
Guide to the Clemmer, Myrtle: Collection of Emily Chubbuck Judson Papers

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David Allan Hubbard Library Archives

Overview of the Collection

Collection Title: Clemmer, Myrtle: Collection of Emily Chubbuck Judson Papers

Dates: 1844-1962

Identification: CFT00022

Creator: Clemmer, Myrtle M.Judson, Emily C. (Emily Chubbuck), 1817-1854

Physical Description: 3.00

Alternate Extent Statement: 5 Boxes

Language of Materials: English

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Administrative History:

Emily Chubbuck was born in 1817, in Eaton, New York, into a family whose financial needs contributed to her early development as a capable working woman. During the summers she worked in the woolen mill near her home and by the time she was 15, was teaching at the Utica Female Seminary. She earned her livelihood by teaching school for 13 years before her marriage, but her own development as an author was her hobby and her real passion. Even as a girl she contributed to church publications and under the penname Fanny Forester published 4 books in the series "Valuable Religious Books for the Fireside and Sabbath School." She was well known for her lively articles written for the New York Mirror and a collection of them was published in 1845 under the title *Trippings in Author Land*, followed by a second collection in 1846, *Alderbrook*. Although the newspaper did not pay her for these sentimental tales of village life, she won a large following, and the second collection went through eleven editions.

Her initial meeting with Adoniram Judson, who had read excerpts from *Trippings*, was for the purpose of discussing the preparation of the memoir of his late wife Sarah B. Judson. When they married and sailed for Burma, Emily took up this task and produced the biography, *Memoir of Sarah B. Judson: of the American mission to Burmah (1852)*, using her old penname Fanny Forester.

After her return from Burma, saddened by her husband's death and very ill herself, she still continued to earn her living by writing. In 1852 she gathered the poems she had written throughout her life into a book entitled *An Olio of Domestic Verses*. In 1853 she contributed a story to the collection *Thought Blossoms*, and gathered a collection of missionary stories, essays and poems published under the title *The Kathayan Slave*. In the last year of her life she wrote a memoir, *My Two Sisters: a sketch from memory* and during these years also contributed to a small publication of the Missionary Union, the *Macedonian*. In 1854 she succumbed to tuberculosis.

Access Terms

This Collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Personal Name:

Clemmer, Myrtle M.

Judson, Adoniram, 1788-1850

Judson, Emily C. (Emily Chubbuck), 1817-1854

Topical Term:

Missionaries

Missionary stories -- Juvenile literature

Conditions Governing Use:

Scholarly use within parameters of copyright law.

Conditions Governing Access:

Supervised use only

Arrangement of Materials:

Series I: Myrtle M. Clemmer (Box 1)

This series documents Miss Clemmer's background and her own work as an author and archivist for the Presbyterian Church USA as well as her research for the Emily Judson biography. It includes her correspondence with publishers and editors, archivists, friends and other contacts related to gathering information on Emily Chubbuck Judson as well as notes on genre (the literary biography), method, bibliography and resources for the Emily Judson biography. It also contains some personal correspondence and biographical information.

Series II: Background preparation for biographical work on Emily Chubbuck Judson (Box 2)

Gathered background material for the proposed biography which was intended not only as a biography but as a reflection on the religious and educational climate of Emily Chubbuck Judson's era. It includes notes, clippings and lists of possible sources both archival and bibliographical, for gathering information.

Series III: Biographical information on Emily Chubbuck Judson (Box 2)

Photocopies and notes on the life of Emily from birth through her marriage to Adoniram Judson.

Series IV: Biographical materials on Adoniram Judson (Box 3)

Biographical materials on Adoniram Judson, his missionary activities, first wives, courtship of Emily Chubbuck, and death as well as material regarding his children and their families.

Series V: Correspondence of Emily Chubbuck (Box 4)

Transcriptions of Emily Chubbuck's correspondence from 224 through 1851, including letters using her penname Fanny Forester.

Series VI: Writings of Emily Chubbuck (Box 5)

This series includes lists of her writings as well as copies of many of her poems and articles and two of her books: *Records of Alderbrook or Fanny Forester's Village Sketches*, 1854; and *An Olio of Domestic Verses*, 1852.

Scope and Contents

Myrtle Clemmer wrote on missions topics for the Presbyterian Church USA. The materials in this collection were gathered by her for the purpose of writing a more complete biography of Emily Chubbuck Judson for the series United States Authors: a biography which would highlight her development as a writer and the cultural, literary and educational climate of her era. Emily was the third wife of Adoniram Judson, first American missionary to Burma. The focus of this collection of papers is not on her marriage or missionary activity but rather on her literary development and success.

The collection begins with clippings, notes and letters documenting the purpose behind Myrtle Clemmer's collection of materials on Emily Chubbuck Judson: the writing of her literary biography for the series "United States Authors." The material collected includes clippings, notes from books and archives, letters to archivists and librarians, transcribed letters of both Emily and Adoniram, photocopies of Emily's writings, notes, clippings and photocopies for background and context, notes for further research or resource ideas and the manuscript of the biographical work in progress.
