



History of Central Baptist Church Manuscript (S0028)

Collection Number: S0028

Collection Title: History of Central Baptist Church Manuscript

Dates: 1927

Creator: Stevens, George E.

Abstract: This collection contains a manuscript titled *The History of Central Baptist Church, showing her influence upon her times* by Reverend George E. Stevens. Reverend Stevens wrote the manuscript in 1927 to commemorate the 80th anniversary of Central Baptist Church, an African American Baptist Church founded in 1846 in St. Louis City.

Collection Size: 0.01 cubic foot
(1 folder)

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-St. Louis](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at stlouis@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *History of Central Baptist Church Manuscript* (S0028); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-St. Louis].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Julia Davis on September 21, 1976 (Accession No. SA0902).

Processed by: Processed by Rachael Heriford, March 2022

Notes: Throughout the manuscript, the words "colored" and "negro" are used to describe African Americans. "Colored" and "negro" were the dominant terms to describe African Americans throughout the 19th and 20th centuries.

Historical Note:

Twenty-three members of the First Baptist Church in St. Louis City left the church and began their own local prayer group closer to Cherry Street than the location of the First Baptist Church on Almond Street. After a blessing from the First Baptist Church, the prayer group eventually started the Second Baptist Church on March 22nd, 1846. Reverends Richard Sneethen and John Richard Anderson led the first worship of the Second Baptist Church at Liberty Engine House in St. Louis City on March 22nd, 1846. The first elected executive pastor was Reverend Sneethen in 1846. Reverend Anderson became executive pastor after Reverend Sneethen left the position in 1847 to pursue a pastoral role in Louisiana. The congregation quickly outgrew Liberty Engine House and moved to 8th Church Street in St. Louis City. After the death of Reverend Anderson in 1863, Reverend James Freeman Boulden assumed the executive pastor position. He expanded the influence of Second Baptist by building relationships with other Christian congregations throughout Missouri and creating African American schools and churches throughout the Mississippi Valley.

Reverend Boulden left the church in 1865. From 1865 until 1868, Reverend William Highland White served as an executive pastor. Reverend White, a distinguished scholar and theologian, taught newly emancipated African Americans reading skills as a reverend. After Rev. White's departure, Reverend Simon Peter Anderson became executive pastor in 1868 and served until 1880. During his time as pastor, Reverend Anderson successfully warned church members of the impending bank failure at Freedman's Bank in 1873, established the Samaritan Relief Society, and constructed African American schools throughout St. Louis. Reverend Sampson P. Lewis fulfilled executive pastor from 1880-1884 until Reverend Anderson returned to the role in 1885. In 1885, Second Baptist moved into the formerly occupied Methodist Episcopal Congregation at 23rd and Morgan Street in St. Louis. The church changed its name to the currently used Central Baptist Church during the move. After Reverend Anderson's second term, Rev. John L. Cohron became executive pastor in 1889 and oversaw the creation of the Baptist Young People's Union (B.Y.P.U.). After Cohron departed the position in 1903, Reverend George E Stevens was elected executive pastor.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged in one folder and maintained in its original order.

Scope and Content Note:

The History of Central Baptist Church, showing her influence upon her times was written by Reverend George E. Stevens in 1927. The manuscript chronicles the founding of Central Baptist, the changing of executive pastors, location moves, and community involvement from 1846-1927. Also in the manuscript are biographies of each executive pastor and distinguished preachers and laypersons of Central Baptist. Notable biographies include Harriet Tubman, Dred Scott, and Walter M. Farmer. The collection has been arranged in one folder and maintained in its original order.

Container List:

- f. 1 *History of Central Baptist Church, 1927*

Index:

Index Term	Folder
African American Baptists	1
African American Baptists--Missouri--Saint Louis--History	1
African American Churches--Missouri--Saint Louis	1
African Americans--Missouri--Saint Louis	1
African Americans--Religions	1
Anderson, John Richard, 1818-1863	1
Anderson, Simon Peter, 1842-1932	1
Baptists--Missouri	1
Boulden, Jesse Freeman, 1820-1899	1
Central Baptist Church (Saint Louis, Mo.)	1
Cohron, John Lewis, 1863-1945	1
Community life--Missouri--Saint Louis--History	1
Farmer, Walter M	1
Lewis, Sampson P	1
Meachum, John Berry, 1789-1854	1
Peck, John Mason 1789-1858	1
Saint Louis (Mo.)--Church History	1
Scott, Dred, 1799-1858	1
Slaves--Emancipation--Missouri--Saint Louis	1
Sneethen, Richard	1
Stevens, George E	1
Tubman, Harriet, 1822-1913	1
White, Henry Highland, 1836-1912	1