

**ASBURY, FRANCIS, 1745-1816.**  
**Francis Asbury collection, 1791-1978**

Emory University  
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**Descriptive Summary**

**Creator:** Asbury, Francis, 1745-1816.  
**Title:** Francis Asbury collection, 1791-1978  
**Call Number:** Manuscript Collection No. 36  
**Extent:** .5 linear ft. (2 boxes)  
**Abstract:** Collection of material relating to Francis Asbury, a missionary and bishop with the Methodist Episcopal Church in America.  
**Language:** Materials entirely in English.

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**Administrative Information**

**Restrictions on Access**

Unrestricted access.

**Terms Governing Use and Reproduction**

Special restrictions apply: Due to the fragile nature of the originals, researchers are required to use photocopies.

**Related Materials in This Repository**

William Larkin Duren papers.

**Source**

Gift, 1974.

**Citation**

[after identification of item(s)], Francis Asbury collection, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

**Processing**

Processed by Kathy Shoemaker, November 21, 2005.

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## **Collection Description**

### **Biographical Note**

Francis Asbury was born August 20, 1745 in Handsworth, near Birmingham, England and died March 31, 1816 in Spottsylvania, Virginia. In 1767, he was ordained a Methodist minister and in 1771 he volunteered to be a missionary to the American colonies. Asbury was the only Methodist missionary to remain in the colonies throughout the American Revolution. By 1784, Asbury had become bishop of the newly organized Methodist Episcopal Church in America. As part of his missionary work, Asbury traveled widely throughout the South, including Georgia, South Carolina and Tennessee.

### **Scope and Content Note**

The collection consists of materials relating to Francis Asbury including correspondence, a copy of Asbury's last will and testament, notes on Methodist Conferences, and printed material. The four pieces of correspondence includes a autobiographical letter from Abraham Andrews (1800), an 1805 letter from Asbury to Thomas Coke, and a letter from Soloman Sias (Rochester, New Hampshire) in 1812. Of particular interest is a handwritten reply to a question posed to the Western Annual Conference in 1808 regarding slavery and a petition to Governor Edward Telfair signed by Asbury and others for a charter to incorporate the Methodist Episcopal Church in Georgia in 1791.

### **Arrangement Note**

Arranged by record type.

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## Container List

### Correspondence [Photocopies]

Box	Folder	Content
1	1	Abraham Andrews, Carlisle Circuit, to Francis Asbury, July 21, 1800, autobiographical sketch of Andrews' life contained in a small booklet, 32 pp.
1	2	Francis Asbury, Baltimore, to Thomas Coke, April 15, 1805, 1 pp., together with "An affectionate address from the South Carolina conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church to their Brethren in the Quarter meeting conferences in the Districts and Circuits of their charge as altered and adopted by the Virginia and Baltimore Conferences," 2 pp.
1	3	Solomon Sias, Rochester, New Hampshire, to Francis Asbury, and Rev. William McKendry [M'Kendree], February 6, 1812, 2 pp.
1	4	"P.S. to Bishop Asbury's letter to the Rev. Joseph Benson," 2 pp. unsigned, undated

### Other papers [Photocopies]

1	5	Western Annual Conference, "Question: What method shall be taken with a member of our society that [document torn] the slave trade, and shall buy or sell a slave, or slaves," signed Francis Asbury and William McKendry [M'Kendree], Liberty Hill, Tennessee, October, 1808
1	6	Notes regarding General Conferences by [Francis Asbury], 1808-1812
1	7	Francis Asbury's "Last Will and Testament" drawn up June 7, 1813, executed April 29, 1814
1	8	Sermon (address), South Carolina, January 15, 1816, signed Francis Asbury and Thomas Maron
1	9	"Petition of Sundry persons for Charter of Incorporation for the Methodist Episcopal Church," signed by Francis Asbury and fifteen other signers to his Excellency Edward Telfair, Esq., Captain and General Commander in Chief of the State of Georgia, March 18, 1791
1	10	Handwritten notes by an unnamed author arguing in support of Francis Asbury's statement regarding the formation of the first permanent Methodist society in America, undated

### Printed material

1	11	Church bulletins, 1944, 1978
1	12	Together, the midmonth magazine for Methodist families, vol. 3, no. 11, November, 1959
1	13	Typed transcription of historical marker for Bethel United Methodist Church, (Brick Church) 1977
1	14	Portrait of Francis Asbury, [frontispiece] from unknown publication

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| 1 | 15 | Articles reproduced from unknown source: "An Ignored Historical Character",<br>and "The Pioneer Bishop" |
| 1 | 16 | "Francis Asbury and Georgia" by Bishop William R. Cannon, article, n.d.                                 |
| 1 | 17 | "Francis Asbury Bicentennial National Celebration Reported", article n.d.                               |
| 1 | 18 | Postcard illustrating ordination of Francis Asbury in 1784, n.d.  |
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