

Guide to the Richard H. Bennett Scrapbooks 1887 - 1942



General Commission on Archives and History of the United Methodist Church
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Richard H. Bennett Scrapbooks

1887 - 1942

2 cubic feet

gcah.ms.2369

The purpose of this finding aid is to help you understand the nature of this collection and to assist you in the retrieval of material from this collection. The following pages contain a brief biographical history of the person, or persons, who created or collected these papers; followed by a general description of the collection in the scope and content note. If more detailed information is warranted then series descriptions also appear. The container listing appears last and is the listing of material in each box, or container, of this collection. To request material you need to turn to the container listing section. It is essentially a listing of file folders, or artifact items, in the collection. Each folder, or item, has a call number associated with it. Each folder also lists the inclusive dates of the material in the folder. On the material request form list both the call number and the folder, or item, title. Use a different line for each folder, or item, requested. When your request sheet is complete, or full, bring it to the archivist and the material will be retrieved. The pages of these scrapbooks are in excellent condition. There is little deterioration and the glue is holding. The bindings of the scrapbooks are a bit weak.

Biographical Note

Richard Heber Bennett (1866-1945) was a pastor, moral reform leader, and author. He attended private schools in Richmond and Ashland, Virginia. He received a B.A. in 1883 and an M.A. in 1885 from Randolph-Macon College. From 1883 to 1885 he was an assistant professor at Randolph-Macon. Hebrew was his field of post graduate work. In 1895 he married Mamie Bruce. They had four children.

Bennett was the principal of Woodbourne Academy in Louisa, Virginia from 1885 to 1888. During 1889, he was principal of Spring City, Tennessee, High School. Later that year he was licensed to preach. In November 1889, he joined the Virginia Conference and was assigned to Washington Street in Richmond.

Between 1892 and 1893 Bennett attended Princeton Theological Seminary. He returned to Virginia in the summer of 1893 and worked in the West Mathews Circuit. He was then assigned to Trinity Church in Richmond. After a brief time in the Baltimore Conference, Bennett returned to Richmond in 1894. Later that year he was transferred to Farmville and Norfolk.

Bennett pastored the McKendree Church in Norfolk from 1894 to 1899 and the St. James Church in Richmond from 1900 to 1901. In 1901 he was re-assigned to Norfolk. At the Conference of 1902, he was appointed presiding elder of the Richmond District. Bennett held this position for a year, and then went to Randolph-Macon College to become professor of moral philosophy. During his four years at Randolph-Macon, Bennett became the Virginia State Superintendent of the Anti-Saloon League.

In 1907, he left his administrative post and returned to the pastorate at the Court Street Church in Lynchburg. After four years he left that church and became the conference's missionary secretary for three years.

During his time at Lynchburg he donated \$20,000 to their missionary offering which went to the construction of a building at Soochow University in China.

In 1914, the General Board of Education of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, elected Bennett secretary of ministerial supply and training. During this time, he also oversaw the correspondence school at Emory University in Atlanta.

In 1926, he was elected field agent for the southern states of the Anti-Saloon League of America. A year later he was elected president of Lander College in Greenwood, South Carolina, a position he held

for five years. He returned to his pastoral duties in 1932 at Portsmouth, Virginia. This was followed by appointments at Norfolk and Lawrenceville, Virginia. He retired in 1936.

Scope Note

This accession contains ten scrapbooks compiled by R. H. Bennett during his career. These scrapbooks contain many of the writings he contributed to magazines and church related publications. He wrote "Twitterings of Timothy Twig", a weekly syndicated column for newspapers, and many of these columns are included in the scrapbooks. At the back of the 1906-1911 scrapbook, there are several black and white photographs of the building Bennett's Lynchburg congregation built at Soochow University in China.

In addition, these scrapbooks contain commentaries on missions and temperance, and are an excellent source of social history during the first half of the twentieth century. Materials found in these scrapbooks include news clippings, articles, photographs, correspondence, and pamphlets.

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions regarding this collection.

Preferred Citation

When citing material from this collection please use the following format: Direct reference to the item or its file folder, Richard Bennett Scrapbooks, United Methodist Church Archives - GCAH, Madison, New Jersey. Do not make use of the item's call number as that is not a stable descriptor.

Index Terms

Subject Names - Corporate

Soochow University

Subject Names - Personal

Bennett, Richard Heber

Subject Topics

Missions

Religious writings

Temperance

Subject Geographic

China

Virginia

Genre

Photographs

Scrapbooks

Occupations

Author

Minister

Container List

Call Number	Folder Title	Date(s)
1079-2-1:1	Scrapbook	1887-1901
1079-2-1:2	Scrapbook	1901-1906
1079-2-1:3	Scrapbook	1906-1911
1079-2-1:4	Scrapbook	1912-1913
1079-2-1:5	Scrapbook	1913-1922
1079-2-2:1	Scrapbook	1922-1931
1079-2-2:2	Scrapbook	1933-1937
1079-2-2:3	Scrapbook	1937-1940
1079-2-2:4	Scrapbook	1924-1940
1079-2-2:5	Scrapbook	1931-1942