



Guide to the George Augustus Lofton Papers, 1784-1941

This collection guide was produced in .

This PDF version was created on **April 3, 2026**.

David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

103 Perkins Library, Duke University

Durham 27708-0185

919-660-5822

askRL@duke.edu

URL: <http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/>

Table of Contents

Summary	3
Background	3
Administrative Information	6
Names and Subjects	7
Collection Inventory	7
Correspondence Series, 1877-1921, undated	7
Writings and Speeches Series, 1870-1900, undated	7
Manuscripts Subseries	7
Sermons Subseries	7
Sermon Notes Subseries	17
Miscellaneous Series	18
Legal Papers and Family Photographs	18

Summary

Collection Title:

George Augustus Lofton papers, 1784-1941

Creator:

Lofton, George Augustus, 1839-1914

Extent:

14.2 Linear Feet

1800 Items

Physical Location:

For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.

Language:

English

Language:

English.

Collection ID:

RL.00818

Permalink:

<http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/findingaids/lofton/>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], The Papers of George Augustus Lofton, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Background

Scope and Content

The George Augustus Lofton Papers span the years 1874-1941, although the bulk of the material dates from 1875-1900. They consist of correspondence, writings and sermons, clippings, book reviews, and printed materials. The collection principally relates to Lofton's career as a Baptist minister serving churches in Dalton, Ga.; Memphis, Tenn. (First Church); St. Louis, Mo.

(Third Church); Talladega, Ala.; and Nashville, Tenn. (Central Church). The collection mostly contains handwritten sermons and sermon notes, and includes little family or personal material, although a few family letters are in the Correspondence Series. The Correspondence Series, however, primarily contains letters critiquing Lofton's works, Review of the Question and Bible Thoughts and Themes. The Writings and Speeches Series documents Lofton's intellectual growth throughout his career as author and minister. This series also contains Lofton's published text, Character Sketches (1890), and a manuscript draft of his autobiography titled, "My Family Garden." Lofton's sermons and sermon notes track both his spiritual development and writing skills throughout the years of his ministry. The sermon notes reveal his views on slavery, capital punishment, and foreign mission work. The Printed Materials Series includes published brochures and sermons written by Lofton and others, 1881-1914. The Miscellaneous Series contains an assortment of items from 1873-1940 including Lofton family photographs and other materials. Included are items pertaining to Baptist minister George Law Stewart and Dr. Adiel Sherwood.

Biographical/Historical

Chronology

Date	Description
1839, Dec. 25	Born, Panola County, Miss.
1861 - 1865	Served in the Confederate States of America, 9th Georgia Battalion Artillery
1865- 1867	Principal, Wade Academy, Webster County, Ga.
1867- 1868	Admitted to bar; practiced at Americus, Ga.
1868- 1869	Ordained Baptist minister; pastor of several country churches in Georgia
1870- 1872	Pastor, Dalton, Ga.
1871	A.M., Mercer University, Ga.

Date	Description
1872-1877	Pastor, First Church, Memphis, Tenn.
1873-1876	President, Southern Baptist Publishing Society
1877-1884	Pastor, Third Church, St. Louis, Mo.
1880	D.D., Baylor University (Tex.)
1885-1887	Pastor, Talladega, Ala.
1888	Pastor, Central Church, Nashville, Tenn.
1889	President, State Board Missions, Tenn. Authored Character Sketches Moderator, Nashville Association of Baptist Churches
1897	Authored Harp of Life
1899	Authored Baptist Reformation, 1611-1641, A.D.
1900	LL.D., University of Nashville
1902	Authored The Master Wheel
1914, Dec.11	Died

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

103 Perkins Library, Duke University

Durham 27708-0185

919-660-5822

askRL@duke.edu

URL: <http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/>

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Researchers must register and agree to copyright and privacy laws before using this collection.

All or portions of this collection may be housed off-site in Duke University's Library Service Center. The library may require up to 48 hours to retrieve these materials for research use.

Please contact Research Services staff before visiting the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library to use this collection.

Use Restrictions

The copyright interests in the Lofton Papers have not been transferred to Duke University. For further information, see the section on copyright in the Regulations and Procedures of the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

Acquisition Information

The George Augustus Lofton Papers (1874-1941) were purchased by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library in 1989.

Processing Information

Processed by: John Gribble; Assisted by: Alex Byrd, Brent Johanson, Rachel Pottinger

Completed November 15, 1993

Encoded by Stephen Douglas Miller

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Names and Subjects

- Sermons -- Baptist
- Baptists -- Clergy
- Capital punishment -- Southern States
- Slavery -- United States -- Emancipation
- Authors, American -- Southern States
- Mission -- Sermons
- Lofton, George Augustus, 1839-1914
- Stewart, George L.
- Sherwood, Adiel, 1791-1879

Collection Inventory

Correspondence Series, 1877-1921, undated

1877-1921, undated	Box 1
--------------------	-------

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Writings and Speeches Series, 1870-1900, undated

Three subseries: Manuscripts, Sermons (arranged alphabetically), and Sermon Notes. "My Family Garden" is a history of the Lofton family.

Manuscripts Subseries

Character Sketches, 1890	Box 1
--------------------------	-------

Draft, "My Family Garden," undated	Box 1
------------------------------------	-------

Sermons Subseries

A - Accountability	Box 1
--------------------	-------

Acquaintance - Address	Box 2
------------------------	-------

Address - All Important	Box 2
The All Important Question	Box 2
All in All - Always	Box 2
American - Angel's	Box 2
Answer - Atheistic	Box 2
Atonement - Awakened	Box 2
B - Baptist	Box 3
Baptist Faith - Barren Fig	Box 3
The Baptist Trophy, 1876	Box 3
Bearing Each - Besetting Son	Box 3
Best You Can - Bible Doctrine	Box 3
Bible in the Public Schools - Bible Theory of Sanctification	Box 3
Bible Thoughts and Themes for Young Men - Blessedness of Giving	Box 3
Blind Bartnaeus - Boodle and Whiskey	Box 4
Bread of Life - By-path Meadow	Box 4
Capital Punishment: The Law of God and Nature - Causal Things Without Effect	Box 4
Causes of Spiritual Declension - Child likeness: the Condition of Entrance Into God's Kingdom	Box 4
Christ at the Door - Christ the Door	Box 4
Christ, the Only Personal... - Christ's Example of Activity	Box 4
Christian Charity - The Christian's High Vocation	Box 4

The Christian's Prize - Church Independence	Box 5
Church of the Living God - Church Sunday Entertainment	Box 5
The Cities of Refuge - The Coming of Christ	Box 5
The Coming Empire - Communion with Christ	Box 5
The Compassion of Christ - The Condition of Revival	Box 5
Conditions of Spiritual Prosperity - Conscience	Box 5
Consistency - Crime and Misfortune of Ignorance	Box 5
The Crisis of the Cross - The City of Despair	Box 6
Crystallizing Force of Habit - David's Sin	Box 6
David's Sins - Death and Judgment	Box 6
Debit Without Credit - The Devil as an Angel of Light	Box 6
The Devil's Shake - Did Christ Come to Save the Gentiles	Box 6
Dignity and Moral Effect of Work - The Divine Purchase	Box 6
The Divine Evolution - The Divine Pastoral of Ruth	Box 6
The Divine Signet - Doing and Knowing	Box 7
The Doodle bug - The Drunkard Maker	Box 7
Ecclesiastical Obedience to Pastoral Rule - Efficient Service	Box 7
The Efficiency of the Spirit - Elijah and the Ravens	Box 7
Elijah No. 1 - Eloquence: A Virtue	Box 7

The Exhalation of Joseph - The Endowment of the Holy Spirit	Box 7
Ephraim Joined to his Idol - Essentials to Cross Bearing	Box 8
Esther's Faith and Courage - Eternity	Box 8
The Eternity of Hell - Everybody's Doing It	Box 8
Evidence of Genuineness - Excellency of the Knowledge of Christ	Box 8
Existing Errors Regarding Immorality and the Future State - Faith the Only Medium of Grace	Box 8
Faith, the Result of Ordination - Faithful in Little Things	Box 8
The Faithful Saying - The Fall of Satan	Box 8
The Family Alter - A Fast Young Man	Box 9
Fatal Fall and Final Triumph of Man - The Final Triumph	Box 9
Final Fixedness of Habit - The First Great Victory	Box 9
The Fixed Heart - Forgetting the Things Behind	Box 9
Forgiveness - The Fountain and Issues of Life	Box 9
The Friend of Publicans and Sinners - The Fruitfulness of Death	Box 10
Full Assurance - The Fullness of Christ 3	Box 10
The Fullness of Christ 4 - Future Punishment	Box 10
Future Reward and Punishment Alike Eternal - The Glory of the Cross	Box 10
The Glory of the Cross - Go Forward	Box 10

God a Consuming Fire - God's Good Things	Box 10
God's Goodness a Motive to Repentance - God's Kingdom and Righteousness First	Box 10
God's Ownership and Service - God's Peculiar People	Box 11
God's People - The Golden Calf	Box 11
Our Golden Calves - Gospel Fishing	Box 11
The Gospel Fountain - The Grace of Compromise	Box 11
The Grace of Liberality - The Great Advocate	Box 11
The Great Commandment - Great is Diana of the Ephesians	Box 11
The Great Invitation - The Great Salvation	Box 11
The Great Salvation - The Great Supper	Box 12
The Greatest Wrong - Habitual Drinking	Box 12
Habitual Drinking and It's Remedy - The Half Has Never Been Told	Box 12
The Hardship of Sin - Heaven	Box 12
Heavenly Citizenship - Heredity	Box 12
The High Rock - The Honor Christ	Box 12
Hope - How to Build the Church	Box 13
How to Convert Sinners - I Gave My Life for Thee	Box 13
Ignored and Discarded - Immortality	Box 13
Immortality-Natural - Immortality Typical II	Box 13
Immutability of God's Love in Christ - The Impotency of the Sword	Box 13

The Incompatible Witness - Inferences from the Breckenridge Trial	Box 13
Insecurity - Isaiah's Fig Potilla	Box 13
The Jesus of the Age - Is There at Hell...	Box 14
Is There a True Christianity in the World To Day - John the Baptist	Box 14
John's Gospel - Joseph the Dreamer	Box 14
Joshua's Decided Religion - The Judgment	Box 14
Judicial Blindness - Knowing the Unknowable, Measuring the Immeasurable	Box 14
The Knowledge of Christ - The Last Enemy	Box 14
The Last Enemy is Ours	Box 15
The Last Judgment - Lessons From the 1st Miracle	Box 15
Lessons From the Valley of the Dead - Liberty: the Genius of Christianity	Box 15
Liberty, Part 1 - The Light of God's Countenance	Box 15
The Lilly in the Bag - Loathing God's Lightbread	Box 15
Dr. Lofton's 19th Anniversary - The Lord's Supper	Box 16
Loss of Moral Resistance - Lot's Temptation	Box 16
Lot's Wife - The Love of Christ...Part 2	Box 16
The Love of Christ... - Love's Epitome	Box 16
Love's Labor Not Lost - Man's Fearful and Wonderful Being	Box 16
Man's First Commission - Marriage	Box 16

Me - The Messicaic Symbolism of Great Pyramid	Box 17
Microscopic Observations - The Mighty Minority	Box 17
Mighty to Save - The Miracle of the (?) Demoniacs and Il-Lessions	Box 17
A Miraculous Deliverance - Mission of John the Baptist	Box 17
The Missionary Zeal of Christianity - Modern Paganism	Box 17
Modern Perils - More to Follow	Box 17
The Mother and the Model Child - Municipal Righteousness	Box 18
Murder and Capital Punishment - Nashville Under the Electric Laugh	Box 18
Nashville's Stumbling Blocks - Nelson Merry Memorial	Box 18
The New Creature - Ninth Anniversary Sermon	Box 18
No Other Name - Non-Resistance as a Force	Box 18
Not Ashamed of the Gospel - Now	Box 18
Obedience - One Thing Needful	Box 19
The Only Religion of Life... - The Only Way	Box 19
Opportune Activity - Our Home Mission Resources	Box 19
Our Institutions of Vice - Our Superior Righteousness	Box 19
Our Sympathetic High Priest - Parable of the Talents	Box 19
Passover - Paul at Antioch	Box 19

Paul at Melita - Paul in Rome	Box 19
Paul in Shipwreck - Paul's Encouragement at Corinth	Box 20
Paul's Good Fight - Paul's Metaphors	Box 20
Paul's Metaphors	Box 20
Physical Description: 2 folders	
Paul's Metaphors - A Peculiar People	Box 20
The Penitent's Prayer - Perfection	Box 20
Perfection - Perseverance of All Saints	Box 21
Personal Effort - Peter's Confession	Box 21
Peter's Deliverance - The Philosophy of Fear	Box 21
The Philosophy of Prayer - Possibilities of Faith	Box 21
Possibilities Without Culture - Power of Religious Education	Box 21
The Power of the Holy Ghost - Prayer	Box 21
The Preacher in Politics - Prejudice	Box 21
Preservation of All Saints - Procrastination	Box 22
Procrastination of Felix - The Province of Faith	Box 22
The Province of the Sword - The Real Presence	Box 22
Reasoning Together - Relation of Christianity to Law and Order	Box 22
Religion and Crime - The Religious Memories of the Confederate Soldier	Box 22
Remarkable Conversations: Cornelius Remarkable Conversations: Saul	Box 22

Remarkable Conversations: Simon Magus - The Rending of the Veil	Box 23
The Rending Veil - Respect for the Sacred	Box 23
Responsibility According to Ability - Resurrection of Lazarus	Box 23
Revitalization - That Richmond Ring	Box 23
The Rights of Property - Running Against Hindrances	Box 23
Ruth - The Safety of Loyalty	Box 23
Salvation and Security - Sanctification	Box 23
Saul a Persecutor - Saved by Water	Box 24
Saving Others, Not Himself - Science Falsely so Called	Box 24
Scriptural Figures Illustrative of the Spirit's Coming and Work - Seeking God While He May be Found	Box 24
Seeking and Saving the Lost - The Self Confident Fool	Box 24
Self Consecration Part 1 - Self Denial	Box 24
Self-Denial - The Seven Beatitudes	Box 24
The Shepard and the Sheep - The Sin of Ignorance	Box 24
The Sin Unto Death - The Sinner's Self- Judgment	Box 25
The Smitten Rock - Solomon, a type of Christ	Box 25
The Somewhat and the Few Things Which Ruin Churches - Southern Baptist Convention	Box 25
Soul Winning as a Vocation - The Spirit of Christ	Box 25

The Spirit Power - The Stone Before the Spulchur	Box 25
The Stone Ezel - Submission	Box 25
Succession - Sunday Schools	Box 26
Sunday Visitation - The Sy (?) Woman	Box 26
Symmetrical Development	Box 26
Taffy - The Test of Fidelity	Box 26
The Test Question - Thanksgiving	Box 26
Thanksgiving	Box 26
Thanksgiving - Things Settled	Box 27
Thinking and Believing - Through Death to Life	Box 27
The Thought That Turns - To Day	Box 27
Tomorrow - Training of Children	Box 27
The Trail of Christ - Trial of Abram's Faith	Box 27
The Trinity of Graces - My Trip to Europe 3	Box 27
The Triumphant Cross - Trust In God	Box 28
The Truth as in Jesus - the Two Ways	Box 28
The Unanswerable Argument - Universal Dominion of Christ	Box 28
The Universality of Missions - The Unrighteous Mammon	Box 28
Unused Forces Among Southern Baptist - the Value of the Soul	Box 28
The Value of Time - Vanity Fair	Box 28
Verily! Verily! - the Voice of Conscience	Box 28
The Wages of Sin - Walking on the Sea	Box 29

A Wasted Life - The Way, The Truth, The Life	Box 29
The Way to Have More - The Weeping Christ	Box 29
Weeping Mothers of Jerusalem - On What Side Are You?	Box 29
What Shall the Harvest Be - Where Are We?	Box 29
Where Are We? - Where Are We in Society?	Box 29
Where Are We In Discipline - The Whole Bunch Sin Offering	Box 29
Why Do I Do Right - Without Excuse	Box 30
The Witness of Christ - Work	Box 30
The Work of a Decade - Worldliness and Its Remedy	Box 30
The World's Christmas - The Young Man and His Difficulties	Box 30
The Young Man and His Success - The Youth of Saul	Box 30
Sermons, untitled	Box 30
Physical Description: 2 folders	
Sermons, untitled	Box 31
Physical Description: 6 folders	
Sermon Notes Subseries	
Account of Francis Baupfield - Attraction of the Cross	Box 32
Baptism - Business	Box 32
Calling and Use of Men - The Citizenship of Freedom	Box 32
The Cleansing Blood - Deeper Water	Box 32
The Deity and Supremacy of Christ - Driving nails for God	Box 32

The Easy Yoke and the Light Burden - Falling Into God's Hands Unprepared	Box 33
The Fear of Opportunity - The Glory of the Cross	Box 33
The Golden Calf - House Missions	Box 33
Hope of the Godless - Is Life Worth Living	Box 33
The Issues of Life - Liberty	Box 33
Life Insurance - Millennium	Box 33
Ministerial Relief - Our Bethels	Box 34
Our High Calling - Prayer	Box 34
Predestination - The Reasonable Hope	Box 34
The Reign of God - The Sin Unto Death	Box 34
Sliding from God - The Sunrise of Christianity	Box 34
The Temporal and the Eternal - The Two Mays	Box 35
The Unattained - What Baptists Stand For	Box 35
What is Prayer - The World for Christ	Box 35
Miscellaneous, undated	Box 35

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Miscellaneous Series

Printed Material,1881 - 1914, undated	Box 35
Clippings,1889 - 1920s, undated	Box 36

Legal Papers and Family Photographs

General,1873 - 1912, undated	Box 36
Sherwood, Dr. Adiel, undated	Box 36

Stewart, George L., 1918-1940, undated

Box 36

[Return to Table of Contents](#)