

**INVENTORY OF THE
WILLIAM HAFFORD BERRY PAPERS**

AR 741



Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives

**Prepared by
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March, 2003**

WILLIAM HAFFORD BERRY COLLECTION

AR 741

Summary

Main Entry: William Hafford Berry Collection.

Date Span: 1922 - 1963

Abstract: The William H. Berry Collection contains the account of a Southern Baptist career missionary and his family in Brazil over a 41-year period – 1922 to 1963. The collection contains an eight-volume autobiography of Berry, which includes personal and official correspondence, articles, newspaper clippings, observations, and photographs. A significant part of the collection documents in detail a long-standing difference of missionary philosophy between Berry and the leadership of the Foreign Mission Board (now the International Mission Board).

Size: 3 linear ft.

Collection#: AR 741

Biographical Sketch

William Hafford Berry was born in Magazine, Arkansas July 27, 1894. He died in Memphis, Tennessee July 30, 1994 at the age of 100 years and three days. At the time of his death, he was the oldest living emeritus missionary of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board (now International Mission Board.) Berry graduated from Ouachita Baptist College (now university) in 1920 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. Later he studied at the University of Chicago and the University of Missouri College of Journalism, where he received the B. J. degree in 1945. Berry married Olga Anne Oliver September 2, 1921, and they had four children: Edward Grady, Thomas Oliver, Bailey Hafford, and Betty Anne. Edward Berry became a career missionary and worked along side his father for several years in Brazil.

Before volunteering for full-time foreign mission service, Berry was a teacher and pastor. His wife, Olga, was one of his students and also a member of his congregation. Mr. and Mrs. Berry were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1922 and sailed for Brazil in early 1923. Their first child, Edward, was born March 25, 1923, three weeks after their arrival in Brazil.

“Since Berry’s missionary appointment in 1922, the Berry family has had a family member serving in Brazil for more than 70 years. Edward Berry and his wife, Lois, were appointed in 1953 and retired in 1985. Their daughter, Laura Spiegel, and her husband,

David, have been missionaries there since 1979. David Spiegel's parents – Betty and Don Spiegel of Benton, Arkansas – are retired Southern Baptist missionaries to Brazil. Bailey Berry's first wife, the late Doreen Margrett Berry, was a great-great granddaughter of William Buck Bagby, the first Southern Baptist missionary to Brazil.”

Scope and Content Notes

The William H. Berry Collection contains the account of a Southern Baptist career missionary and his family in Brazil over a 41 year period, 1922 – 1963. The collection contains an eight volume, 1,522 page autobiography of Berry, which includes personal and official correspondence, articles, newspaper clippings, observations, and photographs.

The narrative begins with the arrival from the United States, in the immediate post-pioneer South American missionary era, of a young missionary couple. It chronicles their experiences during the lean years of the Great Depression, World War II, the Cold War Era, and the Korean War. Much of the collection centers on the busy and complicated lives and schedules of career missionaries whose lives fall into three distinct divisions: educational work, special evangelism, and public relations.

A significant part of the collection documents a long-standing difference of missionary philosophy between the missionary-author and the leadership of the Foreign Mission Board (now International Mission Board). Letters beginning in 1930 document an ongoing disagreement between Dr. Charles E. Maddry and Berry involving missionary policy, personal conduct in Berry's owning a farm, and attempting to return diamonds to the United States. The disagreement/misunderstanding reaches fever pitch in 1937, immediately after Berry's return to the U. S. on furlough, and seriously clouds the possibility of his returning to service in Brazil. In the 1950's and until his retirement in 1963, Berry (and other missionaries in Brazil) was at odds with Dr. Baker James Cauthen, chief executive of the Foreign Mission Board, regarding the development of a sub-division to include a Baptist university in the new capital city of Brasilia.

The collection contains a summary history of the Youth for Christ movement recorded in an inauspicious way. October 27, 1954, Dr. Berry, who at the time was with Atlas News Service, and other Southern Baptist Missionaries interviewed Dr. Robert A. Cook, co-founder of Youth for Christ, in preparation for his conducting a crusade in Brazil. The normal questions gave opportunity for Cook to respond with what amounts to a summary oral history on the founding and purposes of the movement.

The collection contains correspondence from Drs. T. B. Ray, Charles E. Maddry, M. Theron Rankin, and Baker James Cauthen - all of whom were chief executives of the Foreign Mission Board - and Rev. R. S. Jones, Drs. Everett Gill, Jr., and Frank K. Means, field secretary/area secretaries for Latin America. Correspondence of J. Howard Jenkins, president of the Foreign Mission Board, and Jessie R. Ford, administrative assistant, is also included.

The following missionaries are mentioned in the collection: James Ross Allen, William Edison Allen, Mrs. Rosalie Appleby, Albert Ian Bagby, Taylor Crawford Bagby, William Buck Bagby, Lester G. Bell, Edward Grady Berry, Lois Roberts Berry, Lewis Malen Bratcher, Miss Nadyne Brewer, Glenn McCleary Bridges, Thurmon E. Bryant, Miss Ray Waller Buster, Miss Catherine Flo Chappell, Thomas Newton Clinkscales, George Bagby Cowsert, Jack Jimmerson Cowsert, Asa Routh Crabtree, Alva Bee Cristie, Arthur Beriah Deter, W. W. Enete, William Edwin Entzminger, Harold W. Fite, Solomon L. Ginsburg, Miss Sistie Givens, Edgar Francis Hallock, Jr., Joseph Arnol Harrington, William Coleman Harrison, William Alva Hatton, Miss Dorine Hawkins, L. T. Hite, and T. H. Hite.

Additional missionary personnel mentioned are: James Palmer Kirk, Miss Minnie Lavatta Landrum, Alva Bee Langston, Miss Minnie Lu Lanier, James Acree Lunsford, Walter Bayless McNealy, Otis Pendleton Maddox, Harvey Harold Muirhead, and James Everett Musgrave. Additional missionary personnel mentioned are: Miss Sophia Nichols, Albert Benjamin Oliver, Paul Clay Porter, Miss Ruth M. Randall, Loren M. Reno, John Leslie Riffey, John Watson Shepard, Wattie Berthea Sherwood, Miss Pearl Dunstan Stapp, Sherwood Sylvester Stover, Thomas Bertram Stover, William Carey Taylor, Miss Virginia Terry, Stephen Lawton Watson, Gene Hale Wise, Rodney Bishop Wolford, and Miss Edith West.

Brazilian national pastors and denominational workers mentioned in the correspondence include: Dr. Edgard Calmon, Pastor Vivaldo Coelho, Dr. Antonio Ernesto, Pastor Ebenezer Soares Fereira, Sr. Pedro Ferrandes de Fonseca, Dr. Almir S. Goncalves, Sr. Walter Kaschel, Rev. Werner Kaschel, Pastor Tiago Nunes Lima, Dr. Ruben Lopes, Dr. Antonio N. Mesquita, Pastor A. Anturies de Oliveira, Pastor Eleazar Correa de Oliveira, Dr. Oscar de Oliveira, Sr. Tiburcio de Oliveira, Dr. Jose dos Reis Pereira, Rev. Osualdo Ronis, Rev. Moises Silveira, Dr. John F. Soren, Rev. Manoel Avelino de Sousa, Dr. J. Walfredo Thome, Pastor Eneas Tognini, Rev. Eber Valconellos, and Rev. Jose Watson.

Included in the collection is correspondence or discussion about the following organizations or institutions: American Bible Society, Atlas News Service, Baptist Loan Board of Southern Brazil (Junta Patrimonial), Baptist Press of Brazil, Baptist Radio Commission, Baptist University of Brazil (Nova Providencia – New Providence), English Bible Society, and the Sociedade Administradora Batista de Economics SOABRE (Brazilian Baptist Foundation).

W. Maxey Jarman, successful businessman from Nashville, Tennessee and layman of First Baptist Church, is mentioned prominently as the donor of the Memorial Baptist Church in the new capital city of Brasilia, which was dedicated December 15, 1962.

The collection is primarily in English, but about 20 per cent of the material is in Portuguese. The collection is well organized and thoroughly indexed by the author/owner, the Rev. Dr. Berry. The first part of the collection is its original format in eight scrapbooks. The remaining ten scrapbooks were disassembled and their contents put

in folders which are arranged in the order of the books from which they were taken. The collection contains three linear feet of materials, and additions are not anticipated.

Arrangement

The collection was organized and indexed by the author into scrapbooks. The first section is in its original format in eight scrapbooks. The other ten scrapbooks were disassembled and the contents arranged in numerical order of the books.

Provenance

Donated by the William Hafford Berry family.

Preferred Citation

William Hafford Berry Collection, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee.

Access Restrictions

None

Subject Terms

Bagby, William Buck, 1955 – 1939

Berry, Olga Anne (Oliver), 1902 –

Cauthen, Baker James, 1909 – 1985

Rankin, Milledge Theron, 1894 – 1953

Ray, T. Bronson, 1868 – 1934

Atlas News Service

Brazilian Baptist Convention

Southern Baptist Convention. Foreign Mission Board

Youth for Christ, International

Depressions – 1929 – United States

Missionaries – Correspondence, reminiscences, etc.

Missions – Brazil

Brazil - Religion

Related Material

Berry, William Hafford 1894 - 1994.) *A Complete Index to The Confessions of a Missionary*, copyright William H. Berry, 1970/1980.

Berry, William Hafford (1894 - 1994.) *The Confessions of a Missionary*, (Microform) Richmond: Foreign Mission Board, Southern Baptist Convention, 1972.

Berry, William Hafford (1894 - 1994.) *A Survey of Baptist Organization and Activities in South Brazil*, Rio de Janeiro, Brail, South Brazil Mission, 1949.

Berry, William Hafford (1894 - 1994.) *A Survey of the Baptist Work Within the Territory of the South Brazil Mission*, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil: South Brazil Mission, 1956.

Berry, William Hafford (1894 - 1994.) *"Uncle Sam... You Must Be Born Again!"* New York: Vantage Press, 1978

Folder Listings

Box 1

- 1.1 Brasilia Papers, 1962
- 1.2 Brasilia Papers, 1963
- 1.3 Confessions of a Missionary – Volume 1 – Personal History
- 1.4 Confessions of a Missionary – Volume 2 – Life in the Serato
- 1.5 Confessions of Missionary – Volume 3 – Problems in Minas Gerais
- 1.6 Confessions of a Missionary – Volume 4 – The Maddry Letters
- 1.7 Confessions of a Missionary – Volume 5 – Missionary Personnel
- 1.8 Confessions of a Missionary – Volume 6 – Mission Problems
- 1.9 Confessions of a Missionary – Volume 7 – Dialogue
- 1.10 Confessions of a Missionary – Volume 8 – Brasilia
- 1.11 Missionary's Scrapbook – Brasilia Papers, Part 1, (Book 1) Introduction through Document 20 (Pages 1 – 20)
- 1.12 Missionary's Scrapbook – Brasilia Papers, Part 1, (Book 1) Documents 21 through 40, (pages 21 – 49)
- 1.13 Missionary's Scrapbook – Brasilia Papers, Part 2 (Book 2) Documents 50 through 75 (pages 51 – 75)
- 1.14 Missionary's Scrapbook – Brasilia Papers, Part 2 (Book 2) Documents 76 through 100 (pages 76 – 100)
- 1.15 Missionary's Scrapbook – Brasilia Papers, Part 3 (Book 3) Documents 101 through 125 (pages 1 through 25)
- 1.16 Missionary's Scrapbook – Brasilia Papers, Part 3 (Book 3) Documents 126 through 151 (pages 26 – 51)
- 1.17 Missionary's Scrapbook – Brasilia Papers, Part 4 (Book 4) Documents 152 through 175 (pages 1 – 23)
- 1.18 Missionary's Scrapbook – Brasilia Papers, Part 4 (Book 4) Documents 176 through 197 (pages 24 – 48)
- 1.19 Missionary's Scrapbook – Baptist Problems, Part 1 (Book 5) Documents 301 through 325 (pages 1 – 25)
- 1.20 Missionary's Scrapbook – Baptist Problems, Part 1 (Book 5) Documents 326 through 350 (pages 26 – 50)
- 1.21 Missionary's Scrapbook – Baptist Problems, Part 2 (Book 6) Documents 351 through 375 (pages 51 – 75)
- 1.22 Missionary's Scrapbook – Baptist Problems, Part 2 (Book 6) Documents 376 through 400 (pages 76 – 100)

Box 2

- 2.1 Missionary's Scrapbook – Maddry Letters – Part 1 (Book 7) Documents 501 through 525 (Pages 1 – 25)

- 2.2 Missionary's Scrapbook – Maddry Letters – Part 1 (Book 7) Documents 526 through 550 (Pages 26 – 50)
- 2.3 Missionary's Scrapbook – Maddry Letters – Part 2 (Book 8) Documents 551 through 575 (Pages 51 – 75)
- 2.4 Missionary's Scrapbook – Maddry Letters – Part 2 (Book 8) Documents 576 through 600 (Pages 76 – 100)
- 2.5 Missionary's Scrapbook – Mission Problems – Part 1 (Book 9) Pages 1 – 17
- 2.6 Missionary's Scrapbook (A) Missionary's Scrapbook – Mission Problems – Part 1 (Book 9) Pages 18 – 34
- 2.7 Missionary's Scrapbook – Mission Problems – Part 1 (Book 9) Pages 35 – 50
- 2.8 Missionary's Scrapbook – Mission Problems – Part 1 (Book 10) Pages 51 – 67
- 2.9 Missionary's Scrapbook – Mission Problems – Part 2 (Book 10) Pages 68 – 84
- 2.10 Missionary's Scrapbook – Mission Problems – Part 2 (Book 10) Pages 85 – 100
- 2.11 Missionary's Scrapbook – Baptist Publicity – Part 1 (Book 11) Pages 1 – 25
- 2.12 Missionary's Scrapbook – Baptist Publicity – Part 1 (Book 11) Pages 26 – 56
- 2.13 Missionary's Scrapbook – Baptist Publicity – Part 2 (Book 12) Pages 1 – 25
- 2.14 Missionary's Scrapbook – Baptist Publicity – Part 2 (Book 12) Pages 26 – 37
- 2.15 Missionary's Scrapbook – Baptist Publicity – Part 2 (Book 12) Pages 38 – 48
- 2.16 Missionary's Scrapbook – Atlas News Service – Part 1 (Book 13) Pages 1 – 25
- 2.17 Missionary's Scrapbook – Atlas News Service – Part 1 (Book 13) Pages 26 - 50
- 2.18 Missionary's Scrapbook – Atlas News Service – Part 2 (Book 14) Pages 1 - 25
- 2.19 Missionary's Scrapbook – Atlas News Service – Part 2 (Book 14) Pages 26 - 50
- 2.20 Missionary's Scrapbook – ANS and Radio – Part 1 (Book 15) Pages 1 - 25
- 2.21 Missionary's Scrapbook – ANS and Radio – Part 1 (Book 15) Pages 26 – 50
- 2.22 Missionary's Scrapbook – Publicity Et Al – Part 2 (Book 16) Documents 451 through 466 (Pages 51-66)
- 2.23 Missionary's Scrapbook – Publicity Et Al – Part 2 (Book 16) Documents 467 through 483 (Pages 67 – 83)
- 2.24 Missionary's Scrapbook – Publicity Et Al – Part 2 (Book 16) Documents 484 through 500 (Pages 84 – 100)
- 2.25 Missionary's Scrapbook – Publicity Et Al – Part 1 (Book 17) Documents 401 through 425 (Pages 1 – 25)
- 2.26 Missionary's Scrapbook – Publicity Et Al – Part 1 (Book 17) Documents 426 through 450 (pages 26 – 50)
- 2.27 Missionary's Scrapbook – ANS and Radio – Part 2 (Book 18) (Pages 51 – 75)
- 2.28 Missionary's Scrapbook – ANS and Radio – Part 2 (Book 18) (Pages 76 – 100)
- 2.29 Missionary's Scrapbook – Church Financing – Part 1 (Book 19) Documents 201 – 225 (Pages 1 – 25)
- 2.30 Missionary's Scrapbook – Church Financing – Part 1 (Book 19) Documents 226 through 250 (Pages 26 – 50)
- 2.31 Missionary's Scrapbook – Church Financing – Part 2 (Book 20) Documents 251 through 275 (Pages 51 – 75)
- 2.32 Missionary's Scrapbook – Church Financing – Part 2 (Book 20) Documents 276 through 300 (Pages 76 – 100)
- 2.33 Missionary's Scrapbook – Brasilia Baptists (Book 21, Pages 1 through 25)
- 2.34 Missionary's Scrapbook – Brasilia Baptists (Book 21, Pages 26 through 51)

