

John Atkinson Cunningham Photograph CollectionLU.185

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1890-1891



Title Statement

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

LU.185

Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/106

Unit Date

1890-1891

Still Image

14 (Binder)

Language

English

Creator

Cunningham, John Atkinson, 1846-1897.

Extent

6 Linear Feet 6 photographic images in an archival photograph binder

Repository

Greenwood Library Archives and Special Collections

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access

There are no restrictions to access or use for research purposes.

Biographical sketch

John Atkinson Cunningham was born in 1846 in Richmond, Virginia. Due to his poor health as a child, he was educated at home by a French governess. In 1864, at the age of 18 he enlisted in the Confederate Army and served in Captain Willis Jefferson Dance's Company until the end of the Civil War. Cunningham studied ancient languages and mathematics at the University of Virginia from 1865 to 1868 before moving to Kentucky where he taught at a military academy in New Castle. In 1870, he joined the faculty at the University of Nashville as Chair of the Latin Department. In 1875, he married Florence M. Boyd, of Nashville, with whom he had a son. Shortly thereafter, he moved his family back to Richmond, where his wife died in 1876. In 1877, he became principal of the Madison School in Richmond. Cunningham was married again in 1884 to Martha Macon Eggleston of Cumberland County, Virginia. His second marriage produced three children. In 1887, Cunningham was named president of [then] State Female Normal School in Farmville. During his tenure at the school, he oversaw the construction of several modern brick buildings as well as the installation of electric lighting in 1891. He nearly doubled the faculty and increased enrollment from 90 in 1887 to 250 in 1897. In 1897, Cunningham contracted meningitis and within months succumbed to the illness. A three-building dormitory complex completed in 1928, 1939, and 1958 was named in his honor. The buildings were razed in 2014 to make room for the now-completed Upchurch University Center.

Scope and content

This collection consists of (6) photographic images, taken by John A. Cunningham between 1890 and 1891. The photographs include images of some of the early campus architecture, faculty, and students.

Keywords

Longwood College -- : History.

Longwood University -- : Buildings.

Ownership and Custodial History

This collection of photographs, taken by John A. Cunningham between 1890 and 1891, was given to the school circa 1914 by Cunningham's son. An accompanying statement "emphasize[s] the wonderful achievement of Dr. [Joseph L.] Jarman in bringing to its present state, from a very modest beginning, the 'plant' of the State Teachers College."

Description of Subordinate Components

Campus and buildings, B.M. Cox in foreground.

Unit ID 185.001

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/10690

Unit Date 1890

Still Image 14 (Binder)

Extent 1 Photographic PrintsBlack and white photograph mounted on board5"x6"

11 unidentified students in foreground, other students seen in background in windows of the building.

Unit ID 185.002

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/10691

Unit Date 1890

Still Image 14 (Binder)

Extent 1 Photographic PrintsBlack and white photograph mounted on board5"x6"

Campus facing north. Students, faculty, and children seated outdoors at picnic.

Unit ID 185.003

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/10692

Still Image 14 (Binder)

Extent 1 Photographic PrintsBlack and white photograph mounted on board5"x6"

Portia L. Morrison, Sarah Spencer, and Clara Bartkowska seated outside. Students standing and sitting on porch of campus building in background.

Unit ID 185.004

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/10693

Still Image 14 (Binder)

Extent 1 Photographic PrintsBlack and white photograph mounted on board5"x6"

Rear view of dormitories.

Unit ID 185.005

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/10694

Still Image 14 (Binder)

Extent 1 Photographic PrintsBlack and white photograph mounted on board5"x6"

The Melton House (present-day Maugans Hall).

Unit ID 185.006

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/10695

Still Image 14 (Binder)

Extent 1 Photographic PrintsBlack and white photograph mounted on board5"x6"