Newly Accessed Research Materials Related to Hokusei Gakuen and Sarah Smith

James E. ALLISON

Contents
I. Introduction
II. Update on Research Being Conducted
III. Materials Not Yet Researched
IV. Annotated Bibliography of Materials Already Researched
V. Conclusion

Introduction

Since a team of researchers in the Hokusei Gakuen 100-Year History Publication Committee published the two-volume *Hokusei Gakuen Hyakunenshi* (North Christian University, 100-year history) in 1990, numerous primary source documents related to the school system’s history have been located or made more accessible. The university this year has purchased an extensive microfilmed set of records of Presbyterian mission work in Japan, including at Hokusei Gakuen. Magazine articles and annual reports written by missionaries have come to light, as well. In addition to these larger bodies of documents, various others such as Sarah Smith’s personnel file have been made available for research.

In order to take advantage of the opportunities which these newly acquired materials present, Hokusei Gakuen University has this academic year provided research funds designated for a joint project by a team of its faculty members as part of the work of the newly organized Smith Mission Center. These other faculty members have recently formed an academic association, the Hokusei Gakuen Historical Research Association (北星学園史研究会) to facilitate the deepening of the understanding which people inside and outside Hokusei Gakuen have of this institution’s past.

This article is an attempt to clarify which materials are now accessible, where they may be referenced, and the essentials of what they contain. Since the bulk of the research conducted on Hokusei Gakuen to date has been published in Japanese and no thorough-going

Key words: Hokusei Gakuen, Presbyterian Mission History, Sarah C. Smith, Christianity in Japan, Christian education
work has yet been written in English, this article may also serve the purpose of helping to bridge the language gap by bringing some already-completed research to the awareness of English readers. This set of notes will include a brief review of the research which has been conducted to date, a listing of which documents remain to be examined, and one of which materials have already been researched and published.

**Update on Research Being Conducted**

Over the course of Hokusei Gakuen’s 119-year history, a variety of historical documents has gradually accumulated. Those at Hokusei Gakuen have been held in its Main Offices (*Honbu*) but until recently never thoroughly organized for purposes of research or publication. However, this year Professor Keiko Hayasaka has compiled a list of documents Hokusei Gakuen’s Main Offices currently hold.

The Presbyterian Historical Society, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in America, is the key center for storing and making available for research the records of mission activities conducted by missionaries of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America. It will be referred to below as PHS.

The MyFamily.com, Inc. Web site (see bibliography), which holds records of those buried at the cemetery where Smith is buried, lists Sarah C. Smith’s middle name as Clecia, not Clara as it had been commonly thought to be. It shows no records for a separate Sarah C. Smith or Sarah Clara Smith who was born in 1851 in New York and died in 1947 in California. The staff of Mountain View Cemetery and Mortuary in Altadena, California, where Sarah Smith is buried, confirmed in an interview on August 23, 2005 that “a family member” of Smith reported the name Clecia at the time of the funeral in 1947. The tombstone itself reads “Sarah C. Smith” only.

I contacted the Steuben County Clerk in Bath, New York and learned that no birth certificate records were kept for the area in which Smith was born (only beginning in 1880 were they required). Thus, confirming Smith’s official name by that route proved impossible. As no other documents I have located so far establish a firm basis for accepting the name Clara as correct, further research appears necessary.

The documents in the following list have to my knowledge not yet been thoroughly checked to see if they may contain information on Hokusei Gakuen’s history. Many of them are available at PHS, others in New York, where Sarah Smith lived, and others at large research libraries such as Yale University’s. They are either materials I have begun researching directly or read references to in other documents.

**Materials Not Yet Researched**

In the research regarding Hokusei Gakuen currently underway, many resources related perhaps only generally or indirectly to the subject at hand are now available. One is the
Center for Research Libraries (at <www.crl.uchicago.edu>), a consortium of North American universities, colleges, and independent research libraries. A great number of resources potentially helpful in this research are available through this and other similar organizations and databases. Materials in Japan such as archived newspapers may prove helpful. For instance, an 1884 issue of *The Japan Mail* listed statistics on current Christian missionary work. The research materials located so far which are more specifically and directly concerned with Hokusei Gakuen are held primarily in a few particular locations, indicated in the headings to the sections which follow.

Accessible through PHS

PHS has an online catalogue called CALVIN which contains bibliographical information on many but not all of its holdings. The following materials are accessible at PHS.


Missionary Review Publishing Co., Inc. *Glad Tidings*. The following three periodicals contain similar content but were consolidated and renamed at various times in the following progression: *Missionary Review of the World* (New York: Funk & Wagnalls, 1888–1939), then *The Foreign Missionary*, then *The Japanese Evangelist*.

Presbyterian Board of Publication. *The Presbyterian Monthly Record of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America*. Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publication, vol. 21, no. 8 (Aug. 1870)–vol. 37, no. 12 (Dec. 1886). This periodical replaced *The Home and Foreign Record*, which was published from 1850 through 1867.

Presbyterian Church in the United States of America. *Assembly Herald*. Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publication and Sabbath-School Work. From 1887 to 1898, this monthly publication included the subtitle *The Church at Home and Abroad*. From 1899 to 1933, the subtitle was *Presbyterian Magazine*.

*The Presbyterian Record*. Danville, Virginia: C. W. Price and Co. The bibliographical data is incomplete. The only identifiable volume at this point is Vol. 1, no. 3, Oct. 1894. This periodical was preceded by *The Maritime Presbyterian*, a monthly newspaper with articles related to Presbyterian mission work worldwide. Its volumes have been glued haphazardly and forced into book form so that many articles are not fully readable without tearing the pages. Articles have no authors listed in many cases, so it is difficult to exclude them as irrelevant to Hokusei Gakuen without reading each one. PHS has the 1881–1891 volumes, which are available there only. See James P. MacPhie’s *Pictonians at Home and Abroad* (at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~nspictou/elect_text/Pictonians_ch_9.htm>) for details on the history of *The Maritime Presbyterian*. 
Available through Chemung or Steuben County, New York, Offices or on Web Sites Related to Their History

Some items may be accessible in the Elmira, New York area. They have been researched to some extent already by Tsunao Oyama (the former Hokusei Gakuen professor and Keisen Gakuen president) and Edward Hoffman (a retired lawyer and member of Smith’s home church, First Presbyterian Church of Elmira, New York) as they prepared to write about Sarah Smith. Refer to the list below for details. These documents include New York census records, tax records, voter registration records, and Elmira city registries. As it is unclear exactly which of these have been researched and to what extent, further inspection may be warranted.

The Steuben County Clerk’s Office, the Steuben County Historian’s Office, and Steuben County Historical Society are located in the Magee House in Bath, New York. Likewise, the Chemung County Clerk’s Office is in Elmira. In addition to the historical materials available at these places, a wide and growing variety of documents are accessible online at the following Web sites.

Cwiklinski, Judy A. *Steuben County, New York GenWeb Page.* Whitesville, New York. <www.rootsweb.com/~nysteube/>. Last updated October 10, 2005. This site contains a broad variety of materials, including census data, property deeds, and a history of the settlement of the county. It is possible that these will shed light on the earliest years of Sarah Smith’s life, when she lived near Painted Post in this county.

Tice, Joyce M. *Tri-Counties Online Research Library: Tri-Counties Genealogy and History.* <http://www.rootsweb.com/~srgp/tcindex.htm>. Last updated May 24, 2005. This Web site contains over 13,000 pages of material related to the history of Chemung County, New York and two neighboring counties in Pennsylvania. Its contents include city directories of Elmira for various years when Sarah Smith lived there. They list her home address and profession. The site also provides access to recorded histories of Chemung County (including its schools, in which Smith studied and taught), newspapers, census statistics, tax data and other vital records. These may shed light on Smith’s personal development and the educational experiences which shaped her as a teacher and administrator.

Available at Yale University

Yale University’s library network provides access to a wide range of materials pertaining to Christian educational work in Japan. I have not yet located through it any materials of great significance related to Hokusei Gakuen which are not also available elsewhere; however, there is clearly a great amount of accessible information which relates to this research indirectly in that it documents the cultural and historical context of the Japan, Hokkaido, and Sapporo of Smith’s time. Yale’s online search system, Orbis Yale University Library Catalog (<http://orbis.library.yale.edu>) supplies a great amount of bibliographical
information on many materials held at Yale, particularly in its Divinity School Library and Mudd Library.  Yale’s Day Collection, in existence since the 1800s, contains a wide variety of resources related to Christian cross-cultural mission work. Those in the list which follows are accessible at one of the Yale libraries.

The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.  *The Missionary Herald, Containing the Proceedings of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, with a View of Other Benevolent Operations* 95 (1899) Boston: Beacon Press, Thomas Todd.  This periodical supplies background data on Hokusei Gakuen through setting it in the context of Japan, Hokkaido, and Sapporo, but viewing it from the vantage point of Christian denominations (primarily Congregational) other than Sarah Smith’s.  Statistics on Christian mission work in Japan in general at this time are found on page 193, and analysis of treaties’ effects on mission work are on pages 363-365.  Many other volumes of this resource remain to be researched for Hokusei- and Smith-related materials.


Church Missionary Society.  *Church Missionary Review* 58-78.  London: Church Missionary Society, 1907-1927.  This monthly periodical provides an Anglican perspective on the mission context in which Hokusei Gakuen was developing.  It focuses on the overall view of mission activities of this period and strategies which missionaries took in their work.  Statistics on Christian mission work in Japan in general at this time are found on pages 372-374, and notes on mission strategy are on pages 687-688.  Many other volumes of this resource also remain to be researched for Hokusei- and Smith-related materials.

The Shanghai Conference.  *Woman’s Work in the Far East*.  Shanghai: Shanghai Conference, 1911–1921.  Yale University has Volumes 32 (1911) to 42 (1921), with the exception of Volume 35 (1914).  This was a semi-annual magazine published by missionary ladies at the Shanghai Conference.

**Annotated Bibliography of Materials Already Researched**

The following is a list of resources which I have seen directly and have read or am in the process of reading.  The vast majority may be found either at PHS, in the Hokusei Gakuen Main Offices, or through the Hokusei Gakuen University Library.


Baba, Tatsu, ed.  *Hokusei no ayumi* (北星のあゆみ, Hokusei’s journey) 1 (July 1984): 1-12.  This periodical publication was written in connection with the celebration of Hokusei
Gakuen’s 100-year anniversary. This edition contains articles on the life of Sarah C. Smith and Christian education in the context of mission history.

, ed.  *Hokusei no ayumi* (北星のあゆみ, Hokusei’s journey) 8 (20 September 1987): 1-44. This edition of the periodical, which was written in connection with the celebration of Hokusei Gakuen’s 100-year anniversary, includes articles on the educational environment of Sarah Smith’s time, a chronology of events in Hokusei Gakuen history, and graduates’ memories of school life.


.  *Personal Record of Miss S. C. Smith.* New York: Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, 1918. Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This document from Smith’s personnel file includes facts on key events in her life, as well as updates made later, including after her death.


Center for Reformed Theology and Apologetics.  *The Westminster Confession of Faith.* “Historical Church Documents.” Web site <http://www.reformed.org>. Original publication 1646. Site accessed October 26, 2005. This site, along with the succeeding two, state the faith on which Sarah Smith and other Presbyterians based their lives and the foundation of the education they sought to give.


Records, Secretaries’ Files, Japan Mission, 1859–1972, [MF 23 R., 1859–1911; 1879–1972, 18 FT., RG 93]. This publication of PHS serves as a guide to the reader in the use of a collection of microfilmed materials related to the history of Presbyterian world mission work. There is a brief overview of each document recorded in this catalogue, so that the reader may scan these before locating a particular microfilm version of original documents. Many of these originals have been destroyed, so that microfilm copies are the extant materials closest to them. Among these are numerous letters from and to Sarah Smith and other Hokusei Gakuen figures, along with a wide variety of reports and other correspondence which document much of the school system’s past. A very similar hardback version (organized under a different reference system but apparently identical or nearly identical in content) exists in the holdings of the Yokohama Archives of History (開港記念会館，Kaikou Kinen Kaikan) in Yokohama. It consists of photocopies of original documents. These copies have been arranged in a five-book set, entitled Records of U.S. Presbyterian Missions.

Hoffman, Edward B. First Presbyterian Church of Elmira: The First 200 Years, 1795–1995. Elmira, New York: First Presbyterian Church, 1995. This work contains overviews of the lives of Sarah Smith and the Gillet family, who befriended her after the death of both parents in her childhood.

_____. “Little Known Facts of the Life of Sarah C. Smith.” Lecture at Hokusei Gakuen Women’s Junior College, Sapporo, September 30, 1997. A cassette tape recording of this Assembly lecture was filed with other recordings of weekly class meetings and stored with other audio visual software at Hokusei Gakuen Women’s Junior College (it is now together with the audio-visual materials of Hokusei Gakuen University).

_____ , to James E. Allison, 20 February 1999. Hokusei Gakuen Women’s Junior College, Sapporo. This letter, written soon before its author’s death, includes new information on the Elmira family who took the orphan Sarah Smith into their home, as well as the date of her high school graduation, though documentation is not recorded.

Hokkai Times (Sapporo). “Kyoiku no shukunsha, Sumisu joshi” (教育の殊勳者スミス女史，Miss Smith, distinguished educator). 21 April 1923. This article reports Smith’s being honored by the Japanese Emperor for her career of service in education.


Hokusei Gakuen 100-Year History Publication Committee. Hokusei Gakuen hyakunenshi (北星学園百年史, Hokusei Gakuen 100-year history). Vol. 1, Tsushi (通史, A narrative history). Sapporo: Hokusei Gakuen, 1990. This is the most comprehensive work on Hokusei Gakuen to date.

_____. Hokusei Gakuen hyakunenshi (北星学園百年史, Hokusei Gakuen 100-year history). Vol. 2, Shiryo (資料, Documents). Sapporo: Hokusei Gakuen, 1990. This volume includes extensive typed English appendices containing significant portions of Komu Nenshi, or Sumisu-sensei Nikki (see Smith below).
Kawai, Michi. *My Lantern.* Tokyo: Kyo Bun Kwan, 1939. In this book, written by Kawai in English, she recalls her days as one of the first students in Sarah Smith’s school and how that education has guided her life.

——. *Sliding Doors.* Tokyo: Keisen Jogakuen, 1950. Kawai writes in this work about the role Christian mission schools such as Hokusei Gakuen and Keisen Gakuen, the latter of which she founded, have played in Japan’s development.

Lake, Leo C., to the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., spring 1932. Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This letter, part of Smith’s personnel file, gives information about her leaving Japan and the lasting impact of her work on those who knew her.


Monk, Alice M., to the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., 16 November and 14 December 1931. Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Part of Smith’s personnel file, this letter provides details about her departure from Japan.


Ohyama, Tsunao. “Meiji zenhan no senkyoshitachi” (明治前半の宣教師たち, Missionaries of the first half of the Meiji Period). Sapporo Shioyaku Inkai (City of Sapporo education committee). *Oyatoi gaikokujin* (お雇い外国人, Foreign employees). Vol. 19, Sapporo Bunko (札幌文庫, Sapporo collection). Sapporo: Sapporo Shioyaku Inkai Bunkashiryo-shitsu (Sapporo education committee cultural documents room), 1981. In addition to this Japanese article on pages 152-159, there is information on pages 144-147 and on 184-187 about Professor Brooks of Sapporo Agricultural School (today’s Hokkaido University), who was friends with Sarah Smith, and about other missionaries.

——. “Sarah C. Smith: Missionary.” *The Chemung Historical Journal* 23 (December 1977): 2741-2745. This work provides an introduction to the personal background and missionary life of Hokusei Gakuen’s founder.

Board of Publication, 1859–1921. *The Twenty-second [through the Eighty-fourth] Annual Report of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America.* These hardcover bound volumes are available for every year from 1789 to the present. They include reports of Hokusei Gakuen’s enrollment, number of teachers, names of missionaries, where they were stationed, baptisms of new believers, budget allocations, and other information relevant to tracing the development of the school system. Beginning in 1889, the yearly one-volume work was separated into two volumes, the first one proceedings of the yearly conference and the second reports from the denomination’s various agencies (including the Japan mission). The volume numbering system underwent various changes during this span of time. The General Assembly minutes are also available for purchase in microfilm form from PHS.

Rose Kindergarten 100-Year Memorial Publication Committee. *Shinko, kibo, ai: Rosu Yochien: 100 nen no ayumi* (信仰, 希望, 愛～ロース幼稚園～百年のあゆみ, Faith, hope, love; Rose Kindergarten: A walk through 100 years). Otaru, Hokkaido: Rose Kindergarten 100-Year Memorial Executive Committee, 1998. Though primarily about the kindergarten which Sarah Smith’s one-time co-worker at Hokusei Gakuen founded, this work includes references to and descriptions of life at Hokusei Gakuen at the time of Clara Rose.


____, to an anonymous “friend,” 18 January 1927. Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This document from Sarah Smith’s personnel file includes a description of her daily life in her last years in Sapporo.

____, to an anonymous “friend,” 29 July 1926. Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This letter from Smith’s personnel file provides a glimpse into the mission work she did after stepping down as head of the school she had founded.

____. Untitled story. New York: Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, undated. Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Though undated, this humorous recollection by S. C. Smith contains the street address of 382 Del Mar St., Pasadena, California, and it thus appears that Smith typed it after retirement. There is also a hand-written note that this is an “I Remember’ letter read at Centennial Celebration, May 1937 at Gotemba, Japan.”

Yamamoto and Yoichi Muto. Uchimura published this English language monthly journal beginning in 1926 through Kozando and later Seishokenkyusha. It provides background information on Hokusei Gakuen’s development, particularly by giving accounts of the Sapporo Band, who actively supported Sarah Smith’s school.

The Woman’s Foreign Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Church and The Woman’s Presbyterian Board of Missions of the Northwest. Woman’s Work for Woman. Vol. 1, no. 1 (Jan. 1886)–Vol. 19, no. 12 (Dec. 1904). Philadelphia: The Presbyterian Church in the United States of America. The title of this missions magazine changed slightly several times during the course of its publication. It was also combined with the periodical Our Mission Field. It was published from 1878 to 1924. Sarah Smith and many other Presbyterian missionaries from Japan contributed articles to it from time to time, and reports from the various locations of Presbyterian mission work, including Hokusei Gakuen, appear in it regularly. This magazine apparently was a key vehicle by which missionaries such as Smith kept in touch with their base, particularly the women in local churches in America who provided spiritual, financial, and social support for the missionaries their churches had sent overseas. Missionaries gave updates on the progress of the work they were sent to perform, in order to encourage their readers to continue not only praying for them but also underwriting their work with offerings given to missions. Smith, for instance, writes in the 1890 edition an article entitled “How We Started the First Sunday-School in Sapporo Japan.” The 1893 edition includes “How One Candlestick Was Set in Its Place,” an introduction of a current Hokusei Gakuen student and her family, how she first came to Smith’s school, and the way her family converted to Christian faith, becoming active members in Smith’s church. Similar articles highlight particular needs and opportunities present at Hokusei.


Conclusion

The number of Hokusei Gakuen-related materials in the preceding presentation makes it apparent that further research is required in order to obtain the most complete and accurate understanding possible of the historical roots of this institution. Hopefully, this brief introduction of available materials will prove useful for scholars who intend to further research the history of Hokusei Gakuen.
[Abstract]

Newly Accessed Research Materials Related to Hokusei Gakuen and Sarah Smith

James E. ALLISON

Numerous primary source materials related to Hokusei Gakuen’s history have recently been located, and others have been made accessible to researchers. This article presents bibliographical data on these documents and those previously known, as well as an overview of their contents. It consists of an update on the research being conducted, an introduction to materials not yet examined, and notations on documents already researched. Hopefully, it will be useful in continuing research, making possible a fuller understanding of Hokusei Gakuen’s establishment and development.

Key words: Hokusei Gakuen, Presbyterian Mission History, Sarah C. Smith, Christianity in Japan, Christian Education