

BIRMINGHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY

Department of Archives and Manuscripts

Cobbs, Nicholas Hamner Papers, 1847 to 1861 and 1944

Background:

Nicholas Hamner Cobbs served as the first Episcopal Bishop of Alabama. Consecrated on October 20, 1844 at Christ Church, Philadelphia, Cobbs served until his death in 1861. Born February 5, 1795 in Virginia, Cobbs worked as a teacher and was ordained a priest in the Episcopal Church at age 29. He served as chaplain at the University of Virginia and as rector of the Episcopal parish in Charlottesville, Virginia. From 1839 until 1843 Cobbs was rector of St. Paul's church in Petersburg, Virginia, and rector of St. Paul's in Cincinnati, Ohio from 1843 until his election as Bishop of Alabama. During his tenure as bishop Cobbs oversaw modest but steady growth in the Alabama Episcopal Church and served as rector of Christ Church, Tuscaloosa and St. John's, Montgomery. An opponent of secession in the months leading up to the Civil War, Cobbs died in Montgomery on the same day that Alabama withdrew from the union.

Scope and Content:

The Nicholas Hamner Cobbs Papers include a small amount of correspondence generated by Cobbs and two sermons. The collections consists primarily of material about Cobbs, such as sermons and newspaper clippings.

Related Collections:

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF ALABAMA Records

Subject Areas:

Clergy – Alabama.
Episcopal Church – Alabama.

Size: 1/4 linear foot (1 box)

Source: Episcopal Diocese of Alabama

Restrictions: Standard preservation and copyright restrictions.

Guide Prepared by: Caryl Johnston and Jim Baggett

File Number:	Description:
1593.1.1	“Centennial Celebration of the Consecration of Nicholas Hamner Cobbs, Oct. 22, 1944.” 4 pamphlets. With AMS note by Edith Selden.
1593.1.2	“The Alabama Churchman,” Oct. 1944. Centennial issue on Bishop Cobbs. 4 copies.
1593.1.3	“A Sermon by the Rt. Rev. C.C.J. Carpenter... at the Centennial Celebration of the consecration of N.H. Cobbs.” Oct. 22, 1944. Printed pamphlet, (4 pages).
1593.1.4	“Sermon,” 4p. With ms. Note added, “Bp. Cobbs May 7 th 1847 Convention Sermon.”
1593.1.5	“How Our Church Came to Alabama.” By the Rev. R.H. Cobbs, D.D. Article printed in unidentified church publication; 4 copies. With typed copy (Xerox).
1593.1.6	“Farewell message to his clergy: the Address delivered at the funeral, by the Rt. Rev. Stephen Elliott...” Pamphlet; Barrett, Wimbish & Co., Printers, Montgomery, 1861; Funerary address on Bishop Cobbs. (40 pages)
1593.1.7	“An Israelite without Guile.” Memorial address on Bishop Cobbs by Rev. George Cushman. Pamphlet, Farrow & Dennett, printers, Mobile, 1861. (37 pages)
1593.1.8	Two sermons by Bishop Cobbs – Convention Sermon [see item 1593.1.4] Printed in Tuscaloosa, 1847. 14p. --- A Sermon delivered in St. Paul’s Church, Greensboro, Al., Feb. 1, 1852. “Printed at the Alabama Beacon office,” 1852. (8 pages)
1593.1.9	Last words of Bishop Cobbs. Remarks [by John M. Mitchell] to the clergy...Montgomery, Jan. 12, 1861. #p. printed flyer.
1593.1.10	News clipping about Bishop Cobbs. Montgomery Advertiser, Oct. 15, 1944.

- 1593.1.11 TLS, Alexander B. Andrews to Bishop Carpenter, Oct. 26, 1944. With Photostat copy of Bishop Cobbs' certificate of consecration. (2 copies)
- 1593.1.12 Scrapbook about Bishop Cobbs. Includes letters, photographs (of church) and miscellaneous.