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## MS-097: Robert B. Fortenbaugh Papers

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## MS-097: Robert B. Fortenbaugh Papers

### **Description**

This collection consists mainly of material related to his professional careers as a Lutheran minister and professor of history. Other than the two photo/scrapbooks, there are few materials related to his personal and family life. One scrapbook contains mostly ephemera collected while a student at Gettysburg College, (1909 – 1913), and the second one contains material documenting his work as a minister in Syracuse, NY, between 1916 and 1920. Both scrapbooks contain numerous family and personal photos.

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### **Keywords**

Gettysburg College, Fortenbaugh Lecture, Gettysburg Theological Seminary, ministry, Pennsylvania Historical Association

### **Disciplines**

Christian Denominations and Sects | Cultural History | History | Social History



**Guide to the  
Robert B. Fortenbaugh Papers**

**Gettysburg College, Musselman Library  
Special Collections & College Archives**

**Processed by Christine M. Ameduri  
November 2008**



## **MS – 097: Papers of Robert B. Fortenbaugh**

*Processed by: Christine Ameduri  
November 2008*

### **Provenance**

Given to Musselman Library by Robert Fortenbaugh, son of Dr. Robert Burns Fortenbaugh.

### **Biography**

Robert Burns Fortenbaugh was born in Harrisburg, PA on July 17, 1892 to James Penrose and Carrie Loy Fortenbaugh. He graduated from Gettysburg College (then called Pennsylvania College) in 1913 with an A.B. in Classics. While a student, he served as Class Secretary during his sophomore year, was a member of various organizations and societies such as Phi Beta Kappa, Class Debating Team and College Orchestra, served on the Junior Prom Committee and participated in the Sophomore Play.

He graduated from the Gettysburg Theological Seminary in 1916, received an A.M. from Syracuse University in 1920 and a Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1926. He served as a Lutheran clergyman in Syracuse and taught Sociology and History at Syracuse University between 1916 and 1923 before returning to Gettysburg as Acting Adeline Sager Professor of History from 1923 to 1926.

Three months after becoming head of the Department of History, Fortenbaugh organized the Historical Association of Gettysburg College. Within three years the organization had raised enough funds to purchase about 350 books for the college library. The association was renamed Kappa Epsilon Alpha in 1938, a year before it became a chapter of the national honorary society, Phi Alpha Theta.

In 1955, when it was clear that no new president had yet been chosen to succeed President Langsam, Fortenbaugh, along with three others, was appointed to serve on the Administrative Committee, (1955 – 1956). Fortenbaugh occupied the president's office for several hours each day making routine decisions and the entire committee would meet for more important matters.

He married Lena Schweinberger of Syracuse on August 16, 1921 and had two children, Robert Behrendt, ('44) and Ruth Emma, ('50). He wrote and published prodigiously on topics in American history.

### **Series Description**

This collection is divided into six Series. **Series I:** Correspondence, *Sub-Series A:* general correspondence, 1915 – 1959 & *Sub-Series B:* Pennsylvania Historical Association, 1932 – 1948, and 1958 - 1959; **Series II:** Manuscripts; **Series III:** Student

Papers; **Series IV:** Sermons and Lectures; **Series V:** Scrapbook/Photo- Album, and **Series VI:** Miscellaneous.

### **Scope and Content Notes**

The Robert B. Fortenbaugh Papers consist mainly of material related to his professional careers as a Lutheran minister and professor of history. Other than the two photo/scrapbooks, there are few materials related to his personal and family life. One scrapbook contains mostly ephemera collected while a student at Gettysburg College, (1909 – 1913), and the second one contains material documenting his work as a minister in Syracuse, NY, between 1916 and 1920. Both scrapbooks contain numerous family and personal photos.

**Series I, Sub-Series A** consists of general correspondence relating to clubs, organizations and professional associations, church related business and correspondence with various universities. There are also a number of letters from servicemen between 1944 and 1945. **Series I, Sub-Series B** consists almost exclusively of correspondence between Fortenbaugh and the Pennsylvania Historical Association and a few other historical organizations. **Series II** consists of papers and manuscripts written by Fortenbaugh, mostly about Pennsylvania, Adams County, education and Lutheran history. **Series III** is a small series of papers written by students mostly about some aspect of the history of Gettysburg College, c. 1925. **Series IV** consists of numbered, (but not dated), religious sermons and lectures written by Fortenbaugh, and **Series V** is comprised of the two photo/scrapbooks. **Series VI** is an accretion of miscellaneous papers, photos, newspaper clippings, etc. received in 2007 after the initial gift which was received in 1991.

### **Box 1**

#### **Series I – Sub-Series A: Correspondence - General**

- 1 – 1 Correspondence – General, 1915 – 1928
- 1 – 2 Correspondence – General, 1929 – 1931
- 1 – 3 Correspondence – General, 1932 – 1933
- 1 – 4 Correspondence – General, 1936 – 1940

### **Box 2**

- 2 – 1 Correspondence – General, 1941
- 2 – 2 Correspondence – General, 1942
- 2 – 3 Correspondence – General, 1943
- 2 – 4 Correspondence – General, 1944

### **Box 3**

- 3 – 1 Correspondence – General, 1945
- 3 – 2 Correspondence – General, 1946
- 3 – 3 Correspondence – General, 1947

#### **Box 4**

- 4 – 1 Correspondence – General, 1948
- 4 – 2 Correspondence – General, 1949
- 4 – 3 Correspondence – General, 1950

#### **Box 5**

- 5 - 1 Correspondence – General, 1951
- 5 - 2 Correspondence – General, 1952
- 5 - 3 Correspondence – General, 1953

#### **Box 6**

- 6 – 1 Correspondence – General, 1954
- 6 – 2 Correspondence – General, 1955
- 6 – 3 Correspondence – General, 1956

#### **Box 7**

- 7 – 1 Correspondence – General, 1957

#### **Series I – Sub-Series B: Correspondence – Pennsylvania Historical Association**

- 7 – 2 Correspondence - Pennsylvania Historical Association, 1932 – 1939
- 7 – 3 Correspondence - Pennsylvania Historical Association, 1940
- 7 – 4 Correspondence - Pennsylvania Historical Association, 1941 – 1943

#### **Box 8**

- 8 – 1 Correspondence - Pennsylvania Historical Association, 1944 – 1945
- 8 – 2 Correspondence - Pennsylvania Historical Association, 1946
- 8 – 3 Correspondence - Pennsylvania Historical Association, 1947

#### **Box 9**

- 9 – 1 Correspondence - Pennsylvania Historical Association, 1948
- 9 – 2 Correspondence - Pennsylvania Historical Association, 1958 - 1959

#### **Series II – Manuscripts**

- 9 – 3 Manuscripts - (Pennsylvania Historical Association programs)

- 9 – 4 Manuscripts – *The American Lutheran Church and the Social Problem*  
9 – 5 Manuscripts – *Background and Framing of the Constitution*  
9 – 6 Manuscripts – *Ecclesiastical orders in American Colonial Lutheranism*  
9 – 7 Manuscripts – *Education for the Common Defense*  
9 – 8 Manuscripts – *Essential Nature and Function of Religion*  
9 – 9 Manuscripts – *Inland Lutheran Migrations in Colonial Times*  
9 -10 Manuscripts – *Memory through History gives Courage and Inspiration*  
9 -11 Manuscripts – *Pennsylvania's Part in the American Revolution*  
9 -12 Manuscripts – *The Religious Life of George Washington*  
9 -13 Manuscripts – *Religious Establishments in the English Colonies in North America*  
9 -14 Manuscripts – *Religious History of the United States as a Field of Study and Research*  
9 -15 Manuscripts – *Role of Imperialism in the Modern World*  
9 -16 Manuscripts – *Social Theory*  
9 -17 Manuscripts – *The Struggle for Free Schools in Pennsylvania*  
9 -18 Manuscripts – *Syllabus for Introduction to Sociology*  
9 -19 Manuscripts – [Thomas Hartley]  
9-20 Manuscripts – *Thanksgiving*  
9 -21 Manuscripts – *Notes on the History of Adams County, PA*

### **Box 10**

10 – 1 Manuscripts – Ph.D. Thesis: *Development of Synodical Polity of the Lutheran Church in America to 1829, 1926*

### **Series III – Student Papers**

10 – 2 Student Papers, (College History), n.d.

### **Box 11**

#### **Series IV – Sermons and Lectures**

- 11 – 1 Sermons and Lectures, 1 – 5  
11 – 2 Sermons and Lectures, 6 – 10  
11 – 3 Sermons and Lectures, 11 – 21  
11 – 4 Sermons and Lectures, 22 – 33  
11 – 5 Sermons and Lectures, 34 – 43  
11 – 6 Sermons and Lectures, 44 – 53

### **Box 12**

- 12 -1 Sermons and Lectures, 54 – 79
- 12 -2 Sermons and Lectures, 80 – 105 (missing 90)
- 12 -3 Sermons and Lectures, 106 – 145 (missing 115, 126, 128, 132-134 & 136)
- 12 -4 Sermons and Lectures, 146 – 195 (missing 166 & 186)
- 12 -5 Sermons and Lectures, 196 – 234 (missing 204, 207 & 220)
  
- 13 -1 Sermons and Lectures, 235 – 273 (missing 237, 243, 250, 260, 262, 263 & 266 – 271)
- 13 -2 Sermons and Lectures, (unnumbered)
- 13 -3 Sermons and Lectures, (unnumbered)

## **Box 14**

### **Series V – Scrapbook/Photo Album**

- 14 -1 Photo Album, pp. 1 f/b – photo, postcard, business card
- 14 -2 Photo Album, pp. 2 f/b – photos, newspaper clippings
- 14 -3 Photo Album, pp. 3 f/b – photos
- 14 -4 Photo Album, pp. 4 f/b – photos, church bulletin
- 14 -5 Photo Album, pp. 5 f/b – church bulletin, newspaper clippings
- 14 -6 Photo Album, pp. 6 f/b – church bulletin
- 14 -7 Photo Album, pp. 7 f/b – church bulletin, newspaper clippings
- 14 -8 Photo Album, pp. 8 f/b – photo, newspaper clippings
- 14 -9 Photo Album, pp. 9 f/b – newspaper clippings
- 14-10 Photo Album, pp. 10 f/b-booklet - *Hartwick Seminary Views*, Otsego County, NY, church bulletin, ephemera
- 14 -11 Photo Album, pp.11 f/b-photo, newspaper clippings
- 14 -12 Photo Album, pp.12 f/b-church bulletin, newspaper clippings, ephemera
- 14 -13 Photo Album, pp.13 f/b-newspaper clippings, program-*The Quadricentennial of the Reformation* (1917), ephemera
- 14 -14 Photo Album, pp.14 f/b-photo, program – *Program Reformation Festival* (1916), ephemera
- 14 -15 Photo Album, pp.15 f/b –photos, felt pennant – *The Most Beautiful Car in America/Paige*
- 14 -16 Photo Album, pp.16 f/b –newspaper clippings, ephemera
- 14 -17 Photo Album, pp.17 f/b-photos
- 14 -18 Photo Album, pp.18 f/b-photos
- 14 -19 Photo Album, pp.19 f/b –photos
- 14 -20 Photo Album, pp.20 f/b –photos
- 14-21 Photo Album, pp.21 f/b-classification notice for WWI, ephemera
- 14 -22 Photo Album, pp.22 f/b –photo, Jubilee programs for Chancellor James Roscoe Day, L.H.D. and Lutheran Church of the Atonement, Syracuse, NY, newspaper clippings
- 14 -23 Photo Album, pp.23 f/b –photos, misc. programs, ephemera
- 14 -24 Photo Album, pp.24 f/b –photos
- 14 -25 Photo Album, pp.25 f/b –photos
- 14 -26 Photo Album, pp.26 f/b –photos, motor vehicle registration card (1920)



- 14 -27 Photo Album, pp.27 f/b –photos, church bulletin, newspaper clippings
- 14 -28 Photo Album, pp.28 f/b –photos
- 14 -29 Photo Album, pp.29 f/b –photos
- 14 -30 Photo Album, pp.30 f/b –photos
- 14 -31 Photo Album, pp.31 f/b – photos, sympathy notes on death of mother, newspaper clippings, ephemera
- 14 -32 Photo Album, pp.32 f/b –photos, Gettysburg College commencement program (1924), newspaper clippings
- 14 -33 Photo Album, pp.33 f/b –photo, newspaper clippings

### **Box 15**

- 15 – 1 Scrapbook (not conserved)

### **Box 16**

#### **Series VI: Miscellaneous** (accretion 10/07)

- 16 – 1 Miscellaneous – bibliography
- 16 – 2 Miscellaneous – Speech, *The Land System of New York*
- 16 - 3 Miscellaneous – Speech, *Memorabilia of 1832*
- 16 – 4 Miscellaneous – articles, book reviews, speeches
- 16 – 5 Miscellaneous – Speech, Nov. 19, 1938, *Abraham Lincoln at Gettysburg* (75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)
- 16 – 6 Miscellaneous – Miscellaneous publications
- 16 - 7 Miscellaneous – Fortenbaugh Lecture, Nov. 17, 1963
- 16 – 8 Miscellaneous – Miscellaneous photos, newspaper clippings, etc. tucked into scrapbook

### **Box 17**

- 17 -1 Miscellaneous – Freedoms Foundation Award, 1951
- 17 -2 Miscellaneous - college paper, re: Robert Morris, 1925
- 17 –3 Miscellaneous – college paper, re: Robert Morris, n.d.
- 17 – 4 Miscellaneous – undergraduate and graduate school
- 17 – 5 Miscellaneous – publications – PA Historical Association, 1954, 1958
- 17 – 6 Miscellaneous – Pennsylvania Historical Association
- 17 – 7 Miscellaneous – book notes
- 17 – 8 Miscellaneous – Fortenbaugh Lecture
- 17 – 9 Miscellaneous – portrait dedication by Basil Crapster
- 17 -10 Miscellaneous – Master’s Thesis (copy)
- 17 -11 Miscellaneous – Certificate – American Historical Association, 1952
- 17 – 12 Miscellaneous – sermon/prayer notes, Lutheran Ministry
- 17 – 13 Miscellaneous – notes for book, *The Nine Capitals of the United States*

### **Box 18**

- 18 – 1 Miscellaneous – Class of 1913 information
- 18 – 2 Miscellaneous – Programme of Exercises; Semi-Centennial, PA College, 1882
- 18 – 3 Miscellaneous – Gettysburg College programs
- 18 – 4 Miscellaneous – Kappa Phi Kappa certificate, 1927
- 18 – 5 Miscellaneous – George Washington – Adams County
- 18 – 6 Miscellaneous – Langsam, Walter C., *The Political Aftermath of Modern War*, 1955
- 18 – 7 Miscellaneous – National Society - Daughters of the American Colonists
- 18 – 8 Miscellaneous – publications – Adams County History
- 18 – 9 Miscellaneous – correspondence – re: Robert Morris, 1925
- 18 -10 Miscellaneous – newspaper clippings, re: Robert Fortenbaugh
- 18 -11 Miscellaneous – History of Adams County
- 18 -12 Miscellaneous – newspaper clipping, re: photo of College faculty
- 18 -13 Miscellaneous – Eisenhower, Pres. D. D., letter to R. Fortenbaugh, July 15, 1956
- 18 -14 Miscellaneous – Toynbee, Arnold J., letter to R. Fortenbaugh, April 24, 1947
- 18 – 15 Miscellaneous – Fortenbaugh, Mrs. Robert B.
- 18 – 16 Miscellaneous – biography, newspaper clippings, etc.

### **Removed from Collection**

Photo of Robert Fortenbaugh , (third row from left), at College dance, February 21, 1913.

Location:

Book – *German Religious Life in Colonial Times*/Lucy Forney Bittinger. Location: