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BETHEL LITERARY AND HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION RECORDS

MSRC Staff

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Scope Note

The records of the Bethel Literary and Historical Association of Washington, D.C. cover activities of the organization from 1895 to 1913 although the association was founded on November 9, 1881. This gap is partially due to inconsistencies in record keeping methods undertaken in the early stages of the organization's development.

Bishop Daniel Alexander Payne organized the association in Bethel Hall, a part of Union Bethel Church. Robert J. Smith, Annie Geary, and Amanda Bowen were the president, the vice-president, and the 2nd vice president respectively. The purpose of the association was to meet and discuss intellectual issues, a practice which was active during the first decade of the twentieth century.

The records include minutes of meetings for the period 1895 to 1913; two histories of the association; a few financial reports; copies of resolutions and appeals; and clippings pertaining to the association. These are contained in one box measuring « linear foot.
Organizational History

Two extensive histories of the Bethel Literary and Historical Association may be found in this collection under the series entitled History.
Series Description

Series A  History
Box 5-1    Two printed histories of the association one by John W. Cromwell, the
other by W. A. J., and holographic notes on the history of the association

Series B  Notices, Programs, etc.
Box 5-1    Printed announcements, programs, invitations concerning meetings and
activities of the Association

Series C  Minutes
Box 5-1    Includes two minutes books covering the years 1895-1901; plus dated
and undated loose notes of the meeting proceedings

Series D  Financial Papers
Box 5-1    Financial reports, for the years 1897-1897

Series E  Correspondence
Box 5-1    A letter from R. F. Boyd, MD, dated July 11, 1903, to Miss Laura E.
Joiner.

Series F  Documents
Box 5-1    Typescript, holographic and xeroxed copies of resolutions and appeals
written by the association

Series G  Manuscripts
Box 5-1    Incomplete document concerning the violation of human rights under the
constitution of the United States.

Series H  Clippings
Box 5-1    Dated and undated miscellaneous clippings relating to the association
Series A: History
Box Folder
5-1 1 History of the Bethel Literary and Historical Association, by John W. Cromwell, Founder's Day, 1896
2 History of the Bethel Literary and Historical Association, by W. A. J., Founder's Day, 1901
3 Notes on the history of the Bethel Literary and Historical Association, n.d.

Series B: Notices, Programs, etc.
4 Notices of meetings and programs of the Bethel Literary and Historical Association, 1895, 1913 nd undated

Series C: Minutes
5 Minutes of the Bethel Literary and Historical Association, 1898-1900 and undated
6 Minute book of the Bethel Literary and Historical Association, 1895-1900
7 Minute board and roster of members of the Bethel Literary and Historical Association, 1898-1900

Series D: Financial Papers
8 Financial reports of the Bethel Literary and Historical Association, 1897-1898

Series E: Correspondence
9 Letter from R. F. Boyd to Laura E. Joiner, 1903

Series F: Documents
10 Appeals of the Bethel Literary and Historical Association re.: the murders in the South, n.d.
11 Resolutions of the Bethel Literary and Historical Association, n.d.

Series G: Manuscripts
12 Manuscript, incomplete, re: human rights violated under the constitution, n.d.
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Clippings relating to the Bethel Literary and Historical Association, 1898 and undated