

**GUIDE TO THE
MICROFILM EDITION OF**

**THE PAPERS OF THE
AMERICAN HOME MISSIONARY
SOCIETY, 1816-1894**

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Editor**

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NOTE TO RESEARCHER

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INTRODUCTION TO THE COLLECTION

Origins

During the early nineteenth century the movement toward the formation of a national missionary society paralleled the growth of American nationalism in the years immediately following the War of 1812. This nationalism was typified by the expansion of the American frontier and the growth of economic and political independence from Great Britain. The people of the United States began to feel a greater sense of national identity, and sectional disputes became less important than the good of the nation.

Early attempts to organize and manage a national missionary society had only limited success; however, these attempts were important steps toward the formation of the American Home Missionary Society. The Young Men's Missionary Society of New York was formed in 1815, but by 1821 it had only nine men stationed in New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. The New York Evangelical Missionary Society, which was founded in 1816, employed ten men, nine of whom were stationed in New York State. Realizing that their separate efforts were limited, representatives from these and other local missionary societies formed the United Domestic Missionary Society in 1822.

As an organization that was national in scope, the United Domestic Missionary Society was more successful than state or other geographically limited missionary societies. It was primarily under the control of Presbyterians but received support from Reformed churches as well. In 1826 the society had more than 125 missionaries stationed in Vermont, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Michigan, and Florida. Receipts for 1826, its last year of operation, were over \$10,000, and its officers estimated that 90,000 people benefited from the society's aid to their churches.

In May 1826 representatives of the Congregational, Presbyterian, Dutch Reformed, and Associate Reformed churches from thirteen states and territories met at a convention in New York City and formed the American Home Missionary Society. In 1825 the United Domestic Missionary Society had hired six members of the senior class of Andover Theological Seminary, a Congregational school. These men, in cooperation with the United Domestic Missionary Society, issued a call in May 1826 for a convention to form a new union society that would include the Congregationalists. During the same convention the United Domestic Missionary Society voted to merge with the newly created American Home Missionary Society.

Until the formation of the American Home Missionary Society in 1826, missionary operations in the United States were geographically and financially limited. The many small state and local societies and the United Domestic Missionary Society, all of which served large geographical areas, lacked cooperation. The huge numbers of missionaries stationed in New York State were a duplication of effort, while relatively few missionaries were sent to other states. It was believed that a truly national society could coordinate missionary activities and expand the sphere of the missionaries' influence. The founders of the American Home Missionary Society also recognized the increased potential for funding if aid were requested by a single organization that serviced the entire country.

The Plan of Union, agreed to in 1801 by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church and the General Association of Connecticut, was another important element in making American Home Missionary Society's foundations interdenominational as well as national. Basically, the Plan of Union created an official policy for a problem that had existed for Presbyterians and Congregationalists in the formation of new churches by providing for cooperation between these two religious bodies. A church formed by either Congregationalists or Presbyterians was permitted to secure a minister of either persuasion, while at the same time retaining its own form of church government. Congregations could share services and church structures, as well as the support of a minister. The Plan of Union not only made it possible for the American Home Missionary Society to formulate policy and regulate the operations of both Congregational and Presbyterian missionaries but also to appeal to each denomination for funding. While the Plan was still in effect, the society hired an equal number of Presbyterian and Congregational missionaries.

Operations of the American Home Missionary Society

The stated purpose of the American Home Missionary Society was to assist financially, until such time as the church became self-sufficient, those congregations that were unable to support an established minister. The society's operations were largely restricted to the United States and its territories, although in the early years the society employed missionaries in Canada and maintained communication with the missionary societies of western Europe such as the Evangelical Society of France.

Throughout its existence the society had its home office in New York City. Its officers included a president, vice presidents, treasurer, auditor, corresponding secretaries, recording secretary, and directors. Administration was handled by the Executive Committee comprised of from thirteen to fifteen members, not all of whom were required to be society officers. Private citizens and ministers could become members and directors for life by subscribing sizable contributions.

Women and women's missionary groups continually provided financial support for the work of the American Home Missionary Society. In 1827, for example, approximately 47 out of the 130 local auxiliaries of the society were women's organizations; in 1831, 160 out of 400 were women's organizations. One of the earliest ways in which women and women's groups aided the society was by making up boxes of books, clothing, and other necessary supplies that were sent to missionaries. These gifts were an important supplement to the income of a missionary.

The activity of women's groups within the society was formally recognized when, in 1883, the Women's Department of the American Home Missionary Society was formed. Ten years later the Women's Department directed more than forty state women's organizations and contributed \$51,000 to the society—20 percent of the total contributions. Women also served as missionaries; in 1893 there were thirty-five on the society's roster.

The channels through which the society implemented its objectives and supervised its extensive operations were its auxiliary societies, agents, and agencies. When the society was formed in 1826, many states already had their own missionary societies; for example, the Missionary Society of Connecticut had been in operation since

1798. After the formation of the American Home Missionary Society, many of these state and local societies surrendered the missionary work beyond their own state or local geographical areas to the society. In 1828 the Executive Committee of the society established the “Terms of Connection and Stipulation between the American Home Missionary Society and its Auxiliaries.” Under these terms, any missionary society could become auxiliary to the American Home Missionary Society by agreeing to give the parent society all of its surplus funds after its own missionary operations were paid and by sending the parent society a copy of its constitution and annual reports, as well as listings of its missionaries, their fields of operations, and the results of their labors. These auxiliaries were independent in that they elected their own officers, regulated their own budgets, and carried on missionary work in their own geographical areas. However, they were considered to be an integral part of the parent society and remained in close communication with the Executive Committee. By 1832 all of the New England societies had become auxiliaries of the American Home Missionary Society. The financial benefits of this type of cooperation were so apparent that the auxiliary/parent society arrangement continued throughout the society’s existence.

In other areas of the country, where no state societies existed, the American Home Missionary Society employed agents to implement its directives and regulate its operations. These agents were experienced ministers with executive ability. As the middlemen between the Executive Committee of the society in New York City and the local churches and missionaries, they were responsible for maintaining the continuity of missionary operations. Through correspondence and personal visits, they advised local churches, secured ministers to settle in an area, reported on their labors, and advised the Executive Committee on religious conditions in general. Although they were not considered collecting agents, these men were urged to set up schedules within their agencies for receiving contributions to the society from the churches. They received applications for aid from local churches and made preliminary examinations of these applications before submitting them to the Executive Committee for action.

The missionaries employed by the society were hired on a yearly basis in response to an application for aid by a local church, or on the recommendation of an agent or auxiliary. The twelve-month commission received by a missionary was renewable through a new application for aid. These applications included such information as the number of church members, population of the town, attendance at public worship, the size of the missionary’s family, the amount pledged for his support by the people in his congregation, and the amount of support requested from the society. The missionary was generally paid on a quarterly basis, with annual salaries ranging from \$25 to \$400. In return, the missionary was required to submit annual and quarterly reports of his labors to the society. He was also to assist his local congregation in the preparation of applications for aid for his support. The American Home Missionary Society promoted the support of a resident, rather than an itinerant, ministry. This policy, which had its beginning in the United Domestic Missionary Society, was based on the belief that a resident minister had a greater opportunity to foster lasting religious beliefs than did the traveling missionary, whose contacts with the congregation were too infrequent.

Growth and Development

1826-1850

From its beginning the American Home Missionary Society was a voluntary association, as opposed to an endowed foundation. Its funds had to be collected, its areas of missionary activity had to be established, and its missionaries had to be sought out and employed. Shortly after the founding of the society, the Reformed churches withdrew their support. Despite these problems the society realized tremendous growth during its first decade of operation. In its last year of operation the United Domestic Missionary Society had received about \$12,000 in contributions and supported 127 missionaries in nine states. The receipts of the American Home Missionary Society for its first year of operation were \$18,000, with 169 missionaries employed in fifteen states. Five years later, 1831-1832, the annual receipts had increased to about \$50,000, and the number of missionaries had grown to 506.

Internal and external problems caused a reduction in the missionary operations of the society in the later part of the 1830s. The financial panic of 1837 ended the investment boom of the early 1830s. The depression that followed involved falling prices, bankruptcies, unemployment, and general distress. In its annual report of June 1837, the society admitted its financial desperation in the face of the national “pecuniary pressure.” Faced with a large budget deficit, the society sent a circular letter requesting its missionaries to withhold their drafts on the society’s treasury.

An internal dispute within the Presbyterian Church augmented the financial difficulties of the society. The dispute between “Old School” and “New School” factions challenged the interdenominational nature of the American Home Missionary Society. The Old School Presbyterians believed that the Plan of Union, which had been binding for both Presbyterians and Congregationalists since 1801, was contrary to the constitution of the Presbyterian Church. They believed that the church should have complete control over its own missionary operations through its Board of Missions. The more liberal New School faction desired to continue cooperation with the Congregationalists through the American Home Missionary Society. The schism that finally caused the Presbyterian Church to divide in 1837 resulted in a number of missionaries of the Old School persuasion leaving the employment of the society.

The combination of the financial depression and the internal dispute among the Presbyterians resulted in a reduction in the society’s activities. The number of missionaries employed by the society fell from 786 in 1836 to 684 in 1837, with receipts declining from \$101,000 to \$85,000 during the same period. After 1841, with the return of financial stability, and until the late 1850s the society again functioned effectively. In 1853 the society employed a record 1,087 missionaries, and in 1855 its receipts were more than \$190,000.

1850-1859

Although the 1850s were a period of growth for the society, there were major adjustments and oppositions facing the Executive Committee. First, there was the conflict between the New School Presbyterians and the Congregationalists. And, second, the society became sensitive to pressures, both internal and external, concerning its position on the issue of slavery.

During the 1850s the New School Presbyterians became increasingly dissatisfied with the American Home Missionary Society. They believed that the society was playing favorites by appointing more Congregational than Presbyterian missionaries. Both Presbyterians and Congregationalists began to strengthen their separate denominational identities. Internal politics within the Presbyterian Church also lessened the disagreements between the Old School and New School factions. In 1855 the society received 32 percent of its receipts from New School sources, while in 1860 only 19 percent of the yearly receipts came from New School Presbyterians. In 1861 the New School Presbyterians withdrew completely from the American Home Missionary Society, thereby leaving the society in the total control of the Congregationalists.

The society also became embroiled in the national dispute over slavery. As early as 1845 the society had begun to reduce the number of missionaries stationed in the South. In 1846 anti-slavery forces in the North founded the American Missionary Association to work among Negroes and Indians. The American Home Missionary Society, in an effort to remain impartial, refused to take a firm abolitionist position even though its operations were primarily in the North. By 1847 the society condemned slavery as an "evil" but continued to aid slave-holding ministers and congregations. In 1853 slave-holding ministers were denied commissions. As the slavery issue sharpened, the society was unable to find northern ministers who were willing to work in the southern states. It was not until 1857, when anti-slavery advocates threatened to withhold their contributions to the society, that the Executive Committee severed its connections with both slave-holding congregations and ministers. By 1860 only three missionaries were employed in the South.

The Civil War and After

In 1862, Joseph E. Roy, the society's agent in northern Illinois and northern Indiana, wrote that the war "has absorbed the thought and feeling of the people," and that "many of the congregations are almost literally stripped of their young men, and many of the churches have lost officers and prominent supporters." The combined effect of the war and the withdrawal of the New School Presbyterians caused a marked reduction in the society's operations. Many of its missionaries enlisted in the army as soldiers or chaplains. For the year 1861-1862 the society's revenues dropped by more than \$20,000 from the previous fiscal year, and the number of missionaries was reduced by more than 200.

After the war the society regained its financial stability with receipts for 1865 rising above \$200,000 for the first time. However, the two decades following the outbreak of the war were not a period of tremendous growth for the society, even though its receipts increased annually. In 1862 the society employed 863 missionaries, while in

1879 only 946 were employed. This period of stagnation was due in part to postwar inflation and the shortage of manpower. In the twenty-year period preceding the war, the average expense for one year of missionary labor rose 28 percent, while in the fifteen-year period after the war the same expense rose 49 percent. The 600,000 casualties of the Civil War created a lack of qualified males to fill missionary positions. For example, the number of missionaries in Pennsylvania alone fell from 47 in 1861 to 5 in 1865.

In the ten-year period following 1882, the society's growth was phenomenal. Statistics for 1882 show receipts of \$341,000, with a roster of 1,070 missionaries. By 1892 receipts totaled \$738,000, with 2,002 missionaries employed by the society. This growth may be attributed to the tremendous expansion of the missionary field brought about by the rapid settlement of the West, the increase in the permanent population of the existing states, and a rise in immigration from eastern European countries to America's urban centers. In response to the resulting needs, the American Home Missionary Society became more involved in city missions, hiring foreign-speaking missionaries to serve the needs of the immigrant groups, and in the support of financially weak churches in all parts of the country.

During the 1890s the society still employed the majority of its missionaries in the western states and territories; however, it increased the number working in the South and Southwest from 17 missionaries in 1882 to 203 in 1892. The number of missionaries employed in the Northeast and Middle Atlantic states remained relatively consistent. As more and more churches became self-sufficient, the society began placing its importance on working with congregations that were without any visible means of support. These congregations represented both the rural and urban poor.

The American Home Missionary Society after the Civil War was without interdenominational conflict. The withdrawal of the New School Presbyterians by 1861 helped to unify the Congregationalists in their support of the society. This financial support was one of the most significant factors in the society's success. Finally, in 1893 the Executive Committee of the American Home Missionary Society reluctantly admitted that the society had lost its interdenominational character. The society was renamed the Congregational Home Missionary Society; under a different name it still exists.

Conclusion

From a purely statistical point of view, the operations of the American Home Missionary Society were a success. Total receipts for its first sixty-seven years amounted to \$16,006,504. More than 50,000 man-years of missionary labor were financed and directed by the society. Conversions or new memberships to the churches that received society support totaled 422,041. Between 1826 and 1893 the society had missionaries in every actual or future state of the Union except Alaska and Hawaii. But, more important, for thirty-five years the society successfully overcame denominational barriers in the spirit of cooperation. The withdrawal of the New School Presbyterians did not represent the weakness of this principle of cooperation but rather illustrated that, even on a temporary basis, ecumenical cooperation was possible.

SCOPE AND CONTENT OF THE COLLECTION

The *Papers of the American Home Missionary Society* contain correspondence, both incoming and outgoing, and printed matter. The collection is organized into five series: Incoming Correspondence, 1816-1893; Outgoing Correspondence, 1826-1894; Administrative Material, 1821-1893; Annual Reports, 1826-1936; and *The Home Missionary*, 1828-1909.

Series I: Incoming Correspondence, 1816-1893

The incoming correspondence is divided into geographical subseries by state. There is a subseries for each of the states, with the exception of Alaska and Arizona. Correspondence from Canada and other foreign correspondence is found following the file for Wyoming. Files for U.S. territories were included with those of the states that they became or, in some cases, with those of the states from which they were later separated. For example, correspondence concerning North Dakota before it became a state in 1889 was placed in the file for South Dakota. Likewise, West Virginia correspondence is contained in the file for Virginia prior to 1861. Some of the incoming correspondence has been lost. There is no correspondence for 1874-1875 and 1878-1891.

Within the state files, organization is chronological by year and then alphabetical within each year by author, with the exception that letters about a particular missionary are generally filed with the letters from that missionary. Undated correspondence is located at the end of the dated correspondence for each state. Two folders of miscellaneous undated correspondence and unsigned articles (of unknown origin) for *The Home Missionary* are located at the end of this series. Alphabetical divisions within each year for each state are indicated by targets on the microfilm.

The correspondence between 1816 and 1826 in any state file relates to the activities of the Young Men's Missionary Society of New York or to the United Domestic Missionary Society. This correspondence was originally part of the files of the United Domestic Missionary Society, whose operations were assumed by the American Home Missionary Society in 1826.

The largest quantity of incoming correspondence consists of the letters received by the society from its missionaries. These letters contain annual and quarterly reports, information on the missionaries' relations with parishioners, finances, and other matters and problems encountered by the missionaries and their families in fulfilling their commissions. The letters vary in length and content. Many employ conventional religious phraseology; some include statistics of conversions, sermons preached, and miles traveled. Many of these letters also contain comments on and descriptions of the local residents and their social, economic, and religious conditions. There is correspondence relating to the details of life on the frontier, and later about the work with immigrant groups and in city missions.

Similar in content to the missionaries' correspondence, but generally more detailed, are the reports from the society's agents, as well as reports from the officers of the major state missionary societies that were auxiliaries to the American Home Missionary Society. These reports contain comments on particular missionaries, attitudes of local citizens toward the society, and financial matters, in addition to overall

observations on the missionary field and the general social and religious conditions under which the society's missionaries carried on their work.

Another type of incoming correspondence is comprised of letters about a particular missionary. This correspondence from local citizens, church elders, former associates, and other clergymen contains character references and reasons for or against the granting of aid. These letters are filed alphabetically under the last name of the missionary.

The last type of incoming correspondence includes letters from individuals and organizations that do not relate to any particular missionary. They contain general requests for aid; praise, criticism, or inquiries concerning the society's operations; and notices of legacies, donations, and other contributions.

Missionary Tables

For research requiring the location of a particular missionary's correspondence, or the correspondence from a specific location, the missionary tables that the society included in each annual report are most valuable. These tables contain data supplied by the missionaries, including postal addresses, number of conversions, size of congregations, temperance subscribers, date and amount of commissions, and miscellaneous comments.

The society's fiscal or business year was from May to May. Every missionary employed by the society in a given year is listed in the tables for the report covering that year. For example, for information pertaining to the Rev. Rufus Smith in 1843, the missionary table for 1843 should be consulted. This table reports that Reverend Smith was commissioned on May 1, 1842, to work in East Hampton, Connecticut. Referring to the Connecticut correspondence for 1843 under "S" shows whether there is any correspondence from Rufus Smith for that year. Likewise, for information on Milton, Connecticut, the geographical column of the missionary tables should be scanned. This search indicates that the Rev. Ralph Smith was the American Home Missionary Society's representative in that town. Consulting the Connecticut correspondence for 1843 under "S" will determine whether there is any material from the Rev. Ralph Smith concerning Milton.

Because of their usefulness as an access guide for the incoming correspondence, these tables have been extracted from the annual reports and are filmed in chronological order. They are included on Reel 1 of this microfilm edition.

State Data Sheets

To provide the researcher with more specific information about the various state files of incoming correspondence, State Data Sheets were prepared. The information contained on these sheets includes the following:

- 1) Name of state;
- 2) Inclusive dates of correspondence;
- 3) First missionary (date of the first missionary commission granted in that state);

- 4) Notable correspondents (names of society agents, superintendents, or officials; names of secretaries and treasurers of state missionary societies; and names of prominent citizens or clergymen whose correspondence appears in this state file. A date following a name means that there is correspondence from that individual for only the year or years indicated.);
- 5) Amount of material (number of Hollinger boxes or folders that comprises the state file);
- 6) Gaps in correspondence (year(s) within the inclusive dates for which no correspondence exists. For all files there is no correspondence for 1874-1875 and 1878-1891); and
- 7) Comments (facts concerning the history of American Home Missionary Society operations in the state and information about the content of the correspondence).

To illustrate how these data sheets can be of assistance, researchers should refer to the sheet provided below for the state of Connecticut. Data sheets for each state are arranged alphabetically by the name of the state and are located following the Reel Contents. There are no data sheets for Alaska or Arizona.

State: Connecticut

Inclusive dates of correspondence: 1825-1893

First missionary: 1830

Notable correspondents: Leonard Bacon, Chauncey Goodrich, Horace Hooker, Ward W. Jacobs, William H. Moore, E. W. Parsons, Francis Parsons, C. Shelton, Theodore D. Woolsey

Amount of material: 9 Hollinger boxes

Gaps in correspondence: 1869, June-December
 1870, January-May
 1871, June-December
 1872, January-May
 1873, June-December, few missionary reports
 1874-1875
 1876, January-May
 1877, June-December
 1878-1891
 1892, eight items
 1893, June-December

Comments

The Missionary Society of Connecticut, formed in 1798, maintained its own missionary operations until 1832 when it became an auxiliary of the AHMS. Letters from the Missionary Society of Connecticut are filed under its secretaries' and treasurers' names. These officers are listed in the annual reports. Routine correspondence with missionaries was handled by the Missionary Society of Connecticut, and only the missionaries' annual reports were forwarded to the AHMS. Presidents of the Missionary Society of Connecticut were Horace Hooker (1832-1862) and William H. Moore (1862-1899). Treasurers included A. Kingsbury (1832-1839), E. W. Parsons (1840-1871), J. L. Chapman (1871-1876), and Ward W. Jacobs (1876-1906).

There are numerous letters from and about former and future missionaries since many AHMS missionaries either originally came from Connecticut, or attended Yale Divinity School or Hartford Theological Seminary, or were placed through the efforts of the Missionary Society of Connecticut. The Connecticut file also contains correspondence that relates to the activities of local church groups and auxiliaries, as well as letters of reference for missionaries.

About 1876 the AHMS, through the Missionary Society of Connecticut, began to hire students from Yale Divinity School and Hartford Theological Seminary to work in the western states during their summer vacation. Some letters and reports from these students are located in the Connecticut file, while others are filed with the correspondence for the state in which they worked. The placement of these letters and reports was determined by the AHMS staff.

In 1892 the AHMS hired an eastern field secretary, the Rev. C. Shelton, who worked out of Birmingham, Connecticut.

Miscellaneous Organizational Notes

1) Letters from auxiliary societies, both state and local, have been filed under the name of the secretary or treasurer of the auxiliary. These names can be found in the annual reports for each year.

2) Some of the major agencies of the society were responsible for missionary operations in more than one state. The Philadelphia Agency, for example, maintained missionaries in Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and New Jersey. Correspondence from the Philadelphia Agency may contain references to these states. The Philadelphia Agency correspondence, as well as that of all agencies, is filed under the last name of the agent.

3) Enclosures were microfilmed before their letters of transmittal.

4) When the letters were originally filed, each letter was folded (4" x 5") and placed in a bundle for filing by the corresponding secretary, who added a synopsis of each letter. These "endorsements" generally contain the name of the sender, place of origin, date, and a brief description of the contents (quarterly report, application for aid, etc.). The endorsement is generally located on the back of the last page of the letter or on an attached slip of paper.

5) Many letters, especially missionary and agent reports, contain editorial deletions and comments made by the staff of *The Home Missionary* magazine and the

editors of the annual reports. These were generally done with red pencil and usually do not obscure the original copy.

6) Most foreign-language letters were translated by the staff of the society, and the translations were filed with the original letter. However, some letters in French and German were not translated.

7) Occasionally a letter is filed under a geographical or corporate entry (Stillwater, New York, or Yale College). These rare exceptions occur in the cases of anonymous letters and multiply endorsed petitions.

8) “Mc” and “Mac” last names are filed before “Ma” to be consistent with the alphabetical listing of missionaries in the missionary tables.

9) Certain types of correspondence in the incoming correspondence series were not included in the microfilm edition of this collection. Types of correspondence not filmed include letters concerning mailing of or subscriptions to *The Home Missionary*, letters enclosing contributions from local churches and auxiliaries (these are itemized in *The Home Missionary* and the annual reports), letters about life directors and members, letters dealing with the sending of “missionary boxes,” and letters requesting AHMS literature. However, letters of these types were included if they came from a missionary, or if they contained important historical information.

Series II: Outgoing Correspondence, 1826-1894

Most of the outgoing correspondence is directed to the society’s missionaries, agents, and auxiliary officers. Letters to missionaries generally acknowledge renewal or cancellation of commissions, offer guidance or encouragement, comment on a particular missionary’s progress, or respond to inquiries. Letters to the agents are often detailed responses to inquiries and reports sent in by these men, as well as directives for the implementation of society policy. Letters to auxiliary officers comment on the progress and problems encountered by the auxiliary groups. The outgoing correspondence also includes numerous letters to individuals not employed by the society. These letters often ask advice from prominent scholars, statesmen, and clergymen, and answer inquiries from citizens and local church groups.

The outgoing correspondence was originally bound in letterpress copybooks and was arranged in chronological order by fiscal year—May to May—and within each year by month and day. Each of the letters within each fiscal year is numbered, and access is provided by a comprehensive, alphabetically arranged index of correspondents at the beginning of each year’s file. One folder of miscellaneous and undated outgoing correspondence that was never included in the letterpress copybooks immediately follows the organized material. Outgoing correspondence was filmed through May 1894.

Not all of the outgoing correspondence was filmed. Routine transmittal letters accompanying drafts for missionary salaries and many letters now illegible due to fading and general deterioration were not filmed. To assist the researcher in determining which letters for a particular year were not filmed, a list of the letter numbers for these letters is included on the microfilm immediately preceding the index for each year. A “tr” after a letter number indicates that the letter is a financial transmittal letter.

It should be noted that some of the letters in Series I and II may be partially illegible on the microfilm. This results from the originals being only partially legible;

however, they were included because of their importance. Special technical procedures in the production of the microfilm edition make many of these legible, but it was not possible to do this in all cases.

Series III: Administrative Material, 1821-1893

Most of the administrative records of the society have been lost. What remains, although incomplete, covers all years of the society's operation with the exception of gaps between 1874 and 1875 and 1878 to 1892.

Included in this series are auditors' reports, summaries of Executive Committee action, memoranda, circular letters, committee reports, expense accounts, and some incoming correspondence from society officials. This last category includes letters of resignation and reports of trips. This series is organized chronologically by year, month, and day, with undated material following all dated material.

Series IV: Annual Reports, 1826-1936

These reports, published annually after the May meeting of the society, consist of a variety of information about the society and its operations. They follow the conclusion of each May-to-May fiscal year and contain financial and operational statistics for that year. Also included are minutes of the annual meeting, resolutions and proposed amendments, records of elections of officers and Executive Committee members, speeches given at the annual meetings, and extracts from the reports of agents, auxiliaries, and missionaries in the field.

Statistical information provided in each report includes comprehensive tables giving the names of missionaries and their congregations. For a further explanation on the use of these missionary tables, researchers should refer to page xiii of this guide. Comprehensive statistical tables in the annual reports include information on the distribution of missionaries by state and region, as well as statistics of the society's cumulative receipts, expenditures, and number of missionaries employed. Each annual report also contains a treasurer's report for the year and lists of directors and life members of the society.

Series V: *The Home Missionary*, 1828-1909

To disseminate information and arouse interest in its work, the American Home Missionary Society published a monthly magazine, *The Home Missionary*, with articles about society meetings, plans for social activities, and edited versions of missionaries' and agents' reports. Until 1843 the magazine included a supplement called the *American Pastor's Journal*, which contained scholarly articles by and for clergymen.

The Home Missionary was indexed by volume with the index preceding the first issue in each volume. These indexes have been microfilmed separately and immediately precede Volume I, Number 1 on Reel 376. The indexes also appear on the microfilm in their original order.

Reel 1 Guide to the Collection; Missionary Tables, 1826-1894

Series I, Incoming Correspondence, 1816-1893

Reel 2	Alabama	1829-1893
	Arkansas	1830-1893
	California	1849-1855
Reel 3	California	1856-1857
Reel 4	California	1857-1863
Reel 5	California	1864-1867
Reel 6	California	1868-1872
Reel 7	California	1873-1893
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Reel 10	Connecticut	1843-1849
Reel 11	Connecticut	1850-1855
Reel 12	Connecticut	1856-1861
Reel 13	Connecticut	1862-1869
Reel 14	Connecticut	1870-1893
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Reel 17	Illinois	1836-1840
Reel 18	Illinois	1840-1842
Reel 19	Illinois	1843-1844
Reel 20	Illinois	1844-1845
Reel 21	Illinois	1845-1846
Reel 22	Illinois	1846-1847
Reel 23	Illinois	1847-1848
Reel 24	Illinois	1848-1849
Reel 25	Illinois	1849
Reel 26	Illinois	1850
Reel 27	Illinois	1850-1851
Reel 28	Illinois	1851-1852

Reel 29	Illinois	1852
Reel 30	Illinois	1853
Reel 31	Illinois	1853-1854
Reel 32	Illinois	1854-1855
Reel 33	Illinois	1855
Reel 34	Illinois	1856
Reel 35	Illinois	1856-1857
Reel 36	Illinois	1857-1858
Reel 37	Illinois	1858-1859
Reel 38	Illinois	1859
Reel 39	Illinois	1860
Reel 40	Illinois	1860-1861
Reel 41	Illinois	1861-1862
Reel 42	Illinois	1862-1863
Reel 43	Illinois	1863-1864
Reel 44	Illinois	1864
Reel 45	Illinois	1864-1865
Reel 46	Illinois	1865-1866
Reel 47	Illinois	1866-1867
Reel 48	Illinois	1867
Reel 49	Illinois	1868
Reel 50	Illinois	1868-1870
Reel 51	Illinois	1870-1872
Reel 52	Illinois	1872-1876
Reel 53	Illinois	1877-1893
	Indiana	1824-1830
Reel 54	Indiana	1831-1836
Reel 55	Indiana	1836-1841
Reel 56	Indiana	1842-1845
Reel 57	Indiana	1845-1847
Reel 58	Indiana	1847-1849
Reel 59	Indiana	1849-1851
Reel 60	Indiana	1851-1853
Reel 61	Indiana	1853-1854
Reel 62	Indiana	1855-1857
Reel 63	Indiana	1857-1859
Reel 64	Indiana	1860-1867
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Reel 66	Iowa	1838-1846
Reel 67	Iowa	1846-1848
Reel 68	Iowa	1849-1850
Reel 69	Iowa	1850-1852
Reel 70	Iowa	1852-1853

Reel 71	Iowa	1853-1854
Reel 72	Iowa	1854-1855
Reel 73	Iowa	1855-1856
Reel 74	Iowa	1856
Reel 75	Iowa	1857
Reel 76	Iowa	1857-1858
Reel 77	Iowa	1858
Reel 78	Iowa	1858-1859
Reel 79	Iowa	1859
Reel 80	Iowa	1859-1860
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Reel 82	Iowa	1860-1861
Reel 83	Iowa	1861-1862
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Reel 86	Iowa	1863-1864
Reel 87	Iowa	1864-1865
Reel 88	Iowa	1865-1866
Reel 89	Iowa	1866
Reel 90	Iowa	1867
Reel 91	Iowa	1867-1868
Reel 92	Iowa	1868
Reel 93	Iowa	1868-1870
Reel 94	Iowa	1870-1871
Reel 95	Iowa	1871-1872
Reel 96	Iowa	1872-1876
Reel 97	Iowa	1876-1893
	Kansas	1854-1858
Reel 98	Kansas	1859-1862
Reel 99	Kansas	1863-1867
Reel 100	Kansas	1867-1869
Reel 101	Kansas	1870-1872
Reel 102	Kansas	1872-1876
Reel 103	Kansas	1876-1893
Reel 104	Kentucky	1826-1850
Reel 105	Kentucky	1851-1893
	Louisiana	1832-1893
	Maine	1826-1834
Reel 106	Maine	1835-1847
Reel 107	Maine	1848-1855
Reel 108	Maine	1856-1863
Reel 109	Maine	1864-1876

Reel 110	Maine	1877-1893
	Maryland	1826-1893
	Massachusetts	1823-1834
Reel 111	Massachusetts	1834-1840
Reel 112	Massachusetts	1841-1844
Reel 113	Massachusetts	1845-1848
Reel 114	Massachusetts	1848-1852
Reel 115	Massachusetts	1853-1856
Reel 116	Massachusetts	1857-1860
Reel 117	Massachusetts	1861-1864
Reel 118	Massachusetts	1865-1867
Reel 119	Massachusetts	1868-1873
Reel 120	Massachusetts	1876-1893
Reel 121	Michigan	1825-1841
Reel 122	Michigan	1841-1844
Reel 123	Michigan	1844-1846
Reel 124	Michigan	1846-1847
Reel 125	Michigan	1847-1849
Reel 126	Michigan	1849-1850
Reel 127	Michigan	1850-1851
Reel 128	Michigan	1852-1853
Reel 129	Michigan	1853-1854
Reel 130	Michigan	1854-1855
Reel 131	Michigan	1855-1856
Reel 132	Michigan	1856-1857
Reel 133	Michigan	1858-1859
Reel 134	Michigan	1859-1860
Reel 135	Michigan	1860-1861
Reel 136	Michigan	1861-1862
Reel 137	Michigan	1863-1864
Reel 138	Michigan	1864-1865
Reel 139	Michigan	1865-1866
Reel 140	Michigan	1867-1868
Reel 141	Michigan	1868-1869
Reel 142	Michigan	1869-1871
Reel 143	Michigan	1871-1873
Reel 144	Michigan	1873-1893
	Minnesota	1849-1852
Reel 145	Minnesota	1853-1857
Reel 146	Minnesota	1858-1859
Reel 147	Minnesota	1860-1861
Reel 148	Minnesota	1862-1864

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Reel 152	Minnesota	1872-1877
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Reel 163	New Hampshire	1829-1845
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Reel 165	New Hampshire	1855-1862
Reel 166	New Hampshire	1863-1893
	New Jersey	1822-1829
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Reel 172	New York	1830-1831
Reel 173	New York	1831-1832
Reel 174	New York	1832-1833
Reel 175	New York	1833-1834
Reel 176	New York	1834-1835
Reel 177	New York	1835-1836
Reel 178	New York	1836-1837
Reel 179	New York	1837-1838
Reel 180	New York	1839-1840
Reel 181	New York	1840-1841
Reel 182	New York	1841-1842

Reel 183	New York	1842-1843
Reel 184	New York	1843
Reel 185	New York	1843-1844
Reel 186	New York	1844-1845
Reel 187	New York	1845-1846
Reel 188	New York	1846
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Reel 190	New York	1847-1848
Reel 191	New York	1848-1849
Reel 192	New York	1849-1850
Reel 193	New York	1850-1851
Reel 194	New York	1851-1852
Reel 195	New York	1852-1853
Reel 196	New York	1853-1854
Reel 197	New York	1854-1855
Reel 198	New York	1855-1856
Reel 199	New York	1856-1858
Reel 200	New York	1858-1859
Reel 201	New York	1859-1860
Reel 202	New York	1860-1861
Reel 203	New York	1862-1863
Reel 204	New York	1863-1865
Reel 205	New York	1865-1866
Reel 206	New York	1866-1868
Reel 207	New York	1868-1870
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Reel 209	New York	1876-1893
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Reel 230	Ohio	1866-1868
Reel 231	Ohio	1868-1877
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Reel 233	Oklahoma	1892-1893
Reel 234	Oregon	1848-1855
Reel 235	Oregon	1856-1865
Reel 236	Oregon	1866-1893
	Pennsylvania	1825-1828
Reel 235	Pennsylvania	1829-1835
Reel 236	Pennsylvania	1836-1840
Reel 237	Pennsylvania	1841-1849
Reel 238	Pennsylvania	1850-1858
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Reel 244	Utah	1877-1893
	Vermont	1824-1845
Reel 245	Vermont	1846-1855
Reel 246	Vermont	1857-1867
Reel 247	Vermont	1868-1893
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Reel 248	Virginia	1850-1877
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Reel 252	Wisconsin	1849-1850

Reel 253	Wisconsin	1850-1851
Reel 254	Wisconsin	1851-1852
Reel 255	Wisconsin	1852-1853
Reel 256	Wisconsin	1853-1854
Reel 257	Wisconsin	1854-1855
Reel 258	Wisconsin	1855-1856
Reel 259	Wisconsin	1856-1857
Reel 260	Wisconsin	1857
Reel 261	Wisconsin	1858
Reel 262	Wisconsin	1858-1859
Reel 263	Wisconsin	1859-1860
Reel 264	Wisconsin	1860
Reel 265	Wisconsin	1860-1861
Reel 266	Wisconsin	1861-1862
Reel 267	Wisconsin	1862-1863
Reel 268	Wisconsin	1863-1864
Reel 269	Wisconsin	1864-1865
Reel 270	Wisconsin	1865-1866
Reel 271	Wisconsin	1866-1867
Reel 272	Wisconsin	1867-1868
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Reel 327 May 5, 1880-January 6, 1881
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Reel 329 June 14, 1881-December 23, 1881
Reel 330 December 23, 1881-June 2, 1882
Reel 331 June 2, 1882-November 29, 1882
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Reel 333 April 23, 1883-October 4, 1883
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Reel 347 May 24, 1888-September 25, 1888
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Reel 350 March 29, 1889-July 13, 1889
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State:	Alabama
Inclusive Dates of Correspondence:	1829-1893
First Missionary:	1827
Notable Correspondents:	S.E. Bassett; A. Cunningham; R. Holman; J.E. Roy (1865); A.O. Tucker
Amount of Material:	1/2 Hollinger box
Gaps in Correspondence:	1830-1831; 1840; 1842; 1848; 1852; 1858; 1861-1864; 1866; 1869-1875; 1877-1891
Comments:	<p>Between 1827 and 1891, only 37 commissions were granted by the AHMS in Alabama. The Alabama file for these years contains few missionary reports, but in 1893, when the society employed 32 missionaries in Alabama, the number of reports increased sharply.</p> <p>In 1865, Joseph E. Roy, the society's agent for Illinois, wrote from Alabama about his postwar southern tour. While reporting on the state of the churches in Alabama, he also described conditions at Mobile, Montgomery, and Decatur.</p>

State: Arkansas

Inclusive Dates of Correspondence: 1830-1893

First Missionary: 1834

Notable Correspondents: Liberty Bartlett; Franklin Doe, J.E. Roy (1865)

Amount of Material: 1 folder

Gaps in Correspondence: 1831-1832; 1834; 1837-1840; 1849-1850; 1854; 1856-1857; 1859; 1861-1863; 1869-1892

Comments: The Arkansas file contains very little correspondence. The AHMS granted only 13 missions in Arkansas between 1826 and 1880. The largest number of missionaries serving in the state was 18 in 1887.

The file includes a report written from Helena by J.E. Roy during his 1865 southern tour, and an 1867 letter from Liberty Bartlett, mayor of Little Rock, describing the city and the condition of its Congregational churches.

State:	California
Inclusive Dates of Correspondence:	1849-1893, nd
First Missionary:	1848
Notable Correspondents:	I.H. Brayton; J.W. Clark; J.T. Ford; J.K. Harrison, T.D. Hunt; Horace Lyman; A.C. Nichols; J.H. Warren; S.H. Wiley
Amount of Material:	5 Hollinger boxes
Gaps in Correspondence:	1869, June-December; 1870, January-May; 1871, June-December; 1872, January-May; 1873, June-December; 1874-1875; 1876, January-May; 1877, June-December; 1878-1891
Comments:	<p>California's rapid development and population growth is reflected in the number of missionaries employed by the AHMS to serve the state. Two commissions were granted in 1848, by 1893, 104 missionaries were stationed in California. California provided a very fertile ground for missionary work. The rapid increase in population, the spiritual poverty resulting from gold fever, plus the large number of immigrants and contract laborers arriving daily from China and South America, provided the AHMS with a challenge.</p> <p>The early letters from the society's agents in California, namely, T.D. Hunt, Horace Lyman, J.H. Warren and S.H. Wiley, describe the social, economic, and religious conditions in California after the initial excitement of the gold rush had faded.</p> <p>Missionary reports in the California file are complete. All California operations of the AHMS were handled directly by its agents, as no state missionary societies operated within its boundaries. The agents' names are provided in the annual reports.</p>

State:	Colorado
Inclusive Dates of Correspondence:	1860-1893
First Missionary:	1863
Notable Correspondents:	J. Blanchard; Norman McLeod; F.G. Perkins; J.E. Roy; Clarendon Sanders
Amount of Material:	1 Hollinger box
Gaps in Correspondence:	1860, two items; 1861-1862; 1873, June-December; 1874-1875; 1876, January-May; 1877, June-December; 1878-1891; 1893, three items; 1893, June-December
Comments:	<p>Gold was discovered in Colorado in 1858, the Colorado Territory was established in 1861, and Colorado was admitted to the Union in 1876.</p> <p>The earliest correspondence in the Colorado file consists of two letters from the Reverend B. Roberts, written in 1860. Roberts describes the area around Mountain City (Denver), and discusses the mining industry and the religious needs of the people of that area. The AHMS responded by sending its first missionary, William Crawford, to Colorado in 1863. The following year Crawford was joined by Norman McLeod, who also worked for the AHMS in Utah. The number of missionaries working in Colorado increased annually until 1890 when the society employed 49 missionaries.</p> <p>There is correspondence from J.E. Roy, dated 1872-1873, in which he describes various places in Colorado and the religious needs of the people. In 1886, Clarendon Sanders was made superintendent of the society's work in Colorado, a position he held until 1893.</p>

State:	Connecticut
Inclusive Dates of Correspondence:	1825-1893
First Missionary:	1830
Notable Correspondents:	Leonard Bacon; Chauncey Goodrich; Horace Hooker; Ward W. Jacobs; W.H. Moore; E.W. Parsons; Francis Parsons; C. Shelton; Theodore D. Woolsey
Amount of Material:	9 Hollinger boxes
Gaps in Correspondence:	1869, June-December; 1870, January-May; 1871, June-December; 1872, January-May; 1873, June-December, few missionary reports; 1874-1875; 1876, January-May; 1877, June-December; 1878-1891; 1892, eight items; 1893, June-December
Comments:	<p>The Missionary Society of Connecticut, which was formed in 1798, maintained its own missionary operations until 1832, when it became an auxiliary of the AHMS. Letters from the Missionary Society of Connecticut are filed under its secretaries and treasurers's names. These officers are listed in the annual reports. Routine correspondence with missionaries handled by the Missionary Society of Connecticut and only the missionaries' annual reports were forwarded to the AHMS. Presidents of the Missionary Society of Connecticut were Horace Hooker, 1832-1862, and William H. Moore, 1862-1899. Treasurers included A. Kingsbury, 1832-1839; E.W. Parsons, 1840-1871; J.L. Chapman, 1871-1876; and Ward W. Jacobs, 1876-1906.</p> <p>There are many letters from and about former and future missionaries since many AHMS missionaries either came originally from Connecticut, or attended Yale Divinity School or Hartford Theological Seminary, or were placed through the efforts of the Missionary Society of Connecticut. The Connecticut file also contains much correspondence which relates to the activities of local church groups and auxiliaries, and letters of reference for missionaries.</p> <p>About 1876, the AHMS, through the Missionary Society of Connecticut, began to hire students from Yale Divinity School and Hartford Theological Seminary to work in the western states during their summer vacations. Some letters and reports from these students are located in the</p>

Connecticut file, while others are filed with the correspondence for the state in which they worked. The placement of these letters and reports was determined by the AHMS staff.

In 1892, the AHMS hired an eastern field secretary, the Reverend C. Shelton, who worked out of Birmingham, Connecticut.

State:	Delaware
Inclusive Dates of Correspondence:	1825-1869
First Missionary:	1833
Amount of Material:	2 folders
Gaps in Correspondence:	1830; 1850; 1856; 1857; 1860; 1862-1865; 1868
Comments:	<p>Although there was a United Domestic Missionary Society minister in Delaware in 1825, the AHMS did not commission a missionary for that state until 1833. In 1834, the Philadelphia Board of Agency was formed to supervise the society's operations in the Middle Atlantic states; references to missionary work in Delaware can be found in reports to the Philadelphia Board of Agency in the Pennsylvania file.</p> <p>The Delaware file contains very little correspondence and few missionary reports. Only 38 commissions were granted by the AHMS in Delaware between 1833 and 1861. After 1861, no commissions were granted.</p>

State:	District of Columbia
Inclusive Dates of Correspondence:	1826-1893
First Missionary:	1828
Notable Correspondents:	John F. Cook; A.P. Ketchum
Amount of Material:	3 folders
Gaps in Correspondence:	1838; 1840; 1874-1875; 1878-1891
Comments:	<p>Missionary operations in the District of Columbia were supervised by the Philadelphia Agency. Very few missionaries were hired by the AHMS to work in the District. The AHMS granted 32 commissions for the District between 1828 and 1893; however, none was granted between 1855 and 1885. There are very few missionary reports in this file.</p> <p>Between 1865 and 1870, there is correspondence from A.P. Ketchum and others in the United States War Department's Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, concerning the need for missionary work among Negroes.</p>

State:	Florida
Inclusive Dates of Correspondence:	1829-1893
First Missionary:	1826
Notable Correspondents:	S.F. Gale
Amount of Material:	2 folders
Gaps in Correspondence:	1835-1842; 1844-1845; 1847-1855; 1857; 1862-1863; 1865-1875; 1878-1891
Comments:	<p>Eighteen commissions were granted by the AHMS in Florida between 1826 and 1883. In 1883 the society's work in Florida became independent of the control of the minister of the Jacksonville church. The AHMS then appointed the Reverend D.O. Clark, who was to ascertain the needs for missionary labor in the state, as its general missionary for Florida. S.F. Gale was appointed as the society's permanent superintendent for Florida in 1884. Beginning in that year, the number of missionaries working in Florida averaged about thirty per year. Correspondence in the Florida file is incomplete until 1893. The file for 1893 contains the missionaries' and agents' reports, some of which discuss the society's work among Cubans in Florida.</p>

State:	Georgia
Inclusive Dates of Correspondence:	1828-1893
First Missionary:	1828
Notable Correspondents:	S.E. Bassett; J.E. Roy (1865)
Amount of Material:	1/2 Hollinger box
Gaps in Correspondence:	1838; 1856-1864; 1868-1871; 1873-1891
Comments:	<p>The correspondence in the Georgia file reflects both the slavery debate and the personal characteristics needed by missionaries whom the society employed in the South before the Civil War. The file contains mostly correspondence directly from missionaries.</p> <p>In 1865, while on his southern tour, J.E. Roy wrote a number of reports from Georgia describing the aftermath of Sherman's "march to the sea."</p> <p>Beginning in 1883, missionary operations in Georgia were regulated by the society's agent in Florida.</p>

State: Hawaii

Inclusive Dates of Correspondence: 1847-1877

First Missionary: None

Notable Correspondents: George Atkinson

Amount of Material: 1 folder

Gaps in Correspondence: 1849; 1851-1852; 1854-1867; 1869-1875

Comments: The Hawaii file contains eight letters from George Atkinson, 1847-1848, describing his trip to Oregon, where he became the first AHMS missionary in the Oregon Territory in 1849. He comments on the voyage around Cape Horn, his ministry aboard ship, the ship's contacts with whaling ships, and his stay in Hawaii. Four items in 1868 request AHMS aid, while the remaining letters refer to donations.

State: Idaho

Inclusive Dates of Correspondence: 1872-1893

First Missionary: 1872

Notable Correspondents: Edward L. Smith

Amount of Material: 1 folder

Gaps in Correspondence: 1874-1891

Comments: The first AHMS missionary to work in the Idaho Territory was commissioned in 1872. In 1882, missionary operations in Utah, Idaho, and Montana were directed by the agent in Salt Lake City.

All of the correspondence in the Idaho file is directly from missionaries. There are two letters in 1893 from Edward L. Smith, who was one of six Yale graduates who organized the "Washington Band" and ministered in eastern Washington state and western Idaho. These letters describe Smith's ideas concerning city missions.

State:	Illinois
Inclusive Dates of Correspondence:	1825-1893
First Missionary:	1826
Notable Correspondents:	M. Badger (1842); Theron Baldwin; Flavel Bascom; Edward Beecher; Marcus Hicks; Elisha Jenny; William Kirby; Arastus Kent; A. Peters (1833); H.D. Platt; J.E. Roy; Julian Sturtevant; J. Tompkins, M.K.
Amount of Material:	44 Hollinger boxes
Gaps in Correspondence:	1869, June-December; 1870, January-May; 1871, June-December; 1872, January-May; 1873, June-December; 1874-1875; 1876, January-May; 1877, June-December; 1878-1889; 1890-1891, five items; 1892, eleven items; 1893, June-December
Comments:	<p>Illinois was part of the Northwest Territory, which was organized in 1788 under the terms of the Northwest Ordinance. Settlement rapidly increases after the War of 1812. The United Domestic Missionary Society had missionaries in Illinois; subsequently, the AHMS placed great importance on satisfying the missionary needs of the state.</p> <p>In 1829, two members of a group of divinity graduates called the Yale Band went to Illinois with the purpose of establishing a school, an interest originating with John M. Ellis, who had been a missionary in Illinois since 1825. Members of the Yale Band included Theron Baldwin, John Brooks, Mason Grosvenor, Elisha Jenny, William Kirby, Julian Sturtevant, and Asa Turner. Five other men, Romulus Barnes, William Carter, Flavel Bascom, Albert Hale, and Julian Farnham, joined the Yale Band later.</p> <p>Although official missionary reports begin in 1826, it was not until 1831 that the society employed a full-time agent, Theron Baldwin, for the state. Because the AHMS had some difficulty securing long-term agents in Illinois until 1850, official reports appear from Theron Baldwin, Flavel Bascom, William Kirby, Marcus Hicks, and Arastus Kent. Some of these men served in an official capacity for only one or two years, although they contributed voluntary assistance to the society as ministers of large churches in Illinois for many more years.</p>

For example, Albert Hale was appointed co-agent for the state in 1837-1838, and although he took charge of a church in Chicago in 1839, he continued to serve the society as a consultant after the date. The correspondence of these men contains general comments and references to missionary affairs in the entire state.

In 1843, Theron Baldwin divided the state into two missionary districts, northern and southern, reflecting the basic difference and conflicts between the two parts of the state. These conflicts sharpened in the decade before the Civil War and the slavery issue is discussed repeatedly in the Illinois correspondence beginning in 1849. The Illinois file is complete for the period 1861-1865.

The society's agent in northern Illinois, Joseph E. Roy, was commissioned to undertake a tour of the South immediately after the war to assess damages done to property and to comment on locations which especially needed ministerial assistance. The final report on this tour, which took place between September and December, 1865, is included in the 1866 correspondence, filed under his name. Reports from the various states he visited are contained in their respective state files.

The files up to 1869 are complete, including correspondence from both missionaries and agents.

On July 1, 1878, the Illinois Home Missionary Society was formed and assumed responsibility for missionary operations within Illinois. The AHMS still had officials working within the state, especially in Chicago, where agencies assisted immigrant and other urban groups; an example is found in correspondence of 1890-1891 from M.W. Montgomery, superintendent of the AHMS Scandinavian Department in Chicago.

State:	Indiana
Inclusive Dates of Correspondence:	1824-1893
First Missionary:	1826
Notable Correspondents:	J.W. Cunningham; J.M. Dickey; Nathaniel Hyde; J.H. Johnson; Henry Little; S.G. Lowry; L.P. Rose; J. Thompson
Amount of Material:	13 Hollinger boxes
Gaps in Correspondence:	1869, June-December; 1870, January-May; 1871, June-December; 1872, January-May; 1873, June-December; 1874-1875; 1876, January-May; 1877, June-December; 1878-1891; 1892, eleven items; 1893, June-December
Comments:	By 1861, after the Presbyterians had completely withdrawn from the AHMS, Indiana was no longer considered a very productive missionary field. In its 1878 annual report the society stated:

The work of the Society in this State must necessarily now be slow. The fruits of its earlier work have mostly passed into the Presbyterian body. The strong churches of that name in the cities and larger towns were gathered and nurtured by her hand. For thirty years, previous to the withdrawal of the Presbyterians, in 1860, this Society sustained yearly an average of about thirty missionaries in Indiana, employed almost exclusively by churches of that denomination. Not less than 200 of its 300 churches were so planted at first.

Between 1862 and 1888, fewer than 13 missionaries were commissioned by the society to work in Indiana each year. From 1889 to 1893, that number increased slightly. The first official AHMS reports from Indiana were received from J. Johnson in 1838. Between 1833 and 1839, the state was under the supervision of the Indiana Missionary Society, which acted as an auxiliary to the AHMS. In 1840, operations in the state were regulated by the Cincinnati Agency, which directed operations of "those portions of the West which have a natural relation to Cincinnati as a commercial center." J.M. Dickey and later, Henry Little, acted as agents at Cincinnati. The Ohio files contain some reports from this agency pertaining to Indiana.

In 1853, the agency was divided; Henry Little supervised Indiana operations directly from Madison, Indiana, and until 1861, Indiana had its own AHMS agent. In 1861, northern Indiana combined with northern Illinois to form a district agency under the direction of J.E. Roy. Between 1863 and 1867, southern Indiana was under the direction of Lysander R. Kelsey. Between 1867 and 1874, Nathaniel Hyde acted as agent for the entire state of Indiana, but in 1874 Indiana again became part of a district agency under the direction of J.E. Roy. In 1879, corresponding with an upsurge of missionary activity, the state was again under the direction of its own agent, L.P. Rose.

State:	Iowa
Inclusive Dates of Correspondence:	1838-1893
First Missionary:	1836
Notable Correspondents:	Ephraim Adams; J.A. Clark; Jesse Guernsey; J.W. Pickett; Asa Turner
Amount of Material:	29 Hollinger boxes
Gaps in Correspondence:	1869, June-December; 1870, January-May; 1871, June-December; 1872, little correspondence January-May; 1873, June-December; 1874-1875; 1876, January-May; 1877, June-December; 1878-1891; 1892, one item; 1893, little correspondence
Comments:	<p>The first missionary reports appear in the Iowa file in 1838. Asa Turner served as the first AHMS representative in Iowa, and J.A. Reed became the first official AHMS agent in 1846, serving until 1856, when Jesse Guernsey became agent. However, the large geographical area of the state, the rapid increase in its population, and the growing requirements of its counties bordering on the Missouri River, made it necessary to divide the state into two districts, north and south, directed by two agents. J.A. Reed was reinstated as agent for southern Iowa.</p> <p>The last commission for Iowa directly sanctioned by the AHMS expired on April 15, 1883. Home missionary operations in the state were then assumed by the Iowa Home Missionary Society, which functioned as an auxiliary to the AHMS, with T.O. Douglass as its first secretary.</p> <p>It should be noted that beginning in 1865 and continuing to 1869, missionary activities in certain portions of western Iowa were directed by Reuben Gaylord, the AHMS agent for Nebraska and western Iowa. Letters concerning missionaries in this area for this period may be found in the Nebraska file.</p>

Correspondence for the Civil War years is complete. As in all states, there was a reduction in the size of the missionary force during the war. In 1862, Iowa supplied the Union forces with more than 50,000 volunteers, reducing the numbers of both parishoners and contributors to the AHMS. The annual reports from Jesse Guernsey give a very detailed account of the effects of the war on both missionary activities and the general attitudes of the people of Iowa.

The Iowa file also contains a collection of typescript copies of letters from Ebenezer Alden, one of the founders of Grinnell College. These letters, written during 1843-1847 to various members of his family, are located in the beginning of the 1843 file. Correspondence to the AHMS from Alden is located in its correct alphabetical sequence for each year.

State:	Kansas
Inclusive Dates of Correspondence:	1854-1893
First Missionary:	1854
Notable Correspondents:	A. Blanchard; L.P. Broad; Lewis Bodwell; Harvey Jones; J.G. Merrill; Sylvester Storrs
Amount of Material:	8 Hollinger boxes
Gaps in Correspondence:	1869, June-December; 1870, January-May; 1871, June-December; 1872, little correspondence January-May; 1873, June-December; 1874-1875; 1876, January-May; 1877, June-December; 1878-1881; 1892, three items; 1893, June-December
Comments:	<p>The first AHMS missionary commissioned in Kansas began his labors in 1854. The society did not appoint an agent until 1860, when Lewis Bodwell assumed the task. The letters of the Reverend Mr. Bodwell from October, 1856, when he served as a missionary at Topeka, until 1866, when he resigned from the Kansas Agency, have been removed from the Kansas files. They can be found among the manuscript collections of the Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka.</p> <p>The conflicts over slavery in Kansas preceding the Civil War are reflected in the letters of the AHMS missionaries. S.Y. Lum wrote in 1856, during the peak of civil disturbances in Kansas, that the people were experiencing a "reign of terror." Later in the summer of 1856, Lum was joined by members of the Kansas Band from Andover Theological Seminary, including, Sylvester Storrs, Grosvenor Morse, Roswell Parker, and Richard Cordley.</p> <p>It should be noted that the Kansas Territory included portions of the present state of Colorado. Some early Colorado correspondence may be included in the Kansas file prior to Kansas becoming a state in 1861.</p>

State:	Kentucky
Inclusive Dates of Correspondence:	1826-1893
First Missionary:	1826
Notable Correspondents:	A.C. Dickerson; J. Lane (1836); Benjamin Mills; J.E. Roy (1865)
Amount of Material:	2 Hollinger boxes
Gaps in Correspondence:	1838; 1840, four items; 1841, one item; 1842; 1861-1862, two items; 1863; 1864-1865, four items; 1866; 1867, one item; 1868-1871; 1872, two items; 1873-1892; 1893, one item
Comments:	<p>Although missionary correspondence begins in 1826, AHMS missionaries commissioned in the state of Kentucky never numbered more than 13.</p> <p>An interesting group of letters beginning in 1847 from Benjamin Mills presents the dilemma faced by a southern, anti-slavery missionary before the Civil War. Mills ran the complete gamut from being a slaveholder to making a public denunciation of the practice. His insistence on working in Kentucky aroused the suspicions of anti-slavery factions in the North, while his open criticism of slavery incurred the wrath of pro-slavery forces in Kentucky.</p> <p>Included in the 1865 correspondence are three letters from J.E. Roy as he passed through Kentucky on his postwar inspection tour of the South.</p> <p>The Synod of Kentucky became an auxiliary to the AHMS in 1854, with A.C. Dickerson as the synod's first secretary.</p>

State: Louisiana

Inclusive Dates of Correspondence: 1832-1893

First Missionary: 1826

Amount of Material: 20 items

Gaps in Correspondence: 1833-1892

Comments: Although the AHMS had several missionaries working in Louisiana, most of the correspondence has been lost. There is a missionary report from Peter Donan in 1832 from New Orleans, and some reports for 1893.

In 1883, Louisiana was part of a missionary district which included Arkansas, the Indian Territory, and Texas, with Franklin B. Doe of Dallas, Texas, as agent.

State:	Maine
Inclusive Dates of Correspondence:	1826-1893
First Missionary:	1827
Notable Correspondents:	J.E. Adams; Eliphalet Gillett; Enoch Pond; Benjamin Tappan; Steven Thurston
Amount of Material:	5 Hollinger boxes
Gaps in Correspondence:	1869, June-December; 1870, four items; 1871, June-December; 1874; 1875, one item; 1876, six items; 1877, June-December; 1878-1890; 1891, one item; 1892
Comments:	<p>The Maine Missionary Society became an auxiliary to the AHMS in 1829, with William Allen, president; Eliphalet Gillett, secretary; and Woodbury Storer, treasurer. The Maine Missionary Society retained its auxiliary status throughout the existence of the AHMS.</p> <p>The number of missionaries working in Maine averaged between 75 and 100 yearly. Most of these missionaries were commissioned directly by the Maine Missionary Society, which received the missionaries' quarterly reports, applications, recommendations, and miscellaneous correspondence. The annual reports from these missionaries were forwarded to the AHMS headquarters.</p> <p>For reports of the Maine Missionary Society to the AHMS, look under the secretaries' and treasurers' names. The names of the officers of the Maine Missionary Society can be found in the annual reports.</p>

State: Maryland

Inclusive Dates of Correspondence: 1826-1893

First Missionary: 1834

Amount of Material: 1 folder

Gaps in Correspondence: 1831-1832; 1841-1842; 1844-1845; 1849; 1853; 1856-1861; 1865-1866; 1872-1875; 1877-1892

Comments: Missionary operations in Maryland were regulated by the society's agency in Philadelphia. Only 58 commissions were granted for Maryland between 1826 and 1893, with no more than three for any one year. For many years there were no missionaries.

State:	Massachusetts
Inclusive Dates of Correspondence:	1823-1893, nd
First Missionary:	1828
Notable Correspondents:	Milton Badger; W. Barrows; L.H. Cobb; J. Coit; J.S. Clark; C. Demond; H.B. Hooker; B.B. Palmer; Benjamin Perkins; A. Peters; J.E. Roy; Richard Storrs; John Tappan
Amount of Material:	13 Hollinger boxes
Gaps in Correspondence:	1869, June-December; 1870, January-May; 1871, June-December; 1872, little corr. January-May; 1873, June-December; 1874-1875; 1876, January-May; 1877, June-December; 1878-1891; 1892, six items; 1893, June-December, no missionary reports
Comments:	<p>The Massachusetts Missionary Society became part of the AHMS in 1828, and retained its auxiliary status throughout the existence of the AHMS. Correspondence from the Massachusetts Missionary Society is filed under the names of the society's secretary and treasurer. These names can be found in the annual reports for each year.</p> <p>Missionary reports from Massachusetts begin to appear in quantity in 1833. The file contains many letters from missionaries about to be commissioned or completing commissions in the West. Also included are a considerable number of letters from the faculty and staff of Andover Theological Seminary, other prominent citizens, and members of the clergy. These letters contain recommendations, inquiries, opinions about AHMS policy, and contributions to the "Pastor's Journal."</p> <p>Agents and superintendents of the AHMS from other states and territories also wrote frequently from Massachusetts, either while visiting their families or conducting business in the state. For example, J.E. Roy (Illinois) wrote from Massachusetts 1872, and Levi Cobb (Minnesota) in 1877.</p> <p>The file includes letters from the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions and the American Tract Society, both of which had headquarters in Boston.</p>

- State:** Michigan
- Inclusive Dates of Correspondence:** 1825-1893
- First Missionary:** 1826
- Notable Correspondents:** Calvin Clark; Charles Hall; H.A. Read; Leroy Warren; Wolcott Williams
- Amount of Material:** 29 Hollinger boxes
- Gaps in Correspondence:** 1869, June-December; 1870, January-May; 1871, June-December; 1872, little corr. January-May; 1873, June-December; 1874-1875; 1876, January-May; 1877, June-December; 1878-1879; 1880, one item; 1881-1889; 1890, one item; 1891, one item; 1892, nine items, no missionary reports; 1893, June-December, no missionary reports
- Comments:** Between 1826 and 1835, missionary operations in Michigan were directed by the Western Reserve Domestic Missionary Society, Ohio. In October 1835, the AHMS appointed the Reverend William Page to head a separate agency for the state of Michigan. In 1845, Calvin Clark was appointed as the society's agent. The state was divided into two agencies in 1868, with Wolcott Williams as agent for southern and eastern Michigan, and Leroy Warren directing the agency for northwestern Michigan. Michigan retained an AHMS agency until 1893, when the Michigan Congregational Association became an auxiliary to the AHMS.
- It should be noted that the agents' correspondence in the Michigan file contains their own missionary reports and also applications from other missionaries with the agents' recommendations on these applications. The applications, which have been filed under the agents' names, have been filed chronologically by the date of commission or by the date of the agent's recommendation.

State:	Minnesota
Inclusive Dates of Correspondence:	1849-1893
First Missionary:	1849
Notable Correspondents:	Levi H. Cobb; Richard Hall; M.W. Montgomery; J.H. Morely
Amount of Material:	10 Hollinger boxes
Gaps in Correspondence:	1869, June-December; 1870, January-May; 1871, June-December; 1872, little correspondence January-May; 1873, June-December; 1874-1875; 1876, January-May; 1877, June-December; 1878-1889; 1890, two items; 1891; 1892, eight items
Comments:	<p>The Minnesota Territory was organized in 1849, and was admitted to the Union as a state in 1858. The AHMS sent its first missionaries to Minnesota in 1849, but until 1867 there were fewer than twenty missionaries working in the state per year. After 1867 the number of missionaries increased yearly until 1890, when there was 133 stationed in Minnesota.</p> <p>The AHMS appointed Richard Hall its first agent for Minnesota in 1857. He served in this position until 1874, when he was replaced by Levi H. Cobb. Minnesota did not form an auxiliary state society until 1893.</p> <p>Minnesota attracted a large number of foreign immigrants, especially Germans and Scandinavians. In 1885, the AHMS appointed M.W. Montgomery to head the Scandinavian Department of the AHMS, with offices in Minneapolis.</p>

State:	Mississippi
Inclusive Dates of Correspondence:	1828-1873
First Missionary:	1830
Notable Correspondents:	Samuel C. Feemster; J.E. Roy (1865)
Amount of Material:	1 folder
Gaps in Correspondence:	1829; 1830; 1832; 1834-1835; 1839; 1841-1843; 1847-1848; 1851; 1853-1855; 1857; 1859; 1861-1862; 1864; 1866-1867; 1872; 1874-1893
Comments:	<p>On 20 commissions were granted by the AHMS for Mississippi between 1830 and 1893. The file for these years contains few missionary reports.</p> <p>In 1865, J.E. Roy, the society's agent for Illinois, wrote from Mississippi while on his postwar southern tour, describing conditions at Jackson, Vicksburg, and Natchez.</p>

State:	Missouri
Inclusive Dates of Correspondence:	1824-1893
First Missionary:	1826
Notable Correspondents:	M. Badger (1842); J. Blatchford; G.K. Budd; A. Bullard; F.B. Doe; B.T. Hill; William Homes; E. Lovejoy; A. Pomeroy; J.A. Reed (1868); Julian Sturtevant; J. Townsend; E.B. Turner; G.C. Woods; E. Wright
Amount of Material:	9 Hollinger boxes
Gaps in Correspondence:	1869, June-December; 1870, January-May; 1871, June-December; 1872, little correspondence January-May; 1873, June-December; 1874-1875; 1876, June-December; 1877, January-May; 1878-1892; 1893, June-December
Comments:	<p>The Missouri Home Missionary Society was formed in 1842 as an auxiliary to the AHMS, with Artemas Bullard as its first secretary. Although it did not have the financial resources of many of the eastern state societies, the Missouri Home Missionary Society did help to support some of the missionaries in the state. Four missionaries held AHMS commissions in 1826; by 1849, that number had grown to thirty-three. To provide direction for the increasing number of missionaries in Missouri, the AHMS established an agency in 1848.</p> <p>The slavery issue was the main problem facing the AHMS in Missouri, and the Missouri file contains complete documentation on the issue. Since the people within the state were divided between northerners and southerners, the conflict over slavery threatened to divide the state. The repeal of the Missouri Compromise in 1854, which had prohibited slavery in Missouri since 1821, served to sharpen this conflict. The 1855 annual report of the AHMS refers to the dispute</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">...the struggle which followed between the friends and the enemies of this system, for the preoccupancy of this portion of the national domain, has kept the public mind in a state of agitation and ferment, which has been exceedingly unfavorable to the proper action of religious truth. The worst passions of the people have been aroused, sectional jealousies have been excited, and suspicions have been awakened, against portions of</p>

the community, and, in some instances, against the missionaries themselves, weakening their influence and destroying their usefulness.

In 1857, the Reverend Mr. Whipple, an AHMS missionary in Missouri, wrote that the conflict within his church was so sharp that he feared that half the members would vote to secede from the Synod of Missouri, the governing Presbyterian body in Missouri.

There was so much dissension within the state that the number of missionaries fell from 29 in 1850 to 16 in 1856, and to only 5 in 1857. The anti-slavery resolution adopted by the AHMS in 1857 caused further dissension. Finally, in a letter dated September 25, 1859, J.J. Porter, secretary of the Missouri Home Missionary Society, formally severed all connections with the AHMS.

Although not a member of the Confederacy, Missouri was considered a "border state" and was the scene of many guerilla skirmishes and raids throughout the Civil War. The letters of Julian Sturtevant, who continued to work for the AHMS throughout the war, describe the war years in Missouri.

After the war, the AHMS operations in Missouri increased. In 1866, there were 19 commissions granted in the state, and 62 in 1890. The society opened an agency in Missouri after the war, with E.B. Turner as agent. In 1878, Missouri became part of the missionary district which included Arkansas and Texas, and later, the Indian Territory.

In 1893, the Congregational City Missionary Society of Saint Louis became an auxiliary to the AHMS and assumed responsibility for missionary operations in Missouri.

State:	Montana
Inclusive Dates of Correspondence:	1864-1893
First Missionary:	1881
Notable Correspondents:	William S. Bell; Jonathan Blanchard
Amount of Material:	1 folder
Gaps in Correspondence:	1865-1874; 1875, one item; 1876-1892
Comments:	There are no missionary reports from Montana prior to 1893; there are several for that year. The 1893 correspondence is primarily from William S. Bell, the state agent for the AHMS.
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State:	Nebraska
Inclusive Dates of Correspondence:	1855-1893
First Missionary:	1855
Notable Correspondents:	Harmon Bross; H.N. Gates; Reuben Gaylord; O.W. Merrill
Amount of Material:	3 Hollinger boxes
Gaps in Correspondence:	1869, June-December; 1870, January-May; 1871, June-December; 1872, little corr. January-May; 1873, June-December; 1874-1875; 1876, January-May; 1877, June-December; 1878-1888; 1890-1891; 1892, four items; 1893, June-December
Comments:	<p>The Nebraska Territory was organized in 1854, and in 1855 the AHMS began sending missionaries. Reuben Gaylord, who was appointed agent for Nebraska in November 1855, wrote a brief history of the state which is located with the 1863 correspondence.</p> <p>In 1865, a missionary district combining Nebraska and western Iowa was placed under the direction of the Reverend Mr. Gaylord. In 1870, O.W. Merrill became agent for the state of Nebraska. The AHMS continued to support an agency in Nebraska and in 1893 appointed Harmon Bross as its agent in Omaha.</p> <p>The file for 1876 contains correspondence from theological students who spent their summer vacation serving as missionaries in Nebraska. The correspondence for 1889 deals with the appointment of an agent for Nebraska.</p>

State: Nevada

Inclusive Dates of Correspondence: 1872-1893

First Missionary: 1871

Notable Correspondents: A.F. Hitchcock

Amount of Material: 1 folder

Gaps in Correspondence: 1872, six items; 1873, two items; 1874-1875; 1876, two items; 1877, one item; 1878-1892; 1893, three items

Comments: Although Nevada became a state in 1864, the AHMS did not send missionaries until 1871. In 1880, Nevada and Arizona were included with California as a missionary district under the direction of J.H. Warren, who was stationed in San Francisco. The attempt to increase missionary operations in Nevada were largely unsuccessful; in 1893 only two commissions were granted for the state.

State:	New Hampshire
Inclusive Dates of Correspondence:	1825-1893
First Missionary:	1827
Notable Correspondents:	T. Baldwin; A. Burnham; W. Clark; F.N. Fisk; E.M. Greely; A.T. Hillman; A. Peters (1831); A. Rankin; B.P. Stone; Isaac Willey
Amount of Material:	6 Hollinger boxes
Gaps in Correspondence:	1869, June-December; 1870, January-May; 1871, June-December; 1872, little correspondence January-May; 1873, June-December; 1874-1875; 1876, four items; 1877, June-December; 1878-1892; 1893, few missionary reports
Comments:	<p>The New Hampshire Missionary Society became an auxiliary to the AHMS in 1828, and retained that status throughout the existence of the AHMS. Its first secretary was A. Burnham. Correspondence from the New Hampshire Missionary Society for each year can be found filed under the names of its secretary and treasurer. These names are listed in the annual reports.</p> <p>The number of commissions granted in New Hampshire through the state society was about 50 per year. Since most of the routine correspondence was handled by the New Hampshire Missionary Society, the AHMS New Hampshire file contains primarily the annual reports of the missionaries, which were forwarded to the AHMS headquarters.</p>

State:	New Jersey
Inclusive Dates of Correspondence:	1822-1893
First Missionary:	1826
Notable Correspondents:	Gideon N. Judd; B.H. Brice
Amount of Material:	3 Hollinger boxes
Gaps in Correspondence:	1822, one item; 1823-1825; 1848, two items; 1864, one item; 1865, four items; 1869, June-December; 1870, January-May; 1871, June-December; 1872, January-May; 1873, June-December; 1874-1875; 1876, January-May; 1877, June-December; 1878-1892; 1893, June-December
Comments:	<p>Beginning in 1835, missionary operations in New Jersey were regulated by the Philadelphia Agency, of which Gideon N. Judd was the first associate secretary. The largest number of missionaries commissioned in any single year was 18 in 1844.</p> <p>There is very little correspondence from missionaries in the New Jersey file. There is some correspondence in 1825 from W.O. Stratton in which he discusses missionary operations in New Jersey and gives his impressions of the United Domestic Missionary Society. The New Jersey file also contains correspondence from the faculty, staff, and students of Princeton Theological Seminary.</p>
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State:	New Mexico
Inclusive Dates of Correspondence:	1893
First Missionary:	1880
Notable Correspondents:	Mrs. M.J. Borden; Lyman Hood
Amount of Material:	16 items
Comments:	The New Mexico file contains correspondence for 1893 only. There is correspondence from Lyman Hood, in which he discusses his poor health, his resignation as agent, and the appointment of his replacement. There is also correspondence from Mrs. M.J. Borden, president of the Albuquerque Women's Christian Temperance Union, applying for the position of state agent vacated by Lyman Hood. Annual reports from missionaries Chavez and Hurd are included in the file.

State:	New York
Inclusive Dates of Correspondence:	1816-1893, nd
First Missionary:	1826
Notable Correspondents:	Harriet S. Caswell; Richard F. Cleveland; A. Crane; R. Cushman; Henry Dwight; Charles Hall; L. Smith Hobart; John C. Holbrook; Ova Hoyt; John Murray; David Porter; J.E. Roy; W.T. Scott; E.P. Smith; Miles Squier;
Amount of Material:	53 Hollinger boxes
Gaps in Correspondence:	1816-1822, five items; 1819-1820; 1869, June-December; 1870, January-May; 1871, June-December; 1872, little correspondence January-May; 1873, June-December; 1874-1875; 1876, January-May; 1877, June-December; 1878-1889; 1890, one item; 1891; 1892, five items; 1893, June-December
Comments:	<p>Throughout the society's existence New York received a large number of missionaries, and until 1861, received more commissions than any other state. In 1826 the society employed 120 missionaries in New York, most of them being former employees of the United Domestic Missionary Society.</p> <p>The AHMS supervised its earliest missionary operations in New York through the Geneva Agency, which was formed in August 1826, with Miles Squier as corresponding secretary. Because the agency was responsible for the area west of Cortland and Onondaga Counties its name was changed in 1828 to the Western Agency, and in 1830 the Central Agency was established, with responsibility for the lands "between the west line of the counties of Oswego, Onondaga, Courtlandt (sic), and Broome, and the eastern boundary of the Synod of Utica." Its first secretary was R. Cushman. There were many local auxiliaries to the AHMS in New York, especially in the early years of the society (1826-1830). The file contains a number of constitutions from these early societies, filed under their secretaries' names.</p>

In 1829, the AHMS distributed a circular requesting the opinions of clergymen concerning the proposed merger of the Presbyterian Board of Missions and the American Home Missionary Society. Responses to this circular are located in the correspondence between 1829 and 1830. New York had a very high turnover in missionaries. This was a serious problem for the society, so in 1837 the Central Agency resolved that churches which desired aid to "permanently" settle a pastor would be given first preference. The result of this extreme mobility is evident in the New York file in the number of applications and reports from missionaries who served only one year or less. Beginning in the early 1850s the correspondence in the New York file becomes much more general, consisting of material which does not pertain to a particular individual or locality, but rather deals with legacies, society policy, and financial arrangements. There is some correspondence from the faculty and students of Auburn Theological Seminary. The 1857 correspondence contains reactions to the AHMS resolution on slavery, from both clergy and church members.

In 1863 correspondence with a reduction in the number of missionaries serving in New York, the AHMS consolidated its operations under the direction of a single agency, headed by L. Smith Hobart. At that time, Theodore Spencer and John Murray resigned their posts as Western and Central agents. The file for 1893 contains correspondence from Harriet S. Caswell, editor of "The Home Missionary" magazine, concerning her resignation as editor and her work with women's organizations.

State: North Carolina

Inclusive Dates of Correspondence: 1826-1893

First Missionary: 1826

Notable Correspondents: Horace James; J.E. Roy (1865)

Amount of Material: 1/2 Hollinger box

Gaps in Correspondence: 1839-1841; 1845; 1849; 1855-1864; 1869; 1871-1872; 1874-1892

Comments: The AHMS employed very few missionaries to work in North Carolina. Only 47 commissions were granted between 1826 and 1893. In the 1865 file there are letters from Horace James of the United States Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, and also from J.E. Roy, the AHMS agent for Illinois, who wrote from North Carolina on his inspection tour of the South after the war.

State: North Dakota

Inclusive Dates of Correspondence: 1889-1893

First Missionary: 1880

Notable Correspondents: H.C. Simmons

Amount of Material: 1 Hollinger box

Gaps in Correspondence: 1889, two items; 1890; 1891, 1 item; 1892, 2 items

Comments: North Dakota was admitted to the Union in 1890. Correspondence prior to that time is included with the South Dakota file. See the data sheet for South Dakota for additional information.

In 1883, H.C. Simmons was appointed agent for North Dakota and eastern Montana. In 1890, North Dakota was established as a separate missionary district.

State:	Ohio
Inclusive Dates of Correspondence:	1824-1893
First Missionary:	1826
Notable Correspondents:	M. Badger (1842); Lyman Beecher; D.C. Blood; T. Brainard; W.F. Curry; Ralph Cushman; J.W. Douglass; J.G. Fraser; E.M. Gregory; T. Handy; E. Hale; J.C. Hart; M. Hicks; O.P. Hoyt; L. Kelsey; D.W. Lathrop; Henry
Amount of Material:	23 Hollinger boxes
Gaps in Correspondence:	1869, June-December; 1870, January-May; 1871, June-December; 1872, January-May; 1873, June-December; 1874-1875; 1876, January-May; 1877, June-December; 1878-1891; 1892, three items; 1893, June-December
Comments:	In 1830, the AHMS formed the central board of Agency for Western States to assist in coordinating missionary operations in Ohio and other western states and territories. The first secretary of this agency was Ralph Cushman, with offices in Cincinnati. The Western Reserve Domestic Missionary Society became an auxiliary to the AHMS in 1831, and in 1834, supported six missionaries in northern Ohio and the Michigan Territory, with D.W. Lathrop as agent for the area. In 1840, the Marietta Agency was organized to supervise missionary operations in Washington, Munroe, Athens, Meigs, Hocking, Gallia, Jackson, and Lawrence Counties. Henry Smith was the first agent, with offices at Marietta. In 1846, the Western Reserve Domestic Missionary Society became the Western Reserve Agency of the AHMS and the Central Board of Agency was renamed the Cincinnati Agency. In 1854, the Cincinnati Agency, which had been responsible for missionary operations in western Ohio and Indiana, was moved to Columbus and became responsible only for the areas of Ohio not covered by the Marietta and Western Reserve Agencies. The Western Reserve and Marietta Agencies were eliminated by the society in 1863, in order to improve the "efficiency and economy" of missionary operations in Ohio. The entire state was divided into two districts, with James H. Newton of Cleveland serving as agent for northern Ohio, and Lysander Kelsey of Columbus serving as agent for southern Ohio and southern Indiana. Beginning in 1866, Lysander Kelsey supervised the entire state. Finally, in 1873, the Ohio Home

Missionary Society was formed as an auxiliary to the AHMS. The Ohio file contains primarily missionary and agents' reports. The number of major auxiliaries and governing agencies accounts for the large number of "notable correspondents." Reports from these auxiliaries and agencies can be found by consulting the names of the secretaries and treasurers, which can be found in the annual reports. Much of the routine correspondence with missionaries was handled by these agencies and only annual reports were forwarded to the AHMS headquarters.

There is a number of letters dated 1893 from H.A. Schauffler, who was the AHMS superintendent of work among the Slavic population (Bohemians, Poles, and Slovaks) in Ohio, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, and Nebraska. His headquarters were in Cleveland, Ohio.

State:	Oklahoma
Inclusive Dates of Correspondence:	1892-1893
First Missionary:	1877
Notable Correspondents:	J. McCarthy; J.H. Parker
Amount of Material:	1 Hollinger box
Gaps in Correspondence:	1892-1893, few missionary reports
Comments:	Part of Oklahoma was reserved by the United States as the Indian Territory; the remainder was opened to settlers in the land rush of 1889. This portion was organized as a territory, and in 1890 joined with the Indian Territory to form the Oklahoma Territory. Oklahoma was admitted to the Union in 1907. There is no correspondence from AHMS missionaries before 1892. Prior to that time missionary operations in Oklahoma were supervised by the Missouri Agency. In 1892 there are letters from J. McCarthy, head of the Worcester Academy in Vinita concerning J.H. Parker and the Oklahoma Agency.

State:	Oregon
Inclusive Dates of Correspondence:	1848-1893
First Missionary:	1847
Notable Correspondents:	G.H. Atkinson; C.F. Clapp; O. Dickinson; Horace Lyman
Amount of Material:	2-1/2 Hollinger boxes
Gaps in Correspondence:	1869, June-December; 1870, January-May; 1871, June-December; 1872, January-May; 1873, June-December; 1874-1875; 1876, January-May; 1877, June-December; 1878-1891; 1892, six items; 1893, June-December
Comments:	<p>Missionary operations in Oregon were administered directly by the AHMS until 1878, when G.H. Atkinson was named agent in charge of the state of Oregon and Washington Territory. When Washington became a state in 1889, Oregon was considered a separate missionary district. In the same year Atkinson died and was replaced by C.F. Clapp. Atkinson's early letters from Oregon describe problems with the Indians in Oregon and Washington Territories. He discusses Indian wars, atrocities, and their effect on the population. There is a letter from Atkinson before the election of 1856 in which he expresses the fear of many that Oregon would be admitted as a slave state. The results of the election, as reported in a letter from Atkinson in December 1856, show that the population overwhelmingly accepted an anti-slavery constitution, while at the same time overwhelmingly refusing to admit any more freed slaves.</p> <p>There are letters in the fall of 1856 from T. Dwight Hunt, the AHMS agent in California, reporting on his survey of religious conditions in Oregon.</p>

State:	Pennsylvania
Inclusive Dates of Correspondence:	1825-1893
First Missionary:	1826
Notable Correspondents:	R. Adair; E.S. Ely; E. Fairchild; T.W. Jones; G.N. Judd; F.A. Parker; H. Perkins; S.H. Perkins; F.W. Porter; F.A. Rauch
Amount of Material:	8 Hollinger boxes
Gaps in Correspondence:	1869, June-December; 1870, January-May; 1871, June-December; 1872, January-May; 1873, June-December; 1874-1875; 1876, January-May; 1877, June-December; 1878-1891; 1892, five items; 1893, June-December
Comments:	<p>A number of small auxiliary societies operated in Philadelphia until 1835, when the Philadelphia Board of Agency for Home Missions was formed. This agency was responsible for missionary operations in New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and later, the District of Columbia, and was under the charge of G.N. Judd as agent. It became an independent auxiliary society in 1841, with the formation of the Philadelphia Home Missionary Society.</p> <p>The disbanding of the Philadelphia Home Missionary Society in 1861 was accompanied by a drop in the number of missionaries working in Pennsylvania, a reduction from 47 in 1860 to 4 in 1861. From 1883 to 1888, eastern Pennsylvania was supervised by the AHMS agent in Syracuse, New York. In 1888, Pennsylvania was again combined in a missionary district with the other Middle Atlantic states, plus the District of Columbia, Virginia, and West Virginia. Philadelphia was the headquarters of the General Assembly Board of Missions of the Presbyterian Church, and the American Sunday School Union. Some correspondence from these organizations is included in the Pennsylvania file. The German population in Pennsylvania was very large and there is correspondence in the file in 1835-1836 from F.A. Rauch, in which he gives lengthy descriptions of the German people and their language.</p>

State: Rhode Island

Inclusive Dates of Correspondence: 1825-1893

First Missionary: 1829

Notable Correspondents: C. Blodgett; A.H. Clapp; J.P. Cleveland; F. Horton; J. Leavitt; A. McGregor; J. Taylor; Mark Tucker; S.G. Vose; T.T. Waterman

Amount of Material: 1-1/2 Hollinger boxes

Gaps in Correspondence: 1825-1828, five items; 1839, one item; 1869, June-December; 1870, January-May; 1871, June-December; 1872, January-May; 1873, June-December; 1874-1876; 1877, June-December; 1878-1892; 1893, June-December

Comments: The Rhode Island Missionary Society became an auxiliary to the AHMS in 1829, and continued in that status throughout the existence of the society. Its operations were limited, employing less than ten missionaries per year. There are few missionary reports in this file.

State: South Carolina

Inclusive Dates of Correspondence: 1827-1893

First Missionary: 1827

Notable Correspondents: Aaron Foster; J.E. Roy (1865)

Amount of Material: 1 folder

Gaps in Correspondence: 1843-1855; 1857-1858; 1860-1863; 1869-1872; 1874-1892

Comments: Missionary operations by the AHMS in South Carolina were almost nonexistent. No missionaries were commissioned there by the AHMS between 1832 and 1893. The correspondence for 1865 includes a letter from J.E. Roy written while he was on his tour of the South after the Civil War.

State:	South Dakota
Inclusive Dates of Correspondence:	1867-1893
First Missionary:	1868
Notable Correspondents:	A.A. Brown; E.W. Cook; W.G. Dickinson; J.E. Roy; Stewart Sheldon; W.H. Thrall; Joseph Ward
Amount of Material:	1/2 Hollinger box
Gaps in Correspondence:	1874-1875; 1877-1892; 1893, June-December
Comments:	<p>The Dakota Territory was organized in 1861, and the AHMS sent its first missionary to the territory in 1868. In 1879 the territory was considered a missionary district with Stewart Sheldon acting at the society's agent. In 1883 the rapid increases in population in the territory led the AHMS to divide it into two missionary districts. Sheldon continued as superintendent for South Dakota, which included the Black Hills district. North Dakota was placed in a district with eastern Montana, with H.C. Simmons as agent. In 1889, both North and South Dakota were admitted to the union.</p> <p>Between 1890 and 1893, the Black Hills district formed a new district with Montana. The file for South Dakota contains some correspondence which pertains to the entire Dakota Territory.</p>

State:	Tennessee
Inclusive Dates of Correspondence:	1826-1893
First Missionary:	1826
Notable Correspondents:	Isaac Anderson; T.E. Bliss; A. Bradshaw; Hillary Patrick; J.E. Roy (1865); R.P. Wells
Amount of Material:	2 Hollinger boxes
Gaps in Correspondence:	1874-1875; 1878-1892
Comments:	<p>The largest number of commissions granted by the AHMS in Tennessee for any one year was thirteen in 1834-1835. Between 1850 and 1893 there were fewer than five missionaries per year serving there. Reports from those missionaries commissioned in Tennessee are complete for the years listed.</p> <p>The Tennessee file contains a series of letters from Hillary Patrick, who resigned his commission over the slavery issue in 1857. In long letters he describes the institution of slavery and the attitudes of slaveholders in Tennessee and Mississippi. He discusses at length the policies which would eliminate slavery, including the colonization in Africa of freed Negroes. Some of the hardest fighting of the Civil War took place in Tennessee, where more than 700 battles and skirmishes were fought. There is no correspondence from Tennessee during the war. There are letters from J.E. Roy in 1865, in which he describes the aftermath of the war in Tennessee and the damage done in Chattanooga, Knoxville, Nashville, and Memphis.</p>

State: Texas

Inclusive Dates of Correspondence: 1834-1893

First Missionary: 1834

Notable Correspondents: A. Rowe; C. Scofield

Amount of Material: 2 folders

Gaps in Correspondence: 1834, two items; 1835-1843; 1846-1848; 1851-1858; 1860-1865; 1872; 1874-1875; 1878-1892

Comments: In 1878, Texas was part of a missionary district which included Missouri and Arkansas, with the agent in charge stationed in Missouri. Between 1887 and 1893, Texas was included with Louisiana in a missionary district, with C.I. Scofield of Dallas as agent. This state file contains few missionary reports, since only thirty-six commissions were granted for Texas between 1834 and 1883.

State:	Utah
Inclusive Dates of Correspondence:	1864-1893
First Missionary:	1865
Notable Correspondents:	W.S. Hawkes; N. McLeod; A.W. Safford
Amount of Material:	2 folders
Gaps in Correspondence:	1868-1869; 1871; 1873-1875; 1877-1891; 1893, June-December
Comments:	<p>Utah was settled by Mormons in the mid-nineteenth century. After the Utah gold rush in 1859, the non-Mormon population began to increase. In 1865, the AHMS sent Norman McLeod to the Utah Territory; he was the first non-Mormon missionary to work in Utah.</p> <p>The most obvious feature of the Utah correspondence, especially the earliest letters of McLeod, is anti-Mormonism. McLeod insisted that there was a conspiracy "of the Mormons against the Gentiles" and that an attempt was made on his own life. In the spring of 1866, when McLeod was on his way back to Utah from the East where he had been raising funds, he learned that a Mr. Robinson of his church had been "murdered" by the Mormons and that the "Gentiles were in a panic." Thinking it unsafe to go back to Utah, he returned to the East to lecture on the evils of Mormonism and polygamy. He returned to Salt Lake City in 1872.</p> <p>In 1878, Utah was made part of the Rocky Mountain missionary district, which included Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho, Utah, and New Mexico, and had its headquarters in Colorado Springs, Colorado. In 1882, Salt Lake City became the headquarters for a missionary district which included Idaho, Utah, and Montana. In 1893, W.S. Hawkes was agent for the AHMS missionary district of Utah and Idaho.</p>

State:	Vermont
Inclusive Dates of Correspondence:	1824-1893
First Missionary:	1826
Notable Correspondents:	Theron Baldwin; S. Delano; H. Hunter; Ira Ingraham; C.H. Kent; C.H. Merrill; A. Peters; C.S. Smith; Reuben Smith; J.F. Stone; Charles Walker; J.R. Worcester
Amount of Material:	4-1/2 Hollinger boxes
Gaps in Correspondence:	1869, June-December; 1870, January-May; 1871, June-December; 1872, little correspondence January-May; 1873, June-December; 1874-1875; 1876, January-May; 1877, June-December; 1878-1892; 1893, June-December
Comments:	<p>The Vermont Domestic Missionary Society became an auxiliary of the AHMS in 1828, and continued in that status throughout the existence of the society. Correspondence from the Vermont Domestic Missionary Society is filed under the names of its secretaries and treasurers. These names can be found by consulting the annual reports.</p> <p>Most of the routine correspondence with the AHMS missionaries was handled by the Vermont Domestic Missionary Society. The Vermont file includes primarily the missionaries' annual reports.</p>

State:	Virginia
Inclusive Dates of Correspondence:	1825-1877
First Missionary:	1826
Notable Correspondents:	A.H.H. Body; J.W. Douglass; Samuel Reeve; J.H. Rice; J.E. Roy (1865)
Amount of Material:	2 Hollinger boxes
Gaps in Correspondence:	1858; 1859, two items; 1860, three items; 1861, two items; 1862, three items; 1863, three items; 1864, two items; 1869, June-December; 1870, January-May; 1871, June-December; 1872, January-May; 1873-1875; 1877, June-December
Comments:	<p>Few commissions were granted by the AHMS in Virginia; none was granted between 1858 and 1866. In 1889, Virginia was included in a missionary district with Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, the District of Columbia, and West Virginia.</p> <p>This district was headed by Thomas W. Jones, with offices in Philadelphia. West Virginia was part of Virginia until 1861; correspondence relating to the area of West Virginia prior to 1861 is filed with the Virginia correspondence. There are also letters in 1865 from J.E. Roy, written during his postwar tour of the South.</p>

State: Washington

Inclusive Dates of Correspondence: 1859-1893

First Missionary: 1870

Notable Correspondents: G.H. Atkinson; A. Judson Bailey; R.A. Beard

Amount of Material: 2 folders

Gaps in Correspondence: 1873-1875; 1877-1888; 1890-1891; 1892, three items; 1893, June-December

Comments: Washington was organized as a territory in 1853 and admitted to the Union in 1889. The AHMS sent its first missionary, John F. Damon, to work in the Seattle area in 1870. Missionary operations in Washington were directly supervised by the AHMS until 1878, when G.H. Atkinson was named agent for the state of Oregon and Washington Territory. When Washington became a state in 1889, it became a separate missionary district, with R.A. Beard of Seattle as agent.

The file for 1859 contains two letters from G.H. Atkinson, at that time an AHMS missionary in Oregon, who was directed by the society to undertake a tour of exploration in the Washington Territory. He reported on the resources, population, rate of immigration, and religious prospects of the territory. The results of his tour were printed in the March and April, 1860, issues of "The Home Missionary."

State: West Virginia

Inclusive Dates of Correspondence: 1866-1893

First Missionary: 1872

Notable Correspondents: J.E. Roy (1872)

Amount of Material: 1 folder

Gaps in Correspondence: 1867-1871; 1874-1875; 1877-1892

Comments: West Virginia was part of the state of Virginia until 1861 and became a state in 1863. Correspondence relating to areas of West Virginia prior to 1861 are filed with the Virginia correspondence.

The AHMS granted only 38 commissions in West Virginia between 1872 and 1893. In 1889, West Virginia was included in a missionary district with Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, the District of Columbia, and Virginia.

State:	Wisconsin
Inclusive Dates of Correspondence:	1835-1893
First Missionary:	1835
Notable Correspondents:	H.W. Carter; N.C. Chapin; A.L. Chapin; Dexter Clary; F.B. Doe; T.G. Grassie; Z.M. Humphrey; N. McLeod; Cutting Marsh; H.A. Miner; Stephen Peet
Amount of Material:	26 Hollinger boxes
Gaps in Correspondence:	1869, June-December; 1870, January-May; 1871, June-December; 1872, little correspondence January-May; 1873, June-December; 1874-1875; 1876, January-May; 1877, June-December; 1878-1892; 1893, June-December
Comments:	Beginning in 1839, the Reverend Stephen Peet operated a voluntary agency for the AHMS in Wisconsin; in 1841 the state had a permanent agent. Because of the tremendous growth in both the population of Wisconsin and the large number of missionaries stationed there, the state was divided in 1858 into two missionary districts. The number of missionaries in Wisconsin grew from 8 in 1840 to 100 in 1854. Wisconsin was again considered a single missionary district between 1879 and 1883. In 1883, the Wisconsin Home Missionary Society was formed with T.G. Grassie as secretary, and M.R. Doyon as treasurer. This society remained an auxiliary to the AHMS until 1893. There is very little general correspondence in the Wisconsin file, which consists almost entirely of missionary reports, applications, and agents' reports.

State: Wyoming

Inclusive Dates of Correspondence: 1864-1893

First Missionary: 1870

Notable Correspondents: Jonathan Blanchard; H.N. Smith

Amount of Material: 1 folder

Gaps in Correspondence: 1865-1869; 1871-1875; 1878-1891

Comments: Wyoming was organized as a territory in 1868, and was admitted to the Union in 1890. The AHMS sent J.D. Davis to Wyoming in 1870 as its first missionary. In 1878 Wyoming was added to the Rocky Mountain missionary district which included Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho, Utah, and New Mexico and had district headquarters in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

The file for 1864 contains two letters from Jonathan Blanchard, in which he describes the area around Laramie. The file contains few missionary reports.

State:	Canada
Inclusive Dates of Correspondence:	1824-1893
First Missionary:	1826
Notable Correspondents:	W.F. Curry; G.W. Perkins; Isaac Purkis; R. Storrs
Amount of Material:	1-1/2 Hollinger boxes
Gaps in Correspondence:	1864-1867; 1869-1871; 1874-1875; 1877-1892
Comments:	<p>The AHMS was active in Canada between 1826 and 1845, with a total of 155 missionary commissions. In 1835 the Canada Home Missionary Society became an auxiliary of the AHMS. In 1845, the executive committee of the AHMS decided that "the missions in Canada connected with this society, should be transferred, as soon as it could be done without detriment to the cause, to the care of the British Christians" and the English Missionary Society assumed responsibility for the missionary operations in Canada.</p> <p>There are no missionary reports in the Canada file after 1845. The correspondence between 1845 and 1893 relates mostly to inquiries and donations.</p> <p>Richard Storrs undertook a tour of Canada in 1833. His reports contain descriptions of the physical environment and missionary prospects.</p>

State: Foreign Correspondence

Inclusive Dates of Correspondence: 1832-1893

Amount of Material: 1 folder

Gaps in Correspondence:

Comments: England, 1832-1893, nine items

France, 1834-1837, twenty items, correspondence with the Evangelical Society of France

Germany, 1834, one item, from Strasbourg

Italy, 1859, one item, from Sardinia

Panama, 1849-1850, four items, from S.H. Willey and W.W. Brier describing their voyage to California and conditions in Panama

Switzerland, 1836-1837, five items, from the Evangelical Society of Geneva