

THE CENTER FOR EVANGELICAL UNITED BROTHERS HERITAGE
UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
DAYTON, OHIO

The Gertrude Bloede Collection

Manuscript Collection HC-6

Artifact Accession 004.1



Processed by Timothy Binkley

Dec. 2004 / Additions May 2005 / Revised August 2005

INTRODUCTION

The Gertrude Bloede Collection consists of documents received before 1995 (2 document cases given by Kathryn Shoop Allen) and a larger donation of papers and artifacts received December 2004 (four record center boxes and some oversize materials given by Gertrude Bloede). These items give insight into church life and missionary work during much of the 20th century.

The collection has been organized as follows:

- Series I: Evangelical Church
- Series II: Evangelical United Brethren Church
- Series III: United Methodist Church
- Series IV: Japan Missions
- Series V: Sierra Leone Mission
- Series VI: Red Bird Mission
- Series VII: Personal Papers
- Series VIII: Artifacts: Sierra Leone
- Series IX: Artifacts: Red Bird Mission

There are no restrictions on the use of the Gertrude Bloede Collection.



Figure 1: Gertrude Bloede Dec. 2004 in her apartment. Photo by J. McDermott.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Gertrude Bloede, R.N., C.N.M., is the daughter of Evangelical Church minister the Rev. Gustav August Bloede (1881-1960) and Anna Catherine (Ausman) Bloede (1886-1958). She was born in 1911 in Mazomanie, Wisconsin. She had one sister, Mrs. Velma Bernd.

Gertrude Bloede earned a B.A. in chemistry and zoology from North Central College in 1932. She attended Evangelical Theological School in 1937, taking the Christian Workers' Course. While at ETS, Ms. Bloede responded to Rev. Busacca's call for student volunteers to consider assist with the work of the Kenosha, Wisconsin, Italian Mission. This became her full-time work from 1938 to 1943. During these five years of service at the Italian Mission she was paid \$60 per month. From 1943 to 1946 Ms. Bloede worked as a chemist for American Brass of Kenosha, Wisconsin. This position allowed her to pay off her college debts and fund her next educational experience.

Gertrude Bloede studied nursing University of Minnesota and earned her R.N. in 1948. She practiced nursing at the Kenosha Hospital for one year. In April of 1949 Ms. Bloede met Dr. Silver, an Evangelical United Brethren missionary working in Sierra Leone. Five months later she set sail for England to undertake a year long course of study in midwifery as preparation for overseas missionary work.

From January 1951 until May of 1965 (with the exception of a three-year leave of absence), Gertrude Bloede served as a missionary nurse-midwife in Sierra Leone, Africa. There she delivered 901 babies and assisted in various forms of mission leadership. For several years she was in charge of the medical work at the Jaiama station.

From 1966 to 1981 Ms. Bloede worked as a nurse-midwife at Red Bird Mission Hospital in Beverly, Kentucky. There she delivered 613 babies, making a career total of 1514. Additionally, her work at Red Bird Mission included conducting prenatal, well child, and women's clinics. In 1980 she was honored with North Central College's Outstanding Alumni Award.

Gertrude Bloede is fluent in German and has visited many Evangelical / EUB / UM churches in Germany and Switzerland. An active advocate of Christian mission, she retired to Otterbein – Lebanon Retirement Living Community, Lebanon, Ohio, in 1984.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

Series I: Evangelical Church

Series 1 contains publications by and about the Evangelical Church, which was the denomination in which Gertrude Bloede was raised. Doctrinal statements in German and in English are the strongest part of this series. Of special interest is a file of the writings of Gertrude Bloede's father, the Rev. Gustav A. Bloede. Materials in this series date between 1901 and 1942.

Series II: Evangelical United Brethren Church

Series 2 features general materials about E.U.B. church life and missions. All items in this series date from the 1950s.

Series III: United Methodist Church

Series 3 contains just two items: a newsletter for evangelical women in the UMC and a UMC button. Both of these items were produced in the 1980s or 1990s.

Series IV: Japan Missions

Series 4 contains some noteworthy materials by and about Evangelical / EUB missionary work in Japan. The most significant item in this series is an original research paper written by Gertrude Bloede in the 1930s for a missiology class at Evangelical Theological Seminary.

Series V: Sierra Leone Mission

Gertrude Bloede served as an Evangelical United Brethren Church missionary in Sierra Leone from 1951 to 1965 with the exception of a three-year furlough. Series 5 of her collection consists of English language publications about Africa in general and about Sierra Leone in particular, some native language booklets and hymnals, information about E.U.B. and United Methodist mission work in Sierra Leone, and many post cards, photographs, and slides. Most of the earlier photos are personal snapshots with annotations. Many of the later photos feature "Servants of Sierra Leone" reunions. Many of the post cards and slides were used in mission interpretation / deputation trips. Series 5 materials generally date between 1950 to 2000.

Series VI: Red Bird Mission

After serving in Sierra Leone, Gertrude Bloede continued her missionary work at Red Bird Mission in Beverly, Kentucky, from 1965-1976 / 81. Series 6 focuses on publications, photographs, post cards, slides illustrating the work of Red Bird Mission. Of special note is a small binder of hand written notes that Gertrude used in making presentations about Red Bird. Series 6 materials date from the 1960s to the 1990s, with the bulk of materials actually post-dating her years in Kentucky.

Series VII: Personal Papers

Series 7 contains a folder of personal and business correspondence (1918-2004) and a folder of obituaries and memorials to Gertrude's friends and associates.

Series VIII: Artifacts - Sierra Leone

Series 8 consists of a large number of artifacts collected by Gertrude Bloede while in Sierra Leone. For full details, ask to see the artifact catalog database.

Series IX: Artifacts - Red Bird Mission

Series 9 consists of a small number of artifacts collected by Gertrude Bloede while working at Red Bird Mission or while visiting the mission in retirement. For full details, ask to see the artifact catalog database.



Figure 2: The Bloede Collection Dec. 2004. Photo by T. Binkley

BOX AND FOLDER LISTING

Box	File	Description	Dates
Series I: Evangelical Church			
Box 1	1	Catechisms, Pamphlets, Sunday School Cards	1901-42
	2	Newspaper Clipping – Walworth Evangelical Ch.	1933
	3	Writings of the Rev. Gustav A. Bloede	1925-1940
Series II: Evangelical United Brethren Church			
Box 1	4	Prayer Calendars, Mission Data, Post Card	1950s-68
	5	Wisconsin Conf. Newsletter – “Badger Tidings”	1958
Series III: United Methodist Church			
Box 1	6	Newsletter – “Candle”	1980
	7	Button (Accession Number 004.1.72)	1980-99
Series IV: Japan Missions			
Box 1	8	Publications, Calendar, Post Cards	1930-57
	9	Research Paper – “History of Evangelical Missions in Japan”	ca. 1936
Series V: Sierra Leone Mission			
Box 1	10	Autobiography of the Rev. Alex J. Smith	ca. 1960
	11	Booklets - Africa	1948-54
	12	Booklets – Sierra Leone Independence	1961-63
	13	Church Publications	1952-55
	14	Church Publications	1961-77
	15	Church Programs / Worship Bulletins	1951-63
	16	Mission Directories	1956, 1960
	17	Mission Reports	1953-69
	18	Mission Council Minutes and Reports	1955
	19	Mission Council Minutes and Reports	1957
	20	Mission Council Minutes and Reports	1964
	21	Mission Newsletters	1985-87
	22	Bumpe Native Administration	1962
	23	Booklets – “The Story of Jesus” in Temne	1949-52
	24	Hymnals in Mende, Kono, Themne (Temne)	1948-54
	25	Music – Sierra Leone National Anthem	1961
	26	Schools	1952-64
	27	Children’s Cards	1960s
	28	Notes and News Clippings	1930s-66
	29	Medical Advisory Bulletins	1951-54
	30	General Board of Global Ministries / Advance	1979-89
	31	Operation Classroom	1980s-90s
	32	Photographs	1949-69
	33	Photographs	1950s
	34	Photographs – Centennial Conference	1955

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Series V: Sierra Leone Mission (<i>continued</i>)			
Box 1	35	Post Cards and Published Photographs	1950s-80s
	36	Photographs – Servants of Sierra Leone Reunions	1979-88
	37	Photographs – Servants of Sierra Leone Reunions	1991-95
	38	Photographs – Servants of Sierra Leone Reunion	1998
	39	Photographs – Servants of Sierra Leone Reunion	2000
Box 2	1	Language Study Notebook	ca. 1955
	2	Flag Publication – “Sierra Leone Royal Gazette”	1961
	3	Slides – Africa (10 cases)	1955-65
	4	Slides – Germany Deputations (3 cases)	1961, 1974
Box 4	1	Oversize Publication – “Atlas of Sierra Leone”	1953
	2	Newspaper Clippings [soon to be encapsulated!]	1930s-1964
	3	Sierra Leone Conference Centennial Calendar	1980
Series VI: Red Bird Mission			
Box 1	40	Publicity and Publications	1979-97
	41	Newsletter – “The Cardinal”	1989-98
	42	Red Bird Mountain Medical Center	1980s-1990s
	43	Henderson Settlement	1980s-1990s
	44	Red Bird Mission Crafts	1980s-1990s
	45	Jack’s Creek School	1968
	46	Red Bird High School	1990s
	47	Red Bird School Association	1992-98
	48	Mountain Movers	1997-98
	49	Journal – Mission Interpretation Notes	1980s
	50	Post Cards and Photographs (from interp. posters)	1960s-1980s
	51	Photograph Album	1960s-1980s
	52	Slides	1966-84
53	Red Bird Tours	1990s	
Box 9	1	Books: <i>The Story of Red Bird Mission</i> by Schaeffer <i>Twice Out of Sight</i> by Plowman	1980 1982
	2	Book and Journal: <i>Red Bird Called</i> by Vera G. Stull “Journal of the Red Bird Missionary Conf.”	n.d. 1988
Series VII: Personal Papers			
Box 9	3	Correspondence	1918-2004
	4	Obituaries and Memorials	1990s

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Series VIII: Artifacts- Sierra Leone			
Box 1, File 6	004.1.72	Button, UMW Conference	1980-95
Box 3	004.1.2	Hat	1950-65
	004.1.49	Foetal Stethoscope	ca. 1955
Box 4	004.1.1	Rice Fan	1950-65
	004.1.3	Purse	1950-65
	004.1.4	Fan	1950-65
	004.1.5	Slippers	1950-65
	004.1.6	Slippers Holder	1950-65
	004.1.7	Purse	1950-65
	004.1.36	Purse	1950-65
	004.1.37	Purse	1950-65
	004.1.38	Purse	1950-65
	004.1.40	Purse	1950-65
	004.1.41	Fan	1950-65
	004.1.71	Chair Seat Cover	1965-81
	Box 5	004.1.8	Country Cloth Swatch
004.1.9		Cloth Napkin	1950-65
004.1.10		Cloth Swatch	1928
004.1.11		Cloth Swatch	1950-65
004.1.12		Head Tie	1950-65
004.1.13		Head Tie	1950-65
004.1.14		Head Tie	1950-65
004.1.15		Head Tie	1950-65
004.1.16		Cloth Swatch	1961
004.1.17		Head Tie	1950-65
004.1.18		Head Tie	1950-65
004.1.19		Head Tie	1950-65
004.1.20		Shirt	1950-65
004.1.21		Robe	1950-65
004.1.22		Lappa	ca. 1959
004.1.23	Lappa	ca. 1961	
004.1.24	Lappa	1950-65	
004.1.25	Buba	1950-65	
Box 6	004.1.26	Buba	1950-65
	004.1.27	Lappa	1950-65
	004.1.28	Buba	1950-65
	004.1.29	Lappa	1950-65
	004.1.30	Buba	ca. 1961
	004.1.31	Lappa	ca. 1961
	004.1.32	Lappa	1950-65

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Series VIII: Artifacts- Sierra Leone (continued)			
Box 6	004.1.33	Dress	1950-65
	004.1.34	Robe	1950-65
Box 7	004.1.35	Slippers	1950-65
	004.1.39	Purse	1950-65
	004.1.42	Bowl, Woven; Cover	1950-65
	004.1.43	Rice Spoon	1950-65
	004.1.44	Comb	1950-65
	004.1.45	Comb	1950-65
	004.1.46	Plant Material; Seeds	1950-65
	004.1.47	Shake Shake	1950-65
	004.1.48	Drop Spindle; Distaff	1900-65
	004.1.50	Necklace	1950-65
	004.1.51	Prayer Beads	1950-65
	004.1.52	Baby Beads	1950-65
	004.1.53	Charms (3)	1900-65
	004.1.54	Charms (2)	1900-65
	004.1.55	Buttons, Mission Centennial (2)	1954-55
	004.1.56	Coin Bag	1950-65
	004.1.57	Coin - Half Penny	1927
	004.1.58	Coins - Penny (3)	1941-47
	004.1.59	Coins - Penny (13)	1952-57
	004.1.60	Coins – Penny (4)	1964
004.1.61	Coin – Ten Cent Piece	1964	
004.1.62	Hand Stamp	1950-65	
004.1.63	Wrist Watch	ca. Jan. 1965	
Series IX: Artifacts - Red Bird Mission			
Box 8	004.1.64	Place Mat	1965-81
	004.1.65	Hot Pads (2)	1965-81
	004.1.66	Corn Husk Doll	1965-81
	004.1.67	Bud Vase; Corn Husk Flower	1965-81
	004.1.68	Necklace; Cross	1965-81
	004.1.69	Pin	1965-81
	004.1.70	Oil Painting, Miniature	1965-81