

**JOHN D. FREEMAN
PAPERS**

AR 166



John D. Freeman, c. 1940.

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John D. Freeman Papers

AR 166

Summary

Main Entry: John D. Freeman Papers

Date Span: 1884 – 1974

Abstract: John D. Freeman was a pastor, editor, and recording secretary for the American Baptist Theological Seminary, 1924 – 1942, and the Sunday School Board, 1936 – 1942. His papers contain correspondence, minutes, and reports regarding primarily the reorganization efforts of the Sunday School Board and heresy charges against publications by the Board.

Size: .25 linear ft. (one box)

Collection #: AR 166

Biographical Sketch

John D. Freeman was the recording secretary for the American Baptist Theological Seminary from 1924 – 1942 and the Baptist Sunday School Board from 1936 – 1942. He was also editor of the *Baptist and Reflector*, the Tennessee Baptist state paper, from 1925 until 1933, when he became the Tennessee Baptist Convention's executive secretary-treasurer. From 1942 – 1946, Dr. Freeman worked as the editor of the *Western Recorder*, the Kentucky Baptist state paper. He then served as secretary of the Rural Church Department for the Home Mission Board until his retirement in 1950. Dr. Freeman also held pastorates, in Kentucky and Tennessee, and served as a missionary in Arkansas.

John D. Freeman was born February 25, 1884, in Allene, Arkansas, and died October 11, 1974. He received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Arkansas, a Master of Arts from Duke University, and a Master of Theology from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He married Landis Barton, and they had two daughters, Georgia and Lucy.

Scope and Content Note

The John D. Freeman Papers (1927 – 1946) contain .25 linear feet of materials in one document box. The collection includes correspondence, minutes, and reports, and the folders are arranged alphabetically and then chronologically.

Correspondence forms the bulk of the collection and deals primarily with Dr. Freeman's role as recording secretary for the Sunday School Board, particularly his involvement in the Board's efforts to reorganize. Prominent Baptist figures in the correspondence include P.E. Burroughs, T. L. Holcomb, George W. Truett, and I. J. Van Ness. Other topics mentioned include complaints concerning heresy charges, about literature published by the Board, and general business.

Dr. Freeman donated his papers to the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives (Historical Commission) in 1967.

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically, then chronologically, by folder title

Provenance

Donated by Dr. John D. Freeman to the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives (formerly Historical Commission) in 1967

Preferred Citation

John D. Freeman Papers, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee

Access Restrictions

None

Subject Terms

Van Ness, Isaac Jacobus, 1860 – 1947
 Burroughs, Prince Emanuel, 1871 – 1948
 Truett, George Washington, 1867 – 1944
 Holcomb, Thomas Luther, 1882 – 1972
 Southern Baptist Convention, Sunday School Board
 American Baptist Theological Seminary
 Baptists – Tennessee – Periodicals
 Baptists – Kentucky – Periodicals

Related Materials

Freeman, John D. *Why the kind of Baptist I am*, 1938.

Container List

Box 1

- 1.1 State Secretaries Association – Minutes, 1940 – 1942
- 1.2 Sunday School Board – Correspondence, 1935 – 1946
- 1.3 Sunday School Board – Correspondence – Heresy Charges, 1928 – 1940
- 1.4 Sunday School Board – Correspondence – Reorganization, 1931 – 1934
- 1.5 Sunday School Board – Correspondence – Reorganization, 1939 – 1941
- 1.6 Sunday School Board – Minutes, 1939
- 1.7 Sunday School Board – Policies and Rules, 1927 – 1938
- 1.8 Sunday School Board – Report of Committee on Salary Status
- 1.9 Sunday School Board – Report of Survey Committee, 1934
- 1.10 Sunday School Board – Reorganization Committee Recommendations, 1939 – 1941