



Charleston Bible Society records, 1815-2010 SCHS Call # 239.00

Creator: Charleston Bible Society.

Description: Ca. 2.75 linear ft.

Biographical/Historical note: Founded in 1810 as the Bible Society of Charleston (S.C.), the purpose of this organization was the distribution of Bibles without cost. Later constitutions of the society state its name as the Charleston Bible Society.

Scope and content: Records consist of correspondence, financial records, membership records, minutes, miscellaneous items, printed material, and reports. The bulk of the correspondence dates from the 1930s into the 1970s, but a few early letters have survived. Among these is a letter (1815) to the president of the society, Charles C. Pinckney, from Bishop Theodore Dehon, Christopher E. Gadsden, Paul T. Gervais, and Frederick Dalcho, submitting their resignation from the board of managers of the society. Also of note is a contemporary draft of a letter (Sept. 1822) from Charles C. Pinckney to South Carolina Governor Thomas Bennett asking that he appoint a day of public thanksgiving for divine intervention in preventing a slave uprising instigated by Denmark Vesey, and that the governor not allow any legislation "unfavorable to the use of the Bible among the negroes." Governor Bennett's reply (Oct. 1822) is included. Most recent records include a minute book, 1956-2002, and loose minutes up to 2010.

Financial records (1932-1976) include receipts, treasurers' reports, and yearly and quarterly statements. Most of the minutes of anniversary meetings and meetings of the board of managers are contained in three bound volumes dated 1851-1905, 1906-1931, and 1931-1956.

Miscellaneous items include clippings, constitutions, and notes and research by Edward Owings Guerrant Lilly (1898-1981), a Presbyterian minister and editor who served as president of the Charleston Bible Society and prepared the daily newspaper and radio item "Read a Chapter a Day."

Printed material includes publications of the American Bible Society and the Charleston Bible Society. Reports include a submission (1816) by Richard Furman, chairman of a committee appointed to consider a proposal to unite all the Bible societies in the United States in one national institution; a librarian's report (1859); depository reports; and reports of various committees including one in charge of distributing Bibles to the "colored population."

Preferred citation: Charleston Bible Society. Charleston Bible Society records, 1815-2010. (239.00) South Carolina Historical Society.

Search terms:

Bennett, Thomas, 1781-1865.

Lilly, Edward Guerrant.

Pinckney, Charles Cotesworth, 1746-1825.
Vesey, Denmark, ca. 1767-1822.
American Bible Society.
Bible Society of Charleston.
Charleston Bible Society.
Charleston Bible Society -- Records and correspondence.
African Americans -- South Carolina -- Religion.
Bible -- Publication and distribution -- South Carolina -- Charleston -- Societies, etc.
Christian literature -- Publishing.
Slaves -- Religious life -- South Carolina.
Slave insurrections -- South Carolina.
Charleston (S.C.) -- Religious life and customs.
Genre
Clippings.
Letters (correspondence)
Minutes.
Reports.

Finding Aid:

Box 1

Folder 1: Correspondence, 1815-2000+

Folder 2: Financial records

Includes receipts, statements and treasurer's reports

Folder 3: Membership records

Box 2

Folder 1: Minute book, 1931-1956

Box 3

Folder 1: Loose minutes, 1931-2000+

Box 4

Folder 1: Miscellaneous items Includes clippings, an organizational history, and notes by E.G. Lilly

Folder 2: Printed materials

Includes American Bible Society publications

Box 5

Folder 1: Printed material

Includes Bible study aids, Charleston Bible Society publications, and Bible (1821)

Folder 2: Reports

Includes annual reports, depository reports, and president's reports

OVERSIZE items

Minute book, 1851-1906

Minute book, 1906-1930

Minute book, 1956-2002