

# Inventory to the Jesse Boardman Hartwell Collection

## AR 884



J. B. HARTWELL  
MISSIONARY TO CHINA  
1858-1912

Prepared by: Dorothy Davis  
Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives  
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## I. Biographical Sketch

Jesse Boardman Hartwell, Jr. served as a missionary in northern China from 1858-1875 and from 1889-1912. From 1875 to 1889, Hartwell worked with the Chinese in California as Superintendent of Baptist Missions in San Francisco, and organized the first Chinese Baptist church in the United States. After graduating from Furman University in South Carolina, he taught mathematics at Mt. Lebanon University, where his father served as president. Hartwell became a missionary in 1858, and left for China, where he served in the Shantung (Shandong) Province. In 1861, he began the first Protestant church in China, north of Shanghai, and Hartwell assisted refugees during the Tai Ping Rebellion (1851-1864). Hartwell also served as president of the Bush Theological Seminary, later North China Baptist College, in Hwanghsien.

Jesse Boardman Hartwell, Jr. was born in 1835 in Darlington, South Carolina to Jesse Boardman Hartwell and Margaret Foreman Hartwell. He married Eliza H. Jewett of Macon, Georgia in 1858. Eliza died in Tengchow, China in 1870, and left four children, Jesse, Nellie, Anna, and John. Hartwell married Julia C. Jewett, Eliza's sister, in December 1871, and she died in 1879 in San Francisco, California. In 1881, Hartwell married Charlotte E. Norris of Baltimore, Maryland, while Hartwell worked among the Chinese in San Francisco, California. He and Charlotte had three children, Charlotte, Charles, and Janie. After living in China for ten years, Charlotte died in 1903. Four of Hartwell's children, Nellie, Anna, Lottie, and Charles, also worked in China missions. Hartwell died in 1912 in Chefoo (Yantai), China.

## II. Scope and Content Note

The Jesse Boardman Hartwell Collection contains 4.5 linear feet of material in 5 boxes and documents Hartwell's work as a Southern Baptist missionary to China from 1858 to 1912, with an interval as Superintendent to Baptist Missions in San Francisco, California from 1875-1889. The collection has two series: personal papers and official papers, and dates from 1855 to 1921, with the majority of the documents from 1874-1911, and each series is arranged chronologically. Letter press books in the collection are extremely fragile.

The first series, personal papers, dates from 1855 to 1906, and primarily includes correspondence. In addition, there are clippings, Eliza Hartwell's obituary, and a journal with excerpts from personal letters. The letters are from Hartwell to his family, including his father, mother, and sisters, although his main correspondence is with his mother and sisters, Ellen C. Edwards and Mary Helen Gibbs. In the letters, Hartwell mainly addresses family matters, with mentions of his mission work, other events such as the Tai Ping Rebellion, and references to uprisings and resistance to mission efforts.

The second series, official papers, dates from 1874-1921, and contains ten volumes of letter books with approximately 7,000 pages. Each letter press book contains an alphabetical index; names of frequent and prominent correspondence are noted in the folder listing. Other materials in this series are some writings from Hartwell, a travel journal, a mission report, and history of the mission work in north China. Also included in this series are letters to T. P. Crawford, William H. McIntosh, Lottie Moon, C. W. Pruitt, I. T. Tichenor, and R. J. Willingham.

Researchers should note that there is a collection of Hartwell Family Papers at Yale University in the Divinity Library Special Collections that overlaps with the contents of this collection. The Hartwell Family Papers date from 1849-1972, and include materials from other members of the Hartwell family in addition to Jesse Boardman Hartwell, Jr. The collection includes correspondence, personal items and memorabilia.

John Schaffet donated the first series in 2007, and the SBC's International Mission Board donated the second series in 2005 to the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives.

### III. Folder Listing

#### Box 1

- 1.1 Clippings
- 1.2 Family Correspondence
- 1.3 Family Correspondence – 1855-1868
- 1.4 Family Correspondence – 1870-1899
- 1.5 Family Correspondence – 1900-1906
- 1.6 Obituary – Eliza H. Hartwell
- 1.7 Incidents and Events in the Hartwell Family – 1897-1921
- 1.8 Letter – Mrs. Hughes (Post Mistress, Fresno, California) – March 13, 1890

#### Box 2

- 2.1 Letter Book – February 2, 1874-May 16,1881
  - Rev. T. P. Crawford
  - Rev. William H. McIntosh
  - Rev. R. A. Paterson (President American Bible College for Young Ladies)
  - Reports for the Home Mission Board (Southern Baptist Convention)
  - Rev. Winfield Scott
  - Rev. E. Z. Simmons
  - Rev. H. A. Tupper
- 2.2 Letter Book – May 16,1881-January 3, 1884
  - Rev. R. H. Graves
  - Mrs. S. J. Holmes
  - Rev. William H. McIntosh
  - Miss Lottie Moon
  - Mrs. Frances M. Potter
  - Report to Home Mission Board (Southern Baptist Convention)
  - Secretary of State – Sacramento
  - Rev. H. A. Tupper
  - Mrs. E. L. Wilson (Alameda)
- 2.3 Letter Book – January 3, 1884-November 4, 1886 Folder 1 of 2
  - Rev. G. S. Abbott
  - Rev. J. C. Baker
  - Rev. C. C. Bitting
  - Miss M. G. Burdette
  - Watkin Davies
  - Rev. D. H. Drake
  - Col. George M. Edgar (President Arkansas Industrial University, Fayetteville)
  - Rev. A. J. Frost
  - Rev. R. H. Graves
  - Rev. J. A. Henry
  - Rev. F. C. Hickson
  - Rev. N. R. Johnson
  - Rev. Henry L. Morehouse
  - Mrs. F. M. Potter

- Rev. C. W. Pruitt  
 Mrs. J. L. Sanford  
 Miss Lillie Stilwell  
 Rev. I. T. Tichenor  
 Rev. H. A. Tupper  
 Miss Eliza Willsie  
 Mrs. E. L. Wilson
- 2.4 Letter Book – January 3, 1884-November 4, 1886 Folder 2 of 2  
 See folder 2.3.
- 2.5 Letter Book – November 4, 1886-October 11, 1887  
 Rev. C. C. Bitting  
 Mrs. M. T. Huntting  
 Rev. H. L. Morehouse  
 Miss Mary E. Shouse  
 Rev. Abner Webb  
 Miss Eliza Willsie
- 2.6 Letter Book – October 15, 1887-May 8, 1889 Folder 1 of 2  
 Rev. G. S. Abbott  
 Rev. R. S. Bailey  
 Miss Mary G. Bardette  
 Rev. C. C. Bitting  
 Miss Ida Borroughs  
 Mrs. J. R. Bradway  
 Robert J. Burdette  
 Miss Grace Carter  
 E. P. Coleman  
 Mrs. Amanda Egli  
 Rev. J. Hemdon Garnett  
 W. P. Haber  
 Rev. Dr. J. E. Hopper  
 Mrs. E. A. Howard  
 Mrs. M. T. Huntting  
 Rev. J. C. Jordan  
 Rev. W. H. Latonvette  
 Chan Lum  
 Rev. Henry L. Morehouse  
 Miss S. E. Pickett  
 Winfield Scott  
 Rev. E. Z. Simmons  
 Rev. Alanson Smith  
 Miss Sallie Stein  
 Mrs. E. L. Wilson (Alameda)  
 Mrs. Mary E. Wilson

Box 3

- 3.1 Letter Book – October 15, 1887-May 8, 1889 Folder 2 of 2

- See folder 2.6
- 3.2 Letter Book – May 8, 1889-March 20, 1890 Folder 1 of 2
- Rev. G. S. Abbott
  - Rev. C. C. Bitting
  - Rev. T. R. Bowles
  - Mrs. J. R. Bradway
  - Miss Mary G. Burdette
  - E. P. Coleman (Treasurer)
  - Mrs. Laura A. Davault
  - Mrs. Amanda Egli
  - Funk & Wagnalls
  - Rev. J. Hemdon Garnett
  - Mrs. Christina Goodwin
  - Rev. John Gordon
  - Rev. R. H. Graves
  - W. P. Haber
  - Mrs. L. P. Huntsman
  - Mrs. J. Smith Irvine
  - Rev. William M. Kincaid
  - Rev. W. H. Latonvette
  - Miss S. S. Le Fevre
  - Chan Lum
  - Rev. Henry L. Morehouse
  - A. W. Palmer (Ed. Cal. Bapt.)
  - D. W. Perkins (Assistant Corresponding Secretary Home Mission Society)
  - Miss S. E. Pickett
  - Miss Nellie K. Read
  - Miss Elsie M. Smith
  - J. A. Snelling (Treasurer)
  - Miss Sallie E. Stein
  - W. R. Strong
  - Rev. H. A. Tupper
  - Rev. K. B. Tupper
  - Rev. Juan Vane
  - Miss Claudia J. White
  - Deacon D. W. Williams
  - Miss Eliza Willsie
  - Mrs. E. L. Wilson (Alameda)
- 3.3 Letter Book – May 8, 1889-March 20,1890 Folder 2 of 2
- See folder 3.2
- 3.4 Letter Book – December 11,1890-December 17,1892 Folder 1 of 2
- Rev. C. C. Bitting
  - Mrs. J. R. Bradway
  - Mrs. Emma Bullard
  - Miss E. A. Byers
  - Miss M. E. Clark

- Rev. Frank Dixon  
 Mrs. M. L. Driggs  
 Mrs. Amanda Egli  
 Mrs. Emma Fitch  
 Man Fung  
 Funk & Wagnalls  
 Rev. J. Hemdon Garnett  
 Rev. R. H. Graves  
 Mrs. L. P. Huntsman  
 Rev. W. H. Latonvette  
 Rev. Chan Lum  
 Rev. H. L. Morehouse  
 Rev. S. B. Morse  
 E. C. Smith  
 C. S. Somerville  
 Miss S. E. Stein  
 Miss M. E. Thompson  
 Wai Sun Tsang  
 Mrs. K. B. Tupper  
 Rev. H. A. Tupper  
 Miss Eliza Willsie
- 3.5 Letter Book – December 11, 1890-December 17, 1892 Folder 2 of 2  
 See folder 3.4
- 3.6 Letter Book – October 14, 1892-February 22, 1895 Folder 1 of 2  
 Board of Trade (President)  
 Mrs. M. L. Driggs  
 Mrs. A. Egli  
 Miss Ida May Egli  
 Rev. George Fitch  
 Rev. R. D. Grant  
 Rev. Rosewell Graves  
 Miss Anna B. Hartwell  
 Rev. J. Q. A. Henry  
 Rev. C. H. Hobart  
 Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corporation  
 Rev. W. H. Latonvette  
 Rev. H. L. Morehouse  
 Rev. Thomas J. Morgan  
 Miss R. S. Norris  
 North Carolina Baptist Missions  
 Mrs. J. S. Norvell  
 Rev. Ray Palmer  
 Rev. C. W. Pruitt  
 Rev. Timothy Richards  
 Miss F. E. Russ  
 Miss Annie Sanderson

Rev. W. H. Sears  
 Lai L. W. Sing & Co.  
 John Smith  
 J. G. Snelling  
 Miss S. E. Stein  
 Rev. Peyton Stephens  
 Mrs. F. L. Sullivan  
 Rev. E. F. Tatum  
 Miss Lizzie Thompson  
 Miss M. E. Thompson  
 Rev. H. A. Tupper  
 Miss Claudia J. White  
 Rev. R. J. Willingham  
 C. A. Woody

Box 4

- 4.1 Letter Book – October 14, 1892-February 22, 1895 Folder 2 of 2  
 See folder 3.6
- 4.2 Letter Book – February 22, 1895-December 17, 1903 Folder 1 of 2  
 T. W. Ayers  
 Miss E. Burton  
 C. J. M. (Treas.)  
 Rev. Hunter Corbett  
 Cornabe & Co.  
 Rev. George Cornwell  
 Rev. George F. Fitch  
 Mr. R. C. Forsyth  
 Mr. John Fowler (U. S. Consul, Chefoo)  
 Girls' School Account  
 Miss Elizabeth Hanbury  
 Charles N. Hartwell  
 Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corporation  
 Rev. Jonathan R. Hykes  
 Walsh Kelly & Co.  
 Yang Lan  
 Rev. J. W. Lowe  
 Rev. H. W. Luce  
 Professor F. McCarthy  
 James McMullan  
 Miss Lottie Moon  
 North China Mission Afc.  
 Presbyterian Mission Press  
 C. W. Pruitt  
 Rev. William H. Sears  
 Dr. W. F. Seymour  
 Lai Sing, L. W. & Co.

Rev. Peyton H. Stephens  
 Rev. J. S. Whitewright  
 Jonathan C. Williams  
 Rev. R. J. Willingham

4.3 Letter Book – November 24, 1903-March 9, 1907

T. W. Ayers  
 Rev. George Cornwell  
 John Fowler  
 Miss Lottie H. T. Hartwell  
 Rev. Jonathan W. Lowe  
 Rev. W. C. Newton  
 Miss Rebecca S. Norris  
 Rev. J. C. Owen  
 C. W. Pruitt  
 Presbyterian Mission Press  
 Rev. William H. Sears  
 Tai Sing, L. W. & Co.  
 Rev. Peyton Stephens  
 Rev. R. J. Willingham

Box 5

5.1 Letter Book – February 25, 1907-September 25, 1911

Presbyterian Mission Press  
 Rev. C. W. Smith  
 Rev. Peyton Stephens

5.2 Travel Journal, New York to Hong Kong, 1858

5.3 Report for the Year – 1895

5.4 Jesse B. Hartwell – Biographical Sketches

5.5 Jesse B. Hartwell – Miscellaneous

5.6 History of the North China Mission

5.7 “Hold Up to the Light – We all are Well” – Jesse B. Hartwell

5.8 “Who Will Go For Us” – Jesse B. Hartwell