

**INVENTORY OF THE
SAMUEL STEARNS DAY COLLECTION**

AR. 143



Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives

Revised September, 2011

SAMUEL STEARNS DAY COLLECTION

AR. 143

Summary

Main Entry: Samuel Stearns Day Collection.

Date Span: 1825 – 1912

Abstract: Collection includes correspondence, diaries, journals, reports, sermons, and biographical information of early Baptist missionary to India. Also contains information on his travels, missionary life and work among the Telugu people of India, customs of the day, and illnesses. Papers include some material of Day's daughter, Mary M. Day, who worked among the Telugu people and administered a girls' school in Madras, India. Correspondents include missionaries in India, Burma, Hong Kong, and Singapore, Day's family, Adoniram Judson, and J. Lewis Shuck.

Size: 5 linear feet.

Collection #: AR 143

Biographical Sketch

1808, May 13 Born in Bastard, Leeds County, Ontario, Canada. The 9th child and 5th son of Jeremiah and Submit Day. He was an American Baptist Missionary and founder of the mission to the Telugus in the south part of India, sent out by the American Baptist Board of Foreign Missions. For several years, the Days lived in Nellore as they worked among the Telugus. Day's consecration, dedication, strong faith, and exhausting labor placed him among our missionary heroes.

1825, July Samuel was baptized

1825 – 26 Taught school

1831, May Began studies at Hamilton Literary and Theological Institution, Hamilton, New York

1833, Mar. 13 Licensed to preach by the Baptist church in Bastard, Canada

1835, Aug. 23 Married Roenna (Clark) Day (b. Oct. 12, 1809 – d. May 19, 1881) in Homer, New York. Children: Howard Malcom, Samuel Clark, Mary (Mame) Marilla and Martha Sophia (twins), James Bacon, and Ellen Roenna. Mary M. returned to India as a missionary and managed a girl's school in Madras for 32 years.

- 1835, Aug. 24 Ordained by the Baptist Church in Cortland, New York
- 1835, Aug. Mr. & Mrs. S. S. Day appointed as missionaries to the Telugus in India.
- 1835, Sept. 22 From Boston, Day sailed on the ship "Louvre" to India as American Baptist missionary to the Telugus. Twenty – two missionaries were on board this ship. The names of the Baptist male missionaries in this party were: J G Lewis Shuck, Lovel Ingalls, James M. Haswell, Samuel Stearns Day, Alanson Reed, E. L. Abbott, and Robert Davenport. (See p. 21 "A Pioneer for Jesus" by Thmaval).
- 1836, Feb. 5 Arrived in Calcutta, India
- 1836, Mar. 7 Arrived in Vizagapatam., India, and began language study
- 1836, Aug. Moved to Chicacole, India
- 1837, Mar. 7 Moved to Madras for work. Began mission work among the Telugu, and during this year, he baptized his first person in India.
- 1838 , Mar. Went to Bellary and baptized 22 persons
- 1838, Aug. 4 Organized Viperly Baptist Church (English) in Madras, India
- 1840, Feb. 21 Moved to Nellore, India, to be able to work more closely with the Telugus
- 1840, Sept. 3 Baptized his first Telugu convert – a man
- 1843, Oct. 12 A church was formed in Nellore
- 1845, Nov. 5 Because of exhausting labor and illness on the mission field, doctors and the Madras council of missionaries decided he must go to the U.S. to regain his health. Day had a hepatic disease. Mrs. Day was also ill.
- 1845, Dec. 3 The Day family returned to U.S.
- 1846, June 3 Arrived in New York
- 1848, Oct. 10 Mr. Day returned to Nellore, India, alone to continue work among the Telugus. His wife and children remained in the U.S. We may imagine what a struggle went on before and during this separation. Rev. Lyman Jewett and his wife, Euphemia, accompanied him to India and also worked with the Telugus. During this trip, the ship's captain was converted. (See Mar. '49 letter to sister Brown among correspondence with fellow missionaries)
- 1849, Mar. 14 Arrived in India

1850, Oct. 1 Day was ordered to close schools in which 210 were receiving a Christian education – the Mission Board had no funds

1853 Left the mission field, returned to the U.S. broken in health, and was never able to return to India. His family headquarters were in Homer, New York. He supplied churches preaching and lecturing as his strength would allow.

1871, Sept. 11 Died in Homer, New York, after much suffering

For further information of S. S. Day's life, work, and fellow missionaries see:

"The History of the Telugu Mission" by David Downie

"A Pioneer for Jesus" by Thos. S. Dunaway

"To the Golden Shore" by Courtney Anderson

Other books about Adoniram Judson have pertinent information about Day and his mission work.

Scope and Content Notes

This is a significant collection on early mission efforts in India by Baptists. The main parts of the collection consist of biographical information, correspondence, diaries, journals, reports to the American Baptist Foreign Mission Board, sermons, and materials concerning mission work among the Telugus. The dates of these papers span the years 1825 – 1912. The biographical information is mainly concerning the Day and Stearns families.

The correspondence is divided as follows:

1. General – filed chronologically within an alphabetical arrangement of names
2. Family – filed chronologically. S. S. Day's letters to his wife Roenna are filed separately in chronological order. Some of the family correspondence is similar to a journal, and some of it includes important biographical information.
3. Fellow missionaries – filed chronologically under alphabetical arrangement of names of missionaries. There are about 540 letters in the collection.

Among the correspondence with fellow missionaries, there are letters of unusual interest from Adoniram Judson of Burma and J. Lewis Shuck of China. One of these from Judson approves Day's going to begin the work with the Telugus. One also tells of a throat ailment that kept him from preaching for many months. Other letters that mention the Judsons are from Alanson Reed of 2/25/1836, Lyman Stilson's of 2/1/1837, and S. M. Osgood of 2/9/1839. J. Lewis Shuck's letter of Sept. 15, 1837 tells of the first person ever baptized in the Chinese Empire.

There are numerous letters from missionary Lyman Jewett who worked with S. S. Day among the Telugus and continued this ministry after the Days had to leave India because of illness. In the letters from E. L. Abbott is information about mission work among the Karens.

The letters from Rev. Howard Malcom are interesting. Previous to 1835, he served as pastor to a church in Boston. As a member of the American Baptist Board of Foreign Missions, he sailed Sept.

22, 1835 on the ship "Louvre" with the S. S. Days and other missionaries to visit Baptist mission fields in the orient. In this collection, there are a few letters from Rev. Malcom while he was president of Georgetown College, Georgetown, Kentucky, 1845 – 47.

In the correspondence with fellow missionaries, there are letters from J. H. Chandler, a type founder who was sent out in 1843 to help with the work of printing tracts and books for the missions in the Orient. The correspondence, diaries, and journals (ca. 1850) are significant because of the description and details about India, Burma, Siam, Singapore, Macao, Hong Kong, etc., and the work of the missionaries in these fields. The journal written by Roenna Clark Day during the Day's trip to India from 1835 to 1836 is most interesting.

An important section of the collection deals with the work among the Telugus who live in Hindustan in the southern part of India. The Days lived in Nellore most of the time that they worked with the Telugus. Included in the collection are materials about the Telugu language and mission history, as well as a few books in Telugu. Also included are a few items of Mary M. Day, daughter of the S. S. Days. She worked with the Telugus in India for many years and was stationed in Madras.

Among the correspondents are: E. L. Abbott (Burma); J. G. Allen; C. Bennett (Burma); George Beer (India); W. Bowden (India); Rufus Babcock (cor. secretary of American and Foreign Bible Society); Jo So Bacon (editor of American Baptist Mission Magazine, 1841); George Co Beckwith (cor. Secretary American Peace Society); Rev. Miles Bronson; Lucius Bolles (sec. of American Baptist Board of Foreign Mission); Mrs. N. Brown (India); W. Brown (India); Misses E. and S. Bradford; P. Brotherton; William Bogert; James Cay (India); G. L. Comstock (Anacan, India); J. H. Chandler (type founder for mission work); Robert D. Davenport (Bangkok); William Dean (Bangkok and Hong Kong); Co Foster (Madras Bible Society); J. W. Gordon (India); A. N. Groves (India); William A. Hallock (Secre. American Tract Society); James M. Haswell (Burma and India); William Howell (India); Lyman Jewett (India); Adoniram Judson (Burma); Eugenio Kincaid (Tavoy, Burma); Alex Leitch (London Missionary Society); John McCarthy (India); A. P. Mason, Howard Malcom (member of American Baptist Board of Foreign Missions) and at one time pastor of Boston's Federal St. Church, See p. 420 of "To the Golden Shore" by Courtney Anderson; A. C. Osborn; S. M. Osqood (Burma); Solomon Peck (cor. secretary of American Baptist Missionary Board} W. H. Pearce (Calcutta); J. Penney (Calcutta); T. Collins Page (India) ; Thomas Purinton (on Day's ordination council) ; Edward Porter (India); A. T. Rose (Akyab); E. D. Reed; Mr. & Mrs. Alanson Reed (Singapore, Bangkok, and Moulmein); Samuel J. Smith (Bangkok); John Smith (secretary Madras Auxiliary Bible Society); Thomas Simons (Rangoon); J. Lewis Shuck (Hong Kong and Macao), Co H. Slafter (Bangkok), E. A. Stevens (Burma); Lyman Stilson (Burma); Amos Sutton (India); J. Thomas (Calcutta); William Thompson (India); Charles Thompson (Wales); Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Van Husen (India); Justus H. Yinton (Burma); J. G. Warren (cor. sect. of American Baptist Missionary Union 1860); M. Winslow (India); Mrs. Wade (Tavoy); D. W. Ward (India); G. Van Somerer (India).

Arrangement

Alphabetically by folder title.

Provenance

Donated by the Day family

Preferred Citation

Samuel Stearns Day Collection, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee.

Access Restrictions

None

Subject Terms

Judson, Adoniram, 1788 – 1850

Shuck, Jehu Lewis, 1812 – 1863

Day, Mary M.

Jewett, Lyman, 1813 – 1897

Clark, James

Malcom, Howard, 1799 – 1879

Chandler, John Hassett, 1813 – 1891

Abbott, Elisha Litchfield, 1809 – 1854

Missionaries – Correspondence, reminiscences, etc.

Missions – Burma

Missions – India

Teluga (Indic People) – Missions

Baptists – Sermons

Related Materials

Books with information related to this collection are:

"The History of the Telugu Mission" by David Downie

"A Pioneer for Jesus" by Thomas S. Dunaway

"To the Golden Shore" by Courtney Anderson and other books about the Adoniram Judsons and the J. Lewis Shucks.

Folder Listing**Box 1**

1.1 Address book of Mary M. Day

1.2 Autograph book, 1835 – 49

1.3 Bible – polyglot, 1834, and book "Forest Scenes"

1.4 Biographical information

1.5 Brochure, 1901 – Great Temples of India, Ceylon & Burma. In Telugu

1.6 Correspondence – with American Baptist Missionary Union (include travel expense accounts) and American Baptist Board of Foreign Missions

1.7 Correspondence – business

1.8 Correspondence – record of some letters written by S. S. Day, 1850 – 1860

1.9 Correspondence – family – Mary M. Day

- 1.10 Correspondence – family – to S. S. Day's twin daughters on their 9th birthday – original and copy. Much biographical information, 1848.

Box 2

- 2.1 Correspondence – S. S. Day early letters, 1826 – 31
 2.2 Correspondence – family – S. S. Day to wife, describe trip to Bellary I India, 1838
 2.3 Correspondence – family – S. S. Day to wife, 1839
 2.4 Correspondence – family – S. S. Day to wife, 1840 – 42
 2.5 Correspondence – family – S. S. Day to wife, 1845
 2.6 Correspondence – family – S. S. Day to wife, 1846 – 49
 2.7 Correspondence – family – S. S. Day to wife, 1850 – 52
 2.8 Correspondence – family – S. S. Day to wife, 1865
 2.9 Correspondence – family, 1830 – 34
 2.10 Correspondence – family, 1835 – 1841
 2.11 Correspondence – family, 1844 – 1852
 2.12 Correspondence – family, 1856 – 1886
 2.13 Correspondence – family – undated

Box 3

- 3.1 Correspondence – fellow – missionaries – Abbott, E. L., 1836 – 39
 3.2 Correspondence – fellow – missionaries – B
 3.3 Correspondence – fellow – missionaries – Clay, James; J. H. Chandler
 3.4 Correspondence – fellow – missionaries – Cornstock, G. L., 1836-41
 3.5 Correspondence – fellow – missionaries – Dean, William, 1836 – 44
 3.6 Correspondence – fellow – missionaries – Davenport, Robert D., 1837 – 42
 3.7 Correspondence – fellow – missionaries – F – H, 1836 – 49
 3.8 Correspondence – fellow – missionaries – Gorden, J.W., 1837 - 49
 3.9 Correspondence – fellow – missionaries – Jewett, Lyman, 1849, 1871
 3.10 Correspondence – fellow – missionaries – Jewett, Lyman, 1850 – 51
 3.11 Correspondence – fellow – missionaries – Jewett, Lyman, 1851
 3.12 Correspondence – fellow – missionaries – Jewett, Lyman, 1852 – 67
 3.13 Correspondence – fellow – missionaries – Judson, Adoniram, 1837, 1839
 3.14 Correspondence – fellow – missionaries – Kincaid, Eugenia, 1837, 1839
 3.15 Correspondence – fellow – missionaries – Leitch, Alex, 1844
 3.16 Correspondence – fellow – missionaries – McCarthy, John, 1839 – 1849
 3.17 Correspondence – fellow – missionaries – Malcom, Howard, 1836 – 1847
 3.18 Correspondence – fellow – missionaries – Osgood, S. M., 1837 – 48

Box 4

- 4.1 Correspondence – fellow missionaries – Page, T.C.; Pearce, W.H.; Porter, Edward, 1839 – 1849
 4.2 Correspondence – fellow missionaries – Penny, J., 1836 – 1838
 4.3 Correspondence – fellow missionaries – Reed, Alanson, 1836
 4.4 Correspondence – fellow missionaries – Rose, A.T., Scudder, 1853
 4.5 Correspondence – fellow missionaries – Shuck, J.Lewis, 1837 – 45

- 4.6 Correspondence – fellow missionaries – Simons, Thomas, 1837 – 45
- 4.7 Correspondence – fellow missionaries – Slafter, C.H., 1840; Smith, John, Smith, 1843; Smith, Samuel J., 1851; Stevens, George, 1854
- 4.8 Correspondence – fellow missionaries – Stevens, E. A., 1838 – 39
- 4.9 Correspondence – fellow missionaries – Stilson, Lyman, 1836 – 39
- 4.10 Correspondence – fellow missionaries – Sutton, A., 1836 – 39, 1857
- 4.11 Correspondence – fellow missionaries – Thomas, J., 1840 – 1860
- 4.12 Correspondence – fellow missionaries – Thompson, William, 1843
- 4.13 Correspondence – fellow missionaries – Van Husen, Joanna Brown, 1843 – 48
- 4.14 Correspondence – fellow missionaries – Van Husen, Stephen, 1840 – 45
- 4.15 Correspondence – fellow missionaries – Vinton, Justus H., 1837
- 4.16 Correspondence – fellow missionaries – Wade, D.B.L, 1837
- 4.17 Correspondence – fellow missionaries – Ward, D.W., 1837 – 49
- 4.18 Correspondence – fellow missionaries – Winslow, M., 1839, 1849
- 4.19 Correspondence – General – A
- 4.20 Correspondence – General – B – G
- 4.21 Correspondence – General – H – M
- 4.22 Correspondence – General – N – Z
- 4.23 Cortland, N.Y. – brochure of new county home for aged women, 1910 minutes of Cortland Baptist Association

Box 5

- 5.1 Diary of James Clark, 1835 – 40 (Mrs. S. S. Day's brother)
- 5.2 Diary of Mary M. Day, 1877, and clippings
- 5.3 Diaries of the S. S. Days, 1834 – 45
- 5.4 Diaries of the S. S. Days, 1846 – 49, 1854, 1856, 1859
- 5.5 Journals of the S. S. Days, 1831, 1834
- 5.6 Journal by Mrs. S. S. Day, Sept., 1835 – May, 1836 (Contains biographical information)
- 5.7 Journal, 1837
- 5.8 Journal, 1848 – S. S. Day's return to India alone
- 5.9 Journal, 1850
- 5.10 Journal, 1851

Box 6

- 6.1 Biographical information
- 6.2 Diary and Journal, 1826, 1828
- 6.3 Diary and Journal, 1830
- 6.4 Diary and Journal, 1831 – in Nov., 1831 – tells of his call to the ministry
- 6.5 Diary and Journal, 1832, 1833
- 6.6 Diary and Journal and memos of letters, 1836 – 37
- 6.7 Diary and Journal, 1838 – 44; records of mission administration
- 6.8 Diary and Journal, 1845, 1846
- 6.9 Diary and Journal, 1849

Box 7

- 7.1 Early writings

- 7.2 Form of agreement for binding a girl as apprentice, 1857
- 7.3 Hindus – address on this subject, S. S. Day, 1837
- 7.4 Hymn books, English, 1843 – "The Psalmist" is one
- 7.5 Indian Missionary Society – address to society in 1837
- 7.6 Madras Mission work – article about it – Bible women's class attendance roll book
- 7.7 Marriage laws, India, 1843
- 7.8 Miscellaneous
- 7.9 Notes for speeches
- 7.10 Personal, including Day's license to preach, ordination certificate, medical report, 1845, regarding his health, and a lock of his hair. A statement of his personal excellence from the faculty of Hamilton Lit. & Theological Institution, 1835.
- 7.11 Poems including "Nellore" or "Lone Star Mission" by S. F. Smith, who also wrote "America"

Box 8

Photographs of missionaries and Baptist leaders in India; Mary Mo Day's certificate of membership in Woman's Baptist Missionary Society

Box 9

- 9.1 Sermon notes – Numbers – Zechariah
- 9.2 Sermon notes – Matthew – John
- 9.3 Sermon notes – Acts – II Corinthians
- 9.4 Sermon notes – Galatians – Revelation
- 9.5 Teachers certificates – Mary M. Day
- 9.6 Telugu Mission field – Baptism of first convert, 1840
- 9.7 Telugu – books
- 9.8 Telugu Examination of the Shastras (Hindu. Scriptures)
- 9.9 Telugu hymn books
- 9.10 Telugu language study and grammar information

Box 10

- 10.1 Telugu – letters, 1836 – 39 (in Telugu)
- 10.2 Telugu – library inventory, S. S. Day
- 10.3 Telugu – mission history
- 10.4 Telugu – mission house, building of Nellore and copy of power of attorney given by S. S. Day to Lyman Jewett
- 10.5 Telugu – mission work notes
- 10.6 Telugu – Nellore district population table
- 10.7 Telugu – mission reports
- 10.8 Telugu – mission reports Nellore poor, 1850 – 53
- 10.9 Telugu – property deed, etc.
- 10.10 Telugu – school
- 10.11 Telugu – reports of mission work and financial accounts, 1835 – 48
- 10.12 Telugu – reports of mission work and financial accounts, 1840 – 63