

WORCESTER HISTORICAL MUSEUM

30 Elm Street
Worcester, Massachusetts

ARCHIVES

2011.FIA.01

Oread Institute Collection

Processed by Veronica Corcoran
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Collection Information

Abstract : The collection consists of two bounded volumes, dated 1902-1919, containing records and membership lists of the Oread Institute Association. The collection also contains an autograph book, belonging to an unknown Oread student, with signatures of students attending the school in 1875 as well as scrap book of the Oread school from 1849-1888. Lastly, there is a folder containing various manuscripts related to the Oread. This folder contains letters to the Association, poems about the College, as well as lectures about experiences while at the school, dated 1861 to 1919.

Finding Aid : Finding Aid in print form is available in the Repository.

Preferred Citation : Worcester Historical Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Provenance : Unknown

MARC Access : Collection is cataloged in MARC under the following subject headings

Historical/Biographical Notes

The Oread Institute was one of the first all girls colleges in the country, located in Worcester, Massachusetts between the years of 1849-1881. The schools founder, Eli Thayer, created the school out of the belief that there was value in education woman at a collegiate level, just as men are. The school only lasted a generation, but educated highly motivated women of the time, including Sophia Packard and Harriet Giles who latter went on to form Spelman college. Spelman was named after fellow Oread graduate Laura Spelman Rockefeller.

Eli Thayer, born June 1819, was educated at Worcester Academy, Brown University, and later taught at Worcester Academy before opening his own school. All five of his daughters attended Oread, and one of his two sons was the schools final principle from 1879-1881, but had to leave due to illness. Eli Thayer died in 1899 at his home in Worcester.

Alumni of the college founded the Oread Collegiate Institute Association in 1901, out of love and loyalty to their Alma Mater. It was formed originally as a class of 1871 reunion, for the associations founder Mrs. Ann Bancroft, but was suggested to be more encompassing and include all pupils and staff of the college. A group of eight alumni took on the task of tracking down teachers, pupils who both graduated and did not graduate, and compiled a published volume. The book, completed in 1905, is the most comprehensive biography of the school, speaking to the origins of the school and it's founder, early experiences of the first few classes to attend, as well as a directory to all the aforementioned staff and students. The directory is broken down by class years, including abbreviated biographies of each person, some with pictures and current contact information. A supplement was printed ten years later, 1915, containing teachers and students that couldn't be tracked down for the original printing.

Scope and Content

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Series Descriptions

Series 1: Oread Institute Records Association 1901-1919

Sub series 1: Record Book 1901-1919

Sub series 2: Membership List 1909-1919

Sub series 3: Papers given to Oread Institute Association

Series 2: Student Autograph Book 1875

Series 3: Student Scrap Book 1849-1888

Oread Institute Collection
2011.FIA.01
Series 1: Oread Institute Records Association 1901-1919

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1		2011.FIA.01.01.01	one volume, dated 1901-1919, containing Records of the Oread Institute Associations meetings and accounting.
1		2011.FIA.01.01.02	one volume, dated 1909-1919, with membership lists of the association for each year.
1	1	2011.FIA.01.01.03	A folder containing manuscript papers given to the Association, dated 1861-1919, such as letters, poems about the Oread, editor notes on the Oread Supplement, and speeches given at the annual meetings.

Oread Institute Collection
2011.FIA.01
Series 2: Student Autograph Book 1875

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1		2011.FIA.01.02	A bounded volume labeled "Autographs," dated 1875. It contains signatures of students who attended the school that year. Some of the passages contain notes of well wishes, addresses of contact, and dates.

Oread Institute Collection
2011.01
Series 3: Student Scrap Book 1849-1888

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1		2011.FIA.01.03	A student scrap book containing photographs of students and the school grounds, graduate programs for multiple years, tuition bills, report cards, advertisements of Oread students, and news clippings on the school.