

MS 4744

William Harvey Young Papers, 1908-1973

Congregational Library

14 Beacon St. Boston, MA. 02801

Descriptive Summary

Repository: Congregational Library

Location: Rare Book Room

Call No.: MS 4744

Creator: Young, William Harvey (1883-1975)

Title: William Harvey Young Papers

Date(s): 1908-1973.

Quantity: 18 boxes (6 linear feet).

Note: Collection materials are in English.

Processing Information:

Processed by: Cheryl Ostrowski, 2008 January.

Acquisition Information:

Gift of James Harvey Young, Atlanta, GA.; received: 2004 November.

Access Restrictions:

There are no restrictions on physical access to this material.

Preferred Citation for Publication:

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Biographical Note

William Harvey Young was a minister in the Congregationalist faith. He graduated from Union Theological Seminary in 1915, after receiving his degree from Grinnell College in Iowa. He spent most of his life as a congregational minister in the towns of Brimfield, Chillicothe, Thawville, and Galesburg, Illinois, from the early 1920's until his retirement in the early 1960's. Social action was an integral part of his religion. While

attending sociology classes at Columbia University in New York City, he lived on the East Side among the Bohemian people with whom he worked, and many of his sermons reflect the social concerns of the time. He was also involved in the temperance movement and conducted an investigation of taverns in Illinois in the early 1930's as a member of the Anti-Saloon League. His interests included photography and theater, and he often wrote to playwrights seeking permission to host their plays.

Taking a respite from church duties, he sold law correspondent courses in the mid-west in the early 1920's. He converted to Congregationalism from Methodism in 1923, and took a pastorate at the Union Church in Brimfield, Illinois. He would remain a Congregational pastor throughout the rest of his ministry. He was concerned with the merger between the Congregational Church and the Evangelical and Reformed Church, which occurred in the 1950's, and was active in its opposition. He married Blanche De Bra in 1914. They had four children: Harvey, Jr., Arthur, Barbara, and Katherine.

Scope and Content

The collection consists of papers concerning his education and ministry, including sermon notes, records of income and expenses, personal diaries, documents about the lives of the churches in which he served, and correspondence documenting the 1950's merger between the Congregational Church and the Evangelical and Reformed Church, which he strongly opposed. Together these papers give considerable detail about church business and the economically difficult life of a minister in small Midwestern towns.

Arrangement

Organized into the following series:

- I. Education
- II. Diaries
- III. Financial
- IV. Sermons
- V. Correspondence
 - A. Personal
 - B. Professional
 - C. Merger
- VI. Church Files
- VII. Subject Files
- VIII. Biographical

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Series: I : Education

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| Union Theological Course Notes | 1912-1913 | 1: 3 |
| Union Theological Course Notes | 1912-1913 | 1: 4 |
| Union Theological Course Notes | 1912-1913 | 1: 5 |
| Union Theological Course Notes, Papers | 1912-1913 | 1: 6 |
| Union Theological Course Notes, Papers | 1914-1915 | 1: 7 |
| Union Theological Course Notes | 1914-1915 | 2: 8 |
| Union Theological Course Notes, Paper | 1914-1915 | 2: 9 |
| Union Theological Course Notes | 1914-1915 | 2: 10 |
| Union Theological Course Notes | 1914-1915 | 2: 11 |
| Union Theological Course Notes | 1914-1915 | 2: 12 |
| Union Theological Course Notes | 1914-1915 | 2: 13 |
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| Union Theological Course Notes | Undated | 2: 15 |
| Teacher Certificate, Papers, Pamphlets | 1909-1916 | 2: 16 |
| Grinnell College Alumni Newsletters | 1965-1974 | 2: 17 |
| Union Theological Alumni Correspondence | 1961-1967 | 2: 18 |

Series: II : Diaries

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| Diaries | 1960-1971 | Box 5 |
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| Appointment Calendars and Cash Accounts | 1930-1973 | Box 7 |

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| Family Account Ledger | 1948-1952 | 8: 3 |
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| Sermons | | |
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Arranged Chronologically

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Arranged Chronologically

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| Correspondence To W.H. Young From Servicemen, World War II <i>Contains Photographs</i> | 1942-1945 | 13: 16 |
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| Correspondence To W.H. Young | Jan. – March 1949 | 14: 4 |
| Correspondence To W.H. Young | April – Dec. 1949 | 14: 5 |
| Correspondence To W.H. Young | 1950-1956 | 14: 6 |
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| Correspondence From Ray Arnold | 1948-1954 | 14: 8 |
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| Plymouth Congregational Church, Chillicothe, Illinois. | 1942-1946 | 16: 5 |
| Plymouth Congregational Church, Chillicothe, Illinois. | 1947-1949 | 16: 6 |
| Plymouth Congregational Church, Chillicothe, Illinois. <i>Contains photographs</i> | 1942-1953, 1964-1969 | 16: 7 |
| Thawville Congregational Church, Thawville, Illinois. | 1949-1960 (1949-1956 Bulk) | 16: 8 |
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Series: VII : Subject Files

Arranged Alphabetically

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| Abraham Lincoln Research Dissertation: <i>Contributions of Brownist Congregationalism to Democracy in England and New England.</i> By Harold L. Michael Chicago Theological Seminary 1925 | 1924-1935 1925 | 17: 1 17: 2 |
| Illinois Commercial Telephone Company Correspondence | 1950-1952 | 17: 3 |
| International Cultures Association Articles For Publication | 1969-1973 | 17: 4 |

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| Prohibition, 18 th Amendment | | |
| Correspondence, Tavern Investigation | 1926-1941 | 17: 8 |
| Topical Writings | 1920-1954 | 17: 9 |

Series VIII : Biographical

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| <i>Second Generation Pioneers :</i> | | |
| <i>Blanche De Bra and Harvey Young</i> | | |
| (Biography) | undated | 18: 1 |
| Biographical Information | | |
| <i>Contains photographs</i> | | 18: 2 |
| News Clippings about W. H. Young | 1915-1954 | 18: 3 |
| Familial Correspondence | 1935-1955 | 18: 4 |
| Certificates, including Baptismal record | 1884-1921 | 18: 5 |

Search Terms

The following terms represent persons, organizations, and topics documented in this collection. Use these headings to search for additional materials in the Congregational Library Catalog, or in other library catalogs and databases.

Subjects

Plymouth Congregational Church (Chillicothe, Ill.)
 Thawville Congregational Church (Thawville, Ill.)
 First Congregational Church (Brimfield, Ill.)
 Union Church (Brimfield, Ill.)
 Union Theological Seminary (New York)
 Illinois--Social life and customs--20th century
 Temperance--United States--History--20th century
 Young, William Harvey, 1883-1975.

Genre terms

Letters (Correspondence)
 Diaries
 Sermons

