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Region 9, ELCA  
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This newsletter, in its title and masthead, pays homage to the *American Lutheran Survey* published by the noted Lutheran leader, Dr. Walton H. Greever, and was originally published at a site near the present-day Archives.



Shannon Smith, *Director of the Archives*  
Trudy Bouknight, *Admin. Assistant*  
Scott Reeves, *Archival Assistant*  
Don Poole, *Survey Editor*

# ARCHIVAL SURVEY

## History Boring? The A.J. Stirewalt Diaries say “NO!”

By Scott Reeves, Assistant Archivist

How anyone finds history boring is beyond me, unless it is because he only understands it as lists of events and dates. History as it ought to be studied lives as stories...the stories of people much like ourselves...stories best approached through first-hand accounts. Personal tellings of such stories like we find recorded in letters and diaries do not simply give us facts, they convey the drama of the moment. Shared humanity makes events real to us in a way mere dates and details cannot. In this sense, the diaries of A. J. Stirewalt do not disappoint.

Stirewalt's December 8, 1941 entry gives us an opening into the life of an American in Japan as war breaks out between his two home countries. His simple concerns touch much deeper than “a date which will live in infamy.” With window-shades pulled down and lamp hooded, we find this veteran missionary, hand unsteadied with age, worried for his friends who had set sail just days prior. Perhaps it is that worry over the arrival of a boat that inspires his memories of a better day in 1905 when he wrote, “I am getting tired of the uncertainty of my boat,” venting the frustration of a young man awaiting the start of a lifelong adventure. Now, in 1941, with rumors of the previous day confirmed, he remembers and laments the impending loss of so much he has loved and labored for:



*Tonight, 36 years ago, I sailed from Seattle on the Shawmut, commanded by Captain E. V. Roberts, for Japan as the field of my life's work. It is sad that this anniversary day should be marred by the outbreak of war.*

The days that followed that entry were tenuous. His diaries share reports of Japanese victories being circulated in the papers; he tells of friends caring for him, difficulty accessing funds, and friends stuck in internment camps. Then on December 31 we find almost the same phrase, “This morning 36 years ago, I first stepped foot on the soil of Japan. What changes now!” For A. J. Stirewalt 1941 had been a dark time of lost health, lost wife, and lost security. He felt “marooned” and separated from those closest to him, wondering if he would ever be allowed to leave.

In June of 1942, he proved to be more fortunate than his cousin, Catherine Stirewalt, who in 1941 was interred by the Japanese forces in China where she also served as a Lutheran missionary; A. J. was allowed to return home. Catherine was eventually repatriated to the US as well in 1943. Both returned to their respective works after the war in 1947.

Duke Library's Guide to their Stirewalt Family Papers collection notes of Catherine that: “Her correspondence resumes after her release from a Japanese concentration camp in 1943 and continues through her return to China in July of 1947 and subsequent

(Continued on page 2)

evacuation from China after the Communists came to power in 1949... The letters from her second stay in China provide a detailed picture of the difficult living conditions for the Chinese people following WWII. She discusses how inflation and scarcity of food and other supplies affected the region of China where she had been working. She also discusses the difficult living conditions of the missionaries and the problems they had performing their work. Her letters in 1949 discuss the political situation in China, her struggles with making a decision to stay in China, and the day to day lives of the missionaries with whom she is working."

No doubt, the A. J. Stirewalt collection housed here at the Crumley Archives offers equally valuable insights into life in post-war Japan. As such, we hope in coming months to build on the work we have done this past year to better preserve and more adequately catalogue our Stirewalt collection by beginning the digitization process. Perhaps as part of these efforts we can also initiate cooperation with Duke regarding our respective Stirewalt collections and promote the personal writings and correspondence of yet another member of this influential Lutheran family whose personal stories give us insight into much more than simply Lutheran history. ♦

**Former Local Woman,  
Long Held By Japanese,  
Tells of Internment** 12/12/1949

**Missionary Has  
Interesting Tale  
Of Experiences**

(Editor's Note: In presenting the first interview the Post has had an opportunity to have with a returned internee of the Japanese, it seems pertinent to note that internees sent home from Japan have been officially admonished to speak with the utmost care of their experiences.)

By MARY LINN COLLINS

Contrary to popular assumption, life as an enemy national in Japan-occupied China can be a pretty uneventful and routine existence.

So Catherine Stirewalt reports in her story on her arrival in town Saturday morning from New York where she and other Americans and Canadians landed on the exchange ship Gripsholm. Certainly she showed no signs of having been mistreated. True she is 23 pounds lighter than when she went to China in 1939, but this loss may have come not from suffering, privation or illness but from physical work.

Miss Stirewalt, former Salisbury resident, was interned in...



MISS STIREWALT

## Crumley Archives Shines During ELCA Archives Consultation

Susan W. McArver

This winter, friends and associates of the James R. Crumley Jr. Archives discovered anew just what a special place it has become. On January 28, 2017, representatives from three ELCA archival programs in the eastern United States came together in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania for a consultation about the future of regional archives in the ELCA. Ms. Shannon Smith and Dr. Susan McArver represented the Region 9 Archives in discussions with representatives of the regional archives housed at Gettysburg Seminary and Philadelphia Seminary to discuss opportunities and challenges.

Much is changing in the ELCA today in terms of its institutions. Gettysburg and Philadelphia seminaries are merging as of September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 and Trinity Seminary and Capital University are also currently in the merger process. Southern Seminary and Lenoir Rhyne merged in 2012 and Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary merged with California Lutheran in 2014.

Since regional archives are often housed on the campuses of ELCA seminaries, these mergers and other institutional changes hold implications for the three regions of the Eastern Cluster. Joel Thoreson, the Archivist of the ELCA in Chicago, also met with the group to share observations regarding the archives of the other six regions of the church.

Several common themes emerged during the consultation. All of the regional archives across the church face issues regarding funding. While the ELCA mandated the creation of the regional archives at its formation in 1988, no funding has ever been appropriated for them. This has meant that every archives has had to find its own funding sources, cobbled together from a combination of synodical appropriations, grants, fundraisers, donations, and other means. Some have been more successful at this than others.

Many regional archives have struggled to maintain staffing, services, visibility and outreach. Collection policies vary widely across the ELCA, and digital records increasingly present a challenge for underfunded repositories.

The consultation developed a series of recommendations for the Secretary of the ELCA, whose office is constitutionally charged with maintaining the regional archives. It is the hope of the three eastern archives that these recommendations will benefit the entire church.

**What we learned through this process is that the James R. Crumley Jr. Archives is one of the strongest in the entire ELCA.** In terms of staffing, funding, board support, constituent support, and outreach, the Crumley Archives stands well above the other regional archives in the ELCA system. As the consultation proceeded, it became clear that we have benefitted from excellent staff leadership from our archivists over the years, from Dot Jeffcoat who first helped to establish the Archives in 1991, to Helen Sanders, Jeanette Bergeron, and now Shannon Smith. Our Board of Directors provides strong support, and its members serve as ambassadors for the Archives throughout Region 9. While we sometimes feel that finances are a challenge, our budget is significantly healthier than that of almost any other region, thanks to the tireless work of staff and others.

To all who have worked so hard for the benefit of the Crumley Archives over the last 26 years, we say an enormous thank you. While the Archives will always seek improvement and new opportunities for service, your work has made it possible to build toward the future on a strong foundation. ♦

### Advertise Your Church's Anniversary Here!



Contact the Crumley Archives today if your church is celebrating a special anniversary so that we can share it with everyone!

### The James R. Crumley Jr. Archives 2016-2017 Board of Trustees

The Rev. Dr. Mark Scott, President (At Large, SC)  
Dr. Susan McArver, Vice-President (LTSS-LRU)  
The Rev. Mel Amundson, Secretary (Region 9)  
Ms. Karen Sumner, Treasurer (FL-Bahamas Synod)  
The Rev. Dr. Harvey Huntley, Jr. (NC Synod)

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Dr. Phyllis Wallace (Caribbean Synod)  
Mr. Ed Woodward (SC Synod)

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**James R. Crumley Jr. Archives  
Spring-Summer Hours of Operation:**

10 AM - 4 PM Monday - Friday

# Region 9 and the James R. Crumley Jr. Archives

By the Rev. Dr. Harvey Huntley, Jr.

One of the crowning achievements of Region 9 in its slightly less than 30 years of mission and ministry is the establishment of the James R. Crumley Jr. Archives housed in Lineberger Library at Southern Seminary. Few at the time of its founding envisioned – or even could have dared dream – what is now firmly established through the Archives.

I remember Bishop Jim Crumley telling me over ten years ago at one of our Archives board retreats something like this: “You know, when we started this Archives, we said to ourselves: if we can just get South Carolina and North Carolina to participate in this archives, we will have accomplished something.” Today we not only have both the South and North Carolina Synod collections; we also have the main archival resources and holdings of five of the six synods in Region 9! That is no mean accomplishment in less than three decades!

Region 9 has one of the most significant Lutheran heritages in North America. The level of support we enjoy in Region 9 for the Archives, and the structure of the board, staffing, and facilities we are privileged to work with, are the envy of other regions in the ELCA. Truly, the Archives is a hallmark of what synods and church agencies can do in collaboration.

Over the years of the Archives’ brief history, the region has shifted from being a sort of parent organization to being a partner in the ministry of a now fully incorporated non-profit organization with its own board of directors, budget, and staff. The Region itself is currently in transition; and that may mean some changes in the role the Region will play in the future. At present, the Region has representatives appointed by the Region 9 Council to serve on the Archives board of directors. The Region also regularly sends its records to the Archives for preservation.

The role of the Region has been seminal for the Archives from its inception; and for that we can all be grateful. My suspicion is if it had not been for the Region and the vision of then coordinator Dorothy Jeffcoat and others, there would likely never have been a regional archives in the Southeastern U.S. Because of their vision, foresight, guidance, and support, today we have a well-established Archives in Region 9 that is poised to preserve Lutheran heritage in the South for many decades to come. Thanks be to God! ♦

## An Easy Way for Your Congregation to Support the Archives

Please consider giving the Archives an annual contribution equal to \$1 for each year your congregation has been organized. This size gift is small in terms of congregational budgets, but huge in terms of what it collectively means to the Archives and our ability to continue serving congregations with anniversary, archives and history support.

Thank you!

## VHS to DVD Conversions

Do you have a video cassette of your son's confirmation needing to be digitalized? How about a Homecoming sermon, or a recording of a special Christmas service? Have you considered that these items could be lost as technology advances?

The Crumley Archives can help! Most VHS tapes can be converted to DVD for a fee of \$15 per video cassette. Call today for a consultation! 803-461-3234

## Save the Date: September 29, 2017!

Late this summer, we will be holding a reception at Lineberger Library and the Crumley Archives, located on the campus of Lenoir Rhyne/Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. We wish to thank our supporters and celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation in a way that's befitting this historical event, and what better way to do that than to celebrate Lutheranism's history in the Crumley Archives?! Festivities will include:

*A special guest lecturer;*

*The dedication of new archival space;*

*The honoring of significant Crumley Archives supporters;*

*The unveiling of a very special collection ...*

And not to mention, food, fellowship, and memory-making! Please look for an invitation in the mail this summer. It's certainly a Reformation event you won't want to miss!

**Freed & RENEWED**  
**in Christ** 500 YEARS OF GOD'S  
GRACE IN ACTION

(Photo courtesy of the ELCA)

## Current Projects

By Shannon Smith, Director of the Archives

Normally, discoveries in the Crumley Archives are marked by lots of intrigue and excitement. But in the late spring of 2016, I made a discovery in our Archives that was less than, shall we say, desired. We don't use our microfilm very often, so I couldn't tell for sure just how long our collection had been exuding an undeniably sour smell, but it was clear that our film was suffering from "vinegar syndrome", and I knew that I had to act very quickly.

For those of you unfamiliar with this phenomenon, when acetate film begins to deteriorate (see image 1), it emits a vinegar odor (thus, "vinegar syndrome"). Once the process of vinegar syndrome begins, immediate action must take place. Not only are the effects of the syndrome irreversible, but the syndrome itself is actually contagious. Other microfilm, that may be in good condition, housed with infected microfilm, is nearly guaranteed to be affected if not isolated.

I immediately began to explore our options. Since we don't use our microfilm very often—indeed, this type of media is becoming less preferred among patrons of the Crumley Archives—I had to ask myself just how proactive we should be, for restoration, if even possible, could be costly.

After consulting with a microfilm specialist from the South Caroliniana Library, the Crumley Archives determined that the most responsible thing to do would be to dispose of the film after having it digitized. When I first learned that the film was suffering from vinegar syndrome, I searched for its creator, hoping that it would still have the original or "diaz" film. I determined the creator to be the N.C. State Archives, and lucky for us, they still had the original film in pristine condition.

This year's Peeler Grant funded a massive project to duplicate and digitize these major collections. This amounted to approximately 230 reels of film. We can now proudly declare that not only have we saved our microfilm collection by having it replaced with new film, we can also offer patrons a digital copy of these records to research. With archives placing an increasing emphasis on the digitization of

information, this major project has put us in a position that will enable us to better serve our patrons.

In addition to replacing and digitizing microfilm, this year's Peeler Grant has also allowed us to update several forms of obsolete media. Thanks to the help of Rice Studio of Greenwood, S.C., we were able to convert thousands of minutes of N.C. Synod media—mostly taped proceedings of early 1980's conventions—that would have otherwise been lost with time in our archives. "Sticky Shed Syndrome" is the pernicious cousin of vinegar syndrome, and with time and neglect, cassette and VHS tapes can fall victim to it. Add to that the problem of not having the equipment to play these types of media. Indeed, much of this equipment is becoming just as obsolete as the media itself. One such example of this is the ¾ inch video tape (see image 2). We have several of these, but haven't had very good luck in finding someone in our area with the equipment to convert the tapes. The race against time continues.

Our assistant archivist and I have been busily converting the media that we can on our own within the Archives, media like cassette tapes and VHS's. This is a tremendous undertaking, given the sheer volume of material that we have. But every week, we're able to add to our digital library, and that's progress! ♦



1. Film affected by vinegar syndrome



2. 3/4 inch tape

### Donate IRA Withdrawals to the Archives

You can donate all or part of mandatory IRS withdrawals directly to the Archives without paying taxes on the withdrawals. It's another way to consider your support for the Crumley Archives. For information on how to do this, contact your financial institution, or tax advisor.

Help us to conserve paper and reduce cost of the *Archival Survey's* production. Send us your email address to receive a digital copy of the *Survey's* future issues. [crumleyarchivist@gmail.com](mailto:crumleyarchivist@gmail.com)

### The Archives is Expanding!



We've recently acquired additional space in Lineberger Library for our operations. But we need your help in renovating and enhancing it. Please prayerfully consider a donation today, and see exactly where your dollars are going. Volunteers to "rehab" our new space are also needed. So if you are interested in rolling up your sleeves to improve the area, please contact Shannon Smith at 803-461-3234 today!



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Your Thrivent Choice Dollars really do matter! Since our enrollment in the program, we have raised over \$8,000 for the *Crumley Archives!*  
**Thank you for your support!**

# 2017 Friends of the Archives Banquet

Due to Hurricane Matthew, the 2016 Friends of the Archives Banquet was rescheduled to March 24, 2017. But that certainly didn't stop us from having a wonderful time, honoring those that deserved recognition, catching up with old friends, and making new ones at the Palmetto Club in Columbia, S.C.

This year's Walton Greever Award recipient was Ms. Martha Haigler. Martha was presented this prestigious award by the Rev. Dr. Carl Fisher, a long time friend and benefactor of the Archives. Dr. Fisher's words were endearing and befitting of Martha's character, full of love and admiration for Martha. Witnesses agreed that no finer description of Martha could have been given.

Also recognized at this year's banquet were Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Atlanta, GA, and the Southeastern Synod. Mark Scott, Crumley Archives Board President, offered

memorable words on Redeemer's presence in Atlanta as an urban church with a mission to reach the community. Harvey Huntley presented the Synod Award to Bishop Julian Gordy, complete with an edifying speech on the SE Synod's role in Region 9.

Thanks to all of those who attended this year's banquet, for your ongoing financial support, and most of all, for your prayers. ♦



Martha Haigler & Dr. Carl Fisher



Dr. Mark Scott & the Rev. David Osborne, Redeemer



Bishop Julian Gordy

## Seen at the Archives Banquet



## Friends of the Archives

Since the last issue of the *Archival Survey* (Fall 2016), the following friends have made contributions to the James R. Crumley Jr. Archives. We are most grateful for these gifts because they enable us to preserve our church's history and to assist researchers, congregations, and institutions in their work. If you have made a contribution since Fall 2016 and your name is not listed here, please accept our apologies and send us a note indicating the amount and date of your gift. Also, if you've made a donation in honor of others, be assured we have written them directly.

If your congregation could make a gift to the Archives, that would be a wonderful support. We would be glad to supply any information you might need to help you make such a request at your church. Many thanks for your gifts!

### From Individuals:

The Rev. James & Celie Addy The Rev. Mel & Nancy Amundson S.D. Aughtry The Rev. Dr. & Mrs. James Aull The Rev. & Mrs. J. Henri Bishop Perry & Trudy Bouknight The Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Mack Branham Victor Brookover Keith Brown Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Caughman Terrance Clever Sandra Cline Estate of Annette B. Crumley James Robert Crumley, III Mrs. Ann K. Dasher Dr. Helen Doerpinghaus & The Rev. Dr. Wayne Kannaday Gary Dreier George Kegley The Rev. & Mrs. David Donges Betty J. Eckard Dwayne & Catherine Fink Larry & Carleen Fink The Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Carl Fisher Barbara & Joseph Fudjack Lexanne Graves The Rev. & Mrs. Alvin Haigler The Rev. Donald & Janet Hanberry John & Geraldine Harbinson John & Janet Harmon The Rev. & Mrs. Robert Helton The Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Scott Hendrix Dr. & Mrs. R. Boyd Hendrix The Rev. Ozzie & Virginia Herlong The Rev. Dr. Harvey Huntley Dorothy Jeffcoat James Johnson The Rev. Dr. & Mrs. David Keck The Rev. & Mrs. James W. Kinney Marie W. Kleckley Mr. & Mrs. David Krumwiede Sandy Leach Adele Lindberg Sara Lineberger Kathryn Link The Rev. Jerry & Janice Livingston The Rev. Gary Lylerly Kenneth & Sue Marks Mary Eugenia Martin Mr. & Mrs. Donald Matkins Dr. Susan McArver	N. Charleston, SC Irmo, SC Newberry, SC White Rock, SC Pomaria, SC West Columbia, SC Irmo, SC Kingswood, TX Roanoke, VA Lexington, SC Hendersonville, NC Belmont, NC Leesville, SC Savannah, GA Arden, NC  Columbia, SC Columbia, SC Roanoke, VA Columbia, SC Hickory, NC Salisbury, NC Faith, NC Charlotte, NC Severna Park, MD Columbia, SC Gaston, SC Snellville, GA Charlottesville, VA Lexington, SC Lexington, SC Pittsboro, NC Lexington, SC Chapin, SC Boone, NC Columbia, SC Columbia, SC Mooresville, NC North East, MD Lexington, SC Abbeville, SC Columbia, SC Elgin, SC Cameron, SC Prosperity, SC West Columbia, SC Columbia, SC Apex, NC Chapin, SC Burlington, NC Columbia, SC	Jean & Kenneth McCormick James & Carole Metts Max & Peggy Miles Dr. & Mrs. Biemann Othersen The Rev. Dr. Harold and Mrs. Betty Park David Poole The Rev. Don & Brenta Poole Clarence & Joyce Pugh Heber & Gloria Rast The Rev. George Rhyne The Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Ridenhour Sara Russell Doris Sandberg The Rev. & Mrs. John Satterwhite Melba P. Shealy The Rev. & Mrs. D. Murray Shull The Rev. John S. Sims Mrs. Frank Smith Mark V. Smith Sr. Marilyn Stauffer Virginia R. Strickland The Rev. Paul Summer Karen Sumner Katherine & JC Tillman The Rev. Dr. & Mrs. William Trexler Jonne & Paul Walter Barbara Weaver Betty Wilds Edward Woodward Judy Woolly Joseph & Margaret Zeigler	Delray Beach, FL Lexington, SC Chapin, SC Charleston, SC White Rock, SC Charlottesville, VA Asheville, NC Newton, NC Cameron, SC Dallas, NC Concord, NC Troy, SC Hodges, SC Chapin, SC Lexington, SC Moore, SC Hixson, TN Atlanta, GA Savannah, GA Chapin, SC Augusta, GA Columbia, SC Orlando, FL Savannah, GA Arden, NC Atlanta, GA Irmon, SC Columbia, SC Columbia, SC Chapin, SC
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### Congregations:

Augsburg Lutheran/ Eifird & Maria Hine Fund Trinity Lutheran Church Mt. Zion Lutheran Church Lutheran Church of the Ascension/ Fehrenkamp Fund Distribution Immanuel Lutheran Church	Winston-Salem, NC Vale, NC Conover, NC  Savannah, GA Greenwood, SC
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### Others:

Southeastern Synod Womean of ELCA Thrivent Mission Investment Funds	Nashville, TN
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### Institutions:

NC Synod-Peeler/Casey Award NC Synod	Salisbury, NC Salisbury, NC
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### Friends of the James R. Crumley Jr. Archives

Become a Friend of the Archives through a gift to support the continuing work of preserving our southern Lutheran history to encourage us in faithfulness into the future. Please make checks payable to:  
*James R. Crumley Jr. Archives.*

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Please find enclosed my/our gift for the continuing support of the Archives.  
 \_\_\_\$50 \_\_\_\$75 \_\_\_\$100 \_\_\_\$250 \_\_\_\$500 \_\_\_\$1,000 \_\_\_\_\_ Other

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*Mail to: James R. Crumley Jr. Archives, 4201 N. Main St., Columbia, SC 29203  
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 Thank you for your gifts!*