

# **Papers of Richard Warner Hammett**

1859-1896



## **ARCHIVES & HISTORY**

General Commission on Archives and History

**THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**



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1859-1896

0.45 cubic feet

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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

Richard Warner Hammett (1829-1910), Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and Methodist Episcopal Church minister, was born on March 4, 1829, in Marion County, Mississippi, to James H. and Sarah Henrietta Head Hammett. Hammett married Mary Elizabeth Dobson (1842-1925), which produced seven children.

Hammett began his clergy career in Arkansas, Methodist Episcopal Church, South. There is little information on his Southern Methodist career, except for his appointments to Fort Smith (circa 1852) and the current Central United Methodist Church, Fayetteville (1860-1967). In the 1866 MECS General Minutes records he withdrew from the denomination. Hammett later joined the 1868 Missouri and Arkansas Annual Conference, Methodist Episcopal Church as an elder on trial and sent to the Fort Smith church. From 1869 to 1873, he served as a presiding elder (today's District Superintendent) for both the Fort Smith District (1869-1872) and Batesville District (1873-1874). After serving as a presiding elder, the conference appointed him to the Fort Smith church (1875-1877). Hammett became the Conference Secretary from 1876 to 1878 while serving local churches. Subsequent appointments include Fort Smith (1875-1877, 1881), Fayetteville (1878-1880), Cedarville (1882), and Buren and Ozark (1884).

The records suggest that physical problems began to take their toll as he aged. In 1883, the conference granted him Supernumerary status. Hammett retained his clergy credentials but did not serve as an appointed pastor to local churches. However, he could preach if physically able. Hammett became superannuated (retired) in 1885. The following year he withdrew from the Methodist Episcopal Church.

During Hammett's active ministry, those who knew him considered Hammett a notable preacher. He published an 1896 drama entitled *In the Wilderness or A Romance of Christianity in Forty Scenes* published by Thrash-Lice Printing Company.

On October 27, 1910, Hammett died in Fort Smith, Sebastian, Arkansas. Burial took place at the Oak Cemetery.

### Scope and Content Note

The majority of the papers are in two bound volumes of handwritten sermons from 1859 to 1867 preached at the Fayetteville MECS church. Next is a bound book containing his 1896 published drama, *In the Wilderness or A Romance of Christianity*. In the same folder, the researcher will discover a fragment

of the same script possibly published in 1870. A single letter dated January 30, 18(7?) requesting a new appointment for the Ozark church. Finally, Hammett appears in a copy of an 1896 State of Washington civil libel suit decision.

## Arrangement

Material has been arranged in the following manner. Original order.

## Related Material

None

## Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions regarding this collection.

## Use Access

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, Richard Warner Hammett Papers, 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 Terms*

Clergy  
Elders (Church officers)  
Trials (Embezzlement)

### *Geographic Terms*

Arkansas

### *Subject Names - Corporate Bodies*

Methodist Episcopal Church  
Methodist Episcopal Church, South

### *Occupation Terms*

Minister

### *Genre Terms*

Correspondence  
Court decisions and opinions  
Dramas  
Sermons

## Table of Contents



## Container List

Call Number	Folder Title	Date(s)
1591-4-4:01	Sermons	1859-1860
1591-4-4:02	Sermons	1860-1867
1591-4-4:03	In the Wilderness or A Romance of Christianity in Forty Scenes	1870-1896
1591-4-4:04	Correspondence	Undated
1591-4-4:05	State of Washington Civil Libel Suit Decision (Copy)	1896