

***Christian Advocate* articles about
Troy Conference Academy, 1835-1874
MSA 871**

Introduction

This collection contains typescripts of articles about the Troy Conference Academy in Poultney, Vermont, from the *Christian Advocate* for the period 1835-1874, in addition to one folder of material about alumna Julia Caroline Ripley Dorr (1825-1913). The collection was assembled at the archives of Green Mountain College and donated to the Vermont Historical Society in 2019 when the college closed. The collection is housed in one archival, flip-top box and consumes .25 linear feet of shelf space.

Institutional History

The Troy Conference Academy (T.C.A.) was founded in 1834 in Poultney, Vermont, by the Troy Conference of the Methodist Church, a co-educational institution. Poultney was chosen by the school's founders as an ideal setting for learning, surrounded by green rolling hills and clean air. In 1863 the institution was purchased by John Newman and its name and focus was changed to Ripley Female College. In 1874 it was repurchased by Troy Conference and the name changed back to Troy Conference Academy. In 1932 Green Mountain Junior College joined T.C.A. on campus and the two co-existed as two distinct schools sharing dorms, classrooms and faculty. In 1936 the last Academy class graduated, and Green Mountain Junior College operated solely as a two-year institution for men and women. In 1943 the institution became a women's school and in 1957 the word "junior" was dropped from its name. In 1975 the institution became co-educational and remained so until it closed in 2019.

Julia Caroline Ripley Dorr (1825-1913), author of stories, novels, travel sketches, and poetry, was highly regarded as a literary figure in the late nineteenth century. She was born in Charleston, South Carolina, on February 13, 1825, to Zulma De Lacy Thomas and William Young Ripley, a native of Middlebury, Vermont. The family moved to Vermont when Julia was 18 months old. Her mother died soon after arriving at their new home. Julia attended Troy Conference Academy, as did her half-brothers Edward H. Ripley and William Y. W. Ripley, both of whom went on to distinguish themselves in the Civil War. On February 22, 1847, she married Seneca M. Dorr, of New York. They spent the first ten years of their married life in Ghent, New York, where their three oldest children were born. In about 1857 they visited Rutland, Vermont, and built a home there which they called "The Maples." Julia C. R. Dorr occupied the house until her death at aged 88 in 1913.

Scope and Content

This collection contains typescripts of articles about the Troy Conference Academy in Poultney, Vermont, from the *Christian Advocate* for the period 1835-1874. Some of the articles describe the town of Poultney or people associated with the institution.

In addition, the collection includes one folder of material about T.C.A. alumna Julia Caroline Ripley Dorr (1825-1913), who attended the school in 1842-1843. The folder contains a typescript of memories written by "Tante Julia" (J.C.R.D.), a 1975 calendar published by the Rutland Historical Society featuring photographs of the Dorr's home "The Maples," an issue of the *Rutland Historical Society Quarterly* (vol. 4, no. 3, summer 1974) featuring J.C.R.D., photocopies of six articles about Dorr, a letter from Robert G. Steele offering to sell Green Mountain College an autograph of Julia C.R. Dorr, and a note card indicating the dates that J.C.R.D. attended T.C.A. and her daughter Zulma Delacy Dorr Steele attended Ripley Female Academy.

Related Collections

The collections of the Leahy Library of the Vermont Historical Society also include a small collection of clippings and photographs about the Ripley Female Academy (MSA 876-877) and yearbooks from Green Mountain College, 1936-2001 (378.743 G824p).

There is correspondence between J.C.R.D. and Sarah Salome Clement in the Charlotte Clement Ripley Correspondence collection (Doc 519). Books written by J.C.R.D., and other manuscript collections, will be found listed in the library's online catalog.

Inventory

- MSA 871:01 September 11, 1835
- :02 September 18, 1835 – July 14, 1837 (various dates)
- :03 July 29, 1836
- :04 August 18, 25, October 6 & November 17, 1837
- :05 November 24, 1837 & February 16, 1838
- :06 March 2, 15, - May 4, 1938
- :07 August 3. & August 24, 1838
- :08 December 28, 1838 - April 19, July 12, 1839
- :09 August 2, November 22, 1839 - March 27, & April 10, 1840
- :10 May 1, & July 31, 1840 - February 3, March 3, April 7, 1841
- :11 June 23, 1841
- :12 July 7, & July 14, & August 4, 1841
- :13 October 20, 1841 & January 5, & February 9, 1842
- :14 March 30, 1842
- :15 April 16, 1842
- :16 April 20, 1842
- :17 May 4, 1842
- :18 June 15, July 20, 1842
- :19 July 25, & November 2, & December 28, 1842
- :20 January 4, 1843
- :21 March 29, 1843
- :22 July 26, & October 25, & November 29, 1843
- :23 October 4, 1843
- :24 December 6, 1843

- :25 December 27, 1843 - February 7, February 12, 1944
- :26 February 28, 1844
- :27 April 24, 1844
- :28 August 21, 1844 & January 8, & January 22, 1944
- :29 February 19, March 12, April 16, June 4, 1845
- :30 May 12, July 8, 1945
- :31 August 5. 1845
- :32 July 2, August 27, December 24, 1845 & January 28, 1846
- :33 January 11, 1849
- :34 January 10, 1850
- :35 November 14, 1850
- :36 April 17, 1851
- :37 October 16, 1851
- :38 August 5, 1852
- :39 August 8, 1852
- :40 April 17, 1856
- :41 August 8, 1857
- :42 April 14, 1859
- :43 July 10, 1862
- :44 November 20, 1862
- :45 November 9, 1865
- :46 August 15, 1867
- :47 December 12, 1867
- :48 January 30, 1868
- :49 October 1, 1868
- :50 June 28, 1870
- :51 December 7, 1872
- :52 January 1, 1872
- :53 December 12, 1872 – repurchase of Ripley Female College
- :54 June 18, 1874
- :55 June 25, 1874
- :56 August 6, 1874
- :57 August 13, 1874
- :58 December 31, 1874
- :59 Julia Caroline Ripley Dorr, T.C.A. 1842-43

Ruth Finn and Paul Carnahan
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