

Introduction to Sarah C. Smith and Hokusei Jo Gakko Reports to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America

This section contains reports submitted from the schools Sarah Smith served during her years in Japan to the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America (PCUSA) and its Board of Foreign Missions (BFM). To view the actual reports from which the transcriptions were done, see the <http://www.archive.org> Web site. For instance, inputting “reports of boards Presbyterian 1887” in the search window will take the reader to the report for 1887, which can be viewed or downloaded.

For a more detailed description of the background of the reports, their formatting, and an overview of the contents, see the article, “Expanding Access to Hokusei Gakuen Historical Materials: Creating a Web Site Display of Hokusei-related Reports to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America” in *北星論集* (Hokusei Review: The School of Social Welfare), the March 2011 issue (Volume 48). The article “Missionaries Who Worked with Sarah C. Smith” (Part I in Volume 45 and Part II in Volume 46 of the same publication) contains brief introductions to the lives of these Hokusei Jo Gakko teachers, a table of PCUSA missionaries on staff at Hokusei Jo Gakko from 1887 to 1931 (reproduced on this Web site), and notes on the table’s contents. The information in the article is derived from a combination of sources, primarily 「スミス先生日記」 (「スミス校務年誌」), Sarah C. Smith’s annual report on school affairs, and the yearly reports from Hokusei Jo Gakko to the BFM Japan Mission and to the PCUSA General Assembly.

The missionaries who appear in these transcriptions are those who were (a) Hokusei Jo Gakko teachers listed as residing in Sapporo (with notes indicating when this does not appear to have been the case), (b) Hokusei Jo Gakko teachers recorded as living somewhere besides Sapporo but who were actually in the city, according to other documents, or (c) PCUSA missionaries living in Sapporo who were not clearly Hokusei Jo Gakko teachers during that year but had been at some time in the recent past and were

likely to have played some supporting role in the life of the school during the year under consideration. Only teachers who other records indicate served at Hokusei at least six months during the year are included when the BFM Report's List of Missionaries places them in a different location.

Included in the transcribed lists of changes in missionaries' locations (names of missionaries sent out, missionaries returning to Japan, and/or deaths which had occurred during the year) are the Sapporo PCUSA missionaries whose primary assignment was not Hokusei Jo Gakko. The Johnsons and Lakes, for instance, were sent to focus on evangelical rather than educational work but also assisted at Hokusei. Reports of those transitions besides these missionaries' first journey to Japan and their death which did not take place while they were associated with Hokusei have been omitted.

The name of exactly who within the school wrote the report for a given year is generally not provided in the originals. It only appears when specified.

The transcriptions include only the sections of these lists relevant to Hokusei Jo Gakko. Because non-relevant sections have been skipped, the sections which appear are often not continuous in the original reports.

Numbered footnotes which appear in the annual reports have been inserted by the editor. They did not exist in the originals. However, footnotes marked by asterisks (such as in the 1924 report) and other symbols (such as in the List of Missionaries sections) were part of the actual report.