

Arthur Lewis Davenport was born the child of Richard and Mary Ann Davenport, on January 28, 1880 near Ashland (Benton County), Mississippi. Davenport was educated in the local schools of Benton County, where he continued to become a teacher. After entering the ministry he took advantage of every opportunity that would prepare his work as a minister. Davenport took courses at Emory University, Seashore Divinity School, Mathiston and Camp Lake Stephens. W.L. Robinson speaks of Davenport, in his memoir, "No man among us took his work more seriously or worked more diligently at the task of becoming a good minister..." Robinson continues to describe Davenport as a very effective evangelist, serving a large church community and working to introduce the most difficult or hopeless cases (people) to Christ. He loved to preach about Bible-centered themes, such as Life, The Home, Faith in God, Prayer, The Church, Sin, and Loyalty to God and the Church.

Davenport was admitted on trial into the annual conference in 1907, ordained as an elder in 1913 and retired in 1952. This effective and hard working minister chose to continue serving after retirement as a supply pastor until 1960. He served all over North Mississippi in Vardaman, Fulton, Tremont, Houlka, Chalybeate, Corinth, Ackerman, Lambert, Horn Lake, Arkabutla, Tyro, Kosciusko, Winona, Vaiden, Noxapater, Belmont, Myrtle, Mantachie, Smithville, and Belden, Mississippi. At the last charge that Davenport served, Tremont Circuit, he worked to fund the apportionment for the Pension Fund for retired ministers. Tremont Circuit became the first charge in the Mississippi Conference to pay the apportionment in full. (List of Appointments 1907-1957 – See Box 1 Folder 1) On September 7, 1960 at ten o'clock A.M. Davenport died, leaving his wife and four children. His funeral service was held in the Verona Methodist Church, on September 9, 1960, and his body laid to rest in Brooksville, Mississippi.

BOX 1

Certificates (large, rolled with ribbon)
 The Purpose of Sunday School
 Training Certificates of 1920 and 1934
 Certificate of Retirement 1952

Discipline of the Methodist Church (small hardback)

Journal of the One Hundred and Ninth Session of the Mississippi Annual
 Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South 1922

Journal of the North Mississippi Conference of the Methodist Church 1961

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BOX 1, cont'd

- f 1 Biographical Information
 - Memoir (1961)
 - List of Appointments
 - Donation of Collection of A.L. Davenport's sermons

- f 2 Thumb-indexed Pastor's Book – Arkabutla Methodist Church 1927-1928
 - Correspondence to Mississippi Methodist Conference from Dorothy Pflugrath (how notebook was discovered)

- f 3 Pastor's Ideal Funeral Manual

- f 4 Seventeenth Annual Report of the Woman's Missionary Council 1927

- f 5 Booklets
 - "The Lost Christ" by Gipsy Smith (1922), *The Pentecostal Herald*
 - Booklets of Methodism and Baptism
 - Eighteen Reasons Why I Am Not A Baptist* by A.L. Davenport

- f 6 Certificates of Ordinance 1910 and 1913

- f 7 Certificates – Sunday School Board/Training
 - Order cards for World Service Leaflets (1960)

- f 8 Correspondence and Receipts 1949-1952
 - Certificates of Course Work 1933-1937

- f 9 Pastor's Report to the Annual Conference 1959
 - Schedule of preaching times at each church on charge (Correspondence from A.L. Davenport)
 - Mt. Pleasant Methodist Church
 - Asbury Methodist Church
 - Tremont Methodist Church
 - Hopewell Methodist Church
 - Mt. Oliver Methodist Church
 - Lone Star Methodist Church
 - Quarterly Conference Rolland Record 1951-1952

- f 10 Book 1 1933-1958
 - Sermons (index in front)
 - Correspondence
 - Newspaper clippings

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BOX 1, cont'd

- f 11 Book 2 1940
 - Sermons (index in front)
 - Newspaper clippings
 - Correspondence

- f 12 Book 3 1946
 - Sermons
 - Church service programs
 - Noxapater Methodist Church

- f 13 Book 4 A 1913-1958
 - Sermons (index in front)
 - Correspondence
 - Methodist Hospital Building and Development Fund (Pledges and Payments) 1956
 - Authentic Ritual – Book One 1913
 - Church service programs
 - District Missionary Education Rallies
 - Methodist work in Brazil (The World Service Agencies of the Methodist Church)
 - The Methodist Church Bulletin 1944

- f 14 Book 4 B 1952-1953
 - Sermons
 - Budget for the Chalybeate Charge 1952-1953

- f 15 Book 4 C 1959
 - Sermons
 - Church service programs
 - The Methodist Church Bulletin 1959

- f 16 Book 5 A 1943-1959
 - Sermons (index in front)
 - Church service programs
 - Church Bulletin
 - Correspondence
 - Booklets

- f 17 Book 5 B
 - Sermons
 - Booklets

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BOX 1, cont'd

f 18 Book 6 1939-1949

 Sermons
 Newspaper clippings
 Correspondence

f 19 Book 7 1948-1958

 Sermons
 Correspondence
 Church service programs
 Bethel Methodist Church 1958
 Newspaper clippings

f 20 Book 8 A 1941-1943

 Sermons (index in front)
 Church Service programs
 The Methodist Church Bulletin 1943
 Newspaper clippings

f 21 Book 8 B 1953

 Sermons (index in front)
 Church service programs
 The Methodist Church Bulletin Easter 1953
 Newspaper clippings

BOX 2

f 1 Book 9 A 1943-1957

 Sermons (index in front)
 Church service programs
 District Conference at Black Hawk 1943

f 2 Book 9 B 1923-1959

 Sermons
 Program of Leadership Education Certificate 1941
 Newspaper clippings
 Brooksville Methodist (edited by A.L. Davenport) March 1923
 Church service programs
 Ripley Evangelist November 19, 1959

f 3 Book 11 1923-1958

 Sermons (index in front)
 Correspondence
 Origin of All Christian Churches (chart)

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BOX 2, cont'd

 Newspaper clippings

f 4 Book 12 A 1943-1960

 Sermons (index in front)

 Church service programs

 Bethel Methodist Church (March 2, 1958)

f 5 Book 12 B 1945-1953

 Sermons

 United Evangelistic Mission May 1-10, 1953 (District Tally)

 Correspondence

f 6 Book 13

 Sermons (index in front)

 Newspaper clippings

f 7 Book 15 1943-1950

 Sermons

 Newspaper clippings

 Church service programs

 The Methodist Church Bulletin (1943 and 1945)

f 8 Book 16 A 1923-1956

 Sermons

 Newspaper clippings

f 9 Book 16 B 1959

 Sermons

 Newspaper clippings

f 10 Book 18 1948-1959

 Sermons

 Correspondence

 Newspaper clippings

f 11 Book 19 1953-1957

 Sermons

 Newspaper clippings

 Church service programs

 Belden Methodist Church 1957

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BOX 2, cont'd

f 12 Book 20 1954
 Sermons

f 13 Book 22 1958
 Sermons
 Church service programs
 Sherman Methodist Church 1958

*****Notebooks Not Labeled, Contents Organized By Dates*****

f 14 1917-1957
 Sermons
 Newspaper clippings
 Booklets
 Church service programs
 Smithville Methodist Church 1957

f 15 1917-1959
 Sermons
 Newspaper clippings
 Preachers' Retreat Program 1946 (Kosciusko, MS)
 Church service programs
 The Methodist Church 1944
 Ripley Evangelist 1959

f 16 1922-1928
 Sermons
 Church service programs
 Sunday School Institute of Arkabutla Charge 1928
 Columbus District Conference (Macon, MS) 1922
 Newspaper clippings

f 17 1923-1937
 Sermons
 Booklets
 Newspaper clippings

f 18 1931-1956
 Sermons
 Newspaper clippings

f 19 1934
 Sermons

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BOX 2, cont'd

f 20 1937

 Sermons
 Latin American Circuit
 Newspaper clippings

f 21 1942-1950

 Booklet
 Church service programs
 The Methodist Church 1945-1947

f 22 1945-1958

 Sermons
 Newspaper clippings
 Church service programs
 Nettleton Methodist Church 1958

f 23 1951

 Sermons
 Newspaper clippings

f 24 1954

 Sermons
 Newspaper Clippings

*****Notebook Not Labeled, Contents Provided No Dates*****

f 25 Book A

 Sermons

f 26 Book B

 Sermons

f 27 Book C

 Sermons

f 28 Book D

 Sermons

f 29 Book E

 Sermons

f 30 Book F

 Sermons

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BOX 2, cont'd

f 30, cont'd

Newspaper clippings

f 31 Book G

Sermons (index in front)

Newspaper clippings

Course Card of Recognition "Life of Christ"

Booklets