

**Abbie G. Sanderson Papers**

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**ABBIE G. SANDERSON**

**South China**

*Sailed 1918, 1923*

*Birthday, May 27*

*(New England District)*

**B**ORN into a minister's family in the town of Greenville, New Hampshire, surrounded by Christian influences, reared in a missionary atmosphere, Miss Sanderson cannot remember the time when she was not interested in the peoples of the far-distant mission field. The demand for service early came home to her and her education was such as to fit her for the most efficient work. It was in Waterville, Maine, that she spent nearly all her years of preparation, graduating from Colburn Classical Institute there and later from Colby College. As a teacher she spent one year at Charlton, Mass. Two years as preceptress at Ricker Classical Institute in Houlton, Maine, gave her valuable experience in dealing with girls and bearing responsibility, and it is the Baptist church there that holds her membership.

In the fall of 1907 she came to Hasseltine House, planning to give a year to theological study at Newton. But very shortly after begin-

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ring her work there a cable came from Swatow, China, telling of an unexpected vacancy in the school and begging that some one be sent immediately. Much as Miss Sanderson regretted this break in all her plans, yet the emergency was such an acute one that she felt it her duty to go, and she sailed for that field early in 1914.

Since then she has given herself unstintingly to the young Chinese girls of the Abigail Hart Scott Memorial School. Since she has been there the school has developed into a full-fledged high school, although still keeping the lower grades.

Miss Sanderson has achieved marked success in the use of the difficult Chinese language, is a born teacher and readily adapts herself to uncomfortable and unusual circumstances. She was in Swatow during the fearful typhoon and tidal wave of 1919 and showed courage and level-headedness during that frightful disaster. Her restlessness and seriousness cannot fail to have a very great influence over the young girls whose character she is helping to form.

PUBLISHED BY  
THE BOARD OF MISSIONARY COOPERATION  
OF THE NORTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION  
FOR THE  
WOMAN'S AMERICAN BAPTIST FOREIGN  
MISSION SOCIETY  
226 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY



## SIGNATURE.

Sign below as directed. The passport should also be signed in the space provided therefor in the lower left-hand corner.

Abbie J. Sanderson

(Signature of bearer, to be affixed immediately upon receipt of passport.)

Sutton, Vermont

(Bearer's address in the United States.)

Saratow, China

(Bearer's foreign address.)

## RENEWALS.

An American citizen residing in a foreign country and desiring the extension of the validity of his passport should make application therefor to the nearest American diplomatic or consular office.

# THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

## PASSPORT



*Collected*  
JUN 17 1900  
SWATCH OFFICE  
J. J. Senger

### DEPARTMENT OF STATE

To all to whom these presents shall come Greeting:

I, the undersigned, Secretary of State of the United States of America, hereby request all whomever it may concern to permit

*Abbie G. Sanderson*  
a citizen of the United States safely and freely to pass and in case of need to give her all lawful Aid and Protection

This passport is valid for use only in the following countries and for objects specified unless amended:

*All Countries Missionary work and Travel*

The bearer is accompanied by

Given under my hand and the seal of the Department of State at the City of Washington the *5* day of *March* in the year *1900* and of the Independence of the United States the one hundred and *seventy* ~~seventy~~ *seventy* anniversary

*Charles E. Hughes*



#### PERSONAL DESCRIPTION

*Age 27 years*  
*Height 5 ft 10 in*  
*Weight 140 lbs*  
*Complexion Fair*  
*Eyes Blue*  
*Hair Brown*  
*Place of birth Greenville, N.H.*  
*Date of birth May 27, 1873*  
*Occupation Teacher*



PHOTOGRAPH OF BEARER

*Abbie G. Sanderson*  
SIGNATURE OF BEARER

No 30490

AMENDMENTS AND EXTENSIONS.

THIS PASSPORT IS VALID FOR A PERIOD OF TWELVE MONTHS  
AND EXPIRES MARCH 25 1924 UNLESS PREVIOUSLY  
EXTENDED. IT IS SUBJECT TO ONE OR MORE EXTENSIONS,  
PROVIDED THE FINAL DATE OF EXPIRATION IS NOT LATER THAN  
TWO YEARS AFTER THE DATE OF ITS ISSUANCE.



VISAS.

Seen at H. B. M. Consulate, Swatow.  
Good for the Transit through  
Hong Kong, en route to the  
United States of America.



22/6/23. H. King  
H. B. M. Consul,  
Swatow.

32116

H. B. M. CONSULATE-GENERAL  
SAN FRANCISCO.

Date 28. NOV. 1924

Travelling to Hong Kong  
(in Transit)

Reason for Journey Business

H. B. M. Consul



ONLY IN DIRECT TRANSIT

TO China

VISAS.



查證  
大正十年六月二十六日  
在香港  
總領事高橋清



VISAS.

CONSULAR FEE \$2

收費貳元

駐金山總領事館

駐金山總領事館驗訖  
大中華民國十年六月廿六日





大英國特命駐劄中華全權公使

填給護照事茲有本國

由外部訂領護照

18

來華擬往內地游歷願請將所欲游省填註照內等因茲已按其

所請將欲遊各省填列合請

大中華民國文武員弁見此護照務須放行俾該

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游歷不得留難攔阻遇有事故並望隨時保護幫助須至護照者

右行護

給  
持往遊歷

一千九百  
中華民國

中華民國

年  
月

目錄

大中華民國

加印照行

部外  
第

The document herewith enclosed is an American passport.  
 Le document ci-joint est un passeport américain.  
 El documento inclose es un pasaporte americano.  
 Ti documento qui inclose è un passaporto americano.  
 O documento inclose é parte d'un passaporto americano.  
 Documentul alor înclede este un pașaport american.  
 Das hierin eingeschlossene Dokument ist ein amerikanischer Reisepass.  
 Le hierin eingeschlossene Dokument ist ein amerikanisch pass.  
 Het hier ingesloten document is een Amerikaans pass.  
 Het hier ingesloten document is een Amerikaans pas.  
 Ezikony a van enclosed part amerikai passaport.  
 As ide mellékelte útint egy amerikai útlevél.  
 Pripojená listina je americký pas (průkazník listi.  
 Pripomenak ova ovoj dopisima pripomenak? putopisna.  
 Ti pripomenak pripomenak ovi dopisima pripomenak.  
 此處附送之文件係一美國護照。

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此處附送之文件係一美國護照。

此處附送之文件係一美國護照。

MISS ABIE G. SANDERSON

AMERICAN BAPTIST MISSION  
SWATOW, KWANGTUNG

廣東汕頭

孫安美

美國浸禮會

## COLBY COLLEGE

Date of filling out this blank June 24, 1934Class of 1914

Maiden Name in full (No initials, please)

Abbie Gertrude Sanderson  
(First) (Middle) (Surname)

Address to which you wish mail sent

Swatow, China

Permanent address

South Berwick, Maine

Names and addresses of three relatives or other persons who will habitually know your address (indicate what is the relation—father, cousin, etc.)

(Father) Rev. Elsie Sanderson, South Berwick, Maine  
(Brother) Arthur G. Sanderson, Woods Hole, Mass.  
Foreign Secretary, W.A.B.F.M.S., 152 Madison Ave., New York.

OCCUPATIONAL HISTORY, PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY AND SEVERAL RESIDENCES SINCE GRADUATION WITH APPROXIMATE DATES:

DATE	OCCUPATION	PLACE
1914-15	Teaching	High School, <u>Charlton, Mass.</u>
1915-17	"	<u>Proctor Institute, Houlton, Maine</u>
1918-27	"Girls' School"	<u>Swatow, China</u>
1927	"5 months in Religious Training School,"	<u>Shanghai, P. I.</u>
1927-34	"Educational Middle School,"	<u>Swatow, China</u>

That is, 1918-1934. Continuous service under the  
Woman's American Baptist Foreign Mission Society  
as missionary in Swatow, China (2 parishes)  
(Intensified in 1928 as result of upset conditions, political & otherwise)

ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST SINCE GRADUATION—NOTE PARTICULARLY CIVIC, SOCIAL, OR BUSINESS HONORS; CLUBS, SOCIETIES, BOOKS PUBLISHED, ETC.

Please sign here with your usual signature

(Signature)

Abbie G. Sanderson

\*Class with which you wish to be associated, which is not necessarily the year in which degree, if any, was awarded.

(cont.)

# VITAL STATISTICS

Place of Birth Greenville N. H. Date: Year 1893 Month May Day 27

Mother's Name before Marriage: Olga W. Jarvis

Father's Name in Full: Elisha Sanderson (Colby, 1886)

Items of Interest Regarding Parents: Dr. Baptist pastorates in New England for over forty years.

## MARRIAGE

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_

Husband's Name in Full \_\_\_\_\_

College \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_ Degree \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

If not living, date of death \_\_\_\_\_

If divorced, check \_\_\_\_\_

## CHILDREN

Names	Dates of birth	If not living Date of Death	College Attended

# COLLEGE STATISTICS

Preparatory School: Name, Location, etc. Colburn Institute Waterville Me.

Colby: Date of Entrance September 1910 Date of Departure June 1914

Degrees, with dates A. B. 1914

Sorority and Class Societies Chi Omega, Kappa Alpha

Athletics \_\_\_\_\_

Clubs Y. W. C. A. President

Honors Commencement Speaker

Miscellaneous \_\_\_\_\_

Other Degrees and Courses, When and Where Taken Bible, Newton, 1912, 1924

Bible  
Chinese History  
Chinese Religion } Hartford, 1931

## Missionaries from Congo, Japan To Address Area Church Meeting

COLCHESTER — The United Church here will be host to the women's annual basket meeting and the midyear meeting of the Champlain Valley Baptist Association Tuesday, April 15.

The women's basket meeting will begin at 1 p.m. and the midyear meeting of the association will be at 7:30 p.m.

Supper will be served by the host church at 6:30 p.m.

Guest speakers will be Miss Phyllis Renner, missionary from the Congo, and Miss Abbie Sanderson, missionary from Japan.

Mrs. Gladys Sweeter, Champlain Valley Women's Association president, will preside at the afternoon meeting and the Rev. Gerald Rowe, of Middlebury, moderator of the association, will preside at the evening meeting.

Mrs. Eileen Austin of Springfield, State Baptist Women's Society president, will participate in the afternoon program.

The United Church choir will sing and Mrs. Kay Purvis will play a violin solo at the evening meeting.

Geo. J. Foster & Co., Publishers.

Associated Press Full Licensed Wire Service

DOVER, N. H., WEDNESDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER

# Continues Her Work After \$25,000 Fire Damages Imprisonment By Communists Somersworth Restaurant

by Jack McDonough

**SOUTH BERWICK** — Abbie Sanderson is active and alert—not too unusual for a woman of 57.

But this South Berwick teacher was 23 months in solitary confinement, a prisoner of the Chinese communists.

Daughter of a Baptist minister, Miss Sanderson had gone to China at the age of 24. Following the influence of others she knew who had worked in China, she decided on this vocation while still a student at Colby college.

In 1918 the American Baptist Foreign Missionary society sent her to Swatow to teach the children of this city. Every five years she came home for a regular furlough.

In 1937 she extended the leave 14 months by her dying father. Then came World War II and she was unable to return until 1946.

Things were normal then. But in a few short years the hand of communism was felt. Gradually the hand closed. By 1950 it was a strangle hold.

For Miss Sanderson it meant fewer classes. The few became fewer. By 1952 there were none.

One pleasant April morning of that year there came a pounding on her door. Opening it she saw the uniform of the Chinese communist police. She would see little else for a long time.

The charge, they said, was spying for the American government.

An "accusation" meeting was held with Chinese communists from all the schools in Swatow in attendance. It was decided that

## Imprisonment

(Continued from Page 1)

ence on the young people.

Police led her to one of the rooms in her own house and kept her there for four months. The only ones she saw in that time were her guards.

Then one day she and three fellow missionaries, two men and a woman, were taken across Swatow bay to a building that once housed a Catholic mission. It was then that she learned her friends had also been imprisoned in her house, each in a separate room.

Time hung heavy for the next 17 months. She asked for and, surprisingly, received two Bibles. These, along with a devotional book and a French dictionary, were all she had to occupy her time.

For diversion she memorized passages of the Bible and improved her French vocabulary. She also relearned the method of finding square root by doing the process backward. Cube root proved too much of a challenge—she couldn't figure it out.

Once a day now she saw the other three missionaries. Peering through the small barred opening in her door she could see them being led past her cell to the single toilet facility, to which they had access every evening.

The food was adequate and she suffered no physical harm.

"The hard part of it," she said, "was the mental pressure. The guards kept telling me of the harm that had come to other Chinese because of me."

"A good deal of the time I didn't think I would ever get out."

Suddenly on the last day of December 1952, the four were taken from their cells, whisked, back across the bay, and told to pack their belongings.

Bringing them to the customs house, the police separated the other woman from the group at beyond point, and put her on a boat for Hong Kong.

Miss Sanderson and the two men were returned to their cells across the bay.

"I thought that was the end for me," she said.

Five days later, however, they were returned to customs. They, too, were then placed on a boat for Hong Kong.

While two months she was home in South Berwick. No reason was ever given for her release.

Shaken by the ordeal, Miss Sanderson was unable to talk to newsmen or discuss the 23 months of confinement with anyone for over a year.

But then, showing tremendous stamina and devotion to her work, she returned to the Far East in 1954 and taught in Sendai, Japan, for more than five years.

Today, after 43 years in the mission field, she is still difficult to pin down long enough for an interview. Lecturing from Maine to Massachusetts she maintains a schedule that would boggle a youngster of 30.

A large machine at Varney's apothecary in East Rochester was broken open and the money drawer



ABBIE SANDERSON, 57, who spent 23 months in solitary confinement at the hands of the Chinese communists, sits in her South Berwick home planning one of her many lecture tours.



## Missionary Will Address Three Services

SPRINGFIELD — (Special) — Miss Abbie G. Sanderson, a retired American Baptist missionary, will speak at the morning worship service of Calvary Baptist Church here Sunday.



MISS SANDERSON

Miss Sanderson was appointed as a missionary in 1918 and served in South China and later in Japan. She was an educational missionary and had gained teach-

ing experience before her assignment. Her service in China was in Sanyow where she taught in mission schools.

When the Communists took over the Chinese mainland, Miss Sanderson was among several missionaries in Sanyow who were arrested in 1951 and interned for nearly two years. After her release and further study in this country, she was assigned to a mission girls' school in Sendai, Japan. She retired in November, 1959.

Her appearance at the local church is preliminary to the Woodstock Baptist Assn. Missionary Rally scheduled for 4 p.m. Sunday at the First Baptist Church in Chester. At the association rally Miss Sanderson will be joined by Miss Phyllis Renner who is scheduled to return to the Congo in June.

Miss Sanderson is also scheduled to speak at a later service Sunday morning in Bellows Falls.

where she will address members of the First Baptist Church there at 11 a.m.

The daughter of a Baptist minister, Miss Sanderson was born in New Hampshire and attended Colby College and Cornell University. She studied Chinese at Yale University and Japanese at Columbia. Her home church is the First Baptist in Berwick, Maine.

## FORMER ME. WOMAN RELEASED BY CHINESE

HOLLENESFORD, N. H., Jan. 3 (AP) — Word was received here today that Miss Abbie Sanderson, 80-year-old Baptist missionary, had been released from a four-year imprisonment by Chinese Communists.

According to the American Foreign Missionary Society, Miss Sanderson is now in Hong Kong following her release from a Sanyow, China, prison. She had lived formerly in South Berwick, Me.

## Missionaries Flee From China

Hong Kong (AP) — Four half-starved American Baptist missionaries, who arrived here from Red China Friday, said Saturday they had heard the communists had ordered the expulsion of all foreign missionaries as quickly as possible.

They said they could not confirm the report, but it seemed to be borne out by the numerous Catholic missionaries expelled within the past 10 days.

There are reported to be more than 100 Catholic missionaries in China and less than 100 Protestant evangelists.

The four Baptists, who said they were held in solitary confinement in four rooms in Sanyow since April, 1951, are Dr. Edward H. Giedt, Miss Abbie Sanderson, Miss Louise Griffin and Rev. Loren E. Noren.

Dr. Giedt, of Rochester, N. Y., said their release seemed like a dream and added: "It happened so quickly I can't readjust myself." They plan to return to the U. S. after recuperating here.