Menaul Historical Library
Of the Southwest

What it is, What it has, What it does
HOW THE LIBRARY BEGAN

Menaul Historical Library is an arm of Menaul School, and prior to the early 1970’s, was a Presbyterian Mission School. The Presbyterian Church decided that mission schools were no longer a priority need, and gave its schools the opportunity to become private institutions, under their own management. Menaul School took this option, and by 1974, former missionary Edmundo E. Vasquez was its President and Head of School. At about that time, old records of Presbyterian churches and schools were discovered in the school vault.

Edmundo E. Vasquez
IN THE VAULT!

Documents, photos, and other records of former mission schools and churches
The “Stuff” of History!
The “Stuff” of History
BUT WHAT’S TO BE DONE WITH IT?

This “stuff” is just that, unless it is organized, preserved, and cataloged for the use of those interested in history!
WHAT TO DO ??

Carolyn Atkins, a Presbyterian friend who had always been interested in church service and history, came into the picture to determine the value of these records and help decide what to do with them. First, they were all moved from the vault to the Chemistry Lab where they could be spread out and examined. (The lab was approximately where the Advancement Office is now.)

Carolyn Atkins
Thus, in the summer of 1974, Menaul Historical Library began!!!

Carolyn asked Katy Davis and Mary Jo Vaughn, Presbyterian friends, to help and the three of them went to work sorting!
But, alas! School began again in the Fall and they were still at work! That meant: “Pack up and move everything again!!!”

So, down into the basement of the Administration Building they all went, which due to its damp and dark atmosphere, Carolyn always referred to as the “potato cellar.” – and volunteer work went on, financed mainly from her husband’s deep pockets!
A PROBLEM: HOW TO FINANCE ALL THIS – OTHER THAN THROUGH HER HUSBAND’S GENEROSITY?!!

Along with the help of calligrapher Jimmy Ning and other artists, Carolyn came up with the idea of designing note cards and recipe cards as a way of financing needed archival supplies.
PUBLICATIONS ALSO HELPED WITH FINANCING.

Carolyn began to publish historical articles and encouraged others to write about the Presbyterian heritage of the Southwest.
In 1979 the National Endowment in the Humanities awarded a $10,000 planning grant to formalize the development of the library, and with assistance from the Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia, Bylaws, policies, procedures, and an Advisory Board spelled out the Mission of this new entity:
Menaul Historical Library of the Southwest

Mission

To collect and preserve Presbyterian records and related Protestant history in the Southwest;
To establish and maintain a research center for scholars interested in Presbyterian and other Protestant history in the Southwest;
To preserve the archives of Menaul School;
To encourage others to record and preserve their church histories;
To publish data on Presbyterian history in the Southwest;
To cooperate with other historical libraries in the U.S.
In 1982, Carolyn left Albuquerque to begin work with the Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia.

Dorothy Stevenson became Director through 1984, to continue the work Carolyn had begun.

For a brief time the records were moved into the basement of McClure Library (now the Tinnin Center.)
A NEW DIRECTOR, 
ANOTHER MOVE!

In 1985 Esther McIntire became the new Director. Menaul Historical Library of the Southwest was given permission to have its own bank account to handle income and expense, and was moved to newly remodeled quarters in Menaul School’s Bennett Hall.
Now we had a chance to show off the beautiful Spanish Colonial furniture which retired missionary Eusebio Vasquez had made especially for the library.
And the library moved ahead. From 1986-1992 Carolyn came back as Director and asked Nona Browne, “Would she have time to catalog ‘half a dozen books?’!!!”

Nona soon took over as Director when Carolyn needed to leave, due to her husband Jack’s health.

Over the years the collection increased, work increased and more volunteers came to help,

So the job of Director became very involved with training and directing those volunteers.
In recent years, the library budget has been financed mainly by contributions from generous friends.

Menaul Historical Library of the Southwest has been preparing and mailing annually several Historical Reviews and/or Calendars.

Examples of some of the Reviews and Calendars
Today what you see when you first enter our library: THE VESTIBULE:
PROCEED A BIT FURTHER.....INTO THE RECEPTION ROOM

Antique Secretary’s desk
Formerly owned by Rev. Acorcino Lucero

Here visitors are greeted.
THEN INTO THE READING ROOM:

Its computers contain our complete catalog. Please note that for now, we’ve kept the old card catalog! We also have reading and research space and a microfilm reader.
You will find here history books and also many dissertations.

Books shown are Presbyterian General Assembly Minutes back to 1865
AND FINALLY INTO THE ARCHIVES

Archived Periodicals

And Documents
WHAT THE ARCHIVES CONTAIN:
Information on:
Mission Schools

Las Vegas Mission Church and School
Santa Fe - Allison School
Later Allison James School - Santa Fe
IN NEW MEXICO AND COLORADO

Early Menaul School Campus
Mostly for Spanish and Native American Children

First Albuquerque Indian School Duranès in 1881

Boys playing marbles at Chimayo School
Also Information about schools in Arizona and Utah

Kayenta Mission in Arizona

Manti, Utah

Ephraim, Utah
And Missionary Teachers and Ministers,

Matilda Allison

James Menaul

Sheldon Jackson

Ralph Hall
and Ministerial Students at Menaul School and del Norte College in Colorado.
RECORDS OF MANY CHURCHES IN THE SW
(Minutes, Baptismal Records, Correspondence, etc.)

Such as
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Church built by the Baptists in Santa Fe in 1850 and purchased by Presbyterians in 1867-8

Santa Fe Presbyterian Church in 1881

Current Santa Fe Presbyterian Church
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Second Presbyterian Church

Original Second Presbyterian Church

Current Church on Edith Street
many other New Mexico churches,

Socorro NM in 1886

Jemez Springs NM Presbyterian

Laguna NM Presbyterian Church

El Rito Presbyterian in Chacon NM
And throughout the southwest

Miami, AZ Hispanic Church

Worship at home in Indian Country

Indian Wells, Arizona
ABOUT COWBOY CAMPS AND CONFERENCE GROUNDS

Sandia Conference Grounds

Rev. Ralph Hall, Cowboy Camp Preacher

Meal preparation at Cowboy Camp

Montosa Cowboy Camp Meeting Magdalena New Mexico
HOSPITALS & MEDICAL CLINICS IN NEW MEXICO

Dental Clinic

Embudo Enlarged

Brooklyn Cottage Hospital

Nurse with Baby
AND IN ARIZONA AND COLORADO

Sage Hospital, Ganado, Arizona
– in Navajo Country

Arriving at a clinic in San Luis, Co

Medical clinic in San Luis, Colorado
Medical missions by air -

- Dr. Tom Harnish working out of the Mora Medical Clinic

- And on foot.

Missionary doctors in Mora County

Mora Valley Clinic
OTHER VALUABLE RECORDS:

Information on Crypto Jews
WHAT’S BEEN HAPPENING SINCE 1985 WHEN WE MOVED TO BENNETT?

We keep running out of space!

In 2002 we converted an unused restroom in the old Bennett Hall boys dormitory on the second floor into an “annex” for archival space – an interesting project!
This is what our “annex” looked like before remodeling!

then as we began filling new shelves!
In 2010 Boarding students were again added to Menaul School and the bathroom “annex” was reclaimed, which coincided with our receiving 1500 books and many beautiful artifacts from Cook Theological School in Arizona, so we moved yet again into another “Annex!”

Part of the Arrowhead Collection Still crowded
Baskets, pottery, weavings, etc., to add to our already great collection, but put in storage.
EXAMPLES OF ARTIFACTS ALREADY IN THE LIBRARY

Jemez Springs organ - 1881

Teaching loom from John Hyson School in Chimayo, NM

Gas projector in front of spinning wheel
Since its beginning in 1974, with space and basic utilities provided by Menaul School, the library has had only volunteer staff, directed by an elected Advisory Board – all very dedicated to the preservation of Presbyterian history.
WE KEEP GROWING AND GROWING! NEARLY 8000 BOOKS, ARCHIVAL AND PHOTO COLLECTIONS AND ARTIFACTS ARE NOW CATALOGED.

And we’re always looking for more space! BUT DON’T LET THAT STOP YOU - COME AND VISIT!!
WE ARE ON THE MENAUL SCHOOL CAMPUS
IN BENNETT HALL
Menaul Historical Library of the Southwest
301 Menaul Blvd. NE
Albuquerque NM 87107
505-343-7480
E-mail: archives@menaulhistoricallibrary.org
Website: www.menaulhistoricallibrary.org
Open to the Public Tuesday.-Friday 10-4
The Library is also on Face Book
PROGRAM PREPARED
BY
NONA BROWNE AND BEVERLY ROWE

2015

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