

ABBIE BENTON BONSTEEL COLLECTION
PP0008

Descriptive Summary

Creator Bonsteel, Abbie Benton, 1879-1966

Title Abbie Benton Bonsteel Collection

Accession Number PP0008

Physical Description 2 archival boxes

Inclusive Dates 1896-1966

Language Note English

Administrative Information

Repository

Mercer University Library
Archives and Digital Initiatives
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Macon, Georgia 31207
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Citation

[after identification of item(s)], Abbie Benton Bonsteel Collection. Archives and Digital Initiatives, Mercer University Library, Macon, GA.

Acquisition

Gift of her nephew, Lawrence R. Benton (1967).

Processing note

Inventory prepared by Susan Broome et al., circa 2003.

Restrictions on access

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Collection Description

Biographical Note

Martha Abbie Benton was born on December 24, 1879, in Troy, Alabama. Her parents were Nancy Johnson and James Absalem Benton Jr. Her only sibling was Johnson Crowell Benton.

She began her formal education at Troy State Normal College and received her bachelor of missionary training from the WMU Training School in Louisville, Kentucky, in 1914; a diploma from Mars Hill College in 1925; a BA from Bessie Tift College in 1926; an MA from Mercer University in 1930; and an MA in religious education from the WMU Training School in 1932. She taught at Campbell College at Buies Creek, North Carolina, between 1926 and 1933.

Mrs. Bonsteel was married to Robert Paris from 1902 to his death in 1911. In 1916 she married Ray L. Bonsteel. Prior to his death in 1920, the couple adopted a daughter, Neta Poythress.

She is remembered for the many devotional essays and columns she published. Her best known work, however, is *Hidden Pearls*, a story for girls entering young womanhood.

Mrs. Bonsteel died on March 24, 1966, a year and a half after suffering a paralyzing stroke. She was buried in Albemarle, North Carolina, where she had lived for some time in the Baptist Home.

Scope and Content Note

The Abbie Benton Bonsteel collection contains her correspondence, writings, photographs, scrapbooks, and printed books.

Subjects

Baxley Baptist Church (Baxley, Ga.)
Bonsteel, Abbie Benton (1879-1966)
Bonsteel, Ray L.
Georgia Baptist Convention. Woman's Missionary Union
Baptist universities and colleges -- Georgia
Baptists -- Georgia -- Clergy
Mercer University
Tift College
Women in church work -- Georgia
Women -- Georgia -- Societies and clubs
Women authors, American -- Georgia
Women's colleges -- Georgia
Women teachers -- Georgia

Series Description

Series 1: Correspondence

- Series 2: Manuscripts
- Series 3: Notes
- Series 4: Photographs
- Series 5: Poetry
- Series 6: Scrapbooks / Clippings / Certificates
- Series 7: Bibles and Books

Container List

SERIES 1: Correspondence

- Folder 1/1: Paris, Robert (first husband), 1901 and 1904
- Folder 1/2: Bonsteel, Ray L. (second husband), letters to and from, 1918 and 1920
- Folder 1/3: Bonsteel, Neta Poythress (adopted daughter), 1942
- Folder 1/4: Matthews, Hugh Archie (former student), 1935-1951
- Folder 1/5: Former students
- Folder 1/6: General
- Folder 1/7: *He That Is Born King*
- Folder 1/8: *Hidden Pearls*
- Folder 1/9: Mission support
- Folder 1/10: Publishing
- Folder 1/11: Sympathy
- SERIES 2: Manuscripts
- Folder 1/12: Ambitions
- Folder 1/13: And She Was Blind – Shelby, NC
- Folder 1/14: Are You Willing? – Shelby, NC (w/ rejection letter from Broadman Press)

Folder 1/15: A Baby of Nineteen*Sixteen

Folder 1/16: The Baby on the Boat

Folder 1/17: Beans Transplanted – Troy, AL (2 versions)

Folder 1/18: Bible Reading (2 versions)

Folder 1/19: The Blues

Folder 1/20: Chain Letters

Folder 1/21: Chiaroscuro

Folder 1/22: Did Jesus Laugh?

Folder 1/23: A Duchess Tea Rose – Fruitland Institute, Hendersonville, NC

Folder 1/24: Eternal Securities

Folder 1/25: Everybody Ought to Sing

Folder 1/26: The Final Test – Fruitland Institute, Hendersonville, NC / Troy, AL

Folder 1/27: The First Year

Folder 1/28: For Judas (3 versions)

Folder 1/29: From Twelve to Thirty – Hendersonville, NC, Jan 28, 1942

Folder 1/30: From Twelve to Thirty (blue type)

Folder 1/31: The Gay Nineties

Folder 1/32: Glimpses of Greatness (Emma L. Amos)

Folder 1/33: Growing Old Beautifully – Troy, AL (with poem, “How Old Are You?”)

Folder 1/34: He That Is Born King (with letter from Boyce Brooks, FBC Roxboro, NC, broken page sequences)

Folder 1/35: He That Is Born King (different version)

Folder 1/36: He That Is Born King (play) – Fruitland Institute, Hendersonville, NC

Folder 1/37: He That Is Born King (play) (different version)

Folder 1/38: His Masterpiece

Folder 1/39: Humor – Fruitland Institute, Hendersonville, NC

Folder 1/40: If Ye Love Me

Folder 1/41: Jealousy

Folder 1/42: John Mark

Folder 1/43: Just a Song at Twilight

Folder 1/44: King of Kings

Folder 1/45: Life Is High at Sixty

Folder 1/46: The Loveliest Secret – Shelby, NC

Folder 1/47: The Loveliest Secret or The Little Black Hat – Fruitland Institute, Hendersonville, NC

Folder 1/48: Mamie Stevens – Hendersonville, NC

Folder 1/49: Marriage – Hendersonville, NC

Folder 1/50: Men Suffer Too

Folder 1/51: A Message from Pew to the Pulpit – Fruitland Institute, Hendersonville, NC

Folder 1/52: Money

Folder 1/53: (Mrs. Barker) – Fruitland Institute, Hendersonville, NC (Dec. 3, 1935)

Folder 1/54: Mrs. Preacher by “Tabitha Bradford” – Hendersonville, NC

Folder 1/55: My Hobby

Folder 1/56: Narrow- Mindedness – Shelby, NC – for *Recorder*

Folder 1/57: New Year’s

Folder 1/58: On Christmas Day or Two Strips of Bacon – Albemarle, NC

Folder 1/59: Prayer

Folder 1/60: Preachers and Ministers

Folder 1/61: The Romance Line

Folder 1/62: The Romance Line or When Does Romance End? – Hendersonville, NC

Folder 1/63: Sarcasm (2 versions)

Folder 1/64: The Seven Thousand

Folder 1/65: Singing (numerous versions)

Folder 1/66: Singing (numerous versions)

Folder 1/67: Sunshine (2 versions)

Folder 1/68: Thrift Time

Folder 1/69: Tithing (2 versions)

Folder 1/70: The Victor Smiles

Folder 1/71: Welcome

Folder 1/72: When Debts Are Paid

Folder 1/73: Who Directs Our Reading – Fruitland Institute, Hendersonville, NC

Folder 1/74: A Woman's Way – Fruitland Institute, Hendersonville, NC

Folder 1/75: Youth – December 3, 1935

Folder 1/76: Essays typed on notebook paper (10 essays)

Folder 1/77: Sunday School Lessons: *The Gospel of Mark: A Preview (Jan. 2, 1938)*; *Service by Mark (Jan. 2, 1938 – 2 versions)*; *Preparing for a Life of Service (Jan. 9, 1938 – 2 versions)*; *Beginning a Life of Service (Jan. 16, 1938 – 2 versions)*; *Ministering to Physical Needs (Jan. 23, 1938 – 3 versions)*; *Ministering to Spiritual Needs (no date)*; *The Birth of Jesus (no date)*; *Christian Consecration (no date)*; *Christian Rest (Dec. 5)*; *Choosing Companions in Service (Feb. 20)*; *Measuring a Man's Worth (Feb. 27)*

Folder 1/78: Thesis

Program of Character Education for High School Boys (Woman's Missionary Union Training School, May 1932)

SERIES 3: Notes

Folder 2/1: Contemporary Essays, Quotations, Mrs. A. B. Bonsteel, 1925, Mercer

Folder 2/2: Bible, Mrs. A. B. Bonsteel (also including clippings)

Folder 2/3: Bible, Mrs. Abbie Bonsteel, 1933-1934

Folder 2/4: English, Mrs. A. B. Bonsteel, 1929-1930

Folder 2/5: English – Bible, Campbell College, Buies Creek, NC

Folder 2/6: Handwritten (miscellaneous)

SERIES 4: Photographs

Folder 2/7: Families: *Davis family; Hamrick family; Hershey family; Hunnicutt family; Jarman, Mr. and Mrs. Ed; Jarman, Mr. and Mrs. John; Love family; McMurry, Mr. and Mrs. S. A.; Patton family; Shearin family; Stewart family; Swift family; Van Coevern family; (), Gladys and Mac; (), Glenn, Joan, and John; (), Kitty, Lawrence, Molly, and Laurie; (), Minnie and granddaughter*

Folder 2/8: Groups: *Bonsteel, Abbie and others; Blue Seal Sunday School Class, Campbell College; Inner Circle; Mercer University Graduation; Shelby First Baptist Church, T. E. L. Sunday School Class; W. M. U. Graduates; Groups, Named; Groups, Unnamed*

Folder 2/9: Individuals: *Bonsteel, Abbie; Bonsteel, Ray L.; Bradley, Blanche; Burch, Ruth; Farmer, Gladys; Heck, Fannie E. S.; Norman, Dr. E. G.; White, Professor E.; Individuals, Named; Individuals, Unknown (one oversize)*

Folder 2/10: Places: *Battle Creek, MI; Ebenezer; Fruitland Institute; Places, Named; Places, Unnamed*

SERIES 5: Poetry

Folder 2/11: “Poetry composed by Martha Abbie Benton, 1896, age 16”

Folder 2/12: Bonsteel, Abbie Benton and Ray L.

Folder 2/13: Others

SERIES 6: Scrapbooks / Clippings / Certificates

Folder 2/14: Scrapbook (white pages – Bessie Tift College)

Folder 2/15: Scrapbook (black pages with photographs)

Folder 2/16: Scrapbook (clippings by and about ABB)

Folder 2/17: Scrapbook (marriage and funeral notices)

Folder 2/18: Clippings (by and about ABB and RLB)

Folder 2/19: Clippings, etc. (others)

Folder 2/20: Certificates

SERIES 7: Bibles

Folder 2/21: New Testament, New Testament with Psalms (2 Bibles)

Folder 2/22: Old and New Testaments (with notes and poetry inserted)

Folder 2/23: New Testaments (2 Bibles)

Folder 2/24: Books: *My Utmost for His Highest*; *Bible with Notes and poetry inserted*; *Webster's Secondary School Dictionary (in Box 1)*; *Streams in the Desert (in Box 1)*; *The Prologue to the Canterbury Tales*, *The Knightes Tale*, and *The Nonnes Prestes Tale* by *Geoffrey Chaucer*; *Evening with Homeless Churches*