

**Reference code:** GB165-0048

**Title:** Alford Carleton Collection

**Name of creator:** Carleton, Dr Alford (1903-1983) Christian minister, Teacher, Missionary

**Dates of creation of material:** 1941-1948

**Level of description:** Fonds

**Extent:** 24 sheets

**Biographical history:** Carleton, Dr Alford (1903-1983) Christian minister, Teacher, Missionary

Born 26 Mar 1903 in Albany, New York, son of Arthur Seldon and Mary Chamberlin Carleton (née Wilson). Educated Oberlin College 1920-1924. In 1924 commissioned as a missionary teacher for the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions of the Congregational Church and sent to the Near East Mission in Turkey and Syria. Served as a teacher at the American College in Tarsus, Turkey. In 1927 returned to the United States to attend the Hartford Theological Seminary in Hartford, Connecticut and in 1930 graduated with a Bachelor of Divinity degree. He was then ordained as a minister in the Congregational Church. Continued to serve as a missionary in the Near East Mission but returned on furlough in 1936 and in 1937 earned a Ph.D. in Ottoman history from the Hartford Seminary College. In 1937, he then returned to Aleppo, Syria as the president of Aleppo College. Served as the representative of the American Red Cross in North Syria (1941-1944), served as the Selective Service Officer for the United States government in Aleppo (1942-1945) and served as a member of the Aleppo mayor's committee for the Planning of Education Advance (1946). In 1954 returned to the United States to serve as executive vice president of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions of the Congregational Church. Following the merger of the Congregational Church with the Evangelical and Reformed Church, creating the United Church of Christ, he served as the executive vice president of the board from 1954-1970. Married Mary Dorrofield Cashmore in 1929, 3 daughters. Died 22 Aug 1983.

**Scope and content:** Correspondence with the Bishop in Jerusalem (Graham-Brown) 1941 and General Sir Maitland Wilson, 1942-1948, on the situation in Vichy Syria.

**Access conditions:** Open

**Language of material:** English

**Conditions governing reproduction:** No restrictions on copying or quotation other than statutory regulations and preservation concerns

**Immediate source of acquisition:** Received as a gift from Dr Alford Carleton in March/April 1973

**Related Units of Description:**

**In Other Repositories**

- Oberlin College Archives, Ohio, USA. The Carleton Family Papers RG 30-385. The papers document the life and career of Alford Carleton as a missionary, teacher, minister, college president and observer of the cultural and political climate of the Middle and Near East.

**Finding aids:** In Guide; Handlist

**Archivist's note:** Fonds level description created by Clare Brown 17 Jun 1998 and revised by Debbie Usher 15 Apr 2025. Biographical information based on information The New York Times obituary for Dr Alford Carleton 23 Aug 1983 and the biographical history in the catalogue of the Carleton Family Papers held at Oberlin College Archives.