

**Descriptive Summary:**

<b>Creator:</b>	Robert Emmett Bledsoe Baylor
<b>Title:</b>	Robert Emmett Bledsoe Baylor Papers
<b>Inclusive Dates:</b>	1812-1981, undated
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	1837-1873
<b>Abstract:</b>	The Robert Emmett Bledsoe Baylor Papers are a collection of personal correspondence, legal documents, reminiscences, and biological entries concerning Judge Baylor. Most of the material deals with family issues and Baylor's interactions with other Texas Baptists.
<b>Accession #:</b>	1362
<b>Extent:</b>	1.35 linear feet (3 document boxes)
<b>Language:</b>	Collection is in English.
<b>Repository:</b>	The Texas Collection, Baylor University, Waco, Texas.

**Biographical Note:**

Robert Emmett Bledsoe Baylor, or R. E. B. Baylor, was born in Lincoln County, Kentucky, on 1793 May 10. His parents, Walker and Jane Bledsoe Baylor, had six children. Walker had served in the Continental Army as a member of the 3rd Light Dragoons. He was eventually promoted to captain and served as an orderly on General George Washington's staff. Walker's son Robert attended country schools for most of his adolescence. He was admitted to the bar in 1812, but postponed his legal career to fight in the War of 1812. As a member of the Kentucky Militia, Baylor participated in battles in Ohio Territory and in the ill-fated invasion of Canada.

After the end of the War of 1812, Baylor studied law with his uncle, Judge Jesse Bledsoe and became well-known throughout the area. In 1819, R.E.B. Baylor was elected to the Kentucky State Legislature. His reputation continued to grow after moving to Tuscaloosa, Alabama. In 1824, Baylor was elected to the Alabama State Legislature and became a United States Representative from that state in 1828. In 1836, Baylor led a battalion of Alabama volunteers against the Creek Indians.

One of the defining moments of R.E.B. Baylor's life came in 1839 with his conversion to Christianity. He was ordained shortly after his conversion experience, leaving his flourishing political career in Alabama behind to spread the Gospel.

At the age of forty-six, Baylor moved to Texas where he continued to devote his life to law and his new faith. In 1841, he was appointed an associate justice of Texas' Supreme Court. While judging cases around the state, he presided over the first district court held in Waco and preached perhaps the first sermon offered in Waco. He was involved in a number of religious organizations including the Texas Baptist Education Society, the Union Association, and the Texas Baptist State Convention. He had joined the Freemasons in 1825 and served as a chaplain for that society in 1843, 1846, and 1847.

Baylor was also instrumental in founding Baylor University, named for him when it was chartered in 1845. Despite his involvement as donor and law professor, Baylor was never a president of the school.

Although Baylor was never married nor had children, he was quite close to his nephew John Baylor, as John lived with him for a time and wrote to him often when he left Robert Baylor's house. John Baylor led an adventurous life of his own as a noted

Indian fighter, commander of the first Confederate invasion of New Mexico in the American Civil War, Confederate congressman, and gunfighter.

After a life of faith in God and public service to three states, Robert Baylor died on 1873 December 30. He was buried at Baylor University's original campus in Independence, Texas, but his remains were transferred to the University of Mary-Hardin Baylor in 1917.

Sources:

Baker, Eugene W. *In His Traces: The Life and Times of R.E.B. Baylor*. Waco: Baylor University Press, 1996.

Murray, Lois S. *Baylor at Independence: 1845-1886*. Waco: Baylor University Press, 1998.

Summerlin, Travis L. "Robert Emmett Bledsoe Baylor." *Handbook of Texas Online*. <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fbaav>. Accessed 2012 January 23.

Thompson, Jerry. "Baylor, John Robert." *Handbook of Texas Online*. <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fbaat>. Accessed 2012 January 23.

**Scope and Content:**

The Robert Emmett Bledsoe Baylor Papers are a collection of personal correspondence, legal documents, reminiscences, and biographical sketches pertaining to Judge Baylor and his illustrious career as an educator, judge, and Baptist. The chronology of the collection ranges from a letter sent by Baylor's father Walker in 1812 to biographical essays on Baylor from 1981.

**Organization and Arrangement:**

Correspondence has been organized by individual when possible. The literary productions, particularly the biographical sketches of Baylor, have been organized by the author. Currently the records are arranged in three series: I. Correspondence, II. Legal Documents, and III. Literary Productions.

**Restrictions:** The collection is open for research.

**Literary Rights Statement:**

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**Index Terms:**

Baptists -- Texas -- History.

Baylor University--History.

Baylor, John Robert, 1822-1894.

Baylor, R. E. B. (Robert Emmett Bledsoe), 1793-1873.

Huckins, James, 1807-1863.

**Related Materials:**

Baylor-Carrington Family Papers, #0170.

**Separated Materials:** None.**Custodial History:**

<b>Acquisition:</b>	Collection was acquired through multiple gifts and transfers.  Gift from Mr. and Mrs. James E. Crain, 1975 November 18. Gift from Fred Hartman, 1982 February. Gift from Star of the Republic Museum, 1984 March 26. Gift from Clarence Miller, 1995 October.  Transfer from Thomas E. Turner and the Chancellor's Office, 1981.
<b>Citation:</b>	Robert Emmett Bledsoe Baylor Papers, Accession 1362, Box #, Folder #, The Texas Collection, Baylor University.

**Processing Information:** Finding aid completed by Thomas A. DeShong, 2012 January 24.**Container List:****Series I. Correspondence, 1812-1951, undated, 0.45 linear feet (1 document box)**

The correspondence series, the largest series in the collection, includes the correspondence of Baylor President R. E. B. Baylor as well as that of his biographer, Joseph Hale. This series is in good condition.

BOX NUMBER	FOLDER NUMBER	FOLDER TITLE	DATES
1	1	Correspondence: General	1837-1851
	2	Correspondence: General	1853-1863
	3	Correspondence: General	1868-1872
	4	Correspondence: General	1873, undated
	5	Correspondence: John Baylor	1845-1856
	6	Correspondence: John Baylor	1857-1860
	7	Correspondence: John Baylor	1861-1868

BOX NUMBER	FOLDER NUMBER	FOLDER TITLE	DATES
1	8	Correspondence: R.E.B. Baylor's Sister	1838
	9	Correspondence: Walker Baylor	1812-1822
	10	Correspondence: Brother Stribling: (1 of 2)	1871
	11	Correspondence: Brother Stribling: (2 of 2)	1871
	12	Correspondence: James Huckins	1859
	13	Correspondence: Masons	undated
	14	Correspondence: Joseph W. Hale	1944 October 16-24
	15	Correspondence: Joseph W. Hale	1944 October 25-28
	16	Correspondence: Joseph W. Hale	1944 November-December
	17	Correspondence: Joseph W. Hale	1945
	18	Correspondence: Joseph W. Hale	1951
	19	Correspondence: Joseph W. Hale: (1 of 2)	undated
	20	Correspondence: Joseph W. Hale: (2 of 2)	undated

**Series II. Legal Documents, 1836-1875, 3 folders.**

This series includes legal documents including land deeds, certificates, treasury warrants, and a declaration of pension. This series is in good condition.

BOX NUMBER	FOLDER NUMBER	FOLDER TITLE	DATES
2	1	Legal Documents: General	1836-1846
	2	Legal Documents: General	1848-1859
	3	Legal Documents: General	1863-1875

**Series III. Literary Productions, 1845-1981, undated, 0.90 linear feet (2 document boxes).**

The literary productions series contains reminiscences of Judge Baylor, but primarily consists of articles, essays, and books detailing the biographical details of Baylor's life. This series is in good to excellent condition.

BOX NUMBER	FOLDER NUMBER	FOLDER TITLE	DATES
2	4	Literary Productions: Article: <i>Baptist Standard</i> : Coleman Craig: "An Eminent Baptist and an Historic Occasion"	1917
	5	Literary Productions: Biographical Sketch: Dr. Henry W. Baylor	1845
	6	Literary Productions: Memorial: Masons	1873
	7	Literary Productions: Notes: Joseph W. Hale	1944-1945
	8	Literary Productions: Notes: Joseph W. Hale	1945-1946
	9	Literary Productions: Notes: Joseph W. Hale	undated
	10	Literary Productions: Essay: Herbert Gambrel: "Robert Emmett Bledsoe Baylor (1793-1873)"	1936
	11	Literary Productions: Essay: Samuel Hessler: "Robert Emmett Bledsoe Baylor"	1982
	12	Literary Productions: Essay: Joseph W. Hale: "Judge Baylor in Review"	undated
	13	Literary Productions: Essay: "Judge Baylor as a Man and Preacher"	undated
3	1	Literary Productions: Reminiscences: (1 of 4)	undated
	2	Literary Productions: Reminiscences: (2 of 4)	undated
	3	Literary Productions: Reminiscences: (3 of 4)	undated
	4	Literary Productions: Reminiscences: (4 of 4)	undated
	5	Literary Productions: Reminiscences: Transcriptions	undated
	6	Literary Productions: Book: Joseph W. Hale: <i>Baylor in Perspective</i> : (1 of 3)	undated
	7	Literary Productions: Book: Joseph W. Hale: <i>Baylor in Perspective</i> : (2 of 3)	undated
	8	Literary Productions: Book: Joseph W. Hale: <i>Baylor in Perspective</i> : (3 of 3)	undated

BOX NUMBER	FOLDER NUMBER	FOLDER TITLE	DATES
3	9	Literary Productions: Book: Thomas E. Turner: <i>Robert Emmett Bledsoe Baylor: His Early Years in Kentucky</i>	1981

**Notes:**

Much of the correspondence series is comprised of letters exchanged between Robert Baylor and his relatives: Walker Baylor (father), John Baylor (nephew), and an unnamed sister.

A large portion of the collection pertains to Joseph W. Hale who wrote a biography of Baylor entitled *Baylor in Perspective*. Hale's correspondence, notes, and books are included in the collection.

For a helpful biography outside of this collection, see Eugene Baker's monograph entitled *In His Traces: The Life and Times of R. E. B. Baylor* (1996).