

**Ms 148**

**Title:** John Canse papers

**Creator:** Canse, John

**Dates (Inclusive):** 1884 - 1958

**Volume:** 4 boxes (2.5 linear feet)

**Accession number:** 1935.86, 1940.63

**Access Restrictions:** None

**Abstract:** Reverend John Canse served various Methodist conferences throughout the Northwest from 1907 until his death in 1954. He collected material while researching the early Methodists in the area and published essays on them frequently. He also collected material on other interests, which ranged from local history to Robert Gray, the Columbia Gorge and George Washington's Bicentennial. Starting in 1918, he served on the Board of the Washington State Historical Society, becoming its president in 1942.

**Biographical Note:** Reverend John Martin Canse was born in Orland, Indiana in 1869. In 1900, he married Ruth Herrick. Both attended DePauw University. He earned his Ph.B., D.D. from there in 1918.

His travels to the Northwest began earlier when in 1907 he was transferred to the Puget Sound Conference. He moved every few years throughout the Northwest and developed an interest in the history of the area. He focused initially on Methodism and its development. He wrote extensively on the subject and was published many times, particularly in the Washington Historical Quarterly. He was also interested in the discoveries of Robert Gray and became prominent in the Robert Gray Memorial Association, dedicated to bringing recognition to Gray's accomplishments. He also showed an interest in the George Washington Bicentennial, perhaps because Gray's voyage took place during Washington's administration. He was active in the Washington State Historical Society, joining the board in 1918 and becoming president in 1942. Canse died in 1954 and is buried in Seattle.

**Scope and Content:** The collection contains the papers created and collected by John Canse. Although the arrangement in the two boxes follows a logical pattern, the location of a particular record might have been dictated by the size of the document. Hence one topic may be found in both boxes.

As a Methodist minister, Canse was interested in topics dealing with religion, in particular, with Methodism in the Northwest. As a member of the Board of the

Washington State Historical Society, he developed an interest in local history, the discoveries of Robert Gray, the Columbia River Gorge and Bonneville Dam. His correspondence reflects these interests. Most of the details of the letters are captured in the original inventory in the finding aid files at WSHS. He collected transcriptions of the works by and about other ministers and he wrote extensively on various topics dealing with religion in the Northwest. The one exception is the series of essays about Robert Gray. The essays have been arranged by topic.

A large proportion of the collection is devoted to the 1932 George Washington Bicentennial celebration commemorating the 200th anniversary of his birth. Included are the Congressional Record, the bulletins sent out by the special Commission appointed for the occasion and the constant coverage in the newspapers leading up to and after the celebration. Canse clipped articles, mainly from Washington and Oregon newspapers. In addition to the Washington celebration, his clippings included articles on religion, the Bonneville Dam and local history, particularly Whatcom County. The clippings have been sampled. There is a copy of the October 27, 1949 issue of The Sumas News commemorating the 60th anniversary of the town's founding.

**Preferred Citation:** Ms 148, John Canse papers, Washington State Historical Society, Tacoma (Wash.)

### **Contents List**

#### **Box 1**

<b>Folder</b>	<b>Content</b>
1	Canse Collection Original Inventory
2	Washington State Historical Society Membership Certificate, 1934
3	Correspondence, 1917-1920
4	Correspondence, 1922-1924
5	Correspondence, 1926 & 1928-1931
6	Correspondence, 1932
7	Correspondence, 1933-1936
8	Correspondence, 1937-1940
9	Correspondence, 1941-1943
10	Correspondence, 1946-1948
11	Correspondence, n.d., 1950, 1952, 1954 & 1958
12	Henry Brown, D.D., My Memories of Pioneer Preaching, 1924 Part I
13	Henry Brown, D.D., My Memories of Pioneer Preaching, 1924 Part II
14	Henry Kirk White Perkins Autobiography, 1952
15	Henry Kirk White Perkins Biography by Grace Albee, V. 1
16	Henry Kirk White Perkins Biography by Grace Albee, V. 2

- 17 Henry Kirk White Perkins Essays
  - a. History of the Oregon Mission
  - b. Wonderful Work of God (photocopy)
- 18 Notes from Henry Kirk White Perkins Letters
- 19 Jason Lee Journals
  - a. Jason Lee's Journal, V.
  - b. Jason Lee: Historical-Antique Gems
- 20 Essays: Jason Lee
  - a. The Father of American Oregon: Jason Lee (2 copies)
  - b. Jason Lee's First Sermon in All Pacific Northwest
  - c. Jason Lee: Missionary Colonizer
  - d. Jason Lee and the Romance of Old Oregon (2 copies)
  - e. The Associates of Jason Lee in the Oregon Mission
  - f. Jason Lee Centennial
  - g. Jason Lee Memorial Dates
  - h. The Forerunner of Jason Lee by John Parsons
- 21 Essays: Robert Gray
  - a. Miscellaneous Canse notes
  - b. Remembering Robert Gray's Discoveries (2 copies)
  - c. Memorial to Robert Gray
  - d. Unpublished Gray Letters (includes genealogy)
  - e. Robert Gray Discovery Day Proposal
- 22 Essays: Methodists in the Northwest
  - a. When Methodists Face Westward
  - b. Northwest Methodism
  - c. When Pacific Methodism Was Born
  - d. The Missionary Colonizers of the Pacific Northwest
  - e. Earliest Methodists within Pacific Northwest Conference
  - f. Methodism in Southwest Washington
  - g. Camp Meetings in Washington Territory
  - h. Organizing Pioneer Churches
  - i. First Vancouver Church
  - j. Early Methodists in Cosmopolis
  - k. Montesano and Chehalis Methodism
  - l. The Old Wascopam Agricultural Mission
  - m. Methodists Went Early Into Idaho
  - n. Miscellaneous
- 23 Essays: Native Americans
  - a. Churches Begin
  - b. Deep Creek Camp on the Dalles-Oregon City Cut-off
  - c. Every Indian to Have His Day
  - d. Opening the Book among the Indians of the Northwest
  - e. Opening God's Word
  - f. Notes
- 24 Essays: Nisqually
  - a. First American Settlers in Washington State

- b. First American Settlement on Puget Sound (Nisqually Mission)
  - c. The Nisqually Mission
  - d. Old Fort Nisqually Deserves a Memorial Stamp
- 25 Essays: Northwest Discoveries
  - a. Discovery Days in the Northeast Pacific: The Sesqui-Centennial of Yankee Exploits along Unchartered Shores
  - b. Discovery Days in the Northeast Pacific (fragments)
  - c. Pathmakers into the Northwest
  - d. Remembering Northwest Discoveries
- 26 Essays: Old Oregon
  - a. First U.S. Agent in Oregon: William A. Slacum
  - b. Selling the Bible to Old Oregon
  - c. When Covered Wagons First Bumped into Oregon
- 27 Essays: Miscellaneous
  - a. Columbia River Branch of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society
  - b. Early Methodists in Alaska
  - c. French Trails Across America, 1939
  - d. Isaac Dillon Autobiographical Sketch
  - e. Mission Cattle One Hundred Years Ago: Old Waiilatpu
  - f. Old Wesleyan Album Went to Oregon
  - g. Organization (partial and page 8)
  - h. Preface to...Foundations Northwest
  - i. Ransom
  - j. What Say (partial)
  - k. Yankees Logged the Unknown Western Seas
  - l. Notes
- 28 Manuscript: Our Debt to Circuit Riders, Part I, 1946
- 29 Manuscript: Our Debt to Circuit Riders, Part II, 1946
- 30 Manuscript: Our Debt to Circuit Riders, Part III, 1946
- 31 Lecture Notes: Carrying the Torch Northwestward, 1928
- 32 Radio Script: The Methodist Story, by Cyrus Albertson, 1952
- 33 Photo Blocks
- 34 George Washington Bicentennial Documentation: Congressional Record, 1923-1932
- 35 George Washington Bicentennial Documentation: Commission Releases, 1931
- 36 George Washington Bicentennial Documentation: Clip Sheets, 1931-1932

## Box 2

Folder	Content
--------	---------

- 1 George Washington Bicentennial Documentation: Washington's  
Account Book, 1775-1783 (copy)
- 2 George Washington Bicentennial Documentation: Miscellaneous
- 3 Washington State Historical Society Documentation, 1896, 1919,  
1937-1943
- 4 Robert Gray Memorial Association
  - a. Association Documentation, c. 1932-1942
  - b. Congressional Record, 1937
  - c. Essay on Robert Gray by Fred Lockley
  - d. The Landing of Robert Gray (Chinook Landing Site)
  - e. Copy of 1892 Letter from Gray's Granddaughter to  
George Himes
  - f. Tower School Correspondence, 1932
  - g. Washington State Historical Society  
Recommendations for Celebrating Discovery Day,  
c.1942
  - h. Programs: Point Ellice and Chinook
- 5 Henry Brewer Papers: Day Book (copy)
- 6 Henry Brewer Papers: Time Book (copy)
- 7 Henry Brewer Papers: Journal at the Dalles, 1843 (copy)
- 8 Henry Brewer Papers: Letters, 1839-1844 (copy)
- 9 Newsclippings: George Washington Bicentennial, 1908-1930
- 10 Newsclippings: George Washington Bicentennial, 1931-1932
- 11 Newsclippings: George Washington Bicentennial, 1935-1942
- 12 Newsclippings: Bonneville Dam, 1929-1938
- 13 Newsclippings: Local History, n.d. & 1932-1950
- 14 Newsclippings: Religion, n.d., 1914 & 1931
- 15 Magazines, 1892-1936
  - a. Century Magazine, 1892
  - b. Pacific Christian Advocate, 1913
  - c. Woman's Home Missions, 1920
  - d. World Service News, 1931
  - e. The Westerner, 1931
  - f. Methodist Sesqui-Centennial, 1934
  - g. The Highway Traveler, 1936
- 16 Magazine Articles,
  - a. Baltimore and Ohio Magazine, 1932-1933 (includes  
booklet on the District of Columbia)
  - b. Christian Advocate, 1953 (re. Jason Lee)
  - c. Christian Student, 1926
  - d. Classmate, c. 1926
  - e. Current History, June 1930
  - f. The Family Circle (re. George Washington)
  - g. Harpers Magazine, January 1884 (re. clipper ships)
  - h. Ladies' Home Journal, February 1931
  - i. The Literary Digest

- j. M.W.A.K. Columbian, 1937
  - k. National Republic
  - l. Pacific Christian Advocate, 1897, 1919-1920 & 1939
  - m. Supreme Council 33\* Bulletin
  - n. The Target: A Paper for Boys, 1932
  - o. Western Christian Advocate, February 23, 1916
- 17 Articles from Unidentified Magazines
- 18 Booklets, Pamphlets & Excerpts
  - a. The Constitution of the United States (with tree planting instructions by the American Tree Association to mark the 1787-1937 Sesquicentennial)
  - b. Great Men in the Chronicles of America
  - c. Americanization at the Crossroads of the Pacific by Henry Butler Schwartz, 1921
  - d. Robert D. Clark Booklets on Bishop Matthew Simpson
- 19 Miscellaneous Photocopies
  - a. James L. Davies family from Port Stanley taken 1869
  - b. Roeder & Peabody Mill and Mill House and Post Office, Whatcom County
  - c. Postcards: Early Scenes from Jacksonville, OR
- 20 Miscellaneous
  - a. Astoria, Oregon Brochure
  - b. Calvin Coolidge States re. Columbia Basin Irrigation Project, 1927
  - c. T.C. Elliott Washington State Historical Society Membership card
  - d. Columbia River International Exposition Information, 1942
  - e. Governor Hartley Caravan Program: Longview to Long Beach
  - f. Kendricks Information (includes genealogy)
  - g. Photocopy of the newspaper The Northeast Light (Whatcom County, 1858)
  - h. Oregon Historical Society President's Annual Report, 1942
  - i. Pacific Press Clipping Bureau: Clipping re. Robert Gray
  - j. Royal Blue Line Motor Tours Brochure for Washington, D.C. and northern Virginia
  - k. Southwest Washington Pioneers' Association Midwinter Meeting Program, 1935-1936
  - l. Tacoma Public Forum Resolution re. George Washington Statue, 1941
  - m. Translation of Report of Royal Netherlands Geological Society re. North American Indian, 1910
  - n. WPA Oregon Trail Project
  - o. Newspaper Photocopies (most illegible)
  - p. Notes re. Gertrude Eaton