Bishop John Lloyd Decell was born August 12, 1887, near Brookhaven, Mississippi, and grew up in Wesson, Mississippi. He attended Union College at Barbourville, Kentucky and was licensed to preach by the Danville District of the Kentucky Conference. He returned to Mississippi, attended Millsaps College, and was admitted on trial into the Mississippi Conference in 1910. Bishop Decell served the following pastorates: Osyka, Mount Olive, Waynesboro, McComb, St. Paul's in Fresno, California, Central, Meridian, and Galloway Memorial, Jackson. He served as District Superintendent for the Jackson and Brookhaven Districts, and was Editor of the *New Orleans Christian Advocate* in 1930. In 1938, he was elected Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and presided over the following Conferences: Alabama, North Alabama, Georgia and North Georgia, Memphis, Mississippi and North Mississippi. He married Bertha Whitley of Adrian, Missouri, in 1910, and they had two children, Frances Elizabeth and William James. On January 10, 1946, he died at his home in Jackson.

BOX 1

BOOKS  
1940 Discipline  
Pastor's Daybooks, 1911 Osyka, 1914 Waynesboro, 1915 Waynesboro, 1919 McComb  
Pocket Calendars 1931, 1932, 1940  
Mrs. J. Lloyd Decell's Bible, given by J.L. Decell, 1916  
Ordination Certificate, blank  

FOLDER  
1 Biographical data, letters, tributes, memoirs written at death of J.L. Decell  
2 Newspaper clippings after death  
3 Telegrams received after death  
4 Newspaper clippings, articles by or about J.L. Decell, letters, church programs  
5 Sermons, prayers, 1907, 1938, 1945, 1946
1. Photographs: as student
   first Millsaps Preachers Conf. 1942
   with Rev. John Burns Horton
   Consecration Service as Bishop 1938, with mother
   Foreign Missionary Conf., Prague, Czechoslovakia, 1936
   other photographs, unidentified

2. Pastor, Central church, Meridian, photo of church, correspondence concerning
   Gipsy Smith revival

3. Whitworth College merger with Millsaps, President of Conference Board of
   Education, correspondence

4. Decell Memorial Methodist Church, Wesson, Miss.

5. J. Lloyd Decell Lectureship at Millsaps College

6. Presiding Elder, Jackson District 1925-1928
   book of preaching schedule, texts, notes

7. Presiding Elder, Jackson District 1925-1928
   clippings, correspondence, data

8. Editor, *New Orleans Christian Advocate*, 1930

9. Seashore Campground, 1924-1928
   correspondence, Charter of Incorporation 1927,
   Pastors School program 1934

10. Unification Effort in 1920's: documents, correspondence

11. Unification of Methodist Church 1938-39 correspondence, documents, photo
    "The High Road of Methodism" souvenir booklet
    clippings
J.B. CAIN ARCHIVES OF MISSISSIPPI METHODISM

M 57   DECELL (J. Lloyd) Papers: 1887-1946

BOX 3

FOLDER

1  Programs and Magazines
   Methodist Banquet, 1938
   Daily Christian Advocate, May 8, 1939
   Consecration of Bishops Service, June 26, 1944
   Our Heritage and Hope, June, 25, 1944
   Chicago Methodist Social Union, December 8, 1939

2  Printed Material
   At the Front: Sketches of Our Missionaries
   Handbook for delegates to SEJ Conference, June 22, 1944
   Jackson District Conference, April 18-20, 1928
   Souvenir “One Hundred Years of Methodism in Jackson, Mississippi, 1836-1936”
   Episcopal Address to General Conference, 1934
   Report to SEJ Conference, June 1944

3  Souvenir - Methodists of Mississippi, 1922

4  Correspondence and Minutes, 1937-1940
   Includes correspondence between J.B. Cain and Mrs. E.B. Bell, Jr. (Bishop Decell’s daughter), 1974

5  Literature on unification of Methodist Episcopal Church; Methodist Episcopal Church, South; and Methodist Protestant Church
   The Southern Methodist, November 9, 1927
   Various pamphlets on unification

6  “Man's Greatest Treasure” sermon

7  Homecoming and Dedication program for Decell Memorial Methodist Church, September 1, 1946

BOOKS
   Condensed Minute Book, 1929-1930
   The Eclectic Primary History of the United States
   Journal of the North Alabama Conference, 69th session, November 3, 1938