

Biography

Reverend James Alexander Wells (1881-1947) was an Elder in the Mississippi Conference, admitted on trial in 1907. He studied at Toccopola Mississippi High School, Asbury College (Wilmore, Kentucky), and Meridian Male College. His longest pastorate lasted just over fourteen years at Glendale Church in Jackson, MS. He was married to Mamie E. Wall of Hickory, MS and had two children, Rev. Morelle H. Wells and Dr. Clay Norris Wells. Reverend Wells died March 6, 1947.

This collection of student papers, teaching aids and sermon outlines, and diaries and pastor books was donated to the J. B. Cain Archives of Mississippi Methodism by his daughter-in-law, Rita Miller Wells, in 2014.

Scope and Content

Materials in the Wells collection were donated in 2014 and processed by student assistant Bailey Duhé. They include student papers from his years at Meridian Male College (1910-1913), teaching aids and sermon outlines, newspaper clippings, and pastor diaries and journals ranging from 1908 to 1936. Included in the teaching aids are special activities for children based on various different lessons found in the Bible. The sermon outlines and newspaper clippings cover a variety of topics dealing mostly with events of the time in correlation to bible passages.

Inventory

Box 1 Student Papers – Meridian Male College

Folders:

- 1 Meridian Male College – First Year Student Papers (1910) 1/2
- 2 Meridian Male College – First Year Student Papers (1910) 2/2
- 3 Meridian Male College – Second Year Student Papers (1911) 1/2
- 4 Meridian Male College – Second Year Student Papers (1911) 2/2
- 5 Meridian Male College – Third Year Student Papers (1912) 1/2
- 6 Meridian Male College – Third Year Student Papers (1912) 2/2
- 7 Meridian Male College – Fourth Year Student Papers (1913)

8 Correspondence with Miss Rita Miller Wells

Box 2 Teaching Aids and Sermon Outlines

Folders:

- 1 Visual Evangels – “The Devil’s Driftwood”
- 2 Visual Evangels – “Blotting Out the Black”
- 3 Visual Evangels – “Wounded in the House of His Friend”
- 4 Visual Evangels – “The Foursquare Kingdom”
- 5 Visual Evangels – “The Sin of Mote Picking”
- 6 Visual Evangels – “John in the Dungeon of Doubt”
- 7 “Old and Appreciated Sermon Out-lines” – Volume 1
- 8 “Old and Appreciated Sermon Out-lines” – Volume 2
- 9 “Old and Appreciated Sermon Out-lines” – Volume 3
- 10 “Religious Object Lessons (Unused) – Number 12”
- 11 “The Present Generation and Modern Education – Number 1”

Please God, Don’t Call Me to Preach, Dr. Clay Norris Wells (2004)

Black Notebook, Unmarked – Newspaper Clippings and Notes

Box 3 Books and Diaries

The Spirit’s Sword, Evangelist J. R. Beveridge (1907)

Truth for Sower and Seeker, Harold F. Sayles (1907)

A Service Book – Funerals (1935)

Memorandum Book

Black Notebook, Unmarked – Notes

Red, Skinny Notebook, Unmarked – Notes

Daily Suggester (1945)

Stall's Pastor's Pocket Record (1929)

Diary: 1924, 1928, 1932, 1935, 1936, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1942, 1946

Thumb Index Pastor's Books: 1913, 1914, 1915, 1919, 1920, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1927, 1928, 1931, 1933, 1934, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1946

Pastor's Memorandum: 1908, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1933, 1934