

**Finding Aid for the
James L. Blakeney papers
CCHA.2020.016**



**OUACHITA
BAPTIST UNIVERSITY**

*Archives & Special Collections
Riley-Hickingbotham Library
Ouachita Baptist University
410 Ouachita Street
Arkadelphia, AR 71998*

Repository: Archives and Special Collections, Ouachita Baptist University

Creator: James L. Blakeney

Title: James L. Blakeney papers

Dates: 1891-1939

Quantity: 0.46 c.f.

Abstract: Correspondence, ephemera, diaries, sermon notes, newspaper clippings and photographs from James L. Blakeney (1887-1950), former US Army Chaplain who served in the 1916-1917 Mexican Expedition, World War I and World War II. Blakeney was a graduate of Ouachita Baptist College and served on the college staff following his retirement as a colonel in the US Army.

Identification: CCHA.2020.016

Languages: English

Acquisition Information: Provenance unknown

Access and Use Restrictions: This collection is non-circulating and available for in-house use only. The copyright law of the United States (Title 17-U.S. Code) governs the making of photocopies of other reproductions of copyrighted material.

Preferred Citation: J. L. Blakeney papers Archives and Special Collections, Riley-Hickingbotham Library, Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, AR.

Biographical Summary

James Lemuel Blakeney was born 1 October 1887 in Conway, Arkansas. He served with the Arkansas National Guard Infantry while attending Ouachita Baptist College in Arkadelphia, Arkansas. Upon graduation from Ouachita, he was ordained as a Southern Baptist minister and commissioned as a U.S. Army Chaplain in 1917.

Blakeney served in the Mexican Expedition of 1916-1917, and later in France during World War I. A First Lieutenant in the Chaplain's Corps, Blakeney was cited for gallantry in action in France while serving with the 4th Engineer Regiment, 4th, Division, American Expeditionary Forces, for which he was awarded the Silver Star.

In June 1920, Blakeney married Mary Emily Blakeney (nee Blakeney) in Little Rock. Mary, born circa 1890, was the daughter of John D. and Anna M. Blakeney. The Blakeneys had one child, a daughter, Martha Anne Blakeney (King), born on 2 February 1922.

In 1921, Blakeney graduated from Army Chaplain's School. He later did special work at the University of Utah and at Oxford University in England, where he received his Doctor of Divinity degree in 1941. During World War II, Blakeney was the senior chaplain for U.S. troops in the European Theater of Operations. In 1942, he delivered a Thanksgiving

message to American troops from London's Westminster Cathedral. He retired in 1948 as a US Army Colonel.

Following retirement from the US Army, Blakeney returned to Arkadelphia, where he worked as public relations secretary, student counselor, and president of the Alumni Association at Ouachita Baptist College. He died on 26 December 1950 and is buried in Roselawn Cemetery in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

Scope and Contents

Correspondence, ephemera, diaries, sermon notes, newspaper clippings and photographs from James L. Blakeney (1887-1950), former US Army Chaplain who served in the 1916-1917 Mexican Expedition, World War I and World War II. Blakeney was a graduate of Ouachita Baptist College and served on the college staff following his retirement as a colonel in the US Army.

Related Material

Blakeney photograph albums, James Lemuel, 1916-circa 1931.OBU.2025.099. o.27 c.f.

Separated Material: 1909 Ouachita Baptist College yearbook.

Keywords

Blakeney, F. Earl
Blakeney, Mary Emily (1890-1937)
Blakeney, James Lemuel (1887-1950)
Diaries
Freemasons
King, Martha Ann Blakeney (1922-1996)
Military chaplains
Sermons

Processed by Lisa Speer, November 2025.

Box Contents

Box/Folder	Description
2722/001	Correspondence, 1930-1931
2722/002	Masonic membership cards, 1930-1936
2722/003	Membership cards, 1933-1936 [Arkansas Society, Sons of the American Revolution, Chaplains' Association of the Army of the United States, Fourth Engineers Association of the Northwest, National Sojourners, United States Automobile Association Insurance]
2722/004	Certificates, 1931, 1935
2722/005	Invitation and program, 1931, 1939: • Program for Despedida for General and Mrs. Paul B. Malone, 1931 • Invitation to Isthmian Religious Workers' Federation meeting, 1939
2722/006	US Army allotment of pay slip, 1936
2722/007	Notes on weddings and funerals performed: • Powell Morgan Evans to [Berder] Lucile Jones, 5 Feb 1934 • Robert Alexander Campbell to Thelma Marie Kesterson, 8 Apr 1934 • Henry Cha[rman], 1878-16 May 1934 • James Joseph Purcell, 1865-3 June 1924 • Harry H. Hagen, 1915-8 June 1934 • Paschall Howell Peterson to Sally Ann Harvey, 6 Aug 1934 • Dr. John Edward Dunn, Jr., to Mancy Lydia Matthews, 26 Sep 1934 • Thomas Edward Dyer to Dorothy Ethyl Diebel, 9 Oct 1934 • Charles Edward Geiger to Eugenia Claudia King, 17 Nov 1934 • Thomas Tony Thompson to Elizabeth Lydie Eastmark, 3 Dec 1935 • Jessa A. Tibbs, 29 September 1936, Quincy, IL • E. Lyle Klein to Lillian Mary van Poddenburg, 1 October, no year
2722/008	Newspaper clippings, 1934 and not dated
2722/009	Photographs: a) F. Earl Blakeney, not dated

- b) F. Earl Blakeney, not dated
- c) F. Earl Blakeney, 1910
- d) F. Earl Blakeney, circa 1901
- e) E. Blakeney [F. Earl], 1891
- f) [F. Earl Blakeney], not dated
- g) Maud?, November Colorado Springs, CO, 1890
- h) Maud?, November Colorado Springs, CO, 1890
- i) [F. Earl Blakeney], Fort Worth, TX, not dated
- j) F. Earl Blakeney, not dated
- k) Unidentified man and [Bessie Blakeney], not dated
- l) Unidentified young girl, 1939
- m) F. Earl Blakeney, circa 1923-1924
- n) Unidentified man and young woman standing amid rows of tulips, not dated
- o) Bessie Blakeney, not dated
- p) Unidentified woman, not dated
- q) Bessie Blakeney holding cat, 1910
- r) F. Earl Blakeney, not dated
- s) [Benj] Blakeney, not dated [tintype]
- t) F. Earl Blakeney, Waldo Orgain and [Bessie Blakeney], 1910
- u) Unidentified toddler [female], 1923
- v) Unidentified toddler [female], 1923
- w) Unidentified toddler [female], 1923
- x) Unidentified woman, 1925
- y) Two unidentified men in military uniform, not dated

2722/010

Negatives (98), b/w

Loose

Blakeney diaries: 1930, 1934, 1936 and 1939

Loose

Blakeney sermon notebooks, not dated