

China Connection ^[1]

China Connection

by [William S. Powell](#) ^[2], 2006

"China Connection," a term referring to North Carolina's relationship with China, was used in the state for a century following the 1847 arrival in Shanghai of [Matthew T. Yates](#) ^[3] of [Wake County](#) ^[4] as a [Baptist](#) ^[5] missionary. Yates was followed by other Baptists as well as missionaries sponsored in increasing numbers by [Episcopal](#) ^[6], [Presbyterian](#) ^[7], and [Methodist churches](#) ^[8], and occasionally by others. North Carolina workers supported by the [YMCA](#) and [YWCA](#) ^[9] also served there. Only men were missionaries in the beginning, but women who had accompanied their husbands and helped to establish family life served as teachers of Chinese women and children. Correspondence between these expatriates and people who remained at home often led other North Carolinians to move to China. When missionaries returned, they often proved to be the first important contact North Carolinians had with people from a foreign country.

Schools, colleges, and hospitals were established initially in Shanghai, and soon business leaders became aware of trade possibilities between the countries. [Tobacco](#) ^[10] and [textiles](#) ^[11] became important items of commerce.

References:

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North Carolina China Council, *North Carolina's "China Connection," 1840-1849: A Record* (1981):
<https://archive.org/details/northcarolinasch00unse> ^[12]

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Authors:

[Powell, William S.](#) ^[16]

Origin - location:

[Wake County](#) ^[17]

From:

[Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press.](#) ^[18]

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