METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH,
SOUTH. TELFAIR CIRCUIT (GEORGIA).
Telfair Circuit (Methodist Episcopal Church, South) record book, 1829-1850.

Emory University
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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Telfair Circuit (Georgia).
Title: Telfair Circuit (Methodist Episcopal Church, South) record book, 1829-1850.
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 408
Extent: .2 cubic feet (1 box)
Abstract: Consists of the record book of the Little Ocmulgee Circuit, the Jacksonville (Georgia) Circuit, and the Telfair Circuit of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South from 1829-1850.
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.

Source
Gift, 1917.

Custodial History
This bound manuscript was accessioned by Emory University's School of Theology Library in 1917 (Accession # 19). The book exhibits signs of scribbles and practice writing by Henry Bascomb Dopson (1848-1919), son of Telfair Circuit member Alexander Thomas Dopson. Although its provenance is not entirely known, it is likely that the work was in the possession of Alexander T. Dobson and then Henry B. Dopson until it was donated to Emory two years prior to Dopson's passing.

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The name of the circuit changed from the Little Ocmulgee Circuit to the Jacksonville Circuit in 1837. Then in 1840, the circuit changed its name to the Telfair Circuit. When, in 1844, the Methodist Episcopal Church decided to split into Northern and Southern branches, the church in the South became the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. This name change is reflected in the manuscript during the year 1845.


Scope and Content Note
This manuscript records basic activity of the Methodist Church in Telfair County, Georgia from 1829 to 1850. The circuit that operated in this area first went by the name Little Ocmulgee Circuit (1829-1836), then Jacksonville Circuit (1837-1839), and lastly Telfair Circuit (1840-1850). The circuit meetings were held quarterly, and the notes for each meeting
describe its location and date as well as which members were present. The manuscript records minutes related to the circuit, such as resolutions, complaints, disputes, trials, and finances. A number of Georgia Methodists are listed in the minutes. The list of presiding elders over the period covered in this manuscript includes Josiah Evans, George Asbury Chappel, William Justice Parks, George W. Carter, William Choice, John W. Talley, Leonard C. Peek, John C. Simmons, Frederick D. Lowry, and John Moore Bright. Numerous place names are mentioned in the manuscript, many of which were used as meeting places for the circuit. These include: Jacksonville, the camp ground (now unincorporated town of Temperance), Bethel Church (now China Hill), Dublin, Hogan's Branch (possibly Twiggs County or Wilcox County), Concord campground (possibly the same as in Temperance), Centenary (Church), Alston's Camp ground, Alexander Thomas Dopson's house, Phelps' meeting house, John Hudson's meeting house, and Powell's school house.

Records prior to this period have been permanently destroyed. At the beginning of the volume, there is a note signed by Charles S. Shelton, stating the following:

"The Recordbook and Minutes previous to this and which were handed over to me when I was appointed Recording Steward were all burned up with the burning of my house.

"C. S. Shelton/15th October, 1844"

Arrangement Note
Collection contains only one item.
Container List

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