



Hillen Armour Bourland Papers (C4760)

Collection Number: C4760

Collection Title: Hillen Armour Bourland Papers

Dates: 1862-1916

Creator: Bourland, Hillen A., 1838-1918

Abstract: The papers of Reverend Hillen A. Bourland consists of two volumes of handwritten journal entries and one folder containing loose documents. The journal entries primarily cover Bourland's work as a minister for the Methodist Church in Tennessee, Missouri, and Texas.

Collection Size: 0.37 cubic foot
(1 folder, 2 volumes)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

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

Restrictions on Use: The materials within this collection are in the public domain.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Hillen Armour Bourland Papers* (C4760); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Columbia].

Donor Information: The records were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Megan Eicker on July 24, 2023.

Processed by: Processed by Jonathan Phillips, August 29, 2025

Historical Note:

Reverend Hillen Armour Bourland was born in Paris, Tennessee, on April 11, 1838, to Dr. Reece Bourland and Mary Waddy, though his father moved to Lovelace, Kentucky, when Hillen was a child.

He converted and joined the Methodist Church when he was 15 years old and joined the ministry when he was 19 years old. He graduated from St. Charles College in Missouri, in 1860, at the age of 22. He served in numerous areas including Clinton Circuit, Tennessee (1856), Briersburg, Tennessee (1857-1858), third was Fulton (1860-1863) and Palmyra, Missouri (1864-1866), after which he became president of Central College in Fayette, Missouri. He served in churches throughout Missouri, including, Mexico, (1869-1872), Hannibal, (1872-1875), and Kansas City, (1875-1877), before ending his career in Dallas, Texas, at Lamar Street Church (1871-1881).

Bourland passed away from pneumonia in Dallas, Texas, on February 14, 1918, and was survived by his wife and four children.

Arrangement:

The collection has been maintained in its original order.

Scope and Content Note:**Papers**

The collection consists of two volumes detailing Bourland's career from 1862 until 1914, with large gaps between 1888 to 1900 and 1900 to 1913. Most entries Bourland made in these journals pertain to his relationships with members of his congregations as well as professional relationships he had within the Church and within the towns he was living in at the time.

Interspersed within these entries are notes about historical events which appeared to be of particular interest to Bourland. These include personal lamentations regarding the beginning of the Civil War in 1863 (v. 1); references to the Centralia Train Massacre (v. 1); a reference to the Missouri Ordinance on Emancipation in February 1865 (v. 1); the sieges of several southern cities and the news of General Lee's surrender (v. 1); personal grievances with the newly appointed President Andrew Johnson (v. 1); opinions and notes on the 1876 Presidential Election between Samuel Tilden and Rutherford B. Hayes (v. 2); mentions of Prohibition Democrats and pro-Prohibition speakers (v. 2); and the Tampico Affair and the blockade of Vera Cruz (v. 2).

The collection also contains a folder of papers containing notes on religious scriptures, a copy of a sermon, a copy of Bourland's obituary from 1918, a comprehensive list of Bourland's placement and fragments of journal entries starting approximately one month after the second journal volume ends, starting from 1914 to approximately 1916.

Container List:

- v. 1 Journal, 1862-1871
- v. 2 Journal, 1871-1914
- f. 1 Papers, 1914-1916

Index:

Index Terms	Folder	Mediums
Christianity—19 th Century	1	v. 1, v. 2
Christianity—20 th Century	1	v. 1, v. 2
Christianity—United States	1	v. 1, v. 2
Methodist	1	v. 1, v. 2
Methodist Church	1	v. 1, v. 2
Rural churches	1	v. 1, v. 2