

## NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTION RECORD

RG4004.AM: Wyland, Benjamin Franklin (Rev.), 1882-1986

Papers: 1926-1972

Lincoln, Lancaster County, Neb. and St. Petersburg, Florida:

Congregational Minister

Size: 0.5 cu.ft; 1 box

### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Benjamin F. Wyland, son of Frank and Molly Griffith Wyland, was born on March 16, 1882, in Harlan, Shelby County, Iowa. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Iowa in 1905 and his B.D. from Yale in 1908. Wyland married Ada Beach on January 14, 1909, at New Haven, Connecticut. This marriage produced four children.

After being ordained as a minister in the Congregational Church in 1908, Rev. Wyland served as associate pastor at the Tompkins Avenue Church, 1910-1917. During 1917-1918 he was religious editor of the *New York Tribune*. In 1918 Wyland served in the pulpit of Union Church in Worcester, Massachusetts. In 1923 he was an exchange preacher between the U.S. and England. He held this position again in 1933.

From 1926-1936 Rev. Wyland was pastor at the First Plymouth Congregational Church of Lincoln, Nebraska. During his tenure, a new church building was completed. After leaving Lincoln in 1936, Wyland served three years as pastor in Brooklyn, New York. During World War II he became liaison Chaplain for the Council of Churches of Maryland. After the war, Wyland moved to St. Petersburg, Florida, where he continued to serve his church and where he was also deeply involved in numerous social welfare projects.

Ada Wyland died in 1953 and Benjamin then married Mildred (Carmichael) Oeschger. Mildred died in 1978. Rev. Benjamin F. Wyland died in St. Petersburg, Florida, on July 24, 1986. He is buried in the Harlan Cemetery at Harlan, Iowa, along with his second wife, Mildred.

### SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of one box of manuscript material arranged in five series: 1) Memoirs, 1964 and undated; 2) Correspondence, 1926-1972; 3) Manuscripts, 1966-1967; 4) Certificates and Tributes, 1945-1959; and 5) Miscellany.

This material relates to the church and social work of Rev. Benjamin F. Wyland. **Series 1** consists of two sets of memoirs written by Rev. Wyland. Folder 1 contains reminiscences written by Wyland to his son, Gordon, in 1964. These are presented in letter form and they describe Wyland's biographical sketches of Wyland's life taken from *Who's Who*. Folder 2 includes Wyland's memoirs, in narrative form, about his years serving churches in Worcester, Massachusetts; Lincoln, Nebraska; Brooklyn, New York; and St. Petersburg, Florida. Of

particular interest is his description of the architectural plan and design of the First Plymouth Congregational Church of Lincoln, Nebraska, which was built during his pastorate there.

The correspondence, 1926-1972, of **Series 2** includes the letter of notification of Wyland's appointment to the First Plymouth Congregational Church of Lincoln, Nebraska. Correspondents in this series include Charles W. Bryan, Thurgood Marshall, and Herbert Hoover. (Hoover's letter is a xerox copy.) **Series 3** consists of manuscripts, 1966-1967, of Rev. Benjamin F. Wyland. Included is the Centennial Address given by Wyland in 1966, for the hundred-year anniversary of the First Plymouth Congregational Church of Lincoln, Nebraska. Two articles written by Wyland are also provided, as well as Wyland's report on integration in St. Petersburg.

The certificates and tributes of **Series 4**, 1945-1959, were presented to Wyland because of his many services to society. The miscellany of **Series 5** includes an architectural report on the First Plymouth Congregational Church of Lincoln, Nebraska; newspaper articles, including one which describes Rev. Wyland's work with service men during World War II; and a volume describing the bells of the First Plymouth Congregational Church entitled *Carillon Music and Singing Towers in the Old and New World*.

Collection donated by Rev. Wyland in June 1980, through the courtesy of Judge Robert Van Pelt.

## DESCRIPTION

Series 1 - Memoirs of Rev. Benjamin F. Wyland, 1964, n.d.

Box 1

Folder

1. Memoirs in letter to his son, 1964; biographical sketches from *Who's Who*
2. Memoirs, undated

Series 2 - Correspondence, 1926-1972

1. 1926-1972

Series 3 - Manuscripts, 1966-1967

1. Centennial Address: First Plymouth Congregational Church in Lincoln, Nebraska, August 19, 1966, "And so they crucified my Lord," March 25, 1967; Minister Attends Queen's Garden Party
2. *Integration: How it Came to St. Petersburg*

Series 4 - Certificates and tributes, 1945-1959

1. 1945-1959

Series 5 - Miscellany

1. The Architectural Record, May 1929 ô õFirst Plymouth Congregational Church of Lincoln, Nebraskaö  
Newspaper Articles including one, September 2, 1944, entitled, õThe Church Solves a Problem.ö (Xerox copy with collection; original in Oversize)
2. *Carillon Music and Singing Towers in the Old and New World* (First Plymouth Congregational Church)

AIF/psw 07-01-1980  
Revised TMM 04-05-2016

Added Entries:

Bryan, Charles Wayland, 1867-1945  
Clergy -- Nebraska  
Congregational Church in Nebraska  
First Plymouth Congregational Church (Lincoln, Neb.)  
Hoover, Herbert Clark, 1874-1964  
Lancaster County (Neb.) -- Religious institutions and affairs  
Marshall, Thurgood, 1908-1993  
Social problems  
Social reform  
Wyland, Benjamin Franklin, 1882-1986