

Peter Marshall and Catherine Marshall Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2013

Contact information: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm78031468>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms013105>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2013
Revised 2023 September

Collection Summary

Title: Peter Marshall and Catherine Marshall Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1927-1964

Bulk Dates: 1933-1956

ID No.: MSS31468

Creator: Marshall, Peter, 1902-1949

Creator: Marshall, Catherine, 1914-1983

Extent: 10,000 items

Extent: 31 containers plus 5 oversize

Extent: 14.4 linear feet

Extent: 6 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm78031468>

Summary: Presbyterian clergyman and chaplain of the United States Senate (Peter Marshall). Author (Catherine Marshall). Correspondence, notes, and sermons of Peter Marshall, and drafts, galleys, scrapbooks, movie scripts, and other papers about Marshall collected by his wife, Catherine Marshall.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Engel, Samuel G., 1904-1984--Correspondence.

Griffin, Eleanore--Correspondence.

Marshall family.

Marshall, Catherine, 1914-1983. Beyond our selves. 1961.

Marshall, Catherine, 1914-1983. Friends with God; stories and prayers of the Marshall family. 1956.

Marshall, Catherine, 1914-1983. God loves you; our family's favorite stories and prayers. 1953.

Marshall, Catherine, 1914-1983. Man called Peter; the story of Peter Marshall. 1951.

Marshall, Catherine, 1914-1983. Peter Marshall and Catherine Marshall papers. 1927-1964.

Marshall, Catherine, 1914-1983. To live again. 1957.

Marshall, Peter, 1902-1949.

Marshall, Peter, 1902-1949.

Marshall, Peter, 1902-1949. God loves you; our family's favorite stories and prayers. 1953.

Marshall, Peter, 1902-1949. Mr. Jones; meet the Master, sermons and prayers. 1949.

Peters, Jean, 1926-2000--Correspondence.

Rambeau, Marjorie, 1889-1970--Correspondence.

Todd, Richard, 1919-2009--Correspondence.

Organizations

Twentieth Century-Fox Film Corporation.

Subjects

American literature.

Bereavement--Religious aspects--Christianity.

Children--Religious life.

Christian life.

Clergy--United States.

Faith.

Families--Religious life.

Motion pictures.

Presbyterian Church--Clergy.

Presbyterian Church--Sermons.
Religion.
Sermons, American--20th century.
Spouses of clergy--United States.

Titles

Man Called Peter (Motion picture)

Occupations

Chaplains, U.S. Senate.
Clergy.

Acquisition Information

The papers of Peter Marshall, Presbyterian clergyman and chaplain of the United States Senate, and his wife, Catherine Marshall, author, were deposited in the Library of Congress by Catherine Marshall LeSourd in 1964 and converted to a gift in 1970. Additional gifts were received, 1968-1969.

Processing History

The papers of Peter Marshall and Catherine Marshall were arranged and described in 1966 and expanded in 1979 and 1985. The finding aid was revised in 2013.

Transfers

Sound recordings and television tapes have been transferred to the Library's Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division where they are identified as part of these papers.

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Peter Marshall and Catherine Marshall in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Peter Marshall and Catherine Marshall are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Microfilm

A microfilm edition of these papers is available on six reels. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, Peter Marshall and Catherine Marshall Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Peter Marshall

Date	Event
1902, Mar. 27	Born, Coatbridge, Scotland
1927	Emigrated to United States
1931	Graduated from Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, Ga.
1931	Ordained a Presbyterian minister
1931-1933	Pastor of church in Covington, Ga.
1933-1937	Pastor, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Atlanta, Ga.
1936	Married Catherine Sarah Wood
1937	Named pastor of New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, Washington, D.C.
1947	Named chaplain of United States Senate
1949, Jan. 25	Died, Washington, D.C.

Catherine Marshall

Date	Event
1914, Sept. 27	Born, Johnston City, Tenn.
1936	Graduated, Agnes Scott College, Decatur, Ga. Married Peter Marshall
1951	Published <i>A Man Called Peter</i> . New York: McGraw-Hill
1955	Film release of <i>A Man Called Peter</i> (motion picture)
1959	Married Leonard LeSourd
1967	Published <i>Christy</i> . New York: McGraw-Hill
1983, Mar. 18	Died

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Peter Marshall (1902-1949) and Catherine Marshall (1914-1983), husband and wife, span the years 1927-1964, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1933-1956. Personal materials of Peter Marshall comprise about a fourth of the collection, including a small amount of correspondence and a large file of notes for his sermons. The sermons, about 850 in number, cover the period 1933 through January 1948 and include such well-known sermons as "Singing in the Rain," "Go Down Death," "Under Sealed Orders," "The King is in the Audience," and "Rendezvous in Samarra." There are also synopses of many of the sermons and various indexes that list the sermons by title, date, location, subject matter, and quotations used. The collection is organized into seven series: [Peter Marshall: Sermons](#), [Peter Marshall: Correspondence](#), [Catherine Marshall: Correspondence](#), [Catherine Marshall: Book and Article File](#), [Scrapbooks](#), [Addition I](#), and [Addition II](#).

Catherine Marshall's papers, in addition to treating her own career as an author and lecturer following the death of her husband, are mainly oriented to the life of Peter Marshall and to her biography of him, *A Man Called Peter*. Most of her correspondence consists of mail from persons who read her numerous books and saw the motion picture based on the biography.

A significant portion of the papers concerns the production by Twentieth Century-Fox Film Corporation of *A Man Called Peter*. There are verbatim records of the conferences attended by Catherine Marshall and representatives of Twentieth Century-Fox during planning of the film. In addition to many versions of the film script, these records present the metamorphosis of the work from printed page to celluloid. Important correspondents include screenwriter Eleanor Griffin, producer Samuel G. Engel, and the film's principal performers, Richard Todd, Jean Peters, and Marjorie Rambeau.

Also in the collection are other manuscripts of Catherine Marshall's published works, some of which include both original drafts and corrected copies of proofs.

The [Scrapbooks](#) series is composed mainly of printed material including some correspondence relating to Peter Marshall's election as chaplain of the United States Senate, his death, and Catherine Marshall's subsequent career as an author. [Addition I](#) and [Addition II](#) contain miscellaneous sermons and ideas for sermon, written prayers, seminary papers of Peter Marshall, and other material.

An [appendix](#) to this finding aid lists the names and dates of correspondents in the Peter Marshall: Correspondence series of the collection.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in seven series:

- [Peter Marshall: Sermons, 1933-1948](#)
- [Peter Marshall: Correspondence, 1927-1956](#)
- [Catherine Marshall: Correspondence, 1949-1961](#)
- [Catherine Marshall: Book and Article File](#)
- [Scrapbooks \(Oversize\), 1946-1960](#)
- [Addition I, 1932-1946](#)
- [Addition II, 1934-1964](#)

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1-8 REEL 1-6	<p><u>Peter Marshall: Sermons, 1933-1948</u></p> <p>Texts of sermons by Peter Marshall and related material. Organized into two groups and arranged as filmed, with Group 2 preceding Group 1. Numbers to sermons were assigned by Marshall. Includes various indexes. Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 13,847</p>
BOX 8 REEL 8	<p><u>Peter Marshall: Correspondence, 1927-1956</u></p> <p>Family letters and general correspondence of letters sent and received by Peter Marshall. Names and dates of correspondents are listed in an <i>appendix</i>. Arranged by type and therein chronologically. Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 13,847</p>
BOX 9-13	<p><u>Catherine Marshall: Correspondence, 1949-1961</u></p> <p>Letters sent and received by Catherine Marshall. Arranged chronologically, with travel correspondence organized according to location and miscellany filed at the end of the series.</p>
BOX 14-26	<p><u>Catherine Marshall: Book and Article File</u></p> <p>Drafts and production material of Mrs. Marshall's published books and articles and an unpublished work. The manuscript of <i>A Man Called Peter</i> also contains papers concerning the movie version of the work. Arranged by title of work.</p>
BOX 27-31	<p><u>Scrapbooks (Oversize), 1946-1960</u></p> <p>Mainly biographical material about Peter Marshall and publicity relating to the books and movie about him. Arranged in chronological sequence.</p>
BOX 32	<p><u>Addition I, 1932-1946</u></p> <p>Miscellaneous sermons, prayers, articles, and seminary papers of Peter Marshall. Arranged by type of material.</p>
BOX 33-36	<p><u>Addition II, 1934-1964</u></p> <p>Material for sermon ideas, typescripts of sermons and prayers, and miscellany relating to Peter Marshall. Arranged by type of material.</p>

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-8 REEL 1-6	Peter Marshall: Sermons, 1933-1948 Texts of sermons by Peter Marshall and related material. Organized into two groups and arranged as filmed, with Group 2 preceding Group 1. Numbers to sermons were assigned by Marshall. Includes various indexes. Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 13,847
BOX 1 REEL 1	Indexes
BOX 1 REEL 1	Lists of sermons (incomplete)
BOX 1 REEL 1	Index to locations of sermons (incomplete)
BOX 1 REEL 1	Synopses of sermons (incomplete)
BOX 1 REEL 1	Quotations used in sermons (incomplete)
BOX 1 REEL 1	Subject index (incomplete)
BOX 1 REEL 1	Poems
BOX 1 REEL 1	Lists of sermons (2 folders)
BOX 1 REEL 1	Notebook, Christmas list
BOX 1 REEL 1	Indexes to locations (2 folders)
BOX 1 REEL 1	Synopses of sermons
BOX 2 REEL 1-2	Sermons
BOX 2 REEL 1-2	Group 2
BOX 2 REEL 1-2	Numbered
BOX 2 REEL 1-2	Nos. 1-119 (12 folders)
BOX 3 REEL 2-3	Nos. 120-249 (14 folders)
BOX 4 REEL 3	Nos. 250-359 (11 folders)
BOX 5 REEL 3-4	Nos. 360-479 (13 folders)
BOX 6 REEL 4-5	Nos. 480-608 (14 folders)
BOX 7 REEL 5	Nos. 610-624 (2 folders)
BOX 7 REEL 5	Unnumbered
BOX 7 REEL 5	1933-1948 (4 folders)
BOX 7 REEL 5	Undated (9 folders)
BOX 8 REEL 5-6	Group 1

Peter Marshall: Sermons, 1933-1948

Container	Contents
BOX 8 REEL 5-6	Nos. 2-487 (some numbers absent) (10 folders)
BOX 8 REEL 8	Peter Marshall: Correspondence, 1927-1956 Family letters and general correspondence of letters sent and received by Peter Marshall. Names and dates of correspondents are listed in an <i>appendix</i> . Arranged by type and therein chronologically. Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 13,847
BOX 8 REEL 6	General, 1937-1948 (3 folders)
BOX 8 REEL 6	Family, 1927-1956, undated
BOX 9-13	Catherine Marshall: Correspondence, 1949-1961 Letters sent and received by Catherine Marshall. Arranged chronologically, with travel correspondence organized according to location and miscellany filed at the end of the series.
BOX 9	Chronological
BOX 9	Jan. 1949-1952 (16 folders)
BOX 10	Feb. 1952-Sept. 1953 (23 folders)
BOX 11	Oct. 1953-Feb. 1957 (23 folders)
BOX 12	Mar. 1957-July 1959 (20 folders)
BOX 13	Aug. 1959-Dec. 1961 (2 folders)
BOX 13	Trips to Scotland (1951), Hollywood, Calif. (1957), Natchez, Miss., California, and Europe (1958) (8 folders)
BOX 13	Miscellany
BOX 14-26	Catherine Marshall: Book and Article File Drafts and production material of Mrs. Marshall's published books and articles and an unpublished work. The manuscript of <i>A Man Called Peter</i> also contains papers concerning the movie version of the work. Arranged by title of work.
BOX 14	<i>Beyond Our Selves</i> (11 folders)
BOX 15	(4 folders)
BOX 16	(1 folder)
BOX 16	<i>The First Easter</i>
BOX 16	<i>Friends with God</i> (2 folders)
BOX 16	<i>God Loves You</i> (4 folders)

Catherine Marshall: Book and Article File

Container	Contents
BOX 17	<i>Let's Keep Christmas</i>
BOX 17	<i>A Man Called Peter</i> (17 folders)
BOX 18	(17 folders)
BOX 19	(15 folders)
BOX 20	(11 folders)
BOX 21	(4 folders)
BOX 22	Correspondence, Nov. 1952-Dec. 1955 (13 folders)
BOX 22	Option agreement, 19 Nov. 1952
BOX 22	Movie conference 4 Dec. 1953
BOX 23	29-30 Apr. 1954
BOX 23	Background (3 folders)
BOX 23	Movie outline
BOX 23	Step sheets (2 folders)
BOX 23	Chapter breakdown
BOX 23	Working script
BOX 24	Working script (3 folders)
BOX 24	First draft continuity
BOX 24	Temporary script
BOX 24	Revised final script
BOX 24	Shooting final script
BOX 24	Miscellany
BOX 24	Printed matter
BOX 25	<i>Mr. Jones, Meet the Master</i>
BOX 25	<i>To Live Again</i> (14 folders)
BOX 26	(2 folders)
BOX 26	Requests to quote from Catherine Marshall's books (6 folders)
BOX 26	"Journal of a Trip to Scotland," unpublished
BOX 26	Articles (3 folders)
BOX 27-31	Scrapbooks (Oversize), 1946-1960 Mainly biographical material about Peter Marshall and publicity relating to the books and movie about him. Arranged in chronological sequence.
BOX OV 27	Peter Marshall's heart attack, 31 Mar. 1946
BOX OV 27	Election as Chaplain of the United States Senate, 31 Dec. 1947
BOX OV 27	Peter Marshall's preaching mission, Neosho, Mo.
BOX OV 28	Senate prayers clipped from the <i>Congressional Record</i> , 6 Jan. 1947-31 Dec. 1948
BOX OV 28	Death of Peter Marshall

Scrapbooks (Oversize), 1946-1960

Container	Contents
BOX OV 29	Publicity and reviews of Catherine Marshall's <i>Mr. Jones, Meet the Master</i> and <i>A Man Called Peter</i> (1951-1952)
BOX OV 30	Publicity relating to <i>A Man Called Peter</i> (1953-1954) and movie scrapbook concerning the film.
BOX OV 31	Catherine Marshall scrapbook (1955-1956)
BOX OV 31	Publicity concerning <i>Prayers of Peter Marshall</i> (1954-1955)
BOX OV 31	Publicity concerning <i>To Live Again</i> (1957-1960)
BOX 32	Addition I, 1932-1946 Miscellaneous sermons, prayers, articles, and seminary papers of Peter Marshall. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 32	Miscellaneous sermons, prayers, articles, and seminary papers (2 folders)
BOX 33-36	Addition II, 1934-1964 Material for sermon ideas, typescripts of sermons and prayers, and miscellany relating to Peter Marshall. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 33	Senate prayers and other invocations
BOX 33	Prayer meeting talks, ideas, outlines, and drafts
BOX 33	Material for sermons
BOX 33	Alcohol
BOX 33	Biblical criticism
BOX 33	Books of the Bible, outline studies
BOX 33	Church and war
BOX 33	Doctrines
BOX 34	Education
BOX 34	Immigration
BOX 34	Marriage and divorce
BOX 34	Poems
BOX 34	Prayer
BOX 34	Predestination
BOX 34	Sacraments
BOX 34	Stewardship
BOX 34	Suicide
BOX 34	Worship
BOX 34	Notes, outlines and clippings (1 folder)
BOX 35	(3 folders)
BOX 36	Sermons
BOX 36	<i>Scottish Sermons and Addresses</i> , galley proofs
BOX 36	Miscellany
BOX 36	Church records, weddings, baptisms, funerals
BOX 36	Doctor of divinity, degree, Presbyterian College, S.C., 1938
BOX 36	Seminary class notes
BOX 36	General

Appendix: Index to Peter Marshall: Correspondence Series

General

Rustin, John W. to PM [Peter Marshall], Sept. 21, 1937
Harris, Frederick Brown to PM, Oct. 7, 1937
Stokes, Anson Phelps to PM, Oct. 7, 1937
Hughes, Edwin H. to PM, Oct. 25, 1937
Sprunt, Thomas P. to PM, June 14, 1938, with enclosure: reports of diagnoses study
McCartney, Albert Joseph to PM, Nov. 12, 1938
Peacock, Virginia to PM, Mar. 18, 1939
Marshall, Peter to Florence Lambert, May 4, 1945
Marshall, Peter to Mrs. Lionel Nutter, Oct. 3, 1945
Nutter, Mrs. Lionel to PM, Sept. 18, 1945
Hoover, J. Edgar to PM, Apr. 1, 1946
Hassett, William D. to PM, Apr. 3, 1946
Berghoefer, Bruce K. to PM, June 1, 1946
Hagedorn, Hermann to PM, Nov. 27, 1946
Sherier, James to PM, undated [telegram]
Loeffler, Carl A. to PM, Jan. 5, 1947 [telegram]
White House to Rev. & Mrs. Peter Marshall, Feb. 8-18, 1947
Truman, President and Mrs. Harry S. to Rev. & Mrs. Peter Marshall, Feb. 18, 1947
Hoover, J. Edgar to PM, Apr. 1, 1947
Wiatrak, Edward T. to PM, June 10, 1947
Marshall, Peter to unknown-Dear Betty, Aug. 13, 1947
Anderson, Howard Stone to New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, Washington, D.C., Oct. 13, 1947
Truman, Harry S. to Samuel Estill Whitaker, Apr. 1, 1948
Marshall, Peter to unknown-My Dear Miss Mary, May 28, 1948
Grapes, Maude to PM, Nov. 24, 1948
Haines, Dorothy L. to PM, undated

Family

Marshall, Peter to Barbara Marshall, June 20, 1927 [postcard]
Marshall, Sarah Catherine to Mother and Dad, undated [4 letters]
Marshall, Catherine to PM, Jr., Jan. 21, 1956
Marshall, Peter, Jr. to Catherine Marshall, July 7, 1947 [postcard]
Marshall, Peter [Sr.] to Catherine Marshall, undated