Biography of William McKendree

William McKendree was born in Virginia in 1757. In 1810 his family moved to Sumner County, Tennessee. At the start of the American Revolution, McKendree joined a group of Tennessee volunteers. After leaving the army he served as a school teacher for a bit. He joined the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1787 and worked as a minister. He worked in places such as Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina, and South Carolina. In 1801, he was sent to oversee the church of Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia. After a number of years ministering to those areas he was appointed to become a bishop. William McKendree was the first Methodist Bishop born in the United States. A school in Lebanon, Illinois is named after him because of the missionary work he did there. He died in 1835 in Sumner County, Tennessee at his brother’s house.

Scope and Content Note

The William McKendree Papers are comprised of .83 linear feet of correspondence, sermons and collected materials of Bishop McKendree. Also contained within these papers is his personal diary as well as a church business journal and several of William McKendree’s sermons. Aside from McKendree’s related papers there are a few Methodist relics such as a classbook of the year 1796, a partial diary of Hester Ann Rogers and outlines of sermons by Samuel Bradburn. Of note is a letter from John Wesley and a square of bedclothes from the bed in which John Wesley died.

Included in the collection are three small rolls of microfilm that were held by the Divinity Library until 2015 when they were transferred to Special Collections. These rolls contain reproductions of some of the papers.
WILLIAM McKENDREE PAPERS

Box 1

Folder 1: Outgoing Correspondence May 11, 1811 - Oct. 26, 1818
Folder 2: Outgoing Correspondence Feb. 26, 1821 - Dec. 8, 1824
Folder 3: Outgoing Correspondence July 21, 1825 - April 17, 1827
Folder 4: Outgoing Correspondence March 10, 1828 - Feb. 8, 1832
Folder 5: Outgoing Correspondence – Undated
Folder 6: Incoming Correspondence June 3, 1793 - March 3, 1802
Folder 7: Incoming Correspondence Dec. 12, 1809 – Feb. 2, 1810
Folder 8: Incoming Correspondence Feb. 15, 1810 – March 20, 1810
Folder 9: Incoming Correspondence April 21, 1811 – March 9, 1818
Folder 10: Incoming Correspondence May 24, 1819 – Oct. 23, 1821
Folder 11: Incoming Correspondence Jan. 23, 1822 – July 24, 1822
Folder 12: Incoming Correspondence Aug. 1822
Folder 13: Incoming Correspondence Sept. 5, 1822 – Dec. 28, 1822
Folder 14: Incoming Correspondence April 29, 1823 – June 30, 1823
Folder 15: Incoming Correspondence July 19, 1823 – Aug. 25, 1823
Folder 16: Incoming Correspondence Aug. 27, 1823 – Sept. 18, 1823
Folder 17: Incoming Correspondence Oct. 9, 1823 – Feb. 23, 1824
Folder 18: Incoming Correspondence March 17, 1824 – June 30, 1824
Folder 19: Incoming Correspondence July 17, 1824 – Aug. 31, 1824
Folder 20: Incoming Correspondence Nov. 1, 1824 – Dec. 14, 1824
Folder 21: Incoming Correspondence Aug. 6, 1825 – April 20, 1826
Folder 22: Incoming Correspondence May 3, 1826 – March 31, 1827
Folder 23: Incoming Correspondence March 30, 1829 – May 21, 1829
Folder 24: Incoming Correspondence Jan. 14, 1830 - March 31, 1832
Folder 25: Incoming Correspondence Dec. 1832- October 15, 1833
Folder 26: Incoming Correspondence Nov. 22, 1833 – Oct. 22, 1834
Folder 27: Undated Correspondence
Folder 28: Unidentified Correspondence
   Classbook, dated1796 belonging to W. Rogers showing income and expenditures of
   Methodist Conference.
   Partial diary of Hester Ann Rogers.
   Three outlines of sermons by Samuel Bradburn.
Folder 29: Relics of John Wesley – Letter and bedclothes (scrap) of John Wesley

Box 2

Folder 1: William McKendree’s Diary – May 7, 1790 – Feb. 18, 1791
Folder 2: William McKendree’s Journal of Church Business – 1810-1814
Folder 3: Book Listing Methodist Episcopal ministers

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Folder 4: William McKendree’s Sermons
   Improvement - title of two;
   Angelic Annunciation of Christ’s Birth - Based on John 3:16, 17, Preached at Nashville
   Based on Philippians 1:21.
   Book of Sermons: Christian Perfection
   On the Possibility of Falling from Grace
   Absolute Predestination
   Extracts from Mr. Clelland’s Dialogue
   Extracts from Mr. R. Mach’s Refutation of the Chain of Lorenzo
   The Progress of Methodism
Folder 5: John Fletcher’s Sermons
Folder 6: Plan of the Circuits –chart
Folder 7: Newspaper Clippings,
   “The Life of Pioneer in Methodism.”
   Methodist Review, “A Critical Descriptive catalogue of All the Editions of the Discipline
   of the Methodist Church in America from 1785-1808.”