SUMMARY INFORMATION

Title: William B. Coxe Glass Plate Negatives Collection
Dates: 1915-1933 and undated; bulk 1928-1932
Creator/Collector: Coxe, William B., 1895-1973
Physical Description: 41.09 linear feet (29 boxes, 639 pieces)
Summary Description:
Six hundred thirty-nine (639) glass plate negatives of Furman University and Greenville Woman’s College images, circa 1915-1933. Subjects include campus buildings, faculty and staff, student organizations, groups, sports teams, individuals, and May Day celebrations.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Acquisition:
The glass plate negatives were likely donated in 1991 to 1992.

Custodial History:
The heirs of William B. Coxe donated his entire studio contents to the Greenville County Historical Society in 1989. Due to lack of space, the Coxe Photographic Collection, consisting of negatives, glass plate negatives, and acetate negatives, was transferred to Furman’s James B. Duke Library in summer 1989, with the title received October 19, 1989. Due to the projected financial requirements for storage and preservation, the title and responsibility for the collection was transferred back to the Greenville County Historical Society November 6, 1990. The Coxe Collection left Furman University by the end of December 1991 bound for the Roper Mountain Science Center. The glass plate negatives related to the university were donated to Furman University.

Digitized Copies:
Approximately 275 images have been digitized (166 GWC and 109 Furman University) and are part of Furman’s Digital Collections Center. These images include approximately 149 digitized by the Digital Collections Center during 2007-2008, and approximately 126 images digitized in
spring 2011 by senior Matthew Sohner during an internship for Dr. Courtney Tollison's HIS 465 Experiential Learning in Local History class.

**Related Materials:**
- Coxe Historical Collection, Greenville County Historical Society

**Historical Note**

A glass plate negative is a photographic image that uses glass as a base and in which the image polarity is reversed from the original. There are two types of glass plate negatives: collodion wet plate negatives and silver gelatin dry plate negatives. From 1851 through the 1870s, glass plate negatives generally used collodion as the binder to hold light-sensitive salts to the glass base. Frederick Scoff Archer, an English sculptor, invented this wet plate type. After that, silver gelatin was used as the binder. Richard Leach Maddox, a British physician and photographer, first produced these dry plate negatives in 1871. Because they were more sensitive than collodion plates, they were easier to work with and they were widely used until the 1920s. Both types of glass plate negatives are very fragile and require careful handling.

**Biographical Sketch:**

William B. Coxe came to Greenville after WWI and as a photographer, began compiling a photographic history of Greenville. Coxe purchased negatives and prints of earlier Greenville history from individuals and other photographers, such as William Preston Dowling (1872-1936) and James Huntington (1881-1958). Coxe photographed downtown Greenville buildings, churches, private homes, textile mills, weddings, sports events, employee groups, church groups, and mill organizations.

Coxe died on October 26, 1973 in Greenville, S.C.

**Source:** *Remembering Greenville: photographs from the Coxe collection*, by Jeffrey R. Willis

**USING THE COLLECTION**

**Access Restrictions:** Due to the fragile materials contained within, access to this collection will only be provided with the assistance of Special Collections staff. Researchers are advised to contact Special Collections and Archives prior to visiting.

**Preferred Citation:** [Identification of item], William B. Coxe Glass Plate Negatives Collection, Special Collections and Archives, Furman University, Greenville, S.C.

**ARRANGEMENT**

This collection is separated into two series, 1) Furman University, 1925-1935 and undated, and 2) Greenville Woman’s College, 1927-1934 and undated. The series are arranged chronologically and then by subject.
SCOPE AND CONTENT

The William B. Coxe Glass Plate Negatives Collection consists of 639 glass plate negatives, dating from 1915-1933 and undated. The majority measure 8” x 10”, with a small number 5” x 7”. Images were created by William B. Coxe, William P. Dowling, and James Huntington. Images include campus buildings, faculty and staff, student organizations, groups, sports teams, individuals, and May Day celebrations from the campuses of Furman University (388) and Greenville Woman’s College (251). Many images were used in Furman publications such as the Bonhomie yearbook. There are multiple shots of the same scene where the photographer moved the camera to a different angle. Some of the plates are cracked, broken, or damaged.

In 2006, students from Furman’s National Communications Honor Society (Lambda Pi Eta) sorted and re-housed the images in acid-free boxes.

COLLECTION INVENTORY

Series 1: Furman University

Box 1: 1925
Football
- Individual, unknown (11)
- Team (4)

Box 2: 1926
Football
- Individual, unknown (5)
- Team (4)

Other
- 2 men in costume (2)
- Small group of men in costume (1)

Box 3: 1926-1927
Basketball
- Individual, unknown (1)
- Pair, unknown (2)
- Action, unknown (4)
- Group (4)

Band
- Band (8)

Box 4: 1926-1927
Society Presidents
- Individual, unknown (4)

Baseball
- Team (5)

Tennis
• Group (2)
Track
• Group (3)

**Box 5: 1927-1928**
Marching Band
• Group (2)
Baseball
• Team (1)
Basketball
• Team (5)
Cheerleading
• 4 cheerleaders (2)
Football
• Individual, unknown (1)
• Group (2)
Tennis
• Team (2)
Track
• Individual, unknown (1)
• Team (2)
Trophies
• Trophies (2)

**Box 6: 1927-1928**
Fraternity
• Composite (1)
Graduation
• Graduates standing (1)
• Graduates sitting (1)
Unknown Groups
• Girls (1)
• Men in tuxedos (1)
• Men in suits (5)
• Men in suits on steps (5)
• 4 men in tuxedos (2)
• Large group of men in tuxedos (2)

**Box 7: 1928-1929**
Football
• Individual, unknown (22)
• Posed on field (3)
Basketball
• Team (2)
Glee Club
• Group (3)

Other
• Clemson game (3)
• Pi Kappa Phi house (2)

Box 8: 1928-1929
Band
• Band (3)

Unknown Group
• Group (5)
• Group on building steps (4)
• Seated group (4)

Other
• Governor at football game (1)
• Boy with football (1)

Box 9: 1929 and 1929-1930
Basketball 1929-1930
• Individual, unknown (12)

Basketball 1929
• Group (2)

Soccer 1929
• Posing (2)

Campus 1929
• Aerial view (1)
• Administration building (2)
• Charles Webb memorial infirmary (2)
• Geer hall (1)
• Home of the president (1)
• James C. Furman hall (1)
• Judson Alumni Hall (2)
• Library and tennis courts (1)
• Refectory (1)
• Richard Furman Hall (1)

Box 10: 1930-1931
Basketball
• Coach (2)
• Individual shooting (1)
• Individual with ball (3)
• Individual passing the ball (3)
• Individual blocking (2)
• Individual in defensive stance (1)
• Individual man in suit (2)
• KA, group in shorts (2)
• KA, group in tuxedos on stage (2)
• Group posed (4)  
• Group in huddle (1)  
• Group creating “F” (1)  

**Basketball/KA/Glee**  
• Men in suits (2)  

**Football Individual**  
• Kicking ball (2)  
• #12 with ball (1)  
• #25 throwing ball (1)  
• Throwing ball (1)  
• Snapping ball (1)  
• In stance (4)  
• With ball (1)  
• Crouching with ball (1)  

**Track Action**  
• Sprinting (4)  
• Close up of hurdles (1)  

**Tennis**  
• Tennis (1)  

**Box 11: 1932-1933, 1935, and 1924-1935**  
**Football Individual 1932-1933**  
• Unknown (29)  
• Kicker, unknown (1)  

**Track Individual 1932-1933**  
• Unknown (17)  

**Swimming 1932-1933**  
• Team at pool (1)  
• On diving board (1)  

**Band 1935**  
• In dark jackets (2)  

**Campus 1924-1935**  
• Building (1)  
• Charles Webb memorial infirmary (1)  

**Box 12: Undated**  
**Baseball**  
• Team (4)  

**Basketball**  
• Team (2)  
• Practice 5 players (3)  
• Practice all bent over (1)  
• Practice (1)  
• Practice full team (1)  

**Football (Freshman)**
• Individual, unknown, with ball (2)
• Team (2)

Football
• Individual, unknown (5)
• Coach or player, unknown (1)
• Team (5)
• Team with construction in background (1)

Box 13: Undated
Golf
• 3 men (2)
• 6 men (1)
• 10 men (1)
• Group with clubs (1)
• Group (2)

Tennis
• Individual, unknown (1)
• 6 players (2)

Track
• Individuals, unknown (1)
• Team (5)
• Action – hurdles (3)
• Action – tennis (2)
• Action – singles tennis (1)

Box 14: Undated
Band
• Group (2)

Music
• One musician, unknown (4)
• Musical group (5)

Other: Football Game
• Football stands – band in middle (1)
• The president and others (1)

Box 15: Undated
Unknown Groups
• Individual, unknown (1)
• Individual photos compiled (1)
• Group in suits on steps (2)
• Group on steps (1)
• Team, unknown (3)
• Group (3)
• 4 men (3)
• 6 men (1)
• 8 men (1)
Faculty Individual
  • A. E. Putnam (4)
  • Du Pre Rhame (4)

Box 16: 1926 and undated
Unknown Groups 1926
  • Men in suits (1)
Individuals, undated
  • Man dressed like clown (1)
  • Girl, unknown (1)
  • Woman, unknown (1)
  • Man unknown (1)
Unknown Groups, undated
  • Men in suits (3)
  • 10 well-dressed men, sitting (2)
  • Woman and men (1)
  • 30 men in suits (1)
  • Men in suits, GHS sign in background (1)
Other, undated
  • People dressed up at banquet (1)
  • Group on stage, school play (1)
  • Ferns on a deck (1)

Box 17: Undated
• Individuals
• Individual, unknown (1)
• Portrait of man, unknown (4)

Series 2: Greenville Woman’s College

Box 1: 1927-1928
Feature Groups
  • Musical group (1)
  • Tennis (1)
  • Sports, unknown (4)
  • Large group (1)
  • Unknown (2)
Women’s Portraits
  • Woman’s portrait, unknown (4)
Box 2: 1928-1929 and 1929
Graduation 1928-1929
   Graduation (2)
Sports Groups 1928-1929
   Multiple (1)
   Junior’s (1)
Groups 1928-1929
   Unknown (7)
Choir 1929
   Choir in Robes (2)
Sports 1929
   22 Women Posing on a Field (1)
May Day 1929
   May Day (7)
Faculty 1929
   Faculty processional (2)

Box 3: 1929-1930
Basketball
   Team (3)
Tennis
   Team (1)
Volleyball
   Team (3)
Multiple Sport
   Multiple teams (2)
   One from each sport – MVP’s? (1)
   Team(s): some with tennis racquets (1)
Unknown Sport
   Basketball? (1)
   Volleyball or Basketball (2)
   Posed in varsity sweaters (1)

Box 4: 1929-1930
Violinists
   Violinists group(1)
Features Individual
   Woman posed, unknown (16)

Box 5: 1929-1930 and 1930
Freshman Individual, 1929-1930
   Mary Eskew (1)
   Minnie Moore Hicks (1)
   Eugenia Keller (2)
Martha Johns (1)
Louisa Martin (1)
Sarah Mitchel (1)
Pearl Moore (1)
Louis Sanders (1)
Frances Taylor (1)
Lillian White (3)
Pauline ? (1)
Unknown (9)

May Day 1930
Girls Carrying Garland (1)

Box 6: 1930-1931

Glee Club?
Group Photo (2)
Violin Ensemble
With violins (4)
Basketball
Team (8)
Cheerleading
Team (1)
Unknown Sport
Group (2)
Champs (1)
Unknown Group
Women in black (1)
Men and women (1)
Women on steps with wreath (1)
Large number of women on steps (1)
Women in sailors’ suits (1)

Box 7: 1930-1931

Features Individual
Women, unknown (16)
Unknown Group
On steps of small building (2)

Box 8: 1930-1931

May Day
Girl holding flowers (1)
Girls holding flowers (1)
Girl dancing (1)
Girls dancing (1)
May court (3)
Girls holding hands (1)
Dancing around the may pole (1)  
Group shot of all the ladies (1)  
Other (1)  

Faculty  
Mrs. Adams (1)  
Miss Bloss (1)  
Miss Denmark (1)  
Miss Hayden (1)  
Miss Reed (1)  
Miss Smith (1)  
Female teacher, unknown (4)  

Campus  
Front gate (1)  
Main buildings (3)  
Ramsay building (1)  
Unidentified buildings (2)  

Box 9: 1931-1932  
May Day  
Girl with flowers (1)  
Boy (1)  
Girls in rabbit suits (1)  
Court (1)  
Person in bird suit and another (1)  
Girls in dresses holding hands (1)  
Women in dresses with flowers and trumpets (1)  

Box 10: 1932, 1932-1933 and 1933-1934  
Class Day 1932  
Class day (3)  
May Day 1932  
May court (2)  
Girls dancing (2)  
Flowers (1)  
Individual (2)  
May Day 1932-1933  
May court member (1)  
May court (1)  
May queen, Mary Inman (2)  
Woman with Dog (1)  
Parade on steps of building (2)  
Women in tunics with balls (1)  
Outdoor photo (2)  
Faculty, Individual 1933-1934  
Miss G. Reed (1)  
Unknown (7)  

11 of 12
Unknown, 2 2x4’s (10)

Box 11: Undated

Glee Club?
   Large group photo (1)
Orchestral
   Prof. Schaefer’s orchestra (1)
   Orchestral group (3)
Graduation
   Graduating seniors (5)
Individual Woman
   Unknown (16)

Box 12: Undated

Faculty Individual
   Mrs. M. P. Barton (1)
   Eula M. Carlsie (1)
   Miss C. Easton (1)
   Miss N. K. Hudgens (2)
   Miss Maud Hunter (2)
   C. S. Maree
   Miss M. Rightmire
Faculty Groups?
   Group of women on steps (1)
   Group of men and women on steps (1)
Unknown Groups
   Large group of women on steps, students? (1)
   Group of women with one man (3)
   Group of women in dresses (1)
May Day
   Three girls (1)
   Girls on steps (1)
   Girls with bouquets (1)
   Girls on steps of fine arts building (1)
   Girl holding flowers (1)
   Unknown individual (5)
   Unknown group (2)