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VERNON BROOKS

PAPERS, 1912-1915, 1946-1985  
(bulk 1955-1958)  
5 linear inches

ACQUISITION: The papers were donated by Mrs. Vernon Brooks in 1989.

ACCESS: The papers are open for research.

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## **Background**

Vernon Brooks was a pastor of the Baptist Auberry Mission Church, in Auberry, California, from 1954 to 1963. Reverend Brooks received his seminary training in Andover, Massachusetts, and presided over various churches in Nebraska and South Dakota before joining the Auberry Mission. The mission was established in 1909, by Reverend W.C. Cook, who believed a “missionary must come and live among these people [the Mono Indians] and slowly... show them the way to Christ and the true life” (Hayne, Coe. *By-Paths to Forgotten Folks: Stories Of Real Life In Baptist Home Mission Fields*, folder: Auberry Mission Church, History). At the time of Brooks’ appointment, there were 87 members, of whom 76 were Mono Indians.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The Vernon Brooks papers measure 5 linear inches and date from 1912 to 1915 and 1946 to 1985; the bulk of the material dates from 1955 to 1958. The collection includes the history of the mission, describing how the early missionaries established a relationship with the Mono Indians, and a brief history of the Mono Indians themselves. The minutes of the Women’s Mission Circle of the Indian Baptists date from 1912 to 1915 and detail the organization’s fund raising activities, list committee members, and also list a few words and phrases from the Mono Indian language. The Adult Education Programs assisted the Indians in receiving vocational training as well as access to government funded education programs. The American Friends Service Committee was established to provide greater understanding of North American Indians. The Auberry Indian Council aimed to improve living conditions for Mono Indian families, including advocating for greater availability of clean drinking water. The Intertribal Friendship House encouraged different tribes to share their art and culture.

The correspondence folder contains information on proposed roads in the vicinity of the San Joaquin River, Auberry and Tollhouse, and how they would affect the lives of the Mono Indians. The folder also contains a letter from Brooks’s predecessor discussing living conditions of the mission and the issue of integration between Indian and non-Indian communities, and a letter from a member of the Rainbow Baptist Mission for Navajo Indians depicting his perception of Navajo culture and moral standards. Land exchange occurred between the U.S government and the Baptist Home Mission Society, although there was some controversy over the location of the Mission Church on Mono Indian property.

**Box no.** **Description**

Box 1

Adult Education Programs, 1955-1957  
American Friends Service Committee, 1955, 1957 and undated  
Auberry Indian Council, 1955  
Auberry Mission Church  
    Census, 1946-1949  
    Correspondence, 1955-1958  
    History, 1912-1915, 1956, 1974, 1985 and undated  
    Introduction to the pastorship and community, undated  
    Monthly and annual reports, 1957-1959  
Brooks's biographical sketch, undated  
Intertribal Friendship House, 1955  
Land  
    Maps, undated  
    Mission land exchange, 1955-1961  
    Termination of federal supervision, 1955-1959  
Laws, 1955, 1957, and undated  
Other tribal cultures, 1954, 1980