



**China Mission Photo Collection, 1909-1921**  
Manuscript Collection 34

Rebok Memorial Library  
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists  
12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20901  
Prepared by Ashlee Chism, April 2024

## Scope and Content

This collection contains photographs related to Seventh-day Adventist mission work in China in Canton and Shanghai between 1909 and 1921. Many of the photographs are related to a single family, the Harlows, who were Seventh-day Adventist missionaries in China during that period.

## Arrangement and Quantity

The 108 photographs range in size from 5 x 7 to 1 x 1½ inches on eighteen album leaves. No attempt was made to reassemble the original page order of the album; the album leaves were left in the order in which they arrived to the Library. During digitization, each page was assigned a number, and each image on the page was assigned a number. Each leaf is enclosed in a plastic sleeve to protect the photographs.

## Custodial History and Immediate Source of Acquisition

The provenance of the album prior to its purchase is unknown. This collection was purchased by the General Conference Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research from Auger Down Books on June 24, 2022. Based on details noted and researched during the collection's processing, it is likely that the original album was created by Cassie (Ham) Harlow (1887-1968), who served as a Seventh-day Adventist missionary in China between 1909 and 1921. As this cannot be fully confirmed, the processor decided to keep the title of the collection as "China Mission Photo Collection".

## Access

This collection is open for research. It is digitized. Scans of the images from the album pages can be requested by page number as per the album description.

## Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

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## Preferred Citation

*For the collection:*

Rebok Memorial Library, Silver Spring, Maryland. China Mission Photo Collection. MS 34.

*For a specific box in the collection:*

Rebok Memorial Library, Silver Spring, Maryland. China Mission Photo Collection. MS 34. Box D 13 86.

## Biographical and Historical Information

Seventh-day Adventist mission work in China began with sixty-five-year-old Abram La Rue, who arrived in Hong Kong (then a British colony) on May 3, 1888. Through his efforts in Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Canton, and partly at his prompting, the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists eventually sent Jacob and Emma Anderson, as well as Emma's sister, Ida Thompson, to China in December 1901; they arrived in February 1902. Later that year, Edwin and Susan Wilbur arrived in Hong Kong and were the first missionaries to mainland China, arriving in Guangzhou on December 1, 1902. The work in China was overseen directly by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists until 1909, when the Asiatic Division was organized.

On December 7, 1909, J. N. Anderson set sail from San Francisco to return to China after attending the recent General Conference Session. With him went "new recruits": George and Cassie Harlow and Otis and Alice Fisher.

The Harlows had both studied at Walla Walla College (now Walla Walla University) and had been part of the foreign mission band at the school, along with other future missionaries bearing names such as Oster, Dierksen, Oberg, Carnahan, Weaks, and Widgery. Both George's family, and Cassie's family, the Hams, were originally from Minnesota and had moved to Washington state when their children were young. The pair married in June 1908. Before being called in 1909 to serve as missionaries in China, George had worked as a canvasser and in tent evangelism and Cassie had taught church school in Centralia, Washington.

In 1910, George Harlow was selected as the director of the South China Mission, based at Canton. He, along with J. P. Anderson, was ordained on September 23, 1910 by Irwin H. Evans and W. A. Westworth. In 1911, George Harlow organized a church at Pakhoi, and the Harlows welcomed a daughter, Edythe, to their family in 1911. Due to the death of Gertrude Thompson in 1912, Cassie Harlow took charge of the Bethel Girls School before George Harlow became superintendent of the South China Mission.

In 1914, the Harlows took furlough to the United States, and returned to China in late 1915. Shortly after they arrived, Cassie and then Edythe were struck by typhoid; both survived, but due to how they were reacting to the climate in South China, the Division committee decided for them to move to Shanghai. Both began studying Mandarin. In 1916 they were assigned to Hankow (now Hankou), where George Harlow became the director of the work in the Hupeh Province. In 1917, George Harlow was invited to connect with the China Missions Training School in Shanghai as a Bible teacher and to edit the *Hsing Chwan Lub*, a union mission paper. It was there in Shanghai that they welcomed their second child, Elbert, born in 1917. Both continued to teach, and George continued to edit the paper, until, due to George Harlow's and Edythe Harlow's worsening health, the Harlows sailed back to the United States in the summer of 1921.

Harlow's health was poor enough that he was placed on the General Conference sustentation fund in order to give him time and space to recuperate. The Harlows settled in Port Angeles, Washington and then in Tacoma, Washington. His health improved over several years and he arranged to work outside the denomination, which would mean removal from the sustentation fund. In the spring of 1925, the General Conference was informed that George Harlow had applied to work as the pastor of the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Tacoma, Washington. It is unknown why he made this denominational switch. He served as the pastor of the Westminster Presbyterian Church for twelve years, and then accepted a call to serve as the pastor of the Puyallup Presbyterian Church in 1936, where he served until his retirement in 1945. He died in 1960. Cassie (Ham) Harlow died in 1968. Edythe (Harlow) Heald died in 1987, and Elbert Harlow died in 2010.

## Description Control Element

Description based on DACS. Originally drafted by Ashlee Chism in April 2024.

Sources for the biographical and historical information include general information from D. J. B. Trim's *Adventist Mission in China in Historical Perspective* (2022); contemporary articles in the *Review and Herald*, *Asiatic Division Outlook*, and *Seventh-day Adventist Yearbooks*; the biographical information blanks for Cassie and George Harlow; and the sustentation file for George Harlow. Additional research was done using Ancestry.com, newspapers.com, and in the [\*Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists\*](#).

## Related Archival Materials

### *General Conference Archives*

Materials marked ASD or CH – Files and correspondence related to the Asiatic Division and then the China Division

RG 21 – Secretariat Incoming Correspondence

RG 33 – Treasury Incoming Correspondence; Sustentation File for George Harlow

### *Rebok Memorial Library*

MS 08 – Gilbert Collection

MS 09 – Frost Photo Collection

## Container Listing

Identifier	Description
MS034_01_001	First page of the album, containing a single photograph captioned "Tacoma Camp Meeting".
MS034_01_002	Group of unidentified men in front of an open-air tent. Photo is captioned "Tacoma Camp Meeting".
MS034_02_001	Second page of the album, containing two photographs; neither is captioned.
MS034_02_002	Unidentified man sits on a chair with an unidentified woman holding a bouquet of flowers leaning on the armrest
MS034_02_003	Unidentified young man with a dog
MS034_03_001	Third page of the album, containing a single photograph and an empty spot where a photograph once was; there are no captions.
MS034_03_002	Two unidentified adults stand with two unidentified children outside of a building
MS034_04_001	Fourth page of the album, containing two photographs. The first is captioned "Honolulu" and the second is captioned "Canton buildings in process of construction".
MS034_04_002	Group of unidentified people standing in front of a house with a fence in the foreground. The man in the middle of the group is George Harlow (1885-1960). Captioned "Honolulu".
MS034_04_003	Two men (one of which is George Harlow [1885-1960]) stand in front of buildings under construction in Canton, China, captioned "Canton buildings in process of construction".
MS034_05_001	Fifth page of the album, containing a single large photograph captioned "General Meeting Shanghai".
MS034_05_002	Group of unidentified Adventist workers (men, women, and children) sitting and standing outside of a building. Captioned "General Meeting Shanghai".
MS034_06_001	Sixth page of the album, containing a single photograph; it is not captioned.
MS034_06_002	Portrait of an unidentified woman
MS034_07_001	Seventh page of the album, containing six photographs; the page is captioned "Flesh Hook Procession Shanghai". This likely took place in 1918.
MS034_07_002	Men bearing banners
MS034_07_003	Men passing by with weights suspended from his arms
MS034_07_004	Men passing by with weights suspended from his arms

MS034_07_005	Unidentified people carrying a flag and a sedan chair
MS034_07_006	An unidentified man holds an umbrella for an idol being carried on a sedan chair
MS034_07_007	Umbrella and banners have been brought to a stage at the end of the procession
MS034_08_001	Eighth page of the album, containing a single photograph; it is not captioned.
MS034_08_002	Group of unidentified Adventist workers (men, women, and children) in China
MS034_09_001	Ninth page of the album, containing three photographs; none are captioned.
MS034_09_002	Group of unidentified people stand at the base of a large building in China
MS034_09_003	Unidentified people sitting on a horse pulling a plow guided by an unidentified man
MS034_09_004	Unidentified baby with a teddy bear in a carriage sitting on a porch
MS034_10_001	Tenth page of the album, containing five photographs; the page is captioned "Opium Inspection".
MS034_10_002	Two unidentified men work beside an outdoor furnace with a soldier in the foreground
MS034_10_003	Two soldiers inspect the outdoor furnace
MS034_10_004	Two unidentified men prepare to lift something from the ground
MS034_10_005	Soldiers standing at attention between crates in the foreground and factory buildings in the background
MS034_10_006	Two unidentified people work near outdoor furnaces; the furnace on the left is blazing
MS034_11_001	Eleventh page of the album, containing four photographs; two are captioned. The first reads "Shanghai Press" and the second reads "Training School".
MS034_11_002	A group of unidentified Adventists stand in front of the two-story Shanghai Press brick building. Captioned "Shanghai Press".
MS034_11_003	An unidentified man holds an unidentified infant, while an unidentified woman sits behind an unidentified boy sitting on a chair with a dog
MS034_11_004	Two unidentified children wearing broad brimmed hats. The older of the two children sits in a pedal-powered wheeled cart; the younger stands beside the cart.
MS034_11_005	Three buildings in the middle distance; in the foreground, a tiled field. Photo is captioned "Training School".

MS034_12_001	Twelfth page of the album, containing four photographs; none are captioned.
MS034_12_002	A group of unidentified Adventists stand on the porch of the Shanghai Press building. W. T. Knox stands in the back at the far right of the photograph.
MS034_12_003	An unidentified baby wearing a hat sitting on the steps of an unidentified building (possibly the Shanghai Press)
MS034_12_004	An unidentified baby holding a teddy bear seated on a concrete pillar of the porch of an unidentified building (possibly the Shanghai Press)
MS034_12_005	A group of unidentified people (men, women, and children) on the porch of the Shanghai Press; photo is partially overexposed in the center of the image.
MS034_13_001	Thirteenth page of the album, consisting of three photographs. All three photographs are captioned; the first reads "Cottrells", the second reads "Mrs Swartout", and the third reads "Peking".
MS034_13_002	Roy F. Cottrell and Myrtie (Ball) Cottrell sit in the grass with five unidentified people. Photo is captioned "Cottrells". Roy and Myrtie Cottrell served in China from 1908 to 1919.
MS034_13_003	Daisy (Butka) Swartout (1888-1985) sitting in a chair holding and looking down at an unidentified baby (likely one of her children, either Lowen, born 1918, or Lorayne, born 1919). Photo is captioned "Mrs Swartout".
MS034_13_004	Myrtie (Ball) Cottrell stands holding the hand of two children, Hwei Nan and Lsi Nan, in a garden "among the holly hocks" in Peking (now Beijing), China. Photo is captioned "Peking". Reverse of the image reads (in part): "[Dear] Edyth, Hwei Nan and Lsi Nan with me for a walk in the garden among the holly hocks. M. B. Cottrell."
MS034_14_001	Fourteenth page of the album, containing four photographs. One is captioned "Editorial Staff Shanghai Press"; the others are not captioned. The bottom right corner of the page has been cut away, revealing the reverse of the image on page thirteen.
MS034_14_002	A group of unidentified men sitting around a table with books on the table and a bookshelf in the background; a missionary map of the world hangs on the wall. The white man in the middle is George Harlow (1885-1960). Photo is captioned "Editorial Staff Shanghai Press".

MS034_14_003	An unidentified child squats in a yard
MS034_14_004	Cassie (Ham) Harlow (1887-1968) holding an unidentified baby (likely Edythe Harlow, born 1911)
MS034_14_005	An unidentified child standing by a flower bush
MS034_15_001	Fifteenth page of the album, containing three photographs, two of which are captioned. The first reads "Group of Maylaysian and Canton workers taken in Canton" and the second captioned "Wong Hak Sam Cantonese Evangelist".
MS034_15_002	A group of unidentified Adventist workers (men, women, and children) in Malaysia and Canton, China, taken in Canton, China. Captioned "Group of Maylaysian and Canton workers taken in Canton".
MS034_15_003	Wong Hak Sam sits in a chair for his portrait. Captioned "Wong Hak Sam Cantonese Evangelist".
MS034_15_004	Unidentified landscape of mountains and a river
MS034_16_001	Sixteenth page of the album, containing four photographs, three of which are captioned. The first reads "Mr Mountain and teacher Hong Kong", the second reads "Beggar Hong Kong", and the third reads "Hong Kong street scene".
MS034_16_002	Two men stand beside the road in Hong Kong. Photo is captioned "Mr Mountain and Teacher Hong Kong".
MS034_16_003	Two unidentified men sit on the side of a road. Photo is captioned "Beggar Hong Kong".
MS034_16_004	Unidentified people pull a cart down a street. Captioned "Hong Kong street scene".
MS034_16_005	Four unidentified people stand in a row outside of a building
MS034_17_001	Seventeenth page of the album, containing four photographs, all of which are captioned. The first reads "Hankow evangelists & Colporters", the second reads "Boys School", the third "Girls School" and the fourth "Honan Colporters".
MS034_17_002	A group of unidentified people stand on the steps of a building in Hankou, China. Captioned "Hankow evangelists & Colporters".
MS034_17_003	Unidentified boys stand in a row in a yard. Photo is captioned "Boys school".
MS034_17_004	Unidentified girls stand in a row in a yard. Photo is captioned "Girls School".
MS034_17_005	Two rows of unidentified men in what was then Honan, China. Photo is captioned "Honan Colporters".



MS034_18_001	Eighteenth page of the album, containing four photographs, one of which is captioned. It reads "Hankow General Meeting".
MS034_18_002	A large group of unidentified people gathered outside in front of a building in Hankou, China. Photo is captioned "Hankow General Meeting".
MS034_18_003	Unidentified child playing in snow.
MS034_18_004	Unidentified man holding something on and over his shoulder
MS034_18_005	Three unidentified children in the snow in front of an unidentified building
MS034_19_001	Nineteenth page of the album, containing one large photograph of two rows of unidentified men (except for Irwin H. Evans, sitting in front in the center of the group, and George Harlow, standing the farthest right in the second row) in China. It is captioned "Asiatic Division Committee".
MS034_19_002	Two rows of unidentified men (except for Irwin H. Evans, sitting in front in the center of the group, and George Harlow, standing the farthest right in the second row) in China. Photo is captioned "Asiatic Division Committee".
MS034_20_001	Twentieth page of the album, containing two photographs. Neither is captioned.
MS034_20_002	A smiling Edythe Harlow (later, Heald) (1911-1987) sits in a chair on what appears to be the deck of a ship
MS034_20_003	Edythe Harlow (later, Heald) (1911-1987) and an unidentified girl wearing hats, about 1915
MS034_21_001	Twenty-first page of the album, containing two photographs. The first image is captioned "Shanghai School for Missionary Children".
MS034_21_002	Six unidentified children (boys and girls) stand with two unidentified women. Photo is captioned "Shanghai School for Missionary Children".
MS034_21_003	Three unidentified men and three unidentified women stand outdoors, perhaps on the deck of a ship.
MS034_22_001	Twenty-second page of the album, containing two photographs. One is captioned "Mrs Twamley".
MS034_22_002	Violet A. (Wakefield) Twamley (1894-1949) holding a baby (likely Muriel Twamley, born 1920). Photo is captioned "Mrs Twamley".
MS034_22_003	Violet A. (Wakefield) Twamley (1894-1949) holding a baby (likely Muriel Twamley, born 1920). Photo is not captioned.

MS034_23_001	Twenty-third page of the album, containing five photographs, the first of which is captioned "The Point".
MS034_23_002	Low tide at the seashore. Photo is captioned "The Point".
MS034_23_003	Unidentified man in a white suit with a tie standing by the stairs
MS034_23_004	A road leads to an opening in a large stone structure
MS034_23_005	An unidentified man wearing a turban and military dress sits astride a white horse
MS034_23_006	Two unidentified men are seated side by side; the one on the left is in Western dress, the one on the right is in traditional Chinese dress. Along the top of the image runs a line of untranslated script.
MS034_24_001	Twenty-fourth page of the album, containing five photographs. None are captioned.
MS034_24_002	George Harlow, Cassie (Ham) Harlow, Edythe Harlow, and Elbert Harlow, about 1919
MS034_24_003	An unidentified child playing with a toy dog in front of foliage
MS034_24_004	An unidentified child stands while holding the hand of a younger unidentified child standing with a toy dog sitting at their feet
MS034_24_005	George Harlow baptizes an unidentified person while an unidentified boy looks at the photographer
MS034_24_006	George Harlow, Elbert Harlow, Edythe Harlow, and Cassie Harlow, all seated for a family portrait, 1919
MS034_25_001	Twenty-fifth page of the album, containing three photographs. None are captioned.
MS034_25_002	An unidentified man dressed in long coat and hat stands outside
MS034_25_003	An unidentified child dressed warmly and standing in snow
MS034_25_004	Marie Louise (Hall) Roberts (1886-1972) holds Kathryn Elise Roberts (later, Zimmer) (1918-1994) while Evelyn Louise Roberts (later, Powell) (1912-1942) stands beside her.
MS034_26_001	Twenty-sixth page of the album, containing four photographs, two of which are captioned. The first reads "Joe & Nettie Hall" and the second reads "Evelyn Roberts".
MS034_26_002	Josef Washington Hall (1894-1960) and Nettie (Lipkaman) Hall (1892-1982) with their child (probably Louis Hall, born 1917). Photo is captioned "Joe & Nettie Hall".

MS034_26_003	Evelyn Roberts (later, Powell) (1912-1942) stands next to a large urn; she is wearing Chinese garments. Photo is captioned "Evelyn Roberts".
MS034_26_004	Portrait of a young unidentified woman
MS034_26_005	An unidentified baby who is smiling at something off-camera
MS034_27_001	Twenty-seventh page of the album, containing four photographs. Two are captioned. The first reads "Mary Harlow" and the second reads "Shanghai China 1921".
MS034_27_002	Unidentified woman works in a garden with four unidentified children
MS034_27_003	Mary Harlow standing in a doorway. Photo is captioned "Mary Harlow".
MS034_27_004	Elbert Harlow (1917-2010) and Henry Walter Barrows, Jr. (1917-1988) standing in a snowy yard. Written on the photo is "China" and "Elbert & Junior Barrows". Photo is captioned "Shanghai China 1921"
MS034_27_005	Five unidentified children work in a garden
MS034_28_001	Twenty-eighth page of the album, containing two photographs. The second photo is captioned "Gillis".
MS034_28_002	Blurry photo of a house with a water pump in the foreground
MS034_28_003	An unidentified man plays with a child of W. E. and Helen Gillis. Photo is captioned "Gillis".
MS034_29_001	Twenty-ninth page of the album, containing three photographs. None are captioned.
MS034_29_002	Josef Washington Hall (1894-1960) and Nettie (Lipkaman) Hall (1892-1982) wearing Chinese dress sit outdoors beside a wall
MS034_29_003	An unidentified woman and man huddle together under a blanket on the deck of a ship
MS034_29_004	A group of unidentified people (men, women, and child) stand on the side of a hill with pine trees in the background
MS034_30_001	Thirtieth page of the album, containing four photographs. Two are captioned. The first reads "After Typhoid" and the second reads "Edyth aged four".
MS034_30_002	Two unidentified people stand on a hill near a row of houses
MS034_30_003	Edythe Harlow (later, Heald) (1911-1987), with short, cropped hair and wearing a white dress, stands in front of a building

MS034_30_004	Edythe Harlow (later, Heald) (1911-1987), with short, cropped hair and wearing a hat and a white dress, standing in front of a gate. Photo is captioned "After Typhoid".
MS034_30_005	Edythe Harlow (later, Heald) (1911-1987) and an unidentified child smile for the camera, about 1915. Photo is captioned "Edyth aged four".
MS034_31_001	Thirty-first page of the album, containing three photographs. None are captioned.
MS034_31_002	An unidentified child stands by a flower stand
MS034_31_003	A group of unidentified people (presumably students) sit and stand around Cassie (Ham) Harlow and an unidentified woman
MS034_31_004	An unidentified child with her hair down stands next to a plant
MS034_32_001	Thirty-second page of the album, containing four photographs. None are captioned.
MS034_32_002	An unidentified baby plays with a toy dog while sitting on a rug
MS034_32_003	George and Cassie Harlow with a baby (likely Edythe Harlow) wait in a yard
MS034_32_004	An unidentified woman looks on as another unidentified woman holds a baby
MS034_32_005	Three unidentified men, three unidentified women, and three unidentified children standing in three rows outdoors
MS034_33_001	Thirty-third page of the album, containing one photograph, captioned "Gerge 1915".
MS034_33_002	Portrait of an unidentified young man. Photo captioned "Gerge 1915".
MS035_34_001	Thirty-fourth page of the album, containing one photograph. It is uncaptioned.
MS035_34_002	Cassie (Ham) Harlow is seated in a chair outdoors with Edythe Harlow beside her
MS035_35_001	Thirty-fifth page of the album, containing three photographs. Two are captioned. The first reads "1st 5 homes Mission Compound Shanghai" and the second reads "1st Kwangtung Students at Training School Shanghai".
MS035_35_002	Five identical houses stand in a row on the Seventh-day Adventist mission compound in Shanghai, China. Photo is captioned "1st 5 homes Mission Compound Shanghai".

MS035_35_003	An unidentified man dressed in white and wearing a hat leans against a fence
MS035_35_004	Two rows of unidentified students stand outside the Adventist training school in Shanghai, China. Photo is captioned "1st Kwangtung Students at Training School. Shanghai".
MS035_36_001	Thirty-sixth page of the album, containing five photographs. None are captioned.
MS035_36_002	George and Cassie Harlow holding Edythe Harlow stand outdoors in front of a house on the Seventh-day Adventist mission compound in Shanghai, China.
MS035_36_003	An unidentified child wearing a hat stands beside Edythe Harlow. Both are standing on a porch.
MS035_36_004	An unidentified child sitting in a chair
MS035_36_005	George, Cassie, and Edythe Harlow pose for a portrait
MS035_36_006	Edythe Harlow sits in a short wooden chair at a small desk