

**INVENTORY TO THE  
HAMILTON FAMILY PAPERS**

**AR. 767**



J.E. Hamilton, daughter Fountain, and wife Lora Black Hamilton

**Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives**

## Hamilton Family Collection

AR. 767

### I. Biographical sketch

David Luke Hamilton (1862-1934). David Hamilton was the second son of twelve children born to Isaac Hamilton and Lydia Eliza Simmons. He was born May 26, 1862 at Johnson's Bayou, Cameron Parish, LA. In 1866, David's mother helped organize and was a charter member of the Palestine Baptist Church at Tenmile, Louisiana. His father was the pastor of the church from 1868 to 1895. David was licensed to preach in 1891 and ordained in 1892 at the Palestine church. He attended Keachie College, a Baptist school south of Shreveport, Louisiana, where he received his M.A. degree in 1893.

After college, Hamilton moved to Williamson Co., Texas where he became President of the Liberty Normal and Business College in Liberty Hill. In 1897, he married Teresa Jane Albertson, called "Jennie." While teaching at Liberty College, he also actively engaged in preaching at nearby churches.

In 1905 he traveled to Brazil to serve as a missionary with the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. He served as a missionary to Brazil until 1928. He served the last three years as an independent missionary after he severed ties with the Foreign Mission Board. He returned to Louisiana and died in 1934.

Jephthah Erastas Hamilton (1867-1904). J. E. Hamilton, an older brother of David Hamilton, was born on February 25, 1867 in Calcasian Parish, Louisiana and attended Keachie College. He served several churches and the local Baptist association prior to his appointment as a missionary to Brazil.

In 1894, he married Lora Black of Round Rock, Texas. J. E. Hamilton had originally requested China as the site of his missionary work but was appointed to the Brazil field in September 1899.

He and his wife served as missionaries in the Para area of Brazil from 1899 to 1904. In December of 1904, J. E. Hamilton died of yellow fever in Para, Brazil.

### II. Scope and Content

The collection consists of correspondence, sermons, and photographs related to J. E. Hamilton and David Hamilton. The correspondence is primarily letters from David Hamilton (written from Brazil) to family members in Louisiana. Most of his letters (about 70) were written to his mother, Lydia Eliza Hamilton. The letters date from 1905 to 1923 and are handwritten and typed. Typescripts have been made of the letters.

The collection also includes three letters from J. E. Hamilton to his brother Fuller Hamilton. These are all handwritten letters dating from 1903 to 1904. Also included in the collection are typescripts of 14 sermons preached by J. E. Hamilton in Athens, Texas in 1898-1899.

The correspondence in the collection are all letters written from Brazil to family members in the United States. The letters provide a description of

missionary life in the early 20th century. The letters discuss family matters, the religious climate in Brazil, problems in missionary work and the activities of missionaries. There are no letters from 1911 and 1918 in the collection.

Seven photographs of family members are also a part of the collection.

The collection is arranged in alphabetical order by folder title. The correspondence is further arranged in chronological order.

The collection was donated by Sarah Hamilton Must, Lafayette, Louisiana on November 15, 1991 in behalf of the David Hamilton Family. Additional correspondence and information on the Hamilton brothers is located in the missionary correspondence of the Foreign Mission Board (AR. 551-2).

### III. File Folder Listing

#### Folder

1. Correspondence -Jephthah Hamilton, 1903-1904  
(Letters from J. E. Hamilton to Fuller Hamilton)
2. Correspondence -David Hamilton, 1905  
(To his mother, Lydia Hamilton in Tenmile, LA)
3. Correspondence -David Hamilton, 1906  
(To his mother and brother, Fuller, in Tenmile, LA)
4. Correspondence -David Hamilton, 1907  
(To his mother, Lydia Hamilton)
5. Correspondence -David Hamilton, 1908  
(To his mother and brother, Fuller Hamilton)
6. Correspondence -David Hamilton, 1909  
(To his mother)
7. Correspondence- David Hamilton, 1910  
(To his mother)
8. Correspondence -David Hamilton, 1919-1920  
(To his mother and sister, May Hamilton)
9. Correspondence -David Hamilton, 1921  
(To his mother)
10. Correspondence -David Hamilton, 1922  
(Written from Pernambuco, Brazil to his mother)
11. Correspondence -David Hamilton and Jenny Hamilton  
(To Lydia Hamilton)
12. Correspondence -(undated) David Hamilton
13. Death notice and poem, Jephthah Hamilton, 1904
14. Photographs- Seven prints
  - a. J. E. Hamilton, Lora Black Hamilton and daughter, Fountain
  - b. David Luke Hamilton

- c. David Luke Hamilton traveling in cart on way home (CA. 1920)
- d. J. E. Hamilton
- e. Isaac Hamilton (father of David and Jephthah)
- f. Lydia Eliza Simmons Hamilton (mother of David and Jephthah)
- g. Scene in Brazil, men moving piano

14a. Record Book, 1904 (Added September 1996)

15. Sermon -J. E. Hamilton, 1898

"Christian Education" Athens, Texas. December, 1898

"Savior Jesus the Deliverer of His People" Athens, Texas. December 17, 1898.

"A Call to Preparation (The second call)" Athens, Texas. December, 1898.

"The More Excellent Way" Athens, Texas. December, 1898.

"The Catching of Men's Souls" Athens, Texas. December, 1898.

16. Sermons -J. E. Hamilton, 1899

"Steadfastness in the Faith" Athens, Texas. January, 1899.

"A Beloved Brother" III John. Athens, Texas. February, 1899.

"Mutual Christian Love" III John 5. Athens, Texas. February, 1899.

"Spiritual Fellowship and its Evidences. Athens, Texas. March, 1899.

"Three Offices of Christ" Athens, Texas. 1899.

"Individual Responsibility" Athens, Texas. 1899.

"Quotations"

"Mutual Christian Love" I John 2:7-11. Athens, Texas. June 3, 1899.

"An Explanation and Exhortation" I John 2:12-17. Athens, Texas. June 6, 1899.

"Forewarned and Foreguarded" I John 2: 18-29. Athens, Texas. 1899.

"Notes and Outlines from the Ledger of Rev. J. E. Hamilton"