosser of his conversion experience.

Series IV, PERSONAL ITEMS AND MEMORABILIA, includes biographical information about the Schlossers, five folders of photographs of George and Mary Schlosser, the family, and mission life in China, and other items collected by the Schlossers.

Arrangement

- I. Correspondence, 1906-1951, n.d.
- II. Diaries, 1912-1952
- III. Writings, 1908-1988, n.d.
- IV. Personal Items and Memorabilia, 1906-1935, n.d.

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence, 1906-1951, n.d

The Series is divided into two sections:

1. Family correspondence is arranged chronologically, with letters to and from George, Mary, and their four children interfiled in one sequence.
2. General Correspondence is arranged alphabetically by the name of the sender or recipient other than the Schlossers. There are two separate alphabetical sequences in the General Correspondence sections because letters were received after the initial processing had been completed.

Family correspondence		
b. 1, f. 1	Family Correspondence	1906 Nov-Dec
b. 1, f. 2-9	Family Correspondence	1907
b. 1, f. 10-17	Family Correspondence	1908
b. 9, f. 135-142	Family Correspondence	1909
b. 1, f. 18-22	Family Correspondence	1910 Jan- May 13
b. 2, f. 23-35	Family Correspondence	1910 May 16- Dec
b. 2, f. 36	Family Correspondence	1911 Jan, Nov
b. 2, f. 37-38	Family Correspondence	1912
b. 3, f. 39	Family Correspondence	1929-1930
b. 9, f. 143	Family Correspondence	1931 May-Sep
b. 3, f. 40	Family Correspondence	1931 Oct- Dec
b. 3, f. 41-48	Family Correspondence	1932
b. 3, f. 49-58	Family Correspondence	1933
b. 3, f. 59-63	Family Correspondence	1934 Jan- Apr
b. 4, f. 64-69	Family Correspondence	1934 May- Dec
b. 4, f. 70-80	Family Correspondence	1935
b. 4, f. 81-84	Family Correspondence	1936
b. 5, f. 85-89	Family Correspondence	1937
b. 5, f. 96-98	Family Correspondence	1938
b. 9, f. 144-148	Family Correspondence	1940 Jan- Jul
b. 10, f. 149-153	Family Correspondence	1940 Jul- Dec

Family correspondence (continued)

b. 10, f. 154-160	Family Correspondence	1941
b. 10, f. 161-163	Family Correspondence	1942 Feb-Oct
b. 11, f. 164	Family Correspondence	1942 Feb-Oct
b. 11, f. 165-167	Family Correspondence	1942 Nov-Dec
b. 11, f. 165-167	Family Correspondence	1943
b. 11, f. 168-169	Family Correspondence	1944
b. 11, f. 170	Family Correspondence	1945-1946
b. 11, f. 171	Family Correspondence	1947
b. 11, f. 172	Family Correspondence	1948-1949
b. 11, f. 173	Family Correspondence	1950-1952
b. 11, f. 174-177	Family Correspondence	1953
b. 11, f. 178-179	Family Correspondence	1954 Jan-Mar
b. 12, f. 180-185	Family Correspondence	1954 Apr-Nov
b. 12, f. 186	Family Correspondence	1973
b. 12, f. 187-189	Family Correspondence	n.d.
General correspondence - 1st sequence		
b. 6, f. 99	Anderson, Palmer	1934
b. 6, f. 99	Chandler, Leticia	1934
b. 6, f. 99	Cook, Mabel	1928-1934
b. 6, f. 100	Easterling	1932
b. 6, f. 100	Edwards, Maud	1932
b. 6, f. 101	Free Methodist Church of North America General Missionary Board	1906-1935
b. 6, f. 102	Gaddis, Myrtle	1929
b. 6, f. 102	Gaudin, Lydia Ogren	1933,1940,1942,1948,1949 n.d.
b. 6, f. 102	Green, Lydia	1935, 1954
b. 6, f. 103	Jones, Edith	1911,1933,1938, n.d.
b. 6, f. 103	Jones, Lora	1935(?)
b. 6, f. 104	Kinney, Elva	1937
b. 6, f. 104	Kline, Carrie and George	1938,n.d.

General correspondence - 1st sequence (continued)

b. 6, f. 105	Murray(?), Florence	1941, 1959
b. 6, f. 105	Nord, Charles	1938
b. 6, f. 105	Nord, Esther Ogren	1911,1933,1938,n.d.
b. 6, f. 106	Nord, Rose Ogren	1938
b. 6, f. 106	Peterson(?), Mattie	1929
b. 6, f. 106	Robinson, M. M.	1906
b. 6, f. 106	Sayre, Geneva	1939, 1950
b. 6, f. 107	Schaffer, P. D.	1939
b. 6, f. 107	Schlosser(?), Martha (sister of George)	1908
b. 6, f. 107	Schlosser, John (brother of George)	1912
b. 6, f. 108	Silva, E. L.	1934
b. 6, f. 108	Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Carroll	1911
b. 6, f. 108	Stoll, Marian and ?	1919,1932,1933
b. 6, f. 109	Wilson, Laura	1955
b. 6, f. 109	Winslow, Carolyn	1935
b. 6, f. 110	Unidentified and first names only	1934-1954,n.d.

General correspondence - 2nd sequence

b. 12, f. 190	Archer, Bessie	1955
b. 12, f. 190	Ashcraft, E.P.	1941
b. 12, f. 190	Backenstoos	1909
b. 12, f. 190	Biblical Seminary in N.Y.	1954
b. 12, f. 191	DeWese, Sister	1929
b. 12, f. 191	Gage, Fred	1965
b. 12, f. 191	General Missionary Board	1947-1951
b. 12, f. 192	Greenville College	1943
b. 12, f. 192	Grinnell, Maud	1953
b. 12, f. 192	Grinnell, Mildred	1941
b. 12, f. 192	Kuhn, Dr.	1951
b. 12, f. 192	Liaw, Ernst	1949
b. 12, f. 193	Miller, Sister	1941

General correspondence - 2nd sequence (continued)

b. 12, f. 193	Myers, DeWitt E.	1944
b. 12, f. 193	Nord, Esther Ogren	1948,1949,1953
b. 13, f. 194-195	Nord, Rose Ogren	1941-1954
b. 13, f. 196	Ogren,? (Mary's mother?)	1915
b. 13, f. 196	Reed, Nellie	1909
b. 13, f. 196	Religious News Services	1950
b. 13, f. 196	Schlosser, Katherine	1941
b. 13, f. 197	Schlosser, Ruby Tosh	1940,1942,1944,1946
b. 13, f. 198	Tao Koh	n.d.
b. 13, f. 198	Veterans Administration	1944
b. 13, f. 198	The White House	1953
b. 13, f. 198	Wiebe, Rachel	1940
b. 13, f. 198	Young People's Missionary Society	1954

Series II: Diaries, 1912-1952

The diaries are arranged chronologically. One volume belonging to George Schlosser (1924-1928) overlaps with the sequence of volumes kept by Mary Schlosser.

b. 7, f. 111	Mary Schlosser	1912-1921
b. 7, f. 112	Mary Schlosser and George Schlosser	1921-1928
b. 7, f. 113	Mary Schlosser	1926-1935
b. 7, f. 114	Mary Schlosser	1944-1952

Series III: Writings, 1908-1988, n.d.

The Series is divided into four sections and arranged chronologically within each:

Writings of George D. Schlosser
 Writings of Mary Ogren Schlosser
 Writings of Frances Schlosser
 Miscellaneous

Writings of George D. Schlosser		
b. 7, f. 115	Circular letter published in <i>The Free Methodist</i>	1908 Apr 1
b. 7, f. 116	Circular letter	1909 Apr 16
b. 7, f. 117	"Exceeding Abundantly Above All We Ask or Think"	n.d.
b. 7, f. 117	Account of conversion experience	n.d.
b. 7, f. 117	Notes	1944, n.d.
Writings of Mary Ogren Schlosser		
b. 7, f. 118	"Kih sien in War Time" - published in <i>Missionary Tidings</i>	1922 Aug
b. 7, f. 118	Fragment	c.1920s
b. 7, f. 119	"Victory in China"	1933 Jun
b. 7, f. 119	"Grandma Koh"	1934 Jan
b. 7, f. 119	Circular letters	1934, 1945-1950
b. 7, f. 119	"That Your Joy May Be Full"	
b. 7, f. 119	Notes	n.d.
Writings of Frances Schlosser Scherer		
b. 8, f. 120	"Be a Missionary Society"	1935 Jan
b. 8, f. 120	<i>To Be A Pilgrim</i>	1988
b. 8, f. 120	Circular letters written from Japan	1953, 1955
Miscellaneous		
b. 8, f. 121	Articles by Bessie C. Reid and James H. Taylor	1935 Jun
b. 8, f. 122	<i>Praise and Prayer</i> , Vol. II, No. 1: including articles by George and Mary Schlosser	1935 Aug
b. 8, f. 123	<i>Praise and Prayer</i> , Vol. II, No. 3 (incl. memorial of George Schlosser and article by Frances Schlosser)	1937 Aug
b. 8, f. 124	Newspaper article on Frances Schlosser	1948 Mar
b. 8, f. 124	<i>Missionary Tidings</i> , vol. 59, No. 7 (incl. memorial of Mary Schlosser)	1955 Jul
b. 8, f. 124	"I Know Who Holds Tomorrow" (memorial of Lora Jean Schlosser)	1966

Series IV: Personal items and memorabilia, 1906-1935, n.d.

Biographical and collected material		
b. 8, f. 125	Biographical information re. George and Mary Schlosser	1906-1949, n.d.
b. 8, f. 126	Family notes, memorabilia	1906, 1935, 1955, n.d.
b. 8, f. 127	Miscellaneous poems, quotations, hymns, programs, tracts	n.d.
b. 8, f. 128	Minutes of China Annual Mission Conference, Sixth Session	1934 Apr
b. 8, f. 129	Chinese language material	n.d.
b. 8, f. 129	List of addresses	n.d.
b. 8, f. 129	Financial records	1950-1951
Photographs		
b. 8, f. 130	George D. Schlosser	1901, 1906, 1930, n.d.
b. 8, f. 130	Mary Ogren Schlosser	1903, 1908, 1930, 1941
b. 8, f. 131	George and Mary Schlosser	1911, 1935
b. 8, f. 132	Family (incl. wedding of James Scherer and Frances Schlosser)	1923-1949
b. 8, f. 133	Mission life: Kih sien	1914, 1930
b. 8, f. 133	Mission life: Kikungshan, Henan (Honan)	1925, 1930, 1932, undated
b. 8, f. 133	Mission life: Kaifeng	1929, 1933
b. 8, f. 133	Mission life: Chenjchou, Henan (Honan)	1933
b. 8, f. 133	Mission life: Chongqing (Chungking)	1949
b. 8, f. 134	Missions/Traveling in China	1920, n.d.
b. 8, f. 134	Photocopied photographs	1923-1948, n.d.

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

Disaster relief -- China
Missionaries
Missions
Missions -- China
Social service -- China

Names

Schlosser, George, 1875-1936
Schlosser, Mary, 1885-1955

Corporate Body

Free Methodist Church of North America