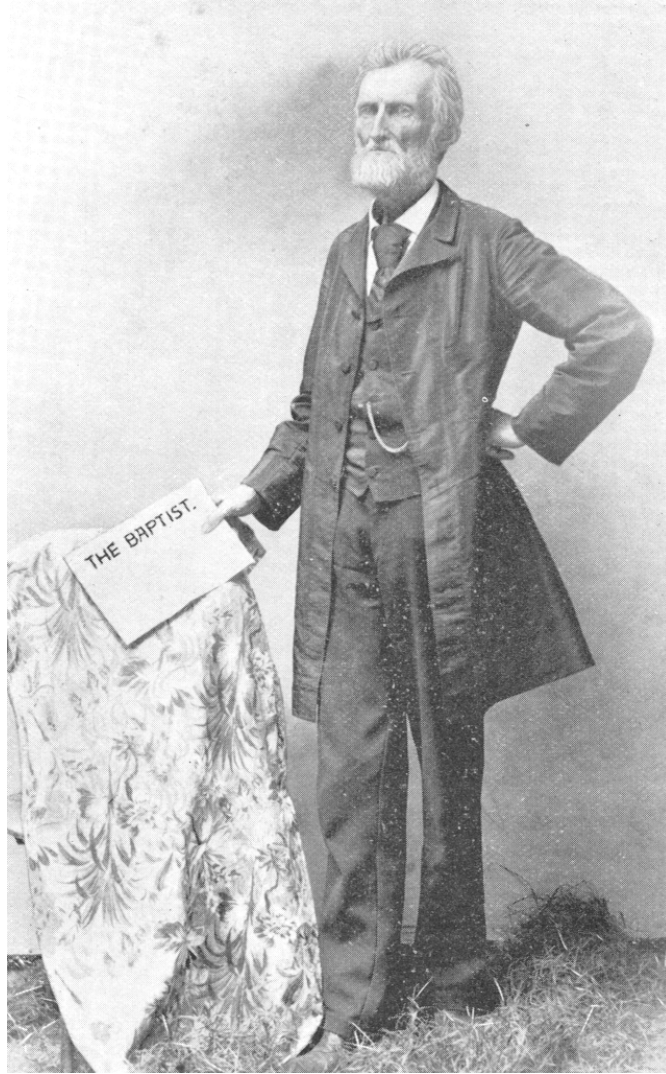


EBENEZER LEE COMPERE PAPERS

AR. 2



EBENEZER LEE (E. L.) COMPERE

**Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives
Revised September, 2011**

EBENEZER LEE COMPERE PAPERS

AR 2

Summary

Main Entry: Ebenezer Lee Compere Papers.

Date Span: 1852 - 1945

Abstract: Southern Baptist pioneer missionary to Cherokees and Creek Indians in Arkansas, pastor, educator, and Superintendent of Missions and Foreign Missions Secretary for the Baptist Association of Western Arkansas and Indian Territory. Papers include reports from missionaries of the association, miscellaneous financial accounts, notebooks containing personal and mission – related information, publications, clippings, sermons and sermon notes, and correspondence. Letters are personal and mission – related. E. L. Compere was a Southern Baptist pioneer missionary to Cherokees and Creek Indians in Arkansas, pastor, educator, and Superintendent of Missions and Foreign Missions Secretary for the Baptist Association of Western Arkansas and Indian Territory.

Size: 6 linear feet

Collection #: AR 2

Biographical Sketch

1833, Feb 6 Born near Montgomery, Alabama, the youngest of nine children. His father, Lee Compere, and mother, Susannah Voysey Compere, went from England to the island of Jamaica as missionaries in 1814. The climate there was too trying for them, and they went to South Carolina. Afterwards, they went as missionaries of the Triennial Convention to the Creek Indians in Alabama. They followed the Creek Indian migration into Mississippi.

1849, July 23 After conversion, E. L. Compere was baptized into the fellowship of Montaches Creek Church, Itawamba County, Mississippi. At age 19, he was "liberated" to preach, against his own strong protest.

1851 Preached his first sermon in Mooresville Church, Mississippi. Educated in Mercer University, Penfield, Georgia, and Mississippi College, Clinton, Mississippi.

1857 Graduated with BA degree from Mississippi College with first honors. On graduation day was asked to become a professor at Mississippi College, but he declined. Became pastor of three churches in East Mississippi.

1858, March Ordained in old Monte Vallo Church in Columbus, Mississippi.

1858 and 1859 Visited his brother, Thomas H. Compere, in Arkansas and was deeply impressed with the destitution and wickedness along the border of western Arkansas and the Indian Territory. Upon his return home, he resigned his Mississippi churches to go to the Arkansas border without a dollar in view. He refused a call to a church at \$1,200 per year salary to become missionary of the Cherokee Georgia Baptist Convention, to Arkansas and the Cherokee Indians, at \$500 per annum.

1860 M.A. degree, Mississippi College, Clinton, Mississippi.

1860 – 70 Went to the border of West Arkansas and the Indian Territory to labor. Began work as pastor in Ft. Smith, Arkansas, where he built the church edifice during his pastorate.

1863, Dec. 13 Married Miss Josephine I. Mullins, of Copiah County, Mississippi, while on a trip back to Mississippi. She was an aunt to E. Y. Mullins. The Compere returned to West Arkansas and the Cherokee Indians. They had four sons and three daughters. Josephine Compere was a fine helpmeet in spite of the many unaccustomed hardships which she bore living on the frontier. Her family background was one of gracious "old south" living. During the Civil War, E. L. Compere and his father were chaplains, serving under the command of Brig. General Stand Waite, the only full-blood Indian serving in the Confederate Army.

1866 Commissioned as a missionary by the Board of Domestic Missions of the SBC to preach the gospel in Ft. Smith and Vicinity at a salary of \$500 a year.

1866 – 1877 Lived in Charleston, Arkansas, carrying on mission work from this center. 1876 Helped to organize the Baptist General Association of East Arkansas and Indian Territory at Charleston.

1877 – 1885 Carried on his taxing missionary work while living in Witcherville, Arkansas. His health was failing. During this time, he and H. F. Buckner, who was missionary to the Creek Indians, founded Buckner College in Witcherville.

1883 Commissioned by the Home Mission Board to preach in western Arkansas. For eleven years, he was Foreign Mission Secretary, and Superintendent of Missions for that association for nine years. He also pastored several churches during these years, among them Waldron, Arkansas. Was forced to learn to write with his left hand, as his right hand had become too nervous to use.

1885 Moved to Dallas, Polk County, Arkansas, for his health. Continued his mission work. 1887, Oct. 10 Qualified as county examiner of Polk County teachers.

1894 The missionaries under his superintendence reported 1,000 baptisms during the year.

1895, Nov. 27 Died in his home in Dallas, Polk County, Arkansas, and was buried there. His body was later moved to Whiteoak Cemetery, Mena, Arkansas. His death was attributed to nervous prostration brought on by overwork and exposure. The Scripture used at his funeral was 2 Samuel 3:38. Remarks were made by Elder J. F. McLeod and Elder H. C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of E. L. Compere number approximately 4,800 items, or six linear feet, and contain material on the early development of Southern Baptist work in western Arkansas and the Indian Territory. The dates of materials included in this collection are 1852 – 1945. E. L. Compere was a pioneer missionary, pastor, educator, and Superintendent of Missions and Foreign Mission Secretary for the Baptist General Association of Western Arkansas and Indian Territory. The papers include reports from missionaries of the association, miscellaneous accounts, notebooks containing

items such as: information on personal affairs, General Association accounts, subscription lists for Foreign Mission Journal and Home Field, receipts, letter records, sermon notes, names and addresses, remedies for illnesses, reports, and preaching, marriage and baptism records. The collection contains several folders of sermons and sermon notes.

About one-fourth of the collection consists of correspondence. It is arranged under "Letters." Separate folders for correspondence with the Home Mission Board, W. B. Herndon, J. S. Murrow, M. T. Sumner, and I. T. Tichenor are found following the general correspondence, which is arranged chronologically.

Correspondence about the Kregel affair in the Charleston, Arkansas, Baptist Church, appears in the folder "Kregel Controversy – Baptist Church at Charleston, Arkansas (F. L. Kregel), 1873 – 83" and under "Letters" for the relevant years.

Names of some correspondents are listed on the outside of each "Letters" file folder. Among the correspondents in the "Letters" folders are: Annie Armstrong (see also folder 2 – 5, "Armstrong, Annie – Correspondence, 1890 – 95), J. W. Black, T. P. Bell, C. C. Bitting, John A. Broadus, W. H. Buckley, H. F. Buckner, R. C. Buckner, R. B. Burleson, Lansing Burrows, Lee Compere, Thomas H. Compere, W. S. Compere, W. L. Compere, J. W. Conger (president of Ouachita College), W. H. Davis, Gov. J. P. Eagle, T. T. Eaton, James Edmondson, J. T. Freeman, J. B. Gambrell, U. S. Grant, J. R. Graves, J. M. Green, J. N. Hall, S. A. Hayden, William M. Hays, R. Holman, W. B. Herndon, W. A. Ingle, Richard S. James (president of Buckner College), John B. Jones (U. S. Agent for the Cherokees), J. William Jones, F. L. Kregel, J. M. Ledbetter, E. Y. Mullins, J. S. Murrow, T. T. Martin, Isaac Napier, L. F. Patterson, D. B. Ray (editor of American Baptist Flag), Isaac Reed, A. Frank Ross, M. T. Sumner (corresponding secretary of the Domestic and Indian Mission Board, SBC), J. A. Slover, A. A. Spiller, B. F. Stamps, I. T. Tichenor, H. A. Tupper, James B. Taylor, J. T. Upton, A. E. Vandevere, I. G. Vore, Jesse Wheeler, George Whitfield, J. H. Wilburn, R. J. Willingham. E. L. Compere's pamphlet, "Indian Missions for the Five Great Southern Tribes," published by the Maryland Baptist Mission Rooms, Baltimore, in 1895, is in Box 11, folder 4, under "Pamphlets - Home Missions, ca. 1880 – 1890s."

Folders are arranged in alphabetical order, by folder title.

The Compere papers have been microfilmed by the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives. The microfilm number is MF 200. The collection was microfilmed in the order of the first arrangement and corresponds with the 1963 file folder listing. The 1963 and 1977 file folder listings are found in the Collection File, as is a copy of the current version.

Compere's collection of Baptist and secular newspapers may be found in the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives (SBHLA) in the oversize shelves in the archives, under AR. 2, Compere Newspapers. An Index to the newspapers appears with the 1977 file folder listing in the Collection File.

The Compere papers were given to the Historical Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention by his son, General E. L. Compere of Little Rock, Arkansas, in 1953. Literary rights are restricted

Compere inventory

by the Southern Baptist Historical Commission. This material is available for research in the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives.

Arrangement

Folders arranged in alphabetical order.

Provenance

Donated by his son, General E. L. Compere, in 1953.

Preferred Citation

Ebenezer Lee Compere Papers. Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee.

Access Restrictions

None.

Subject Terms

Armstrong, Annie Walker, 1850 – 1938.
Broadus, John Albert, 1927 – 1895.
Buckner, Henry Frieland, 1818 – 1882.
Compere, Lee, 1790 – 1871.
Conger, John Walter, 1856 – 1924.
Eagle, James Phillip, 1837 – 1904.
Eaton, Thomas Treadwell, 1845 – 1907.
Gambrell, James Burton, 1841 – 1921.
Graves, James Robinson, 1820 – 1893.
James, Richard S.
Kregal, F. L.
Mullins, Edgar Young, 1860 – 1928.
Martin, Thomas Theodore, 1862 – 1939.
Ray, David Burcham, 1830 – 1902.
Sumner, Martin Tyler, 1815 – 1883.
Tichenor, Isaac Taylor, 1825 – 1902.
Tupper, Henry Allen, 1828 – 1902.
Taylor, James Barnett, 1804 – 1871.
Southern Baptist Convention, Home Mission Board.
Southern Baptist Convention, Domestic and Indian Mission Board
Buckner College.
Baptist General Association of Western Arkansas and Indian Territory.
Buckners Orphans Home.
Home Missions.
Cherokee Indians – Missions.
Creek Indians – Missions.
Baptists – Arkansas.
Baptists – Sermons.
Missionaries – United States.
Chaplains, Military – Baptists.

Related Material

Located in the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives:

1. Baptist History File. Folder contains article by Robert G. Gardner, "Ebenezer Lee Compere and Problems of the Civil War," published in Quarterly Review, January 1977, pp. 23 – 31.
2. The Una Lawrence Roberts papers (AR. 631) list E. L. Compere as a subject.
3. "Compere, E. L." in Encyclopedia of Southern Baptists, Vol. I, p. 304.
4. J. S. Rogers, History of Arkansas Baptists (Little Rock: Arkansas Baptist State Convention, 1948), p. 231.
5. Robert G. Gardner, "Missionary-Chaplain to the Cherokees: Ebenezer Lee Compere, Oklahoma Baptist Chronicle, Spring, 1975. pp. 5 – 32.
6. Gen. E. L. Compere, "Rev. E. L. Compere, Border Missionary," Quarterly Review, October – December, 1953, pp. 25 – 33. Article by Compere's son.
7. Amy Compere Hickerson, The Westward Way (Atlanta: Home Mission Board, 1945). Book by Compere's granddaughter.
8. Davis C. Woolley, "Compere Collection Available on Microfilm," Quarterly Review, April – June, 1960, pp. 66 – 68. Brief description of collection and Compere's work.

Folder Listings

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- 1.2 Accounts, 1870 – 79
- 1.3 Accounts/Receipts, 1880 – 85
- 1.4 Accounts/Receipts, 1886 – 89
- 1.5 Accounts/Receipts, 1890 – 92
- 1.6 Accounts/Receipts, 1893 – 95, 1897
- 1.7 Accounts/Receipts, undated
- 1.8 Advertising Circulars, 1800s
- 1.9 Advertising Circulars, 1800s
- 1.10 Advertising Circulars, 1800s
- 1.11 Advertising Circulars, 1800s

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- 2.4 Arkansas Baptist,
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- 2.9 Biographies – Branch, E. K.
- 2.10 Biographies – Buckner, Henry F.
- 2.11 Biographies – Compere, E. L. and Josephine
- 2.12 Biographies – Compere, James Seth
- 2.13 Biographies – Compere, Lee and Susannah
- 2.14 Biographies – Compere, Thomas H.
- 2.15 Biographies – Compere, W. L.
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- 4.6 Home Mission Board,
- 4.7 Hymns – SBC, 1893; and Baptist Sunday School Association, 1872
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- 4.11 Kregel Controversy – Baptist Church at Charleston, Arkansas (F. L. Kregel), 1873 – 83
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- 6.11 Letters, May – December, 1894

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- 7.2 Letters, April – June, 1895
- 7.3 Letters, July – September, 1895
- 7.4 Letters, October – November, 1895
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- 7.8 Letters – Home Mission Board, 1883 – 89
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- 8.1 Letters – Home Mission Board, 1892 – 95
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- 8.3 Letters (and Documents) Sumner, M. T., 1860 – 1877
- 8.4 Letters (book) – Tichenor, I. T. (correspondence from Compere), 1883 – 85
- 8.5 Louisiana Baptist History – Civil War
- 8.6 Memoranda Book (general), 1884 – 88
- 8.7 Military Order (related to Confederate currency), April 10, 1865
- 8.8 Miscellaneous, 1881 –

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11.6 Pamphlets – Sunday School Board, ca. 1915

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12.5 Tax receipts, 1869 – 95

12.6 Temperance, ca. 1890s

12.7 Westward Way – Book review by Amy Compere Hickerson, 1945

12.8 What is New Testament Salvation? – Book Manuscript, 1932

12.9 Worker, The, September 1888