



**HONORARY MEMBERSHIP**

**FOR**

**REVERED JASPER GREEN PENNINGTON**

The PRA Bylaws, Article II, Section 2.04 describes the process for awarding honorary membership. It says;

“From time to time, the Board may recognize outstanding contributions to the field of genealogical research by bestowing an Honorary Membership to such a person. No dues shall be charged but such members shall have all of the same rights and privileges, as does an active member.”

I am proud to nominate Revered Jasper Green Pennington to be a Pennington Research Association Honorary Member. He has made outstanding contributions to the field of genealogical research by serving on the Board of Directors of the Pennington Research Association for many years and helping develop a new vision and mission for the Pennington Research Association and for his significant efforts in creating the Pennington Research Association’s Archive and Library at Earlham College, Indiana. Without his effort and hard work, the Pennington Research Association would not have been able to accomplish its’ mission.

Specifically, he:

- Worked tirelessly to create the plans and develop the proposal to establish the Pennington Research Association’s Archive and Library.
- Meet with the Archivists at Earlham College on several occasions to work out the details to establish our new Archive and Library.
- Traveled several times to our new Archive and Library to deliver material for the new project.
- Reviewed material submitted by Pennington Research Association Members to our new Archive and Library to ensure an inventory of the material was maintained.

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- Donated hundreds of personal manuscripts, books and other archival genealogy research material to the Archives and Library.
- Helped to develop a new vision and mission for the Pennington Research Association.
- Helped move the Pennington Research Association into the new cyber world of the Internet.
- Actively participated in yearly meeting of the Board of Directors and Membership meetings.
- Hosted Pennington Research Association Reunion/Meetings in 2004 and in 2006.
- Made several presentations at our annual Pennington Research Association Reunion/Meetings.
- Served as the Minister of the Pennington Research Association and lead us in the Necrology and Remembrance Services at the conclusion of each Reunion.

### ***Background***

Revered Jasper Green Pennington joined the Pennington Research Association in 1968 and served on our Board of Directors from 2003 to March 2012. He was our first Archivist and held the position from 2002 until March 2012 and is the Group Leader for Group 27. Jasper was one of our hosts for our annual Reunion/Meeting in 2004 and 2006. Jasper is a member of Group 6.

Jasper first began correspondence with Bea Holmes (our founder) in January 1966 and his family line appeared in Pennington Pedigrees, Volume II #1, in 1972. Jasper notes in his biographical article that his family nickname is Jack and some of his contributions in those early days are noted under that name. Jasper adds that in looking over his correspondence he noted that he had suggested plans for a permanent housing of the Pennington materials in 1966 and Bea liked the idea. It only took a few years to finally make that possible!

Jasper helped with the creation of a new mission statement and goals for the Pennington Research Association during his tenure as Board Member. Those goals and objectives have been our guide from 2003 until today. Jasper has been a strong supporter of our move towards digitizing all our publications and being able to share them with all our Members. Jasper worked for many years to help the PRA and our Members to continually upgrade the quality and documentation of articles.

Jasper has attended almost every Pennington Research Association Reunion/Meeting during his tenure as Archivist and Board Member.

The Reverend Dr. Jasper Green Pennington born in 1939 in Clio, Genesee County, Michigan and son of Walter Columbus Pennington (Family Group VI) and Hazel Sutton Moshier Pennington. Jasper holds degrees in history, music, library science and

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theology. Jasper did his Theological studies at the School of Theology, University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee. He is the Retired Historiographer of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester, New York and of the Diocese of Michigan. In 2001 Jasper retired as Rector of St. Luke's Church, Ypsilanti, Michigan after 18 years. He is a writer on local and family history. Jasper corresponded with Bee Holmes in 1968 while at Sewanee and then began serious genealogical research compiling an ongoing series of family history papers entitled *PENNINGTON PAPERS*. A number of these are deposited at Earlham College in the Pennington Archives. He does active work in historic preservation including the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission. He served for twenty-two years as Trustee of Historic Highland Cemetery, Ypsilanti, Michigan. He has served as the Archivist, Pennington Research Association since the Archives was created in 2002. Jasper and his wife Carole Cecile Lynch Pennington will celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on October 13, 2012. They have three children, Amy Pennington-Boyce, Thomas and Sarah and two grandchildren, Ian & D'Arcy Pennington-Boyce.

Reverend Jasper Green Pennington's complete biography is attached to this document.

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## The Reverend Jasper Green Pennington

My interest in family history began when I was young and listened to my parents and grandparents tell their stories. Both of my parents knew a lot about their families and while much of the information scrambled my brains to some extent, it stimulated an interest which has continued throughout my life. I was born on 20 March 1939 in my great-grandfather's house in Clio, Genesee County, Michigan. My maternal great-grandparents Thomas and Caroline Sutton Moshier had a host of relatives and entanglements so that I sometimes questions their legality! I went to the same school as my grandfather and mother and my two brothers and two sisters and graduated with many that I had known since kindergarten. I went to college at the University of Michigan and Western Michigan University with majors in music and history. I finished a graduate degree in library science in 1968 and began working as Government Documents Librarian at the University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee. That school owned by over twenty of the dioceses of the Episcopal Church had many connections and "cousins" whom I got to know. Mrs. Edwina Whiteside and her grandson, Heustis Pennington Whiteside, Rachel Gibson of Atlanta and Sewanee, Penny Floyd, of Duck Hill, Mississippi and the Reverend Dr. Edgar Legare Pennington were all part of the family data bank that I found at Sewanee. The area of research which stimulated me most was the compilation of a Pennington Bibliography which opened for me some of the wide and diverse range of interests and occupations of Penningtons in the English-speaking world. As the compilation grew I began to make contacts with some of these Penningtons and also to build a library of their writings. The Pennington Bibliography project continues today as I find new items to add to it.

While at Sewanee in 1968 I began a correspondence with Bea Holmes and with her lending library began to acquire new family connections. During those years from 1968-1973 Bea and I corresponded about a place for the materials being collected. While we discussed several locations it was not until the Pennington Research Association, Inc. was founded that Earlham College became the place for our archives. Bea and I also discussed the need to continually upgrade the quality and documentation of articles. This proved to be a sore point for some members who did not fully understand that genealogical studies are always in a state of revision and rewriting as new information is found and new documentation is located. Family legends and other stories are useful and often entertaining but deeds, birth certificates, wills and other documents are necessary to basic genealogy. I think now in 2012 Bea would be pleased to see how well the Pennington Research Association, Inc. has continued the work so enthusiastically begun in the 1960s. The establishment of the Pennington Archives at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana has fulfilled the concerns we had voiced in the 1960s.

From Sewanee I went to Rochester, New York as Library Director and Associated Professor at St. Bernard's Roman Catholic Seminary (part of the ecumenical Rochester Center for Theological Studies) where I stayed until the institution was closed in 1981 amidst a good deal

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of controversy. While at St. Bernard's I was active as Historiographer for the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester and in forming archival collections in institutions belonging to the American Theological Libraries Association, a branch of the American Library Association. I was also curate at Church of the Ascension in Rochester and vicar of St. John's Church, Clifton Springs, New York while in Rochester. At St. Bernard's I began a collection of the writings, radio and television shows, correspondence, newspaper clippings and so on of Bishop Fulton John Sheen, a great pioneer of both the radio and television industry in this county. Bishop Sheen who had been Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester supported my work and came to St. Bernard's to dedicate a room for his archives. The Sheen Library and Archives is now part of the collections of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester.

After St. Bernard's was closed in 1981 I worked for two years as Rector of St. Alban's Church, Cape Elizabeth, Maine before coming back to Michigan to be Rector of St. Luke's Church here in Ypsilanti, Michigan. The parish was founded in 1830 before the State of Michigan and its early clergy and members provided much fruit for historical research. My work here as Historiographer of the Diocese involved me in the care and preservation of historical records and their care and in advising parishes about safe depositories. I began a series of papers about family and local history and some of these have been published as *Pennington Papers* and are deposited at the Pennington Archives at Earlham and at the Bentley Library on the campus of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. I traveled a good deal over the years for professional reasons and invariably found new items to add to my *Pennington Bibliography* as I searched library catalogs.

During 1995 I visited the Holy Land and in 1987 and 1988 was one of the participants in the United States Council of Churches Leadership Program visiting Russia as part of the 1000<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Russian Orthodox Church. Here in Ypsilanti I served for twenty years as a Trustee of Historic Highland Cemetery and continue to be a Commissioner of the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission.

My wife and I are celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on 13 October. We were married in our parish church, St. Paul's, in Flint, Michigan in 1962. We have three children and two grand-children. When our oldest daughter was christened in 1963 she had thirteen grandparents alive (one being a step-grandmother). All of these relatives had interesting family backgrounds and shared a good deal of it with us. We count ourselves blessed to have had these relationships. They included Ackerman, Anderson, Beatenhead, Clark, Faber, Forschner, Gunnels, Kelly, Lee, Like, Lynch, Macfarlane, Moshier, Pennington, Prime, Rodery, Sellers, Shannon, Sims and Wallace family members. My personal archives housed here in my study contain information about all of them.