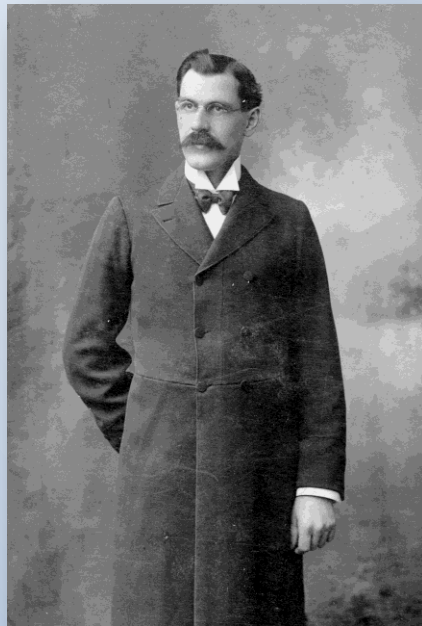


ESTHER CLARK WRIGHT ARCHIVES

ACADIA UNIVERSITY

Rev. Simeon Spidle fonds

Accession 1900.009



Compiled by Rhianna H. Edwards
August 2001; revised October 2001 and May 2005

Simeon Spidle fonds. – [textual records]. – 1912-1953. – 50cm of textual records

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1. Manuscripts. – [19-] – 1953. – 26 cm of textual records

Series consists of holograph and typescript manuscripts written by Spidle. Most appear to be his lecture notes for the various courses he taught. In addition, there is a syllabus for his course in Systematic Theology. Also included are two bound volumes that he wrote during his retirement years and that are treatments of the basic principles of Ethics and of Theology.

File List

1/1 Church History. – [19-]. – 4 v of textual records

File contains four bound holograph manuscripts that appear to be Spidle's lecture notes for a course in Church History. There are a great number of corrections and additions to the text. Numerous newspaper clippings and other material are glued to the inside covers as well as to pages. The first volume deals with the pre-Reformation period; the second and third with the Reformation period; and the fourth volume contains maps of the areas relevant to the course lectures. It is possible that volume three is a 'reworking' of volume two as it seems to be a more detailed treatment than volume two, which appears to be an outline only.

Note: Title transcribed from volumes

1/ 2 Logic. – [19-]. – 1 v of textual records

File contains a bound holograph manuscript that appears to be Spidle's lecture notes for a course in Logic. Glued to a page at the back of the book is an pre-Christmas examination paper, dated December 1928.

Note: Title transcribed from volume

Note: Spine is missing and back cover is almost detached

1/ 3 Logic. – [19-]. – 1 v of textual records

File contains a bound holograph manuscript that appears to be Spidle's lecture notes for a course in Logic. Includes newspaper clippings glued to the pages.

Note: Title transcribed from volume

1/4/1 Comparative Religion. – [19-]. – 1 v of textual records

File contains a bound holograph manuscript that appears to be Spidle's lecture notes for a course in Comparative Religion. There are a great number of corrections and additions to the text. Includes newspaper clippings, maps, and other material glued to the pages.

Note: Title transcribed from volume

1/4/2 Comparative Religion. – [19-]. – 1 cm of textual records

File contains Spidle's lecture notes for this course. Some are holograph and others are typed. There appears to be several versions of the notes. Includes newspaper clippings, maps, and other material.

Note: Supplied title based on contents of file

1/5 Industrial Evolution. – [19-]. – 1 v of textual records

File contains a bound holograph manuscript that appears to be Spidle's lecture notes for a course in Social Psychology. Includes a bibliography.

Note: Title transcribed from volume

1/6 Syllabus of Systematic Theology. – [19-]. – 0.5 cm of textual records

File contains Spidle's typescript syllabus for his course in Systematic Theology. It appears to be a different (earlier?) version of the one in file 1/7.

Note: Title transcribed from item

Note: Pages are stapled together, but some have come loose

1/7 1936 Syllabus of Systematic Theology. – 1936. – 0.5 cm of textual records

File contains Spidle's typescript syllabus for his course in Systematic Theology. It appears that he may have distributed this to his students since, along with the title, the first page states: Name of Owner - R. E. Whitney.

Note: Title transcribed from item

Note: Pages are stapled together but first page has come loose

1/8 An Outline of Ethics. – February 1952. – 1 v of textual records

File consists of a bound typescript manuscript in which Spidle outlined the basic principles of the subject of Ethics. It was written and presented to the Acadia University library during his retirement years in Mahone Bay, NS

Note: Title transcribed from volume

1/9 An Outline of Theology. – October 1953. – 1 v of textual records

File consists of a bound typescript manuscript in which Spidle outlined the basic doctrines of the Christian religion. It was written and presented to the Acadia University library during his retirement years in Mahone Bay, NS

Note: Title transcribed from volume

2. Publications by others, heavily annotated by Spidle. – 1921 – 1928. – 14 cm of textual records

Series consists of four books written by others, but in which Spidle made a great many annotations and pasted sheets of paper with his critique or summation of what had been presented in the text. Possibly these were the books on which he based his course lectures. G.E.L., who wrote Spidle's obituary for the *Acadia Bulletin*, stated He bought books in great numbers, read them, marked dozens of important passages, and prepared outlines of them, so that to read one of his well-marked books was to have a guide ready-made to it put into your hands at the same time.¹

Note: Supplied title based on contents of series.

File List

2/1 Edmund Davison Soper, *The Religions of Mankind*, New York: The Abingdon Press, 1921.

2/2 A. E. Taylor, *Elements of Metaphysics*, London: Methuen & Co. Ltd., 1924.

2/3 Wm. Pepperell Montague, *The Ways of Knowing or The Methods of Philosophy*, New York: The MacMillan Company, 1928.

¹ Ibid., p. 3

2/4 Handbook of the United Baptist Convention of the Maritime Provinces, Toronto: Canadian Branch of the American Baptist Publication Society, [1923?].

3. Publications by Spidle. – 1912 – [1920?]. – 2 cm of textual records

Series consists of publications that Spidle wrote.

Note: Supplied title based on contents of series

File List

3/1 The Belief in Immortality. – 1912. – 2 v of textual records

File contains two copies of this publication. It is Spidle's dissertation, Clark University, Worcester, Mass. They are reprints from the Journal of Religious Psychology, January 1912, vol. 5, No. 1, pp. 5 – 51.

Note: Title transcribed from item.

3/2 Present Day Belief in Immortality. – 1912. – 2 v of textual records

File contains a publication that was the text of a paper that Spidle read before the United Baptist Institute at Moncton, NB, 18 October 1912. It was published at the request of the Institute.

Note: Title transcribed from item

3/3 Eminent Sons of Acadia. – [1920?]. - 2 v of textual records

File contains two copies of this publication that was one of a series prepared by the Acadia Million Campaign Committee in 1920/21. The booklets were meant to acquaint the friends of Acadia University with the work being done on campus and the needs of the university. The 'eminent sons' that Spidle describes are:

Sir Charles Tupper; William Bambrick Boggs; John Alfred Faulkner; Silas Marcus McVane; Theodore Harding Rand; Robert Linton Weatherbee; Wallace N. Graham; John Wallace deBeque Farris; James Wilberforce Longley; T. Sherman Rogers; Murdock Haddon MacLean; Milton Fowler Gregg; Walter Whitman Chipman; and Charles Aubrey Eaton

Note: Title transcribed from item

4. Supreme Court of Nova Scotia. – 1935. – 5.5 cm of textual records

In 1935, Spidle became involved in the Kingston (NS) Baptist Parsonage court case and testified before the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia.

Note: Location of original court transcript has not been located

Note: These records had been placed with the records of the Kingston United Baptist Church in error and were removed in May 2005 and placed with this fonds. This action was taken because it became known that Spidle donated these records to the Acadia library/archives in 1938 (see 1938 Baptist Convention Yearbook).

Note: Supplied title based on contents of series

File List

4/1 Court Record (Kingston Baptist Parsonage Case). – May 1935. – 2 cm of textual records

File contains an official transcript (typescript) of the court proceedings.

Note: Transcript is quite fragile. Photocopy (4/2) *must* be used by researchers

Note: Title transcribed from item

4/2 Court Record (Kingston Baptist Parsonage Case). – [19-]. – 2 cm of textual records

File contains a bound photocopy of the official transcript of the court proceedings.

Note: Researchers must use this photocopy rather than the official transcript (4/1).

Note: Title transcribed from item

4/3 Court Record (Kingston Baptist Parsonage Case) - addenda. – [19-]. – 0.5 cm of textual records

File contains records associated with this court case and numbered i to xxi. These were attached to a more modern typed copy of the proceedings. The modern typed copy (donated in 1988 by E. G. Corey) duplicated exactly the above official transcript and so was discarded with the exception of these addenda.

Note: Supplied title based on contents of items

Biographical Sketch²

The Rev. Dr. Simeon Spidle was born in New Cornwall, NS on 7 July 1867. He spent the early years of his life as a carpenter and on 22 May 1892 he married Hattie E. Ham. He later attended Horton Academy and graduated from Acadia College in 1897. He was ordained in Homeville, NS, 2 September 1897. Dr. Spidle served in two brief pastorates in Nova Scotia, one at Port Morien, 1897 to 1899, and another at Falmouth Baptist Church, 1900 to 1901, with a year between at Newton Theological Seminary. In 1901 Dr. Spidle re-entered the Seminary at Newton for two years, earning the B.D. degree. For the next five years he served the Pleasant St. Baptist Church in Worchester, MA. Following this came another period of intensive study, this time at Clark University, Worchester, MA from where he received his Ph.D in 1911.

Upon completing his work at Clark University he came to Acadia University in 1911 as Professor of Philosophy, Systematic Theology, and Church History. Later, Church History was replaced by the Psychology of Religion, and Comparative Religions. In addition he served as Dean of Theology from 1922.

Retiring from Acadia University in 1938, Dr. Spidle spent his retirement years in Mahone Bay, NS. where he died on 26 September 1954. He predeceased his wife and son. Dr. Spidle was given a honorary degree from Dalhousie University (LL.D. 1919) and from Acadia University (D.D. 1926).

² The information in this biographical sketch was taken from: G. E. L., "In Memoriam", in the *Acadia Bulletin*, November 1954, p.1 – 4.

Custodial History

The donor and date of donation of much of this material cannot be determined; however, the *Acadia Bulletin* tribute to Spidle at the time of his death states:

Although Dr. Spidle was not given to much writing, he has left on record in the library of his *alma mater* three pieces of writing that reflect the mind and the method of the man. These are his Doctoral thesis, *Belief in Immortality; The Outline of Ethics*; and *The Outline of Theology*...These latter works were put in their final shape and sent to the library during those closing years of Dr. Spidle's life when it could be said in truth that the hand of death was upon him.

Scope and Content

The fonds consists of four series:

1. Manuscripts
2. Publications by others, heavily annotated by Spidle
3. Publications by Spidle
4. Supreme Court of Nova Scotia court case

Notes

Supplied title based on contents of fonds.

See also works written by G. A. Rawlyk, which provide information about Simeon Spidle:

G. A. Rawlyk, "Fundamentalism, modernism and the Maritime Baptists in the 1920s and 1930s" in *Acadiensis*, 1987

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Citation for this electronic finding aid:

This finding aid should be cited as a website. Relevant information is as follows:

Title: Simeon Spidle fonds

Date: 2005

Author: Esther Clark Wright Archives, Acadia University

Access Points

Spidle, Simeon (1867-1954)