

Acad. Roy. Scienc. d'Outre-Mer
Biographie Belge d'Outre-Mer,
T. IX, 2015, col. 224-225

KELLERSBERGER (*Eugene R[oland]*) (1883-1966) and **SKINNER** (*Julia Lake*) (1897-1986), Presbyterian Medical Missionaries in the Congo.

Born in Cyprus Mills, Texas, Eugene Kellersberger was a graduate of the University of Texas (1911) and Washington University Medical School in St. Louis (1915). He also held a certificate from the London School of Tropical Medicine (1921) and diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons in London (1922). At the Edna Kellersberger Memorial Hospital at Bibanga, named for his first wife, Edna (Bosche, 1888-1923), he treated over ten thousand cases of trypanosomiasis (African sleeping sickness) and wrote the chapter on this disease in the standard medical textbook, *Strong's Diagnosis and Treatment of Tropical Diseases*. He founded the Bibanga Agricultural Leprosy Colony and was decorated three times by the Belgian government for his outstanding medical contributions. Ordained in 1928 by the Upper Missouri Presbytery, Presbyterian Church U.S. (Southern), he preached every Sunday and

was active in the governing bodies of the denomination. In 1938 he attended the First International Leprosy Congress in Cairo, Egypt, as an official representative of the United States. From 1940 to 1953, he served as general secretary of the American Leprosy Missions. The first Protestant member of the Père Damien Leprosy Foundation, he was also a member of the American and New York Societies of Tropical Medicine, the International Leprosy Association, the New York Academy of Science, and the Advisory Committee on Leprosy of the U.S. Public Health Service.

Julia Lake (Skinner) Kellersberger, his second wife (they were married in 1930) and constant travel companion, was an outstanding public speaker for missionary and leprosy causes. She was the author of nine books, including “Congo Crosses: A Study of Congo Womanhood”, the 1936 interdenominational mission book published by the Central Committee on the United Study of Foreign Missions.

Bibliography and sources: LAKE, J. & KELLERSBERGER, E. R. Doctor of the Happy Landings (1949). — VASS, W. K. Dr. Not Afraid: E. R. Kellersberger, M. D. (1986).

15 May 2003.

J. R. Hendrick & W. K. Vass.

Affinities: Winifred K. Vass is the daughter of E. R. Kellersberger and step-daughter of J. L. Skinner whom Dr Kellersberger married after the death of Mrs Vass's mother.