



Iberia Junior College Collection (R0231)

Collection Number: R0231

Collection Title: Iberia Junior College Collection

Dates: 1914-1958

Creator: Iberia Junior College (Iberia, Mo.)

Abstract: The Iberia Junior College Collection contains bulletins of the Iberia Academy and Iberia Junior College in Miller County, Missouri. There is also a history of the town of Iberia, the Academy and the College by William F. Jones.

Collection Size: 0.03 cubic foot
(3 folders)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla. If you would like more information, please contact us at rolla@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: The Donor has given and assigned to the University all rights of copyright, which the Donor has in the Materials and in such of the Donor's works as may be found among any collections of Materials received by the University from others.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Iberia Junior College Collection* (R0231); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Rolla].

Donor Information: The collection was donated to the University of Missouri by Evelyn Johnston on May 9, 1985 (Accession No. RA0289).

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the Iberia Junior College Collection can be found in the following collections:

Missouri College and University Print Materials Collection (C4281)

Processed by: Processed by John F. Bradbury, October 8, 1985. Revised by Kathleen Seale, December 13, 2021.

Historical Note:

G. Byron Smith and his bride Mabel White came to Iberia in Miller County, Missouri in 1889. Working with pastor Richard T. Marlow of Arkansas they acquired a building, built in 1887, and opened a school of higher learning. Freshly graduated from Knox College in Illinois the Smiths sought to build an institution with a high standard of scholarship. The Iberia Academy opened on October 1, 1890 in the two-story building. The school was officially incorporated on March 30, 1891.

The first year saw 16 students attending, one at the academy level with the other 15 at the elementary level. Stella Moore was the school's first graduate, graduating in 1893. By that year the school had four teachers. Dormitories for girls were added in 1905 and 1906 with a new boy's dormitory, built mostly by the students, in 1939. In 1914, with an enrollment of over 100 students at the Academy, the elementary education portion of the school was discontinued. In 1926, Junior College classes began increasing the type and number of courses taught at the school. It became a four-year junior college in 1937 and discontinued the lower academy course. Over its lifetime the school boasted athletic teams in baseball, basketball, and football. Academics included courses in music, speech, debate, English, mathematics, religion, agriculture, scientific commercial research, and later conservation.

An old log cabin on the property was restored in 1939, in honor of Adda Danforth wife of William H. Danforth who financed the restoration. It would again become the weaver's cottage where students learned to weave. The cabin was originally the home of the Schell family. In the early 1890s, the cabin and land were purchased by the school and originally used as laundry facilities and a weaving cabin.

During World War II, shortages of labor and materials combined with the school's tradition of keeping tuition cost low meant much of the campus was in sore need of maintenance and repair. In 1947, Professor Smith resigned his presidency due to age and health concerns, turning the job over to Dr. Forrest Brown. Over the next four years, Brown sought to revitalize the school and transform it into a Conservation College. The declining school was beyond reviving closing its doors after its final commencement in 1951. Thirteen students graduated that year, the only year not attended by Smith as he had passed away at his home in Illinois in June 1950. The Iberia College merged with Drury College, whom they had had a scholarship program with for many years. Also, supported by the Congregation Church, Drury absorbed Iberia's alumni activities.

In 1980, the four remaining buildings of the Iberia College were listed on the National Register of Historic Places. At the time only the president's house, gymnasium, a dormitory, and administration building remained.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following two series:

Bulletins
History

Scope and Content Note:**Bulletins**

This series contains bulletins published by the Iberia Academy and Iberia Junior College. The bulletins contain images of the academy, basic background of the school, information on academic studies, and the future hopes for the school.

History

This series consists of a history of the Iberia Academy and Iberia College written by William F. Jones in 1958. The history details the early history of Iberia, the coming of Byron Smith and his wife Mabel, and the history of the academy and its development into a junior college through its closure in 1951. At the end of the history is a list of students who attended the school.

Container List:

f. 1-2		Bulletins
Box 001	f. 1	<i>Iberia Academy Bulletin</i> , 1914
	f. 2	<i>Iberia Junior College Bulletin</i> , 1940-1941
f. 3		History
	f. 3	"History of Iberia Academy and Junior College," by William F. Jones, 1958

Index:

Index Term	Folder	Image
Iberia (Mo.)	1-3	
Iberia Academy (Iberia, Mo.)	1, 3	Yes
Iberia Junior College (Iberia, Mo.)	2-3	Yes
Jones, William F.	3	
Miller County (Mo.)	1-3	
Schools--Missouri	1-3	Yes
Smith, G. Byron, 1865-1950	1-3	Yes
Smith, Mabel White, 1864-1932	1-3	Yes
Universities and colleges--Missouri	2-3	Yes