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**Asbury Theological Seminary
B.L. Fisher Library
Special Collections Department
Manuscript Collection**

**Papers of William Webster Holland
ARC1982-007**

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Introduction

The W. W. Holland collection consists of two boxes with materials that comprise a date range between 1912 to 1959. The first box contains: correspondence to W. W. Holland; articles, including a tribute to his father and an autobiographical article; a poetry file; and two scrapbooks (documenting his ministry and events of his personal life). In the second box are his two unpublished manuscripts - "Reflections I" and "Reflections II," including some handwritten manuscripts.

Biography

William Webster Holland, born June 28, 1884, in Queen Anne County, on the eastern shore of Maryland, was to become a noted preacher and teacher, and author of two unpublished manuscripts- "Reflections I" and "Reflections II." He was the fourth of nine children born to William Henry and Catherine Mulliken Holland. As the Hollands operated a successful 160 acre farm, the prevailing opinion during Dr. Holland's childhood was that one only needed to be a good farmer, have a strong body, and a basic education. Thus, he finished sixth grade and went to work on his father's farm. In 1901, a series of Holiness meetings changed the course of his life.

The Holland family were nominal members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Dr. Holland's sister was the first to come to vital faith. In a cottage prayer meeting, his father, followed by his mother, came to faith. Through the influence of these in his family and especially a revival led by the Reverend E. E. Wood (of Michigan), Dr. Holland came to faith in 1901. Because he felt called to Christian ministry, William Holland was obligated to return to school.

On December 13, 1901, Dr. Holland began attending God's Bible School in Cincinnati. It was at this school that he became "consecrated fully," during a series of special meetings under

the Reverend M. G. Standley in 1902. While in school, he worked with the Reverend Mr. Watkins in mission work in the sawmill camps of South Georgia. In 1904, when funds ran out for his schooling, he accepted a position in Iola, Kansas at a small mission. He remained there one year. Then, a letter came from Cincinnati, Ohio containing fare for a return trip to Ohio, as well as two offers - the position of supervisor at George Street Mission and the position of caretaker of "Aunt Kate" Kelsch, who needed special medical attention. Aunt Kate provided the funds for him to receive his high school diploma from Bethel Academy at Asbury College in 1909. He then entered the University of Cincinnati where he received his A.B. in 1923 and his A.M. in 1924 with Phi Beta Kappa honors. Asbury College in 1925 awarded him with two honors - election to the Board of Trustees and conference of an Honorary Doctor of Divinity degree. At Lane Theological Seminary, he received his Th.B degree in 1929. Further awards came to him in 1941/1942, when he was named in both Religious Leaders in America, and Who is Who in Methodism.

Dr. Holland's pastoral assignments were primarily in the city of Cincinnati. The Branch Hill Circuit became a part of his responsibilities in 1909. This circuit involved five churches in a 25 mile radius area of Cincinnati: Miamiville Methodist Church, Brecon Methodist Church, Groesbeck Church, Montgomery Methodist Church, and Rosemayne Methodist Church. In 1912, Dr. Holland joined the Cincinnati Methodist Annual Conference (West Ohio Conference). Under this conference, he served until 1947. He served in five locations: Riverside Methodist Episcopal Church, 1912-1916; Mount Lookout Methodist Episcopal Church, 1916-1922; North College Hill Methodist Church, attached to which was Groesbeck Methodist Church, 1922-1930; Wesley Chapel Methodist Church, 1930-1935; and Delta Avenue Methodist Church, 1935-1947.

Six of his eight years at the North College Hill location, he taught in the Department of Sociology at the University of Cincinnati. He also served as Dean and teacher at God's Bible School. As a recognized speaker, Dr. Holland preached in a number of other churches, and was regularly involved in Epworth Heights Camp Meetings (under the Cincinnati Camp Meeting Association.)

Nineteen forty-seven began a new era in the life of Dr. Holland. From 1947-1954, Dr. Holland taught in the Division of Philosophy and Religion of Asbury College. (He taught classes such as Old Testament Survey, New Testament Survey, Paul's Epistles, Art of Preaching, Pastoral Relations, and Ethics.) For approximately four years, Dr. Holland served as Chairperson of the division.

June 1, 1947, Dr. Holland married Eathel Violetta Doddridge. She had been a missionary to Burma working as a Superintendent of an English speaking high school. She had graduated with a Master of Arts degree from Columbia University in 1930. That same year, she joined the

faculty of Asbury College. At the time at which Dr. Holland came to Asbury College, she was the Dean of Women and a professor of English at Asbury College.

Their years of service at Asbury College ended in 1954 with their retirement to Florida. For thirteen years, the Hollands served among Methodist churches in Florida.

William Webster Holland died on February 9, 1971. Eathel Doddridge Holland died but five days later on February 13, 1971.

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Inventory

Box 1:

Series I - Personal

Folder	Title	Date
1	Correspondence to W. W. Holland	1936-1937
2	Articles including a tribute to his father and an autobiographical article	n.d.
3	Poetry file	n.d.

Box 1 cont.:

Series II - Memorabilia

Folder	Title	Date
4	Programs and articles	1931-1959
5	Scrapbook	1912-1931
6	Scrapbook	1928-1936

Box 2:

Series III - Unpublished Manuscripts

Folder	Title	Date
1-5	"Reflections I" and "Reflections II"	n.d.