

BEARDEN FAMILY PAPERS
1876-1962

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INTRODUCTION

The Bearden Family Papers (1876-1962) are centered around Matt M. Bearden (1847-1906), businessman, and his son, Ellis Miller Bearden (1890-?), Episcopalian minister, of Lincoln County, Tennessee. The Bearden Family Papers are a gift of Miss Isabel Howell, Sewanee, Tennessee. The papers occupy .84 linear feet of shelf space and numbers approximately 70 items.

Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Bearden Family Papers may be made for the purpose of scholarly research.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

- 1890 June 12, born in Fayetteville, Lincoln County, Tennessee, the son of Matt and Susan (Woods) Bearden
- _____ Educated in the public schools of Fayetteville and at McFerrin School in Martin, Tennessee
- _____ Attended Middle Tennessee State University
- _____ Taught at Erin, Tennessee
- _____ Returned to the University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee
- 1915 Awarded B. A. degree by University of the South
- 1916 Awarded M. A. degree in theology, University of the South
- 1918 Civilian Chaplain, First World War, Camp Sheridan, Montgomery, Alabama
- 1919 Awarded Bachelor of Divinity degree by University of the South; Chaplain of Sewanee Military Academy
- 1925 Instructor, Storm King School, Cornwell-on-the-Hudson, New York
- 1928 Instructor, Stuyvesant School, Warrenton, Virginia
- 1930 Instructor of Latin and Chaplain, Sewanee Military Academy
- 1950 Locum Tenens, St. Matthews Church, Covington, Tennessee
- 1951 Rector, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Cleveland, Tennessee
- 1952 Retired to Sewanee and served as Verger at All Saints Chapel

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Bearden Family Papers, containing approximately 70 items, span the period 1772-1963, although they are concentrated in the years just prior to and during the First World War. The collection is composed of a certificate of membership, correspondence, genealogical data, a scrapbook, and several miscellaneous items.

The collection is centered around Matt M. Bearden (1847-1906) and his wife Susan Woods Bearden (1853-1934) of Lincoln County, Tennessee, where Mr. Bearden operated a mill. Genealogical data may be found on the Bearden-Woods families, and to some extent the Dismukes and Kavanaugh families.

The correspondence of Ellis M. Bearden (1890-), son of Matt and Susan Bearden, gives a flavor of the First World War effort at Camp Sheridan, Montgomery, Alabama, as Ellis Bearden hoped for active duty as a chaplain.

The collection also contains miscellaneous materials composed of printed materials from the Cunard Line in which Ellis Bearden appears as a passenger in 1930; a typescript copy of an agreement between the Cherokee Nation and the English government; a clipping of an eyewitness account of the hanging of Sam Davis; and plats, church records, and a thesis concerning Gruetli, Grundy County, Tennessee, settled by German-Swiss in 1869.

The Bearden Family Papers provide information to scholars on early twentieth century life in middle Tennessee.

CONTAINER LIST

Box 1

1. Associations, institutions, etc.--D.A.R., James Lewis Chapter--Yearbook, 1962-63
2. Certificate--Membership--D.A.R.--Mrs. Susan Woods Bearden, 1914
3. Cherokee nation--"Articles of Friendship and Commerce...", September 7, 1730 [copy]
4. Clipping--"Chattanooga Recalls Hanging of Sam Davis 80 Years Ago," 1918
5. Correspondence--Bearden, Ellis
6. Genealogical data--Bearden - Woods - Dismukes - Kavanaugh families
7. Grundy County, Tenn.--Gruetli Community, 1869, 1967
8. Grundy County, Tenn.--Gruetli Community Church, n.d.
9. Grundy County, Tenn.--"Gruetli Community, a thesis...", 1936

Box 2

1. Printed materials--"Cunard Line," 1930
2. Scrapbooks--[Bearden, Susan Woods], ca. 1876-1910