

**Inventory to the
John D. Freeman
Papers**

AR 166



John D. Freeman, c. 1940.

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Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives
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I. Biographical Sketch

John D. Freeman was the recording secretary for the American Baptist Theological Seminary from 1924-1942, and the Baptist Sunday School Board from 1936-1942. He was also editor of the *Baptist and Reflector*, the Tennessee Baptist state paper from 1925 until 1933 when he became the Tennessee Baptist Convention's executive secretary-treasurer. From 1942-1946, Dr. Freeman worked as the editor of the *Western Recorder*, the Kentucky Baptist state paper. He then served as secretary of the Rural Church Department for the Home Mission Board until his retirement in 1950. Dr. Freeman also held pastorates in Kentucky and Tennessee, and served as a missionary in Arkansas.

John D. Freeman was born February 25, 1884 in Allene, Arkansas, and died October 11, 1974. He received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Arkansas, a Master of Arts from Duke University, and a Master of Theology from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He married Landis Barton, and had two daughters, Georgia and Lucy.

II. Scope and Content Note

The John D. Freeman Papers (1927-1946) contain .25 linear feet of materials in one document box. The collection includes correspondence, minutes and reports, and folders are arranged alphabetically and then chronologically.

Correspondence forms the bulk of the collection and mainly deals with Dr. Freeman's role as recording secretary for the Sunday School Board, particularly his involvement in the Board's efforts to reorganize. Prominent Baptist figures in the correspondence include, P.E. Burroughs, T. L. Holcomb, George W. Truett, and I. J. Van Ness. Other topics mentioned include complaints concerning heresy charges about literature published by the Board, and general business.

Dr. Freeman donated his papers to the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives (then the Historical Commission) in 1967.

III. Folder Listing

Box 1

- 1.1 State Secretaries Association – Minutes – 1940-1942
- 1.2 Sunday School Board – Correspondence – 1935-1946
- 1.3 Sunday School Board – Correspondence – Heresy Charges – 1928-1940
- 1.4 Sunday School Board – Correspondence – Reorganization – 1931-1934
- 1.5 Sunday School Board – Correspondence – Reorganization – 1939-1941
- 1.6 Sunday School Board – Minutes – 1939
- 1.7 Sunday School Board – Policies and Rules – 1927-1938
- 1.8 Sunday School Board – Report of Committee on Salary Status
- 1.9 Sunday School Board – Report of Survey Committee – 1934
- 1.10 Sunday School Board – Reorganization Committee Recommendations – 1939-1941