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Guide to the

**Sharp Street Memorial United Methodist Church (Baltimore, Md.)
records**

1873-1993

Sc Micro R-6637

Processed by Victor Smythe.

Summary

Creator: Sharp Street Memorial United Methodist Church (Baltimore, Md.)

Title: Sharp Street Memorial United Methodist Church (Baltimore, Md.) records

Date: 1873-1993

Abstract: The records of the Sharp Street Memorial United Methodist Church in Baltimore, Maryland consist of three series: Financial Records, Minute Books and Reports, and Cemetery Records. The Financial Records series, 1913-1944, contains trustee reports with entries pertaining to the cemetery. Collection plate records and records of rallies for church projects are also included. The Minute Books and Reports series, 1911-1962, contains the minutes of the official boards and various church groups as well as affiliated organizations in which the church has had membership. The latter includes the Baltimore Preachers Meetings and the Women's Society of Christian Service, North Baltimore District. The Cemetery Records series, 1873-1993, is comprised of ledgers in which are entered cemetery lot owners, burial and death records. In many ledgers information on place of origin, date of birth, cause of death and physician's name has been indicated. Information on the lots include location and number of burials per site. A schematic drawing of the cemetery is also included.

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Location of Originals: Originals in Sharp Street United Methodist Church; 1206 Etting Street, Baltimore, Md. 21217

Preferred citation: Sharp Street Memorial United Methodist Church (Baltimore, Md.) records, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, The New York Public Library

Processing note: Processed by Victor Smythe; Machine-readable finding aid created by Apex Data Services; revised by Terry Catapano.

Related Materials:

Sharp Street United Methodist Church Records in Other Repositories

Creator History

The Sharp Street Memorial United Methodist Church originates from the establishment of the first black congregation in Baltimore, Maryland in 1787. The first church, built in 1802, was located on Sharp Street between Lombard and Pratt Streets. The present edifice was erected and occupied in 1898. On July 21, 1982, Sharp Street Memorial Church and the community house were entered in the National Register of Historic Places by the United States Department of the Interior.

Mount Auburn Cemetery was founded in 1872 by Rev. James Pack and the Memorial United Methodist Church (Sharp Street Church) in protest to segregation in the white Methodist church at the time. It is the oldest black cemetery in Baltimore City. The 117 year old cemetery was originally known as the "City of the Dead for Colored People". Former slaves who had escaped to freedom through the Underground Railroad were among those buried here by Baltimore's African-American families. For years it was the only burial ground for Baltimore blacks.

In addition to runaway slaves, the cemetery contains the remains of one of the first black bishops in the African Methodist Church, William Asbie Hawkins; the first black ship chandler; the first black lightweight boxing champion of the world (1901-1908), Joseph Ganns; and civil rights activists, lawyers, doctors, teachers and the relatives of thousands of African-American families.

Scope and Content Note

The records of Sharp Street Memorial United Methodist Church, Mount Auburn Cemetery were microfilmed by the *The Preservation of the Black Religious Heritage Project* (PBRHP) of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture during the months of December 1992 and June 1994. Originals were retained by the church. The records were arranged for microfilming according to the existing church filing system. Pages of bound ledgers were microfilmed sequentially as they appeared. One series includes church records from 1911 through the 1960s which were not microfilmed by the Maryland State Archives.

Arrangement: Records organized into three series: I. Financial Records; II. Minute Books and Reports; and III. Cemetery Records

Key Terms

Subjects

African American churches -- Maryland -- Baltimore
African American Methodists
African Americans -- Maryland -- Baltimore
African Americans -- Religion
Cemeteries -- Maryland -- Baltimore
Methodists -- Maryland -- Baltimore

Geographic Names

Baltimore (Md.) -- Church history

Names

Sharp Street Memorial United Methodist Church (Baltimore, Md.)

Mount Auburn Cemetery (Baltimore, Md.)

Container List

r. 1 Financial Records

The *FINANCIAL RECORDS, 1913-1944*, series contains trustee reports with entries pertaining to the cemetery. Collection plate records and records of rallies for church projects are also included.

r. 1 Trustee Reports 1923-1930

v. 1

r. 1 Church And Cemetery 1923-1944

v. 2

r. 1 Leaders And Stewards 1913-1917

v. 3

r. 1 Collection Plates 1926-1933

v. 4

r. 1 Record Of Rallies 1916-1918

v. 5

r. 2 Minutes

The *MINUTE BOOKS AND REPORTS, 1911-1962*, series contains the minutes of the official boards and various church groups as well as affiliated organizations in which the church has had membership. The latter includes the Baltimore Preachers Meetings and the Women's Society of Christian Service, North Baltimore District.

r. 2 Leaders and Stewards Meetings Minutes 1922-1938

v. 1

r. 2 Official Boards Minutes 1925-1943

v. 2

r. 2 Trustees Board Minutes, (Includes Financial Records) 1911-1918

v. 3

r. 2 Trustees Board Minutes 1931-1950

v. 4

r. 2 Baltimore Preachers Meetings Minutes 1940-1945

v. 5

v. 6 r. 3 Community House Weekly Report January 1947-December 1946

r. 3 Women's Society of Christian Service, North Baltimore District - Minutes

v. 7 1949-1962

Cemetery Records

The *CEMETERY RECORDS, 1873-1993*, series is comprised of ledgers wherein are entered the rosters of cemetery lot owners, burials and death records. In many ledgers information on origin, birth, cause of death and physician has been indicated. Information on the lots includes location and number of burials per site as well as depth of interment. A schematic drawing of the cemetery is also included.

r. 3 Lot Owners January 1892-August 1947

v. 8

r. 3 Undated Volume

v. 9

r. 3 Cemetery Burials, Death Records 1923-1926

v. 10

r. 3 Cemetery Burials, Death Records 1904-1934

v. 11

v. 12 r. 4 Lot Owners 1873-1936

Cemetery Burials, Death Records

r. 4 1924-1928

v. 13

r. 4 1926-1930

v. 14

Cemetery Records (cont.)
 Cemetery Burials, Death Records (cont.)

r. 4 v. 15	1928-1933
r. 4 v. 16	1930-1935
v. 17 r. 5	1933-1938
r. 5 v. 18	1935-1941
r. 5 v. 19	1938-1944
r. 5 v. 20	1944-1949
r. 5 v. 21	1949-1955
v. 22 r. 6A	1953-1958
r. 6A v. 23	1955-1960
r. 6A v. 24	1957-1971
r. 6A v. 25	1958-1963
r. 6A v. 26	1960-1964
v. 27 r. 7A	1963-1966
r. 7A v. 28	1966-1968
Cemetery Burials, Lots	
r. 7A v. 29	1907-1908
	1911-1912
r. 7A v. 30	February 1913-August 1939
r. 7A v. 31	December 1930-January 1933
r. 7A v. 32	May 1933-June 1938
r. 7A v. 33	October 1934-April 1936
r. 7A v. 34	April 1936-July 1940
r. 7A v. 35	February 1947-October 1950
r. 7A v. 36	January 1951-July 1961
r. 7A v. 37	Financial Ledger October 1957-May 1960
r. 6B	Cemetery Burials, Death Records
r. 6B v. 38	December 1966-September 1970
r. 6B v. 39	December 1966-June 1969
r. 6B v. 40	December 1969-January 1971
r. 6B v. 41	September 1970-April 1974

Cemetery Records (cont.)

Cemetery Burials, Death Records (cont.)

- r. 6B May 1971-January 1975
- v. 42
- r. 6B January 1972-December 1974
- v. 43
- v. 44 r. 7B December 1974-January 1980
- r. 7B January 1975-March 1980
- v. 45
- r. 7B January 1975-September 1980
- v. 46
- r. 7B February 1980-May 1982
- v. 47
- r. 7B March 1987-April 1993
- v. 49
- r. 7B May 1989-October 1989
- v. 50

Cemetery Weekly Reports

January 1947-December 1947

Diagram Of Cemetery