Genealogical Research

Pitts Theology Library Special Collections



Special Collections at Pitts



Brandon Wason
Head of Special Collections



Emily Corbin
Reference Archivist



Ann McShane
Digital Asset Librarian



What do we have?



Overview

- Over 160,000 volumes of rare or special books
- Approximately 4,000 cubic feet of archival and manuscript material
- Repository for the records of the Candler School of Theology, the North Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church, the Society of Biblical Literature, the American Academy of Religion, the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, and other organizations.



What's That?

Manuscript Materials

Personal or business papers of individuals and organizations. When we receive them, we organize the materials and create a finding aid. A finding aid describes our unique primary resources and helps researchers determine if collections contain material of interest to them, and exactly where that material is located.

Church Histories

The official records and historical materials that document a church's heritage. They serve as a primary source for writing the history of the church and the Christian lifestyle.



What's in a Church Record?



Specific

- Baptismal, marriage, and burial registers
- Historic rolls and registers
- Official minutes and correspondence of the church and annual congregational meetings
- Board and committee manuals and minutes
- Official minutes, correspondence and reports of standing committes
- Records and corresondence of all groups and associations including Women's groups, Men's groups, sunday schools, mission groups, classes



What's in a Church Record?



Specific

- Correspondence files
- Special church bulletins
- Church newsletters
- Annual reports and audited financial records
- Photographs that are clearly identified



Why is this Information Useful?

- Congregational histories can reveal significant details about your ancestor's religious community. They may contain records of christenings, marriages, and burials/deaths. Founding and long-standing families may be mentioned, including biographical details, and the work and member lists of charitable groups affiliated with the congregation can give you a look at the role your ancestor played in his community.
- Church histories, centennial books, and meeting minutes may contain the names of congregation members, and possibly even records of baptisms, marriages, and deaths.



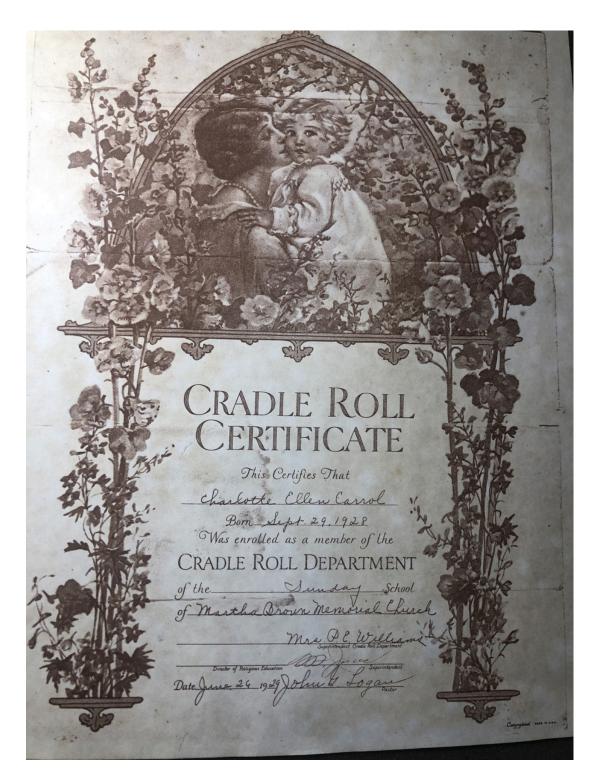
If you're looking for someone specific, what should you provide?

- Name of Church
- Dates
- Personal Identification, as much as possible
 - Names (including maiden name if applicable)
 - Date of Birth
 - Date of Death
 - Date of Transfer
 - Date of marriage and spouse's name
- Our reference staff can spend about 30 minutes on each inquiry. If your request requires a substantial amount of research, we may suggest hiring a freelance researcher or visiting in person. Contact us for suggestions.

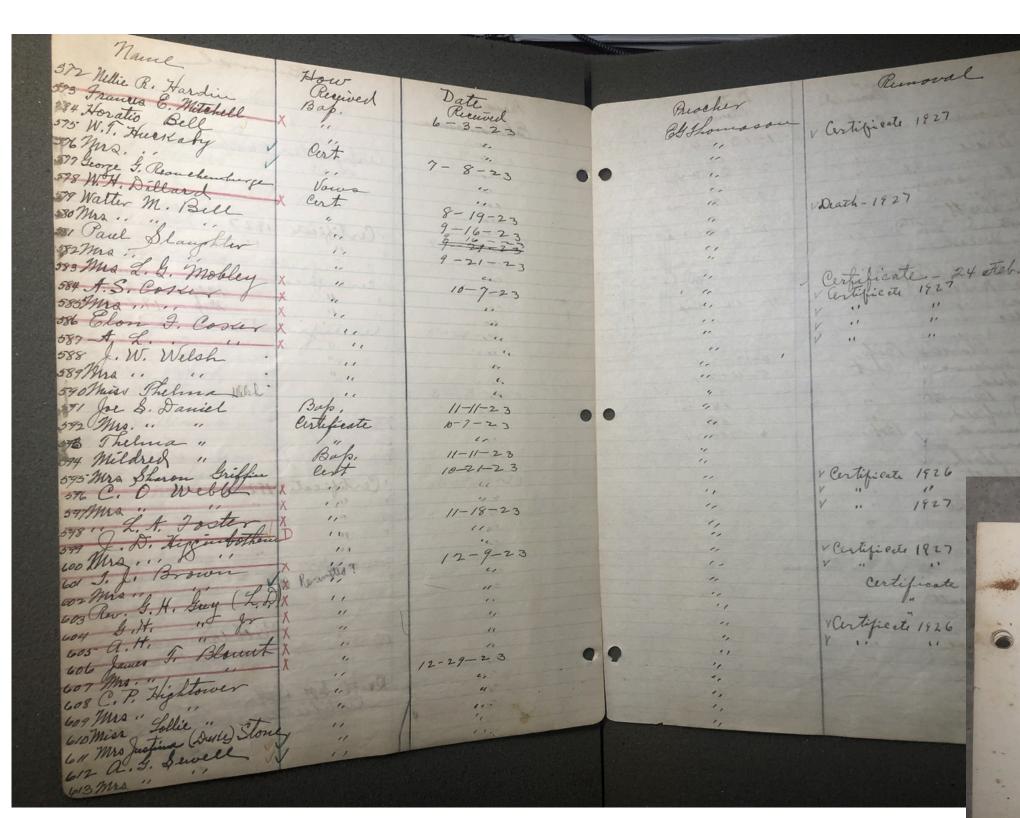


Genealogical Materials

A visual guide







METHODIST

MEMBERSHIP ROLL IN LOOSE-LEAF

No. 188--Space for 150 Families

A Record of Membership Based on the Family Unit and Historical Data

of the Asbury Counth Methodist Church

of La Grange District - north Ba Conference

rom gunt 1, 19 67 To

Prepared and Edited by the Council on World Service and Finance

THE METHODIST PUBLISHING HOUSE

Printed in U.S.A.

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Overview:

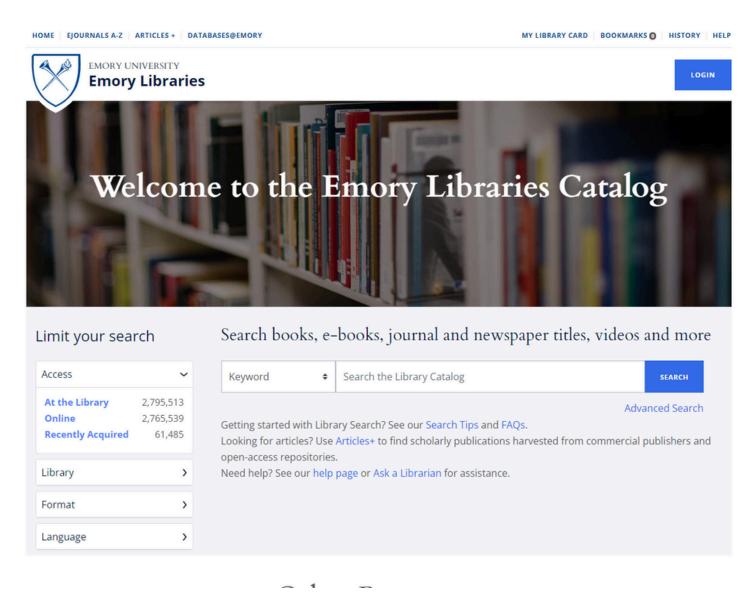
Archival Materials can be found in either Emory's book catalog, **Library Search**, or Emory's Finding Aids database, **ArchivesSpace**.

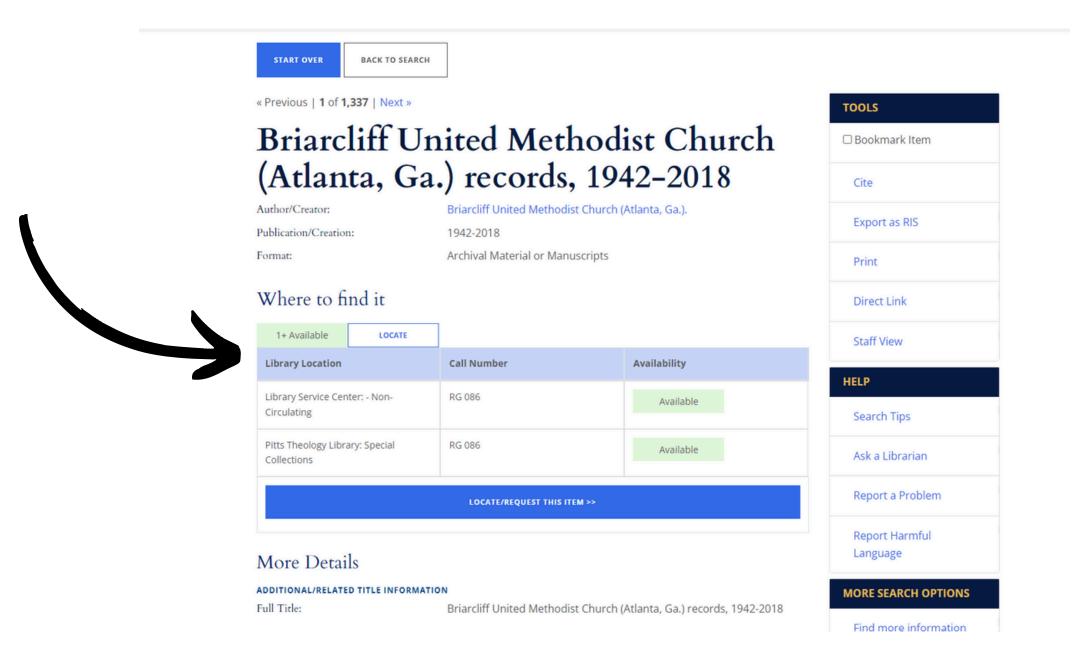
The Pitts Theology Library Reading Room is open

- 10 am 4 pm
- Monday through Friday
- by appointment only
- All appointments must be made at least 48 hours in advance

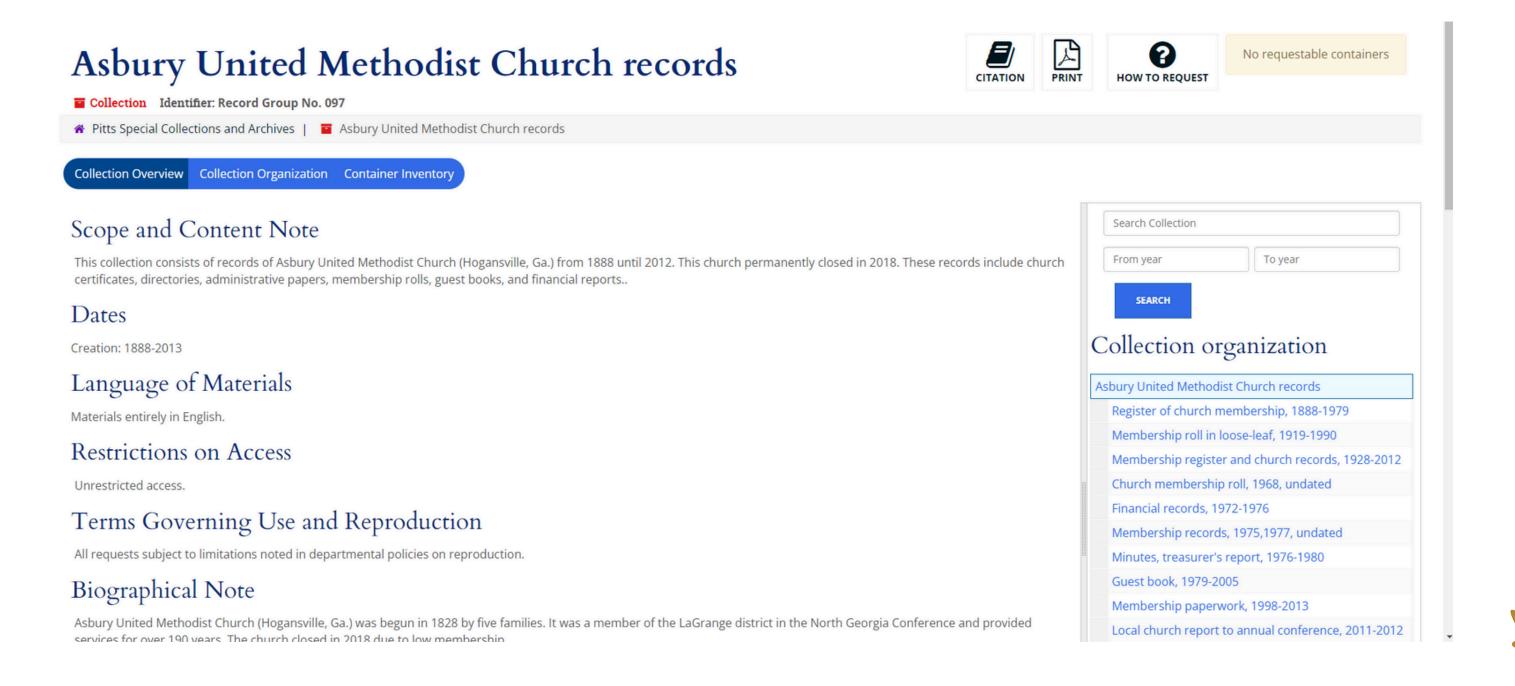


LibrarySearch https://search.libraries.emory.edu/





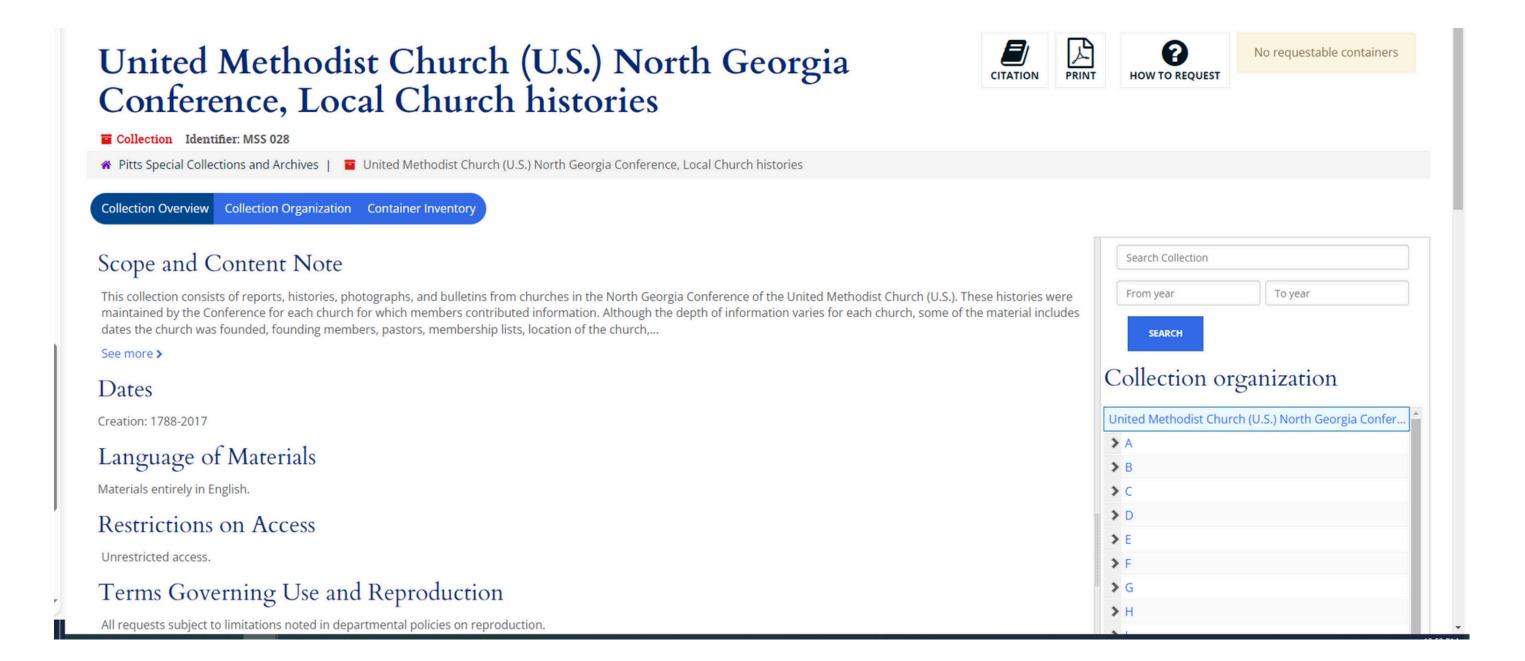
ArchivesSpace https://archives.libraries.emory.edu/





Digitally:

We have a Local Church History Collection that has been digitized. MSS 028 Resource Record: https://archives.libraries.emory.edu/repositories/2/resources/4009





Local church histories

2

H istory of the Fayetteville Methodist Church, South

(Written by Lester C. Dickson, County Historian, Fayette County) November 1937

I want to express my appreciation for the assistance rendered me in gathering material for this history to Joseph H. Murphy, A. O. B lalock, Miss Roxie Blalock, and W. J. Stell.

Before starting on the history of this church proper, I want to give a few facts as to the early history of the Methodist church in this section which will be of interest and will show what the early preachershad to go thru in their work in building up the church.

Before 1830 the preachers came from the South Carolina Conference. The first Georgia Conference met in January 1831 with 33 preachers present. Just after the treaty of Indian Springs with the Indians by which this section of the country was opened up. Fayette County was settled up rapidly, and with the earliest settlers came the Methodist t and Baptist Preachers. These preachers came while the Indians were here, and began to hold church services at the homes of the early settlers, and at an early date churches were established. Issac Boring was one of the first preachers to come to this country, only a few years, after the country was laid out, and in his history of Methodish in Georgia, G. G. Smith had this to say about, He knew no such word as defeat, and he dared all the dangers of his really perilous work with a fearless heart. The work of the preachers carried them into the humblest cabins for shelter, the plainest people for hearers, and the hardest fare. The list of appointments called for 30 sermons in thirty days. One Missionary of that time wrote, "Often, I traveled for miles without even a settler's blaze to direct me." The country was in woods, and with ne roads, and houses few, and far between. The circuits were large, and the preachers had to



Scans:

We can and do provide scans of materials. If the collection has been previously scanned we provide it free of charge. If you would like new materials scanned then we charge \$.50/page for pdf or jpg copies.

Additionally, we can provide a list of local researchers who you could contact if you need assistance with our collections.

Please contact our department if you would like digitzation!



Physically:

To view materials in person we require the following

- 1. Create a Special Collections Request Account if you are a new user, or login if returning. https://aeon.library.emory.edu/Logon
- 2. Our video explaining how to create this account: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MKhVC5qRdY0
- 3. Find the item you wish to request in Library Search (https://search.libraries.emory.edu/) or in ArchivesSpace (https://archives.libraries.emory.edu/).
- 4. Click through "Locate/Request Item" prompts.
- 5. You will need to schedule a day and time to view items
- 6. Please call/email with questions! The system is very confusing at first!



Main Library:

Our ready reference section has the United Methodist Church Journals

 There are some printed church histories in the main stacks. Search for these by name in Emory's Library Search.



More Information

Physical Reference Books

- Lawrence, Harold. *Methodist Preachers in Georgia: 1783-1900.* Tignall, Ga.: Boyd Pub. Co, 1984.
- Lawrence, Harold. Methodist Preachers in Georgia, 1783-1900. A Supplement.
 Milledgeville, Ga.: Boyd Pub. Co, 1995.
- Pierce, Alfred M. *A History of Methodism in Georgia : February 5, 1736 June 24, 1955.*Atlanta: North Georgia Conference
 Historical Society, 1956.
- Sheets, Herchel H. Methodism in North Georgia: a History of the North Georgia Conference. Milledgeville, Georgia: Boyd Publishing, 2005.



Contact Us



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Questions

