SUMMARY INFORMATION

Title: Greenville Woman's College Records
Dates: 1855-1976; bulk 1920-1937
Creators: Greenville Woman's College (1857-1937)
Woman's College of Furman University - 1938-1961
Physical Description: 33.87 linear feet (49 boxes)
Languages: Collection material in English.
Processed by: This collection was processed by Special Collections staff. Julia A. Cowart updated the finding aid in 2019.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Acquisition:
Many people, some unknown, donated materials from the college over time.

Separated Material:
- Course Catalogs, Call No. LD1871.G74 C37
- Student Handbooks, Call No. LD1871.G74 B84
- Greenville Woman's College Bulletin, Call No. LD1871.G74 B84
- Isaqueena, 1921-1933, Call No. LH1.F75 F875

Digitized Copies:
A portion of the collection was digitized and is included in the Digital Collections Center.
- Course Catalogs
- Yearbooks, The Blue and the Gold, 1901-1903 and Entre Nous, 1911-1932
Related Material:

- Furmaniana file - Greenville Woman’s College
- Greenville Woman’s College Alumnae Collections
- Greenville Woman’s College Artifact Collection
- Judy Bainbridge Research Collection for *Academy and College: The History of the Woman’s College of Furman University*, Acc. 2004-071
- William H. Stewart GWC Research Collection Acc. 2001-008
- William B. Coxe Glass plate Negatives Collection/GWC
- [Map of Greenville Woman's College and surrounding city], Publisher: City of Greenville, Call No. LD 7251.G73 M36 1924, Map Case 1, Drawer 4
- Display board of GWC photographs, ca. 1917 [student team sports, basketball, tennis, baseball, student outing], Map Case 4, Drawer 2
- Bill of Relief filed by James C. Furman, etc. for Greenville Woman’s College land to be sold to pay off debts. July 29, 1869. Filed in Greenville County, Circuit Court of Chancery. (4 separate pages), Map Case 4, Drawer 3

USING THE COLLECTION

Access Restrictions: None.

Preferred Citation: [Identification of item], Greenville Woman's College Records, [Box #, Folder #], Special Collections and Archives, Furman University, Greenville, S.C.

Organizational History:

In 1821, the South Carolina Baptist Convention was organized for the purpose of establishing an institution of higher education in the state to prepare young men for the ministry. On June 23, 1853, a committee chaired by Dr. William B. Johnson met in Greenville and recommended that the convention extend its concern to the education of women. Following the adoption of this report, a committee consisting of Rev. John G. Landrum, T. P. Brockman, and Peter C. Edwards, professor of Hebrew and Exegesis at Furman University, was appointed to "take into consideration the subject of female education as a denominational interest" and to report their findings to the next annual meeting of the convention.

The next year, the convention once again met in Greenville, the subject of establishing a female college was the most pressing item on the agenda. On Tuesday, June 25, 1854, the committee's report recommending the immediate establishment of a "Female College of high order" was adopted after lengthy debate. The convention selected Greenville because the town fathers offered $20,000 and the buildings and property occupied by the nearly defunct Greenville Academies.

After the convention had the money, it began erecting a building suitable for the use of the college and set January 1, 1855 as the opening date for the Greenville Baptist Female College.
The convention expected the college to be supported by tuition and fees, so no thought was given to an endowment to provide operating capital. The convention placed the fledgling institution under the control of the Furman University Board of Trustees, which retained legal authority over the Female College until December 1908. In practice, the trustees appointed an executive committee that assumed responsibility for the college and reported to the trustees. There was never a unified administration for both Furman and Greenville Female College, although it was proposed at least once. The convention appointed the president, who ran the college on a day-to-day basis, appointed all teachers, and set the fees.

Beginning with the presidency of Reverend H. A. Duncan (1855-1861), the president of the college leased the facilities from the convention and operated it as a private enterprise. The president remained under the general direction of the Furman trustees. This system remained operative until 1894.

Charles H. Judson, president from 1864 to 1878, returned to teaching at Furman. Judson had a lasting impact on the school, most notably bringing his sister, Mary Camilla Judson, to teach at the school beginning in 1860. From 1860 until 1874, Miss Judson taught at the Female College periodically. In 1874, she returned permanently for 38 years, serving as Dean much of that time. Mary C. Judson, more than any other individual, was responsible for forging the character and traditions of the college. Almost single handedly, she pulled the school through some very difficult financial and administrative crises in the 1890's.

During these early years, the college consisted of a primary department offering 2 years of study, an academic department providing 3 years of study, and a collegiate department requiring 4 years of study. The curriculum consisted of the classics, English and French, literature and composition, and the arts (especially music and drawing). Upon the completion of the collegiate department a woman was awarded either a degree of "Graduate of the English Course" or "Degree of Full Graduate," the latter requiring study in classical languages. Certificates of proficiency documented work at a lesser level. The first class graduated in 1858.

Professor Alexander Sloan Townes, president 1878-1894, took the first steps in modernizing this course of study when he introduced the Bachelor of Arts degree and instituted modern requirements for its attainment. The first B.A. degree was awarded in 1893. In 1889, the Alumnae Association was organized. It served the college in many ways and was especially helpful when it came to raising funds to meet a crisis or take care of a specific need. Following Professor Townes' departure, several presidents followed in quick succession. One of these, Dr. Edward Carroll James, president from 1901 to 1910, left his mark on the school by obtaining its independence from the control of the Furman Board of Trustees in December 1908.

In 1911, Dr. David Marshall Ramsay began his nineteen-year tenure as president (1911-1930). A strong proponent of "standardization" in upper level education, Dr. Ramsay phased out the remnants of the original classical curriculum, as well as the primary and academic departments. He raised requirements for teachers, and by the time he left, most of the faculty had master's degrees. In 1914, he gained approval to change the name of the institution from Greenville Female College to Greenville Woman's College. By 1926, he had met all of the goals he had set for changing the course of the college except for an endowment. By 1929, enrollment was at a record high of 657, a figure that the college never exceeded.
The final years of Dr. Ramsay's presidency were marked by increasing financial difficulties. The period of the Great Depression was marked by declining enrollment and a corresponding decline in revenue. The lack of endowment prevented the college not being a member of the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools and not being able to grant fully standard degrees.

The college trustees asked Furman University to take over the management of the school in 1932. Described as an emergency situation in the newspaper, the coordination was to preserve the identity of the school but allow the female students to take courses under Furman professors and make their degrees fully standard. This also allowed male students to take music classes on the Woman’s College campus. Furman provided transportation for students to travel back and forth between campuses.

By March of 1933, the Greenville Woman’s College trustees asked Furman to assume full control, with one board and one president of both institutions.

The convention formally approved the total merger in 1937. The Greenville Woman's College officially ceased to exist in January 1938 when it became the Woman's College of Furman University.

By 1961, students from both campuses moved to the present Furman campus and any real distinction between them disappeared. In 1964, the downtown Woman's College campus was sold to the City of Greenville and all the buildings were razed. The property, now known as Heritage Green, is the site of the Greenville Theatre, Museum of Art, and Children’s Museum.

**ARRANGEMENT**

The collection has been arranged in 12 series, three of which have been further arranged in subseries. The materials within each series have been arranged chronologically by year.

Series 1, GWC General
   Subseries 1, Programs and Invitations
   Subseries 2, Circulars and Advertisements
Series 2, Board of Trustees
Series 3, Office of the President
Series 4, Financial and Legal Records
Series 5, Registrar
Series 6, Mary C. Judson Library
Series 7, Faculty Collections
Series 8, Clubs and Organizations
Series 9, Publications
Series 10, Visual Materials
   Subseries 1, Photographs and Etchings
   Subseries 2, Negatives
   Subseries 3, Postcards
Series 11, Alumnae Association
   Sub-series 1, Merge and Coordination with Furman
   Sub-series 2, Class Files
   Sub-series 3, Reunion Files
Series 12, Diploma Collection

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The surviving records of the Greenville Woman's College consist of documents created by or related to the college and its Alumnae Association. The collection spans from 1855 through 1976, although the majority dates from 1920 to 1940. Materials in the collection include correspondence, committee reports, diplomas, financial records, library accessions, minutes, photographs, negatives, programs, student publications, historical sketches, speeches, and postcards. This body of records also contains some records from the Woman's College of Furman University (1938-1961).

The Class Credits and Requirements Book in Series 5, Registrar was given by Edna Carlton, housekeeper of the women’s dorms, and contains a list of students, 1897-1906.

The Zetosophia Academic Honor Society was created in 1922 and included alumnae retroactively elected back to 1914. Zetosophia merged with Furman’s academic honor society Hand and Torch in 1953, and records up to that time, plus during the merger 1954-1955 are included. Hand and Torch was voted out of existence in 1974. Zetosophia members apparently continued to meet under that name and records from 2000 to 2010 are included.

Mary C. Judson organized the Judson Literary Society in 1878 in honor of her brother, Charles H. Judson. We have the newspaper the Society produced, The College Mirror (1879-1884), programs, one photo of five female members ca. 1880s, and a manuscript describing how the society was created, author and date unknown. There are minutes from a November 10, 1879 meeting. Pins worn by the members are included in the GWC Artifacts collection. The Judson Literary Society was later split into the Alethean and Philotean Societies and programs and a constitution and bylaws booklet are included.

Records of the Alumnae Association, established in 1889, include the constitution, minutes, treasurer’s reports, historical sketch, alumnae biographical information, and newsletters. Records from the Greenville County GWC Alumnae Club include minutes (1912-1913) and the constitution and bylaws. A subseries dealing with the merge and coordination with Furman University is included. Furman’s alumni and alumnae associations voted to merge on May 30, 1953.

The diplomas in Series 12 include Greenville Baptist Female College (1855-1878), Greenville Female College (1878-1912), and Greenville Woman’s College (1912-1933).
COLLECTION INVENTORY

Series 1, GWC General

Box 1

- Folder 1. Correspondence
- Folder 2. Faculty Meeting Minutes, 1912-1920
- Folder 3. Faculty Meeting Minutes, 1921-1931
- Folder 4. Press Releases and Statistics
- Folder 5. Contents of Ramsay Fine Arts Building Cornerstone, 1921
- Folder 6. Contents of copper boxes from pillars at front entrance of GWC campus, opened 1964
- Folder 7. Certificate of Applicant for Admission

Subseries 1, Programs and Invitations

Box 2

- Folder 1. Baccalaureate Programs
- Folder 2. Commencement Programs, 1871-1910
- Folder 3. Commencement Programs, 1912-1942
- Folder 4. Commencement Invitations, 1900-1922
- Folder 5. Commencement Invitations, 1923-1937
- Folder 6. Class Day Programs

Box 3

- Folder 7. Art Exhibition Programs
- Folder 8. Chapel and Memorial Service Programs
- Folder 9. Concert and Recital Programs, 1858-1922
- Folder 10. Concert and Recital Programs, 1923-1941
- Folder 11. Concert and Recital Programs, undated
- Folder 12. Concert and Recital Invitations
- Folder 13. Dramatic Presentations and Debate Programs
- Folder 14. Hanging of the Greens Programs
- Folder 15. May Day Programs
- Folder 16. Scholarship Recognition Day Programs
- Folder 17. Building Dedication Programs
- Folder 18. Reception and Party Programs and Invitations
- Folder 19. Other Programs
- Folder 20. Greeting to the Baptist State Convention, Dec. 8-11, 1908

Subseries 2, Circulars and Advertisements

Box 4

- Folder 1: Circulars and General GWC Advertisements
- Folder 2: Advertisements of Music and other Department Faculty
Series 2, Board of Trustees

Box 5
- Folder 1. Bylaws, c. 1920 (4 copies)
- Folder 2. Report to the S.C. Baptist Education Commission, 1915, 1925
- Folder 3. Furman University Board of Trustees Reports, etc. relating to Greenville Woman’s College
- Folder 4. Documents relating to the inclusion of women on the Board, 1920-1922
- Folder 5. Correspondence
- Folder 6. Minutes, May 28, 1928

Series 3, Office of the President

Box 6
- Folder 1. Reports to the Board of Trustees, 1913-1915
- Folder 2. Reports to the Board of Trustees, 1916, 1919
- Folder 3. Reports to the Board of Trustees, 1920-1921
- Folder 4. Reports to the Board of Trustees, 1922-1924
- Folder 5. Reports to the Board of Trustees, 1925-1927
- Folder 6. Reports to the Board of Trustees, 1928-1930, 1932, 1933
- Folder 7. Reports to the S.C. Baptist Convention, 1916-1919, 1927-1929
- Folder 8. Reports to the Southern Baptist Convention, Education Commission, 1920, 1925
- Folder 9. Correspondence

Series 4, Financial and Legal Records

Box 7
- Folder 1. Account Book, 1860-1868
- Folder 2. Account Book, 1860-1862
- Folder 3. Account Book, 1873-1877
- Folder 4. Ledger, 1900-1901
- Folder 5. Bills, Receipts, Invoices
- Folder 6. Budget and Salary Statements, Woman's College of Furman University, 1939-1942
- Folder 7. Financial Reports
- Folder 8. Fundraising, prior to 1900
- Folder 9. Correspondence, 1911-1912, 1925, 1929
- Folder 10. Insurance, 1917, ca.1926
- Folder 11. Legal Documents, including deeds and contracts

Series 5, Registrar

Box 8
- Folder 2. Class Credits and Requirements Book, containing list of students, 1897-1906 [given by Edna Carlton, November 11, 1975; housekeeper of the women’s dorms.]
Series 6, Mary C. Judson Library

Box 9


Box 10: Accession books; (1) Sep 1907 to May 1910, (2) 01 to 5,000 (’20-’24), (3) 5,001 to 10,000

Box 11: Accession book, 10,001 to 11,000 (begins 1933)

Box 12: Accession Book, 11,001 to 17,800 (to June 12, 1987)

Series 7, Faculty Collections

Box 13

Folder 1. Mary Camilla Judson correspondence

Series 8, Clubs and Organizations

Box 14: Various

Folder 1. Alethean Literary Society
Folder 2. Glee Club
Folder 3. Judson Literary Society
Folder 4. Sigma Iota Chi, Kappa Chapter
Folder 5. Y.W.C.A.
Folder 6. Student Government Association
Folder 7. Ladies Aid Association, c. 1860-1865
Folder 8. International Relations Club (IRC)
Folder 9. The Prelude

Box 15: Zetosophia Academic Honor Society

Folder 1. Zetosophia, Membership
Folder 3. Zetosophia, Minute Book, 1931-1945
Folder 5. Zetosophia, Minute Book, including Constitution and Bylaws
Folder 7. Zetosophia, Programs
Box 16: Oversize
   Folder 1. Zetosophia, Memorabilia
   Folder 2. Zetosophia, Zetosophia News, May 15, 1933
   Folder 3. Y.W.C.A., Certificate of Membership, October 23, 1906

Box 17: Zetosophia, Post-GWC [after 1938]
   Folder 1. Zetosophia Scholarship 2000
   Folder 2. Zetosophia Scholarship 2001
   Folder 3. Zetosophia 2002
   Folder 4. Zetosophia 2003-2004
   Folder 5. Zetosophia 2004
   Folder 6. Zetosophia 2005
   Folder 7. Zetosophia 2006
   Folder 8. Zetosophia 2007
   Folder 10. Zetosophia 2009
   Folder 11. Zetosophia 2010
   Folder 12. Zetosophia Bookmarks

Series 9, Publications
   Box 18: Bulletins, extras, 1902-1923
   Box 19: Bulletins, extras, 1924-1937
   Box 20: Isaqueena, extras, 1906-1908
   Box 21: Isaqueena, extras, 1909-1912
   Box 22: Isaqueena, extras, 1913-1915
   Box 23: Isaqueena, extras, 1916-1917
   Box 24: Isaqueena, extras, 1918-1920
   Box 25: Isaqueena, extras, 1920-1924
   Box 26: Isaqueena, extras, 1925-1927
   Box 27: Isaqueena, extras, 1928-1932

Box 28: Various Publications
   Folder 1: La Reveille
   Folder 2: Laws of Furman and Greenville Woman’s College
   Folder 3: Miss Suzy Zoo
   Folder 4: Staff handbook
   Folder 5: "The Call of G.F.C." College song, June 10, 1909
   Folder 6: Alma Mater
   Folder 7: Calendars
   Folder 8: Christmas Cards
   Folder 9: Cheers and Songs, including the Daisy Chain song

Box 29: The Spokesman, 1919 – 1932, 1934
Box 30: The College Mirror 1879-1884

Series 10, Visual Materials

Box 31: Photographs, Buildings and Grounds

- Aerial Views of Campus
- Campus Demolition, 1964
- Etchings and Maps of Campus and Buildings
- Front Gates, Columns, Markers
- Gardens
- Gardens- Numbered
- Infirmary/Carpenter House
- Library
- Library- Numbered
- Main Buildings
- Main Entrance
- Ramsay Fine Arts Center
- Ramsay Fine Arts Center- Numbered
- Rear of main buildings
- Seal
- "The Shack"
- Studio of Mona Howard and Wendell Keeney [formerly Little Red Schoolhouse]
- Unidentified Building

Box 32: Photographs, Athletics and Organizations

- Athletics- Archery
- Athletics- Basketball
- Athletics- Fencing
- Athletics- Field hockey
- Athletics- Horseback riding
- Athletics- Soccer
- Athletics- Swimming
- Athletics- Table tennis
- Athletics- Tennis
- Athletics- Volleyball
- Organizations- Women’s Athletic Association
- Organizations- YWCA
- Organizations- Baptist Student
- Organizations- Concert Choir
- Organizations- Senior Order
- Organizations- Campus Club
Box 33: Photographs, Events

- Bonhomie Beauties, c. 1955-1960
- 1935 Class Reunion
- Commencement
- College Day
- Daisy Chain
- Daisy Chain- Numbered
- Freshman/Junior Kid Party
- Hanging of the Greens
- Hanging of the Greens- Numbered
- Homecoming
- May Day, in chronological order

Box 34: Photographs, Events

- May Day, undated
- May Day- Numbered
- Spring Camp, 1947

Box 35: Photographs, Students

- Alumnae
- Students- Dining Hall
- Students- dormitories
- Students- dormitories, numbered
- Students- group
- Students- Home Economics
- Students- Home Economics, numbered
- Students- identified
- Students- Library
- Students- Music
- Students- portraits, numbered
- Students- Sociology
- Students- unidentified
- Students- unidentified, numbered

Box 36: Photographs, Faculty & Administration

- Group
- Portraits
- Snapshots

Box 37: Photographs, Oversize

- Student Events
- Faculty & Administration
- Buildings & Grounds

**Box 38: Photographs, Oversize**
- Framed portrait of Willie Vance Gray, Accession #2005-030

**Box 39: Negatives**
- Folder 1. Portraits, Not Dated
- Folder 2. Portrait, 1929-1930 (also on glass slide)
- Folder 3. Violin Ensemble
- Folder 4. Glee Club, 1930-1931 (also on glass slide)
- Folder 5. Glee Club, Not Dated
- Folder 6. May Day Athletic Club, 1931-1932
- Folder 7. Buildings & Grounds
- Folder 8. Commencement, 1932-1933
- Folder 9. Commencement, Not Dated
- Folder 10. Academics

**Box 40: Postcards**
- Folder 1: Campus Buildings and Grounds

**Series 11, Alumnae Association 1889-1953**

**Box 41**
- Folder 1. Constitution
- Folder 2. Alumnae Association Minutes, 1889-1914
- Folder 3. Executive Committee Minutes, 1900-1911
- Folder 4. Executive Committee Minutes, 1913-1919
- Folder 5. Executive Committee Minutes, 1938-1952
- Folder 6. Historian’s Book and Executive Committee Minutes and Notes, 1923-1926
- Folder 7. Treasurer’s Reports and Dues, 1903-1922
- Folder 8. Treasurer’s Reports and Dues, 1923-1941
- Folder 10. Fundraising and Endowment Publicity, n.d., 1912, c. 1929

**Box 42**
- Folder 1. Record Book of Recording Secretary of G.F.C. Alumnae Association
- Folder 2. Correspondence
- Folder 3. Register, 1924-1926
- Folder 4. Alumnae lists, nd., 1921, c. 1935
- Folder 5. Alumnae lists, nd (after 1930)
- Folder 6. Alumnae biographical information: Rosa Lee Eskew, Carrie Bostick Lake, Mrs. Waddy Thompson, Mrs. W.F. Walker
- Folder 7. Alumnae Banquet, Luncheon, event programs
- Folder 8. Historical Sketch of the association
Box 43
Folder 1. Greenville County GWC Alumnae Club Minutes, 1912-1913
Folder 2. Greenville County GWC Alumnae Club, Constitution and Bylaws

Sub-Series 1, Merge and Coordination with Furman
Box 44
Folder 1. Furman Alumni Listing, US by state and city
Folder 2. Furman Alumni Listing, US by state and city, includes Africa
Folder 3. Furman Alumni Listing, South Carolina by county and city
Folder 4. Furman Alumni Listing, South Carolina by county and city
Folder 5. GWC Alumnae Listing, by state, includes China, Honduras, Mexico, Africa, Europe, Asia, South America
Folder 6. GWC Alumnae Listing, by state, includes China, Honduras, Mexico
Folder 7. GWC Alumnae Listing, South Carolina by county and city
Folder 8. GWC Alumnae Listing, South Carolina by county and city
Folder 10. Goals, Quotas, Schedules, Progress Reports, etc.
Folder 11. Letters to Fund Raisers
Folder 12. Press Releases
Folder 13. Promotional Materials
Folder 14. Planning and Organizational Materials
Folder 15. Solicitation Letters and Acknowledgements
Folder 16. Speaker’s Materials

Subseries 2, Class Files
Box 45
Folder 17. Class of 1887
Folder 18. Class of 1908
Folder 19. Class of 1912
Folder 20. Class of 1917
Folder 21. Class of 1922
Folder 22. Class of 1937, Woman’s College of Furman University
Folder 23. Class of 1938, Woman’s College of Furman University
Folder 24. Class of 1948, Woman’s College of Furman University

Subseries 3, Reunion Files
Box 46: 1897-1914

Series 12, Diploma Collection
Box 47 1868-1894
Box 48 1897-1932
Box 49 Lidie L. Jones, GFC, 1872 In its own box, attached to glass, fragile!