Somerset County Bible Society records
1.50 linear foot; 3 half-manuscript boxes
1794-2016, bulk 1875-1986

Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture, Salisbury University, Salisbury, Maryland


Accession Number: 2010.020

Creator: Somerset County Bible Society

Acquisition: The Somerset County Bible Society records were donated to the Nabb Research Center by the membership of the Somerset Bible Society, September 2009.

Language: Material entirely in English.

Use: Records are open for research. Copyright, including literary rights, belongs to the author(s) or their legal heirs.

Citation Style: “Item, Somerset County Bible Society records, Box [#], Folder [#], Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture, Salisbury University, Salisbury, Maryland.”

Women's Foreign Missionary Society Ledger, 2014.110
Administrative History: Founded in 1828 as a counterpart to the Maryland Bible Society, the original goal of the group was to disseminate Bibles throughout Somerset County and adjoining areas of the Delmarva Peninsula. Within the first year, the society had distributed 69 Bibles and collected over $50 dollars in revenue. Annual meetings were held every June until 1867 when they were moved to March to correspond with the end of the financial year. Bible distribution continued throughout the peninsula; by the turn of the century the society’s membership had waned to six members, nonetheless the society persevered through determined loyalty. It was custom that when a member passed, a fellow member would ask someone in their family to take the vacated place. The organization continued to distribute Bibles well into the 20th century, dissemination included German prisoners of war at Camp Somerset, the poor, military soldiers and those in jail. By the mid-1960s, the society was the most active county in the state. Today, the organization continues to meet annually and distributes Bibles throughout the region.

Scope and Content Note: The Somerset County Bible Society records document the activities and extensive membership of the religious organization whose purpose was to distribute Bibles and promote further interest in the scripture. Located in Somerset County, Maryland, the organization’s records date from its inception in 1828-2005 with the bulk of the material encompassing the annual meetings and membership rosters, 1875-1986. Corresponding organization material also includes a scrapbook from annual meetings, correspondence and deposit receipts from the Maryland Bible Society and a Bible from 1794.
Arrangement Statement: Folders are listed by their location in each box; any given subject may be dispersed throughout the entirety of the collection.

Subject Terms:

General Terms
Bible Distribution
Religion
Social Group

Corporate Names
American Bible Society
Ladies Bible Society
Maryland Bible Society

Personal Names
Cohn, Doris Maslin
Stewart, Jane
Box 1

1. History of the Society, undated
2. Constitution and Public Address, 1828
3. Register, Constitution and Proceedings, 1828-1875
4. Meeting Minutes, 1828
5. Meeting Minutes, 1875-1894
6. Meeting Minutes, 1895-1929
7. Meeting Minutes, 1931-1956
9. Meeting Minutes, 1964
11. Membership Rosters, 1867-1916
12. Membership Rosters, 1917-1950
13. Membership Rosters, 1951-2004

Box 2

3. Correspondence, From Member to Somerset Bible Society, 1867-1882, 1945
4. Correspondence, From Maryland Historical Society to Somerset Bible Society, 1934, 1950-1957
5. Correspondence, From World War II Soldiers to Somerset Bible Society, 1942-1943, 1945
7. Scrapbook, 1991-2008
8. Presentation, The Bible and Modern Scholarship, R.L. Krause, 1929
10. Maryland Bible Society, Correspondence, From MBS to Somerset Bible Society, 1829, 1867-1898, 1925-1933, 1957-1963
11. Maryland Bible Society, Donation Receipts, 1866-1932
13. Maryland Bible Society, History, 1933

Box 3

1. Registration Book, 1995-2016
2. Bible, 1794