



**Lowell R. Rasmussen Collection
(Manuscript Collection 32)**

Rebok Memorial Library
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20901
Prepared by Ashlee Chism, June 2022

Scope and Content

This collection contains correspondence, photographs, and other documents related to the life and career of Lowell Reed Rasmussen (1907-1998), who was a Seventh-day Adventist educator and administrator. Some of the materials are related to his work with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, an accrediting commission based in the western United States.

Arrangement and Quantity

This collection is one linear foot. While the materials were seemingly originally arranged in a scrapbook or scrapbooks, they were loose upon arrival and accession, and it was not possible to maintain the order imposed by whomever arranged the scrapbooks. Due to long-term preservation concerns, the photographs and documents were removed from scrapbook backing whenever possible. However, some items, especially among the correspondence, were unable to be removed from their backing; this means that letters from different people may be on the front and back of a “page” in the folder.

Custodial History and Immediate Source of Acquisition

This collection was donated by Rasmussen’s grandson, Homer Trecartin, in August 2019.

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research. (Two documents—an official birth certificate for Rasmussen and an official death certificate for his wife, Vera (Hills) Rasmussen (1907-1980)—have been marked as restricted due to personally identifiable information and removed from the open collection.)

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Preferred Citation

For the collection:

Box D 13 39 E, Lowell R. Rasmussen Collection. Rebok Memorial Library, Silver Spring, Maryland.

Biographical Information

Lowell Reed Rasmussen was born 3 March 1907 in Ceres, California to Jens C. and Eva Belle (Reed) Rasmussen. His parents, both Seventh-day Adventists, raised him and his sister in that faith, and they sent them to Adventist schools. His mother died in 1914, and his father remarried the next year, and Rasmussen gained several step-siblings. In 1918, when he was eleven years old, Rasmussen was baptized into membership of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He attended Lodi Academy (1922-1925) and Pacific Union College (1925-1927; 1928-1930), graduating in 1930 with his bachelor's degree. He married Vera Ruth Hills, daughter of William and Pearl Hills, who had spent time as a child as a missionary in China, that same year, in Mountain View, California. Together they had three daughters: Ardyth, Marilyn, and Yvonne.

Rasmussen's first teaching post was at the Turlock (California) church school, during the 1927-1928 school year, before he returned to his studies. After graduation, Lowell Rasmussen became principal of Humboldt Academy, located in Eureka, California. He held that role until 1932, when he became the principal of Golden Gate Academy, located in Berkeley, California. During Lowell's principalship at Golden Gate Academy, which lasted through the end of the 1936-1937 school year, the Rasmussens were called to mission service in Africa, but ultimately had to decline due to health concerns. In 1937, Rasmussen became principal of Lodi Academy, located in Lodi Academy. He served in that role until 1941, when he became the educational and home commission secretary (in today's terms, the departmental director) for the Southeastern California Conference. While in this position he was ordained as a minister by W. H. Branson, L. K. Dickson, and Lloyd E. Biggs, on 2 August 1941.

In 1942, Rasmussen became the president of La Sierra College, a role he held throughout World War II. In 1946, he was called to the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists to serve as an associate secretary in the Education Department and served in this role until 1959, when he became the Educational Department Secretary (in today's terms, the departmental director) of the Pacific Union Conference. While serving in this capacity, Lowell Rasmussen was deeply involved and invested in the creation of the [Western Association of Schools and Colleges](#), an accrediting commission which was established in 1961 and still exists today. He also served on the Seventh-day Adventist Church's Board of Regents and on the boards of several academic institutions in the Pacific Union Conference. He retired in 1971, and the Rasmussens moved to North Carolina.

In 1972, he was a charter member of the Arden Seventh-day Adventist Church, in Arden, North Carolina, which is still open today. His wife, Vera, passed away in 1980, and he died on 26 August 1998.

Description Control Element

Description based on DACS. Originally drafted by Ashlee Chism, June 2022. Sources for the biographical information include Lowell R. Rasmussen's obituary in the *Southern Tidings* (92:11, 29), Biographical Information Blanks for William F. Hills and L. R. Rasmussen, and the appointee file

for L. R. Rasmussen. Additional research related to the Rasmussens was conducted using Ancestry.com.

Related Archival Materials

RG 21 – Appointee file for L. R. Rasmussen

RG 51 – General Conference Education Department printed materials and correspondence

Collection Series

Box	Folder Title
D 13 39 E	Correspondence, 1971-1973
D 13 39 E	Photographs, 1910s-1990s [includes loose images as well as images glued to various types of backing material]
D 13 39 E	Clippings and assorted documents, 1930s-1990s [includes newspaper clippings, handwritten notes, an artwork, and non-correspondence documents related to Rasmussen's educational work]