

A Guide to the Edward H. Russell Records, 1909-1919 MSS.0005

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1909-1919

Title Statement

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MSS.0005

Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/19

Unit Date

1909-1919

Language

English .

Creator

Russell, Edward H.

source

University of Mary Washington. Office of the President

Extent

1 Linear Feet 18 folders, 2 document boxes

Repository

University of Mary Washington Special Collections and University Archives

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

Collection open for research.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

The materials were transferred from the President's Office to the University Archives.

Biographical / Historical

Edward H. Russell President, 1908-1919 Fredericksburg State Normal and Industrial School for Women

Edward Hutson Russell was born in Petersburg, Virginia on November 26, 1869. He graduated from Virginia Military Institute in 1891 and studied law at Richmond College until he began teaching. His early teaching career was varied: he served as principal at Pulaski, for two-years as commandant of the Fishburne Military Academy, and as superintendent of schools in Bristol, where he founded and conducted a summer school for teachers at Emory and Henry College. In 1905 he became a member of the State Board of Public School Examiners for the First Circuit that included Fredericksburg. While in Fredericksburg, he again founded and taught a summer school for teachers.

Based partially on his intimate knowledge of the public schools as well as his successful summer institutes for teachers, on May 19, 1908 the Board of Trustees appointed Russell as president of the new Fredericksburg State Normal and Industrial School for Women.

Beyond his responsibilities for establishing the facilities of the school, Russell also set the courses of instruction. He established a regular course that was two to four years of high school level education and a professional course that was a two year normal school course after a high school education. It was Russell's hope that as the state established more high schools, the regular course would be reduced by two years. The professional course covered general education, methodology, and student teaching completed in concert with the Fredericksburg Public School system. The program concluded with a teaching certificate issued by the State Board of Examiners.

Due to limited accommodations, admission to the new teacher-training school was competitive; applicants were required to be at least fifteen years old, of good moral character, and possessing a thorough knowledge of subjects taught in the grammar grades of public school. Social standards were equally high. Students were expected to practice self-control and required to wear clothing of simplicity and modesty. Though the school was not affiliated with any single church, Russell extended his policy of discipline to religious worship. Students were expected to attend some church, preferably by the choice of their parents. Aside from church-sponsored entertainment, students had numerous activities to choose from, including sports and clubs. The Russell Literary Society was particularly popular among students, as well as the Student Government Association and the school yearbook, the Battlefield.

As the first president of what is now the University of Mary Washington, Russell supplemented the normal school course of study with curriculum in classical, commercial, and industrial courses, already envisioning a larger institution. However, his ambitious efforts weakened him physically, and ill health forced him to resign the presidency on May 9, 1919. He then moved with his family to Washington, where he entered the real estate business. He died in 1956.

Scope and Contents

The collection contains Edward H. Russell's records from 1909-1919, and principally includes correspondence related to school subjects and personnel; reports to various state education bodies; reports on teachers salaries and summer school; and reports of comparative statistics with other similar institutions. Some reports in this collection were generated by Dean Algernon B. Chandler, Jr. acting on behalf of the President.

Folder 8 contains materials pertaining to the appointment of Hugh S. Bird as head of the Education Department at the Normal School. Also included are progress reports to the Fredericksburg School Board relative to using the Fredericksburg schools for teacher training. Folder 9 contains memos to student employees and memos regarding special privileges of the senior class. Folder 10 contains materials documenting rules and procedures for the new schools library, swimming pool, and housekeeping services. Folder 15 contains various reports to the state board governing the four Normal Schools in Virginia. It also includes reports on the impact of the Spanish influenza on the students and faculty.

Keywords

College presidents -- Virginia

College presidents -- Virginia -- History -- 20th century

University of Mary Washington. Office of the President

Bibliography

History of Mary Washington College: 1908-1972, Edward Alvey, Jr., 1996. "The First President, 1908-1919", MWC Today. Winter, 1983.

Appendix 1: Appointments and Reappointments, 1911-1919

Anthony, Annie I.
Black, Ethel
Campbell, Espie
Carter, Parke D.
Chandler, Jr., Algernon B.
Chesley, Bessie
Chesley, William S.
Chew, Mary Bailey
Cooke, Roy S.
D., Dora J.
Eyles, Clara E.
Forbes, Marion C.
Fraser, Margaret E.
Gammon, Mary Somerville
Goolrick, Virginia M.
Graves, Cary
Hamlet, William M.
Harrison, G.M.
Hinman, Olive M.
Horner, M. A.
Houchen, Grace
Humphreys, Anne
Jackson, Caroline R.
Jamison, Lillie H.
Jones, Margaret
Keller, Edith M.
Lewis, J. Louise
Marshall, Sarah R.
Moore, K.C.
Robinson, John
Saunders, Lucy
Shewmake, E. F.
Smith, C. Mason
Stone, Virginia E.
Straith, M. Catherine
Tanner, Grace K.
Tyler, Mary H.
Tyner, Bunyan Y.
Van Landingham, Harry S.
Veech, Annie

Ward, Charles R.

Ward, Nora C.

White, Bernice M.

Withers, Francis L.

Yates, Mary S.

Description of Subordinate Components

Correspondence

Unit ID 1

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/1331

Unit Date 1911-1919

Correspondence with Faculty and Staff

Unit ID 1.1

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/1332

Unit Date 1911-1919

Appointments and Reappointments, (A-B)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/1338

Unit Date 1911-1919

Mixed Materials [10006375179] 1 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Appointments and Reappointments, (C-D)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/1339

Unit Date 1911-1919

Mixed Materials [10006375179] 1 (Box)

Container 2 (Folder)

Appointments and Reappointments, (E-G)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/1340

Unit Date 1911-1919

Mixed Materials [10006375179] 1 (Box)

Container 3 (Folder)

Appointments and Reappointments, (H-L)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/1341

Unit Date 1911-1919

Mixed Materials [10006375179] 1 (Box)

Container 4 (Folder)

Appointments and Reappointments, (M-S)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/1342

Unit Date 1911-1919

Mixed Materials [10006375179] 1 (Box)

Container 5 (Folder)

Appointments and Reappointments, (T-W)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/1343

Unit Date 1911-1919

Mixed Materials [10006375179] 1 (Box)

Container 6 (Folder)

Memos regarding school matters

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/1344

Unit Date 1912-1919

Mixed Materials [10006375179] 1 (Box)

Container 7 (folder)

Correspondence with the Fredericksburg School Board

Unit ID 1.2

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/1333

Unit Date 1911-1913

Correspondence with the Fredericksburg School Board

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/1345

Unit Date 1911-1913

Mixed Materials [10006375179] 1 (Box)

Container 8 (Folder)

Correspondence, Miscellaneous

Unit ID 1.3

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/1334

Unit Date 1913

Correspondence, Miscellaneous

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/1346

Unit Date 1913

Mixed Materials [10006375179] 1 (Box)

Container 9 (Folder)

Rules and Regulations

Unit ID 2

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/1335

Rules and Regulations

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/1347

Mixed Materials [10006375179] 1 (Box)

Container 10 (Folder)

Reports

Unit ID 3

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/1336

Unit Date 1909-1919

Board of Trustees for the State Normal School at Fredericksburg (VA)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/1348

Unit Date 1909-1914

Mixed Materials [1000637520] 2 (box)

Container 11 (Folder)

Virginia Department of Public Instruction

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/1349

Unit Date 1913-1918

Mixed Materials [1000637520] 2 (box)

Container 12 (Folder)

Reports of other institutions

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/1350

Unit Date 1910-1913

Mixed Materials [1000637520] 2 (box)

Container 13 (Folder)

Governor of Virginia

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/1351

Unit Date 1912,1918

Mixed Materials [1000637520] 2 (box)

Container 14 (Folder)

Virginia Normal School Board

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/1352

Unit Date 1914-1919

Mixed Materials [1000637520] 2 (box)

Container 15 (Folder)

Recommendations

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/1353

Unit Date 1911-1912

Mixed Materials [1000637520] 2 (box)

Container 16 (Folder)

Miscellaneous

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/1354

Unit Date 1912-1919

Mixed Materials [1000637520] 2 (box)

Container 17 (Folder)

Examinations, State Teachers

Unit ID 4

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/1337

Unit Date 1911-1912, 1914

Examinations, State Teachers

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/1355

Unit Date 1911-1912, 1914

Mixed Materials [1000637520] 2 (box)

Container 18 (Folder)