

Register of the

Byington-Amadon Diaries

(Collection 12)

Center for Adventist Research
James White Library
Andrews University
Berrien Springs, Michigan
1980

Byington-Amadon Diaries (Collection 12)

Biographical Information

The Byingtons and the Amadons

The four persons whose diaries make up this collection are from one family.

- John Byington was the first president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and a senior leader of the early Adventist being older than most of the other leaders.
- Catharine Newton Byington is John Byington's wife.
- Martha D. Byington-Amadon is the daughter of John and Catharine Byington.
- George Washington Amadon is Martha Byington's husband.

John Byington (1798-1887)

John Byington of New York was an active worker in the Methodist church before he became a Sabbath keeper by reading a copy of the Review and Herald in 1852. In 1858 he moved to Michigan at the request of Adventist Sabbath keeper James White. For 15 years he did religious work on a self-supporting basis, serving as the first president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists from 1863 to 1865. For additional information, see "John Byington of Bucks Bridge--the Pre-Adventist Years" by John O. Waller in the Center for Adventist Research.

Catharine Newton Byington (1803-1885)

Except for these diaries, little is known of John Byington's wife Catharine. Although some sources spell her name Cather^hine, she herself spelled it Catharⁱne. Her busy life and spiritual outlook is discussed by Randal Fred Barlow in "Catharine Byington: A Character Sketch" available in the Center for Adventist Research.

Martha D. Byington Amadon (1834-1937)

Daughter of John Byington, Martha is credited with teaching the first Adventist elementary school in 1853. She was the first president of the Dorcas Society in 1874. In 1860 she married George W. Amadon. See *The Student Movement*, April 6, 1933 and April 5, 1934.

George Washington Amadon (1832-1913)

John Byington's son-in-law, George W. Amadon was connected with the Review and Herald Publishing Association in various capacities for 50 years. He joined the publishing house staff when it was in New York and moved with it to Battle Creek until it was destroyed by fire. He served as a visiting pastor for the Battle Creek church after that and was ordained to the ministry at 72 years of age. For additional information, see the following works by Milton Hook: "George Washington Amadon", a graduate school project, and *Flames Over Battle Creek*. Both are available in the Center for Adventist Research.

Scope

The diaries date from 1857 to 1912.

Arrangement

The diaries are arranged according to the writer and then in a chronological sequence within that group.

Provenance

The Byington-Amadon diaries were given in the early 1940s to the library of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. Subsequently those holdings become a part of the James White Library when the Seminary moved to what is now Andrews University in 1959.

Use

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

Box ____, folder ____, Byington-Amadon Diaries (collection 12), Center for Adventist Research, James White Library, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan.

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INVENTORY

I. John Byington Diaries, 21 volumes

Box 1

Envelope 1	Jan 1 to Feb 10, 1858; Apr 1 to Dec. 31, 1857 (note reverse entry)
Envelope 2	1861
Envelope 3	1868
Envelope 4	1869
Envelope 5	1870
Envelope 6	1871
Envelope 7	1872
Envelope 8	1873
Envelope 9	1874
Envelope 10	1875
Envelope 11	1876
Envelope 12	1877
Envelope 13	1878
Envelope 14	1879
Envelope 15	1880
Envelope 16	1881
Envelope 17	1882
Envelope 18	1883
Envelope 19	1884
Envelope 20	1885
Envelope 21	1886

II. Catharine Newton Byington Diaries, 5 volumes

Box 2

Envelope 22	1863, 1864, 1865 (scattered entries), Jan to Apr 1878
Envelope 23	1876-1877
Envelope 24	1877-1878 (1878 continued in envelope 22)
Envelope 25	1884
Envelope 26	1885

III. Martha Byington Diaries, 2 volumes

Envelope 27 1857
Envelope 28 1860

IV. George Washington Amadon Diaries, 14 volumes

Envelope 29 1870
Envelope 30 1871
Envelope 31 1873
Envelope 32 1874
Envelope 33 1875
Envelope 34 1876
Envelope 35 1877
Envelope 36 1878
Envelope 37 1880
Envelope 38 1908
Envelope 39 1909
Envelope 40 1910
Envelope 41 1911
Envelope 42 1912

V. Family and Biographical

Box 3

Folder 1 Brief family tree of the Byington-Amadon family [references at the bottom of the page are no longer valid]
Folder 2 Photocopies or articles from the SDA Encyclopedia on John Byington and George W. Amadon
Folder 3 Letter from G. W. Amadon, Mar 27, 1912, to Harry and Mary concerning securing a marriage certificate for them following their wedding which he performed
Folder 4 2 small books given to Kate M. Amadon by her uncle, "Xmas" 1882
The Book of Common Prayer and Administration of the Sacraments . . .
Hymnal According to the Use of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America

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