

Title: Southern Rhodesia Mission. Records, 1924-1958

Creator: American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.

Dates: 1921-1958, bulk 1953-1958

Physical description: 1 document case (.25 linear feet)

Collection number: RG 5051

Access restrictions: none

Copyright: Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be discussed with the archivist or librarian.

Preferred citation: [Identification of item], in the Southern Rhodesia Mission. Records, RG 5051. The Congregational Library and Archive, Boston, MA.

Languages: English, chiShona and chiNdau

Repository: Congregational Library and Archive

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Boston, MA 02108

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Collection processed by Jessica Steytler, April 2013

Abstract: Early and mid-20th century records from the Southern Rhodesia Mission of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM). Documents include reports, correspondence, histories, church services, photographs and photographic negatives.

Acquisition Information: Donated in 2008 by Charles Lord, former missionary from the 1950s to Chikore.

Organizational History: The Southern Rhodesian mission was established in 1893, only three years into the region was claimed by the British Empire, through the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions as part of its East Africa outpost. It centered around Mt. Silinda and had a sub-station at Chikore. It was referred to as Southern Rhodesia from 1901-1965, when they declared independence from the United Kingdom as Rhodesia, then went through several transitions before renaming to Zimbabwe in 1980. There is still a legacy of the original ABCFM mission through schools, hospitals and the United Church of Christ, Zimbabwe.

Scope of Collection: This collection provides some records from the East Africa Mission for the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, specifically the (Southern) Rhodesian missions of Mount Silinda and its substation, Chikore. The collection includes reports from the mission, correspondence, church services, histories, photographs, photographic negatives, and maps. There are many undated items.

The majority of the collection are reports from 1955-1958. There are a few from the 1930s and 1920s. The Correspondence is from 1924, 1932-1933. Correspondent names that could be identified are listed in Access Terms. The collection arrived with newsletters and booklets that have been separated and included in the "18.6.6" section, which houses similar material from the region. The Histories are varied, one is written in chiShona and chiNdau. There are two maps, one is a mass produced sketch of Southern Rhodesia, the other is a hand drawn of Mt. Silinda Station.

Arrangement: There are only nine folders; they are in alphabetical order. The reports are in chronological order.

Related Material:

ABCFM pamphlet Box 1 for Africa, 18.6.6

ABCFM Annual Reports

Precious Mt. Silinda United Church of Christ Mission : a century of African transformations, 18.6.2 A52

Victor Fanstone Masters. Papers, 1950-1951 MS 5041

Records of the Mount Silinda Mission. Microfilm. Film Ms39. Special Collections, Yale Divinity School Library.

Access Terms:

Africa - Missions.

American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.

American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions - Africa.

American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. East Central Africa Mission.

Bunker, Frank R.

Fuller, Columbus. C.

Jones, Thomas Jesse

Lord, Charles R.

Mount Silinda Mission (Zimbabwe)

Simango, C. Kamba (Camba)

Detailed Description and Container List:

1. Church Services, 1953, 1963, no dates
2. Correspondence and clippings, 1924, 1932-1933, no dates
3. Histories, no dates
4. Maps, no dates
5. Photographs and photographic negatives, 1921-1922, no dates
6. Reports, 1920s-1930s
7. Reports, Mission Council, 1955-1956
8. Reports, Mission Council, 1957
9. Reports, Mission Council, 1958