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Yale Divinity Library

Guide to the Paul and Frieda Taylor Family Papers

RG 227



Martha Lund Smalley

2010, 2014, 2019

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Yale Divinity Library
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New Haven, CT 06511
(203) 432-5301
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<http://web.library.yale.edu/divinity/special-collections>

CALL NUMBER: RG 227

CREATOR: Taylor, Paul Vivian

TITLE: Paul and Frieda Taylor Family Papers

DATES: 1921-2015

BULK DATES: 1924-1950

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 4 linear feet (9 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Correspondence, writings, and collected material document the life and work of educational missionaries Paul and Frieda Taylor and their family, who served at Huachung University in central China. From 1924 to 1927 Paul V. Taylor taught philosophy and English at Huping College, Yueyang (Yochow) [now Yueyang], Hunan province. After a period in the U.S., Taylor served as professor and Dean of the School of Education and later Dean of the Faculty at Huachung University (Central China College) in Wuchang between 1929 and 1950. Frieda Taylor was a musician who taught at Huachung and was mother to the couple's three children; the family was often separated due to health reasons and political unrest.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.227>

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.227>.

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

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Jane Taylor Slabaugh, 2010, 2014

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Preferred Citation

Paul and Frieda Taylor Family Papers (RG 227), 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

Paul Vivian Taylor

- 1892 September 30 ○ Paul Vivian Taylor was born in Reamstown, PA, son of Rev. and Mrs. Harry M. and Amelia Taylor
- 1914 ○ B.A. from Muhlenberg College
- 1914-1917, 1927 ○ Graduate student in Education at University of Pennsylvania
- 1914-1918 ○ Taught Greek and Chemistry at Schuylkill Seminar (Albright College); met and married Frieda Fuehrer
- 1917 ○ Ordained in the Evangelical Church, Allentown, PA
- 1918-1921 ○ Taught mathematics at high schools in PA
- 1920s ○ Pastor at Pennsylvania Evangelical and Reformed churches, including Lancaster
- 1924-1927 ○ Sent to China as a missionary of the Evangelical and Reformed Church. Taught philosophy and English at Huping College, Yueyang (Yochow), China
- 1929 ○ Ph.D. from Hartford Seminary; Dissertation: "A Philosophy of Values in Christian Education"
- 1929-1950 ○ Taught Philosophy of Education, Psychology at Huachung University (Central China College), Wuchang; Dean of School of Education (1929-1932), Dean of Faculty (1930-1950)
- 1936-1937 ○ On furlough in the U.S.; family remained in U.S. when Paul returned to China.
- 1938-1944 ○ Son Edouard, a graduate of Franklin and Marshall College, worked with his father at Huachung and taught at an Evangelical and Reformed mission school in Yuanling. Edouard spent 1945 working in India before returning to the U.S.
- 1938-1946 ○ Due to war conditions in China, Huachung University moved to Guilin (Kweilin), Paul led the college on its trek of 1500 miles and traveled to Hanoi and Myanmar (Burma) for supplies. After furlough in the U.S. spent time in India and served as chaplain to U.S. forces and in relief work, before the University resumed operation in Wuchang in 1946.

Paul Vivian Taylor

- 1942 ○ Doctor of Divinity degree received from Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, PA
- 1950 ○ After spending six months in China following the Communist takeover, returned to the U.S.
- 1951-1962 ○ Pastor at Zion Church, Frostburg, MD
- 1976 ○ Died

Frieda Fuehrer Taylor

- 1895 ○ FFT was born in Hazelton, PA
- 1917 ○ Graduated from the music department of Schuylkill Seminary, Reading, PA; met and married PVT
- 1924 ○ Taylors left for China with their two young children, Eduoard and Jane
- 1927 ○ Political unrest in China caused their return to Hartford, CT where PVT studied and their third child, Nancy, was born.
- 1929 ○ Returned to China and headed the music department at Huachung University; performed in many concerts for the college and community.
- 1930s ○ After their furlough, FFT remained in the U.S. due to the health of their daughter Nancy and war restrictions
- 1948 ○ Returned to China; became seriously ill in 1949
- 1950 ○ Returned to the U.S.
- 1957 ○ Divorced from Paul V. Taylor and later married Ralph Alexander.
- 1967 November 25 ○ Died in Wyncote, PA

Scope and Contents

This collection provides valuable documentation of the development and operations of Huachung University (Central China College) during a tumultuous time in China. Paul V. Taylor's work as Dean of the Faculty carried responsibility for the administration of internal affairs of the college, including the organization and direction of the curricula of its three schools, Arts, Science, and Education. According to a note left by Taylor, the curricula he worked out with Huachung President Francis C. M. Wei were adopted as standards for the whole of China.

Paul V. Taylor played an important role in the life of Huachung University. In 1922 it was proposed that a "Central China University" be organized, possibly located in Wuchang. The schools to be joined in this proposed university were the British Methodists' Wesley College in Wuchang, the London Missionary Society's Griffith John School in Hankou (Hankow), the Reformed Church in America's Lakeside College in Yueyang (Yochow), the Yale-in-China, or Yali, institution in Changsha, and the American Episcopal Boone University in Wuchang. Due to conflicting opinions about an appropriate site for the union institution and a great deal of political unrest and upheaval in Central China, it was several years before a stable Central China (or Huachung) University actually came into being. Huachung operated from 1924 to 1927 but then was closed for two years because of student unrest and political events. In 1929, the school reconstituted itself on the western part of the Boone compound in Wuchang. During 1937 many people were moving through Wuhan, headed west in advance of the Japanese occupation. The school managed to complete

the 1937 academic year, despite some bombings of Wuhan but by June 1938 it was evident that Huachung would be forced to relocate. Equipment, books, and office records were packed up and shipped by river to Hengyang, and then by train and truck to Kweilin, where Huachung opened its academic year in September 1938. Kweilin was increasingly the target of Japanese bombing however, so Huachung had to move again, first to Kunming, and finally to Hsichow. Hsichow, a small country village twelve miles north of Tali on the Erh Hai Lake, was the home of the wealthy Yen and Tung families. A group of three temples outside the village became Huachung's campus from 1939 to 1946. When Huachung returned to Wuchang in 1946, it found many of its buildings in need of rehabilitation. Plans again were made to expand the campus and the decision of the American Episcopal Mission to erect a new plant for its Boone School outside the city meant that there would be more room on the original campus. Just as Huachung seemed to have cause for optimism, political upheaval hit again, with the Communist occupation of Wuhan in May 1949. The last Western faculty members left Huachung two years later, in June 1951. Additional records related to Huachung University can be found in YDSL Record Group No. 11, Archives of the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia.

Most of the early family correspondence is from Frieda Taylor to her family in the U.S. From 1937, letters are primarily from Paul to Frieda, who remained in the U.S. after their furlough. The collection is of interest for the light it shines on the dynamics of missionary family life, especially under the disrupted political situation in China. Frieda was an accomplished musician and served as head of the music department at Huachung for a time, but was separated from her husband due to health and war conditions for many years.

Additional Paul and Frieda Taylor papers are available at the Philip Schaff Library of Lancaster Theological Seminary.

Some materials related to the Kuling American School and Kuling American School Association that were received with this collection have been transferred to the Kuling American School archives in YDSL Record Group No. 209. The Taylor children attended Kuling American School.

Arrangement

- I. Correspondence, 1921-1999, n.d.
- II. Writings and Notes, 1924-1960, n.d.
- III. Biographical Documentation, 1922-1968
- IV. Collected Material, 1924-1962, n.d.
- V. Photographs
- VI. Addendum, 2014

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence, 1921-1999

Family correspondence

b. 1, f. 1	Paul to Frieda; Frieda ("Fritz") to her family in the U.S. enroute to China	1921, 1924 Sep
b. 1, f. 2	Frieda to her family re. getting settled , Chinese lessons	1924 Oct-Dec
b. 1, f. 3	Frieda to her family, including re: daily life at Huping College, Yueyang (Yochow)	1925 January-April
b. 1, f. 4	Frieda to her family, including re: student strike, travel to Guling (Kuling) for summer	1925 May-November
b. 1, f. 5	Frieda to her family, including re. period in Nanking for language study	1926 Jan-Jul
b. 1, f. 6	Frieda to her family, including re: Guling (Kuling) for summer, Yueyang (Yochow)	1926 August-December
b. 1, f. 7	Frieda to her family, including re. period in Shanghai for safety, Nanking	1927 Jan-Oct
b. 1, f. 8	Frieda to her family, including re. period in Hartford where Paul was studying and return to Wuchang	1929 Jan-Oct
b. 1, f. 9	Frieda to her family from Wuchang	1929 Nov-Dec
b. 1, f. 10	Frieda to her family, including re. teaching piano in Wuchang	1930 Jan-May
b. 1, f. 11	Frieda to her family from Wuchang, Guling (Kuling), Shanghai	1930 June-December
b. 1, f. 12	Frieda to her family from Wuchang	1931 Jan-Jun
b. 1, f. 13	Frieda to her family from Guling (Kuling)	1931 July-October
b. 1, f. 14-15	Frieda to her family, including re. life in Wuchang, children's illnesses	1932
b. 1, f. 16	Frieda to her family, including re: Ed and Jane at school in Guling (Kuling), Frieda and Nancy unwell	1933 February-June
b. 1, f. 17	Frieda to her family from Guling (Kuling) and Wuchang, including re: piano concerts	1933 July-December
b. 1, f. 18-19	Frieda to her family from Wuchang and Guling (Kuling)	1934
b. 2, f. 20	Frieda to her family, including re. teaching in Wuchang, children's activities	1935 Jan-Apr
b. 2, f. 21	Frieda to her family, from Kikungshan for summer, Wuchang; Nancy unwell	1935 Jul-Dec
b. 2, f. 22	Frieda to her family from Wuchang, including re. preparations for furlough	1936 Jan-Mar
b. 2, f. 23	Frieda to her family; Frieda and girls leave for U.S.; Paul to follow.	1936 Apr-Dec
b. 2, f. 24	Frieda to her family from Lancaster, PA; Nancy hospitalized; Paul returns to China, Japan	1937 Jan-Sep

Family correspondence (continued)

b. 2, f. 25	Paul to Frieda from Wuchang, including re. war situation	1937 Oct-Dec
b. 2, f. 26	Paul to Frieda from Wuchang, including re. air raids	1938 Jan-Feb
b. 2, f. 27	Paul to Frieda, Jane from Wuchang; including re: baby nursery in home, preparations to move college to Guilin (Kweilin)	1938 March-June
b. 2, f. 28	Paul to Frieda from Hong Kong, including re: Paul's illness while traveling, hospitalization, move of college to Guilin (Kweilin), Edouard's return to China	1938 July-December
b. 2, f. 29, 29A	Paul to Frieda, including re. travel to Hanoi, transporting college to Hsichow, Kunming	1939
b. 2, f. 30	Paul to Frieda and daughters, including re. Edouard working at college, Paul and Edouard's trip to Burma for supplies, Edouard joining mission	1940 Jan-Jun
b. 2, f. 31	Paul to Frieda and daughters, Edouard to family, including re. Edouard's assignment to Yuanling, disagreement re. return of Frieda to China; Frieda denied passport	1940 Jul-Dec
b. 2, f. 32	Paul to Frieda re. trip to Burma for supplies, letters from Edouard; Paul starts for U.S. on furlough	1941 Jan-Oct
b. 2, f. 33	Edouard to family from Yuanling; Paul to Frieda; Edouard and Jane now married; Paul's ship enroute to China torpedoed and all belongings lost, diverted to New Zealand, India	1943 Nov-1944 Jul
b. 2, f. 34	Paul to family, Edouard to family; Paul waiting in India for documents and money, working in leper hospital; Ed and family move to India; Paul arrives in China in November	1944 Aug-Nov
b. 2, f. 35	Paul to family, Edouard to family; Paul becomes chaplain to U.S. forces; Edouard at mission in India	1945 Jan-May
b. 2, f. 36	Paul to family, Edouard and family to his mother and sisters; Paul continuing as chaplain based in Lianzhou (Linchow), return to Wuchang	1945 July-December
b. 2, f. 37	Paul to family from Wuchang	1946 Jan-Dec
b. 2, f. 38	Paul to family from Wuchang; building house in anticipation of Frieda's return to China	1947 Jan-Nov
b. 2, f. 39	Paul and Frieda to family, H.M. Taylor to Jane; including re. Frieda's illness in May, her recovery, teaching music	1949 Feb-Dec
b. 2, f. 40	Various, including re. return of Paul and Frieda to U.S., marriage of Nancy	1950 Jan-Dec
b. 2, f. 41	Various, including re. separation of Paul and Frieda (1957)	1955-1972
Circular letters		
b. 2, f. 42	Newsletters written by Paul V. Taylor from Hua Chung College, Wuchang, Rangoon	1937-1941
b. 2, f. 42	Newsletter describing return from China	1951

General correspondence

General correspondence (continued)

To/from Taylors

b. 3, f. 43	A-Bi, including to/from Arthur Allen, David Anderson, August Binder	1940-1953
b. 3, f. 44	Bl-Ca, including to/from Board of Economic Warfare, Board of International Missions of Evangelical and Reformed Church, to A. V. Casselman, Executive Secretary of Board of International Missions	1937-1949
b. 3, f. 45	Ch-F, including letter of Edouard Taylor to Rt. Rev. P.Y. Cheung re. establishment of Wei Tzo-Min Memorial Hall at Huachung University (1980), from John Coe	1937-1980
b. 3, f. 46	G-Ha, including from G. Gebhardt, Associate Secretary, International Board of Missions, from Ward and Lucile Hartman	1943-1955
b. 3, f. 47	Ho-K, including to/from Hsu, Kemp, Kimmel, Kwei	1937-1954
b. 3, f. 48	L-M, including to/from Leonard, Lyford, Miller, letter of sympathy to Frieda re. supposed death of Paul in 1944	1943-1955
b. 3, f. 49	From Cornelia Morgan	1952-1954, n.d.
b. 3, f. 50	P-S, including to/from Logan H. Roots	1942-1951
b. 3, f. 51	T-Wh, including to/from Benjamin Tao, Francis C. M. Wei, Sterling W. Whitener	1939-1960
b. 3, f. 52	Wo-Z, first names only, including to/from Gertrude Zenk	1937-1954
b. 3, f. 52	Correspondence of Jane Taylor Slabaugh with United Church Board for World Ministries, and with members of Kuling American School Association	1977, 1986-1999
Correspondence of others		
b. 3, f. 53	A-C, including Allen, Beck, Brown, Constantine	1939-1954
b. 3, f. 54	G-W, including Francis C. M. Wei to Frank Price	1940-1944

Series II: Writings and Notes, 1924-1960, n.d.

The writings and notes are primarily by Paul V. Taylor though not all are identified.

Lectures and notes re. China		
b. 3, f. 55	Writings and notes for talks, including re. Christian education, birth of Chinese Republic, General Chiang Kai-shek, Nanking incident of 1927	1927-1954, n.d.
b. 3, f. 56	Including Schneder Lecture, "Can Christianity Survive Under Communist Pressure in China?" (1951), "The Church's Post War Responsibility in China", re. Chinese religions	1951, n.d.
Other lectures and sermons		
b. 3, f. 57	Including "The Church and its Missionary Program", "Race Relations", "The Pastor's Role in the Ministry of Healing", "Corridor to Lent"	1951, n.d.
b. 3, f. 58	Including "Hosanna", "Pentecost", "Hitler's Germany"	n.d.
b. 3, f. 59	Including "Some Thoughts About Christian Ministry, "All or Nothing"	n.d.
b. 3, f. 60	Including Baccalaureate sermons, sermonettes	1942-1960s
b. 4, f. 61	Radio sermons	1953
Essays and articles		
b. 4, f. 62	Including "The Foreigner as a Messenger of Christ in China" in <i>The Outlook of Missions</i> , "In China Common Sense Prevails" in <i>The Messenger</i>	1926-1943
b. 4, f. 63, 64	"China Missionary" - booklength memoir by PVT	1940s
b. 4, f. 65	Thesis: "What Shall We Teach?"	1924
b. 4, f. 66	Travel stories	1944, n.d.
b. 4, f. 67	Miscellaneous	n.d.

Series III: Biographical Documentation, 1922-1968

Regarding Paul V. Taylor

b. 4, f. 68	Biographical sketch, citations re. chaplain work, honorary doctorate from Franklin and Marshall	1942-1945, n.d.
b. 4, f. 69	Newspapers clippings and articles about PVT	1922-1962
b. 4, f. 70	Travel documentation	1941-1955
b. 5, f. 71	Church bulletins and programs featuring PVT	1938-1943
b. 5, f. 72	Chinese language lesson notes	n.d.

Regarding Frieda F. Taylor

b. 5, f. 73	Biographical information and concert programs	1931-1968
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Regarding Taylor children

b. 5, f. 74	Certificates for Jane Taylor from Kuling American School and YMCA Swimming Test; silhouette of JT; article re. Rev. Edouard H. Taylor and program for his ordination	1934, 1950
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Series IV: Collected Material, 1924-1962

Regarding Huachung University		
b. 5, f. 75	Central China College (Hua-chung) history, presidents' reports, minutes	1930-1943
b. 5, f. 76	Book: <i>Huachung University</i> by John L. Coe	1962
b. 5, f. 77	Correspondence re. college	1943
b. 5, f. 78	"Hua Chung College Weekly Bulletin"	1934 Feb-1939 Jan
Regarding missions		
b. 5, f. 79	Re. Chen Teh Girls Jr. Middle School	1937
b. 5, f. 80	Articles, clippings about missions	1943-1947
b. 5, f. 81	Booklet re. Board of International Missions work, two issues of <i>The Outlook of Missions</i> that mention the Taylors	1924, 1926, 1941
b. 6, f. 82	Books: <i>Who's Who in International Missions</i> ; <i>It Happened in Hunan</i> by A. V. Casselman	1953
b. 6, f. 83	"China Newsletter"; "China Bulletin"	1954-1956
b. 6, f. 84	Foreign Missions Conference of North America General Recommendations concerning transportation, passports	1942 Oct
China-related material		
b. 6, f. 85	News articles, fold-out map of Shanghai	1939, n.d.
b. 6, f. 86	Issues of <i>People's China</i> , <i>China Monthly Review</i>	1951-1952
b. 6, f. 87-88	Chinese-language lesson books, programs, etc.	
b. 6, f. 89	The Linguist (1926); <i>My Hall of Memory</i> by Mary E. Myers	1926, n.d.
Miscellaneous		
b. 6, f. 90-91	Articles and booklets	
b. 6, f. 92	Church bulletins and programs	

Series V: Photographs

b. 6, f. 93	Two albums of photographs documenting Taylors' initial voyage to China	1924
b. 6, f. 94	Loose photos including portraits of Paul Taylor, groups including Paul and Frieda Taylor, faculty of Huachung University, including Francis C. M. Wei	1930s-1951

Series VI: Addendum 2014

Family correspondence		
b. 7, f. 95-104	Paul Taylor to children while living in Frostburg, Maryland	1965-1971
b. 7, f. 105-111	To children while living in Corpus Christi, Texas during winter months and Frostburg, MD during summer	1972-1975
b. 7, f. 112-113	To children from Frostburg and after move to Uplands in Pleasant Hill, TN until sudden death in March 1976	1975-1976
General correspondence		
b. 7, f. 114	Paul Taylor to/from others and regarding his death	1957, 1976
Writings		
b. 8, f. 115-116	By Paul Taylor: including "Music and I", "Mt. Carmel Home", "A Midsummer Daydream"	1967, 1972
b. 8, f. 117	By Frieda Taylor: "China Yesterday and Today", and an untitled account written upon return from China	1926-1927
Biographical information		
b. 8, f. 118	Summaries of family biographies	
b. 8, f. 119	Re. Paul Taylor: photos, honors, etc.	
b. 8, f. 120	Re. Frieda Taylor: photo, recital program, etc.	
Collected material		
b. 8, f. 121	News clippings, church newspapers, booklets	
b. 8, f. 122	Plan of Beijing (Peking), Huachung University Alumni information, clippings re: China	
b. 8, f. 123	Huachung University silk banner	
Photographs		
b. 8, f. 124	Family photos from Nanking	1926-1927
b. 8, f. 125	Huachung University, Hankou (Hankow) flood of 1931, Boone Middle School	1930s
b. 8, f. 126	Language School in Nanking	1926-1927
b. 8, f. 127	Yachow - people and scenery	ca. 1924

Series VII: Addendum 2018

Writings

b. 9, f. 1	"Early China Years: 1924-1942" by Rev. Dr. Paul V. Taylor, edited by John D. Snyder	2015
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Photographs

b. 9, f. 2	Photograph album titled "Vacation Trip through the Yangtze Gorges, Summer 1933"	1933
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b. 9, f. 3	Photograph album documenting trip to Beijing (Peking) in 1934, Chinese individuals, missionaries, school buildings, athletic teams, etc.	circa 1934
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Collected material

b. 9, f. 4	"Lushan Memories" - notebook of memories of Kuling American School compiled by Paul Sheretz, including contribution of Jane Taylor Slabaugh	1988
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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

Missions -- China

Corporate Body

Huazhong da xue, Wuchang, China