



State of Tennessee  
Department of State  
**Tennessee State Library and Archives**  
403 Seventh Avenue North  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0312

**WILLARD HARRIS BLUE**  
**(1888-1960)**  
**PAPERS**  
**1915-1960**

*Processed by:*

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Archival Technical Services

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**MICROFILMED**

## **INTRODUCTION**

This finding aid focuses on the papers of Rev. Willard Harris Blue, Methodist pastor, born at Bethpage, Tennessee. Spanning the years 1915-1960, the papers contain numerous sermons delivered by Rev. Blue during the years 1927-1958 at various Methodist churches which he served in Middle Tennessee, particularly in Clarksville, Murfreesboro, and Nashville. Also contained within the collection are diaries of Rev. Blue between 1928-1948 as well as several miscellaneous items.

Rev. Blue also played an important role in the late 1950s in spearheading the drive to establish a facility in the Nashville area for retired Methodists. His dream for such a retirement home became a reality in the early 1960s in Hermitage with McKendree Village.

The materials in this finding aid measure 4 cubic feet. There are no restrictions on the materials. Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Willard Harris Blue Papers may be made for scholarly research.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The Willard Harris Blue Papers, containing approximately 1,500 items, span the period 1915-1960. The collection is composed of church bulletins and sermons, clippings, correspondence, diaries, genealogical data, speeches, and several miscellaneous items.

The bulk of the collection consists of church bulletins and sermons delivered by Rev. Blue while serving respectively at Waverly Place Methodist Church, Nashville, Tennessee, Madison Street Methodist church, Clarksville, Tennessee, First Methodist Church, Murfreesboro, Tennessee, Calvary Methodist church, Nashville, Tennessee, and as guest preacher at various other Methodist Churches in Middle Tennessee. Rev. Blue's sermons have been arranged chronologically with the applicable church bulletins. In those instances where the dates of the sermons could not be determined, the sermons were arranged in folders marked "date unknown," accompanied by a list of sermon topics.

Rev. Blue kept a diary for the years 1928-1948. Entries were made meticulously for each day of the year providing information on such subjects as weather, Sunday sermons delivered, church attendance, weddings performed, visits made in the parish, etc.

Valuable genealogical information may also be found on such families as Blake, Blue, Cummins, Draper, Gray, and Pate.

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

### Willard Harris Blue

- 1888 November 25, born at Bethpage, Tennessee, the son of Rev. Henry B. Blue and Katherine Gray Blue
- \_\_\_\_\_ Attended Wallace University
- 1914 Received a bachelor of Science degree from Vanderbilt University
- 1917 Received a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Candler School of Theology, Emory University
- 1917-1918 Served in the Field Artillery of the U. S. Army
- 1919 April 12, married Lucile Edgerton of Lebanon, Tennessee
- 1919-1920 Taught in the Massey School
- 1920 Pastor at Ardmore Methodist Church, Ardmore, Tennessee
- 1921-1922 Pastor at Crossville Methodist Church, Crossville, Tennessee
- 1923-1925 Pastor at Bell Buckle Methodist Church, Bell Buckle, Tennessee
- 1925-1926 Pastor at Winchester Methodist Church, Winchester, Tennessee
- 1927-1935 Pastor at Waverly Place Methodist Church, Nashville, Tennessee
- 1936-1939 Pastor at Madison Street Methodist Church, Clarksville, Tennessee
- 1939-1940 District Superintendent of the Clarksville District
- 1940-1944 Pastor at First Methodist Church, Murfreesboro, Tennessee
- 1944-1948 District Superintendent of the Nashville District
- 1948-1958 Pastor at Calvary Methodist Church, Nashville, Tennessee
- 1958-1960 Served as Executive Secretary of the Conference on the Home for Older People
- 1960 August 21, died in Nashville, Tennessee and interred at Woodlawn Memorial Park

## CONTAINER LIST

### **Microfilm Reel #1**

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#### **Box 1**

1. Biographical sketches—Willard Harris Blue (1888-1960)
2. Broadsides—Mayoral candidates—W. C. Blue
3. Cards—Business—Willard H. Blue
4. Cards—Greeting—Lucile and Willard Blue
5. Certificates—U. S. Citizen Defense Corps—Rev. Willard Blue, n. d.
6. Church records—Honor roll, 1942-1943
7. Church records—Report—Methodist Home for the Retired, Jan. 27, 1960
8. Church records—Report—Nashville District Conference, Apr. 2, 1948
9. Church records—Sermons—Rev. W. H. Blue, 1927, 1930-1939
10. Church records—Sermons—Rev. W. H. Blue, 1941-1943

### **Microfilm Reel #2**

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#### **Box 2**

1. Church records—Sermons—Rev. W. H. Blue, 1944-1948
2. Church records—Sermons—Rev. W. H. Blue, 1949-1950

#### **Box 3**

1. Church records—Sermons—Rev. W. H. Blue, 1951

### **Microfilm Reel #3**

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2. Church records—Sermons—Rev. W. H. Blue, 1952
3. Church records—Sermons—Rev. W. H. Blue, 1953

#### **Box 4**

1. Church records—Sermons—Rev. W. H. Blue, 1954

### **Microfilm Reel #4**

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2. Church records—Sermons—Rev. W. H. Blue, 1955

#### **Box 5**

1. Church records—Sermons—Rev. W. H. Blue, 1956
2. Church records—Sermons—Rev. W. H. Blue, 1957

## **Microfilm Reel #5**

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### **Box 6**

1. Church records—Sermons—Rev. W. H. Blue, 1958-1960
2. Church records—Sermons—Rev. W. H. Blue, n. d.
3. Church records—Sermons—Rev. W. H. Blue, n. d.
4. Clippings—Rev. W. H. Blue, et al
5. Clippings—Waverly Place Methodist Church
6. Correspondence—[W. H. Blue], 1944
7. Correspondence—W. R. Blue, 1891-1892
8. Correspondence—E. C. Edens, 1948
9. Correspondence—Alva R. Hutchinson, 1947
10. Correspondence—S. K. Ling, 1953
11. Correspondence—Mrs. James (Anna) A. Luton, 1952
12. Correspondence—Hannelore Weber, 1948
13. Correspondence—Telegrams—Wedding congratulations—Rev. W. H. Blue and Lucile (Edgerton) Blue

## **Microfilm Reel #6 & #7**

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### **Box 7**

1. Diaries, memoirs, journals, commonplace books, etc.—Rev. W. H. Blue, 1928-1936

## **Microfilm Reel #8**

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2. Diaries, memoirs, journals, commonplace books, etc.—Rev. W. H. Blue, 1937-1942

## **Microfilm Reel #9**

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### **Box 8**

1. Diaries, memoirs, journals, commonplace books, etc.—Rev. W. H. Blue, 1943-1948
2. Financial records—Promissory notes—Willard H. Blue, 1940, 1941
3. Funeral/burial notices--Miscellaneous
4. Genealogical data—BLUE-GRAY-BLAKE families
5. Genealogical data—PATE-DRAPER-CUMMINS families
6. License—recommendation to Preach—Willard Harris Blue, 1915
7. Photographs—Willard Harris Blue (1888-1960)
8. Photographs—Calvary Methodist Church, Nashville, Tennessee
9. Poetry--Miscellaneous
10. Posters—Wanted—Willard Blue
11. Publications—Magazine—“The Circuit Rider” May-June 1958
12. Publications—Magazine—“Nashville Methodist Layman,” Oct. 1946
13. School records—Emory University, Candler School of Theology, Willard Harris Blue, 1915
14. Speeches—Rev. Willard Blue
15. World War I—Report—Army Y. M. C. A., Oglethorpe Camp, Feb. 1918
16. World War II—War Price and Rationing Board—Mileage Coupons