

Finding Aid for THE ESTHER A. AND LLOYD BALDERSTON PAPERS, ca.
1885-ca. 1931

Collection No. 1185

2 document boxes

Special Collections

Haverford College Library

April 2009

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Gifts of Catherine Jones Gaskill, June & September 2002 & 2009;
Emma Cadbury & Ann B. Trentman, May 2004; Charles Lord, 2008,
Accession #6729, 6742, 6900, 7241, 7287

Abstract:

Genealogical and autobiographical materials of Lloyd Balderston, letters and other papers from Japan of Esther A. Balderston Jones, letters of the Germantown, PA family of Lloyd and Mary Balderson, as well as photographs from Japan and China.

Information for Users:

The symbol + is for Haverford College use only.¹

Biographical Note:

Lloyd Balderston was a Quaker teacher of physics and chemistry. He m. Mary Alsop. Esther A. Balderston, their daughter, a graduate of Wellesley College, became a Quaker missionary teaching Bible, English and sewing at Friends Girls School, Tokyo, and Press Superintendent of Japan Women's Christian Temperance Union beginning in 1914. She m. Thomas E. Jones in 1917.

Information from internal evidence and from donor.

Subject Headings:

Balderston, Lloyd, 1863-1933
Balderson, Mary F.
Cadbury, Catharine Balderston
Diaries

¹ + suggests potential interest for History 361

Jones, Esther B., ca. 1890-1967

Jones, Thomas Elsa, 1888-1973

Photographs

Quakers – Pennsylvania – Philadelphia – 20th century

Society of Friends – Missions -- China

Society of Friends – Missions -- Japan

Collection Description:

Papers include Lloyd Balderston's genealogical diary with several dozen biographical sketches for the Balderston, Kite, Lloyd, Clement, Alsop, Canby, Walton and other families, n.d. Laid in are some letters, including from J.M. To Lloyd Balderston about William Warner, whose land may now be part of the Warner Tract, a part of Haverford College property, as well as material about the Canby family; a copy of the TS "Autobiographical Sketch" by Lloyd Balderston, n.d.; Letters of Esther Balderston Jones, primarily written from Japan in 1914-16 to her future husband, family, friends and the Mission Board in Philadelphia.

These describe Japanese people, life and culture, the school where she teaches and its students (10-7-1914) +;

Tokyo's appearance and available goods (2-16-1915) +;

Announcement of Esther's engagement to Thomas E. Jones (3-24-15);

A detailed description of events preliminary to the coronation of Emperor Yoshihito in Kyoto (11-15-1915) +;

References to Harry Silcock, Jane Balderston, China missionaries and some other Quaker missionaries in Japan (12-15-1915);

An overview of Jones' work at Friends Girls School (12-26-1915).

There is also an earlier letter from Esther B. Jones and one from Thomas E. Jones. There are also essays or reports by her as well as 4 photographs, 2 from Japan. A letter from "S" dated 1869 about family matters.

Additions include: ca. 20 photographs taken or purchased by Lloyd Balderston in China and Japan in the 1910s, 1920s & '30s. From another addition, there are perhaps 150 photographs and postcards primarily of scenes of China and Japan as well as people, including Lloyd Balderston, William Warder Cadbury and other Friends who went to live in Asia, as well as those depicting native Japanese;

Also 2 diaries of Esther Balderston describing her motivations in becoming a missionary, 1911-1916 and;

Ca. 130 Balderston family letters, dated 1885-1915, primarily from Lloyd Balderston, but also Mary F. Balderston, Esther Balderston Jones and Catharine Balderston Cadbury, essentially about Quaker community life in the Philadelphia area.

Material Removed from Collection:

One number of "Our Meeting," Wilmington, DE, 6 mo 1929, no. 15. To PG