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Purcell Family Papers

Accession Number AR Z.10

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and
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Austin, Texas
March, 1990

PURCELL FAMILY PAPERS

1805...1940-1985

197 items

Accession Number AR Z.10

HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

In 1917 Mabelle Agnes Umland (1892-1978) married Stuart McLeod Purcell (1890-1985) and in so doing entered into the third generation of a family of Texas Presbyterian educators. Stuart Purcell was born at the Stuart Female Seminary in Austin to the school's principal, Lel Red Purcell (1859-1946). After receiving his B. A. degree from the University of Texas in 1916, Stuart enlisted in the U. S. Army and was sent to Leon Springs, Texas to begin officer's training. He achieved the rank of second lieutenant in the 147th Aero Squadron, First Pursuit Group, American Expeditionary Forces and served in France from March 23, 1918 to January 22, 1919. In February of 1919, Purcell was discharged and moved to Robstown, Texas with his wife of two years, Mabelle Umland. There the couple raised three children and operated several farms before moving to Austin in 1938. During the Second World War Stuart Purcell worked in Brownsville with the U.S. Public Health Service and afterwards retired to Austin where he pursued his interests in writing. He wrote articles for newspapers on a variety of historical and nature topics and taught Sunday School at the University Presbyterian Church, founded by his father in 1897. Together with his wife and daughter, Lel Purcell Hawkins, Stuart Purcell gathered biographical information during the 1970s on notable Austinites and Texans. Their collaboration culminated in the 1977 private publication of *This Is Texas*. Stuart Purcell died in 1985 at the age of 95.

Mabelle Agnes Umland was born near Gay Hill, Texas in 1892. At the age of eight she attended the primary department of the South Texas Baptist College in Waller, Texas. She continued her education at Southwest Texas State Normal College in San Marcos and at the Texas College of Arts and Industries at Kingsville.

Following her 1917 marriage to Stuart Purcell and her subsequent teaching career, Mabelle developed a strong interest in the Purcell family history which expressed itself in her life-long devotion to her mother-in-law, Lel Red Purcell. Lel was the daughter of Rebecca Stuart Red (1826-1886), principal of the Live Oak Female Seminary, a Presbyterian girl's school at Gay Hill, Texas. Lel Purcell had followed in her mother's footsteps as principal of the successor to Live Oak Seminary, the Stuart Female Seminary of Austin, from 1886 to the school's closing in 1899. During the early 1940s Mabelle Purcell began intensive research on her mother-in-law's career and organized several reunions of Stuart Seminary graduates to honor "Miss Lel." When Mabelle undertook graduate study at the University of Texas under the direction of Professor Frederick Eby, she drew on her extensive research and knowledge of the Purcell family to compile her 1951 thesis recounting the history of the Live Oak Female Seminary (1853-1876) and the Stuart Female Seminary (1876-1899). Two years later Mabelle's work was published under the title *Two Texas Female Seminaries* and it remains an important source for the study of Texas Presbyterian schools and women educators. Mabelle Purcell died in 1978. In the subsequent years Mabelle's daughter, Lel Purcell Hawkins, continued to collect items of interest relating to the Stuart Female Seminary, the Presbyterian Church, Texas family genealogy, and to the Austin societal scene in general. In August, 1988 she donated her family's papers to the Austin History Center.

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The Purcell family papers consist of original and photocopied letters, diaries, literary manuscripts, legal documents, music, and photographs, 1805...1940-1985 (194 items), created or gathered by Stuart McLeod Purcell and Mabelle Umland Purcell while researching and writing Mabelle's book, *Two Texas Female Seminaries* (Wichita Falls: Midwestern University Press, 1953), and another book Stuart and Mabelle co-authored, *This Is Texas* (Austin: Futura Press, 1977). The letters (1849...1945-1981, n.d.; 18 items) were collected by or sent to Mabelle Purcell or her daughter, Lel Purcell Hawkins, and include three nineteenth century letters pertaining to Rebecca Stuart Red, Lel Red Purcell, and the operation of the Stuart Seminary. The diaries and notebooks (1860-1884; 3 items) were kept by students of the Live Oak and the Stuart Female Seminaries. The bulk of the Purcell papers are contained in the literary manuscripts (ca. 1940s-1970s; 20 items) and include two versions of Stuart Purcell's World War I service autobiography, a corrected preliminary manuscript of *This is Texas*, historical sketches of the Stuart Seminary and the South Texas Baptist College, and research notes compiled by Lel Red Purcell in preparation for one of the reunions of the Stuart Seminary graduates during the 1940s. Printed materials comprise the other large body of

Purcell Family Papers 3

documents in the collection (1894-1984; 47 items) and consist of programs, brochures, newspaper clippings, scrapbook pages, calling cards and books gathered by Mabelle Purcell or her daughter, Lel Purcell Hawkins. One small series of bound and loose sheet music (1885-1900; 37 items) may have been used at the Stuart Female Seminary. Photographs (ca. 1860s-1980s; 117 items) include snapshots taken by Stuart Purcell in France during World War I and some of the images used in the publication of *Two Texas Female Seminaries* and *This Is Texas*, maintained in the order in which they appear in the books. An outline of the arrangement is presented below:

Collection Outline

- Series 1. Letters, 1849...1945-1981, n.d.
- Series 2. Diaries and notebooks, 1860-1884.
- Series 3. Literary manuscripts, ca. 1940s-1970s.
- Series 4. Legal documents, 1805-1977.
- Series 5. Printed materials, 1894-1985.
- Series 6. Music, 1885-1900.
- Series 7. Photographs, ca. 1860s-1970s.

(For related materials concerning the Purcell family researchers should consult the "Mabelle Purcell Papers" and the "Stuart McLeod Purcell Papers" at the Barker Texas History Center, University of Texas at Austin.)

Series 1
Box 1, folders 1-2
Letters, 1849...1945-1981, n.d.

Original letters and photostatic copies collected by or sent to Mabelle Purcell in the course of conducting research for her books, *Two Texas Female Seminaries* and *This Is Texas*, and during her continuing efforts to interpret the history of her family. Folder one contains three nineteenth century letters pertaining to Rebecca Stuart Red, Lel Red Purcell, and the operation of the Stuart Seminary. Folder two contains twentieth century letters written to Mabelle Purcell and her daughter, Lel Purcell Hawkins, from institutions assisting them with research queries and thanking them for donations of historical materials and information. Also included are a small selection of personal letters received by Mabelle and Stuart Purcell. The letters have been chronologically arranged.

Box 1

1. Letters, 1849-1884 (3 items).
2. Letters, 1945-1981, n.d. (14 items).

Series 2
Box 1, folders 3-5
Diaries and notebooks, 1860-1884

Diaries and notebooks kept by students of the Live Oak and the Stuart Female Seminaries. Included are the diary/assignment book of Mary "Mollie" Burke of Houston, Texas, written while she was at the Live Oak Female Seminary in late 1860; the diary/assignment book of Alma Shelby "Bird" Jones at the Stuart Female Seminary during 1880-1884; and the notebook/autograph album kept by Janie Maxwell at Stuart in 1883. The Jones book includes corrections by her instructor and the Maxwell book includes many entries made by her classmates. The materials have been chronologically arranged.

Box 1

3. Mary "Mollie" Burke, 1860-1861.
4. Alma Shelby "Bird" Jones, 1880-1884.
5. Janie Maxwell, 1883.

Series 3
Box 1, folders 6-19
Literary manuscripts, ca. 1940s-1970s, n.d.

Manuscript stories, essays, and research notes written by Mabelle Purcell, Stuart Purcell, Lel Red Purcell, Lel Purcell Hawkins, Tara Hickey, Amy Lee, Louise Kurten, and unidentified authors. Included are two versions of Stuart Purcell's World War I service autobiography, a corrected preliminary manuscript of *This is Texas*, historical sketches of the Stuart Seminary and the South Texas Baptist College, and research notes compiled by Lel Red Purcell in preparation for one of the reunions of the Stuart Seminary graduates during the early 1940s. The materials have been chronologically arranged.

Box 1

6. Research notes (10 items).
7. "Diary, 147th Aero Squadron."
8. "A World War One Diary of the 147th Aero Squadron."
9. "Life at the University of Texas Campus Reflects Early Southwestern Culture"; "Alone With the Ice"; "A Texan Attacks Five Grizzlies and Lives."
10. [untitled; script for a teleplay of early Texas history].
11. "This is Texas."
12. "This is Texas," [continued].
13. "This is Texas," [continued].
14. "This is Texas," [continued].
15. "This is Texas," [continued].
16. "This is Texas," [continued].
17. "Pease School."
18. "South Texas Baptist College."
19. "Stuart Female Seminary."

Series 4
Box 1, folder 20
Legal documents, 1805-1977

Negative photocopy of a deed signed by George Clark Red, South Carolina, 1805; positive photocopy of Stuart Purcell's discharge from the U.S. Army, 1919; contract with Futura Press, Austin, Texas, for the printing of *This Is Texas*, 1977.

Box 1

20. Legal documents (3 items).

Series 5
 Printed materials, 1894-1985
 Boxes 2 and 3, folders 1-2

Programs, brochures, newspaper clippings, scrapbook pages, calling cards and books gathered by Mabelle Purcell or her daughter, Lel Purcell Hawkins. The programs and brochures (1900-1984) include commencement announcements for the graduating classes of the South Texas Baptist College in 1900 and Austin High School in 1916, along with a menu for the 147th Aero Squadron's celebration dinner of November 11, 1918. Other brochures pertain to Texas Presbyterian institutions and the history of the Live Oak and Stuart Female Seminaries. The newspaper clippings are primarily articles written by Stuart Purcell during the 1940s and 1950s on a variety of general interest topics. Scrapbook pages are miscellaneous publications which have been annotated by Lel Purcell Hawkins during the 1970s-1980s. The calling cards (ca. 1890s-1980s) include those from students at the Stuart Female Seminary, Rebecca Stuart Red, and Lel Purcell Hawkins. The books (1894-1985) have been listed individually and include a privately printed Civil War story, Mabelle Purcell's yearbook from the Southwest Texas State Normal College, Texas family genealogies, texts which may have been used at the Stuart Female Seminary, and a history of the 147th Aero Squadron in World War I. This series has been arranged by document type.

Box 2

1. Programs and brochures (9 items).
2. Newspaper clippings (10 items).
3. Scrapbook pages (6 items).
4. Calling cards (15 items).
5. [Henderson, Minnie B. *A Christmas Story, 1864.* (Cameron: Cameron Herald, ca. 1930)].
6. Southwest Texas State Normal College. *The Pedagogue.* (San Marcos, 1910)
7. Stoneham, Lois L. *A History of the Stoneham Family.* (1981).
8. McAdams, Kelly Edgar and Ina May McAdams, *The McAdams Family of Walker County, Texas.* (1985).
9. Johnson, Blanche Wynne, ed. *Apples of Gold in Pictures of Silver.* (Richmond: B.F. Johnson: 1894).

Box 3

1. Arnold, Sarah Louise and Charles G. Gilbert. *Stepping Stones to Literature.* (Boston: Silver, Burdett and Co., 1897).
2. Hartney, Harold E. *Up and At 'Em!* (Harrisburg: Telegraph Press, 1940).

Series 6
Box 3, folders 3-5
Music, 1885-1900

Bound and loose sheet music and broadside lyrics which may have been used at the Stuart Female Seminary, chronologically arranged.

Box 3

3. *Songs of the Classics for Soprano*. (Boston: Oliver Ditson, 1885).
4. [untitled, bound sheet music].
5. Sheet music and broadside lyrics (35 items).

Series 7
Box 4
Photographs, ca. 1860s-1980s

Gravure

Photographs created or collected by members of the Purcell family. Photographs 1-60 are images taken by Stuart McLeod Purcell while on duty in France, 1918. Photographs 61-65 are group portraits of the South Texas Baptist College, ca. 1900. Photographs 66-101 are some of the images published in *Two Texas Female Seminaries*, arranged in the order in which they appear in the book. Photographs 102-117 are some of the images published in *This Is Texas*, arranged in the order in which they appear in the book. All other photographs have been removed to the Photograph Collection of the Austin History Center. These images include glass plate negatives used to produce the illustrations in Mabelle Umland Purcell's 1951 thesis and photographs of Mary "Mollie" Burke, Alma Shelby "Bird" Jones, and Janie Maxwell, the creators of the diaries in Series 2.

Box 4

1. Photographs 1-15.
2. Photographs 16-30.
3. Photographs 31-45.
4. Photographs 46-60.
5. Photographs 61-65.
6. Photographs 66-72.
7. Photographs 73-77.
8. Photographs 78-82.
9. Photographs 83-88.
10. Photographs 89-96.
11. Photographs 97-101.
12. Photographs 102-177.

PURCELL FAMILY PAPERS, AC AR Z.10
NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS REMOVED TO THE BIOGRAPHICAL FILES

SUBDIVISIONS UNDER "RED FAMILY"

Stuart McLeod Purcell, 1890-1985:

- "Ex-Robstown Residents Complete Book," n.d.
- "2 Publish Local History," November 11, 1977.
- "Texas Society of the Sons of the American Revolution; Stuart M. Purcell," n.d.
- "Precious in the Sight of the Lord," ca. 1985.

Maybelle Umland Purcell, 1892-1978:

- "Special Education Teacher Arrives," n.d.
- "Fashion 40 Years Ago," December 17, 1971.
- "Show Friday," September 23, 1971.
- "Book Reviewer," n.d.
- "Octogenarian's Song," November 23, 1971.

Malcom Lee Purcell:

- "Funeral of Malcom Lee," March 7, 1978.

William Stuart Purcell Jr.:

- "Doctor Dies After Delivering Baby," 1961.

Martha Lel Stuart Hawkins:

- "House's Special Day," March 20, 1986.
- "Texas Archives War," January 30, 1986.
- "DRT Custodians," December 23, 1983.
- "Famous Ancestors," February 7, 1982.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS--STUART SEMINARY

Hickey, Tara; Amy Lee. "Stuart Female Seminary." Typescript photocopy from Pflugerville Middle School Group Project, National History Day, ca. 1980s.

PRINTED MATERIALS REMOVED FROM THE PURCELL FAMILY PAPERS
AR Z.10
PLACED IN THE AUSTIN/TRAVIS COUNTY PRINT COLLECTION

BOOKS:

Purcell, Maybelle U. *Two Texas Female Seminaries.* (Wichita Falls, Texas: Midwestern University Press, 1953).

Purcell, Maybelle U. "The History of Live Oak Female Seminary (1853-1875) and its Successor, Stuart Female Seminary, (1875-1899)." M. Ed. thesis, University of Texas at Austin, 1951.

Purcell, Maybelle U., Stuart M. Purcell. *This is Texas.* (Austin: Futura Press, 1977).

Holden, Eunah Temple. *Our Heritage in the Delta Kappa Gamma Society.* 2 vols. (Austin: Steck Company, 1960).

Red, William Stuart. *A History of the Presbyterian Church in Texas.* (Austin: Steck Company, 1936).

PERIODICALS:

Delta Kappa Gamma Bulletin, vols. 4-5 (1937-1939).

Delta Kappa Gamma Bulletin, Vols. 6-7 (1939-1941).

The Lone Star, vol. 70, no. 16 (May 15, 1949).

The Austin Seminary Bulletin, vol. 71, no. 8 (April, 1956).

Under Texas Skies, vol. 2, no. 2 (June, 1951).

BROCHURES:

Dill, Minnie. *A Study of the Beatitudes and the Ten Commandments.* [Austin: ca. 1940s].

University Presbyterian Church. [Information Booklet] [Austin, ca. 1955].

University Presbyterian Church. *Information Booklet.* [Austin, ca. 1960].

University Presbyterian Church. *90th Anniversary, 1892-1982.* (Austin, 1982).

Cutley, Richard; Barbara Cutley. *1988 Live Oak Festival Tour of Homes.* (Austin: Futura Press, 1988).

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Purcell Family Papers
1805....1940-1984; 197 items.

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Suggested subject headings:

Purcell, Maybelle Umland (1892-1978)
Purcell, Stuart McLeod (1890-1985)
World War I (European War, 1914-1918)
Civil War (U.S. History--1860-1865--Civil War)
Red, George Clark (1820-1881)
Red, Rebecca Stuart (1826-1886)
Purcell, Lel Red (1859-1946)
Live Oak Female Seminary
Stuart Female Seminary
Presbyterians

Separation Sheet

Archives Catalog Number Z.10^{AR} Donor Number 8376
Title PURCELL FAMILY PAPERS

Box/Folder Number _____
Folder Title _____

The following item(s) originally in this folder has/have been removed so that it/they may be included in the appropriate Austin History Center collection as noted below. Consult the AHC's card catalog for exact location. **Negatives stored in outer cold storage vault.**

Item Removed	Disposition
59 Glass Plate negatives (3" x 5")	
1 Glass Transparency	

Prepared by: JR Separation date: 4-25-91

Separation Sheet

Archives Catalog Number AR
2.10 Donor Number 8376
Title PURCELL FAMILY PAPERS

The following item(s) originally in this folder has/have been removed so that it/they may be included in the appropriate Austin History Center collection as noted below. Consult the AHC's card catalog for exact location. **Photos & negatives stored in outer cold storage vault.**

Item Removed	Disposition
Photos - 352 - b&w, color, 1 tintype	
352	
36 slides	
149 negs. (4x5)	(3-5 strips of 35 mm. b&w negs.)

SUBJECTS: May 4, 1922 tornado; Texas School for the Deaf - demolition; Pease Elementary School - class pictures (1912-1914); Old Land Office Building - staff; Enchanted Rock; Stuart Seminary - dining hall; Henry Umland bed; John Wikes Boothe

Prepared by: JR

Separation date: 4-22-91