

Repository

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Denominational affiliation (historic or current)

Freewill Baptist

URL

<http://abacus.bates.edu/Library/aboutladd/departments/special/index.shtml>

Cited in Crouch *Christianity in China*, 1989

ME-15

Source of information

<http://abacus.bates.edu/Library/aboutladd/departments/special/index.shtml>

Date data gathered

January 19, 2006, updated July 17, 2006

Collection 1

name of collection

Freewill Baptist Collection

background

Considered to be one of the best collections of Freewill Baptist materials in the country, this collection of 399 titles contains books, pamphlets, sermons, hymnals, serials, and biographies by and about prominent Freewill Baptist ministers, as well as a wealth of information reflecting the growth and outlook of the Freewill Baptists. Included is a complete run of the *Morning Star*, 1826-1911, the single most important Freewill Baptist newspaper, as well as a number of other serials published by the denomination. The collection also contains extensive information relating to Freewill Baptist missionary work in India dating from the 1830s through the turn of the century.

finding aids

Items listed in Ladd Library catalog

materials

serials

The Calcutta Missionary Herald : relating to the proceedings of the Baptist Mission in India with occasional notices of the Society's operations in other places, and also those of other kindred institutions. Calcutta : Printed at the Baptist Mission Press, 1840-. Lib has: vols. 1-7

The Christian spectator. Calcutta : Baptist Mission Press, 1871-.
Lib has: v.1(1871)-v.5(1875/1876)

Free Will Baptists (1780?-1911). American Free Baptist Mission. *Annual report.* Midnapore : Mission press, 1863-.
Lib has: 1863-1910

Free Will Baptists (1780?-1911). Foreign Mission Society. *Midnapore Bible School : Annual report.* Midnapore : Bible School, 1879-.
Lib has: 1879.

The Indian evangelical review. [Madras : Printed at the Foster Press, 1873-1903]
Lib has: v.1(1873/74)-v.16(1889/90)

Morning Star, 1826-1911

The Oriental Baptist. Calcutta, J. Thomas, Baptist Mission Press, 1847-.
Lib has: Vols. 1-8

vernacular language materials (e.g. Hindi, Urdu, Tamil, etc.)

Gospel of John in Hkun

New Testaments in Hindustani, Oriya, Sanskrit

Bibles in Hindi, Oriya, Sanskrit

Collection 2

name of collection

Dominican collection

background

This book collection was purchased by the French Department at Bates College from the Dominican Monastery in Lewiston, Maine and given to the Library. It complements both the Freewill Baptist Collection with its important early 19th century texts on missionary experience in India and Africa, and the Rice Collection with its predominantly French texts. In addition, the religious orientation of the collection complements the predominantly religious

orientation of the Rare Books Collection. This purchase also has allowed Bates to play a key role in preserving an important library in the Lewiston community.

finding aids

Items listed in Ladd Library catalog

Collection 3

name of collection

Lavinia Coombs Letters

background

Lavinia C. Coombs (1849-1927) was a Freewill Baptist missionary who spent many years in India. The collection contains nine letters written by Coombs from Midnapore and Balasore, India, to Nellie Whittemore of Bowdoinham, Maine. The letters include discussions of the activities of Freewill Baptist missionary work, as well as discussions of friend and family matters. Included with the collection are transcriptions of the letters.

finding aids

Online at

<http://abacus.bates.edu/Library/aboutladd/departments/special/FindingAids/LCoombsFA.shtml>

materials

Correspondence

Collection 4

name of collection

Palm-Leaf Manuscripts

background

Rev. Benjamin Burleigh Smith (1820-1873) was a Freewill Baptist missionary who established a church in Balasore, on the east coast of India in the Orissa state. The collection is comprised of five full or partial palm leaf manuscripts of Shastras, sacred Hindu scriptures. The manuscripts are drawn with a steel stylus on palm leaves, with black ink rubbed over them to highlight the letters. They are in the Oriya script, and probably in either the Sanskrit or Oriya language. Some or all of the manuscripts were copied by Smith's Brahmin pundit, or philosopher-teacher, between 1853 and 1862.

finding aids

<http://abacus.bates.edu/Library/aboutladd/departments/special/FindingAids/PalmLeafFA.shtml>

materials

vernacular language materials

Hindu scriptures in Oriya script

Collection 5

name of collection

David Marks Papers

background

David Marks (1805-1845) was a popular evangelist who was connected with the establishment of the Foreign and Home Mission Societies, and the Education Society. He was also prominent in the anti-slavery movement. The collection consists of what appear to be unbound journals which cover several periods of Marks's life. Included are numerous pages of notes and reflections pertaining to church services in Portsmouth, N.H. (1835); Rochester, N.Y., (1837); and Oberlin, Ohio (1844-1845).

finding aids

<http://abacus.bates.edu/Library/aboutladd/departments/special/FindingAids/MarksFA.shtml>

materials

diaries

manuscripts

26 pages of notes concerning Freewill Baptist missions in India with minutes from several meetings of the Foreign Mission Society (April 1835); and notes for a letter addressed to William Burr, concerning the India missions dated October 1837.

Collection 6

name of collection

Jonathan Woodman Diary

background

Jonathan Woodman, a Freewill Baptist pastor and evangelist, was born March 27, 1798. He was one of nine individuals who established *The Morning Star*, the denomination's newspaper, in 1825, and he eventually became a proprietor, trustee, and corporator of that printing establishment. In 1828 he gave the opening prayer at the first General Conference. He was the first president of the Anti-Slavery Society, 1843; president of the Home Mission Society, 1840; and president of the Foreign Mission Society, 1848-1850. He sat for two terms on the Vermont Legislature. In addition, he was minister in various Vermont, New Hampshire and Massachusetts parishes. His first wife,

Charlotte Jackson, died in 1832. His second wife, Mercy Eaton, died in 1877. He had four children. He died in January 1888.

In 1847 Rev. Jonathan Woodman and Rev. Eli Noyes were elected by the Freewill Baptist General Conference as delegates to the General Baptists in England. In 1848, Woodman traveled to England. This diary was written by Woodman during his travels through England, beginning with his departure from East Boston on April 15, 1848. Woodman met with Rev. Jabez Burns and Rev. Joseph Goadby, and visited several General Baptist churches in London. He also attended Baptist Missionary meetings and temperance meetings, and he met with members of the British Anti-Slavery Society. Woodman was invited to deliver sermons before several congregations. On July 13th, he received a letter which informed him of his son's struggle with tuberculosis. The journal ends two entries later.

finding aids

<http://abacus.bates.edu/Library/aboutladd/departments/special/FindingAids/JWoodmanFA.shtml>

materials

Diaries

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