

Samuel Smythe
HILL (1942-53)



Guide to the
Papers of the
Presidents of
Georgetown
College

Guide to the Papers of Samuel Smythe Hill

Georgetown College Archives

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Accession Number 1953.00

The Papers of Samuel Smythe Hill

Official Papers: 1942-53

Bulk Dates: (1942-51)

5.25 linear feet



Provenance

It is not known when the papers of Samuel S. Hill were placed in the care of the Georgetown College Archives. When President Hill left Georgetown College in 1953, his correspondence and other papers were probably stored at various places on campus. At some point, they were deposited in the Cooke Memorial Library where they remained until the Ensor Learning Resource Center was completed, and they were transferred there in 1998. The papers were opened for research in June 2001.

Biographical Note

Born to Sterling Price and Eldora Jane (Stowe) Hill, in Halifax County, Virginia, in 1890, Hill was one of eleven children. He received his early education in the county's country schools and a military academy. In 1917, he attained his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Richmond. Before entering Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky, in 1921, he taught in high schools and preached in rural churches of Virginia. He earned Doctor of Theology degrees at Southern 1929. While studying at the seminary, he pastored the First Baptist Church in New Albany, Indiana. Before leaving Louisville to pastor the Bainbridge Street Baptist Church in Richmond, Virginia, Hill married Mary L. Brown of Bardstown, Kentucky. They had two children--Samuel, Jr., and Mary Jane. In 1934, Dr. Hill brought his family back to Kentucky when he accepted the pastorate of the Deer Park Baptist Church in Louisville. He remained there until 1942, when he became president of Georgetown College.

During his tenure, Hill initiated the largest capital improvements program in the college's history up to that time. The centerpiece was the construction of John L. Hill Chapel, which was completed in 1949. Named in honor of an 1899 alumnus, who was a faculty member and first dean of the college, the chapel replaced the one that burned in 1930. Academic facilities also received great attention. A music building and a new library were built, and the

physics building, built in 1861, was converted into general classrooms. Living space for male students and faculty were created, and a modern kitchen and cafeteria were constructed in the dining hall. He also saw the college through the World War II era, when enrollments dropped as students went to war. Overall, however, the number of students attending Georgetown College rose from 250 in 1942 to a high of 750 in 1947. Dr. Hill left the presidency in 1953. He was pastor of Belle Glade Baptist Church in Belle Glade, Florida when he died on February 3, 1961.

“Heart Attack Fatal to Dr. Samuel S. Hill, Was Eighteenth President of Georgetown.” *The Georgetown College Magazine* V (Spring 1961): 4; “Dr. Hill, Past President of Georgetown, Expires.” *The Georgetonian*, February 20, 1961, p. 1; Marcie Stomberger, “Dr. Samuel Hill.” In *Georgetown College: Past Presidents*, by President’s Ambassadors. 1992-99.

The correspondence and subject files reveal his extensive activities as president: Baptist relations, trustee relations, speeches, student recruitment, fund raising, state, national, and Baptist education, personnel, campus activities, social issues, and others.

Series Description

Series	Boxes 1-11	Correspondence, 1941-51
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There are significant gaps in President Hill’s correspondence. He came to the presidency of Georgetown College in 1942, but there are only eleven boxes of correspondence. For instance, there is no correspondence during the final two years of his presidency, and the volume of correspondence, when compared with previous administrations of similar length, is low.

Document Case List

Correspondence

Box 1	1	Cla-Cu	1941-42
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	3	A-Y	1942-46
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	5	O-S	1943-44
	6	Trustees, Alumni, Presidents, Sr. Liberal Arts Colleges of KY	1943-47
	7	A	1943-45
	8	American Council on Education	1943
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Box 2	11	B	1943-44
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	19	Educational Associations (Miscellaneous)	1943-44
	20	Education Commission--Southern Baptist Convention	1943
	21	F	1943-44
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	24	I	1943-44
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	28	Kentucky Education Association	1942-44
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	32	Louisville Trust Company (Ira J. Porter)	1943
	33	M	1943-44
	34	Personal	1942-44
	35	Personal	1942-44
	36	Personal	1942-44
	37	Personal	1942-44
	38	Practice Teaching	1943-44
	39	Ra	1943-44
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	41	Southern Association	1943
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	47	X-Z	1943-44
	48	A	1944-45
	49	American Council on Education	1945
	50	Applications for College Positions	1944-45
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	54	Hill, Dr. S.S.--President	1944-45
	55	I-L	1944-45
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Box 5	59	Trustees--1945-46-Y	1942-47
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	66	Christian Education; Speeches	1946-47
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Box 6	68	F-G	1946-47
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	85	X-Z	1946-47
	86	John L. Hill Chapel-Speeches, Memorial Lists	1946-48
	87	Hinton Memorial Portrait	1948
	88	Kilgen Organ Co., Ministers Retirement Plan	1948-49
	89	Special Memorials (Williams Company--Financial Campaign)	1948-49
	90	A	1950-51
	91	Am	1950-51
	92	Applications for Dean	1951
	93	Articles, Association of American Colleges	1951
	94	B	1949-51
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Box 8	98	C	1950-51
	99	Chapel Memorials	1950
	100	Co	1950-51
	101	Courier-Journal: Paul Hughes-D	1950-51
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