

Barre History Collection

**Goddard Seminary
Collection, 1863-1975
BHC 89-106**

Volume: 5.25 linear feet
Inclusive dates: 1863-1975
Record types: Albums, correspondence, financial records, photographs, and printed material

History

Goddard Seminary first received students in February, 1870, under the name Green Mountain Central Institute. In November, 1870, the name was changed to Goddard Seminary, honoring one of the institution's chief benefactors, Thomas Goddard. In 1919, the Seminary became the Goddard School for Girls for a brief five years. In 1935, a junior college division was organized and, in 1938, the Seminary buildings were sold and later razed. The school reopened in nearby Plainfield, Vermont, under the name Goddard College and is still in operation today.

Founded by members of the Universalist faith, the Seminary was chartered by the Legislature in 1863. Subscribers were sought who could invest funds in the school, and twelve thousand dollars were pledged by citizens of Barre. Prominent fruit merchant Thomas A. Goddard of Boston was a substantial contributor in the building fund. Boston architect T.W. Silloway designed the Seminary building, a five-story structure with a mansard roof and two central towers 45 feet tall. The building was razed in 1938 and replaced by the present Barre Municipal Auditorium.

A second Seminary building, the Thompson Memorial, honoring Seminary teacher Persis Thompson, was erected in 1894 and razed in the spring of 1983 to make way for auditorium parking spaces.

Both college preparatory and commercial courses were offered by the Seminary. The school enjoyed a reputation for excellent instruction and many of its graduates received further professional training upon receiving their diplomas.

Among the names of individuals associated with Goddard Seminary, Persis Thompson is prominent. An English instructor at the Seminary for 18 years and until her death in 1890, she was loved and honored by her students and colleagues. Leonard F. Aldrich of Barre was head of the building committee and devoted himself to raising the necessary funds to meeting the debt incurred by the school when the cost of the Seminary building ran to \$755,000 rather than the expected \$40,000. Orlando K. Hollister, Seminary principal for 23 years, was a prominent Barre educator. Royce S. "Tim" Pitkin, a graduate of the class of 1919, was hired in 1935 to organize the junior college division. He arranged the move to Plainfield in 1939, and he held the post of Goddard College President until his retirement in 1969.

Principals of the Seminary were as follows: L.L. Burrington, 1870-1873; F.M. Hawes, 1873-1874; Henry Priest, 1875-1883; Alston W. Dana, 1883-1887; D.L. Maulsby, 1887-1891; Arthur W. Pierce, 1891-1896; Orlando K. Hollister, 1897-1920; Russell L. Davidson, 1921-1924; Jarvis T. Beal, 1925; Noah B. Barker, 1926-1927; George H. Rogers, 1928; Melita Knowles, 1929-1933; Anne Goode, 1934-1936; Royce S. Pitkin, 1937-1938.

Scope and Content

The Goddard Seminary Collection constitutes an artificial collection, in that the contents were donated by various, mostly unidentified donors.

The bulk of the material found in the collection consists of print material and includes a fairly complete set of annual catalogs from 1870 to 1908, with scattered examples thereafter. These describe course offerings, listing of faculty and students' names, and general information on the Seminary. As well the collection contains issues of the Goddard Record, a student publication first published in 1891. The holdings are complete from 1891 to 1904, with only scattered issues after that date. The collection also includes programs for various annual commencement activities between 1871 and 1938, as well as programs of special events such as theatrical or musical performances. Two memorial booklets honor Persis Thompson, a long-time English teacher, and William Rollin Shipman, an early trustee and benefactor.

There is little manuscript material in the collection. Two memory books, one from 1917, the other from 1920, are of interest, suggesting the range of activities in which students participated, as well as revealing something of the town-gown relations of the day. The collection also contains class photographs dating from 1872 to 1903, with a small number dating from 1919 to 1925. A file of early documents of uncertain origin include some correspondence, tuition records, scholarship awards and registers of subscribers to the original fund drive; these 75 pages are photocopies. As well, the collection contains two ledgers containing Seminary accounts from the years 1915 to 1923 and 1927 to 1928.

Inventory

I. Manuscript Material

- BHC 89:01 Bills and receipts, 1872-1909
- :02 Miscellaneous, originals, 1909-1910
- :03 _____, photocopies, 1863-1910
- :04 Correspondence, Marjorie P. MacFarland, 1934, 1937
- :05 Newsclippings, 1931-1932
- BHC 90F:01 Ledger tuition and fees, 1915-1923
- 02 Ledger accounts, 1927-1928

II. Publications

- BHC 91:01 Catalogs, Green Mountain Central Institute, Jan., 1870
- :02 _____, _____, Nov. 1870
- :03 Catalogs, 1871-1873

- :04 _____, 1874-1876
- BHC 91:05 _____, 1877-1879
- :06 _____, 1880-1882
- :07 _____, 1883-1884
- :08 _____, 1885-1886
- :09 _____, 1886-1887
- BHC 92:01 Catalogs, 1889-1991
- :02 _____, 1893-1896
- :03 _____, 1897-1898
- :04 _____, [1899]-1901
- :05 _____, 1907-1909
- :06 _____, 1917-1918
- :07 _____, 1921-1922
- :08 _____, 1926-1929
- :09 _____, 1930-1931
- :10 Prospectus, ca. 1930
- BHC 93:01 Programs, exhibitions, 1827-1910
- :02 _____, music, 1895-1896, 1907
- :03 _____, Christian Endeavor, 1896
- :04 _____, theater, 1910, n.d.
- :05 _____, commencement, 1871-1874
- :06 _____, _____, 1875-1879
- :07 _____, _____, 1880-1883
- :08 _____, _____, 1886-1889
- :09 _____, _____, 1891
- :10 _____, _____, 1895-1897
- :11 _____, _____, 1900-1902
- :12 _____, _____, 1910-1914
- :13 _____, _____, 1915, 1917
- :14 _____, _____, 1920, 1923
- :15 _____, _____, 1938
- :16 _____, Golden Jubilee Pageant, 1919
- :17 Menu: Thanksgiving, 1895
- BHC 94:01 Goddard Record, Vol.1, 1891
- :02 _____, Vol. 2, 1891-1892
- :03 _____, Vol. 3, 1892-1893
- :04 _____, Vol. 4, 1893-1894
- :05 _____, Vol. 5, 1894-1895
- BHC 95:01 Goddard Record, Vol. 6, 1895-1896
- :02 _____, Vol. 7, 1896-1897
- :03 _____, Vol. 8, 1897-1898
- :04 _____, Vol. 9, 1898-1899
- :05 _____, Vol. 10, 1899-1900
- :06 _____, Vol. 11, 1900-1901

- BHC 96:01 Goddard Record, Vol. 12, 1901-1902

- :02 _____, Vol. 13, 1902-1903
- BHC 96:03 _____, Vol. 14, 1903-1904
- :04 _____, Vol. 26, no.12 , 1917
- :05 _____, Vol. 29, no. 7, 1919
- :06 _____, Vol. 31, nos. 4, 6, 1921
- :07 _____, Vol. 32, no. 3, 1922
- :08 _____, Vol. 33, no 7, 1923
(includes notebook)
- :09 Goddard Record, Vol. 35, no7, 1925
- :10 _____, Vol. 41, no. 2, 1931
- :11 _____, Vol. 42, no. 1, 1931
- :12 Goddard Record, Vol. 43, no. 2, 1935
- BHC 97:01 _____, Vol.1, no. 3, 1936
- :02 _____, Vol. 45, no. 1, 1938
- :03 In Memoriam: Persis A. Thompson (1834-1890), 1891
- :04 Address: Memorial to William Rollin Shipman, 1912

III. Time Capsule

- BHC 97:05 Goddard Record, 1894
- :06 Programs, 1871-1894
- :07 Persis Thompson, 1891
- :08 Catalog, 1894
- :09 Newsclippings, 1894
- :10 Artifacts, 1887, 1892
- BHC 98:01 Programs, 1875-1902
- :02 Menus, 1892, 1902
- :03 Goddard Songs, 1902, 1912, n.d.
- :04 Alumni Register, 1905
- :05a Fundraising Brochure, 1921
- :05b Alumni Register, 1922
- :06 "Alumni in Central Vermont" (typescript registrar) [1937]
- :07 _____, [1939]
- :08 _____, 1958-1964
- :09 _____, 1975
- :10 Correspondence, 1962-1970
- :11 Documents re: 1975 Class Reunion, 1975
- :12 Notebook, 1962-1975
- :13 Newsclippings, 1975

V. Photographs & Albums

- BHC 99:01 Class Pictures, 1872-1874
- :02 _____, 1881-1885
- :03 _____, 1889
- :04 _____, 1899
- :05 _____, 1900
- :06 _____, Women, A-G, 1901

- :07 _____, _____, K-W, 1901
- :08 _____, Men, B-D, 1901
- BHC 99:09 _____, _____, H-W, 1901
- :10 _____, 1902
- :11 _____, 1903
- BHC 100:01 Class Pictures, 1919
- :02 _____, 1921, 1923
- :03 _____, 1925
- :04 _____, Unidentified, 1925
- :05 _____, Women, unidentified, n.d.
- :06 _____, Men, unidentified, n.d.
- :07 Teachers
- :08 Students, 1885
- :09 Sports, 1901, n.d.
- :10 Goddard Seminary Campus
- :11 Goddard Seminary interiors
- :12 Demolition of Goddard Buildings, 1938. 1980
- BHC 101F:01 Oversize Photographs: [faculty] , n.d.
- :02 _____, _____. students, 1894-1912
- :03 _____, _____, sports, 1890-1929
- :04 _____, _____, Goddard Seminary Campus, n.d.
- BHC 102 Rolled Photograph: students, ca. 1915
- _____ , _____, students, ca. 1921
- Album, 1885
- _____ , ca. 1885
- BHC 103 Album (dismantled) ca. 1886
- BHC 104 Album of Evelyn (Bobby) Drew, 1910-1917
- Album of Ruth (Peggy) Kelton, ca 1924
- Album of Ruth (Peggy) Kelton, 1920-1925
- BHC 105 Scrapbook of Elva E. Townshend, 1915
- BHC 106 Memory Book of Evelyn (Bobby) Drew, 1914-1917
- Memory Book of Ruth (Peggy) Kelton, ca. 1920

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