



**Old McKendree Chapel Records
(CG0072)**

Collection Number: CG0072

Collection Title: Old McKendree Chapel Records

Dates: 1809-2022

Creator: Old McKendree Chapel Memorial Association

Abstract: The Old McKendree Chapel Records contain bylaws, correspondences, meeting minutes, and artifacts chronicling the church's history as one of the oldest Methodist Churches west of the Mississippi.

Collection Size: 7 cubic feet
(132 folders, 168 photographs, 35 negatives, and 1 oversized item)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Cape Girardeau](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at capegirardeau@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: Copyright held by the Old McKendree Chapel Memorial Association

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Old McKendree Chapel Records* (CG0072); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Cape Girardeau [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Cape Girardeau].

Donor Information: These records were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Cape Girardeau by Mary Harriet Talbut in her capacity as President of the Board of Trustees for the Old McKendree Chapel Memorial Association on July 31, 2023 (Accession No. CGA0067).

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the Old McKendree Chapel Records are found the following collection:

[United Methodist Church, Missouri East Conference \(CA5745\)](#)

Processed by: Processed by Daisy Mowery, Ann Lowe, and AJ Medlock, 2023-2025

Historical Note:

During the latter years of the Louisiana Purchase, Methodists across continental North America set out in search of a location to erect a new place of worship. The land where Old McKendree Chapel sits, originally owned by William Williams, operated as a place for Methodist “camp meetings.” These “camp meetings” allowed for Methodists to gather in a time of prayer and reflection from preachings out of the Bible. In the spring of 1818, Bishop William McKendree, the first American born Bishop of the Methodist Church, attended a camp meeting, where the namesake “McKendree Chapel” originated.

In anticipation for the administrative meeting of the Missouri Annual Conference held on September 14, 1819, “boss carpenter” Charnel Glasscock and his associates, James Gibboney and Mr. Shelby (first name unknown) constructed the Old McKendree Chapel to house the event for years to come. The division of McKendree Churches occurred because of the schism of Methodism, where “North” and “South” churches corresponded with the common beliefs of the Civil War. The Old McKendree Chapel supported the “North” faction of the church, sustaining losses of members, though those who remained established the New McKendree Chapel to continue worship before the outbreak of the Civil War.

Once the services at Old McKendree Chapel moved to New McKendree, the building served as a school as early as 1831. The “subscription school” or the forerunner to public schools, allowed for residents of the surrounding area to access basic education that was otherwise unattainable. Along with holding school sessions, the Chapel accommodated traveling Methodists who came from all parts of the country. From 1890 onward, a minister from Jackson utilized this location for irregularly scheduled pastoral care, such as, baptisms, funerals, weddings, and occasional revivals held by other ministers.

In 1933, a shift to focus on the preservation of the Chapel lead to the establishment of the Old McKendree Memorial Association, where their main organization’s goal is to provide the fund and resources to maintain the Chapel’s historic integrity. Some of the preservation efforts undertaken by the Old McKendree Memorial Association include: the replacement and repairs of rafters and structural logs within the chapel, the reconstruction of the chimney, and a new roof with handmade cypress shingles to resemble the original state of the Chapel. Today, the Old McKendree Chapel is recognized as a National Register of Historic Places building and is located on Bainbridge Road in Jackson, Missouri.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following eight series with eight subseries, and one sub-subseries:

Old McKendree Memorial Association

Governance

Financial Records

Correspondence

200th Anniversary

Legal materials

Publications

- Major projects
 - National Register of Historic Places
- Promotional Materials
- Old McKendree Chapel Cemetery
 - Archaeology survey
- Missouri Conference of the United Methodist Church
- Newspaper Articles and Clippings
- Research and Essays
- Photographs
- Oversized Items

Scope and Content Note:

Old McKendree Memorial Association

The Old McKendree Memorial Association series materials are related to financial records, correspondences, meeting agendas and minutes, articles and bylaws, the bicentennial celebration, legal materials, and major projects. This series is arranged by topics and covers the years 1916-2022.

The Governance subseries contains materials for the Old McKendree Chapel's Board of Trustees regarding the elections of trustee members, Board of Trustees meeting minute records, the restrictions and guidelines trustees must follow, and an outline of the duties for trustees, and agendas. These records are arranged in chronological order from the years 1932-2020.

The Financial Records subseries houses record of insurance and bank statements, policies, treasurer audits, and yearly budget reports. These records are arranged in the order in which they were received, spanning from the years 1932-2020, and are listed in order based on topic.

The Correspondence subseries consists of letters from board members to clergy and congregants. Some of these letter correspondences pertain to board members and event planning, while others are directly correlated to the Missouri East Annual Conference and affiliated members. This subseries is arranged in chronological order regarding the letters received and sent and range from the years 1916-2020.

The 200th Anniversary subseries houses records related to the bicentennial celebration of the founding of the Old McKendree Chapel 1819-2019. This series is arranged format of the materials and includes correspondence between members of the church and special guests who were included in the Symposium that discussed Methodism in Missouri through the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Items span from 2016-2019.

The Legal Materials subseries includes records pertaining to the general warranty deed in Spanish of 1809, the renewed Exhorter license from 1888, the abstract of title 1957, and chapel grounds plan and preservation, no date. The items in the series are arranged by topical order.

The Publications subseries houses articles and excerpts of historical statements, Missouri history, the history of Methodism, and the background information for the history of the Chapel. The dates for these publications range from 1915-1997 and are arranged in the chronological order of publication.

The Major Projects subseries consists of the William Williams Log House project, zoning changes and annexations, as well as parcel maps and National Shrines and Landmarks data sheets. This series is arranged in the order that these projects were in chronological order in which the projects were complete and the dates of the items in this series ranges from 1982-2018.

The National Register of Historic Places sub-subseries holds the records relating to the National Register nomination process, dedication to the register, and the boundary increases for the Chapel. The items are arranged in order of the project's completion, and the years covered range from 1984-2015.

Marketing Materials

This Marketing Materials series consists of materials pertaining to the promotion of annual service programs from 1950-2018, the magazine features, informational brochures on becoming a member of the chapel, and promoting the need for donations for the Old McKendree Chapel's preservation. Materials in this series are arranged in chronological order and range in dates from the years 1950-2021.

Old McKendree Chapel Cemetery

The Old McKendree Chapel Cemetery series encompasses materials pertaining to the Old McKendree Chapel cemetery, its guidelines, pledges, burials, inventory of headstones, burial cards, lists of buried individuals, correspondences with the cemetery committee, the years span from 1951-2006.

The Southeast Missouri Archaeological Study sub-subseries houses the field notes and archaeological information pertaining to items excavated at the Old McKendree Cemetery and near the Chapel grounds, taking place in 1984. The records in this sub-subseries are arranged chronologically.

Missouri Conference of the United Methodist Church

This Missouri Conference of the United Methodist Church series consists of materials relating to the Missouri Conference of the United Methodist Church quarterly and annual conferences and annual reports. These items are arranged in the originally received order and covers the minutes and meetings for the years 1859-1883, 1916, 1926, 1963, and 1989.

Newspaper Articles and Clippings

The Newspaper Articles and Clippings series pertains to newspaper articles and clippings spanning from the years 1907-2022, with some articles undated. Some news articles contain photographs which have been placed on glue board and taped to cardstock. The topics in this series cover Annual Old McKendree Day Celebration events, National Register Nominations, guest speaker announcements, and annual service promotions. The items in this series are organized chronologically.

Research and Essays

The Research and Essays series houses published and unpublished research and essays conducted by a variety of former congregation members and founders. The series includes essays such as, “The Division of McKendree Chapel”, “Trees of Old McKendree”, and “100 Years of Methodism in Jackson, 1841-1941.” This series includes unpublished essays and research contain information relating to the foundation of the Old McKendree Chapel, the progression of Methodism in Jackson, Missouri through a century of change, and the dendrochronology (study of tree rings) to determine the age of the lumber used in the Chapel’s construction. This series also contains materials related to the genealogical research of the Williams, Poe, Seely, Gilliland, and Randol families. This series is arranged in order of when the research or essays were published, and the dates range from 1809-1994.

Photographs

The Photographs series houses the photographs taken at Old McKendree Chapel and include historic architectural images, photos of former Board of Trustees members, annual services and Old McKendree Day celebrations, as well as images from the antique quilt shows, the bicentennial symposium, and guest speakers. There are 168 photographs and 35 negatives. The items in this series are arranged in the order they were received, and the images dates range from the years 1941 to 2021, others are undated.

Oversized Items

The Oversized Items series contains all the oversized items, such as ceramic tiles commemorating the Chapel, a panorama of former class members (individuals who attended school sessions or services), newspaper articles or exhibit materials, promotional fans given for hot day annual services, class books with the years 1848-1881 and minute records from 1848-1883, and 1935-1951. These items are arranged by size of the materials in this series.

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