

Glendon McCullough Collection

AR 637



Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives

Updated June, 2012

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Summary

Main Entry: Glendon McCullough Collection

Date Span: 1938 – 1978

Abstract: Collection contains biographical information on McCullough and his career. Includes clippings, correspondence, articles, and photographs.

Size: .5 linear ft.

Collection #: AR 637

Biographical Sketch

Ward Glendon McCullough was born September 9, 1921, in Griffin, Georgia, to Thomas Ward and Fannie Bell Roebuck McCullough. He had three younger sisters: Venetta, and twins, Oweeda and Uneeda. His childhood and school years were spent in Woolsey and Fayetteville, Georgia, where his father was the local sheriff.

McCullough was ordained in First Baptist Church, Claxton, Georgia, on May 26, 1940. He attended Brewton-Parker Junior College and in 1945, was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree in Bible from Baylor University in Waco, Texas. McCullough did graduate work at Southern Seminary and UCLA at Berkeley. On June 4, 1972, he received an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Mercer University.

McCullough served in several areas of Baptist work during his adult life. From 1940 – 1942, he pastored First Baptist Church in Hazelhurst, Georgia. He served two years as Dean of Men while he was a student at Baylor University. From 1945 – 1955, he was Royal Ambassador Director for the Georgia Baptist Convention.

Much of the personal correspondence in this collection is letters written to his sister, Venetta, as he traveled extensively during this period. In 1951 and 1952, he taught English at Seinan Gakuin University in Japan. From 1955 – 1959, he served as Associate Pastor of Druid Hills Baptist Church in Atlanta.

From 1959 – 1971, McCullough was secretary, then Director of Personnel, at the Home Mission Board. In 1971, he was named Director of the Brotherhood Commission in Memphis, a position he held until his death in an automobile accident on August 23, 1978.

Glendon McCullough was married to Ernestine Kesler in 1955, and the couple had four children: Kathy, Ken, Beth, and Debbie. Ernestine died of cancer in 1969.

McCullough was a personal friend of Jimmy Carter. In 1974, his second marriage to Marjorie Jones, a Southern Baptist missionary to Brazil, took place in the governor's mansion in Atlanta. At the time of his death, he was a member of Union Avenue Baptist Church and the Memphis Chamber of Commerce.

Scope and Content Note

The collection (.5 linear ft.) is primarily biographical, consisting of newspaper articles, personal letters, and mementoes saved through the years by Glendon McCullough's sister, Venetta M. Kirkland. There are postcards written to his mother and sister dating back to 1938. Most of the collection covers 1945 – 1978 and is related to his service as state Royal Ambassador Director for Georgia (1945 – 1955), Director of Personnel for the Home Mission Board (1959 – 1971), and Executive Director of the Brotherhood Commission (1971 – 1978). Of special significance was his friendship with Jimmy Carter and Carter's active support of the Brotherhood work. There is extensive news coverage of Carter and McCullough in the 1970's.

Included in the collection is a manuscript of McCullough's early life and events surrounding his untimely death that were intended to be the first and last chapter of a biography by his sister, Venetta. There is also a copy of the address he delivered in 1972 at Mercer University when he received an honorary doctorate degree.

There are extensive articles related to his death and funeral including copies of messages that were a part of the funeral and grave side service. Also included are miscellaneous photographs and an article related to the dedication of the Glendon McCullough Conference Center at the Brotherhood Commission on April 23, 1983.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in alphabetical order by folder title.

Provenance

Donated by Venetta McCullough Kirkland, 1985.

Preferred Citation

Glendon McCullough Collection, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee.

Access Restrictions

None

Subject Terms

McCullough, Ward Glendon, 1921 – 1978
Southern Baptist Convention. Brotherhood Commission

Related Materials

Southern Baptist Convention. Brotherhood Commission Records, 1935-1984. Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, AR 660.

Container List

Box 1

- 1.1 Biographical Manuscript
- 1.2 Brotherhood
- 1.3 Druid Hills Baptist Church
- 1.4 Home Mission Board
- 1.5 McCullough Conference Center
- 1.6 Obituary and Funeral
- 1.7 Ordination
- 1.8 Personal Family Material
- 1.9 Post Cards – Written
- 1.10 Post Cards – Unwritten
- 1.11 Royal Ambassadors
- 1.12 Tape Recordings