



Michigan Conference United Methodist Archives

Shipman Library, Adrian College
110 S. Madison St., Adrian, MI 49221
(517) 265-5161 ext. 4429

dcumcarchives@adrian.edu – <http://umcarchives.adrian.edu>



Ronald Alvord Brunger

Personal Papers, 1938-1993

Biographical Note:

Rev. Ronald A. Brunger was born 14 May 1911 in Newberry, Michigan. He earned a Bachelor's degree from Albion College in 1933, a Master's degree in History from Boston University in 1935, and a Bachelor of Sacred Theology Degree from the Boston University School of Theology in 1936. He also did a year's worth of work towards a Ph.D. at Boston University from 1936-1937. He took three courses in Church History at the University of Chicago Divinity School in the summer of 1938. He was admitted into full membership and ordained as an Elder of the Detroit Conference in 1939. He was married to Florine Lebirda Hurst from 19 May 1940 until her death on 6 December 2000. He served at many churches in the Detroit Conference, including Tecumseh, Dundee, Fowlerville, and many others. In addition to his work as minister at these churches, he served on many committees and societies, including serving as President of the Detroit Conference Historical Society from 1957 until 1969 and twice as a member of the Historical Society and Committee on Archives and History. Rev. Brunger died 29 September 2001.

Scope Note:

This collection contains writings, correspondence, coursework, notes, and record books, as well as some other materials.

Extent:

2.4 linear feet (ca. 4,800 pages)

Access Restrictions:

The collection is open to research.

Restrictions on Use:

Photocopying is handled by the staff and may be limited in certain instances. Before using any material for publication from this collection a formal request for permission to publish is expected and required.

Finding aid created by William H. McNitt, August 2014

Appointments List

- 1937-1939: Dixboro
- 1939-1940: Dixboro & Garden City
- 1940-1942: Dexter & North Lake
- 1942-1947: Newberry, McMillan, Hulbert, Bethel Community, & State Hospital
- 1947-1948: Boyne City & Boyne Falls
- 1948-1951: Stephenson & Ingalls
- 1951-1954: Tecumseh
- 1954-1958: Dundee
- 1958-1959: Dundee & Azalia
- 1959-1965: Marysville
- 1965-1971: Fowlerville
- 1971-1975: Saginaw Sheridan Avenue & Burt
- 1975-1979: Rochester St. Paul's (senior associate, retired in 1979)
- 1979-1981: Salem Grove
- 1981-2001: Retired

Contents List

Container	Contents
Box 1	Personal Papers <ul style="list-style-type: none">• “450 Years of Methodist Preaching”• “Albion College – The Founding of a Frontier School” American History Coursework• “Annual Conferences in Adrian” Articles, 1951-1964• Bibliography of Ronald Brunger’s Writings, 1973• “The Canadian Background of Early Michigan Methodism”, 6 June 1972• “The Career of Peter Marksman – 19th Century Ojibway Methodist Missionary”, 14 October 1993• “The Christmas Conference of 1784”• “The Circuit Riders Settle Down”• Correspondence<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 1967-1978○ 1980-1982○ 1983
Box 2	Personal Papers <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Correspondence<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 1984-1985○ 1986○ 1987○ 1988-1989○ 1990-1991
Box 3	Personal Papers <ul style="list-style-type: none">• “The Cultural Contribution of Early Methodism in Its Libraries”• District Superintendent Reports, 1941-1951• “Early Annual Conferences in Michigan”• “The Early Indian Mission Near Flat Rock”, 27 October 1983• “Early Moravians on the Clinton River – The First Protestants in Michigan, 1782-1786”• “Early Peacemakers in Michigan”• “Electing Delegates to General Conference”, 30 May 1963• “Eri H. Day – Missionary in Our Northwest”• “Forerunners of the Methodist Youth Fellowship”• “The Founders of Bay View”, 8 August 1975• General Detroit Conference History• General Michigan Methodism• “Greed Threatens America”
Box 4	Personal Papers <ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Hardships of the Methodist Circuit Riders in Michigan”• “The History of the Commission on Archives and History of the North Central Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church”

Contents List

Container

Contents

- "History of the Dundee Methodist Church", November 1957
- "History of Oneida School District #3"
- "The History of the Tecumseh Methodist Church" (2 folders)
- "How the Methodist Church Became Established on the Frontier in Michigan"
- "How Michigan Indians Faced Capital Punishment"
- "James Gilruth – An Early Presiding Elder"
- James Gilruth Journals
- "James V. Watson – Early Methodist Journalist"
- "John Clark – Early Michigan Missionary"
- "John H. Pitezal – Pioneer Missionary on Lake Superior"
- "John M. Arnold – Early Methodist Bookman"
- "John Wesley Hollowell – From Sailor to Preacher"
- "The Ladies Aid Societies in Michigan Methodism"
- "Luther Lee"

Box 5

Personal Papers

- "Methodism in the Fowlerville Area, 1836-1969"
- "The Methodist Bicentennial Observance in Baltimore, 1966"
- "Methodist Circuit Riders"
- "Methodist Frontier Revivalism as Particularly Illustrated by Peter Cartwright", 1938
- "Methodist Indian Missions Down Below", 6 August 1975
- "Methods of Church Finance: Old and New"
- "No Apologies for the Funeral Text"
- Notes for Ohio Wesleyan Conference on American Methodism, 6-7 January 1967
- Notes on Traverse City
- Notes on Women in the Church (2 folders)
- Notes on Work as Archivist
- "Our Developing Heritage in Christian Song"
- "Our First Ethnic Minority Church in Michigan Methodism, Also Our First Integrated One"
- "Our Methodist Roots in England", 5 February 1984
- "Our Michigan Methodist Heritage", 19 July 1983
- Pastor's Personal Record Book
 - Funerals Conducted, 1937-1994
 - Membership, 1939-1991
 - Out of Church Activities, 1936-1993

Box 6

Personal Papers

- Pastor's Personal Record Book
 - Record of Baptisms, 1938-1990
 - Sermons Preached
 - 1933-1973
 - 1973-1979

Contents List

Container	Contents
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Weddings, 1938-1990● “Peter Marksman – Chippewa Indian Missionary”● “Preachers Go to Annual Conference”● “Progress of Methodist Women in the Clergy”● “The Rise of the Lumbering Industry and Early Methodism in Northern Michigan”, 17-19 July 1973● “Robert Strawbridge – The Unsung Pioneer of American Methodism”● “The Role of the Church in the American Revolution”● Sermons and Historical Writings● “Seth Reed – Centenarian of Michigan Methodism”● “Some Great Michigan Methodist Personalities of the Past Century”● “Some Outstanding Ministers of Central Church, Detroit”, 4 June 1991● Status of Church Histories in Our Conference● “Stories from our Methodist Mission to the Indians in Michigan”, 23 June 1993● “The Story of Daniel Whedon, an Early Indian Student at Albion”● “Those Indispensable Ladies”● “The War of 1812 and the Methodists”● “Which Way – America?”, 1962● “William Case – Father of Michigan Methodism”● “William H. Brockway – A Varied Ministry”● “William Simmons – Our First Resident Presiding Elder”