

Register of
Eric A. Beavon
Collection 384

Center for Adventist Research
James White Library
Andrews University
Berrien Springs, Michigan
2024
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Eric A. Beavon **(Collection 384)**

Biography

Eric Armson Beavon (1898-1987), was a Seventh-day Adventist educator, missionary, pastor, and administrator for more than 65 years. He worked on three different continents, and four different countries (United States, Canada, England, and Kenya). Born in Birmingham, England, in 1898, he was of military service age during the first World War. As a Seventh-day Adventist opposed to the bearing of arms, Beavon was a conscientious objector in England during the years of World War I. He was imprisoned at Dartmoor Corrective Prison located in Princetown, Devon, England, for this stand.

Beavon began his church service as principal of a church school near London where he met Myrna Campbell. In 1920 he accepted a call for volunteers to re-open and staff missions in East Africa. In 1922, Eric and Myrna were married by her father, Pastor Campbell (president of the East Africa's mission and of the SDA-British Conference).

In Africa he was in charge of the Kisii Mission, Nyanza Province, Kenya. His contributions in that place include the reduction of the Kisii language to writing, the help to translate the New Testament and hundreds of hymns to that tongue, and authoring his book *Sindiga the Savage*.

He held the following positions throughout his ministry

- 1819-1920 Principal, Stanborough Park College
- 1920-1930 Missionary, Nyanza Province, Kenya
- 1930-1934 Minister, Ontario, Canada
- 1934-1941 President, British Columbia Conference
- 1941-1944 President, Maritime Conference
- 1944-1956 Minister and Youth Department Director in Pennsylvania
- 1956-1961 Pastor, Colorado

Eric always had a great appreciation for Africa, where he worked diligently and mastered three African languages. Also, three of his four sons were born in Africa. As a retired minister, he actively served in the pastoral work in the states of Washington and Oregon. He died in 1987 in Oregon.

Scope

The Eric A. Beavon Collection contains Eric's poetic works, one of his passions. It also includes a facsimile of his book, *Sindiga The Savage: A Tale of the Wilds*. The collection houses direct testimonies, through Eric's diaries from 1915 to 1920, on various aspects of his life during his younger years, but especially his stance as a conscientious objector against World War I at Dartmoor Corrective Prison in England.

The collection has an extensive correspondence between Eric and Myrna during their courtship years, between 1919 and 1922. After their marriage in 1922, correspondence until 1926 is mostly between Myrna and her parents, including her sister Laura Campbell, reporting her adventures and work in Africa alongside her husband. Finally, the collection contains a small photo gallery of Eric during his younger years and a few photos in his adulthood.

This collection also includes research work on Eric's life by James Terranova (the donor of the collection). Terranova shows interest in Eric's life while he was a prisoner in Dartmoor Prison for being a conscientious objector, or "Conchies" as they were also called at the time. Along with Terranova's research work there are also part of his correspondences on the same subject.

Arrangement

The material is kept in chronological and topical sequence, in a slightly different order as received. The material comes directly from James Terranova archival work on Eric's life. Eric A. Beavon materials are sourced as follows:

Box 1 Sketches, Poetry work, Diaries, Letters, and Photographs (Eric A. Beavon); Research Papers and Communications, Photographs (James Terranova).

Extent

1 Records Center Box [1.25 linear feet]

Provenance

James Terranova donated this collection to the Andrews University Center for Adventist Research in September 2022.

Use

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

Box ____, fld ____, Eric A. Beavon (Collection 384), Center for Adventist Research, James White Library, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI.

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Eric A. Beavon (Collection 384)

INVENTORY

I. General / Biographical

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| Box 1 Fld 1 | Sketches of Eric A. Beavon's life |
| Box 1 Fld 2 | Miscellaneous documents |

II. Writings of Eric A. Beavon

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| Box 1 Fld 3 | Eric's Poetry Works |
| Box 1 Fld 4 | Eric's Poetry Works (Bound) |
| Box 1 Fld 5 | Facsimile of Eric A. Beavon, <i>Sindiga The Savage: A Tale of the Wilds</i> (New York and London: Harper and Brothers Publishers, 1930), 291 pages. |

III. Diaries (logbooks)

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|--------------|--|
| | Eric A. Beavon Diaries (called logbooks by Beavon). All are copies except a single original of 1918. |
| Box 1 Fld 6 | February 1915 to October 1917 [3 diaries]
No. 3, 5, and 6 |
| Box 1 Fld 7 | November 1917 to July 1918 [2 diaries]
No. 7 and 9 |
| Box 1 Fld 8 | January to May 1918 [1 diaries] Original
No. 8 |
| Box 1 Fld 9 | January to May 1918 [1 diaries]
No. 8 |
| Box 1 Fld 10 | July to November 1918 [2 diaries]
No. 10 and 11 |

Box 1 Fld 11	November 1918 to May 1919 [2 diaries] No. 12 and 13
Box 1 Fld 12	May to September 1919 [2 diaries] No. 14 and 15
Box 1 Fld 13	September 1919 to February 1920 [2 diaries] No. 16 and 17
Box 1 Fld 14	February to June 1920 [2 diaries] No. 18 and 19

IV. Correspondence

Nearly all correspondence is between Eric and Myrna Campbell, his future wife. They were married in 1922. Following the marriage, the correspondence is between Myrna and members of her family. All letters are copies except the last folder in this series which are original letters. Other senders are noted.

Box 1 Fld 15	1917 to 1919 [2 letters]
Box 1 Fld 16	January to March 1920 [14 letters]
Box 1 Fld 17	April to May 1920 [11 letters]
Box 1 Fld 18	June 1920 [10 letters]
Box 1 Fld 19	July 1920 [6 letters]
Box 1 Fld 20	August to September 1920 [10 letters]
Box 1 Fld 21	October 1920 [10 letters]
Box 1 Fld 22	November to December 1920 [11 letters]
Box 1 Fld 23	January to February 1921 [6 letters]
Box 1 Fld 24	March to April 1921 [15 letters]
Box 1 Fld 25	May to June 1921 [13 letters]
Box 1 Fld 26	July to August 1921 [15 letters]
Box 1 Fld 27	September to October 1921 [10 letters]

Box 1 Fld 28	November to December 1921 [10 letters]
Box 1 Fld 29	January 1922 [2 letters]
Box 1 Fld 30	April to October 1922 [12 letters]
Box 1 Fld 31	February 1923 to June 1925 [12 letters]
Box 1 Fld 32	July 1926 to December 1936 [8 letters]
Box 1 Fld 33	Undated [6 letters]
Box 1 Fld 34	Original letters [4 letters] Original letters from July 1920, December 1920, February 1921, and November with no year provided

V. Audio-Visuals Files

Box 1 Fld 35	Photographs 20 pictures. The folder includes pictures of Eric's wedding, in Africa, in his later years, and portrait photographs.
Box 1 Fld 36	Photographs (photo album) 24 pictures. The folder includes one infant portrait, and the remaining are of Eric's years at Dartmoor Corrective Prison in England.
Box 1 Fld 37	Audio memories 5 CDs. The CDs in the folder include stories, poems, commentary on photos, folk stories, and memories

VI. James Terranova Research on Eric A. Beavon's Life

Research Papers and Correspondence

Box 1 Fld 38	The Conchies Research Material
Box 1 Fld 39	Handwritten notes

Box 1 Fld 40

Correspondence, January 1996 to April 2014
[16 letters]
Senders and recipients: James
Terranova, Andrew Flinn, Nigel Steel,
Maureen, Polin, Raymond I. Sparvell,
Watch Tower B. and T. Society, John
Christopher, Clive Barret, Mike, Trevor,
Ped Riddle, Vilma

Visual Files

Box 1 Fld 41

James Terranova's photographs
28 pictures. The folder includes one
picture of James Terranova at Leeds
University, the remaining are picture of
the possible location of Dartmoor
Corrective Prison in England.

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