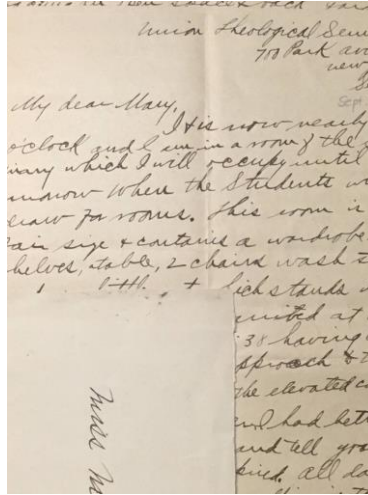


The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary,  
Columbia University in the City of New York

Union Theological Seminary Archives 1

Finding Aid for

Henry Haverstick Ranck Letters, 1892-1893



Letters from H.H. Ranck to Mary Byrnes. UTS: Henry Haverstick Ranck Papers, 1892-1893, Series 1, box 1, folder 1. The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Finding Aid prepared by: Rebecca Nieto, January 2017

With financial support from the Henry Luce Foundation and the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation

**Summary Information**

Creator: Henry Haverstick Ranck, 1868-1948  
Title: Henry Haverstick Ranck Letters, 1892-1893  
Inclusive dates: 1892-1893  
Bulk dates: 1892-1893  
Abstract: UTS class of 1893;  
Size: 1 box, 0.5 linear feet  
Storage: Onsite storage  
Repository: The Burke Library  
Union Theological Seminary  
3041 Broadway  
New York, NY 10027  
Email: [burkespecial@library.columbia.edu](mailto:burkespecial@library.columbia.edu)

### Administrative Information

- Provenance: The exact provenance of this collection is unknown. The Ranck Letters were among a large amount of unprocessed material that was organized in 2016/2017 with funds provided by the Henry Luce Foundation and the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation.
- Access: Archival papers are available to registered readers for consultation by appointment only. Please contact archives staff by email to [burkespecial@library.columbia.edu](mailto:burkespecial@library.columbia.edu), or by postal mail to The Burke Library address on page 1, as far in advance as possible. Burke Library staff is available for inquiries or to request a consultation on archival or special collections research.
- Access Restrictions: The collection is unrestricted to readers. Certain materials, however, are in a fragile condition, and this may necessitate restriction in handling and copying.
- Preferred Citation: UTS1: Henry Haverstick Ranck Letters, 1892-1893, series #, box #, and folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

### Biography

Henry Haverstick Ranck was born in Lancaster, Pennsylvania on July 24, 1868. His theological education took place both at home and in New York: Ranck attended Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster before moving on to study at Union Theological Seminary (then located at 700 Park Avenue) from 1892 to 1893. He returned to Lancaster to attend the Theological Seminary of the Reformed Church from 1894 to 1895, then pursued graduate studies at the seminary from 1895 to 1896. Before his formal ordination, Ranck served as an acting pastor in Greencastle, Pennsylvania, as well as the librarian at the Theological Seminary of the Reformed Church from 1896 to 1899.

Ranck was ordained by the Reformed Church of the United States on December 5, 1896. In addition to this role as a librarian, Ranck worked as a pastor in Reformed congregations in Mechanicsburg (1896-1899) and at St. John's Church in Lebanon, Pennsylvania from 1899 to 1901. In 1901, Ranck began a fourteen-year career serving as a pastor at St. Andrew's Church in Reading, Pennsylvania. In 1912, Ranck published a biographical work on one of Reading's prominent Reformed church figures, *The Life of the Reverend Benjamin Bausman, D.D., LL.D.* In 1914, he moved on to become the pastor at Grace Church in Washington, D.C., where he would remain until 1939. In 1916, he received his doctorate of divinity (D.D.) from Franklin and Marshall College.

Henry Haverstick Ranck's ministerial service was in addition to Ranck's service as a delegate with the Alliance of Reformed Churches in Cardiff, Wales in 1925, the Stockholm Conference in 1925, and Oxford and Edinburgh in 1925. Dr. Ranck died on August 19, 1948 in his hometown, Lancaster.

### Collection Scope and Content Note

This collection comprises photocopies of letters sent by Henry Haverstick Ranck to his then-fiancée, Mary H. Byrnes, while he was a student at Union between October 27, 1892 and June

12, 1893. This collection includes a photocopy of the Rank/Ranck family newsletter from 1986, which provides biographical context to the Ranck-Byrne letters. The letters are organized in a single series as follows:

- **Series 1: Correspondence and Newsletter, 1892-[1986]**

This series includes original and photocopies of letters sent from Ranck from October 1892 to June 1893 in chronological order and numbered by item. Also present is the Ranck/Rank family newsletter from 1986, likely the source of the photocopied letters. An editorial entitled "My Grandfather's Letters" in the newsletter details the context and of the 42 pieces of Ranck/Byrnes letters compiled here.

### **Processing**

Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes. Acidic items were separated from one another by interleaving with acid-free paper as needed.

### **Further Sources**

Most biographical information on Dr. Ranck can be found by reading his entry in the [Alumni Directory of the Union Theological Seminary, 1836-1970](#).

## Contents list

### **Series 1: Correspondence and Newsletter, 1892-[1986]**

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	1	Letters 1-7 – September 27, 1892 - October 30, 1892 [includes originals]
1	1	2	Letters 8-16 – November 4, 1892 - December 18, 1892
1	1	3	Letters 17-25 – January 4, 1893 - February 27, 1893
1	1	4	Letters 26-35 – March 5, 1893 – April 28, 1893
1	1	5	Letters 36-42 – May 13, 1893 – June 12, 1893
1	1	6	The Ranck Reporter Family Newsletter, 1986