

## J.B. CAIN ARCHIVES OF MISSISSIPPI METHODISM

M 84 Selah, (Dr. William Bryan) Papers (1940-1985)

Page 1

Dr. W.B. "Bill" Selah was the minister at Galloway Memorial Methodist Church in Jackson, MS, from 1945-1963. During that time, he became well known for his sermons and strong open pulpit views, which led to his resignation from Galloway Memorial MC in 1963. The news of his resignation and speech to congregation in response to their racism and denial to admit Negroes to worship in the church was published in news papers nationally. As a result, he received hundreds letters from supporters. Dr. Selah was born on February 17, 1896, in Sedalia, MO; received an honorary Doctorate of Divinity from Central College of Fayette, MO, in 1935, and an honorary L.L.D. degree from Millsaps College in 1958. Dr. Selah served at churches in Missouri, Tennessee, and Oklahoma before coming to Galloway in 1945. After his resignation in 1963, he became Vice President of Central College. He passed away in 1985 at his home in Huntsville, AL.

Prepared by Student Assistant Kevin W. Slark, 12/2003.

### BOX 1

f1 "A Statement to The Freedom Riders" by Dr. W.B. Selah, Galloway Memorial Methodist Church

f2 Newsclippings and statements involving Dr. Selah and the Methodist Church regarding race relations. Contents as follows:

News clipping: "Selah Stand on Race Integration"

Statement of the Council of Bishops of the Methodist Church, 10/13/1963

Statement made by Rev. Warren C. Hamby, Senior Minister of Galloway Memorial Methodist Church regarding Race Relations in Jackson, MS on November 19, 1967

Information Bulletin published by Mississippi Methodist Ministers and Laymen regarding integration of the Mississippi Conference, February 1964

Galloway and The Race Issue-Dr. W.B. Selah, resolution on leaving Galloway, June 1961

"Selah States Stand on Race Integration" Clarion-Ledger Daily Newspaper, Jackson, MS, January 7, 1963

*Mississippi Methodist Advocate* article regarding bail for three girls arrested in front of Galloway

"Bitter Racial Battles Waged at Church Door", *Omaha World-Herald*, October 28, 1963

"Methodist Churches Split Over Integration Question", *Cincinnati Post & Times-Star*, October 30, 1963

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### BOX 1, continued

f3 Dr. Selah's sermons in booklet, typed, and photocopied form, contents as follows;

Brotherhood, 11/19/1961  
The Climate of Freedom, 3/23/1958  
The Tragic Hunting Accident  
Overcoming Worry (two copies)  
The Murders Repent-So What!, December 27, 1953 (two copies)  
A Strategy For The Good Life (two copies)  
Facing Trouble  
Liberty  
What Ye Think of Christ?, January 25, 1940  
The Tragic Hunting Accident-Printed in *Mississippi Methodist Advocate*, 1961  
The Climate of Freedom-Printed in *Mississippi Methodist Advocate*, April 9, 1958  
Character is Fate

f3.1 Dr. Selah's typewritten sermons, contents as follows:

God is Love, September 13, 1953  
Reserve Power, March 21, 1954  
Miracles of the Bible, January 22, 1956  
How to Make Religion Real to Other People, December 2, 1956  
Divinity of Jesus, February 26, 1956  
God is Love, September 18, 1953  
The Spiritual Basis of Freedom, June 28, 1953

f4.1 Dr. Selah's handwritten sermon notes

f4.2 id.

f4.3 id.

f4.4 id.

f4 Letters regarding Dr. Selah, 1976-1985

f5 Photograph of Dr. Selah c. 1950's and photograph of Galloway Memorial Methodist Church, c. 1950's.

f6 Accretion August, 2004

Correspondence concerning books donated by W.B. Selah's son, Bill Selah, following removal from Monte Sano UMC, Huntsville, Alabama  
List of books, catalogued into Cain collection \*\*See list at end of inventory\*\*

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### BOX 1, continued

- f7 Memoir published in 1986 Missouri West Annual Conference Journal  
Printed sermons: Brotherhood 1961, What Ye Think of Christ 1940 2 copies  
Who's Who in the Methodist Church, 1966  
Reprint in newspaper, sermon The Climate of Freedom These Days in Deep South  
reprinted from MS Methodist Advocate  
Millsaps College Religious Life Series speakers, 1960, brochure

Book, soft cover:

1963 Letters to Dr. W.B. Selah, prepared by Mike Selah on November 26, 1990

VHS Video Tape with the following recordings: Dr. & Mrs. Bill Selah-July 1983; Dr. Selah  
"Hallmark of Christian" his last sermon-December 1984.

Two 1/4" recording tapes, contents Dr. Selah's sermons

Thirteen Audio Cassette Tapes of Dr. Selah's sermons as follows:

- T-1 "Handling Tragedy"; "Patriotism" no date  
T-2 "Life's Obstacles", 1/10/1960 on side A and "Character Is Fate", 8/19/1973  
on side B, poor quality: voice over tracks  
T-3 id. (second copy of T-2)  
T-4 "Fifty Years a Methodist Minister" from Galloway Memorial UMC, 6/11/1972  
T-5 "Fifty Years a Methodist Minister" 6/11/1972; "Everlasting Life" 5/4/1969  
T-6 "Genesis and Evolution", 1/11/1981  
T-7 "The Greatness of a Man" at Trinity UMC, 9/27/1981  
T-8 "How to Tell Right From Wrong", 9/1982  
T-9 "Jonah", Methodist Church, Monte Sano, 9/1982  
T-10 "One Thing Essential", intro by Dr. Selah, 10/24/1982  
T-11 "The Hallmark of Christian" at First UMC, Benton, AR, 6/12/1983  
T-12 "Puddles and Sunsets" with Dr. Selah at the beginning and end, 2/9/1983  
T-13 "Life's Obstacle Course" 1/10/1960; "Genesis & Evolution" at Trinity UMC  
3/1/1981

Eight 78RPM Record Albums of Dr. Selah's sermons at Galloway Memorial UMC as follows: four records containing Dr. Selah's sermon from 1/9/1949; one record containing sermon "Puddles and Sunsets" from 9/1/1959; two records containing the sermon from 6/13/1954; and one record containing the sermon from 9/8/1954.

**\*\*List of W.B Selah books catalogued into CAIN collection, on shelves\*\***

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<u>A Church, a School</u> McGill, Ralph, 1959	CAIN F 216.2 M36
<u>Mississippi: The Closed Society</u> Silver, James W., 1964	CAIN F 345 S5 c.2
<u>Nature Sermons</u> Jefferson, Charles E., 1925	CAIN BX 7233 J4 N3
<u>The Character of Jesus</u> Jefferson, Charles E., 1908	CAIN BT 304 J4
<u>The Seven Deadly Sins</u> Caie, Norman M., 1923	CAIN BV 4625 C3
<u>Freedom of the Pulpit</u> Moorehead, Lee C., 1961	CAIN BV 4211.2 M65
<u>The Adventures of a Happy Man</u> Pollock, Channing, 1945	CAIN PS 3531 O37 A65 1945
<u>The Ten Commandments</u> Coffin, Henry S., 1915	CAIN BV 4655 C53 1915
<u>Forefathers' Day Sermons</u> Jefferson, Charles E., 1917	CAIN BX 7233 J4 F7
<u>Cardinal Ideas of Jeremiah</u> Jefferson, Charles E., 1928	CAIN BS 1525 J4
<u>Galloway Memorial Methodist Church</u> Hamilton, Alfred P., 1956	CAIN BX 8481 J32 G33 c.3
<u>The Power of Positive Thinking</u> Peale, Norman V., 1952	CAIN BV 4908.5 P42 1952

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