

Register of the

George W. Greer Papers

Collection 038

Center for Adventist Research
James White Library
Andrews University
Berrien Springs, Michigan
2021
Processed by Carlos De La Cruz

George W. Greer Papers: (Collection 038)

Biography

“George Greer was born on September 11, 1895, in Eureka, California, to George William and Isabella Smith Greer, the younger of their two children. As a child George Greer had a natural aptitude for mathematics and music, and enjoyed piano practice and baseball. He attended Lodi Academy, where he joined with three other students to form a male quartet, the first of several he would sing in over the next half-century.”

“Greer studied voice with college voice teacher Alexander A. Krasoff, former singer with the Metropolitan Opera, and then with Ada M. Hartley. Though he would later study voice with noted musicians Henry Pasmore at the University of California at Berkeley and Reinald Werrenrath in Washington, D. C., Greer often referred to his lessons with Ada Hartley as the most important in his career.”

“At age twenty, Greer met Hazel McElhany, the daughter of a dentist, who was preparing to teach elementary school. They married two years later. Although he was listed as a carpenter in the 1920 census, their home became a center of musical activity as Greer organized quartets and glee clubs that initially rehearsed in their living room.”

“Between the years of 1921-1960, Greer held positions in the following institutions:

- Music teacher at Lodi Academy (1921-1926);
- Voice teacher and choir director at Pacific Union College (1926-1937);
- Professor at Washington Missionary College (1937-1943);
- Director of the King’s Heralds quartet at the Voice of Prophecy (1943-1947);
- Choir director at Avondale College (1947-1952);
- Professor of music at Atlantic Union College (1952-1954);
- Professor of music at Pacific Union College (1956-1960);
- Retired from Pacific Union College in 1960 and received professor emeritus.”

“George William Greer was living in Lakeport, California, when he died on November 1, 1967, at the age of 72. Known as the first to found an a cappella choir at an Adventist school, he was also a pioneer in doing extensive tours with his groups, conducting Adventist choirs on radio broadcasts, and releasing recordings of their music.”

Scope

The George W. Greer Papers cover the leadership of a choir director from the beginning to the end of his career and ministry. Beginning in 1927 at Pacific Union College and ending there in 1960, Greer established choirs wherever he was hired, in the U.S. and Australia. A majority of this collection was made possible by his wife, Hazel Greer, in the process of gathering information to write the book (also included), "Hymns at Heaven's Gate." Some of Greer's personal belongings like his hymnal, an award, a class syllabus, and a diploma are included in this collection.

Arrangement

The material is kept in chronological and topical sequence. Alphabetical order is used when better suited instead of dates.

Extent

2 Hollinger Boxes [0.83 linear feet]

Provenance

George Greer donated this collection the Andrews University Adventist Heritage Center in the mid-1970s.

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 ____, George W. Greer Papers (Collection 038), Center for Adventist Research, James White Library, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI.

George W. Greer Papers (Collection 038)

INVENTORY

I. Personal/Biographical

Box 1 Fld 1 Autobiographical information, biography [written by Hazel Greer]. 2 items.

Box 1 Fld 2 Christiansen Choral School diploma, 1940. 1 item .

Box 1 Fld 3 Greer's Memorial service program, 1967. 2 items.

Correspondence from George

Box 1 Fld 4 Life in Cooranbong, Australia, 1947-1952.
4 letters.

Correspondence to George

Box 1 Fld 5 1961-1962. 4 letters.

Andrews University/Louise Dederen

Box 1 Fld 6 1967-1975. 18 letters.

Box 1 Fld 7 1976-1980. 18 letters.

Article clippings about George

Box 1 Fld 8 1931-1971. 15 articles.

Box 1 Fld 9 Undated. 2 articles.

II. Writings

By George Greer

Box 1 Fld 10 "Hymns in the Remnant Church" 1 item.

Box 1 Fld 11 "Is Voice Culture Essential?" 1 item.

Box 1 Fld 12 "Music in SDA Schools" 1 item.

Box 1 Fld 13 Syllabus for Hymnology course, 1 item.

Box 1 Fld 14 Various, 5 items.

Box 1 Fld 15 "Wonderful Power of Music and its Counterfeit"
3 items.

By Hazel Greer and Norma Youngberg

[The rest of this section pertains to memories of George from those who were students, colleagues, and friends. These were used to compile the book "Hymns at Heaven's Gate: The Story of George Greer, Choirmaster."]

Box 1 Fld 16 "Hymns at Heaven's Gate", 1972. 17 items.

Box 1 Fld 17 Letter from Hazel Greer requesting contributions. 2 letters.

Correspondence by first name [last name not available]

Box 1 Fld 18 Alfred and Stella. 1 letter.

Box 1 Fld 19 Arlene and Paul, 1967-1969. 2 letters.

Box 1 Fld 20 Bernice, 1967. 1 letter.

Box 1 Fld 21 Ed and Lucida. 1 letter.

Box 1 Fld 22 Elva, 1969. 1 letter.

Box 1 Fld 23 George and Elsie, 1969. 1 letter.

Box 1 Fld 24 Gertrude, 1969. 1 letter.

Box 1 Fld 25 Ivalynn. 1 letter.

Box 1 Fld 26 Jeanette, 1969. 1 letter.

Box 1 Fld 27 Joe. 1 letter.

Box 1 Fld 28 Virginia and Marshall, 1969. 1 letter.

Correspondence by last name

Box 1 Fld 29 Alder, Bill, 1969. 1 letter.

Box 1 Fld 30 Alder, Joseph, 1969. 1 letter.

Box 1 Fld 31 Boerner, Billie. 1 letter.

- Box 1 Fld 32 Bowen, Otto, 1969. 1 letter.
- Box 1 Fld 33 Brown, Ruth and Ted. 2 letter.
- Box 1 Fld 34 Casebeer, George, 1971. 1 letter.
- Box 1 Fld 35 Clapham, Noel and Joy, 1970. 1 letter.
- Box 1 Fld 36 Couley, Ray, 1969. 1 letter.
- Box 1 Fld 37 Crites, Eva. 1 letter.
- Box 1 Fld 38 Edwards, Zelma, 1969. 1 letter.
- Box 1 Fld 39 Fehlberg, Trevor and Joan, 1968. 1 letter.
- Box 1 Fld 40 Franz, Evelin. 1 letter.
- Box 1 Fld 41 Gardner, Floyd, 1971. 1 letter.
- Box 1 Fld 42 Garside, E.W. and E.C., 1952. 1 letter.
- Box 1 Fld 43 Hansen-Lukens, Lucille, 1969. 1 letter.
- Box 1 Fld 44 Hartman, Rosalind, 1969. 2 letters.
- Box 1 Fld 45 Hooper, Wayne, 1969. 1 letter.
- Box 1 Fld 46 Hughes, Eugene, 1967. 1 letter.
- Box 1 Fld 47 King, Jean, 1969. 1 letter.
- Box 1 Fld 48 Knudson, Glen, 1969. 2 letters.
- Box 1 Fld 49 La Fave, Ralph and Elsie, 1969. 1 letter.
- Box 1 Fld 50 Landis, Lloyd and Helen, 1969. 1 letter.
- Box 1 Fld 51 Ludgate, Kenneth and Audrey, 1968. 1 letter.
- Box 1 Fld 52 Martin, Doug, 1969. 1 letter.
- Box 1 Fld 53 Millard, Tom, 1969. 2 letters.
- Box 1 Fld 54 Moore, Raymond. 1 letter.

Box 1 Fld 55 Paulson, Myrtle and Bob, 1969. 1 letter.

Box 1 Fld 56 Richards, H.M.S., 1967-1969. 2 letters.

Box 1 Fld 57 Robinson, Jack, 1962. 1 letter.

Box 1 Fld 58 Siler, P. Maurice, 1970. 1 letter.

Box 1 Fld 59 Smith, M., 1969. 1 letter.

Box 1 Fld 60 Snyder, Lola. 1 letter.

Box 1 Fld 61 Tolhurst, Len and Val. 1 letter.

Box 1 Fld 62 Tate, Walter, 1967. 1 letter.

Box 1 Fld 63 Vollmer, Marion, 1969. 1 letter.

Box 1 Fld 64 Wheeler, Eva, 1969. 2 letters.

Box 1 Fld 65 White, Edward E., 1967. 2 letters.

Correspondence from church institutions

Box 1 Fld 66 General Conference, 1967-1969. 3 letters .

Box 1 Fld 67 General Conference Temperance Department, 1969.
1 letter.

Box 1 Fld 68 Various institutions, 1967-1969. 3 Letters.

Box 1 Fld 69 Various schools, 1959-1969. 6 letters.

School and conference articles of George

Box 1 Fld 70 Australasian Record, 1952. 2 items.

Box 1 Fld 71 Campus Chronicles, 1931-1937. 8 items.

Box 2 Fld 1 Mt. Echo, 1919-1930. 2 items.

Box 2 Fld 2 The Sligonian, 1937-1943. 2 items.

Box 2 Fld 3 Tribute papers 1-22. 23 items.

Box 2 Fld 4 Tribute papers 23-44. 22 items.

III. Career Activities

Relating to Greer

- Box 2 Fld 5 Photo of Greer, 1946. 1 photo.
- Box 2 Fld 6 Various photos of choir groups. 9 photos.
- Box 2 Fld 7 Various articles from Greer's scrapbook. 5 articles.
- Box 2 Fld 8 Programs for Greer's choirs: 1927-1953. 22 items.
- Box 2 Fld 9 Programs for Greer's choirs: 1954-1962. 25 items.
- Box 2 Fld 10 Programs for Greer's choirs: undated. 6 items.
- Box 2 Fld 11 Greer's Church Hymnal, 1941. 1 item.
- Box 2 Fld 12 Plaque awarded to Greer, 1975. 1 item.

Relating to the choirs

- Box 2 Fld 13 "The Choir Story", 1952. 1 item.
 - [Mar 11 issue, pages 7, 17].
 - [Mar 18 issue, pages 7, 17].
 - [Mar 25 issue, pages 9, 22].
 - [Apr 8 issue, pages 7, 21].
- Box 2 Fld 14 Pacific Union College Choir booklet, 1927. 2 items.
- Box 2 Fld 15 Press releases about choir 1949-1963. 9 articles.
- Box 2 Fld 16 Press releases about choir [undated]. 6 articles.
- Box 2 Fld 17 Stationary from Avondale Choir. 1 item.
- Box 2 Fld 18 Programs of Greer's students' events, 1958-1968. 3 items.

Items Removed or Transferred

The Teacher's Bible, King James Version. Cambridge: University Press.

100,000 Deutsche bank note.

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