

## Section A:

### THE HISTORICAL ARCHIVES OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

#### What it is

From the beginning of the Presbyterian Church in America a few leaders in the denomination dreamed of establishing a place where the story of the struggle for faith and purity in the southern Presbyterian Church in the U.S. might be documented.

This dream was summed well by the widow of one Presbyterian churchman enthusiastic about having her husband's papers in the PCA Archives. It would be good to preserve the record, she said, if only that young men in seminary might "know the high price he and others paid for their faith."

Meanwhile, in the 1970s, the Rev. Edward Steele, a Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod, pastor in Indianapolis, Ind., collected some records of the RPC,ES, and the groups from which it rose. He established an archives in one fire-proof filing cabinet at Covenant Seminary in St. Louis, Mo. He was succeeded as keeper of these few records and books by the Rev. <sup>Albert</sup>Walter "Bud" Moginot, who directed the physical plant at the seminary.

After the two denominations united in 1982, the cabinet of the RPC,ES merged with the dream of the PCA leaders to become a denominational archives. The Twelfth General Assembly in 1984 adopted Stated Clerk Dr. Morton Smith's recommendation that an archives center be established on the grounds of Covenant Seminary. In January, 1985, Randy McGuire, a Covenant Seminary student, was named director by the newly-created Archives Subcommittee of the Committee on Administration, with one secretary and student part-time employees. The Archives was established under the office of the Stated Clerk. In 1985 the PCA's Women in the Church (WIC) designated their annual "Love Gift" offering to provide seed money for the enterprise.

Several years and much effort and money are required to turn an Archives into a mature organization. The PCA Archives grew rapidly in its collection but not in resources, and it was in danger of folding. Mrs. Susan Starnes, a secretary and college student, became its part-time administrator. She attended training workshops and studied church history to prepare for her role as administrator. Volunteers and student workers helped maintain the collection.

## THE PCA HISTORICAL ARCHIVES, page A-2

The Sixteenth General Assembly in 1988 renewed its commitment to maintaining Archives services through donations from the local PCA churches and denominational funding by the Administrative Committee.

Stepping out on faith that God would provide for its growth, the Archives Subcommittee hired a full-time acting director, Paul Ingram. He brings an unusual skills to the work. A veteran news reporter, photographer, college instructor, and editor, Mr. Ingram left secular journalism in 1984 to attend Covenant Seminary. He was graduated cum laude with a master's degree in Historical Theology. He joined the Archives as project archivist for the Mission to the World Collection. His new title began July 1, 1988.

The staff now consists of Paul Ingram as full-time director, Susan Starnes as half-time administrator, and Allen Calhoun as one-fourth-time student assistant. The Archives is in the lower level of J. Oliver Buswell, Jr., Library on the Covenant Seminary campus and now maintains a collection of about 1,000 cubic feet of church histories, agency files, unpublished papers, books, artifacts, and correspondence.

### Its purpose and function

The Archives is both an administrative and an evangelistic work of the PCA. Its mission objectives are:

1. **To be the permanent repository for non-current records of the Presbyterian Church in America.** The Archives' first mandate is to manage, protect, permanently store, and provide access to files and records no longer in continual use by the denomination and its committees.

2. **To serve the individual congregations of the PCA.** The Archives fulfills this function primarily through its Local Church History Program. Assistance is provided to church and presbytery historians. Educational services are also part of this priority.

3. **To provide researchers with appropriate access to holdings.** Researchers come from within and without the PCA. Since most PCA churches are some distance from St. Louis, many research requests come by telephone or by letter. As time permits, answers are sought, and photocopies of significant material made by staff. As much as two hours may be spent by staff on one research request. A reading area is supervised for researchers who come to the Archives. The Archives tries to allow as much access to materials as possible, without jeopardizing security and the confidentiality of some materials.

The Archives is open weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and other times by appointment.

Current Archives holdings

**Collection Policy:** It is within the scope of the PCA Historical Archives to collect any materials relating to 20th-Century American Presbyterian churches. Other documents and artifacts will be collected only if they give insight into development of the 20th-Century movements. The Archives collection stresses items relating to:

- The official record of conservative American Presbyterian ministry.
- The social history of individual members, leaders, and congregations within the historic Presbyterian churches.
- The reaction of historic Calvinist thought and teaching, based in the assumed inerrancy of God's Word, to modernist movements within American Presbyterian churches.
- The development of conservative Christian and Presbyterian intellectual and philosophical answers to 20th-Century culture and theology.
- National and world evangelism within the conservative Presbyterian movements.

Within this scope the Archives has:

**Denominational Records:** The Historical Archives is repository for records of the Presbyterian Church in America and some of the unofficial committees which led to its formation, c.1965-today. The Archives also holds official records from four denominations which have merged into the PCA--the Reformed Presbyterian Church, General Synod (RPCGS), 1833-1965; the Bible Presbyterian Church (BPC), 1938-1956; the reorganized BPC, later named the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC), 1956-1965, and the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod (RPC,ES), 1965-1982.

Also collected are selected publications, minutes, and records, from the Presbyterian Church in the United States (PCUS), 1865-1982; the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America (pre-1958 and 1982-today); the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America (1958-1982), and other Reformed bodies.

**Presbytery Records:** The Archives keeps non-current records of PCA presbyteries, and collects minutes, correspondence, and other records from presbyteries no longer in existence.

**Local Church Records:** A full description of this program will be made later in this section. The Archives collects all materials relating to past and current congregations.

**THE PCA HISTORICAL ARCHIVES, page A-4**  
**Current Archives Holdings, continued**

**Personal Papers:** The Archives tries to be wide-ranging in sampling the lives of those who have contributed to the church. Through the Teaching Elder Biography Program, described in detail later, papers from and facts about pastors, missionaries, teachers, and other leaders and their families are sought, along with oral histories. Letters and writings of some leaders are frequently sought by researchers. Collections now in the Archives include:

- Max V. Belz (1914-1978)**, pastor, businessman, educator: Personal, business correspondence, photographs, Cono School (Walker, Iowa) papers.<sup>3</sup>
- J. Oliver Buswell, Jr. (1895-1977)**, theologian, pastor, and educator: Personal correspondence, correspondence as president of Wheaton College, published and unpublished theological writings, interaction with other Christian leaders, papers regarding Independent Board of Presbyterian Foreign Missions.<sup>2, 4</sup>
- Dr. Gordon H. Clark (1902-1985)**, educator, philosopher: Correspondence, published and unpublished theological writings, class teaching notes.<sup>2, 4</sup>
- Dr. R. Laird Harris (1911- )**, author, educator, editor of New International Version translation committee: Personal papers, writings, notes from NIV translation committee, correspondence.<sup>1, 4</sup>
- Dr. D. James Kennedy (1930- )**, pastor, author, broadcaster: Transcripts, "Truths that Transform" Radio programs.<sup>3</sup>
- Rev. James (1905-1982) and Pauline (1904-1984) McAlpine**, missionaries to Japan, authors, educators: Memorabilia, considerable correspondence, writings, mission information.<sup>1, 4</sup>
- Dr. J. Barton Payne (1922-1979)**, theologian, educator: Some published and unpublished works, memorabilia, academic files.<sup>1, 4</sup>
- Dr. Robert Rayburn (1915- )**, pastor, author, educator: Pastoral correspondence, papers from tenures at Highland College, Covenant Theological Seminary, some materials related to military chaplaincy.<sup>1, 4</sup>
- Dr. Francis Schaeffer (1912-1984)**, pastor, author, philosopher: Published works, a set of L'abri Fellowship Newsletters, St. Louis pastoral correspondence, miscellaneous papers, photographs, and correspondence. (Two collections relate to Dr. Schaeffer.)<sup>3/2, 4</sup>

**THE PCA HISTORICAL ARCHIVES, page A-5**  
**Current Archives Holdings, continued**

--Dr. Peter Stam, Jr. (1892- ), publisher and educator:  
Personal, business correspondence, BPC papers.<sup>3</sup>

--Dr. G. Aiken Taylor (1920-1984), pastor, educator,  
editor, The Presbyterian Journal: Presbyterian Journal  
editorial files, massive collection of correspondence on  
church-related matters, photographs.<sup>2, 4</sup>

- 
- Notes:**
- <sup>1</sup> Unprocessed collection. Not ready to be used for research except by advance arrangement.
  - <sup>2</sup> Preliminary processing complete. May be used with supervision.
  - <sup>3</sup> Processed collection. Finding aids ready.
  - <sup>4</sup> Funds needed to finish processing.

---

**Historical Library**

The Historical Archives now maintains a small collection of books and audio tapes. It remains one goal to become the denomination's library of record for all works published by PCA and other conservative Presbyterian authors. We recently began an "Information File" for clippings and pamphlets on a variety of subjects. The Archives Historical Library needs donated:

- Books.** Write or call to see if books would duplicate current holdings. We are particularly seeking newly published works by Presbyterian authors, published church histories, Bible study materials by modernist and conservative writers, theological works, Presbyterian hymnals and psalters, and diaries and memoirs of Presbyterians.
- Periodicals relating to Presbyterian life and thought.** (See periodicals collections list below).
- Newspaper and magazine clippings or copies on news and issues current to the American Presbyterian church.** These may be current issues of the past or today. To be useful these clippings must be labeled with the name of the source, city and state or country where it was published, date, volume and number if there is one, and page number on which the article appeared. Articles not appearing in standard conservative Presbyterian publications are the greatest help.
- Pamphlets and tracts from Presbyterian sources.**

A high priority of the Historical Library Program has been the collection of selected Christian and Presbyterian periodicals. To date the following publications have been filed. Notations show the years and relative completeness of Archives holdings.

THE PCA HISTORICAL ARCHIVES, page A-6  
 Current Archives Holdings, continued

CURRENT PERIODICAL HOLDINGS,  
 PCA HISTORICAL ARCHIVES

Publication	Years covered	Complete?
<u>The Advocate and Ensign (R.P. Advocate)</u>	1891-1893	no
<u>American Guild of Organists Quarterly</u>	1956-1967	most
<u>The Banner</u>	1975-1977	no
<u>The Banner of the Covenant</u>	1845-1858	no
<u>The Bible Presbyterian Reporter (National Missions reporter)</u>	1955-1961	yes
<u>The Bible Today</u>	1941-1951	yes
<u>Biblical Missions</u>	1944-1960	most
<u>Biblical Witness</u>	1956-58, 63, 67, 72	no
<u>The Calvin Forum</u>	1954-1955	no
<u>The Christian Beacon</u>	1936-1962, 66	most
<u>The Christian World</u>	1844	no
<u>Christianity Today (early numbers)</u>	1935	no
<u>Christianity Today</u>	1956-1985	most
<u>Clarion</u>	1944-1946	no
<u>COME</u>	1975	1 issue
<u>The Conservative Reformed Record</u>	1970	1 issue
<u>Continuing. . .</u>	1973-1977	most
<u>Covenant Seminary Review (Presbyterian)</u>	1975-current	most
<u>Covenanter Witness</u>	1974-1976	no
<u>Decision</u>	1972	1 issue
<u>Eternity</u>	1964, 1987	2 issues
<u>Evangelical (Bible) Presbyterian Reporter</u>	1961-1965	most
<u>Far Eastern Beacon</u>	1969-1977	most
<u>The Free Press</u>	1955-1959	no
<u>The Great Awakening</u>	1978	1 issue
<u>HIS</u>	1979-1980	2 issues
<u>The Independent Board Bulletin (Biblical Missions)</u>	1935-1944	no
<u>Journey</u>	1986-1987	no
<u>Mandate (R.P. Reporter)</u>	1969-1976	no
<u>Missionary Advocate and Intelligencer</u>	1838-1842	no
<u>National Missions Reporter (Bible Pres. Reporter)</u>	1949-1955	no
<u>New Horizons in the Orthodox Presbyterian Church</u>	1980-1987	yes
<u>Organ Institute Quarterly</u>	1951-1964	most
<u>The Orthodox Presbyterian Messenger</u>	1949-55, 57, 58, 69, 70	no
<u>Pastoral Psychology</u>	1960, 1962	no
<u>The PCA Messenger</u>	1977-1987	yes
<u>The Presbyterian Communique</u>	1983	no
<u>The Presbyterian Guardian</u>	1936, 37, 43, 55	4 issues
	1956-1959	most
	1961, 62, 64, 70	5 issues
	1971-77, 79	most
<u>The Presbyterian Journal</u>	1964-66, 1970-87	most
<u>The Presbyterian Layman</u>	1970, 71, 77, 81	4 issues
<u>The Princeton Theological Review</u>	1905, 08-27	most
<u>Pulpit Digest</u>	1953-58	no
<u>The Reformed and Presbyterian World</u>	1963-1965	no
<u>The Reformed Presbyterian Advocate</u>	1867-90, 94-1965	most
<u>The Reformed Presbyterian and Covenanter</u>	1873(1), 1876-77	most
<u>The Reformed Presbyterian Reporter (Advocate)</u>	May/1965-Mr/1968, Jan/1969	yes
<u>The Reformed Presbyterian Witness and Missionary Advocate (Advocate)</u>	1902-1911	no
<u>The Southern Presbyterian Journal</u>	(Issues of this publication needed!)	
<u>The Southern Presbyterian Review</u>	1855, 57, 66, 69, 70, 72, 74, 84	no
<u>Table Talk</u>	1985-1987	no
<u>Timeless Insights</u>	1981-1988	most
<u>Truth for Youth</u>	1945-1949	no
<u>Tupos</u>	1960	1 issue
<u>United Evangelical Action</u>	1980-1982	no
<u>The Witness (Advocate)</u>	1953, 54, 56	no
<u>World</u>	1986-88	most

### Oral History

The memories of men and women are sometimes the only account of events not recorded on paper. The Archives now has a small collection of taped and transcribed interviews with some of church leaders. More opportunities have slipped away.

The Archives' oral history program is one of the tangible ways people in the church can volunteer to assist the preservation of Presbyterian history. It is especially helpful because the volunteer can help where they live. Here are three ways:

1. **Think about those in your area who should be interviewed on tape.** Candidates would include anyone who has contributed to the growth and development of Presbyterian churches at the local, presbytery, or national level. Anyone with special knowledge of developments would be a good person to interview. We would like to have their names, addresses, and telephone numbers, and the reasons their stories should be recorded.
2. **Use the information in this guide book to do an oral history yourself or interest someone else to do one.** It makes a great youth group project.
3. **If you are a reasonably good typist and have access to a easy-to-use tape recorder, volunteer to be a transcriptionist for the Archives.** We will send a copy of the tape, with instructions and a sample format. Because of limited staff we need volunteer transcriptionists.

### Artifacts

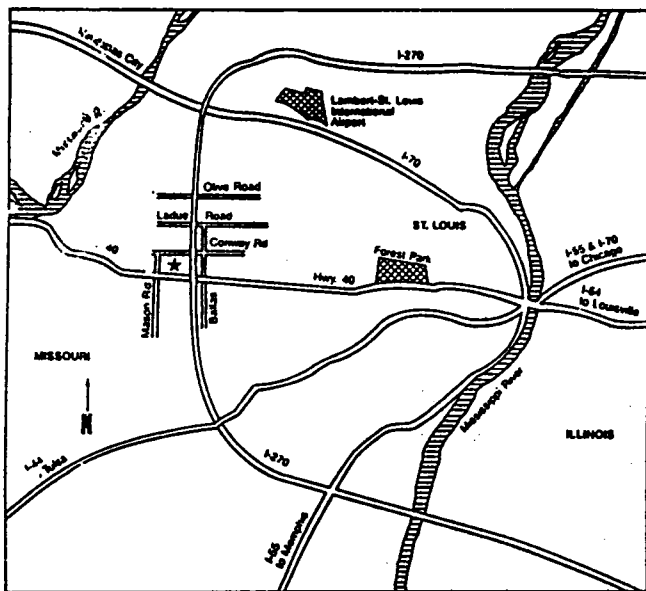
Since the Historical Archives' mandate does not include museum services, and space is limited, donations and loans of artifactual history are not now encouraged. The Archives does have a small number of items, particularly relating to PCUS missions. If something is in danger of being lost or destroyed, storage at the Archives is an option. We are interested in receiving small items appropriate for a traveling teaching exhibit which is contemplated.

### Donations

The Historical Archives is dependent on financial gifts from individuals and congregations to meet its operating expenses. Any donation is a blessing, and we especially appreciate regular budgeted benevolences which help us project income. Anyone wishing to donate historical materials should contact the Archives and make arrangement for transferring. Complete a copy of the Donor Agreement form in the Forms section in accordance with your wishes.



# PCA HISTORICAL ARCHIVES



The PCA Historical Archives is on the lower level of the J. Oliver Buswell, Jr., Library at Covenant Theological Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri.

The campus is in west St. Louis County. From Interstate 270 take the Highway 40/61 East exit. From Highway 40/61, exit to Ballas Road. Go north on Ballas Road to the stoplight. Turn left (west) on Conway Road. Drive under I-270 and immediately turn left on North Forty Outer Road. The Seminary entrance will be on the right. Buswell Library is on the north side of the parking lot. The star on the map marks the location of Covenant Seminary.

Presbyterian Church in America  
Historical Archives  
12330 Conway Road  
St. Louis, Missouri 63141

Phone (314) 469-9077