

GOUCHER

—college—

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES

John Franklin Goucher Papers An Inventory

- Creator:** Goucher, John Franklin
Title: John Franklin Goucher Papers
Dates: 1835-2008, bulk 1850s-1940s
Abstract: Biographical materials, papers, correspondence and photographs document the life of John Franklin Goucher, a prominent figure in the establishment of Goucher College (formerly The Woman's College of Baltimore) and president for seventeen years (1891-1908). He also served as a pastor for the Methodist Episcopal Church and was extremely active in local and international missionary work, establishing various Christian women's schools in India, China, and Japan.
Extent: 4 boxes and 3 bound volumes, 2 linear feet
Language: English
Repository: Goucher College Library
Call #: Record Group 3: Office of the President; Series 1.2: John Franklin Goucher

Biographical Sketch

John Franklin Goucher was born on June 7, 1845 to John and Eleanor Townsend Goucher in southwestern Pennsylvania. Following graduation from Dickinson College in 1868, Goucher joined the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal Church serving in the Baltimore Conference. From 1869-1891, he served as pastor of various Baltimore area churches. In addition to his ministry in the Baltimore area, Dr. Goucher focused on missionary work, serving on the Board of Foreign Missions of the Methodist Episcopal Church and financing much of their mission work in Asia. During the first year of his ministry, Goucher met Mary Cecilia Fisher, and they married on December 24, 1877 after an eight year courtship.

Mary Cecilia Fisher was born March 22, 1850 in Cecil County Maryland. She spent the majority of her childhood on the family estate, Alto Dale. Though her educational opportunities were limited, her father believed in education for women and arranged for

her as much education as was possible at that time. She never attended college, yet she was well educated and fluent in French. In 1868, she joined the Methodist Episcopal Church and became very involved in the activities and programs of the Church.

Together with Dr. Goucher, Mrs. Goucher shared a strong belief in higher education for women and world mission programs. She worked tirelessly on many causes and funded many projects. The Gouchers aided in founding Morgan State University, a historically black college located in Baltimore, Maryland. The Gouchers also helped found several schools in Asia, China, and India.

In 1883, Dr. Goucher, serving as the minister of First Methodist Episcopal Church, was involved in the efforts of the Baltimore Conference to form an educational institution to commemorate the centennial of the Methodist Episcopal Church. His donation of land to be used for a woman's college or seminary directed the focus of the Conference to creating a woman's college. The Woman's College of Baltimore City was founded in 1885. Together the Gouchers worked to ensure the young college would survive, and they gave generously, providing a majority of the funding for the first building on campus, named in their honor. Dr. Goucher refused the nomination to serve as the first president of the College, instead choosing to remain in the ministry and focus his work on missionary efforts.

In 1890, when the College's first president resigned, the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to elect Dr. Goucher as president. This time Dr. Goucher agreed and became president in 1891. Dr. Goucher continued to give generously to the College during his tenure, often forgoing his salary to balance the budget. In 1906, he deeded his house to the institution. A great deal of Dr. Goucher's administration focused on fundraising and increasing publicity and support for the young college around the country and especially within the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Dr. Goucher resigned from the Presidency in 1908. Following his resignation, Dr. Goucher remained on the Board of Trustees until his death in 1922. In 1910, the College bestowed the highest honor upon Dr. and Mrs. Goucher when they changed the institution's name to Goucher College.

Scope and Contents

The John Franklin Goucher Papers consist primarily of biographical material, correspondence, writings, and publications. The papers are arranged in four series. Series I contains personal and biographical materials relating to Dr. and Mrs. Gouchers' lives,

including Mrs. Goucher's personal diary, financial records and published and unpublished works about the Gouchers. Series II contains correspondence, arranged chronologically and thematically. Correspondence pertains to the founding and early years of The Woman's College of Baltimore and Dr. Goucher's missionary activities. Series III contains sermons, writings, publications by Dr. Goucher and materials related to the Gouchers' missionary activities. Series IV includes bound volumes of Dr. Goucher's sermons, an unpublished biography of Dr. Goucher and a presentation volume following Dr. Goucher's gift of his house to The Woman's College of Baltimore.

Organization of the Collection

The collection is arranged into series as follows:

Series I. Personal and Biographical Materials

Series II. Correspondence

Series III. Sermons, Writings, Publications, and Missionary Activities

Series IV. Bound Materials

Restrictions

Open for research.

Index Terms

People

Goucher, John Franklin, 1845-1922 (lca)

Goucher, Mary Fisher

Van Meter, John Blackford

Carnegie, Andrew, 1835-1919 (lca)

Organizations

Goucher College (lca)

Morgan State College (lca)

Dickinson College (lca)

First Methodist Episcopal Church (Baltimore, Md.) (lca)

Methodist Church (U.S.)—Baltimore Conference (lca)

Subjects

Women—Education (Higher) (lcsh)

Women's colleges—Maryland—Baltimore (lcsh)

Missions (lcsh)

Educational fundraising—United States (lcsb)

Document Types

Papers (Document genres) (aat)

Letters (Correspondence) (aat)

Black-and-white Photographs (aat)

Diaries (aat)

Sermons (aat)

Speeches (aat)

Related Material

John Franklin Goucher Papers. Lovely Lane Church.

John Franklin Goucher Papers. Morgan State Library.

Administrative Information

Processors

Lara Justis, 2009

Cassie Brand, 2009

Preferred Citation

John Franklin Goucher Papers, 1835-2008. Office of the President. Goucher College Library.

Container List

Series I. Personal and Biographical Materials

Container 1

Folder 1: Personal correspondence, includes letters to and from family members.

Folder 2: Information and documents regarding the Alto Dale home, 1931; also included is a student paper written about the events at Goucher's home.

Folder 3: Financial Records, 1887-1917, includes a certificate naming Dr. Goucher as the sole shareholder of eighty shares of stock from the Baltimore and Ohio Rail

Road Company and other financial correspondence in regards to the Woman's College of Baltimore and the Board of Trustees.

Folder 4: Documents regarding the estate, includes letters to the Board of Trustees in reference to the Goucher estate, newspaper clippings that mention the changing of the college's name and the unknown whereabouts of Dr. Goucher's fortune after his death.

Folder 5: Biographical information on Mary Cecelia Fisher Goucher, includes biographies, obituaries and other personal accounts of Mary Goucher that depict the extreme sense of community mourning over her death in 1902.

Folder 6: Diary of Mary Cecelia Fisher Goucher, 1895.

Folder 7-10: Photographs.

Folder 11-12: Dr. Goucher's obituary articles from various newspapers; supplemental articles written about Dr. Goucher's life-long contributions to religious organizations, schools, and communities both in the United States and abroad.

Folder 13: Program from a memorial service in Tokyo, booklets written as a tribute by Morgan College, and publications by the Goucher Alumnae Quarterly regarding Dr. Goucher's death.

Folder 14: Finding Aid from the Goucher College collection at Lovely Lane, 29 April 2008.

Folder 15: American National Biography written about John Goucher, 1999.

Folder 16: Assorted articles that mention Dr. Goucher or The Woman's College of Baltimore (Goucher College).

Folder 17: "The Life of Dr. Goucher." by Betsy Woollen, Class of 1931.

Folder 18: "Western Missionaries and the Transformation of Nineteenth Century Asia." by Maria Samuelsson, Class of 1980 (2 copies).

Series II. Correspondence, 1884-1922.

Container 2

Folder 19: Letter from John Goucher to the Baltimore Conference, December 2, 1883; also includes documents that address the college's possession of land, the building and grounds committee, and the construction of a new part of the campus by Benjamin J. Bennett.

Folder 20-26: Letters addressed to and from Rev. Dr. Goucher by various people, community groups, schools, law firms, and missionary organizations.

Folder 27: Letters communicating that Dr. Goucher was out of the country and that Dean Van Meter would be handling all formal responses on behalf of the college until the president's return.

Folder 28: Correspondence with Carnegie, 1905-1908, contains letters to Andrew Carnegie regarding the college's budget, updated data, and overall debt.

Folder 29: Correspondence with the General Education Board, 1905-1906.

Folder 30: Majority includes letters addressed to Dr. Goucher from various sources including the Methodist Episcopal Church and esteemed individuals. Also features a small amount of responses written by Dr. Goucher.

Folder 31: Majority includes handwritten letters addressed to Dr. Goucher in regards to requesting information and data about the college.

Folder 32: Letter of Resignation, 1907. Written by Dr. Goucher after serving the college president for 18 years. Addressed are his deteriorating health and the immediate need for uninterrupted rest.

Series III. Sermons, Writings, Publications, and Missionary Activities

Container 3

Folder 33: Publications on The Woman's College of Baltimore, 1894 – 1906.

Folder 34: Publications on the Education of Women, 1899, 1906, includes pamphlets, brochures, and newspaper articles regarding appropriate educational requirements and extra-curricular activities for collegiate women.

Folder 35: Publications, 1882-1900, includes a report from the Convention of the American Inter-Seminary Missionary Alliance, The New England Association of Colleges and Preparatory Schools, and the Report of the Board of Education of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Folder 36: Books, articles, and pamphlets written by Dr. Goucher, 1882-1909.

Folder 37: Books, articles, and pamphlets written by Dr. Goucher, 1912-1916.

Folder 38: Articles and pamphlets written by Dr. Goucher, 1913-1923.

Container 4

Folder 39: Addresses given as a student at Dickinson College and The Woman's College of Baltimore, 1866-1892: Includes orations entitled "Social Radicalism," "Climatic Influences," and "Philosophical Oration."

Folder 40: Addresses given at The Woman's College of Baltimore, 1893-1897: Includes handwritten notes from his address at the first commencement as president, later commencement speeches, a matriculation sermon entitled "True Education," and various speeches on topics like physical education.

Folder 41: Addresses given at The Woman's College of Baltimore, 1893-1904: Includes handwritten notes from his address at the first commencement as president, later commencement speeches, a matriculation sermon entitled "True Education," and various speeches on topics like physical education.

Folder 42: Missionary Pamphlets and Writings, 1898-1905: Pamphlets that feature addresses given by Goucher entitled "Methodism in India," "The Sunday School and Missions," and "Young People and Missions." A strong emphasis is placed on his generous donations that helped fund the building of schools in India (he contributed an excess of one million dollars).

Folder 43: Missionary Activities in India and Japan, 1884-1934: Includes foreign pamphlets, articles, and books written about the need for and eventual presence of a Christian College for women. Also includes a personal invitation to Dr. Goucher from the Emperor of Japan. Handouts from the Isabella Thoburn College in Lucknow, India and a photograph of a student at that college are featured as well.

Folder 44: Includes colored pamphlets about the origination of the Christian school in Japan, a hardbound book written in Japanese, and various handouts explaining Dr. Goucher's involvement in the construction and maintenance of the university.

Folder 45: Includes more updated versions of literature written about this university in Japan. Also features orientation programs handed to Americans who are interested in attending.

Folder 46: Missionary Activities in China: Includes a piece of handmade paper with calligraphy (1904) that was presented to Dr. Goucher while he was in China.

Folder 47: Religious contributions to Lovely Lane Church, 1921: Majority includes newspaper articles featured in *The Christian Advocate*. Also features pamphlets released by The Museum of the Baltimore Conferences through the Methodist Historical Society.

Folder 48: Religious contributions to Lovely Lane Church, 1921: Newspaper articles featured in *The Christian Advocate*.

Series IV. Bound Materials

Presentation volume following Dr. Goucher's gift of his house to The Woman's College of Baltimore.

John Franklin Goucher. Carlyle Earp. Biography of Dr. Goucher.

Sermons of John Franklin Goucher.