

Western Leander Clark College Collection

Collection Summary

Creator: Western Leander Clark College

Dates: 1856-1919

Collection Number: 2011.19

Quantity:

Repository: George T. Henry College Archives, Stewart Memorial Library, Coe College

Copyright: Coe College

Restrictions on Access: Unrestricted

Abstract: Western College was established as a coeducational institution by members of the United Brethren in Christ Church in Iowa in 1856. The site just north of Shueyville, Linn County, Iowa was selected for Western College and the small town that sprung up around it. The college was established because of the want for an institution of higher learning for the church, and was the first United Brethren School west of the Mississippi, thus came the name Western College. The college has had a long history of financial struggles and great hopes. This collection contains many of the Board of Trustee record books, Financial Ledgers, and Articles of Incorporation of Western-Leander Clark College. Also included in the collection are newspaper articles from “the Owl,” “Western College Advocate and Miscellaneous Magazine,” and the “Western Breeze.” Ephemera from Western-Leander Clark alumni and the Cardinal year books are also contained in this collection. In regards to the Coe-Leander Clark merger, there are court documents, correspondence, and other documents relating to the terms of the merger. Lastly many of the primary documents from Henry W. Ward’s writing of “Western Leander Clark College, 1856-1911” are also contained in the collection.

Language: English

Administrative Information

Location: George T. Henry College Archives

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Biographic Note

Western College was established as a coeducational institution by members of the United Brethren in Christ Church in Iowa in 1856. The sight just north of Shueyville, Linn County, Iowa was selected for Western College and the small town that sprung up around it. The college was established because of the want for an institution of higher learning for the church, and was the first United Brethren School west of the Mississippi, thus came the name Western College. In 1881 the college faced major financial difficulties and was moved to Toledo, Iowa because of a pledge of \$20,194 by its residence. The Board of Trustees voted for this proposition eight to one.

The early years at Toledo brought the college great hope of becoming a successful institution. Enrollment was up for the college but it still faced severe financial difficulties. Pledges given by the townspeople only covered half of the cost of building the college, while the other half was to be raised and furnished by the college itself. This financial burden continued to plague the college through its many years in Toledo while it was attempting to expand its campus for future generations.

On the morning of December 26, 1889 the \$75,000 main college building caught on fire and destroyed nearly all of it. The city of Toledo reacted to this situation with giving arms and came together to rebuild the college with a collection of donations from its citizens and the United Brethren Church.

Debt still remained a major issue for the college following this event. In September, 1894 the college debt remained \$81,254 and a campaign launched by the newly elected President Bookwalter was committed to increasing the educational standards of the school while stopping and paying off the growing debt of the college. From this point forward the college's president concentrated on not letting its expenditures exceed its income, while also raising the necessary funds to liquidate its indebtedness. The goal of raising \$50,000 dollars to liquidate the college's debt, set by president Bookwalter, was met on December 31, 1901 and was an event of great celebration.

By 1902 the college's educational sectors were thoroughly organized in every department, and enrollment was up to 223 students. But the college, relieved of the majority of its indebtedness, still had no new form of income and began a campaign for the raising of a \$150,000 endowment. In order to raise this endowment the Board proposed to give to anyone who would contribute \$50,000 toward the endowment fund, the privilege of naming the College. To this the Hon. Leander Clark proposed a gift of \$50,000 on the condition that \$100,000 could be secured by January 1, 1906 by the college. These funds were secured by 1905 when Andrew Carnegie agreed to contribute \$50,000 dollars to the endowment when all other monies had been collected. Because of the Hon. Leander Clark's gift the college was renamed Leander Clark College in 1906.

In 1919, Leander Clark College found it impossible to continue its existence in Toledo, Iowa because of failure to procure sufficient financial support for the college. Leander

Clark College united with Coe College at Cedar Rapids, Iowa with the work of the two colleges being consolidated and carried out in Cedar Rapids under the name of Coe College. The \$200,000 dollar endowment fund of Leander Clark College was also transferred to Coe College, \$150,000 of which was the Clark-Carnegie Endowment. The Alumni, faculty, and students were all accepted into Coe College as well.

BOX	FOLDER	
Loose	Books	
		Western College Advocate, 1856.7 (College Newspaper)
		Leander Clark Era, VOL I 1906-07 (Newspaper)
		Leander Clark Era, VOL II 1907-1908 (Newspaper)
		Catalogues of Leander Clark College 1895-1905
		Catalogues of Leander Clark College 1905-1908
		Catalogues of Leander Clark College 1908-1909, 1909-1910 (Qty, 2)
		Catalogues of Leander Clark College 1910-1913 (Qty, 2)
		Catalogues of Leander Clark College 1912-1916
		Record Book of the Historical Secretary of the Alumnae Association of Western College, 1864-1900
		Minutes of the Board of Trustees of Western College, Oct. 15, 1855- Jun. 14, 1887.
		Western College, Records of Executive Committee, Jun. 28, 1860—Jun 13, 1881.
		Minutes of the Board of Trustees of Western College, 1913-1916
		Record of Faculty Meetings Western College, Sept. 8, 1890—1898
		Minutes of Executive Committee of Western College, July 3, 1894—1912
		Minutes of Executive Committee of Leander Clark College, June 24, 1912—1917
		Account Book, Leander Clark College, Toledo, IA, 1911—1918
		Minutes of Board of Trustees, Leander Clark College, 1912—1919
		Western Leander Clark Alumni Correspondence and other papers from the files of Prof. Henry W. Ward, Western 1888.

		Western Leander Clark Alumni, Henry Ward's Correspondence with Alumni prior to the publication of an Alumni Register on the occasion of Leander Clark's Quadrennial Celebration June 2-9, 1910
		Western Leander Clark, Correspondence from W-LC alumni after the LC-Coe merger in 1919 in reply to a letter from Coe's Dean S. W. Stookey announcing that all W-LC graduates were to be considered as graduates of Coe.
Loose Items		
		Deeds-Van Buren County
		Western College Alumnae Annual
BOXES		
1		Western Leander Clark College, Cardinal 1917 (Qty, 3)
2		Robert F Ward, Leander Clark, 1913, Photo Album
3		Western Leander Clark, Publications, Correspondence Ect. From the files of Prof. Henry W. Ward, Western Class of 1888. Related to his writing of "History of Western-Leander-Clark College, 1856—1911"
4		Western College Photos, Bohemian Band Photos, Miscellaneous
5		Young Ladies Athenaeum Society Diploma, Misc LC Event Invitations, L Yells and Songs booklet, Women's Photos, Newspaper Clippings for Endowment Improvement Marketing
6		Newspaper Article 1989 about moving college to Lisbon, Court case against LC College, Other Misc. Documents, Multiple Directories for Coe, LC, and Western College, Bound Books, "The Owl," "Western College Advocate and Miscellaneous Magazine 1856." "Western Breeze 1903" "Records of the Business Meetings of the Faculty of Western College Commencing Sep. 1, 1874—1885" "Annual Catalogue of the Officers and Students of Western College for the Academical Year Ending June 22, 1881" "Thesis: The Relation of the Church to the Laboring Classes, (Wayne Beck, Dep't. Sociology. Prof. L. E. Garwood" "Under our Flag, Kathryn Bumgartner" "Minutes of the Board of Trustees 1888—1911"

7		Western Leander Clark Publications “The Cardinal 1910-1913”
8		Minutes of the Executive Committee of Western College, July 1881—Oct 1894
9		Western Leander Clark College Pennants, Young Ladies Athenaeum Ruth Steele
10		Photos of Sophomore Class 1908-1909, Western-Leander Clark Bell, and Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees 1858
11		Piece of wood from the Isaac Long barn, Annual Catalogue from Leander Clark College, Many booklets and documents relating to the History of Western Leander Clark College including president inauguration and other event ephemera.
12		Western Leander Clark Publications, “The Cardinal” 1914-1917