

**The Burke Library Archives, Columbia University Libraries,
Union Theological Seminary, New York**

Missionary Research Library Archives: Section 2

Finding Aid for

Joseph Kingsbury Greene Papers, 1857 – 1917



Image Credit: Joseph K. Greene, *The Kingdom of God* (Constantinople: H. Matteosian, 1909).

Finding Aid prepared by: Brigette C. Kamsler, October 2011
With financial support from the Henry Luce Foundation

Summary Information

Creator: Joseph Kingsbury Greene, 1834 – 1917
Title: Joseph Kingsbury Greene Papers
Dates: 1857-1917
Abstract: Pioneer American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions
Congregational Missionary in Turkey for fifty-one years, stationed in
Nicodemia, Bursa and Manisa. Fluent in Armenian and Turkish languages.
Papers include diaries, dictionary, sermons and correspondence from
Greene's beginning as a missionary until two weeks before his death.
Size: 10 boxes, 5.00 linear feet
Storage: Onsite storage
Repository: The Burke Library
Union Theological Seminary
3041 Broadway
New York, NY 10027
Email: burkearchives@library.columbia.edu

Administrative Information

- Provenance:** Originally part of the independent Missionary Research Library, these records were moved with the MRL to the Brown Memorial Tower of Union Theological Seminary in 1929. In 1976 the records were accessioned to the Burke Library archives with the closure of the MRL.
- Access:** Archival papers are available to registered readers for consultation by appointment only. Please contact archives staff by email to burkearchives@library.columbia.edu, or by postal mail to The Burke Library address on page 1, as far in advance as possible. Burke Library staff is available for inquiries or to request a consultation on archival or special collections research.
- Access Restrictions:** The collection is unrestricted to readers. Certain materials, however, are in a fragile condition, and this may necessitate restriction in handling and copying.
- Preferred Citation:** Item description, MRL 2: Joseph Kingsbury Greene Papers, series #, box #, and folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Biography

Reverend Joseph Kingsbury Greene was born to David and Lyntha (Miller) Green on April 10, 1834 in Auburn, Maine. He attended and graduated from Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine in 1855. Greene became engaged to Elizabeth Augusta Davis, whom he wed in 1857 once she graduated from Mount Holyoke Seminary.

Joseph attended Union Theological Seminary and after graduation in 1858, was accepted by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions and ordained in November. He was stationed for three years in Nicomedia, Turkey arriving March 1859. Greene quickly learned the Armenian alphabet and created a dictionary of English, Armenian, Turkish and Greek words. Other locations where Greene was stationed were Bursa in 1862 for six years; and after a furlough in 1868 in Minnesota, went to Manisa in June 1871.

Greene was invited to Constantinople in 1862 to edit the ABCFM-published weekly religious paper, *Avedaper*, written in Armenian, Armeno-Turkish, and Greco-Turkish, and three illustrated monthly papers for children. The newspapers were strictly controlled by the Turkish government. Greene edited the papers for twelve years.

He took a second furlough to Illinois in 1884, and received the Doctor of Divinity from Bowdoin at this time. Greene began his third missionary trip to Constantinople in 1886, and was stationed there for seven years. Elizabeth died in 1894, which caused him to take a third furlough the same year. Joseph married his second wife, missionary Mathilde Hermine Meyer in September 1895 and they returned to Constantinople in November. Joseph served until 1910, when he retired and returned to America.

Joseph Kingsbury Greene died in Oberlin, Ohio on February 10, 1917.

Resources:

Cleaveland, Nehemiah. *History of Bowdoin College, With Biographical Sketches of Its Graduates*. Boston: James Ripley Osgood & Company, 1882.

Greene, Joseph K. *Leavening the Levant*. Boston: The Pilgrim Press, 1916.

Collection Scope and Content Note

The collection is organized in three series:

- **Series 1: Diaries, 1859 – 1917 (8 boxes, 4.00 lin. ft.)**

This series contains the original handwritten diaries penned by Greene. They include regular day-to-day entries as well as sermons. While in Turkey, Greene would commute hundreds of miles from his home base to meet with teachers and other Christians in the area; these visits are recorded. Greene and his first wife experienced frequent sicknesses of malaria, and were granted leaves of absences in order to recover in Europe. Greene would travel for conferences and to address other missionary aid societies as well. Each entry includes the location and date, and often the weather.

Greene also comments on events happening throughout the world, including when Abraham Lincoln was elected president in 1860. Greene closes his last journal entry on Sunday January 28, 1917 with, "Sacrifice for God a joy!"

- **Series 2: Correspondence, 1859 – 1872 (1 box, 0.50 lin. ft.)**

Within this series are handwritten copies of correspondence sent to various people, including other members of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. It also includes newspaper articles which Greene copied into the book and which are written in Armenian.

- **Series 3: Dictionary and Sermons, 1857 – 1909 (1 box, 0.50 lin. ft.)**

Within this series exists the original handwritten English and Armenian dictionaries which Greene created. The dictionary was started in 1859 in Nicomedia, Turkey when he started his missionary work. Greene also kept a separate book of Armenian words which he prepared as he began to learn the language.

Processing

Metal staples were removed from materials and folded items were flattened. Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes. Books were wrapped in acid-free unbuffered tissue and tied with cotton tying tape.

Contents list

Series 1: Diaries, 1859 – 1917

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	1	Volume 2: October 1859 – August 1861
1	1	2	Volume 3: August 1861 – September 1862
1	1	3	Volume 4: September 1862 – July 1864
1	1	4	Volume 5: July 1864 – June 1866
1	2	1	Volume 6: June 1866 – December 1867
1	2	2	Volume 7: December 1867 – January 1869
1	2	3	Volume 8: January 1869 – April 1870
1	2	4	Volume 9: April 1870 – February 1873
1	3	1	Volume 10: March 1873 – September 1877
1	3	2	Volume 11: September 1879 – November 1882
1	3	3	Volume 13: July 1883 – April 1884 [p.1-48] Volume 19: December 1886 – September 1888 [p.50-384]
1	3	4	Volume 15: July 1884 – March 1885
1	3	5	Volume 16: March 1885 – December 1885
1	3	6	Volume 17: December 1885 – July 1886
1	4	1	Volume 18: July 1886 – December 1886
1	4	2	Volume 20: September 1888 – June 1889
1	4	3	Volume 21: June 1889 – November 1889
1	4	4	Volume 22: November 1889 – April 1890
1	4	5	Volume 23: April 1890 – July 1890
1	4	6	Volume 24: August 1890 – January 1891
1	4	7	Volume 25: January 1891 – July 1891
1	4	8	Volume 26: July 1891 – April 1892
1	5	1	Volume 28: September 1892 – April 1893
1	5	2	Volume 29: April 1893 – December 1893
1	5	3	Volume 30: December 1893 – May 1894
1	5	4	Volume 31: May 1894 – November 1894
1	5	5	Volume 32: November 1894 – May 1895
1	5	6	Volume 33: May 1895 – September 1895
1	5	7	Volume 34: September 1895 – May 1896
1	5	8	Volume 35: May 1896 – May 1897
1	5	9	Volume 36: May 1897 – February 1899
1	6	1	Volume 37: February 1899 – November 1899
1	6	2	Volume 38: November 1899 – December 1900
1	6	3	Volume 39: January 1901 – May 1902
1	6	4	Volume 40: May 1902 – July 1903
1	6	5	Volume 41: July 1903 – June 1904

Series 1: Diaries (Cont'd)**Series Box Folder Contents**

1	6	6	Volume 42: June 1904 – May 1905
1	6	7	Volume 43: May 1905 – April 1906
1	7	1	Volume 44: April 1906 – August 1907
1	7	2	Volume 45: September 1907 – September 1909
1	7	3	Volume 46: September 1909 – October 1910
1	7	4	Volume 47: October 1910 – November 1910
1	7	5	Volume 48: November 1910 – May 1911
1	7	6	Volume 49: May 1911 – October 1911
1	7	7	Volume 50: October 1911 – February 1912
1	7	8	Volume 51: February 1912 – July 1912
1	7	9	Volume 52: July 1912 – October 1912
1	8	1	Volume 53: October 1912 – March 1913
1	8	2	Volume 54: March 1913 – August 1913
1	8	3	Volume 55: August 1913 – February 1914
1	8	4	Volume 56: February 1914 – August 1914
1	8	5	Volume 57: August 1914 – August 1915
1	8	6	Volume 58: August 1915 – May 1916
1	8	7	Volume 59: May 1916 – January 1917

Series 2: Correspondence, 1859 – 1872

2	9	1	May 1859 – November 1862
2	9	2	October 1862 – June 1866
2	9	3	July 1866 – March 1869
2	9	4	April 1869 – June 1872

Series 3: Dictionary and Sermons, 1857 – 1909

3	10	1	English/Armenian Dictionary, Vol.1: A-Haz, began 1859
3	10	2	Armenian Words, 1859
3	10	3	Prayer Meeting Book, 1850s
3	10	4	Sermon, The Love of Christ, 1857
3	10	5	Sermon, The Sinner Unwilling to Come to Christ, 1857
3	10	6	Sermon, An Enlightened Conscience – Our Rule of Life, 1865
3	10	7	Sermon, The Brazen Serpent and Christ, 1870
3	10	8	Sermon, Zaccheus – Repentance, 1871
3	10	9	Sermon, The Kingdom of God, Pamphlet Published by H. Matteosian, Constantinople, preached 1909
3	10	10	Sermon, Religious Awakening