

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

Missionary Research Library Archives: Section 2

Finding Aid for

Mary Lewis [Mrs. W. A.] Shedd Papers, 1918

Finding Aid prepared by: Brigette C. Kamsler, October 2011
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Summary Information

Creator: Mary Lewis Shedd, 1873– 19??
Title: Mary Lewis [Mrs. W. A.] Shedd Papers
Inclusive dates: February 24, 1918 – October 3, 1918
Abstract: Typed copy of journal kept by Mary Lewis Shedd, wife of William Ambrose Shedd, in Uremia, Persia from February 24, 1918 to October 3, 1918.
Size: 1 box, 0.25 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 donated by Mrs. Robert E. Speer and were later 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: Mary Lewis [Mrs. W. A.] Shedd Papers, box #, and folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Biography

Born in Glen Lock, Pennsylvania on January 15, 1873, Mary E. Lewis became the third wife of William Ambrose Shedd [1865-1918], Presbyterian missionary to Persia and later United States consul in Uremia, in July 1917. They had known one another fourteen years and had lived as missionary associates at Uremia previous to their marriage. After that, according to Mary, "very soon political troubles began... our home became the center of the seething, tumultuous life of the community."

The Shedds were forced to evacuate Uremia on July 31, 1918, along with thousands of other Assyrian Christians, as the Ottoman Army threatened nearby. They retreated for six days, at which point her husband became ill with cholera and died shortly thereafter. Mrs. Shedd's group escaped further from the warzone with the aid of the British towards Iraq, and buried her husband along the way, about seven miles east of Sain Kala.

Mary Lewis Shedd reached Hamadan August 24. On October 2, she wrote that probably seven or eight thousand died, were killed, or were taken prisoner on the journey she had recently completed.

Despite everything, in her last journal Mary Lewis Shedd writes:

The money so generously given us by America will go a long way in relieving the suffering from hunger and cold this winter, it brings with it, too, more than material comfort. It reminds us that there is a land even on this sin cursed earth where there is enough and to spare and where brotherly love prevails and it helps us not to lose faith that the same Christ who has wrought in the hearts of so many in America to make her what she is, may sometime have His way in this Mohammedan land..

Mary would later write a biography of her husband, The Measure of a Man: The Life of William Ambrose Shedd, Missionary to Persia, published in 1922. While not much more is known about her life, she continued her work as a missionary. She appears in New York Passenger lists in 1919; 1930; and 1933.

Microfilm copies of Mary Lewis Shedd's passport, and New York Passenger Lists are available at the National Archives and Records Administration.

See:

Mary Lewis Shedd, passport issue date 16 Oct 1918, National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), Washington D.C.; Passport Applications, January 2, 1906 - March 31, 1925; ARC Identifier 583830 / MLR Number A1 534; NARA Series: M1490; Roll #605.

New York Passenger Lists:

Mary Lewis Shedd, arrival date 29 Dec. 1919, Port of Departure: Patras, Greece, Ship Name: Presidente Wilson. Microfilm Serial: T715; Microfilm Roll: T715_2713; Line: 9; Page Number: 220.

Mary Lewis Shedd, arrival date 6 Jan 1930, Port of Departure: Cherbourg, France, Ship Name: Washington. Microfilm Serial: T715; Microfilm Roll: T715_4656; Line: 1; Page Number: 149.

Mary Lewis Shedd, arrival date 23 Feb 1933, Port of Departure: Beirut, Syria, Ship Name: Exochorda. Microfilm Serial: T715; Microfilm Roll: T715_5297; Line: 1; Page Number: 61.

Further Sources

Mary Lewis Shedd's biography of her husband, The Measure of a Man: The Life of William Ambrose Shedd, Missionary to Persia was published by the George H. Doran Company: New York in 1922. Many libraries have the book, and it can also be found online in its entirety: http://www.archive.org/stream/measureofmanlife00shedrich/measureofmanlife00shedrich_djvu.txt.

Other items of note are the monographs of Mary Lewis Shedd. The first is a fifty-one page monograph, The War Journal of a Missionary in Persia [1915], available at the Burke Library, Union Theological Seminary (see MRL Pamphlet 1890 and 2069).

The second item is twenty-four page The Urumia Exodus: More Leaves from the War Journal of a Missionary in Persia [1918]. This can be found at the William Smith Morton Library, Union Presbyterian Seminary, and in the Special Collections of Northwestern University (<http://nucatl.library.northwestern.edu/cgi-bin/Pwebrecon.cgi?BBID=1940338>). The New York Public Library has it available on microfilm (<http://catalog.nypl.org/record=b14791152~S1>).

Collection Scope and Content Note

The collection is comprised of a copy of Mary Lewis Shedd's journal, which gives in great detail the events from February to October, 1918 in Uremia, Persia and the withdrawal of Assyrian Christians. Along with experiencing this directly, she was privy to other information because of her husband and includes this in her journal.

The journal has been published as The Urumia Exodus: More Leaves from the War Journal of a Missionary in Persia. The original contains more detail and entries than the published version.

Processing

Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes. Journal cover was wrapped in tissue and tied with acid-free cotton tying tape.

Contents list

Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	Journal, 1918
1	2	Journal Cover