

**The Center for the Evangelical United Brethren Heritage
United Theological Seminary
Dayton, Ohio**



**Historical Collection 88:
The William Edward Pottieger Papers**

*Processed by Wheeler Hall and Tim Binkley
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INTRODUCTION

The William Edward Pottieger Papers include scrapbooks, news clippings, church publications, photographs, and correspondence created or collected by Rev. Pottieger during his life and ministry. These items were donated by his son, the Rev. Dr. Cecil Pottieger, in 2007. Dr. Pottieger also donated a related collection: HC-28, The Harry Neitz Sermons. These sermons were collected by W.E. Pottieger during his ministry.

The collection occupies 1 box (.5 linear foot of shelf space) and consists of two series: Ministry Papers and Evangelical Church Merger Debate Papers. There are no restrictions on the use of HC-88.

Newspaper clippings concerning the Rev. Orlan D. E. Pottieger and obituaries for Ruth Eva Pottieger and the Rev. Ray J. C. Pottieger can be found in the Center for the EUB Heritage Vertical Files.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Rev. William Edward Pottieger (1885-1969) was the son of Jonas J. Pottieger (d. 1942) and Mary Barbara Pottieger, *nee* Cassell (1859-1935), of Dauphin County, Pennsylvania. William's first wife, Jennie, died in child birth while in Enid, Oklahoma. After her passing, Rev. Pottieger moved back to Pennsylvania and married Ruth Eva Enders (1897-1956) on September 25, 1919. Ruth and William raised four boys: Rev. Orlan D. E. Pottieger; Rev. Dr. Cecil P. E. Pottieger; Jay E. L. Pottieger; and Rev. Ray J. C. Pottieger.

While attending Albright College (Myerstown, Pennsylvania), W.E. Pottieger was asked to occupy a new congregation starting in the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference and had to cease attendance at the college. He was licensed to preach in 1909 and moved with Jennie and their small son Jay to begin his ministry in the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference of the United Evangelical Church where he served at Clay Center, Kansas (1910-14) and the First Church of Enid, Oklahoma (1914-18). He was ordained in 1912, three years into his preaching ministry.

As a child, Rev. Pottieger was baptized a Lutheran. He commented that if he had remained a Lutheran he would have had to have completed a formal education before being ordained and assigned to a pastorate. While Rev. Pottieger regretted the interruptions to his formal education, his lack of a degree did not stunt his ability to be an effective servant of Jesus Christ. Although he did not consider himself a Conference leader, his pastoral record reflects new church and educational facilities construction at Easton Christ and Millersburg Grace Church. He yearly added new members to the congregations he served, reduced indebtedness at First Church, Perkasio, Pennsylvania, and began an evangelistic outreach at First Church, Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania, that saw 100 new members added in his first two years as pastor.

Rev. Pottieger joined the East Pennsylvania Conference of the United Evangelical Church in 1918. He organized the Harrisburg Sixth Street Church while serving the Penbrook Trinity Church (1918-20). W.E. Pottieger went on to pastor these Evangelical Church congregations: Millersville Grace (1920-26), Easton Christ (1926-29), Millersburg Grace (1929-36), Perkasio First (1936-40), and Mt. Carmel St Paul's (1940-46); and these EUB Churches: Wilkes-Barre First (1946-48), Pen Argyl Bethany (1948-52), Birdsboro Trinity and Grace Church (1952-61). The 1961 Annual Session of the EUB Northeastern Conference retired Rev. W.E. Pottieger with special recognition for his long service.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

Series I, Ministry, consists of 8 folders arranged chronologically documenting Rev. Pottieger's career from 1909-1950. Most of the content is newspaper clippings (some authored by Rev. Pottieger) and publications from the various churches he served. Folder 8 includes original photographs and negatives.

Series II, Evangelical Church Merger, contains clippings, publications, and correspondence pertaining to the debates surrounding the re-merger of the United Evangelical Church and the Evangelical Association in 1922. This series offers a rare look into a rather painful division over denominational reunification.

BOX AND FOLDER LISTING

Box	Folder	Description	Dates
<u>Series 1:</u>			
		<u>Ministry</u>	
1	1	Kansas & Oklahoma	1909-1918
	2	Penbrook, PA Trinity United Evangelical Church	1918
	3	Millersville, PA Grace Church	1921-1926

4	Millersburg, PA Grace Church	1926-1936
5	Easton Christ Church Dedication	1936-1940
6	Perkasie, Mt. Carmel, Wilkes-Barre, and Birdsboro	1939-1950s
7	U.E. Church, Evangelical Church, and EUB Church articles and publications	1908-50s
8	Photographs and Negatives	ca.1910, 1946

Series 2:

Evangelical Church Merger Debate

1	9	Merger Debate Papers (original documents)	1920-1923
	10	Merger Debate Papers (photocopies of folder 10 items)	1920-1923
	11	Merger Debate Papers (including Millersville)	1920-1923

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