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Minnie E. Carter papers, 1869, 1911-1986. MS5530

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on May 01, 2026.
Description is written in: English.
DACS 2019.0.3

Congregational Library & Archives

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Summary Information

Repository:	Congregational Library & Archives
Title:	Minnie E. Carter papers, 1869, 1911-1986.
ID:	MS5530
Date [inclusive]:	1922-1957
Physical Description:	1.44 Cubic Feet (2 boxes)
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	<p>Minnie E. Carter was born in Redding, Connecticut on June 13, 1886. She was a member of the First Congregational Church of Bethel, participating in the choir, the Sunshine Society, and was a Sunday School teacher. In 1916, Minnie would leave the United States and live in South Africa at the Inanda Seminary. Minnie would remain at Inanda Seminary from 1916 through her retirement in 1957. While at Inanda, Minnie would teach on a variety of subjects including the Bible, English, Mathematics, Biology, and serve as a substitute teacher as needed. Minnie would return to the United States permanently in 1957 following her retirement. After returning, she served as a deaconess for the First Congregational Church in Bethel, organized prayer groups, and visited members of the community who typically stayed in their homes. Minnie E. Carter died on September 29th, 1974. This collection contains various subject files and photographs from Minnie Carter's time working for the Inanda Seminary in South Africa under the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions from 1917-1957.</p>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], in the Minnie E. Carter papers, 1869, 1911-1986, MS5530. The Congregational Library & Archives, Boston, MA.

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Biographical Information

Minnie E. Carter was born in Redding, Connecticut on June 13, 1886. Her family moved to Bethel, Connecticut when she was 3. She graduated as a valedictorian at Bethel High School in 1904 and also graduated from Danbury Normal School in 1906. She was a member of the First Congregational Church of Bethel, participating in the choir, the Sunshine Society, and was a Sunday School teacher.

Minnie taught elementary grades from 1906 to 1915 in Bridgewater, Bethel, and Stamford, Connecticut. From 1915 to 1916, she attended the New York Biblical Seminary in New York City. In May of 1915, Minnie and 54 other missionaries from the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM) participated in a Farewell Service at the Second Congregational Church in Dorchester. A year later, she leaves the United States to live in South Africa at the Inanda Seminary.

The Inanda Seminary is an all-girls school located about 20 miles north of the city of Durban. The school was founded by Daniel and Lucy Lindley in 1869 and continues to operate as of 2026. Minnie would remain at Inanda Seminary from 1916 through her retirement in 1957, excluding some furloughs that took place in 1926, 1938, and 1949. While at Inanda, Minnie would teach on a variety of subjects including the Bible, English, Mathematics, Biology, and serve as a substitute teacher as needed. She also supervised a number of extracurricular activities like drama and sports, introduced a library in 1927, and organized Sunday School training for students. After serving as interim principle from 1928-1929, she was the head teacher from 1930-1948.

Minnie would return to the United States permanently in 1957 following her retirement. After returning, she served as a deaconess for the First Congregational Church in Bethel, organized prayer groups, and visited members of the community who typically stayed in their homes. Minnie E. Carter died on September 29th, 1974.

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Scope and Contents

This collection contains various subject files and photographs from Minnie Carter's time working for the Inanda Seminary in South Africa under the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions from 1917-1957. Additional materials from after she returned to the United States are also included.

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Arrangement

The collection is divided into two series and further arranged chronologically by start date. When possible, material retains the folder titles as they were when the collection was donated.

Series 1: Subject files, 1869, 1911-1986

Series 2: Photographs, undated

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Restrictions on Access

Access to this collection is unrestricted and open to the public.

Restrictions on Use

Items in this collection are subject to U.S. Copyright Law. It is the responsibility of the researcher to determine the copyright status of collection items and to secure any permissions necessary for their reproduction and publication. Requests for permission to publish material must be discussed with the archivist or librarian.

Acquisition Information

Materials were donated to the Congregational Library & Archives by Marnie Warner in September 2024; accession number 2024-37.

Processing Information

This collection was processed by Billy McCarthy, April 2026, according to the rules of Describing Archives: A Content Standard.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Women in missionary work.
- Missions -- Study and teaching.
- Photographs.
- Correspondence.
- Inanda Seminary (Inanda, South Africa)

Collection Inventory

Subject files, 1869, 1911-1986

Physical Description: 28 Folders

Scope and Contents

This series contains assorted subject files from the records of Minnie Carter, mostly related to her time at the Inanda Seminary.

Title/Description	Instances	
Edwards, Mary K., 1868, 1924-1927	box 1	folder 28
American Board of Missions, 1911-1986	box 2	folder 1
Carter, Minnie E. (1 of 2), 1917-1975	box 2	folder 3
Carter, Minnie E. (2 of 2), 1917-1975	box 1	folder 27
Life at Inanda, 1923-1955	box 2	folder 6
Correspondences, 1924-1981	box 2	folder 4
Inanda Newspaper Article, July 2, 1927	Drawer 8	folder 2
Pamphlets on Inanda, 1929-1939	box 1	folder 31
Facilities, 1929-1954	box 1	folder 29
Anniversary celebrations, 1929-1969	box 2	folder 2

History of Inanda, 1929-1972	box 2	folder 5
Zulu life, 1930-1946	box 2	folder 8
Correspondences, 1934	box 1	folder 13
Correspondences, 1935	box 1	folder 14
Correspondences, 1936	box 1	folder 15
Student materials, 1937-1950	box 1	folder 33
Assorted pamphlets and papers, 1937-1954	box 1	folder 20
Correspondences, 1937	box 1	folder 16
Correspondences, 1938	box 1	folder 17
Correspondences, 1939	box 1	folder 18
Correspondences, 1940	box 1	folder 19
Car fund, 1949-1950	box 1	folder 26
Apartheid, 1955-1958	box 1	folder 24
Calendars, 1964-1965	box 1	folder 25
Assorted pamphlets, undated	box 1	folder 21
Magugile and her grandchildren slide descriptions, undated	box 1	folder 22
Maps, undated	box 1	folder 30
Loyalty and Royalty, undated	box 2	folder 7

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Photographs, undated

Physical Description: 15 Folders

Scope and Contents

This series contains various photographs related to the life of Minnie Carter, many drawn from her time at the Inanda Seminary.

Title/Description	Instances	
Inanda, undated	box 1	folder 1
Zulu life, undated	box 1	folder 2
Photo negatives, undated	box 1	folder 3
Nursing, undated	box 1	folder 4
Student with teachers, undated	box 1	folder 5
Pictures with Minnie Carter, undated	box 1	folder 6

Vacation, undated	box 1	folder 7
Group photos, undated	box 1	folder 8
Sunday outings to rural areas, undated	box 1	folder 9
Summer industrial arts, undated	box 1	folder 10
Mrs. Edwards funeral, undated	box 1	folder 11
Inanda girls playing sports, undated	box 1	folder 12
Miscellaneous photos, undated	box 1	folder 23
Assorted photographs, undated	box 1	folder 32
Oversized photos, undated	Drawer 8	folder 1

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