

# Electronic Guide to the Mellony Turner Collection

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General Commission on Archives and History of the United Methodist Church  
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## Overview of Collection

<b>Record Creator:</b>	Turner, Mellony
<b>Title:</b>	Mellony Turner Collection
<b>Dates:</b>	1908-1963
<b>Abstract:</b>	Mellony Turner was a Methodist Church missionary to Bulgaria. This collection is made up of material relating to her work in Bulgaria and her family.
<b>Quantity:</b>	5.61 cubic feet

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## Biographical Note

Mellony Turner (1901-1949), Methodist missionary, was born on April 9, 1901 at Erin, New York. Turner graduated in 1919 from the Cazenovia Seminary located in New York State. In 1924 Mellony began to teach at the American School for Girls in Lovetch, Bulgaria for the Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1930 she had become the principal of the school .

During the outbreak of World War II, Turner became separated from her family for the next nine years. The Nazi occupying forces did allow Turner to continue teaching at the school. Her problems became worse after the war when the Communists took over the country. The official communist paper of Bulgaria, *Rabotnichesko Delo*, publicly attacked Turner and her work. Forced out of Bulgaria, Turner relocated to Athens, Greece, and taught at Pierce College. After her departure false accusations of espionage were made against her after the torture of fifteen Bulgarian Methodist pastors with whom she had closely worked. Turner never returned to Bulgaria.

On Sunday, November 20, 1949, Mellony was scheduled to give a missionary message at Baldwinsville, New York, Methodist Church. On the way to the church a truck hit her and her father, W. Cleon Turner, a Methodist minister, and both were killed instantly. Turner is buried with her father and mother on a hilltop in Cato, New York.

## Scope Note

The Mellony Turner collection primarily documents her life as a missionary in Bulgaria.

There are a number of records on the American School for Girls in Lovetch where Turner served consisting of photographs, textbooks, yearbooks, and financial records. Turners notebooks and lecture notes are included in the collection. It should be noted that there is a single folder containing information on closing the school.

Turner kept diaries during her tenure in Bulgaria as well extensive correspondence. There are general images in both photograph and slide format ranging from the royal family of Bulgaria to hew own family in the United States. Turner has a copy of Bishop Burts sermon printed in Bulgarian. Clippings and other types of publications reflect Bulgarian life and politics. There are eight lectures and a sermon written by Turner. Artifacts are personal in nature which reflect the clothing and accessories of mid-twentieth century Bulgarian dress. There is a pot in the artifact series as well.

The other series within the collection reflects Turners immediate family. The few records relating to her parents deal with their will and a folder of letters. Ewart Turners three folders are related to his spying for the United States War Department during the World War II. Though he was ministering to a church in the United States during the war, Turner was familiar with German communities in Europe and South America. The War Department had Turner collect information on Germans who were thought to be a threat to national security during the war. This information is elucidated in a correspondence folder.

## Arrangement

The collection is arranged into two series. The first series documents [Family records \(1926-1963\)](#). [Ewart Turner's](#) records is one sub-series and [Reverend W. Cleon and Mrs. Turner's](#) records make up the second sub-series. The [Mellony Turner Series \(1908-1965\)](#), is the largest within the collection. This series is divided up into nine sub-series. These sub-series are: [American School for Girls \(1931-1948\)](#); [Artifacts \(20th Century\)](#); [Clippings \(1930-1950\)](#); [Correspondence \(1932-1949\)](#); [Diaries \(1941-1946\)](#); [General \(1909-1950\)](#); [Images \(1915-1949\)](#); [Manuscripts \(1942-1949\)](#); and [Publications \(1908-1949\)](#). The records within each folder is arranged chronologically by calendar date with undated material in the front of the first folder of a similar grouping or in a separate folder.

## Preferred Citation

When citing material from this collection please use the following format: Direct reference to the item or its file folder, Mellony Turner Collection, United Methodist Church Archives - GCAH, Madison, New Jersey. Do not make use of the item's call number as that is not a stable descriptor.

## Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions regarding this collection.

## Subject Terms

### Aditonal Creators - Personal

Turner, Ewart Edmund

Turner, Martha L.

Turner family

### **Subject Names - Corporate**

Methodist Church. Board of Missions and Church Extension

Methodist Episcopal Church. Board of Missions. Department of Foreign Missions

### **Subject Topics**

Armed Forces

Children

Church work with children-Methodist Church

Church work with students-Methodist Church

Education

Education, Higher

Family

Finance

Financial records

Financial statements

International Relations

Methodist Church-Education

Methodist colleges

Methodists, Bulgarian

Methodist schools

Schools

Travel

Travel photography

Universities and colleges

War

Women

Women's colleges

Women intellectuals

Women teachers

World War, 1939-1945 -War work -Methodist Church.

### **Subject Geographic**

Bulgaria

United States.

### **Genre**

Abstracts

Accounting-Books of account

Addresses

Albums

Annual reports

Architectural drawings

Articles

Artifacts

Bibles

Biographies

Booklets

Books  
 Budgets  
 Catalogs  
 Class books  
 Clippings  
 Correspondence  
 Diaries  
 Drawings  
 Essays  
 Financial records  
 Lectures  
 Negatives  
 Newsletters  
 Newspapers  
 Notebooks  
 Obituaries  
 Paintings  
 Pamphlets  
 Paper  
 Periodicals  
 Photograph albums  
 Photographs  
 Picture books  
 Poetry  
 Portraits  
 Postcards  
 Prayers  
 Slides  
 Yearbooks.

### **Occupations**

Educator  
 Missionary.

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## **Container List**

<b>Call Number</b>	<b>Folder Title</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>
	<i>Series: Family</i>	
	<i>Sub-series: Ewart Turner</i>	
1601-3-3:16	Information on Ewart Turner	Undated
1601-3-3:17	Correspondence: Ewart Turner	1926 -1963
1601-3-3:18	Correspondence: War Department	1942
	<i>Sub-series: Reverend W. Cleon and Mrs. Turner</i>	
1601-3-3:19	Correspondence	1941 -1949
1601-3-3:20	Legal Settlement: Estate of W. C. Turner Mellony Turner	1951

vs. Baker, Johnson & Lewein.

***Series: Mellony Turner***

*Sub-series: American School for Girls*

1601-3-1:23	Financial Records	1941 -1948
1601-3-2:01	Lecture Notes at the American School for Girls at Lovetch	Undated
1601-3-2:02	Notebooks	Undated
1601-3-2:03	Notebooks	Undated
1601-3-2:04	American Girls School Lovetch Yearbook	1931
1601-3-2:06	"The Gold and The Purple": Yearbook	1940
1601-3-2:07	Textbook: The Study of the English Language Part I	1945
1601-3-2:08	Textbook: The Study of the English Language Part II	1946
1601-3-2:09	Documentation about the American School for Girls at Lovetch.	1939 -1948
1601-3-2:10	Information on the closing of the American School for Girls at Lovetch.	1947 -1948
1601-3-4:03	Photographs: American School for Girls, Lovetch, Bulgaria.	1920 -1945

*Sub-series: Artifacts*

5029-1-1:01	Apron	20th Century
5029-1-1:02	Dress	20th Century
5029-1-1:03	Undergarment	20th Century
5029-1-1:04	Costume	20th Century
5029-1-1:05	Dress	20th Century
5029-1-1:06	Dress	20th Century
5029-6-1:01	Flag	20th Century
5029-6-1:02	Pouch	20th Century
5029-6-1:03	Bolt of cloth	20th Century
5029-6-1:04	Bolt of cloth	20th Century
5029-6-1:05	Cloth	20th Century
5029-6-1:06	Cloth	20th Century
5029-6-1:07	Cloth	20th Century
5029-6-1:08	Cloth	20th Century
5029-6-1:09	Cloth	20th Century
5029-6-1:10	Cloth	20th Century
5029-6-1:11	Hankerchief	20th Century
5029-6-1:12	Hankerchief	20th Century
5029-6-1:13	Head covering	20th Century
5029-6-1:14	Floor mat	20th Century
5029-6-1:15	Textile	20th Century
5029-6-1:16	Mat	20th Century
5029-6-1:17	Pillow	20th Century
5029-6-1:18	Textile	20th Century
5029-6-1:19	Socks	20th Century
5029-6-1:20	Apron	20th Century
5029-6-1:21	Apron	20th Century
5029-6-1:22	Doll outfit	20th Century
5029-6-1:23	Doll with outfit	20th Century
5029-6-1:24	Shoes	20th Century
5029-6-2:01	Drawing	20th Century

5029-6-2:02	Painting	20th Century
5029-6-2:03	Drawing	20th Century
5029-6-2:04	Painting	20th Century
5029-6-3:01	Bracelet	20th Century
5029-6-3:02	Belt buckle	20th Century
5029-6-3:03	Pot	20th Century
	<i>Sub-series: Clippings</i>	
1601-3-1:02	Clippings	1930 -1949
1601-3-1:03	Clippings	1949 -1950
	<i>Sub-series: Correspondence</i>	
1601-3-1:04	Correspondence	Undated
1601-3-1:05	Correspondence	1932 -1939
1601-3-1:06	Correspondence	1940
1601-3-1:07	Correspondence	1941
1601-3-1:08	Correspondence	1942
1601-3-1:09	Correspondence	1943
1601-3-1:10	Correspondence	1944
1601-3-1:11	Correspondence	1945
1601-3-1:12	Correspondence	1946
1601-3-1:13	Correspondence	1947
1601-3-1:14	Correspondence	1948
1601-3-1:15	Correspondence	1949
1601-3-1:16	Correspondence	1924 -1949
	<i>Sub-series: Diaries</i>	
1601-3-1:17	Diary	1941
1601-3-1:18	Diary	1942
1601-3-1:19	Diary	1943 -1944
1601-3-1:20	Diary	1944 -1945
1601-3-1:21	Diary	1946
1601-3-1:22	Excerpts from Mellony's Diaries	1941 -1946
	<i>Sub-series: General</i>	
1601-3-1::01	Biographical Information	1925 -1950
1601-3-3:02	Bulgaria Mission Conference	1909
1601-3-3:15	Personal Bible	1946
	<i>Sub-series: Images</i>	
1601-3-4:01	Personal Slides	Undated
1601-3-4:02	Photographs: Mellony Turner	1928 -1945
1601-3-4:04	Photographs: Bulgaria	1930 -1965
1601-3-4:05	Photographs: United States	1948
1601-3-4:06	Photographs: Bulgarian Royal Family	Undated
1601-3-4:07	Oversized Photographs: Lovetch, Bulgaria	1920's
1601-3-4:08	Oversized Photographs: A Bulgarian Girl	Undated
1601-3-5:01	Photograph Album	1915 -1920
1601-3-5:02	Photograph Album	1915 -1920
1601-3-6:01	Photograph Album	1920's
1601-3-6:02	Photograph Album	1920's
1601-3-7:01	Photograph Album	1925 -1930
1601-3-7:02	Photograph Album	1925 -1930
1601-3-8:01	Photograph Album	1948 -1949

1601-4-1	Photograph Album	1920 -1940
	<i>Sub-series: Manuscripts</i>	
1601-3-3:04	Sermon: Acts 17:15 - 30	Undated
1601-3-3:05	Lecture: "Is Life Fair ?"	Undated
1601-3-3:06	Lecture: "My Trip to Egypt"	Undated
1601-3-3:07	Lecture: "Russia and the Peace"	Undated
1601-3-3:08	Lecture: "The War Years in Bulgaria"	Undated
1601-3-3:09a	Lecture: "The House Built Upon a Rock"	Undated
1601-3-3:09b	Lecture: "The World of the Church"	Undated
1601-3-3:10	Lecture: "Conditions in Europe"	1946
1601-3-3:11	Lecture: "World Day of Prayer"	1947
1601-3-3:14	Papers written in Bulgarian	1942 -1949
	<i>Sub-series: Publications</i>	
1601-3-2:05	"A Bulgarian Anthology"	1939
1601-3-3:01	Bishop Burt's Sermons (in Bulgarian)	1908
1601-3-3:03	Das Niederdeutsche Luthertum (in German)	1939
1601-3-3:12	Newspaper: Free Bulgaria	1948 -1949
1601-3-3:13	Booklets written in Bulgarian	1948
1601-3-4:09	Book of Bulgarian Illustrations	1929

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