SUMMARY INFORMATION

Title: Collection on Mary C. Judson
Dates: c. 1913-1986
Accession Number: 1959-010
Creator: Various contributors
Physical Description: 0.25 linear ft. (1 box)
Languages: Collection material in English.
Processing Information: Julia Cowart created the finding aid in 2018.
Collection Summary: Materials written about Mary C. Judson by former students, colleagues and the community.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Acquisition:
Jeannette Miller donated initial materials on January 24, 1959. She collected these materials for a biographical sketch of Mary C. Judson for the publication Pioneer Women Teachers of South Carolina, published by Delta Kappa Gamma Society, 1958. Additional materials have been added by unknown donors.

Separated Material
The September 1921 Greenville Woman’s College Bulletin was removed from this collection and placed in the University Archives.

Related Material:
- Furmaniana File - Mary C. Judson
- GWC Collection, Photographs, Faculty/Administration
- GWC Collection, Faculty Collections, Judson, Mary Camilla, correspondence
- GWC Collection, Mary C. Judson and Stella Rossignol Postcard Collection [postcards sent from former GWC students]. Also available in Digital Collections Center.
Charles H. Judson Papers, 1853-1907, Acc. 1967-063; “Charles H. Judson Scrapbook,” Furmaniana oversize box [scrapbook containing a majority of newspaper clippings about Charles H. Judson and Mary C. Judson, 1897-1920. Contains photographs of the Judson’s parents, several postcards, a copy of the letter re loving cup. Possibly constructed by Furman library personnel during the celebration of his fiftieth year at Furman in 1900.]

**Biographical Sketch**

Mary Camilla Judson was born in Clinton, Connecticut, on June 27, 1828, the daughter of Charles Judson and Abi Sherman. When she was fourteen, her father sent her to a private school opened by a recent Yale graduate, where she studied Latin, rhetoric, and sciences. In 1845 her family moved to New Haven. There Judson continued studying under private tutors and in the Yale library. She developed a good command of French, read extensively in English literature, studied art, learned Greek and higher mathematics. The fact that she was not allowed to enroll at Yale because she was a woman awakened a fervent feminist consciousness: “though colleges for women had not yet been dreamed of, occasionally it would be borne in upon some woman’s consciousness that she had, not only a soul, but a brain, and that its development was her God-given right as truly as it was her brother’s.” In 1857 Judson moved to Greenville, South Carolina, where her brother, Charles, taught at Furman University. She served as Lady Principal of the Johnson Female University in Anderson from 1857 to 1859 and then taught art at the Greenville Baptist Female College. During the Civil War, she taught English and French at the Blythewood Academy near Columbia. In January 1865, when federal troops were nearing Columbia, she returned to the Female College, which Charles Judson then headed. There she introduced “the calisthenics,” to encourage young women to exercise. Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts had pioneered the exercises in 1862. Mary Judson’s innovation was probably the first at a southern women’s college. In 1868 Judson returned north to teach at private schools in New York and Pennsylvania. In 1874 Charles Judson invited his sister to return to the struggling Female College, where she became Lady Principal in 1878. She brought with her fifteen years of teaching experience, a rigorous reading background, and a faith in the ability of young women to learn and excel, as well as what one graduate called “the wonderful rigor and stern morality and forceful personality of New England.” She breathed into her students “the will to do and dare for intellectual freedom.” A discreet feminist, she supported women’s suffrage. Judson taught nearly every subject in the college curriculum, including English, French, art, astronomy, botany, and elocution (a subject she introduced). She started the first club for women in Greenville, the Judson Literary Society, where girls wrote papers, debated topics, and began the college library with society dues of twenty-five cents a year. Judson was Lady Principal until 1912, but even after she retired from teaching at 83, she continued to live at the college until her death on December 29, 1920.

**Source:** Bainbridge, Judith T. *Academy and College: The History of the Woman’s College of Furman University.* Macon, Ga.: Mercer University Press, 2001.
USING THE COLLECTION

Access Restrictions: None.

Preferred Citation: [Identification of item], Collection on Mary C. Judson, Special Collections and Archives, Furman University, Greenville, S.C.

Arrangement:
The collection is arranged alphabetically by subject.

Scope and Content:
The Collection on Mary C. Judson is comprised of materials written about Mary Judson by former students, colleagues and the community. There are biographical sketches, information on gifts and memorials to her, research on the Kishacoquilla Seminary where Judson taught before coming to Greenville, and materials related to the Greenville Woman’s College.

COLLECTION INVENTORY

Box 1:

Folder 1. Biographical Material
Folder 2. Gifts and Memorials for Mary C. Judson
Folder 3. Greenville Woman’s College
Folder 4. Judson Literary Society
Folder 5. Kishacoquilla / Kishaco Quillas Seminary Research
Folder 6. Materials found in C. H. Judson scrapbook
Folder 7. Furman University Hall of Fame Recognition, 1970
Folder 8. Newspaper Clippings