Descriptive Summary
Languages: English
Contributing Institution: Special Collections & Archives, UC San Diego
9500 Gilman Drive
La Jolla 92093-0175
Title: Alfred North Correspondence and Other Documents
Creator: North, Alfred, 1807-1869
Identifier/Call Number: MSS 0138
Physical Description: 0.4 Linear feet (1 archives box)
Date (inclusive): 1832-1869
Abstract: Papers of Alfred North (1807-1869), Presbyterian missionary, minister, and printer. North served in missions abroad for the American Board in Singapore (1836-1843) and Madura, India (1843-1847). He subsequently worked as a minister in New York, Kansas, Missouri, and Wisconsin until his death in 1869.
Scope and Content of Collection
A small collection including correspondence, a journal, and family genealogical material relating to Alfred North (1807-1869), an American Presbyterian minister who served on international missions in Singapore from 1836 to 1843, and Madura, India from 1843 to 1847. Returning to the United States, North devoted himself to home missions in Trenton, Middlefield, Pittsford, LeRoy, and Attica, New York; Kansas City, Kansas; Tipton, Missouri; and Chilton, Wisconsin.

The bulk of the correspondence consists of letters written by North to his friend and fellow preacher A. V. Marvin, dating from 1856 to 1867. The letters primarily document North's personal reflections on religious life and morality, but also touch on the American Civil War and include detailed descriptions of Protestant sects and religious and intellectual culture in postwar Missouri. In an earlier 1844 letter to his father, Nathan North, Alfred describes the loss of his wife Minerva to cholera in Madura.

North's journal dates from 1835-1836, when he and his wife made the voyage from Boston to the mission at Singapore. The 171-day voyage took them from the eastern seaboard to Trinidad, down the coast of South America, across the Atlantic to Africa, around the Cape of Good Hope, across the Indian Ocean to Batavia, Java, and finally (on a different ship) onto Singapore. The journal records observations of daily life on board the ship and the various ports of call.

Arranged in three series: 1) CORRESPONDENCE, 2) JOURNAL, and 3) MISCELLANEOUS MATERIALS.

Biography
Alfred North was born in Exeter, New Hampshire on March 10, 1807. In 1832, he went to Utica, New York, where he attended a denominational school, studied religion, and trained to be a printer.

He became a Presbyterian missionary and, in 1835, was assigned to Singapore by the Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. For eight years he served as superintendent of the printing department at the Singapore Mission, teacher, and preacher. After the Singapore mission closed in 1843, North moved with his wife, Minerva, and four children to the Madura Mission in India. Shortly after his arrival, he lost his wife to cholera.

North returned to the United States in 1847 and focused on preaching. He worked in Trenton, Middlefield, Pittsford, and Attica, New York; Kansas City, Kansas; Tipton, Missouri; and Chilton, Wisconsin. Alfred North died on March 3, 1869 of pneumonia.

For an extensive biographical essay on Alfred North, see Mary North Shimkin's family history Descendants of John North of Farmington, Connecticut (1987) in this collection.

Publication Rights
Digital copies of this material are intended to support research, teaching, and private study. This work may be used without prior permission. The original manuscripts for this collection are held by Special Collections & Archives, UC San Diego Library.

Preferred Citation
Alfred North Correspondence and Other Documents. MSS 138. Special Collections & Archives, UC San Diego.

Acquisition Information
Acquired 1988

Restrictions
The original journal is restricted for preservation. Please consult microfilm and digital surrogates.

Related Materials
For a detailed biography of the North family and their descendants, including selective transcriptions of documents in this collection, see Mary North Shimkin's history entitled: Descendants of John North of Farmington, Connecticut. 1987.


**Digital Content**

Selected materials from this collection have been digitized and are available online.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

Diaries -- 19th century
Missionaries -- China -- Biography
Singapore -- Description and travel
Cape Town (South Africa) -- Description and travel
Madurai (India : District) -- Description and travel
Missionaries -- United States -- Biography
Shimkin, Mary North, 1915-
North, Alfred, 1807-1869 -- Archives

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**CORRESPONDENCE**

**Box 1, Folder 1**  
**Letters from Alfred North 1832-1869**  
https://library.ucsd.edu/dc/object/bb3587117x  
https://library.ucsd.edu/dc/object/bb5157099g  
https://library.ucsd.edu/dc/object/bb9320957f  
https://library.ucsd.edu/dc/object/bb34847281  
https://library.ucsd.edu/dc/object/bb242381  
https://library.ucsd.edu/dc/object/bb6965990g  
https://library.ucsd.edu/dc/object/bb3723638d  
https://library.ucsd.edu/dc/object/bb04812891  
https://library.ucsd.edu/dc/object/bb7204898c  
https://library.ucsd.edu/dc/object/bb3962550k  
https://library.ucsd.edu/dc/object/bb0686072s  
https://library.ucsd.edu/dc/object/bb7443809b  
https://library.ucsd.edu/dc/object/bb42014590  
https://library.ucsd.edu/dc/object/bb0924979c  
https://library.ucsd.edu/dc/object/bb50888406

**Box 1, Folder 2**  
**Miscellaneous letters 1843 and 1894**  
https://library.ucsd.edu/dc/object/bb18464921

*General*

This folder of letters includes a letter from North's bookbinder (20 March 1843); a letter from a student at the Madura mission to North's mother (8 December 1846); a letter from North's sister, Anna, to Mr. Dickinson shortly after Alfred's death (10 April 1869); a letter from A. P. Marvin to Anna (9 April 1869); and three letters from Mary A. Marvin, A. P. Marvin's daughter, to Thomas H. North, Alfred's son, regarding the return of his father's letters.

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**JOURNAL**

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North's travel journal dates from 1835-1836, when he and his wife Minerva made the voyage from Boston to the American Board mission at Singapore. The 171-day voyage took them from the eastern seaboard to Trinidad, down the coast of South America, across the Atlantic to Africa, around the Cape of Good Hope, across the Indian Ocean to Batavia, Java, and finally (on a different ship) onto Singapore. The diary records North's detailed observations of daily life on board the ship and the various ports of call.

MISCELLANEOUS MATERIALS

Box 1, Folder 4

Report of examination of the Singapore Institution Schools, held on the 20th December 1842

https://library.ucsd.edu/dc/object/bb7580330h

General

Example of printing by Alfred North.

Box 1, Folder 5

Family research materials collected by Mary Shimkin

Box 1, Folder 6

Mary North Shimkin. Descendants of John North of Farmington, Connecticut 1987

General

Self-published family history.