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### **MS-4787: Abba Hillel Silver Papers, 1902-1989.**

Series V: Writings, 1909-1963, undated.

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Wilberforce University, 1956.

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THE CENTENNIAL YEAR

98th  
Annual



Daniel Alexander Payne, 1811-1893  
Founder

## COMMENCEMENT

Wilberforce University  
1856 - 1956

"A Century of Higher Education and Religious Training"



## COMMENCEMENT EVENTS

Sunday, June 10

- 3:00 p.m. Baccalaureate Sermon  
8:00 p.m. Annual Sermon to Payne Theological Seminary

Monday, June 11

- 6:00 p.m. Memorial Vesper: Bishops John H. Clayborn and D. Ormonde Walker

- 8:15 p.m. Annual Prize-Speaking Contest

Tuesday, June 12

- 10:30 a.m. Meeting of Board of Trustees

- 8:00 p.m. President's Reception

- 10:00 p.m. The Centennial Ball

Wednesday, June 13

- 9:00 a.m. Annual Alumni Breakfast: Honoring Oldest Living Graduates

- 10:30 a.m. Meeting of Board of Trustees

- 11:00 a.m. Trustee Meeting of Payne Seminary

- 1:00 p.m. Annual Alumni Dinner of Payne

- 2:00 p.m. Centennial Parade

- 3:00 p.m. Annual Alumni Meeting

- 8:15 p.m. Symphonic Drama:  
"Heralds of the Cross"

Thursday, June 14

- 10:30 a.m. The Centennial Commencement  
3:00 p.m. Memorial Service at the Grave of Joshua H. Jones



**PRESIDENT CHARLES L. HILL**



**WRHS**  
**PRES. CHARLES L. HILL**

Leadership and scholarship are part of his attire. His twenty-five years in the field of education have gained him national recognition as an administrator, teacher, author, lecturer, pulpiteer and linguist.



On this the occasion of the Centennial Celebration of Wilberforce University, President Charles L. Hill extends a hearty welcome to you who have come to share with us the rich experience of this commencement season.

The greatest single achievement of Dr. Hill's administration has been the organization of the Wilberforce University Foundation and Development Fund, duly incorporated in 1956 under the laws of the State of Ohio. It is the belief of Dr. Hill that through the efforts of the philanthropic spirits who constitute the personnel of the Foundation, Wilberforce University will achieve the degree of financial stability that is requisite for maximum efficiency in higher education.



## AIMS OF WILBERFORCE UNIVERSITY

As a Christian institution, Wilberforce University is concerned with the highest development of personality for the student through a broad education, specialized training, and a philosophy of life based on sound personal and social values. To this end, the student is encouraged:

- (1) to develop Christian ideals of character and service;
- (2) to interpret the funded knowledge of the human race;
- (3) to comprehend the integration of the various areas of human knowledge;
- (4) to use the English language with proficiency;
- (5) to read a modern language, with reasonable facility;
- (6) to be competent in performing practical mathematical computations;
- (7) to utilize the scientific method, in all life activities;
- (8) to maintain sound mental and physical health;
- (9) to become acquainted with and appreciative of Negro life and achievement, viewed through the perspective of world patterns; and
- (10) to make a wise and valid choice of a vocational career and prepare thoroughly for a vocation.

### Presidents of Wilberforce University

M. P. Gaddis	1856-1857
James K. Parker	1857-1858
Richard S. Rust	1858-1862
Daniel A. Payne	1863-1876
Benjamin F. Lee	1876-1884
Samuel T. Mitchell	1884-1900
Joshua H. Jones	1900-1908
William S. Scarborough	1908-1920
John A. Gregg	1920-1924
Gilbert H. Jones	1924-1932
Richard R. Wright	1924-1932
D. Ormonde Walker	1936-1941
Richard R. Wright	1941-1942
Charles H. Wesley	1942-1947
Charles L. Hill	1947

## BACCALAUREATE

### Order of Service

Sunday, June 10, 1956-11 a.m.

Jones Memorial Auditorium

Dr. Charles L. Hill, Presiding

Organ Prelude	"Festival Prelude" (Chorus from <i>Maritana</i> )	Wallace
The Processional	"God of Our Fathers "	National Hymn
Call to Worship		
Hymn		Marion

"Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart"

Rejoice, ye pure in heart  
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing;  
Your festal banner wave on high,  
The cross of Christ your King.



### Refrain

Rejoice, rejoice  
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing! A-men

Still lift your standard high,  
Still march in firm array;  
As warriors through the darkness toil  
Till dawns the golden day.

Yes, on through life's long path,  
Still chanting as ye go;  
From youth to age, by night and day,  
In gladness and in woe.



Scripture		The Rt. Reverend Eugene C. Hatcher, Third Episcopal District, A. M. E. Church
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Music	"Psalm 150"	Cesar Franck The Centennial Choir
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Invocation		Dean Rembert Stokes Payne Theological Seminary
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Music	"Balm in Gilead"	William Dawson The Centennial Choir
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Offertory

Introduction of Speaker



The Rt. Reverend A. Joseph  
Allen, Fourth Episcopal  
District, A. M. E. Church

Baccalaureate Sermon

The Rt. Reverend Samuel R.  
Higgins, Fourteenth Episcopal  
District, A. M. E. Church

Music	"Listen To The Angels"	H. A. Miller The Centennial Choir
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Announcements

Benediction		Rev. Charles W. Gilton
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The Recessional	"God of Our Fathers"	National Hymn
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Organ Postlude	"Postlude"	Adapted from A. Hesse
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Relford Patterson, Director of Centennial Choir  
W. Melvin Campbell, Organist

## THE ACADEMIC PROCESSION

The University Marshals

The Chairman of the Board of Trustees

The Associate Bishops

The President of the University and the Speaker

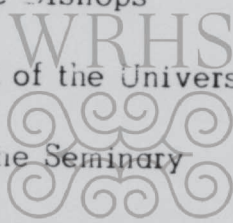
The Dean of the Seminary

The Candidates for Honorary Degrees

The Delegates from Colleges and Universities

The Administrative Officers and the Faculty

The Candidates for Degrees





# COMMENCEMENT

## Order of Service

Thursday, June 14, 1956  
10:30 o'clock  
Jones Memorial Auditorium  
Dr. Charles L. Hill, Presiding

Organ Prelude	"Priere a Notre-Dame" ( <i>Suite Gothique</i> )	Boellman
The Processional	"Grand March" ( <i>Aida</i> )	Verdi
Hymn	"O, God Our Help in Ages Past" Led by the Rt. Reverend Frederick D. Jordan Fifth Episcopal District A. M. E. Church	St. Anne

"O, God Our Help In Ages Past"

O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast,  
And our eternal home,

Under the shadow of thy throne  
Thy saints have dwelt secure;  
Sufficient is thine arm alone,  
And our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,  
Or earth received her frame,  
From everlasting thou art God,  
To endless years the same

A thousand ages in thy sight  
Are like an evening gone,  
Short as the watch that ends the night  
Before the rising sun.

O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come  
Be thou our guard while troubles last,  
And our eternal home.

WRHS





Scripture

The Rt. Reverend Sherman L.  
Greene, Twelfth Episcopal  
District, A. M. E. Church

Hymn

"God of Grace and God of Glory"  
Led by the Rt. Reverend George W. Baber  
First Episcopal District  
A. M. E. Church

Rhondda

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

God of grace and God of glory,  
On Thy people pour Thy power;  
Crown Thine ancient Church's story;  
Bring her bud to glorious flower,  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
For the facing of this hour,  
For the facing of this hour.

Lo! the hosts of evil round us  
Scorn Thy Christ, as sail His ways!  
Fears and doubts too long have bound us,  
Free our hearts to work and praise,  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
For the living of these days,  
For the living of these days.

Set our feet on lofty places;  
Gird our lives that they may be  
Armoured with all Christ-like graces  
In the fight to set men free.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
That we fail not man nor Thee!  
That we fail not man nor Thee!

Save us from weak resignation  
To the evils we deplore;  
Let the search for Thy salvation  
Be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
Serving Thee whom we adore,  
Serving Thee whom we adore. A-MEN.



Invocation

The Rt. Reverend A. Joseph  
Allen, Fourth Episcopal  
District, A. M. E. Church

Music

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" arr. Carl Mueller

Introduction of Speaker

The Rt. Reverend Eugene C.  
Hatcher, Third Episcopal  
District, A. M. E. Church

Commencement Address

The Rt. Reverend Joseph A.  
Gomez, Thirteenth Episcopal  
District, A. M. E. Church

Music

"Je dis que rien ne m'epouvante" (Carmen) George Bizet  
Patricia Hancock, Soprano

Presentation of Candidates-

Dean Gilbert H. Jones  
Dean Rembert E. Stokes



Arts, Science, Education  
Theology and Divinity

Conferring of Degrees and the President's Statement to the Graduates

Dr. Charles L. Hill

*Degrees: In Course*

Bachelor of Arts Degree

Shirley Wallace Barnes  
Leon J. Burnham  
James Woodcock Francis  
Don Marvin Hurst  
Haroldine Cummings Liggins  
Eunice Hill McCaleb

Edmund Arnold Withnal Millet  
Jeretta Delores Patterson  
Dolores Mae Pennerman  
Robert Lee Pruitt  
Paul Settles  
Cloyd Ovid Trouth

Bachelor of Science Degree

Benjamin Edward Broaden  
Winnie Lee Brown  
Carl Franklin Dixon  
Freda Mae Gardner  
Peggy Jean Harris  
Phae Louise Hubble

Thomas James Kimbrough  
Maxine Lawton  
Robert Charles Dumpter Marshall  
William Monroe McLaughlin  
Rose Talmadge Sanford  
Booker Telapherro Thomas



Bachelor of Science in Education Degree

Coleta Rose Berry  
Robbye Enid Boyd  
Velma Davis  
Verna Mae Hansborough  
Gibson Michael Joseph  
Gloria Marsh

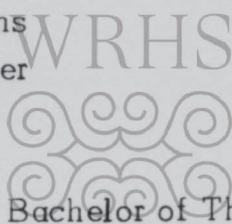
James Benedict Mason  
Dorothy Jeanne Morris  
Phyllis Eugenia Nunley  
Jeannette Shelton  
Shirley Jean Stroud

Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

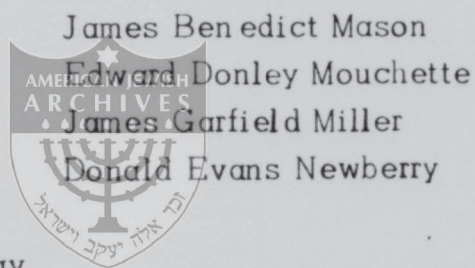
Dorothy May Fulton  
John Leslie Walker

Bachelor of Divinity

Rudolph Wesley Coleman  
Charles Cortez Collins  
Samson Manoh Cooper  
James Edward Grant



Bachelor of Theology



James Benedict Mason  
Edward Donley Mouchette  
James Garfield Miller  
Donald Evans Newberry

Walter James Goodlette, Jr.  
Charlie Alexander Shaw

Presentation of Alumni Certificates of Membership to the Class of 1956

Mr. John F. Morning  
President, Wilberforce  
National Alumni Ass'n.

Degrees: Honorary

"Honoris Causa"

Doctor of Humane Letters

Elmer Ellsworth Flack

Doctor of Humanities

John Candler Davis  
William Sauerhing

Fred Robert Tiffany



Doctor of Laws

William F. Ball  
Francis H. Gow

Ernest L. Hickman  
Oscar Sherman

Abba Hillel Silver

Doctor of Divinity

Hamel H. Brookins  
Jacob Cephas Jarrett

F. LeMoyne Whitlock

Alumni Certificates of Honor

Gonzelle Mathis Bailey, Detroit, Michigan  
G. Lincoln Caddell, Steubenville, Ohio  
Jamyne Coleman Williams, Wilberforce, Ohio  
Bertha Hull, Yellow Springs, Ohio

Citations of Merit

William Cullen Bryant, Columbus, Ohio  
Olive Diggs, Chicago, Illinois  
Kathleen Holland Forbes, Cleveland, Ohio  
Perry B. Jackson, Cleveland, Ohio  
Alonzo G. Wright, Cleveland, Ohio

Music

"Soon I Will Be Done"

arr. William Dawson  
The Centennial Choir

Honor Graduates

Edmund Arnold Withnal Millet - Magna Cum Laude  
Coleta Rose Berry - Cum Laude  
James Benedict Mason - Cum Laude  
Charles Cortez Collins - Cum Laude  
Edward Donley Mouchette - Cum Laude

Presentation of Certificates to "Men and Women of the First Century Club"



## Scholarships, Awards, Prizes

Alpha Phi Alpha-Xi Chapter Scholarship (to the highest ranking freshman student)

The Hallie Q. Brown Memorial Scholarship (given by Delta Sigma Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority to an outstanding junior woman) - Marva Holland

Delta Sigma Theta - Beta Chapter Award (to an outstanding freshman woman)  
Dorothy Davis

Braun Prizes (to four outstanding seniors)

Ashton R. Allen Oratorical Prize (to the graduating senior delivering the best oration on "An Appreciation of Wilberforce University")

The President's Prize (to the young man delivering the best oration on "The Future of the American Negro")

The R. A. Grant Prize (to the young woman delivering the best oration on "Negro Womanhood")

The Elizabeth Carter Brooks Prizes (to the two students delivering the best oration on a subject pertaining to Wilberforce)

International Students' Club Annual Award (bronze plaque given by Mr. Ralph E. Braun of the Braun Jewelry Company to the most outstanding member of the International Students' Club) - Presented by Mr. Braun to J. B. Mason

Music

"Hallelujah Chorus" (Messiah)

George F. Handel  
The Centennial Choir

Announcements

Alma Mater

### ALMA MATER

Words by the late Bishop John A. Gregg

In the state of old Ohio  
Glorious to view;  
Stands our noble Alma Mater  
Dear old W. U.

WRHS





CHORUS:

Swell the chorus ever on  
To Gold and Green be true;  
Hail to thee, our Alma Mater,  
Dear old W. U.

Men and maidens throng thy campus,  
From all states they come,  
And from o'er the rolling waters,  
To this common home.

On the sacred grounds we gather,  
Pledging to be true  
To thy ancient proud traditions,  
Dear old W. U.

Here we pledge a loyal service  
And devotion, too,  
Hail to thee, our Alma Mater,  
Dear old W. U.



Benediction

Bishop Reverdy C. Ransom  
A. M. E. Church

The Recessional

"The War March of The Priests"

Mendelssohn

Organ Postlude

Relford Patterson, the Director, Centennial Choir

W. Melvin Campbell, Organist





Bishop A. J. Allen, Former Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Pres. Charles L. Hill.



Bishop E. C. Hatcher, Chairman of the Board of Trustees





President Samuel Gould, Antioch College, Founders' Day Speaker, and  
President Hill



The Wilberforce University Centennial Choir, Relford Patterson, Director





**President Hill and Dr. H. Richard Niebuhr, Yale Divinity School,  
Main Speaker, Forum on Religion**

WRHS

AMERICAN JEWISH  
ARCHIVES  
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**Mr. George Berry, Vice-Chairman, Board of National Negro Business League, Columbus, Ohio, Donald Murphy, student from Johnstown, Pa., and Mr. Don Beatty, Supervisor, Bureau of Unemployment Compensation, Columbus, Ohio. Business-Economic and Industrial Conference.**





WRHS

AMERICAN JEWISH  
ARCHIVES

Osie Beatrice Dean, Senior, Chicago, Illinois, "Miss Wilberforce of 1956"



President Charles L. Hill, Mayor Anthony Celebrezze of Cleveland Ohio, Dean  
Gilbert H. Jones. Pre-Centennial Convocation