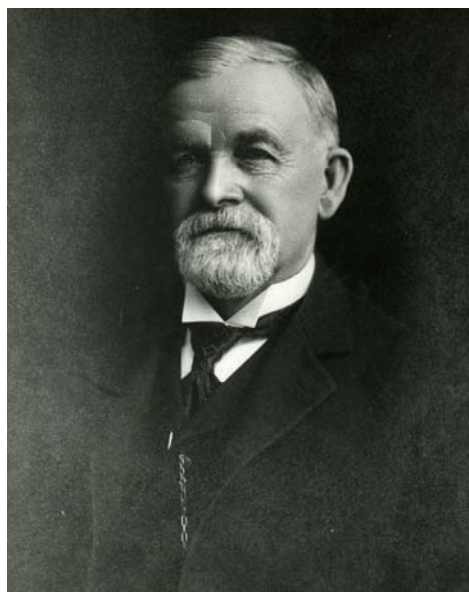


**Guide to the  
Robert Weidensall Collection**



**Gettysburg College, Musselman Library  
Special Collections & College Archives**

**Processed by Christine M. Ameduri  
January 2002**

## **MS - 012: Robert Weidensall Collection**

*Processed by: Christine M. Ameduri  
January 2002*

### **Biography:**

Credited with establishing a YMCA branch on the Gettysburg College campus in 1867, Robert Weidensall (1836 - 1922) was elected the first national field secretary of the International Committee of the YMCA in 1868, a position which he held until his retirement in 1918.

Born April 20, 1836 in Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania, he entered Gettysburg Preparatory school in 1854 after working in the carpentry trade, and graduated Gettysburg College in 1860. He taught school in Middletown, Maryland from 1861 to 1863 before joining the Construction Corps of the United States Military Railroads, 1863 - 1864. From 1864 to 1868 he worked as a superintendent in the construction shops in the Union Pacific Railroad in Omaha, Nebraska.

He was instrumental in helping to create the YMCA's training schools, state committee organizations and the Worker's Bible Training classes. He is the author of Construction Corps U. S. Military Railroads and numerous YMCA pamphlets and publications. He died September 13, 1922.

### **Scope and Content Notes:**

The collection is almost exclusively comprised of materials relating to Weidensall's work with the International YMCA, much of it authored by himself. No personal information other than his employment history with the association is included. Also see related collection, VFM 168 - YMCA, 1867 - 1872.

### **Box 1:**

Bound typed manuscript - Early History of the County Work of Young Men's Christian Association, 1857 - 1889 by Robert Weidensall

Bound typed manuscript - Early History of the County Work of Young Men's Christian Association, 1873 - 1910 by Robert Weidensall

Bound typed - Prefatory Statement in Bound Volume of Letters Written by Mr. Cephas Brainerd, First Chairman of the International Committee of Young Men's Christian Association to Mr. Robert Weidensall, it's first employed Secretary, during his Administration as Chairman for Twenty-five years

**Box 2:**

**2 - 1** Dedication pamphlets - Fiftieth Anniversary of Robert Weidensall (1868 - 1918) (5 copies) and Dedication of the Robert Weidensall Y.M.C.A. Hall, Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, Pa, Wednesday, June 13, 1922

**2 - 2** Various pamphlets regarding YMCA volunteerism, county field work, etc. c.1890s; written by Robert Weidensall

**2 - 3** Typewritten speeches/articles by Robert Weidensall - Training Classes for Christian Workers - Their Usefulness and How Conducted and The Fitness of the Young Men's Christian Association to Benefit Special Classes of Persons Mostly or Entirely Made up of Young Men, and How to Reach Each Class Most Successfully; other miscellaneous articles

**2 - 4** Miscellaneous material - Weidensall obituary, correspondence between college archivist and Weidensall family member, copy of article re: YMCA/Weidensall in The Journal of American History, June 1992