

Guide to  
**William A. BeVier Collection on C. I. Scofield**

1866-1960 and undated

.1 linear feet

Accession Number: 2005-24  
Collection Number: CN 015

Prepared by Lolana Thompson  
October 2005

**Abstract: Correspondence, copies of documentation, and notes created while researching a thesis about C. I. Scofield.**

**Preferred Citation:**

[Identification of the Item], William A. BeVier Collection on C. I. Scofield, CN 015, Folder [number], Archives, Dallas Theological Seminary.

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

**Biographical Sketch: William A. BeVier**

William A. BeVier was born July 31, 1927, in Springfield, MO, the son of Charles and Erma G. (Ritter) BeVier. William served in the United States Marine Corps during 1945-1946 and 1950-1951. He married Jo Ann King on August 11, 1949, and they had two daughters, Cynthia and Shirley. BeVier completed the following academic work: B.A. from Drury College, 1950; Th.M. and Th.D. from Dallas Theological Seminary (DTS), 1955 and 1958; M.A. in History from Southern Methodist University (SMU), 1960; and all but the dissertation for an Ed.D. from Wayne State University in 1968. He taught at DTS from 1958-1959. At Detroit Bible College he served as professor from 1960 to 1974, registrar from 1962 to 1966, dean from 1964 to 1973, executive vice president from 1967 to 1974, and acting president from 1967 to 1968. At Northwestern College in Roseville, MN, Dr. BeVier served as professor, dean of education and vice president for academic affairs between 1974 and 1981, then was a professor from 1981 until 1995. He was on the national executive committee of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America (I. F. C. A.) from 1991-1994, serving as vice president from 1993-1994. Dr. BeVier retired from a pastorate in Minnesota in 2001. From 1979 until he retired in 2004, he was on the Board of Directors of the Religion Analysis Service and also edited *The Discerner*, a quarterly magazine published by that organization. He is a retired colonel in the Army Reserves. BeVier is a member of Phi Alpha Theta, the Huguenot Historical Society, and the Bevier-Elting Family Association. He now lives in a retirement community in Springfield, MO. Dr. BeVier's thesis at DTS was *Chiliasm in the Later Middle Ages* and his dissertation was *A History of the I. F. C. A.* His thesis at SMU was *A Biographical Sketch of C. I. Scofield*.

**References:**

*Who's Who in America*, 1999 ed., s.v. "William A. BeVier."

W. A. BeVier to L. Thompson, October 18 and 26, 2005, personal emails.

**Biographical Sketch: C. I. Scofield**

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, but resigned 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. The Scofields separated and 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. Cyrus 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. 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. Scofield resigned from the Dallas church in 1909 and moved to New York. In 1914 he helped found the Philadelphia School of the Bible. Scofield died July 24, 1921. Scofield had a great impact on evangelical fundamentalism and became a leading defender of dispensational premillennialism.

**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 organized in one series.

**Series I. Correspondence and Documentation, 1866-1960 and undated** .1 linear feet (8 folders)

Organized as "general" or by the name of the organization, and arranged chronologically within folders. Requests for information and replies, which often contain typed copies or photostats of resources; the analysis submitted for the thesis; and chronological lists of events in Scofield's life.

**Scope and Content Note:** The collection, in nine legal-size file folders, is composed of correspondence and research materials collected by William A. BeVier while writing his thesis, *A Biographical Sketch of C. I. Scofield*. The collection is organized in one series, Correspondence and Documentation. The collection contains BeVier's requests for information and replies received, including copies of documents. The material in each folder is arranged chronologically by the date of the correspondence, not the date of the accompanying documentation. Also included is the "analysis" of the thesis submitted to the History Department at SMU for approval and a few pages of BeVier's notes.

This collection gives insight into BeVier's research process and represents a time when photocopyers were not common. The collection is also significant because there are few original

source materials related to C. I. Scofield, and they are housed in many different repositories. This collection provides copies of several of these scattered resources.

**Selected Search Terms:**

BeVier, William Albert  
Scofield, C. I. (Cyrus Ingerson)  
Scofield Reference Bible

**Donor/Source:** Dr. William A. BeVier

**Custodial History:** The material was received by mail October 18, 2005, at Dallas Theological Seminary from Dr. W. A. BeVier.

**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.

Scofield Memorial Church Selected Records, CN 014, Archives, Dallas Theological Seminary.

**Note to the Researcher:** See the attached Container List for more details about this collection. The Archives at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary has Joseph Canfield's research material.

**Processing Information:**

When the collection was received, most of the typed notes and copies of documents were attached to the accompanying correspondence. The processor maintained this system of organization, and filed unattached research material with the letters from the repository that furnished the documentation. Separate folders were created for organizations which supplied several copies. Two pages from periodicals were replaced with photocopies because the originals were becoming brittle. Photocopies were made of the photostats supplied by the Chicago Theological Seminary because some of the photostats seem to be fading. A few duplicates were removed from the collection.

**Container List****Series I. Correspondence and Documentation 1866-1960 and undated****Folder# Title, Dates, Description**

- |   |   |                                |
|---|---|--------------------------------|
| 1 | General   | 1921-1960                      |
|   | Requests for information and replies; all of the letters are dated 1959-1960, some replies include typed copies of documentation dated 1921-1958; correspondents include The Congregational Christian Historical Society (Oct. 22, 1959 and March 25, 1960), The Sunday School Times (Oct. 22, 1959), Noel P. Scofield (Jan. 30, 1960 and March 16, 1960), and Philadelphia College of the Bible (February 10, 1960).   |                                |
| 2 | Chicago Theological Seminary  | 1889, 1893, and 1959           |
|   | Three letters dated 1959 regarding requests for copies from the American Home Missionary Society records housed at the seminary; contains negative image photostats of thirteen letters (and archival photocopies of these photostats): eleven from Scofield to Joseph B. Clark, one from Scofield to William Kincaid, and one from Dr. Hubbel to Scofield; topics include general conditions and evangelistic needs in Texas and Louisiana. [The American Home Missionary Society records were transferred from Chicago to Amistad Research Center at Tulane University in New Orleans.] |                                |
| 3 | Kansas State Historical Society   | 1870-1936 and 1959-1960        |
|   | Requests for information and replies; includes typed copies of newspaper articles and other resources dating from 1870 to 1936; topics include Scofield's treatment of his first wife, census records, John J. Ingalls, Scofield's term in the Kansas legislature, and Scofield as U.S. District Attorney.  |                                |
| 4 | Missouri Historical Society   | 1866-1879, 1960 and undated    |
|   | Requests for information and replies; includes typed notes from printed resources dated 1883-1951 and undated, and typed copies of court records dated 1866-1879; topics include Cerre family genealogy, the Y.M.C.A. in St. Louis, James H. Brookes, Thomas S. McPheeters, and the Papin Family.   |                                |
| 5 | Moody Bible Institute   | 1959                           |
|   | Request for information about the Scofield Correspondence Course and the reply; includes a catalog of courses and pages 1-32 of volume 1 of the course with a short biographical sketch of Scofield.  |                                |
| 6 | National Archives and Records Service   | 1861-1862, 1873, and 1959-1960 |
|   | Requests and replies regarding documents related to Scofield's military service in the Confederate Army and his term as U. S. Attorney for Kansas; includes copies of documents, some are negative images.  |                                |

**Series I. Correspondence and Documentation (continued)****Folder# Title, Dates, Description**

- |   |  |                  |
|---|--|------------------|
| 7 | Oxford University Press  | 1959-1960        |
|   | Requests for information and replies; topics include the Scofield Reference Bible and Noel Scofield; includes the booklet "The Story of the Scofield Reference Bible" by Frank Gaebelein.                            |                  |
| 8 | Miscellaneous Documentation  | 1918, 1959       |
|   | Typed copies of four letters related to First Congregational Church; a Scofield Memorial Church Directory for 1959.  |                  |
| 9 | Thesis Notes   | 1960 and undated |
|   | Includes a two page "analysis" of BeVier's thesis, January, 1960; one page of notes from Charles Trumbull's biography of Scofield; and four pages of notes in the form of chronological outlines of Scofield's life. |                  |