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## Collection Summary

**Repository:** Archives and Special Collections Library, Vassar College Libraries

**Creator:** Vassar College

**Title:** Vassar College Founder's Day Records

**Dates:** 1866-2008

**Quantity:** 2 cubic feet (5 boxes)

**Abstract:** Programs, invitations, songs, sheet music, play scripts, committee records, and other materials related to Vassar College's Founder's Day tradition.

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## Historical Note

Begun on April 29, 1866, as a birthday celebration for Matthew Vassar, Founder's Day is a Vassar College tradition that has evolved over the decades. After Vassar's death in 1868, the day became a more somber event and an occasion to remember his life and contributions. Over the years the day would incorporate guest speakers on various topics, dances, and other activities. By the time Henry Noble MacCracken became president in 1915, Founder's day would often revolved around a particular theme and include student and faculty plays. The event's popularity came and went over the 20th century, with several lapses in celebration followed by revivals. It remains a significant Spring event on campus, officially celebrated on the closest Friday to April 29th.

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## Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of programs, invitations, songs, sheet music, play scripts, committee records, and other materials related to Vassar College's Founder's Day tradition.

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## Access and Use

### Access

This collection is open for research according to the [regulations of the Vassar College Archives and Special Collections Library](#) without any additional restrictions.

### Restrictions on Use

Permission to quote (publish) from unpublished or previously published material must be obtained as described in the [regulations of the Vassar College Archives and Special Collections Library](#).

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## Related Material

### Related Materials

- [Vassar College Photograph Files, V.C. Founder's Day, Folders 9.6-6.13.](#)
- [The Vassar College Subject Files contains duplicate Founder's Day materials, as well as miscellaneous ephemera.](#)

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## Subject Headings

### Names:

- Vassar, Matthew, 1792-1868

### Organizations:

- Vassar College--Students
- Vassar College. Founder's Day Committee

### Subjects:

- Women's colleges--New York (State)--Poughkeepsie

### Document Types:

- Correspondence
- Photographs
- Printed Ephemera
- Reports
- Scrapbooks
- Scripts (documents)
- Sheet music

### VCL Categories:

- Vassar College Events and Issues

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## Encoding Information

Encoded by Emma Gronbeck, January 2024.

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## Administrative Information

### Preferred Citation

Vassar College Founder's Day Records, Archives and Special Collections Library, Vassar College Libraries.

### Processing Information

Processed by Emma Gronbeck, January 2024.

### Acquisition Information

An artificial collection assembled from materials separated from the Vassar College Subject Files and previously cataloged materials.

Gift of various donors.

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## Container List

### Calendars

- Folder 1.1 1934, 1943-1944
- Folder 1.2 1950-1952

### Correspondence and Planning Files

- Folder 3.13 2007-2008

### Faculty Follies

- Folder 3.1 "Pardoner's Tale," script, drafts, 1917
- Folder 1.3 "Clan Night," script and songs, 1939
- Folder 1.4 "Let's Sing," script and songs, 1940
- Folder 1.5 "Life at Vassar for Picalilly Belle," script, 1944
- Folder 1.6 "Residence Meeting: A Tragedy," script, 1944
- Folder 3.2 "Her," script and songs, 1945
- Folder 1.7 "Life Begins at 65," script and songs, 1946
- Folder 1.8 "De Profundis," script, 1948
- Folder 1.9 "Vulgarity of 1953," script, 1953
- Folder 1.10 "Turn Off the Grass, the Instant Boys Are Here!" outline, 1955
- Folder 1.11 "From Peer to Maternity," script, 1957
- Folder 1.12 "You Are Here," script, 1959
- Folder 1.13 "Our Historic Birthplace," script and lyrics, 1968
- Folder 3.3 "Participatory Transition," script, 1969
- Folder 1.14 "Way Back," script, 1975
- Folder 1.15 "That's the Spirit," script, 1977
- Folder 1.16 "Let's Admit It!" script, 1980
- Folder 1.17 "Forty-Eight Ninety-One," script and slides, 1984
- Folder 1.18 "Matt to the Future," script and slides, 1988
- Folder 1.19 "Happy Birthday, Matt," script, 1992

Folder 1.20	"Art Lecture," script, undated
	<b>Founder's Day Committee</b>
Folder 1.21	Records, 1903-1904
Folder 1.22	Records, 1905-1906
Folder 1.23	Reports, 1907
Folder 1.24	Reports, 1908
Folder 1.25	Reports and correspondence, 1909
Folder 1.26	Reports and correspondence, 1910
Folder 1.27	Records, 1911
Folder 1.28	Meeting minutes, 1916
Folder 1.29	Records, 1916
Folder 1.30	Reports and correspondence, 1916
Folder 1.31	Records and reports, 1917
Folder 1.32	Financial records, 1919
Folder 1.33	Reports, 1920
Folder 1.34	Reports, 1922
Folder 1.35	Reports, 1926
Folder 1.36	Reports, 1927
Folder 1.37	Reports, 1928
Folder 1.38	Reports, 1929
Folder 1.39	Reports, 1930
Folder 1.40	Reports, 1932
Folder 1.41	Reports, 1933
Folder 1.42	Records and reports, 1935-1937
Folder 1.43	Reports, 1938
Folder 1.44	Reports, 1939
Folder 1.45	Reports, 1940
Folder 1.46	Reports, 1941
Folder 1.47	Reports, 1942-1943
Folder 1.48	Reports, 1944
Folder 1.49	Reports, 1945
Folder 1.50	Reports, 1946
Folder 1.51	Reports, 1947
Folder 1.52	Reports, 1948
Folder 1.53	Reports, 1949
Folder 1.54	Reports, 1950
	<b>Invitations</b>
Folder 1.55	1867-1870
Folder 1.56	1872-1874
Folder 1.57	1881, 1884-1885
Folder 1.58	1890, 1893-1895
Folder 1.59	1896-1900
Folder 1.60	1901-1909
Folder 1.61	1917

**Pamphlets**

- Folder 1.62 "Eulogy on Matthew Vassar, pronounced by Miss M. W. Whitney," 1869
- Folder 1.63 "Hill-Top Idyl," 1868

**Parody Newspapers**

- Folder 5.1 (Oversize) 1920-1940s

**Plays and Songs**

- Folder 1.64 1867
- Folder 1.65 1929-1930
- Folder 3.4 1939
- Folder 1.66 1942-1943
- Folder 3.5 1944
- Folder 3.6 1947-1949
- Folder 3.7 1950-1954
- Folder 3.8 1956-1958
- Folder 1.67 undated

**Programs**

- Folder 1.68 1866-1867
- Folder 1.69 1868-1870 [2 copies each]
- Folder 1.70 1871-1875 [2 copies each]  
1876 [no copies]
- Folder 1.71 1877-1880
- Folder 1.72 1881-1884
- Folder 1.73 1885 [1 copy]
- Folder 1.74 1886 [2 copies]
- Folder 1.75 1887 [3 copies]
- Folder 1.76 1888 [1 copy]
- Folder 1.77 1889 [2 copies]
- Folder 1.78 1890 [3 copies]
- Folder 1.79 1891 [2 copies]
- Folder 1.80 1892 [3 copies]
- Folder 1.81 1893 [2 copies]
- Folder 1.82 1894 [2 copies]
- Folder 1.83 1895 [2 copies]
- Folder 1.84 1896 [1 copy]
- Folder 1.85 1897 [2 copies]
- Folder 1.86 1898 [2 copies]
- Folder 1.87 1899 [2 copies]
- Folder 1.88 1900 [1 copy]
- Folder 1.89 1901 [2 copies]  
1902 [no copies]
- Folder 1.90 1903 [1 copy]
- Folder 1.91 1904  
1905 [no copies]
- Folder 2.1 1906 [2 copies]

Folder 2.2	1907 [2 copies]
Folder 2.3	1908
Folder 2.4	1909 [2 copies]
	1910 [no copies]
Folder 2.5	1911 [3 copies]
Folder 2.6	1912 [3 copies]
Folder 2.7	1913 [3 copies]
Folder 2.8	1914 [3 copies]
Folder 2.9	1915 [3 copies each]
Folder 2.10	Shakespeare-Cervantes Tercentenary, 1916 [3 copies]
Folder 3.9	1917 [3 copies]
Folder 2.11	1918 [3 copies]
Folder 2.12	Walt Whitman Centenary, 1919 [3 copies]
Folder 2.13	1920-1923 [2 copies each]
Folder 5.2 (Oversize)	1924
Folder 2.14	1924-1928
Folder 2.15	1929-1932
Folder 5.3 (Oversize)	1933
	1934 [no copies]
Folder 2.16	1935-1942
Folder 2.17	1946-1949
	1950-1953 [no copies]
Folder 2.18	1954 [2 copies]
	1955-1960 [no copies]
Folder 2.19	1961 [1 copy]
	1962-1974 [no copies]
Folder 2.20	1975 [1 copy]
	1976-1979 [no copies]
Folder 2.21	1980 [1 copy]
Folder 2.22	1981 [1 copy]
	1982-1984 [no copies]
Folder 2.23	1985 [1 copy]
Folder 2.24	1986 [1 copy]
	1987 [no copies]
Folder 2.25	1988-1989 [1 copy each]
	1990-1991 [no copies]
Folder 2.26	1992-1993 [1 copy each]
	1994-1995 [no copies]
Folder 2.27	1996 [1 copy]
	1997 [no copies]
Folder 2.28	1998-2001 [1 copy each]
	<b>Scrapbooks</b>
Box 4	Scrapbook by Margaret (Chambers) Halsey (VC 1911), 1911
	<b>Sheet Music</b>

Folder 5.4 (Oversize)	Unidentified, 1937
Folder 5.5 (Oversize)	"Life Begins at 65," 1946
Folder 3.10	Vassar College Songs, 1949
	<b>Student Association</b>
Folder 3.11	Founder's day dance announcement, 1901 Apr 15
Folder 3.12	Founder's Day date decision, 1878 Mar 7

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