

# LANDRUM PINSON LEAVELL COLLECTION

**AR 795-180**



Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives

Revised by William Denius  
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# Landrum Pinson Leavell Collection

## AR 795-180

### Summary

Main Entry: Landrum Pinson Leavell Collection

Date Span: 1902 – 1937

Abstract: Southern Baptist denominational leader in the Baptist Young People's Union and Sunday School work. He was the third field worker elected by the Sunday School Board and the first director of the Baptist Young People's Union. Collection contains correspondence, addresses, clippings, studies, biographical data on Sunday School leaders, diary, notebook, photographs, programs, reports, and teaching notes. Most of the material relates to Sunday School work or the Baptist Young People's Union.

Size: One linear ft. (2 boxes)

Collection #: AR 795-180

### Biographical Sketch

Landrum Pinson Leavell (1874 – 1929) served as the third Sunday School field worker elected by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. He showed great efficiency in his work as the first secretary of the Baptist Young People's Union in the Department of Student Work for the Sunday School Board.

Born May 10, 1874, Leavell was the oldest of nine sons (Arnaud, James, George, Frank, Leonard, Clarence, Roland, and Ullin) born to Corra Berry Leavell and George Washington Leavell. He graduated high school in 1893 and entered business as a dry goods salesman. He received his baccalaureate degree from the University of Mississippi in 1899 and taught at Jefferson Military College in Washington, Mississippi, until 1903. In 1899, he served as secretary to Mississippi's inaugural statewide Baptist Young People's Union Convention. The Mississippi Baptist Convention elected him Sunday School Secretary in July, 1902, and he attended the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Savannah, Georgia, in May, 1903.

Leavell married Vara Pulliam of Birmingham, Alabama, July 23, 1903, and the couple had two children, Marian and Frances Louise. Later that year, Leavell located the headquarters for his operations as field secretary of the Sunday School Board to his home in Oxford, Mississippi. His interest in Sunday School institutes, grading, and departmentalization led to a more efficient Sunday School program. From 1903 to 1905, Leavell traveled extensively, attending the World's Fourth Sunday School Convention in Jerusalem in 1903. Leavell also attended classes at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, in the winters of 1904 and 1905.

As the first secretary of the Baptist Young People's Union, Leavell established methods for the secretary's work and authored the first Union textbook. He utilized his knowledge of Sunday School structure and methods to teach Sunday School pedagogy at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary from 1915 to 1920. In 1918, he became the first secretary of the Department of Student Work for the Sunday School Board and spearheaded the movement to frame the first Standard of Excellence for the Baptist Young People's Union. Three years later, Leavell received the Doctor of Divinity degree from Mississippi College.

Dr. Leavell suffered a stroke July 23, 1925, which led to complete paralysis of his left side. His health continued to decline until he passed away June 4, 1929, at the age of 55.

### **Scope and Content Note**

The Landrum Pinson Leavell collection, a series of the Baptist Sunday School Board Records, consists of one linear foot of material contained in two boxes and one package. The collection includes material related to Dr. Leavell's positions as secretary of Student Work, Baptist Young People's Union leader, and Sunday School field worker.

The collection is arranged alphabetically by subject, the bulk of which is correspondence (including J.M. Frost, J. Benjamin Lawrence, John R. Sampey, B.W. Spilman, George W. Truett, and I.J. Van Ness), and information on various aspects of the Sunday School programs of the Southern Baptist Convention. Additional files include articles on the Baptist Young People's Union and Sunday School, biographical information on Dr. J.M. Frost and Edgar Young Mullins, photographs, lecture notes, and teaching slides.

Leavell's daughter, Marian, donated the collection material to the Baptist Sunday School Board in June, 1967.

### **Arrangement**

Arranged in alphabetical order by folder title

### **Provenance**

Donated in June, 1967 to the Baptist Sunday School Board by Leavell's daughter, Marian

### **Preferred Citation**

Landrum Pinson Leavell Collection, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee

### **Access Restrictions**

None

### **Subject Terms**

Flake, Arthur, 1862 – 1952

Frost, James Marion, 1849 – 1916

Lawrence, John Benjamin, 1871 – 1968

Sampey, John Richard, 1863 – 1946

Spilman, Bernard Washington, 1871 – 1950  
Truett, George Washington, 1867 – 1944  
Baptist Young People's Union  
Southern Baptist Convention. Sunday School Board. Student Department  
Sunday school – History

### **Related Materials**

For more information on Dr. Leavell, see the Baptist History file, *The Encyclopedia of Southern Baptists*, and *Unashamed Workman*, by Roland Leavell.

James Marion Frost Papers. AR 795-109. Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives.

Southern Baptist Convention. Sunday School Board. Church Training Department Collection. AR 795-549. Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives.

### **Container List**

#### **Box 1**

- 1.1 *Absentee Bulletin*, May, 1934
- 1.2 Articles – Baptist Young People's Union and Sunday School
- 1.3 *Baptist Training Union*, Magazine, May, 1937
- 1.4 *Baptist World*, April 27, 1916
- 1.5 "Baptists in Sunday School History" – Article
- 1.6 Bibles – Leavell, Landrum Pinson
- 1.7 Broadway Baptist Church – Louisville, Kentucky – Sunday School
- 1.8 Bulletins – First Baptist Church (New Orleans) and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
- 1.9 Baptist Young People's Union Yearbooks, 1923 – 1936, 1927 – 1930
- 1.10 Correspondence, 1927 – Biographies of Corra Berry Leavell and George Leavell
- 1.11 Correspondence, 1906 – Flake, Arthur
- 1.12 Correspondence, 1903 – Fonville, W.D.
- 1.13 Correspondence, 1906 – Frost, J.M.
- 1.14 Correspondence, 1905 – 1906 – Harris, W.A.
- 1.15 Correspondence, 1906 – Hudson, Marshall
- 1.16 Correspondence, 1905 – 1906 – Inlow, R.M.
- 1.17 Correspondence, 1905 – Lawrence, J. Benjamin
- 1.18 Correspondence, 1905 – 1906 – Lawrence, Marion
- 1.19 Correspondence, 1925 – 1926 – Lee, E.E.
- 1.20 Correspondence, 1906 – Lowrey, W.T.
- 1.21 Correspondence, 1906 – Moore, Hight
- 1.22 Correspondence, 1905 – Pearce, W.C.
- 1.23 Correspondence, 1906 – Pickens, D.C.
- 1.24 Correspondence, 1925 – Porter, Henry Alford
- 1.25 Correspondence, 1928 – Powell, W.F.
- 1.26 Correspondence, 1905 – 1906 – Ray, T.B.

- 1.27 Correspondence, 1906, 1927 – Sampey, John R
- 1.28 Correspondence, 1903 – 1908, 1927 – Spilman, B.W.
- 1.29 Correspondence, 1925 – Truett, George W.
- 1.30 Correspondence, 1905 – Turner, J. Clyde
- 1.31 Correspondence, 1905 – 1906 – Van Ness, I.J.
- 1.32 Correspondence, 1921 – Wall, Zeno
- 1.33 Correspondence, 1904 – 1906, 1928 – Watts, Joseph
- 1.34 Diary, 1903 – 1925
- 1.35 “The Encroachment of Legalism into Our Baptist Faith” – Article
- 1.36 Frost, James Marion
- 1.37 *The God of the Man of God*
- 1.38 Hillman College – Commencement Address

## **Box 2**

- 2.1 International Sunday School Convention, 1902, 1904
- 2.2 Leavell, Landrum Pinson – Funerary Address and Obituaries
- 2.3 Lecture Notes
- 2.4 Minutes – Organization of Field Workers Association
- 2.5 Mississippi Baptist Convention – Sunday School Missionary Appointment
- 2.6 Mullins, Edgar Young
- 2.7 Newspaper Clippings – Baptist Young People’s Union and Sunday School
- 2.8 Pamphlets
- 2.9 Photographs
- 2.10 Programs and Speaking Engagements
- 2.11 Speech Notes
- 2.12 *Sunday School Board History and Work*
- 2.13 Sunday School Board Reports
- 2.14 Sunday School Board Teacher Training Bulletin, 1928 – 1929
- 2.15 Sunday School Institutes
- 2.16 Sunday School Lessons

## **Package 1**

- 1.1 Teaching Slides