

Matthew Simpson Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2012

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm77040162>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms012165>

Prepared by James R. Glen

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2012

Collection Summary

Title: Matthew Simpson Papers

Span Dates: 1829-1927

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1833-1884)

ID No.: MSS40162

Creator: Simpson, Matthew, 1811-1884

Extent: 5,000 items

Extent: 23 containers plus 1 oversize

Extent: 10 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm77040162>

Summary: Methodist clergyman, educator, editor, and orator. Family and general correspondence, diaries, journals, notebooks, notes, scrapbooks, copies of speeches, sermons, and writings, and miscellaneous printed material relating to Simpson's early life in Ohio and Pennsylvania, his presidency of Indiana Asbury University (now DePauw University), editorship of the *Western Christian Advocate*, and service as a Methodist Episcopal bishop.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Ames, Edward Raymond, 1806-1879--Correspondence.

Blair, Montgomery, 1813-1883--Correspondence.

Harlan, James, 1820-1899--Correspondence.

Janes, Edmund S. (Edmund Storer), 1807-1876--Correspondence.

Morris, Thomas A. (Thomas Asbury), 1794-1874--Correspondence.

Simpson family--Correspondence.

Simpson family.

Simpson, Matthew, 1811-1884.

Organizations

Indiana Asbury University (Greencastle, Ind.)

Methodist Episcopal Church--Bishops.

Methodist Episcopal Church--History--19th century.

Methodist Episcopal Church--Periodicals.

Methodist Episcopal Church--Southern States.

Subjects

Circuit riders.

Religion and science.

Slavery and the church--United States.

Slavery--United States.

Universities and colleges--Indiana--Greencastle.

Places

Cincinnati (Ohio)--History.

Europe--Description and travel.

Ohio--Social life and customs.

Pennsylvania--Social life and customs.

Titles

Western Christian advocate.

Occupations

Clergy.
Editors.
Educators.
Orators.

Provenance

The papers of Matthew Simpson, Methodist clergyman, educator, editor, and orator, were given to the Library of Congress by Sarah Elizabeth Simpson and Ida Simpson in 1931.

Processing History

The papers of Matthew Simpson were arranged and described in 1970. The collection was expanded and revised in 2012.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Matthew Simpson is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Matthew Simpson are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Matthew Simpson Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1811, June 21	Born, Cadiz, Ohio
1829	Attended Madison College, Unionville, Pa.
1833	Qualified as medical practitioner Admitted to the ministry on trial
1834	Honorary M.A., Allegheny College, Meadville, Pa. Minister, Cadiz and St. Clairsville, Ohio
1834-1835	Minister, Pittsburgh, Pa.
1835	Married Ellen Holmes Verner
1836	Fully qualified as minister
1836-1837	Minster, Williamsport, Pa.
1837-1839	Vice president and professor of natural science, Allegheny College, Meadville, Pa.
1839-1848	President, Indiana Asbury University (now DePauw University), Greencastle, Ind.
1841	Honorary D.D., Wesleyan University, Middletown, Conn.
1844	Member, Methodist General Conference, New York, N.Y.
1848-1852	Editor, <i>Western Christian Advocate</i> , Cincinnati, Ohio
1852-1884	Bishop, Methodist Episcopal Church

1857	Delegate, British Wesleyan Conference, Liverpool, England Attended Conference of Evangelical Alliance, Berlin, Germany
1861-1865	Pro-Union public speaker during Civil War
1865	Delivered eulogy at burial of Abraham Lincoln, Springfield, Ill.
1878	Lectured on preaching, Yale University, New Haven, Conn. Edited <i>Cyclopaedia of Methodism</i> . Philadelphia: Everts & Stewart
1881	Delivered opening sermon, Ecumenical Methodist Conference, London, England, and gave address at memorial service for President James Garfield, Exeter Hall, London, England
1884, June 18	Died, Philadelphia, Pa.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Matthew Simpson (1811-1884) span the years 1829-1927, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1833-1884. They document Simpson's private life and his professional activities as circuit preacher, educator, journalist, Methodist bishop, and public speaker. The collection is organized into seven series: [Diaries, Journals, and Letterbook](#); [Family Correspondence](#); [General Correspondence](#); [Special Correspondence](#); [Writings File](#); [Miscellany](#); and [Oversize](#). The Family Correspondence and General Correspondence extend throughout the period of Simpson's adult life.

The [Family Correspondence](#) includes letters exchanged between Simpson and his uncle, also named Matthew Simpson, in the early years of his career. Later letters from Simpson to his wife and children offer glimpses into his private life, reflect the physical hardships of the ministry, and briefly report on some of his many trips. The [General Correspondence](#), largely letters received from a wide variety of persons, provides information about Simpson's work. Prominent among his correspondence were Edward Raymond Ames, Montgomery Blair, James Harlan, Edmund Storer Janes, and Thomas A. Morris. Brief biographical accounts of Simpson are included in the [Miscellany](#) series.

The [Writings File](#) of sermons, lectures, poems, stories, other writings, and notebooks and notes indicates the methods of preparation of a man whose reputation rested to a great extent on oratorical skills. The [Miscellany](#) series contains printed reports and full texts of many sermons, lectures, and speeches. The General Correspondence reveals Simpson's popularity as a speaker.

Some of the material, especially the correspondence and notes, also contains information about the division of American Methodism over the slavery question and the attempts to reorganize the Methodist Church in the South after the Civil War. The collection also reflects the struggles of the church to expand during the mid-nineteenth century, its involvement in international religious activities, and the attempts of some members to adjust to modern scientific thought.

Except for a few of the diary and journal entries, which are generally brief, there is little evidence of Simpson's relationship with Abraham Lincoln, Ulysses S. Grant, or other major leaders in the government during the Civil War and Reconstruction.

The pencil notes found on many of the items are probably those of George R. Crooks, one of Simpson's biographers.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in seven series:

- [Diaries, Journals, and Letterbook, 1835-1883](#)
- [Family Correspondence, 1834-1882](#)
- [General Correspondence, 1829-1927](#)
- [Special Correspondence, 1884](#)
- [Writings File](#)
- [Miscellany](#)
- [Oversize](#)

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1-2	<p><u>Diaries, Journals, and Letterbook, 1835-1883</u></p> <p>Diaries, journals, and a letterbook. Except for one financial journal for the years 1850 and 1858-1859, the entries usually record thoughts, trips, and conferences.</p> <p>Arranged by type of entry book or topic.</p>
BOX 3	<p><u>Family Correspondence, 1834-1882</u></p> <p>Letters sent and received.</p> <p>Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 4-13	<p><u>General Correspondence, 1829-1927</u></p> <p>Letters received and a few copies of drafts of letters sent.</p> <p>Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 14	<p><u>Special Correspondence, 1884</u></p> <p>Letters and telegrams received by Simpson's family on his last illness and death.</p> <p>The letters are arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 15-19	<p><u>Writings File</u></p> <p>Typescripts and drafts of essays and editorials, family worship services, historical writings, lectures, poems, prayers, sermons, speeches, stories, travel accounts. Also, notebooks of memoranda, diary entries, records of correspondence, reading notes, brief occasional notes, and drafts and outlines of essays, sermons, and writings.</p> <p>Arranged by type of writing.</p>
BOX 20-23	<p><u>Miscellany</u></p> <p>Manuscripts, newspaper clippings, printed matter, a scrapbook of sermons and lecture outlines, miscellaneous notes, and other items.</p> <p>Arranged by type of material.</p>
BOX OV 1	<p><u>Oversize</u></p> <p>Oversize scrapbook. Described according to the series and container from which it was removed.</p>

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-2	Diaries, Journals, and Letterbook, 1835-1883 Diaries, journals, and a letterbook. Except for one financial journal for the years 1850 and 1858-1859, the entries usually record thoughts, trips, and conferences. Arranged by type of entry book or topic.
BOX 1	Diaries, 1835-1840, 1852, 1854, 1855, 1856, 1859, 1859
BOX 1	Diary of thoughts and reading, 1838
BOX 1	Tour through Indiana, 1842
BOX 1	Journal commencing 1844, Mar. 20
BOX 1	Memoranda, 1848-1852
BOX 1	Daybook, 1850-1859
BOX 1	Journal
BOX 1	1852-1853
BOX 1	1857
BOX 1	Notes, 1857
BOX 1	Notes of travel, with notes of thoughts, reading, etc., 1856 1857-1862
BOX 2	Diaries, 1865-1871, 1873-1874, 1877-1881, 1883
BOX 2	Letterbook, 1845-1856
BOX 2	Trip to Southern states and Cuba, 1866-1867
BOX 2	Record of journey to Europe beginning 1870, June 7
BOX 2	Travels, 1881
BOX 3	Family Correspondence, 1834-1882 Letters sent and received. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 3	1834-1882
BOX 4-13	General Correspondence, 1829-1927 Letters received and a few copies of drafts of letters sent. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 4	1829-1847
BOX 5	1848-1855
BOX 6	1856-1860
BOX 7	1861-1864
BOX 8	1865-1870
BOX 9	1871-1874
BOX 10	1875-1876
BOX 11	1877-1878
BOX 12	1879-1880

General Correspondence, 1829-1927

Container	Contents
BOX 13	1881-1887, 1927
BOX 14	Special Correspondence, 1884 Letters and telegrams received by Simpson's family on his last illness and death. The letters are arranged chronologically.
BOX 14	Letters, 1884, June 14-Aug. 16
BOX 14	Telegrams, 1884, June
BOX 15-19	Writings File Typescripts and drafts of essays and editorials, family worship services, historical writings, lectures, poems, prayers, sermons, speeches, stories, travel accounts. Also, notebooks of memoranda, diary entries, records of correspondence, reading notes, brief occasional notes, and drafts and outlines of essays, sermons, and writings. Arranged by type of writing.
BOX 15	Essays and editorials
BOX 15	“Autobiographical Account”
BOX 15	“Description of the Motions of the Earth”
BOX 15	“Divination”
BOX 15	“Electricity”
BOX 15	“Female Education—Female Teachers”
BOX 15	“Female Heroism”
BOX 15	“Joan of Arc, a Female Intrepidity”
BOX 15	“Leisure Hours—No. 1—Time”
BOX 15	“Optics”
BOX 15	“Music”
BOX 15	“A Pen”
BOX 15	“Reply to Annan on Methodism”
BOX 15	“Should Churches Be Taxed?”
BOX 15	“Singing—Olden Time”
BOX 15	“Spiritual Existences”
BOX 15	“Steam”
BOX 15	“Thoughts on Education”
BOX 15	“Thoughts in Heaven”
BOX 15	“Travelling on Railroads”
BOX 15	“A Word to a Drinker”
BOX 15	Untitled essays
BOX 15	Family worship services (responsive readings)
BOX 15	Historical writings
BOX 15	“Methodism in France”
BOX 15	“Methodism in Missouri”
BOX 15	“Sketches on the Waldenses”
BOX 15	Untitled historical writings
BOX 15	Lectures
BOX 15	Poems
BOX 15	“A chill northwestern blast blew over Nature's face”
BOX 15	“An Address to Elizabeth Simpson on Her Birthday, February 2, 1820”

Writings File

Container

Contents

BOX 15	“Aspiring muse! be cautious, look around”
BOX 15	“The Christian's Peace”
BOX 15	“Come gentlest muse, whom once I wooed”
BOX 15	“Down the huge falls of Hymen you've taken a leap”
BOX 15	“Emblem of youth in liveliest age”
BOX 15	“The Fox Chase”
BOX 15	“Go, brother, go amidst the band”
BOX 15	“Had I a friend an that friend had vowed”
BOX 15	“I had two sisters once, where are they now?”
BOX 15	“In Commemoration of the Evening Party on 28 Feb. [1]874 at the German Miss Resor's in Mexico”
BOX 15	“I've gaz'd upon the glorious sun”
BOX 15	“Lines to Joseph Winter on Leaving Cadiz”
BOX 15	“Lines Written by M. Simpson Jr. on His Birthday,” June 6, 1830”
BOX 15	“The morning light begins to tinge the sky”
BOX 15	“O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt”
BOX 15	“Our Aunt is dead; her soul has left its clay”
BOX 15	“Say why those fallen tears, my child”
BOX 15	“Soliloquy”
BOX 15	“The long western continent lay in the ocean”
BOX 15	“This must be love”
BOX 15	“Tis beautiful to stand upon these heights”
BOX 15	“Tis said in Arab's burning sands”
BOX 15	“To Him Who Reigns Above”
BOX 15	“Twas night—but lamps that mocked the day”
BOX 15	“Twas night upon the lengthened sea”
BOX 15	“When Eve was in Paradise, smiling and gay”
BOX 15	“Ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus”
BOX 15	Undeciphered poetry
BOX 15	Prayers
BOX 15	Sermons
BOX 15	“And I Saw a Great White Throne”
BOX 15	“How Long Halt Ye between True Opinions”
BOX 15	“Report of a sermon preached by Bishop Simpson at Muscatine, Iowa, Sept. 19, 1859”
BOX 15	“The Sabbath Was Made for Man, Not Man for the Sabbath”
BOX 15	“Sermon on Death of Miss M. E. Cooke”
BOX 15	Speeches
BOX 15	Baccalaureate address, 1848, July 19
BOX 15	“The Influence of the Bible on Languages”
BOX 15	[To the Methodists of Philadelphia]
BOX 15	Unidentified (chiefly baccalaureate addresses)
BOX 15	Stories
BOX 15	“The 'Insurrection”
BOX 15	“Notes of a Traveller”
BOX 15	Untitled stories
BOX 15	Travel accounts

Writings File

Container

Contents

BOX 15	“From Turin to Rome”
BOX 15	“Journal of a Visit to Europe, 1857”
BOX 15	“Palestine, 1857”
BOX 15	“Sketches of a Trip through Southwestern Indiana”
BOX 15	Untitled accounts
BOX 15	Unidentified writings
BOX 16-18	Notebooks
BOX 19	Loose notes
BOX 19	Essay and book outlines and notes
BOX 19	Lecture and speech notes
BOX 19	Notes of George R. Crooks
BOX 19	Outline of Lincoln eulogy
BOX 19	Reading notes
BOX 19	French
BOX 19	Geography
BOX 19	Geology
BOX 19	History
BOX 19	Medicine
BOX 19	Mathematics
BOX 19	Religion
BOX 19	Sermon outlines and notes
BOX 19	Travel notes
BOX 19	Unidentified
BOX 20-23	Miscellany
	Manuscripts, newspaper clippings, printed matter, a scrapbook of sermons and lecture outlines, miscellaneous notes, and other items.
	Arranged by type of material.
BOX 20	Announcements and programs
BOX 20	Biographical accounts
BOX 20	Certificates
BOX 20	Church-related minutes
BOX 20	Church-related reports
BOX 20	Church-related resolutions
BOX 20	Copies of news articles
BOX 20	Educational materials
BOX 20	Invitations
BOX 20	Legal papers (copies and drafts)
BOX 20	Magazines and magazine clippings
BOX 20	Miscellaneous printed items
BOX 20	Newspaper clippings
BOX 20	Petitions
BOX 21-23	Scrapbooks
BOX 21-23	Newspaper clippings

Miscellany

Container

Contents

BOX 21-23

Sermon outlines and miscellaneous notes *See Oversize*

BOX OV 1

Oversize

Oversize scrapbook. Described according to the series and container from which it was removed.

BOX OV 1

Miscellany

BOX OV 1

Scrapbooks

BOX OV 1

Sermon outlines and miscellaneous notes
(Container 23)