



# ArchivesSpace

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## Nathan Sites papers 8527797

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This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on January 14, 2025.  
Description is written in: English.

Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary

3041 Broadway

New York, NY 10027

Telephone: (212) 851-5606

[burke@library.columbia.edu](mailto:burke@library.columbia.edu)

URL: <https://library.columbia.edu/locations/burke.html>

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary
<b>Creator:</b>	Sites, Nathan, 1830-1895
<b>Title:</b>	Nathan Sites papers
<b>ID:</b>	8527797
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1861 -- 1912
<b>Physical Description:</b>	0.25 linear feet 0.25 linear feet; 1 box
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .
<b>Abstract:</b>	Nathan Sites was a missionary in Fuzhou, southeast China, under the auspices of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and an early proponent of a stronger, Chinese-led church in China. The collection contains journals, clippings, and a scrapbook.

### Preferred Citation

Item description, MRL6: Nathan Sites papers, 1861-1912, box #, folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

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## Biographical / Historical

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Nathan Sites was born on November 6, 1830 in Bellville, Ohio to Robert and Sarah Sites. He graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University in 1859, and the next year became a missionary under the auspices of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He married Sarah Moore on March 6, 1861 and they left for China in June of that year. Sites worked as a missionary in Fuzhou, Fujian province for the rest of his life, joining the movement for a stronger, Chinese-led church and ordaining some of the earliest Chinese protestant ministers. In 1895 he contracted a fever after an active day of preaching and baptizing, and died some days later on February 10. He was buried in the Mission Cemetery in Fuzhou, and a hospital was named in his honor. His journals were compiled into a biography by his wife, and published as "Nathan Sites: An Epic of the East" in 1912.

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## Scope and Contents

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This collection contains journals, a scrapbook, and clippings that Sites collected while in China. The bulk of the material covers his early years in China. This was a foundational period among Protestant missions in China because they were given new access to mission fields, and important mission organizations such as the China Inland Mission were being founded; the fact that Sites supported the indigenization of the church in China during this early period, as revealed in this material, is significant, as this movement only gained widespread support among missionaries decades later. The journals describe his life in Fuzhou as well as trips through the surrounding countryside. Many of the clippings collected in the scrapbook are from articles and published letters written by Sites' wife, Sarah Moore Sites. Others deal with aspects of Chinese culture or Christian religious life.

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## Arrangement

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This collection is arranged in one series in original order.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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## Revision Description

XML Instance Created by Sarah Davis. EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. EAD spot checked and corrected and description updated by Leah Edelman. June 17, 2014 2019-05-20 2020-05-28

## Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Onsite storage.

## Immediate Source of Acquisition

Formerly part of the independent Missionary Research Library (MRL), these records were accessioned by the Burke Library at the time of the MRL's closure in 1976.

## Processing Information

Metal clips and staples were removed from materials and folded items were flattened. Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes. The finding aid was created by Gregory Adam Scott in 2010, reviewed and updated by Brigette C. Kamsler in 2014 with the support of the Henry Luce Foundation, and edited by Leah Edelman in 2020.

## Conditions Governing Use

Some material in this collection may be protected by copyright and other rights. Information concerning copyright, fair use, and reproduction requests can be consulted at Columbia's Copyright Advisory Office.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Missions -- China
- China -- Religious life and customs
- Missions -- China -- Fuzhou Shi (Fujian Sheng)
- Fuzhou Shi (Fujian Sheng, China) -- Religious life and customs
- Sites, Nathan, 1830-1895
- Methodist Episcopal Church -- Missions

## Burke Library record group:

Missionary Research Library Archives: MRL6, China

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## Collection Inventory

### Nathan Sites papers, 1861 -- 1912

Physical Description: 0.25 linear feet

Conditions Governing Access:  
**Conditions Governing Access**

This series is open for research.

#### Arrangement

This series is arranged in original order.

#### Scope and Contents

This series contains journals, a scrapbook, and clippings that Sites collected while in China. The bulk of the material covers his early years in China. This was a foundational period among Protestant missions in China because they were given new access to mission fields, and important mission organizations such as the China Inland Mission were being founded; the fact that Sites supported the indigenization of the church in China during this early period, as revealed in this material, is significant, as this movement only gained widespread support among missionaries decades later. The journals describe his life in Fuzhou as well as trips through the surrounding countryside. Many of the clippings collected in the scrapbook are from articles and published letters written by Sites' wife, Sarah Moore Sites. Others deal with aspects of Chinese culture or Christian religious life.

Title/Description	Instances	
Journal, Volume 1, 1864 -- 1869 <u>Physical Description</u> : 1 folder	box 1	folder 1
Journal, Volume 2, 1864 -- 1869 <u>Physical Description</u> : 1 folder	box 1	folder 2
Clippings and notes, circa 1899 -- 1912 <u>Physical Description</u> : 1 folder	box 1	folder 3

**Scope and Contents**

This folder includes *1911 Among Men in the Middle Kingdom* and *Gospel in All Lands*.

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Scrapbook , 1861 -- 1880

box 1

folder 4

Physical Description: 1 folder

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