SUMMARY INFORMATION

Title: Dr. Samuel J. Gardner Papers
Dates: c. 1920s-1950s
Accession #: 2003-009
Creator: Gardner, Samuel Jefferson, 1905-1961
Physical Description: 4.0 linear feet (5 boxes)
Languages: Collection material in English.
Processed by: Melissa Bateman initially processed the collection. Julia A. Cowart updated the finding aid in 2019.
Summary: Poetry, tracts, and short sermons of a South Carolina Baptist pastor known as The Preacher Poet.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Acquisition:
This collection was given by Sarah Kennedy and Winona Belote in May of 2003.

Related Material:
- S.C. Baptist Biography file for Samuel J. Gardner

Biographical Sketch:
Samuel Jefferson Gardner was born December 17, 1905 in Barnwell County, South Carolina. He attended Edisto Academy at Severn, South Carolina and graduated from Furman University in 1928. Gardner was ordained at Earle Street Baptist Church in Greenville in 1928. Gardner married Florence McJunkin on July 7, 1929 and together they had three children: Sarah Gardner Kennedy, Winona Gardner Belote, and Sam J. Gardner, Jr.. Gardner died November 1, 1961.
Gardner was a public school teacher for 11 years and a pastor for over 30 years. He pastored the following churches in Pickens, Greenwood, Anderson, Easley, and Greenville counties: Horeb, Oolenoy, Cedar Rock, Holly Springs, Pickens, Secona, Siloam, Reedy River, Judson, and Rock Hill. Gardner published *Poems and Epigrams* in 1930 and his autobiography “Over Fifty Glorious Years” in 1959.

Gardner called himself “The Preacher Poet” as he wrote poetry, sermonettes, tracts, “Quotable Quatrains,” and “Pungent Pointers” that were published regularly for twenty years in South Carolina newspapers, and Christian papers such as Southern Baptist News, Union Gospel Press, The Baptist Courier, Christ for the World Messenger, and Your Good Neighbor (a monthly news magazine). Gardner was also heard on the radio in the Radio Bible Hour, Inc. In 1948, an honorary Doctorate of Literature was awarded to Gardner in recognition of his writings.

**USING THE COLLECTION**

**Access Restrictions:** None.

**Preferred Citation:** [Identification of item], Dr. Samuel J. Gardner Papers, Acc. 2003-009 [Box #, Folder #], Special Collections and Archives, Furman University, Greenville, S.C.

**ARRANGEMENT**

This collection is organized by material type.

Series 1, Writings
Series 2, Scrapbooks
Series 3, Published materials belonging to Gardner

**SCOPE AND CONTENT**

The majority of this collection contains Gardner’s writings, which include his poetry, tracts, and short sermons. The published material includes a copy of his *Poems and Epigrams* published in 1930 and his personal Bible.

“Pithy Persuasives” are published tracts by Gardner while a pastor at Judson Baptist Church in Greenville. Gardner numbered the writings and included a typed table of contents. The notebook contents were divided into two folders.

The “Christian Gems” typescript, originally in a notebook, contains over 3000 poems by Gardner. The notebook contents were divided into six folders.
The “Pungent Pointers” typescript are six books or volumes of pointed sayings Gardner wrote while preparing sermons. There is a topic index for each volume. The contents were originally in notebooks and were divided into five folders.

The scrapbooks contain newspaper clippings of his poems, sermons, and columns. The scrapbook, Over Fifty Glorious Years: A Life Story, includes newspaper clippings of Gardner’s autobiography of the same name that was published as a running column in the Pickens Sentinel during 1958-1959.

COLLECTION INVENTORY

Series 1, Writings

Box 1
Folder 1. Manuscript, “My Daddy’s Razor Strap and other Poems,” by The Preacher Poet, undated
Folder 2. “Pithy Persuasives” (folder 1 of 2)
Folder 3. “Pithy Persuasives” (folder 2 of 2)

Box 2:
Folder 10. Typescript, “Pungent Pointers”- Book No. 1 [6064 in this volume]

Box 3:
Folder 11. Typescript, “Pungent Pointers”- Book No. 2
Folder 12. Typescript, “Pungent Pointers”- Book No. 3
Folder 13. Typescript, “Pungent Pointers”- Book No. 4
Folder 14. Typescript, “Pungent Pointers”- Book No. 5

Series 2, Scrapbooks
Box 4:
- Over Fifty Glorious Years: A Life Story. Scrapbook for Mrs. S.J. Gardner.
- 1958 Scrapbook
- Scrapbook
Series 3, Published Material

Box 5:

- Gardner, Samuel J. *Poems and Epigrams*.
- Bass, W.L. *Astronomical Commentaries 1928, Celestial Growth Series.* - 2 copies
- Brush, John Woolman. *Baptists in Massachusetts*.
- Hunter, Mary M. *Album of Southern Baptist Foreign Missionaries*.
- Jamison, A.T. *Forty Years of Connie Maxwell History*.
- Gardner’s Bible