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DROPPERS, GARRETT
PAPERS, 1899-1906
(bulk dates, 1900-1905)
Quantity .5 linear ft.

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History

Garrett Droppers was born on April 12, 1860 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He earned a Bachelors of Arts degree in 1897 from Harvard University. Droppers had been a teacher of economics at the National University of Tokyo for ten years when assuming the presidency at USD in 1899. His presidency began under auspicious political and economic circumstances. Politics threatened to invade the policies of the Board of Regents and USD. Droppers was a liberal Democrat with Populist leanings just when conservatives began to dominate state politics at the turn of the twentieth century. His administration also confronted declining enrollments due to a nationwide economic depression after the Spanish American War. Moreover, internal dissension began to emerge among faculty members. It was during his administration that engineering courses were started and the College of Law was established. In addition, he replaced the three term system with two semesters and began finding featured speakers for commencement ceremonies. Droppers would also be the last president to teach classes on a regular basis. USD conferred an honorary doctoral degree upon Droppers in June 1905, but he resigned from the position several months later. After leaving USD, he taught economics at the University of Chicago and Williams College, became a U.S. minister to Greece during World War I, and was a visiting professor in Japan before his death on July 7, 1927 in Williamstown, Massachusetts.

Scope and Content Note

The Garrett Droppers Collection is composed of three series: Correspondence, Faculty Minutes, and Misc.

The largest series in the Droppers Collection is the Correspondence series. This series contains letters written by individuals requesting a catalog of courses or seeking admission into the university. There is also correspondence sent from high school principals and superintendents regarding inquiries concerning their graduation requirements and course of study. Some of the correspondence is addressed to members of the Board of Regents regarding financial issues for the university. General correspondence is contained in folders by alphabetical order. Incoming and outgoing correspondence for a person with more than 2 letters are contained in one folder; these are listed directly after “General” files.

The Faculty Minutes series contains the minutes for university faculty meetings; these meetings were convened by the President’s Office during this period. These are found in Box 1.

The Misc. series contains ephemera such as faculty salary list, newspaper clippings, articles, certificates, and the photocopy of a 1966 letter regarding Droppers’ administration.
Additional Resources


Subjects: University of South Dakota. President—Archives
Droppers, Garrett, 1899-1905—Archives.
University of South Dakota – History—19th century—Sources
College presidents—South Dakota—Vermillion--Archives
CORRESPONDENCE (25 folders)

Box 1

General “B” (4 folders)
Beaty, Herbert
  1902, Sept. 17
Bigelow, A. H.
  1905, Oct. 10
Blyman, J. C.
  1905, Nov. 16
Bookman, Murray
  1902, Sept. 16
Byers, J. R.
  1904, Sept. 14
Beebe, M. Plin (3 items)
  1901, Sept. 4
  1901, Sept. 7
  1903, July 17
Brenne, Alice H. (2 items)
  1903, June 29
  1903, Aug. 27

Box 1 cont.

CORRESPONDENCE, cont.
Byrne, Mary (2 items)
  1902, May 23
  1902, Oct. 25
General “C” (2 folders)
Carson, Hazel
  1904, Sept. 8
Chamberlain, Frank
  1904, Sept. 12
Chaussee, Lulu
  1904, Sept. 12
Collins, Edward E., State Supt. Of Public Instruction
  n.d.
  “Cuppett, Mr.”
  1905, Feb. 15
Cusick, John
  1904, Sept. 12
Catherine, Sister Mary (2 items)
  1905, Oct. 13
  1905, Oct. 13
General “D” (1 folder)
Dailey, J. W.
  1905, Sept. 28
Doolittle, Grace
  1904, Jan. 14
Droppers, Garrett, USD President
  1899, Dec. 8
General “E” (1 folder)
Ede, Ernest D.
  1905, Sept. 27
Elliot, J. Kentner
  1903, Jan. 30
Ellis, J. S.
  1905, Sept. 29
General “F” (2 folders)
Fellows, David
1902, Sept. 13
Fleming, J. E
1905, Oct. 2
“Frazer, Mr.”
1904, Sept. 19
Frudenfeld, Arthur
1902, Sept. 19
Fuller, Howard G. (2 items)
1903, May 6
1903, April 29
General “G” (1 folder)
Garner, Robert L.
1904, Jan. 22
Given, W. S.
1905, March 28
Good, Harry
1904, Sept. 12

Box 1 cont.
CORRESPONDENCE, cont
Grange, Mildred
1902, Nov. 6
General “H” (1 folder)
Hadley, Albert
1903, Sept. 18
Hadley, Bessie
1902, Dec. 17
General “I” (1 folder),
Jones, J.
1903, Sept. 21
General “L” (1 folder)
Laub, Willis E.
1905, Sept. 9
General “M”
Meek, W. H.
1905, Sept. 28
Melby, Gustav
1905, May 31
Myron, Ole C. (2 items)
1903, April 20
1903, May 5
General “N” (1 folder)
Norgren, Anna
1903, April 17
General “R” (2 folders)
Raish, A. W.
1899, July 25
Reid, Mabel (2 items)
1900, Sept. 19
1901, Sept. 1
General “S” (1 folder)
Sargent, Minnie G.
1901, Sept. 16
Sayre, Benjamin
1899, Jan. 13
Schultz, Mabel
1904, Sept. 12
Schultz, Rosa
1902, Oct. 1
Seymour, A. H.
1905, Sept. 26
Sheldon, Nellie
1904, July 29
Simpson, Caroline
n.d.
Simpson, Fred
1902, Sept. 17
Sloan, Edith
1904, Sept. 12
Sloan, Trudy
1902, March 17

Box 1 cont.
CORRESPONDENCE, cont
Spinsely (?), Dosa
1902, March 17
State of South Dakota, Sec. of State
1905, Dec. 7
State Agricultural College
1905, Dec. 26
Strachan, Alexander
1905, Sept. 28
Sweezy, Bernice
1904, Sept. 6
General “T” (2 folders)
Todd, Eugene
1904, Sept. 22
Todd, J. E., Acting USD President
1898, Nov. 1
Tollefson, Maude
1904, Feb.
Turney, Day
1903, Sept. 12
Thompson, Tollef B. (2 items)
1902, Feb. 5
1902, March 26
General “V” (1 folder)
Valgren, V. N.
1905, Oct. 11
General “W” (1 folder)
Wickersham, E. B.
1905, Nov. 27
Wilcox, Fred
1901, Oct. 31
Woodbert, Ethelbert C.
1905, Sept. 27
General “Y” (1 folder)
Young, Lillian
1905, Sept. 20

FACULTY MINUTES (1 folder)
1903-1905

MISC. (1 folder)
Articles
Who’s Who, 1920
South Dakota Alumni Quarterly, Oct. 1905
Williams Alumni Review, 16(March 1924)
South Dakota Alumnus, 23 (July 1927)
South Dakota Alumnus, August 1927
Williams Alumni Review, 20 (Oct. 1927)
National Cyclopaedia of American Biography, 1928
Harvard College, Fiftieth Anniversary of the Class of
Certificate-Otto Weedfall
1902, June 17
Letter, photocopy
Boot, Estella M.
1966, July 22
Newspaper Clippings
n.d.
1903, Sept. 24, Dakota Republican
Salary List, USD Faculty
1899, Dec.