



Guide to the William T. Gannaway Papers, 1853-1906

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Summary

Collection Title:

William T. Gannaway papers, 1853-1906

Creator:

Gannaway, William T.

Abstract:

William T. Gannaway was a white educator, college administrator, and farmer. From 1857 to 1892, he taught at Trinity College in Randolph County, North Carolina, and served as president pro tempore of the college from 1863 to 1865. The collection largely consists of grade books and account books containing the expenses and financial transactions for the Gannaway family and the college. Some of the account books contain the expenses for Cherokee Industrial School and the names, payments, and services of Black people who worked for Gannaway and Trinity College after the Civil War. Also includes a small amount of correspondence and notes.

Extent:

2.4 Linear Feet

Language:

Material in English

Collection ID:

UA.29.02.0152

Permalink:

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m1dd7s>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], William T. Gannaway Papers, Duke University Archives, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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Background

Scope and Content

The collection largely consists of grade books and account books for Gannaway's personal accounts and Trinity College. The grade books contain student grades and courses taught by Gannaway at Trinity College. The account books include records relating to salary, farm labor, housekeeping, college supplies and advertisements, student board, clothing, food, and services.

A few account books, such as Day Book, 1853-1877; Account Book, 1875-1877; Account Book, 1878-1885; and Account Book, 1886-1906, contain the names, payments, and services of Black people who worked for Gannaway and Trinity College post-Civil War. Some of them had been formerly enslaved.

Account Book, 1883-1884, includes financial records for Cherokee Industrial School, a federal Indian boarding school at Trinity College made up of male students from the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

This collection also contains an 1864 report to the Trustees, memoranda, receipts, notes, and a small amount of correspondence, including a letter from E. F. Finch in 1888 that concerns the financial affairs of Charles Heitman and their effects on Trinity College.

Biographical/Historical

William Trigg Gannaway was a white educator, college administrator, and farmer. He was born in Wythe County, Virginia, on June 10, 1825. He graduated from Emory and Henry College in 1847. That same year Gannaway opened a high school at Floyd Court House, Virginia. He then became head of a high school in Germanton, North Carolina. He married Mary Bethel in 1855, and they had four children, Ida, Florence, Edgar, and Mary. In 1857, Gannaway was appointed Professor of Latin and History at Trinity College in Randolph County, North Carolina. During his time at Trinity, Gannaway also taught arithmetic, algebra, English grammar, reading, and acted as treasurer of the college. From 1863 to 1865, he served as president pro tempore during Braxton Craven's resignation. Gannaway stayed at Trinity College until the school moved to Durham in 1892, and he retired from teaching that same year. After retiring, he kept his home and farm in Randolph County. Gannaway died June 5, 1910.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Use Restrictions

Copyright for Official University records is held by Duke University; all other copyright is retained by the authors of items in these papers, or their descendants, as stipulated by United States copyright law.

Acquisition Information

Unknown.

Processing Information

Processed by Archives Staff, February 2007

Encoded by Sherrie Bowser, April 2007

Container information and collection-level notes updated by Tracy M. Jackson, February 2020.

Biography note, collection-level and file-level scope and content notes updated by April Blevins, May 2025

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Related Materials

Related Material

Braxton Craven records and papers, Duke University Archives

Trinity College (Randolph County, N.C.) collection, Duke University Archives

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Names and Subjects

- African American agricultural laborers -- North Carolina
- African American household employees -- North Carolina
- Freed persons -- North Carolina
- Universities and colleges -- Employees
- Universities and colleges -- Employees -- Salaries, etc.
- Account books
- Gannaway, William T.
- Cherokee Industrial School
- Craven, B. (Braxton), 1822-1882
- Duke University -- History
- Trinity College (Randolph County, N.C.) -- Employees
- Trinity College (Randolph County, N.C.) -- Faculty
- Trinity College (Randolph County, N.C.) -- Finance
- Trinity College (Randolph County, N.C.) -- History -- 19th century

Collection Inventory

Account Book, 1875-1877

Box 1

Scope and Contents

Includes records related to Black workers.

Account Book, 1872

Box 1

Scope and Contents

Contains financial transactions, brief records of events by date, and notes for Gannaway and Trinity College.

Expense Book, 1878	Box 1
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Account Book, 1878-1885	Box 1
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Scope and Contents

Contains records related to Black workers including: Albert Brown, Jim Craven, William Craven, Edmond Gannaway, Elizabeth Gray, Ellwood Gray, Isabella Gray, Peter Gray, John Hargrave, Major Hargrave, Mary Hargrave, Betsey Holt, Tom Jackson, Harriet Leach, Julia Leach, Lewis Moffit, Ernest Rhodes, and Jane Walls.

Day Book, 1853-1877	Box 1
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Scope and Contents

Consists of sales, purchases, and records of payments related to Trinity College as well as the personal accounts for Gannaway. Contains records related to Black workers including: Jennie Baker, Jim Baker, Frank Bowman, Milly Bowman, Alec Brooks, Dan Finch, Edmond Foster, Ike Freeman, Edmond Gannaway, Jack Gannaway, Lettie Gannaway, Calvin George, Mary George, Delphina Gray, Elvira Gray, Stephen Gray, Major Hargrave, Polly Hargrave, Malinda Johnson, Anderson Leach, Harriet Leach, Hattie Mills, Haywood Lindsay, Jim Shockley, Jerry Strickland, Chester Thrift/William Chester Thrift, Mary Jane Tillman, and Jane Walls.

Grade Book, 1886-1887	Box 1
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Grade Book, 1872-1873	Box 1
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Grade Book, 1873	Box 1
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Grade Book, 1869	Box 1
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Grade Book, approximately 1870	Box 1
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Account Book, 1861-1865	Box 1
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Scope and Contents

Contains expenses and financial transactions for Trinity College and the Gannaway family.

Account Book, 1870-1871	Box 1
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Scope and Contents

Contains expenses for Trinity College.

Expense Account, Trinity College (Randolph Co.),
1882-1887

Box 2

Book of Receipts & Disbursements, and
an Account of Cash & Notes recovered at
Conference at Raleigh, 1882-1883

Box 2

Scope and Contents

Contains statements of money received and paid out of Trinity College's
accounts.

Account Book, 1883-1884

Box 2

Scope and Contents

Contains expenses and payments, such as faculty salaries, supplies,
advertisements, and student tuition for Trinity College. Also includes expenses
and payments related to Cherokee Industrial School.

Account Book, 1886-1906

Box 2

Scope and Contents

Contains records related to Black workers including: Lizzie Booker, George
Brown, Mary Brown, Eugene Core, General Dorsett, Julia Holt, Lizzie Holt,
Mattie Holt, Titia/Tish Holt, Harriet Leach, Dora Miller, Lewis A. Moffitt, Alice
Rush, Julia Tillman, Mary Jane Tillman, and Jim Walls.

Account Book/Expense Book, 1888-1891

Box 2

Account Book, 1892-1899

Box 2

Account book pages, 1900-1902

Box 2

Correspondence and writings, 1864-1899

Box 2

Scope and Contents

Includes an 1864 report from William Gannaway to the Board of Trustees
from when he was president pro tempore of Trinity College, prescription for la
grippe, a biography of Gannaway, correspondence from students, and a letter
from Ed. F. Finch regarding Charles Heitman's financial transactions.

Financial papers, 1868-1896

Box 2

Scope and Contents

Consists of receipts, invoices, and documents of expenses and transactions.