



John R. Ellis Court Records, 1914-1915

PA 2

Overview

Creator: The Presbyterian Church
Title: John R. Ellis Court Records
Collection Number: PA 2
Collection Dates: 1914-1915
Size: 1 Box
Repository: Hanover College Archives
Duggan Library
P.O. Box 287
Hanover, Indiana 47243-0287
Phone: (812) 866-7181

Collection Information:

Scope and Content Note

The John R. Ellis Court Records document a trial brought by the Presbyterian Church against Rev. John R. Ellis, 1914-1915. Ellis was charged with conduct unbecoming a minister while serving as the pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Bloomington, IN. The trial focused on his association with a prostitute and alleged advances on women in his congregation. The collection consists of depositions, exhibits, objections, and witness statements during the trial before the Judicial Commission of the Presbytery of Indianapolis. Other names documented in the collection are Emma Wray, Mandy Butcher, Lula Storms, and Mrs. Anna Schram.

Historical Information

Rev. John R. Ellis served as the pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Bloomington, IN until 1914 when he resigned after he was suspended by a Commission of the Indiana Presbytery for conduct unbecoming a minister. After his resignation, he spent several weeks in a New York sanitarium. During the 1915 appeal, the Permanent Judicial Commission reversed the decision against Ellis on the grounds of insufficient and improper evidence.

Administrative Information:

Related Items:

Related materials may be found by searching the [Hanover College online catalog](#).

Acquisition:
Loan

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Preferred Citation: The John R. Ellis Court Records, PA 2, The Joseph Wood Evans Memorial Special Collections and Archives Center, the Duggan Library, Hanover College.

Finding Aid Updated: 18 May 2016

Container List

Box	Folder	Folder Title	Dates	Notes
1	1	Documents	1914	Topics: The Daily Telephone (newspaper), congregation, church members, Presbyterian church, College and Third, meeting, friendship, building, sin, conduct of unbecoming a minister of the Gospel, charges, committee, prostitute, witnesses, trial, controversy, rumors, hearing Names: Emma Wray, Mandy Butcher, Lula Storms, Mrs. Anna Schram, Mr. Williams, William Matthews, Thomas White, George Hohn, Charles Springer, Robert Miller; Places: Indianapolis, IN; Bloomington, IN; Amsterdam, New York; Clifton Springs, New York
1	2	Documents	1914-1915	Topics: Appeal to the General Assembly of Rev. Ellis, documents, chairmen, request sending, small notebook, Presbytery, second church, persecution, investigation, findings, evidence, prostitute, witnesses, character, false and unreliable statements, woman's home, appeal, Judicial Commission, minister; Names: Emma Wray, Mandy Butcher, Mrs. Schram, Dr. Marshall, Dr. Strayer Places: Indianapolis, IN; Bloomfield, IN; Louisville, KY
1	3	Documents	1914-1915	Topics: keys, study (office), deacon, church members, Presbyterian church, sin, conduct of unbecoming a minister of the Gospel, charges, committee, prostitute, witnesses, trial, controversy, rumors, hearing; Names: Emma Wray, Mandy Butcher, Lula Storms, Mrs. Anna Schram; Places: Indianapolis, IN; Bloomington, IN;

Box	Folder	Folder Title	Dates	Notes
1	4	Court Notes	1914-1915	<p>Topics: keys, study (office), deacon, church members, Presbyterian church, meeting, friendship, building, sin, conduct of unbecoming a minister of the Gospel, charges, committee, prostitute, witnesses, trial, controversy, rumors, hearing, documents, chairmen, Presbyterian, second church, persecution, investigation, findings, evidence, woman's home, minister</p> <p>Names: Emma Wray, Mandy Butcher, Lula Storms, Mrs. Anna Schram, Mr. Williams,</p> <p>Places: Indianapolis, IN; Bloomington, IN; Amsterdam, New York; Clifton Springs, New York, Bloomfield, IN; Louisville, KY</p>