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## Spotlight on Mississippi Archives

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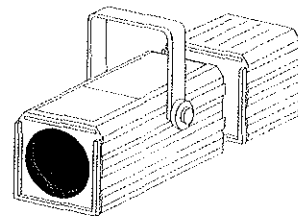
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# Spotlight on Mississippi Archives



## ARCHIVES OF THE NATIONAL ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF BLUE MOUNTAIN COLLEGE

In the fall of 2002, the National Alumnae Association of Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain, Mississippi, commissioned Dr. Thomas Cockrell, Chair of the Department of Social Sciences at the college and a trained archivist who served as University Archivist at Louisiana State University in Shreveport, to collect, organize and preserve the archival records of the alumnae association. The first order of business was to evaluate the enormous amount of material which ranged from correspondence to a variety of memorabilia. This collection had been stored in many areas of the campus including the Administration Building, dormitories, houses, basements, attics, and the May Gardner Black Alumnae Room. Much of the material required immediate attention and cleaning, much needed to be copied and everything had to be placed in acid-free folders, boxes and other appropriate containers. The inclusive dates of the collection range from 1865 to 2003, with ongoing annual updates.

Since the archives of the organization also contain many college records and associated material, the archivist organized the collection in series which depended on the type and origin of the documents themselves. To date, the guide to the collection is 87 pages long.

The collection now consists of the following series:

1. Alumnae series – official records of the association, its business sessions, annual meetings, activities, projects, scrapbooks, *Alumnae Bulletins*, past alumnae presidents, photographs, ledgers, correspondence, and information on classes from 1884 to the present.
2. Blue Mountain College Series – ledgers, departmental records, meetings, programs, celebrations, publications, events in the life of the school, commencement records from 1883 to the present, endowment campaigns, buildings, societies, presidential inaugurations, audio tapes, videos, pageants, college catalogs, day books, photographs, student government information, student handbooks, formal dinners, recitals, athletics, fine arts programs, Baptist Student Union activities, public relations releases, and history of the institution.
3. Graduates (Former Students) Series – files on notable graduates and former students.
4. The Lowrey Family Series – files and records of the family and descendants of General Mark Perrin Lowrey, founder of the college in 1873, wills, autobiographies, genealogy, authors and publications, photographs, and personal papers.
5. Personnel Records Series – past and present administration, faculty, and staff members, their accomplishments, correspondence, photographs, publications, and contributions.
6. Presidential Papers Series – documents, papers, and records of the seven presidents of the college.

The entire collection consists of an estimated 35,000 documents and other items. At least 10,000 copies were made of documents which needed special attention. The collection has an estimated 11,000 letters and 4,000 photographs. Over 1,800 file folders, 126 boxes, and photograph file cabinets contain the material to date. Although the archives deal primarily with paper documents, the Alumnae Association also has preserved a large collection of other items found in the May Gardner Black Alumnae Room on the first floor of the Lawrence T. Lowrey Administration Building. In the collection may be found dolls, dresses, scrapbooks, yearbooks, books, memorabilia, artifacts, paintings, furniture, and furnishings.

The archival collection is located on the third floor of the Lawrence T. Lowrey Administration Building. Anyone interested in using the archives may do so subject to the guidelines for use established by the Alumnae Association. The mailing address is:

BMC Alumnae Archives  
Attn: Dr. Thomas D. Cockrell  
Blue Mountain College  
P. O. Box 160  
Blue Mountain, MS 38610  
(662) 685-4771  
email-tdc@bmc.edu

