

Yale University Library  
Yale Divinity Library

# Guide to the Gerald H. Beard Papers

RG 65



Compiled by Martha Lund Smalley

1981, 2001

409 Prospect Street  
New Haven, CT 06511  
(203) 432-5301

[divinity.library@yale.edu](mailto:divinity.library@yale.edu)

<http://web.library.yale.edu/divinity/special-collections>

---

## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	3
Requesting Instructions .....	3
Administrative Information .....	3
Conditions Governing Access .....	3
Preferred Citation .....	4
Biographical / Historical .....	4
Scope and Contents .....	4
Arrangement .....	7
Collection Contents .....	8
Series I: Correspondence, 1875-1921 .....	8
Family Correspondence .....	8
General Correspondence .....	8
Series II: Sermons, 1888-1921 .....	9
Series III: Writings, 1885-1917, undated .....	11
Series IV: Notebooks, 1891-1892, undated .....	12
Series V: Subject file .....	13
Series VI: Personal items and memorabilia, 1892-1938 .....	14
Series VII: 2001 Addendum, 1866-1926, undated .....	15
Family Correspondence .....	15
General Correspondence .....	15
Sermons and Addresses .....	15
Writings .....	15
Personal Items and Memorabilia .....	16
Selected Search Terms .....	17

---

## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Yale Divinity Library  
409 Prospect Street  
New Haven, CT 06511  
(203) 432-5301  
divinity.library@yale.edu  
<http://web.library.yale.edu/divinity/special-collections>

**CALL NUMBER:** RG 65

**CREATOR:** Beard, Gerald Hamilton, 1862-1921

**TITLE:** Gerald H. Beard papers

**DATES:** 1866-1938

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 12 linear feet (28 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Gerald Hamilton Beard was born in Hammersmith, England in 1862. He received the B.A., B.D. and Ph.D. degrees from Yale. He was a Congregational clergyman with pastorates in Norwalk and Bridgeport, Connecticut and Burlington, Vermont during the years 1892-1921. He was an Alumni Lecturer at Yale Divinity School in 1910. He died in 1921. Of particular interest in the collection is the fairly complete file of sermons and addresses delivered during the period 1888-1921. These sermons, in conjunction with Beard's extensive subject file, provide a valuable record of the style and content of preaching of a successful Congregational minister during a time of liberal resurgence in American Protestantism. The sermons address the urban problems of the Gilded Age. With the onset of the First World War, Beard participated in the prevailing surge of patriotism bolstered by theology.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.065>

---

## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.065>.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box  
f.      folder

---

## Administrative Information

---

### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

---

## Preferred Citation

Gerald H. Beard Papers (RG 65), Special Collections, Yale Divinity School Library.

---

## Biographical / Historical

Date	Event
1862	○ Born in Hammersmith, England
1877-1884	○ In stationery business with his brother
1887	○ B.A., Yale; was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and was member of Pundit Club
1890	○ B.D., Yale; received John Addison Porter prize and Dwight fellowship
1892	○ Ph.D., Yale
1892	○ Married to Mary Keyes of Minneapolis, who became the mother of his four daughters
1892	○ Ordained; took up first pastorate at First Congregational Church, Norwalk, Connecticut
1900-1904	○ Pastor of College Street Congregational Church, Burlington, Vermont
1904-1921	○ Pastor of Park Street Congregational Church, Bridgeport, Connecticut
1910	○ Alumni lecturer, Yale Divinity School
1921	○ Retired to New Hampshire with family, due to ill health. Died October 10.

---

## Scope and Contents

Of most interest in the collection is the fairly complete file of sermons and addresses delivered during the period 1888 to 1921. These sermons, in conjunction with Beard's extensive subject file, provide a valuable record of the style and content of preaching of a successful Congregational minister during a time of liberal resurgence in American Protestantism. Beard came to the ministry from a brilliant undergraduate and graduate career at Yale. He was well equipped to grapple with the intellectual challenges facing liberal theologians of his times, such as historical criticism of the Bible, evolution, and the relationship between science and religion. During his seventeen years of ministry in Bridgeport, Connecticut, Beard was brought face to face with the urban problems of the Gilded Age. His sermons express concern with the issues of temperance, vice, housing and education. With the onset of the First World War, Beard participated in the prevailing surge of patriotism bolstered by theology. Regardless of the topic he addressed, Beard's views were informed by the spirit of confidence and hope typical of a pre-War civilization in which the ideals and patterns of American life were nearly equated with those of American Protestantism.

The first six folders in Series I, Correspondence, contain letters to and from family members. The small amount of General Correspondence which follows reflects Beard's interests in church affairs, reform, and relief. Several letters relate to the transfer of church membership. Beard wrote an article about the conditions of church membership which was responded to by various individuals, including Timothy Dwight and George B. Stevens of Yale. Other letters relate to the Knights of King Arthur boys club format which Beard was considering for his church. There are also letters of opinion written by Beard to President Woodrow Wilson, and a Senator, and letters stemming from Beard's service as chairman of the local branch of the American Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief.

There are nearly 1,000 sermons and addresses in Series II. They vary in format from complete typescripts to fragmentary holograph notes to published newspaper accounts. In a few cases only the title page of a sermon exists, with an indication that the body of the sermon was destroyed. The majority of the sermons are in one numerical sequence dating from 1892 to 1921. This sequence is preceded by seven early sermons which are designated by letter. Following the numerical sequence are several unnumbered sermons, sermon fragments, and one folder of undated children's sermons.

The sermons are not listed individually by title. The following list of titles will serve to suggest the range of topics covered:

"Are Both God and the Earthquake Possible?"  
"Real Results of Prayer"  
"Personal Character and Public Office"  
"The Fight Against Tuberculosis"  
"Theodore Roosevelt -- President"  
"The Influence of the Well Housed Home"  
"Sunday Laws: Their Use and Abuse"  
"Our Duty as American Citizens"  
"Tennyson's Religious Influence"  
"Joining the Color for Christ"  
"The Christian Duty of Fighting"  
"The Vaudeville Stage in Bridgeport"  
"The Great Armenian Tragedy"  
"Darwin, Evolution and Christianity"  
"A Working Creed About Miracles"  
"The Strength of the Purified Life"  
"A Christian Civilization"  
"The Christian Gentleman"  
"Christian Missions and International Peace"  
"Mrs. Eddy and Christian Science"  
"Total Abstinence in the Light of the Law of Love"  
"Christianity and the Licensed Liquor Saloon"  
"Bridgeport and the Kindergarten Education"  
"The Self-Complacencies of Orthodoxy"  
"The Christianization of America"  
"The Biblical Documents -- Are They Trustworthy?"  
"Is the Bible Inspired? Is it Authoritative? Is it Useful?"

The writings of Series III are largely undated. The major works are "The History of the Catholic English and of the American Revised Version of the Bible", which won second prize in the Gould Prize Essay contest in 1905, and a long unpublished treatise entitled "The Religion of a Man." Topics which Beard touched on in sermons are developed more extensively in essays included in this Series, such as "The Christian Redemption in the Light of Evolutionary Philosophy" and "Woodrow Wilson, Robert Lansing, and Some Ideals Worth Fighting For."

The Notebooks of Series IV primarily date from Beard's graduate student days at Yale. They are of interest for their record of the content of courses taught at Yale in the early 1890s in the subject areas of philosophy, theology and Bible.

Throughout his career, Beard maintained the practice of collecting newspaper and magazine articles, poems, programs, and other ephemera for use in writing sermons. Series V, the subject file which he created, is arranged alphabetically by topic. Materials were stored in manilla envelopes, with topics listed, usually not in exact alphabetical order.

The following topics from the "H" envelopes will serve to suggest the variety of materials collected by Beard:

Honesty  
Hell

Home  
Health  
Hopelessness  
Heroism  
Home and School  
Heredity  
Hospitality  
Heaven  
Holmes, O.W.  
Hewing  
Home Education  
Healing  
Holy Ghost  
Hadley, President  
House of Lords  
Harrison, President  
Howe, Julia Ward  
Halloween  
Horticulture  
Harper, W.R.  
Hymns  
Haynes  
Hypocrisy  
Hay, John  
Hyde, George  
Happiness  
Hypnotism  
Hall family  
Higher Criticism  
Hammurabi  
Hindu books  
Habit  
Hill, E.J.  
Hartford Seminary  
High School  
Hawley  
History  
Havergal  
Humor  
Hungarian work  
Human touch  
Hughes  
Hudson-Fulton Celebration  
Huxley  
Heresy

Series VI, Personal Items and Memorabilia, includes the invitation to Beard's wedding in 1892, a few notes recording events on the days preceding Beard's death, "Our Church Record for 1900" (annual report of the Pastor of College Street Congregational Church, Burlington, VT, 1901), "The Story of a Church" (history of Park Street Congregational Church) by J. S. Wooster, and a notebook of Esther Sophia Deers given to Louise Beard.

Series VII consists of an addendum added in August 2001, which contains correspondence, sermons, writings, and personal items and memorabilia.

## **Arrangement**

- I. Correspondence, 1875-1921
- II. Sermons and Addresses, 1888-1921
- III. Writings, 1885-1917, undated
- IV. Notebooks, 1891-1892, undated
- V. Subject File
- VI. Personal Items and Memorabilia, 1892-1938
- VII. 2001 Addendum

---

## Collection Contents

### Series I: Correspondence, 1875-1921

#### Family Correspondence

b. 1, f. 1	To Gerald from his mother	1884-1891
b. 1, f. 2	From Gerald and Mary to his mother	1888-1902
b. 1, f. 3	To Gerald from wife, Mary	1890-1892, 1907, undated
b. 1, f. 4	From Gerald to wife, Mary	1900-1901, 1920, undated
b. 1, f. 5	To Gerald and Mary from daughters	1921, undated
b. 1, f. 6	To Gerald from siblings; From Gerald to sister-in-law	1875-1908

#### General Correspondence

b. 1, f. 7	A-D	
b. 1, f. 8	G-M	
b. 1, f. 9	P-W; correspondents identified only by first names	



**Series II: Sermons, 1888-1921**

b. 1, f. 10	#A, B	1888 June
b. 1, f. 11	#D, G	1888 July
b. 1, f. 12	#J, K	1888 August, September
b. 1, f. 13	#L	1888 March
b. 1, f. 14	#2, 7, 8	1892 October- November
b. 1, f. 15	#10, 12, 13	1892 December - 1893 April
b. 2, f. 16-28	#16-120 (37 sermons)	1893 January - 1894 July
b. 3, f. 29-40	#121-196 (35 sermons)	1894 September - 1896 January
b. 4, f. 41-51	#198-248 (37 sermons)	1896 January - 1897 May
b. 5, f. 52-63	#249-312 (59 sermons)	1897 May - 1898 December
b. 6, f. 63-79	#313-400 (81 sermons)	1898 December - 1900 February
b. 7, f. 80-97	#401-551 (90 sermons)	1900 March - 1904 April
b. 8, f. 98-114	#600-683 (85 sermons)	1906 October - 1908 November
b. 9, f. 115-131	#684-768 (85 sermons)	1908 December - 1910 July
b. 10, f. 132-146	#769-841 (75 sermons)	1910 September - 1911 December
b. 11, f. 147-161	#842-914 (74 sermons)	1912 January - 1913 May
b. 12, f. 162-179	#915-1004 (91 sermons)	1913 May - 1914 December
b. 13, f. 180-197	#1004-1095 (91 sermons)	1915 January - 1916 October
b. 14, f. 198-214	#1096-1178 (85 sermons)	1916 October - 1918 April
b. 15, f. 215-222	#1179-1339 (45 sermons)	1918 April - 1921 June
b. 15, f. 223	Unnumbered sermons and sermon fragments	1893-1897

b. 15, f. 224	Unnumbered sermons and sermon fragments	1906, 1918, 1919, undated
b. 15, f. 225	Unnumbered sermons and sermon fragments	undated
b. 15, f. 226	Children's sermons	undated

**Series III: Writings, 1885-1917, undated**

b. 16, f. 227	"The Religion of Chaucer"	1885
b. 16	"Statement of Personal Experience and Theological Belief"	1892
b. 16	"Conditions of Church Membership"	1899
b. 16, f. 228	The History of the Catholic English and of the American Revised Version of the Bible -- Gould Prize Essay (published)	1905
b. 16, f. 229-233	Notes for Gould Prize Essay	1905
b. 16, f. 234	"A Gladsome Responsibility"	1917
b. 16, f. 235	"Evangelism"	undated
b. 16	"Humans and Simians"	undated
b. 16	"Tennyson's Analytical Power" "Woodrow Wilson, Robert Lansing, and Some Ideals Worth Fighting For"	undated
	"The Religion of a Man"	
b. 16, f. 236	Pages 1 - 104	undated
b. 17, f. 237	Pages 105-221	undated
b. 17, f. 238	Pages 2-24, 36-116 (with annotation)	undated
b. 17, f. 239	Pages 117-137, 153-221 (with annotation)	undated
b. 17, f. 240	Notes for "The Doctrine of the Grace of God"	undated
b. 17, f. 241	"The Doctrine of the Incarnation in the Light of the Modern Philosophical Conception of God and the Human Soul"	undated
b. 17, f. 242	"The Religious Value of a Christian Philosophy of the Immanence of God"	undated
b. 17, f. 243	"The Christian Redemption in the Light of Evolutionary Philosophy"	undated
b. 17, f. 244	Untitled manuscript pp. 2-61	undated
b. 17, f. 245	Manuscript fragment	undated
b. 17, f. 246	Manuscript fragment	undated

**Series IV: Notebooks, 1891-1892, undated**

b. 17, f. 247	Hegel	1892
b. 17, f. 248	Bible: I Corinthians exegesis	1891
b. 18, f. 249	New Testament Introduction	1892
b. 18, f. 250	Doctrinal Theology	undated
b. 18, f. 251	Bible: O.T. (English), N.T. (exegesis)	undated
b. 18, f. 252	The History of Doctrine	undated
b. 18, f. 253	Biblical Theology	undated
b. 18, f. 254	Miscellaneous -- 2 volumes	undated
b. 19, f. 255	Hebrew Exercises and Pentateuch Criticism	undated
b. 19, f. 256	Philosophy of the Unconscious Subject	undated
b. 19, f. 257	Messianic Prophecy	undated
b. 19, f. 258	Miscellaneous subjects	undated
b. 19, f. 259	Quotations from readings	undated

**Series V: Subject file**

b. 19, f. 260	B - C
b. 19, f. 261	C
b. 19, f. 262b. 20, f. 263	D
b. 20, f. 264-265	E
b. 20, f. 266-267	F
b. 20, f. 268-269	G
b. 20, f. 270b. 21, f. 271	H
b. 21, f. 272-273	I
b. 21, f. 274	J
b. 21, f. 275	K
b. 21, f. 276-278	M
b. 22, f. 279-280	N
b. 22, f. 281	O
b. 22, f. 282-285	P
b. 22, f. 286b. 23, f. 287-288	R
b. 23, f. 289-293	S
b. 23, f. 294b. 24, f. 295-296	T
b. 24, f. 297	U
b. 24, f. 298	V
b. 24, f. 299	W
b. 24, f. 300	W - Y
b. 24, f. 301	Miscellaneous

**Series VI: Personal items and memorabilia, 1892-1938**

b. 24, f. 302	Wedding invitation	1892
b. 24, f. 303	Items related to Gerald Beard's last days	1921
b. 24, f. 304	Annual report of Pastor of College Street Congregational Church, Burlington, CT	1901
b. 24, f. 305	"The Story of Church" - history of Park Street Congregational Church, Bridgeport, CT by John S. Wooster	1938
b. 24, f. 306	Notebook of Esther Sophia Deers given to Louise Beard	undated

**Series VII: 2001 Addendum, 1866-1926, undated**

Family Correspondence		
b. 25, f. 307	From G.H. Beard to Mother	1880s-1907
b. 25, f. 308	From Gerald to wife Mary	1891 March-December
b. 25, f. 309	From Gerald to wife Mary	1891 December 12 – 1892
b. 25, f. 310	To Gerald from wife Mary	1890-1892
b. 25, f. 311	From Gerald to siblings	1866-1926
b. 25, f. 312	To Gerald from siblings	1879-1894
General Correspondence		
b. 25, f. 313	A - W	
b. 25, f. 314	Notebook of Letters 1	
b. 25, f. 315	Notebook of Letters 2	
b. 25, f. 316	Notebook of Letters 3	
Sermons and Addresses		
b. 26, f. 317	# A, B	
b. 26, f. 318	# C (a)	
b. 26, f. 319	# C (b)	
b. 26, f. 320	# D, F, G	
b. 26, f. 321	# I, L	
b. 26, f. 322	# M, O, P	
b. 26, f. 323	# R	
b. 26, f. 324	# S, T	
b. 26, f. 325	# V, W	
b. 26, f. 326	Christmas and New Year Greetings	
b. 26, f. 327	Prayers and comforting Words	
Writings		
b. 27, f. 328	"Doctrine of The Will"	1890 June
b. 27, f. 329	"History of the Bible"	
b. 27, f. 330	"Roman Catholic and Protestant Bible Compared" (by Beard)	1905

## Personal Items and Memorabilia

b. 27, f. 331	American Missionary Association	
b. 27, f. 332	"A Picturesque Review, the Record of Half-Century," by L.H. Cobb	
b. 27, f. 333	Cottage Guest Book	
b. 27, f. 334	New Paper Articles on G. Beard	
b. 27, f. 335	Order of Worship and Weekly Calender	
b. 27, f. 336	Photographs	
b. 28, f. 337	Writings by other authors	
b. 28, f. 338	Yale Diplomas and Booklet of the Class of 1890	1890
b. 28, f. 339	Yale College; Yale Mission China	1887, 1917



## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

Clergy  
Housing  
Sermons, American  
Social history  
Temperance  
Urban policy

### **Geographic Names**

Bridgeport (Conn.) -- Church history -- Sources

### **Genres / Formats**

Sermons

### **Names**

Beard, Gerald Hamilton, 1862-1921

### **Corporate Body**

Park Street Congregational Church (Bridgeport, Conn.)