

JAMES CHAPMAN COLLECTION

AR. 639



Southern Baptist Historical Library & Archives

James Chapman Collection

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I. Historical sketch.

James Horton Chapman was born in 1881 in Grove Hill, Alabama. He grew up in Alabama, graduating from the University of Alabama (1905), and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (1908). After several years of service as pastor and with the Alabama State Board of Missions, he joined the faculty of Howard College (now Samford University) and established the Department of Religious Education there in 1918. He retired in 1958.

In 1933 Chapman was chairman of the committee which led to the establishment of the Alabama Baptist Historical Society and served as curator of the society, 1936-38. He also served in 1936 on the committee that eventually led to the establishment of the Historical Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

II. Scope and Content

The collection consists primarily of biographical material gathered for the possible publication of a biography on Alabama Baptists. The collection includes correspondence seeking information on individuals and asking individuals to write the biographies.

Most of the collection includes notes, information and manuscripts relating to prominent Alabama Baptists. A manuscript of the first chapter is included in the material. The volume was never completed or published.

The other portion of the collection is related to the work of the church historian. These files include writings, clippings, and articles on the function and responsibility of the church historian and the importance of church records.

The material in the collection covers the years 1935 to 1949 and spans 1 linear ft.

III. Manuscript Listing

Box 1 General File

- Folder 1. Alabama Baptists Biographies – Chapter One (manuscript)
2. Alabama Baptist Biographies – Chapter One material
3. Alabama Baptist Biography – Miscellaneous material
4. Biographies
5. Correspondence – Alabama Baptist History, 1935-1937
6. Correspondence – General, 1935, 1949
7. Correspondence – Publication of Biography
8. Guidebook for church records / church historian
9. Guidebook for church records / church historian
10. History writing (church)
11. Pelham Heights Encampment (Preachers School)
12. Prospective students (Howard College), 1916-1920
13. “Records and the writing of history”
14. Training Union, 1943-1946

Box 2 Biographical Data

- Folder 1. Bomar, Paul Vernon
2. Crumpton, Washington Bryan
3. Davidson, Augustus Cleveland
4. Dawson, Lemuel Orah
5. Dickinson, Alfred J.
6. Dowell, Spright
7. Gwaltney, Leslie Lee
8. Gwaltney, Leslie Lee
9. Hobbs, James Randolph
10. Montague, Andrew Philip
11. Phillips, John Walker
12. Stakley, Charles Averett
13. Stewart, John W.
14. Wood, Morgan Marion