

NOTES FROM THE ARCHIVES

RESEARCHING CANADIAN PENTECOSTALISM AT THE FLOWER PENTECOSTAL HERITAGE CENTER

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The Flower Pentecostal Heritage Center (FPHC), located in the national office of the Assemblies of God in Springfield, Missouri, is by many standards the largest archival repository of Pentecostal materials in the world. The FPHC has very strong collections relating to the Assemblies of God USA and early North American Pentecostalism. In recent years, the FPHC has been augmenting its collections relating to the broader Pentecostal and charismatic movements by systematically collecting materials from across the denominational, social, linguistic, and national divides.



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Evolution of the FPHC

When the Flower Pentecostal Heritage Center was established in 1977, few archival repositories existed that specialized in the collection of historical materials documenting the Pentecostal movement. The FPHC was initially known as the Assemblies of God Archives, and in its earliest years its collection parameters were limited to its denominational affiliation. Harris Jansen, the first director, assembled files and books from the national office of the Assemblies of God USA and Gospel Publishing House.

Wayne Warner, who in 1980 became the second director, launched the archives on a trajectory that would vastly expand its influence and collections. Warner, a former newspaper and book editor, started *Assemblies of God Heritage* magazine in 1981, which is now in its 36th year of publication. Over 100 issues of *Heritage* magazine have been published, featuring hundreds of stories about the history of early Pentecostalism and the Assemblies of God. In his 25 years at the helm of the archives, Warner recorded approximately 700 hours of oral history interviews, which constitute an invaluable treasure trove of behind-the-scenes accounts of Pentecostal history. But perhaps most importantly, Warner expanded the collection parameters to include materials from the broader Pentecostal and charismatic movements. Warner and his colleagues (most notably Joyce Lee and Glenn Gohr) placed their greatest emphasis on collecting materials documenting the Assemblies of God USA and early American Pentecostalism. The collections and reputation of the Assemblies of God Archives grew, and it became an important center for the study of Pentecostalism.

The archives, which had long occupied cramped quarters on the fifth floor of the national office of the Assemblies of God in Springfield, Missouri, moved in 1999 to its current location, featuring offices, a research room, a 1,000-square foot vault, a museum, and a new name: the Flower Pentecostal Heritage Center (named after Assemblies of God pioneers J. Roswell and Alice Reynolds Flower). Its online research center went live in 2000. Upon Warner's retirement in 2005, I became the FPHC's third director.



Photograph courtesy of Darrin J. Rodgers

Each year the FPHC receives hundreds of collections (some are very large while others consist of a single item). Some of the more notable large collections received in recent years include:

- Paul and Jan Crouch Collection (Trinity Broadcasting Network founders)
- Jack W. Hayford Collection (International Church of the Foursquare Gospel leader)
- Henry Jauhiainen Collection (Fellowship of Christian Assemblies pastor and historian)

- Gary B. McGee Collection (Assemblies of God historian and educator)
- Robert James McGoings, Jr. Collection (African-American Oneness Pentecostal from Baltimore, Maryland)
- William W. Menzies Collection (Assemblies of God historian and educator)
- Patten University Collection (archives of the Oakland, California, school founded by Bebe Patten)
- Bishop J. O. Patterson, Sr. Collection (former Presiding Bishop of the Church of God in Christ)
- PTL Club Collection (consisting of 20,000 tapes of the PTL Club and related programs, 1975-1990)
- Lizzie Robinson / Rev. Elijah L. Hill Collection (Robinson founded the Church of God in Christ Women's Department)
- George W. Southwick Collection (early Pentecostal pastor who amassed a large collection of materials relating to British-Israelism and other minor traditions within Pentecostalism)
- Alexander Stewart Collection (historian of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, an African-American Oneness Pentecostal denomination)
- James L. Tyson Collection (historian of the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World, an African-American Oneness Pentecostal denomination)
- Grant Wacker Collection (Duke University historian of early Pentecostalism)

In 2017, the FPHC's online catalog (accessible at www.iFPHC.org) included over 118,000 catalog records for materials in 135 languages. In recent years, over ten percent of new acquisitions have been in non-English languages. Those who are unable to visit the FPHC in Springfield, Missouri, may purchase photocopies of materials for a nominal fee through the FPHC's reference services. The FPHC staff (including four full-time archivists and four part-time archives

specialists) has assisted countless scholars, students, church leaders, and other researchers.

Using the FPHC Research Website

The two most important research databases on the FPHC website (www.iFPHC.org) are the Archive Quick Search (making accessible the FPHC catalog) and the Digital Publications Search (making accessible hundreds of thousands of pages of digitized Pentecostal periodicals). Most files in the databases are available without registration. However, registration (which is free) is required to access recent decades of the *Pentecostal Evangel* magazine (1970-present) and to place orders (including for photocopies of materials from the vault).

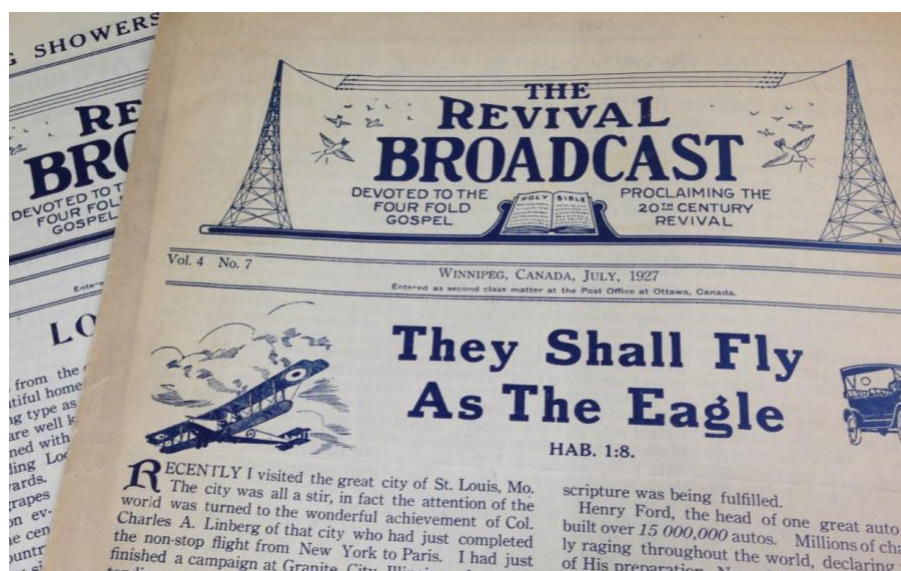
The Archive Quick Search provides access to the catalog of materials in the vault.

A query for the term “Canada” yields 1,326 catalog records (representing approximately 1.1% of the entire catalog of 118,000 records). The results list includes all catalog records that include “Canada” in the author, title, publisher, subject heading, or description fields. Compare this with entries containing the term “Texas” (1,579) or “California” (2,242). One record may represent a single item (such as a tract or a photograph) or multiple items (such as a periodical run or a collection of correspondence).

Research requires detective work, and searching for the term “Canada” in the Archive Quick Search should be considered merely an initial foray into the FPHC collections. Many items containing information about Canada do not include the term “Canada” in its catalog record. For instance, John Alexander Dowie’s many followers from Canada are mentioned in his periodicals, but the term “Canada” is not included in the catalog records for his publications.

Researchers on the FPHC website may access hundreds of thousands of pages of digitized periodicals through the Digital Publications Search. Six periodical titles have been manually indexed by author, title, and subject headings. Thirty-four periodical titles are accessible by full-text search.

Since 2000, the FPHC has been a leader in the digitization of Pentecostal materials. To date, the FPHC has digitized over 750,000 pages of Pentecostal periodicals. The FPHC initially digitized primarily Assemblies of God USA periodicals, but has since collaborated with the following denominations to digitize additional historically-important periodicals: Apostolic Faith Church (Portland, OR), Church of God (Cleveland, TN), Church of God of Prophecy, International Pentecostal Holiness Church, Open Bible Churches, Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, and United Pentecostal Church International, as well as with churches/organizations in Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, the Netherlands, and Sweden. Canadian Pentecostals appear in publications from around the world, as it was common for evangelists, missionaries, and local churches to submit news, revival reports, and testimonies to various periodicals. These multiple periodicals constitute an important primary source for early Pentecostal history.



Photograph courtesy of Darrin J. Rodgers

Digitized materials are made accessible according to the wishes of the owners of the intellectual property (generally the denomination or the publishing house). Most Assemblies of God materials are accessible on the FPHC website. The website of the Consortium of Pentecostal Archives (www.PentecostalArchives.org) includes materials from the Assemblies of God, Church of God (Cleveland, TN), Church of God

of Prophecy, International Church of the Foursquare Gospel, International Pentecostal Holiness Church, and others.

Canadian Research Opportunities at the FPHC

Canadians have played important roles in Pentecostalism since the earliest days of the movement. Their testimonies and sermons appear in early Pentecostal literature, they ministered across North America, and their worldwide missions efforts helped shape the contours of the burgeoning global movement.

Research opportunities abound at the FPHC for those interested in tracing the development of Canadian Pentecostalism. In addition to using the Archive Quick Search and Digital Publications Search databases on the FPHC website, prospective researchers of Canadian Pentecostal history may be interested in the following materials and collections at the FPHC:

Assemblies of God Ministerial Files

As the official repository for the denominational files of the Assemblies of God USA, the FPHC holds files on nearly every AG USA minister. Files include applications for credentials, annual renewal forms, and correspondence. The AG USA credentialed Canadian Pentecostal ministers in the 1910s and early 1920s, until the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada formed its own organization. The FPHC holds files on many of these early Canadian ministers credentialed with the AG USA. Over the years, many ministers crossed the border and served churches in both the US and Canada. The FPHC holds files on Canadian ministers who received credentials with the AG USA. Many ministerial files are cataloged and are accessible using the Archive Quick Search. However, some are not yet cataloged. Researchers will want to ask an archivist to determine whether a file exists for a specific minister.

New Order of the Latter Rain

The FPHC holds a large collection of materials relating to the Latter Rain movement, including those by and about Sharon Orphanage and Schools (North Battleford, Saskatchewan) and other Canadian proponents of the revival.

Argue and Ward Families

The personal papers of prominent Canadian Pentecostal pioneers Andrew Harvey Argue, Alfred George Ward, and Charles Morse Ward have been deposited at the FPHC by their descendants. The Ward family materials were deposited at the FPHC in August 2017 and have not yet been examined by historians.

Scandinavian, French, German, Italian and Slavic Pentecostal Churches in Canada

Numerous Canadian Pentecostal churches originated among European immigrants. These immigrants often maintained significant links with their Pentecostal co-linguists – both in their homelands and in the United States. Scandinavians often joined the Independent Assemblies of God (now Fellowship of Christian Assemblies) rather than join the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada. Italians often joined the Italian Pentecostal Church of Canada (now Canadian Assemblies of God). French, Germans, Italians, and Slavs forged ethnically-identifiable churches and networks within the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada. These immigrants, in turn, played a major role in the development of global Pentecostalism by sending missionaries around the world and exporting their own brands of theology, missiology and ecclesiology. The ethnic aspects of Pentecostalism's development among these European immigrants is often overlooked.

The FPHC has significant collections relating to Scandinavian Pentecostals in North America. Henry Jauhiainen, the prominent Fellowship of Christian Assemblies minister and historian, deposited his sizeable collection of materials that he collected over his lifetime. He intended to write a history of the FCA, but did not do so, and researchers at the FPHC are able to pick up where he left off. The FCA has about 100 churches in the United States and an equal number in

Canada. The Jauhiainen Collection includes publications, local church histories, extensive notes from interviews, and unpublished manuscripts relating to FCA history. The FPHC catalog also includes over 1,000 records of materials in Scandinavian languages (Swedish, 633; Finnish, 233; Norwegian, 107; Danish, 25; Icelandic, 3), including biographies of ministers and missionaries who had ties to Canada.

The FPHC also has significant collections of materials relating to Pentecostals who were French, German, Italian, and Slavic immigrants to the US and Canada. The FPHC catalog includes 574 records of materials in French, 478 in German, 117 in Italian, 168 in Russian, and 59 in Ukrainian.

Anglo-Israelism

Anglo-Israelism, also known as British Israelism (the belief that European nations constitute the lost tribes of Israel), was popular in certain segments of nineteenth- and early twentieth-century evangelicalism. Many early leaders within Pentecostalism and related movements subscribed to Anglo-Israelism, including John Alexander Dowie, Frank Sandford, Charles Parham, George Hawtin, F. F. Bosworth, H. A. Maxwell Whyte, George Jeffreys, Gordon Lindsay, and others. Several strong centers of Anglo-Israelism existed in Canada (perhaps most notably Vancouver). Very little scholarship exists on the influence of Anglo-Israelism on Pentecostal theology (and, in particular, its eschatology). The FPHC holds the George W. Southwick Collection, an important assemblage of rare Anglo-Israel publications, which includes many publications by Pentecostals or that relate to Canada.

Black Pentecostalism in Canada

The standard histories of Canadian Pentecostalism often place greatest emphasis on the stories of white believers and churches, neglecting the important and growing Black segments of the movement. This is in part because materials documenting Black Pentecostals – in the United States as well as in Canada – have been inaccessible to researchers. In an attempt to help remedy this disparity, the FPHC has placed great emphasis on developing relationships with Black Pentecostal leaders and historians for the purpose of collecting,

preserving, and promoting materials that document their sacred stories. Mother Mary. P. Patterson recently deposited the personal papers of her late husband, Church of God in Christ Presiding Bishop J. O. Patterson, Sr. Over one thousand people attended the collection dedication in 2012. The Lizzie Robinson/Rev. Elijah L. Hill Collection (Robinson was the founder of the COGIC Women's Department, and Hill was her biographer) is another important Church of God in Christ collection. The FPHC also houses three important Black Oneness Pentecostal collections: The Robert James McGoings, Jr. Collection; The Alexander Stewart Collection; and The James L. Tyson Collection. Together, these collections constitute an important resource for researchers of Black Pentecostalism not only in the United States, but also in Canada. Of all the FPHC's collections, its collections relating to Black Pentecostalism are among those that receive the most attention and attract the most researchers.

To begin exploring the Flower Pentecostal Heritage Center for your research needs, visit the website www.iFPHC.org.