

Register of the

Byington-Amadon Diaries

(Collection 12)

Adventist Heritage Center
James White Library
Andrews University
Berrien Springs, Michigan
1980

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Biographical Information

The Byingtons and the Amadons

The four persons whose diaries make up this collection are a family.

- John Byington was the first president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.
- Catharine Newton Byington is John Byington's wife.
- Martha D. Byington-Amadon is the daughter of John and Catharine Byington.
- George Washington Amadon is Martha Byington's husband.

John Byington (1798-1887)

John Byington of New York was an active worker in the Methodist church before he became a Sabbath keeper by reading a copy of the Review and Herald in 1852. In 1858 he moved to Michigan at the request of Adventist Sabbath keeper James White. For 15 years he did religious work on a self-supporting basis, serving as the first president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists from 1863 to 1865. For additional information, see "John Byington of Bucks Bridge--the Pre-Adventist Years" by John O. Waller in the Adventist Heritage Center.

Catharine Newton Byington (1803-1885)

Except for these diaries, little is known of John Byington's wife Catharine. Although some sources spell her name Catherine, she herself spelled it Catharine. Her busy life and spiritual outlook is discussed by Randal Fred Barlow in "Catharine Byington: A Character Sketch" available in the Adventist Heritage Center.

Martha D. Byington Amadon (1834-1937)

Daughter of John Byington, Martha is credited for teaching the first Adventist elementary school in 1853. She was the first president of the Dorcas Society in 1874. In 1860 she married George W. Amadon. See The Student Movement April 6, 1933 and April 5, 1934.

George Washington Amadon (1832-1913)

John Byington's son-in-law, George W. Amadon was connected with the Review and Herald Publishing Association in various capacities for 50 years. He joined the publishing house staff when it was in New York and moved with it to Battle Creek

until it was destroyed by fire. He served as a visiting pastor for the Battle Creek church after that and was ordained at 72 years of age. For additional information, see the following works by Milton Hook: "George Washington Amadon", a graduate school project, and *Flames Over Battle Creek*. Both are available in the Adventist Heritage Center.

Scope

The diaries date from 1857 to 1912.

Arrangement

The diaries are arranged according to the writer and then in a chronological sequence.

Provenance

The Byington-Amadon diaries were given, in the early 1940s, to the library of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C., whose holdings have subsequently become a part of the James White Library.

Use:

All users of this collection will be required to complete the "Application to Use Unpublished Records," and to observe the regulations specified in the "Patron Agreement" and in the "Researcher's Code of Conduct." All records in this collection are open and available for research. Citation for this collection:

Box ____, folder ____, Byington-Amadon Diaries (collection 12), Adventist Heritage Center, James White Library, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan.

INVENTORY

I. John Byington Diaries, 1857-1886 (21 vols.)

Bx 1 vol 1	Jan. 1-Feb. 10, 1858; Apr. 1-Dec. 31, 1857 (note reverse entry)
Bx 1 vol 2	1861
Bx 1 vol 3	1868
Bx 1 vol 4	1869
Bx 1 vol 5	1870
Bx 1 vol 6	1871
Bx 1 vol 7	1872
Bx 1 vol 8	1873
Bx 1 vol 9	1874
Bx 1 vol 10	1875
Bx 1 vol 11	1876
Bx 1 vol 12	1877
Bx 1 vol 13	1878
Bx 1 vol 14	1879
Bx 1 vol 15	1880
Bx 1 vol 16	1881
Bx 1 vol 17	1882
Bx 1 vol 18	1883
Bx 1 vol 19	1884
Bx 1 vol 20	1885
Bx 1 vol 21	1886

II. Catharine Newton Byington Diaries, 1863-1885 (5 vols.)

Bx 1 vol 22	1863, 1864, 1865--scattered entries; Jan.-Apr. 1878
Bx 1 vol 23	1876-1877
Bx 1 vol 24	1877-1878 (1878 continued in vol. 22 above)
Bx 1 vol 25	1884
Bx 1 vol 26	1885

III. Martha Byington Diaries, 1857, 1860 (2 vols.)

Bx 1	vol 27	1857
Bx 1	vol 28	1860

IV. George Washington Amadon Diaries, 1870-1871, 1873-1878, 1880, 1908-1912 (14 vols.)

Bx 1	vol 29	1870
Bx 1	vol 30	1871
Bx 1	vol 31	1873
Bx 1	vol 32	1874
Bx 1	vol 33	1875
Bx 1	vol 34	1876
Bx 1	vol 35	1877
Bx 1	vol 36	1878
Bx 1	vol 37	1880
Bx 1	vol 38	1908
Bx 1	vol 39	1909
Bx 1	vol 40	1910
Bx 1	vol 41	1911
Bx 1	vol 42	1912

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