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Hope College

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   Papers, 1900-1974 (bulk 1900-1925). 0.50 linear ft.

Abstract

Hope College class of 1879; minister of the RCA; president of Hope College, 1911-1918. Collection includes articles, biographical materials, correspondence, addresses, expense accounts, and biography. Also includes memories written by Ame W. B. Vennema, Sr. (1823-1901). Correspondents include E. D. Dimnent and his wife, Henrietta. Family Bible in Van Wylen Library Rare Book Collection.

Accession No.: H88-0187
Provenance: Ame Vennema
Donor: Information Unavailable
Processed by: Rebecca A. O’Shesky, April 1992

Biography

Ame Vennema was born on May 25, 1857, in Holland, Michigan, to Ame Wessels Vennema and Elisabeth Vander Haar. Vennema started his education in the area grammar school. He then attended both Hope Preparatory and College, graduating from the latter in 1879. After graduating from Hope, he went to New Brunswick Theological Seminary and graduated from there in 1882.

After graduation from NBTS, Vennema married Henrietta Le Febre in Holland. He returned east to New Paltz, New York, and started his work as a pastor. In the following years he served in a number of churches including Kalamazoo; Port Jervis, New York; and Passiac, New Jersey.

Vennema was appointed to the Council of Hope College in 1905. In 1911, he was elected president of the college by the board. His inauguration was February 19, 1913. Vennema resigned on April 24, 1918. He returned east to a pastorate in Passaic, New Jersey, and died there on April 26, 1925.

Scope and Content

The Ame Vennema Papers consist of materials from 1900-1974, the bulk of which cover from 1900-1925. Included are biographical materials, correspondence, articles and speeches by Vennema, photographs, inaugural materials and expense accounts. Also included is some correspondence of his wife (Henrietta), information on the Vennema family Bible (donated to Hope College), and the reminiscences of his father, Ame Vennema, Sr.

The most interesting part of this collection are the letters written to Edward Dimnent (1915-1925). In them, Vennema first discusses the various problems he is having with the college and later his insights on serving as president of Hope College.
Container List

Vennema, Ame, Jr.
  Articles and Speeches, 1911-1921
    Charge Given to Edward Dimnent at His Inauguration, 1918
    The Coming College Year, 1918
    The Educational Position and Policy of Hope College, 1913
    Greeting and Welcome, 50th Anniversary of Hope College, 1916
    Rise and Progress of Hope College, 1916
    What Presidents of the United States Have Said Concerning Christian
      Foreign Missions, 1921
  Biographical, 1907-1965
  Biography, 1974
  Correspondence
    Edward Dimnent, 1915-1925
    Others (to), 1913-1925
    Others (from), 1911-1918
  Expense Accounts, 1915-1918
  Inauguration, 1913
    Vennema Bible, Correspondence on, 1961-1965
  Vennema, Ame, Sr., Reminiscences, ca. 1900 (Dutch)
  Vennema, Henrietta, Correspondence, 1925-1928