

Archives and Special Collections

Dickinson College

Carlisle, PA

ARCHIVAL COLLECTION REGISTER

Title: **George Edward Reed (President, 1889-1911)** **RG 2/9**

Dates: 1889-1911

Material: Papers

Volume: 0.1 linear feet

Usage: There are no access restrictions on these records.

HISTORICAL NOTE

On June 26, 1889, Reed was inaugurated as the fifteenth president of Dickinson College, a position he would hold for the next twenty-two years. With little experience of academic affairs and none with Dickinson College, Reed nonetheless dedicated his tenure to improvement and expansion. He began with the removal of the piles of litter and rubble which had defaced the campus for some time. With the conviction that Dickinson could be a fine university, Reed worked with Dean William Trickett in 1890 to re-establish the Dickinson School of Law, with Reed acting as president. He oversaw the tripling of the enrollment of the College and a significant increase in the size of the faculty.

The College campus was similarly expanded. He worked with Edward Biddle in order to construct Biddle Athletic Field in honor of Biddle's son. Denny Hall was built in 1896, only to be destroyed by a fire in 1904 and reconstructed in 1905, in an impressive feat of financing. Conway Hall was also erected under Reed's supervision in 1902 and the steam plant, which would heat all Dickinson College buildings for decades through a series of tunnels, was completed. He also purchased the home of Judge John Reed, renovated it, and donated it to the College as the home of the president of Dickinson. These accomplishments and the length of his tenure led to the nickname "The Grand Old Man."

However, when Reed retired from the presidency in 1911, this expansion had left the institution in financial difficulty that would be a problem for the succeeding president, Reverend Eugene Noble, and which would also mark the early years of James Henry Morgan's presidency. After his retirement, Reed moved to nearby Harrisburg. This enabled the Reeds to be closer to their only child, George L. Reed, a lawyer who was then serving in the Pennsylvania State Legislature. Reed preached in Harrisburg and Delaware and taught a large Bible class in the African-American section of the Y.M.C.A. in the city. George Edward Reed died in the Polyclinic Hospital in Harrisburg on February 7, 1930 and is buried in Carlisle's Old Graveyard.

SERIES ARRANGEMENT AND DESCRIPTION

The records contained in the President George Edward Reed record group pertain only to his time and affairs as president of Dickinson College. As such, no personal papers are included in this record group. For records concerning Reed's interactions with students, please refer to RG 5/1. The Reed records are housed in one document box with RG 2/2 through 2/10 and are arranged into two series: General Business, and Personnel.

The General Business series is comprised of records concerning miscellaneous affairs of college business. The records within this series are arranged chronologically, with undated material housed first. All records concerning college financial affairs and interactions with the church are housed within the Board of Trustees record group.

The Personnel series includes one sub-series: Faculty. Only confirmed employees of the college are included within the Faculty sub-series. Records within this sub-series are arranged in alphabetical order by the individual's last name and only span the years under this president.

RECORD GROUP INVENTORY

RG 2/9 - GEORGE EDWARD REED (PRESIDENT, 1889-1911)

Series 1 General Business

1.1 Miscellaneous Affairs

- 1.1.1 undated – Handbill, re: challenge to a debate on "the money question"
Apr. 1889 – Notice of Reed's inauguration as President
June 1889 – Invitation to Inaugural Reception
- 1.1.2 Feb. 1893 – Handbill for Reed's lecture, "Qualities that Win"
3 Feb. 1897 – Obituary of Pres. McCauley, with report of Morgan and Whiting
- 1.1.3 3 Oct. 1902 – Letter of R. H. Keener, re: gift of Carlisle Eagle
- 1.1.4 12 Sep. 1908 – Letter to J. Irwin White, re: directions for care of college property
29 Oct. 1908 – Receipt for books from the American Philosophical Society
- 1.1.5 Nov. 1908 – Letters regarding D. Harry Chandler gift for scholarship
- 1.1.6 May 1909 – Postcard for Reed dedicatory sermon, Metropolitan Temple, NY
26 June 1911 – Letter to Brown, re: Biddle Field's use for town's July 4 fireworks

Series 2 Personnel

2.1 Faculty

- 2.1.1 Dare, William K.
- 2.1.2 Durell, Fletcher
- 2.1.3 Harman, Henry M.
- 2.1.4 Muchmore, Lyman J.
- 2.1.5 Rogers, Robert W.
- 2.1.6 Sellers, Montgomery P.
- 2.1.7 Whiting, Henry C.