

# FRANK HARTWELL LEAVELL COLLECTION

**AR 795-181**



Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives

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# Frank Hartwell Leavell Collection

## AR 795-181

### Summary

Main Entry: Frank Hartwell Leavell Collection

Date Span: 1908 – 1950

Abstract: Collection includes information on Leavell's life and career and his work with youth and students in the South. His work with the Baptist World Alliance is also documented, along with his travel to the Orient and Europe.

Size: 6.5 linear ft.

Collection #: AR 795 – 181

### Biographical Sketch

Frank Hartwell Leavell served as executive secretary in the Department of Student Work for the Baptist Sunday School Board for several decades. He also organized youth congresses as part of the Baptist World Alliance's executive committee, and he helped the Baptist student movement on American college campuses become widespread.

Born in Oxford, Mississippi, March 11, 1884, Frank Hartwell Leavell was the middle of nine sons born to George Washington Leavell and Corra Alice Berry Leavell. In 1902, Leavell entered Jefferson Military College in Washington, Mississippi. In 1904, he entered the University of Mississippi, left in 1906 for health reasons, but returned and graduated in 1909. He entered Harvard Law School in 1910, but he left in poor health. He eventually studied law on his own and passed the bar examination in Georgia. In February, 1913, he accepted a position as Georgia's first secretary of the Baptist Young People's Union.

In 1917, Frank Leavell married Martha Maria Boone and the couple had three children, Eddie Belle, Mary Martha, and Frank, Jr. Leavell taught courses in denominational ministries at Mercer College (later University) in Macon, Georgia, and Bessie Tift College in nearby Forsythe, Georgia. He also served as a lecturer in denominational ministries at the Baptist Bible Institute in New Orleans, Louisiana. Leavell attended summer sessions at Columbia University in New York City and received a Master's degree in 1925.

Leavell left the Georgia Baptist Convention in 1922 to accept a position as executive secretary of the Inter-Board Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, which became the Department of Student Work for the Baptist Sunday School Board. His leadership skills flourished and his influence spread wide as the Baptist Student Union became a driving force on college campuses. As secretary, he edited the *Baptist Student* magazine and other publications of the Sunday School Board and organized many large student conferences at Ridgecrest, North Carolina.

He attended several Baptist World Alliance meetings in the 1930s, including the inaugural meeting of the World Youth Congress, which met in conjunction with the BWA meeting in Prague, Czechoslovakia (1931), and the BWA meeting in Berlin, Germany (1934). In the midst of travel, Leavell struggled with calls to other positions. Eight colleges, including Howard College (now Samford University) and Judson College, recruited him to serve their institutions as president.

Leavell's love for students, however, led him to turn down those positions and continue his work with the Sunday School Board. He traveled to Europe and Asia from 1936 to 1937, and attended the Second World Youth Congress in conjunction with the BWA meeting in Zurich, Switzerland. In 1937, he traveled to the same meeting at Copenhagen, Denmark, and, in 1939, to various countries in South America. Leavell attended his final meeting of the Baptist World Alliance in Stockholm, Sweden, in 1949, where he served on the executive committee.

Frank Hartwell Leavell received a Doctor of Law degree from Mississippi College (1935) and a Doctor of Human Letters degree from Baylor University (1945). His passion for young Christians exceeded geographical boundaries, but it could not excel beyond his own physical boundaries. He suffered a heart attack in 1943 and passed away at his home in Nashville December 7, 1949.

For more information see *The Encyclopedia of Southern Baptists* and the Baptist History file in the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives.

### **Scope and Content Note**

The Frank Hartwell Leavell collection, a series of the Baptist Sunday School Board Records, consists of 6.5 linear feet of material contained in thirteen document boxes. The collection includes materials related to Dr. Leavell's work as Executive Secretary for Student Work and as a member of the BWA executive board. The collection is arranged alphabetically by subject, the bulk of which is correspondence (including W.P. Binns, T.G. Dunning, W.W. Hamilton, and Landrum P. Leavell), travel ephemera, and travel diaries. Additional files include magazines related to Baptist youth, files on Baptist history, various articles authored by Dr. Leavell, speech outlines, photographs from his travels, several Bibles owned by Frank Leavell and his daughter Mary Martha, and scrapbooks. Dr. Leavell's wife donated the collection to the Baptist Sunday School Board in May, 1952.

### **Arrangement**

Arranged in alphabetical order by folder title

### **Provenance**

Donated by Dr. Leavell's wife in May, 1952 to the Baptist Sunday School Board Library. Transferred to the Southern Baptist Historical Library in 1997.

### **Preferred Citation**

Frank Hartwell Leavell Papers, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee

## **Access Restrictions**

None

## **Subject Terms**

Binns, Walter Pope, 1895 – 1966

Leavell, Landrum Pinson, 1874 – 1929

Baptist young People's Union – Georgia

Southern Baptist Convention. Sunday School Board. Student Department.

Southern Baptist Convention. Inter-Board Commission

Southern Baptist Convention. Seventy-five Million Campaign.

Baptist World Alliance

Baptist Student Union

Missions – China – 1874

Peace – Religious aspects

Students – Religious life

## **Related Materials**

Baptist Student Union Collection, 1926-1993. Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, AR 33

Broach, Claude U. *Dr. Frank : an informal biography of Frank H. Leavell leader of Baptist youth*, 1950.

Goerner, Henry Cornell Papers, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, AR 805.

Isaac Jacobus Van Ness Papers, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, AR 795-112.

## **Container List**

### **Box 1**

- 1.1 Address Books and Tour Guide Handbooks
- 1.2 Allied *Youth* Magazine, 1944 – 1949
- 1.3 Articles
- 1.4 Baptist Sanatorium
- 1.5 Baptist *Student*, Magazine, May, 1945, February, 1950, June, 1950
- 1.6 Baptist Student Union Student Secretary Seminar, 1939
- 1.7 Baptist Student Union Student Secretary Seminar, 1945, 1946
- 1.8 Baptist World Alliance – Berlin, Germany, 1934
- 1.9 Baptist World Alliance – Constitution and By-Laws
- 1.10 Baptist World Alliance – Copenhagen, Denmark, 1947
- 1.11 Baptist World Alliance Executive Committee Meeting, 1947
- 1.12 Baptist World Alliance informational literature, 1928, 1933
- 1.13 Baptist World Alliance newspaper clippings, 1948
- 1.14 Baptist World Alliance – Stockholm, Sweden, 1923
- 1.15 Baptist World Alliance – Stockholm, Sweden, 1949

- 1.16 Baptist World Alliance – Zurich, Switzerland, 1937
- 1.17 Baptists – History
- 1.18 Baptists – Salvation
- 1.19 Baptists – Seventy-five Million Campaign

## **Box 2**

- 2.1 Bible – Leavell, Frank H.
- 2.2 Bible – Leavell, Mary Martha
- 2.3 Biographies – Leavell, Corra Berry and George W. Leavell
- 2.4 Boone, Arthur U.
- 2.5 *BYPO Quarterly*, 1936
- 2.6 Baptist Young People’s Union Manual, 1907

## **Box 3**

- 3.1 Baptist Young People’s Union Manual, 1914
- 3.2 Baptist Young People’s Union work in Georgia – Keynote addresses
- 3.3 “A Cajun Deer Hunt in Louisiana” – Article, Rejection Letters, Photographs
- 3.4 China, 1929
- 3.5 China, 1930
- 3.6 China, 1936
- 3.7 China – Photographs
- 3.8 *China Call Magazine*
- 3.9 *Christian Youth*
- 3.10 *Communique* Newsletter, February 15, 1943
- 3.11 Conferences and Conventions, 1933, 1936
- 3.12 Correspondence, 1949 – Arndt, Johannes
- 3.13 Correspondence, 1947 – Broertjes, J.
- 3.14 Correspondence, 1948 – Barry, Buddy
- 3.15 Correspondence, 1949 – Binns, Walter Pope
- 3.16 Correspondence, 1921 – Bivins, Mrs. R.L.
- 3.17 Correspondence, 1933 – Convalescence in Hospital
- 3.18 Correspondence, 1936 – Dunning, T.G.
- 3.19 Correspondence, 1940 – Dunning, T.G.
- 3.20 Correspondence, 1947 – Dunning, T.G.
- 3.21 Correspondence, Undated, 1929 – Family
- 3.22 Correspondence, 1931, 1932 – Family and Friends
- 3.23 Correspondence, 1936, 1937 – Family
- 3.24 Correspondence, 1936 – FBC Nashville BYPU
- 3.25 Correspondence, 1949 – Feather, R. Othal
- 3.26 Correspondence, 1933, 1948 – Friends
- 3.27 Correspondence, 1931 – Hamilton, W.W.
- 3.28 Correspondence, 1931 – Howard College Presidency
- 3.29 Correspondence, 1936 – Jones, Jonathan Hall
- 3.30 Correspondence, 1931 – Judson College Presidency

**Box 4**

- 4.1 Correspondence, 1939, 1949 – Lawton, Dick
- 4.2 Correspondence, 1933 – Leach, Raymond
- 4.3 Correspondence, 1952 – Leavell, Frank Jr.
- 4.4 Correspondence, 1928, 1934 – Leavell, George
- 4.5 Correspondence, 1942, 1947 – Lewis, W.O.
- 4.6 Correspondence, 1935, 1939 – Missionaries
- 4.7 Correspondence, 1940, 1946 – Missionaries
- 4.8 Correspondence, 1936 – Mississippi State College for Women BYPU
- 4.9 Correspondence, 1911 – Osainack, J.A.
- 4.10 Correspondence, 1947 – Popovici, Petru
- 4.11 Correspondence, 1921, 1922 – Promotion from Georgia BYPU
- 4.12 Correspondence, 1929, 1930 – Radio Address from Shreveport, Louisiana
- 4.13 Correspondence, Undated, 1943 – Soldiers, Former BSU Students
- 4.14 Correspondence, 1937, 1938 – South America
- 4.15 Correspondence, 1939 – South America
- 4.16 Correspondence, 1939 – South America
- 4.17 Correspondence, 1939 – South America
- 4.18 Correspondence, 1940, 1942 – South America

**Box 5**

- 5.1 Correspondence, 1933 – Tanksley, Ben A.
- 5.2 Correspondence, 1936 – Trip to Orient (1 of 4)
- 5.3 Correspondence, 1936 – Trip to Orient (2 of 4)
- 5.4 Correspondence, 1936 – Trip to Orient (3 of 4)
- 5.5 Correspondence, 1936 – Trip to Orient (4 of 4)
- 5.6 Correspondence, 1919 – Wakefield, Kate
- 5.7 Correspondence, 1931 – Ward, Walter
- 5.8 Correspondence, 1936 – Yamada, Sueo
- 5.9. Covenant – Church
- 5.10 Covenant – Prayer
- 5.11 Day Planners, 1913, 1914, 1916, 1919

**Box 6**

- 6.1 Day Planners, 1920, 1929
- 6.2 Day Planners, 1930, 1939
- 6.3 Day Planners, 1940, 1949
- 6.4 Diary, 1908, and Speech Notes
- 6.5. Editorials
- 6.6 Europe – Speech Outlines and Business Cards
- 6.7 Europe, 1923
- 6.8 Europe and Middle East, 1923 (tour)

**Box 7**

- 7.1 Europe, 1931 (tour)
- 7.2 Europe, 1934

- 7.3 Europe, 1937 (tour)
- 7.4 Europe, 1938
- 7.5 Europe, 1940
- 7.6 Europe, 1947
- 7.7 Europe, 1949 (tour)
- 7.8 Exam – Courses in Denominational Ministries, Mercer University, and Bessie Tift College
- 7.9 Family Bible

#### **Box 8**

- 8.1 FBC Nashville
- 8.2 Georgia Baptist Convention
- 8.3 Howard College
- 8.4 International Peace (1 of 4)
- 8.5 International Peace (2 of 4)
- 8.6 International Peace (3 of 4)
- 8.7 International Peace (4 of 4)
- 8.8 Japan, 1938
- 8.9 Leavell, Frank H. – Biographical Survey and Correspondence (1 of 2)
- 8.10 Leavell, Frank H. – Biographical Survey and Correspondence (2 of 2)

#### **Box 9**

- 9.1 Leavell, Frank H., 1949, 1950 – Funerary Address and Letters of Condolence
- 9.2 Leavell, Frank H. – Memorial Recording
- 9.3 Leavell, Frank H. – Obituaries
- 9.4 Leavell, James B. – Funerary Address
- 9.5 Leavell, James B., 1933, 1934 – Obituary and Letters of Condolence
- 9.6 Leavell, Landrum P., 1929 – Obituary and Letters of Condolence
- 9.7 Leavell, Landrum P. – Tribute
- 9.8 Mediterranean – Undated (tour)
- 9.9 Mercer University, 1919 – Convocation
- 9.10 Mississippi State College for Women, 1936 – Baptist Workshop 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- 9.11 Newspaper Clippings – Family and Hobbies
- 9.12 Notes from Education at Columbia University, New York

#### **Box 10**

- 10.1 Notices and Policies Regarding Reception and Dismissal of Church Members
- 10.2 Orient, 1936
- 10.3 Orient, 1936 – Photographs
- 10.4 Pamphlets – Various Subjects
- 10.5 Passports, 1923, 1931, 1936, 1949
- 10.6 Scrapbook, 1940 – Leavell, Frank H.

#### **Box 11**

- 11.1 Scrapbook, 1878 – Spalding, Albert Theodore
- 11.2 *Shanghai Spectator*, November 21, 1947
- 11.3 South America

- 11.4 South America, 1939 (tour)
- 11.5 South America – Photographs
- 11.6 *South and World Affairs, The magazine*
- 11.7 Southern Baptist Convention
- 11.8 Spain – Photographs
- 11.9 Speaking engagements
- 11.10 Stout Memorial Hospital – Wuchow, China
- 11.11 Student Retreats

### **Box 12**

- 12.1 *Student Standards of Action*, 1914
- 12.2 Sunday School Board – Student organizations – History
- 12.3 Syllabi and Lecture Notes – Courses in Denominational Ministries – Baptist Bible Institute
- 12.4 Syllabi and Lecture Notes – Courses in Denominational Ministries – Mercer University and Bessie Tift College
- 12.5 “The Teaching and Preaching Functions of the Church” – Pamphlet
- 12.6 Travel Diary, 1923
- 12.7 Travel Diaries, 1936
- 12.8 Travel Diary, 1939

### **Box 13**

- 13.1 Visas-South America
- 13.2 “What a Difference” – Article and Rejection Letters
- 13.3 “The Work of the Education Board” – Pamphlet
- 13.4 Writings and Clippings – Various Subjects
- 13.5 Writings and Speech Notes (1 of 3)
- 13.6 Writings and Speech Notes (2 of 3)
- 13.7 Writings and Speech Notes (3 of 3)
- 13.8 Young Baptist International Congress, 1947