

Wesley L. Sadler Missionary Collection

Accession #: G2019.001

Sheila Joy and Matthew Kayhart
February 2019

Seminary Archives
A.R. Wentz Library
United Lutheran Seminary
Gettysburg + Philadelphia
66 Seminary Ridge
Gettysburg, PA 17325
717-339-1317

CONTENTS

BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY	3
SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE	5
RESTRICTIONS	5
REPRODUCTION	5
RELATED MATERIALS	5
PROCESSING NOTE	6
SERIES DESCRIPTION AND CONTAINER LIST	6
SERIES 1: Untangled Loma Manuscript Materials	6
SERIES 2: Journals	7
SERIES 3: Correspondence	7
SERIES 4: Sermons, Lectures/Talks Bible Studies, and Notes	7
SERIES 5: Miscellaneous Papers	10
SERIES 6: Publications	10
SERIES 7: Audio Tapes	10
SERIES 8: Biographical Records and Objects	11

SUMMARY INFORMATION

- Repository:** Seminary Archives, A.R. Wentz Library, United Lutheran Seminary, Gettysburg, PA
- Creator:** Wesley L. Sadler
- Date:** 1920-1994
- Language:** English, Loma, Salobemlina
- Extent:** The total extent of the collection is 8.08 linear feet (17 boxes), including 1 oversized box, sound recordings, and objects.
- Accruals:** Further accruals are not expected.
- Custodial History:** This collection was received by Seminary Archives as a donation from R. Kumbe Sadler.
- Preferred Citation:** Wesley L. Sadler Missionary Collection, Seminary Archives, A.R. Wentz Library, United Lutheran Seminary, Gettysburg, PA.

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Rev. Wesley Leonadis Sadler Jr. was a Lutheran clergyman, African missionary, and linguist. Serving over thirty-seven years as a missionary, he is credited with his work in Liberia, where he wrote the Loma language in print and translated the gospels into Loma. He was also the Director of the Language, Literacy, Literary Program at United Lutheran Church of American, Liberia from 1955-1958 and director of the African Writing Center, North Rhodesia from 1959-1961.

Sadler was born on November 27, 1909 in Baltimore, Maryland to Willard Elias and Elizabeth Ellen (Burns). He received a B.A. from Washington College in 1935; a B.D. from Gettysburg Seminary in 1940; a M.A. from Hartford Seminary in 1940; a Ph.D. from Hartford Seminary in 1949, and an honorary degree of Doctor of Literature from Washington College in 1970.

He was ordained by the Maryland Synod in 1940, going on to serve as a foreign missionary for thirty-seven years in Liberia, Cameroon, Togo, Ghana, North and South Rhodesia (now Zambia), the Ivory Coast, Kenya, Dahomey (now part of Benin), and Tanganyika (now Tanzania).

Sadler Missions Timeline:

1941-1959: Monrovia, Liberia

1959-1963: Kitwe, North Rhodesia (now Zambia)

1965-1969: Tanzania (assigned by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania as Literature Secretary)

1970-1973: Papua New Guinea (on loan to the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)

1974-1977: Sumatra, Indonesia

Sadler studied linguistics, cultural anthropology, and the Christian approach to the African people under British linguist, Dr. Edwin W. Smith at the Hartford Seminary Foundation. He also published a vast amount of literature, especially textbooks for foreigners who needed to speak and write in the languages of the natives. He also produced a Loma dictionary, basic primers and handbooks, articles on fables, medical and scientific material, social issues, vernacular language news sheets, and a weekly newspaper.

Sadler was married to Roslyn Sadler, who played a significant part in his ministry. She was born in Boston and moved to Guantanamo, Cuba when her father got a new job building sugar mills. She was raised in Cuba until she was eighteen, when she moved back to Massachusetts to attend boarding school.

With a love for fashion and a dream of becoming a costume designer for theater products, Roslyn moved to New York City and trained at the Traphagen School of Fashion Design. She met her soon-to-be husband in Guantanamo at the age of sixteen and married him five years later at the age of twenty-one.

In addition to being a wife and mother to two sons, Byron and Roy, she was also a typist, artist, builder, engineer, medic, tailor, barber, proofreader, mimeographist, and teacher. She provided more than one thousand pen and ink drawings which illustrated the texts and primers that Sadler produced. She became an author after finding a love to share her experiences living abroad and has written many books, such as *Her Emblem, a Suitcase*, an autobiography and *Saada His Story* a biography of her husband.

The Sadlers retired to Corvallis Oregon after their final assignment ended in Sumatra in 1977. Wesley continued to write and teach until his death in 1994. Roslyn authored two books during retirement: *Her Emblem, a Suitcase*, an autobiography and *Saada His Story* a biography of her husband. She passed away peacefully on November 24, 2018 at the age of 100.

Sources Consulted:

Malakpa, Sakui W.G. Tribute to Mrs. Roslyn Sadler. Bethany Funeral Home and Cremation Services. <https://www.bethanyfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Roslyn-Sadler?obId=3852881#/obituaryInfo> (accessed February 13, 2019).

Quintela, Ashley. Ralston resident celebrates 100 years. Ralston Recorder. https://www.omaha.com/sarpy/ralston/ralston-resident-celebrates-years/article_3fc5f152-b2ef-5276-aafd-fff414d1c1c2.html (accessed February 13, 2019.)

Wentz, Abdel Ross. *Gettysburg Lutheran Theological Seminary Vol 2: Alumni Record*. Harrisburg, PA: The Evangelical Press, 1964.

Wentz, Frederick K., editor. *Witness at the Crossroads: Gettysburg Lutheran Seminary Servants in the Public Life*. Gettysburg: Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, 2001.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection documents the activities of Wesley L. Sadler, mostly during his time as a missionary. Included are materials relating to his manuscript, *Untangled Loma*, correspondence, manuscripts, research notes, journals, correspondence, sermons, lectures, bible studies, publications, audio cassettes, certificates, and objects.

The records are arranged in 8 series. The contents of each series are arranged in the order in which they were received to maintain the creator's original order.

Series include:

- Series 1: Untangled Loma Manuscript Materials
- Series 2: Journals
- Series 3: Correspondence
- Series 4: Sermons, Lectures/Talks Bible Studies, and Notes
- Series 5: Miscellaneous Papers
- Series 6: Publications
- Series 7: Audio Tapes
- Series 8: Biographical Records and Objects

RESTRICTIONS

This collection is open for research.

REPRODUCTION

Permission to publish, quote, or reproduce must be secured by the Seminary Archives. Contact the archivist for more information.

RELATED MATERIALS

Sadler, Wesley L. *Protestant Religion in Central America*. [Gettysburg]: Lutheran Theological Seminary, 1940.

Sadler, Wesley L. *Untangled Loma: A Course of Study of the Looma Language of the Western Province, Liberia, West Africa*. Monrovia, Liberia: Board of Foreign Missions of the United Lutheran Church in America for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Liberia, 1951.

PROCESSING NOTE

The collection was received as a donation by Roy Kumbe Sadler, son of Wesley L. Sadler in January 2019. It arrived in two boxes with an inventory listing and detailed notes explaining the contents. The arrangement is based on importance of the contents and the order in which they were received. For instance, series 1 (Untangled Loma Manuscript Materials) was received in one box and were kept together. Series 2-8 were received together in one box and series were created based on the categories of materials on the inventory list provided by Roy Sadler.

SERIES DESCRIPTION AND CONTAINER LIST

Series 1. Untangled Loma Manuscript Materials

This series contains Sadler’s research notes, drafts, and edits relating to his manuscript, *Untangled Loma*. Included are handwritten manuscripts, original typed manuscript, correction, edited copies, and research data on notecards.

Box Folder

1	1	Original Handwritten Manuscript, “Untangled Loma”
1	2	Original Typed Manuscript, Proofread by Roslyn Sadler
1	3	[Corrections] 1969
1	4	Edited Copy of Untangled Loma
1	5	Second Carbon Copy- Proof Read and corrected
2	1	[Research Data]
2	2	[Research Data]
2	2	[Research Data]
3	1	[Research Data]
3	2	[Research Data]
3	3	[Research Data-Notes, Miscellaneous]
3	4	[Research Data]
4	1	[Research Data]
4	2	[Research Data]
4	3	[Research Data]
4	4	[Research Data]
5	1	[Research Data]
5	2	[Research Data]
5	3	[Research Data]

5	4	[Research Data]
6	1	[Research Data]
6	2	[Research Data]
6	3	[Research Data]
7	1	[Research Data]
7	2	Untangled Loma Annotated Manuscript

Series 2. Journals

This series contains Sadler's journals while in Liberia, Papua New Guiana, and Cuba.

Box Folder

7	3	Liberia-October 1946 and pay roll Information, July 1949-January 1951
7	4	Liberia, July -September 1951
7	5	Liberia, September 1952- December 1953, January 1954-April 1955
8	1	Liberia, February 1957-1958
8	2	Papua New Guinea, May-November 1974
8	3	Anthropology Observations I-IV c. 1950
8	4	Cuba, 1935

Series 3. Correspondence

This series contains correspondence from family and friends during the 1920s-1930s. The donor included a note that these letters were kept by Sadler because they were important to him and show his relationships with family and friends.

Box Folder

8	5	Letters Important to Him, 1920s -1930s
---	---	--

Series 4. Sermons, Lectures/Talks Bible Studies, and Notes

This series contains sermons, lectures/talks, bible studies, and notes. Where titles for "Sermons, Lectures/Talks" were not given by the creator, the first line, or general subject, of said Sermon, Lecture/Talk was used. Brackets denote such change made by the processor.

Box Folder

9	1	Sermons
9	2	Talks and Sermons <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Languages of the Bible 2. The maid of The High Priest 3. My Introd to "Mary in the Gospel of Matthew" 4. "The International challenges and Responses to the Community of the

		<p>20th Century”</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. [Did Someone Ever Take you to task,] 6. [I Cried unto the Lord with my voice and He blessed me with his Holy hill.] 7. None, None. None. (See Also Tape 3 Side 1) 8. [Sermon on John 4:7 and John 15:11]
9	3	<p>Talks and Sermons</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. “People, Crowds, Multitudes” Jesus Sermon on the Mt. (See also Tape 2 Side 1) 2. Fla. Speech Rewrite for S.E. Pa. and Tx for La synod 3. Wes’ Sermon Grace L.C. Feb 15, 1987 4. Translating 5. Maybe a Sun Sve 6. [When we enter this Sanctuary on Sunday Mornings we enter with Peace] 15 July ‘90
9	4	<p>Talks and Sermons</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ingress Exit, 21 Apr 82 2. [On Friday I spent 6 hours with a 19-yr-old blind girl] 3. [What happened to the maid who said to Peter] 4. [What do you know of Afr. Nights?] 5. [Luanshya Free Church] Jan 17th, 1960 6. The Lesser Character 7. [Unto the we cry Hosanna, oh God.] 8. [Chingola Free church Nov 8, 1959, Luanshya Free Chuch Jan 13 1960] 9. YWCA Workcamp Mindolo Ecumenical Center 10. The Inter Social Club of the Union Ch Kitne, N.R. 11. Remarks of my interviews with the Minchtz Commission Feb 25, 1960 12. What Liberia was like 18 yrs ago 13. Women’s Guild 14. Rotary club, Mifulira 15. Club of the Free Church 16. Afr. Lit- Writing Centre Students 17. Ivory Coast May, 1959 18. Business Men’s Club, Chingola Sep 11, 1959 19. Writing Centre, Women’s League Mar. 22, 1960
9	5	<p>Talks and Sermons</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. [Visit to St. John’s Baltimore] 2. [Discussion on Four Books] 3. [On this Cold Winter Day, The Day After Christmas] 1954
9	6	<p>Talks and Sermons</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Talks “missionary in Residence” Central States Synod 2. Trinity Lutheran 16, April 78 3. [Whenever a Missionary Returns rom Abroad] 4. [In every respect but one]

		5. [With Massive bias VI] 6. [IV There are 2 Things...] 7. "I threw away XI" (This is the contents of a note from the author) 8. Our unusual Relationship 9. The Bible Best Seller 10. [This is a well groomed land I] 11. [We meet on no Ordinary Terms] 12. [The Church in Baltimore God is Love Aug 78] 13. [III "God is Love" Sign in Baltimore] 14. The Old to the Near 15. The Leade of faith 16. [Work it out Syllogistically] 17. [Major Chors] 18. [MEF evening Prayers]
9	7	Talks and Sermons
10	1	Sermons and Talks
10	2	Sermons and Talks
10	3	Sermons and Talks
10	4	Sermons and Talks
10	5	Sermons and Talks
10	6	Sermons and Talks
10	7	Sermons and Talks
10	8	Talks/ Lectures
11	1	Talks/ Lectures
11	2	Lectures
11	3	Lectures
11	4	Bible Study
12	1	Bible Study
12	2	Bible Study
12	3	Notes '47-'73
12	4	Notes '80-'94
12	5	Notes Undated
13	1	Notes- Undated
13	2	Notes, Undated
13	3	Miscellaneous
13	4	John in Loma (1 of 4)
13	5	John in Loma (2 of 4)
13	6	John in Loma (3 of 4)
14	1	John in Loma (4 of 4)

Series 5. Miscellaneous Papers

This series contains miscellaneous correspondence, papers, and writings. They were donated together and were kept together to maintain the original order.

Box Folder

14	2	Kitwe, Miscellaneous Correspondence and Papers, 1959-1963
14	3	Writing in Preparation to be a Journalist 1936-1937
14	4	Loma Culture 1949-1958
14	5	Papua- New Guinea 1970-1974
14	6	Salobemlinu Language

Series 6. Publications

This series contains Loma newsletters and pamphlets.

Box Folder

14	7	Loma Publications
15		Pamphlets

Series 7. Audio Tapes

This series includes audio cassette tapes recorded by Sadler. Titles have been maintained from the original creator. Recordings have been converted to MP3 and are available for listening. Consult archivist for further information.

Box Folder

16	1	Africa Tales
16	2	Wes-Sermon
16	3	"None, None, None" Wes- Sermon
16	4	Wes-Sermon of Talk
16	5	Easter Talk
16	6	Wes- Re Prayer
16	7	Wes- re Language [Language is the Shrine of a People's Soul]
16	8	Easter: Thomas
16	9	Lecture, October 2, 1979 8pm
16	10	[Side A] Coffee and Fellowship, October 3, 1979 [Side B] Lecture, October 3, 1979
16	11	[Untitled]
16	12	Communion Service, November 6, 1977, Introduction to W. Sadler by Herman Paulk, Message by W. Sadler

16	13	Wes' Story Re Dog and Motorcycle
----	----	----------------------------------

Series 8. Biographical Records and Objects

This series contains Sadler's certificates and degrees, objects, and his memorial service audio tape after his passing in 1994.

Box Folder

17	1	Baptismal Certificate, Baltimore Maryland, 1910
17	2	Fraternity Certificate, Washington College, 1937
17	3	Honorary Doctorate Degree in Literature, Gettysburg College, 1970 1. The Degree Certificate (Latin, rolled up) 2. Salute from the Faculty, and Trustees (Latin, rolled up) 3. Congratulatory Letter From the College President (English, in folder)
17	4	Pitch Pipe
17	5	Carved Animal Figurine
17	6	Memorial Service Tape 1994