



# **Guide to the Trinity College (Randolph County, N.C.) Collection, 1839-1992**

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## Summary

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**Collection Title:**

Trinity College (Randolph County, N.C.) collection, 1839-1992

**Creator:**

Duke University. University Archives

**Abstract:**

Brown's Schoolhouse was established in 1838 in Randolph County, North Carolina iterations as Union and later went through iterations as Union Institute Academy, Normal College, and eventually Trinity College. The college relocated to Durham, North Carolina in 1892 and was renamed Duke University in 1924. This collection consists of administrative, academic, and financial records. Materials include accounting ledgers, roll books, student lists and rosters including lists containing the names of students from the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, minutes and resolutions, financial and annual reports, account statements, addresses, sermons, correspondence, writings of Braxton Craven, and Trinity College publications.

**Extent:**

22.5 Linear Feet

**Language:**

Materials are in English

**Collection ID:**

UA.01.02.0002

**Permalink:**

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m15x4n>

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], Trinity College (Randolph County, N.C.) Collection, Duke University Archives, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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## Background

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### Scope and Content

This artificial collection was assembled by library staff and donors. It contains administrative, academic, and financial records for Union Institute, Normal College, and Trinity College in Randolph County, North Carolina. The collection includes addresses and sermons, college publications, advertisements, and a small amount of writings and correspondence of Braxton Craven and students. Included are ledgers and roll books with records of operational expenses, student grades and fees, assignments, and syllabi. A ledger, "Teaching staff account book, 1859-1862," records some faculty and student activity during the Civil War and makes a few brief references to free Black people and the Trinity Guard traveling to and from High Point, North Carolina. An account book "Receipts received, No. 8, 1860-1861" contains receipts with records of errands completed by Isam, a Black man enslaved by Braxton Craven.

The collection also includes records of budgets and accounts; minutes and resolutions for the Board of Trustees; financial, committee, and annual reports from the president, faculty, and treasurer; and student rosters. One folder consists of lists with the names of students from the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. The collection contains a photocopy of an obituary for Will West Long.

Clippings and materials on the history of the college and Trinity, North Carolina are also included. Some materials in the collection are incomplete or fragmented.

### Biographical/Historical

In 1838, Brown's Schoolhouse was established in Randolph County, North Carolina as a private subscription school for local white children with Brantley York, a white Methodist minister, serving as the school's principal. As student enrollment increased, a need for expansion led to York reaching out to the community for more investment and support. In response, the Union Institute Educational Society was formed in 1839.

The State of North Carolina incorporated Union Institute Academy in 1841. The school was named Union to reflect its population of students from both the Methodist and Quaker communities. Braxton Craven, a white educator and minister, became principal of Union Institute following York's resignation in 1842. Craven remained with the institution until his death in 1882.

In 1851, the Legislature of North Carolina chartered Union Institute Academy as Normal College, a school for white male students. The North Carolina Conference of the Episcopal Church, South accepted Normal College as its

official college in 1856. The school was rechartered as Trinity College in 1859. Craven was elected president of the college that same year.

Braxton Craven and several of the institution's benefactors and trustees were enslavers. Craven gave lectures in his courses advocating for the system of slavery. During the Civil War, college administrators established a company of students known as the Trinity Guard and a military department to maintain enrollment while also assisting the Confederacy.

Craven resigned as president in 1863 but remained with the college as a member of faculty. William T. Gannaway, a white professor at the college, served as president until the school closed in 1865. Trinity College reopened with Craven as its president in 1866.

From 1882 until 1887, twenty male students of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians were enrolled at Trinity College as part of the Federal Indian boarding school system. According to the Federal Boarding School Initiative Investigative Report, this school system was created with the aim of forcing cultural assimilation and dispossessing Native and Indigenous communities, and its curriculum centered on manual labor and vocational skills. Trinity College received funds from the government to provide boarding, clothing, and instruction to the students. The Federal Indian boarding school at Trinity College became known as Cherokee Industrial School in 1883.

Will West Long, a student at Cherokee Industrial School, ran away from the school. He later studied at Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute (now Hampton University). Long developed careers as a woodworker, a scholar of Cherokee language, culture, and history, and as a consultant to sociological and linguistic researchers. He also helped to establish the Cherokee Indian Fair.

After accepting the position of president in 1887, John Franklin Crowell, a white economist and journalist, made changes to the curriculum and sought to establish an endowment to offset Trinity College's financial hardships. In 1892, Trinity College moved to Durham, North Carolina after white industrialists and philanthropists, Washington Duke and Julian Carr, gifted land and funds for relocation. Following the establishment of the Duke Endowment in 1924, the trustees renamed the college Duke University as a memorial to Washington Duke.

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## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Statement**

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URL: <https://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/>

### **Access Restrictions**

Collection is open for research.

### **Acquisition Information**

This artificial collection is made up of donated and library-created original items, copies, transcripts, and drafts of resources. The provenance of original items is unknown in most cases.

### **Processing Information**

Processed by Torrence N. Thomas, May 2000; Jill Katte, October 2002; Kimberly Sims, January 2007.

Encoded by Joshua McKim, December 2002; Kimberly Sims, January 2007.

Updated by Molly Bragg, August 2011.

Arranged and described account books in Boxes 3-7, and 9. Materials fit into new boxes 3-7, and 9 was deleted. Updated by Leah M. Kerr, March 2021

Rearranged, rehoused, and redescribed by April Blevins, July 2023

This collection has been physically reprocessed. Some materials including duplicates of originals have been discarded or removed. Because some items in this collection were digitized prior to reprocessing, digitized items may now be located in physical folders of different titles with items that have not been digitized. Before reprocessing, materials in the "Course schedules and lists of students", "Student grade reports", "Lists containing names of Cherokee students", and "Notes" folders were in a folder labeled "Student lists and grades." This earlier label may still be listed as the title for the online version of these materials.

## 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.

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## Related Materials

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### Related Material

Enoch Faw diary, 1851-1857. David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

Catherine E. Hanes papers, 1861-1873. Southern Historical Collection (#1959-z), University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Robert Philip Howell memoirs, 1854-1872. Southern Historical Collection (#4045), University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

William M. Jordan papers, 1852-1857. David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

William McKendree Robbins papers, 1836-1905. Southern Historical Collection (#4070), University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

John Franklin Heitman papers, 1863-1911. University Archives, Duke University.

William T. Gannaway papers, 1853-1906. University Archives, Duke University.

John Franklin Crowell records and papers, 1883-1932. University Archives, Duke University.

Braxton Craven records and papers, 1839-1882. University Archives, Duke University.

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## Names and Subjects

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- Cherokee Indians -- Education
- Cherokee Indians -- North Carolina -- History
- Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
- Education -- North Carolina -- History -- 19th century
- Enslaved persons -- North Carolina
- Free African Americans -- North Carolina -- 19th century
- Methodist Church -- North Carolina -- History
- North Carolina -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865
- Quakers -- North Carolina -- History
- Randolph County (N.C.) -- History
- Slavery
- Teachers colleges -- North Carolina
- Trinity (N.C.) -- History
- Craven, B. (Braxton), 1822-1882
- Crowell, J. Franklin (John Franklin), 1857-1931
- Trinity College (Randolph County, N.C.)
- Normal College (Randolph County, N.C.)
- Duke University -- History
- Cherokee Industrial School
- Gannaway, William T.
- Trinity College (Randolph County, N.C.) -- Students
- Trinity College (Randolph County, N.C.) -- History
- Trinity College (Randolph County, N.C.). Board of Trustees
- West Long, Will
- Union Institute (Randolph County, N.C.)

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## Collection Inventory

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### Academic and administrative records

Union Institute Academy Constitution, Minutes, and Accounts, 1839-1853	Volume 1
Normal College Incorporation, 1850, 1852	Box 1
Minutes and resolutions, 1852-1882	Box 1 Box 10

**Scope and Contents**

Includes primarily Board of Trustees and committee meeting minutes and resolutions. Also contains General Conference resolutions.

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Minutes and resolutions- Trinity Bible Society,  
1866-1867 Box 1

---

Laws and Regulations of Normal College,  
approximately 1852 Box 1

---

Annual reports, 1853-1881 (online item  
available) Box 1

**Physical Description:** 5 folders

**Digital Object:** [Annual Reports, 1858-1882](#)

**Scope and Contents**

Consists of annual reports from the president of the college, faculty, and Board of Trustees. Some reports are fragmented or incomplete. Note: Though some annual reports have been digitized and are available online, majority of the annual reports in this collection have not been digitized and are not available online.

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Annual reports, 1876 Box 10

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General reports, 1855-1877 Box 1

**Scope and Contents**

Contains reports regarding construction at Trinity College, faculty reports, and committee reports.

---

Education Society reports, 1859 Box 1

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Normal College- C.A. Hayworth teaching  
certificate, 1857 July 16 Box 1

---

Course schedules and lists of students,  
1856-1858, 1878-1879 (online item available) Box 1

**Physical Description:** 2 folders

**Digital Object:** [Student Lists and Grades, 1858-1880s](#)

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Student grade reports, 1866-1882 (online item  
available) Box 1

**Digital Object:** [Student Lists and Grades, 1858-1880s](#)

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Student lists, 1870s	Box 6
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Lists containing names of Cherokee students, 1880s (online item available)	Box 1
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**Digital Object:** [Student Lists and Grades, 1858-1880s](#)

**Scope and Contents**

Contains lists with the names of the 20 students from the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians: Byrd/Bird Goins, Welch Goins, John Jason, Rodgers Jason, David Owl, Lloyd Owl, Levi Queen, Simpson Queen, Lloyd Smith, Quincy Smith, Richard Smith, Ned Stamper, Nick Toineeter, George Wahew, Will West, Josiah Wilson, Isaac Wolfe/Wolf, Jacob Wolfe/Wolf, John Wolfe/Wolf, Sam Wolfe/Wolf. One list records the students' ages as ranging from 8 to 18. Another list includes comments for each student focusing on learning ability, obedience, cleanliness, and notes if the student had run away.

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Title to Trinity College, 1871 September 15	Box 1
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University of North Carolina Board of Regents proposal, approximately 1868	Box 1
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History of the Trinity College Debt, approximately 1876	Box 1
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Trinity College Alumni Association constitution and minutes, 1867-1873	Box 1
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List of Board of Trustees members, approximately 1882	Box 1
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Trinity College Loan Association constitution, 1890s	Box 1
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Record of the Society of Alumni of Trinity College, 1867-1920	Box 9
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**Scope and Contents**

Contains minutes, resolutions, reports, and lists of members for the Society of Alumni of Trinity College.

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Loose papers from inside the Record of Society of Alumni of Trinity College, 1899-1922	Box 9
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**Physical Description:** 2 folders

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## Financial records

Normal College statements and expenses, 1856-1859	Box 1
Trinity College statements and expenses, 1859-1882	Box 1
<b>Physical Description:</b> 3 folders	
Trinity College statements and expenses, 1870	Box 10
Trinity College statements and expenses, 1872-1877	Box 8
Normal College bonds, 1854, 1864	Box 1
Receipts, 1853-1882	Box 1
<b>Physical Description:</b> 2 folders	
Insurance papers, 1854-1886	Box 1
Insurance papers, 1875-1885	Box 8
<b>Physical Description:</b> 2 folders	
Promissory notes and notes due, 1854-1880	Box 1
Financial reports, 1860-1882	Box 2
<b>Physical Description:</b> 2 folders	
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
Consists of treasurer reports, building reports, notices of notes due reports, expenses and income reports. Some reports are fragmented or incomplete.	
Financial reports, 1873, 1881-1882	Box 10
<b>Physical Description:</b> 2 folders	
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
Consists of treasurer reports, building reports, notices of notes due reports, expenses and income reports. Some reports are fragmented or incomplete.	
Student account statements, 1859-1873	Box 2
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
Includes photocopies.	

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Pledges, 1863, undated	Box 2
Commercial drafts, 1864, 1880, undated	Box 2
Bank pass book, 1874-1875	Box 2

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## Correspondence and writings

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Correspondence- A.S. Andrews to Braxton Craven, 1852 September 04	Box 2
Student correspondence, 1859, 1879, 1890	Box 2

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### Scope and Contents

Includes photocopies.

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Becton family correspondence, photocopies, 1878	Box 2
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### Scope and Contents

Includes a note about the academic schedule for winter and spring, 1878, from B. Craven, sent out to families; and a letter from H. F. Becton, a student, to his family, about his journey and arrival at the school in September 1878. Both are photocopies.

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Amanda Simmons keepsake album, photocopies, 1860-1873	Box 2
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Writings of Braxton Craven, approximately 1861, 1863, undated	Box 2
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### Scope and Contents

Includes Craven's writings about plans for the college, Nathan H. D. Wilson, and a document titled Incompetency.

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Autograph book, 1866-1872	Box 2
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### Scope and Contents

Belonged to Trinity College student, J.A. Richardson. Contains student signatures, professions, and personal quotes.

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J.R. Pierce, Notes on Rhetoric, 1870 January 16	Box 2
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Braxton Craven tributes, 1882	Box 2
Will West Long obituary, photocopy, 1948	Box 2
Notes, 1877, undated (online item available)	Box 2
<b>Digital Object:</b> <a href="#">Student Lists and Grades, 1858-1880s</a>	

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### Addresses, sermons, and speeches

"Bibles," Braxton Craven commencement speech, approximately 1870	Box 2
A Sermon Before the Theological Society of Trinity College, 1871	Box 2
Historical Sketch of Trinity College by Braxton Craven, partial drafts, approximately 1876	Box 2
Memorial of Dr. B. Craven on the Subject of Education, 1876-1877	Box 2
Trinity College: Its Antecedents. Its Early Days. Its Founder by W.M. Robbins, transcript, 1893 October 18	Box 2
Dr. Dred Peacock on the Early Days of Trinity, 1929-1930	Box 2

#### Scope and Contents

Contains photocopies of pages from the Alumni Register.

Sesquicentennial speeches, 1989	Box 2
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#### Scope and Contents

Includes speeches from Isobel Craven Drill and William E. King.

William L. Saunders, "Lessons from Our North Carolina Records", 1888 November 27	Box 10
W.S. Chaffin Normal College Dedication, 1854 July	Box 10

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## Publications and print materials

Advertisements, broadsides, and leaflets,  
1840-1889, undated Box 2

**Scope and Contents**

Includes photocopies.

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Articles and clippings, 1856-1990 Box 2  
Box 8

**Scope and Contents**

Includes photocopies.

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Invitations and programs, 1861-1890, 1988 Box 2  
Box 10

**Scope and Contents**

Includes invitations for commencement, a literary society debate, Kappa Sigma Fraternity banquet and programs for Trinity College Glee Club concert and Duke Sesquicentennial.

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Trinity College catalogue, 1878-1879 Box 2

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Trinity Magazine, A College Monthly, 1883  
March-September Box 2

**Physical Description:** 2 folders

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Lecture tickets and railroad tickets, 1881-1882,  
undated Box 2

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Trinity College bulletin and supplement, 1887,  
1890, 1892 Box 2

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Trinity College Circular, 1887-1889 Box 2

**Scope and Contents**

Contains Trinity College Circular No. 2, No.3, No. 4, and No. 6.

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Trinity College Publications, 1888-1891 Box 3

**Scope and Contents**

Contains Trinity College Publication No. 1, No. 3, and No. 5.

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An Analytical Arithmetic in Six Parts by J.M. Bandy, book, 1890	Box 3
Trinity High School First Annual Announcement, 1891-1892	Box 3
Blank memorandum of credit form, certificate of credit, student record book, and letterhead, 1870s, 1890s	Box 3
Trinity Alumni Register, vol. 1, no. 1, 1915 April	Box 3
Town of Trinity, 1961-1992	Box 3

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**Scope and Contents**

Contains original newspaper clippings and photocopies of articles relating to Trinity, North Carolina, an excerpt from Duke Alumni Register, and a brief history of Trinity Cemetery.

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**Accounting ledgers and roll books**

**Scope and Contents**

Original titles are maintained where possible otherwise titles are derived by the archivist.

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Account book, 1845-1848	Box 3
Loose materials from inside Account book, 1845-1848	Box 3
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
List found between pages 10-11 and American Bible Society receipts found between pages 26-27.	
Roll Book, 1850-1853	Box 3
Record of Normal College, 1853-1855	Box 3
Loose papers from inside Record of Normal College, 1853-1855	Box 3
Normal College account book, 1853-1859	Box 3

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College Ledger, no. 4, 1860-1861	Box 4
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
Contains student fees and payments.	
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Receipts Received, no. 8, 1860-1861	Box 4
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
Contains student fees and payments and invoices and receipts for school operations. Some receipts document errands completed by Isam, a Black man who was enslaved by Braxton Craven.	
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Accounts and notes due B. Craven, no. 11, 1860-1861	Box 4
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Muster Roll of Military Department, 1861-1864	Box 4
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Account book, 1861-1869	Box 4
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Faculty Book, 1866	Box 4
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
Includes expenses, payments, and class syllabi.	
<hr/>	
Roll Book, 1870-1871	Box 4
<hr/>	
Trinity Building and Loan Association, Treasurer's Book, 1872-1874	Box 5
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
Contains dues, deposits, and reports.	
<hr/>	
General Order, 1875 September 2-1876 May 10	Box 5
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
Contains student names, attendance, and assignments.	
<hr/>	
Declamation book, 1878	Box 5
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
Contains student names, classes, and grades.	
<hr/>	
Class Book, 1879 September 3-1880 May 4	Box 5

**Scope and Contents**

Contains student names, classes, and household tasks.

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Account book, 1879 September 3-1880 June 10 Box 5

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**Scope and Contents**

Contains student fees and payments.

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Cash Book, 1880 Box 5

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Account book, 1882 September 6-1883 June 14 Box 5

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Expenditures and payments, 1885 Box 5

---

Gradebook, 1876-1877 Box 6

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Roll of Trinity College, 1866-1869 Box 7

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College Roll, 1855 Box 10

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**Scope and Contents**

Contains student grades, tuition, fees, and payments.

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Notes due book, 1859-1864 Box 11

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**Scope and Contents**

This volume contains student lists arranged by county. Also included are Bonds of Students, also arranged by county.

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Teaching staff account book, 1859-1862 Box 11

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**Scope and Contents**

Contains faculty and operations expenses. Also includes record of travel and transactions involving the Trinity Guard. Page 8, records free Black people: "Lt. Col. Fuller, 4 guards, and 31 free negroes High Point, Raleigh," and "Col. Steed and --- negroes to Weldon."

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Building Book, 1872-1878 Box 11

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Account Book Tracking Books Loaned,  
1861-1866 Box 11

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Trinity Building and Loan Association Bank  
Stock Book of Monthly Payments, 1872 Box 11

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Journal, no. 3, 1860-1861	Box 12
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
Contains student fees and payments.	
Loose papers from inside Journal, no. 3, 1860-1861	Box 12
Ledger, 1870	Box 13
Account book, approximately 1887-1890	Box 14
Account book, 1879 September 3-1880 June 12	Box 14
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
Contains student fees and payments.	
Account book, 1880 September 1-1881 June 9	Box 14
Account Book, no. 5, 1860-1861	Box 15
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
Contains student fees and payments.	
Ledger, 1870s	Box 15
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
Contains faculty, student, and supply accounts.	
Account book, 1881	Box 15
Student Ledger, 1871-1872	Box 16
Account book, 1872-1873	Box 17
Account book, 1854-1856	Box 18
Ledger or Account Book, 1878-1879	Box 19
College Ledger, 1873-1874	Box 19
Ledger of Student Accounts, 1878-1879	Box 19
Ledger, 1872-1873	Box 20
Ledger, 1877-1878	Box 20

Journal, 1890-1891 Box 21

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Journal, 1891 September-1892 June Box 21

**Scope and Contents**

Contains records of student payments to Trinity College.

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Book Room Ledger, 1891-1892 Box 21

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Loose materials from inside Book Room Ledger,  
1891-1892 Box 21

**Scope and Contents**

Includes correspondence between James Crowell and J.L. Reid and a circular.  
Items found between pages 36 and 37.

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