Descriptive Summary

Title: Samuel Robinson Belk papers, 1882-1928
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 101
Extent: 3 cubic feet (6 boxes)
Abstract: Consists of Belk's sermons and lectures, as well as an unidentified manuscript and other miscellaneous papers.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access
Unrestricted access.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction
All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction.

Citation
[after identification of item(s)], Samuel Robinson Belk Papers, Archives and Manuscript Dept., Pitts Theology Library, Emory University.

Processing

Collection Description

Biographical Note
Samuel Robinson Belk was born in Waxhaw, North Carolina, on March 21, 1859. He was the son of John Wesley and Elizabeth McCain Belk. He was educated at Jackson Forest Academy, received an A.B. degree from Rutherford College in North Carolina in 1882 and an M.A. degree, also from Rutherford, in 1892. In 1909 he was awarded a D.D. from the University of Georgia.
In 1884 Belk was given his license to preach. He was admitted on probation to the North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South (M.E.C.S.), where he served the Carver's Creek Circuit from 1885-1886. Belk married Joanna Catherine Council on June 3, 1886. The couple had five children: two sons, Paul and Samuel, and three daughters, Mary, Lee, and Ruth.

Belk was ordained as an elder in the M.E.C.S. in 1888 and was sent to serve a congregation in Pueblo, Colorado. In 1889 he returned to the North Georgia Conference where he served for the next 38 years. His charges included Villa Rica (1890); Payne Memorial (1891-1892); First Church, Gainesville (1893-1894); First Church, Rome (1895-1898); Elberton (1899-1900); Marietta (1901-1902); St. James, Augusta (1903-1906); St. Mark, Atlanta (1907-1910); Park Street, Atlanta (1911-1913); First Church, Athens (1917-1918); Trinity, Atlanta (1919-1924); and Grace, Atlanta (1925-1928). He served as presiding elder of the Gainesville district from 1914 through 1916.

The Reverend Belk served as a trustee of Wesleyan College, La Grange College, and Young Harris College. He died on May 25, 1928, while attending a trustee's meeting at Wesleyan College in Macon, Georgia.

Scope and Content Note
The bulk of this collection consists of the Reverend Samuel Robinson Belk's sermons and lectures. It includes one paper written in 1882 while Belk was a student at Rutherford College, and one loose sermon that dates from Belk's early service in the North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. The rest were recorded in bound journals between the years 1887 and 1924. Some volumes contain sermons and lectures on a variety of topics including prohibition, Sunday Schools, Methodism, and regeneration. Other volumes contain sermons or lectures focused on a particular theme. Subjects in these volumes include revival sermons, missionary sermons, people of the Bible, sermons on the Sabbath, and many others. Each volume has a table of contents. At the end of each entry are Scripture references, a date, and a place name. Most entries are dated in chronological order. Some volumes contain prefaces. Other items written by Belk include an unidentified manuscript (ca. 1880) and a volume of prayers written in 1921 for his wife and children. Miscellaneous materials include a brief biographical sketch of Belk written by his granddaughter, Joanna Johnson; a memorial to Dora Rankin, missionary to China, written by Belk's wife, Catherine Council Belk; genealogies of the Belk and Council families; two photographs of Samuel Robinson Belk, and photocopies of Belk family photographs.

Arrangement Note
Arranged by type of material and chronologically thereunder.
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## Sermons

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Other Files
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5 2 Unidentified manuscript, circa 1880s
5 3 Belk family genealogy
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| 5  | 5 | S.R. Belk’s New Year's Resolutions |
| 5  | 6 | The Women’s Missionary work, a tribute in memoriam of Dora Raukin, by Catherine C. Belk, undated |
| 5  | 7 | Photographs of S.R. Belk, 1893, undated |
| 5  | 8 | Photographs from Belk family album, 1886-1892, undated |
| 5  | 9 | Photographs from Belk family album, cont. and letter, 1903, 1912, undated |
| 5  | 10 | Photographs of Belk family members, 1888, 1903, undated |
| 5  | 11 | Photographs of Ruth Belk Griffin and others from envelope labeled “Ruth Belk Griffin for Billy.” |
| 5  | 12 | Newspaper clipping about S.R. Belk, incomplete, 1928 January 16 |
| 6  | 1 | Oversized photograph of unidentified woman [circa 1920s possibly Ruth Belk] |