

Biography:

Reverend William Winans Simmons was born in Georgetown, MS, Copiah County in 1843. He joined the Methodist church at the age of twelve and enlisted in the Confederate army at eighteen. He served in the Sixth Mississippi Regiment until he was wounded in a battle near Port Gibson. Returning from the war, he entered Hopewell High School and studied for two and a half years under Reverend Martin Trawick. After school, he was a Copiah County tax assessor. Then he taught school for three years.

In 1867, Simmons married Mrs. Pernicie Parker Hays. To the union, a son, William Winans Simmons, Jr, and a daughter, Ollie Ophelia, were born. On November 18, 1876, Simmons was licensed to preach. He was received on trial in the Mississippi Conference held in Natchez on November 29, 1876. In 1878, Simmons was ordained a deacon and later an elder in 1881.

Simmons is the son of William Thomas Simmons, a Methodist minister licensed to preach in 1831 and ordained a deacon by Bishop Waugh in New Orleans in 1841. Reverend William Winans Simmons has a grandson, Tyler Simmons Conerly, who was a devout Methodist in Gloster, MS. He served as a trustee and a Sunday school teacher. This service to the Methodist church continued with his son, Tyler Simmons Conerly, Jr, who served as a teacher, trustee, and youth coordinator during his life.

Scope and Contents:

Manuscripts in signatures, handwritten sermons, most with no dates given
Marriage license certificate 1905, Copiah County

Given to Cain Archives by Lynn Hughes Conerly in March, 2015. Rev. W.W. Simmons was great grandfather of her late husband, Tyler Simmons Conerly, Jr.

Folders:

0 Memoir, 1924 Mississippi Conference Journal

1-9 Sermons

- f1 8 sermons, no date
- f2 6 sermons, no date
- f3 6 sermons, no date
- f4 6 sermons, 4 with no date
 - One sermon dated 1883
 - One sermon dated May 1885
- f5 6 sermons, no date
- f6 3 sermons, no date
- f7 8 sermons, no date
- f8 7 sermons, no date

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f9 6 sermons, no date

- 10 "Pastor and His Work" Read before Preacher's Meeting in Port Gibson, 1894
- 11 Marriage Certificate for Mr. James Nathaniel Bivens and Miss Francis Augusta Allen on September 20, 1905 in Covich County signed by Circuit Clerk, D.C. Woods