

【研究ノート】

**Overview of Primary Source English Language Historical Documents
Related to Hokusei Gakuen's Missionary Founders, Part I**

James E. ALLISON

研究ノート

Overview of Primary Source English Language Historical Documents Related to Hokusei Gakuen's Missionary Founders, Part I

James E. ALLISON

Contents :

- I. Introduction
- II. Overview of Sources
Including Various
Missionaries
- III. Overview of Sources
on Sarah C. Smith
- IV. Conclusion
- V. References
- VI. Notes

[Abstract]

This article introduces the English language historical documents containing information related to a few, select missionaries who played key roles in the founding and development of the school system now known as “Hokusei Gakuen.” It provides a brief look at each of the primary source documents in an attempt to cover, not in depth but breadth, the range of materials necessary to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the school system's origins and early development. Part I deals with the data sets which shed light on a variety of missionaries' lives and work, then proceeds to materials related solely to Sarah Smith.

Introduction

Over the course of Hokusei Gakuen's history, which passed the 130-year mark in 2017, a variety of historical documents have been left behind, providing a picture of the school system's development and the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America (PCUSA) missionaries who led in it. Besides the Japanese-language records held primarily at Hokusei, numerous original records in English remain, yet exist in widely scattered locations, mainly across the U.S. In recent years, researchers interested in Hokusei's historical roots have cooperated in compiling, sharing, and publishing accounts of the growing collection of materials which have been located. Some of this has taken shape in the publication of *Sarah Smith and the Women Missionaries: The People Who Established Hokusei Gakuen* 『サラ・スミスと女性宣教師～北星学園を築いた人々』.

This article provides an overview of the historical documents related to several missionaries who played key roles in the establishment and development of Hokusei Jo Gakko (North Star Girls' School, 北星女学校) and the larger Hokusei Gakuen School System, which has grown out of it. It deals with primary sources only, though secondary sources in both Japanese and English are available in the Hokusei Gakuen University Library, Hokusei Memorial House (北星学園創立100周年記念館), and elsewhere. The primary sources introduced

Key words : Board of Foreign Missions, Japan Mission of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, Hokusei Gakuen, Hokusei Jo Gakko, Sarah C. Smith

here provide more specific information and a broader range of material related to Hokusei missionaries than that in the books and articles published up to this point. This work hopefully also makes the contribution of providing a single coherent view of the key records necessary to take into account in order to gain an accurate understanding of the people who set the direction and tone for Hokusei's life as an educational institution. The following will present materials related to Hokusei Jo Gakko in general and a few particularly notable missionaries, Sarah Smith here in Part I and others in the future.

Overview of Sources Including Various Missionaries

Although this article focuses on records specifically related to individual missionaries, numerous other documents contain information on Hokusei Jo Gakko or Hokusei Gakuen in general. Within them from time to time appears accounts of events in the lives of the school's missionaries. In other cases, the missionaries are the authors of the reports on the school, and this shines light on their lives in a different sense. The number of these documents and the space available for this article make it impossible to provide a thorough account of them.

However, the following list will provide several entrance points from which the reader can examine these more general documents. The reports of the Board of Directors of Hokusei Jo Gakko from 1932 to 1941 include information on Misses Alice M. Monk and Elizabeth M. Evans, among others.

The records of a large number of Board of Foreign Missions (BFM) correspondences related to Hokusei Jo Gakko and its missionaries may be accessed in sets of microfilm rolls prepared by Gale Cengage Learning (Primary Source Media, formerly Scholarly Resources). Hokusei Gakuen University has a 55-roll collection, and they are available at other locations, as well. Generally speaking, these documents are microfilmed copies of hand-written letters exchanged between Hokusei missionaries, the leaders of the Japan Mission (whose work impacted Hokusei sometimes indirectly but often powerfully), and the BFM directors, under whom they served. For example, annual reports on the work of Tokyo Station, to which Hokusei's missionaries belonged before 1911, were sent from the Secretary of the Eastern Japan Mission to the Secretary of the BFM. These are now in this microfilm grouping, whereas those of later years are in book form, as described below. Also, correspondence aimed at resolving disputes and other matters which were not made public at the time occasionally appear in this data set.

The journal *The Christian Movement in Japan* presents objective data on the status of a wide range of Christian mission organizations operating in Japan. It is focused on providing

an overview of these groups' activities rather than supplying detail on particular missionaries. The Presbyterian Historical Society holds issues from 1903 to 1912. Only brief mentions of Hokusei Jo Gakko typically appear.

The General Assembly of the PCUSA annually publishes books containing reports on its activities and the minutes of its business proceedings. For all the years since Sarah Smith arrived in Japan, accounts of the work of the schools and churches missionaries served, and sometimes particular workers there, are presented in this yearly meeting. They are brief but specific up through the year 1921. After that they move to more general accounts of the Japan Mission's work and away from Hokusei-focused reporting.

Hokusei Memorial House (北星学園創立100周年記念館) in the Chuo-ku Campus of Hokusei Gakuen, holds a number of English language letters written by the school system's founders, along with pictures and other artifacts. They include (a) letters from Sarah Smith to Michi Kawai (one of the first graduates of Smith's school and a leader in Christian education in Japan), (b) Kawai's replies to Smith and others, and (c) an announcement of a memorial ceremony for Sarah Smith following her death.

The journal entitled *The Japan Evangelist* (later *The Japan Christian Review* and *The Japan Christian Quarterly*) was published in Tokyo by the Christian Literature Society of Japan from January 1926 through the fall of 1991. Articles appearing there are generally broader in scope than the work of a single school such as Hokusei Jo Gakko. However, it provides a rich picture of the context in which Hokusei grew up and explanations of the motivations, purposes, and goals with which its missionaries performed their work. The 1926 article by Alice Monk with the title "Educational Ideals for Women" sheds a good deal of light on the thinking behind the type of leadership she provided at Hokusei during a vital part of its formation.

The Japan Mission of the PCUSA met annually throughout the years of Hokusei Gakuen's formation and continues to do so. Minutes of the Mission Meeting provide a steady stream of information about the locations and activities of each missionary associated with this denomination's work in Japan. This includes reports from the various committees on which they served and explanations of decisions reached by the organization which impacted the work of Hokusei and its missionaries.

In connection with the annual meetings, reports from Hokkaido Station were published beginning in 1911, when it began operating separately from Tokyo Station. These accounts continue through 1923 and often include fairly detailed descriptions of Hokusei missionaries' lives and work, often written by them. Like the records of the annual meetings, these reports now exist in hardbound book form, for example at the Presbyterian Historical Society.

The weekly newspaper *The New-York Evangelist* contains updates on a range of happenings in mission work involving Christian organizations from New York. Articles by or about PCUSA Japan Mission members, including Sarah Smith, and the work of their organizations appear occasionally. The publication goes by the name listed above from 1830 to 1883, then changes to *The Evangelist* (1894–1902), *The Christian Work and the Evangelist* (1902–1913), and *The Christian Work* (1914–1926).

One key source of facts on Hokusei Gakuen's beginnings is *Sumisu-Sensei Nikki* (スミス先生日記, Smith's Journal), or *Sumisu Koumu Nenshi* (スミス公務年誌, Smith's Annual Report on School Affairs). It consists of a year-by-year review of the key events in the formation and development of Hokusei Jo Gakko from 1887 to 1909, as well as a roster of each year's students. Nearly all of it is hand-written by Miss Smith. This document includes information on when individual teachers came to Sapporo, left, reasons for the transfers, and other relevant data.

Woman's Work for Woman is a mission magazine which was designed to educate its readers on the work of PCUSA missionaries worldwide and inspire them to support this effort. Sarah Smith, Clara Rose, and other Hokusei missionaries wrote articles which appeared in it from time to time, along with regular reports on the work they and others in the Japan Mission were conducting. This magazine was published under various titles during all the years of Hokusei Jo Gakko's formation, including *Our Mission Field* (1879–1885), *Woman's Work for Woman* (1880–1885), *Woman's Work for Woman and Our Mission Field* (1886–1890), *Woman's Work for Woman* (1890–1904), *Woman's Work* (1905–1924), and *Women and Missions* (1924–1946).

It was published by the Woman's Foreign Mission Society of the Presbyterian Church and focused attention on the work of the women missionaries it existed to sponsor. This Society issued extensive annual reports on its work, which represented PCUSA churches nation-wide. These records are included together with the various issues of *Woman's Work for Woman*.

Several regional divisions of the Woman's Foreign Mission Society of the Presbyterian Church were active, as well, in reporting on their work of locating, commissioning, and maintaining support for the women who represented them in mission work. Each female missionary was linked with one of these subgroups, Sarah Smith and Clara Rose to the Society of New York, Alice Monk and Elizabeth Evans to the Society of the Northwest, and so on. The lengthy report which each regional society produced annually provides some information on individual Hokusei missionaries and their work, though it by and large serves to confirm reports given elsewhere rather than providing additional data.

Likewise, individual local churches had women's missionary groups which met regularly, and from whom some records remain. For instance, letters sent between Sarah Smith and her home church, First Presbyterian Church of Elmira, shed some light on how she related with her support system. In general, however, as in the case of the regional societies, they tend to give support to information existing elsewhere rather than providing fresh insight.

Overview of Sources on Sarah C. Smith

The following includes the materials available which help paint a picture of the life and work of Hokusei Gakuen's founder. Introductions of the documents are arranged according to the author(s), in alphabetical order.

Data on the death of Sarah Smith can be accessed through the California Department of Health Services, Office of Health Information and Research, Vital Statistics Section. This information is available on the Ancestry.com Web site. Smith's middle name is listed here as "Clecia."

The City of Pasadena, California, where Smith died, can provide a copy of her Certificate of Death through the Department of Public Health. This document has her middle name written as "Clecia" and the person providing the information on the form as "Ada Elston."¹

Sarah Smith attended Brockport State Normal School in Brockport, New York, after graduating from high school and gaining a few months' teaching experience. The records of her registration there are now held by the College at Brockport, State University of New York. The archivist there cooperated with the author in accessing these documents, along with a copy of the College's 1872 catalog.

The Elmira Advertiser newspaper from June 29, 1871, contains an account of the recent Elmira Free Academy graduation. It includes a note about Sarah Smith's speech, "What's the Use?" The author received the help of the Chemung County Library District staff in Elmira, New York, in locating this article.

Erwin County, New York, conducted census surveys in 1850 and 1855 which list the names and ages of Sarah Smith's family members. The author received a copy with the assistance of the Steuben County Historian in Corning, New York.

First Presbyterian Church Altadena, where Sarah Smith was a member after moving to the Pasadena, California, area in the U.S. in 1931, holds records which shed some light

on that segment of her life. They include her membership registration and weekly worship bulletins with occasional notes about Miss Smith.

First Presbyterian Church of Elmira in Smith's hometown of Elmira, New York, has numerous records which supply information on her life and work. These include the years both before she left to serve in Japan in 1880 and afterward, as her home church provided active support for her ministry. Minutes of business meetings include information on the Gillett family, who provided support for Sarah Smith in numerous ways, as well as Sarah's profession of faith in Christ, baptism, and being accepted into the church. Member registration lists also indicate the individuals who formed much of Smith's spiritual and social community. *The First Presbyterian Church, Elmira, New York, 160th Anniversary, 1795-1955*, was authored in large part by S. Edward Rose. *First Presbyterian Church of Elmira: The First 200 Years*, by Edward B. Hoffman, includes chapters on Sarah Smith, Clara Rose, and Hokusei Gakuen. Though these church histories are largely secondary source materials, they include pictures of the church during Smith's lifetime, the pastors who served it then, and related information not available in other sources. In addition to documents belonging strictly to this church, the Session Minutes from 1861 to 1897, which the church holds, also provide significant context to the life and work of Miss Smith.

Hokkaido Normal School (北海道尋常師範学校) and Sarah Smith signed a contract in both Japanese and English on December 4, 1886, in which they agreed for Miss Smith to teach English for up to 12 hours per week. A copy of the original contract is now held in the Hokusei Gakuen Main Offices.

The *Pasadena Star-News* of February 19, 1947 has an obituary of Sarah C. Smith. It notes the planned date for the funeral, the location, and the presiding minister.

Sarah Smith, as a BFM employee, was required to fill out and periodically update personal data forms, which now are in a vertical personnel file (containing family, education, and employment background, etc.), along with such items as reports to supporters on her work, an "I Remember" story of the day a ferry she was riding sank near Hakodate, and a "Memorial Minute" overview of her life. It is now accessible at the Presbyterian Historical Society.

Smith also wrote an article by the title of "Reminiscences for the Fiftieth Anniversary of Hokusei Jo Gakko." In it she recounts the time she lost all her possessions in a fire while she was visiting in Sapporo, before moving there to begin what would become her life work. A copy is now held in the Hokusei Gakuen Main Offices.

Sarah Smith's Last Will and Testament includes the time she completed it in 1942, five years before her death. It lists Ada C. Elston, noted above, as the person designated to execute the will and receive whatever remains of Smith's estate after the necessary expenses have been paid. The will was filed with the Los Angeles County Clerk after her death in 1947. There is an unofficial copy in the Hokusei Gakuen Main Offices, as well.

Solomon and Diana Smith, Sarah Smith's parents, left a number of items of farm equipment and very little else after their deaths due to illness in the latter part of the 1850s. The legal records of the handling of their estate suggest they were a poor farm family. An unofficial copy of these records is held in the Hokusei Gakuen Main Offices.

Joyce M. Tice operates the *Tri-Counties Genealogy and History* Web site. It contains a section on Chemung County, New York, where Sarah Smith grew up. Among the documents and compilations of materials available here are city directories for several of the years Smith lived in Elmira. For instance, *Boyd's Elmira City Directory* for 1878-1879 lists Smith's street address and occupation, as well as the type of building (boarding house) in which she lived. The Elmira Free Academy directory for 1871 graduates lists Smith and the school she went on to attend, as well as her career path. Among the large number of other materials available on this site are items such as a history of Elmira Free Academy, which provides context for understanding Smith's development in her early years.

The U.S. government maintains passport application records. Those submitted by Sarah Smith in 1887, 1912, 1918, and 1919 remain. There is a picture of her on the 1918 form. Also available is documentation of Smith's U.S. Citizen Registration for 1907, 1911, 1915, and 1919. The 1919 form includes a photo of her. In addition, the national government keeps data on ship passengers, including manifests showing Sarah Smith as traveling in c. 1908, 1918, 1921, and 1931. The Chemung County Library District staff in Elmira, New York, provided assistance in accessing these documents.

Conclusion

The preceding demonstrates that there is a roadmap of reference data the reader may follow in locating a range of English language materials with information on Sarah C. Smith and others early Hokusei missionaries. Together with those noted in previous research, items in this collection which are noted here for the first time make available a body of data interested scholars may utilize in gaining a more comprehensive view of the life and work of Hokusei Gakuen's founders.

Hopefully further research will make it possible to continue adding to this list. Plans for future work also include presenting the documents related to other key figures in the establishment and development of Hokusei Gakuen which have now been located.

References²

- Allison, J. E. (2007). Sarah Smith's final years. *北星論集 (Hokusei Review, The School of Social Welfare)*, 44, 93-107.
- Allison, J. E. (2012). *Sumisu-Sensei Nikki, or Sumisu Koumu Nenshi*, Sarah C. Smith's annual report on school affairs. *北星論集 (Hokusei Review, The School of Social Welfare)*, 49, 1-19.
- Allison, J. E. (2013). Hokusei Jo Gakko annual reports in the 1911-1923 Hokkaido Station reports to the Japan Mission of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America. *北星論集 (Hokusei Review, The School of Social Welfare)*, 50, 133-150.
- Heuser, F. J., Jr. (Ed.). (1988). *Board of Foreign Missions (Presbyterian Church in the United States of America/United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America), records: Secretaries' files, Japan Mission, 1859-1972*. MF 23 R., 1859-1911; 1879-1972, 18 FT., RG 93, Boxes 1-16. Presbyterian Historical Society. Philadelphia. *A guide to foreign missionary manuscripts in the Presbyterian Historical Society. Bibliographies and indexes in world history*, Number 11. New York: Greenwood Press.
- Presbyterian Church in the United States of America. (1859-1932). *Minutes of the general assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America*, with an appendix. Vols. 15-18 (Old School, 1859-1869), Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publication. New School vols. (1859-1869), New York: Presbyterian Publication Committee. New Series, Vols. 1-21 (New York: Presbyterian Board of Publication, 1870-1883; Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publication, 1884-1900; Philadelphia: Office of the General Assembly, 1901-1921). Third Series, Vols. 1-11 (Philadelphia: Office of the General Assembly, 1922-1932). 1859-1869 one vol., 1870 two vols. (minutes, reports). 1871-1886 one vol., 1887-1921, 1923-1932 two vols. (minutes, reports). 1922 three vols. (journal, minutes, reports). Internet Archive. Retrieved October 9, 2010, from <http://www.archive.org>
- Presbyterian Church in the United States of America. Board of Foreign Missions. Japan Mission Publications Committee. (1911-1923). *Japan Mission reports*. Karuizawa (1911-1921) and Gotemba (1923): Presbyterian Historical Society. Philadelphia.
- Presbyterian Church in the United States of America. Board of Foreign Missions. Japan Mission Publications Committee. (1911-1935). *Minutes of Annual Meeting, Japan Mission*. Vols. 1-3. Karuizawa: Presbyterian Historical Society. Philadelphia.
- Presbyterian Church in the United States of America. Ladies' Board of Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. *Our Mission Field*, 1 (1)-3 (30). (1871-1885). *Missions Correspondence and Reports Microfilm Series*. MF/POS./1739/r.1-3. Presbyterian Historical Society. Philadelphia.
- Presbyterian Church in the United States of America. Woman's Committees of the Boards of Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. (1924-1946). *Women and Missions*, 40 (1)-40 (2), 1 (3)-23 (12). Presbyterian Historical Society. Philadelphia.
- Presbyterian Church in the United States of America. Woman's Foreign Missionary Societies of the Presbyterian Church. (1886-1890). *Woman's Work for Woman and Our Mission Field: A Union Illustrated Magazine*, 1 (1)-5 (6). *Missions Correspondence and Reports Microfilm Series*. MF/POS./393

- /r.1. Presbyterian Historical Society. Philadelphia.
- Presbyterian Church in the United States of America. Woman's Foreign Missionary Societies of the Presbyterian Church. (1890–1904). *Woman's Work for Woman*, 5 (7)–19 (12). Subtitles: *A Union Illustrated Magazine* (1890–1897), *An Illustrated Monthly Magazine* (1898). Presbyterian Historical Society. Philadelphia.
- Presbyterian Church in the United States of America. Woman's Foreign Missionary Societies of the Presbyterian Church (1905–1916), Woman's Boards of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A. (1917–1920), Woman's Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A. (1921–1924). (1905–1924). *Woman's Work*, 20 (1)–31 (3). Subtitle: *A Foreign Missions Magazine* (1918–1924). *Missions Correspondence and Reports Microfilm Series*. MF/POS/393/r.4-6. Presbyterian Historical Society. Philadelphia.
- Presbyterian Church in the United States of America. Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Church and Woman's Presbyterian Board of Missions of the Northwest. (1880–1885). *Woman's Work for Woman: A Union Magazine*, 10 (1)–15 (11). *Missions Correspondence and Reports Microfilm Series*. MF/POS/392/r.1-3. Presbyterian Historical Society. Philadelphia.
- Smith. (1947, February 19). *Pasadena Star-News*.
- Smith, S. C. (n.d.). *Sumisu-sensei nikki* [スミス先生日記, Miss Smith's journal]. Also entitled *Sumisu koumu nenshi* [スミス校務年誌, Miss Smith's annual report on school affairs]. Unpublished manuscript. Hokusei Gakuen.
- Smith, S. C. (1994). *スミス先生日記* [*Sumisu-sensei nikki*, Miss Smith's journal]. Also entitled *スミス校務年誌* [*Sumisu koumu nenshi*, Miss Smith's annual report on school affairs]. (K. Ishihara, Trans.). Sapporo: Hokusei Gakuen. (Original work unpublished manuscript, n.d.)

Notes

¹ Ms. Elston apparently worked at a business next to the church Smith attended. She was not a relative of Smith, whose obituary lists a niece from New York as the closest surviving relative. Elston's grave is next to Sarah Smith's in Mountain View Mortuary, Cemetery, and Crematory in Altadena, California. Her connection with Sarah Smith is not clear. It is possible that they simply became friends after Smith moved to Pasadena.

² Space limitations make it impractical to include full reference information for all the items in this article. However, many of the most relevant documents appear in the list above.

