

# Guide to the John Cockrill Shackelford Papers

MS 1220



compiled by Staff of Manuscripts and Archives

June 1982

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
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**CALL NUMBER:** MS 1220

**CREATOR:** Shackelford, John Cockrill, 1829-1918

**TITLE:** John Cockrill Shackelford papers

**DATES:** 1850-1854

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.25 linear feet

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Principally sermons and writings of John Cockrill Shackelford, including student essays, and a thesis prepared for his B.A. degree at Yale College, 1854. Also included is a copy of his book: *Ecce Agnus Dei; or The true theory of the atonement* (Nashville and Dallas, Publishing House of the M.E. Church South, 1905).

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1220>

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## Requesting Instructions

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Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box  
f.      folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Transferred to Yale University from the New Haven Colony Historical Society, in 1978.

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## Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

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## Preferred Citation

John Cockrill Shackelford Papers (MS 1220). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

John Cockrill Shackelford was born August 4, 1829, in Saline County, Mo., the son of Thomas Shackelford, a farmer, and Eliza Cheves (Pulliam) Shackelford. His father moved with his family to Missouri from Tennessee in 1817, and entered several thousand acres of farm land. He was made one of the first county judges of Saline County and his influence was strong in the early history of the state. He died when his son John was only six years old, leaving the care of their large family and of the farm to his wife.

After attending the best schools in his own state and studying law in the office of an older brother, Mr. Shackelford entered the Law School at Ballston Spa, N.Y. When he had been there nearly two years, a remarkable experience led him to give up law for the ministry. In 1850 he entered Yale, graduating with honors four years later.

He then returned to Missouri, and in September, 1854, became an active minister in the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. In the St. Louis Conference, and later in the Southwest Missouri Conference, he gave himself without stint to the hard work of the pioneer preacher. His health gave way after ten years of this service under the added strain of war conditions and deep personal sorrow because of the deaths of his two sons. He was forced to seek a renewal of strength by a return to country life. From "Rural Retreat," his farm home in Lafayette County, he continued with unremitting zeal the work to which he had dedicated his life, preaching in near-by churches, writing continuously for the church and local papers, and leading in every movement for the advancement of the community. In 1897 Mr. Shackelford and his family moved to Sweet Springs, Saline County, Mo. There he continued his work preaching until within the last few years of his life whenever he was called upon by any denomination in the town or surrounding country. After his wife's death in 1907, he spent part of his time in the home of his son-in-law, Rev. James Clyde Saylor, a minister in the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, always lending help and support to Mr. Saylor and his wife in their work. His death occurred at their home in Marshfield, Mo., on July 11, 1918. His body was taken back to Sweet Springs and interred in the family lot in Fairview Cemetery.

Mr. Shackelford was married November 6, 1859, in Lafayette County, Mo., to Martha, daughter of Lewis and Elizabeth (Kinchelo) Neale, then residents of Lafayette County, but formerly of Virginia. His wife's death occurred December 2, 1907. Of the four children born to Mr. and Mrs. Shackelford, the two sons, Samuel and John Wesley, died in early childhood. The daughters, Emma Neale and Mary Birdie, wife of Rev. James Clyde Saylor, survive.

From *Yale University. Obituary record of graduates deceased during the year ending July 1, 1919...* New Haven, Published by the University, 1920. p. 843-844.

## Scope and Contents

Principally sermons and writings of John Cockrill Shackelford, including student essays, and a thesis prepared for his B.A. degree at Yale College, 1854. Also included is a copy of his book: *Ecce Agnus Dei; or The true theory of the atonement* (Nashville and Dallas, Publishing House of the M.E. Church South, 1905).

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## Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1	Correspondence	1909
b. 1, f. 2	Student compositions, Yale College	1851, undated
b. 1, f. 3	Thesis, "The Influence of Alexander the Great on the History of the World" [Yale College]	1854
b. 1, f. 4	Miscellaneous essays	undated
b. 1, f. 5	Sermons	undated
b. 1, f. 6	<i>Ecce Agnus Dei; or the True Theory of the Atonement</i> English	1905

## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Genres / Formats**

Sermons

### **Subjects**

Clergy

### **Names**

Shackelford, John Cockrill, 1829-1918

### **Corporate Bodies**

Yale College (1718-1887). Class of 1854

Yale University -- Students