

# Guide to the Ira Franklin Bergstresser Papers

1897-1942



## **ARCHIVES & HISTORY**

General Commission on Archives and History

**THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**



## Ira Franklin Bergstresser Papers

1897-1942

0.89 cubic feet

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The purpose of this finding aid is to help you understand the nature of this collection and to assist you in the retrieval of material from this collection. The following pages contain a brief biographical history of the person, or persons, who created or collected these papers; followed by a general description of the collection in the scope and content note. If more detailed information is warranted then series descriptions also appear. The container listing appears last and is the listing of material in each box, or container, of this collection. To request material you need to turn to the container listing section. It is essentially a listing of file folders, or artifact items, in the collection. Each folder, or item, has a call number associated with it. Each folder also lists the inclusive dates of the material in the folder. On the material request form list both the call number and the folder, or item, title. Use a different line for each folder, or item, requested. When your request sheet is complete, or full, bring it to the archivist and the material will be retrieved.

### Biographical Note

Ira Franklin Bergstresser (1872 - 1942) was an Evangelical Church pastor in the East Pennsylvania Conference.

He was born December 1, 1872 in Lower Saucon Township, Northampton County, Pennsylvania. to Abrahm T. and Susannah L. Bergstresser.

In 1900, he married Carrie Grace Newhart. They had four children. Carrie Bergstresser died in 1926, and Franklin married Katie B. Marxen in 1928.

His education was first in the public schools and later at the Academy at Springtown. He attended the Normal School in Kutztown, Pennsylvania, after which he taught school. Later, he received a B.S. from Illinois Wesleyan University, and in 1941 received the doctor of divinity degree from Albright College.

Bergstresser was licensed to preach in 1896 by the East Pennsylvania Conference. In 1898 he was ordained Deacon and later Elder by Bishop Thomas Bowman, and served the following appointments: Berlinsville Circuit, Hegins and Reiner City, Pottsville, Slatington, Allentown (Ebenezer), Bangor, Lebanon, Pen Argyl, Allentown (Salem), Bethlehem (St. John), and Mohnton.

He also served the conference in various other capacities. He was a member of the Board of Examiners; served as assistant secretary of the conference; and later as its secretary. He was president of the Conference Missionary Society for eight years, and served as a member of the Conference Church Extension Society. He was secretary of the Forward Movement in his conference. In 1933 he was elected District Superintendent and stationed on the Eastern district. In 1935, his conference elected him to membership on the Board of Trustees of Albright College, and in this connection he served as member of the Committee on Administration for the Evangelical School of Theology.

From 1920 to 1928 he was the delegate from his conference to the General Board of Missions. He was a delegate to the General Conferences of 1919, 1922, 1926, 1930, 1934, and 1938. For twelve years he was a member of the executive committee of the Board of Church Extension. In 1926, he was appointed to the Commission on Church Merger, and served as secretary of the Commission. In 1934 and 1938 he was elected secretary of the General Conference of the Evangelical Church. His writings include a series of articles on "The Great Religions of the World," which appeared in the Sunday school publications. He also wrote Expositions of the Sunday School Lessons for Teachers' and pupils' materials. He died February 26, 1942.

## Scope Note

This collection contains sermons, notes, news clippings, articles, speeches, and photographs which document the ministerial career of I. F. Bergstresser. The bulk of this collection is comprised of sermons. A few sermons are in German. Articles Bergstresser used in preparing the sermons are included. Topics in his sermons include temperance, patriotism, Labor Day, Easter, Thanksgiving, Rally Days, Sunday School, and missions. In addition, there are several funeral sermons including those given on the deaths of Matilda A. Yeager, Lewis D. Krause, Louise E. Wentz, and Mrs. Wesley Bowman. Some of the addresses Bergstresser gave while he was a minister are included in this collection. Other items in this collection are mission materials (including two booklets by Walter Haller), a book on the first commemorative historical marker in the Evangelical Church, religious tracts, and a pastor's funeral book. There are also several large black and white panoramic photographs of conference meetings and conventions held in the Evangelical Church.

## Arrangement

Material has been arranged in the following manner. This collection is arranged by record type beginning with sermons and sermon notes. Notebooks follow and are ordered chronologically where a date could be determined. Then various essays, tracts, and newspaper articles, etc. are listed. The majority of the material is labeled and organized as Bergstresser himself labeled and organized it.

## Related Material

Records of the Commission on Federation and Union of the Evangelical Church.

## Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions regarding this collection.

## Preferred Citation

When citing material from this collection please use the following format: Direct reference to the item or its file folder, Ira Franklin Bergstresser Papers, United Methodist Church Archives - GCAH, Madison, New Jersey. Do not make use of the items' call number as that is not a stable descriptor.

## Subject Terms

### *Additional Creators - Personal*

Haller, Walter  
Lyman-Wheaton, H. P.

### *Subject Names - Personal*

Bowman, Mrs. Wesley.  
Crosby, Fanny  
Livingstone, David  
Wentz, Louise E  
Yeager, Matilda A

### *Subject Topics*

Easter sermons.  
Funeral sermons  
Missions  
Thanksgiving Day sermons  
Theology

***Subject Geographic***

Pennsylvania.

***Genre***

Clippings  
Manuscripts  
Prayers.  
Sermons  
Speeches  
Tracts

***Occupations***

Minister.

**Table of Contents**

## Container List

Call Number	Folder Title	Date(s)
1584-5-1:1	Sermons	Undated
1584-5-1:2	Sermons for General Occasions #1	Undated
1584-5-1:3	Sermons for General Occasions #2	1908-1914
1584-5-1:4	Sermons for General Occasions #3	Undated
1584-5-1:5	Sermons for General Occasions #4	Undated
1584-5-1:6	Sermons for General Occasions #5	Undated
1584-5-1:7	Sermons for General Occasions #6	Undated
1584-5-1:8	Sermons for Special Occasions #1	Undated
1584-5-1:9	Sermons for Special Occasions #2	Undated
1584-5-1:10	Revival Sermon Sketches #1	Undated
1584-5-1:11	Revival Sermon Sketches #2	Undated
1584-5-1:12	Revival Sermon Sketches #3	Undated
1584-5-1:13	Revival Sermon Sketches #4	Undated
1584-5-1:14	Sermons on Old Testament Texts	Undated
1584-5-1:15	Sermons on Old Testament Texts	Undated
1584-5-1:16	Sermons on New Testament Texts	Undated
1584-5-1:17	Sermons on New Testament Texts (the Gospels)	Undated
1584-5-1:18	Sermons on New Testament Texts (Acts and Epistles)	Undated
1584-5-1:19	Topical Sermons	Undated
1584-5-1:20	Missionary and Prayer Sermons	Undated
1584-5-1:21	Sermons for General Occasions (nos. 1 - 50)	Undated
1584-5-1:22	Sermons for General Occasions (nos. 51 - 100)	Undated
1584-5-1:23	Sermons for General Occasions (nos. 101 - 150)	Undated
1584-5-1:24	Sermon Notes (Old Testament)	Undated
1584-5-1:25	Sermon Notes (New Testament I)	Undated
1584-5-1:26	Sermon Notes (New Testament II)	Undated
1584-5-1:27	Funeral Sermons	Undated
1584-5-2:1	Record of Sermons Preached and Texts Used Since District Service	1933
1584-5-2:2	Notebook: Sermon Notes and Outlines of Themes (Funeral)	1897
1584-5-2:3	Notebook: Sermon Notes and Outlines of Themes	1900
1584-5-2:4	Notebook: Suggested Texts and Themes for Sermons	1928
1584-5-2:5	Notebook: Sermons, Sermon Material, Addresses	1942
1584-5-2:6	Notebook Fragment: Addresses, Illustrations	Undated
1584-5-2:7	Notebook: Material, Notes, Addresses, Sermons	Undated
1584-5-2:8	Notebook: Sermons, Sermon Notes	Undated
1584-5-2:9	Notebook: Sermons, Sermon Material	Undated
1584-5-2:10	Address: Centennial Session (Eastern PA Conference)	1940
1584-5-2:11	Essays, Treatises, Sermons, etc.	Undated
1584-5-2:12	Address: "David Livingstone: Missionary Explorer"	1913
1584-5-2:13	David Livingstone Material	1913
1584-5-2:14	"Autumn Leaves: A Sermon by Rev. H. P. Lyman-Wheaton"	Undated
1584-5-2:15	Missing Materials of the Evangelical Church	1903-1929
1584-5-2:16	Memorial Booklet Commemorating the Unveiling of the Marker on the Site of the First Evangelical Church	1927
1584-5-2:17	Tracts	Undated
1584-5-2:18	News clippings	1912-1916
1584-5-2:19	Pastor's Ideal Funeral Book	1910
1644-6-1:2	The 76th East Pennsylvania Conference of the Evangelical, Park Church, Reading, PA	1915
1644-6-1:3	27th General Conference - Evangelical Association, Cedar Falls, IA	1919
1644-6-1:4	Sunday School and Young Peoples Alliance Convention	1919
1644-6-1:5	Salem Evangelical Church November 20 - 23	1919
1644-6-1:6	The General Conference - Evangelical Church Detroit, MI October	1922
1644-6-1:7	Evangelical Conference - Williamsport, PA	Undated
1644-6-1:8	East Pennsylvania Conference of the Evangelical Church Ebenezer Evangelical Church, Allentown, PA February 24 - March 1	1937

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Call Number	Folder Title	Date(s)
1644-6-1:9	Eastern PA - 101st Annual Evangelical Conference, Ebenezer Church Allentown, PA April 24 - 29	1940
1644-6-1:10	Young People's Meeting - Highland Park Camp Meeting Grounds July 31	1940
1644-6-1:11	District Superintendent's Council - Evangelical Church Naperville, IL September 4	1941