

NORMAN W. COX PAPERS

AR 122



**Prepared By: Dorothy Davis
Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives
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Norman W. Cox Papers

AR 122

Summary

Main Entry: Norman W. Cox Papers

Date Span: 1915 – 1959

Abstract: Norman W. Cox was a pastor, author, editor, and the first Executive Secretary of the Historical Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention. The Norman W. Cox Papers deal with his ministry prior to working with the Historical Commission.

Size: 5 linear ft. (10 document boxes)

Collection #: AR 122

Biographical Sketch

Dr. Norman W. Cox was the first Executive Secretary of the Historical Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, the precursor to the present Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives in Nashville, Tennessee. Before working for the Historical Commission, Dr. Cox pastored churches in Georgia, Virginia, West Virginia, and Mississippi. He also authored several books – including *Youth's Return to Faith* (1938), *God Did It!* (1942), *Dreams, Dungeons, Diadems!* (1954), and *God and Ourselves* (1960). His columns include “Tramping Trails of Faith” and “Pastoral Problems.”

While Executive Secretary for the Historical Commission, Dr. Cox worked as managing editor of the two-volume *Encyclopedia of Southern Baptists*, published in 1958. He also supervised the publication of a history of the Southern Baptist Convention and the Baptist Heritage study-book series. Dr. Cox administered the Operation Baptist Biography program to increase the biographical information available on Southern Baptists.

After his retirement from the Historical Commission in 1959, Dr. Cox served as interim pastor of Central Baptist Church in Mobile, Alabama. Norman Cox was born October 28, 1888 in Climax, Georgia, and he married Osye Matthews September 7, 1910. They had one son and one daughter, Graham W. Cox and Sara Margaret Thigpen. Dr. Cox died February 9, 1968 in Mobile, Alabama.

Scope and Content Note

The Norman W. Cox Papers deal with Dr. Cox's work in the ministry prior to his tenure as Executive Secretary of the Historical Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention. The Collection contains five linear feet of material, in ten boxes, and covers the years 1915 – 1959. Materials in the Collection include correspondence, lessons, devotionals,

articles, sermons, funeral cards, pastor's pocket books, manuscripts, clippings, and one scrapbook.

Correspondence is arranged chronologically and alphabetically and primarily relates to Dr. Cox's ministerial work in Huntington, West Virginia, and Meridian, Mississippi. Additional topics include Dr. Cox's speaking engagements and a series of letters to soldiers during World War II. His 1951 correspondence deals with making the Baptist Sunday School Board's Dargan-Carver Library the repository for materials of the Historical Commission. Dr. Cox also corresponded with several prominent Baptist leaders, including P. E. Burroughs, W. O. Carver, Gaines S. Dobbins, Searcy S. Garrison, S. F. Lowe, Duke K. McCall, Gaye L. McGlothlen, Hight C Moore, Louie D. Newton, Harold Purdy, James L. Sullivan, George W. Truett, Rufus W. Weaver, and G. Allen West. The Collection also contains manuscripts of Dr. Cox's books, *Youth's Return to Faith* and *God and Ourselves*, and his columns, "Tramping Trails of Faith," and "A Daily Tryst with God."

Researchers should note that published copies of Dr. Cox's books are also available in the library, including *Youth's Return to Faith* (BV4531.C6 1938), *God and Ourselves* (BT378.P8 C6 1960), and *Dreams, Dungeons, and Diadems* (BX6232.C65 1954).

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically, then chronologically

Provenance

Dr. Cox donated the Collection upon his retirement from the Historical Commission in 1959.

Preferred Citation

Norman W. Cox Papers, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee

Access Restrictions

None

Subject Terms

Binns, Walter Pope, 1895 – 1966
 Dobbins, Gaines Stanley, 1886 – 1978
 McCall, Duke Kimbrough, 1914 –
 Moore, Hight C., 1871 – 1957
 Newson, Louie DeVotie, 1892 – 1986
 Southern Baptist Convention, Historical Commission
 Church history
 World War II, 1939 – 1945 – Religious aspects

Related Materials

Funeral service of Norman W. Cox at Spring Hill Baptist Church, Mobile, Alabama, February 12, 1968. Rec R136t

Cox, Norman W. *We Southern Baptists*, 1961.

Woolley, Davis Collier. Papers. SBHLA AR 283.

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