

【研究ノート】

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Historical Documents Related to Hokusei Gakuen's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

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[Abstract]

This article continues a previous presentation of English language historical materials containing information on missionaries who led in founding and developing Hokusei Jo Gakko, which has grown into the Hokusei Gakuen school system. The purpose is to provide a summary of primary source documents that are relevant to the life and work of Hokusei's early leaders. Part I introduces various documents on the missionaries' lives, with a focus on those related to Sarah C. Smith. Part II explores records connected to Clara H. Rose, who served at Hokusei in the 1890s and then in nearby Otaru until 1914. Finally, Part III examines documents related to Alice M. Monk, who followed Smith as the missionary head of the school and served at Hokusei until the outbreak of World War II. It is hoped that the article will contribute to a more complete understanding of the origins, early development, and characteristics of the school system that these individuals labored to establish.

Introduction

After Sarah Smith led in the establishing of the school that would become Hokusei Jo Gakko (北星女学校、Hokusei Girls' School) and later the Hokusei Gakuen system of schools, she struggled for years to find missionaries well-suited to Hokkaido's climate and serving in Hokusei's particular context. Katharine¹ Light, Clara Rose, Lillian Wells, and Mary Sherman had all begun working there but for one reason or another moved on. Finally in 1905 the Japan Mission of the Board of Foreign Missions (BFM) of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America (PCUSA) transferred to Hokusei Miss Alice Maude Monk. In her, Smith found the person who would eventually replace her as head of the school and remain in committed service to it long after Smith's retirement.

Compared with the remaining records of Sarah Smith and other Hokusei missionaries on the whole, those related to Miss Monk are greater both in total volume and the clarity of the view they

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provide of her personal and professional life. They supply considerable information about her and the organizations which she served, as well. In addition, the data is presented by a fairly wide variety of writers—not only Monk but also fellow-workers, leaders in the organizations she served, and others in position to know her personally.

The following is a list of English language materials accessible to interested readers. Pieced together, they provide a fairly thorough account of the life and work of Alice M. Monk, a person who left an indelible mark on Hokusei Jo Gakko in crucial years of its development and, through that, the Hokusei Gakuen school system as a whole.

Overview of Sources Specifically Related to Alice M. Monk

Over the course of Alice Monk's 80-year life, she lived in Onawa, Iowa; Chicago, Illinois; various other locations in the U.S. for shorter periods of time; Tokyo; Sapporo; and Washington, DC. In each of these, documents providing information related to her were created and remain. The following introduces them, arranged by author in alphabetical order.

Albion College in Albion, Michigan, maintains records in its annual catalog of the two academic years (1900-1901 and 1901-1902) Alice Monk was employed as a teacher there. Its Web site in the About section also has a brief description of the campus as it looked when Monk gained some of her early experience as an educator there, teaching shorthand and typewriting.

The Chicago Tribune ran an article in 1942, "Presbyterians Mark 70 Years in Irving Park," describing the historical background of Irving Park Presbyterian Church (1942, October 18, part 3, p. 3). This group of believers, to which Alice Monk had long belonged, played a significant role in building and sustaining her personal faith, as well as supporting the work of her mission organization.

Nannie M. Hereford, a younger missionary in the BFM Japan Mission and serving at Hokusei Jo Gakko in Miss Monk's later years at the school, mentioned her in some personal reports. Of these, five remain in her personnel file at the PCUSA's Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The longest is several pages in length. Four are in the form of letters to "friends," which she and other missionaries sent regularly to their supporters in the U.S. Notable among them is her November 1941 account of traveling with Miss Monk from Sapporo to the Philippines, from which Monk returned to her home country and Hereford began a stay that would last until the end of the war in a Japanese internment camp. One document is a description of that experience.

Another institution which played a formative role in Alice Monk's life was her *alma mater*, **Jefferson High School**, in Chicago, Illinois (formerly Chicago Jefferson Township High School, now

Schurz High School). Her name appears in its list of 1888 graduates. An 1883 picture of the school and brief article introducing its historical background (“Chicago Jefferson Township H. S. ‘Bulldogs’”) appear in an online catalog of the state’s high schools, *Illinois High School Glory Days*.

Alice Monk received teacher training at **Michigan State Normal College**, located in Ypsilanti, Michigan, in July 1903. Its records, now managed by Eastern Michigan University, list her as a summer school student.

Alice Monk’s master’s thesis, “The Development of Child Welfare Legislation in Illinois,” was accepted by Northwestern University in 1913. Its 255 pages of content do not link directly with Japan, its educational system, or Christianity. However, the overarching theme of building organizations which provide compassionate care for young people, many of whom come from less-than-privileged backgrounds, overlaps with the work Monk was already involved in at Hokusei when she completed the writing on her first furlough from Japan. Hokusei Gakuen has obtained a copy of the original from Northwestern University.

Monk wrote an article, “Educational Ideals for Women,” which in July 1926 was published in *The Japan Christian Quarterly* (under the title *The Japan Evangelist* from 1893 to 1925). In nine pages she describes the goals of Christian women’s high school education in Japan and challenges in achieving them, based on her experience as a teacher and administrator. The missionary journal can be accessed at numerous places, including the Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. A transcription of this article is available in the digital archive, *Hokusei Gakuen’s Historical Roots in the Words of the Founders*, on the Hokusei Gakuen Web site.

Researchers at Hokusei Gakuen have compiled over the years a collection of letters and reports **Alice Monk** wrote on numerous occasions to BFM leaders and various individuals related to Hokusei Jo Gakko. It is in two loosely bound folders with the title, *Japan Letters* (モンク先生 [Miss Monk]). This unpublished compilation contains communications (letters, reports on her personal work, and updates on Hokusei Jo Gakko) numbered 1 to 57 (three of them missing). Monk sent them from 1904 to 1948. The originals are generally a few to several pages in length. These documents have been photocopied and transcribed (by an unnamed transcriber) in some cases, transcribed but not photocopied in others, and translated into Japanese in some instances, though the translators’ names are not always recorded. The entire letter or report has been transcribed or translated in some cases but only selected sections in others. The microfilm documents from which these communications appear to have been prepared are now held at the Presbyterian Historical Society, Hokusei Gakuen University, and other locations (see the Gale Cengage documents described on p. 159). These records of Monk’s thoughts in her own words shed a good deal of light on her ways of viewing the world, herself, her mission, and the relationships she maintained with key people in her life.

Alice Monk, over the period of 1923 to 1937, wrote letters in English to Kingo Miyabe, a professor at Hokkaido Imperial University and from 1924 to 1940 a member of the Hokusei Jo Gakko Board of Directors. They consist primarily of her explaining the school's circumstances requiring decisions and asking for advice on various aspects of operating it. The total of 29 letters remaining range in length from a single page to four, totaling 68 pages. They demonstrate the types of issues Miss Monk led in handling, such as acquiring land, hiring teachers, managing personnel problems, and following government regulations. These letters reflect the fondness and respect Miss Monk had for Dr. Miyabe as one of Hokusei's strongest supporters.

The National Presbyterian Church and Center in Washington, DC, holds a few records from the time Alice Monk was a member there following her return to the U.S. at the outbreak of World War II. Weekly bulletins note her transfer of membership and a speech she is scheduled to give at the church on the subject of Japan. Remaining documents provide some information on Monk's funeral, including the ministers conducting it and the order of the ceremony itself, as well as an obituary.

Northwestern University has several documents containing information on Monk's undergraduate and graduate work at that institution, including matriculation, grades, and graduation. The University's records also include 10 different items providing career updates or overviews of her life in the form of alumni and class reunion publications, varying in length from less than one to page to three at the longest. There are also a few pictures of the Hokusei Jo Gakko campus and administrators, as well as an announcement from the PCUSA (BFM) of her death. This obituary is a duplicate of one which may be found at in her vertical personnel file at the Presbyterian Historical Society. Northwestern University has kindly provided to Hokusei Gakuen researchers copies of the materials listed here.

The Onawa City Cemetery of Onawa, Iowa, maintains a Web site with a database which makes possible a search for photos and basic personal data of those buried there. A few pictures of the graves of Alice Monk, her sisters, and their parents are accessible.

The Onawa Public Library in Onawa, Iowa, provides links to a Community History Archive, an online search platform of Advantage Archives. Documents available on the Archive include from the Onawa, Iowa, area The Monona County Democrat, Monona County Gazette, Onawa Weekly Democrat, Onawa Democrat, and Onawa Sentinel newspapers. The materials are in digitized, searchable form. Issue dates for all of these fall within Alice Monk's lifetime. Several articles contain relevant information, ranging from her days as a schoolgirl to her death. Others provide data on Monk's family, including her well-known lawyer father, and her sister, who died only eight months after birth.

The Library has also graciously provided two photographs of the Monk family tombstones in

Onawa City Cemetery. One includes a larger family stone together with the smaller marker of the grave of Alice M. Monk and her sister, Laura E. Monk. The second is a closer shot of the two sisters' tomb. It is nearly identical to the photo of the same tombstone available on the Onawa City Cemetery Web site. The Library has also given the writer undocumented records of Alice Monk's death, though the date of birth and age at death appear to be incorrect. There is also an article announcing Monk's death, apparently from a newspaper, though it is not unidentified. The wording is identical to an article in Monk's personnel file at the Presbyterian Historical Society (likewise undocumented there).

Monk also wrote a number of letters and reports which appear in microfilm form² in a large collection of PCUSA historical documents from BFM records entitled *Board of Foreign Mission Correspondence and Reports, 1833-1911*. They were published by Gale Cengage Learning (Primary Source Media, formerly Scholarly Resources), in cooperation with the Presbyterian Historical Society. The materials related directly to Alice Monk are in Reels 275, 276, and 279 and come from the years 1900 to 1910. Reel 299 is a calendar covering the years 1859 to 1911. The documents in this collection are not arranged precisely in chronological order or tightly organized, but they do on occasion shine direct light on Miss Monk's thoughts, personality, and relationships with others. Their content overlaps with the *BFM...Records: Secretaries' Files, Japan Mission, 1859-1972* listed in the reference section below and introduced by Heuser.

They consist primarily of correspondence between her and those higher in her mission organization's structure who were responsible for oversight of her work. Letters comprise the largest portion of the documents by or to her. There are over 20 total, several from BFM Secretary, Robert E. Speer, to Miss Monk. An example is one sent soon after her first arriving in Japan, encouraging her to establish exercise routines which would allow her to avoid the burnout that "scores" of missionaries in Japan have had (1904, October 31, Set 1, Document 76). A few reports on her own recent activities make up another part of this collection, along with updated information on how the ministry of Hokusei Jo Gakko as a whole is proceeding (for instance the 1908 and 1909 Hokusei reports written by her and transcribed in the digital archive, *Hokusei Gakuen's Historical Roots in the Words of Founders*, on the Hokusei Gakuen Web site). A number of communications between the BFM Secretary and Japan Mission include mentions of Monk and her work, as well.

The BFM personnel file on Alice Monk is among the holdings of the PCUSA's Presbyterian Historical Society. It consists of vertical files containing various documents related to her life and work. Among them are documents involving her application for appointment as missionary, including (a) several letters she exchanged with BFM representatives, (b) a letter certifying that she was a graduate of Northwestern University, and (c) references written for her application (from individuals and the Reformed Church of America, where she had applied previously). There are almost 50 items involving medical matters, 15 containing her personal data (including obituaries), nearly 30 reports from Monk to her supporters (ranging from 1925 to 1941), and a photo portrait of her. The

personal information in this collection makes it possible to construct a coherent picture of how Miss Monk's life as a whole progressed. The reports on her ministry give a clear sense of the goals she considered priorities and how she invested her energies in achieving them. Transcriptions of five documents from her personnel file which serve as an overview of her life may be found in the digital archive, *Hokusei Gakuen's Historical Roots in the Words of the Founders*, on the Hokusei Gakuen Web site.

The United States government received applications from Alice Monk to issue or renew passports on various occasions. Three of these remaining are from 1904, 1913, and 1920. The data in these provide physical descriptions of Miss Monk and a photo of her at around age 48, among other information.

Overview of Institutional Records With Information on Alice M. Monk

The following list contains data on documents relevant to Alice Monk but written not regarding her so much as to report on the organizations to which she belonged (primarily schools and mission groups). Both when written by her and about her, they supply information helpful in gaining a clearer perspective on her lifework and the various ways she approached it.

Hokusei Gakuen has the original English records of the Hokusei Jo Gakko Board of Directors meetings held from 1932 through 1941. There are approximately 183 pages total, primarily prose, with occasional statistical data. The collection includes 18 pages of charts, financial reports, a letter, and other documents, many of which are undated. Nearly all the meeting minutes were recorded in longhand by **Alice Monk**. The length of each report ranges from around a half page to several pages. The Board met at least twice per year, sometimes more, and particularly often in the years just before the outbreak of World War II. The content ranges from routine matters such as budgets and hiring decisions to policies on perplexing issues. Among these are responding to the Hokkaido government's request to display the Japanese Emperor's picture at Hokusei and deciding whether, when, and how Hokusei missionaries should leave Japan.

The PCUSA General Assembly annual reports on the Japan Mission occasionally provide information on Alice Monk and her work beginning in Tokyo and continuing in Sapporo. Those written either by her about happenings at Hokusei or by others specifically noting her ministry run from 1905 to 1920 (after that becoming more general in nature and not focusing on individual missionaries or institutions). From then until Monk returns to the U.S., her name appears yearly only in the list of missionaries stationed in Japan, as it does for each year she served. This roster includes where she is located (in Japan or overseas on furlough), the year she began serving as missionary, and the missionaries with whom she is laboring.

In the years up to 1920, data related to Alice Monk does not appear in each year's General As-

sembly report but does in most. It ranges from a few lines to approximately half a page in length. These annual updates fairly frequently shed some light on specific activities in which she is involved. Among them are leading in music and visiting in students' homes (1905, pp. 201-202), operating Sunday schools (1911, p. 249), holding a weekday Bible class for fishermen's children in nearby Zenibako (1916, p. 265), supporting the Sapporo Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA, 1918, p. 252), and holding prayer meetings to celebrate the Emperor's birthday and the accession of Jimmu Tenno (1918, p. 252).

The General Assembly proceedings and reports themselves are available at the Presbyterian Historical Society, among other places. Transcriptions of the Hokusei-related sections may be found along with a Japanese translation in the digital archive, *Hokusei Gakuen's Historical Roots in the Words of the Founders*, on the Hokusei Gakuen Web site.

The BFM Japan Mission of the PCUSA recorded the proceedings of its annual meetings, including minutes and reports from its various stations, throughout Alice Monk's years in the country. The accounts of meetings up to 1911 may be found in the Gale Cengage Learning (Primary Source Media, formerly Scholarly Resources) microfilm collection at Hokusei Gakuen University (Heuser, *Secretaries' files, Japan Mission, 1904-1910*). These are in less-organized, hand-written form. Those from 1911 to 1940 are typed and in hard-bound book form as *Minutes of Annual Meeting, Japan Mission, Vols. 1-4*.

Monk attended and actively participated in these proceedings on a regular basis throughout her career, except when on furlough. As a result, her name appears periodically in Mission Meeting records. Though she bore fewer responsibilities and positions of leadership in her first several years, they steadily increased, thus multiplying references to her in the minutes. In particular, Monk actively participated in discussion of Mission-supported schools' relationships to churches (e.g., 1926, 1927, and 1934). She took positions encouraging the building of strong cooperative connections between the Mission, Japanese churches, and other Mission-affiliated organizations. Most notably, Miss Monk led in transferring leadership of Hokusei Jo Gakko from herself to Dr. Yoshinao Niijima in 1934.

Monk served on a wide variety of committees within the Mission organization, primarily three: the Education Committee (1916-1928, 1931-1935 minutes), the Executive Committee (1923-1924, 1934-1937 minutes), and the Sale of Hokusei Jo Gakko Property Special Committee (1924-1933). She led the Mission in 1933 in a discussion of education as the organization appraised its current context and role.

Outside the Mission, as well, Monk worked as its representative on Hokusei Jo Gakko's Board of Directors (every year, with few exceptions) from after she was appointed to the position in 1914 to 1940. This included years she served as principal and those she did not. Likewise, she represented

the PCUSA Japan Mission at the Federation of Christian Missions (1934-1935 minutes).

Monk from time to time also played a particular role of communicating between the Mission and others. For instance, she was designated to deal with the BFM regarding a teacher's salary (1928) and staff cuts (1931). She wrote letters of good wishes and thanks from the Mission to Sarah Smith after her return to the U.S. and to George and Ida Pierson for their gift to the Mission (1932). Monk authored memorials of the Piersons' lives and ministries after their deaths, (Ida's in 1937, George's in 1940), as well.

Overviews of the work of Hokusei Jo Gakko are included in annual reports from **Hokkaido Station to the Japan Mission (PCUSA, BFM)**. The accounts of 1911-1923 (with the exception of 1922) are now in hardbound form as *Japan Mission Reports*. They include yearly updates on Alice Monk and her ministry, ranging from (a) a brief mention of how she is missed during the years she is on furlough to (b) several lines specifically about her work to (c) a few pages in which she as author or another general editor summarizes or quotes her annual report, describing activities involving the school as a whole but which she has played active roles in leading. For example, the 1919 account includes a joyous announcement that the school has been granted "Government Recognition," or accreditation, a goal the school has sought for numerous years to achieve. That same filing includes a mention of the influenza epidemic the previous October and November, which closed the school for a week but resulted in no deaths of current students (Monk, p. 16). Transcriptions of the Hokusei-related sections may be accessed in the digital archive, *Hokusei Gakuen's Historical Roots in the Words of the Founders*, on the Hokusei Gakuen Web site.

The Woman's Presbyterian Board of Missions of the Northwest, a regional level organization inside the structure of the PCUSA's global missions organization (BFM), published an extensive annual report during the first years of Alice Monk's work in Japan. The 1901 through 1915 publications include updates on the work of the particular women missionaries under the organization's sponsorship in Japan, including Monk. They range from 3 to 12 pages in length. Inside these are shorter summaries of their activities in Sapporo, under 1 page to a maximum of 2 pages long. From 1916 through 1920, only a page of material on ministry in Japan as a whole is presented, little or none of it mentioning Sapporo particularly.

The earlier sections which do describe happenings at Hokusei supply details here and there on matters such as how Monk managed to acquire the services of able teachers from among the school's graduates, a wife of a local English professor, and a missionary from another area (1909, p. 127). In addition to descriptions of events, the annual reports include (a) lists of missionaries under the sponsorship of the Board of the Northwest, (b) the particular more localized Synodical Societies inside the Board structure to which individual missionaries were attached, and (c) amounts of money given by various groups within local churches (children's, young people's, and women's mission and service groups) for specific purposes.

A number of short updates on Hokusei Jo Gakko written by **Alice Monk**, along with information on Monk herself in updates by others, appear in the missions magazine *Woman's Work*.³ An example is her fairly detailed, precise description of the Hokusei campus buildings, followed by an account of how every member of one senior class had made a personal confession of faith in Christ by graduation, some on the commencement day itself (1907, pp. 41-42). Like other missionaries, Monk reported on her work in this publication of the PCUSA's Woman's Foreign Missionary Societies of the Presbyterian Church. This served to help her maintain contact with her backers, as well as build further organizational and spiritual support. Writings by or about her range in length from only her name in a list of missionaries and their locations to a one-page article. In her first two decades in Japan something related to her appeared roughly every other year, though very little afterward.

Hokusei Gakuen University holds the contents of this magazine under its various titles from 1871 through 1946 in microfilm form. They are also available at the Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as well as other locations. Transcribed versions of the materials related to Alice Monk are accessible in the digital archive on the Hokusei Gakuen Web site, *Hokusei Gakuen's Historical Roots in the Words of the Founders*.

Among the extant original documents at Hokusei Gakuen is a year-by-year account of the early history of Hokusei Jo Gakko, written mainly by **Sarah C. Smith**, often called *Koumu Nenshi* (校務年誌), with the title *Sumisu-Sensei Nikki* (スミス先生日記) on its cover. It includes key events in the school's formation and early development, a few involving Alice Monk's first approximately four years of service on the Hokusei staff. A total of several lines relate to Miss Monk directly. Among them is the record of the 1905-1906 school year, which includes her transfer to Sapporo. In the report on the 1908-1909 school year, Monk has helped handle a problem involving some students' family, and she is serving as principal during Smith's absence on furlough. Scans of the original, a transcribed English copy, and a Japanese translation of these reports are available in the digital archive, *Hokusei Gakuen's Historical Roots in the Words of the Founders*, on the Hokusei Gakuen Web site.

Conclusion

As the preceding makes clear, both the historical records relating specifically to Alice M. Monk and those dealing with the development of the organizations she served, present ample information for those interested in further learning to form a fairly complete understanding of her personal and professional life. This likewise makes possible a firmer grasp of the types of influences which have helped shape Hokusei Gakuen as an institution. In this sense, it sheds light also on the process of furthering Christian education in Hokkaido and throughout Japan. Hopefully the list of relevant documents located and made available will continue to lengthen.

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[Notes]

¹Spellings of Miss Light's given name in various reports also include *Katherine* and *Katheryn*.

²Unfortunately, the originals were destroyed as the microfilm was produced, and the copies produced are the closest thing to the primary documents.

³As the reference list indicates, the titles and subtitles of this publication changed from time to time.

