



Austin Seminary Archives, Stitt Library

CURRIE (THOMAS WHITE, JR.) PAPERS, 1936-2001

Descriptive Summary

Title: Thomas White Currie, Jr. papers

Dates: 1936-2001

Accession Number(s): 1996-011; 2007-003; 2007-005; 2017-005

Extent: 8 feet, 2 inches of manuscript material, 1 inch of photographs, 0.5 inch of negatives, 2.5 inches of microfiche

Language: Materials are written in English.

Biographical Note:

Thomas White Currie, Jr. (1914-2004), a Presbyterian pastor, historian, and writer, was born in Austin, Texas in 1914 to Thomas White Currie, the third President of the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. He grew up on the campus of the seminary, and though he first earned degrees from the University of Texas and Union Theological Seminary, New York, Currie later returned to Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary for his Th.M., which he earned in 1952. While earning his Th.D. at Union Seminary in Virginia, Currie made the history of APTS through the end of his father's presidency in 1943 the topic of his thesis. Currie married in 1939 and had five children including Thomas White Currie III and James Stuart Currie, both pastors.

Currie was ordained and installed at Eliasville, Texas, in 1941, and served at churches in Dallas and Houston, including a long pastorate at Oak Cliff Presbyterian Church in Dallas. In 1963 Currie was elected Moderator of the Synod of Texas, and from 1963 to 1967 served as Executive Secretary for Church Extension for the Presbytery of Brazos, during which time he played a role in the founding of several churches. A great lover of history, Currie helped found the Presbyterian Historical Society of the Southwest and served as its executive secretary for the Synod of the Sun. He revised, updated, and published his thesis at the urging of then-APTS President Prescott Williams, Jr. with the financial sponsorship of Thomas F. Williams, Jr., as *Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary: A Seventy-Fifth Anniversary History* in 1978. Currie was the author of several other books and articles, including *Great Protestant Leaders*, which he co-authored with his wife, Anne Alison Harrison, in 1952, and *Our Cities for Christ* (1954), as well as informal church histories, pamphlets, and newspaper articles. Thomas White Currie, Jr. retired in 1983, and passed away in 2004 at the age of 90.

Scope and Contents:

Eight feet, two inches of manuscript material, one inch of photographs, .5 inches of negatives, and 2.5 inches of microfiche (1936-2001) document Thomas White Currie, Jr.'s creation of *A History of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary* and *Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary: A Seventy-Fifth Anniversary*, and his extensive career at the pulpit. A small amount of material documents other aspects Currie's life, particularly as a retired pastor. The materials are divided into five series: Th.D. Thesis—*A History of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary* (1955-1958), *Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary History: A Seventy-Fifth Anniversary History* (1972-1977), Sermons and Related Material (1944-2001), Creative Works (1977-1993), and General (1936-2001). The bulk of the material dates from 1954-1978, and a very small amount dates back to 1936 and up to 2001.

The first series, Th.D. Thesis—*A History of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary* (1955-1958), chronicles Thomas White Currie, Jr.'s experiences writing his thesis, from devising the topic to unsuccessfully petitioning for publication. The second and most voluminous series, *Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary History: A Seventy-Fifth Anniversary History* (1972-1977), documents Currie's updated seminary history from conception to publication. Correspondence with Prescott Williams, Jr. reveals the project's humble beginnings, with Currie originally envisioning the updated history as a series of supplements in the APTS bulletin. The difficulties of the publication process are documented in correspondence with Lois Boyd, the volume's editor at Trinity University Press. The historically rich recollections of board members, faculty, and alumni, which Currie solicited and upon which he based much of the volume, record firsthand accounts of warm, tender, and often humorous moments from across the seminary's history. The third series, Sermons and Related Material, contains Currie's collected sermons from 1944-2001. The sermons are in typed form, as well as on microfiche. Of special note in this series are materials related to Currie's time as an interim-minister at Columba Church in the Oamaru Presbytery in New Zealand. The fourth series, Creative Works (1977-1993), includes Currie's various writings. Of note in this series are two folders of material relating to a biographical chapter Currie wrote about his deceased brother as an introduction to APTS Professor Gene March's *Texts and Testaments*, a book of critical essays dedicated to and inspired by Stuart Currie's memory. Also, notes from two of his Bible Study sessions are included in the Writing subseries. The fifth series, General (1936-2001), is a small group of materials, predominately from later in Currie's life.

The material in this collection represents separate accessions of material donated by Thomas White Currie, Jr., James Stuart Currie, his son, and Elizabeth C. Williams, his daughter. The accession #1996-011, was donated by Currie himself in 1996. Accessions #2007-003 and #2007-005, were donated by James Stuart Currie in 2007, and accession #2017-015 was donated by Elizabeth Williams in 2017. Material can be assumed to be from accession #1996-011 unless otherwise noted.

Restrictions:

Materials are available by appointment only. Contact the archivist for details.

Index Terms:

Currie, Stuart Dickson, 1922-1975.
Currie, Thomas White.
Currie, Thomas White, 1879-1943.
Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary.
First Presbyterian Church (Cumby, Tex.)
Milford Presbyterian Church (Milford, Tex.)
Oak Cliff Presbyterian Church (Dallas, Tex.)
Park Presbyterian Church (Italy, Tex.)
Ridglea Presbyterian Church (Fort Worth, Tex.)
St. Paul Presbyterian Church (Houston, Tex.)
Presbyterian Church--Education.
Presbyterian Church--Texas--History.
Sermons, American--Texas.

Preferred Citation: Thomas White Currie, Jr. papers, 1936-2001, Austin Seminary Archives, Stitt Library, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary

Inventory:

<u>Box</u>	<u>Contents</u>
C095	Th.D. Thesis, <i>A History of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary</i>: Correspondence: 1955-1957 1957-1958 Publication, 1957-1958 Alumni response cards, 1955 Alumni recollections: 1955 1955-1956 1955-1957 D.A. Penick oral history notes, 1957 Research material—copy of Austin School of Theology charter and constitution, undated Notes, 1957 and undated Final correspondence, drafts, and research, 1957-1958 Various chapter drafts, undated
C096	Various chapter drafts, undated Manuscript:

Box	Contents
	Ch. 1-3, 1958 Ch. 4-7, 1958 Ch. 8-11, 1958 Ch. 12-14, 1958 Ch. 15-Appendices, 1958
Rare Books Row A	<i>A History of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary</i> bound copy, May 1958
B025a	Photographic photocopies [2007-005], undated
B045a	Negatives, undated
C096	<i>Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary History: A Seventy-Fifth Anniversary History:</i> Correspondence: 1972-1975 1975-1978 Pictures, 1976-1977 Tom Williams, publication, 1976 Publication: 1976-1977 1977-1978
C097	Board member recollections, 1975 Faculty recollections: 1975 1975-1976 Alumni recollections: 1975 1975-1977 Consent from authors for publication: 1975-1977 1977 Research notes and correspondence: 1975 and undated 1976 and undated Research notes, 1975 and undated
C098	Research material, 1965-1973 Research material—Alumni, 1975 and undated Research correspondence—How Seminary Helped Small Churches, 1975

- Constantine and Nicaea; 8 pages of handwritten notes about the role of Constantine in the history of the Christianity, circa 1960
- Mo-Ranch Conference materials (3 pages), June 27-July 2, 1960
- New Testament Scripture, Romans 3:9b-25a typed quotes, circa 1960
- New Testament Church, handwritten notes with paragraphs summarizing pivotal moments in the development of Christianity (12 pages), circa 1960
- From Augustine to Francis, handwritten notes about Church history (8 pages, written on St. Paul Presbyterian Church stationary), circa 1960
- The Reformation, handwritten notes about the origins of the Lutheran church (10 pages), May 8, 1960
- Typed excerpts from one of Martin Luther's major reforming treatises of 1520 "On the Freedom of the Christian Man" (typed on Oak Cliff Presbyterian Church stationary), circa 1960
- Typed excerpts from Roland H. Bainton's "Here I Stand," circa 1960
- Reformation in England, handwritten notes, pages 2-6, circa 1960
- John Calvin, handwritten notes about the history of Calvin (typed and handwritten on Oak Cliff Presbyterian Church stationary), circa 1960
- John Knox, Scottish minister, theologian, and writer who was a leader of the country's Reformation. He is the founder of the Presbyterian Church of Scotland (typed and handwritten on Oak Cliff Presbyterian Church stationary), circa 1960
- John Wesley, English Anglican cleric and theologian who, with his brother Charles and fellow cleric George Whitefield, founded Methodism (typed and handwritten on Oak Cliff Presbyterian Church stationary), circa 1960
- William Carey, British Christian missionary, Particular Baptist minister, translator, social reformer and cultural anthropologist (handwritten and typed notes

- on Oak Cliff Presbyterian Church stationary), circa 1960
- Outline of "The Church History" course, circa 1960
- "Church Extension: The Church as Mission" course at Mo-Ranch conference taught by Thomas White Currie Jr., notes and research materials, 1956:
- Church Extension Montreat handwritten notes (4 pages), August 8, 1954
- "Church Extension" course notes for Mo-Ranch Conference, 1956 (handwritten on Oak Cliff Presbyterian Church stationary), 1956
- Edward O. Guerrant (Presbyterian minister at several locations, including Louisville, Ky., 1876-1885; and founder and president of the American Inland Mission or "Soul Winners Society" and editor of The Soul Winner) handwritten notes on Oak Cliff Presbyterian Church stationary, circa 1954-1956
- "Memoirs of Rev. John Leighton Wilson" by Hayden C. DuBose handwritten notes on Oak Cliff Presbyterian Church stationary, circa 1954-1956
- Bibliographies and notes, handwritten on Oak Cliff Presbyterian Church stationary, circa 1954-1956
- Chart of American Presbyterianism and notes, hand drawn from John V. Stephen's work, (Professor ecclesiastical history, Cumberland University, Lebanon, Tennessee) handwritten on Oak Cliff Presbyterian Church stationary, circa 1954-1956
- A History of the Presbytery of Washington City by Clifton E. Olmstead handwritten notes on Oak Cliff Presbyterian Church stationary, circa 1954-1956
- Notes about Darwin's *The Origin of Species* and Christianity, handwritten notes on Oak Cliff Presbyterian Church stationary, circa 1954-1956
- Presbyterian Mo-Ranch Assembly program, (Hunt, TX), August 13-18, 1956
- Mo-Ranch handwritten notes (2 pages), August 19, 1956
- Austin Seminary Lecture Series, notes and research materials, 1977-1978:

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E074	1983 1984 1985 1986 [Folder 1 of 2]
E075	1986 [Folder 2 of 2] 1987 1988 1989 1990
E076	1991 1992 [Includes church bulletins] 1993

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	1994 1995 1996 1997 [Folder 1 of 2]
B151a	1997 [Folder 2 of 2] 1999 2000-2001
B045b	Microfiche sermons, 1944-2001
B151a	Related material: Sermon indices, 1944-2001 New Zealand notes and printed materials, 1983
D025	New Zealand photographs, 1983
B151a	"Half a Century in a Presbyterian Pulpit" [Currie's introduction to microfiche], 2001
A034	Church bulletins, 1951-1978: Oak Cliff Presbyterian Church, Dallas, TX, March 11, 1951 Oak Cliff Presbyterian Church, Dallas, TX, April 22, 1951 Oak Cliff Presbyterian Church, Dallas, TX, April 29, 1951 Saint Paul Presbyterian Church, Houston, TX, church, April 24, 1960 (on APTS Seminary stationary) Saint Paul Presbyterian Church, Houston, TX, church, May 29, 1960 Oak Cliff Presbyterian Church, January 15, 1978
C099	Creative works: "Our Cities For Christ" Thomas W. Currie, Jr., 1954 <i>Great Protestant leaders : biographical sketches of nine great leaders – Martin Luther, John Calvin, John Knox, John Wesley, William Carey, Daniel Baker, John R. Mott, Toyohiko Kagawa, John J. Eagan</i> , prepared by Alison H. and Thomas W. Currie, Jr., circa 1952

Box **Contents**

- Writing [2007-005], 1985-1993
"Texts and Testaments," Stuart Currie bio chapter, 1977-1979
Drafts—"A Brother Beloved" (from *Texts and Testaments*),
undated
- C054** Annotated book—*Missions Tomorrow*, by K.S. Latourette [2007-
005], 1936
- C099** **General:**
Correspondence [2007-005], 1954-1976
Handwritten notes [2007-005], undated
Printed material [2007-005], 1948-1995
Creative works of others [2007-005], 1954, circa 1990s
Board of Annuities and Relief monthly statement,
Presbyterian Church of the United States, Statement of
Dues, November 1, 1955
- A034** Address book of Thomas W. Currie Jr., circa 1938-1943