Philomathean Society Papers
Phi Mu Fraternity


Volume: .25 linear foot

Processed: 2014, Virginia W. Blake

Provenance: Unknown

Citation Form: Philomathean Society, Wesleyan College Archives, Wesleyan College

Copyright: This collection may be protected from unauthorized copying by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code).
Biographical/Historical Sketch:
Phi Mu was founded in 1852 at Wesleyan College in Macon, Ga. and is the second oldest sorority in the nation. Phi Mu was founded by Mary Elizabeth Myrick (Daniel), Mary Ann DuPont (Lines) and Martha Bibb Hardaway (Redding). All evidence points to the likelihood that Mary Ann DuPont (Lines) took the initiative in the founding of the Philomathean Society. In some writings, she even is referred to as "the founder" of the Society. She was to become its first president, a strong indication of her leadership among her peers. Mary Ann's companions in the formation of this new group are described as two fellow members of the junior class, Mary Elizabeth Myrick (Daniel) and Martha Bibb Hardaway (Redding).

The founding date of the Philomathean Society is placed at January 4, 1852. It was on this day that Mary Ann DuPont and her two friends are said to have met to lay the groundwork for their new Society. It follows by approximately seven and one-half months the founding of the Adelphean Literary Society on May 15, 1851, at Wesleyan.

Over the next two months, the three Founders of the Philomathean Society gathered additional members, formulated a constitution, devised an initiation service, and adopted a secret motto and an open motto. They issued blue ribbons to identify their members until a badge could be designed and made later that year.

On March 4, 1852, the members were ready to announce their new Society to the College and the world. This day has become Phi Mu's traditional Founders' Day.

Information and images from:

Scope and Content:
The Philomathean Society Collection is arranged by type and then chronologically. The papers include The Aglaia magazine, centennial materials, a music books, and a yearbook.

Related Collections:
- Bridges, Ella Lurline
- Salley, Adele
- Wesleyan College Digital Collections
- Wesleyan College Yearbooks
- Displays in the Wesleyan College Archives and Candler Hall
Collection Inventory:

Box 1
Folder 1: Active Alpha Chapter Members, circa 1900
Folder 2: *The Aglaia*, 1951 (November), 1952 (March, May, November)
Folder 3: *The Aglaia*, 2002 (Summer), 2003 (Winter/Spring)
Folder 4: Alumnae Association Yearbook, Macon, Georgia, 1940-1941
Folder 5: Biennial Celebration Programs, 1871, 1881, 1883, 1891, 1893, 1895
Folder 6: Centennial Celebration, 1952
Folder 7: Centennial Celebration Newspaper Clippings, 1952
Folder 8: Invitation, 1881
Folder 9: Phi Mu Two Step, no date
Folder 10: Photographs, 1882, 1890, no date
Folder 11: Yearbook, 1900