

INVENTORY TO THE
HOMER GRICE PAPERS

AR. 795-576



Everyday Bible School at the Epiphany Baptist Church, New York City, 1904

Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives

Homer Lamar Grice Papers AR 576

I. Biographical and Historical Sketch

Homer Grice was born in Citra, Florida on April 12, 1883. He was the son of Albert and Sarah Lee (Bennett) Grice. He married Ethel Harrison in Birmingham, Alabama, August 21, 1912. A graduate of Mercer University (1912) and George Peabody College (M.A., 1929), Grice taught in Alabama public schools and worked for seven years with the United States Railway Postal Service. From 1913 to 1915 he was professor of English literature at Ouachita Baptist College. He was pastor of First Baptist Church, Washington, Georgia, 1915-1924, where he conducted some of the first Vacation Bible Schools.

In September, 1924, Grice became the first secretary of the Vacation Bible School Department at the Sunday School Board, Nashville, where he served until his retirement, January 1, 1953. He promoted VBS for Southern Baptists, edited all VBS materials and wrote about 45 children's books. He died on May 17, 1974.

Vacation Bible School

The Vacation Bible School movement traces its origins to Mrs. Walker Aylett Hawes, of the Epiphany Baptist Church in New York City. Mrs. Hawes began her Everyday Bible School in 1898. It was an effort to care for the spiritual needs of neglected immigrant children who played in the streets of the city's East Side. The school was so successful that another was planned in 1899 and a third in 1900. In 1901, Robert G. Boville, the newly elected secretary of the New York City Baptist Mission Society, promoted five vacation schools in the society's mission churches on the East Side. His own schools were so successful that 10 were held the next year, 17 in 1903 and 16 in 1904.

In 1916 the International Association of Daily Vacation Bible Schools was organized. In 1922, Bovill organized the World Association of Vacation Bible Schools through which he promoted the schools in foreign countries. The Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. was the first denomination to utilize Vacation Bible Schools as part of its denominational mission program.

Active promotion of Vacation Bible Schools by Southern Baptists came in September of 1924 when Homer Grice was elected as secretary of the new Daily Vacation Bible School Department. Grice developed a course of study, established the plan of operation, formulated methods of procedure, devised means for training a church and denominational leadership and developed a program of promotion.

The number of schools grew from 300 in 1925 to 1,044 in 1935. In 1938 Sibley Curtis Burnett was elected as associate in the Vacation Bible School section to aid in promotion of schools and in the training of workers over the Convention. In 1953, Charles Franklin Treadway succeeded Grice as editor of the Vacation Bible School materials. By 1979 the total number of all VBS projects was 35,681 with a total enrollment of 3,197,517. These projects reported \$1,412,316 total mission offering and 55,680 professions of faith.

As presently promoted among Southern Baptists, Vacation Bible Schools are conducted under local church direction during the summer for a one or two week

period for ages 3 to 16. The program focuses on Bible study, worship, recreation, and crafts. The Projects Promotion Section, Sunday School Department, Sunday School Board, is responsible for the general promotion of VBS work.

See: Encyclopedia of Southern Baptists for additional information.

II. Scope and Content

The Grice Papers consist of manuscripts, publications, reports, books, lantern slides, and motion picture film. The collection focuses on the Vacation Bible School movement and Grice's research data on the Sunday School movement. The collection spans the dates 1897 to 1973. The collection has been divided into eight series. The description of each series is listed below. The size of the collection is 13 linear feet.

Series description

I. Vacation Bible School -Hawes material

Grice's interest in the history of the Vacation Bible School made him a collector of original documents on the early days of the movement. This series includes original correspondence, documents, receipts and student records of Mrs. Walker Aylett Hawes' school on New York City's East Side from 1898 to 1904. This series also includes some correspondence on the history of the first Vacation Bible School, photographs and articles. Material is arranged chronologically.

II. Vacation Bible School -Historical and Informational Material

This series contains material relating to the Vacation Bible School movement, including articles, Birmingham Sunday School Council material, data, historical research correspondence, information on specific church schools, photographs and material related to the First Baptist Church, Washington, Georgia. Material is arranged alphabetically.

III. Vacation~ School- Publications (non-SBC)

Various booklets, pamphlets and books related to Vacation Bible School. The series has two sub-series--one of books and the other of publications such as pamphlets and booklets. They are both arranged alphabetically. The series includes some of the earliest books written on the daily vacation school program.

IV. Vacation~ School- Southern Baptist Convention -Publications and Literature

This series includes publications of the Baptist Sunday School Board, such as catalogs, standards, order forms, scripture cards and their promotional material. Includes some other SBC related publications. Arranged in alphabetical order.

V. Vacation~ School- Southern Baptist Convention -Statistics

Statistics on associations, state- and convention-wide Vacation Bible Schools from 1921 to 1962 includes several lists of churches participating in VBS. The statistics shows number of schools,

enrollment, baptisms, etc. The series is arranged chronologically.

VI. Miscellaneous Material

Includes article by and about Grice, class notes from his studies at Peabody, correspondence, criticisms of the board, and material related to the Historical Commission of the SBC. The series is arranged alphabetically.

VII. Slides, Artifacts ~ Motion Picture Film

Consists of lantern slides and a 16mm film of the Washington, Georgia Vacation Bible School in 1924.

VIII. Sunday School History -Research material

This series consists of three boxes of material related to Grice's research on the Sunday School movement. Most of the notes are written in Grice's modified shorthand and are difficult to understand. The series includes some typed manuscripts of various chapters. The book Grice planned was never completed. This series has only been refoldered -with no arrangement or weeding.

III. Series Outline

- I. Vacation Bible School -Hawes material
- II. Vacation Bible School -Historical and Informational Material
- III. Vacation Bible School -Publications (non-SBC)
- IV. Vacation Bible School -SBC -Publications and Literature
- V. Vacation Bible School -SBC -Statistics
- VI. Miscellaneous Material (Class notes, articles, speeches, correspondence)
- VII. Slides, Artifacts and Motion Picture Film
- VIII. Sunday School History -Research Material

IV. Folder Listing

- I. Vacation Bible School -Hawes Summer School material
- Box 1
- Folder 1. 1897- Documents -Hawes summer school
- 2. 1897- Roll book
- 3. 1898- Documents -Hawes summer school
- 4. 1899- Bills
- 5. 1899 -Contributions
- 6. 1899- Documents
- 7. 1899- Receipts for teachers
- 8. 1899-1904- Lists and documents
- 9. 1900- Bills
- 10. 1900- Contributions
- 11. 1900- Correspondence -Normal College Alumni House
- 12. 1900- Documents and correspondence
- 13. 1900- Receipts for teachers
- 14. 1901- Bills (East Side Institute)
- 15. 1901- Contributions

16. 1901- Correspondence
17. 1901- Documents (includes financial records)
18. 1901- Receipts for teachers
19. 1901- Roll book of pupils
20. 1902- Bills
21. 1902 -Contributions and financial reports
22. 1902- Correspondence
23. 1902- Receipts for teachers
24. 1903- Correspondence and documents
25. 1903- Receipts for teachers
26. 1903- Reports -Hamilton
27. 1903- Reports -Hazen
28. 1903- Subscription letters (contributions)
29. 1904- Correspondence and documents
30. 1904- Junior class letters to Mrs. Hawes
31. 1904- Receipts for expenses
32. 1905 Documents
33. Articles and documents -Hawes school
34. Baptist Mission Society, New York City
35. Boville, R. G. -Correspondence, 1902-18
36. Correspondence- 1913-18 (History of first VBS)
37. Epiphany Baptist Church
38. Material on debate of First VBS
39. Photographs -Hawes Family
40. Photographs -Hawes Family
41. Photographs -Hawes grave site
42. Photographs -Hoffman saloon and 1904 school children

II. Vacation Bible School -Historical and informational

Box 1

Folder 43. Articles and clippings

44. Articles and clippings
45. Birmingham Sunday School Council -Annual reports, 1936-40, 1947
46. Birmingham Sunday School Council -Attendance, 1925-40
47. Birmingham Sunday School Council -Correspondence and documents, 1930's
48. Birmingham Sunday School Council -Correspondence and documents, 1940's
49. Birmingham Sunday School Council -Corres.and Documents, 1950's, 1960's
50. Birmingham Pageant -1951- Alabama Baptist VBS work
51. Boville, Robert -International Association of Daily Vacation Bible School (publications)
52. Cliff Temple Baptist Church, Dallas, TX VBS Records -1928
53. Clinic (VBS) -North Carolina -1952
54. Clinic (VBS) -Texas -1956
55. Correspondence- 1926-42

Box 2

56. Data and reports, 1922-28
57. Data and reports, 1928-50
58. Data, 1935
59. Engagements
60. Foreign VBS
61. Historical Articles
62. Historical Articles
63. Historical Research -Correspondence -Browne, Ben

64. Historical Research -Correspondence -Graves, Allen
65. Historical Research -Correspondence -Hawes, Ruth
66. Historical Research -Correspondence -Hill, Julia
67. Historical Research -Correspondence -Hodge, C. S.
68. Historical Research -Correspondence -Holdridge, E. P.
69. Historical Research -Correspondence
70. International Association of Daily Vacation Bible School
71. International Council of Religious Education -1932
72. Mt. Zion Assoc., NC -VBS (includes photographs and church reports)
73. Nursery Class material
74. Photographs
75. Salaries -Vacation Bible School -SSB, 1945-50
76. Spanish pupil -VBS book, 1926
77. Textbooks and Guide -Grice
78. Vaughn, Howard -VBS History
79. Washington, Georgia -First Baptist Church -material
80. Washington, Georgia -First Baptist Church -material
81. Washington, Georgia -First Baptist Church -material
82. Washington, Georgia -First Baptist Church -notebooks
83. Weekday Bible School -Tracts
84. Weekday Church School
85. Weekday Committee -Burroughs
86. Weekday Religious Education
87. Wiley, L. W. -Speech "Trends in Religious Education."

III. Vacation Bible School -Publications (non-SBC)

- Box 3
88. Abington Bulletin of Religious Education, 1924-32
 89. Beginners Course -Church Vacation School
 90. Book lists
 91. Church Vacation School News, 1925-26
 92. Curriculum material
 93. The Guide, 1932-33
 94. Handbooks
 95. "How to conduct a Vacation Bible School" -publications
 96. Manual of Handwork
 97. Methodist publications
 98. Miscellaneous publications
 99. Music material
 100. Presbyterian publication
- Box 4
101. Religious Education and public schools
 102. Resource information
 103. Spanish publications
 104. Standards of VBS
 105. Third Presbyterian Church, Chester, PA -Annual Reports, 1920's
 106. Week Day Religious Education
 107. Books -Aler, Vacation Bible School
 108. Books -Boville -Manual of Graded Bible Courses and Habit, Health and First-aid outlines
 - 109, Books- Boville -Manual of Hymns, songs, and marches
 110. Books -Danielson -The Good American Vacation Lessons
 111. Books -Faris -God Revealing Himself in the lives of men.
 112. Books -Faris -Modern Builders of the Church
 113. Books -Gage -How to Conduct a Church Vacation School
 114. Books -Hazzard-Music Manual
 115. Books -Nelson -Vacation Bible School Handbook

116. Books -Knapp -Thirty Character Building Stories
117. Books -Patterson -Learning to Know God
118. Books -Stafford -The Vacation Religious Day School
119. Books -Stout -The Daily Vacation Church School
120. Books -Towne -Revealing Himself in the Lives of Men
121. Books -Towne -Listening to Our Heavenly Father
122. Books -Vaughn -A Good Natured Giant and other Stories
123. Books -White -Character Lessons in American Biography

IV. Vacation Bible School -SBC -Publications and Literature
Box 5

- Folder 124. Associational promotion, 1942-53
125. Books and supplies list -1920's and 1930's
 126. Catalogs, 1926-56, 1963, 1974
 127. Conference programs
 128. Daily Vacation Bible School Guide -Grice
 129. Form Letters 1938
 130. "Fun, Folk and Religious Songs"
 131. Handbook -Alabama Baptist Convention
 132. Ingraham pamphlets
 133. Joint Service books, 1926-59 (scattered)
 134. Literature packets, 1937-52
 135. Nashville, First Baptist Church -VBS Report, 1933
 136. Order blanks
 137. Posters, 1945
 138. Principals packets
 139. Program
 140. Promotional pamphlet for VBS
 141. Record Books and Record Keeping
 142. Report forms
 143. Scripture cards
 144. Standards for VBS, 1938-53
 145. Visual Aid Bulletin
 146. Weekday Religious Education -Statement
 147. "Why, What, and How for Vacation Bible School,"1926-53

V. Vacation Bible School -SBC -Statistics (chronological)

Box 6

- Folder 148. 1921- Associational Reports
149. 1923-24- Convention and state statistics
 150. 1925-31- Churches with VBS
 151. 1930- Statistical summaries
 152. 1932- Statistical summaries
 153. 1933- Statistical summaries
 154. 1934- Statistical summaries
 155. 1935-38- Bulletin and statistical summaries
 156. 1935-53- Statistical summaries
 157. 1935- Statistical summaries
 158. 1935-37- Alphabetical list of churches and associations with VBS
 159. 1937- Statistical summaries
 160. 1938- Statistical summaries
 161. 1938- Statistical summary and report
 162. 1938- Alphabetical list of churches with VBS (GA-LA)
 163. 1938- Alphabetical list of churches with VBS (NM-VA)
 164. 1939- Statistical summaries
 165. 1939- Illinois -statistics

- 166. 1940- Statistical summary
- 167. 1940-51- Florida statistics
- 168. 1940-51- Missouri statistics
- 169. 1942-49- North Carolina statistics
- 170. 1940-50- Texas -statistics
- 171. 1941- List of schools
- 172. 1941- Statistical summaries
- 173. 1942- Statistical summaries

- Box 7 174. 1943- Statistical summaries
- 175. 1944- Statistical summaries
- 176. 1945- Statistical summaries
- 177. 1946- Statistical summaries
- 178. 1947- Statistical summaries
- 179. 1948- Statistical summaries
- 180. 1949- Statistical summaries
- 181. 1950- Statistical summaries
- 182. 1951- Statistical summaries
- 183. 1952- Statistical summaries
- 184. 1953- Statistical summaries
- 185. 1954- Statistical summaries
- 186. 1955- Statistical summaries
- 187. 1956- Statistical summaries
- 188. 1957- Statistical summaries
- 189. 1958- Statistical summaries
- 190. 1959- Statistical summaries
- 191. 1960- Statistical summaries
- 192. 1962- Statistical summaries

VI. Miscellaneous Material

Box 7

Folder 193. Addresses and Speeches

- 194. Addresses and Speeches
- 195. Articles on Grice
- 196. Articles by Grice -Builder, 1955-56
- 197. Articles- "Ideals" by Grice, 1930
- 198. Burroughs, P. E.
- 199. Class material -"Philosophy of Religion" 1929
- 200. Class material -"Principles of Religious Education"
- 201. Class material -"Organization and Administration of Religious Education.

Box 8

- 202. Class material -"Religious Values"
- 203. Class material -"Testing Measurement In Religious Education"
- 204. Correspondence -Allen, Andrew
- 205. Correspondence -Holcomb, T. L.
- 206. Correspondence -Phillips, William P.
- 207. Correspondence -Sunday School History, 1954-55
- 208. Correspondence- 1924-34
- 209. Correspondence- 1950-59
- 210. Correspondence- 1960-73
- 211. Church Library
- 212. Criticisms -Sunday School Board
- 213. Efficiency questionnaire, 1932-33

- 214. Frost, J. M. -Sunday School Board History and Work
- 215. Historical Commission material

- Box 9
- 216. Modified Shorthand system
 - 217. Monticello brochure with notes
 - 218. "On higher ground" Sunday School Board
 - 219. Reorganization- Sunday School Board
 - 220. "Suggestions for consideration in connection with our study course problems" 1933
 - 221. Star book for ministers
 - 222. Style book -Grice

Slides, Motion Picture Film and Artifacts

- Box 10
- 223. Washington, GA -Vacation Bible School -1924 (16 mm silent motion picture film -black & white). Shows children marching into church, teachers, activities, and Mr. Grice.
 - 224. Transparency -color -Mr. and Mrs. Homer Grice
 - 225. Lantern slides relating to Vacation Bible School. Includes instructional slides and slides of various church schools -1920's
 - 226. Stamp- "Homer L. Grice"

Oversized Material -(Oversized Shelf -7)

- 227. Posters and certificates -Vacation Bible School

Box 11-13 Research notes on Sunday School History