

Gettysburg College  
Musselman  
**Library**  
*special collections*

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Guide to MS-017:  
Mervin R. Hamsher Papers



Gettysburg College, Musselman Library  
Special Collections and College Archives

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January 2002

## MS-017: Mervin R. Hamsher Papers

Processed by Christine M. Ameduri  
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### Size

1 box, 0.27 cubic feet

### Dates

Inclusive: 1875-1969

### Biographical Note

Mervin Roy Hamsher, born October 3, 1882 near Fayetteville, Pennsylvania, entered Gettysburg College during his sophomore year and graduated with the Class of 1904. He taught Latin, algebra and literature at Richwood High School in Ohio from 1904 to 1905, then entered Gettysburg Theological Seminary in September of that year. Upon his graduation in 1908, he accepted the pastorship of Avonmore charge near Pittsburgh, PA, and served several other parishes in Pennsylvania and Maryland before retiring in 1954. He also served as the first president of the Central Pennsylvania Synod of the ULCA from 1938 to 1948.

He married Eleanor Wertz Miller (Class of 1907) in 1909 and had two sons, Carl M. (Class of 1933) and Paul O. (Class of 1934). Eleanor died February 2, 1920; he married Mildred Blanche Burkholder in June 1938. He died February 24, 1976.

### Scope and Content Note

**Series I** consists of personal correspondence between 1875 - 1969, from his father, Oliver C., sister, Elsie and brother Merle, his classmates from college and his classmate's children. It is the largest series in the collection. **Series II** consists of speeches, writings and papers Hamsher wrote while a student at Gettysburg College between 1902 and 1904. **Series III** is the smallest series, consisting of two folders of mostly miscellaneous, pamphlets, newsletters and church bulletins related to the Lutheran Church.

### Series Description

This collection is divided into three series. **Series I:** Correspondence, **Series II:** College speeches and writings, **Series III:** Miscellaneous.

## Box List

### Box 1

#### Series 1: Correspondence

- 1-1 Personal correspondence, 1875 - 1877
- 1-2 Personal correspondence, 1883 - 1908
- 1-3 Personal correspondence, 1898 - 1907
- 1-4 Personal correspondence, 1908 - 1910
- 1-5 Personal correspondence, 1911 - 1922
- 1-6 Personal correspondence, 1936 - 1951
- 1-7 Personal correspondence, 1955 - 1969
- 1-8 Personal correspondence, n.d.

#### Series 2: College speeches and writings

- 1-9 Speeches and writings (college)
- 1-10 Speeches and writings (college)
- 1-11 Speeches and writings (college)
- 1-12 Speeches and writings (college)

#### Series 3: Miscellaneous

- 1 -13 Miscellaneous - Pennsylvania College grade reports, wedding announcement, genealogy, newspaper clipping
- 1-14 Miscellaneous - newspaper clippings, pamphlets, newsletters, journals, mostly relating to Lutheran Church

## Contact Information

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