

2/5/21

President

Edmund J. James

Vergil V. Phelps Papers, 1882-1968

Box 1:

The Lord's Jewels sermon by Dr. S. W. Phelps, 1895-1900

Bibliography of the Sabbath according to the Talmud, 1905-07

"The Educational Situation in the Chicago Public Schools" by George H. Mead, May 8, 1907

1908 - Views of Pres. E. J. James on hazing, copy of plaque of Jonathan Edwards at Northampton, Massachusetts

1909 - Correspondence on church records and preaching in Washington, D. C.

1910 - "The Pastor and the Teacher in New England" Ph. D. dissertation outlines, notes and drafts, Yale

1911 - Harvard Theological Review July, 1911 article on "The Pastor and the Teacher" January-April Program of the First Baptist Church, Billings, Montana

Box 2:

1913 - Battle Creek Sanitarium menu and "health decalogue"

1913-17 - Photographs University of Illinois

1914 - January 3, appointment in the President's office, University of Illinois and June 23 letter of Pres. E. J. James on appointment

November 8 Daily Illini article on James' speech to students

1916 - University statistics for April issue of Alumni Quarterly; Jenkin Lloyd Jones; September 9 letter to Nation on "Religion and American Universities"; September 17 speech of Pres. James to Chicago Association of Commerce

1916 - Phelps' writings on religion and publication of University Directory; W. C. Bagley, Edward F. Dunne

November 28 kite contest rules

"The University of Illinois As a Factor in the Development of the State"

"If I Were Back in High School"

Chapter of book on vocational guidance

Nell Barnes, 1916-18 - correspondence with actress, novel material, epitaphs

First Christian Church, Urbana Sermon - "How the Pew Can Help the Pulpit"

1917 - Yale Club banquet program

Outline of vocational guidance book

Laura B. Evans, 1/25; Allan Nevins, 2/11 and Frank Lowden, 5/4

Civil service notice of standing, December 15

Urbana High School essays by seniors on the ideal boy, girl and life

1918 - January - June

Laura B. Evans (1/1)

Florence E. Watson (2/)

E. J. James (2/9)

Resignation (1/28)

YMCA service at Camp Travis, San Antonio, Texas, including activity reports and letters home
 The Russian Soviet Revolution flyer
 July - December
 Army service in Central Machine Gun Officers Training School at Camp Hancock, including letters home, forms examinations, notes, "machine Gun Drill Regulations"
 David Kinley, 9/9 and 12/20; E. J. James, 11/21 and 12/23; Florence Watson, October and November; K. C. Babcock, 12/3; Allene and Louisa C. Gregory, 11/19; Laura B. Evans, 12/15
 War poetry
 Army vocational education publications
 Federal Board of Vocational Education; vocational rehabilitation series, opportunity monographs, 1918-19

Box 3:

1919 - D. Kinley, 4/11
 The Fort Sheridan Recall April 16 article in vocational training
 Publications on vocational education, including United States Boys' Working Reserve Farm Craft Series Lessons 1-29
 1920-21 - E. J. James, 10/14
 V. V. Phelps autobiographical data
 Materials on foreign service and education
 1922 - Fanny C. Sates, 8/26
 1924 - College of the City of Detroit
 Oratorical contest programs, 1/31 and 6/12, and newspaper articles
 1925 - "The Business Man and His Books" and "Now Speaking of the Memory" reprints by V. V. Phelps from Business
 Brochure on the Michigan Council for World Peace
 Oratorical contest programs
 1926 - Oratorical and heckling contest programs and clippings
 Life insurance course of study plan
 "Higher Education for Business" articles on Wharton (Pennsylvania), Illinois, Northwestern, Harvard, CCNY, Cincinnati and Wisconsin
 "How to Remember" from September The Office Economist
 1927 - Oratorical contest programs
 1929 - Frederick B. Robinson, 5/28
 Do You Think? magazine 1921-1941 on the philosophy and psychology of you, business, education, speech and the world
 1933 - Eugene Davenport, 5/16 letter and clipping
 ca. 1935 - "How to Study What When Where"

Detroit Abendpost articles

- P. L. Windsor, 9/6 and E. W. Phelps
 1936 - "The Use of 'Lay' and 'Lie'" and articles on pronunciation with drafts
 1945-51, 1963 - Correspondence with German prisoners of war who worked for Dr. Phelps at Romulus Air Base during World War II
 ca. 1950+ - "Do You Want to Be Lucky and Liked" or "What? Why? How?" or "You and Other Yous" and fifteen other chapters on public speaking and personality
 1955 - Florence W. Burrell, 5/19
 1957 - Florence W. Burrell, 3/19, 4/2 and 4/14
 1955-68 - copies of letters from Dr. Phelps on universities, publications, University of Illinois history, his collections, former students

Box 4:

- 1882-87 - Theological articles, Baptist newspaper clippings and The Way to God by Dwight L. Moody (1884)
 1890-95 - "The Kickapoo Indian Dream Book"
The Life of Charles H. Spurgeon
 19 sermons of Charles H. Spurgeon
 1896-1900 - Newspaper articles
 "A Tract for the American People" and diet and temperance
 "The Cigarette Must Go"
 1901-10 - Clippings and reprints
 1911 - "South American Trade" by Charles Pepper
 1912 - "The Call to Teach" by David Felmley
 1914 - "Why the German Nation has Gone to War" by G. S. Fullerton
 1915 - "The Russian Plot to Seize Galicia"
The Continental Times, 2/1, 12/15, 12/17, 12/20, 12/24 1915 and 1/17 1916
 "America and the European War" Norman Angell
 "A Dishonoured Army" J. H. Morgan
Courier Des Etats-Unis, 10/2/15
 "Economic Life in Germany During the War" (Berlin)
 1916 - "The Christian Sabbath" by Carlyle B. Haynes
 "German War Finance" M. J. Bonn
 "The Case of the Little White Slaver" Henry Ford
 "Vocations Open to College Women"
 Ford Motor Company Educational Work
Hamburger Fremdenblatt; "The Good Ship Illinois" H. M. Page

Box 5:

- 1917 - "Military and Naval Quiz" H. S. Kerrick
- "Conservation and Regulation" C. R. Van Hise
- Military manuals and wartime handbooks
- "The Second Liberty Loan of 1917"
- "Yale in the War" 11/23/17
- 1918 - Newspaper clippings
- YMCA camp bulletins
- Stars and Stripes, 10/11, 10/18 1918
- 1919 - Vocational training publications
- 1922 - Memoirs of the Kaiser (October)
- 1920s - Clippings on world affairs and World War I from Pathfinder and Detroit newspapers
- ca. 1935 - Benefactor (A. Lawson)
- 1936 - Fichte Bund on Dr. Ley
- 1936 - Edith Bolling Wilson memoirs
- 1943-45 - World War II publications
- 1948-68
- 1968 - September 12 - oral history tape recording. See pp. 4-8 for contents.

Box 6:

- The Roosevelt Book writings of T. R. (N.Y. 1904)
- The Freshman and His College by F. C. Lockwood (N.Y. 1913)
- A Book of English Essays C. T. Winchester, ed. (N.Y. 1914)
- How to Speak: The Speech Slogan by Vergil V. Phelps (Detroit, 1927)
- A Globegadder's Diary by Ralph Parlette (Chicago, 1927)
- Col. Robert G. Ingersoll's 44 Complete Lectures (Chicago, ca. 1899)
- Whither? Rainbows? Sunsets? by Helen R. and Vergil V. Phelps (N.Y. 1968)
- Xerox copy of Brigham Young's Diary, 1857

Dr. Vergil V. Phelps Interview
September 12, 1968

Side 1:

- 1 - 5 Introductory remarks of interview of Dr. Vergil V. Phelps of Wayne, Michigan made September 12, 1968.
- 6 - 28 Phelps family. History in Europe and America. One line went to Connecticut - the line of William Lyon Phelps. My line went to Canada. My father, who lived in Boston, Ontario, decided he wanted to be a preacher while he was plowing in a field. He did his academic work at Woodstock and graduated from the University of Toronto. He was a minister at Fingall, Woodstock and Toronto.

- 29 - 34 I was born at Toronto. Older sister born at Woodstock.
- 35 - 74 Association with John Bugas of Ford Motor Company. Purchase of western ranch. Oil leases.
- 75 - 93 In 1912, I started a college in Billings, Montana. Students agreed to continue classes in a log cabin. Graduation in 1913. One graduate went to McKeesport, Pennsylvania.
- 94 - 105 After my father graduated from the University of Toronto, he got the "western fever" and went to Clay Center, Kansas. He had not had any theological work, but he wrote a church paper "The Outlook" for Dr. John M. Gregory's 12 principles of public speaking. He had money from when he sold his farm to go to college. He put the money in western lands and lost it.
- 106 - 113 When he realized the need for theological training he took a church at Rochelle, Illinois, where I lived from age 6 to 13. The family moved to Hammond, Indiana after my brother studied at Morgan Park Academy, a Baptist Seminary taken over by the University of Chicago. Father got his B.D. at Chicago.
- 114 - 118 My brother was Chief Justice Warren's pastor. My teacher of old testament was Edgar Goodspeed.
- 119 - 127 I always had an ambition to be president of a university. When I went to the University of Illinois, I told President James I wanted to learn how to run a university. President James knew Dean Matthews of Chicago very well.
- 128 - 132 Matthews said that I could not get along with President James as we were both "bull headed". I never had any trouble.
- 133 - 149 President James never blamed anything on me, except once when I helped secure a draft exemption for a Hebrew at Illinois. James was indignant according to Albert Lee, but James said nothing to me.
- 150 - 172 Dean Thomas A. Clark once told President James that Phelps was a fool. Clark wanted me to employ only boys on the university directory project. Nepotism became illegal in the James period.
- 173 - 188 I helped bring Helen James and George Fraser together. We were going to Yellowstone Park, but her mother became ill. Fraser was a good friend of Filbey. Kelly couldn't get along with James or Filbey.

- 189 - 211 Friends at the University of Illinois. My brother and Warren Root married two girls and I didn't get one, perhaps because of my western debts.
- 212 - 233 President James kept telling me that I "ought to get married." My acquaintance with Florence Watson.
- 234 - 241 In 1912, Florence Watson and Col. John Trevett, a Champaign banker, were elected to the University Board of Trustees. Trevett's 92 year old son-in-law now lives in Belleville, Michigan.
- 242 - 266 Trevett and Watson were elected "to kick out President James." A vote was taken in the faculty Senate to support James. The students held a mass meeting at which James spoke. The 1914 Daily Illini editor arranged the meeting on October 31, 1914. World War I eliminated semi-centennial observances.
- 267 - 292 My resignation. President James knew how to do the work. When I left for the Army, I recommended Miss Anne Whitson as James' secretary.
- 293 - 325 In July 1918, I stopped at the University of Illinois when I was educational secretary for the Army YMCA in Texas. Friendship with Florence Watson. I was an Army private.
- 326 - 332 I organized post-war work at Fort Sheridan for the Army.
- 333 - 347 When I graduated from the divinity school at the University of Chicago, I was impressed by an Episcopalian. I took a \$400 fellowship at Harvard. This took care of my expenses. I also preached at Unitarian, Congregational and Baptist churches.
- 348 - 374 In the summer, my brother and I worked our way to Europe on a cattle boat. I didn't swear at the workers. I have many souvenirs of this and other trips. Also photos of a dahlia exhibit.
- 375 - 408 I studied in an Episcopalian school and took a one man seminar from Dr. Emerton. He taught me to say the word man. He had the gout. Dean Fenn encouraged me. I went to Yale to study under Dean Walker.
- 409 - 426 I studied Gibbon's Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire to prepare for the University of Chicago entrance examination.
- 427 - 444 I took my master's degree in medieval history. My master's thesis was on representative government among Germanic tribes on the borders of the Roman Empire.

- 445 - 491 Xenophon's Memorabilia on friendship. Socrates' three rules were reverence God, respect your parents and requite your friends. I read and taught about philosophers.
- 492 - 511 I don't have much use for Aristotle and the Apostle Paul.
- 512 - 566 It is important to read the first book on economics, Xenophon's Oeconomicus. Greek language. Unfavorable comparison of Queen Mary I with Queen Elizabeth I of England.
- 567 - 590 A Dutch dahlia friend told of his lineage. English language and slang.
- 591 - 619 I want to print Charles Dickens and other authors.
- 620 - 623 We should abolish abortion laws.
- 624 - 638 At Illinois, Dean Kinley was vice-president. I got along well with Kinley, but he was curt with everybody else. He was a Yale graduate.
- 639 - 656 Dean Babcock and Mrs. Busey egged on the president and made such an impression that he wanted to fire me from the university for my assistance to a Jewish student. Like Trevett, Mrs. Busey was critical.
- 657 - 665 "Florence Watson told me many times about that terrible board meeting and the way things went." When I won her away from that, President James and other members of the Board appreciated it. She forgot about firing James and made the motion that he be reappointed.
- 666 - 680 Difference of opinion with Dean Clark. Mrs. Evans and Florence Watson were some of the best friends I had. I took Florence Watson to the Junior Hop. After her husband died, Mrs. Evans and Florence Watson were going to take me to her home.
- 681 - 717 President James at Trustees meetings was successful. He didn't present things that might not win approval. I urged Florence Watson to back President James.
- 718 - 753 President James relied on me to arrange meetings. Dean Davenport was a nice man - always a gentleman. Dean Kinley was abrupt and sharp. Kinley was very helpful when I visited Illinois in January, 1920.
- 754 - 774 I was at Fort Sheridan and Chicago working with government students at Wisconsin, Northwestern, Michigan.
- 775 - 779 Visited Illinois in January 1919. Saw James and Kinley.

- 800 - 824 In 1916, we organized a Yale Club at Illinois. I became secretary.
- Side 2:
- 1 - 7 Lobbying for the University of Illinois at the Legislature.
- 8 - 14 Essays To Do Good by Cotton Mather. Availability in libraries.
- 15 - 16 Christian Science Monitor articles about Illinois.
- 17 - 25 Article on Congresswoman Jeanette Rankin of Wyoming. She was unpopular for her anti-war stand. The Monitor refused to print Phelps' article saying she was unpopular.
- 26 - 37 Loaned Essays To Do Good to a Yale student who typed a copy.
- 38 - 51 Overcoming stuttering in students at Lewis Institute.
- 52 - 59 A student found Mather's Essays To Do Good in a bookstore where he worked.
- 60 - 80 Importance of soliciting alumni and others for books and valuable items stored in attics. Clipping and filing significant magazine articles.
- 81 - 87 Boneyard. Indian bones.
- 88 - 93 Dr. David D. Henry's pictures are not good.
- 94 - 100 About 1923, I took University of Illinois course in stock judging. Difficulties of the livestock business in the west.
- 101 - 106 In 1912-13, I had a ranch near Billings, Montana. After I went broke, I came back home, met a girl in Green Bay and decided to get a position. Through the teacher's agency, I got the job of executive clerk at University of Illinois. I didn't like the title of clerk, so President James changed it to "executive secretary."
- 107 - 114 Dr. N. W. Filbey. Doctoral degrees.
- 115 - 117 Kelly, President James' assistant didn't get along with Dr. Filbey and the athletic interests.
- 118 - 127 Playing chess with Bob Zuppke. Zuppke learned football plays from chess. Zuppke's paintings and connections with Muskegon, Michigan.

- 128 - 131 I went broke out west in 1920.
- 132 - 136 My wife from Oklahoma wanted to drill for oil in Wyoming.
- 137 - 138 Fisk Teachers Agency got me the job with President James.
- 139 - 147 Almost went to University of Cuzco in Peru. Letters of recommendation.
- 148 - 157 Moulton, Donald Richberg, John Dewey.
- 158 - 180 World government publication. Public speaking book. Poetry. My wife suggested title for my book of sayings.
- 181 - 194 I came to Detroit from Milwaukee to train business executives. I didn't go to South America due to a revolution. I was busy contacting insurance companies about the methods of Roger Babson and Irving Allen. Salesmanship.
- 195 - 200 Substitute teacher in Detroit. Irving Allen method salesman.
- 201 - 211 Dean McKenzie of Detroit City College interviewed me and said they needed someone to teach public speaking. He wasn't interested in my degree in history.
- 212 - 216 Inadequacies of dictionaries. Pronunciation of "often."
- 217 - 221, 224 - 226 Ella Flagg Young.
- 222 - 223 Taking Chicago girls through a steel mill.
- 227 - 245 Dr. Owen and Mr. Cody. Mr. Frank Cody, Detroit Superintendent of Schools, was a politician and became president of Wayne University.
- 246 - 271 In 1928, I quit Wayne University in disgust. Worked with Dean McKenzie. Met Dr. Henry in this work.
- 272 - 307 Dr. Henry became dean. I had taught public speaking at Illinois. I boosted Dr. Henry with Florence Watson Burrell. I did different things in my career.
- 308 - 315 I called Wayne University "America's educational headless horseman." My job was to educate the public in Detroit. They didn't believe in higher education. The papers had never heard of Detroit City College.
- 316 - 334 I gave lectures on the psychology of business and selling. Cadillac Motors, S. S.

Kresge and others took my course. Public speaking lessons. Extempore speaking. Money back guarantee.

- 335 - 351 Alan Campbell of the Detroit College of Law questioned Phelps. Art and Science.
- 352 - 361 1936 - snowstorm in Detroit. Science was the way a woman got to the top of a mound and art was the way she slid down.
- 362 - 376 Phelps' writings. Florence Watson Burrell and Helen James Fraser.
- 377 - 379 Founding a college in the west.
- 380 - 390 President Charles Eliot of Harvard said he never made a mistake, but twiddled his thumbs when he spoke.
- 391 - 399 President James "was a rattling good speaker." He was an orator, a preacher.
- 400 - 408 My recollections, history of the Phelps family.