

Guide to the Mary Thaw Thompson Papers, 1880-1928

Biographical Note

Mary Thaw Thompson (1856-1944), daughter of capitalist and philanthropist William Thaw, was born in Pittsburgh, PA. She was graduated from Vassar in 1877, and two years later married William Reed Thompson, a banker. The Thompsons had five daughters, three of whom attended Vassar. Mrs. Thompson was twice president of the Associate Alumnae of Vassar College and served as an alumnae trustee of the college. With Mary Morris Pratt she was a donor of the Vassar Chapel. In addition, Mrs. Thompson generously responded to the college's varied needs, large and small. Many of Mrs. Thompson's gifts reflect her interest in religion, art, and music. She was also a supporter of the Association of Collegiate Alumnae and the Association to Aid Scientific Research by Women. In her response to the questionnaire for the *Alumnae Biographical Register*, Mrs. Thompson described herself well; she wrote, "No place on this questionnaire for a gentlewoman serving her generation without publicity in civic, benevolent, and social organizations."

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Scope and Content Note

Correspondence, minutes, reports, financial records, and other items pertaining to Vassar College alumnae matters, trustee duties, her donations to the Chapel, reunions of the Class of 1877, and her involvement with the Association of Collegiate Alumnae and the Association to Aid Scientific Research by Women. Correspondents include Charles Pratt, Mary Pratt (VC 1880), Mary L. Avery (VC 1868), Mary Augusta Jordan (VC1876); Ella McCaleb (VC 1878), James Monroe Taylor, and Henry Noble MacCracken.

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