

**THE LAST AMERICAN BAPTIST MISSIONARIES  
TO BURMA 1946-1966**

**NEIL SOWARDS  
MAY PEARL CARTEE**

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# Map of Burma



## Foreword

This book was inspired by the celebration of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of Ann and Adoniram Judson to Burma in 1813. As I thought about what I could do to contribute to the celebration, I remembered that over 1,000 American Baptist missionaries served in Burma from 1813 to 1966. In this latter year, 1966, the Burma government asked all foreigners to leave, including missionaries. My parents were missionaries to Burma 1921 to 1966 (with breaks) and retired one month before the final month. So I had a warm place in my heart for all the missionaries who had served in Burma. Now, Burma is officially called Myanmar; however, since this book is about the time when it was still called Burma, we are using that name throughout the book.

My wife and I first visited Burma (later Myanmar) in 1985. We met a good number of people who had known my parents and who appreciated the work they had done in Burma. I have visited Burma nineteen times over the last 28 years. It dawned on me that most of those who knew my parents and other missionaries have now passed on. I also became aware that all those under 62 had never met an American Baptist missionary when they were serving in Burma. So the project of writing up the Last Baptist Missionaries 1946-1966 was born. Most (but not all) of these 128 missionaries have now passed on but I hope recording their experiences and how they served might be passed on to inspire others.

My thanks to Dr. Deborah Van Broekhoven and the staff of the American Baptist Historical Society, Atlanta, GA for their help in finding information related to these last missionaries drawn from the biographical and correspondence files of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (Board of International Ministries).

I am also indebted to retired missionaries, their children and grandchildren who graciously shared their knowledge about the last missionaries. These include Emilie Ballard, Jenny B. Clark, granddaughter of Gordon Seagrave, Ray Combs, the Condicts, Bryant Currier, Keith Dahlberg, Mary Ellen William Eastridge, Stephen E. Fletcher, Will Getz, Eleanor Howard, Neil Jones, W. N. Rice, Laura Rodgers, and Pearl Fruehan Steele. This brief book can only hint at the dedication, service and sacrifice these last missionaries made in bringing the Good News to the people of Burma. How does one condense fifty years of service onto one typewritten page?

The fact that the number of Baptists in Burma has quadrupled since the last missionaries left is testimony to how well they planted the seeds of faith and service and how the Baptists of Burma have carried on the work in building the kingdom of God.

May the Third Century bring even more witness and service.

Assembling this book has been a real challenge—a race between the deadline of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of Ann & Adoniram Judson and my mental decline. So I know there are many errors, omissions, and need for updates. I don't feel I have it in me to do an update but if I am sent information, I will assemble it and give it to the American Baptist Historical Society where it will reside until someone feels called to update this book.

Neil Sowards, BA, BD, MS, DD. President and Founder of Friends of Burma, Inc.

I am the product of mission work in Burma and while I never personally knew a missionary in Burma, I appreciate the work they did and getting to know them as I worked on their biographies. The sacrifices they made for the people of Burma are so much and we are forever thankful.

Naw May Pearl Cartee BA, PhD.

## **Dedication**

This booklet is dedicated to the more than 1000 American Baptist Missionaries who served in Burma from 1813 to 1966. They felt called by God to carry the Gospel of Jesus Christ to those who had not heard it. They spread the word by preaching, teaching, healing, translating, improved agriculture, etc.

In order to translate they often had to develop a written language for the tribe (ethnic people) they were working with.

Many lost children, mates and their lives to diseases, tropical living, bad water, accidents, and lack of sanitation. Some served less than a year before succumbing to death while others gave many years of service. One died in an accident and one was martyred. Mention should also be made of the sacrifices of their children who were separated from their parents for education and health. There were homes in the U. S. where missionaries left their children when they went to the field. For example one son saw his father a total of six weeks in a fourteen year period.

Missionaries were greatly aided by native Burmese who became brothers and sisters in Christ and who bore the hardships with them, gently guided them, and greatly aided them in their effectiveness.

Neil Sowards and May Pearl Cartee November, 2013

**The Bicentennial Judson Burma Project**  
**By Friends of Burma, Inc.**  
**The Last American Baptist Burma Missionaries.**  
**1946-1966**

**1, 2. Rev. Bradley M. & Mrs. Marcia McIntire Allen**, Immanuel Church, Rangoon.

**3, 4. Rev. Leonard B. & Mrs. Kathleen Allen**, Judson College.

**Miss Althea Ruth Anderson** Appointed May 24, 1948. Married Burchard Post Shepherd, Jr. See 93

**Miss Rebecca Johanna Anderson**, Rangoon, Married Edwin Fletcher. See Rebecca Anderson Fletcher 41.

**5. Emilie M. Ballard R. N., D.D.** Yedwinyegan.

**6, 7. Rev. Raymond W. & Mrs. June Peterson Beaver**, Pwo Karen, Rangoon.

**8. Miss Marion Beebe**, 1919-1961 Karen Women's Bible School, Seminary Hill, Insein. Served 42 years.

**9. Miss Lucy Bonney**, 1920-1962 Sumprabum, Kachin State.

**10, 11. Rev. Russell E. & Becky Brown**, 1951-1960 Immanuel Baptist Church.

**12. Miss Charity C. Carman**, A. B. B. Mission, Toungoo, Seminary Hill, Insein 1948. Served at least 40 years.

**13. Miss Ruth Christopherson**, Taunggyi, Morton Lane, Judson School, Moulmein.

**14, 15. Dr. Paul Dudley & Mrs. Helen Lela (Alleshouse) Clasper** (Both deceased), 1952-1965. Willis & Orlinda Pierce Divinity School, Seminary Hill, Insein.

**16, 17. Dr. Milton & Mrs. Edna M. (Stone) Combs**, Rangoon. Burma Divinity School

**18, 19. Dr. E. C. Carroll & Mrs. Isabel A. Condict**, A. B. Mission, Asho- Chin work. Thayetmyo. E. C. is listed in "Record of Service" as serving 43 years.

**20, 21. Rev. Charles Lamont & Mrs. Conrad**, AB Pwo Karen Mission, Bassein.

**22, 23. Rev. Leonard Austin & Mrs. Margaret Hall Crain**, Rangoon 1948, Mandalay, AudioVisual Center of the Burma Christian Council.

**24, 25. Rev. Donald Melvin & Mrs. Jean Supplee Crider**, A. B. B. Mission, Kutkai, Northern Shan States. Kachin.

**26, 27. Rev. Bryant C. & Mrs. Sarah Van Horn Currier**, Thayetmyo.

**28, 29. Dr. Keith Ramel & Mrs. Lois Coleman Dahlberg**, Lois R.N., Kengtung Christian Hospital, Kengtung, Shan State.

**30, 31. Dr. Frederick G. & Mrs. Bertha Bates Dickason**, R.N. Judson College, Rangoon, Publications & Assoc. Mission Secretary.

**32. Miss Evelyn Christine Dixon**, Served March 5, 1949 to April 30, 1954. Married Ray Lew 1956.

**33, 34. Rev. Addison J. & Mrs. Thetis Eastman**, U of Rangoon, Judson Chapel, Student Center.

**35, 36. Rev. J. Martin & Mrs. Mabel Orr England**, A. B. Mission Bhamo.

**37, 38. Rev. Claiborne (Clay) R. & Mrs. Janet Osgood Erickson, R.N.** Burma Divinity School, and Moulmein 1958-63. After Clay's death in 1990, Janet married Paul Morgan.

**39, 40. Rev. Edwin Teed & Mrs. Virginia Barrett Fletcher**, Ahlone Pwo Karen 1947-48, Bassein Pwo Karen.

**41. Miss Rebecca Johanna Anderson (Fletcher)**, Cushing High School. Pwo Karen Bible Training School, Rangoon. Miss Anderson married Edwin Fletcher after the death of his wife.

**Miss Pearl Fruehan**, Rangoon. See Pearl Fruehan Steele. See 105.

**42. Dr. Dorothy G. Gates**, Christian Hospital, Moulmein, deceased , 1941-1966. China & Burma.

**43, 44. Rev. Roger W. & Mrs. Genevieve Getz**, A. B. M. Agricultural School, Pyinmana.

**45. Dr. Martha Jane Gifford**, Senior Medical officer at Ellen Mitchell Memorial Hospital, Moulmein.

**46, 47. Rev. Clifford M. & Rosemary Farnum Gilson**, Christian Schools, Rangoon.

**48. Dr. Anna Barbara Grey**, Did most of the surgery at Ellen Mitchell Memorial Hospital, Moulmein.

**49, 50. Dr. William O. & Marion Shaw Hackett**, A. B. Mission, Taunggyi, Agriculture. Marion--Translation.

**51. Miss Phyllis Hamilton**, 1946-1950, A. B. Mission, Mandalay.

**52, 53. Mr. Paul F. & Haven Hasel**, 1946-1950 Moulmein. Dohn Yin Bible School and continuing to support.

**54. Miss Carrie Hasseltine**, A. B. Mission Toungoo, Guest House Maymyo 1918-1942, 1947-1954. Served 35 years.

**55. Elizabeth Marion Petley Heptonstall**, Married an American Baptist missionary, C. H. Heptonstall in 1897 who died in 1933. She continued to work at Taunggyi until 1951. Mr. Heptonstall is listed in "Record of Service" as serving 44 year and Mrs. Heptonstall for 46 years.

**56. Miss Alice E. Hinton (Blakely)**. Ellen Mitchell Memorial Hospital, Moulmein.

**57, 58. Rev. Charles Robert & Thelma Bertha Zimmerman Horton**, A. B. Mission, Pynmana. Appointed 4/18/1939, resigned 11/1/1947.

**Robert Crawford Howard**, 1949-1966. Methodist missionary who married Eleanor Smith, a Baptist missionary on February 12, 1959.

**59. Miss Lizbeth Belle Hughes**. Missionary in Burma 1896-1933. Retired in Taunggyi and hosted missionaries 1955-1959. She is listed in "Record of Service as serving 67 years.

**60. Miss Helen K. Hunt**, Served in Burma 1946-1951. Judson College.

**61. Miss Mona Ecco Hunt**, A. B. B. Mission, Maymyo 1946-1962.

**62, 63. Rev. Lloyd George & Mrs. Eileen Reeves James**, Treasurer, Rangoon

**64. Miss Cecilia Louise Johnson**, A. B. Missions, Karen work. Tharrawaddy, Pyapon, Rangoon, Moulmein, Served 44 years.

**65. Miss Laura E. Johnson**, A. B. Mission, Taunggyi SSS, & Mandalay.

**66, 67. Rev. Robert G. & Mrs. Elizabeth (Kortum) Johnson**, Haka.

**68. Miss Ruth F. Keyser, R. N.**, Publications, E. M. M. Hospital, Moulmein.

**69, 70. Rev. Walter Leroy & Mrs. Eva (Cummins) Keyser**, Eva at Seminary Hill, Insein.

**71. Miss Mary Irene Laughlin**, E. M. M. Hospital, Moulmein, A. B. B. Mission, Myitkyina.

**72, 73. Rev. Paul White & Mrs. Elaine Thomasson Lewis**, Pangwai.

**74, 75. Rev. Trevor Oswald & Mrs. Mary Evelyn (Inkster) Ling**, Chaplain, University of Rangoon 1960.

**76. Miss Ruth Mather**, United Christian High School in Rangoon. Taught English 1952-1957

**77. Miss Selma Maxville R.N.**, Nurse. E. M. M. Hospital, Moulmein. Killed by dacoits along with about a dozen villagers, who tried to rescue her February 28, 1950.



- 78, 79. Rev. Franklin Oliver & Phileda Mae Carol Ogren Nelson**, 1946-1951 A. B. Mission, Tiddim, Chin Hills.
- 80. Miss Julia E. Parrott**. Served 1895-1934. Then, on her own, served 1947-1950.
- 81, 82. Rev. W. R. & Mrs. Parson**, A. B. Mission, Maymyo.
- 83, 84. Rev. Albert Charles & Jennie Chaille (Morgan) Phelps**.
- 85, 86. Dr. William N. & Mrs. Betty Rice**, A. B. Agricultural School, Pyinmana.
- 87. Miss Dorothy Rich**, Burman Women's Bible School, Women's Work, Insein 1946-1966.
- 88. Dr. Bina Elizabeth Sawyer**, Christian Hospital, Moulmein.
- 89. Miss Margaret Sawin**, Baptist Seminary in Insein.
- 90, 91. Rev. Harold & Estelle Miao Schock**, Christian Center, Rangoon.,
- 92, 93. Dr. Gordon & Mrs. Marion Grace Morse Seagrave**, Hospital at Namkham.
- 94. Dr. Grace Russell Seagrave**, A. B. Mission, Namkham.
- 95. Miss Rachel Holbrook Seagrave**, Pwo Karen School, Ahlone, Pegu H. S. compound. Served 38 years.
- 96. Alice Mae Simmons Shae**, Willis & Orlinda Pierce Divinity School, Seminary Hill, Insein. Married Gam Shae.
- 97, 98. Burchard Post & Althea Ruth Anderson Shepherd, Jr.** 1947-1948 Engineer who rebuilt church buildings.
- 99. Miss Marion E. Shivers**, General missionary work and Leprosy Work, Tavoy, Moulmein. She served 38 years.
- 100, 101. Dwight Olney & Muriel (Martin) Smith**, Treasurer, Missionaries 1925-1947.
- 102. Miss Eleanor Smith, R.N.**, E. M. M. Hospital, Moulmein. Married Robert Howard on February 12, 1959. It appears that Robert Howard was a Methodist missionary.
- 103. Miss Margaret Beatrice "Peggy" Smith R. N.** Deceased, Kengtung Christian Hospital, Kengtung, Shan States.
- 104, 105. Rev. Erville E. & Genevieve (Sharp) Sowards**, Sgaw Karen Mission, educators, Bassein, then General Secretary. She published articles on Burma and did editing and teaching.
- 106. Miss Pearl Fruehan Steele**. Rangoon, administrative and secretarial duties. 1946-1950.
- 107, 108. Rev. David P. & Eleanor Powers Stimson**, A. B. B. Mission, Maymyo.

**109, 110. Wallace & Mrs. St. John.** Rangoon Baptist College, and later Taunggyi. Wallace is listed in "Record of Service" as serving 44 years and Mrs. Wallace St. John 47 years.

**111, 112. Rev. Walter D. & Mrs. Marion Estella (Griesemer) Sutton,** A. B. B. Mission, Tavoy. Served 41 years.

**113. Rev. Gustaf A. Sword,** Judson College, Rangoon. Kachin missionary at Namkham and Kutkai.

**114. Miss Elizabeth M. Taylor,** Cushing H. S. Compound, Rangoon, Roberts High School, Bhamo.

**115, 116. Rev. Herman G. & Mrs. Ruth Pearson Tegenfeldt,** A. B. B. Mission, Myitkyina, Kutkai 1955, Field Secretary.

**117. Miss F. Alice Thayer,** Girls' High School, A. B. Mission, Mandalay.

**118. Miss Mary D. Thomas,** E. M. M. Hospital, Business Manager, Moulmein. 39 years.

**119. Miss Helen Loring Tufts,** Taught and directed the Anglo-vernacular mission schools at Bassein and Sagaing.

**120. Miss Lucy F. Wiatt,** Judson College, Rangoon.

**121. Mary Ellen Williams,** (Married Donald Eastridge 5/18/68), Rangoon, Christian School, Moulmein 1963.

**122, 123. Dr. William E. & Dr. Barbara June Peters Winn,** Seminary Hill, Insein,

**124, 125. Capt. Harold Mason & Ruth Pinkerton Young,** Pang Yang, Manglun, Mong Lem (Bana) China. Considered part of Burma mission with Wa and Lahu people.

**126, 127. Rev. Marcus Vincent & Vera A. (Gibbs) Young,** Kengtung.

**128, 129. Rev. Walter W. "Bud" & Catherine Zimmer 1948-1957,** Shwenyaungbin, Toungoo.

## **The Biographies of Missionaries**

### **1. Rev. Bradley M. Allen**

He was born May 1, 1928, at Kalamazoo, Michigan. Bradley was baptized in the First Baptist Church of Kalamazoo in 1940 on Palm Sunday. He graduated from Kalamazoo Central High School in 1946. He earned a B.A. from Kalamazoo College in 1950 and a B.D. from Colgate Rochester Divinity School. He also attended Northwestern University, Bates College, Westminster College, Cambridge University in England and Kennedy School of Missions.

He married Marcia McIntire on December 17, 1953, at Rochester, New York. She was educated at Middlebury College in Vermont and University of Rochester, State Teachers College, Brockport, New York.

He was ordained June 5, 1955 at the First Baptist Church of Kalamazoo.

They were appointed June 1960 for Rangoon, Burma and arrived there March 11, 1961. They are listed as being at Immanuel Church, Rangoon. They lived on the Ahlone Pwo Karen compound at Ahlone. Brad was pastor of the English language congregation at Immanuel Baptist Church in downtown Rangoon. He oversaw and cooperated with the other language groups and their pastors at Immanuel. He was noted for his development of national leadership from among his congregation. Several of them went on to study at Burma Divinity School (MIT) and were successful in their "second careers" in ministry.

They left Burma on July 10, 1965. They resigned from mission service June 1, 1966, since they could not go back to Burma. He joined the Unitarian Church.

### **2. Marcia McIntire Allen**

She was born August 19, 1930, in Honolulu, Hawaii. She was baptized on Palm Sunday 1942. She graduated from West High School, Rochester, NY. She received a B.A. from Middlebury College, Vermont in 1952. She then attended the University of Rochester, State Teachers College at Brockport, New York.

She married Bradley Allen on December 17, 1953 at Rochester, New York.

They had five children: three daughters and two sons.

Marcia was deeply depressed after their return to United States, and committed suicide in a violent and public way (self immolation) on November 5, 1979.

Bradley later remarried.

### **3. Rev. Leonard B. Allen**

He was born December 13, 1905 in Brooklyn, New York. Leonard was baptized April 1916 at the Church of the Redeemer in Brooklyn.

He earned a B.A. from Colgate University in 1927 and an M.A. from Columbia. Then he earned a B.D. from Andover Newton in 1935. He also attended Pendle Hill—Biblical Seminary, New York and Yale Divinity School, and the School of International Studies, Geneva, Switzerland.

He was ordained by the First Baptist Church of Milford, New Hampshire in June 1936.

He married Kathleen Smyth on December 27, 1933 in Englewood, New Jersey.

They were appointed on January 18, 1938 and designated for Judson College, Rangoon, Burma. They sailed January 27, 1938 and arrived in Rangoon March 8, 1938.

His wife left Rangoon, January 26, 1942. Leonard went to Chungking, February 1942. He left Chungking January 15, 1944; by plane from Karachi February 27, 1944 and arrived Miami March 4, 1944.

He and his wife sailed from Boston October 20, 1945 and arrived in Calcutta November 15, 1945. They arrived in Rangoon June 8, 1946.

His wife sailed from Rangoon September 14, 1948. They resigned Oct 31, 1948.

#### **4. Kathleen (Smyth) Allen**

Kathleen was born February 4, 1909 in New York City. She was baptized on Easter, 1937 at Milford, New Hampshire. She attended Dwight School at Englewood 1922-26, College Finishing School, Vassar College 1927-30, Teachers College, Columbia, and Andover Newton 1934-35.

While her husband went to Chungking, she left Rangoon January 26, 1942, sailed from Bombay February 20, 1942, and arrived in New York March 23, 1942.

She had two daughters and one son.

**Miss Althea Ruth Anderson**, Appointed May 24, 1948. Married Burchard Post Shepherd, Jr. See 93.

**Miss Rebecca J. Anderson**, Married Edwin Fletcher. See 41.

#### **5. Emilie M. Ballard, RN, D.D.**

Emilie Margaret Ballard was born in Hyattsville, Maryland, a suburb of Washington, D.C. on July 21, 1919. She attended the local elementary and high school, then got a B.S. with a major in Nursing at the University of Maryland.

She was baptized at the Hyattsville First Baptist Church, and talked of becoming a missionary from the age of 7, but by the time she finished nurses training, the country had become involved in World War II and army nurses were needed badly, so she soon joined the Army Nurse Corps, where she served for 2 years 10 months at Camp Beale, California, near Marysville, and the 7<sup>th</sup> Station Hospital in Italy.

She got an M.R.E. with a major in Missions at the Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, PA and was appointed as a missionary to the Karens in Burma, mostly with the Bassein-Myaungmya Sgaw Karen Baptist Association. She taught Nursing Science, First Aid, and Bible in a simplified nurses training course for village health workers; strengthened the local church, especially with Sunday School, women's work, and choir; taught Bible and Health in association pastor/leader refresher courses; and started a mission outreach in a nearby non-Christian Pwo Karen village. But what brought her the greatest satisfaction was the fact that of 7 girls who came and lived with her at one time or another, 6 later went into full time Christian service, and the 7<sup>th</sup> married a fine Christian man.

In 1966 the government ordered all foreigners to leave; so after a 15 month furlough, she went to the Sangkla Christian Mission (later called the Kwai River Christian Mission) in West Central Thailand. There she served for nearly 21 years, doing administrative work, and building up the Home Mission Outreach. By the time she returned to the States for retirement in 1989, the work that had started with no local Christians had become an association which took over the work of the mission, and become a part of the Church of Christ in Thailand.

After retiring, she returned to Northern Thailand for 3 years to prepare language materials for missionaries needing to learn Sgaw Karen language. Some of these materials are now available on internet for persons in the USA working with resettled Karens.

She received a honorary doctorate from Myanmar Institute of Theology.

After coming to Pilgrim Place Retirement Community in Claremont, CA, she serves as a volunteer in the Claremont First Baptist Church, the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, and the Pilgrim Place community. In April 2012 she developed a weakness in her left leg resulting in a balance problem, and is now a permanent resident at the Pilgrim Place Health Services Center.

### **6, 7. Ray & June Peterson Beaver.**

Ray was born in Kearney, Nebraska. He received Christian guidance during his high school years from a Sunday School teacher. Following high school he served in the Navy Air Cadet Program for two years. Under the influence of a Navy buddy, he committed himself to full time Christian service.

He met June Peterson at Green Lake Conference Center during the summer of 1946 and married her a year later. He graduated from Sioux Falls College with a BA in 1948. He felt called to serve in a foreign mission field. He then attended Berkeley Baptist Divinity School where he completed an MA and BD in 1951.

He was ordained in 1951 and sailed for Burma arriving October 29, 1951. The Beavers were stationed in Rangoon where he taught at the Pwo Karen Bible Training School. He also gave Pastoral classes and on occasion taught at Burma Divinity School.

Because he was fluent in both Pwo Karen and the Burmese language, he did extensive writing of Sunday School lessons, articles and small books for the Burma Baptist Convention. He wrote The History of the Church and textbooks on evangelism and preaching. In English he wrote a novel, "Miracle of Shwenyaung Village and a history, History of Baptist Missions

Among the Pwo Karens of Burma. These were translated into Karen. Ray and one national made a survey in northern Thailand to see if the Pwo Karens there could utilize the alphabet and literature which the Pwo Karens of Burma used. Their study showed, that while there was a difference of dialects, the Thai Pwo Karen could use both the alphabet and literature from Burma.

Ray served committees for the Pwo Karen Conference, Burma Baptist Convention, and the Burma Christian Council. He also preached in Pwo Karen, Burmese and English.

When the Beavers returned to the U. S. for their second furlough in 1964, they knew they would be unable to return to Burma because they knew the Burma Revolutionary government was not allowing missionaries to return to Burma.

In 1964 Ray became pastor of Park Baptist Church in St. Paul, Minnesota. In 1967 he joined the staff of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society where he had responsibility for three India fields and was liaison with Burma. Later he had responsibility for Japan, Okinawa and the Philippines. He retired in 1991.

He died January 16, 2009 at 82.

## **8. Marion A. Beebe**

Marion was born on a farm near Loveland, Colorado. She graduated from Colorado State College of Agriculture with a BS degree in Home Economics. She then attended Baptist Missionary Training School in Chicago and Newton Theological Seminary in Newton Centre, Massachusetts. Marion also took courses at the Graduate School of Education, University of Chicago and courses in rural mission work from Cornell, and Biblical Seminary of New York.

Upon recommendation of the Woman's American Baptist Foreign Mission Society, Miss Beebe was appointed and then designated for work in Henzada, Burma. She sailed on February 11, 1919.

Arriving in Burma, Marion Beebe was assigned to Karen work, first in Henzada and then in Moulmein. She was a vital part of the Karen Women's Bible School, Insein until evacuation from Burma in 1941. She was reassigned to Balassore, Orissa, India, to assist in the girl's high school, and then to Leonard Theological College, Jubulpore, India, a Methodist school, where she helped prepare Karen and Burmese Christian literature to replace what had been destroyed during the war.

After the war she returned to Burma to continue her work at the Bible School as principal and instructor. Young women from this school went out as full-fledged missionaries to other racial groups in Burma.

Because of her administrative abilities, she was assigned to widely assorted responsibilities and a multitude of committees, filling her time to overflowing.

On April 11, 1961, Marion left Burma for retirement and arrived in the United States for her 68<sup>th</sup> birthday.

She died June 16, 1984 in the Atherton Baptist Home, Alhambra, California. She was 91 years old.

### **9. Miss Lucy Bonney**

Miss Bonney attended Gordon College in Massachusetts and earned a Master of Religious Education at Andover Newton Theological School.

When she first went to Burma in 1920 she worked in Rangoon as secretary and administrative assistant to the Field Secretary of the Burma mission. After thirteen years, she was then assigned to the Woman's American Baptist Foreign Mission Society for Lower Burma. For two years Miss Bonney was resident missionary in a small Burmese village, 125 miles north of Rangoon, where she shared her work with three Burmese women who had been converted to Christianity.

Her reason for leaving the established city missions and going to live in the village was so that she might influence native missionaries to do the same thing since they are often unwilling after they receive their education to go back to the small towns to work.

She said that she suffered no hardship, and that although she was the only white woman in the village, she found the Burmese women charming and companionable and that much of the native food which she supplemented with vegetables and fruit was delicious.

Living in the home of a Burman, she had a very good opportunity to meet the people of the town and bring them an example of Christian living. According to Miss Bonney, the Burmans are difficult people to convert, for they are Buddhists and completely satisfied with their religion and it is necessary to show them, thoroughly, the advantages of the Christian faith before they are willing to accept it. The Karens, says Miss Bonney, are far readier to accept Christianity, for they are hill people, governed by a religion which embodies fear and they welcome a new faith which offers them serenity and relief from their superstitions. Illness cut short her service and she was forced to return to the United States.

In 1938 she returned to Burma to serve in a remote area of the Kachin State. She served in Sumprabum which was 130 miles from the end of the Mandalay-Myitkyina railway line. There were 200 baptized Christians in the area when she arrived. During WWII she had to trek over the mountains to China to escape the Japanese soldiers. She returned after World War II.

With the nearest white person 130 miles away Miss Bonney was a teacher, nurse, advisor, and preacher to the native population. In addition to working at her headquarters she frequently organized a safari in order to reach remote villages where she could minister to the sick and enroll additional pupils. On such trips it was not unusual for her to see fresh tiger tracks or hear the shrill trumpeting of wild elephants.

When she retired in 1962 after forty two years of service, the mission had become an Association of the Kachin Baptist Convention with about 5,300 members in 89 churches and chapels. Under her leadership, village schools, a small hospital, and a hostel for students attending the state school were established.

She died September 29, 1976, in Alhambra, California at 81.

### **10, 11. Rev. Russell E. & Becky Brown.**

Russell was born May 30, 1923 in Dorchester, Mass. He earned his Bachelor's degree from Colby College in 1944 and a B.Div. in 1947 and an MA in sacred theology in 1951 from Andover Newton Theological School. He was ordained in his home church in Dorchester in 1947.

After working with Baptist Youth Fellowship groups in Wyoming and Minnesota, the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society tapped him for work in Burma.

He arrived there in 1951. He helped to rebuild a Burmese church that had been heavily damaged during WWII and established a medical clinic, a literacy program and a Sunday School. His church served five ethnic backgrounds: Burmese, Chinese, English, Indian, and Karen.

Mr. Brown was ecumenical before it became common.

He studied Buddhism in Burma "because of the influence that it had on those people as well as on Christians."

While on home furlough in 1956, he studied Buddhism at Harvard University.

In 1960 he returned to New York City headquarters for the American Baptist denomination and served as area director for East Asia until 1973. He served again in this capacity from 1979 to 1983. From 1973 to 1979 he was the denomination's secretary for planning.

Colby College honored him with an Honorary Doctorate in 1968. Central Philippine University also honored him in the same way in 1969.

He was a member of Calvary Baptist Church in Norristown for 45 years writing hymns and volunteering for Sunday School and outreach programs.

On April 28, 2009 Mr. Brown, 86, died at Shannondell at Valley Forge, a retirement community.

### **12. Charity C. Carman.**

Charity Collette Carman was born in Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan, September 17, 1896. She developed an interest in overseas missions at an early age. She first studied at Converse College in Spartanburg, South Carolina. She graduated from Denison University, Granville, Ohio with a bachelor degree in 1920 and did further study at the University of Rochester and Rochester Theological Seminary.

In 1924 she was appointed for missionary service by the Woman's American Baptist Foreign Mission Society and began work in Toungoo with the Paku Karen High School, which was coeducational. She then taught and was principal of the coeducational Karen High School in Moulmein and was associated with the Karen Women's Bible School and the Divinity School on Seminary Hill.



In addition to her teaching duties she adapted written Bible lessons for use among a wide span of age groups. She also used her skill to develop original curricula for Burmese students and to train Sunday School teachers.

In later service, Charity was advisor for two Karen associations, a large high school, and a small group of Burmese and Karen Christians.

She also did interdenominational work for the Burma Christian Council.

She also did relief work when it was needed.

Except for a five year break because of World War II, Charity served over a forty year stretch as teacher and evangelist.

After retiring from the field in 1964, Charity remained actively interested in mission work.

### **13. Ruth Christopherson**

She was born February 7, 1905 at Chicago. She was a member of the North Shore Baptist Church, Chicago, Illinois. She graduated from High School in 1922 and studied at Crane Junior College 1922-24. She studied at Moody Bible Institute 1926-30. Then she went to Denison and graduated in 1935 with a B.A. She was appointed by the Women's American Baptist Foreign Mission Society on September 17, 1935.

She sailed on November 23, 1935 from Los Angeles designated for Maymyo, Burma. She arrived in Rangoon January 14<sup>th</sup>, 1936 and was assigned to Judson College. In May 1937 she was assigned to Morton Lane, Moulmein. She sailed from Rangoon on April 2, 1941.

Thus she served in Burma 1935-1941.

She returned in 1947 and served until 1953. After a furlough, she served in Taunggyi from December 1954 until August 1958.

She resigned February 28, 1959.

She died May 21, 2007.

### **14. Paul Dudley Clasper**

Paul Clasper was born January 9, 1923, in Spencerville, Ohio; his father was a pastor. He attended Taylor University earning a B.A. in 1944 and then Southern Baptist Theological Seminary for a B.D. 1947 before earning his master's (1950) and doctorate (1952) from Union Theological Seminary in New York, where his thesis on the mystic Baron von Hugel was critiqued by advisor Reinhold Niebuhr.

He married Helen Lela Alleshouse on August 27, 1944.

In 1952 under the sponsorship of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society, Dr. Paul D. Clasper arrived in Burma and became Vice-President of Baptist Divinity School where he served until 1965. He taught theology and religion.

After leaving Burma in 1962, he resigned from mission service September 9, 1964. Lela, his wife of 21 years, died of cancer in 1965. He taught at Drew University and then taught at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California. He married Janet Michalson in 1967.

In 1975 he then went to Hong Kong and taught at the Chinese University as senior lecturer in religion. He was also ordained an Episcopal deacon and later an ordained priest. In 1982 he was named dean of St. John's Cathedral, Hong Kong. He was the first American to hold that position after 150 years of British leadership. Paul Clasper was of great assistance to the Diocese of Hong Kong and Macao and the Diocese of Los Angeles when they entered a companion relationship in the early 1980s.

He wrote "Theological Ferment", a collection of personal reflections on life changes and his growth as a Christian missionary. One such crossroads was the death of his first wife, Helen, who had supported their family through seminary by her work in banking. Thereafter, while teaching at Drew University, Clasper met Janet Michalson, a widow, and the two were married in 1967. Janet Clasper died in 2004. Later Clasper married Mary Zambrano, who died six months after their wedding.

From 1987 to 1991, he was theologian-in-residence in the Diocese of California before relocating to Pilgrim Place in Claremont, where he also assisted with services at St. Ambrose Church.

He died on October 29, 2011 at Pilgrim Place in Claremont. He was 88.

### **15. Helen Lela Alleshouse Clasper**

Helen was born June 23, 1921 in Steuben County, Indiana. She was baptized in Fort Wayne, Indiana in 1942. She graduated from Kendallville High School 1939 and attended Taylor University for two years, and Women's Missionary Union Training School at Louisville, earning a B.R.E. in 1947.

They had two children—daughters. She died June 26, 1965.



**16, 17. Milton & Edna M. (Stone) Combs.**

Milt was born just before the Great Depression on February 19, 1928, in St. Paul, MN, to Andrew and Albertine Combs. His father was a butcher. His mother worked in the packinghouse. Milt was the second oldest of what would eventually become 11 children from his father's three marriages.

Milt attended Maxfield Elementary School (k-8) and John Marshall High School. He graduated in 1945 at 17. He was a standout athlete in football and track in high school, and was a solid student. In the fall of 1945, he enrolled at Macalester College and was part of a group of five African American men to first integrate Macalester's football team.

Before the fall semester ended, Milt enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps. Milt's basic training was at Wichita Falls, TX where he experienced the intensity of southern racism and prejudice for the first time. He was honorably discharged in 1947.

He returned to St. Paul in the fall of 1947, and played semi-professional football and basketball. Milt and Edna grew up in Pilgrim Baptist Church, and both were baptized at Pilgrim.

Milt and Edna began courting after Milt became involved in a group of African-American veterans being organized by Whitney Young, then a regional director for the St. Paul Chapter of the Urban League. Edna had been already been a young adult leader in the Urban League working at the chapter's Hallie Q. Brown Community Center offices in St. Paul.

Milt was also being recruited by legendary football coach Dwight Reed to attend and play football at Louisville Municipal College in Louisville, KY. Ultimately, Milt enrolled at Louisville Municipal in the fall of 1948 to play football for Reed and attend school, but only after proposing to Edna and her saying "yes." After a year at Louisville Municipal, Milt returned to St. Paul.

On June 28, 1949, Milt and Edna were married and ten months later their first child - Milton Andrew Combs, Jr. - was born on April 7, 1950 at Anchor Hospital in St. Paul, MN. On June 1, 1951, Karyn Marie was born in St. Paul and on June 30, 1952 Kristina Alise was born, in St. Paul as well.

In the fall of 1949, Milt also re-enrolled at Macalester College. Edna enrolled at the same time but had to withdraw because of a serious illness her first semester. In 1952, Milt completed his bachelor's degree in Sociology with a minor in Religion and Psychology. He then went to Berkeley Baptist Divinity School ("BBDS").

In November 1955, while finishing his last year at BBDS, Milt and Edna were commissioned as the first African American missionaries in the post WWII era. Milt completed his BD in 1956.

They went to Burma in the fall of 1957. Milt worked in the Youth Department of the Burma Baptist Convention and taught in the Burma Divinity School. He became fluent in Burmese. Along with Paul Clasper and his wife, they integrated the traditional Baptist social circles.

He and his family left Burma in 1962 after the military coup. By 1963 it became obvious they could not return to Burma and so he went on to serve in many ways and as an honored professor. He received many honors including Macalester's Distinguished Citizen's Award and Solano Community College's Distinguished Faculty Award.

### **18. Dr. E. Carroll Condict**

Dr. Condict was a missionary of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society from 1912 among the Southern Chins in Burma until his retirement in 1954. He was an evangelist, educator and translator.

Born in Scranton, Pennsylvania, Dr. Condict lived most of his life at Trenton, New Jersey. He graduated from Bucknell University in 1908 and received a Master's degree in 1909. He also received a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Andover Newton Theological Institution in 1911. In 1935 he was the recipient of an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Bucknell University. He was a founder and life time member of the Grace Baptist Church of Trenton, New Jersey.

Forced out of Burma by World War II, he returned as an advisor to the Office of Strategic Service in 1945, translating for a unit where his son was Captain. He returned to his mission station in Thayetmyo in October. He retired in 1954, usefully spending his later years as a hospital orderly, interim minister, and speaker at churches and service clubs.

Dr. Condict became a scholar in the Asho Chin language and supervised the translation and printing of the New Testament, and a hymn book. In Burma, Dr. Condict was active in community and fraternal affairs. He was the first President of the Rotary Club of Thayetmyo, and held high offices in Masonry in Thayetmyo, in the "Star of Burmah" Lodge in Rangoon, in the District Grand Lodge of Burma, and the Grand Lodge of England.

Dr. Condict was famous for his hobby of dental extraction, "without pain and without payin' ", with a total of 16,150 teeth. His work is mentioned in Dr. Gordon Seagrave's best-seller, "Burma Surgeon".

During his missionary furloughs in America, he served in children's church as counselor, camp missionary, chaplain, teacher and nurse, mostly at Ocean Park, Maine.

In the seventeen years of his retirement, Dr. Condict made his home in Newton, Malden, Winchendon, and Northampton, Mass; in Post Mills, Vermont; and in Ocean Park, Maine. He served as interim minister in the Baptist Churches of Passumpsic, Springfield, North Springfield, St. Albans, and Post Mills, Vermont.

The Rev. Dr. E. Carrol Condict, 42 years a foreign missionary in Burma, died June 23<sup>rd</sup> 1971 at the Cooley Dickinson Hospital in Northampton, Mass., after a short illness. Dr. and Mrs. Condict were survived by three sons, Edward C. Condict, of Yardley, Pa.; Rev. Clinton A. Condict of Winchendon, Mass.; and T. Chubb Condict of Woodstock, Vt. There are nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren at the time of his passing.

### **19. Mrs. Isabel A. Condict**

Mrs. E. Carrol Condict, the former Isabel Mason Adams, was born at Post Mills. She was educated in the Thetford Academy and the Framington Normal School, and taught school in the New England area. She was married to Rev. E. Carroll Condict in 1911.

Soon after their marriage, Dr. and Mrs. Condict were appointed by the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society and designated to Burma. They sailed from Boston in November 1911.

For twenty years Mrs. Condict served with her husband in Thayetmyo among the Chin tribe of Burma. She found her training as teacher helpful on the foreign field, where she superintended the girls' dormitory of the school at Thayetmyo, and taught sewing, calisthenics, and gardening. Mrs. Condict also devoted herself to work among the women and children. She spent much time in home and school visitation, while her husband was superintendent of the station Anglo-Vernacular Boarding School for boys and girls.

After serving two terms from 1912 to 1924, poor health forced Mrs. Condict to remain in the United States while her husband returned to the field. She was able to join him in 1929 and was there until their furlough in 1935, but did not return to Burma after that time.

After her retirement from the field, Mrs. Condict was quite busy speaking in churches, taught mission study classes, adult Sunday school classes. She was president for two years of the Bucknell University Mother's Club, and was active in many activities in churches where her husband was interim pastor.

Mrs. E. Carroll Condict, missionary to Burma from 1911 to 1924 and 1929 to 1935, died on April 22, 1970 at Waterbury, Connecticut. Mrs. Condict was survived by her husband, Dr. E. Carroll Condict of Ocean Park, Main and three sons, Mr. Edward C. Condict, Yardley, Penna., Rev. Clinton A. Condict, Winchendon, Mass., and Mr. T. Chubb Condict, Woodstock, Vermont.

#### **20, 21. Charles Lamont & Mrs. Conrad**

Charles was a graduate of Carson Newman College, Jefferson City, Tennessee and Newton Theological Institution, Newton Centre, Massachusetts with a B.D. degree. He then served in France for a year as a Y.M.C.A. worker. He was presented a Bronze Medal by the French government for good service rendered.

Mr. Conrad was appointed for missionary service on April 8, 1919, with designation to Jamshedpur, Bengal-Orissa, India. In December, 1921, he was transferred to Pwo Karen work in Bassein, Burma, where he married Ruth Zachery. By 1940 he was superintendent of the Pwo Karen Mission with 172 self-supporting churches, and a membership of 8,000. His work included extensive traveling in the delta area of Burma, setting up 33 dispensaries, and publishing a booklet called, "Common Diseases of Pwo Karen Villages and The Treatment of Them," in the Pwo Karen language.

During the war years (1942-1945) Mr. Conrad served as Honorary Chaplain in the Rangoon Field Brigade until he was forced to evacuate on foot through the Chin Hills to India...a distance of 171 miles, where he did welfare work in the Karchi area.

Following the war, the Conrads returned to Burma at which time Mr. Conrad worked hard at rebuilding the Pwo Karen Compound in Bassein and the churches in the outlying areas of that District, using money supplied by the Pwo Karens themselves. He and his wife were also much involved in relief work and distribution of supplies to those who had suffered in the war. This work was again disrupted in 1949 with the Karen insurrection. They returned to the States for the last time on April 14, 1949. Mrs. Ruth Zachery Conrad died on April 11, 1961. Mr. Conrad later married Mrs. Emma Line Galloway on June 6, 1963.

Always active in some capacity, Mr. Conrad participated in many civic activities in retirement, one of which was that of State Representative for the people of the 64<sup>th</sup> District of Kentucky. While serving in this capacity he helped organize and raise money for the purchase of land to be used in the development of the Falmouth Lake and State Park in Kentucky.

#### **22, 23. Leonard Austin & Mrs. Crain.**

Leonard Crain was a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Denison University. He received a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Colgate Rochester Divinity School in 1934.

He was appointed in 1939 to work in Burma as a communicator in Christian print, radio and audiovisual media. Leonard initially served as the director of publishing for the Baptist Press in Rangoon. He supervised the publication of Bibles, hymn books, religious magazines, Sunday school lessons, etc., in several languages of Burma. This ministry was interrupted in 1942, when World War II came to Burma. He then worked with the department of civil evacuation as food officer, purchasing and supplying food for Indian refugees. More than 50,000 passed through

the camps at Mandalay during their trek out of the country. For three years he lived in India during which publication with a Burma focus continued.

In 1947 he returned to Burma with a renewed ministry in Christian communications in Rangoon. In 1953, he transferred his location and ministry to Mandalay, where he became the Director of Audio-Visual Aids under the sponsorship of the Burma Christian Council.

Mrs. Crain helped prepare new curriculum materials for weekday Christian Schools and served as a kindergarten consultant and on staff of the laboratory school of the Burma Baptist Convention. After the 1966 departure, he was part of the outreach which developed tapes for the Southeast Asia Radio Project, produced at the Center, located in the Philippines.

During a period of residence in the United States, 1958-1959, and then in a post-1966 period, when he was unable to serve in Burma, Leonard Crain worked in communications with the audiovisual ministry of the Division of Foreign Missions of the National Council of Churches of Christ. For a period of about eighteen months, 1968-1969, Leonard and Margaret Crain lived in Bangkok while they helped to develop radio programming for Burma.

Reverend and Mrs. Crain retired in 1972. He died January 12, 1993.

#### **24. Donald M. Crider.**

Donald was born in Altoona June 25, 1924. After graduating from Altoona High School in 1942 he went to Philadelphia School of the Bible 1942-1945 where he earned a PBU. He then continued on to Wheaton College 1945-1948 for a BA. He married Jean Lamberton Supplee on June 25, 1947. Then he went to Northern Baptist Theological Seminary 1948-1951 where he earned a BD.

He was ordained an American Baptist minister and served in Cicero, Ill. He then served 13 years (1952-1965) in Burma.

He earned an MS in rural sociology and anthropology from Pennsylvania State University in 1958 and a Ph.D. in 1967.

He arrived in Rangoon, Burma May 21, 1952. He then arrived at his station of Kutkai July 12, 1952. He departed Kutkai May 15, 1957 for a furlough. He returned back February 19, 1959. He departed Rangoon May 25, 1965 and transferred to the Philippines November 1, 1966.

After Burma, he served on the faculty of Penn State University's Department of Agriculture Economics and Rural Sociology from 1967 to 1992. He served as the department's ombudsman for 15 years and retired as professor emeritus.

He was the voice of the Centre County Sabbath School radio program for 25 years.

He died January 28, 2009

## **25. Jean Supplee Crider**

She was born in Kohima, Assam, India, daughter of the late George W. Supplee and Ruth Lamberton. On June 25, 1947 she married Donald M. Crider.

She is survived by four sons: Ronald E. Crider of Neffs, Raymond C. Crider of Charlottesville, VA., Roger L. Crider and his wife, Cathy, of Virginia Beach, VA., and Richard D. Crider and his wife, Betsy, of Lewistown; her Kachin son, Labya La Doi, currently residing in Burma; nine grandchildren: Rana Dimmig and her husband, Ray, Amanda Crider, Anna Sharp and her husband, Seth, Audrey, and Patrick Crider, Rebecca, Michael, Alisa and Daniel Crider; four great-grandchildren: Kaylee, Mackenzie and Malachy Dimmig, Rhoden Crider-Payne; and a brother, Bill Supplee of Columbia, SC.

Along with her parents, she is predeceased by her sister, Helen Jongewaard, her brother Bob Supplee, and a great-grandson, Rhodry Dotson.

After graduating from Woodstock international boarding school in India, she then completed a B.A. in vocal performance at Wheaton College, in Chicago. She met Don at Wheaton and while he finished his seminary training she raised her first two boys and sang on the radio. They decided to take their family to Kutkai, Burma (now known as Myanmar) where they built a large family and her motherhood shone through.

After 13 years in the mission field, they moved back to State College, PA and were members of both the University Baptist & Brethren Church and St. Paul's United Methodist Church. She was a 10th grade English Instructional Aide for many years at State College Area High School. She was a long-time volunteer for the PA Prison Society as well as many other organizations. Her life can be simplified into one phrase, "She was Mom to everyone and everyone loved her."

Jean Crider, 86, of Huntingdon, Pennsylvania formerly of State College, died January 21, 2013, at Westminster Woods at Huntingdon.

## **26. Bryant Currier**

Bryant was born in Grand Junction, Colorado August 3, 1928.

He accepted Christ in an open country church in Molina, Colorado. He said, "I remember that they were singing the hymn, 'Almost Persuaded'."

He went with his brother to Ottawa to attend the university. During his freshman year, 1946, he went forward at First Baptist Church and gave his life for missions. He said, "That decision thrilled my soul."

He met Sara Jean Van Horn and they shared many things together during his last two years at Ottawa including traveling with Professor Kerr and the choir.



He then attended Central Baptist Seminary and had one missionary course taught by Dr. Gustaf Sword, a former Burma missionary. After Bryant and Sara Jean married, they served the First Baptist Church of Easton, Kansas for three years. They then served the First Baptist Church of Superior, Nebraska. During a missions program he showed the film, "Where Are the Ten?" Out of ten who say they will go as missionaries, nine never get to the field, where are the nine? That film challenged him to apply for foreign missions.

They were commissioned at the ABC convention in Rochester, N.Y. and assigned to Burma to work with the Asho Chin language group in 1961. Their language study was in Moulmein near the mission hospital and they became familiar with the Mons, Karens and Burmans.

They then went to Thayetmyo to live in a house built by former missionaries in the 1880-- Laura and Arthur Carson. (Who later went to the Chin Hills to start new work.)

During the hot seasons Bryant and Sara Jean worked at Ngapali and Sandoway among the Asho Chins. They were able to do some work in touring and distributing scripture and seeking to improve agricultural work.

When they were forced to leave Burma in 1966, they were commissioned to work with the Convention Baptist Bible College in Bacolod City, Negros Island where they served until 1990.

They retired from Baptist International Ministries and then served at First Baptist Church of Waverly, Kansas for twelve years.

The Curriers were the last missionaries appointed to Burma who were able to get into Burma.

### **27. Sara Jean Currier**

Sara Jean was born near Ottawa, Kansas on September 6, 1930. Her parents were dairy farmers and active in the New Hope Baptist Church, a rural church near Wellsville, Kansas. She met her husband at Ottawa University where she majored in Music Education. They became engaged their last year and were married at the First Baptist Church in Superior, Nebraska. They moved to Bonner Springs, KS where she taught elementary music. Her daughter, Janeanne was born in 1953. It became necessary for her to resign when the family moved to Easton, KS where she served as a pastor's wife. They later served the First Baptist Church in Superior, Nebraska where her second child, Andrew, was born in 1955.

They went to Burma in 1961 where she spent a good part of her time in language study and home schooling her children. When the Curriers were forced to leave Burma in 1966, they stopped by Kodai Kanal School in India and then served as "Missionary in Residence" for Iowa.

Her third child, Karen, was delivered in Mission Hospital at Iloilo, Philippines. She served with her husband until she died on March 17, 2009.

### **28. Keith Ramel Dahlberg**

Keith Ramel Dahlberg was born April 2, 1929 in Buffalo, New York, the youngest child of Northern Baptist pastor Edwin T. and Emilie Loeffler Dahlberg. Keith grew up in the First

Baptist Church of St.Paul, MN and First Baptist of Syracuse NY, where he was active in the Baptist Youth Fellowship.

Although he was baptized at age 11, he didn't feel the call of God for missions until a senior in high school. His life goal until then was the science of mineralogy. The answer seemed to be "No openings for mineralogy, but for science, yes; doctors are needed in hospitals all over the world." He entered Syracuse University, graduated in 1950 with a BA in chemistry, entered Syracuse's medical school, intent to get as broad a training as possible. The following year, he met his future wife Lois Coleman - still a solid marriage 60 years later and counting.)

After getting his MD in 1954, Keith and Lois worked at Presbyterian Hospital of Denver, CO, she as an RN, he in a 1-year rotating internship followed by a year's residency in obstetrics, and a year in general surgery. They were commissioned as foreign missionaries by the American Baptists in 1955 and assigned to Burma. (The surgical year and a proposed year in seminary were interrupted by the sudden arrival of visas for Burma.) They and their two infant daughters, Susan and Patricia, sailed from New York in early March, 1957, and arrived in Rangoon on Easter Sunday. After six months of Burmese language study, they moved to Kengtung in the Shan State, to rebuild and staff the mission hospital, partly destroyed in World War II. The Kengtung area had only 3 doctors in a population of 300,000, and medical practice of necessity included many cases of leprosy, TB, complicated obstetrics, orthopedic, abdominal, and eye surgery. Excellent Burmese nurses joined the staff from Moulmein, Namkham, and Sir San C. Po hospitals, under the supervision of Peggy Smith, RN, assisted by Lois, and by Paul and Elaine Lewis (missionaries to the Lahu at Pangwai). Keith's and Lois's son John was born in 1958, a few months before the hospital was ready to open in 1959.

After the Burmese military coup in 1962, all missionaries were denied re entry, and the mission re-assigned the Dahlbergs to Thailand. Following a year in Thai language study in Bangkok, (their youngest child Nancy was born there in 1963) they were posted to Maesariang to build a new hospital for the Karen Baptists, and to pioneer a village medical health worker training program. They left that work in the hands of Dr. Bina Sawyer, and returned to USA in 1967 to practice medicine in Kellogg, Idaho. After ten years, they returned to Maesariang for another 4-year term, from 1977 to 1981. Keith, who was a registered conscientious objector to war, often saw his task as picking up the broken pieces of wars, ministering to victims of the Shan rebellion in Burma, the Cambodian genocide in Thailand's refugee camps in 1979, and victims of the Burmese army from across the Thai border, during periodic work at Kwai River Christian Hospital at Sangklaburi Thailand. The Dahlbergs returned to Idaho in 1981 and used their American medical practice to finance volunteer medical trips to Thailand, Burma, and Papua New Guinea until full retirement when Keith was 75.

Both Keith and Lois remain active in Baptist church work, and Keith served 12 years on the General Board of American Baptist Churches/USA. In retirement, he writes books. One is a memoir of his medical career, "Bridge Ahead."

## **29. Lois Coleman Dahlberg**

Lois Coleman Dahlberg was born January 6, 1932 in Phoenix, New York, to Helen and Earl Coleman, the second of six children. She was raised in Bridgeport, NY and attended the

Methodist church there. Her mother was a school teacher; her father worked for the New York Central Railroad office in nearby Syracuse. After graduating from Minoa High School, she studied nursing at Syracuse General Hospital, graduating as an RN in 1952.

She first met her future husband, Keith Dahlberg, when he was a medical student at Syracuse University Medical School in 1951, and they married in February 1953. In June, 1954, when Keith graduated as an MD, they moved to Denver, CO, for internship and residency, attending Calvary Baptist Church of Denver. Lois worked as a general duty nurse at Presbyterian Hospital of Denver, where their first two children were born, Susan in 1954 and Patricia in 1956. The American Baptists commissioned them as foreign missionaries in 1955, and they sailed for Burma in 1957, to rebuild the mission hospital at Kengtung in the Shan States, that had been destroyed in World War II.

Lois worked as a full-time mother and part time nurse, truck driver, home visitor and clinic teacher in nearby villages, all the while studying first the Burmese language, and then Shan. Their son John was born at home in 1958, a few months before the reconstructed hospital was opened in 1959. Kengtung was the scene of much military unrest in those years, and when the Dahlbergs went home on scheduled furlough in 1962, they were among the first missionaries to be denied re-entry into Burma after the military coup, when all foreigners were expelled.

They were re-assigned to Thailand in 1963, where their youngest child, Nancy, was born that same year. After a year of full time Thai language study in Bangkok, they moved north to Maehongson Province, to build a new mission hospital at Maesariang at the request of the Sgaw Karen Baptists. The ten-bed hospital and village medical worker training program opened in 1965, serving the Thai, Karen and Lawa population of the Burma border area.

Denied a permanent stay permit in Thailand, the Dahlbergs returned to the USA on furlough in 1967, and entered general medical practice in Kellogg, Idaho while their children were growing up. Ten years later, they returned to Thailand for another four years to assist Dr. Bina Sawyer at Maesariang Christian Hospital. They were among the first responders during the Cambodian genocide crisis, serving at SaKaew refugee camp.

They returned to practice medicine in Idaho from 1981 to 1993, then retired from full-time office practice to spend the next ten years as temporary supply doctor and nurse, sometimes in the USA, sometimes at Kwai River Christian Hospital in Thailand, once in Papua New Guinea with the Wycliffe Bible translators, and twice to Burma (in 1996 and 1998) at the request of both the Kachin Baptists and the military government, to teach village health workers in the Kachin State, with the volunteer organization World Concern.

Fully retired from medicine since 2005, Lois and Keith continue to be active church workers at Osburn Community Baptist Church in Idaho. They have nine grandchildren.

### **30. Frederick Garrett (Dicky) Dickason, Ph. D.**

He was born in Wooster, Ohio on June 22, 1904. As a student at Gordon College he had captured his vision for missionary service.

He and his wife, Bertha Bates Dickason, served as missionaries to Burma from their appointment in January 1930 to their return to the United States in September 1966. During that period, the ministries that Dr. Dickason handled were impressively varied. He was an educator primarily during the decade of the 1930s with service rendered as professor of English and Botany, as well as Bible, at Judson College, Rangoon.

For two years, during World War II, he taught at a Presbyterian related college, Gordon College, in Rawalpindi, India.

Dr. Dickason returned to postwar Burma in 1946, and played an important early role in the restoration and reopening of Judson College. He continued to be involved in formal education, as he had opportunity, during the period of the government's nationalization of higher education, with the development of the University of Rangoon.

He had critical responsibilities as Secretary of the Baptist Board of Publications of the Burma Baptist Convention, as well as field secretary and field treasurer of the Burma Baptist Mission.

He coauthored "Burma Crossroads", and wrote Part I of the "Burma Baptist Chronicle" under his Burmese name, Maung Shwe Wa, for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Adoniram Judson's arrival.

He found time for botanical research, and was the recipient of a Fulbright Research Grant. His dissertation for a Ph. D. degree, granted in 1945, had been entitled "The Ferns of Burma."

He left Burma in 1966 with all the other missionaries and then served three years 1967-1970 on the staff of International Ministries as an Associate Secretary. One of his principal responsibilities during this period was a comprehensive review of all the major overseas work to which the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society was related at the time. He retired in 1970.

Mrs. Bertha Dickason died March 14, 1980. Subsequently he married Beth Scudder Thoms. Dr. Dickason died on November 19, 1990 at Kalamazoo, Michigan.

### **31. Bertha Bates Dickason**

She was trained as a nurse.

She was appointed with her husband, Frederick Garrett Dickason, by the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society on January 13, 1930. They were designated for Judson College, Rangoon, Burma. They sailed September 24 and arrived October 28, 1930.

At Judson College, Mrs. Dickason organized and led the Ranger Scout program of leadership training for women students. She also taught physical education. She organized Nurses' Christian Fellowships and an annual country wide Christian Medical Workers' Retreat.

She taught Sunday School and conducted two Bible correspondence courses with over 600 students from all over Burma. She was the teacher of an afternoon Bible class which she started for business women and wives of government officials.

During World War II the Dickasons served in Rawalpindi, Punjab, India, where Dr. Dickason taught at Gordon College from 1942-44. After furlough in the U. S., Dr. Dickason returned to Burma in 1946, with Mrs. Dickason following in 1947.

After independence, many refugees needed medical attention and Bertha Dickason used her nursing education, helping them spiritually as well as physically.

They left Burma in 1966 when all foreigners were ordered out of Burma. Mrs. Dickason worked as a nurse in the Health Center of Eastern College in St. Davids, Pennsylvania.

She died on March 14, 1980, and was survived by her husband and five children.

### **32. Evelyn Christine Dixon**

Evelyn C. Dixon was born on December 25, 1918 at Columbus, New Mexico. She was baptized August 1937 at Delores, Colorado. She graduated from Cortez High School in 1937. She earned a B.A. from Sioux Falls in 1948. She went to Central Baptist Training School and earned a B.R.E. in 1946. Then she attended S. W. Baptist College graduating with A. A. in 1943. Then American Technical Soc. for a diploma in 1938. Lastly she attended Oregon College of Education.

She was appointed by the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society in May, 1948 for Kalaw, Burma. She sailed from Halifax on December 3, 1948 and arrived at her station March 5, 1949.

She left Rangoon on April 30, 1954.

So she served from March 5, 1949 to April 30, 1954.

She married Ray Lew in 1956.

### **33, 34. Rev. Addison J. & Mrs. Thetis Eastman**

He was born October 6, 1918. He was a graduate of Taylor University and then Biblical Seminary in New York. He earned an M.A. from Hartford Seminary Foundation and did graduate work at New York University. He went from New Jersey and was appointed January 15, 1946 as missionary to Burma.

He was pastor at the Judson Chapel and was director of the Student Christian Center, at the University of Rangoon. He was also a fraternal worker with the Burma Christian Council Evangelism Committee and the Baptist Committee on Youth Work. His years of service were 1946-1958. He was also active in the Burma Christian Council's Commission on Buddhism. He was a frequent contributor to missionary magazines and journals.

He also had responsibility for work among the Indians—Telugu and Tamil Christians.

He also prepared Christian Literature and Bible Study material for college age students and led small groups of students.

After serving eleven years in Burma, he resigned September 30, 1961.

After Burma, Mr. Eastman served as Director of the Missionary Personnel Program for the Division of Foreign Missions. In that responsibility he worked with the Missionary Personnel Secretaries of thirty three boards and agencies in matters of recruitment, selection and training of missionaries. As part of that program, Mr. Eastman directed the interdenominational Training Conference for new missionaries, which was held in Meadville, Pennsylvania each summer.

Addison then served as Executive Secretary for the Joint Office for Southern Asia and the Near Asia Division of Foreign Missions of the National Council of Churches of Christ. This joint office carried responsibility for the areas stretching from North Africa east to Nepal, Pakistan, India, and Ceylon and coordinated the numerous projects carried out cooperatively by over forty American Boards and Agencies working in those countries.

Thetis was born May 2, 1919 and died February 11, 1999. She and her husband had two children, James and Sheila.

### **35. Rev. J. Martin England**

Mr. England was born June 29, 1901 in Seneca, South Carolina. He was a graduate of Furman University and Crozer Theological Seminary. In 1986 he was the recipient of an honorary doctor of divinity degree from Furman University.

Rev. and Mrs. England began their service with International ministries as missionary appointees to Bhamo, Burma in 1933. During two terms of service 1934-1939, and 1945-1950, the Englands served together among the Kachin people of Burma.

Unable to serve abroad during the period of World War II, the Englands collaborated with Clarence and Florence Jordon in the development of Koinonia Farm in Americus, Georgia beginning in 1942. Martin is credited with expanding American Baptist influence in the South during the early years of the Civil Rights Movement and was a close personal friend of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

In 1940 he spoke at the Board of Managers in November, 1940 in particular reference to the Kachin people with a confidence born of his experience in Burma, "I can say with the deepest conviction, no matter what happens,...I don't believe that the Christian faith and the Christian witness would die out, because something has happened in the lives of too many people..."

After serving in Burma and resigning in August 1951, Martin represented the Ministers and Missionaries Benefit board in a staff position until his retirement in 1972.

He continued to be a servant of Jesus Christ in a variety of ways. He was involved in Sunday school teaching and the local Senior Action Center, as well as in such organizations as Amnesty International and the Witness for Peace Program.

His wife, Mabel Orr England, died May 27, 1988. He died January 2, 1989. They had four children and 6 grandchildren. At his memorial service, the Board of Directors of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) honored Martin, recognizing his

influence on many lives in many ways, specifically the great impact of “his establishment and nurture of the Greenville County Education Project.” They also recognized his volunteer teaching.

### **36. Mabel Orr England**

Mabel England was born in Decatur, Alabama on June 2, 1908. She was a graduate from Athens College, Athens, Alabama.

Mabel and her husband, Reverend J. Martin England, had many years of ministry together. During much of that time, they served as commissioned missionaries of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society. Mabel received appointment with her husband-to-be for service in Bhamo, Burma in September 1933. It was there among the Kachin people that they served both before and after World War II.

While her husband engaged primarily in rural educational and evangelistic work, Mabel gave herself to family responsibilities, as well as to a focused ministry upon infant welfare and girls’ club work. She served as a volunteer officer in both Infant Welfare and Girl Guides organizations.

In addition, and particularly during the postwar reconstruction of Burma, she worked with her husband in the distribution of relief supplies, and in the introduction of medical services.

They were, for a period, 1942-1945, associated with the initial organization and development of Koinonia Farm in Americus, Georgia.

After they resigned in 1951, her husband served as staff representative of The Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board.

She had one son and three daughters.

She died May 27, 1988 at Greenville, South Carolina.

### **37. Rev. Claiborne “Clay” Reed Erickson**

Rev. Clay R. Erickson and Mrs. Erickson were appointed to missionary service in 1953. After an initial period of waiting for approval of visas to work in India, they were reassigned to Burma in 1955. There they were involved in university student work at Moulmein and in theological education at the Divinity School at Insein.

They served in Burma until 1966 when all foreigners were required to leave.

They were reassigned to Chiang Mai, Thailand, where they served the Community Christian Church. They resigned in 1973.

The Rev. Claiborne (Clay) Erickson served as pastor of the Community Christian Church in Chiang Mai about 20 years ago. He also taught as a part-time faculty member at the

Thailand Theological Seminary. Janet taught kindergarten. They remained in Thailand until their resignation from missionary service in 1973.

On his return to the States he served as a pastor in Milton-Freewater, Oregon, until cancer forced his retirement.

Rev. Erickson died on May 23rd, 1990, in Salem, aged 61. They had three sons and two daughters.

### **38. Janet Osgood Erickson Morgan**

She was born June 17, 1929 in Jamshedpur, Bihar, India where her parents, Dr. William and Jane Osgood, served as American Baptist missionaries.

Janet's early education was at the Woodstock School in India. She earned a B. A. in Sociology at Linfield College and a B. S. at the Oregon College of Education. She met her first husband, Claiborne Erickson during their college years and married in 1952.

During the 1980s, Janet earned a nursing degree and worked in the Odd Fellows Nursing Home and as a patient care coordinator for the hospice program in WallaWalla, Washington.

The following year Janet married Paul Morgan. She was an active member of Calvary Baptist Church in Salem, Oregon.

Janet Osgood Erickson Morgan died at home on October 26, 2003 of cancer. She is survived by her husband, Paul, five children, two step-children, and three siblings, Fred '44, Luella Osgood Spirup '49 and Gil '59, and 18 grandchildren.

### **39. Rev. Edwin Teed Fletcher**

Edwin Teed Fletcher was born in Ningpo, China September 2, 1899 of American Baptist missionaries Edwin Newton Fletcher (1866-1899) and Edith Antoinette (Teed) Fletcher. Edith had lost her husband to fever before the baby was born and so brought him and older sister Ruth home to Hamilton, N. Y. where she raised the two children on a five-acre "farm."

Ed graduated from Colgate College in Hamilton where he felt called to be a missionary with the then Northern Baptist Foreign Missionary Society. The Society, having accepted him, did not have sufficient funds to appoint him. So Ed enrolled in graduate agriculture studies at Cornell University in Ithaca. When funds became available Ed was appointed to Burma where he was immersed in language study in Bassein (now Patheingyi).

Also in language study at Bassein was a new appointee of the Northern Baptist Women's Foreign Missionary Society, M. Virginia Barrett. Ed and Virginia were married on the field where in their first seven year term Stephen, Mary, and John Fletcher were born. Both Ed and Virginia were fluent in Burmese and serving in evangelistic work when the Burma Mission appointed them to work among the Pwo Karens. So it was back to language studies for Pwo Karen.



On their first furlough, Ed earned a Master of Sacred Theology degree (1931) at Berkeley Baptist Divinity School, and Virginia gave birth to William, their fourth child. Back to Burma they were jointly stationed at Maubin from which Pwo Karen churches were established in villages throughout the Irrawaddy delta. Ed bicycled between paddy fields to villages from wherever he could dock the mission boat, taking a chinlone cane ball with him as a means of establishing rapport. Virginia helped with the administration of the mission school in Maubin. She also home-schooled her two youngest children while the two older children were placed in the American School for Missionaries Children in Taunggyi located in the central hills of Burma next to the Shan States.

On their second furlough, Ed returned to Cornell to complete the Master's degree in Agriculture (1940) which he had begun back in 1923 – “the worst case of arrested development” his professor called it. Ed always had an interest in upgrading the native diet with vitamin rich vegetables. All four children were placed in the Fannie Doane Home in Granville, Ohio since the Japanese invasion of Manchuria and China created uncertainty in all of Asia. Ed and Virginia returned alone to Maubin in 1941. The bombing of Rangoon made clear the Japanese intention. Virginia escaped to India on one of the last ships to get out of Rangoon. Ed returned to Maubin to secure mission property against the Japanese, and then with other mission refugees trekked in a caravan of cars to Mandalay where they went by steamer and then canoes further up the Irrawaddy River to walk through the jungle into Assam, India.

Ed and Virginia were reunited in Gauhati, Assam and in 1942 decided upon a leave of absence for the duration of the war. Ed found work with the U. S. Soil Conservation Service in Cathlamet, Washington where they made a home for their four children and Ed's mother, Edyth. After the war they returned to Burma and served in Bassein. Burma became independent on January 4th, 1948. All foreigners, including missionaries were expelled in May, 1966.

In retirement Ed worked part time as Associate Pastor for the home-bound at First Baptist Church of Riverside, CA. Later, they moved into the home they built in Plymouth Village, Redlands, CA. When Virginia died in 1972, the next year Ed married Miss Rebecca A. Anderson in Iowa and brought her to Redlands, CA. Rebecca Anderson was a Burma missionary with whom Ed and Virginia worked in Maubin before the war and Bassein afterward. Ed died seven year later, attended by Rebecca.

Written by Rev. Stephen E. Fletcher, his son.

#### **40. VIRGINIA BARRETT FLETCHER**

**M. Virginia Barrett** was born June 8, 1899 in East Highlands, CA to Samuel and Mary V. Barrett, orange growers. She graduated from Redlands University and then studied at the Baptist Missionary Training School (BMTS) in Louisville, KY before being appointed as a missionary to Burma (1925?) by the Northern Baptist Women's Foreign Missionary Society (WFMS).

Immersed in Burmese language study in Bassein, Burma (now Patheingyi, Myanmar), Virginia fell in love with and married **Edwin T. Fletcher**. In their first seven year term they had Stephen, Mary, and John, born in the Ellen Mitchell Memorial Hospital, Moulmein. Both Ed and Virginia

became fluent in Burmese and served together in Bassein. The children were cared for by a nanny (Ma Poo). Virginia decided she needed to spend more time with her eldest when he didn't understand what she said until she said it in Burmese. When the Burma Mission appointed the Fletchers to work among the Pwo Karens it meant more language study.

For the trip home for their first furlough (1931), Virginia put baby John in a pah for a bassinette. They rented a small apartment in Berkeley, CA so Ed could attend Berkeley Baptist Divinity School. It was a difficult time. Four year old Stephen was sick with celiac; Virginia was pregnant; and Ed's mother Edythe was with them "to help care for the children." The house was crowded. Doctors said they would lose Stephen if he went back to Burma. So when the new baby came, Virginia stayed in Berkeley while Ed took Stephen down to Redlands to be left with Virginia's mother. Then it was back to Burma to their new station at Maubin. While Ed was off on mission trips with his Karen boatman, Thomas, Virginia helped with the administration of the mission school in Maubin, nursed her baby, home-schooled her other two, and prayed for little Stephen's healing back in America. Nights were so lonely. (Stephen recovered and rejoined the family in 1934.)

On their second furlough the Fletchers were in Ithaca, NY. Virginia, mother of four, in a three-room apartment with no help, found winter unlike anything in Burma. The laundry froze on the line and washing the dirty windows only coated them with dirty ice. But it was "a white Christmas." In January 1941 ll four children were placed in the Fannie Doane Home in Granville, Ohio. The Japanese invasion of Manchuria and China created uncertainty in all of Asia. Ed and Virginia returned alone to Maubin in 1941. The bombing of Rangoon made clear the Japanese intension. Virginia escaped to India on one of the last ships to get out of Rangoon while Ed returned to Maubin to secure mission property against the Japanese. Virginia made her way to Gauhati, Assam where she hoped and prayed Ed might find her if he managed to walk out of Burma. He did!

As refugees having escaped from the Japanese, they now had to escape German subs in a precarious six week trip to America via the tip of South Africa. Virginia acquired a dread of blue lights from the black-out observed on shipboard. While Ed met extensively with the Board in New York, Virginia had a hysterectomy in Toledo, cared for in a hotel room by her 15 year old Stephen. Virginia and Ed settled in Cathlamet, Washington for the duration of the war where they made a home for their four children and Ed's Mother Edythe. After the war they returned to Burma and served in Ahlone, Rangoon, and later in Bassein, designing and conducting Easy English Correspondence Bible Courses until after independence when all missionaries were expelled.

In retirement Virginia returned to Redlands, CA , the city in which she had grown up as a child. She died at age 72, but not before having the pleasure of living in their own Plymouth Village home.

Written by Rev. Stephen E. Fletcher 6/30/2012 (her son)

#### **41. Rebecca Johanna Anderson Fletcher**

Rebecca Johanna Anderson, born March 17 1900, was the second-born of ten children to the Rev. Jacob Anderson and his wife, the former Caroline Ditlevsen, both American-born Danish-Americans. Rebecca's early childhood was in New Lisbon, Wisconsin where her father was Pastor of Lone Rock Baptist Church. She was eleven years old when her father accepted the call to Union Grove, Wisconsin.

She earned an AB degree from Des Moines College, Iowa and a BD degree from Central Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Kansas. She also studied at Chicago University and Southwestern Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Rebecca was a graduate of Des Moines University and an experienced teacher when she sailed on the *S. S. Franconia* for Burma August 31, 1929 to be an American Baptist educational missionary. From Rangoon, she travelled to Bassein, a two-day trip by river steamer, with Ed & Virginia Fletcher who already had three years experience in Burmese, the dominant language of the country. Rebecca would study some Burmese, but Pwo Karen was to be her language, serving with missionary Charles Conrad just across the road from the Fletchers in the Bassein mission compound.

After Rebecca's first furlough in 1935, both the Fletchers and "Miss Anderson," (as Rebecca was known to the Fletcher children) served in Maubin, an island in the Irrawaddy delta where there was a large Pwo Karen church and school. The church, the school, and their two houses were all on stilts to protect them from floods, and were connected by an elevated covered walk. The whole compound was protected from the river by a bund that was a thoroughfare for rural dwellers coming to the Maubin market and *ponghi jaung* or Buddhist temple and school. When the Fletchers went on furlough in 1940, Rebecca was the sole missionary at the Maubin station.

Education was her field, and Rebecca would have liked to have stayed with the well-run Maubin school. But in 1941 she was asked to leave Maubin to the Fletchers on their return from furlough. Rebecca was to work in northern Burma among the Kachin people in Bhamo. This was difficult, involving learning a new language without an adequate tutor. This was January 1942. After Pearl Harbor (Dec. 7, 1941), On February 12, 1942 Rebecca Anderson and party left Myitkyina to walk out of the Kachin State in north Burma to the Naga Hills of Assam in India. Anyway, it was time for her second furlough.

After some months as a Burma refugee in Assam, Rebecca crossed India to sail from Bombay on the Moore-McCormack Lines *S. S. Brazil*, converted into a troopship. Of all people, Ed & Virginia Fletcher were on board having gotten on at Karachi. From Bombay to New York was a harrowing six-week voyage by way of Cape Town, zigzagging by day to avoid Nazi submarines, and in pitch-darkness at night except for dim blue black-out lights below deck. During the remainder of World War II, Rebecca earned a graduate degree in divinity at Central Baptist Seminary, Kansas City, returning to Humboldt, Iowa where her family had settled. In 1947 Rebecca returned to Burma. She worked at the Pwo Karen Bible Training School in Rangoon.

She taught classes in the Bible and prepared Bible study literature. In addition she did translation and commentaries on both the Major and Minor Prophets.

She served until retirement in 1965. Back in Humboldt, Iowa, Rebecca cared for her father until his death just short of his 98<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Perhaps it was no surprise to Rebecca that Ed Fletcher, newly a widower, came to see her in Humboldt. They married August 31, 1973 in the Humboldt church where her father had first begun to preach in English as well as Danish. For their honeymoon Rebecca and Ed drove to his home in Plymouth Village, Redlands, California, of which she finally could say, "I have lived here longer than any place in my life."

Written by Rev. Stephen E. Fletcher 7/21/2012

### **Miss Pearl Fruehan.**

See Pearl Fruehan Steele #102

### **42. Dr. Dorothy Gates**

Dorothy Gates was born April 21, 1914 at Scranton, Pennsylvania. She was baptized in 1923 at Albany, NY. Her high school was East High in Cleveland, graduating in 1930. She received a B.A. from Wayne University, Detroit, Michigan in 1935. Then she went to Western Reserve School of Medicine in Cleveland, Ohio and received her M.D. She received special training at the Baptist Missionary Training School in Chicago before serving as a medical missionary from 1943 to 1949 in Ipin, West China. She worked eight years in areas dealing with lack of education and over-population that resulted in widespread disease and sickness.

She was forced to leave China during the Communist takeover; she was reassigned to Burma in 1950 where she practiced Obstetrics at the Ellen Mitchell Memorial Hospital in Moulmein. She faced limited facilities, and native poverty and ignorance which called for the best effort and technical knowhow of her and every member of the hospital staff. She served for thirteen years until 1962. The military coup forced her to go back to the United States.

From 1962-1965, she worked in a Munroe Memorial Hospital ER, Ocala, Florida and assisted in surgery there. From 1965-1984, she was one of two MD's at the College Health Service at Berea College in Berea, Kentucky.

She was a member of the Church of the Beatitudes and the Union Church in Berea.

Dr. Gates lived a life of service through her practice of medicine and her practice of faith. She was brilliant, kind, and selfless. She leaves behind no family but many admirers and friends. Her last gift was the leaving of her body for medical research.

She died at 98 at St. Petersburg March 1, 2013.

### **43. Roger W. Getz**

Roger was born at Springfield, Ohio on October 17, 1915, the son of August W. and Mabel (Otstot) Getz. After graduating from the Ohio State University with a degree in animal science, he returned to the home farm and farmed with his father, greatly expanding the farm operation. He was a member of and active in Sinking Creek Baptist Church, a small but passionate mission-minded rural congregation.

In 1945, Getz accepted the call to full time Christian work. After training at Biblical Seminary in New York and the Hartford School of Missions, he and his wife Genevieve (Jessen) and sons Will and Jack, went to Burma March 7, 1947 to begin their mission work.

He started an agricultural extension program at Pynmana and developed programs for improving Burma's livestock, crops, and farming practices. At the same time, he was training local Burmese to expand and carry on the improvement projects.

Civil war broke out in Burma with the strongest violence in the rural areas, thus, the agricultural districts. Getz was shot at and later taken prisoner. He was placed in a cell with a Burmese man who had worked with Getz at the agricultural station. They were able to escape one night and find their way back to the town near their home. Getz found his family, (they now had an additional child, a five-month-old son, Bob,) who were being hidden from the conflict by the local doctor.

Due to the civil war, the agricultural mission work could not continue. They had to leave Burma, so, with the local doctor's help, the family was taken to China where the American Embassy had a plane pick them up. They then returned to the United States. They were safe now, but had lost everything but the clothes they wore.

A year later, Getz joined the staff of Bacone College, Muskogee, Oklahoma, the only college specifically for American Indians. He was named president of the college in 1956. Under his direction, the college was greatly expanded including the addition of a School of Nursing. After several years at Bacone, he served in foreign mission work in the Philippines and in Vietnam. He was also Administrative Director of the Baptist General Assembly area of Green Lake Wisconsin. He died June 29, 1990 at a retirement cottage in Montana. He is buried in Ferncliff Cemetery in Springfield.

### **44. Genevieve Getz**

Genevieve was born February 14, 1918 in St Paul, MN. She was the last born and had one older sister and three older brothers.

She grew up in various towns in the Midwest but primarily in Ohio. The family moved relatively frequently because of the work of her father who was involved with the YMCA, pastoral work, and as a salesman. She graduated from high school in Columbus, Ohio. The family attended the 11th Avenue Baptist Church located just south of the OSU campus. Her father became the pastor of Sinking Creek Baptist Church just east of Springfield where she met Roger Getz, who was part of a farming family in the area.

She attended Cedarville College in Cedarville, OH and earned an associate degree and a teaching certificate in about 1939. She began teaching in that part of Ohio. Genevieve and Roger became better acquainted and were married October 17, 1941 at the Sinking Creek church. Genevieve continued teaching until the birth of their first-born child, Will, on July 10, 1942. Following her early married years as a farm wife and school teacher, she and Roger decided to become agricultural missionaries and were commissioned by the American Baptist Convention (now American Baptist Churches of the USA) to go to Burma, which they did in early 1947.

Genevieve was involved with language study, caring for their children, and work with the women. She died June 3, 1994

Written by Will R. Getz, Ph.D. (son).

#### **45. Dr. Martha Jane Gifford**

Dr. Gifford was appointed a missionary of the Woman's American Baptist Foreign Mission Society on June 27, 1917 with designation to Moulmein, Burma. She sailed December 22 of that year and arrived in Rangoon on February 11, 1918.

She was a person of many talents which included her medical skills as well as supervision of building construction, extensive writing, and composition of poetry. She arrived in Moulmein in time to help develop the medical program at the Ellen Mitchell Memorial Hospital which became widely known in the whole area of Burma. She did public health work in the villages and this work led her to assist nurse Selma Maxville in developing a nurses training program to staff village dispensaries. She also became involved in the leprosy treatment program.

Dr. Gifford went to India in 1926 to study tropical medicine in Calcutta after which she relieved Dr. Esther Closson of the Gauhati Hospital who had to return home due to ill health. Dr. Gifford returned to Burma in 1928.

In 1939 she relieved Dr. Alice Randall at the Gauhati Hospital, returning to Burma in 1941. Forced to leave Burma when the Japanese arrived in 1942, Dr. Gifford again went to India where she served for short periods in Miraj, Sooriapet, Nellore, Jorhat, and Gauhati.

Returning to the field from furlough in 1945, she first served for a brief time at Clough Memorial Hospital in Ongole, India, before returning to Burma in early 1946. She retired from service on September 1, 1952.

Dr. Gifford authored a number of health training and obstetrical manuals for the use of nurses in training, and she also wrote a three part history of the Ellen Mitchell Memorial Hospital entitled, "How it Began," "How it Grew", and "How it Survived", covering the period of that hospital's history from 1918 through 1958.

She died at Rochester, New York on April 21, 1982.

#### **46. Clifford M. Gilson**

Clifford Gilson was born in Shillong, Assam, India on August 15, 1928 of Baptist missionary parents, Fred and Hazel Gilson. However, because of his mother's illness, he grew up in Montana, Nebraska and California.

Graduating from High School in 1945, he attended the University of Redlands for two years before transferring to Knox College in Illinois. He graduated in 1949 and went to school in Illinois for two years. Entering Colgate Rochester Divinity School in Rochester, New York in 1951, he interned for three years in youth work with First Baptist Church of Fairport, New York. He graduated and was ordained in 1954. He served for two summers with the Home Ministries of American Baptists in the western United States.

In 1955 he married Rosemary Farnum and they served churches in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin and Morris, Illinois. During these years two daughters, Ruth and Lisbeth, were born. In November 1959 the Gilsons were appointed by the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (now called International Ministries) and were assigned to work with the church in Burma. In 1960 they attended the Hartford Seminary Kennedy School of Missions before leaving for Burma in January 1961.

In Burma they spent the first year in language study in Thonze after which they were assigned to work with the Burma Baptist Convention. Their work assignment for the Convention was with the Christian Education program- helping to develop the Bible or religious curriculum of the Christian schools. They worked with Edina Gyaw and Daw Win Mya and others. They also taught in United Christian High School in Rangoon (Yangon) until the schools were nationalized. Clifford also worked as an associate of Henry Pan Aung, the Director of Youth Work for the Convention, and worked on the youth publication, the "High Call." An additional assignment was with the Evangelism Department. An occasional "fill in" was to teach a course or two at the Burma Divinity School (MIT). One of the most enjoyable times was spent as choir director of Judson Church at the University at the request of U Ba Hmyin.

During the time in Burma, a daughter, Mary, was born in 1962 and a son, David, was born in 1965. The Gilsons were told by the government to leave Burma in 1966 along with all other missionaries. They were reassigned to Kodaikanal School in South India from 1967 to 1970. Later they pastored churches in Hoosick and West Hoosick, New York, and in Lansdowne, Pennsylvania. Mrs. Gilson worked at Eastern Baptist Seminary in Philadelphia. After retiring, Clifford served as "interim" minister in several churches. In 2002, the Gilsons moved to a retirement community in Penney Farms, Florida where they now live. (Written Sept 2012)

The Gilsons returned to Burma 5 times between 1996 and 2009 and several times spent weeks teaching English at the Lisu Seminary in Pyin Oo Lwin or other seminaries. They maintain friendships there with friends from the 1960's and students from the recent years.

#### **47. Rosemary Farnum Gilson**

Rosemary Farnum Gilson (Mrs. Clifford M. Gilson) was born March 25, 1934, in Newton Center, Massachusetts. Her parents were missionaries under appointment to the American

Baptist Foreign Mission Society, and served in Japan. Rosemary's early years were spent in Japan.

Rosemary graduated from Keuka College in New York State in 1955, with a major in English, and minors in Education and History. Later, she studied at the Kennedy School of Missions, Hartford Seminary, Hartford, Connecticut.

She and Clifford M. Gilson were married in 1955, and together they served churches in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, and Morris, Illinois before their appointment by the ABFMS to Burma in 1959.

The Gilsons arrived in Burma in 1961 with two daughters, Ruth and Lisbeth. Mary and David were born in Burma in 1962 and 1965 respectively. The family lived one year in Thonze, doing Burmese language study, participating in the life of the Burmese Church, and learning about the culture. The next four and a half years were spent living and working in Rangoon with the Burma Baptist Convention. Rosemary taught English at United Christian High School; worked on the Burma News and the Myitta Thaman. She worked in many opportunities for Christian Education training events, and wrote curriculum. At the end of their term she served on the Board of MIT (formerly known as Burma Institute of Theology). Rosemary was active in both Immanuel Baptist Church and Judson Church. She helped write the Sesquicentennial Pageant called "The Future is as Bright as the Promises of God", and worked on both the staging and costuming of that celebration event in 1963.

The Gilson family stayed beyond their furlough time, hoping to be allowed to continue to serve before returning to the United States. Later the Gilsons served a three year term at Kodaikanal School in South India. Pastorates in New York State and Pennsylvania completed their pastoral service. Rosemary also worked in the Public School System, and was employed in the administrative offices of Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary located in Philadelphia for eleven years.

Since retirement, the Gilsons reside at Penney Retirement Community in Florida. They are active in the many opportunities for volunteer service and the work of the local church. They have made five trips back to Burma since 1996, teaching in several different Seminaries, and renewing good friendships from former years.

#### **48. Dr. Anna Barbara Grey**

Anna Barbara Grey was born in Evanston, Illinois on August 11, 1895. From 1913 to 1917, she attended Denison University and the University of Chicago, completing her MD degree at Rush Medical College in 1921. She then served internships at the New England Hospital for Women and Children in Boston and Los Angeles County Hospital.

Coming from a very wealthy family, she could have made any number of professional choices. She decided to become a medical missionary.

Dr. Grey sailed for Burma in the fall of 1922, arriving in Rangoon that December. She was instrumental in the development of the fine Ellen Mitchell Memorial Hospital at Moulmein. Nurses trained in this hospital served in many parts of Burma. Her family undergirded her work



by contributing funds for a building to house the nurses' training school. She herself provided much of the equipment for the building. She would serve five tours as a medical missionary in Burma. The first tour was for 6 years, from 1922 to 1928. The third tour, which began in 1937, was interrupted by the outbreak of WWII.

She flew back to Namkham, Burma to help in the emergency there while Dr. Gordon Seagrave worked near the front lines. When the fighting became worse, she returned to India in January of 1942, leaving on the last plane safely to leave that area. She spent the rest of the war years in India working at the Victoria Memorial Mission Hospital in Hanumkonda and the American Baptist Mission Hospital in Nellore. She returned briefly in 1945 to investigate damages at Ellen Mitchell Memorial Hospital at Moulmein under the sponsorship of the Red Cross. She returned to Burma at the end of 1945 where she helped with the work of restoration and rehabilitation. Her fourth and fifth tours lasted from 1946 to 1951 and 1952 to 1957. She was presented with a silver bowl in 1957.

She retired in 1957 to East Lansing, Michigan. She was elected to the Board of Managers of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society and filled many speaking engagements on the subject of Burma. She also did volunteer medical work for the Michigan Red Cross.

She retired again to Redlands where she was president of the Fellowship Class of the First Baptist Church. She also served as chairperson of the Health Service committee at Plymouth Village and helped with the local Meals on Wheels program.

She died October 7, 1980 at Plymouth Village in Redlands, California.

#### **49. Dr. William (Bill) O. Hackett**

Bill Hackett was born of Burma missionary parents in Burma hence he spoke Burmese of the market fluently. His early schooling was in Burma.

He earned a B. A. from Drury College, Springfield, Missouri, an M. A. degree from Hartford Seminary in Connecticut in 1941 and a Doctor of Philosophy degree from Cornell University in 1953. While at the Kennedy School of Missions in Hartford, Bill met and married Marion Shaw.

Appointed in 1941, the Hacketts went to Taunggyi in the Shan State of Burma, where they lived among the Pa-o tribe, but worked with eight other tribal groups as well. Bill developed a Rural Christian Center with services to meet religious, educational, medical, agricultural, and social needs. He was chairman of the Agricultural Committee of the Burma Baptist Convention, and served for many years on the executive committee of the Convention.

Bill was ordained in Burma in 1947. He was manager and director of the Pa-O Rural Christian Center. He was an agricultural and rural church consultant and taught special seminary classes. He worked among nine different ethnic groups and spoke six languages. He saw his knowledge of agriculture as contributing to the growth and development of the Christians. Evangelism and witness was at the heart of his missionary calling and motivation.

He was a strong individualist, but appreciated deeply ministry to and by the whole Christian community.

After being forced to leave Burma in 1966, the Hacketts went to Hong Kong where they ministered 1967 to 1982. Bill taught at Chung Chi College and Hong Kong Baptist College. He also helped with rural economic development programs. During his service in Hong Kong, Dr. Hackett continued to maintain ties with Burma through frequent visits there as well as Burmese people living in Macau, a Portuguese colony.

He visited Burma over twenty times and took Neil and Diana Sowards on their first trip to Burma in 1985. His influence led to the founding of Friends of Burma by the Sowards. His visits and encouragement were greatly appreciated by the leaders of Burma.

In retirement due to a serious heart condition, Bill continued to speak on behalf of Burma. He died at Wolfboro, New Hampshire where he had gone to speak on March 8, 1990 at 75. His only daughter, Martha (Marty) Hackett, continued to carry on his work until her death.

#### **50. Marion Shaw Hackett**

Marion spent her early life in Belchertown, Mass., where her father was a town official and her mother a teacher. She was a graduate from Northfield Seminary in Massachusetts and of the Massachusetts State College at Amherst. She also did postgraduate work in Greek, linguistics, and New Testament at both Hartford, and Cornell University.

The Hacketts were appointed as missionaries to Burma June 24, 1941. During the war years 1942-45, she and her husband served a church in Franconia, New Hampshire.

After the war the Hacketts went to Burma and were stationed near Taunggyi.

Marion gave her time to mastering the Pa-o language, and to translating the New Testament. This was an arduous task because the written language had not been standardized. She was able to complete about three-fourths of the New Testament. About half of the translated material is now in printed form.

She shared her considerable writing and research talents in general and specialized articles which were printed periodically in denominational publications.

Marion was ordained to the Christian ministry in 1962, one of first women to be ordained in Burma.

Bill and Marion worked as a remarkable team ministry and were very much appreciated by the people they worked with. An official testimonial by the Taunggyi Baptist Church, recognized

them not only as “dear good and loveable friends, but as earnest and faithful workers of the Gospel of Christ.”

In 1966 they had to leave Burma and were reassigned to Hong Kong to work among the Cantonese people and arrived in 1967. During this transition time, Marion was struggling with serious health problems. She was part of the academic communities of Chung Chi and Hong Kong Baptist Colleges where Bill served as professor of sociology and department administrator. Eventually she was able to begin a new personal ministry as a teacher of the Old and New Testaments at Hong Kong Baptist College.

Together, through their continuing ties to Burma, they were able to develop an outreach among Chinese émigrés from Burma in the Portuguese colony of Macau.

They had two children Martha and William. Martha Jane Hackett carried on their work of helping the Baptists of Burma until her death March 1, 2012.

Marion died on October 9, 1988 in Springfield, Missouri.

### **51. Phyllis C. Hamilton**

Phyllis was born June 20, 1914 in South Lavonia, New York. She attended Sioux Falls College 1933-35 and 1941 earning a B.A. She then attended Normal College, Spearfish, South Dakota in 1937. She then earned an M.R.E. degree from Northern Baptist Seminary in 1944.

She was recommended by the Women’s American Baptist Foreign Mission Society and appointed in 1944 as a missionary to Burma. She arrived in Rangoon May 3, 1946 and Mandalay July 4, 1946.

She was on salary to September 30, 1950.

Possibly married Leo E. Randall.

### **52, 53. Paul and Haven (Binford) Hasel,**

Paul married his wife Haven Binford on August 25, 1944. He then attended and graduated from Colgate Rochester Seminary at Rochester, New York. Haven received an M.A. from Eastman School of Music at Rochester. They were appointed Area Missionaries to Moulmein. Paul would have primary work among the Karens.

On the five week boat trip from New York to Rangoon, Burma, they began the study of Sgaw Karen with Rachael Seagrave who was born in Burma and knew Sgaw Karen.

On their arrival in Moulmein in December 1946, Paul found there were 48 Sgaw Karen churches and only 5 Pwo Karen churches. The Pwo Karens had arranged that Paul would work with them. After 5 weeks of Pwo study, Pastor Sra Po Sin of the main Pwo church in DohnYahn, led Paul on a visit to these Pwo parishes some 40 miles north of Moulmein. These outreach journeys

continued every few months into the Buddhist areas. Paul went on to pass two exams in Pwo and then began the study of Burmese.

As Area Missionary, Paul was asked to preach twice monthly and provide communion service for the small Telegu Indian Church meeting Sunday afternoons in the Burmese Church. The large Burmese church had two pastors and did not need his help.

The Mon Church pastor in Moulmein led Paul to visit the 5 other Mon churches reaching 40 miles south of Moulmein. They were not reaching out to the Buddhist communities around them. To change this, Paul arranged a yearly two day Pastors' Conference for inspiration and study of mission outreach among the Buddhists.

Paul saw a need to get the youth from various languages groups together for fellowship and training. They all spoke Burmese in addition to their village language. Several miles south of Moulmein, he saw a small lake on a 10 acre rubber plantation that would provide an ideal location for a Youth Campground. After some involved dickering, the owner of that property agreed to sell it. The youth and the churches of the area raised the funds for its purchase. The youth of the churches of Moulmein sang Christmas carols all night long on every street and received donations from Buddhists as well as Christian homes. Paul saw that for future growth among the Pwos, there would need to be a Pwo Karen Bible School to train teachers and pastors. When Paul had to return to the U. S. for his health, he arranged for funds to aid this school and to provide for student classrooms and dorms. This Bible School today (2013) has 10 teachers and 30 students.

Haven taught music in the mission school which taught in English and was K-12 across from her home. She also gave individual piano lessons. She also played for the English Sunday worship service. She was a home maker, raising their children.

When Paul had to return to the U. S. for his health in 1950, he attended the Berkeley Baptist Divinity School, looking forward to returning to Burma. When the doctors ruled against this, Paul was greatly disappointed. However, he continued to send his monthly Tithe support for the Bible school at DohnYahn so he continued to serve the Pwo Karens of Burma.

#### **54. Carrie Hasseltine**

Carrie Hasseltine was born April 12, 1885 in Gibbon, Nebraska. She was baptized February 23, 1902 in Peru, Nebraska. She went to Nebraska State Normal School 1904 and earned an A.B. from Nebraska University in 1911.

She was appointed June 28, 1917 and sailed from San Francisco December 22, 1917. She arrived in Rangoon Feb 11, 1918 where she was designated for Maubin. She took furlough 1924-5, 1932, 1935. She went to Prome and then Moulmein.

She was evacuated from Rangoon January 26, 1942 for India. She sailed from Bombay February 20, 1942 arriving New York March 28, 1942.

She returned to Burma arriving Rangoon January 23, 1947 and served in Tharawaddy.

At one point in time, she served at the A. B. Mission, Toungoo

She then served at the Guest House at Maymyo.

Her years of service were 1918-1942, 1947-1954—33 years.

She left Burma on May 15, 1954 and retired November 1, 1954.

### **55. Elizabeth Marion Petley Heptonstall aka Mrs. C. H. Heptonstall**

Born in Toungoo, Burma, April 12, 1874, the only daughter of Captain and Mrs. James Petley, she gave her entire life to Burma and its needs in a unique way. At the time of her birth, Captain Petley was proprietor of the Naucho Coffee estate. Both he and Mrs. Petley were radical Christians and the influence of their home went far beyond their immediate circle.

When Elizabeth was nine years old, Captain Petley, under the influence of Dr. Alonzo Bunker and Rev. John Case, both A.B.F.M.S. missionaries, started a tea plantation expected to help the Karens by giving them employment. The plantation was deep in the jungles of the Karen hills and here Capt. and Mrs. Petley and their six children lived. The plantation was in the very heart of the country where Italian Jesuit priests were at work, and the arrival of a Protestant family, working to raise living standards of the Karens, was much resented. All sorts of persecution followed, culminating in the assassination of the eldest and youngest of the Petley boys. The Petley family went back to Toungoo, but both the tea plantation and coffee business continued in their hands, providing an economic blessing to the Karens.

The close family relationship of the Petleys and the A.B.F.M.S. missionaries, coupled with her knowledge of the Karen language and people, made it natural for Elizabeth Marion Petley, in her early teens, to be a volunteer worker in the A.B.F.M.S. in Toungoo. In 1897 she married Rev. C. H. Heptonstall.

In 1897 Elizabeth became an official representative of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society.

For 44 years they served in school and church, among the Bwe Karens in Toungoo (1893-1920), the Karens at Loikaw (1921-1922), and the Karens, Burmans, and Shans in Taunggyi (1922-1951). Mr. Heptonstall traveled in areas where women were not allowed so Elizabeth remained in Taunggyi and hosted many missionaries in transit to other fields.

The Heptonstalls underwrote the work of Rev. and Mrs. William Hackett. They were childless but many called them Aunt Bess and Uncle Henry.

When Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Heptonstall retired in 1933, it did not mean they ceased to work for Burma. In Taunggyi they built a spacious home, "Heptonvilla" to provide a rest home and haven for all evangelical missionaries. Mr. Heptonstall died in 1936. She became paralyzed by a stroke four years later. She became a refugee to India during WWII (1942-1947). A large part of her home was destroyed by bombing. However she continued to use "Heptonvilla" as originally intended, with the help of Mrs. E. Kirkpatrick who joined her in 1950.

During the years of retirement, Mrs. Heptonstall was as active in mission work as she had been, in church, on executive committees, in personal counseling all sorts of nationalities.

She died on October 8, 1951 at Taunggyi, Burma having served 57 years in missionary service.

#### **56. Alice E. Hinton (Blakely)**

Alice was born October 26, 1923 in Mandalay, Burma where her parents, Herb & Marion Hinton were American Baptist Missionaries. She was home schooled for the first and second grades by her mother. In March 1931 Alice went to the American School for Missionaries' Children.

In early 1935 Alice decided that she wanted to be baptized and accept Jesus as her Savior. On March 17, 1935 her father baptized her, her older brother, and two other children of missionaries. In November she graduated from the eighth grade of the American School.

In the spring of 1936 the family returned to the U. S. and settled in West Hartford, Connecticut where Alice graduated from high school in 1940. She studied at Bates College in 1940 and, when her family moved to Indiana in 1941, she transferred to Butler University taking the Pre nursing course and earning a BS. During her time at Indiana University Nurses Training School, Alice joined the U. S. Cadet Nurse Corps. This required her to stay active in nursing during the war.

In 1945, at Green Lake, Wisconsin at a Baptist Youth Fellowship, she felt she was called to missionary service. She earned a Registered Nurse degree from Indiana University Training School for Nurses in 1946.

In August 1946 Alice was asked to go to Burma to help reopen and reestablish the Ellen Mitchell Memorial Hospital and nurse's training school at Moulmein. She was appointed by the Women's American Baptist Foreign Mission Society on September 24, 1946. She was commissioned at the First Baptist Church of Indianapolis and left for Burma in December.

While serving as a nurse there, she treated George Blakely, a merchant marine sailor from Scotland. He asked her to marry him and they were married on September 15, 1948. They then went to the United States, thereby ending her service in Burma.

Later she was active in the First Baptist Church of Lansdale which sponsored numerous Burmese refugees.

She had a daughter and two sons.

She died January 6, 2010 at age 86.

#### **57, 58. Rev. Charles Robert & Thelma Bertha Zimmerman Horton**

He was born July 30, 1915. He went from California after being appointed April 18, 1939. He served the American Baptist Mission in Pinyinmana.

He resigned November 1, 1947.

His wife, Bertha, was born February 10, 1914.

**Rev. Robert Howard, Methodist Missionary**

Robert was born in Mobile, Alabama on September 24, 1922. He felt God's call at age 5 and desired to live by Christ's teachings as a pastor. He graduated from the University of Alabama; Duke University Divinity School in North Carolina, attended the Hartford, Connecticut Methodist School of Missions and later did graduate work at the University of Chicago.

He was ordained by the Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church. His first pastorate was the 5 Points Millry Circuit near Mobile, Alabama.

In 1949, he sailed to Burma as a missionary. On February 12, 1959 he married Eleanor Smith, #98, a Baptist missionary nurse from Moulmein where they were married. On furlough he took a leave of absence from the Board of Missions for a year and was appointed to Annandale, Minnesota.

In Burma, he taught Bible and Christianity in a Methodist/Baptist High School and pastored a Scots Kirk (Presbyterian) English Language Church while studying the Burmese language. Other pastorates included Burmese language appointments in Syriam, Pegu, and Rangoon, all of which included much village work.

In 1966 they were forced to leave Burma. He then worked in Minnesota with rural churches.

He and his wife had two children—daughter Myint Myint Ohn and son Arthur Howard.

**59. Lizbeth "Elbee" Belle Hughes**

Lizbeth was born in Jacksonville, New Brunswick, Canada on August 6, 1868. She graduated from high school and then New Brunswick Normal School. At age 17 she began to teach in a needy country district where she initiated sewing as a course.

While there she thought about salvation and prayed for God to accept her. She felt at once the peace of forgiveness. She was baptized and became a member of her church. She started a Sunday school class, the first in the area. She also felt a "pull" for overseas service.

After teaching four years, she took further training at St. Martin's Seminary and then taught there for two years. She felt great joy when "her girls" were won to Christ.

After further study at Acadia University in Wolfville, Nova Scotia, Lizbeth volunteered for foreign missionary service in 1895. It was arranged for her to study a year at Newton Theological Seminary in Boston. On October 24, 1896 she sailed for Burma.

After serving two years in the English Girls' School in Moulmein, she was appointed to the Morton Lane School. On her 1904 furlough she studied at Columbia University in New York and returned to Moulmein in 1905 to become principal where she remained almost twenty years. Under her leadership, the school grew—a high school department was added and its Normal Department (Teacher Training) department enlarged and improved. Many went out to teach

throughout Burma. She worked very hard to develop each student's potential and leadership qualities. In 1919 the British Government bestowed on her the Kaiser-i-Hind medal.

In 1923, on her third furlough, she served as a delegate to the Baptist World Congress in Stockholm where she gave "a remarkable address". Upon her return to Burma she turned over the work at Morton Lane to younger women and went to Taunggyi. She and her friend, Agnes Whitehead, built a stone house known as "Rockbound". At Taunggyi she helped start the Huldah Mix Memorial School for Girls which was attended by Shan princesses and other girls of the community. She also had a hand in getting the American School started for the children of missionaries and other Americans. She worked to fund and erect Peabody Montgomery Rest Haven which was dedicated in 1927 as a haven for girls and young women who needed rest and care to regain their health and withstand the ravages of tuberculosis. She officially retired in 1933. But missionaries came to "Rockbound" during the hot season.

When World War II came and Taunggyi was bombed, she was forced to flee on one of the last planes to fly out of Shwebo to Chittagong and hence to India where she stayed at Kolar teaching. After the war she returned and found everything in ruins. She rebuilt her house and reopened Rest Haven in 1955.

In late 1959 she was taken to Moulmein. When she was 97, she flew back to the United States in 1965. She died on January 20, 1966.

## **60. Helen Hunt**

Helen Hunt was born in Toledo, Ohio on June 5, 1890. She was baptized at Granville, Ohio. She graduated from Shepardson Preparatory School 1906. She then graduated from Denison University 1910 and Simmons College 1916.

She was appointed by the Women's American Baptist Foreign Mission Society on December 17, 1918. She sailed from Vancouver on February 27, 1919 and arrived in Burma May 20, 1919 at Rangoon. She had furlough 1924, 1930, and 1936. She arrived in New York March 23, 1942.

She sailed from Philadelphia October 21, 1944 and arrived at Marwagoa, India February 11, 1945 and Allahabad on February 20, 1945. She then returned to Rangoon on October 5, 1945.

She sailed from Rangoon March 23, 1949 and arrived Los Angeles April 25, 1949. She then sailed from New York on December 29, 1949 and arrived in Rangoon February 7, 1950. Helen departed Rangoon April 17, 1951 and arrived in New York April 22, 1951.

She retired August 30, 1952.

After WWII Helen Hunt served in Burma 1946-1951. No information found on what work she did.

She died August 7, 1975 at Redlands, California.



## **61. Mona Ecco Hunt**

Mona Hunt was born in Guide Rock, Nebraska in August 10, 1903. She graduated from the College of Idaho with an AB in 1925, University of Washington 1928, State College of Washington 1937, and Berkeley Baptist Divinity School 1937 with an MA.

She was appointed to Moulmein, Burma May 16, 1937 and arrived in Rangoon September 28, 1937.

On December 25, 1941, the air raid siren sounded just as everyone entered the school dining room of the English Girls' High School in Moulmein, Burma. The school had been started by the Baptist Mission in 1871 to educate Anglo-Indian and Anglo-Burmese (mixed European and Asian descent) girls, who used English as their mother tongue. American Baptist missionary Mona Ecco Hunt wrote, "We told the children to take their plates with them, so they ate their Christmas dinner in the trench." Soon thereafter, just before the Japanese invaded Moulmein, Hunt helped to evacuate all the students and teachers and to close down the school.

She then sailed for India and on to America. Mona Ecco Hunt went into the Minidoka Internment Camp at Hunt, Idaho in 1942 to minister to those Japanese Americans who were being interned.

Hunt taught there the three years the camp existed. At the end of the war, the last internees left the camp on October 23, 1945. She helped in the work of relocating the people who needed financial help from the Welfare societies after they left the Camp. Most of them who worked at the Camp believed the entire program was a mistake and that the Japanese Americans should not have been removed from their homes, but since they were put in camps she was glad she had the opportunity of sharing in the work. In December of 1945 she terminated her work at the camp.

In 1947 Hunt wrote about the experience. She then went back to Burma arriving January 20, 1947 and worked at Maymyo until Feb 26, 1962 with furlough in 1952 and 1956.

In 1969 Hunt visited the Peace Memorial on the site where the first atom bomb fell in Hiroshima, Japan. She wrote: "As an American I feel ashamed of what my country did, and I wish anyone who would think of using atomic energy again in war would study these exhibits first."

She retired from Japan August 19, 1970 and died August 17, 1991.

## **62, 63. Lloyd George & Eileen Eleanor Reeves James**

Lloyd George James was born in Iola, Kansas on May 4, 1919. After graduating from Ottawa University, Kansas, in 1941, Mr. James was drafted into the US Army and while stationed in Kodiak, Alaska, accepted his first preaching assignments. He served in the Army until discharged in 1945. He then became pastor of the First Baptist Church, Reading, Kansas. He began theological studies at Central Baptist Seminary, Kansas City, and received his Master of Theology degree in 1951.

Mrs. James, formerly Eileen Eleanor Reeves, was born in Fort Scott, Kansas, on October 9, 1921. She graduated from Ottawa University in 1943 and received a Master of Religious

Education from Central Baptist Seminary in 1950. Mr. and Mrs. James were married in Kansas City, Kansas on June 29, 1945. Their marriage produced three sons; David Lee, Stephen Wray and Peter Llewellyn James, who was born in Burma on November 3, 1952.

Reverend and Mrs. Lloyd G. James, missionaries of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society, arrived in Burma the first time on January 14, 1951. They left Burma for home assignment in 1956 and returned to Burma on March 24, 1958. After a second term in Burma they departed Burma on June 13, 1964. They were unable to return due to the policies of the Burma government.

While in Burma Mr. James served as Mission Treasurer and Attorney and held the Power of Attorney for the ABFMS. In this capacity he had the opportunity to visit and assist in mission work in all parts of Burma. From time to time he taught classes at the Burma Divinity School, Insein, and for a time was interim pastor of the Immanuel Baptist Church, Rangoon. A major responsibility of Mr. James was to prepare the legal documents for the transfer of mission property to the Burma Baptist Convention. This involved more than 150 plots of land in various parts of Burma. The value of land and buildings would total several million dollars in today's money. This property has proved a wonderful blessing in the ministry of the church in Burma.

Mr. James joined the home office staff of the ABFMS from January 1, 1965, where he served as Secretary for Overseas Property. He then became Budget Director and also Recording Secretary for the Board of the ABFMS until his retirement on December 31, 1986.

Mrs. Eileen James had family responsibilities when the family lived in Rangoon. She also helped to entertain guests who visited Burma, assisted in the work with women and with school projects and helped in the teaching of English. When Mrs. James returned to the USA she became a Copy Editor for the ABC Board of Education. Both Mr. and Mrs. James joined and became very active in the Lower Providence Baptist Church. Both were long term members of the choir and both served as deacons of their church.

After leaving Burma the James settled in Audubon, Pennsylvania, near Valley Forge. Mrs. Eileen James died on December 21, 2008.

#### **64. Cecilia Louise Johnson**

She was appointed by the Women's American Baptist Foreign Mission Society in May of 1910 and designated to serve in Tharawaddy, Burma. She sailed on September 21, 1910, arriving in Rangoon on November 13.

Her work at Tharawaddy and later Pyapon, at Kemmendine School in Rangoon, and at the Karen High School in Moulmein, was in the educational field.

She was very versatile person—supervising repair work, repairing an organ herself, conducting a successful concert in order to provide funds for construction work, as well as working in refugee camps. Through it all, her goal was to make Jesus Christ known to the people of Burma.

During World War II, she served in India at the Jorhat Christian High School and the Bible School, returning to Burma in 1946.

While she was attending the missionary conference in Rangoon, all Karen fields were closed to missionaries (probably because of the Karen rebellion). She then worked in Thamaing Refugee Camp preparing formula from milk powder sent by Church World Service for mothers and babies under two.

After 44 years of service she retired on the field as of May 1, 1950, with final return to the United States in May 1954.

She died in Alhambra, California on June 25, 1980. She was 96 years old.

### **65. Laura E. Johnson**

She was born December 24, 1894 at Mead, Nebraska.

She was baptized in 1903 at Mead, Nebraska and held membership in Emmanuel Baptist Church of Mead, Nebraska.

Laura was a graduate of Denison University where she became interested in foreign missions. She also graduated from Nebraska University and New York University. She studied at Biblical Seminary of New York.

She was appointed January 9, 1931 by the Women's American Baptist Foreign Mission Society. She was in Maymyo 1931 and then Narasaravupet 1931.

She was evacuated during World War II to India. There is a newspaper article stating she was speaking to an officer's club about her escape from Burma in 1943. She returned to Burma after the war.

In 1948 she was assigned to Taunggyi, Shan State Bible School and then in 1954 to Mandalay. Her term of service was 1/19/1931 to 12/31/1954. She resigned December 31, 1954.

There was another missionary named Laura Johnson who lived 1869 to 1928 who served 1894 to 1925.

### **66, 67. Robert G. & Elizabeth (Kortum) Johnson**

Rev. Johnson was born in Chicago, Illinois, and graduated in 1938 from Wheaton College in Illinois. He married the former Elizabeth Luella Kortum of Decatur, Illinois in 1941.

Rev. Johnson, a graduate of Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, received the Doctor of Divinity degree from Northern Baptist Theological Seminary in recognition of his missionary work in Burma.

The couple were commissioned as missionaries of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society and designated for service in Burma. War intervened, and Rev. Johnson served as a Navy chaplain in the south Pacific during World War II.

Rev. and Mrs. Johnson began their missionary service in 1946, passing through Assam, India to enter war-torn Burma. His first priority was training ministers. The Johnsons served in the Chin Hills for twenty years, raising three children there while running Bible schools, touring remote areas accessible only on foot or by pony, running a dispensary, and doing translation of the Bible, Sunday School materials, and hymns.

He distributed medical supplies at cost.

Rev. Johnson designed and oversaw construction of many wooden-framed and rammed-earth Bible school buildings in both Falam and Hakha in the Chin Hills. Toward the end of this missionary service, understanding that the mission field in Burma was closing to foreigners under the new socialist military government, Rev. Johnson designed and oversaw the construction of a large stone church 96 by 50 feet in Hakha built almost entirely by hand, with the only powered machinery being a stone saw powered by a single-cylinder kerosene engine and a war-surplus truck to haul stone and other supplies.

The Johnsons relocated to King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, near the mission headquarters in Valley Forge in 1966. Rev. Johnson served on the Board of International Missions, overseeing mission work in Hong Kong, Thailand, and Zaire, with continuing work on Bible translation into the Hakha Chin language, until his retirement in 1980. From then until 1988, Rev. Johnson immersed himself in research for writing and self publication of a massive two-volume History of the American Baptist Chin Mission, a serious and authoritative record of the introduction of Christianity into the Chin Hills of Burma by missionaries of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society between 1899 and 1966.

Rev. and Mrs. Johnson moved to Moreno Valley, California in 1988 and then on to the Plymouth Village retirement community in 2001. In 2007, Rev. Johnson released a book entitled *On the Back Road to Mandalay*, on his and Mrs. Johnson's twenty years of life and work in the mountains of western Burma.

He died June 9, 2009.

### **68. Ruth F. Keyser**

Ruth was born in Williamsport, Pennsylvania on Oct 15, 1910. Throughout her early life, Ruth lived in a Christian atmosphere and was baptized at the age of 12.

She received her RN degree from Temple University Hospital School of Nursing in 1932 and then continued to work in nursing at Temple University until 1946.

Ruth was appointed in 1946 by the Women's American Baptist Foreign Mission Society to serve as a missionary nurse at the Ellen Mitchell Memorial Hospital in Moulmein, Burma. She was

nursing superintendent of the Moulmein Christian Hospital and for several years also served as treasurer of the hospital.

In October 1963, Ruth handed over her work to a national nurse and then relocated to Rangoon, where she assisted in the Burma Baptist Board of Publications.

She left Burma in 1966 with all the other missionaries.

Ruth retired December 31, 1972 after 26 years of service.

She was a member of East End Baptist Church in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, and an associate member of first Congregational Church, St. Petersburg, Florida.

She died June 21, 2001 at age 91 in Williamsport.

### **69. Walter Leroy Keyser**

He was born October 18, 1903 in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. He was baptized there in August 1914 and ordained for Christian ministry in April 1938. He was a graduate of Bucknell University 1925 with a BA and the University of Pennsylvania in 1928 with an M.A. He took special work at both Cornell University and Crozer Theological Seminary.

In May 1928 he was appointed a short term missionary to Burma, to the Biology Department of Judson College, Rangoon. He continued in mission service and went to Toungoo in 1931 where he was in charge of the Paku Karen High School and local evangelistic work. Before returning to America for furlough in 1935, he married Miss Eva Cummins of the Mandalay Girls' School, a missionary of the Women's Society.

Mr. & Mrs. Keyser returned to Burma in June 1938 this time to Burman work in Bassein. There they served until the Japanese invasion of 1942. Mr. Keyser made the terrible trek on foot out of Burma into India.

At Bhimpore, Bengal he was joined by Mrs. Keyser. He assisted in the work of the Boys' School until 1944 when they returned to the U. S.

After a four year absence caused by WWII, Rev. and Mrs. W. L. Keyser returned to Burma on May 3, 1946.

The need for missionaries was so great that urgent calls came from the people of three different mission stations asking for the Keyzers to be designated to come to them. It was finally decided that the Keyzers would go to Toungoo to work with the people of all races living there. Mr. Keyser had been stationed in Toungoo from 1931-1935 so he felt he was going back to work among good friends.

He decided to go on up to Toungoo alone to look the place over, to take up relief supplies, and to see what living accommodations for his family he could find in that war pounded town. He drove up with C. H. Horton of Pyinmana Agricultural School.

Early in the morning he went visiting old mission schools and people. Returning to the home of his host, he went down to the river to bathe. He swam out into the current. Something happened and he disappeared below the surface. His body was found fifteen miles down the river.

He was survived by his wife and son, Peter 10.

Eva was wounded in 1949 in the fighting at Maymyo.

### **70. Eva Cummins Keyser**

Eva Cummins was appointed by the Women's American Baptist Foreign Mission Society on June 9, 1929 and designated for Burma. She sailed September 20, 1929 arriving in Rangoon on November 5. She was involved in educational work in Mandalay.

In February 1935 she married Walter LeRoy Keyser ABFMS missionary who had been appointed in 1928 for a three year term in Burma but who had stayed until 1935. March 1935, they returned to the U. S.

After an extended furlough without salary, they were appointed by ABFMS on March 1, 1938 to Burman work at Bassein, Burma. Mrs. Keyser was school superintendent as well as being a homemaker and mother of a young son.

In 1942, because of World War II, they went to India and helped in famine relief in Bhimpore in the Bengal-Orissa field. After furlough in the U. S. 1944-45, they returned to Bhimpore, arriving in November 1945, to work until they could return to Burma.

They arrived in Rangoon on May 3, 1946 for work in Toungoo. On May 28, Mr. Keyser drowned in the Sittang River at Toungoo.

Mrs. Keyser stayed in Burma until 1949, working two years at Maymyo with the Christian Home and Family Life Program and on the Executive Committee of the Missions, and one year in Insein teaching in the Burman Seminary (now called Myanmar Institute of Christian Theology).

She returned to the U. S. on May 18, 1949 and was put on the retired list as of April 1, 1950 until September 30, 1953. She served as Director of Christian Education in American Baptist churches in Salt Lake City, Utah, and in Yakima, Washington.

In Yakima, she married A. D. Paddison on October 3, 1953. Mr. Paddison died in 1975. She died March 13, 1984. She had one son.

### **71. Mary Irene Laughlin**

Mary Laughlin was born in Nebraska and was raised in a Christian home. It was in a Baptist church in Tekamah, Nebraska that Mary made a commitment for Christ in 1908.

She earned a diploma from Northwestern Bible and Missionary Training School, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Then she earned the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Music degrees at Des Moines University. She then attended Cornell University and Gordon College. Mary returned to South

Dakota where she taught school before making application to the Women's American Baptist Foreign Mission Society. She was appointed for service in India in 1925.

After Mary's first term teaching at the high school in Balasore, Orissa, India, she was redesignated to Burma, where she taught at Kemmendine Girls High School from 1932 until 1941.

With the coming of the war she worked in the civilian evacuation department for the government of Burma. In 1942 Mary and Stella Ebersole were recognized by the Associated Press for heroic work they performed when they were involved in a bombing raid in Mandalay as they accompanied a group of young women on an evacuation trek northward.

"This 1942 report on the heroism of Mary Laughlin in Burma ... : 'When fifty civilians were killed in the railroad yard...[in a raid] 170 miles north of Rangoon, with cool nerve [she] gathered up the wounded from the platform slippery with blood, calmed 69 children whose school principal...had been killed beside a railroad coach, wrapped bandages on the injured, and held flashlights while a surgeon amputated limbs and sewed up wounds in a tiny emergency hospital all the following night.'"

After recovering from a serious illness she worked for a time in the Mission in Jorhat, Assam, India. Later she assisted in a camp for Kachin women refugees in Sadiya, Assam. Before returning to Rangoon, Mary completed the proofreading of the Kachin New Testament which Miss Ebersole and she had started in Calcutta earlier.

After a year of rest and deputation in the U. S., Mary Laughlin returned to Burma in 1947. At that time she joined the staff at the Union Christian High School in Rangoon. Then in 1950 she moved north to take charge of the Kachin Baptist High School in Myitkina. She was the only missionary on the station during her last term. In addition to her duties at the school, she gave valuable assistance to the women's work, the Kachin Press, and the music program of the local church.

She left Burma on July 14, 1964 when she retired.

In 1965 Mary went to live at Atherton Baptist Home where she lived 30 years. She was active singing in the choir, creating handcrafts, continued to be involved in American Baptist Women's Ministries and many community activities including Meals on Wheels.

## **72. Rev. Paul White Lewis**

Paul was born June 30, 1924 at Denver, Colorado. He was baptized on May 9, 1933 at Galilee Baptist Church in Denver. He went to South Denver High School graduating 1941. Then he earned a B.A. in 1944 at Baylor University, Waco, Texas. He then went to Eastern Baptist Seminary earning a B.D. in 1946. He also received a D.D. from California Baptist Theological School in 1966, an M.A. from University of Colorado, a Ph.D. from University of Oregon 1978.

He was married to Elaine Thomasson on August 22, 1944.

His appointment date was January 21, 1947 for Pangwai in Kengtung State. They worked with the Lahu and Akha tribes, trying to meet the needs of the people. This included opening a theological training school, translating the New Testament into both languages, producing primers and other literacy materials, conducting literacy campaigns, and publishing booklets on a variety of subjects to improve the lives of the people.

When all the missionaries were forced to leave Burma in 1966, Paul Lewis studied anthropology at the University of Colorado receiving his M.A. in the spring of 1968. They were then assigned to Thailand where he worked with the Lahu and Akha serving in development, family planning services, handicraft marketing, as advisors to the Lahu and Akha churches, and in the establishment of a center for hill tribe women.

Paul received a Ph.D. degree in anthropology from the University of Oregon in 1977.

They retired in June, 1989.

### **73. Mrs. Elaine Thomasson Lewis**

Elaine was born March 2, 1922 at Denver, Colorado. She was baptized on November 19, 1930 at Galilee Baptist Church in Denver. While in elementary school she developed an interest in the violin.

She attended Manual High School in Denver, Colorado Women's College where she earned an A. A., Baylor University A.B., and Eastern Baptist Theological School for her M.R.E.

While working with Paul with the Lahu and Akha, she taught in the theological training school she and Paul established. She was involved in translation and production work, women's and children's programs, and health and development.

She left Burma with her husband when the missionaries were expelled in 1966. After a two year stay in Denver, the Lewises were sent to northern Thailand to work with the Lahu and Akha people.

Observing that the Lahu and Akha were having great problems supporting their families by farming alone, Elaine became involved in a handicraft marketing program named Thai Tribal Crafts to help supplement income to the tribal people. After their retirement, this marketing of tribal crafts continued to help thousands of tribal people in Thailand.

She served as advisor to the Thailand Lahu Baptist Convention and was active in youth and women's work and helped in the training of village medical workers.

Paul and Elaine became increasingly aware that young women and sometimes girls as young as 11 or 12 years old—were disappearing from tribal villages. They were being sold into brothels in Bangkok and other major cities and resort areas in the country. Being deeply concerned about that problem, in 1986 Elaine persuaded the Thai Tribal Crafts Board of Managers, which she currently chaired, to use its excess earnings to open a residence in Chiang Mai, Thailand where young women could stay in a safe and Christian environment while attending adult school to get basic education and vocational training to prepare them for legitimate employment.



In 1987 The New Life Center was opened with 18 young tribal women as residents. Each year an increasing number of tribal women who had little or no opportunity for an education while children and were thus prime targets for the prostitution trade have been served in this program. By 1994 there were over one hundred young women residents in the Center funded by various organizations.

They had three sons, two adopted.

#### **74, 75. Rev. Trevor Oswald & Mrs. Mary Evelyn (Inkster) Ling**

He was born in London February 17, 1920. He married Mary Evelyn Inkster in 1949.

The Army took him to India, where he was profoundly influenced by an unconventional Baptist missionary, Horace Collins, who encouraged him to learn spirituality from Hindus. He was gripped and educated by India with an unsentimental fascination.

After Oxford, he became a Baptist minister, a part-time academic, and an occasional Labour candidate, until he took his family to Rangoon in 1960, to be University Chaplain, employed by American Baptists. Working with them destroyed his patience with Baptist Christianity. Thereafter he increasingly distinguished between religions which divided because they insisted on being "right" over others, and those which were comprehensive because they could allow themselves to be complemented by others. But in the 1960s he was still ready to work with Anglicanism. He was ordained by Michael Ramsey, but being a priest eventually became irksome and he resigned his orders. Later, he worshipped in the Anglican Cathedral in Singapore, but was close enough to being a Buddhist to have to resist that label, also.

Ling's early scholarly work was on Buddhist mythology of evil, which he compared with Satan in Christianity. In Buddhism, he saw evil being overcome essentially by the inner disciplines of meditation, while in Christianity Satan was overcome by the Community of the Holy Spirit. When the community failed him or became unbearable (as in mass-evangelistic and charismatic forms), he made more of the Buddhist possibility. Its inwardness perhaps suited the strongly independent and private aspects of his personality.

His period at Leeds University (1963-72), as Lecturer and then Professor of Comparative Religion, was a time of great achievement. With Professor John Tinsley, he made the decisive break-through in establishing Religious Studies as a distinct discipline there. His widely used History of Religion East and West came from courses he inaugurated. The histories of "living religions" are told alongside each other, from the early city civilizations of Asia to the 1960s. Constantly comparing East with West, the book is an education in world history and an experiment in "the comparative philosophy and sociology of world religions".

After Leeds, Ling hardly settled. He interrupted his time as Professor of Comparative Religion at Manchester University to teach in India for two years, then took early retirement in 1982 to spend a decade in Singapore. Perhaps there was more here than the mobility of a world-class academic. He was concerned to be in touch with the sacred, and his abrupt and decisive exodus from the British academic scene could indicate that he eventually found the modern university as constricting as dogmatic churches.

Trevor Oswald Ling, minister of the church, priest, theologian: Lecturer, then Professor of Comparative Religion, Leeds University 1963-72; Professor of Comparative Religion, Manchester University 1972-82; Professor of Comparative Religion, Visva Bharati University, India 1978-79; Visiting Professor and Research Fellow, Singapore 1981- 92;

They had three daughters. She died 1973 and he died March 24, 1995.

## **76. Ruth Mather.**

She graduated from Denison University.

Ruth was appointed on the recommendation of the Women's American Baptist Foreign Mission Society on April 13, 1920 and designated to Huchow, East China. She sailed August 21, 1920 arriving in Shanghai on September 14. After language study in Nanking her first term was spent teaching in Huchow.

Upon returning to the U. S. for furlough in 1924, she remained here, working as office secretary in the Christian Education Department of the Ohio Baptist Convention. In November 1938 she was reappointed for work at the Memorial Mothercraft School (a vocational school for the training of nursery school teachers) in Shanghai. She arrived in China August 2, 1939 and taught for a short time in the school she had taught in 15 years before.

In 1941 she then began a journey across China, running the blockade into Free China. It was normally a two day trip. But she went through Japanese lines and the trip took most of the summer. There were frequent bombings, bandits, and she injured her back. She spent 10 days waiting for a boat at the mouth of a river.

When Ruth Mather arrived at Free China she helped a Chinese teacher organize a nursery school at Kenwha, working in church work, relief work, educational and evangelistic work.

She managed to keep just ahead of the Japanese, being evacuated further inland by boat, trucks, train and then by a military airplane.

In 1942 she was evacuated to Shaowu, Fukien Province, where she taught in Hangchow Christian University, a refugee school. She taught English and Bible classes and served as a secretary to the president of the university. She was then called to Chungking to work in the National Christian Council of China and the China Christian Education Society

She then flew the hump to Calcutta where she waited six months until she came to the U. S. on the Gripsholm the summer of 1945. Returning to China in 1947 she taught English in a high school in Yueh Kwang as well as a course on Christian Family Life in the Bible Training School in Shaoshing. In 1949 she helped in the West China Mission.

After a furlough of 1 ½ years in the States, she was reassigned to work in Burma, arriving in Rangoon on May 21, 1952. She taught English and the Bible in the United Christian High School in Rangoon, and handled the job of Treasurer of the school. She left Burma on October 12, 1957, which was her official retirement date.

She died March 28, 1986 aged 95.

### **77. Miss Selma Maxville R.N.**

As she began her missionary service in Burma in 1916, Selma Maxville wrote, "I count my appointment the highest honor which could be conferred on me and I hope I may prove worthy of the trust." After four decades as a missionary nurse, Selma reached retirement age and found herself the only missionary speaking the Mon language. With Board approval, she continued operating a small mission clinic in the village of Kamawet.

In early 1950 Miss Maxville was returning to Kamawet from Moulmein with two patients whom she had brought to the Ellen Mitchell Memorial Hospital for treatment. Before reaching the village, heavily armed men waylaid the car and took Miss Maxville hostage. The kidnappers demanded a ransom payment of 20,000 Rupees and about 5 ounces of gold. Attempts were made to seek her release while adhering to the long-standing mission policy prohibiting the payment of ransom. On February 28, friendly villagers located the rice storage hut where Miss Maxville was being held captive, frightened away the guards and freed her. Weakened and needing medical attention, Miss Maxville was being transported to Moulmein by oxcart when bandits ambushed the party and opened fire with machine guns killing Miss Maxville and the twelve rescuers with her.

Earlier during her capture, Miss Maxville had left a note restating the kidnappers' demands. "They say they will kill me if the ransom is not paid," she wrote, "and that will be all right." Selma Martha Maxville was 67 when she was martyred.

### **78. Franklin Oliver Nelson**

Franklin was born on November 30, 1909 at Minneapolis, Minnesota. He was baptized in March 1921 at the Swedish Baptist Church, Turlock, California. His high school was Central of Minneapolis which he attended 1923-27. He earned a B.A. in 1938 from the University of Minneapolis. He then attended Bethel earning a B. Th. in 1934 and a B.D. in 1952. He received an M.A. from Hartford Seminary in 1944.

He was ordained June 1935 at the First Swedish Baptist Church of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

He was appointed April 18, 1939 to Tiddim, Chin Hills, Burma. He married Phileda Mae Carol Ogren on June 7, 1939 at Cambridge, Minnesota.

They arrived at Tiddim on December 2, 1939 and during the World War II they evacuated to India. At the end of hostility they came back and opened a Bible school in 1947. They trained native workers. The school was operative from 1947-1950.

He also helped provide for the physical needs of the people to improve their standard of living. He was the first to introduce apple plantations to the Chin Hills. Nelson made many extensive evangelistic tours and helped in forming leaders among the established churches. His outstanding contribution was the Tiddim Bible School and New Testament in Tiddim dialect.

Franklin wrote the story of the arrival of the first batch of Christian scriptures into the Chin Hills. It revealed the dearth of Bibles for a people desperately eager for them.

The Nelsons left Tiddim on February 23, 1951 because of the sickness of Phileda Nelson and left Burma on May 23, 1951 and could not return back to Chin Hills because their re-entry visa was turned down by the government.

He died on June 15, 1990

### **79. Phileda Mae Carol Ogren Nelson**

Phileda was born December 21, 1916 at Cambridge, Minnesota. She was baptized April 1931 at Superior, Wisconsin.

She attended St. Cloud Teachers College for two years and Hartford Seminary where she earned a B.R.E. in 1944.

She wrote and published "Rough Roads, Good Life", the story of her work in Chin State.

She had three daughters.

### **80. Julia E. Parrott**

She was born and raised near Linn Grove, Indiana. For many years her membership was in the North Shore Baptist Church of Chicago, Illinois.

She was appointed by the Women's American Baptist Foreign Mission Society to Burma and served 1895-1934. She spent her first term among the Karens in the Toungoo area, and the remainder of her service among the Burmese (Burmans). As a pioneer in the field of education she developed the outstanding girls' school in Mandalay. She reached the homes in the city with the gospel by gathering children about her on the streets for Bible stories.

After her retirement in 1934 she returned to Burma, where she had a home of her own. During World War II she came to the U.S.A. and remained for several years, but in 1947 sailed once more for Burma, at her own expense, to assist with relief work, with the reopening of the Rest House in Maymyo for convalescent tuberculosis patients, and to publish in Burmese a book of daily devotions. Most of the Christian literature in Burma had been destroyed during the war. In 1950 she took her final trip to the U.S.A. and made her home at Atherton Baptist Homes in Alhambra, California.

Julia Parrott listed in "Record of Service" as serving 48 years.

She passed away on June 16, 1956 at age 87.

### **81, 82. Rev. W. R. & Mrs. Parson,**

A. B. Mission, Maymyo. No other information found.

### **83, 84. Rev. Charles & Jennie Chaille (Morgan) Phelps**

No information found.

### **85, 86. Dr. William N. Rice and Elisabeth Reeves Rice**

William and his twin brother Walter were born in Des Moines, Iowa, August 13, 1913.

Elisabeth was born in Waverly, Iowa, May 9, 1921.

William grew up in Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Nebraska and South Dakota where his father, Dr. A. C. Rice, a former Burma Missionary, taught in various Baptist related colleges. Elisabeth grew up in Iowa with her family on several farms. William earned his MS and PhD at Iowa State, College; Elisabeth also graduated from Iowa State with her B.S. in Home Economics.

Betty and Bill were commissioned in Ames, Iowa and sent to India at the end of World War II. Bill taught at the Allahabad Agricultural Institute before they were permitted to enter Burma. After six months they were able to enter Burma and with Bob Horton restarted the Pynmana Agricultural School. This is the institution that was founded under the direction of Brayton Case. Another missionary couple, Roger and Gen Getz were assigned to assist them, but when the Rices were on a Mission business trip to Rangoon, the school was seized by rebel forces. The school was closed and the staff moved elsewhere.

Betty and Bill settled in Rangoon where Bill was assigned to teach in the Union Christian High School. He also taught science subjects in the seminary in Insein. After several years the government drove the rebels away from Pynmana and took over the property of the Mission, making it a government run school and farm. The Ford Foundation gave a grant to the government and helped staff it with several American teachers. Bill was asked if he would like to return to Pynmana as a teacher. Bill agreed and he returned. He had to leave the Mission as the policy at that time did not allow a missionary to be employed by a different agency. He was then under the Ford Foundation for three more years.

William and Betty had four children born in Burma and after seven years they returned to the U.S.A. He found a position in the Massachusetts Agricultural College, now the University of Massachusetts. He became a Professor of Plant Pathology and headed the Seed Laboratory. After retiring from U. Mass. Bill was called by the State Department to serve as a specialist in Zimbabwe; there he taught plant pathology and supervised the operation of the Seed Laboratory for 13 months.

Betty died in 2010. Bill (in 2012) is now settled in the Lathrop Retirement Community in Easthampton, Massachusetts. He is nearly 99 years old.

### **87. Dorothy Rich.**

Dorothy Rich was born May 3, 1903 in Brunswick, Neb. She had to quit school when her father died and so, worked five years in a Primary School before she obtained a Bachelor of Science degree.

She attended the University of Southern California, earned a B.S. in 1929. She went on to Biblical Seminary New York 1930-31.

She was appointed May 16, 1936 by the Women's American Baptist Foreign Mission Society.

She sailed to Rangoon December 10, 1936 where she was in charge of Burmese Women's Evangelistic work. In the fall of 1945 she served as language technician in the Burma section of the Office of War Information in San Francisco. In 1946 she returned to Burma to work in the Burmese Women's Bible School in Insein.

From 1964-66 she also worked for the Burma Baptist Convention Women's Department when the school was closed for practical outreach experience and for vacation. She held weeklong training institutes for women workers in various parts of the country. While holding one of these trainings at Ngapali, word was received that the government was expelling all missionaries.

She had furloughs 1950, 1956, 1959 and left Burma for good on April 12, 1966.

Dorothy retired May 3, 1968.

### **88. Dr. Bina Elizabeth Sawyer**

Bina was born April 16, 1923 in Biddeford, Maine. She was baptized in 1936 at the United Baptist Church in Saco, Maine. She graduated from Thornton High School, Saco, Maine, June, 1941. She earned a B.A. in 1945 from Syracuse University. In June 1947 she earned an M.D. from the Syracuse College of Medicine. She was a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Her Specialty was in Pediatrics. She also attended Harvard School of Public Health and the Biblical Seminary of New York.

She was appointed missionary September 21, 1953 by the Women's American Baptist Foreign Mission Society. She sailed March 30, 1956 for Burma. She was first designated for Bengal Orissa and then transferred to Moulmein, Burma.

She worked in the Christian Hospital at Moulmein, a 200 bed hospital, with a furlough in 1962. She left Burma permanently in 1965 and escorted Miss Lizbeth Hughes, an elderly Burma missionary who was in ill health.

She was reassigned to Thailand after visas were no longer issued in Burma. She arrived July 3, 1967. She served in Mae Sariang Hospital, a 10 bed hospital, in northern Thailand. There were five languages spoken by the patients of that hospital. In 1985 a new hospital was built which served 25 in patients and 80 to 100 out patients each day. While there she trained over 200 people under the Village Health Workers Training Program. She also started a mobile clinic that reached by foot to 34 villages spread 2 to 4 hours apart. She retired in 1992 but returned to Thailand five times as a volunteer. She retired to Maine.

### **89. Margaret May Sawin**

Margaret was born September 6, 1922 in Catskill, New York. Her father was an American Baptist minister. She earned her B. S. degree in education at State University of New York in

Oneonta, in 1944 and a Master's degree in Religious Education from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1949.

After graduation she served local congregations and joined the staff of the Pennsylvania Baptist Convention. During the eight years in Pennsylvania, Margaret spent a sabbatical teaching religious education in Rangoon, Burma, an experience which gave her an abiding love for Asia.

A year after she returned from Burma, she became professor of Christian education at American Baptist related Alderson Broaddus College in Philippi, West Virginia. She then enrolled in summer workshops in Human Development and Learning at the University of Maryland. She then spent five years studying and teaching at this university. She completed her doctorate in Human Development and Learning in 1969.

Ms. Sawin next joined the First Baptist Church of Rochester, New York as minister of education. It was there she introduced the concept of "family clusters"—a model that became popular in many churches and groups. Ms. Sawin then began training sessions for family cluster leaders.

Her work in this field led to the founding of the Family Enrichment Movements. The two programs- Family Enrichment Movement and the Marriage Enrichment Movement, became known as the Family Wellness Movement and she became a free lance consultant in the area of family systems and family wellness.

As a consultant, Dr. Sawin worked with many different denominations, the military, and mental health units throughout North America as well as Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. She taught Family Systems on the graduate level for four years in the Philippines. She helped to develop several Family Wellness Centers in the Philippines.

She wrote extensively for journals and magazines and authored Family Enrichment with Family Clusters.

After "retiring" she helped develop and lead Family Enrichment activities at Sycamore Elementary School as a part of the school's grant from the California Department of Education to become a "Community Learning Center".

Commenting on her career in 1991, Dr. Sawin noted, "Ministry of the laity is the heart of family work. I'm helping parents minister to their children, spouses minister to each other, and training persons to minister to families. What happens in the home setting is the gist of living in relationship. Relational living and relational valuing is deeply spiritual."

She died at Pilgrim Place, Claremont, California on March 8, 1995.

## **90. Harold Schock**

Harold Schock was born in Montana in 1921, one of seven children. The family moved to Yakima, Washington in 1923. He was baptized in the Yakima First Baptist Church in 1931, and after graduating from Yakima High School attended Biola University in Southern California.

In 1943 he was drafted into the army and served in active combat in Europe during WWII. After the war while waiting to return to the US, he studied theology for one semester at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. Harold finished his college studies at the University of Indiana in 1949 and then began his theological studies at Berkeley Baptist Divinity School where he earned a Master of Arts and BD. It was there that he met Estelle whom he married in 1951. Harold became the Director of Christian Education at Stockton First Baptist Church. While waiting for an overseas missionary appointment, Harold and Estelle were asked to work as home missionaries to the American Indians in Reno, Nevada. Harold became pastor of the Colony Baptist Church and the director of the newly built Christian Center.

The appointment as missionaries came in 1954 and the family sailed in 1955 for Burma with two small children. Once in Burma, and with only 6 month language study behind him, Harold was asked to be the pastor of the large Immanuel Baptist church in Rangoon. He was also advisor to the Indian and Chinese congregations, and oversaw the mission church at Kanbe. During his time as pastor of Immanuel Church, Harold became acquainted with a Buddhist monk, eventually leading him to the Lord. The monk went on to attend seminary and became pastor of a new church that Harold had started in the outskirts of Rangoon. The monk gave Harold his monk's saffron colored robe and black lacquer begging bowl, and asked that his new Christian name be Peter. This former Buddhist monk, now nearly 50 years later, is still faithfully serving God as pastor of the same church outside of Rangoon. He remains a strong and bold evangelist for the Lord, is not afraid to witness to his Buddhist neighbors, and has enlarged the congregation of the church over the years.

Harold and family left Burma in 1966 due to changes in the political climate there. In 1990, Harold was invited back to Rangoon to attend the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of Judson's arrival in Burma. At that time he and other former missionaries were honored by the Burma Baptist Convention. In addition the Myanmar Institute of Theology conferred on him the honorary title of Fellow of Distinguished Christian Service.

After Burma, Harold went on to serve many years as an American Baptist missionary in Hong Kong and was awarded the Badge of Honor by Queen Elizabeth II for his years of community service in British territories. He died peacefully at home in Yakima, Washington in 1997.

## **91. Estelle Schock**

Estelle Schock was born in Shanghai, China in 1925. Her father was a prominent Christian leader in China who had obtained a PhD from the University of Chicago, and who eventually served as the Executive Secretary of the Chinese Christian Council of Churches. In her early years at the Northern Baptist Church in Shanghai she participated in choir and youth groups and it is where she first came into contact with Christian missionaries.

After graduating from St. John's University in 1947, Estelle attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> Baptist World Youth Congress in Oslo, Norway. She taught for one year in Shanghai before coming to the United States on a scholarship to study at Berkeley Baptist Divinity School in 1948. She graduated in 1950 with a Master of Christian Education degree.



It was during her school years at Berkeley that she met Harold Schock, whom she married in 1951. Due to the Communist takeover in China in the spring of 1949, Estelle was unable to safely return to Shanghai for the next 31 years. While she and Harold waited for an overseas mission appointment, they were called to Reno, Nevada to work with the American Indians. Harold served as pastor to the Colony Baptist Church and was also the Director of the Christian Center. Estelle opened a day nursery for working mothers (1951-54).

With their appointment from the American Baptist Foreign Mission Board to be overseas missionaries, they sailed for Burma in 1955 with two small children. Besides studying the Burmese language, and raising a growing family, Estelle helped with the weekly craft program at Harold's Christian Center and worked with the women in the Immanuel Baptist Church where Harold had become pastor. She was also president of the English congregation of women. She introduced new programs and new ideas such as the mother-daughter banquet and potlucks. As a pastor's wife her home was always open to church events such as the Deacons' Retreat, Sunday School teacher training sessions, choir and youth parties.

While in Burma, daughter Linda was born in 1957, and son Phil was born in 1958. In 1960, Harold was asked to be pastor of the Judson Chapel at the University of Rangoon to minister to the Christian faculty and the students there. Harold and Estelle moved to a house on the campus, which was often a gathering place for students and faculty. Estelle was active in ministry in Rangoon during all the years they served in Burma.

In 1966 the political climate in Burma changed to the point that they could no longer continue to serve there. Estelle and Harold and the family returned to the United States for a year before being reassigned to serve in Hong Kong in 1967.

## **92. Dr. Gordon Seagrave**

Gordon Stifler Seagrave (18 March 1897 – March 1965) was a Burmese missionary and author.

He was born in Ahlone, Rangoon, Burma on 18 March 1897. His parents were American Baptist missionaries Rev. Albert Ernest Seagrave and Alice Haswell Vinton. Seagrave followed their path and became a missionary and medical doctor in Burma. He was sometimes referred to by the title of his book, "Burma Surgeon", or as Gordon Surgeon Seagrave. His first language as a boy was Karen.

Seagrave graduated from Denison University in 1917 and Johns Hopkins University in 1921. He was married on 11 September 1920 to Marion Grace "Tiny" Morse. He learned the Shan language while visiting Shan villages and treating the sick. When the villagers began coming to Namkham in large numbers, Dr. and Mrs. Seagrave began a nurses' training school, maintained a mission school, did evangelistic work and built new hospital buildings. He practiced medicine and surgery at Namkham on the China border of Burma for nearly 20 years. The nurses he trained opened clinics and dispensaries all over Burma.

In the U. S. from 1928-29 he spoke in many states raising money for the hospital. He also wrote five books—Wastebasket Surgery (1930), Tales of a Wastebasket Surgeon (1938), and later The

Burma Surgeon (1943), The Burma Surgeon Returns (1946) and My Hospital in the Hills (1955). He co-authored "The Life of a Burma Surgeon" with Chester Bowles 1961.

The Seagraves had five children. When the Japanese invaded Burma, Mrs. Seagrave and the two youngest boys were evacuated joining the two sons in school in the U. S. Dr. Seagrave joined the US Army Medical Corps in 1942, worked with Gen. Joseph Stilwell and served with the Chinese New 6th Army through the Burma Campaign in the China-Burma-India Theater. He and his nurses helped Stilwell's walking retreat into India in 1941. He treated thousands of casualties in Burma and India. He walked back in to work in 1945. He served as chief medical officer for the Shan States of Burma with the British military government from 1945-46. He rebuilt his hospital at Namkham.

Once Burma gained independence from Britain, tribal conflict escalated. In 1950 Dr. Seagrave was arrested and charged with treason for allegedly helping rebel Karens. His sister, Dr. Grace Seagrave, kept the hospital open, but died shortly before he was found innocent of all charges and allowed to return. Dr. Seagrave's final years were spent recruiting doctors, training nurses, performing surgery, and dealing with the constant challenge of finding money to pay for all this. He died March 28, 1965 in Namkham, the last of 28 members of his family to devote their lives in service of God to the people of Burma through one hundred and thirty one years.

They had 5 children: Leslie Mae; Weston M.; John H.; and Sterling V. The latter is a journalist and author of "The Soong Dynasty" and "Lords of the Rim". In 1932 Gordon, Jr. drowned in a pond by the hospital.

Written by Jenny B. Clark (His granddaughter)

### **93. Marion Morse Seagrave**

Marion Morse Seagrave was born July 24, 1901 in Carlinville, Illinois to Samuel Theodore and Grace Munhall Morse. S. T. Morse, a civil engineer, orchardist, and the Macoupin County surveyor, owned a large farm with apple orchards. Marion and her ten brothers and sisters helped on the family farm. After meeting Gordon Seagrave in 1918 at a camp in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin where they both had jobs for the summer, Marion graduated from High School in 1919. She and Gordon were married on September 11, 1920 and moved to Maryland where he served a summer internship in the Pediatrics Hospital at Mt. Airy, Maryland, followed by a medical internship at the Union Memorial Hospital in Baltimore. Their first child, a daughter, Leslie, was born in September of 1921. Upon Dr. Seagrave's graduation from Johns Hopkins University Medical School in 1922, Dr. and Mrs. Seagrave and Leslie set sail for Burma, arriving on October 10 to begin his work as a medical missionary.

The small dilapidated shack that served as The Harper Memorial Hospital at Namkham in the mountains near Burma's border with China was not what the Seagraves had expected. But they kept their hopes high, learning the Shan language and treating the sick free of charge until they had earned the people's trust and patients began to come in greater numbers.

Mrs. Seagrave learned how to administer anesthesia for Dr. Seagrave's surgeries, and over time became an excellent midwife. She traveled on horseback to distant jungle villages when difficult

births threatened the lives of mother and child. She grew mustard greens in a garden for the hospital and maintained a smaller vegetable garden for her family. The lovely rose garden she planted continues to this day. First son, Gordon, was born on Jan. 1, 1923 and Weston followed on October 1, 1924. At their Sunday church services Mrs. Seagrave played the piano and led the choir.

During their furlough, 1928-1929, while Dr. Seagrave traveled, giving talks to earn money for the hospital, Mrs. Seagrave stayed in her hometown of Carlinville with their children. Back in Burma, they had the funds to build a new stone hospital with an attached nurses' training school and maternity wing. Mrs. Seagrave designed and sewed uniforms for the nurses, holding sewing classes around her dining room table. In 1932 their son, Gordon, drowned in a pond beside the hospital. Another son, John, was born in 1933 and their fourth son, Sterling, was born during their year in the US, 1937. Leslie and Weston stayed in Granville, OH to complete their education when the Seagraves again traveled to Namkham.

After being evacuated by ship as Japan bombed Rangoon in January 1942, Mrs. Seagrave spent the war years with her children in Redlands, California. Her time in Burma after the war was short-lived. The outbreak of civil war in the hill country after Burma received independence made it dangerous for Mrs. Seagrave, John, and Sterling to remain, and reluctantly she returned to the US. She learned shorthand and typing, and then enrolled her boys in McDonough School near Baltimore where they completed high school and she served as secretary to the Lower School. Mrs. Seagrave retired to Warrenton, Virginia in 1965. She died Feb. 4, 1966 in Washington D.C. and was buried in Warrenton.

Written by Jenny B. Clark (Her granddaughter)

#### **94. Dr. Grace Russell Seagrave**

Grace Russell Seagrave, daughter of Albert Ernest Seagrave and Alice Haswell Vinton Seagrave, was born October 23, 1895 in Rangoon, Burma. She was baptized July 7, 1907 in Rangoon, Burma. She learned through her parents' example the challenges and rewards of missionary life. An excellent student, Grace received a B.A. in Biology in 1917 from Denison University, and graduated from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine with an M.D. degree in 1923.

Dr. Grace Seagrave began her life as a medical missionary to Burma in August of 1925 and was assigned to the Ellen Mitchell Memorial Hospital at Moulmein in Southern Burma. In 1941, at the time of Pearl Harbor, Dr. Seagrave was on furlough in the United States. She persuaded the Woman's American Baptist Foreign Mission Society to send her to Assam, India, which was the closest she could get to her beloved Burma.

At war's end, Dr. Seagrave began work at Namkham, Burma, in the hospital her brother, Dr. Gordon Seagrave, had built and was rebuilding after the war's destruction. Dr. Grace Seagrave was put in charge of the obstetrical and pediatrics wards and taught in the nurses' training school.

When Dr. Gordon Seagrave was arrested in 1950 and falsely charged with treason by the Burmese government, Grace promised that she would keep the Namkham hospital "open and

doing its duty for the people of the country until you are cleared of all charges and allowed to return to Namkham, if I die doing it.” (quote from My Hospital in the Hills by G.S. Seagrave)

She took on management of the hospital, performed surgeries, continued her obstetrical and pediatric care, and taught in the nurses’ training school. A shortage of teachers in the mission high school added several classes to her responsibilities.

On August 15, 1951, after a full day of hospital work, Dr. Grace Seagrave lost consciousness in the middle of a sentence while working on her account of the patients. She died of typhoid fever August 17, not knowing that her brother, who had been found innocent by Burma’s highest courts, would finally be allowed to return to his hospital by Christmas. Thousands came to Dr. Grace Seagrave’s funeral, a tribute to the respect and affection she had earned through her tireless devotion to her work.

Written by Jenny B. Clark

### **95. Rachel Holbrook Seagrave**

Rachel Holbrook Seagrave, second daughter of missionaries Albert Ernest Seagrave and Alice Haswell Vinton Seagrave, was born in Ahlone, Rangoon, Burma, on March 14, 1892. At the time of her birth, padouk trees were flowering, and throughout her life Rachel loved the reappearance of these blossoms.

After her baptism at age eleven, Rachel “determined...to make it my life work to bring others to Christ.” (quote from WABFMS Newsletter, 1942) Having graduated with a B.A. from Denison University in 1914, Miss Seagrave began teaching in the Pegu Karen High School in Rangoon. After one year, she passed the first missionary exam in Karen, applied to the Woman’s American Baptist Foreign Mission Society, and was accepted. From 1915 to 1920, Miss Seagrave served as teacher and later as Principal of Pegu Karen High School.

On furlough in 1920, Miss Seagrave studied at the Columbia University Teachers College, earning an M.A. in Elementary Education and a professional certificate as Principal of Elementary School. She then continued her educational and evangelistic work at Pegu Karen High School from 1921 to 1930.

Miss Seagrave traveled in 1930 to France, Germany, and England before continuing to Pennsylvania to do deputation work. She studied English History in England briefly, but returned to Burma in 1931 upon her father’s death. Her third missionary term 1931 to 1942 included teaching first in Pegu Karen High School, and going on to teach in Nyaunglebin, Taunggyi, and Prome.

Rachel Seagrave’s mother died in January 1942. In February, as the invading Japanese forces drew near, Miss Seagrave was evacuated and made her way to the United States. She studied at The Biblical Seminary in New York 1942 to 1943, taught at Storer College in Harper’s Ferry, West Virginia 1943 to 1946, and returned to The Biblical Seminary for a second year 1946 to 1947.

Miss Seagrave served her final term as a missionary in Pegu Karen High School from 1947 to 1952. Continuing her lifelong love of learning, she then completed a third year at The Biblical Seminary in New York, and received a Masters of Religious Education in 1953. In the early 1960's she retired to Alhambra, California, where she died at the Atherton Homes on April 2, 1968.

Written by Jenny B. Clark

#### **96. Mrs. Alice Mae Simmons Shae**

Alice Mae Simmons was a student at Baptist Missionary Training School from 1944 to 1948. She then worked as a Home Missionary in South East Ohio with 60 rural churches from 1948 through 1951. She later received Masters' level training at Garrett Theological Seminary from 1951 through 1953. Afterwards she worked as a missionary in Burma Baptist Divinity School, Insein, Burma from 1953 through 1963.

She married Gam Shae, a Kachin from Burma, in 1963. Mrs. Shae came to Colgate Rochester Divinity School and worked at the Seminary library from 1963 through 1966. She also taught one year in Public Schools. In the years 1966 through 1971, Mrs. Shae worked at Madison Ave. Presbyterian Church, New York City. She also taught at St. Hilde's School and served as a substitute teacher in the New York City Public Schools.

Mrs. Shae taught in seminary in Banjarmasin, Indonesia from 1972 through 1976 and in Trinity Theological College, Singapore from 1977 through 1983. While Gam taught at Central Baptist Seminary, Kansas City; Alice worked with Laotians in Prairie Baptist Church. Alice also taught at Sabah Theological Seminary from 1987 through 1991. In 1992, Mr. and Mrs. Shae were furloughed in the US. In 1993 Alice taught at Trinity Theological College. She retired in 1994 and continued with counseling ministry. Mr. and Mrs. Shae lived in Chiang Mai, Thailand from 1994 through 2004. Gam worked with Bible translations while Alice did counseling.

In 2004, they came to Penney Farms Retirement Community in Florida. Gam pastors a Kachin Church there.

#### **97. Burchard Post Shepherd, Jr.**

Burch, as he was known to his friends, was born in Portland, Oregon on May 30, 1912. His parents were dedicated Christians who raised him in the church. His father was a physician who saw patients in their homes and traveled in a horse and buggy. His mother was the organist for their church, First Baptist, Portland, Oregon. Burch was a long-time member, and was baptized in May of 1920. Prior to college, he attended Grant High School and was active in volunteer activities at church and an avid backpacker/hiker. He climbed most of the major peaks in the Oregon Cascades and hiked the Oregon portion of the Pacific Crest Trail with his brother.

Burch graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from Oregon State University in 1936. Following graduation, he worked at the Bonneville Dam as it was being built. He spent four years in the Army during World War II as an engineer helping design and developing the Alaskan Highway to transport materials to the lower 48 states, as well as working on high security projects.

After serving in the Army, Burch worked for Dow Chemical and while working at a research facility in North Carolina, met an elderly couple who would change his life. The elderly couple, Mr. and Mrs. Price, had been lifelong committed Christian workers with the Salvation Army. Burch was inspired by their genuine love for God and love for humanity, and began to consider devoting his life to Christ using his skills as an engineer. As he watched the Prices live their lives with minimal material goods but rich in love, happiness, and peace with God, Burch decided to become a commissioned missionary. Burch fell in love with another member of First Baptist Church, Althea Ruth Anderson. Burch proposed and became engaged to Althea while he was living in Burma and she was living in Portland. Althea traveled to Rangoon, Burma and they were married at the Judson Chapel on August 14, 1948.

Burch was appointed to be a missionary by the American Baptist Church (ABC) on September 24, 1946 and was designated to Rangoon, Burma as an engineer. He traveled throughout the country with local Burmese engineers rebuilding schools, churches and other buildings that had been destroyed in the civil war. He was appointed Mission Treasurer in July of 1947. Burch developed several lifelong friends while in Burma and continued to support those friends, their families, and more importantly the Christian mission in Burma the remaining years of his life. Burch finished his term with ABC November 27, 1949.

Later he worked for Dow Chemical as the chief engineer at Rocky Flats in Colorado, as an engineer in the Apollo space program in Titusville, Florida and as an engineer in the Dow research facility, Freeport, Texas. He lived a simple and good life supporting his family and giving a significant portion of his income to the Burmese Christians in support of their mission and other needs. Burch was a dedicated Christian his entire life and was active in the church, designing new buildings, serving as a Sunday school teacher and deacon, and providing spiritual and practical help to others. Burch and Althea regularly entertained international students from over 39 countries in their home, and became lifelong friends with many of them, some of whom became significant international leaders representing their own countries. Burch went to be with our Lord August 10, 1988.

### **98. Althea Ruth Anderson Shepherd**

Althea Ruth Anderson Shepherd, known as Thea to her friends, was born November 27, 1927. Althea was raised in the church and had a strong Christian faith, which guided her throughout her life. She attended the Swedish Baptist Church and First Baptist Church in Portland, Oregon. She dedicated her life to Jesus and was baptized at Grant Park Baptist Church on April 4, 1936. Her love for God was evident in the life choices she made. She developed life-long friendships everywhere she lived.

She was born and raised in Portland, Oregon and attended Alameda Elementary School and Grant High School. After graduating from Linfield College with a Bachelor of Science degree, she considered returning to graduate school to become a medical missionary. In the meantime, she met her future husband, Burchard P. Shepherd Jr. (Burch) at First Baptist Church Portland while on a hike at Mt. Hood in the Oregon Cascades. Burch had been commissioned an American Baptist missionary and was serving in Burma. He proposed to Althea while living in Burma and she accepted.

Althea was appointed an ABC missionary on May 24, 1948 and sailed from Halifax Nova Scotia on June 25, 1948 to serve our Lord and to marry Burch in Judson Chapel in Rangoon, Burma. While in Burma, Althea taught Sunday school, worked with children in teaching, and taught sewing. Althea managed her own household doing her own cooking, cleaning and shopping and did not use servants which were offered to her. It can be said that she endeared herself to the Burmese people she lived and worked with. After Althea returned from Burma, she remained in contact with many people from Burma, and was dedicated and devoted to assisting the Burmese people and focused on different things she could do to support the Christian mission there.

When they returned to the United States, Burch's work took them to Idaho, Colorado, Florida, and Texas. In Colorado, Althea and Burch were instrumental in establishing a new American Baptist Church in Wheatridge, Evangel Baptist Church. After the church was stable they chose to go to the inner city of Denver and join a small struggling Hispanic church, El Salvador Baptist Church. Althea was a leader in her church and also became a state leader in Colorado, Florida, and Texas. She participated in several denominations over the years. Her focus of leadership was civil rights and social justice. She was a gifted musician who studied the piano and organ for years. She was the music director, organist, and pianist for many of the churches she attended. Burch and Althea opened their home to international students from over 39 countries.

Althea was a gifted artist and teacher. She had her works shown in numerous national, state, and local art shows. She served on a strategic planning committee to help design, develop, and build an art center in Florida. When Burch retired, they moved to Tillamook, Oregon. There she was active in the church and local community. After Burch died, Althea lived with her daughter, including a move to Minnesota for 10 years. While Althea was less physically active, she still continued to establish friendships with international students and would help them learn English, take them shopping, and listen to their incredible stories. She was an excellent listener.

Althea and Burch had four children, three sons and a daughter. Their children are also dedicated and committed to supporting the Christian mission in Burma as well as praying for the freedom of the entire country. Althea went to be with our Lord while living in Portland, Oregon on June 2, 2013.

### **99. Marian Esther Shivers.**

Marian was appointed by the Women's American Baptist Foreign Mission Society on March 13, 1923 with designation to Judson College, Rangoon, Burma. She first sailed on April 21, 1923, and arrived at her station on June 5, 1923.

Marian's training was in chemistry and she taught that subject throughout her time at the college until it was closed with the evacuation made necessary by Japan invasion during World War II.

However, her interests were wide and varied and even in her chemistry preparation she studied such subjects as the chemistry of foods and fundamentals of nutrition. One of the first missionaries to return following the war, she worked with the Welfare and Rehabilitation department of the government of Burma and trained welfare workers and made investigations of projects needing funding.

She also worked in securing government permits for the importation of the relief and White Cross goods. She assisted in Mission efforts after the war to restart Judson College up to the point where the Burmese government finally refused to allow the college to reopen. Other interests and efforts after the war included the establishment of spectacles clinic, the starting of Sunday school for children from slum areas, and the early diagnosis and treatment of leprosy.

Marian left Burma for retirement on May 10, 1962.

Marian died on June 10, 1985 at age 92.

### **100. Dwight Olney Smith**

Dwight Olney Smith was born in Cedar Rapids, Nebraska, on June 19, 1900. He earned - Bachelor degrees from University of Redlands and California Institute of Technology and a Masters degree from the University of California.

He was appointed by ABFMS on July 2, 1925 as a missionary to Burma. He married Muriel May Martin in Rangoon in 1928. Miss Martin was serving in Burma as an educator, appointed by the Woman's American Baptist Foreign Society. D. O. Smith served as a teacher of Physics and department head at Judson College, Rangoon from 1925-1931 and from 1932-1938. He assumed administrative responsibility as Treasurer and eventually as Secretary of the Burma mission. He was in Burma at the time of the Japanese invasion. He was able to make his way to India and so, carried on his responsibilities from 1942 to 1944 there.

They had four children, three of whom survived to adulthood.

He returned to Burma in 1947 and finished his missionary service as Treasurer in 1948.

He then worked as a research engineer at Westinghouse Electric Corporation until his retirement.

He died April 28, 1987 in Redlands, California.

### **101. Muriel Martin Smith**

Muriel was born in Ongole, South India May 1, 1902. She was the daughter of Professor L. E. Martin and the granddaughter of the famous pioneer missionary Dr. J. L. Clough.

She received her education at Denison University, graduating in 1924. She continued her education at the Cleveland Kindergarten-Primary Training School, graduating in 1925. There followed two years of education at Kalamazoo College. She was appointed under the WBFMS April 12, 1927 and arrived in Burma October 19, 1927. She took responsibilities at the Kemmendine Girls School in Rangoon and was in charge of the Normal Training and Kindergarten work. It was there she met Dwight Olney Smith. They were married October 1, 1928.

At that time she transferred to Judson College where she served with her husband and had charge of an Indian Sunday School. In connection with her work she was also involved with child welfare, a primary day school, women's meetings, and health education.



When word came in January 1942 that women and children should leave for safer places, Mrs. Smith and her small son with many others hurriedly left Rangoon for India.

She resigned from the mission society in 1948. They had three children.

She died on October 3, 1994.

### **102. Eleanor R. Smith, R. N.**

She was born in Ellen Mitchell Memorial Hospital, Moulmein, Burma.

She spent eight months in Insein, near Rangoon, studying the Burmese language and taking her first examination.

In February, 1955 Eleanor started as a nurse at the Ellen Mitchell Memorial Hospital, Moulmein, Burma. She worked with Dr. Dorothy Gates, Miss Ruth Keyser, Dr. Anna Barbara Grey and Miss Mary Thomas.

The words at the entrance of the hospital said, "The Son of Man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister."

The hospital had about 50 graduate nurses from different racial groups.

She learned to administer anesthesia using chloroform, ether, or sodium pentothal. She took a course in midwifery.

She also taught a Saturday afternoon course in First Aid and home hygiene, conducted recreation classes for nurses four times a week, taught a Bible course on the Life of Christ for the senior nurses and held student and staff nurses' Sunday School class each Sunday morning followed by a period of hymn singing in the hospital wards. She also gave classes in pediatrics.

On February 12, 1959 she married Robert Crawford Howard, a Methodist missionary.

In 1966 they were forced to leave Burma. Her husband then worked in Minnesota with rural churches.

He and Eleanor had two children—daughter Myint Myint Ohn and son Arthur Howard.

### **103. Margaret Beatrice "Peggy" Smith**

Margaret Beatrice Smith was born in Moulmein, Burma on November 24, 1921, to American Baptist Missionaries Harold and Hulda Smith. She grew up and attended elementary schools in Burma but her parents sent her to an all girls school in Montrose, Pennsylvania for high school where she graduated in 1938. Her father died during her senior year so her mother returned to the states and sent Peggy to College in Ames, Iowa for two years and then transferred her to Wheaton College in Illinois to finish her last two years. She graduated in 1943 in the same class with Billy Graham.

Peggy very early felt called to be a Missionary Nurse under the American Baptist Women Missionary Society. She then attended Columbia University School of Nursing and then attended New York Theological Seminary. She was then commissioned to return to Burma to work at the same hospital where she was born. Interestingly, she was met at the port by the same doctor who had delivered her at birth.

Peggy served in Burma until all the missionaries were expelled in 1966 and she was posted to Thailand where she served until 1980. Her mother had retired to Atherton Baptist Homes in Alhambra, California so Peggy returned to serve as a Charge Nurse in the Health Care Unit in order to be near her mother and helped to provide for her care. Her mother died in March of 1982 and Peggy returned to Thailand to serve for another four years, eventually retiring back to Atherton Baptist Homes in 1987 after serving in Burma and Thailand for over 39 years.

At Atherton she came to know a recent widower, Chaplain Robert L. Maase and their friendship developed into courtship and marriage on December 14, 1991. They had nine happy years together before Peggy died of Leukemia November 10, 2000. She was dearly loved by all she served as a Missionary in Burma and Thailand and her many friends at Atherton Baptist Homes as well as her first and only husband Chaplain Maase.

Surely "All her works do follow her".

#### **104. Erville E. Sowards**

Erville E. Sowards was born near Culloden, W.Va., on October 29, 1897. He attended Grade school in Hurricane, and high school and college at Marshall College. He later studied at the University of Chicago and Ohio State University. He was baptized in the Twentieth St. Church, Huntington, and ordained in the Mud River Baptist Church, both in Guyandotte Association.

In 1921 he went to Burma under the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society to teach in mission schools. Later he was in charge of the Bassein Sgaw Karen field of 175 village churches and schools and the city high school. He married Genevieve Sharp, WABFMS missionary, in 1927 at Bassein. A daughter, Myrtle, was born in 1929. In 1932 they turned the work over to Karen leaders and returned to America. A son, Neil, was born in 1937 in the U.S.

He received the M.Sc. degree from the state college in Pittsburg, Kansas, and a degree



from Southern Baptist Seminary in Louisville. He served as pastor of Baptist churches in West Va. and Ohio for ten years. He was Area Missionary for the W. Va. Convention in Greenbrier and Hopewell Associations.

He was re-appointed by the Foreign Mission Society in 1946 and returned to the Sgaw Karen field in Burma. When the mission compound was destroyed in the civil war in 1949, he lost practically everything he had, and was a refugee along with the national Christians. In 1952 he became the Mission Secretary for the Burma Mission, and for ten years served through civil war, rehabilitation, and transfer of responsibility from the Mission to the national churches, travelling all over Burma, sometimes under dangerous conditions.

He requested not to be elected for a fourth term as Mission Secretary, and went on Special Assignment, as co-coordinator of the Judson Sesquicentennial Celebrations 1961-65, with evangelistic program, pageant, pictures, and arrangements for visitors from abroad. He and his wife, with another missionary, wrote Burma Baptist Chronicle, the 150 year history of the Baptist work in Burma.

He and his wife retired April 1966, one month before the expulsion of all foreigners. He returned to Columbus, Ohio, and died at Philippi, WV, in July, 1974, after attending a state conference.

#### **105. Genevieve Sharp Sowards**

Genevieve was born June 29, 1903 in Pittsburg, Kansas. Her parents were both medical doctors, and her sister became a medical missionary in W. Pakistan.

Mrs. Sowards received her B.A. degree from Ottawa University and M.Sc. from state college in Pittsburg, Kansas, with majors in Bible, English and psychology. She taught a year in Kansas and then went to the Baptist Missionary Training School in Chicago. In later years she took a year's special study at Ohio State U., in counseling psychology.

She went to Burma in 1927 under the Women's American Baptist Foreign Mission Society to teach in the Sgaw Karen high school in Bassein. Here she met and married Erville Sowards, A.B.F.M.S. missionary on December 31, 1927. They returned to America in 1932 with their 2 ½ year old daughter, Myrtle.

Their son Neil was born in 1937. Mr. Sowards held several pastorates in West Virginia and Ohio. In 1946 he was called back to Bassein, Burma but the family could not go with him then. Mrs. Sowards cared for her invalid mother many years until she died. Mrs. Sowards was active in women's work and made many speeches on missions. She was constantly writing articles for youth mission magazines and doing speaking, mainly in Ohio while Erville was in Burma.

In 1960 Mrs. Sowards returned to Burma with her husband and made their apartment at Baptist Headquarters the hostess center for Headquarters while her husband was Mission Field Secretary. After he gave up that job after 10 years, the Sowards moved to a new mission house, but kept busy. She taught classes at the Burma Divinity School. Mrs. Sowards was co-coordinator of the sesquicentennial celebrations, and she helped to write the history of the 150 years of Baptist work in Burma.

Through all the years along with whatever else she had to do Mrs. Sowards did much writing, up to 22 published things each year, including at least seven booklets, as Designs and Patterns for Burma, and God Speaks in Folk Lore. She helped with the Burma News, Baptist mission magazine, and was editor of the English section of Burma Baptist youth monthly magazine.

Mrs. Sowards traveled with her husband quite widely over Burma and enjoyed helping with the varied individual needs of workers in many different places. She gave chalk talks and taught this skill to others. She helped to develop writers among people in Burma.

The Sowards retired in 1966 one month before the expulsion of all foreigners. She died in 1993 in her son's home at Fort Wayne, Indiana at age 90.

### **106. Pearl Fruehan Steele**

1946-1950 Rangoon.

Pearl left NYC on Dec. 14, 1946, her 25<sup>th</sup> birthday on the Queen Elizabeth. She arrived in Rangoon Jan. 4, 1947. She lived at Sandwith Rd. with other missionaries. Her first job was typing in quintuplicate on a 17" typewriter a list of pre-war ABM property and how much damage each sustained during the war. Nothing was ever paid for the damages. Her immediate boss was D.O. Smith, Mission Treasurer and all the info came from him.

D.O. taught her to drive a jeep. The Mission was able to buy 9 American jeeps, left over from the war. They were the main means of transportation until some station wagons, with the steering wheel on the right, were sent from the U.S. (On the roads, one kept to the left). Switching from a right hand drive to a left and vice versa became automatic. Someone always had to guard the vehicle.

At first the Mission offices were in the Guest House. After the ABM Press was rehabbed the offices were moved down there. It was never used as a press again.

The offices were finally moved to the former Cushing High School and they are still being used today by the local Baptist Association.

When she was in Rangoon, Immanuel Baptist was her home church. Soon after the missionaries returned after the war it was used for English, Karen, and Indian congregations. When one church was dismissed the next group was waiting outdoors.

The English young people's group was known as Christian Endeavor. They had many good times—swimming in a lake, caroling from the back of a truck, and once, even a slumber party at the Guest House. They made their own chorus books and mended Christmas cards people sent them. Exactly one year after her arrival in Burma at 4 AM January 4th Burma became independent.

It wasn't long before the internal war broke out. Bombs were dropped on the Burmese Women's Bible School and seminaries at Insein, about 10 miles from the Guest House. They could hear the guns. One of their CE members was killed. After things settled down, she went to Insein with Dorothy Rich to help clean up a little at the Burmese Women's Bible School.

She was asked to take over the Mission Guest House. She also had a Karen watchman whose job it was to patrol the grounds and every hour bang on a metal piece so we would know he was alive. The Indian gardener cut the grass by squatting and swiping the blades with a machete. A dhobi (laundryman) came every week, returning with everything washed and ironed. All the dhobis washed in cement tubs in the same area.

Every January there was a Mission conference and most came by jeep. She left Burma in 1950.

### **107. David P. Stimson**

David P. Stimson was born Dec.2, 1919 near North East, PA. He graduated from North East High School in 1938. On May 7, 1942, he joined the U.S. Army Air Force and was stationed in Italy as a Tech Sergeant in the armament division during World War II. In 1946, David attended a Catholic College in Erie, PA for one year. During high school he had accepted Christ and joined the First Baptist Church of North East.

In 1947, he enrolled in Ottawa University, a Baptist college in Ottawa, KS. That year he also became the student pastor of a country church known as Greenwood Baptist Church. He served there until his graduation from college in 1950. After David's graduation from Ottawa University in 1950, he enrolled at Central Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, KS. David co-pastored Quindaro Baptist Church during his seminary years. He graduated in 1953.

On March 23, 1953, David and Eleanor were appointed as missionaries by the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society. In Oct. 1953, they sailed to Rangoon, Burma, arriving in Dec. to work with Burmans.

They spent a short time in Maymyo. In 1954, their son Scott was born. They spent most of their first term in Rangoon in language study. David served as interim pastor of the large Burmese speaking Church during their first years there. Their daughter Wendy was born in 1956. Eleanor spent time getting to know the Burmese Bible ladies who served as teachers to the other women.

In 1957, David and his family came home on furlough. They lived in West Hartford, CT where David attended the Hartford School of Missions for one term.

In 1958, David and his family returned to Burma and were sent to live in Maymyo. David worked there with leaders from upper Burma, visiting the churches and encouraging them. David preached at the Sunday evening services in English and Eleanor played the piano.

Their last year David taught at the Burma Baptist Bible School at Insein. Their second daughter Kerry was born in 1964. In May 1965, they returned to the U.S. for the final time.

David served as pastor of churches in Minnesota, Iowa, and Illinois before retiring. In 1994, David and Eleanor moved to Clinton, IA where David served for eight months as the interim pastor of the First Baptist Church in Clinton. Upon the arrival of the new pastor, David retired in Clinton, IA.

David died on Nov. 21, 2010.

### **108. Eleanor Powers Stimson**

In 1924, Eleanor was born in Glenwood, Iowa. She was raised by a mother who was active in the Baptist Church. Her dad made sure she had a good piano to learn on. She lived by the church so she was able to learn how to play the pipe organ.

After teaching country school for nearly 3 years during World War II, she enrolled in Ottawa University in Ottawa, Kansas.

In 1947 David Stimson came to Ottawa, after serving in the U. S. Army in Italy for 4 years during World War II. David became pastor of a country church during his years as a student. He needed a pianist and asked Eleanor to fill the role for him at Greenwood Baptist Church. Eleanor graduated from Ottawa University in 1949 and was married to David the day after her graduation. She taught school the last year of David's college education and the first two years of his seminary in Kansas City, Kansas. Their son, Wade, was born in 1952, David's final year of seminary.

On March 23, 1953, David and Eleanor were appointed as missionaries by the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society. In Oct. 1953, they sailed to Rangoon, Burma, arriving in December to work with Burmans.

In 1954 their son Scott was born. They spent most of their first term in Rangoon in language study. Eleanor spent time getting to know the Bible ladies who spent time helping the other ladies learn to read the Bible.

Wendy was born in 1956. That year David and Eleanor finished their first term in Burma and went back to the States on furlough. David and Eleanor spent that year in West Hartford, Connecticut where David studied religion courses at the University.

They sailed back to Burma in 1957 and went up to the small town of Thonze. They stayed there until their house in Maymyo was ready for them. In Maymyo, David preached at the English Vesper Service in the church and Eleanor played the piano. David visited other churches while Eleanor worked with the teenage girls from the Anglican Church. In 1960, Eleanor went back to Rangoon to have their third son, Kirk.

They moved back to Rangoon their last year in Burma. Their daughter Kerry was born during that year. The older children attended the International School in Rangoon. David taught at the Burmese Bible School. In May 1965 they returned to the U. S. for the last time. Shortly after that all of the missionaries in Burma were ordered to leave the country.

David and Eleanor then served in several churches throughout the Midwest including Ohio, Minnesota, Illinois and Iowa. David served as pastor and Eleanor played the organ and piano along with other leadership roles in the churches. Eleanor is now retired and living in Clinton, Iowa, and continues to support the teachers at Myanmar Institute of Theology in Insein. (2013)

### **109, 110. Wallace & Mrs. St. John**

Wallace St. John was not one of the last missionaries because his service ended in 1939 but his compilation of the history of missions in Burma influenced the post World War II period so his biography is included.

Wallace St. John was born July 20, 1868 in Irvington, Illinois. He was baptized in 1880 at Centralia, Illinois. He was ordained at Canal Lewisville, Ohio August 1892. He went to the Preparatory Department of Denison which he entered 1888. He graduated in 1893 with a B.A. He received a B.D. from Divinity in 1898 and a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago 1900.

He married Ina Lorena Seley on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 1887, his first wife. They had two children, Irveny 1890 and Audrey 1901.

Dr. Wallace St. John was serving at First Baptist Church of Franklin, Illinois when he was appointed May 14, 1900 designated for Rangoon Baptist College. He sailed July 24, 1903.

His first wife died of Uremic poisoning at Rangoon on September 8, 1904.

He left Burma on December 31, 1908. He married Julia G. Shedd on June 9, 1909 at Lakewood, New Jersey.

They sailed for Burma on February 5, 1910. They took furloughs in 1916, 1922, 1929, 1939.

He retired from Judson College April 1938 at age 70. He then worked one year at Maymyo. They returned to Burma in 1940 and worked at Taunggyi on the history of mission work in Burma as requested by the mission board. When the Japanese invaded, Dr. and Mrs. St. John escaped to India where he continued working on the history. They sailed from Calcutta on June 11, 1947.

His second wife died of a brain tumor at Boston on August 3, 1948.

He died June 8, 1952 at 84.

He wrote a history of Baptist work called, "The Baptist Investment in Burma" about 1939-45 in 3 volumes. The original books were type written and only 6 copies made in April 1960. Four copies were left in Burma and two copies were sent to the U.S. and are in the American Baptist Historical Society at Atlanta, Georgia. Copies of Volumes I & II were found in Burma and Volume III at the American Baptist Historical Society. Thirteen copies of all three volumes were then made by Friends of Burma, Inc. in 2003 and distributed to 9 libraries in Burma.

### **111. Walter D. Sutton**

Walter Sutton was born in Baltimore, Maryland on October 3, 1891. He graduated from Johns Hopkins University in June 1914 with a B.A. degree. He graduated from Rochester Theological Seminary, Rochester, New York with a B.D. degree June 1918. He married Miss Marion Estella Griesemer on September 10<sup>th</sup>, 1919.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Sutton were appointed missionaries to Burma by the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society on September 15, 1919. They left Baltimore on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1920 and arrived in Rangoon on March 14<sup>th</sup>, 1920. They were assigned to the American Baptist Mission to the Sgaw Karen Baptists of Tavoy and Mergui District.

In 1927, Rev. Sutton was appointed superintendent of the American Baptist Mission Karen Anglo-Vernacular High School. On December 11, 1941 at the beginning of the Japanese invasion, the high school was closed. Rev. Sutton had, in the meantime, in October 1941, been appointed Field Secretary of the American Baptist Mission to Burma.

Because of the Japanese invasion, Rev. and Mrs. Sutton departed from Rangoon for Vizagamtam on January 26, 1942 and two days later arrived in Calcutta, India. Several months later he became a staff member in the American Baptist Telegu Mission in India. Here he served as Principal of the Coles Memorial High School at Kernook.

In August, 1947 he returned to Tavoy (now known as Dawei) as an American Baptist missionary to minister to Baptists of all races. In 1961 he retired.

On October 6, 1942, Mrs. Sutton died at Ongole, South India. In 1959 the Marion Sutton Memorial Church was dedicated in Tavoy.

### **112. Marion Estella (Griesemer) Sutton**

Marion was born April 5, 1890 at Haddonfield, New Jersey, the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Henry A Griesemer, the pastor of the Franklin Square Baptist Church, Baltimore, Maryland.

Marion was an active worker in Sunday School and Young People's work at the Franklin Square Church.

She married Walter D. Sutton on September 10<sup>th</sup>, 1919.

They were appointed missionaries to Burma by the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society on September 15, 1919. They left Baltimore on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1920 and via San Francisco and boat passage across the Pacific, arrived at Rangoon, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 1920.

They were assigned to the American Baptist Mission to the Sgaw Karen Baptists of the Tavoy and Mergui Districts in March 1930,

They left Rangoon, April 4<sup>th</sup> 1920 and arrived at Tavoy April 5<sup>th</sup>. Here they took up their Missionary work among the Sgaw Karens and served for many years.

They fled the Japanese invasion to India. There Mrs. Walter D. Sutton died in the Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital, Ongole, South India.

After her husband returned to Burma, the natives built The Marion Sutton Memorial Church to honor Marion's thirty year service. It was dedicated January 4<sup>th</sup>, 1959.

She had one daughter, Candy Aaron.



### **113. Rev. Gustaf A. Sword, D.D.**

He was born in Sweden on June 6, 1887. After coming to the United States in his youth, he was baptized in the First Swedish Baptist Church, Bridgeport, Connecticut, on June 24, 1907.

In the course of his education he was graduated from the Swedish Baptist Theological Seminary, Morgan Park, Illinois, in 1914 and studied at Chicago University and William Jewell College, Liberty, Missouri. Also in 1914, he was married to Edna Blanche Grandin, who faithfully served beside him during their many years in Burma. On May 6, 1920, Dr. Sword became a naturalized citizen of the United States. From 1914 to 1920 he was pastor of Swedish Baptist churches in Chicago and Des Moines.

Their first station was Namkham, in Burma, from 1921 to 1925, a town located two miles from the border of China on the main route into China. In 1936 Mr. and Mrs. Sword moved to Kutkai, Burma, where he designed and supervised the building of a stone church seating 500 and the building of the Kachin Bible Training School.

Interested in translation work, Mr. Sword compiled a Kachin Bible Dictionary and wrote a Pastor's Handbook and "Introduction to the Bible" in Kachin. He also translated textbooks as needed at the training school and edited a monthly magazine in Kachin. In 1961 the Kachin Christians of Burma numbered 31,083.

After being evacuated from Burma at the last moment before the Japanese advance towards India in 1942, Mr. Sword was requested to return to serve for many months as interpreter and liaison officer under the Office of War Information.

In 1943, he published "Come What May", a book about the evacuation of Burma and his optimism about the future of Christianity in Burma.

In 1946, the war over, he assumed the responsibilities of reorganizing and co-coordinating the post war Baptist work in Burma as mission secretary, living in Rangoon. During his five years in this office he traveled thousands of miles overseeing the reconstruction of Baptist schools and churches. Their own home and the entire station at Kutkai had been bombed.

Retirement from foreign service came in 1952. In 1954 he wrote "Light in the Jungle", The Life Story of Dr. Ola Hanson." Then the Swords settled in Springfield, Illinois.

In June, 1952 William Jewell College conferred an honorary Doctor of Divinity upon him. The Illinois State Convention added him to their staff as Mission Representative, a position which involved him in a demanding program of speaking throughout the denomination. While on one of these trips, Mrs. Sword passed away suddenly on January 1, 1956. Mr. Sword was visiting lecturer in missions at Central Baptist Seminary, Kansas City, Kansas in the spring of 1953.

Mr. Sword was married to Mrs. Opal L. Wood on November 2, 1957.

#### **114. Elizabeth Margery Taylor**

Elizabeth was appointed by the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society on December 7, 1933, and designated to Burma as a teacher in the American School for missionary children in Taunggyi. She sailed January 12, 1934 and arrived in Rangoon on February 20.

When she was ready to return to Burma for her second term in 1940, she was appointed by the Women's American Baptist Foreign Mission Society. However, because of World War II, she resigned and worked instead for the Women's American Baptist Foreign Mission Society at the Baptist Mission in Fresno.

She was reinstated in December 1946, and sailed December 23, 1946 for Burma. This time she supervised English classes and taught music at the Union Christian High School in Rangoon.

In 1948, she went to Nampahka Village near Kutkai in the northern part of Burma. She was in charge of the Christian school and also trained the teachers as well as Sunday School teachers. Other teaching responsibilities were to the Kachin Bible Conference, music sight reading, in addition to sewing instruction for women. She went off salary in June of 1953.

Elizabeth was placed back on active missionary service as of February 1, 1959. She served at Bhamo, again involved in training teachers. Because of illness she returned to the States in June 1964, going off salary in September of 1965. All missionaries were asked to leave Burma in 1966, so she could not return.

In 1968, she returned to active missionary service and was designated to Central Philippines University at Iloilo, Philippines. Her assignment was teaching in the elementary school as well as assisting in the elementary and high school libraries. She started and continued directing four handbell choirs. She retired April of 1973 and left the Philippines.

She died February 9, 1991 at 82.

#### **115. Rev. Herman Tegenfeldt.**

Herman Tegenfeldt graduated from Western Washington College, Bellingham, and Bethel Theological Seminary of St. Paul, MN.

Herman and Ruth Tegenfeldt were appointed for missionary service by the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society in May 1940. When they first arrived in Burma, Herman served as principal of Cushing High School and the Baptist English High School in Rangoon, Burma.

When the Japanese invaded Burma, the Tegenfeldts were evacuated to India where they remained for two and one half years. During their stay in India, they were in Nellore where Herman served as principal of the high school and as district missionary. They then spent a year in Kodaikanal where they studied the Kachin language in preparation for their return to Burma.

In October, 1945, Dr. Tegenfeldt, one of the first former missionaries to return to Burma after the war, worked among the refugees in northwestern Burma for nine months. Later, Myitkyina

became their home base as they worked among the Kachins. He served as educator, translator of literature, and builder.

In 1961 he became Mission Secretary, a post he held until May, 1966 when all missionaries were asked to leave.

After their return to the United States, the Tegenfeldts resigned after 27 years as active missionaries. He became Assistant Professor of Missions at Bethel Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. His book, "Through Deep Waters" was published by the American Baptist Publication Society. Dr. Kenneth Scott Latourette said of the book, "Nowhere else is there in print so informed and comprehensive an account of the recent history and current status of the faith in Burma."

In 1971 he was named Alumnus of the Year by Bethel College and Seminary. He received his Doctorate of Missiology in 1973 from Fuller Theological Seminary.

He died October 21, 1981. He had four sons and two daughters. His son, David Tegenfeldt, is one of several children of Burmese missionaries who are helping the people of Burma.

#### **116. Ruth Pearson Tegenfeldt**

Ruth was born March 5, 1914 in Vancouver, B. C., Canada. She grew up on the homestead her grandparents settled. She spent her middle school and most of her high school years in Vancouver. She enjoyed swimming, field hockey, and softball. At the age of 16, Ruth became a Christian and dedicated herself to a life of service.

In 1933 Ruth entered Bellingham Normal School. She met Herman Tegenfeldt at the Champion Street Baptist Church and they were married at a small Baptist church on Pearson Point on June 27, 1937. They received their teaching credentials from Bellingham Normal School. Ruth taught elementary school in West Seattle. After one year they moved to St. Paul, Minnesota, where they entered Bethel Seminary. While at Bethel their first child was born.

The Tegenfeldts were appointed by the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society in 1940. They sailed for Burma and arrived there January, 1941. They were engaged in evangelical and educational ministry among the Kachins. Ruth, in addition to teaching her own children, worked with women and children and taught in the mission school.

When the Japanese invaded they were evacuated to India where they remained three years. Judy, Alice and Nancy (who died at age 3 weeks) were born.

Upon returning to Burma they went to Myitkyina to work among the Kachins in northern Burma. When the war ended Ruth and the three children came to the States and Herman joined them in 1946. A son, John, was born to them.

In 1947, the Tegenfeldt family sailed for Burma to serve at Myitkyina. Besides taking care of her family, Ruth became involved with the women's groups. She also developed and managed a small dispensary. During the years at Myitkyina two more sons were born. In 1961 the

Tegenfeldts moved to Rangoon where Herman became Field Secretary and Ruth managed the Baptist Guest House.

In 1966 all missionaries were asked to leave. The training of national leadership by Ruth and Herman enabled the church and Christian community in Myanmar to remain strong through the years.

Back in the States, Ruth worked for the Roseville School District as a teacher for special needs children. She retired in 1979. She suffered from chronic lung infection.

She died June 20, 1996 at age 82. She had six children, two daughters and four sons.

### **117. F. Alice Thayer**

Alice was a native of Kansas and a graduate of Ottawa College. She took further studies at Cornell University and then Berkeley Baptist Divinity School

Alice was appointed to missionary service by the Woman's American Baptist Foreign Mission Society in March of 1916. She sailed for Burma later that year and soon settled in Mandalay, which was her station for all her years in Burma. The task assigned to her was to open a high school department of the Mission Girls' School which had been started in 1887. There were only three students at the onset and all passed the government exams upon graduation. The first two graduates became outstanding leaders in Burma.

She was instrumental in erecting three fine buildings which were used by the school for many years.

Under her leadership the Mission Girls' High School grew and a reputation for academic excellence developed quickly. On several occasions, the school won the prized silver cup presented by the Department of Education. This award represented good results in government examinations, as well as good reports of school inspectors—"an interschool competition of proficiency."

At the outset of the war, Miss Thayer was on furlough and so was spared the anxious days of evacuation. Returning to Asia, she went to India to await entrance into Burma. In 1946 she reentered Burma and found her beloved school in bad physical condition though not destroyed. She started immediately to set things to rights. She was able to recover furniture which had been moved out and to get permission to keep equipment which had been moved in for refugees who had been quartered at the school. The school was reopened with a good physical plant. After the war, boys were also admitted to the school so that it became Mission High School.

Alice Thayer was active in the church in Mandalay. When the Mission was unable to place a family in Mandalay to handle the general mission work, Miss Thayer added that to her responsibilities and earned the undying appreciation of the church.

She left for retirement in 1951 after serving 35 years as a missionary to Burma. She died December 12, 1977, in Alhambra, California.

### **118. Mary D. Thomas**

She was born February 6, 1891. She was appointed April 9, 1918. She served at Ellen Mitchell Memorial Hospital, Business Manager, Moulmein for 39 years. She retired March 25, 1957. No other information found.

### **119. Helen Loring Tufts**

Helen was born July 10, 1892, in Vernon, New York. She earned an A.B. degree at Earlham College, Richmond, Indiana, and took further studies at Bryn Mawr College and at Syracuse University and Columbia University.

She was appointed a missionary in February, 1919; she sailed for Burma in August, 1921. There she taught and directed the anglo-vernacular mission schools at Bassein and Sagaing.

During her first furlough she was pressed into service as Candidate Secretary for the Women's Society and later became Acting Foreign Secretary. In 1938, she returned to Burma to join the staff of the English Girls' High School at Moulmein. As superintendent of the school, she was instrumental in establishing a science department in cooperation with Judson Boys' High School.

In 1942, war conditions made it necessary to leave Burma. After helping to evacuate school students, she joined the historic trek over the mountains into Assam, India. She helped with refugees in Gauhati, then moved to the Garo Hills to serve for a time as principal of the girls' school at Tura. She returned to Burma in 1947 and continued service in literature work. She left Burma in 1953, retiring in 1954.

She had served as a missionary of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society for over thirty years. She died March 21, 1969 in Schenectady, New York.

### **120. Lucy F. Wiatt**

Lucy Wiatt was appointed by the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society in 1926 to assist her father, Dr. W. E. Wiatt, first field secretary of the Burma mission. She later became secretary to the president of Judson College in Rangoon.

Under appointment of the Women's American Baptist Foreign Mission Society, Wiatt later taught at the English Girls' High School in Moulmein and served as headmistress of

the girls' school in Mandalay. During World War II that school became a haven for refugees being evacuated from lower Burma.

Eventually forced to evacuate the country, she spent a year teaching English at the University of Nanking. In 1946 she returned to Burma as associate mission secretary to help re-establish the Rangoon office and plan the rehabilitation of the Baptist program.

After returning to the U.S. in 1962, and unable to resume her ministries in Burma because of the political climate, she became associate secretary of the Overseas Division of the Foreign Mission Society in Valley Forge.

She retired in May 1968, and was active in many ministries at Atherton Baptist Homes.

Lucy Frances Wiatt, former American Baptist missionary to Burma (now Myanmar), died in Alhambra, Calif. She was 93.

### **121. Mary Ellen Williams**

Mary Ellen Williams was born in Trenton, New Jersey, and grew up in Allentown, New Jersey. In her adolescent years she transferred from the local Methodist church to the local Baptist church, and her experiences there led to a call to the mission field.

Mary Ellen attended Wheaton College (Illinois) and earned a A.B. degree in education. She then taught fifth grade in Allentown for three years. After her appointment as a missionary to Burma, she obtained an M.A. in education from Columbia University. She arrived in Burma in late December, 1958.

Mary Ellen was stationed initially in the Rangoon/Thonze area for a period of concentrated language study. During that period she also worked with June Beaver to create a community center in a new satellite city built by the government to house over 200,000 refugees from the slums of Rangoon. In addition, she conducted seminars in teaching science for the Burma-American Institute, observed science instruction in the primary and secondary schools of Rangoon, and taught biology at the United Christian High School. These experiences exposed her to the problems encountered by the science teachers. The teachers had to follow a rigid curriculum that discouraged them from addressing topics particularly relevant to the students' lives. The matriculation exam for science was given in Burmese, but all the secondary science textbooks were printed in English. Scientific terms in the textbooks were either transliterations of English words or descriptions of the words. The equipment to carry out the experiments described in the books could not be obtained within Burma.

Most of Mary Ellen's five years in Burma were spent working with teachers in Christian schools and a few state schools to improve science instruction. She provided training at schools in Rangoon, Thonze, Mandalay, Sagaing, Maymyo, Kutkai, Moulmein, and Bassein. This training included assisting the teachers in developing charts, presentations, visual aids, experiments, and science equipment (from locally available materials). Mary Ellen wrote, in English, booklets describing demonstrations and experiments for use in the classroom, and she worked with translators to provide these booklets in Burmese. They were distributed to both Christian and state schools. Mary Ellen convinced a glassblower (from a United Nations program providing instruction in glassblowing to the Burmese) to train his students to make glass laboratory equipment for the schools. She also taught science and crafts classes at a leprosy home in Moulmein and was a guest lecturer for education majors at the University of Bassein.

The expulsion of foreigners began, and Mary Ellen returned to the United States in 1964. She then obtained an M.A. degree in religious education from Hartford Seminary. She married Donald Eastridge in 1968 and a son, David, was born in 1969. She undertook positions in agencies for the aging, including Information and Referral Coordinator at the Area Agency on Aging in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and Nutrition Program Coordinator at Minuteman Home Care in Lexington, Massachusetts. After completing a certificate program in accounting at Northeastern

University, she worked in accounting-related positions at Padgett Business Services in Westwood, Massachusetts and Westwood Furniture in Dedham, Massachusetts. She is retired and lives with her husband in Lexington, Massachusetts.

### **122. William E. Winn**

William E. (Bill) Winn was born in Danville, Virginia on August 1st, 1927. He was baptized at about 1937 in the Broad Street Christian Church in Martinsville, Virginia. As a teen-ager, he was strongly influenced by *Abundant Living* (a devotional book by the Methodist missionary E. Stanley Jones) and was called to the ministry. He graduated from Hargrave Military Academy, a Baptist prep school located in Chatham, Va. in August 1945.

At the University of Richmond, he was active in the Baptist Student Union, and graduated in 1949. During one term he studied at the Southern Baptist Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky before transferring to Colgate-Rochester Divinity School in Rochester, New York. As a student in Rochester, he served as pastor of the North Rush Christian Church. After getting his theological degree at Colgate Rochester, he served as assistant Pastor of the Greece Baptist Church where he met and married Barbara Jane Peters, a doctor and member of the congregation.

In 1955, Bill and Barbara went to Edinburgh, Scotland where he was a student at New College of the University of Edinburgh. Daughter Mary Joan was born in Edinburgh. As missionaries in Burma, Bill taught at the then Burma Divinity School (now Myanmar Institute of Theology) while Barbara served as a doctor in the school and in the community. Working with the Rev. Paul Clasper and with the support and encouragement of the President of the School, the great Karen leader Thra Chit Maung, the Divinity School began to have developed rigorous academic standards, an openness to liberal theological ideas, and a commitment to multi-ethnic education at the school. Daughter Amy Julia was born in Moulmein, Burma.

After leaving Burma in the general exodus of 1966, the Winns settled in Laurinburg, N.C. where Bill taught in the Religion Department of St. Andrews Presbyterian College for three years and Barbara practiced medicine. Eventually they became active in community service and he served several terms as head of the North Carolina Consumer Council.

Since 1989 Bill and Barbara have lived at the family home in Leatherwood, Virginia where they are avid gardeners and established a private arboretum. They moved to King's Grant Retirement in May 2013. Bill died July 3, 2013

### **123. Dr. Barbara Jane Peters Winn**

Barbara Jane Peters Winn was born in Greece, NY, June 28, 1927. While living in Spencerport, NY, she attended the University of Rochester. After graduation she attended Woman's Medical

College of Pennsylvania (now Drexel University College of Medicine) where she received the M.D. degree in 1952.

In 1954 Barbara married William E. Winn. While living with her husband in Edinburgh, Scotland she passed the exam for the M.R.C.P. and her first child, Mary Joan, was born. As a medical missionary in Burma she first worked at Okalappa Refugee camp via Church World Service two weeks after landing and then did clinic work in 5 schools and operated a UNI milk program. One of the clinics she started in Insein has now grown to be the Karen Baptist Hospital on Seminary Hill. Likewise she did filarial screenings as well as typhoid prevention. At Okalappa she did refugee work. The youngest daughter Amy Julia was born in Moulmein Hospital. The family left Burma in the general exodus of 1966.

While living in Laurinburg N.C., for 22 years she practiced internal medicine. In 1989 the Winns settled in the family home in Martinsville, Va. Upon retirement their current interests are politics, environment and gardening. Two sons were born in Rochester N. Y., Peter Angus and John Ignatius in 1957 and 1959. She is now (2013) in a retirement community in the Martinsville area.

#### **124, 125. Capt. Harold Mason & Ruth Pinkerton Young**

Harold Young was born in Kengtung, Burma. He was the son of William Young who served the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society for forty years as an evangelist in frontier stations. Harold was a student at Doane Academy, Granville, Ohio, for three years. He studied at the Bible Institute of Los Angeles and later attended Berkeley Baptist Divinity School.

Harold was appointed by the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society in 1926. He and Ruth served first in Mong Lem (Bana), China just across the border from Burma. In all their years of service, they were considered a part of the Burma mission.

His wife was Ruth Pinkerton Young. She was a graduate of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles and the University of California.

When the Japanese invaded Burma, the Youngs, with their three children, were evacuated to India. There, from Mussoorie, a hill station, they did translation work and aided in the preparation of Christian literature in the Lahu and Shan languages. Mr. Young had been called several times for special service with the government of Burma. He reentered Burma with the Allied armies. He reported the new Manglun field had been greatly increased since the war. There were then eight thousand baptized members including practically all the leading Lahu in the state.

He left in November 1950 to go to the United States on furlough.

During his active years his interest in nature and especially in the fauna of Burma and Thailand made him a recognized authority in the field.



For sixteen years he had been the director of the Chiang Mai Zoological Gardens, which he planned and constructed. A member of the Asiatic Society, he was also a Lecturer for the Science Club, Chiang Mai University. He was frequently called upon by the Thai Government as a nature and conservation consultant and was an Instructor for the Jungle Survival Course, Provincial Police.

He was a brother of Marcus Vincent Young also a Burma missionary. Both were sons of William Young, a pioneer missionary on the Burma/China border working among the Wa and Lahu peoples.

He had a daughter and two sons.

He died February 13, 1975, in Chiang Mai where he and his wife had retired.

### **126. Rev. Marcus Vincent Young**

Vincent Young and his wife, Vera, were appointed June 4, 1931, and designated to Mong Mong-Bana field, Yunnan Province, China. They sailed August 31, 1931, arriving in Burma on October 19. They were stationed in Bana from 1931 to 1938 where Vincent toured many villages, doing evangelistic work. They continued the work that had been begun by Mr. Young's father, the Rev. William M. Young, who spent 40 years in mission work in Burma. Their work was largely among the Wa and Lahu speaking people who inhabit this border region between Burma and China.

Vincent founded a church and missionary school in Bana also known as Nuofu.

From 1939 to 1941 they worked at Pangwai (Loimwe), Burma. Their work along the China/Burma border was with the Wa and Lahu people. During World War II Vera and their three children returned to the United States. Vincent Young served as a civilian employee with the American Army in India and Burma. He found occasion to visit Bana and to do considerable translation work, preparing a new Wa hymnbook. They returned to China in 1946.

Because of the Communist takeover, they went to Burma in December 1949. While stationed in Kengtung, Burma, Vincent supervised construction work, translated some of the New Testament into Lahu language, worked with those in leprosy colonies, and did evangelistic work among Chinese in Burma. He developed a Latin basis script for the Wa language. The complete New Testament was printed in 1938.

Vera and their children left Burma in April 1953. Vincent Young stayed on in Burma, trying to get a reentry permit before leaving. He left Burma in November 1954. They resigned from mission service July 31, 1958. He died December 2, 1990 at 87 years old.

He was a brother of Harold M. Young, also a Burma missionary. Both were sons of William Young, a pioneer missionary on the Burma/China border working among the Wa and Lahu people.

### **127. Vera A Gibbs Young**

She was a native of San Bernardino and received her A.B. degree from the University of Redlands in 1929 and Elementary and Junior High Teaching Credentials in 1958.

Vincent and Vera were appointed for service in 1931 and sailed the same year for Burma.

After retirement in 1958, they lived in Mentone, California where they were active members of the First Baptist Church. Vera continued to the end her interest and membership in the National Educational Association and the California Teachers' Association.

Wife of Marcus Vincent Young, she had 2 sons and 1 daughter. She died March 18, 1973.

### **128. Rev. Walter "Bud" Willard Zimmer**

He was born June 7, 1919 at Mason, Michigan. Bud was baptized in 1935 at Mason, Michigan. He was ordained in 1946 at First Baptist Church of Mason, Michigan. He graduated from Mason High School and then earned an M.A. from the University of Michigan. He went to Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary earning a B.A. in 1941. In 1944 he earned a Th.B. from Union Theological Seminary.

He married Catherine Jane Cilley on October 27, 1945 at Cement City, Michigan.

They were appointed September, 1947 and designated for Toungoo. They arrived April 12, 1948 at Insein for language study. Because of the Karen army moving into Insein, they were evacuated to Toungoo on Thanksgiving Day. When the Karen army moved into Toungoo, they fled north to Taunggyi and eventually ended up at Lashio in August 1949 where they were evacuated to Rangoon. The remainder of their term was spent working in English with Immanuel Baptist Church and Judson Chapel at the University of Rangoon.

When they arrived in the U.S. for their 1952-52 furlough, they took Rural Leadership Training at Cornell University. Because of the Karen army being in Toungoo, they were unable to return there. So they did student work at a new Intermediate College in Moulmein.

When the Burmese army gained control of the Toungoo area, the Zimmers moved to a station 22 miles north of it near the village of Shwenyaungbin. It was a former government rest house. It had fruit trees—bananas, pineapples, strawberries, pomeloes, and papayas. Bud went on tours to the villages in the plain which are basically non Christian, evangelizing and witnessing for Christ.

Another time he held a ten day Bible study for the Paku Karen pastors at a village on the plains. . In the evening, they then went in groups of four or five and visited non Christian homes for witnessing and fellowship. One night they had an open air meeting in the bazaar for the bazaar workers with the Christian message. At the end of ten days, 22 people, mostly young people, were baptized in a stream.

Their children went to school in Moulmein. Their two daughters, Judy and Ann, came down with malaria. One recovered quickly but the other lingered. When the president of Burma

visited Moulmein, the schools put on entertainment for His Excellency. The adults were happy because the municipal government put forth a big effort to repair all the pot holes from the Japanese occupation time for his coming.

They had a furlough in 1957. They resigned July 31, 1961.

They had two sons and two daughters.

### **129. Catherine Jane Cilley Zimmer**

She was born October 8, 1924 at Brown City, Michigan. She was baptized in 1936 at Cement City, Michigan. She attended Cement City High School graduating 1942. Then she went to Hillsdale College and earned a B.S. in 1945. She continued to the University of Michigan for an M.A.

She married Walter "Bud" Willard Zimmer on October 27, 1945 at Cement City, Michigan.

She was appointed with her husband on September, 1947.

She had two sons and two daughters.

They resigned July 31, 1961.

Sometime around 1968 to 1970 they were divorced.

## **The Last American Baptist Burma Missionaries.**

**1946-1966**

### **Their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.**

In an earlier draft, I listed addresses and e-mails but I was afraid these would be abused so I deleted them. If any one wishes to reach any of the persons below, e-mail Neil Sowards and he will pass your message on if he has an address for them. His e-mail is on the website of friendsofburma.org

**Rev. Bradley M. & Mrs. Marcia McIntire (Deceased) Allen**, Immanuel Church, Rangoon.

- Christine Joyce
- Deborah Elizabeth
- Susan Katherine
- Steven McIntire
- Douglas Stuart

**Rev. Leonard B. & Mrs. Kathleen Allen**, Judson College

- David Bliss Allen
- Kathleen Bulkeley
- Winifred

**Miss Althea Ruth Anderson** Appointed May 24, 1948. Married Burchard Post Shepherd, Jr.

**Miss Rebecca J. Anderson**, Rangoon, Married Edwin Fletcher. See Rebecca Anderson Fletcher.

**Miss Emilie M. Ballard R. N.**, Yedwinyegan

**Rev. Raymond W. (Deceased) & Mrs. June Peterson Beaver**, Pwo Karen, Rangoon.

- Nancy Beaver James, Now missionaries to Haiti.
- Joan Beaver Royer
- Beth A. Leonard
- Cheryl R. Delano
- Jeanne Martin
- Julie Webster

**Miss Marion Beebe (Deceased)**, 1919-1961 Karen Women's Bible School, Seminary Hill, Insein. Served 42 years.

**Miss Lucy Bonney (Deceased)**, 1920-1962 Sumprabum, Kachin State.

**Rev. Russell E.(Deceased) & Becky Brown**, 1951-1960 Immanuel Baptist Church.

- Larry Brown
- Deborah McWee
- Susan Trencher
  - Seven grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

**Miss Charity C. Carman deceased**, A. B. B. Mission, Toungoo, Seminary Hill, Insein 1948. Served at least 40 years.

**Miss Ruth Christopherson**, Taunggyi, Morton Lane, Judson School, Moulmein.

**Dr. Paul Dudley & Mrs. Helen Lela (Alleshouse) Clasper** (Both deceased), 1952-1965. Willis & Orlinda Pierce Divinity School, Seminary Hill, Insein.

- Cynthia Ann Clasper Torch
- Cathleen Jo Clasper Schram
- Steven Michalson

**Dr. Milton & Mrs. Edna M. (Stone) Combs**, Rangoon.

- Capt. John Combs
- Kristina Combs-Donofrio
- MSgt. Dr. Karyn Combs
- Milton Combs, Jr.
- Barbara Green

**Dr. E. C. Carroll & Mrs. Isabel A. Condict (Both deceased)**. A. B. Mission, Asho- Chin work. Thayetmyo. E. C. is listed in "Record of Service" as serving 43 years.

- Edward C. Condict III (Deceased).
  - E. Carroll Condict IV
- Rev. Clinton A. Condict (Deceased).
  - Rev. Edgar R. Condict
  - Clinton Condict
  - Patricia Condict Mannion,
  - James Grace,
- T. Chubb Condict (Deceased) & Mrs. Condict.
  - B. Jane Shortsleeves
  - Ellen L Kellogg
  - Ann Downing
  - Nancy Stockwell

**Rev. Charles Lamont & Mrs. Conrad**. AB Pwo Karen Mission, Bassein.

**Rev. Leonard A. & Mrs. Margaret Hall Crain (Both deceased)**, Rangoon 1948, Mandalay, Audi-Visual Center of the Burma Christian Council.

- Allan J. Crain

- Warren H. Crain
- Mary Jean Crain Moreno

**Rev. Donald Melvin (Deceased) & Mrs. Jean Supplee Crider,** A. B. B. Mission, Kutkai, Northern Shan States. Kachin

- Ronald Eugene
- Raymond Carl
- Roger Lee
- Richard Dean

**Rev. Bryant C. & Mrs. Sarah Van Horn (Deceased) Currier,** Thayetmyo

- Rev. Andrew Currier
- Jeanine
- Another sister

**Dr. Keith R. & Mrs. Lois Coleman Dahlberg,** Lois R. N., Kengtung Christian Hospital, Kengtung, Shan State.

- Nancy Dahlberg
- Susan Dahlberg
- John Dahlberg
- Patricia Cordier

**Dr. Frederick G. & Mrs. Bertha Bates Dickason,** Bertha R. N. **(Both deceased),** Judson College, Rangoon, Publications & Assoc. Mission Secretary.

- Lois Young
- Jean Dickason (Deceased)
- Ann Reimer
- Dave Dickason

**Miss Evelyn Christine Dixon,** Served March 5, 1949 to April 30, 1954. Married Ray Lew 1956.

**Rev. Addison J. & Mrs. Thetis Eastman,** U of Rangoon, Judson Chapel, Student Center.

- James
- Sheila

**Rev. J. Martin & Mrs. Mabel Orr England Both deceased,** A. B. Mission Bhamo.

- John M. England
- Beverly England Williams
- Jeannette England Seip
- Florence J. England

- 6 grandchildren

**Rev. Claiborne (Clay) R. & Mrs. Janet Osgood Erickson (Both deceased)**, Burma Divinity School, and Moulmein 1958-63. After Clay's death in 1990, Janet married Paul Morgan.

- John Erickson (Deceased)
- Kenneth Erickson
- Richard Erickson
- Margaret Erickson
- Younger girl

**Rev Edwin T. & Mrs. Virginia Barrett Fletcher (Both deceased)**, Ahlone Pwo Karen 1947-48, Bassein Pwo Karen

- Rev. Stephen E. Fletcher
- Dr. William C. Fletcher

**Miss Rebecca Johanna Anderson (Fletcher) (Deceased)**, Cushing High School. Pwo Karen Bible Training School, Rangoon. Miss Anderson married Edwin Fletcher after the death of his wife.

**Miss Pearl Fruehan**, Rangoon. See Pearl Fruehan Steele.

**Dr. Dorothy G. Gates**, Christian Hospital, Moulmein, deceased 1941-1966. China & Burma.

**Rev. Roger W. & Mrs. Genevieve Getz**. A. B. M. Agricultural School Pyinmana.

- Will Getz, Ph.D.

**Dr. Martha Jane Gifford**, Senior Medical officer at E. M. M. Hospital, Moulmein.

**Rev. Clifford M. & Rosemary Farnum Gilson**, Christian Schools, Rangoon.

- Ruth Gilson Fox, Philadelphia, PA. Missionary to Thailand.
- Lisbeth "Beth" Gilson Barnhouse
- David Gilson
- Mary Gilson Wright

**Dr. Anna Barbara Grey (Deceased)**. Did most of the surgery at Ellen Mitchell Memorial Hospital, Moulmein.

**Dr. William O. & Marion Shaw Hackett** (Both deceased). A. B. Mission, Taunggyi Agriculture. Marion--Translation.

- Martha Jane Hackett, Deceased.
- William S. Hackett
- Dr. Earl Hackett (Brother)

- Nancy Hackett Downing

**Miss Phyllis Hamilton** 1946-1950, A. B. Mission, Mandalay.

**Mr. Paul F. & Haven Hasel.** 1946-1950 Moulmein. (Haven is deceased)

- Anne Hasel
- Cheryl Hasel
- Phil Hasel
  - 12 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren.

**Miss Carrie Hasseltine,** A. B. Mission Toungoo, Guest House Maymyo 1918-1942, 1947-1954. Served 35 years.

**Elizabeth Marion Petley Heptonstall,** Married an American Baptist missionary, C. H. Heptonstall in 1897 who died in 1933. She continued to work at Taunggyi until 1951. Mr. Heptonstall is listed in “Record of Service” as serving 44 year and Mrs. Heptonstall for 46 years.

**Miss Alice E. Hinton (Blakely).** E. M. M. Hospital, Moulmein. Born 10/26/1923. Died 1/06/2010

**Rev. Charles Robert & Thelma Bertha Zimmerman Horton,** A. B. Mission, Pyinmana Appointed 4/18/1939, resigned 11/1/1947.

**Robert Crawford Howard,** (Deceased) 1949-1966. Methodist missionary who married Eleanor Smith, a Baptist missionary, on February 12, 1959.

**Miss Lizbeth Belle Hughes.** Missionary in Burma 1896-1933. Retired in Taunggyi and hosted missionaries 1955-1959. She is listed in “Record of Service” as serving 67 years.

**Miss Mona Ecco Hunt (Deceased),** A. B. B. Mission, Maymyo 1946-1962.

**Miss Helen K. Hunt (Deceased),** Served in Burma 1946-1951. Judson College.

**Rev. Lloyd George & Mrs. Eileen Reeves (Deceased) James,** Treasurer, Rangoon.

- David James, 905 Jode Rd., Audubon, PA 19403
- Dr. Stephen & Nancy (Beaver) James. Haiti
- Peter James

**Miss Cecilia L. Johnson,** A. B. Missions, Karen work. Tharrawaddy, Pyapon, Rangoon, Moulmein, Served 44 years.

**Miss Laura E. Johnson** A. B. Mission, Taunggyi, Shan State Seminary, & Mandalay.

**Rev. Robert G. (deceased) & Mrs. Elizabeth (Kortum) Johnson,** Haka,

- Kristin Johnson



- Ruth Knutson
- Martha Johnson Martens
- Richard Johnson

**Miss Ruth F. Keyser, R. N. (Deceased)** Publications, E. M. M. Hospital, Moulmein.

**Rev. Walter L. & Mrs. Eva (Cummins) Keyser (Deceased)**, Eva at Seminary Hill, Insein.

- Jan Peter

**Miss Mary Irene Laughlin (Deceased)**, E. M. M. Hospital, Moulmein, A. B. B. Mission, Myitkyina.

**Rev. Paul White & Mrs. Elaine Thomasson (Deceased) Lewis**, Pangwai,

- Warren Arthur Lewis
- Robert Norman
- Sons adopted 6/1/61

**Rev. Trevor Oswald & Mrs. Mary Evelyn (Inkster) Ling**, Chaplain University of Rangoon 1960.

- Three daughters

**Miss Ruth Mather (Deceased)**, United Christian High School in Rangoon. Taught English 1952-1957

**Miss Selma Maxville R.N.** Nurse. E. M. M. Hospital, Moulmein. Killed by dacoits along with about a dozen villagers who tried to rescue her February 28, 1950.

**Rev. Franklin Oliver & Phileda Mae Carol Ogren Nelson**, 1946-1951 A. B. Mission, Tiddim, Chin Hills.

- Lois Katherine
- Karen Louise
- Phyllis Margaret

**Miss Julia E. Parrott.** Served 1895-1934. Then on her own served 1947-1950.

**Rev. W. R. & Mrs. Parson**, A. B. Mission, Maymyo.

**Rev. Albert Charles & Jennie Chaille (Morgan) Phelps.**

**Dr. William N. & Mrs. Betty (Deceased) Rice**, A. B. Agricultural School, Pyinmana.

**Miss Dorothy Rich**, Burman Women's Bible School, Women's Work, Insein 1946-1966.

**Dr. Bina Elizabeth Sawyer**, Christian Hospital, Moulmein,

**Miss Margaret Sawin**, Insein. In 1959 there is mention she taught one year at Baptist Seminary in Insein.

**Rev. Harold (Deceased) & Estelle Miao Schock**, Christian Center, Rangoon.,

- Phil Schock
- Judy Kuiper
- Linda Shelley
- Timothy Schock (deceased)

**Dr. Gordon & Mrs. Marion Grace Morse Seagrave**, (Both Deceased).

- Mrs. Richard D. Buttermore, Jr.
- Weston M. Seagrave
- Paris Seagrave
- John H. Seagrave
- Sterling V. Seagrave
- 9 grandchildren

**Dr. Grace Russell Seagrave**, (Deceased.) A. B. Mission, Namkham.

**Miss Rachel Holbrook Seagrave** (Deceased), Pwo Karen School, Ahlone, Pegu H. S. compound. Served 38 years under appointment.

**Alice Mae Simmons Shae**, Willis & Orlinda Pierce Divinity School, Seminary Hill, Insein. Married Gam Shae

- One daughter

**Burchard Post & Althea Ruth Anderson Shepherd, Jr.** 1947-1948 Engineer who rebuilt church buildings.

- Roger Anderson Shepherd
- Ronald Kemp Shepherd
- Laura Althea Shepherd Rodgers
- William Allan

**Miss Marion E. Shivers (Deceased)**, General missionary work and Leprosy Work, Tavoy Jetty Road, Moulmein. She served 38 years.

**Dwight Olney & Muriel (Martin) Smith**, Treasurer, Missionaries 1925-1947.

**Miss Eleanor Smith, R. N.**, E. M. M. Hospital, Moulmein. Married Robert Howard on February 12, 1959. It appears that Robert Howard was a Methodist missionary.

**Miss Margaret Beatrice "Peggy" Smith R. N.** Deceased, Kengtung Christian Hospital, Kengtung, Shan States

- Married the Rev. Bob Maase

**Rev. Erville E. & Genevieve (Sharp) Sowards** Both deceased. Sgaw Karen Mission Bassein, Mission Secretary, both educators and she was a writer of mission and Christian literature.

- Genevieve Myrtle Sowards Gillen
  - Grant Gillen & Renee,
  - Laura Gillen Miller & Mike Miller
    - Christopher Miller
    - Jonathan Miller
  - Layton Gillen
    - Brooke Gillen
  - Dr. Glen & Dr. Kat Gillen
- Neil & Diana Sowards
  - David Sowards
  - Rinda Sowards Batenich

**Mrs. Pearl Fruehan Steele.** Rangoon 1946-1950.

**Rev. David P. (Deceased) & Eleanor Powers Stimson,** A. B. B. Mission, Maymyo,

- Wade Stimson
- Scott Stimson
- Wendy Yoder
- Kirk Stimson
- Kerry Yoder

**Wallace & Mrs. St. John.** (Deceased) Rangoon Baptist College, and later Taunggyi. Wallace is listed in "Record of Service" as serving 44 years and Mrs. Wallace St. John 47 years.

**Rev. Walter D. & Mrs. Marion Estella (Griesemer) Sutton** ( Both Deceased), A. B. B. Mission, Tavoy. Served 41 years.

- Candy Aaron
- One granddaughter and two great granddaughters.

**Rev. Gustaf A. Sword,** Judson College, Rangoon. Listed as Kachin missionary at Namkham and Kutkai.

**Miss Elizabeth M. Taylor (Deceased),** Cushing H. S. Compound, Rangoon; Roberts H. School, Bhamo.

**Rev. Herman G. & Mrs. Ruth Pearson Tegenfeldt (Both deceased),** A. B. B. Mission, Myitkyina, Kutkai 1955, Field Secretary.

- Dr. Edwin Tegenfeldt
- John Tegenfeldt

- Paul Tegenfeldt
- David Tegenfeldt, NGO in Burma.
- Judith Fenlason, one of the daughters, is working with another NGO in Burma.
- Alice Mundhenk

**Miss F. Alice Thayler**, Girls' High School, A. B. Mission, Mandalay.

**Miss Mary D. Thomas**, E. M. M. Hospital, Business Manager, Moulmein. 39 years.

**Miss Helen Loring Tufts**, Taught and directed the Anglo-vernacular mission schools at Bassein and Sagaing.

**Miss Lucy F. Wiatt (Deceased)**, Judson College, Rangoon.

**Mary Ellen Williams** (Married Donald Eastridge 5/18/68), Rangoon, Christian School, Moulmein 1963.

**Dr. William Edwin Winn (Deceased) & Dr. Barbara Jane Peters Winn**, Seminary Hill, Insein

- Peter Winn
- Dr. Mary Joan Winn Leith
- John I. Winn
- Amy Julia Winn

**Dr. William E. (Deceased) & Mrs. Barbara June Peters Winn**, Seminary Hill, Insein

- Peter Winn
- Dr. Mary Joan Winn Leith
- John Winn
- Amy Winn

**Capt. Harold Mason (Deceased) & Ruth Pinkerton Young** Pang Yang, Manglun, Mong Lem (Bana) China. Considered part of Burma mission with Wa and Lahu people.

- Mrs. Helen Suter
- O. Gordon Young
- William M. Young

**Rev. Marcus Vincent & Vera A. (Gibbs) Young (Both deceased)** Kentung.

- Lael M. Young
- Philip Young
- Mrs. Nelda M. Widlund

**Rev. Walter W. "Bud" & Catherine Zimmer 1948-1957**, Shwenyaungbin, Toungoo.

- Tim Zimmer
- Ann Elizabeth
- Judith Nancy
- Richard Walter Zimmer

**Pearl Fruehan Steele**—A Window into the Daily Life of a Missionary, post WWII

Mission Service 1946-1950 Rangoon, Burma

“I was secretary to the CEO of the Pennsylvania Baptist Convention in Philadelphia in 1946 when Lucy Bonney, missionary in Sumprabum, Burma, stopped in. She was speaking at various churches before returning to Burma after the war. I told her I was studying Spanish so I could go to S.A. She said, ‘Why don’t you come to Burma?’ So I applied and was accepted for office work.

“Dec. 14, 1946, my 25<sup>th</sup> birthday, I left NY on the Queen Elizabeth I together with Alice Hinton. After a few days in London she was able to get a flight out, but I had a week with friends in England. Our planes were BOAC, flying boats, which stopped at night in Marseilles, Cairo, and Calcutta. I arrived in Rangoon on the Irrawaddy River Jan. 4, 1947.

“I lived at 17 Sandwith Rd. with other missionaries. A couple weeks later on the same day—a boatload of missionaries arrived via the Atlantic and another via the Pacific. We were a bit crowded until some were able to get upcountry to their stations. But I was able to meet and get acquainted with all of them. Those who worked with the Sgaw Karen, Pwo Karen, Burmese, at Judson College and Immanuel Baptist Church (English speaking) all stayed in Rangoon, mostly at our guesthouse. We had 2 large houses on Sandwith Rd. The third had been bombed and 17 needed a new roof before the monsoons began in May.

“My first job was to type in quintuplicate on a 17” typewriter a list of pre-war ABM property and how much damage each sustained during the war. We didn’t have deeds to everything, as many were just lots in villages for simple churches and pastor’s homes. My immediate boss was D.O. Smith, Mission Treasurer and all the info came from him. I don’t remember how long it took me to type all that up, but it was sent to the War Claims Commission. I assume that was British because Burma was still under the British then. Nothing was ever heard from the WCC and we received no moneys for damages, so all my work was for nothing.

“D.O. taught me to drive a jeep. I drove to the office to get my license, paid the fee and drove home again. The Mission was able to buy 9 American jeeps, left over from the war. They were our main means of transportation until some station wagons, with the steering wheel on the right, were sent from the U.S. (On the roads, one kept to the left). Switching from a right hand drive to a left and vice versa became automatic. Signalling right and left turns sometimes was dangerous for the passenger.

“One morning we found that the distributor caps were missing from all the jeeps. The night watchman knew better than to get in the way of thieves. Leonard Crain went down to the market and bought them back. Maybe they were the same ones. You couldn’t just park a jeep and leave it or when you came back, wheels, etc. would be missing. Someone always had to guard the vehicle.

“At first our Mission offices were in the Guest House. After the ABM Press was rehabbed we moved down there. It was never used as a press again, though before the war it was probably the single most valuable property. Bibles, hymnbooks, etc. etc. were printed there.

“I usually walked to the Press from home, carrying a Burmese umbrella. The Press was just a block from my church, so I knew the area well. Just before reaching Sandwith Rd. I passed someone selling sesame candy and I treated myself.

“The offices were finally moved to the former Cushing High School and they are still being used today by the local Baptist Association.

“One of my jobs, unwritten, unplanned, but very much enjoyed, was to shop for the upcountry missionaries. At a surplus store was stuff left over from various military units (U.S. and U.K.) I found gallon tins of jelly, peanut butter, butter, and cheese, which they were eager to have. I sent records and even a baby carriage.

“Sometimes I had to go to the Secretariat, the government headquarters, to get papers signed for incoming freight and relief goods. If the person involved was too busy I just sat outside the door and waited. The Secretariat was where Aung San and his ministers were assassinated. (The present government has abandoned the Secretariat, put a fence around it and let it deteriorate.)

“When I was in Rangoon, Immanuel Baptist was my home church. A Salvation Army officer was leading the services until our missionary arrived. The sanctuary had been damaged during the war and torn down. But the baptistery remained. We stood around it when there were baptisms. Church services and Sunday School were held in the hall attached. Soon after the missionaries returned after the war it was used for English, Karen, and Indian congregations. When one church was dismissed the next group was waiting outdoors.

“Our English young people’s group was known as Christian Endeavor, not BYPU. We had many good times—swimming in a lake, caroling from the back of a truck, and once, even a slumber party at the Guest House. We made our own chorus books and mended Christmas cards people sent me. Some of those CE members are still close friends. I taught kindergarten in the Sunday School with Mrs. Louise Ling (daughters—Pat Magdamo in PA and June Hundley in RI)

“Exactly one year after my arrival in Burma, the British left, sailing down the Irrawaddy. At 4 AM that day Burma had become independent. The shamans had decreed the time. The RAF troops had left earlier. Some of the RAF boys had been coming to Immanuel and joined our CE activities.

“It wasn’t long before the internal war broke out. Bombs were dropped on the Burmese Women’s Bible School and seminaries at Insein, about 10 miles from the Guest House. We could hear the guns. One of our CE members was killed. After things settled down, I went to Insein with Dorothy Rich to help clean up a little at the BWBS.

“Erville Sowards decided to take some clothing and relief supplies to villages in the delta and I joined him. I wasn’t a bit of help as I didn’t speak a word of Karen, but I was glad to see that part of Burma. We had a boat of some kind. We also went to Myaungmya, which is in the rice growing area. I rode on an oxcart with my legs dangling off the back. A Karen girl kept me company. Houses were up on stilts. Before going up the steps, shoes were removed and feet washed.

“The Mission Guest House was run by various women missionaries, but eventually I was asked to take over. We had an elderly Indian as a cook. He called me “mama” which is the term used for all the female missionaries, but I was in my 20’s and it took me awhile to get used to it. I planned the meals and he did the shopping. There was a young Burmese boy to help him. Once I asked the cook if he could make apple pie. He never admitted that he didn’t know something, but what we got was more like apple crumble. The next time I showed him what I wanted. It looked nice, but he served it by turning each piece upside down on the plate. The third time I found out what I should have asked for was a “tart”.

“We also had a Karen watchman whose job it was to patrol the grounds and every hour bang a metal piece so we would know he was alive. The Indian gardener cut the grass by squatting and swiping the blades with a machete. A dhobi (laundryman) came every week, returning with everything washed and ironed. All the dhobis washed in cement tubs in the same area. How they kept things sorted out, I don’t know.

“Every January there was a Mission conference and most came by jeep. Bill Hackett whose transport was a U.S. weapon’s carrier had to pay \$30.00 a gallon for gas. The roads were dirt and rocks. When he found there was a leak in the gas tank, he chewed some gum and plugged it up.

“Alice Hinton became engaged to an engineer of the Burmah Oil Co. and the wedding was in Moulmein so George took me by tanker over there. Our doctors there took me to the leper colony which our Mission supported.

“Every week I sent a long typewritten letter to my parents in Scranton, PA. My mother made copies for the American Baptist Publishing Society. Excerpts were printed in the Young People’s Sunday School paper. I have only one copy which somehow escaped destruction. I wish I could have the others. Somewhere someone has them piled in an attic.”

Written by Pearl Steele, May 28, 2013, Orlando, FL

### **The Continuing Work in Burma**

After the missionaries (and all other foreigners) were expelled from Burma, some went to other fields such as Paul Clasper, the Hacketts, and the Schocks to Hong Kong. And Emilie Ballard and Dr. Bin Sawyer served in Thailand.

Some Burma missionaries, their children, grandchildren and relatives have continued to help the Burmese in a variety of ways.

**Milton A. Combs, Jr.**, son of Dr. Milton & Edna Combs, works with the P.e.o.p.l.e. Foundation, Inc. Their primary concern is both inpatient and outpatient drug and alcohol treatment including work with HIV/AIDS victims in the US and now Burma.

**David Dickason, Lois Dickason Young, Jean Dickason**, children of Dr. Frederick & Bertha Dickason. They founded Cetana Educational Foundation which offers English language training in Burma and scholarships for study abroad.



**Will R. Getz**, son of Roger and Genevieve Getz, had the opportunity to return to Burma (Myanmar) last December (2012) to work with the Myanmar Livestock Federation in planning ways to expand and enhance their goat meat production systems, especially in the more humid zones.

**Genevieve (Sowards) Gillen**, daughter of Erville & Genevieve Sowards, built a hostel at Pathein.

**Marty Hackett**, daughter of William & Marion Hackett, and **Dr. Earl Hackett**, brother of William Hackett, have established The Hackett Mission Legacy Foundation a tax exempt foundation. Their main work is in Taunggyi where they are working with the Pa-O Association in their projects and outreach and to the Shan States Seminary providing help with faculty salaries, scholarships, and construction. They also work with the orphanage in Taunggyi providing needed supplies. They have set up scholarships for some of the orphans with one specifically to train girls as midwives to honor Marty Hackett who was a mid wife. They help with the Ywama Baptist church clinic in Insein with supplies and funding. They have also helped MIT with their building funds. Ray makes yearly trips to the Pathein area where he uses solar electricity to light schools and a clinic. He has put in wells and provides drip irrigation for farms in the region.

**Phil Schock**, Executive Committee member of Friends of Burma, Inc. and liaison to the leaders in Burma. He built a building in memory of his brother, for the Deemawsoe Orphanage. His sisters support orphans there.

**Neil Sowards**, son of Erville & Genevieve Sowards. He and his wife, Diana, founded Friends of Burma, Inc. in 1985 which supports students with scholarships, orphans and hospitals plus fifty other programs.

**David Tegenfeldt**, son of Rev. Herman & Ruth Tegenfeldt. He worked 1993-2001 as country director with World Concern. Since 2003 he has been country director with Hope International Agency.

**Peter Winn**, son of William & Barbara Winn, has worked with the Asia Foundation in Burma on law reform issues.

**Friends of Burma, Inc.** is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization so that donations made to it are tax deductible. In addition this organization holds a license from the U. S. Treasury Department, Office of Foreign Asset Control (OFAC) which allows it to send money to Burma. Retired missionaries, their children and grand children send money through Friends of Burma, Inc. to various projects in Burma. Some with a real concern for Burma are: Dr. Gladys Allen, Emilie Ballard, Ray Beaver, Keith Dahlberg and family, Lincoln Espy, Clifford Gilson, Paul Hasel, Paul Lewis, Tim Marsh, Laura Rogers (Winns), Estelle Schock and family, Pearl Steele, Eleanor Stimson.

Other children of missionaries have made significant contributions in other fields. For example **Nancy and Steve** worked 14 years at the Good Samaritan Hospital in Haiti. Steve is the son of Lloyd & Eileen James.