SUMMARY INFORMATION

Title: Andrew J. S. Thomas Papers
Dates: 1875-1879, 1889 and undated
Accession #: 1952-001
Creator: Thomas, Andrew Jackson Spears, 1852-1911
Physical Description: 3.75 linear feet (3 boxes)
Languages: Collection material in English.
Processed by: Special Collections staff processed the collection. Julia A. Cowart updated the finding aid in 2018.
Summary: Seminary lecture notes, a scrapbook and writings from a S.C. Baptist pastor who served as editor of The Baptist Courier and was active in the S.C. Baptist Convention.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Acquisition:

Biographical Sketch:
Andrew J. S. Thomas was born at Bennettsville, December 14, 1852, being one of eleven children born to Rev. Dr. J.A.W. Thomas and Margaret (Spears) Thomas. He attended Furman University 1872-1875. Dr. Thomas went from Furman to the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, where he graduated in 1879.

- Ordained June 24, 1877
- 1880 to 1883 - First pastorate was at Batesburg.
- 1883 to 1887 - pastor of the First Baptist Church of Charleston.
- 1887 to 1891 - pastor at Orangeburg, leaving there in 1891 to become editor of The Baptist Courier.
- 1885 - Elected secretary of the S.C. Baptist Convention, a position that he held until 1891.
• 1889 - Elected vice president of the Foreign Mission Board of South Carolina.
• 1907 - President of the S.C. Baptist Convention, serving in that capacity two years.
• For many years he was a member of the State Missionary Board and of the boards of trustees of Southern Baptist Theological seminary and of Benedict College at Columbia.
• Received honorary degree of doctor of divinity by Columbia College at Washington.
• Died April 1, 1911 in Greenville, S.C.

Related material:
• Special Collections S.C. Baptist Biography file

USING THE COLLECTION

Access Restrictions: None.

Preferred Citation: [Identification of item], Andrew J. S. Thomas Papers, Acc. 1952-001 [Box#, Folder#], Special Collections and Archives, Furman University, Greenville, S.C.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Andrew J. S. Thomas Papers consist of lecture notes in six handwritten journals from classes Thomas attended as a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, 1875-1878, both in Greenville, S.C. and in Louisville, Ky.

The scrapbook contains newspaper clippings pasted and loose. A number of articles are from the Baptist Courier authored by Thomas; the author is unknown in others. Miscellanea includes a program from the Theological Seminary Annual Commencement, 1878, and a booklet of the Rules and By-Laws of the First Baptist Church in Charleston, SC, 1852.

The writings include handwritten lists, a printed letter “To the Baptists of South Carolina,” June 10, 1889, from A.J.S. Thomas, Vice President Foreign Missionary Board; a form letter requesting donations to repair earthquake damage to the Morris Street Baptist Church, Charleston [colored congregation], with commendation by A.J. S. Thomas, Pastor, First Baptist Church, Charleston [188X]; and a handwritten “Report on Foreign Missions,” undated.

CONTENTS INVENTORY

Box 1 – Lecture Notes
1. Greek History, Furman University, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Greenville, S.C., September 29, 1875
2. Bible Introduction, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Greenville, S.C., October 22, 1875
3. New Testament, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Greenville, S.C., September 2, 1876
Box 2 – Lecture Notes
1. Systematic Theology, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, K.Y., September 4, 1877
2. Polemics, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, K.Y., September 4, 1878
3. Ecclesiastical theology, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, K.Y., September 3, 1879

Box 3
- Scrapbook, 1877-1889 and undated
- Folder – Miscellanea
- Folder - Newspaper Clippings
- Folder - Writings