

Guide to the Foster Family Papers

RG 1



Compiled by Lynn Buckley Aber and Jane S. Thomson

1974, 1976

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

divinity.library@yale.edu

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

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	3
Requesting Instructions	3
Administrative Information	4
Immediate Source of Acquisition	4
Conditions Governing Access	4
Preferred Citation	4
Processing Information	4
Biographical / Historical	4
Scope and Contents	6
Arrangement	8
Collection Contents	9
Series I: Correspondence	9
John May Foster	9
John Barton Foster	9
Elizabeth B. Foster	9
John Marshall Foster	10
Clara Hess Foster	12
Children of John and Clara Foster	12
Helen and Anna Foster	12
Anna Elizabeth Foster	12
John Hess Foster	12
Addendum: John Hess and Helen Thomas Foster	14
Series II: Journals	15
John Marshall Foster	15
Clara Hess Foster	18
Originals--Restricted Circulation	18
Series III: Writings	19
John Marshall Foster	19
Frank C. Foster	19
Grace Foster	19
John Hess Foster	19
Other than by family members	20
Series IV: Personal items and memorabilia	21
Series V: Printed material, 1853-1920	24
Selected Search Terms	25

Collection Overview

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

CALL NUMBER: RG 1

CREATOR: Foster family

TITLE: Foster family papers

DATES: 1836-1974

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 7 linear feet (22 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The papers relate to missionary work in China and Thailand from 1888-1927, to educational institutions with which the Fosters were involved, and to the personal and family life of several generations of Foster family members. Correspondence mainly consists of letters received by various members of the Foster family. Of particular interest are the journals of John Marshall Foster, 1888-1916, describing life and events in China, especially the effects of the Boxer Rebellion on the American missions. The Fosters were a family of American Baptist missionaries. John Barton Foster, was a teacher, editor of *Zion's Advocate*, minister and professor of Greek and Latin at Colby College. His son, John Marshall Foster, helped found the Baptist Church at Vassalboro, Maine, and was a missionary to China and Thailand from 1888 to 1921. Clara Hess Foster, the wife of J. M. Foster, and their children Frank, Anna, and John Hess also served as missionaries in China. John Hess Foster was on the medical staff of Yale-in-China.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.001>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.001>.

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

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of the Foster family

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Preferred Citation

Foster Family Papers (RG 1), Special Collections, Yale Divinity School Library.

Processing Information

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

Biographical / Historical

John Barton Foster, founder of this Baptist missionary family, was born in Boston, Massachusetts, on January 8, 1822. Though there is little information regarding his parents, there is evidence of at least two or three possible siblings: Bina Kingsbury, Clymena Robinson, and Annie Richardson.

At the age of six, Foster became a resident of Waterville, Maine. He was one of the first pupils to enroll at the Waterville Academy, now Oak Grove-Coburn, when it opened in 1829. According to one obituary, Foster spent part of his time between 1836-1839 learning a trade, although none is specified. (See "Obituaries and Miscellaneous," Series 5, Box 16, Folder 120. All quotes, unless otherwise indicated are from this source.) In 1839, Foster entered Colby College, then called Waterville College, where he is recorded as having high rank as a scholar, especially in the classics. After graduation in 1843, Foster taught at academies at China, Maine, and Lexington, Massachusetts. Resigning his position in the latter institution in 1847, he entered Newton Theological Institution, and was graduated in 1850. *The General Catalogue of The Newton Theological Institution 1826-1943* records John Barton Foster as an 1850 graduate, with experience teaching at China, Maine from 1844-1845, and at Lexington, Massachusetts from 1845-1846. A child's essay mentions that Foster was sent as a replacement for the first pastor of the Gardiner Village Baptist Church on January 9, 1846, serving there for three years. (See "Writings, Series 3, Box 13, Folder 6, for essay by Pete Glasier.)

During the summer following graduation, Mr. S.G. Smith, a former associate of Foster's from Newton Theological Institution, vacated the editorship of *Zion's Advocate*, a Baptist newspaper printed weekly at Portland, Maine. Foster assumed the position of editor. The September 20, 1850 issue of *Zion's Advocate* was the first to bear the imprint "J.B. Foster, Editor." It is likely that his marriage to Ann Doe, of whom little is known, occurred during this period. Foster's only child, John Marshall Foster, was born at Portland, Maine, on July 21, 1857.

Foster remained with the newspaper until 1858, when, like his predecessor, he joined the faculty at Colby College. Early in 1862 his wife, Ann Doe Foster, died. By 1872, Foster had remarried. His second wife, Elizabeth, was the daughter of Deacon J. W. Philbrook of Waterville, Maine.

Foster headed the Department of Latin and Greek Literature at Colby College for fifteen years. When the department divided in 1873, he retained the chair of Greek Literature. The college awarded him an honorary LL.D. in 1876. In 1893 or 1894, Foster resigned to become Professor Emeritus.

In addition to his academic life, Foster participated in a host of religious activities. He taught an adult Bible class for over thirty years, and was on the Standing Committee of his church for nearly that long. He was also church treasurer, Supervisor of Waterville Public Schools, an occasional preacher, and Treasurer of the Maine Baptist Missionary Convention from 1863-1893. The "limitation of physical infirmity", noted in one obituary, is the only mention of a possible handicap. Foster died on August 19, 1897, at the age of seventy-five.

John Marshall Foster was born John May Foster and changed his middle name at an unknown date. He shared his father's academic and religious interests. After graduating from Coburn Classical Institute, now Oak Grove-Coburn, Foster joined the Class of 1877 at Colby College. In 1877, he probably entered a business venture in New Britain, Connecticut. A telegram to his stepmother asking that she come to New Britain immediately as her stepson was seriously ill is one of the few traces of this period.

Foster entered Newton Theological Institution in 1884, was ordained three years later on October 17, 1887, and helped found the Baptist Church at Vassalboro, Maine, during this period. It was also in 1887 that Foster responded to an appeal for China volunteers made by Baptist missionary William Ashmore. Sailing from San Francisco later the same year, Foster's journey ended at Shantou (Swatow), center of the South China Mission on January 4, 1888. (Rev. William Ashmore, who had planned the opening of the Shantou (Swatow) station in 1858, began actual work at the mission in 1863. In 1872, he assumed the leadership of the station, which Clara Hess and John Marshall Foster arrived at a decade later. Ashmore's awareness of the need for a native ministry eventually resulted in the establishment of the Ashmore Theological Seminary, of which Foster served as acting President from 1909-1921, according to the *General Catalogue of The Newton Theological Institution 1826-1943*.)

In January 1889, Foster married fellow Baptist missionary Clara Hess, who had also been recruited by William Ashmore. Clara Hess (1859-1945), a native of Buffalo, New York, was one of thirteen children of immigrants from Baden-Baden, Germany. She taught German in Buffalo, New York, before her departure for Shantou (Swatow). Clara joined the South China Mission on Christmas Day 1886 or 1887, with the purpose of assisting Adele M. Fielde. Miss Fielde had founded a training school for "Bible women", native women who performed Christian services and acted as the link between the missionaries and the native church. Clara studied the Chinese language under Miss Fielde's special supervision, using her published text, *First Lessons in the Swatow Dialect*, as a guide. Clara's time was spent immersed in women's activities, taking charge of women's field work, the women's school, and at one time, the girls' school as well. Her first child, Anna Elizabeth Foster, was born in January 1899. Five other children were to follow: John Hess, Helen, Frank Clifton, Clarence, and Grace.

The Fosters returned to the United States for their first furlough in 1894 and stayed for three years. After the first year, spent at Clifton Springs, New York, the family moved to Burton, Vashon Island, Washington, located between Seattle and Tacoma. John Marshall Foster had purchased property in Centralia, Washington, also near Tacoma, about 1893, which may have provided impetus for the move West.

At Burton, the Fosters helped establish the "Home for the Children of Foreign Missionaries", which lodged the three eldest Foster children when their father returned to China in 1897. Clara Hess Foster remained nearby with the younger children. In 1898, after the death of his father, John Marshall Foster returned briefly to the United States, arriving in May, sailing in November. Clara and the youngest children returned with him to China at this time.

The outbreak of the Boxer Rebellion in 1900, however, forced Clara to return to America with the children. A postcard to his stepmother indicates that John Marshall Foster spent time in Bangkok, Thailand (then "Siam"), the location of another Baptist Mission, about 1902. In 1903, he began a second furlough and received an honorary D.D. degree from Colby College for his part in saving the Shantou (Swatow) mission during the Boxer Rebellion.

For the duration of the second furlough, 1903-1908, John Marshall Foster was President of Vashon College and Academy, at Burton, Washington. The institution, founded as a seminary for young women and a military academy for young men and boys, floundered under financial difficulty. Fire destroyed the administration building in 1909. This was apparently a trying period for the Foster family, as John Marshall

Foster mentions "the hard time we have been through the past few years" and "the heavy strain of life" in an October 19, 1908 letter to his stepmother. A year later, October 22, 1909, he still notes "the storm and stress of the years we carried the load up at the college" in another letter to Elizabeth B. Foster.

In 1908, Foster began his third term of field service, while the family remained at Burton. At least part of the term probably 1909-1910 and 1912, was spent in Bangkok, Thailand. Foster became acting President of Ashmore Theological Seminary in 1909, a position he held until 1921. In 1914, he returned briefly to the United States via Siberia and England.

Foster's final term began in 1914, and again he visited Thailand (Siam). In 1915 Clara Hess Foster returned to China after an absence of fifteen years. The following year, Frank Clifton Foster, their son, arrived at Shantou (Swatow). The eldest Foster child, Anna Elizabeth, returned to teach in her native land in 1917. Another Foster, John Hess, began teaching at Yale-in-China, Changsha, Hunan, two years later.

In 1921, John Marshall Foster's health began to fail, and he retired to Buffalo, New York. In a letter dated August 31, 1921(?), Frank Clifton Foster writes of an unexplained great shock which was expected to hospitalize his father for several weeks. John Marshall Foster died at Buffalo, New York, on May 9, 1924. Clara Hess Foster lived with her children until her death in 1949.

Anna Elizabeth, John Hess, and Frank Clifton, three of the children of Clara Hess and John Marshall Foster carried on the tradition of their parents by returning to China to work. Anna E. Foster returned to China in 1917 under the auspices of the American Baptist Mission Society. She taught at the Kwang Yit Girls' School in Meiheien, South China until 1940 when illness and the Communist take-over caused her return to the United States. She worked for twelve years as an officer at the Massachusetts Reformatory for Women in Framingham before her retirement. Anna E. Foster died May 25, 1968. Frank Clifton Foster, born in 1894, returned to China in 1916 and taught at the Swatow Academy in Shantou (Swatow) until 1919. When World War I broke out, Frank left to serve with the YMCA, American Expeditionary Forces in Siberia and Manchuria for six months. A graduate of Colby College, Union Theological Seminary, and Columbia University, Teachers College, he had a varied career serving as Professor of Education, University of Maine, Specialist Institutional Services, and Director, UNRRA, Germany, President of Asheville Normal and Teachers College, Asheville, North Carolina. He retired in 1970, and died in 1973.

John Hess Foster, born in 1891, graduated from Medical School at the University of Pennsylvania in 1917 and returned to China in 1919 to spend almost nine years on the Medical Staff of the Hunan-Yale Hospital in Changsha. During the period 1919 to 1927 he spent one year (1923-1924) working and studying in the Boston City Hospital and as an Assistant in Medicine at Harvard University. In January, 1927, when a student strike finally closed the academic branches of Yale-in-China, John Hess, his wife, Helen, and children John and Ann, left Changsha along with a number of other Yale-in-China personnel. In February several of the families sailed to the United States on the "President Jackson". Later in the spring of 1927 the family settled in Waterbury, Connecticut where Dr. Foster began his private medical practice. John Hess Foster died March 2, 1985.

For further information regarding the Foster family see:

Andover-Newton Bulletin Alumni Directory. 1960. 52, no. 4 (April 1960) .

Ashmore, Lida Scott. *Historical Sketch of the South China Mission*. Shanghai: Methodist Publishing House, 1920.

Pierce, Richard D. ed., *General Catalogue of the Newton Theological Institution, 1825-1943*. Newton Centre: The Newton Theological Institution, 1943.

Scope and Contents

[I. Correspondence, 1836-1974](#)

[II. Journals, 1888-1916](#)

[III. Writings, 1872-1973](#)

[IV. Personal Items and Memorabilia, 1865-1945](#)

[V. Printed Material, 1853-1920.](#)

The Foster Family Papers date from the mid-nineteenth century, encompassing over one hundred years and three generations of Fosters. The bulk of the material concerns the years 1888-1916, and although some business correspondence is included, the papers primarily deal with family affairs .

The first series, Correspondence, mainly consists of letters received by various members of the Foster family. With the exception of correspondence exchanged between John Barton Foster and John Marshall Foster, there is little material written by the Fosters. The series is divided into six sections:

- Correspondence of John May Foster
- Correspondence of John Barton Foster
- Correspondence of Elizabeth B. Foster
- Correspondence of John Marshall Foster
- Correspondence of Clara Hess Foster
- Correspondence of the Children of John and Clara Foster

There are two alphabetical sequences within some of these sections because of a major addendum to the papers.

The Correspondence of John May Foster (apparently the father of John Barton Foster) dates from the 1830s and is related to the settlement of an Estate. The Correspondence of John Barton Foster, although not extensive, contains material from 1851-1887. The material includes "Letters to the Editor" written while Foster was editor of *Zion's Advocate*, letters of condolence at the death of his first wife, Ann Doe Foster, and correspondence to his son. The latter was written primarily between 1884-1887, during John Marshall Fosters years at Newton Theological Institution.

The third section, Correspondence of Elizabeth B. Foster, includes material regarding legal and financial concerns at the death of her husband, John Barton Foster. A note addressed to "Cousin Lizzie" from Shailer Mathews, noted theologian and author, is of special interest. Mathews was Dean of the University of Chicago Divinity School from 1908-1932, and Emeritus from 1932-1941. His wife, May Elden Mathews may have been a cousin of Elizabeth B. Foster.

The Correspondence of John Marshall Foster comprises the bulk of the Correspondence series. Prior to 1884, his first year at Newton Theological Institution, there is little material. The Newton years, 1884-1887, however, mark the beginning of a correspondence with his parents that lasted until 1914. The Correspondence of John Marshall Foster is complemented by the Journals which he kept from 1888-1916 (See Series II) Together they form an extensive record of his life and career with the American Baptist Missionary Society. Among the correspondents of John Marshall Foster is the Baptist missionary, Rev. William Ashmore, whose appeal for China volunteers in 1887 convinced Foster to take up field service.

The Correspondence of Clara Hess Foster contains material dating from 1889, the year of her marriage to John Marshall Foster, through 1916. Most of her letters were written to her husbands parents' Mr. and Mrs. John Barton Foster. The Journal of Clara Hess Foster, written during 1915-1916, supplements her correspondence.

The final Section, Correspondence of the Children of John and Clara Foster, consists primarily of letters of John Hess Foster. Of particular interest is the correspondence of 1926 and 1927, which describes the student strikes and labor disorders at Hunan Yale Hospital and the Foster family's ensuing departure. This section also contains letters written by Anna, John, Helen, Frank, Clarence, and Grace Foster to their grandparents and to each other.

The second series of the Foster Family Papers, Journals, contains the Journal of John Marshall Foster and the Journal of Clara Hess Foster. This material served as a combination of correspondence and narrative from the missionaries to their family. John Marshall Foster's early diary letters were sent directly to his parents in Waterville, Maine. The later journals, dating from approximately 1900, were read first by his wife and children in Washington state, and then forwarded to his stepmother, Elizabeth B. Foster.

The Journals of John Marshall Foster, written between 1888-1916, consist of approximately 3400 typed and handwritten pages. They form the single most extensive set of materials in the Foster Family Papers. The only interruption in the twenty-six year span of Foster's Journals occurs during his second furlough, 1903-1908, while he was President of Vashon College, Vashon Island, Washington. These Journals record

daily life in Southern China, with note of political and religious matters. Of particular interest are the Journals written at the time of the Boxer Rebellion and those which describe Foster's travels.

The Journals of Clara Hess Foster were written between 1915-1916, after her return from a fifteen year absence from China. Clara's journals were sent to the United States to be read by her children. The material concerns primarily family and travel news.

Writings, the smallest series of the Foster Family Papers, includes material written by John Marshall Foster and three of his children. "Rev. J.B. Foster", a child's essay by Pete Glazier relates biographical information about the family's founder.

Personal Items and Memorabilia, the fourth series of the papers, consists of a wide variety of materials, including background information on the Foster Family, recipes, maps, and a financial record of the estate of John Barton Foster. A section of photographs is included at the end of this series.

The final Series, Printed Material, includes magazine and newspaper clippings, pamphlets, programs, and bound material. A workbook of the Chinese language, possibly written by Adele M. Fielde, a member of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society, is of particular interest. The *Historical Sketch of the South China Mission of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society*, a book written by Lida Scott Ashmore, covers the period 1860-1920 and contains biographical sketches of the Fosters and many of their associates.

Arrangement

- I. Correspondence, 1836-1974
- II. Journals, 1888-1916
- III. Writings, 1872-1973
- IV. Personal Items and Memorabilia, 1865-1945
- V. Printed Material, 1853-1920

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence

John May Foster		
b. 17, f. 1	Re. settlement of Merrill Estate	1836, 1837
John Barton Foster		
b. 1, f. 1	B-C	1857, 1875, 1891-1892
b. 1, f. 2	Foster, John Marshall	1872-1873, 1884-1885
b. 1, f. 3	Foster, John Marshall	1886, Jan-Dec
b. 1, f. 4	Foster, John Marshall	ca. 1884-1887
b. 1, f. 5	G-P	1851-1862
b. 1, f. 6	R-T	1862-1897
b. 1, f. 7	Illegible signature	ca. 1850-1858
b. 17, f. 2	Ashmore, William	1891, n.d.
b. 17, f. 3	Foster, John Marshall	1873, 1884-1887
b. 17, f. 4	B-F	1857, 1870-1878
b. 17, f. 5	H-O	1876-1878, n.d.
b. 17, f. 6	Partridge, S.B.	1888, 1889
b. 17, f. 7	Postcards	1886, 1887
b. 17, f. 8	R-W	1876-1878, n.d.
Elizabeth B. Foster		
b. 2, f. 8	B-E	1894-1899
b. 2, f. 9	F	1872-1898
b. 2, f. 9a	Field, Adele M.	1888
b. 2, f. 10	G	1897-1899
b. 2, f. 11	H-J	1895-1903
b. 2, f. 12	Joy, Willis A..	1897-1898 Apr
b. 2, f. 13	Joy, Willis A.	1898 Jun-1902
b. 2, f. 14	Lyford, Edwin F.	1897-1898
b. 2, f. 15	M	1897-1909

Elizabeth B. Foster (continued)

b. 2, f. 16	Mathews, May Elden; Mathews, Shailer	1897-1898, n.d.
b. 2, f. 17	N-R	1893-1899
b. 2, f. 18	S-T	1897, nd.
b. 2, f. 19	W	1897-1898
b. 2, f. 20	Fragment, Misc.	n.d.
b. 2, f. 21	Illegible signature	1896
b. 17, f. 9	Ashmore, William	1888,1894,1900
b. 17, f. 10	Ashmore, William Jr.	1887
b. 17, f. 11	"Aunt C.", "Cousin Addy"	1897, 1897
b. 17, f. 12	B-S (Re: death of JBF)	1897
b. 17, f. 13	Beaven, Mrs. S.W.	1900 Jan, Aug
b. 17, f. 14	"Mr. Black":	1905
b. 17, f. 15	Campbell, J.W.	1900
b. 17, f. 16	Cheney, J.W.	1900
b. 17, f. 17	Hoist, Lydia Hess	1894
b. 17, f. 18	Foster, John Marshall	1873
b. 17, f. 19	Merriam, E.F.	1898,1900
b. 17, f. 20	Partridge, M.E.	1884-1890
b. 17, f. 21	Partridge, S.B.	1888
b. 17, f. 22	Shaw, E.D.; Stevens, Violet	1889,1900
John Marshall Foster		
b. 3, f. 22	A	1884-1887
b. 3, f. 23	Ashmore, William	1887
b. 3, f. 24	B	1874-1894, n.d.
b. 3, f. 25	Baptist Church of North Vassalboro, Maine, Re: Bell; C-D	1886
b. 3, f. 26	Baptist Church of North Vassalboro, Maine, Re: Bell; F-H	1886
b. 3, f. 27	Baptist Church of North Vassalboro, Maine, Re: Bel; I-Jones, Troy Bell Foundry Company	1886
b. 3, f. 28	Baptist Church of No.Vassalboro, Me., Re: Bell; M-T, misc.	1886
b. 3, f. 29	C-D	1886-1894
b. 3, f. 30	F	1886-1887, n.d.

John Marshall Foster (continued)

b. 3, f. 31	Files, G. W.	1886-1887
b. 3, f. 32-57	Foster, Mr. and Mrs. John B.	1885 Jan- 1896 Dec
b. 4, f. 58-60	Foster, Mr. and Mrs. John B.	1897 Jan-Sep
b. 4, f. 61-72	Foster, Mrs. John B.	1897 Oct- 1914, n.d.
b. 4, f. 73	Foster Children	1902, 1912, 1914, 1916, n.d.
b. 4, f. 74	G	1884-1903
b. 4, f. 75	H-L	1887,1896,1898,1921
b. 4, f. 76	M	1885-1887, n.d.
b. 4, f. 77	P	1883, 1887, n.d.
b. 4, f. 78	Q-R	1870, 1885-1887, n.d.
b. 4, f. 79	S	1886, 1897, 1921, n.d.
b. 4, f. 80	"Service of the Ancient Synagogue" B-H	1885-1886
b. 4, f. 4	"Service of the Ancient Synagogue" M-W	1885-1886
b. 4, f. 82	T-W	1882, 1886-1887,1897
b. 4, f. 83	Miscellaneous Correspondence	undated
b. 17, f. 23	Adams, R.J.; Annie (Cousin); Ashmore, William; Barbour, Thomas S.	1884,1886,1887,1900
b. 17, f. 24	B-E	1888, 1890, 1893, 1921, n.d.
b. 17, f. 25	Foster, Clara Hess	1921
b. 17, f. 26-37	Foster, Mr. and Mrs. John B.	1887-1897
b. 17, f. 38-42	Foster, Mrs. John B.	1900-1914, n.d.
b. 17, f. 43	Foster, John Hess	1916,1918,1920
b. 17, f. 44	F-L	1884,1886,1888
b. 17, f. 45	Foster, Francis Helen	1921
b. 17, f. 46	Foster, T.M.	1863,1867,1870-1872
b. 17, f. 47	M-P	1877,1887,1900
b. 17, f. 48	Postcards	1886,1894-1896

John Marshall Foster (continued)

b. 17, f. 49	Philbrick, J. Herbert	1873,1874,1876
b. 17, f. 50	S-V, fragments	1886, 1895, n.d.
Clara Hess Foster		
b. 5, f. 84	Chan Gek Eng	1909
b. 5, f. 85-88	Foster, Mr. and Mrs. John B.	1889,1894-1897
b. 5, f. 89-92	Foster, Mrs. John B.	1898-1909
b. 5, f. 93	Foster Children	1916
b. 5, f. 94	Harriet (Aunt), Illegible Signature	1898, n.d.
b. 17, f. 51-56	Foster, Mr. and Mrs. John B.	1888-1894
b. 17, f. 57-61	Foster, Mrs. John B.	1900-1909, n.d.
b. 17, f. 62	Foster, John Hess	1921,1944
b. 17, f. 63	Hoist, Mr. and Mrs. Charles A.; Russell, W.E.; Scott, Anna K.; fragment	1901, 1921, 1890, undated
b. 12, f. 12	To Mrs. Thomas, mother of Helen Thomas Foster	1920
Children of John and Clara Foster		
b. 6, f. 95-98	Correspondence	1894-1958, n.d.
Helen and Anna Foster		
b. 18, f. 64	Everett, S.B.	1912
Anna Elizabeth Foster		
b. 18, f. 65	Foster, Elizabeth B.; Chang Yong, Flora; Geidt, E.H.	1894-1913, 1968, n.d.
b. 18, f. 66	Correspondence, including re: death of Anna E. Foster, Frank C. Foster	1916, 1943, 1944, 1968-1974, n.d.
b. 18, f. 67	Correspondence, including general letters	1914,1921,1957,1972
John Hess Foster		
b. 18, f. 68	Carey, J.F.	1886
b. 18, f. 69	Mr. and Mrs. John M. Foster, Clarence and Frank	1898-1903
b. 18, f. 70	Foster, Elizabeth B.	1916
b. 18, f. 71	1918 Including War Department	1918
b. 18, f. 72	1919 Including Leavens, Dickson H.	1919

John Hess Foster (continued)

b. 18, f. 73	1920	1920
b. 18, f. 74	1921 Including Foster, Frank	1921
b. 18, f. 75	1922 Including Hume, Edward H.	1922
b. 18, f. 76	1923 Including Greene, Roger S., and "A Farewell Speech"	1923
b. 18, f. 77	1924 Including Farnan, Louise W.	1924
b. 18, f. 78-79	1925, 1926 Including Wells, Clifford W.	1925, 1926
b. 18, f. 80	1926 Sep-Nov Including Foster, Frank; Vincent, J.C. (Consulate General)	1926 Sep-Nov
b. 18, f. 81	1926 Dec Including Foster, Frank; Vincent, J.C.; Nurses' Cooperative Association, Changsha	1926 Dec
b. 18, f. 82	1927 Jan-Feb Including Foster, Frank; Bliss, Dayton; Vincent, J.C.	1927 Jan-Feb
b. 18, f. 83	1927 Mar Including Hume, Edward H.; Brown, Charles H.	1927 Mar
b. 18, f. 84	1927 Apr Including Lingle, W.H.	1927 Apr
b. 18, f. 85	1927 May Including Foster, John	1927 May
b. 18, f. 86	1927 Jun, Jul Including Leavens, Dickson H.	1927 Jun, Jul
b. 18, f. 87	1927 Aug-Dec Including Kiang, K.K.; Wang, K.Y.	1927 Aug-Dec
b. 18, f. 88	1928, 1929 Including Tien, Z.M.	1928, 1929
b. 18, f. 89	1934 Including Monroe, Robert T.	1934
b. 18, f. 90	1935 Including McCracken, J.C.; Greene, Phil	1935
b. 18, f. 91	1936-1940 Including Leavens, Dickson H.	1936-1940

John Hess Foster (continued)

b. 18, f. 92	1942,1943 Including Foster, Anne	1942,1943
b. 18, f. 93	1944,1945 Including Vincent, John Carter; Bureau of National Archives; Department of State	1944,1945
b. 18, f. 94	1946-1948, 1954 Including Chang, H.C.	1946-1948, 1954
b. 18, f. 95-96	1955-1968	1955-1968
b. 18, f. 97	1973, 1974 Including Kiwanis Club	1973, 1974
b. 18, f. 98	n.d. Including Farnam, Louise W.	n.d.
b. 18, f. 99	Fosters Including Foster, John T.; Foster, Randall C.; Foster, Walter S.; Foster, Ida L.	1922, 1947, 1972-1974, n.d.
Addendum: John Hess and Helen Thomas Foster		
b. 12, f. 1-2	Letters to Thomas family in U.S., written enroute to China, from Shanghai and Nanking	1919 May-Oct
b. 12, f. 3-4	Letters to Thomas family in U.S., written from Nanking	1919 Nov-1920 Feb
b. 12, f. 5	Letters to Thomas family in U.S., written from Nanking, Shanghai	1920 Mar-May
b. 12, f. 6-7	Letters to Thomas family in U.S., written from Nanking, Guling (Kuling)	1920 June-August
b. 12, f. 8-10	Letters to Thomas family in U.S., written from Changsha	1920 Dec- 1921 Aug
b. 12, f. 11	Letters to Thomas family in U.S., written from Changsha	1922 Apr, 1925 Jan

Series II: Journals

This series is composed of two sections:

The journals of John Marshall Foster document the years 1888-1916, with the exception of the second furlough period, 1903-1908. Foster divided the material written between 1888 and May, 1894 into twenty-nine volumes. In April, 1897, Foster started a new series of journals, beginning at volume one. However, the volume indications gradually cease, and beginning in approximately November 1899, new sections are called simply "New Volume" or "New Folio". Several folders of "Miscellaneous Journals", which lack positive date identification, are filed at the end of the section. The journals of John Marshall Foster written between November 19, 1915, and September 4, 1916 have journal entries by Clara Hess Foster on the reverse of the pages. Photocopies have been made for use copies, and the originals are located at the end of the series, labelled "Restricted Circulation". Some typed transcripts of Foster's journals are available in Box 11, Folder 79.

The journal of Clara Hess Foster, dating from 1915 to 1916, was written on the reverse sides of her husband's journal pages. Photocopies are available for use, and the originals are located at the end of the series.

John Marshall Foster

b. 7, f. 1	"Vol I" "Vol I", 1888 Jan 14- Mar 11	1888 Jan 14- Mar 11
b. 7, f. 2	"Vol II" "Vol II", 1888 Mar 12-1888 May 3	1888 Mar 12-1888 May 3
b. 7, f. 3	"Vol II", "Vol III" "Vol II", "Vol III", 1888 May 4-1888 May 17	1888 May 4-1888 May 17
b. 7, f. 4	"Vol III" "Vol III", 1888 May 18-1888 Jul 20	1888 May 18-1888 Jul 20
b. 7, f. 5	"Vol IV" "Vol IV", 1888 Jul 21-1888 Oct 12	1888 Jul 21-1888 Oct 12
b. 7, f. 6	"Vol V" "Vol V", 1888 Oct 14-1888 Dec 23	1888 Oct 14-1888 Dec 23
b. 7, f. 7	"Vol VI" "Vol VI", 1888 Dec 24-1889 Feb 23	1888 Dec 24-1889 Feb 23
b. 7, f. 8	"Vol VII" "Vol VII", 1889 Feb 23-1889 Apr 17	1889 Feb 23-1889 Apr 17
b. 7, f. 9	"Vol VIII" "Vol VIII", 1889 Apr 17-1889 Fy 12	1889 Apr 17-1889 Fy 12
b. 7, f. 10	"Vol VIII" "Vol VIII", 1889 May 14-1889 Jun 28	1889 May 14-1889 Jun 28
b. 7, f. 11	"Vol IX" "Vol IX", 1889 Jun 29-1889 Sep 19	1889 Jun 29-1889 Sep 19
b. 7, f. 12	"Vol X" "Vol X", 1889 Sep 19-1889 Dec 13	1889 Sep 19-1889 Dec 13
b. 7, f. 13	"Vol X" "Vol X", 1889 Dec 14-1890 Apr 23	1889 Dec 14-1890 Apr 23

John Marshall Foster (continued)

b. 7, f. 14	"Vol XI" "Vol XI", 1890 (Mar 20?)- 1890 Jun 11	1890 (Mar 20?)- 1890 Jun 11
b. 7, f. 15	"Vol XI" "Vol XI", 1890 Jun 12-1890 Sep 22	1890 Jun 12-1890 Sep 22
b. 8, f. 16	"Vol XII" "Vol XII", 1890 Sep 23-1890 Nov 21	1890 Sep 23-1890 Nov 21
b. 8, f. 17	"Vol XIII" "Vol XIII", 1890 Nov 21-1891 Feb 14	1890 Nov 21-1891 Feb 14
b. 8, f. 18	"Vol XIV" "Vol XIV", 1891 Feb 15-1891 Apr 21	1891 Feb 15-1891 Apr 21
b. 8, f. 19	"Vol XV", "Vol XVI" "Vol XV", "Vol XVI", 1891 Apr (19?)- 1891 Jul 21	1891 Apr (19?)- 1891 Jul 21
b. 8, f. 20	"Vol XVI" "Vol XVI", 1891 Jul 21-1891 Nov 1	1891 Jul 21-1891 Nov 1
b. 8, f. 21	"Vol XVII" "Vol XVII", 1891 Nov (27)- 1892 Jan 20	1891 Nov (27)- 1892 Jan 20
b. 8, f. 22	"Vol XVIII" "Vol XVIII", 1892 Jan 21-1892 Apr 14	1892 Jan 21-1892 Apr 14
b. 8, f. 23	"Vol XIX" "Vol XIX", 1892 Apr 14-1892 Jul 30	1892 Apr 14-1892 Jul 30
b. 8, f. 24	"Vol XX" "Vol XX", 1892 Jul 30-1892 Oct 29	1892 Jul 30-1892 Oct 29
b. 8, f. 25	"Vol XXI" "Vol XXI", 1892 Oct 29-1892 Dec 16	1892 Oct 29-1892 Dec 16
b. 8, f. 26	"Vol XII" "Vol XII, 1892 Dec 16-1893 Feb 12	1892 Dec 16-1893 Feb 12
b. 8, f. 27	"Vol XXIII" "Vol XXIII", 1893 Feb 13-1893 Apr 24	1893 Feb 13-1893 Apr 24
b. 8, f. 28	"Vol XIV" "Vol XIV", 1893 Apr 25-1893 Jun 25	1893 Apr 25-1893 Jun 25
b. 8, f. 29	"Vol XXV" "Vol XXV", 1893 Jun 26-1893 Aug 28	1893 Jun 26-1893 Aug 28
b. 8, f. 30	"Vol XXVI" "Vol XXVI", 1893 Aug 28-1893 Oct 30	1893 Aug 28-1893 Oct 30
b. 9, f. 31	"Vol XXVII" "Vol XXVII", 1893 Oct 31-1893 Dec 19	1893 Oct 31-1893 Dec 19
b. 9, f. 32	"Vol XXVIII" "Vol XXVIII", 1893 Dec 20-1894 Feb 24	1893 Dec 20-1894 Feb 24
b. 9, f. 33	"Vol XXIX" "Vol XXIX", 1894 Feb 25-1894 May 27	1894 Feb 25-1894 May 27

John Marshall Foster (continued)

b. 9, f. 34	Journal Journal, 1895 Aug-Dec	1895 Aug-Dec
b. 9, f. 35	Journal Journal, 1896 Jan 1-13, Jun-Dec	1896 Jan 1-13, Jun-Dec
b. 9, f. 36	Journal Journal, 1897 Jan-Apr 4	1897 Jan-Apr 4
b. 9, f. 37	"Vol I", "Vol II" "Vol I", "Vol II", 1897 Apr 6-1897 Jun 17	1897 Apr 6- 1897 Jun 17
b. 9, f. 38	"Vol III", "Vol IV" "Vol III", "Vol IV", 1897 Jun 18-1897 Oct 22	1897 Jun 18-1897 Oct 22
b. 9, f. 39	"Vol V", "Vol VI" "Vol V", "Vol VI", 1897 Oct 23-1898 Jan 17	1897 Oct 23-1898 Jan 17
b. 9, f. 40	"Vol VII" "Vol VII", 1898 Jan 18-Apr, Nov-Dec	1898 Jan 18-Apr, Nov-Dec
b. 9, f. 41	Journal Journal, 1899 Aug - 1900 Jan 2	1899 Aug - 1900 Jan 2
b. 9, f. 42	Journal Journal, 1900 Jan 3 - Jun 16	1900 Jan 3 - Jun 16
b. 9, f. 43	Journal Journal, 1900 Jun 17 - Oct 15	1900 Jun 17 - Oct 15
b. 9, f. 44	Journal Journal, 1900 Oct 15 - 1901 Mar 7	1900 Oct 15 - 1901 Mar 7
b. 9, f. 45	Journal Journal, 1901 Mar 8 - Jun 9	1901 Mar 8 - Jun 9
b. 9, f. 46	Journal Journal, 1901 Jun 15 - Oct	1901 Jun 15 - Oct
b. 9, f. 47	Journal Journal, 1901 Nov - 1902 Mar 25	1901 Nov - 1902 Mar 25
b. 10, f. 48-65	1902 Mar 27-1915 Jul 18	1902 Mar 27-1915 Jul 18
b. 11, f. 66-67	1915 Jul 29-Nov 18	1915 Jul 29-Nov 18
b. 11, f. 68-71	Electrostatic copies	1915 Nov 19-1916 Sep 4
b. 11, f. 72-78	Miscellaneous entries	no year
b. 11, f. 79	Duplicates: typed, hand-written	1888 Jan 20-1888 Mar 11, n.d.
b. 13, f. 6	Fragments	n.d.

Clara Hess Foster		
b. 11, f. 80-83	Electrostatic copies	1915 Dec-1916 Aug 5
<p>Originals--Restricted Circulation Access to these originals is restricted. Researchers should use the use copies listed in this collection.</p>		
b. 11, f. 84	John Marshall Foster	1916 Nov 19- 1915 Dec 16
b. 11, f. 84	Clara Hess Foster	1915 Dec 10
b. 11, f. 85	John Marshall Foster	1915 Dec 17-1916 Feb 19
b. 11, f. 85	Clara Hess Foster	1915 Dec 25-1916 Feb 22
b. 11, f. 86	John Marshall Foster	1916 Feb 20-1916 May 20
b. 11, f. 86	Clara Hess Foster	1916 Feb 29-1916 May 24
b. 11, f. 87	John Marshall Foster	1916 May 22-1916 Sep 4
b. 11, f. 87	Clara Hess Foster	1916 May 30- Aug 5

Series III: Writings

John Marshall Foster		
b. 13, f. 1-2	Senior Article, Colby College	1877
b. 13, f. 3	Sermons: "The Evidence of Christian Experience"; "The Mark of the Beast"; "The Reflex Influence of	no date
b. 13, f. 4	Reports: "The Situation at Swatow--Missionaries"; "The Sunday School at Swatow"; "A Last Work"; "Siam"	no date
b. 13, f. 5	Report: "Statement Regarding Baptist Work in Siam: The Situation in January, 1909"	1909
Frank C. Foster		
b. 19, f. 1	Article: "The Southland Revisited"	1956
Grace Foster		
b. 19, f. 2	Articles: "The Psychotherapy of William James"; "Aspects of Drug Addiction"	1945, 1950
John Hess Foster		
b. 19, f. 3	Article: "With 'Yale in China'"	1922
b. 19, f. 4	Article: "Physical Examination of Chinese Students"	1923
b. 19, f. 5	Article: "The Vital Capacity of the Chinese"	1923
b. 19, f. 6	Article: "Protein Therapy in Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever"	1924
b. 19, f. 7	Article: "A Study of the Vital Capacity of the Lungs in the Chinese"	1924
b. 19, f. 8	Article: "Ring Test for Tuberculosis"	1926
b. 19, f. 11	Articles: "Fever in Amoebiasis", "The Liver Diseases of China", (Sermon?): No Title	1927
b. 19, f. 10	Article: "The Practice of Medicine in China and New England with Observations on Hypertension"	1930
b. 19, f. 11	Article: "Hyperpyrexia with Coronary Thrombosis"	1933
b. 19, f. 12	Article: "Amebiasis in Connecticut"	1934
b. 19, f. 13	Article: "Birth Control Issue in Waterbury"	1939
b. 19, f. 14	Article: "Huge Syphilitic Aneurysm: Case Report"	1939
b. 19, f. 15	Article: "Hernia of the Diaphragm "	1941
b. 19, f. 16	Article: "Aspects of the Narcotic Problem"	1941
b. 19, f. 17	Article: "The World Medical Association in Vienna"	1956
b. 19, f. 18	Article: "Missions and China", "Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever in Changsha"	1974, n.d.

John Hess Foster (continued)

b. 19, f. 19	Diaries	1918, 1919, 1925, 1944-1949
b. 19, f. 20	"List of Publications"	n.d.
b. 19, f. 21	Notes	n.d.
b. 19, f. 22	Reports: "Routine Book of the Medical Service 1922-1923, Hunan-Yale Hospital"; "Formulary of Hospital Changsha, China"	1922-1923
b. 19, f. 23	Report: "Ward Routines Part I, Medical Service Hunan-Yale Hospital",	n.d.
Other than by family members		
b. 19, f. 24	Articles and Notes: Medical Subjects	1926-1973, n.d.
b. 19, f. 25	Articles: Miscellaneous Subjects	1872-1953, n.d.
b. 19, f. 26	Essay by Pete Glazier: "Rev. J.B. Foster"	n.d.

Series IV: Personal items and memorabilia

This series contains a wide variety of material that belonged to Elizabeth B. Foster and John Marshall Foster. There are two sequences of material, due to an addendum. The second sequence includes material that might also be classified as Printed Material.

b. 14, f. 1	Biographical and organizational material	
b. 14, f. 2	Elizabeth B. Foster: Party Favors	
b. 14, f. 3	Elizabeth B. Foster: Handwritten Poems	
b. 14, f. 4	Elizabeth B. Foster: Recipes	
b. 14, f. 5	Elizabeth B. Foster: W.C.T.U. Notes	
b. 14, f. 6	Elizabeth B. Foster: Religious Exercise Book	
b. 14, f. 7	Elizabeth B. Foster: Financial Records- Estate of John Barton Foster, Miscellaneous	
b. 14, f. 8	Maps	
b. 14, f. 9	Maps	
b. 14, f. 10	Legal Documents: Writ (1865), Teaching Certificate (1878)	
b. 14, f. 11	Material Written or Printed in Chinese	
b. 14, f. 12	Furniture Plans Designed by John Marshall Foster	
b. 14, f. 13	Miscellaneous Material	
b. 12, f. 13	Souvenirs from voyage of John and Helen Foster to Shanghai on SS. President McKinley, book of verse clippings from A.M. Thomas	1924, n.d.
b. 14, f. 14	Photographs: The Foster Family	
b. 14, f. 15	Photographs: The Foster Family, Adele M. Fielde	
b. 12, f. 14	Photographs of Thomas family, Helen Thomas Foster, John Hess Foster, children	1896-1955, n.d.
b. 14, f. 16	Photographs: Groups of People in China	
b. 14, f. 17	Photographs: Shantou (Swatow), China	
b. 14, f. 18	Photographs: China, Thailand	
b. 14, f. 19	Photographs: U.S.A.	
b. 14, f. 20	Photographs: U.S.A.	
b. 15, f. 21	Photograph Album	
b. 20, f. 1	"Our Foster Family - A Genealogical and Biographical Study"(1974)	
b. 20, f. 2	Genealogical Material	
b. 20, f. 3	Biographical Material: J.B. Foster	

b. 20, f. 4	Biographical Notes: John Marshall Foster	
b. 20, f. 5	Biographical Material: Mr. and Mrs. John Marshall Foster incl. notes re: Adele Felde	
b. 20, f. 6	Biographical Material: Anna E. Foster	
b. 20, f. 7	Biographical Material: Frank C. Foster	
b. 20, f. 7	Biographical Material: Grace R. Foster - Autobiography, edited by John T. Foster (1988)	
b. 20, f. 8	Biographical Material: John Hess Foster: Random Recollections and Reminiscences, Part One (1891-1900); "Changsha Memories"- an oral interview with John T. Foster by Marilyn Starr (1980); Random Recollections and Reminiscences, Part Three (1911-1920): "Helen Odiorne Thomas, My Wife, and the Thomas Family," by John H. Foster	
b. 20, f. 8	Biographical Material: John T. Foster: "China Up and Down - 1919-1943"	
b. 20, f. 9	Certificates and Documents - JMF	
b. 20, f. 10	Certificates and Documents - JHF	
b. 20, f. 11	Certificate of Disinfection or of Noninfection (1927) - JHF	
b. 20, f. 12	Financial Material - JHF	
b. 20, f. 13	Financial Material - JMF, Account Book - Waterville, Maine	1928-1940
b. 20, f. 14	Health Record - Dr. and Mrs. JHF	
b. 20, f. 15	A Directory of the American and European Community Changsha, China,	1925-1926
b. 20, f. 16	Flag of Taiwan	
b. 20, f. 17	Map: China, Changsha, Mission Fields of Northern Baptist in China (1940), Showing Mission Stations	
b. 20, f. 18	Material re: Faculty Tennis Club (1921-1926)	
b. 20, f. 19	Material Written or Printed in Chinese	
b. 20, f. 20	Misc. incl. Pamphlets, Program, Material re: Adele Felde	
b. 21, f. 21	Photographs: Clara Hess Foster	
b. 21, f. 22	Photographs: Family and Friends in China	
b. 21, f. 23	Photographs: Foster Family	
b. 21, f. 24	Photographs: Foster Family	
b. 21, f. 25	Photographs: Foster Home in China	
b. 21, f. 26	Photograph: Great Wall of China near Nankow Pass	
b. 21, f. 27	Photographs: Groups of People in China	

b. 21, f. 28	Photographs: Misc. incl. Hurricane of 1938 in New Haven	
b. 21, f. 29	Photographs: Scenes and Groups of People in China	
b. 21, f. 30	Photographs: Scenes in China	
b. 21, f. 31	Photograph: Students at Lingnan University	1927
b. 21, f. 32	Photographs: Used in "Our Foster Family"	
b. 21, f. 33	Postcards	
b. 21, f. 34	Photograph: Yale-in-China personnel, Atterburg Chapel	1923 Jun

Series V: Printed material, 1853-1920

Printed Material includes magazine and newspaper clippings, pamphlets, and programs related to the Foster family. A section of books, which includes a Chinese hymnal, a Greek Testament, a workbook of the Chinese language, possibly written by Adele M. Fielde, and the *Historical Sketch of the South China Mission* by Lida Scott Ashmore, is located at the end of this series.

b. 16, f. 1	Newspaper: <i>Zion's Advocate</i>	1853 Jun 17
b. 16, f. 2	Newspaper: <i>Linfield College Bulletin</i>	1973 Jul
b. 16, f. 3	Pamphlets and Programs Re: Religious Topics	
b. 16, f. 4	Pamphlets and Programs Re: Academic Topics	
b. 16, f. 5	Pamphlets and Programs Re: Miscellaneous Topics	
b. 16, f. 6	Newspaper Clippings: Written by John Marshall Foster	
b. 16, f. 7	Newspaper Clippings Re: Religious Topics	
b. 16, f. 8	Newspaper Clippings Re: Religious Topics	
b. 16, f. 9	Newspaper Clippings Re: Centralia and Vashon Island, Washington, U.S.A.	
b. 16, f. 10	Newspaper Clippings Re: Miscellaneous Topics	
b. 16, f. 11	Magazine Clippings Re: Miscellaneous Topics	
b. 16, f. 12	Obituaries and Miscellaneous Re: John Barton Foster and John Marshall Foster	
b. 16, f. 13	Books: Greek Testament of John M. Foster	
b. 16, f. 14	Books: Chinese hymnal of John M. Foster	
b. 16, f. 15	Books: <i>The Review</i> , McMinnville College,	1911
b. 16, f. 16	Books: <i>The Review</i> , McMinnville College,	1912
b. 16, f. 17	Books: <i>Historical Sketch of the South China Mission of the American Baptist Foreign Missionary Society, 1860-1920</i> , by Lida Scott Ashmore	

Selected Search Terms

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

Subjects

Baptists
Clergy
Missionaries
Missions -- China
Missions -- Thailand

Geographic Names

China -- History -- Boxer Rebellion, 1899-1901

Names

Foster, Clara Matilda Hess, 1859-1949
Foster, John Barton, 1822-1897
Foster, John Hess, 1891-
Foster, John Marshall, 1857-1924

Families

Foster family

Corporate Bodies

American Baptist Foreign Mission Society
Andover Newton Theological School
Colby College
Vashon College and Academy (1892-1912)
Yale-in-China Association