
Western Theological Seminary

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Abstract

William C. Brownson, Jr., A.B., Davidson College, North Carolina, 1949; B.D., Columbia Seminary, Decatur, Georgia, 1952; Th. D. in New Testament, Princeton Theological Seminary; 1963. The Westchester Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in the USA ordained Brownson in 1953. He served as stated supply of Second Reformed Church of Lodi, New Jersey, from 1953-1955, and then as regularly installed pastor from 1955-1959. He was pastor at First Reformed Church of Roseland, Illinois, from 1959-1964. Brownson was a Professor of Preaching at Western Theological Seminary from 1967-1974, and a radio pastor for the Reformed Church radio and television broadcast “Words of Hope” from 1972-1994. One half-foot of the Brownson Papers are manuscripts and articles written by Brownson. The majority of the collection consists of genealogical and family history material related to Brownson’s paternal and maternal ancestors, the Brownsons of New England and the Clementses of Georgia. (The Brownson line includes Orestes Brownson, 19th-century Catholic divine and figure in the Transcendentalist movement.) The collection contains composer Oliver Brownson’s 1797 edition of the hymn A New Collection of Sacred Harmony. Documents of Simeon Brownson record 1840s’ New England Christian attitudes toward slavery; an 1830 diary entry briefly mentions Greene C. Brownson, a New York State politician whose job became a casualty of anti-slavery politics. Diaries and poetry of William G. Brownson depict the life of a country doctor. Documents of Carleton L. Brownson, early 20th-century dean of City College of New York, are represented. A family register on a form lithographed by Nathaniel Currier and an 1806 Gaelic Bible complete the Brownson papers. The Clements line papers include journalism on the Southern poet Sidney Lanier, an ancestor.

Accession No: W96-1203
Provenance: William C. Brownson, Jr.
Donor: Western Theological Seminary
Photographs: 112 images (Boxes 2 and 3)
Processed by: John H. Maassen, January 1996
David Andrews, October 2001

Biography

Dr. William C. Brownson, Jr. was born in 1928 in Charlotte, North Carolina. He received an A.B. from Davidson College, North Carolina (Phi Beta Kappa honor society), in 1949; a B.D. (Magna Cum Laude) from Columbia Seminary, Decatur, Georgia, in 1952; and a Th. D. in New Testament from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1963. The Westchester Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in the USA ordained Brownson in 1953. He served as stated supply of Second Reformed Church of Lodi, New Jersey, from 1953-1955 and then as regularly installed pastor from 1955-1959. He answered a call to First Reformed Church of Roseland, Illinois, in 1959 and served as pastor until 1964. Brownson was a Professor of Preaching at Western Theological Seminary from 1967-1974, and a radio pastor for Reformed
Church radio and television broadcast “Words of Hope” from 1972-1994. He authored many books, including: *The Plan is God’s* (Half Moon Press, 1965); *Tried By Fire* (Baker, 1972); *Distinctive Lessons from Luke* (Baker, 1974); and *Do You Believe?* (Zondervan, 1975). Scholars should note that the creator of this collection was born William C. Brownson III, but assumed his father’s name, William C. Brownson, Jr., by the time he began to publish.

**Scope and Content**

One half-foot of the William C. Brownson, Jr., Papers comprises newspaper clippings on Brownson and manuscripts and articles he wrote, usually for the RCA publication, *The Church Herald*. The majority of the collection consists of genealogical and family history material related to Brownson’s paternal and maternal ancestors, the Brownsons of New England and the Clementses of Georgia. (The Brownson line includes Orestes Brownson, 19th-century Catholic divine and figure in the Transcendentalist movement.) The collection contains composer Oliver Brownson’s 1797 edition of the hymnal *A New Collection of Sacred Harmony*. Documents of Simeon Brownson record 1840s’ New England Christian attitudes toward slavery; an 1830 diary entry briefly mentions Greene C. Brownson, a New York State politician whose job became a casualty of anti-slavery politics. Diaries and poetry of William G. Brownson depict the life of a country doctor. Documents of Carleton L. Brownson, early 20th-century dean of City College of New York, are represented. A family register on a form lithographed by Nathaniel Currier and an 1806 Gaelic Bible complete the Brownson papers. The Clements line papers include journalism on the Southern poet Sidney Lanier, an ancestor.

**Container List**

**Box 1**

William C. Brownson, Jr.

Manuscripts

Resume of Life and Career, n.d.

Book Reviews, n.d.

Miscellaneous

A-F, n.d.

G-S, n.d.

T-W, n.d.

Articles

*The Church Herald*

Miscellaneous, 1956-1980

Sunday School Expositions (Intl Series), 1958-1966

Companion Study for "Into Covenant Life," 1963-1964

Series

“Great Words of Faith and Life," 1966-1967

“I Peter,” 1968-1969


“The Holy Spirit,” May-June 1973

“Evangelism and the Kingdom of God,” 1977
Audiotape Presentations
“Union with Christ,” 02/21/1977/“Dealing with Guilt,” 02/22/1977
Program, Services of Installation, Professor of Preaching, Western Theological Seminary, October 31, 1967

Box 2

William C. Brownson, Jr. (cont.)
Publications
How to Live Happily, n.d.
When You’re Feeling Down: Living Through Low Times, n.d. (2 items)
Brownson Family
Carleton L. Brownson
Articles, 1910, 1922, 1930-1931
Biographical, 1913-1914, 1936, 1948, n.d.
Correspondence, 1882, 1898, 1927, 1936-1937, n.d.
Deanship, City College of New York, 1926-1927, 1936
European Tour Ephemera, 1927
Lectures, n.d.
Photographs, n.d. (6 images)
Poetry
General, 1901, n.d.
To Emma J. Brownson, 1912, n.d.
To Helen Hatch, 1913, n.d.
Diaries
Carleton L. Brownson, European Tour
Original, 1927
Transcription, n.d.
Simeon Brownson
1830-1847 (transcript)
1830-1849 (original)
Dr. William G. Brownson
January 1882-August 1884 (original)
1885-1886, January-July 1887, March-November
1888 (original)
1877 (original)
1878-1879 (photocopy)
July-August, 1887 (original)
September-October 1887 (original)
1887, Vols. 1 and 2 (transcript)
n.d. (original)
Diploma, New York University, n.d. (Oversized WTS Collections)
Gaelic Bible, British and Foreign Bible Society, 1806 [Original in Restricted]
Box
Genealogical Notes, 1939, 1996, n.d.
Greene C. Brownson, Biographical, 2001
Hymnal, Oliver Brownson, *A New Collection of Sacred Harmony*, 1797 [Original in Restricted Box]
Nathaniel Currier Lithograph Family Register, ca. 1855 [Original in Restricted Box]
New Caanan, Connecticut, 1948, 1983
Petersboro and Simsbury, 1983, n.d. (21 images, 5 negatives)
Photographs, n.d. (2 images)
Orestes Brownson, Article, 1953

Box 3

Brownson Family (cont.)
Scrapbooks
Brownson Genealogical Tour, 1994
Letters of Carleton L. Brownson, 1916-1945
Letters of Caroline Brownson, 1887, 1905, 1910, 1916-1919
Letters of William C. Brownson, Jr., 1911-1972
Various Family Letters, 1852-1987
Simeon Brownson
Article, “In the Abolitionists’ Backyard,” *New York Archives*, Spring 2008
Furnishings Bill, 1927
Matter of Lucinda Brownson (daughter), 1843
Writings on the Slavery Issue, 1844-1845
Dr. William C. Brownson
Obituary, 1932
Photographs, 1917, n.d. (4 images)
Dr. William G. Brownson
Addresses, 1883, 1890, n.d.
Correspondence, 1854-1855, 1884, 1898
Draft of Will, 1900
Explanatory Notes on Journals, n.d.
Poetry, 1854-1877, 1883-1885, 1887, n.d.
State Normal School Graduation Program and Mention in the *Albany Journal*, 1853 [In Restricted Box]
Clements Family
Juanita Clements
Correspondence
1923-1924
1936-1944
1952-1953
Genealogical Notes on Brownson and Barstow Families, 1917, n.d.
Photographs, 1917, n.d. (2 images)
Postcards, European Scenes, n.d.
Scrapbooks
  Cotton Acres, GA, ca. 1925-1999 (48 images)
  Photographs, News Clippings, and Correspondence, 1913-1946 (29 images)

Box 4 [RESTRICTED]

Brownson Family (cont.)
  Gaelic Bible, British and Foreign Bible Society, 1806
  Hymnal, Oliver Brownson, A New Collection of Sacred Harmony, 1797
  Nathaniel Currier Lithograph Family Register, ca. 1855
  State Normal School Graduation Program and Mention in the Albany Journal, 1853