

# Detroit Conference United Methodist Archives



Shipman Library  
Adrian College  
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Adrian, MI 49221



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## Miscellaneous Personal Papers

### **History Note:**

This is an artificial collection containing small accessions of personal papers.

### **Scope Note:**

The collection contains pastor's record books, diaries/journals/reminiscences (originals, microfilms, or transcriptions) of Methodist clergy and laity, speeches, sermons, and manuscripts of historical articles about various topics of Michigan Methodism.

Pastor's record books contain vital records about baptisms, marriages, and funerals conducted by the minister. Included are those for Charles Bragg (1909-1912), Stephen Polkinghorne (1882-1915), William Richards (1907-1942), Francis E. Wilson (1934-1971), and Charles Wolfe (1913-1958).

Journals, diaries, or reminiscences include those of ministers John Arnold, Lerner Blackman, Henry Boehm, Charles Bragg, Judson Collins, Samuel Heininger, Robert Ridgeway, and John Seybert.

### **Extent:**

4.0 linear feet (ca. 8,000 pages)

### **Access Restrictions:**

The collection is open to research.

### **Restrictions on Use:**

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.

Finding aid created by Rebecca J. McNitt, August 2014 (updated June 2015)

## Contents List

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Box 1

Arnold, John M. – “Anecdotes and Reminiscences of Men Connected with Early Methodism in Michigan”

Early Michigan pastor Arnold writes about his contemporaries: E. McClure, James Burns, W.H. Collins, Kahbage (Native American), Krebiel (German minister), John A. Baughman, Brother Furley, Francois Pepin (Frenchman), J.M. Buckley, William Clay, John Levington, Robert Bird, John Russell, Hiram Law, Resin Sapp, B.F. Cocker, George G. Lyon, Judge Dexter, Judge Burt, Elder Willis, F.A. Blades, M. Hickey, T.C. Gardner, and D.B. Tracy. John Arnold died in 1884, at the age of 61.

Arnold, John M. – Photograph Album

This is a photograph album of early Methodist Episcopal ministers from the Michigan and Detroit Conferences, collected by Rev. John Arnold (some were added after his death by an unknown individual). Ministers included are: A.J. Bigelow, William Taylor, W.E. Bigelow, Isaac Wilcox and wife, Salmon Steele and wife, Albert R. Hazen and wife, M.B. Wisley and wife, D.C. Reid and wife, D.R. Latham and wife, David Curtis and wife, L.M. Edmunds, Hiram Hood, E.R. Hascall (joined Michigan Conference in 1854, died 2 March 1886), A.J. Richards, Samuel Clements, John Motte Arnold (born Greene County, New York on 15 October 1824, joined Michigan Conference in 1849, died 5 December 1884), L.H. Manning, Rev. Dempster, Rev. Durbin, H.O. Parker, Fannie J. Crosby VanAlstyne (composer of gospel hymns and song, picture taken 1874), Rev. Wise, Bishop Thompson, Bishop Matthew Simpson, Bishop Scott, Rev. Billings, W.H. Perrine, Rev. Buck, N.L. Brary (Michigan Conference), H.R. Bratzandsope (? 1898), N. Norton Clark (1891), H.S. White, Daniel L.C. Jacokes

Beelby, George – “Our Methodist Heritage”

This article focuses on Methodism in Detroit from the earliest days until the Civil War.

Blackman, Learner – “Journals of Learner Blackman” (1 microfilm roll)

These are the journals of an early circuit rider and presiding elder of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He was born in 1871 in English Creek, New Jersey. He served circuits in Delaware, Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Mississippi. He died in June 1815.

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Box 2	<p>Boehm, Henry – “Journal of Henry Boehm” (1 microfilm roll) This is the journal of a Methodist Episcopal pastor in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. He lived from 1775 to 1875.</p> <p>Bragg, Charles – “Grass Roots, Mountain Top &amp; Back: Autobiography of The Rev. Charles Bragg – Farmer, Minister, Farmer” Charles Bragg was born 21 February 1877 in Dundee, Michigan. He was a Methodist Protestant minister, and he eventually served as President of the Michigan Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church before becoming a Methodist minister. His first appointment was at Attica in 1906. He also served at Goodland, Yale, Rea, Cone, Lansing Main Street Methodist Church, Columbiaville, Clio, Marlette, London, and Mooreville. He was one of the commissioners of Methodist Union until the completion of the Uniting Conference in 1939 (picture included). He retired completely in 1946. Charles Bragg died 18 February 1967, as Detroit Conference Methodist Church Conference Cane holder (presented to the oldest living member of the conference).</p> <p>Bragg, Charles – “Memoirs of Outstanding Ministers of the Michigan Annual Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church” This writing contains brief biographies of Methodist Protestant ministers which seem to have been pulled from various conference sources: Beniah Bain, H.H. Johnson, R.C. Lanning, Peter Snyder, William D. Tomkinson, W.F. Oliver, John A. Morey, Christopher England, W.C. Harger, W.H. Cole, Michael Rene Saigeon, Lester Clark, Adam Moffat, John W. Gray, Robert Rutledge, J.W. Saxbee, Jared Warner, A.C. Fuller, A. Smith, Charles Perry, Jessie M. Crandall, John H. Reilly, Samuel Riley, F.H. Chase, Q.E. Knight, John W. Warner, A.C. Sheperdson, Levi Mills, H.W. Cook, William Cope, J.W. Mulholland, R.N. Mulholland, J.E. Hubble, A.N. Waldo, S.F. Hale, J.R. Stevenson, L.F. Hutt, Joseph Pomfret, George Mikel, Charles W. Gray, A.R. McRill, G.H. Lahr, Elias Wonderlic, Chandler Worth Stephenson, Austin B. Hathaway, Fred Traver, William G. Terhune, Clarence L. Ellis, William C. Helmbold, William Bentley, Alva A. Phelps, L.D. Abbott, C.D. Paxson, Archibald Levi Bragg, John Kost, William Combs, J.W. McCue, Fred Hart, Arthur Bertram Fockley, Samuel Tamblyn, Earnest A. Benedict, Frank Kunsman, Robert Harley Cunningham, Howard John Hescott, W. Henry Clark, John McLucas, Henry Shrauger, J.J. Willetts, William J. Kennedy, John Robertson, C.D. Covil, A.I. Warren, A. Bradshaw, Delos Short, M.L. Borden, J.F. Broughton, William Elkins, D.S. Cramer, A.E. Fox, J.F. Shearer, J.J. Beatty, S. Windram, J.B. Keith, M. Simons, L.D. Boynton, William H. Mitchell, P. Samson, A. Acherson, William C. Griffin, S. Reeves, W. White, Howard C. Watkins, Edward Swadling, and Archie Scott.</p> <p>Bragg, Charles – Pastor’s Record Book: Methodist Protestant Church This is Charles Bragg’s record book from his time on the Goodland Circuit from 1909-1912. It covers baptisms, marriages, funerals, sermons, pastoral visits, and meetings attended.</p> <p>Bragg, Charles – Scrapbook This is a scrapbook that Rev. Bragg created in 1939. It contains news clippings about Methodist Union.</p> <p>Bragg, Charles – Sermons This folder contains eleven of Rev. Bragg’s sermons, mostly handwritten.</p> <p>Brown, Patricia S. – “Seasons for Growing” (2 folders) These are the edited and transcribed diaries of Lizzie Augusta Sowles Dravenstatt (1870-1928). These diaries begin in 1870, when the author is fourteen and continue until 1871. There is a gap until 1897, at which point they continue until 1906. The diaries cover farm life and Methodist church experiences of a Clinton County family.</p>

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Box 3	<p>Brown, Patricia S. – “Seasons for Growing” (3 folders) These are the edited and transcribed diaries of Lizzie Augusta Sowles Dravenstatt (1870-1928). These diaries begin in 1870, when the author is fourteen and continue until 1871. There is a gap until 1897, at which point they continue until 1906. The diaries cover farm life and Methodist church experiences of a Clinton County family.</p> <p>Cargo, Ruth E. – “The Western Methodist Protestant”, 5 June 1952 This is a study of a religious newsletter for families that was published for ten years (1856-1866).</p> <p>Carlton, Arthur – Autograph and Photo Album This is an album of photographs, autographs and messages compiled to honor Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Carlton by the Bane Bible Class of Highland Park Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church in 1932 before they moved to the Chelsea Home.</p> <p>Casler, David – Scrapbook This scrapbook contains lists of early appointments of preachers from the Michigan Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church (1825-1855). It also contains miscellaneous articles about religious matters.</p>
Box 4	<p>Collins, Judson D. – “Journal of Judson D. Collins” This is a transcript of the journal of Judson D. Collins held by the Bentley Historical Library at the University of Michigan. The bulk of the diary covers his time as a missionary in China.</p> <p>David, Nellie – “Early Beginnings of the Methodist Church in St. Clair County” This is a historical article about the beginning of the Methodist Church in St. Clair County.</p> <p>Dystant, John – “Michigan’s Missionary Challenge”, 6-8 February 1917 This is an address given at the Detroit Area Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church by the Superintendent of the Bay City District. It concerns the need for missionary work in underserved areas of the Detroit Conference.</p> <p>George, Herbert – “Jesse Walker – Frontier Preacher of Illinois” Jesse Walker was a circuit rider in Illinois from 1806 to 1835.</p> <p>Gilruth, James – “Journals of James Gilruth” These are the journals of a Methodist Episcopal Church traveling minister, primarily in Ohio and Iowa. He lived from 1793 to 1873.</p> <p>Grindley, Sarah – “The Beginning of Protestant Churches in Detroit” These are historical sketches and illustrations of Detroit churches including several Methodist churches.</p> <p>Harper, Ralph D. – “John Wesley and the American Revolution” This is a historical sketch written by a former Detroit Conference archivist/historian.</p> <p>Heininger, Samuel – “Experiences of Rev. S. Heininger” This is a memoir of Rev. Samuel Heininger, an Evangelical minister covering his service in the Civil War and his various appointments in Michigan at missions in Capac, Mason County, Flint, Saginaw, Jackson, and Monroe in the period from 1869 to 1883. It also touches on his work in other states and nationally.</p> <p>Hickey, George S. – “The Planting of Michigan Methodism” This is a historical sketch covering the earliest years of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Michigan to the 1830s.</p> <p>Hollis, Ben J. – Daily Suggesters, 1944-1948 These are calendars of activities covering 1944-1948.</p>

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Box 5	<p>Houser, Elmer – “The Beginnings of Methodism” This is a series of articles written in the late 1920s on various aspects of early Michigan Methodism.</p> <p>Jordan, Cecelia C. – “Women in the Clergy”, 26 October 1978 This is a history of women in clergy, a portion of which concerns women in the Detroit Conference.</p> <p>Knapp, George – Diaries and Family Genealogies (2 folders) These are letters and publications concerning the history of the Knapp family of Lenawee County, Michigan and their involvement in the Evangelical Church and later the United Brethren Church.</p> <p>LaLone, Dan – “Interview with Bishop Mathews”, 13 August 1980 (1 videocassette) This is a videocassette of Dan LaLone’s interview with Bishop Mathews in Traverse City, Michigan.</p>
Box 6	<p>Langford, Howard D. – “Operation Michigan: A Pageant Play” This is a play prepared for presentation at the Centennial of the Detroit Conference.</p> <p>Lenz, Henry William – “German Methodism in Michigan” This is a history of German Methodism in both the Detroit and Michigan Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church.</p> <p>“Life of John Carter – Early Methodist Preacher in Michigan” (1 microfilm roll) This is a historical sketch on the life of John Carter, who was born 30 July 1797. He was admitted on trial to the New York Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1820 and served as a missionary preacher to Michigan prior to the creation of the Michigan Conference. He later moved on to several other areas of the country. He died 11 July 1854 in Illinois.</p> <p>Lord, Harry J. – “The Religious Beliefs of Church School Teachers and Their Implications for the Teaching of Religion”, 1929 This is the Master’s thesis of Harry J. Lord written at Northwestern University.</p> <p>Macmillan, Margaret B. – “Michigan Methodism, Slavery and the Civil War” This is a historical sketch on Methodism and the events of the 1860s.</p> <p>McEldowney, John E. – Sermons (2 folders) These are the sermons of John McEldowney, covering the years 1876 to 1903.</p>
Box 7	<p>McElroy, George B. – Lectures These are lectures on religious topics.</p> <p>Nixon, William G. – Letters These are letters written by Methodist Episcopal minister William G. Nixon to his parents during the time that he was the minister at Riverside Church in Owosso.</p> <p>Oosting – “Frontier Christianity in Michigan Territory” (1 microfilm roll) This is a historical sketch on Christianity in early Michigan.</p> <p>Peterlin, Michael – “A Love Affair – Love Divine...” This is a history of Cornish Methodists in the Copper Country of Michigan’s Upper Peninsula.</p> <p>Pohl, Keith I. – “The Sit-Down Strike of 1937: Where Were the Churches?” This is a historical sketch looking at the role of churches in the Flint Sit-Down Strike of 1937, including the role of Methodism.</p>

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Box 8	<p>Polkinghorne, Stephen - Charges in Methodist Churches in North Michigan, 1882-1915 This is a Methodist Episcopal minister's record book containing membership, baptisms, and marriage records from his service at L'Anse (1882-1883), Saginaw (1883-1884), Central Mine (1884-1887), Detour (1888), Manistique (1888-1893), Ontonagon (1894-1895), Iron Mountain (1895-1898), Ishpeming (1898-1904), Lake Linden (1904-1907), Kearsarge (1907-1912), and Pewabic (1912-1915).</p> <p>Prescott, W. Ray - "The Rise of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Michigan From Its Inception to Eighteen Hundred Fifty Six" This is a history covering the early years of Methodism in Michigan.</p> <p>Richards, William - Pastor's Life Record This is a Methodist Episcopal (and later Methodist) minister's record book containing baptisms, marriages, funerals, sermons, etc. covering his service in Shabbona (1907-1909), Forester (1909-1910), Ruby (1910-1913), Davis and Washington (1913-1914), Owendale and Gagetown (1914-1915), Deckerville (1915-1921), Cass City (1921-1923), Northville (1923-1932), Belleville (1932-1941), and Northville (1941-1942).</p> <p>Ridgway, Robert - "Romeo Circuit in 1837" This is a transcription of the journal of a circuit rider on the Romeo Circuit of the Detroit Conference in 1837.</p> <p>Ruotsalainen, Kaarlo - "Historic Facts of Finnish Methodist Episcopal Churches of Upper Michigan" These are historical sketches of Methodist Episcopal churches in Ishpeming, Laurium, Ironwood, and Rudyard.</p>
Box 9	<p>Schleicher, J. Gordon - Spiritual Life Review Project These are oral histories (both transcripts and tapes) with persons 85 and older at the Chelsea Retirement Community.</p> <p>Seybert, John - "Journals of John Seybert" (2 microfilm rolls) These are the journals of the second bishop of the Evangelical Association. He lived from 1791 to 1860.</p>
Box 10	<p>Swift, Harriet Young - "Diary of Harriet Young Swift (1829-1857)" This is the diary of an early Lapeer, Michigan settler and convert to Christianity, specifically Methodism. She moved to Lapeer sometime after her marriage in 1831. Most of the entries in her diary are personal feelings, and information about her family, church, and life events. This diary was transcribed in 2011-2012, at which point the transcriber attempted to locate the true spellings and full names of individuals mentioned.</p> <p>Weiss, Edwin - "Developments and Growth of Methodism Among German Speaking People in Michigan" This is a history of Methodism among German-speaking families in Michigan.</p> <p>Wilson, Francis E. - "My Pastoral Record" This is the pastoral record book of a Methodist minister including marriages, baptisms, funerals, sermons, etc. from his pastorates at Franklin and Southfield (1934-1936), Ridgeway (1936-1940), Dixboro (1940-1946), Garden City (1946-1956), Detroit: Woodmere (1956-1961), Marlette (1961-1966), and Detroit: Thoburn (1966-1971).</p> <p>Wolfe, Charles F. - Memory Book This is a scrapbook of letters and pictures put together for the retirement of Rev. Wolfe in 1958.</p>

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Box 11	<p>Wolfe, Charles F. – “The Pastor’s Life Record Book” This is the pastoral record book of a Methodist Episcopal (later Methodist) minister featuring baptisms, marriages, funerals, etc. from his pastorates in Montana (1913-1925) and in Michigan at Norway (1925-1927), South Lyon (1927-1929), Detroit: Strathmoor (1929-1934), Alpena (1934-1939), Bay City: First (1939-1952), and as the District Superintendent for the Marquette District (1952-1958).</p> <p>York, Frances D. – “Address of Welcome to Mrs. W.X. Ninde on Her Return from the Orient” This is an address written to welcome the wife of Rev. William X. Ninde back from her trip to Asia.</p> <p>York, Frances D. – Bible Readings These are Bible readings from 1884.</p> <p>York, Frances D. – Publications These are publications written by Mrs. York.</p> <p>York, Frances D. – Woman’s Foreign Missionary Society These are notes, minutes, and publications on the Woman’s Foreign Missionary Society (1869-1893).</p> <p>York, Lodowick C. The following are historical sketches by Rev. York: “Brief Historical Sketch of George Washington” “Charles Wesley as a Poet” “Children’s Day” and related materials “General Grant” “Memorial for Sister Hoag (Wife of George Hoag)” “Pastoral Address” “Punctuality” “Sin a Cause of National Defeat, Righteousness the Cause of Prosperity” “Sunday School”</p>