

Collection #  
BV 2337

**ALLEN CHAPEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
CONFERENCE RECORDS, 1885–1890**

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Processed by

Wilma L. Gibbs  
June 7, 1994

Reprocessed by

Wilma L. Moore  
October 27, 2006

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department  
William Henry Smith Memorial Library  
Indiana Historical Society  
450 West Ohio Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

[www.indianahistory.org](http://www.indianahistory.org)

## COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: One volume

COLLECTION DATES: 1885–1890

PROVENANCE: Georgia H. Stewart, Indianapolis, IN January 1985

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS: Mildred Hall Collection, M 0796; Spears Family Collection, M 0488; Virtea Downey Collection, M 0510

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1986.0462

NOTES: The collection was donated during the Black Women in the Middle West Project. The Black Women in the Middle West Project was a collecting effort to gather primary source materials of African-American women in Illinois and Indiana. The project, spearheaded by Darlene Clark Hine and Patrick Bidelman at Purdue University, was conducted in three phases from 1977-1985. Project records are located at five repositories within the two states including the Indiana Historical Society (IHS) [houses the project's administrative records], Calumet Regional Archives, and the Northern Indiana Historical Society in Indiana and the Chicago Historical Society and the Illinois State Historical Society in Illinois. (Although the implementation phase of the project was from 1984-1985, several of the collections were donated to IHS in 1986). Additional information about the project is contained in *The Black Women in the Middle West Project: A Comprehensive Resource Guide, Illinois and Indiana* (E185.6 .B 53 1986), edited by Hine and Bidelman, et. al. and Wilma L. Gibbs's article "In Retrospect: The Black Women in the Middle West Project at the Indiana Historical Society," in *Indiana's African-American Heritage: Essays from Black History News & Notes* (E185.93 .I4 B52 1993).

## **HISTORICAL SKETCH**

Allen Chapel Church was organized as an independent Sunday School during the mid-1860s. In 1866, at the 27th annual conference of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church held in Quincy, Illinois, it was recorded that the institution became a mission, then a church. Organized by Reverend Whitten S. Lankford, it is the second oldest African Methodist Episcopal church remaining in Indianapolis. (Bethel AME was established in 1836.) The first church building was erected at Broadway and Pomeroy streets located on the eastside of Indianapolis. In 1929, the building was replaced by a structure built on its current site at 627 E. 11th Street (corner of 11th and Broadway).

The Allen Chapel Church offered a stable oasis for a population of people, who had recently migrated to Indianapolis from the South. Local family names associated with the church include Beckwith, Chowning, Elbert, Gore, Hall, Hardrick, Jacobs, Poindexter, Revels, and Stewart.

Sources:

Material in the Collection

*History of Allen Chapel Church, 1866-1944.* Indianapolis: n.p., n.d. (BX 8445 .I55 A55 1945)

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection consists of one bound volume. The daybook contains the records of the Allen Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church quarterly conference, 1885-1890. It was recorded under the administration of three pastors: H.H. Thompson (1884-1887), Morris Lewis (1887-1890), and James A. Davis (1890-1892). The minutes generally include the names of the presiding elders for the quarterly meetings; church membership records including attendance, deaths, those who received certificates, and the number of baptisms; and documentation of how money was collected and spent.

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