September 2012


Western Theological Seminary

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Papers, 1939-1999. 3.25 linear ft.

Abstract

Hope College class of 1936; Western Theological Seminary class of 1939; Reformed Church in America minister from 1939 until 1961; and Presbyterian minister from 1961 to an unknown date. The collection contains articles, Bible studies, sermons, publications, surveys, student papers, Chicago Synod Expansion Committee material, Douma Publications material (Society for Reformed Publications), and material regarding the Hospital Chaplaincy Board of the Evangelical Ministerial Union of Greater Grand Rapids. Also included is the research material, film, and photos for his book, A Brief Record of Camp Geneva: its Roots and Early History.

Accession No: W93-1071
Provenance: George C. Douma
Donor: George C. Douma
Photographs: 42 images (Box 1)
Processed by: Chad A. Boorsma, June 1994
David Andrews, November 2001

Biography

George C. Douma was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan, on August 26, 1913. In 1932, he graduated from South High School in Grand Rapids and went on to earn degrees from Hope College in 1936 and Western Theological Seminary in 1939.

During his years as a Reformed Church pastor, he served in the following capacities: Pastor, First Reformed, Allendale, Michigan (1939-1941); Regional Missionary, Particular Synod of Chicago (1941-1944); Pastor, Third Reformed, Grand Rapids, Michigan (1944-1946); Department of Publication, Board of Education, RCA (1946-1949); Pastor, Calvary Reformed, Grand Rapids, Michigan (1949-1957); and Youth Director, Camp Geneva, Holland, Michigan (1957-1961).


George C. Douma passed away on February 25, 2000.
Scope and Content

The George C. Douma collection contains a variety of materials such as articles, sermons, funeral messages, publications, surveys, and papers he wrote as a student. Also included are materials relating to the Hospital Chaplaincy Board of the Evangelical Ministerial Union of Greater Grand Rapids, of which Douma was a member, and the Particular Synod of Chicago’s Expansion Committee, where Douma was the Regional Missionary from 1941-1944. The diverse types of materials illustrate the many different types of positions he held throughout his career.

Of particular importance in this collection are the photographs, research material, and an 8mm film that relate to Camp Geneva. Douma was influential in the beginning of the camp, served as Youth Director there from 1957-1961, and was more recently asked by the Camp Board to research and write a history of the camp. This book, *A Brief Record of Camp Geneva: its Roots and Early History*, was published in 1993.

Container List

Box 1

Articles
- *Presbyterian Tidings* (First Presbyterian Church, Grand Haven, Michigan), 1980-1981

Bible Studies, 1983, n.d.

Camp Geneva
- Area Survey Map, 1980
- Photographs, 1980, n.d. (42 images)

Research Material
- Not used in Book, 1946-1991
- Used in Book, 1946-1991

Chicago Synod Expansion Committee (George Douma, Regional Missionary), 1942-1943, 1961

Devotions, 1994

Douma Publications (Society for Reformed Publications), 1946-1976

Funeral Messages, 1980

Hospital Chaplaincy Board of the Evangelical Ministerial Union of Greater Grand Rapids, 1949-1953, n.d.

Play, National Missions Report to the Synod of Michigan (Presbyterian Church), 1964

Publications
- *Basic Doctrines for the Young*, 1963
- *A Brief Record of Camp Geneva: its Roots and Early History*, 1993
- *Encouragement*, 1963
- *How to Live for Christ*, 1944
Knocking at Your Door, n.d.
Meaning of the Lord’s Supper, 1951
More Reformed Churches, n.d.
My Doctrine Book, n.d.
A Program Guide for Christian Endeavor Societies, 1950
There is No Purgatory, 1956
Together with God, 1963

Box 2

Sermons
General, 1954-1985
Temple Time (Words of Hope), 1947
Student Papers, 1939, n.d.
Surveys
Fair Haven Reformed Church, Jenison, Michigan, 1987
Presbyterian Church, 1977, 1981, 1982

Box 3

Sermons, General, 1986-1999

Box 4 (Oversize)

16mm film of activities at Camp Geneva, ca. 1970 (color, silent, 30 minutes)