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Collection 10
Trenton [Teachers] Training School Alumnae Association

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History

Prior to 1888 and the appointment of Benjamin C. Gregory to the position of supervising principal of the Trenton schools, beginning teachers were only required to have a high school education. They gained experience “on the job” in the classroom with pupils. Soon, a normal or training school education became a requirement. The Hewitt Training School opened in October 1891 as a teacher training institution where a class of teachers could observe others in actual practice. Courses in teaching methods and other subjects were also offered. The first class in 1892 had 13 graduates. There was no graduating class in 1901.

The Hewitt School, located on Washington, Roebling and Emory avenues, was named for Charles S. Hewitt, secretary of the Trenton Board of Trade. It closed in June 1908 and transferred to the Carroll Robbins Training School on Tyler Street in September 1908, remaining open until 1917. Six students were considered the Class of 1918. The Carroll Robbins School became Junior High No. 2. Carroll Robbins served as a member of the Board of Education of the City of Trenton, then called the Commissioners of Public Instruction, from 1895 until his death in 1907. He was president 1896-1899.

Not much information about the Alumnae Association is available and it is unknown when it began, but by at least 1929. Ella A. MacPherson (d. 13 February 1932) was appointed the principal of the Hewitt School beginning September 1905, and was the founder of the Alumnae Association. Reunions became biennial events starting in 1937 and continued through to at least 1959. The business portion of the meeting was conducted after the banquet. From the minutes, it does not appear that the Association was service-oriented.

Scope and Content Notes

This collection had been arranged into labelled folders at an unknown time by someone at the Trenton Free Public Library. Since the original order is unknown and there appears to have been a reason for the current foldering, it was decided that this secondary arrangement should be retained.

This collection will be of interest to those researching teacher training schools and education of teachers at the turn of the 20th century. It would also be helpful for genealogists looking for a relative's graduating class or address.

Series Description:

Series 1. Minutes, 1931-1959

This series includes minutes mainly from the annual reunions, with a few meetings of the officers planning the reunions. The minutes cover who gave presentations and who were invited guests, what activities occurred, and who was in attendance. At the 1934 reunion, original songs composed by members were sung to tunes of popular songs. Information about where the banquet was held and what food was served is also included. In May of 1939, a full dinner with coffee and dessert could be had for \$1.25 at the Trenton County Club.

This folder also includes some mailing lists, names of those who had died, and a list of former members of the faculty.

Series 2. Reunions, 1929-1953

This series includes information about the various reunions, including receipts for the hall, alumni songs, invitations, programs (1929, 1931, 1932), RSVP cards, and newspaper clippings. There is also an incomplete list of reunions (1929-1941), and a handwritten invitation to Mr. & Mrs. Paul Loser (1953). This series also contains two copies of the Carroll Robbins Training School's 40th anniversary (1948) in the shape of a book, which includes floor layouts of the Jr. High and a list of faculty.

The 1931 program contains a color wood-block print.

Series 3. Graduates & Alumnae

This series includes two lists of graduate names and addresses arranged by class year with many notations, lists used for mailings, those who are deceased, a program from "The Spirit of America" which was given by the senior and junior classes of the Carroll Robbins Training School (1917), and Training Alumni songs (1919).

Ellen O'Toole of the Trenton Conservatory of Music was a member of the Class of 1917. Edith Miller (nee FitzGeorge; Mrs. Walter H. Kriegner) was a member of the Class of 1895.

Series 4. Bereavement

This series contains information related to deceased alumnae. There is a list of who died prior to 1959, obits, a copy of a sympathy letter (1948), and a list of letters of sympathy written to "bereaved families of members whose deaths came to the attention of the secretary" (1953). There are also several thank you cards (1948-1958) addressed to secretary Mildred Woodruff Matthews.

Container List

Box 1, Folder 1	Minutes (1931-1959)
Folder 2	Reunions (1929-1953)
Folder 3	Alumnae
Folder 4	Bereavement

Preservation Notes

Many items had been grouped in acidic plastic sleeves. They were removed and then kept together with a simple folded piece of paper. All newspaper clippings were photocopied.

Provenance

Unknown, but it appears that some items might have originated in the Trenton Free Public Library's clippings file.