

HAMILTON FAMILY PAPERS

AR 767



J.E. Hamilton, daughter Fountain, and wife Lora Black Hamilton

Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives

Updated March, 2012

Hamilton Family Collection

AR 767

Summary

Main Entry: Hamilton Family Collection

Date Span: 1898 – 1925

Abstract: Brothers David Luke Hamilton and Jephthah Erastus Hamilton grew up and were educated in Louisiana. They were both Baptist ministers before serving as missionaries to Brazil. Their papers include letters, written from Brazil, photographs, and sermons of messages preached by J. E. Hamilton while he was a Baptist minister in Athens, Texas.

Size: .5 linear ft. (one box)

Collection #: AR 767

Biographical Sketch

Born May 26, 1862 at Johnson's Bayou, Cameron Parish, LA., David Luke Hamilton was the second son of twelve children born to Isaac Hamilton and Lydia Eliza Simmons. In 1866, David's mother helped organize the Palestine Baptist Church at Tenmile, Louisiana, where his father was pastor from 1868 to 1895. David was licensed to preach in 1891 and was ordained in 1892 at the Palestine church. He attended Keachie College, a Baptist school south of Shreveport, Louisiana, where he received his M.A. degree in 1893.

After college, David moved to Williamson Co., Texas, where he became President of the Liberty Normal and Business College in Liberty Hill. In 1897, he married Teresa Jane Albertson (Jennie). He taught at Liberty College and also preached at nearby churches. In 1905, David traveled to Brazil to serve as a missionary with the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. He served as a missionary to Brazil until 1928, but he served the last three years as an independent missionary after he severed ties with the Foreign Mission Board. He returned to Louisiana and died in 1934.

Jephthah Erastas (J. E.) Hamilton, brother of David Hamilton, was born February 25, 1867 in Calcasian Parish, Louisiana. He attended Keachie College and served several churches and the local Baptist association prior to his appointment as a missionary to Brazil. In 1894, he married Lora Black of Round Rock, Texas.

J. E. had originally requested China as the site of his missionary work, but he was appointed to the Brazil field in September, 1899. He and his wife served as missionaries in the Para area of Brazil from 1899 to 1904. In December, 1904, J. E. Hamilton died of yellow fever in Para, Brazil.

Scope and Content

The collection consists of correspondence, sermons, and photographs related to J. E. Hamilton and David Hamilton. The correspondence is primarily letters from David (written from Brazil) to family members in Louisiana. Most of his letters (about 70) were written to his mother, Lydia Eliza Hamilton. The letters date from 1905 to 1923 and provide a description of missionary life in the early 20th century. They discuss family matters, the religious climate in Brazil, problems in missionary work, and the activities of missionaries. The letters are handwritten and typed, and typescripts have been made of the letters.

There are three letters from J. E. Hamilton to his brother Fuller Hamilton in the collection. They are all handwritten letters, dating from 1903 to 1904. Also included in the collection are typescripts of 14 sermons preached by J. E. Hamilton in Athens, Texas from 1898 to 1899. Seven photographs of family members are also part of the collection.

The collection is arranged in alphabetical order by folder title. The correspondence is further arranged in chronological order.

The collection was donated by Sarah Hamilton Must, Lafayette, Louisiana, on November 15, 1991, on behalf of the David Hamilton Family. Additional correspondence and information on the Hamilton brothers is located in the missionary correspondence of the Foreign Mission Board (AR 551-2).

Arrangement

Arranged in alphabetical order by folder title. Correspondence is arranged in chronological order.

Provenance

Donated November 15, 1991 from Sarah Hamilton Must, on behalf of the David Hamilton family, to the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives.

Preferred Citation

Hamilton Family Collection, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee

Access Restrictions

None

Subject Terms

Missions

Baptists – Missions

Baptists – Sermons

Missions – Brazil

Missionaries – Correspondence, reminiscences, etc.

Brazil – Religion

Related Materials

Hamilton, Jephthah. Missionary papers. Southern Baptist Convention. Foreign Mission Board, Missionary Correspondence. Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, AR551-2, Box 26.

Hamilton, David. Missionary papers. Southern Baptist Convention. Foreign Mission Board, Missionary Correspondence. Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, AR551-2, Box 26.

Container List

Box 1

- 1.1 Correspondence – Jephthah Hamilton, 1903 – 1904 (Letters from J. E. Hamilton to Fuller Hamilton)
- 1.2 Correspondence – David Hamilton, 1905 (To his mother, Lydia Hamilton in Tenmile, LA)
- 1.3 Correspondence – David Hamilton, 1906 (To his mother, Lydia Hamilton in Tenmile, LA)
- 1.4 Correspondence – David Hamilton, 1907 (To his mother, Lydia Hamilton)
- 1.5 Correspondence – David Hamilton, 1908 (To his mother and brother, Fuller Hamilton)
- 1.6 Correspondence – David Hamilton, 1909 (To his mother)
- 1.7 Correspondence – David Hamilton, 1910 (To his mother)
- 1.8 Correspondence – David Hamilton, 1919 – 1920 (To his mother and sister, May Hamilton)
- 1.9 Correspondence – David Hamilton, 1921 (To his mother)
- 1.10 Correspondence – David Hamilton, 1922 (Written from Pernambuco, Brazil to his mother)
- 1.11 Correspondence – David Hamilton and Jenny Hamilton (To Lydia Hamilton)
- 1.12 Correspondence – (undated) David Hamilton
- 1.13 Death notice and poem – Jephthah Hamilton, 1904
- 1.14 Photographs – Seven prints
 - A. J. E. Hamilton, Lora Black Hamilton, and daughter, Fountain
 - B. David Luke Hamilton
 - C. David Luke Hamilton traveling in cart on way home (CA. 1920)
 - D. J. E. Hamilton
 - E. Isaac Hamilton (father of David and Jephthah)
 - F. Lydia Eliza Simmons Hamilton (mother of David and Jephthah)
 - G. Scene in Brazil, men moving piano
 Record Book, 1904 (Added September, 1996)
- 1.15 Sermons – J. E. Hamilton, 1898
 - “Christian Education,” Athens, Texas, December, 1898
 - “Savior Jesus the Deliverer of His People,” Athens, Texas, December 17, 1898
 - “A Call to Preparation (The second call),” Athens, Texas, December, 1898
 - “The More Excellent Way,” Athens, Texas, December, 1898
 - “The Catching of Men's Souls,” Athens, Texas, December, 1898
- 1.16 Sermons – J. E. Hamilton, 1899
 - “Steadfastness in the Faith,” Athens, Texas, January, 1899
 - “A Beloved Brother,” III John, Athens, Texas, February, 1899
 - “Mutual Christian Love,” III John 5, Athens, Texas, February, 1899

“Spiritual Fellowship and its Evidences,” Athens, Texas, March, 1899

“Three Offices of Chris,” Athens, Texas, 1899

“Individual Responsibility,” Athens, Texas, 1899

“Quotations”

“Mutual Christian Love,” I John 2:7-11, Athens, Texas, June 3, 1899

“An Explanation and Exhortation,” I John 2:12-17, Athens, Texas, June 6, 1899

“Forewarned and Foreguarded,” I John 2: 18-29, Athens, Texas, 1899

“Notes and Outlines from the Ledger of Rev. J. E. Hamilton”