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.

**Biographical Note**

John William Hamilton (1845-1934), Methodist Episcopal Church bishop, was born in Weston, West Virginia, on March 18, 1845 to the Reverend William C. P. and Henrietta M. Dean Hamilton. John served briefly in the Union Army during the American Civil War. Afterwards he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Mount Union College, Ohio, in 1865 and Bachelor of Sacred Theology from Boston University in 1871. On December 24, 1873, Hamilton married Julia E. Battele. They were married until Julia’s death in 1883. Five years late he married Emma L. Battele, Julia’s sister, on December 18.

He was licensed to preach in 1865, ordained a deacon in 1868 and ordained an elder in 1870. Originally a member of the Pittsburgh Conference, he transferred to the New England Conference in 1868 and served several churches in Massachusetts before becoming a Corresponding Secretary of the Freedman’s Aid and Southern Education Society in 1892. He was a delegate to five General Conferences from 1884 to 1900.

During the 1900 General Conference, delegates elected him bishop to which he actively served until 1916. Hamilton never truly retired from church work which is evident as the chancellor of American University from 1916 to 1922. Three years later at the age of eighty, Hamilton chaired the American Methodist commission to help restore John Wesley’s room at Lincoln College, Oxford University. Hamilton died on July 24, 1834 while living in Boston, Massachusetts.

**Scope Note**

This collection contains an episcopal address, correspondence, portraits, obituaries and academic hoods. The episcopal address was delivered by Hamilton to the 1916 General Conference. The correspondence consists of four letters (two handwritten and two typed), written to and from Hamilton. The portraits include a silhouette of a standing Hamilton and two photographs. Obituaries and published memorials are included for both Hamilton and his wife. There are six academic hoods from various schools.

**Arrangement**

Material has been arranged in the following manner. Material is arranged by record type.

**Related Materials**

Joseph Crane Hartzell Papers

Microfilm Edition of the Missionary correspondence of the Board of Missions of the Methodist Episcopal
Access Restrictions
There are no restrictions regarding this collection. Copyright still owned by Drew. Permissions to publish must be directed to Drew.

Restrictions on Use
Detailed use restrictions relating to our collections can be requested from the office of the archivist at the General Commission on Archives and History. Photocopying is handled by the staff and may be limited in certain instances. Before using any material for publication from this collection a formal request for permission to publish is expected and required.

Preferred Citation
When citing material from this collection please use the following format: Direct reference to the item or its file folder, John William Hamilton Papers, Methodist Collection - Drew University, Madison, New Jersey. Do not make use of the item's call number as that is not a stable descriptor.

Index Terms

Subject Topics
Bishops
Clergy
Women, Methodist

Subject Geographic
United States

Genre
Clippings
Correspondence
Lectures
Memorials
Obituaries
Photographs

Subject - Corporate Names
Methodist Episcopal Church
## Container List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Call Number</th>
<th>Folder Title</th>
<th>Date(s)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2143-4-7:1</td>
<td>Episcopal Address</td>
<td>1916</td>
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<tr>
<td>2143-4-7:2</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1918-1932</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2143-4-7:3</td>
<td>Photographs</td>
<td>1915-1934</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2143-4-7:4</td>
<td>Memorials/Obituaries</td>
<td>1934</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2143-4-7:5</td>
<td>Memorial Tributes to Emma Battelle Hamilton(Mrs. John Hamilton)</td>
<td>1915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2144-4-1:1</td>
<td>Six Academic Hoods</td>
<td>Undated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>