

LOUISE GULLEY MEDLING COLLECTION
BAPT MSS #4
FINDING AID

INTRODUCTION: This collection was given by Bill and Louise Gulley Medling in 1993 and 1994.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 7 BOXES / 85 items (2.7 cubic feet)

HISTORICAL / BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH:

Louise Gulley Medling was born in Whitesburg, TN January 6, 1915. From 1918-1924 they lived in Kansas at which time they moved back to Whitesburg. In 1925 they moved to Jefferson City, TN. She began Carson-Newman College in the fall of 1933 and graduated in 1937.

“After graduating from Carson-Newman, Louise attended the W.M.U. Training School in Louisville, KY. There she met and married Bill Medling [May 26, 1939] who shared her sense of call to fulltime mission service. Although World War II postponed their appointment to Japan, the couple and their three sons began their work in 1946 with language training. While in Japan, their only daughter, Carol Ann was born in the Army Hospital. Bill and Louise worked in Kumamoto Baptist Church and numerous missions. After their second furlough (1958-1959), Bill and Louise continued their work at Okayama and Okinawa while their children were educated in the United States. Their twin sons, Paul and Ed, are also graduates of Carson-Newman. Bill and Louise Medling now reside in Nashville, Tennessee.” (Sue Lynn McGuire)

The Medlings officially retired July 1, 1979.

(See also: Life dates for Bill and Louise and *The Story of My Life* by Louise Gulley Medling in BOX 1 Folders 1&2)

INCLUSIVE DATES: 1933-1994

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTES: The collection primarily documents the missionary work of the Medlings in Japan and is highlighted by various artifacts, photo albums and Japanese guidebooks.

SERIES DESCRIPTION:

- Artifacts
- Cassette tapes
- Correspondence
- Diplomas
- Framed pictures
- Monographs
- Pamphlets
- Passports
- Photo albums
- Photographs

CONTAINER LISTS:

Box 1

Folder 1 "Bill & Louise Medling-Life Dates" & Letter from Bill re: Louise's death (2 items), 1995, u.d.

Folder 2 Autobiography of Louise Gulley Medling (1 item), u.d.

Folder 3 Paperback autobiography by Bill and Louise Medling entitled *Transformed By God's Grace*" (1 item), u.d.

Folder 4 Diploma from Woman's Missionary Union Training School on May 1, 1939 and Carson-Newman College on May 7, 1937 awarded to Mary Louise Gulley (2 items)

Folder 5 Passports (7 items):

William Robert Medling, Issued Sept. 4, 1956 #333

William Robert Medling, Issued Mar. 31, 1959 #1485288

Wm. Robert Medling, Issued Mar. 23, 1963 #Z211084

Mary Louise Medling, Issued Nov. 14, 1966 #Z640470

Wm. Robert Medling, Issued Jan. 19, 1973 #Z1663739

Mary Louise Medling, Issued Sept. 16, 1976 #Z2606155

Wm. Robert Medling, Issued Sept. 28, 1977 #Z2859151

Folder 6 Date book for William R. Medling (1 item), 1972

Folder 7 Collection of letters presented to William and Louise Medling upon retirement from active service on October 1, 1978 entitled "Gentle Words from Thankful Hearts" (1 item), 1978

Folder 8 Letters written to friends by Bill and Louise Medling with partial response from Louise to 1992 letter (8 items), 1966, 1971, 1983, 1986, 1992

Folder 9 Photos of Mr. and Mrs. Medling; also 3 8X10 photos: two are of the younger Louise and one with Louse and husband Bill (7 items), 1983, 1985, 1992, u.d.

Folder 10 Photo album entitle "Memory in Japan" given to Mr. and Mrs. Medling by Tokyo First Baptist Church Sunday School (1 item) 1952-1959

Folder 11 Photo guide to Okinawa entitled "Welcome Okinawa" (1 item) u.d.

BOX 2

Folder 1 Photo album containing photos and also contains one personal letter (1 item), 1954-58

Folder 2 Photo album with inscription “Louise and Bill Medling Memories of Japan” and includes Yatsuhiko Mission, Taiwan revival, Hong Kong Missions Conference and Makurazaki dedication (1 item), 1957, 1959, u.d.

Folder 3 Photo album and clippings entitled “Okinawa” (1 item), 1965-66

Folder 4 A history of Baptist work in Okinawa the largest island of the Ryukyus from 1891-1970 entitled “Go and Bear Fruit” compiled by the Okinawa Baptist Association (1 item), 1971

Folder 5 NAHA Calvary Baptist Church informational bulletin (1 item), u.d.

BOX 3

Folder 1 Photo album to Mrs. Medling from her pupils (1 item), u.d.

Folder 2 Japanese Bibles published by Japan Bible Society (2 items), u.d.

Folder 3 Japanese hymnal (1 item), u.d.

Folder 4 “Kagawa Calendar for 1935” (1 item), 1935

Folder 5 Pamphlet entitled “Welcome to Okinawa” (1 item), 1986

BOX 4

Folder 1 Book one of the *Second Revised Standard Japanese Readers* and corresponding exercises (2 items), 1945, u.d.

Folder 2 Books two and three of *The Standard Japanese Readers* (2 items), 1943, 1945

Folder 3 *Kanji Book accompanying Revised Naganuma Tokuhon Book Two* by Naoe Naganuma (1 item), u.d.

Folder 4 Photo guide to Japan entitled “Japan: An Invitation” (1 item), 1991

Folder 5 Annotated photograph album compiled by Louise Gulley Medling in the spring of 1994 to document her career as a SBC foreign missionary to Japan (1 item), photos dated 1919-1994 / compiled 1994

BOX 5

Folder 1 Photo guide to Japan entitled “Colorful Japan” (1 item), u.d.

Folder 2 Photo guide entitled “Kumamoto” (1 item), u.d.

Folder 3 Japanese cookbook entitled *Buy It 'N Try It: Hints on Cooking and Living in Japan* 3rd English edition (1 item), 1963

Folder 4 Carrying cloth “Furoshiki” (pronounced foo-row-she-key) (1 item), u.d.

Folder 5 Sketch of waterway, church, and surrounding area (1 item), u.d.

Folder 6 Ink sketch of Japanese scenery (1 item), u.d.

Folder 7 Framed picture of cloth doll (1 item), u.d.

Folder 8 Paintings from Japan – 2 from Teisuke Iwado (6 items), u.d.

Folder 9 Framed Japanese landscape made with natural materials (1 item), u.d.

Folder 10 Japanese abacus (1 item), u.d.

Folder 11 Louise’s Carson-Newman College *Appalachian* yearbook (1937)

BOX 6

Folder 1 Cassette recording regarding furlough in Jefferson City June 1958-June 1959 (1 item)

Folder 2 Cassette interview of Louise Medling by Sue Lynn Stone (1 item), Nov. 5, 1993

Folder 3 A red plate produced in Okinawa (1 item), u.d.

BOX 7

Folder 1 A set of two fans, writing box, two decorative rice bowls, two black rice bowls, and two pairs of chopsticks and a boxed fan (10 items), u.d.

BOX 8

Samisen / musical instrument (pronounced SAH-me-sen) (1 item), u.d.

Other Items

1. Oil painting of the Medling’s view of Okinawa Bay (1 item), u.d.

2. Case containing female doll in traditional Okinawa dress playing the samisen

3. Case containing traditional male and female dolls dressed as King and Queen of Okinawa (1 item), u.d.

4. Diplomas (2 items):

Jefferson City High School of Louise Gulley, May 19, 1933

Permanent Professional Elementary Certificate #62031 of Mary Louise Gulley,
May 7, 1937

