



**Jackson State University
Archives and Record Division**

Manuscript Collection

Collection Title: Jessie R. (J. R.) Chambliss Collection

Dates Covered: 1920s-1940s

Collection Number: AF028

Volume: 2 linear feet

Original (x)

Duplicate ()

Microcopy ()

Photocopy ()

Provenance: Received from Milton Chambliss, January 22, 2004.

Restrictions:

None

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Biography/History:

Jessie R. Chambliss was the fifth of twelve children born in a crude log cabin to Marcus and Susan Claiborne Chambliss July 6, 1885, near rural Tillman, Claiborne County. His father, Marcus, was an ex-slave. Marcus Chambliss sent his children to school in Port Gibson, Mississippi and Alcorn State University at Lorman, Mississippi. His son, Jessie, graduated as valedictorian of his class at Alcorn State University.

Jessie Chambliss opened a shoe shop in Jackson in 1905. Working in Jackson, Chambliss joined the Pearl Street AME Church. On May 30, 1917, he married Norah Robinson, a regular church attendant and choir member. They lived in their home at 624 Rose Street, where their six children—five sons and one daughter—were born.



In addition to being an ardent churchman, J. R. Chambliss was a pioneer Boy Scout leader in Mississippi. He organized the first Boy Scout Troop for African Americans in Mississippi in 1932, at Pearl Street AME Church and continued active in promotion of that troop for forty years. In 1954, Chambliss was presented the Silver Beaver Award, the highest award giving in scouting for volunteer services.

In 1968 he attended the World Methodist Council at London, England. His church honored him several times as most distinguished lay-person, most loyal officer, senior steward, and oldest Sunday School member.

Scope and Content:

The collection contains programs and printed material.
This collection was arranged into series.

- Series I: Pearl Street AME Church
- Series II: Miscellany

Jessie (J. R.) Chambliss Collection [AF028]

BOX 1

Series I: Pearl Street AME Church

- F1 Pearl Street AME Church, 1920-1921
- F2 Pearl Street AME Church, 1924
- F3 Pearl Street AME Church, 1925
- F4 Pearl Street AME Church, 1926
- F5 Pearl Street AME Church, 1927
- F6 Pearl Street AME Church, 1928
- F7 Pearl Street AME Church, 1929
- F8 Pearl Street AME Church, 1930
- F9 Pearl Street AME Church, 1931
- F10 Pearl Street AME Church, 1930s



F11 Pearl Street AME Church, 1930s

F12 Pearl Street AME Church, 1930s

F13 Pearl Street AME Church, 1930s

F14 Pearl Street AME Church, 1940s

F15 Pearl Street AME Church, 1949

Series II: Miscellany

BOX 2

F1 Correspondence: Chambliss, Norah, November 17, 1943

F2 Financial Records

F3 Christian Recorder, June 28, 1945

F4 Carroll Chambliss School Scrapbook, n.d.

F5 Clarion-Ledger, July 23, 1952

F6 Norah Louise Chambliss, Autograph Book, 1945 [1947]

F7 Bethel AME Church Program, September 4, 1955

F8 Jessie R. Chambliss—Correspondence, June 23, 1960

F9 Correspondence—Auto-Soler Company, July 2, 1945

F10 The Master Key System

F11 Chambliss Shoe Hospital, Farish Street

F12 Chambliss Shoe Hospital, 1930s

F13 Chambliss Shoe Hospital Records

F14 Chambliss Shoe Hospital Records

F15 Knights of Pythias, 1932



F16 Knights of Pythias, 1940s

F17 Knights of Pythias, 1950s

F18 Knights of Pythias, 1930s

F19 Knights of Pythias, 1920s

F20 Lynch Street Grocery Leases

F21 Knights of Pythias, Financial Reports

F22 1952 Lease Lynch Street Grocery & Market

F23 National Association of Negro War Veterans, 1930s

F24 Personal Letters

F25 Damaged Photograph

F26 District Chairman, Boy Scouts of America Records

F27 State Mutual Savings & Loan

F28 Troop 51, Boy Scouts of America Advancement Ceremonies

F29 Troop 51, Boy Scouts of America, 1950s

F30 Troop 51, Boy Scouts of America, 1940s

F31 Troop 51, Boy Scouts of America, 1930s

F32 U.S. Army Photographs

F33 Louise Chambliss

F34 Business Cards

F35 Jackson Negro Chamber of Commerce

F36 Jackson State National Bank

M A | R | G | A | R | E | T
W | A | L | K | E | R
C E N T E R



F37 J. R. Chambliss Insurance

F38 J. R. Chambliss Rental Records, 1940s

F39 J. R. Chambliss Property Records, 1960s

F40 B. Lowenstein & Brothers

F41 Bethel AME Church

F42 Daisy Chambliss Thomas

F43 Christian Recorder