

Yale University Library
Yale Divinity Library

Guide to the Frank Knight Sanders Papers

RG 122



Compiled by Martha Lund Smalley

1998

409 Prospect Street
New Haven, CT 06511
(203) 432-5301

divinity.library@yale.edu

<http://web.library.yale.edu/divinity/special-collections>

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Yale Divinity Library
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New Haven, CT 06511
(203) 432-5301
divinity.library@yale.edu
<http://web.library.yale.edu/divinity/special-collections>

CALL NUMBER: RG 122

CREATOR: Sanders, Frank Knight, 1861-1933

TITLE: Frank Knight Sanders Papers

DATES: 1815-1953

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 6 linear feet (13 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The papers include letters from Sanders' parents describing missionary work in Sri Lanka (Ceylon), correspondence and personal diaries of Sanders, writings, genealogical material, and photographs. There is also documentation related to Sanders' uncle, Henry Martyn Knight, who was the founder of the Connecticut School for Imbeciles. The son of ABCFM missionaries to Sri Lanka (Ceylon), Frank Knight Sanders (1861-1933) taught at Jaffna College, Sri Lanka (Ceylon) from 1882 to 1886. He was on the faculty of the Yale Divinity School from 1891 to 1907, serving as Dean from 1901 to 1905. He was President of Washburn College in Topeka, Kansas from 1908 to 1914 and Director of Missionary Preparation for the Foreign Missions Conference of North America from 1914 to 1927.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.122>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.122>.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Preferred Citation

Frank Knight Sanders Papers (RG 122), Special Collections, Yale Divinity School Library.

Processing Information

Place names were modernized in the description, with the name originally used in the collection material or in an older version of the finding aid in parenthesis: e.g. "Beijing (Peking)" or "Benin (Dahomey)".

Biographical / Historical

Date	Event
1861	○ Born in Batticotta, Jaffna, Sri Lanka (Ceylon), fifth son of Marshall Danforth and Georgianna (Knight) Sanders, missionaries under the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM)
1865	○ Came to U.S., lived with his uncle, Henry Martyn Knight, in Lakeville, CT. Parents returned to Sri Lanka (Ceylon)
1868	○ Mother died of pleurisy in Sri Lanka (Ceylon); father married Carrie E. Webb in 1870
1882	○ A. B., Ripon College, Wisconsin
1882-1886	○ Instructor at Jaffna College, Sri Lanka (Ceylon)
1888	○ M.A., Ripon College, Wisconsin
1888	○ Married Edith Blackman; children: Helen, Morris Blackman, Frank Knight
1889	○ Ph.D., Yale
1889-1891	○ Assistant in Semitic Languages, Yale
1891-1892	○ Instructor in Semitic Languages, Yale.
1892-1894	○ Assistant Professor of Biblical Literature, Yale
1894-1901	○ Woolsey Professor of Biblical Literature, Yale
1901-1905	○ Professor of Biblical History and Archeology, Yale
1901-1905	○ Dean of Yale Divinity School
1902	○ Ordained as Congregational minister in New Haven
1905-1908	○ Secretary of the Congregational Sunday School and Publishing Society
1908-1914	○ President of Washburn College, Topeka, Kansas
1914-1927	○ Director of Missionary Preparation for the Foreign Missions Conference of North America
1933	○ Died in Rockport, MA

Scope and Contents

The Correspondence of Series I includes letters written by Sanders' parents that describe mission work and native customs in Sri Lanka (Ceylon) and give an interesting portrayal of world conditions in the third quarter of the 19th century. While in Sri Lanka (Ceylon) from 1882 to 1886, Sanders received letters from his missionary brothers: Charley in Turkey and Will in Angola. During the period 1926 to 1932 Sanders attempted to trace his family history and received letters from family members supplying applicable information. Correspondence of 1925 includes letters to and from John R. Mott.

The Diaries and Journals in Series II include forty-four personal diaries of Frank Knight Sanders as well as journals describing trips taken by Sanders. The Writings of Series III include lectures, sermons, and articles by Sanders as well as writings of others. Writings by others include extracts from letters written by a Civil War doctor in 1862, anonymous sermons dating from 1815 to 1845, and medical sketches on the subject of "imbeciles" written by Henry Martyn Knight, superintendent of the Connecticut School for Imbeciles. The Printed Material of Series IV includes newspapers clippings, and miscellaneous pamphlets; a few pamphlets related to the Board of Missionary Preparation have been placed in YDSL HR1052. Series V, Personal Items and Memorabilia, contains biographical material, photographs, and genealogical information tracing Sanders' family back to early settlers of America, including Roger Williams of Rhode Island.

Arrangement

- I. Correspondence, 1846-1953
- II. Diaries and Journals, 1878-1933
- III. Writings, 1815-1929, n.d.
- IV. Printed Material, 1920-1931, n.d.
- V. Personal Items and Memorabilia, 1870-1933, n.d.

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence, 1846-1953

b. 1, f. 1	From Marshall Danforth Sanders to family members	1846-1847
b. 1, f. 2	From Marshall Danforth Sanders to family members	1851-1852
b. 1, f. 3-4	From Marshall and Georgianna Sanders to family members	1853 Mar-Nov
b. 1, f. 5	From Marshall and Georgianna Sanders to family members [typescript copies]	1854
b. 1, f. 6	From Marshall and Georgianna Sanders to family members [49 page compilation - typescript copies]	1855- 1857
b. 1, f. 7	From Marshall and Georgianna Sanders to family members [typescript copies]	1856-1868
b. 1, f. 8	From Marshall and Georgianna Sanders to family members	1856, 1857
b. 1, f. 9	From Marshall and Georgianna Sanders to family members	1866, 1867
b. 1, f. 10	From Marshall and Georgianna Sanders to family members	1868
b. 1, f. 11	From Marshall Sanders to Frank Knight Sanders	1869
b. 1, f. 12	From Marshall and Carrie Sanders to Frank Knight Sanders	1870, 1871
b. 1, f. 13	To FKS from Carrie Sanders, brother	1881
b. 1, f. 14	To FKS from brothers in Turkey, Angola	1882, 1883
b. 1, f. 15	To FKS from brother in Turkey	1884
b. 1, f. 16	Letter appointing FKS Dean of YDS	1901
b. 1, f. 17	To/from FKS	1924
b. 1, f. 18	FKS to/from John R. Mott	1925
b. 1, f. 19-23	Incl. re. family history	1926-1932
b. 1, f. 24	To/from Morris B. Sanders	1953
b. 1, f. 25	Incl. corres. of Henry Martyn Knight re. Connecticut School for Imbeciles	1868-1886, n.d.

Series II: Diaries and Journals, 1878-1933

b. 2, f. 27-29	Diaries/journals of Frank Knight Sanders	1878-1904
b. 3, f. 30	Diaries/journals of Frank Knight Sanders	1905-1913
b. 4, f. 31-32	Diaries/journals of Frank Knight Sanders	1914-1919
b. 5, f. 33	Diaries/journals of Frank Knight Sanders	1920-1929
b. 6, f. 34	Diaries/journals of Frank Knight Sanders	1927-1933

Series III: Writings, 1815-1929, n.d.

Lecture and sermon notes of FKS

b. 7, f. 35	No. 5461: "Congregationalism: its Rise, History, and Achievements"	1924-1925
b. 7, f. 36	Nos. 5498, 5500: incl. re. Wisdom literature	n.d.
b. 7, f. 37	No. 5501: "The O. T. Viewed Historically"	n.d.
b. 7, f. 38	Nos. 5503-5509: incl. re. Hebrew history, Apocalyptic literature	n.d.
b. 7, f. 39	Nos. 5511-5521: incl. re. missions and education	1909-1913, n.d.
b. 8, f. 40	Nos. 5522-5528: incl. re. education of missionaries, church history	n.d.
b. 8, f. 41	Nos. 5529-5537: miscellaneous sermons	1910, 1927, n.d.
b. 8, f. 42	Nos. 5538-5548: incl. re. missions and education	1909-1914, n.d.
b. 8, f. 43	Nos. 5673-5675: re. Old Testament	1921-1925, n.d.
b. 8, f. 44	Nos. 5676-5776: re. Bible	1920-1923, n.d.
b. 9, f. 46	Nos. 5777-5799: incl. re. missions, world situation	1917-1927, n.d.
b. 9, f. 47	Nos. 5800-5819: miscellaneous	1915-1929, n.d.
b. 9, f. 48	Nos. 5820-5827: incl. re. missions in Africa, miscellaneous	n.d.
b. 9, f. 49	No. 5828: re. Old Testament	n.d.
b. 10, f. 50	Nos. 5830-5862: miscellaneous	1925, n.d.
b. 10, f. 51	Nos. 5863-5876: re. Lausanne conference, miscellaneous	n.d.
b. 10, f. 52	Nos. 5877-5927: re. education, Bible, missions	n.d.
b. 10, f. 53	No. 5927: "History of Education Before the Middle Ages"	n.d.
b. 10, f. 54	Nos. 5928-5951: re. church history	1922-1924
b. 10, f. 55	Nos. 5959-5985: miscellaneous	1915, n.d.
b. 11, f. 56	Miscellaneous	1917-1925
b. 11, f. 57	Incl. re. religious education	n.d.
b. 11, f. 58	"Hebrew-Jewish Preparation for Christianity"	n.d.
b. 11, f. 59	Incl. re. Bible and church history	1926, n.d.
b. 11, f. 60, 61	Fragments	n.d.
b. 12, f. 62, 63	Fragments	n.d.
Articles and papers by FKS		
b. 12, f. 64	"The Foreign Mission Enterprise of the Church: its Place and Scope Today"	n.d.

Articles and papers by FKS (continued)

b. 12, f. 64	"The Historical Study of the Bible"	n.d.
b. 12, f. 64	"The Life and Work of Henry Martyn Knight" in <i>Addresses at the Dedication of The Knight Hospital of the Mansfield State Training School and Hospital at Mansfield Depot, Connecticut 18 October 1926</i>	1926
b. 12, f. 64	"Mission Instruction in the Theological Seminaries of North America"	1919
b. 12, f. 64	"The Preparation Needed for the Foreign Field"	1917
b. 12, f. 64	"Random Jottings of a Friendly Visitor" in <i>The Chinese Recorder</i> ,	1918 Nov
b. 12, f. 64	"Scholarship and Old Testament" in <i>The Brooklyn Daily Eagle</i>	1915 Nov
b. 12, f. 64	"The Secret of the Teacher's Growth"	n.d.
b. 12, f. 64	Five papers on Christian work in Brazil and South America	1925
Writings of others		
b. 12, f. 65	"Confucianism Today" by D. Willard Lyon	1927
b. 12, f. 66	By and about Henry Martyn Knight, re. treatment of the mentally disabled and the Connecticut School for Imbeciles.	1880, n.d.
b. 12, f. 67	"Extracts from Dr. Woods Letters" (Civil War doctor)	1862
b. 12, f. 68	Holograph sermons (author unknown)	1815-1845
b. 12, f. 69	Holograph writings (authors unknown)	n.d.

Series IV: Printed Material, 1920-1931, n.d.

b. 12, f. 70	Pamphlets re. Congregationalism, Unitarianism, town of Salisbury, Connecticut	1920-1930
b. 12, f. 71	Materials re. teaching of religion	1923, n.d.
b. 12, f. 72	Newspaper and magazine clippings	n.d.
b. 13, f. 73	Newspaper and magazine clippings	1920-1932
b. 13, f. 74	Miscellaneous pamphlets	1921-1929, n.d.

Series V: Personal Items and Memorabilia, 1870-1933, n.d.

b. 13, f. 75	Notebook: "Family History Data: I Jaffna 1852-1864"	n.d.
b. 13, f. 76	Notebook: "Family History Data: II 1864-"	n.d.
b. 13, f. 77	Genealogical material	n.d.
b. 13, f. 78	Biographical information re. the Knight family	1912, n.d.
b. 13, f. 79	Documents re. Henry Martyn Knight	1870, 1880
b. 13, f. 80	Documents re. estate of Kate B. Knight	1928-1929
b. 13, f. 81	Biographical material re. FKS	1905-1933, n.d.
b. 13, f. 82	Miscellaneous, incl. poem from FKS to his wife	1888-1917
b. 13, f. 83	Photographs, including family photos and re: early mission work in Sri Lanka (Ceylon) and India	1884-1923, undated

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Missions -- Sri Lanka
People with mental disabilities -- Institutional care -- United States -- History

Names

Sanders, Frank Knight, 1861-1933

Corporate Bodies

American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions -- Sri Lanka
Board of Missionary Preparation
Connecticut School for Imbeciles
Yale University. Divinity School