

Copies of Papers of the Hooper Family, Missionaries in Africa

**Donated by Cyril J.D. Hooper through John Casson, January-February 1997
(Acc 19/17)**

20 items, of originals dated 1922-1973

**Catalogued by Sue Sutton, Archivist March 1997, substantially revised by Philip
Saunders, CCCW Archivist, March 2017, September 2018**

Cyril Hooper was the third generation of a missionary family to work in Kenya. His grandfather was Douglas Arthur Lownds Hooper (1861/2-1918), pioneer missionary in East Africa. According to Venn's *Alumni*, Douglas was son of William Hooper of Clapham, Esq., and the mere mention of Clapham at that period suggests he had himself experienced the influence of the Clapham sect. He cannot have been unaware of that heritage. He was educated at Harrow and Trinity Hall (BA 1885), and was converted 'in the Henry Martyn Hall' during the Cambridge mission of Sankey and Moody. He went to British East Africa in 1885 (*Centenary Volume of the Church Missionary Society*, p.639), where he was ordained by A.R. Tucker Bishop of Eastern Equatorial Africa. In 1889 he recruited a party of mainly Cambridge recruits for a mission expedition to, and was instrumental in what became, CMS Mengo, Uganda 1890-1, then moved to Jilore north of Mombasa 1891-1900, 1904-6, where his wife Edith died in 1893. After his wife Edith's death in 1893 he remarried a doctor, Elizabeth, and went to establish a CMS mission station in the Kenyan Highlands at Kahuhia, Central Provinces (west of Fort Hall). [see Venn, *Alumni Cantabrigienses*, online at <http://venn.lib.cam.ac.uk/Documents/acad/2016/search-2016.html>; E. Stock, *History of the Church Missionary Society*, esp. iii, 359-66, 453-4 (CCCW Library: 266.11 STO3)]

Douglas's son, Handley Douglas (named for Douglas's confidant, Handley Moule, Principal of Ridley Hall), was born at Jilore but following his mother's death was brought up by her sister in England, including education at Queen's College Cambridge (B.A. 1912) prior to ordination training at Bishop's Hostel, Bishop's Auckland. He was himself in Kenya from 1916, the year following his marriage to (Margaret) Cicely Winterbotham, and served as an officer in the Kenyan Mission Volunteers during the Great War. After the war and his father's death he carried on his father's work at Kahuhia until 1926. He then returned to London as CMS Africa Secretary until 1949. He was a canon of Mombasa Cathedral. Both Handley and Cicely Hooper, the latter a force for greater recognition of women missionaries [see Regina Kinuthia's Pietermaritzburg M.Th. thesis, '[A Critical Analysis of the Factors that Attract African Women to Conversion to Christian \(1900-2000\) with Special Reference to the Anglican Church of Kenya \(ACK\) Diocese of Mt Kenya Central](#)'] wrote on their time in Kenya and their papers and Mrs Hooper's recollections (1969) were an important source for RW Strayer's *The Making of Mission Communities in East Africa* (1978, CCCW Library 266.676 STR; see pp.viii, 162-4). Jocelyn Murray, who worked for a while running the Girls' School founded by Cicely at the same time as C.J.D. Hooper ran the Normal School, wrote

the article on the Hoopers for Anderson's *Biographical Dictionary of Christian Missions* [CCCW Library REF 920AND] was also a contributor to Strayer's book, drawing on her own interviews of Cicely Hooper.

Cyril (1916-c.1999) also worked in Kahuhia, as a teacher at the Normal School (where a colleague at the equivalent Girls' School was Jocelyn Murray, collaborator with Strayer in *Making of Mission Communities* – see above) in the 1950s (to 1956), returning (to judge from these papers) to Kenya to be at CMS Nairobi in early 1970s and Kerogo Secondary School, Murang'a in 1973, apparently also in an inspection role for the Education Department. He died two years after donation of these papers, his account of the family's connection with Kahuhia being brought to completion by Jocelyn Murray as *Kahuhia, A Life Story Within the Development of a Christian Community in Kenya* (2000).

The papers donated to the Henry Martyn Library, now in the Centre, are all versions or copies – whether manuscript or typescript transcripts, copies of duplicated newsletters or other publications, or photocopies - of records in the CMS Archives at Birmingham University that were donated there shortly before (CMS/ACC 85 – see <http://calmview.bham.ac.uk/>). In a few cases in HOO 1/1 they may be the manuscript original of what is at Birmingham.

[see also J.Karanja, *Founding an African Faith. Kikuyu Anglican Christianity 1900-1945* (Nairobi 1999), *passim*: CCCW Library 283.676 KAR)].

When originally catalogued HOO 1 and HOO 2 represented papers received in January and February 1971 respectively. I have renumbered them to better reflect their archival hierarchy and main division of papers of Handley Hooper (now HOO 1) and his son Cyril (now HOO 2). One rearranges and renumbers with reluctance but the case here seemed strong if not overwhelming (PS).

The following is a concordance of old and new numbers:

HOO 1/1	HOO 2/1/1A-B		
HOO 1/2	HOO 2/1/2	HOO 2/1	HOO 1/3
HOO 1/3	HOO 2/1/3	HOO 2/2	HOO 1/1/1
HOO 1/4	HOO 2/2/1	HOO 2/3	HOO 1/1/2
HOO 1/5	HOO 2/2/2	HOO 2/4	HOO 1//1/3
HOO 1/6	HOO 2/2/3	HOO 2/5	HOO 1/1/4
HOO 1/7	HOO 2/2/4	HOO 2/6	HOO 1/1/5
HOO 1/8	HOO 2/2/5	HOO 2/7	HOO 1/1/6A-B
HOO 1/9	HOO 2/2/6	HOO 2/8	HOO 1/1/7
HOO 1/10	HOO 2/2/7	HOO 2/9	HOO 1/1/8
HOO 1/11	HOO 1/2		

As catalogue revised in 2018 the collection comprises:

HOO 1	Papers of Canon Handley Douglas Hooper and Mrs M. Cicely Hooper
	1922-1963
HOO 2	Papers of Cyril Hooper 1971-1973

**HOO 1 Papers of Canon Handley Douglas Hooper and Mrs M. Cicely Hooper
1922-1963**

HOO 1/1 Letters by Handley and Cicely Hooper and of Ethel Soles, evidently a colleague at CMS Kahuhia, describing their work for CMS supporters in U.K.

HOO 1/1/1 Handley Hooper to 'friends'

CMS Mission, Kahuhia, Kenya, 20 August 1922.

Description of the work of the Normal School and the beginnings of the building of the Central School. Need for a doctor and a Christian trained agriculturalist

Typed carbon copy, with ms amendments. Subscribed by writer.

HOO 1/1/2 M. Cecily Hooper to 'Home People', CMS Kahuhia,

Writes about her work with the kindergarten children, in giving them clothes to wear and in trying to teach the very varied groups. Believes they are recapturing the childhood for the children who grow up very quickly in Kikuyu Society. Problems over lack of resources to treat childhood illnesses such as measles.

June 1922

Handwritten carbon copy, signed; year added in ballpoint and numbered 1(22) by Cyril Hooper Duplicate [presumably that of copy now in CMS Archives at Birmingham])

HOO 1/1/3 M. Cecily Hooper to 'Home People'

Construction of a new kindergarten room. Problems over excessive taxation of the local people. Describes Christmas celebrations, in particular the tree and the reactions of the children to the presents.

January 1923

(13pp., Handwritten top copy in pencil, well impressed for purposes of copying carbons; signed; numbered by Cyril Hooper 1(22) [presumably that of copy now in CMS Archives at Birmingham])

HOO 1/1/4 M. Cecily Hooper to 'Home People'

Letter delayed because of excessively heavy rainfall, followed by several bouts of sickness, in particular, the plague which is killing hundreds of people. They have managed to open the girls' school with 14 boarders. Asks for sponsorship for these pupils who she describes in some detail.

October 1923.

Handwritten copy in pencil, well impressed for purposes of copying carbons; signed; numbered by Cyril Hooper 1(23) [presumably that of copy now in CMS Archives at Birmingham])

HOO 1/1/5 M. Cecily Hooper to "Home People", 16 April 1925. Handwritten

Announces the arrival of Margaret Hooper who is very time consuming. Report on the first year of the girls' boarding school. They have received a very small grant from the government but still need more as they have a waiting list of girls which is being added to almost daily.

(8pp., Handwritten carbon copy; numbered by Cyril Hooper No.2 (25) Duplicate [presumably that of copy now in CMS Archives at Birmingham]))

HOO 1/1/6A-B Ethel Soles to "Friends"

Kahuhia, Fort Hall, Kenya, 1922. Handwritten (2 copies)

Need for clothing for the women and children. She has started sewing classes. Appeals for fabrics and wool. Plans for building a girls' boarding school which is essential to protect the girls from heathen influences.

(2 handwritten copies, one with year added at an early date; 8 pp.)

HOO 1/1/7 Ethel Soles to "Friends", August 1923. Handwritten

Describes the new boarding school. In particular the cooking arrangements and the local foodstuffs.

(6 pp.. handwritten carbon copy)

HOO 1/1/8 Ethel Soles to "Friends", 16 April 1925. Handwritten

Progress of the school. Describes the activities of the girls, including sewing and knitting garments for sale and playing netball.

(7 pp.. handwritten carbon copy, last page torn)

HOO 1/2 *Report on the Tour of C.M.S. Missions in West Africa by the Africa Secretary [H.D. Hooper] September 25, 1929, to January 4, 1930*

Published by Church Missionary Society 1930

A detailed by Handley Hooper of the state of the CMS Mission in Sierra Leone, especially Fourah Bay College, and Nigeria

HOO 1/3 Photocopy of reminiscences of service in Kenya by Canon H.D. Hooper

July 1963

Begins with account of journey to CMS Kahuhia by S.S.Comrie Castle, rail and road, thereafter mainly reflections on the missionary's encounter with African tribal society and religion, including Appendix (pp.26-9) of transcript of letter by African members of CMS of Fort Hall District on issue of new province for East Africa, church finances and education. Page 32 missing, probably accidentally missed in copying, though not certain from the text that the page ever existed.

(Photocopy of typescript made by permission 1997)

HOO 2 Papers of Cyril Hooper 1971-1973

HOO 2/1 A series of 'travelogues' by Cyril Hooper in Kenya sent to CMS in London and retyped for distribution to supporters in U.K.

HOO 2/1/1A 'Travelogue 2' Received November 23 1971

Recounts a visit to Dodoma (written 'Dodomo'), Tanzania accompanying Neville Langford Smith, Bishop of Nakuru, to the enthronement of Bishop Malinda as Bishop of the Diocese of Central Tanganyika.

Describes the journey and lives in the villages and the missions. Discusses the policy of the Government of Tanzania to collect the people into villages, leading to abandonment of churches in the middle of the bush. Describes meeting other missionaries, including Canon Dawson, 'his opposite number in Tanzania ...looking after missionaries as the CMS representative'. Details of the service and the celebrations.

A carbon copy 'Issued by Miss S.Branchett, 157 Waterloo Road, London S.E.1.'

HOO 2/1/1B

A retyped version of the same (presumed the later as typeface suggests an electric typewriter).

HOO 2/1/2 'Travelogue III'

Addressed (unlike other travelogues) 'Dear Friends' Recounts a journey 27 November to 28 November [1971]

To inspect the Outward Bound school at Loitokitok, near Mount Kilimanjaro. Description of his journey and the work of the school.

A carbon copy, without the notes about distribution as HOO 1/1/1 and 3

HOO 2/1/3 'Travelogue – Mr. C.J.D. Hooper'

Received 24 January 1972

Describes visit accompanying John Fowler to Sigilai in the Lessos area of the Nandi District, 'one of the Settlement areas near Eldoret'. Description of the countryside, the weather 'cold and wet' and the settlement of Sigilai. Discusses the achievements of the settlement since independence, its problems and the attempts to overcome them. Also describes a visit to the villages near Kisumu to look at the work of the village polytechnics. Suggests steps to be taken to set up such ventures.

A carbon copy 'Sent out by; Miss S. Branchett, 157 Waterloo Road, London S.E.1. 8UU'

HOO 2/2 An incomplete series of 'Link Letters' typed and duplicated in London from letters sent by Cyril Hooper in Kenya, all but the first addressed 'Dear Partners in Christ's Mission' and produced by CMS Overseas Link, Waterloo Road. Written for supporters in U.K., particularly churches at St Alban's North Harrow, Basford (Staffs), St Mary's Hornsey and Holy Trinity Hampstead

HOO 2/2/1 Without number but perhaps the first of the Link Letters or an appendix to it as it describes first impressions on his arrival back in Nairobi after 15 years away. Refers to considerable economic and infrastructure improvements since Independence. [July 1971]

HOO 2/2/2 No. 2, 11 August 1971

HOO 2/2/3 No. 3, 28 October 1971

HOO 2/2/4 No. 4, 22 December 1971

HOO 2/2/5 No. 7, 19 October 1971

HOO 2/2/6 No. 8, 7 January 1973

HOO 2/2/7 No. 10, 7 August 1973