

HENRY G. AND ELLA APPENZELLER



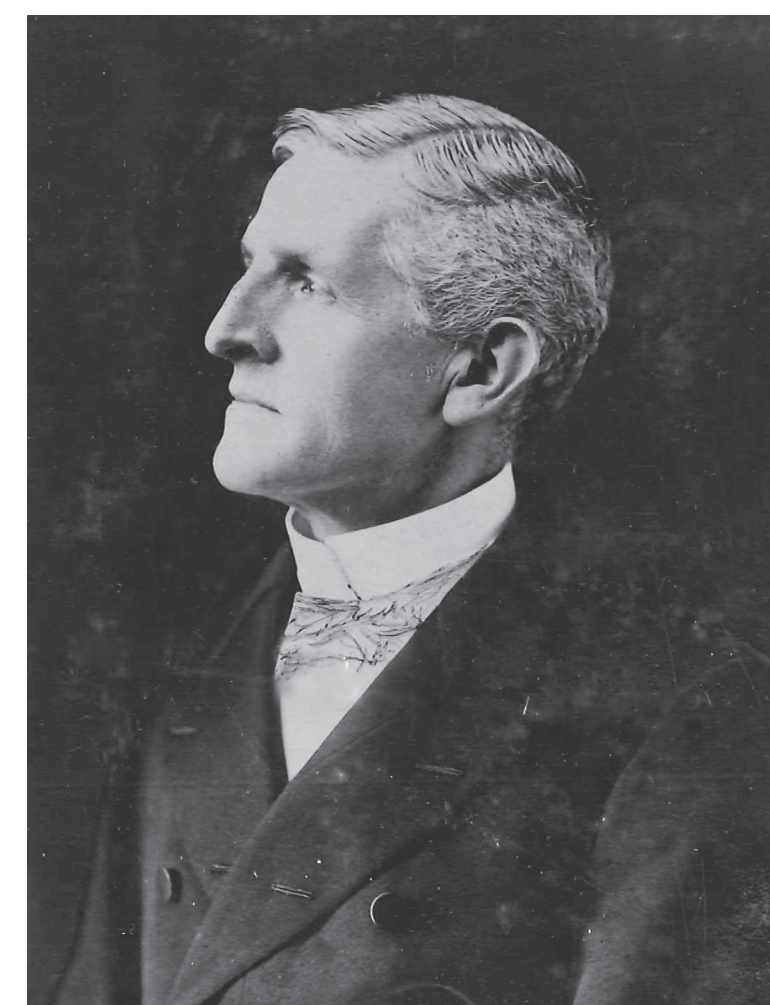
The Appenzeller family in the late 1800s: Ida, Alice, Henry G., Henry Dodge, Ella and Mary.

Photo: General Commission on Archives and History



Ella Dodge Appenzeller

Photo: General Commission on Archives and History



Henry G. Appenzeller.

Photo: General Commission on Archives and History

Pioneering Methodist Missionaries to Korea

Ella and Henry Appenzeller, along with Presbyterian missionary Horace Underwood, arrived in Korea in 1885 near present-day Incheon. Together, they were immediately successful. In 1886, Ella Appenzeller assisted Mary Scranton in founding the prestigious Ewha Women's University. Subsequently, and until his death in 1902, Henry Appenzeller helped found Methodist congregations; defend Korean independence from Chinese, French, English, Japanese and Russian imperialism; promote democracy; and establish Korea's first Western educational institution, Paichai Hakdang.

Henry Appenzeller was born in 1858 to Pennsylvania Dutch parents. At 18, while preparing for college, Appenzeller experienced a spiritual conversion. In 1878, he enrolled in Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and soon thereafter, prompted by deepening evangelical piety and attracted by the Methodists in Lancaster, he switched his membership from the German Reformed Church to the Methodist Episcopal Church.

In 1882, Appenzeller enrolled at Drew Theological Seminary where he demonstrated interest in foreign missions. He submitted a request to the Board of Foreign Missions of the Methodist Episcopal Church for an appointment to Japan, but in 1884 Korea opened for him. Some on the Mission Board feared he possessed neither the diplomatic skills nor maturity to build congregations in Korea. But noting Appenzeller's experience as an educator (he taught in the public schools while attending Franklin & Marshall) and his training at Drew, the Mission Board decided in 1884 to send him and Ella to Korea.

Among their successes, the Methodist and Presbyterian missionaries baptized Koreans, and hospital work flourished. After Ella Appenzeller's success establishing Ewha Women's University, Henry Appenzeller's school, Paichai Hakdang, received recognition from the king. The school introduced Western education and graduated many leaders of the Republic of Korea, including Syngman Rhee, the Republic's first president.

Adapted from Daniel M. Davies, "Henry G. Appenzeller: Pioneer Missionary and Reformer in Korea," *Methodist History*.