



PAYNE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Library awarded an OHRAB grant

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WILBERFORCE, OHIO — Payne Theology Seminary has been awarded a \$1,960 grant from the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board (OHRAB). Eleven Ohio institutions were awarded partial or full funding to support archival historic -preservation projects. The grant-dollar awards ranged from \$534 to \$2000.

Payne's archivist, Shaneé Murrain said the seminary will use the grant to purchase archival management software to accurately count the items in the archive and prepare materials for scanning with its online library initiative with New Jersey-based Princeton Theological Seminary. She will also receive training on how to use the software and preserve two special manuscript collections in the archive. The result of the joint, intralibrary venture will allow Payne, a smaller seminary to bring its digital archive collection to a broader audience by utilizing Princeton's larger, more complex digital library.

The user-friendly, web-based library is expected to launch later this month. So soon – anyone, anywhere, will be able to retrieve digital archives about Payne and the A.M.E church by simply visiting the Princeton Theological Commons. Users will be able to view materials related to the A.M.E. denomination and a selection of Payne archive materials that showcase the breadth and depth of our holdings, Murrain said. Examples will include blueprints, handwritten manuscripts, fragile books, bulletins, and photos that date back to the 1800's.

“So much of what I do here is about preserving history and making it accessible,” Murrain added. “The documents on Princeton's Theological Commons will enrich our student experience, and make the Payne Theological Seminary history accessible to all.”

To access historical documents from Payne Theological Seminary visit the Princeton Theological Seminary Theological Commons on the World Wide Web at <http://digilib.ptsem.edu/>

OHRAB's regrant funding program is supported by funds obtained from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC). Through OHRAB's regrant application process, funding is provided to institutions and local groups to assist in the preservation of archives and historic collections.

About Payne Theological Seminary: Payne Theological Seminary, founded by the African Methodist Episcopal Church (1894), is dedicated to the preparation of African American and other leaders for ministry in the tradition of liberation, reconciliation, social justice, and the dignity of all humankind. Located in Wilberforce, Ohio, Payne is one of the oldest Black seminaries primarily concerned with the training of men and women for the ministry. Payne is proud to be the first Black Seminary in the United States with an on-line Master of Divinity Program.

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