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# Records of the Office of the President: Henry Clay Morrison

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**Asbury Theological Seminary  
B.L. Fisher Library  
Seminary Archives  
Records of the Office of the President  
Henry Clay Morrison**

**ARC210-001**

Introduction

This collection of H.C. Morrison papers includes materials from 1909 to 1969 and reflects his work at Asbury College and Asbury Theological Seminary. The correspondence, the largest and most informative segment of the collection, has been reproduced from originals held in other collections. This was done in an attempt to reconstruct some of Morrison's life, since none of his correspondence files have been discovered to date.

The John Paul correspondence (with the exception of the 1909 letter H.C. Morrison wrote from India) is copied from letters in the John Paul Papers ARC 1978-003. The remainder of correspondence was discovered in the papers of Frank Bateman Stanger. The original 1909 Morrison letter from India has been added to the Paul Papers. The other originals are in the J.B. Kenyon correspondence (ARC 1987-000), the T. Delos Crary correspondence (ARC 1987-000) and the William D. Turkington Papers (ARC 300-002).

In addition to correspondence, the collection contains a series of addresses Morrison gave at Asbury College and some poems and songs that he composed. Also included is one of his Bibles, a transcript of his memorial service and reminiscences of him by friends. There are no restrictions on the research use of this collection. This finding aid was prepared by Ann Jenks in March 1987.

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Biographical Sketch

Henry Clay Morrison was born March 10, 1857 in Bedford, Kentucky to James Morrison and Emily Durham English. His parents died by the time he was four years old and he and his sister then lived with their grandfather. Morrison was educated at Ewing Institute, Perryville, Kentucky and later attended Vanderbilt University for one year. In later years Vanderbilt awarded him with the Doctor of Divinity degree.

He was licensed to preach in 1878 by the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. He received his deacon's orders the following year. He pastored various circuits from 1879 to 1882 and from 1882 to 1890 he entered evangelism full-time. During those years, tension existed between Morrison and conference officials because of his evangelistic, outspoken preaching in demanding conversion and entire sanctification. The conflict led to his expulsion from the M.E. Church, South in 1896, but he was reinstated in 1897 to membership and ministry.

In 1888 Morrison began The Old Methodist newspaper which by 1897 evolved into The Pentecostal Herald. He continued to be its editor for thirty-five years, during which time it became an important communicator of the Wesleyan teachings of Christian perfection. Morrison is also credited with 25 books, among them his autobiography, Some Chapters of My Life Story.

In 1909 he traveled around the world on an eleven month evangelistic tour. Upon returning in 1910 he accepted the presidency of Asbury College which he retained until 1925 when he was elected president of Asbury Theological Seminary. He resumed presidency of the College, in addition to the Seminary in 1933 and remained there until his retirement in 1940. Morrison continued as president of the Seminary until his death in 1942.

Morrison married Laura Bain June 20, 1888 and they had three children: George Bain, Henry Clay, Jr., and Anna Laura. Laura died in 1893. Morrison remarried Geneva Pedlar April 9, 1895. They had five children before her death in 1914: Howard, Geneva, Franklin Durham, Emily and Helen. He married his third wife, Bettie Whitehead, February 17, 1916.

Although Morrison suffered constantly from poor health, he continued evangelistic preaching until his death. He was in Elizabethtown, Tennessee preaching when he became ill and died March 24, 1942. His memorial service and burial took place in Wilmore, Kentucky.

-Jule Kind

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Scope and Content

The Henry Clay Morrison papers (1909-1969) contain correspondence, literary productions and printed material relating to his years of involvement at Asbury College and Asbury Theological Seminary. The correspondence between Morrison and J.B. Kenyon offers more insight into Morrison's relationship with the two institutions as well as his exhausting preaching schedule than any other material in the collection. Kenyon reported what was occurring on the campuses while Morrison was on the road and Morrison, in return, offered advice on various matters.

The lack of correspondence is attributed to the fact that Morrison was preaching over 300 days a year and either typed or hand wrote his own letters. He probably kept no carbon copies of his letters and his travels prevented him from saving the letters he received. None of Morrison's papers were found when the Louisville Herald office closed in the 1960's. Some papers belonging to Bettie Morrison and John Paul as well as records relating to the Pentecostal Publishing Company were transferred to the Seminary at that time, but even among "Aunt" Bettie's things were no letters from her husband.

This collection includes a series of six addresses Morrison delivered at the College and some poems and songs he wrote. His greatest body of work other than his books are his diaries (ARC 1977-002) and his editorials in The Pentecostal Herald. One of his most famous sermons is retold from memory by J.T. Seamands in the H.C. Morrison Oral History Collection (87-OH-001?) which also includes reminiscences on Morrison by several friends. Several biographies have been written about Morrison, among them Percival Wesche's dissertation, Life Theology and Influence of Henry Clay Morrison.

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Series Description

**BIOGRAPHICAL**

Series

Biographical File.

n.d.

Unarranged.

Includes information on Morrison from the Asbury College Ambassador, Who's Who in America and an obituary from the Kentucky Conference Journal of the Methodist Church (U.S.).

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Series

Correspondence.

1909-1942

Arranged alphabetically.

Includes correspondence between Morrison and T. Delos McCrary, J.B. Kenyon, John Paul and a few others.

**LITERARY PRODUCTIONS**

Series

Literary Productions.

N.d.

Unarranged.

Includes several poems which Morrison wrote in the sickroom, a song co-written with Frank Nabinger and a series of addresses given at Asbury College.

**PRINTED MATERIAL**

Series

Printed material.

(1935)-1969.

Arranged alphabetically.

Includes a transcript of the memorial service for H.C. Morrison, reminiscences of Morrison by two acquaintances and a request from the Asbury College Faculty to Board of Trustees to retain Morrison as President for an additional year.

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Box/Folder Inventory (H.C. Morrison)

1	1	Morrison H.C.	Biographical	N.D.
	2	Correspondence	Crary, T. Dales	1941
	3	Correspondence	Gentry, Earl T.	1939
	4	Correspondence	Glide, Lizzie	1931
	5	Correspondence	Hervey, H.J.	1932
	6	Correspondence	Johnson, Z.T.	1937
	7	Correspondence	Kenyon, J.B.	1921-1933
	8	Correspondence	Kenyon J.B.	1934
	9	Correspondence	Kenyon, J.B.	1935-1939
	10	Correspondence	McAfee, H.H.	1941
	11	Correspondence	McPheeters, J.C.	1942
	11a	Correspondence	Morrison, Mrs. Bettie	N.D.
	12	Correspondence	Paul, John	1909-1942
	13	Correspondence	Pollock, Bernice	1934
	14	Correspondence	Robinson, Orris G.	1937
	15	Correspondence	Stanger, Frank B.	1941
	16	Correspondence	Turkington, W.D.	1934
	17	Literary Publications	Addresses Asbury College "Six Great Facts"	N.D.
	18	Literary Publications	Article-"The Christ of the Gospel"	1971
	19	Literary Publications	Poems	N.D.
	20	Literary Publications	Songs	N.D.
	21	Literary Publications	Books-Remarkable Conversions	1925
	22	Literary Publications	Books – Sermons for the Times	1921
	23	Literary Publications	Books – The Two Lawyers	1898
	24	Literary Publications	Books – The World War in Prophecy	1917
	25	Literary Publications	Tract – "My Arrest and Rescue"	N.D.
2	1	Printed Material	Bible	N.D.
	2	Printed Material	Bible	1934
	3	Printed Material	Chapel Address by Sollie E. McCreless on H.C.Morrison	April 1969
	4	Printed Material	Memorial Service for H.C. Morrison	March 26, 1942



	5	Printed Material	“My Most Unforgettable Conference” by Carl Griffith. Memoirs of H.C. Morrison	N.D.
	6	Printed Material	“Our 20 <sup>th</sup> Century Prophet” by J.L. Brasher	N.D.
	7	Printed Material	A Request from the Asbury College Faculty to Board of Trustees to Keep Morrison as President	1935
	8	Photographic Materials	List of Photos in Photo Archives	N.D.
	9	Correspondence		1922