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## MS-168: Lena and Dr. Robert Fortenbaugh '13 Papers

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*Gettysburg College*

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## MS-168: Lena and Dr. Robert Fortenbaugh '13 Papers

### **Description**

This collection consists primarily of materials related to the professional activities of Dr. Robert Fortenbaugh as a historian and, to a lesser extent, a Lutheran clergyman. Activities represented include Lutheran ministry, publication, review, and requests for published works, speaking engagements, involvement in professional organizations, summer employment at colleges and universities, and communication with former students. His correspondence from 1931 to 1959, and his diary from a trip to Germany in 1933 most fully document his activity as a historian, although the handwriting in the diary is extremely challenging. In particular, the diary and accompanying materials demonstrate Robert's specialized knowledge of religious history as he paid close attention to the Lutheran church in Germany during this period between world wars while also discussing Germany's situation through a historical lens. A card file containing records of services performed, sermons given, and other ministry-related information, mainly from 1914 to 1923, provides insights into Robert's early career as a clergyman.

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[http://www.gettysburg.edu/special\\_collections/collections/](http://www.gettysburg.edu/special_collections/collections/).

### **Keywords**

Gettysburg College, College History, Fortenbaugh, Lutheran Church, John S. Rice

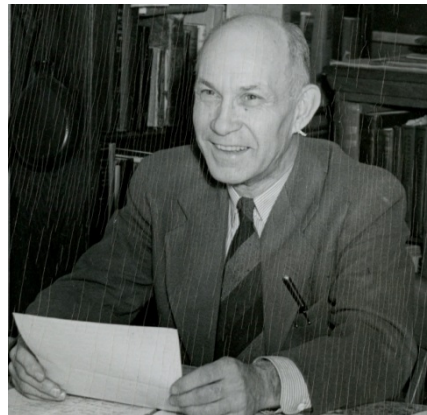
### **Disciplines**

Cultural History | History | History of Religion | Social History | United States History



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**Guide to the  
Lena and Dr. Robert Fortenbaugh '13 Papers**



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

**Faythe Grace  
11/24/2014**

## **MS – 168: Papers of Lena and Dr. Robert Fortenbaugh ‘13**

(2 boxes, 2 cubic feet)

Inclusive Dates: 1868-1971

Bulk Dates: 1931-1971

*Processed by: Faythe Grace*

*11/24/2014*

### **Provenance**

Given to Musselman Library by Ruthe Craley (Class of 1950), daughter of Lena and Dr. Robert Fortenbaugh.

### **Biography**

#### **Lena Fortenbaugh**

Lena Fortenbaugh was born March 4 1898, in Syracuse, NY, to Albert J. and Emma Behrendt Schweinberger, who had emigrated from Germany around 1893. She graduated from Syracuse University in 1919 with an A.B degree and from 1919 to 1922, she taught in local high schools. On August 16, 1921 Lena married, Gettysburg College graduate, Robert Fortenbaugh while he was serving as a minister for the Lutheran Church of the Atonement in Syracuse and studying history and sociology at Syracuse University. In 1923, her husband became the Adeline Sager Professor of History at Gettysburg College and they moved to Gettysburg, PA. While her husband taught, Lena learned and received an M.A. degree from Gettysburg College in 1925. Throughout her time at Gettysburg, she was actively involved at the college and in the community. She served as a patron to the local sorority Gamma Phi, which became part of the national sorority Chi Omega. From 1929 on, Lena was involved with the Women's League of Gettysburg College, periodically serving as a delegate for the Gettysburg sub-league or an officer in the General League. In 1929, she was the founding director of the Gettysburg Y.W.C.A., and later was one of the founders of the local chapter of the American Association of University Women, and helped create the Friends of the Library for the local library system. During WWII, Lena was an American Red Cross volunteer. From 1955-1965, she worked for Gettysburg College as a lecturer in German. After her husband, Robert died on March 15, 1959; Lena remained an active in the college and community. She and Robert had three children: a son, Robert B. Fortenbaugh, and two daughters: Ruth Craley and Ann Eicholtz. All of their children attended Gettysburg College. Robert graduate with the Class of 1944; Ruth the Class of 1950; and Ann the Class of 1957. On March 8, 1984, she passed away.

#### **Dr. Robert Fortenbaugh ‘13**

Robert Fortenbaugh was born July 17, 1892 in Harrisburg Pennsylvania to James Penrose and Carrie Loy Fortenbaugh. Robert graduated from Gettysburg College with an A.B.

degree in Classics in 1913. 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. From Gettysburg College, he entered the Gettysburg Theological Seminary in 1913, graduating in 1916. While at the seminary, Robert taught Greek and History at the Gettysburg Academy. After finishing at the seminary, he went to Syracuse, NY where he was ordained by the New York Synod and became a pastor of the Lutheran Church of the Atonement in Syracuse from 1916 to 1923. On August 16, 1921, Robert married Lena Schweinberger. While serving the Lutheran Church of the Atonement, he studied history and sociology at Syracuse University. In 1918, he was made an instructor in the sociology department. Robert earned his A.M. degree from Syracuse in 1920 and in 1921, became an assistant professor of sociology at the university.

In 1923, Robert began teaching at Gettysburg College as the Adeline Sager Professor of History. He was chosen as the head of the history department in 1926, the same year he received his Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. His dissertation was "The Development of the Synodical Polity of the Lutheran church in America, to 1829." His field of study was the religious history of the United States. Three months after becoming head of the Department of History, Robert 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, Dr. Fortenabugh, along with three others, was appointed to serve on the Administrative Committee, (1955 - 1956). He occupied the president's office for several hours each day making routine decisions and the entire committee would meet for more important matters. Robert remained an active Lutheran clergyman and member of the Central Pennsylvania Synod of the United Lutheran Church during his time teaching at Gettysburg College. Throughout his teaching career, Dr. Fortenabugh also served as a summer faculty member at Pennsylvania State University, Bucknell University, Syracuse University, the University of Pennsylvania, and University of Chattanooga, TN. He taught at the Gettysburg College until his death on March 15 1959.

Robert was an active member of many organizations and served in important positions throughout his life. He belonged to the Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, and Phi Alpha Theta honors fraternities. As a member of Alpha Tau Omega social fraternity, he served as national Worthy Grand Chaplain for a few years before his death. As a historian, professor and a Lutheran clergyman, he was a member of the American Historical Association, the American Society of Church History, the American Association of University Professors, the Association of History Teachers of the Middle States and Maryland, the Lutheran Historical Society, the Pennsylvania Historical Society and the Adams County Historical Society. Robert served as president of the Adams County Historical Society from 1943 to 1945 and then president of the Pennsylvania Historical Society from 1945 to 1948. He at one time served as one of the vice presidents of the Lutheran Historical Society. Robert was also one of the organizers of the Gettysburg Civil War Roundtable, which continues to this day.

Robert published many articles in a variety of publications, such as *Pennsylvania History*, *Lutheran Church Quarterly*, *Journal of Religion*. A number of Robert's major publications can be found in Gettysburg College's Special Collections department:

- "Christ's (College) Evangelical Lutheran Church of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, 1836-1951: A Brief Sketch of Its History" (1951)
  - Call Number: BX8076 .C5F7
- "The Development of the Synodical Polity of the Lutheran church in America, to 1829" (1926)
  - Call Number: BX8041 .F6 1926
- "A History of Christ's (College) Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania (1836-1936)" (1936)
  - Call Number: BX8076 .F737
- "Lincoln and Gettysburg" (1949, 1957 printing)
  - Call Number: E475.55 .F67 1949
- "The Nine Capitals of the United States" (1973, copyright 1948)
  - Call Number: E303 .F7 1973
- "Notes on the History of Adams County, Pennsylvania" (1949)
  - Call Number: F157 .A2F7
- "The Pennsylvania Story" (1950)
  - Call Number: F149 .F76 1950
  - Also 1953 edition: Call Number: F149 .F76 1953
- "Pennsylvania: The Story of a Commonwealth" (1940)
  - Call Number: F149 .F76

#### Dr. Robert B. Fortenbaugh '44

Robert B. Fortenbaugh was born April 27, 1923 in Syracuse, NY to Lena and Robert Fortenbaugh. He was the oldest of the Fortenbaugh's children with two younger sisters, Ruth and Ann. While his father worked at Gettysburg College, Robert attended the college studying chemistry until May 1943 when he entered the U.S. Army. In the Army Specialized Training Program, he took an electrical engineering course then served the rest of his 32 months in the Army as a physics laboratory assistant in Los Alamos, New Mexico working on the Manhattan Project. In addition to working in the nuclear physics lab, Robert was a part of the first atomic test team at Alamogordo, New Mexico. Once finished his service, he returned to Gettysburg College in the spring of 1946 and completed his undergraduate degree in chemistry. While he graduated in 1946, he is still considered a part of his original class of 1944, because of the interference of World War II. In June 29, 1946, Robert married Esther Hall Kenyon who also graduated from Gettysburg College in 1946. Robert went on to complete his PhD in organic chemistry at John Hopkins University in June of 1950. During and after his graduate studies, he worked at the American Cyanamid Company. Robert and Esther had five children: Robert K. Fortenbaugh, Jean Louise Fortenbaugh, James Fortenbaugh who passed as an infant, Linda A. Thompson, and Richard H. Fortenbaugh. When he retired, Robert moved to Colorado and served as a minister for three congregations with the United Methodist

Church. In 1996, Robert and Esther moved back to the Gettysburg area, actively attending college and community event. Robert died on December 2, 2009.

### **Scope and Content Notes**

This collection consists primarily of materials related to the professional activities of Dr. Robert Fortenbaugh as a historian and, to a lesser extent, a Lutheran clergyman. Activities represented include Lutheran ministry, publication, review, and requests for published works, speaking engagements, involvement in professional organizations, summer employment at colleges and universities, and communication with former students. His correspondence from 1931 to 1959, and his diary from a trip to Germany in 1933 most fully document his activity as a historian, although the handwriting in the diary is extremely challenging. In particular, the diary and accompanying materials demonstrate Robert's specialized knowledge of religious history as he paid close attention to the Lutheran church in Germany during this period between world wars while also discussing Germany's situation through a historical lens. A card file containing records of services performed, sermons given, and other ministry-related information, mainly from 1914 to 1923, provides insights into Robert's early career as a clergyman.

Other members of the Fortenbaugh family are also represented in the collection. Lena Fortenbaugh's community involvement and some personal correspondence with Luene Rice, wife of John S. Rice, former U. S. Ambassador to the Netherlands are demonstrated in some of the materials, particularly those dating after Robert's death in 1959. Robert B.'s personal papers include his dissertation from Johns Hopkins University, two articles included in the *Journal of Organic Chemistry*, and a patent for a chemical preparation process. Information related to the income of Lena and Robert and Lena's financial planning after Robert's death are found in pay stubs and family budgets books in the collection. These materials are available with the permission of the family. Religion is an important facet of the Fortenbaugh family, 5 Bibles owned by Lena Fortenbaugh, Robert, and other family and friends represent this aspect of their lives.

### **Series Description**

This collection is divided into five Series. **Series 1:** Dr. Robert Fortenbaugh, *Sub-Series 1:* Record of services performed, sermons given, attendance, collection and other ministry-related information, card file, 22 December 1914- 21 February 1941, *Sub-Series 2:* Personal and printed materials, 1890-1960, *Sub-Series 3:* Correspondence, General, 1923- 1959, *Sub-Series 4:* Correspondence-Speaking Engagements, 1934-1956, **Series 2:** Lena Fortenbaugh, **Series 3:** Robert B. Fortenbaugh, **Series 4:** Family Finances, **Series 5:** Bibles, and **Series 6:** Miscellaneous.

**Series 1, Sub-Series 1:** Record of services performed, sermons given, attendance, collection and other ministry-related information, card file, 22 December 1914- 21 February 1941 consists of notecards and church service bulletins from Robert's ministry while learning at the Gettysburg Theological Seminary and after his graduation when he was a clergyman at the Lutheran Church of the Atonement in Syracuse, N.Y. from 1916 to 1923. The notecards indicate Robert used these cards periodically throughout the rest

of his life. **Series 1, Sub-Series 2:** Personal and printed materials, 1890-1960 consists of a variety of materials kept by Robert from different periods of his life. A program concert program from his senior year at Gettysburg College, a yearbook, his diary from a trip to Germany in 1933, an Adams County Anniversary souvenir program for which he wrote a history of the county, and his funeral book are a few highlights. **Series 1, Sub-Series 3:** Correspondence, General, 1923- 1959 consists of letters pertaining mainly to Robert's professional work outside of Gettysburg College. Activities such as the publication, review, and requests for his published books and articles, involvement in professional organizations, summer employment at other colleges and universities, and communication with former students is represented here with other minor topics. **Series 1, Sub-Series 4:** Correspondence-Speaking Engagements, 1934-1956 consists of letters and programs from various speaking engagements Robert participated in throughout his life. The planning of these engagements, thanks for speaking, and often compensation are discussed. Both his professions, historian and clergyman are discussed. **Series 2:** Lena Fortenbaugh, 1944-1971 consists of a photograph, certificates, Gettysburg College and other organization publications, and correspondence kept by Lena Fortenbaugh. These materials are evidence of Lena's college and community involvement. Correspondence is primarily from Luene Rice, the wife of John S. Rice, former U.S. Ambassador to the Netherlands. **Series 3:** Robert B. Fortenbaugh, 1949-1953 consists of Robert B. Fortenbaugh's dissertation from Johns Hopkins University, two articles included in the Journal of Organic Chemistry, and a patent for a chemical preparation process demonstrate some of his academic and professional work. **Series 4:** Family Finances, 1950-1969 consists of punch cards, pay stubs, and family budget books. **Series 5:** Bibles consists of 4 bibles and one book of worship previously owned by family or friends. Two of the Bibles are very old, dating to at least 1868 and 1873. **Series 6:** Miscellaneous consists of an undated, oversized, black and white image of Pennsylvania Hall stored separately from the rest of the collection and a framed portrait of Abraham Lincoln which is in need of conservation treatment at this time.

### **Box 1**

1 – 0 Finding Aid

#### **Series 1: Dr. Robert Fortenbaugh**

Subseries 1: Record of services performed, sermons given, attendance, collection and other ministry-related information, card file, 22 December 1914- 21 February 1941

1 – 1 Card file of sermons given, services performed (3 small boxes)

1 – 2 Photocopy of box label

Subseries 2: Personal and printed material

1 – 3 Pennsylvania Railroad Voluntary Relief Department Certificate of Membership booklet, 4 Jan 1890



- 1 – 4 Program, May Concert by the College Orchestra, 15 May 1913
- 1 – 5 *Spectrum*, 1925
- 1 – 6 Diary of Dr. Robert Fortenbaugh, 25 August – 20 December 1933
- 1 – 7 Loose material from Diary of Dr. Robert Fortenbaugh, 12 October 1933 - 6 May 1934
- 1 – 8 Certificate from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania State Council of Defense for Services in Civil Defense during World War II, n.d.
- 1 – 9 Adams County 150th Anniversary souvenir program, 30 August – 4 September 1950
- 1 – 10 Photograph, [Chapter] Fraternity Weekend, Gettysburg College, March 1958
- 1 – 11 Funeral book for Dr. Robert Fortenbaugh, 17 March 1959
- 1 – 12 Loose materials from the Funeral book for Dr. Robert Fortenbaugh, 6 February 1953 - 27 November 1960

Subseries 3: Correspondence-General

- 1 – 13 Correspondence-General, 10 August 1923, 12-13 May 1926
- 1 – 14 Correspondence-General, 1931 – 6 December 1933
- 1 – 15 Correspondence-General, 29 January 1934 – 22 December 1936

**Box 2** Series 1: Subseries 3 Correspondence- General cont.'d

- 2 – 1 Correspondence-General, 12 January 1937 – 17 December 1937
- 2 – 2 Correspondence-General, 27 January 1938 – 5 December 1938
- 2 – 3 Correspondence-General, 1 November 1940 – 19 December 1949
- 2 – 4 Correspondence-General, 24 January 1950 – 7 January 1959
- 2 – 5 Correspondence-General, n.d.

Subseries 4: Correspondence- Speaking Engagements

- 2 – 6 Correspondence- Speaking Engagements, 18 January 1934 – 1 October 1935
- 2 – 7 Correspondence- Speaking Engagements, 7 March 1936 – 23 November 1938
- 2 – 8 Correspondence- Speaking Engagements, 28 May 1942 – 7 November 1956

2 – 9 Correspondence- Speaking Engagements, n.d.

**Series 2: Lena Fortenbaugh**

2 – 10 Speech to Interfaculty Club, n.d.

2 – 11 Photograph of American National Red Cross volunteers, 1944

2 – 12 American National Red Cross Certificate for service during World War II, 28 January 1946

2 – 13 Y.W.C.A. Centennial Observance and Celebration Testimonial certificate, March 1955

2 – 14 *Gettysburg College Bulletin*, April 1959

2 – 15 Class of 1913 Fifteenth Reunion pin and Gettysburg College Alumni Weekend Program, 5 – 6 June 1959

2 – 16 Correspondence, 5 September 1961 – 20 October 1967

2 – 17 *Gettysburg College Bulletin*, January 1971

2 – 18 Newsletter, *Highlights from the Women's League of Gettysburg College*, March 1971

2 – 19 Article, *Gettysburg College Bulletin*, October 1971

**Series 3: Robert B. Fortenbaugh**

2 – 20 Dissertation, "Tetronic Acids: A Study of the Synthesis, Oxidation and Acid Hydrolysis of Nine Tetronic Acids", 1949

2 – 21 Academic Journal Articles and Patent

**Series 4: Family Finances**

2 – 22 Punch Cards, 1950-1952

2 – 23 Pay Stubs, 20 January – 15 December 1958

2 – 24 Family Budget Book, 1959-1960

2 – 25 Family Budget Book, 1967-1968

2 – 26 Family Budget Book, 1968

2 – 27 Family Budget Book. 1969

### **Series 5:Bibles**

2 – 28 Small Bibles owned by family and friends (5 small boxes)

New Testament and Psalms Bible of Dr. Robert Fortenbaugh, 1915

Bible of Lena Fortenbaugh, ca. 1900's

Book of Worship of Emma Schweinberger, n.d.

Bible of Lizzie A. Mowris, ca. 1873

Bible of Anna M. Baker, 1868

### **Stored Outside of Boxes**

### **Series 6: Miscellaneous**

Black and White photograph of Pennsylvania Hall, n.d. (located in Oversize Manuscript drawer in processing room)

Framed Abraham Lincoln Portrait

### **Removed from Collection:**

Board game, *The Game of Historic Gettysburg & Adams County*

Location: Thrown out because of mold and mildew while also of little relevance to the collection

Letter from Warren to Mrs. Phoebe Fortenbaugh, 27 September 1908

Location: Penn State Eberly Family Special Collections Library, State College, PA

*Spectrum*, 1959

Location: Knouse off-site storage, College Publications

*Spectrum*, 1961

Location: Knouse off-site storage, College Publications

### **For more information about Lena and Dr. Robert Fortenbaugh '13 Papers**

Special Collections & College Archives, Musselman Library, Gettysburg College collection:

MS-097: Papers of Robert B. Fortenbaugh

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.