



The New York Public Library
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

Isaac Reed Berry papers

1931-1975

Sc MG 283

Processed by Michael R. West.

Summary

Creator: Berry, Isaac Reed, 1884-1975

Title: Isaac Reed Berry papers

Date: 1931-1975

Source: Donated by Lennie Berry Williams, Clara Berry Gaines and Emma Lucille Berry, November 22, 1990. SCM 90-24

Abstract: The main body of the Isaac Reed Berry Papers consists of undated sermons, mostly handwritten. There is no indication of where the sermons were delivered, although they are titled. The sermons deal with topical and political as well as spiritual concerns. Additionally, there are printed journals from the Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church for the years 1952, 1955 and 1975.

Preferred citation: Isaac Reed Berry papers, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Processed by Michael R. West; Machine-readable finding aid created by Apex Data Services; revised by Terry Catapano.

Separated Materials:

The following items were removed from:

Name of Collection/Papers Isaac Reed Berry Papers

Accession Number SCM 90-24

Donor: Mrs. Clara Berry Gaines and Mrs. Emma Lucille Berry

Date received: November 22, 1990

Date transferred: August 1990

The item(s) listed below have been sent to the division indicated, either to be retained or disposed of there. Any items that should receive special disposition are clearly marked.

span class="emph">Schomburg Photographs and Print Division:/span>

One photograph of Isaac Reed Berry

Creator History

The Reverend Isaac Reed Berry, pastor of several Methodist churches in the small towns and cities of the upper South, was born July 8, 1884 in Fodice, Texas, to Sarah Jane Holley and Garrett Reed Berry. His first twenty-one years were spent in Fodice, where he attended grade school and worked on his parent's farm and at his grandfather's cotton gin. Seeking to further his education, he left Fodice around 1905, riding the rails with (according to family legend) \$19 in his pocket to Washington, D.C., where he entered Howard University's high school. There he came under the tutelage of the school's principal, sociologist (later Dean of the University's College of Arts and Sciences) Kelly Miller, who helped guide Berry through his secondary and undergraduate education. After graduating with a Bachelor's degree from Howard in 1913, Berry heard the call of the ministry and enrolled as one of the few African Americans at the Boston University School of Theology, from which he graduated in 1916.

Berry was ordained in 1917 and began his ministry at the Methodist Church of New Windsor, Maryland. Subsequently, he assumed pastorates in the West Virginia towns of Montgomery (1919), Hinton (1920), Alderson (1921), Lewisburg (1922-1924), Martinsburg (1925-1926), Parkersburg (1927-1932), in Roanoke, Virginia (1933-1937), and in McKeesport, Pennsylvania (1938-1941), before settling in Annapolis, Maryland, where he led the Asbury United Methodist Church from 1942 until his retirement in 1965. In addition to leading his congregation, Berry was an active participant in the Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church, serving as its treasurer for more than two decades.

Berry was married to Emma Lucille Wells in 1922 and the father of two daughters. In retirement, the Berry's lived in Hinton, the site of one of his early pastorates, where Reverend Berry died on May 20th, 1975.

Scope and Content Note

The Reverend Isaac Reed Berry Papers contain documents from Berry's career as a minister. The main body of the collection consists of undated sermons, the majority of which are handwritten and offer little evidence of when and where they were delivered. The sermons are listed by title, or by a partial title where damage to a particular manuscript has made it impossible to determine a full title. The sole dated document is a Fourth of July oration Berry delivered in 1931. The Berry Papers would be of interest to scholars, church historians, and theologians concerned with learning what was said from the pulpit of African American churches in the small towns and cities of the upper South. The Fourth of July sermon and others deal with topical and political, as well as spiritual, concerns, and Berry's response to those concerns may be of use to students of African American and Southern history interested in learning more about the social history of the African American church in the South. For example, the sermon *Retributive Justice* addresses directly Berry's thoughts on how his congregation and the African American community generally should respond to a lynching that had apparently just occurred in the vicinity of Berry's pastorate.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American clergy
African American Methodists
African American preaching
African Americans -- Religion
Sermons, American -- African American authors

Titles

Preservation of the Black Religious Heritage Project funded by the Lilly Endowment
Schomburg NEH Automated Access to Special Collections Project

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Sermons

Names

Berry, Isaac Reed, 1884-1975

Container List

Sermons

- b. 1 f. 1 *Adam And Eve*
- b. 1 f. 2 *Address To The Young People...*
- b. 1 f. 3 *Asleep In Gethsemene*
- b. 1 f. 4 *An Attempt To Destroy God's World*
- b. 1 f. 5 *The Besetting God*
- b. 1 f. 6 *Blessedness In Sight*
- b. 1 f. 7 *A Boy Crowned King*
- b. 1 f. 8 *The Brotherhood Of Man*
- b. 1 f. 9 *A Business Man's Experience*
- b. 1 f. 10 *The Call Of Service*
- b. 1 f. 11 *Can We Talk With The Dead?*
- b. 1 f. 12 *Character*
- b. 1 f. 13 *The Child And The Kingdom*
- b. 1 f. 14 *Children Crying In The Temple...*
- b. 1 f. 15 *Christ's Crowning Miracle*
- b. 1 f. 16 *Christ's Universal Power*
- b. 1 f. 17 *The Christian Fellowship*
- b. 1 f. 18 *Christian Giving*
- b. 1 f. 19 *The Christian In The World*
- b. 1 f. 20 *Christian Missions*
- b. 1 f. 21 *The Christian Race*
- b. 1 f. 22 *Christian Stewardship*
- b. 1 f. 23 *A Christmas Thought*
- b. 1 f. 24 *Church Unity*
- b. 1 f. 25 *A City Of Refuge*
- b. 1 f. 26 *Clearing A Free Way For The Feet Of God*
- b. 1 f. 27 *The Coming Great Day*
- b. 1 f. 28 *A Conversation With Christ*
- b. 1 f. 29 *Cooperation, Or Working Together*
- b. 1 f. 30 *Corinthians 2:2*
- b. 1 f. 31 *The Cost Of Being Loyal To Christ*
- b. 1 f. 32 *Cross And The Resurrection*
- b. 1 f. 33 *The Cross Before The Crown*
- b. 1 f. 34 *The Cure For A Troubled Heart*
- b. 1 f. 35 *The Daring Of Jesus*
- b. 1 f. 36 *The Day Of High Hosannas*
- b. 1 f. 37 *Dead Ere His Prince*
- b. 1 f. 38 *The Discovery Of God*

Sermons (cont.)

- b. 1 f. 39 *The Divine Energy*
- b. 1 f. 40 *The Downfall Of Judah--Sin Brings Ruin*
- b. 1 f. 41 *Dynamics Of Small Things*
- b. 1 f. 42 *Elijah The Tishbite*
- b. 1 f. 43 *Elijah's Flight And Return*
- b. 1 f. 44 *Eternal Life*
- b. 1 f. 45 *An Example*
- b. 1 f. 46 *The Exile's Return, Or Treasures Restored*
- b. 1 f. 47 *Exiles Returning Under Ezra*
- b. 1 f. 48 *Facing The Music*
- b. 1 f. 49 *Faith*
- b. 1 f. 50 *Faith In A Shipwreck*
- b. 1 f. 51 *Faith Of Our Fathers*
- b. 1 f. 52 *A Fearful Prophet*
- b. 1 f. 53 *Fishers Of Men*
- b. 1 f. 54 *William E. Fletcher*
- b. 1 f. 55 *The Flight To Heaven*
- b. 1 f. 56 *The Fool In Christ*
- b. 1 f. 57 *Forgiving Sin*
- b. 1 f. 58 *...Freed*
- b. 1 f. 59 *Friendship*
- b. 1 f. 60 *Friendship--Love*
- b. 1 f. 61 *The Fu...Life*
- b. 1 f. 62 *The Geometry Of Life*
- b. 1 f. 63 *Get You No Gold Or Silver...*
- b. 1 f. 64 *Giving*
- b. 1 f. 65 *The Glory Of Motherhood*
- b. 1 f. 66 *God Taking Possession Of The...*
- b. 1 f. 67 *God's Grace*
- b. 1 f. 68 *God's Masterpiece*
- b. 1 f. 69 *God's One Essential For Salvation*
- b. 1 f. 70 *God's World Kingdom*
- b. 1 f. 71 *The Good Shepherd*
- b. 1 f. 72 *The Gospel Light For All*
- b. 1 f. 73 *The Grace Of Gratitude*
- b. 1 f. 74 *The Great Confession-- 'Great Answer'*
- b. 1 f. 75 *The Greatest Thing In The World*
- b. 1 f. 76 *Guided By The Spirit--Retrained By The Spirit From Asia To Europe*
- b. 2 f. 77 *He Said Tomorrow...*
- b. 2 f. 78 *The Heart...*
- b. 2 f. 79 *Heaven's Great Magnet*

Sermons (cont.)

- b. 2 f. 80 *Hell*
- b. 2 f. 81 *His Presence--A Realization Of God's Presence*
- b. 2 f. 82 *Holy War*
- b. 2 f. 83 *The Hope Of Immortality*
- b. 2 f. 84 *How To Succeed In Life*
- b. 2 f. 85 *A Hungry...*
- b. 2 f. 86 *The Inevitability Of God's Law, Or A Terrible Tragedy*
- b. 2 f. 87 *The Inner Circle*
- b. 2 f. 88 *Intimations Of Immortality*
- b. 2 f. 89 *Israel's Call To Service*
- b. 2 f. 90 *Jesus And The Twelve*
- b. 2 f. 91 *And Jesus Lifted Up His Eyes And Said, `Father, I Thank Thee'*
- b. 2 f. 92 *Jesus Proclaimed As The Christ*
- b. 2 f. 93 *Jesus Tempted*
- b. 2 f. 94 *Jesus, The Friend Of Sinners*
- b. 2 f. 95 *Jesus, The Giver And Preserver Of Life*
- b. 2 f. 96 *John 12:32*
- b. 2 f. 97 *John The Baptist*
- b. 2 f. 98 *Joy Cometh In The Morning*
- b. 2 f. 99 *July 4, 1931*
- b. 2 f. 100 *A Just Reward*
- b. 2 f. 101 *Kingdom Of God*
- b. 2 f. 102 *The Kingdom Of God*
- b. 2 f. 103 *... Of The Kingdom*
- b. 2 f. 104 *The Life Real*
- b. 2 f. 105 *Life's Worth And Woe*
- b. 2 f. 106 *Light*
- b. 2 f. 107 *... Light*
- b. 2 f. 108 *Like The O'cean Thunder On A Sounding Shore*
- b. 2 f. 109 *The Living Bread, Or The True Bread*
- b. 2 f. 110 *The Lord's Jewels*
- b. 2 f. 111 *The Lord's Supper*
- b. 2 f. 112 *A Lost Bible Is Found*
- b. 2 f. 113 *Lost Opportunity*
- b. 2 f. 114 *Love--The Greatest Thing In The World*
- b. 2 f. 115 *The Love Of Jesus*
- b. 2 f. 116 *Man, The Unconquerable*
- b. 2 f. 117 *The Marks Of Jesus*
- b. 2 f. 118 *Marriage And Divorce*
- b. 2 f. 119 *The Meaning Of Our Vows*
- b. 2 f. 120 *A Message From The King*

Sermons (cont.)

- b. 2 f. 121 *The Message Of Malachi*
- b. 2 f. 122 *A Message To The Bean Cadets*
- b. 2 f. 123 *Message To The Homemakers Association*
- b. 2 f. 124 *Messages Of Consolation To Bereaved Congregants*
- b. 2 f. 125 *A Mighty Deliverance And Wonderful Conversion*
- b. 2 f. 126 *The Misunderstood Jesus*
- b. 2 f. 127 *Mother, The Gift Of God*
- b. 2 f. 128 *Mother's Day*
- b. 2 f. 129 *Mother's Day*
- b. 2 f. 130 *Neglecting Salvation*
- b. 2 f. 131 *Not Taken But Kept*
- b. 2 f. 132 *Offended In Christ*
- b. 2 f. 133 *On The Mountain Of Temptation*
- b. 2 f. 134 *Order Of The Eastern Star--Memorial Address*
- b. 2 f. 135 *Our Savior On John 3:16*
- b. 2 f. 136 *Our Shepherd*
- b. 2 f. 137 *Our Unseen Helper, Or The Holy Spirit As Helper*
- b. 3 f. 138 *Paul A Pharisee, Or The Stoning Of Stephen*
- b. 3 f. 139 *Paul Before Agrippe*
- b. 3 f. 140 *Paul In Athens*
- b. 3 f. 141 *Paul In Ephesus--Jesus Magnified--The Gospel In The Center Of Paganism*
- b. 3 f. 142 *Paul In Iconium And Lystra*
- b. 3 f. 143 *Paul's Conversion, Or Saul's Surrender*
- b. 3 f. 144 *Paul's Experience In Jerusalem*
- b. 3 f. 145 *Paul's Last Journey To Jerusalem*
- b. 3 f. 146 *Peter Doing Wonderful Works*
- b. 3 f. 147 *Pharoah And The Frogs*
- b. 3 f. 148 *The Popularity Of Jesus In The Making*
- b. 3 f. 149 *Power Of A Lie*
- b. 3 f. 150 *Power Of Purpose, Purpose In Life*
- b. 3 f. 151 *... Prayer*
- b. 3 f. 152 *A Preacher Of Repentence*
- b. 3 f. 153 *The Price Of Discipleship*
- b. 3 f. 154 *Price Of Glory*
- b. 3 f. 155 *A Priceless Privilege*
- b. 3 f. 156 *The Prince Of Peace*
- b. 3 f. 157 *A Psalm Of Love*
- b. 3 f. 158 *Purity, Truth And Love*
- b. 3 f. 159 *The Question Of The Centuries*
- b. 3 f. 160 *Recognition And Love In The Celestial Life*
- b. 3 f. 161 *Recognition Of Jesus By Disciples*

Sermons (cont.)

- b. 3 f. 162 *Recrowning The King*
- b. 3 f. 163 *Relying On God*
- b. 3 f. 164 *Remember Jesus Christ*
- b. 3 f. 165 *The Reproach Removed*
- b. 3 f. 166 *Response To Welcome*
- b. 3 f. 167 *The Restoration Of Life And Health*
- b. 3 f. 168 *Retributive Justice*
- b. 3 f. 169 *Revealing Christ*
- b. 3 f. 170 *Reward Of Faithfulness*
- b. 3 f. 171 *The Risen Christ*
- b. 3 f. 172 *Rock Of Ages*
- b. 3 f. 173 *Ruth's Second Husband*
- b. 3 f. 174 *The Salvation Of The World*
- b. 3 f. 175 *The Secret Of Spiritual Achievement*
- b. 3 f. 176 *Seeking An...Ing Jesus*
- b. 3 f. 177 *Seven Wonders Of Heaven*
- b. 3 f. 178 *A Sense Of Glad Awakening*
- b. 3 f. 179 *Significance Of Baptism*
- b. 3 f. 180 *Sin And... Consequences*
- b. 3 f. 181 *The Sin Of Selfishness*
- b. 3 f. 182 *Sincerity--Trust In The Heart*
- b. 3 f. 183 *Some Bible Teachings About Education*
- b. 3 f. 184 *Some Day The Silver Cord Will Break*
- b. 3 f. 185 *Sons Of Light*
- b. 3 f. 186 *The Soul's Greatest Question*
- b. 3 f. 187 *Stand Fast*
- b. 3 f. 188 *Standing For Truth And Honesty*
- b. 3 f. 189 *Stewardship Of Personality*
- b. 3 f. 190 *Stilling The... Peace*
- b. 3 f. 191 *Stirring Events In Antioch*
- b. 3 f. 192 *The Stripling*
- b. 3 f. 193 *Sweet Miracle Of March*
- b. 3 f. 194 *Taking God At His Word*
- b. 3 f. 195 *Thanksgiving*
- b. 3 f. 196 *Then Spoke Jesus...*
- b. 3 f. 197 *Thou Hast Rejected The Word Of Jehovah*
- b. 3 f. 198 *[Tithing]*
- b. 3 f. 199 *Transfiguration And Service*
- b. 3 f. 200 *Trials And Triumphs Of Faith*
- b. 3 f. 201 *True Greatness*
- b. 3 f. 202 *Truth And Light*

Sermons (cont.)

- b. 3 f. 203 *Two Beggars*
- b. 3 f. 204 *Two Momentous Decisions*
- b. 4 f. 205 *A Vision And A Victory*
- b. 4 f. 206 *A Vision Of Eternity*
- b. 4 f. 207 *The Way To Accomplishment*
- b. 4 f. 208 *We Stand At Armageddon*
- b. 4 f. 209 *Welcome Address*
- b. 4 f. 210 *What Is Your Life?*
- b. 4 f. 211 *What The Church Should Mean To Us*
- b. 4 f. 212 *What Will The Lord's Share Do?*
- b. 4 f. 213 *When A Man May Speak Positively*
- b. 4 f. 214 *When I Survey The Wondrous Cross*
- b. 4 f. 215 *When Saul Was A Boy, Or The Early Life Of Saul*
- b. 4 f. 216 *Where Are The Dead?*
- b. 4 f. 217 *Where Is Your Faith?*
- b. 4 f. 218 *Who Is Your King?*
- b. 4 f. 219 *Why Jesus Taught By Parable*
- b. 4 f. 220 *The Wistful Wind*
- b. 4 f. 221 *Witnessing For Christ*
- b. 4 f. 222 *A Wonderful Deliverance*
- b. 4 f. 223 *The World Service Challenge To The Individual As To His Possessions*
- b. 4 f. 224 *The World's Greatest Coming Event*
- b. 4 f. 225 *Work, A Salvation*
- b. 4 f. 226 *The World's Only Need*
- b. 4 f. 227 *The Young Man A Young Woman Should Marry*
- b. 4 f. 228 *The Young Woman That A Young Man Should Marry*
- b. 4 f. 229 *Untitled Sermons And Fragments*
- b. 4 f. 230 *Untitled Sermons And Fragments*
- b. 4 f. 231 *Untitled Sermons And Fragments*
- b. 4 f. 232 *Untitled Sermons And Fragments*
- b. 4 f. 233 *Untitled Sermons And Fragments*

Printed Material

- b. 4 f. 234 *Miscellaneous Cards*
- b. 4
v. Volume *Washington Annual Conference, Official Journal 1952*
- b. 4
v. Volume *Washington Annual Conference, Official Journal 1955*
- b. 4
v. Volume *Baltimore Annual Conference, Official Journal 1975*