A Selected Bibliography of Works on Alabama Methodism*
Compiled by Susanna Miller
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Articles and theses
A discussion of the color barrier in the church in the South, especially as it became more rigorous at the turn of the century, and church attitudes towards this.

Short biography of a Methodist minister who advocated secession in his speeches and sermons.


A brief biography of Lorenzo Dow, an early and controversial Methodist preacher in Alabama.

A discussion of the schism in the church and the question of segregation in the church, both historical and contemporary.

General information about Methodist actions in the time leading up to the Civil War, especially their political activities; includes information about split in Methodist Episcopal Church, and actions of Methodist Episcopal Church, South.


* This bibliography does not include local church histories.
No. 2: 1882 January 4. “An account of some of the hardships suffered by the Methodist church in its early days, including rioting and scorn.”

No. 3: 1882 January 11. “Description of the author’s journey from Charleston to Alabama, the first important conversion in the town of Vernon, and the way in which new converts were ministered to.”

No. 4: 1882 January 18. “General information about Revs Peyton Graves and Meredith Kennon, as well as a commentary on the so called ‘Hard Shell Baptists’.”


No. 6: 1882 February 1. “Description of the controversy and eventual split over reform in 1823-24, the author’s subsequent move to the Coosa, the preaching of Joshua Boucher, and the continuing disagreements between the Methodists and Hard Shell Baptists.”

No. 7: 1882 February 8. “Report on one of the Reverend Brittain Capel’s sermons, as well as several incidents in the life of the author from the same time period.”

No. 8: 1882 February 15. “Information on church planting practices, especially as carried out by the Reverend Seaborn Mims, discord in the church and the importance for ministers to lead by example.”

No. 9: 1882 February 22. “Warning against too much levity in ministers with information about Leroy Messengale, who was, for a little while, under the protection and tutelage of the Reverend E. V. Levert.”

No. 10: 1882 March 1. “Description of how camp meetings were planned, how the sites were built, and how the meetings themselves were carried out.”

No. 11: 1882 March 8. “Depiction of the “protracted meetings” that succeeded the camp meeting in popularity.”

No. 12: 1882 March 22. “Reflections on the Alabama Conference meeting in Greensboro in 1834 or 1835.”


No. 14: 1882 April 12. “A brief history of the settling of the Alabama Black Belt with information about settlement, introduction of slaves, and missionary efforts directed towards slave populations.”

No. 15: 1882 April 19. “Continuation of the discussion of the Methodist ministry to African-Americans and slaves before the Civil War.”

No. 16: 1882 April 26. “List and description of some of the first ministers of the church in Greensboro.”

No. 17: 1882 May 3. “Information about several revivals held in Greensboro led by various ministers including Dr. E. Wadsworth, the Reverend Milburn, and Dr. Neely. Also gives information about the Reverend Robert Dickens.”


Discussion of attitudes and actions towards African-Americans at the turn of the century, especially attitudes of whites towards the education of blacks, as well as the inconsistencies and prejudices held by whites both inside and outside the church.

An examination of labor reform by studying articles from various denominational publications, including *The Alabama Christian Advocate* and *The Alabama Baptist*.

Discusses Methodist involvement in larger social reforms, especially among women in urban areas, and the role of organizations such as the Methodist Social Service Commission.

Details the growth of the African-American branches of the Methodist Church, starting in the pre-Civil War Era and continuing to the time of the article itself, giving details about church membership, practices and attitudes.


Discusses the history of camp Methodism in Alabama, concentrating on the work of circuit riders, the spread of camp meetings, and the eventual schism between the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

Hubbs, G. Ward. “Reconstructing the Union, Reconstructing the Church.”
Presentation detailing the actions of Methodists during Reconstruction. Includes information about black Southern Christians, confederate Christians, and Northern Christians.

Discusses the Methodists’ attempts to implement the social gospel with immigrants working in the iron and steel mills.
This article covers the history of camp meetings in the South. It concentrates on why they have been misunderstood and vilified, but also contains more general information about the meetings themselves. The article gives a description of the typical activities that would take place, including the preaching, and discusses the three stages of development that the camp meeting went through.

Presentation and paper about the work of “plantation ministers” among slaves after the schism in the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Study of Methodist attitudes towards a variety of contemporary social issues as based on a study of articles and editorials from *The Alabama Christian Advocate* and other Methodist publications.

Focuses on black Methodist women during slavery in the context of a larger book about women during slavery.

“Makers of Methodism in this Area.” (A series in the *Alabama Christian Advocate*)
No. 4: 1942 February 26. Brief biography of Lewis Capers Branscomb (d. 1930) by M. E. Lazenby.
No. 8: 1942 March 26. Brief biography of the Reverend Francis T. J. Brandon (b. 1832) by S. T. Slaton.
No. 9: 1942 April 2. Brief biography of Dr. Smith W. Moore (1818-1880) by Fred H. Peeples.
Essay about the role of women in the church in the South in a book about politics and religion in the South among whites.

A biography of a Methodist minister who served in Mobile and Montgomery.

An address summarizing conference history from 1832 read at the state conference of the Methodist Church in Montgomery in November 1942.

Discusses the treatment of, and mission work among, Cherokee Indian populations in the Tennessee River Valley, including Alabama; specifically addresses success of Methodists, early missionaries, and reaction to Cherokee removal.

General information about religious development in the Lower Mississippi Valley, with some specifics about Methodist work and Methodist ministers.


Morrow, Ralph E. “Northern Methodism in the South during Reconstruction.” *The Mississippi Valley Historical Review* 41 no. 2 (1954 September): 197-218. Discusses work of Northern Methodists in the South, their actions and the treatment they received, as well as attitudes of Methodists in both the North and South.


Owen, Christopher H. “To Refrain from ... Political Affairs”: Southern Evangelicals, Cherokee Missions, and the Spirituality of the Church.” *Tennessee Historical Quarterly* 1, no. 53 (1994): 20-29. Discusses the work of early Methodist ministers among the Cherokee and the struggle that developed first within the Methodist church and then between the Methodist church and the government, during the Cherokee removal.


Manuscript outline of a presentation discussing how religion was used to justify various aspects of the Civil War and explain both losses and military victories.


No. 1: 1881 May 25. Three pioneer Methodists.
No. 2: 1881 June 8. Looks back to one of the pioneers of Methodism in North Alabama – Colonel Jones McFerrin, describing some of his more notable successes, as well as his character and influence on Methodism.
No. 3: 1881 June 15. Discusses the Reverend James Faris, an early Methodist minister in Alabama and details one of his great sermons.
No. 4: 1881 June 22. Reminisces of the author on the life and career of the Reverend Leonard Tarrant, local Methodist preacher.
No. 5: 1881 June 29. Description of a harsh but effective sermon given by the Reverend James Faris in the town of Courtland.
No. 6: 1881 July 6. Brief description of the children and grandchildren of Samuel and Elizabeth Henderson, several of whom were influential in the early Methodist Church in Alabama.
No. 7: 1881 July 20. Short biography of the Revend Daniel Thomson, a Scotsman who was both preacher and schoolmaster in Madison County for many years.
No. 8: 1881 July 27. Comparison of contemporary sermons with those of the older camp meeting style of preaching and exhortation.
No. 9: 1881 August 3. Description of camp meetings that includes the story of a young female convert.
No. 11: 1881 August 17. The story of the Reverend Finch P. Scruggs and his family’s involvement with the Methodist Church in Alabama.
No. 12: 1881 August 24. Brief biography and description of Alexander Sale, a local preacher who was influential in early Alabama Methodism, especially in camp meetings.
No. 14: 1881 September 7. Account of the Reverend Samuel R. Davidson and one of his sermons at a camp meeting.
No. 15: 1881 September 14. Discussion of the Reverend Turner Saunders, an early Methodist preacher, and Dr. Jack Shackleford, a devoted Methodist, and their actions and influence on the church and community.
No. 18: 1881 October 5. Brief account of three women who were influential in early Methodism in Alabama and noted for their hospitality and piety: Harriet Cockrell, the three Goodwin sisters, and Ann H. Jones.

No. 19: 1881 October 12. The story of Joshua Boucher, an “apostle of Methodism in North Alabama.”

No. 20: 1881 October 19. Record of three lawyers who were strong Methodists and influential in early Methodism in Alabama: Colin S. Tarpley, Judge Ormond, and Daniel Coleman.

No. 21: 1881 October 26. Description of the life and work of Thomas Madden, an early Methodist minister.


No. 23: 1881 November 9. Brief biography of James O. Williams, an excellent minister in Alabama who, unfortunately, failed to reach his full potential.

No. 24: 1881 November 15. Description of Robert Paine who became president of LaGrange College in 1833.


No. 26: 1881 November 30. Depiction of the character and preaching of John Newland Maffit, a radical Methodist minister.

No. 28 [27]: 1882 January 4. Account of the author’s being chosen by Bishop Soule to go to college, rather than immediately taking an itinerancy. Also contains some information on Bishop Soule and the process of election of ministers.

No. 28: 1881 December 14. Discussion of Prof. Henry Tutwiler and a few other men influential in the church and at LaGrange College.

[No number 29]

No. 30: 1881 December 21. Discussion of Bishop James O. Andrew, whose slavery connections precipitated the secession of Southern Methodists; also highlights Dr. William Capers and Robert Paine, first bishops of MEC, South, with general information on split between MEC and MECS.

No. 31: 1881 December 28. Description of several incidents related to the founding of the Tennessee Conference Female Institute as well as list of those who were instrument in its development.

[Number 32 missing]


No. 34: 1882 January 18. Description of Littleton Fowler, North Alabama minister sent as a missionary to Texas.

No. 35: 1882 February 1. A brief biography of Dr. Edward Wadsworth, a Methodist minister who served as president of LaGrange College, beginning in 1846.

No. 36: 1882 February 8. Description of Dr. R. L. Kennon, a “father of Methodism” in Tuscaloosa and of his successor, Dr. Jefferson Hamilton.

No. 38: 1882 February 22. The story of the conversion and later good works of the Reverend Edgar Swope.

No. 39: 1882 March 1. Description of three Methodist women known for their strength of faith and character: Mrs. Pope, Mrs. Eliza Brandon, and Mrs. Saunders.

No. 40: 1882 March 8. Description of several women who were exemplary for their good works and faith: Mrs. Robert J. Watkins, Mrs. James E. Sanders, Mrs. Sarah J. Foster, Mrs. Harris, Polly Malone, and Mrs. Rebecca Hobbs.

No. 41: 1882 March 15. Information about the life and career of the Reverend Benjamin Hubbard who served as chair of Natural Science at the Female College of Athens as well as president of a women’s college in Jackson, Tennessee.

No. 42: 1882 March 22. Description of the inspirational preaching of the Reverend Philip P. Neely.

No. 43: 1882 March 29. Discusses the 1840 revival at LaGrange College and some of the influential people involved, including William Nicholson, James A. Moore, and Pleasant J. Eckles.

No. 44: 1882 April 5. Continuation of the discussion of the 1840 revival at LaGrange College, giving information about George Colgin, C. W. Rozzel, and Thomas Reese.

No. 45: 1882 April 12. Information about an 1844 revival in Athens, Alabama with details about conversions and effects.

No. 46: 1882 April 19. Description of a conversion during the 1844 revival in Athens that led to the reconciliation of two prominent members of the town.

No. 47: 1882 April 26. Another incident that grew out of the 1844 revival in Athens, the conversion of the family of Col. William Dickson, which in turn led to the deathbed conversion of a Mr. Warren, described in some detail.

No. 48: 1882 May 3. Description and discussion of the importance of the class meeting in Alabama Methodism and the more prominent leaders.

No. 49: 1882 May 10. Description of the relationship between white preachers and black congregations and the efforts of the Methodist church to convert them.

No. 50: 1882 May 24. List of several important ministers from the town of Gould and from Morgan County.

No. 51: 1882 May 31. Description of the founding of Huntsville Female College, some of its first presidents, and several people who transferred out of the Methodist church.


Tigert, J. J. *Bishop Holland Nimmons McTyeire*. Nashville: Vanderbilt University Press, 1955. The biography of Bishop Holland Nimmons McTyeire, a Methodist minister who founded Vanderbilt University and went on to serve in Mobile, Demopolis, and Montgomery, as written by his grandson.


Books
Adams, Oscar W. *The Church Extension Department of the African Methodist Episcopal, Zion Church*. Birmingham, Ala.: s.n, 1944.


Carmichael, J. M. *History of the Methodist Church in Dale County.* S.I.: Quarterly Conference of the Ozark Church, 1908.
A history of Methodism in Dale County, Alabama.

Discusses the roles and attitudes of the Methodist Church in Alabama during the Civil Rights movement.

Short biography of Hiram Glass Davis, a Methodist minister.

General history and development of church in South after the Civil War with some specific references to Alabama.


Memoir of Mary Davis Henry and her husband, Waights Gibbs Henry, Emory professor and Methodist minister.


Testimony of two African Americans attacked by police after voter registration at Zion Methodist Church.

A pictorial history that contains a final chapter by William Lindsey McDonald on the North Alabama Conference.
Important, long, and detailed compendium with information about annual conferences, biographical information about bishops, and colleges.

Includes information on the religion aspects of the Civil Rights struggle and the role of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.


Information about the history of Methodist educational practices in the South, including those of Tennessee and Alabama.


Includes missionaries to Alabama and the establishment of the Alabama Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

A history of Methodism told through pictures and biographical entries about hundreds of ministers, missionaries and deaconesses, and connectional leaders.


An abridgement of Ramsey’s autobiography.
The autobiography of A.C. Ramsey, an early Methodist minister who served as a circuit rider in Alabama.

One chapter discusses the state of Methodist Education in Alabama.

Methodist history including that of African American Methodists and church buildings.


Travis, Joseph, and Thomas O. Summers. *Autobiography of the Reverend Joseph Travis, A.M., a Member of the Memphis Annual Conference: embracing a succinct history of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, particularly in part of western Virginia, the Carolinas, Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi: with short memoirs of several local preachers, and an address to his friends*. Nashville, E. Stevenson & F. A. Owens, agents, for the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, 1856.

Important and influential history of Alabama Methodism covering the frontier days through 1865; reprint edition includes an index compiled by Franklin Shackelford Moseley.

History of the Methodist Children’s Home in Selma, Alabama.

Information about and history of Methodism in Baldwin County, Alabama.