

Guide to
Scofield Memorial Church Selected Records

1867-circa 1997 and undated, bulk 1882-1924

.17 linear feet

Accession Number: 2005-23
Collection Number: CN 014

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Abstract: Church records primarily related to C. I. Scofield and Lewis S. Chafer with some papers of the Scofield Family.

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Archives, Dallas Theological Seminary, 3909 Swiss Ave., Dallas, TX 75204

Summary of Scofield Memorial Church History, 1877-1926:

- 1877 founded as First Congregational Church of Dallas, Texas with 17 members by a missionary from the American Home Missionary Society
- 1884 church sent their first missionary, Eva M. Swift, who went to India
- 1890 church worked with Scofield to found Central American Mission, now CAM
- 1890 founded Grand Avenue Mission, later reorganized as a church
- 1893 started Pilgrim Chapel (Cotton Mills Mission)
- 1905 hired an associate pastor to allow Scofield time to work on the reference Bible
- 1908 severed connections with the Congregational denomination because of increasing liberalism of the denomination
- 1923 changed name to Scofield Memorial Church
- 1924 L. S. Chafer, assisted by the boards of Scofield Memorial and First Presbyterian Churches organized the Evangelical Theological College, now Dallas Theological Seminary

List of Pastors from Founding to 1926:

- 1877-1879 Henry Daniels
- 1880-1882 W. C. McCune
- 1883-1895 Cyrus I. Scofield
- 1896 W. E. Reed
- 1897-1899 Frederick A. Hatch
- 1900-1902 T. C. Horton
- 1903-1910 Cyrus I. Scofield (Pastor Emeritus, 1910-1921)
- 1905 Luther Rees, Associate Pastor
- 1906-1910 W. Irving Carroll, Associate Pastor
- 1910-1913 John A. Hubbard
- 1915-1916 M. A. Stone
- 1917-1918 Robert Cantwell
- 1919 Luther Rees, Supply
- 1920-1921 James Lawrence
- 1922 Luther Rees, Supply
- 1923-1926 Lewis Sperry Chafer

Biographical Sketch:

Cyrus Ingerson Scofield was born August 19, 1843 in Michigan, the seventh child of Elias and Abigail Scofield. He served in the Confederate Army. In 1866, Scofield married Leontine Cerré in St. Louis, Missouri. They settled in Atchison, Kansas, where he practiced law and was elected to the lower house of the Kansas legislature in 1871 and 1872. He served as U.S. District Attorney of Kansas in 1873. Undisclosed problems caused Scofield to resign his post within six months. Cyrus and Leontine had three children, Abigail, Helene (sometimes shortened to Helen), and Guy. Guy died when he was still a child. Scofield's wife obtained a legal separation in 1877, and they were eventually divorced in 1883. Scofield returned to St. Louis in 1879, where he drank heavily until he became a Christian later that year. Scofield worked in the evangelistic campaign of D. L. Moody in St. Louis, 1879-80. Scofield served as acting secretary of the YMCA in the city, and was licensed to preach in 1880. Scofield accepted a call to pastor a small mission, First Congregational Church in Dallas, Texas, and was ordained by the North Texas Congregational Association in 1883. In 1884 he married Hettie Hall van Wart. Other variations

on Hettie's maiden name include Wartz, von Wartz, Wark, van Wark, and van Hart. C. I. and Hettie's only child, Noel Paul, was born in 1888. Scofield served as secretary of the Department of Texas and Louisiana of the American Home Missionary Society. In 1890, he helped found the denominational Lake Charles College in Louisiana, then served as chairman of its board of trustees. He also developed a Bible correspondence course and edited the periodical *The Believer*. In 1888, he wrote the book *Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth*, defending dispensational premillennialism. Scofield's church in Dallas grew from fourteen to over eight hundred members by the time he left in 1895 to become pastor of D. L. Moody's church, the Trinitarian Congregational Church of East Northfield, Massachusetts. Scofield returned to pastor his church in Dallas in 1903, but was often absent preparing a Bible with study notes. Oxford University Press published this very popular *Scofield Reference Bible* in 1909, and a revised edition in 1917. In 1908 the First Congregational Church in Dallas withdrew from the local Congregational association citing increased liberalism as the reason. Scofield resigned from the Dallas church in 1909 and moved to New York, where he remained active although his health was poor. In 1914 he helped found the Philadelphia School of the Bible. Over the years he was a regular speaker at Bible conferences, such as Niagra and Northfield. Scofield died July 24, 1921. Scofield had a great impact on evangelical fundamentalism and became a leading defender of dispensational premillennialism. Hettie died in 1923. She and her husband are buried in Flushing Cemetery in New York.

Both of Scofield's daughters became teachers. Abigail taught elementary school. She married Dr. Edward Lincoln Kellogg on June 23, 1902. They later moved to San Luis Obispo, California, and Abigail became a librarian there. Helene taught French at a girls' school before she married J. Wheeler Barlow on October 4, 1918. The Barlows lived in Atchison, Kansas. Abigail's husband died in 1935, and after Helene's husband died in 1941, Abigail moved back to Kansas to live with her sister. Their mother, Leontine, died November 6, 1936. Helene died January 8, 1958, and Abigail died soon after on February 27, 1958. Neither sister had any children.

References:

BeVier, William A. "A Biographical Sketch of C. I. Scofield." M.A. thesis, Southern Methodist University, 1960.

Canfield, Joseph M. *The Incredible Scofield and His Book*. Vallecito, CA; Ross House Books, 1988.

Goss, Glenn R. "Cyrus Ingerson Scofield and the Scofield Reference Bible." 2003. Online. Scofield Memorial Church. Available: <http://www.scofield.org/visitors/history.asp>. September 22, 2003.

Hannah, John D., "Cyrus Ingerson Scofield" in *American National Biography*, ed. John A. Garraty and Mark C. Carnes, v.19, 480-481. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.

System of Arrangement: This collection is arranged in two series.

Series I. Church Records, 1890-circa 1997 and undated. (.13 linear ft., 13 folders)

Arranged by type of material and roughly chronological within folders. Photocopies of selected correspondence, biographical sketches of Scofield, church histories, minutes, and pastor's reports.

Subseries 1. Printed Material, 1893-1977 and undated (.02 linear ft., 8 folders)

This series includes church manuals, programs, tracts, newspaper clippings, and newspaper pages. The manuals and newspaper pages are original, the other documents are photocopies.

Series II. Scofield Family Papers, 1867-1977 and undated. (.04 linear ft., 3 folders)

Arranged by type of material and chronologically within folders. All of this series is photocopies of correspondence, legal documents, photographs, and assorted memorabilia.

Scope and Content Note: This artificial collection was created to complement material in the DTS Archives. Scofield Memorial Church graciously granted the DTS Archives staff permission to photocopy church records and Scofield Family papers. The church also donated duplicate copies of manuals. The church records chosen for copying primarily relate to C. I. Scofield, Lewis Sperry Chafer, and histories of the church. Two newspaper pages already owned by DTS were included in this collection because they have articles about Scofield and the church has preserved originals of the same pages. Although this collection is small and has many gaps, it has significance because there are few original sources available regarding Scofield.

The collection is divided into two main series: Church Records and Scofield Family Papers. The first series has six divisions: Correspondence, Biographical Sketches, Church Histories, Selected Register Pages and Minutes, Pastor's Annual Reports, and Printed Material (subseries 1). The Correspondence includes letters between Scofield and church members, tributes to Scofield, and letters by Lewis S. Chafer. The Biographical Sketches are about Scofield. The church histories were written to commemorate different anniversaries. The Selected Register Pages and Minutes concern Scofield's two terms as pastor and renaming the church as a tribute to him. The Pastor's Annual Reports are all by Scofield and summarize church activities of the previous year. Scofield's report in 1895 also summarizes events during his first term as pastor. Printed Material is divided into Church Manuals; Programs, Tracts, and Miscellaneous; Newspaper Clippings; and Oversize Newspaper Pages. The Church Manuals include a report or message by the pastor, list of church officers, list of ministers and missionaries sent, the church constitution, a schedule of services, and a list of members. The Programs, Tracts, and Miscellaneous items are arranged chronologically and include two undated tracts by Scofield. The Newspaper Clippings include articles about withdrawing from the denomination, the resignation of three pastors, and Scofield obituaries. The Oversize Newspaper Pages have tributes to Scofield and an article about the Scofield Reference Bible. The second series consists of Scofield Family Correspondence, Legal Documents, and Memorabilia. The Correspondence primarily relates to Scofield's first wife and daughters. The Legal Documents mainly concern Scofield's will. The Memorabilia are principally about Scofield's first wife and daughters.

Selected Search Terms:

Chafer, Lewis Sperry
Scofield, C. I. (Cyrus Ingerson)
Scofield Memorial Church

Donor/Source: Scofield Memorial Church, Dallas, Texas

Custodial History: Scofield Memorial Church has preserved its records since the church was founded. The Scofield Family Papers were probably saved by one of Scofield's daughters. Joseph Canfield's book indicates some Scofield memorabilia was donated to Dallas Theological Seminary in 1974. The seminary did not have an archives at that time, and it appears the material was transferred to the church. The photocopies in this collection were made in September, 2005.

Literary Rights: Copyright restrictions may apply.

Related Material:

C. I. (Cyrus Ingerson) Scofield Papers, CN 001, Archives, Dallas Theological Seminary.

C. I. (Cyrus Ingerson) Scofield Papers, CN 003, Archives, Dallas Theological Seminary.

C. I. (Cyrus Ingerson) Scofield, Reference File, Archives, Dallas Theological Seminary.

Note to the Researcher: See the attached Container List for more details about this collection. Some relevant documents at Scofield Memorial Church were not photocopied because they are too fragile. There may also be additional relevant material in the church archives which was not identified. Some of the sources have contradictory information. Most of the information in this finding aid about the history of the church and its pastors was taken from the histories compiled by church members.

Processing Information:

Most of the records at Scofield Memorial Church are not yet organized, so the arrangement of this collection was imposed during processing. The photocopies were made on acid free paper using the copy machine at the church.

Separated Material

The photocopies of the following two publications will be available in the Vertical File of Turpin Library.

The Seven Covenants, Address by Dr. C. I. Scofield before the Union Bible Training Class, 1904.

The Spirit and Method of Bible Study: Addresses by the Rev. C. I. Scofield, and the Rev. Wilbur M. Smith, Silver Anniversary Memento of the Philadelphia School of the Bible, 1938.

Location of Originals: Scofield Memorial Church, Dallas, TX

Container List**Series I. Church Records****1882-circa 1997 and undated**Folder# Title, Dates, Description

- 1 Correspondence 1890-1932
Various letters including eight between Scofield and members of his church, 1890-1906; five letters regarding a tribute to Scofield, 1916; six letters by L. S. Chafer, including his acceptance of the pastorate in 1923, a humorous thank you note for a gift, and his resignation in 1926; and a brief testimonial about Scofield from DeWitt McMurray, 1932.
- 2 Biographical Sketches circa 1920, 1926 and undated
Typed biographical sketch with text circa 1920; typed text from "The Story Behind the Scofield Reference Bible" in the *Daily Times Herald*, May 30, 1926; slightly revised text of previous newspaper article.
- 3 Church Histories 1957-circa 1997 and undated
Thirty Years in Retrospect: an address by Dr. C. F. Lincoln on the occasion of the thirtieth pastoral anniversary of Dr. and Mrs. Harlin J. Roper, 1957; "Almost Half a Century" from church newsletter for Sept./Oct., 1971; "History of Scofield Church: Celebrating 110 Years," circa 1987; "History of Scofield Memorial Church," circa 1993; 120th Anniversary Scofield. Church Time Line, circa 1997; Combined City of Dallas and Scofield Church Time Line, circa 1997; typed excerpts from "Records of the First Congregational Church of Dallas, Texas," undated [entries between 1875-1919].
- 4 Selected Register Pages and Minutes 1882-1923
Register pages 26-27 with entries for C. I. Scofield and Hettie Hall Wartz joining the church, 1883-1897; minutes of various meetings on topics including calling Scofield as pastor, 1883; Scofield's ordination, 1883; the pastor's report for 1883; granting Scofield a leave of absence, 1905; withdrawal from the Lone Star Association of Congregational Churches, 1908; calling Scofield as pastor again, 1909; changing the name of the church, 1922 and 1923.
- 5 Pastor's Annual Reports 1895-1908 and undated
Annual reports on the activities and status of the church for 1894, 1903, 1907, and undated. [The reports were often written at the beginning of a year, but covered events of the previous year.]

Subseries 1. Printed Material

1893-1977 and undated

- 6 Church Manual 1893
Includes the pastor's annual report, church officers, list of ministers and missionaries sent, historical sketch, constitution, schedule of services, and list of members.

Series I. Church Records (cont.)Folder# Title, Dates, Description

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| 7 | Church Manual | 1895 |
| | Includes the pastor's annual report, church officers, list of ministers and missionaries sent, constitution, schedule of services, and list of members. | |
| 8 | Church Manual | 1901 |
| | Includes the church officers, list of ministers and missionaries sent, historical sketch, constitution, schedule of services, and list of members. | |
| 9 | Church Manual | 1907 |
| | Includes a new year's greeting from the pastor, church officers, list of ministers and missionaries sent, constitution, schedule of services, and list of members. | |
| 10 | Church Manual | 1924 |
| | Includes schedule of services, biographical sketch of Scofield, brief historical sketch, message from pastor, church officers, list of missionaries, constitution, list of members, message from pastor of Pilgrim Chapel, list of chapel members. | |
| 11 | Programs, Tracts, and Miscellaneous | 1890-1960 and undated |
| | Includes a program for Children's Day, 1890; pages 322 and 985-986 of <i>Memorial and Biographical History of Dallas County, Texas</i> , 1892; interior view of church, 1895; program for Scofield's memorial services in Dallas, 1921; invitation to hear L. S. Chafer speak, 1922; quarterly financial statement, 1924; cards announcing visiting speakers A. C. Gaebelein, H. A. Ironside, and Carl Armerding; tract "Barabbas' Theory of the Atonement" by Scofield ; tract "A Catechism on Giving" by Scofield, two brochures about the Central American Mission; typed copy of article "Doctor Scofield's Error" by Jack L. Gritz from the <i>Baptist Standard</i> , July 13, 1960. | |
| 12 | Newspaper Clippings | circa 1908-1921, 1977 and undated |
| | Topics include the church withdrawal from the state association of Congregational Churches; the resignation of the pastor, associate pastor, and mission pastor; visit home by Miss Swift, missionary to India; obituaries for Scofield; and the Scofield Reference Bible. | |
| 16 | Oversize Newspaper Pages | 1921, 1926 |
| | "Tributes Paid to Dr. C. I. Scofield," <i>Dallas Morning News</i> , Nov. 28, 1921, and "The Story Behind the Scofield Reference Bible," <i>Daily Times Herald</i> , May 30, 1926. | |

Series II. Scofield Family Papers**1867-1958 and undated**

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| 13 | Correspondence | 1871-1921, bulk 1896 |
| | Includes a letter from Scofield to "J. J." [possibly John James Ingalls], 1871; letters between Leontine, Abigail, and Helen Scofield and W. R. Reber regarding the Papin estate, 1896; unsigned letter to Leontine, 1907; letter from Scofield to "Abbie," 1921. | |

Series II. Scofield Family Papers (cont.)Folder# Title, Dates, Description

- 14 Legal Documents 1896, 1921
Includes a notarized document regarding a payment to Leontine Scofield, 1896; Scofield's will and related documents, 1921.
- 15 Memorabilia 1867-1958 and undated
Includes Abigail's certificate of baptism, 1867; obituary for Leontine, circa 1936; part of Abigail's obituary, circa 1958; photographs of Scofield, Leontine, Abigail, and Helene; photographs of C.I. and Hettie Scofield's headstones and of Trinitarian Congregational Church.