Christian Edwardson Papers
Collection 27

Scope and Content

This collection consists primarily of correspondence of Christian Edwardson, 1873-1944) along with some documents related to the history of Seventh-day Adventist work among the Danish and Norwegian people of Minnesota and Wisconsin around the 1920s. A second part of the collection consists of portions of financial records for several churches in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Christian Edwardson was born in Modum, Norway, November 22, 1873. When he was ten years old he immigrated with his parents to America where they settled on a farm in southern Minnesota.

As a young man Christian became interested in learning more about the Bible, but the only portion available to him was a New Testament. By himself, under a cluster of trees in the woods near his home he gave his heart to God. It was through the encouragement of a colporteur, Ole Engen, that he accepted the Seventh-day Adventist faith. He attended college at Battle Creek College, Emmanuel Missionary College, and Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska.

In 1907 he married Dora Elmira Rasmussen from Harlan, Iowa (b. January 19, 1880). She labored with him for 26 years until her untimely death in Hutchinson, Minnesota, on April 13, 1933. Following Dora’s death he married Anna D. of Boelus, Nebraska (b. February 25, 1895).

Christian labored ten years as a colporteur, and during part of this time he served also as the field secretary for the Illinois Conference. In 1903 he began ministerial work in Chicago, and later he moved to Wisconsin where he established several churches. In 1918 he moved to Minnesota where he organized and became the first pastor of the Scandinavian Tabernacle in Minneapolis. He also served churches in Willmar, Gilchrist, Artichoke, Granite Falls, Anoka, Hinckley, and Litchfield.

The last years of his life were spent at Hutchinson, Minnesota, where he engaged in writing and research. His library numbered about 3,000 books, many of which were donated to the Adventist Heritage Center and may be found on our shelves, though not specifically identified except by the presence of Edwardson’s bookplate. He authored several books: Bible Facts Concerning the Sanctuary and the Judgment, Experience of an Evangelist Among Scandinavians in America (Swedish), Facts of Faith, History of the Sabbath (Danish-Norwegian), and Life’s Mysteries Solved (Danish-Norwegian).
Arrangement

The correspondence is arranged chronologically by year, and within a year by month and day. Care should be exercised not to disturb the arrangement, and also to ensure one sees the entire letter. In some cases, Edwardson duplicated a second letter on the reverse side of the first, probably as an economy measure. During processing, a photocopy was made of these “duplicated” letters and they are filed in chronological order.

The arrangement of the remainder of the collection is easily ascertained from the Inventory.

Provenance

The provenance of this collection cannot be determined.

Use

All users of this collection will be required to complete the “Application to Use Unpublished Records,” and to observe the regulations specified in the “Patron Agreement” and “Researcher’s Code of Conduct.” All records in this collection are open and available for research. Citation for this collection:

Box ___, folder ___, Christian Edwardson (collection 27), Adventist Heritage Center, James White Library, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI
Christian Edwardson Papers

INVENTORY

Part 1 Christian Edwardson Papers

A. Biographical and general information
   Bx 1 Fld 1

B. Correspondence
   Bx 1 Fld 2 no date 12 letters
   Bx 1 Fld 3 1909 1 "
   Bx 1 Fld 4 1910 1 "
   Bx 1 Fld 5 1914 1 "
   Bx 1 Fld 6 1915 2 "
   Bx 1 Fld 7 1916 8 "
   Bx 1 Fld 8 1920 2 "
   Bx 1 Fld 9 1921 2 "
   Bx 1 Fld 10 1922 1 "
   Bx 1 Fld 11 1925 2 "
   Bx 1 Fld 12 1926 2 "
   Bx 1 Fld 13 1928 2 "
   Bx 1 Fld 14 1929 6 "
   Bx 1 Fld 15 1930 7 "
   Bx 1 Fld 16 1931 8 "
   Bx 1 Fld 17 1932 7 "
   Bx 1 Fld 18 1933 19 "
   Bx 1 Fld 19 1934 51 "
   Bx 1 Fld 20 1935 64 "
   Bx 1 Fld 21 1936 110 "
   Bx 1 Fld 22 1937 138 "
   Bx 1 Fld 23 1938 84 "
   Bx 1 Fld 24 1939 85 "
   Bx 2 Fld 1 1940 80 "
   Bx 2 Fld 2 1941 61 "
   Bx 2 Fld 3 1941 68 "
   Bx 2 Fld 4 1942 103 "
   Bx 2 Fld 5 1942 124 "
   Bx 2 Fld 6 1943 114 "
   Bx 2 Fld 7 1943 153 "
   Bx 2 Fld 8 1944 22 "

Bx 2 Fld 9 Miscellaneous correspondence with bookstores and magazine publishers, 1926-1943
C. Laborer’s Reports
   Bx 3  Fld 1  Laborer’s Monthly Report (1933-1943)

D. Topical Files
   Bx 3  Fld 2  "A friendly Reply" to I. J. Bjerke and related documents
   Bx 3  Fld 3  Notes on the Sabbath & other topics
   Bx 3  Fld 4  Documents related to W. W. (William Whigham) Fletcher
   Bx 3  Fld 5  Sister Jensen’s case
   Bx 3  Fld 6  Danish-Norwegian work in Minnesota

Part 2 Local Church Financial Records

   Bx 3  Fld 7  Minnesota Conference, Districts 9 and 10 (1929-1932).
   Bx 3  Fld 8  Minneapolis, Minnesota SDA Church (1921-1922)
   Bx 3  Fld 9  Superior, Wisconsin, Church (1916)
   Bx 3  Fld 10 Willmar, Minnesota (1927-1928)

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