Collection Summary
Title: James Dodson Barbee and David Rankin Barbee Papers
Span Dates: 1784-1953
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1852-1904)
ID No.: MSS11767
Creator: Barbee, James Dodson, 1832-1904
Creator: Barbee, David Rankin, 1874-1958
Extent: 5,000 items; 17 containers plus 1 oversize; 7.2 linear feet; 2 microfilm reels
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Summary: James Dodson Barbee, Methodist clergyman in Tennessee and Alabama and publishing agent, and son David Rankin Barbee, journalist. Correspondence, including family letters, notebooks, account books, printed matter, notes, and sermons chiefly relating to the Methodist Publishing House, Nashville, Tennessee, and to claims of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, growing out of Civil War property confiscations, and to the writings and research of David Rankin Barbee.

Selected Search Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People
Barbee family--Correspondence.
Barbee, James Dodson, 1832-1904.
Buchanan, James, 1791-1868--Correspondence.
Cunningham, John Whitfield, 1805-1874--Correspondence.
Dabney, Virginius, 1835-1894--Correspondence.
Davis, Jefferson, 1808-1889.
Denny, Collins, 1854-1943--Correspondence.
Duncan, Waddy T. (Waddy Thompson), 1867--Correspondence.
Duncan, William Wallace--Correspondence.
Hoss, E. E. (Elijah Embree), 1849-1919--Correspondence.
Keener, John Christian, 1819-1906--Correspondence.
Morris, James Craik, 1870-1944--Correspondence.
Plitt, George. George Plitt papers. 1836-1873.
Reeves, Elbert C., 1841-1929--Correspondence.

Organizations
All Souls Memorial Episcopal Church (Washington, D.C.)
Cleveland Park Memorial Library.
Methodist Episcopal Church, South.
Methodist Publishing House.

Subjects
African Americans.
Methodist Church--Tennessee.
Publishers and publishing--Tennessee--Nashville.
Religious literature.
Slavery--United States.

Places
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Claims.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Religious aspects.

Occupations
Editors.
Historians.

Administrative Information

Provenance
The papers of James Dodson Barbee, Methodist clergyman in Tennessee and Alabama and publishing agent, and his son, David Rankin Barbee, journalist, were given to the Library of Congress by David Rankin Barbee from 1946 to 1956. The George Plitt papers, comprising the Historical File, Part A, in the collection, were loaned to the Library for photocopying and microfilming through David Rankin Barbee by Mrs. Edson W. Briggs. Microfilm made for David Rankin Barbee of the Albert Taylor Bledsoe papers held by the University of Virginia was added to the collection in 1981.

Processing History
The papers of James Dodson Barbee and David Rankin Barbee were arranged in 1953 and revised or expanded in 1964, 1970, 1978, and 1981. The finding aid was revised in 2011.

Additional Guides

Copyright Status
The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of James Dodson Barbee and David Rankin Barbee is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions
The papers of James Dodson Barbee and David Rankin Barbee are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Microfilm
A microfilm edition of part of these papers is available on three reels. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition as available.

Preferred Citation
Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, James Dodson Barbee and David Rankin Barbee Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

James Dodson Barbee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1832, Mar. 16</td>
<td>Born, Lawrence County, Ala.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1852</td>
<td>Admitted as itinerant minister, Tennessee Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South</td>
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<tr>
<td>1853-1867</td>
<td>Minister at various parishes in Alabama</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1866 Married Margaret R. Rankin
1868-1869 Minister, Elm Street Church, Nashville, Tenn.
1869 Presiding elder, Huntsville District, Methodist Episcopal Church, South
1870-1873 Presiding elder, Fayetteville
1873-1877 Minister at Murfreesboro, Tenn.
1877-1879 Presiding elder, Columbia District, Methodist Episcopal Church, South
1879-1883 Minister, Clarksville, Tenn.
1882 Delegate, General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, Nashville, Tenn.
1883-1887 Minister, McKendree Church, Nashville
1887-1904 Book agent, Methodist Publishing House
1898 Settled war claims of Methodist Publishing House
1896-1899 Reporter, Nashville Banner
1901 Reporter, Nashville American
1901-1908 Telegraph editor, Memphis Commercial Appeal
1908 Editor, Chattanooga Star
1908-1910 News editor, Memphis Commercial Appeal
1910-1911 Managing editor, Montgomery Advertiser
1911-1918 Managing editor, Mobile Register
1913 Married Elina Guzman
1918-1926 News editor, New Orleans States

David Rankin Barbee
Date Event
1874, Oct. 15 Born, Murfreesboro, Tenn.
circa 1892-1895 Studied at Emory and Henry College, Emory, Va., and Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn.
1896-1899 Reporter, Nashville Banner
1901 Reporter, Nashville American
1901-1908 Telegraph editor, Memphis Commercial Appeal
1908 Editor, Chattanooga Star
1908-1910 News editor, Memphis Commercial Appeal
1910-1911 Managing editor, Montgomery Advertiser
1911-1918 Managing editor, Mobile Register
1913 Married Elina Guzman
1918-1926 News editor, New Orleans States
1926-1928 Managing editor, Asheville Citizen
1928-1932 Feature writer, Washington Post
1933 Assistant to secretary of commerce
1933-1940 Special assistant, Federal Alcohol Administration
1940-1942 Public Relations Department, Treasury Department
1947 Published "The Capture of Jefferson Davis." Tyler's Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine
1958, Mar. 7 Died, Orange, Tex.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of James Dodson Barbee (1832-1904) and David Rankin Barbee (1874-1958) span the years 1784-1953, with the bulk of the material dating from 1852 to 1904. Material relating to James Dodson Barbee largely dates between 1852 and his death in 1904, while that of his son, David Rankin Barbee, was compiled in the first half of the twentieth century. The collection is organized into the following series: General Correspondence; Sermons and Notebooks; Account Books; Historical File; Subject File; Printed Matter; Scrapbook; and Microfilm.

The General Correspondence consists of family letters and correspondence between James Dodson Barbee and a variety of his brother ministers regarding church matters, problems in operating the Methodist Publishing House, in Nashville, Tennessee, and church war claims for property taken during the Civil War as well as secular press reaction to them. The only sizable individual correspondent outside the family is Collins Denny of Virginia, a bishop who exchanged letters with David Rankin Barbee over the five-year span 1927-1931. Other correspondents include John Whitfield Cunningham, Virginius Dabney, Waddy T. Duncan, William Wallace Duncan, E. E. Hoss, John Christian Keener, James Craik Morris, and Elbert C. Reeves.

The Subject File largely relates to the special interests of David Rankin Barbee and includes letters, research notes, printed matter, clippings, a manuscript for a book on Jefferson Davis, and material related to the All Souls Memorial Episcopal Church and the Cleveland Park Memorial Library, both located in Washington, D.C. The file also contains a book of conference proceedings for the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, held inClarksville, Tennessee, and kept by James Dodson Barbee.

The Historical File is divided into two parts. Part A is comprised of photostatic copies of letters of James Buchanan to his friend, George Plitt, with various other letters to Plitt from Pierce Butler, William B. Fordney, and John W. Forney, as well as letters from James Buchanan to William L. Hirst and Forney; a letter from William Rice to Forney; one from Lord Erskine to Buchanan; one from Forney to Buchanan; a Forney obituary of George Plitt (typescript copy); and two statements by unknown authors. The Plitt materials are positive photocopies and appear on the microfilm except for two negative photocopies and the Forney obituary of Plitt. Part B comprises a variety of letters and documents, some original but mostly photostatic copies or typescripts, and some historical clippings. Many of the items in Part B pertain to Albert Taylor Bledsoe. The Microfilm was made for David Rankin Barbee and is comprised of the Albert Taylor Bledsoe papers held by the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia.

Sermons and Notebooks contain individual sermons and sermon drafts as well as notebooks including sermons, Biblical references, and lists of either Bible class or Sunday school members. The Account Books are comprised of notepads and notebooks listing expenses, including church expenses and Sunday school offerings. The collection is rounded out by Printed Matter and an oversized Scrapbook regarding Negro slavery.
Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in eight series:

- General Correspondence, 1852-1951
- Sermons and Notebooks, circa 1861-circa 1903
- Account Books, 1867-1903
- Historical File, 1784-1937
- Subject File, circa 1865-circa 1953
- Printed Matter, 1885-1901
- Scrapbook, 1904-1928
- Microfilm, circa 1858-circa 1904
Description of Series

**Container**  
**Series**

**BOX 1-4**  
**General Correspondence, 1852-1951**  
Letters sent and received and related material.  
Arranged chronologically by year with undated letters placed at the end and arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent.

**BOX 5-6**  
**Sermons and Notebooks, circa 1861-circa 1903**  
Sermons and sermon drafts, notes, and notebooks.  
Unarranged.

**BOX 7**  
**Account Books, 1867-1903**  
Notepads and notebooks containing lists of expenses.  
Unarranged.

**BOX 8**  
**Historical File, 1784-1937**

**BOX 8**  
**Part A, 1836-1873**  
Photostatic copies of letters to George Plitt from or concerning James Buchanan.  
Arranged alphabetically by name of writer or recipient and therein chronologically.  
*Available on microfilm except for two negative photocopies and the Forney obituary of Plitt. Microfilm shelf no. 4,471.*

**BOX 9**  
**Part B, 1784-1937**  
Original and photostatic copies of letters, clippings, articles, and printed matter, including a group of papers of Albert Taylor Bledsoe.  
Arranged alphabetically with the items from the Albert Taylor Bledsoe papers arranged chronologically.  
*See also Microfilm. Microfilm shelf no. 18,651.*

**BOX 10-16**  
**Subject File, circa 1865-circa 1953**  
Letters, clippings, printed matter, research notes, and book manuscript drafts.  
Arranged by subject.

**BOX 17**  
**Printed Matter, 1885-1901**  
Newspaper clippings, pamphlets, and extracts.  
Arranged by type of material.

**BOX 18**  
**Scrapbook, 1904-1928 (Oversize)**  
Scrapbook on Negro slavery.

**REEL 1**  
**Microfilm, circa 1858-circa 1904**  
Microfilm of Albert Taylor Bledsoe papers. *Microfilm shelf no. 18,651.*  
Arranged as filmed.
## Container List

<table>
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<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
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</table>
| BOX 1-4   | **General Correspondence, 1852-1951**  
Letters sent and received and related material.  
Arranged chronologically by year with undated letters placed at the end and arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent. |

| BOX 1     | 1852-1894  
(20 folders) |
| BOX 2     | 1895-1898  
(13 folders) |
| BOX 3     | 1899-1903  
(11 folders) |
| BOX 4     | 1904-1951, undated  
(28 folders) |

| BOX 5-6   | **Sermons and Notebooks, circa 1861-circa 1903**  
Sermons and sermon drafts, notes, and notebooks.  
Unarranged. |

| BOX 5     | Sermons and notes, undated  
(61 folders) |
| BOX 6     | Notebooks, 1861-1903, undated  
(9 folders) |

| BOX 7     | **Account Books, 1867-1903**  
Notepads and notebooks containing lists of expenses.  
Unarranged. |

| BOX 8     | **Historical File, 1784-1937** |

| BOX 8     | **Part A, 1836-1873**  
Photostatic copies of letters to George Plitt from or concerning James Buchanan.  
Arranged alphabetically by name of writer or recipient and therein chronologically.  
*Available on microfilm except for two negative photocopies and the Forney obituary of Plitt. Microfilm shelf no. 4,471.* |

| BOX 8     | B-U, 1836-1873, undated *Includes the following correspondents:*  
(10 folders) |
| BOX 8     | Buchanan, James, to William L. Hirst, 1852 |
| BOX 8     | Buchanan, James, to John W. Forney, 1848-1850 |
| BOX 8     | Buchanan, James, to George Plitt, 1836-1855, undated |
| BOX 8     | Butler, Pierce, to George Plitt, 1856 |
| BOX 8     | Erskine, Lord, to James Buchanan, 1855 |
| BOX 8     | Fordney, William B., to James Buchanan, 1845 |
Historical File, 1784-1937

Container   Contents

BOX 8  Fordney, William B., to George Plitt, 1845
BOX 8  Forney, John W., to George Plitt, 1853-1859, undated
BOX 8  Forney, John W., obituary of George Plitt in the Philadelphia Press, 1873
BOX 8  Rice, William, to John W. Forney, 1854
BOX 8  Unknown, statements, undated

BOX 9  Part B, 1784-1937
Original and photostatic copies of letters, clippings, articles, and printed matter, including a
group of papers of Albert Taylor Bledsoe.
Arranged alphabetically with the items from the Albert Taylor Bledsoe papers arranged
chronologically.
See also Microfilm. Microfilm shelf no. 18,651.

BOX 9  A-V, 1784-1937, undated Includes the following correspondents:
(40 folders)
BOX 9  Anderson (S.C.) Daily Record on the burning of Columbia, clipping, 1937
BOX 9  Barbé-Marbois, to unknown correspondent, 1816
BOX 9  Bayard, James A., to T. A. Cheney, 1863
BOX 9  Blair, Montgomery, to Cassius M. Clay, 1881
BOX 9  Bledsoe, Albert Taylor, to Jefferson Davis, 1864
BOX 9  Bledsoe, Albert Taylor, papers (chronologically arranged)
BOX 9  Everett, Edward, to Albert Taylor Bledsoe, 1858, June 24
BOX 9  Henry, Joseph, to Albert Taylor Bledsoe, 1860, Feb. 19
BOX 9  Polk, Leonidas L., to Albert Taylor Bledsoe, 1861, July 18
BOX 9  Smith, Stephen, to Albert Taylor Bledsoe, 1861, Aug. 19
BOX 9  Spruce, James, to Albert Taylor Bledsoe, 1863, Jan. 7
BOX 9  De Leon, Edwin, to Albert Taylor Bledsoe, 1863, Mar. 27
BOX 9  Grinnaw, Cornelia, to Duke of Argyle, 1863, Sept. 12
BOX 9  Lee, Robert E., to Albert Taylor Bledsoe, 1866, Oct. 8
BOX 9  Wilmer, Richard, to Albert Taylor Bledsoe, 1866, Nov. 13
BOX 9  Hopkins, John H., to Albert Taylor Bledsoe, 1866, Nov. 23
BOX 9  McGoskey, William, to Albert Taylor Bledsoe, 1866, Dec. 21
BOX 9  Davis, Jefferson, to Albert Taylor Bledsoe, 1870, Mar. 22
BOX 9  Lamar, L. Q. C., to Albert Taylor Bledsoe, 1870, May 25
BOX 9  Lamar, L. Q. C., to Albert Taylor Bledsoe, 1870, May 30
BOX 9  Haldeman, J. J., to Albert Taylor Bledsoe, 1870, Dec. 29
BOX 9  Hampton, Wade, to Albert Taylor Bledsoe, 1871, Feb. 13
BOX 9  Davis, Jefferson, to Anna Bledsoe, 1871, May 15
BOX 9  Tyndall, John, to Mrs. S. B. Herrick, 1872, Dec. 1
BOX 9  Johnston, J. E., to Albert Taylor Bledsoe, 1873, July 11
BOX 9  Johnston, J. E., to Albert Taylor Bledsoe, 1873, July 22
BOX 9  Garland, L. C., to Albert Taylor Bledsoe, 1875, Feb. 11
BOX 9  Lyton, to unknown, 1875, June 26
BOX 9  Herschel, M. B., to S. Bledsoe Herrick, 1875, June
BOX 9  Darwin, C. L., to Mrs. J. B. Herrick, 1876, Mar. 6
BOX 9  Tyndall, John, to Mrs. J. B. Herrick, 1876, Mar. 7
BOX 9  Herschel, M. B., to unknown, 1876, Oct. 6
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BOX 9  Lowell, J. R., to Mrs. J. B. Herrick, 1876, Apr. 19
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BOX 9  Haldeman, S. S., to Albert Taylor Bledsoe, 1879, Mar. 28
BOX 9  Lamar, L. Q. C., to Anna Bledsoe, 1890, Mar. 24
BOX 9  Fiske, John, to Mrs. S. B. Herrick, 1894, June 20
BOX 9  Preston, Margaret J., to Albert Taylor Bledsoe, no year, May 24
BOX 9  Oliphat, M. V. W., to unknown, no year, July 6
BOX 9  Trewlett, T. W., to Albert Taylor Bledsoe, no year, Oct. 17
BOX 9  Buchanan, James, to Rose O'Neil Greenhow, 1852
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BOX 9  Collie, Alexander, to Rose O'Neil Greenhow, 1864
BOX 9  Coughlin, Rev. Charles E., campaign, clippings, 1936
BOX 9  Dunham, Charles A., plot to link Andrew Johnson with the Abraham Lincoln assassination, undated
BOX 9  Gillette, Abrham D., diary in Schenectady Union Times, clipping, 1831
BOX 9  Hough, Alfred L., to editors, Alta California, 1870
BOX 9  Jefferson, Thomas, to Horatio Turbin, 1802
BOX 9  Lamar, L. Q. C., to Jefferson Davis, undated
BOX 9  Lee, Robert E., to "Little H" (unknown), 1861
BOX 9  Lynn, Ezekiel, to Moses Lynn, 1864
BOX 9  Lynn, Levy, to Moses Lynn, 1842
BOX 9  Lynn, Moses, and George Tangell, to John M. Washington, contract to hire slave, 1853
BOX 9  Madison, James, to Robert R. Livingston, 1803
BOX 9  Marshall, John, to Hemphrey Marshall, 1833
BOX 9  Monroe, James, to unknown, on Missouri question, 1820
BOX 9  New York Sun, "Unwritten History," clipping, 1889
BOX 9  Olds, Fred A., "How Sherman's Army Entered Raleigh," with transmittal and clipping, 1865
BOX 9  Philadelphia Press, v. 24, articles on the James A. Garfield assassination, Jefferson Davis, and Henry Labouchere, clippings, 1881
BOX 9  Pierce, Franklin, to Jefferson Davis, 1860
BOX 9  Reed, Walter, to Albert E. Truby, 1900
BOX 9  Rhett, R. B., to New York Weekly Day-Book, 1866
BOX 9  Sowles, Thomas, to unknown, 1784
BOX 9  Sparks, Jared, to Rose O'Neil Greenhow, 1855
BOX 9  Stanton, Thomas, reward of merit from Trinity Church Sunday School, 1877
BOX 9  Struthers, Jeannie Gourley, to Eloysius I. Mudd, 1910
BOX 9  Taylor, Zachary, to Jefferson Davis, 1848
BOX 9  Vertrees, John J., article on "The Negro Problem," with foreword and index by Douglas Anderson, 1905
BOX 9  Virginia miscellany, Bethlehem, Prince William County Church of Jesus Christ, to Columbia Baptist Association, report, 1823
### Historical File, 1784-1937

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 10-16</td>
<td><strong>Subject File, circa 1865-circa 1953</strong>&lt;br&gt;Letters, clippings, printed matter, research notes, and book manuscript drafts. Arranged by subject.</td>
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<td>Davis, Jefferson</td>
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<td>Arrest-&quot;Petticoat Lie&quot;&lt;br&gt;(3 folders)</td>
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<td>BOX 10</td>
<td>Trial preparations&lt;br&gt;(2 folders)</td>
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<td>BOX 10</td>
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<td>BOX 10</td>
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<td>BOX 10</td>
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<td>BOX 13</td>
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<td>BOX 13</td>
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<td>BOX 14</td>
<td>Drafts and miscellaneous</td>
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<td>BOX 14</td>
<td>Book manuscript, circa 1951</td>
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<td>BOX 14</td>
<td>Methodist Episcopal Church, South, Clarksville, Tenn., conference proceedings, 1898</td>
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<td>BOX 14</td>
<td>Methodist Episcopal Church South, Nashville, Tenn.</td>
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<td>BOX 14</td>
<td>Cleveland Park Memorial Library, Washington, D.C.</td>
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<td>BOX 14</td>
<td>Manuscript of history by David Rankin Barbee</td>
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</tbody>
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<td>Connecticut Avenue Citizens Association, 1949-1953</td>
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<td>BOX 15</td>
<td>Grove, H.C., Elizabeth Groves, and Ganson Purcell</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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  (2 folders) |
| BOX 15    | Public library |
| BOX 15    | Coblenz, Catherine Cate |
| BOX 15    | Library papers |
| BOX 16    | Correspondence  
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| BOX 16    | Library fund |
| BOX 16    | Branch library, 1948-1953  
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| BOX 16    | Groundbreaking |
| BOX 16    | History of library movement |
| BOX 16    | Community Committee and Mrs. Cazenove Lee |
| BOX 16    | Erection of building |
| BOX 16    | Scrap metal drive |
| BOX 16    | Dedication |
| BOX 16    | Miscellaneous |
| BOX 17    | **Printed Matter, 1885-1901**  
  Newspaper clippings, pamphlets, and extracts.  
  Arranged by type of material. |
| BOX 17    | Newspaper clippings, undated |
| BOX 17    | Pamphlets and extracts, 1885-1901  
  (2 folders) |
| BOX 18    | **Scrapbook, 1904-1928 (Oversize)**  
  Scrapbook on Negro slavery. |
| REEL 1    | **Microfilm, circa 1858-circa 1904**  
  Microfilm of Albert Taylor Bledsoe papers. *Microfilm shelf no. 18,651*.  
  Arranged as filmed. |