

2017

Guide to the Cummings Papers

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REGISTER
OF THE
M. Homer Cummings
Papers

Accession Number: 2016/11.0836



Special Collections Department
James E. Morrow Library
Marshall University
Huntington, West Virginia
2017

Register of the M. Homer Cummings Papers, 1909-1968

Accession No. 2016/11.0836

Processed by: Henry Handley

Dated completed: March 2017

Location: Special Collections Department, Morrow Library, Room 217

Corporate name: Cummings, Melville Homer

Dates: 1909-1978

Extent: 1.5 cubic feet

Scope and content note: The bulk of this collection consists of newspaper articles by and about M. Homer Cummings and family, as well as sermons delivered to his parishes and on the radio. Dated materials range from 1909-1968 inclusive, many between 1922-1959. There are a number of folders which consist of undated articles, sermons, and personal writing which may be presumed to date from approximately the same time period. Personal correspondence, original poetry, and various handwritten notes are a part of the collection, as well as materials that pertain to Rev. Cummings' education, in particular materials for a 1959 speech at his alma mater, Trevecca College.

System of arrangement: The collection is arranged into three series based on subject. Personal materials from M. Homer Cummings' collection regarding his career and family primarily make up Series I, while Series II is split into two sub-series distinguishing between sermons delivered to congregations and sermons broadcast on radio—Series II(a) and Series II(b), respectively. Series III consists of writing by Rev. Cummings, including newspaper articles, unpublished original poetry, and notes.

Biography: Melville Homer Cummings (M. Homer Cummings) was a Methodist minister born in 1890 in Pickaway, Monroe County, West Virginia to Hugh and Nannie Talbott Cummings. A graduate of Trevecca College and the University of Chattanooga as well as a veteran of World War I, he served as a pastor at Methodist Episcopal churches in West Virginia in Glen White, Wheeling, Ceredo, Fayetteville, Williamstown, and Ravenswood, among others, and was a member of the West Virginia Methodist Church Conference--where he was named poet laureate--for 52 years. He also served as chaplain for the 1931 sessions of the West Virginia Legislature.

Named in the Methodist "Who's Who," in the course of his career M. Homer Cummings composed over 1,000 hymns and published poems. He authored 16 books and wrote the "Our Weekly Visit" column in the Grantsville News and other featured columns in the Huntington Herald-Dispatch. Additionally, Cummings delivered syndicated radio sermons from stations WLW in Cincinnati, Ohio, and WCHS in Charleston, West Virginia. Rev. Cummings married Mary Kachmar in 1918 and they raised two sons, Dr. M. H. Cummings, Jr. and Dr. J. Hugh Cummings. Cummings retired to Huntington in 1959, where he died in 1978.

Preservation note: Older and/or more fragile newspaper clippings have been copied. Several clippings were laminated prior to the collection being accessioned.

Box 1

Series I. Personal Materials

Folder 1. Articles about Reverend M. Homer Cummings, 1923-1978

Folder 2. Articles about Family of M. Homer Cummings, 1922-1968

Folder 3. Correspondence, 1922-1968

Folder 4. Methodist Church Conference materials, n.d.

Folder 5. Training Schoolbooks, 1909-1918

Folder 6. Trevecca College materials, 1959

Folder 7. Miscellaneous material of Rev. M. Homer Cummings

Series II(a). Sermons

Folder 1. Sermons of M. Homer Cummings, 1937-1960

Folders 2-9. Sermons, n.d.

Series II(b). Radio Sermons

Folder 1. Radio Sermons, 1929-1941

Folder 2. Radio Sermons 1948-1960.

Folder 3. Radio Sermons, n.d.

Series III. Articles, Poetry, and Other Written Materials

Folder 1. Articles, 1931-1965

Folders 2-3. Articles, n.d.

Folders 4-6. Poems, n.d.

Folder 7. Handwritten notes, n.d.

Personal names:

Cummings, M. Homer (Cummings, Melville Homer)

Subjects:

Hymn writers

Methodist Church—clergy

Sermons

Keywords:

West Virginia Methodist Church

West Virginia ministers

Newspaper columns

Sermons