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Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

Henry C. Bunton papers

1871-1989

Sc MG 291

Processed by Amal A. Muhammad.

Summary

Creator: Bunton, Henry Clay, 1903-

Title: Henry C. Bunton papers

Date: 1871-1989

Size: 7.4 linear feet (20 boxes)

Source: Gift of Henry C. Bunton, 1989 SCM 89-76

Abstract: Henry C. Bunton's papers consist of personal papers, writings, chaplaincy records, Christian Methodist Episcopal Church records, and correspondence. These papers principally document Bunton's role as a bishop with the C.M.E. Church. Church records consist of copies of sermons, office files, correspondence, denominational records, pamphlets and related material from his years in the ministry. Denominational records include correspondence with other bishops from the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church such as J. Claude Allen, Norris S. Curry, Chester Kirkendoll, Elisha P. Murchison, P. Randolph Shy, and P. Julian Smith regarding plans for meetings, annual conferences, expansion of the church and other church activities. There is also correspondence with individual pastors, and officers from the many member churches in Bunton's district regarding requests for assignments and transfers, securing property and other church business, as well as financial reports. Among the churches represented are Israel Metropolitan Church in Greenville, South Carolina; Mount Olive Cathedral in Memphis, Tennessee; and Russell Memorial Church in Durham, North Carolina.

Preferred citation: [Item], Henry C. Bunton papers, Sc MG 291, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Processed by Amal A. Muhammad; Machine-readable finding aid created by Apex Data Services; revised by Terry Catapano.

Creator History

Henry C. Bunton was born in 1903 near Coker in Tuscaloosa County, Alabama to sharecropping

parents. He was the sixth child of eleven children born to Isaac Washington and Sarah Lue Noland, both descendants of slaves. As was common among southern African-American tenant farmers, he experienced a life of dire impoverishment. His elementary education, typically in a single room of the local Colored, now Christian Methodist Episcopal, Methodist Episcopal Church (C.M.E.), was frequently interrupted by the exigencies of farming and the seasonal requirements of labor. He managed, however to complete five grades.

At the age of nineteen he married a Baptist woman, Estelle McKinney. Shortly thereafter he joined the C.M.E. Church and at age twenty he felt his calling to the ministry. He was licensed to preach at a Fourth Quarterly Conference and recommended to the Annual Conference from the same Quarterly Conference for admittance on trial. With much foresight, the Presiding Elder of Tuscaloosa County, the Reverend R. A. Kirk encouraged him to advance his education if he hoped to contribute to the ministry. At age twenty-two, he enrolled in the sixth grade in the Elementary School at Miles College in Birmingham, Alabama. By then, in addition to being a husband and student, he was also the father of two children, the financial obligations of which forced him to work in various menial jobs. At the age of twenty-nine, he graduated from high school and pursued two years of courses at Miles College. Family responsibilities and health reasons compelled him to discontinue.

For ten years Bunton served as pastor in various rural churches throughout Alabama. Included among them was Miles Chapel at Miles College. From Alabama, Bunton went to pastor in several urban churches in the East Florida Conference. In 1938 while ministering in St. James church in Tallahassee, he assumed his college instruction at Florida A&M College and earned his A.B. in 1941. From Saint James he was sent to Carter Tabernacle Church in Orlando for two years. While in Florida, he was also Dean of the Leadership Training School, Sunday School lesson writer, and Director of Leadership Education and Youth Work.

Bunton was again transferred to Arkansas, where he pastored at Bullock Temple Church in Little Rock. While residing there he was commissioned to the chaplaincy in the United States Army in 1943 and was assigned to Camp Van Dorn, Mississippi. From there, he went, in November 1943 to England and Wales and in June 1944 he crossed the English Channel to Normandy, France with U.S. Army units. He remained in Europe until November 1945. From 1948 to 1950 he again served as Chaplain for which he was rewarded the rank of Major and awarded the certificate for meritorious service and three battle stars. His connection with the military did not cease with the end of the war, but rather he became an official of the General Commission on Chaplains and the Armed Forces and was chosen sometime during the 1970s by the C.M.E. College of Bishops as the denomination's endorsing agent.

Upon his return to the United States Bunton resided in Dallas, Texas where he was assigned to pastor at Sparks Chapel Church. While there he also served as the Young Men's Christian Association's Boys Work Secretary part time for two years. After two years of study, he graduated from the Perkins School of Theology of Southern Methodist University. During the summer of 1950 he attended Garrett Biblical Seminary at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois.

From Dallas, Texas, Bunton went to Denver, Colorado where he pursued his theological studies at the Iliff School of Theology and earned a Master of Theology degree. He also pastored in Denver at Cleaves Memorial C.M.E. Church. From 1953 to 1954, he served with the Board of Christian Education as Director of Leadership Training, Adult Work and Writer for the Sunday School Literature.

In 1953 Bunton moved to Memphis, Tennessee to perform pastoral duties at Mount Olive Cathedral, one of the largest and most prestigious churches of the C.M.E. Church in Memphis. During his residence in Memphis from 1953 to 1962, he became active in civic work and civil rights activities. When the Southern Christian Leadership Conference was formed, Bunton served on both the Board of

Directors and the Executive Board until 1962 and continued a working relationship with the organization during his bishopric. He was also a charter member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Among the other positions he served in during his tenure in Memphis were president of the Ministers and Citizens League and president of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Memphis and Shelby County. He also ran for a position on the Board of Education. In 1955, Texas College, a C.M.E. Church affiliated college, named him honorary Doctor of Divinity.

From July 1957 to January 1958, Bunton traveled to Egypt, Lebanon, Greece, Palestine, Syria, Jordan, and Italy and visited sites of Biblical significance. Bunton's wife of 33 years passed away in 1958. Later that year, he married Alfreda Gibbs Carpenter, a widow and businesswoman.

In May of 1962 at the C.M.E. General Conference, Bunton was elected the thirty-third Presiding Bishop of the C.M.E. Church and as Bishop of the Seventh Episcopal District with headquarters in Washington, D.C. He remained Bishop until 1978 and was assigned throughout that period to the Seventh Episcopal District. Unlike some of his predecessors, Bunton did not campaign for this position. He felt that this was not a secular office, that a campaign of a political nature was inappropriate, and that the person to fill the position should be chosen by the people.

During his bishopric Bunton accomplished several things. Aside from helping numerous persons attend college and founding twenty-four congregations, he was permitted by the College of Bishops to supervise the Annual Conferences of Ghana and Nigeria. The C.M.E. Church's activities in these two countries had traditionally been termed, "the African work" which was attached to the Episcopal District to which the presiding bishop was assigned. As Bishop of the Seventh Episcopal District, Bunton also oversaw these two conferences from 1966. In addition, Bunton continued the ongoing dialogue between the C.M.E., the African Methodist Episcopal, and the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Churches toward the goal of union between the three Methodist groups. Moreover, during the years 1976 to 1978, the C.M.E. Church worked closely with the Union American Methodist Episcopal, African Union Methodist Protestant, Reformed Zion Union Apostolic, and British Methodist Episcopal Churches. Before the 1978 General Conference, Bunton, with the help of several ministers, organized the C.M.E. Church in Haiti.

Other C.M.E. Church-related positions which Bunton held include trusteeships of Paine College in August, Georgia and of Miles College in Birmingham, Alabama, president of the Publishing Board, and chairman of the College of Bishops. In addition Bunton served on the Board of Directors of Joint Action for Community Service, Inc. and on the Advisory Board of the American Bible Society, 1962-1970. He was a member of the National Council of Churches of the U.S.A. and the Council of Churches of Greater Washington. Bunton also taught several times in the 1970s at Howard University. In 1972 he was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Miles College and a Doctorate of Divinity from Mississippi Industrial College, both of which are C.M.E. Church affiliates.

Bunton's involvement with the C.M.E. Church did not cease with his retirement in 1978. The same year, the C.M.E. Church legislated that in the case of the death of a bishop of a District, a retired Bishop may be recalled to serve. Due to the death of Bishop Joseph A. Johnson in 1979, Bunton was recalled to complete his term at the Fourth Episcopal District until 1982. Bunton is at present fully retired from the Church. His second wife passed away in 1990. He is currently living in Memphis, Tennessee and writing a book on the concept of the Methodist episcopacy.

Christian Methodist Episcopal Church

The Christian Methodist Episcopal Church was established in 1870 as a result of the exodus of the former slave congregations from the Southern branch of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1954, the

year of Brown versus Board of Education Supreme Court decision, the General Conference resolved to officially change the name of the church from Colored to Christian Methodist Episcopal Church.

During Henry C. Bunton's bishopric there were nine Episcopal Districts. Each District is headed by a bishop who presides over the Districts Annual Conferences. The bishops together comprise the College of Bishops. This body acts as the chief executive of the Church. The chairman of the College of Bishops is elected annually.

Within each Conference are smaller districts which are headed by presiding elders. Every four years the Annual Conferences elect delegates to the C.M.E. Church General Conference, a quadrennial meeting. These delegates elect the bishops of the Episcopal Districts and the bishop of the whole Church. The churches and the Annual Conferences also hold conferences.

Also within the C.M.E. Church structure are bodies, divisions, boards, departments, committees, and commissions devoted to various areas of interest to the church. Many of these bodies extend in hierarchical fashion to the Conference and district levels.

Scope and Content Note

The Henry C. Bunton Papers, 1871-1989, are divided into PERSONAL PAPERS, WRITINGS, CHAPLAINCY, CHRISTIAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH and GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE.

Arrangement: Papers organized into five series: I. Personal Papers; II. Writings; III. Chaplaincy, IV. Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, V. General Correspondence

Key Terms

Subjects

African American churches
African American clergy
African American preaching
African American women
African Americans -- Civil rights
African Americans -- Education (Higher)
African Americans -- Relations with Africans
African Americans -- Religion
African Americans -- Scholarships, fellowships, etc
Civil rights -- United States
Military chaplains -- United States
Sermons, American -- African American authors

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Scrapbooks
Sermons

Names

Allen, J. Claude
Bunton, Henry Clay, 1903-
Curry, Norris S

Kirkendoll, Chester K
Murchison, Elisha P
Shy, P. Randolph
Smith, P. Julian
Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
Israel Metropolitan Church (Greenville, S.C.)
Leadership Conference on Civil Rights
Miles College (Birmingham, Ala.)
Mount Olive Cathedral (Memphis, Tenn.)
National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America
Russell Memorial Church (Durham, S.C.)
Southern Christian Leadership Conference

Container List

PERSONAL PAPERS

The PERSONAL PAPERS, 1938-1979, series consists of papers relating to Henry C. Bunton as well as his family. It includes typewritten, printed, and handwritten biographical and autobiographical material, clippings, scattered school-related papers, and correspondence. The series also contains a folder of material on his campaign for membership on the Board of Education in Memphis, another on his trips to the "Holy Land" and papers relating to his teaching appointments at Howard University and the courses he taught there. In addition the series includes a historical sketch of Alfreda Gibbs Bunton, Bunton's second wife, an undated piece of writing by her, correspondence between Bunton and immediate as well as extended family, 1940-1977, and Hungerford School Records of his children, Mattye Lou, Marjorie and Henry Bunton, Jr., 1940-1943. Of interest in this series is an outline and introduction entitled, "The Bunton Era." This may be the beginnings of Bunton's autobiography, *A Dreamer of Dreams*.

- b. 1 f. 1 Biographical data 1975, 1977, n.d
- b. 1 f. 2 Academic Papers 1941, 1947, 1950-1951, n.d
- b. 1 f. 3 Academic Papers 1950-1951, n.d.
- b. 1 f. 4 Academic Papers 1950-1951, n.d.
- b. 1 f. 5 School Grades 1940, 1944, 1950-1952
- b. 1 f. 6 Masonic Lodge 1961, 1964, 1971, 1976, n.d
- b. 1 f. 7 Travels 1956-1958, 1964, n.d
- b. 1 f. 8 Certificates 1938, 1942-1943, 1946-1947, 1952-1953, 1957-1962, 1967, 1969-1970, 1980, 1982, n.d
See also oversize folder in map case drawer 1
- b. 1 f. 9 Programs 1952, 1960, 1962-1965, 1967-1968, 1976
- b. 1 f. 10 Campaign for Membership on Board of Education 1958-1959
Howard University
- b. 1 f. 11 Course Material 1977-1978
- b. 1 f. 12 Teaching Appointment 1972, 1976, 1978-1979, n.d
- b. 1 f. 13 Alfreda Bunton 1971, n.d.
- b. 1 f. 14 Correspondence from Family 1940-1978
- b. 1 f. 15 School Records of Bunton Children 1940-1943, 1973-1974, n.d
- b. 1 f. 16 Clippings 1953, 1958-1959, 1961-1964, 1966-1972, 1974-1976, n.d
- b. 1 f. 17 Miscellaneous 1941, 1955

WRITINGS

The WRITINGS, 1963-1979, n.d., series includes essays, eulogies, sermons, and speeches by Bunton as well as essays whose authorship and/or title is unidentified. The majority of these essays are undated. Of interest in this series is Bunton's booklet, *The Challenge to Become Involved*, the only published writing by Bunton in the series.

- b. 2 f. 1 Essays by Henry C. Bunton
A-G n.d.
- b. 2 f. 2 H, L-P, S, U, W n.d.
- b. 2 f. 3 Eulogies 1973, 1978, n.d
- b. 2 f. 4 Sermons
A-C n.d.
- b. 2 f. 5 D-F n.d.
- b. 2 f. 6 G-I n.d.

WRITINGS (cont.)

Sermons (cont.)

- b. 2 f. 7 J-L n.d.
- b. 2 f. 8 M-N n.d.
- b. 3 f. 1 O-R 1979, n.d.
- b. 3 f. 2 S-U 1963, n.d.
- b. 3 f. 3 W-Y n.d.
- b. 3 f. 4 Speeches 1970, n.d.
- b. 3 f. 5 Untitled n.d.
- b. 3 f. 6 Miscellaneous n.d.

CHAPLAINCY--UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES

The CHAPLAINCY, UNITED STATES ARMED SERVICES, 1938-1978, series is composed of papers relating to Bunton, chaplains and prospective chaplains. The series contains correspondence and personal papers relating to Bunton's term as Chaplain. These are arranged chronologically. The series also contains the files of individuals requesting ecclesiastical endorsement for chaplaincy in the armed forces, and include applications with photographs and recommendations. These folders are arranged alphabetically. Other material included in this series are chaplain's reports and correspondence. Of interest is the file devoted to the correspondence of Edward Avery, a Methodist preacher whom Bunton met while in Wales and to whom he was grateful during his chaplaincy there.

- b. 4 f. 1 Bunton Chaplaincy Papers
 - 1941, 1943-1946
- b. 4 f. 2 1948-1949
- b. 4 f. 3 1950-1954
- b. 4 f. 4 Miscellaneous 1944, 1949, 1955, n.d.
- Reports
- b. 4 f. 5 Chaplain's Monthly 1949-1950
- b. 4 f. 6 Chaplain's Quarterly 1974, 1977-1978
- Ecclesiastical Endorsement Requests and Recommendations for United States Armed Services Chaplaincy
- b. 4 f. 7 B-G 1942-1945, 1955, 1965
- b. 4 f. 8 H 1942-1944, 1955, 1972, 1974-1975
- b. 4 f. 9 J 1942-1943, 1946
- b. 4 f. 10 Ma-Mc 1939-1943, 1957, 1964
- b. 5 f. 1 Mi-My 1942-1943, 1947-1948, 1967-1968
- b. 5 f. 2 N-Si 1938, 1941-1943, 1965, 1973, 1975
- b. 5 f. 3 Sm-Y 1941-1944, 1952, 1955, 1967-1969, 1978
- b. 5 f. 4 Correspondence
 - Department of the Air Force 1966, 1972, 1974-1978
 - Department of the Army 1974-1978
 - Department of Defense 1974-1977
 - Department of the Navy 1951, 1969, 1977
 - General Commission on Chaplains and Armed Forces Personnel 1974-1978, n.d.
- Chaplains
- b. 5 f. 9 Johnny L. Adams 1976-1977
- b. 5 f. 10 Edward Avery 1944-1946

CHAPLAINCY--UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES (cont.)

Correspondence (cont.)

Chaplains (cont.)

- b. 5 f. 11 Bertram C. Gilbert 1972
- b. 5 f. 12 General 1959, 1960, 1965, 1967, 1975-1976, 1978
- b. 5 f. 13 Endorsement Requests 1959, 1969-1972 1974-1979
- b. 5 f. 14 Miscellaneous 1976-1977, n.d.

CHRISTIAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The CHRISTIAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1871-1989 series is the largest single series of the collection. The subseries within it are Bishopric, Churches, Affiliated Bodies and Activities, and Colleges.

Bishopric

The *Bishopric*, 1871-1986, subseries is arranged to reflect the structure of the Church. Hence the first ten divisions of the subseries contain material regarding the First through Tenth Episcopal Districts. The last District was formed after Bunton's term as Bishop of the C.M.E. Church. Each District subdivision consists of folders pertaining to the bishops of the District, the District's Annual Conferences and the districts of those Conferences. The folders regarding bishops contain their correspondence with Bunton in their capacity as bishops as well as holders of other positions in the C.M.E. Church. These folders contain few letters from Bunton. The letters reflect the concerns, requests, and administration of these clergymen. In some cases the correspondence of a bishop may be found within more than one subdivision because he may have presided over more than one Episcopal District during his career and over an Annual Conference in another District. In addition to correspondence, the bishops' folders contain clippings, printed matter, certificates, programs and souvenir journals. The files pertaining to the Annual Conferences and their districts contain correspondence, clippings, minutes, financial statements, programs, and printed matter. This subseries contains the oldest document in the entire collection: the minutes of the Colored Georgia Conference, January 1871.

The Seventh Episcopal District subdivision is the largest in this subseries. This is also the District to which Bunton was assigned from 1962 to 1978 during his bishopric. This subdivision contains correspondence, clippings, deeds, depositions, indentures, and statements of closing, documents of incorporation, minutes and agendas, financial statements, journals, programs, souvenir journals, marriage licenses, and certificates. The certificates folder contains certificates of appointment to C.M.E. Church offices in the Seventh Episcopal District and transfer certificates to individuals transferring from Conferences in other Episcopal Districts to ones within Bunton's District. This subdivision also contains two bound handwritten journals of the Washington District, 1902-1938.

First Episcopal District

- b. 6 f. 1 Bishop J. Arthur Hamlett 1954, 1956-1958, n.d
- b. 6 f. 2 Bishop P. Randolph Shy 1971, 1973
- b. 6 f. 3 Bishop Julian Smith 1958-1959, 1961-1963, 1967-1972, 1976
- b. 6 f. 4 Bishop John M. Exum 1974-1978
- b. 6 f. 5 East Tennessee Annual Conference--Nashville-Clarksville District 1977-1978

Second Episcopal District

- b. 6 f. 6 Bishop Randall Albert Carter 1946
See oversize folder in map case drawer 1
- b. 6 f. 7 Bishop J. Arthur Hamlett 1953
- b. 6 f. 8 Bishop Luther Stewart 1960, 1962
- b. 6 f. 9 Bishop Bertram W. Doyle 1962, 1967-1970, 1978
- b. 6 f. 10 Bishop Elisha P. Murchison 1970-1978, n.d.
- b. 6 f. 11 Bishop James Cummings 1979
- b. 6 f. 12 Kansas-Missouri Conference--Denver District 1953
- b. 6 f. 13 Ohio Annual Conference 1974
- b. 6 f. 14 The Chronicle n.d.

CHRISTIAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH (cont.)

Bishopric (cont.)

Third Episcopal District

- b. 6 f. 15 Bishop J. Arthur Hamlett 1939
- b. 6 f. 16 Bishop W. Y. Bell 1956
- b. 6 f. 17 Bishop J. Claude Allen 1959, 1960, 1962-1975, 1978
- b. 6 f. 18 Bishop Walter H. Amos 1974
- b. 6 f. 19 Bishop Elisha P. Murchison 1978-1979

Indiana-Michigan Conference

- b. 6 f. 20 Correspondence, Minutes, Reports 1974-1977
- b. 6 f. 21 Annual Conference Yearbooks 1974-1975, 1977
- b. 6 f. 22 Detroit District 1975, 1978
- b. 6 f. 23 Gary District 1974-1975, n.d.
- b. 6 f. 24 Kansas-Colorado District 1969-1970, n.d.
- b. 6 f. 25 St. Louis District 1971-1972, 1974-1975

Fourth Episcopal District

- b. 6 f. 26 Bishop Luther Stewart 1956
- b. 6 f. 27 Bishop W. Y. Bell 1957
- b. 6 f. 28 Bishop Joseph A. Johnson 1967-1974
- b. 6 f. 29 Louisiana Conference 1979-1980
- b. 6 f. 30 South Louisiana Conference 1978-1979
- b. 6 f. 31 Bishop Chester A. Kirkendoll 1970-1978

Fifth Episcopal District

- b. 6 f. 32 Bishop Elisha P. Murchison 1958-1959, 1962, 1966-1969, 1976-1977
- b. 6 f. 33 South Florida Annual Conference and East Florida Annual Conference 1942
- b. 6 f. 34 Southeast Alabama Conference 1967

Sixth Episcopal District

- b. 7 f. 1 Bishop Bertram W. Doyle 1956-1957
- b. 7 f. 2 Bishop P. Randolph Shy 1967, 1969, 1974
- b. 7 f. 3 Bishop Joseph C. Coles 1974-1977, n.d.
- b. 7 f. 4 Georgia Annual Conference 1871, 1964, 1974-1975, 1977-1978, 1986
- b. 7 f. 5 Southwest Georgia Conference--Columbus District 1960, 1962, 1977, n.d

Seventh Episcopal District

- b. 7 f. 6 Souvenir Journals 1970, 1974, n.d
 - b. 7 f. 7 Reports 1967-1969, 1971-1972
 - b. 7 f. 8 Miscellaneous 1962-1968, 1972-1973, 1975, 1978, n.d
 - b. 7 f. 9 Bishop W. Y. Bell 1960-1961, 1970
- Carolina Annual Conference
- b. 7 f. 10 Minutes 1966, 1969, 1970-1971, 1974
 - b. 7 f. 11 Minutes 1974-1976
 - b. 7 f. 12 Correspondence 1963, 1969-1972, 1975-1977, n.d
 - b. 7 f. 13 Reports and Financial Statements 1970-1977
 - b. 7 f. 14 Programs and Printed Matter 1971, 1973-1975, 1977, n.d

CHRISTIAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH (cont.)

Bishopric (cont.)

Seventh Episcopal District (cont.)

Carolina Annual Conference (cont.)

- b. 7 f. 15 Miscellaneous 1974-1977, n.d.
- b. 7 f. 16 Charleston-Columbia District 1959, 1967, 1970-1974, 1976, n.d
- b. 7 f. 17 Durham District 1967-1970, 1972, 1974, 1976-1978, n.d
- b. 7 f. 18 Winston-Salem-Greenville District 1967-1972, 1974, 1976-1977, n.d
- b. 8 f. 1 Ghana Annual Conference 1964-1965, 1967-1971, n.d
See also oversize folder in map case drawer 1
- New York-Washington Conference
- b. 8 f. 2 Legal Documents 1959, 1963, 1966-1969, 1971-1972, 1974-1975, 1977
- b. 8 f. 3 Financial Reports 1962-1966, 1970-1974
- b. 8 f. 4 Incorporation 1961, 1970
- b. 8 f. 5 Correspondence 1963, 1966-1972, 1974-1977, n.d
- b. 8 f. 6 Minutes and Reports 1963, 1964, 1969-1973, n.d
- b. 8 f. 7 Programs and Yearbooks 1962-1965, 1967, 1969-1971, 1973-1977
- b. 8 f. 8 Miscellaneous 1963, 1967-1976, n.d
- b. 8 f. 9 Presiding Elder James G. Braithwaite 1974-1977, n.d.
- b. 8 f. 10 New York District 1963, 1967-1969, 1973-1976, n.d
- b. 8 f. 11 Philadelphia District 1963, 1967-1969-1970, 1972-1974, n.d
- b. 8 f. 12 Virginia District n.d.
- Washington District
- b. 9 f. 1 Journal 1902-1928
- b. 9 f. 2 Journal 1929-1938
- b. 9 f. 3 Miscellaneous n.d.
- b. 9 f. 4 Presiding Elder John W. Bonner 1975
- b. 9 f. 5 Presiding Elder Arlester Brown 1975, n.d.
- b. 9 f. 6 Washington-Virginia District 1969-1970, 1973-1975, 1977-1978, n.d
- b. 9 f. 7 Nigeria Annual Conference 1962, 1964-1967, 1969-1971, 1973
- b. 9 f. 8 North Carolina Annual Conference 1962, 1963, 1966, 1968, 1975, n.d
- b. 9 f. 9 Durham District 1962-1965, 1967
- b. 9 f. 10 Winston-Salem District 1963-1965, n.d.
- b. 9 f. 11 North Carolina and South Carolina Annual Conference 1963-1965, n.d.
- b. 9 f. 12 Columbia-Greenville District 1963, 1965
- b. 9 f. 13 South Carolina Annual Conference 1955, 1962-1966
- b. 9 f. 14 Columbia-Greenville District 1961-1964
- b. 9 f. 15 Greater Charleston District 1962-1964, n.d.
- b. 9 f. 16 Certificates 1962-1966, 1968, 1971-1972, 1974-1978
- b. 9 f. 17 Marriage Licenses 1965-1966
- Eighth Episcopal District
- b. 10 f. 1 Bishop James A. Bray 1937
- b. 10 f. 2 Bishop B. Julian Smith 1956
- b. 10 f. 3 Bishop Norris Samuel Curry 1966, 1968-1974, n.d
- b. 10 f. 4 Bishop C.D. Coleman 1975-1976, 1979

CHRISTIAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH (cont.)

Bishopric (cont.)

Eighth Episcopal District (cont.)

- b. 10 f. 5 Central Texas Conference 1973
- b. 10 f. 6 Dallas District 1962, 1969, 1973
- b. 10 f. 7 Greenville District 1972, n.d.

Ninth Episcopal District

- b. 10 f. 8 Bishop J. Claude Allen 1958
- b. 10 f. 9 Bishop Walter H. Amos 1967-1970, 1971, 1973
- b. 10 f. 10 Bishop Norris S. Curry 1974-1979
- b. 10 f. 11 Arizona-New Mexico Annual Conference 1964, 1974-1976
- b. 10 f. 12 California Conference
 - Los Angeles District 1962
- b. 10 f. 13 Oakland District 1962 1967, 1975-1978, n.d
- b. 10 f. 14 The Christian Call of T-A-N 1961
- b. 10 f. 15 Tenth Episcopal District 1988
- b. 10 f. 16 Miscellaneous 1965, n.d.

Churches

The subseries, *Churches*, 1878-1986, is arranged alphabetically according to states for those in the U.S. and country for those in Africa. This arrangement was chosen because it was not always clear in which district or conference the churches belonged. Moreover, while in most cases the district or conference could be determined, in some instances, churches, such as those in the North Carolina Annual Conference were related at different times to the Carolina Annual Conference, or the North Carolina and South Carolina Annual Conference.

The states which together account for most of the documentation are the Eastern seaboard states of New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Maryland, and North and South Carolina, as well as the District of Columbia. The first six states and the District of Columbia belong to the New York-Washington Annual Conference and the Carolinas or portions thereof belonged to the Carolina Conference, North and South Carolina Conferences, or the North and South Carolina Conference, at different times. All of these fall under the umbrella of the Seventh Episcopal District, the headquarters of the C.M.E. Church during Bunton's bishopric.

This subseries consists of correspondence from pastors and letters from individuals who discuss the churches and the organizations within them, appeals and complaints from church members, programs, church bulletins, clippings, financial statements, minutes and agendas, baptismal records, biographical sketches, correspondence regarding sales and purchases of property and transfer of property ownership, deeds, reports, and souvenir journals. With the exception of the Florida and Tennessee folders, none of the folders devoted to states in which Bunton pastored contain material that sheds light on the churches where Bunton pastored prior to assuming the bishopric. The Tennessee folder contains a brief historical sketch of Mount Olive C.M.E. Church and a souvenir journal on the occasion of the centennial of the church and the Florida folder contains one of Bunton's first church bulletins at Carter Tabernacle Colored Methodist Episcopal Church.

- b. 11 f. 1 Alabama 1969, 1971-1974, 1977-1978 n.d
- b. 11 f. 2 Arizona 1974-1976
- b. 11 f. 3 Arkansas 1945, 1971, 1975
- b. 11 f. 4 California 1962, 1967, 1969, 1972, 1976-1978, n.d
- b. 11 f. 5 Colorado 1970, n.d.
- b. 11 f. 6 Connecticut 1946, 1967, 1969, 1972-1978, n.d
- b. 11 f. 7 District of Columbia 1962, 1967-1979, n.d
- b. 11 f. 8 Florida 1940-1941, 1962, 1965, 1976, n.d
See also oversize folder in map case drawer 1
- b. 11 f. 9 Georgia 1962, 1969, 1972-1973, 1975 1977-1978, 1986

CHRISTIAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH (cont.)
Churches (cont.)

- b. 11 f. 10 Ghana 1969-1971, 1973, n.d
- b. 11 f. 11 Illinois 1960, 1964, 1971-1974, 1977-1978
- b. 11 f. 12 Indiana 1969, 1974-1975 1977, n.d
- b. 11 f. 13 Kentucky 1969-1977
- b. 11 f. 14 Louisiana 1965, 1979
- b. 11 f. 15 Maryland 1969, 1972-1978
- b. 11 f. 16 Massachusetts 1971
- b. 11 f. 17 Michigan 1962, 1975-1976, n.d
See also oversize folder in map case drawer 1
- b. 11 f. 18 Mississippi 1967
- b. 11 f. 19 Missouri 1967, 1975, 1977
- b. 11 f. 20 New Jersey 1959, 1968-1978, n.d
- b. 11 f. 21 New York 1964, 1967-1978, n.d
- b. 12 f. 1 Nigeria 1966-1970
- b. 12 f. 2 North Carolina 1964, 1967-1978, n.d
- b. 12 f. 3 Ohio 1962, 1969-1977
- b. 12 f. 4 Oklahoma 1970-1972, 1975
- b. 12 f. 5 Oregon 1974
- b. 12 f. 6 Pennsylvania 1961-1962, 1966-1978, n.d
- b. 12 f. 7 Holsey Temple C.M.E 1966-1978, n.d.
- b. 12 f. 8 South Carolina 1961, 1964-1978
- b. 12 f. 9 Tennessee 1954-1955, 1959-1962, 1966, 1975-1977, 1981, n.d
- b. 12 f. 10 Texas 1962, 1969-1979, n.d
- b. 13 f. 1 Virginia 1878, 1912, 1954, 1962, 1966-1978, n.d
- b. 13 f. 2 Wisconsin 1974-1975, n.d.
- b. 13 f. 3 Miscellaneous 1961-1978, n.d.

Affiliated Bodies and Activities

The subseries, *Affiliated Bodies and Activities*, 1937-1989, is arranged alphabetically. The represented bodies are boards, commissions, committees, departments, divisions, and publications. The folders contain correspondence, minutes, agendas, printed matter, and souvenir journals. Those containing material concerning the College of Bishops, Publishing Board, and the General Board of Christian Education are especially large. Bunton was the president of the College of Bishops and the Publishing Board and involved with the General Board of Christian Education.

Also of interest in this subseries are two folders devoted to publications of the C.M.E. Church, *C.M.E. Chronicle* and *Christian Index*, official organ of the C.M.E. Church and "The Second Oldest Negro periodical." They contain correspondence, a 1967 souvenir journal celebrating the one-hundredth anniversary of the *Index* and a copy of the 1977 issue which featured Bunton in a guest editorial, an interview with him, a biographical article on Alfreda Gibbs Bunton, and seven pages of photographs of twenty-four congregations which were founded under Bunton's bishopric. There is also a list of questions for the interview with Bunton in the folder as well as clippings from the *Index*. Also of note are the folders pertaining to the Missionary Council, the Woman's Missionary Council and the Division of Research and History. The two Missionary Councils are the same body but appear under different names. These two bodies reflect strong female activity. The folder pertaining to the Division of Research and History contains an outline of and a report on a research project on the history of the C.M.E. Church. Bishop Bertram W. Doyle was authorized in 1970 to undertake this project, however, he died in 1980. Also of note are the folders pertaining to Bunton's efforts in uniting the C.M.E. Church with other Methodist churches and the folder containing material about his work in establishing the C.M.E. Church in Haiti.

CHRISTIAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH (cont.)

Affiliated Bodies and Activities (cont.)

- b. 14 f. 1 Board of Evangelism 1966-1969, 1971-1974, 1978, n.d
- b. 14 f. 2 Board of Missions 1963, 1967, 1968, 1970, 1975, n.d
- b. 14 f. 3 Budget Commission 1978-1982
- b. 14 f. 4 *The C.M.E. Chronicle* 1971
- b. 14 f. 5 *Christian Index* 1962, 1967-1971, 1975-1978, 1986
- b. 14 f. 6 Christian Social Action Committee 1969, n.d.
- b. 14 f. 7 Christian Youth Fellowship 1973
- College of Bishops
- b. 14 f. 8 Minutes and Agendas 1962-1969
- b. 14 f. 9 Minutes and Agendas 1973, 1976-1978, 1979, 1986
- b. 14 f. 10 Programs and Procedures n.d.
- b. 14 f. 11 Programs 1967, 1975, 1977-1978
- b. 14 f. 12 Miscellaneous 1967-1979, n.d.
- Colleges
- b. 14 f. 13 Elias Cottrell Theological Institute 1979-1982
- b. 14 f. 14 Lane College 1967, 1969-1970, 1974-1975, 1977, n.d
- b. 14 f. 15 Miles College
 - Correspondence, Minutes, and Printed Matter 1954, 1968-1969, 1971, 1974-1978
 - Reports and Handbook 1969, 1974-1978
- b. 15 f. 1 Mississippi Industrial College 1960, 1979-1980
- b. 15 f. 2 Paine College 1955, 1963, 1972-1977
- b. 15 f. 3 Phillips School of Theology 1974-1977
- b. 15 f. 4 Texas College 1950, 1954-1955, 1969-1970, 1972, 1974, 1976
- b. 15 f. 5 Report on Study of Colleges of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church 1979
- b. 15 f. 6 Commission on Christian Social Concerns 1977
- b. 15 f. 7 Collins Chapel Connectional Hospital 1966, 1972-1973
- b. 15 f. 8 Commission on Long Range Planning 1966, 1971, 1974, 1977
- b. 15 f. 9 Committee on Public Relations and Social Concern 1966
- b. 15 f. 10 Department of Conference Claimants 1962
- b. 15 f. 11 Department of Finance 1974-1975, 1977, 1979
- b. 15 f. 12 Department of Lay Activities 1964, 1966, 1972, 1974-1975, 1977, n.d
- b. 15 f. 13 Discipline 1974
- b. 15 f. 14 Division of Research and History 1974
- b. 15 f. 15 Fellowship 1968
- b. 15 f. 16 Finance Department 1962, 1965, 1969-1970
- General Boards
- b. 15 f. 17 Christian Education 1967-1970, 1972-1973, 1980
- b. 15 f. 18 Finance 1967, 1979
- b. 15 f. 19 Pensions 1966-1967, 1972-1976, 1978, n.d
- b. 15 f. 20 Personnel Services 1979

CHRISTIAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH (cont.)

Affiliated Bodies and Activities (cont.)

General Boards (cont.)

- b. 15 f. 21 Religious Education 1937
Annual Reports of General Officers
- b. 15 f. 22 1963-1965
- b. 15 f. 23 1968, 1976
- b. 16 f. 1 1979, 1984
- b. 16 f. 2 1985
- b. 16 f. 3 1986
- b. 16 f. 4 1989
- General Conference
- b. 16 f. 5 Committees and Delegates 1970, 1975, n.d.
Addresses, Minutes, Programs, Reports, and Souvenir Journals
- b. 16 f. 6 1962
- b. 16 f. 7 1970
- b. 16 f. 8 1974, 1978
- b. 16 f. 9 1986
- b. 16 f. 10 General Connectional Board 1976
- b. 17 f. 1 General Connectional Board and College of Bishops--Minutes and Agenda
1976-1977
- b. 17 f. 2 Haiti--Correspondence and Minutes 1978
- b. 17 f. 3 The Henry C. Bunton Perpetual Scholarship Fund n.d.
- b. 17 f. 4 Leadership Training School 1965, 1969-1971, n.d.
- b. 17 f. 5 Lay Institute 1965, 1977
- b. 17 f. 6 Ministers and Laymen's Council 1971-1973
- b. 17 f. 7 Minister's Alliance 1955-1956, 1960, n.d.
- b. 17 f. 8 Miscellaneous 1954-1982, n.d.
- b. 17 f. 9 Missionary Council 1975, 1977
- b. 17 f. 10 Publishing Board, Publishing Department 1962, 1967-1973, 1975-1976, 1978
- Union Between Churches
- b. 17 f. 11 Correspondence and Printed Matter 1966-1976
- b. 17 f. 12 Minutes, Programs, Reports and Speeches 1962, 1964, 1965, 1969, 1971, 1977,
1981, n.d.
- b. 17 f. 13 Consultation of Methodist Bishops--Proceedings 1979
- b. 17 f. 14 Woman's Missionary Council 1964, 1967-1979, 1986

GENERAL

The GENERAL series contains correspondence and printed matter arranged alphabetically by subject. The Letters of Appeal folder contains letters from individuals requesting scholarships and financial aid for education. If the person is a minister requesting such assistance, his/her correspondence will be found in the Ministers folder. The Letters of Appeal folder also contains requests for monetary assistance for churches and relief from disasters. Moreover, it contains correspondence from individuals asking that Bunton pray for them. The Ministers file contains correspondence between Bunton and individual ministers as well as letters about the them. The two largest subjects subdivisions in this series are Civic Organizations and Religious Organizations. These are arranged alphabetically. In the Southern Christian Leadership Conference folder is a letter from the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1957 to Bunton pertaining to the Reverend's schedule of arrival in Memphis to give a speech. The Transfers--Correspondence folder contains letters from, to, and about people who requested transfers between a C.M.E. church and a non-C.M.E. church and from one C.M.E. Church Conference to another.

GENERAL (cont.)

- b. 18 f. 1 Appointments to C.M.E. Positions 1962, 1966-1971, 1974-1975, n.d
- b. 18 f. 2 Candidates for C.M.E. Positions 1972-1973, 1977
- Civic Organizations
- b. 18 f. 3 For Love of Children 1967-1969, n.d.
- b. 18 f. 4 Leadership Conference on Civil Rights 1968-1978, n.d.
- b. 18 f. 5 Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Social Change 1974, 1977
- b. 18 f. 6 Mary McLeod Bethune Foundations 1954
- b. 18 f. 7 National Association for the Advancement of Colored People 1969, 1971-1976
- b. 18 f. 8 National Urban League 1956, 1967, 1974, n.d
- b. 18 f. 9 O 1973-1975
- b. 18 f. 10 Southern Christian Leadership Conference 1957-1961, 1964, n.d
- b. 18 f. 11 WOFAC
- b. 18 f. 12 Congratulatory Letters/Greetings 1962, 1964, n.d
- b. 18 f. 13 Institutions of Higher Education 1954, 1961-1978
- b. 18 f. 14 Legal Matters 1970-1978
- b. 18 f. 15 Letters of Appeal 1961-1962, 1966-1977, n.d
- Ministers--Correspondence
- b. 19 f. 1 A-G 1960-1964, 1967-1979, n.d
- b. 19 f. 2 H-M, O-T, W 1960, 1962, 1966-1979 n.d
- b. 19 f. 3 Kelsey A. Jones 1970, 1976, n.d
- b. 19 f. 4 Harold A. Middlebrook 1973-1974
- b. 19 f. 5 K.M. Samuel 1976-1978
- b. 19 f. 6 Raymond F. Williams 1969, 1975
- b. 19 f. 7 Non-Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
- Bishops--Correspondence 1956, 1962, 1965-1966, 1979
- b. 19 f. 8 Non-Christian Methodist Episcopal Churches--Correspondence 1960, 1962, 1967-1977
- b. 19 f. 9 Property--Correspondence 1965-1968, 1971-1977
- b. 19 f. 10 Publishers--Correspondence 1968-1971, 1974, 1978, n.d
- Religious Organizations
- b. 19 f. 11 A 1953, 1956, 1962-1978, 1982, n.d
- b. 19 f. 12 B-C, E 192?, 1950-1957, 1967-1978
See also oversize folder in map case drawer 1
- b. 19 f. 13 I 1966-1969, 1972, 1975-1978, n.d
- b. 19 f. 14 L-N 1962-1967, 1970-1977, 1979, n.d
- b. 19 f. 15 P-S 1965-1971, 1975, 1977, n.d
- b. 19 f. 16 U 1967-1979
- b. 20 f. 1 V-W 1964-1968, 1974-1977, n.d
- b. 20 f. 2 Transfers--Correspondence 1959, 1965-1969, 1973-1977, n.d
- b. 20 f. 3 United States Government Officials--Correspondence 1954, 1963-1970, 1974-1975
- Miscellaneous--Correspondence

GENERAL (cont.)

Miscellaneous--Correspondence (cont.)

- b. 20 f. 4 A-C 1951, 1954, 1962-1979, n.d
- b. 20 f. 5 D-I 1954, 1960-1962, 1965-1977, n.d
- b. 20 f. 6 J-N 1954, 1957, 1959-1960, 1962, 1967-1972, 1974-1978
- b. 20 f. 7 O-S 1944, 1958, 1960, 1962-1963, 1965-1979, n.d
- b. 20 f. 8 T-Y 1962, 1966, 1968, 1970-1978
- b. 20 f. 9 Miscellaneous 1966-1967, n.d.
- b. 21 Scrapbook