

Collection Number:

Collection Title: **Alan & Alma Gordon Collection, Medical Missionaries to Brazil, 1972-1997**

This is a finding aid. It is a description of archival material held in the Presbyterian Heritage Center at Montreat. Unless otherwise noted, the materials described below are physically available in our reading room, and not digitally available through the World Wide Web.

Collection Overview

Size: 3 Document boxes, 1 banker box

Abstract: Collection consists of Mission newsletters, programs, photos, news clippings, correspondence and other medical missionary information.

Creator: Alan & Alma Gordon

Language: English

Information for Users

Restrictions to Access

No restrictions. Open for research.

Restrictions to Use

No usage restrictions.

Copyright Notice

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Preferred Citation[Identification of item]

Alan & Alma Gordon Collection, Presbyterian Heritage Center at Montreat.

Acquisitions Information

Gift of Whom: **Sylvia Woodall**

Additional Descriptive Resources

A copy of the original finding aid for this collection is filed in each box.

Sensitive Materials Statement

Manuscript collections and archival records may contain materials with sensitive or confidential information that is protected under federal or state right to privacy laws and regulations. Researchers are advised that the disclosure of certain information pertaining to identifiable living individuals represented in this collection without the consent of those individuals may have legal ramifications (e.g., a cause of action under common law for invasion of privacy may arise if facts concerning an individual's private life are published that would be deemed highly offensive to a

reasonable person) for which the Presbyterian Heritage Center at Montreat, NC, assumes no responsibility.

Biographical Information

ALMA CARITA DAUGHERTY GORDON, beloved educator, missionary and community health advocate died peacefully the evening of July 21, 2024, in Anderson SC, after a good day enjoying people and reading.

Alma was born December 4, 1933, in St. Louis MO, the daughter of Milton and Carrie Daugherty. She became a world traveler at an early age, meeting her future husband on a dusty road in the interior of Brazil when she was four years old. In 1956, after graduating with a nursing degree from the University of Connecticut, Alma married Alan Gordon, and moved back to Brazil from the US. When asked, "Where is home?" she said, "Home is both places. But you could say Brazil is my heart home. [Alan] was born there, and I grew up there. Brazil never left his heart, and my heart never left his."

In Brazil, they served as medical missionaries under the Presbyterian Church (USA) Mission Board first at the Evangelical Hospital in Dourados MS (1972-1979), where Alma founded and directed a nursing school, and later at the Good Samaritan Clinic in the mega-city of São Paulo (1979-1997) during which time Alma completed a Masters degree in Nursing Education. Throughout their ministry, Alan and Alma invested wholeheartedly in public health and in the Brazilian church. They trained many Brazilian missionaries by sharing their expertise and experience of cross-cultural adaptation and healthy families.

Alma, who loved the ocean, and Alan, who loved Alma, retired to the seashore town of Mongaguá, Brazil in 1997 where they enjoyed their church and many family get-togethers. In 2000 they moved to Winter Park, FL. From there they shared and enjoyed the local culture from Disney World to Rollins College events. During those years, they sang in the church choir and traveled to many countries around the globe. In 2010, after Alan died, Alma moved to a retirement home in Anderson, SC to be near her eldest daughter, Sylvia Woodall. She was active at Central Presbyterian Church, where she served as elder, Sunday School teacher and advocate for international missions.

A fourth-generation missionary kid, Alma published "Don't Pig Out on Junk Food" in 1993 on the subject of missionary families preparing their kids for reentry to the US. In 1999, she wrote a series of true stories about her daughters entitled "Once Upon a Time." And in 2014, to inspire and encourage her grandkids, she published "Joy Along the Way" sharing generations of family heritage filled with life lessons she and Alan learned.

Alma was characterized by a cheerful interest in whoever was around her and a devoted love for God's Word and God's people. Alma was loved and admired by her brothers Dale and Chuck Daugherty, as well as her son-in-law Bill Dodson, who preceded her in death. She is survived by 6 daughters and 5 sons-in-law: Sylvia & Hunter Woodall (Anderson SC), Sonia & Steve Dettweiler (Nigeria), Sandra Dodson (Titusville FL), Simone & Matthew McKinnon (Mount Holly NJ), Joy & Kevin Decker (Huntersville NC) and Susan & Dennis Walters (Duncanville TX). She leaves a legacy of love and faithfulness to her 18 grandchildren, 1 great-grandson and many beloved friends around the world who will miss her.

The family will host a celebration of her life on Thursday, August 15, 2024, at 11 am at Central Presbyterian Church in Anderson, SC.

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Subject Headings for Collection

Alan & Alma Gordon

Medical Missionaries to Brazil

Presbyterian Church in the United States

Scope and Content

Materials range from 1949-2016

Content List

Box 1 Alan & Alma Gordon Collection

- Folder 1 Alan & Alma Gordon-Newsletters 1957-1999
- Folder 2 Alan & Alma Gordon-Programs, news clippings
- Folder 3 Alan & Alma Gordon-Letters from Instituto Biblico Eduardo Lane
- Folder 4 Alan & Alma Gordon-Misc. newsletters
- Folder 5 Alan & Alma Gordon-Bio & Remembrances
- Folder 6 Alan & Alma Gordon-Itineration Presentations
- Folder 7 Alan & Alma Gordon-Hospital Evangelico-Goldsby-King
- Folder 8 Alan & Alma Gordon-Job Description
- Folder 9 Alan & Alma Gordon-Correspondence with Board of World Missions
- Folder 10 Alan & Alma Gordon-Reports to Region IV of the Brazil Mission
- Folder 11 Alan & Alma Gordon-Itineration/Mission Interpretation
- Folder 12 Alan & Alma Gordon-Misc. Obituaries
Rev. Lawrence Calhoun, Bessie Hancock Wilson (Mrs. Robert H.)
- Folder 13 Alan & Alma Gordon-Misc. writings: Jean P. Pemberton July '86, Edward Lane
Feb '87, Betty Daffin Waltman May '83
- Folder 14 Alan & Alma Gordon-Newsletters 1958-1996

Box 2 Alan & Alma Gordon Collection

- Folder 1 Book: "Louvores" to Sonia Gordon
- Folder 2 Book: "Livro de Cirurgias e Partos"

Diplomas-Alan Gordon-Wesleyan University, The Loomis School, Univ. of Sao Paulo,

Booklet: "BRAZIL ORDEME PROGRESSO"

Book: "Heritage of Faithfulness-A Legacy of Love by Ardys Baird Soules

Cradle Roll Certificate-Alma Daugherty

Cassette tape and filmstrip with explanation: "Witnessing Together in Brazil"

CD: "Dedication of Robert Lodwick Hall" at Inst. Presbiteriano Samuel Graham, Jatai, GO,
Brazil, Sunday July 24, 2016

Box 3 Alan and Alma Gordon Collection

- Folder 1 Alma & Alan Gordon Letters 1949-1960's
- Folder 2 Alma & Alan Gordon Letters 1970-1974
- Folder 3 Alma & Alan Gordon Letters 1975-1979
- Folder 4 Alma & Alan Gordon Letters 1980's-1990's
- Folder 5 Photos & news clipping
Gordon family photos 1966, 1972, 1974

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Folder 6 News clipping "Just Ask Alma"
 Miscellaneous correspondence

Box 4 Alan and Alma Gordon Collection

Itineration Reports #3-3ring binders

 June 1, 1980-May 28, 1981

 July 8, 1984-May 26, 1985

 May 21, 1989-June 2, 1990

Photo album Nov. 1993 MOZAMBIQUE Jan 1988-April 1991

MOZAMBIQUE-Job description, letter, maps, correspondence

Photos – B&W "Brazil Mission Family"

Steno pad "Gordon Family Programs" July '75-Feb '76

Booklet: "Brazilian Adventures" 1960-1961