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PURCELL (MALCOLM LEE) ACCOUNT BOOKS AND TYPESCRIPT, 1918-1977

Descriptive Summary
Title: Malcolm Lee Purcell account books and typescript
Dates: 1918-1977
Accession Number(s): 1996-045, 2007-009
Extent: 2.5 inches
Language: Material is written in English.

Biographical Note:
Malcolm Lee Purcell (1893-1978) was a Presbyterian pastor in Texas, and the son of Lel Red Purcell, the principal of Stuart Female Seminary at the time it was donated to Synod of Texas for use as a school of theology, which would ultimately become Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Purcell graduated from University of Texas in 1916 and worked as a farmer until entering Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in 1922. A year later he transferred to Union Seminary in Virginia, where he earned his Bachelor of Divinity in 1925. Licensed in 1925 and ordained in 1926, Purcell held various pastorates in Texas until taking on a series of leadership roles in the Presbyterian Church. Starting in 1932, Purcell served as Secretary of Eastern Texas (later Brazos) Presbytery and the Synod of Texas, Moderator of the Synod of Texas, Superintendent of Home Missions of the Brazos Presbytery and Executive Secretary of South Texas Presbytery until 1966, when he returned to ministerial work. From 1966 until he retired honorably in 1971, Purcell was an assistant pastor at First Southern Church in Austin, Texas. Purcell passed away in 1978.

Scope and Contents:
This collection consists of two account books (1918-1977) that give insight regarding the tenure of Malcolm Lee Purcell (1893-1978) as the Superintendent of Home Missions and Treasurer of the Brazos Presbytery and a typescript for a text entitled Reminiscences: Home Missions and Evangelism in Brazos Presbytery 1929-1963 (1975).

Both account books are first devoted to professional use, but devolve to personal use over time. The change of the Eastern Texas Presbytery to the Brazos Presbytery is reflected in the first account book, which was used by Purcell as treasurer of that Presbytery. The account book is the work of several treasurers, including E. P. Kennedy, S. M. Tenney, and Purcell. The last several pages, which probably represent
personal use by Purcell, record the planting, growth and sale of crops. The second account book, used by Purcell as Superintendent of Home Missions, records gifts to the Synod and Assembly’s causes from 1951-1953, and then becomes Purcell’s personal income tax ledger until 1977 and a list of weddings performed from 1955-1974.

The typescript, *Reminiscences: Home Missions and Evangelism in Brazos Presbytery 1929-1963*, documents Purcell’s service to Brazos Presbytery as a pastor, home missionary, and leader within the church.

Materials in accession #2007-009 were originally held at the Montreat office of the Presbyterian Historical Society. They were transferred to the Austin Seminary Archives in 2007.

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

**Index Terms:**
Kennedy, English P., 1891-
Purcell, Malcolm Lee, 1893-1978.
Tenney, S. M. (Samuel Mills), 1871-1939.
Presbyterian Church in the U.S.--Presbytery of Brazos.
Presbyterian Church in the U.S.--Presbytery of Eastern Texas.
Home missions.

**Preferred Citation:** Malcolm Lee Purcell account books and typescript, 1918-1977, Austin Seminary Archives, Stitt Library, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary

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