

American Baptists Remember the Hopevale Martyrs

In December, 1941, less than 12 hours after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Japan attacked the Philippine Islands. Very soon after, troops from the Japanese Imperial Army landed in the Philippines.

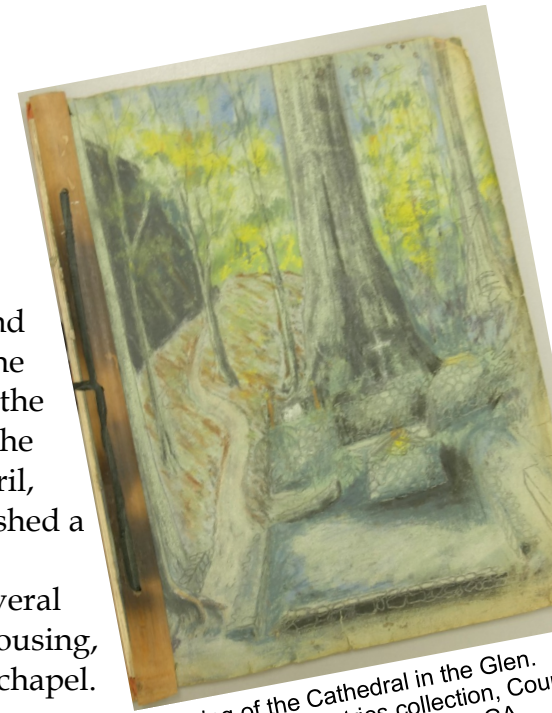
A number of American Baptist missionaries had continued their ministry, despite warnings through the summer and fall of the likelihood of war. They were joined by missionaries to Japan who had left that country, as instructed by the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society.

A group made up primarily of educators and health-care workers on the island of Panay fled into the mountains of Tapaz, in the province of Capiz, in April, 1942. There, they established a refuge that they called “Hopevale,” building several thatched structures for housing, and creating an outdoor chapel. (There is a replica of the “Cathedral in the Glen” at Green Lake Conference Center.) Local pastors and church members provided the missionaries with food and other supplies.

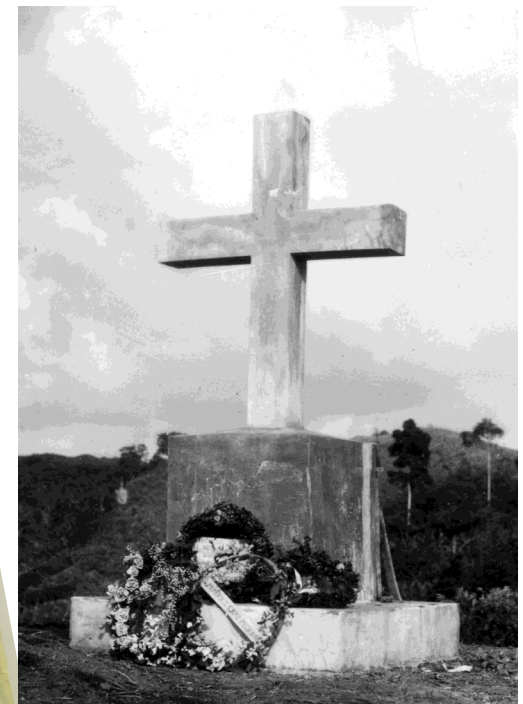
After twenty months their hiding place was disclosed. The residents of Hopevale were beheaded by Japanese military on December 20, 1943.

International Ministries’ collections include two copies of a memory book kept by the martyrs during their time at Hopevale. It includes diary entries, hymns, a map of their compound, recipes, and drawings, and documents their attempt to live as normally as possible while in hiding.

Hopevale memory book, International Ministries collection, Country Files, Box 101, ABHS, Atlanta, GA.



Drawing of the Cathedral in the Glen. International Ministries collection, Country Files, Box 101, ABHS, Atlanta, GA.



This cross marks the site where the remains of the Hopevale martyrs were buried. The inscription reads, “Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. Rev. 2:10” Photo from International Ministries collection, Country Files, Box 99 ABHS, Atlanta, GA.



A memorial was dedicated in 1993 at Central Philippine University, upon the 50th anniversary of their deaths. Photo from Winnifred Stanford Papers, MP122, ABHS, Atlanta, Georgia.



Missionaries martyred at Hopevale, at right from top to bottom: Jennie Clare Adams, Dorothy Antoinette Dowell, Signe Amelia Erickson, Frederick W. Meyer, Ruth Meyer, Francis Rose, Gertrude Rose; bottom row, from left: James Howard Covell, Charma Covell (missionaries to Japan), Louise and Erle Rounds with son, Erle Douglas.

