

Register of the

William Ward Simpson

Collection

Collection 81

Center for Adventist Research
James White Library
Andrews University
Berrien Springs, MI 49014-1440
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William Ward Simpson Collection Collection 81

Scope and Content:

William Ward Simpson was the first successful Adventist big city evangelist attracting crowds as large as 2,000 in Los Angeles in 1906. Although he died at the age of 36, he brought significant innovations to Seventh-day Adventist evangelism. He is best remembered for his folding prophetic chart which he published in 1899. Using the "flip chart" principle, it simply and effectively presented the major prophecies of Daniel and Revelation (Box 2 Fld 19).

W. W. Simpson (see photographs Bx 2 Fld 1, 2) was born in Brooklyn, New York, on August 1, 1872 to William Ward Simpson Sr. and Anne Turner (For biographical information see Box 1 Fld 6, 7, 8); died on April 28, 1907, at Glendale, California. He was one of six children; but the only one to survive early childhood. The family returned to England. When William Jr. was twelve years old, he and his parents returned to the United States where they planned to make their home. During the boat trip, William Sr. became very ill with pneumonia and died after arriving in Florida.

When a youth in Battle Creek, Simpson served first as call-boy in the sanitarium and later as errand boy in the office of *Good Health*. Afterward he completed an apprenticeship in the Review and Herald Office. As a boy, William had no religious faith. His father and grandfather were atheists and the boy had a poor chance to know a loving heavenly Father because of his own fathers example and teachings.

He was converted in 1890, and not long thereafter, while running a press in the office, he suddenly stopped the machine and informed the foreman that he was going to leave that job in order to assist in spreading the light of the third angel's message in the earth. He first labored as a canvasser, then Michigan Conference granted him a license to preach (Box 1 Fld 28). He labored successfully among the Indians in Ontario, Canada, and later in Michigan. His efforts brought good results. The laws of Canada made him a law breaker on account of his religious convictions, and he was compelled to remain a prisoner forty days in the Chatham, Ontario, jail (see photocopy of photograph in Box 1 Fld 10).

William married Nellie F. Ballenger on May 10, 1899, in Sheridan, Illinois. They had three children. On June 17, 1899 William was ordained to the ministry (Bx 1 Fld 27). In California after 1902, he conducted successful meetings in Oakland, Los Angeles, and in several of the larger cities of Southern California.

The William Ward Simpson Collection consists of two boxes which includes correspondence, information about the papier mache beasts, material on the Ballenger family, his evangelistic work, and writings. There is also some material from his daughter, Winea J. Simpson.

Arrangement:

The collection was not well organized when it was received. It is artificially ordered to reflect five sections.

Donation

Personal

Ballenger Family

Evangelist Work

Writings

Within each section the folders are arranged by person and then in a somewhat chronological arrangement. The letters are strictly chronological.

The three dimensional beasts are on display in the exhibit room of the Andrews University Center for Adventist Research.

Provenance:

Lavon M. and Fred Ramsey (William W. Simpson's granddaughter), donated the collection to the Andrews University Center for Adventist Research on November 29, 1976. As an interesting side note, the Turner Moving Company crated and moved the beasts from California to Michigan, charging \$500 to do so.

Use:

All users of this collection are required to complete the "Application to Use Unpublished Records," and to observe the regulation specified in the "Patron Agreement" and "Researcher's Code of Conduct." All records in this collection are open and available for research. Citation for this collection:

Box ___ Fld ___, William Ward Simpson (Collection 81), Center for Adventist Research, James White Library, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI.

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Inventory

I. Donation

Agreement

Bx 1 Fld 1 Deed of Gift Agreement between Mrs. Lavon M. Ramsey (W. W. Simpson's Granddaughter) and The Heritage Room, James White Library, Louise Dederen, Curator.
Nov 11, 1976.

Correspondence

Deed of Gift Agreements

Bx 1 Fld 2 Letter from Louise Dederen to Fred M. Ramsey (enclosed a "Deed of Agreement), Sep 29, 1976.
Letter from Lavon M. Ramsay to Louise Dederen, Nov 17, 1976.
Letter from Louise Dederen to Lavon M. Ramsey, Nov 30, 1976.
Letter from Lavon M. Ramsey to Louise Dederen (replying), Dec 14, 1976.
List of the beasts.

Shipping

Bx 1 Fld 3 Letter from Turner Moving & Storage to Louise Dederen, Jul 2, 1976.
Letter from Fred M. Ramsey to Louise Dederen, attached the paper of shipping, Jul 9, 1976.
Letter from Edwana Dean (Turner Moving & Store) to Louise Dederen, Jul 26, 1976.
Letter from Louise Dederen to Fred M. Ramsey, Sep 14, 1976.

Repair of the Biblical Animals

- Bx 1 Fld 4 Estimate for repairing the broken wing (leopard) and damaged plastic figure by Alan Collins, Sep 27, 1976.
Estimate for repairing to Nebuchadnezzar idol by Greg Constantine, Mar 8, 1977.

II. Personal

Biographical Information

- Bx 1 Fld 5 Biographical Sketches from his daughter Winea Simpson, titled "Evangelist William Ward Simpson, " (5 pages, 2 copies).
Biography: "Simpson, William Ward, Jr." from Winea Simpson (1 page).
Biography of W. W. Simpson (another) from Winea Simpson (4 pages, + 1 photocopy).
Biography Information, received May 6, 1971 (photocopies 10 pages and handwritten).

Correspondence

William W. Simpson

- Bx 1 Fld 6 William. W. Simpson to Editor of Buffalo Currier Jan 29, 1900.
William. W. Simpson to James Bresett, Ingersoll, Ontario, Mar 28, 1900 (5 pages + 1 envelope).
A. H. Deike to W. W. Simpson, Guelph, Ontario, Canada, Dec 2, 1903.
William. W. Simpson to Nellie B. Simpson, Oakland, California, Oct 25, 1906 (+ 1 envelope).
Mrs. S. N. Haskell to William W. Simpson, San Francisco, California, Oct 28, 1906.
Isaac Morrison to W. W. Simpson, Sacramento, California, Dec 4, 1906.
William W. Simpson to His Mother, Oakland, California, Dec 7, 1907 ? (+ 1 envelope).
Emily H. Cornish? to W. W. and Nellie Simpson, Ontario, Feb 12, no year (5 pages).

Ellen G. White

- Bx 1 Fld 7 To William. W. Simpson, College View, Nebraska, Sep 18, 1904. (typed original, signed, 4 pages, + 1 modern envelope).
To William. W. Simpson, San Diego, California, Jan 30, 1906 (typed original, stamped signature, 4 pages, + a piece of envelope).

To William W. Simpson, Oakland, California, Aug 20, 1906.
(typed original, stamped signature, 2 pages).

To William. W. Simpson, Sanatarium, Napa Co., California,
Dec 4, 1906 (typed original, stamped signature, 9 pages).

Nellie Simpson

- Bx 1 Fld 8 Mary Dickson to Nellie Simpson, Liverpool Nov 4, 1905.
Winea Simpson to Nellie, Pacific Union College, Apr 18,
1921.
Winea Simpson to Nellie, Pacific Union College, May 8,
1921.
No name to Nellie, Glendals, Dec 28, 1926 (+ envelope).

Others Letters

- Bx 1 Fld 9 No name to F. B. Raymond (farmer), Sheridan, Mar 11,
1894.
James E. to Eliza Ballenger, Mar 19, 1896.

Certification

- Bx 1 Fld10 Certificate of Ordination, London, Ontario, on Sabbath Jun 17,
1899.
Credentials: "Ordained Minister," Ontario Conference of Seventh-
day Adventists, Jun 22, 1902.
Credentials: "Ordained Minister," Southern California Conference of
Seventh-day Adventists, Sep 1, 1906.

Financial Documents

Deeds

- Bx 1 Fld11 "Deed," Rancho San Rafael, Los Angeles, Mar 21, 1905.
"Certificate of Title," to property in Glendale (then Tropicco)
where church members built the Simpsons a house, [house
no longer standing since 1982], Mar 29, 1905.
"Deed," to property, Tropicco, Cal, Jun 29, 1905.
"Grant Deed," Real property in the Rancho San Rafael, Los
Angeles, granted to Nellie B. Simpson, Apr 17, 1907.

Others

- Bx 1 Fld12 Checkbook, some checks already used.
Bx 1 Fld13 Notebooks of accounts.
Bx 1 Fld14 "Last Will and Testament, The" Tropicco, California, Nov 7, 1906.
Bx 1 Fld15 Receipt from E. W. Reynolds Company to William. W.
Simpson, Jul 2, 1906 (+ 1 photocopy).
Bx 1 Fld16 Business card of "Wm. Ward Simpson, Watchmaker and
Jeweler."

Personal Artifacts

William W. Simpson

- Bx 1 Fld17 Bible with internal markings and notes.
- Bx 1 Fld18 1 seal: the ark of covenant.

Nellie Simpson

- Bx 1 Fld19 A hat woman.
- Bx 1 Fld20 Little bag with her hair.

Photographs

[Box 2 folders 1 to 7, folder 9 and folder 20 photographs are now in the Center's Photograph Collection and may be found by looking for the W. W. Simpson Collection.]

Simpson Family

- Bx 2 Fld 1 William Ward Simpson, 4 photographs.
- Bx 2 Fld 2 William Ward Simpson, original frame, 1 photograph (colorized).
- Bx 2 Fld 3 Nellie Ballenger Simpson, 1 photograph.
- Bx 2 Fld 4 William W. and Nellie Simpson, 2 photographs.
- Bx 2 Fld 5 Winea Simpson, 6 photographs.

Ellen G. White

- Bx 2 Fld 6 Ellen G. White, steel engraving (Merrick and Palmer, 321 So. Hill St. Los Angeles, California).
- Bx 2 Fld 7 Family Bible Mrs White held while in vision.

Others

- Bx 2 Fld 8 William Miller (older reprint).
- Bx 2 Fld 9 A House, 2 photographs.
Temple of Riverside, California.
- Bx 2 Fld10 Twelve photocopies of photographs from Simpson's evangelistic work, the Simpsons, Simpson in Jail.

III. Ballenger Family

Correspondence

- Bx 2 Fld11 J. F. Ballenger to "Brother Tenney", Tropico, California, Mar 1, 1917 (notebook format).
J. F. Ballenger to A. F. Ballenger, Tropico, California, Feb, 1907 (5 handwritten pages, + envelope)

Testament

- Bx 2 Fld12 Last Will Statement of J. F. Ballenger (Handwritten, 1 page + modern envelope).

Writings

- Bx 2 Fld13 "Converted Rumseller, The," by Ida W. Ballenger.
Bx 2 Fld14 "Experiences of A. F. Ballenger While Studying and Publishing The Clearer Light," by unknown, *The Gathering Call*, Riverside, California, Vol. 52, No. 2, Mar-Apr, 1964.
Bx 2 Fld15 "In Loving Remembrance," for the death of A. F., *The Gathering Call*, Riverside, California, Vol. IX No. 4-5, Sep-Oct, 1921.

IV. Evangelistic Work

Advertisements

- Bx 2 Fld16 For evangelistic work
"Turn this Card and Watch the Horns Change," (6 items).
"The Converted Rumseller," (9 items).
"The Triple Crown His Number 666," (20 items).
"Have You a Carnal Mind?" (6 items).
"Spiritualism Exposed," (2 items).
"The Millennium of the Binding of Satan," (1 item)
"The Phenomena of Spiritualism Exposed," (1 item).
"Will the Old Book Stand?" (1 item).
Bx 2 Fld17 "Something to Eat," a draft.

Chart

- Bx 2 Fld18 Facsimile of the Original 1843 Chart.

Objects

Oversize: The Seven Paper-Mache Beasts at Center for Adventist Research
(James White Library, Andrews University, on display).

Beast	Wide (in.)	Length (in.)	Height (in.)
Lion	30	44	25
Bear	21	45	21
Leopard	20	55	40
Dreadful Beast	22	50	33
Ram	27	56	24
Goat	22	68	24
The Beast with seven heads and ten horns	20	55	40

Pamphlet

Bx 2 Fld19 “An Explanation of the New Folding Prophetic Chart.”

Photographs

[Box 2 folder 20 photographs are now in the Center’s Photograph Collection and may be found by looking for the W. W. Simpson Collection.]

Bx 2 Fld20 **Materials used in evangelist work.**

William W. Simpson together with people in front of evangelistic tent.

William W. Simpson in evangelistic tent, with “beasts.”

V. Writings

William W. Simpson

Article

- Bx 2 Fld21 "From Chatham Jail," *Advent Review and Sabbath*, May 26, 1896, pages 12 and 13.

Pamphlets

- Bx 2 Fld22 "All His Commandments are Sure," (4 copies).
Bx 2 Fld23 "Tradition or Bible –Which?" (4 pages + 1 draft).
Bx 2 Fld24 "What's A Name?"
Bx 2 Fld25 "Whither Are We Drifting?"

Sermons

- Bx 2 Fld26 Parable of the Sower, Matthew 10, Handwritten.
Bx 2 Fld27 Bound notebook with sermons, bible studies by topic (handwritten, 241 pages).

Winea J. Simpson

Article

- Bx 2 Fld28 "Your Body-The Temple," *The Medical Evangelist*, Vol. XVI No. 21, Nov 21, 1929.

Booklets

- Bx 2 Fld29 "Earth Showeth His Handiwork, The,"
Bx 2 Fld30 "Homemaking Teachers in Public Health."
Bx 2 Fld31 "Jealousy of the New Baby."

Handout

- Bx 2 Fld32 "How to Win Children and Influence Character: A Decalog for Character Development," ten lectures, 1972.

Handwritten

- Bx 2 Fld33 "Story of my life as mother," (4 pages).

Ellen G. White

- Bx 2 Fld34 "Our Need of the Holy Spirit," Manuscript 99, 1906 (4 pages, original copy).
"Work in Oakland and San Francisco-No. 5, The," *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, Feb 7, 1907 (clipping).
William W. Simpson work, *Evangelism*, 1946, page 204, 205 (2 photocopies).

Others

Bx 2 Fld35 "History of W. W. Simpson's Menagerie, The," by Beveridge R.
Spear.

Bx 2 Fld36 "Pastoral Lamb, The," by L. W. Herrick.

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