

Glenn F. Chesnut – Résumé

Ancient history, historical theology, the history of ideas,
and (since 1993) research in modern alcoholism studies
as well as writings on philosophy and spirituality

Fields of publication

Ancient history, late Roman Empire.

Early Christianity (second-sixth centuries) and its Greco-Roman background (including the history of Romano-Hellenistic philosophy and political theory, and Greek and Roman historiography and philosophy of history).

Early medieval historiography and philosophy of history, later medieval philosophical theology.

And more recently: the history, theory, and spirituality of alcoholism treatment and the Twelve Step program in the twentieth century.

Degrees

D.Phil.	1971	Oxford University
B.D.	1964	Southern Methodist University (Perkins School of Theology) <i>magna cum laude</i>
	1960-61	Iowa State University, doctoral program in chemistry and nuclear physics
B.S.	1960	University of Louisville, graduated second in my class, <i>summa cum laude</i>

Experience

Director of the Hindsfoot Foundation, founded in 1993 for publishing works on the history and theory of alcoholism treatment and the moral and spiritual dimensions of recovery

Professor, History Department, Indiana University South Bend, 1970-2003 (dept. chairman 1982-4)

Professor of History and Professor of Theology (Visiting), Boston University, 1984-5

Co-director of the American branch of the French scholarly press Éditions Beauchesne, 1977-80

Acting Assistant Professor, Department of Religion, University of Virginia, 1968-70

Preceptor in Greek and Philosophy, graduate theology program, Southern Methodist University, 1964-65

Ordained United Methodist minister, 1964-present

Awards

Herman Frederic Lieber Award for excellence in teaching (eight-campus IU system): 1988

Rome Prize (*Prix de Rome*) in Classics: 1978, Fellow of the American Academy in Rome 1978-9

American Society of Church History biennial Philip Schaff Prize competition for 1978-9: special award for the best book on church history written by a North American historian

Fulbright Fellowship to Oxford University: 1965-6, 1966-7

Dempster Fellowship to Oxford University: 1966-7

Rockefeller Doctoral Fellowship to Oxford University: 1967-8

Books

Glenn F. Chesnut, *The First Christian Histories: Eusebius, Socrates, Sozomen, Theodoret, and Evagrius* (Paris: Editions Beauchesne, 1977). The historiographical principles and historical theories of the great ecclesiastical historians of the period from Constantine to Justinian, together with the alternative theories of Augustine, which provided the foundations of medieval historiography for the next thousand years. The spirituality of divine grace, the powers of evil, and human decision-making.

Second edition, revised and enlarged (Macon GA: Mercer University Press, 1986). It has become one of the three classic works in its field (when Mercer temporarily let it fall out of print some years ago, book dealers were soon selling the few still-available copies for \$150 to \$170; Mercer now keeps the reprinted version continuously in print, so it costs only \$43).

Glenn F. Chesnut, *Images of Christ: An Introduction to Christology* (San Francisco: Harper & Row/Seabury Press, 1984). Sections of it are still being used for anthologies for courses at universities in other parts of the country.

Glenn C., *The Factory Owner & the Convict* (South Bend, Indiana: Hindsfoot Foundation, 1996). A historical account of the beginnings of the A.A. movement in South Bend and Elkhart, Indiana, during the 1940's and 1950's, based on the autobiographical memoirs and speeches of the South Bend factory owner and author Kenneth Merrill, the ex-convict Nicholas Kowalski, and other early local leaders. Second printing 1997. (Third printing, in two vols., in 2005.)

Glenn F. Chesnut, *The Higher Power of the Twelve-Step Program: For Believers & Non-Believers*, Hindsfoot Foundation Series on Spirituality and Theology (San Jose: Authors Choice/iUniverse, 2001).

Sgt. Bill S. with Glenn F. Chesnut, *On the Military Firing Line in the Alcoholism Treatment Program: The Air Force Sergeant Who Beat Alcoholism and Taught Others to Do the Same*, Hindsfoot Foundation Series on the History of Alcoholism Treatment (New York: iUniverse, 2003).

William E. Swegan was by my time the only surviving member of that important wing of early A.A. which stressed the psychological aspects of the A.A. program instead of the spiritual dimension (he was in fact a total atheist, even at the age of 90). During the early 1950's in San Antonio, Texas, he and prominent American psychiatrist Louis Jolyon "Jolly" West developed the Lackland Model of alcoholism treatment, which has been one of the three basic models used in modern American alcoholism treatment. The success story which he and West related in the *American Journal of Psychiatry* in 1956 was distributed all across the country by the National Council on Alcoholism.

Louis Jolyon West (1924-1999) eventually went to UCLA in Los Angeles, California, where he became Professor and Chairman of the Department of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences; Psychiatrist-in-Chief at the UCLA Hospital and Clinics; and Director of the Neuropsychiatric Institute at the UCLA Center for the Health Sciences. West gained additional fame as the psychiatrist who discovered the inner psychological mechanisms used in the Chinese brain-washing techniques employed on American prisoners of war in Korea. In the trial of Patty Hearst in 1976, he testified that she had been brain-washed by her captors, the urban guerrilla group called the Symbionese Liberation Army, and that she should not be held legally responsible for participating with them in bank robbery.

Glenn C., *The Factory Owner & the Convict*, Vol. 1 of *Lives and Teachings of the A.A. Old Timers*, 2nd ed., Hindsfoot Foundation Series on Alcoholics Anonymous History (New York: iUniverse, 2005).

Glenn C., *The St. Louis Gambler & the Railroad Man*, Vol. 2 of *Lives and Teachings of the A.A. Old Timers*, 2nd ed., Hindsfoot Foundation Series on Alcoholics Anonymous History (New York: iUniverse, 2005).

Glenn F. Chesnut, *Changed by Grace: V. C. Kitchen, the Oxford Group, and A.A.*, Hindsfoot Foundation Series on Spirituality and Theology (New York: iUniverse, 2006). **A description of the Oxford Group and its theories and practices**, together with an analysis of its formative influence on Bill Wilson and Dr. Bob Smith, the founders of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Changed by Grace is on Bishop's list of the Top Fifty Books published over the last century which are recommended in order to understand the history of the Alcoholics Anonymous movement.

Glenn F. Chesnut, *God and Spirituality: Philosophical Essays*, Hindsfoot Foundation Series on Spirituality and Theology (New York: iUniverse, 2010).

William E. Swegan with Glenn F. Chesnut, Ph.D., *The Psychology of Alcoholism*, Hindsfoot Foundation Series on the History of Alcoholism Treatment (New York: iUniverse, 2011) — a second edition of the Sgt. Bill book which first appeared in 2003.

The Psychology of Alcoholism is on Bishop's list of the Top Sixty-One Books published over

the last century which are recommended in order to understand the history of the Alcoholics Anonymous movement.

Glenn F. Chesnut, *Father Ed Dowling: Bill Wilson's Sponsor*, Hindsfoot Foundation (Bloomington, Indiana: iUniverse, 2015). The life and teaching of Father Ed Dowling, S.J., the Jesuit priest who served for twenty years as sponsor and spiritual guide to Bill Wilson, the co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous.

The *Father Dowling* book is on Bishop's list of the Top Hundred Books published over the last century which are recommended in order to understand the history of the Alcoholics Anonymous movement.

Glenn F. Chesnut, *Father Ralph Pfau and the Golden Books: The Path to Recovery from Alcoholism and Drug Addiction*, Hindsfoot Foundation (Bloomington, Indiana: iUniverse, January, 2017). This is the first major study of Father Ralph Pfau, one of AA's four most-published and most-formative authors during the new movement's earliest thirty years, during which it grew from only 100 members to almost 300,000. When he joined Alcoholics Anonymous in 1943 while serving as a priest in Indianapolis, he became the first Roman Catholic priest to get sober in the newly formed movement.

Glenn C. (South Bend, Indiana), *Heroes of Early Black AA: Their Stories and Their Messages* (San Francisco and South Bend: Hindsfoot Foundation, July 2017).

The first full-length study in print of African-Americans in early A.A., told wherever possible in their own words, recorded freely and frankly. The story begins with St. Louis (January 24, 1945); followed by Chicago (March 20, 1945), along with the factory and foundry towns (including South Bend) which spread eastwards from Chicago as suburbs. Later that same year (April 1945) came the story of Dr. James C. Scott, Jr., M.D., the black physician who founded the first black A.A. group in the nation's capital, and was the first black A.A. member to get his story in the Big Book. The book concludes with the story of Joe McQuany (March 10, 1962) of the Joe and Charlie tapes, the most famous black figure in A.A. History. The lives of thousands and thousands of alcoholics around the world were saved by listening to recordings of his careful page-by-page explanation of the message of the Big Book.

Includes the stories of four people from the Michiana area: Jimmy Miller (South Bend) First Lady of Black A.A. — Harold Brown "Brownie" (South Bend) — Goshen Bill — John Shaifer (Gary).

Glenn F. Chesnut, *A.A. Meetings in Akron and Cleveland 1938-1942* (San Francisco and South Bend: Hindsfoot Foundation, August 2017).

The first book to collect all this historical material in organized fashion in one place: how old-time A.A. meetings were conducted back in the early days (citing eyewitness accounts from the time) and what was being taught in Alcoholics Anonymous meetings in Akron and Cleveland during that formative period.

In addition, in the last half of the book, sections on the four different spiritual traditions that early A.A. drew upon: (1) Oxford Group, (2) early American frontier revivalism, (3) Emmet Fox and New Thought, and (4) the classical Protestant liberalism of the Southern Methodist-published *Upper Room* with its emphasis upon the religion of the heart, the rejection of rigid doctrines and dogmas, a turning away from the world of soaring Gothic cathedrals and authoritarian religious leaders dressed in ornate

robes, and the refusal to allow material wealth to contaminate the realm of the true spiritual life.

Glenn F. Chesnut, *Infinity and the Proofs for the Existence of God*, Hindsfoot Foundation (Bloomington, Indiana: iUniverse, 2019).

Edited

Nancy Olson, *With a Lot of Help from Our Friends: The Politics of Alcoholism*, ed. Glenn F. Chesnut, Hindsfoot Foundation Series on the History of Alcoholism Treatment (New York: Writers Club/iUniverse, 2003). On the passing and implementation of the Hughes Act (the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment, and Rehabilitation Act of 1970), one of the two most important and consequential pieces of U.S. government legislation on alcoholism of the twentieth century (the other being Prohibition, which unlike the Hughes Act, was a failure). Nancy Olson was the chief senatorial aide in charge of alcoholism legislation for Senator Harold Hughes.

Richard M. Dubiel, *The Road to Fellowship: The Role of the Emmanuel Movement and the Jacoby Club in the Development of Alcoholics Anonymous*, ed. Glenn F. Chesnut, Hindsfoot Foundation Series on the History of Alcoholism Treatment (New York: iUniverse, 2004).

Annette R. Smith, Ph.D., *The Social World of Alcoholics Anonymous: How It Works*, introd. by Linda Farris Kurtz, DPA (Professor at Eastern Michigan University School of Social Work, author of *Self-Help and Support Groups: A Handbook for Practitioners*), ed. Glenn F. Chesnut, Hindsfoot Foundation Series on Treatment and Recovery (New York: iUniverse, 2007).

As Director of the Hindsfoot Foundation, I also oversaw the publication of two books by the number one historian of Alcoholics Anonymous: Ernest Kurtz, *Shame & Guilt*, second edition, revised and updated, 2007; and Ernest Kurtz, *The Collected Ernie Kurtz*, 2008. Also a book by the number two historian of Alcoholics Anonymous: Mel Barger, *Three Recovery Classics*, 2004.

Editor of *The Northern Indiana Archival Bulletin* 1998-2001.

Fifty Books Tracing AA's History

Charles Bishop, Jr., the noted antiquarian book dealer and bibliographer who assembled the collection of 15,000 books, pamphlets, and other printed materials published by and about the A.A. movement, which became the nucleus of the world famous Chester H. Kirk Collection on Alcoholism and Alcoholics Anonymous at Brown University, prepared a list of what he believed to be the fifty best books to read for a good understanding of A.A. history, ranging from William James's *The Varieties of Religious Experience* (1902) to the present.

Glenn F. Chesnut authored one of those books, co-authored a second book, and edited two others on Bishop's Top Fifty List, so that he is reckoned as having had a hand in producing four of the best fifty books written in this field during the past century:

- Glenn F. Chesnut, *Changed by Grace: V. C. Kitchen, the Oxford Group, and A.A.* (2006)
- Sgt. Bill S. with Glenn F. Chesnut, Ph.D., *On the Military Firing Line in the Alcoholism Treatment Program* (Hindsfoot 2003)
- Nancy Olson, *With a Lot of Help from Our Friends: The Politics of Alcoholism* (Hindsfoot 2003)
- Richard M. Dubiel, *The Road to Fellowship: The Role of the Emmanuel Movement and the Jacoby Club in the Development of Alcoholics Anonymous* (Hindsfoot 2004)

In 2016, Bishop published an extended version of that list, entitled *100 Best Books on Alcoholism & Recovery*.

- This list also included Chesnut's *God and Spirituality: Philosophical Essays*, saying (p. 86) "Searching for God through three thousand years of history, the author introduces an amazing diversity of life experiences and the great traditions of spirituality. Clarity of thought, penetrating logic, historical accuracy, worthwhile for the courageous and searching. Often cites the wisdom of the A.A. Big Book."
- Also Chesnut's *Father Ed Dowling: Bill Wilson's Sponsor*, where Bishop said (p. 76), "This Jesuit priest served as sponsor and spiritual guide to Bill Wilson. Dowling taught Bill Loyola's *Spiritual Exercises* and the two discussed Huxley's *Perennial Philosophy* and Poulain's *Graces of Interior Prayer*. Dowling helped Bill turn his book on the Twelve Traditions into a Bill of Rights for the Fellowship. Dowling's talk at the 1955 A.A. International Convention in St. Louis was a spiritual vision for A.A."

Articles

My first article published in a scholarly journal was Richard H. Wiley, R. L. S. Patterson, G. F. Chesnut, and E. Grünhut, Department of Chemistry, University of Louisville (1964) "The Gamma-Irradiation-Induced Decomposition of Amides in Carbon Tetrachloride." *Radiation Research*: June 1964, Vol. 22, No. 2, pp. 253-263.

See <http://www.rrjournal.org/doi/abs/10.2307/3571657?code=rrs-site&journalCode=rare>

My part in this research was first written up as Glenn F. Chesnut, "Some Radiation-Induced Reactions of Amide Carbon Tetrachloride Systems," my senior thesis at the University of Louisville (May 1960).

After finishing my degree in theology at Oxford, I have had numerous articles published in *Church History*, *Anglican Theological Review*, *Vigiliae Christianae*, *Second Century: Journal of Early Christian Studies*, and *Religious Studies Review*; in encyclopedias such as the *Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible* and the *Anchor Bible Dictionary*; and in volumes such as *Our Common History as Christians*, *Aufstieg und Niedergang der Römischen Welt*, *A Century of Church History: The Legacy of Philip Schaff 1888-1988*, and *Eusebius, Christianity, and Judaism*.

Circa 1986–1988: After publishing my book *Images of Christ* in 1984, which went through the past 2000 years and discussed all the various understandings by different Christian groups of the person and work of Christ, I went to spend a year as (visiting) Professor of History and Professor of Theology at Boston University in 1984–85. When I returned to Indiana, I began working on a book tentatively called *The Names of God*, where I hoped to write something similar to the *Images of Christ* book, only about the various different western conceptions of God which had been put forward over the past 1600 years. I began circa 1986–1988 by working on Locke and Kant, then studying Rudolf Otto's *The Idea of the Holy*, where I discovered that this was a far more difficult topic than a book on the

person and work of Christ.

In fact, I did not start coming up with what I regarded as a good historical and philosophical analysis until over twelve years later, in my books on *The Higher Power* (2001) and *Changed by Grace* (2006), and especially in my book on *God and Spirituality* (2010).

But in the late 1980's and early 1990's, I spent also spent part of my time working, not on book-length publications, but on shorter projects:

“A Century of Patristic Studies 1888–1988,” in Henry Warner Bowden (ed.), *A Century of Church History* (Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 1988), pp. 36–73, part of the centennial celebration of the founding of the American Society of Church History, an organization in which I have sat on major committees. This project required me to cover what was in part, for me, some new ground: the world of late nineteenth-century philosophical theology.

“Eusebius, Augustine, Orosius, and the Later Patristic and Medieval Christian Histories,” in Harold W. Attridge and Gohei Hata (eds.), *Eusebius, Christianity, and Judaism* (Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1992), pp. 687–713. Published simultaneously in translation in Japanese. In this long article, I covered some new ground, and carried my work on early philosophy of history into the middle ages, dealing with Orosius, the Venerable Bede, Gregory of Tours' History of the Franks, Otto of Freising's Chronicle and History of the Two Cities, Joinville's Life of St. Louis, etc.

Three public lectures, under the aegis of the Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, on the eighteenth-century theologian John Wesley (the Oxford University classics scholar and theologian who founded the Methodist movement) and his use of the philosophical and psychological theories of John Locke and Jonathan Edwards: “John Wesley's Aldersgate Experience: What Was He Converted From and To?” “Methodists and Obsessions: John Wesley's Use of John Locke's Theory of the Association of Ideas to Deal with the Problem of Obsessive Thoughts and Compulsive Behavior,” “The Origins of the Methodist Movement.”

Also a short 20-minute paper on “Wesley: the Path to Salvation,” given as a response to the paper on that topic by Timothy George (Dean of Beeson Divinity School) at the Mennonite biblical seminary on February 20, 1992.

From 2007 to the present, I have published the following articles:

Glenn Chesnut, “The Names of God,” *STEPS: A Magazine of Hope and Healing for Christians in Recovery* (pub. by The National Association of Christians in Recovery, Brea, California, associated with Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California), Vol. 16, No. 4 (2007): 14-18.

28-page “Introduction” by Glenn F. Chesnut, September 27, 2008, to the new online edition of the Oxford Group author Philip Leon's *The Philosophy of Courage* (originally published in 1939 by Oxford University

Press), pages 2-29 at <http://stepstudy.files.wordpress.com/2008/09/philosophyofcourage.pdf>

Glenn Chesnut, “Human Friendship as a Channel for Grace: Bill Wilson and Father Ed Dowling, S.J.,” *Human Development* magazine 39.2 (Winter 2019) 96-107.

From 2004 to the present, a number of articles have also been published on the Hindsfoot Foundation website:

“The God-Shaped Hole in the Human Soul,” January 21, 2006, a very popular article which is regularly read by over 4,000 people a year.

“The Names of God: how to find a God of our understanding,” September 10, 2006, a very popular article which is regularly read by at least 3,000 people a year.

“Richmond Walker and the Twenty-Four Hour Book,” April 15, 2004, the only lengthy account in print at that time of the life and work of the second most published A.A. author.

“Ralph Pfau (Father John Doe) and the Golden Books,” April 20, 2004, other than Father Pfau’s own autobiography, the only lengthy account in print at that time of the life and work of the third most published A.A. author.

“Early Black A.A. along the Chicago-Gary-South Bend Axis: The Stories and Memories of Early Black Leaders Told in Their Own Words,” December 26, 2004. Chicago was the home of the second successful black A.A. group, and South Bend was the home of the early black A.A. group about which we have by far the most information. Based on Glenn F. Chesnut’s interviews of the founders of the South Bend group and their early followers, and one of the earliest members of the Chicago group, who traveled over on weekends to help out the South Benders during the formative period.

“The A.A. Prison Group Founded in 1944 at the Indiana State Prison at Michigan City,” December 20, 2004, on one of the two best-known early A.A. prison groups.

Arthur S. (Arlington, Texas), Tom E. (Wappingers Falls, New York), and Glenn C. (South Bend, Indiana), “Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) Recovery Outcome Rates: Contemporary Myth and Misinterpretation,” January 1, 2008, demonstrates (from A.A.’s own triennial membership surveys) that 56% of those in their first year who had completed 90 days in the program were still attending meetings at the end of that year. The biggest drop-off occurs in those who attend two or three meetings and then quit without seriously trying to work the program. This article gives the figures that are now quoted in most of the responsible scholarly work in the field.

““Psychological vs. Spiritual Interpretations of A.A.,” May 28, 2004, on the split in early A.A. which emerged at the time of the writing of Alcoholics Anonymous (the A.A. “Big Book”) in 1938-39.

“Classical Protestant Liberalism and Early A.A.,” June 9, 2004.

“*The Upper Room* and Early A.A.,” July 27, 2004, on the influence on the development of early A.A. of the liberal Protestant and Methodist ideas found in the popular Southern Methodist meditational pamphlet called *The Upper Room*.

“The Earliest Printings of Richmond Walker’s *Twenty-Four Hours a Day*,” August 22, 2004, with photos from the collection of Jack H. (Scottsdale, Arizona).

“J. D. Holmes and the First A.A. Group in Indiana: Evansville April-May 1940,” December 29, 2004.

“Doherty Sheerin and the Founding of A.A. in Indianapolis: October 28, 1940,” December 29, 2004.

Newly discovered photos of Father Ralph Pfau (the third most-published A.A. author) from the Archdiocesan Archives in Indianapolis, February 28, 2005.

Previously unpublished photos of Richmond Walker and his family, March 3, 2005, obtained from one of Walker’s two surviving children.

“The Virtues and the Vices,” March 21, 2005, on the various lists of virtues and vices found in early A.A. spiritual writings.

“In Memoriam: Nancy Moyer Olson” (September 18, 1929-March 25, 2005), written shortly after her death. She was the founder of the AAHistoryLovers, author of *With a Lot of Help from Our Friends: The Politics of Alcoholism*, and the U.S. Senate aide who was in charge of coordinating the passing of the Hughes Act, the most successful alcoholism legislation of the twentieth century.

“Twelve-Step Meditation in the A.A. Big Book and the 12 & 12,” November 26, 2006, including material on Transcendental Meditation and the use of mantras, the Oxford Group use of automatic writing to obtain guidance, the St. Francis Prayer, guided imagery, the psychologist Edmund Jacobson’s method of progressive relaxation, and Emmet Fox’s *The Golden Key*.

“Learning to See the Sacred Dimension of Reality: Rudolf Otto and the Idea of the Holy, Part 1,” May 14, 2009, the great early twentieth-century scholar of comparative religions.

“The Seven Faces of the Experience of the Divine Reality: Rudolf Otto and the Idea of the Holy, Part 2,” May 14, 2009.

“The Ground of Being: God and the Big Bang,” May 19, 2009, on the relationship between the existentialist concept of the ground of being (Martin Heidegger, Paul Tillich, etc.) and the modern physicists’ theory of the Big Bang.

Moderator of the AAHL

Chesnut served as the Moderator of the AAHL (AA History Lovers) online group at

<http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/AAHistoryLovers/>, which was the most important international clearing house for new information on the history of Alcoholics Anonymous, from 2005–2016. It had almost 3,000 members and many more regular readers from all around the world (U.S., Canada, U.K., Ireland, Mexico, India, Denmark, Belgium, Finland, etc.). The majority of the best historians in the field were members and contributed to its postings.

The archival collection of the postings to this group forms one of the four or five most important archives for the study of the history of early Alcoholics Anonymous.

The group was started in 2000 by Nancy Moyer Olson, who served as moderator until her death in 2005, when Glenn F. Chesnut (who along with Ernest Kurtz, the leading A.A. historian, had been serving as her advisors) replaced her as moderator. Olson had played an important role in the U.S. Senate in passing and implementing the Hughes Act during the 1970's, the most important piece of alcoholism legislation in the twentieth century after the Prohibition era.

Speeches and addresses

Invited speeches and addresses at numerous national and international conferences, and at universities such as the University of Chicago, Northwestern University, and Southern Methodist University.

Some of the more recent include:

“The Higher Power of the Twelve-Step Program: For Believers & Non-Believers,” Northern Indiana Counselors Association, October 21, 1999, South Bend, Indiana.

“J.D. Holmes and the First A.A. Group in Indiana,” at the archives workshop held at the Courthouse Annex in Peru, Indiana on March 25, 2000.

“The Golden Books: A.A. author Ralph Pfau (Father John Doe),” 6th National Archives Workshop, Louisville, Kentucky, September 29, 2001. Father Pfau, from Indianapolis, was one of the four most-published early A.A. authors. He was the first Roman Catholic priest to get sober in A.A. His writings were mostly based on talks and conducted spiritual retreats which he gave all over the U.S. and Canada.

“Richmond Walker, Author of the Twenty-Four Hour Book,” 8th National Archives Workshop, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, September 27, 2003. Walker (from a wealthy and politically powerful family in Boston, Massachusetts) was one of the four most-published early A.A. authors. His principal book, which came out in 1948, and quickly became the most widely-read introduction to God and spirituality for early A.A., was partially reacting to his father Joseph Walker, who was one of the country's leading atheists, and a prominent signer of the first Humanist Manifesto.

Lecture on alcoholism to the medical students in the Family Practice Program at Indiana University's Memorial Hospital program in South Bend, September 24, 2003.

I served as the research source for Episode 407 of the public television series called “The History Detective,” about a letter someone discovered which had been written by Bill Wilson, the founder of AA. I was originally also supposed to go to New York and appear onscreen, giving part of the explanation, but I had to have surgery on my carotid artery, and they put the famous AA historian Mel Barger onscreen instead. March 2006.

“Writing Local A.A. History: Stories as the Vessels of Wisdom and Grace,” at the Eastern Pennsylvania History & Archives Conference on June 24, 2006.

“Anonymity: the Beginnings,” hour-long talk given at a conference in Elkhart, Indiana on September 24, 2011, on Anonymity as the Spiritual Foundation of All Our Traditions. The talk traces the concept back to the 600,000-strong Washingtonian movement in the 1840's, the early Oxford Group of the 1920's and 30's, the name of the A.A. fellowship, the Twelve Traditions, and the debate over posthumous anonymity which began in 1960.

“The A.A. Bill of Rights,” a talk given at the 2nd Annual Symposium held in eastern Indiana at Fort Wayne, Indiana on January 14, 2012. The other major speaker was Mel Barger, the principal author of the official A.A. biography of founder Bill Wilson. No one can be barred from attending A.A. meetings because of how low they have fallen, a total lack of money, psychological and emotional problems (even quite severe), being ex-convicts (or even incarcerated men and women in prison A.A. groups), being “fallen women,” because of their politics, or for being LGBT (gays, lesbians, etc.). Nor can anyone be compelled to belong to a specific religious denomination — even atheists and skeptics are welcome to attend and participate.

An hour long talk in Berkeley, California, on February 1, 2014 to introduce the first performance of the historical play *Our Experience Has Taught Us*, written by San Francisco playwright Jackie Bendzinski to describe the formation of the Twelve Traditions, which supply the basic guiding principles of the A.A. group. The play was later performed at the A.A. International Convention in Atlanta, Georgia.

Two talks at the National A.A. History Symposium in Sedona, Arizona, on February 21-23, 2014: one on Father Ed Dowling, S.J., who served as chief spiritual guide for twenty years to A.A. co-founder Bill Wilson, and a second presentation on “Early AA Meetings in New York & Akron: A Snapshot from May of 1938.”

“Early Black A.A. Leaders,” at Serenity House in Gary, Indiana on July 26, 2014: on the first black A.A. groups in St. Louis, Chicago, and Washington D.C. (1945), on Jimmy Miller in South Bend, the First Lady of Black A.A. (1948), and on John Shaifer in Gary (1960).

“Sgt. Bill Swegan and the first officially government-sanctioned military alcoholism treatment groups” (which he established on Long Island in 1948 and at Lackland Air Force base in San Antonio in the early 1950's), at the 18th National Archives Workshop in Philadelphia on October 9-12, 2014.

“Early Black A.A. Groups and Leaders” at the National A.A. History Symposium in Sedona, Arizona, on March 4-6, 2016. The Gary talk with the addition, this time around, of a section on Joe McQuany in Little Rock, Arkansas, who was by far the most famous black leader in early A.A. His work saved the lives of tens

of thousands of alcoholics, both black and white, literally all over the world.

“Father Ed Dowling, S.J. — Bill Wilson’s Sponsor,” a talk given in June 2016 at Stepping Stones in Katonah, New York (just north of New York City), the home where A.A. founder Bill Wilson and his wife lived for many years. It is a national historic landmark and also the site of one of the four or five most important A.A. historical archives. For photos see <http://unmeasureddistances.ftml.net/morepix04.html>

Bill W., a documentary film about the co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous, produced and directed by Kevin Hanlon and Dan Carracino. I was used as a resource person by them, and interviewed by them on camera in Chicago on September 24, 2007. I had a bit part in the film, but got bumped out in the final cutting. I do have my name in the credits however! Shown on national TV on the Public Broadcasting Service on September 29, 2016. See <http://www.page124.com/> and <http://unmeasureddistances.ftml.net/morepix03.html>

“Richmond Walker and the 24-Hour-a-Day Book,” National A.A. History Symposium in Sedona, Arizona, on April 28-30, 2017. Walker was the second most-published early A.A. author.

“Agape Love as Welcome-Home-Love: The Early A.A. Meetings at Dr. Bob’s House,” in Tacoma, Washington on May 4, 2019, at a conference convened to help support Dr. Bob’s house in Akron, Ohio.

Current

Writing a book called *The God-Shaped Hole in the Human Soul*, based on an article by that name which I wrote in 2005.

Courses taught

Indiana University South Bend (1970-2003):

Western Culture 1: Ancient, Greek, and Roman

Western Culture 2: Italian Renaissance, Reformation, 18th-century Enlightenment

Ancient Civilization

Medieval Civilization

Religion of Ancient Israel

Introduction to the New Testament

Greek History

Roman History

Plus occasional seminars on a variety of topics, including God and Christ in Early Christianity, Greek and Roman Mythology, the Fall of the Roman Empire, and the Dark Ages

Also reading courses on first year Greek, advanced medieval Latin, the medieval Byzantine world, the philosophers Aristotle and Kant, and medieval art history

Boston University (1984-85):

Graduate course on Patristics (the Christian theology of the first six centuries A.D.)
Seminar on St. Augustine for doctoral students
A two-semester advanced undergraduate Roman history course
An advanced graduate reading course on Greek grammar and syntax in first-century texts

University of Virginia (1968-70):

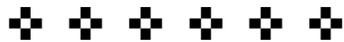
History of Christian Thought: patristic, medieval, reformation, and modern (undergraduate and graduate)
St. Augustine
Introduction to modern theology and ethics
The twentieth-century debate over history and faith
The Rise of Western Atheism (Feuerbach, Marx, Dostoyevski, Camus, Sartre, Heidegger, ennui in Baudelaire, etc.)

Southern Methodist University (1964-65):

First year graduate Greek language
First year graduate history of philosophy

Photographs

At <http://unmeasureddistances.ftml.net/> — includes some personal photographs, but also many historical photographs.



Pre-obituary

(Chesnut is still alive and definitely does not need this yet. It has been written up in advance however, 236 words, which may be shortened as much as desired)

Glenn Forrest Chesnut, born June 28, 1939 in Springfield, Ohio, to Glenn Forrest Chesnut, Sr., and Glynn Hind Chesnut. Moved south at a young age and spent the rest of his childhood and youth in Kentucky (Louisville) and Texas (San Antonio and Dallas). Married to Miriam Sue Messersmith Chesnut. One brother: John Hind Chesnut. Four children: Benjamin Thomas Chesnut, Donald Rogers, Esa Krause-Ehmen and Anna Chesnut Trodglen. Four grandchildren: Eila, Gabriela, Dylan, and Jaimison. B.S. in physical chemistry and atomic physics from the University of Louisville in 1960, graduated second in his class. B.D. from Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in 1964. D.Phil. from Oxford University in 1971. Taught at the University of Virginia, at Boston University, and from 1970 on at Indiana University South Bend, where he retired as Professor of History and Religious Studies in 2003. Numerous awards, including a Fulbright Fellowship to Oxford, Dempster and Rockefeller Fellowships there, a *Prix de Rome* which allowed him to spend a year as a Fellow of the American Academy in Rome, and a Herman Frederic Lieber teaching award at Indiana University. His book on *The First Christian Histories* in 1977 became a classic and is still in print today.

Beginning in 1996, he also wrote and edited a long series of books on alcoholism, drug addiction, and the history of the Alcoholics Anonymous movement, plus studies on philosophy and spirituality. Died on _____ in _____ .