



Harvey Edson Rogers Collection (Manuscript Collection 1)

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

Scope and Content

This collection contains a typed manuscript, titled “Some Personal Sketches”, created by Harvey Edson Rogers in the late 1930s and early 1940s; its contents include stories and documentation of the history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, based on interviews with principal people as well as his own experiences. The manuscript contains handwritten corrections as well as typed corrections pasted into the manuscript; occasionally, notes in shorthand were placed between the pages. The collection also contains a pamphlet, “The Beginnings of Adventism in Battle Creek” (c. 1932), which was placed between the manuscript and its back cover.

Arrangement and Quantity

The collection is 0.5 linear feet.

Custodial History and Immediate Source of Acquisition

The manuscript was donated in Fall 2018 by Donna Kellogg, great-niece of Harvey Edson Rogers, the creator of the manuscript.

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

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Preferred Citation

For the collection:

General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Archives, Silver Spring, Maryland. Harvey Edson Rogers Collection, MS 1. Box D 13 38.

Biographical Information

Harvey Edson Rogers was the first statistical secretary of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, as well as the author of manuals on typewriting and shorthand. He was born 2 April 1867 to Josephus and Sarah Ann (Miller) Rogers. He grew up in the U.S. states of Missouri and Kansas before traveling to Michigan in 1886 to attend Battle Creek College, where he specialized in shorthand. That same year he was baptized.

Rogers briefly worked as a book canvasser in Kansas in 1887 and then began work as a stenographer and statistical clerk for the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists (GC) in December 1888. He worked with GC Presidents and Secretaries as well as leading out in the reporting work at GC Sessions. Rogers became the Adventist Church's first Statistical Secretary in 1904, when he was 36 years old. In his work in this role, he inaugurated two serial publications of the Adventist Church: the *Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook* and the *Annual Statistical Report*, both of which are still published today. When the statistical secretary was made an *ex officio* member of the General Conference Committee in 1922, GC Secretary William Spicer commented, "We have but one Statistical Secretary in the denomination." Rogers served as statistical secretary for 37 years, retiring in 1941.

He was also the author of *Typewriting and Office Manual* (1903) and *The Rogers Compendium of the Graham System of Shorthand: A Practical, Synthetic Method* (1905).

Harvey Edson Rogers married Caroline 'Carrie' Diana Cross (1870-1967) on 28 June 1891. They had two daughters, Minola (1896-1982) and Viola (1902-1988). He died 24 February 1943.

Description Control Element

Description based on DACS. Originally drafted by Ashlee Chism, March 2022. Sources for the biographical information include the biographical article about Rogers in the *Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists*, <https://encyclopedia.adventist.org/article?id=4A2J> as well as the article on the history of the Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research and research done on Ancestry.com.

Additional information on the shorthand used by Rogers and the others in the office may be useful to the researcher; an article in the *Encyclopedia* can be found at <https://encyclopedia.adventist.org/article?id=EA5L>.

Related Archival Materials

RG 29 – Incoming statistical secretary correspondence (Boxes 3073-3084)

RG 29 – [Letterbooks](#) of the statistical secretary (Boxes O 142 and O 390)

RG 11 – Incoming Presidential Correspondence

RG 21 – Incoming Secretariat Correspondence

RML 106 – Pamphlets Collection

Container List

Location	Title
D 13 38	Some Personal Sketches – manuscript by H. E. Rogers
D 13 38	The Beginnings of Adventism in Battle Creek