



State of Tennessee  
Department of State  
Tennessee State Library and Archives

**BEECH CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
(SUMNER COUNTY, TENN.) RECORDS,  
1828-1965**

---

**COLLECTION SUMMARY**

**Creator:**

Beech Cumberland Presbyterian Church (Sumner County, Tenn.)

**Inclusive Dates:**

1828-1965

**Scope & Content:**

The Beech Cumberland Presbyterian Church (Sumner County, Tenn.) Records span the period 1828-1965. The collection is composed of deeds, historical sketches, photographs, printed minutes of the meetings of the Tennessee Synod, a sesquicentennial program, and session minutes.

The deeds and historical sketches (Box 1, f. 1) consist of a typescript copy of an 1806 deed from Catron and Montgomery to church trustees, a photocopy of an 1828 deed from William Montgomery to Hugh Kirkpatrick and Robert Taylor, two original deeds dated 1902, a copy of *The Bulletin From Beech* with a "History of Beech Cumberland Presbyterian Church," and the January 29, 1963, issue of *The Cumberland Presbyterian* magazine. The 1806 deed is the first one to the church property. William Montgomery and Francis Catron sold the land to Trustees, John McMurtry and James Kirkpatrick, for 50¢. Montgomery also gives them the right "to have a road of convenience from said meeting house to a spring in said Montgomerys land and a right to use the waters as much as if said Spring was on the above described premises." The first 1902 deed is from the heirs of Daniel Montgomery (D. A. Montgomery, C. A. Montgomery, J. W. Montgomery, Mattie W. Montgomery, D. E. Montgomery, Lou Montgomery, R. Sprouse, Mattie Sprouse, George E. Latimer, S. E. Latimer, D. H. Smith, Norah

Smith, M. Hutchinson, and Jennie Catron) to the trustees of said church and their successors. The second 1902 deed is from W. C. Patton and his wife, Hattie, to the trustees F. K. Taylor and D. A. Montgomery and their successors. The same issue of the magazine contains an article, "Early Cumberland Presbyterian History and the Old Beech Church," discussing the history of Beech Cumberland Presbyterian Church as it relates to the history of the Cumberland Presbyterian denomination. Images used in the article are included in the collection photographs (Box 1, f. 2).

The photographs contain images of the interior and exterior of the church building, the manse, and the grave of the Rev. Hugh Kirkpatrick (who aided in the revision of the Westminster Confession of Faith that was adopted by the Cumberland Presbyterians in 1813) dating from the 1960s. An image of the church building with several unidentified women and children standing in front, circa 1880, is also included. The pictures of the manse and Kirkpatrick's grave as well as an interior view of the church were also used in "Early Cumberland Presbyterian History and the Old Beech Church (Box 1, f. 1).

The program (Box 1, f. 3) is the "Sesqui-Centennial Program of the Tennessee Synod of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church Meeting with the Old Beech Cumberland Presbyterian Church." It is dated October 30-31, 1963. The orders of service for both the afternoon and morning sessions are included as well as the names of clerks and moderators.

The session minutes (Box 1, f. 4-7) are composed of four volumes that contain chronological minutes of the transactions and proceedings of the session. The tomes span the years 1899-1961, with a five-year gap occurring from January 1940 to April 1945. Most of the works contain a Register of Pastors, Register of Elders, Register of Deacons, Register of Communicants, Register of Baptisms, Register of Marriages, and Register of Deaths. Some of the books contain financial reports, memorial resolutions, and correspondence as well as sessional reports on various church societies and Sunday School. A printed memorial resolution for the Rev. Thomas Buchanan, son of Gov. John P. Buchanan, from 1908 (Box 1, f.4), is especially poignant. It begins with "Whereas, Our beloved pastor, Rev. Thos. Buchanan, was suddenly taken from our midst on 13<sup>th</sup> day of June, 1908, producing a great shock to our entire community and an irreparable loss to Beech congregation." The decree goes on to impart "His example was noble and inspiring, his work was valuable and will still live with us."

The Tennessee Synod minutes (Box 1, f. 8) include two printed booklets of the minutes of the Tennessee Synod of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. The leaflets are dated 1907 and 1928. In addition to the minutes, a "Roll of Ministers" is also included in the 1907 volume. The 1928 edition displays an image of the Rev. J. R. Goodpasture, Stated Clerk and Treasurer of the Tennessee Synod from 1916 to 1928, inside the front cover.

**Physical Description/Extent:**

.5 linear feet

**Accession/Record Group Number:**

Mf. 2030

**Language:**

English

**Permanent Location:**

Mf. 2030 (available only on microfilm)

**Repository:**

Tennessee State Library and Archives, 403 Seventh Avenue North, Nashville, Tennessee, 37243-0312

**Administrative/Biographical History**

- 1798 The Rev. Thomas Craighead, along with four members, the Rev. Hugh and Isabella Kirkpatrick and William and Jane Montgomery, organize the Beech Congregation
- 1798 William McGee becomes the first pastor of Beech Church
- 1806 William Montgomery and Francis Cattron sell the land where camp meetings are held for the Beech congregation. Trustees John McMurtry and James Kirkpatrick buy it for 50¢.
- 1810 February 4. Cumberland Presbytery is constituted with the Rev. Samuel McAdow serving as Moderator
- 1813 April 6. The Cumberland Presbytery meet at Beech to divide the presbytery into three entities: Elk, Logan, and Nashville
- 1813 October 5. The first Synod of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church is constituted at Beech with William McGee as Moderator and Finis Ewing as Clerk. (The name Cumberland Presbyterian, as used to signify a denomination, is used for the first time in association with this meeting.)
- 1828 William Montgomery deeds land neighboring the “Old Beech Meeting House” to Trustees Hugh Kirkpatrick and Robert Taylor “for the purpose

of having a permanent place of worship for the Society of Cumberland Presbyterians to convene at...and where they will feel themselves free to manage the business of the Society or Congregation in their own way...subject to the following condition if in course of seven years from this date the said Congregation shall fail to build a suitable house of permanent materials say brick or stone and put a wall round the lot or yard of brick or stone of a proper height to keep out stock then this deed to be null and void and revert to the tract of land it is now taken from”

- 1828- A stone building is constructed on a lot adjacent to the original log
- 1829 structure. Robert Taylor was the chief builder, and the laborers were paid 25 cents a day. John Clendenning places the last stone.
  
- 1831 The first session book is ordered with Robert Taylor, James Kirkpatrick, Benjiman Taylor, Christopher Ketring, Alexander Hogan, Alexander K. Taylor, Andrew H. Guthrie, and Thomas Hudson serving as elders
  
- 1838 William Smith and Samuel Kirkpatrick are ordained as elders
  
- 1850 James K. Taylor is ordained as an elder.
  
- 1865 May. Sunday school is organized at Beech Church
  
- 1895 Beech Church operates without regular services. Sunday school continues.
  
- 1903 December 25. Dedication of first manse at Beech Church. The manse was built on land donated by Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Patton. The Rev. Thomas Buchanan was the first minister to live in the manse.
  
- 1908 June 13. The Rev. Thomas Buchanan is struck by lightning and killed in the garden of the manse
  
- 1947 Seven rooms are built behind the church sanctuary
  
- 1957 Red brick annex to the church is added with a fellowship hall, kitchen, and nine class rooms
  
- 1960 Second manse built from a bequest of \$15,000 to the church by R. G. and J. P. Wilson

#### **List of Pastors**

- 1798-1831 Wm. McGee and circuit riders
- 1831-1835 Jno. L. Smith
- 1835-1837 R. C. Hatton
- 1837-1843 Wm. Eatherly and circuit riders

1843-1853 A. L. Goodlett and circuit riders  
 1853-1857 David Hunter  
 1858-1865 D. R. Marshall  
 1865-1867 J. D. Kirkpatrick  
 1867-1872 D. R. Marshall  
 1872-1874 H. H. Marshall  
 1875-1880 S. P. Chesnut  
 1880-1888 W. A. Haynes  
 1888-1890 R. S. Blair  
 1890-1894 A. H. Manley  
 1895 No pastor  
 1896-1897 W. T. Dale  
 1897-1898 J. A. Allison  
 1898-1902 R. F. Adair  
 1903-1908 Thomas Buchanan  
 1909-1913 C. K. Carlock  
 1914-1916 W. W. Suddarth  
 1917-1923 S. T. Byars  
 1923-1925 C. E. Danley  
 1926-1927 W. H. Neisler  
 1928-1939 T. H. Suddarth  
 1940-1944 Courtley Burroughs  
 1944-1947 Frank Harmon  
 1947-1949 Z. N. Clinard  
 1950-1953 J. W. Knight  
 1953-1958 L. E. McCoy  
 1959-1961 A. B. Hiser  
 1961-1965 Alfred Bennett  
 1966-1968 H. E. Dill  
 1968-1970 Ronald Fleming  
 1971-1974 James W. Knight  
 1974-1980 Alfred Bennett  
 1980-1981 Fred Schott (Interim)  
 1981-1997 Julian Maxedon  
 1998-1999 Fred Schott (Interim)  
 1999-2003 J. Tommy Jobe  
 2004-current Malcolm Patton

Source: Information in the biographical note was gleaned from various items within the collection.

## **Organization/Arrangement of Materials**

The arrangement of the collection is alphabetical.

## Conditions of Access and Use

### Restrictions on Access:

No restrictions.

### Restrictions on Use and Reproduction:

While the Tennessee State Library and Archives houses an item, it does not necessarily hold the copyright on the item, nor may it be able to determine if the item is still protected under current copyright law. Users are solely responsible for determining the existence of such instances and for obtaining any other permissions and paying associated fees that may be necessary for the intended use.

## Index Terms

### Personal Names:

Buchanan, Thomas, 1869-1908  
Kirkpatrick, Hugh, 1774-1863  
Montgomery, William, fl. 1806-1828

### Corporate Names/Organizations/Government Bodies:

Beech Cumberland Presbyterian Church (Sumner County, Tenn.) --  
Records and correspondence

### Subjects:

Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Synod of Tennessee -- History --  
Sources  
Church records and registers -- Tennessee -- Sumner County

### Document Types:

Church history  
Deeds  
Minute books  
Photographs  
Programs (documents)

## Acquisition and Appraisal

### Provenance and Acquisition:

This collection was acquired in batches and given accession numbers 615, 684, 788, 840, 1703, and 1971-003 in the holdings of TSLA. The materials were deaccessioned and transferred to the Historical Library and Archives of the General Assemblies of the Cumberland Presbyterian

Church and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America (located in Cordova, Tennessee) after filming.

## **Processing and Administrative Information**

### **Preferred Citation:**

Beech Cumberland Presbyterian Church Records (Sumner County, Tenn.),  
1828-1965, Tennessee State Library and Archives

### **Processing Information:**

The collection was reviewed and prepared for microfilming by Lori D. Lockhart in September 2012.

### **Existence and Location of Originals:**

Held privately.

### **Electronic Location and Access:**

<http://www.tennessee.gov/tsla/history/manuscripts/findingaids/mf2030.pdf>

## DETAILED COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

---

### CONTAINER LIST

<b>Contents/Item Title</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Deeds and historical sketches	1828-1963, undated	1	1
Photographs	ca. 1880-1965	1	2
Program	1963	1	3
Session minutes, Vol. 1	1899-1924	1	4
Session minutes, Vol. 2	1924-1940	1	5
Session minutes, Vol. 3	1945-1953	1	6
Session minutes, Vol. 4	1953-1961	1	7
Tennessee Synod minutes	1907, 1928	1	8